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**WELLAND BANK PIT  
3RD INTERIM STATEMENT**

Work Undertaken For  
Ennemix Construction Materials Ltd

January 1995



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES

## WELLAND BANK PIT 3RD INTERIM STATEMENT

### 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological watching brief was carried out in advance of mineral extraction at Welland Bank Pit, Deeping St James, Lincolnshire. The investigation was undertaken as part of an ongoing programme of archaeological examination that has comprised watching briefs, geophysical survey and trial trenching in the area.*

*Previous work has observed the presence of ditches that were mainly aligned north to south, post and stake holes, a driveway and pits. Although undated, these archaeological remains were sealed by an alluvial deposit of possible late Roman date (based on previous observations of the material elsewhere in the Welland Valley). Additionally, remains of Ice Age animals (mammoth and bison) have been recovered.*

*Between the 29th of November and the 20th of December 1994, archaeological observation and recording was undertaken during the removal of overburden as part of quarrying operations at Welland Bank pit. A sequence of topsoil overlying alluvial deposits was observed with archaeological remains existing below the alluvium. Two large ditches that may represent a settlement boundary were revealed, as well as several smaller ditches, pits and a large stone structure, possibly a ramp or bridge abutment. A number of finds, including pottery of apparently Late Bronze Age or early Iron Age date, tile and animal bone, were recovered.*

### 2. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (phase 1) of orange sandy gravel were visible across much of the area. Sealed by these deposits, though only observed over part of the site, was a layer of grey clay that contained plant remains.

Undated archaeological deposits (phase 2) consist of a number of features exposed over much of the site. Several ditches were encountered, the largest of these being cuts 25 and 33 (Figs. 6 and 7) that were recorded as being at least 2.5m wide, with ditch 33 having been recut (30). These two features are probably contemporary and, on the basis of size, may have been boundary ditches to a settlement area. Moreover, occupation debris, in the form of animal bones and pottery fragments tentatively dated to the Late Bronze Age or early Iron Age, was recovered from the ditch fills.

Adjoining the major boundary ditches were two smaller ditches that apparently formed enclosures to the south and east (Fig. 4). A further ditch was located towards the southeast of the site.

A large stone feature (Fig. 5) was situated in the southwestern corner of the site. Built up of fragments of limestone and wooden planks this structure has been interpreted as a ramp, though serving an unknown function. Several soil discolourations were also observed and tentatively identified as pits. However, no finds were recovered from them and, hence, there is the possibility that at least some of these are natural features.

Phase 2 features and layers are uniformly sealed by a grey to grey brown silty clay. This natural material is an alluvial deposit and is likely to have been the result of flooding from the River Welland (phase 3). Though undated, parallels from elsewhere suggest a possible late or early post-Roman date for this flooding (A.P.S. 1994).

Cutting through the phase 3 alluvium and located in the area of the phase 2 stone feature were four postholes (36, 38, 40 and 42). Associated with *c.* 19th century pottery and a number of used shotgun cartridges, these possibly represent a Victorian or later shooting hide (phase 4). This coincidence of location would suggest that, although buried, the phase 2 stone 'ramp' was evident in the landscape, perhaps as an earthwork, and provided a natural focus for the phase 4 post-built structure. Other modern deposits were provided by field drains and the dark brown sandy silt topsoil that covered the site.

### 3. CONCLUSIONS

Continuing archaeological investigation at Welland Bank Pit, Deeping St James has established that natural deposits occur at about 0.4 to 0.5m below the present ground surface. Natural features, probably of glacio-fluvial origin, were also recorded at the site.

Human activity in the area is represented by a number of features cut into the natural deposits. These remains include ditches, pits and a large stone structure, although the date and association of these features is, as yet, unclear. However, it is probable that occupation sites associated with these pits and ditches occur in the proximity. In particular, two large ditches at the north side of the investigation area may define the southern boundary of a settlement enclosure. Occupation debris, including animal bones and pottery of Late Bronze Age or early Iron Age date, was recovered from these ditches and supports the suggestion that they delimit a habitation area.

An undated alluvial deposit sealed these features. Recent activity in the area was represented by the four postholes of a possible hide structure, numerous field drains and the present day topsoil. Pottery, ceramic building material and bone were recovered during the watching brief and are presently undergoing analysis.

The archaeological remains recorded here supplement previous discoveries at the quarry and contribute to the known evidence of human exploitation of the Welland valley. This report constitutes an interim statement. Interpretations given in this report are provisional and may be subject to amendment as post-excavation analysis continues and further evidence is revealed. A full report on archaeological investigations at Welland Bank will be produced upon completion of all phases of watching briefs in advance of mineral extraction.

#### 4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to thank Owen Batham and N.J. Wraith of Ennemix Construction Materials Ltd for funding the fieldwork and analysis. Steve Haynes coordinated the archaeological fieldwork. Background information was supplied by Mr Smedley and Ron Cook of Crowland. Access to the relevant parish files was given by the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist.

#### 5. PERSONNEL

Project Manager:	Steve Haynes
Supervisor:	Rene Mouraille
Site Assistants:	Natalie Bennet, Nicola Bunting, James Burrel, Tammy Dolling, Elisabeth Stevens
Illustration:	Paul Cope-Faulkner
Finds Processing:	Denise Buckley
Post-excavation Analyst:	Paul Cope-Faulkner

#### 6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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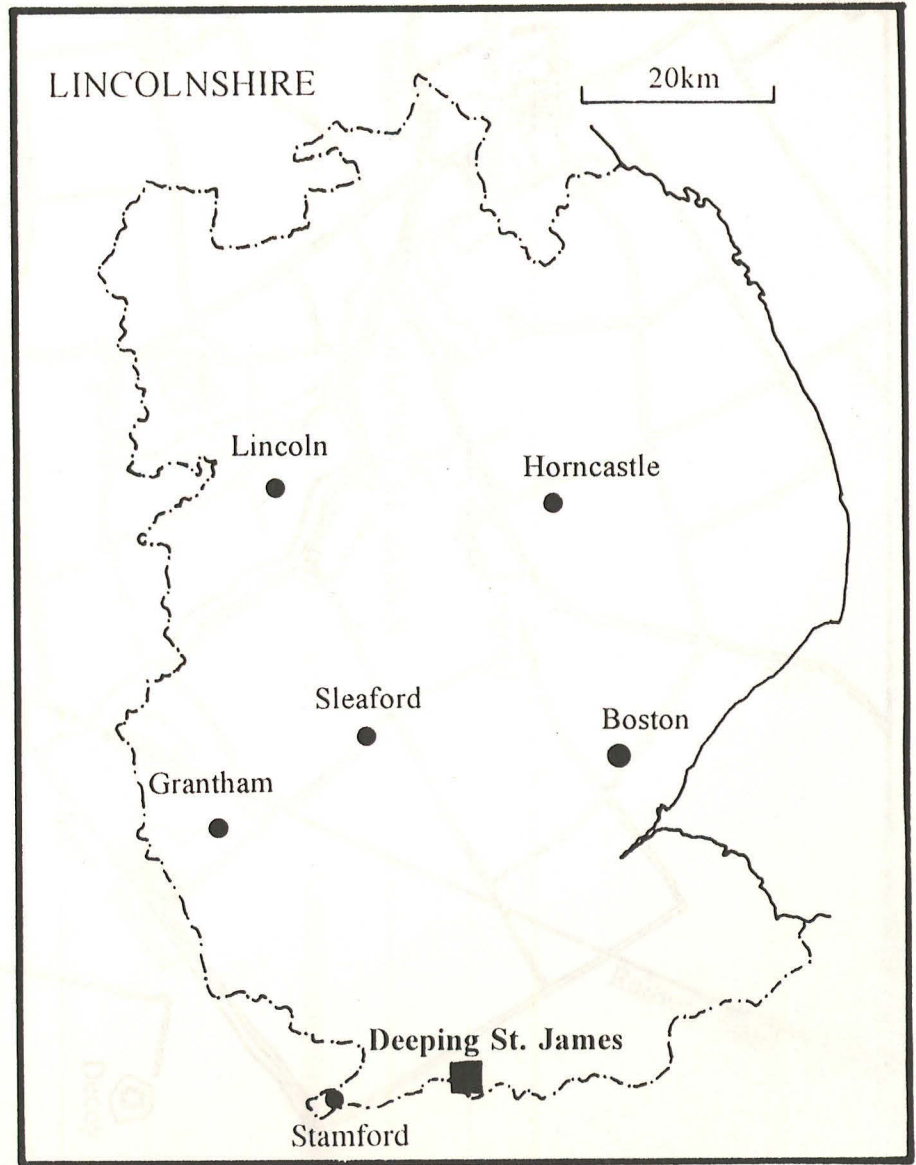
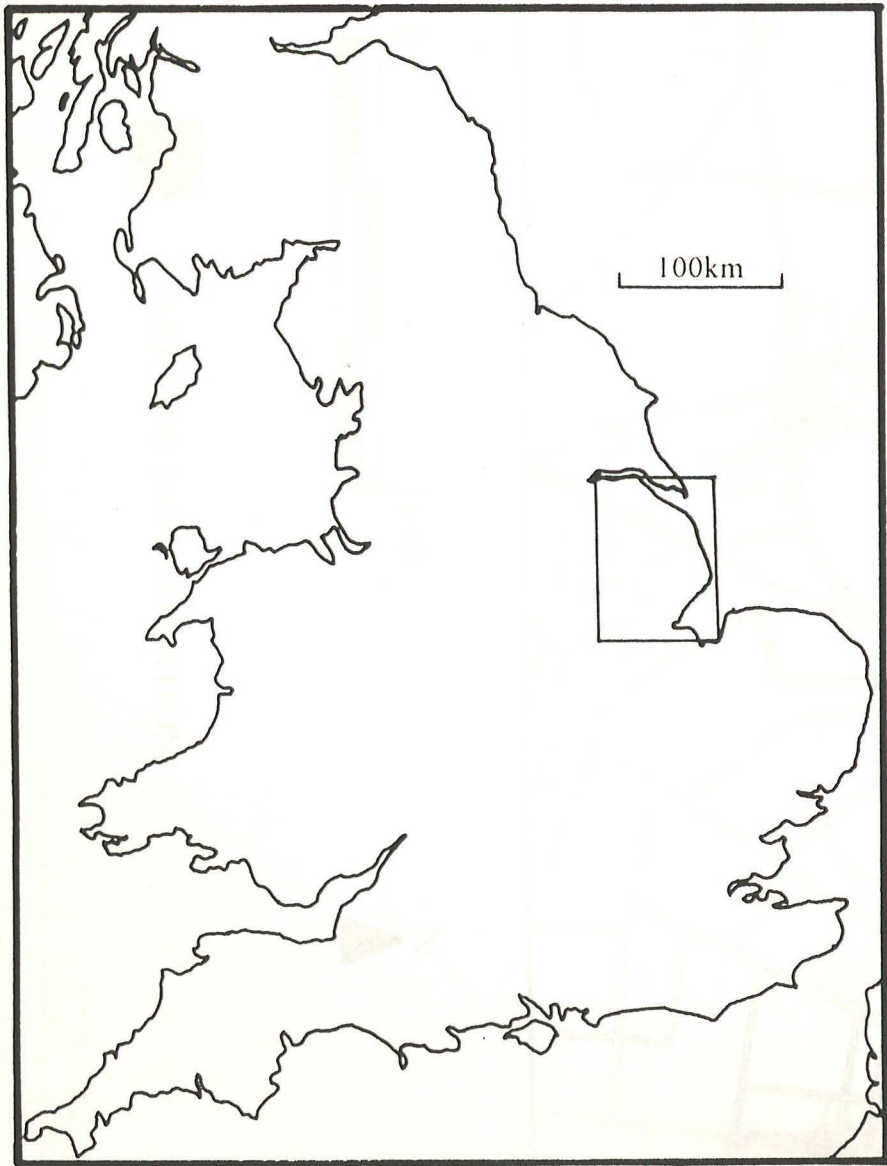
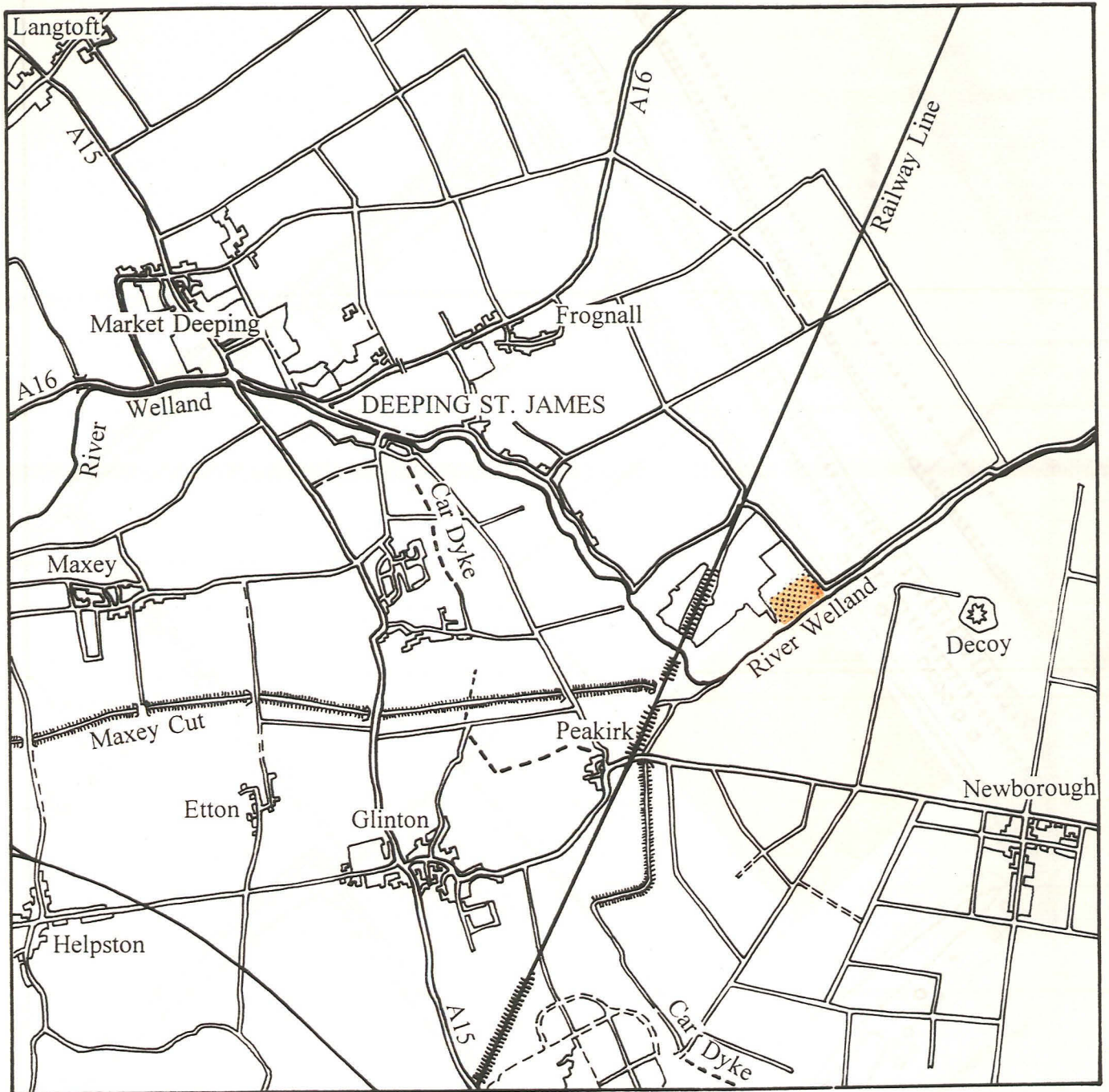


Fig. 1 General Location Plan

Fig. 2 Site Location Plan



AREA OF INVESTIGATION

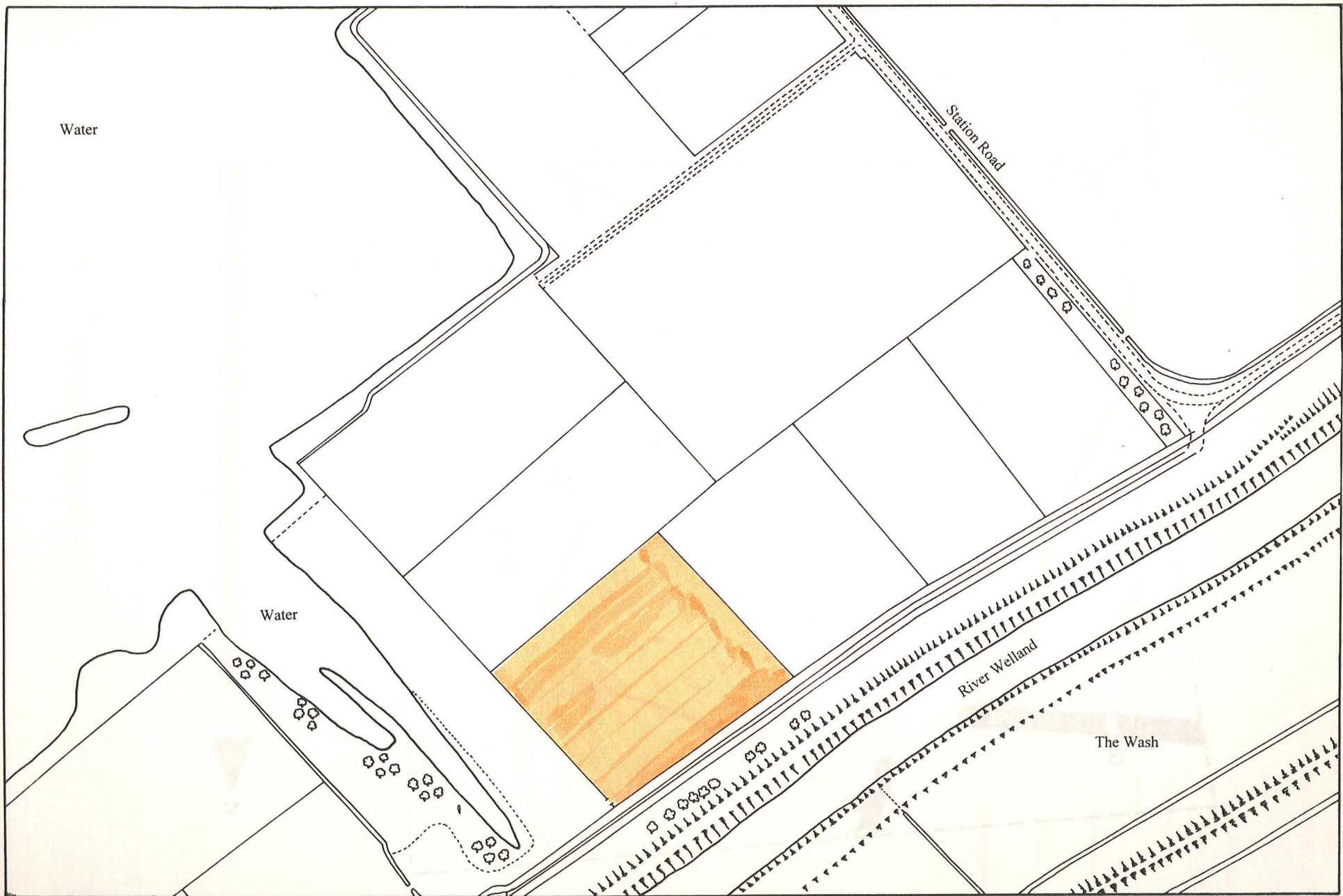


Fig. 3 Location of Investigation Site

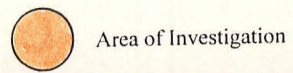
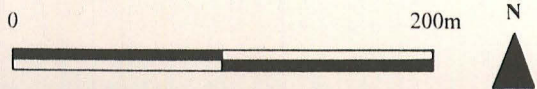
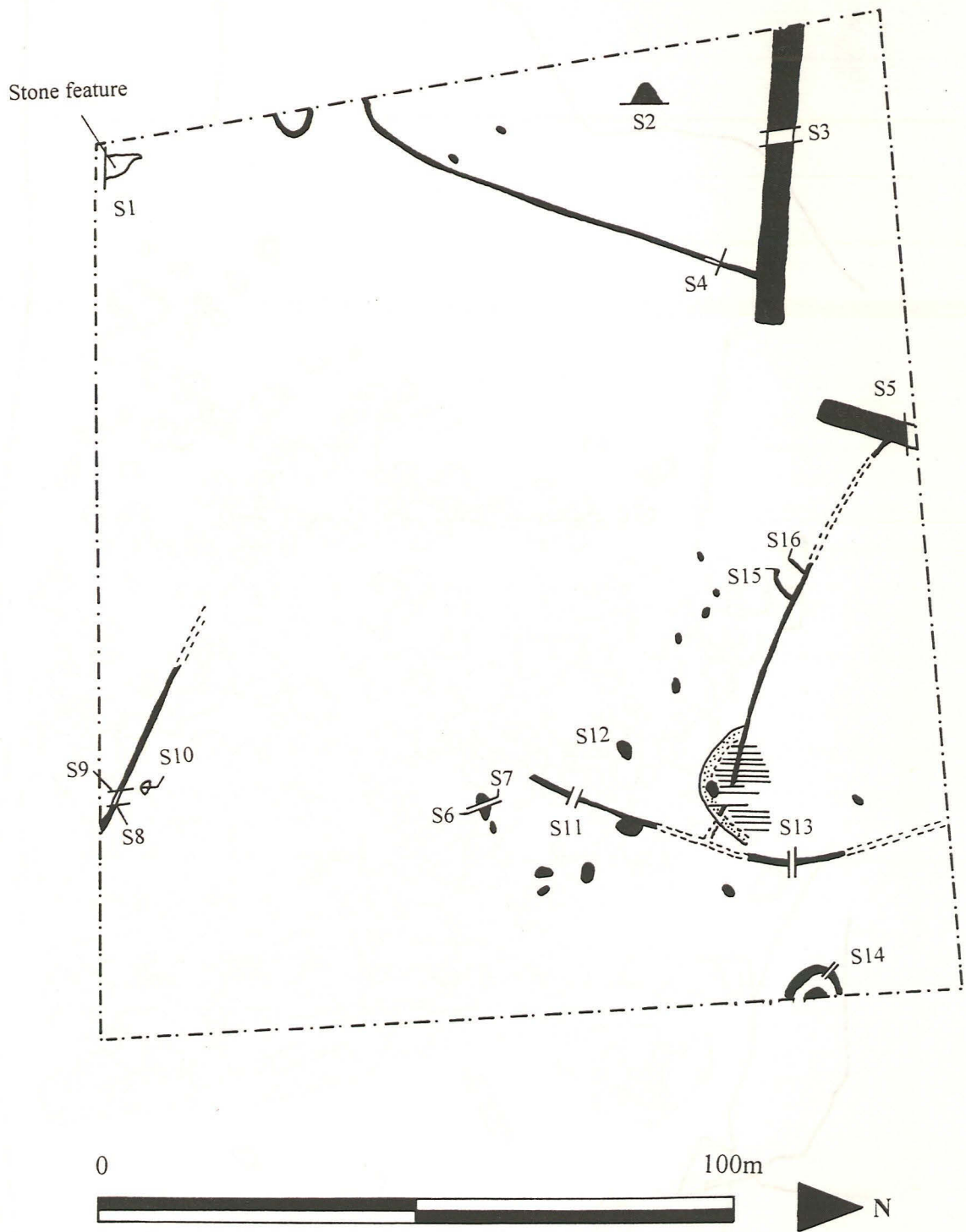


Fig. 4 Plan of Archaeological Remains



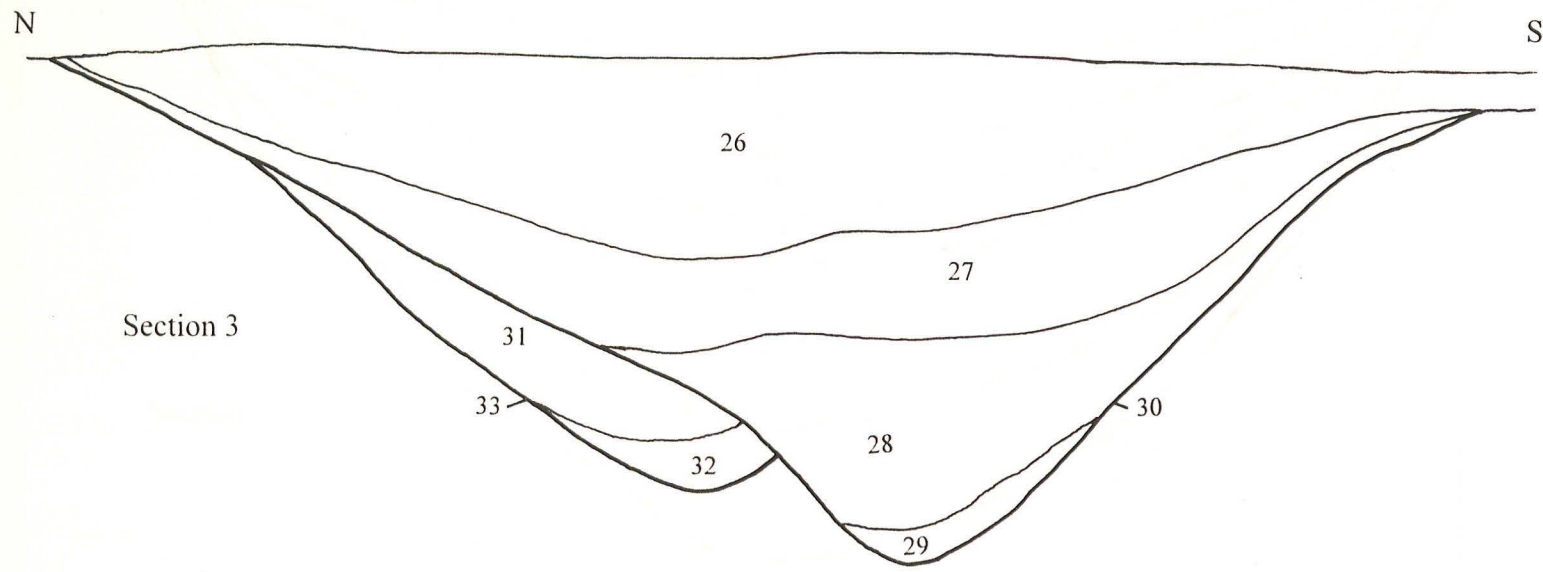
S1      Location of Recorded Sections



Fig. 5 Plan of Stone Feature

Fig. 6 Section 3





Section 3

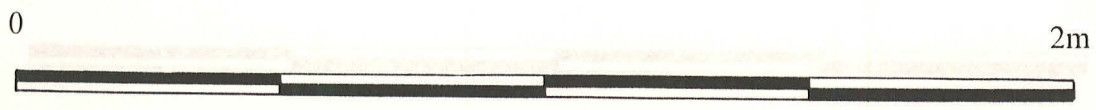


Fig. 6 Section 3

Fig. 7 Section 5

