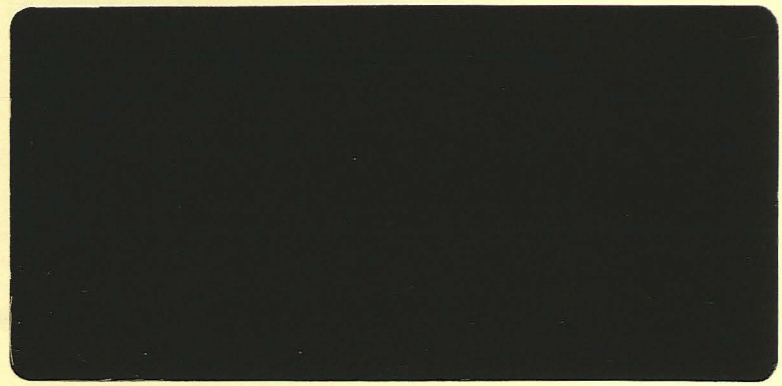
95/11

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT
LAND EAST OF SCAMPTON HOUSE
SCAMPTON
LINCOLNSHIRE

Work undertaken for
MR LOCKWOOD

A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES



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SEPTEMBER 1995

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1. SUMMARY

Archaeological Project Services were commissioned by Mr Lockwood to undertake a watching brief at Scampton, Lincolnshire, during the excavation of the route of a new access road.

A linear earthen bank, probably part of the boundary of the medieval grange owned by Kirkstead Abbey, was identified.

A wall, probably part of the formal gardens associated with the manor house that once occupied the site, and waste materials from an undated brick/tile kiln were also identified.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

Archaeological Project Services were commissioned by Mr Lockwood to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of the route of a new access road off the B1398 to Scampton House, Scampton, Lincolnshire, during June 1995.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Scampton lies 9km north of Lincoln and 17km southeast of Gainsborough (Fig. 1). Spanning the scarp edge of the Jurassic limestone ridge, the parish dips from *c.* 64m OD in the east to 7m OD onto clay lowlands in the west.

The site is located approximately 100m north of St John the Baptist's church and extends from the western edge of the B1398 to Scampton House (Fig. 2). Centred on National Grid Reference SK 4947 3795, the site of the development lies at approximately 20m OD.

Local soils comprise Wickham 2 association fine loamy over clayey typical stagnogley soils and Banbury association stony fine and coarse loamy ferritic brown earths (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 103, 351).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Scampton village lies in an area of archaeological activity dating from the prehistoric to post-medieval period.

Prehistoric activity is represented by a neolithic stone axe and an early bronze age flat axe (Everson, 1991).

The Roman road, Ermine Street, that linked London and York, delineates the eastern extent of the parish. Branching off from Ermine Street, heading northwest and passing approximately 750m south of the development area, was Till Bridge Lane, a Roman road (Margary 1973, road No. 28) offering an alternative route to York by avoiding the Humber crossing. Southeast of the development site and north of Till Bridge Lane, located at the top of the western scarp of the Jurassic ridge, is the site of an extensive Roman villa. The villa complex (first excavated at the end of the 18th century) was arranged around two courtyards (Whitwell 1970, 82-3). Following abandonment the site was disturbed by a post-Roman inhumation cemetery containing no grave goods and, consequently, undated. Remains of the villa still survive and some were the subject of emergency archaeological excavations carried out prior to roadworks during the early 1970s (Marjoram 1974, 21). Scatters of Roman pottery have been noted within 0.5km both northwest and east of the complex. Situated southwest of the village is a rectangular enclosure, probably Roman in date (Everson, *op cit.*).

During the early medieval period, land at Scampton was granted to Bardney Abbey and the Knights Templars by Gilbert de

Gant. This gift to Bardney was confirmed with the addition of a mill, and the grant to the Templars was increased, by his son Walter de Gant. Walter's son, Gilbert, made a grant to Norwich Priory and also confirmed a large grant by one of his tenants, Ralph Fitz Gilbert, to Kirkstead Abbey. Developments were such that Kirkstead Abbey came to hold the lands at Scampton granted to Bardney Abbey, the Knights Templars and Norwich Priory, and as such effectively controlled the entire manor. This control was exercised from two farms in Scampton, the East and West Granges. One of these was documented during the 12th century, but both are not conclusively referred to until the 16th century. After the Dissolution, each survived as distinct properties, and were eventually granted to the Duke of Suffolk, Charles Brandon (*ibid.*).

Earthworks located immediately north of St John the Baptist's church, within the area affected by the development, include banks that enclose traces of building platforms and at least two stone foundations, one of which overlies ridge and furrow (an earthwork typical of medieval and later farming practice). These remains may be attributable to Kirkstead's East Grange. It is possible that the church was also contained within these banks (*ibid.*).

There is documentary evidence for repairs to a bridge during the 14th century, where Till Bridge Road crosses the River Till. By the 17th century, a settlement, that may have had medieval antecedents, was established at the river crossing (*ibid.*).

Alterations to St John the Baptist's church, that included the demolition and rebuilding of the west tower, were made during the 18th century. Subsequent restoration works carried out during the second half of the 19th century replaced the north aisle and rebuilt the chancel. The windows of the north aisle are thought to be from Scampton Hall (Pevsner *et al.* 1989, 625).

Located in a field to the east of Scampton House Farm are the remains of the 17th century gateway to Scampton Hall that was probably built for Sir John Bolle after 1603 (*ibid.*).

During the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the rector of the parish, Cayley Illingworth, instigated topographical alterations. He created a small park east of the church by rerouting the road that led to adjacent villages around the west and south sides of the Old Rectory (built during the 17th century), and enclosed the remainder of these grounds in a belt of tree plantation.

Surviving earthworks within the park have been substantially disturbed by new housing and the repeated realignment of roads. The present through road was realigned and constructed in 1956, the former route having taken it around the northwest side of the Rectory. Located at the southern extent of the village is a north-south linear earthwork that continues north of High Street. This may represent the original line of the road that Illingworth rerouted to bound the park at its western extent. Where the B1398 climbs the scarp slope of the limestone ridge to the east, the road was originally wider than seen today. The width was reduced during the 19th century when new buildings were constructed in the north and south sides of the street (Everson, *op cit.*).

Located west of Middle Street, near to the villa was a spring known in the 19th century as St. Pancras Well. Next to it was a Christian chapel, well chapel or hermitage, also dedicated to St Pancras, and documented during the 12th century. It

is possible that the chapel cemetery is that which overlay the Roman villa.

The name Scampton breaks down into "short tun", and probably derives from Old Norse (Ekwall 1974, 406).

3. AIMS

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

4. METHODS

The trench for the access route was mechanically excavated. The sides of the trench were cleaned and examined to identify any archaeological features. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed was allocated a unique reference number with an individual written description. Trench sections were drawn at scale 1:20. A photographic record was compiled.

5. ANALYSIS

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. A total of three phases were identified during the watching brief:

Phase 1 Natural Deposits
Phase 2 Undated Deposits
Phase 3 Modern Deposits

5.1 Phase 1 Natural Deposits

The earliest deposit identified during the watching brief was a layer of brown sandy clay (2), extending across the entire site, containing frequent inclusions of weathered limestone fragments. Containing a single fragment of Roman flue tile, a hone and undiagnostic tile and pottery, this layer has been interpreted as a subsoil.

5.2 Phase 2 Undated deposits

Located at the eastern extent of the trench was recorded a layer of brown sandy clay (3) 4.5m wide and 0.75m deep as exposed (Fig. 3 and 4). This has been interpreted as a dumped deposit, intended to create a bank, thus functioning as a boundary marker.

Situated to the west of 3, overlying 2, was a layer of grey-black ash (6) *c.* 5.9m wide by *c.* 10m long (Fig. 3 and 4). This layer has been interpreted as a burnt deposit of unknown origin.

Overlying 6 was a dispersed deposit of whole and fragmentary red ceramic building material (5) covering an area of approximately 10 square metres. This deposit has been interpreted as the remnants of a demolished structure, possibly functioning as a kiln.

Sealing 6 and contained by 5 was a layer of brown sandy clay (7) containing frequent inclusions of fragmented brick and tile. Containing brick and tile waste that had been over-fired, this layer is interpreted as a dumped deposit comprising waste from an industrial process.

Located west of 7 was a linear arrangement of limestone blocks (4) aligned north-south (Fig. 3). This has been interpreted as the remnants of a wall.

5.3 Phase 3 Modern Deposits

Sealing the bank (3), the industrial waste (7) and the wall (4) was a layer of grey-brown sandy clay (1). This layer constitutes the present topsoil.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits are represented by a layer of brown sandy clay subsoil (2 - phase 1), that extended along the entire trench.

At the eastern extent of the trench, a dumped deposit functioning as a bank (3) was identified (Fig. 3 and 4). This bank survives as a linear earthwork aligned north-south, and extends south from where the farm track leading to Scampton House Farm leaves the B1398 for approximately 85m.

Deposits 5, 6 and 7 appear to represent the remnants of an industrial structure and its waste products (Fig. 3 and 4). The process, requiring intense heat, occurred *in situ* as is evidenced by scorching of the subsoil (2). The artefacts retrieved from (7) are indicative of waste products normally associated with a kiln.

The north-south wall (4), although undated, is almost certainly associated with the manor that once occupied the area (Fig. 3). Whilst not a part of the house itself it is likely that the wall was part of the manor's formal gardens. The extent of this wall can be traced as a linear earthwork aligned north-south from just west of St. John Baptist's Church, north to the edge of the farm track that leads to Scampton House Farm.

Each of these deposits was sealed by a layer of topsoil (1).

7. EFFECTIVENESS OF TECHNIQUES

The methods and strategies employed in the investigation proved to be effective in determining the presence of undated and modern archaeological remains on the site.

9. CONCLUSIONS

The watching brief established the presence of undated and modern deposits.

A layer of brown sandy clay occurred as a natural deposit across the area. Undated archaeological deposits developed over this.

A small earthen bank was truncated by the access trench. Visible as a north-south earthwork parallel with the B1398, this represents a portion of a land boundary that may have once enclosed Kirstead's East grange, and possibly the church (see 2.3 Archaeological Setting).

The burnt and ceramic deposits represent industrial activity. These would appear to be the waste products from a kiln producing brick and tile. No *in situ* kiln structure was identified, although the ground on which these deposits lay was scorched. Tentative evidence for the existence of a structure is provided by deposit 5 which may represent either the demolished walls or even the product itself. This feature is likely to be associated with either the grange owned by Kirkstead Abbey, or the later manor.

The north-south limestone wall is probably part of the manor's formal gardens that have been destroyed by subsequent agricultural activity.

Each of these deposits are sealed by the present topsoil.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to thank Mr Lockwood who commissioned the watching brief and analysis. Mr I. George for providing access to unpublished information on the history of Scampton. Hilary Healey who identified

the artefacts. The work was coordinated by Steve Haynes and this report was edited by Dave Start.

11. PERSONNEL

Project Manager: Steve Haynes
Supervisor: Kate Hughes
Find Processing: Denise Buckley
Illustration: Denise Buckley, Mark Dymond
Post-excavation analyst: Mark Dymond

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Appendix 1 **Context Summary**

Context	Description	Interpretation
1	Grey brown sandy clay	Topsoil
2	Brown sandy clay	Subsoil
3	Brown sandy clay	Earthen bank
4	Limestone structure	Wall
5	Red ceramic building material	Demolished structure (kiln wall/product?)
6	Grey-black ash	Dumped deposit
7	Red brown sandy clay	Dumped kiln waste

Appendix 2

The Archive

The archive consists of:

7	Context records
2	Scale drawings
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Box finds
14	Colour slides

All primary records are currently kept at:

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

City and County Museum, Lincoln Accession Number: 131:95
Archaeological Project Services project code: SSH95

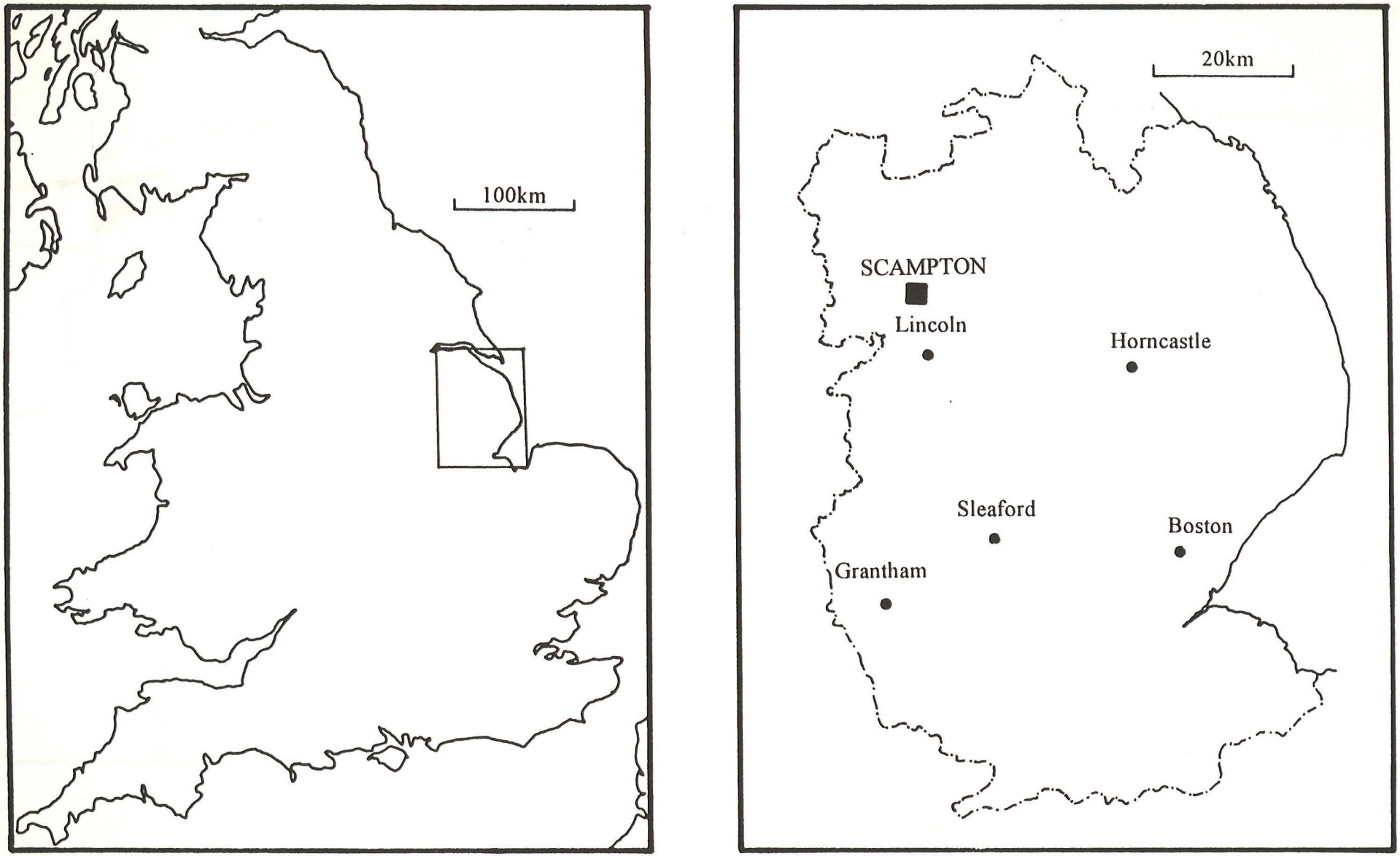


Fig. 1 General Location Plan

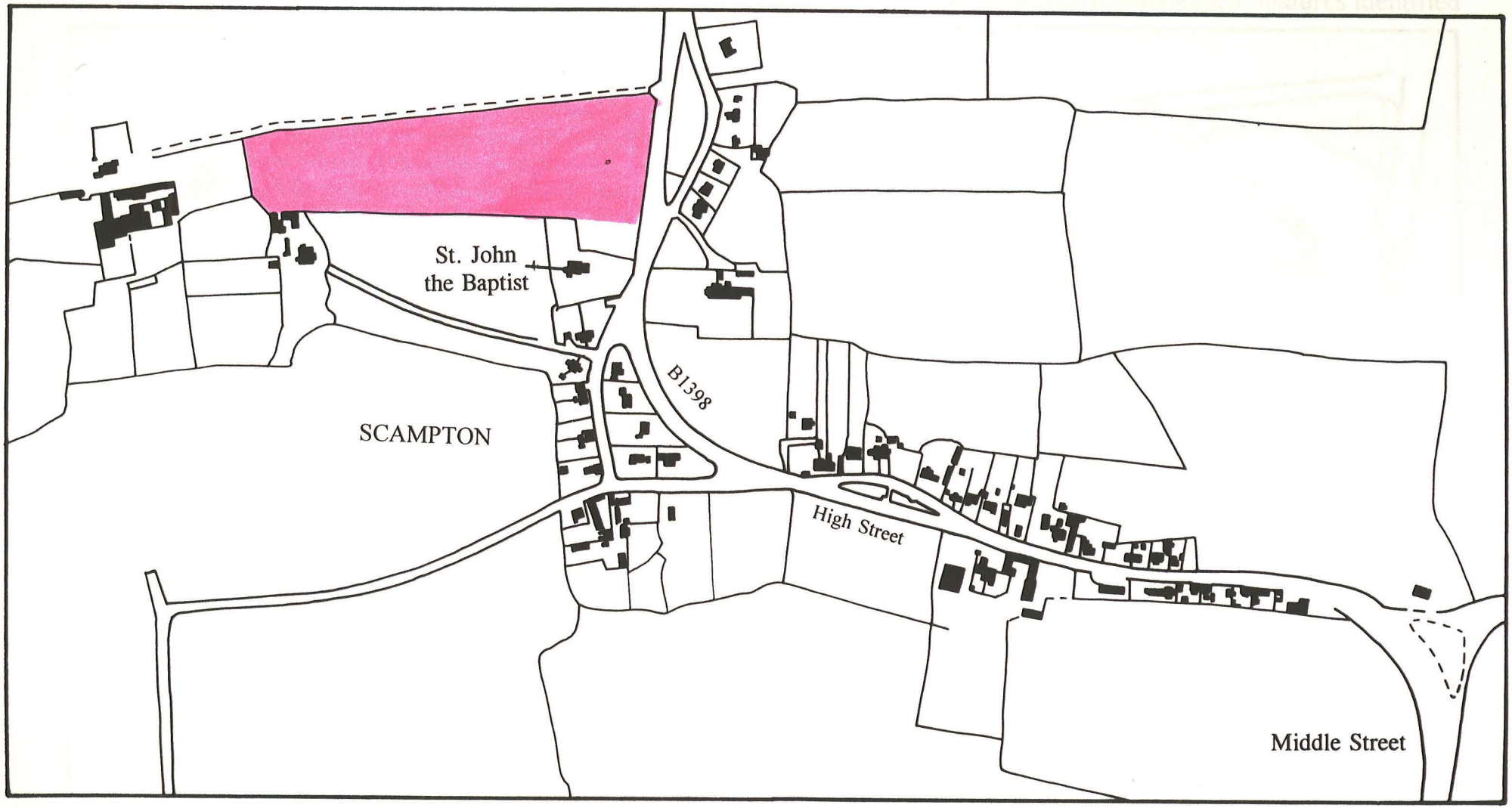


Fig. 2 Site Location Plan

Fig. 3 Plan showing route of access track and archaeological features identified

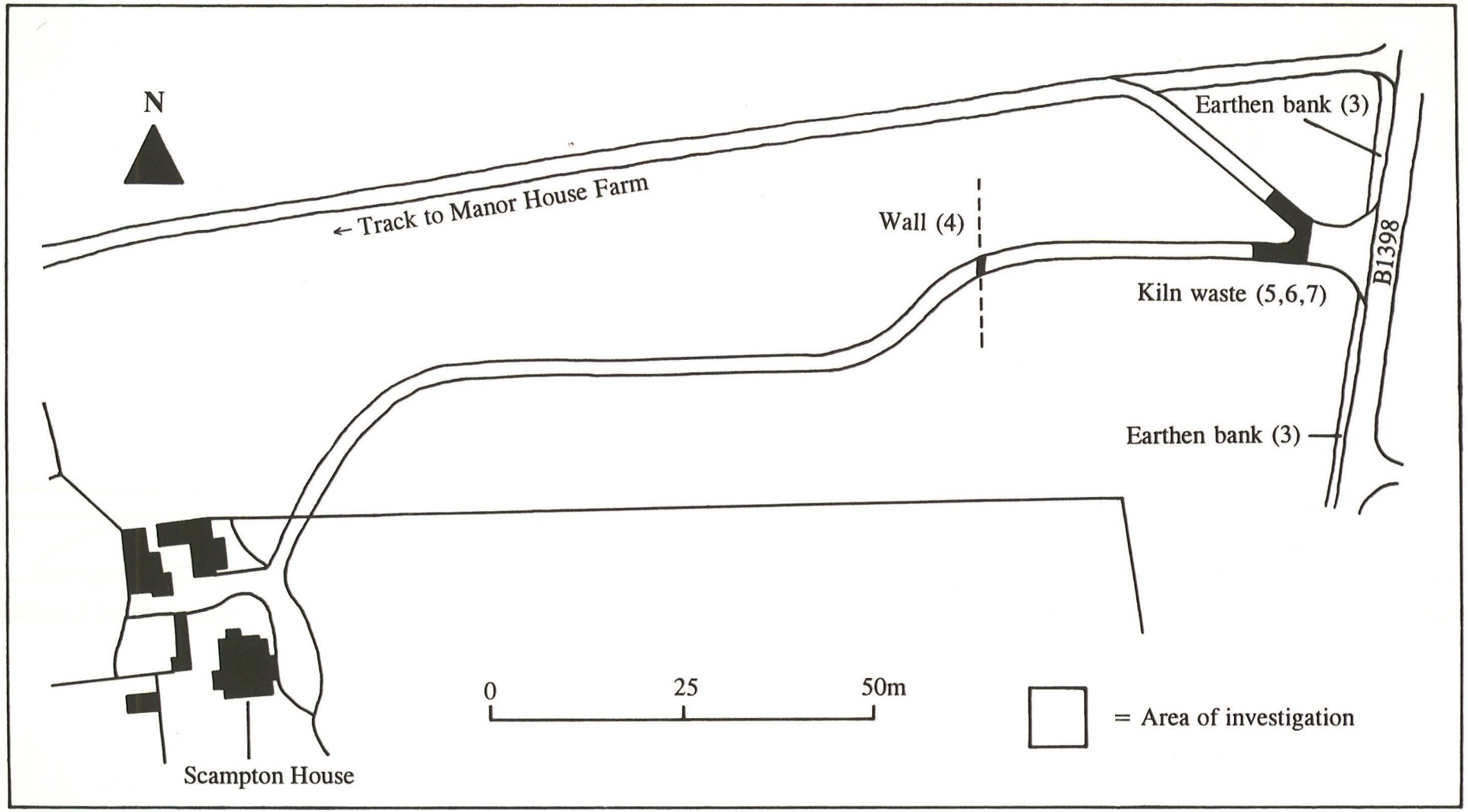
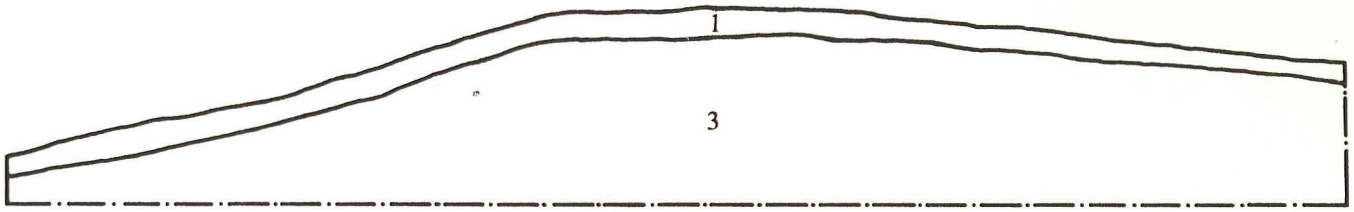
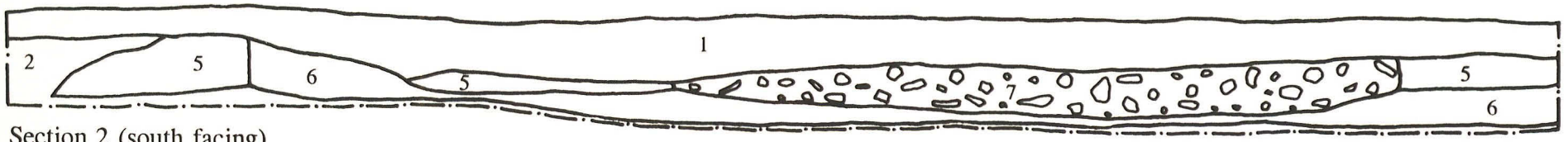


Fig. 4 Sections through bank and kiln deposits



Section 1 (south-east facing)



Section 2 (south facing)