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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND ADJACENT
TO RECTORY ROAD,
COLEBY,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(CRR96)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

Lincolnshire County Council
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Event LJ2693
60776 - Coleby
settlement

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND ADJACENT
TO RECTORY ROAD,
COLEBY,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(CRR96)**

Work Undertaken For
Ablehomes Ltd.

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner

May 1996

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of three dwellings and garages at land adjacent to Rectory Road, Coleby. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the foundations.

Romano-British (c. AD50-400) activity has been recorded in the area and is highlighted by the proximity of the Roman road Ermine Street to the east. Finds of pottery and coins of this date include a hoard from the south of the village.

All Saints church provides the only evidence of Saxon activity in the region, with the base of the tower belonging to the later part of this period (c. 950-1066). The church also highlights medieval activity in the village, which is also evidenced by a find of a 13th century pitcher.

Excavation of the foundation trenches revealed a sequence of weathered limestone overlain by subsoil deposits. Ditches indicating former land boundaries were encountered. The alignment of these ditches is similar to those in the present day village, and may date from the organisation of the settlement in the Late Saxon period. A number of pits and uncertain features were also uncovered. Finds included a single sherd of Romano-British pottery, three fragments of medieval pottery and a quantity of animal bone.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

Between the 14th and 28th March 1996, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during development work at land adjacent to Rectory Road, Coleby (Centred on National Grid Reference SK

497600 360680). Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application N/19/1199/94. Permission was granted subject to a standard negative condition for archaeological recording. The archaeological work was commissioned by Mrs D. Horner of Ablehomes Ltd., and was carried out by Archaeological Project Services in accordance with a brief set by the Community Archaeologist for North Kesteven District Council (Appendix 1).

2.2 Topography and Geology

Coleby is located 11km south of Lincoln and 17km northwest of Sleaford in North Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The proposed development area lies within the core of the village, 150m east of the parish church (Fig. 2).

The site lies at the top of the scarp of a ridge of Jurassic limestone, known locally as the Lincoln Cliff. Ground surface is at c. 80m O.D., with land dropping rapidly in height to the west. The development site covers a total area of c. 2800 square metres (Fig. 3).

Local soils are the Elmton 1 Association, shallow brown rendzinas, developed over Jurassic limestones (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 179-80).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

The proposed development site is situated in an area of archaeological activity dating from the Romano-British to post-medieval periods.

Romano-British potential is highlighted by the close proximity of Ermine Street. This road, the main Roman thoroughfare from London to Lincoln and beyond to the Humber estuary, lies 1.3km to the east of the

site (Margary 1973, 228). Finds made in the locality include a coin hoard of between 15,000 and 20,000 antoniniani, dated to A.D. 260-281, unearthed 550m to the south (NK19.6). In a quarry, 500m to the southwest, a further coin was found associated with Samian ware pottery (NK19.7) and the same quarry produced a pot of this period (NK19.8).

An Anglo-Saxon cemetery is also reported from the parish, though its exact nature and location is unknown (NK19.10). Saxon stonework is present in the lower part of the church tower (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 227).

Coleby is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. In possession of a church and a priest the land belonged to the King and the Countess Judith (Foster and Longley 1976). Referred to as both Colebi and Coleby, the name is of Scandinavian origin and means 'the homestead of Koli' (Ekwall 1974, 116).

Medieval activity is represented by All Saints church (Pevsner and Harris 1989) and a find of a 13th century pitcher 350m to the south of the development area (NK19.5).

Coleby Hall, situated 400m to the northeast and set within a landscaped park, dates from 1628, though it has undergone many alterations (DoE 1983). The grounds include three follies, two of a classical temple design and one that imitates the Roman arch at Newport, Lincoln.

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as set by the brief (Appendix 1), were to locate and record archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Much of the development area was stripped of topsoil prior to the excavation of foundation trenches. Trenches, for a total of three plots, were opened to a depth of c. 2.5m and a width of 1.3m using a mechanical excavator. The stripped areas and sides of the trenches were then cleaned and examined to identify any archaeological features. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed within the trench was allocated a unique reference number (Context number) with an individual written description. Natural geological deposits were also recorded where exposed. Vertical sections across features were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at a scale of 1:20. A photographic record was also compiled.

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 list of all contexts with interpretations appears as Appendix 2. Three phases were identified:

- Phase 1 Natural deposits
- Phase 2 Undated archaeological deposits
- Phase 3 Modern deposits

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Phase 1 Natural deposits

Natural (8). Visible in the base of all plots. Consists of moderately firm light brownish silt with limestone. Minimum thickness was 0.95m. Probably weathered bedrock.

Natural (12 and 13)(Fig. 7, Section C). Overlying natural (8) in Plot 3. Mid

yellowish silt and stone.

Natural (11). Overlying natural (12 and 13). Mid brown gritty silt

Natural (50). Within natural (8) in Plot 4. Yellowish brown silt. Variation within the natural.

Natural (51). Within natural (8) in Plot 4. Orange clay. Variation within the natural.

Natural (2, 7 and 60). Overlies other natural deposits. Brown and Yellowish brown silt and sandy silt. 0.4m thick. Subsoil.

Phase 2 Undated Archaeological Deposits

Pit (57)(Fig. 5, Section B). Visible in section only in Plot 2. 0.51m deep and exposed for 0.6m wide. Contains two fills, the upper (55) with a maximum depth of 0.3m of yellow brown clayey silt, the lower (56) of light brownish red clayey silt. Probable pit.

Feature (54)(Fig. 4, Fig. 5, Section A). 6m by 3.2m extent. 0.3m deep. Two fills, upper (3) of black and dark grey ash with burnt cattle bone, lower (53) of dark purplish red clayey silt. Surrounded by heat affected natural deposits (53). Remains of a bonfire.

Pit (10)(Fig. 7, Sections C and D). Visible in west corner of Plot 3. 1m wide by 1.14m deep. Fills (5, 6 and 9) of brown and yellowish brown silt with some limestone fragments. Contains a single Romano-British pot sherd, burnt clay and an iron nail.

Pit (61). Southern corner of Plot 3. Visible in section only. 0.8m deep and exposed width of 2.5m. Contained a single fill (17) of mid yellowish brown silt.

Ditch (62). Aligned north-south. Truncating

Pit (61). 3.44m wide and 2m deep. One fill (16) of mid brown gritty silt. Probable boundary ditch.

Ditch (15). Recutting Ditch (62). Same alignment as ditch (62). 0.74m deep and exposed width of 1.5m. One fill (14) of mid brown silt. Probable boundary ditch.

Feature (19)(Fig. 7, Sections E and F). Aligned northwest-southeast. Visible in both sides of the foundation trench of Plot 3. Exposed for maximum 1m wide and 0.5m deep. One fill (18) of brownish red clayey silt. Possible ditch or elongated pit.

Ditch (21)(Fig. 6). Aligned north-south. Minimum 14m long. 2m wide by 0.7m deep. Single fill (20, 29 and 30) of mid brown silt. Probable boundary ditch.

Ditch (25). Aligned east-west. Exposed length of 1.3m, exposed width of *c.* 1.2m. 0.4m deep. Single fill (24) red brown sandy silt. Possible drainage ditch.

Feature (23). Adjacent to ditch (25). 0.8m wide by 0.4m deep. Single fill (22) brownish red silt with stones. Possible hollow.

Ditch (28). Aligned east-west. 1.06m wide by 0.55m deep. Exposed length of 1.1m. Contains two fills, upper of reddish brown silt (26) 100mm thick, and lower of brownish red sandy silt (27). Probable boundary ditch.

Feature (35)(Fig. 9, Section I). Visible in section only in Plot 4. 1m wide and 0.4m deep. Contains two fills, the upper (32) with a maximum thickness of 0.35m of yellowish brown sandy silt, the lower (33) of mid brown sandy silt. Probable pit.

Feature (45)(Fig. 9, Section G). 0.3m wide by 0.3m deep. Single fill of reddish brown silty sand. Indeterminate function

Feature (46)(Fig. 9, Section G). Truncating feature (45) on northwestern side. 0.45m wide by 0.2m deep. Single fill (43) of brownish yellow silty sand. Indeterminate function.

Ditch (36)(Fig. 8, Fig. 9, Section G). Aligned north-south. Truncating feature (46) on east side. Exposed length of c. 7m. 2m wide by 0.9m deep. Contained four fills, upper (39) mid brown sandy silt with clay overlying (38) brown sandy silt. Next (37) of reddish brown sandy silt over primary fill (47) of yellowish brown silts with gravel. Probable boundary ditch.

Feature (42)(Fig. 9, Section G). Truncates feature (46) to northwest. 0.4m wide by 0.2m deep. Single fill (41) of brown sandy silt. Probable root disturbance.

Layer (40)(Fig. 9, Section G). Sealing ditch (36) and feature (42). Brown sandy silt. 0.2m thick by c. 3m extent. Possible natural soil formation.

Feature (52). 0.5m deep by c. 2.1m wide. Contains two fills, upper (48) of dark brown sandy silt, the lower (49) of reddish brown sandy silt. Probable root disturbance.

Feature (59). 3m long by 0.5m deep. Single fill (58) of light brown sand and gravel. Probable root activity.

Phase 3 Modern Deposits

Layer (1 and 4). Appearing in all sections except Section A. Maximum 0.4m thick. Mid to dark brown silt. Present topsoil.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) of silt with limestone were identified across the area.

These are of geological origin and probably represent the weathered surface of the limestone ridge. Variations in the natural deposits were also recorded and may indicate infilling of hollows within the bedrock. Above this lies a naturally formed subsoil layer.

Phase 2 deposits consist of a number of ditches and pits that indicate past activity in the vicinity. Though none were firmly dated, finds recovered from the fills and subsequent sealing layers indicate that activity has occurred dating from at least the Romano-British period. Ditches are generally on a north to south or east to west alignment and reflect the pattern and orientation of land boundaries seen in the village today. Ditches found during the construction work indicate that the area of development has been further sub-divided and may relate to tenements of the medieval period. Pits were also recorded, the use of which was not determined, but given the paucity of their contents, it is unlikely they were for refuse disposal.

Indeterminate cuts have also been recognised that may be the result of non-human activity, such as root disturbance. The remnants of a bonfire were also recorded and may relate to an episode in which livestock were burnt during an outbreak of foot and mouth disease (Mrs C. Marriott *pers comm*).

Modern deposits consist of a single topsoil layer, identified across the site.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations at land adjacent to Rectory Road, Coleby were undertaken because the site fell within an area of known archaeological activity and the likelihood existed of archaeological remains being disturbed.

A limited number of archaeological features were encountered, although precise dating and function of these was not clear. As such, the features may be regarded as of local significance only. Those features encountered were relatively intact. The degree of preservation observed is probably typical of that of any other cut features within the site. The nature of the local site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators would survive, other than through charring.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to thank Ablehomes Ltd. who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Tom Lane coordinated the work and edited this report. Hilary Healey kindly examined and reported on the finds. Background information was provided by Kate Orr the North Kesteven Heritage Officer who kindly allowed access to the parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Tom Lane
Site Supervisors: Rene Moraille, Fiona Walker
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-Excavation analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

Pevsner, N. and Harris, J., 1989 *Lincolnshire, The Buildings of England*, (2nd edition, revised Antram, N.)

11. ABBREVIATIONS

Numbers prefixed 'NK' are the reference codes used by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer for identifying archaeological sites and finds.

Department of the Environment publications are abbreviated to the initials 'DoE'.

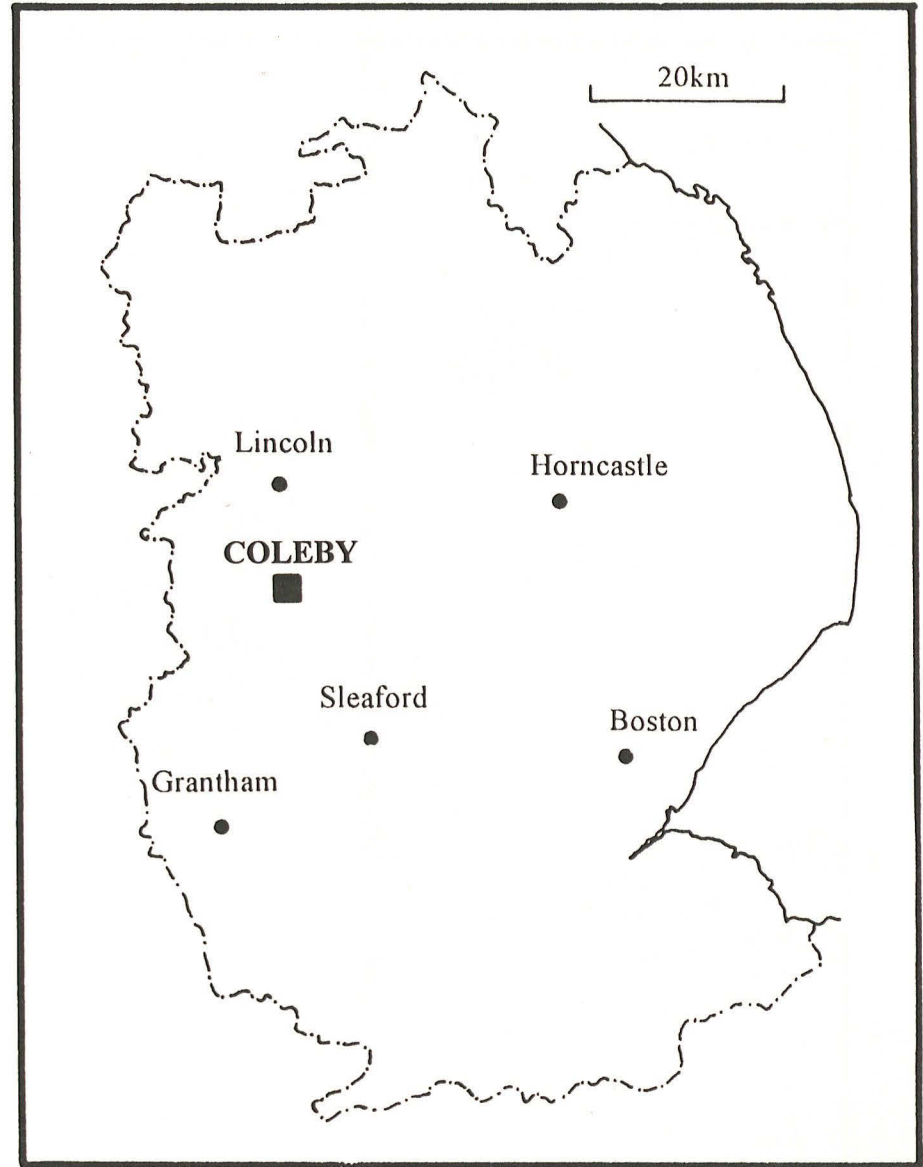
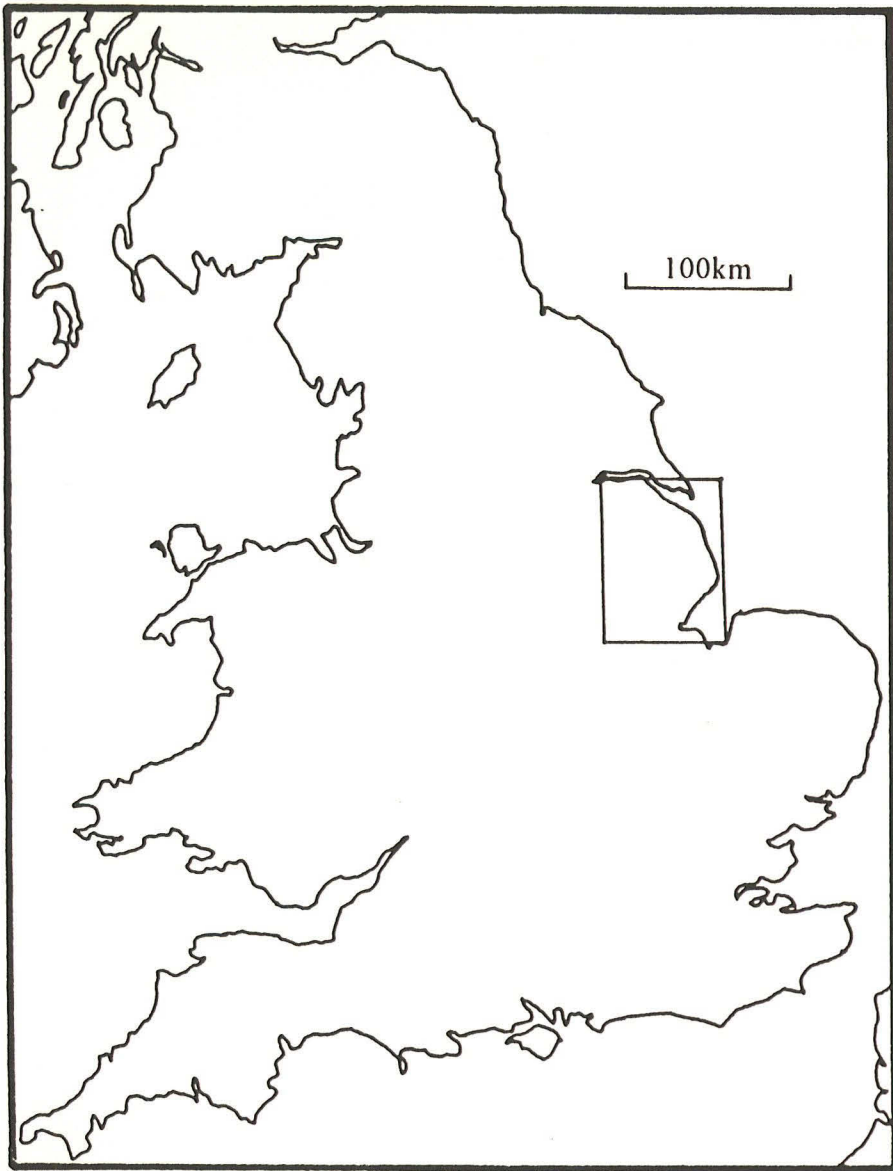
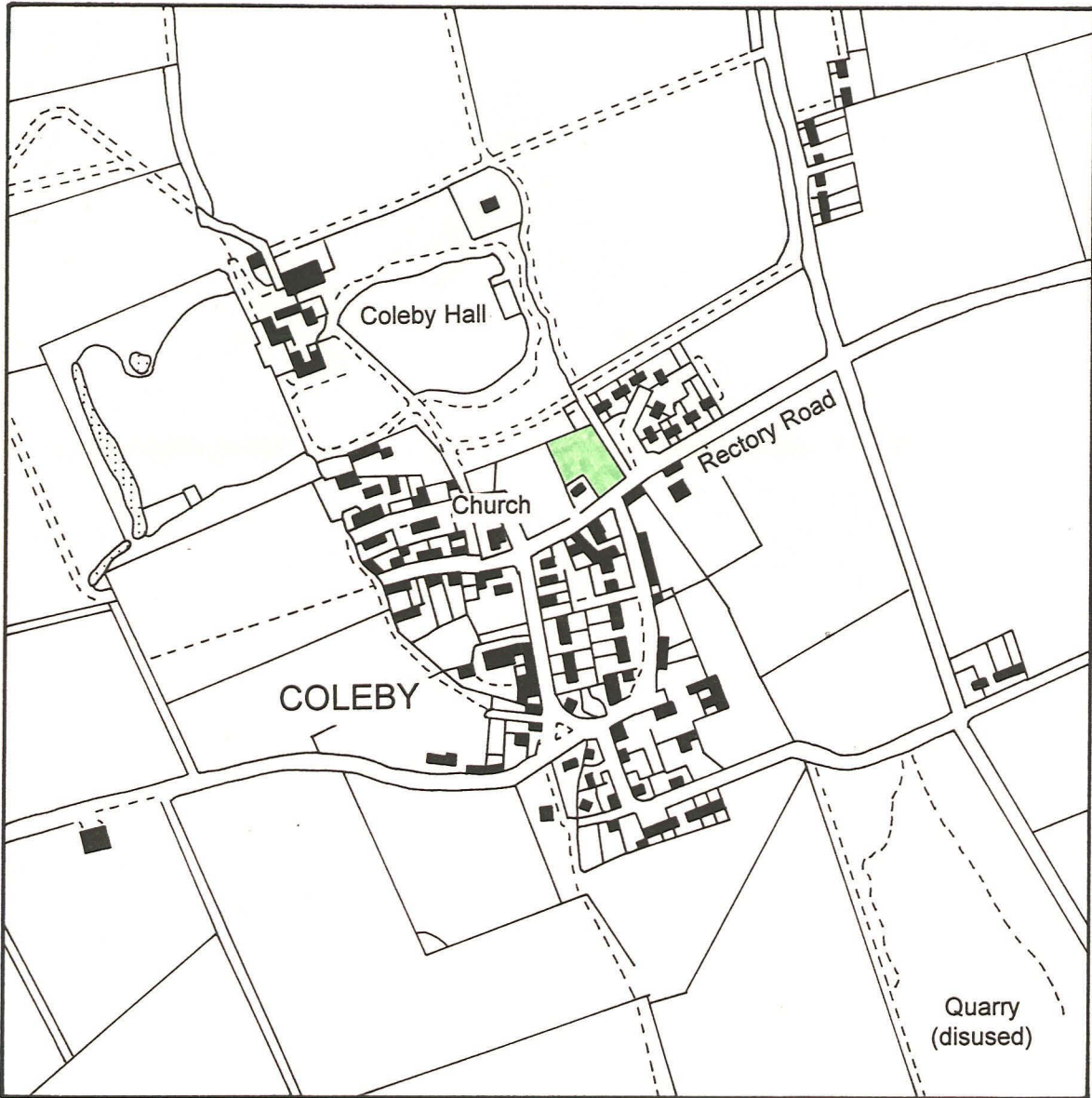


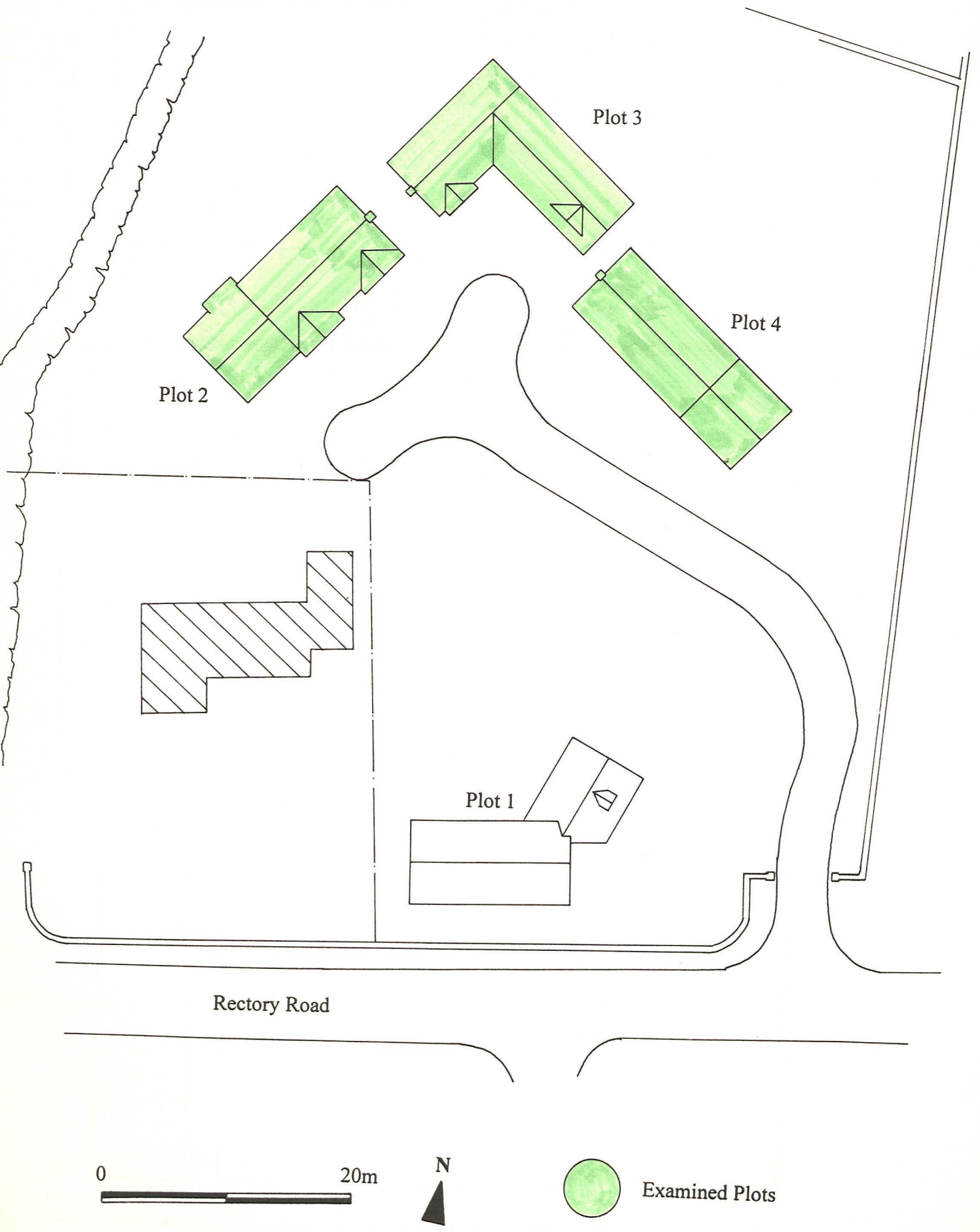
Fig. 1 General Location Plan

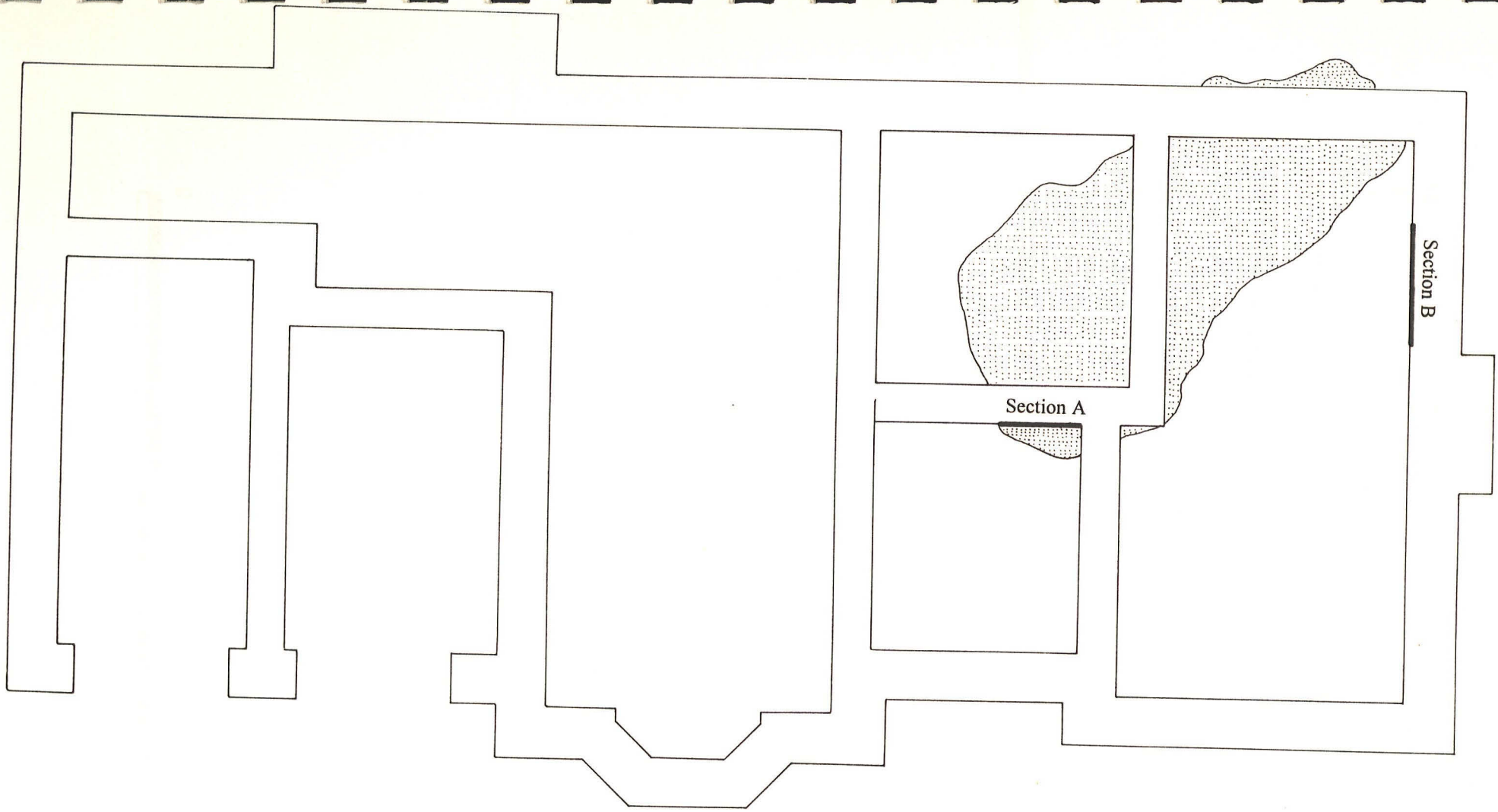
Fig. 2 Site Location



 Development Area

Fig. 3 Development Plan





Section B

Section A

Extent of 3

0 5m

N

Fig. 4 Plot 2, Plan

Fig. 5 Plot 2, Sections

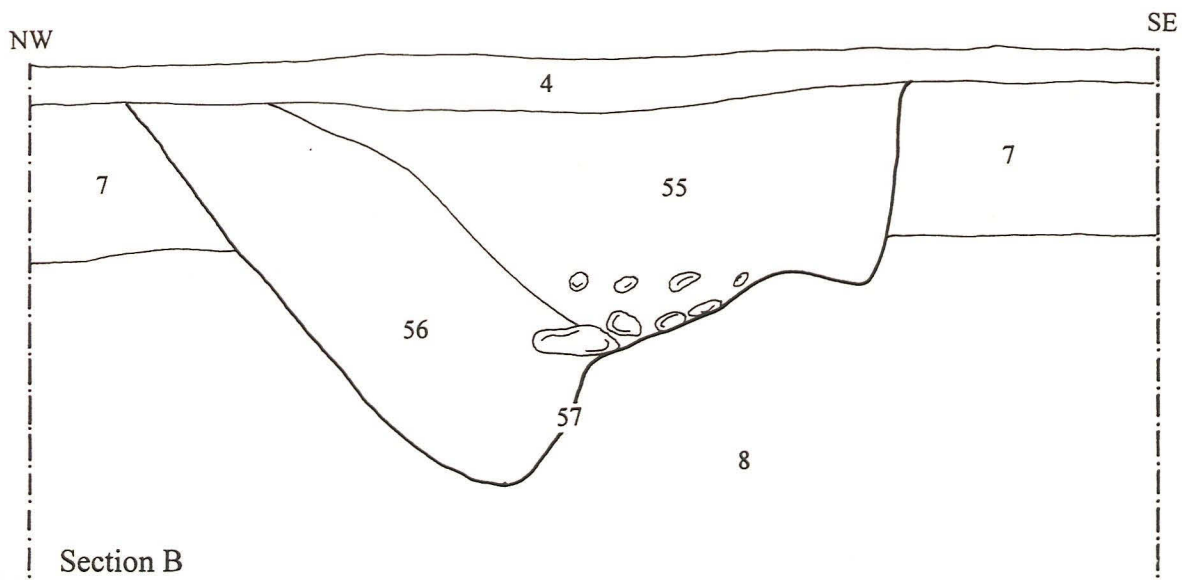
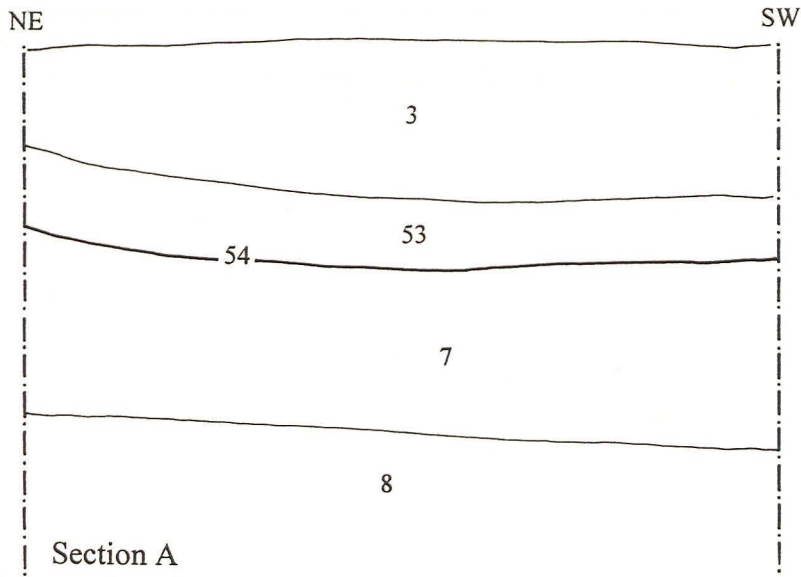
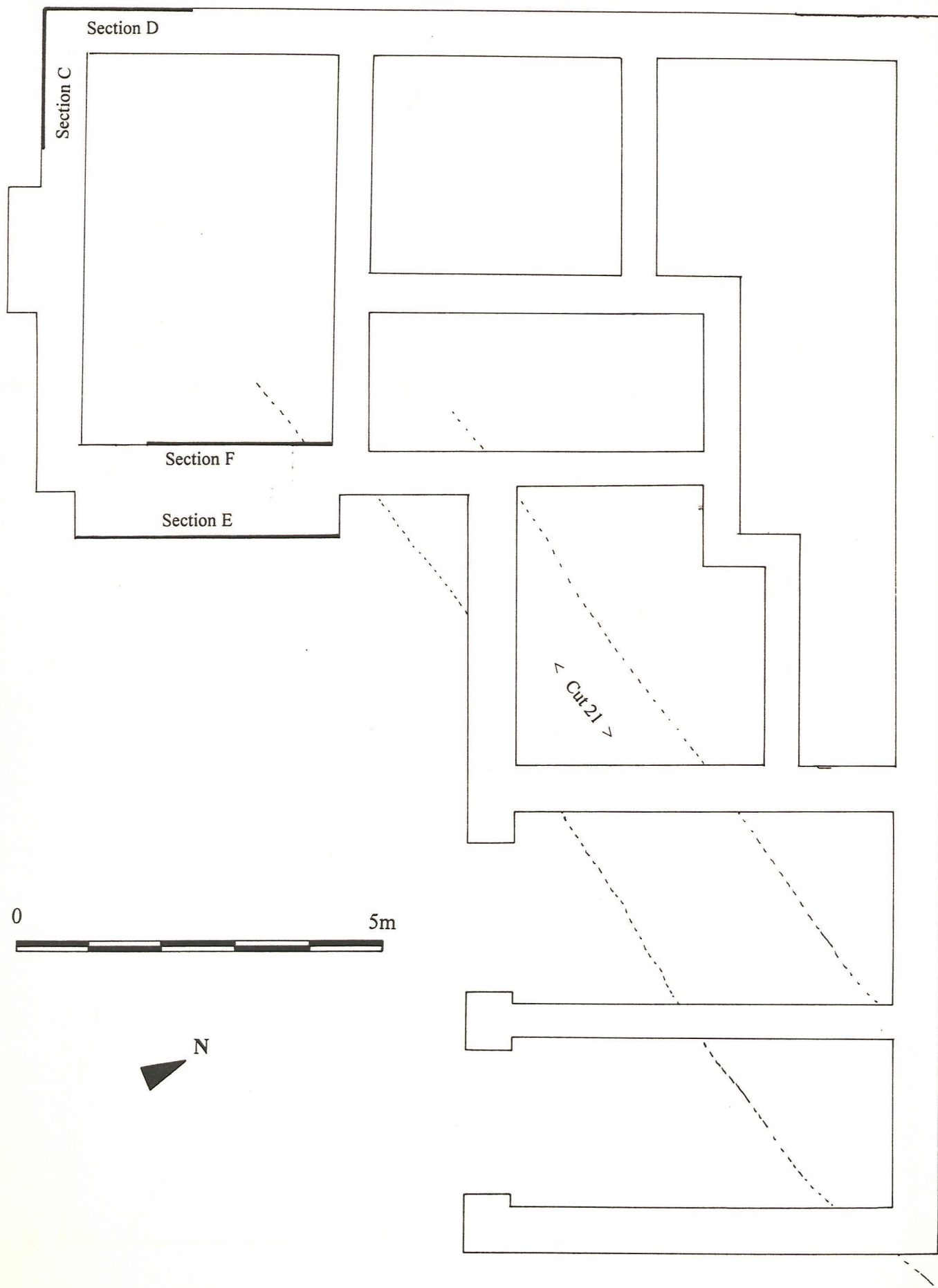


Fig. 6 Plot 3, Plan



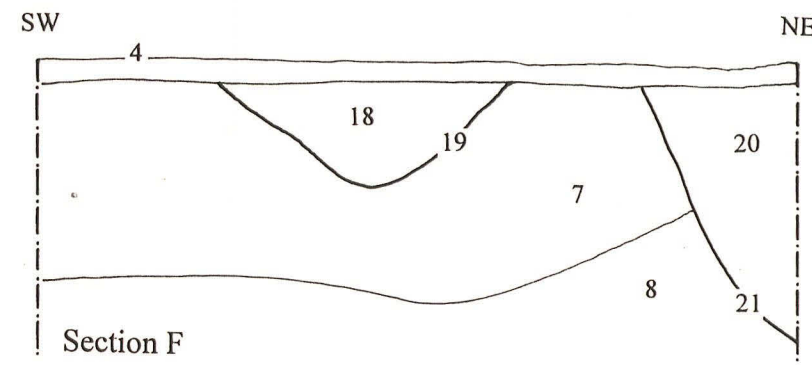
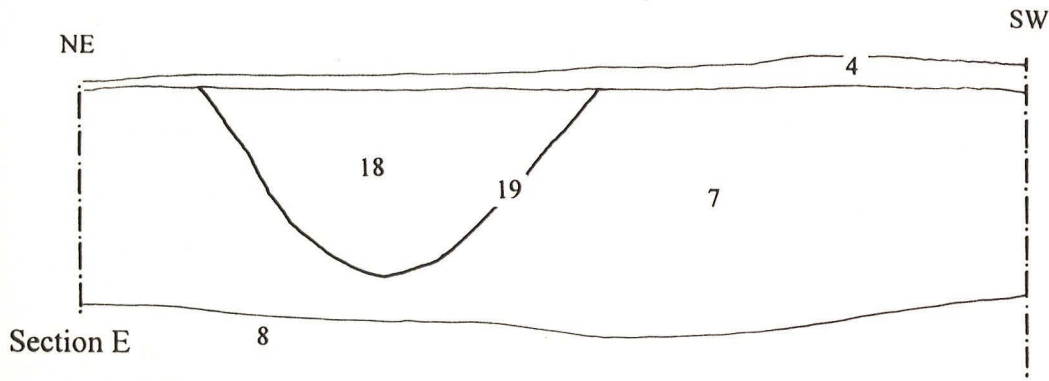
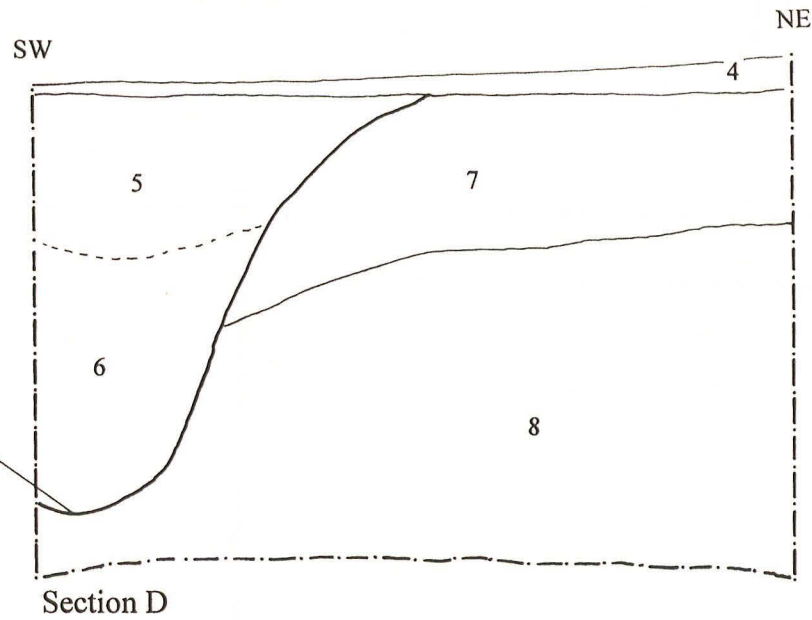
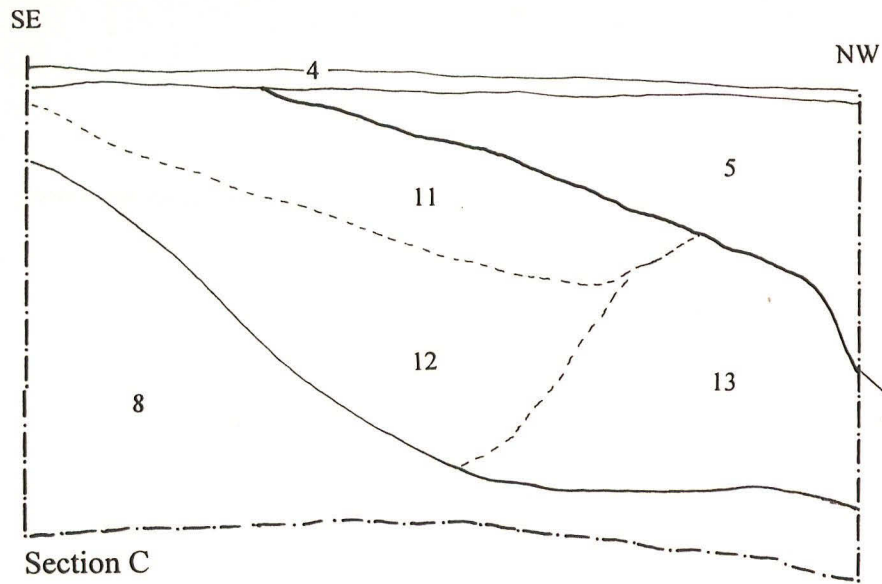


Fig. 7 Plot 3, Sections

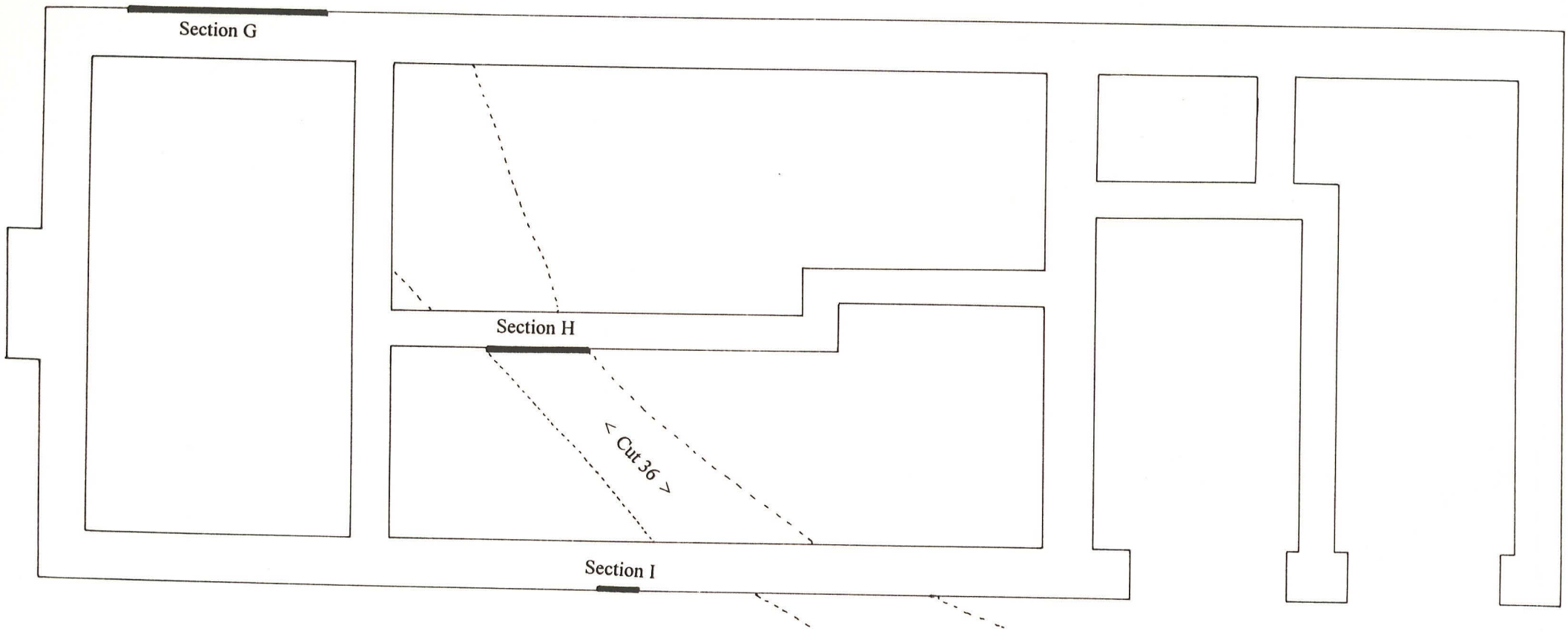


Fig. 8 Plot 4, Plan

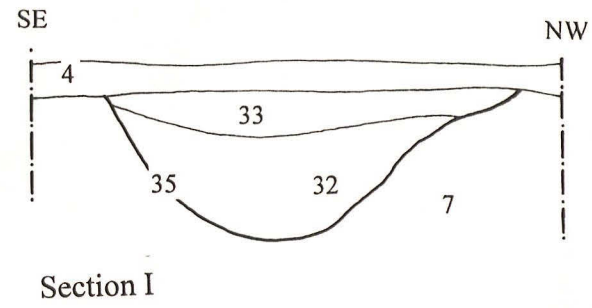
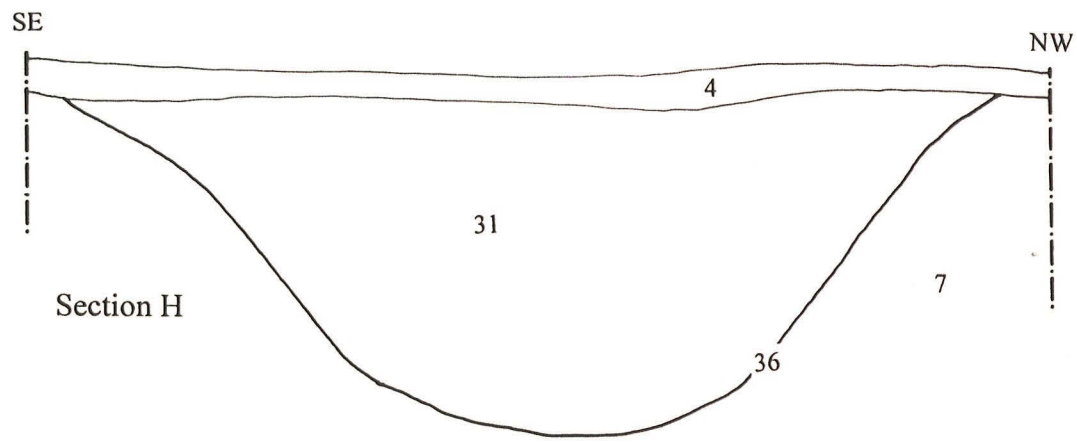
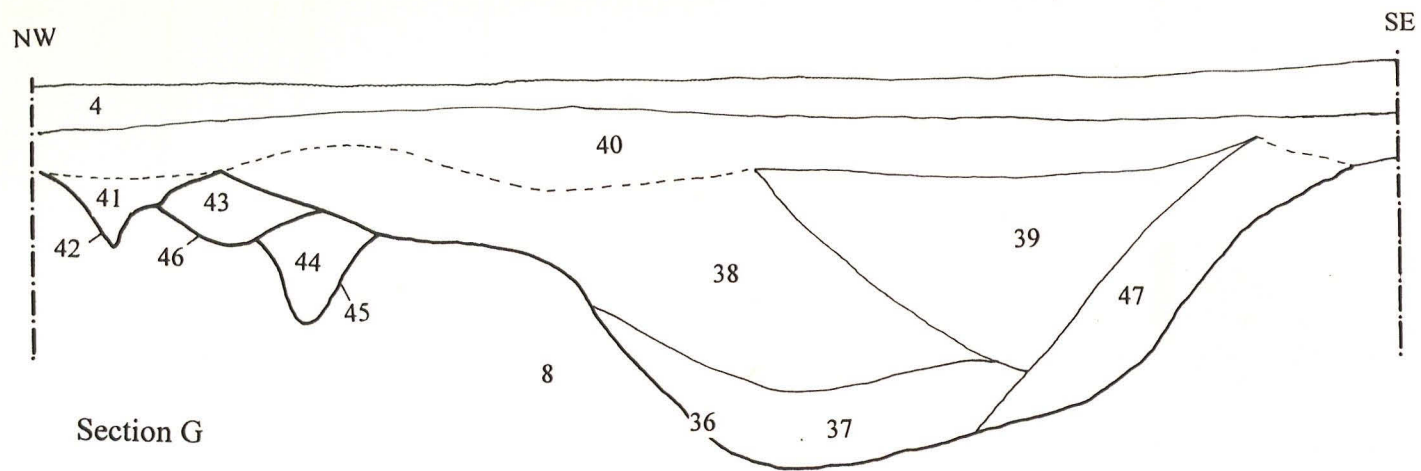


Fig. 9 Plot 4, Sections

Fig. 10 Development Area, showing principle ditch alignments

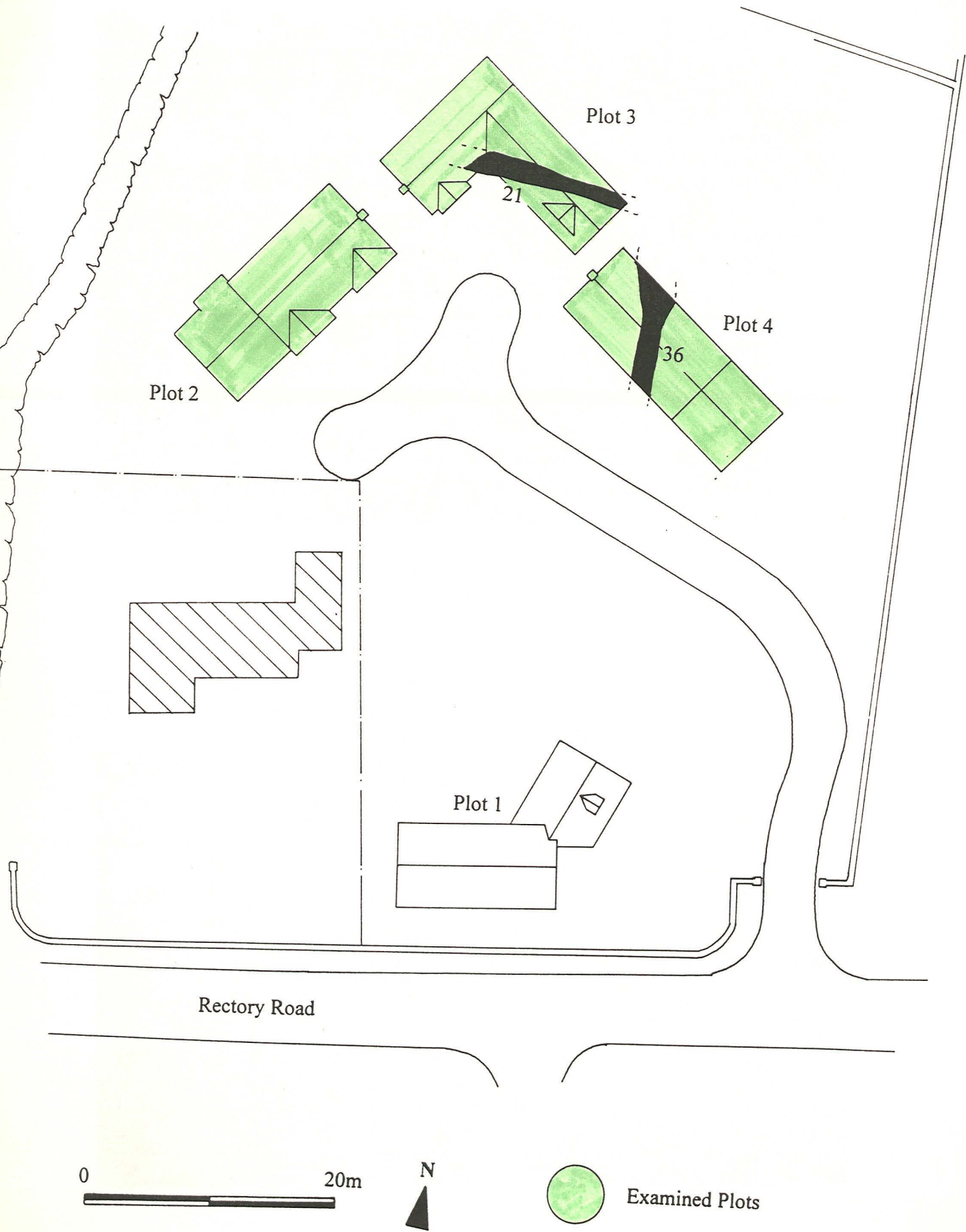




Plate 1. Section through Ditch (36)



Plate 2. Ash deposit (3)

Appendix 1

Brief for Archaeological Investigations.

Planning Application ref: N/19/1199/94
Site: Rectory Road, Coleby
Nature of development: Dwellings and garages
Applicant: Mrs. D. Horner, Ablehomes Ltd., 4 Castlegate, Newark, NG24 1AX

1. SITE DESCRIPTION

- 1.1 The site of the proposed development lies in an area of archaeological significance, not only within the core of the medieval village, but in an area where Roman discoveries have also been made, possible evidence of settlement.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1 The requirement is to consist of archaeological recording through a recording brief.
- 2.2 The recording brief should involve the following:
- 2.2.1 Soil stripping under archaeological supervision.
 - 2.2.2 Inspection of subsoil for archaeological features.
 - 2.2.3 Recording archaeological features in plan.
 - 2.2.4 Some rapid excavation to investigate features.
 - 2.2.5 Subsoil removal under archaeological supervision
 - 2.2.6 Inspection of subsoil for archaeological features and appropriate recording.
 - 2.2.7 The above procedures to be undertaken during laying of drains and services where necessary.

3. OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 To ensure that any archaeological features exposed during groundworks are recorded and interpreted to a standard in accordance with the Code of Practice of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

4. REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1 The recording brief must be undertaken by an archaeologist or an archaeological team of recognised competence, fully experienced in work of this character.
- 4.2 Arrangement for the long term storage and deposition of artifacts must be agreed with the

landowner and an accepting museum before the commencement of works.

- 4.3 A full report of the results shall be prepared and copies presented to the Community Archaeologist for North Kesteven and to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. The report must contain the following:
 - 4.3.1 Location plan of area monitored
 - 4.3.2 Where relevant, plan and section drawings showing depths of deposits, including present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
 - 4.3.3 Full specialist descriptions of artifacts or ecofact discoveries made during the works.
- 4.4 A summary report should be written and forwarded to the Archaeology Division of Lincolnshire County Council. This short report will be assimilated for publication in the county journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*.
- 4.5 The Community Archaeologist or *locum* is responsible for monitoring all archaeological work within North Kesteven District. The contractor must inform the Community Archaeologist detailing proposed start dates for the project, preferably two weeks notice.
- 4.6 Any changes to the specifications the archaeological contractor may wish to make after approval by the Community Archaeologist should be communicated to him/her.
- 4.7 The Community Archaeologist should be kept informed about the work taking place during site works and subsequent post-excavation work.

Hilary Healey
1st November 1995

Context	Plot	Description	Interpretation
1	2	Mid brown silt	Topsoil
2	2	Mid to light brown silt	Subsoil
3	2	Black ash and silt	Bonfire remnant
4	All	Mid brown silt	Topsoil
5	3	Mid brown silt	Fill of 10
6	3	Mid yellowish brown silt	Fill of 10
7	All	Mid yellowish brown sandy silt	Subsoil
8	All	Light brownish yellow silt with limestone	Natural deposit
9	3	Mid brown silt with limestone	Natural deposit
10	3	Cut, 1m wide x 1.14m deep	Probable pit
11	3	Mid brown grit and silt	Natural deposit
12	3	Mid yellowish brown silt	Natural fill
13	3	Mid yellowish brown silt and stone	Natural fill
14	3	Mid brown silt	Fill of 15
15	3	Cut, 0.9m wide x 0.74m deep	Recut of 62
16	3	Mid brown grit and silt	Fill of 62
17	3	Mid yellowish brown silt	Fill of 61
18	3	Brownish red clayey silt	Fill of 19
19	3	Cut, 0.8m wide x 0.5m deep	Possible ditch
20	3	Mid brown silt	Fill of 21
21	3	Cut, c.14m long x 0.4m wide	Ditch
22	3	Brownish red silt with stones	Fill of 23
23	3	Cut, 0.8m wide x 0.4m deep	Hollow ?
24	3	Reddish brown sandy silt	Fill of 25
25	3	Cut, 1.2m wide x 0.4m deep	Possible ditch
26	3	Reddish brown silt	Fill of 28
27	3	Brownish red sandy silt	Fill of 28
28	3	Cut, 1m wide x 0.55m deep	Possible ditch
29	3	Mid brown silt	Fill of 21
30	3	Mid brown silt	Fill of 21
31	4	Mid brown sandy silt	Fill of 36
32	4	Yellowish brown sandy silt	Fill of 35
33	4	Brown sandy silt	Fill of 35
34		Unused context	
35	4	Cut, 1m wide x 0.4m deep	Indeterminate cut
36	4	Cut, c. 2m wide x 0.9m deep	Ditch
37	4	Reddish brown sandy silt	Fill of 36
38	4	Mid brown sandy silt	Fill of 36
39	4	Mid brown sandy silt with clay	Fill of 36
40	4	Mid brown sandy silt	Indeterminate layer
41	4	Mid brown sandy silt	Fill of 42
42	4	Cut, 0.1 x 0.4 x 0.2m deep	Root disturbance
43	4	Mid brownish yellow silty sand	Fill of 46
44	4	Light reddish brown silty sand	Fill of 45
45	4	Cut, 0.3m wide x 0.3m deep	Indeterminate cut
46	4	Cut, 0.45m wide x 0.2m deep	Indeterminate cut
47	4	Yellowish brown silts with gravel	Fill of 36
48	4	Dark brown sandy silt	Fill of 52
49	4	Reddish brown sandy silt	Fill of 52
50	4	Yellowish brown silt	Natural
51	4	Orange clay	Natural
52	4	Cut, 2.1m wide x 0.5m deep	Indeterminate cut

53	2	Purplish red clayey silt	Burnt natural deposit
54	2	Cut, 6m x 3.2m x 0.3m deep	Position of bonfire
55	2	Yellowish brown clayey silt	Fill of 57
56	2	Brownish red clayey silt	Fill of 57
57	2	Cut, 0.6m wide x 0.51m deep	Probable pit
58	4	Light brown sandy silt with gravel	Fill of 59
59	4	Cut, 3m long x 0.5m deep	Indeterminate cut
60	?	Mid brown silt	Subsoil
61	3	Cut, 2.5m wide x 2.08m deep	Pit
62	3	Cut, 3.44m wide x 2m deep	Ditch

Appendix 3

The Archive

The archive consists of:

60	Context records
16	Scale drawings
2	Photographic records
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Box of finds

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

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

Archaeological Project Services project code: CRR96
City and County Museum, Lincoln Accession Number: 37.96

Appendix 4

Glossary

Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Dumped deposits	These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to elevate the ground surface for drainage or other purposes.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The sediments and soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Layer	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Tenement	A holding of land, sometimes containing a dwelling (Toft), of a uniform size in regional areas.