



96/3
negative evidence

LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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**PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
SITE OF NAAFI DISTRIBUTION CENTRE
LINCOLN ROAD, NORTH HYKEHAM**

NGR : SK 948665
Site Code : HLR 95
LCNCC Accession No. : 113.95

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
(INTERIM REPORT)**

for

Beazer Homes (Yorkshire) Ltd

March 1996

Lincolnshire County Council
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12.3.96

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**Proposed Residential Development
Lincoln Road, North Hykeham
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Planning Application No: 43/1182/94

NGR : SK 948665

Site Code : HLR 95

LCNCC Accession No. : 113.95

Summary

Observations made during the laying of services in the south-east half of the development site produced no archaeological features and no artefacts. Exposed sections in three different locations revealed probable infilled river channel deposits of gravels overlain with sandy silts. The sections also indicated a high level of previous disturbance associated with the NAAFI building.

The findings suggest that the potential for the discovery of archaeological features during the subsequent house foundation groundworks is low. Nevertheless, the possibility of such discoveries in the north-west part of the development site should not be overlooked, as this area is some distance from the existing NAAFI building, and therefore less likely to have been disturbed by previous developments.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned in June 1995 by Beazer Homes (Yorkshire) Ltd to carry-out an archaeological watching brief on the site of the former NAAFI distribution depot in North Hykeham (Fig 1). This report is concerned with observations made by Naomi Field during the installation of services in the south-east half of the site in September 1995.

The archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Brief prepared by North Kesteven Community Archaeologist in June 1995. The purpose of the watching brief was to:

- record the location, extent and character of any archaeological remains exposed during groundworks on the site;
- establish the extent of modern disturbance to any such remains in order to assess the likelihood of disturbance to other archaeological deposits that might exist elsewhere on the site.

Copies of the report have been sent to Beazer Homes (Yorkshire) Ltd, North Kesteven District Council, the Archaeology Section of Lincolnshire County

Council, and the City and County Museum, Lincoln. The paper archive will be lodged with the museum when the project is completed.

Background

The development of 33 residential dwellings lies adjacent to, and north-west of, Lincoln Road in North Hykeham, 6km south-west of Lincoln. The land covers c.1ha in area, about a third of which was taken up by the NAAFI headquarters prior to its demolition (Fig 3; Pls.1-2).

Although much of the site was heavily disturbed by modern developments (most significantly, that of the NAAFI building itself), there was still the possibility of surviving archaeological deposits being present. In particular, there was potential for the discovery of Roman remains because of the close proximity of the major Roman road, the Foss Way, which runs roughly parallel with Lincoln Road only 600m north-west of the site (Fig 1C).

METHOD

The first phase of work was the construction of an access road into the site from Lincoln Road with associated sewers. This ran across an area relatively undisturbed by former standing buildings. House construction of up to eight phases of groundworks for the foundations would then proceed with Units 1-6, closest to Lincoln Road. It was anticipated that a watching brief in this area should establish a level of archaeological survival to be expected elsewhere on the site. A suitable level of monitoring for the rest of the development would then be determined in consultation with the Community Archaeologist.

Results

The observations described below relate to three sections of sewer trench, all of which had been already excavated (and some of the pipes laid) when the site visit took place. Three separate locations were recorded; for ease of reference these have been termed Observation Points 1, 2 and 3.

Observation Point 1

This was located at the south-east end of the sewer trench running along the proposed main access road (Fig 2B). The exposed section was cleaned by hand, and revealed four layers (Pls.3-4):

- turf (0.30m thick)
- topsoil (grey-brown sandy loam; 0.22m thick)
- alluvium (grey-brown sandy silt with orange mottling; 0.24m thick);
- natural sand (pale grey sand with some orange-brown iron mottling, greyer with depth; at least 0.50m thick).

Observation Point 2

This was located further north along the main access road on the west side of the same sewer trench (Fig 2B; Pl.5). Here, the exposed section, though less clear due to machine smearing, appeared to display the same sequence of deposits as at Point 1.

Observation Point 3

The sewer trench containing Point 3 ran south-west to north-east along the line of the side road (Fig 2B; Pl.6). The sequence of deposits revealed here was unlike that at Observation Points 1 and 2. The NAAFI building had overlain this area and all trace of turf or topsoil had been removed. The surviving uppermost layer was 0.30m-0.50m of orange-grey sandy clay (Pl.7). Beneath this was a series of fairly compact brownish-grey or orange-brown gravels containing lenses of sand and silty clay and occasional organic remains (twigs, roots *etc.*). The gravel measured at least 0.50m thick, and appeared to continue below the base of the sewer trench.

The sequence of deposits had been disturbed by the cellars of the NAAFI building cellars (removed and filled with aggregate) (Pl. 6, below wooden stake on the baulk).

Discussion

The development site lies immediately north of the medieval centre of North Hykeham village. The village was sited on higher ground adjacent to a large meander in the River Witham called the Old River Dyke, which is followed by the parish boundary. The sandy silt exposed in the sections at Observation Points 1 and 2 appear to represent river flood deposits. The silt lenses and organic remains present within the coarser gravel at Observation Point 3 are probably part of an old river channel. It is very likely that the Witham valley contained not one but many channels in a braided drainage system and that one of these courses ran through the site.

What is not so clear is the date of this channel and when it ceased to carry water. There were problems with seasonal flooding in this area until the end of the 18th century, when improvements were carried out to the Rivers Trent and Witham as well as the Fossdyke navigation. Armstrong's map of Lincolnshire (1779 and 1781) shows the Lincoln Road so perhaps this particular river course was defunct by then. The position of the Foss Way to the north-west may be significant in defining the limit of dry land in the Roman period. More detailed examination of ground exposures in the area would be necessary to confirm this theory.

Conclusions

Observations at the south end of the site indicate that it lies over a former course of the River Witham. The consequent absence of archaeological features and artefacts in the excavated areas has significantly reduced the potential for the discovery of remains in other parts of the development area. In addition, the high level of previous disturbance noted at Observation Point 3 indicates that if any archaeological deposits were present where the NAAFI building once stood, then these are likely to have been largely destroyed already.

After consultation with the then Acting North Kesteven Community Archaeologist it was decided to abandon the watching brief in the vicinity of the NAAFI building. However, it is considered that groundworks in the north-west corner of the site, an area undisturbed by the NAAFI development, should be monitored to establish whether it lies beyond the floodplain of the watercourse recorded at Observation Point 3.

Acknowledgements

Lindsey Archaeological Services gratefully acknowledge Beazer Homes (Yorkshire) Ltd for their cooperation in the setting-up of the project. Dr Andy Howard (Trent and Peak Archaeological Trust) provided helpful information and advice on geomorphology.

C. Taylor

March 1996

Appendix 1 : Contents of Site Archive

Site notes

Colour photographs (and list, with colour negatives):

Film numbers 95/33 (13-15) and 95/35 (18A-24A)

Survey of site prior to development (1:500) supplied by Beazer Homes (Yorkshire) Ltd

Development scheme plan (1:500) supplied by Beazer Homes (Yorkshire) Ltd

Newspaper cutting

Report

Correspondence

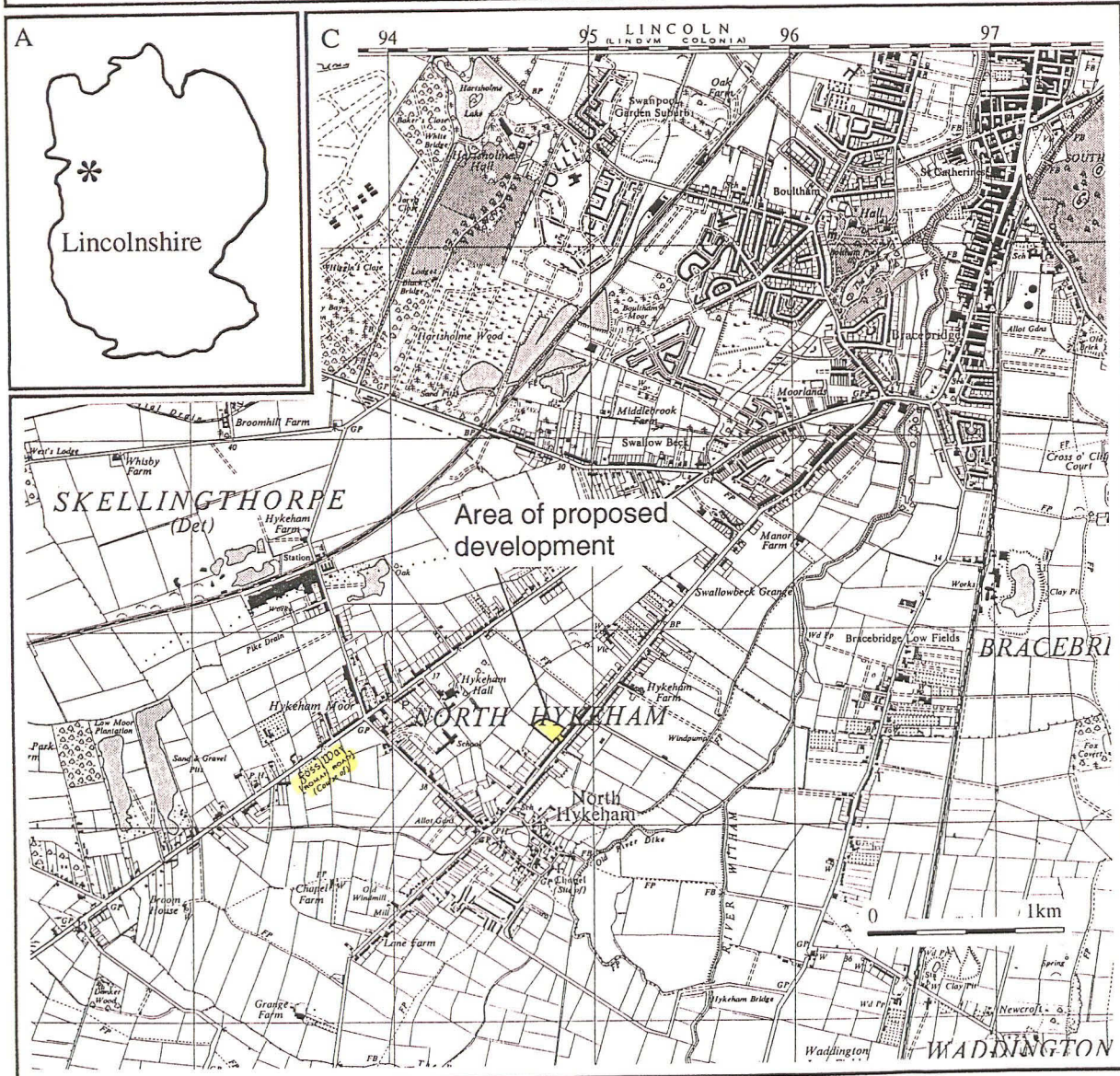
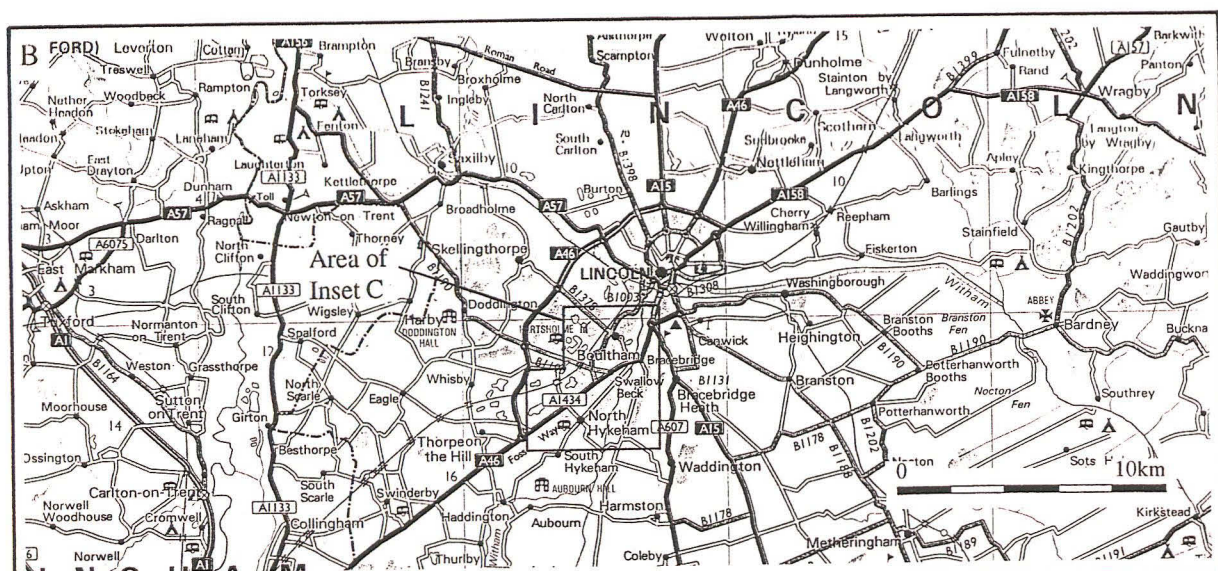


Fig 1 : Location of proposed development. (Inset C based on O.S. 1:25,000, Sheet SK 96. Crown Copyright 1953. Reproduced with the permission of the controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).

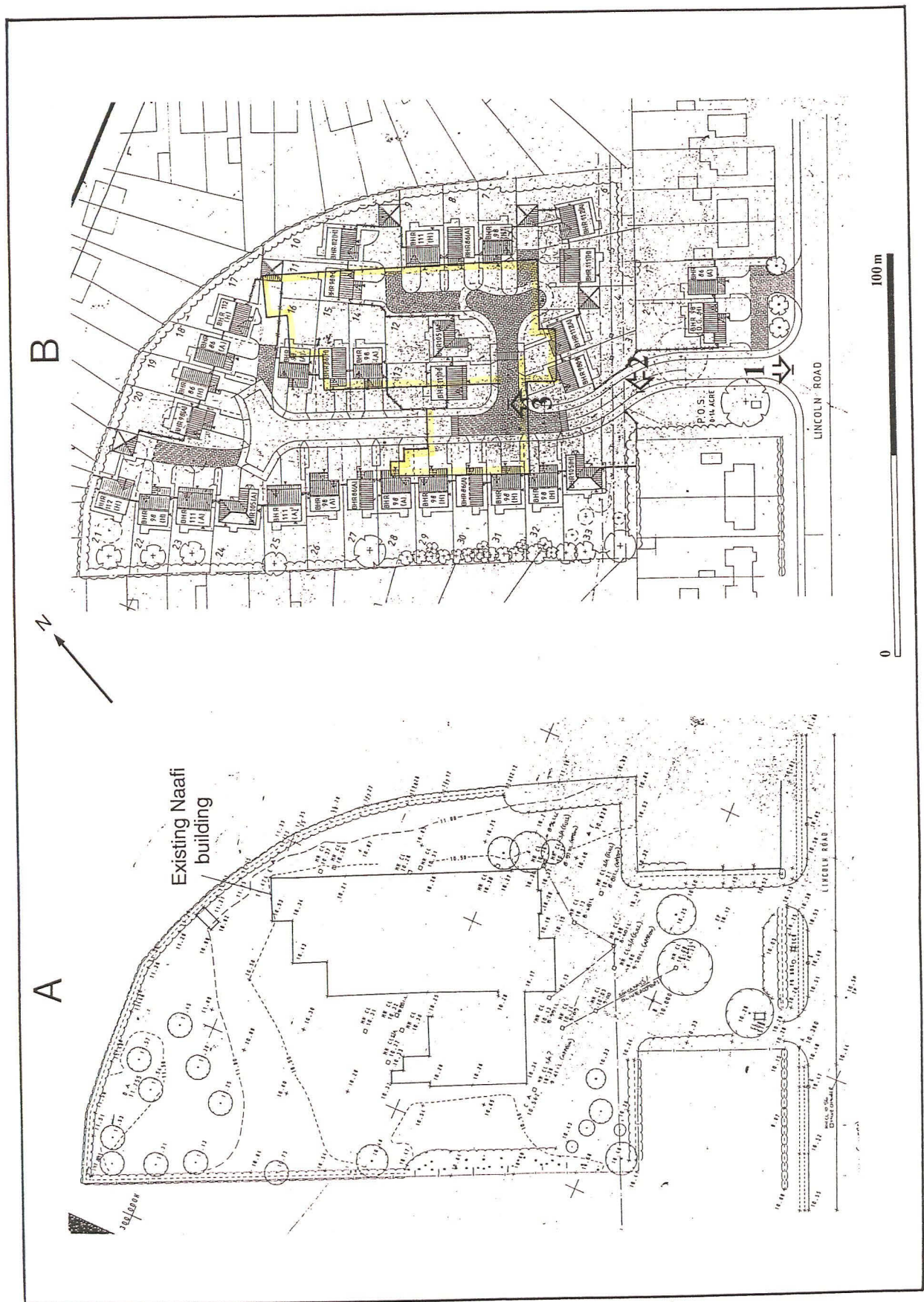


Fig 2 : Site plans, before and after development;
 B showing location of observation points 1-3.
 (Based on Beazer Homes 1:500 plans, March
 and May 1995 respectively).

NEWS FILE

Sign up for an active time

PARENTS were today reminded that tickets are still available for the "Medusa" children's holiday activity in Lincoln.

Youngsters will be able to learn about the magic of the Medusa legends and make their own giant Medusa mask at the event organised by the City and County Museum.

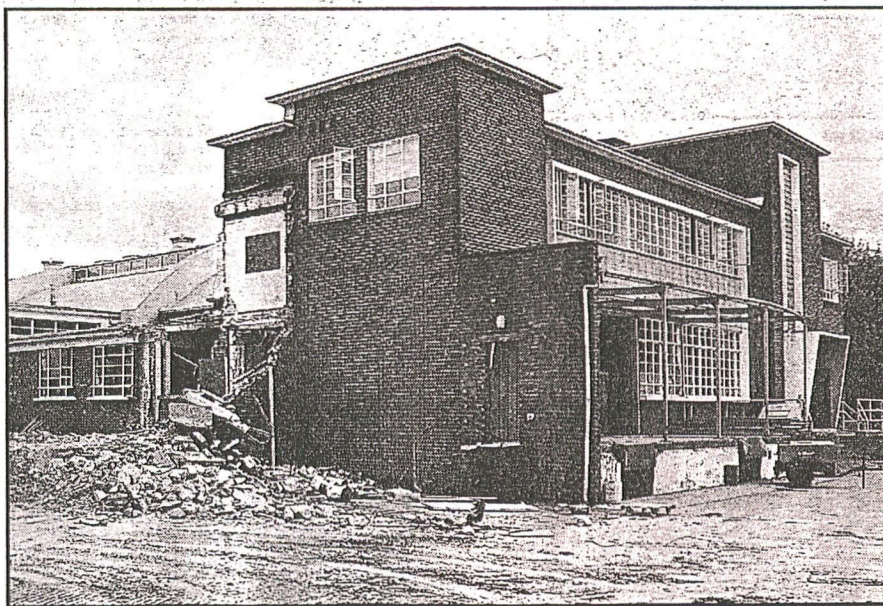
The sessions will be held tomorrow and Friday from 10am to noon and 1.30pm tomorrow to 3.30pm and will be held in the Lecture Room at Lincolnshire Archives on St Rumbold Street, off Broadgate.

Admission is £1.50 and is by pre-booked ticket only.

Anyone wanting to book tickets should phone Kathy Holland on Lincoln (01522) 530401.

In a flap over not

Bulldozers move in on old Naafi depot



● Crumbling: Demolition work starts on the old Naafi depot on North Hykeham's Lincoln Road. (2523-5)

BULLDOZERS have begun knocking down a major supply depot for staff at RAF camps.

Workmen are clearing the Naafi food distribution plant at North Hykeham to make way for new homes.

And experts are keeping a watching brief to make sure there is no contamination from any asbestos in the building.

Possibility

District councillor Jackie McAll said: "We have called on the Health and Safety Executive to check the site."

"The age of the building means there is a possibility there is asbestos there."

"The Naafi is right in the middle of the town and we were never really happy with it being there."

It is the end of an era for the Lincoln Road depot which kept Lincolnshire army and air force kitchens stocked for 40 years.

But residents had complained about heavy lorries making regular trips in and out of the distribution plant.

by Richard Orange

There were concerns that children playing nearby could have been at risk.

But the Naafi — The Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes — has now set up a new football-field sized base off the A1 at Grantham, employing about 100 people.

Complex

It is the first tenant on the six-acre site at the A1 Triangle Park business complex, which is expected to create up to 1,000 jobs.

District councillors at Sleaford gave planning permission for 24 homes on the North Hykeham site.

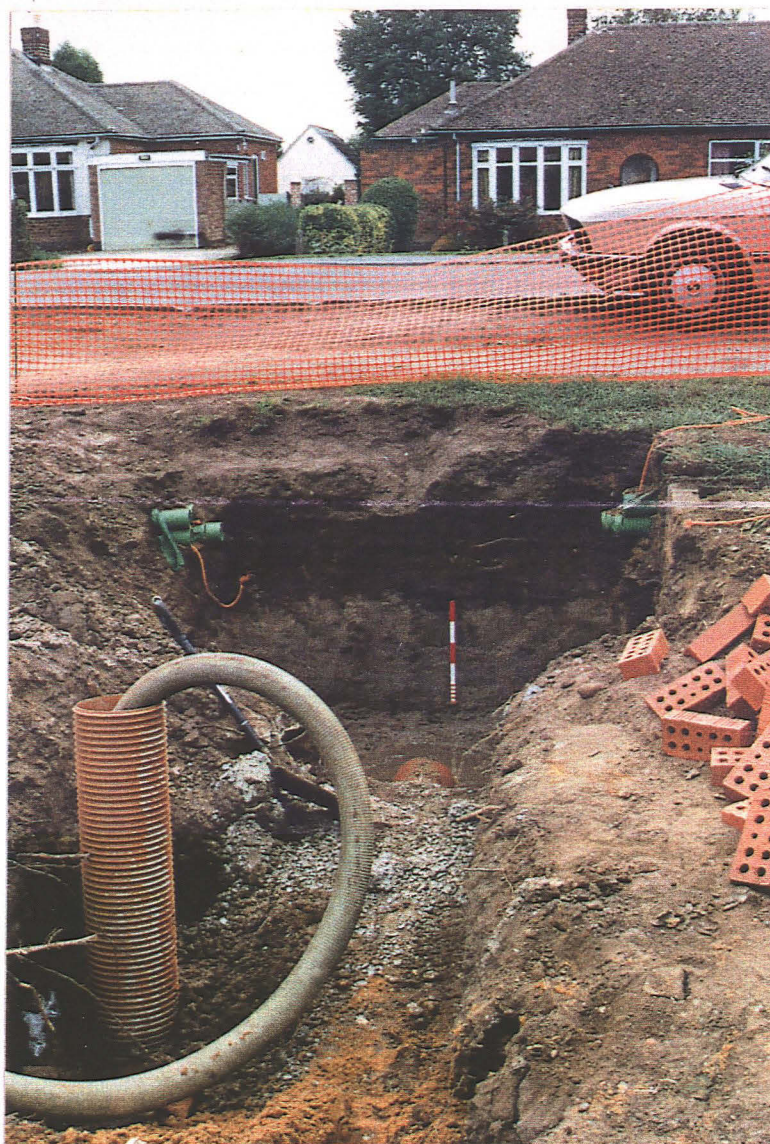
"It will be much better than having a factory in the middle of the town," said Coun McAll.



Pl. 1 General view from one of existing access roads; looking north-west towards depot during demolition.

Pl. 2 Detail of demolition in progress; looking north-west.





Pl. 3 North-west facing section at Observation Point 1; looking south-east. Scale 0.50m.

Pl. 4 As Pl. 3; detail.





PI. 5 North-east facing section at Observation Point 2; looking south-west. Scale 0.50m.

PI. 6 General view of service trench with Observation Point 3 in left foreground. Note previously disturbed ground in trench section just beyond Observation Point 3. Looking north. Scale 0.50m.



Pl. 7 South-east facing section at Observation Point 3. Looking
north-west. Scale 0.50m.

