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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT NORTH END,
SWINESHEAD,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SNE96)**

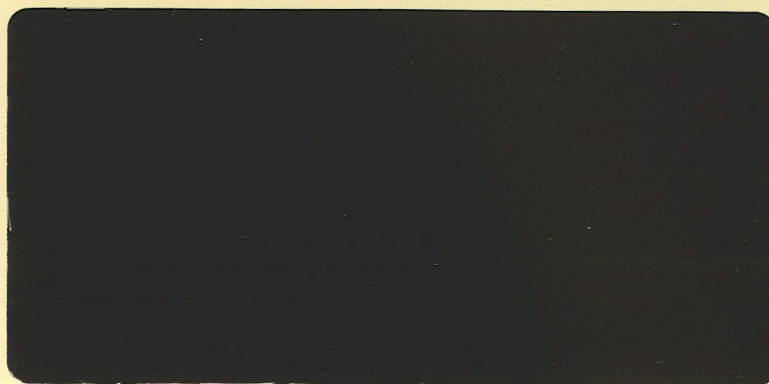
Work Undertaken For



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

Lincolnshire County Council
Arch

LINCOLN LN2 5AL
TEL. 0522 575222 FAX: 0522 530724
9.1.97



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT NORTH END,
SWINESHEAD,
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(SNE96)**

Work Undertaken For
Mrs Z. Porter

Report Compiled By
Chris Moulis

November 1996

A.P.S. Report No. 54/96

Appendix

1. The Aerial Photograph

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief undertaken by Archaeological Project Services monitored the excavation of foundations for a single dwelling on land adjacent to Boston Road, North End, Swineshead.

Excavation of the foundation trenches revealed evidence of occupation on the site dating to the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

On the 9th October 1996, an archaeological watching brief monitored development work during the construction of a single dwelling off Boston Road, North End, Swineshead. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application B19/0380/96. Permission was granted subject to a standard condition for archaeological recording. The archaeological work, commissioned by Mr A. Goodacre of A. G. Property and Garden Services on behalf of Mrs Z. Porter, was carried out by Archaeological Project Services.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Swineshead is situated 7km from the northwest coast of The Wash, in the Fenland of south Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). Approximately 40km southeast of Lincoln and 10km southwest of Boston, the town lies in the civil parish of Swineshead, Boston District. The investigation site is located at grid reference TF23224156, c. 1.4km north of the village centre as defined by the parish church of St. Mary (Fig. 2).

The site lies between 4m and 6m O.D. on the western flank of a marked rise in an

area of relatively flat ground. Local soils are defined as Romney 532 'coarse silty gleyic brown calcareous alluvial soils' (Robson 1990).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

A stone axe (B19/030) recovered 400m north of the development site is likely to be of prehistoric date (fig. 2). A second stone axe found 650m north of the Boston road site (B19/023) dates to the Bronze Age. However, the Bronze Age land surface is known to be deeply buried under later peats and alluvial silts. If the recorded find spots are correct, then the axes must have been recovered from a lower level, probably during drainage works. Alternatively these artefacts were brought into the area, possibly as part of a collection, and subsequently lost.

Romano-British pottery has been recovered within 0.75km north of the development (B19/023 and B19/032), and fieldwalking has produced a significant quantity of material from this period within a 5km radius of the site (fig. 2). Aerial reconnaissance has located a series of enclosures, probably farms or settlements, that are typical of the late prehistoric-Romano-British period (B19/001; 002; 004; 012).

Late Saxon pottery, recovered during a watching brief conducted by the Boston Borough archaeologist 100m north of the development (B19/053) provides archaeological evidence for occupation during the periods of Anglo-Scandinavian migration and conquest (c. A.D. 400-1066) (fig 2). A single Late Saxon strap-end (B19/018), found near the centre of the village, 1.2km south of the development, is the only other recorded artifact from this period. The earliest historical reference to Swineshead dates to approximately A.D. 650 and suggests the presence of a monastery. A passage from the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle

mentions *Swineshaefed* in 675 A.D. (Ekwall 1974, 457), suggesting that occupation during the 7th century may be expected.

Medieval finds are common in the village, and the surrounding landscape contains several standing monuments from this period. A scatter of pottery of medieval date was recovered from land 300m north-west of the investigation site during a watching brief on a pipe-laying operation (B19/050). Stenning or Estovening (B19/014), a village mentioned in the Domesday survey of A.D. 1086 but deserted by the 14th century, lay approximately 1.4km south of the development area. A church of the 14th century, St. Mary the Virgin (B19/006), lies in the centre of the village, 1.4km south of the site, and *Manwar Ings Castle* (B19/025), a relic of the feudal economy, is situated 1.2km to the south-east. A Cistercian abbey of the 12th century is located c. 1.9km to the south-east of the development (fig 2).

Swineshead was a market town during the medieval period with charters for two annual fairs (Platts 1985, appendix 1). In the centre of the village, c 1.4km to the south of North End is the Butter Cross (B19/005). This stone market cross provided a focus for trading activities during the medieval period and later (fig 2).

3. AIMS

The objective of the watching brief was that any archaeological remains exposed by the groundworks should be recorded and interpreted.

4. METHODS

Foundation trenches were opened to a maximum depth of c. 0.65m using a

mechanical excavator. The sides of the trenches were cleaned and examined to identify any archaeological features. All archaeological deposits or features revealed were allocated a unique reference number (context number) and assigned individual written descriptions. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at scale 1:10 (figs. 5 and 6).

5. RESULTS

Finds recovered from deposits identified during the watching brief were examined and a date assigned where possible. Records of deposits and features were examined, and a stratigraphic matrix of all recorded contexts was created and phased. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

Four phases were identified:

- Phase 1 Occupation debris. Post-medieval.
- Phase 2 Possible structural phase. Post-medieval.
- Phase 3 Levelling. Post-medieval.
- Phase 4 Modern deposits.

Phase 1 Post-medieval deposits.

Deposit (005), a reddish-brown sand recorded in the south-eastern corner of the building plot sloped gently from east to west with a minimum thickness of 80mm. The layer yielded bricks, medieval and sixteenth century pottery and may be a dumped deposit.

Deposit (011), a brownish-red sand with a minimum thickness of 50mm lay immediately north of (005) and contained occasional small limestone fragments. The presence of stone fragments in this deposit suggests dumping or levelling activity. The reddish colour may indicate scorching of the sediment, although not *in situ*.

Phase 2 Post-medieval deposits

Deposit (009), a 0.20m thick mid-light brown fine sand recorded in the eastern foundation trench included frequent fragments of pottery and brick, together with occasional limestone fragments. These finds indicate a sixteenth or seventeenth century date for this deposit which could represent a vestige of an insubstantial wall, or some kind of surface.

Deposit (010), a 0.10m thick mid brown fine sand identified north of (009), included small limestone and brick fragments and is probably part of an occupation horizon associated with (009).

Deposit (008), a 0.15m thick light brown fine sand, sealed (010) in the north-east corner of the plot. Within (008) were two large unworked limestone blocks. The southernmost stone had dimensions of 0.28 by 0.24 by 80mm. These stones may have a structural origin.

Phase 3 Post-medieval deposits.

Deposits (004) and (007) represent the same 0.20m thick mid brown fine sand. This deposit is likely to represent material dumped to level the gradient on the site.

Deposit (006), a 0.20m thick greyish mid brown fine sand identified in the northern foundation trench, contained frequent white flecks and small lumps of mortar. It also represents a dumped deposit.

Phase 4 Modern deposits.

Feature (002), an approximately sub-rectangular cut located at the south-west corner of the foundation plot, contained a dark brown sandy silt fill. The considerable amount of twentieth century domestic debris recovered from this fill suggests the feature functioned as a modern refuse pit.

Deposit (001), a dark brown sandy silt contained a worked limestone block of masonry and represents the modern day topsoil at the site.

6. DISCUSSION

Phase 1 deposits represent the earliest post-medieval occupation on the site.

The bricks and unworked limestone block recorded in Phase 2 deposits suggest that a building of post-medieval date stood on, or near, the site. Occupation during this phase is also indicated by the presence of post-medieval pottery in some of the deposits. If (009) represents the fragmentary remains of a wall then there may be evidence for a building on the site itself. The absence of roof tile suggests that such a building would have carried a thatched roof.

In Phase 3, the site appears to have been levelled. Adjacent to the development, Boston Road is considerably higher than the surrounding land. The road rises up over the 6m contour line before descending to a height of 4m, c. 250m to the north of the site. The site slopes down from the road towards the west, and the levelling seems to have reduced the gradient.

Phase 4 is represented by a modern rubbish pit, and a dark brown topsoil.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Three phases of archaeological activity dating mostly to the post-medieval period were recorded during the development work at Boston Road. Phase 1 deposits represent the earliest post-medieval occupation. A possible wall recorded in phase 2 suggests that a post-medieval building stood on the site. In Phase 3 dumping activity reduced the gradient of the site.

Animal bones survived in good condition but no other environmental remains were

recorded.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mrs Z. Porter and Mr A. Goodacre of A. G. Property and Garden Services who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Dale Trimble coordinated the work and Tom Lane edited this report. Hilary Healey identified and reported on the pottery. Access to the relevant parish archaeological files was kindly provided by Jim Bonnor, the Boston District Community Archaeologist.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Dale Trimble
Site Supervisor: Chris Moulis
Illustration: Neil Herbert and David Hopkins
Post-excavation Analyst: Chris Moulis

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ekwall, E., 1974 *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*

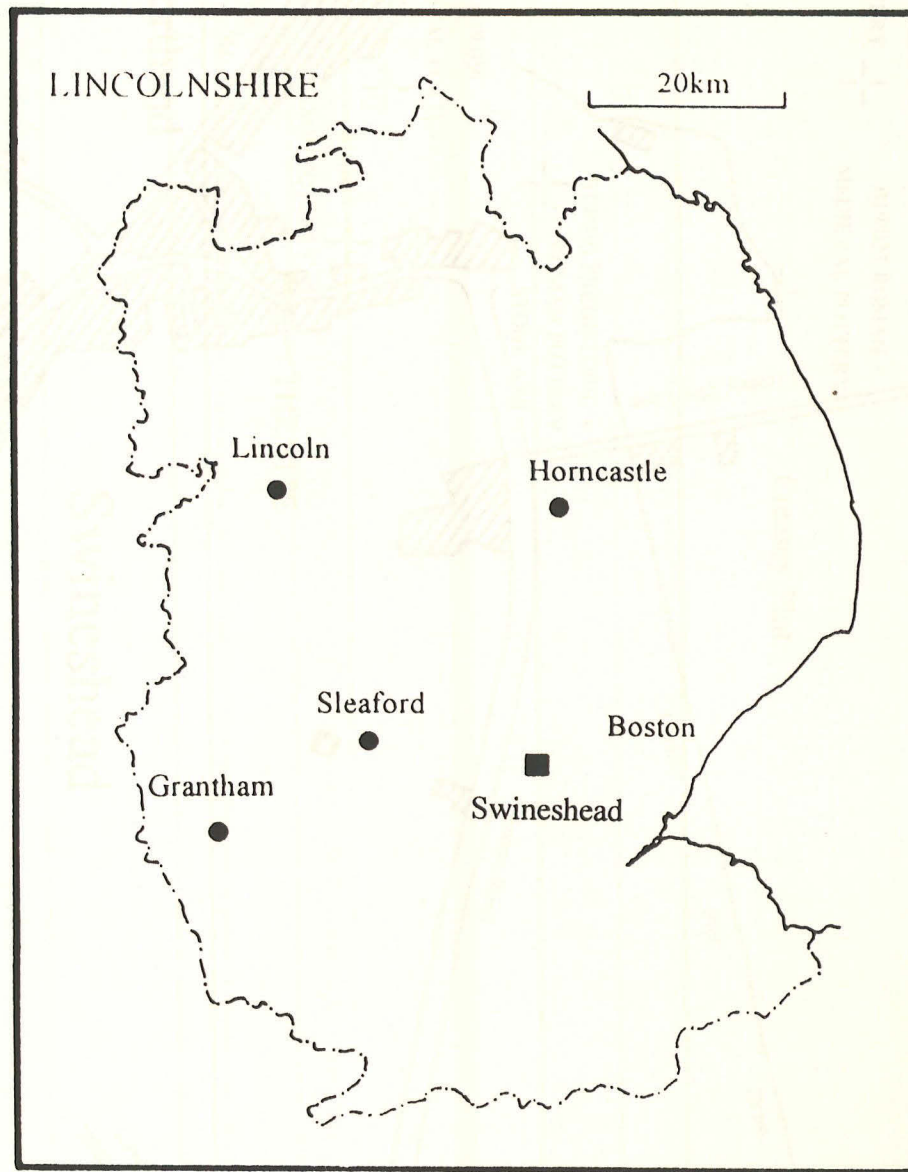
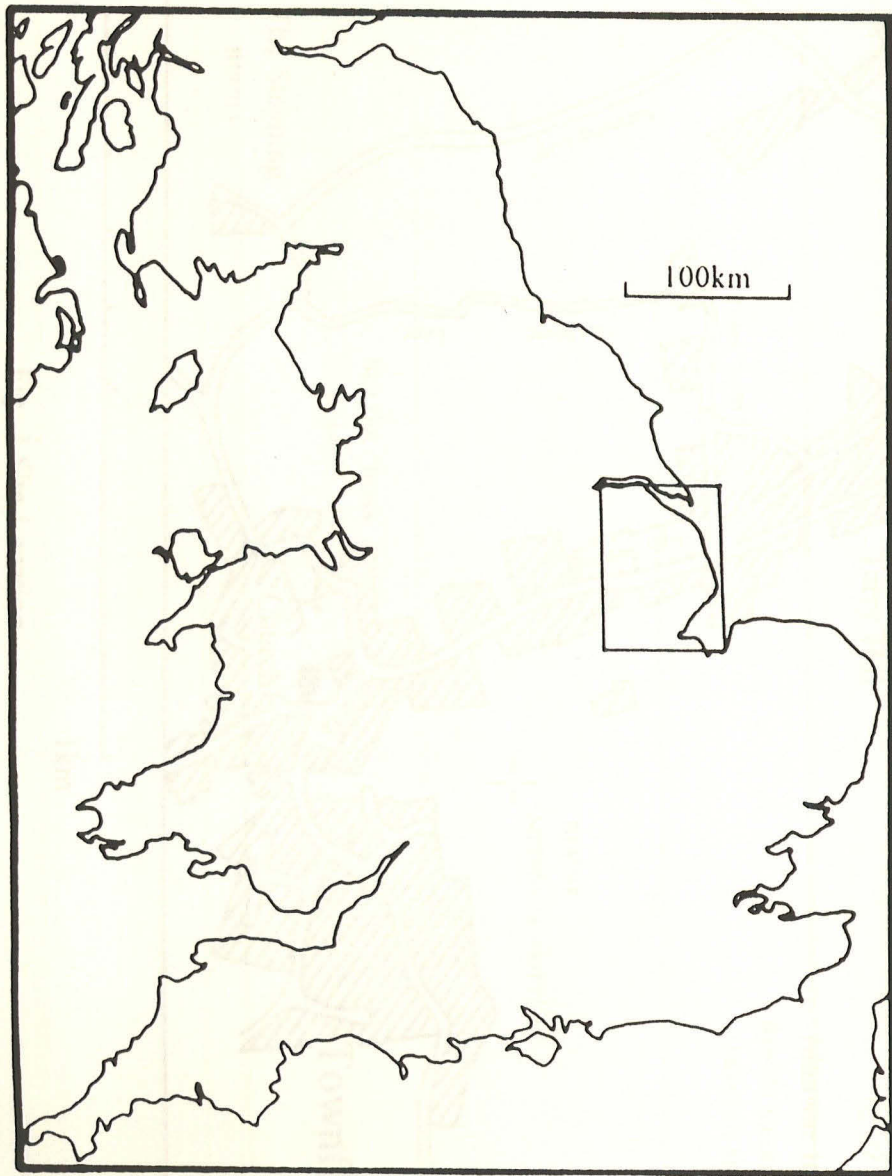
Platts, G., 1985 *Land and People in Medieval Lincolnshire*, History of Lincolnshire IV

Robson, J.D. 1990. *Soils of the Boston and Spalding District (sheet 131)*, Soil Survey and Land Research Memoirs of the Soil Survey of Great Britain, England and Wales.

11. ABBREVIATIONS

Numbers prefixed 'B' are the reference codes used by the Boston Borough Community Archaeologist.

Fig. 1 General Location Plan



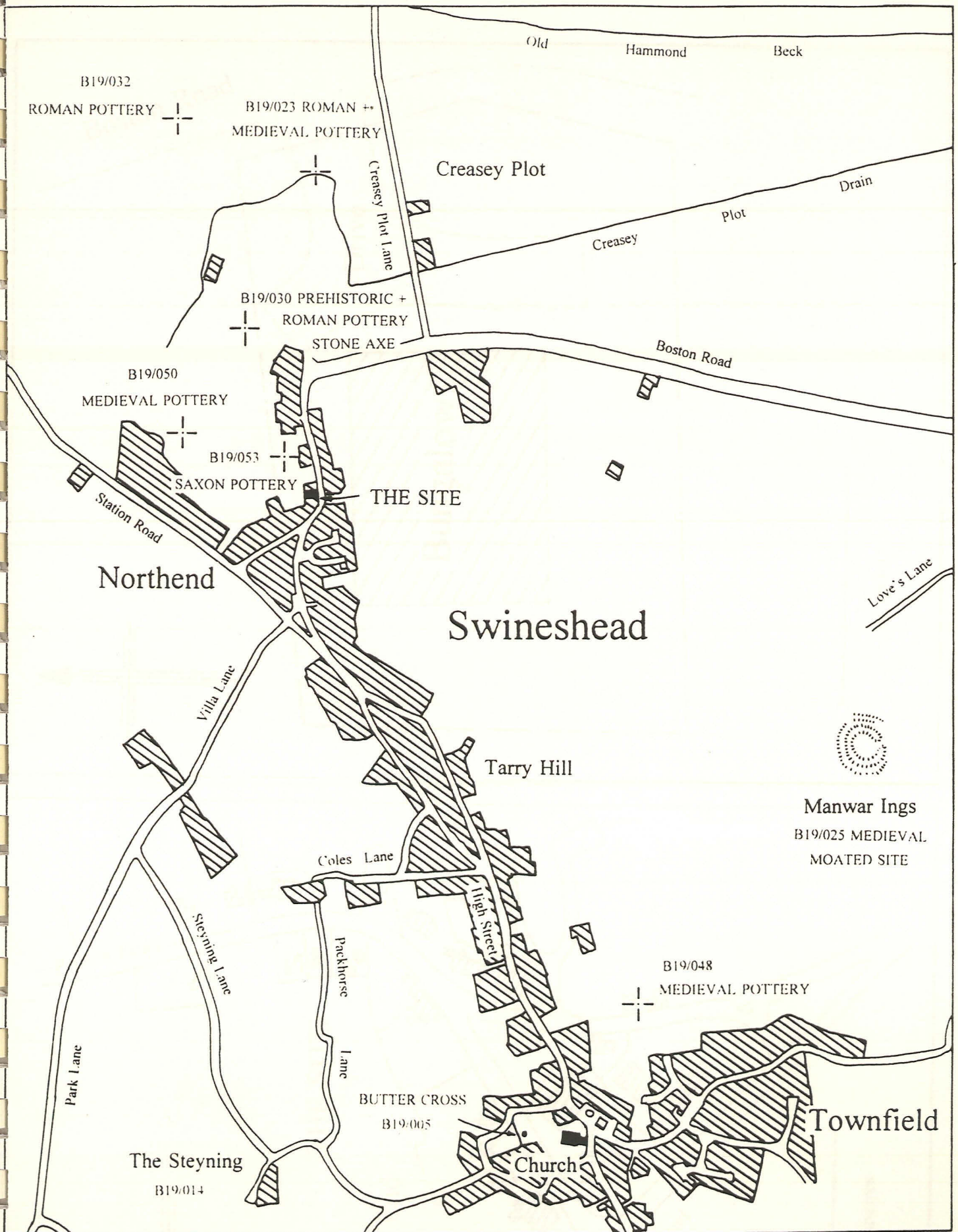
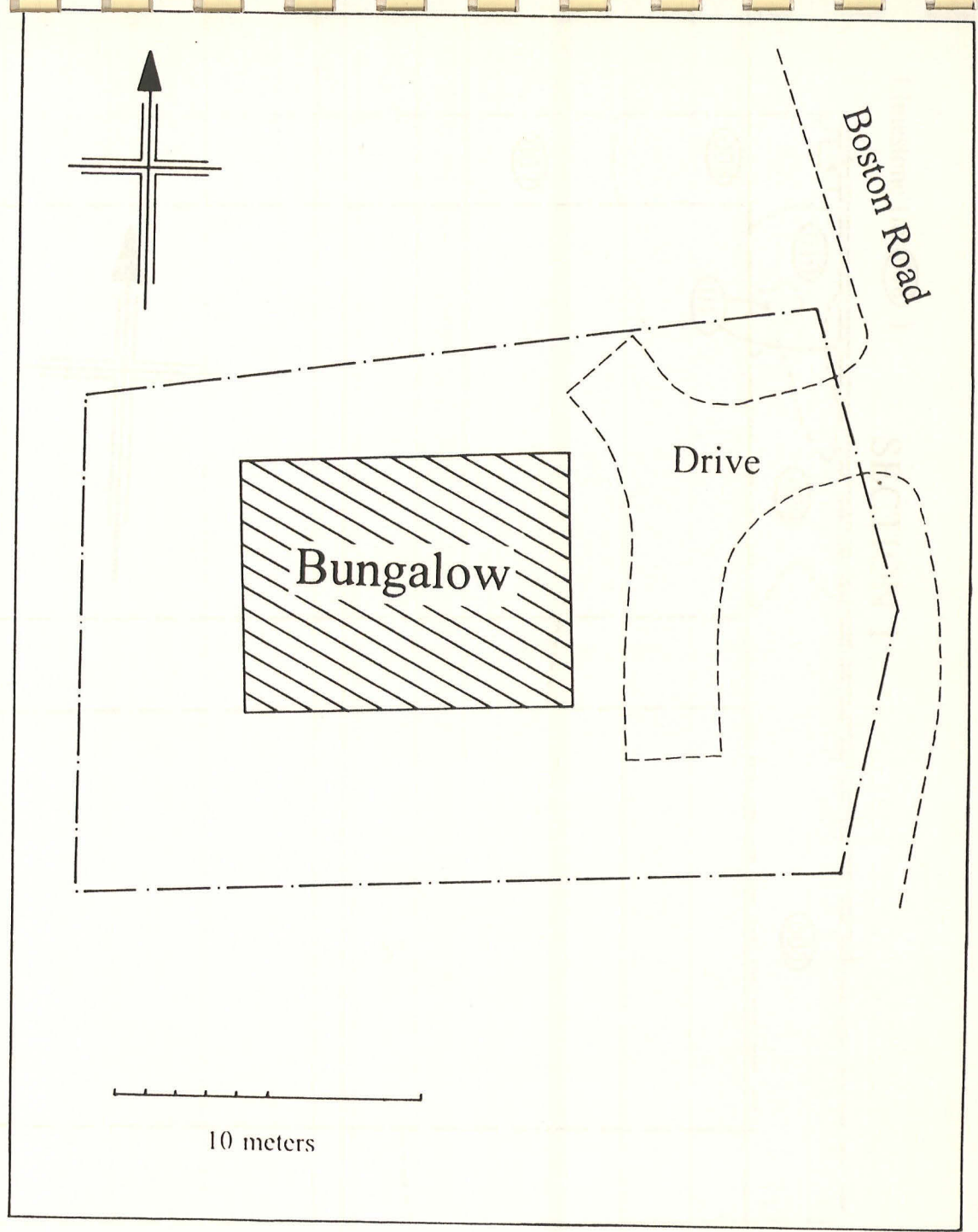
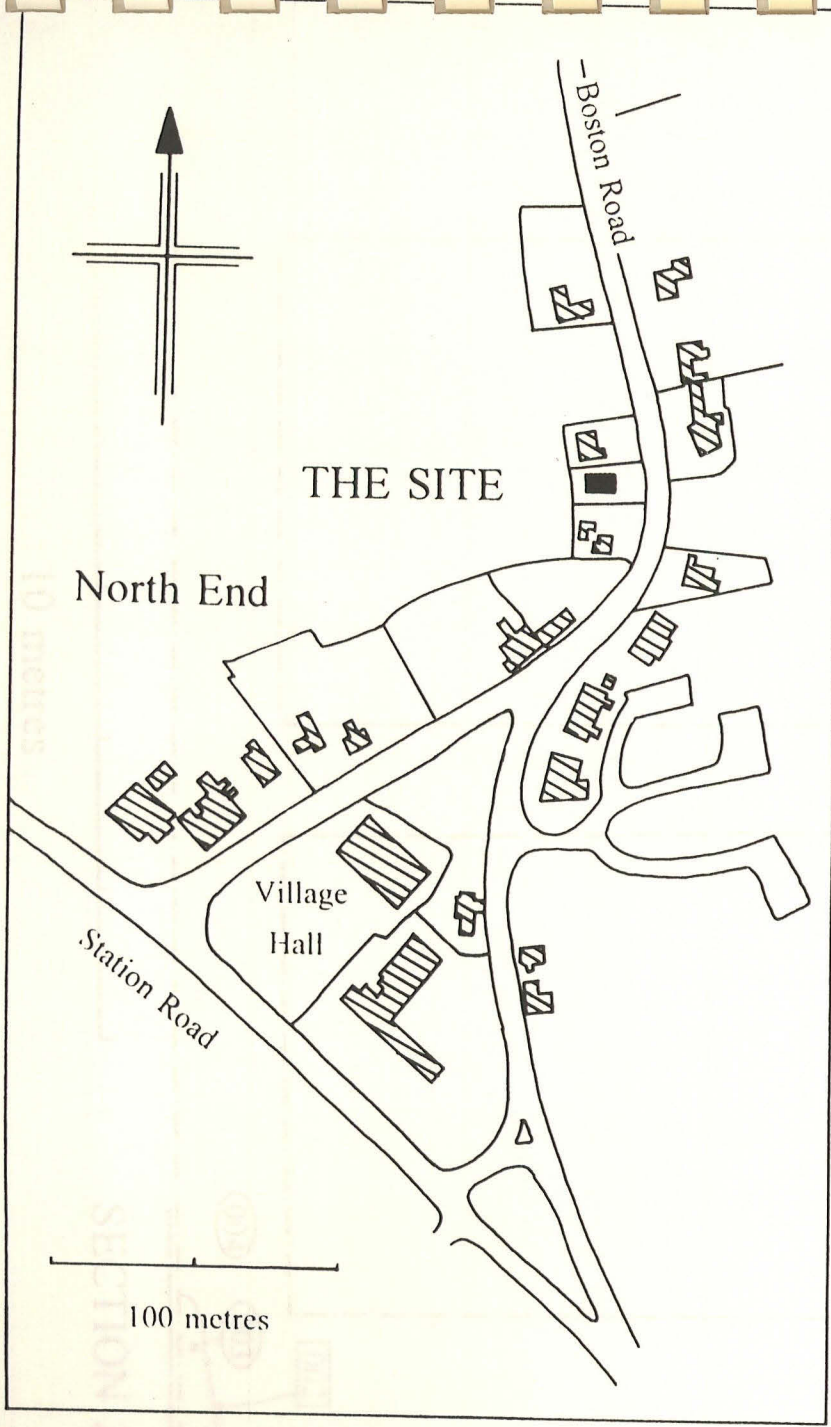


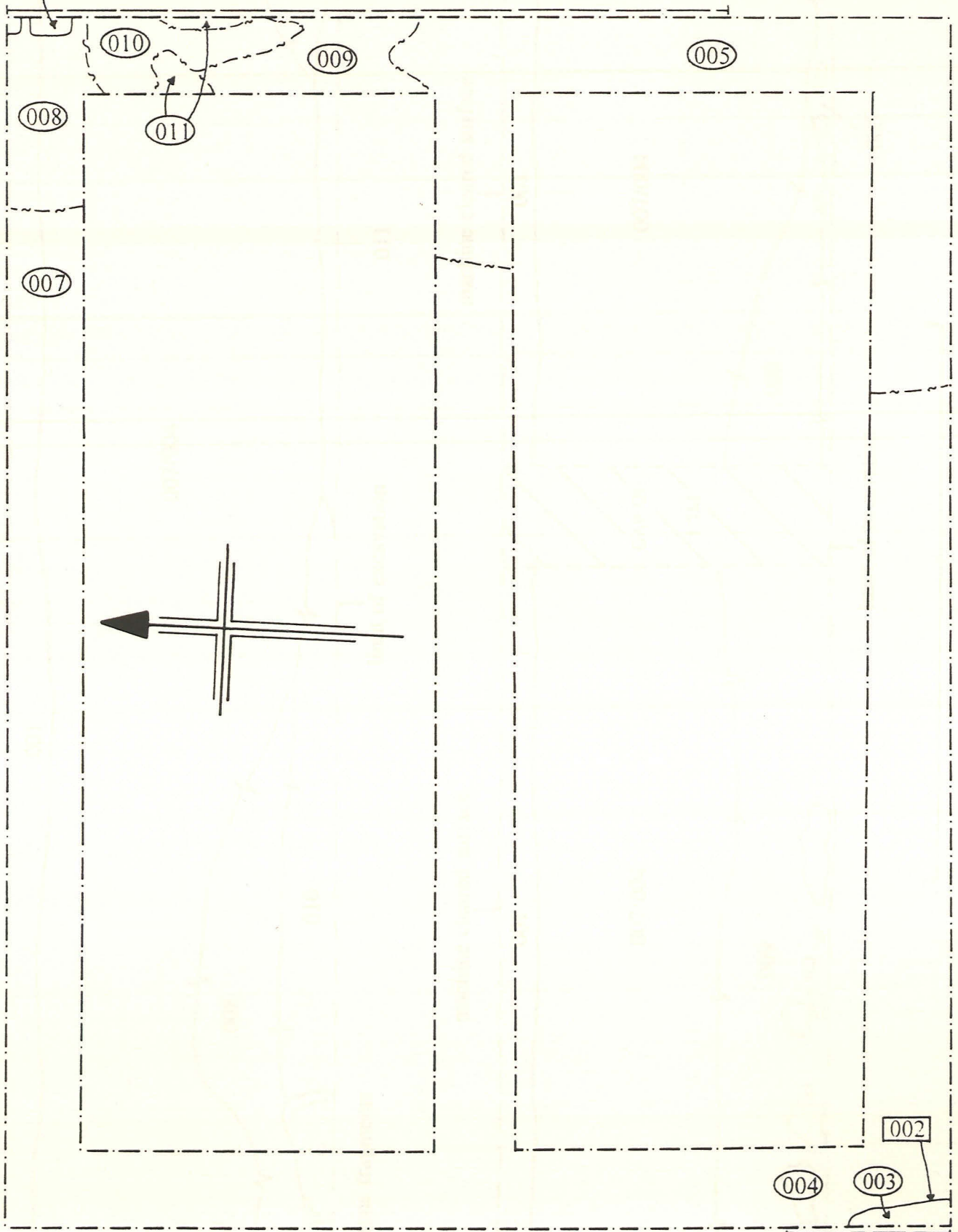
Fig. 2 Site Location

Fig. 3 House within Plot



Limestone (in 008)

SECTION 1

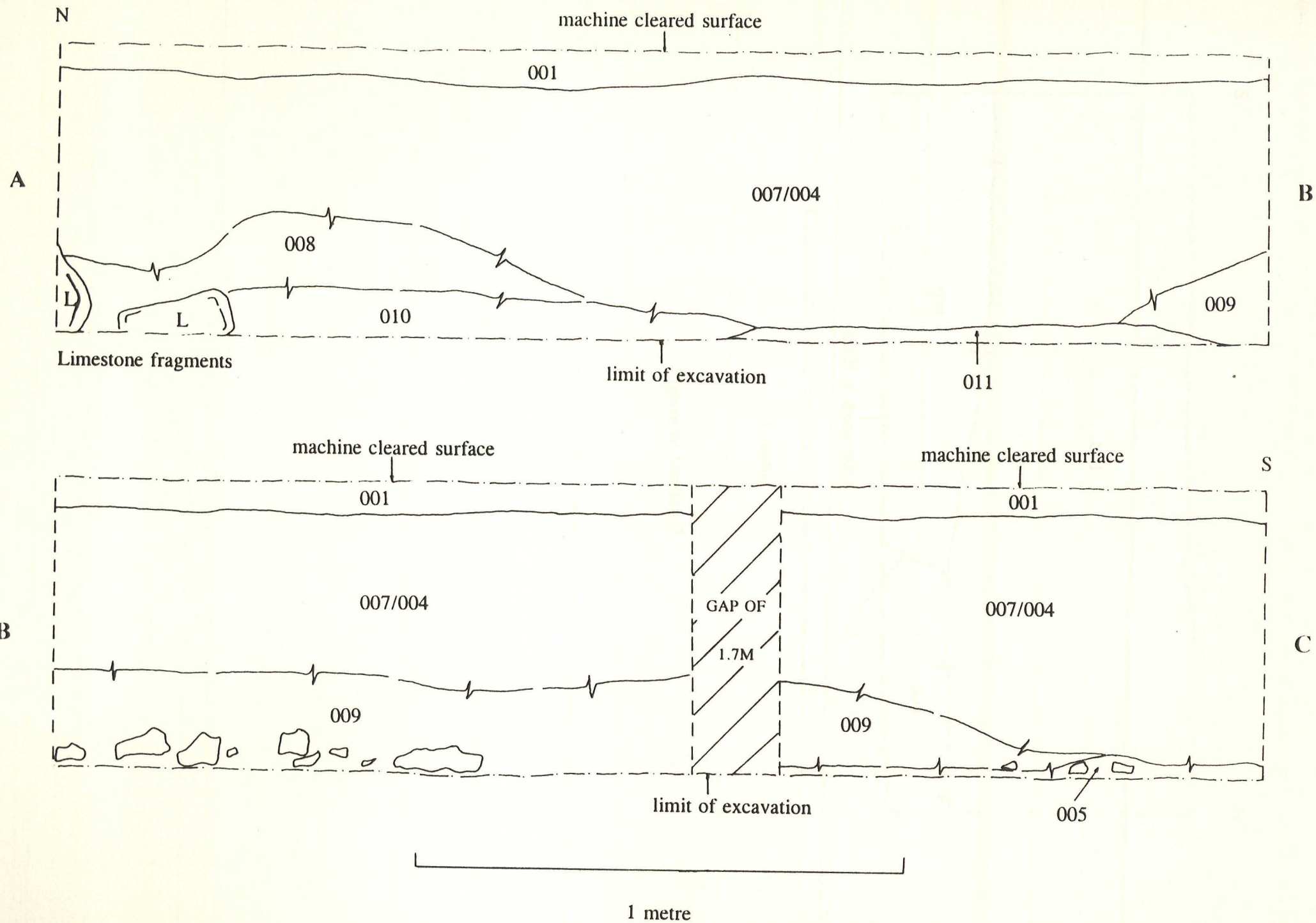


SECTION 2

10 metres

Figure 5: Section 1
Fig. 4 Section Locations

Figure 5: Section 1



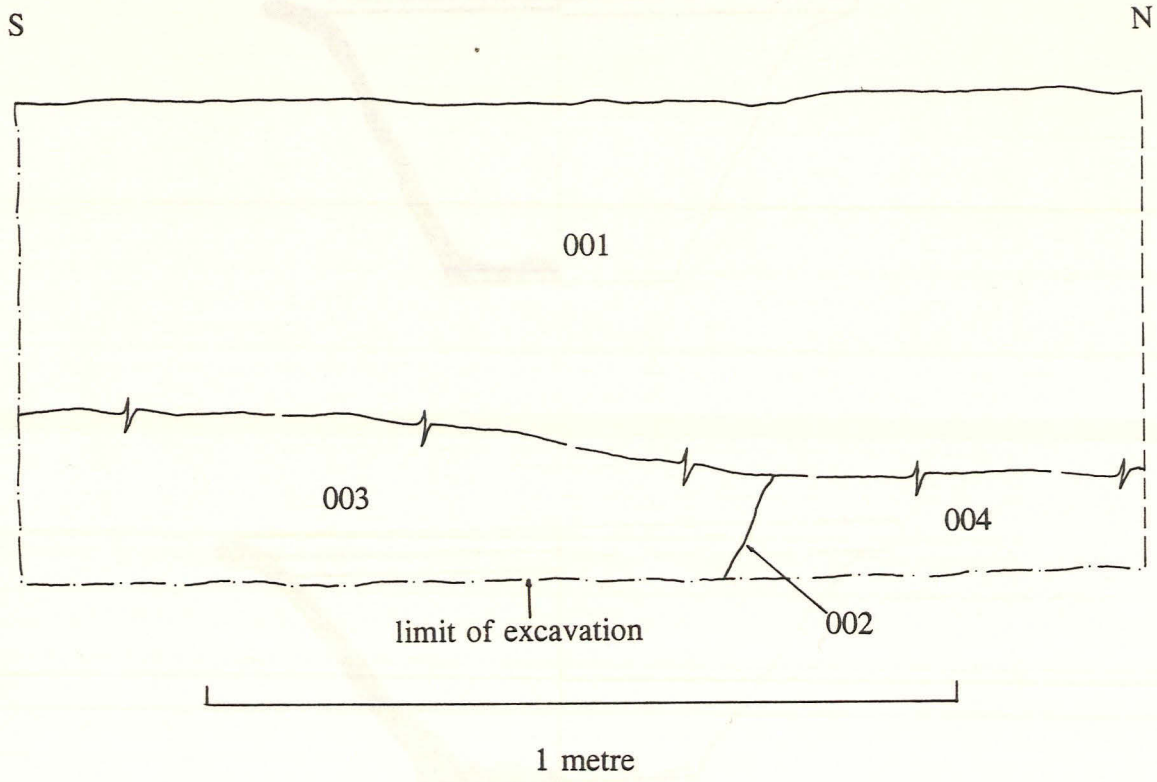
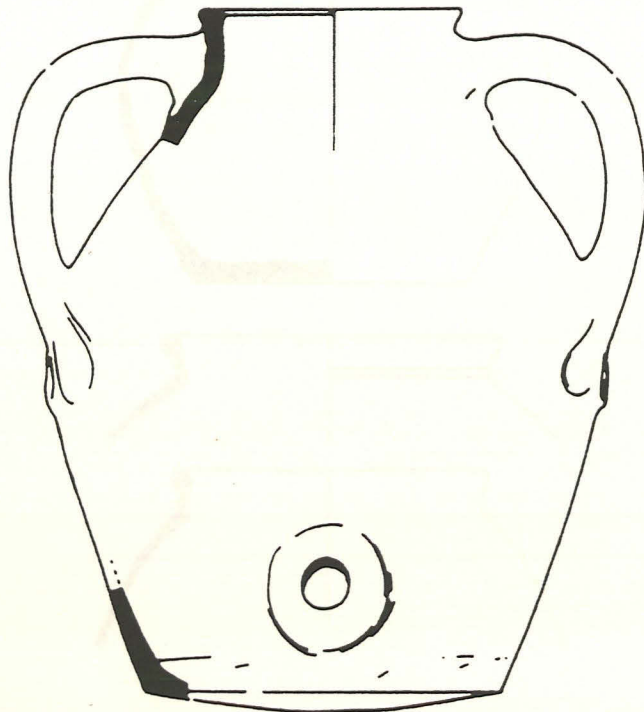
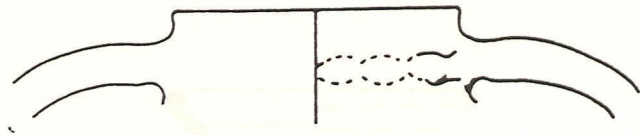
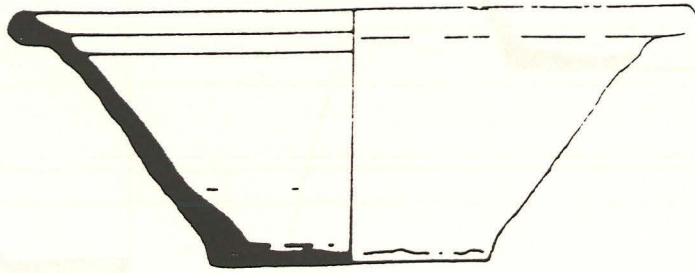
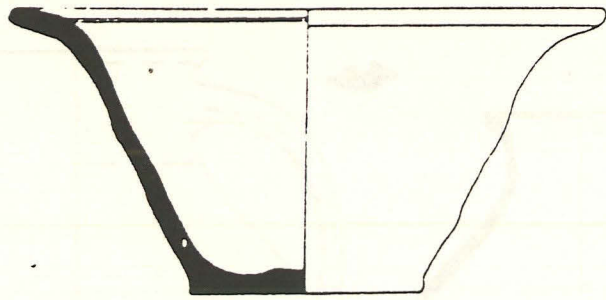


Figure 6: Section 2

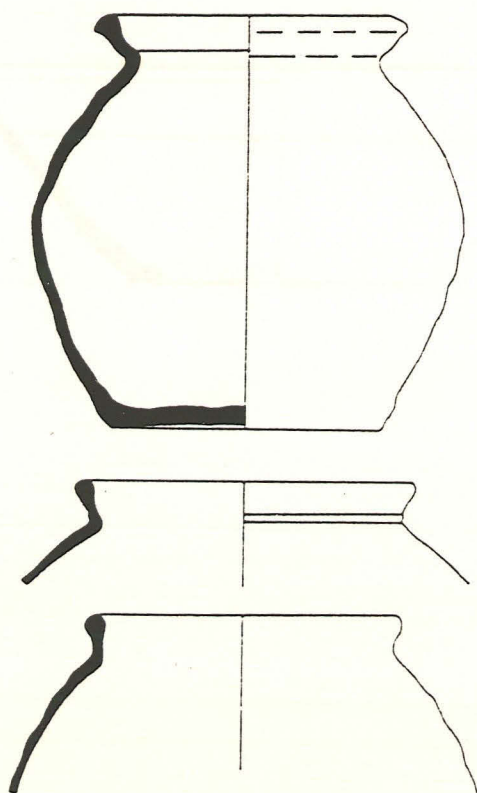
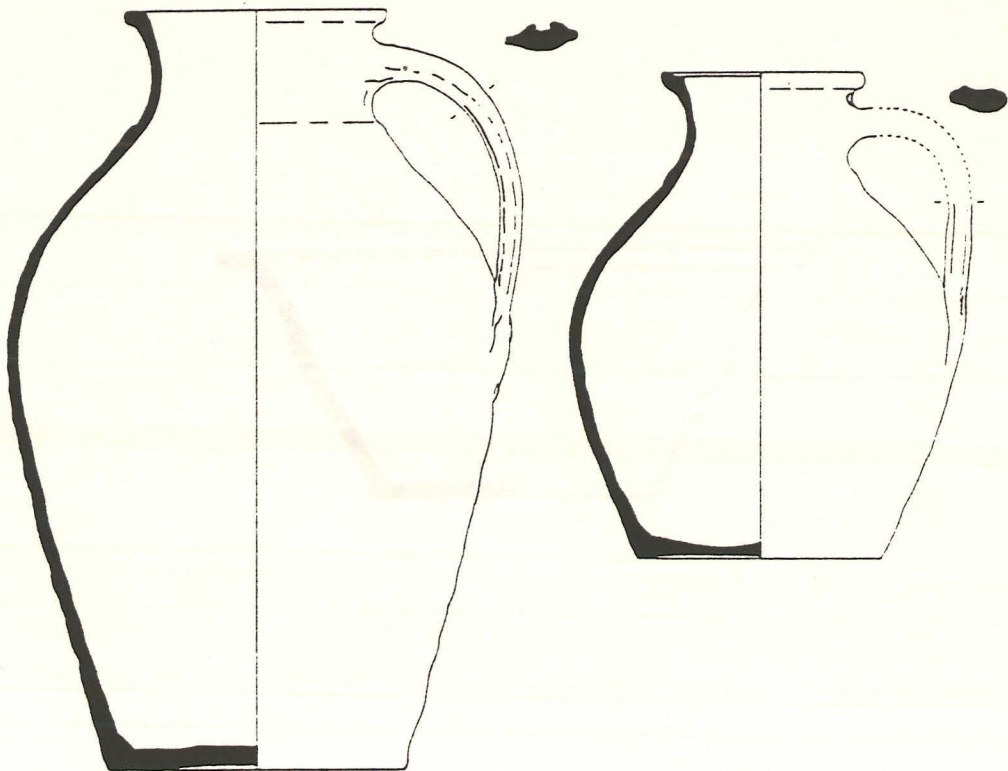


Figure 7 (see appendix 4)



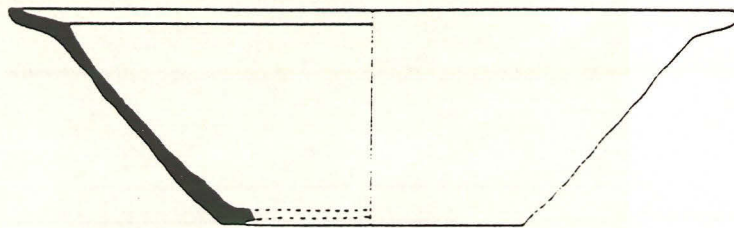
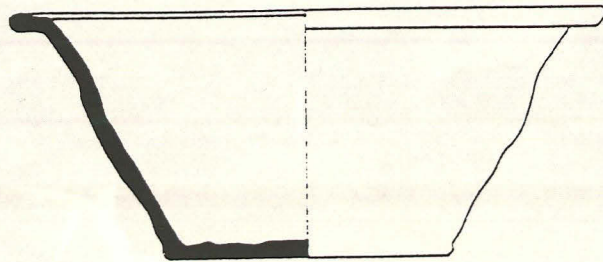
Toynton / Old Bolingbroke
pancheons and cisterns.
(R.H. Healey)

Figure 7 (see appendix 4)



Bourne 'D' ware
jars and jugs.
(R.H. Healey)

Figure 8 (see appendix 4)



Bourne 'D' ware
pancheons.
(R.H. Healey)

Figure 9 (see appendix 4)



Plate 1: General Site View.



Plate 2: North-east Corner of Plot,
Showing 011 etc..

APPENDIX 1

Context Summary

Context	Description	Interpretation
001	Dark brown sandy silt	Topsoil
002	Sub rectangular cut. At least 1.10 by 0.20m in plan, and 0.30m deep	Modern pit
003	Dark brown sandy silt	Fill in (002)
004	Mid brown fine sand	Dumped deposit
005	Mid reddish-brown medium sand	Probable dumped deposit
006	Mid greyish-brown fine sand	Dumped deposit
007	Mid brown fine sand	Dumped deposit
008	Light brown fine sand, containing unworked limestone blocks	Dumped deposit
009	Mid-light brown fine sand	Possible wall or surface
010	Mid brown fine sand	Possible dumped deposit
011	Mid reddish-brown fine sand	Dumped deposit, possibly scorched

APPENDIX 2

The Archive

The archive consists of:

- 11 . . Context Records
- 5 . . . Photographs
- 4 . . . Scale Drawings
- 1 . . . Stratigraphic Matrix
- 10 . . Bags of finds (in one box).

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

City and County Museum Accession number	149.96
Archaeological Project Services project code	SNE 96

Appendix 3

. Finds Summary.

Context Number	Artefact Description	Latest Possible Date
001	2 sherds modern stoneware, 1 piece of coke, 1 sherd of Raeren, 2 post-medieval sherds, 1 sherd of polychrome printed china, 1 ?medieval halfpenny	Modern
004	1 sherd of Midland Yellow ware, 1 sherd of Cistercian ware, 5 sherds of medieval pottery	17th century
005	3 sherds of Cistercian ware, 4 medieval sherds (1 handle) of Toynton All Saints type, 1 small brick fragment	17th century
007	10 sherds of Toynton All Saints/Old Bolingbroke type, 12 sherds of Bourne D ware, 1 Lincoln ware sherd, 1 Midland Purple ware sherd, 1 unknown medieval sherd, 1 handmade brick fragment	16th-17th century
009	40 sherds of Toynton All Saints/Old Bolingbroke type, 14 sherds of Bourne D ware, 1 Midland Purple sherd, 1 sherd Bourne A ware, 1 medieval sherd, 2 fragments of handmade brick, 2 fragments of horse jaw, 1 sherd of glass	16th-17th century

Appendix 4

The Finds

By Hilary Healey

Pottery and bricks were recovered from five contexts. Other than in context 001 (comprising three pieces of modern stoneware, one of them a hot water bottle, a halfpenny, a piece of coke, 1 sherd Raeren, one medieval, two late medieval, one polychrome printed china) this is a very homogeneous collection, the dateable pieces belonging largely to the 16th or early 17th century.

In context 004 are five miscellaneous residual medieval type sherds, one piece of Midland Yellow and one small fragment of Cistercian ware. The Midland Yellow dates to the 17th century. In context 005, in addition to a fragment of brick, are three more tiny Cistercian ware sherds, probably of 16th century date, and four olive green glazed pieces including a large sherd of a jug handle. This material is undecorated and does not belong to any distinctive forms, but is probably contemporary with the Cistercian ware.

The most useful groups are the assemblages in contexts 007 and 009. Here there are not quite equal quantities of large sherds (averaging 8cm across) from products at the kilns at Toynton All Saints or Old Bolingbroke (these are generally impossible to distinguish), stratified in association with similar large sherds of Bourne D ware. The Bourne D ware is of 16th or 17th century date (Healey 1968); some Toynton kilns were still in production at this time, and those at Old Bolingbroke were fully active. Although there are no diagnostic forms from the dating point of view, it is likely that they are contemporary with the Bourne D ware. In context 007, in addition to 10 sherds of Toynton/Old Bolingbroke ware and twelve sherds of Bourne D ware, there is a single sherd of a Lincoln medieval jug, an unidentified medieval sherd and a piece of Midland Purple ware. There is also part of a handmade red brick, estimated brick size 27cm x 13.5cm x 4.5cm.

The largest collection of pottery is in context 009. Here are fourteen sherds of Bourne D ware, forty of Toynton/Bolingbroke type, one Midland Purple and two residual medieval sherds, one an early Bourne product. Two handmade brick fragments are from a smaller brick type than the one in 007, only 22cm x 11cm x 4.5cm with grass impressions on one side from when they were set out to dry - the 007 brick had impressions from standing on bare earth. One is slightly distorted and even if not a waster they are probably locally made. Two fragments of horse jaw and a thin sliver of green glass (which may have fallen in from above?? - looks more 18th century to me) complete the group.

The vessel types from Swineshead identified as Toynton/Bolingbroke and Bourne are shown in figure... They include jugs, jars/cooking pots, cisterns and pancheons; the Toynton/Bolingbroke pancheon rim changes hardly at all between the 13th and 16th century, although it becomes heavier in the 18th century. This suggests that the most likely date for 007 and 009 is within the 16th century.

Sources:

Sources:

Appendix 8

Healey R., Hilary., 1976 *Medieval and sub-medieval Pottery in Lincolnshire* Unpublished M.Phil thesis, University of Nottingham.

Healey R. H., 1969 "Bourne Ware", in J.B. Whitwell and C.M. Wilson *Archaeological notes 1968* Lincolnshire History and Archaeology 4, p 108-109.

Appendix 5

Glossary

Anglo-Scandiavian	Pertaining to the period during which the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings entered and occupied Britain, dating from approximately AD 400-1066.
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 2000-700 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> (4).
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).
Late Saxon	The latter part of the Saxon period, upto 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.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed 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.