



ADVANCING LINCOLNSHIRE'S PAST



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT
HACCONBY DROVE,
HACONBY
LINCOLNSHIRE**

Work Undertaken For
Anglian Water Services Ltd.

December 1994

Heritage Lincolnshire
The Old School,
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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during construction of a production borehole at Hacconby Drove, Hacconby, Lincolnshire.

The site lies in an area of significant archaeological interest. Prehistoric activity includes salterns, salt producing sites, Iron Age settlements, ring ditches and droveways as well as occasional finds of worked flint. Roman activity is represented by the Car Dyke waterway passing through the site and cropmarks have revealed further probable Roman activity in the proximity. Saxon and medieval evidence is represented by surface finds of pottery.

A layer of subsoil overlain by topsoil was recorded at the site. No archaeological features were encountered.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

Between the 25th-27th October 1993 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during construction of a production borehole at Hacconby Drove, Hacconby (National Grid Reference TF 1168 2555). Hacconby Drove is located in the civil parish of Hacconby, South Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). This work was commissioned by Anglian Water and carried out by Heritage Lincolnshire.

2.2 Topography and Geology

The site is situated 5.5km north of Bourne and 23km southeast of Grantham. Local soils are the Wallasea 2 association peilo-alluvial gley soils on reclaimed marine

alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 338).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Hacconby Drove is located in an area of archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric to medieval period. Prehistoric activity is represented by scatters of flint artefacts located 500m to the southwest (SK40.09), 300m to the northwest (SK40.11), 780m to the west (SK40.61), and 950m to the northeast (SK28.05). Four Iron Age salterns are situated close to the site: (SK40.14) c. 270m to the north, (SK40.71) and (SK40.74) both c. 550m to the northeast, and another is located 950m to the northeast (SK28.06). Adjacent to the latter are two Iron Age occupation sites (SK40.72 and SK40.73). Three crop marks of ring ditches (SK40.47, SK40.46, and SK28.51), typical evidence for prehistoric burial mounds and possibly representing a dispersed cemetery, are situated 830m east of, 650m southwest of, and 700m northwest of the site respectively. Additionally, two sets of cropmarks identified as enclosures with associated droveways are situated 920m to the northeast (SK28.49), and 730m north of the site (SK28.50), respectively.

Passing north to south through the site is the Car Dyke Romano-British waterway (SK40.03). This watercourse connected the River Witham near Lincoln with the River Nene east of Peterborough (Whitwell 1970, 57). Romano-British activity is also represented by miscellaneous artefacts located 350m to the north (SK40.03), 650m to the south (SK40.10), 350m to the north-east (SK40.18) and 400m to the west (SK40.19). Romano-British pottery fragments have been retrieved 300m to the northwest (SK40.11), 170m to the northwest (SK40.13) and (SK40.16), 100m to the east (SK40.17), 860m to the north (SK28.16), 950m to the northeast (SK28.18), and 840m to the northeast

(SK28.20 and SK28.29). Two quern stones have been retrieved 680m and 580m (SK40.20, SK40.21) to the northeast. The route of a road (SK40.23), possibly Roman, has been observed passing northwest to southeast c. 600m to the east. Aerial photographic evidence has revealed cropmarks indicative of Romano-British cultivation. Four settlement sites are located 350m, 400m, and 410m to the northwest (SK40.65, SK40.66, SK40.67), and 370m to the west (SK40.68). Additionally, two Romano-British saltern sites are located 150m and 60m to the south (SK40.69, SK40.70).

Saxon activity in the area is represented by miscellaneous artefacts retrieved from 400m to the west (SK40.19), pottery scatters 650m to the south (SK40.37) and 500m to the southwest (SK40.38), and two settlement sites situated 780m to the west (SK40.61 and SK40.62).

Finds of miscellaneous artefacts dating to the medieval period have been retrieved 500m to the southwest (SK40.09), and 400m to the west (SK40.19), scatters of pottery fragments 630m southwest (SK40.10), 100m east (SK40.17), 600m southwest (SK40.23), and 500m southwest of the site. A medieval moated site has been identified situated 980m to the east (SK40.34), and lies adjacent to the site of a medieval formal garden (SK40.35).

3. AIMS

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

4. METHODS

A mechanical excavator was used to

remove c. 0.2m of topsoil over an area 30m by 30m. See fig. 3 for a plan of the area excavated.

The surface exposed was selectively cleaned by hand where subsoil was visible. Each archaeological deposit revealed was allocated a unique reference number with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled.

5. RESULTS

Records of the deposits identified during the watching brief were examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. One phase was identified:

Phase 1	Modern deposits
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Phase 1 Modern Deposits

A deposit of clay was encountered in the area examined. This is interpreted as a subsoil (2). Sealing this was ploughsoil (1).

6. DISCUSSION

Modern deposits of subsoil were observed across the area examined. Ploughsoil constitutes the present ground surface.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigation at Hacconby Drove, Hacconby, established that modern deposits of subsoil occur within 0.2m of the present ground surface. No archaeological features were encountered and no artefacts were recovered during the watching brief.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Heritage Lincolnshire wish to thank Anglian Water for funding the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Steve Haynes coordinated the work and Dave Start edited this report. Ruth Waller, the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist, kindly permitted access to the relevant parish files.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Manager: Steve Haynes
Site Assistant: David Brown
Post-excavation analysts: Mark Dymond,
Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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 Bulletin
No. 13

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

11. ABBREVIATIONS

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

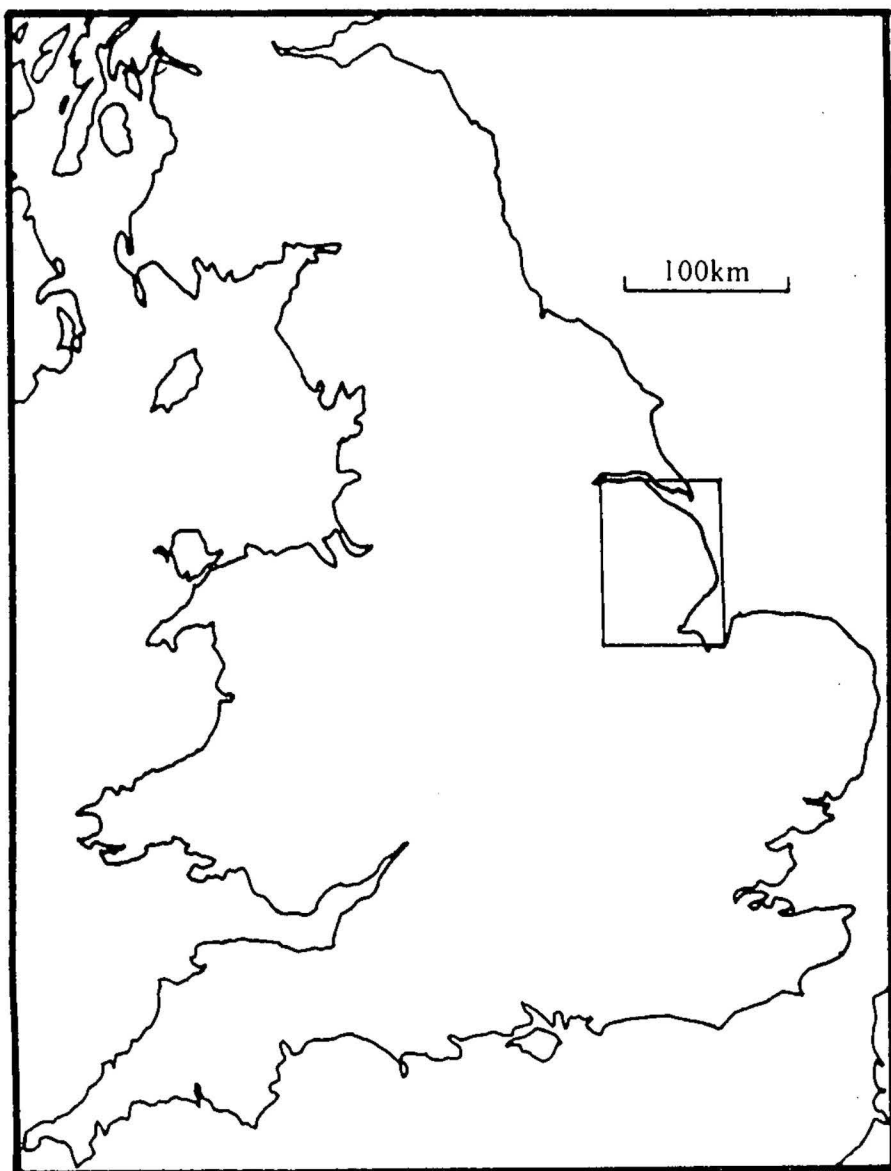
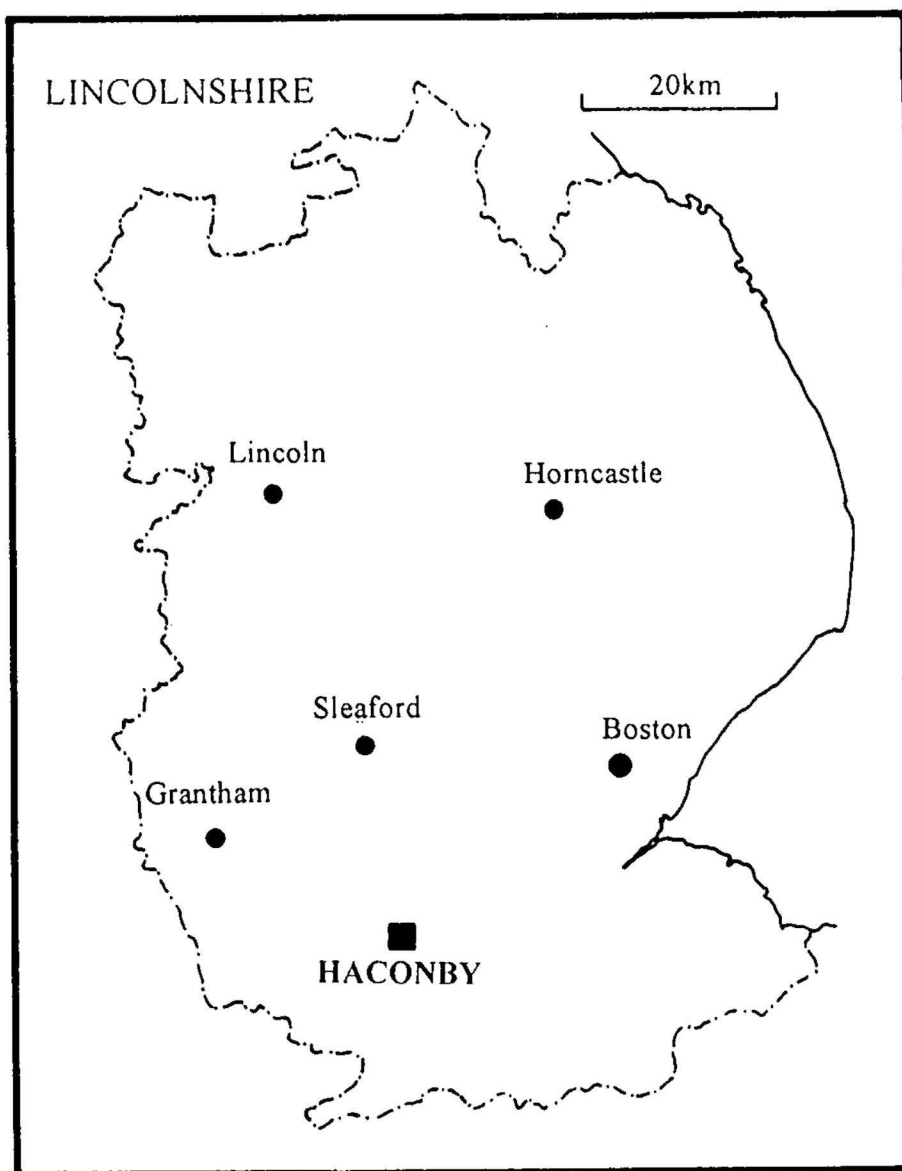
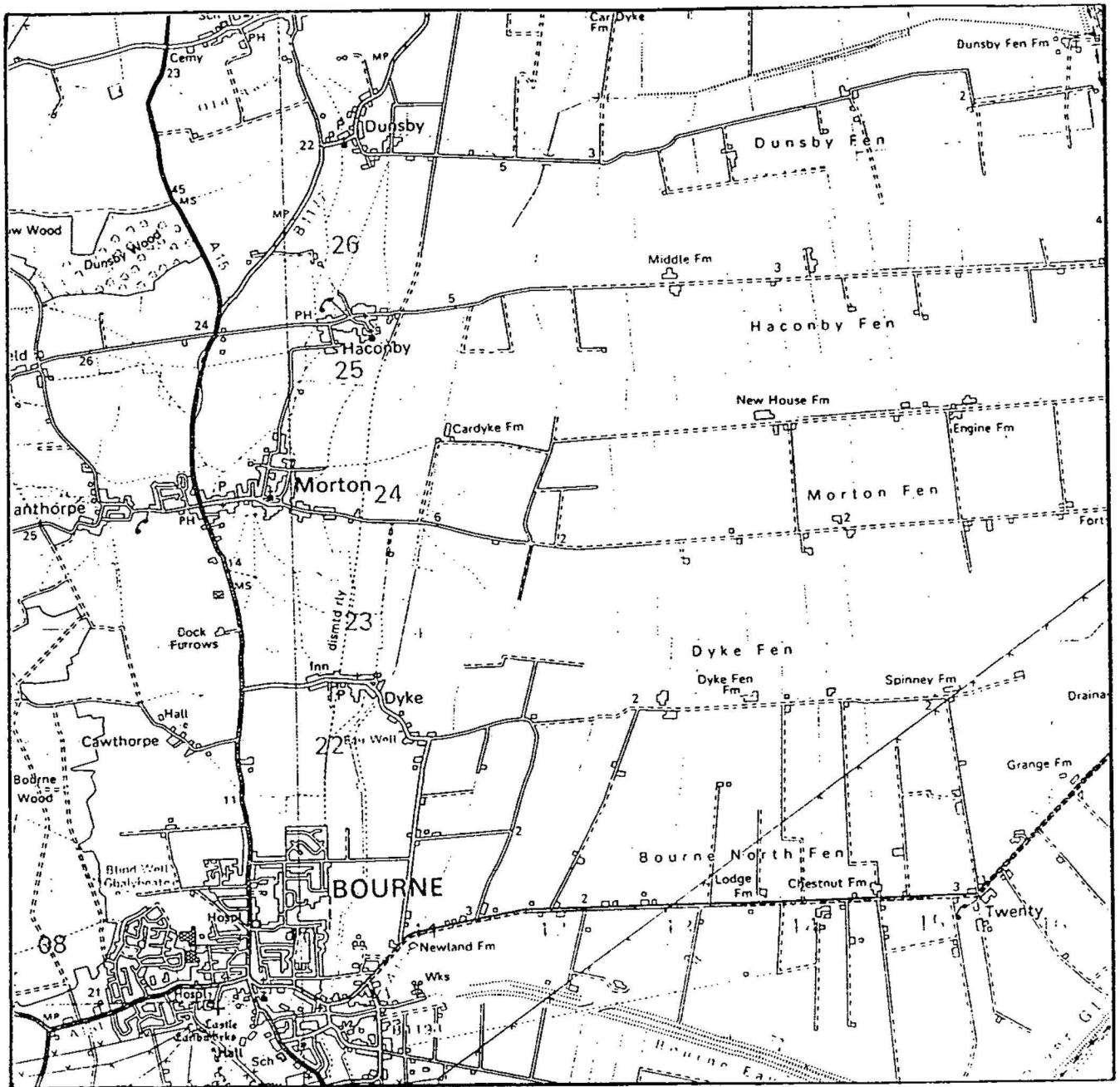


Fig. 1 General Location Plan

Fig. 2 Site Location Plan



0

3km

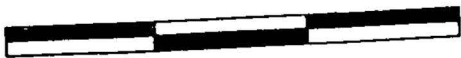
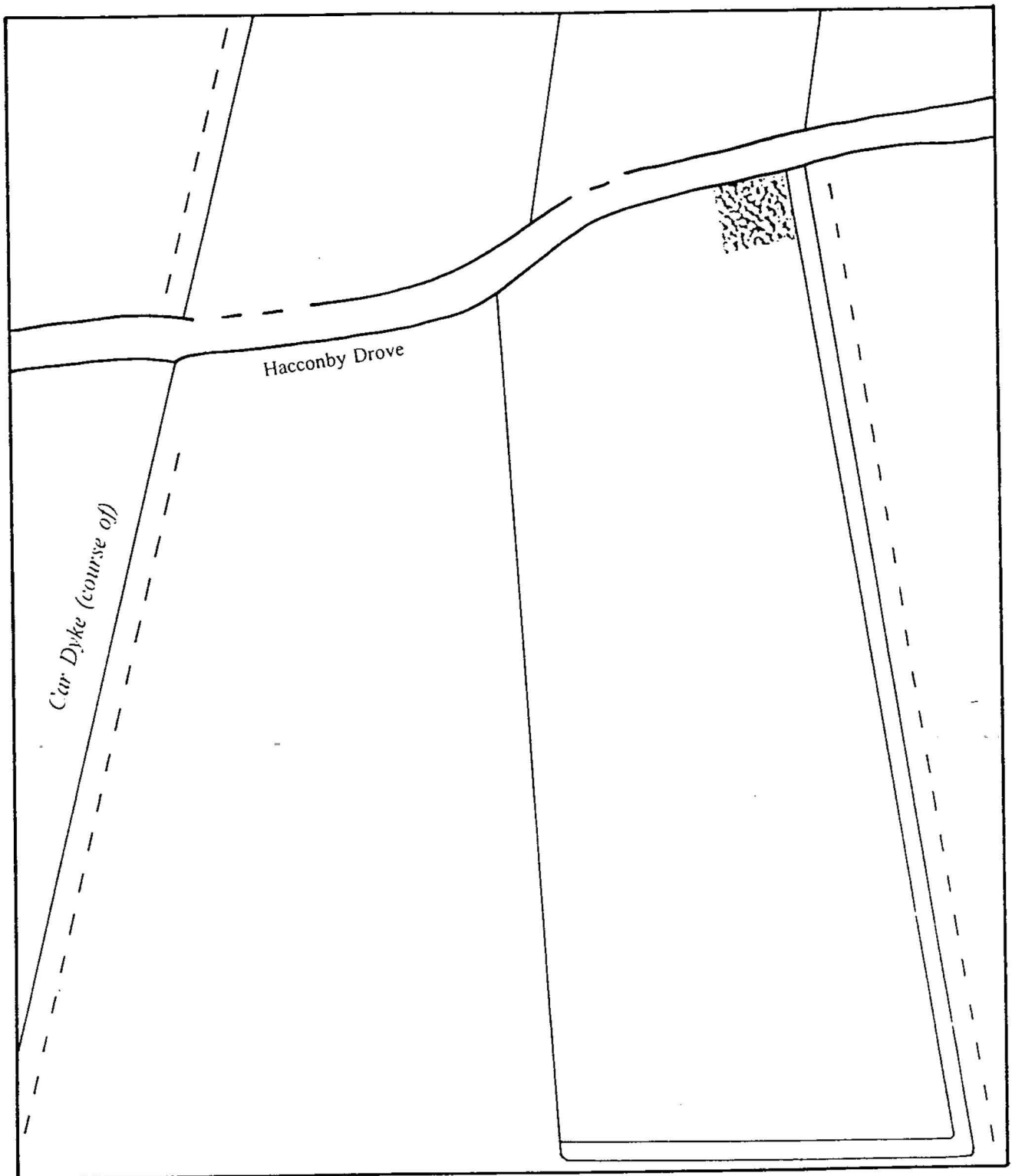


Fig. 3 Area of Development



0

300m



Area of Development

APPENDIX 1
Context Summary

Context No	Description	Interpretation
1	Clay sandy silt	Topsoil
2	Clay	Subsoil

APPENDIX 2

The Archive

The archive consists of:

- 2 Context records
- 1 Photographic record
- 1 Scale drawing
- 1 Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records are currently kept at:

Heritage Lincolnshire
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
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