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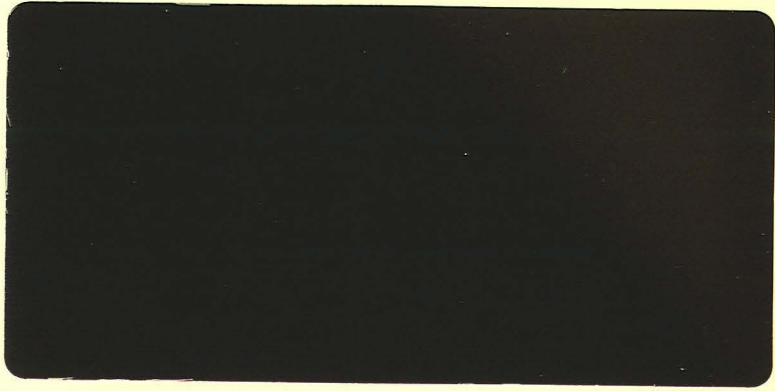
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND AT  
NEWARK ROAD,  
STAPLEFORD,  
LINCOLNSHIRE.  
SNR 96**



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES

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Arch: 100/1/1/1/1

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20.1.97



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND AT  
NEWARK ROAD,  
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LINCOLNSHIRE.  
SNR 96**

Work Undertaken For  
Mr and Mrs M. Waplington

December 1996

Report  
compiled by  
Chris Moulis

A.P.S. Report No. 61.96

## CONTENTS

### List of Figures

1.	Summary . . . . .	1
2.	Introduction . . . . .	1
2.1	Background . . . . .	1
2.2	Topography and Geology . . . . .	1
2.3	Archaeological Setting . . . . .	1
3.	Aims . . . . .	2
4.	Methods . . . . .	2
5.	Results . . . . .	2
6.	Discussion . . . . .	3
7.	Conclusions . . . . .	3
8.	Acknowledgements . . . . .	3
9.	Personnel . . . . .	3
10.	Bibliography . . . . .	4
11.	Abbreviations . . . . .	4

### Appendices

1	Brief set by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer
2	Context Summary
3	The Archive
4	Glossary

## List of Figures

Figure 1 . . . General Location Plan

Figure 2 . . . Site Location Plan

Figure 3 . . . Plot location

Figure 4 . . . Section location

Figure 5 . . . Section 1

Figure 6 . . . Sections 2 and 4

## Plates

1 Cuts (006) and (008)

2 Cut (010)

## 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of the foundations for a dwelling and garage on land at Plot 2 Newark Road, Stapleford, Lincolnshire.*

*The building plot is situated in the core of the medieval settlement. The village has subsequently contracted, and this is illustrated by the surviving earthworks 300m to the east.*

*The watching brief revealed two small pits cut into the underlying natural beds of gravel and clay. No finds were recovered during the course of the investigation, however, and these pits were undated.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION.

### 2.1 Background

On 2nd December 1996, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of foundations for a dwelling and double garage on land at Newark Road, Stapleford, Lincolnshire (National Grid Reference SK 8815 5767). Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application N/60/0004/96 and had been granted by North Kesteven District Council, subject to a standard negative condition for archaeological recording.

The work was commissioned by Mr and Mrs M. Waplinton, and was carried out by Archaeological Project Services in accordance with a brief set by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer (Appendix 1).

### 2.2 Topography and Geology

Stapleford is located approximately 10km northeast of Newark and 16km southwest of Lincoln in the administrative district of North Kesteven. The site is in the west of the village, on the north side of Newark Road (NGR SK 8815 5767).

The village lies on the east bank of the River Witham, astride a tributary stream to the river. The site is located at approximately 12m OD on land sloping gently southwards towards the aforementioned tributary. Soils at the site are Wickham 2 Association fine loamy over clayey typical stagnogley soils, developed on Jurassic and Cretaceous clay shales (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 351).

### 2.3 Archaeological Setting

The Domesday Book (1086) records two manors in the village of Stapleford, belonging respectively to the Bishop of Bayeux, and to Countess Judith. The latter manor possessed a church (Foster and Longley 1976, 46 and 177). In Domesday the village is recorded as *Stapleforde*, a name referring to a "ford marked by a post" (Ekwall 1974, 439).

The site lies in the core of the medieval village of Stapleford. The parish church of All Saints, situated approximately 500m to the east, has medieval origins but was essentially rebuilt in 1770, although re-using some medieval masonry. There is also a medieval cross in the churchyard (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 716-717).

During the medieval period the settlement of Stapleford was larger than at present, as indicated by earthwork remains all around the village. The most distinct of these earthworks lie between the church and the hall, approximately 300m east of the site (NK 60.1). Aerial photographs taken in

1966 show the development site to be undeveloped open land, and also depict ridge and furrow earthworks, a legacy of medieval open field agriculture, immediately north of the site and between the site and the church (aerial photographs HSL/UK/66/498 prints 8189 and 8188, held in the files of Heritage Lincolnshire).

### 3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed by the groundworks were recorded and interpreted.

### 4. METHODS

A mechanical excavator was used in the excavation of the foundation trenches. The trenches for the main external walls were 0.70m wide, whereas those for the internal walls were 0.50m wide. All were between 0.90m and 1.30m deep. The sides of the trench were cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains prior to recording the sections.

Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed within the trench was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at scale 1:10. 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 archaeological deposits
Phase 3	Modern deposits.

A list of all recorded contexts is given in Appendix 2.

#### Phase 1 Natural Deposits

(004), a stiff bluish mid grey clay, at the base of all the trenches across the site. The deposit was at least 1.10m thick. Its surface was uneven, and generally sloped down towards the north. Natural deposit.

(003), a deposit of light yellowish brown sandy gravel, the stony constituent of which was composed entirely of rounded pebbles. The thickness of the gravel deposit varied across the site due to the uneven surface of the underlying clay (004). In the southern foundation trench (003) was 0.17m thick, but in the northern trench, it was up to 0.80m thick. As the gravel became thicker, it became more sandy. Natural deposit.

(010), a sub-circular feature, at least 1.70m by 1.70m in plan, and approximately 0.80m deep. Filled by (009), a yellowish light brown sandy gravel. Natural feature.

(012), an amorphous feature, at least 0.70m by 3.60m in plan, and 1.10m deep. Filled by (011), a yellowish light brown sandy gravel. Natural feature.

#### Phase 2 Undated Archaeological Deposits

(006), a sub-circular feature, at least 0.90m by 0.80m in plan, and 0.40m deep. Filled with (005), a soft, mid grey sandy silt. Possibly a shallow pit. Cuts (003).

(008), a sub-circular feature, at least 1.90m by 0.70m in plan, and 0.65m deep. Filled by

(007), a firm, mid grey sandy clayey silt. Possibly a pit. Cuts (003).

(002), a layer of soft, mid greyish-brown sandy silt, 0.17m thick. A discontinuous layer, only really visible in the area of section 4. Probably representing either an old topsoil, or the base of the natural soil profile. Sealed by (001).

### **Phase 3. Modern deposits.**

(001), the topsoil of the plot. A soft, dark brownish-grey sandy silt. Contained occasional fragments of unworked limestone. Also contained modern artifacts, including items of plastic, but these were not retained.

## **6. DISCUSSION**

Natural layers (Phase 1) of clay and sandy gravel were observed across the area. The similarity of (009), (011), and (003), would suggest that all were naturally derived, and that features (010) and (012) also have a natural origin. These deposits were probably laid down as a result of fluvial action, associated with the nearby River Witham.

Two pits were identified cutting the natural deposits (Phase 2). However, the pits did not contain any evidence to indicate the date or the function of the features. After the use of the pits ceased they were subsequently covered by a natural soil.

Modern deposits (Phase 3) comprise the current topsoil. Fragments of unworked limestone in the deposit may suggest the former presence of stone structures in the area, though no supporting evidence for this was found during the investigation.

## **7. CONCLUSIONS**

Archaeological investigations were undertaken on land at Newark Road, Stapleford, because the development site fell within an area of suspected medieval settlement. Consequently, there was a likelihood that remains of medieval date may have been disturbed as a result of the development.

Two definite, although undated, archaeological cut features were encountered. These probably represent small pits, although there is little indication of their true form and function. The limestone fragments observed in the topsoil may indicate the former presence of structures on the site, but there was no firm archaeological evidence to prove this supposition.

No artefacts were retained, and no environmental remains were recognised during the investigation.

## **8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr and Mrs M. Waplington, who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis, and of Mr Terry Hill, the building contractor. Gary Taylor coordinated the work and Tom Lane edited this report.

## **9. PERSONNEL**

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor  
Site Supervisor: Chris Moulis  
Research: Paul Cope-Faulkner  
Illustrations: Paul Cope-Faulkner and David Hopkins  
Post-excavation analysts: Fiona Walker and Chris Moulis



## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

Foster, C.W., and Longley, T., 1976 *The Lincolnshire Domesday and the Lindsey Survey*. Lincoln Record Society 19 (Reprint of 1924 edition)

Hodge, C.A.H., Burton, R.G., Corbett, W.M., Evans, R., and Seale, R.S., 1984 *Soils and their Use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13

Pevsner, N., and Harris, J., 1989 *Lincolnshire*, The Buildings of England (2nd ed, revised Antram, N.)

## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

NK Numbers prefixed with this code relate to the primary reference numbers used by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer.

SMR Numbers prefixed with this code are the primary reference numbers used by the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record, Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council.

NGR National Grid Reference.

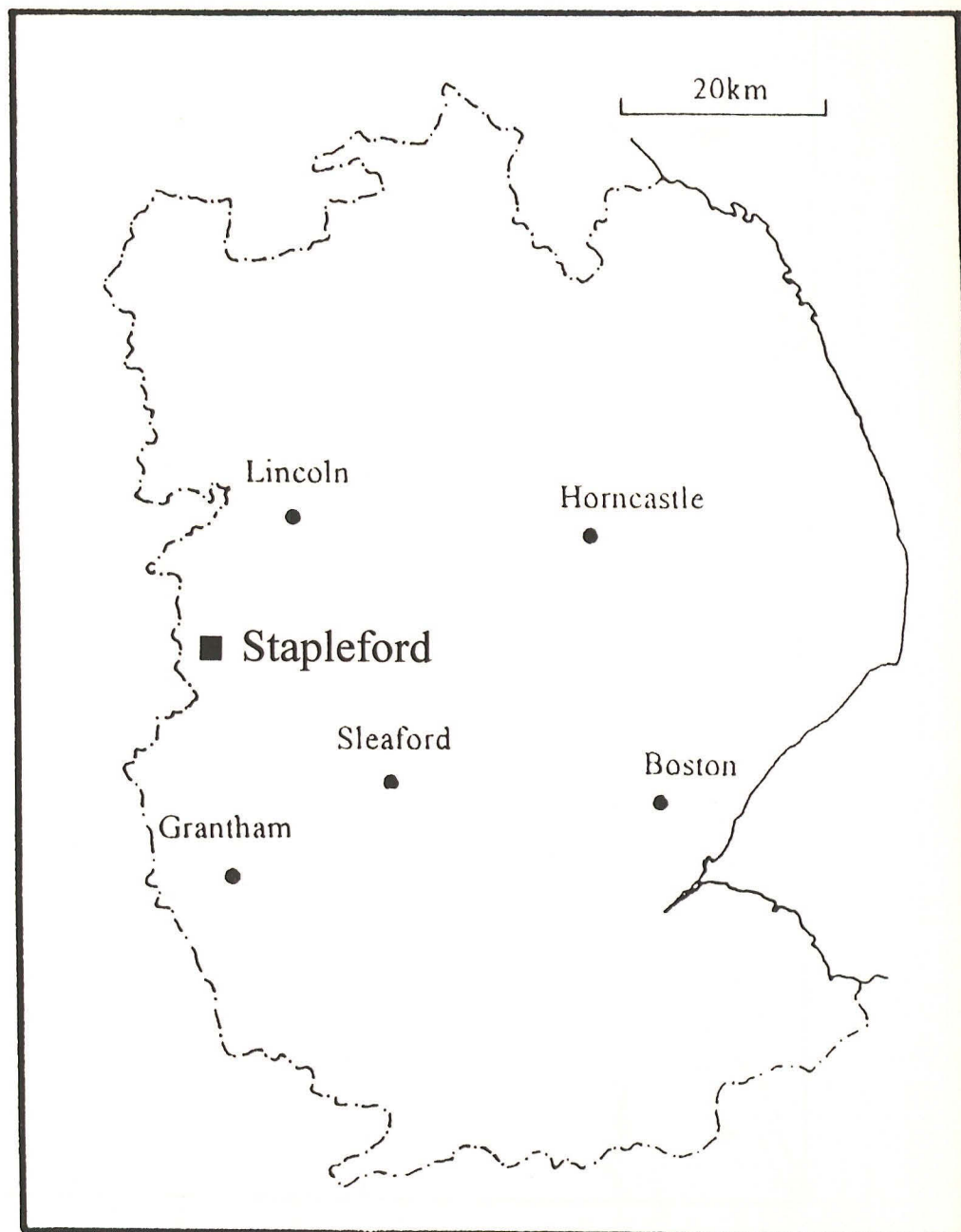
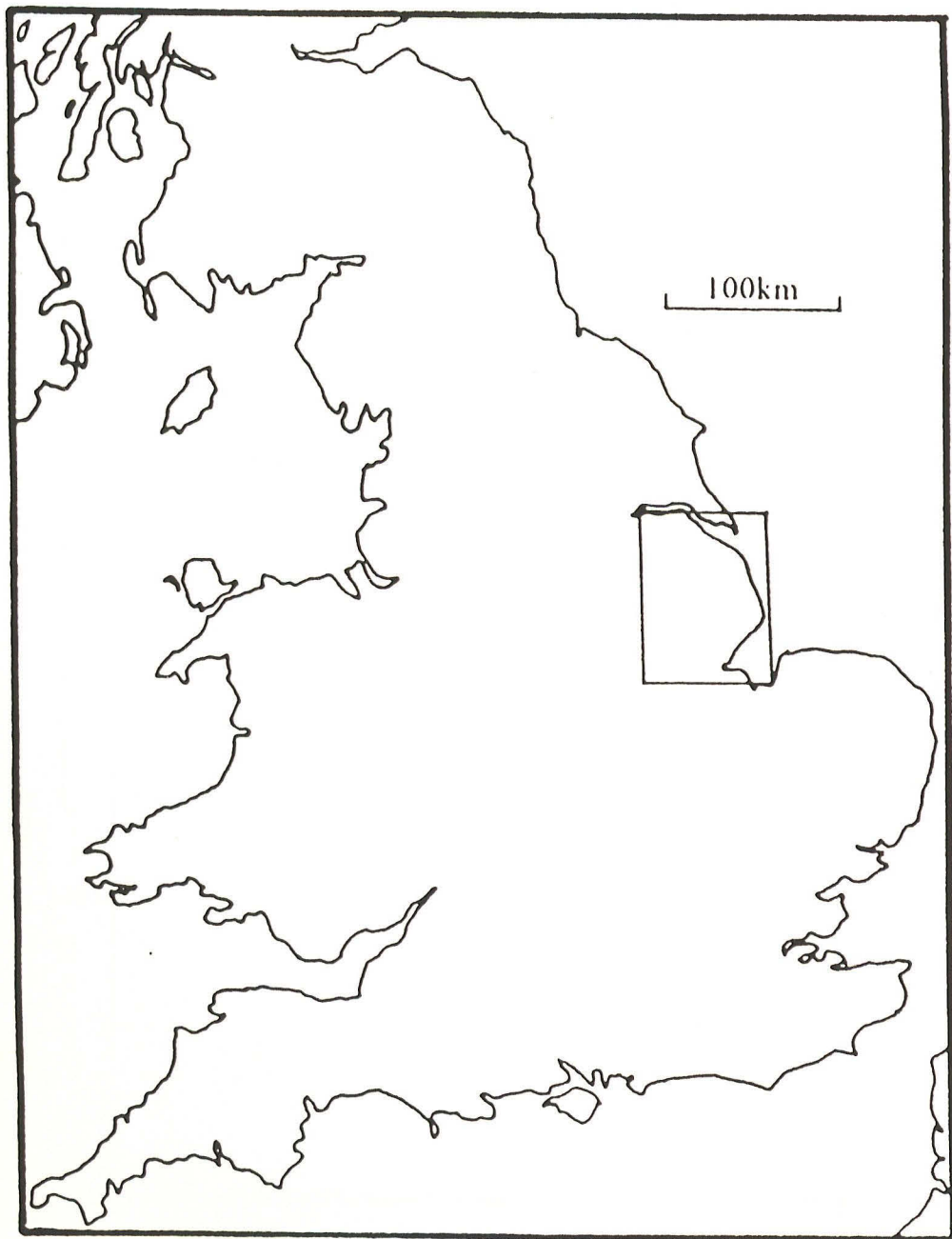


Figure 1 - General Location Plan

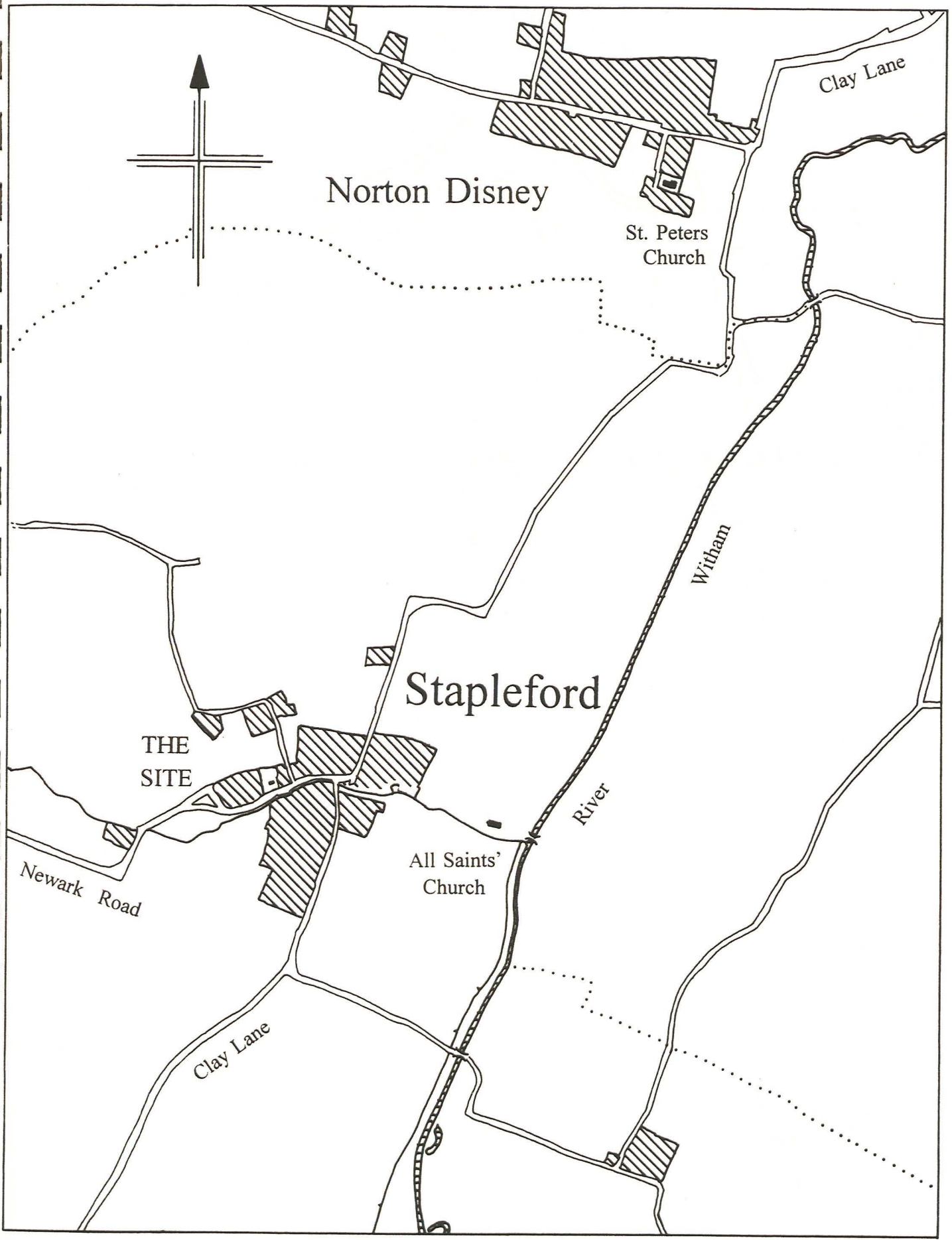
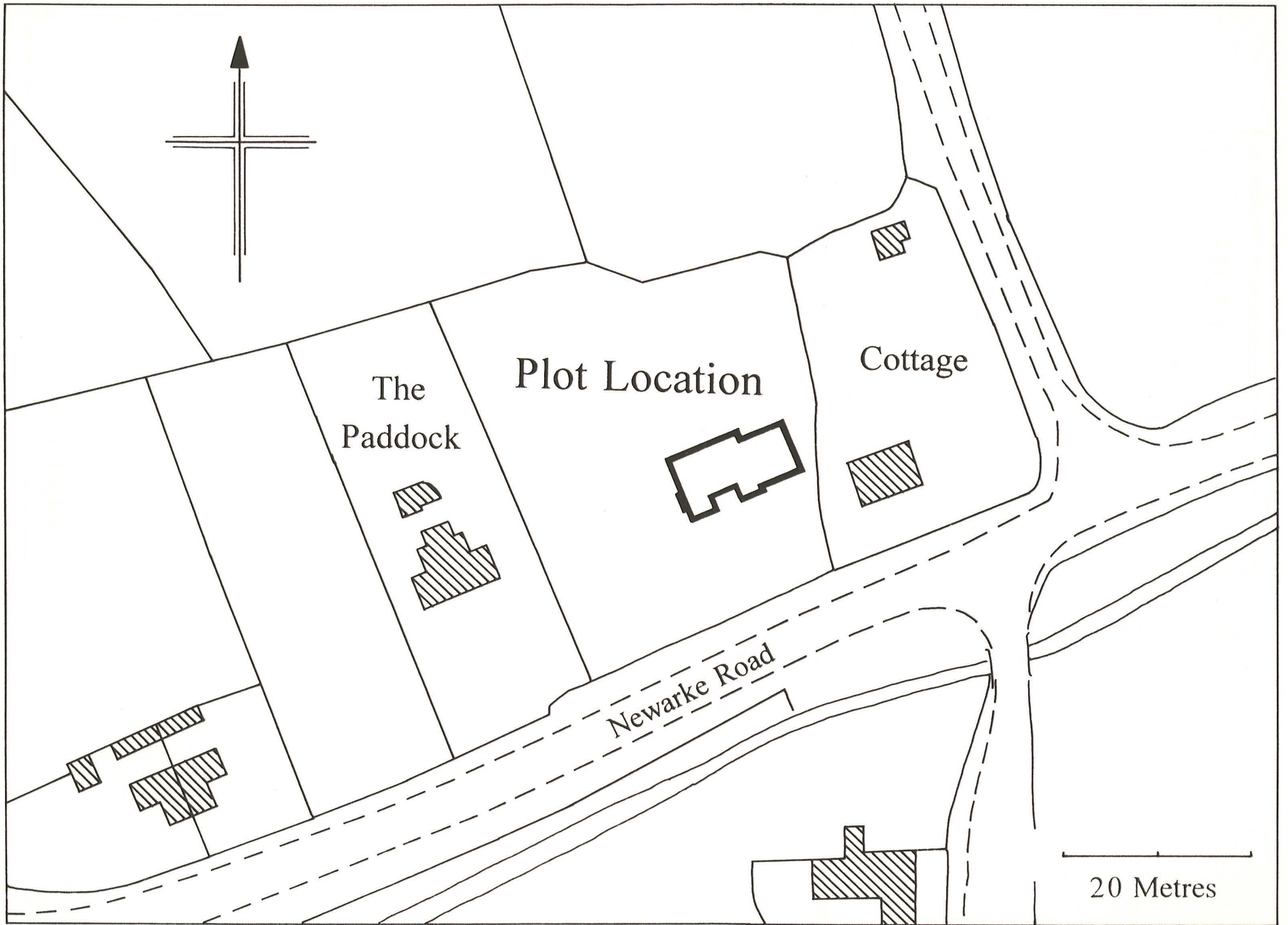
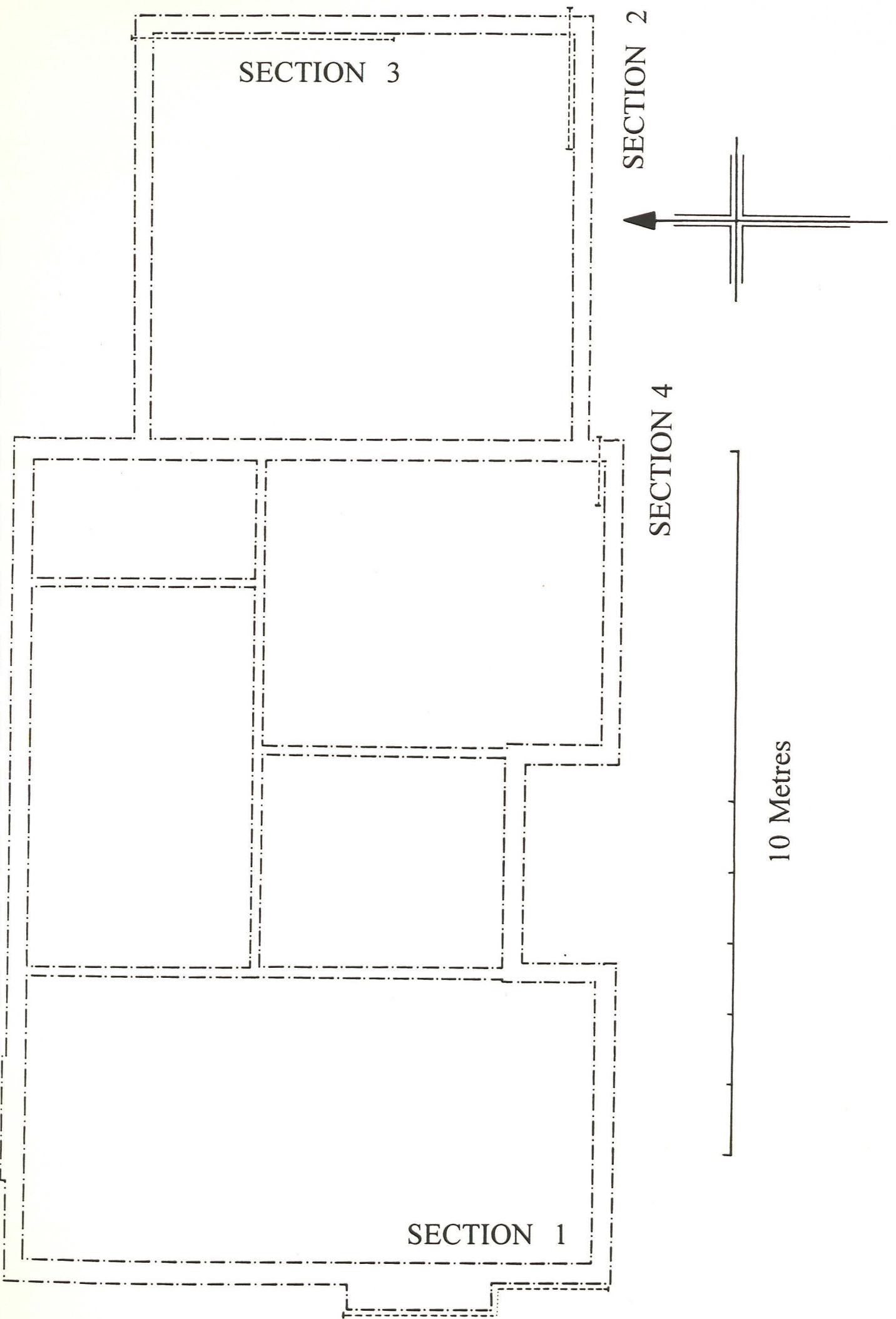


Fig. 2 Site Location Plan

Fig. 3 Plot Location





SECTION 3

SECTION 2

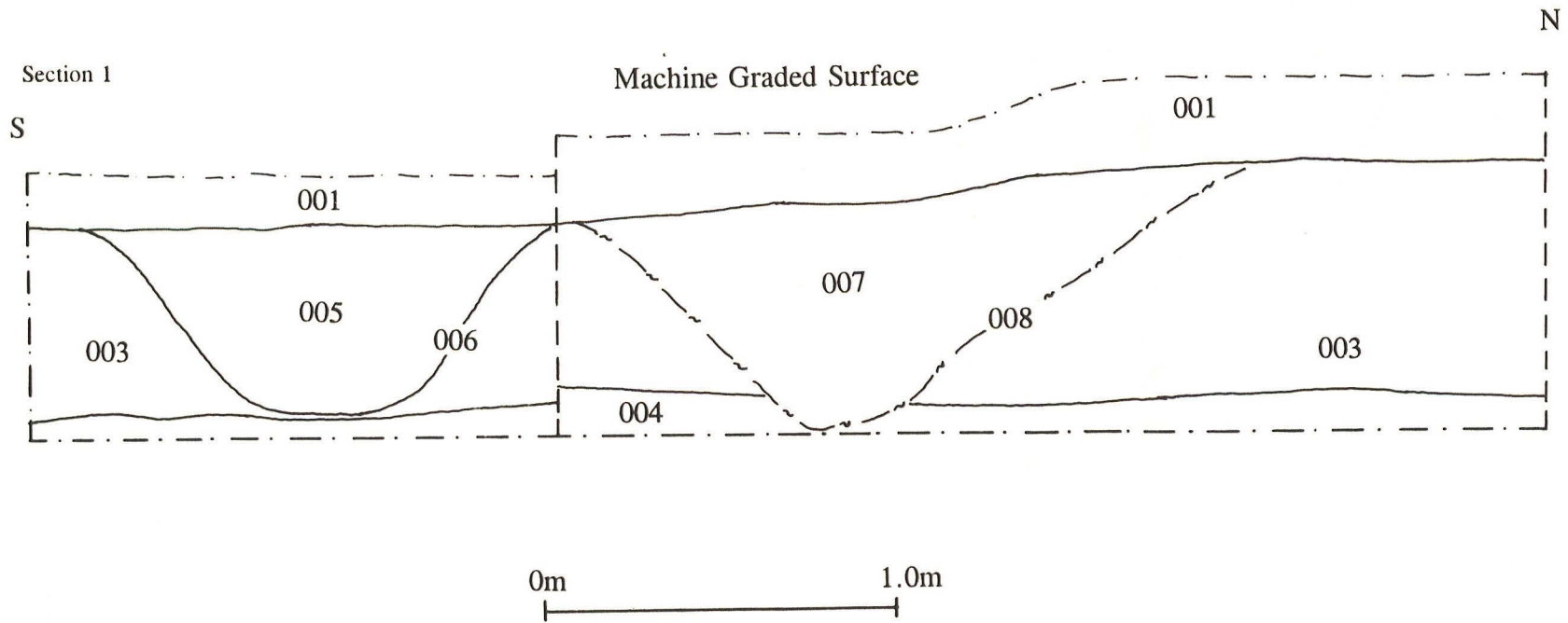
SECTION 4

SECTION 1

10 Metres

Fig. 4 Section Location

Figure 5: Section 1

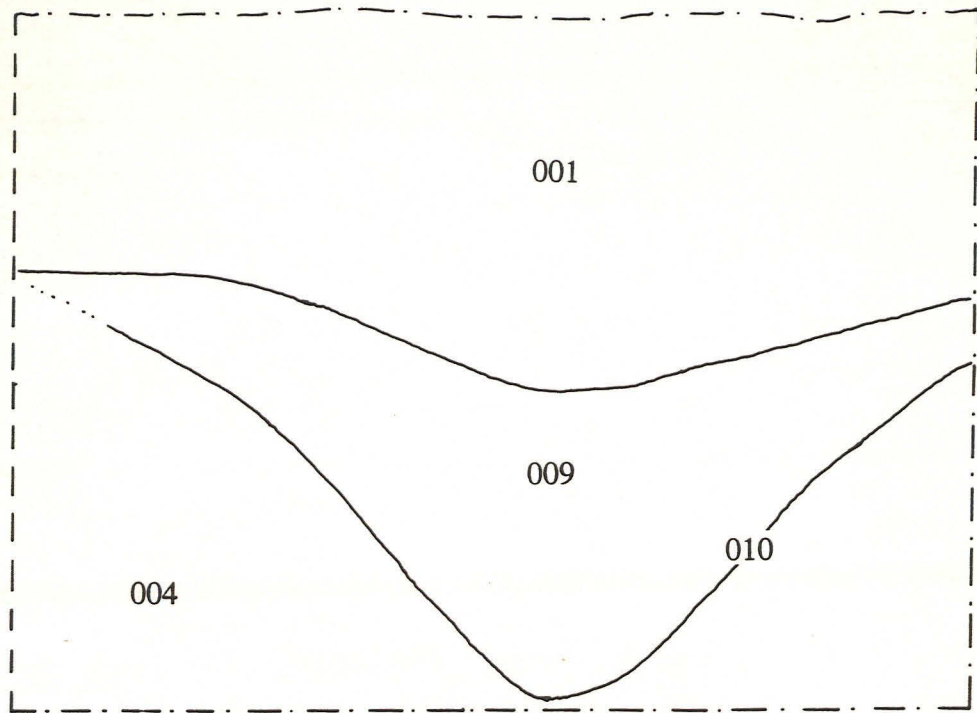


W

Machine Graded Surface

E

Section 2

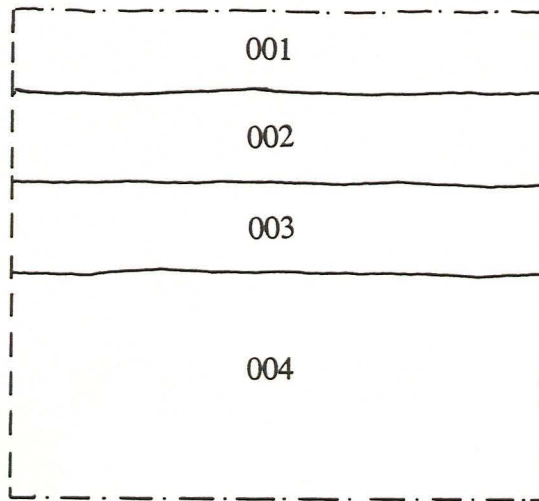


W

Machine Graded Surface

E

Section 4



0m

1.0m



Figure 6: Sections 2 and 4



Plate 1: Cuts (006) and (008)



Plate 2: Cut (010)



## APPENDIX 1

### BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING (WATCHING BRIEF)

LAND AT NEWARK ROAD, STAPLEFORD

**Planning Application Number:** N/60/0004/96

**NGR:** 488150 357700

**Applicant:** Mr and Mrs M. Waplinton  
9 High St  
Carlton le Moorland  
LN5 9HT

**Agent:** Rosamund Nicholson

#### 1. Summary

1.1 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.

1.2 These detailed specifications will be submitted by the client for approval by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer. 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 Stapleford is a hamlet approximately 10km north east of Newark and 16km south west of Lincoln. The development site is situated in the centre of the village, north of Newark Road.

#### 3. Planning Background

3.1 Planning permission has been given to erect one dwelling and a double garage. A watching brief condition was put on the previous application in 1994.

#### 4. Archaeological Background

4.1 The site to be developed is situated in what was once the core of the medieval village. The Church of All Saints has medieval origins and is situated approximately 500m to the east. The village has shrunk since the medieval period as we know from surveys done in the past of earthwork remains all around the present village. These earthworks are now most clearly to be seen between the church and the Hall, approximately 400m to the east. It is likely therefore that the medieval village extended as far as the development site and therefore groundworks need to be monitored to

record any remains of archaeological interest.

## 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 Heritage Officer for North Kesteven.

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 topsoil 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 Heritage Officer for North Kesteven will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project and will require preferably fourteen days notice but at least five working days prior to the commencement of the work.

## **8. Reporting Requirements**

8.1 A full report should be produced and deposited with the planning department of North Kesteven District Council, the Heritage Officer, the client 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 drawings, 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 North Kesteven Heritage Officer 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 Heritage Officer.

### 10.2 Further contact addresses

Kate Orr  
North Kesteven Heritage Officer  
Heritage Lincolnshire  
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Cameron Street  
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NG34 9RW

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Archaeological Officer  
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12 Friars Lane  
Lincoln  
LN2 5AL

Mr T. Page  
City and County Museum  
12 Friars Lane  
Lincoln  
LN2 5AL

Department of Planning  
North Kesteven District Council Offices  
Kesteven Street  
Sleaford  
Lincolnshire  
NG34 7EF

Brief set by Heritage Officer, North Kesteven 21/6/1996

APPENDIX 2  
Context Summary.

Context Number	Description	Interpretation
001	Dark brownish-grey sandy silt	Topsoil
002	Mid greyish-brown sandy silt	Subsoil
003	Yellowish light brown sandy gravel	Natural deposit
004	Mid blueish-grey clay	Natural deposit
005	Mid grey sandy silt	Fill in 006
006	Sub-circular cut, at least 0.90m by 0.80m in plan, and 0.40m deep	Possible small pit
007	Mid grey sandy clayey silt	Fill in (008)
008	Sub-circular cut, at least 1.90m by 0.70m in plan, and 0.68m deep	Possible pit
009	Yellowish light brown sandy gravel	Natural deposit, filling (010)
010	Sub-circular cut, at least 1.70m by 1.70m in plan, and 0.80m deep	Probable natural feature
011	Yellowish light brown sandy gravel	Natural deposit, filling (012)
012	Amorphous cut, at least 0.70m by 0.70m in plan, and 1.10m deep	Probable natural feature

## APPENDIX 3

### The Archive

The archive consists of:

- 12 . . Context records
- 1 . . . Photographic record
- 6 . . . Scale drawings
- 1 . . . Stratigraphic matrix

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: 138.96

Archaeological Project Services, project code: SNR 96

## APPENDIX 4

### Glossary

<b>Bronze Age</b>	Period dating from 2,000 - 600 BC during which time technological skills developed to allow for the production of bronze implements.
<b>Context</b>	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).
<b>Cut</b>	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.
<b>Dumped deposits</b>	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.
<b>Early English</b>	The term applied to the first phase of gothic architecture in England; typical of the thirteenth century.
<b>Fill</b>	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).
<b>Layer</b>	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
<b>Medieval</b>	The term applied, in England, to the period between the Norman conquest in 1066 and the year 1500.
<b>Natural</b>	Deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
<b>Prehistoric</b>	The period during which written records were absent, forming the majority of the archaeology in the U.K. until <i>c.</i> AD 43.
<b>Romano-British</b>	Pertaining to the period AD 43 - 450 when Britain formed part of the Roman Empire.