

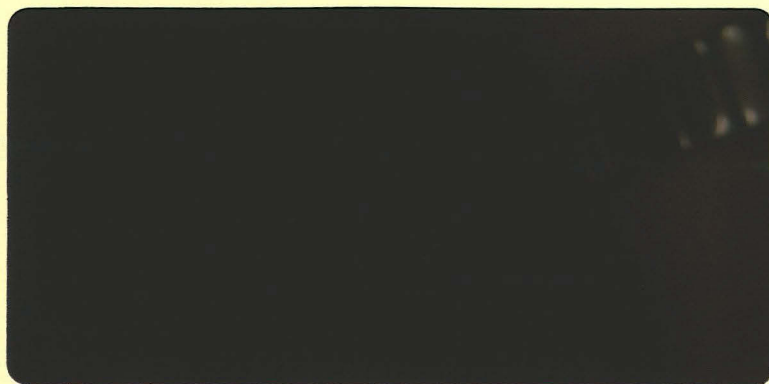
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT 14 BEDEHOUSE BANK,
BOURNE,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BBH96)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT 14 BEDEHOUSE BANK,
BOURNE,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BBH96)**

Work Undertaken For
Mr C. LONG

Report Compiled
by
Fiona Walker

May 1996

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during development at Bedehouse Bank, Bourne, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for a new house.

During the Roman period (c. AD 50-400), Bourne was a small town on the course of the Roman road, King Street. The settlement was involved in pottery production and several kilns have been found in Bourne. A major Roman watercourse, the Car Dyke, skirted the town and is believed to form the eastern boundary of the development site. Another Roman waterway, the 'Bourne-Morton canal', is located only 200m north of the investigation area.

In the medieval period (1066-1500) Bourne was an important town with both an abbey and a castle. At that time Bourne was also a major pottery production centre.

The investigation recorded a large ditch crossing the site on a northeast-southwest line. The ditch was undated but finds recovered from it tentatively suggest that it was filled in during the late medieval or early post-medieval period (c. 1400-1700). The function of the ditch is obscure though, on the basis of size and location, it may be related to the Car Dyke. Moreover, in this area, the true route of the Roman waterway is uncertain and the ditch identified in the watching brief may, perhaps, represent the original course of the Car Dyke itself.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

On the 16th and 17th of April 1996, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during development on the

building plot to the east of 14 Bedehouse Bank, Bourne. Approval for the development, the erection of a single dwelling, was sought through the submission of planning application SK.95/0790/12/32 to South Kesteven District Council. Full planning permission for the development was granted subject to a standard negative condition for archaeological recording.

The archaeological work was commissioned by Mr C. Long and was carried out by Archaeological Project Services in accordance with a brief set by the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist (Appendix 1).

2.2 Topography and Geology

The town of Bourne is situated 26km south of Sleaford and 15km northeast of Stamford in the administrative district of South Kesteven, Lincolnshire. Located in the eastern part of the town of Bourne, the site lies to the east of 14 Bedehouse Bank, a *cul de sac* north of Willoughby Road. The site is located at national grid reference TF 1040 1975.

The site lies at approximately 12m OD on a gentle slope northwards down to the Bourne Eau, a canalised natural watercourse. At the site is a pocket of soil of the Aswarby Association, fine loamy gleyic brown calcareous earths. These are bounded to east, north and south by Badsey 2 brown calcareous earths. Just to the west is the boundary with soils of the Curdrige Association, typical argillic gley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 99; 101; 153). These soils occur at the boundary of the Jurassic limestone and post-glacial fan gravels.

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Bourne is situated in an area of dense archaeological activity with remains dating from the Roman to medieval periods.

During the Romano-British period Bourne was a small town built astride the Roman road, King Street, the route of which is fossilised by the courses of North Street and South Street. Along the course of this road sites and artefacts of Roman date have been found, including a pottery kiln located at Bourne Grammar School, c. 0.5km to the southwest of the development site.

The site is bounded on its east side by the Car Dyke. This monument is believed to be of Roman date, though its function is obscure and it has, in the past, been variously considered to be a canal or part of a drainage system. Over 120km long, this watercourse connected the River Witham near Lincoln with the River Nene east of Peterborough (Whitwell 1970, 57). It is a major archaeological monument and no less than ten separate sections of the Car Dyke are protected as nationally important scheduled ancient monuments. Its importance is emphasised by the fact that English Heritage, the national coordinating body for archaeology in England, have recently initiated the production of a management and research document for the monument. Previous investigations of the Car Dyke have shown the original channel to be about 13m wide at the surface and provided with flanking banks up to 15m wide (Archaeological Project Services 1995, 7).

A further Roman waterway is located to the north of the development area. This watercourse, the 'Bourne-Morton canal', is believed to have joined the Bourne Eau approximately 200m northwest of the investigation site and coursed northeastwards to follow the line of Spalding Road before extending into Morton Fen.

It is possible that occupation of the Romano-British settlement at Bourne continued into the Anglo-Saxon period.

However, evidence is scarce and the majority of finds suggest occupation of this period to the northeast of the town (Hayes and Lane 1992, 136).

In A.D. 1086, the Domesday Book recorded that within Bourne there was a church and several mills and fisheries (Foster and Longley 1976). Referred to as *Brune*, the place-name of the parish derives from the Old English meaning 'stream' (Ekwall 1974, 55).

During the medieval period Bourne grew into a substantial settlement with both a castle and an abbey. The town centred on the abbey church, which survives as the present day parish church. Earthwork remains of Bourne Castle, a scheduled ancient monument, are located to the west of the church. At one time this would have been a single motte, a defensive mound, possibly surmounted by a stone tower with two enclosures or baileys containing further buildings and a possible stone gatehouse that has since been destroyed (Cathcart-King 1980).

Bourne was also a pottery production centre during the Middle Ages, evidence for which was found during excavations at the south end of Eastgate. Excavations almost 1km to the east of the town centre revealed kilns dating from the 14th to the 16th century, though the industry may have started earlier (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 259). These kilns produced a distinctive pottery type that was traded as far as Nottingham.

3. AIMS

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

4. METHODS

The foundation trenches were opened to a maximum depth of *c.* 1.6m using a mechanical excavator. The sides of the trenches were cleaned by hand, where possible, 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. A photographic record was compiled, and sections were drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 and plans at 1:50 and an overall plan at 1:250.

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. Two phases were identified:

- Phase 1 Natural deposits
- Phase 2 Undated archaeological deposits

Phase 1 Natural deposits

Exposed in the lower parts of the foundation trenches across the entire development site was a layer of bluish-grey and yellow sandy silty clay (008). Explained as natural, this deposit was not excavated to its deepest extent but was at least 0.55m thick.

Phase 2 Undated archaeological deposits

Cutting the natural clay (008) and crossing the northern part of the development area was a northeast-southwest ditch (001) that was at least 8m wide and over 1.5m deep.

The lower parts of this ditch were flooded, the watertable being encountered approximately 1.3m below the present ground surface. Providing the major fill of the ditch was a grey silty clay (002) that contained frequent snail shells. A fragment of handmade brick and several animal bones were recovered from this deposit. One of these bones, a cattle horncore, was of a size typical of animals of the late medieval - early post-medieval period (Appendix 3). Above (002) was a dark grey sandy clayey silt (003). Thought to be a former topsoil, this deposit filled the upper part of ditch (001) to a maximum depth of 0.2m.

At the southern edge of the development site, observed in Section 1, was a brown-mottled grey silty clay (007). Containing bone, which was not recovered due to the depth and unsafe conditions of the trench at this point, the deposit was of variable thickness, up to a maximum of *c.* 0.45m. The nature of this deposit was not clearly established, though it was recognised as being very similar to the main fill (002) of the large ditch at the northern part of the site. Overlying 007 was a blue-grey silty clay (006) considered to be a dumped deposit.

Sealing the whole site to a depth of *c.* 0.5m was a brown clayey silt (004, 005). This deposit was explained as a transformed soil. Topsoil had been removed from the area prior to the investigation commencing.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural gleyed soil (Phase 1) was exposed across the whole of the site. This natural layer was formed in very wet conditions, which still prevail, within the stream valley that encloses the development area.

At an unknown date a large ditch was dug across the area (Phase 2). The function of

this feature is unknown, though consideration of the Car Dyke may be illuminating. In general, the Car Dyke consists of long straight lengths with occasional bends and re-alignments. However, in the vicinity of the development area, the watercourse presently referred to as the Car Dyke is contorted with several bends and changes of alignment over a distance of only 300m. This is in marked contrast to the predominant pattern of the monument. Thus, for example, only 1km to the south of the present site, the Car Dyke courses for c. 1250m in a straight line before bending slightly then continuing for another 1200m with only minor deviations from a direct route.

Therefore, consideration of the general pattern of the monument may suggest that the meandering watercourse around the south and east sides of the development area is misidentified as the Car Dyke. This being the case, it is possible that the Car Dyke maintains its general direct route and passes about 150m west of the investigation area, a course that has previously been postulated (Hayes and Lane 1992, 138; Fig. 6). If this more direct course for the Car Dyke is accepted then it raises the prospect that the ditch seen during the investigation may be related to the Car Dyke, perhaps acting as an overflow channel draining into the Bourne Eau. Moreover, this confusion and uncertainty over the true route of the Car Dyke in this vicinity fosters the possibility that the ditch encountered during the watching brief may, in fact, be the Car Dyke itself. If this possibility is entertained then it would, perhaps, suggest that the ditch bounding the development area and presently known as the Car Dyke is a later replacement, roughly paralleling the line of the original watercourse.

Possible dumped deposits (007, 006) were observed at the southern limit of the

investigation area. Similar to the ditch fill, these deposits may represent material derived from cleaning out the ditch.

The ditch was probably filled through a mixture of natural silting and rubbish disposal. There is no firm dating for the latter activity but the horncore may tentatively suggest that it occurred in the late medieval or early post-medieval period; the fragment of handmade brick recovered from the same ditch-filling deposit would not contradict this dating.

Subsequently, topsoil developed across the site. In the area of the ditch, sinking of the fills left a hollow which was filled by this topsoil. After an indeterminate period of soil development the layer was transformed, perhaps by agriculture or gardening. Only the topsoil lying in the concavity in the top of the backfilled ditch was below the limit of this activity and survived the transformation process, which may also have truncated the upper parts of the ditch.

The modern topsoil that covered the site had been removed in advance of the investigation.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at the building plot east of 14 Bedehouse Bank, Bourne, as a condition of planning permission. This was because Ordnance Survey maps showed that the Car Dyke, a watercourse of Roman date, formed the eastern boundary of the development area and there was a consequent likelihood of archaeological remains being disturbed.

A limited number of archaeological remains were encountered, of which, a ditch was the most prominent feature. The dating and function of this ditch was not clear. However, it was considered to be possibly

related to the Car Dyke or even, perhaps, to represent the original course of the monument itself. As such, the ditch may be considered to be of national significance.

The ditch, as encountered, was relatively intact, due to its size, the depth of overlying deposits which protected it from later disturbance, and the limited nature of previous development at the site. In consequence, the degree of preservation observed is probably typical for other parts of the ditch, and of other archaeological features in the immediate vicinity. Any environmental material present in the ditch fills is likely to be well-preserved due to waterlogging.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to thank Mr C. Long who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Gary Taylor coordinated the work and Tom Lane edited this report. Examination of the relevant parish files was kindly permitted by Jenny Stevens, the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist. Thanks are also due to James Rackham who identified the cat jaw and commented on the cattle horncore.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Site Supervisor: Chris Moulis
Illustration: Denise Buckley
Post-excavation Analyst: Fiona Walker

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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McCarthy, M.R. and Brooks, C.M., 1988 *Medieval Pottery in Britain AD 900-1600*, Leicester University Press

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

Numbers prefixed 'SMR' are the primary reference codes used by the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record for identifying archaeological sites and finds.

Numbers prefixed 'SK' are the reference codes used by the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist for identifying archaeological sites and finds.

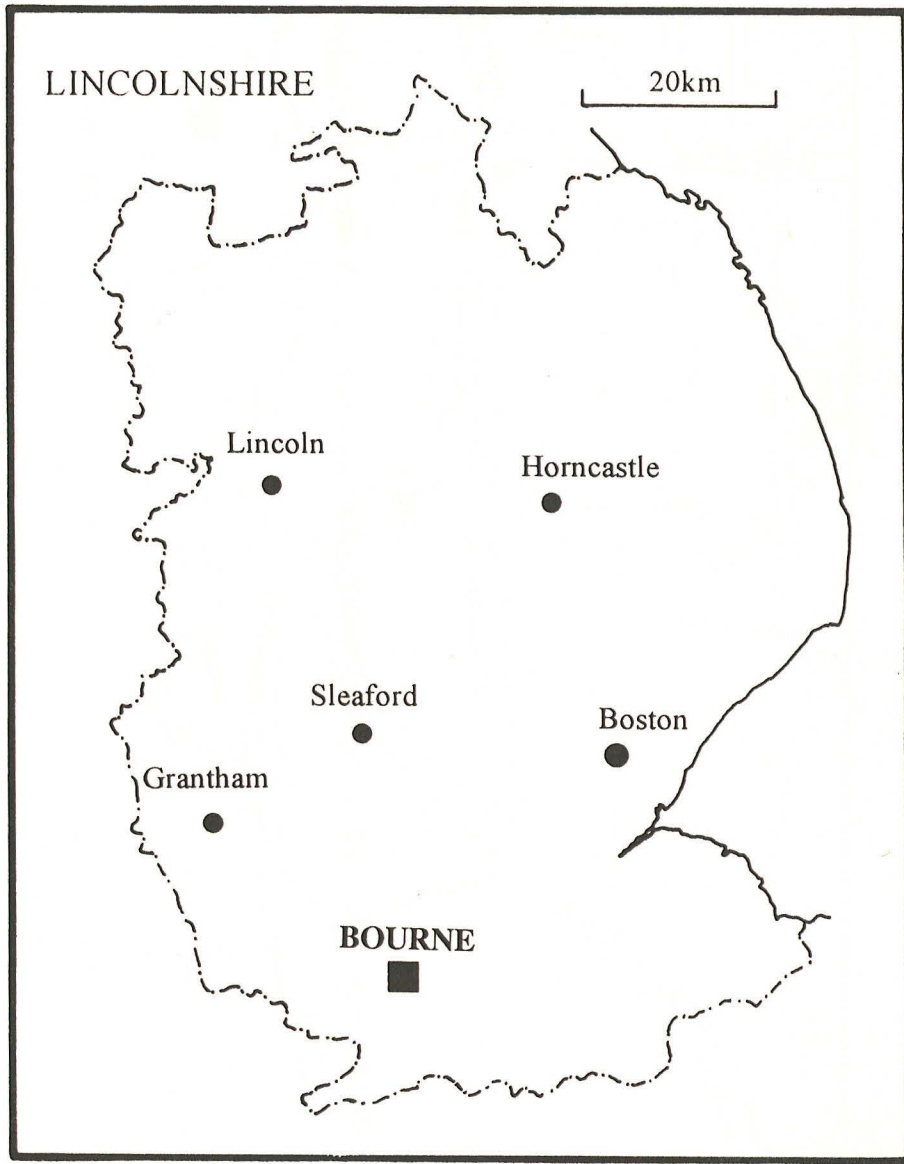
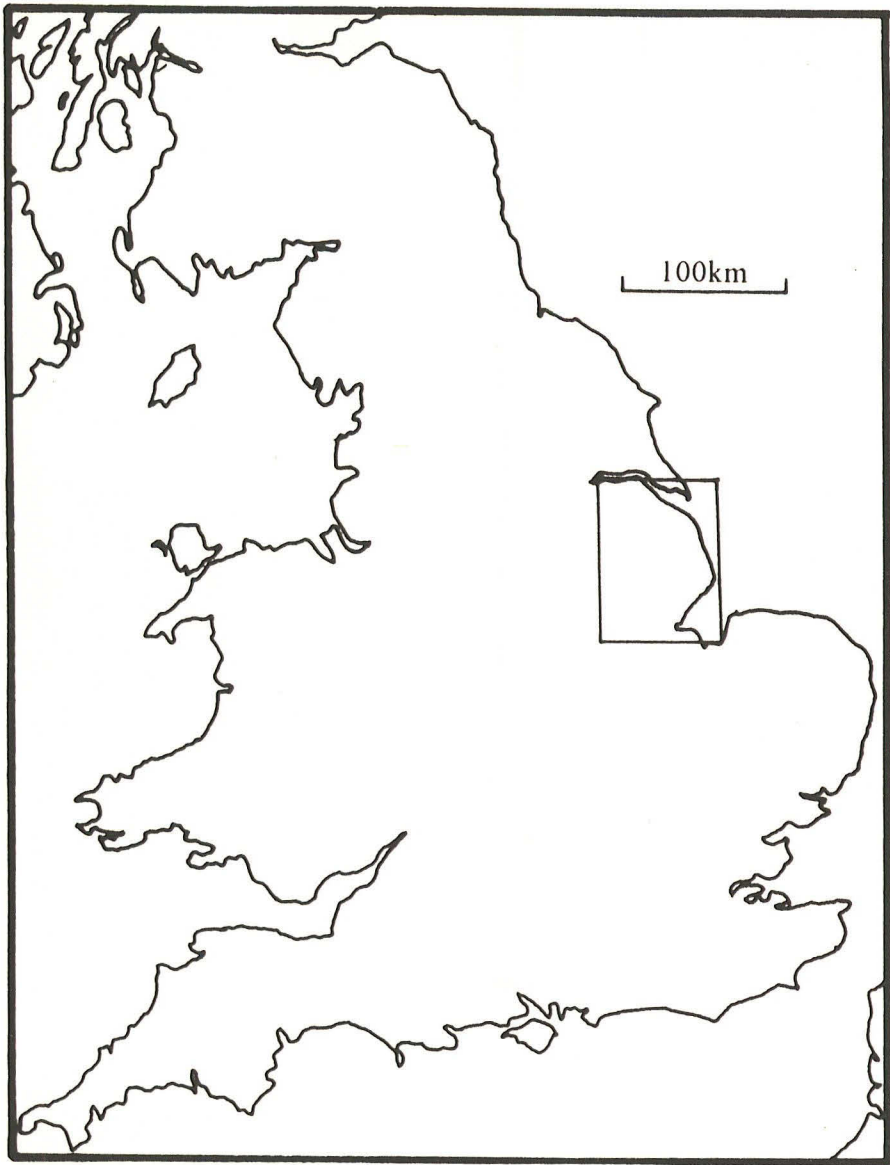


Fig. 1 General Location Plan

Fig. 2 Site Location Plan



Area of Development

Fig. 3 Area of Development

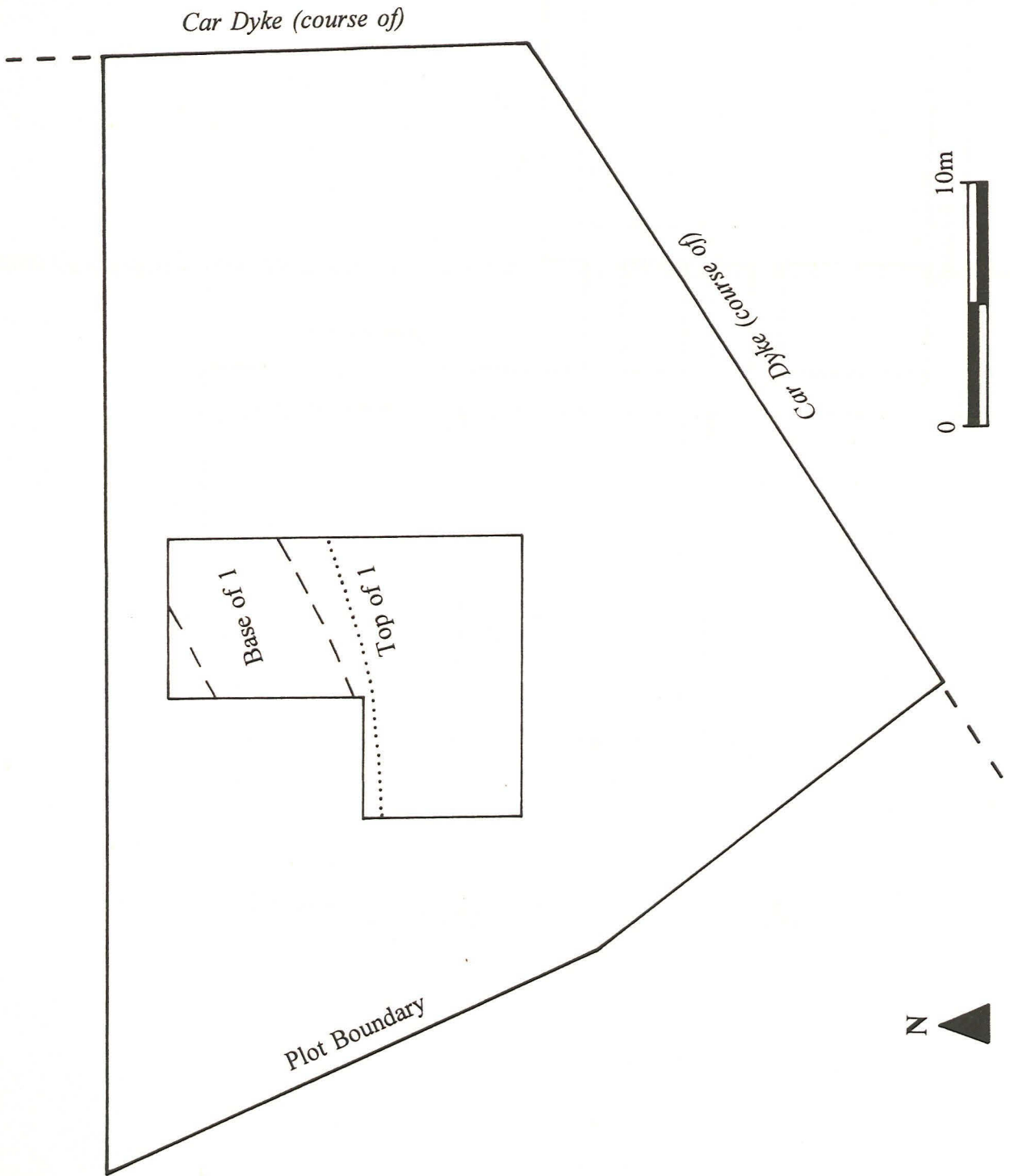


Fig. 4 Foundation Plan

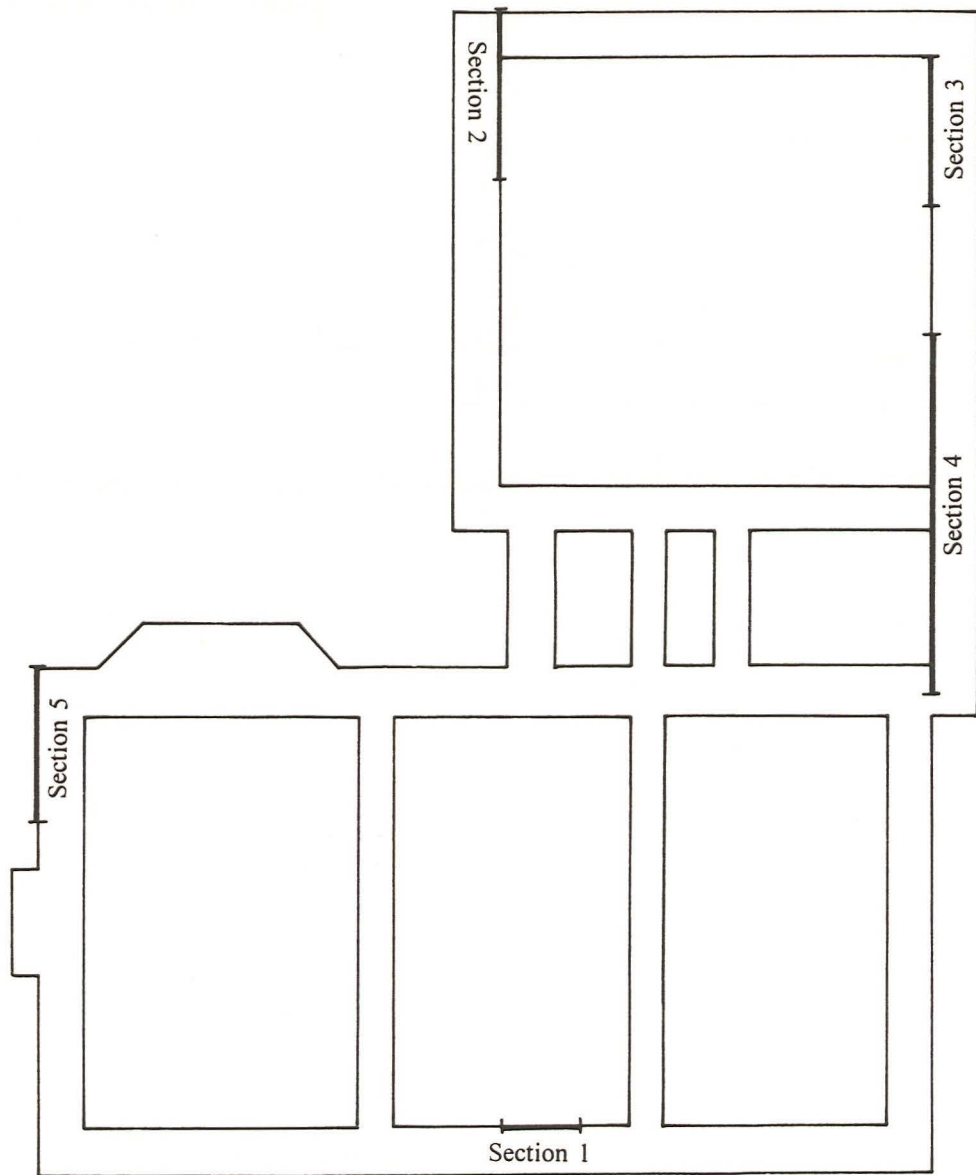


Fig. 5 Sections 1, 4 and 5

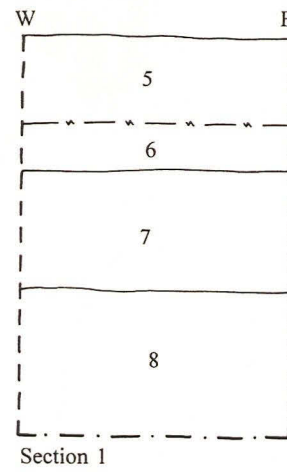
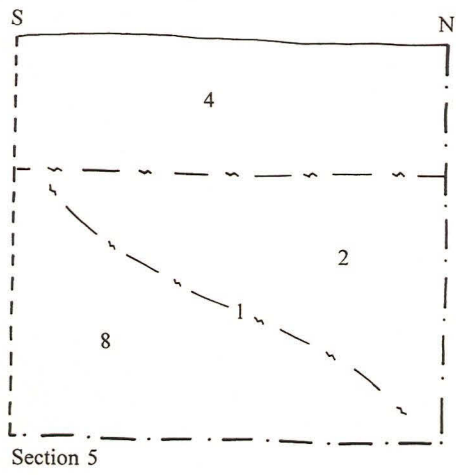
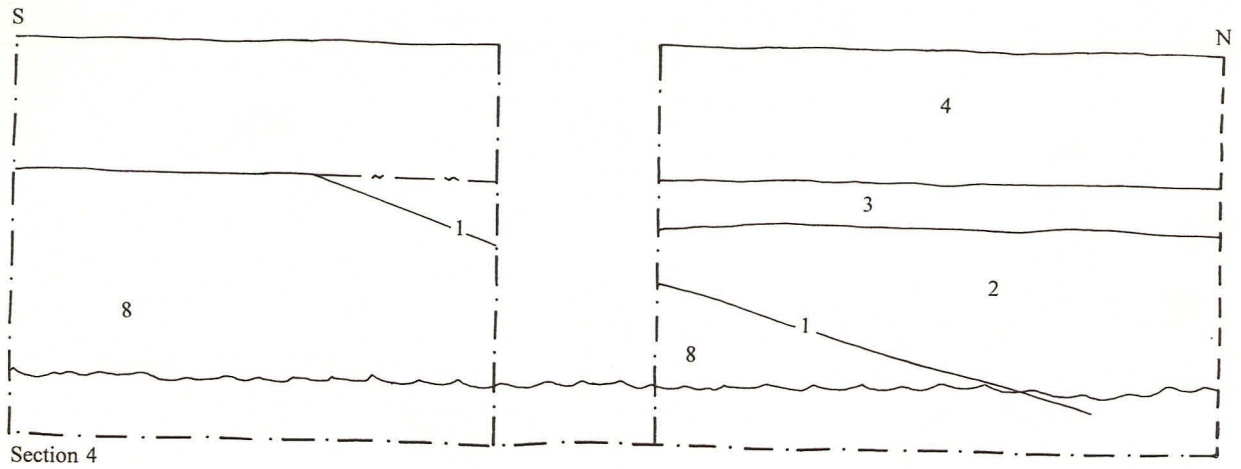


Fig. 6 Bourne Parish, Showing Postulated Direct Route of the Car Dyke near the Investigation Area (compare with Fig. 2)

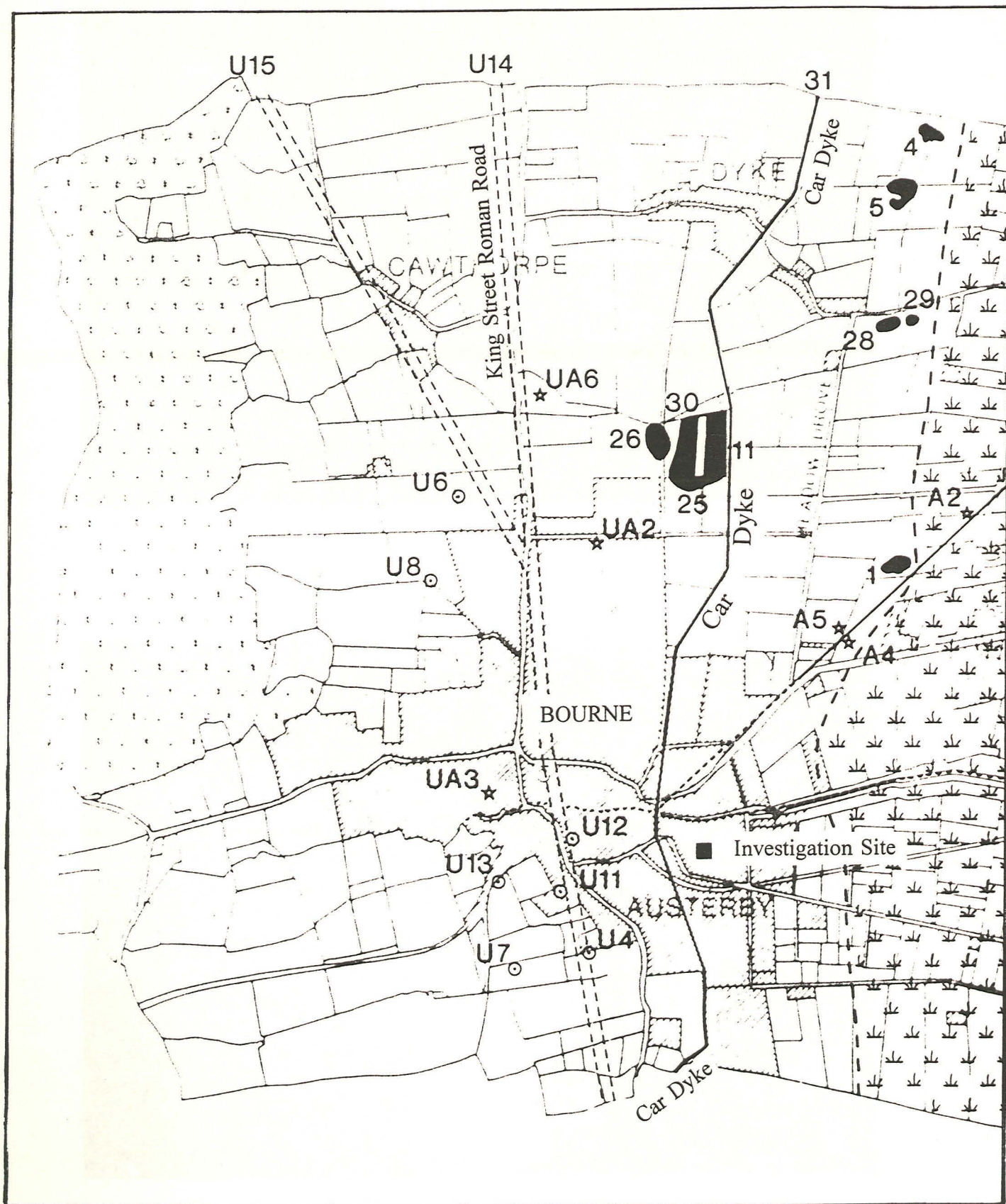




Plate 1. General view across the development site. The Car Dyke is visible in the background.

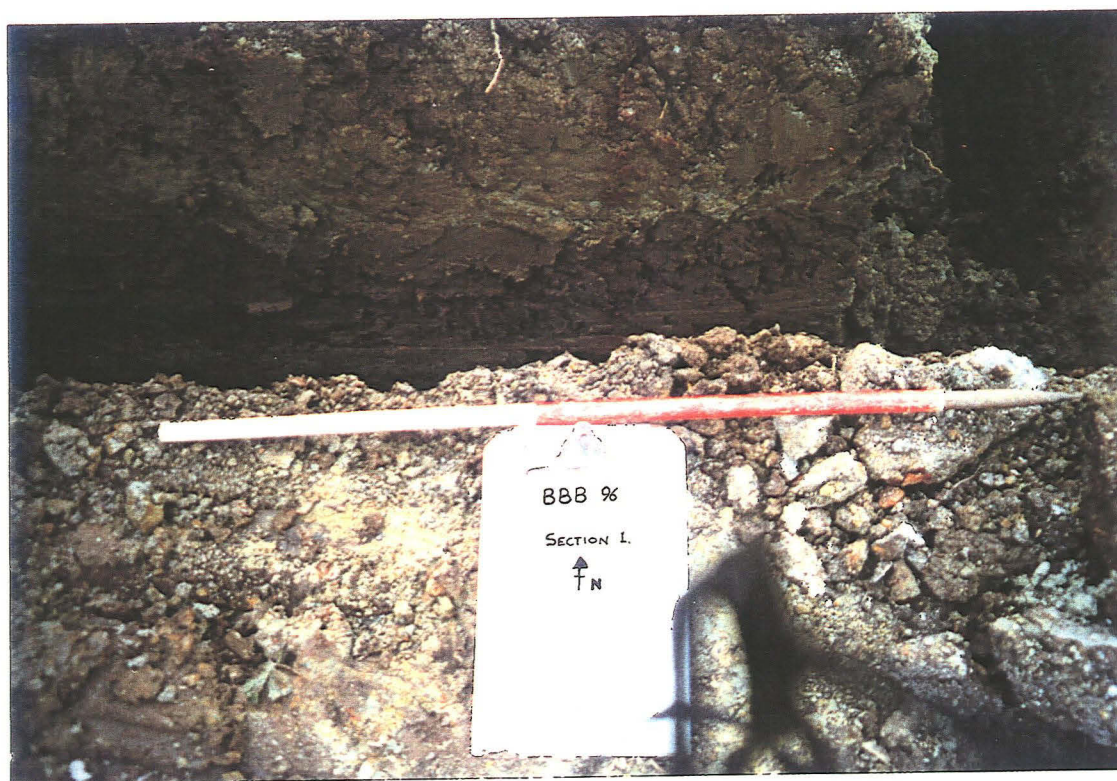


Plate 2. Section 1, looking North

APPENDIX 1

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT BRIEF.

WATCHING BRIEF TO THE EAST OF 14 BEDEHOUSE BANK, BOURNE

1. SUMMARY

1.1 This document is the project brief for an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during the development of land to the east of 14 Bedehouse Bank, Bourne.

1.2 This brief should be used by archaeological contractors as the basis for the preparation of a detailed archaeological project specification. In response to this brief contractors will be expected to provide details of the proposed scheme of work, to include the anticipated working methods, timescales and staffing levels.

1.3 All of the detailed specifications will be submitted for approval to the Community Archaeologist of South Kesteven District Council. The client will be free to choose between those specifications which are considered to adequately satisfy this brief.

2. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION.

2.1 The town of Bourne lies in the south-east of the district of South Kesteven and is situated approximately 24 kilometres to the south east of Grantham, Lincolnshire.

The site of the proposed development lies to the east of the town centre and is centred at NGR. TF 1040 1975 (See accompanying Maps).

3. PLANNING BACKGROUND.

The proposed development is for a single dwelling and has planning permission from South Kesteven District Council. A condition requiring a watching brief is attached to this planning permission.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.

4.1 The site of the proposed dwelling lies directly alongside the Car Dyke, a major archaeological monument which is believed to date to the Roman period. The monument is known to have been much wider than its present size and its original banks may extend into the development area. Groundworks in this area may therefore disturb important evidence relating to the date and function of the Car Dyke.

5. REQUIREMENT FOR WORK.

5.1 The objective of the watching brief should be to ensure that any archaeological features exposed by the groundworks are recorded and interpreted and that any remains disturbed are recovered.

5.2 Any adjustments to the project brief for the Watching Brief should only be made after discussion with the Community Archaeologist of South Kesteven District Council.

5.3 The following details should be given in the contractor's specification:

5.3.1 A projected timetable must be agreed for the various stages of work.

5.3.2 The staff structure and numbers must be detailed. This should include lists of specialists and their role in the project.

5.3.3 It is expected that all on-site work will be carried out in a way that complies with the relevant Health and Safety Legislation and that due consideration will be given to site security.

5.3.4 The recovery and recording strategies to be used must be described in full.

5.3.5 An estimate of time and resources allocated for post excavation work and report production.

6. METHODS

6.1 The investigation should be carried out by a recognised archaeological body in accordance with the code of conduct of The Institute of Field Archaeologists.

6.2 The watching brief should involve:

6.2.1 archaeological supervision of soil stripping;

6.2.2 inspection of subsoil for archaeological features;

6.2.3 recording of archaeological features in plan;

6.2.4 rapid excavation of features if necessary;

6.2.5 archaeological supervision of subsoil stripping;

6.2.6 inspection of natural for archaeological features and recording of them;

6.2.7 any human remains encountered must be left in situ and only removed if absolutely necessary. The contractor must comply with all statutory consents and licences under the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981 or other Burial Acts regarding the exhumation and interment of human remains. It will also be necessary to comply with all reasonable requests of interested parties as to the method of removal, reinterment or disposal of the remains or associated items. Attempt must be made at all times not to cause offence to any interested parties;

7. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

7.1 The Community Archaeologist of South Kesteven District Council will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project and will require at least seven days notice prior to the commencement of the work.

8. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

8.1 A full report should be produced and deposited with the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist, South Kesteven District Council Planning Department, the Developer and the County Sites and Monuments Record. The report should include:

8.1.1 location plan of the trenches;

8.1.2 section and plan drawing, with ground level, Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scales as appropriate;

8.1.3 specialist descriptions of artefacts and ecofacts;

8.1.4 an indication of potential archaeological deposits not disturbed by the present development;

8.2 After agreement with the landowner, arrangements should be made for long term storage of all artefacts in the City and County Museum, Lincoln, as outlined in that Museum's document 'Conditions for the acceptance of Project Archives'. The City and County Museum should be contacted at the earliest possible opportunity so that the full cost implications of the archive deposition can be taken into account.

8.3 A site archive should be produced and deposited with the artefacts as detailed in 8.2.

9. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

9.1 This document attempts to define the best practice expected of an archaeological watching brief but cannot fully anticipate the conditions that will be encountered as work progresses. However, changes to the approved programme of excavation are only to be made with the prior written approval of the Community Archaeologist.

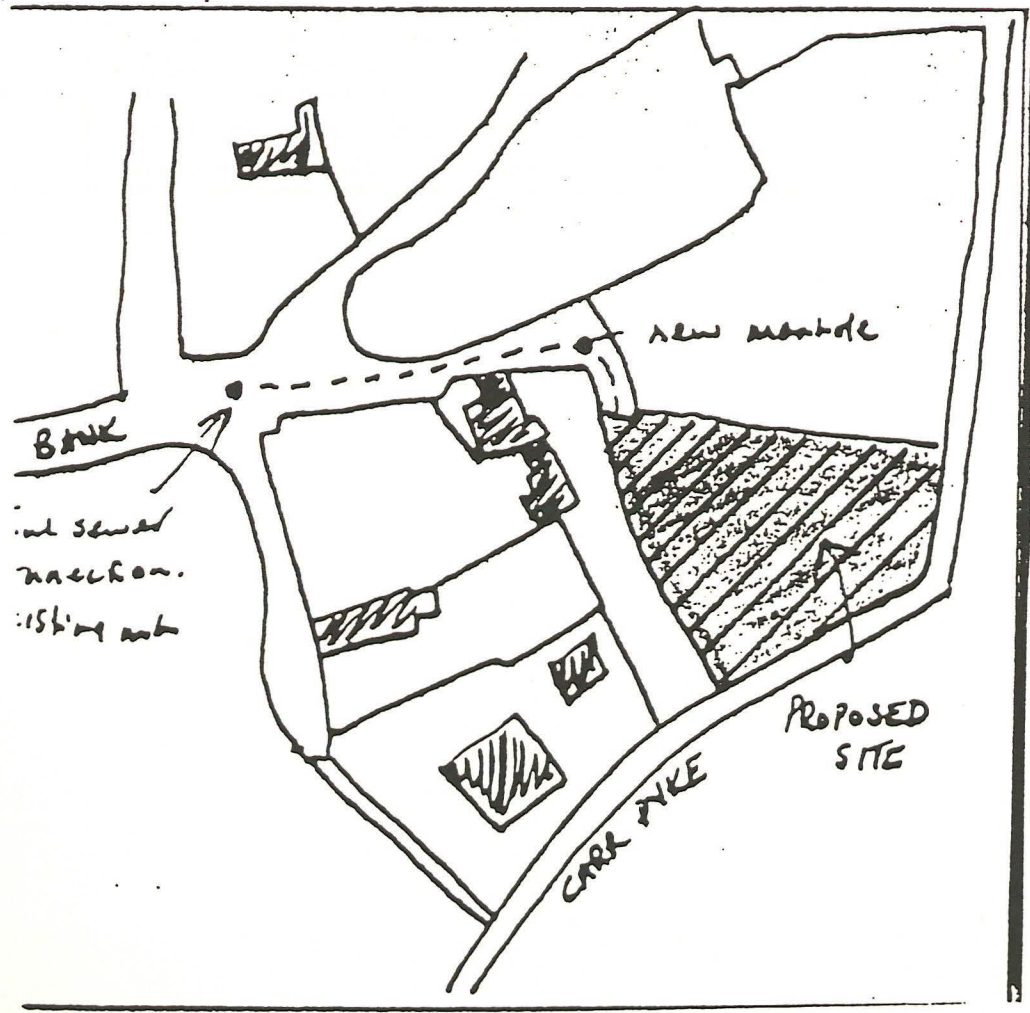
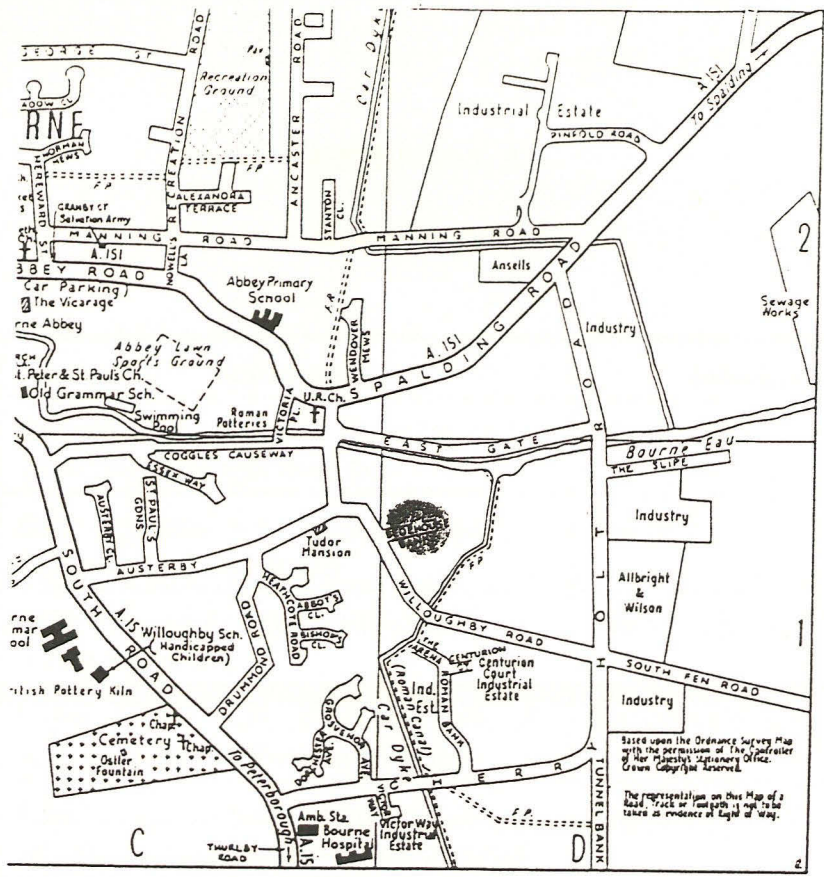
9.2 Further contact addresses:

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Brief set by Community Archaeologist, South Kesteven District Council.
February 1996.



APPENDIX 2

Context Summary

Context	Description	Interpretation
001	SW-NE linear cut, over 8m wide, over 1.55m deep, length over 8m	Ditch
002	Grey silty clay, with reddish-brown mottles and frequent grit	Fill of 001
003	Dark grey sandy clayey silt with occasional stones	Former topsoil, fill of 001
004	Layer <i>c.</i> 0.5m thick of brown clayey silt with occasional sub-rounded stones	Transformed soil
005	Layer <i>c.</i> 0.35m thick of brown clayey silt with occasional sub-rounded stones	Transformed soil
006	Blueish-grey silty clay, at least 0.17m thick	Dumped deposit
007	Grey silty clay with frequent red-brown mottles and occasional small stones	Layer of uncertain function, possible dumped deposit
008	Layer of mixed blueish-grey and yellow sandy silty clay, over 0.55m deep	Natural

APPENDIX 3

The Finds
by
Hilary Healey and Gary Taylor

Context	Description	Date
unstratified	1 piece blue and white 'willow pattern' earthenware; 1 piece stoneware; 5 pieces glazed earthenware	19th-early 20th century
unstratified	1 piece bottle glass	19th-20th century
002	half of a handmade brick	
002	1 cattle horncore, large, butchered; 1 cat mandible; 2 linked pieces of a single cattle femur, small, gnawed; 1 cattle metapodial	?late medieval - early post- medieval

The horncore is large in size though the wall is quite thin. In view of this, the animal represented is unlikely to be earlier than the medieval period and is more characteristic of stock of late medieval-early post-medieval times. The horn has been partially chopped through at its base and from the underside. This butchery pattern is typical of horn removal for the use of horn workers (J Rackham, pers comm).

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, *e.g.* (004).
- Cut** A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, *etc.* 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.
- Environmental material** The term 'environmental material' is used to describe all kinds of plant and animal substances, such as bones, skin, hair, beetle wing cases, mollusc shells, wood, pollen *etc.* When present, these materials can be used to indicate past environmental conditions at the archaeological site. The materials survive differentially under varied burial conditions, though waterlogging or extreme dehydration often provides the optimum circumstances for the preservation of the most classes of this type of evidence.
- Feature** An archaeological feature refers to an entity, resulting from natural or human activities, that has altered the appearance of the ground surface. All 'cuts' are features. Additionally, constructions or other alterations that build up the landscape, such as walls or embankments, are also features. Natural features can be caused by the action of weathering, such as ice cracks and ancient water courses.
- Fill** Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
- Gleyed soil** A gleyed soil is one that has been subject to waterlogging and the action of micro-organisms or by-products of decomposing organic matter. These processes cause the alteration of rust-like iron within soil to more mobile, colourless or grey iron compounds and produces distinct soil horizons.
- Layer** A layer is an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within

a cut.

Medieval Pertaining to the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.

Natural Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.

Transformed deposit Over time deposits of soils and other materials may be significantly changed from their original nature and characteristics. The processes responsible for such alteration are many and varied and include ploughing, the action of worms, the activities of burrowing animals and natural plant growth, amongst others. Any deposit that has experienced such alteration due to these or other processes is said to be transformed.

Truncated Any deposit or feature which is affected by a 'cut' has been reduced in size from its original extent and is said to be truncated.

APPENDIX 5

The Archive

The archive consists of:

- 8 . . . Context Records
- 2 . . . Photographic Records
- 6 . . . Scale Drawings
- 1 . . . Stratigraphic Matrix
- 1 . . . Box 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	68.96
Archaeological Project Services	project code	BBH96