



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Hall Farm, Snarford  
Lincolnshire  
Archaeological Watching Brief  
NGR: TF 0512 8236  
Planning Application No.: 99/P/0344  
Site code: SHF 03  
LCNCC Accn No.: 2003.26**

**Report for  
J Derbyshire Design Partnership  
on behalf of  
Mr and Mrs Pennell**

**By  
M. Jordan and D. Marshall**

**LAS Report No. 645  
June 2005**

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Conservation  
Services

22 JUN 2005

Highways & Planning  
Directorate

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**Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches and a swimming pool at Hall Farm, Snarford, Lincolnshire. A large ditch, possibly, medieval in origin, but redug or cleaned out in the 19<sup>th</sup> century lay at the eastern end. It is likely to represent a boundary ditch associated with the deserted medieval village of Snarford. A smaller ditch on a southeast/northwest alignment ran across the pool excavation but tapered out before reaching the southern limit of the excavation. The only other archaeological feature to be seen was a large pit which contained Victorian pottery and limestone pieces.*

**Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by the John Derbyshire Design Partnership on behalf of Mr and Mrs Pennell, in accordance with the general requirements set out in the *Standard Brief for Archaeological Projects in Lincolnshire* (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, August 1997).

**Site Location and Description**

Snarford is a small settlement seven miles northeast of Lincoln in the Clay Vale. Hall Farm is located just south of the parish church near the centre of the shrunken medieval village, on the east side of the main street.

**Planning Background**

Planning permission was granted to construct a swimming pool c.18.50m x 7m, to the north of Hall Farm subject to an archaeological watching brief being carried out during the groundworks phase of construction

**Archaeological Background**

The village of Snarford is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 and its origins lie clearly in the Anglo-Saxon period. Excavations were carried out on the west side of the main street in the 1950s, after much of the village remains were levelled. Hall Farm is located on the probable site of the medieval Manor House, immediately to the south of the parish church and it was possible that groundworks associated with construction of the extension would reveal evidence for earlier remains. A watching brief during construction of an earlier extension to Hall Farm produced a piece from a Roman glass vessel.

**Aims and Objectives**

The purpose of the Watching Brief was to record any archaeological deposits disturbed during



groundworks at the above site.

### Method

The foundation trenches were opened on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> January 2003, by a 360° excavator using a 500mm toothed bucket. The depth of the trenches was 2m, except for the foundation of the dwarf wall at the western end which was only 1m deep. All machining was monitored by an experienced archaeologist with all archaeological features drawn where appropriate. A full photographic record was made of the work in progress and of general site shots. Finds were located and allocated context numbers and identified accordingly. Context numbers are used in bold in the following text.

### The Watching Brief

After the removal of the overburden **1** which contained frequent brick fragments and building debris, a subsoil layer was revealed, **2**, which consisted of a mid grey-brown silt with no inclusions. This layer covered a small area at the west end of the trench underneath a small brick shed which was demolished before work commenced. Most of the site was covered in a mixed layer of soil and brick fragments **18**, with some modern pottery throughout. This layer dates from the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century and is levelling for a tennis court (Mrs Pennell, pers.comm.). These deposits overlay the natural **3**, an orange yellow clay sand. Cutting this in the west end of the trench was the large pit **12**, which contained Victorian pottery and limestone fragments in its fill. The pit was cut by land drain **16**, to the north was pit **14**, which contained **15** a black silt that contained pottery of 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century date.

To the east the natural was cut by a large ditch **6**, which measured 2.5m across. It contained black silt, **9** at its base and contained tile of 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century date, one sherd of 16<sup>th</sup> to mid 17<sup>th</sup> century date and one sherd of mid 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century date. Above this was the light grey silt **8**, which contained one sherd of 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery, and was overlain by the light grey soil **7**. This contained brick and three architectural limestone fragments which could have originated from one of the medieval buildings in the village. The ditch turned through 90° entering the trench through the north face and leaving through the east. Despite the Victorian pottery, the size of the ditch suggests it could be significantly older in date. Hall farm is located near the centre of the deserted medieval village of Snarford (Fig. 7), ditch **6** is likely to represent a boundary ditch associated with the medieval village. Similar ditches are shown on the plan of the deserted medieval village (West, 1969) and the aerial photograph of the area (Fig. 8). The later material in the fill could represent the recutting or infilling of the ditch at a later date. A smaller ditch, **4** running southeast/northwest was present to the west but tapered out before reaching the southern edge of the excavation. It contained **5** a dark grey silt with inclusions of limestone fragments and 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery sherds.

### **Conclusion**

The watching brief identified a substantial ditch which could represent a boundary ditch associated with the medieval village of Snarford and pits showing Victorian disturbance of the site.

Matthew Jordan

Lindsey Archaeological Services

June 2005

### **Acknowledgements**

LAS would like to thank Mr and Mrs Pennell for their help. This report was edited and collated by Naomi Field.

### **References**

West. S.E. *The Deserted Medieval Village of Snarford, Lincs.* Reprinted from Lincolnshire History and Archaeology Volume 1 – No. 4, 1969

### **Site Archive**

Site notes

Correspondence

Photographs: LAS film nos. 03/04/4-21

Specialist reports: Pottery and tile archive by Jane Young



## APPENDIX 1



Hall Farm, Snarford  
Lincolnshire  
(SHF 03)  
Context Summary

APPENDIX 1

| Context no. | Context Type | Description     |
|-------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1           | Layer        | Topsoil         |
| 2           | Layer        | Subsoil         |
| 3           | Layer        | Natural         |
| 4           | Cut          | Ditch           |
| 5           | Fill         | Fill of 4       |
| 6           | Cut          | Ditch           |
| 7           | Fill         | Fill of 6       |
| 8           | Fill         | Fill of 6       |
| 9           | Fill         | Fill of 6       |
| 10          | Cut          | Ditch same as 6 |
| 11          | Fill         | Fill of 10      |
| 12          | Cut          | Pit             |
| 13          | Fill         | Fill of 12      |
| 14          | Cut          | Pit             |
| 15          | Fill         | Fill of 14      |
| 16          | Cut          | Land drain      |
| 17          | Fill         | Fill of 16      |
| 18          | Layer        | Levelling       |



## APPENDIX 2



# Pottery Archive Hall Farm, Snarford, Lincolnshire (SHF03)

Jane Young

| context | cname | full name                                | sub fabric     | form type         | sherds | vessels | weight | decoration         | part | description     | date                       |
|---------|-------|--|----------------|-------------------|--------|---------|--------|--------------------|------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 05      | CHPO  | Chinese Export Porcelain                 |                | open              | 1      | 1       | 4      | blue & red paint   | base |                 | 18th                       |
| 05      | NOTS  | Nottingham stoneware                     |                | bowl              | 1      | 1       | 36     | roulette           | BS   |                 | 18th                       |
| 08      | WHITE | Modern whiteware                         |                | cup               | 1      | 1       | 11     | gold & pink banded | BS   |                 | 19th                       |
| 09      | MP    | Midlands Purple ware                     |                | jug/jar           | 1      | 1       | 50     |                    | BS   | late            | late 16th to mid 17th      |
| 09      | TPW   | Transfer printed ware                    |                | dish              | 1      | 1       | 8      |                    | BS   |                 | mid 19th to 20th           |
| 11      | TPW   | Transfer printed ware                    |                | dish              | 1      | 1       | 11     |                    | rim  |                 | mid 19th to 20th           |
| 11      | ENGS  | Unspecified English Stoneware            | grey stoneware | jam/lard jar      | 1      | 1       | 17     |                    | BS   |                 | late 19th to 20th          |
| 13      | BL    | Black-glazed wares                       |                | bowl ?            | 1      | 1       | 13     |                    | BS   |                 | 18th                       |
| 13      | BL    | Black-glazed wares                       |                | large bowl        | 1      | 1       | 76     |                    | rim  | int & ext glaze | 18th to 19th               |
| 13      | WHITE | Modern whiteware                         |                | dish              | 1      | 1       | 8      |                    | rim  |                 | 19th to 20th               |
| 15      | SWSG  | Staffordshire White Saltglazed stoneware |                | small dish        | 1      | 1       | 5      |                    | BS   |                 | early/mid to mid/late 18th |
| 15      | TPW   | Transfer printed ware                    |                | large open vessel | 1      | 1       | 17     |                    | base |                 | 19th to 20th               |



## APPENDIX 3



# Tile Archive Hall Farm, Snarford, Lincolnshire (SHF03)

Jane Young

| context | cname | full name                             | fabric                    | frags | weight | decoration                       | description   | date         |
|---------|-------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------|--------|----------------------------------|---|--------------|
| 09      | PNR   | Peg, nib or ridge tile                | sandy                     | 1     | 56     |                                  | flat roofer;thick body;mortar   | 13th to 17th |
| 13      | PNR   | Peg, nib or ridge tile                | semi-vitrified            | 1     | 120    |                                  | flat roofer;mortar  | 13th to 17th |
| 13      | PNR   | Peg, nib or ridge tile                | semi-vitrified            | 1     | 187    |                                  | flat roofer;mortar  | 13th to 17th |
| 13      | GRID  | Glazed ridge tile (unidentified ware) | hard orange fabric occ ca | 1     | 216    | applied diagonal strips on crest | edge;mod ca in bedding;occ lenses of white clay in fabric;brown glaze | 13th to 15th |



# THE FIGURES



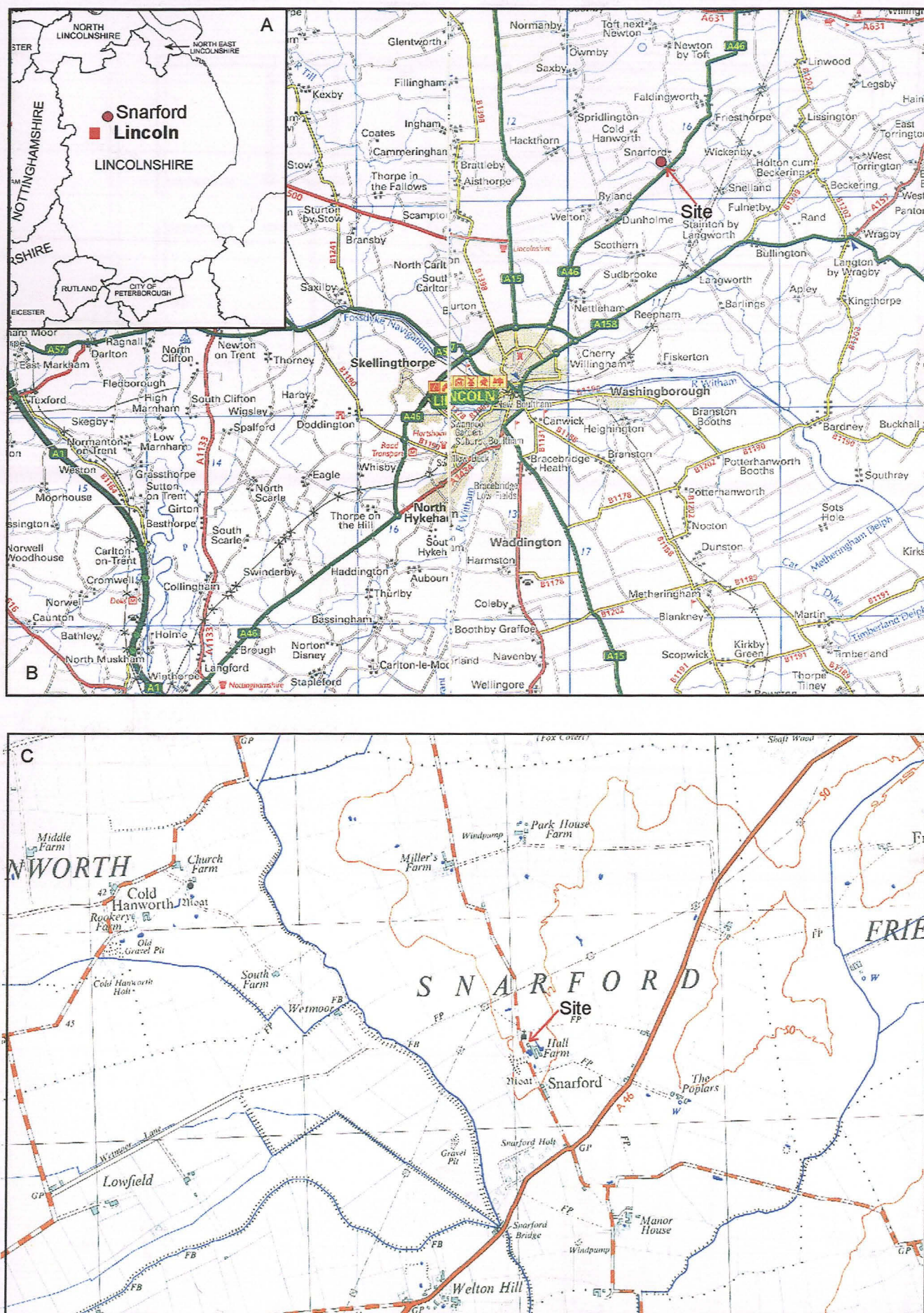


Fig. 1 Location of Hall Farm, Snarford, Lincolnshire. ( C based on the 1:25 000 Ordnance Survey map, Sheet TF08, Crown copyright, reproduced with the permission of the controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165).



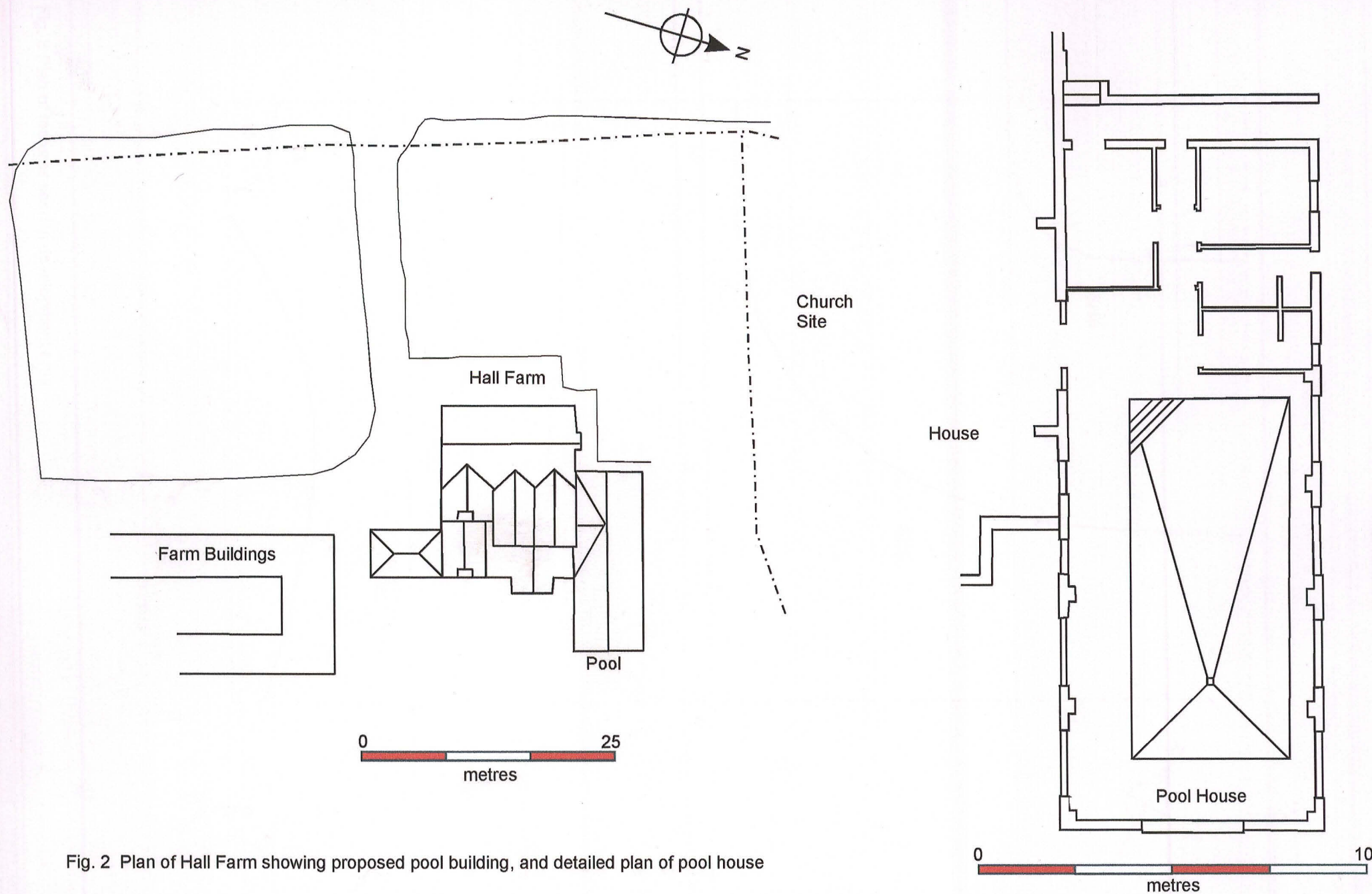


Fig. 2 Plan of Hall Farm showing proposed pool building, and detailed plan of pool house

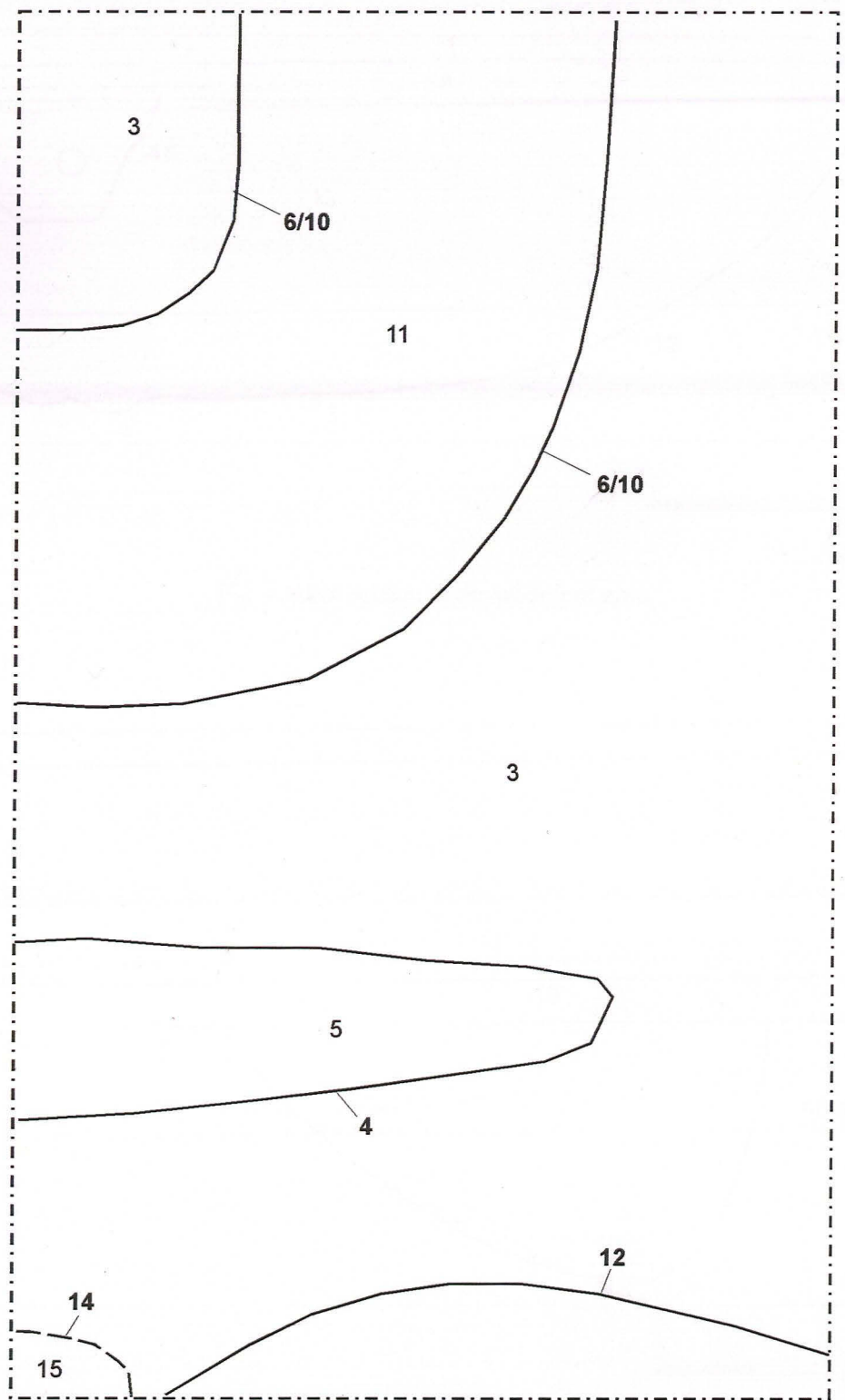


Fig. 3 Plan of features seen in development area



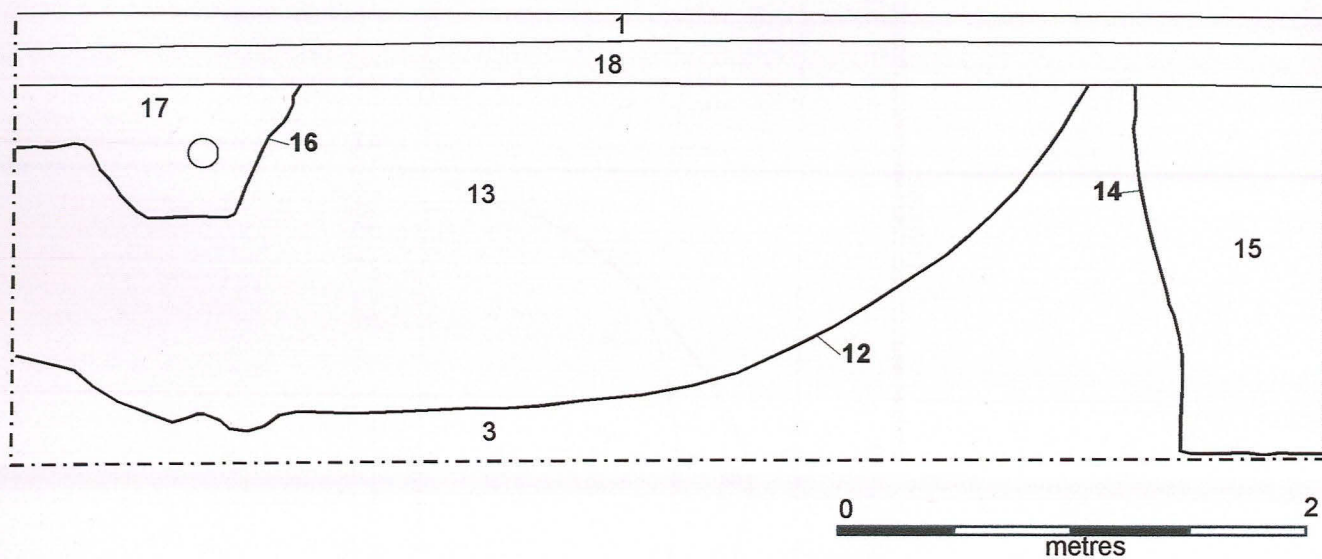


Fig. 4 West section of development area

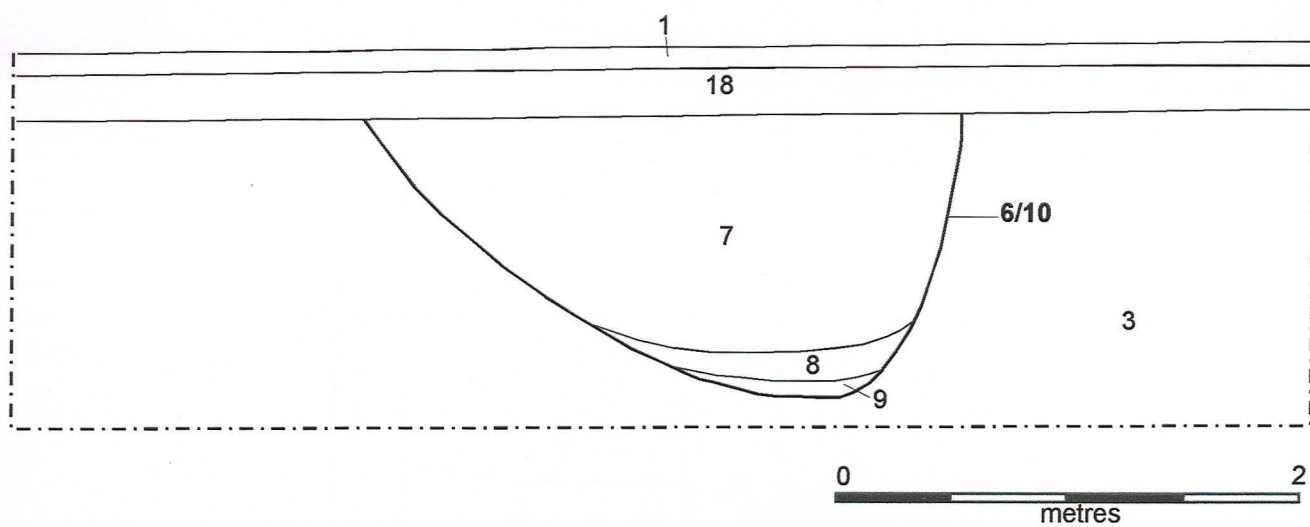


Fig. 5 East section of development area

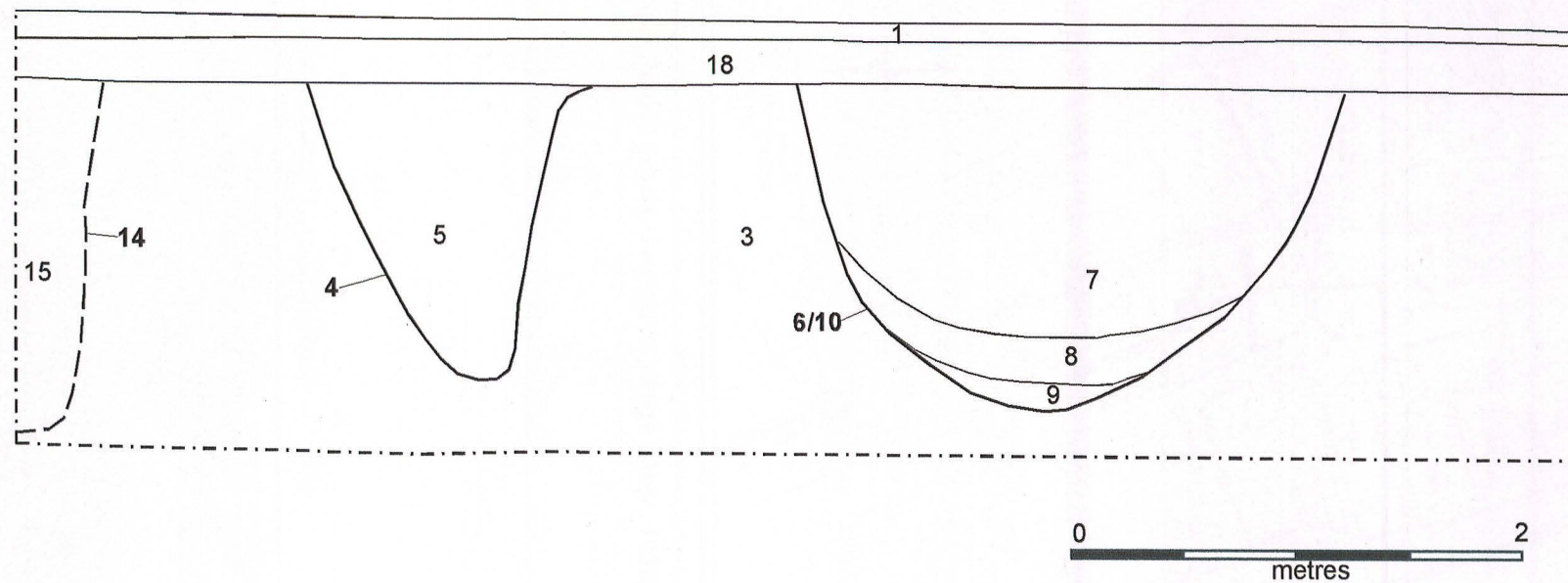


Fig. 6 North section of development area



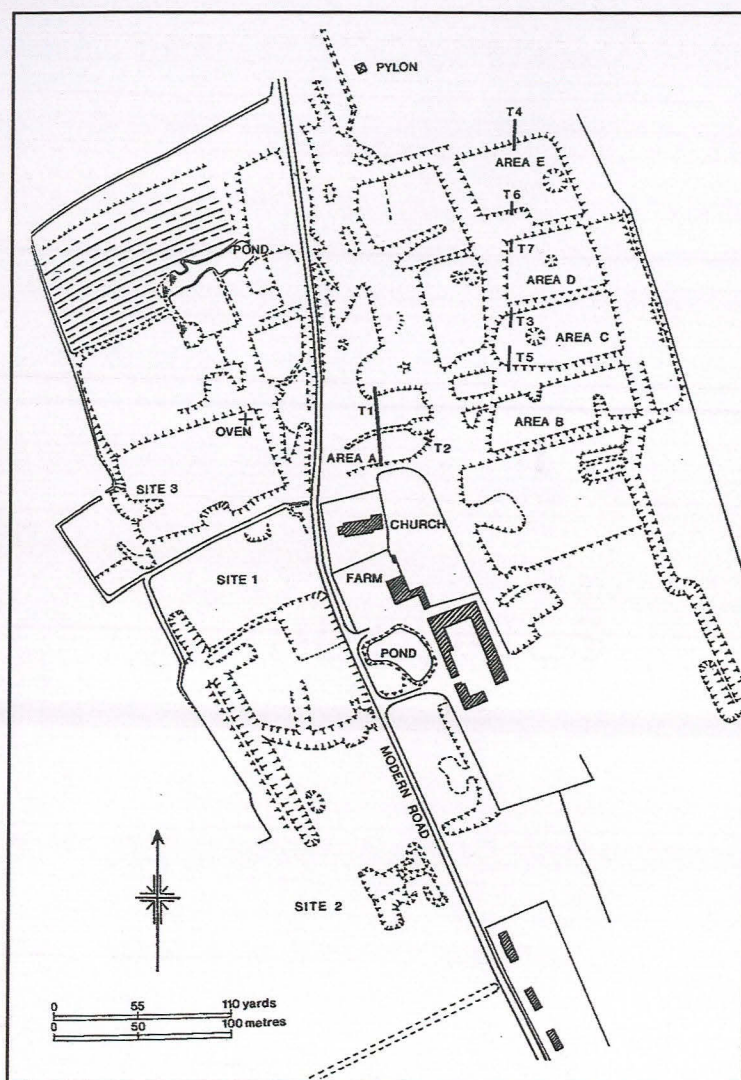


Fig. 7 Plan of deserted medieval village (West, 1969)



Fig. 8 Aerial view of Snarford showing ploughed out remains of village. (P.Everson 29 July 1979, National Monuments record film No. 2963/31)



## THE PLATES





Pl. 1 View of north side of house showing location of proposed pool building, looking southwest



Pl. 2 Excavation of swimming pool, looking east





Pl. 3 View of southwestern face of excavation trench, showing pits 12 and 14



Pl. 4 View of north face of excavation trench showing ditch 6





LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

LINCOLNSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL

21 JUN 2005

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