

34972-4 9618

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

LONG STREET, FOSTON

Site Code: LSF95

LCCM Accession No.: 110.95

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34973 - Emed -
Pmed
34972 - Early Saxon.
Event LI2652
Source LI5232
LI1644

34972-4 96/8

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Prepared for Ray Williams Developments by SC Johnson (Pre-Construct Archaeology)

July 1996

see also 97/2

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Summary

- * *Ray Williams Developments commissioned Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of three detached dwellings on land fronting Long Street, Foston, Lincolnshire.*

- * *Significant archaeological deposits which date to the late Saxon, medieval, and Tudor periods were exposed and recorded.*

- * *archaeological deposits on and around the site appear to be well preserved.*

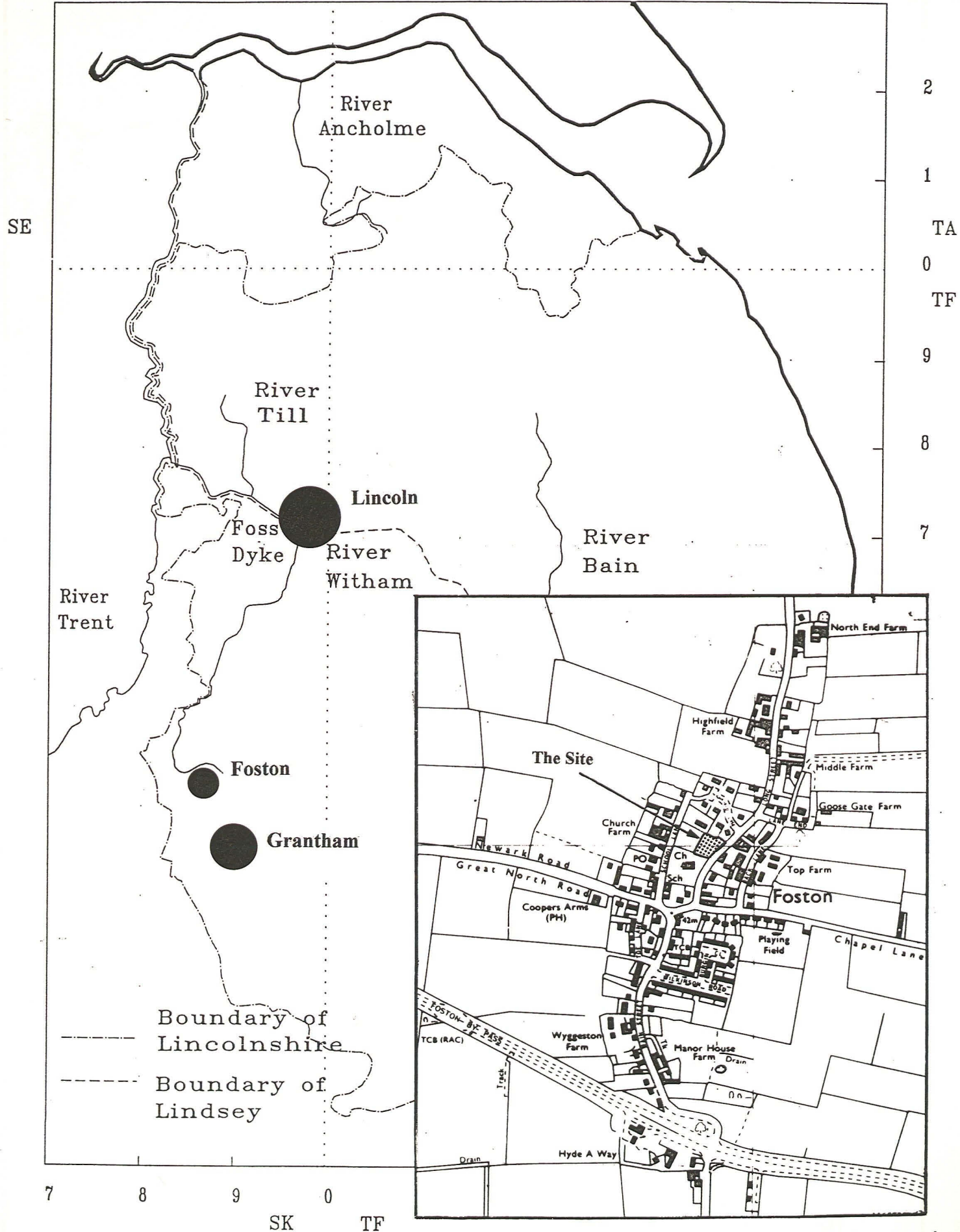


Fig. 1: Site Location

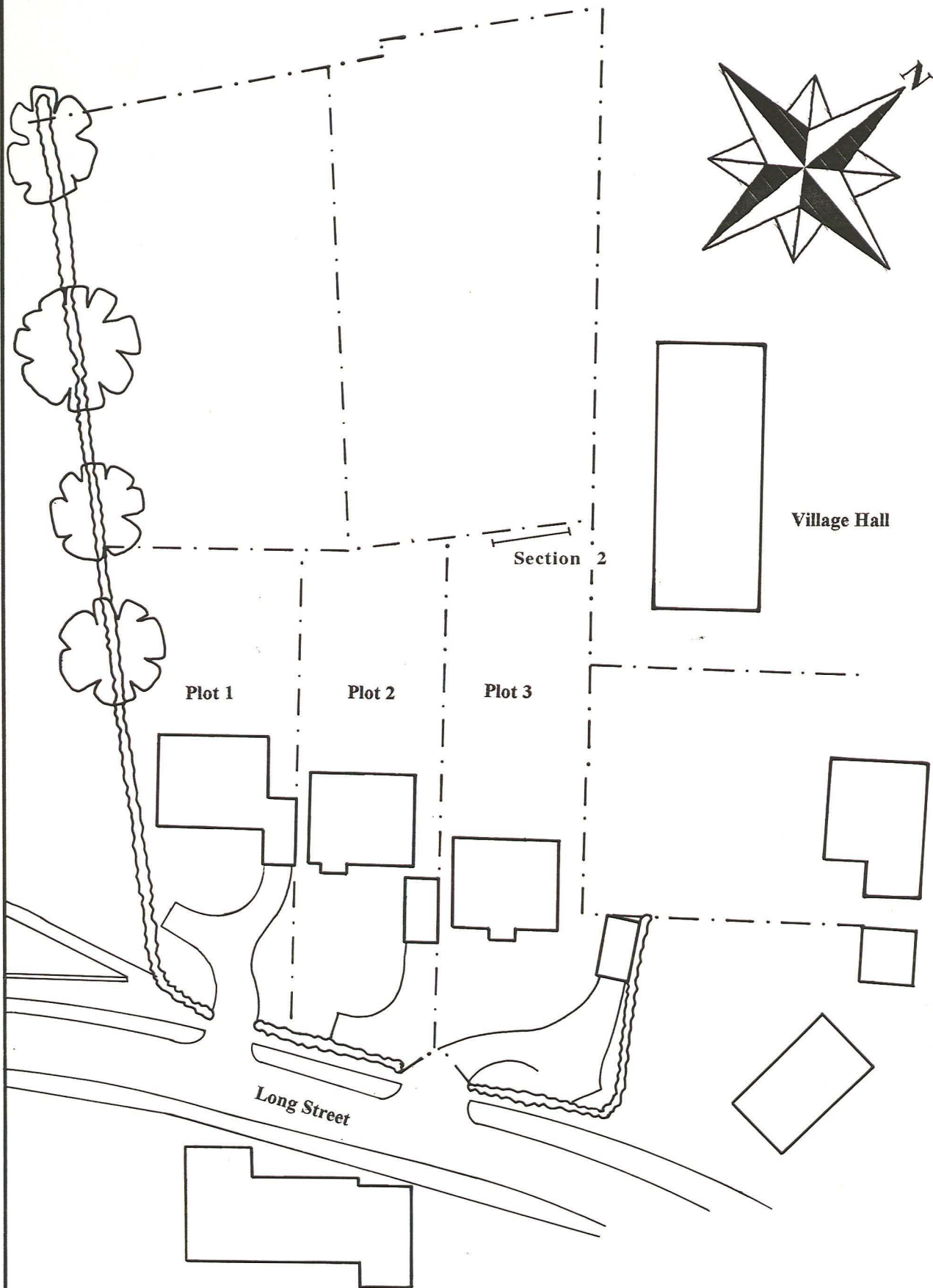


Fig. 2: 1:500 Development Plan
(Based on a drawing supplied by client)

1.0 Introduction

In November 1994 an application was submitted by Ray Williams Developments, to construct three dwellings on land north-east of St. Peter's Church, Long Street, Foston, Lincolnshire (NGR SK 858 429). Planning permission was granted on 24th. January 1995 subject to five conditions: condition four required the undertaking of an archaeological scheme of works to monitor the stages of development involving ground disturbance.

This report details the work undertaken by PCA, copies of which will be deposited with the County Sites and Monuments Record; the Community Archaeologist for South Kesteven; the City and County Museum, Lincoln, and the local planning authority. A summary on the findings will also be submitted to the editor of the county journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology* for inclusion in a future edition. An ordered archive of both paper and object elements is in preparation and will be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, within six months of project completion (thereby satisfying all aspects of the project brief).

The watching brief was undertaken by the writer and by C. Palmer-Brown.

2.0 Purpose and methods

The development lies in the heart of the medieval village, close to the parish church of St. Peter which dates from the C13th or earlier. The location of the site, examined in conjunction with information forming part of the County Sites and monuments Record (SMR), suggested that hitherto unexplored archaeological remains could be disturbed during the course of development.

In 1990, the Department of the Environment issued Planning Policy Guidance Note 16, *Archaeology and Planning* which made archaeology a 'material consideration' within the planning process for the first time. The document emphasises the importance of preservation *in situ* but states that where this is not possible, archaeological deposits must be preserved by record.

The Community Archaeologist (on behalf of the District Council) issued a project brief requiring that an archaeological watching brief should be maintained during development. This has been defined as follows:

'An archaeological watching brief is defined as a programme of observation and investigation conducted during the destruction of archaeological deposits, resulting in the preparation of a report and ordered archive' (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994 Standard Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs)

Archaeological monitoring consisted of the following elements :

- (i) Observation of topsoil stripping and inspection of subsoil for archaeological features.
- (ii) Collection and recording of surface artefacts.
- (iii) Observation during foundation and service trenching, followed by the inspection of section and plan surfaces for archaeological features and/or deposits.
- (iv) Recording of archaeological features and limited excavation to determine, where possible, the date and character of deposits exposed.

Plot 1 (see Fig. 2) was not monitored due to a misunderstanding between the developer and his agent who, acting in his absence, failed to notify PCA of the commencement of ground works.

Recording was undertaken using PCA watching brief General Account and Context Record Sheets: supplemented, where necessary, with scale drawings (at 1:20) and photography. Observation points were plotted on 1: 50 location plans and overlays.

Prior to the watching brief, the county Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) was inspected (Appendix 9.3). A copy of this report will form a subsequent entry.

3.0 Location and description

Foston lies in the administrative district of South Kesteven, approximately 7 Km. north-west of Grantham. It lies on high ground to the south of the River Witham, west of Foston Beck, the village lies at a point approximately 35 m. OD.

The development is located in the heart of the village approximately 20 m. north-east of the parish church. It is bordered by modern development to the north and Long Street and School Lane to the east and west respectively.

The solid geology comprises Lower Lias clay with calcareous silt stones and thin sandstones. The eastern extent of the current village respects the line of an outcrop of ferruginous limestone and soils of the area are heavy non-calcareous gleys and brown earths over Jurassic clays with sandy ferritic brown earths on ironstones to the south-east (Straw, 1969, 6-7)

4.0 Archaeological and historic background

The Grantham area has a rich and diverse heritage, commencing with the Mesolithic or Middle Stone Age period (*circa* 8000-4000 BC); during which time subsistence

hunter-gatherer economies were maintained by human communities (ie before the development of agriculture). There appears to be a disproportionate cluster of such sites between Grantham and Ancaster, though it has been argued that the statistics may simply reflect uneven patterns of fieldwork (May, 1976, 36)

Evidence for the succeeding Neolithic or 'New Stone Age' period (*circa* 4000-2500 BC) is patchy: records held by the Community Archaeologist refer to a single leaf-shaped arrowhead from Foston.

The Bronze Age (*circa* 2500-800 BC), which is typically characterised by the increased use of metals, is reflected in the archaeological record by a number of sites which have produced Beaker-type pottery. Situated upon soils of limestone and ironstone parentage, these sites are unusual as many early Bronze Age sites in Lincolnshire are found on sand based soils. Later Bronze Age pottery is usually found in funerary contexts: two vessels found in association with an early battle axe are provenanced to Little Gonnerby (*ibid* 68, 83-85)

Iron Age pottery has been found on the site of a later Roman settlement north of Foston, adjacent to the River Witham. It has not benefited from intensive investigation, but surface collections suggest that it was a major settlement of some considerable importance. A road has been traced extending north-west towards a further important site (Ad Ponton) and may have also extended east to Ancaster. (Whitwell, 1982 pp63, 69, 85, 115; 1992 pp55, 76-7)

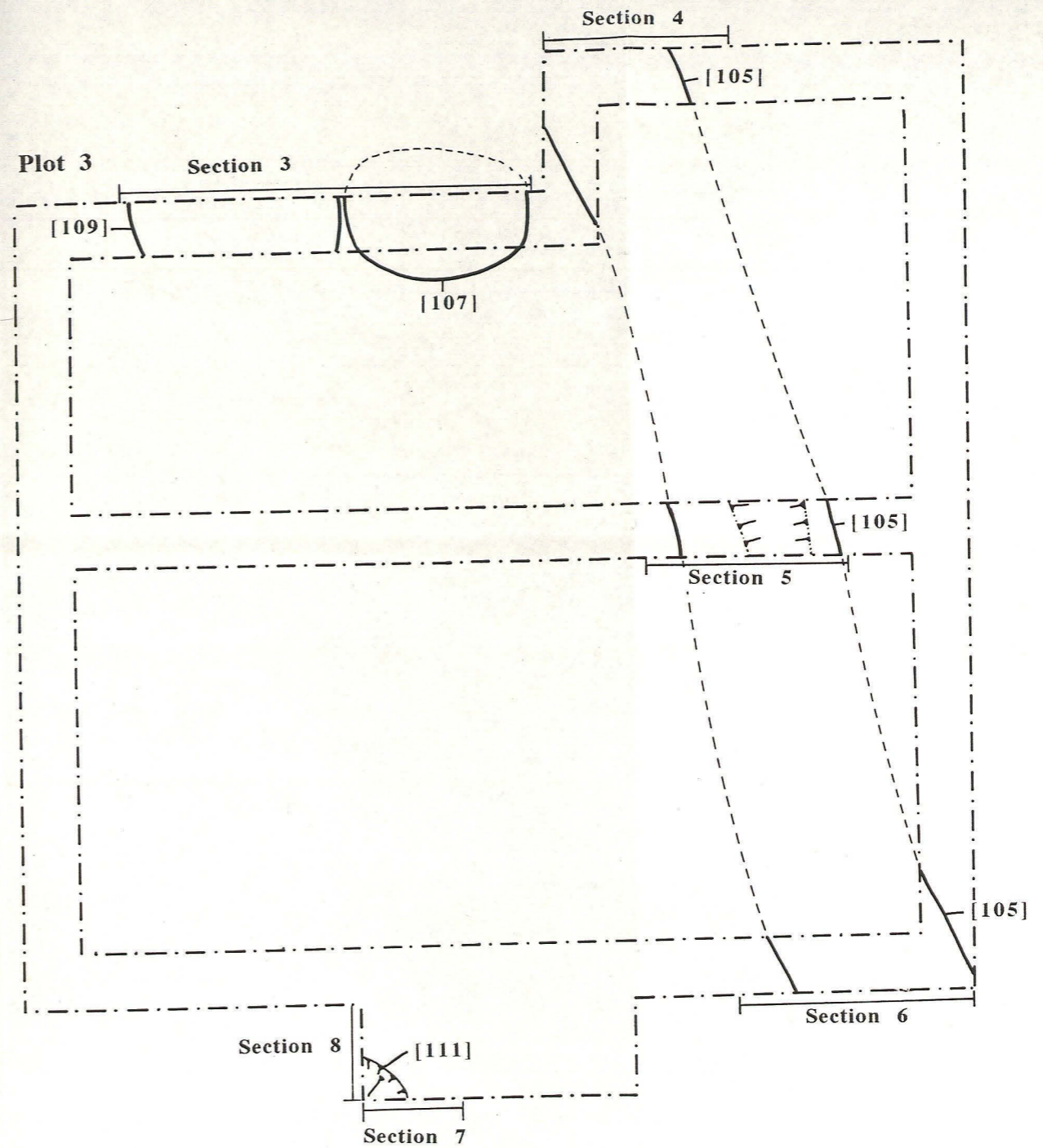
The present village is recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086 as *Foztune*: from the Old Scandinavian for 'farmstead or village of a man called Fotr' (Mills, 1993, 135). The settlement was held by Count Alan within the Loveden *Wapentake* (Morris 1986). Very little information is available relating to the progressive development of the settlement which today comprises houses and cottages built from the C17th and later. The only extant medieval structure is the parish church, dedicated to St. Peter. It was partly rebuilt in 1858, though it retains a Norman chancel arch with further details of the Norman, Transitional and Early English periods. (Pevsner and Harris, 1989, 284) The Lincolnshire Village Book (1990) notes that repairs made to the church have revealed 'Saxon work' (page 52) but no further details are listed.

5.0 Results

The recording brief resulted in the exposure of settlement evidence dating between the late C9th. and mid C16th.

5.1 Plot 2 (Figs.2-4)

In common with the entire development site, the topsoil contained an abundance of post-medieval pottery dating from the C17th. onward (earthenwares, black wares, and cistercian types of local manufacture and imports from Staffordshire).



Key to Drawing Conventions



- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| --- Limit of Excavation | — Gravel Lens |
| - - - Machine Truncation | --- Green stain |
| — Limit of Context | ◆◆◆ Charcoal |
| — Cut of Feature | ○●○ Limestone rubble |
| - - - Diffuse / Uncertain change | |

Fig. 3: Foundation Cuttings of Plots 2 & 3 Showing Extent and Location of Archaeological Features

A quantity of pottery and animal bone was recovered from the lower subsoil, context [101]. Part of a Nottingham Green Glazed jug dates securely between the early C13th. to early C14th. This provides a date for an underlying rubble 'spread' (context [102]) which was recorded throughout the foundation trenches. No dating evidence was recovered from this context and its purpose was not determined.

5.2 Plot 3 (Figs. 2-5)

Groundworks within this plot uncovered a series of well-preserved features immediately beneath the modern topsoil. Datable artefacts were recovered from all of these contexts, producing a tight chronology.

5.2.1 Phase 1: Late Saxon

The excavation cutting for a bay window resulted in the exposure of a pit [111] which has been dated to the late Saxon period. This feature had near-vertical sides and was *c.* 0.8 m. deep. Its fill comprised dark brown sandy clay with abundant inclusions of shell, charcoal, and ?daub. Pottery sherds included local fabrics and the first (reported) occurrence of Lincoln Kiln Type pottery in the area. The pottery dates between the late C9th. to early C11th.

5.2.2 Phase 2: Saxo-Norman/early medieval

Two adjacent features were exposed in the north-west foundation trench: both were probably pits. The fill of one feature [109] contained two sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery dating between the early/mid C12th. to early C13th. One sherd was of Lincoln fine shelled fabric, whilst the other was a fragment from a glazed Stamford ware jug or pitcher.

The fill of pit [107] was characterised by a green discoloration which may be an indication of cess. It contained part of a Nottingham green glazed jug dating to the early C13th./early C14th.

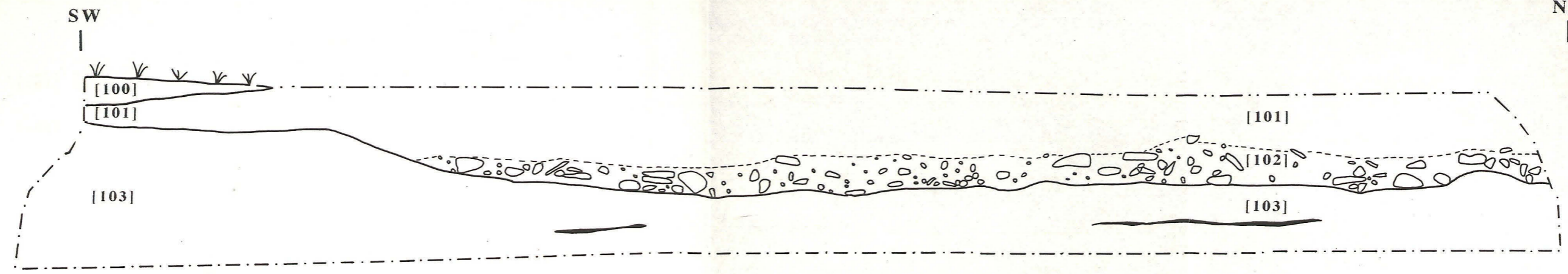
Both features were flat-bottomed with *c.* 40° sides. Possibly they were domestic rubbish pits.

5.2.3 Phase 3: Late medieval/Tudor

A large east-west aligned ditch [105] was sectioned in four places. It was *c.* 1.8 m. wide and 1.5m. deep and its fill contained a quantity of animal bone, including part of an articulated pig skeleton. Associated pottery consisted of fabrics from Nottingham and Lincoln, as local wares; all of which date to the early C15th to mid C16th.

This ditch was clearly a feature of some importance: a property boundary, possibly, to land whose extent may have been defined by the church and cemetery to the south.

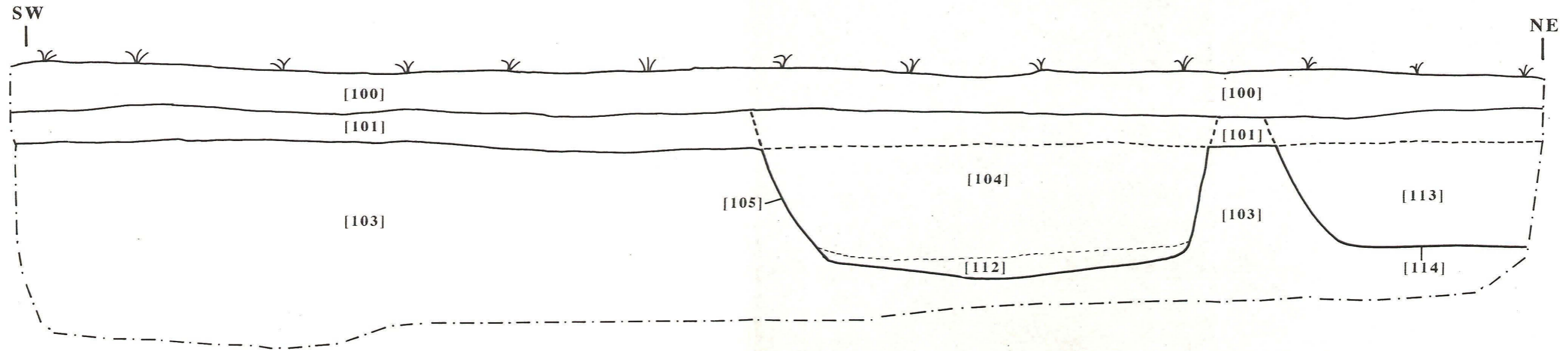
Section 1



Scale: 0

2

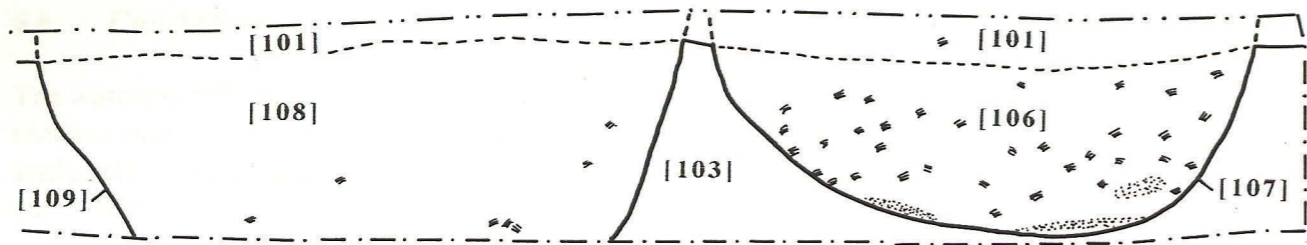
Section 2



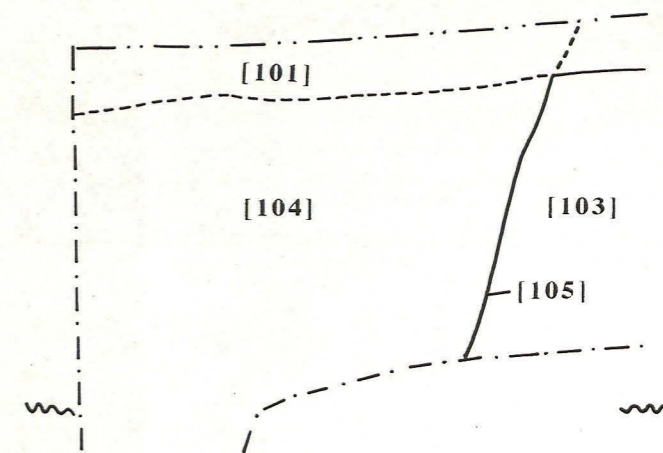
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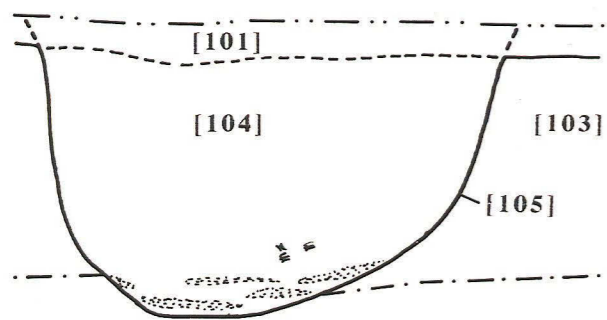
Fig. 4: Sections 1 & 2



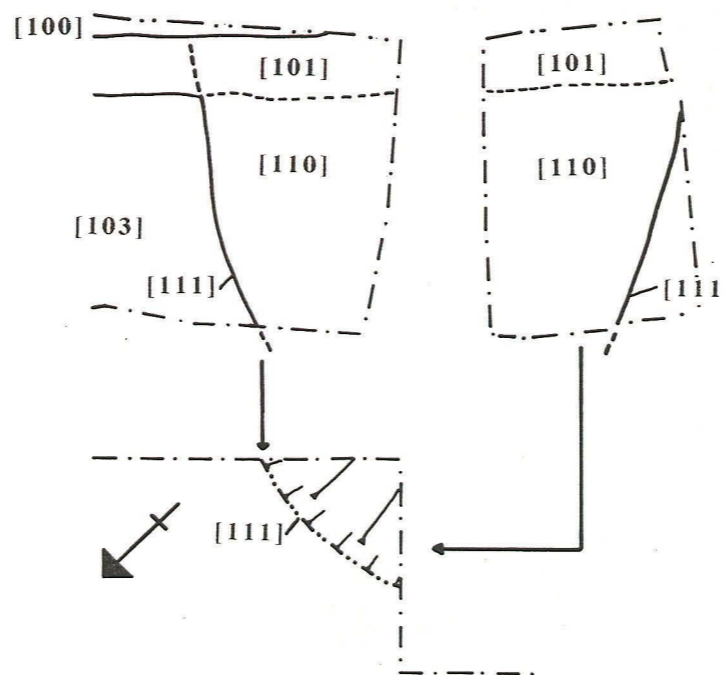
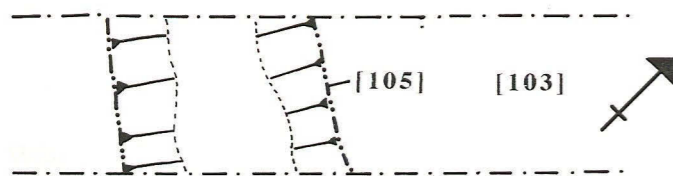
Section 3: Pits [107] and [109]



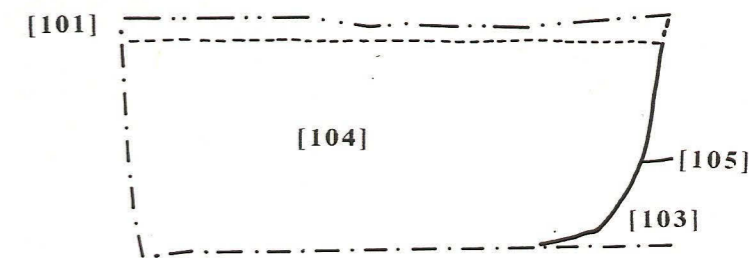
Section 4: Ditch [105]



Section 5: Ditch [105]



Section 7 & 8: Pit [111]



Section 6: Ditch [105]

Fig. 5: Composite Plans and Sections of Features [105], [107], [109] and [111]



6.0 Conclusions

The watching brief has demonstrated that well preserved and significant archaeological remains exist within the core of the village; reflecting at least five centuries of local settlement. These remains lie immediately below the topsoil and are therefore vulnerable to further development or excavation deeper than c. 25 cm.

Given the density of deposits within plots 2 and 3 it is possible that similar remains were destroyed without record in plot 1. Owing to the constraints of working during the course of development (and the small quantity of material recovered) it has not been possible to make a definitive statement relating to the development of the medieval settlement at Foston except in the broadest terms. It has been possible, however, to demonstrate that the site was occupied from at least late Saxon times, and that the earliest developments of the village are worthy of further investigation.

7.0 Acknowledgements

Sincere thanks are expressed to Mr R J Williams for commissioning Pre-Construct Archaeology to undertake the watching brief. Thanks are also due to staff at the County SMR for allowing access to the parish records.

8.0 References

- Morris J (general ed.) 1986 *Lincolnshire Domesday Book 31*
- Dept. of the Environment 1990 *'Archaeology and Planning' Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG 16)*
- May, J 1976 *Prehistoric Lincolnshire*
- Mill, A D 1993 *English Place-Names*
- Straw, A 1969 *Lincolnshire Soils*
- Pevsner, N & Harris, J 1989 *The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire*
- Whitwell, J B 1992 *Roman Lincolnshire*
Ibid 1982 *The Coritani Some aspects of the Iron Age Tribe and the Roman Civitas*

9.0 Appendices

9.1 List of Contexts

- [100] Homogenous, humic, dark greyish brown sandy clay; friable, it's matrix consists of *c.* 30% Sand and 70% clay. Occasional small limestone inclusions (>1.0<2.5 cm.) Dark-earth deposit representing current topsoil horizon. Depth *c.* 27-31 cm.
- [101] Homogenous loose to firm friable sandy clay with frequent limestone inclusions (>1.0<2.5 cm.). This horizon also contained occasional pebbles(< 7.0 cm.) Dark brown in colour it's matrix consists of *c.* 20% sand, 10% grit and 70% sand. Depth *c.* 52.0 cm. with a dark grey-black horizon (lower 9.0-10.0 cm.) owing to localised gleying.
- [102] General rubble spread of angular and slate limestones with occasional pebbles 'filling' a depression within the underlying natural. No dating evidence was recovered and remains unclear whether this layer corresponds to anthropomorphic or periglacial activity. Depth *c.* 22.0 cm.
- [103] Series of deposits relating to the natural geology of the site. Essentially, dense, dry, light grey clay over a darker, plastic, clay. Intermittent bands of iron-rich gravel between the upper and lower clays. Depth up to 80.0 cm. in north foundation of plot 2 where it overlies limestone.
- [104] Fill of east-west aligned linear feature. Stiff, dark reddish-brown Sandy clay (10% sand / 90% clay) with frequent angular flint inclusions and *c.* 5% charcoal flecks. Of variable depth and undetermined length, the fill was 1.7-1.9 m. wide. Contained pottery and bone including a (?) complete pig skeleton.
- [105] Cut of a linear feature aligned east-west and containing fill [104]. Flat bottomed with irregular profile, it's full extent could not be established by the monitoring brief, although it extended eastwards into the neighbouring plot covered by the Community Archaeologist. Possible boundary ditch.
- [106] Fill of probable pit. Stiff, dark reddish brown sandy clay (10% sand / 90% clay) with green tinged patches which may indicate the presence of cess. Occasional limestone and angular flint inclusions, *c.* 10% charcoal flecks. Depth *c.* 60-70.0 cm.
- [107] Cut of probable pit. 'U' shaped profile, *c.* 60-70.0 cm. deep with a diameter of *c.* 1.95 m. Contained Fill [106]. Possible cess or domestic rubbish pit.
- [108] Fill of possible pit. Stiff, dark red-brown sandy clay (10% sand / 90% clay) with occasional charcoal flecks and *c.* 5% angular flints.

- [109] Cut of possible pit containing Fill [108]. Diameter *c.* 2.2 m.
- [110] Fill of Cut [111]. Sticky dark brown sandy clay (15% sand / 85% clay) with grit, shell, charcoal and possible daub inclusions. Contained bone and pottery with a black reduced fabric.
- [111] Cut of possible Pit. Only slightly truncated by porch foundation, this feature was .80.0 cm. deep and if an oval / round pit would have a diameter of *c.* 60.0 cm. Contained fill [110] it may be a domestic rubbish pit.
- [112] Primary fill of ditch {105}. Dark blue-grey silt, it was sterile of any finds
- [113] Fill of probable pit. Stiff, dark reddish brown sandy clay (10% sand / 90% clay) with green tinged patches which may indicate the presence of cess. Occasional limestone and angular flint inclusions, *c.* 10% charcoal flecks. Depth *c.* 60-70.0 cm.
- [114] Cut of probable pit. 'U' shaped profile, *c.* 60-70.0 cm. deep with a diameter of *c.* 1.95 m. Contained Fill [106]. Possible cess or domestic rubbish pit.
- [115] Generic context issued for east-west service trench.

9.2 Post Roman Pottery Archive by Jane Young

Post-Roman Pottery Archive: Ware Types by Context

Context	Ware	Sherds	Form	Comments
U/S	BERTH	1	-	STAFFS; 17/18TH; VITR
U/S	BERTH	1	BOWL	STAFFS; 17/18TH
U/S	BL	1	BOWL	18/19TH
U/S	BL	4	-	VARIOUS 17/18TH
U/S	BS	1	-	? ID; UNDERFIRED
U/S	BS	2	-	-
U/S	CIST	1	CUP	REVRS DEC
U/S	CIST	1	JUG/COSTREL	-
U/S	CIST	1	STANDING COSTREL	-
U/S	EMLOC	1	?	SPL AMBER GLAZE
U/S	HUM	1	?	-
U/S	LERTH	4	-	-
U/S	LFS	1	JAR	-
U/S	LPM	2	-	-
U/S	MP	1	JUG	?ID OR EGSW
U/S	MP	1	JUG	OXID
U/S	NOTG	1	JUG	-
U/S	NOTG	1	JUG	-
U/S	NOTG	1	JUG	STRAP HANDLE
U/S	R	1	-	-
U/S	SLIP	1	DISH	RIM
U/S	SLST	1	?	?ID
U/S	STMO	1	-	-
101	NOTG	2	JUG	SV
104	LMLOC	1	JAR/CISTERN	BS; NEAR MP
104	LSW3	1	JUG	THU BASE
104	MEDLOC	2	-	FABRIC A
104	MP	1	JAR CISTERN	RIM
104	NOTG	1	JUG	-
104	NOTG	1	JUG	CREAM
104	NOTG	1	JUG	REDUCED
104	NSP	1	?	-
106	NOTG	1	JUG	-
108	LFS	1	?	SCRAP
108	ST	2	JAR/PITCHER	12TH;GLZE
110	LKT	1	JAR	RIM
110	LSLOC	3	?	FABRIC D?;ECHENOID SPINE IN SHELL FABRIC
110	MISC	1	?	SCRAP SHELL FABRIC
115	LEMS	1	?	-
115	LEMS	1	?	?ID
115	NOTG	2	JUG	-

Post-Roman Pottery Archive: Horizon Dating

Context	Earliest horizon	Latest horizon	Date range
101	MH4	MH6	early 13th to early 14th
104	MH9	PMH2	early 15th to mid 16th
106	MH4	MH6	early 13th to early 14th
108	MH1	MH4	early/mid 12th to early 13th
110	ASH7	ASH11	late 9th to early 14th
115	MH4	MH6	early 13th to early 14th

Post-Roman Pottery Archive: Pottery Codes

Ware Code	Description
BERTH	BROWN EARTHENWARES
BL	BLACKWARE
BS	BROWN STONEWARE
CIST	CISTERCIAN-TYPE WARES
EMLOC	EARLY MEDIEVAL LOCAL FABRICS
HUM	HUMBERWARE
LEMS	LOCAL EARLY MEDIEVAL SHELLY WARE
LERTH	LATE EARTHENWARES
LFS	LINCOLN FINE-SHELLED WARE
LKT	LINCOLN KILN-TYPE WARE
LMLOC	LATE MEDIEVAL LOCAL FABRICS
LPM	EARLY MODERN OR MODERN
LSW3	GLAZED LINCOLN WARE
LSLOC	LATE SAXON LOCAL FABRICS
MEDLOC	MEDIEVAL LOCAL FABRICS
MISC	UNDATED MISCELLANEOUS FABRICS
MP	MIDLAND PURPLE-TYPE WARE
NOTG	NOTTINGHAM GREEN-GLAZED WARE
NSP	NOTTINGHAM SPLASHED GLAZED WARE
R	ROMAN
SLIP	SLIPWARE (GENERAL)
SLST	SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE SHELLY WARE
ST	STAMFORD WARE
STMO	STAFFORDSHIRE MOTTLED WARE

9.3 Information derived from the County Sites & Monuments Record

NGR	PRN N ^o	Period	Description
SK 8670 4170 SK 86700 41700	30186	Undated	Square enclosures and droveway visible as cropmarks.
SK 8586 4297	30179	Medieval	Parish church dedicated to St. Peter: partly rebuilt 1858, it retains Norman, Transitional and Early English features.
SK 8600 4230 Foston.	30178	Post-Medieval	Disused windmill on south side of the road to the south of
SK 8700 4360	34100	Undated	three-five small round or sub-rectangular enclosures, adjacent to a long ditch close to a pit alignment.
SK 8600 4280	30188	Post-Medieval	Silver coin of Elizabeth I (1558-1603) found <i>circa</i> 1937.



Plate 1

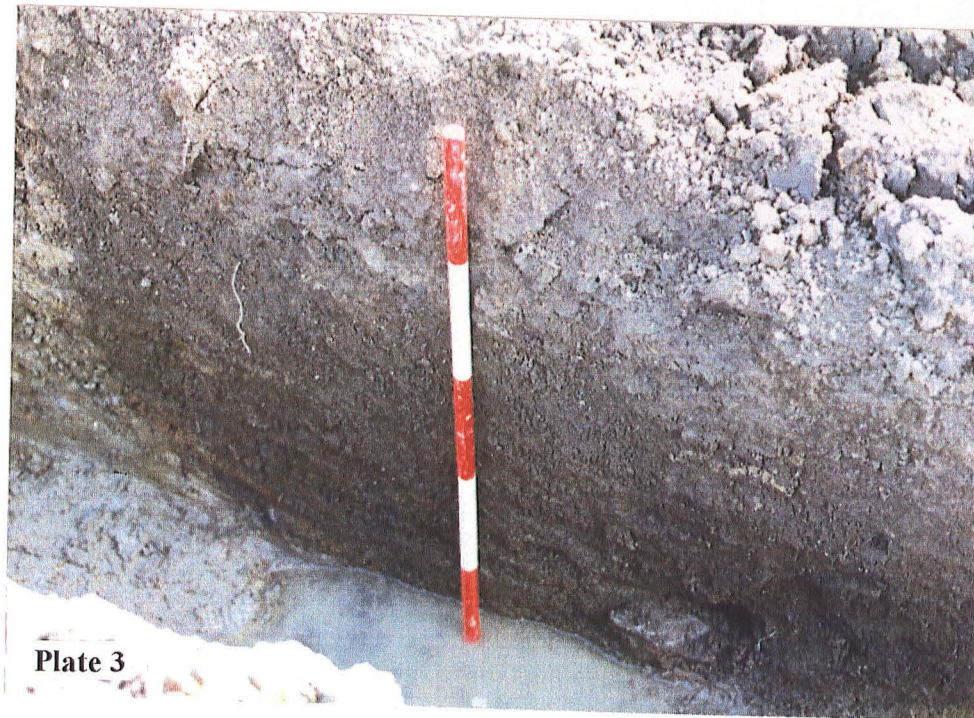


Plate 3

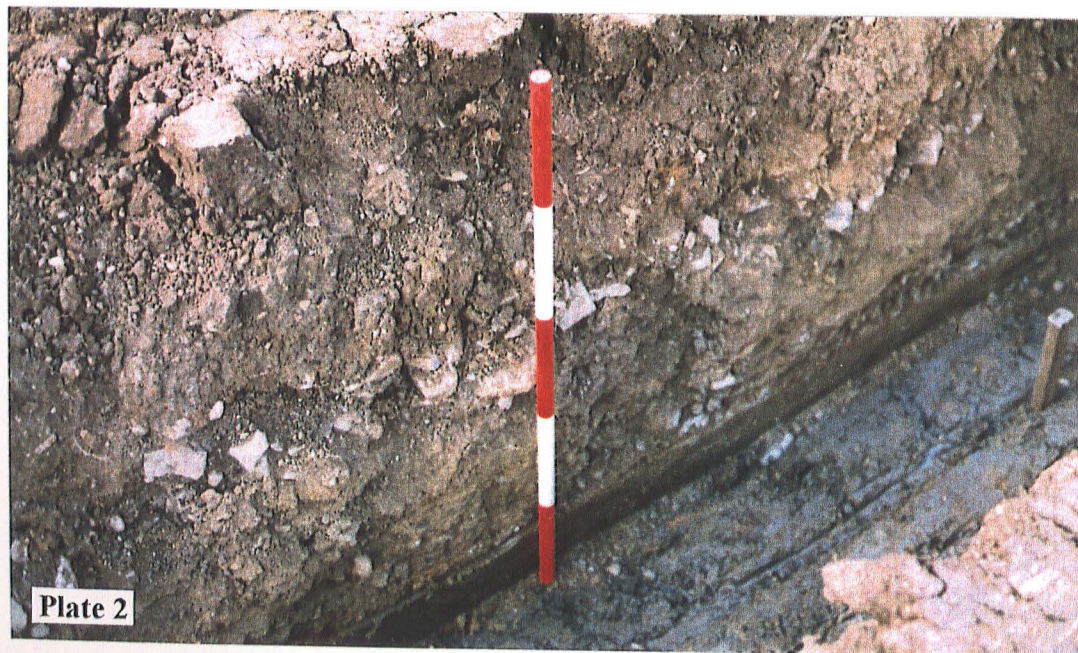


Plate 2

Plate 1 General view of site, looking south-west.

Plate 2 Rubble spread [102] looking east.

Plate 3 Ditch [105] looking north-east.

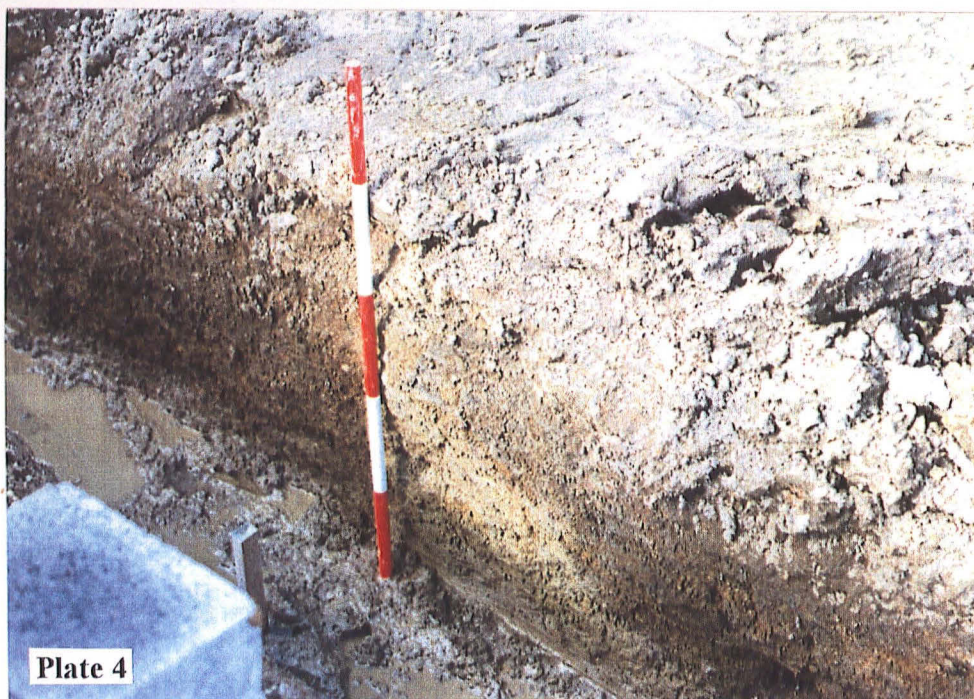


Plate 4

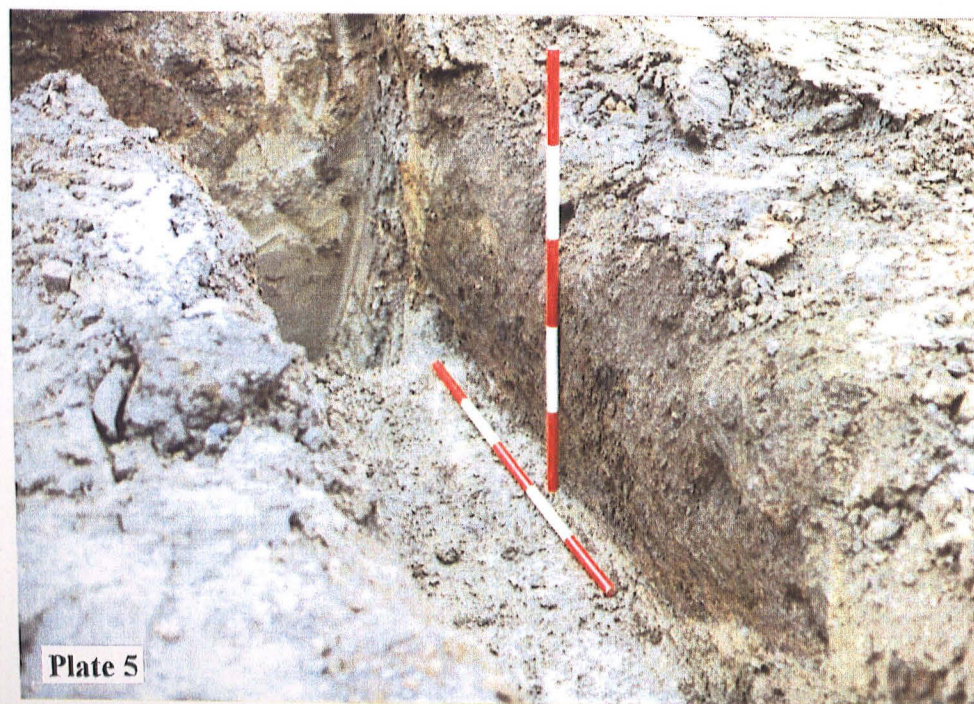


Plate 5



Plate 6

Plate 4 Features [107] & [109] looking west.

Plate 5 Ditch [105] looking west.

Plate 6 Feature [111] looking west.