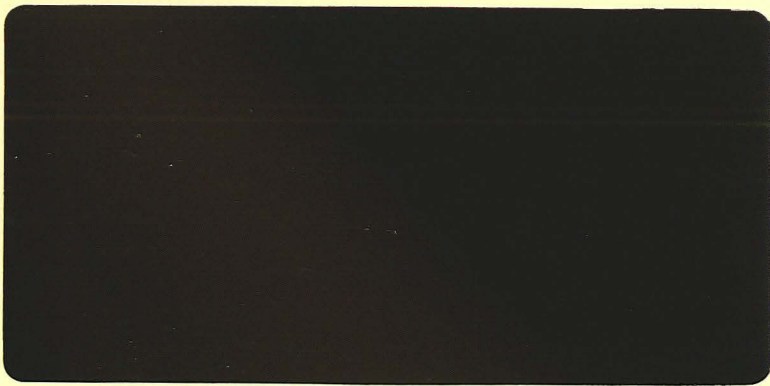


96/10

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND ADJACENT  
TO BURGH ROAD,  
ORBY,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(OBR96)**



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES



Lincolnshire County Council  
Administration Section  
100 Long  
L1N2 5AL  
Tel: 0522 830724 Fax: 0522 830724  
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND ADJACENT  
TO BURGH ROAD,  
ORBY,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(OBR96)**

Work Undertaken For  
Mrs P. Hayward.

July 1996

Report Compiled by  
Paul Cope-Faulkner

A.P.S. Report No. 21/96

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## 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a single tennis court on land adjacent to Burgh Road, Orby. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the foundations.*

*Medieval activity (A.D. 1066 - 1500) has been recorded in the area and is highlighted by All Saints church of 14th century date. However, reused stonework suggest an earlier Norman church on the site. A moated site lies immediately southwest of the investigation area and aerial photographs indicate earthworks on the development site.*

*Overlying natural silts were two subsoil layers, the upper subsoil having been affected by human activity in the area. Finds included quantities of building material as well as pot of medieval date and some animal bone.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Background

On the 17th June 1996, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during excavation of a tennis court on land adjacent to Burgh Road, Orby (National Grid Reference TF 49167 67237). Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application S/134/0263/96. Permission was granted subject to a standard negative condition for archaeological recording. The archaeological work was commissioned by Mrs P. Hayward and was carried out by Archaeological Project Services in accordance with a brief set by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (Appendix 1).

### 2.2 Topography and Geology

Orby is located 6km west of Skegness and 26km east of Horncastle in East Lindsey District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The proposed development area lies within the core of the village, 125m east of the parish church (Fig. 2).

The site lies on generally flat ground at the southern tip of the Lincolnshire Wolds. Ground surface is at *c.* 6m O.D. The development site covers a total area of *c.* 603 square metres (Fig. 3).

Local soils are of the Holderness Association, typical stagnogleys developed on chalky till and glaciofluvial drift (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 214). Underlying these deposits is a solid geology of Upper Cretaceous chalks. Just to the east are Wallasea 2 Association pelo-alluvial gley soils developed on reclaimed marine alluvium (*ibid.* 338).

### 2.3 Archaeological Setting

Orby is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 and was in possession of the Bishop of Durham (Foster and Longley 1976, 36). Referred to as *Heresbi*, the name is derived from the Old Norse byname 'orri' that means 'black cock' (Ekwall 1974, 350).

Medieval presence is represented by All Saints church to the west of the site (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 595). Mainly of 14th century date, reused stonework suggests a Norman precursor. Adjacent to the development area lies a circular moated site (Scheduled Ancient Monument, county No. 305). Aerial photographs indicate the presence of earthworks on the development site. Identified as former houses and roads these indicate the limit of the former medieval settlement.

Post-medieval activity is represented by Manor Farmhouse, 100m south of the church. Built *c.* 1660, the building has been altered and extended over the subsequent centuries and is now a Grade II listed building (DoE 1987, 26).

### 3. AIMS

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

### 4. METHODS

Much of the development area was stripped of topsoil prior to archaeological investigation of the cleared area. A maximum of 0.1m of soil was removed. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed within the opened area was allocated a unique reference number (Context number) with an individual written description. Natural geological deposits were also recorded where exposed. A plan was drawn at a scale of 1:100. A photographic record was also compiled.

### 5. RESULTS

Records of the deposits and features identified during the watching brief were examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. A list of all contexts with interpretations appears as Appendix 2. Three phases were identified:

Phase 1 Natural deposits

Phase 2 Undated archaeological deposits

Phase 3 Modern deposits

Archaeological contexts are listed below

and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

#### Phase 1 Natural deposits

Deposit (004). Visible at the northwest corner. Consists of moderately firm yellowish brown silt containing chalk and limestone fragments. No depth was established. Natural.

#### Phase 2 Undated Archaeological Deposits

Deposit (003)(Fig. 5). Overlying natural (004) and filling hollows in same. Dark brownish black silt with occasional limestone and chalk fragments. Maximum thickness 0.1m. Contains a single fragment of a bone, possibly cattle. Subsoil.

Deposit (002)(Fig. 5). Overlies subsoil (003). Firm light brownish yellow silty clay with limestone and chalk fragments. Maximum *c.* 0.1m thick. Many fragments of Post-medieval tile and a single sherd of medieval pot. Worked subsoil.

#### Phase 3 Modern Deposits

Deposit (001). Sealing all deposits. Light to mid brown clayey silt with roots. Turf present at surface. Frequent tile, some sheep and cattle bone. Possible medieval glazed tile and a pitchfork. Topsoil.

### 6. DISCUSSION

A single natural deposit (Phase 1) was partially revealed during the investigation. Consisting of silt with limestone and chalk fragments this is probably of glacio-fluvial origin.

Phase 2 deposits consist of two deposits of subsoil. The upper contained a quantity of tile and fragments of other building material suggesting that human activity has taken

place in close proximity to the investigation area. A single sherd of pottery of medieval date was also retrieved from this layer and may suggest the start of activity in the investigation area.

Modern deposits consist of a single topsoil with a turf layer, and representing the recent use of the field as pasture, identified across the site.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations at land adjacent to Burgh Road, Orby were undertaken because the site fell within an area of known archaeological activity, notably the close proximity of a scheduled ancient monument, and the likelihood existed of archaeological remains being disturbed.

A limited number of archaeological deposits were encountered. Dating evidence suggested some medieval, but mainly post-medieval activity close to the investigation area. The finds from the topsoil and subsoil layers include a quantity of brick and tile fragments. As such, these deposits may be regarded as of local significance only. The nature of the local site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators would survive, other than through charring.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to thank Mrs P Hayward who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Gary Taylor coordinated the work and Tom Lane edited this report. Background information was kindly provided by the Archaeology Section of Lincolnshire County Council.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor  
Site Supervisor: Fiona Walker  
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley  
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner  
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

DoE, 1987 *District of East Lindsey, List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest*

Ekwall, E., 1974 *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names* (4th edition)

Foster, C.W. and Longley, T. (Eds), 1976 *The Lincolnshire Domesday and the Lindsey Survey*, The Lincoln Record Society 19

Hodge, C.A.H., Burton, R.G.O., Corbett, W.M., Evans, R. and Seale, R.S., 1984 *Soils and their Use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales Bulletin No. 13 (Harpenden)

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

## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

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



Fig. 1 General Location Plan

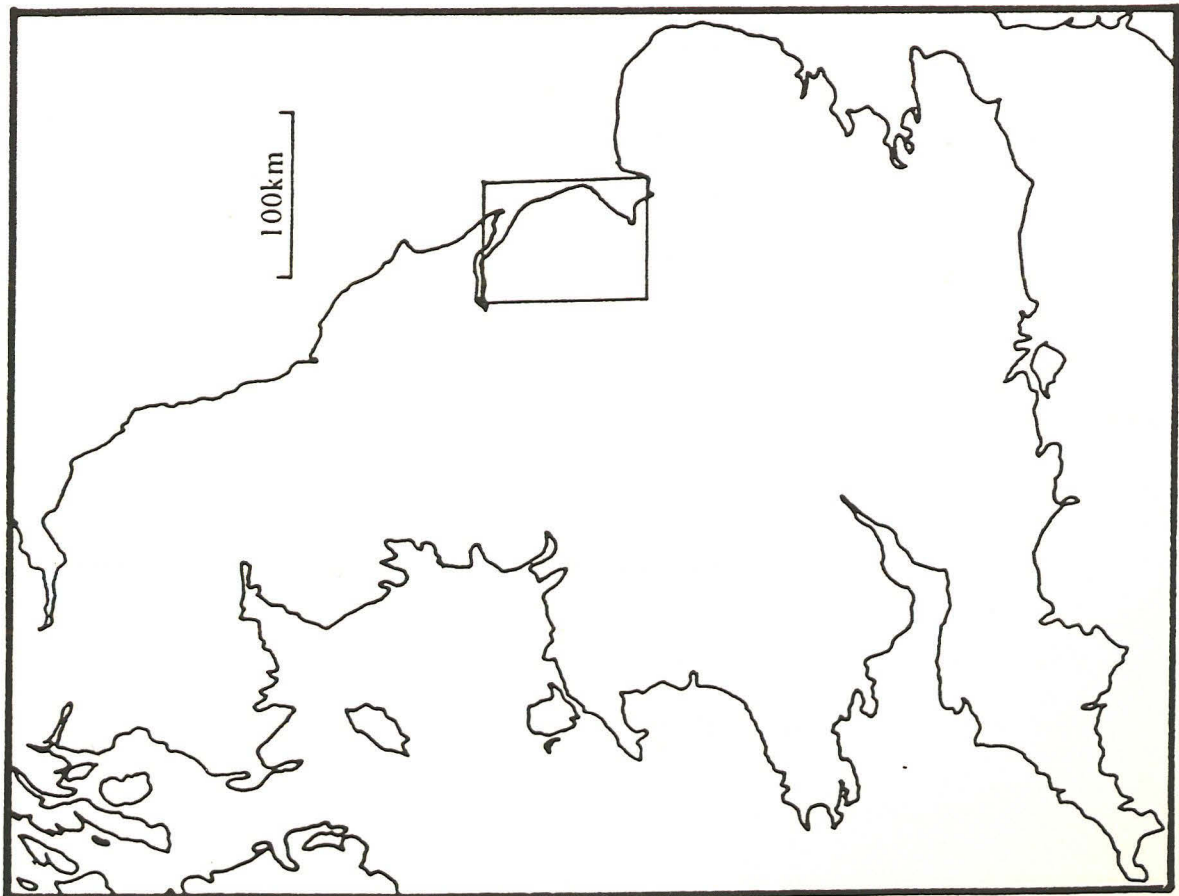
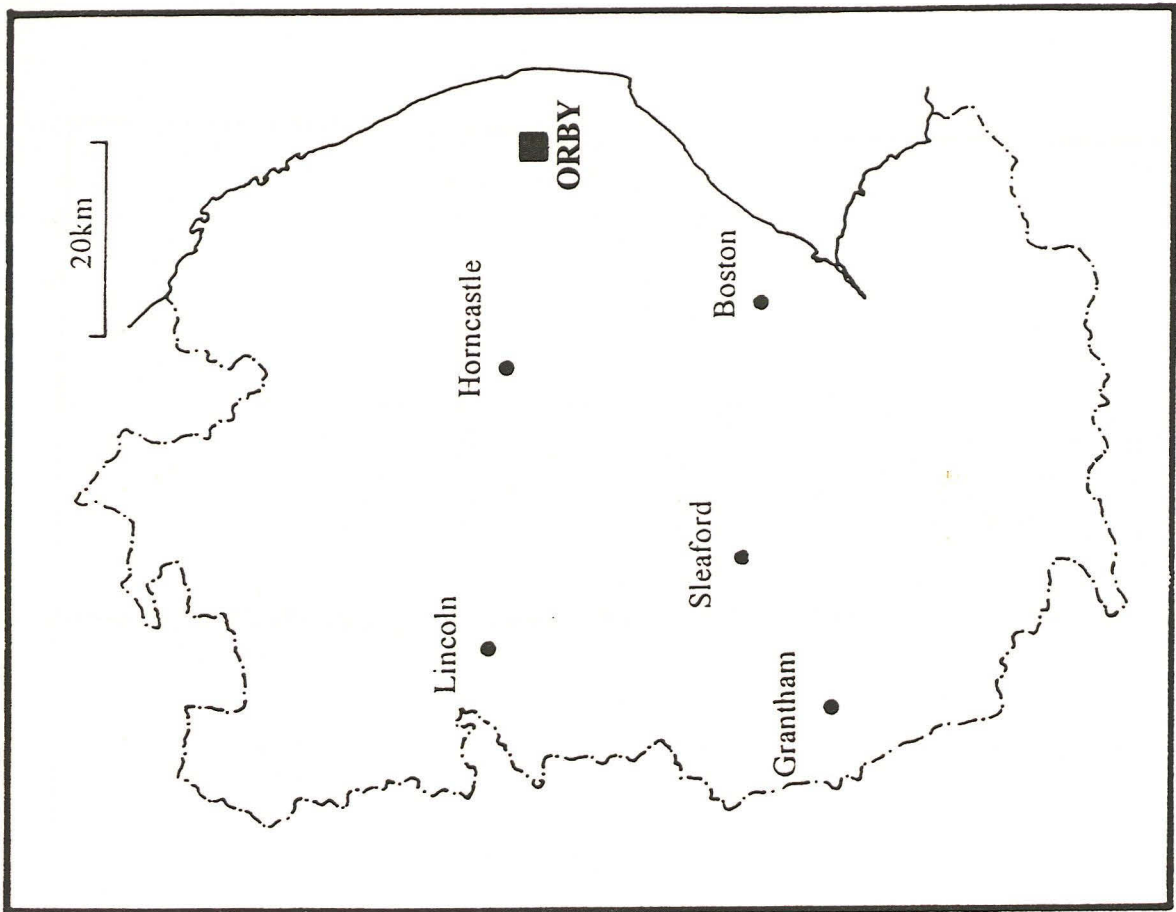
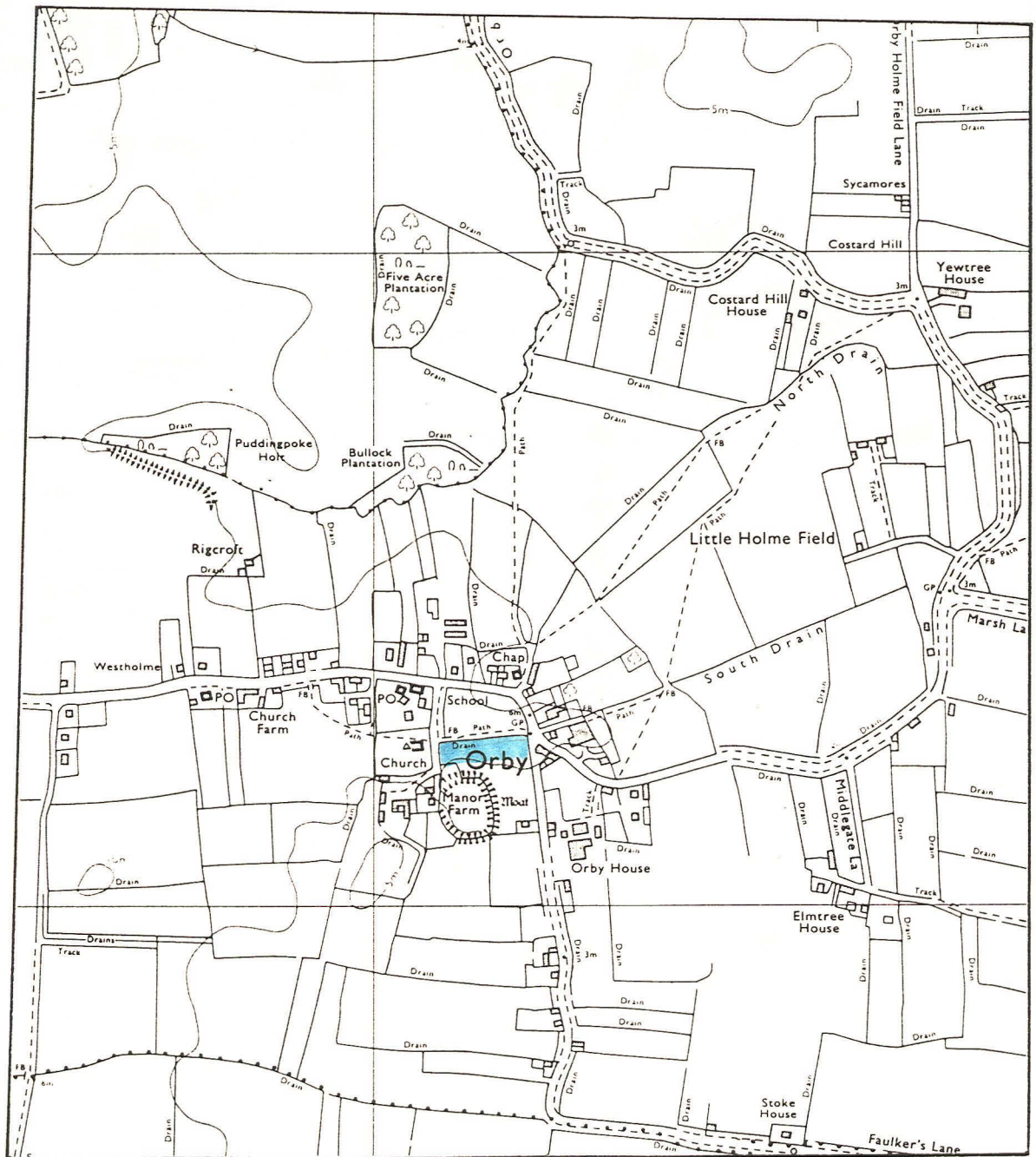


Fig. 2 Site Location Plan




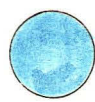
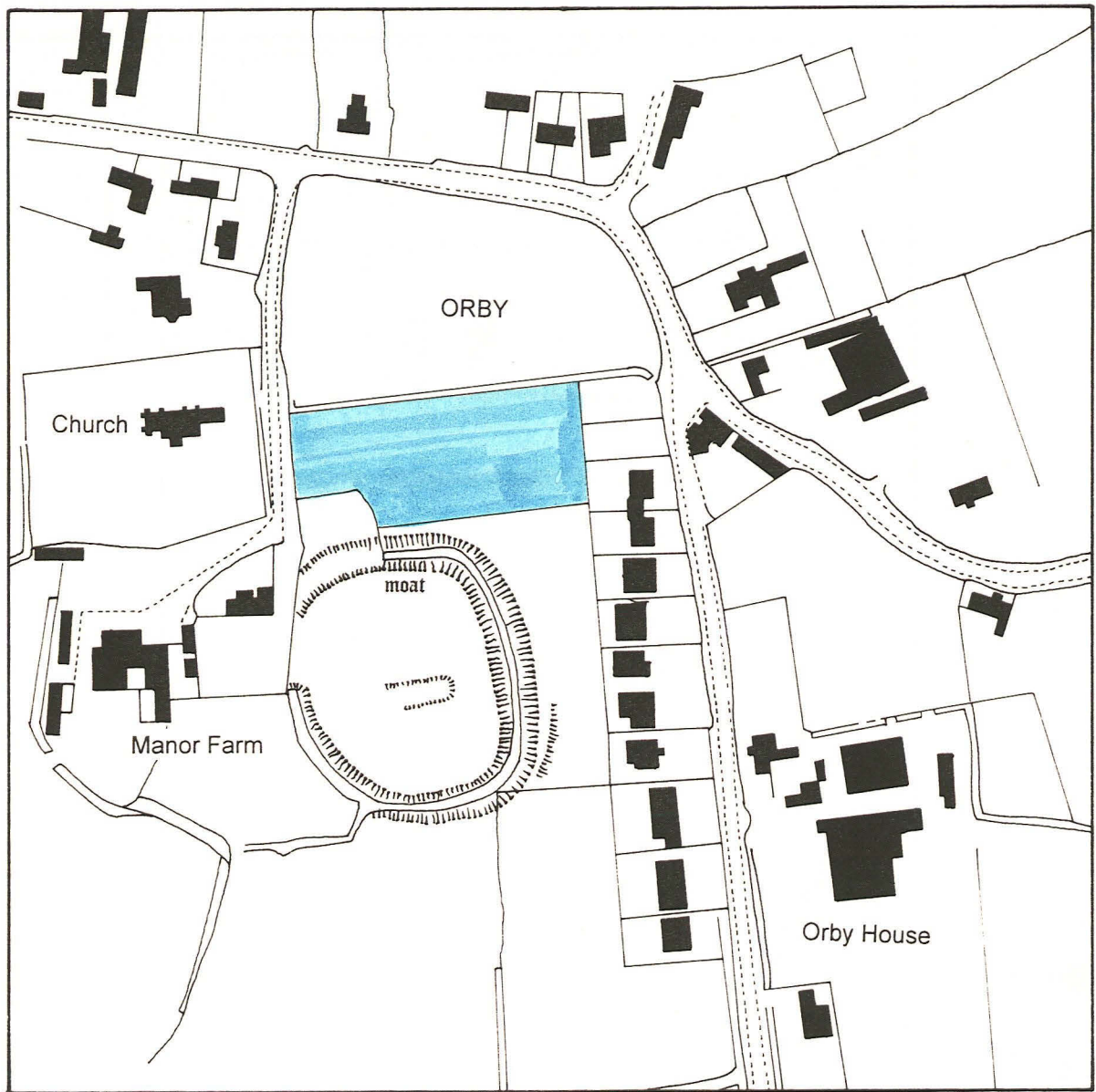
 Area of Development

Fig. 3 Development Location Plan



Area of Investigation

Fig. 4 Development Plan

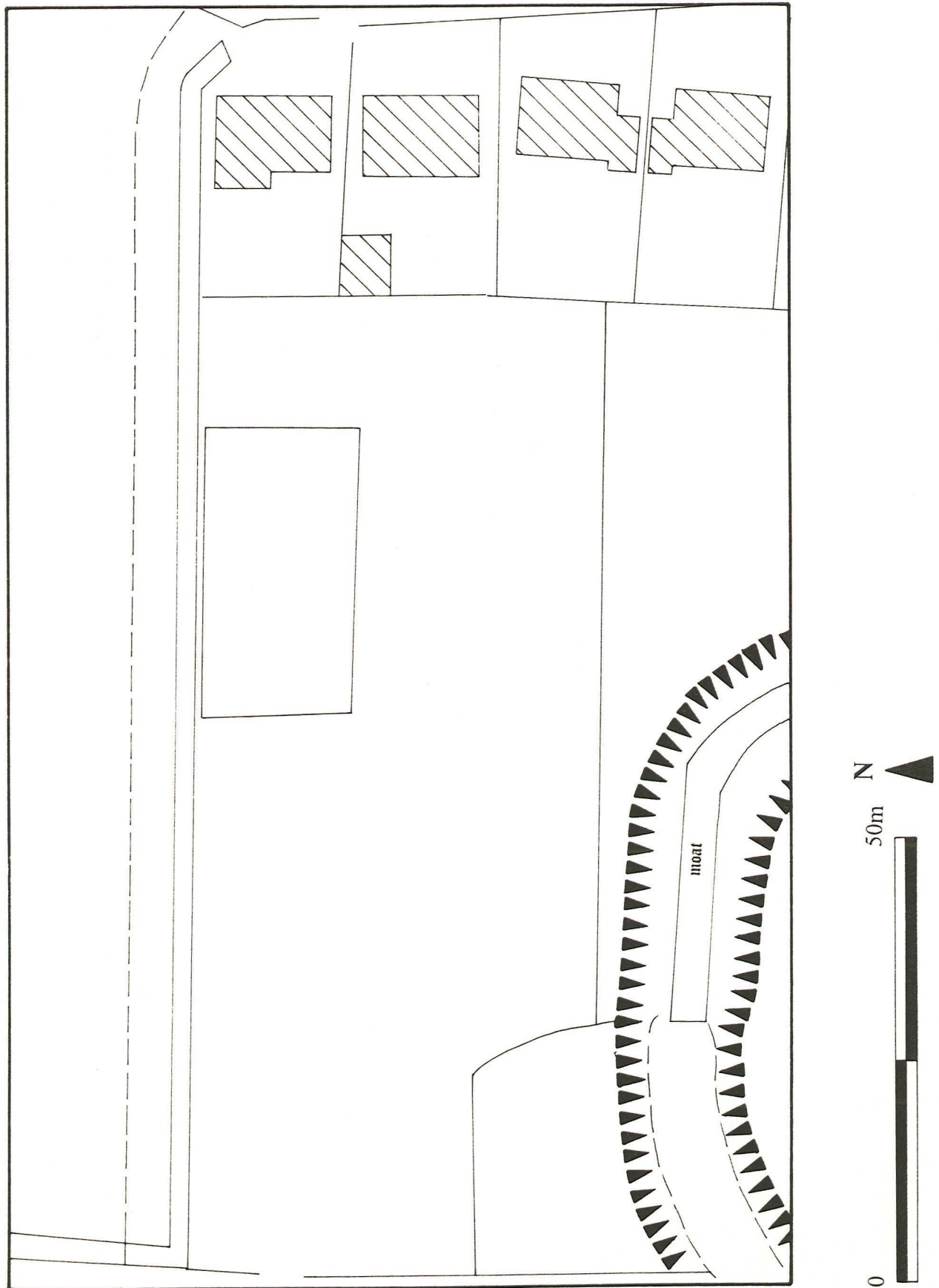
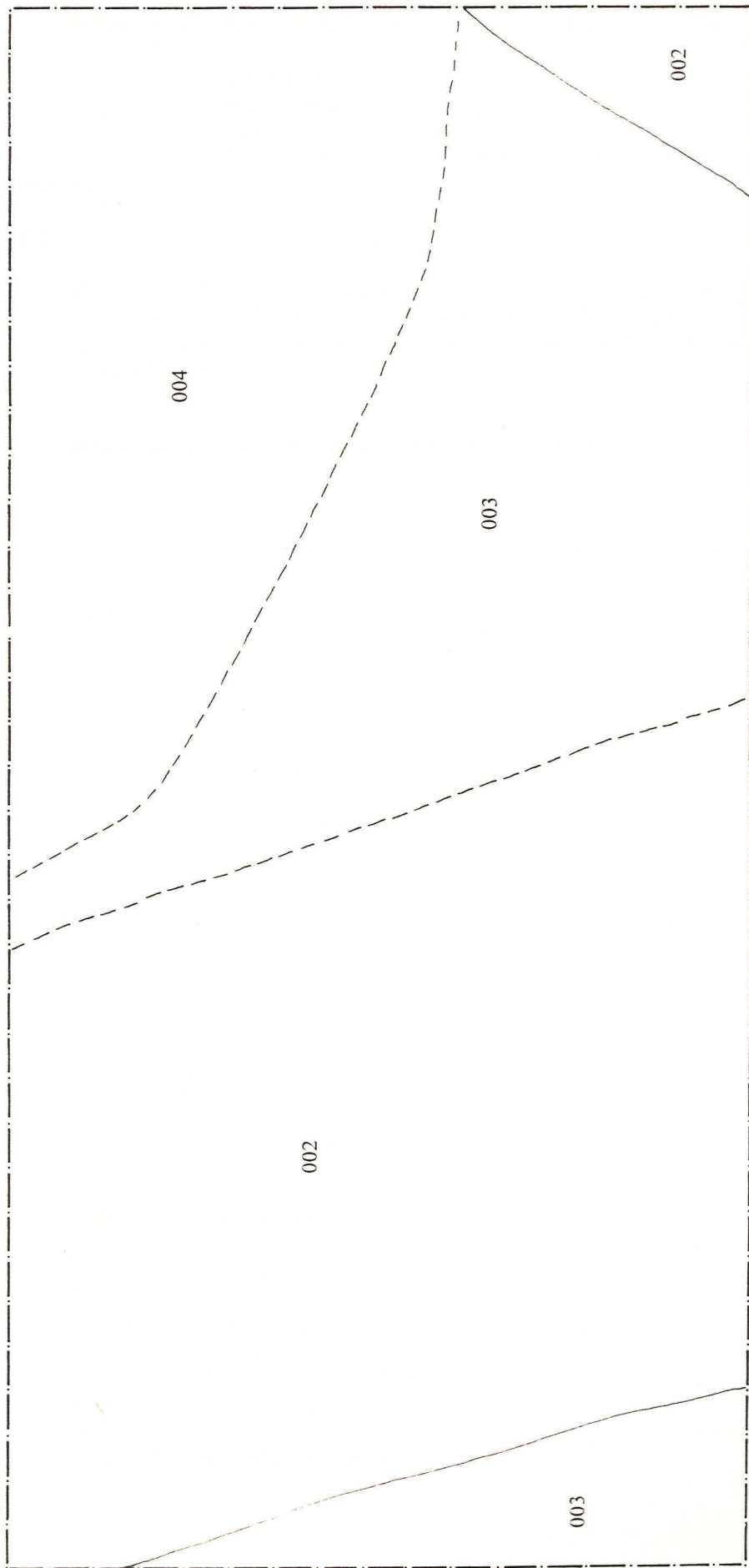


Fig.5 Plan of Archaeological Deposits



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10m

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## Appendix 1

### BRIEF FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

**Site:** Melford, Orby  
**Client:** Mrs Hayward  
**Date:** May 1996  
**Location:** Land to rear of Melford, Burgh Road, Orby, Skegness  
**Planning Application No:** S/134/0263/96

#### 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This document is the brief for archaeological work to be undertaken on a scheme of tennis court construction at Orby by Mrs A Hayward. It sets out the requirements for a watching brief to be carried out on all groundworks. Such a scheme should facilitate the preservation by record of any archaeological deposits.
- 1.2 This brief should be used by archaeological contractors as the basis for the preparation of a detailed archaeological project design. 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 The detailed specification will be submitted to the company above subject to approval of the Archaeological Officer of Lincolnshire County Council. If more than one, the client will be free to choose between those specifications which adequately satisfy this brief.

#### 2. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 This development is situated in the centre of the village of Orby which is approximately 2km north of Burgh le Marsh and 6km west of Skegness. The proposed tennis court is centred upon National Grid Reference TF 49167 67237 and is approximately 6m above sea level. The landscape is generally of flat relief situated as it is at the southern tip of the Lincolnshire Wolds. The site has latterly been used as a paddock and consists of open pasture.
- 2.2 The development will consist of a fenced tennis court approximately 116 by 56 feet in dimensions with ground disturbance likely to be to a depth of c. 30mm.

#### 3. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Planning permission has been granted by East Lindsey District Council for the "change of use of existing paddock to form an extension to existing garden and provision of a tennis court". Of the eight conditions of the consent the seventh requires the implementation of an archaeological scheme of works.

#### 4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 There is little of pre-medieval archaeological interest known in the parish of Orby.
- 4.2 Orby is of particular significance for the medieval period. The most important known site is the moated site (scheduled ancient monument no. 305) which is adjacent to this development site. A house known as Manor Farm is situated on the island within the moat. Recent interpretation of aerial photographs has revealed some of the extent of the surrounding medieval settlement of Orby. A number of other sites are known from around the parish and these are believed to be salt-making sites.

## **5. OBJECTIVES OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

- 5.1 According to the definition by the Institute of Field Archaeologists "an archaeological watching brief will record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area". To be carried out during groundworks, the objective of the watching brief should be to ensure that any archaeological features exposed by the groundworks are recorded and interpreted.

## **6. REQUIREMENTS FOR WORK**

- 6.1 On the development outlined in 3.1 it is required that a watching brief be undertaken, to include:
- 6.1.1 archaeological supervision of topsoil stripping;
  - 6.1.2 inspection of subsoil for archaeological features;
  - 6.1.3 recording of archaeological features in plan;
  - 6.1.4 limited excavation of features where appropriate;
  - 6.1.5 archaeological supervision of subsoil stripping;
  - 6.1.6 inspection of natural deposits for archaeological features and their recording if extant.

## **7. POST-FIELDWORK PROGRAMME**

- 7.1 After completion of the fieldwork the following procedures should be undertaken:
- 7.1.1 that, after agreement with the landowner, arrangements are made for long term storage of all artefacts in City and County Museum, Lincoln;
  - 7.1.2 that a site archive is produced and should be deposited with the artefacts as detailed in 7.1.1;
  - 7.1.3 a full report is produced and deposited with the appropriated bodies within two months of the completion of fieldwork.

## **8. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

- 8.1 A report of the fieldwork should be produced and supplied to the client and the planning authority. A further copy must be deposited with the county Sites and Monuments Record within two months of completion of fieldwork. The report should contain:
- 1. a location plan of trenches
  - 2. section and plan drawings, with ground level, Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scales as appropriate;
  - 3. specialist descriptions of artefacts and/or ecofacts;
  - 4. any indication of potential archaeological deposits not disturbed by the present development;
  - 5. a summary of the archaeology discovered and a consideration of its local, regional

and national significance.

- 8.2 A short note in the appropriate format must be presented to the editor of Lincolnshire History and Archaeology for publication in the Archaeological Notes.

## **9. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS**

- 9.1 Curatorial responsibility for this project lies with the Archaeological Officer of Lincolnshire County Council. He should be given at least seven days notice, in writing, of the proposed date of commencement of site work and may exercise his prerogative of monitoring of fieldwork.

## **10. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- 10.1 This document attempts to define the best practise expected of an archaeological watching brief but cannot fully anticipate the conditions that will be encountered as work progresses. If requirements of the brief cannot be met they should only be excluded after attainment of the written approval of the Archaeological Officer of Lincolnshire County Council.

This brief produced by

Ian George, Assistant Archaeological Officer, Lincolnshire County Council on behalf of East Lindsey District Council.



## Appendix 2

### CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context	Description	Interpretation
001	Light to mid brown clayey silt	Topsoil
002	Light brownish yellow silty clay	Subsoil I
003	Dark brownish black silt	Subsoil II
004	Yellowish brown silt	Natural deposit

### Appendix 3

#### THE FINDS Hilary Healey

Context	Description	Date
001	Bitumen Handmade bricks Shaped brick Drainpipe Glass Pottery Pottery (green glaze) Pottery	Modern 19th - 20th century 19th century Modern Modern 17th century 14th century 19th - 20th century
002	Pottery (Toynton type) Handmade brick Pantiles Welsh slate	14th century 19th century 19th century 19th century

The handmade bricks are somewhat unusual in that they are frogged (have an indentation for bonding material). To permit this frogging, the brick are necessarily larger than the usual size for handmade bricks. On account of the larger size and frogging it would appear probable that the bricks date from around the time of the introduction of machine manufacture in the 19th century.

It is probable that the handmade bricks were produced fairly locally. However, there is no evidence for brick or tile makers at Orby during the second half of the nineteenth century (White 1842; 1892). If the bricks are of this period, which seems probable, then it would appear likely that their production was in a nearby parish.

#### References

White, W, 1842 *History, Gazetteer and Directory of Lincolnshire*

White, W, 1892 *History, Gazetteer and Directory of Lincolnshire*

## Appendix 4

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 4 Context records
- 2 Scale drawings
- 1 Photographic records
- 1 Stratigraphic matrix
- 1 Box of finds

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

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

Archaeological Project Services project code: OBR96  
City and County Museum, Lincoln Accession Number: 81.96

## Appendix 5

### 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).
- 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.