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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF OF A  
BOREHOLE AND PIPE TRENCH, ON LAND  
ADJACENT TO BOURNE CASTLE,  
BOURNE,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(BES94)**



**A P S**  
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BOREHOLE AND PIPE TRENCH, ON LAND  
ADJACENT TO BOURNE CASTLE,  
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(BES94)**

Work Undertaken For  
Anglian Water.

Report Compiled by  
Mark Dymond

May 1996

## Contents

1.	SUMMARY . . . . .	1
2.	INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
	2.1 Background . . . . .	1
	2.2 Topography and Geology . . . . .	1
	2.3 Archaeological Setting . . . . .	1
3.	AIMS . . . . .	2
4.	METHODS . . . . .	2
5.	ANALYSIS . . . . .	3
	5.1 Phase 1 Natural Deposits . . . . .	3
	5.2 Phase 2 Victorian Deposits . . . . .	3
	5.3 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Deposits . . . . .	3
6.	DISCUSSION . . . . .	3
7.	CONCLUSIONS . . . . .	4
8.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS . . . . .	5
9.	PERSONNEL . . . . .	5
10.	BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . . .	5
11.	ABBREVIATIONS . . . . .	5

## List of Figures

Fig. 1 General Location Plan

Fig. 2 Site Location Plan

Fig. 3 Plan Showing Route of Pipe Trench in Relation to the 'Horse Pool'

Fig. 4 Sections Illustrating Stratigraphic Sequence

## List of Plates

Plate 1 View of Borehole

Plate 2 View of Wall 12

## Appendices

Appendix 1 Context Summary

Appendix 2 Glossary

Appendix 3 The Archive



## 1. SUMMARY

*A watching brief was undertaken to record any archaeological remains exposed during excavation of a borehole and pipe trench on land south of St. Peter's Road, Bourne, Lincolnshire.*

*The site lies in an area of archaeological remains dating between the Roman (A.D. 50 - 410) and post-medieval periods (A.D. 1500 - 1700). The Roman highway King Street passes east of the site. The pipe trench and borehole are located over the defensive ditch of the medieval castle.*

*Two phases of activity were identified. Victorian remains are represented by a large pit locally known as the 'Horse Pool'. This feature re-used part of a ditch originally associated with the castle defences.*

*Modern activity is represented by back-filling of the pool and landscaping of the area. These deposits were sealed by the present ground surface.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Background

Between December 1994 and November 1995, an archaeological watching brief was carried out during the excavation of a borehole and pipe trench aiding maintenance of the Bourne Eau, on land south of St. Peter's Road, Bourne, Lincolnshire (National Grid Reference TF 09342000 - Fig. 1). The archaeological work was commissioned by Anglian Water and carried out by Archaeological Project Services. The investigation area is located on land west and north of Bourne Castle, a scheduled ancient monument (Fig. 2).

### 2.2 Topography and Geology

Bourne is located 24km southeast of Grantham and 15km northeast of Stamford, in the civil parish of Bourne, South Kesteven District. Situated at approximately 10m O.D., the site is located c. 350m southwest of Bourne town centre as defined by the Town Hall (Fig. 2).

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 cover a solid geology of Oxford Clay overlying Kellaways Beds.

### 2.3 Archaeological Setting

The investigation site is located in an area of archaeological activity comprising artefactual material and features. The most significant of these date to the Romano-British and medieval periods. Although prehistoric activity has been recognised in the form of artefacts such as flint tools, no settlement of this period has so far been identified in the Bourne area (Hayes & Lane 1992, 130; 135).

Archaeological evidence suggests that during the Romano-British period Bourne was a small but important settlement. The Roman road, King Street, on which the settlement was established, was aligned north to south through Bourne, and it is considered that North Street and South Street follow its course (Margary 1973). Along the route of the Roman highway through Bourne, finds of Roman date have included a pottery kiln located at Bourne Grammar School (SK12.05). A second Romano-British pottery kiln has been identified close to where Victoria Place crosses the Bourne Eau 450m east, 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 retrieved, predominantly from the southern portion of the town. Approximately 900m east lies the Car Dyke, a Roman drain or waterway said to provide a north-south link between the River Witham near Lincoln and the River Nene east of Peterborough (Whitwell 1970, 57).

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. However, no actual settlement has, to date, been located.

The place-name Bourne is referred to in Domesday (1066) 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 an early medieval construction located west of the church, and forms the eastern border of the study area. At one time the castle comprised a single motte (defensive mound), possibly surmounted by a stone tower, surrounded by two successive enclosures (baileys). The baileys contained further buildings and incorporated a stone gatehouse that has since been destroyed (Cathcart-King 1983, 260).

Located east of the 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). The Augustinian Friars were a union of hermit monks practising the rule of St Augustine. The abbey was dissolved in 1536.

During the middle ages, distinctive pottery was manufactured in Bourne and distributed across the East Midlands. Evidence for the industry has been identified during excavations located towards the southern extent of Eastgate and took the form a kiln, dated to the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Post-medieval pottery production was carried out at the same site and comprised a 16<sup>th</sup> century kiln, with associated storage facilities, workshop, yard, domestic dwelling and property boundary (SK12.03 - beyond the limit of Fig. 2).

Numerous finds of medieval date have been made in the Bourne locality and include pottery, seal stamps and stone carvings.

The route of the pipe trench passes through the location of a Victorian pool, locally referred to as the 'Horse Pool', and was linked to the Bourne Eau. The pool in turn was situated over the defensive ditch that comprises the western boundary of the castle site at this point. The 'Horse Pool' was intended to water horses, and also to soak wooden cartwheels. Reputedly constructed c. 1870, the pool existed until c. 1965-70, when it was back-filled (R. Penhey pers comm.).

### 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. METHODS

A 0.8m diameter borehole was initially drilled to a depth of 5.6m. The excavated soil was recorded using the standard A.P.S. recording system, and artefactual



material retrieved. Progressing southward from the borehole was a pipe trench, c. 50m long, 0.5m wide and 1.1m deep. The sides of the trench were cleaned by hand, and each archaeological deposit or feature revealed was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. Natural geological deposits were also recorded. A photographic record was compiled and selected sections were drawn at scale 1:10.

## 5. ANALYSIS

Finds recovered from the deposits identified in the watching brief were examined and a period date was assigned where possible. Records of the deposits and features recognised during the evaluation were also examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. A stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was created, and phased according to date criteria.

### 5.1 Phase 1 Natural Deposits

Located in the borehole, the earliest deposit encountered was a layer of limestone 'cornbrash' (18). This was sealed by a layer of grey clay (5). These have been interpreted as natural (undisturbed) deposits.

### 5.2 Phase 2 Victorian Deposits

Within the pipe trench, the earliest archaeological feature identified was a red brick wall (12) oriented northwest-southeast.

Sealing wall 12 was a layer of brown sandy clay (13), interpreted as a dumped fill. Overlying natural deposit 5, and located north of 13 was a layer of red-brown sandy clay (4), interpreted as a

dumped fill.

Exposed in the borehole (fig. 3) was a layer of brown clayey silt (9) with building material fragments. This was sealed by a deposit of 'pea' gravel (8). These have been interpreted as dumped deposits.

Overlying 4 and 8 was a layer of black sandy silt (3, 7, 11), interpreted as a dumped fill. Sealing 3, 7, and 11 were several dumped tertiary deposits of black-brown silty sandy gravel and brick (2), grey-brown clayey silt (6) and grey-brown sandy silt with brick, sand and cement (10).

### 5.3 20<sup>th</sup> Century Deposits

Cutting into 13 was a pit (14) 5m long by 0.4m deep, containing a fill of red-yellow sandy silty clay (16). Overlying 16 was a tertiary deposit of broken glass and ceramic vessels held in a matrix of grey sandy clay (15).

Sealing 15 was a layer of brown silty sandy clay topsoil (17), that constitutes the present ground surface.

Truncating the topsoil was a broad, shallow linear feature filled by a thin layer of limestone fragments and coarse gravel (1). This represents the preparatory clearance work undertaken prior to the excavation of the pipe trench.

## 6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits of limestone sealed by grey clay (18 and 5) were partially exposed by the pipe trench. Within the borehole, natural clay was exposed at a depth of c. 4.3m, whereas approximately 10m south of it the clay occurred at a depth of 1.1m.



Situated towards the southern extent of the pipe trench was a red brick wall (12). This feature probably represents the western limit of the 'Horse Pool', an artificial pond, supplied by the Bourne Eau, that was built c. 1870. The function of the pool was presumably for the watering of horses, to clean carts and to immerse cart wheels before they were affixed to their axles (R. Penhey, pers. comm.).

It is apparent therefore, that the deposits located north of wall 12 relate to disuse of the Horse Pool. The centre of the pool was situated where the borehole was sunk, and the deposits within it (6, 7, 8 and 9), and the layers recorded up to wall 12 (2, 3, 4, 10 and 11) represent back-filling of the pool.

Natural clay occurred at a depth of approximately 4.3m in the centre of the Pool. Such a depth is extreme for an artificial pool, and it is possible that the upper limit of the clay marks the depth not of the pool itself but of an earlier feature, possibly a ditch. It was noted that where the earth bank is situated against the known location of the Horse Pool, it was higher than elsewhere. It is possible, therefore, that the earthen bank represents the material excavated from a ditch. The ditch became redundant and partially silted up, until the Horse Pool was dug, when more spoil was thrown up onto the bank, increasing its height. This would imply that the upper level of the bank contains part of the primary fill of the ditch, which is presumably associated with the Castle defences, or modifications to them.

The Pool was back-filled c. 1965 (R. Penhey pers. comm.), and the entire area was landscaped through the addition of dumped spoil (13), levelling the surface and burying any visible remains, including the wall 12.

Cut into the dumped spoil was a rubbish pit containing broken glass and ceramic vessels.

These deposits were overlaid by the present topsoil (17), which itself had been partially removed and replaced by a layer of hardcore (1) prior to this work commencing.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were undertaken on land south of St. Peter's Road, Bourne, Lincolnshire. The investigations were required because a medieval Scheduled Ancient Monument exists immediately adjacent to the site and the consequent possibility that associated remains might extend into the proposed development area.

The watching brief established the presence of natural, Victorian and 20<sup>th</sup> century deposits.

Limestone occurred as the natural deposit across the area. This was sealed by layer of undisturbed clay, over which deposits of 19<sup>th</sup> century date developed.

These deposits comprise a Victorian pond, locally referred to as the 'Horse Pool'. The Pool had been cut through part of the western defensive ditch of the castle and was filled by the Bourne Eau.

Once the Pool went out of use the area was landscaped by the dumping of soil over the area.

Cut through this dumped soil was a pit containing broken glass and ceramic vessels.

Sealing the rubbish pit was a layer of sandy clay that constitutes the present



ground surface.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to thank Anglian Water who commissioned the fieldwork and analysis. The work was coordinated by Steve Haynes, and this report was edited by Gary Taylor and Tom Lane. Jenny Stevens, the Community Archaeologist for South Kesteven District Council, permitted examination of the relevant files.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Manager: Steve Haynes  
Research: Gary Taylor  
Site Staff: Kate Hughes and Chris Moulis  
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley  
Illustration: Mark Dymond  
Post-excavation analyst: Mark Dymond

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## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

Numbers prefixed 'SK' are the reference codes used by the South Kesteven District Community Archaeologist to identify archaeological findspots.

**Appendix 1**  
**Context Summary**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
1	Limestone chippings	Dumped deposit
2	Black-brown silty sandy clay	Tertiary fill of 'Horse Pool'
3	Black sandy silt	Secondary fill of 'Horse Pool'
4	Red Brown sandy clay	Primary/secondary fill of 'Horse Pool'
5	Grey clay	Natural
6	Grey brown clayey silt	Tertiary fill of 'Horse Pool'
7	Black sandy silt	Secondary fill of 'Horse Pool'
8	Pea gravel	Secondary fill of 'Horse Pool'
9	Brown clayey silt	Primary/secondary fill of 'Horse Pool'
10	Grey-brown sandy silt	Tertiary fill of 'Horse Pool'
11	Black sandy silt	Secondary fill of 'Horse Pool'
12	Brick wall	Western boundary of 'Horse Pool'
13	Brown sandy clay	Dumped deposit
14	Cut feature	Rubbish pit
15	Glass and ceramic fragments set in grey sandy clay matrix	Secondary fill of 14
16	Red-yellow sandy silty clay	Primary fill of 14
17	Brown silty sandy clay	Topsoil



## APPENDIX 2

### 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 raise the ground surface.
- Fill** Once a feature has been dug it may begin 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).
- Layer** A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
- Natural** Deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.

### Appendix 3 The Archive

The archive consists of:

- 17 Context records
- 4 Scale drawings
- 3 Photographic records
- 1 Stratigraphic matrix
- 1 Bag 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: BES94  
City and County Museum, Lincoln Accession Number: 179.94



**Plate 1**  
**View of Borehole**









**Plate 2**  
**View of Wall 12**







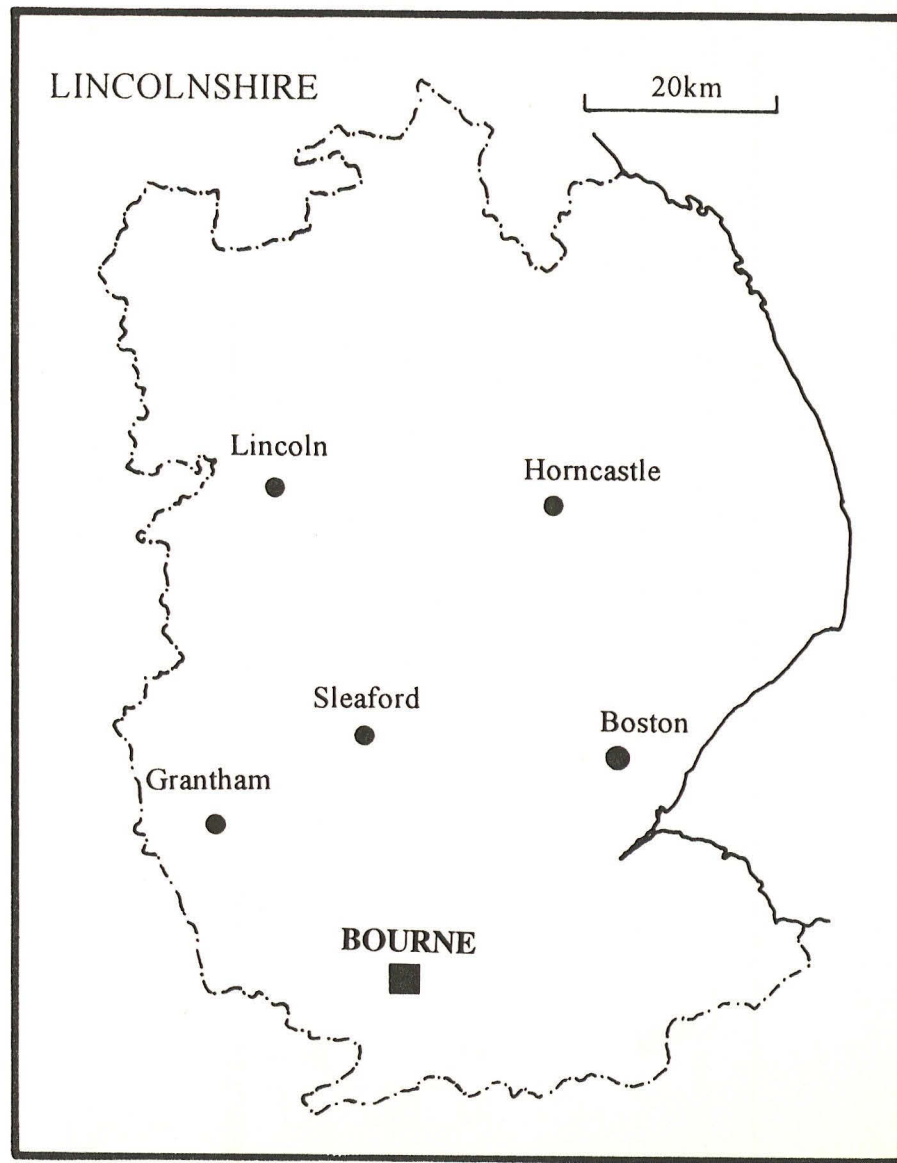
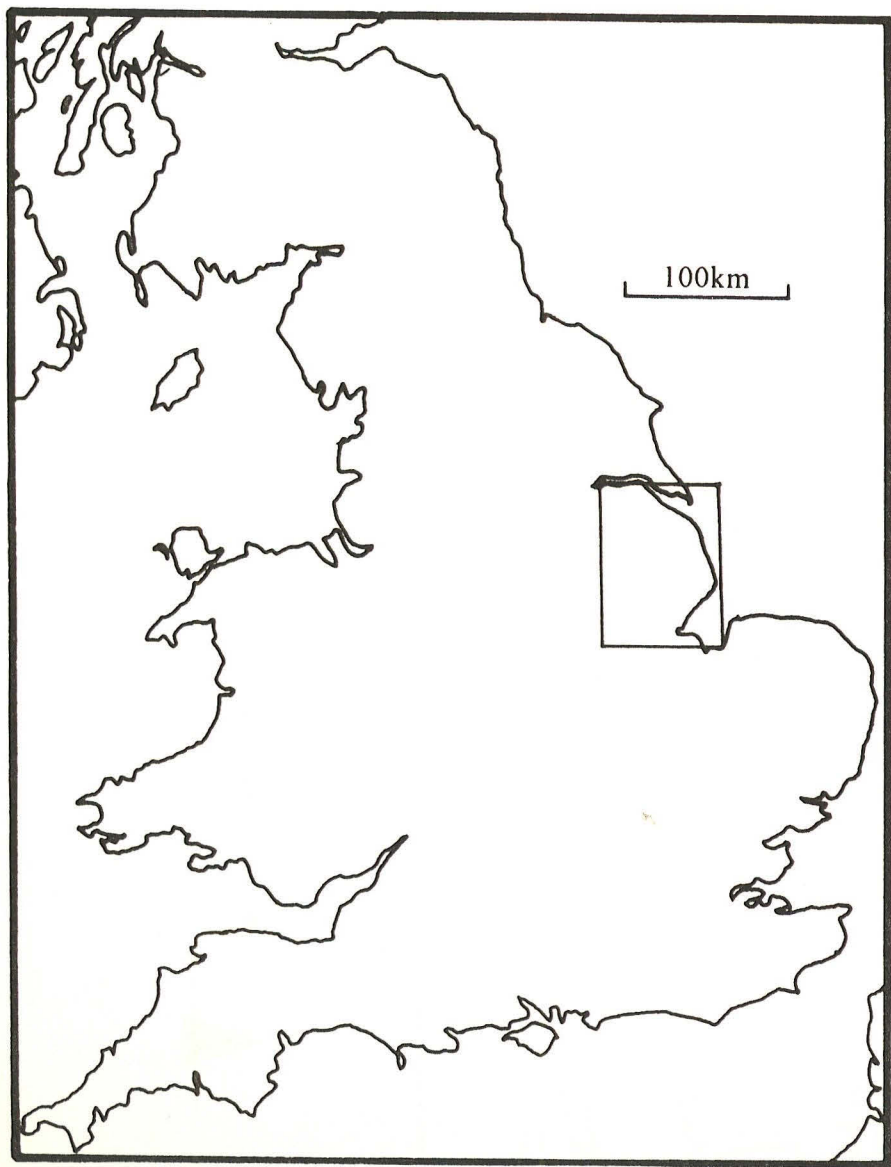


Fig. 1 General Location Plan

Fig. 2 Site Location Plan

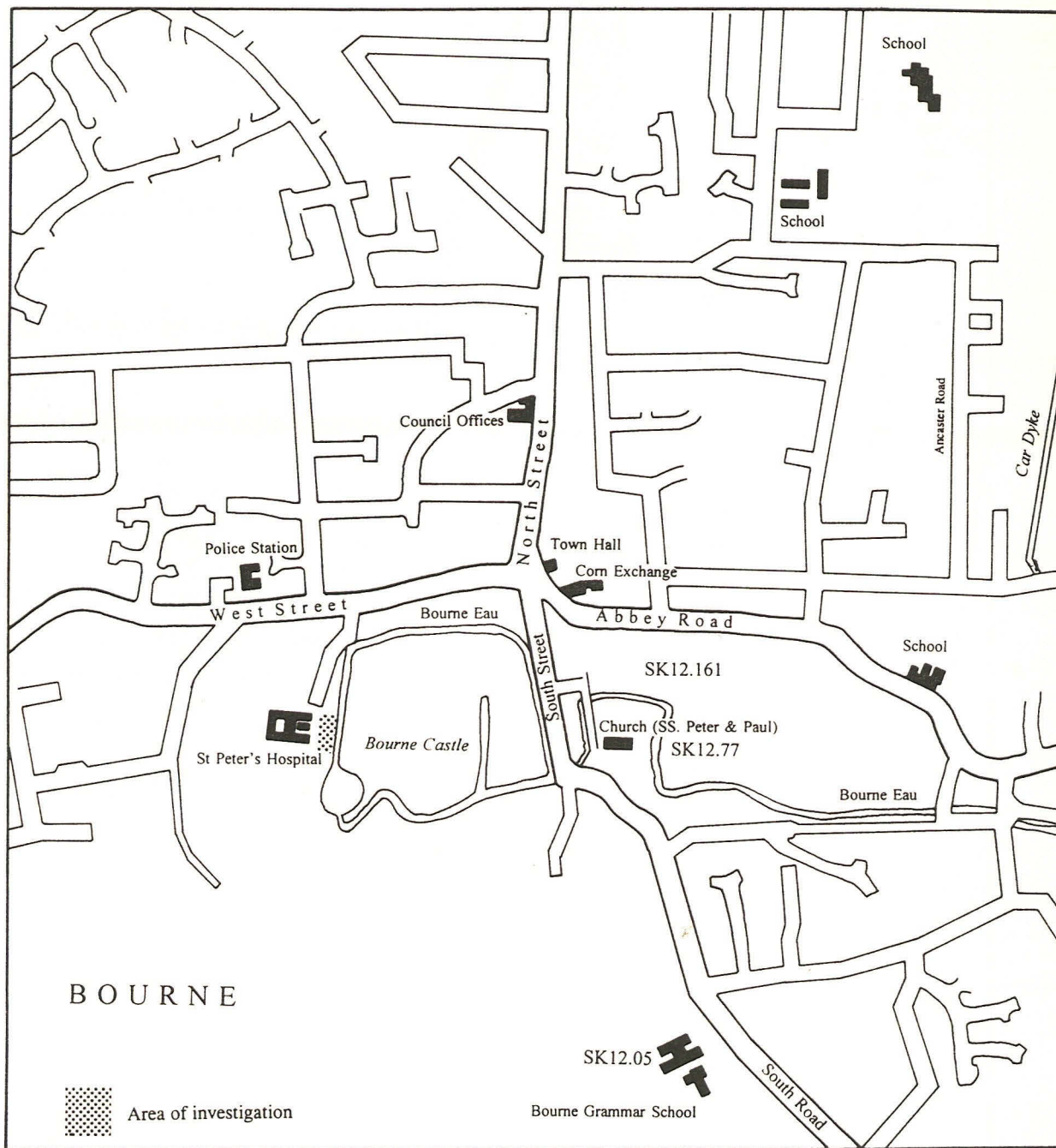
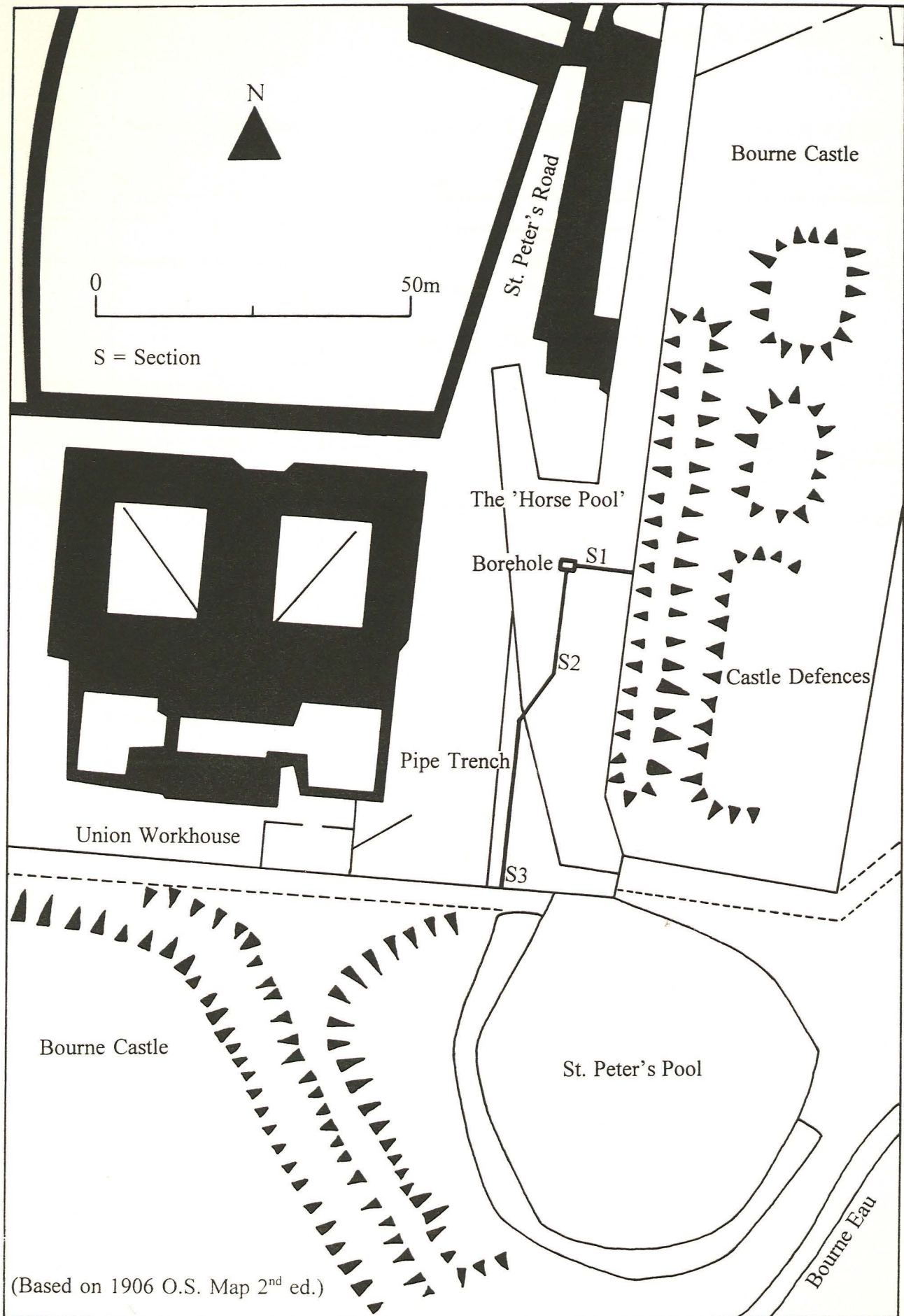




Fig. 3 Plan Showing Route of Pipe Trench in Relation to the 'Horse Pool'



(Based on 1906 O.S. Map 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)

Fig. 4 Sections Illustrating Stratigraphic Sequence

