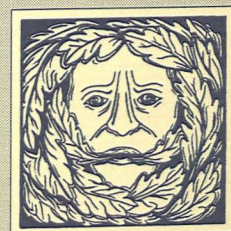


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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON
LAND SOUTH OF THE CEMETERY,
STATION ROAD,
SUTTERTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SSR95)**



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON
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Work Undertaken For
Land and Buildings Consultancy

January 1996

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1. SUMMARY

An evaluation was undertaken to determine the archaeological implications of proposed development of land south of the cemetery, Station Road, Sutterton, Lincolnshire.

The investigation site is located very close to small settlements of Romano-British date (c. AD 50-410). Additionally, scatters of medieval pottery (AD 1066-1500), perhaps indicating the locations of former occupation sites, have been noted immediately east, and in the northeast corner, of the proposed development area.

Geophysical survey of the site recorded magnetic anomalies that possibly represented buried ditches and pits. Fieldwalking recovered a scatter of Romano-British pottery from the same area as these geophysical signals, and a localised distribution of medieval pottery was identified.

It was anticipated, on the basis of this evidence, that Romano-British and medieval remains could survive within the proposed development area. In consequence, nine trenches were excavated to test for the presence of archaeological deposits.

An ancient water course, four ditches and a pit, the latter two indicated by geophysical survey, were identified in four of the trenches. One of the ditches and the pit contained waste materials from an industrial source, possibly derived from salt extraction processes, dated to the Roman period. Associated with these features were pottery types ranging from low to high status local and imported wares, and industrial wares. These indicate that a high status settlement exists in proximity.

The bone assemblage recovered from the site included evidence for the exploitation of sheep and cattle, with pig being represented to a lesser degree.

The results of the evaluation have determined the presence of Roman industrial waste materials and also indicate that a high status settlement exists in proximity to the investigation area.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

Between the 11th and 22nd December 1995, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land south of the cemetery, Station Road, Sutterton, Lincolnshire. This was in response to proposed development of the site, as detailed in planning application B18/0206/94. Previously, the area had been subject to other archaeological investigations that included a desk-top study of the area, geophysical examination and a fieldwalking survey of the site. The present evaluation excavation was commissioned by the Land and Buildings Consultancy and carried out by Archaeological Project Services in accordance with a brief set by the Community Archaeologist for Boston Borough Council.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Sutterton is situated 8km southwest of Boston and 14km north of Spalding, in the civil parish of Sutterton, Boston District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The town is located 8km from the southwest corner of the Wash, and between the Rivers Welland, to the south, and Witham, which lies to the north.

Located at a height of c. 3m OD, the investigation area is situated on the west

side of Station Road and south of the cemetery, half a kilometre southeast of the centre of Sutterton village. Centred on National Grid Reference TF 285 352, the proposed development site covers approximately 3.7 hectares (Fig. 2).

Two soil regimes occur on the proposed development site. Pepperthorpe/Tanvats Association typical alluvial gley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 319) occur on the west side of the area. These soils, usually found near areas settled in the Anglo-Saxon period, probably represent early reclaimed land (Robson 1990, 30). On the east side of the site are Wisbech Association calcareous alluvial gley soils. Both soil types are developed in marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 361). Beneath this marine alluvium is glacial drift that was deposited in a geological basin between the Lincolnshire Wolds and the East Anglian Heights (Harden 1978, 5). These glacial deposits in turn overlie a solid geology of Jurassic clays.

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Sutterton is located in an area of archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British to post-medieval periods (see Fig. 2). Prehistoric activity is unknown in the area, though burial by alluvium may be responsible for this lack of evidence, rather than any real absence of early exploitation.

Artefacts suggest that two Romano-British settlements are located immediately east (SMR12512) and northeast (B18/018) of the proposed development area. Moreover, in close proximity to the former site are cropmarks of an undated trackway and possible rectangular enclosures. If related to the artefact scatters, these could indicate that the Romano-British settlement is much more extensive than presently known.

Although located on the southern edge of Sutterton village, the investigation site is situated in an area of numerous discoveries and sites of medieval and later date.

Cartographic evidence would suggest that the investigation site was part of a large medieval open field. Just to the east are earthworks of ridge and furrow ploughing, which have probably survived due to enclosure within Algarkirk Park, created in the 17th century. Hedgerow dating indicates that the southern boundary of the site was established at about the end of the 16th century.

Quantities of medieval artefacts have been recognised immediately to the east (SMR13071) and also in the northeast corner of the investigation site (Lindsey Archaeological Services, 1995). The former probably indicates the location of lost medieval occupation site(s), perhaps farmhouses or cottages. In addition, as noted above, the trackway and rectangular enclosures evident as cropmarks are undated. Consequently, their possible association with the medieval occupation site on the east side of Station Road (SMR13071), or the Algarkirk shrunken medieval settlement (SMR10025) further east, cannot be discounted. Holly House Farm, located immediately beyond the southeast corner of the investigation site, was in existence by 1828 (Archaeological Project Services 1994).

Geophysical survey of the area identified a series of magnetic anomalies in the southern and western parts of the proposed development area. A parallel pair of intermittent curvilinear anomalies was revealed crossing the site on an approximately northeast-southwest alignment. Tentatively identified as a double ditch, this was accompanied by responses characteristic of pits and ditches (see Fig. 3). However, it was not certain

whether the various magnetic anomalies had an archaeological or geological origin (Geophysical Surveys of Bradford 1995, 2).

A fieldwalking survey of the area recovered a scatter of Romano-British pottery of late 2nd-3rd century date. The location of this material largely coincided with the distribution of magnetic anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. Additionally, a spread of pottery of medieval and later date was recorded. A noticeable increase in the density of this scatter was identified immediately south of the cemetery, close to Station Road (Lindsey Archaeological Services 1995, fig. 2). This matched the concentration of medieval ceramics noted in the desk-top survey (Archaeological Project Services 1994, 7; fig. 3).

3. AIMS

The aims of the evaluation were to locate archaeological deposits and determine, if present, their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability, documentation, quality of setting and amenity value. The purpose of this identification and assessment of deposits was to establish their significance, in order to facilitate recommendations for an appropriate strategy that could be integrated with the proposed development programme.

4. METHODS

Nine trenches between c. 20-30m by 2m were opened (Fig. 4) and selected deposits partially or fully excavated by hand to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual material. The trenches were positioned to investigate magnetic anomalies revealed by the geophysical survey, and artefact clusters identified

during the fieldwalking survey. In addition, trenches were located to provide sample coverage of the whole development site in order to evaluate the potential survival of archaeological deposits across the area.

All nine trenches were opened by machine and then cleaned by hand and examined. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed within the trench was allocated a unique reference number with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at a scale of 1:20.

5. ANALYSIS

Finds recovered from the deposits identified in the evaluation were examined and a period date was assigned where possible (Appendix 2). Records of the deposits and features recognised during the evaluation were also examined. Phasing was assigned based on artefact dating and the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. A stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was created and phased. Trenches 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7 were devoid of any archaeological features. Three phases were identified:

- Phase 1 Natural deposits
- Phase 2 Romano-British deposits
- Phase 3 Modern deposits

5.1 Phase 1 Natural Deposits

Observed across the entire site, the earliest deposit encountered was a layer of yellow brown silt (24). Within the western extent of the area, in trenches 1-3, it was more sandy (9, 61-63). This has been interpreted as a natural alluvial deposit.

Cut through this within trench 1 was a

linear feature (7) 0.85m wide by 0.75m long (as exposed) and 0.45m deep, interpreted as a palaeochannel. The channel contained a primary and tertiary fill (6 and 8 respectively) of light brown silty clay.

Overlying fill 8 was a layer of light brown silty clay (5), sealed by a deposit of grey-blue clay (4), that in turn was overlaid by a grey silty clay (3). These deposits represent a change in the prevalent depositional environment, when clay rather than silt was being deposited. Additionally, the clays were confined to the western extent of the area. Each of these constitute natural alluvium.

5.2 Phase 2 Romano-British Deposits

Cutting the phase 1 silt 24 within trench 5 was an east-west linear feature (57), 2.2m wide by 1.6m long (as exposed) and 0.7m deep. Interpreted as a ditch, it contained a primary fill of brown grey clayey silt (56), and is dated to the mid-late 3rd century. Overlying the primary fill were five secondary fills comprising brown clayey silts and silty clays dated by associated pottery to the 3rd century (23, 51, 53-5 see Fig. 6). The latest of these, 23, was overlaid by a deposit of grey silty clay (11,50). Containing pottery dated to the late 2nd to mid 3rd century, this has been interpreted as the tertiary fill of ditch 57.

Situated east of this, cutting the silt 24 in trench 8 was a northwest-southeast linear feature (58), 4.2m wide by 7.2m long (as exposed) and 1.3m deep (see fig. 6). This has been interpreted as a boundary ditch and contained a primary fill of grey brown sandy silt (48), dated by associated pottery to the mid-late 2nd to early 3rd century. Subsequent to the deposition of 48, the function of the ditch changed, and was utilised for the disposal of waste burnt material (Plate 3). This material constitutes

the secondary fills of the feature and comprised many deposits of ash and burnt soil, each containing copious quantities of broken ceramics and smaller amounts of charcoal and animal bone. During excavation of these it was not possible to differentiate between each individual deposit. Consequently they were grouped into three contexts - see Fig. 5, discrimination of which was based on colour). The earliest of these is typified by deposits of brown silt (34) containing frequent ash lenses and occasional fragments of burnt clay. Pottery associated with this context has been dated to the mid-late 2nd century. It was sealed by layers of dark, and light grey and light brown clay silt/silty clay (30) that contained fragments of charred wood, and is dated to the mid-late 3rd century. Overlying 30 were deposits of black silty clay (12), dated to the mid-late 3rd to 4th century. The earlier secondary fills were deposited into the ditch from its southwestern edge. Sealing the latest secondary fill 12 was a layer of brown clay (13). Interpreted as the tertiary fill of 58, it has been dated to the 3rd century.

Located west of 13, cutting the phase 1 deposit 24 was a sub-rectangular pit (59), 1.9m wide by 1.7m long (as exposed) and 0.3m deep. The pit contained a primary fill of brown silty clay (49). Dated by associated pottery to the mid 2nd to mid 3rd centuries, the fill also contained charcoal lenses and burnt clay fragments. This was sealed by a secondary fill of grey silty clay (46), dated to the mid-late 3rd century, that was overlaid by a small deposit of light brown clay (47), interpreted as the tertiary fill of pit 59, and dated by associated pottery to the 3rd century.

West of 47, truncating natural layer 24 in trench 9 was an east-west linear feature (36), 3.1m wide by 0.74m long (as exposed) and 0.56m deep, containing a

primary fill of light brown sandy silt (41). Sealing this were three secondary fills of pale sandy silt, yellow sandy silt and grey brown silty clay (35, 33 and 32 respectively). Fills 33 and 32 have been dated by associated pottery to the late 1st to early-middle 2nd century. Overlying the latest of these, which comprised several layers of dumped soil, was a deposit of grey brown silty clay (29), interpreted as the tertiary fill of the ditch, and dated to the mid-late 2nd century or later.

North of fill 29, also cutting through natural layer 24, and parallel with ditch 36 was an east-west linear feature (39). Measuring 2.8m wide by 2m long (as exposed) and 0.8m deep, it contained a primary fill of sandy silt (43). Retrieved from within this were sheep and cattle bones, and a polished bone spatula. Overlying 43 were four secondary fills, one comprising sandy silt, and the others layers of grey silty clay, one with burnt clay (31, 38, 40 and 42 respectively). Overall, these have been dated to the mid-late 2nd to early 3rd century. These were sealed by a 3rd century tertiary deposit of brown silty clay (37) that contained pig bones.

5.3 Phase 3 Modern Deposits

Cutting through the phase 2 tertiary fill 47 (trench 8) was a linear feature interpreted as a construction trench that contained a ceramic field-drain. Another, oriented east-west, was located in trench 2, and is represented by the linear geophysical survey anomaly (see Fig. 3). Sealing this and the archaeological deposits described above and the natural clay was a brown silty clay subsoil (2, 21, 22 and 64). This was sealed by a layer of brown silty clay (1), which constitutes the present ploughsoil.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits are represented by a layer of silt (9, 24, 61-63), which had been cut through by a palaeochannel (7). Sealing the channel and the silt were a series of clay layers, representing a change in the depositional environment.

Trench 5 was designed to investigate the magnetic anomalies provisionally interpreted as a droveway (previously referred to as a pair of intermittent curvilinear anomalies - Geophysical Surveys of Bradford 1995, 2). The results of the trenching have established that this feature is geological in origin.

Cutting through the silt within trench 5 was an east-west ditch (57) that appears to have silted up naturally. Comparison with the geophysical survey results reveals that this feature originally appeared to be a pit (see Fig. 3). Cattle and sheep skeletal material was retrieved from this feature. Some of these bone fragments had been gnawed, indicating that the carcasses had been exposed after death.

Sharing the same alignment as 57 and located to the west were two parallel ditches (36 and 39). Examination of the geophysical survey results indicate that east of the limit of trench 9, these features merge and do not extend further. Such an arrangement of ditches is slightly unusual, as it would be expected that at least one ditch would continue east, and that both features would continue west for a far greater distance. It is also likely, however, that the geophysical survey anomalies do not accurately represent the full extent of these features as is the case with ditch 57 (see above). Burnt bones from sheep, cattle and bird were retrieved from the secondary fills of ditch 36. Burnt and gnawed bones from cattle and sheep, and, to a lesser degree, pig were recovered

from ditch 39, along with a polished bone spatula.

One of the secondary fills of this feature also contained fragments of fired clay that included large amounts of shell fragments and dark inclusions. The shell fragments were presumably intended to strengthen the clay. It is possible that this was utilised to line a structure that was subjected to heat, thereby protecting the structure from the worst effects of heat damage. However, as only a few fragments of this material were retrieved, the function of these artefacts must remain hypothetical.

The right angled ditch excavated in trench 8 (58) displays evidence for sustained use of the area. The feature was originally used as a boundary, as is evidenced by the relatively clean primary fill. However, after this initial deposit had accumulated (during the mid-late 2nd - early 3rd century), use of the feature changed radically, when waste materials were dumped into it (mid-late 2nd to late 3rd century), eventually back-filling it (12, 30 and 34). These were tipped in from the southwestern edge of the ditch, hence indicating that the source of these deposits is located in this direction away from the feature. This material appears to have an industrial origin and comprises many deposits of ash and burnt clay accompanied by copious quantities of pottery fragments.

The industrial rubbish dumped into the ditch and pit (58 and 59) was accompanied by large quantities of burnt clay. Some of these fragments show evidence of what are commonly referred to as "salt colours" (T. Lane, *pers comm.*), that accrue through either washing of the material by salt water, or through salt being present in the clay that was extracted and subsequently fired. Such materials are referred to as briquetage, a material commonly

associated with salterns (salt production centres) and although no definite briquetage forms were identified (such as stands and troughs used in the salt extraction process), it is possible that some form of salt extraction was occurring. Therefore, if such a process was occurring on the site, it is possible that this may be the source of the industrial waste.

The relatively large and varied assemblage of pottery retrieved from Sutterton would suggest that the function of the site was not purely industrial. The pottery as a whole represents a wide range of wares and functional uses (Fig. 5), varying from common, low status domestic forms (cooking pots) to high status vessels (colour-coat). The finely made vessels (table wares), mortaria (grinding bowls), amphorae (liquid storage vessels) and imported samian suggest that a settlement of some status (see Appendix 2) was located nearby. It is likely, therefore, that the industrial process is associated with this settlement.

Several species of animal represented by skeletal material from cattle, sheep, pig, horse, bird and dog were retrieved from the primary and secondary fills of ditch 58, although none of these show evidence of having been gnawed or burnt.

Adjacent to ditch 58 was a pit containing comparable waste material. Unlike the ditch, however, which was originally designed to mark out a boundary, the pit may have been dug to accept this rubbish, and could relate, therefore, directly to the industrial process.

7. ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

For assessment of significance the Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling

ancient monuments has been used (DoE 1990, Annex 4; See Appendix 3)

Period

Evidence of Romano-British industrial and agricultural activity has been recorded from the evaluation area and its vicinity. These remains are characteristic of this period and type of site.

Failed and shrunken settlements are characteristic of the medieval period in Britain and often form a feature of the landscape, either as earthworks or as artefact scatters.

Rarity

Romano-British industrial and agricultural activity, as identified in the area of evaluation, is not uncommon, though may possess rare or unusual features.

Documentation

Details of archaeological sites and finds in the Sutterton area are held in two repositories: the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments record, maintained by the Archaeology Section of Lincolnshire County Council, and the parish files of the Boston District Community Archaeologist. A site-specific synopsis and synthesis of the historical and archaeological data relevant to the site has previously been produced (APS 1994). Additionally, the site has been the subject of geophysical and fieldwalking surveys prior to the present investigation.

Group value

By virtue of the clustering of sites and findspots of Romano-British date in this general area, the group value of the Romano-British evidence is moderately high.

Survival/Condition

There has been no post-medieval development of the land, consequently

buried deposits are generally in good condition. However, the presence of artefacts in the ploughsoil indicates that agricultural activity has degraded the archaeological remains.

Fragility/Vulnerability

Proposed development will impact the site into natural strata, therefore all archaeological deposits present in the area are vulnerable to destruction. Moreover, it has been shown that agricultural use of the land is degrading the archaeological site. Consequently, if the agricultural regime is maintained the archaeological remains will continue to be eroded.

Diversity

Moderate period diversity is indicated by the general settlement activity of Roman and medieval date, represented by the recorded archaeological features and the artefact scatters. Moderate functional diversity is indicated by evidence for agricultural land allotment, domestic settlement and industrial processes.

Potential

Sample excavation of several of the geophysical anomalies revealed that they were caused by Romano-British industrial and agricultural archaeological remains. Consequently, there is very high potential that many of the other geophysical signals also have an archaeological origin. The nature of the recorded evidence would also indicate that there is a high potential that Romano-British settlement remains exist in the vicinity. The possibility that the industrial remains derive from some form of salt making process, a locally and regionally significant feature, enhances the potential further.

7.1 Site Importance

In summary, the criteria for assessment

have established that the Romano-British remains are locally and regionally important. As such, archaeological deposits present on site can be expected to augment the understanding of the origins and development of Sutterton within a local and regional framework. Furthermore, the pottery retrieved from the evaluation will, upon further study, help provide valuable information on the distribution of mid-late 3rd century wares, in particular the Nene Valley grey wares.

8. EFFECTIVENESS OF TECHNIQUES

The strategy of using trial trenches to locate and evaluate archaeological deposits was, on the whole, effective. Some of the magnetic anomalies identified by the geophysical survey were found to have been caused by buried ditches and pits. Additionally, the location of clusters of Romano-British pottery was found, through excavation, to be broadly coincident with the positions of the ditches and pits. No archaeological features were located in trenches where there were no magnetic anomalies. However, although a trench was located to examine the concentration of medieval pottery at the northeast corner of the site, the origin of this artefact concentration was not identified.

9. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations on land south of the cemetery, Station Road, Sutterton have revealed natural deposits at a depth of between 0.2m and 0.36m across the site. Deposits of Romano-British date developed over these.

Three east-west ditches, presumably used for drainage, were located in the western

part of the site. A fourth ditch, that originally functioned as a boundary, and a pit, located in the same area, was utilised for the disposal of industrial waste material. The nature of the pottery assemblage from these features indicate that they were not used exclusively for the disposal of material from the industrial source, as a variety of domestic wares, both low and high status, are represented.

The industrial process evidenced by the burnt deposits is likely to derive from salt extraction, as amorphous fragments of possible briquetage have been recovered from these same deposits. Such a location for a saltern (salt production centre) is, at least in this area, further east than would be expected, as saline water is required as the source material for the salt extraction process.

The bone assemblage from the ditch containing the burnt deposits was not itself burnt. Such a deposit illustrates that the features used for the dumping of the industrial rubbish were not intended solely for this purpose. Taken with the various pottery types, functions and forms, it is likely that a Romano-British settlement existed close to the evaluation area, and that the industrial process identified during the evaluation was not the only activity occurring in the vicinity.

Trench 1, designed to examine the localised scatter of medieval pottery in the northeastern corner of the study area was devoid of archaeological features. It is possible, therefore, that the presence of the pottery is due to the dumping of material for hardcore at the entrance to the field and manuring during the medieval period, as already suggested (Lindsey Archaeological Services 1995, 3).

It would be reasonable to assume that at least some of the geophysical survey

anomalies not examined by trenching will contain further information relating to the function of the Romano-British settlement, and may reveal other aspects of the site which have not been identified by this evaluation.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to thank Mr C. Swindin of Land and Buildings Consultancy who commissioned the fieldwork and analysis. Access was kindly permitted by the tenant farmer, Mr Payne. Tom Lane who examined and commented on the burnt clay assemblage. The work was coordinated by Steve Haynes and this report was edited by Gary Taylor and Dave Start. Jim Bonnor, the Community Archaeologist for Boston Borough Council, permitted examination of the relevant files.

11. PERSONNEL

Project Manager: Steve Haynes
Research: Gary Taylor
Supervisor: Mark Dymond
Site Assistants: Dave Bower, Neil Herbert, Mark Sansom
General Illustration: Denise Buckley and Mark Dymond
Finds Processing and Illustration: Denise Buckley
Post-excavation Analyst: Mark Dymond

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13. ABBREVIATIONS

Numbers prefixed with 'B' are the primary reference numbers used by the Boston District Community Archaeologist.

'DoE' refers to publications by the Department of the Environment.

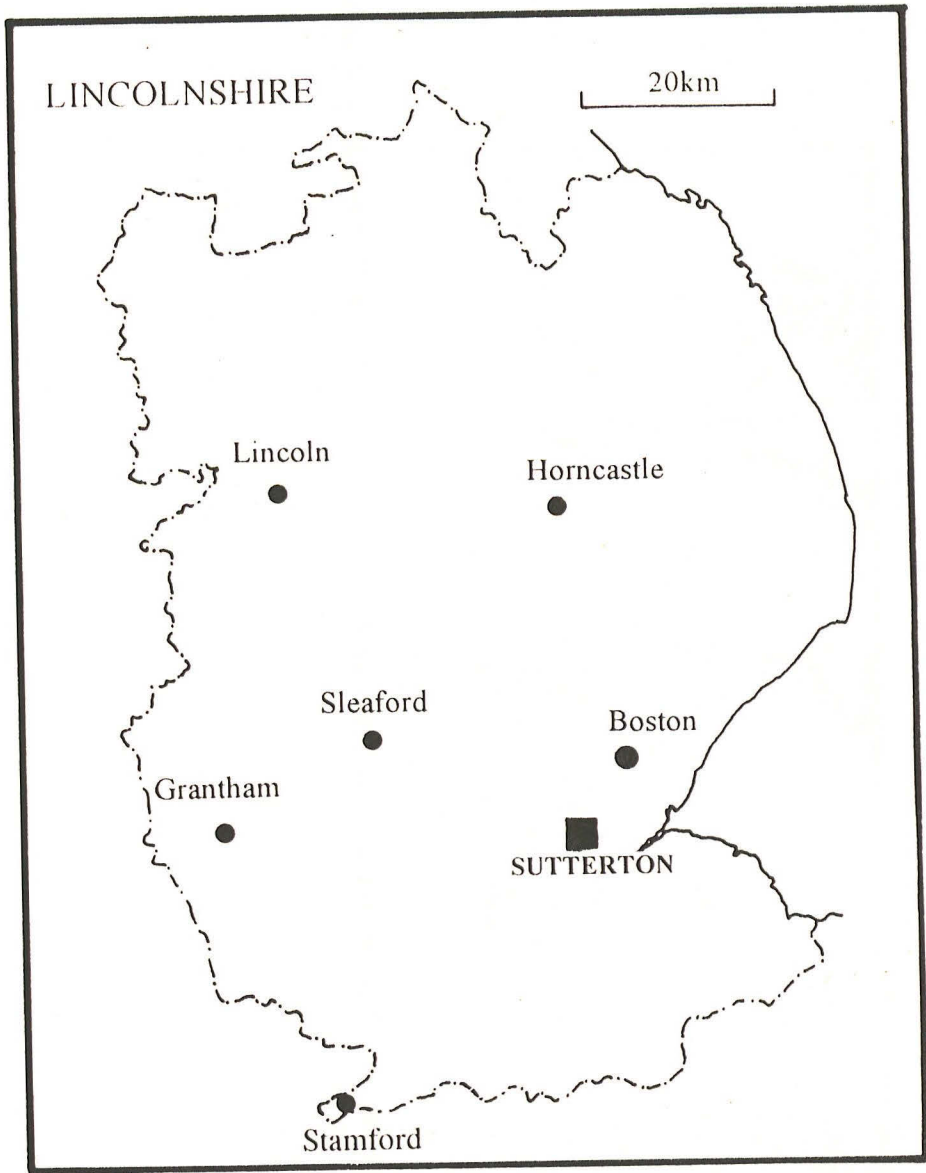
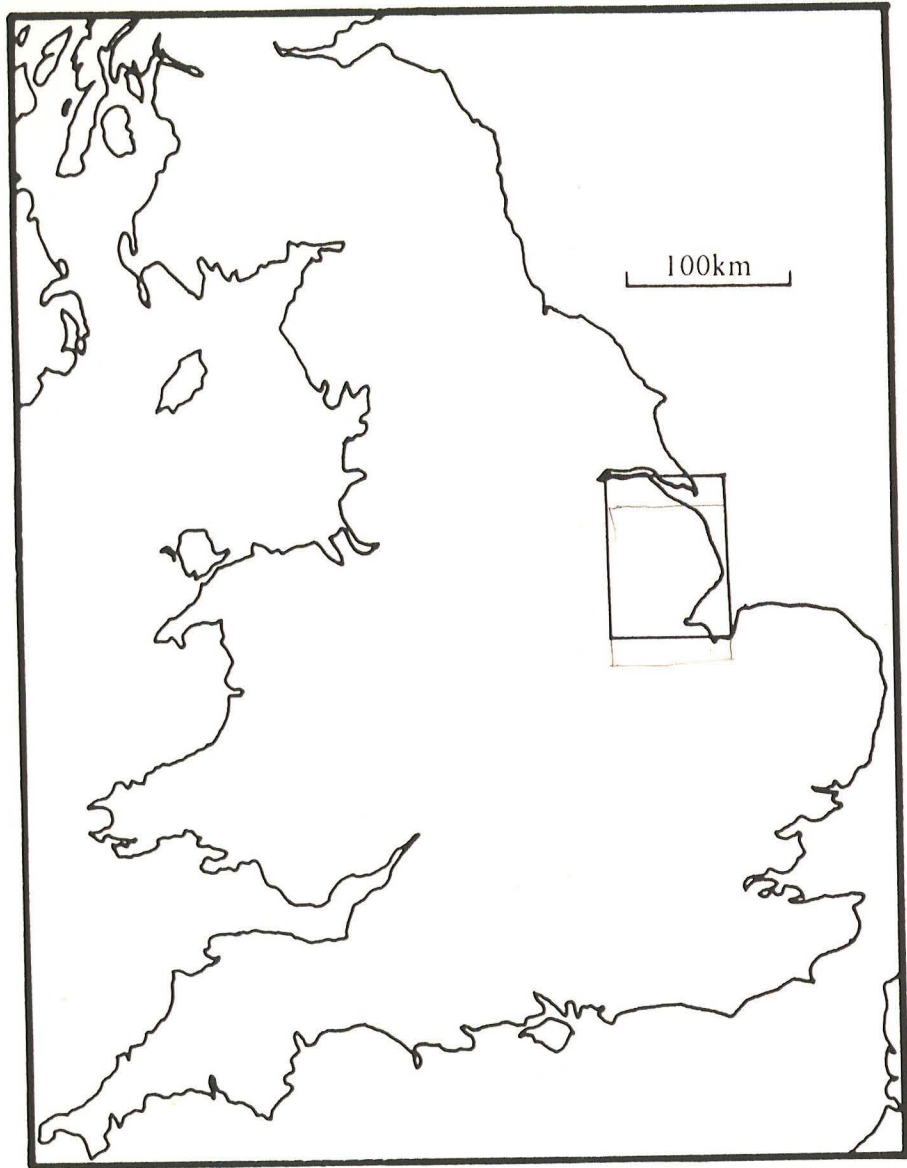
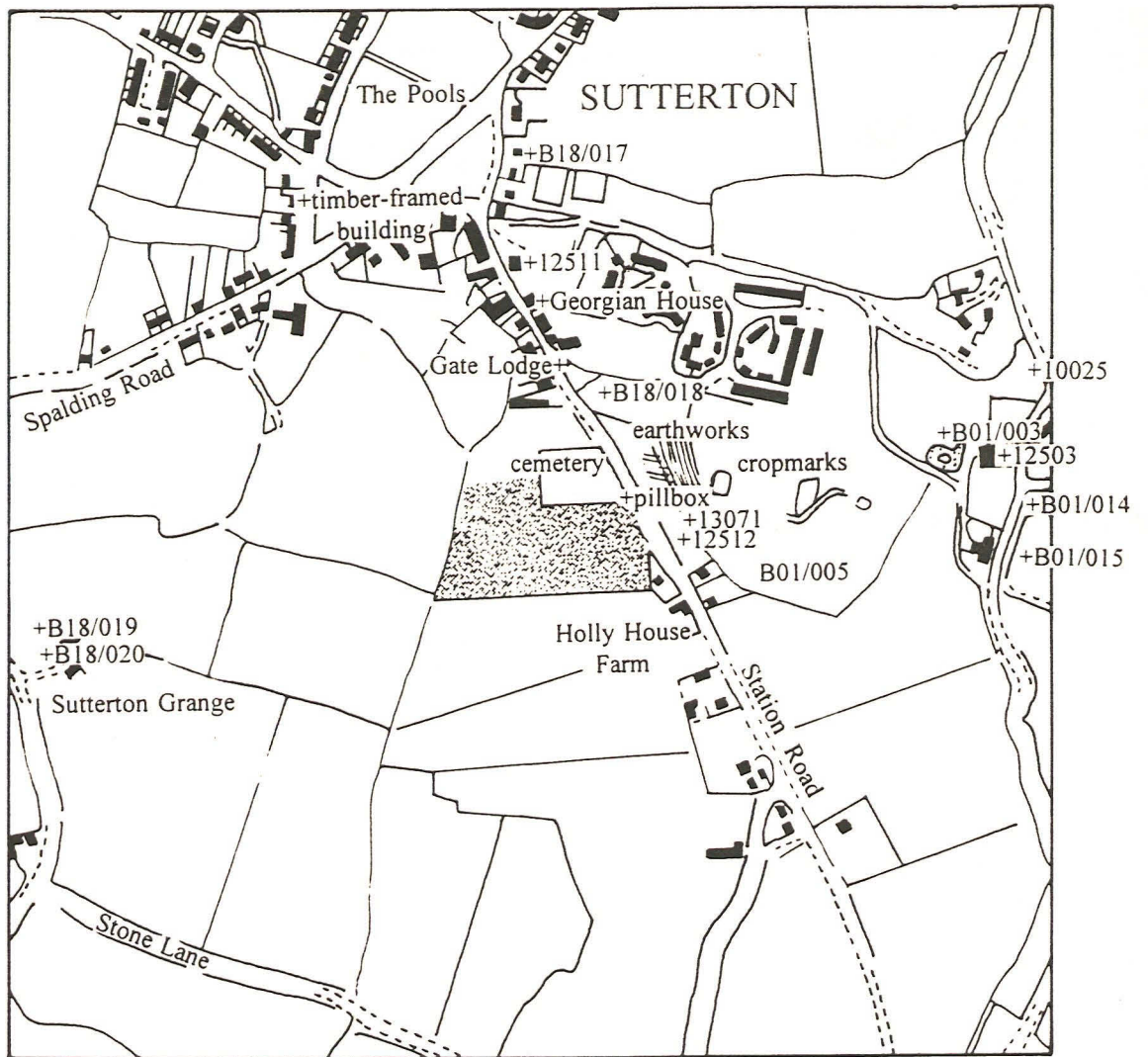


Fig. 1 General Location Plan

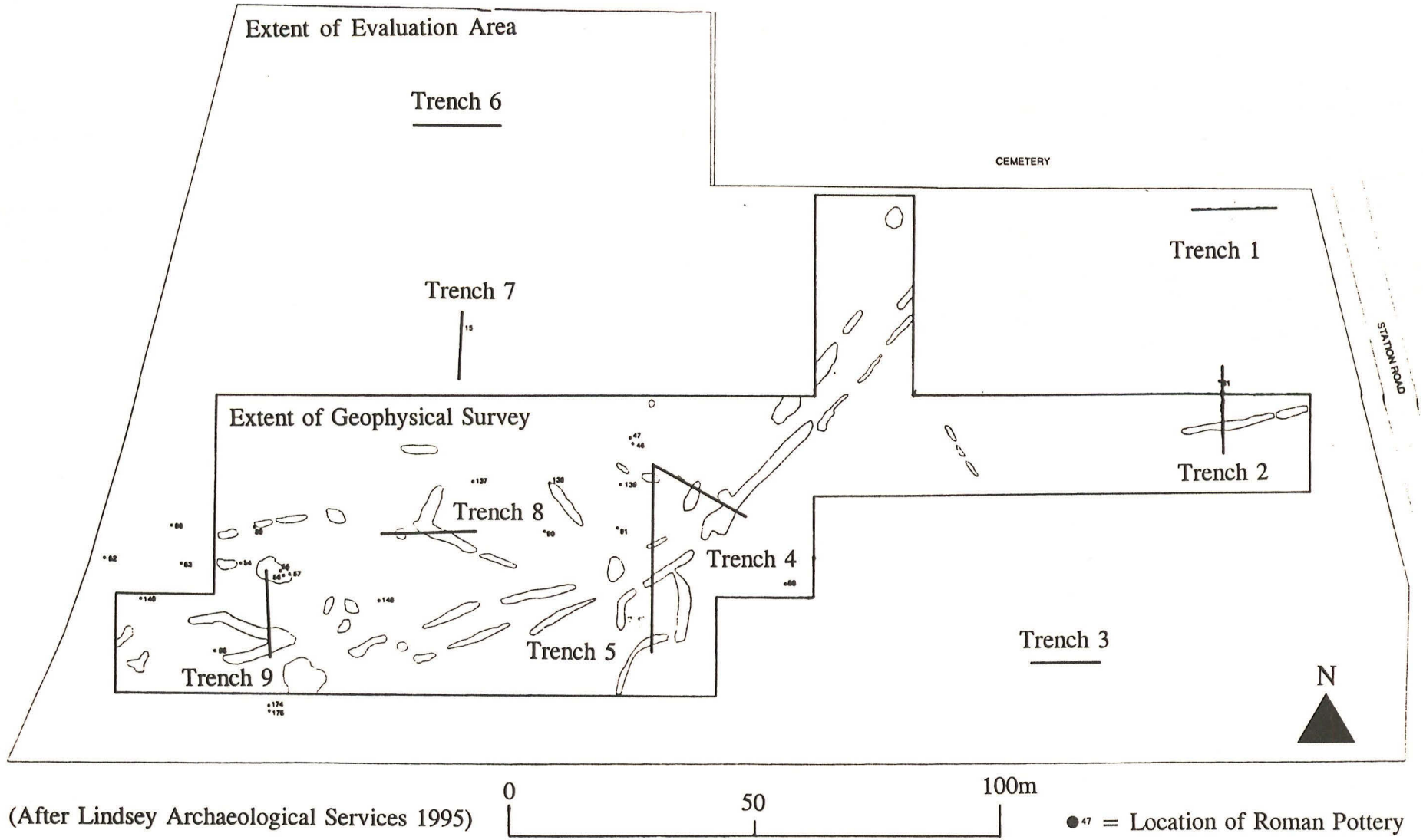
Fig. 2 Site Location Plan



AREA OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

NOTE: CROPMARKS NOT ACCURATELY TRANSCRIBED (SKETCH PLAN ONLY)

Fig. 3 Plan showing Trench Locations Relative to Geophysical and Fieldwalking Results (Roman)

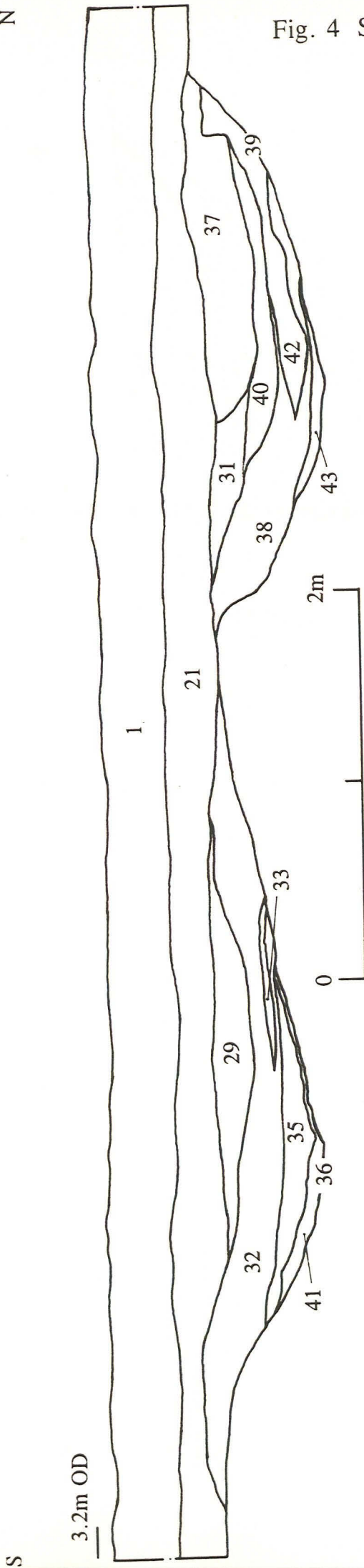


(After Lindsey Archaeological Services 1995)

●47 = Location of Roman Pottery

N

Fig. 4 Section Through Ditches 36 and 39, Trench 9

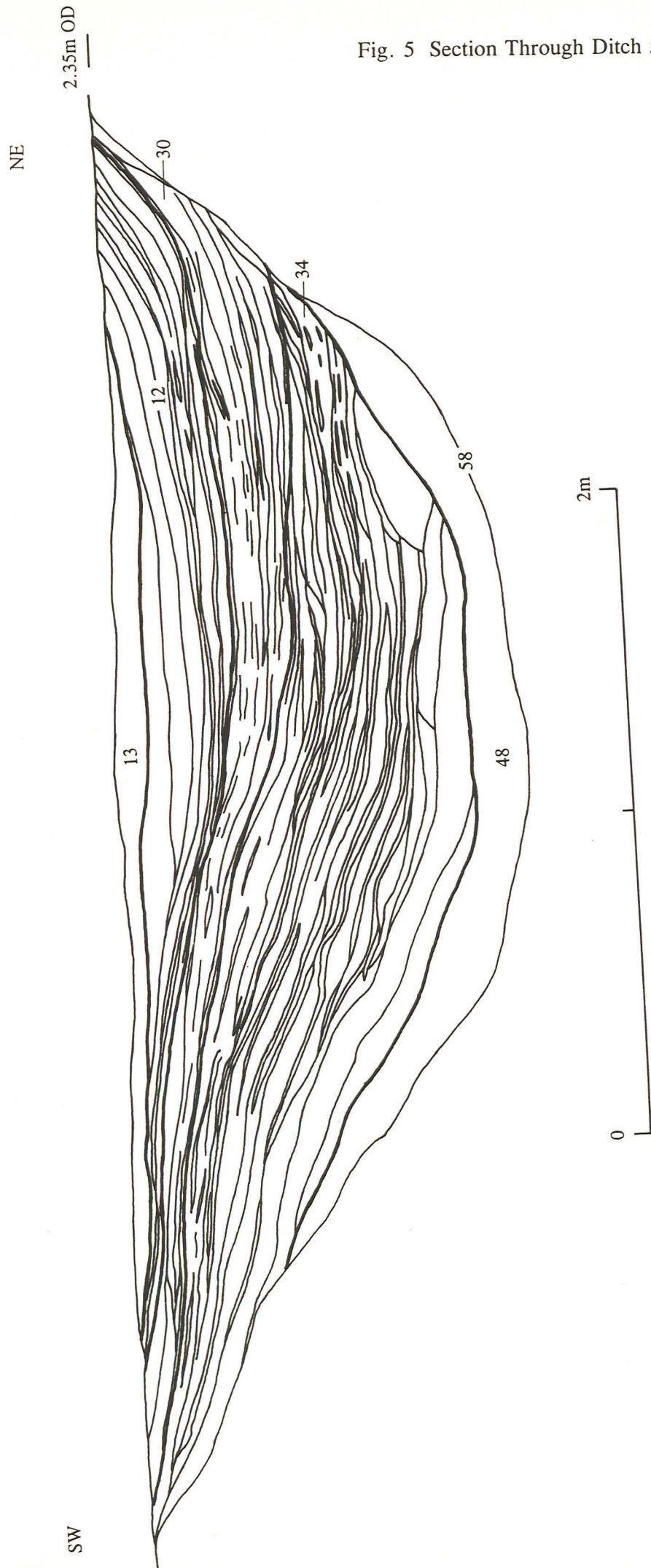


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Fig. 5 Section Through Ditch 58, Trench 8



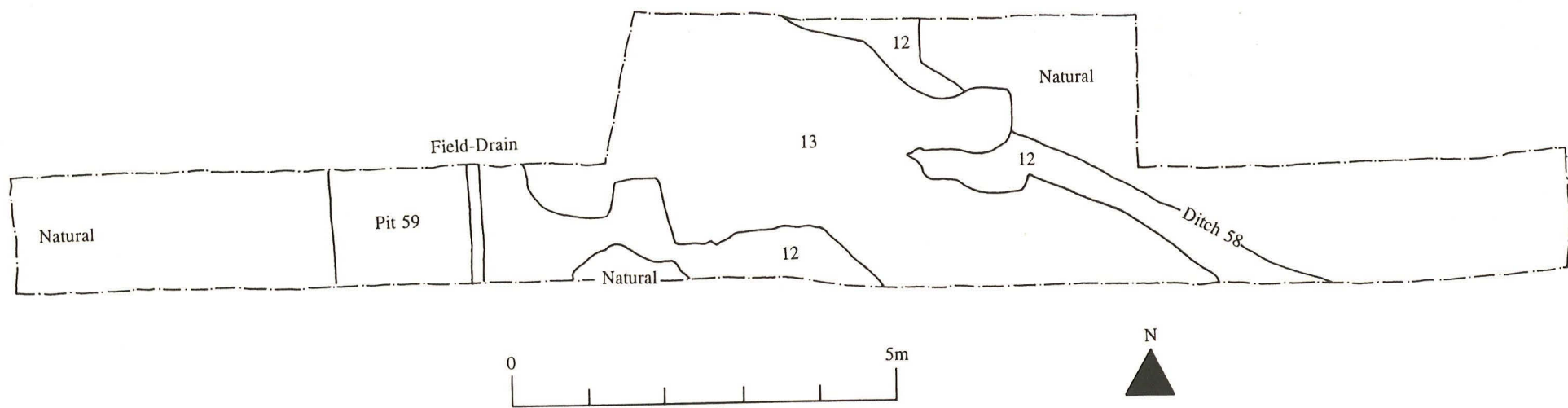


Fig. 6 Pre-Excavation Plan of Ditch 58, Trench 8

Fig. 7 Roman Pottery

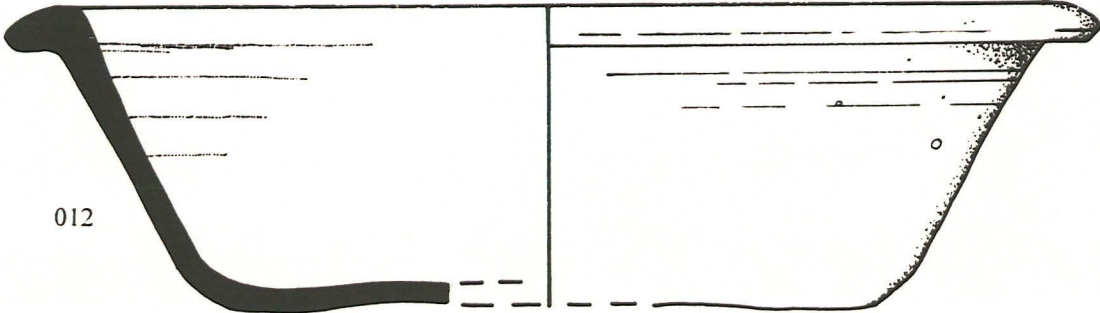
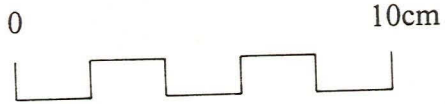
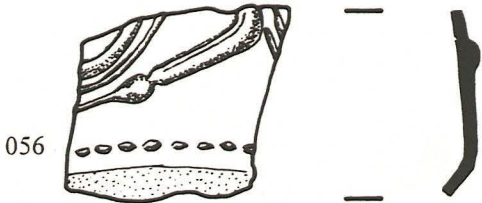
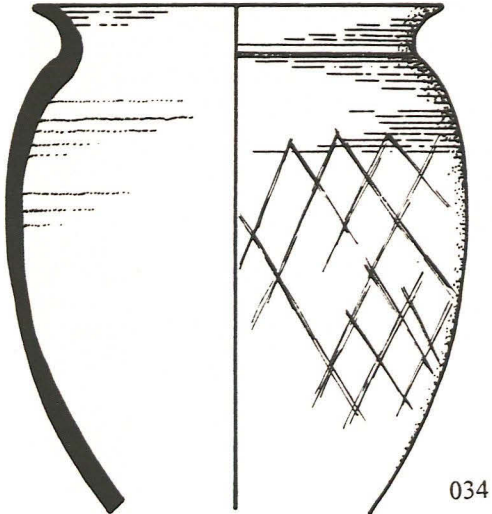
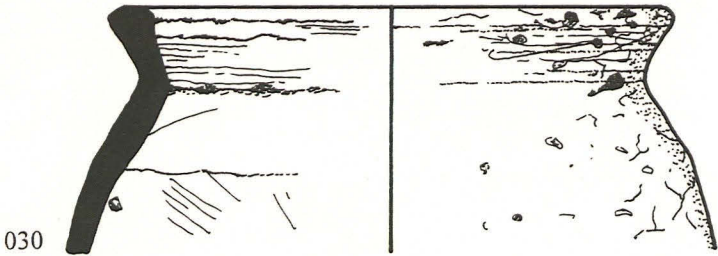


Plate 1 General View of Site from the West

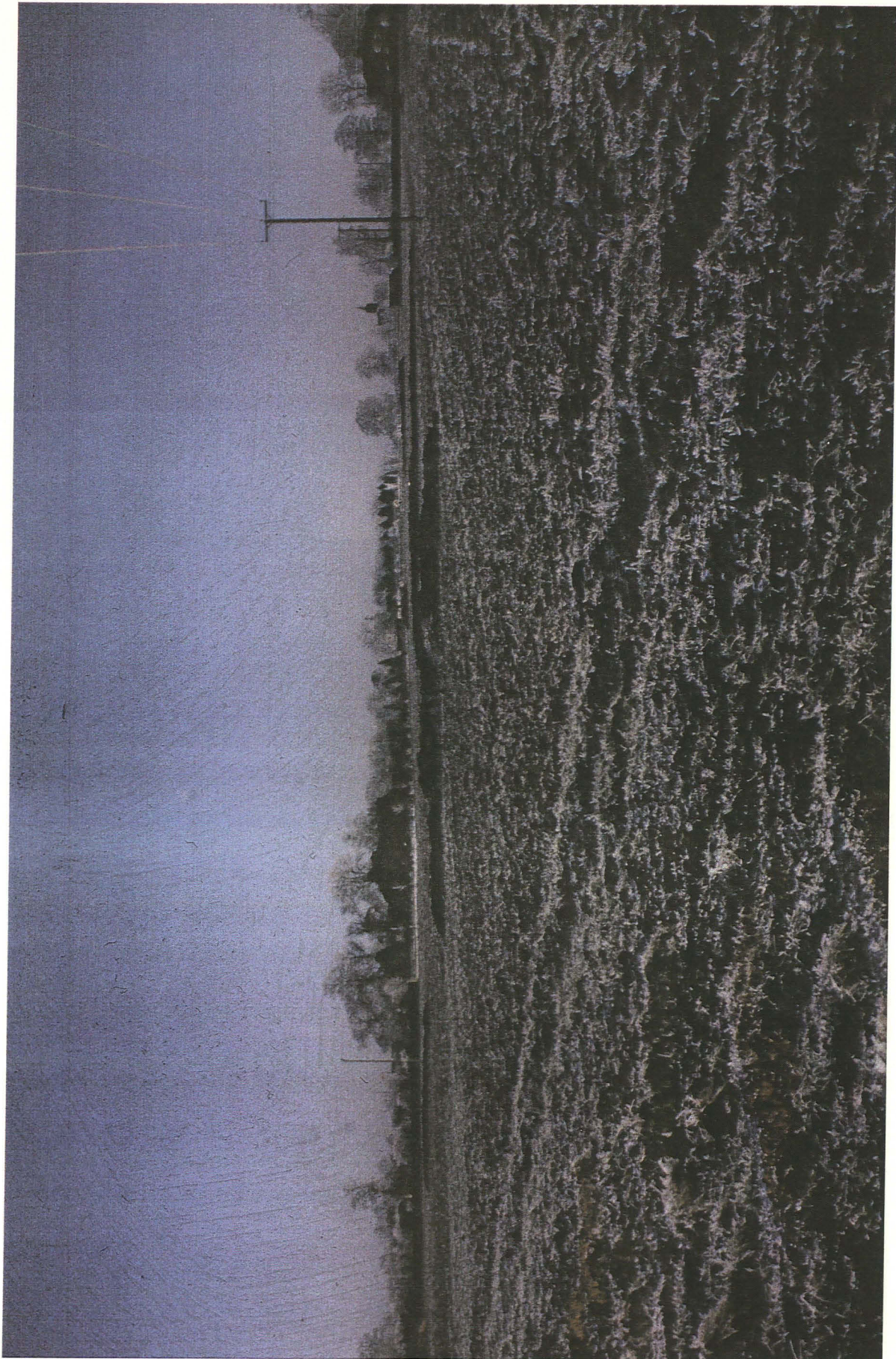


Plate 2 Trench 9, general view



Plate 3 Trench 8, section across ditch 58



Appendix 1

Context Summary

Context	Description	Interpretation
1	Dark brown silty clay	Topsoil
2	Brown silty clay	Subsoil
3	Grey silty clay	Natural
4	Grey blue clay	Natural
5	Brown silty clay	Natural
6	Brown silty clay	Primary fill of 7
7	Linear feature	Palaeochannel
8	Brown silty clay	Tertiary fill of 7
9	Pale clayey silt	Natural
10	Same as 24	Natural
11	Same as 50	Tertiary fill of 57
12	Black silty clay (comprising several layers)	Secondary fill of 58
13	Brown clay	Tertiary fill of 58
14-20	Same as 12	Secondary fill of 58
21	Unused	
22	Same as 2	Subsoil
23	Grey silty clay	Secondary fill of 57
24	Brown silt	Natural
25	Unused	
26	Same as 1	Topsoil
27	Same as 37	Tertiary fill of 39
28	Same as 1	Topsoil
29	Brown silty clay	Tertiary fill of 36
30	Grey brown clay silt, silty clay and clay (comprising several layers)	Secondary fill of 58
31	Grey silty clay	Secondary fill of 39
32	Brown silty clay (comprising several layers)	Secondary fill of 36
33	Yellow sandy silt	Secondary fill of 36
34	Brown silt (comprising several layers)	Secondary fill of 58
35	Yellow sandy silt	Secondary fill of 36

Context	Description	Interpretation
36	Linear feature	Ditch
37	Brown silty clay	Tertiary fill of 39
38	Grey/black silty clay	Secondary fill of 39
39	Linear feature	Ditch
40	Grey silty clay	Secondary fill of 39
41	Brown sandy silt	Primary fill of 36
42	Grey silty clay	Secondary fill of 39
43	Brown sandy silt	Primary fill of 39
44	Brown silty clay	Fill of 45
45	Linear feature	Field-drain
46	Grey silty clay	Secondary fill of 59
47	Brown clay	Tertiary fill of 59
48	Brown sandy silt	Primary fill of 58
49	Black/brown silty clay	Primary fill of 59
50	Grey silty clay	Tertiary fill of 57
51	Grey silty clay	Secondary fill of 57
52	Same as 1	Topsoil
53	Brown silty clay	Secondary fill of 57
54	Brown clayey silt	Secondary fill of 57
55	Brown clayey silt	Secondary fill of 57
56	Grey clayey silt	Primary fill of 57
57	Linear feature	Ditch
58	L-shaped feature	Ditch
59	Sub rectangular feature	Rubbish pit
60	Brown silty clay	Natural
61	Brown sandy silt	Natural
62	Brown sandy silt	Natural
63	Grey sandy silt	Natural
64	Same as 2	Subsoil
65	Brown silty clay	Natural

Appendix 2

Preliminary Pottery Analysis

By Barbara Davies

Dating

A moderately large assemblage of 780 sherds of which 46 are post Roman (from + - unstratified). The Roman pottery ranges in date from the later 1st century, indicated by the presence of late 1st century samian from Gaul, to possibly the 4th century - based on the presence of a bead and flanged bowl from + and a plain rimmed dish in NVCC from 012; which are generally assigned a 4th century date. Two contexts date from the later 1st to the early-mid 2nd century, 032 and 033, based on 1st century samian and in 032 the presence of a native tradition cooking pot (cpn). Several contexts, 029;034;038 and 042 date to the mid-late 2nd century and 010 has a samian base stamped by the potter MACRIANUS, generally dated to the period AD 150-180. However, the majority of the contexts date to the 3rd and mid-late 3rd century.

Condition

There are sherd links between contexts 030 and 048; and 032 and 033. In general the condition of the pottery is moderate, some contexts showing abrasion and consisting of small sherds, perhaps due to redistribution. Two contexts produced large sherds with minimum abrasion - 027 and 030, and context 034 consisted of a single vessel. A high proportion of the shell-tempered vessels are burnt, probably due to cooking, but 050 produced a number of sherds which are burnt over the broken edge.

Fabric and Forms

The preliminary viewing of the pottery suggests that grey wares, probably locally made, form the highest percentage of the assemblage, with Nene Valley products forming the second largest group. The latter consists mainly of Nene Valley grey and colour-coated wares, but also a small proportion of sandy grey wares, probably Nene Valley products (NNGY). Shell-tempered wares are mainly represented by Dales-ware types, but also those similar to the Bourne-Greetham repertoire - previously noted at Market Deeping, Stainfield, Morton and Thurlby sites.

Mortaria, mainly Nene Valley and Mancetter Hartshill types; amphorae - wine containers from South Gaul (PE47); and samian from South, Central and Eastern Gaul are represented within the assemblage. There is a range of fine wares, mainly Nene Valley colour-coats but also rough-cast beakers. Cream ware flagons are also present, but the majority of the wares are cooking vessels in grey and shell-tempered fabrics - the latter mainly Dales-ware type jars (JDW). The presence of several large thick sherds indicates storage vessels.

Potential

The range of imported wares - samian and amphorae - and fine wares indicates a site of some status, the full potential of which will become more apparent when the pottery is analysed. Initial examination of the Roman pottery reveals a relatively closely dated sequence from the later 1st to mid-late 3rd - possibly continuing into the 4th century, with no apparent hiatus in the supply of pottery. Combination of this information with the stratigraphic data from the site should provide a well-dated sequence for the period of occupation. Evidence of sherd links between contexts and the condition of the pottery will enhance the understanding of the taphonomic processes of the site. The resulting database will provide valuable information for the distribution of mid-late 3rd century wares, in particular the Nene Valley grey wares.

Appendix 3

Environmental Assessment.

By James Rackham

The site was visited on the 21st December and the sediments and features within the trenches exposed at the time observed.

The main observation was that the subsoil sediments on the site were composed of two types. In the trenches in the south and west of the area being evaluated the subsoil was composed of silts and fine sands. It was apparent that most of the geophysical anomalies recorded lay on sediments of this type. In the east and southeast of the evaluation area the subsoil was composed of fine silt/clay alluvial deposits with no visible stratigraphy within them. In trench 8, a sondage at the east end revealed that these latter alluvial sediments overlay fine sand and silt deposits. In order to test this relationship sondages were excavated in trenches 2 and 3 in the eastern half of the site. In both these sondages the silt/clay alluvial sediments were found to overlie fine sand and silt sediments at depths of up to 1.6 metres. An extrapolation of these observations indicates that the silt clay alluvium has been deposited against and over fine sand and silt sediments across much of the southeastern half of the evaluation area. The fine sand and silt sediments are characteristic of the sediments that typically infill, and form levees adjacent to, roddons, the name given to palaeochannels that meander across the fens. The silt/clay alluvium is more typical of flood and overbank sedimentation found on low-lying river floodplains.

The major spread of geophysical anomalies and features revealed during excavation appears to lie along a curve which can be related to the underlying sand and silt sediments. This would appear to be the residue of a levee or sand/silt bank formed along one of the margins of the palaeochannel. In trench 1, to the northwest of the evaluation area, similar sand and silt sediments were recorded. This is some tens of metres to the north of the levee and suggests that the palaeochannel lies to the north of the bank rather than the south. Some of these palaeochannels can be very wide and without reference to aerial photographs the position of the north bank of the channel cannot be estimated. Working within this assumption the silt/clay alluvial sediments lying to the south of the levee must represent deposition on the floodplain against the sides and over the tail of this bank.

The archaeological evidence on the levee is Roman and indicates ribbon activity along the bank of the ancient roddon where ground conditions were well drained and relatively dry, at least seasonally. The sediments of this roddon must have been laid down before the Roman occupation, but the subsequent alluviation of the surrounding floodplain may be contemporary with or post-date the Roman occupation. The absence of finds of Roman date within the material collected from field walking in the southeastern half of the evaluation area (*Dymond pers comm*) suggests that much of the alluvium post-dates the occupation along the levee. The height of this levee may have been significantly reduced by medieval and later ploughing and it is probable that it was clearly visible in Roman times.

It can therefore be suggested that the site sequence is as follows:

1. Infilling of an ancient palaeochannel and formation of a levee or bank of fine sands and silt. Work of the Fenland Management Project would suggest that this took place during the 1st millenium BC (Hall and Coles 1994).
2. Roman occupation along the well-drained levee of the roddon.
3. Clay sedimentation over the surrounding low-lying land contemporary with and post-dating the occupation on the levee.
4. Medieval or later ploughing reduced the prominence of the roddon levee.

There is little likelihood of development in the southeastern half of the evaluation area doing any damage to buried archaeological features. Any features in this area will be of early prehistoric date and underlie both the alluvium and earlier sand and silt sediments and lie at least 3m deep.

Hall, D., and Coles, J., 1994, *Fenland Survey*, English Heritage.

Appendix 4

Bone Assessment, Sutterton, Station Road. By Paul Cope-Faulkner

A sample of fewer than 200 bones was recovered during excavation at Station Road, Sutterton. The material is primarily Roman in date, although some is associated with medieval pottery. Of 65 contexts assigned, only 12 produced skeletal material.

The bone is generally in a poor condition and is quite chalky in nature. However, some bone is in good or excellent condition that may reflect differing soil acidity across the site. Most bone was quite fragmentary, as if it had been smashed, with no pieces representing a complete bone.

The largest assemblage came from the various fills of the ditch cut (039). The species represented are primarily sheep and cattle. A pig is also represented in context (037). No butchery marks were apparent although burning had occurred on some fragments and gnawing was also apparent, indicating exposure after death. A fragment of a bone spatula was recovered from context (043) but no species could be ascertained.

Ditch cut (058) produced cattle, sheep and pig. A lower limb of a horse and the upper jaw of a dog was recovered from the primary fill. A single bird bone, possibly chicken, was also recovered. None of the bones from this feature were butchered or burnt.

Skeletal material from other deposits consisted mainly of sheep with a smaller number of cattle sized fragments also present. The number of sheep bones recovered could reflect the nature of the economy of the site during the Roman period. However, the size of the assemblage recovered is too small for detailed analysis.

Appendix 5

Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling Ancient Monuments - Extract from *Archaeology and Planning DoE Planning Policy Guidance note 16, November 1990*

The following criteria (which are not in any order of ranking), are used for assessing the national importance of an ancient monument and considering whether scheduling is appropriate. The criteria should not however be regarded as definitive; rather they are indicators which contribute to a wider judgement based on the individual circumstances of a case.

i *Period*: all types of monuments that characterise a category or period should be considered for preservation.

ii *Rarity*: there are some monument categories which in certain periods are so scarce that all surviving examples which retain some archaeological potential should be preserved. In general, however, a selection must be made which portrays the typical and commonplace as well as the rare. This process should take account of all aspects of the distribution of a particular class of monument, both in a national and regional context.

iii *Documentation*: the significance of a monument may be enhanced by the existence of records of previous investigation or, in the case of more recent monuments, by the supporting evidence of contemporary written records.

iv *Group value*: the value of a single monument (such as a field system) may be greatly enhanced by its association with related contemporary monuments (such as a settlement or cemetery) or with monuments of different periods. In some cases, it is preferable to protect the complete group of monuments, including associated and adjacent land, rather than to protect isolated monuments within the group.

v *Survival/Condition*: the survival of a monument's archaeological potential both above and below ground is a particularly important consideration and should be assessed in relation to its present condition and surviving features.

vi *Fragility/Vulnerability*: highly important archaeological evidence from some field monuments can be destroyed by a single ploughing or unsympathetic treatment; vulnerable monuments of this nature would particularly benefit from the statutory protection that scheduling confers. There are also existing standing structures of particular form or complexity whose value can again be severely reduced by neglect or careless treatment and which are similarly well suited by scheduled monument protection, even if these structures are already listed buildings.

vii *Diversity*: some monuments may be selected for scheduling because they possess a combination of high quality features, others because of a single important attribute.

viii *Potential*: on occasion, the nature of the evidence cannot be specified precisely but it may still be possible to document reasons anticipating its existence and importance and so to demonstrate the justification for scheduling. This is usually confined to sites rather than upstanding monuments.

Appendix 6

The Archive

The archive consists of:

65	Context records
1	Photographic records
15	Scale drawings
1	Stratigraphic matrix
2	Boxes of finds

All primary records are currently kept at:

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

City and County Museum, Lincoln, Accession Number: 156.95
Archaeological Project Services project code: SSR95