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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT BOURNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
BOURNE,
LINCOLNSHIRE

TF 0979 1955



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

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SOURCES LISIIS LI1479

34847 Roman

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT BOURNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
BOURNE,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

TF0979 1955

Work Undertaken For
Land and Buildings Consultancy

October 1995

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1. SUMMARY

Between the 5th December 1994 and 20th June 1995, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeological Project Services on behalf of Land and Buildings Consultancy, at Bourne Grammar School, South Road, Bourne, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation and service trenches.

Development at Bourne Grammar School affects an area containing archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period (c. A.D. 50-400), when Bourne was the site of a Roman settlement along the route of the Roman road King Street. Romano-British pottery kilns were exposed during building works on the site in 1959.

This work identified the presence of Roman ditches, pits and gullies. Evidence from the fills of these features indicate industrial activity occurred in the vicinity.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

Between the 5th December 1994 and 20th June 1995, an archaeological watching brief was carried out during the excavation of foundation and service trenches for a new sports hall and associated changing rooms at Bourne Grammar School, South Road, Bourne, Lincolnshire (NGR TF 0985 1955). Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application S12/580/94. Permission was granted subject to a standard negative condition for archaeological recording. The archaeological work was commissioned by the Land and Buildings Consultancy and carried out by Archaeological Project Services.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Bourne is located 15km west of Spalding and 24km southeast of Grantham, at the base of a gentle eastern slope (the Fen Edge), with the fens located to the east (Fig. 2).

The development is centred on land west of South Road, located at approximately 11m O.D. and is situated approximately 700m south of Bourne town centre as defined by the Town Hall (Figs. 2 and 3).

Local soils comprise the Aswarby Association, gleyic brown calcareous earths, and Badsey 2 Association, brown calcareous earths over calcareous gravels (Hodge *et al* 1984, 99; 101). These overlay a solid geology of Oxford Clay above Kellaways Beds.

2.3 Archaeological Setting

The investigation site is situated in an area of dense archaeological activity with artefactual material and features from the Romano-British and Medieval periods being most significant. Although prehistoric activity has been recognised in the form of finds, such as flint tools, no settlement of this period has so far been identified in the Bourne area.

During the Romano-British period, evidence would suggest that Bourne was a small but important settlement. The Roman road, King Street, was aligned north to south through Bourne and is considered to be followed by the course of North Street and South Street (Margary 1973). Along the course of the highway, finds of Roman date have included a pottery kiln located at Bourne Grammar School (SK12.05), discovered during building work in 1959. A second Romano-British pottery kiln is located close to where Victoria Place crosses the Bourne

Eau 400m northeast, between the church of SS. Peter and Paul and Abbey Road (SK12.161). Pottery and occasional finds of tesserae (small ceramic cubes used in the construction of mosaics) have also been found, predominantly from the southern portion of the town. Approximately 900m east lies the Car Dyke, a Roman waterway. This watercourse connected the River Witham near Lincoln with the River Nene east of Peterborough (Whitwell 1970).

Evidence for Anglo-Saxon settlement of Bourne is scarce. The majority of finds from this period are situated in the northeast part of the town. No actual settlement has, to date, been located.

The place-name, Bourne is referred to in Domesday (A.D. 1086) as *Brune*, and derives from the Old English meaning 'stream' (Ekwall 1974, 55).

During the Medieval period (1066 - 1500 A.D.), Bourne grew into a substantial town, centred predominantly around the church. Bourne Castle, the earthworks of which still survive, is located west of the church. At one time this comprised a single motte (defensive mound), possibly surmounted by a stone tower with two enclosures or baileys containing further buildings and a possible stone gatehouse that have since been destroyed (Cathcart King 1983, 260).

Located north of the investigation area, the church of SS. Peter and Paul, founded in 1138, was once part of the Augustinian Abbey of the Arrouasian reform (Page 1902, 177; SK12.77 - see Fig. 2). Augustinian Friars were a union of hermitic monks following the rule of St Augustine. The abbey was dissolved in 1536.

Bourne was also a pottery production centre during the middle ages, evidence for which was found during excavations at the south

end of Eastgate (SK12.03 - not on Fig. 2). Situated almost 1km to the east of the town centre, excavations revealed kilns dating from the 14th to the 16th century, producing a distinctive pottery type that travelled as far as Nottingham. Numerous finds of Medieval date have been made in the Bourne locality and include pottery, seal stamps and stone carvings.

3. AIMS

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

4. METHODOLOGY

The development trenches were excavated by machine to a depth of c. 0.8m. The sides of the trenches were then cleaned by hand, and each archaeological deposit or feature revealed was allocated a unique reference number with an individual written description. Natural geological deposits were also recorded. A photographic record was compiled and selected sections were drawn at a scales 1:10 and 1:20.

5. RESULTS

Records of the deposits and features identified during the watching brief were examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. A total of five phases was identified during the watching brief:

- Phase 1 Natural Deposits
- Phase 2 Roman Deposits
- Phase 3 Mid-Roman Deposits
- Phase 4 Later Roman Deposits
- Phase 5 Modern Deposits

5.1 Phase 1 Natural Deposits

A natural layer of blue silty clay (32) was exposed across the entire investigation area.

5.2 Phase 2 Roman Deposits

Cutting the phase 1 deposit was a linear feature (7), oriented northeast-southwest, 4m wide and 0.5m deep. Containing a primary fill of grey brown sandy clay dated by associated pottery to the 1st century A.D., this feature has been interpreted as a boundary ditch (Fig. 4 and Fig. 5 section 3).

Located north of this, truncating natural deposits, was a linear feature (9), aligned northeast-southwest, 5m long (as exposed) by 1.7m wide and 0.57m deep (as exposed). Interpreted as a boundary ditch, it contained a primary fill of grey sandy clay with frequent gravel and shell fragments, dated by associated pottery to the 2nd-3rd centuries. It was sealed by a charcoal rich tertiary fill of black sandy clay, containing pottery dated to between the 1st to early 3rd centuries (Fig. 4 and Fig. 5 section 4).

5.3 Phase 3 Mid-Roman Deposits

Overlying natural deposits at the southern extent of the investigation area was a layer of grey brown sandy silty clay (31). This has been interpreted as a subsoil.

Sealing 31 was a layer of blue-grey clay (12), tentatively explained as an alluvial clay, deposited during flooding of the area. Overlying 12, though not completely covering it, and sealing the phase 2 deposits, was a layer of grey brown sandy silty clay subsoil (2).

5.4 Phase 4 Later Roman Deposits

Truncating subsoil 2 was the terminus of a

boundary ditch (3), oriented northwest-southeast, 1.3m wide and 0.5m deep (as exposed), containing a fill (4) of grey brown sandy clay (Fig. 4 and Fig. 5 section 1).

Situated north of the ditch, and also truncating 2, was a feature (5) 0.75m wide and 0.45m deep. Interpreted as a ditch or gully, this feature contained a fill (6) of grey brown silty sandy clay (Fig. 4 and Fig. 5 section 2).

Located east of 5, cutting phase 2 alluvium 12, was the terminus of a ditch/pit (13), oriented northeast-southwest, 2.3m wide and 0.8m deep (as exposed). Filling this was a grey brown sandy clay (14) containing frequent charcoal fragments. This deposit also contained a quantity of burnt sandy clay, presumably derived from an industrial source (Fig. 4 and Fig. 6 section 5).

Situated north of ditch/pit 13, truncating layer 12, was a feature (15), aligned east-west, 0.4m wide and deep, containing a fill of blue grey sandy clay (16). This has been tentatively interpreted as a drainage gully (Fig. 4).

Just east of the gully, cutting 12, was a pit (19), 5m long by 3.7m wide and 0.8m deep (as exposed). This contained two primary fills of grey brown sandy silty clay (23), and dark grey silty clay (24), although it is possible that these represent variations of a single fill. Each contained frequent charcoal fragments, and the former has been dated by associated pottery to the 3rd century. Sealing these was a layer of grey sandy silty clay (22), containing 2nd-3rd century pottery. Overlying 22 was a layer of yellow silty clayey sand (25 - not illustrated) containing frequent charcoal fragments. Of uncertain relationship to 25, though certainly sealing 22, was a deposit of grey

brown sandy silty clay with iron ore inclusions (21), indicating that this deposit derived from an industrial source. These deposits (21, 22 and 25) have been interpreted as secondary fills of pit 19. Overlying 25 and 21 was a layer of grey brown sandy silty clay (20). Containing pottery of the 2nd century, this has been interpreted as the tertiary fill of 19 (Fig. 4 and Fig. 6 section 6).

Immediately north of pit 19, truncating subsoil 12, was a sub-linear feature (27), oriented northwest-southeast, 0.78m wide and 0.28m deep, containing a primary fill of grey brown sandy silty clay with iron ore inclusions (28). This has been interpreted as a gully, into which waste from an industrial source had been discarded. Sealing the primary fill was a grey brown sandy silty clay (26), interpreted as the tertiary fill of the gully (Fig. 4 and Fig. 6 section 7).

Northeast of 27, cutting layer 12, was a north-south linear feature (29), 0.35m wide and 0.28m deep. Filling this was a deposit of grey brown sandy silty clay, containing frequent iron ore inclusions, indicating that an industrial process was occurring in the vicinity. This feature has been interpreted as a gully (Fig. 4 and Fig. 6 section 8).

West of gully 29, truncating subsoil 12, was a sub-square feature (17), 1.8m wide and 0.9m deep. This was filled by a layer of dark grey silty clay, containing frequent inclusions of crushed shell fragments. Interpreted as a pit, the primary fill has been dated by associated pottery to the 2nd century (Fig. 4).

Truncating natural deposit 32 was a sub-linear feature (35), possibly aligned north-south, 0.97m wide and 0.32m deep. Filled by a layer of grey silty clay (36), this feature has been interpreted as a gully/pit (Fig. 4).

West of 35, truncating phase 1 deposit 32, was a ditch (40/33), 2m wide by 0.5m deep, containing two primary fills of brown green silty sand and grey silt clay (34 and 39 respectively). It was sealed by a deposit of brown sand and gravel (37), interpreted as the secondary fill of the ditch. This was overlaid by a layer of grey brown silty clay (39), interpreted as the tertiary fill.

5.5 Phase 5 Modern Deposits

Partially observed in the northern extent of the investigation area, truncating pit 17, was a feature containing pea gravel and concrete. This has been interpreted as a well-cap.

Sealing this feature and the phase 4 features was a layer of granite chippings (1), sealed by a layer of tarmac that constitutes the present ground surface.

6. DISCUSSION

Blue silty clay occurred as the natural deposit across the investigation area.

Truncating this were two ditches aligned east-west and northeast-southwest, separating tracts of land in the western part of the site (see fig. 4). One of these ditches (9) contained a high percentage of charcoal in its tertiary fill, indicating that although the ditch appears to have been allowed to silt up naturally, the latest deposit also incorporated dumped refuse. The origin of this refuse is unclear.

Sealing these features was a layer of subsoil, that sealed two other subsoil layers overlying the natural deposit. It is probable that the subsoil layer 2 has been reworked, because it is unlikely, considering the dates of the later archaeological features (which overlap those belonging to phase 2), that there

would have been sufficient time for a subsoil to form. This implies, therefore, that features 7 and 9 were probably cut through layer 2, but that later disturbance (e.g. ploughing) has removed any evidence for this truncation.

The subsoil was cut by a boundary ditch aligned northwest-southeast (3), parallel with the western extent of the investigation area. Another possible boundary (5), aligned east-west, and unlikely to be contemporary with 3, was located at the western limit of the site.

East of these features was the terminus of a ditch/pit, probably the latter (13), aligned northeast-southwest. The fill of the feature contained frequent charcoal fragments and burnt soil, indicating that this is waste from an industrial source, the location of which was not identified.

Northeast of ditch 13 was another boundary 40/33, aligned approximately north-south.

The area was drained by several gullies (15, 27, 29 and possibly 35). It is unlikely, however, that these would have been active at the same time as their alignments vary considerably. One of these (29) contained an iron rich fill dated to the 2nd century. This deposit (30), also suggests the presence of some form of industrial activity in the vicinity.

Limited pitting occurred on the site as evidenced by 17, 19, (possibly) 35 and (possibly) 13. One of these (19) contained industrial waste material in the form of charcoal and iron ore inclusions, presenting further evidence for some form of industrial activity. The original function of these features, which were eventually used for disposal purposes, could not be determined.

During 1959 a Roman pottery kiln was

exposed on the site of the Grammar School. The iron rich fills within pit 19 and gullies 27 and 29, suggest that technological processes, possibly some form of metal working, occurred in the vicinity. This evidence indicates that multiple forms of industrial activity took place. It is likely, therefore, that during the Roman period this area of Bourne was specifically used for these purposes. No evidence for domestic features or activities were identified beyond that indicated by the pottery, the forms of which included jars, beakers, flagons and bowls.

Modern deposits are represented by a well-cap, that was used to seal an artesian well approximately five years ago (Owen, *S. pers. comm.*). This was covered by a layer of granite chippings that formed the make-up layer for the tarmac surface of the playground. No topsoil exists, having been removed during construction of the playground.

8. EFFECTIVENESS OF TECHNIQUES

The methods and strategies employed during the watching brief proved to be effective in establishing the presence of Roman archaeological remains.

9. CONCLUSIONS

The watching brief established the presence of deposits of Roman and later date.

A layer of clay occurred as a natural deposit across the entire area. Deposits of Roman date developed over this.

The earliest archaeological deposits are represented by a ditch and a ditch/pit. These features have been dated to the 1st-3rd centuries A.D.. These were apparently sealed by a layer of subsoil, though it is

considered that this has probably been reworked, indicating that these features actually post-date this layer, but pre-date the reworking of it.

The flood deposit 12 was truncated by several ditches, pits and gullies, dated to the 2nd-3rd centuries. These features represent boundaries, drainage and disposal facilities. The waste materials retrieved from some of these indicate some form of industrial process located in the vicinity. This, when taken in conjunction with the Roman pottery kilns exposed on the site in 1959, suggest that multiple forms of industrial activity occurred, perhaps indicating that use of this area was specifically dedicated to these processes.

The Roman deposits were disturbed by a modern well-cap, sealing an artesian well, and overlaid by a make-up layer of granite chippings. A tarmac surface, constituted the Grammar School playground.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to thank Mr S. Owen of the Land and Buildings Consultancy, who commissioned the watching brief and post-excavation analysis. Barbara Davies of the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, who carried out the pottery assessment. Jenny Stevens, South Kesteven District Community Archaeologist, who permitted access to the relevant parish files. The work was coordinated by Steve Haynes and this report was edited by Gary Taylor and Dave Start.

11. PERSONNEL

Project Manager: Steve Haynes
Supervisors: Kate Hughes; Mark Sansom
Research: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Illustration: Denise Buckley; Paul Cope-

Faulkner
Post-Excavation Analyst: Mark Dymond

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Hodge, C.A.H., Burton, R.G.O., Corbett, W.M., Evans, R., and Seale, R.S., 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*. Soil Survey of England and Wales 13.

Margary, I.D., 1973 *Roman Roads in Britain*

Whitwell, J.B., 1970 *Roman Lincolnshire*. History of Lincolnshire Vol. II

13. ABBREVIATIONS

Numbers prefixed by 'SK' are the primary reference numbers used by the Community Archaeologist for South Kesteven District.

**Appendix 1
Context Summary**

Context	Description	Interpretation
1	Granite chippings	Make-up for tarmac playground
2	Grey brown sandy silty clay	Subsoil
3	Cut feature	Ditch
4	Grey brown sandy clay	Fill of 3
5	Cut feature	Ditch/pit
6	Grey brown silty sandy clay	Fill of 5
7	Cut feature	Ditch/pit
8	Grey brown sandy clay	Fill of 7
9	Cut feature	Ditch
10	Grey sandy clay	Primary fill of 9
11	Black sandy clay	Tertiary fill of 9
12	Blue-grey clay	Alluvial clay
13	Cut feature	Ditch/pit
14	Grey brown sandy clay	Fill of 13
15	Cut feature	Gully
16	Blue-grey sandy clay	Fill of 15
17	Cut feature	Pit
18	Grey silty clay	Fill of 17
19	Cut feature	Pit
20	Grey brown sandy silty clay	Tertiary fill of 19
21	Grey brown sandy silty clay	Secondary fill of 19
22	Grey sandy silty clay	Secondary fill of 19
23	Grey brown sandy silty clay	Primary fill of 19
24	Grey silty clay	Primary fill of 19
25	Yellow silty clayey sand	Secondary fill of 19
26	Grey brown sandy silty clay	Tertiary fill of 27
27	Cut feature	Gully

Context	Description	Interpretation
28	Grey brown sandy silty clay with iron ore inclusions	Primary fill of 27
29	Cut feature	Gully
30	Grey brown sandy silty clay	Fill of 29
31	Grey brown sandy silty clay	Subsoil
32	Blue clay	Natural deposit
33	Cut feature (same as 40)	Pit
34	Brown green silty clay	Primary fill of 40/33
35	Cut feature	Pit/gully
36	Grey silty clay	Fill of 35
37	Orange-brown sand and gravel	Secondary fill of 40/33
38	Grey brown silty clay	Tertiary fill of 40/33
39	Grey silt and clay	Primary fill of 40/33
40	Cut feature (same as 33)	Pit

APPENDIX 2

The Archive

The archive consists of:

COUNT	DESCRIPTION	DATE (century)
40	Context records	
31	Photographic records	
13	Scale drawings	
1	Stratigraphic matrix	
1	Box of finds	
		Dragoncliff 18
		Late 1st early 2nd
		2nd-3rd
		1st-early 3rd
		3rd
		3rd
		2nd
		2nd
		2nd-3rd
		3rd
		Roman
		Roman
		2nd?

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: 180.94
 Archaeological Project Services project code: BGS94

Most of the material produced only a few sherds of Roman pottery, therefore the dating is generally broad. The lowest context from context 8 c. AD 75-100 is the earliest diagnostic pottery from the site. Context 11 with sherds of a cream ware flagon is probably early to mid to late 2nd century. Contexts 21 and 22 may be broadly dated to the 2nd century, whereas 10 and 23 range from the 2nd to 3rd centuries, and 11 from the first to the early 3rd century. Contexts 12 and 23 are dated more convincingly to the 3rd century by the presence of None

APPENDIX 3

FINDS CATALOGUE

Barbara Davies

CONTEXT	QUANTITY	FABRICS	DATE (century)
8	1	Nene Valley Grey ware	
8	1	Samian, South Gaulish?, Dragendorff 18	Late 1st early 2nd
10	2	Grey ware (closed jar)	2nd-3rd
11	2	South Lincolnshire cream ware	1st-early 3rd
12	1	Nene Valley Grey ware (jar-bowl)	
12	1	Nene Valley colour coated (open vessel)	
12	1	Shelly ware (Bourne ware)	3rd
18	6	South Lincolnshire cream ware (flagon)	
18	1	Nene Valley Grey ware	2nd
20	1	Nene Valley Grey ware (jar)	2nd
22	1	Nene Valley Grey ware (large jar)	2nd-3rd
23	1	Nene Valley colour coated (beaker)	
23	4	Nene Valley Grey ware (beaker?)	
23	5	South Lincolnshire Grey ware (jar-beaker?)	3rd
25	3	Shelly ware	Roman
26	1	Shelly ware (large jar)	Roman
30	3	Shelly ware (2 open, 1 closed vessels)	2nd?

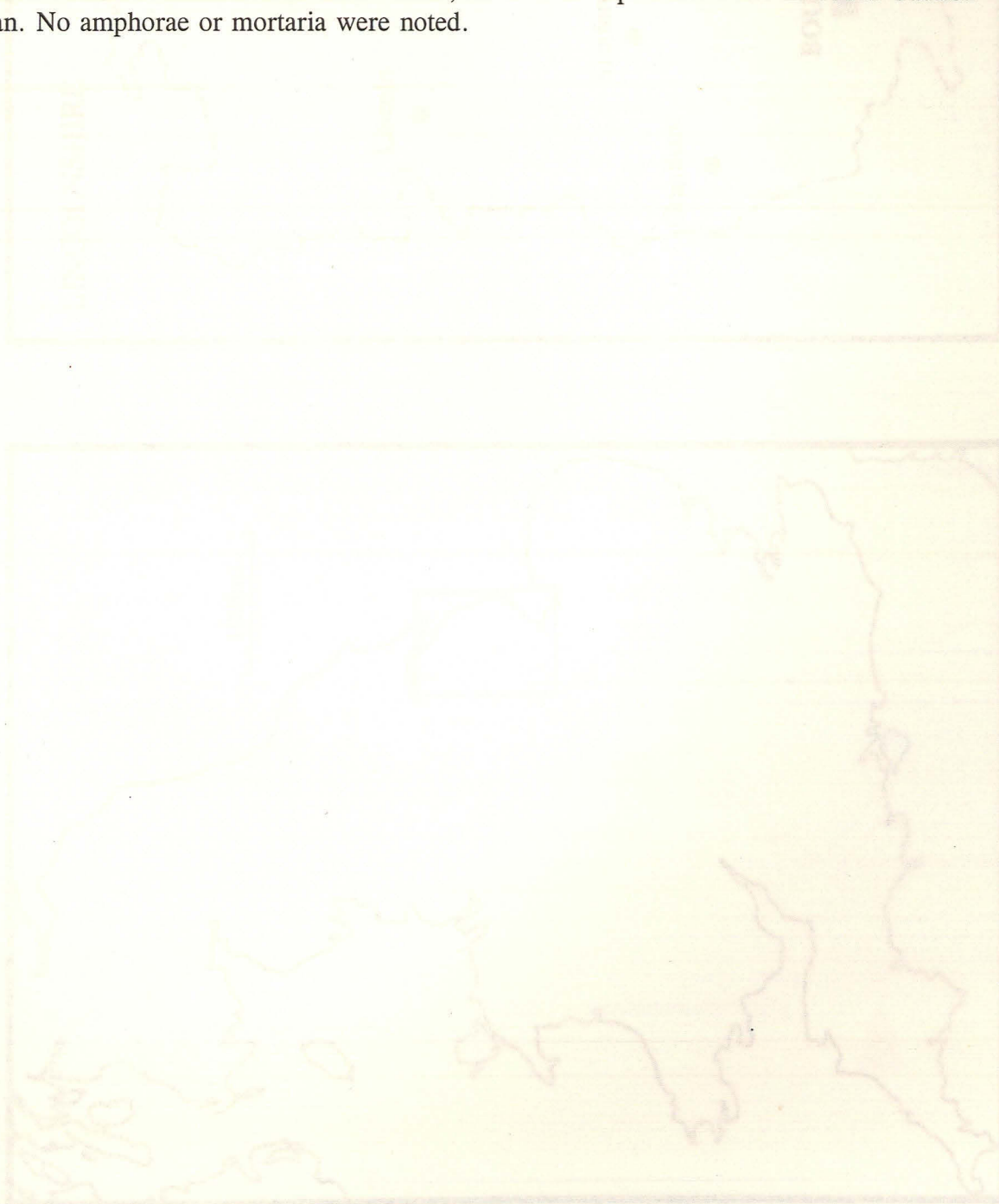
Dating

Most of the contexts produced only a few sherds of Roman pottery, therefore the dating is generally broad. South Gaulish samian from context 8 c. AD 70-100 is the earliest diagnostic pottery from the site. Context 18 with sherds of a cream ware flagon is probably early to mid to late 2nd century. Contexts 20 and 30 may be broadly dated to the 2nd century, whereas 10 and 22 range from the 2nd to 3rd centuries, and 11 from the first to the early 3rd century. Contexts 12 and 23 are dated more convincingly to the 3rd century by the presence of Nene

Valley colour coated ware. Contexts 25 and 26 are undiagnostic but probably Roman.

The fragments are very similar to those noted at excavations at Hangman's Road, Stainfield with cream and grey wares that have been noted in the Peterborough area which may be related to Nene Valley production. There is a small group which are also related to Nene Valley grey ware, but with coarser quartz intrusions, which were thought to be similar in date to the finer Nene Valley grey wares but are probably from the upper Nene Valley. Also worthy of note in view of the location of this site are the shell tempered wares, some of which are noted from the Roman kilns at Bourne, which are of a silty matrix with moderate inclusions of larger quartz and moderate oyster shell but no obvious bryozoa. There is a second group with much more abundant fine shell with bryozoa.

There is a range of forms, some of which are burnt and obviously used for cooking, flagons, beakers and some colour coated table wares, as well as a plate or bowl in South Gaulish samian. No amphorae or mortaria were noted.



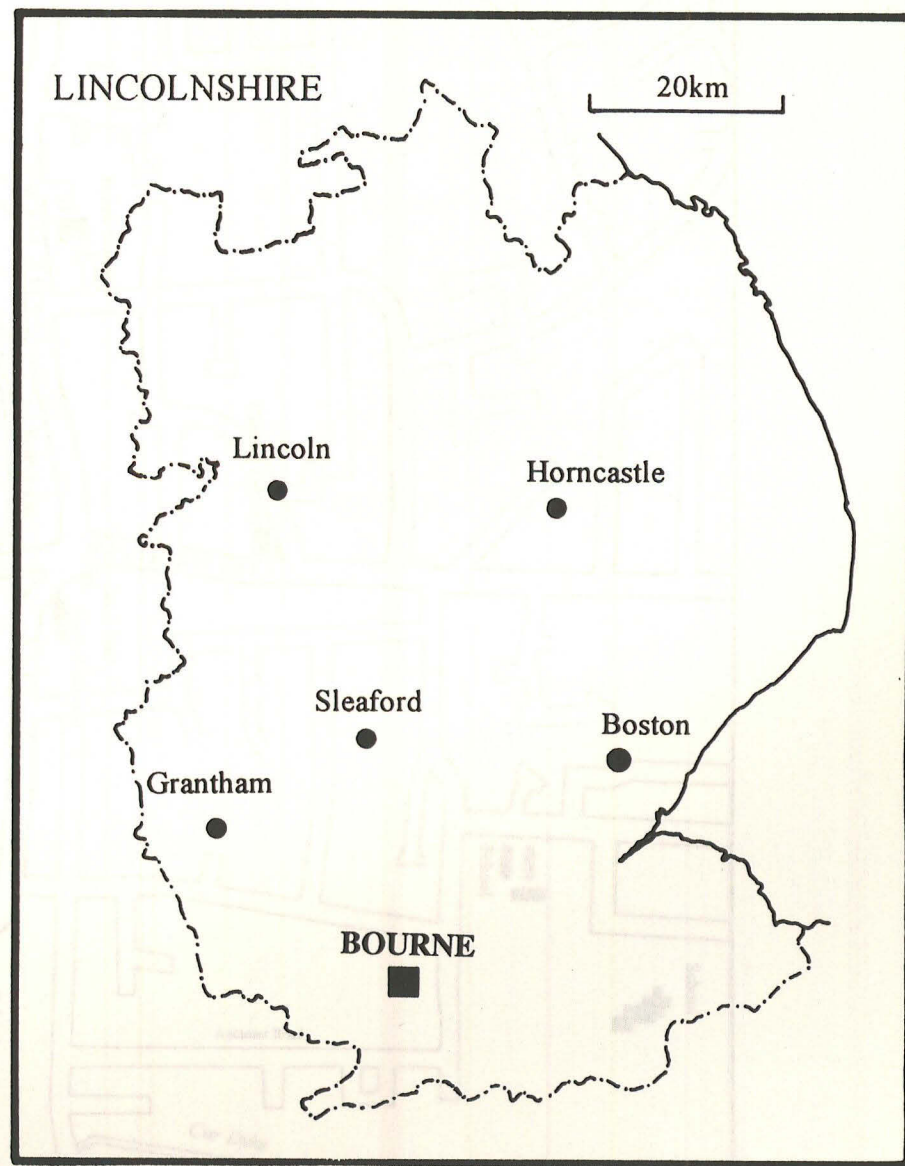
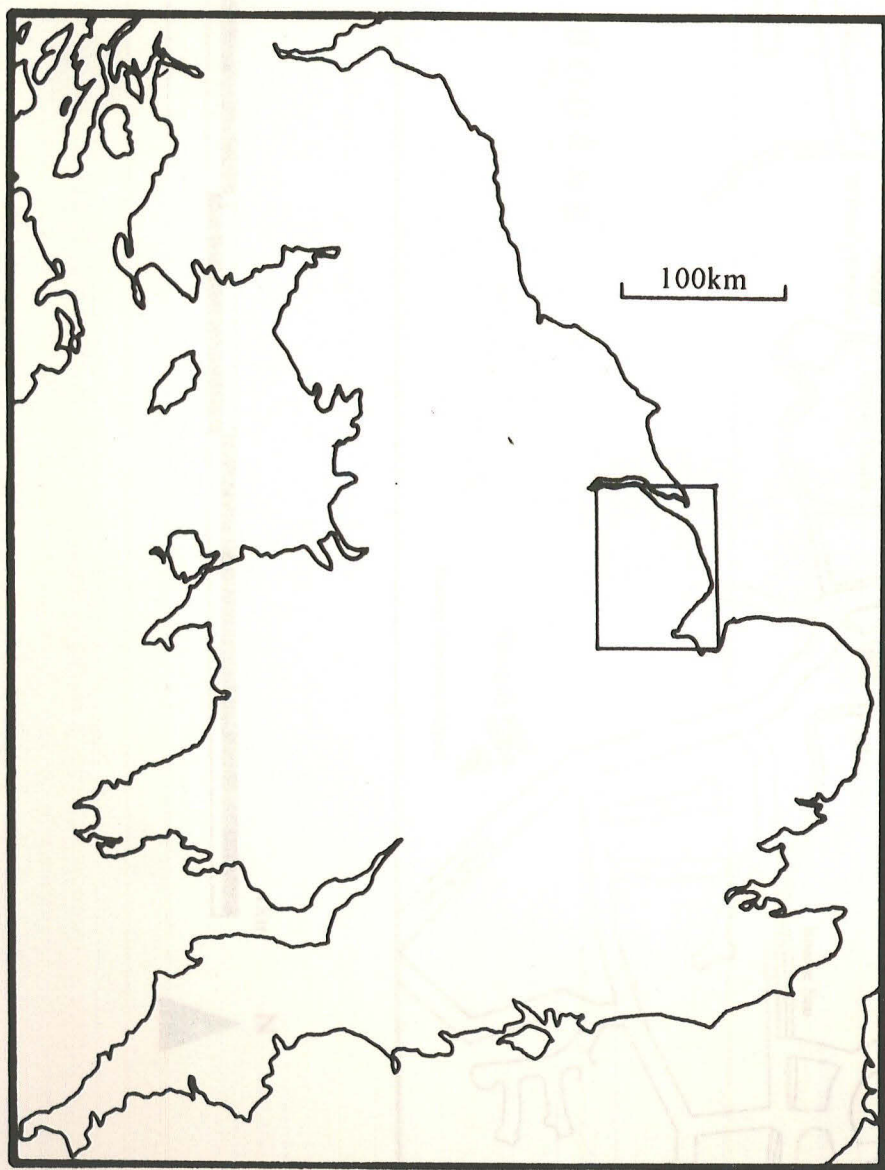
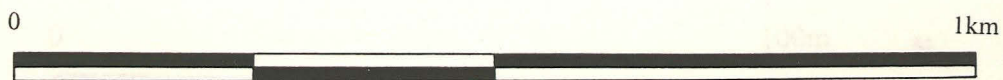
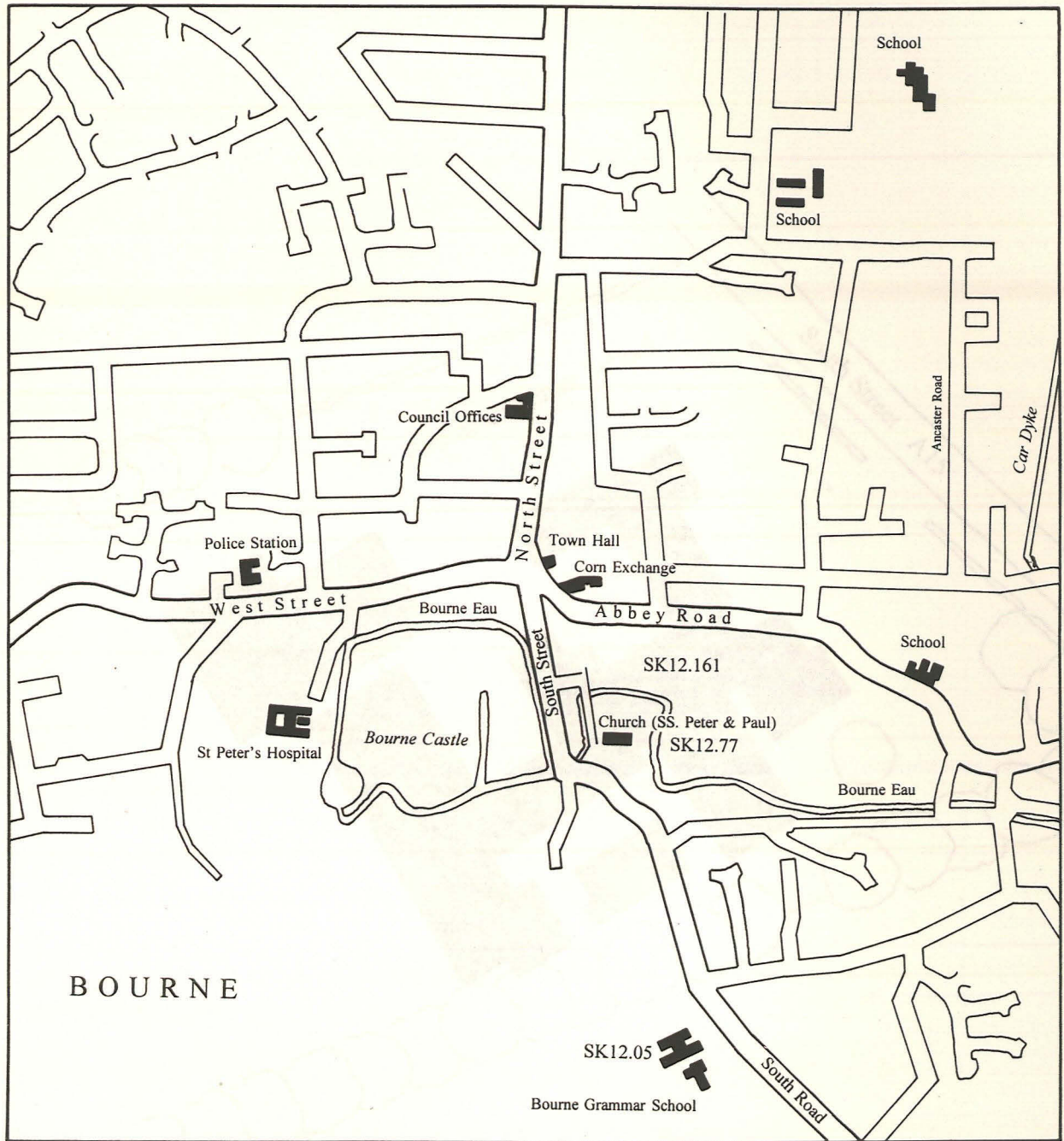


Fig. 1 General Location Plan

Fig. 2 Site Location Plan



AREA OF DEVELOPMENT

Fig. 3 Area of Development

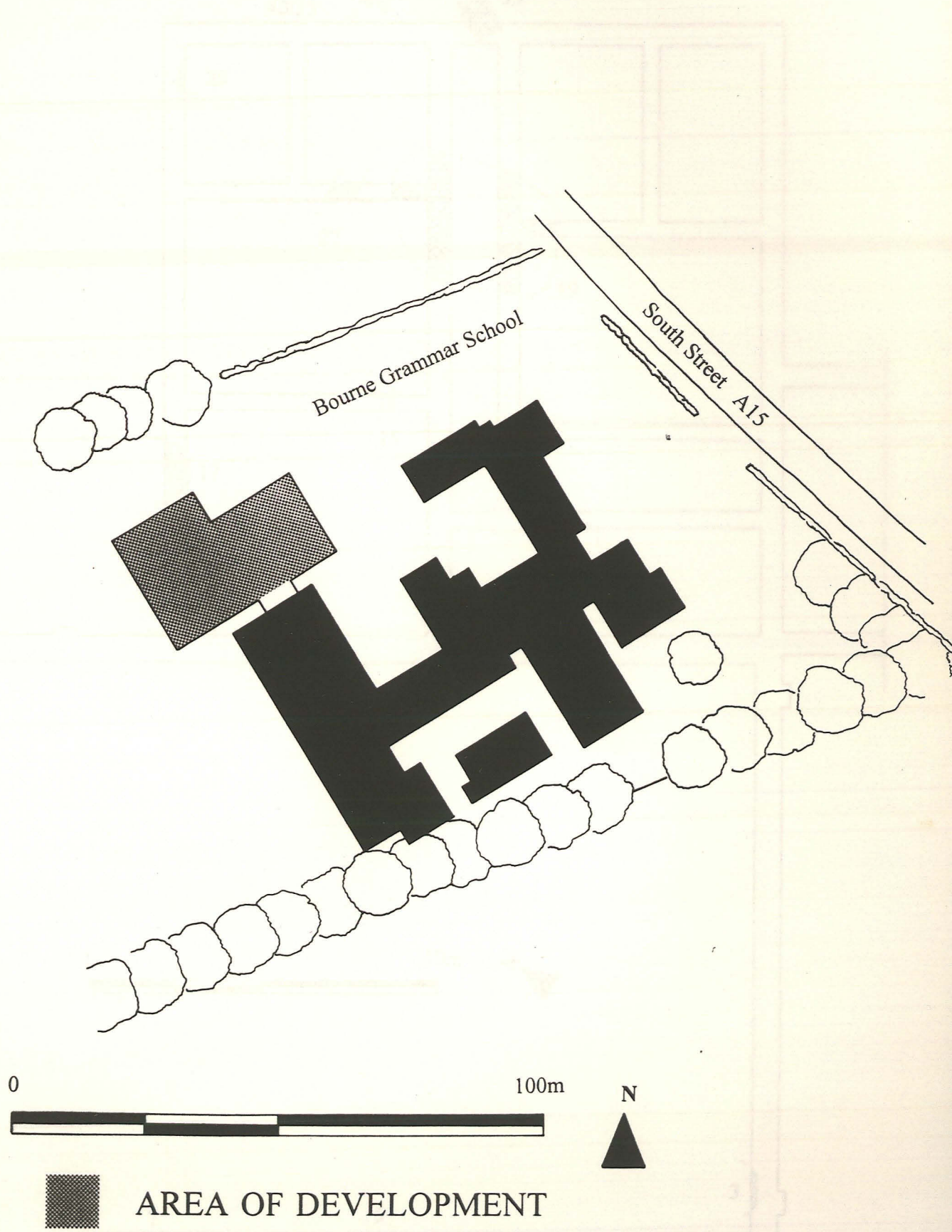


Fig. 4 Foundation Plan Showing Archaeological Features

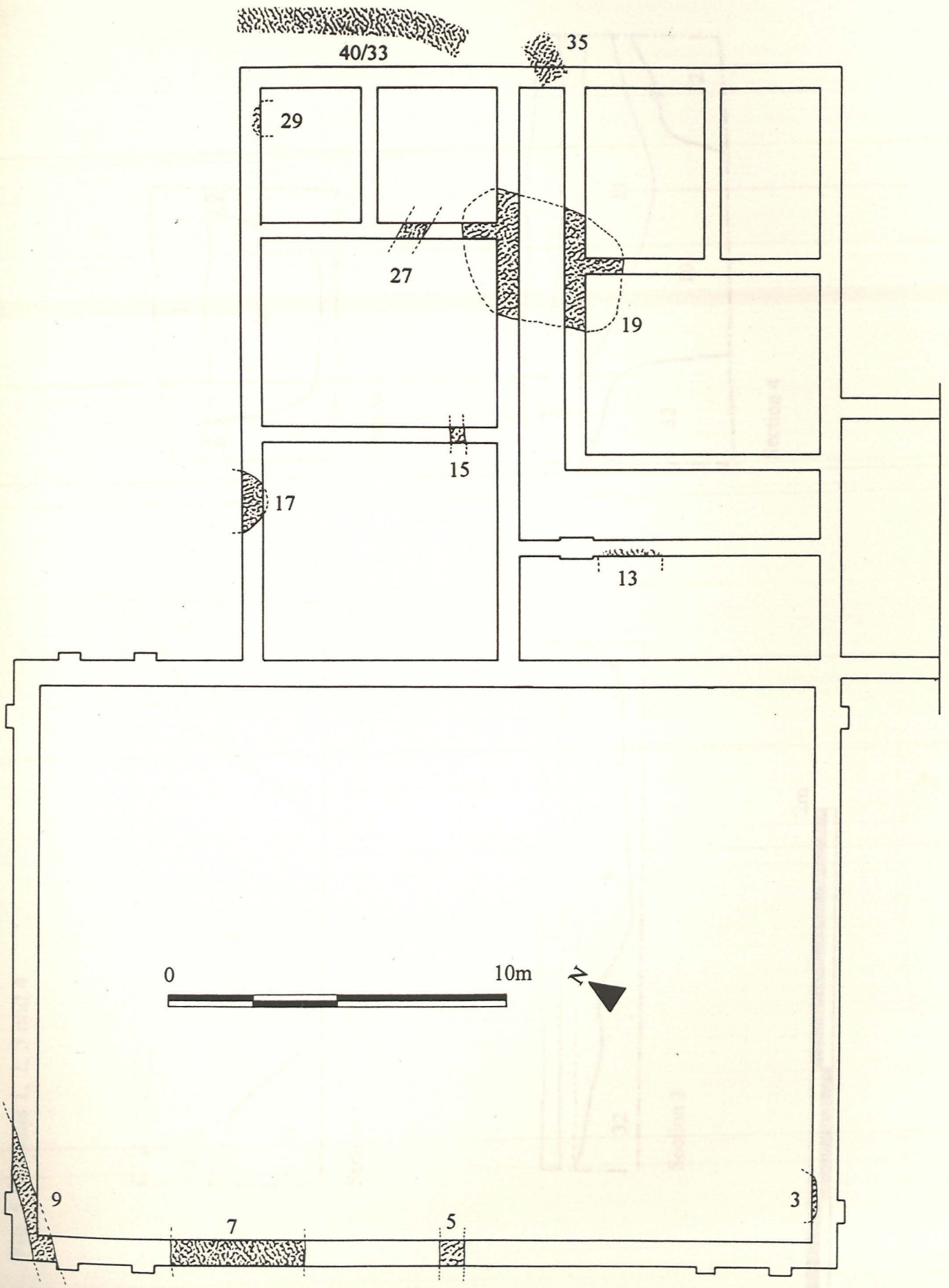
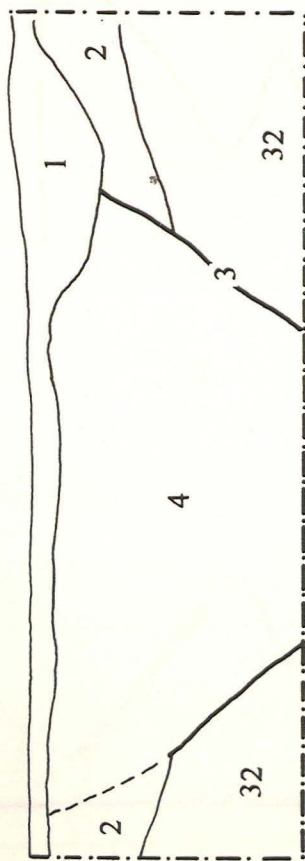
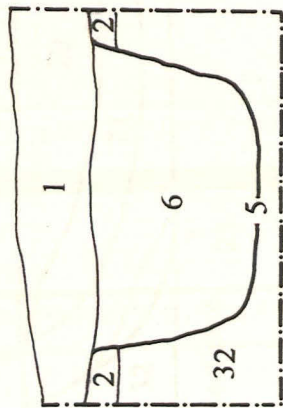


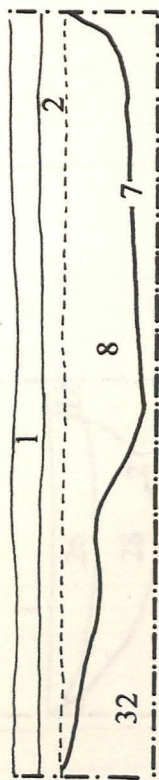
Fig. 5 Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4



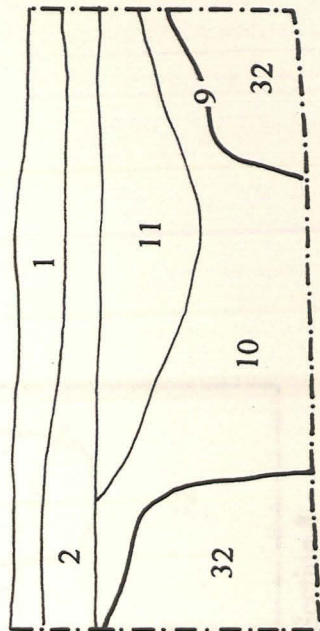
Section 1



Section 2



Section 3



Section 4

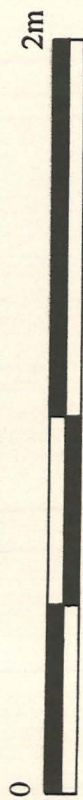
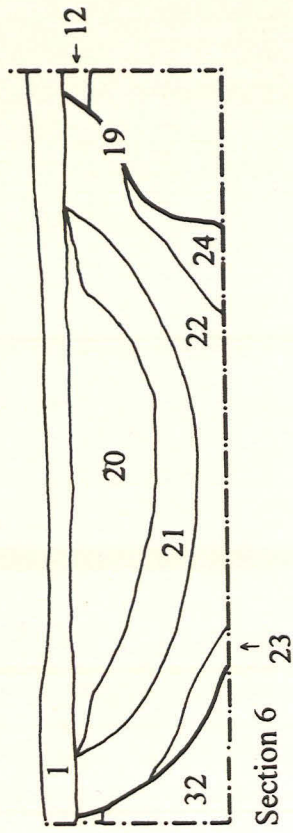
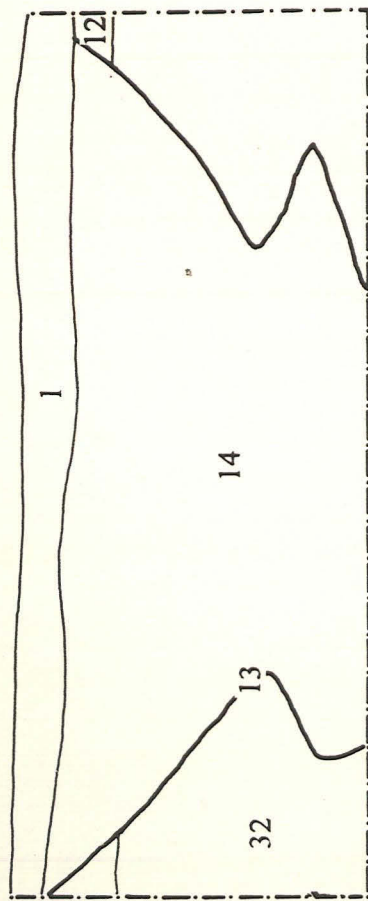
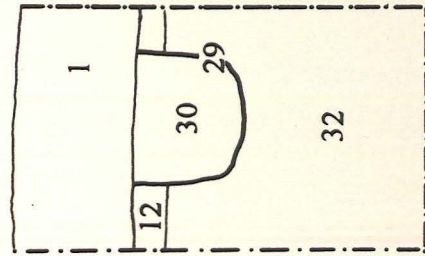
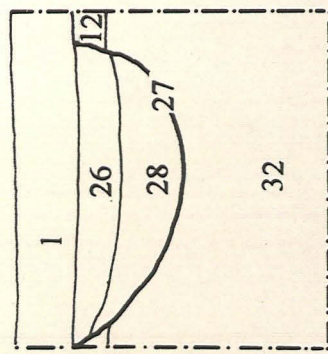


Fig. 6 Sections 5, 6, 7 and 8



Section 5

Section 6



Section 8

Section 7

