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Post-Med.

Event LI830

Source LI5083

LI 1437

LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

FRANCIS HOUSE SILVER BIRCH PARK GREAT NORTHERN TERRACE LINCOLN LN5 8LG

Archaeological Watching Brief on land adjacent to

28 High Street, North Scarle

(NGR: **SK 8488 6684**)

Site Code NSH 95

LCNCC Museum Accn. No. **114.95**

Report prepared for D. and L. Fleet-Chapman

September 1995

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**North Scarle:
Archaeological Watching Brief**

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Summary

A watching brief during excavation of house footings beside High Street produced 2 abraded medieval pottery sherds and four small post-medieval pits interpreted as small-scale gravel quarries. The site had apparently remained undeveloped. Two medieval sherds were found in disturbed topsoil in the rear garden of No. 28.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by Mr. and Mrs. Fleet-Chapman to conduct a watching brief during mechanical excavation of house footings on an single building plot (Pls. 1 and 2). The site was on the west side of High Street, between *The Old Wheelwright's* and 28 High Street; the open plot contained a line of brick out-buildings along the north edge but these were to be retained for possible conversion (Figs. 1-3). The building plot was under grass, but with a fruit tree and a cultivated area at the rear; it had formerly been part of the extensive grounds of 28 High Street (*Preston House*).

The watching brief was in response to a condition placed by North Kesteven District Council's Planning Department on Planning Consent No. 46/296/1995 (applicant: Mr. S. Bellamy). A brief provided by the NKDC Community Archaeologist (dated 10/7/95) noted the location in the heart of the medieval village and required the identification and recording of any information relating to the medieval or other periods which might be revealed during groundworks.

Monitoring, by the author, took place on 16th August 1995. Topsoil stripping, trenching for house foundations and a drain trench were observed closely in very dry conditions.

Archaeological Background

The settlements of North and South Scarle were not mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 but that may represent an omission for various reasons. North Scarle is first recorded from 1215 from an entry in *The Book of Fines* but occupation was presumably established before then (Foster and Longley 1924, lxxix). All Saints parish church, (100m south of the plot), contains much construction in the Early English style of the 13th century, but the North Doorway might be as early as 1200 AD (Pevsner 1964, 613).

Archaeological sites and finds from the vicinity have not been numerous. An Anglo-Saxon glass bead was found in 1977 between North and South Scarle, and cropmarks of possible ditches and enclosures of Romano-British or earlier date have been recorded on air photographs (Appendix 1).

The Watching Brief (Fig. 4)

Topsoil Removal

1. Much of the topsoil was removed from the house site using a mini loading shovel. A scatter of post-medieval finds (pottery and 3 18th-19th century clay tobacco pipe stem fragments) was present and most of this was collected. An unglazed medieval sherd was found in the cultivated rear garden area but this was the earliest artefact from the site. Two medieval sherds were found in disturbed topsoil in the rear garden of 28 High Street on the same occasion (they were presented by the owner, and archived as NSH 95 7).

The Trenches (Fig. 4)

The external trenches were excavated with a mini-excavator using a 0.6m wide, toothed bucket. The remainder of the topsoil was found to overlie undisturbed natural gravel (densely compacted and concreted with iron-panning in places) or the soil fill of post-medieval features and layers.

2. A sub-circular irregular pit was revealed, extending beyond the house and drain trenches at the NE corner of the site (Fig. 5; Pls. 3 and 4). It had cut the post-medieval layer 4 and was cut in turn by pit 3. Only one curving edge of this feature was seen and the recorded dimensions may have been misleading; SW to NE it was about 1m, and NW-SE was over 3m. The depth within the trench was 0.8m but it became deeper towards the east. It seemed likely that it had been cut entirely within the existing frontage boundary but this could not be proven. Backfill was entirely composed of a dark brown sandy loam with few small stones, infrequent brick fragments and post-medieval pottery.

3. A larger pit with an almost vertical south face occupied the NE corner of the house plot, separated from pit 2 by a thin peak of undisturbed gravel 0.1m wide (Fig. 5; Pl. 4). It had cut the backfill of pit 2 but was thought to be almost contemporaneous. No complete dimension or its depth could be determined although it was thought to be considerably in excess of 1.25m north-south and over 3.5m east-west. The backfill consisted of a lower layer of dark brown sandy loam (as in pit 2) around the pit side, but layers of redeposited gravel in the centre (Pl. 5). The depth was considerably more than pit 2 but as the centre was beyond all excavation limits it could not be measured. It is likely that this feature extended beyond the present frontage boundary and may also have partly obstructed the existing entrance. The finds were all post-medieval in date.

4. The topsoil over much of the north and west of the site overlay a similarly dark soil containing frequent thin pieces of limestone which may have been parts of stone roof tiles. Pebbles, charcoal flecks and post-medieval pottery fragments were also incorporated into the layer, which was about 0.15m

thick. A single fragment of late 17th-18th century clay tobacco-pipe stem was recovered. Layer 4 had been cut by pits 2 and 3 but was contemporary with pit 6 which contained similar material. The layer was, in all instances, immediately above undisturbed natural gravel.

5. A shallow sub-circular feature slightly broader than 1.3m diameter and 0.35m deep was sealed by topsoil and cut into gravel towards the western side of the east wall trench (Fig. 6; Pls. 6 and 7). The fill was a light green/brown compact loam with small stones, infrequent brick flecks but no other dateable finds. The fill extended around the NW and NE edges as a 0.15m thick layer, perhaps the remains of a subsoil.

6. At the north corner of the new house, a large pit of unknown shape was revealed, over 5m north-south and at least 6.5m west-east. The fill contained dark brown sandy loam, post-medieval pottery, and stone pieces similar to those in layer 4 (Pl. 8).

Conclusion

The watching brief on the trenches in the infill building plot showed that there had not previously been any structures on the street frontage sufficiently substantial to leave identifiable trace. The compacted gravel, iron-panned to concreted state in places, may have prevented earlier development or sustained cultivation here, but comparative evidence of the geology on the occupied frontage sites would clarify this.

It was evident that medieval activity on or close to the site was not intensive; only two small and abraded medieval sherds were recovered from the site, although others were found in an adjacent garden where topsoil had been removed. This level of finds may indicate the spread of farmyard waste as fertiliser onto medieval fields, rather than domestic premises close by.

During the post-medieval period, probably late 18th century or slightly later, small-scale gravel extraction took place on part of the site frontage. This was apparently in two or more phases but probably barely separated in time. The gravel may have been used for public road maintenance or privately; there is a farmyard (*Home Farm*) opposite the site.

A small amount of rubbish from outside the site was imported at that time, possibly from land beside a demolished or altered stone building. Some possible stone roof tile fragments indicate use of that heavy roofing medium in the village. Stone-faced buildings are not common in High Street where most buildings are of brick.

Acknowledgements

LAS were grateful for the co-operation and interest from Dean and Louise Fleet-Chapman and the site team. Mark Bennet and Sarah Grundy (Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record) provided access to records for the search of previous findspots by Naomi Field.

The clay tobacco pipe fragments were dated by Jen Mann; pottery was identified by Jane Young and Judy Wilkinson (City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit). Illustrations were prepared by Mick McDaid; the report was produced and collated by Jane Frost.

Geoff Tann
Lindsey Archaeological Services
28th September 1995

References

Foster, C.W. and Longley, T. 1924 *The Lincolnshire Domesday and The Lindsey Survey* Lincoln Record Society 19 (reprinted 1976)
Gainsborough.

Pevsner, N. and Harris, J. 1964 *The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire*
London.

Appendix 1:

Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record Summary

SK 86 NW (unlocated)	Anglo-Saxon glass bead, found 1977
SK 856 673	Cropmarks of crossing ditches and an oval enclosure. D.N. Riley 17.7.1971 SK 8567/6, frames 12, 16, 17
SK 852 654	Cropmarks of sub-rectangular enclosures on the parish boundary. 13.7.1971 SK 8565/3

Appendix 2:

Report on the Pottery

by Jane Young and Judy Wilkinson (City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit)

NSH95 POST-ROMAN POTTERY ARCHIVE

Context	Ware	Sherds	Form	Comments
1	BL	1	?	18TH
1	BL	1	PANCHEON	18/19TH
1	BL	3	?	17TH/18TH;SV?
1	BS	1	BOWL	SV 4?
1	BS	1	CHAMBER	HANDLE
1	BS	1	JAR/CHAMBER	-
1	BS	1	JAR/CHAMBER	RIM
1	BS	1	JAR/CHAMBER	RIM
1	FREC	1	JUG	OR LONS
1	MED	1	-	SCRAP;FABRIC INCLUDES QUARTZ
1	MED	1	-	SCRAP;NOTG?
2	BL	1	?	18TH
3	BL	1	PANCHEON	18/19TH
3	BS	1	JAR/CHAMBER?	-
4	BS	1	?	-
4	BS	1	BOWL	SV 1?
4	BS	1	JAR/CHAMBER	-
6	BS	1	?	-
6	BS	1	BOWL?	-
6	LPM	1	?	COLOURED EARTHENWARE
7	MED	1	-	BASE;FABRIC INCLUDES QUARTZ
7	MP	1	-	SCRAP

NSH95 POST-ROMAN DATING ARCHIVE

Context	Earliest horizon	Latest horizon
1	PMH7	PMH9
2	PMH7	PMH9
3	PMH5	PMH9
4	PMH7	PMH9
6	PMH9	EMH
7	MH7	PMH4

Glossary of Abbreviations

Bl	Blackware : mid 16th - modern
Bs	Brown stoneware: late 17th century - modern
Frec	Frechen/Cologne stoneware: mid 16th - mid 18th centuries
Lpm	early modern :late 18th/20th centuries
Med	Medieval wares: early 13th - late 15th centuries
Mp	Midland purple type; late 14th - early 17th centuries

MH7	late medieval; mid-late 14th century
PMH 4	post-medieval; early 17th - mid 17th century
PMH 5	post-medieval; mid-late 17th century
PMH 7	post-medieval; late 17th- early 18th century
PMH 9	late post-medieval; mid-late 18th century

Archive Summary

5 field sheets with sketch sections and plans

developer's drawings x 2

finds: pottery

clay tobacco pipe stems

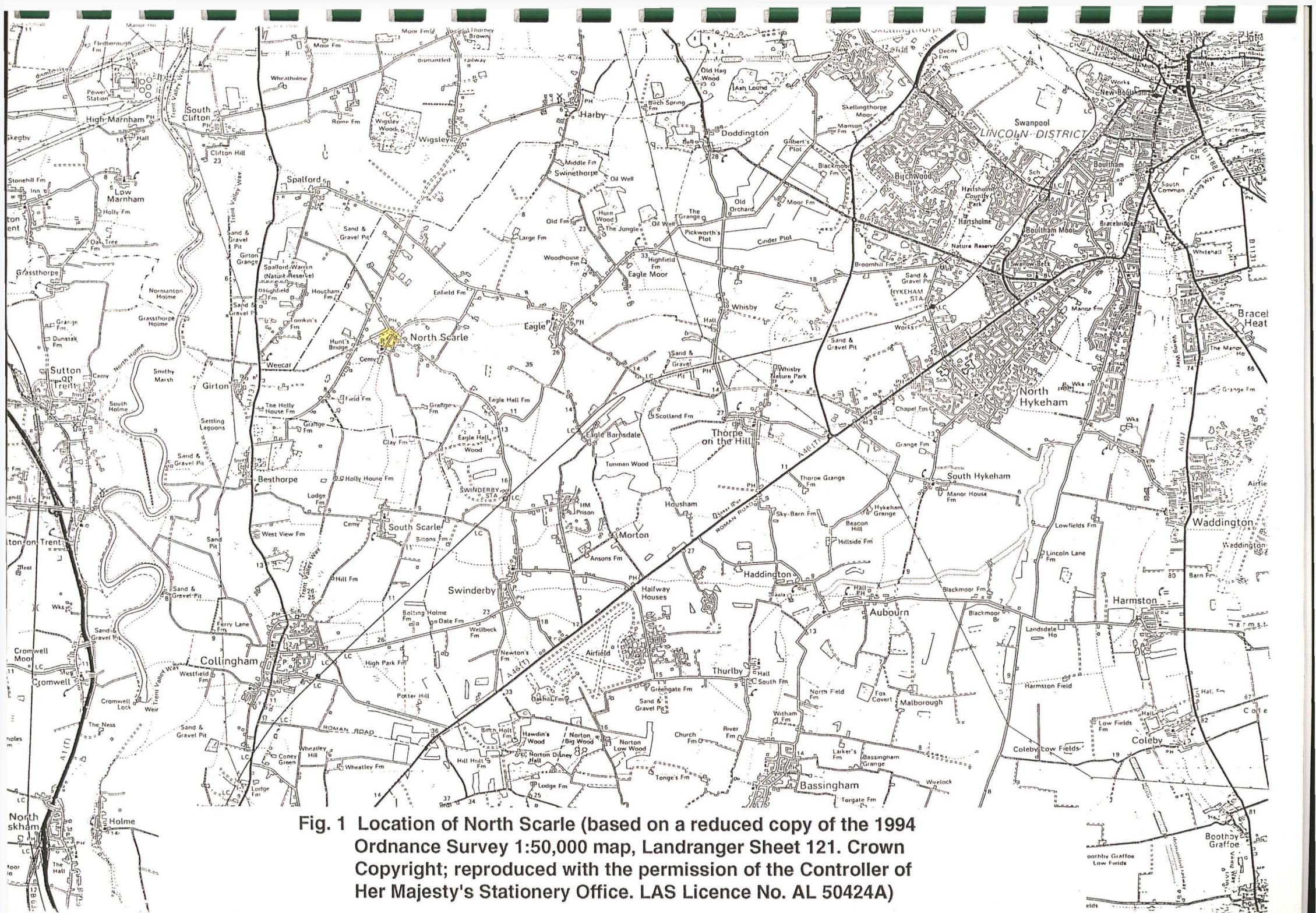




Fig. 2 Position of the monitored development plot (based on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map. Crown Copyright; reproduced with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A)

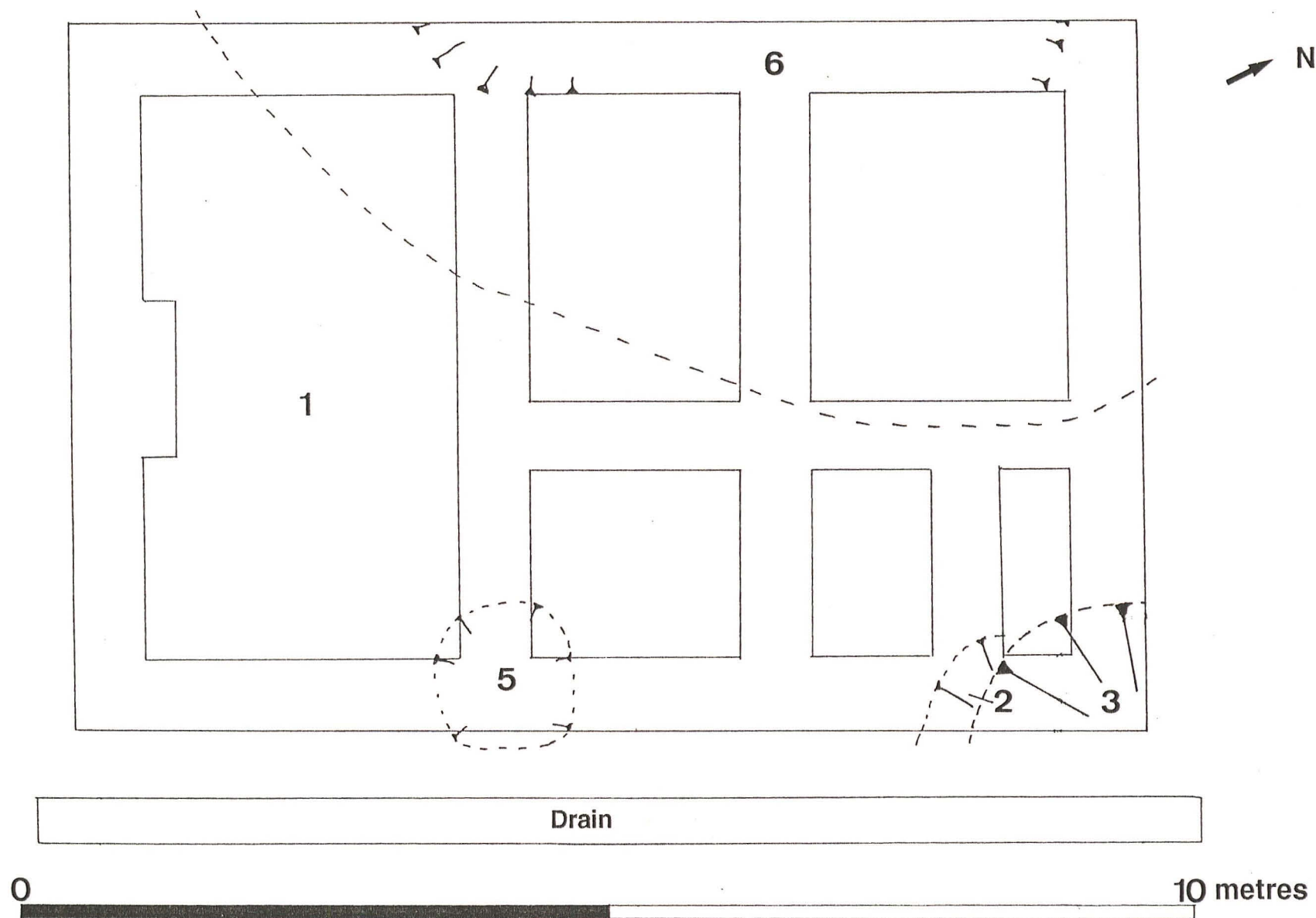


Fig. 4 Plan of the House Footings and Drain Trench, showing archaeological features (McDaid and Tann; after plan supplied by Mr. Fleet-Chapman)

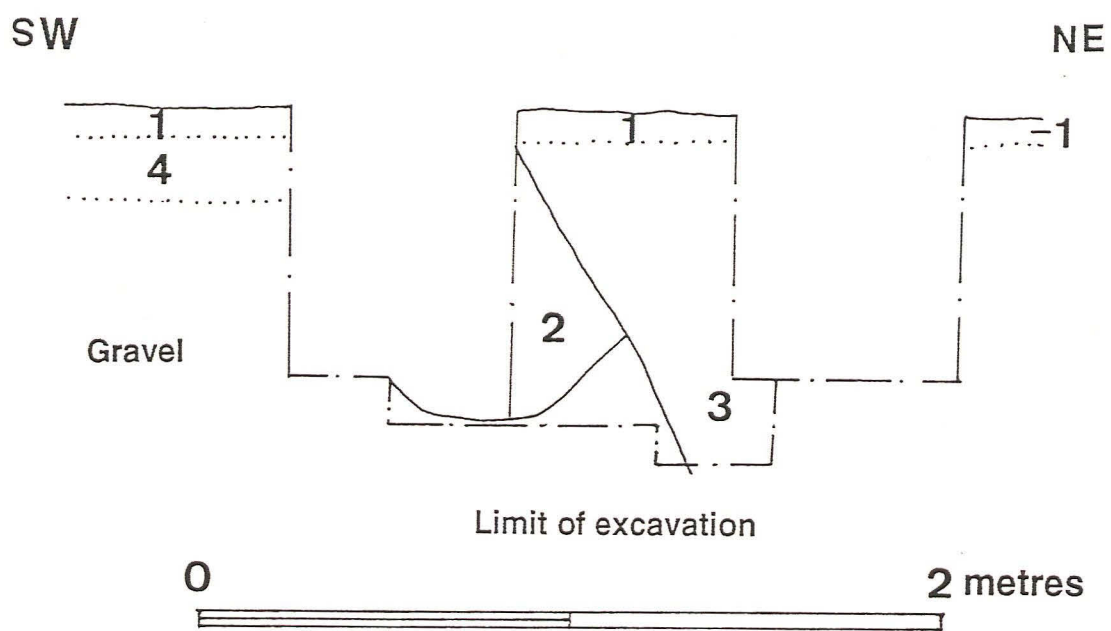


Fig. 5 Section across post-medieval pits 2 and 3 (McDaid and Tann)

WNW

ESE

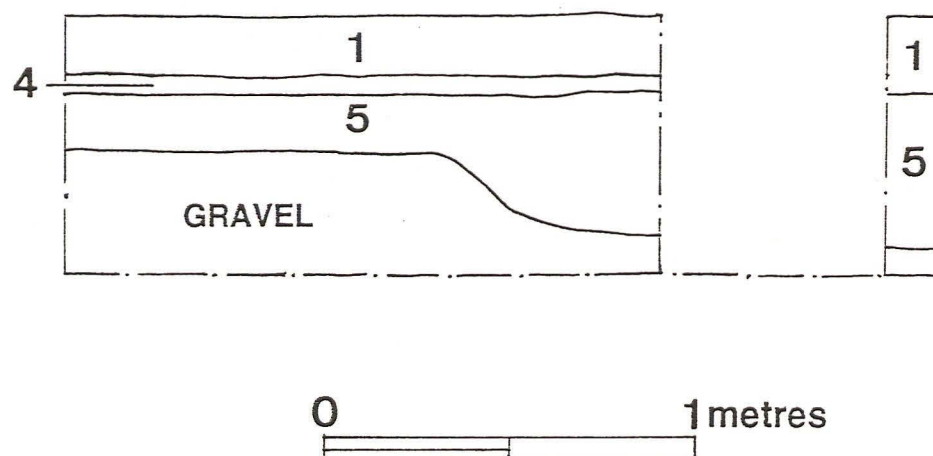


Fig. 6 Section across feature 5 (McDaid and Tann)



Pl. 1 Location of the building plot, High Street, North Scarle. A sycamore bush in the hawthorn hedge may mark a blocked entrance. The present grounds of No. 28 lie beyond the timber fence. Looking south.

Pl. 2 Position of the building plot; Home Farm is across High Street. Looking east.





Pl. 3 Dark soil filling Pit 2, visible in the trench face after machining.
Looking west, scale divisions 0.2m.

Pl. 4 Positions of Pit 2 (at foreground of soil island) and Pit 3 (to left of
scale). Looking north, scale divisions 0.2m.





Pl. 5 East side of Pit 3, filled with dark soil. Looking north, scale divisions 0.2m.

Pl. 6 Pit 5 (in shadow) cut through chalk layer to right of the scale
Looking north, scale divisions v:0.10m; h:0.2m.





Pl. 7 Brown soil fill of Pit 5. Looking west, scale divisions 0.2m.

Pl. 8 East side of Pit 6 rising beyond the vertical scale. Looking NE, scale divisions v:0.10m; h:0.2m.

