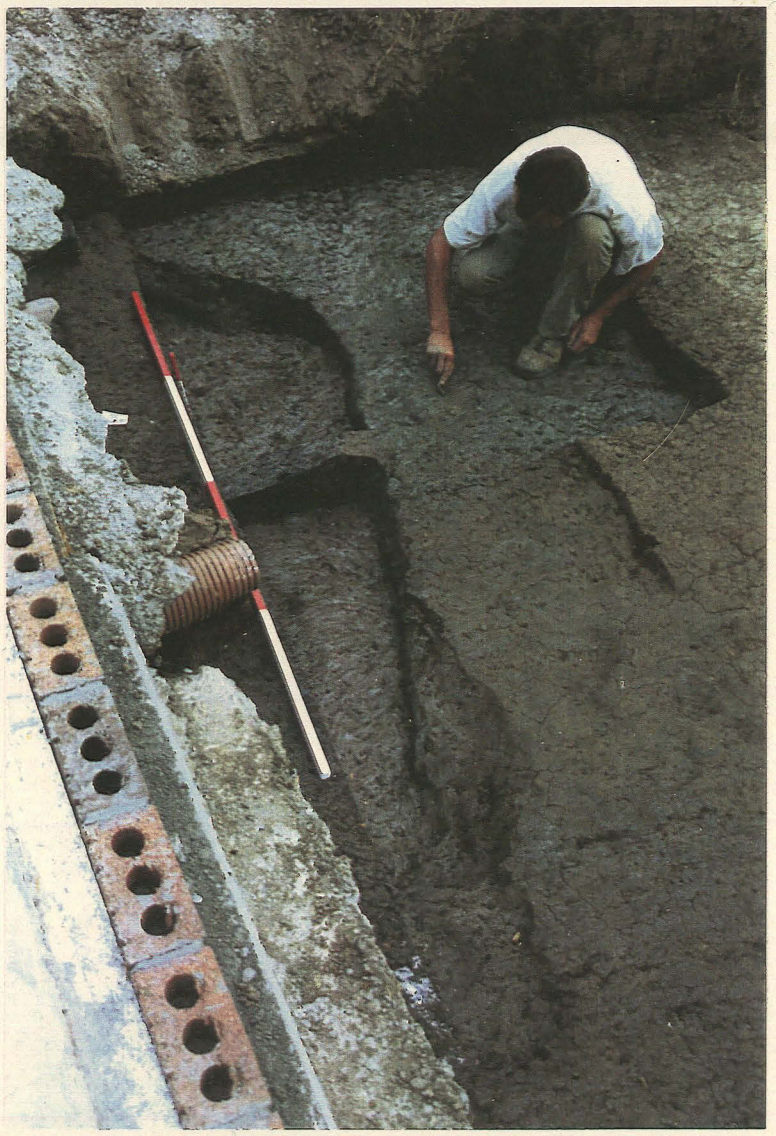
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AND WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

ST NICHOLAS SCHOOL, CHURCH ROAD, BOSTON, LINCOLNSHIRE



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY (Lincoln)

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ST NICHOLAS SCHOOL, BOSTON

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

FOR

LAND AND BUILDINGS CONSULTANCY

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1.0 Non-technical summary

An extended archaeological watching brief and small-scale excavation took place during the construction of a new building and associated infrastructure at St Nicholas School, Boston (Fig. 1). The site of investigation is located on land to the east of Church Road in the parish of Skirbeck, and is centred on national grid reference TF 3369 4360.

A dispersed series of undated linear ditches were mapped during the course of the project and sections were dug through two C8th 'sunken floor buildings'. No such building remains have been hitherto identified in Boston, and it is suggested the site is of regional, if not national significance.

2.0 Introduction

Lincolnshire County Council were granted full planning permission to build a new resource centre for children with special needs at St Nicholas School, Church Road, Boston. The site was believed to lie within an area of peripheral archaeological importance - approximately 200m west of the development, Romano-British finds were recovered during construction of the school in 1960.

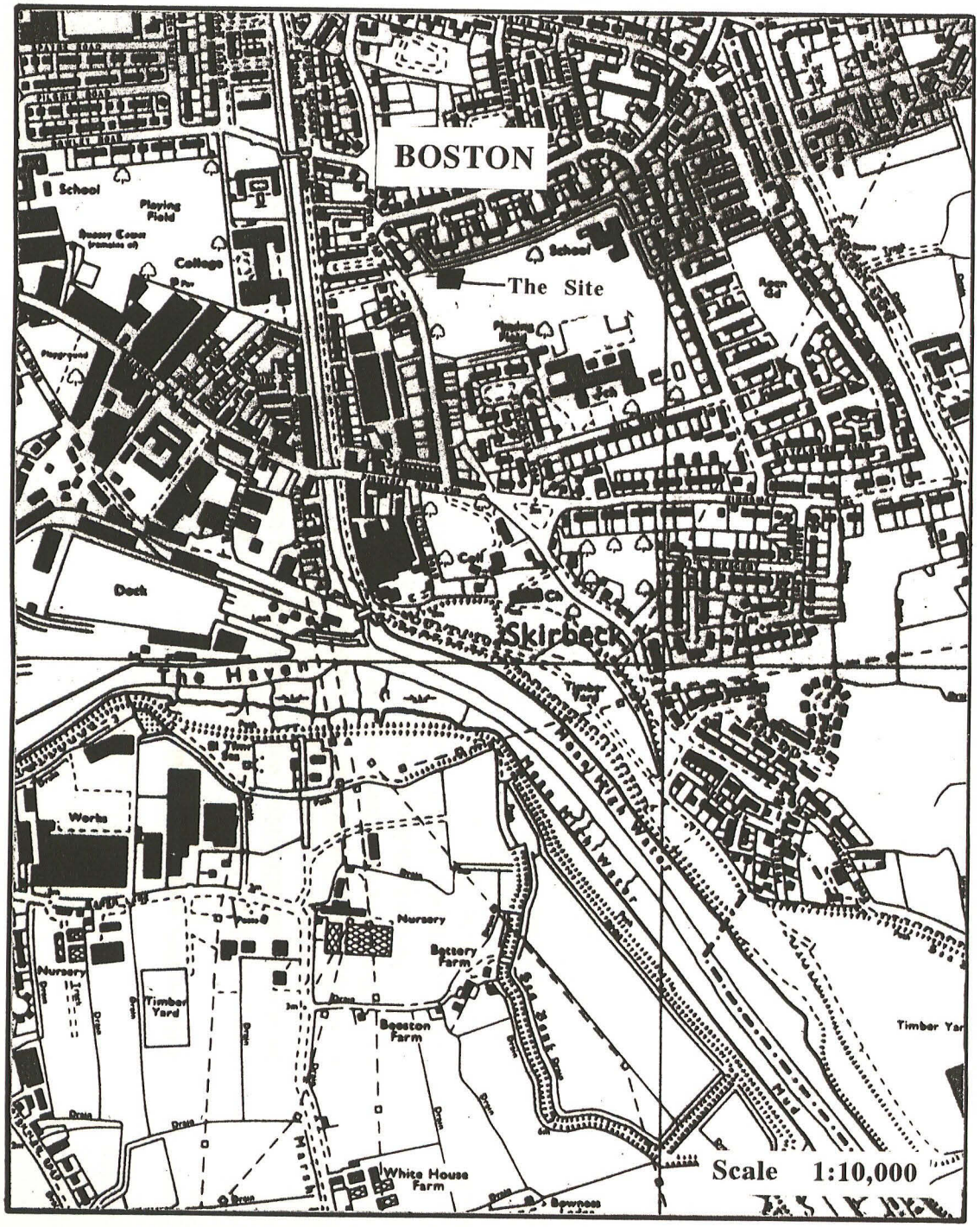
Planning approval was granted in 1994, subject to an archaeological watching brief. This brief was undertaken on an intermittent basis over a period of two months; during which time one archaeologist was present to record deposits exposed and/or truncated during construction trenching. Recording took the form of limited excavation, horizontal and vertical scale drawing, photography and artefact retrieval. Upon the completion of field work, all artefacts recovered during the brief were submitted to relevant specialists for recording and written appraisal.

A small-scale excavation was undertaken towards the end of the project to record one, of two, *Grubenhauser* (a Germanic term translating 'pit house'); this being first exposed in the sides of builders trenches.

3.0 Planning background

As noted above, full planning approval was granted in 1994 for the erection of a new resource centre for children with special needs. The permission was granted subject to the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief. This may be defined as follows:

'An archcaeological watching brief is defined as a programme of observation and investigation conducted during the destruction of archaeological deposits, resulting in the preparation of a report and ordered archive' (Institute of Field Archaeologists draft on Standard Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs, 1993)



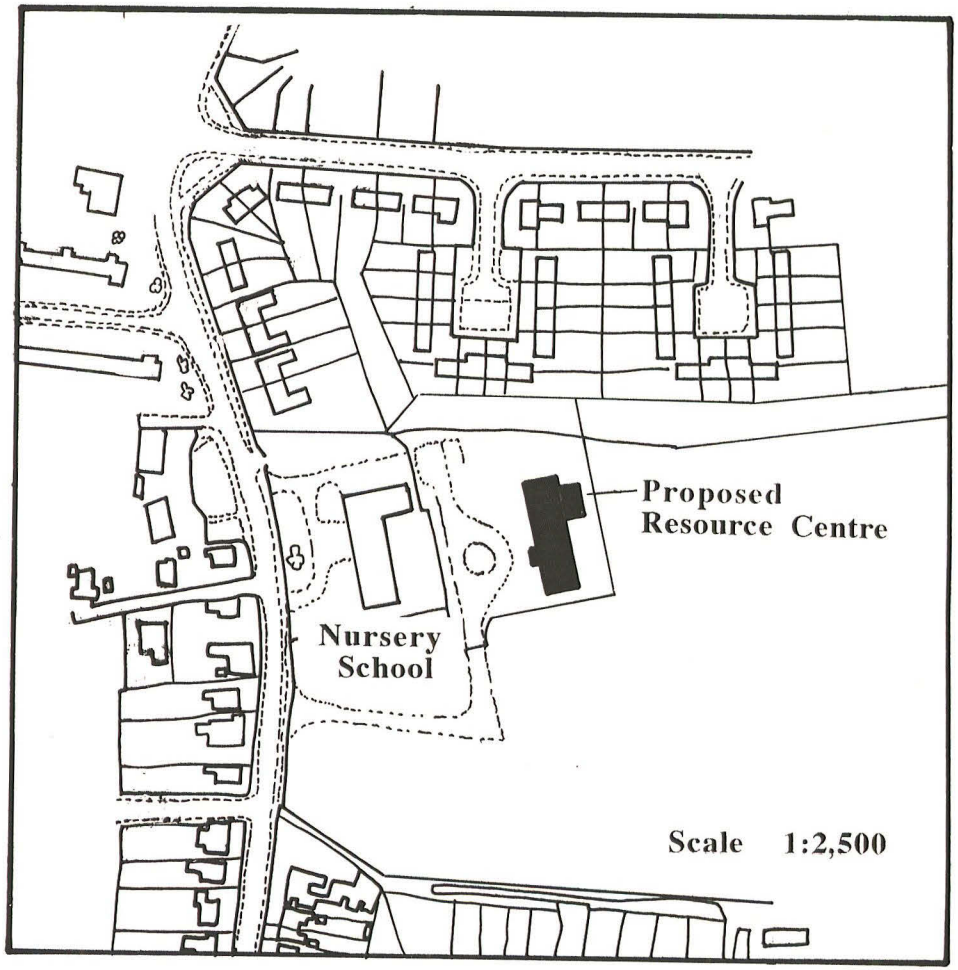


Fig. 1: Site Location

4.0 Geology and topography

The fenland pre-Flandrian land surface lies, in many locations, beneath thick beds of marine silt and alluvium; with intermittent peat horizons, indicative of drier phases. There have been successive phases of marine transgression and regression following an initial rise of sea level at the end of the last glacial period. However, the infilling of the fen basin since the retreat of the last ice sheets, approximately 10,000 years ago, has been sporadic, fluctuatory and subject to the influences of a complex set of palaeogeographic, riverine and marine variables (Lane 1993).

Attempts to drain the fens have taken place since at least the Roman and medieval periods, though the major effort occurred during the C17th, C18th and C19th: not until the early part of the latter were the Lincolnshire Fens completely drained (Robinson 1993).

The development site is set within a flat landscape, where the height above modern sea level ia approximately 9.0m.

5.0 Archaeological and historical background

Relatively few finds of prehistoric date have been recovered from the area of modern Boston, though sites can sometimes lie masked beneath thick beds of marine silt and alluvium.

For the Roman period, the archaeological position is similarly sparse, though occasionally finds are brought to the surface during deep excavation, and settlement evidence may be found closer to the surface, where sub-surface 'islands' or elevations lie beneath late glacial and subsequent deposits. At the site of Foggerty's Factory in Fishtoft, Roman occupation debris was recovered at depths c. 3.0m beneath the modern ground surface.

In 1960, Romano-British pottery sherds were recovered during the construction of St Nicholas School, though the context in which they occurred was not recorded.

There was no entry for Boston in the Domesday Book of 1086, though there are two entries for Skirbeck (Morris 1986):

Section 12, 67 - Land belonging to Count Alan

"In Skirbede hundred, an outlier [of] Drayton, 2 carucates of land taxable. Also in it 9 carucates of land and 6 bovates taxable. A jurisdiction of Drayton. Land for 8 ploughs. 19 Freemen and 13(?) villagers have 8 ploughs. The Count himself [has] 1 plough in lordship. 2 churches and 2 priests; 2 fish ponds, 10s; meadow, 40 acres."

Section 29, 33 - Land of Eudo Son of Spirewic

"In Skirbeck 2 bovates of land taxable. Land for 1 ox. 8 villagers have 1 plough. A jurisdiction of Tattershall"

Skirbeck was the township in which stood the church of St Botolph. The earliest historical reference to Boston as a place-name (Botolph's Town) occurs in 1130; the town was given its charter in 1204 (Lewis and Wright, 1974, 1).

As a port, Boston developed in the second half of the C11th, when Continental traders were docking to take-on salt, wool and probably corn; goods could be directed from major centres such as Lincoln towards the mouth of the Witham and, hence, the port of Boston (Owen 1984, 42). Commercial growth in the late C11th/early C12th owed much to the efforts of Alan Rufus, the Earl of Richmond, who established organised trade fairs in his new fee of Skirbeck and Wyberton: his efforts offered protection, organised trade fairs and a church. There were other interested land owners: for example, Guy de Creoun, Lord of Fishtoft, Butterwick and Freiston who had a considerable holding in Wyberton (*ibid*).

To undertake an in-depth assessment of Boston's rise and fall as a commercial medieval centre would be beyond the scope of this report since the material remains recovered from the present site date to a period some 250 or more years earlier than the Norman Conquest and the rise of Alan Rufus. Yet there exists little material evidence from which to bridges the gap between the decline of the Roman administration in Britain, and the emergence of a successful port in the high medieval period. What evidence there is seems to be concentrated in the Skirbeck/Fishtoft area and is largely the result of recent work which has taken place since the introduction of the Department of the Environment's pioneering document; *Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning*, 1990 (PPG16). An apparent dearth of evidence is, quite possibly' more a reflection of past archaeological priorities, attitudes and funding, rather than an overall lack of evidence.

In 1991, Torven Zeffert prepared an account on a site at Gaysfield Road, Fishtoft, at which late Saxon pottery was recovered in association with linear, flat-bottomed, ditch-like features (unpublished Heritage Lincolnshire report; copies held at Lincs. Sites and Monuments Record). A small quantity of middle Saxon pottery was also recovered. These finds occurred in association with amorphous fragments of fired clay/silt which mixed with grass and other vegetation. Zeffert associated the ditches with drainage/property division and suggested that the fired clay/silt was associated with salt processing, and that a saltern lay close by.

In April of this year, Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) undertook the evaluation of a site off Whitehouse Lane, Fishtoft; at which, a series of linear features, similar to those described by Zeffert, were identified first by magnetometry, then sampled by excavation. Within their fills were amorphous fragments of fired clay/silt and copious quantities of charred remains, containing the seeds of legumes and cereals (Palmer-Brown 1995, unpublished). Late Saxon pottery was recovered from within the features, the majority of which appears to have been produced at the Silver Street kilns in Lincoln, which date the site to a period when the first 'Viking' raids were taking place (late C9th/early C10th). Needless to say, the evidence does not demonstrate Scandinavian settlement; but neither does it contradict it.

Both of the above sites lie relatively close to St Nicholas School (Whitehouse Lane is less than 1.0 km south-east of the present site). Both lie close to the earliest historical centre of population (ie Skirbeck).

Until the present time, no *in-situ* middle Saxon settlement remains have been recovered from Boston and the significance which should be attached to an C8th settlement should not be under-estimated.

6.0 Project aims

A project specification was prepared in February 1995 by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) which outlined the principal project aims. As noted above, the type, period and significance of archaeology exposed was unexpected, and a relatively low-level scheme was envisaged. Although Romano-British artefacts were recovered during the construction of St Nicholas School in the 1960's, the context in which these finds occurred was not recorded. There was a possibility, therefore, that further remains/deposits would be exposed and that an opportunity would arise to examine such material *in-situ*.

7.0 Methodology

The day-to-day monitoring at the site was undertaken by Mr R Schofield, who recorded all deep excavation (the access road/roundabout cutting, construction trenches for the new resource centre and drainage trenches/man-holes).

On every occasion that the site was inspected, a watching brief daily log sheet was filled-in to provide a general account on progress. In addition, important data was entered on context record sheets, and important contexts were drawn at appropriate scales and were photographed. Where relevant, soil samples were retrieved and retained for post-fieldwork assessment, as were stratified and unstratified artefacts. Photography was an important element of the overall recording strategy (the majority of which are retained as part of the permanent archive).

Following the identification of two Middle-Saxon structures, arrangements were made for the total excavation of one of these sites (*Grubenhaus* 2) - when it was clear the remains would be subject to further damage during post-building drainage construction. An excavation was undertaken over four working days, therefore, by Mr Schofield and the writer. The remains (which had been cut through by the west wall construction trench of the new resource centre) were excavated in quadrants; during which time, samples were retrieved for specific environmental assessment (Appendix 2).

All artefacts/ecofacts were washed and/or processed and were then submitted for specialist appraisal and incorporation within this report (Appendix 3, Appendix 4).

A detailed site archive has now been prepared, and it is anticipated that the paper and physical element will be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, within six months following the completion of this report.

8.0 Results

8.1 Natural stratigraphy

The natural stratigraphy was characterised by widespread deposits of fen silt with intermittent horizons of clay, indicative of episodic flooding.

The topsoil, [01], measured approximately 30cm in depth and was common to the entire development area. It comprised dark grey/brown, firm, humic silty clay. Prior to development, it supported rough grass vegetation.

Beneath the topsoil lay c. 45cm of mid-brown sandy silt, [02]. Although laminated bands within this horizon were not clearly-defined, it is suggested this was a cumulative deposit; formed as a result of seasonal flooding. In places, c. 22cm of brown silty clay lay beneath this layer, [05]; which was interpreted as a possible cultivation/buried soil horizon. It had formed above a well-defined flood deposit, [03], which was seen over the entire site in cuttings which exceeded c. 50cm in depth. It comprised well-defined, clean blue/grey clay, which measured approximately 10cm in thickness and had resulted from prolonged, probably extensive, flooding (ie the residue left following the subsidence of standing water). On many occasions, this was the first level at which archaeological deposits could be clearly defined.

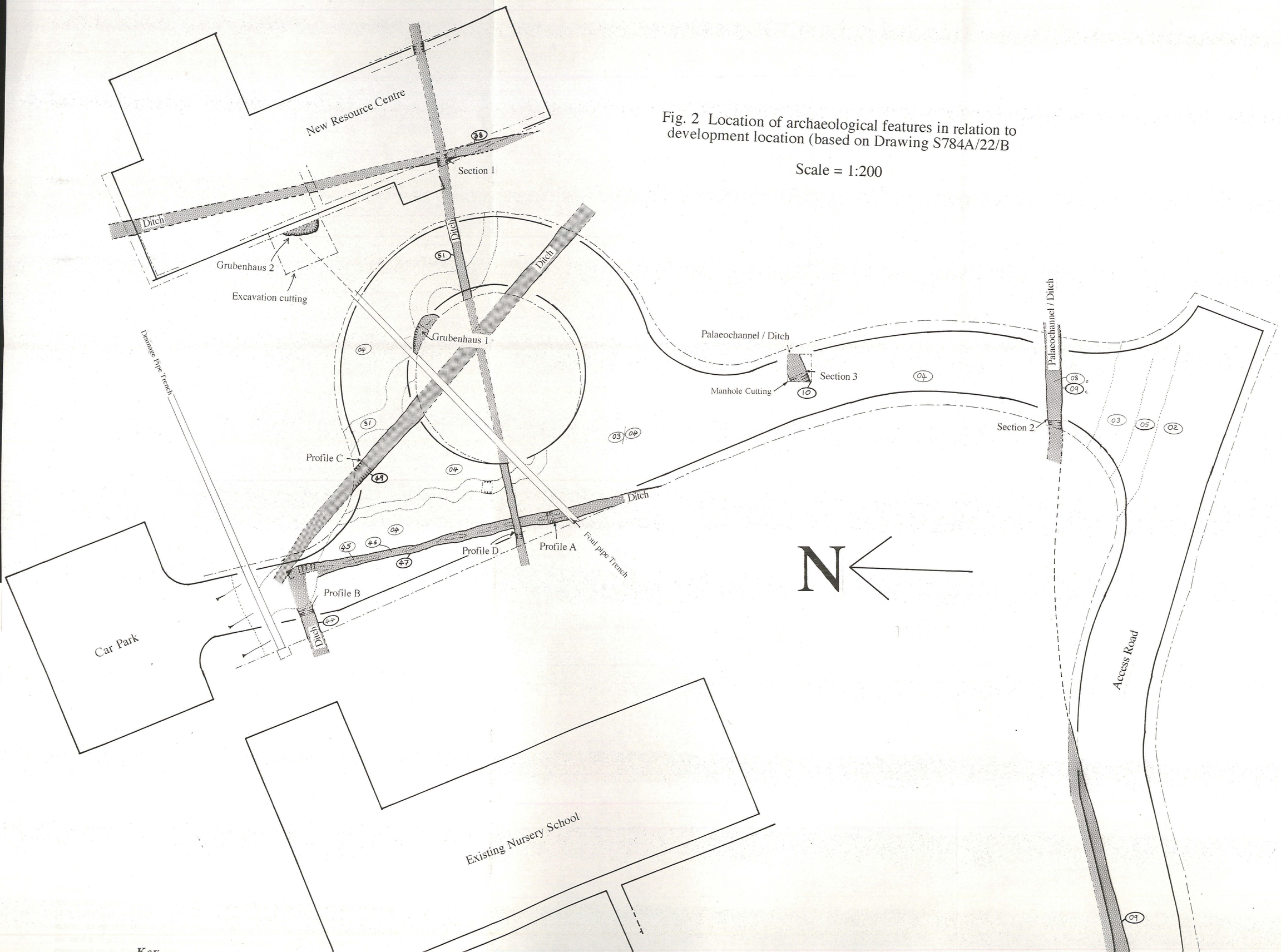
Beneath the above was 50cm+ of dark brown, firm clay-silt, [04]: the lowest natural stratum affected by the development and, like context [02], was interpreted as being a cumulative deposit; a gradual build-up of fen silt, indicative of seasonal flooding/wash.

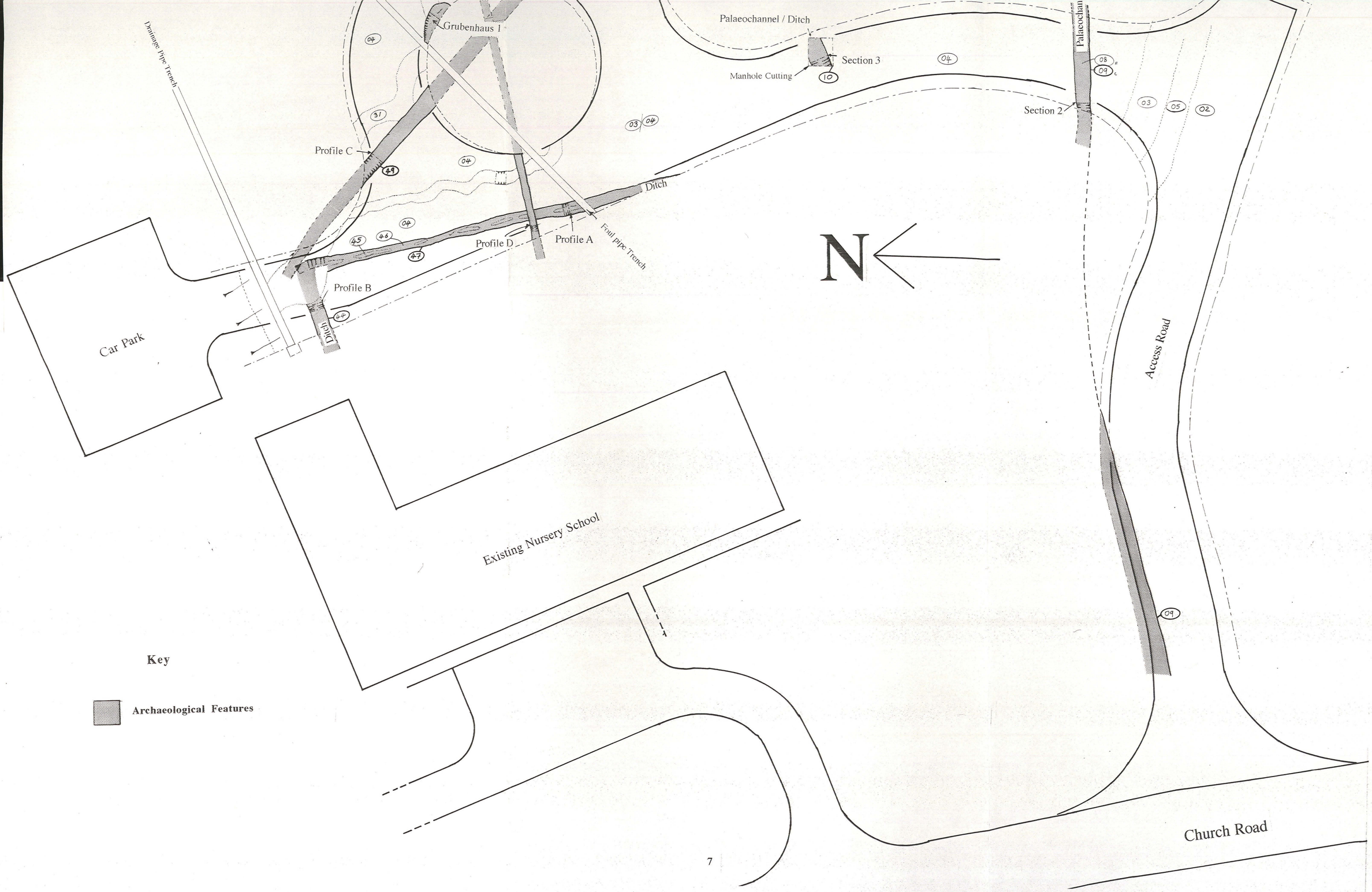
8.2 Linear features

On the north side of the site, sections of extensive linear ditches were exposed in the sides and bases of construction trenches associated with the access road and new building. No direct dating evidence was recovered from any of these features, though it is suggested (by association) that they may have been contemporary with a middle Saxon settlement, the evidence for which centred on two *Grubenhauser* which are discussed below in Section 8.3. Two natural-looking linear/curvilinear channels were also recorded; with these lying south of those features which may be more readily identified with human intervention.

Fig. 2 Location of archaeological features in relation to development location (based on Drawing S784A/22/B

Scale = 1:200




Grubenhaus 1
Palaeochannel / Ditch
Section 3
Manhole Cutting
Palaeochannel
Section 2
Drainage Pipe Trench
Profile C
Ditch
Foul pipe Trench
Profile D
Profile A
Profile B
Ditch
Car Park
N
Access Road
Existing Nursery School
Church Road
Key
Archaeological Features

On the south side of the site, within an area now occupied by the new access road, an east-west, ?flat-bottomed ditch or natural channel, [09], was exposed in two locations (Fig. 2; Fig. 3, Section 2). It measured up to 1.5m in width and its recorded depth was 0.5m+. It was filled with interleaving accumulations of grey/brown sandy clay, [08]. The on-site archaeologist was unable to determine whether or not the feature was of an anthropogenic or purely natural origin. Approximately 19.0m north of it, within the access road cutting, a second linear feature, probably a natural water channel, was exposed in the sides and base of a manhole trench which was excavated to a depth approximately 1.0m below the modern ground surface (Fig. 2; Fig. 3, Section 3). It appeared to be orientated broadly east-west, though its edges could not be clarified in the small area exposed. It measured more than 1.0m in depth, its base not being reached during excavation. It was filled with a series of interleaving natural clay-based deposits which had formed under normal conditions of erosion and silting (ie weathering). Its uppermost fill, [10]a, was sealed beneath the cumulative flood horizon, [02], so it is likely the channel originated from the top of/within the well-defined flood horizon [03] (the true edges of the feature lay beyond the confines of the manhole trench, and were not picked-up during inspection of the soil surface following widespread stripping for road construction).

Within the roundabout cutting, which was excavated approximately 75cm below the top of the modern ground surface, three linear ditches were exposed and sampled: [47], [49], and [51]. Ditch [51], which was orientated east-west, was exposed in four places; in the east and west wall construction trenches for the new building, and on the east and west sides of the roundabout trench (Fig. 2; Fig. 3, Profile D). It measured up to 80cm in width and had been excavated to depths exceeding 50cm (shallower in Fig. 3 due to mechanical truncation). The latest natural horizon through which it had cut was [05], the possible buried soil and, hence, contemporary ground surface. The ditch was filled with mid-brown/mottled clay-silt, [50], which probably accumulated under natural conditions.

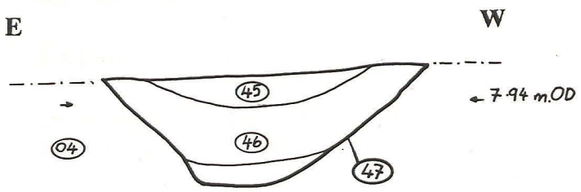
The above had cut through two widely-spaced and parallel ditches which were orientated broadly north-south, [38] and [47]. Their spatial relationship and internal strata suggested they were contemporary, though this was not proved. The most easterly ditch, [38], was exposed in three of the construction trenches associated with the new Resource Centre (Fig. 2; Fig. 3, Section 1). It appeared to have been cut from the top of the ?buried soil, [05]. Its V-shaped profile measured more than 50 cm in depth, 1.0m in width. Its fill was a distinct blue/grey, reduced clay; an accumulation, deposited as a result of natural in-wash and settlement during wet conditions. Its relationship with the ?buried land surface, [05], was not established.

Approximately 30.0m west of the above, within the access road/roundabout cutting, a ditch of similar form, fill and alignment was exposed, [47], which was traced for at least 30m. It measured a little over 1.1m in width and had been cut to a depth at least 40cm. Its lower fill, [46], was identical to the blue/grey clay in ditch [38]: its upper fill was the same material, though was oxidised and, hence, was brown.

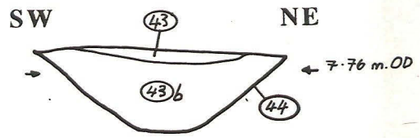
North of the roundabout cutting, the access route was graded upwards from c. 75cm to c. 45cm below the modern ground surface to an area now occupied by a car park.

This grading obscured relationships between the above and an east-west ditch, [44] which it appeared to join. The relationships were further complicated by a ditch orientated north-west to south-east, [49], which had cut through the junction of [44] and [47] (Fig. 2). However, the excavator believed ditches [44] and [47] to be contemporary. Ditch [44] was V-shaped in profile. Its stratigraphy was a mirror to that of ditch [47] and there would seem little doubt that the two were one of the same. They were probably contemporary with ditch [38] further east.

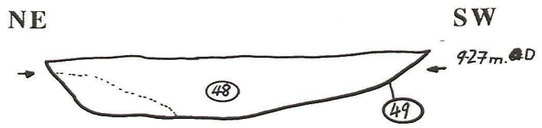
Ditch [49], orientated north-west to south-east, was exposed in three places; on the south-east and north-west sides of the roundabout, and in the access road between the roundabout and the new car park. Its profile was shallow and U-shaped (Fig. 3, Profile C), and it was filled with brown silty clay. There were no associated finds.



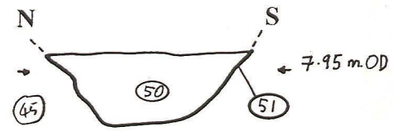
Profile A: Ditch [47]



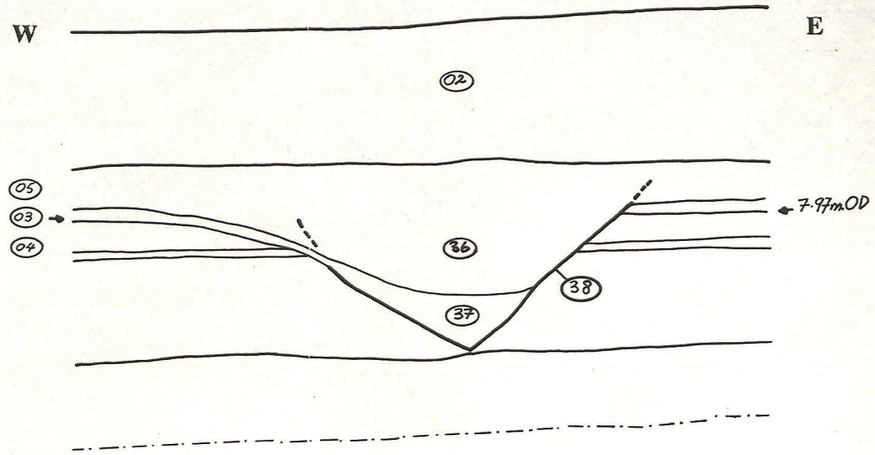
Profile B: Ditch [44]



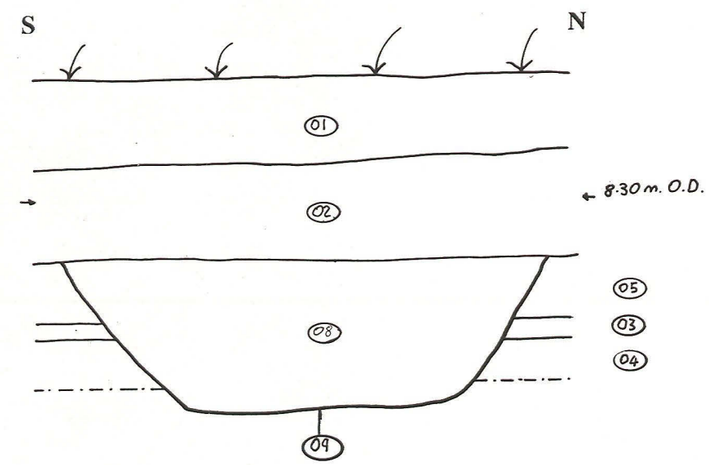
Profile C: Ditch [49]



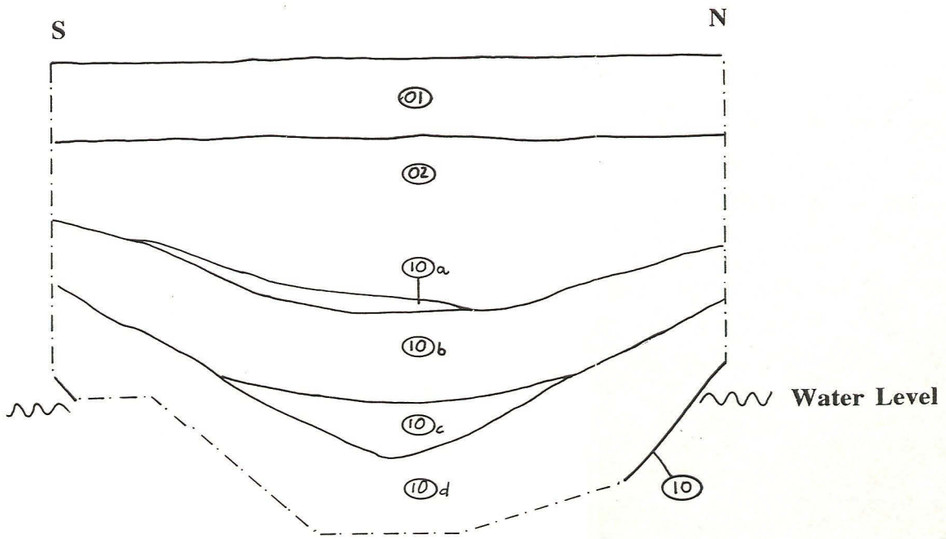
Profile D: Ditch [51]



Section 1: Ditch [38]



Section 2: Ditch / Palaeochannel [09]



Section 3: Ditch / Palaeochannel [10]

Fig. 3: Feature Profiles and Sections (to be used in conjunction with Fig. 2)

8.3 The Grubenhauser

8.3.1 Grubenhaus 1 (Fig. 4)

On the north-east side of the roundabout cutting, a distinct area of dark soil was exposed following mechanical stripping. When the soil surface was trowelled clean, the outline of a large sub-rectangular/oval pit-like feature could be seen, its edges marked by an almost continuous line of charcoal. Following excavation and a preliminary assessment of the finds contained within this feature, it became clear that it was a *Grubenhaus* or Saxon 'pit-dwelling'; the first example of its kind in Boston.

The cut of the *Grubenhaus*, [30], measured approximately 3.4m in length: its width was not determined as half of the feature lay (and remains) in the centre of the new roundabout. The sides of the void were steep, vertical in places. The lower 2-3cm of its base was lined with clean blue/grey clay, [29]; derived as a result of weathering/inwash, perhaps when the 'pit' was first excavated. Above this was 5cm+ of loose grey/black silty material, [28], which contained charcoal, ash and a density of domestic rubbish: animal bone, shell, and pottery dating within the C8th. Above this was 3 - 4cm of mottle blue/grey silty clay mixed with charcoal, [33]: probably an in-wash deposit which accumulated during a period of high rainfall following building demise/destruction (see report by DJ Rackham, Appendix 2). It lay beneath further narrow rubbish-type deposits, [34] and [53], both of which contained concentrations of mussel shell, animal bone and domestic pottery. The upper void was filled with more than 50cm of grey/brown mottled clay, [27], which was beneath the ?cumulative flood horizon, [02].

Prior to excavations within the roundabout cutting, a narrow drainage trench, orientated north-east to south-west, was excavated between the new resource centre and the Church Road frontage. In the base of this trench, a dark stain was seen, immediately adjacent to the extreme west end of *Grubenhaus* 1 (which was not exposed at the time). Excavation showed this to be the fill of a sub-rectangular post hole/post pit which measured c. 40cm x 20cm in plan. The feature was clearly part of the *Grubenhaus*.

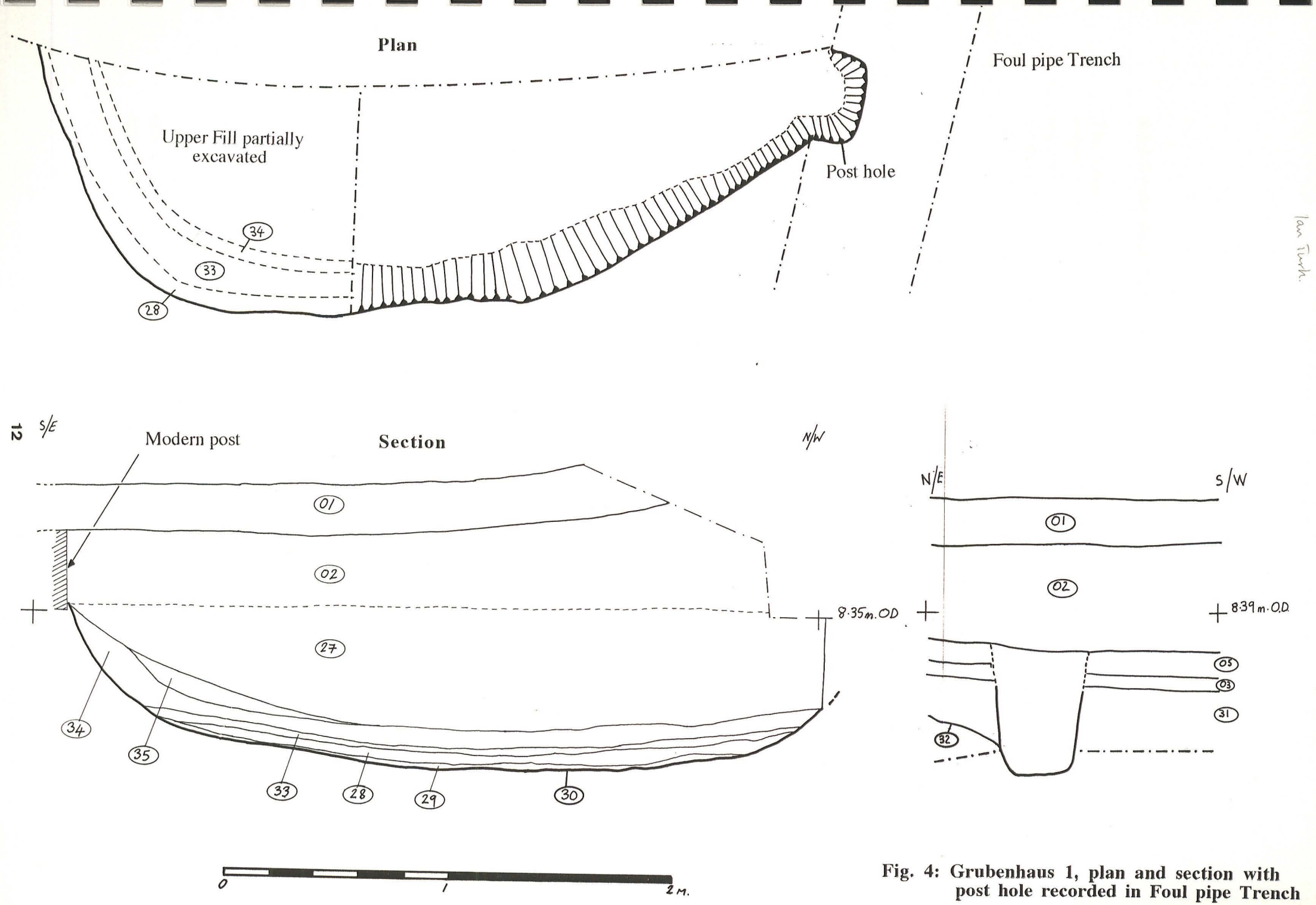


Fig. 4: Grubenhaus 1, plan and section with post hole recorded in Foul pipe Trench

8.3.2 Grubenhaus 2 (Fig. 5)

The remains of a second (suspected) *Grubenhaus* were sectioned in the west construction trench of the new resource centre (Fig. 2). There was relatively little time available to record these remains prior to concrete pouring, though it was possible to cut-back the section and establish that the feature was of the same broad date to *Grubenhaus* 1 (ie its secondary fills contained similar pottery).

An inspection of the site development plans suggested this second feature would be vulnerable to further disturbance associated with drainage trenching; and the situation was discussed with the County Archaeological Officer. Following a subsequent meeting with the client, it was agreed, given the importance of the site, that additional funding would be provided and a short excavation be undertaken to fully-excavate *Grubenhaus* 2.

An area measuring approximately 4.6m x 3.2m was marked-out in advance of excavation. The topsoil was stripped by mechanical excavator to a point at which the upper fill of the *Grubenhaus* was visible, and the feature was then sectioned in quadrants. As part of the recording strategy, an environmental archaeologist was commissioned to advise on sampling: both for charred remains and sediment formation (ie data reflecting the life, destruction and post-destruction formation processes associated with the infilling of the Grubenhaus).

The feature was sub-oval or sub-rectangular in plan (a situation difficult to clarify, given that part of the plan had been obliterated during foundation trenching for the new resource centre). It was not as well-preserved as *Grubenhaus* 1; there being less than 20cm of internal stratigraphy. In places, the sides of the void were vertical, though much less pronounced at either end. The base of the cut was almost flat, with a slight shelf or stepped profile on the north side. There was no direct evidence for discreet internal post holes, though a dense area of charcoal, seen in section on the south side, [65], may have been the remains of a post which had burnt *in situ*.

The lower c. 12cm of fill consisted of soft, light brown silty clay which contained a large number of small fired clay/silt fragments, occasional charcoal fragments, and occasional small pieces of fuel ash slag, [62]. Given this primary context, it is possible this was a destruction horizon; a satisfactory interpretation for the large quantity of fired silt/clay was not forthcoming during the excavation, though Cowgill (Appendix 4) has suggested the assemblage may have derived from a hearth, which was possibly repaired on more than one occasion. An assessment of the charred remains indicates that there were some 400+ grain fragments, concentrated within a small area on the south-east side of the structure, which had probably been stored on the short-term, awaiting consumption (Appendix 2).

The above lay beneath 5 - 7cm of narrow interleaving bands comprising clean blue clay and dark, charcoal-stained occupation-type debris, [61]. These layers would appear to reflect particle settlement following periods of rainfall: at the time of

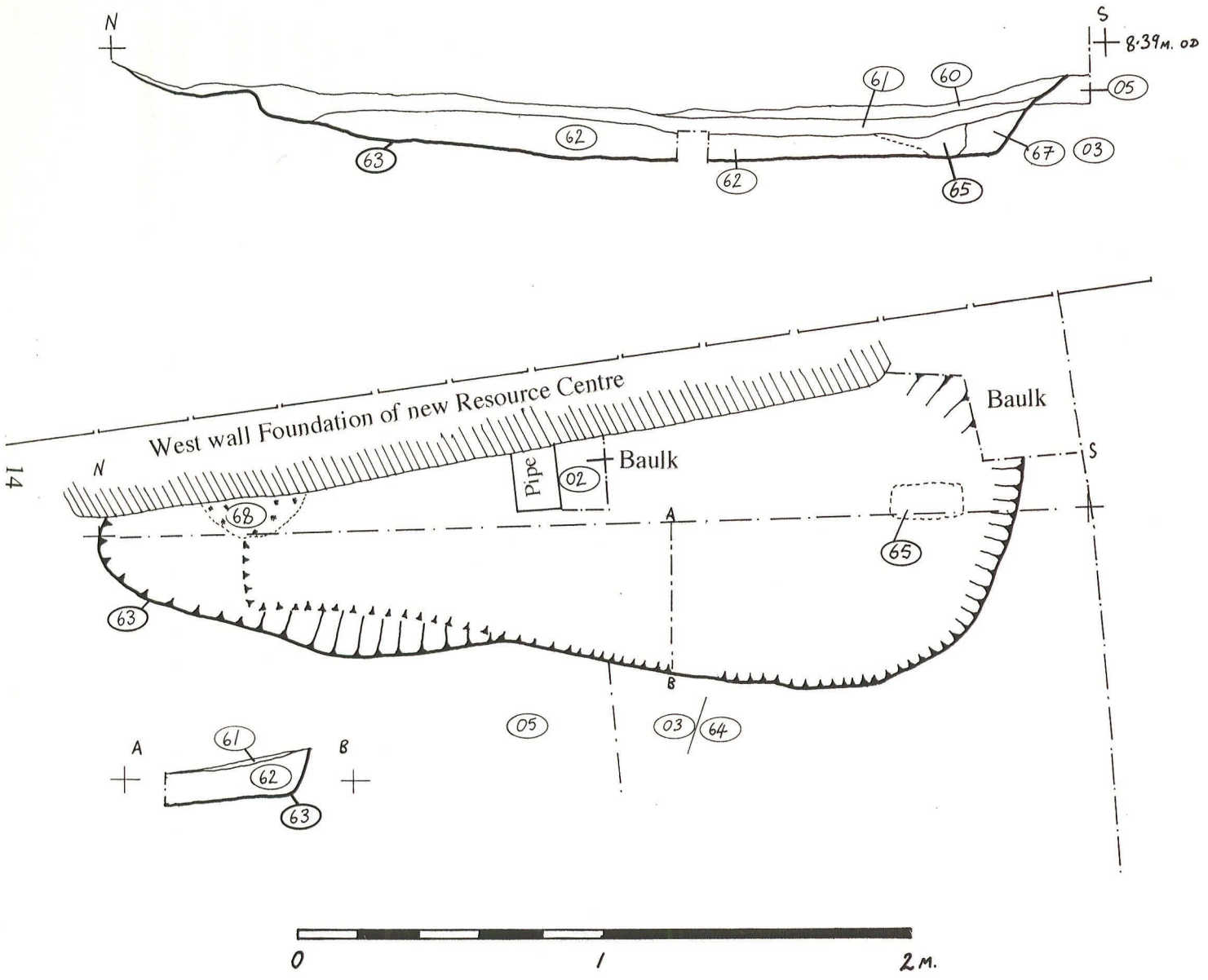


Fig. 5: Section and Plan of Grubenhaus 2

deposition, the (now-redundant) *Grubenhaus* may have been little more than a shallow depression in which puddles sat following periods of rainfall.

The uppermost backfill, [60] (which had been truncated by the mechanical excavator due to its similarity to the upper strata), consisted of compact mid-brown silty clay which contained small sherds of pottery and fragments of animal bone.

9.0 Summary and conclusions

There can be little doubt that this site, which has been identified as a direct result of well-executed development control procedures set within the framework of PPG16, is of considerable regional significance. The period represented by the two Grubenhauser (and possibly the linear ditches close-by) has not been hitherto identified in Boston, save for a small quantity of (?residual) Middle Saxon pottery which was recovered from the Gaysfield Road site in Fishtoft (H Healey, pers. comm.). It would seem essential, therefore, that a close watch be maintained on this area with regard to future development procedures likely to disturb the resource, the extent of which is, at present, uncertain.

The period of occupation, as defined by the enclosed pottery assessment report, would appear to fall within the C8th (it should be noted, however, that none of the pottery recovered from either *Grubenhauser* occurred in a truly primary context; it being associated with post-destruction rubbish/accumulation). Only two structural features were exposed during the brief, though it would seem likely that there are other similar structures on the site. On sites farther afield (eg West Stow, Suffolk; West Heslerton, North Yorkshire) extremely large areas were stripped of topsoil, and equally large proportions of settlement plans exposed. At West Stow, the plans of both *Grubenhauser* and larger buildings (post-built 'halls') were exposed: in all, sixty-nine Grubenhauser and seven halls (Welch 1992). By contrast, at the site of Chalton in Hampshire, there were just four Grubenhauser to fifty-nine rectangular buildings. Two of the West Stow *Grubenhauser* had been destroyed by fire, preserving timber planking (which was laid either above the ground or against the sides and base of each pit).

In Lincolnshire, very few settlement sites of this period have been excavated and, to date, the only known building remains are *Grubenhauser* (Everson 1993): although such sites have been variously examined at Willoughton, Salmonby Sandy Knobbs and Wilbeck Hill (Irby upon Humber), the most comprehensive assessments in recent times are based on the work by Naomi Field at Cherry Willingham (Field 1981) and Nettleton Top (Field and Leahy 1993).

Aspects of a Saxon settlement were recently excavated at Riby Cross Roads in the Lincolnshire Wolds (Steedman 1995, 212 - 306). A series of inter-connecting

enclosures were identified by aerial photography; sections of which were investigated in advance of pipeline construction. Five possible sunken floor buildings were sampled, one of which contained an C8th *sceatta*.

To a certain extent, the status of 'pit-dwellings' or Grubenhauser is poorly understood; both in terms of the methods by which they were built and the ways in which they were used. There seems to be general agreement within the archaeological profession that they sometimes had an industrial usage; as workshops. Often, they are found associated with textile manufacturing equipment such as loom weights and spindle whorls, and the frequency with which these items are associated with *Grubenhauser* does imply that weaving was one of the more important activities practiced within them (Welch 1992, 28).

An extensive, generalised assessment on *Grubenhauser* is beyond the scope of this report, which seeks primarily to alert and inform those with curatorial responsibility for archaeology in Boston to the potential which this site offers for furthering a more satisfactory understanding of early post-Roman settlement. The results of this watching brief/excavation, coupled with recent (and on-going) work in nearby Fishtoft, have raised the overall potential for this broad zone and it would seem likely that many more sites will be found in an area where, due to a build-up of silt and alluvium, archaeological features have sometimes escaped the depth of the plough (but have not always, therefore, been brought to the attention of the Sites and Monuments Record). It is suggested it may be appropriate for archaeological curators to enter into discussions with professional bodies who undertake geophysical surveys regarding the viability of such techniques on soils which may be less conducive than the gravels more confidently targeted by magnetometry and similar techniques.

10.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like, firstly, to thank the Land and Buildings Consultancy for this archaeological commission; in particular, Mr John Hebb. Thanks are due also to Langwith Builders Ltd; not-least, Nigel Hefford, the Site Manager, for his continued interest and his willingness to embrace archaeology and, at the same time, keep pace with a busy building programme. Thanks to the County Archaeological Officer, Ian George and to Mark Bennett and Sarah Grundy for allowing access to the County Sites and Monuments Record. Finally, thank you to all of the specialists for their contributions to this report; in particular, to Jane Young for her assessment on the pottery at a time when there was talk of a holiday.

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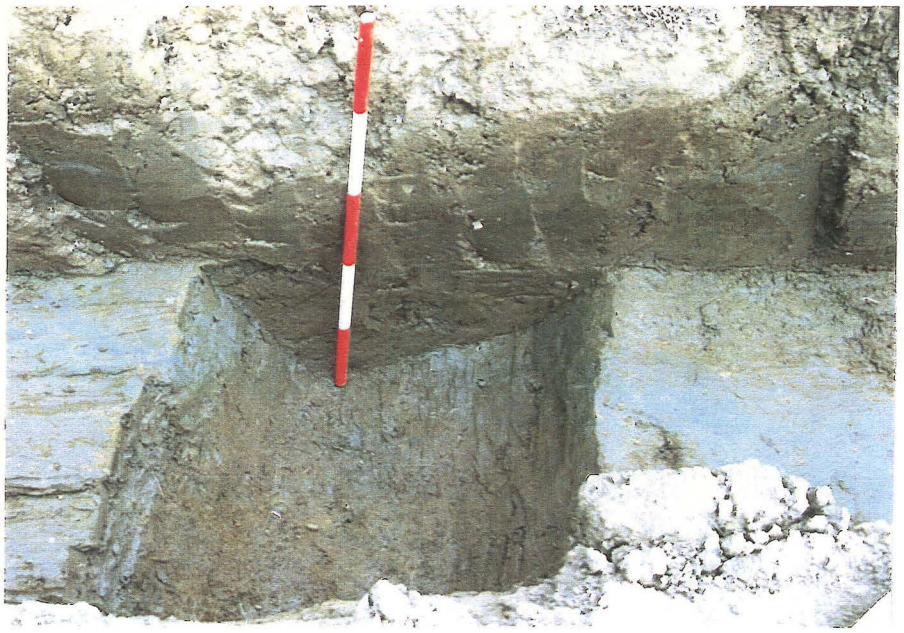
Appendix 12.1: Colour Photographs

General view of site during earth-stripping, looking north

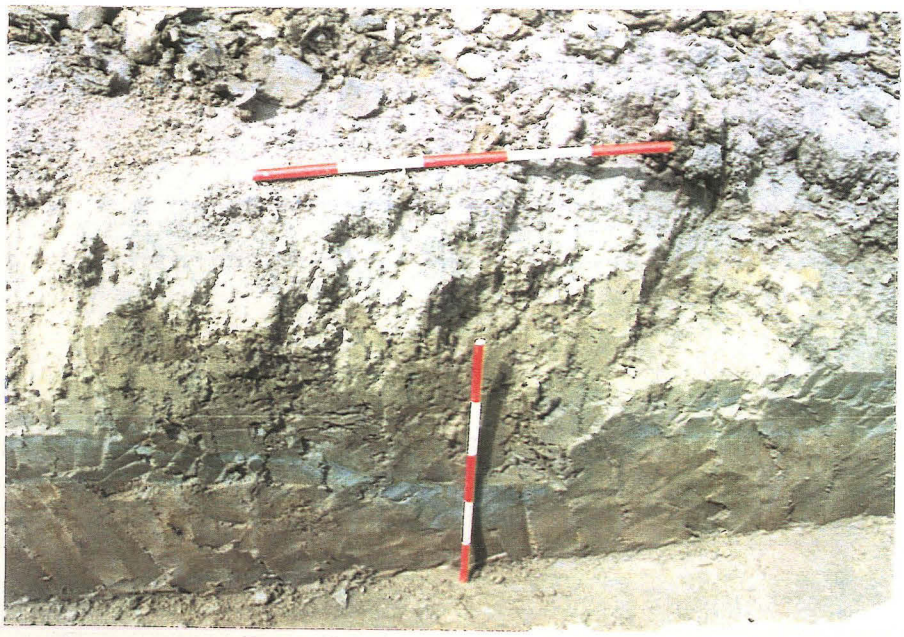
Excavation of the roundabout cutting, looking south: the dark stain in the right hand corner is the backfill of *Grubenhaus* 1

View of ditches [47], [51] and [49], looking north-east (ditch [47] is in the foreground)

Close-up view of ditch [51] cutting ditch [47], looking south

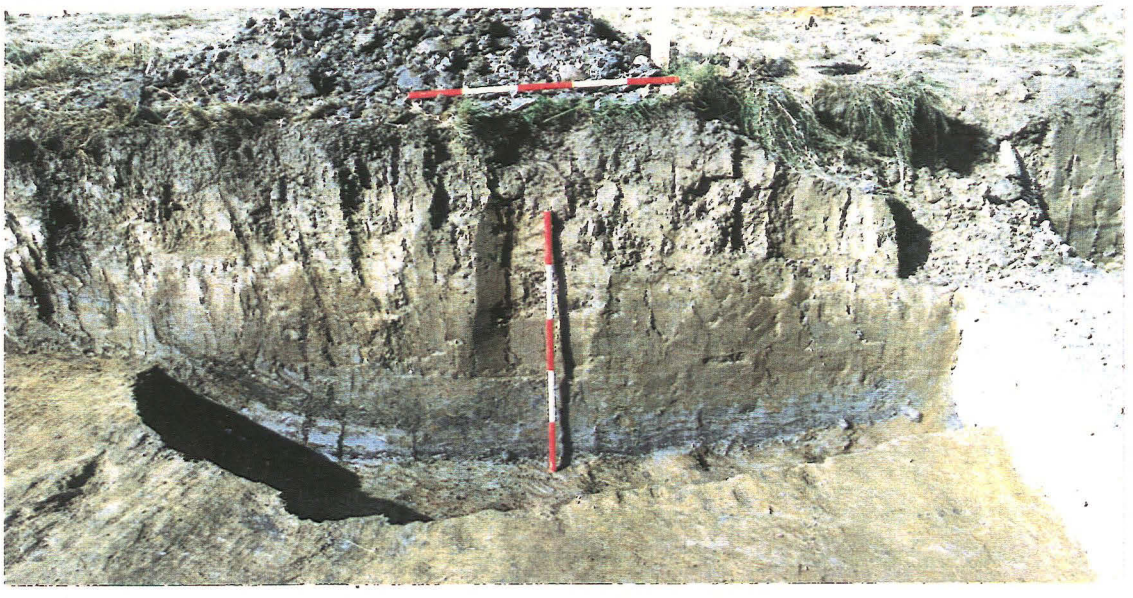


Close-up view of ditch [51] (excavated) cutting ditch [38], looking east



Ditch [31] in north wall of new building foundation, looking north

Grubenhaus 1, as exposed following cleaning of the upper backfill, looking south-west

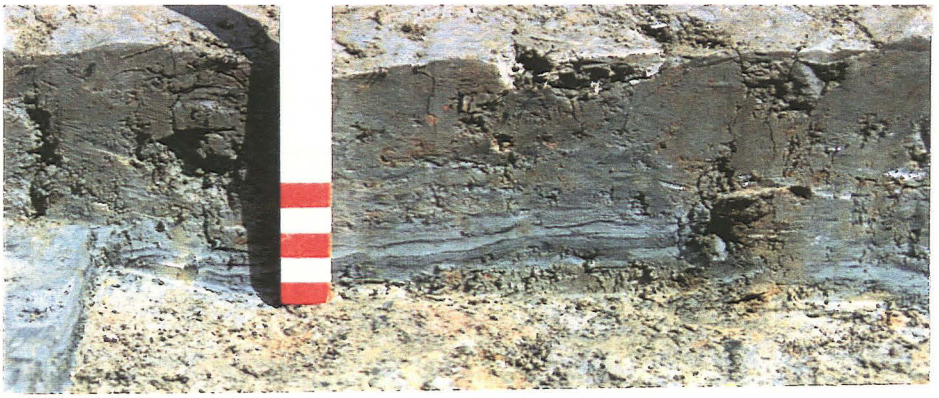


As above, following the removal of the Grubenhaus fills

Post hole at west end of *Grubenhaus* 1, as exposed in drainage trench (prior to the identification of the *Grubenhaus*, looking south-east

General view of *Grubenhaus* 2, prior to the removal of its fills, looking east

Grubenhaus 2, following the removal of half of its internal fills, looking south-east



Close-up of interleaving silty deposits constituting deposit(s) [61] in *Grubenhaus* 2

General view of *Grubenhaus* 2, following total excavation, looking north

Two sherds of 'Maxey-type' pottery; recovered from *Grubenhaus* 1

St Nicholas School, Boston SNS95

Environmental Archaeology Assessment

A series of samples were collected from deposits within the cuts of two Saxon '*grubenhaus*' during a watching brief, and later a small excavation. In addition animal bone was collected by hand during both phases of work.

The samples

The following samples were taken.

Sample no.	Context no.	Sample volume	context type
1	**61**	7	silt and charcoal layer in *grubenhaus* 2 cut (63), NE quadrant, top of context
2	**62**	7	primary infilling of cut for *grubenhaus* 2
3	**61**	5	as 1 above, NE quadrant, bottom of context
4	**61**	7	as 1 above, East side of cut
5	**61**	7	as 1 above, NE quadrant of cut
6	**62**	7	as 2 above, NE quadrant, top of context
7	**62**	7	as 2 above, East side of cut
8	**60**	7	top fill of *grubenhaus* 2, East side
9	**60**	3	as 8 above, NE quadrant
10	**61**	7	as 1 above, East side
11	**61**	7	as 1 above, West side
12	**62**	14	as 2 above, SE quadrant, bottom fill
13			column sample through layers 62, 61 and 60 in *grubenhaus* 2
14	**61**		charcoal lumps from within layer
15	**65**		posthole fill in cut 63
16	**28**	7	fill in cut 30 for *grubenhaus* 1
17	**34**	7	fill in cut 30 for *grubenhaus* 1
18	**05**		natural clay into which *grubenhaus* cuts made.

Samples *15* and *18* have not been studied, sample *14* is charcoal and sample *13* is a sample requiring study under the microscope. All the remaining samples have been processed in the following manner:

Sample volume was measured prior to processing. The samples were washed in a 'Siraf' tank using a flotation sieve with a 0.5mm mesh and an internal wet-sieve of 1mm mesh for the residue. Both residue and float were dried, the dry volume of the flot was measured, and the weight of the residue recorded.

The residue was sorted by eye, and environmental and archaeological finds picked out, noted on the assessment sheet and bagged independently. The residue was then bagged. The float of each sample was studied under a low power binocular microscope. The presence of environmental finds (ie snails, charcoal, carbonised seeds, bones etc) was noted and their abundance and species diversity recorded on the assessment sheet. The float was then bagged. The sorted residue, float and finds constitute the material archive of the samples.

The assessment sheets are attached and the results summarised below.

The bulk of the samples derive from the excavation phase of the work which was concerned with *grubenhaus* 2. A number of the samples from this feature duplicate each other, having been taken from different locations in the cut with the intention of establishing whether any spatial patterns existed. The

sequence in *grubenhaus* 2 was an upper fill, **60**, a middle fill of thin silt lenses interleaved with thin charcoal rich layers, **61**, and a lower fill containing many fired clay lumps, **62**.

Two samples were collected from **60** (samples *8* and *9*) forming a total of 10 litres. The sediment was composed of fine silt/clay with the residue made up almost entirely of small silt/clay lumps that had not broken down during processing. Both samples produced very small quantities of fired clay, and one produced a tiny sherd of glass which may possibly be a contaminant. Very small quantities of unidentifiable domestic animal bone were picked from the residue and three small fish vertebrae and some tiny mussel shell fragments were recovered. The flot included small quantities of unidentifiable charcoal and a total of a dozen carbonised cereal grains and a few weed seeds, including elder, from both samples.

Six samples were taken from layer **61** for flotation (samples *1*, *3*, *4*, *5*, *10* and *11*) and a single charcoal sample. This layer was a silt/clay sediment, the residue of which after washing was composed largely of small silt/clay lumps that had not broken down during the washing process, with a few small lumps of fired clay. The fired clay content varied from less than 1 gramme in sample *5* to over 18 grammes in sample *11*. There was some variability in this layer. The samples, from the east and north east side particularly, contained considerable quantities of mussel shell in a very poor state of preservation. This was particularly true of samples *1* and *10*, while sample *11* from the west side contained no mussel shell. It is probable that the shell in the east formed a tip line that did not extend across the whole cut. The only finds were three sherds of pottery, including one shell-tempered piece. The quantity of animal bone varied across the feature. The largest samples (41 and 69 grammes) came from samples *10* and *11*, while sample *1* produced no more than 9 grammes of bone. Many of the bones were not identifiable but cattle, sheep and chicken bones were present and burnt bones were particularly common in samples *10* and *11*. A few fragments of fish bone were unevenly distributed across the layer. The flots produced no more than one or two grammes of fragmented charcoal and between 10 and 30 carbonised cereal grains. Sample *11* produced over 50 cereal grains, and possible pea or bean fragments were recorded in this sample and samples *4* and *10*. A few weed seeds were present in four of the samples but not in any numbers.

Four samples were collected from the basal layer, **62**, in *grubenhaus* 2. This deposit was composed largely of amorphous fired clay lumps in variable concentrations within a silt/clay matrix. The residue of each sample after washing was much larger than any of the other deposits on the site and in each case was composed almost entirely of lumps of fired clay. Other than the clay no finds were made in this layer. Two of the samples produced one or two tiny fragments of mussel shell, and apart from sample *2*, with 9 grammes of bone, the remainder produced no more than this between them. None of this bone was identifiable, although it included a number of burnt fragments. Only three fragments of fish bone were recovered from the whole group. The flot contained barely a gramme of charcoal between all the samples, and between 9 and 25 carbonised cereal grains were recovered from three of the samples while the fourth, sample *12*, contained over 400 grain in a sample in which weed seeds were rare. Sample 6 included a possible carbonised pea or bean.

Two samples were collected during the watching brief from the fills of *grubenhaus* 1.

Context **28** was a silt/clay deposit with a few lumps of fired clay and a considerable quantity of comminuted mussel shell. The layer contained a greater concentration of animal bone than any others, including some burnt bone, but only a few fragments of fish bone. The flot included a few carbonised cereal grains but no weed seeds.

Context **34** was a silt/clay sediment with very few inclusions. One sherd of pottery was recovered, a few tiny fragments of mussel shell and barely 4 grammes of domestic animal and fish bone. The flot contained very small quantities of charcoal and 5 carbonised cereal grains.

Table 1: Summary of the finds from the soil samples arranged by layer (volume in litres; weight in grammes)

Layer	sample volume	bone weight	shell weight	charcoal weight	fired clay weight	no cereal grains
60	10	13	<1	1	6	11
61	40	183	>42	5	>47	>163
62	35	18	<1	1	1270	>450
28	7	49	>59	3	>3	11
34	7	4	<1	<1	0	5

Animal bone

Animal bone was collected during excavation. The material was identified by comparison with modern reference skeletons and catalogued and measured according to the key appended to the Archive catalogue. Fragments that could not be specifically assigned to a species were recorded under a size class, ie cattle size. There is no data to suggest that the cattle size and sheep size fragments do not derive from these species. The condition of the bone is good with no evidence for destruction by scavenging dogs or other taphonomic processes. The sample is composed of 203 bone fragments of which 33.5% were identifiable to species. The sample is very small and does not sustain much discussion. However it can contribute some information to a discussion of the site.

The bone is concentrated in **28** (Table 2), with the next largest group in layer **61**. No bone was excavated from the basal fill, **62**, of *grubenhaus* 2.

Table 2: Bone fragments by context (weight in grammes)

	Grubenhaus 1			*Grubenhaus* 2				
	34	28	40	60	61	68	Total	Weight
Cattle	3	30	7	5	6		51	1485
Sheep					1		1	
Sheep/goat	3	4	1	1	7		16	66.5
Indeterminate bird					1		1	0.5
Cattle size	6	38	8	8	30	4	94	608
Sheep size	2		3	7	12		24	29
Unidentifiable		5		2	9		16	14
Weight	233	1255	219	140	345	11		
						Total	203	2203
Burnt bone	2	7	1	5	12	4	31	123
Percentage not identified to species							66.5	

Only sheep and cattle bones were identified, although chicken and fish bones were present in the soil samples. No pig bones are present. Over 70 percent of the fragments derive from cattle or cattle sized animals, and 95 percent of the bone by weight. The cattle bones include fragments from aged animals, two jaws at least suggest animals possibly older than 10 years, but young animals, perhaps less than 6

months old are also present. The few ageable sheep bones suggest immature animals with two bones suggesting lambs were killed. The bone distribution is consistent with rural butchery and disposal of all the bones of the carcass with skull and foot bones present as well as meat bearing bones.

Contextual Interpretation

Layer **62**, the primary fill of the cut for *grubenhaus* 2 contains much less domestic debris than the other layers. Despite being a thicker layer it produced no bone during excavation and the lowest concentrations of bone and shell in the samples. Charcoal is also in low concentrations. It does however contain considerable quantities of fired clay, which is generally absent from the other layers, and a local concentration of charred cereal grain in the SE quadrant. It seems unlikely that this layer represents either rubbish or burning of the structure since so little domestic debris and charcoal is present. It could however be collapse or demolition, unassociated with fire, with perhaps the fired clay deriving from one or more hearths and the concentration of carbonised grains reflecting a single accident, perhaps during parching. The carbonised remains are very clean cereal, with little or no weed seeds and no chaff throughout the deposits giving no indication of crop processing, but rather the use of cleaned stored grain ready for consumption. This would suggest a domestic function for the structure unless the whole of context **62** is derived from elsewhere.

The layer above, **61**, contains higher concentrations of bone, shell and charcoal, with numerous bones also deriving from the excavation. This is much more typical of small quantities of rubbish accumulation and combined with the sequence of alternating lenses of charcoal rich material and silt which have the appearance of periodic flooding in the hollow of the cut, perhaps suggests that the structure is no longer functional or even there during the formation of this complex of layers.

The subsequent layer **60**, shows low concentrations of most inclusions, fewer bones collected during excavation and perhaps represents the infilling of a hollow over the feature long after it had gone.

Within *grubenhaus* 1 layer **34** shows low concentrations of all material and produced very little excavated bone. In contrast layer **28** was rich in excavated bone, and contained the highest concentrations of mussel shell, bone and charcoal. This layer probably represents small scale rubbish accumulation possibly after the structure went out of use and is similar to context **61** in *grubenhaus* 2.

General Interpretation

The samples are very small but taken to their limits a hypothesis can be proposed for testing in the future.

The very low ratio of weed seeds to cereal grain in the samples, the absence of chaff and the local concentration of 'cleaned' grain in context **62** suggests that only cleaned grain is being used at the site. This may be particular to the two structures excavated, with processing taking place elsewhere at the site, but it might equally indicate that the site may be using grain grown elsewhere and brought to the site ready for consumption. If the latter were to be true then it would suggest that cereal cultivation is not an element of the immediate farming economy. The identification and analysis of the carbonised plant remains may help to clarify this picture.

The complete absence of pigs is unusual on a Saxon site, although it may merely be due to the small size of the sample. The lack of diversity in the faunal remains with the dominance of cattle bones could also be due to the limited sample. Although such a dominance is not untypical of middle Saxon urban sites (O'Connor 1991; Rackham 1994; Bourdillon and Coy 1980) East Anglian rural settlements (Crabtree 1994) of the period show quite different patterns. In combination these factors could indicate a specific rather than general pastoral economy. It is possible that the site constitutes a cattle grazing

site, perhaps seasonally occupied in summer and producing butter and cheese, with a few sheep present and cereal food brought in from crops harvested elsewhere. This is a big leap from the diminuitive samples so far studied, but patterns may be markedly different on the fen margins, and a later site, of 9th century date, at nearby Fishtoft, despite a small bone sample had an unusual assemblage with more goat bones than is typical of much larger collections of similar date.

Some marine resources are being exploited. Mussels although very fragmented must have been quite common and dumped in layers at the site. Whether the fish are marine or freshwater will have to await identification by the specialist. These were certainly more common than the few bones from the samples suggest but compared to the meat derived from cattle and sheep would have made a small contribution to the diet.

These suggestions can barely be sustained on the evidence from this site but future, more extensive, excavations on sites of middle and late Saxon date in the area should ensure the recovery of samples of soil and bone adequate to test them.

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY CONSULTANCY

Key to codes used in the cataloguing of animal bones

SPECIES

BOS	cattle
CSZ	cattle size
SUS	pig
OVCA	sheep or goat
OVI	sheep
SSZ	sheep size
EQU	horse
CER	red deer
CAN	dog
MAN	human
UKN	unknown
CHIK	chicken
GOOS	goose, dom
LEP	hare
UNB	indet bird
MALL	duck, dom.
GULL	gull sp.

BONE

SKL	skull
TEMP	temporal
FRNT	frontal
PET	petrous
PAR	parietal
OCIP	occipital
ZYG	zygomatic
MAND	mandible
MAX	maxilla
ATL	atlas
AXI	axis
CEV	cervical vertebra
TRV	thoracic vertebra
LMV	lumbar vertebra
SAC	sacrum
CDV	caudal vertebra
SCP	scapula
HUM	humerus
RAD	radius
MTC	metacarpus
MC1-4	metacarpus 1-4
INN	innominate
ILM	ilium
PUB	pubis
ISH	ischium
FEM	femur
TIB	tibia
AST	astragalus
CAL	calcaneum
MTT	metatarsus
MT1-4	metatarsus 1-4
PH1	1st phalanx
PH2	2nd phalanx
PH3	3rd phalanx
LM1-LM3	Lower molar 1 - molar 3
UM1-UM3	upper molar 1 - molar 3
LPM1-LPM4	lower premolar 1-4
UPM1-UPM4	upper premolar 1-4
DLPM1-4	deciduous lower premolar 1-4
DUPM1-4	deciduous upper premolar 1-4
MNT	mandibular tooth
MXT	maxillary tooth
LBON	long bone
UNI	unidentified
STN	sternum
INC	incisor
TTH	indet. tooth
CMP	carpo-metacarpus

SIDE

W - whole
L - left side
R - right side
F - fragment

FUSION

Records the fused/unfused condition of the epiphyses
P - proximal; D - distal; E - acetabulum;
N - unfused; F - fused; A - anterior; C - caudal

TOOTH WEAR

Codes are those used in Grant, A. 1982 The use of tooth wear as a guide to the age of domestic animals, in B.Wilson, C.Grigson and S.Payne (eds) *Ageing and sexing animal bones from Archaeological sites, 91-108.*

Teeth are labelled as follows in the tooth wear column:

h ldpm4/dupm4	f ldpm2/dupm2
H lpm4/upm4	g ldpm3/dupm3
I lm1/um1	
J lm2/um2	
K lm3/um3	

ZONES

zones record the part of the bone present.
The key to each zone on each bone is on page 2

MEASUREMENTS

Any measurements are those listed in A.Von den Driesch (1976) *A Guide to the Measurement of Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites*, Peabody Museum Bulletin 1, Peabody Museum, Harvard, USA

ZONES - codes used to define zones on each bone

SKULL - 1. paraoccipital process
2. occipal condyle
3. intercornual protuberance
4. external acoustic meatus
5. frontal sinus
6. ectorbitale
7. entorbitale
8. temporal articular facet
9. facial tuber
0. infraorbital foramen

MANDIBLE
1. Symphyseal surface
2. diastema
3. lateral diastemal foramen
4. coronoid process
5. condylar process
6. angle
7. anterior dorsal acsending ramus posterior M3
8. mandibular foramen

VERTEBRA
1. spine
2. anterior epiphysis
3. posterior epiphysis
4. centrum
5. neural arch

SCAPULA
1. supraglenoid tubercle
2. glenoid cavity
3. origin of the distal spine
4. tuber of spine
5. posterior of neck with foramen
6. cranial angle of blade
7. caudal angle of blade

HUMERUS 1. head
2. greater tubercle
3. lesser tubercle
4. intertuberal groove
5. deltoid tuberosity
6. dorsal angle of olecranon fossa
7. capitulum
8. trochlea

RADIUS
1. medial half of proximal epiphysis
2. lateral half of proximal epiphysis
3. posterior proximal ulna scar and foramen
4. medial half of distal epiphysis
5. lateral half of distal epiphysis
6. distal shaft immediately above distal epiphysis

ULNA
1. olecranon tuberosity
2. trochlear notch- semilunaris
3. lateral coronoid process
4. distal epiphysis

METACARPUS -
1. medial facet of proximal artciulation, MC3
2. lateral facet of proximal articulation, MC4
3. medial distal condyle, MC3
4. lateral distal condyle, MC4
5. anterior distal groove and foramen
6. medial or lateral distal condyle

FIRST PHALANX
1. proximal epiphysis
2. distal articular facet

INNOMINATE
1. tuber coxae
2. tuber sacrale + scar
3. body of illium with dorso-medial foramen
4. iliopubic eminence
5. acetabular fossa
6. symphyseal branch of pubis
7. body of ischium
8. ischial tuberosity
9. depression for medial tendon of rectus femoris

FEMUR
1. head
2. trochanter major
3. trochanter minor
4. supracondyloid fossa
5. distal medial condyle
6. lateral distal condyle
7. distal trochlea
8. trochanter tertius

TIBIA
1. proximal medial condyle
2. proximal lateral condyle
3. intercondylar eminence
4. proximal posterior nutrient foramen
5. medial malleolus
6. lateral aspect of distal articulation
7. distal pre-epiphyseal portion of the diaphysis

CALCANEUM
1. calcaneal tuber
2. sustentaculum tali
3. processus anterior

METATARSUS
1. medial facet of proximal artciulation, MT3.
2. lateral facet of proximal articulation, MT4
3. medial distal condyle, MT3
4. lateral distal condyle, MT4
5. anterior distal groove and foramen
6. medial or lateral distal condyle

ARCHIVE CATALOGUE OF ANIMAL BONES FOR ST NICHOLAS SCHOOL, BOSTON SNS95

SITE	CON.	SPEC.	BONE	NO	SIDE	FUS	ZONES	TOOTH WEAR	COMMENTS
SNS95	28	CSZ	LMV	1	F	CFAF	234		CENTRUM
SNS95	28	CSZ	LMV	1	F	CFAF	24		CENTRUM-CHOPPED TRANS/VENTRALY
SNS95	28	CSZ	RIB	6	F				SHAFT FRAG
SNS95	28	CSZ	RIB	1	F				SHAFT FRAG-CHOPPED
SNS95	28	OVCA	TIB	1	R	DVO	567		DISTAL HALF-Bd-23.6 Dd-19.8
SNS95	28	OVCA	MAND	1	L		5		CONDYLE
SNS95	28	OVCA	RAD	1	R	DN	6		DISTAL SHAFT
SNS95	28	BOS	FEM	1	F				SHAFT FRAG
SNS95	28	BOS	MTT	1	R		12		PROX END AND SHAFT
SNS95	28	BOS	MTC	1	L		12		PROX HALF - Bp-50.5 Dp-31.2
SNS95	28	BOS	SCP	1	L	DF	1		DISTAL FRAG-SPLIT THROUGH GLENOID-?CHOPPED
SNS95	28	BOS	INN	1	R		2		ANTERIOR ILIAL SHAFT
SNS95	28	BOS	FEM	1	L	DF	567		DISTAL END
SNS95	28	BOS	FEM	1	R		4		DISTAL SHAFT-3 PIECES
SNS95	28	BOS	SKL	1	R				ZYGOMATIC FRAG
SNS95	28	BOS	SKL	1	R				ZYGOMATIC FRAG
SNS95	28	BOS	TIB	1	F				SHAFT FRAG
SNS95	28	CSZ	LBON	2	F				SHAFT FRAG-CALCINED
SNS95	28	OVCA	MAND	1	R		5		CONDYLE-SMALL-LAMB
SNS95	28	CSZ	TIB	2	F				SHAFT FRAG
SNS95	28	BOS	MTT	1	F				SHAFT FRAG-2 PIECES
SNS95	28	CSZ	LBON	2	F				SHAFT FRAG
SNS95	28	CSZ	LMV	1	F				TRANSVERSE PROCESS-CHARRED
SNS95	28	BOS	INN	1	R		9		ACET FRAG ILIUM
SNS95	28	CSZ	SAC	1	F				FRAG NEURAL SPINE
SNS95	28	CSZ	LMV	1	F				FRAG TRANSVERSE PROCESS
SNS95	28	CSZ	RIB	1	F				DISTAL FRAG
SNS95	28	BOS	SKL	1	L		8		TEMPORAL FRAG
SNS95	28	CSZ	LMV	1	F	CF			LATERAL FRAG
SNS95	28	BOS	MAND	1	R		23	G12H12	ANT PORTION-3 PIECES
SNS95	28	BOS	MAND	1	L		5		CONDYLE
SNS95	28	BOS	MAND	1	R		6		ANGLE OF JAW
SNS95	28	BOS	MAND	1	F		7		ANT FRAG ASCENDING RAMUS
SNS95	28	BOS	MAND	1	F				VENTRAL FRAG HORIZONTAL RAMUS
SNS95	28	CSZ	MAND	1	F				LATERAL FRAG ASCENDING RAMUS

SITE	CON.	SPEC.	BONE	NO	SIDE	FUS	ZONES	TOOTH WEAR	COMMENTS
SNS95	28	BOS	SCP	1	F				FRAG MARGIN-2 PIECES
SNS95	28	BOS	SCP	1	L				BLADE AND SPINE FRAG
SNS95	28	BOS	SCP	1	F		4		SPINE FRAG
SNS95	28	CSZ	UNI	9	F				INDET FRAG
SNS95	28	BOS	ATL	1	F				LATERAL PORTION-CALCINED
SNS95	28	BOS	MAX	1	F			I15J15	M1 AND 2 RIGHT SIDE-M2 LEFT SIDE
SNS95	28	BOS	MAX	4	F				FRAGS PROB FROM ABOVE AND BELOW
SNS95	28	BOS	MAX	1	L			J15K14	FLAT WEAR-LAST CUSP M3 OBLIQUELY WORN
SNS95	28	BOS	UM3	1	R			K15	FLAT WEAR BUT LAST CUSP SEVERELY OBLIQUE
SNS95	28	CSZ	SKL	2	F				INDET
SNS95	28	UNI	UNI	4	F				INDET SMALL FRAG
SNS95	28	UNI	UNI	1	F				CALCINED FRAG
SNS95	28	CSZ	SCP	2	F				BLADE FRAG
SNS95	28	CSZ	LBON	1	F				SHAFT FRAG
SNS95	28	CSZ	RAD	1	F				SHAFT FRAG-CALCINED
SNS95	28	CSZ	LBON	1	F				SHAFT FRAG-CALCINED
SNS95	28	CSZ	UNI	1	F				INDET
SNS95	28	BOS	INN	1	F				ISCHIAL SHAFT FRAG
SNS95	34	BOS	MAND	1	R		7	I16J16	POST HORIZONTAL RAMUS-3 PIECES-OLD ANIMAL
SNS95	34	CSZ	LMV	1	F				LATERAL FRAG WITH ZYGA
SNS95	34	CSZ	LBON	2	F				SHAFT FRAG
SNS95	34	BOS	HUM	1	L	DN	69		DISTAL SHAFT-CALF
SNS95	34	BOS	FEM	1	F				DISTAL SHAFT FRAG-CHARRED
SNS95	34	OVCA	TIB	1	L	DVC	567		DISTAL END Bd-26.2 Dd-19.9
SNS95	34	OVCA	RAD	1	R	PF	12		PROX END- Bp-31.1
SNS95	34	CSZ	LBON	1	F				SHAFT FRAG-CALCINED
SNS95	34	OVCA	MTC	1	F				SHAFT FRAG
SNS95	34	CSZ	LBON	1	F				SHAFT FRAG
SNS95	34	SSZ	UNI	1	F				INDET
SNS95	34	SSZ	HUM	1	F				SHAFT FRAG
SNS95	34	CSZ	UNI	1	F				INDET-JUV
SNS95	40	CSZ	LBON	1	F				SHAFT FRAG-CALCINED-?MTT
SNS95	40	SSZ	RIB	1	F				SHAFT FRAG
SNS95	40	SSZ	LBON	1	F				SHAFT FRAG
SNS95	40	OVCA	MAND	1	R		23		ANT RAMUS FRAG-WITH DEC TEETH ROOTS
SNS95	40	BOS	LM2	1	R			J6	
SNS95	40	BOS	RAD	1	R	PF	12		PROX END-Bp-70.8 Dp-37.0

SITE	CON.	SPEC.	BONE	NO	SIDE	FUS	ZONES	TOOTH WEAR	COMMENTS
SNS95	40	BOS	TIB	1	R	PF	12		PROX END-2 PIECES BROKEN IN ANTIQUITY
SNS95	40	BOS	ULN	1	R		3		SHAFT FRAG
SNS95	40	CSZ	RIB	1	F				SHAFT FRAG
SNS95	40	CSZ	LBON	5	F				SHAFT FRAG
SNS95	40	BOS	RAD	1	R		3		PROX SHAFT FRAG
SNS95	40	BOS	MAND	1	F				FRAG OF ANGLE OF JAW
SNS95	40	SSZ	LBON	1	F				SHAFT FRAG
SNS95	40	UNI	UNI	4	F				INDET
SNS95	40	BOS	MAND	1	F				VENTRAL FRAG RAMUS-2 PIECES
SNS95	40	CSZ	UNI	1	F				INDET
SNS95	60	BOS	HUM	1	F	PF	1		PROX FRAG-CHEWED-S/W QUAD
SNS95	60	CSZ	UNI	1	F				INDET- S/W QUAD
SNS95	60	SSZ	LBON	1	F				SHAFT FRAG-2 PIECES-S/W QUAD
SNS95	60	BOS	MTC	1	L	DF	4		FRAG DISTAL END
SNS95	60	CSZ	LBON	2	F				SHAFT FRAG
SNS95	60	UNI	UNI	1	F				INDET-CALCINED
SNS95	60	CSZ	UNI	1	F				INDET
SNS95	60	CSZ	SCP	1	F				BLADE FRAG
SNS95	60	SSZ	HUM	1	F				SHAFT FRAG
SNS95	60	BOS	HUM	1	L				DISTAL SHAFT FRAG-OLD ANIMAL
SNS95	60	OVCA	LI	1	L				SL WEAR-N/W QUAD
SNS95	60	SSZ	RIB	1	F				SHAFT FRAG-CALCONED-N/W QUAD
SNS95	60	CSZ	UNI	2	F				INDET-CALCINED-N/W QUAD
SNS95	60	UNI	UNI	1	F				INDET N/W QUAD
SNS95	60	BOS	ULN	1	R		2		ANT FRAG ARTIC -N/E QUAD
SNS95	60	CSZ	LBON	1	F				SHAFT FRAG- CALCINED N/E QUAD
SNS95	60	SSZ	LBON	1	F				SHAFT FRAG N/E QUAD
SNS95	60	SSZ	LBON	3	F				SHAFT FRAG N/E QUAD
SNS95	60	BOS	AST	1	R				Bp-38.3 Bd-35.0 GL1-59.0 GLM-53.1
SNS95	61	CSZ	LBON	1	F				SHAFT FRAG-CALCINED N/E QUAD
SNS95	61	UNI	LBON	1	F				SHAFT FRAG N/E QUAD
SNS95	61	SSZ	RIB	1	F				SHAFT FRAG-CARNIVORE? N/E QUAD
SNS95	61	OVCA	FEM	1	F				SHAFT FRAG N/W QUAD
SNS95	61	UNI	UNI	4	F				INDET S/W QUAD
SNS95	61	BOS	MTT	1	F				SHAFT FRAG-FIRED S/W QUAD
SNS95	61	CSZ	RIB	3	F				SHAFT FRAG-FIRED S/W QUAD
SNS95	61	CSZ	LBON	1	F				SHAFT FRAG- CALCINED S/W QUAD

SITE	CON.	SPEC.	BONE	NO	SIDE	FUS	ZONES	TOOTH WEAR	COMMENTS
SNS95	61	CSZ	LBON	1	F				SHAFT FRAG - FIRED S/W QUAD
SNS95	61	CSZ	LBON	1	F				SHAFT FRAG S/W QUAD
SNS95	61	CSZ	LBON	1	F				SHAFT FRAG
SNS95	61	BOS	RAD	1	L	PF	23		SPLIT PROX END- ?BUTCHERED S/W QUAD
SNS95	61	CSZ	UNI	3	F				INDET S/W QUAD
SNS95	61	CSZ	UNI	1	F				INDET-FIRED S/W QUAD
SNS95	61	SSZ	LBON	1	F				SHAFT FRAG S/W QUAD
SNS95	61	OVI	HC	1	L				DISTAL HALF HC-?EWE/WETHER S/W QUAD
SNS95	61	OVCA	LM2	1	L			J12	S/W QUAD
SNS95	61	SSZ	LBON	1	F				SHAFT FRAG-CHEWED? S/W QUAD
SNS95	61	CSZ	SKL	1	F				INDET S/W QUAD
SNS95	61	CSZ	SKL	1	F				INDET-CHARRED S/W QUAD
SNS95	61	CSZ	LMV	1	F				ANT ZYGA S/W QUAD
SNS95	61	CSZ	UNI	1	F				INDET-CHOPPED S/W QUAD
SNS95	61	UNI	CEV	1	F				FRAG ZYGA S/W QUAD
SNS95	61	CSZ	UNI	1	F				INDET S/W QUAD
SNS95	61	BOS	MTP	1	F				FRAG PROX END-CALCINED S/W QUAD
SNS95	61	UNIB	LBON	1	F				SHAFT FRAG S/W QUAD
SNS95	61	OVCA	HUM	1	R				DISTAL SHAFT FRAG- POSSIBLY UNFUSED S/W QUAD
SNS95	61	BOS	MTT	1	L		125		PROX END AND SHAFT-PROX CHEWED S/E QUAD
SNS95	61	CSZ	RIB	5	F				SHAFT FRAG S/E QUAD
SNS95	61	CSZ	LBON	1	F				SHAFT FRAG- CALCINED S/E QUAD
SNS95	61	SSZ	RIB	1	F				SHAFT FRAG-KNIFE CUTS-CALCINED S/E QUAD
SNS95	61	CSZ	UNI	1	F				INDET- 2PIECES S/E QUAD
SNS95	61	UNI	UNI	3	F				INDET S/E QUAD
SNS95	61	CSZ	UNI	1	F				INDET S/E QUAD
SNS95	61	CSZ	UNI	2	F				INDET S/E QUAD
SNS95	61	BOS	SKL	1	L		8		TEMPORAL FRAG S/E QUAD
SNS95	61	CSZ	RIB	1	F				SHAFT FRAG S/E QUAD
SNS95	61	CSZ	UNI	1	F				INDET S/E QUAD
SNS95	61	OVCA	TIB	1	R	PN	3		FRAG PROX EPI S/E QUAD
SNS95	61	CSZ	LMV	1	F				ANT ZYGA FRAG S/E QUAD
SNS95	61	OVCA	TIB	1	L	DN	7		DISTAL SHAFT S/E QUAD
SNS95	61	BOS	TIB	1	F				DISTAL SHAFT FRAG-2 PIECES S/E QUAD
SNS95	61	OVCA	TIB	1	L		4		PROX SHAFT FRAG S/E QUAD
SNS95	61	SSZ	HUM	1	F				SHAFT FRAG S/E QUAD
SNS95	61	SSZ	TIB	2	F				SHAFT FRAG S/E QUAD

SITE	CON.	SPEC.	BONE	NO	SIDE	FUS	ZONES	TOOTH WEAR	COMMENTS
SNS95	61	SSZ	LBON	1	F				SHAFT FRAG- 2PIECES S/E QUAD
SNS95	61	SSZ	LBON	3	F				SHAFT FRAG S/E QUAD
SNS95	61	SSZ	FEM	1	F				SHAFT FRAG S/E QUAD
SNS95	61	OVCA	HUM	1	F				SHAFT FRAG S/E QUAD
SNS95	68	CSZ	LBON	4	F				SHAFT FRAG- CALCINED

SNS95: Assessment Report on the Post-Roman Pottery

Jane Young

CLAU 11.08.95

1. Introduction

A small but important group of 29 sherds was recovered from the site. The pottery was examined under x20 binocular microscope and was recorded at basic CLAU archive level (ware type by sherd count with note of diagnostic vessel form) using CLAU classification (see Appendices 1 and 2). The basic archive is described in appendix 3.

2. Condition

With few exceptions the pottery recovered was unworn. The material however was fragmentary and several of the shell-tempered sherds were heavily leached. It is difficult to determine the cause of this leaching, as one vessel from context 34 has joining sherds one of which is heavily leeched while the other appears completely fresh.

3. Site Location

The middle Saxon Maxey-type wares were confined to the two *Grubenhaus*. The more complete examples coming from *Grubenhaus* 1. Later medieval to early modern material was recovered from other deposits on the site.

4. Overall Chronology and Source

Middle Saxon

Maxey-type ware

The discovery by Peter Addyman in 1960 of a hand-made calcite gritted ware, dominating his Group III assemblages at Maxey, resulted in the first characterisation of this ware. The vessels were flat bottomed with simple bucket and barrel shapes, usually with a flat or slightly everted rim. Sherds showed evidence of coil building and were well finished, probably with finger smoothing whilst the pot was still wet.

Thermoluminescent dating of Maxey sherds gave dates of 780 and 830 (+ or - a standard deviation of 15%), and confirming a Middle Saxon date for the ware.

Work carried out as part of the East Midlands Saxon Pottery Project has shown that there are two distinct fabric types within this tradition.

Northern Maxey-type Ware (MAX)

Thin section analysis of this material shows that it is tempered with fragments of bivalve shell sometimes in association with quartz, chert/flint and oolitic limestone. The ware was made in a number of centres in Lincolnshire probably in areas close to the Lincolnshire limestone with nearby outcrops of glacial sands. Visually the ware has been divided into several sub fabrics some of which appear to be chronological indicators.

The first grouping (fabric group A) which is less common is of thin-walled competently made bucket or barrel shaped vessels, similar in shape to those found at Maxey. The fabric is often quite hard, the surfaces are finger smoothed, masking the dense fine shell. Much care has been taken with the finishing of these vessels, coils are 10 to 20 millimetres high but are visible in section only. The core is always reduced and surface colour is patchy reddish browns to black. The rims appear to have been cut leaving a characteristic inner and or outer lip to the upright flat top. Although there is no direct dating evidence, this group tentatively appears to be confined to the earlier period of Maxey-type ware use. This group was not found on the St Nicholas School site.

The second grouping (fabric group B) is much more various, whereas the fabric of the first group visually appears to be the same, there are several different visual fabric groupings in the second group. Further petrological-analysis is needed to determine how valid these fabrics are before this group is sub-divided. This grouping seems to be less well made, vessels are thicker walled, coils

are 15 to 25 millimetres and although the surfaces are smoothed they are not always as successful at masking the shell as in the previous group. Coils are sometimes visible on the surface of sherds especially on larger vessels. Vessels in this group tend to have a more rounded profile and rims tend to be more often slightly everted although most are still flat. The flattening appears on some rims to have been done with the fingers. This fabric was found on the St Nicholas School site although unfortunately only one reconisable vessel profile was found. The vessel found in context 28 was curved sided with a triangular perforated lug and had a carefully flattened rim. This vessel shape is usually found in the early/mid to late 8th century.

The third main group (fabric group C) includes much coarser shell and although basically the vessels are still coil-built some of the rims appear to have been wheel-finished. This group is probably only current during the 9th century. This fabric was not found on the site neither was ELFS a 9th century middle-Saxon type also found on sites in Lincolnshire.

Southern Maxey-type Ware (RMAX)

Maxey-type pottery from sites to the south of the county and outside of Lincolnshire were found on petrological analysis to have a distinctly different petrology. The shell temper of this group is characterised by the presence of fragments of bryozoa and also includes a wide range of microfossils and echinoid fragments. This fabric group is similar to the later St Neot's-type ware of the area. All of the sherds from the Maxey site are of this fabric. The group is as yet unknown in the north of Lincolnshire athough it dominates Middle Saxon sites in the south of the county. This fabric was present on the site although again only one vessel profile was reconstructable. The vessel shape of the sherds from context 34 was a simple bucket one with fairly thin even walls and a carefully finished flat rim similar to vessels recovered from the Maxey site.

Medieval

A small amount of medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered. The Medieval material includes a sherd from a Toynton Kiln 1 jug dated to *c.*1275-1325. The remaining medieval sherds are of unprovenanced local or non local fabrics of both glazed and coarse wares. The post-medieval material is of common local and regional types.

5. Discussion

The material from Boston represents a small, but nevertheless important assemblage of Middle Saxon pottery. It has not only been invaluable in helping to define the boundary between the distribution of Northern Maxey-type ware and Southern Maxey-type ware but also in pointing to a previously unknown area of middle-Saxon occupation. The presence of both types of Maxey-type ware indicates that the area drew it's supplies from more than one market. There is an absence of material of pre 8th century or post 8th century Saxon date and this possibly indicates that occupation of this site was confined to the 8th century.

6. Summary of Recommendations

It was recommended that the two rim sherds should be drawn and this has been done.

1) A note of the pottery should be published together with the site information.

APPENDIX 1 CLAU MEDIEVAL POTTERY CODES

Ware code	description	period	earliest horizon	latest horizon
BL	BLACKWARE	PMED	PMH3	EMH
BS	BROWN STONEWARE	PMED	PMH7	EMH
GRE	GLAZED RED EARTHENWARES	PMED	PMH3	PMH9
LPM	EARLY MODERN OR MODERN	EMOD	EMH	EMH
MAX	NORTHERN MAXEY-TYPE WARE	MSAX	ASH2	ASH6?
MED	MEDIEVAL	MED	MH4	MH10
MISC	UNDATED MISCELLANEOUS FABRICS	ND	ASH1	EMH
RMAX	SOUTHERN MAXEY-TYPE WARE	MSAX	ASH2	ASH6?
SLIP	SLIPWARE (GENERAL)	PMED	PMH4	EMH
TOY	TOYNTON WARE;KILN 1 (ROSES)	MED	MH5	MH6
UNGS	UNGLAZED GREENSAND	SN-MED	ASH11	MH7

APPENDIX 2: CLAU MEDIEVAL POTTERY DATING 5TH TO 19TH CENTURIES

SEP 1994

HORIZONS	DATING	PERIOD
ASH1	5TH - ?L7TH	ANGLO-SAXON
ASH2	?L7TH - ?L7/E8TH	MIDDLE SAXON
ASH3	?E8TH - ?M8TH	
ASH4	?M8TH - ?L8TH	
ASH5	?E9TH - ?M9TH	
ASH6	?M9TH - ?L9TH	
ASH7	?L9TH	LATE SAXON
ASH8	L9TH - E10TH	
ASH9	E/M10TH - M10TH	
ASH10	M10TH - L10TH	
ASH11	L10TH	
ASH12	E11TH - ?E/M11TH	SAXO-NORMAN
ASH13	?E/M11TH - M/L11TH	
ASH14	L11TH - E/M12TH	
MH1	?E/M12TH - M12TH	EARLY MEDIEVAL
MH2	M12TH - M/L12TH	
MH3	M/L12TH - E13TH	
MH4	E13TH - E/M13TH	
MH5	E/M13TH - ?L13TH	HIGH MEDIEVAL
MH6	?L13TH - ?M14TH	
MH7	?M14TH - ?L14TH	LATE MEDIEVAL
MH8	?L14TH -?E15TH	
MH9	?E15TH - M/L15	
MH10	M/L15TH - L15TH	
PMH1	E16TH-M16TH	EARLY POST-MEDIEVAL
PMH2	M16TH-M/L16TH	
PMH3	M/L16TH-E17TH	POST MEDIEVAL
PMH4	E17TH-M17TH	
PMH5	M17TH-M/L17TH	
PMH6	M/L17TH-L17TH	
PMH7	L17TH-E18TH	
PMH8	E18TH-M18TH	LATE POST-MEDIEVAL
PMH9	M18TH-L18TH	
PMH10	L18TH-E19TH	
EMH	L18TH-20TH	EARLY MODERN

APPENDIX 3 SNS95 POST-ROMAN POTTERY ARCHIVE

Context	Ware	Sherds	Form	Comments
01	BL	1	-	SLIP;18TH
01	BL	1	BOWL	18/19TH
01	BS	1	-	-
01	GRE	1	-	-
01	LPM	2	-	-
01	MED	1	-	SCRAP
02	MISC	1	BOWL	FABRIC INCLUDES QUARTZ + OCC GREENSAND + OCC FLINT;?DATE;WELL WORN
02	UNGS	2	-	SV
13	MED	1	JUG?	SCRAP
13	SLIP	1	OPEN	BASE;BRICK RED FABRIC;WHITE SLIP RED DEC; ? LOCAL
27	TOY	2	JUG?	BS;? ID;SV
28	MAX	7	TRIANGULAR LUGGED; CURVED SIDES	FLAT TOP RIM; FABRIC B;SURFACES LEECHED
34	RMAX	2	BUCKET SHAPED VESSEL	FLAT TOP RIM;JOINING;ODD AS ONE SHERD IS COMPLETELY LEACHED
40	RMAX	1	-	BS
60	MAX	1	-	BS;FABRIC B
60	MAX	2	-	BS;? ID;FABRIC INCLUDES OCC QUARTZ
60	RMAX	2	-	SCRAPS

SNS95 POST-ROMAN POTTERY DATING ARCHIVE

Context	Earliest horizon	Latest horizon	Probable horizon
01	EMH	EMH	-
02	R	MH7	-
13	PMH5	PMH8	-
27	MH5	MH6	-
28	ASH3	ASH4	-
34	ASH2	ASH4	-
40	ASH2	ASH6	-
60	ASH2	ASH6	-

Report on the slag and baked/fired clay from St Nicholas School, Boston

SITE CODE: SNS95
LCCM Accession No: 37.95
NGR: TF 3369 4360

The few pieces of slag are all fuel ash slags which are not indicative of any particular process, but indicate that a hot fire has been in contact with silica rich substances. All the baked/fired clay from the site is of a consistent fabric and this has a high silica content. The clay is a silty clay with iron and organic inclusions, and with a certain amount of shell. It has not been worked to any particular degree and certainly cannot be described as wedged (the process of kneeding clay to remove air and large/excessive inclusions). There is a minor degree of variability in the fabric and some appears to be slightly better worked, but this is probably a matter of chance and is probably not significant for the interpretation of the site. The internal, reduced fired areas, often have a purplish colouration, suggesting that the clay has a reasonable salt content that is reacting with the iron also within the clay.

Most clay structures suffer from wear and tear and patches of repairs can sometimes be identified when the baked/fired clay has a layered structure. This is most commonly noted when the old surfaces have been vitrified. No layering was noted amonst this assemblage but the pieces are generally so small and low fired that without a high powered microscope it would not be noticeable. Baked/fired clay surfaces are usually oxidised but once sealed within a structure by a repair and reheated they will change and have a reduced fired appearance. The colour of the clays therefore cannot be used as an indictor of whether they have ever acted as a structural surface.

The largest assemblage is from context 62, the lowest fill of *Grubenhaus* 2. The baked/fired clay is generally poorly fired and few pieces have a recognisable surface or show any sign of a wattle support. There is also no daub (clay with added organic temper) or any straw or reed impressions. The assemblage from the environmantal samples includes a quantity of local unfired clay. Unfortunately this evidence does not allow an interpretation and at the same time does not restrict the possibilities of activities that could have been the source of this material.

There is a major difficulty in interpreting these assemblages that lack any definable character. If good quality clay or space is in short supply it is easier to build a domestic hearth/ bread oven/ building/ iron furnace/ any structure/ with a wattle framework which will support the clay insulation, however it is just as possible to build a structure- of what ever size- with thick clay walls and the minimum amount of firm structural support. If the structure is then taken up to very high temperatures (in experimental iron smelting 1200 degrees) it is suprising how little of the clay is baked or fired. In appearance the disintegrated remains are not dissimilar from an ordinary garden bonfire.

The quantity of material suggests that there was some sort of structure asscociated with or within the *Grubenhaus,* that it did not have a wattle framework, but was heated to reasonably high temperatures. It was perhaps associated with some agricultural, craft or domestic purposes rather than anything specifically industrial due to the lack of any associated industrial debris. In conclusion all the baked/fired clay could derive from a domestic hearth, which was perhaps occasionally repaired, or from some structure associated with a more elaborate process.

St Nicholas School, Boston (watching brief/excavation)

Site code: SNS95
LCCM Accession No: 37.95
NGR: TF 3369 4360

CATALOGUE OF SLAG AND FIRED/BAKED CLAY

Context	Type	Quantity	Weight	Comments
62	SLAG	5	17	DARK GREY BUBB FAS
28	FIRE	1	14	REDU
28	FIRE	2	47	OXID PURP WHITE SURFACE
34	FIRE	20	161	MOST OXID, FEW PURP, FEW SURF,1XWATTLE IMPRESS
40	FIRE	8	42	MOST,OXID,FEW PURP, FEW SURF
60 N/W	FIRE	5	7	50/50 OXID/REDU
60	FIRE	9	27	OXID, FEW REDU,SOME PURP
61 N/E	FIRE	2	17	OXID,1XSURF
61 S/W	FIRE	8	23	MOST OXID, SURF?
62 N/E	FIRE	24	187	MOST OXID, SOME PURP
62 S/E	FIRE	12	68	MOST OXID, SOME SLIGHT PURP
62	FIRE	102	1023	MOST OXID, FEW SLIGHT PURP, SURF-MOST FLAT SOME ODD

ABBREVIATIONS

BUBB	BUBBLEY
FAS	FUEL ASH SLAG
FIRE	FIRED/BAKED CLAY
IMPRESS	IMPRESSIONS
OXID	OXIDISED
PURP	PURPLISH
REDU	REDUCED
SURF	SURFACE/S

SNS95 List of contexts

Context	Description
[01]	Dark grey silt clay topsoil layer common to entire development site
[02]	Mid-brown silty-clay layer below topsoil; common to most of the site, appears to seal archaeology
[03]	Light blue/grey, thin clay band common to most of the site; sealed by [05] in most places. Would appear to be a flood deposit. Same as [64].
[04]	Dark brown clay-silt layer sealed by [03], would appear to show a less controlled land use than [02]
[05]	Mid-brown layer of clay silt sealed by [02] which the ?Saxon features appear to cut through ?cultivation horizon
[06]	Light blue clay; flood deposit sealed by [04]; seen in various locations of the site where excavation deep enough
[07]	Mid-brown clay-silt layer pre-dating [06]: would appear similar deposit to [04], only seen in deepest excavation cuttings
[08]	Mid-grey/brown fill of east west water course, 4m north of RS3
[09]	Cut of [08]: ?water course/ditch
[10]	General feature number given to an east west ditch with blue fill seen in the bottom of manhole RS4
[11]	Fill of modern feature [12] seen in section east face of pipe trench between S3 and S8
[12]	Modern feature cut; in section between S3 and S8; containing [11]
[13]	Mid grey-brown fill of shallow modern scoop; seen in section of pipe trench between S3 and S8
[14]	Shallow modern scoop below topsoil; contains [13] in pipe trench between S3 and S8
[15]	Brick rubble below topsoil [17] on north side of site; top fill of cut [23]
[16]	General context given to the coarse of a creek on an east-west line, and filling most of trench west of RS2
[17]	Thin layer of topsoil over filled modern ditch [23]; seals deposit [15]; ?recent import
[18]	Deposit of clay filling the top of cut [23] at the north end of the site
[19]	Thin organic deposit in cut [23] sealed by [18] and sealing [20]
[20]	Deposit of tarmac in cut [23] may be the remains of a path bordering the drain
[21]	Mixed rubble context; fill of [23]; sealed by [21], seals [22]
[22]	Deposit of clean builders sand lying down the south edge of modern ditch [23]
[23]	Cut of large modern drain along north boundary of the site
[24]	Brick footing in the east section of S2, two courses high
[25]	Cut containing wall footing [24] square in section

[26] Brick footing just to the south of [24] in east section of S2
[27] On the east side of roundabout area; top fill of cut [30], sealed by [02] seals deposit [34]
[28] Shell-filled charcoal deposit in cut [30]; sealed by [33] and sealing [29]
[29] Thin layer of blue-grey clay lining cut [30]; sealed by [28]
[30] Cut of possible Grubnenhaus on east side of roundabout against west section
[31] Fill of extinct ?creek; cut by ?Grubenhaus, [30]
[32] Natural fresh water creek, extending under cut [30]
[33] Blue-grey silty clay deposit in cut [30]; sealed by [34], sealing [28] rubbish deposits
[34] Mid-grey silty clay deposit with much charcoal some shell and bone sealed by [35], sealing [33]
contained by cut [30]
[35] Thick concentration of mussel shell on the south side of cut [30]; sealed by [27], sealing [34];
would appear to be a rubbish deposit, deposited from south side of void
[36] Brown-grey clay; top fill of north/south linear feature (cut [38]); seals [37] apparently sealed by [02]
[37] Blue-grey clay deposit in the bottom of north/south cut [38]; would appear to be natural in-wash.
[38] North-south linear ditch cut with V-profile; containing [37]; cuts [05]
[39] Brown-grey clay-silt; top fill of cut [42]/[63] (same as [60] in exc. cutting)
[40] Grey-black clay-silt deposit: contains mid-Saxon pottery; same as [61]
[41] Brown/yellow with red patches silt context in the base of cut [42]/[63]: same as [62]
[42] Flat bottomed pit-type feature in west footing of main building; see cut [63] (*?Grubenhaus*)
[43] Fill of east-west ditch [44] (same as [45] in cut [47])
[44] East-west linear cut (fills = [43]a+b). Probably contemporary with [47]
[45] Upper fill of north-south ditch [47]. Cut by ditches [49] and [51]
[46] Primary fill of north-south ditch [47]: ?related to other blue clay-filled ditch in base of
manhole RS4
[47] Cut, north-south ditch (contains [45] and [46]). Probably contemporary with east-west
ditch [44] and possibly [38] (parallel to east)
[48] Brown clay fill of ditch [49]; on N/W - S/E alignment
[49] Cut of ditch, orientated N/W - S/E. Later than ditch [44] + [47]; relationship with [51] not
established
[50] Fill of east-west ditch [51]: mid-brown/grey silty clay-silt
[51] Cut, east-west ditch; extends through centre of roundabout; west of roundabout, cuts [45].
Later than the blue clay-filled ditches [44], [47], and [38]. Relationship to [49] not known

[52] - [59]: Context numbers not used

[60] Clean, smooth-textured, stiff, mid-brown silty clay (excavation cutting); almost identical to overlying natural clay horizon; possibly the same material which filled the top of Grubenhaus [63] (certainly slopes into void) but containing increased density of cultural inclusion. ?Wash/flood deposit

[61] Composite of interleaving light grey silty clay lenses + lenses of dirty silt and charcoal; up to 7cm depth; contained within = small fragments of bone + pottery; extends over entire area of void [63], resting over top of [62]. Occupation debris/silting; could post-date the demolition of the ?Grubenhaus

[62] Lowest deposit in cut [63]; up to 11cm of moderately clean fawn/brown silty soil containing high % of fired clay or silt fragments (some ?slag also present). ??Building destruction horizon

[63] Cut of ?Grubenhaus: sub-rectangular, steep-sided, orientated north-south

[64] Compact blue/grey (orange reticulation) clay seen over entire development area; same as [03], flood deposit (pre-dates Grubenhauser)

[65] ?Fill of post hole/pad, south end of Grubenhaus 2, [63]: dark, mixed charcoal and silt.

12.6 Site archive

The basic site archive consists of the following elements:

x1 A4 file containing 61 context record sheets, watching brief daily log sheets and site drawings prepared on A4 graph paper

1:100 and 1:200 site plans (trench locations)

x24 site drawings

x6 colour print films

x1 colour slide film

x2 boxes of finds (pottery, animal bone, fired clay, slag)

x3 specialist reports

A detailed project archive is currently being prepared; to be submitted to LCCM within six months.