

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
OF A DEVELOPMENT AT  
WILLINGTON ROAD,  
KIRTON,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(KWR94)**

Work Undertaken For  
Horticulture Research International Ltd

December 1994



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES



Event L14944  
Source L15136  
L1506  
Mon L14944

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## 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a new laboratory and administration building at Horticulture Research International, Willington Road, Kirton. The watching brief monitored the excavation for the foundations.*

*Development at Willington Road affects an area containing archaeological remains primarily of medieval date (1066-1500AD). A find of Romano-British flue tile represents the earliest known occupation of the area. The moated manor of Orme Hall, demolished in 1818, and occasional finds of pottery represent medieval occupation of the area.*

*A medieval ditch was revealed cutting silts of alluvial origin. A modern yard burying a topsoil provided the ground surface. Trenches carrying services to the existing buildings were also seen. Pottery, found from the investigation, is of types known as Bourne ware and Toynton All Saints ware, both medieval in origin.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Background

On the 7th December 1994, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a new laboratory and administration building (Application number B14/0455/94) on land adjacent to Willington Road, Kirton, Lincolnshire. The work was commissioned by Horticulture Research International, 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

Kirton is situated 6km southwest of Boston and approximately 16km north of Spalding, in Boston District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The buildings of Horticulture Research International, Willington Road, are located at a height of 3m, c.1km northwest of Kirton village centre, as defined by the parish church of SS Peter and Paul (Fig. 2). Centred on National Grid Reference TF29883940, the proposed development covers an area of 11m by 27.5m.

Local soils are the Tanvats Association typical alluvial gley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 319) developed in marine alluvium. 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

Willington Road is located in an area of archaeological activity dating mainly from the medieval period. Prehistoric activity is scarce in the vicinity of the site although a neolithic stone axe and a tumulus have been located within the parish.

Roman activity is also scarce but is present in the form of a Roman flue tile found 300m southeast of the investigation site (B14/026).

Medieval activity is represented by the site of a now demolished moated manor, Orme Hall, situated 200m southeast of the site (B14/019). Finds associated with this building have been recovered at various times and as close as 50m to the site. These include pottery of medieval and post-medieval date (B14/020 and B14/021), a medieval short cross penny (B14/022)



and numerous finds revealed by metal detector users ((B14/041). Earthworks of medieval date are also found c. 600m to the southwest (B14//035) and fieldwalking adjacent to these earthworks produced medieval and post-medieval pottery (B14/035).

No later occupation is recorded in the proximity of the site, although Orme Hall remained in use until its final demolition in 1818.

### 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

Topsoil was stripped to a depth of c. 0.20m before foundation trenches were excavated to a depth of between 0.80 and 1m below the ground surface using a mechanical excavator. The sides of the trenches were then 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. Natural geological deposits were also recorded. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at a scale of 1:50.

### 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	Medieval deposits
Phase 3	Modern deposits

#### Phase 1 Natural deposits

Natural deposits throughout the site are represented by yellowish brown silts (Contexts 2 and 9, Fig. 4). These deposits, both of which showed fine laminations, are probably alluvial in origin. Overlying these deposits were layers of mid grey brown silt with occasional amounts of sand (Contexts 8, 10, 12 and 13). The presence of cockle shells within these layers suggests deposition under marine conditions.

#### Phase 2 Medieval Deposits

Cut into deposits 10 and 13 was a possible linear feature (7), with a width of 2.20m and an observed depth of 0.5m. Tentatively interpreted as a ditch, this was filled with a greyish brown sandy silt (6). A piece of pottery from this fill was of a type known as Bourne ware manufactured in the 14th century.

#### Phase 3 Modern deposits

Modern deposits are represented by a topsoil of dark greyish brown sandy silt (1). Pottery recovered from this context included Bourne ware, Toynton All Saints Ware (medieval) and two sherds of 19th century date. This deposit had been covered by limestone fragments over a hardcore base to create the yard (3), presumably at the same time as the construction of buildings on the site.

Services provided to the site were also recorded. Two linear cuts (15 and 17) contained water pipes and backfill (14 and 16). A possible gas pipe (18) in a linear

trench (19) was also observed.

A cut feature was observed in section 2 (5), filled with a primary fill of purple cinders (4) and a final fill of grey brown silt (11). This was interpreted as a small refuse pit.

## 6. DISCUSSION

Natural silt deposits (Phase 1) across the site represent soil build up over many years and probably have an alluvial origin. In particular, the deposit containing cockle shells indicates a marine transgression of the area.

A ditch, that probably served a drainage or boundary function, represents human activity in the area during the medieval period (Phase 2).

Modern deposits (Phase 3) were represented by a topsoil that had been buried by hardcore and limestone to provide a yard surface. Service trenches were also visible and are related to the present buildings. A small pit, containing cinders, may be for rubbish disposal.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations at Willington Road, Kirton show a sequence of natural to modern deposits. Natural accumulations indicate alluvial deposition with a later marine transgression. Medieval remains indicate that the site was part of, or within, field or property boundaries. Service pipes and the present ground surface covering a buried topsoil represented modern use of the site.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project services wish to thank Horticulture Research International Ltd for funding the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Steve Haynes coordinated the work and Dave Start edited this report. Hilary Healey commented on the pottery. 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: Chris Moulis  
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner  
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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)

## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

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



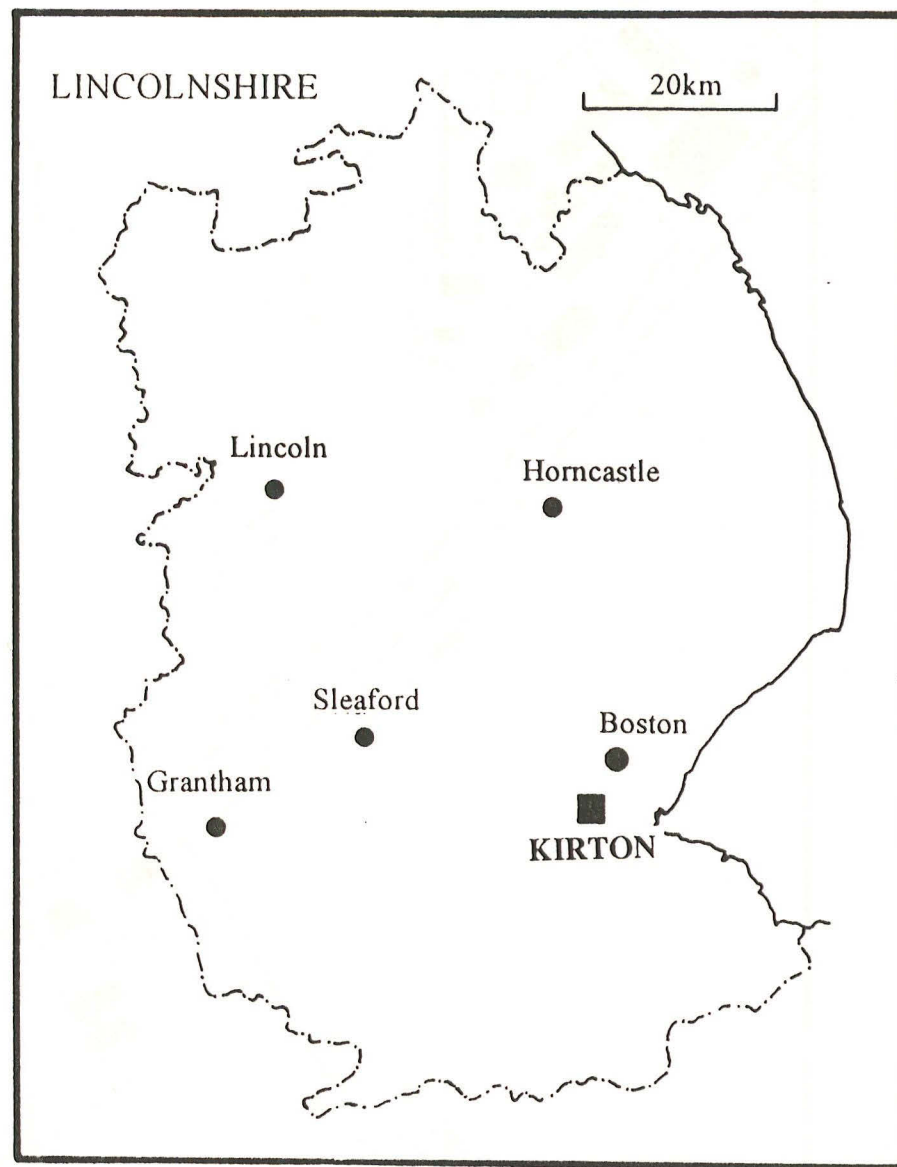
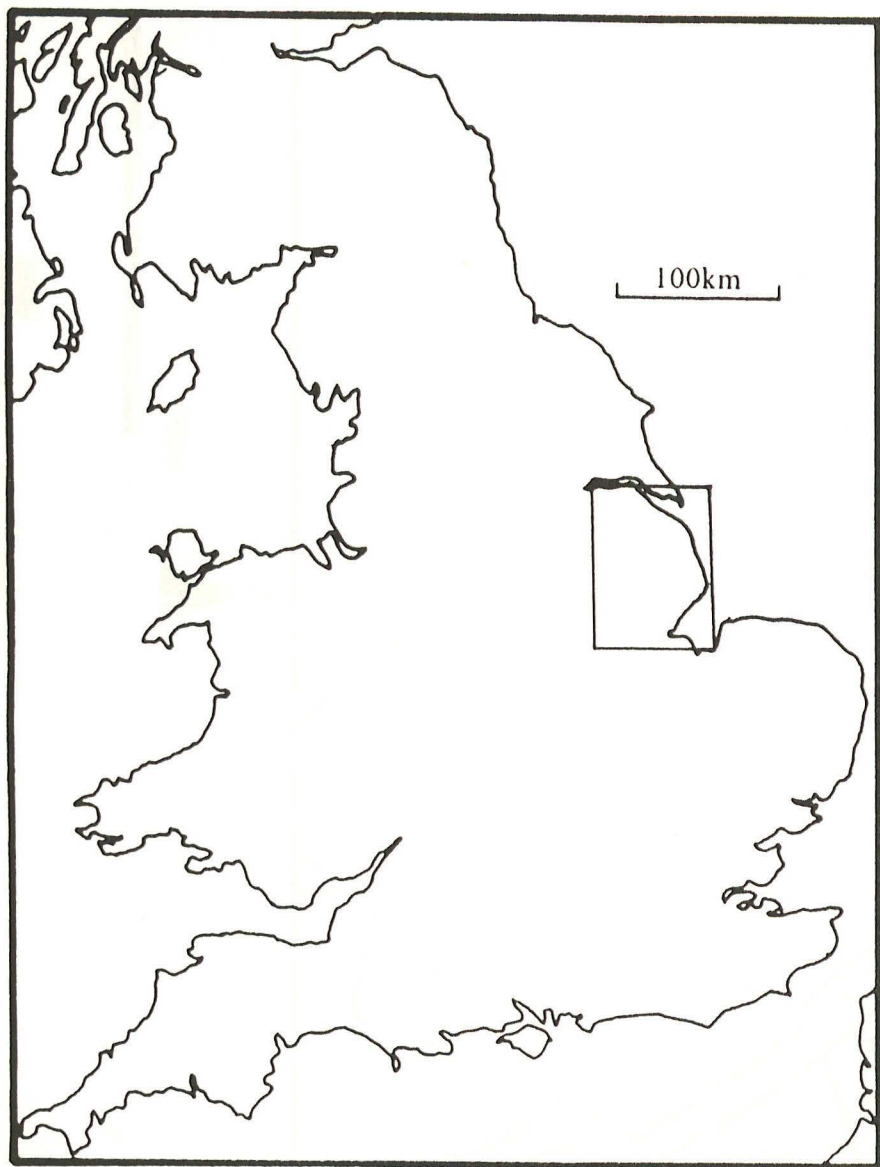
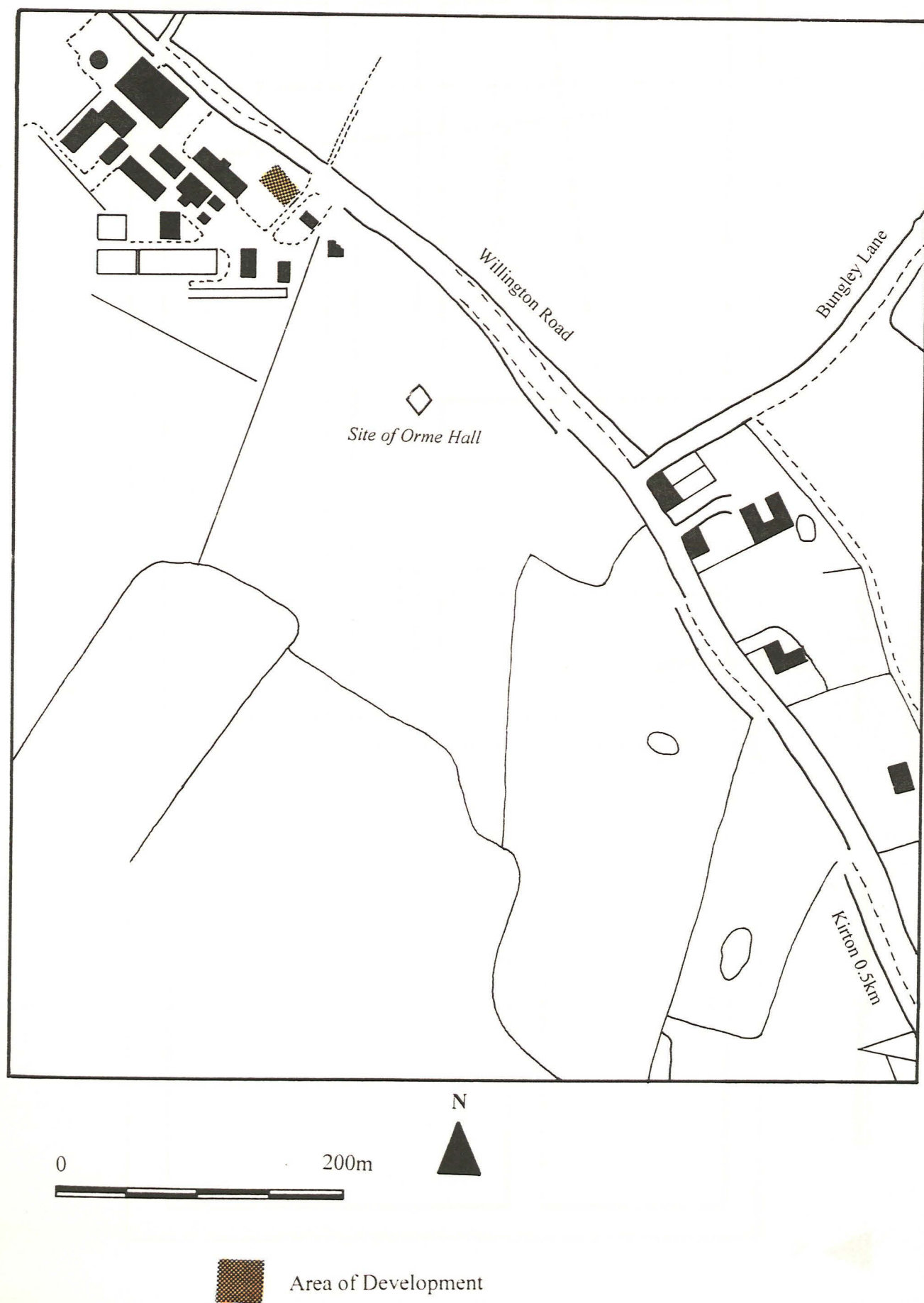


Fig. 1 General Location Plan

Fig. 2 Site Location Plan





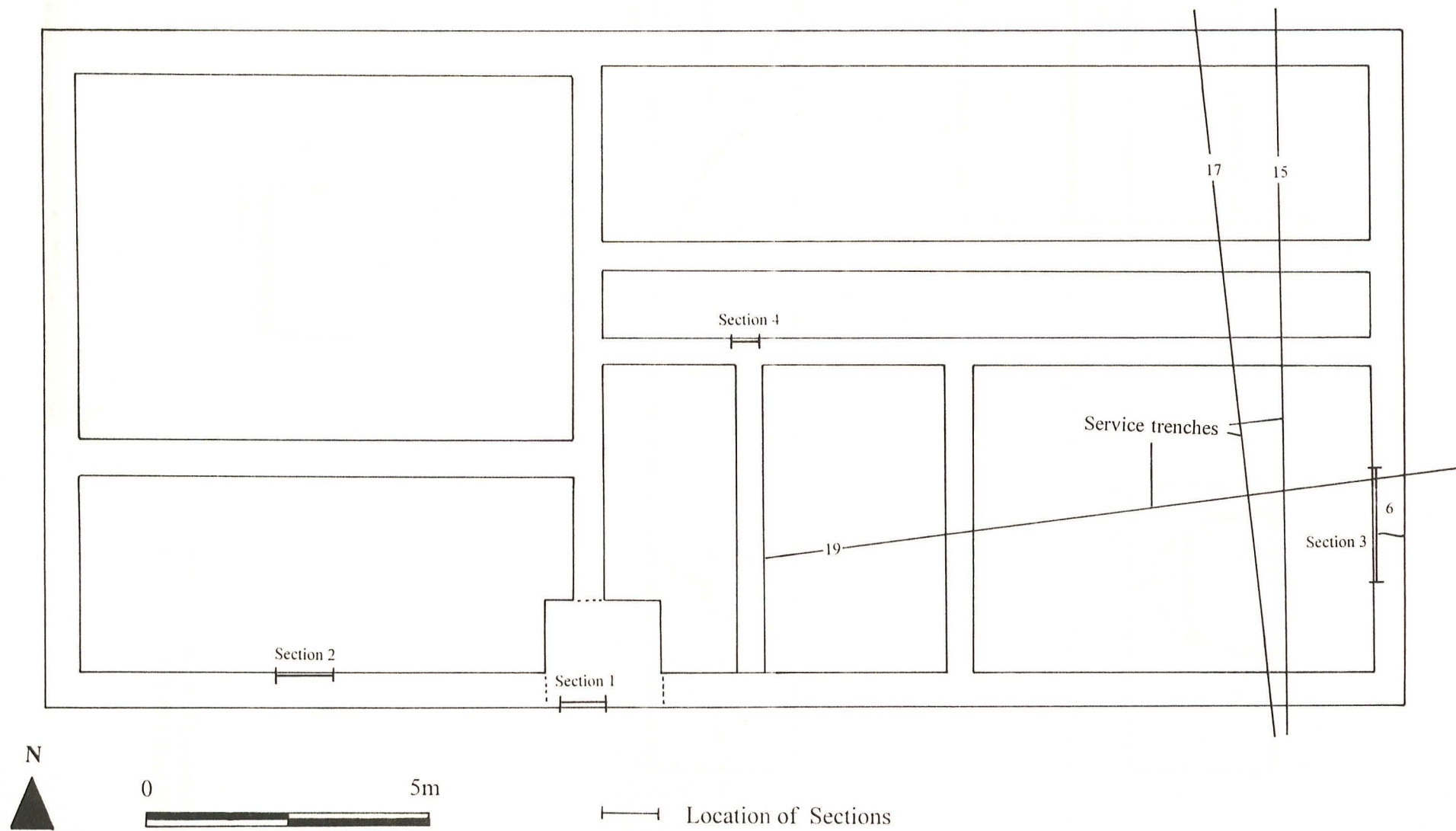
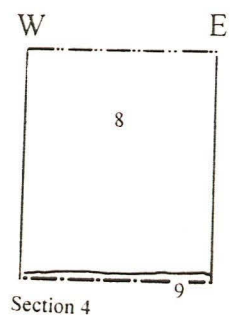
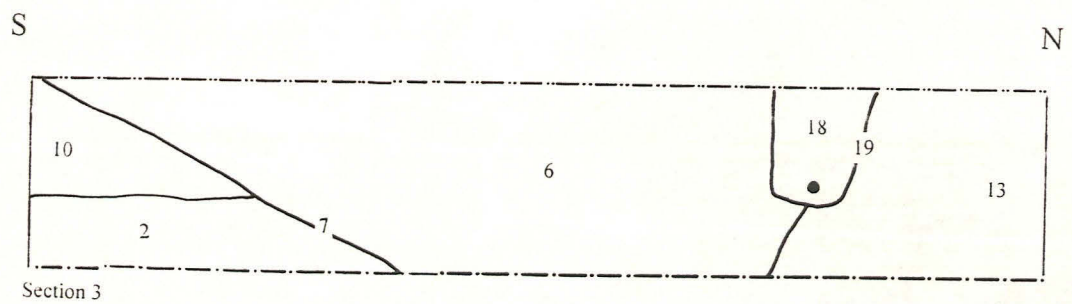
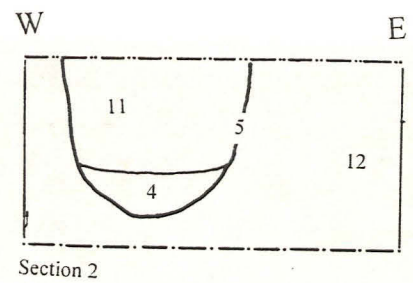
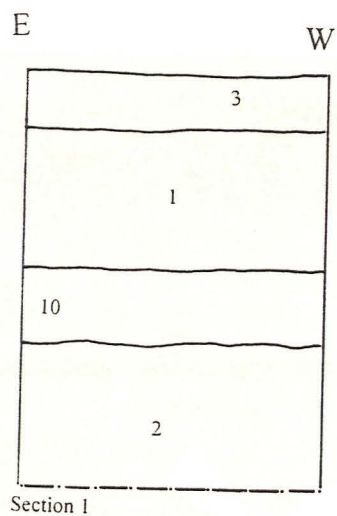


Fig. 3 Plan of Foundations, showing location of sections

Fig. 4 Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4

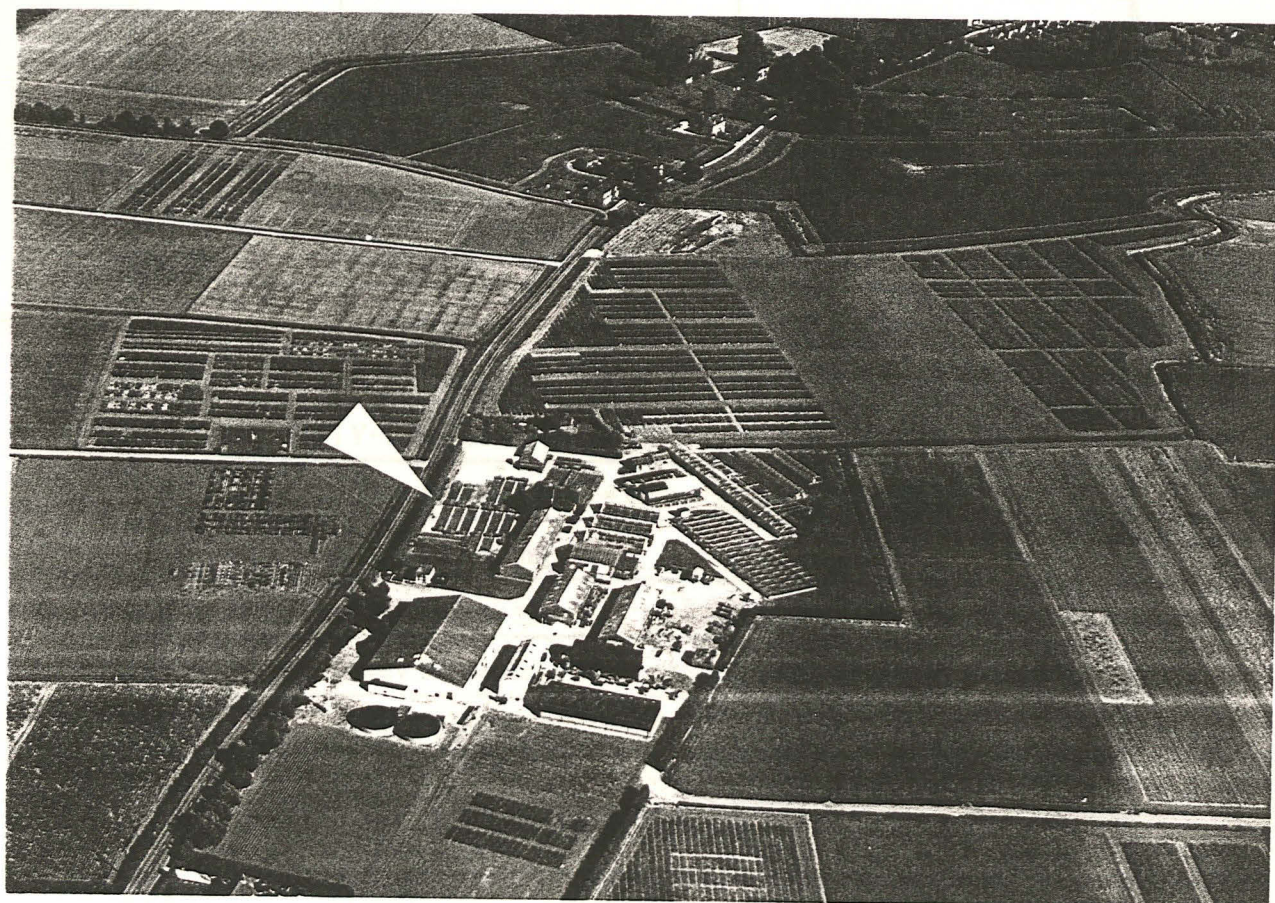


--- Limit of Excavation  
 --- Limit of topsoil stripping





Plate 1 Aerial Photograph, showing area of investigation



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**APPENDIX 1**  
**Context Summary.**

1	Grey brown silt	Buried topsoil
2	Yellow brown silt	Natural deposit
3	Limestone/hardcore	Yard surface
4	Purple cinders	Fill of 5
5	Circular cut ?	Refuse pit ?
6	Grey brown sandy silt	Fill of 7
7	Linear cut	Ditch feature
8	Grey brown silt	Natural deposit
9	Yellow brown sandy silt	Natural deposit
10	Grey brown silt	Natural deposit
11	Grey brown silt	Fill of cut 5
12	Grey brown silt	Natural deposit
13	Grey brown silt	Natural deposit
14	Water pipe & fill	Fill of 15
15	Linear cut	Service trench
16	Water pipe & fill	Fill of 17
17	Linear cut	Service trench
18	Steel pipe & fill	Fill of 19
19	Linear cut	Service trench



## APPENDIX 2

### The Archive

The archive consists of:

- 19 . . Context records
- 1 . . . Photographic records
- 6 . . . Scale drawings
- 1 . . . Stratigraphic matrices
- 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: 181:94

Archaeological Project Services, project code: KWR94