

95/10

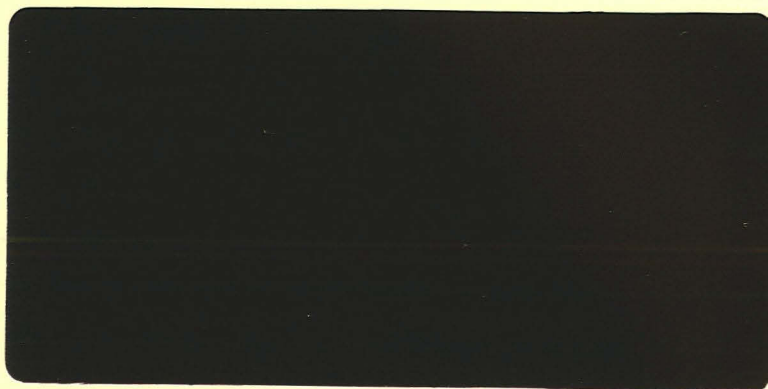
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF A DEVELOPMENT AT
9-17 BRIDGE STREET,
HORNCastle,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(HBS94)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section
12 Friars Lane
LINCOLN LN2 5AL
TEL. 0522 575292 FAX: 0522 530724

17.10.95



Event 46395
Source L15095
L1450
MON 43306

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF A DEVELOPMENT AT
9-17 BRIDGE STREET,
HORNCastle,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(HBS94)**

Work Undertaken For
Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire

September 1995

CONTENTS

List of Figures

1.	Summary	1
2.	Introduction	1
2.1	Background	1
2.2	Topography and Geology	1
2.3	Archaeological Setting	1
3.	Aims	2
4.	Methods	2
5.	Results	2
6.	Discussion	3
7.	Conclusions	3
8.	Acknowledgements	3
9.	Personnel	3
10.	Bibliography	3
11.	Abbreviations	4

Appendices

1	Context Summary
2	The Archive

List of Figures

Figure 1 . . . General Location Plan

Figure 2 . . . Site Location Plan

Figure 3 . . . Location of Trenches

Figure 4 . . . Section 1

Figure 5 . . . Plan and Section, Trench B

1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of service trenches to properties adjacent to Bridge Street, Horncastle. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the trenches.

Development at Bridge Street affects an area containing archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric to the medieval period. Flint and stone tools represent prehistoric activity in the area dating from the Neolithic period (4000-2000 bc). Evidence for Romano-British activity is visible in the form of walls relating to the military camp that was established here in the 3rd century AD. Anglo-Saxon (450-1066) finds have also been made and are largely of a funerary nature. The church of St Mary's and excavated evidence of house plots with finds of pottery contribute to the medieval occupation of the area. The site is occupied by early 18th century houses which are listed grade II.

A sequence of topsoil, transformed from make-up deposits was observed which was cut by a recent sewer trench. An undated, though possibly 18th century, brick surface survives across part of the site.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

Between the 13th December 1994 and the 1st February 1995, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of service trenches to buildings on Bridge Street, Horncastle, Lincolnshire (National Grid Reference TF258696). Bridge Street is located close to the River Bain, 100m north of the town centre as defined by St Mary's Church in the civil parish of Horncastle, East Lindsey District

(Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, and was carried out by Archaeological Project Services.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Horncastle lies on river terrace gravels close to the 30m contour in the valley of the River Bain near the southwest corner of the Lincolnshire Wolds. Upper Jurassic clays provide the solid geology. The main soils are the Swaffham Prior series, coarse loamy brown calcareous earths, though soils of the Fladbury 2 association are developed on the river alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 196, 316). The area immediately to the south of the investigation site is crossed by the River Waring, which flows west to meet the River Bain at a point approximately 0.5km to the southwest. From there, the Bain flows south for approximately 10km until it joins the River Witham. Urban development forms the present land use of the town.

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Bridge Street is located in an area of archaeological activity dating from the prehistoric to the medieval period. Prehistoric evidence in the area, although limited, is represented by the finds of mesolithic flints along the High Street (SMR 42691) and Early Neolithic flints from Bridge Street (SMR 42711). Neolithic polished stone axes have been found to the east and west of the present investigation area (SMR 42222). Additionally, a bronze age perforated basalt hammer (SMR 41867) was found south of the River Waring.

Horncastle was identified with the Roman settlement *Bannovallum* in the 18th century by William Stukeley, although this identification with Horncastle is disputed

(Robinson 1983, 26). The investigation area lies just to the north of a stone walled late Roman military enclosure (SMR 00044). Remnants of these walls are still visible and small excavations and watching briefs have consolidated the information on the circuit of the stone wall is now accurately known (Field and Hurst 1984, 49-50). The arrangement of High Street, Manor House Street, Bridge Street and Chapel Lane suggest that these fossilize the pattern of the Roman road system.

Anglo-Saxon activity is limited but displays a predominantly funerary nature. The material encompasses an Anglo-Saxon inhumation with grave goods including a bronze annular brooch, glass and paste beads and an iron knife, discovered at the rear of properties on the High Street (SMR 42214, Heritage Lincolnshire 1993). Within the Roman walled circuit, Anglo-Saxon metalwork and pottery were recovered from an archaeological excavation (SMR 42714).

Medieval activity in Horncastle is represented by St. Mary's church (SMR 42209) and a priest's house situated approximately 100m northwest of the church (SMR 42710). Additionally an undated though probably medieval cross was located on the north side of the Market Place (SMR 42208). Excavations have revealed posthole constructions of medieval date along the High Street (SMR 42715). A ford of medieval date (SMR 41868) was located on the site of the present bridge over the River Bain.

The site under investigation is occupied by houses of *c.* 1730 and early 19th century buildings. All of which are listed (grade II) properties.

3. AIMS

The aims of the watching brief were to locate and record archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine type, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Foundation trenches were excavated to the required depth using a mechanical excavator. Sections were then cleaned to identify any archaeological features. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed within the trench was allocated a unique reference number with an individual written description. Natural geological deposits were also recorded. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20.

5. RESULTS

Records of the deposits and features identified during the watching brief were examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. Three phases were identified:

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Undated deposits
Phase 3	Modern deposits

Phase 1 Natural Deposits

Located in the base of trench B was a layer of mid brown sandy silt (Context 7). This was identified as a natural deposit of alluvial origin.

Phase 2 Undated Deposits

Situated in the base of trench A was a disturbed layer of bricks (Context 3). Observed along the length of the trench it

is uncertain whether the bricks are a demolition layer or a brick surface. An early 18th century date has been estimated for this deposit from the similarity in size of the bricks to those in the standing structures.

Phase 3 Modern deposits

Cut into natural deposits in Trench A, was a north to south aligned linear feature (Context 5). Containing a steel pipe and dark brown soil (Context 6), this was identified as a sewer trench. Pottery of 19th century date was retrieved from the fill.

Overlying cut 5, was a layer of dark greyish brown soil (Context 4). Now forming a topsoil, this was interpreted as originally being a make-up deposit.

Above the possible brick surface 3, was a deposit of light brown sandy silt (Context 2). This was 0.2m deep and was interpreted as an imported make-up deposit.

Overlying deposit 2, was a dark brown sandy silt (Context 1). Resembling layer 4, this was also interpreted as a topsoil derived from imported make-up deposits.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) typify alluvial deposition, probably from flooding or a previous course of the River Bain.

Phase 2 deposits indicate the presence of a possible early 18th century surface or demolition of a building.

Modern deposits (Phase 3) are represented by the presence of a sewer pipe and trench to buildings on the investigation site. Overlying these are make-up deposits of

which the upper layer has been transformed into a topsoil.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigation at Bridge Street, Horncastle revealed that natural deposits occur within 0.75m of the present ground surface of trench B. Undated features of possible 18th century date occur along trench A, at 1.5m depth. Recent activity is represented by a service trench and imported soils.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work was carried out as part of a Building Preservation Trust project undertaken by the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire. Steve Haynes coordinated the work and Dave Start edited this report. Access to the County Sites and Monuments Record was provided by Ian George of the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Manager: Steve Haynes
Site Assistant: Rene Mouraille
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation Analysts: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Field, F.N, and Hurst, H., 1984 *Roman Horncastle*

Heritage Lincolnshire 1993 *Desk Top Evaluation for Conging Street, Horncastle, Lincolnshire* Unpublished Report

Hodge, C.A.H. Burton, R.G.O. Corbett, W.M. Evans, R. and Seale, R.S., 1984

Soils and their Use in Eastern England,
Soil Survey of England and Wales Bulletin
No. 13 (Harpenden)

Robinson, D.N., 1983 *The Book of*
Horncastle and Woodhall Spa
(Buckingham)

11. ABBREVIATIONS

Numbers prefixed with SMR are the primary reference numbers used by the County Sites and Monuments Record in Lincoln.

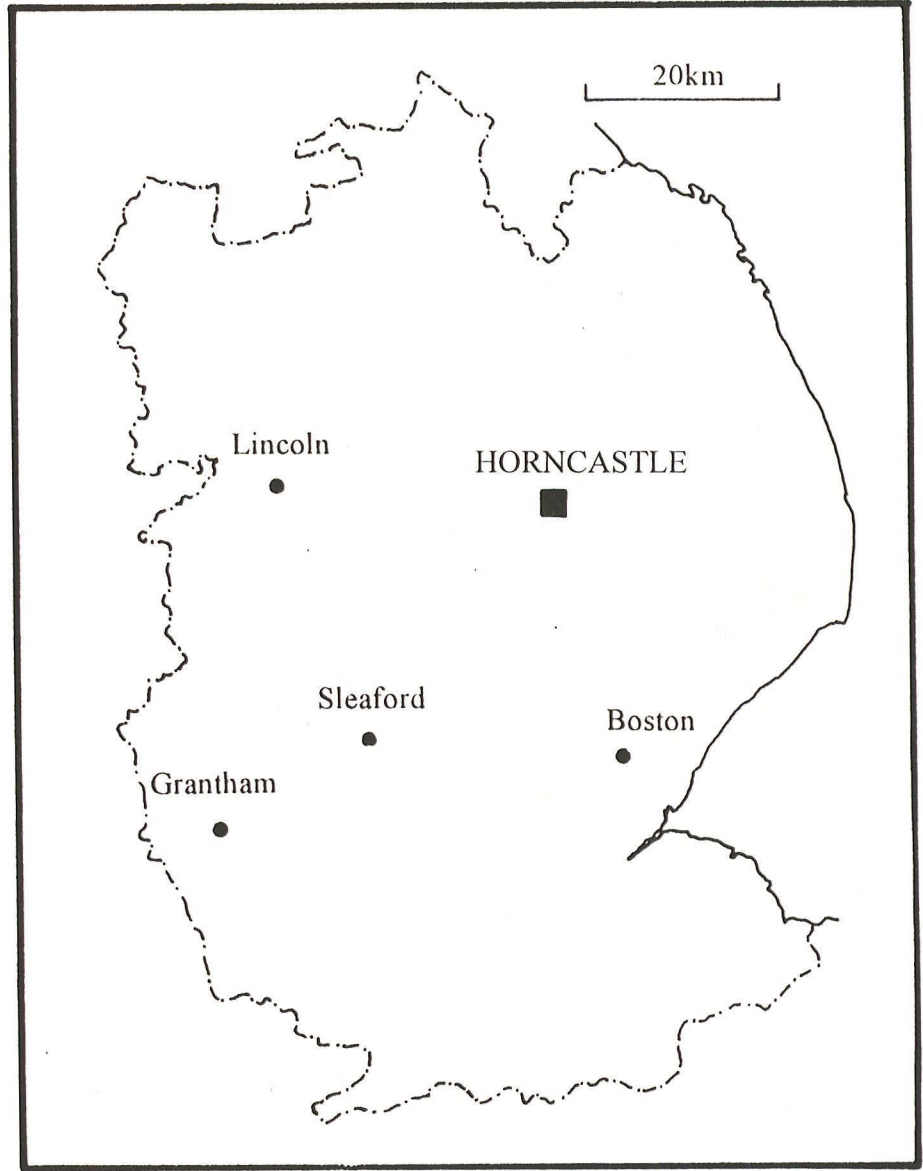
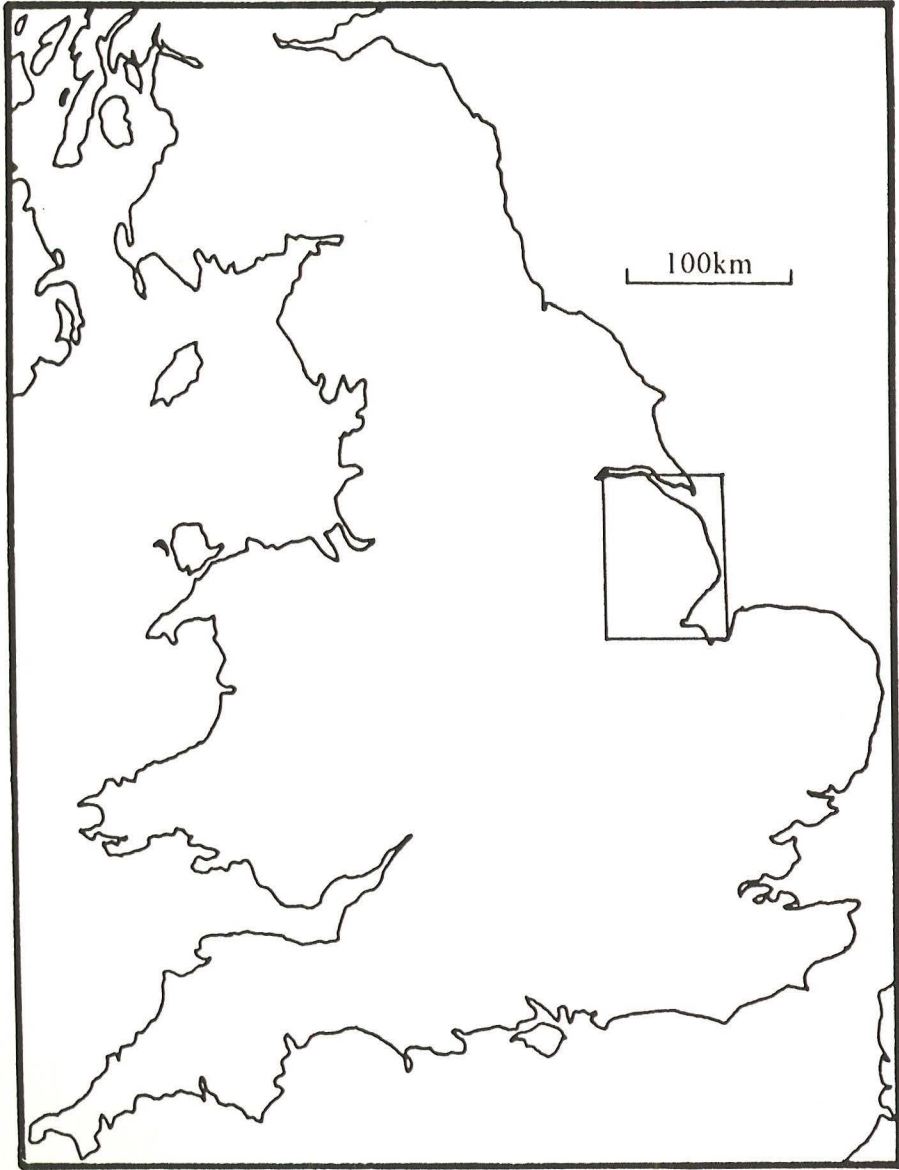
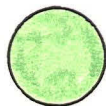


Fig. 1 General Location Plan

Fig. 2 Site Location Plan



Area of Development

Fig. 3 Location of Trenches

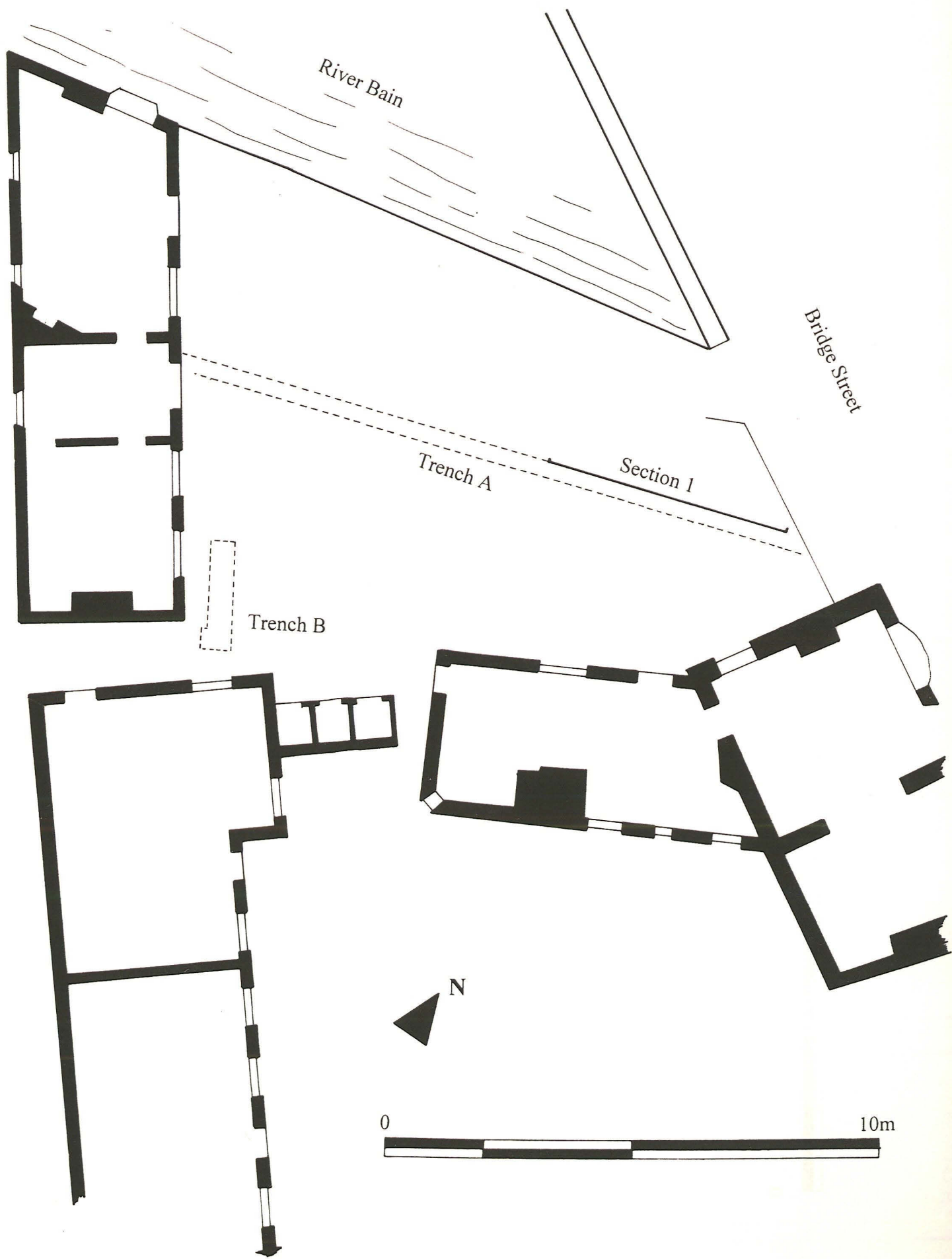


Fig. 4 Section 1

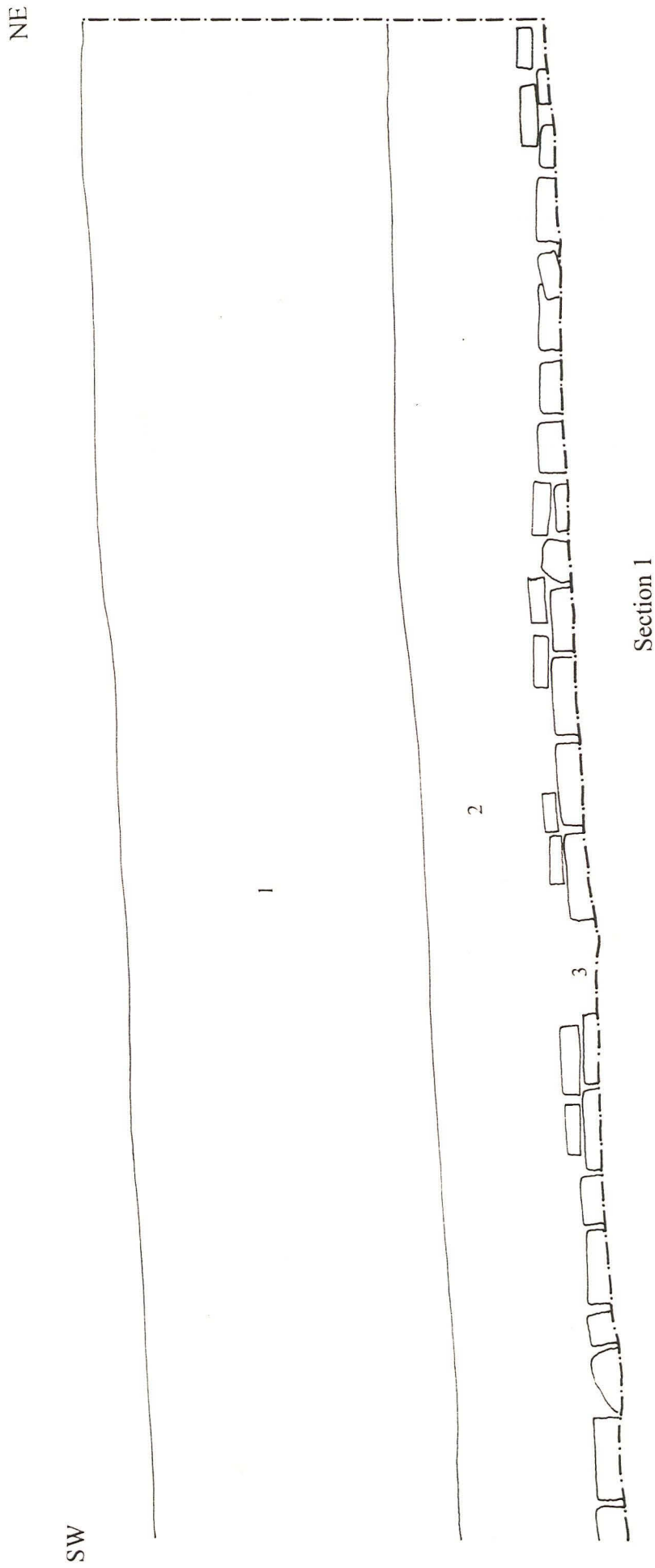
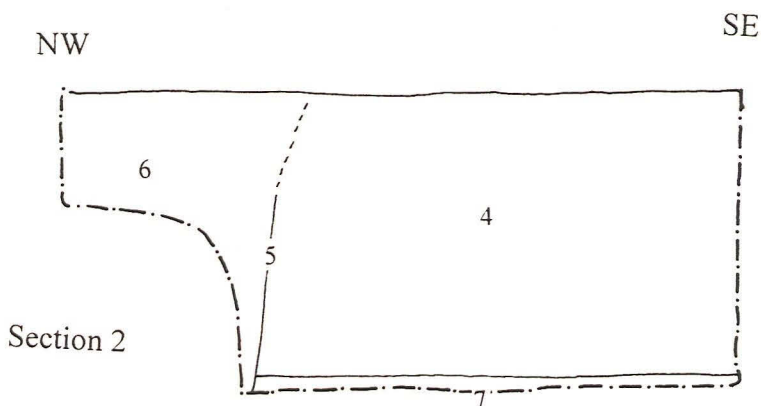
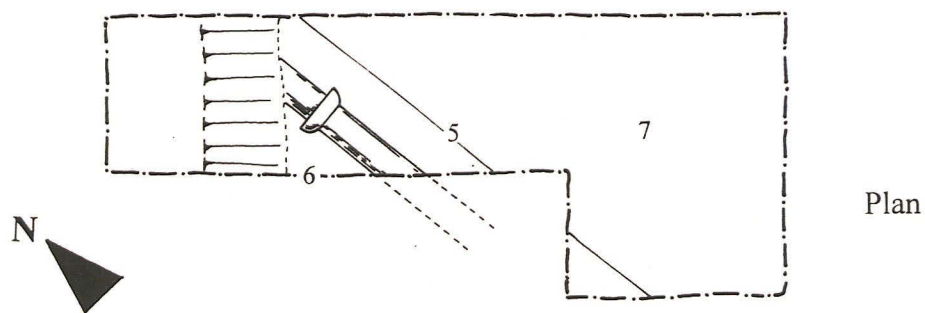


Fig. 5 Plan and Section, Trench B



APPENDIX 1

Context Summary.

Context No	Description	Interpretation
1	Dark brown sandy silt	Topsoil, transformed from make-up layer
2	Light brown sandy silt	Imported make-up layer
3	Brick deposit	Damaged surface ?
4	Dark greyish brown sandy silt	Topsoil, transformed from make-up layer
5	Linear cut, aligned north to south	Cut for sewer pipe
6	Dark brown sandy silt and steel pipe	Fill of 5
7	Mid brown sandy silt	Natural deposit

APPENDIX 2

The Archive

The archive consists of:

- 18 . . Context records
- 1 . . . Photographic record
- 6 . . . Scale drawings
- 1 . . . Stratigraphic matrix
- 1 . . . Bag of finds

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

City and County Museum Accession No.	73:95
Archaeological Project Services project code:	HBS95