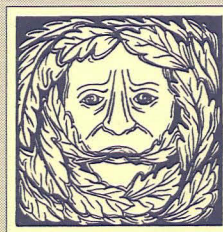


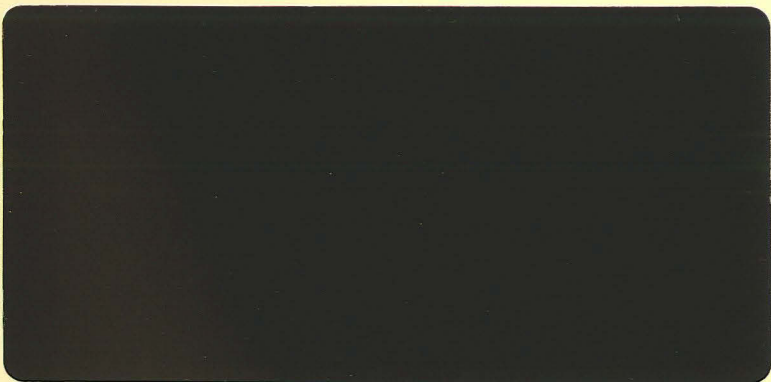
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96/18

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON
LAND NORTH OF CHURCH END,
WRANGLE,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(WCE96)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES



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10.12.96

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2. Site Description

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON
LAND NORTH OF CHURCH END,
WRANGLE,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(WCE96)**

Work Undertaken For
Mr and Mrs P Scarborough

November 1996

Report Compiled by
N.A. Herbert

A.P.S. Report N° 46/96

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a single dwelling and garage on land adjacent to Church End, Wrangle, Lincolnshire.

A stone hammer of Early Bronze Age date (2200-1800 BC) has previously been recovered close to the site. During the Iron Age (900 BC - AD 43) the Wrangle area was involved in salt production. Scatters of artefacts associated with this industrial activity have been found in the vicinity of the site.

Salt production also formed the basis of the local economy during the Romano-British period (AD 43-410). Scatters of pottery and briquetage, crude ceramic used in salt-making, have been recorded in close proximity to the area of investigation. It is highly probable that these represent the remains of settlement. A major Roman road is believed to exist c. 2km northeast of the site. The area is known to have been flooded at the end of the Roman period, as later silts have been recorded overlying Roman features in the area of Wrangle Tofts.

Finds of Late Saxon pottery (AD 900-1066) have been recorded within c. 400m of the site and possibly reflect the earliest post-Roman occupation of the area. Wrangle developed as a port during the medieval period (AD 1066-1500), when ships are believed to have sheltered within 500m of the site of the church of St. Mary and St. Nicholas. Medieval pottery has been retrieved c. 120m west of the site, including fragments of 13th decorated floor tile. The nearby church was constructed during the 14th century and contains brasses of the early post-medieval period (AD 1500-1600).

Thick deposits of natural silts and silty clays were recorded during the watching brief. The remains of a remnant stream or channel

was also located at the northwestern corner of the development. A single fragment of glass was recovered as an unstratified artefact from the site.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

On the 18th October 1996, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken on land adjacent to Church End, Wrangle, Lincolnshire. This was in response to the proposed development of the site as detailed in planning application B21/0382/96. The work was commissioned by Mr and Mrs P Scarborough and was carried out by Archaeological Project Services in accordance with a brief set by the Community Archaeologist for Boston Borough Council (Appendix 1).

2.2 Topography and Geology

Wrangle is situated 12km northeast of Boston, in the civil parish of Wrangle, Boston District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The village is located 4km from the northern bank of the Wash, and is situated between the Rivers Steeping, to the north, and Witham, which lies to the south (Fig. 2).

Located at a height of c. 3m OD, the investigation area is situated on the north side of Church End, approximately 120m west of the centre of Wrangle village, as defined by the church of St. Mary and St. Nicholas. Centred on National Grid Reference TF 4233 5083, the proposed development site covers an area of 40m by 25m (Fig. 3).

Snargate Series gleyic brown alluvial soils occur on the development site. These exist mainly on narrow roddons surrounded by Wallasea or Tanvats soils and are commonly associated with old settlements and Roman

salterns. These may have resulted from the leaching of formerly calcareous deposits (Robson 1985, 41). The series has developed over reclaimed stoneless marine alluvium which overlies a solid geology of Jurassic clays (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 301).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Wrangle is located in an area of archaeological activity dating from the Early Bronze Age to post-medieval periods. Prehistoric activity includes a perforated ovoid stone hammer, dated to the Early Bronze Age, recovered within *c.* 200m of the area of investigation (UA3). Evidence of occupation and activity during the Iron Age is more common. The evidence for the majority of the sites of this period consists of scatters of pottery and briquetage, crude ceramic used in the salt-making process. Several of these artefact-scatter sites exist within *c.* 500m of the area of investigation.

Romano-British archaeology in the vicinity incorporates a similar range of material, including pottery and briquetage, and it is very likely that the production of salt continued to form a major part of the economy. Located *c.* 400m south of the area of investigation, a significant amount of Romano-British pottery, flints and cockle shells is likely to represent occupation during this period (WRA18). Amphorae, mortaria, samian wares and briquetage have been found at several locations (B021/014/006) and are likely to be associated with the continued settlement of the region during this period. The remains of suspected salterns are also known in the near vicinity (WRA18). A supposed Roman road, stretching between Wrangle, Friskney and Wainfleet has been postulated (Phillips 1970, 326) and is located within *c.* 2km of the site.

Flooding is believed to have affected Wrangle towards the end of this period and

the deposition of silts, overlying Roman features, has been recorded at Wrangle Tofts (Hall and Coles 1994, 114).

Place-name evidence would suggest that occupation recommenced during the eighth or ninth centuries. Wrangle is a derivative of the Old English '*Wrang*', or the Old Scandinavian '*vrangr*', meaning 'bent or crooked'. It is likely that this refers to the name of a stream that has since disappeared (Ekwall 1974, 537). Late Saxon pottery and cockle shells have been retrieved *c.* 500m east of the area of investigation (WRN26). It is possible that this represents some of the earliest evidence for the reoccupation of the area following the flooding that occurred the Roman period.

Scatters of medieval pottery, occasionally associated with animal bone and cockle shells, have been located in the fields surrounding Wrangle (B021/007). Salt production is historically documented from the 12th century. A grant to Waltham Abbey in the late 12th century provided pasturage in Wrangle for 'oxen sufficient to maintain seven salterns at the rate of six oxen to each saltern' (Hallam 1965, 170). Undated earthworks, interpreted as a motte and bailey castle of the medieval period, are located *c.* 2km north of the area of development at King's Hill. The earliest identified architecture for the nearby church of St. Mary and St. Nicholas has been suggested as belonging to the 14th century (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 815).

During the post-medieval period Wrangle is likely to have retained its Fenland environment, as it was not significantly drained. Field names in the Enclosure Awards of 1807 are a reminder of the essentially watery surrounds with minor place-names including: Toadland, Fish Meer, Wet Riggs and Reedy Lands (Lane 1993, 79)

3. AIMS

The aims of the watching brief were, as detailed in the brief (Appendix 1), to locate and record archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

A mechanical excavator was used in the excavation of the service pipe trenches, to a maximum depth of 2.3m. The sides of the trenches were then cleaned by hand, and inspected for archaeological remains, prior to recording the sections.

Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed within the trenches was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. Thereafter, to assist analysis, a stratigraphic matrix was created and phased. A photographic record was compiled, sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at 1:20. Additionally, the natural geology was recorded.

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. A total of three phases were identified:

- Phase 1 Natural deposits
- Phase 2 Undated 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 (005). Soft, light-blue silty clay containing a thin (10-20mm) band of organic material. No depth was established. Visible at the base of section 1. Natural deposit.

Deposit (003). Loose, light brownish-yellow silt with occasional reddish-yellow mottle. 0.24m thick, overlying (004) and visible in section 1. Natural deposit.

Deposit (013). Plastic, mid reddish-brown silty clay. No depth was established. Visible at the base of section 2. Natural deposit.

Deposit (012). Loose, light reddish-brown silt. 0.19m thick, overlying (013) and visible in section 2. Natural deposit.

Deposit (011). Soft, light greyish-green silty clay. 90mm thick, overlying (012) and visible in section 2. Natural deposit.

Deposit (010). Soft, mid reddish-brown silty clay with a moderate reddish mottle. 80mm thick, overlying (011) and visible in section 2. Natural deposit.

Deposit (009). Soft, light bluish-green silty clay with a thin (3mm) layer of organic material on the upper surface. 10mm thick, overlying (010) and visible in section 2. Natural deposit.

Deposit (008). Friable, light brownish-yellow silt containing occasional dark brown root stains. 0.24m thick, overlying (009) and visible in section 2. Natural deposit.

Deposit (019). Plastic, mid yellowish-brown silty clay containing occasional black organic flecks. No depth was established. Visible at the base of section 3. Natural deposit.

Deposit (018). Loose, light to mid brownish-red silt containing occasional dark

brown root stains. 0.27m thick, overlying (019) and visible in section 3. Natural deposit.

Deposit (017). Friable, light greenish-blue silt with occasional mid red mottling. 100mm thick, overlying (018) and visible in section 3. Natural deposit.

Deposit (016). Soft, light to mid brown silty clay containing moderate decayed limestone flecks. 0.11m thick, overlying (017) and visible in section 3. Natural deposit.

Phase 2 Undated deposits

Deposits (002), (023) and (015). Friable, light brown silt containing moderate coal, tile and charcoal flecks, occasional small roots and rare small sub-angular pebbles (1-3mm). 0.25m thick, overlying (003), (008) and (016) respectively. Visible in sections 1, 2 and 3. Buried agricultural soil.

Deposit (004). Soft, mid reddish-brown silty clay containing occasional tile and charcoal flecks. 0.13m thick, overlying (005) and visible in section 1. Possible dumped deposit.

Phase 3 Modern deposits

Deposit (007). Loose, light brown silt containing frequent angular flint fragments (5-70mm) and moderate rounded pebbles (5-10mm). 0.3m thick, overlying (023) and visible in section 2. Hardstanding surface.

Deposit (020). Indurated 12" diameter concrete pipe surrounded by 1.1m width of gravels within a square cut. Visible in plan (Fig. 4). Drainage pipe.

Deposit (021). Indurated 12" diameter concrete pipe surrounded by 1.1m width of gravels within a square cut. Visible in plan (Fig. 4). Drainage pipe.

Deposits (001), (006) and (014). Soft, fine mid-brown silty clay containing frequent small roots, occasional gravel lenses (1-2m), tile fragments (0.1-0.15m) and limestone fragments (0.05-0.1m). 0.25m thick, overlying (002), (007) and (015) respectively and visible in sections 1, 2 and 3. Topsoil.

6. DISCUSSION

Deposits of fine clays and fine silty clays formed a thick layer of natural (Phase 1). It is likely that these were deposited in a wet or waterlogged environment. A relict stream channel was recorded within these deposits, and is shown as section 1 (Fig. 5). The contexts dip gradually from south to north, towards the centre of the channel.

A thin layer of undated material, possibly deposited as part of a dump, was recorded as a later fill of the stream channel (Phase 2). The natural deposits were then sealed by a layer of agricultural soil that contained fragments of tile and charcoal.

Modern deposits (Phase 3) included the deposition of a thick layer of topsoil and a hardstanding surface. Two substantial concrete pipes were cut into the earlier Phase 1 and 2 deposits to provide drainage from the nearby Angel Inn (Fig. 4).

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were undertaken on land adjacent to Church End, Wrangle because the site fell within an area of suspected archaeological activity. Previous fieldwalking by the Fenland Project team had identified the presence of scatters of pottery and briquetage, dating from the prehistoric to the medieval periods, in the immediate vicinity of the area that was to be developed. Consequently, it was possible

that archaeological deposits might be disturbed as a result of the development.

The watching brief recorded a series of natural, undated and modern deposits. A series of natural deposits had formed, probably as a result of deposition in a wet or waterlogged environment, prior to the formation of a stream channel. A layer, interpreted as a dumped deposit, was contained within the channel of the relict stream. Although the deposit remains undated, the presence of tile and charcoal flecks is likely to suggest occupation in the near vicinity, prior to the infilling of the stream. The presence of thin organic layers within the natural deposits suggests that the potential for the recovery of environmental material is good.

This sequence was sealed by an undated layer, interpreted as an agricultural soil, that represents the earliest economic exploitation of the site. Modern topsoil had formed over this layer and a series of large concrete drains had been cut into the underlying natural deposits. A single shard of modern glass was recovered from the surface of the site.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to thank Mr and Mrs P Scarborough for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Dale Trimble coordinated the work and Tom Lane and Gary Taylor edited this report. Jim Bonnor, the Boston District Community Archaeologist, kindly permitted access to the relevant parish files.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Dale Trimble
Site Supervisor: Neil Herbert

Illustrations: Dave Hopkins
Post-excavation Analyst: Neil Herbert

10. SOURCES

Ekwall, E. 1974 *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names* (4th Edition)

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Waller, M., 1994 *The Fenland Project Number 9: Flandrian Environmental Change*

11. ABBREVIATIONS

B Numbers prefixed with this code relate to the primary reference numbers used by the Boston District Community Archaeologist.

WR Numbers prefixed with this code and the letters A or N are the primary reference numbers used by the Fenland Research Project for identifying archaeological sites and finds.

Appendix 1

BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING

Plot 2, Church End, Wrangle, Boston, Lincs.

1. Summary

1.1 This document is the brief for archaeological observation and recording work to be carried out during the construction of a bungalow at plot 2 Church End, Wrangle on behalf of Mr Scarborough.

1.2 This brief should be used by archaeological contractors as the basis for the preparation of a detailed archaeological project specification. In response to this brief contractors will include the anticipated working methods, timescales and staffing levels.

1.3 The detailed specification will be submitted for approval by the Boston Community Archaeologist. The client will be free to choose between those specifications which are considered to adequately satisfy the brief

2. Site Location and Description

2.1 Boston is situated 45km southeast of Lincoln and approximately 7km from the northwest coast of the Wash among the Fens of South Lincolnshire. Wrangle is situated on the northwest stretch of the Wash coastline approximately 12km north east of Boston.

2.2 The site is one of two building plots situated on the north side of Church End, west of the church. The land is pasture and lies at approximately 3m OD. The topsoil is a silt loam on gleyic brown alluvial soils of the Snargate Series overlying Devensian Till and glacio-fluvial sands and gravels.

3. Planning Background

3.1 An application was made to Boston Borough Council for the construction of a bungalow at plot 2 Church End, Wrangle (app. B21/0382/96). Permission was granted subject to a condition that the developer commission an archaeological watching brief.

4. Archaeological Background

4.1 Prehistoric activity is represented by a scatter of worked flints to the southeast, located by the Fenland Survey.

4.2 Romano-British (and some Iron Age) material was also recorded over the road to the south and further scatters of pottery was located further south beside the road at Joy Hill, a placename which in itself may be evidence of past settlement or activity.

4.3 Wrangle was an important Saxon and Medieval industrial centre producing salt. The development site is situated c.120m west of the church and, therefore, close to the centre of any medieval settlement focused on this building. Scatters of medieval pottery and floor tile have been located around the church and to the south of the site.

4.4 A watching brief conducted by the Community Archaeologist during the construction of the house furthest west of the church along Church End revealed no significant archaeological features.

4.5 Communication with the developer has revealed that two pipes once associated with the adjacent public house cross the site at a depth of approximately four and a half feet. Some archaeological remains will, therefore, have been destroyed.

5. Requirements for Work

5.1 The objective of the watching brief should be to ensure that any archaeological features exposed by the groundworks are recorded and interpreted.

5.2 Any adjustments to the brief for the watching brief project should only be made after consultation with the Community Archaeologist for Boston Borough Council.

5.3 It should be expected primarily that evidence associated with the Saxon and medieval settlement of Wrangle will be observed but there is also the possibility of Romano-British being revealed.

5.3 The following details should be given in the contractor's specification:

5.3.1 A projected timetable must be agreed for the various stages of work.

5.3.2 The staff structure and numbers must be detailed. This should include lists of specialists and their role in the project.

5.3.3 It is expected that all on-site work will be carried out in a way that complies with the relevant Health and Safety legislation and that due consideration will be given to site security.

5.3.4 The recovery and recording strategies to be used must be described in full.

5.3.5 An estimate of time and resources allocated for the post-excavation work and report production.

6. **Methods**

6.1 The project should be carried out by a recognised archaeological body in accordance with the code of conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

6.2 The watching brief should involve:

6.2.1 archaeological supervision of soil stripping;

6.2.2 inspection of subsoil for archaeological features;

6.2.3 recording of archaeological features in plan;

6.2.4 rapid excavation of features if necessary;

6.2.5 archaeological supervision of subsoil stripping

6.2.6 inspection of natural for archaeological features and recording them.

6.2.7 any human remains encountered must be left in situ and only removed if absolutely necessary. The contractor must comply with all statutory consents and licences regarding the exhumation and interment of human remains. It will also be necessary to comply with all reasonable requests of interested parties as to the remains or associated items. Attempt must be made at all times not to cause offence to any interested parties.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 The Community Archaeologist of Boston Borough Council will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project and will require at least seven days notice prior to the commencement of the work.

8. **Reporting Requirements**

8.1 A full report should be produced and deposited with the Boston Borough Council Community Archaeologist, Mr Scarborough, and the County sites and Monuments Record. The report should include:

8.1.1 location plan of the trenches;

8.1.2 section and plan drawing, with ground level, Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scales as appropriate;

8.1.3 specialist descriptions of artefacts and ecofacts;

8.1.4 an indication of potential archaeological deposits not disturbed by the present development;

8.2 After agreement with the landowner, arrangements are to be made for long term storage of all artefacts and paper archive in an appropriate museum.

8.3 If the receiving museum is to be the City and County Museum, Lincoln then the archive should be produced in the form outlined in the museum's document 'Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives', see address below.

9. **Publication and Dissemination**

9.1 The deposition of a copy of the report with the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record will be deemed to put all information into the public domain, unless a special request is made for confidentiality. If material is to be held in confidence a timescale must be agreed with the Boston Community Archaeologist but is expected this will not exceed six months. Consideration must be given to a summary of the results being published in Lincolnshire History and Archaeology in due course.

10. **Additional Information**

10.1 This document attempts to define the best practice expected of an archaeological watching brief but cannot fully anticipate the conditions that will be encountered as work progresses. However, changes to the programme are only to be made with the prior written approval of the Community Archaeologist.

10.2 Further contact addresses

Mr Scarborough
2 Brookside Road
Ruddington
Notts NG11 6AT

Mr J. Bonnor
Boston Community Archaeologist
Heritage Lincolnshire
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

Appendix 2

Context Group Summary.

Context Number	Description	Interpretation
001	Soft, fine mid-brown silty clay	Topsoil
002	Friable, light brown silt	Buried agricultural soil
003	Loose, light brown silt	Natural deposit
004	Soft, mid red-brown silty clay	Possible dumped deposit
005	Soft, light-blue silty clay	Natural deposit
006	Soft, fine mid-brown silty clay	Topsoil
007	Loose, light-brown silt with frequent angular flint fragments	Hardstanding surface
008	Friable, light brown-yellow silt	Natural deposit
009	Soft, light blue-green silty clay	Natural deposit
010	Soft, mid red-brown silty clay	Natural deposit
011	Soft, light-brown clayey silt	Natural deposit
012	Loose, light reddish-yellow silt	Natural deposit
013	Plastic, mid red-brown silty clay	Natural deposit
014	Soft, mid-brown silty clay	Topsoil
015	Loose, light brown silt	Buried agricultural soil
016	Soft, light brown silty clay	Natural deposit
017	Friable, light greenish-blue silt	Natural deposit
018	Loose, light brownish-red silt	Natural deposit
019	Plastic, mid yellow-brown silty clay	Natural deposit
020	12'' concrete pipe	Pipeline
021	12'' concrete pipe	Pipeline
023	Friable, light brown silt	Buried agricultural soil

Appendix 3

Glossary

Briquetage	Very coarse pottery closely associated with the production of salt.
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).
Iron Age	Part of the prehistoric era characterised by the introduction and use of iron for tools and weapons. In Britain this period dates from approximately 700 BC - AD 50.
Late Saxon	The latter part of the Saxon period, up to the time of the Norman conquest. The period dates from approximately AD 850-1066.
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.
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:

22	Context records
4	Scale drawings
18	Photographic records
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Bag 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: WCE96
City and County Museum, Lincoln Accession Number: 152.96

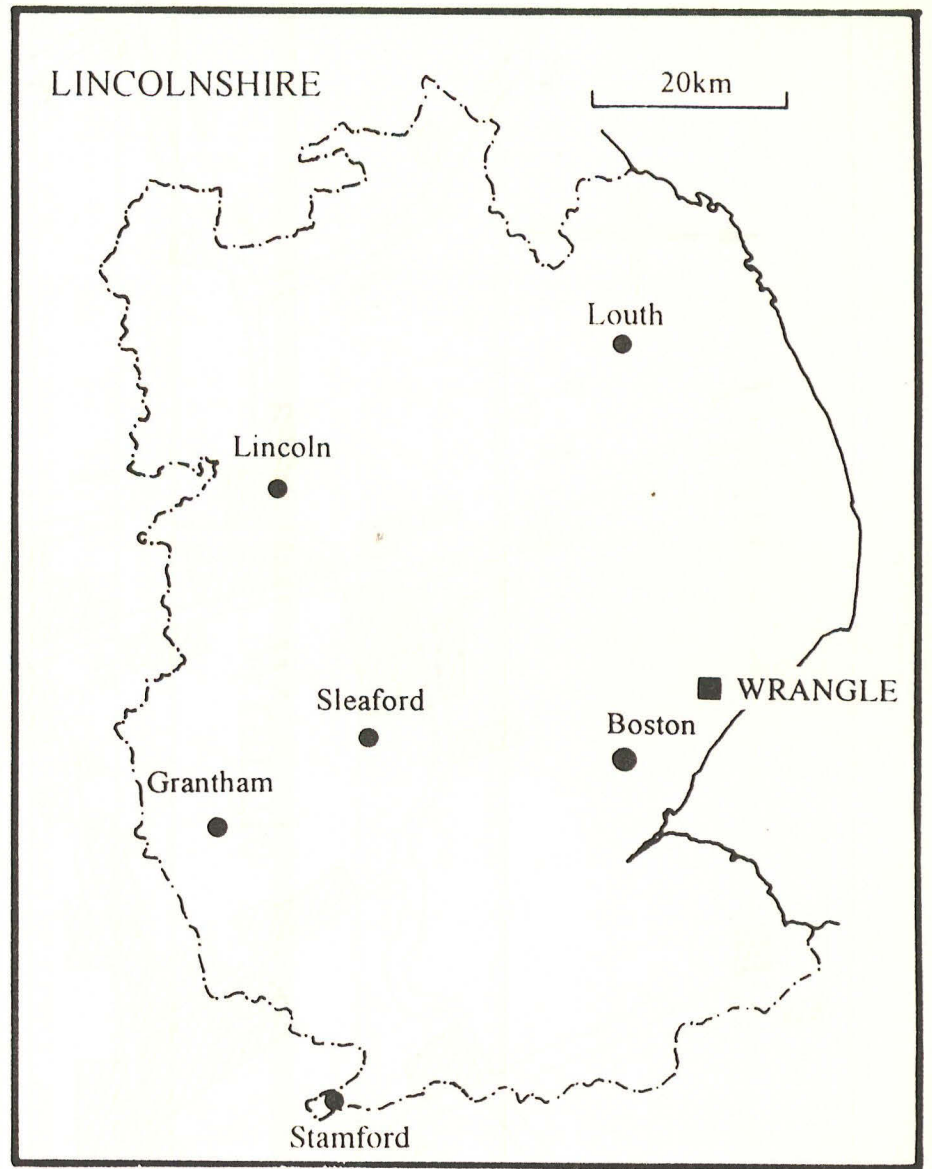
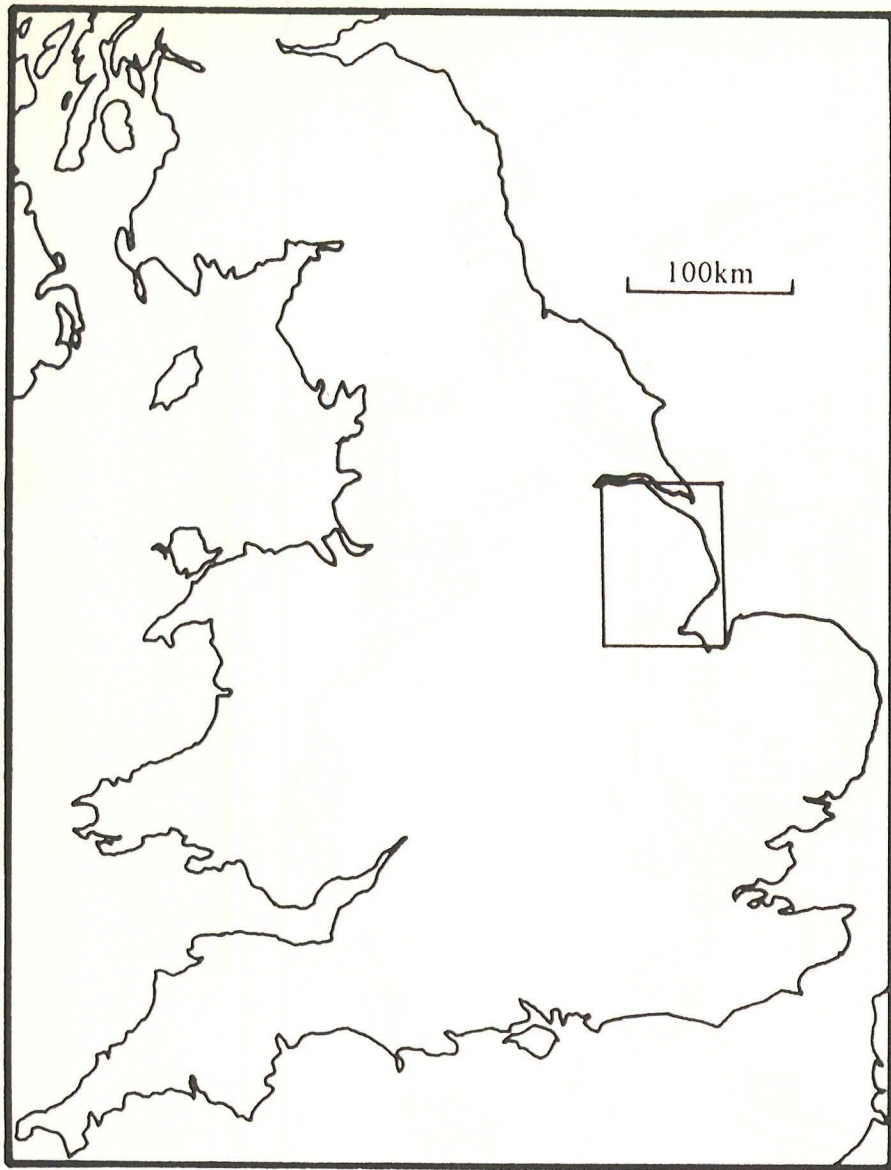
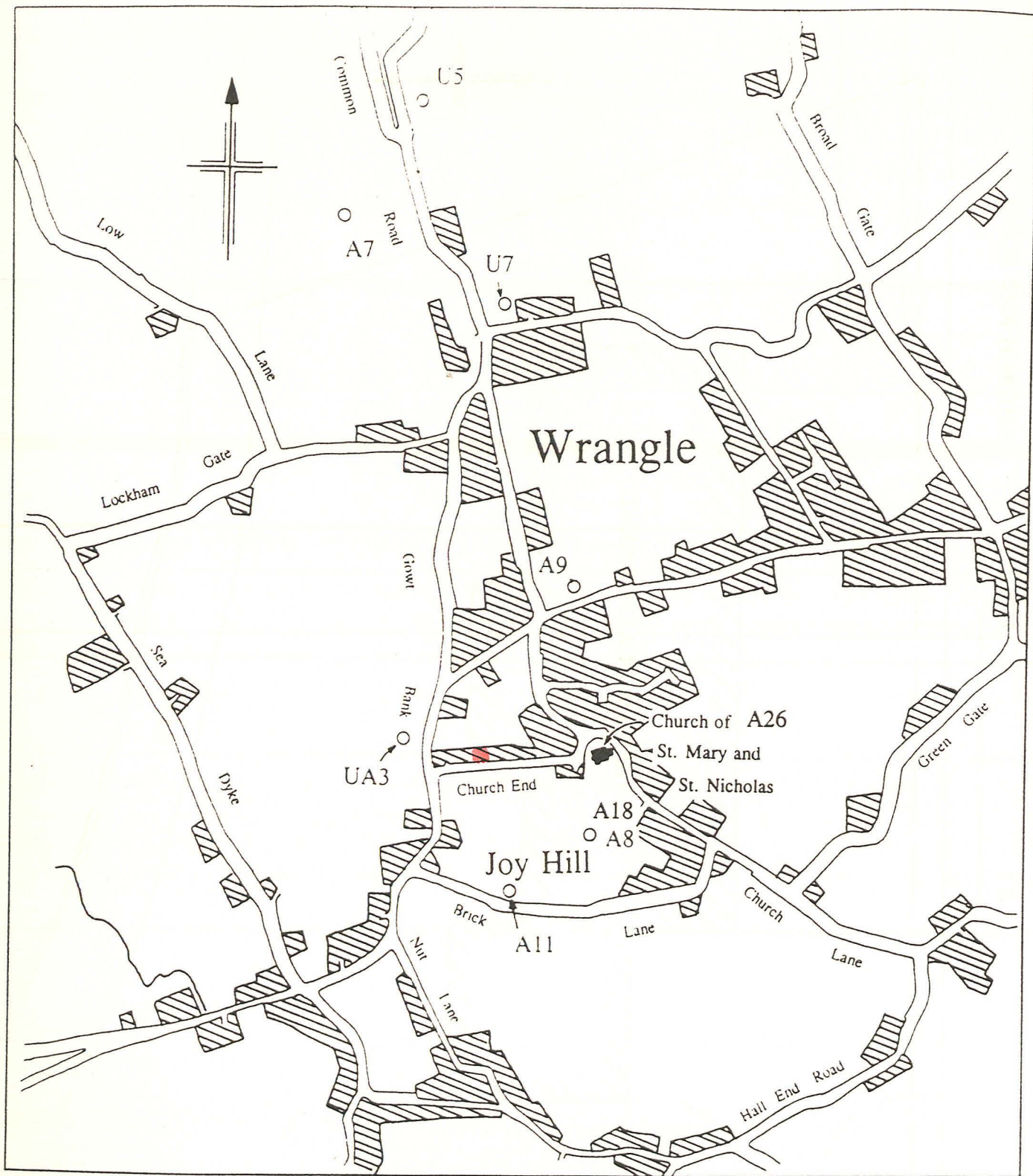


Figure. 1 General Location Plan



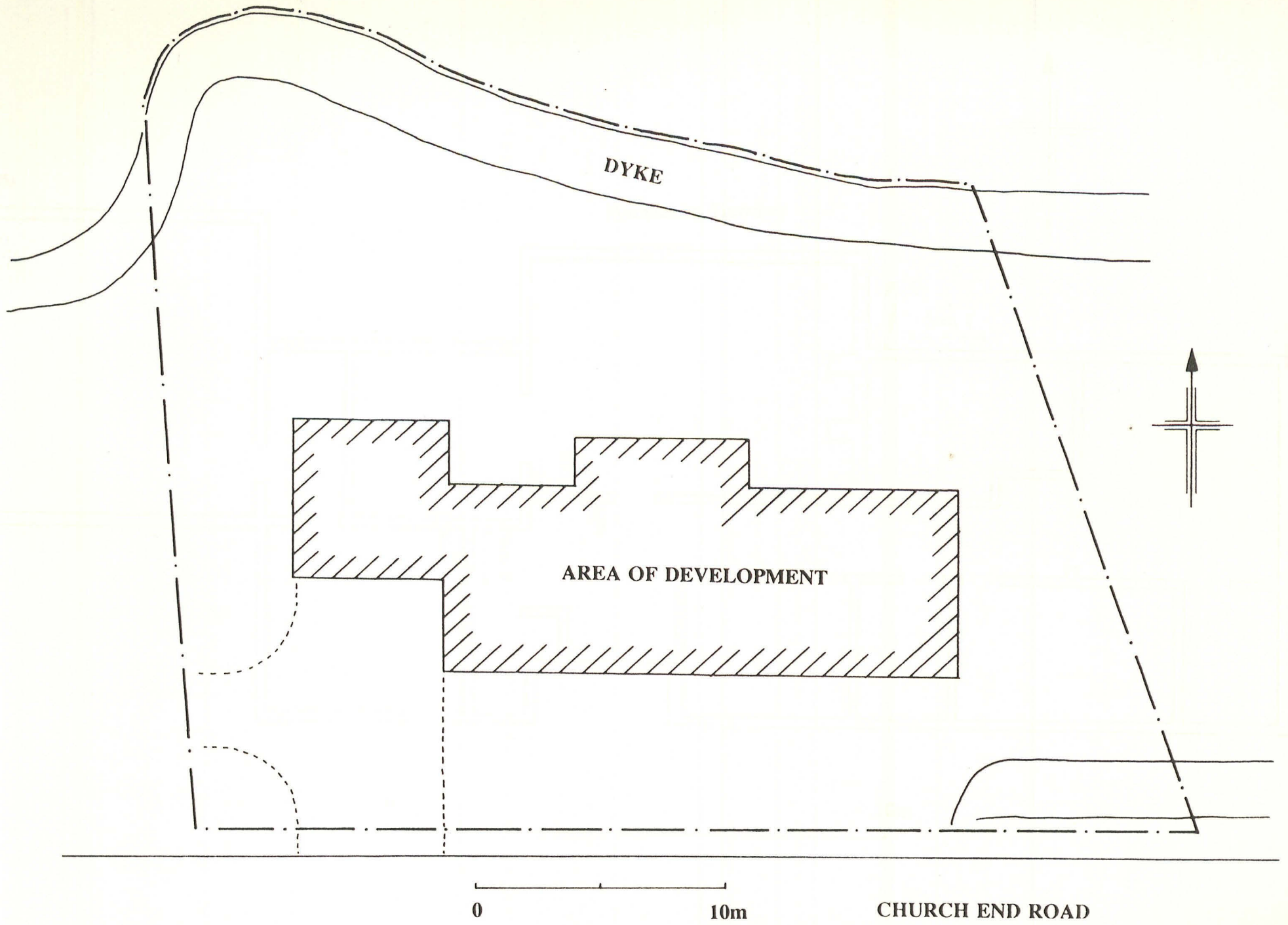
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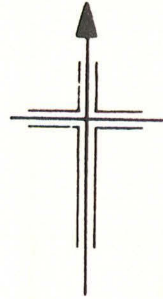


Area of Development

Figure 2. Site Location Plan

Figure 3. Development Location Plan





Foundation Trenches

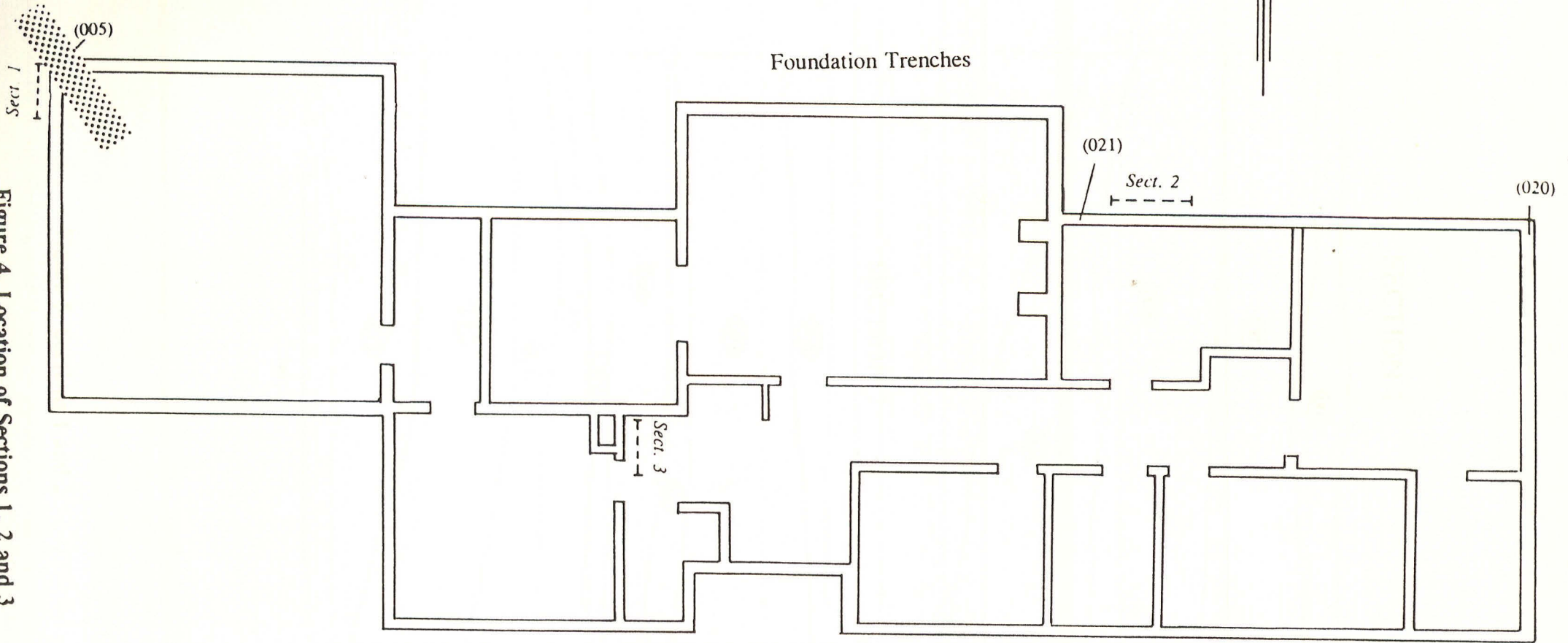


Figure 4. Location of Sections 1, 2 and 3

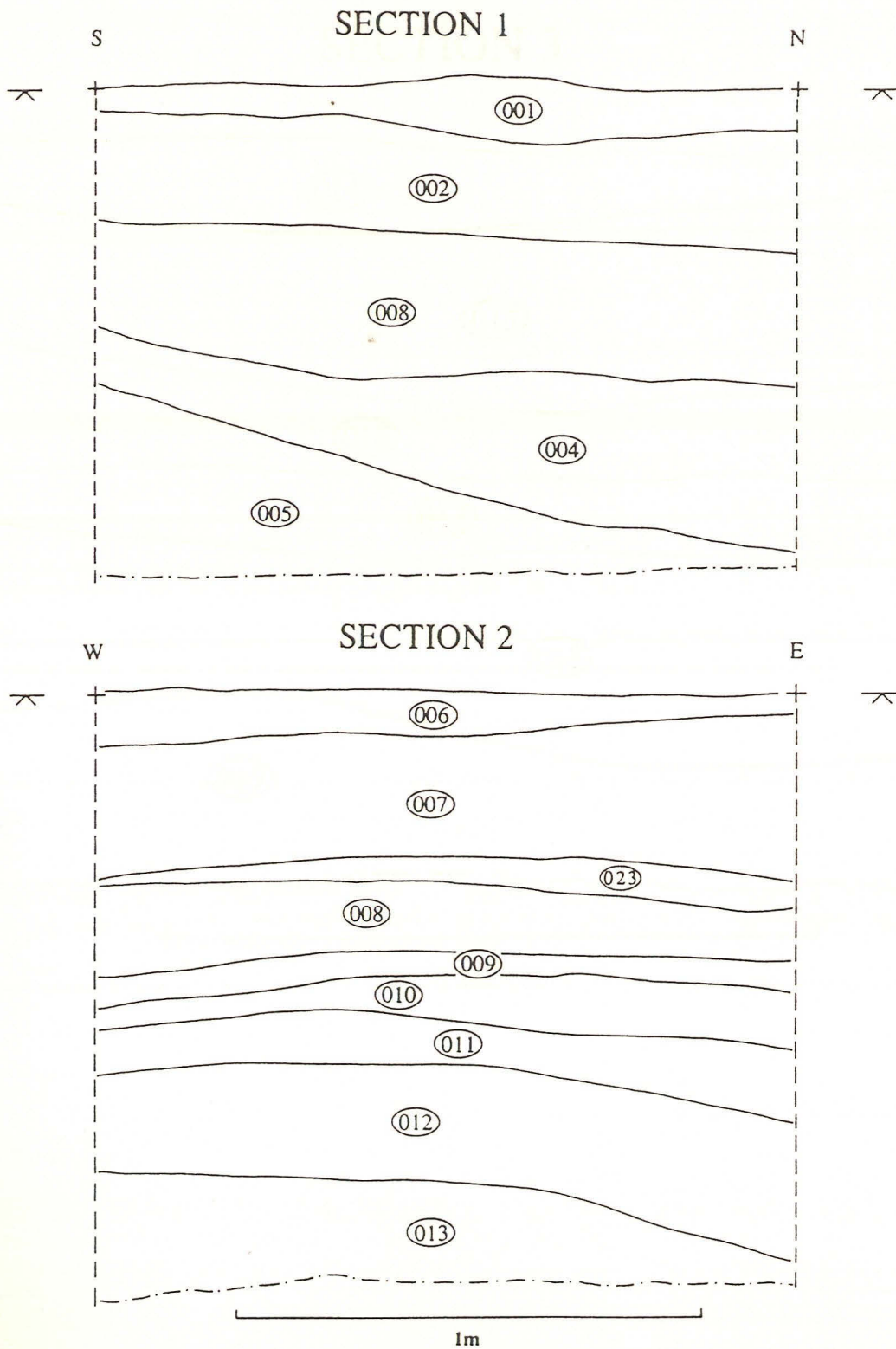


Figure 5. Sections 1 and 2

SECTION 3

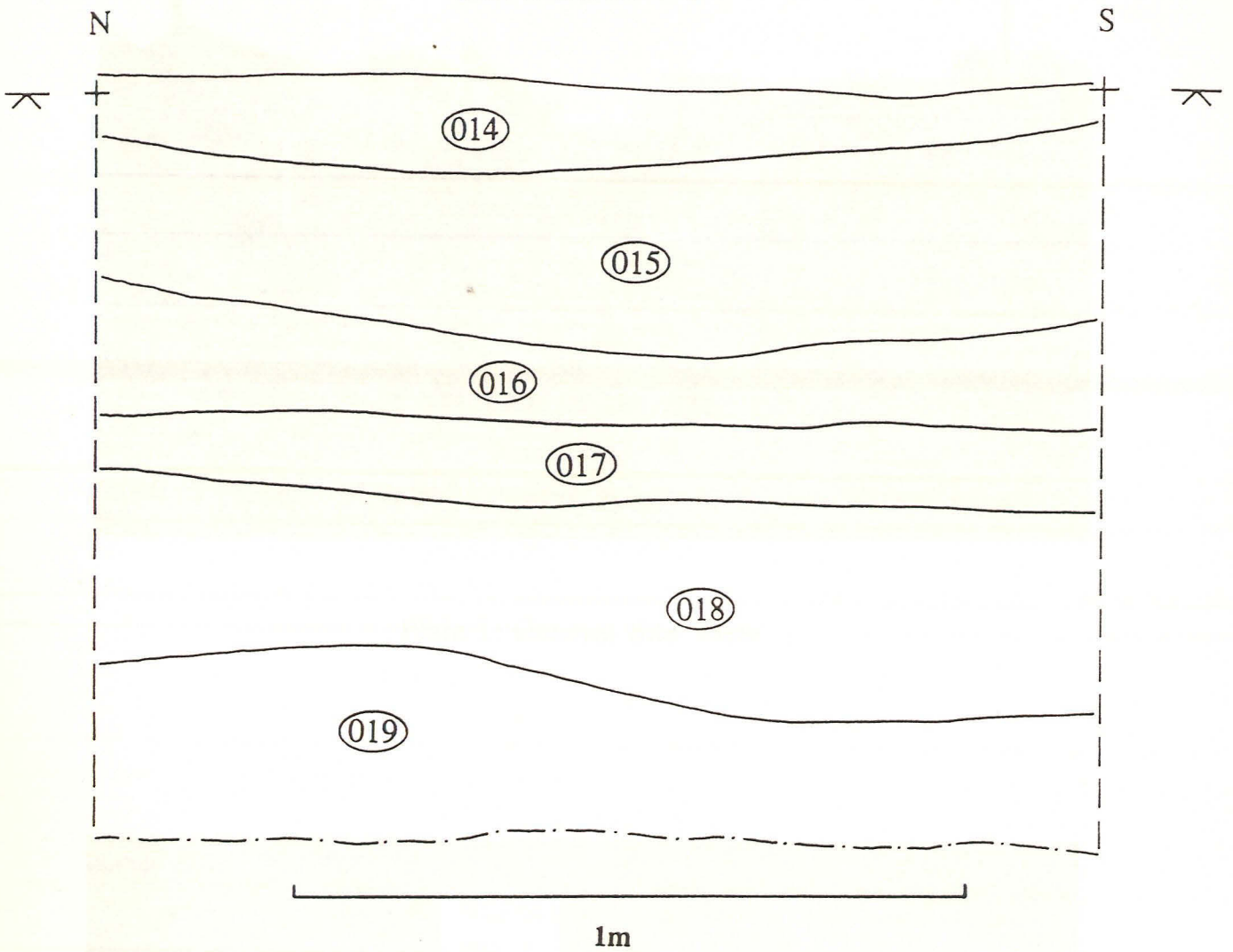


Figure 6. Section 3



Plate 1: General Site View



Plate 2: Section 1 Showing Palaeochannel