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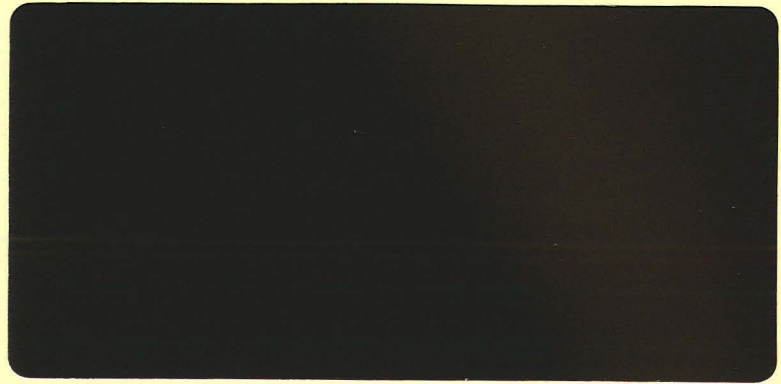
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT ROMAN BANK,  
BOURNE,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(BRB96)**



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
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EVQAT L13450  
SOURCES L15285 L11707  
34980 Undated

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT ROMAN BANK,  
BOURNE,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(BRB96)**

Work Undertaken For  
Teemo Designs Ltd

Report Compiled  
by  
Paul Cope-Faulkner

July 1996

YF1035 1949

A.P.S. Report No. 29/96

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## 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during development at Roman Bank, Cherryholt Road, Bourne, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for a new industrial storage building.*

*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 forms the western boundary of the development site.*

*In the medieval period (1066-1500) Bourne was an important town with both an abbey and a castle. During this period Bourne was again a major pottery production centre.*

*This work revealed a sequence of natural deposits and water channels relating to past alluvial activity in the area. A single ditch was uncovered but remains undated as no finds were retrieved during the investigation.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Background

Between the 21st June and 24th July 1996, an archaeological watching brief was carried out during the excavation of foundation trenches for a storage building at Roman Bank, Cherryholt Road, Bourne, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application SK.96/142/12/07. Permission was granted subject to a standard negative condition for

archaeological recording. The archaeological work was commissioned by Teemo Designs Ltd 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. The site is located to the south of the town centre on Roman Bank, a *cul de sac* north of Cherryholt Road, at national grid reference TF 1035 19459.

The site and surrounding area is on a gentle slope down to the north and west, towards the canalised stream Bourne Eau, and lies at approximately 6m OD. The local soils are of the Badsey 2 Association, typically brown calcareous earths (Hodge *et al.* 198, 101). These soils occur at the boundary of the Jurassic limestone and post-glacial fan gravels.

### 2.3 Archaeological Setting

Roman Bank, 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 (SK12.05) located at Bourne Grammar School, c. 0.5km to the west of the development site.

The site is bounded on its west 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 Car Dyke. 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).

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 around the abbey church (SK12.04, SMR 33215), which survives as the present day parish church. Earthwork remains of Bourne Castle (SK12.01, SAM 95, SMR 30043) 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 1983).

Bourne was also a pottery production centre during the Middle Ages, evidence for which was found during excavations at the south end of Eastgate (SK12.03, McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 259). Excavations almost 1km to the east of the town centre revealed kilns dating from 14th to the 16th century, though the industry may have started earlier. These kilns produced a distinctive pottery type that traded as far as Nottingham.

### 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

The foundation trenches were opened to a maximum depth of 1.05m and the drainage trench to a maximum depth of 0.7m 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 1:20 and an overall plan at 1:100.

### 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

Layer (014), Fig. 5 Section 1. Light blue grey clay. 0.38m thick. Natural deposit.

Layer (015). Overlying (014). Light brown sand. 0.27m thick. Natural deposit.

Layer (013). Overlying (015). Mixed light grey, yellow and brown silty sand with small stones. 0.11m thick. Natural deposit.

Layer (011). Overlying (013). Yellow brown sand with small rounded stones. Maximum 0.64m thick. Natural deposit.

Feature (042). Cutting (011). Possibly linear, aligned east to west. 0.7m wide by 0.55m deep. Single fill (012) of brown and greyish brown sand. Former natural water channel.

Feature (041). Truncating channel (042). Possibly linear, aligned east to west. 0.75m wide by 0.4m deep. Single fill (010) of grey clay. Former natural water channel.

Layer (Contexts 007 and 008). Dark grey clay. Maximum 0.11m thick. Natural deposit.

Layer (043). Overlying (008). Light brownish yellow fine sand. Natural deposit.

Layer (004). Overlying (043). Light yellow brown clay. 0.2m thick. Natural deposit.

Layer (005). Also overlying (043). Yellow brown sandy silt. 0.38m thick. Contains a lense of grey clay (006). Natural deposit.

Feature (040). Cutting deposits (004) and (005). Possibly linear, aligned east to west. 0.63m wide by 0.15m deep. Single fill (003) Mid greyish brown clay. Natural water channel.

Layer (025), Fig. 5 Section 2. Light grey silt. 0.21m thick. Natural deposit

Layer (024). Overlying (025). Light yellowish brown sand. 0.19m thick. Natural deposit.

Layer (023). Overlying (024). Light grey clay and silts. 0.35m thick. Natural deposit.

Layer (022). Overlying (023). Light greyish brown clay and sand. 0.3m thick. Natural deposit.

Layer (021). Sealing (022). Mid to dark blackish grey silt. 0.28m maximum thickness but generally 20mm. Natural deposit.

Layer (020). Overlying (021). Light brownish yellow silt with clay. 0.23m thick. Natural deposit.

Layer (017). Overlying (020). Mid to dark grey clay. 0.22m thick. Natural deposit.

Layer (Contexts 016 and 018). Sealing (017). Light brownish yellow and yellow sandy silt. 0.2m thick. Natural deposit.

Layer (031), Fig. 5 Section 3. Mix of light grey silt and light grey clay. 0.3m thick. Natural deposit.

Layer (032). Partly overlying (031). Light brown sand. 0.3m thick. Natural deposit.



Layer (030). Partly overlying (031). Light yellow brown sand and fine grit. Natural deposit.

Layer (029). Partly overlying (030). Light grey and yellowish brown sandy silt. 0.32m deep. Natural deposit.

Layer (028). Overlying (029). Yellowish brown silt. 80mm thick. Natural deposit.

Layer (027). Sealing (028). Light grey and brown sand. 0.27m thick. Natural deposit.

Layer (026). Sealing (027). Dark blackish grey silt. Natural deposit.

Layer (Contexts 036 and 037), Fig. 6 Section 4. Light grey and yellow brown sandy silt. Natural deposit.

Feature (039). Cutting deposits (036 and 037). Possible linear cut. 0.62m wide by 0.37m deep. Contains two fills, the lower (035) of light grey and brown sand with grit, the upper (034) of light yellowish brown sand. Natural water channel.

Layer (038), Fig. 6 Section 5. Yellow brown sand and silt. 0.43m thick. Natural deposit.

Layer (033). Sealing feature (039) and deposit (038) in pits 9 and 10. Dark grey clay. 0.46m thick. Natural deposit.

Layer (046), Fig. 8 Section 6. Dark blackish grey clayey silt. 10mm thick. Natural deposit.

Layer (048), No Section. Exposed in drain trench. Light brownish yellow silt. Natural deposit.

Layer (047). Overlying (048). Dark grey and yellowish brown clay and silt. 20mm thick. Natural deposit.

## **Phase 2 Undated archaeological deposits**

Feature (045), Fig. 5 Section 2. Possible east to west aligned linear cut. 0.57m wide by 0.39m deep. Single fill (019) of dark grey clay with sand and silt. Possible drainage ditch.

## **Phase 3 Modern deposits**

Feature/deposit (009), Fig. 5 Section 1. Cuts deposit 011 and dissects deposits (007) and (008). Deposit of brownish yellow sand and grit. Mole Drain.

Layer (002), all sections. Dark brown sandy silt with small stones. 0.22m thick. Former topsoil.

Layer (001), all sections. Light grey and purple stone chippings. 20mm thick. Car park surface.

## **6. DISCUSSION**

Natural deposits (Phase 1) were exposed across the site. This phase consisted of many layers of alluvial deposits intermingled with a total of four natural features that have been interpreted as former water channels. The varying composition of the natural deposits indicates different water velocities of the water that carried the particles in suspension. The difference in colours can also indicate varying local environment and as such the dark blackish grey deposits may suggest a high organic content. Most of the former water channels, generally aligned east to west, represent small streams and are likely to have flowed to the east.

A single feature of indeterminate period has been tentatively identified during the course of the investigations. This may indicate the former position of a drainage or boundary ditch.



A developed topsoil was recorded as was a mole drain. These may be the result of agricultural activity in the area, dating to before Roman Bank was developed. The uppermost layer, of stone chippings, represents a temporary surface to enable the plot to be used as a car park.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations at Roman Bank, Bourne were undertaken because the site fell within close proximity of the Romano-British waterway, the Car Dyke. Therefore, the likelihood existed of elements of this feature being compromised by the development.

Apart from a single ditch, no other archaeological deposits were encountered during the investigation. As such, these deposits may be regarded as of local significance only. The ditch was undated and therefore both period and functional diversity cannot be ascertained. The nature of the local site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators would survive, other than through charring, unless in deeper features. However, detailed analysis of the soils could be attempted to determine local conditions.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to thank Mr J Green of Teemo Designs Ltd who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Gary Taylor coordinated the work and David Start edited this report. Examination of the relevant parish files was kindly permitted by Jenny Stevens, the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor  
Site Supervisor: Fiona Walker  
Research: Gary Taylor  
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner  
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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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 North Kesteven Community Archaeologist for identifying archaeological sites and finds.

Numbers prefixed 'SAM' are the reference codes used by English Heritage to itemise Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

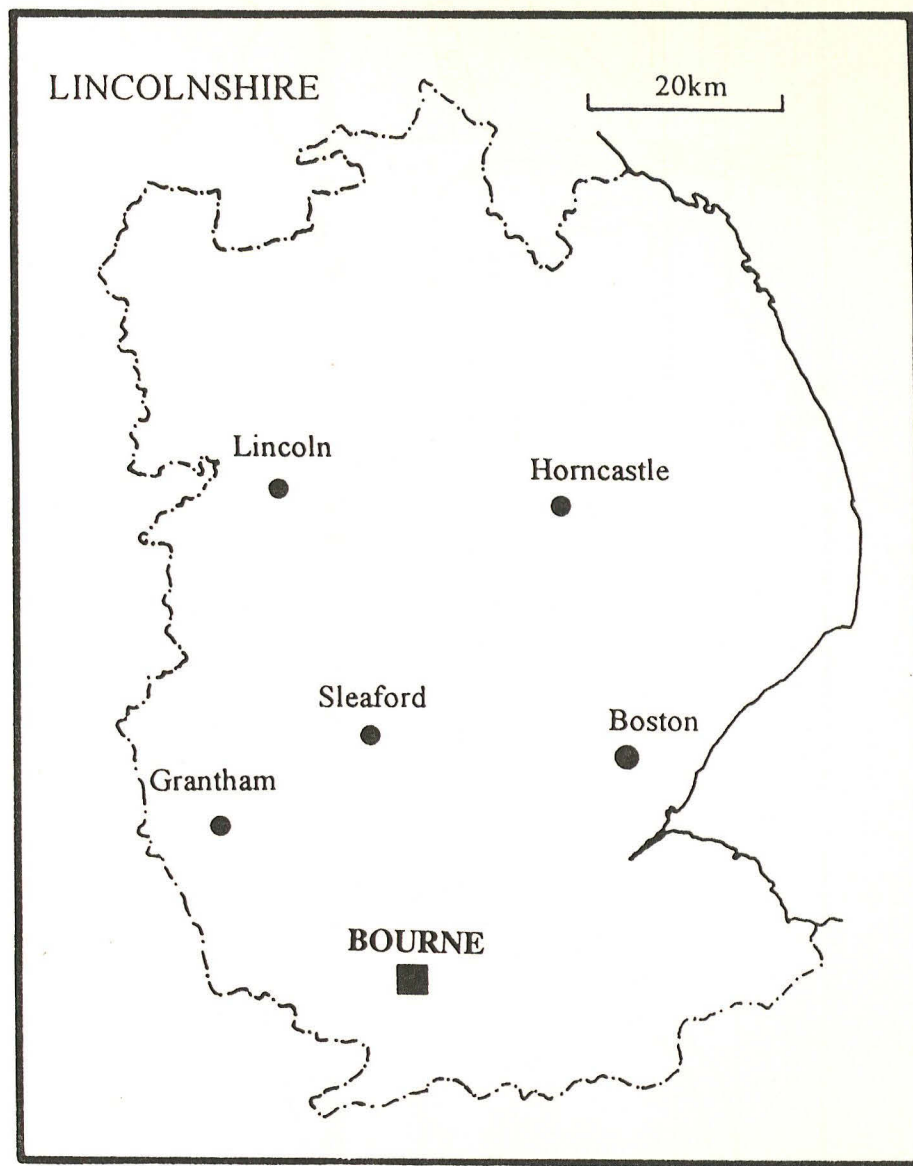
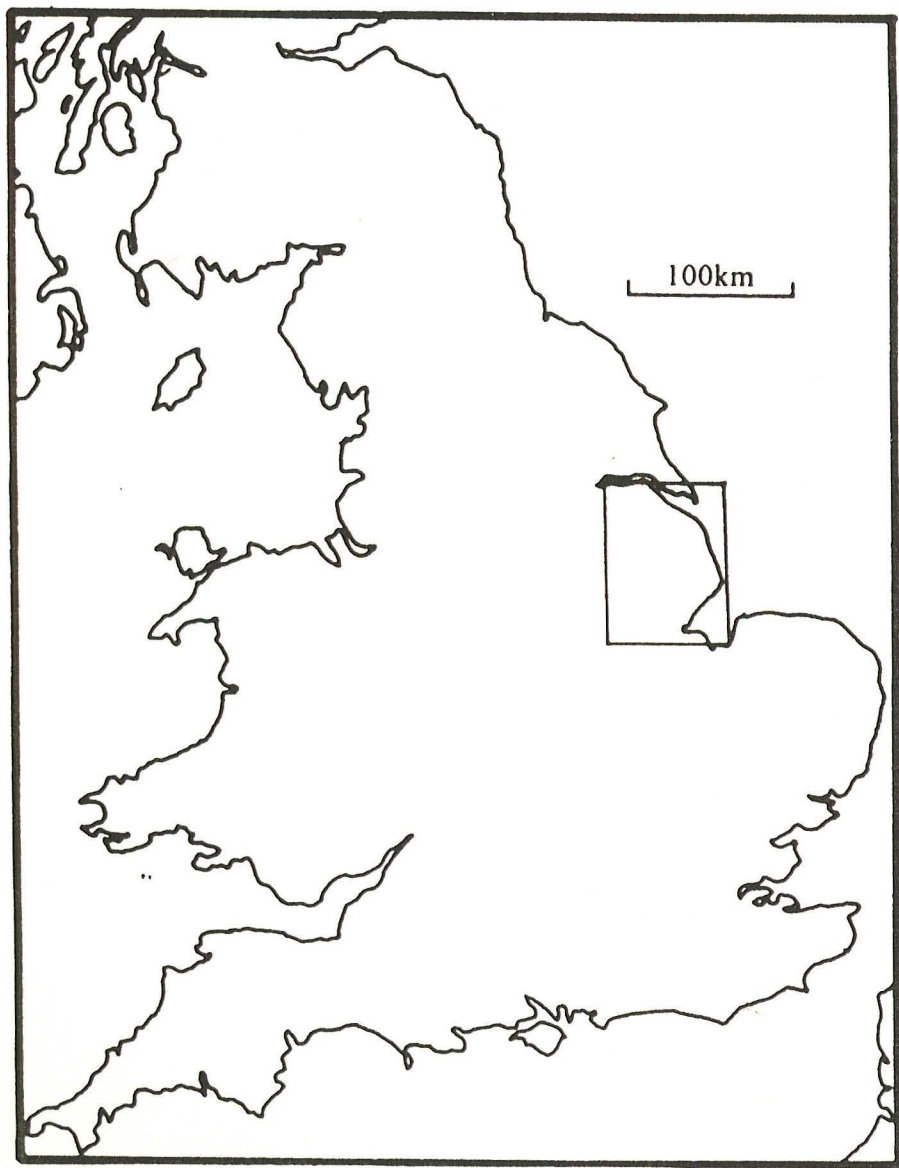


Fig. 1 General Location Plan

Fig. 2 Site Location Plan

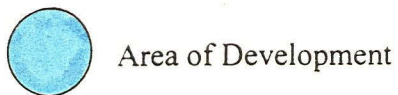
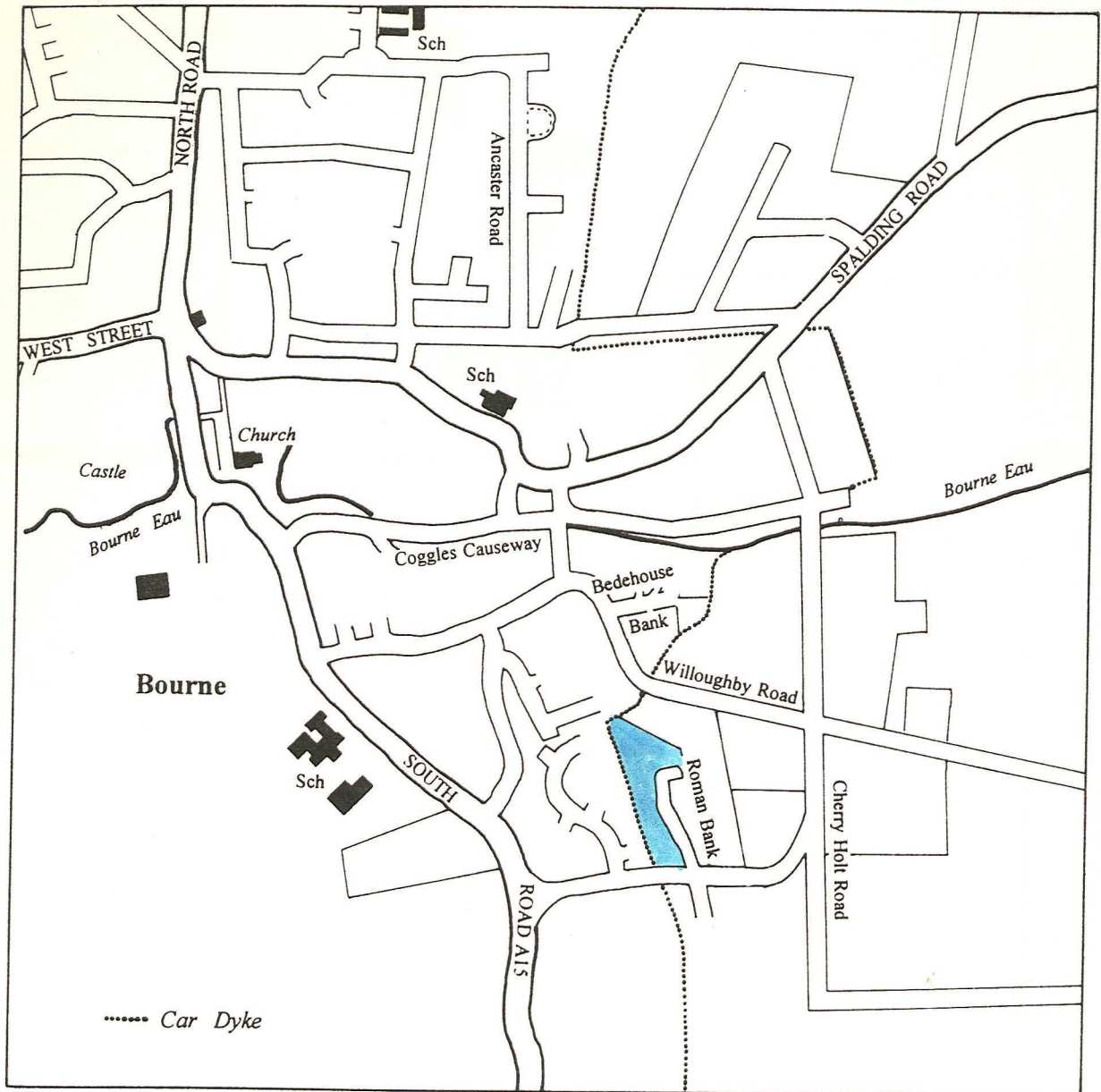
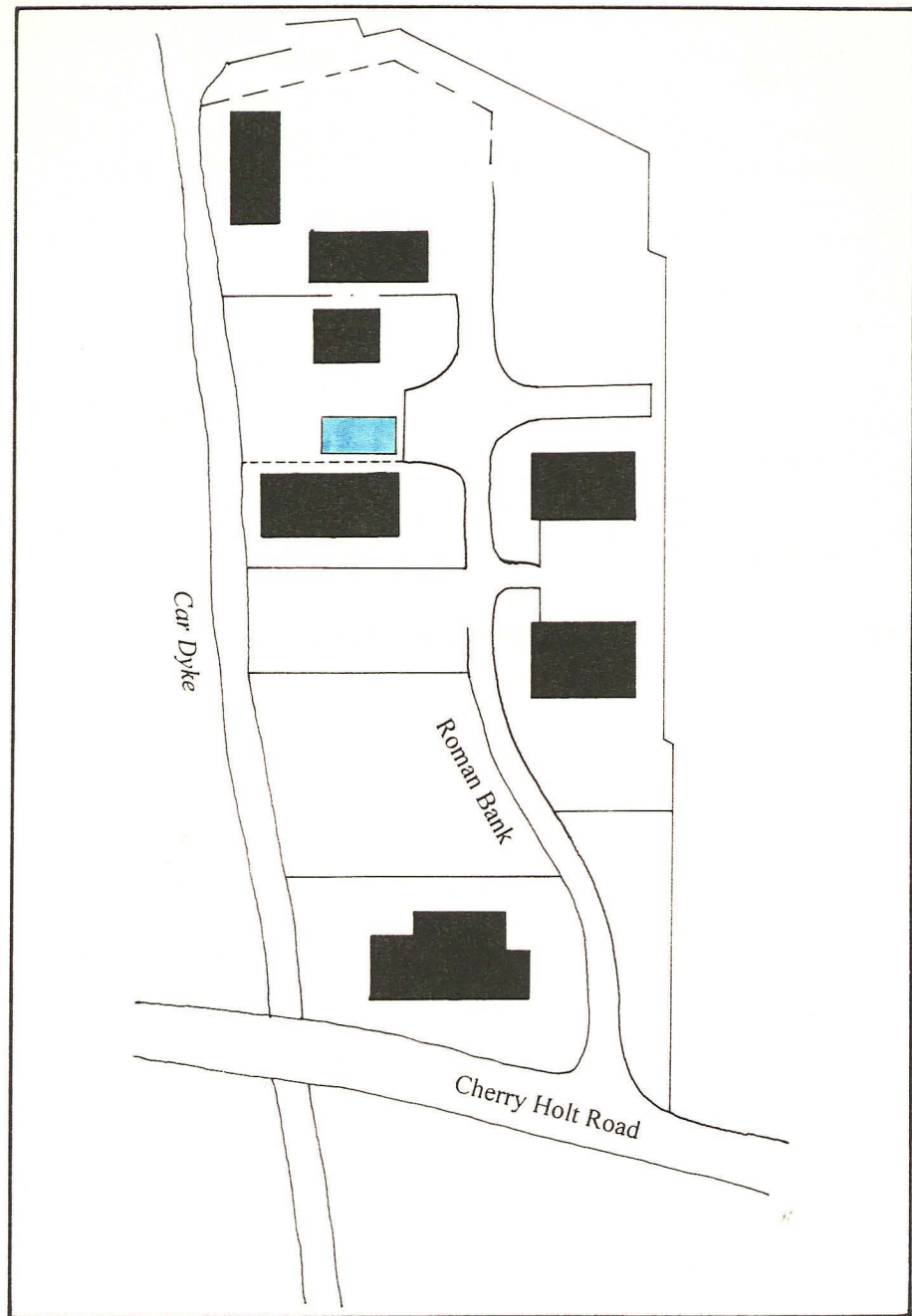




Fig. 3 Development Location Plan




 Area of Development

Fig. 4 Plan of Development

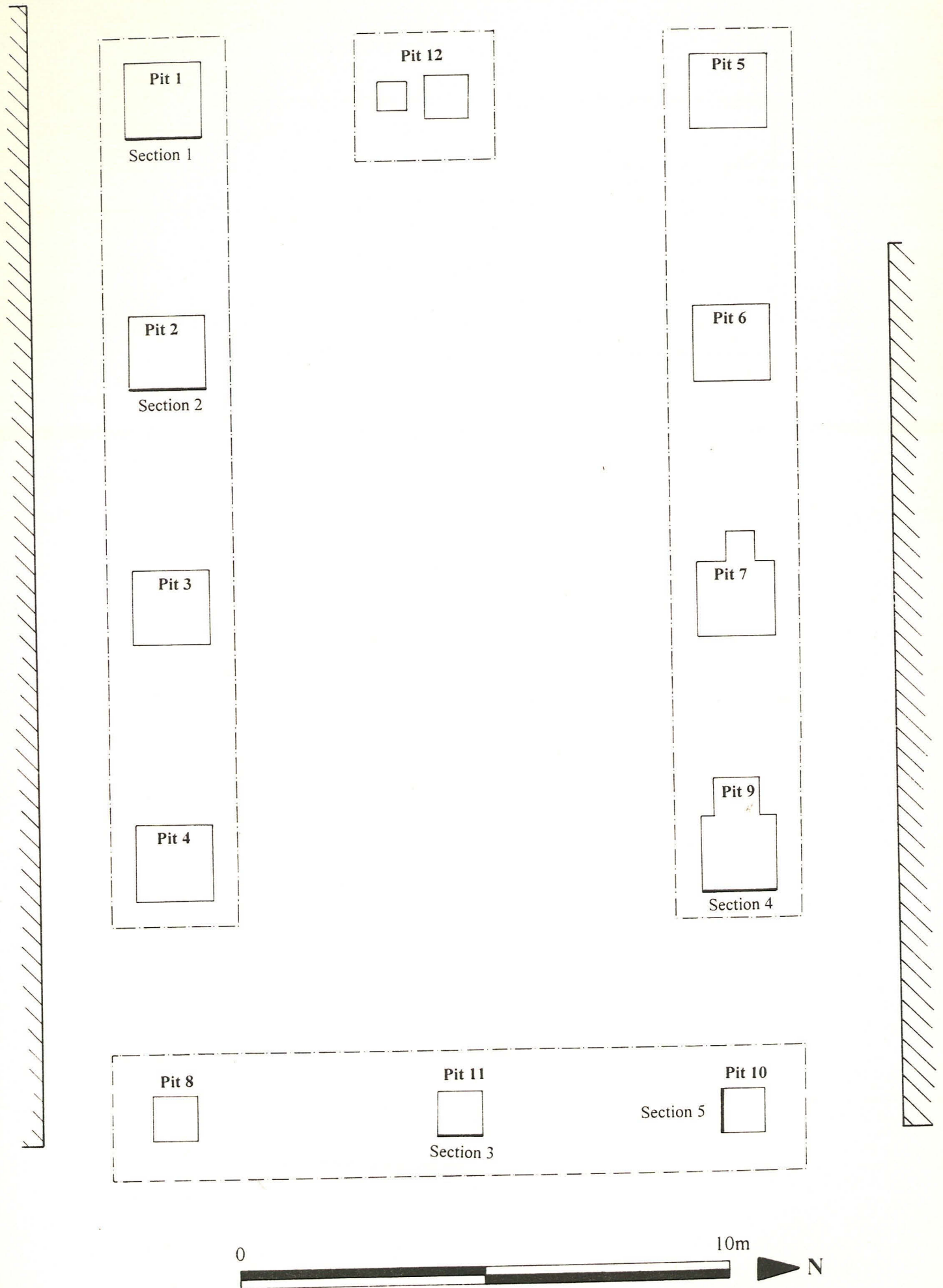


Fig. 5 Sections 1, 2 and 3

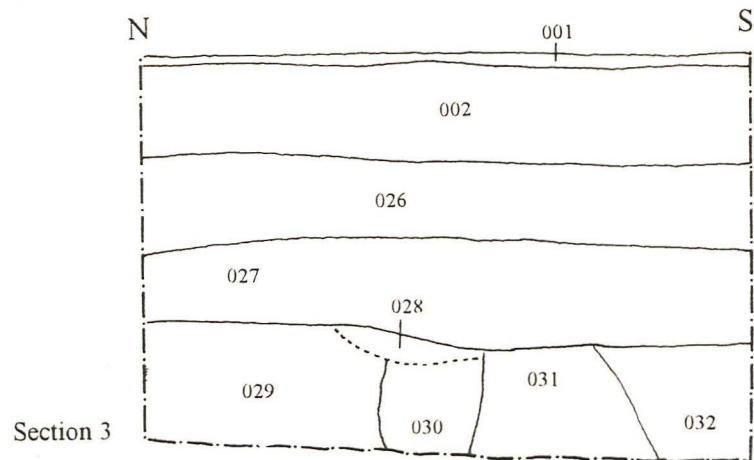
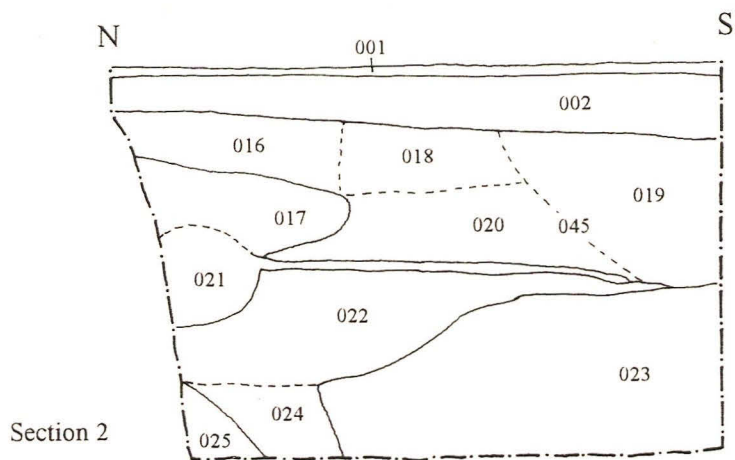
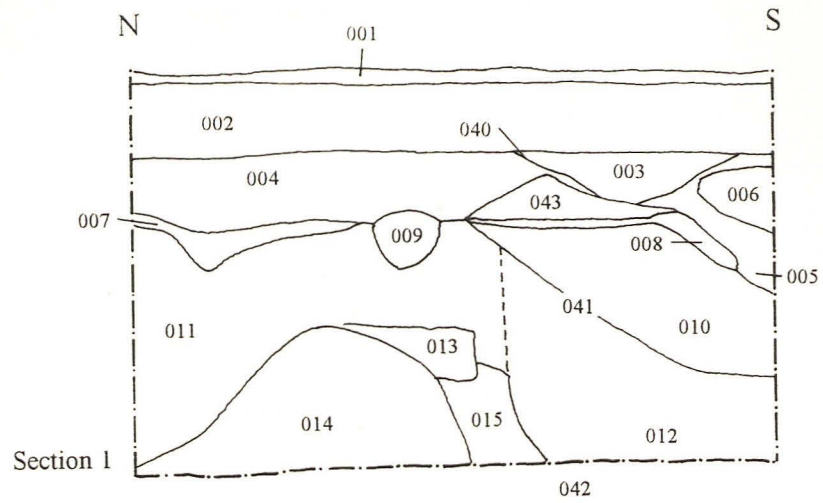




Fig. 6 Sections 4 and 5

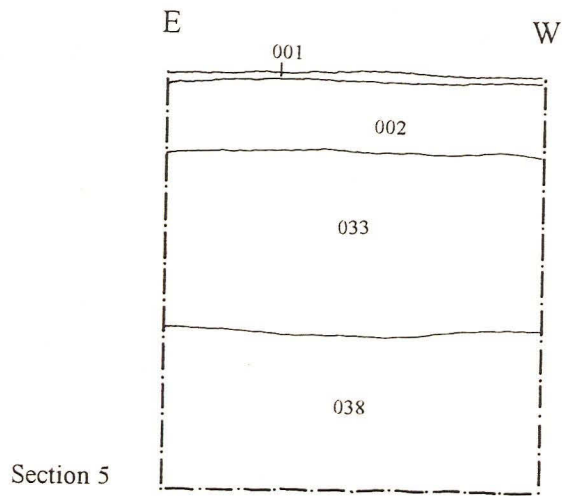
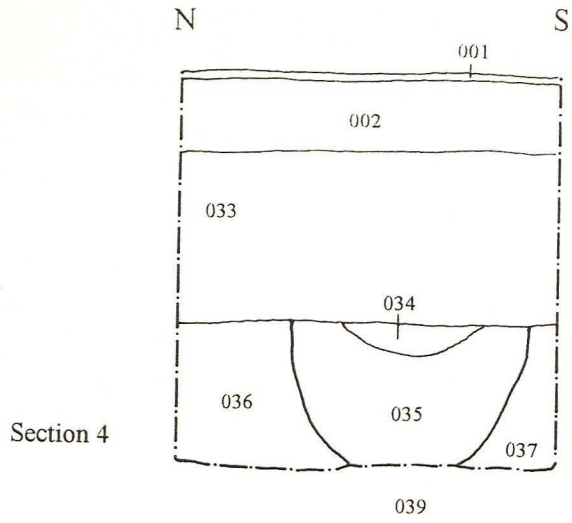


Fig. 7 Plan of Drain Layout

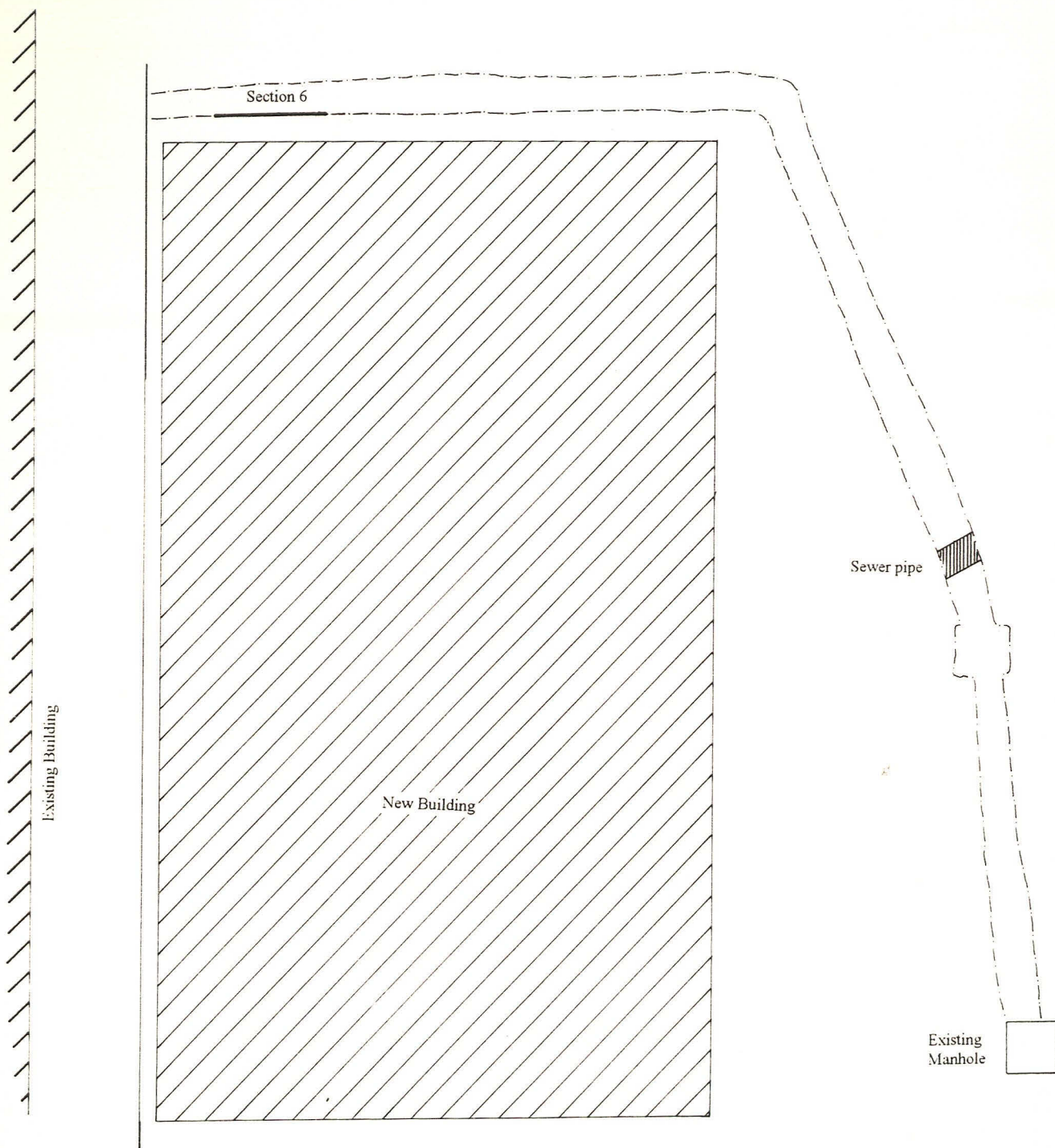


Fig. 8 Section 6

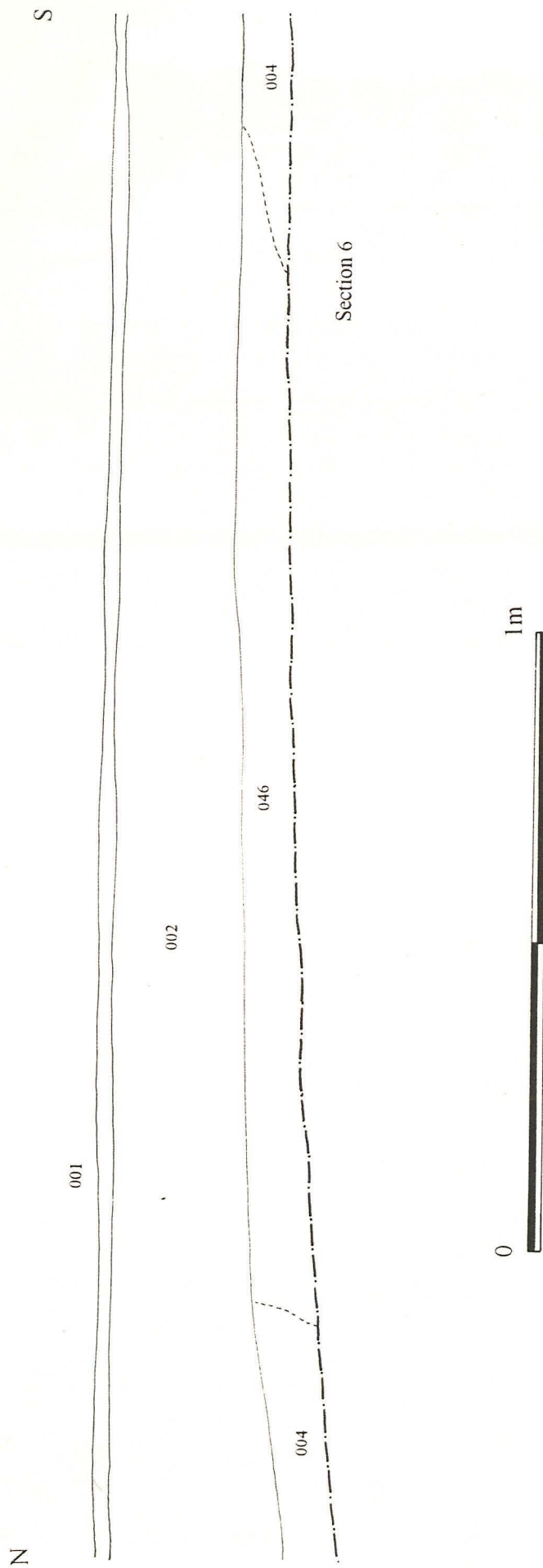




Plate 1 General View of Development, looking east



Plate 2 Section 1





## Appendix 1

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT BRIEF.

#### WATCHING BRIEF DURING ERECTION OF INDUSTRIAL STORAGE BUILDING, ROMAN BANK, BOURNE.

##### 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This document is the brief for an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during the development of land at Roman 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 eastern corner of the district of South Kesteven, Lincolnshire. The development site itself lies to the south of the town centre and is situated at NGR TF 1035 194~~5~~<sub>9</sub> (See enclosed location map.)

##### 3. PLANNING BACKGROUND.

- 3.1 The proposed development is for the erection of an industrial storage building (SK 96/142/12/07) and planning permission is required from South Kesteven District Council.

##### 4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.

- 4.1 The site of the proposed development lies directly adjacent to the course of the Car Dyke, the major Roman earthwork probably associated with drainage of the fens. Excavation on other parts of the Car Dyke have shown that it was far wider than it is now and this may well be the case at Roman Bank. Any ground disturbance in this area may intrude into the former course of the Dyke, thus revealing important evidence about its size.
- 4.2 This part of Bourne seems to have been the focus of the medieval pottery industry in the town. It is possible therefore that remains relating to this period may also be disturbed.

##### 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 brief for the Watching Brief project 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 14 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.

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

## Appendix 2

### Context Summary

Context	Area	Description	Interpretation
001	All pits	Light grey and purple stone chippings	Make-up layer for car park
002	All pits	Mid to dark brown sandy silt	Former topsoil
003	Pit 1	Mid greyish brown clay	Natural fill of 040
004	Pit 1	Light yellow brown clay	Natural deposit
005	Pit 1	Yellow brown sandy silt	Natural deposit
006	Pit 1	Light grey clay	Natural within 005
007	Pit 1	Dark grey clay	Natural deposit
008	Pit 1	Dark grey clay	Natural deposit
009	Pit 1	Brownish yellow grit and sand	Mole drain
010	Pit 1	Grey clay	Natural fill of 041
011	Pit 1	Yellow brown sand	Natural deposit
012	Pit 1	Brown and greyish brown sand	Natural fill of 042
013	Pit 1	Mixed silty sand	Natural deposit
014	Pit 1	Light blueish grey clay	Natural deposit
015	Pit 1	Light brown sand	Natural deposit
016	Pit 2	Light brownish yellow sandy silt	Natural deposit
017	Pit 2	Mid to dark grey clay	Natural deposit
018	Pit 2	Yellowish brown sandy silt	Natural deposit
019	Pit 2	Dark grey and yellowish brown clay with sandy silt	Fill of Ditch 045
020	Pit 2	Light brownish yellow clayey silt	Natural deposit
021	Pit 2	Dark blackish grey silt	Natural deposit?
022	Pit 2	Light greyish brown clay and sand	Natural deposit
023	Pit 2	Light grey clays and silts	Natural deposit
024	Pit 2	Light yellowish brown sand	Natural deposit
025	Pit 2	Light grey silt	Natural deposit
026	Pit 2	Dark blackish grey silt	Natural deposit
027	Pit 7	Light grey and brown sand	Natural deposit
028	Pit 7	Yellowish brown silt	Natural deposit



029	Pit 7	Light grey and brown sandy silt	Natural deposit
030	Pit 7	Light yellowish brown sand and silt	Natural deposit
031	Pit 7	Light grey silt and clay	Natural deposit
032	Pit 7	Light brown sand	Natural deposit
033	Pits 9 & 10	Mid to dark grey clay	Natural deposit
034	Pit 9	Light yellowish brown sand	Natural fill of 039
035	Pit 9	Light grey and brown sand with grit	Natural fill of 039
036	Pit 9	Light grey and brown sandy silt	Natural deposit
037	Pit 9	Light grey and brown sandy silt	Natural deposit
038	Pit 10	Light yellowish brown sandy silt	Natural deposit
039	Pit 9	Cut, 0.62m wide by 0.37m deep	Natural water channel
040	Pit 1	Linear cut, 0.63m wide by 0.15m deep	Natural water channel
041	Pit 1	Linear cut, 0.75m wide by 0.4m deep	Natural water channel
042	Pit 1	Linear cut, 0.7m wide by 0.55m deep	Natural water channel
043	Pit 1	Light brownish yellow sand	Natural fill of 008
044	Pit 1	Cancelled context	
045	Pit 2	Cut, 0.57m wide by 0.39m deep	Ditch
046	Drain	Dark blackish grey clayey silt	Natural deposit
047	Drain	Dark grey and brown clay and silt	Natural deposit
048	Drain	Light brownish yellow silt	Natural deposit



## Appendix 3

### The Archive

The archive consists of:

- 48 . . Context Records
- 1 . . . Photographic Records
- 5 . . . Scale Drawings
- 1 . . . Stratigraphic Matrix

All primary records are currently kept at:

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

Archaeological Project Services project code	BRB96
City and County Museum, Lincoln Accession number	72.96

## 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, *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.
- 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).
- 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.