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L19330

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
OF A DEVELOPMENT AT  
IVY HOUSE FARM,  
BROTHERTOFT,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(BCS94)**

~~TF 275 458~~  
TF 2202 4513

Work Undertaken For  
A.W. Phoenix and Sons

October 1994

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## 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of an agricultural storage building at Ivy House Farm, Brothertoft. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the foundations.*

*Development at Ivy House Farm affects a landscape containing archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period. Finds of Roman pottery have been recovered to the north and west of the site.*

*A series of natural deposits associated with alluvial activity were recorded. An infilled ditch sealed by topsoil represented the most recent deposits. No earlier archaeological remains were encountered.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Background

On the 7th March 1994, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a new agricultural storage building (Application number B07/0474/93) at Ivy House Farm, Brothertoft, Lincolnshire (National Grid Reference TF 275 458). The work was commissioned by A.W. Phoenix and Sons, and was carried out by Archaeological Project Services in accordance with a brief set by the Boston District Community Archaeologist.

### 2.2 Topography and Geology

Brothertoft is located 5km west of Boston and 14km east of Sleaford, in the civil parish of Brothertoft, Boston District (Fig. 1). Ivy House Farm is situated 1.3km south of Brothertoft village centre as defined by the church of St. Gilbert (Fig. 2).

The site and the surrounding area are relatively flat lying at approximately 4m OD. Local soils are the Wisbech Association coarse silty calcareous soils (Hodge *et al* 1984, 361).

### 2.3 Archaeological Setting

Ivy House Farm is located in an area of archaeological activity dating to the Romano-British period. A Romano-British greyware jug was uncovered 300m to the north of the site (B07/004). Roman pottery has also been recovered from a wide area centred 1km to the west of the present investigation site (B07/11, 12, 13, 14). From the available evidence, occupation appears to date from the 2nd to 4th centuries and consists of isolated farmsteads enclosed by boundary ditches.

## 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

A total of 21 pits, each approximately 1.2m square, were hand excavated to a depth averaging 1.10m. The sides of the trenches were then cleaned and examined to identify any archaeological features. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed within the pit was allocated a unique reference number with an individual written description. Natural geological deposits were also recorded. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10.

## 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

### Phase 1 Natural deposits

Natural deposits throughout the site are well represented by light yellow brown silts (4), observed in all of the pits (Figs. 4 and 5).

### Phase 2 Modern Deposits

A possible linear cut (5), was observed cutting into the phase 1 silts in pit A. Interpreted as a ditch or dyke, this feature had a primary fill of mid grey brown silt (3) containing frequent fragmented building bricks. A secondary fill of light yellow brown fine silt (2) was recorded as sealing 3 (Fig. 4).

A mid grey-brown silt (1), interpreted as the modern topsoil, was present over all of the site.

## 6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) were represented by fine silts of alluvial origin, indicating that the area was subject to episodes of flooding in the past.

Modern deposits (Phase 2) were represented by an infilled ditch or dyke, possibly a former field boundary. Sealing all deposits was a topsoil that constituted the present ground surface.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations at Ivy House Farm, Brothertoft revealed a sequence of natural deposits that had been cut by a linear ditch, probably of agricultural origin, and containing fragments of modern (?20th century) building material. This was then sealed by the present ground surface. No earlier archaeological remains were encountered during the watching brief.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project services wish to thank A.W. Phoenix and Sons for funding the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Steve Haynes coordinated the work and Dave Start edited this report. Jim Bonnor, the Boston District Community Archaeologist provided information from the relevant parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Manager: Steve Haynes  
Site Assistant: Fiona Walker  
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner  
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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)

## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

Numbers prefixed with B are the primary reference numbers used by the Boston

District Community Archaeologist.

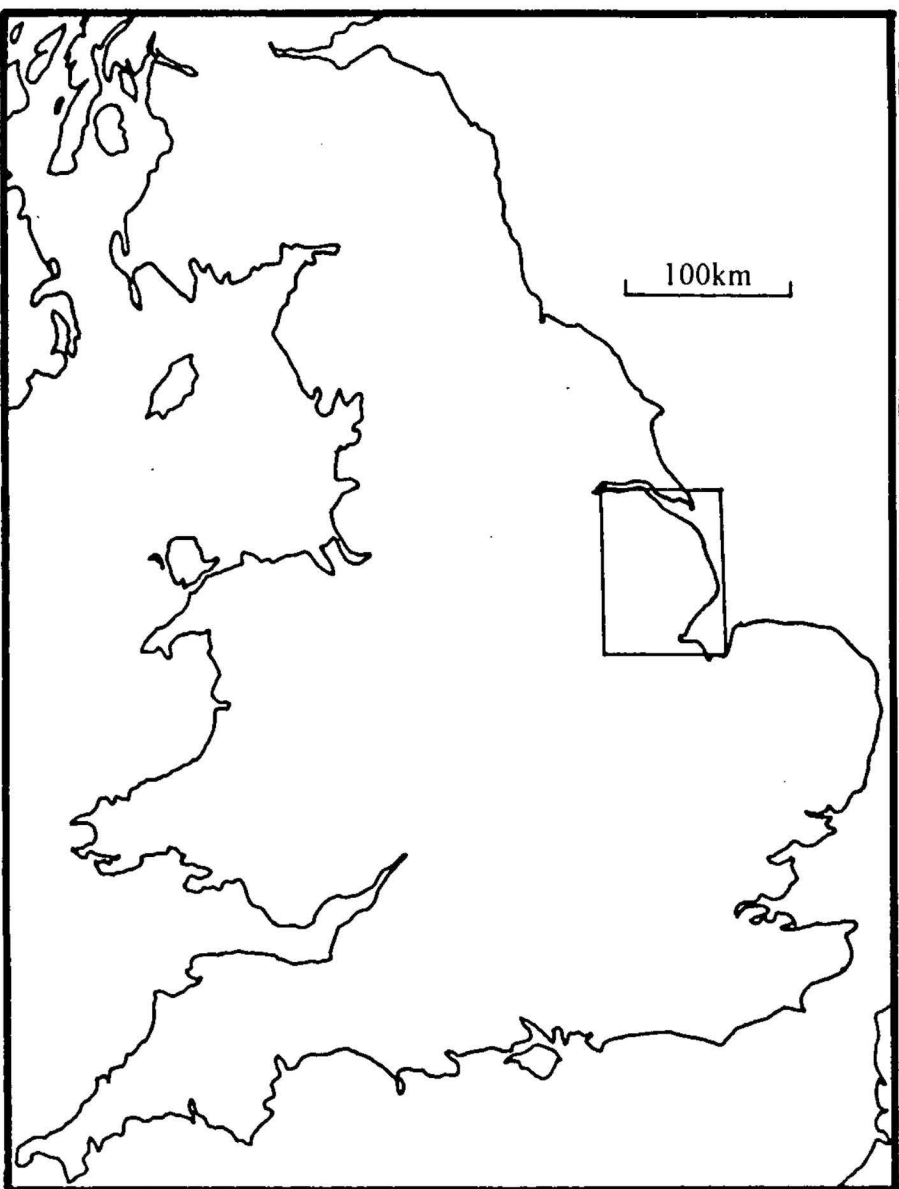
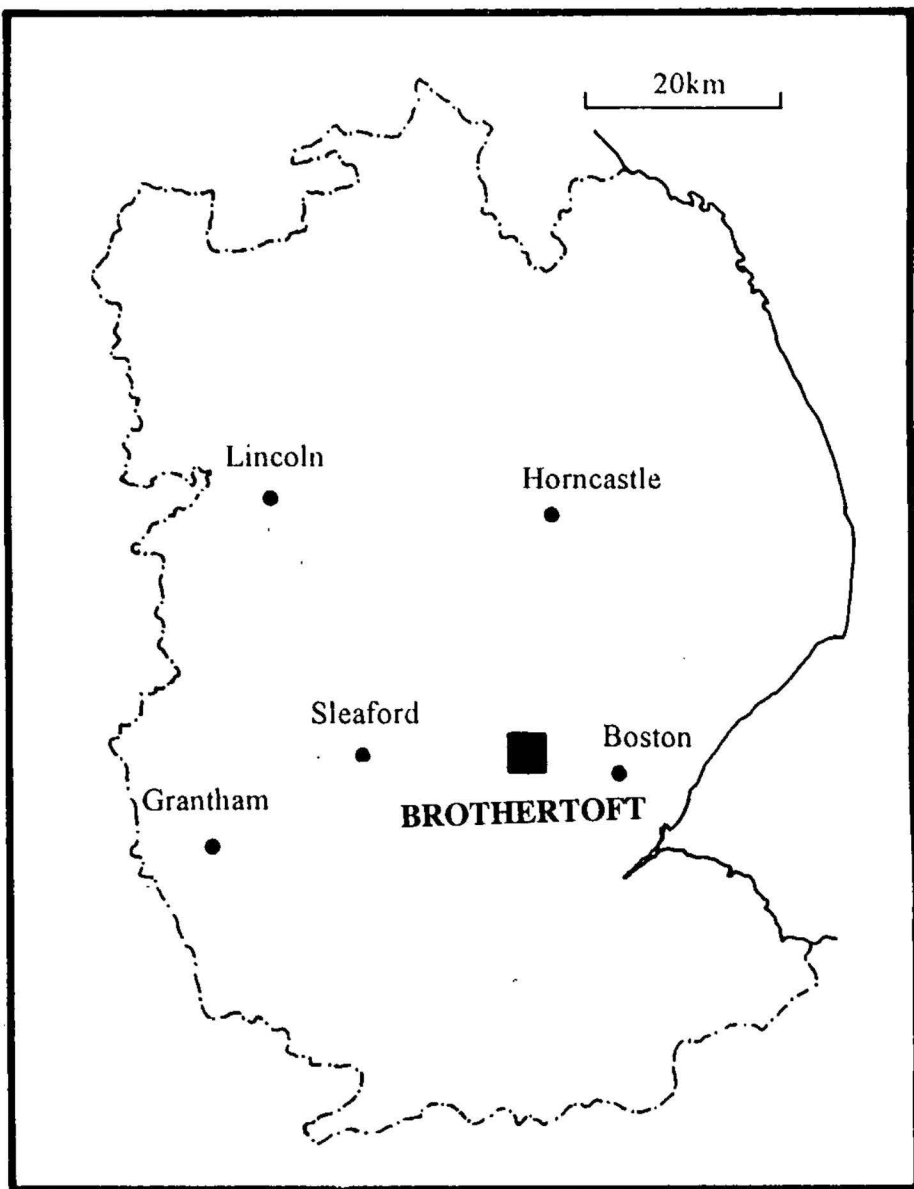


Fig. 1 General Location Plan

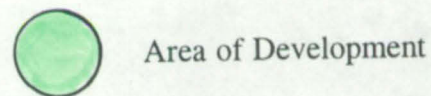
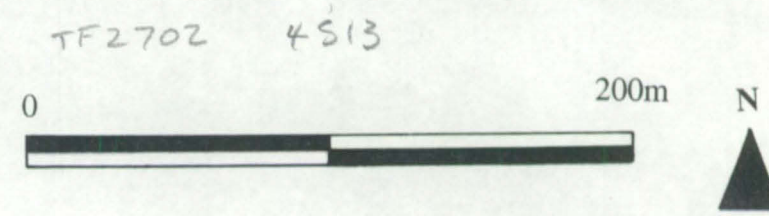
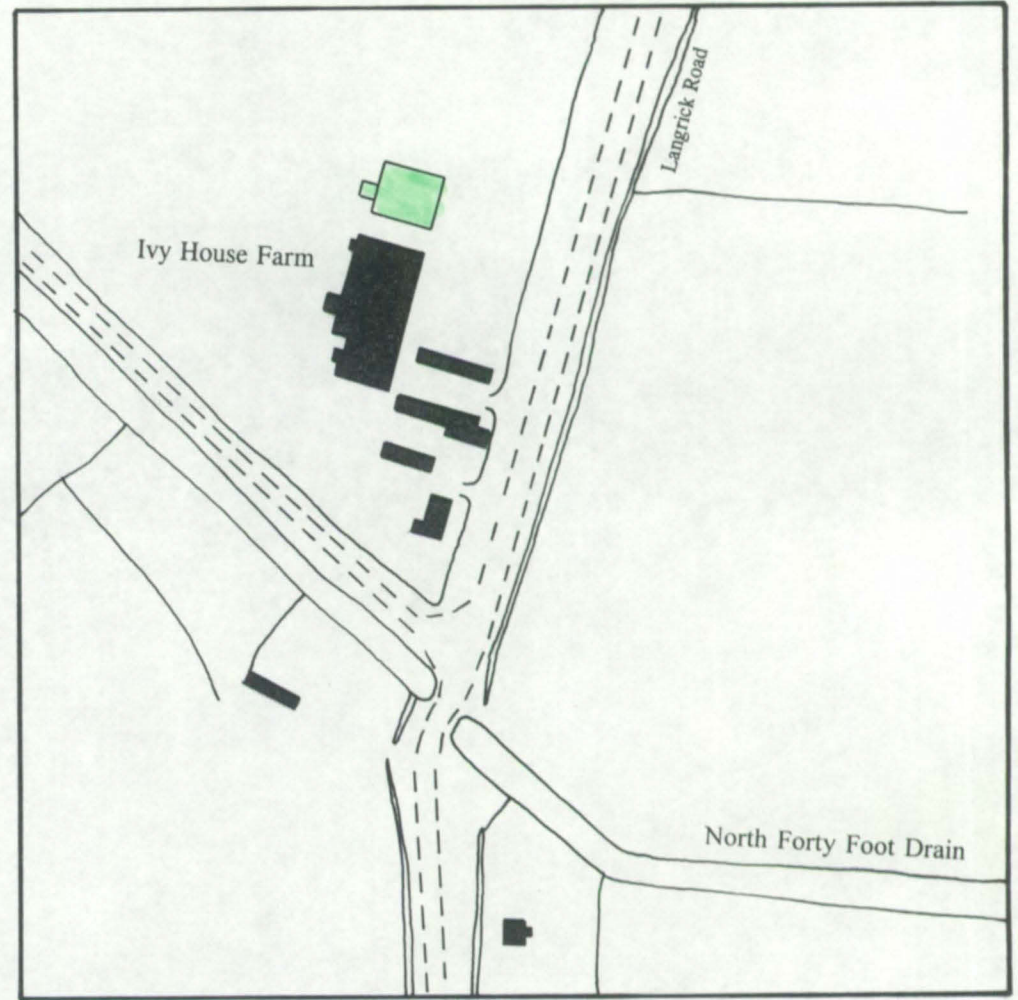
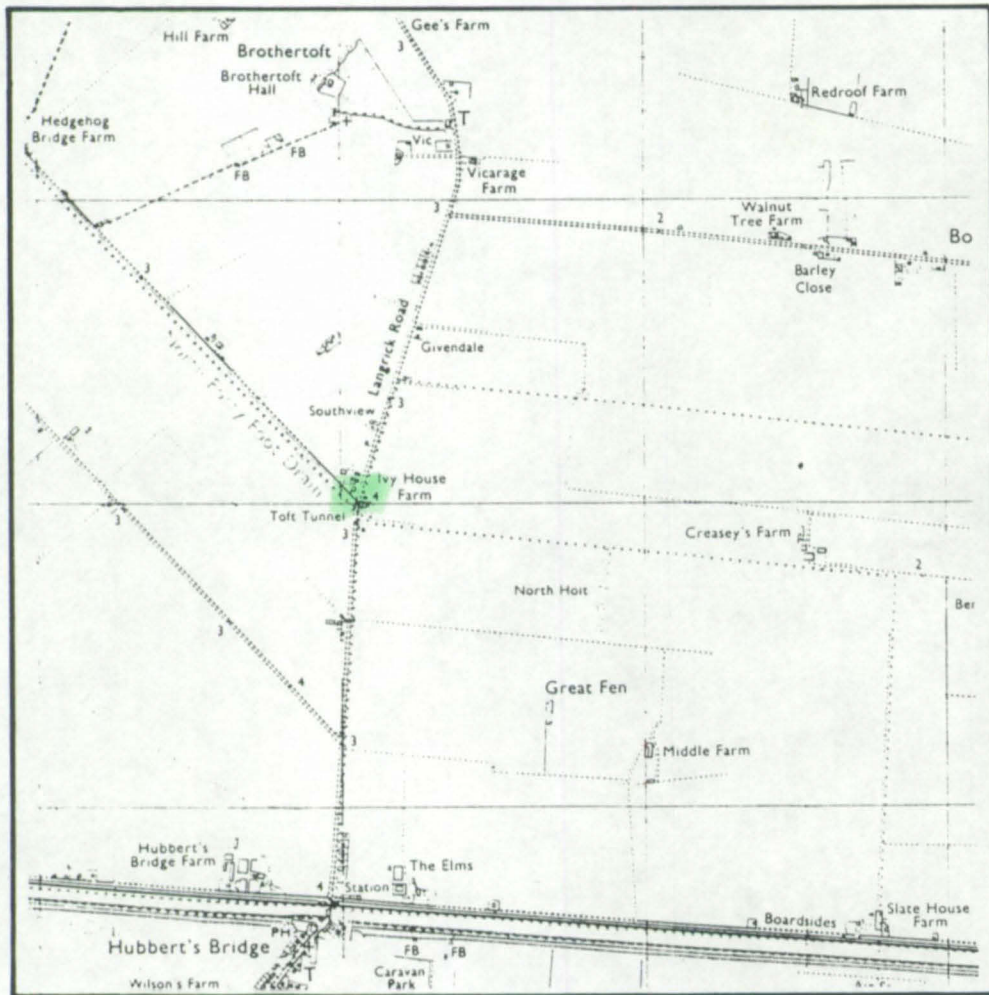


Fig. 2 Site Location Plan



Fig. 3 Location of Recorded Sections

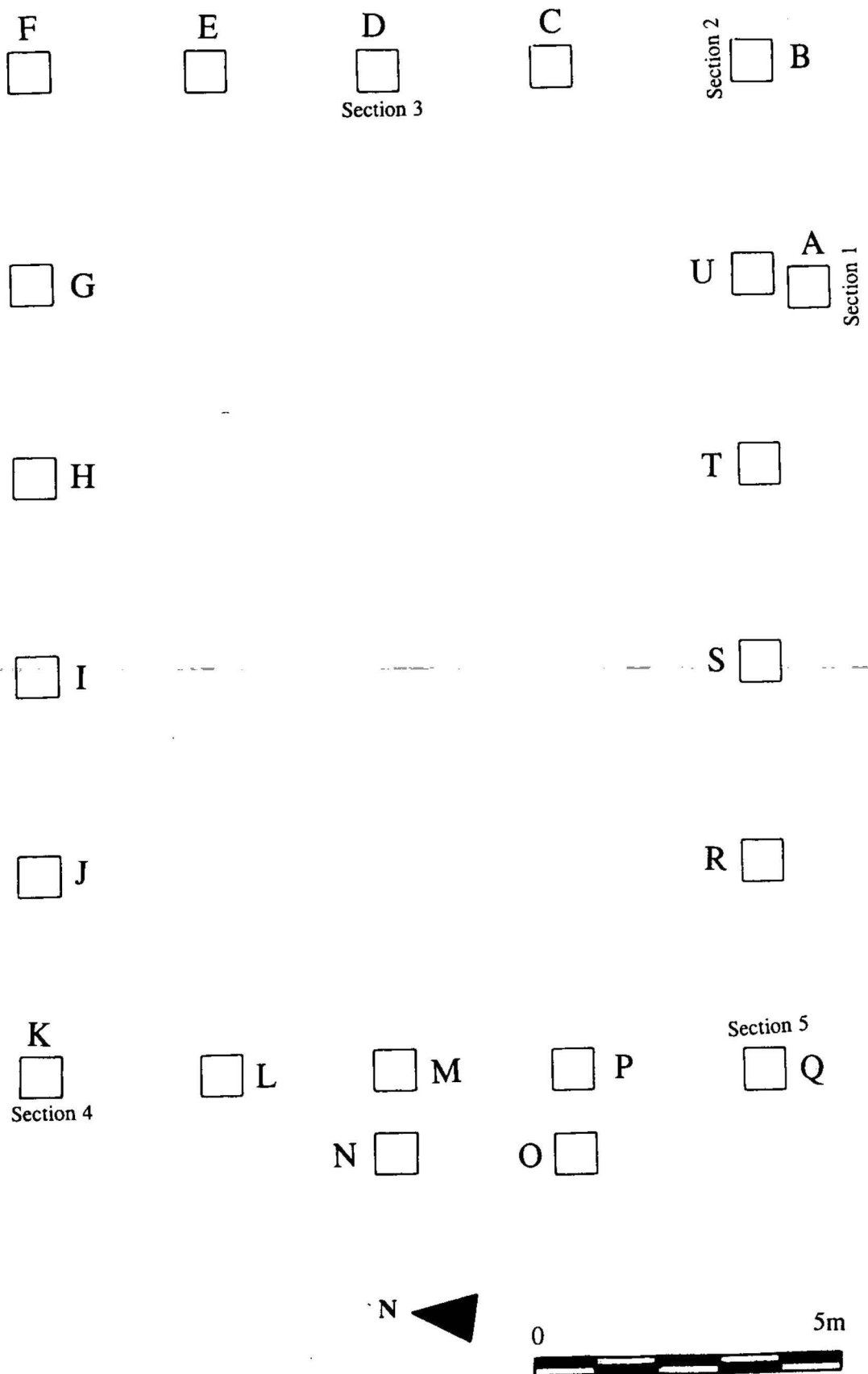
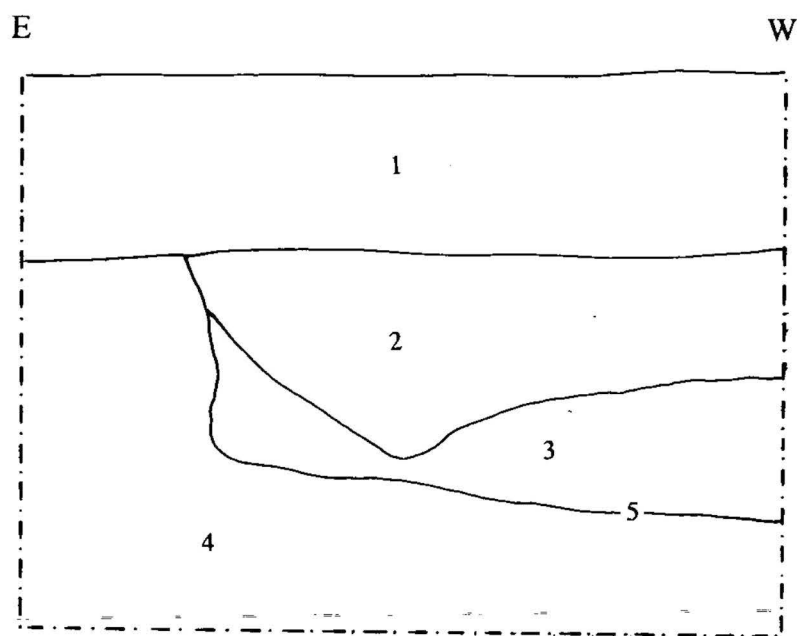


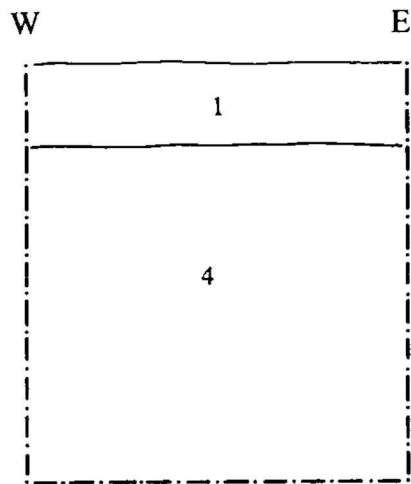
Fig. 4 Section 1



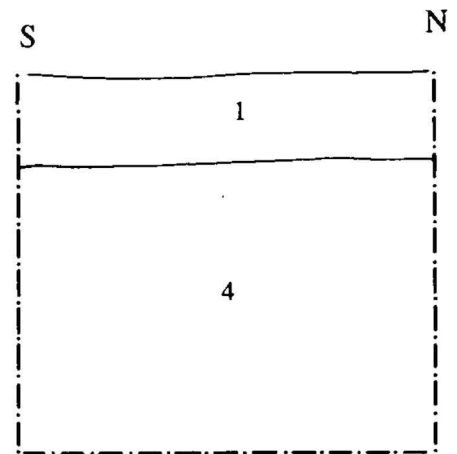
Section 1 is the north facing section  
of Pit A



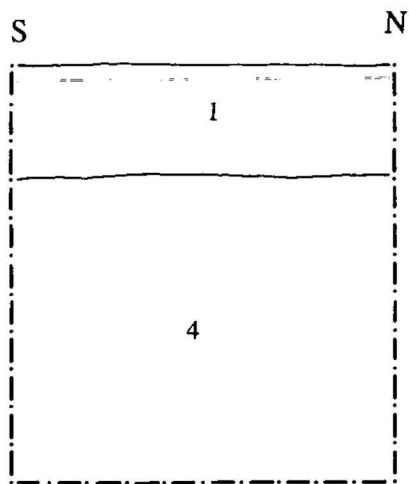
Fig. 5 Sections 2, 3, 4 and 5



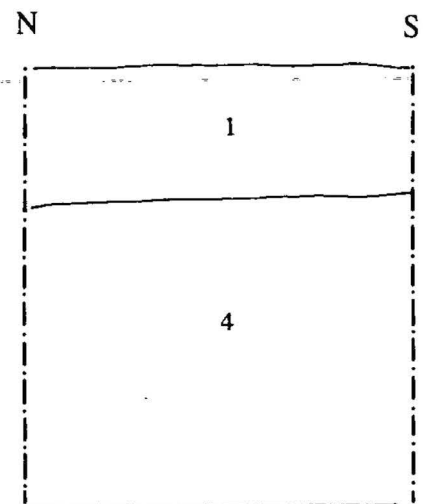
Section 2 is the south facing section of Pit B



Section 3 is the east facing section of Pit D



Section 4 is the east facing section of Pit K



Section 5 is the west facing section of Pit Q



## APPENDIX 1

### Context Summary.

Context	Description	Interpretation
1	Mid grey brown silt	Topsoil
2	Yellow brown silt	Fill of 5
3	Mid grey brown silt	Fill of 5
4	Yellow brown silt	Natural deposit
5	?Linear cut	Ditch cut

## APPENDIX 2

### The Archive

The archive consists of:

- 5 . . Context records
- 1 . . Photographic record
- 2 . . Scale drawings
- 1 . . Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records are currently kept at:

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

A.P.S. project code: BCS94