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Archaeological Evaluation
at
Eastgate, Bourne,
Lincolnshire
by
Heritage Lincolnshire

on behalf of
Mr B Allen and Mr J Lovell
during May 1992

TF 1038 1990

Report compiled by Mark Dymond

SUMMARY

Between the 26th May and 1st June 1992, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Heritage Lincolnshire on behalf of Mr B Allen and Mr J Lovell at Eastgate, Bourne, Lincolnshire (N.G.R. TF 10381990)

Four trenches were excavated by machine and the exposed archaeological deposits investigated and recorded. The results of the evaluation have concluded that:

1. Each of the trenches contained archaeological deposits dating to the medieval period.
2. That in particular trench 4 contained stratified deposits from a medieval building occupied during the 13th and 14th centuries.

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Introduction	1
Methodology	1
Figure 1 - Location	2
Figure 2 - Trench Locations	3
Evaluation Results	4
Interpretation	6
Figure 3 - Trench 4-West Facing Section	8
Recommendations	9
Acknowledgements	10
Bibliography	10
Appendix 1 - Glossary	11
Appendix 2 - List of Contexts	13
Appendix 3 - Spot Dates of Pottery From Stratified Contexts	16

INTRODUCTION

Between the 26th May and the 1st June 1992 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Heritage Lincolnshire on behalf of Mr B Allen and Mr J Lovell at Eastgate, Bourne, Lincolnshire (National Grid Reference: TF 10381990) (see fig. 1).

The purpose of the work was to evaluate the significance and extent of any surviving archaeological deposits and to assess the impact of the proposed development on these deposits.

The site had previously been occupied by a slaughter house and a small row of terraced houses. At the time of the evaluation it was cleared and preliminary construction works had commenced.

The name Bourne is derived from the Anglo/Saxon *Burne* meaning a stream rising from a spring. During the medieval period Bourne was home to an important pottery production centre, the material from which is now known as Bourne ware. It began in the early 13th century and flourished until the 1600s. The pottery was produced in Potters Street - which is today called Eastgate. Excavations on the corner of Eastgate and Cherry Holt Road in 1973 exposed the remains of medieval and post-medieval kilns, associated with which were a house, workshop, store sheds, a cobbled yard, clay storage pits, waster heaps and a boundary ditch.

METHODOLOGY

Four trenches were excavated by machine: Trench 1: 5.0m. x 1.5m.; Trench 2: 3.8m. x 1.5m.; Trench 3: 4.0m. x 1.5m.; Trench 4: 10.2m. X 1.5m. (which was subsequently extended to the east by 6m.) (see fig. 2). Between 0.2m. and 0.5m. of top-soil was removed to reveal the surface of surviving archaeological deposits, samples of which were excavated by hand and recorded. Each archaeological "context" was allocated a unique reference number with a written description. Plan and section drawings were made at scale 1:20 and, where necessary a photographic record was compiled. Subsequent to the evaluation, all the pottery from stratified contexts was examined and dated by a pottery specialist.

Fig. 1 General location

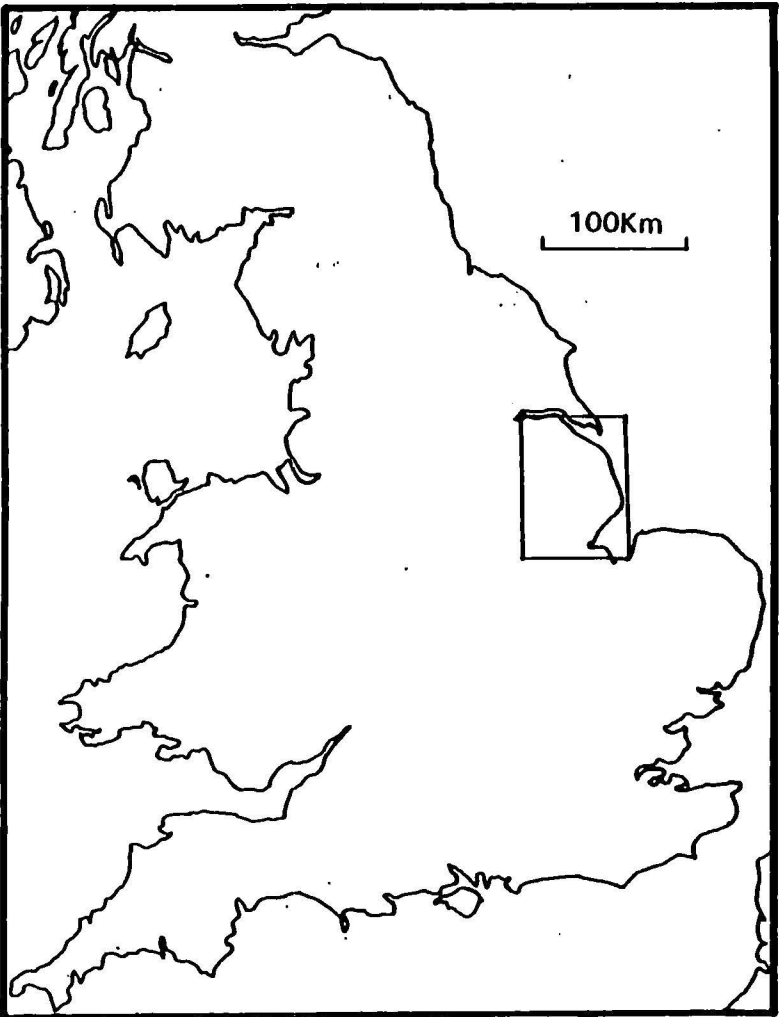
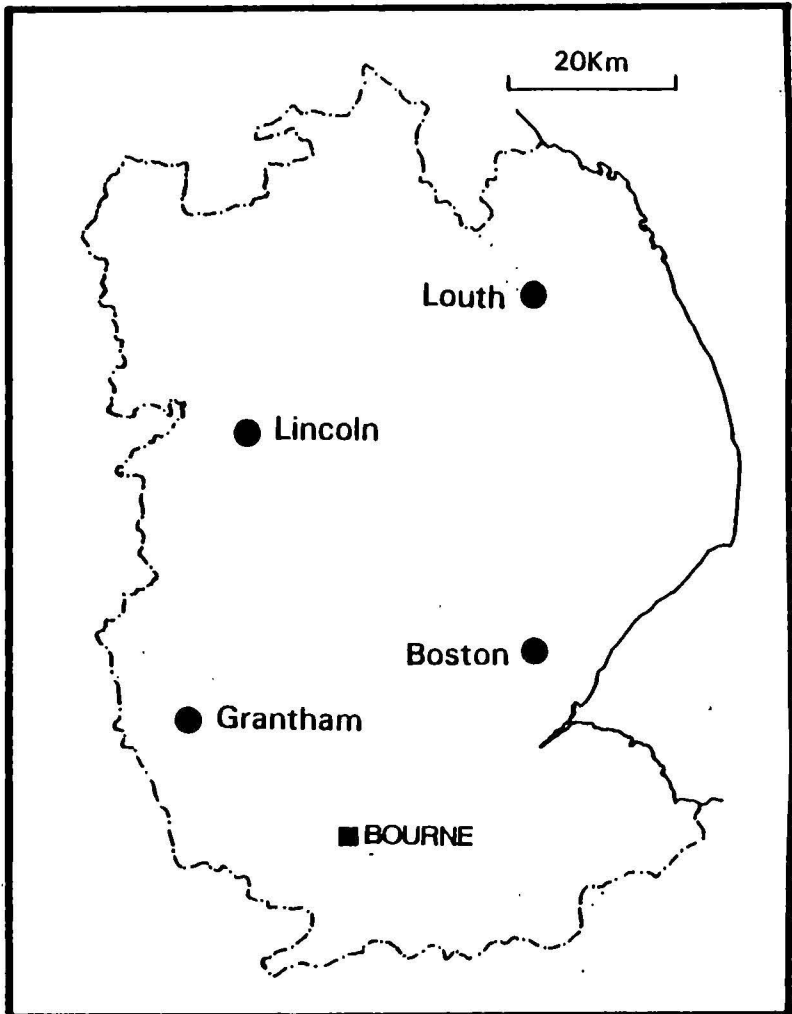


FIG. 2
TRENCH LOCATIONS

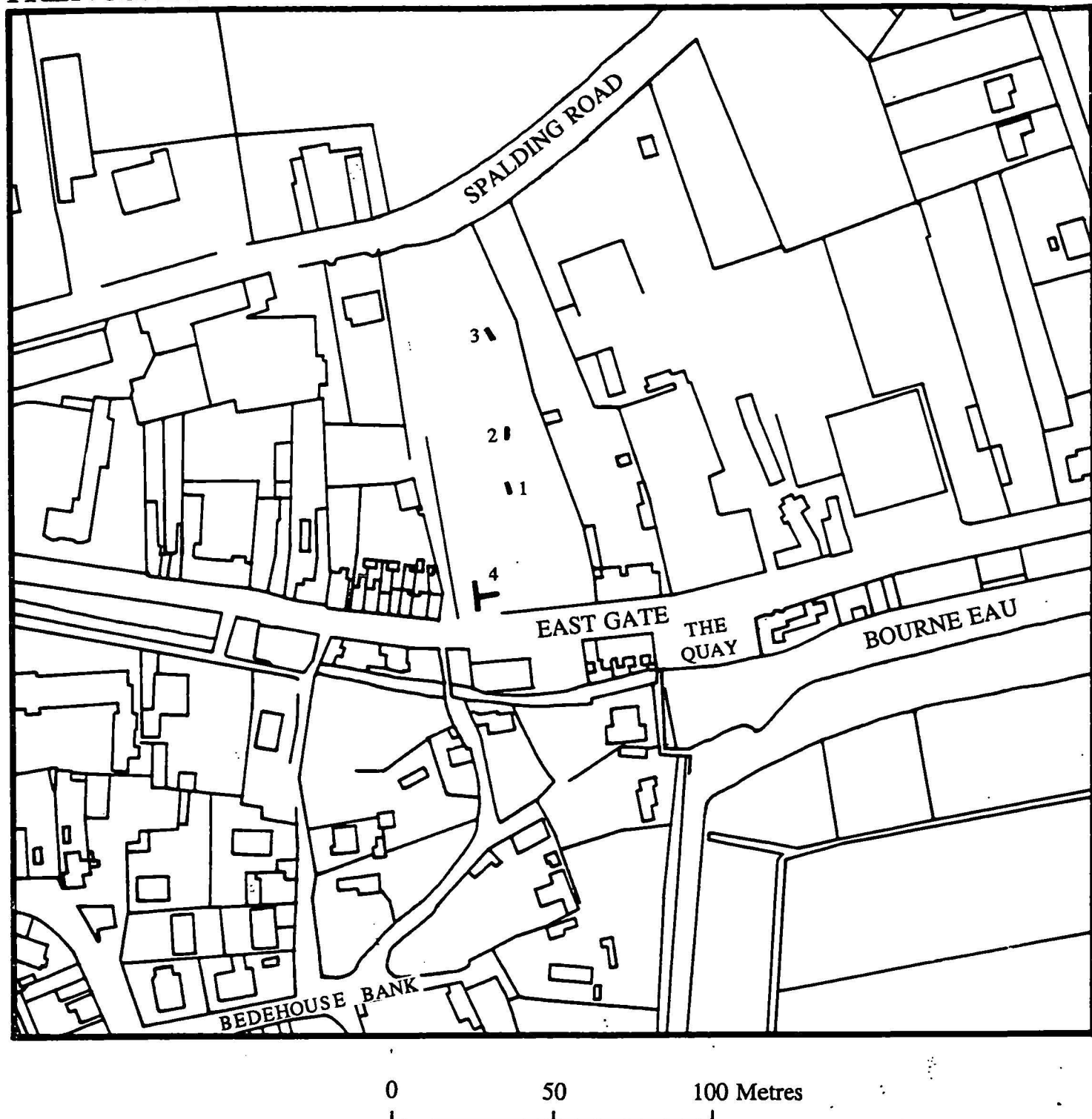
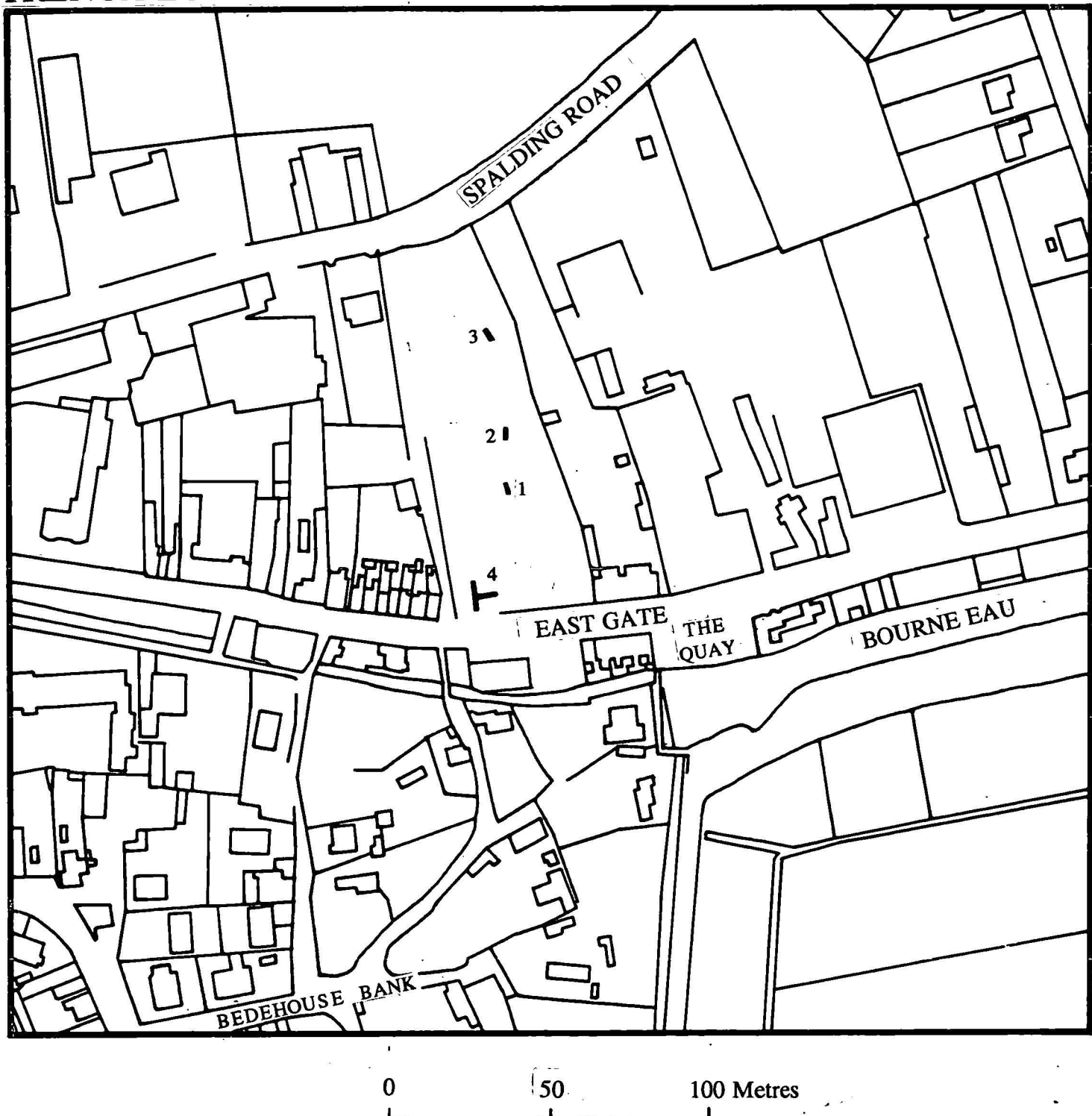


FIG. 2
TRENCH LOCATIONS



EVALUATION RESULTS

Trench 1.

Trench 1 was excavated to a depth of 0.5m. The earliest deposit exposed was a natural silt [003], sealed by a thin dump of sandy silt [004] which contained small brick and limestone fragments. Sealing [004] was a dump of sandy silt [005], the southern edge of which formed a scarp. To the south of [005] was a localised deposit of silt [006] containing small irregular limestone fragments and flecks of charcoal. Overlying [006] and dumped up against the scarp face of [005] was a yellow silt [002] which contained flecks of red sandstone and charcoal and small irregular limestone fragments. Layer [002] was sealed by a brown silt [001] containing brick and limestone fragments and small flecks of charcoal.

Trench 2.

Trench 2 was excavated by machine to a depth of 0.93m. The earliest deposit exposed was a silty clay [011] which contained large quantities of pottery, animal bone and flecks of mortar. It was sealed by a silty clay [010] containing frequent small irregular limestone fragments. [010] was sealed by a dumped deposit of silty clay [009] and contained occasional fragments of limestone and flecks of mortar. Above [009] was a thin band of clean yellow clay [008]. Covering [008] and extending across the majority of the site was a layer of demolition debris [007].

Trench 3.

Trench 3 was excavated by machine to a depth of 0.80m. Natural clay [014] was exposed at the base of the trench sealed by what appeared to be a garden soil [013], and covered by a thin deposit of demolition debris [007].

Trench 4.

Unlike Trenches 1, 2 and 3, Trench 4 revealed a complex stratigraphic sequence. (See Fig. 3)

The earliest archaeological deposit recorded was a dumped deposit of silty clay [018], containing pottery, which overlay a natural clay [071]. Sealing [018] was a degraded silty clay layer [061] which was in turn sealed by a silty clay [060]. Cut into [018] to the west was a post-hole [068] filled by [067], a ditch [050] filled by [101] and two pits [017] and [040] filled by [016] and [051] respectively. Sealing [101], was a dumped deposit comprising a mix of sand, silt and clay [049], containing pottery. Cut into [049] was a small ditch [039] filled by [038], and a robber trench [037] filled by [036]. The robber trench had been re-cut by [035] and back-filled by [034]. Overlying [060], to its south, was a dumped deposit of brown silty clay [058]. Cut into [058] was a post-hole [100] (this feature was recorded in section only and its original function cannot be determined), filled by [099] and sealed by a layer of silty clay [059]. Overlying [060], to the north were a layer of silt [062] and a layer of ashy silt [063].

Located within the northern half of the trench was a layer of silty clay [015] containing pottery. Cutting into [015] at its northern extremity were the remnants of a limestone wall [024] aligned east-west. At its western end the wall begins to turn south, however, any continuation of this southern alignment has been destroyed by later activity. Cut into [024] was drain [044] filled by [043] and [042]. South of [024] and west of [015] was a layer of grey silty clay [056] containing pottery. Cut into [056] were, a circular feature, probably a pit [057] filled by [098], and a post-hole [070], filled by [069]. Layers [015], [059], [062], and [063] were sealed by clay floor [031].

To the north, [031] was sealed by an occupation layer of silty clay [030], which was in turn sealed by a layer of ash [027]. Cutting [031] to the north was a gulley [046], filled by [045]. Sealing [045] was an occupation layer of silt [032]. A millstone of granular sandstone [072], which had been burnt red, had been placed on top of [032]. Immediately east of [072] and cutting into [032] was stake-hole [076] filled by [075]. Overlying [075] and [072] was a clay floor [033], containing pottery fragments.

Cut into [033] were two post-holes - [078] filled by [077] and [088] filled by [087]. Overlying [033] to the east was a layer of silty clay [084] sealed to the south by a layer of clay [086], above which was a layer of clayey silt [085]. [084] was sealed to the south by a layer of mixed silt, clay and ash [083], above which was a layer of burnt silty clay [082]. Sealing [082] was a layer of silty clay [081]. Layers [081], [082] and [083] all contained pottery fragments.

Sealing [033] to the south was a layer of silty clay [064] whilst to the east it was sealed by a layer of burnt silty clay [079]. Cutting into [064] were, a gulley [096] and a post hole [048], filled by [095] (which was similar to [007]) and [047] respectively, two robber trenches [074] and [023], filled by [073] and [022], which contained pottery fragments, and a foundation trench [055], filled by [054]. Overlying [079] was a layer of dark grey silt and ash [080]. [033] was also sealed to the south by a layer of silt and ash [041]. Cut into [041], to the north, and [027], to the south, was feature [029] filled by [028], the function of which is unclear. Cutting into [027] and also into [015] was pit [026] filled by [025] which contained pottery fragments.

Contexts [016], [019], [020], [022], [025], [028], [042], [047], [052], [054], [065], [073], [077], [080], [081], [085], [087], [096] and [098] are sealed by [007], the latest deposit exposed in the trench.

INTERPRETATION

Each of the four evaluation trenches revealed archaeological deposits.

Trench 1.

Trench 1 revealed a series of dumping layers overlying a natural silt [003]. Of these [005], which at its southern extent formed a low scarp, appears to represent an attempt to landscape this part of the site.

Trench 2.

It is likely that beneath trench 2 are the in-filled remnants of a dyke or large ditch, as the deposits exposed in section are slumped, giving each of them a broad 'U' shape. These deposits probably accumulated before the dyke/ditch fills had completely settled

Trench 3.

Overlying the natural clay [014] was [013], the soil structure of which indicates that it is the remnants of a garden soil.

Trench 4. (see fig. 4.)

Trench 4 exposed a complex stratigraphic sequence in which several phases of occupation within a medieval building, dating to the 13th and 14th centuries, can be identified.

The earliest deposit [018] was a dumped layer of soil which has been dated by associated pottery to the 13th century. It overlies natural clay [071] and was almost certainly, (along with [015] also 13th century), a prepared surface upon which a clay floor [061], was laid. It would appear from its extent and condition that this floor was intended to be a temporary hard surface. Whilst in use occupational debris [060] and [062] accumulated on top of it - and continued to accumulate to the south - [058]. This material remained stable long enough for a post-hole [100] to be dug, which, after being backfilled, was covered by more debris [059].

After an unknown period of time a new and more extensive clay floor [031] was laid. [031] represents the first floor of the medieval building and is bounded to the north by wall [024] and to the south by a robber trench [023] which almost certainly represents the original wall which was removed after the building either became redundant and collapsed or was demolished. In plan, wall [024] begins to turn south and then peters out. However, the line of this turn is continued by the clay deposit [056], which may represent the extent of the foundation cut for the now removed wall. No evidence for the west and east walls was found and these presumably lie beyond the limit of the trench.

This would suggest that floor [061], which was of a much poorer quality than any of the other floors, was in use (perhaps as a dry or clean area), whilst the building was under construction.

After the later floor [031] had been laid, a gulley or beam-slot [046] was cut through it perhaps indicating that a change in the ground plan of the building occurred, whereby an internal division was incorporated into its structure, [046] being used to house a horizontal beam which supported upright timbers.

At some stage the internal division represented by [046] went out of use and the beam-slot was back-filled. Domestic debris [032] then accumulated across the entirety of [031], suggesting that, although [046] had gone out of use, the building remained occupied. Set into [032] was a millstone [072] which shows evidence of having been burnt, indicating

that it was used as a hearth base, the waste material from which is probably represented by the ash deposit [027]. Cut into [032] was a stake-hole [076] which, by itself, is uninterpretable.

The surface created by [032] became redundant and another clay floor [033] was laid. Pottery from within this floor has enabled it to be dated to the 14th century. Cut into [033] are two post-holes [078] and [088], which may have been part of some form of internal structure. As with the previous floors, a layer of occupational debris [064] was allowed to accumulate.

The building appears to have gone out of use at this point as a series of layers to the east, [081] to [084], which seal the eastern extent of [033], can be dated by analysis of the pottery, to the 16th century. Such a sequence of deposits indicates that, after the building went out of use and prior to the deposition of [081] to [084], the site was cleared of any refuse which had accumulated in the intervening years.

The ditch [050], cut into [018], was probably a road-side ditch parallel with the front of the building, to reduce the risk of ground-water entering the structure. Most of the ditch cut is sealed by [049], a dumped deposit which has been dated to the 16th century, also indicating that the structure and its associated features went out of use in the 1500s.

Contemporary with [081] are a robber trench [023], which removed the foundations of the south wall, and a small pit [026]. These and the remaining features within the trench (which due to a lack of artefactual evidence cannot be dated), represent activity associated with the final destruction of the building.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The archaeological evaluation has established that there are significant archaeological deposits surviving *in situ* within the evaluation area, which are important in the context of the medieval development of this part of Bourne.

Heritage Lincolnshire recommend that, prior to any building works being undertaken involving the destruction of any part of the area in and around the location of Trench 4, a detailed archaeological excavation of the surviving deposits should be undertaken by a

professional archaeological organisation. Such work will "preserve by record" the archaeological deposits in this area.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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APPENDIX 1

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 excavation or evaluation is allocated a unique context 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 square brackets e.g. [001].
Cut	A cut refers the physical action of digging a post-hole, pit, ditch etc. Once the fills of these features are removed during an excavation 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 positive attempts to raise the land surface.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug, it immediately 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 which is not contained within a cut.
Natural	Deposit(s) of soil which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Robber trench	When buildings were left derelict, they were often demolished so that the materials could be re-used. Walls were dismantled to

ground level and sometimes a trench was dug around the foundations to remove these as well. The trench was subsequently filled in or silted up. The only evidence for the previous of walls in such cases is this 'robber trench' (or ghost wall).

APPENDIX 2

SUMMARY OF CONTEXTS

<u>Context</u>	<u>Trench</u>	<u>Interpretation</u>
001	1	Dump deposit, brown silt
002	1	Dump deposit, yellow silt
003	1	Natural silt
004	1	Dump deposit, sandy silt
005	1	Dump deposit, sandy silt
006	1	Dump deposit, grey silt
007	2,3,4	Dump deposit, demolition debris
008	2	Yellow clay
009	2	Dump deposit, silty clay
010	2	Dump deposit, silty clay
011	2	Dump deposit, silty clay
012	3	Dump deposit
013	3	Dump deposit, garden soil
014	3	Natural clay
015	4	Dump deposit, silty clay
016	4	Fill of 017
017	4	Shallow pit
018	4	Dump deposit, silty clay
019	4	Layer of limestone fragments
020	4	Fill of 021
021	4	Post-hole
022	4	Fill of 023
023	4	Robber trench
024	4	Wall
025	4	Fill of 026
026	4	Pit
027	4	Ash deposit
028	4	Fill of 029
029	4	Feature of unknown function
030	4	Occupation layer, silty clay
031	4	Clay floor
032	4	Occupation layer
033	4	Clay floor
034	4	Fill of 035
035	4	Re-cut of 037
036	4	Fill of 037
037	4	Robber cut, continuation of 023
038	4	Fill of 039
039	4	Ditch
040	4	Pit?
041	4	Silt/ash layer
042	4	Fill of 044
043	4	Concrete. Fill of 044
044	4	Drain/cesspit
045	4	Fill of 046

<u>Context</u>	<u>Trench</u>	<u>Interpretation</u>
046	4	Gulley
047	4	Fill of 048
048	4	Post-hole
049	4	Dump deposit, sand, silt and clay
050	4	Ditch
051	4	Fill of 040
052	4	Fill of 053
053	4	Feature of unknown function
054	4	Fill of 055
055	4	Foundation trench
056	4	Grey silty clay
057	4	Feature of unknown function
058	4	Dump deposit, brown silty clay
059	4	Occupation layer, silty clay
060	4	Make-up for 031, silty clay
061	4	Degraded silty clay floor
062	4	Occupation layer
063	4	Make-up for 031, silty clay
064	4	Occupation layer, silty clay
065	4	Fill of 066
066	4	Post-hole
067	4	Fill of 068
068	4	Post-hole
069	4	Fill of 070
070	4	Post-hole
071	4	Natural clay
072	4	Hearth base, mill stone
073	4	Fill of 074
074	4	Robber trench
075	4	Fill of 076
076	4	Stake-hole
077	4	Fill of 078
078	4	Post-hole
079	4	Occupation layer, burnt silty clay
080	4	Silt/ash layer
081	4	Dump deposit, silty clay
082	4	Burnt silty clay layer
083	4	Ash layer
084	4	Dump deposit, silty clay
085	4	Occupation layer, clayey silt
086	4	Occupation layer
087	4	Fill of 088
088	4	Post-hole
089	4	Occupation layer
090	4	Clay floor
091	4	Occupation layer
092	4	Clay floor
093	4	Natural
094	4	Natural
095	4	Fill of 096
096	4	Gulley
097	4	Occupation layer
098	4	Fill of 057

<u>Context</u>	<u>Trench</u>	<u>Interpretation</u>
099	4	Fill of 10
100	4	Post-hole or gulley
101	4	Fill of 050

APPENDIX 3

Spot-dates of pottery from stratified contexts

<u>CONTEXT</u>	<u>TRENCH</u>	<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>LATEST DATE OF CONTEXT</u>
003	1	4 Bourne A/B Incl. Decorated	14th Century.
007	2-4	4 Early Med. 3 Shelly Ware 115 Bourne Med. (A + B) 1 Cistercian Ware	(c. 13th Century.) 16th Century.
009	2	1 Bourne A/B, 1 Tile	Modern ?
011	2	8 Bourne A Incl. Decorated 92 Bourne D 1 Black glazed	 Modern
013	3	11 Bourne A/B 2 Bourne D 1 Stamford Ware 1 Cistercian Ware	 16th Century.
015	4	2 Early Med. Sandy Ware	13th Century.
018	4	6 shelly Ware	13th Century.
022	4	8 Bourne D	16th Century.
025	4	1 Bourne B 1 Bourne D	 16th Century.
033	4	114 Bourne A/B 13 Flat tile, incl. glazed ridge	 14th Century.
038	4	2 Bourne A/B	14th Century.
049	4	11 Bourne A/B 15 Bourne D	 16th Century.
054	4	6 Bourne D	16th Century.
056	4	2 Bourne A 2 Bourne B	 14th Century.
073	4	1 Bourne D	16th Century.
081	4	9 Bourne D 1 Dutch import	 16th/17th Century.

FIG. 3

Trench 4 - West Facing Section.

