

97/13.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
ON LAND OFF EAST ROAD,
SLEAFORD,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(ERS97)**



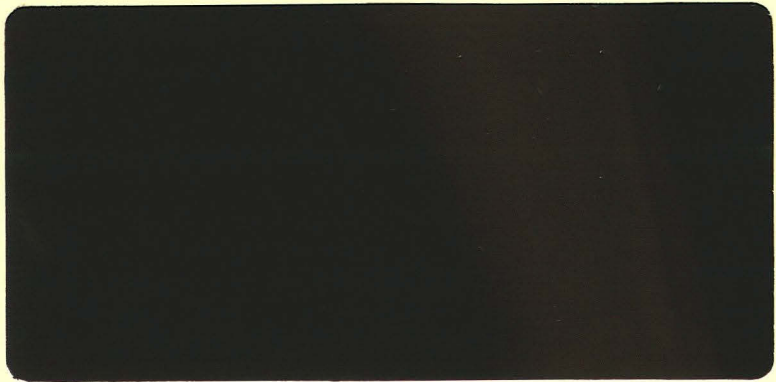
A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

**Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section**

1 8. NOV 97

12 Friars Lane
LINCOLN LN2 5AL

Tel: 01522 575292 Fax: 01522 530724



ELI 6879

SLI 1899 1611

60812 - Prehistoric
60767 - Roman
60768 - Undated

97/13.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
ON LAND OFF EAST ROAD,
SLEAFORD,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(ERS97)**

Work Undertaken For
Kiowa Ltd on behalf of
David Needham

Report Compiled by
Neil Herbert BA (Hons)

September 1997

Planning Application No: N/57/942/95
National Grid Reference: TF078004710
City and County Museum Accession No: 164.97

A.P.S. Report No: 41/97

CONTENTS

List of Figures

Plates

1.	Summary	1
2.	Introduction	1
2.1	Background	1
2.2	Topography, Geology and Soils	1
2.3	Archaeological Setting	2
3.	Aims	2
4.	Methods	2
5.	Results	3
5.1	Description of the Excavation	3
5.2	Phase 1: Natural Deposits	3
5.3	Phase 2: Undated Archaeology	3
5.4	Phase 3: Roman Archaeology	4
5.5	Phase 4: Modern Deposits	5
6.	Discussion	5
7.	Assessment of Significance	6
7.1	Site Importance	7
8.	Effectiveness of Techniques	7
9.	Conclusions	7
10.	Acknowledgements	8
11.	Personnel	8
12.	Bibliography	8
13.	Abbreviations	8

Appendices

1	Extract from <i>Criteria for the scheduling of ancient monuments</i>
2	Context Summary
3	The Finds, by Barbara Precious and Hilary Healey
4	The Animal Bone, by James Rackham
5	The Archive
6	Glossary

List of Figures

- Figure 1 General Location Plan
- Figure 2 Site Location Plan: showing cropmarks in proximity to development area
- Figure 3 Trench Location Plan: showing undated cropmark
- Figure 4 Trench E: showing undated double-ditch
- Figure 5 Trench E: profile of undated double-ditch
- Figure 6 Geophysical Survey Plot: location of ferromagnetic and archaeological plots

Plates

- Plate 1 General Site View: looking northeast
- Plate 2 Cropmark feature: plotted as Figure 3, looking north
- Plate 3 Trench A looking east: Showing cuts (007), (009) and (012)

1. SUMMARY

An evaluation was undertaken to determine the archaeological implications of development on land west of East Road, Sleaford, Lincolnshire. Archaeological sites and remains of prehistoric or Romano-British date (AD 43-410) are located in the vicinity of the proposed development. In particular, cropmarks showing the route of a Roman road and an adjacent settlement enclosure have been recorded in close proximity to the development site. Previous geophysical survey of the site had detected no clear evidence of archaeological remains.

Excavation of a previously unrecorded cropmark revealed a double-ditch. Although undated, on the basis of its subrectangular shape, the cropmark probably delineates a prehistoric or Roman enclosure. The corner of a second double-ditched rectangular enclosure was also tentatively identified.

Toward the east side of the site a ditch containing Roman or later pottery was located. Several small undated pits, gullies and ditches were also revealed. Some of these undated ditches were parallel and close to existing hedges. In consequence, they probably constitute earlier, perhaps medieval (1066-1500) or post-medieval (1500-1800), lines of the field boundaries.

Modern activity included service trenches for water and sewage pipes, crossing the site from northwest to southeast. These were also evident on the geophysical survey and as cropmarks.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

Between the 11th and 16th June 1997, an

archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land west of East Road, Sleaford, Lincolnshire. This was in order to determine the archaeological resource affected by development at the site. The archaeological investigation was commissioned by Mr David Needham of Kiowa Ltd. Archaeological Project Services carried out the work according to a verbal specification for works given by the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council.

2.2 Topography, Geology and Soils

Sleaford is situated 27km south of Lincoln and 26km west of Boston in the civil parish of Sleaford, North Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The town stands on the River Slea and its tributaries which flow northeastward to join the River Witham.

The area of investigation is located approximately 1.5km northeast of Sleaford town centre, as defined by the church of St. Denys. The site lies in an area of flat land at a height of 12m OD situated to the west of the river Slea. This ground tends to be well-drained and extensively utilised for arable farming, with very occasional blocks of deciduous woodland.

Encompassing an area of c. 3.5 hectares, the site is centred on National Grid Reference TF 07800 4710. Local soils are the Curdridge Association typically deep, permeable, coarse loamy soils developed over fine-grained Jurassic sands and sandstone. The association occurs on level to gently rolling land on the narrow outcrop of Kellaways sand, sandstone and clay beds extending the length of Lincolnshire (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 154).

These deposits overlie a solid geology of Upper Jurassic limestones and Oxford Clays. Ruskington Series soils impinge

upon the easternmost extent of the area of development, consisting of brown calcareous earths developed on Fen sand and gravel (George and Robson 1978, 79-81).

Natural deposits recorded during the archaeological evaluation comprised a loose light-orange clayey sand with moderate clayey or sandy lenses (Appendix 2). Frequent rounded pebbles and flat sub-angular stones, all poorly sorted, were contained by this layer.

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Sleaford is a modern town that has developed over several archaeological sites dating from the prehistoric to the medieval periods. East Road is situated on the periphery of these major archaeological sites, in an area of moderate archaeological activity. A Desk-Top Assessment of the general area of the site has previously been produced (Tann 1996). Geophysical survey of the area has detected no clear evidence for any archaeological features (Price 1997; Fig. 6).

There is scant evidence for prehistoric activity in near proximity to the area of investigation. A flint axe of Acheulian type, dateable to the Lower Palaeolithic, was retrieved approximately 50m south of the area of development. Farther afield, within 800m of the site, a greenstone axe and a flint thumbnail scraper have been recovered. It is likely that these date to the Neolithic or Bronze Age periods.

A series of undated cropmarks, interpreted as a rectangular enclosure (with a bisecting internal boundary) and adjacent driveway is located *c.* 300m to the southeast of the development site (Fig. 2). On the basis of shape, it is likely that these are prehistoric or Roman in date.

Mareham Lane Roman road is located immediately to the east of the development area. Apparent as a linear cropmark, associated with the aforementioned rectangular enclosure, it is likely that the Roman route has in part been covered by the modern East Road (Fig. 2: projected route).

Medieval artefacts have been recovered by metal detectorists approximately 700m west of the site. Cropmarks, interpreted as medieval ridge and furrow, occur 850m to the northeast.

3. AIMS

The aims of the archaeological evaluation were communicated verbally by the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council. These were to locate archaeological deposits and determine, if present, their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability, documentation, quality of setting and amenity value. The purpose of this identification and assessment of deposits was to establish their significance, in order to facilitate recommendations for an appropriate strategy that could be integrated with the development.

4. METHODS

Ten trenches, each approximately 10m x 2m, were opened and selected deposits partially or fully excavated to retrieve artefactual material and determine their nature. The trenches were located to provide sample coverage of the entire area in order to evaluate the potential survival of archaeological remains across the site. Three of the trenches were positioned to test for the survival of remains associated with the Mareham Lane Roman road. One of the trenches was also located to examine

a cropmark that was identified on arrival at the site (Fig. 3). Further linear cropmarks are known to pass through the southeastern corner of the site. However, geophysical survey has shown that modern services are responsible for the formation of these cropmarks. In consequence, the trenches were located to avoid these modern features.

All ten trenches were opened by machine to the surface of undisturbed natural or archaeological deposits. They were then cleaned and excavated by hand.

The majority of recorded features were half-sectioned, though linear features had 0.5m to 1m wide box sections examined. Trench H produced a series of definitively natural features that were photographed and recorded by context only. Trenches F and G contained no archaeological remains.

Each archaeological deposit or feature was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at a scale of 1:20.

A complete survey record of the site was made using a *Geodolite* TST (Fig. 3). Recording of deposits encountered during the evaluation was undertaken according to standard *Archaeological Projects Services* practice.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Description of the Excavation

Finds recovered from the deposits identified in the evaluation were examined and a date was assigned where possible. Records of the deposits and features recognised during the evaluation were also examined. A list of all contexts and

interpretations appears as Appendix 2. Phasing was assigned based on artefact dating and the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. A stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was produced. Five phases were identified:

- Phase 1 Natural Deposits
- Phase 2 Undated Archaeology
- Phase 3 Roman Archaeology
- Phase 4 Modern Deposits

5.2 Phase 1: Natural Deposits

All deposits, likely to have formed without human intervention, are included within this phase.

An orange-brown clayey sand with occasional clay and pebbles (003) was exposed at a depth of approximately 0.2m to 0.4m across the development site, forming a level deposit at an average height of 11.2m OD. This is a natural geological deposit.

Cutting into the natural sands (003) was a series of small, shallow irregular features that have been interpreted as natural hollows (009, 015, 020, 023, 036, 039).

5.3 Phase 2: Undated Archaeology

A series of small undated features, cut during a phase of probable human activity, were recorded within Trenches A, C, D, E and I. No dateable artifacts and little functional material was retrieved from these features.

Trench A, located at the southeastern corner of the investigation area, contained two east-west linear features (Plate 3). At the eastern limit of Trench A was an east-west feature (012). Approximately 0.7m deep and over 0.8m wide, this was filled with deposits of clayey sand (010 and 011)

and is interpreted as a ditch.

Cut (007), at the western end of Trench A, was approximately 0.48m deep with a minimum recorded width of 0.95m to the limit of excavation. Filled with orange-grey clayey sand, the feature had steep and regular sides, leading to a flat base, and was interpreted as a ditch.

Within Trench D, immediately west of Trench A, was an east-west linear feature (005), maintaining the line of ditch (007) in Trench A. Approximately 0.92m wide and 0.4m deep, this contained yellow-brown sandy silt (004) and is explained as a ditch.

At the southwestern end of Trench I, situated central to the area of development, were two north-south features (028) and (030) interpreted as gullies. Respectively 0.15m and 0.3m deep, these were separated by a gap of 0.4m.

At the northeastern limit of Trench I were two more parallel gullies, (034) and (032). Orientated west-east, these were approximately 0.7m wide and 0.3m deep and contained reddish-orange clayey sand, (033) and (031). Separated by a gap of 0.7m, these may also have been a double-gully feature.

A linear band of enhanced crop growth, standing to a height of 0.7m amongst the predominantly 0.5m high grass, was observed toward the south side of the area during the initial trenching on the site (Plate 2). The location and shape of this cropmark was surveyed using a *Geodolite TST* and Trench E was subsequently placed across the feature.

Excavation exposed two adjacent linear features (025) and (026). Explained as ditches, feature (025) was approximately 0.4m deep and (026) was *c.* 0.3m deep. It

would appear that feature (026) cut a fill (058) within (025). However, subsequent recuts (see below) may indicate that both ditches were contemporary. Both features were approximately 1m wide (Fig. 4).

The western edge of ditch (025) was truncated obliquely by a further linear feature (024), also interpreted as a ditch. This ditch was in turn truncated by a recut (063) of ditch (025). A further recut (056) was also identified (Fig. 5).

Trench C, at the northeastern corner of the area of investigation, lay in close proximity to the projected route of the Roman road (Figs. 2 and 3) and revealed a small group of cuts (073, 076, 079, 081 and 084) that have been interpreted as pits.

The largest of these (073) measured 2.15m long and 0.47m deep. Further east within Trench C was a small irregular depression 0.49m wide and 0.41m deep (076). Both features were filled with brown sands.

Approximately 0.3m east of (076) was an irregular depression 1.5m by 1.4m in area with a maximum depth of 0.4m. This was composed of cuts (079, 081 and 084) but deposits contained by these features tended to merge into each other, making excavation and interpretation difficult. Generally, the fills consisted of greyish-brown sandy silts (075, 077, 078, 080, 082 and 083). No finds were retrieved from these features indicating they may have a natural origin or are the throws left behind by a falling tree.

5.4 Phase 3: Roman Archaeology

In Trench B, on the east side of the site, was an east-west linear cut (071), measuring approximately 1.6m wide and 0.4m deep. Interpreted as a ditch, it was filled with yellow-brown clayey sand (070) that contained sherds of Romano-British

pottery (Appendix 3).

5.5 Phase 4: Modern Deposits

A limited sequence of modern deposits were recorded during the evaluation. Cuts (067) and (069), recorded in Trench B, both contained artefacts of 19th century date and have been interpreted as trenches for water or sewage pipes. Service trench (069) had truncated the northern edge of the Roman ditch (071).

Cutting into the natural sands (003) was a small, shallow irregular feature (017). Containing a fragment of probable 18th century pottery, the function of this hollow is unclear though it may have been for tree-planting.

A deposit of mid orange-brown clayey sand, interpreted as a subsoil, was recorded in Trenches A and B. This was sealed by a dark grey-brown clayey sand topsoil (001/040) exposed in all of the trenches. The depth of this topsoil was variable, up to a maximum of 0.4m at the southern and eastern limits of the site but thinner, approximately 0.2m thick, towards the west and north.

6. DISCUSSION

Archaeological evaluation on land west of East Road, Sleaford, has revealed a sequence of undated gullies, ditches and pits and a single Roman feature sealed by modern deposits of subsoil and ploughsoil.

Natural silty sands were revealed across the entire area. These geological strata are likely to have formed as a result of glacio-fluvial deposition.

Two sets of parallel gullies were recorded at the centre of the area of development. Orientated respectively north-south and

east-west, these features are probably all associated and may represent the corner of a double-ditched rectangular enclosure.

A subrectangular enclosure, evident on the surface as a cropmark and delineated by a double-ditch, was also identified. The two ditches defining this enclosure may not necessarily be contemporary. In fact, only one of the ditches displayed evidence for maintenance through recutting.

On the basis of shape, these two subrectangular enclosures are likely to be prehistoric or Roman in date. Their form is similar to enclosures previously identified as cropmarks to the southeast of the site (compare Figs. 2 and 3).

The double-ditch form is considered to arise from the creation of a hedge bank with flanking ditches. Similar double-ditched enclosures, though of Bronze age-Iron Age date, have previously been recognised at, *inter alia*, Fengate, near Peterborough, and West Deeping (Pryor 1996, 315; 319). The enclosures at these locations are considered to have functioned as stock compounds (Dr F Pryor, pers comm). The absence of any settlement debris from either of the two, apparently separate, enclosures at East Road, Sleaford, would imply that these perhaps served a similar non-habitation function.

A shallow gully containing Romano-British pottery was recorded at the eastern edge of the site. Mareham Lane, recorded as a cropmark to the east of the site, lies in close proximity to the shallow gully (Fig. 2) and may represent a boundary associated with the course of the Roman road. Alternatively it may be related to the cropmarks of enclosures to the southeast of the development area (Fig. 2).

Viewed overall, the evidence suggests that, in this area, Romano-British occupation

may be located in close proximity to, perhaps mostly on the east side of, the Mareham Lane Roman road, with field systems defined by double-ditched enclosures lying a short distance to the west.

A sequence of pits was revealed at the northeastern corner of the site. Their function is unclear but, lacking occupation debris, they are unlikely to be refuse pits. They may, therefore, represent small sand quarries or possibly tree planting holes relating to the previous use of the site as an orchard (David Needham, pers comm). A similar hollow, containing 18th century pottery, was identified at the southwest corner of the site.

The two east-west ditches in Trenches A (007) and D (005) almost certainly constitute the same feature. Moreover, the ditch location, parallel to and about 5m from the existing hedge, suggests it represents an earlier line of the field boundary, possibly of late medieval or later date.

A further east-west ditch was revealed at the southeast corner of the site. This contained differing fills and dimensions to the probable early field boundary identified in the same area and is therefore unlikely to be related. However, the feature probably represents a former field boundary.

Modern deposits, consisting of a subsoil and a ploughsoil, were recorded across the development site. The subsoil was only recorded in Trenches A and B, at the southeast side of the site and it is likely that this layer has been destroyed in other trenches, possibly due to ploughing of the site. Trenches A and B, in close proximity to the eastern boundary of the development site, are unlikely to have been as deeply ploughed.

Recent service trenches were also revealed crossing the southern corner of the site. Also evident on the geophysical survey (Fig. 6), it is probable that these parallel trenches are responsible for the formation of cropmarks observed in the same part of the development area (Fig. 2).

7. ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

For assessment of significance the *Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling ancient monuments* has been used (DoE 1990, Annex 4; See Appendix 1).

Period

The only deposits to which a date could confidently be assigned belonged to the Romano-British period or later. However, the only feature of this date identified, a gully, is not a period-specific element.

Rarity

Remains of Romano-British date are not uncommon, though may possess rare or unusual characteristics.

Documentation

Records of archaeological sites and finds made in North Kesteven District are kept in the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Records and the files of the North Kesteven Heritage Officer. A Desk-Top Assessment of the immediate area, and synopses of nearly all the archaeological work carried out in the vicinity, have previously been produced.

Group value

The majority of the remains encountered probably served an agricultural function, such as field boundaries. Therefore, the group value is low, though this may be elevated by possible association with an adjacent Roman road and possible settlement enclosures. That the boundaries are apparently of different periods

enhances the group value slightly.

Survival/Condition

Deposits dateable to the Romano-British period are likely to survive beneath the level of the modern ploughsoil. Such deposits are likely to be sparsely distributed and shallow.

Environmental remains are unlikely to survive except through charring, though no evidence of the latter was recorded on site. Bone survived in poor condition.

Fragility/Vulnerability

Development of the site is likely to impact the site, possibly into natural strata. Consequently, any and all archaeological deposits are vulnerable. However, few archaeological remains were revealed and these lay below the level of agricultural disturbance.

Diversity

Undated and Romano-British enclosures, pits and gullies, probably associated with agricultural use, were revealed. As a group these have low diversity.

Potential

There is high potential that Romano-British enclosure ditches or boundaries, as found during the archaeological evaluation, occur elsewhere on, and in the immediate vicinity of, the site.

7.1 Site Importance

In summary, the criteria for assessment have indicated that the Romano-British deposits present on site are of local significance. As such, they make a contribution towards understanding the development of Sleaford during the Romano-British period. The undated remains are of limited local importance, due to the lack of chronology and the difficulty of determining association.

8. EFFECTIVENESS OF TECHNIQUES

The strategy of using trial trenches to locate and evaluate archaeological deposits was, on the whole, effective. Moderately well-preserved archaeological deposits were identified across the area, though these remains were mostly undated as few artefacts were recovered. However, this lack of occupation debris would suggest that the archaeological features had served a non-settlement function.

An earlier programme of geophysical survey had been of limited effectiveness due to recent ground disturbance (de-stoning) at the site.

9. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological evaluation has achieved the aims set by the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council. A small number of undated and Roman remains were recorded.

Comprising gullies, pits and ditches, the features are likely to represent undated and Romano-British activity outside or on the periphery of any contemporary settlement areas. A cropmark of an apparently subrectangular enclosure was identified and investigated. Although undated, on the basis of morphological parallels this is likely to be prehistoric or Roman. A second subrectangular enclosure, again undated, was also tentatively identified.

Modern ploughing and de-stoning of the site has probably caused damage to any underlying archaeological deposits. However, archaeological remains were recorded and comprise shallow features, a possible result of these agricultural processes.

No organic deposits were recorded and environmental material, if present, would only be likely to survive through charring.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr David Needham, of Kiowa Ltd, who commissioned the investigation and analysis of the site. Gary Taylor coordinated the work and Gary Taylor and Tom Lane edited this report. James Rackham examined and commented upon the bone. Dr Francis Pryor kindly provided information on comparable sites.

11. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Site Supervisor: Neil Herbert
Site Assistants: Steve Williams and Ian MacGregor
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Illustration: Paul Matthew and Dave Hopkins
Post-excavation Analyst: Neil Herbert

12. BIBLIOGRAPHY

DoE, 1990 *Archaeology and Planning*, Planning Policy Guidance note 16

George, H. and Robson, J.D., 1978 *Soils in Lincolnshire II*; Sheet TF04 (Sleaford), Soil Survey Record No. 51

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

Price, J., 1997 *Sleaford East Road Geophysical Survey*, Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd Unpublished

Report

Pryor, F., 1996 Sheep, stockyards and field systems: Bronze Age livestock populations in the Fenlands of eastern England, *Antiquity* 70, no. 268

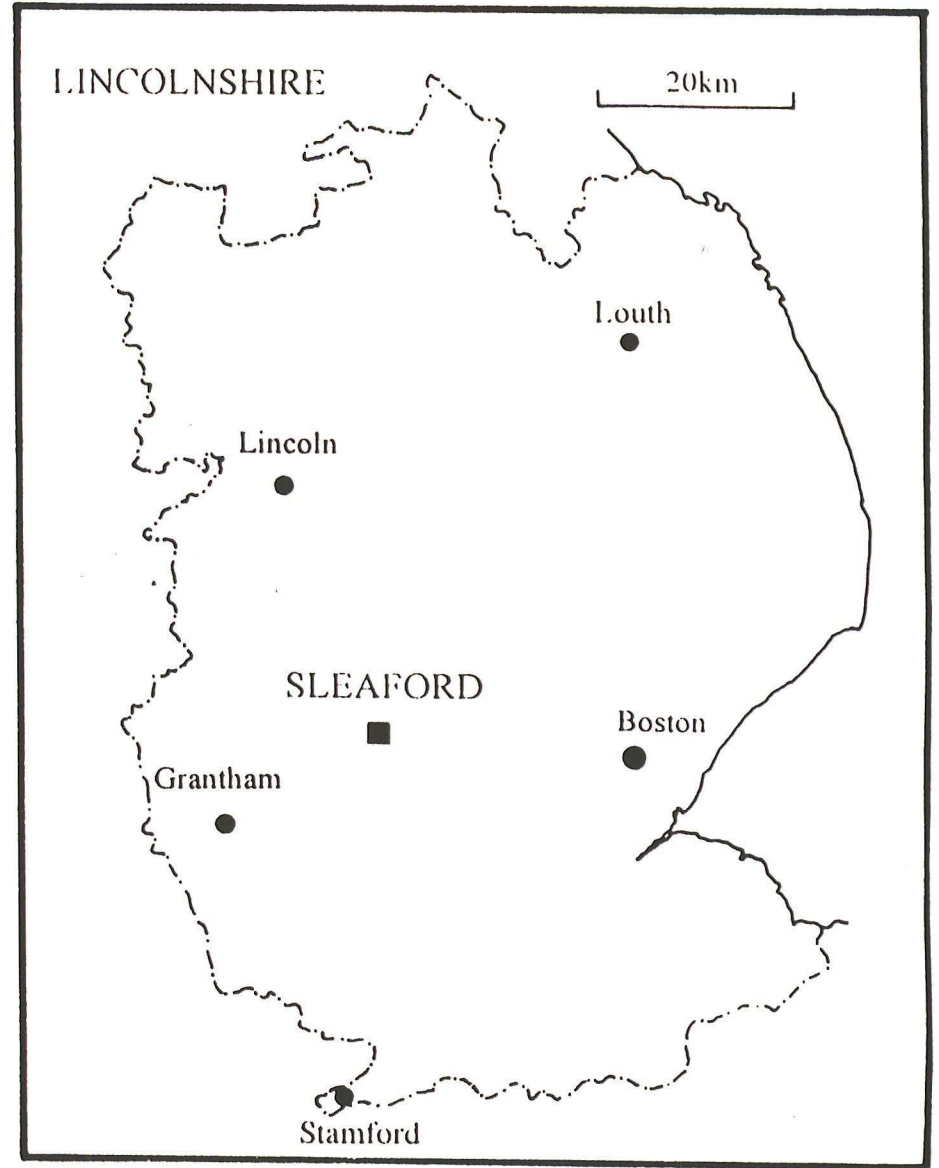
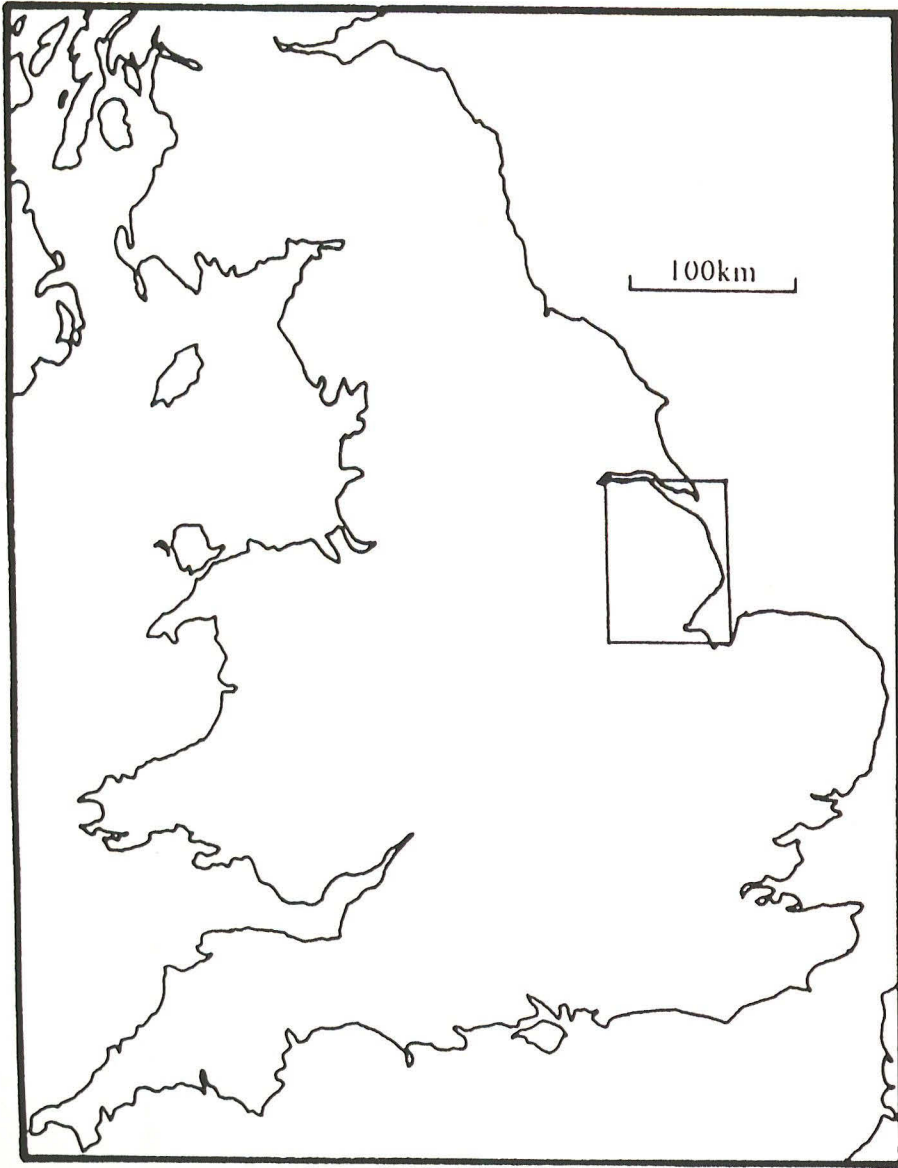
Tann, G., 1996 *Sleaford, Land off East Road: Archaeological Desktop Assessment*, Lindsey Archaeological Services Unpublished Report

10. ABBREVIATIONS

DoE Department of the Environment

TST Total Station Theodolite

Figure 1: General Location Plan



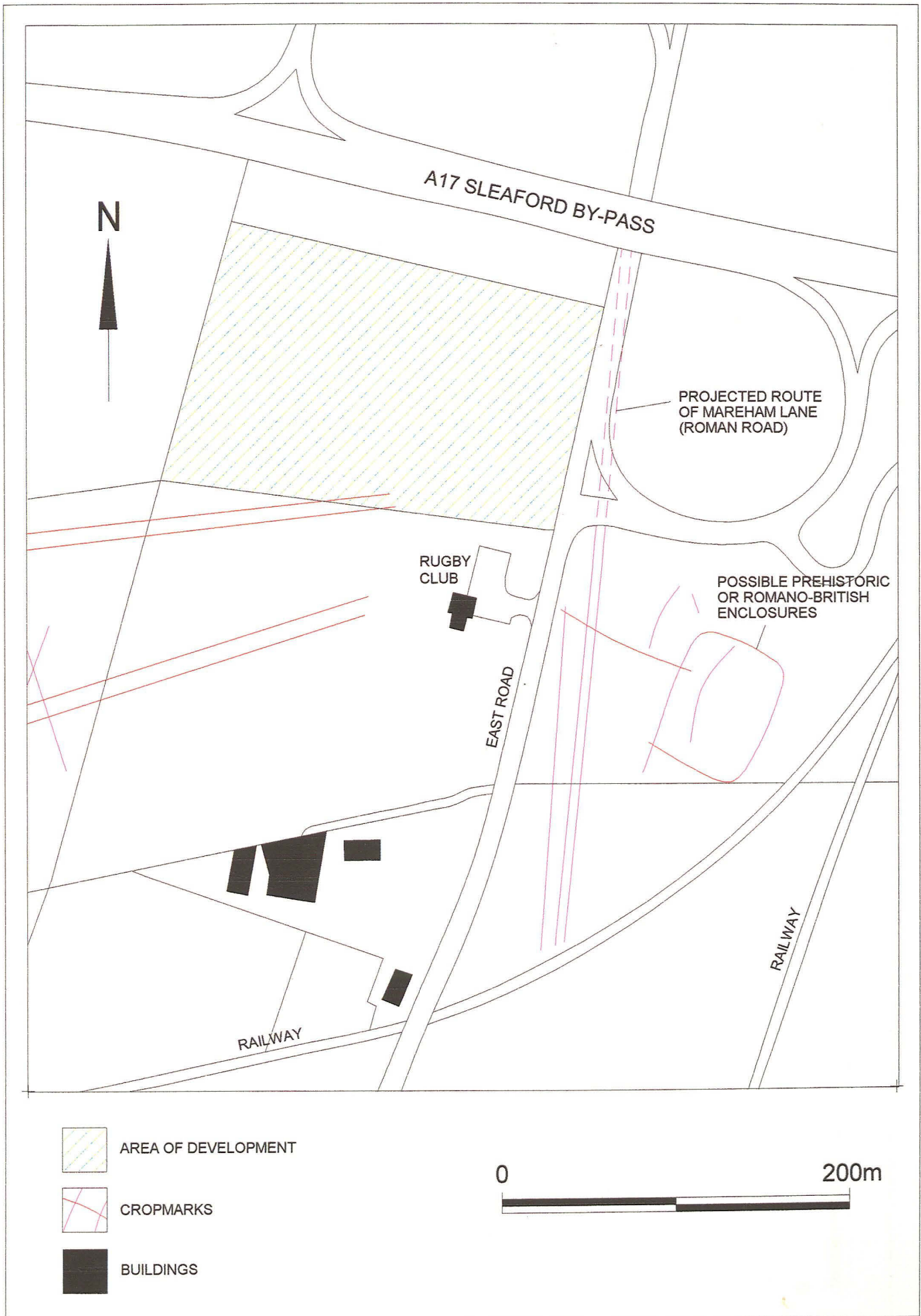


Figure 2 - Site Location Showing Cropmarks in Proximity to Development Area

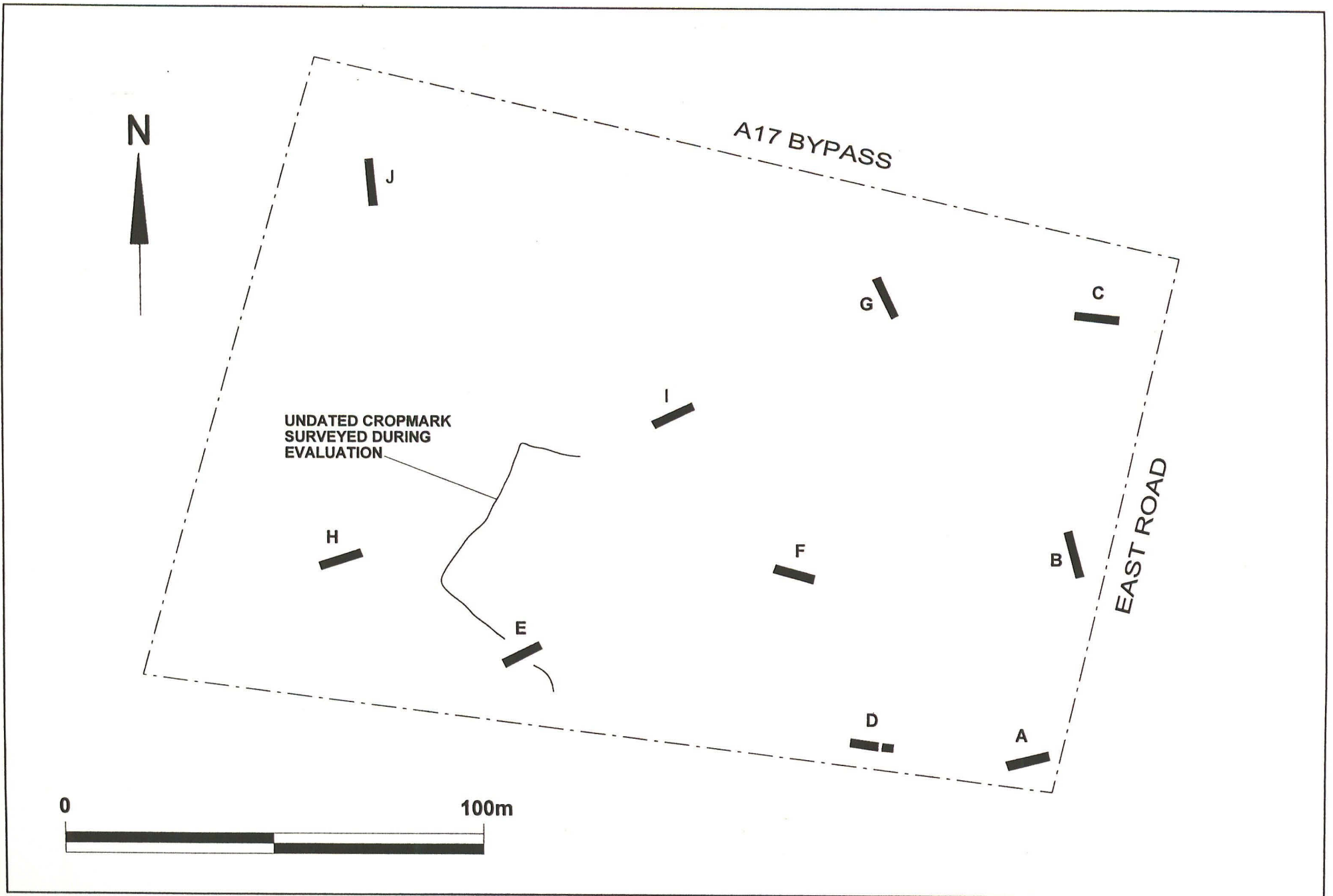


Figure 3 - Trench Location Plan (Showing Undated Cropmark)

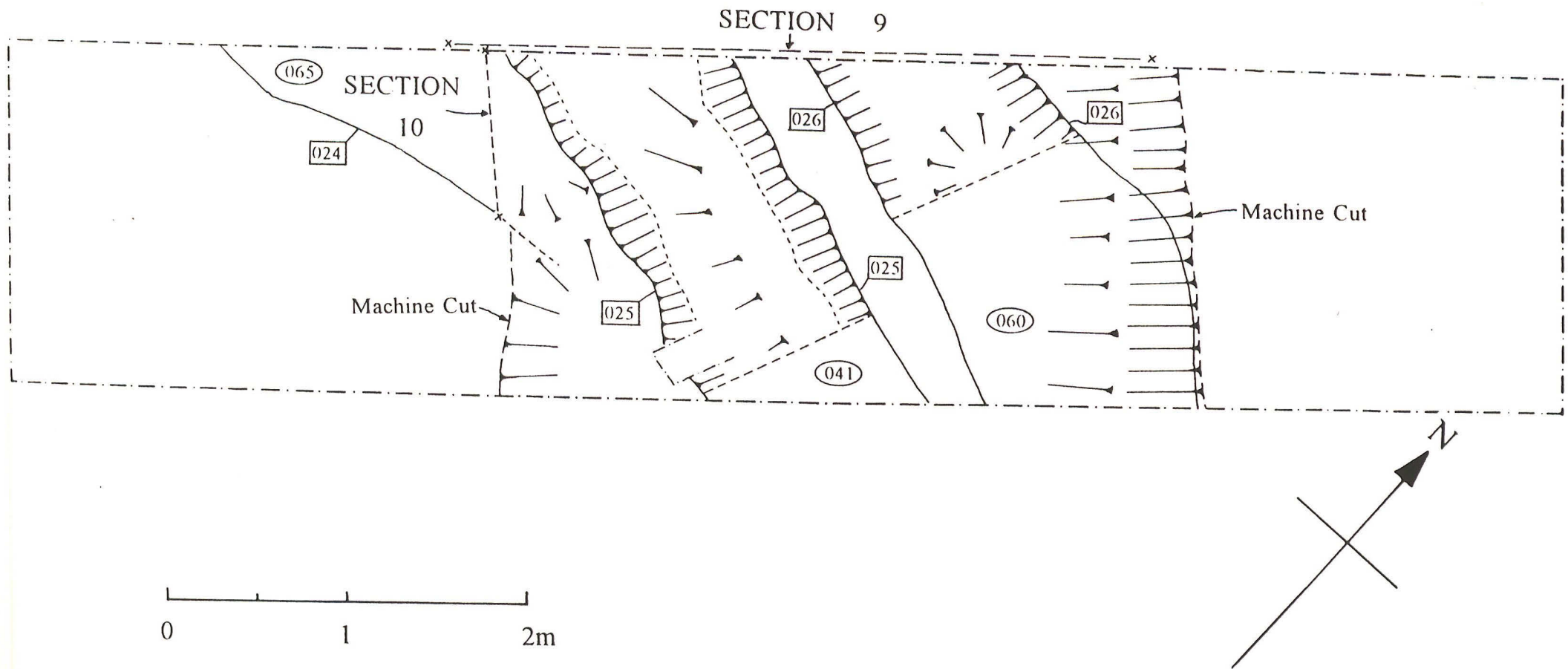


Figure 4 - Trench E: Showing undated double-ditch

SECTION 9

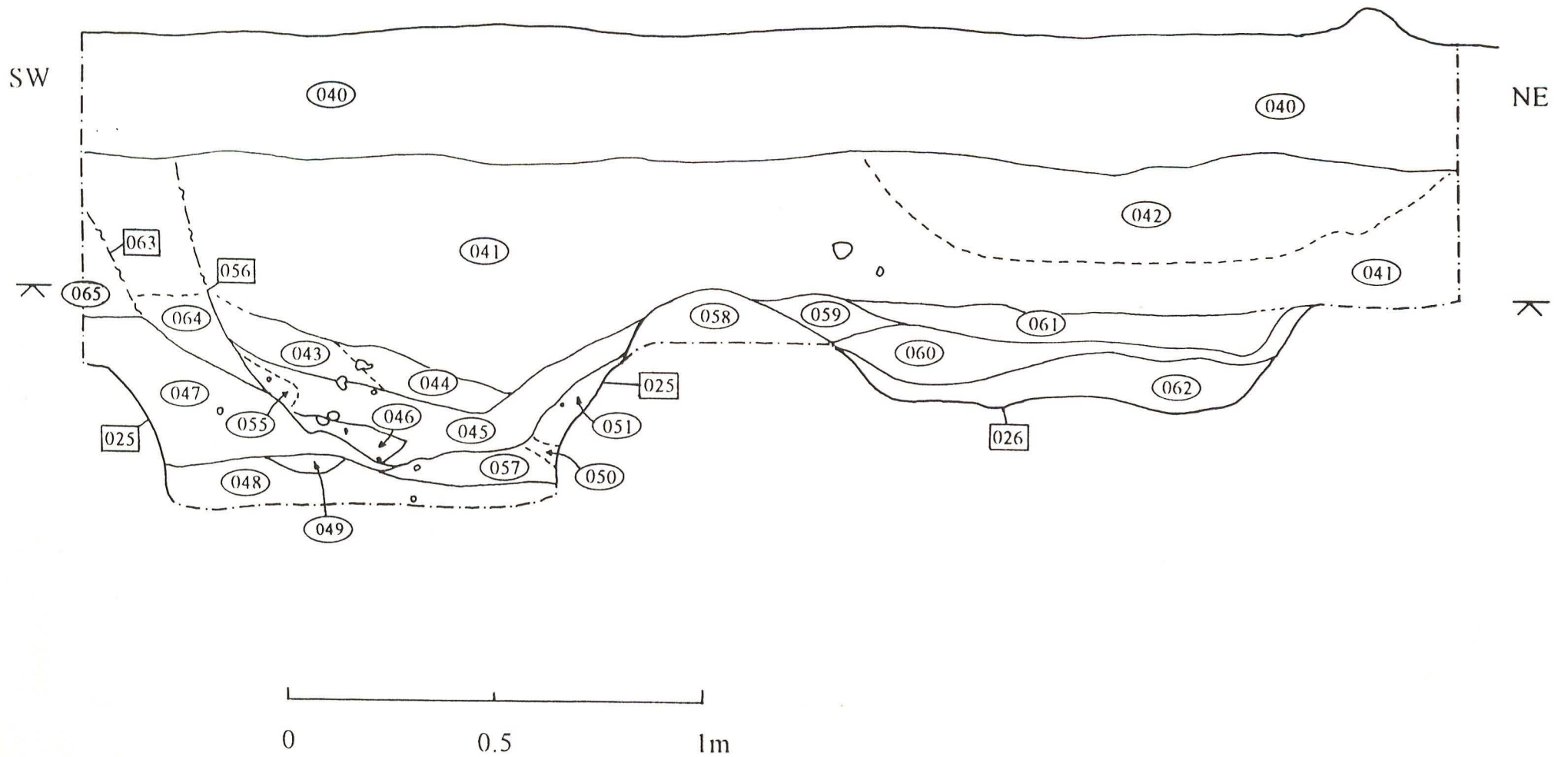


Figure 5 - Trench E: Profile of undated double-ditch

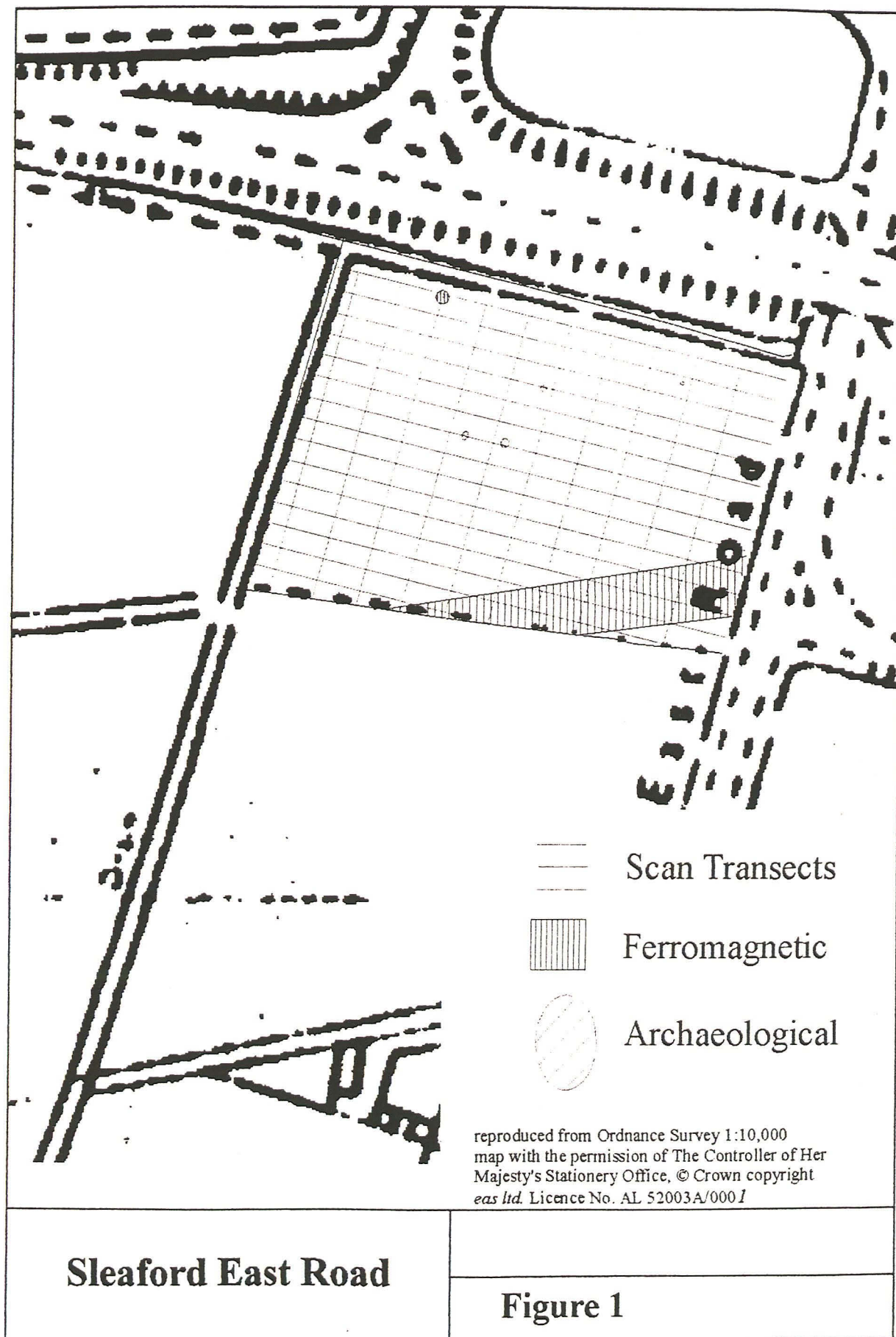


Figure 6 - Geophysical Survey Plot: location of ferromagnetic and archaeological plots
 - (Price 1997)



▲▲ Plate 1 : General Site View,
Looking north east

▲ Plate 2 : Cropmark Feature :
Plotted as Figure 3, Looking
north west

◀ Plate 3 : Trench A, Looking
east : Showing cuts (007),
(009) and (012)

APPENDIX 1

Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling Ancient Monuments - Extract from *Archaeology and Planning* DoE Planning Policy Guidance note 16, November 1990

The following criteria (which are not in any order of ranking), are used for assessing the national importance of an ancient monument and considering whether scheduling is appropriate. The criteria should not however be regarded as definitive; rather they are indicators which contribute to a wider judgement based on the individual circumstances of a case.

i *Period*: all types of monuments that characterise a category or period should be considered for preservation.

ii *Rarity*: there are some monument categories which in certain periods are so scarce that all surviving examples which retain some archaeological potential should be preserved. In general, however, a selection must be made which portrays the typical and commonplace as well as the rare. This process should take account of all aspects of the distribution of a particular class of monument, both in a national and regional context.

iii *Documentation*: the significance of a monument may be enhanced by the existence of records of previous investigation or, in the case of more recent monuments, by the supporting evidence of contemporary written records.

iv *Group value*: the value of a single monument (such as a field system) may be greatly enhanced by its association with related contemporary monuments (such as a settlement or cemetery) or with monuments of different periods. In some cases, it is preferable to protect the complete group of monuments, including associated and adjacent land, rather than to protect isolated monuments within the group.

v *Survival/Condition*: the survival of a monument's archaeological potential both above and below ground is a particularly important consideration and should be assessed in relation to its present condition and surviving features.

vi *Fragility/Vulnerability*: highly important archaeological evidence from some field monuments can be destroyed by a single ploughing or unsympathetic treatment; vulnerable monuments of this nature would particularly benefit from the statutory protection that scheduling confers. There are also existing standing structures of particular form or complexity whose value can again be severely reduced by neglect or careless treatment and which are similarly well suited by scheduled monument protection, even if these structures are already listed buildings.

vii *Diversity*: some monuments may be selected for scheduling because they possess a combination of high quality features, others because of a single important attribute.

viii *Potential*: on occasion, the nature of the evidence cannot be specified precisely but it may still be possible to document reasons anticipating its existence and importance and so to demonstrate the justification for scheduling. This is usually confined to sites rather than upstanding monuments.

APPENDIX 2

Context Summary

Context Number	Trench	Description	Interpretation
001	ALL	Dark grey-brown clayey sand	Ploughsoil
002	ALL	Mid orange-brown clayey sand	Subsoil
003	ALL	Light orange-brown clayey sand with frequent pebbles	Natural deposit
004	D	Mid yellow-brown sandy silt	Fill of (005)
005	D	Linear west-east cut	Ditch
006	A	Light orange-grey clayey sand	Fill of (007)
007	A	Linear west-east cut	Ditch
008	A	Mid blue-green clayey sand	Fill of (009)
009	A	Sub-rectangular cut	Natural hollow
010	A	Mid-brown clayey sand	Fill of (012)
011	A	Light-brown clayey sand	Fill of (012)
012	A	Linear east-west cut	Ditch
013	H	Dark grey-brown sandy silt	Fill of (015)
014	H	Light brown-yellow sand	Fill of (015)
015	H	Circular cut	Poss. posthole
016	H	Mid yellow-brown gravelly sand	Fill of (017)
017	H	Circular cut	Tree hole?
018	H	Dark grey-brown sandy silt	Fill of (020)
019	H	Greyish-yellow silty sand	Fill of (020)
020	H	Irregular cut	Natural hollow
021	H	Light grey-brown silty sand	Fill of (023)
022	H	Grey-brown silty sand	Fill of (023)
023	H	Irregular linear cut	Natural hollow
024	E	Linear cut	Ditch
025	E	Linear cut	Ditch
026	E	Linear cut	Gully

Context Number	Trench	Description	Interpretation
027	I	Light yellow-orange clayey sand	Fill of (028)
028	I	Linear cut	Gully
029	I	Mid orange-brown clayey sand	Fill of (030)
030	I	Linear cut	Poss. gully
031	I	Mid reddish-orange clayey sand	Fill of (032)
032	I	Linear cut	Poss. gully
033	I	Mid reddish-orange clayey sand	Fill of (034)
034	I	Linear cut	Poss. gully cut
035	J	Mid yellow-brown silty sand	Fill of (036)
036	J	Irregular cut	Natural hollow
037	J	Mid reddish-brown silty sand	Fill of (039)
038	J	Mid brownish-yellow sandy silt	Fill of (039)
039	J	Sub-rounded cut	Natural hollow
040	E	Mid-grey sandy silt	Ploughsoil
041	E	Mid yellow-brown sandy clay	Subsoil
042	E	Mid yellow-brown sandy silt	Fill of (056)
043	E	Mid brown-grey silty sand	Fill of (056)
044	E	Yellow-brown sandy clay	Fill of (056)
045	E	Mid-grey sandy silt	Fill of (056)
046	E	Greyish-brown sand	Fill of (056)
047	E	Mid yellow-brown sand	Fill of (025)
048	E	Light-brown sand	Fill of (025)
049	E	Mid-grey sandy silt	Fill of (025)
050	E	Light brown-grey sand	Fill of (025)
051	E	Mid yellow-brown sand	Fill of (025)
055	E	Light brown-grey silty sand	Fill of (056)
056	E	Linear cut	Re-cut of (025)
057	E	Light-brown sand	Fill of (025)
058	E	Light yellow-brown sand	?Natural

Context Number	Trench	Description	Interpretation
059	E	Light grey-brown sandy silt	Fill of (026)
060	E	Mid-grey sandy silt	Fill of (026)
061	E	Dark yellow-brown sandy silt	Fill of (026)
062	E	Light-brown sand	Fill of (026)
063	E	Linear cut	Re-cut of (025)
064	E	Mid yellow-brown sandy clay	Fill of (063)
065	E	Dark yellow-brown sandy clay	Fill of (024)
066	B	Mid-brown silty sand	Fill of (067)
067	B	Linear cut	Water pipe
068	B	Orange and grey-green clayey sand	Fill of (069)
069	B	Linear cut	Sewage pipe
070	B	Light yellow-brown clayey sand	Fill of (071)
071	B	Linear cut	Ditch
072	C	Mid-brown silty sand	Fill of (073)
073	C	Circular cut	Poss. pit
074	C	Light brown-yellow gravelly sand	Fill of (073)
075	C	Mid grey-brown sandy silt	Fill of (076)
076	C	Sub-circular cut	Poss. pit
077	C	Mid orange-brown sandy silt	Fill of (079)
078	C	Mid-brown silty sand	Fill of (079)
079	C	Circular cut	Poss. pit
080	C	Mid grey-brown sandy silt	Fill of (081)
081	C	Sub-circular cut	Poss. pit
082	C	Dark grey-brown silty sand	Fill of (084)
083	C	Dark yellow-brown sandy silt	Fill of (084)
084	C	Circular cut	Poss. pit
085	C	Mid grey-brown silty sand	Fill of (079)

APPENDIX 3

THE FINDS

The Roman Pottery

Barbara Precious

CONTEXT	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION	CONTEXT DATE
070	B	2 sherds greyware (Roman); 1 sherd greyware, possibly post-Roman. All 3 sherds fresh and unabraded.	2nd-3rd century, or post-Roman

The Post-medieval Pottery

Hilary Healey

CONTEXT	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION	CONTEXT DATE
016	H	1 piece possible creamware pottery	?18th century
018	H	2 pieces flint, natural	
066	B	1 piece white glazed pottery, blue stripes	19th-20th century
068	B	1 piece white glazed pottery; 1 piece white opaque glass	19th-20th century
unstratified	F	2 pieces burnt stone	

APPENDIX 4

The Animal Bone
James Rackham
Environmental Archaeology Consultancy

CONTEXT	TRENCH	SPECIES	DESCRIPTION
066	B	cattle-size	unidentified
066	B	sheep	rib
070	B	sheep-size	long bone

The unidentified cattle-size bone from context (066) may be a pelvic fragment. Also, the sheep-size long bone from context (070) may be a metapodial. However, all of the small collection of bone is in very poor condition and largely undiagnostic.

APPENDIX 5

The Archive

The archive consists of:

85	Context records
21	Scale drawings
5	Photographic record sheets
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Box of finds

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 entitled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Archaeological Project Services project code: ERS97
City and County Museum, Lincoln Accession Number: 164.97

Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the Project as described in the Project Specification.

APPENDIX 6

Glossary

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 2200-700 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).
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.
Morphological Parallels	Comparison based on similar shapes. Used in archaeology to ascribe date or function to ancient remains by correlation with well-investigated examples of similar form.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Neolithic	The New Stone Age period, characterised by the development of settled communities with predominantly agricultural economies.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Palaeolithic	The Old Stone Age period, characterised by the development of stone tools. Dating from 1,000,000 to 10,000 BC.
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 from AD43 to AD450, when Britain was gradually occupied as part of the Roman Empire.