

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND AT
TUDOR COTTAGE,
TATTERSHALL ROAD,
BOSTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BTR97)**

97/13.



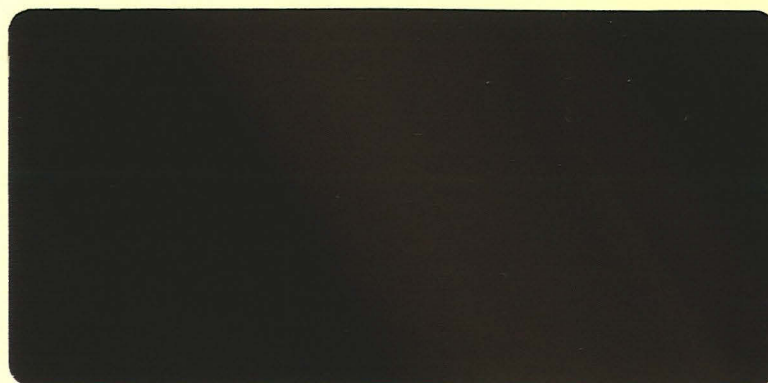
A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

Lincolnshire County Council
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1 8. NOV 97

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EL16909

SL1 1889 1892

13503 - Undated
13504 - Post Med.

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OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND AT
TUDOR COTTAGE,
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Work Undertaken For
Mr B O'Neill

October 1997

Report Compiled by
Fiona Walker

Planning Application No: B05/0049/97
National Grid Reference: TF 3122 4662
City and County Museum Accession No: 181.97

A.P.S. Report No. 54/97

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a detached garage and utility room on land at Tudor Cottage, Tattershall Road, Boston, Lincolnshire. Cropmarks of enclosures and droveways occur in the vicinity and suggest settlement dating from the Romano-British period (AD 43-410). The development is situated next to Tudor Cottage, a 19th century building that incorporates part of an earlier post-medieval (AD 1500-1850) structure.

The watching brief identified three pits. Two of these cut through the topsoil and were found to be modern refuse pits associated with a former gypsy encampment. The remaining pit was buried by the topsoil and, although undated, was therefore earlier than the other pits.

Finds retrieved from this investigation included 18th - 20th century pottery, glass fragments, an animal bone, an iron nail and a piece of clinker.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr B O'Neill to undertake an archaeological watching brief during development at Tudor Cottage, Tattershall Road, Boston, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application B05/0049/97. The watching brief was carried out on 19th July 1997.

An archaeological watching brief is 'defined as a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological purposes within a specified

area, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.' (IFA 1994, 1).

2.2 Topography and Geology

Boston is situated 45km southeast of Lincoln and approximately 7km from the coast of the Wash within the fens of south Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

Tattershall Road is situated c. 3km northwest of the centre of Boston, as defined by the market place and the parish church of St. Botolph. The site lies on generally level ground at c. 3m OD, north of Tattershall Road, centred on National Grid Reference TF 3122 4662 (Fig. 2).

Local soils are Wallasea 2 Association, pelo-alluvial gley soils developed on reclaimed marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 338). Beneath the alluvial deposits is a solid geology of Jurassic Kellaways clays (BGS 1995).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

The proposed development site lies in an area of known archaeological activity dating from the Romano-British period. Two areas of distinct cropmarks are evident on aerial photographs. The first lies c. 300m to the northwest of the proposed development and comprises enclosures and droveways (B09/046). The second cropmark complex, situated c. 600m to the east, comprises rectangular, circular and linear features suggestive of a settlement (B09/038).

The development site lies northwest of the medieval town and port of Boston and during the medieval period may have been arable or, possibly, unreclaimed marshland affected by flooding of the River Witham. However, such wetland areas were an important resource for wildfowling, fisheries and reeds. Also of this period, although

never accurately located, is an underground aqueduct which started near Bolingbroke, some 20km to the north, and ended in Boston. This was granted by Royal Charter in 1327 and 1338 to the Dominican (Black Friars) monastery in the town (Page 1988, 214). The present investigation site is only slightly west of a direct line between Bolingbroke and Boston.

Tudor Cottage is a renovated 19th century building that incorporates timber and part of a mud and stud wall from an earlier structure (Hilary Healey, *pers. comm.*). The site was formerly used as a gypsy encampment (B O'Neill, *pers. comm.*).

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief were to locate and record archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

The proposed development required the excavation of trenches to accommodate the footings for the new building (Fig. 3; Plate 1). These were excavated by machine to a depth of *c.* 1m. Once the trenches were excavated, selected deposits were cleaned and excavated by hand. The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from the ground surface. Each deposit or feature revealed within an opened area was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. Natural geological deposits were also recorded where exposed. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. A total of six sections were recorded though three provided repetitive evidence and are therefore omitted from this report. A photographic record was also compiled. Recording of the deposits encountered

during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

5. RESULTS

Finds recovered from those deposits excavated were examined and a period date assigned where possible. Records of the deposits and features identified during the watching brief were also examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. A list of all contexts with interpretations appears as Appendix 2. Three phases were identified:

Phase 1: Natural Deposits

Phase 2: Undated Archaeological 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

Deposits of a yellow sandy gravel (003) were encountered at the base of the trenches. This was overlain by a subsoil of yellowish grey silty clay (002) that was 0.4-0.5m thick.

Phase 2: Undated archaeological deposits

Located towards the southwest corner of the foundations was a subrectangular feature (008), 3.2m long by 2m wide and seen to a depth of 0.5m, but not fully excavated (Fig. 4, Section 3). A yellow-grey silty clay (009) that contained an iron nail, a piece of burnt stone and clinker was the sole fill of the pit.

Phase 3: Modern deposits

Sealing the undated pit (008) was a dark brown/black humic topsoil (001), up to 0.32m thick. Pieces of window glass and

pottery of 18th-20th century date were retrieved from the topsoil.

This topsoil was cut by two near-circular features (004, 006). The northwest cut (004) was 2m in diameter by 1m deep (Plate 2; Fig. 4, Section 5) and filled with a dark brown/black humic material (005) and modern pottery, glass and metal which were not retained. To the eastern edge of the footings was the other pit (006; Fig. 4, Section 6) which was 1m in diameter by 0.3m deep and contained a dark brown/black mix of refuse, including tin cans and bottles (not retained), and topsoil (007).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) of sandy gravel were encountered in the base of the foundations. This is probably a glacial deposit, perhaps a buried moraine (banked material that marks the former limits of a glacier). Above this a subsoil representing an early natural soil formation.

Undated archaeological remains (Phase 2) are represented by a single rectangular pit of uncertain function. The lack of waste material argues against it being a refuse pit.

Modern deposits indicate the recent usage of the site. A developed topsoil is cut by two rubbish pits. These probably derive from the period when the land was used as a gypsy encampment, the pits being cut for the disposal of domestic refuse.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations at Tudor Cottage, Tattershall Road, Boston were undertaken because the site fell within an area of known archaeological activity, the close proximity of two groups of

cropmarks, plus the remains of a post-medieval mud and stud building.

Only three features, all pits, were revealed during the watching brief. Two of these were identified as recent refuse pits. The third remains undated and of unknown function. As such they have limited archaeological potential and are of local significance only. No evidence was found to suggest the presence of activity relating to the cropmarks.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr B O'Neill who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Tom Lane coordinated the work. Paul Cope-Faulkner and Tom Lane edited this report. Background information was provided by Steven Membery, the Community Archaeologist for Boston District Council. Hilary Healey kindly examined the finds.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Tom Lane
Site Supervisor: Martin Griffiths
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation Analyst: Fiona Walker

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

Page, W., 1988, *The Victoria History of the County of Lincoln*, (Reprint of 1906 edition)

11. ABBREVIATIONS

B Numbers prefixed thus are the reference codes used by the Community Archaeologist for Boston District Council for identifying archaeological sites and finds.

BGS British Geological Survey

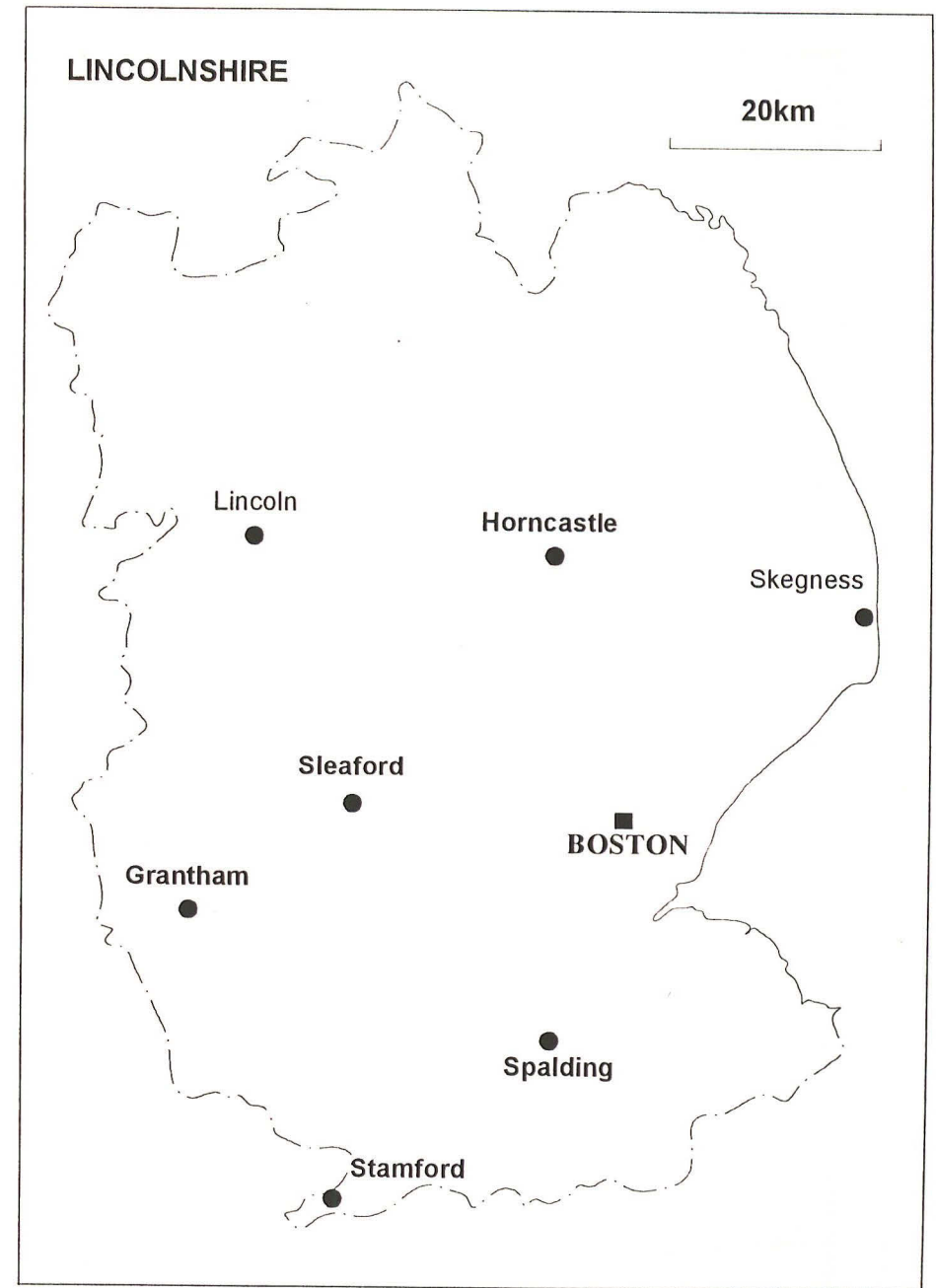
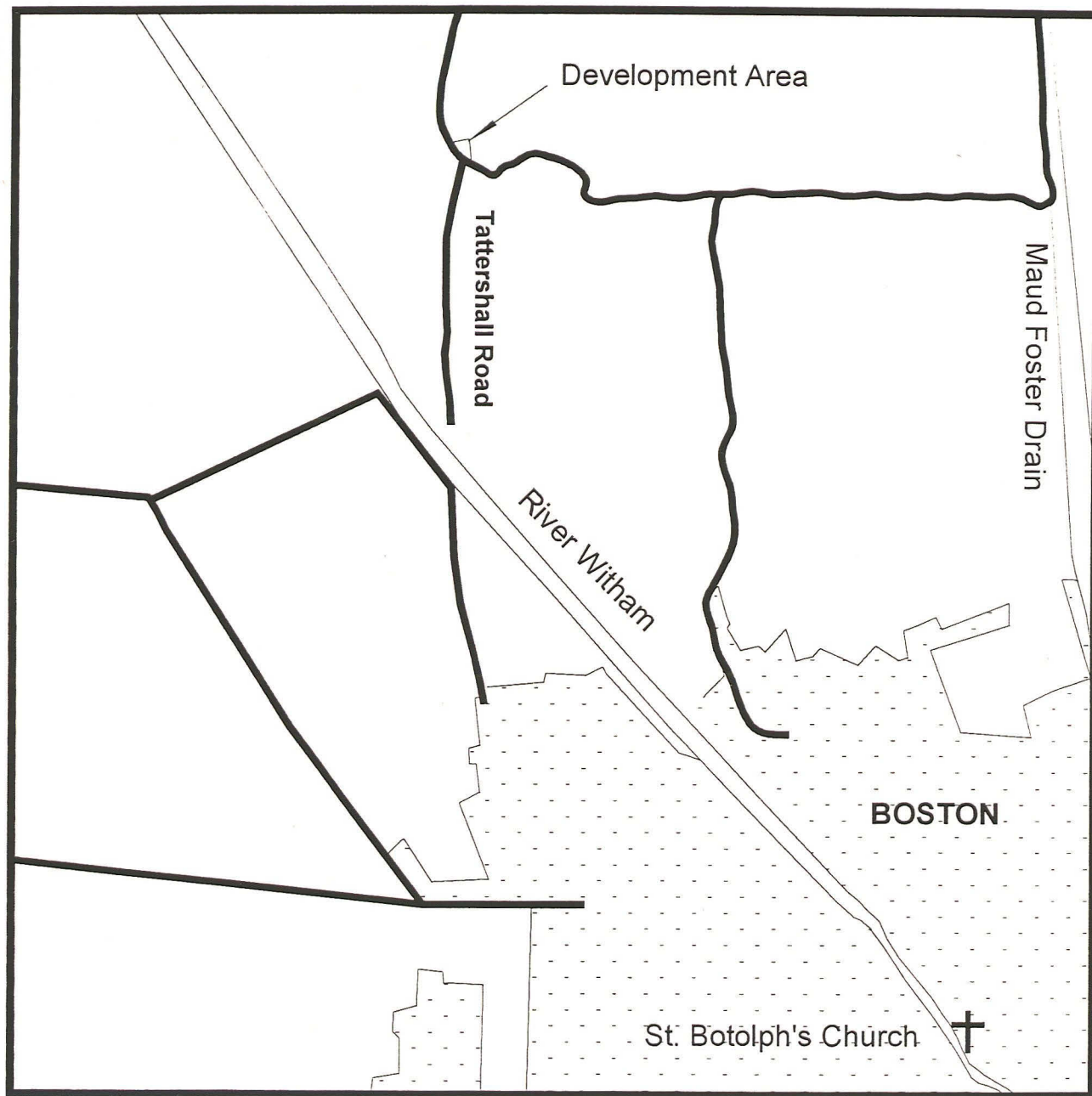


Figure 1 - General Location Plan



0 1km



Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

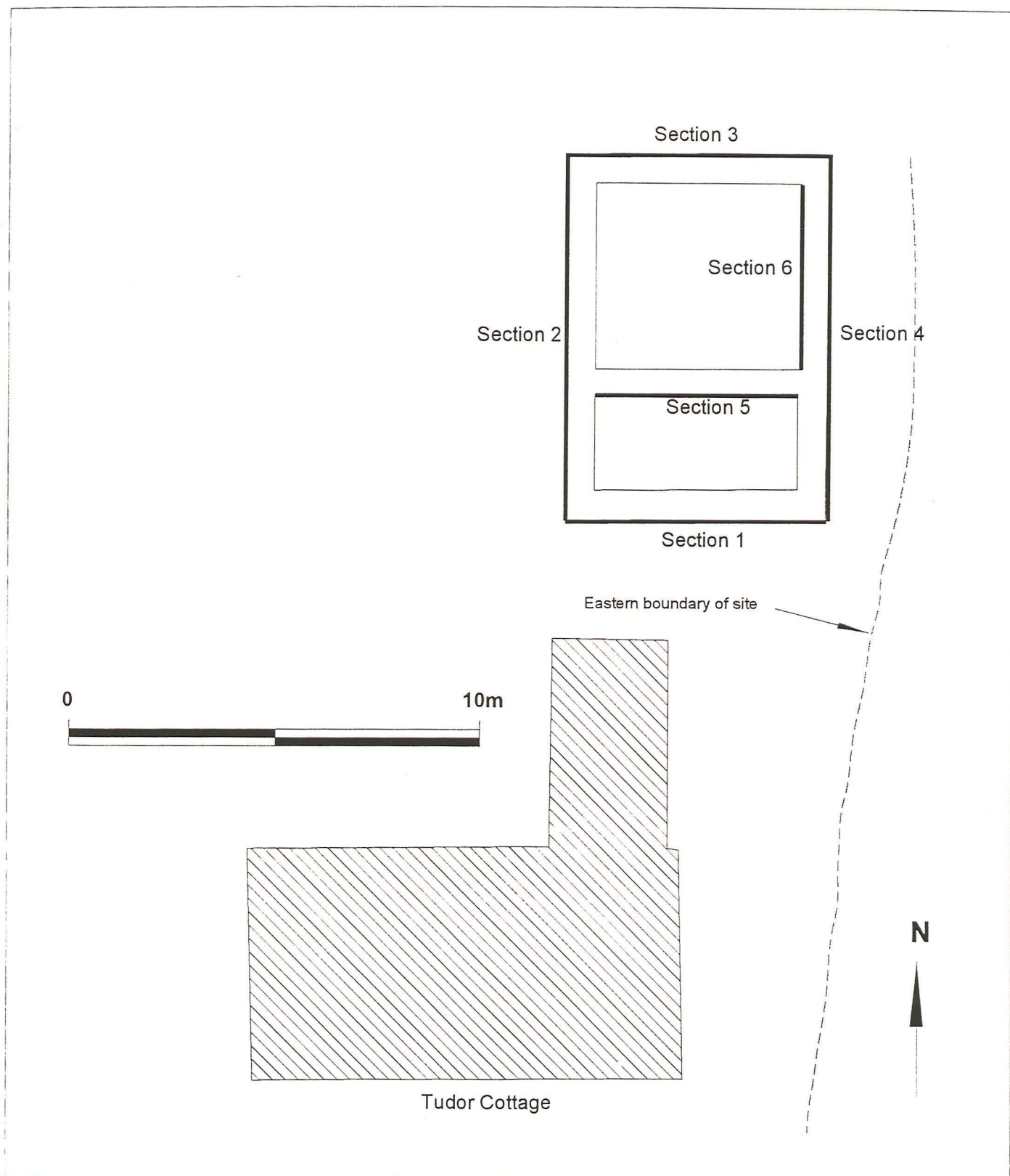
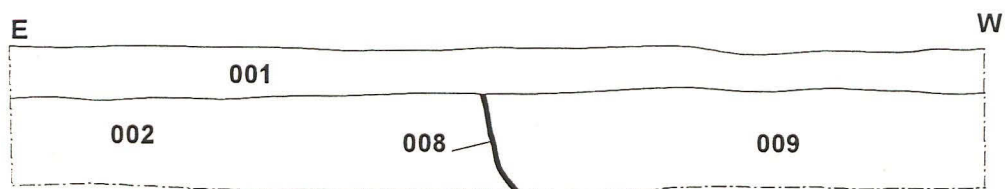
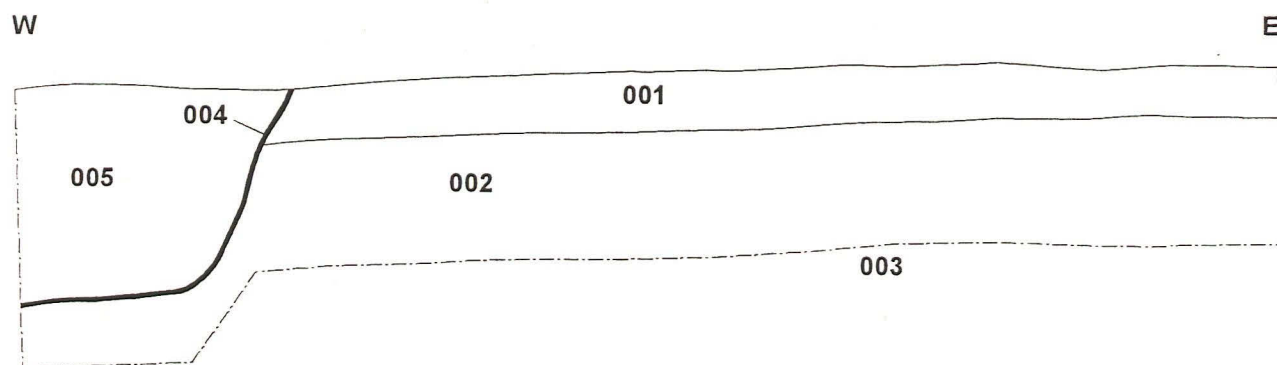


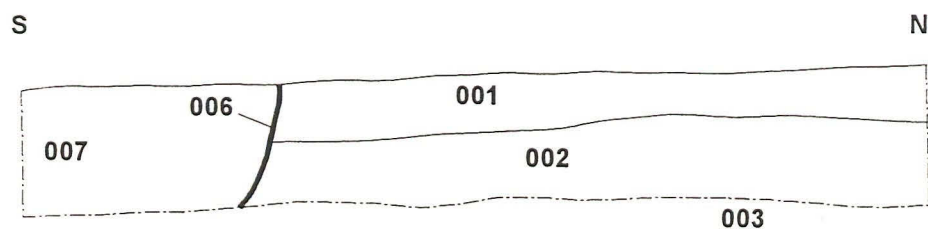
Figure 3 - Development Site Plan, showing location of recorded Sections



Section 3



Section 5



Section 6

Figure 4 - Sections 3, 5 and 6



Plate 1 - General View of the site, looking east



Plate 2 - Partial View of Pit (008), Section 5

Appendix 1

CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context	Description	Interpretation
001	Dark brown/black humic silt	Topsoil
002	Yellow-grey silty clay	Subsoil
003	Yellow sandy gravel	Natural
004	Circular cut, 2m diameter, 1.4m deep	Pit
005	Dark brown/black humic silt and refuse	Fill of 004
006	Circular cut, 1m diameter, depth over 0.3m	Pit
007	Dark brown/black humic silt and refuse	Fill of 006
008	Rectangular cut, approx. 2m by 3m, depth 0.5m	Pit
009	Yellow-grey silty clay	Fill of 008

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

Paul Cope-Faulkner and Gary Taylor

Context	Description
001	1 brown glazed teapot lid, 19th-early 20th century
	1 fragment of large stoneware storage jar, 18th-early 19th century
	1 cattle sized phalange
	2 fragments window glass
009	Iron nail
	1 fragment of clinker

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 9 | Context records |
| 1 | Photographic record sheet |
| 3 | Scale drawings |
| 1 | Bag of finds |
| 1 | Stratigraphic matrix |

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

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

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum
12 Friars Lane
Lincoln
LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number: 181.97

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: BTR97

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Appendix 4

GLOSSARY

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).
Cropmarks	Alterations in plant growth caused by buried remains (both archaeological and natural). Cropmarks can often be seen at ground level but are more easily observed and understood when recorded on photographs taken from aeroplanes.
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.
Layer	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	Pertaining to the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Moraine	Debris carried down and deposited by a glacier.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.