

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
OF A DEVELOPMENT AT  
95 LIQUORPOND STREET,  
BOSTON,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(LPS95)**



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES

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OF A DEVELOPMENT AT  
95 LIQUORPOND STREET,  
BOSTON,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
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TF 32570 43712

Work Undertaken For  
Charles Hunt Builder

September 1995

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## 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of two dwellings at 95 Liqueorpond Street, Boston, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation for the foundations.*

*Development at Liqueorpond Street affects an area containing archaeological remains dating from the medieval period (1066 - 1500 AD) and later. To the north, though not accurately located, is the site of a Carmelite Friary, built in 1307. Within 70m to the southeast, human burials were found that were possibly associated with a church or chapel that once existed nearby. Early maps that depict Liqueorpond Street indicate the presence of a large pond on the development site before the area was re-used for housing.*

*Natural deposits of blue grey clay were the earliest deposits encountered. A large shallow cut filled with 19th century debris may indicate the edge of the pond as depicted in an early plan of Boston. A circular brick cistern and a deposit of clayey silt was observed that are associated with relatively recent buildings. Pottery, glass and an 1885 farthing were retrieved during the investigation.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Background

On the 21st June 1995, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of two dwellings at 95 Liqueorpond Street, Boston, Lincolnshire. Approval for the proposed development was sought through the submission of planning application number B06/0015/94. Permission was granted subject to a standard negative condition for archaeological works. The archaeological

work was commissioned by Charles Hunt Builder, 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

Boston is situated 45km southeast of Lincoln and approximately 7km from the northwest coast of The Wash, among the fens of south Lincolnshire. Bisected by the River Witham, the town is located in Boston District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). Situated on the west bank of the Witham, Liqueorpond Street is aligned east to west and lies about 250m west of Haven Bridge (Fig. 2).

Lying at a height of c. 13m OD, the development site is located 500m south of the town centre as defined by St. Botolph's parish church. Centred on National Grid Reference TF326437, the development site measures 11m x 6m (Fig. 3).

Local soils are the Tanvats Association typical alluvial gley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 319) and Wisbech Association calcareous alluvial gley soils developed in marine alluvium (*ibid.*, 361). Beneath this marine alluvium is glacial drift that was deposited in a geological basin between the Lincolnshire Wolds and the East Anglian Heights (Harden 1978, 5). These glacial deposits in turn overlie a solid geology of Jurassic clays.

### 2.3 Archaeological Setting

Liqueorpond Street is located in an area of archaeological activity dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods. Within 200m to the northeast of the development area, though of uncertain location and extent, is the site of a Carmelite Friary (B05/013). Although the

Carmelites had an oratory in Boston by 1293, they acquired, and transferred to, a new site on this, west, side of the river in 1307. At the same time the friars received permission to erect a church and other buildings. Later, in 1350, the friars were given land to extend their house and graveyard. The house was dissolved in about 1538 (Page 1988, 216-7). A recent archaeological investigation at Paddock Grove, 160m to the northeast, revealed reused worked masonry derived from the friary (Archaeological Project Services 1994, 1).

At the Axe and Cleaver on West Street, a well or cistern was discovered during alterations to the public house cellar. Pottery of 12th to 16th century date was recovered from this well (B05/067). Nearby are two half-timbered buildings. Both of these, at 25 and 35 High Street, are 15th century 'hall houses' (B05/074, B05/075 respectively).

Approximately 70m to the southeast of the development site, human burials (B05/039) were discovered during roadworks on Liquorpond Street. Although undated, these bodies lie close to the site of an old church or chapel.

Liquorpond Street first appears on maps in the early 19th century. John Wood's map of 1829 depicts Liquorpond Street with development limited to the south side of the road (Molyneux and Wright 1974, Fig. 6). In the area of the present development there is a large rectangular pond and a brewery is located at the east end of the street. The Ordnance Survey map of 1887 shows the pond to have been filled in and a park area established on the development site (*ibid.*)

Later maps show the presence of two houses on the investigation area that are still present.

### 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

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. Three phases was identified:

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	19th century deposits
Phase 3	Modern deposits

#### 5.1 Phase 1 Natural deposits

A single deposit of blueish grey clay (Context 1) was encountered over the whole of the investigation area.

#### 5.2 Phase 2 19th century deposits

Cut into phase 1 deposits was a possible circular feature (Context 6). Only partly

exposed, this was at least 6m long and 0.6m deep and contained a fill of dark grey clayey silt (Context 5).

Overlying cut feature 6 was a dark greyish brown clayey silt deposit (Context 4). Identified as a dumped or make-up layer this was 0.14m thick and contained a clay pipe and bottle of probable Victorian date.

Located to the east of the development area was a circular brick structure (Context 3). Forming a beehive shape this was 1.5m deep and 1.27m in diameter.

### 5.3 Phase 3 Modern deposits

Sealing most layers was a light grey brown clayey silt (Context 1). This was identified as the present topsoil and contained a farthing of 1885.

Overlying brick structure 3 was a small area of concrete, probably a path, associated with houses adjacent to the site (Context 7).

## 6. DISCUSSION

Phase 1 deposits, represented by natural blue clay, suggest alluvial activity. In particular the blue clay is characteristic of deposition in still water.

The principle cut feature (Phase 2) may represent the edge of the pond depicted in the map of Boston of 1829. This is overlain by layers that are associated with make-up deposits, indicating an attempt at land stabilisation. A brick structure may be the remnants of a water cistern.

Modern deposits typify the recent use of the land. Topsoil and a garden path are the principle features of this activity.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations at 95 Liquorpond Street, Boston revealed that beneath a modern topsoil and a concrete path, deposits of 19th century date survive to a depth of approximately 1m. These deposits indicate change in land use from a pond and an attempt at land stabilisation. Blue clay of alluvial origin constitutes the natural deposits of the development site.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project services wish to thank Charles Hunt Builder who commissioned 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: Mark Sansom  
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner  
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

Numbers prefixed with 'B' are the primary  
reference numbers used by the Boston  
District Community Archaeologist.



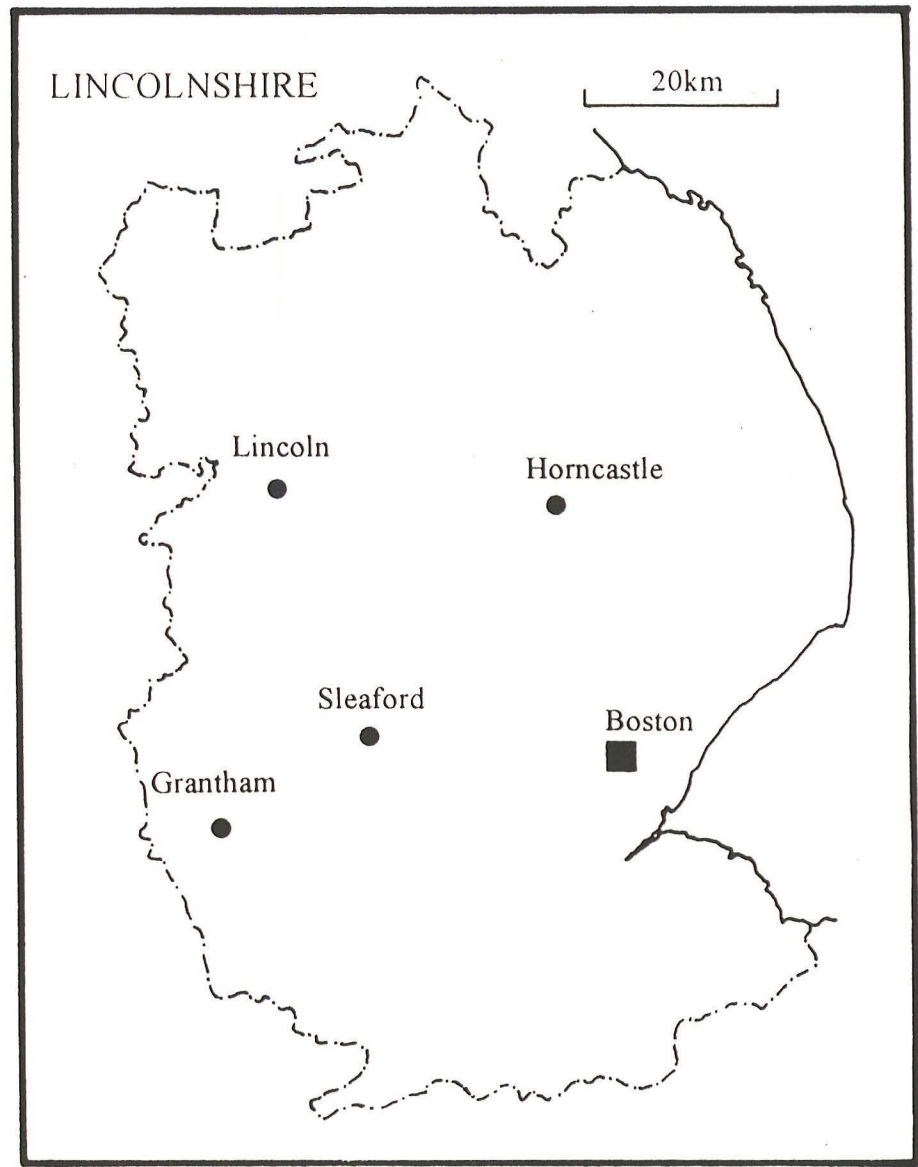
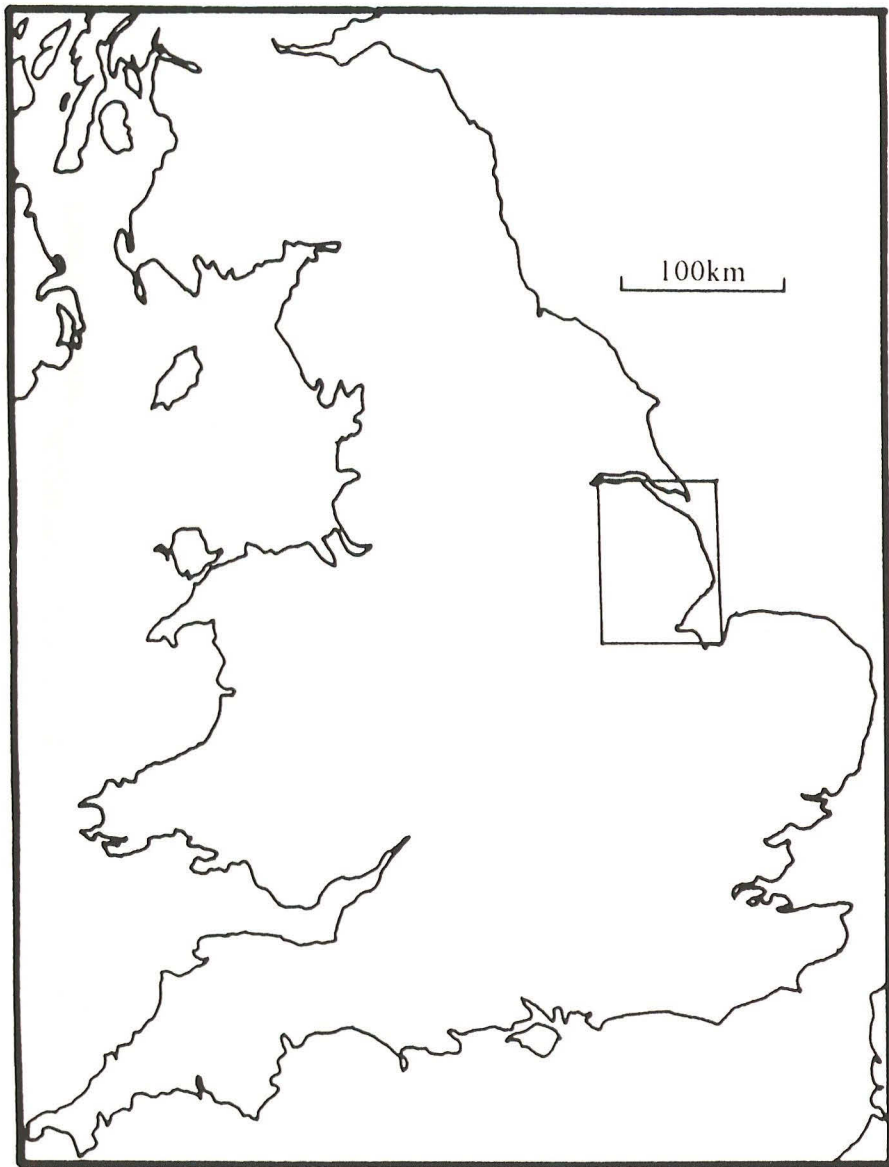
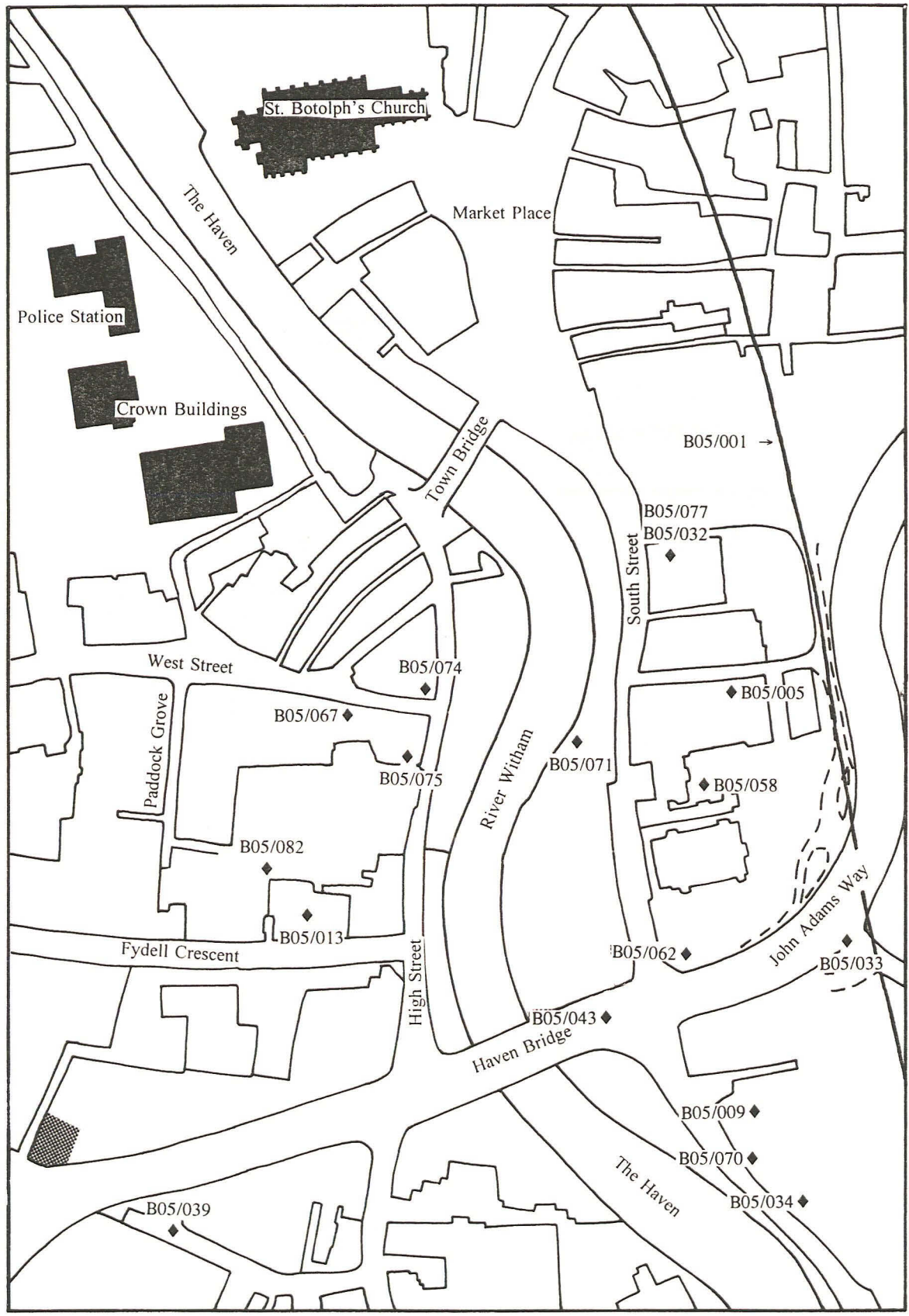


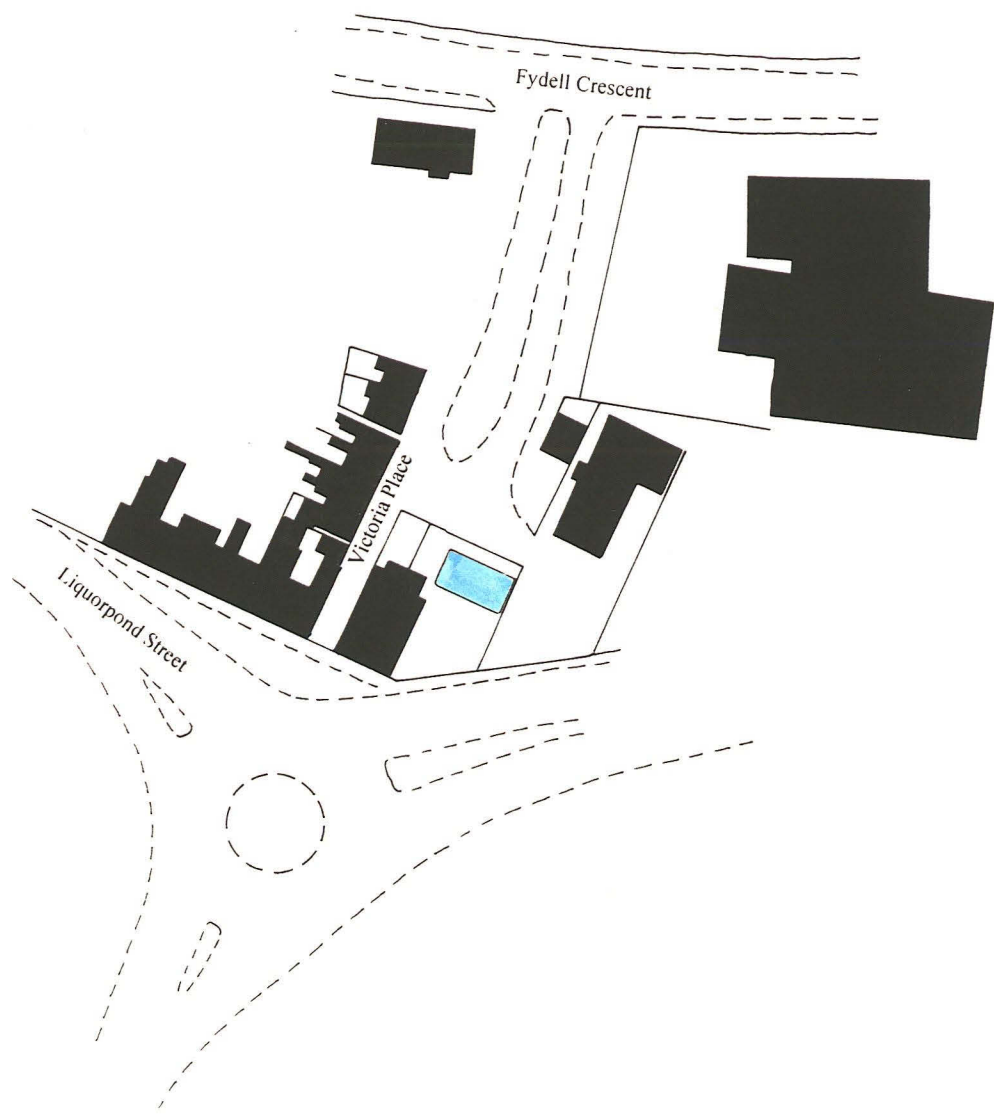
Fig. 1 General Location Plan

Fig. 2 Site Location Plan



 Investigation Area

Fig. 3 Area of Development




 Area of Development

Fig. 4 Location of Drawn Section

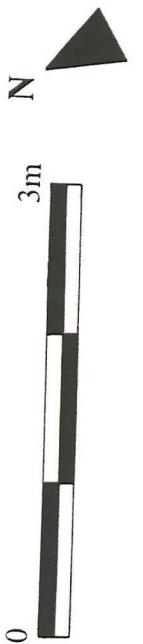
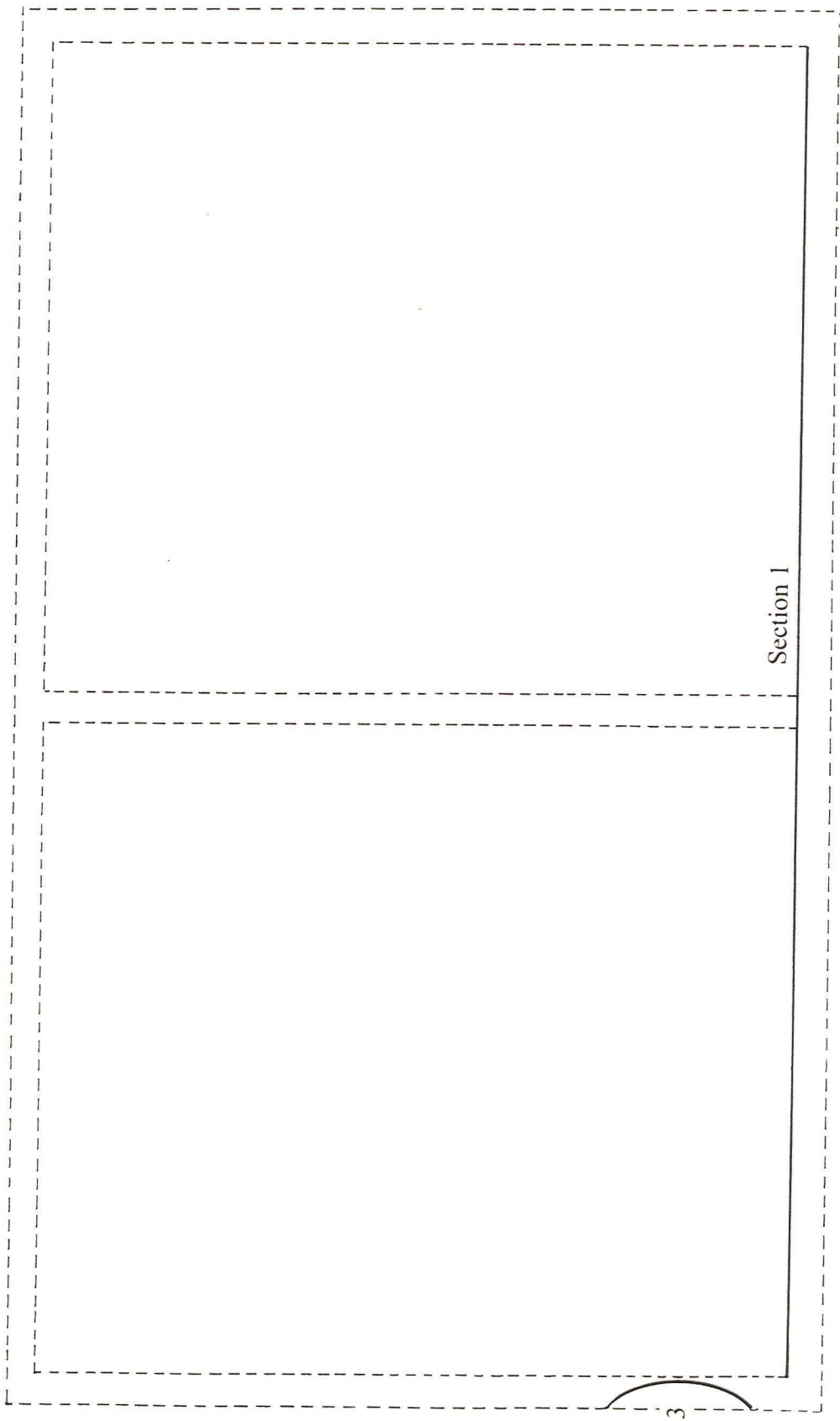
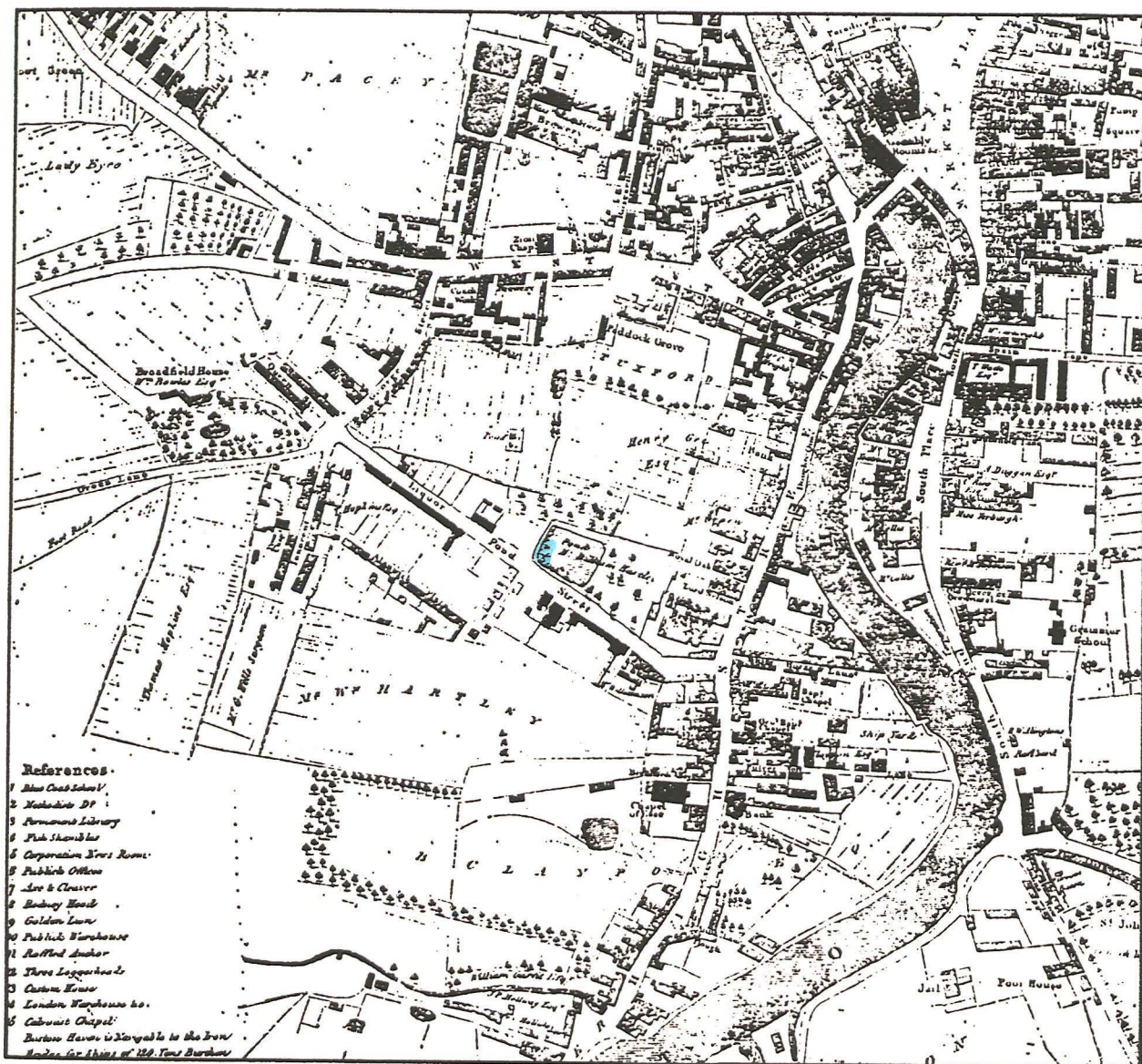


Fig. 5 Section 1



Fig. 6 Extract from Wood's Plan of Boston 1829



Area of Development

## APPENDIX 1

### Context Summary

<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
1	Light grey brown clayey silt	Topsoil
2	Blue grey clay	Natural deposit
3	Circular brick structure	Water cistern
4	Dark grey brown clayey silt	Make-up layer
5	Dark grey clayey silt	Fill of 6
6	Circular ? cut	Possible pond
7	Concrete	Path

## APPENDIX 2

### The Archive

The archive consists of:

- 7 . . . Context Records
- 1 . . . Photographic Record
- 2 . . . 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	122.95
Archaeological Project Services project code	LPS 95