

98/10

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION
LAND ADJACENT TO 5 SOUTHFIELD PLACE, HORNCastle,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

Site Code: SPH98
LCNCC Acc No. 140.98
NGR TF 2600 6905
Planning Ref. S/086/0183/98

43747 - Roman
43748 - Prehistoric

Ev: LI902.

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Report prepared for Robert Bell & Company
by James Albone BSc, PIFA.
June 1998

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Contents

Summary	1
1.0 Introduction	2
2.0 Location and Description	2
3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background	2
4.0 Methodology	3
5.0 Results	4
5.1 Trench 1	4
6.0 Discussion and Conclusion	5
7.0 Acknowledgements	5
8.0 Appendices	
8.1 Report on the Roman Pottery by M Darling	
8.2 Animal Bone Archive by J Rackham	
8.3 Catalogue of Non-Ceramic Finds by J Cowgill	
8.4 References	
8.5 List of Contexts	
8.6 Map showing Finds from the Unwalled Settlement	
8.7 Colour Photographs	

Illustrations

Fig. 1 1:25,000 site location

Fig. 2 Plan of Southfield Place showing the location of Trench 1 (1:1000)

Fig. 3 Section and Plan of Trench 1 (1:50)

Summary

- * An archaeological field evaluation was undertaken on land to the north of Southfield Place, Horncastle, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).
- * A single trench was excavated to establish the archaeological potential of the site.
- * Remains of a yard / road surface and a possible terrace sealed by a fourth century dump deposit were revealed.
- * A fragment of a Roman jet bracelet, and a large quantity of pottery and animal bone were recovered from the dumped deposit.
- * Three residual worked flints, including a scraper, were incorporated into the Roman yard / road surface.

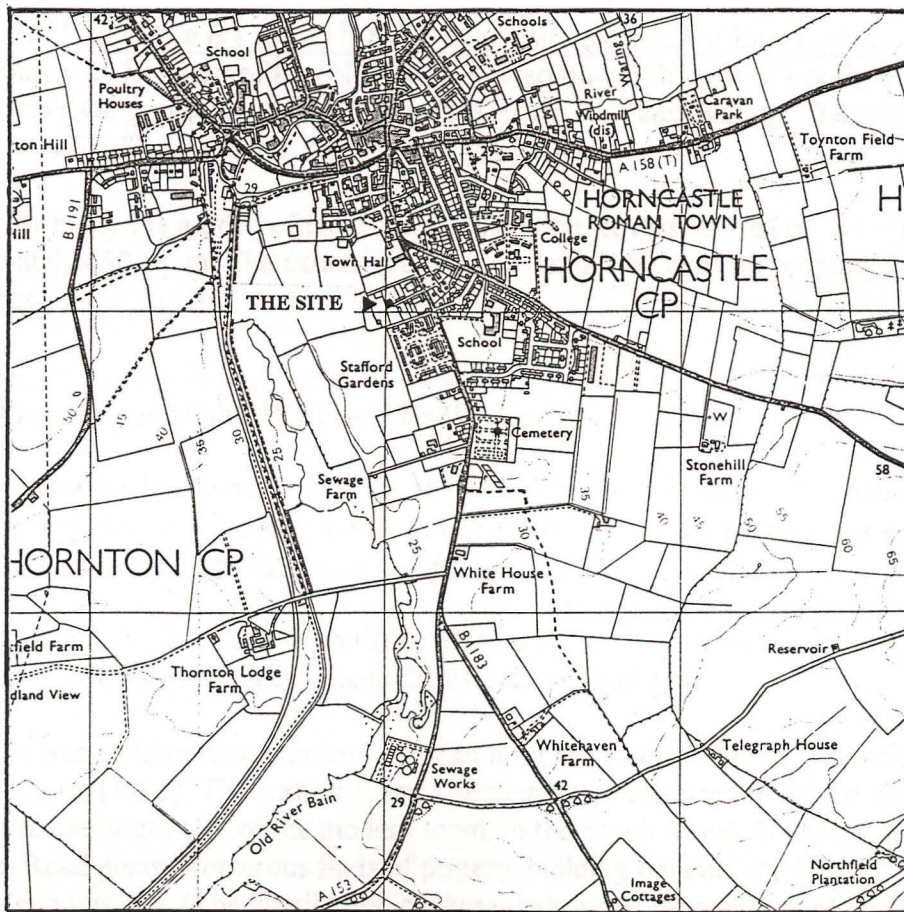


Fig. 1: Site location (1:25,000)
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1.0 Introduction

A one day archaeological trial excavation was carried out on a site to the north of Southfield Place, Horncastle, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1.). The work was commissioned by Robert Bell and Company on behalf of their client.

The results of this report will assist the local planning authority to assess the archaeological significance of the site, the potential impacts which may be imposed by development and the requirement / non-requirement for further archaeological investigation in advance of or during development.

A copy of this report will be deposited at the County SMR, and a short text will be submitted to the editor of the county journal, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*, effectively placing the information in the public domain. Reports will be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, accompanied with an ordered project archive.

2.0 Location and Description

The town of Horncastle is situated in the administrative district of East Lindsey, approximately 28 km. east of Lincoln and 19 km. south-south-west of Louth. The town lies on river gravels at the junction of the rivers Bain and Waring. The site is centred on NGR TF 2600 6905 and lies at c.30 m. OD.

The site, formerly the garden of No.5 Southfield Place, covers an area of approximately 650 sq. m. The extent of the site is defined by existing property boundaries.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The earliest finds which have been made at Horncastle are prehistoric. These include Mesolithic and Neolithic worked flints from 27 High Street and a perforated basalt axe-hammer of Bronze age date from the Wong.

Iron Age pottery has been found on the south side of the town. This includes a possible late Iron Age settlement site in the Mareham Road area.

Horncastle was an important Roman town and has been discussed in some detail by Field and Hurst (1983). The earliest Roman settlement commenced in the 1st and 2nd centuries on the south side of the modern town, in the South Street, Boston Road and Mareham Road areas. Numerous finds of pottery, building remains and burials have been made in this area (The distribution of these is shown in Appendix 8.6). Settlement in this part of the town continued throughout the Roman period.

At some point after the late 3rd century a sub-rectangular walled enclosure was constructed between the rivers Bain and Waring around what is now the Market Place area of the town. Sections of the wall are still standing and others have been

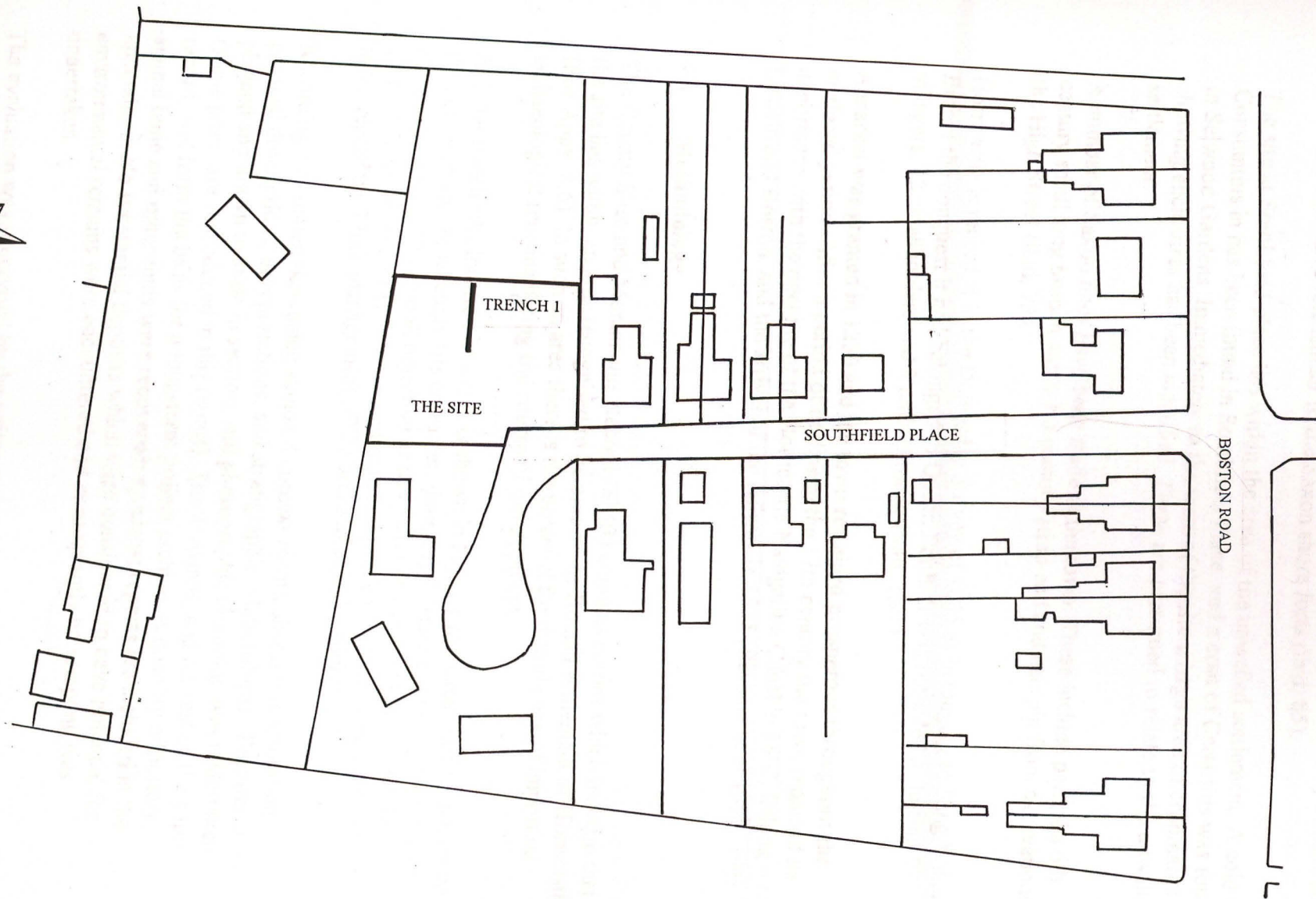


Fig. 2: Plan of Southfield Place showing the location of Trench 1. (Scale 1:1000)

excavated. This enclosure has been interpreted as having been a military construction serving a defensive role similar to the Saxon shore forts (ibid, 85).

The site at Southfield place lies within the area of the unwalled settlement. A coin of Constantius in has been found in Southfield Place, and a coin of Carausius was found in Selwood Gardens. Immediately to the west of the site a large area of cropmarks showing enclosures has been identified. These are presumed to relate to the unwalled settlement.

A number of Saxon finds have been made in the town. These include part of a 6th century small long brooch and a 9th century strap end and hair pin from excavations in the High Street (ibid, 73).

Horncastle is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as belonging to King William. Before the conquest it had belonged to Queen Edith. It was recorded as having 29 villagers, 12 smallholders and 2 mills (Morris 1986, 1;91).

A market was granted in 1230 and the town remained prosperous throughout the medieval period. After a period of decline in the 17th century the town regained its importance with the opening of the Horncastle Navigation Canal in 1802, linking it to Lincoln and Boston, and the arrival of the railway in 1855 (Pevsner et al 1995, 394).

4.0 Methodology

The County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) contains entries which indicate that the site lies within an area recognised to be part of the Roman settlement of Horncastle (See Appx. 8.6). In such an area there is the potential for disturbance of important archaeological remains during the course of development.

A single trench (the location of which is shown in Fig. 2.) was excavated to determine the nature of the archaeology (its character, date, depth, state of preservation, extent and significance). The overall objective of this phase of work was to present the District Planning Authority with a set of data from which reasoned decisions may be taken regarding future management of the archaeological resource.

Recording was undertaken using standard context record sheets (incorporating physical descriptions, interpretations, and stratigraphic relationships). Features were planned and drawn to scale in section, and photographic recording was undertaken (some prints are reproduced in this report). The drawings, and the rest of the paper record, will form the basis for a long-term project archive. A quantity of pottery, animal bone and other finds were recovered; specialist reports are included in the appendices. No substantial deposits which were considered to have potential for environmental remains were encountered and consequently no sampling was undertaken.

The evaluation was supervised by the writer assisted by two experienced field archaeologists.

5.0 Results

5.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 3.)

The trench was orientated north-north west to south-south-east on the north side of the plot. It measured 12.0 m. by 1.4 m. and was excavated to a depth of c.1.2 m.

The area of the trench was covered by a surprisingly thick deposit (up to 0.7 m.) of dark brown sandy loam topsoil (100). Two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from this layer. Significantly, the topsoil did not contain any material of Roman date. This would suggest that the underlying (Roman) deposits had remained undisturbed since their deposition.

Beneath the topsoil was a deposit of 'black' sandy loam (101) which extended over the whole of the trench. This deposit, which probably represented a levelled refuse dump, contained a large quantity of finds of Roman date.

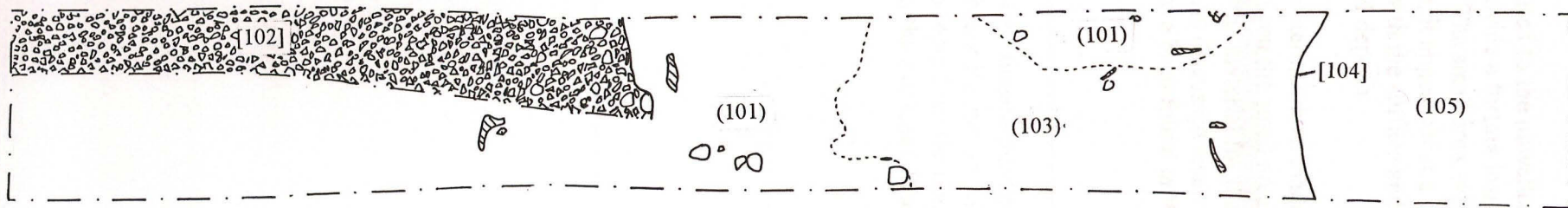
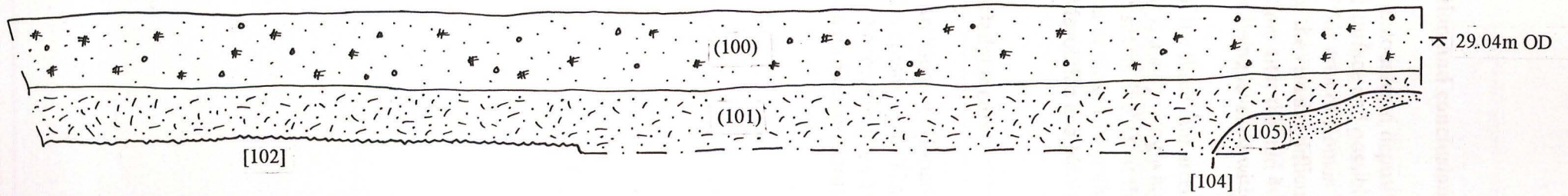
Pottery from this layer included domestic coarse wares, colour coated wares from the Nene Valley, mortaria and a single sherd of Central Gaulish Samian ware. The overall date for the assemblage spanned the late 2nd to 4th centuries (Darling, Appx. 8.1 this report). This wide date range was consistent with a dumped refuse deposit.



A significant quantity of animal bone, mainly from cattle, was also recovered from this deposit (Rackham, App. 8.2 this report). A fragment of a jet bracelet was also found in the dumped deposit.

Sealed beneath the possible dump deposit at the northern end of the trench was the remains of a yard or road surface [102]. This surface extended for 4.9 m. along the trench. It consisted of small to medium sized flint pieces which were fairly well consolidated. Although it was clearly part of a surface of some sort it was not sufficiently compacted to suggest a long period of use. Unfortunately, the small area excavated makes it impossible to put this feature into its broader context. No finds of Roman date were recovered from excavated area of the surface. However three worked flints, including a scraper, were found amongst the flints which made up the surface. Although clearly residual in this context they raised an interesting question regarding the source of the flint which made up the road.

At the southern end of the trench, and filled by (101), was a fairly steep sided slope which ran roughly east to west [104]. The nature of this cut was uncertain but it seemed likely that it formed part of a terrace stepping down from the south to the north. It was possible that this cut extended down and that there was a ditch or similar feature between the terrace and the road / yard surface, but this was not confirmed during the excavation.

Underlying the surface [102] and apparently within the cut [104] was a deposit of light grey silty sand (103). This layer may have been the primary deposit following the creation of the terrace, but the depth of excavation prevented this being confirmed. No finds were recovered from this layer.



-  - Bone
-  - Stone

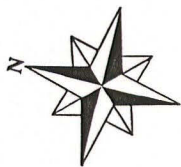


Fig. 3: Section and Plan of Trench 1. (Scale 1:50)

6.0 Discussion and conclusion

The evaluation encountered deposits which related to the unwalled Roman settlement. The yard / road surface and possible terrace provide a further insight into the archaeology of this area of Roman Horncastle. The small area excavated made the full interpretation of the remains difficult. However, it appears that a change of use occurred sometime after the mid 4th century, with the surface and terrace going out of use and the area being levelled with the dumped deposit.

The presence of the three flint artefacts in the material which made up the surface is interesting. This is a surprisingly high number given the small area of this surface that was exposed. It seems likely that the source of the material for the surface had been quarried from on or close to a prehistoric site. As discussed elsewhere in this report (Section 3.0) Mesolithic and Neolithic flints have been found in the area.

7.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) express their sincere thanks to Robert Bell and Company for this commission. Thanks also to Mark Bennet and Sarah Grundy (County SMR), Naomi Field (for permission to reproduce the map of finds and for extra information on Roman Horncastle) and to the site team; Wayne Livesey and Jim Snee.

8.0 Appendices:

Appendix 8.1

REPORT 31 ON THE POTTERY FROM SOUTHFIELD PLACE, HORNCastle, SPH98

for PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

by Margaret J. Darling, M.Phil., F.S.A., M.I.F.A.

10 June 1998

QUANTITY AND CONDITION

The pottery came from a single context, possibly a terrace dump, and amounted to 55 sherds, from a minimum of 38 vessels based on sherds identifiable for vessel type.

The sherds are generally fairly large, although some are quite abraded indicative of secondary deposition. Several sherds are burnt, almost certainly post-usage. No problems are anticipated for long term storage. The pottery has been archived according to the guidelines laid down for the minimum archive by *The Study Group for Roman Pottery*. In view of the single context and small quantity, sherd count alone has been recorded. A copy of the database is attached, and the computer file will be curated for future study.

The fabrics represented are shown on Table 1.

Table 1 Fabrics

Fabric	Code	Sherds	%
Samian Central Gaul	SAMCG	1	1.8
Mortaria Mancetter-Hartshill	MOMH	1	1.8
Mortaria Nene Valley?	MONV?	1	1.8
Nene Valley colour-coat	NVCC	2	3.6
Colour-coat	CC	1	1.8
Dressel 20 amphora?	DR20?	1	1.8
Oxidized	OX	4	7.3
Grey	GREY	32	58.2
Shell-gritted	SHEL	7	12.7
Dales Ware shell-gritted	DWSH	3	5.5
Tile	TILE	2	3.6
Total		55	99.9

DISCUSSION AND DATING

The group spans a period from the later 2nd century through to the mid, or more probably, late 4th century. The 2nd century date comes mainly from the single body sherd of samian, probably a Dr 31 of mid to late 2nd century date, while the hooked mortarium from the Mancetter-Hartshill potteries in Warwickshire is an unusual form, and could date from the late 2nd into the 3rd century. Some of the other vessels would fit into the 3rd century, and the 4th century is most obviously represented by the late Nene Valley colour-coated plain-rimmed dishes, and the shell-gritted jars, one a simple lid-seated jar, another a double lid-seated type. Both these jars are exceptionally large. The colour-coated beaker base is not certainly from the Nene Valley, but is a late form, probably of late 3rd to early 4th century date. The emphasis of the pottery is in the later Roman period, and the occurrence of a double lid-seated jar would suggest deposition at or after AD 350. The mixed dates and variable condition of

the pottery is consistent with rubbish having been collected for deposition as levelling or heightening.

The fabrics are all as would be expected for Horncastle. At least 12 vessels, including some unusual types, are suitable for illustration and have been assigned drawing numbers.

The two tile fragments are both probably from *tegulae* roofing tiles.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It would be worthwhile to have these vessels drawn (in pencil) for a reference record, and with a view to future use in any synthetic publication on Horncastle. Only a small quantity of pottery has been published from this important Roman site (Field & Hurst, 1984).

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Field, F.N. & Hurst, H., 1984 Roman Horncastle, *Lincs. History & Archaeol.*, 18, 47-88.

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Cxt	Fab	Fm	Dec	Ves	D?	DNo	Comments	Link	Shs	Wt
101	SAMCG	31?					BS		1	
101	NVCC	DPR					RIM;ABR;PINKISH FAB		1	
101	NVCC	DPR			D?	12	RIM NR COMP PROF		1	
101	CC	BK					BASE LTRB FAB/CC;AS LATE TYPE RPNV57;59-60		1	
101	DR20?	A?					FLAKED BS;GREY>LTBN CORT;CRBN SURF;NOT CERTAIN		1	
101	OX	B			D	1	RIM/WALL W FL;D13;NR COMP PROF;ABR;BURNT		1	
101	OX	B?					BASE MOULDED THICK;ABR;BURNT;SKETCH		1	
101	OX	CLSD?				2	BSS		2	
101	GREY	J?			D?	2	HEAVY RIM;D17;SKETCH		1	
101	GREY	JCR			D	3	RIM GROOVED;D11		1	
101	GREY	BTR	N		D	4	COMP PROF;D16		1	
101	GREY	BFB			D	5	RIM/PT WALL;SMALL D12.5		1	
101	GREY	DFL		1?	D	6	COMP PROF;PROB BASE SH;D20		2	
101	GREY	B					BASE/WALL		1	
101	GREY	D?					BASE FRAG		1	
101	GREY	BDRR?					RIM FRAG ONLY		1	
101	GREY	BWM					RIM SIMPLE CURVE;NOT DEF RL TYPE		1	
101	GREY	BWM?					NECK FRAG		1	
101	GREY	F?					4R HDLE FRAG		1	
101	GREY	J					SHLDR HARSHER FAB		1	
101	GREY	BWM?	BWL				BS;BWL BELOW 2 GROOVES		1	
101	GREY	J?	BDL				BS BDL W OCCAS CROSS STROKE		1	
101	GREY	JL				2	BASES THICK WALL LGE VESS;1 STRING		2	
101	GREY	JB					BASE THICK WALL		1	
101	GREY	BWM?					BASE		1	
101	GREY	J					BASE		1	
101	GREY						BSS		10	
101	GREY?					2	THICKISH BSS RB & CRBN EXT;COARSER		2	
101	SHEL	D			D	7	RIM/WALL;SPARSE SHELL;D15		1	
101	SHEL	D?					BASE FRAG;POSS X ABOVE RIM DWG7		1	
101	DWSH	JDW					RIM FRAG		1	
101	DWSH	JDW					RIM FRAG;LGER JAR		1	
101	SHEL	JCUR			D?	8	RIM >SHLDR;SKETCH		1	
101	SHEL	JDLS			D	9	RIM>SHLDR;LGE D26		1	
101	SHEL	JLS			1 D	10	RIM/NECK;LGE D33		2	
101	SHEL						BS;WHEEL THROWN		1	
101	DWSH	J					BS		1	
101	MONV?	M					BASE;ABR;SLAG TG		1	
101	MOMH	MHK			D	11	RIM/PT WALL;D36;STRONG HK;L2E3?		1	
101	TILE						FRAGS PROB TEGULAE		2	
101	ZDATE						ML4		55	
101	ZZZ						SOME ABRASION;LGEISH SHS;ED L2;?38 MIN VESS			

Appendix 8.2

Southfield Place, Horncastle SPH98
Animal Bone Archive by J. Rackham

site	cont	species	bone	no.	side	fusion	zone	butchly	gnaw'g	toothwear	measurement	comment	preservation
SPH98	101	BOS	MAN	1	R		1234567 8			J14K12	15a-63.3 LM3-34.2	COMPLETE-2 PIECES	5
SPH98	101	BOS	MAN	1	L		12378			GH12I16J15K14	15a-60.8 LM3-35.3	POST PART HORI RAMUS WITH MOST TOOTH ROW- 2 PIECES	5
SPH98	101	BOS	MAN	1	L					h15I14J11		FRAG HORI RAMUS-WITH PMS AND MS	5
SPH98	101	BOS	MAN	1	L							ANT RAMUS WITH PREMOLAR ALVEOLI- PERMANENT PMS BROKEN OFF	5
SPH98	101	BOS	LI	1	R							COMPLETE-WELL WORN	5
SPH98	101	BOS	MAN	1	L		5					PART OF CORONOID	5
SPH98	101	BOS	TIB	1	L	DF	4567				SD-34 Bd-55	DISTAL END AND SHAFT	5
SPH98	101	BOS	MTT	1	R		12		DG			PROX END AND SHAFT-BOTH ENDS CHEWED	5
SPH98	101	BOS	MTC	1	R		12					PROX END	5
SPH98	101	BOS	MTC	1	L		12					PROX HALF	5
SPH98	101	BOS	HUM	1	R	DF	67890				BT-73.5 HT-45	DISTAL HALF	5
SPH98	101	BOS	HUM	1	R	DF	78	CH				DISTAL CONDYLE-CONDYLE CHOPPED	5
SPH98	101	BOS	TIB	1	L	PC	123					PROXIMAL END	4
SPH98	101	BOS	MTT	1	R	DF	345				Bd-58.2	DISTAL END	4
SPH98	101	BOS	PH1	1	L	PF	12					COMPLETE	4
SPH98	101	BOS	ATL	1	F							VENTRAL FRAGMENT	4
SPH98	101	BOS	FEM	1	R	DN	4					DISTAL SHAFT-EPI LOST	4
SPH98	101	BOS	TIB	1	L	PF	34				SD-32.4	FRAG PROX END AND MOST OF SHAFT	4
SPH98	101	BOS	MTC	1	L	DF	345				Bd-54.7 Dd-29.8	DISTAL END	5
SPH98	101	CSZ	RIB	5	F							SHAFT FRAG	5
SPH98	101	CSZ	RIB	4	F			CH				SHAFT FRAG	5
SPH98	101	CSZ	TRV	1	F		5					BASE OF SPINE	5
SPH98	101	BOS	FEM	1	F	PF	1					CAPUT	5
SPH98	101	EQU	FEM	1	L	PF	1					HEAD	5
SPH98	101	BOS	FEM	1	R		3					3RD TROCHANTER	5
SPH98	101	BOS	RAD	1	R		3					PROX SHAFT-SMALL-CALF	4
SPH98	101	EQU	MTC	1	R		1					PROX ENAD AND HALF SHAFT	5
SPH98	101	EQU	LPM2	1	W							V SLIGHT WEAR	5
SPH98	101	OVCA	MTT	1	R				DG			SHAFT-DISTAL END CHEWED	4
SPH98	101	OVCA	FEM	1	L		4					DISTAL THIRD OF SHAFT	5

site	cont.	species	bone	no.	side	fusion	zone	butch'y	gnaw'g	toothwear	measurement	comment	preservation
SPH98	101	OVCA	MAN	1	L					I12J9		POST FRAG HORI RAMUS-M3 LOST BUT PROB SHOWING	5
SPH98	101	SUS	MAX	1	R					I9J9		MAX FRAG-ABCESS IN OCCUSAL SURFACE OF M2	5
SPH98	101	BOS	SCP	1	L	DF	1245	CH			GLP-56.6 LG-49.8 BG-42.2	DISTAL END AND BLADE- 2 PIECES-DISTAL SPINE CHOPPED	5
SPH98	101	BOS	SCP	1	R	DF	1235	CH			GLP-63.6 LG-51.6	DISTAL END AND DISTAL BLADE-CHOPPED BELOW SPINE- 2 PIECES	5
SPH98	101	BOS	SCP	1	L							PROX BLADE FRAGMENT	5
SPH98	101	BOS	SCP	1	L	DF	123	CH			GLP-69.4 LG-58.7	GLENOID AND NECK-BASE SPINE CHOPPED	5
SPH98	101	BOS	SCP	1	R		3					DISTAL BLADE-CAUDAL MARGIN- 2 PIECES	5
SPH98	101	BOS	SCP	1	L	DF	12				GLP-58.5 LG-48.6 BG-42	GLENOID AND PART NECK	5
SPH98	101	BOS	SCP	1	L							FRAG CRANIAL MARGIN OF BLADE	4
SPH98	101	BOS	SCP	1	F							FRAG BLADE WITH BASE SPINE	5

Appendix 8.3

THE CATALOGUE OF THE NON-CERAMIC FINDS FROM SOUTH FIELD PLACE, HORNCastle (SPH98)

Context 101: Iron slag. Weight 72g. A small plano-convex hearth bottom generated during iron smithing (length :60mm; width: 38mm; height: 30mm). Hearth lining or tuyere remains survive on the back indicating where it was attached to the hearth. The air draught, probably generated by a pair of bellows, formed the shallow depression on the upper surface. The fuel used by the smith, from the evidence from this single piece of slag, was charcoal which is standard during the Romano-British period.

Context 101: Jet Bracelet. Internal diameter 70mm. A simple and plain bracelet with a smoothed and polished outer edge but the lathe marks produced during its manufacture are clearly visible on the inside. The bracelet has a simple rounded profile on the outside with indentations on the inner surface indicating how it was removed from the core. Finds of jet are fairly common on Romano-British urban sites and therefore its presence at Horncastle is not surprising.

The jet is beginning to split and this damage may increase if the object is not kept in a cool environment.

Jane Cowgill©

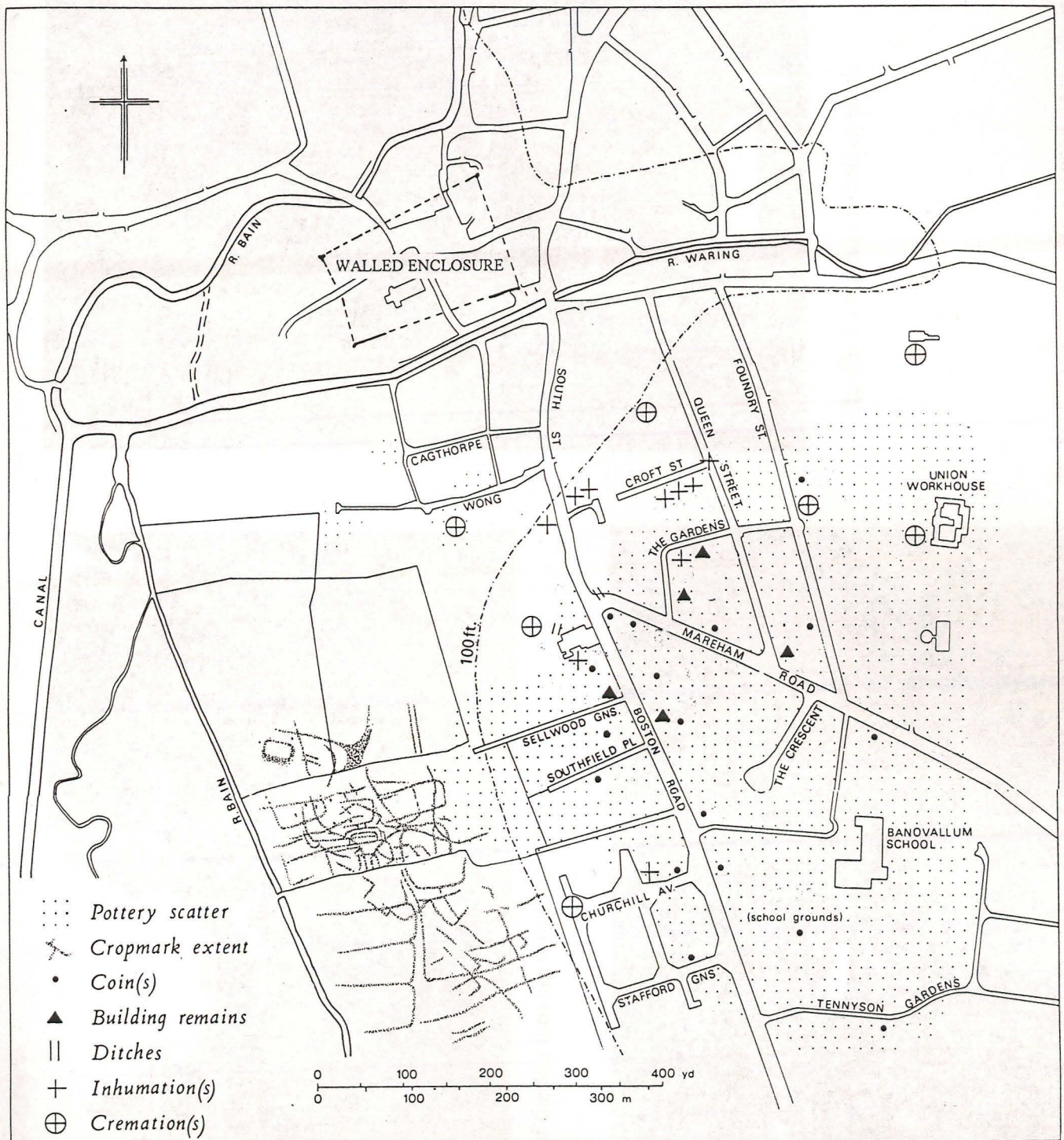
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& Antram, N.

Appendix 8.5 List of Contexts

- | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|
| 100 | Sandy loam topsoil |
| 101 | Sandy loam dump deposit (Roman) |
| 102 | Flint yard / road surface |
| 103 | Silty sand layer |
| 104 | Cut of possible terrace |
| 105 | Natural sand |

Appendix 8.6 Map Showing Finds from the Unwalled Roman Settlement



(Field and Hurst 1983, with additions).

Appendix 8.7 Colour Photographs



▲ Pl. 1 General view of the site looking south-east.



◀ Pl. 2 Road / yard surface [102] looking south-east.



▲ Pl. 3 Trench one looking north.