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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF A DEVELOPMENT AT
THE REAR OF LODGE COTTAGE,
AUBURN,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(ALC95)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

Event - LI3521 Neg
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF A DEVELOPMENT AT
THE REAR OF LODGE COTTAGE,
AUBURN,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(ALC95)**

Work Undertaken For
Sir Henry Nevile

September 1995

CONTENTS

List of Figures

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.	Results	2
6.	Discussion	3
7.	Conclusions	3
8.	Acknowledgements	3
9.	Personnel	3
10.	Bibliography	3

Appendices

1	Context Summary
2	The Archive

CONTENTS

List of Figures

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.	Results	2
6.	Discussion	3
7.	Conclusions	3
8.	Acknowledgements	3
9.	Personnel	3
10.	Bibliography	3

Appendices

1	Context Summary
2	The Archive

List of Figures

Figure 1 . . . General Location Plan

Figure 2 . . . Site Location Plan

Figure 3 . . . Investigation Area

Figure 4 . . . Plan of Development

Figure 5 . . . Sections 1 and 2

1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of an extension to the rear of Lodge Cottage, Harmston Road, Aubourn, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation for the foundations.

Development at Lodge Cottage affects an area containing archaeological remains dating from the medieval period (1066 - 1500 AD) and later. Close by is the 13th century church of St. Peter and the 16th century Aubourn Hall. Located to the east is an earthwork enclosure, Hop Hill, that may indicate a former moated site.

Excavation of the foundation trenches revealed a sequence of alluvial clay overlain by subsoil and topsoil deposits. Also found was a brick structure that is thought to be a manhole or water tank. Pottery and glassware of probable 19th century date was retrieved from topsoil deposits.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

On the 30th August 1995, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of an extension to the rear of Lodge Cottage, Harmston Road, Aubourn, Lincolnshire. Approval for the proposed development was sought through the submission of planning application number N/5/501/1995. Permission was granted subject to a standard negative condition for archaeological works. The archaeological work was commissioned by Sir Henry Nevile, and was carried out by Archaeological Project Services.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Aubourn is situated 10km southwest of Lincoln and approximately 10km north of Grantham (Fig.1). Located within the civil parish of Aubourn, Haddington and South Hykeham, the village lies within the Witham valley (Fig. 2).

Lying at a height of *c.* 10m OD, the development site is located 110m southwest of St. Peter's parish church. Centred on National Grid Reference SK92666272, the development site measures 4.5m x 5m (Fig. 3).

Local soils are the Isleham 2 Association typical sandy and peaty soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 231) and overlies alluvial clays.

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Lodge Cottage is located in an area of historical and archaeological activity dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods. Aubourn is first mentioned in the Domesday book of 1086 and had a church, a mill and a fishery (Foster and Longley 1976). The place-name Aubourn is derived from the Old English '*alr-burna*' meaning alder stream (Ekwall 1974).

Aubourn was initially owned by Robert de Toden, but by the 12th century the land had passed on to the de Coleville family of Castle Bytham (Wilson 1991). The de Coleville family died out in 1369 and the land was divided between the Mere family, the Convent of Belvoir and the smallest portion passed to the Knights Templar.

Located 110m to the northeast is the 13th century parish church that provides evidence for activity of this date (Pevsner and Harris 1989). Situated approximately 175m to the east lies Hop Hill, a small ditched enclosure that may have once been a medieval moated site although it is

possible that this is a feature of a much later date.

Activity of the post-medieval date is represented by Aubourn Hall. Begun by the Mere family in the 16th century, the present building was altered in the 17th century. To the rear of the Hall are earthworks and ponds that may be the remnants of a formal garden (Hilary Healey *pers comm*).

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

Following removal of the topsoil from the site, trenches were machine excavated to a depth of about 1m. The sides of the trenches were cleaned and examined to identify any archaeological features. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed within the trench was allocated a unique reference number with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at a scale of 1:20. Locations of drawn sections appear in Figure 4.

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 Modern deposits

5.1 Phase 1 Natural deposits

A single deposit of a compact yellow clay (3) was encountered over the whole of the investigation area (Fig. 5). Situated at a depth of 0.7m this was identified as a natural alluvial deposit.

5.2 Phase 2 Modern deposits

Overlying the natural clay was a firm dark grey sandy silt (9) that was *c.* 0.4m thick and extended across the site. This was identified as the subsoil.

Located within the subsoil were two east west aligned drains. The first was a ceramic pipe (7), 0.3m in diameter and was identified as a land drain. The second drain was a recent waste drain (10). No cut for either of these was visible in section or plan.

Above the subsoil was a deposit of light grey silty sand (1). Identified as the topsoil this deposit was 0.3m thick and contained pottery and glass of *c.* 19th century date.

Cut through the topsoil and into the subsoil, towards the east of the development area, was a rectangular feature (8) measuring 0.7m wide and 0.72m deep. A minimum length of 0.65m was recorded. Constructed within cut 8 was a brick surface (2) upon which a brick wall (4) had been built to a height of 0.59m. This structure has been interpreted as a manhole or water tank.

Following the disuse of the brick structure (as defined by contexts 2 and 4) it was backfilled with dark grey clayey sand (5) and sealed with a mortar surface (6).

6. DISCUSSION

Phase 1 deposits of yellow clay represent natural alluvial activity, probably as a result of the nearby River Witham.

Phase 2 deposits of topsoil overlying a subsoil generally indicates recent use of the land as a garden. A brick structure believed to be a manhole or water tank may indicate water disposal from Lodge Cottage. An east to west aligned land drain and a similarly aligned waste drain were recorded and indicate services associated with the house.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations at Lodge Cottage, Aubourn revealed that a sequence of subsoil overlying natural clay constitute the earliest deposits at the site. Recent intrusion is marked by drains and a manhole or water tank that was later backfilled. Topsoil constituted the present ground surface. No archaeological deposits prior to the 19th century were disturbed by the development.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work was carried out by Archaeological Project services which is part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire. Steve Haynes coordinated the work and Dave Start edited this report. Hilary Healey commented on the earthwork features in Aubourn. The acting North Kesteven District Community Archaeologist provided information from the relevant parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Manager: Steve Haynes
Archaeologist: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

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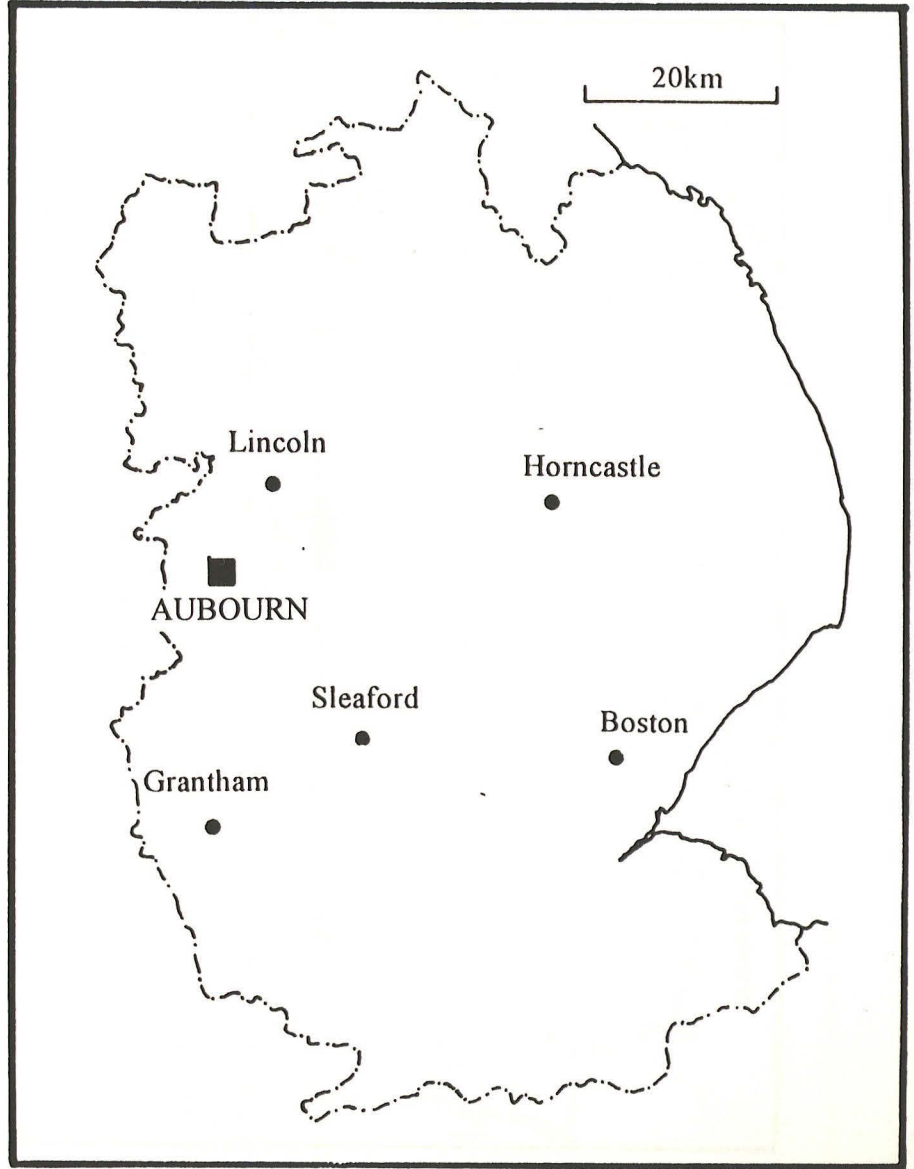
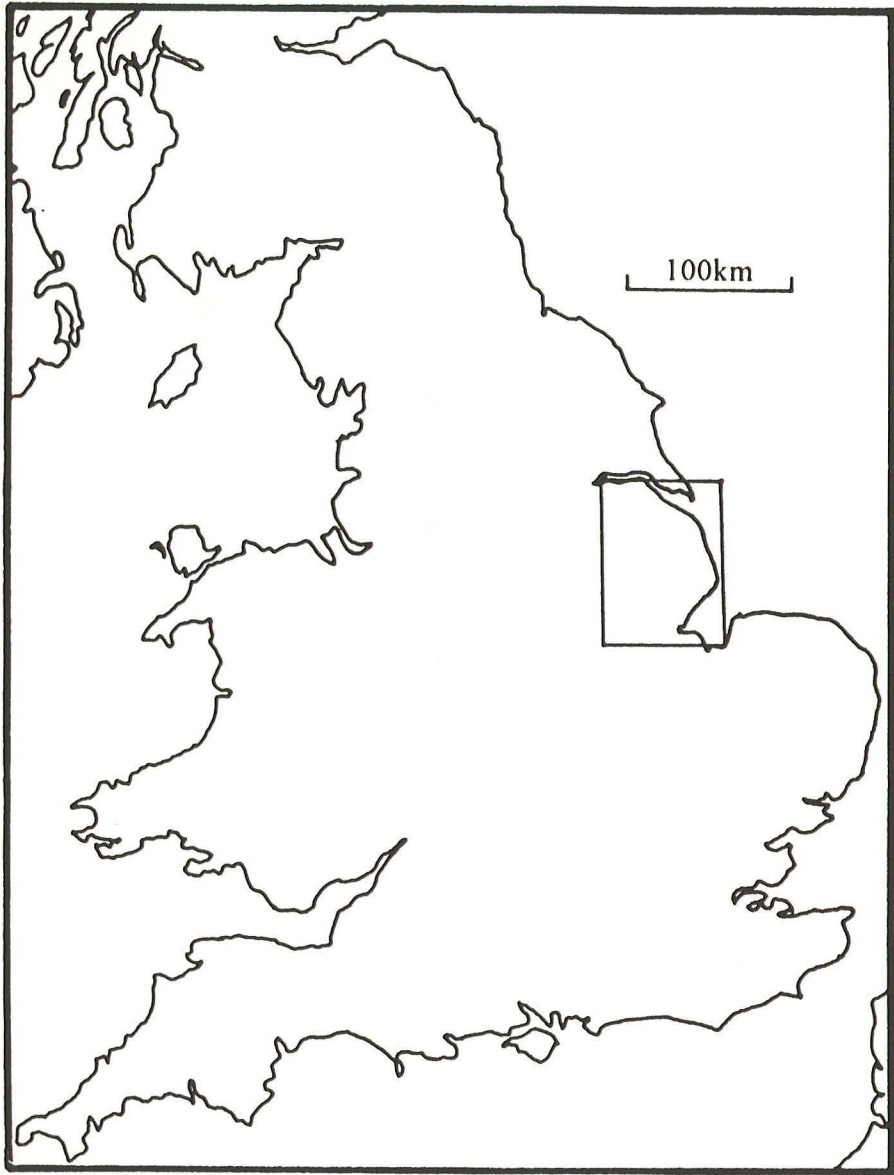
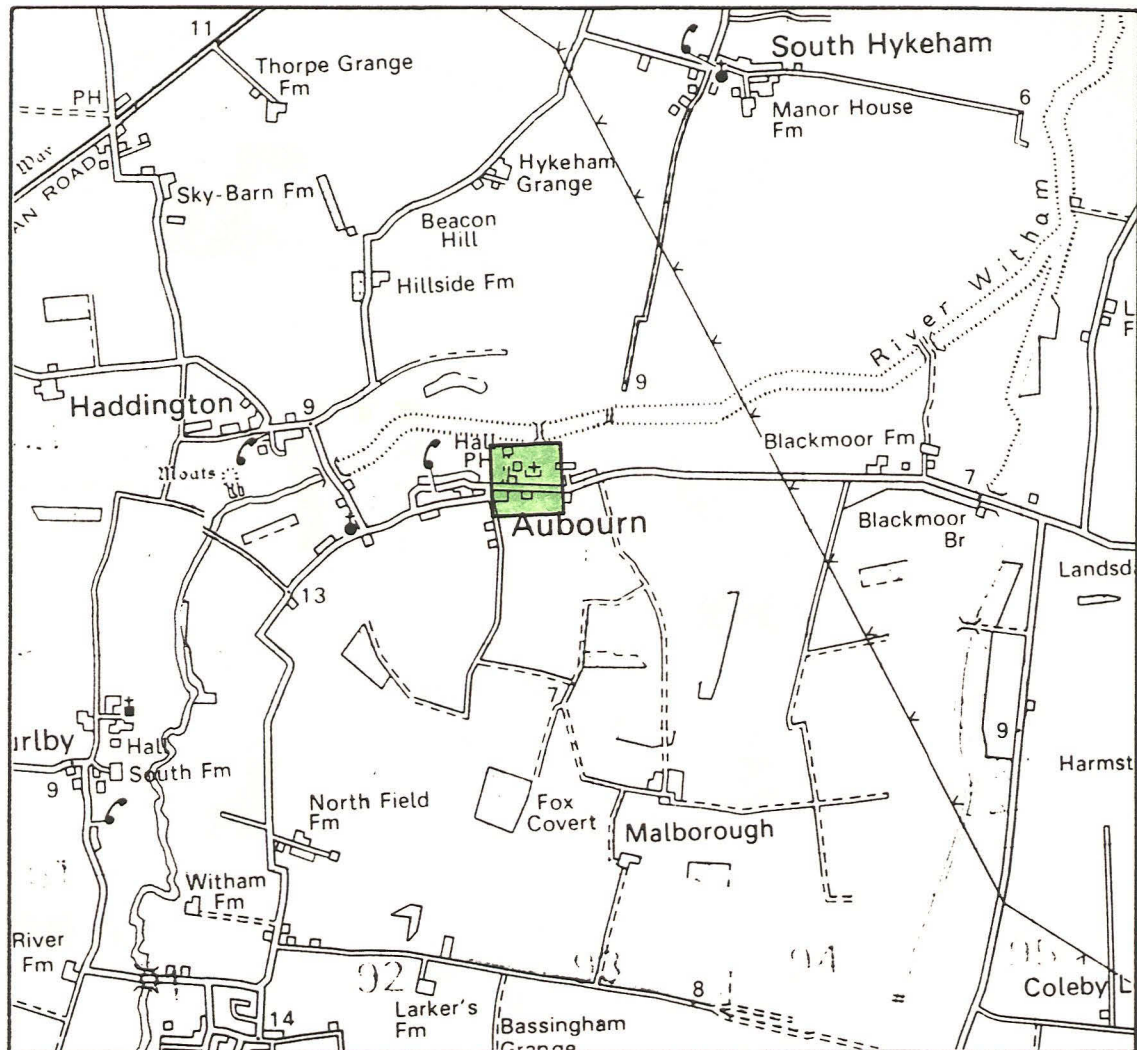


Fig. 1 General Location Plan

Fig. 2 Site Location Plan



 Investigation Area

Fig. 3 Investigation Area

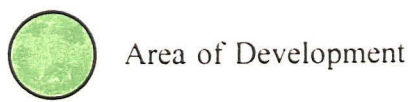
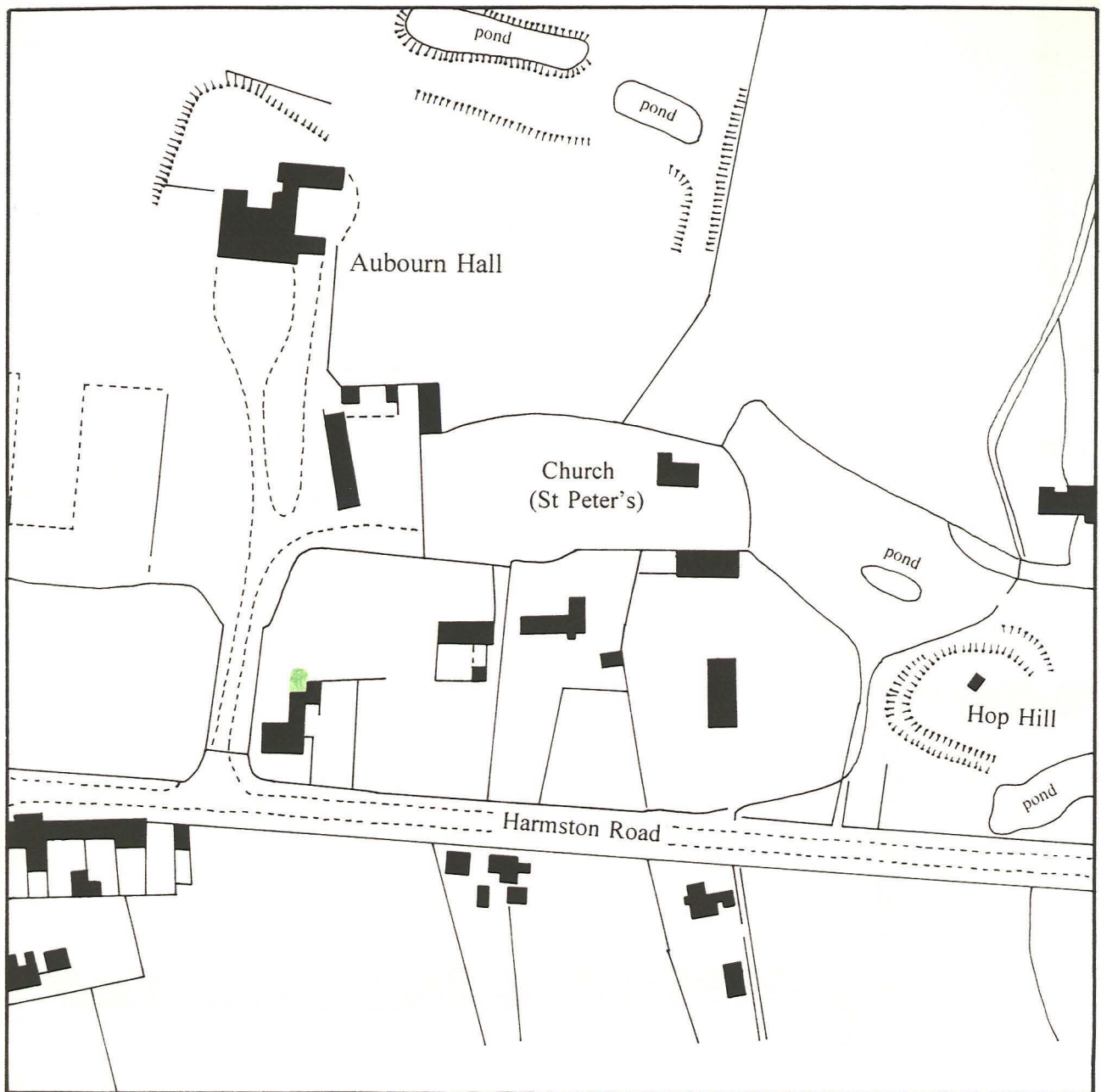


Fig. 4 Plan of Development

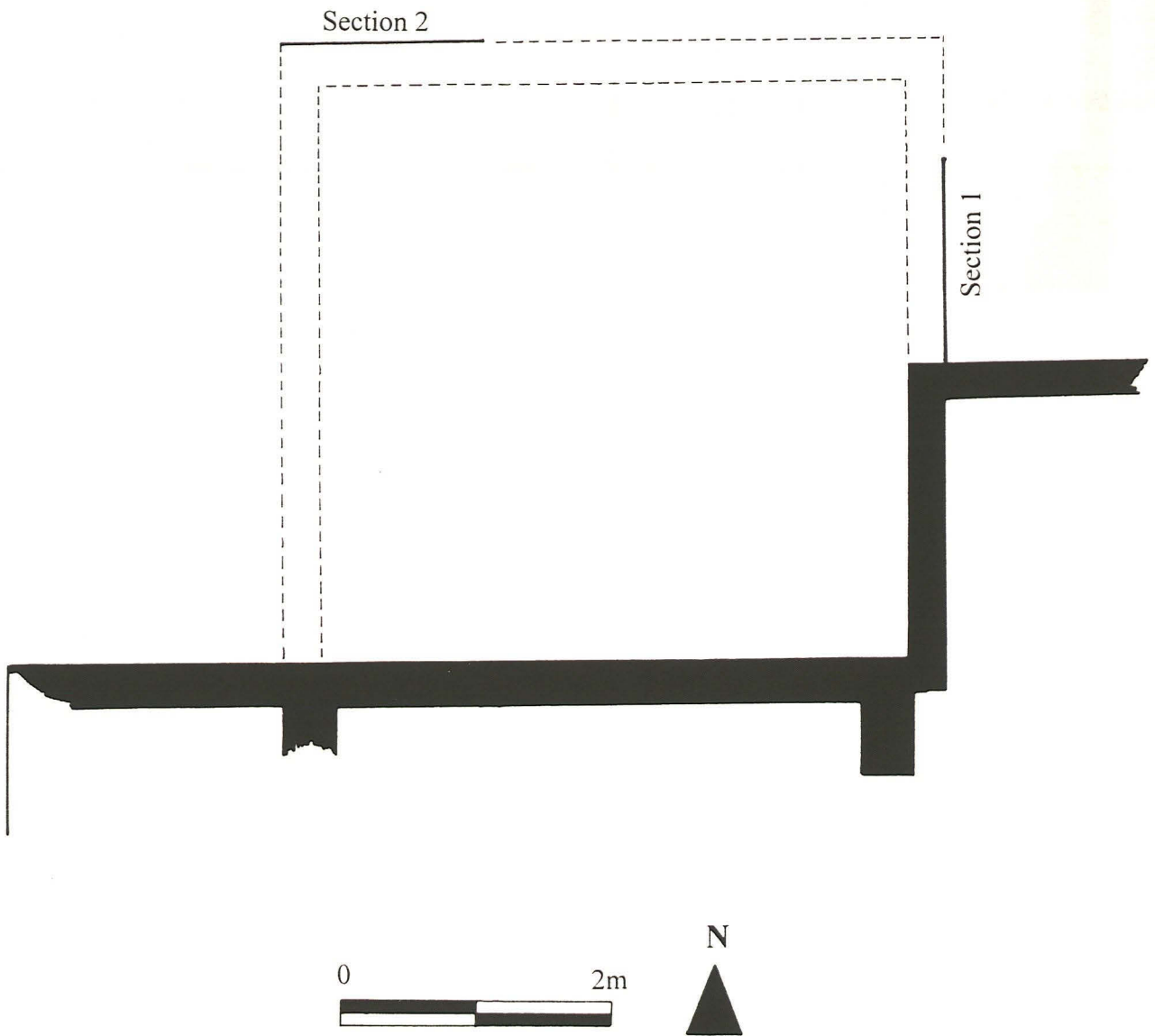
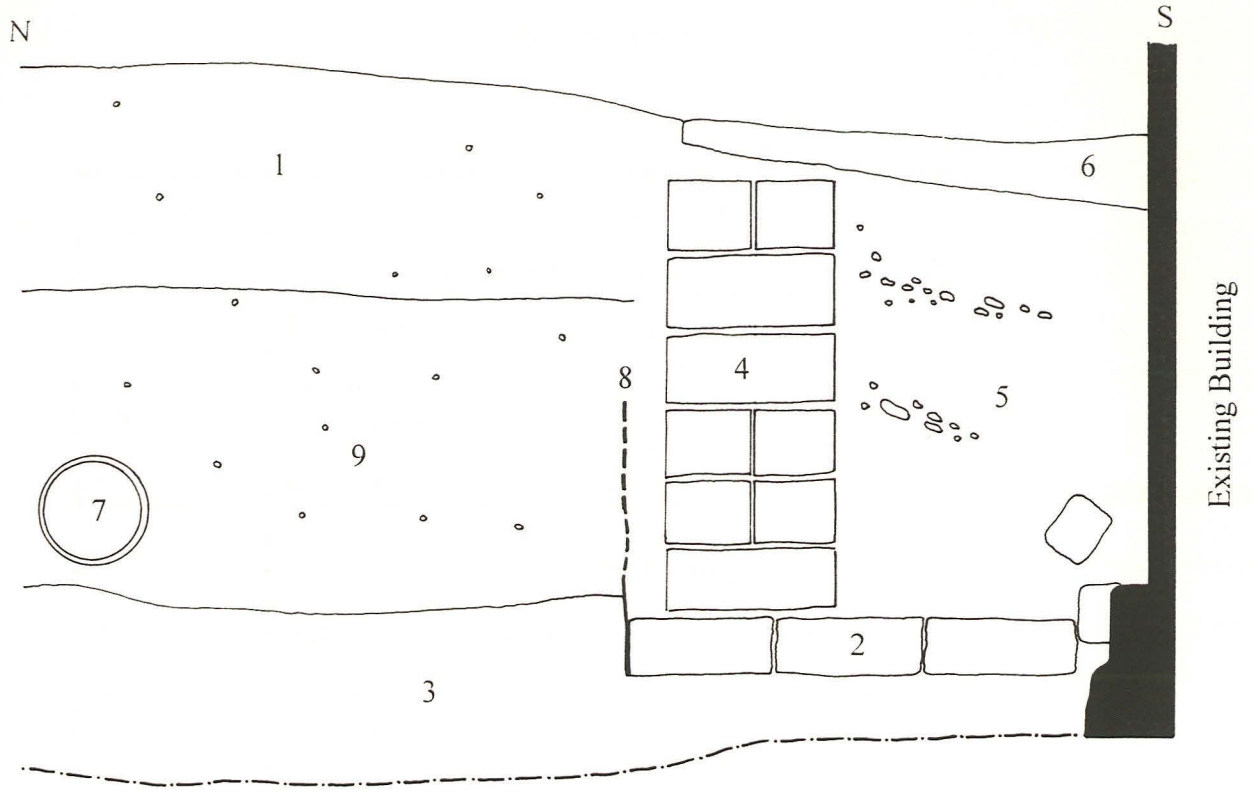
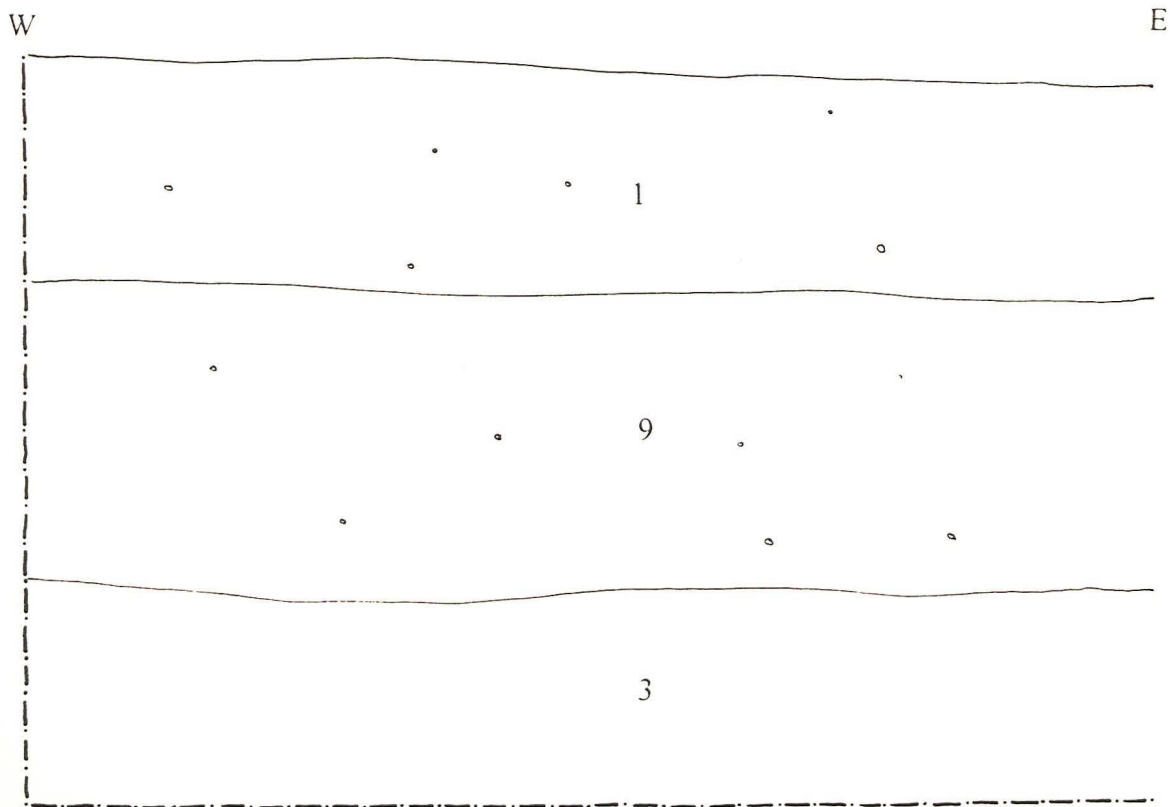


Fig. 5 Sections 1 and 2



Section 1



Section 2

0 1m



APPENDIX 1

Context Summary

Context	Description	Interpretation
1	Light grey silty sand	Topsoil
2	Brick surface	Part of manhole or water tank
3	Compact yellow clay	Natural deposit
4	Brick wall	As 2
5	Dark grey clayey sand	Backfill of brick structure
6	Yellow white mortar	Sealing deposit of brick structure
7	Ceramic pipe	Land drain
8	Rectangular cut	Cut for brick structure
9	Dark grey sandy silt	Subsoil
10	Ceramic pipe	Waste drain

APPENDIX 2

The Archive

The archive consists of:

- 10 . . Context Records
- 1 . . . Photographic Record
- 3 . . . Scale Drawings
- 1 . . . Site Matrix
- 1 . . . Bag 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 Accession number	145.95
Archaeological Project Services project code	ALC95