

negative

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF A DEVELOPMENT AT
THE REAR OF 32 HIGH STREET,
BOSTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BHS94)**

Work Undertaken For
Wolfspeed Designs

January 1995



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

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	2
7.	Conclusions	2
8.	Acknowledgements	3
9.	Personnel	3
10.	Bibliography	3
11.	Abbreviations	3

Appendices

1	Context Summary
2	The Archive

Oct 94

TF 327 439

List of Figures

Figure 1 . . . General Location Plan

Figure 2 . . . Site Location Plan

Figure 3 . . . Development Location Plan

Figure 4 . . . Area of Development

Figure 5 . . . Sections 1 and 2

Plate 1 General view of the site

Plate 2 Section 2

1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of an extension to the rear of existing buildings at 32 High Street, Boston, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation for the foundations.

Development at 32 High Street affects an area containing archaeological remains dating from the medieval period (1066 - 1500 AD) and later. Close by, though not accurately located, is the site of a Carmelite Friary, built in 1307. Two medieval half-timbered buildings survive within 50m to the south and west. Medieval pottery has been recovered from an old well 50m to the west and from building sites 160m to the northwest.

A deposit of broken brick and mortar was observed. This represents redeposited material used as a make up layer for relatively recent buildings.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

On the 25th October 1994, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of an extension to the rear of 32 High Street, Boston, Lincolnshire. Approval for the proposed development was sought through the submission of planning application number B06/0157/94. Permission was granted subject to a standard negative condition for archaeological works. The archaeological work was commissioned by Wolfsped Designs, 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, High Street is aligned north to south and lies about 160m north of Haven Bridge (Fig. 2).

Lying at a height of *c.* 13m OD, the development site is located 280m south of the town centre defined by St. Botolph's parish church. Centred on National Grid Reference TF327439, the development site measures 3m 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

High Street is located in an area of archaeological activity dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods. In the immediately vicinity 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, 125m to the southwest, 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 260m to the southwest 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.

Pottery has been recovered from development sites in the Lincoln Lane area, about 160m to the northwest of the present investigation area. Although mostly of post-medieval date, these finds have included a complete medieval baluster jug (B05/064).

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 a concrete slab from over the site, trenches were hand excavated to a depth of about 20cm. 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. One phase was identified:

Phase 1 Modern deposits

5.1 Phase 1 Modern deposits

A single deposit of brown sandy silt with frequent fragments of broken brick and mortar (1) was encountered over the whole of the investigation area. Pottery recovered from this deposit is dateable to the 19th century.

6. DISCUSSION

Phase 1 deposits represent build up materials that were probably put down in to attempt to level the land and to provide a firmer foundation for buildings. Pottery associated with this appears to be 19th century in date indicating that this deposit is relatively recent.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations at 32 High Street, Boston revealed that beneath a modern concrete raft that had previously covered the area, recent build up deposits

constitute the next 0.20m of deposits at the site. The depth of the foundation trenches was insufficient to exceed the limit of this modern disturbance. Consequently, archaeological deposits of medieval date, believed to exist in the area, were not disturbed by the development.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project services wish to thank Wolfsped Designs 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: Rene Mouraille
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archaeological Project Services, 1994
Archaeological Watching Brief at 35 Paddock Grove, Boston, Lincolnshire
(unpublished report)

Harden, G, 1978 *Medieval Boston and its Archaeological Implications*

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)

Page, W., 1988 *A History of Lincolnshire*

II, The Victoria History of the Counties of England (Folkestone)

11. ABBREVIATIONS

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

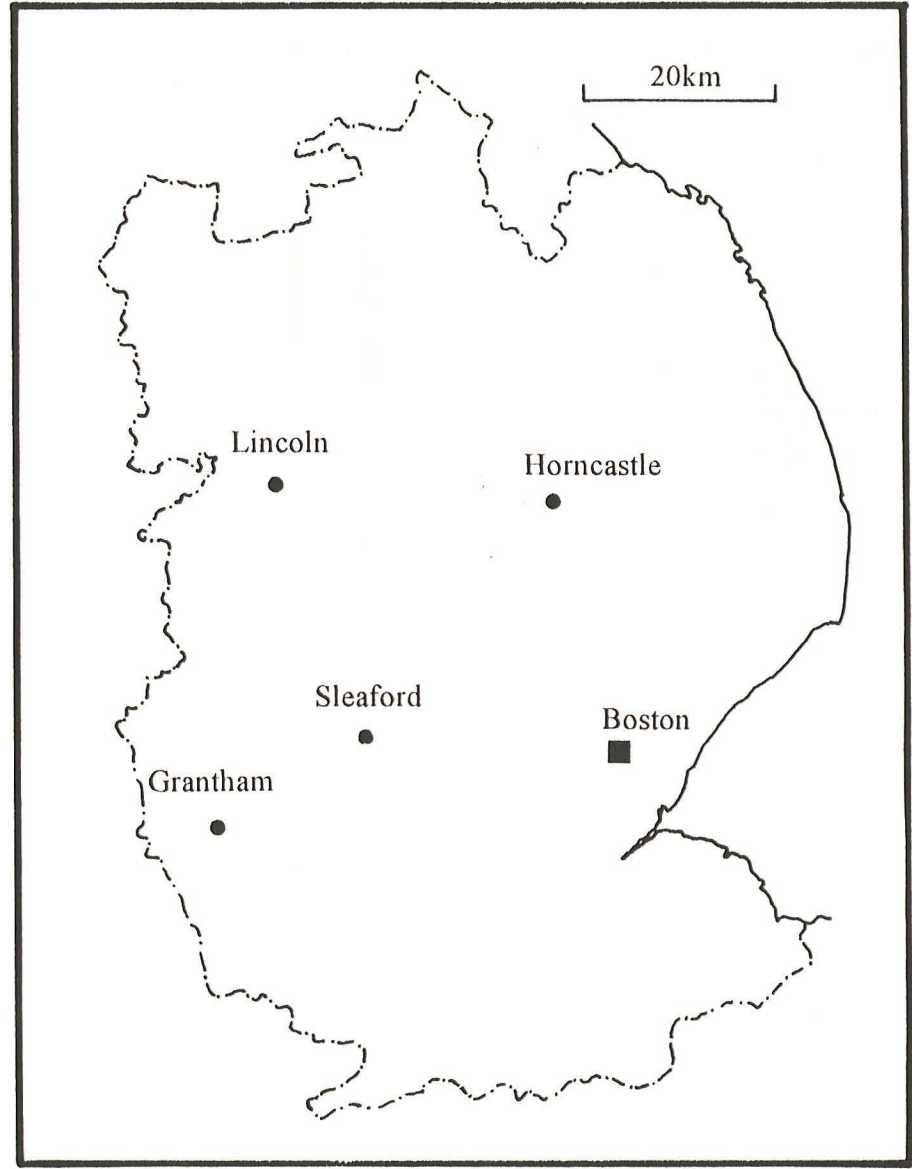
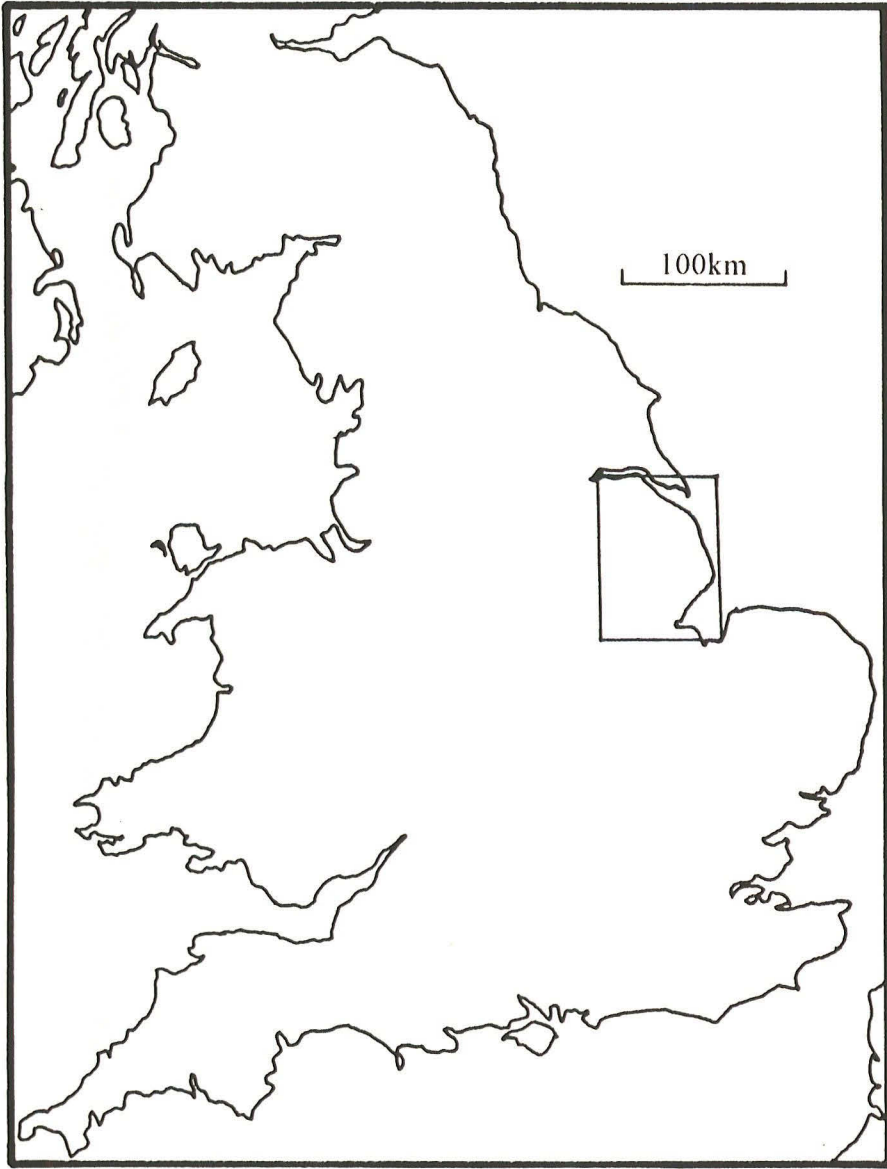
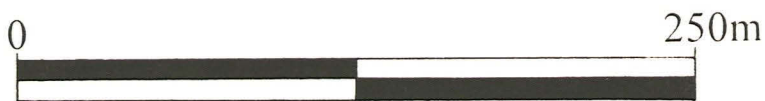
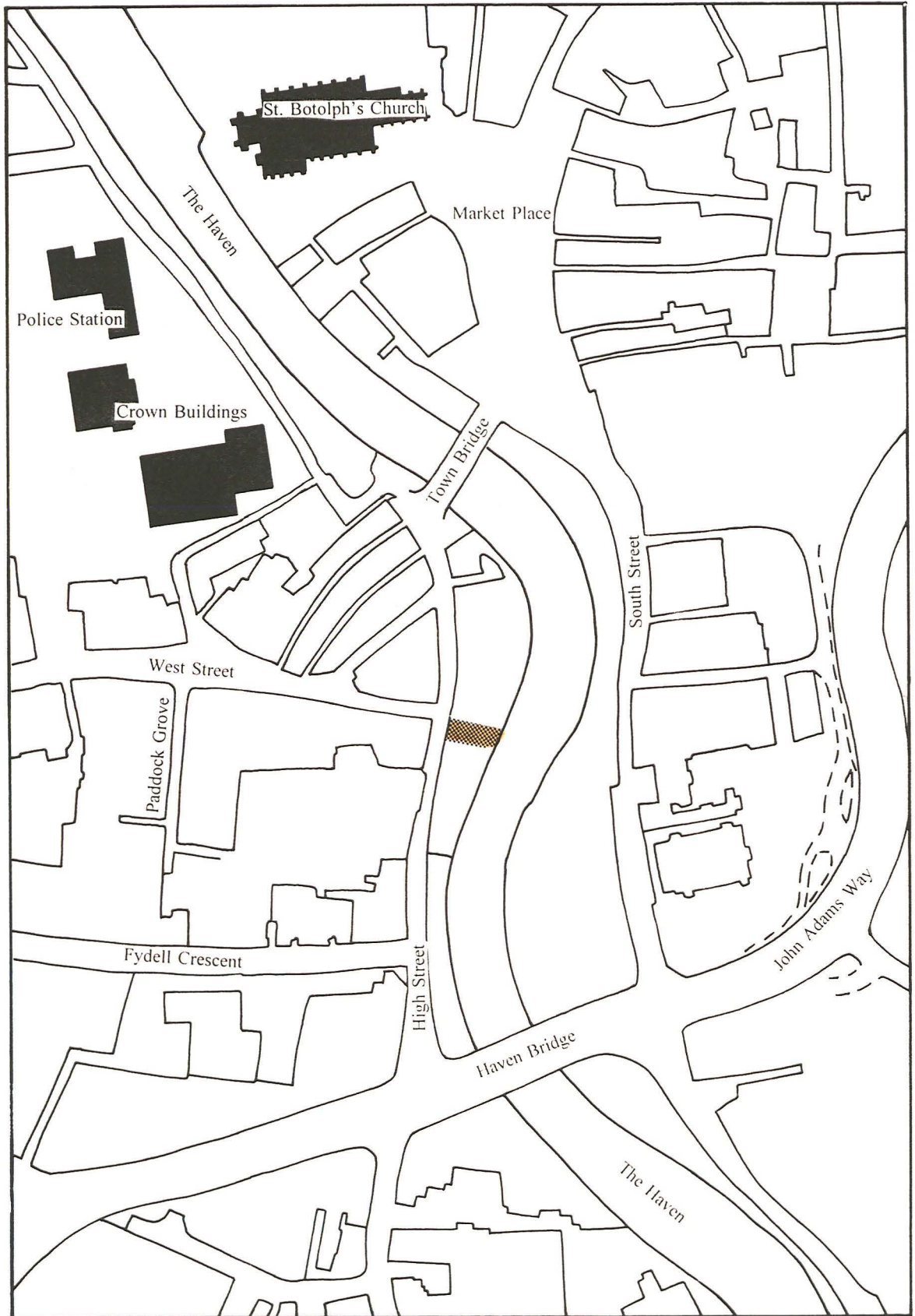


Fig. 1 GENERAL LOCATION PLAN

Fig. 2 Site Location Plan



 AREA OF DEVELOPMENT

Fig. 3 Development Location Plan

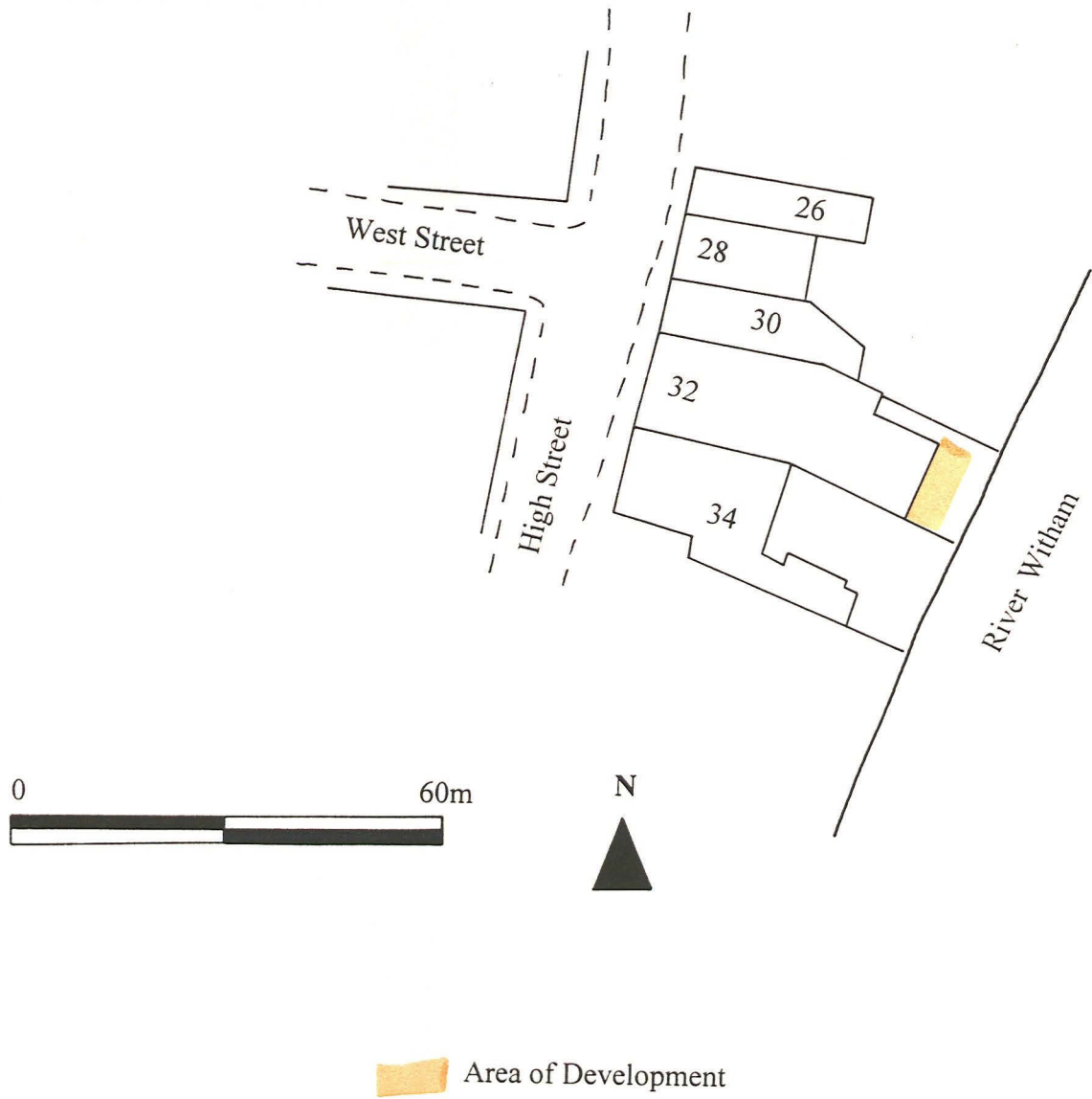


Fig. 4 Area of Development

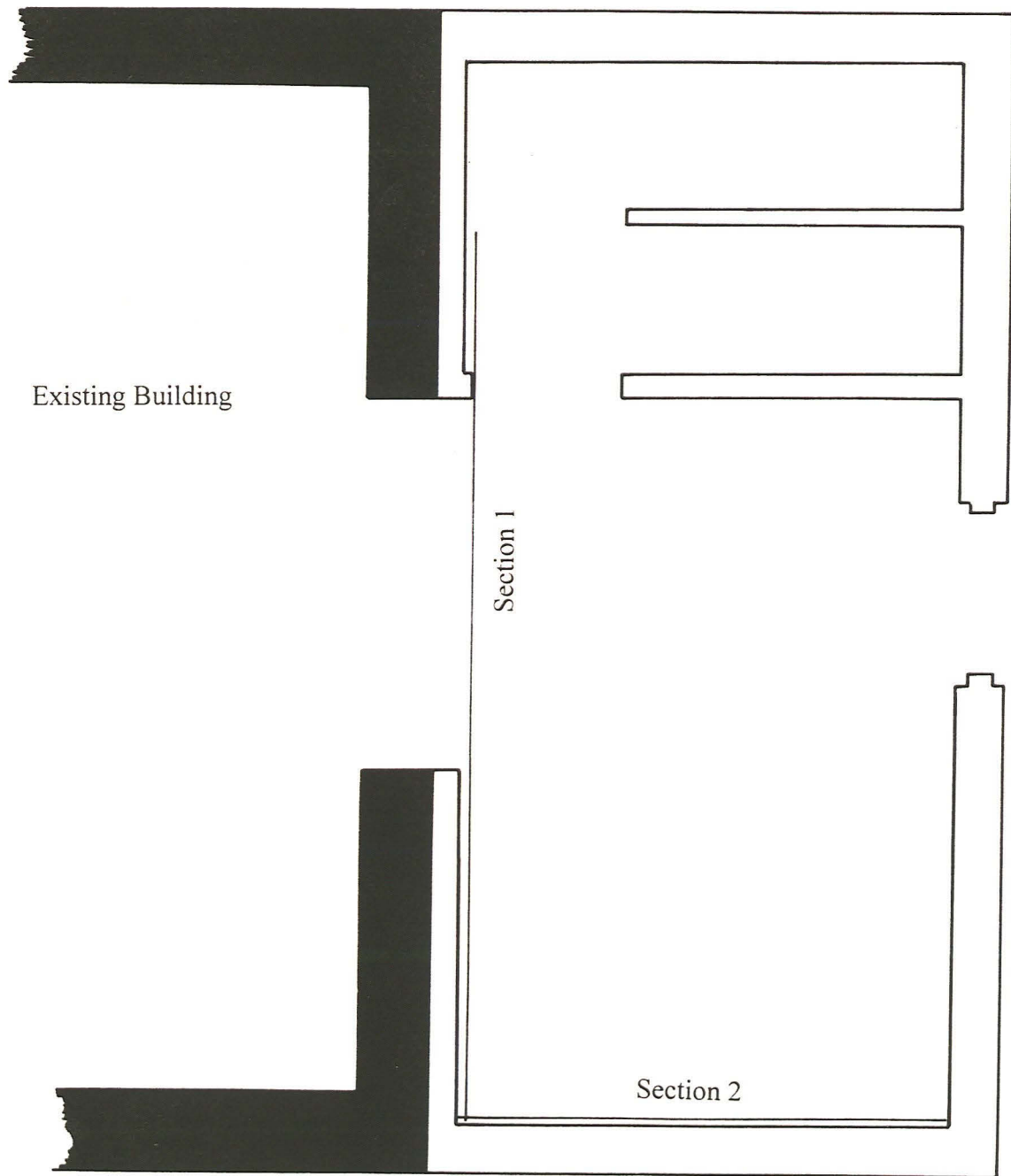
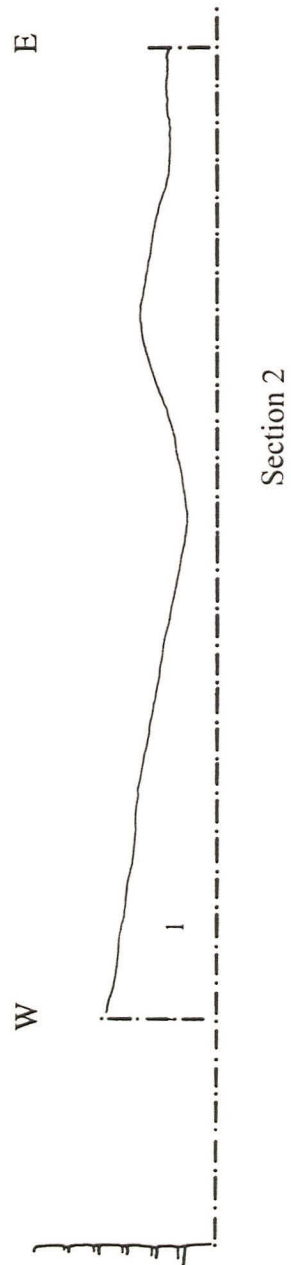
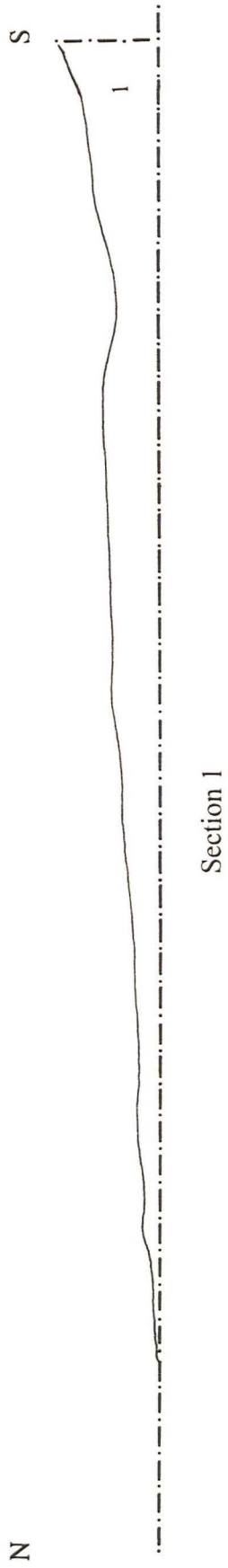


Fig. 5 Sections 1 and 2



2m

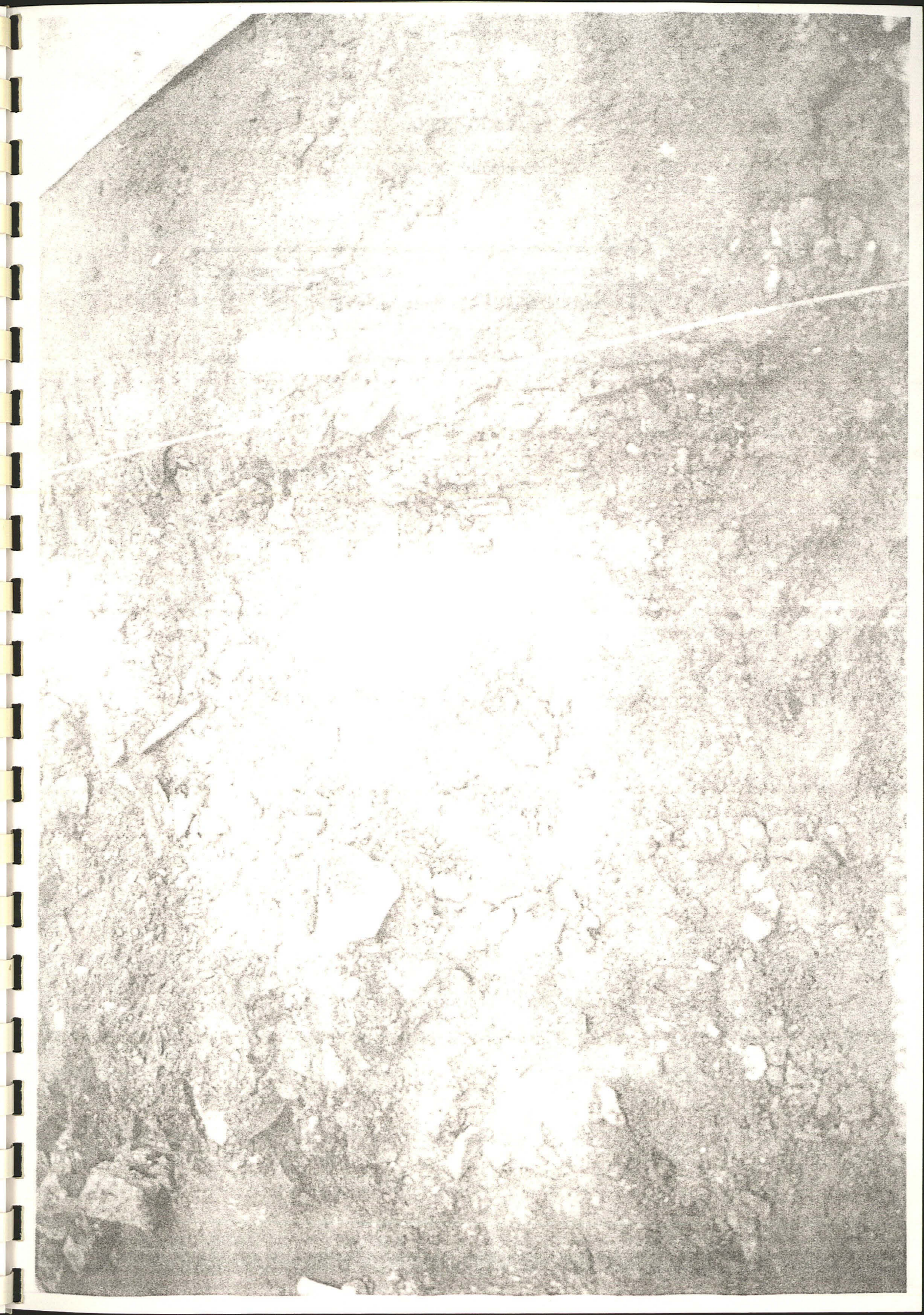
0



Plate 1. General view of the site



Plate 2. Section 2



APPENDIX 1

Context Summary

Context	Description	Interpretation
1	Loose brown sandy silt with frequent broken brick and mortar	Build up layer

APPENDIX 2

The Archive

The archive consists of:

- 1 . . . Context Record
- 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

Archaeological Project Services project code BHS94