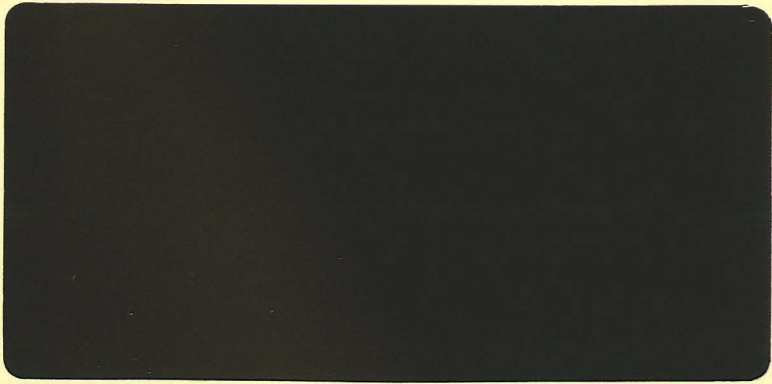


97/17

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND
ADJACENT TO HALL LANE,
STICKNEY,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SHL97)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES



12 Friars Lane
LINCOLN LN2 5AL
Tel: 01522 575292 Fax: 01522 530724

1 9. JAN 98

Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section

ELI 6919

SLI 5778 1562

43708 Med
43709 Undated
43710 A/Saxon

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND
ADJACENT TO HALL LANE,
STICKNEY,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SHL97)**

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4. Discussion

Work Undertaken For
Property Division
Lincolnshire County Council

5. Work Done

December 1997

6. Conclusions

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner

National Grid Reference: TF ^{3430 5695}~~341 569~~
City and County Museum Accession No: 19.97

A.P.S. Report No. 66/97

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief undertaken during the construction of extensions to school buildings at Hall Lane, Stickney, monitored the excavation of the foundations and service trenches.

The development site lies along the ridge of higher ground known as the Stickney Moraine. This elevated position was favoured for early occupation as suggested by a number of finds of the prehistoric period. During the Romano-British period (AD 50-410), Stickney contained two sizeable settlements located north and south of the village. In the medieval period (AD 1066-1500) a church, grange and hall were established in the vicinity and the earthworks of ridge and furrow still survive on the outskirts of the village.

The investigation revealed deposits indicating activity from at least the later medieval period. Several undated features were revealed, and finds of tile and brick suggest a previously unrecognised 18th century building in the vicinity, demolished prior to construction of the Victorian school which still stands on the site. Pottery finds includes a single sherd of an Early Saxon vessel, in addition to medieval and later wares.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by the Property Division of Lincolnshire County Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief during development of land adjacent to Hall Lane, Stickney (National Grid Reference TF 341 569). The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for new school buildings and the relevant service

trenches.

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 Geology and Topography

Stickney is located 12km north of Boston and 15km southeast of Horncastle in East Lindsey District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The proposed development site lies 100m southwest of the centre of the village as defined by St. Luke's parish church. Situated at a height of c. 9m OD the proposed development area measures 30m by 22m.

Local soils are of the Salop Association, stagnogley soils developed on reddish drift derived from Permo-Triassic rocks (Hodge *et. al.* 1984, 305). Stickney is located on the Stickney Moraine, a glacial feature marking the limit of the last ice age, 10,000 years ago (Waller 1994, 8-9). These drift deposits in turn overlie a solid geology of Ampthill Clay of the Jurassic period (BGS 1995).

Due to the underlying drift deposits, the local topography describes a linear north-south island in the fens, part of a chain which includes Stickford to the north and Sibsey to the south. In Stickney the land drops away to the east and west to heights below 4m OD.

2.3 Archaeological Setting

The development site lies in an area of known intermittent archaeological presence dating back to the Mesolithic period (8000-4200 BC) as represented here by a single find of a flint tool, found during the Fenland

Survey, 1km northwest of the village centre. On nearby Hall Hill, West Keal, is one of the country's best known Mesolithic sites (May 1976, 34). Evidence for the Neolithic period is also represented by flint tools, usually polished flint axes from several locations around the village (Lane 1993, 42).

Evidence for the Bronze Age (2200-700BC) is, in comparison, much reduced, and represented by flint tools found 1km northwest of the development area (*ibid.* 48). This paucity of finds may be a result of wetter conditions causing expanses of marsh around Stickney island. This marshland also excluded any rehabilitation during the Iron Age.

During the Romano-British period (AD50-410), Stickney was once more occupied and two settlements are known. The first, located 800m to the north of the site, produced pottery and tile. The second, situated a kilometre south of the village, also produced pottery as well as bronze and stone artefacts (*ibid.* 55-57).

Saxon (AD 410-1066) pottery has been found 100m south and 100m north of the development site (HTL parish files). Saxon pottery and a quernstone were also recovered from land adjacent to the church and a carved bone handle from the same location is thought to be Viking in origin (Rigall n.d.).

Stickney is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 where it is referred to as 'Stichenai' (Ekwall 1974, 442). The name is derived from the Old English *Sticca êg* meaning 'stick island'. At the time of the Domesday Survey, Stickney belonged to Ivo Tallebois and contained a church and 40 acres of meadow.

Medieval remains (AD1066-1500) are well

represented in Stickney. The present parish church of St. Luke represents the most extant remains of this period and dates to the 13th century (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 718). A Grange, a medieval agricultural complex, was established in Stickney, 1.2km south of the village and a Hall existed 150m east of the development site (Lane 1993, 64). Extensive remains of ridge and furrow are also recorded from around the village (*ibid.*). Medieval pottery, including local Boston wares and Toynton All Saints ware, have been found adjacent to the church (Rigall n.d.).

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 several foundation trenches for new walls and a trench to provide services to the building. Prior to this, topsoil had been removed to a depth of 0.25m across the site. Surface deposits were then planned before excavation of the foundation trenches was undertaken. The trenches rarely exceeded 0.25m in depth. Sides of all trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical, where possible. The nature of the building programme precluded detailed examination of deposits before they were obscured by limestone rubble hard core. The depth of each deposit was measured from the present ground surface, where possible. Each deposit or feature revealed within an opened area was allocated a unique reference number (Context number) with an individual written description. A plan was drawn at a scale of 1:100 and sections drawn at a scale of 1:10. A photographic record was also compiled.

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE TRENCHES

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 list of all contexts with interpretations appears as Appendix 2. Five periods were recognised:

- Group 1 Natural deposits
- Group 2 Late Medieval deposits
- Group 3 Undated deposits
- Group 4 19th century deposits
- Group 5 Modern deposits

The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Group 1 Natural deposits

Partially revealed during the excavation of the trenches were a variety of natural deposits. These ranged from grey and brown clayey silts (015, 018, 019 and 038), brown silt (021), grey grit (very coarse sand) and sand (040), greyish yellow clay with grit (041 and 050) and reddish yellow sandy silt.

Group 2 Late medieval deposits

A deposit of mid grey fine sand and silt (009), located to the southwest of the development (Fig. 4), contained a quantity of medieval pottery, of which the base of a Toynton All Saints ware jug could be reconstructed (Fig. 7). This deposit was thought to represent the fill of a feature which could not be fully determined due to the site conditions.

Medieval pottery recovered from a greyish brown clayey silt subsoil (003), suggests that subsoils across the site were being worked from this period. The remaining subsoils comprise greyish brown clays and

silts (006, 032 and 035), reddish brown silt and sand (014) and grey sand and silt (020).

Group 3 Undated deposits

Six features produced no dateable artefacts. Located in sections along a service trench (Fig. 5, Section 3) were the remnants of a path (027) comprising large rounded cobbles set in a yellowish brown sand and silt matrix. The path was aligned north to south but was not evident in the drainage trench any further south.

Along the west side of the development was a sub-rectangular cut (031). Measuring 0.4m by 0.46m, it contained a fill of yellowish white rubble and mixed debris (030) and was identified as a posthole.

Situated southwest of the main development (Fig. 3), appearing in section along a drainage trench were three features. The first was a ditch (049), visible for a length of 3.75m and 0.3m in depth (Fig. 6, Sections 5 and 6). This ditch contained a fill of mid brown silt (039). The remaining two features were not fully examined, the first (050) was partially revealed in Section 6 and contained a fill of greyish brown clayey silt (042). The second (048) contained two fills, one of brown clayey silt (036) and the other of whitish brown silty clay (037). Both these features were tentatively identified as pits.

Group 4 19th century deposits

Deposits in this phase fall into two categories. The first are associated with demolition and the latter, deposits associated with levelling and make-up for the present school building.

Demolition deposits comprise dark blackish grey or dark brown silt layers and contain frequent amounts of broken bricks, tiles *etc.* (002, 007 and 012). Demolition deposits are largely restricted to the northern portion of

the development.

Levelling and make-up deposits account for 13 contexts and range from yellow and brown clayey silt and silts (008, 010 and 046), grey silty clays (013, 023, 025 and 044) and mixed brown silts (016, 017, 029, 034 and 045).

Group 5 Modern deposits

Modern deposits are restricted to topsoil deposits (001 and 033), usually of blackish brown silt, and a tarmac surface (024).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Group 1) contain a mixed selection of silts, clays and grit which are in keeping with glacially derived deposits that form the Stickney moraine.

Limited Late medieval remains (Group 2) are represented by a layer (009), possibly contained within a feature, and the working of subsoil deposits. It is impossible to ascertain the layout or extent of this medieval activity given the sparsity of features revealed.

However, it is possible that the six undated features (Group 3) belong to the medieval or post-medieval periods. Furthermore, the presence of an unidentified building is suggested by tile and brick fragments. Pottery of 18th century date associated with these building materials suggests a date prior to the Victorian school's construction.

Group 4 deposits are associated with the demolition of the former building in the vicinity and the construction of the surviving Victorian school building. Demolition deposits are restricted to the northern portion of the site and may indicate that the building fronted Hall Lane.

An assemblage of pottery sherds was retrieved during this investigation. These included Toynton All Saints and Boston wares and pottery with a wider distribution. A single sherd of possible early Saxon date (AD 450-650) is of some note and similar to other material of this period found in the village.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations at land adjacent to Hall Lane, Stickney were undertaken because the site fell within an area of known archaeology, notably the medieval village core, and the likelihood existed of archaeological remains being disturbed.

Deposits encountered during this investigation comprise possible features of medieval date, a number of undated deposits and demolition and levelling deposits dating to the 19th century. Tile, brick and pottery indicate the possibility of a building of 18th century date in the vicinity, although not attested to in the archaeological remains. Subsequently, these deposits may be regarded as of local significance only.

A collection of pottery and other finds were recovered and represent a typical, if small, assemblage common in Lincolnshire. The nature of the local site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators (seeds, wood, shells *etc.*) would survive, other than through charring.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish acknowledge the assistance of Mr D.S. DeBank of the Property Division, Lincolnshire County Council for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Gary Taylor coordinated

the work and Tom Lane edited this report. Dave Start permitted examination of the relevant parish files maintained by the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire. Hilary Healey commented upon the pottery and Gary Taylor examined the metal finds.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Site Supervisors: Paul Cope-Faulkner,
Chris Moulis, Fiona Walker
Site Assistant: Paul Matthew
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Finds Illustration: David Hopkins
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

BGS British Geological Survey

HTL Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

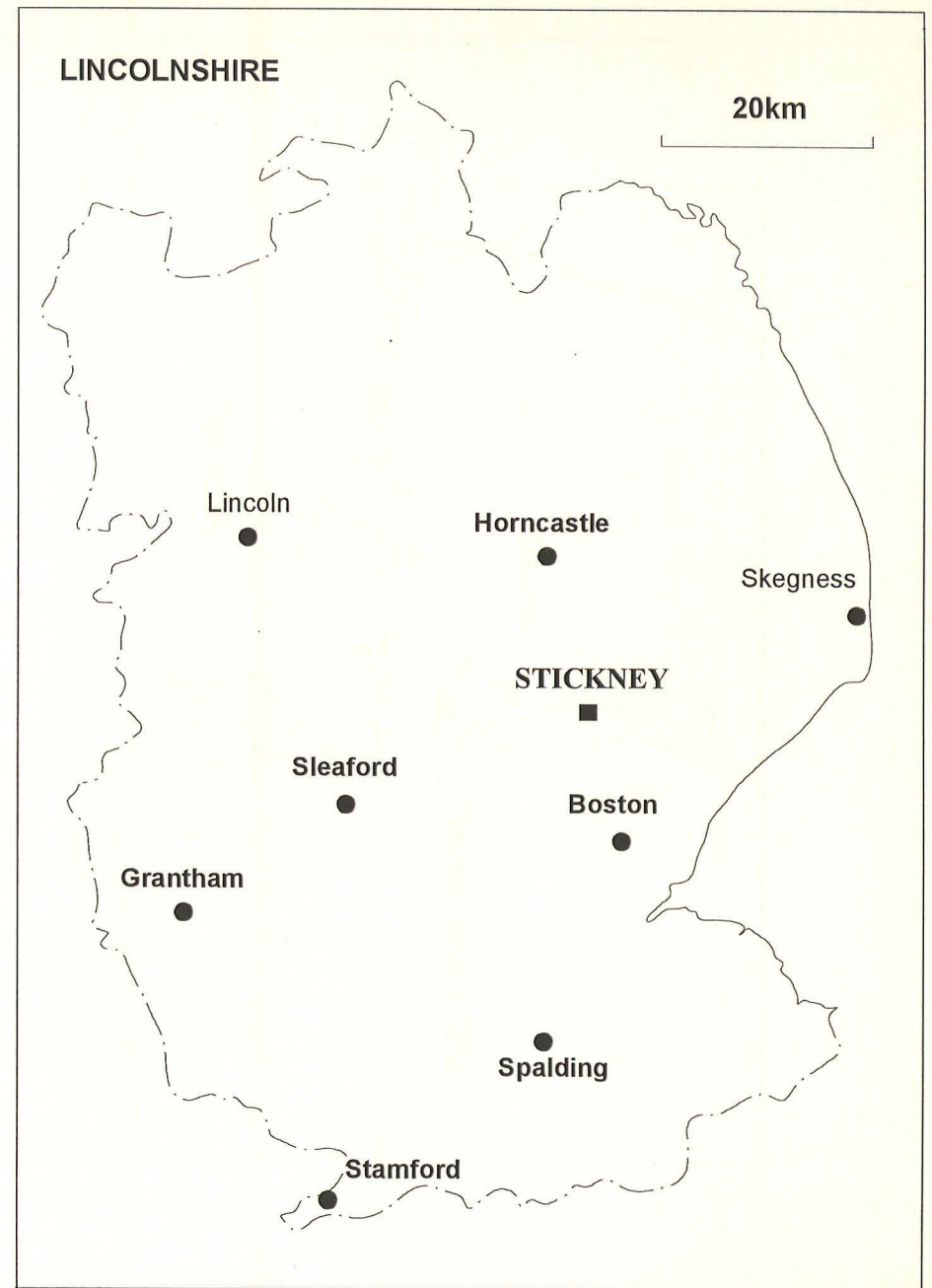
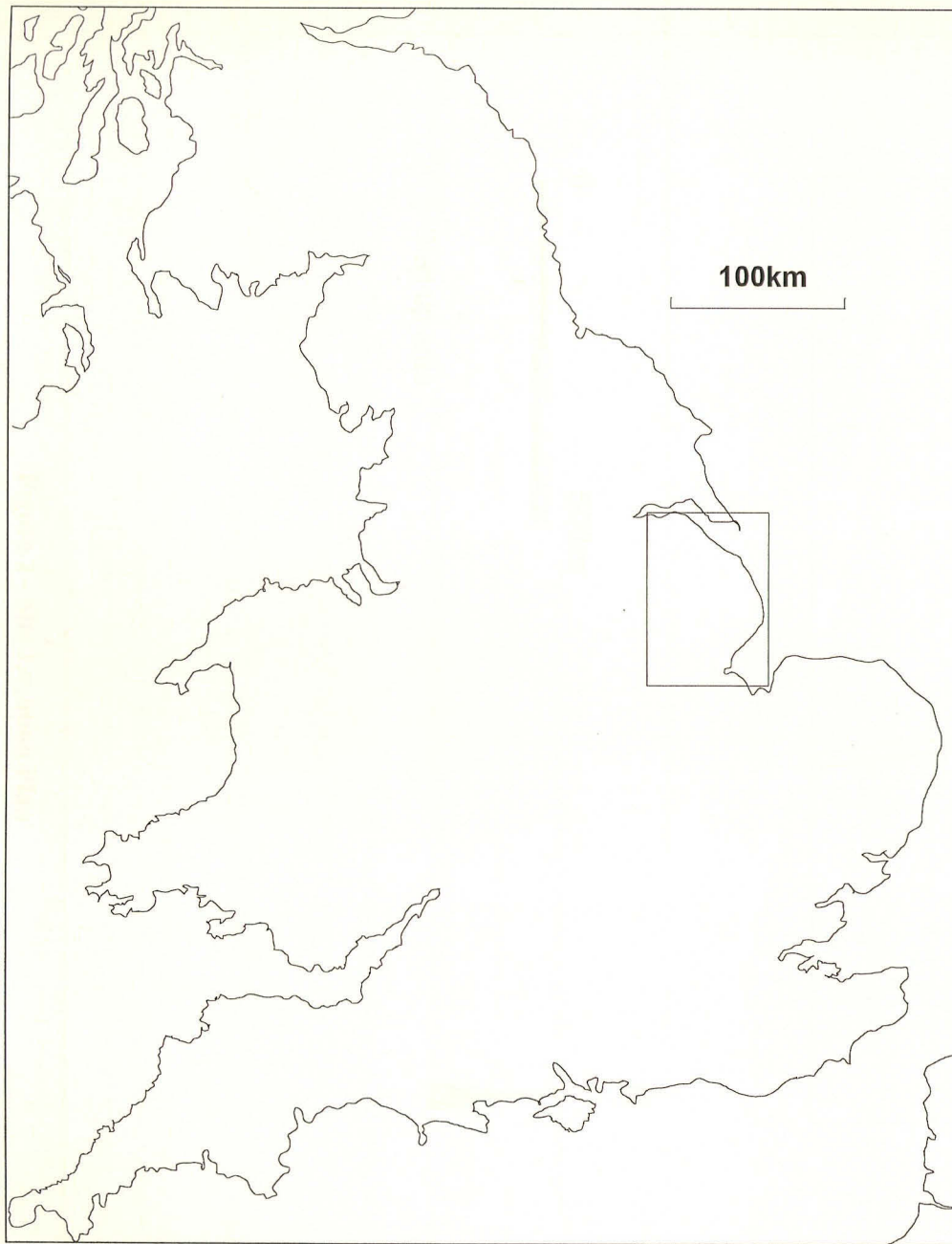
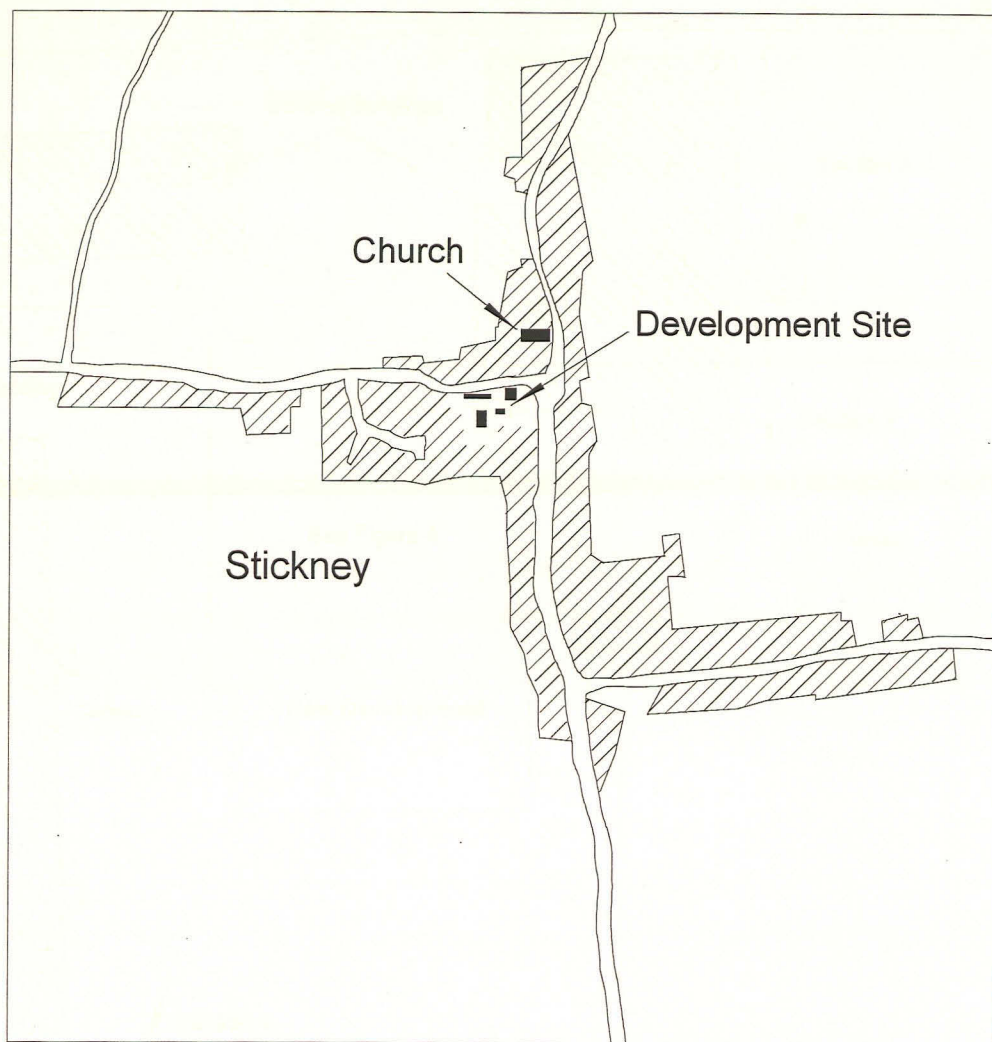


Figure 1 - General Location Plan



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Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

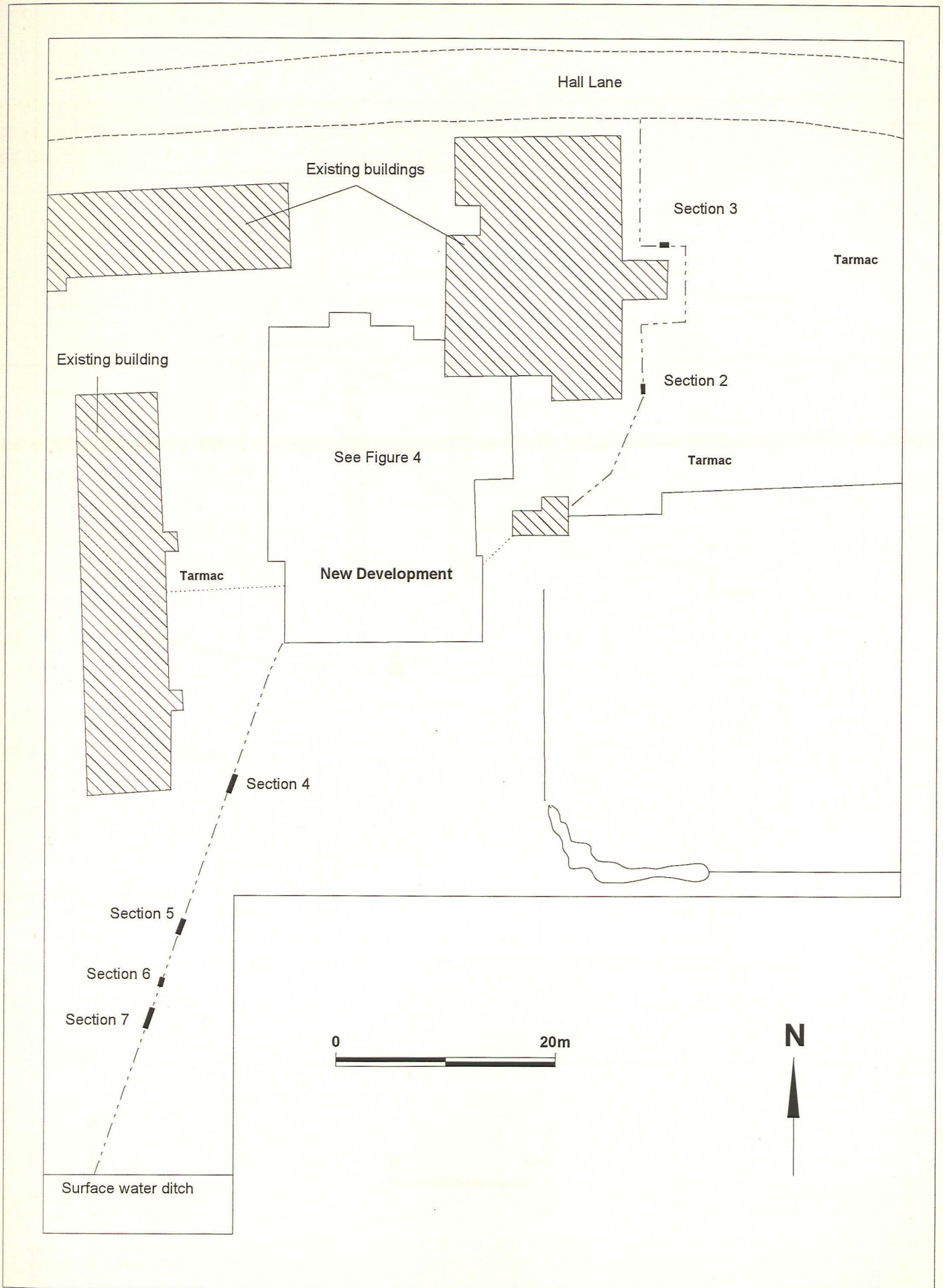


Figure 3 - Plan of Drainage Layout, showing location of drawn Sections

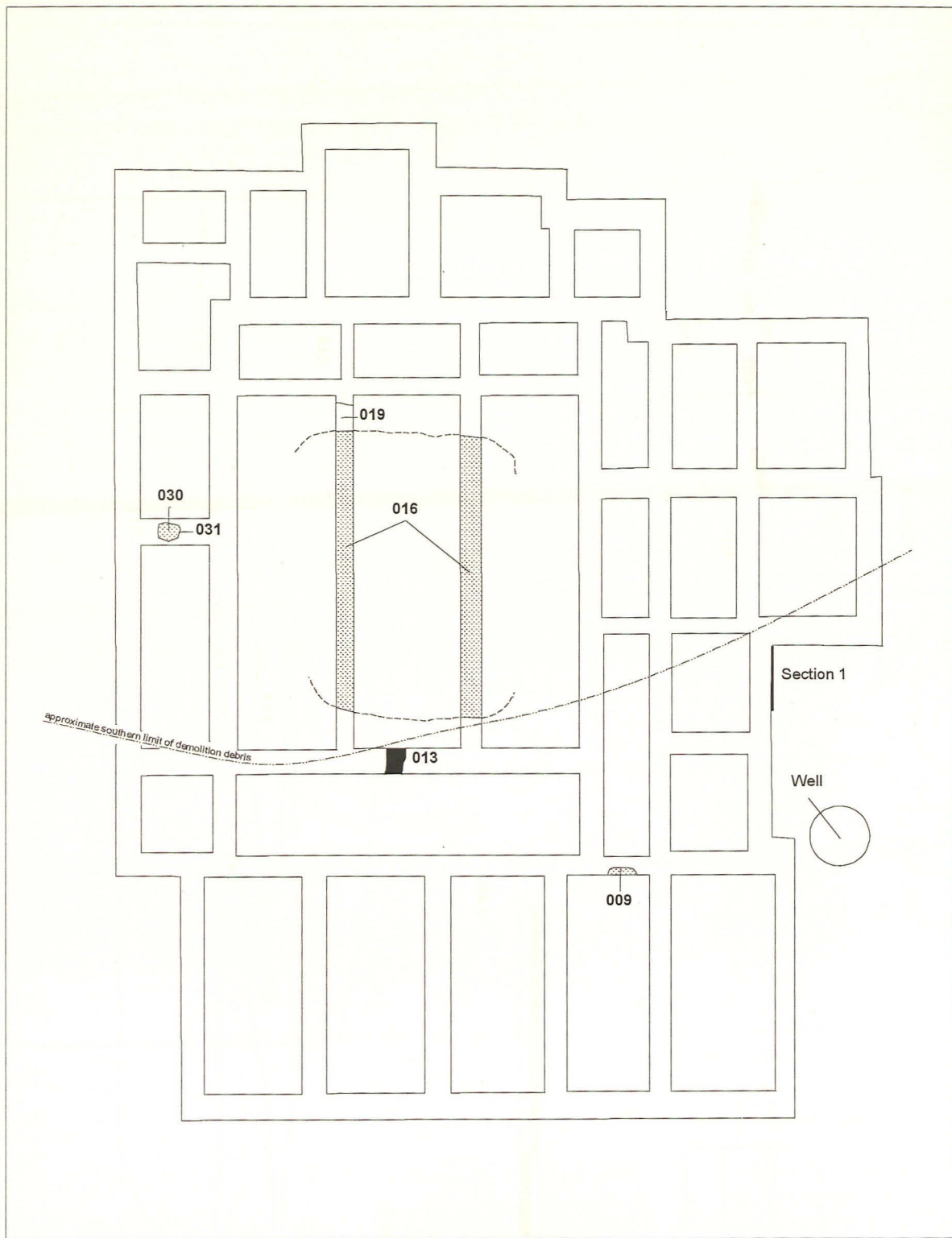


Figure 4 - Plan of New Development

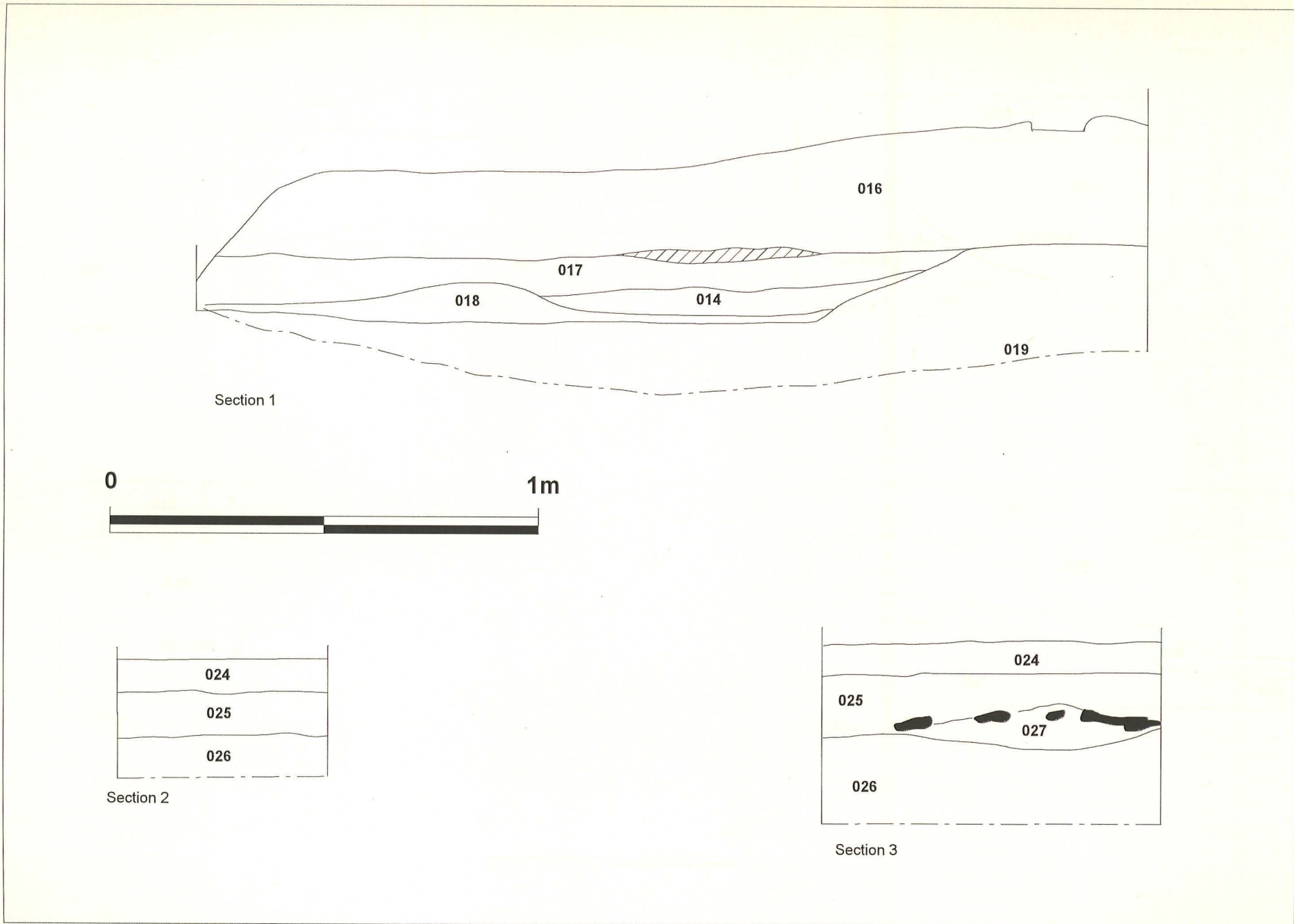


Figure 5 - Sections 1, 2 and 3

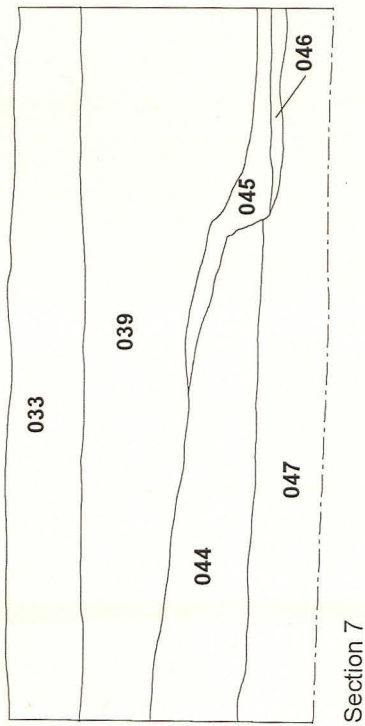
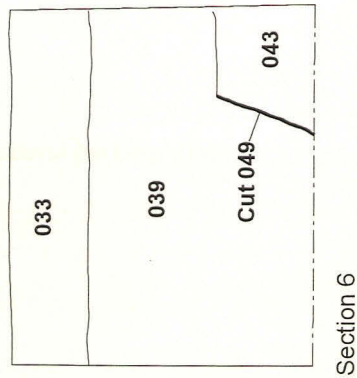
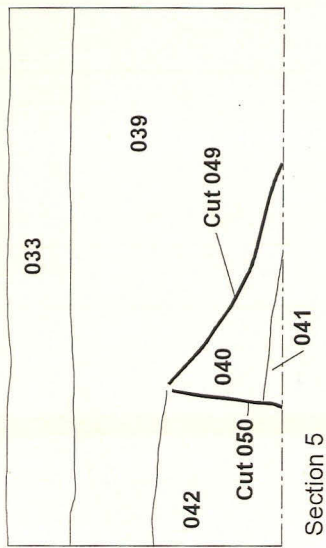
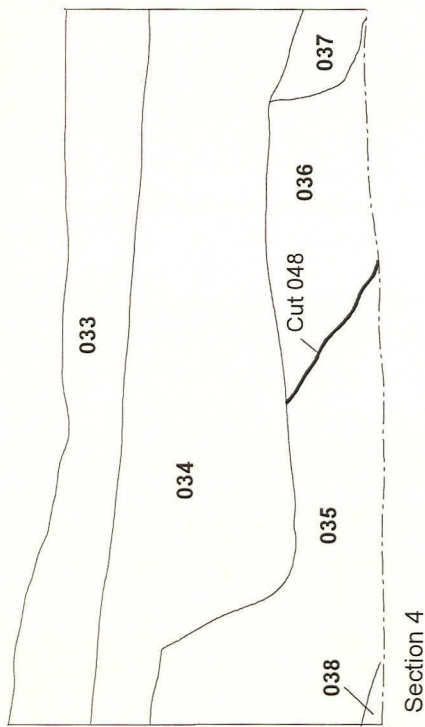


Figure 6 - Sections 4, 5, 6 and 7

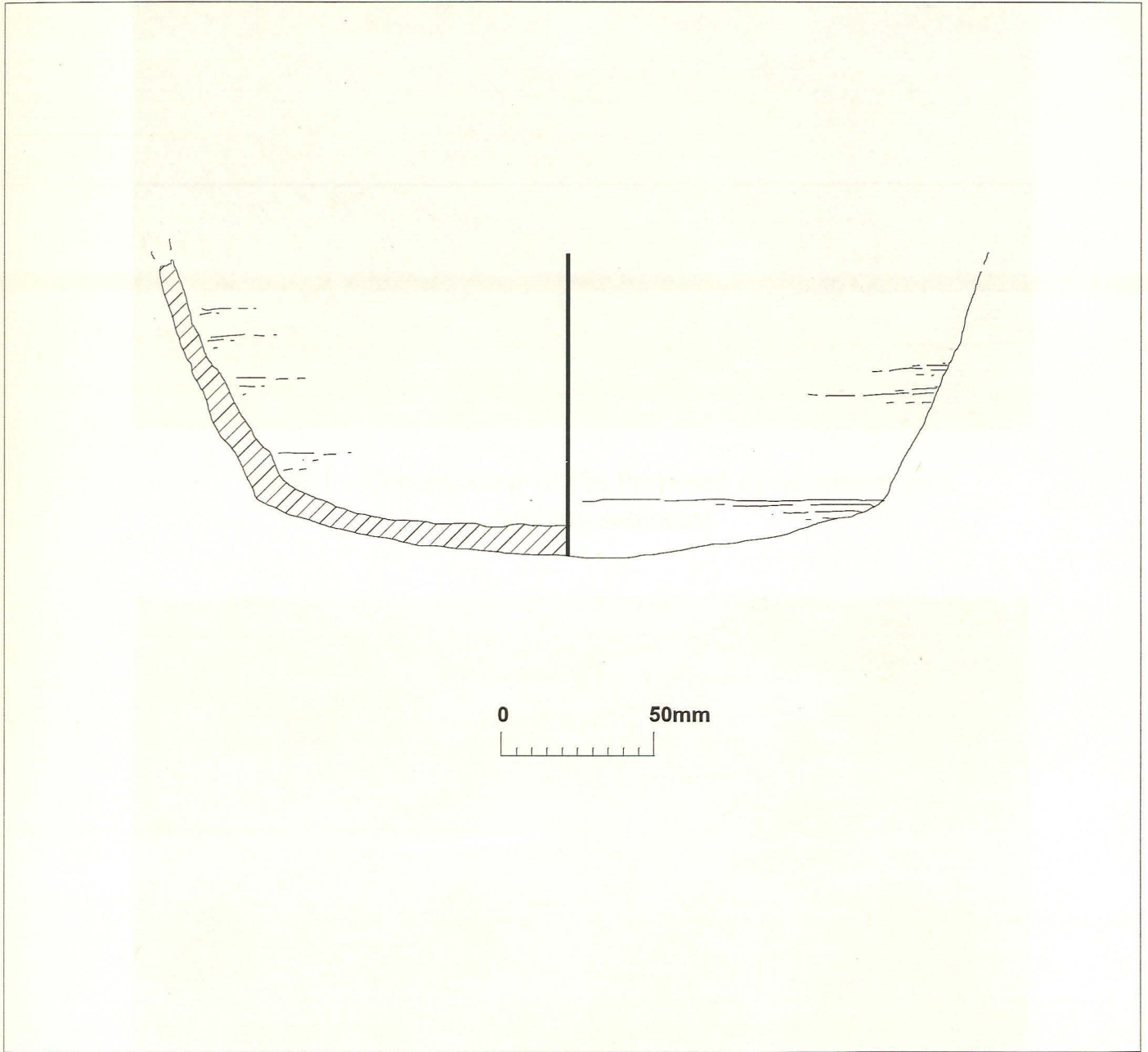


Figure 7 - Medieval pot from (009)



Plate 1 - General view of the Proposed development area,
looking southeast



Plate 2 - View of Section 1, showing general sequence of
deposits, looking east

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Section	Description	Interpretation
001		Blackish brown silt, 0.5m thick	Topsoil
002		Mixed deposit with cement, bricks and brown sandy silt, 0.2-0.3m thick	Demolition layer
003		Mid greyish brown clayey silt	Possible subsoil
004		Greyish brown clay and silt	Possible subsoil
005		Dark blackish brown clayey silt	Buried Soil
006		Mid greyish brown silt	Possible subsoil
007		Dark blackish grey silt	Demolition layer
008		Yellow brown silty clay	Levelling deposit
009		Mid grey fine sand and silt	Possible feature fill
010		Mid brownish yellow silt	Levelling deposit
011		Mid grey silt with fine sand	Misc. deposit
012		Mixed deposit of rubble and dark brown silt	Demolition layer
013		Mid grey clayey silt	Misc. deposit
014	1	Mid reddish brown silty sand	Possible subsoil
015		Light grey clayey silt	Natural deposit
016	1	Mid blackish brown silt	Dumped deposit
017	1	Mid blackish brown silt	Dumped deposit
018	1	Light brownish grey clayey silt	Natural deposit
019	1	Light brownish grey clayey silt	Natural deposit
020		Dark grey fine sand and silt	Subsoil
021		Mid-dark brown silt	Natural deposit
022		Dark grey sandy silt	Subsoil
023		Dark grey silty clay, 0.28m thick	Make-up deposit
024	2, 3	Tarmac	Surface
025	2, 3	Blackish grey silty clay	Levelling deposit
026	2, 3	Greyish brown sandy silt	Buried Soil
027	3	Yellowish brown sand and silt, with large rounded stones	Cobble path
028		Dark brown organic silt	Possible feature fill
029		Mid brown silt and mortar	Levelling deposit

Context	Section	Description	Interpretation
030		Yellowish white rubble and mixed debris	Fill of 031
031		Cut, 0.4m by 0.46m,	Posthole
032		Dark grey silt	Subsoil
033	4, 5, 6, 7	Dark blackish brown sandy silt	Topsoil
034	4	Dark blackish brown silt	Dumped deposit
035	4	Yellowish brown clay and silt, 0.58m thick	Subsoil
036	4	Mid brown clayey silt	Fill of 048
037	4	Light whitish brown silty clay	Fill of 048
038	4	Light yellowish brown clay and silt	Natural deposit
039	5, 6, 7	Mid brown silt	Fill of 049
040	5	Light grey grit and fine sand	Natural deposit
041	5	Greyish yellow gritty clay	Natural deposit
042	5	Greyish brown clayey silt	Fill of 050
043	6	Greyish yellow gritty clay	Natural deposit
044	7	Mid grey clayey silt	Levelling deposit
045	7	Mixed brown clayey silt	Dumped deposit
046	7	Greyish yellow and brown silt	Levelling deposit
047	7	Reddish yellow sandy silt	Natural deposit
048	4	Cut,	Possible pit
049	5, 6	? Linear cut, >3.75m long by 0.3m depth	Possible ditch
050	5	Cut,	Possible pit

Appendix 2

POTTERY REPORT

Hilary Healey

Most of the contexts which contain pottery belong to the late nineteenth or early twentieth century, as evidenced from the sherds of glossy black wares, mocha ware and of yellow and blue kitchen wares. There is a considerable quantity of eighteenth to early nineteenth century residual material, in particular tinglazed earthenware (TGE) and cream coloured earthenware (cream e/w), and in context 014 the tinglazed and underglaze blue painted sherds are all from a single bowl. One probable early Saxon sherd and one medieval sherd are residual in context 001. The presence of all this eighteenth century material indicates a house of this period on or close to the present location.

The only context of medieval date is likely to be 009 which consists of 34 sherds forming the lower half of a single jug made at kilns at Toynton All Saints (TAS), near Spilsby. Most of these sherds join together and there are in addition two other sherds of similar fabrics belonging to two other vessels. This form of jug base cannot be closely dated, since it may have been produced at any time between the early fourteenth and the late fifteenth century. In context 013, although the only pottery is two sherds of a Toynton ware jug handle they are from a broad handle which is probably of fifteenth century date. The two fragments of poorly fired brick may well be of the same date; brick was beginning to be used at this period and the pieces are quite unlike any other brick from the site. From context 003 come two sherds of a pipkin handle of late or post-medieval form, also in a Toynton type fabric.

The Ceramic Building Materials collected, other than those noted above in Context 013, are all of relatively modern origin.

Context	Description	Latest date/comments
001	1 ?Early Saxon, 1 med , 1 misc post-med, 2 TGE, 2 white stoneware, 2 Nott stoneware, 4 cream e/w, 8 black glaze, 8 willow patt., 8 transfer printed (1 grn, 1 brown, 6 blue), 1 Chinese porcelain ptd. cup, 11 pearlware (2 dec), 4 Sankey flower pots, 2 yell. glaze, 1 blue glaze.	Latest pieces the last two glazed kitchenwares - late 19 th - early 20 th cent.
002	4 willow patt. , 1 other blue transfer printed	19 th cent.
003	1 late TAS or similar type pipkin handle	15 th - 17 th cent.
007	1 Nott stoneware, 3 cream e/w, 1 black glaze, 1 yell. 1 blue kitchenware	late 19 th - early 20 th cent.
009	34 fitting sherds base of TAS jug , 2 other sherds TAS fabric from two different vessels	14 th - 15 th cent.
013	2 fitting sherds of 1 oval grooved TAS jug handle	14 th - 15 th cent.
014	11 sherds TGE blue ptd. bowl	18 th cent.
016A	1 Boston type jar rim, 1 cream e/w, 2 willow patt., 1 ptd. blue stripe	18 th cent. plus
016B	2 Nott stoneware, 3 blue transfer print, 1 cream e/w, 4 pearlware, 1 poss. mocha ware, 1 Chinese porcelain cup	Later 19 th cent. Chinese porc. same vessel as in 001
016C	1 white saltglaze, 20 cream e/w, 1 willow patt., 1 blue mod	20 th cent.
026	1 17 th century type, 1 18 th century cream 3 19 th blue and white 3 19 th / 20 th century types	20 th century
036	4 modern types, 1 TAS type	20 th century

Also noted:

- | | | |
|------|-------|--|
| 001 | Glass | 3 mod, 1 slightly earlier |
| 001 | CBM | 1 land drain, 1 flat tile, unknown type (could be part of a land drain system, but does not match associated drain). |
| 003 | CBM | 2 frags. brick, reduction fired |
| 007 | CBM | 3 pantile |
| 013 | CBM | 1 mod brick |
| 014 | Stone | 1 fossil sponge (not slingshot, though if lots found might have been collected as such!) |
| 014 | CBM | 1 brick, 18th century or later |
| 016 | Glass | 1 dk. green glass, c. 19th - 20th cent. |
| 016A | CBM | 1 pantile, fired a pale colour |

Appendix 3

THE NON-CERAMIC FINDS

by Gary Taylor

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
unstratified	Bronze halfpenny, 1862
001	1 piece clinker
	1 rectangular piece aluminium sheet, 34mm x 12mm, 1mm thick
	3 pieces iron slag/corroded iron objects
	1 piece iron slag and cinder
007	1 piece clinker
013	1 small piece slag (?iron), vesicular
014	3 pieces clinker/cinder
016a	1 iron ring, external diameter 125mm, internal diameter 55mm; pipe collar?
016b	1 copper alloy button, diameter 16mm, black enamel/paint. Illegible legend

Appendix 4

THE ANIMAL BONE

A total of 122 bones were recovered during investigations at Hall Lane, Stickney. The bone was in generally good condition, although many pieces were too fragmentary or burnt to enable recognition of species. A total of seven species were identified of which none are unusual. Butchery was evident on many bones and those recovered from Context (014) would appear to represent the remnants of many meals.

Context	Description
+	1 Cattle radius
001	1 Sheep humerus, butchered with sawn end
	10 frags of rabbit? skull
	3 frags unidentifiable
006	1 Cattle limb, butchered
	1 Cattle tooth frag
	1 Horse mandible
	1 unidentified fragment
009	48 frags from smashed Cattle skull
	1 Cattle sized tibia
	4 unidentified frags
014	5 Cattle ribs
	5 Cattle vertebrae, butchered and sawn in half
	2 Sheep vertebrae, butchered and sawn in half
	13 Chicken leg bones
	1 Dog? mandible
	1 Pig canine
	1 Pig metatarsus
	1 Pig metacarpus
	1 Dog? phalange
	8 unidentifiable fragments
	10 fragments of burnt bone, unidentifiable
016	2 unidentifiable fragments

The range of species collected along with evidence for butchery would enable comments regarding the local economy to be made. However, it is considered that this collection is too small to comment further.

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

50	Context records
3	Photographic record sheet
10	Scale drawings
1	Box 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: 19.97
Archaeological Project Services Site Code: SHL97

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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Appendix 6

GLOSSARY

Anglo-Saxon	Pertaining to the early part of the Saxon period and dating from approximately AD 450-650.
Boulder Clay	A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as till, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size.
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.
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).
Iron Age	Part of the prehistoric era characterised by the introduction and use of iron for tools and weapons. In Britain this period dates from approximately 700 BC - AD 50.
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.
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4000-2000 BC.
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.