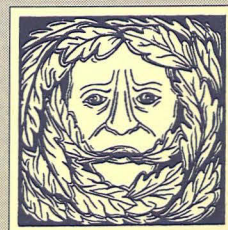


**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
ON LAND ADJACENT TO STUMPCROSS LANE/  
SOUTH STREET, SWINESHEAD**

Work Undertaken For  
Mr and Mrs  
RS & RJ Blowers



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES

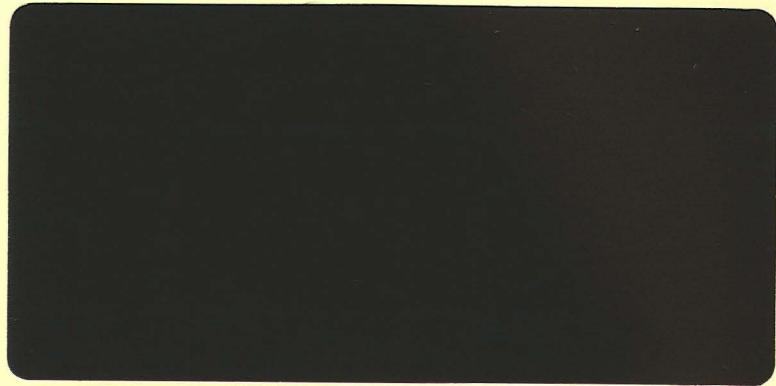
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ON LAND ADJACENT TO STUMPCROSS LANE/  
SOUTH STREET, SWINESHEAD**

Work Undertaken For  
Mr and Mrs  
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November 1997

Report Compiled by  
Dale Trimble

National Grid Reference: TF 239396  
City and County Museum Accession No: 264.97

A.P.S. Report No. 68/97

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## 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological watching brief undertaken by Archaeological Project Services monitored the excavation of foundations for a single dwelling and garage on land adjacent to Stump Cross Lane, Swineshead.*

*Excavation of the foundation trenches revealed no archaeological evidence other than a soakaway drain of very recent date.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Background

The archaeological watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for a single dwelling and garage on land adjacent to Stump Cross Lane, Swineshead on the 3rd of November 1997 (Fig. 2). Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application B19/0528/94. Permission was granted subject to a standard condition for archaeological recording. The archaeological work, commissioned by Mr & Mrs RS & RJ Blowers of Ivy Cottage, Church Lane, Swineshead was undertaken by Archaeological Project Services in accordance with a brief set by the Community Archaeologist for Boston Borough Council.

### 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 village lies in the civil parish of Swineshead, Boston Borough. The investigation site is located at grid reference TF239396, c. 0.5km south of the village centre as defined by the parish church of St. Mary. (Fig. 3).

The site lies at c. 4m OD on local soils defined as Romney 532 'coarse silty gleyic brown calcareous alluvial soils' (Robson 1990).

### 2.3 Archaeological Setting

The prehistoric land surface is deeply buried beneath later silts, peats and clays in the Swineshead area. However, two stone axes (B19/023), (B19/030) discovered approximately 1.5km north of the village are likely to be of prehistoric date and probably recovered during dyke digging or other excavations.

Romano-British pottery recovered from within 300m of the development (B19/021 and B19/008) at Coney Hill and Drayton suggests settlement of nearby areas during the period. Fieldwalking has produced a significant quantity of material from this period within a 5km radius of the site (Fig. 3). 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 at North End, Swineshead (B19/053) provides archaeological evidence for occupation during the periods of Anglo-Scandinavian migration and conquest (c. A.D. 400-1066) (Fig. 3). A single Late Saxon strap-end (B19/018), found near the centre of the village, 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. Pottery of this date (B19/024, B19/013) has been recovered at the west end of Bullens lane only 200-300m from the development and at Coney Hill, a similar distance away. Stenning or Estovening (B19/014), a village mentioned in the Domesday survey of A.D. 1086 but deserted by the 14th century, lay approximately 1km northwest of the development area. A church of the 14th century, St. Mary the Virgin (B19/006), lies in the centre of Swineshead village, 0.75km north of the site, and *Manwar Ings Castle* (B19/025), a relic of the feudal economy, is situated 1.5km to the northeast. A Cistercian abbey of the 12th century is located c. 0.5km southeast of the *Manwarings Castle*. (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 is the Butter Cross (B19/005), the focus for trading activities during the medieval period and later (Fig. 3).

### 3. AIMS

The objective of the watching brief was to record and interpret any archaeological remains exposed by the groundworks.

### 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.

### 5. RESULTS

The few contexts recorded at the site can be divided into natural and modern deposits.

#### Natural Deposits

Sections of the house and garage foundation trenches revealed a 0.20m - 0.25m thick dark brown sandy silt topsoil deposit (001) overlying a 0.40m deep mid brown sandy silt subsoil (002) (Fig. 4). Beneath the subsoil were undisturbed natural silts (003).

#### Modern Deposits

No activity earlier than the late twentieth century was identified at the site. A very recent soakaway pit [004] recorded on the southern side of the garage plot (Fig. 5) was probably associated with a demolished greenhouse. Although not fully excavated the pit was at least 1.8m deep and extended 1.7m from the western limit of the garage plot. Some very recent plastic sheeting and land drains were noted in the black organic silts (005) which formed the fill of the pit. No archaeological deposits of any kind were revealed within the foundation trenches of the house plot (Fig. 6), (Plate 2)

### 6. DISCUSSION

No features and deposits earlier than the late twentieth century were recorded within the foundation trenches.

### 7. CONCLUSIONS

The lack of any Medieval deposits or finds at the site suggests that the immediate area was not occupied during the period. The discovery of archaeological finds in the vicinity of the site however, suggests the close proximity of activity in the Romano-British and Medieval periods.

### 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr and Mrs RS and RJ Blowers who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Dale Trimble co-ordinated and undertook the work and Tom Lane edited this report. Access to the relevant parish archaeological files was kindly provided by Steven Membery, the Boston District Community Archaeologist.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Dale Trimble  
Site Supervisor: Dale Trimble  
Illustration: Phil Mills  
Post-excavation Analyst: Dale Trimble

## 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.



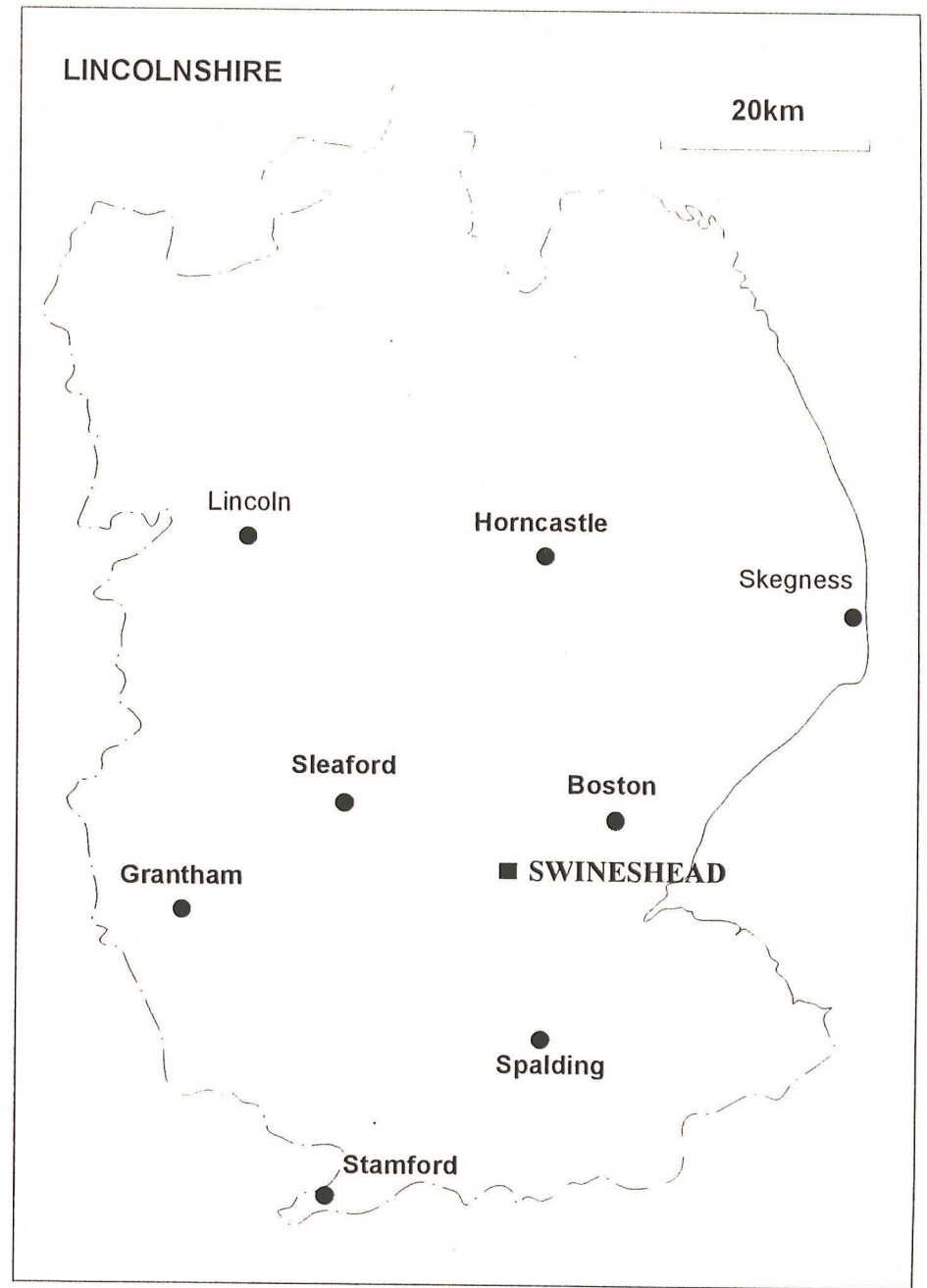


Fig. 1 General Location Plan



 Built Up Area



Fig. 2 Site Location

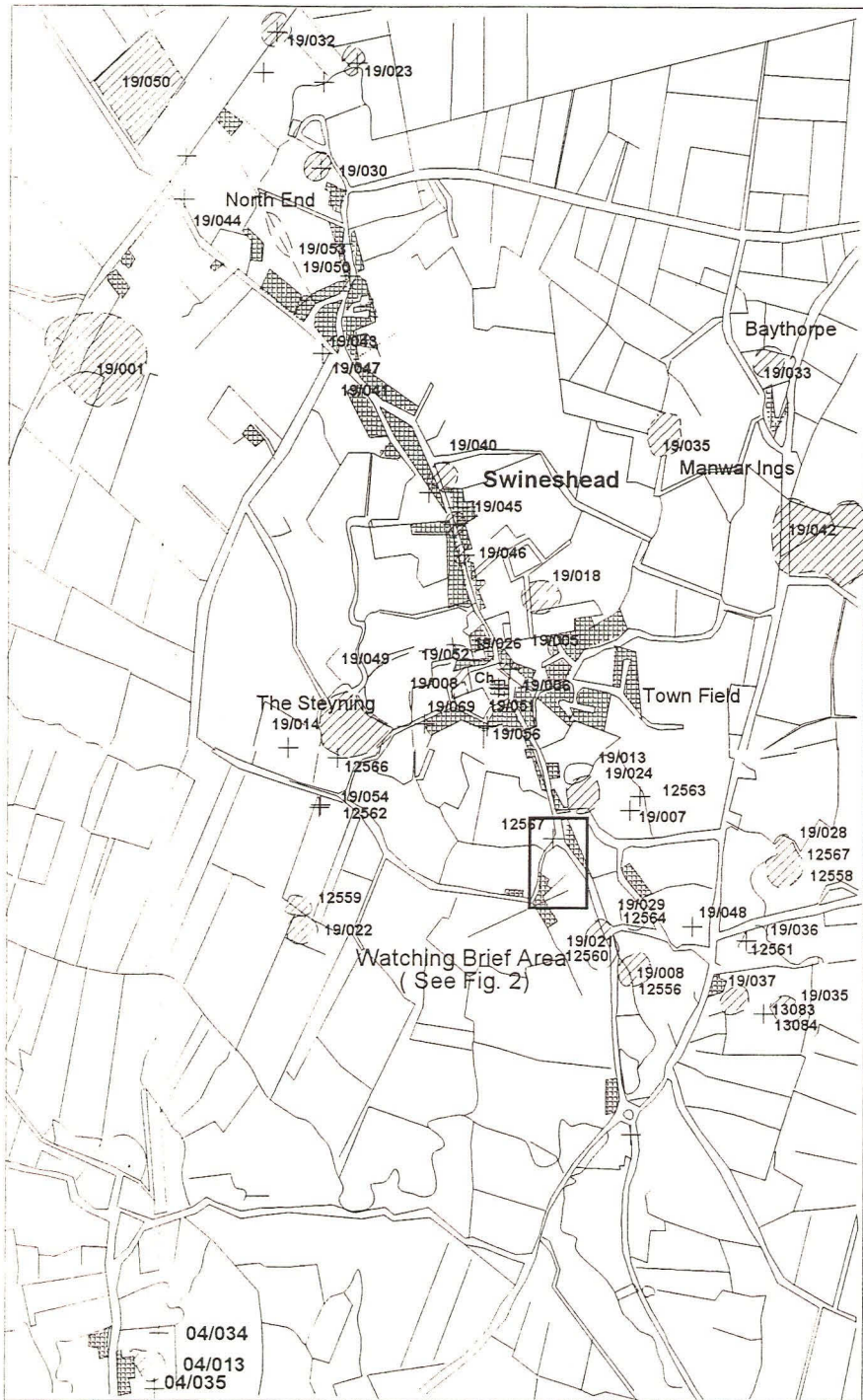


Fig. 3 Swineshead Village



SW

NE

001

002

SE Facing



Fig. 4 Garage Plot Section 3

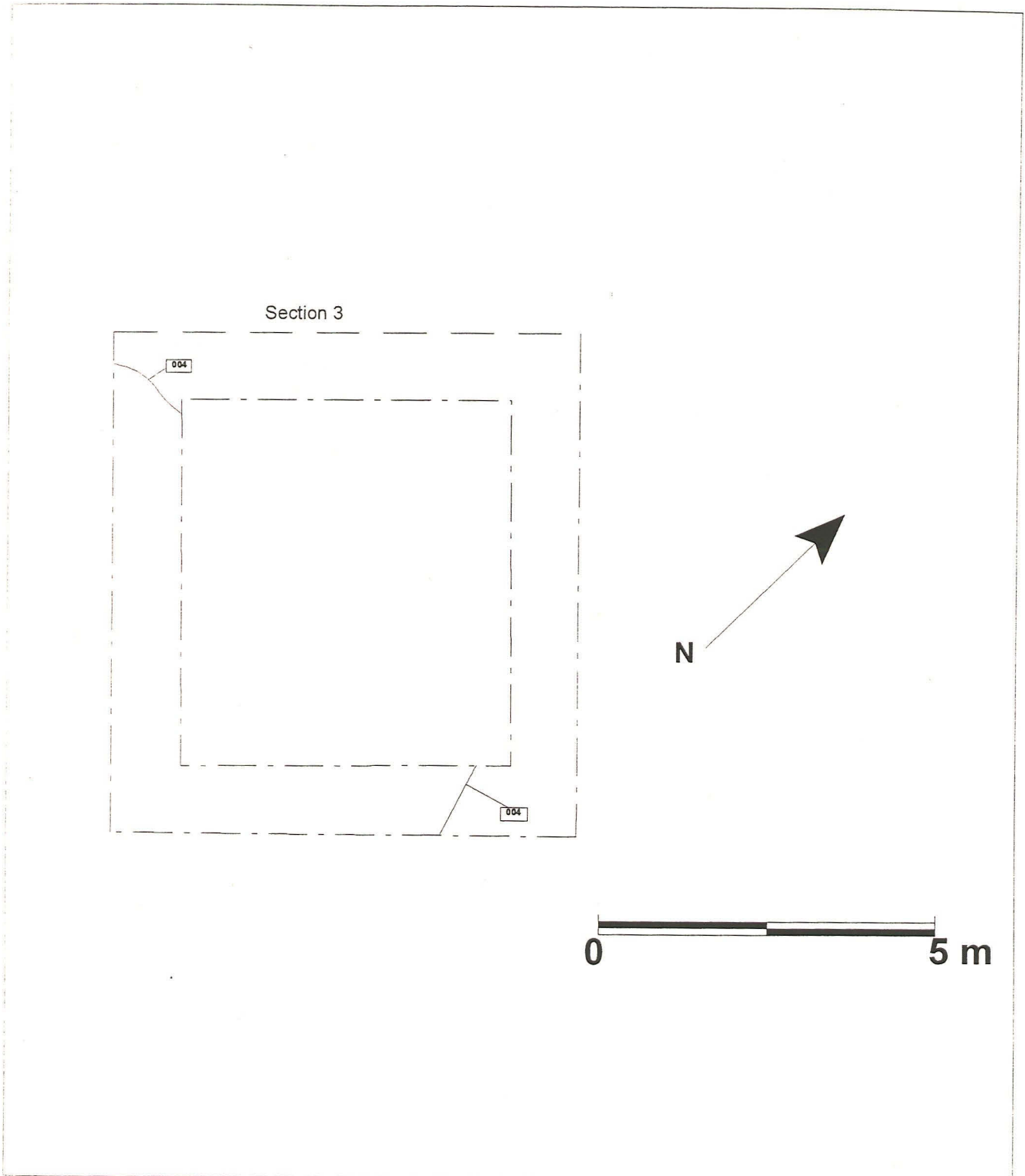


Fig. 5 Garage Plan

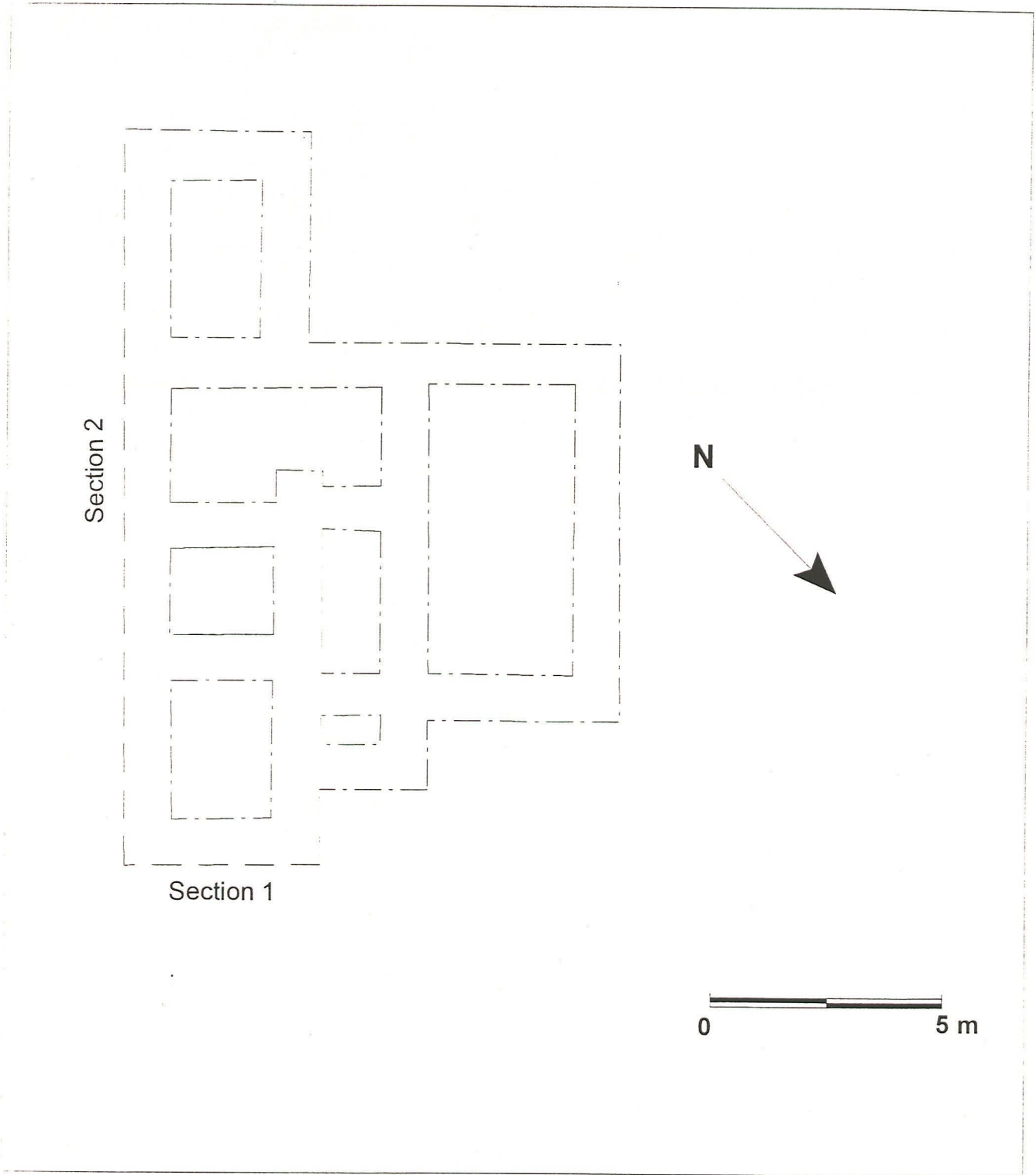


Fig. 6 House Plan





Plate 1 : Development, Looking South



Plate 2 : House Plot



## APPENDIX 1

### Context Summary

Context Number	Description	Interpretation
001	Loose Dark Brown Sandy Silt	Topsoil
002	Loose Mid Brown Sandy Silt	Subsoil
003	Loose Light Yellowish Brown Sandy Silt	Natural Silts
004	1.8m deep by 1.7m diameter cut	Soakaway Pit
005	Soft Black Organic Silt	Fill of Soakaway Pit

## Appendix 2

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 5 Context records
- 2 Photographic record sheets
- 5 Scale drawings

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: 264.97  
Archaeological Project Services Site Code: SSC97

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## Appendix 3

### 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, *e.g.* (4).
- Cut** A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, *etc.* Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
- 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** 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.
- Romano-British** Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.