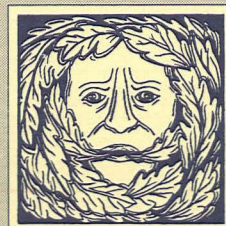


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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
AT SPALDING ROAD  
INDUSTRIAL ESTATE,  
BOURNE,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(SRB97)

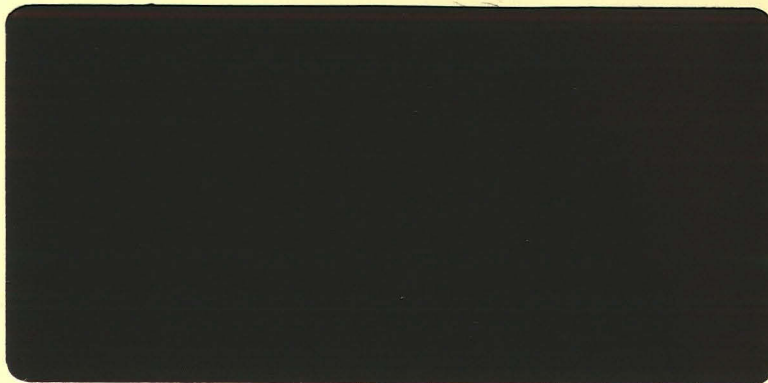


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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
AT SPALDING ROAD  
INDUSTRIAL ESTATE,  
BOURNE,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(SRB97)**

Work Undertaken For  
Steadfast Properties plc

Report Compiled by  
Neil Herbert BA (Hons)

January 1998

Planning Application No: SK97/488/12/21  
National Grid Reference: TF 1044 1944 1045 1993  
City and County Museum Accession No: 305.97

A.P.S. Report No: 65/97

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## 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken to determine the implications of proposed development at Spalding Road Industrial Estate, Bourne, Lincolnshire. The proposed development is situated within an area known to have been used during the medieval (1066-1500 AD) and post-medieval periods (post-1500 AD) for the production of pottery.*

*A large pit, filled with broken pottery of 14th century date, was revealed. This pottery was waste from production and therefore implies the proximity of medieval pottery kilns, supplementing previous discoveries in the vicinity. However, no evidence for a kiln itself was identified.*

*Following a period of probable flooding the pottery industry was re-established in the 16th century. Further large quantities of pottery were revealed, together with a clay preparation pit and a working floor. Subsequently, probably in the 17th century, the site was abandoned. This probably equates with documentary evidence for the demise of the pottery industry, following a major fire in the area in the 17th century*

*There was little modern disturbance to the site and archaeological remains were well preserved. Additionally, groundwater was relatively high and most of the features were waterlogged, if not submerged. As a result, organic deposits and materials are likely to survive in good condition.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Background

Between the 14th and 19th November 1997, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the Spalding Road Industrial Estate, Bourne, Lincolnshire. An

application for planning permission to redevelop this site was made to South Kesteven District Council (Planning Application Number SK97/488/12/21). At the recommendation of the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist, the District Council requested a pre-determination evaluation in order to assess the presence and character of the archaeological resource within the proposed development area. The archaeological investigation was commissioned by Mr S. R. Janes of Steadfast Properties plc. Archaeological Project Services carried out the work in accordance with a Brief for Work set by the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist (Appendix 1).

Archaeological Field Evaluation is defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) as 'a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, and relative quality; and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.' (IFA 1994, 1).

### 2.2 Topography, Geology and Soils

The town of Bourne is situated 26km south of Sleaford and 15km northeast of Stamford in the administrative district of South Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig.1). The site is located c. 800m east of the town centre, within the Spalding Road Industrial Estate, at National Grid Reference TF 1044 1994 (Fig.2).

The site and surrounding area lies on level ground at approximately 5m OD. Badsey 2 Association fine loamy soils form the surface geology; to the southwest of the

site is the boundary with soils of the Curdrige Association, typical argillic gley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 99;101;153). All these soils occur at the boundary of, and overlies, the Jurassic limestone and post-glacial fan gravels.

Extensive boulder clay west of the town continues to support woodland, though it is now mainly replanted softwood. The Fen margin is mainly composed of river terrace gravels and sands to the north, while tracts of Oxford Clay are found in, and south of, the town (Hayes and Lane 1992, 130).

### 2.3 Archaeological Setting

#### Area in General

Bourne is situated in an area of dense archaeological activity, with known remains dating from the prehistoric to the medieval periods.

Current fieldwork to the east of Bourne has found probable Bronze Age occupation (2000 - 600 BC) associated with a large circular ditch (APS forthcoming). Previous excavations to the northeast of the town located the remains of a substantial Late Iron Age (150BC - 43AD) and Romano-British settlement (Tipper and Field 1995). During the Roman occupation of Britain (43 - 450AD) Bourne was a small town built astride King Street, the route of which is fossilised by the courses of North Street and South Street. Roman artifacts, including the remains of a pottery kiln (SK12.05), have been found along the sides of this road.

It is possible that the occupation of the Romano-British settlement at Bourne continued into the Anglo-Saxon period (450 - 1066 AD). However, evidence is scarce and the majority of finds suggest occupation of this period developed to the northeast of the town (Hayes and Lane

1992, 136).

In AD 1086, the Domesday Book recorded that several mills and fisheries were operating within Bourne (Foster and Longley 1976). Referred to as *Brune*, the place-name of the parish derives from the Old English meaning 'stream' (Ekwall 1974, 55).

During the medieval period Bourne grew into a substantial settlement, with both a castle and an abbey. The town centred around the abbey church (SK12.04, SMR33215), which survives as the present day parish church. Earthwork remains of Bourne Castle (SK12.01, SAM95, SMR30043) are located to the west of the church. At one time the castle would have consisted of a single motte, a defensive mound, possibly surmounted by a stone tower with two enclosures or baileys containing further buildings and a possible stone gatehouse that have since been destroyed (Cathcart-King 1983).

#### Area in Detail (Fig.3)

Within 200m of the area of proposed development are several known archaeological sites and findspots that, due to their close proximity, have a more direct influence upon the interpretation and understanding of work at the Spalding Road Industrial Estate.

Significant numbers of pottery sherds, provisionally dated to the medieval period, have been observed within the front garden of a house due west of the Industrial Estate (SK12.90). Further west, archaeological evaluation at Potters' Close has recovered two complete jugs of 16th or 17th century date (Herbert 1996; BPC96). These finds are believed to have been deposited within a pit and are likely to be associated with the production of pottery.

Immediately south and east of Spalding Road Industrial Estate observations have identified surface spreads of medieval pottery in the gardens of houses fronting onto Spalding Road and Cherry Holt Road (SK12.92).

East of Cherry Holt Road is a small cluster of sites that also relate to pottery production during the medieval period (SK12.09;12.156). The former is the site of a possible medieval kiln, recognised by the substantial amounts of pottery recorded during previous development of the site. The latter refers to the archaeological excavation of two pottery kilns that are known to have produced cooking pots, jugs, pancheons, pipkins, jars, firecovers, drainpipes, ridge tiles and fish dishes during the medieval period (Medieval Archaeology 1974, 220).

More recently, several sherds of Bourne Ware pottery have been recovered during a watching brief immediately east of the proposed development (Cope-Faulkner 1997; BSR97). Due southeast of the proposed development, dredging of the Bourne Eau has retrieved a spindle whorl, though this find is undated (SK12.60).

### 3. AIMS

The aims of the archaeological evaluation were set by the Specification for Field Evaluation approved by the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist. The evaluation was to establish the type of archaeological activity present on site, the likely extent of any archaeology, the spatial arrangement of archaeological features, the elucidation of ways in which identified features fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding area and the determination of date and function of archaeological features that are present (Cope-Faulkner 1997; Appendix 2).

### 4. METHODS

The proposed development site was examined for suitable locations to place the 20m x 1.5m evaluation trench. Due to the presence of standing buildings the location of the trench was limited to open ground within the site of the Spalding Road Industrial Estate. Reinforced concrete surfacing was present within selective areas of this open ground and as such negated the placement of the trench. Most of the industrial units were still functioning and the access requirements for these units dictated further restrictions.

The surface covering of tarmac was broken using a JCB with a toothed bucket. Further excavations were continued using a toothless ditching bucket. Following the machine excavation of the uppermost deposits, the trench was bailed out using sponges and buckets prior to trowel cleaning of the base and sides. A pre-excavation plan was then prepared and the trench was photographed (Plate 2).

Exposed features were subsequently excavated by hand in order to fulfil the aims set by the Brief (Appendix 1).

Each archaeological deposit exposed during the evaluation was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled, sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at a scale of 1:20. Recording of deposits encountered during the evaluation was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Projects Services practice.

The trench was surveyed to a fixed location using 30m tapes and the corners of the adjacent Industrial Units. All levels were calculated relative to the spot height at NGR 1034 1984.



## 5. RESULTS

### 5.1 The Stratigraphic Sequence

Finds recovered from the deposits identified in the evaluation were examined and a date was assigned where possible. Records of the deposits excavated during the evaluation were also examined. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 5. 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 (Fig. 6). Six phases were identified:

- Phase 1: Undated Deposits
- Phase 2: Medieval Pottery Production
- Phase 3: Alluvial Deposits
- Phase 4: Post-medieval Pottery Production
- Phase 5: Post-medieval Abandonment
- Phase 6: Modern Development

Archaeological contexts are described below. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

#### 5.2 Phase 1: Undated Deposits

The surface of the earliest recorded layer (032) was exposed at a depth of 3.675m OD. Only the surface of this layer could be recorded due to the restrictive presence of groundwater. Comprising a yellowish clay, it has probably formed as a result of alluvial deposition. No artefacts were recovered from this layer.

#### 5.3 Phase 2: Medieval Pottery Production

Overlying (032) were two deposits (001) and (020) comprising clay with a light-grey hue. These layers contained occasional fragments of pottery, limestone, flint and charcoal. The similarity between (001) and

(020) strongly suggests that they are the same deposit. These have been interpreted as alluvial layers and contained pottery of 14th century date.

Cutting into (001) was a large pit (004) that contained a mass of broken pottery (003). The extent of this feature was unclear, though it continued outside the limits of the trench to the west and east (Fig. 4; Area A). Approximately 40kg (c. 2000) of potsherds, dateable to the 14th century, were retrieved during a limited investigation of the surface of (003).

Context (013), of identical composition to (003), was recorded further to the south (Fig. 4; Area B). This layer had been exposed by the cutting of a circular feature (013) during Phase 4 (Plate 4). It is probable that this layer is the continuation of deposit (003) to the south.

#### 5.4 Phase 3: Alluvial Deposits

Sealing the earlier sequence of activity were several deposits (007), (016), (024) and (019) that are likely to have formed as a result of alluvial deposition (Fig. 5). These were of a fine silty clay composition and generally of mid to dark grey colour with chalk, pottery and charcoal inclusions. Deposit (016) contained pottery dated to the 16th century (Fig. 7).

#### 5.5 Phase 4: Post-medieval Pottery Production

Cutting through the Phase 3 alluvium was a linear north-south feature (009/015; Figs. 4 and 5). This contained mixed light green-grey and dark-grey clay (008/002) interpreted as dumped deposits of clay, mixed with natural silts. Similarly composed (and contemporary) contexts, (012) and (018), were deposited over the Phase 3 alluvium elsewhere across the site (Fig. 4). The latter dumped deposits (012,

018) have been interpreted as a 'working surface' of potters clay and trample and dated by associated pottery to the 16th century.

Structural materials, including worked limestone and hand-made brick (014), were randomly deposited within (012) and are interpreted as dumped materials (Fig. 4; Plate 3).

Cutting the mixed clay deposits (012) was a sub-circular pit (011) and posthole (033). Pit (011) contained clay (010) and is likely to have been utilised for the preparation of potters clay and is dated to the 16th century (Plate 4). Posthole (033) contained a surviving vertical timber post (034) that is large enough to be considered as a structural support (Fig. 5).

Overlying the mixed clay deposit (018), and contemporary with the pit (011) and posthole (033), was layer (017). Consisting of a blackish-grey charcoal, ash and clay deposit with burnt clay inclusions and a high frequency of pottery, this has been interpreted as a layer of kiln sweepings. Pottery within (017) has been dated to the 16th century.

#### **5.6 Phase 5: Post-medieval Abandonment**

A 0.15m thick layer of mid brown silty clay (022) sealed all of the Phase 4 activity. This has been interpreted as a buried soil (Fig. 5). Fragments of pottery and brick, probably dating to the 16th or 17th century were recovered from this deposit.

#### **5.7 Phase 6: Modern Development**

Cutting into, or overlying (022), were a series of features and layers that are likely to have been developed during the 20th century. Though no dateable artefacts were

retrieved, the stratigraphic position of these layers confirms this supposition.

Pits (029) and (031) have been interpreted as refuse pits. The former contained a fill of brick and stone fragments (028) and the latter a deposit of large angular limestone blocks (030).

A layer of fine silt (026) is likely to have been deposited as a result of building work (Fig. 5). Cut (031), interpreted as a pipe trench, was the largest recorded feature of this phase.

All of these features and deposits were sealed by a layer of rubble, sands, gravels and tarmac (023/025) forming the present surface of the proposed development area.

## **6. DISCUSSION**

The proposed development site lies within an area of known and suspected pottery production of medieval and later date, in close proximity to the Bourne Eau channel.

Archaeological investigation of the proposed development site has recorded a sequence of features and deposits that represent pottery production during the 14th and 16th centuries. Copious amounts of pottery, of variable form and fabric, were retrieved from these features.

Soft, yellowish clays were the earliest layers recorded during the excavations within Areas A and D (Phase 1). These remain undated and were only partially observed due to the level of groundwater, a problem was exacerbated by continual heavy rainfall for the duration of the excavation. Such clays are probably of natural origin. The fine nature of these sediments suggests that they were formed during flood deposition. This interpretation is enhanced due to the close proximity of

the Bourne Eau. Alternatively, the clay may be a much older geological layer formed during glacial deposition. The presence of beds of Oxford Clays has previously been noted in the vicinity of Bourne (Hayes and Lane 1992, 130).

Natural deposits of underlying clays, up to 3m thick, have been previously recorded during archaeological excavations to the east of the site (Kerr 1973, 2). However, the distribution of natural deposits of clay must be restricted as they are not ubiquitous within the town. A recent watching brief recorded a natural geology of yellow sands immediately northeast of the proposed development (Fig. 2; BSR97). Further west, natural deposits of yellow clayey silts with limestone inclusions have been recorded (Fig. 2; BPC97). Overall, this suggests that the natural clay forms part of a limited outcrop at the eastern edge of the modern town.

The earliest recorded archaeological deposits, (001) and (020), overlay the undated clayey deposits and were investigated within Areas A and D (Phase 2). These have been interpreted as possible occupation surfaces, dated by associated pottery to the 14th century. Potsherds within these layers displayed few signs of wear and are likely to be kiln wasters. This suggests that the site, or its vicinity, was used for pottery production during the 14th century.

A large pit (004) was cut into the occupation surface within Area A. The pit contained copious amounts of broken pottery mixed with a small amount of charcoal (003). None of the pottery displayed any significant signs of wear, though some were clearly over-fired (Fig. 8). As such, they are likely to be fragments of 'wasters', misfired pots. The material implies the proximity of contemporary kilns, though no physical of such a kiln

was revealed during the investigation. The quantity of pottery recovered (although the feature was only partially excavated) suggests a substantial period of production during the 14th century.

Although no proven stratigraphic link was recorded, it is probable that (003) and (013) form the upper parts of a much larger pit. Pits of such extensive size are not unusual; previous excavations to the east of the proposed development have recorded similar features that were up to 30m long and 3m deep (Kerr 1973, 1). These were originally clay extraction pits that were subsequently backfilled with waste pottery and kiln sweepings. Fen Statutes required that claypits were to be filled within a year (*ibid*, 2). It was a simple expedient to backfill excavated pits with the mass of broken pottery that was incidental to the techniques of production.

After pit (004) had been backfilled, (presumably following a considerable period of pottery production) a thick band of alluvial sediments (007, 016, 019 and 024) developed. These contexts reflect a period of flood deposition (Phase 3) across the surface of the site. Pottery dating to the 16th century has been recovered from deposit (016). This pottery provides a *terminus post quem* for the flooding of the site. An absence of 15th century artefacts and deposits suggests that the site was abandoned during this period.

Inundations of alluvial clays to a thickness of *c.* 0.4m are not unusual for ground lying in such close proximity to a river channel. The flooding would also have a much greater effect due to the lower level of the ground surface during the medieval period.

Evidence for renewed pottery production, following the flooding phase, has been dated to the 16th century (Phase 4). This suggests that human activity in the vicinity

of the evaluation area recommenced at the end of the medieval period.

Occupation of the site during the 16th century incorporated the cutting of a north-south gully (009/015). This was subsequently backfilled by a series of deposits (002, 008, 012 and 018) and the area used as a working floor for the preparation of clay, presumably for the production of pottery (Plates 2 and 3). A clay preparation pit (Plate 4) and a timber post were also established on the working surface. The post indicates the presence of a wooden structure, although of unknown form or function. However, the location may suggest that it supported part of a shelter for the working area. Ash and charcoal deposits (017), recorded at the southern extent of the evaluation trench, are likely to have been dumped following cleaning out of nearby kilns.

The surface of these archaeological deposits occurred approximately 0.5m below the existing ground surface. Sealing this 16th century sequence of industrial activity was a soil layer (Phase 5). Pottery from this layer is dated to the 16th or 17th century, the early ceramics likely to be residual material disturbed from the underlying archaeological remains. The formation of this buried soil occurred following the demise of the Bourne potteries, at some time during the 17th century. This probably correlates with documentary evidence which notes that the industrial activity was terminated by a major fire in the area (Appendix 5). Subsequently, the land is likely to have become pasture.

Modern development of the site occurred piecemeal from the 17th to the 19th centuries. Two refuse pits, one containing rubble from a possible demolished structure, were cut into the horizon of buried soil. More recently, probably during

the last 30 years, the site has been developed as an industrial estate on the outskirts of the modern town. A large pipe trench cut to provide services for the existing industrial units, was made prior to the deposition of more recent surfacing.

The present surface is composed of 0.4m of gravels, reinforced concrete and tarmac that has been deposited on top of the buried soil. As the buried soil only survives to a thickness of 0.15m it is probable that much of this has been removed by machine prior to the laying of the tarmac surface.

The occurrence of natural clay deposits within a discrete area of Bourne is likely to have attracted potters to the site due to a ready supply of raw material. Proximity to the Bourne Eau would also have provided an important source of water for the production of pottery. Also, the area has always been marginal to the main town of Bourne, an essential prerequisite for pottery production due to its inherent fire risk.

## 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 2).

### Period

Remains of apparent pottery production of both medieval and early post-medieval date were recorded. Such evidence is characteristic of both periods.

### Rarity

Evidence of apparent pottery production in both medieval and post-medieval periods is, in general terms, both regionally and nationally rare. However, this area of Bourne has previously been shown to have evidence for such industrial activity. Kiln

sites are unique in providing possible sequences of forms and fabrics of pottery that were in use for a particular period. It has been recommended that pottery production sites within Bourne, operating during the medieval period, should be published (Mellor 1994, 69).

### **Documentation**

Records of archaeological sites and finds made in South Kesteven District are kept in the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record and the files maintained by the South Kesteven District Community Archaeologist. Several archaeological investigations have been undertaken in the vicinity and are reported. Historical documents referring to potters in the vicinity of the site during the post-medieval period also exist.

### **Group value**

Virtually all the evidence revealed during the investigation relates to pottery production in the medieval and post-medieval periods. Therefore, group value is low. Previous investigations in the vicinity have revealed similar evidence, together with apparent settlement remains. This confers moderate group value on the remains. Other contemporary evidence in the general area, including the castle, abbey and settlement activity, enhance the group value.

### **Survival/Condition**

There was limited evidence for recent disturbance to the site and, as a result, medieval and post-medieval archaeological deposits survived in good condition. Most of the deposits were wet or waterlogged, and a timber post was recorded intact at a depth of 0.4m below the present ground surface.

### **Fragility/Vulnerability**

Any development that impacts the site to a depth greater than 0.5m below the present

ground surface, or lower than 4.5m OD, is likely to affect archaeological remains dating from the 16th century and earlier.

### **Diversity**

Low functional diversity is indicated by the use of the site for industrial activities. However, the presence of a quantity of worked stone and brick may suggest that structural remains of a domestic nature are situated in close proximity.

### **Potential**

There is a high potential that further archaeological remains associated with medieval and later pottery production occur in the area. In particular, the evidence would suggest that there is moderately high potential for pottery kilns being located in the vicinity.

Due to the high groundwater level, there is high potential for the survival of environmental remains through waterlogging.

## **7.1 Site Importance**

The criteria for assessment have indicated that the medieval and post-medieval pottery production site is of regional significance. Although no kilns were recorded, there is a high likelihood that they are situated in close proximity to the proposed development. Such kilns, if located, are of possible national significance.

## **8. EFFECTIVENESS OF TECHNIQUES**

Techniques employed during the archaeological evaluation at Spalding Road Industrial Estate, Bourne, have allowed for the successful achievement of the aims set by the Brief for Field Evaluation (Appendix 1).

Machine excavation of the surface deposits enabled a rapid assessment and appreciation of the depth and nature of the overlying modern layers. Subsequent manual excavation established the nature, date, function and state of preservation of the medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains. However, as only one trench was excavated, the full extent of these archaeological deposits remain unknown.

## 9. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological evaluation at Spalding Road Industrial Estate, Bourne, revealed well-preserved evidence for medieval and later pottery making. This evidence was in the form of large quantities of pottery, kiln waste, clay extraction pits and working floors. However, within the investigation trench there was no physical evidence for the kilns which presumably were associated with the identified remains.

The evaluation indicated that the pottery industry probably ceased during the 17th century. This perhaps relates to contemporary documentary evidence which states that a major fire in the area terminated the activities of the potteries.

Many of the features were waterlogged and there is, therefore, potential for the survival of environmental remains in the area.

Remains of the post-medieval and earlier potting industry were buried by approximately 0.5m depth of later deposits. There had been little recent disturbance to the site and, consequently, archaeological remains were well preserved.

## 10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like

to acknowledge the assistance of Mr S. R. Janes of Steadfast Properties plc who commissioned the evaluation. The work was coordinated and this report edited by Gary Taylor. Artefacts recovered from the site were examined and commented on by Hilary Healey. Paul Cope-Faulkner identified the animal bone. Jenny Stevens, the Community Archaeologist for South Kesteven District Council, kindly permitted examination of the Bourne parish files.

## 11. PERSONNEL

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

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### 13. ABBREVIATIONS

APS refers to Archaeological Project Services

DoE refers to the Department of the Environment

IFA refers to the Institute for Field Archaeologists

LAS refers to Lindsey Archaeological Services

SAM prefix denotes the reference number of a Scheduled Ancient Monument

SK prefix denotes the reference numbers used in the South Kesteven Parish Files

SMR prefix denotes the reference numbers used by the County Sites and Monuments Record

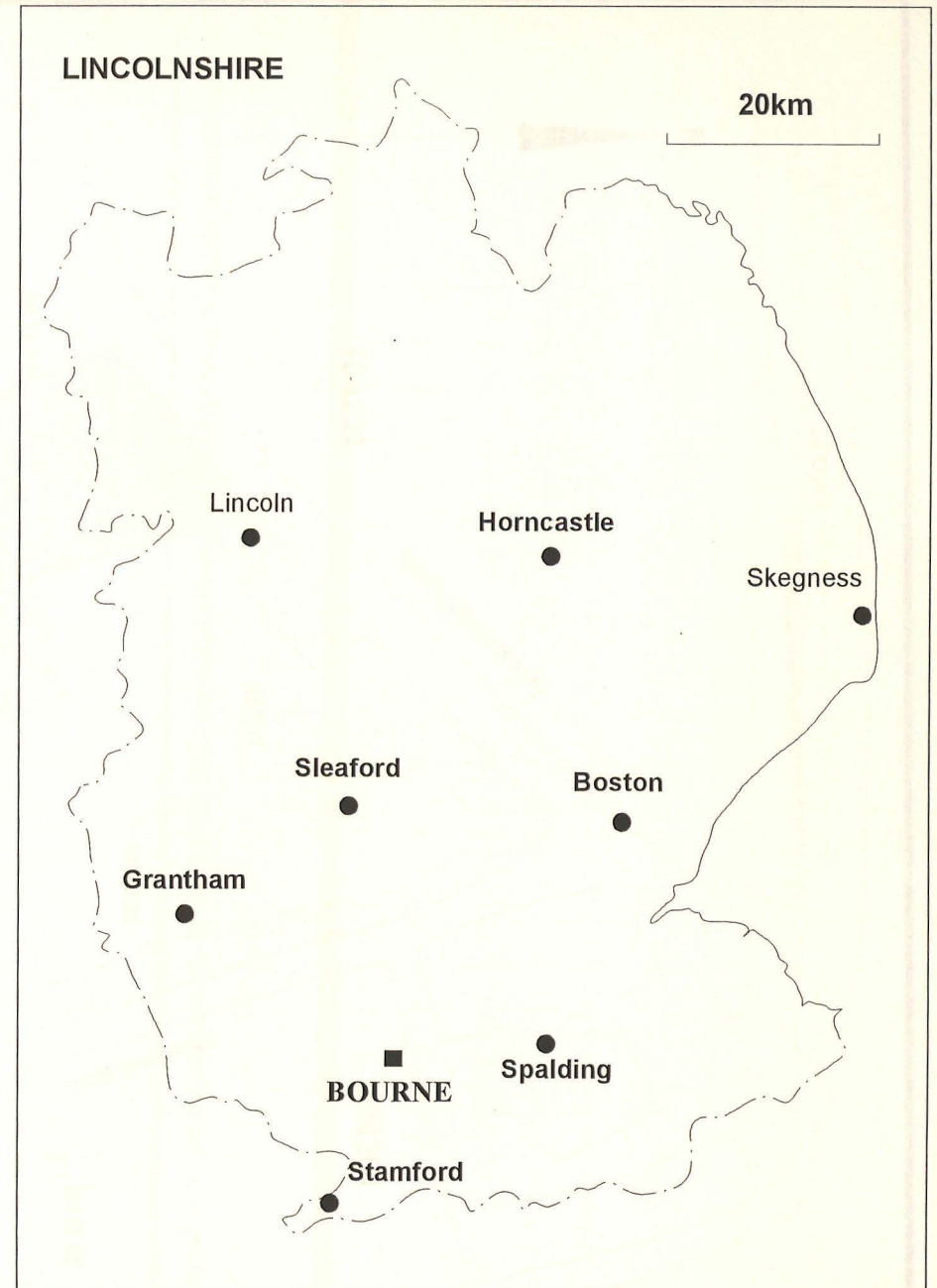
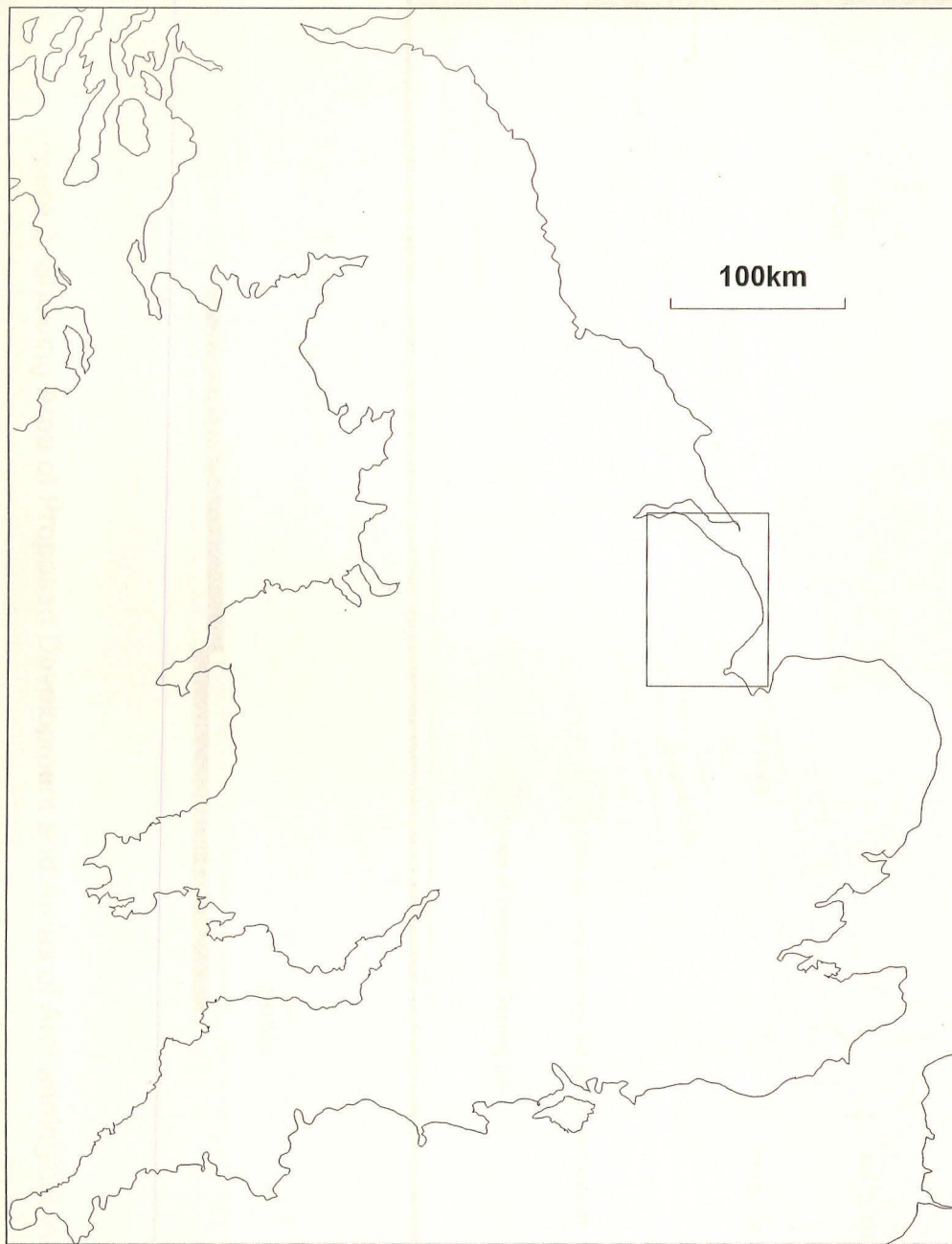


Figure 1 - General Location Plan



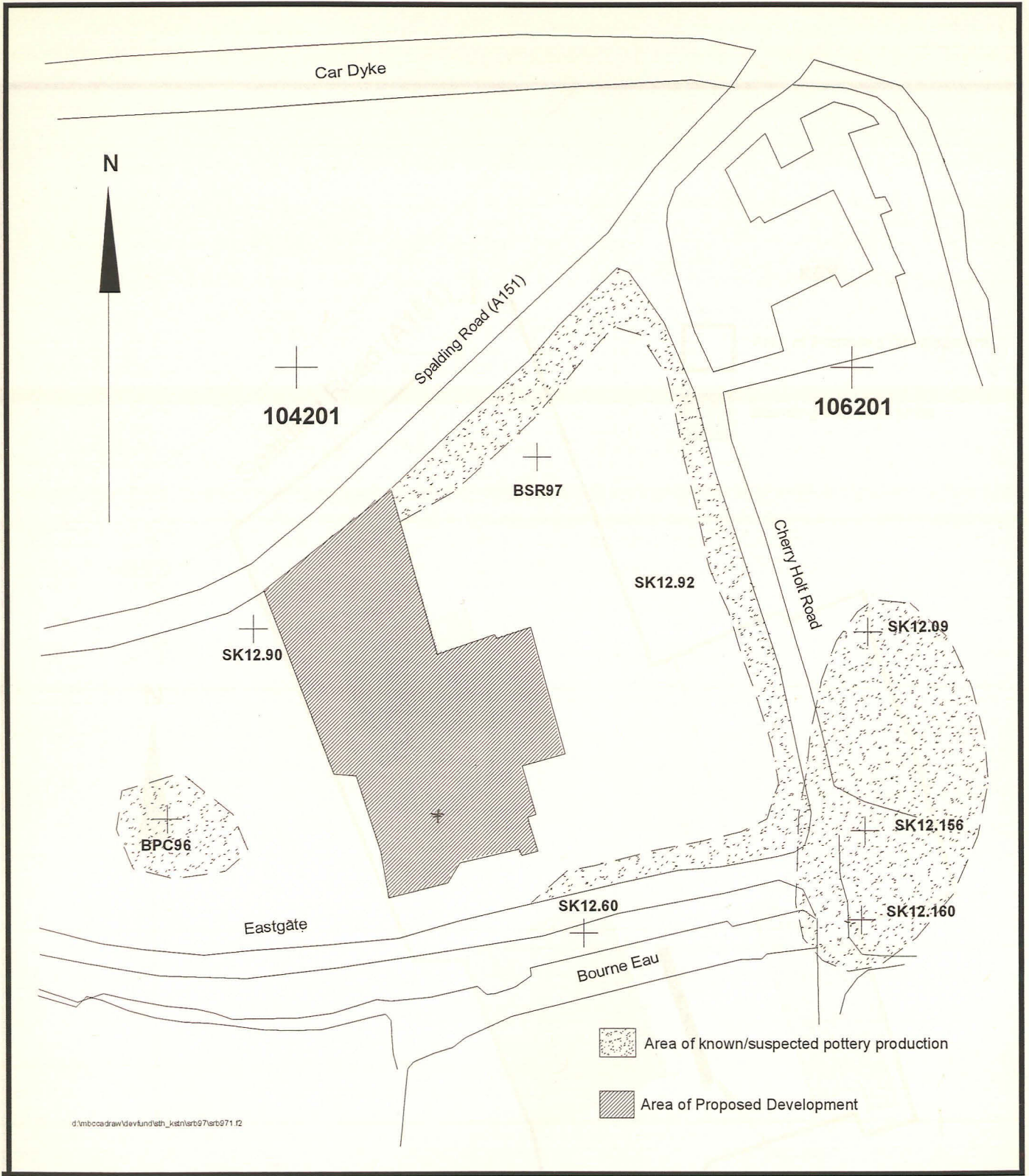


Figure 2: Showing Area of Proposed Development and Areas of Archaeological Interest

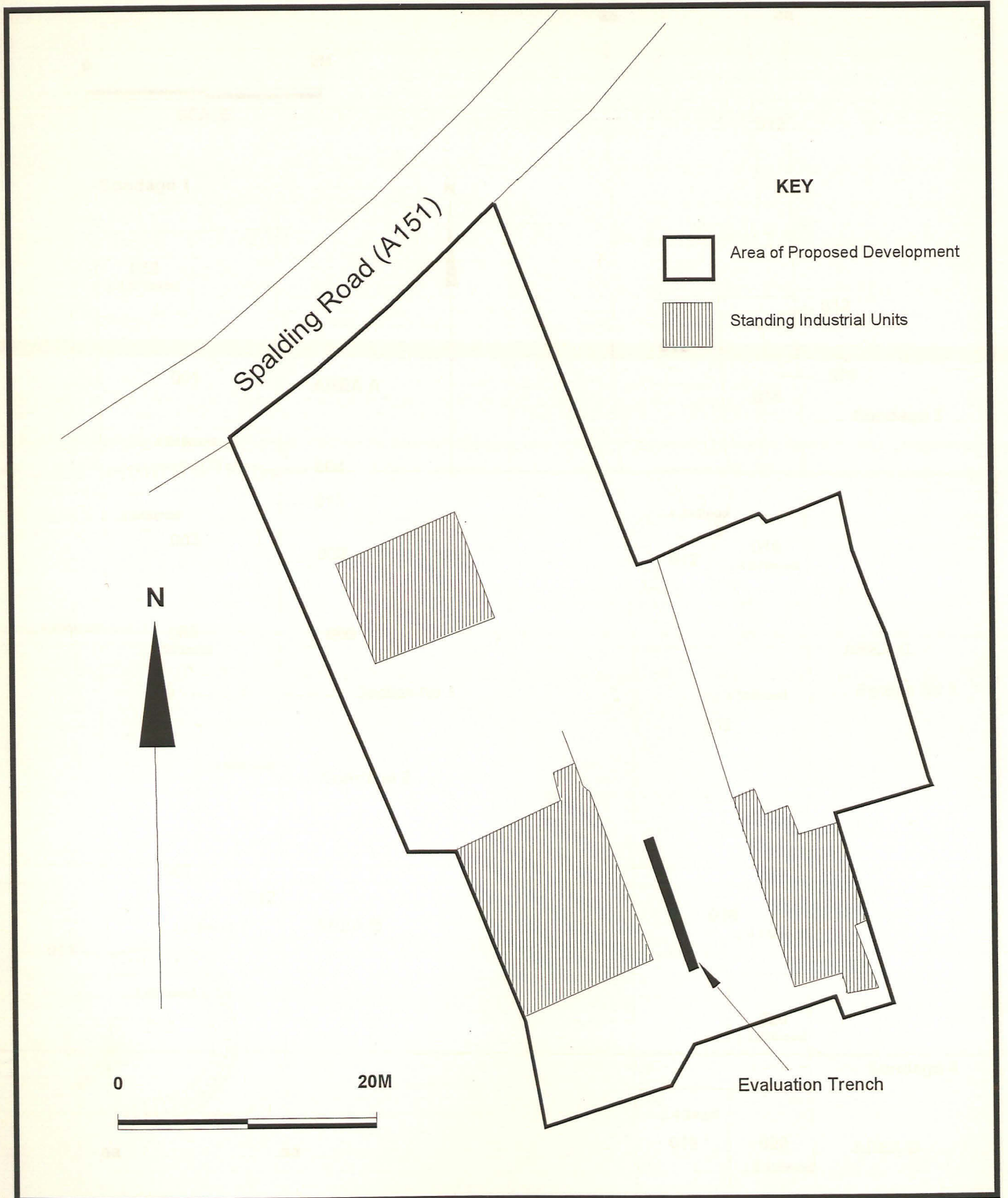


Figure 3: Showing Area of Proposed Development and Location of Evaluation Trench

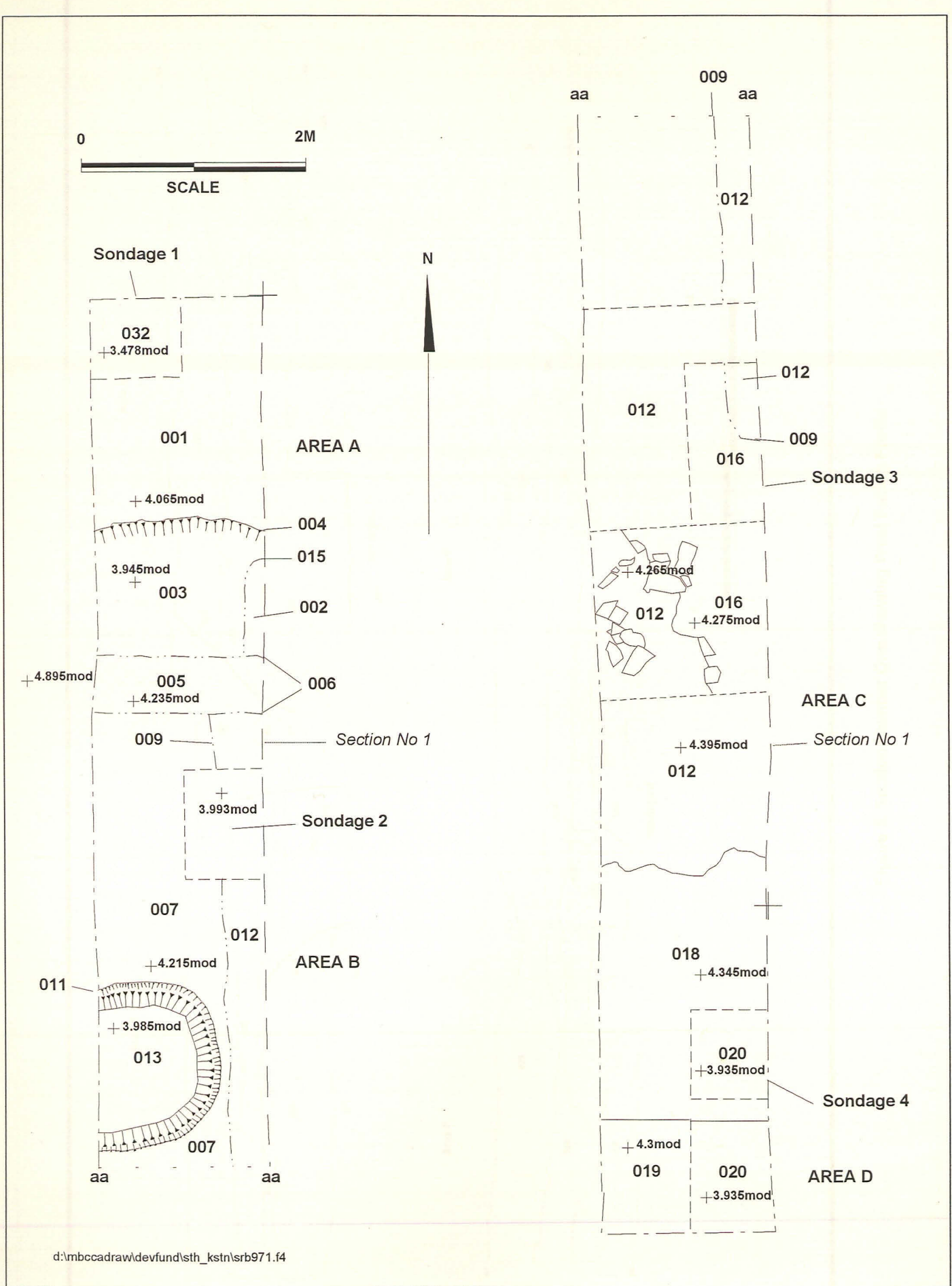


Figure 4: Plan of Evaluation Trench showing Recorded Features and Sections

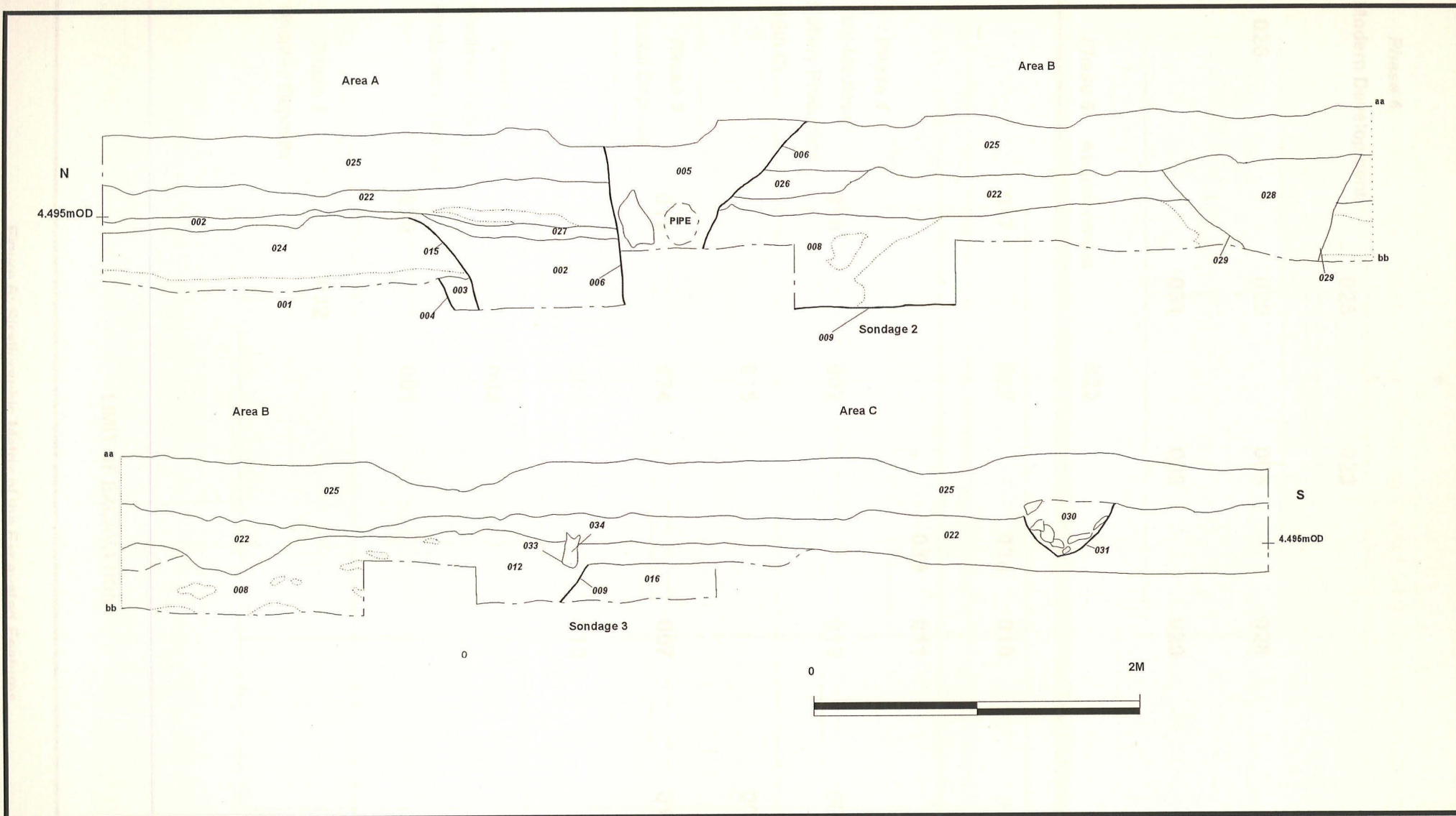


Figure 5: Section Number One showing West Facing Profile

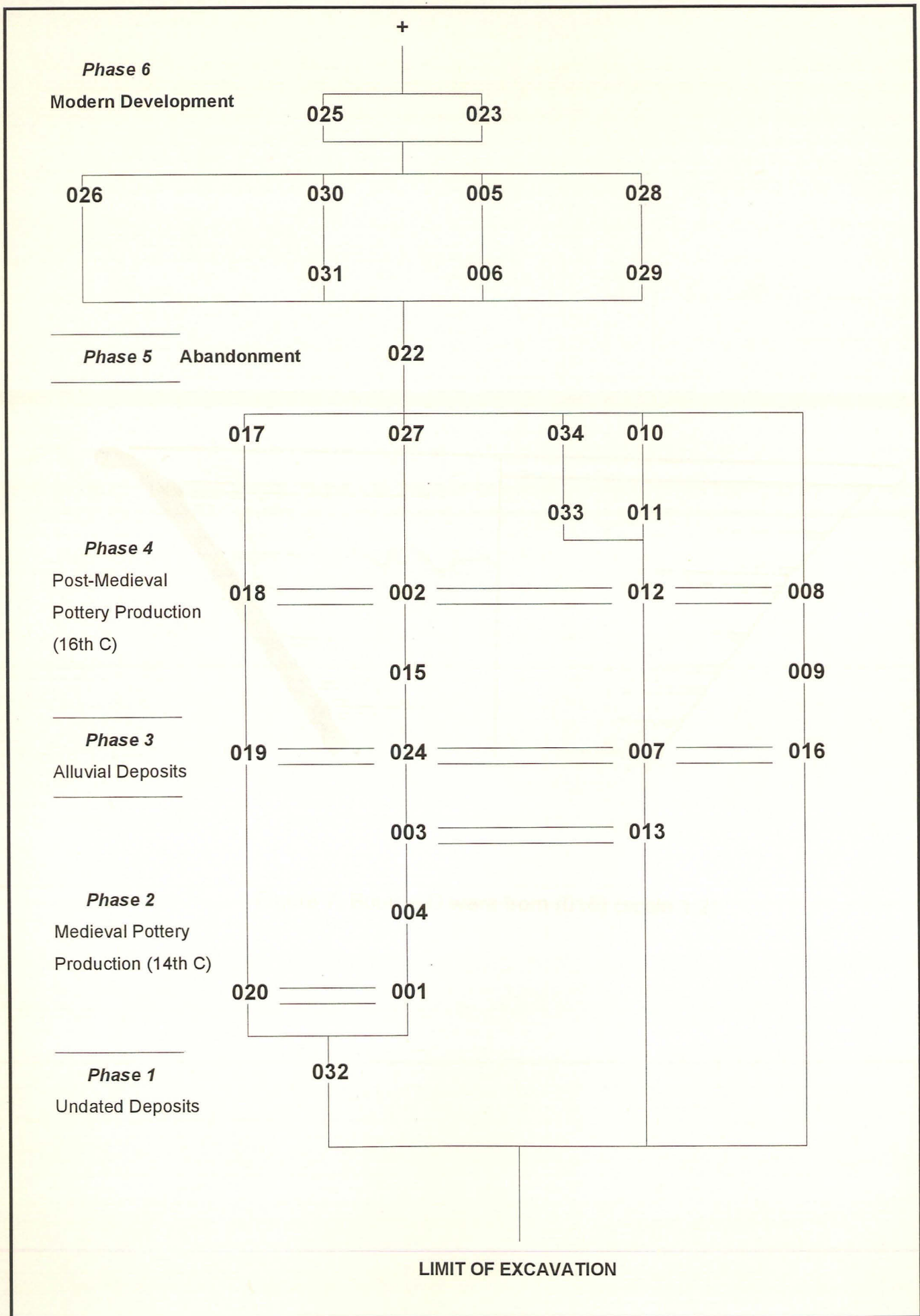


Figure 6: Stratigraphic Matrix of the Excavated Features

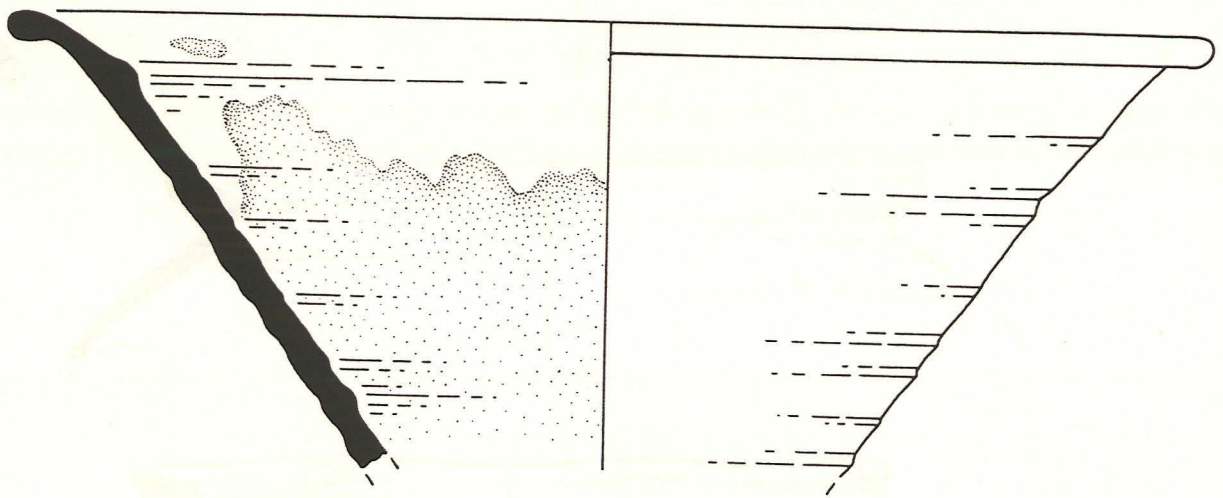


Figure 7: Bourne D ware from (016) (scale 1:2)

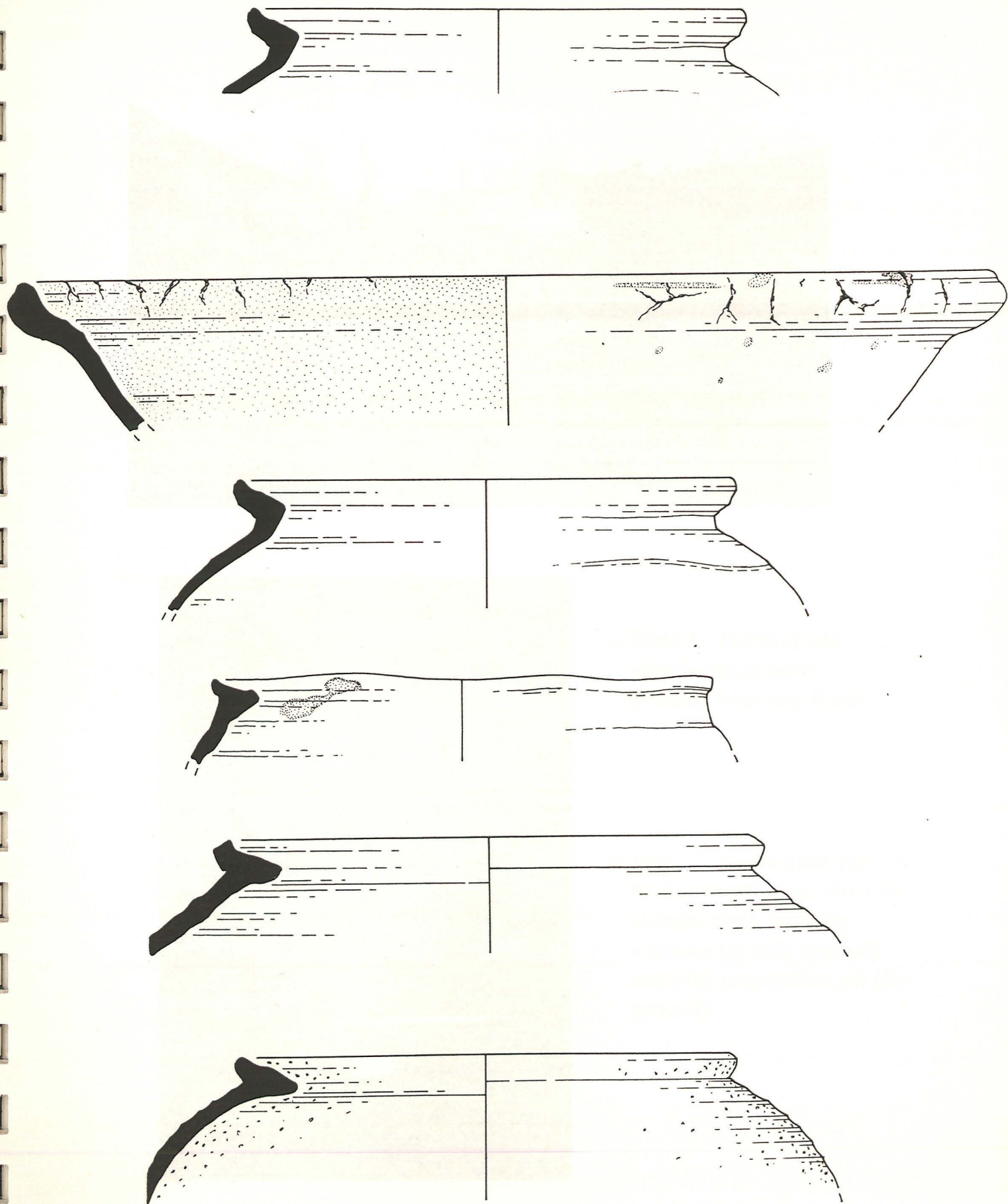


Figure 8: Bourne A/B ware from (003) (scale 1:2)



▲ Plate 1 : General site view looking north towards Spalding Road



◀ Plate 2 : Evaluation Trench looking north with Area D (foreground), working surfaces (middle ground) and clay preparation pit (far ground)





Plate 3 : Working surface and associated rubble (012), looking west

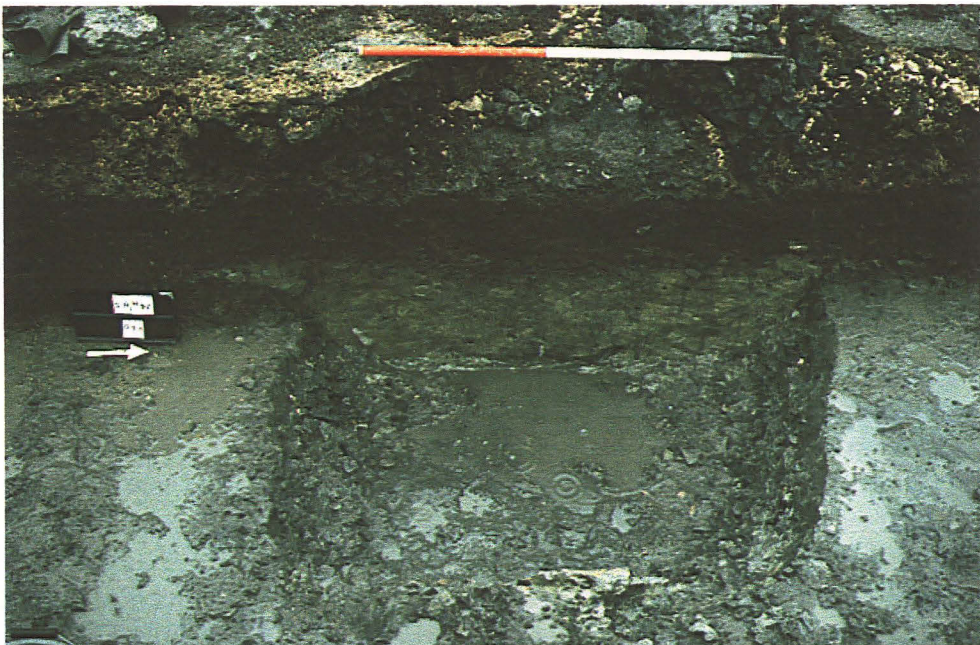


Plate 4 : Clay preparation pit (011), looking west

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT BRIEF  
EVALUATION OF LAND AT SPALDING ROAD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE.  
BOURNE, LINCOLNSHIRE.**

**1. Summary.**

1.1 This document sets out the brief for archaeological fieldwork, recording and publication to be carried out prior to the development of land at Spalding Road Industrial Estate, Bourne, Lincolnshire.

1.2 This brief should be used by archaeological contractors as the basis for the preparation of a detailed archaeological project specification. In response to this brief contractors will be expected to provide details of the proposed scheme of work, to include the anticipated working methods, timescales and staffing levels.

1.3 Detailed specifications should be submitted to the Community Archaeologist of South Kesteven District Council for approval. The client will then be free to choose between those specifications which have been approved.

**2. Site Location and Description.**

2.1 The site of the proposed development lies within the town of Bourne, South Kesteven, Lincolnshire. Spalding Road Industrial Estate lies to the east of the town centre between Spalding Road and Eastgate See enclosed plan. The site is currently covered by a mixture of industrial buildings and a variety of road surfaces. However, it should be possible to penetrate these with a mechanical excavator.

3.1 An application for planning permission to redevelop this site has been made to South Kesteven District Council. Application No. Sk97/488/12/21. At the recommendation of the Community Archaeologist, the District Council have requested a pre-determination archaeological evaluation.

**4. Archaeological Background.**

4.1 This area of Bourne has seen numerous archaeological investigations over the years, especially since 1990. Most significant of these was an evaluation which took place on the former Slaughter house site (now Potter's Close) in 1992. This uncovered evidence of medieval occupation dating from the 13th to the 14th century in the area close to Eastgate. Sadly this area was never fully investigated and is currently an area of rubble on the frontage of Eastgate. Further evaluation work took place at Potter's Close in 1996 where evidence for 16th/17th century pottery production was uncovered in the garden of 15A, (both evaluations carried out by Archaeological Project Services).

From this work and that carried out on Cherry Holt road, it would appear that there were pockets of Medieval and Tudor occupation, some of it relating to the pottery industry, right along Eastgate and into Cherry Holt Road.

**5. Requirement for work.**

5.1 As a result of the findings from the previous studies, fieldwork is deemed necessary in order to ascertain the existence of any buried remains.

5.2 It is requested therefore that one test trench 20 metres x standard bucket width, be excavated where the ground surface allows along the southern border of the site. At the same time a number of test trenches will be dug so that soil samples can be taken. The agent for the site has agreed that these can also be observed by the archaeological contractors.

5.3 Due to the site's previous use as an industrial estate, there has been considerable ground disturbance on some parts of the site.

5.4 The investigation should be carried out by a recognised archaeological body in accordance with the code of conduct of The Institute of Field Archaeologists.

## **7. Methods.**

7.1 In consideration of methodology the following details should be given in the contractor's specification:

7.1.1 A projected timetable must be agreed for the various stages of work.

7.1.2. The staff structure and numbers must be detailed.

7.1.3. It is expected that all on site work will be carried out in a way that complies with the relevant Health and Safety Legislation and that due consideration will be given to site security.

7.1.4 The recovery and recording strategies to be used must be described in full. **It is expected that an approved single context recording system will be used for all on site and post fieldwork procedures.**

7.1.5 **An estimate of time and resources allocated for post-excavation work and report production in the form of 'person hours'.**

7.1.6 A list of specialist consultants who might be required to conserve and or report on finds and advise or report on other aspects of the investigation.

7.2 Excavation is a potentially destructive technique and the specification should take the following factors into account.

7.2.1 The use of an appropriate machine with a wide, toothless ditching blade to remove topsoil down to the first archaeological horizon.

7.2.2. The supervision of all machine work by an archaeologist.

7.2.3. When archaeological features are revealed by machine these will be cleaned and excavated by hand and all archaeological deposits will be fully excavated and recorded.

7.2.4 If human remains are encountered the contractor must comply with all statutory consents and licences under the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981 or other Burial Acts regarding their exhumation and interment. It will also be necessary to comply with all reasonable requests of interested parties as to the method of removal, reinterment or disposal of the remains or associated items. Attempt must be made at all times not to cause offence to any interested parties.

7.2.5 Adequate recovery of finds and an adequate sampling programme to provide environmental evidence from all archaeological deposits should be ensured. A contingency sum to cover unexpected finds may be included with the tenders. However, this should only be activated after discussion with the Community Archaeologist and the client.

## **8. Monitoring Arrangements.**

8.1 The Community Archaeologist of South Kesteven District Council will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project and will require at least 14 days notice prior to the commencement of the work. The Community Archaeologist should be kept informed of any unexpected discoveries and regularly updated on the project's progress. They should be allowed access to the site at their convenience and will comply with any health and safety requirements associated with the site.

## **9. Reporting Requirements.**

9.1 The final report should be produced to the level outlined in The Management of Archaeological Projects, Appendix 3, English Heritage, 1991 and within a timescale agreed with the Community Archaeologist. The report should include:

9.1.1 Plans of the areas which has been investigated and the position of any trenches.

9.1.2 Tables summarising features and artefacts together with a full description and brief interpretation.

9.1.3 Plans and sections of deposits.

9.1.4. A consideration of the importance of the findings on a local, regional and national basis.

9.1.5 A critical review of the effectiveness of the methodology.

9.2 Copies of the final report must be deposited with South Kesteven District Council, the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist, the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments and the developer.

## **10. Archive Deposition.**

10.1 Arrangements must be made with the land-owner(s) and/or the developers for the

deposition of the object and paper archive. The landowner should be encouraged to deposit the artefacts and project archive at the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

10.2 Preliminary discussion must take place prior to fieldwork commencing and the receiving museum must be named at the tender stage of the project.

10.3 If the receiving museum is the City and County Museum Lincoln, then the archive should be produced in the form outlined in that Museum's Document 'Conditions for the Acceptance of project Archives,' See address below.

The City and County Museum should be contacted at the earliest possible opportunity, so that the full cost implications of the archive deposition can be taken into account.

## **11. Publication and Dissemination.**

11.1 The deposition of a copy of the report with the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record and the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist will be deemed to put all the information into the public domain, unless a special request is made for confidentiality. If material is to be held in confidence a timescale must be agreed with the Community Archaeologist, but it is expected that this shall not exceed six months.

11.2 A summary of the findings of the investigation should be presented for publication to Lincolnshire History and Archaeology (Published by The Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology) within 12 months of the completion of the project.

## **12. Additional Information**

12.1 This document attempts to define the best practice expected of an archaeological investigation but cannot fully anticipate the conditions that will be encountered as work progresses. However, changes to the approved programme of excavation are only to be made with the prior written approval of the Community Archaeologist.

## 12.2 Further Contact Addresses.

Miss Jenny Stevens  
South Kesteven Community Archaeologist  
Heritage Lincolnshire  
The Old School  
Cameron Street  
Heckington  
Lincolnshire  
NG 34 9RW.

Mr. S. Catney  
Archaeological Officer  
Lincolnshire County Council  
12 Friars Lane  
Lincoln  
LN2 5AL.

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

Brief set by Community Archaeologist      October 1997.

## Appendix 2

### 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 3

#### Context Summary

Context Number	Description	Phase	Interpretation
001	Plastic, light-grey sandy silty clay. Contains occasional pottery sherds, sub-rounded limestone fragments, angular flints and charcoal. Approximately 0.2m thick to limit of excavation (LOE).	2	Possible occupation surface, overlying (032).
002	Plastic, mottled light grey-green and mid-brown silty clay. Contains occasional pottery sherds, charcoal and burnt clay (red). Approximately 0.2m thick.	4	Dumped deposit, fill of (002).
003	Loose, mid greyish-green silty sand. Contains frequent (90%) pottery sherds and occasional charcoal. Approximately 0.2m thick to LOE.	2	Dumped deposit, fill of (004).
004	Cut with a single exposed edge measuring approximately 1.5m long x 1.2m wide x 0.2m deep to LOE.	2	Refuse pit, cutting (001).
005	Loose, light-yellow crushed limestone and pebbles. Approximately 0.9m thick to LOE.	6	Backfill deposit, fill of (006).
006	Linear cut with steep sides, orientated west-east. Measuring approximately 1.6m long x 1m wide x 0.9m deep to LOE.	6	Pipe trench, cutting (022).
007	Firm, dark-grey clayey silt containing moderate stones and frequent pottery sherds. Not excavated.	3	Possible surface, overlying (013).
008	Stiff, mixed light grey-green and dark-grey silty clay. Contains frequent potsherds and occasional small stones and flints. Approximately 0.45m thick.	4	Dumped deposit, fill of (009).
009	Linear cut with very steep sides and a flat base, orientated north-south. Measuring approximately 8.8m long x 0.27m wide x 0.46m deep to LOE.	4	Gully, cutting (016).
010	Firm, greenish-yellow clay containing occasional small stones. Approximately 0.4m thick.	4	Dumped deposit, primary fill of (011).
011	Sub-circular cut with rounded corners. Measuring approximately 1.56m long x 1.1m wide x 0.4m deep to LOE.	4	Pit, cutting (012).
012	Moderately compact, mixed greenish-brown/greenish-grey/dark-grey silty clays containing occasional charcoal flecks and potsherds. Approximately 90mm thick.	4	Working surface, overlying (007).
013	Loose, black fragmented pottery containing moderate ash and charcoal fragments. Approximately 0.2m thick to LOE.	2	Dumped deposit recorded at the LOE.
014	Worked limestone (295mm long x 160mm high x 145mm wide) and brick fragments (150mm long x 60mm high x 130mm wide).	4	Structural rubble, within (012).
015	Linear cut with steep sides, orientated north-south. Measuring approximately 0.4m wide x 0.4m deep x 8.8m long to LOE.	3	Gully, cutting (024).
016	Moderately compact dark-grey clayey silt containing occasional to moderate potsherds. Approximately 0.3m thick to LOE.	3	Possible occupation surface, recorded at the LOE.
017	Soft, dark blackish-grey clay and charcoal containing moderate small stones and frequent potsherds. Approximately 20mm thick.	4	Dumped deposit, overlying (018).
018	Soft, bluish-green clay containing occasional small stones and moderate potsherds. Approximately 60mm thick.	4	Dumped deposit, overlying (019).
019	Soft, dark brownish-grey silty clay containing moderate stones and pottery sherds. Approximately 0.25m thick.	3	Possible occupation surface, overlying (020).
020	Soft, greenish-grey clay containing occasional stones. Approximately 0.2m thick to the LOE.	2	Possible occupation surface, overlying (032).



Context Number	Description	Phase	Interpretation
022	Soft, mid-brown silty clay containing occasional flecks of charcoal and pebbles. Approximately 0.15m thick.	5	Possible buried soil, overlying (017), (027), (010) and (008).
023	Same as (025).	6	Dumped deposits and surface, overlying (026), (030), (005) and (028).
024	Plastic, dark-grey clay containing occasional potsherds, charcoal flecks and chalk. Approximately 0.4m thick.	3	Possible occupation surface, overlying (003).
025	Loose/Indurated, yellow/red/black, gravel/sand/tarmac approximately 0.35m thick.	6	Dumped deposits and surface, overlying (026), (030), (005) and (028).
026	Friable, light orange-brown silt. Approximately 80mm thick.	6	Dumped deposit, overlying (022).
027	Plastic, dark-brown silty clay containing occasional charcoal flecks and potsherds. Approximately 80mm thick.	4	Dumped deposit, fill of (015).
028	Friable, light brownish-grey sandy clay containing occasional charcoal flecks, potsherds and stones. Approximately 0.35m thick.	6	Dumped deposit, fill of (029).
029	Cut recorded in section only, with gradual sides and a broad concave base. Measuring 0.9m wide x 0.35m deep to LOE.	6	Refuse pit, cutting (022).
030	Friable, dark greyish-brown sandy clay containing moderate limestone fragments. Approximately 0.28m thick.	6	Dumped deposit, fill of (031).
031	Cut recorded in section only, with steep sides and a narrow concave base. Measuring 0.5m wide x 0.3m deep.	6	Pit, cutting (022).
032	Soft, light-yellow silty clay containing occasional angular flints. Not excavated.	1	Possible natural deposits, recorded at the LOE.
033	Cut with steep sides and a flat base. Measuring approximately 0.1m wide x 0.1m deep.	4	Posthole, cutting (012).
034	Timber post recorded in section. Measuring 0.1m wide x 0.15m long.	4	Post, fill of (033).

## Appendix 4

### THE FINDS

The Pottery, By Hilary Healey

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	LATEST DATE
Area A +	All A/B wares, a few glazed.(80)	14th century+
Area B +	Mostly A/B wares but some D ware. 1x Developed Stamford Ware 2x Blue Transfer Print (32)	Late 18th century to Mid 19th century
Area C +	Mostly D wares (52)	16th century+
Area D +	A/B and D wares (42)	16th century+
001	All A/B wares (32)	14th century
002	All A/B wares (15)	14th century
003	All A/B wares, mostly cooking pots but a few uncommon vessels (>2000)	14th century
008	Mostly A/B wares, but a few D wares (51)	16th century+
010	All A/B except 1x D ware and 1x Cistercian cup (58)	16th century+
012	1x Romano-British 2x A/B ware 9x D ware (10)	16th century+
013	All A/B wares (8)	14th century
016	Mostly A/B and some D wares, the latter being unabraided(20)	16th century+
017	All D wares (38)	16th century+
018	Mostly B and D wares (45)	16th century+
019	Mostly A/B wares (66)	14th century
022	5x brick fragments 10x D ware 1x B ware (11)	16th/17th century

Some of the A/B wares, in particular, are cracked or distorted through overfiring. As such, they clearly represent kiln waste.

The numbers in brackets are the approximate number of sherds retrieved from each context. Only about 25% of the material from context (003) was processed and will be archived.

The site lies within the area of the known medieval and post-medieval kilns, part of a thriving pottery industry between c. 1250 and 1650 AD. Most of the material is typical kiln waste from the medieval kilns, A/B wares, and in the later contexts from the later phase of the industry, the D ware. Evidence of actual kilns comes from fragments of fired clay, possibly kiln lining, noted in medieval context 003 and a kiln prop, unstratified, in context C+.

Tangible evidence for the medieval and post-medieval industry on the east side of Bourne has been accumulating since the first discoveries of large waster jars off Spalding Road, in the last century. In the mid 1960s large quantities of potsherds were rescued from sewerage trenches in Eastgate, and the original classification of Bourne wares was made at this time (Healey 1969). N. Kerr excavated the remains of three kilns (two medieval, one sixteenth century) off Cherry Holt Lane in 1973 and summarised the results (Kerr 1975), but the pottery report remains unpublished. In the late 1980s and early 1990s two further rescue operations were carried out on house sites in the [now re-named] Cherry Holt Road by T. Zeffertt and T. Hurley, successive South Kesteven Community Archaeologists. An evaluation north of Eastgate (now named Potter's Close) by the Trust for Lincolnshire Archaeology in 1990 revealed a medieval building and a certain amount of pottery (Dymond 1992) and two almost complete post-medieval jugs were recovered from a small evaluation by Archaeological Project Services on an adjacent site (Herbert 1996).

The finds from the 1960s and 1970s identified a range of forms within two main periods, medieval A, A/B and B wares of the late 13th to 14th centuries and the post-medieval wares of the 16th to 17th centuries. Most pottery is recovered as sherds of kiln wasters, typically consisting mainly of unglazed body sherds, with fewer rims and decorated sherds. In the medieval period there is a high proportion of cooking pots, with some pancheons and jugs (the latter including different handle types and decoration), curfews and crested ridge tiles. A wider range of forms occurs in the post-medieval period, with pancheons predominating. Different sizes of jar and jug and a number of more unusual vessels (some imitating metal or imported wares) are found in addition to roof furniture.

The information from investigations since the 1970s continues to furnish evidence of the extent of the pottery industry in the Eastgate/Cherry Holt Road area. The range of known vessel forms in both periods has increased. However, none of the sites has provided any fresh dating evidence from associated finds or stratified contexts, and the dating of Bourne wares has not advanced since 1969. In view of this fact, and the large quantity of waste material already at the Lincolnshire County Council museum store, it was not felt necessary to retain all the body and rim sherds from the current evaluation.

### References

- Dymond, M., 1992 *Archaeological Evaluation at Eastgate, Bourne, Lincolnshire*, unpublished Heritage Lincolnshire report
- Herbert, N., 1996 *An Archaeological Evaluation of land adjacent to 15a Potters Close, Bourne Lincolnshire (BPC96)*, unpublished Archaeological Project Services Report no. 43/96
- Dymond, M., 1992, *Archaeological Evaluation at Eastgate, Bourne, Lincolnshire*
- Kerr, N. A., 1975 *A Medieval and post-medieval Pottery Industry: Excavations at Bourne, Lincolnshire*
- Healey, R.H., 1969 'Bourne Ware' in J.B. Whitwell and C.M. Wilson, *Archaeological notes for 1968, Lincolnshire History and Archaeology* 4, 108-9.

## The Animal Bone, By Paul Cope-Faulkner

A total of 22 bones were retrieved during evaluation at Spalding Road, Bourne. The bone was in good condition with most of the assemblage identifiable to species. No butchery marks or evidence of gnawing (by rodents or dogs *etc*) was apparent. Sheep were the most dominant species (by number) followed by Cattle. A single horse tooth and a single bird bone (possibly duck or goose) were also recovered. A full catalogue appears as Table 1. The assemblage, at present, is considered too small for further analysis.

Table 1: Catalogue of the bones from Spalding Road, Bourne

Context	Species/bone type
Area B+	Sheep sized vertebrae
Area C+	Sheep humerus
	Sheep tibia
	Sheep sized limb bone
Area D+	Cattle sized vertebrae
	Unidentified bird leg bone (possibly duck or goose)
003	Cattle sized, unidentified fragment
010	Sheep tibia
012	Cattle tooth
016	Cattle tooth
	Horse tooth
	Cattle sized, unidentified fragment
	Sheep sized, 5 unidentified fragments
	Sheep tooth
019	Sheep sized, 2 unidentified fragments
	Cattle sized, unidentified fragment
	Cattle, mandible fragment

## Appendix 5

### Documentary Evidence For The Bourne Pottery Industry By E.H. Rudkin (Kerr 1973)

1. Inventory of Robert Barton, Bourne, potter. 15th September 1555.  
Praysed by Roger Kelynbere, Byrsse Manby, Stevyn Parker, Willm Sharpe.  
He had a hall and a parlour...  
  
Itm. all ymplements belonging to the workhouse Xs.  
Itm. all the turves and wood Xs.
2. Stephen Parker of Bourne, potter 1615-1616.
3. Wm. Astin of Bourne, potter 1699.
4. On the 25th of May, 1637, a fearful fire raged in Eagate

\* Footnote: This fire (4) destroyed the greater part of Potter Street and did much damage to East Street (or Eagate). The cause...happened through carelessness at the Potteries, which were destroyed with the street, and never after rebuilt.

## Appendix 6

### The Archive

The archive consists of:

32	Context records
13	Sheets of scale drawings
48	Colour Slide Photographs
1	Stratigraphic Matrix
4	Box of finds*

\* note: not all pottery processed or recommended for archiving

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: SRB97  
City and County Museum, Lincoln Accession Number: 305.97

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 proposed development site but away from those 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.

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 document by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

## Appendix 7

### Glossary of Terms

<b>Anglo-Saxon</b>	The period following the end of Roman rule within Britain. Characterised by the migration of Germanic peoples and dating between AD 410-1066.
<b>Buried Soil</b>	A soil that has developed and been subsequently sealed, usually by alluvial deposition or dumping.
<b>Context</b>	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
<b>Cut</b>	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
<b>Dumped deposits</b>	These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground surface.
<b>Fill</b>	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
<b>Layer</b>	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Natural</b>	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
<b>Post-medieval</b>	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
<b>Romano-British</b>	Pertaining to the period from AD 43-410 when Britain formed part of the Roman Empire.