



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

CROWLEY
HERITAGE

**Former Service Station, Bourne Rd, Folkingham
Lincs.**

*NGR: TF 07304 33448
Site Code: FBRG 05
Accession No.: 2005.114
SKDC Planning Application No.: S04/0440/32*

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report for

Rochford Homes (on behalf of Mr and Mrs R. Palmer)

by G. Tann

LAS Report No. 827

June 2005

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EXCAVATION: L1 10160

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Former Service Station, Bourne Road, Folkingham, Lincs. Archaeological Watching Brief

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Summary

Limited monitoring of groundworks at the eastern side of the development site identified no significant archaeological remains, but found small features which may have been medieval occupation features or natural palaeochannels.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Rochford Homes on behalf of Mr and Mrs R. Palmer in November 2004 to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the rear of the former service station site, Bourne Road, Folkingham (Figs. 1 and 2). The work was carried out in accordance with general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998) and the brief set by the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist (dated April 26th 2004).

Monitoring of groundworks by G. Tann took place on December 15th and 16th 2004, when the foundation trench was excavated for a retaining wall between the new development and the existing No. 3 Billingborough Road. LAS expected to be notified of further work for House Plots 1 and 3 at a later stage, but the development is now well advanced.

Site Location and Description

Folkingham lies 10 miles south of Sleaford on the main road to Bourne (A15). The development site is situated within the historic core of the village, on the east side of Bourne Road, and to the south of the Market Place. The earthwork remains of Folkingham Castle lie on adjacent land to the east (Pl. 1). The development site was formerly a petrol station with associated shop to the rear of the forecourt. There were petrol tanks near the front of the plot. These structures had been cleared before archaeological monitoring began.

Planning Background

Planning permission was granted for the construction of a three dwellings with integral garages on the site, with access drive, and services (Fig. 3). An archaeological condition required that an archaeological watching brief should be kept during the groundworks phase of the development, except on areas affected by the petrol tanks.

Archaeological Background

At the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086, Folkingham was the centre of a large manor (estate) with a church and a mill. The settlement is Saxon in origin; the Normans built a castle there, which was rebuilt in 1321 by Henry de Beaumont. The castle became ruinous in the sixteenth century. During the nineteenth century a House of Correction was built on part of the its site. The castle site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, and it has been claimed that it reused the site of a prehistoric hillfort.

A bungalow was built by the applicant at No. 3 Billingborough Road in 1967, and the petrol filling station/garage was constructed on open ground to the north in 1980. A trench was excavated for a 5,000 ltr fuel tank, and topsoil from that area was redistributed across the southern side of the development site.

Despite the known disturbance to the site, there remained some potential for the groundworks on the new development site to disturb prehistoric, or medieval remains.

The Watching Brief (Figs. 3 and 4)

Context numbers were assigned by LAS for recording purposes; these are used in bold in this report, and a summary list is provided (Appendix 1).

Retaining Wall

Soil **2** was removed from the slope between the new development and an existing bungalow, prior to excavation of a construction trench for a new retaining wall (Pls. 2-4). The stripped surface was at between about 0.7m and 0.95m below the 2004 ground level.

The eastern side of the stripped area cut into the western edge of a west-east aligned earth bank, revealing an area of limestone rubble **8**. This was identified as the fill of an extensive feature **9**, over 0.95m deep, and extending at least 4m. The feature was interpreted as a twentieth century soakaway, probably associated with the petrol station.

The northern side of the retaining wall trench face was disturbed by a pipe trench at its eastern end. The topsoil **1** depth to the west of the pipe trench was about 1m from 2004 ground level, and this may have been the western limit of the soakaway pit **8**. Below the topsoil was a layer of orange clay loam **3** with an irregular base which sloped slightly down towards the east. Beneath it was a layer of chalky buff clay **4**, above grey clay **5** (Pl. 5). The grey clay appeared to be at the edges of a narrow channel **7**, which was assumed to be naturally formed.

The western return of the retaining wall trench revealed a thick layer of redeposited topsoil **10** covering a previous topsoil layer **12** (Pl. 6). The extra material probably represents soil moved in 1980 when the fuel tank was excavated. The earlier topsoil layer, up to 0.45m thick, covered a thin band of stone fragments **13** which had probably formed as a result of cultivation of the layer above.

Below it was orange clay loam **3**, which was at least 0.2m thick, but seemed to be filling two separate features **14** and **15** cut into the yellow clay **16** below. A fragment of medieval roof tile was found in **3** where it filled **15**.

Conclusion

No significant archaeological remains were found on the monitored area. The irregularities in the underlying deposits were interpreted as naturally formed surface water channels flowing down the slope towards the stream, but could possibly have been archaeological features related to medieval activity. Too little of this site was monitored to permit any useful conclusions to be drawn as to past occupation of the land beside the castle moat.

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank Mr and Mrs Palmer and their contractors for their co-operation and interest. The tile was identified by Jane Young. Illustrations were produced by Sophie Claxton, and the report was edited and collated by Naomi Field.

Geoff Tann
Lindsey Archaeological Services
June 15th 2005

Site Archive

Developer's plan, and annotated copies
Correspondence
Photographs: LAS digital film no. 05/65
Finds: tile
Specialist archive list: tile

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 1

Context Summary: FBRG 05

Context No.	Type	Relationships	Description
1	Layer	Below 2, above 3, same as 12	topsoil, 0.2m - 0.5m thick, dark brown loam
2	Layer	Above 1, 8	Topsoil and disturbed topsoil, 0.7m thick
3	Layer	Below 1 and 13, above 4; fill of 14 and 15	Orange clay loam, 0.3m -0.5m thick; 1 piece of medieval roof tile
4	Layer	Below 3, above 6	Buff clay with chalk, 0.3m thick
5	Layer	Below 6, ?cut by 7	Grey clay; ?natural
6	Layer	Below 4, above 5, ?fill of 7	Buff clay, possible fill of narrow palaeochannel
7	Cut	Cuts 5, filled by 6	9m wide palaeochannel?
8	Fill	Fill of 9, below 2	Limestone rubble and soil
9	Cut	Filled by 8, cuts 1	Soakaway
10	Layer	Above 11	Redeposited topsoil with clay and stone rubble
11	Layer	Below 10, above 12	0.08m thick layer of redeposited clay and stone chips
12	Layer	Below 11, above 13, same as 1	Dark brown clay loam buried topsoil
13	Layer	Below 12, above 3	0.05m thick layer of stone fragments
14	Cut	Cuts 16, filled by 3	0.55m wide ?cut, possibly post-hole or natural feature
15	Cut	Cuts 16, filled by 3	1.3m wide, 0.3m deep feature, possibly natural
16	Layer	Cut by 14, 15, below 3	Yellow clay with limestone chips

APPENDIX 2

Tile Archive FBRG05

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	description	date
3	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	light reduced dark margins oxid surfs	1	67	flat roofer; common subround to round quartz moderate rounded fe sparse ca	late 12th to 15th

THE FIGURES

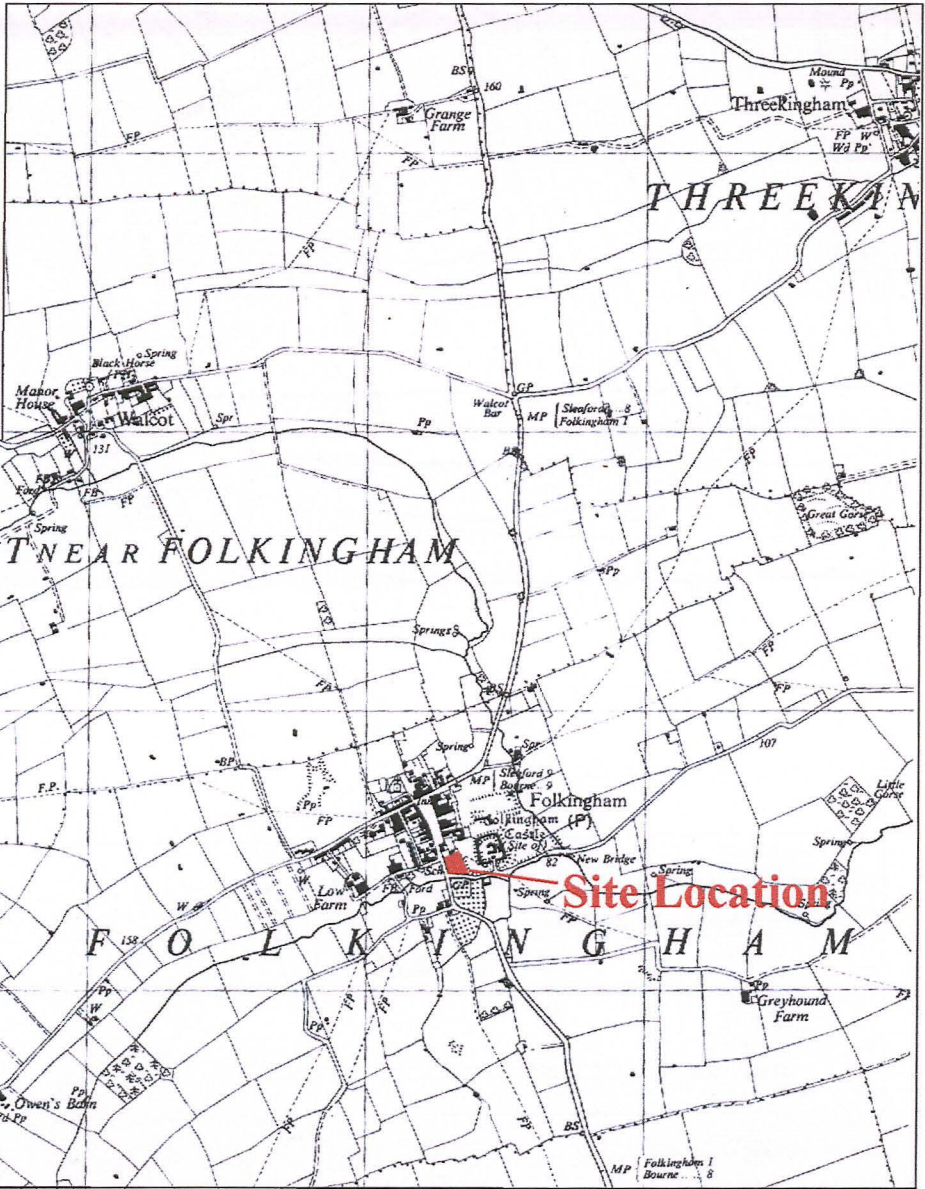
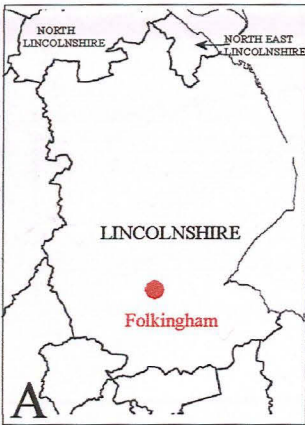
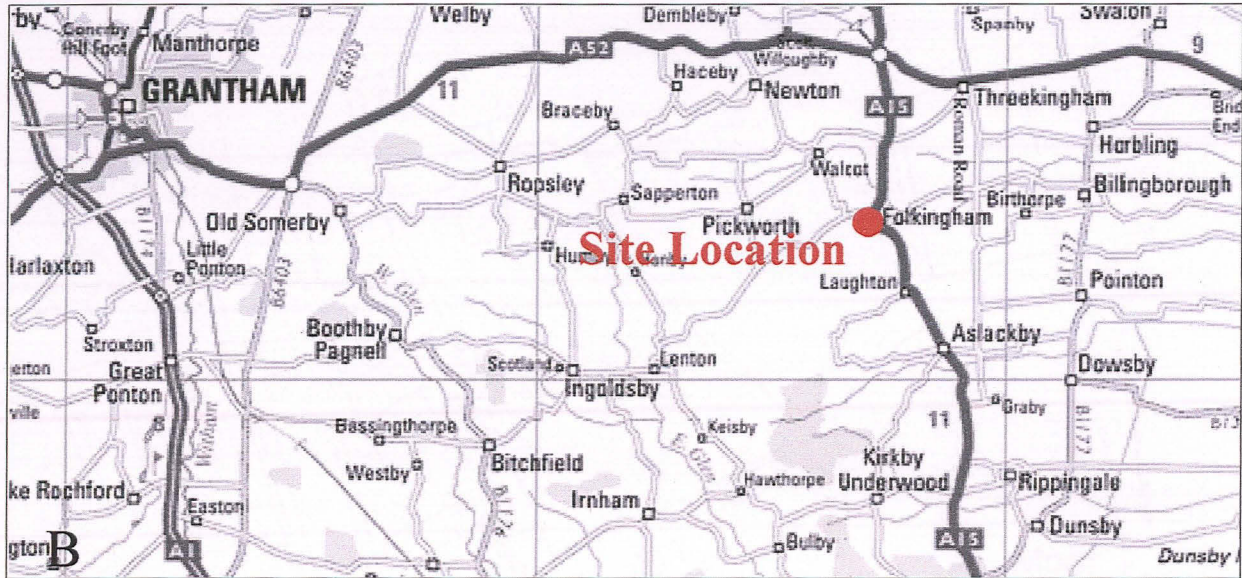


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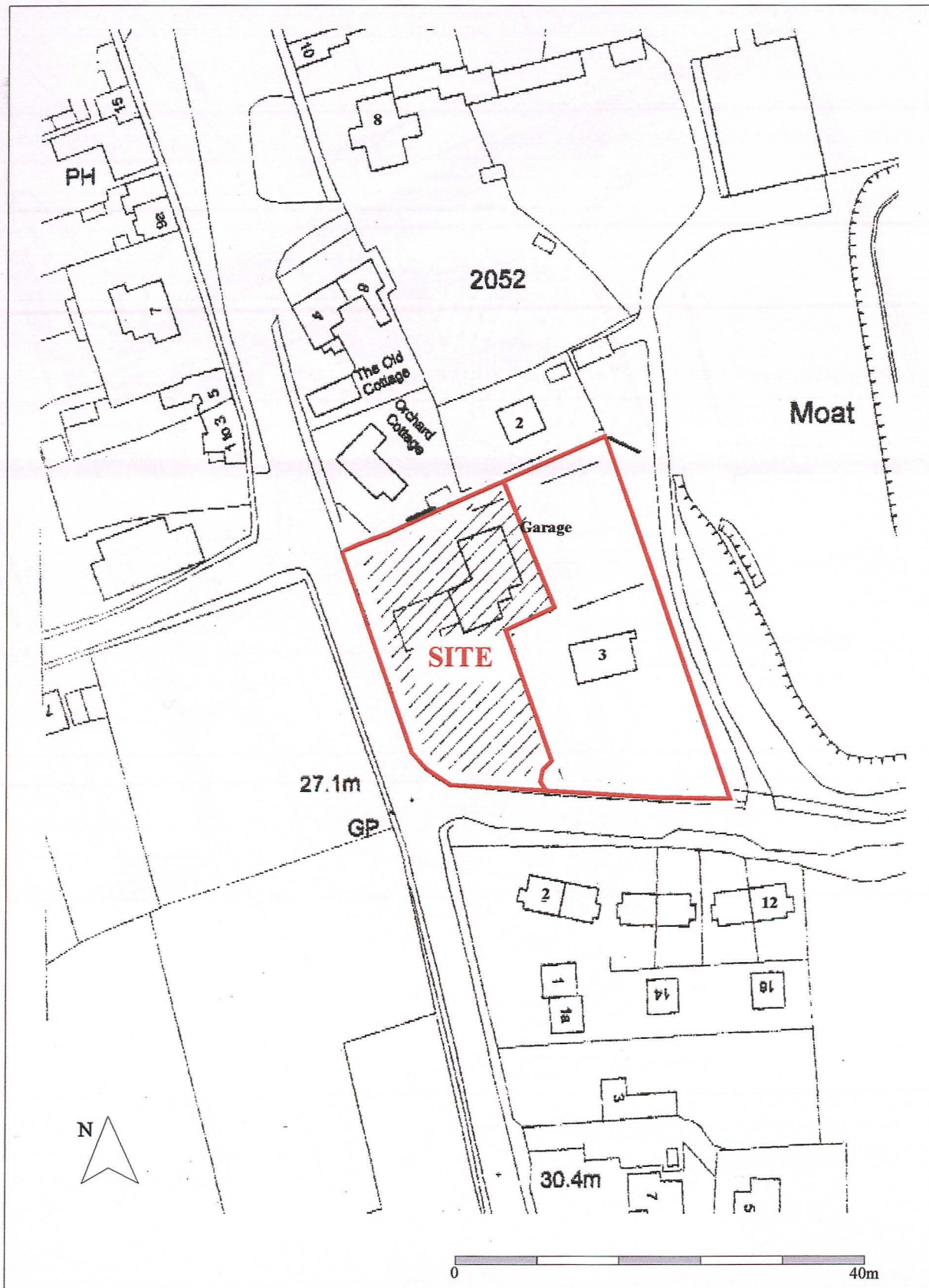


Fig. 2 Location of the Development Site (based on a plan supplied by the client. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165).



Fig. 3 Layout of the new development, showing the position of the monitored groundworks (based on Rochford Homes Ltd dwg. 030/S-WD01).

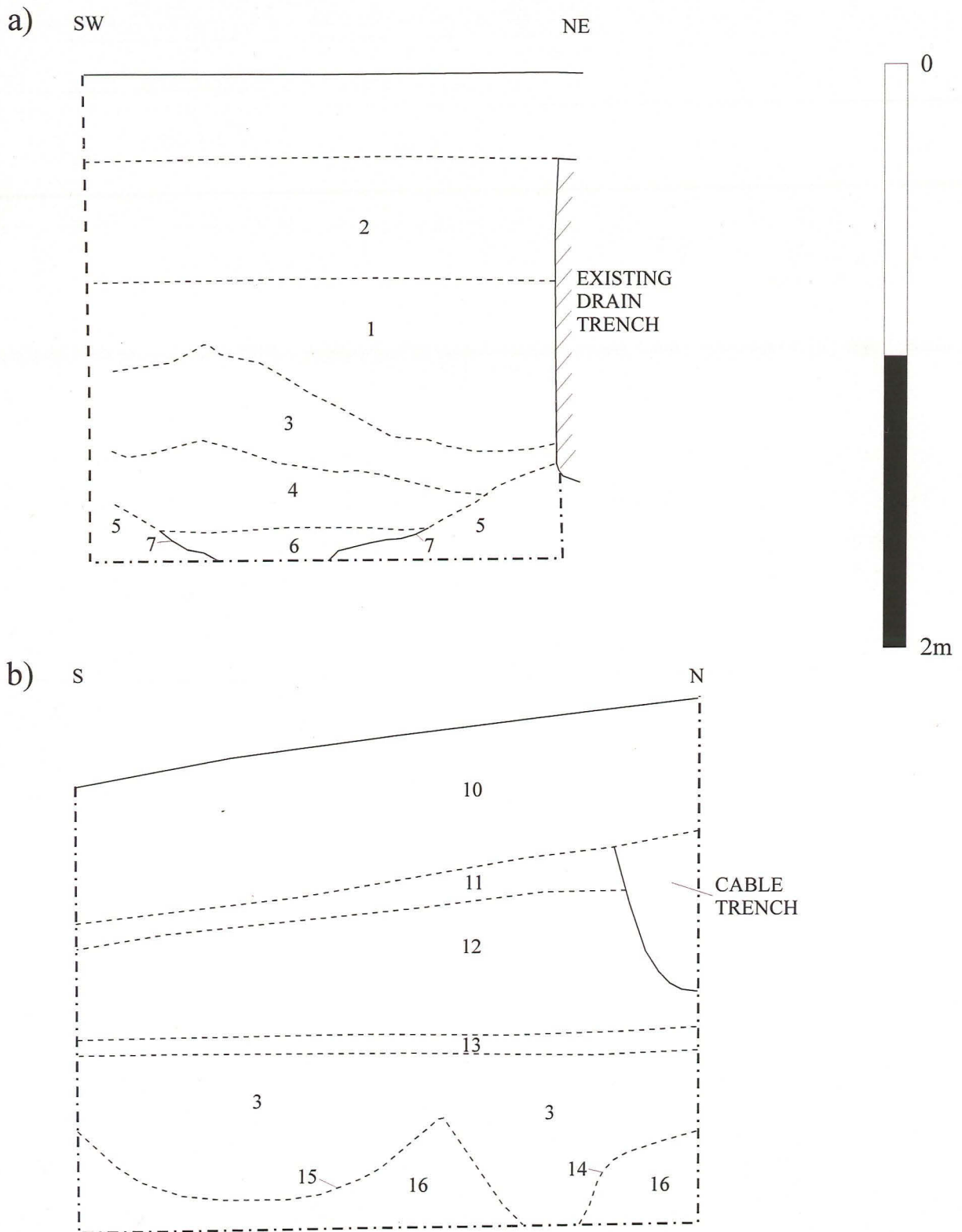


Fig. 4 Sections across deposits seen in the trenches for the new retaining wall: a) northern trench; b) western trench (Claxton after Tann).

THE PLATES



PI. 1 Earthworks remains on the site of Folkingham Castle (looking south-east from the rear of the development site).



PI. 2 Area stripped of topsoil for the new retaining wall (looking west towards Bourne Road).



PI. 3 Area stripped for the retaining wall (looking east towards the castle site).



PI. 4 North-eastern corner of the area stripped for the retaining wall (looking north). Rubble from the soakaway 9 is visible. The sloping ground to the north appears to have been lowered when the garage was built.



PI. 5 Trench face of the northern retaining wall (looking north).



PI. 6 The trench face for the western retaining wall, showing the orange loam filling two features.