

95/9

LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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LAND OFF KNAITH HILL KNAITH ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

NGR: SK 8297 8480
Site Code KHK 95
Museum Accession No. 126.95

report for

MR P. RANDALL

September 1995

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29.9.95

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Fig. 2 Earthwork settlement remains at Knaith, surveyed by the RCHM, also showing location of Roman kilns and development site. Reproduced from Everson et al 1991 Crown copyright.

Fig. 3 Trench plan (reproduced from plans kindly supplied by Mr Randall)

Fig. 4 Section drawing showing general sequence of deposits (M. Clark)

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Pl. 1 Development plot after removal of vegetation, looking NE.

Pl. 2 Development plot after removal of vegetation, looking south.

Pl. 3 Development plot during excavation of foundation trenches, looking west.

Pl. 4 Sequence of deposits revealed in south wall trench

**Property adjacent to Corner Hill House plot
Knaith Hill, Knaith
Archaeological Watching Brief**

NGR: **SK 8297 8480**
Site Code **KHK 95**
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Summary

Archaeological monitoring during the excavation of foundation trenches for a single dwelling and double garage produced no archaeological remains or finds, other than redeposited 19th and 20th century material from demolition of a stable block.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mr P. Randall to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of foundation trenches for a new dwelling and double garage on Knaith Hill. This was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the planning consent granted by West Lindsey District Council.

On this occasion no project brief was issued but the work was carried out by Lindsey Archaeological Services in with the general requirements of the Archaeology Section of Lincolnshire County Council.

The project has been conducted with reference to guidelines set out in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1993, revised August 1994).

Site Location

Knaith is a small village located on the lower and upper terraces of the River Trent south of Gainsborough at a prominent bend in the river (Fig. 1). The placename Knaith comes from the Old English *cneohyth* which means a landing place by the knee or a bend in the river (Eckwall 1960, 281). The site lies just east of the A156 at the north end of the village. In 1966 Romano-British pottery was discovered NW of the site on the banks of the river at SK827848

(Whitwell 1967, 38). A proton gradiometer survey was carried out in 1967 which identified 30 areas of high magnetic anomalies thought to be kilns or areas defining pottery waste heaps. Three kilns within the area were excavated in 1968 (Whitwell and Wilson 1969, 101).

The medieval settlement remains survive as earthworks which were surveyed in the early 1980s as part of a survey of West Lindsey undertaken by the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England (Everson et al. 1993, 115-117) (See also Fig. 2). Their age is unknown but land at Knaith is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 when it belonged to the Manor of

Brampton and was held by the Bishop of Lincoln. The settlement must have originated prior to 1066 (Foster and Longley 1924, 48). The main core of the village comprises a rectilinear layout of earthworks was recorded just south of the kiln site bounded to the north and east by the original road line (c). As the placename indicates the settlement lay on a bend in the river with two roads (a) and (b) at right angles to the river. A modern drain which lies between the two former roads continues the line of Knaith Hill towards the river and may mark the line of a third former road. It is thought that the arrival of the Willoughbys at the manor led to the removal of the ancient village and its replacement by landscape gardens and park. The present settlement overlies ridge and furrow and may date from the 17th century (Everson 1991, 115).

The Watching Brief

It was possible that groundworks for the new house on Knaith Hill would disturb medieval settlement features and provide an opportunity to assess their forms, functions and possible date.

An area 13.10m x 9.55m was cleared of vegetation by machine (Pls. 1, 2). Machine excavation of foundation trenches was monitored. Numbers referred to in the text are context numbers, used for convenience of recording and briefly described in Appendix 1.

House Foundations

Excavation of the foundation trench along the north wall of the house revealed a simple sequence of deposits (Pls. 3, 4 Figs. 3, 4). At the north end of the site, near the demolished stables the topsoil was overlain by mixed rubble (1) containing 19th and 20th century jars, bottles, farm implements, buckets attachments etc. Topsoil (2) on the site which was a red-brown clay loam 0.30m thick. No subsoil was distinguishable in the very dry ground conditions. The topsoil overlay a lens silty clay with occasional water-worn pebbles at the base of the root penetration (3). A thin layer of pale blue grey silty clay (4) beneath (3) overlay a stiff greenish-brown clay (5). There were two thin bands of limestone (6) and (7) distinguishable at the west end of the trench, each 50mm thick and separated by a layer of clay 70mm thick. The two layers merged towards the east end of the trench to a single layer only 10mm thick. Red-brown clay (8) was seen at the bottom of the trench which extended below the limit of excavation.

There was no sign of any flood material which had been recognised in the foundation trenches of the house to the west of the present development .

In the absence of any archaeological remains the watching Brief was terminated at this stage and no further trenches were monitored.

Discussion

Analysis of the surviving village earthworks suggested that the original village of Knaith developed close to the river, west of the present A156. Development of a new village took place east of the A156, but south of the

present Terrace House Farm, possibly in the 17th century (Everson et al. 1991, 115). Observation of the foundation trenches on the site adjacent to Corner House Farm produced no evidence of medieval settlement remains and the Watching Brief on this site confirmed that there were no settlement remains in this area.

Naomi Field
September 25th 1995

Acknowledgements

The Watching Brief was undertaken by Mick Clark who also prepared Fig. 4. Thanks are due to Mr Randall for supplying Fig. 3 and to the team on site for their co-operation.

References

- Eckwall, E. 1960 *The Concise History of English Place Names* (4th edition).
- Everson, P L, Taylor, CC and Dunn, CJ, 1991 *Change and Continuity: Rural Settlement in North-West Lincolnshire* (HMSO)
- Foster C. W. and Longley T. (eds), 1924 *The Lincolnshire Domesday and the Lindsey Survey* (Lincoln Record Society Vol. 19, reprinted 1976)
- Whitwell J. B. (ed.), 1967 'Archaeological Notes 1966', *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology* 2, 38.
- Whitwell J. B. and Wilson C. M. (eds), 1969 'Archaeological Notes 1968', *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology* 4, 101.

APPENDIX 1

Corner House Farm Knaith

CONTEXT LIST (Site Code KHK 95; Museum Accession Number 126.95)

Number	Type	Description
1	layer	demolition rubble, 20th century
2	layer	topsoil, some vegetation still visible in this horizon
3	layer	uneven lens of waterworn pebbles
4	layer	pale blue-grey silty clay, 10cm thick
5	layer	green-brown stiff clay
6	layer	thin band of limestone
7	layer	thin band of limestone as 6
8	layer	red-brown clay, mottled patches of blue

APPENDIX 2

CONTENTS OF SITE ARCHIVE

8 context record sheets

Architect's plan of the proposed extension Scale 1:100

Photographs Film no. 95/22 negs. 10A-16A

Correspondence

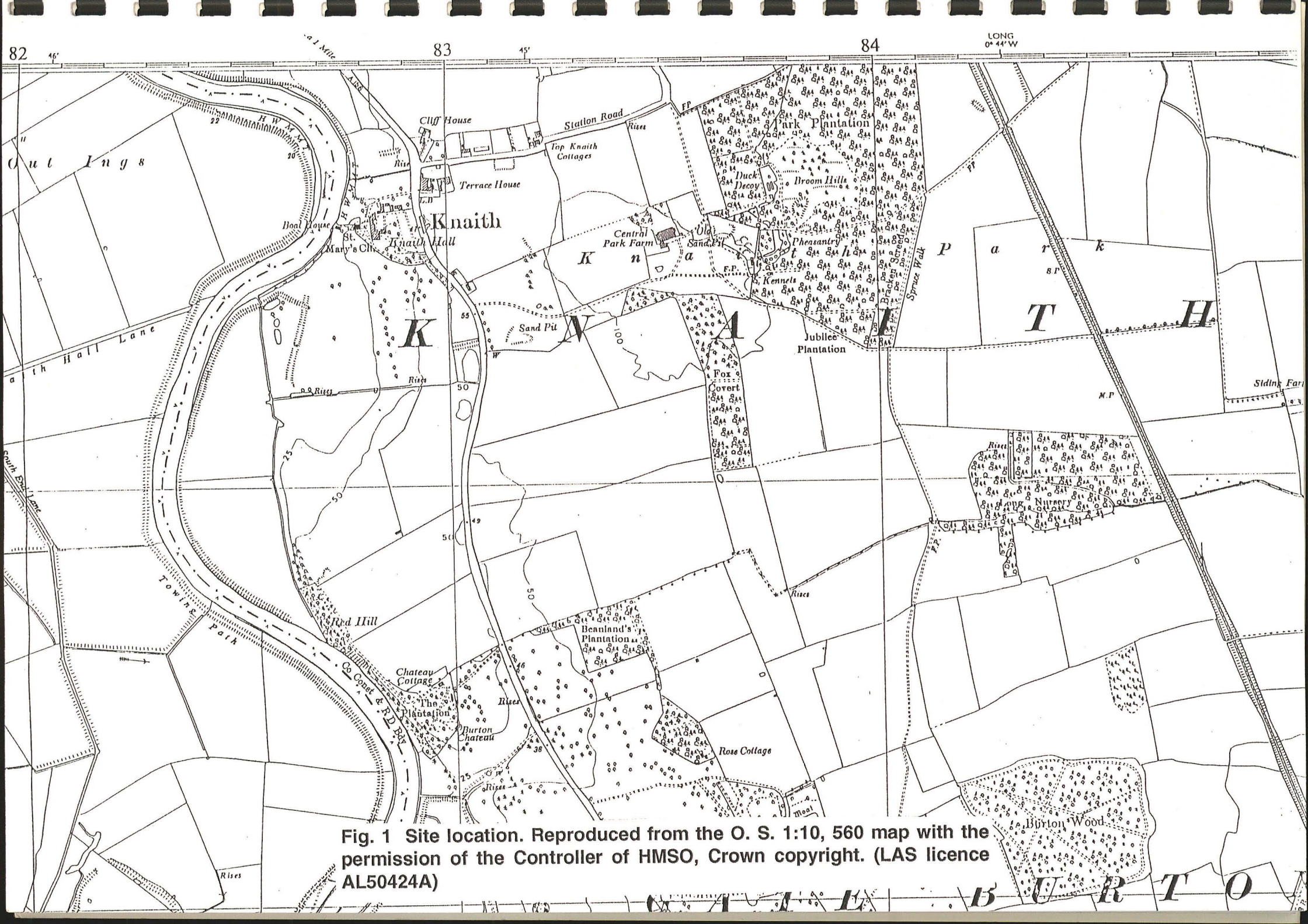


Fig. 1 Site location. Reproduced from the O. S. 1:10, 560 map with the permission of the Controller of HMSO, Crown copyright. (LAS licence AL50424A)

W A L B U R T O

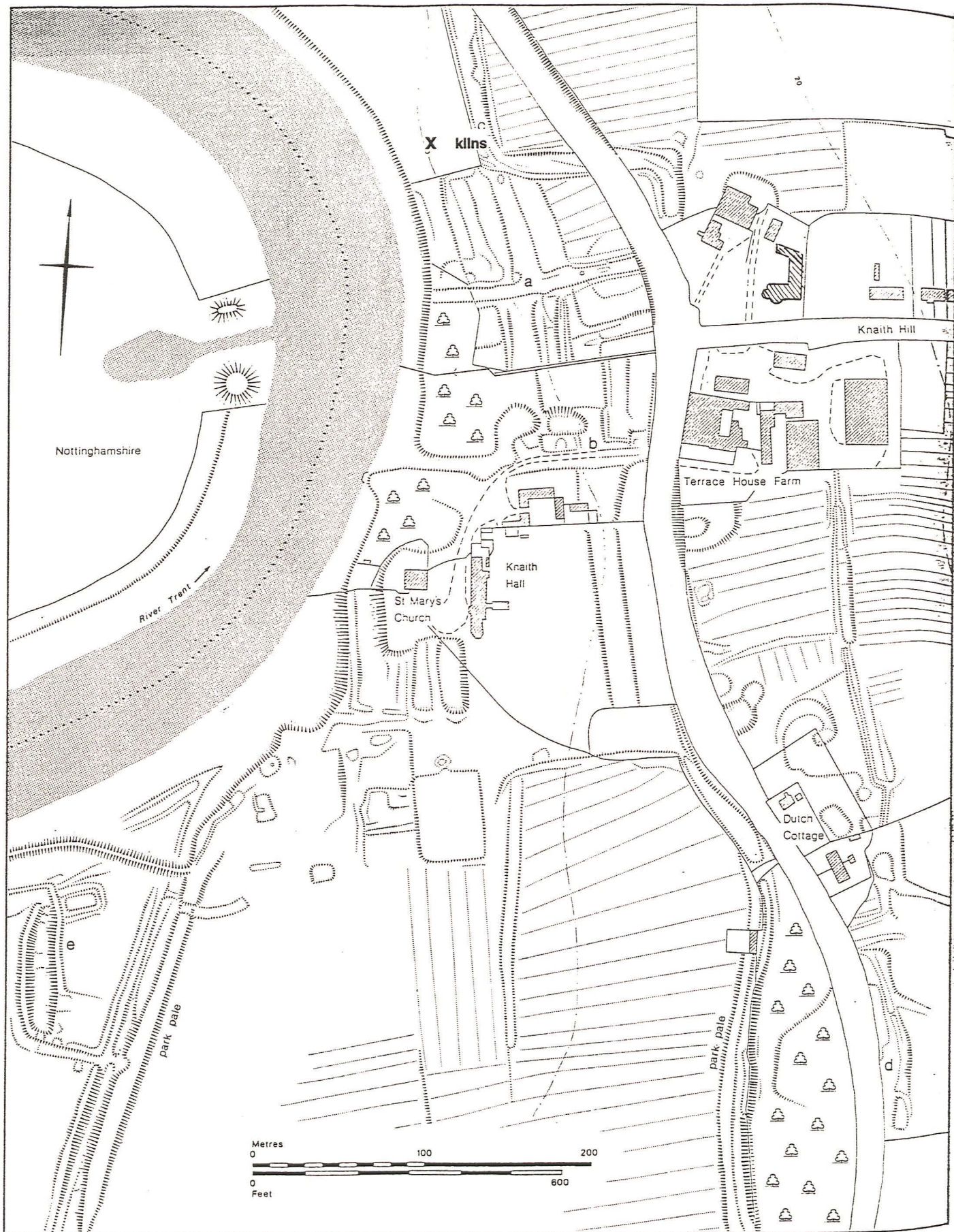


Fig. 2 Earthwork settlement remains at Knaith, surveyed by the RCHM, also showing location of Roman kilns and development site. Reproduced from Everson et al 1991 Crown copyright.

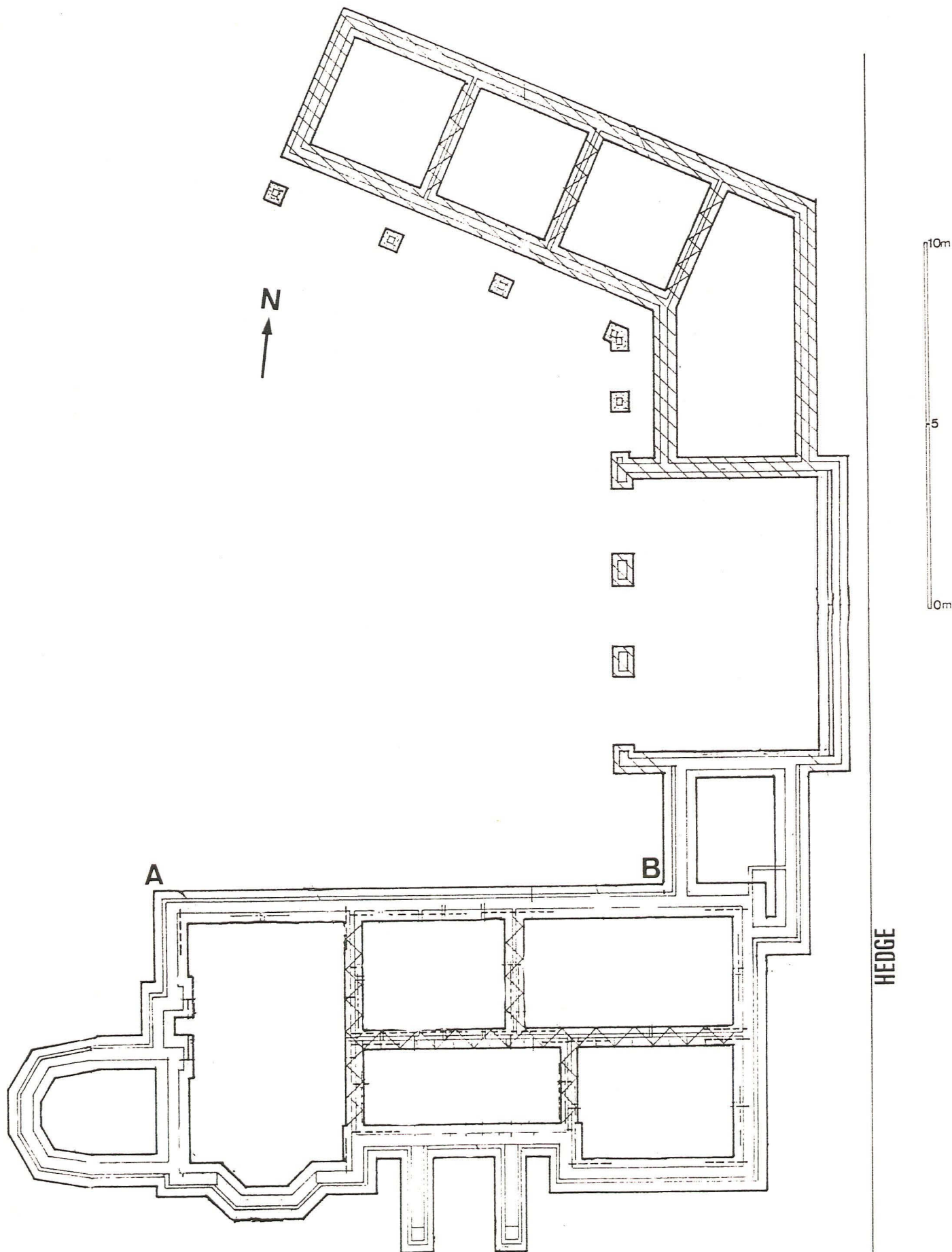


Fig. 3 Trench plan (reproduced from plans kindly supplied by Mr Randall)

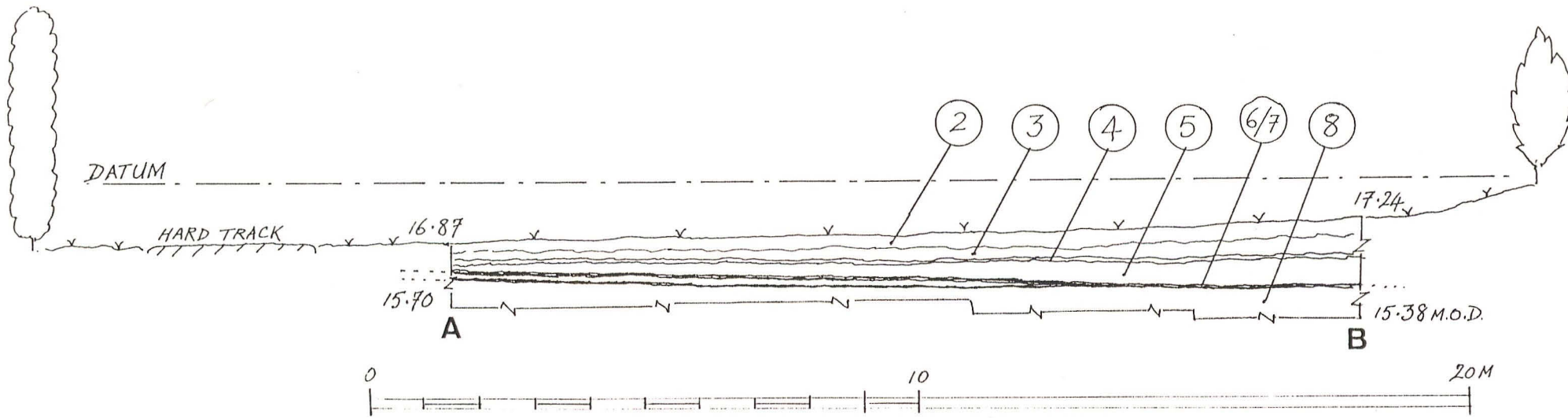


Fig. 4 Section drawing showing general sequence of deposits (M. Clark)



PI. 1 Development plot after removal of vegetation, looking NE.

PI. 2 Development plot after removal of vegetation, looking south.





Pl. 3 Development plot during excavation of foundation trenches, looking west.

Pl. 4 Sequence of deposits revealed in south wall trench

