

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF A DEVELOPMENT AT
ST. ANDREWS STREET,
HECKINGTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(HTB94)**

Work Undertaken For
Cottage Homes

December 1994



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a new bungalow at land to the rear of Cottages, St. Andrews Street, Heckington. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the foundations.

Development at St. Andrews Street affects an area containing archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric to the medieval period. A flint flake represents possible prehistoric activity in the area, whilst Romano-British activity is represented by finds of Roman coins. An Anglo-Saxon inhumation has also been discovered along with a barrow probably of the same date. The church of St Andrews and occasional finds of medieval pottery contribute to the medieval occupation of the area.

A sequence of topsoil overlying natural deposits was observed with a possible ditch cut containing Anglo-Saxon pottery.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

On the 25th January 1994, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a new bungalow behind cottages on St. Andrews Street, Heckington, Lincolnshire (National Grid Reference TF 1443 4400). St. Andrews Street is located near the High Street, in the civil parish of Heckington, North Kesteven District (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Cottage Homes, and was carried out by Archaeological Project Services.

2.2 Topography and Geology

St. Andrews Street is situated 0.5km northeast of Heckington village centre and 8km east of Sleaford (Fig. 2). Local soils are Beccles 3 association, fine loamy over clayey soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 121). Local topography is relatively flat and about 10m above sea level and slopes gently down towards the fens in the east.

2.3 Archaeological Setting

St. Andrews Street is located in an area of archaeological activity dating from the prehistoric to the medieval period. Prehistoric activity in the area is represented by the chance find of a flint flake *c.* 250m to the southwest (NK31.7).

Romano-British activity is represented by finds of two Roman coins in the village, the first (NK31.9) is a coin of Constantinus I (306-337) and the second as yet unidentified (NK31.56). A Roman pendant has also been discovered in the same vicinity as the flint flake mentioned above.

Anglo-Saxon activity is represented by the discovery of a pagan inhumation, 360m to the southwest and an associated barrow, a type of funerary monument (NK31.53 and NK31.2).

Medieval occupation of Heckington is represented by the church of St. Andrew about 275m to the northwest and occasional finds of medieval pottery from the village. A Nuremburg token of the 14th century was found 300m to the southwest of the present investigation site.

3. AIMS

The aims of the watching brief were to locate and record archaeological deposits,

if present, and to determine type, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Foundation trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator to a depth of 0.80m. Sections were then cleaned 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. Natural geological deposits were also recorded. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20.

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 were identified:

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Anglo-Saxon deposits
Phase 3	Modern deposits

Phase 1 Natural Deposits

A layer of sand (Contexts 6, 7, 8, 9 and 15) in the base of the trench represent the earliest natural deposit. This was overlain by a yellowish brown clayey silty sand (Contexts 3, 5, 13 and 14). Vertical deposits of gravel were also recorded in section 1 (4 and 12).

Phase 2 Anglo-Saxon Deposits

A cut feature, measuring 1.60m wide and 0.36m in depth, was recorded in section 1 (11). This was filled with a dark brown sand/clay silt with frequent charcoal

fragments (10). A piece of pottery (Fig. 5) recovered from this deposit has been dated to the Anglo-Saxon period. This feature has been interpreted as a boundary ditch.

Phase 3 Modern deposits

A layer of dark brown silty sand was observed across the entirety of the site (Contexts 1 and 2) and is interpreted as topsoil.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) typify alluvial deposition although the two gravel deposits may signify glacial action in the form of ice wedges.

Phase 2 deposits have been interpreted as a boundary ditch and primary fill of possible Anglo-Saxon date. As this ditch only appears in one section it is difficult to determine orientation of this feature.

Modern deposits (Phase 3) typify recent topsoil deposits.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigation at St. Andrews Street, Heckington revealed that natural deposits occur within 0.25m of the present ground surface. Archaeological features of Anglo-Saxon date also occur at the same depth. Previous evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity has only come from the inhumation to the south and this represents the first find of this date within the village.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project services wish to thank Cottage Homes for funding the

fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Steve Haynes coordinated the work and Dave Start edited this report. Nicola Nuttall, the North Kesteven District Community Archaeologist provided information from the relevant parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Manager: Steve Haynes
Site Assistant: Dave Brown
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation Analysts: 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 NK are the primary reference numbers used by the North Kesteven Community Archaeologist.

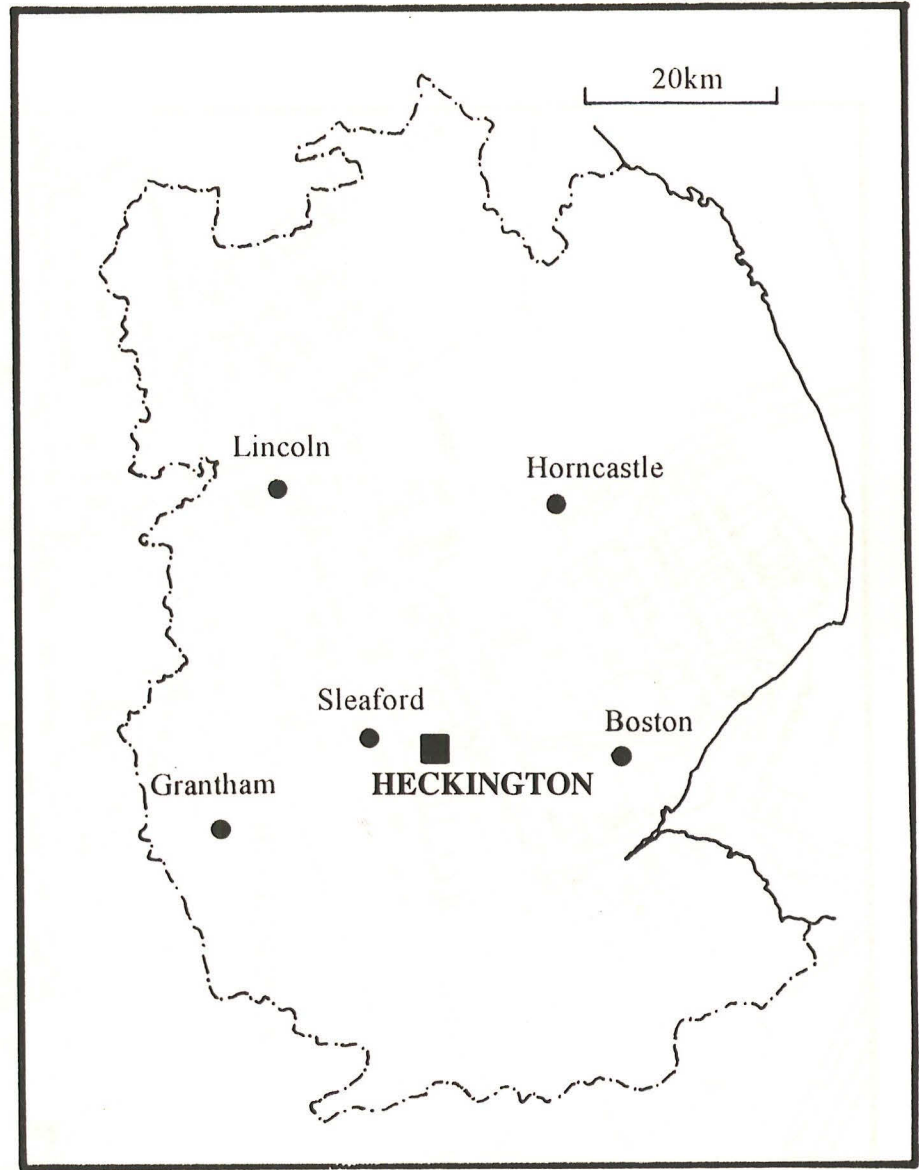
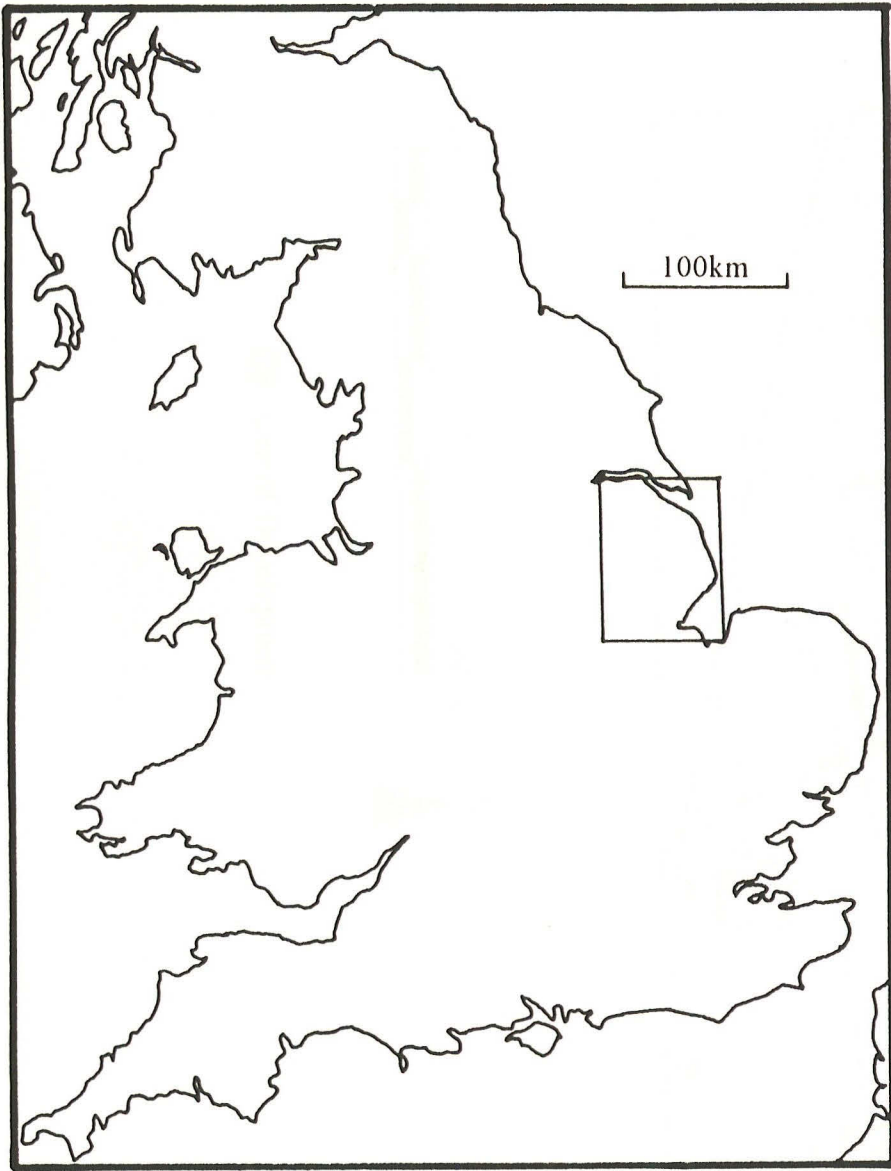
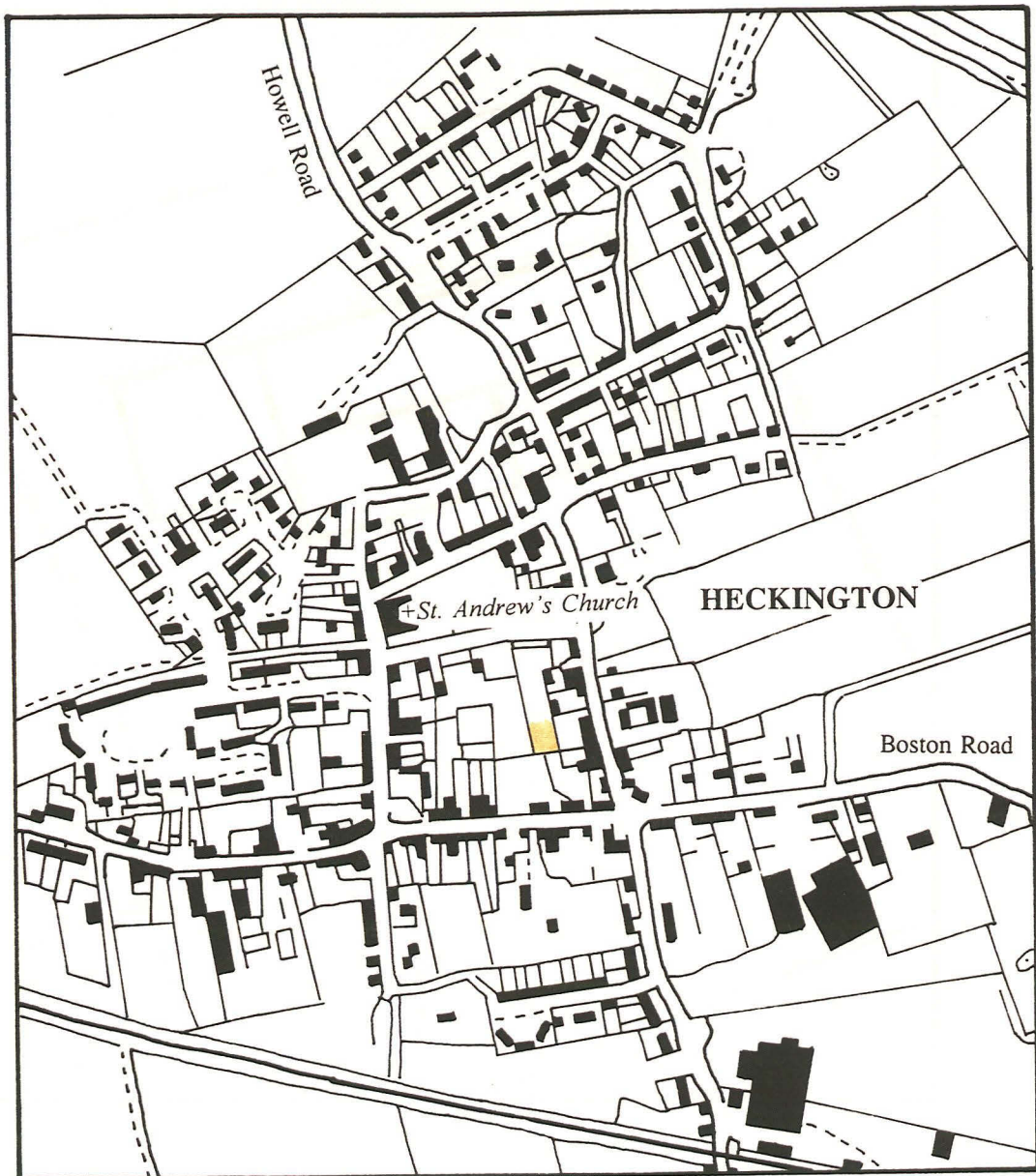


Fig. 1 GENERAL LOCATION PLAN

Fig.2 SITE LOCATION PLAN

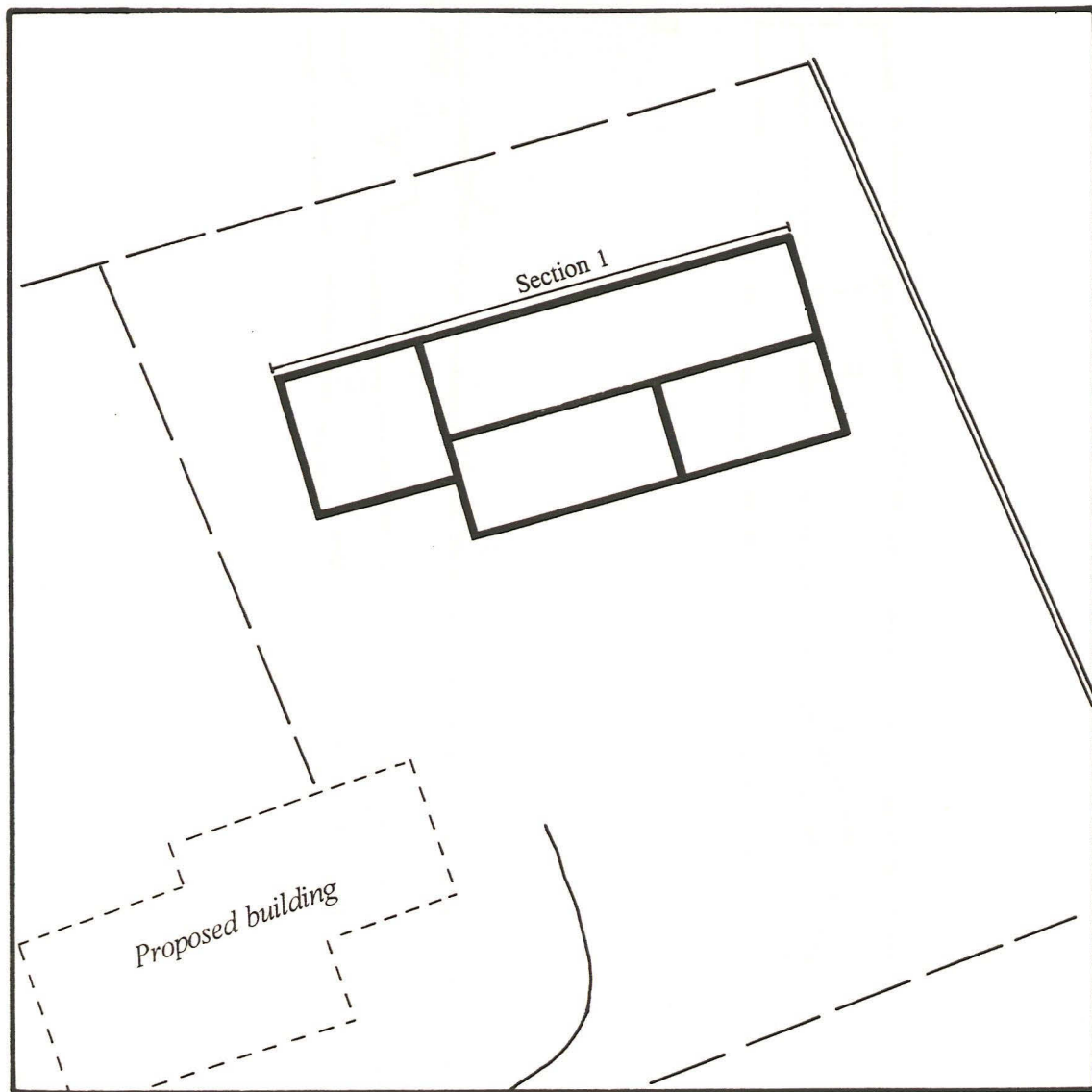


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 Area of Development

Fig. 3 AREA OF DEVELOPMENT



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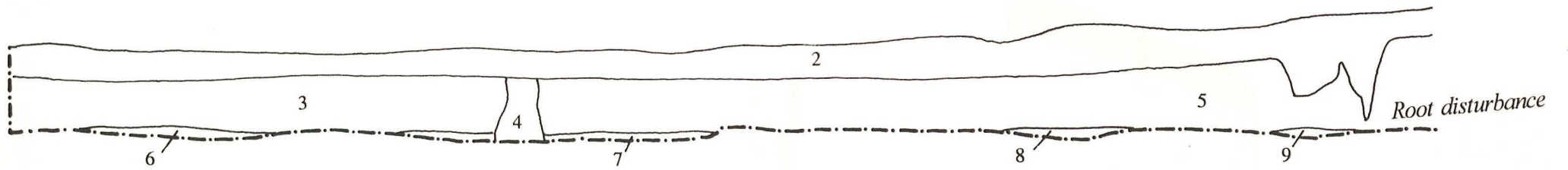
20m



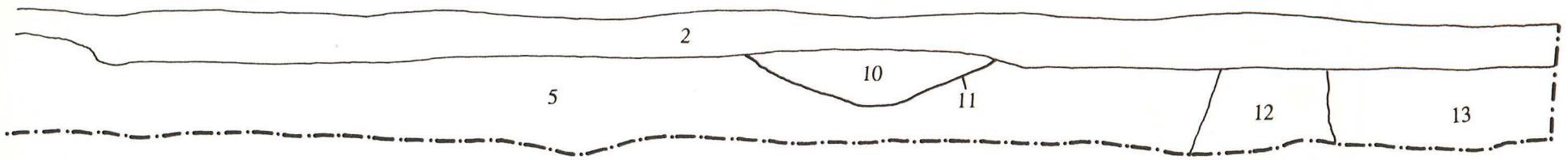
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W



E

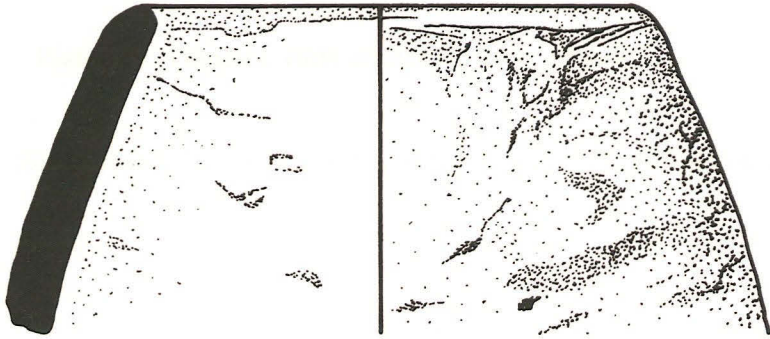


0

3m



Fig. 4 SECTION 1



Anglo-Saxon Pottery



Scale 1:1

Plate 1 General view of Foundation Trenches

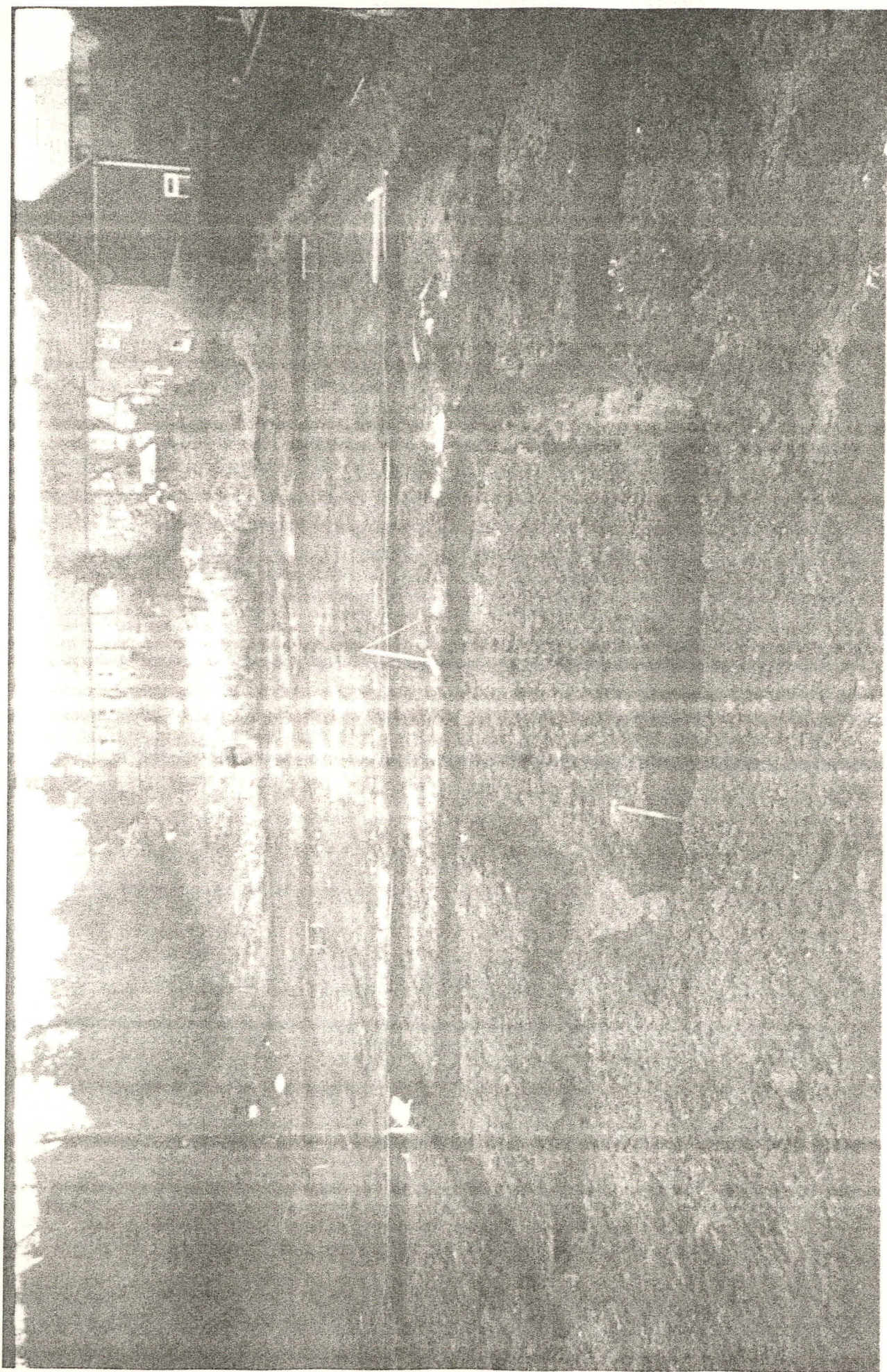
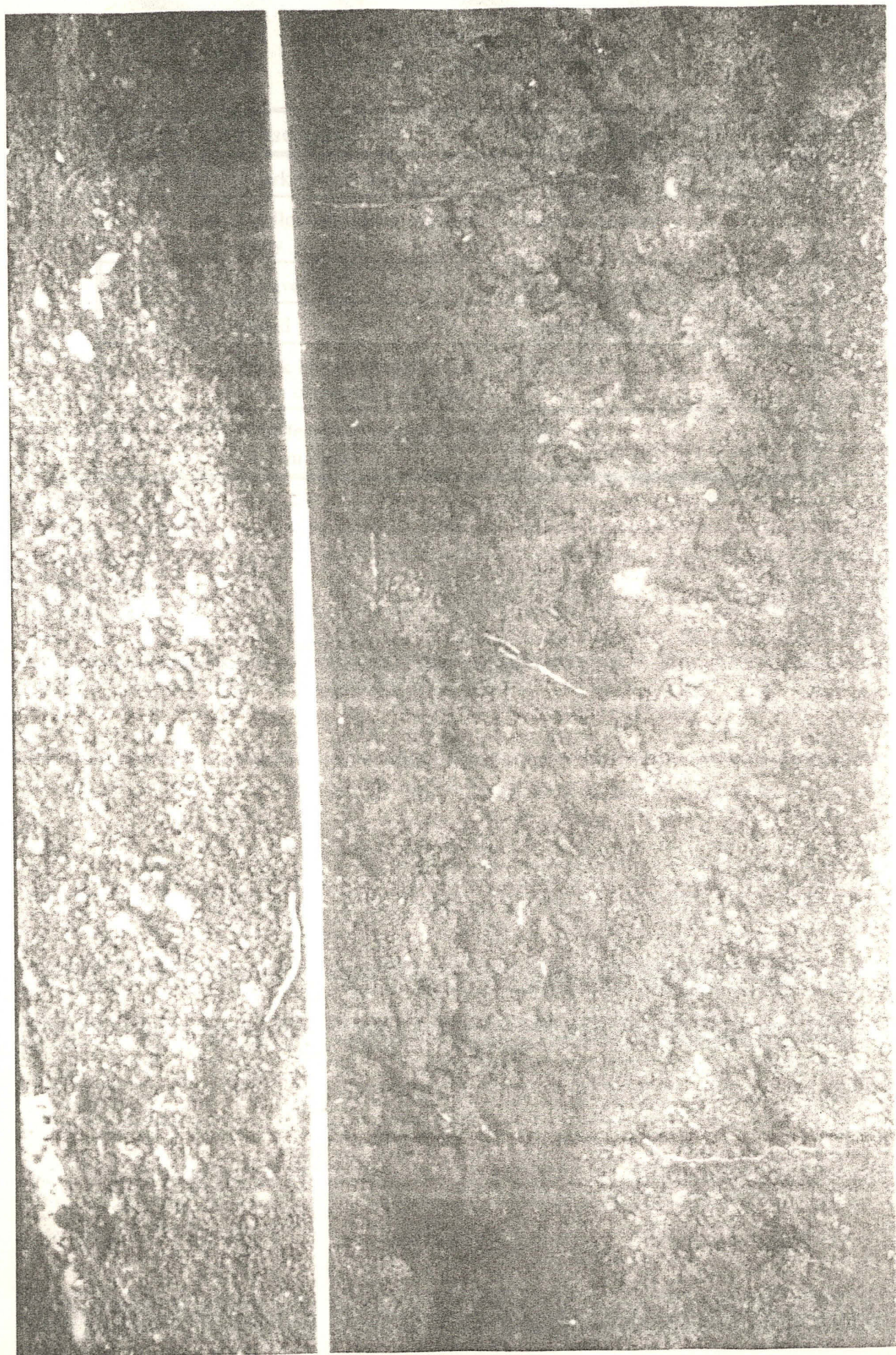


Plate 2 Anglo-Saxon ditch, Section 1



APPENDIX 1
Context Summary.

Context	Description	Interpretation
1, 2	Dark brown silty sand	Topsoil
3, 5, 13, 14	Yellowish brown silt/sand clay	Natural deposit
4, 12	Gravel	Natural deposit
6, 7, 8, 9, 15	Sand	Natural deposit
10	Dark brown sand/clay silt with charcoal fragments	Fill of 11
11	Cut feature 1.60m wide and 0.36m deep	Gully cut

APPENDIX 2

The Archive

The archive consists of:

- 15 . . Context record sheets
- 1 . . . Scale drawing
- 1 . . . Photographic record
- 1 . . . Stratigraphic 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, Lincoln Accession Number: 30:94
Archaeological Project Services, project code: HTB94