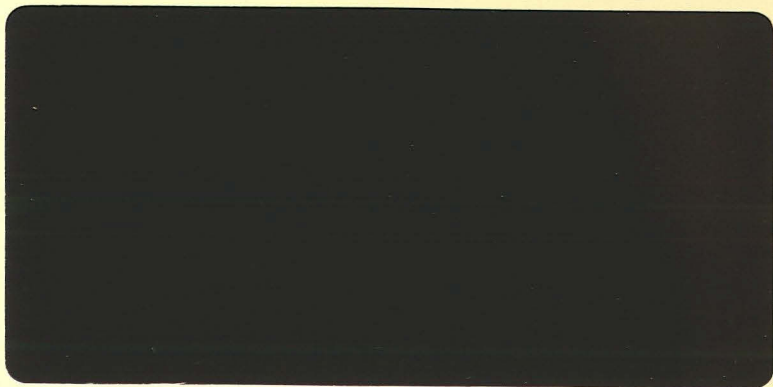


**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND ADJACENT TO
THE HIGH STREET,
SCAMPTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SCH96)**



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND ADJACENT TO
THE HIGH STREET,
SCAMPTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SCH96)**

Work Undertaken For
Mr B Foulston

November 1996

Report Compiled by N.A Herbert

A.P.S. Report No. 39/96

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches for a single dwelling and garage at High Street, Scampton, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the foundations.

Prehistoric archaeology in the vicinity is limited to finds of neolithic (4000-2200 B.C.) and Early Bronze Age (2200-1800 B.C.) axes. Romano-British (A.D. 50 - 410) activity includes a major Roman road due south of the site and a large Roman villa to the southeast.

Medieval activity (A.D. 1066 - 1500) is recorded in historical documents dating to the twelfth centuries. Earthworks to the north of St. John the Baptist church are likely to be of a similar date. Previous archaeological investigations on land immediately south of the present development site revealed several undated ditches and artefacts of Roman and medieval date.

Excavation of the foundation trenches revealed a sequence of natural, medieval and modern deposits. Cutting a series of natural sand and clay deposits was an east - west ditch. This had been filled by a deposit containing medieval pottery and animal bone. Pottery of Roman date was also found in the ditch. Sealing this earlier sequence was a possible buried agricultural soil, containing fragments of medieval pottery and animal bone. A layer of modern construction debris covered the surface of the site. A fragment of 18th or 19th century pottery was also recovered.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

On the 7th October 1996, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of foundations of a development at High Street, Scampton, Lincolnshire (National Grid Reference SK 949 792). Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application 96/P/0253. Permission was granted subject to a standard negative condition for archaeological recording. The archaeological work was commissioned by Mr B Foulston and was carried out by Archaeological Project Services in accordance with a specification for works approved by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Scampton lies 9km north of Lincoln and 17km southeast of Gainsborough (Fig. 1). Spanning the scarp edge of the Jurassic limestone ridge, the parish dips from c. 64m OD in the east to 7m OD onto clay lowlands in the west. The site is located at the foot of the scarp slope at approximately 24m OD on land that declines gently to the west.

The cliff edge provided part of the eastern limit of Lake Humber. This late glacial body of water initially reached an elevation of 33m OD (Kent 1980, 125) and would, therefore, have covered the present investigation site. The location of the late glacial lake is, in part, marked by the present Trent Vale. In addition to the Trent, several other rivers flow through this vale, including the upper Witham, the Brant and the Till. Scampton village is situated at the eastern edge of the wide, clay-filled Till valley (Robinson 1993, 8).

The site is located approximately 300m west of Manor Farm and 300m due south of St.

John the Baptist's church. Centred on National Grid Reference SK 949 792, the site of the development covers approximately 90 square metres (Fig. 2).

Local soils comprise Wickham 2 association fine loamy over clayey typical stagnogley soils and Banbury association stony fine and coarse loamy ferritic brown earths (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 103, 351).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Scampton village lies in an area of archaeological activity dating from the prehistoric to post-medieval period.

Prehistoric activity is represented by discoveries within the parish of a neolithic stone axe and an Early Bronze Age flat axe.

The Roman road, Ermine Street, which linked London and York, forms the eastern boundary of the parish. Branching off from Ermine Street, heading northwest and passing approximately 750m south of the development area, is Till Bridge Lane. This highway was also a Roman road (Margary 1973, road No. 28) and offered an alternative route to York by avoiding the Humber crossing. Southeast of the development site and north of Till Bridge Lane, located at the top of the western scarp of the Jurassic ridge, is the site of an extensive Roman villa. The villa complex was arranged around two courtyards (Whitwell 1970, 82). Following abandonment the site was disturbed by a post-Roman inhumation cemetery. Scatters of Roman pottery have been recorded within 0.5km both northwest and east of the complex. Situated southwest of the village is a rectangular enclosure of probable Roman date (Everson 1991).

During the early medieval period, land at Scampton was granted to Bardney Abbey

and the Knights Templar by Gilbert de Gant. This gift to Bardney was confirmed with the addition of a mill, and the grant to the Templars was increased, by his son Walter de Gant. Walter's son, Gilbert, made a grant to Norwich Priory and also confirmed a large grant by one of his tenants, Ralph Fitz Gilbert, to Kirkstead Abbey. Developments were such that Kirkstead Abbey came to hold the lands at Scampton granted to Bardney Abbey, the Knights Templar and Norwich Priory, and as such effectively controlled the entire manor. This control was exercised from two farms in Scampton, the East and West Granges. One of these was documented during the 12th century, but both are not conclusively referred to until the 16th century. After the Dissolution, each survived as distinct properties, and were eventually granted to the Duke of Suffolk, Charles Brandon (*ibid.*).

Earthworks located immediately north of St. John the Baptist's church include banks that enclose traces of building platforms and at least two stone foundations, one of which overlies ridge and furrow. These remains may be attributable to Kirkstead's East Grange. It is possible that the church was also contained within these banks (Everson 1991, 45).

Alterations to St. John the Baptist's church, including the demolition and rebuilding of the west tower, were made during the 18th century. Subsequent restoration works carried out during the second half of the 19th century replaced the north aisle and rebuilt the chancel. The windows of the north aisle are thought to be from Scampton Hall (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 625).

Located in a field to the east of Scampton House Farm are the remains of the 17th century gateway to Scampton Hall. The hall itself was probably built for Sir John Bolle after 1603 (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 625).

During the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the rector of the parish, Cayley Illingworth, instigated topographical alterations. He created a small park east of the church by rerouting the road that led to adjacent villages around the west and south sides of the Old Rectory (built during the 17th century), and enclosed the remainder of these grounds in a belt of tree plantation.

Surviving earthworks within the park have been disturbed by new housing and the repeated realignment of roads. The present thoroughfare was realigned and constructed in 1956, the former route having taken it around the northwest side of the Rectory. Just east of the investigation area is a north-south linear earthwork that continues north of High Street. This may represent the original line of the road that Illingworth rerouted to bound the park at its western extent. Where the B1398 climbs the scarp slope of the limestone ridge, the road was originally wider than seen today. The width was reduced during the 19th century when new buildings were constructed on the north and south sides of the street (Everson 1991).

Located west of Middle Street, near to the villa was a spring known in the 19th century as St. Pancras Well. Next to it was a Christian chapel, well chapel or hermitage, also dedicated to St Pancras, that was documented during the 12th century. It is possible that the chapel cemetery is that recorded as overlying the Roman villa.

The place-name Scampton derives from Old Norse and may mean 'short *tun*' or '*Skammi's tun*', '*Skammi*' being a nickname and '*tun*' meaning village (Ekwall 1974, 406).

Previous investigations on land immediately to the south of the present site

revealed several ditches and gullies. These were undated, though artefacts of Roman and medieval date were recovered from the site (Archaeological Project Services 1995, 4-5).

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as outlined in the specification for works, were to locate and record archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Trenches were opened to a depth of between 0.6m and 0.7m using a mechanical excavator. The sides of the trenches were then examined and cleaned to identify any archaeological features. 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. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. A photographic record was also compiled.

5. RESULTS

Finds recovered from the deposits identified during the watching brief were examined and a date assigned where possible. Records of the deposits and features identified during the watching brief were also examined. Phasing was assigned based on artefact dating and the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. A list of all contexts with interpretations appears as Appendix 1. Three phases were identified:

- Phase 1 Natural deposits
- Phase 2 Medieval deposits
- Phase 3 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 (006). Visible at the base of the westernmost trenches. Plastic, light blue clay containing frequent sub-angular pebbles (5-10mm). No depth was established. Natural geological layer.

Deposit (005). Sealing natural deposit (006) and visible at the base of most foundation trenches. Loose, light reddish-yellow coarse sand containing lenses of flat angular limestone fragments (10-40mm) and occasional charcoal flecks. No depth was established. Natural geological layer.

Phase 2 Medieval deposits

Cut (004). Cutting natural deposit (005). Orientated east - west with linear, regular parallel sides, this feature was only exposed for 0.9m in plan. Approximately 0.95m wide, no depth established. Possible ditch.

Deposit (003). Filling feature (004) and exposed for 0.9m in plan. Loose, light brown silty sand containing moderate charcoal flecks. Fragments of pottery recovered from this deposit have been dated to the Roman and medieval periods. A single sheep tooth was also retrieved. No depth was established. Upper fill of (004).

Deposit (002). Sealing (003) and exposed in section across the area of investigation. Loose, mid reddish-brown coarse silty sand containing occasional rounded pebbles (5-10mm), moderate charcoal flecks and occasional limestone fragments (15-20cm). The layer has a consistent thickness of 0.4-0.5m and contained fragments of pottery that have been dated to the medieval period. Possible medieval agricultural soil.

Phase 3 Modern deposits

Deposit (001). Sealing deposit (002) and visible across the area of investigation. Consists of loose dark grey brown fine silty sand containing frequent rounded pebbles (5-10cm), moderate limestone fragments (1-30cm) and modern rubbish. Exposed to a variable depth of c. 0.1-0.3m. Construction deposit.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) were partially revealed during the investigation. Consisting mainly of sands overlying thick lenses of clay, these are likely to have formed as alluvium, perhaps deposited in the late glacial Lake Humber or in the valley of the River Till.

Medieval deposits (Phase 2) included an east - west feature that has been interpreted as a probable ditch. The uppermost fill of this feature contained several fragments of 13th and 14th century Potterhanworth type pottery, suggesting that the feature is of medieval date. A single incisor of an adult sheep was recovered from this context. Two sherds of abraded Roman pottery also retrieved from this deposit are likely to be residual (Appendix 2). Material of Roman date, a fragment of tile, has also previously been found on land immediately to the south. Although the nearest known Roman site is approximately 500m to the southeast, the artefacts from the present and adjacent investigations may tentatively suggest a closer focus of Roman activity.

Sealing the ditch was a thick layer exposed throughout the foundation trenches. This contained several sherds of Potterhanworth type pottery and has been interpreted as a buried agricultural soil. A sheep footbone (metacarpus) displaying distinctive butchery marks was also found within this layer

(Appendix 2).

Modern deposits (Phase 3) consisted of a single layer of silty sand and modern construction debris associated with the development of neighbouring properties. These deposits indicate the recent use of the area of development as a builders storage yard, prior to the excavation of the foundation trenches. A single rim sherd of a black glazed pancheon was recovered from the site surface and has been dated to the late 18th or 19th centuries.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations at Scampton High Street were undertaken because the site fell within an area of suspected medieval archaeological activity. Consequently, it was likely that medieval remains may have been disturbed as a result of the development.

A limited number of archaeological deposits were encountered. Dating evidence indicated that the archaeological activity present at the site was of medieval date. These medieval remains consisted of a ditch and a probable ploughsoil. Encountered approximately 0.3m below the present ground surface, the medieval deposits appeared to have survived in good condition. It is therefore probable that other archaeological deposits elsewhere in the immediate vicinity are similarly well preserved.

Animal bones survived in good condition at the site but no other environmental remains were recognised during the investigation. Probable Roman pottery was also recovered. Taken in association with an artefact of similar date found just to the south, this material may tentatively suggest the proximity of an otherwise unknown Roman site.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to thank Mr B Foulston who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Gary Taylor coordinated the work and Tom Lane edited this report. Hilary Healey identified and reported on the pottery finds, Paul Cope-Faulkner examined and commented on the animal bones.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Manager: Tom Lane
Site Supervisor: Neil Herbert
Illustration: Denise Buckley
Post-excavation Analyst: Neil Herbert

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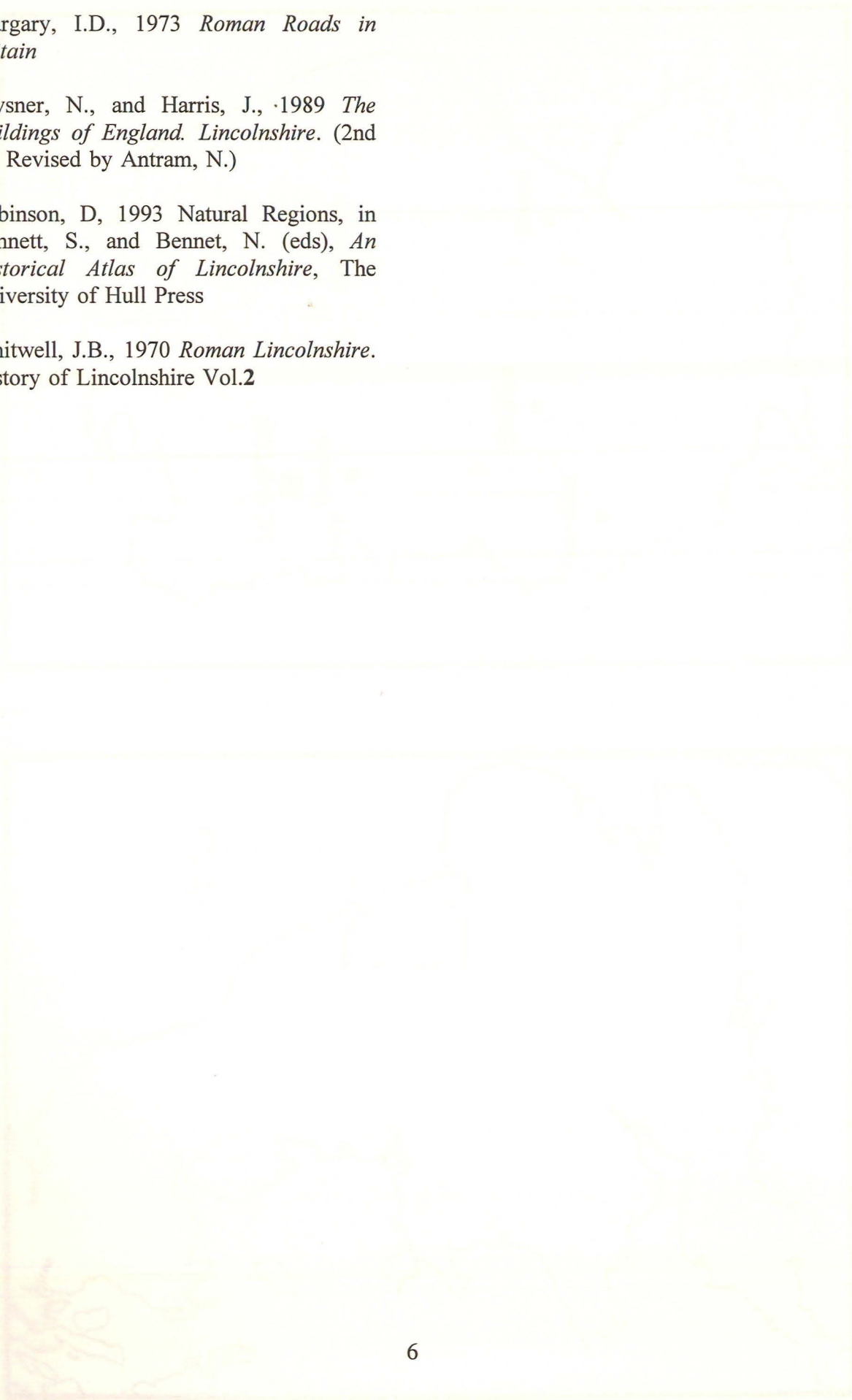
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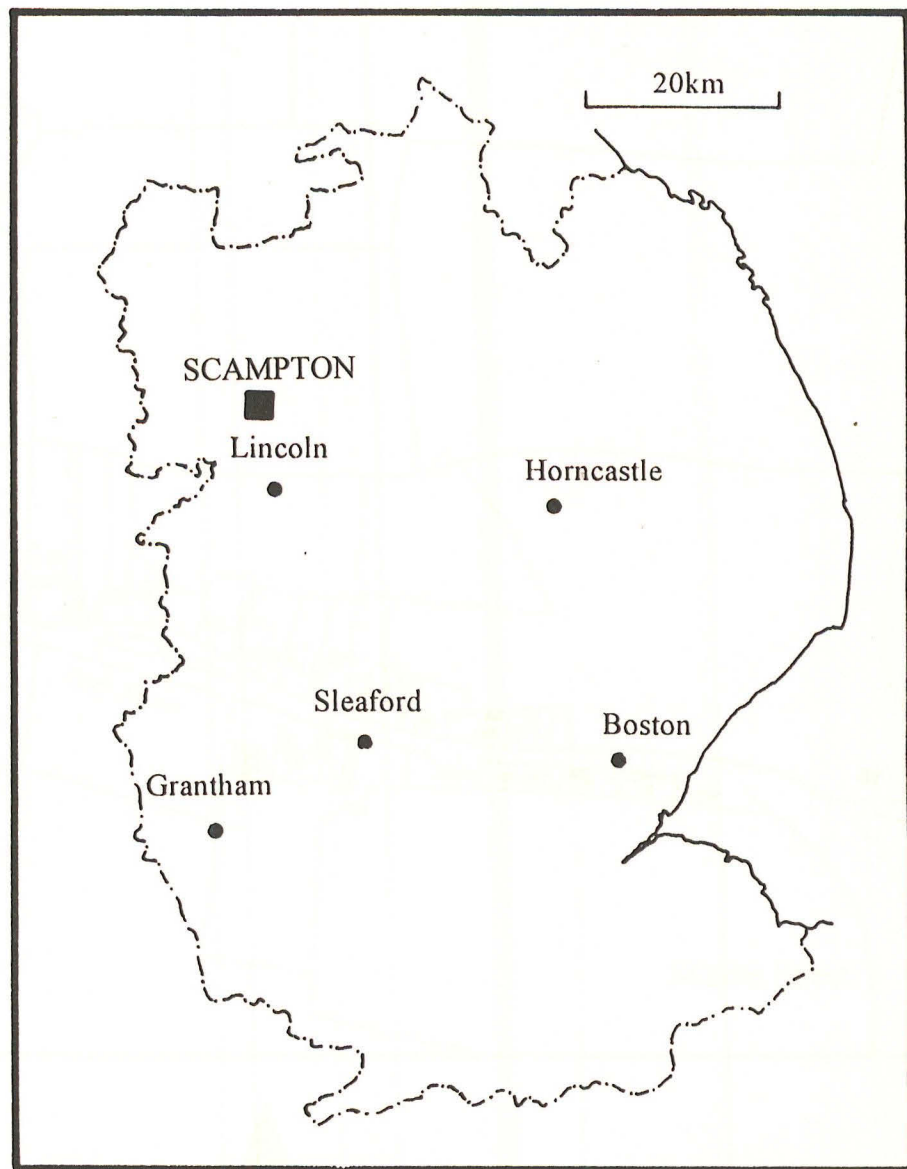
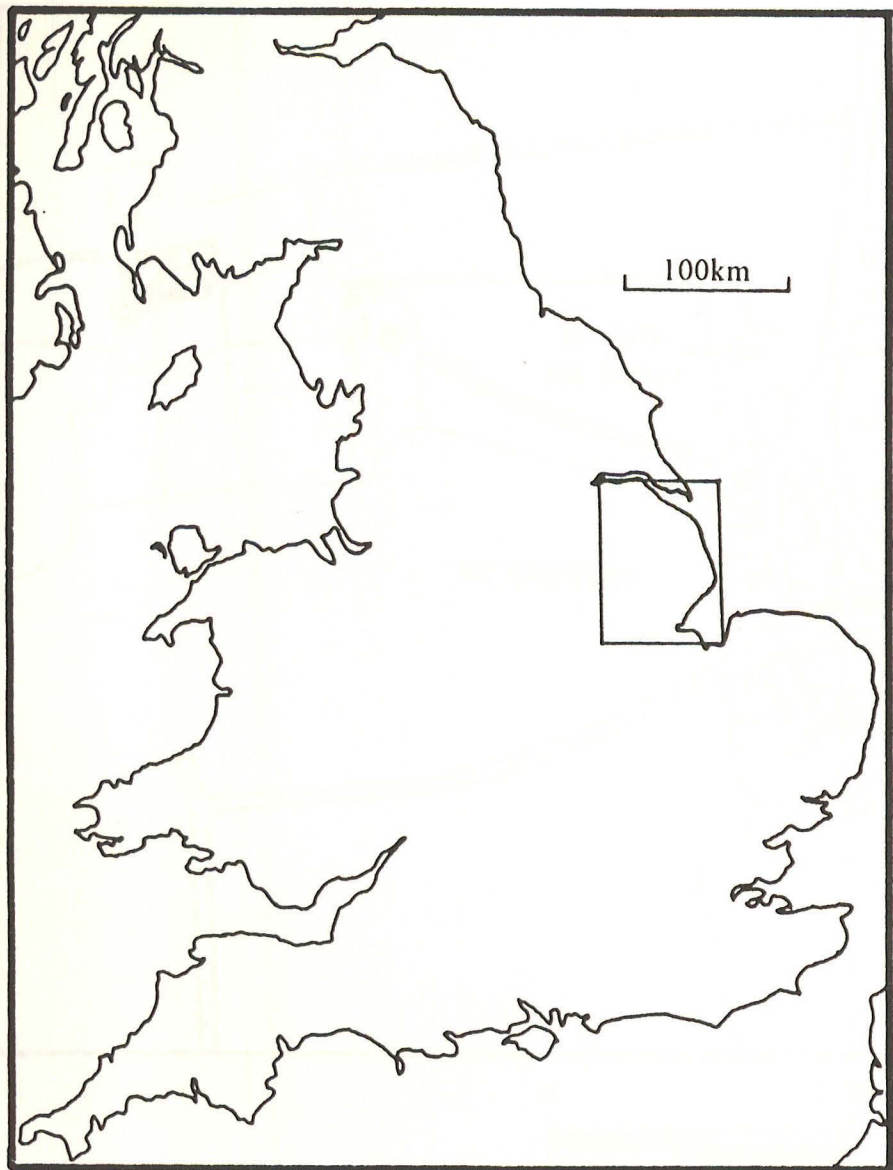
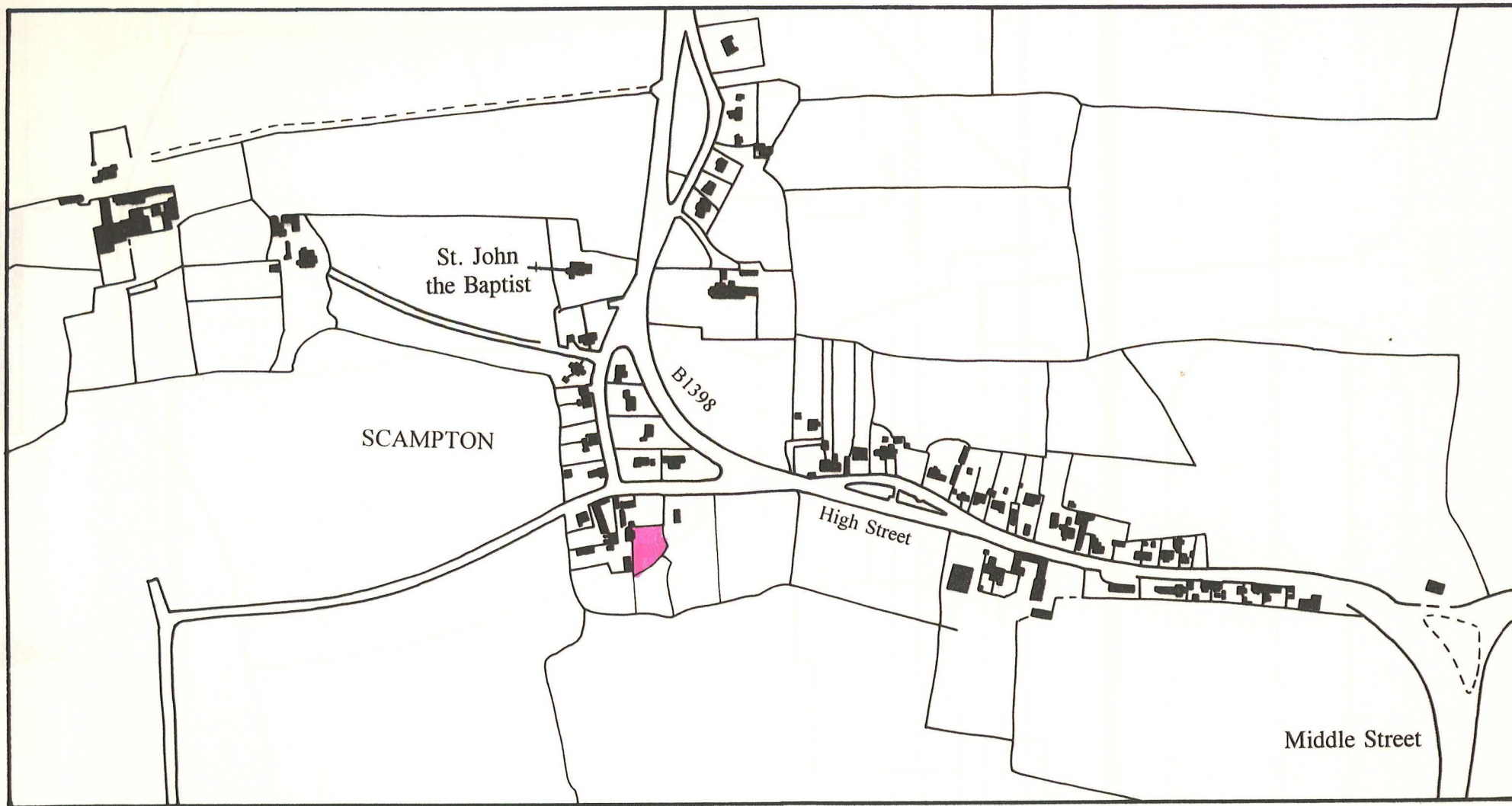


Fig. 1 General Location Plan



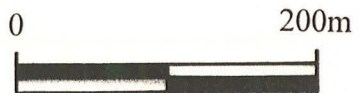
SCAMPTON

St. John
the Baptist

B1398

High Street

Middle Street




 Area of Development

Fig. 2 Site Location Plan

Fig. 3 Development Site Plan

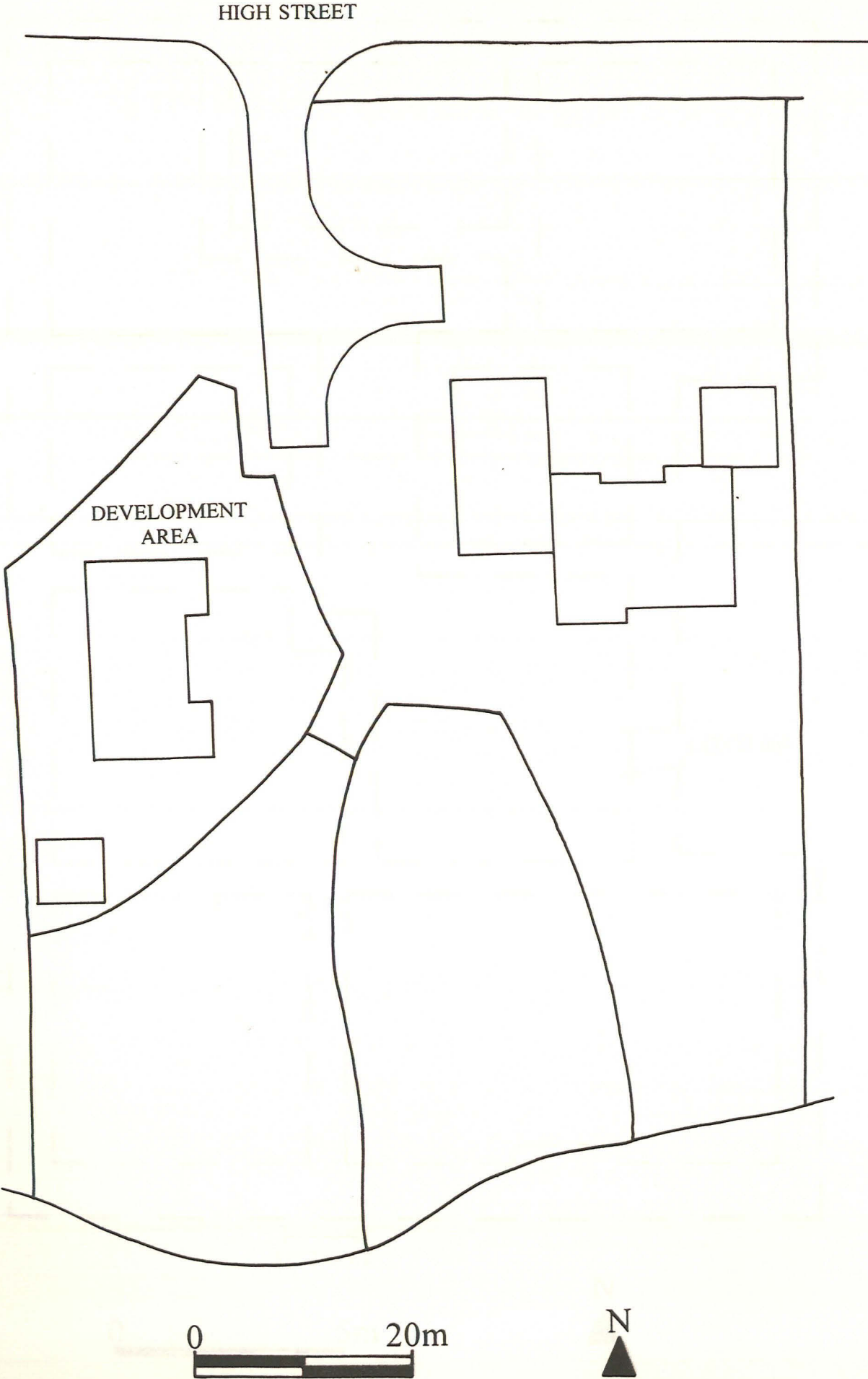


Fig. 4 Foundation Trench Plan,
showing location of sections and ditch (004)

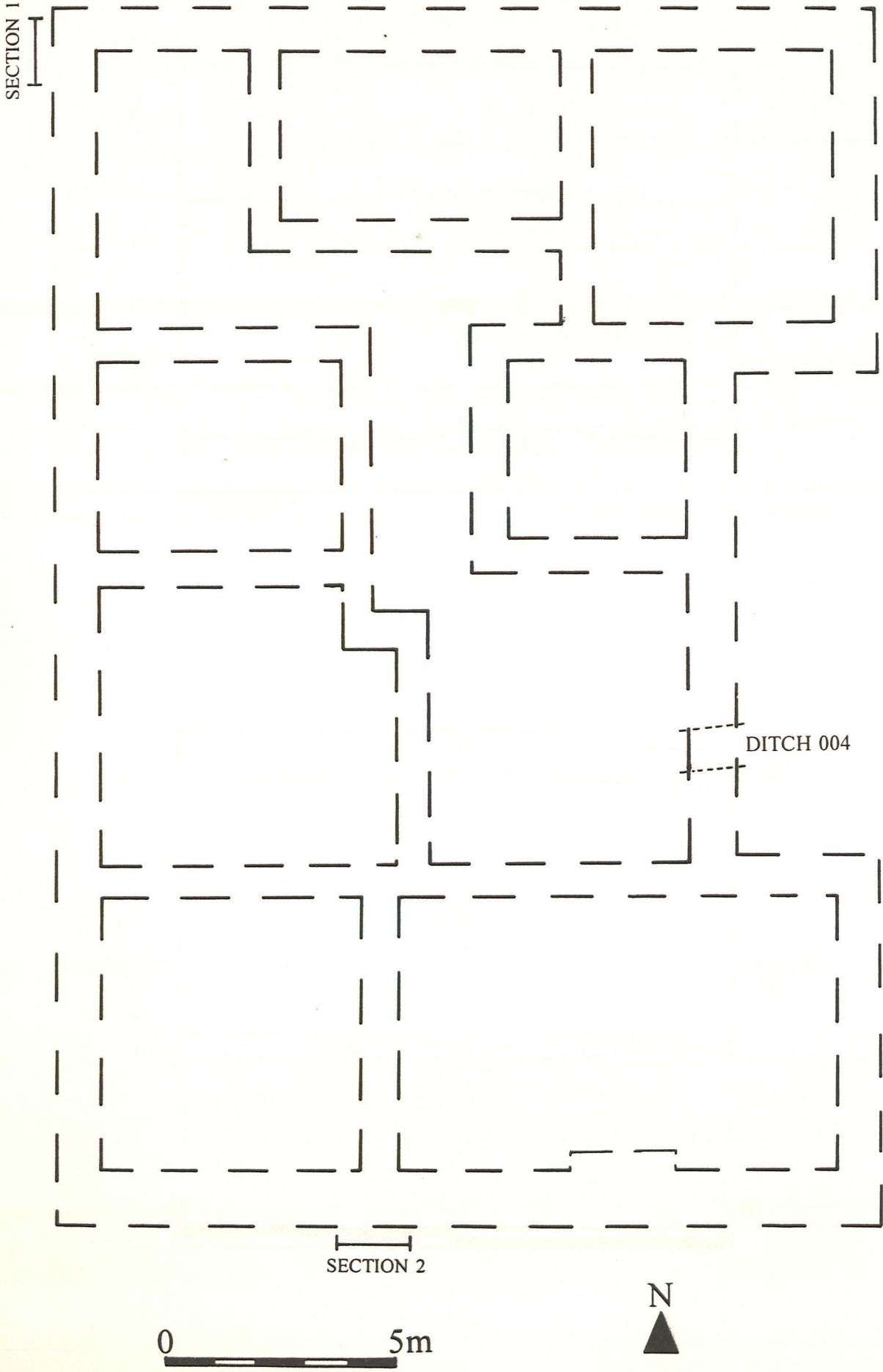


Fig. 5 Sections 1 and 2

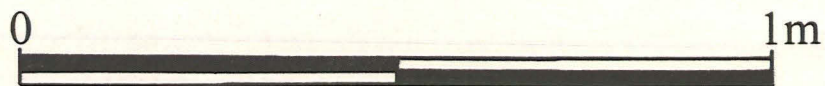
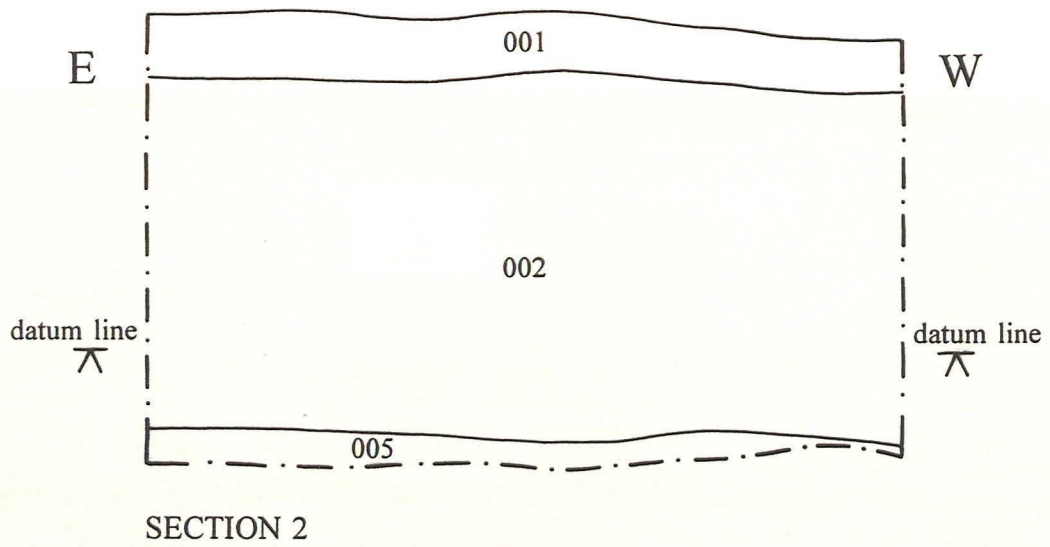
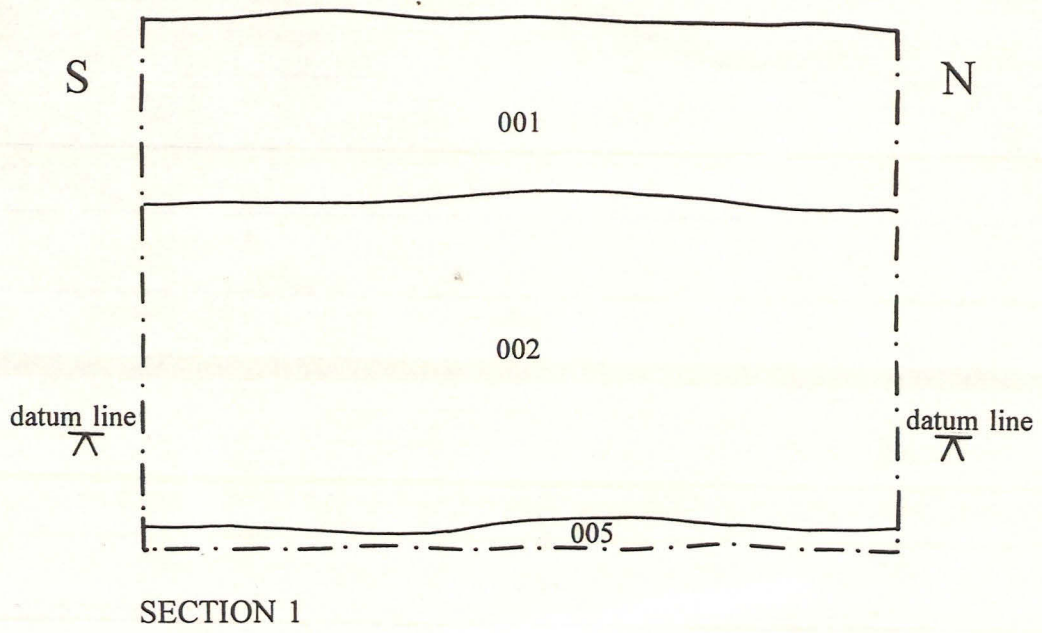




Plate 1: General Site View



Plate 2: Possible Ditch (004)

Appendix 1

Context Summary.

Context Number	Description	Interpretation
001	Loose, dark greyish-brown silty sand	Construction deposit
002	Loose, mid reddish-brown silty sand	Possible agricultural soil
003	Loose, light brown silty sand	Fill of (004)
004	Linear east-west cut, 0.92-0.96m wide, depth not determined	Possible ditch
005	Loose, light reddish yellow sand	Natural deposit
006	Plastic, light blue clay	Natural deposit

Appendix 2

The Finds

Context No.	Description	Date
unstratified	1 sherd black glazed pancheon	late 18th-19th century
002	6 sherds Potterhanworth type ware pottery	13th-14th century
002	Sheep metacarpus (footbone), 3 fragments from same bone	
003	1 sherd of Potterhanworth type ware pottery	13th-14th century
003	2 sherds of ?shell tempered pottery	?Roman
003	1 sheep tooth, incisor	

The Pottery by Hilary Healey

Several fragments of pottery from (002) and (003) are limestone and shell tempered wares that are typical of Potterhanworth type products of the 13th and 14th centuries. Two sherds of pottery from (003) appear to have also been made from a shell tempered fabric, though the temper has dissolved leaving a vesicular appearance. These sherds may be Roman in date. A rim sherd of a late 18th or 19th century black glazed pancheon was also recovered as an unstratified artifact.

The Animal Bone by Paul Cope-Faulkner

A single tooth was recovered from (003) and has been identified as the incisor of an adult sheep. The metacarpus of a sheep, fragmented at one end, was recovered from (002) and displays distinctive butchery marks though shows no sign of gnawing.

Appendix 3

Glossary

Bronze Age	Part of the prehistoric era characterised by the introduction and use of bronze for tools and weapons. In Britain this period dates from approximately 2200-900 BC.
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, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> 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.
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4000-2200 BC.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 6 Context records
- 3 Scale drawings
- 12 Photographic records
- 1 Stratigraphic matrix
- 3 Bags of finds

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: SCH96
City and County Museum, Lincoln Accession Number: 133.96