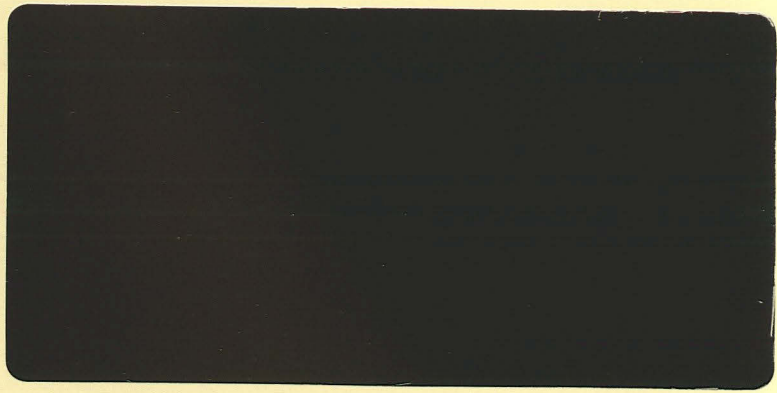


negative
96/14

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND ADJACENT
TO HERRING LANE,
PINCHBECK,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(PHL96)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES



Lancaster County Council
At the Court of Session
1st Floor
1st Floor
1st Floor
TEL. 0522 530724 FAX: 0522 530724
31.10.96

CONTENTS

List of Figures

1. Summary	1
2. Introduction	1
2.1 Background	1
2.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND ADJACENT TO HERRING LANE, PINCHBECK, LINCOLNSHIRE (PHL96)	1
3. Aims	2
4. Methods	2

Work Undertaken For
Messrs J and T Templeman.

October 1996

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner

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
11.	Abbreviations	..... 3

Appendices

1	Context Summary
2	The Archive
3	Glossary

List of Figures

- Fig 1 General Location Plan
Fig 2 Site Location
Fig 3 Development Location Plan
Fig 4 Section 1

2.1 Topography and Geology

Pitchbeck is located 20km south of Boston and 30km southeast of Skeafed in South Holland District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The proposed development area lies 1.5km northwest of the centre of the village as defined by the parish church (Fig. 2).

The site lies on generally flat ground within the Fenland of South Lincolnshire. Ground levels are c. 2m O.D. The development covers a total area of c.270 square metres (Fig. 3).

Local geology is of the Westwood Association, locally known as the Lincolnshire soils (L.S.S.) and is made up of a variety of clay and siltstone (L.S.S. 1974, 367).

2.2 Archaeological History

Pitchbeck has an extensive record of archaeological activity dating from the Romano-British period to the early 20th century. The site has been excavated in the past. It is possible that the site was excavated during construction of the railway (Harris 1989, 1991). Excavated remains to the south of the development site, which included archaeological pottery and coins. A coin of Constantine P.A.D. 315-317 was found at Pitchbeck (Harris 1989, 1991) to the east of the site.

Pitchbeck is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 and was the possession of Ivo Fitzwarin and Guy of Cader (Foster and Hall 1974, 1975, 1976). Referred to as both *Pitchbeck* and *Powber*, the name is possibly derived from Old English and may mean *pitch* or *barrow* (Harris 1974, 367).

Medieval presence is represented by St Mary's church to the east of the site (Foster and Harris 1989, 601). Mainly of 12th century date, the church was extensively renovated in the 19th century. Adjacent to the church, in the vicarage

1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches for an extension to an existing farm building on land adjacent to Herring Lane, Pinchbeck. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the foundations.

Romano-British (A.D. 50 - 410) activity has been uncovered in the vicinity and includes a possible settlement site to the west of the village.

Medieval activity (A.D. 1066 - 1500) has been recorded in the area and is highlighted by St Mary's church of 12th century date. Three moated sites lie within the village to the southeast of the investigation area.

Overlying a natural subsoil layer was the present day topsoil. This had been partly overlain by make-up layers and concrete of the modern farmyard. No finds were retrieved during the investigation.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

On the 16th July 1996, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of foundations for a new building on land adjacent to Herring Lane, Pinchbeck (National Grid Reference TF 2347 2640). Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application S/0365/96. Permission was granted subject to a standard negative condition for archaeological recording. The archaeological work was commissioned by Messrs J and T Templeman and was carried out by Archaeological Project Services.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Pinchbeck is located 20km south of Boston and 30km southeast of Sleaford in South Holland District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The proposed development area lies 1.1km northwest of the centre of the village as defined by the parish church (Fig. 2).

The site lies on generally flat ground within the Fenland of South Lincolnshire. Ground surface is at c. 3m O.D. The development site covers a total area of c.270 square metres (Fig. 3).

Local soils are of the Wisbech Association, typically coarse silty calcareous soils developed on stoneless marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 361-2).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Pinchbeck lies in an area of known archaeological activity dating from the Romano-British period. Prehistoric activity is known in the parish but lies further to the west. A possible settlement site was uncovered during construction of the railway (Phillips 1970, 293). Located 700m to the south of the development site, finds included quantities of pottery and bone. A coin of Commodus (A.D. 176-192) was found at Pinchbeck Hall, 700m southeast of the site.

Pinchbeck is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 and was in possession of Ivo Taillebois and Guy of Craon (Foster and Longley 1976, 89, 184). Referred to as both *Picebech* and *Pincebec*, the name is possibly derived from the Old English and may mean 'Minnow Stream' (Ekwall 1974, 367).

Medieval presence is represented by St Mary's church to the east of the site (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 601). Mainly of 12th century date, the church was extensively renovated in the 19th century. Adjacent to the church, in the vicarage

garden, are the remains of a medieval moat. Further moats have been found 200m southwest of the church and 450m east of the church, near Otway House. Situated 700m southeast of the development area is the presumed site of the medieval Guildhall (Wells 1966, 24).

Finds of medieval date have also been found in the village. Building work on Knight Street uncovered five stone coffins of 12th to 13th century date (Spalding Guardian 1951). Originally from the vicinity of the church, these were probably moved to this position during the 19th century renovation. Medieval pottery has been found in the area of the primary school and also from the area adjacent to the development site, when early medieval pottery was found along with dog and chicken bones at a depth of 8ft (Wells 1966, 24).

Post-medieval activity is represented by Manor Farmhouse, 600m northeast of the development area. Built in the early 17th century, the building has been altered and extended over the subsequent centuries and is now a Grade II listed building (DoE 1988, 49).

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief were to locate and record archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

A mechanical excavator was used to remove soil from seven pits. Measuring between 1.6 and 2m long by 0.8 to 1.4m wide, the foundation holes did not exceed 0.8m in depth. 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 section was drawn at a scale of 1:10. 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 1. Two phases were identified:

- Phase 1 Natural deposits
- Phase 2 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 (003). Visible at the base of trenches A, D, E and G. Consists of moderately firm light to mid brownish yellow silt. No depth was established. Natural subsoil.

Phase 2 Modern Deposits

Deposit (002). Sealing subsoil (003) and visible in all trenches. Mid to dark brown silt with roots. Topsoil.

Deposit (001). Sealing topsoil (002) and present across the area of development. Light yellow crushed limestone with fragments of brick, tile and drain pipe. Make-up deposit.

Deposit (003). Visible in section 1 only. Concrete. Yard surface to west of development area.

6. DISCUSSION

A single natural deposit (Phase 1) was partially revealed during the investigation. Consisting of silt this is probably of marine origin.

Modern deposits consist of a single topsoil overlain with a crushed limestone make-up layer. A concrete yard surface was recorded in close proximity to the development area. These deposits indicate the recent use of the area as a farmyard.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations at land adjacent to Herring Lane, Pinchbeck were undertaken because the site fell within an area of known archaeological activity and the likelihood existed of archaeological remains being disturbed.

No archaeological deposits were encountered during the investigation. 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 Messrs J and T Templeman who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Tom Lane coordinated the work and edited this report. Background information was obtained from the parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Tom Lane

Site Supervisor: Fiona Walker

Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner

Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

DoE, 1987 *District of South Holland, 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.)

Spalding Guardian, 1951 *Stone Coffin Lids Unearthed at Pinchbeck* Newspaper article 2.2.51

Wells, P.K., 1966 *Notes*, Boston and South Lincolnshire Archaeology Group 1965-1966

11. ABBREVIATIONS

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

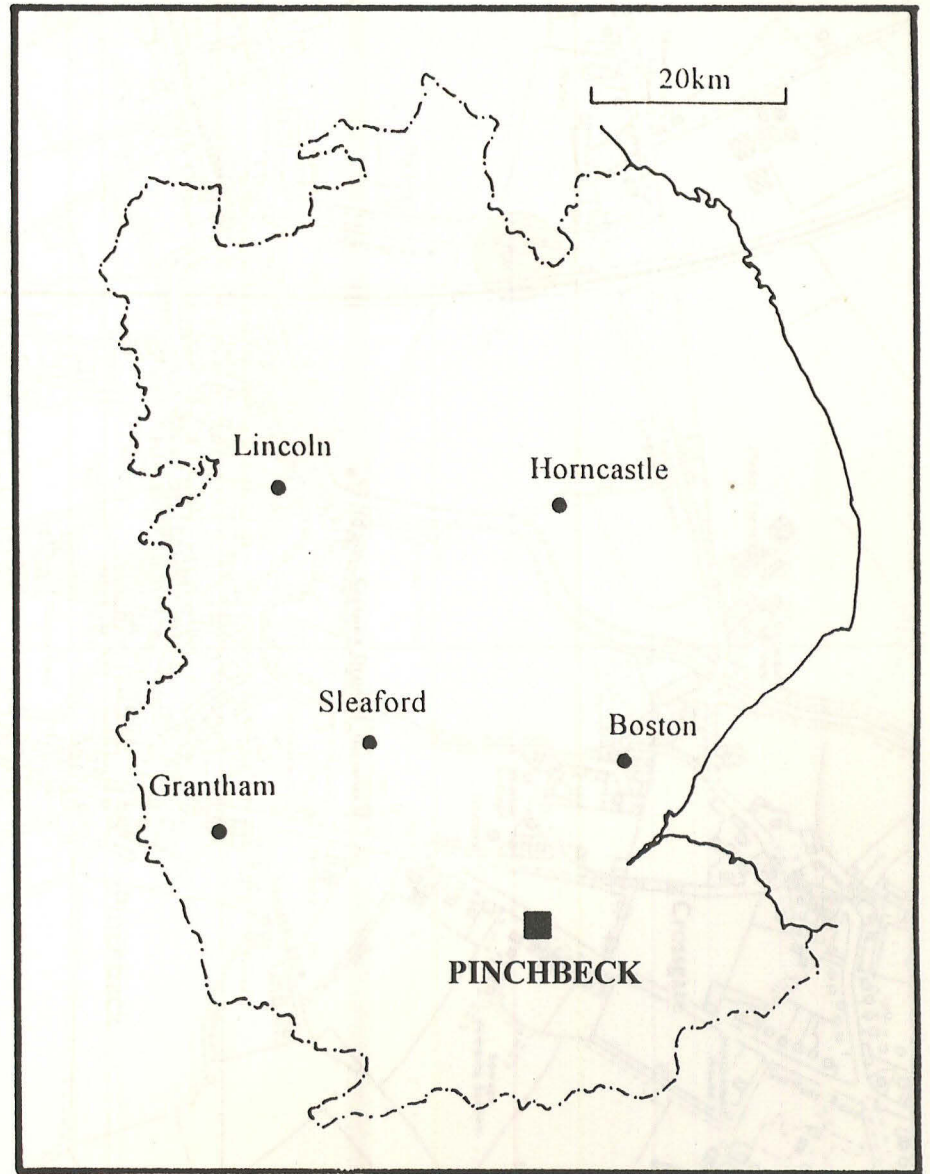
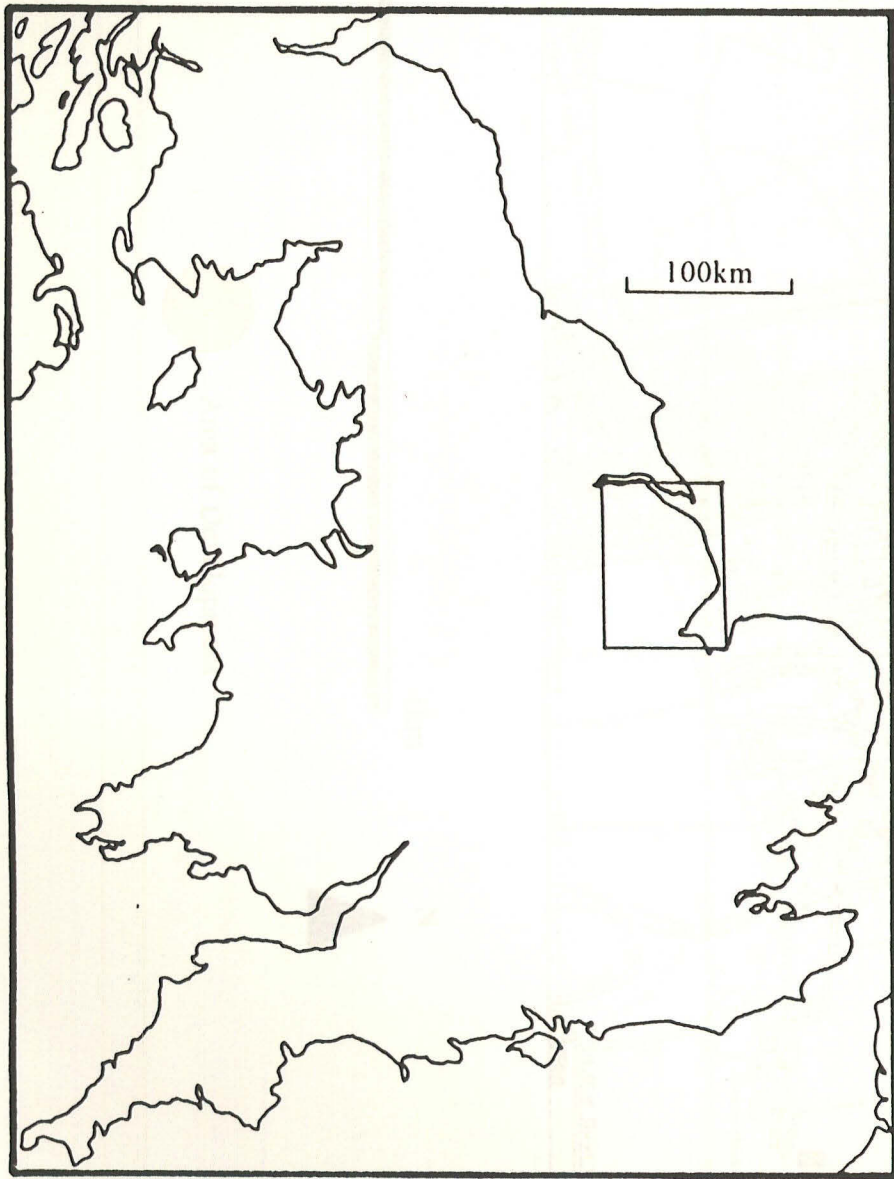
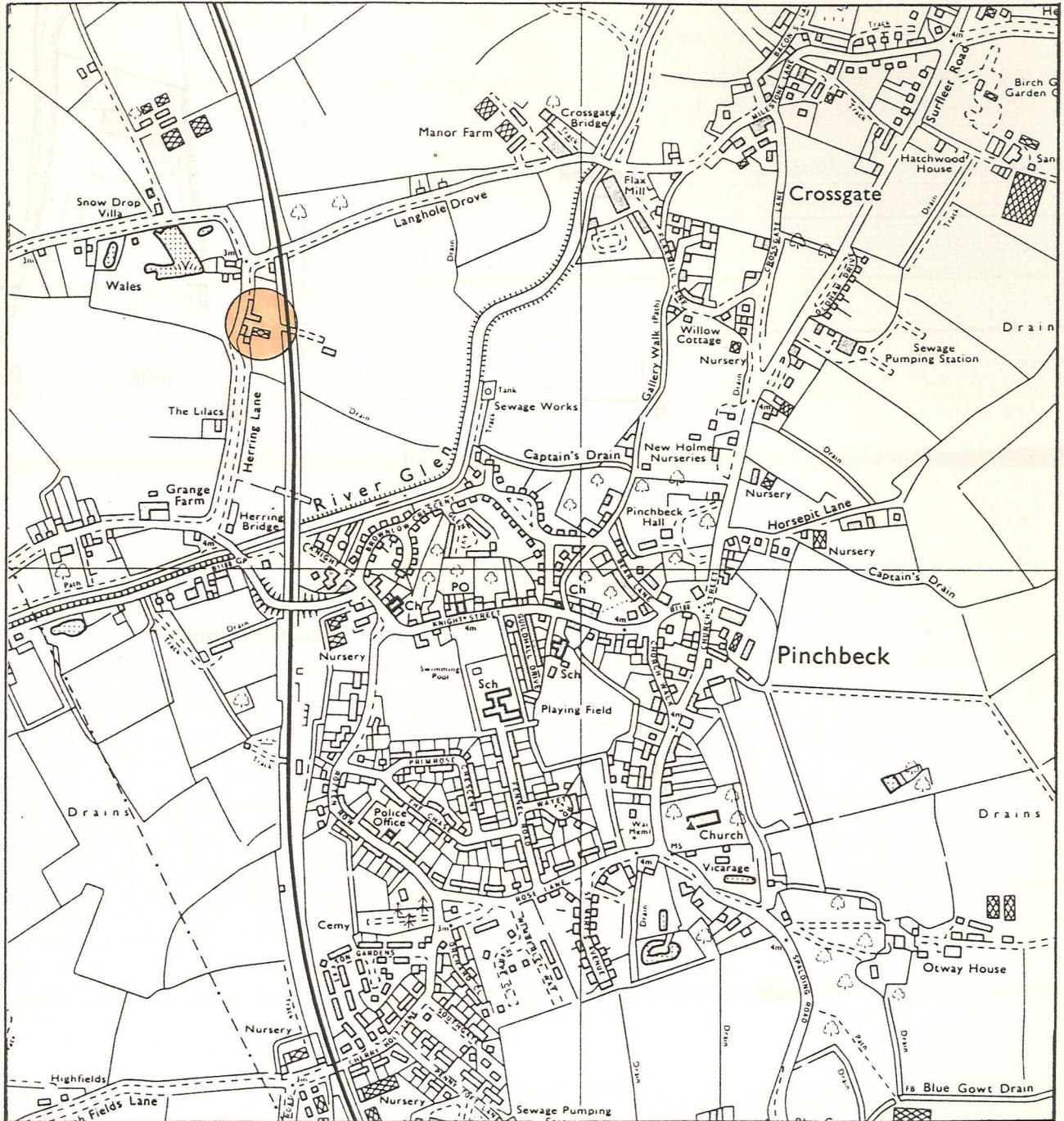


Fig. 1 General Location Plan
Fig. 2 Site Location Plan

Fig. 2 Site Location Plan



0

1km

N



Area of Development

Fig. 3 Location of Pits

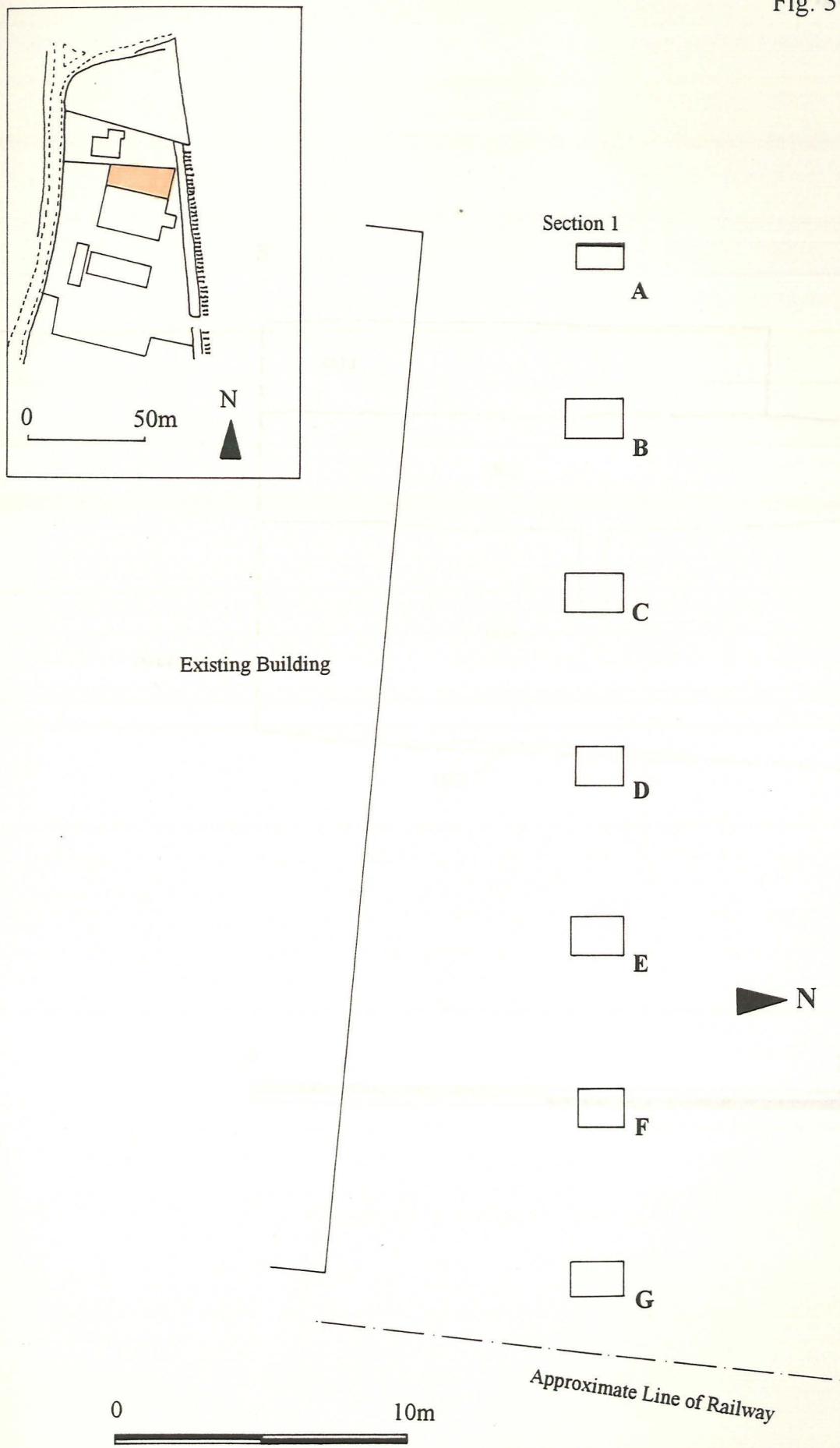
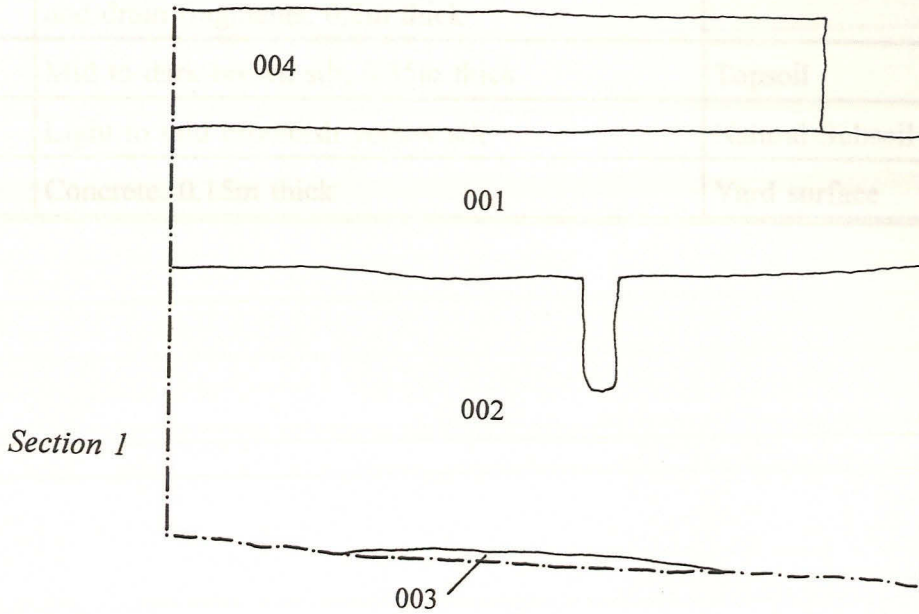


Fig. 4 Section 1

Appendix 1

CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context	Description	Interpretation
001	Light yellow weathered limestone with black silty sand druse	Make-up layer
002	Mid to dark grey silty clay	Topsoil
003	Light grey concrete	Yard surface
004	Concrete 1.5m thick	



Appendix 1

CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context	Description	Interpretation
001	Light yellow crushed limestone with brick, tile and drain fragments, 0.2m thick	Make-up layer
002	Mid to dark brown silt, 0.35m thick	Topsoil
003	Light to mid brownish yellow silt	Natural Subsoil
004	Concrete, 0.15m thick	Yard surface

Appendix 2

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 4 Context records
- 2 Scale drawings
- 1 Photographic records
- 1 Stratigraphic matrix

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: PHL96
City and County Museum, Lincoln Accession Number: .96

Appendix 3

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.* (4).
- 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 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** Deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.