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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
OF LAND AT
HANBECK FARM,
WILSFORD
LINCOLNSHIRE
(WBL98)**

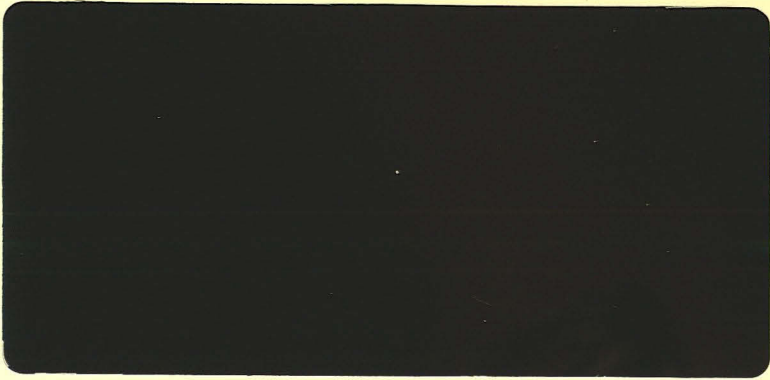


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Archaeology Section

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
OF LAND AT
HANBECK FARM,
WILSFORD
LINCOLNSHIRE
(WBL98)**

Work Undertaken For
Mr William Spicer

September 1998

Report Compiled by
Ian Miller

Planning Application No: N/74/113/98
National Grid Reference: TF 0030 4317
City and County Museum Accession No:113.98

A.P.S. Report No. 54/98

*Archaeological Project Services is an IFA Registered
Archaeological Organisation (No. 21)*

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1. SUMMARY

An evaluation was undertaken to determine the archaeological implications of the proposed construction of an agricultural reservoir at Hanbeck Farm, Back Lane, Wilsford, Lincolnshire.

Archaeological remains dating from the Mesolithic (8,000-4,000 BC), Neolithic (4000-700 BC), Iron Age (700BC-43 AD) and Romano-British (43 AD-410 AD) periods have been recovered in the area. In particular, the site is located adjacent to the deserted medieval village of Hanbeck.

An auger survey undertaken to investigate a possible mill pond revealed the feature to be of natural origin and probably related to an ancient meander of the nearby stream. An undated peat deposit recovered from one of the auger samples indicates the potential for surviving waterlogged environmental remains. The peats were sealed by a sequence of natural silts and clays and two upper fills which contained late Saxon pottery and processed charred grain. Several stone boundary walls and/or causeways of probable medieval date were recorded in two of the trenches.

The medieval features were overlain by a layer of topsoil containing post-medieval and modern artefacts. These were probably deposited as refuse material from nearby occupation, or in dumping for land reclamation.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of Archaeological Evaluation

Archaeological evaluation is defined 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 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr W. Spicer to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to Back Lane, Wilsford, Lincolnshire. The work was undertaken in order to determine the archaeological implications of proposed reservoir construction at the site, as detailed in planning application N/74/113/98. The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief set by the Heritage Officer, North Kesteven District Council (Appendix 1).

2.3 Topography and Geology

Wilsford is located 7km southwest of Sleaford and 11km northeast of Grantham in North Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located at Hanbeck Farm, c. 400m northwest of the village centre as defined by St. Mary's Church (Fig. 2). Situated at a height of c. 28m OD on land bounded by The Beck to the south (National Grid Reference TF 0030 4317), the site covers an area approximately 110m by 35m on a gentle slope down southward to the stream.

Local soils are of the Kirkby Series, typically gleyic brown sand (George and Robson 1978, 89). Beneath the soils is a drift geology of river sand and gravel which overlies a solid geology of Jurassic Lincolnshire Limestone (GSGB 1972).

2.4 Archaeological Background

Wilsford is located in an area containing archaeological remains dating from the Mesolithic period onwards. Flint tools of the Mesolithic period are known from the village and a polished flint axe of Neolithic date was recovered from 100m south of the site. Bronze Age remains are represented by a single cord impressed pottery vessel found 700m east of the village. An Iron Age bucket urn, commonly used for burial practices, was also found adjacent to the site.

Romano-British artefacts discovered in the vicinity include pottery and a coin of Allectus (AD 286-296) recovered c. 300m to the north of the site. Further pottery and a coin of Constantine II (AD 324-337) were found 300m to the northwest.

Parts of the nave of St. Mary's church in Wilsford have been dated to the late Saxon period (Taylor and Taylor 1980, 664). Although these are the only Saxon remains identified in the area, Wilsford is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. Referred to as *Wivelesford*, the name is derived from Old English and means 'Wifel's ford' (Ekwall 1974, 521). The Survey records that Wilsford comprised two manors owned principally by Godfrey of Cambrai and Robert Malet. A mill, church, 60 acres of meadow and 20 acres of underwood are also mentioned (Foster and Longley 1976). It is also recorded that Bishop Remigius bought the manor for the church of St. Mary of Lincoln (*ibid.*).

The site lies adjacent to the deserted village of Hanbeck. This village or hamlet was not recorded in the Domesday Survey and is first mentioned in the Close Rolls of 1242 where it is referred to as *Handebek*, derived from the Old Norse 'Handi's beck' (Ekwall 1974, 216). Aerial photographs depict Hanbeck as a series of regular rectangular earthworks

fronting Back Lane. A track limits the southern part of the former village, although further rectangular enclosures are visible within the specified area of development. Although depicted on figure 23, the earthworks of the deserted village of Hanbeck are now almost completely ploughed out.

Wilsford was also the location of a small priory founded by Hugh Wake for Benedictine monks between 1135 and 1154 (Page 1906, 240). The original endowment comprised the manor of Wilsford and was never a particularly wealthy priory, often supporting fewer than five monks and a prior. The site of the monastery has not been located, although 12th century masonry was recorded as being set into a cottage in the village (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 801).

There are several references to quarrying at Wilsford during the medieval period. In 1482, worked stone from the Wilsford quarry was delivered to Tattershall Castle as part of a rebuilding programme. Between 1501 and 1515, the extensive rebuilding works on Louth church utilised stone quarried from Wilsford.

3. AIMS

The aims of the archaeological evaluation, as outlined in the brief (Appendix 1), were to locate archaeological deposits and, if present, to determine their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability, documentation, quality of setting and amenity value. The purpose of this identification and assessment was to establish their significance, in order to facilitate recommendations for an appropriate strategy that could be integrated with the proposed reservoir construction.

4. METHODS

A mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, was used to open four trenches. The first three trenches were positioned to gain as wide a sample as possible across the investigation area. These trenches each measured approximately 1.5m x 10m (Fig. 3). The fourth trench, located roughly at a right angle to Trench 2, was excavated for a length of approximately 5m to further investigate deposits revealed in Trench 2. Supervised machine excavation was continued to the surface of undisturbed archaeological deposits, which were cleaned and excavated by hand.

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

A vertical sequence of soil samples was taken from Trench 2 for palaeoenvironmental analysis. Additionally, auger profiles were recorded at three points (A, B and C - Fig. 3), positioned on raised ground on the eastern side of the site and continued westwards across a boggy depression in the investigation area. It was thought that the hollow might represent the remains of a disused mill pond. The auger survey was also undertaken to determine if natural strata, as identified in the trenches, overlay earlier archaeological layers, and to define the nature of any earlier deposits.

Finds recovered from the deposits identified in the evaluation were washed, marked and subjected to specialist analysis. A date was

assigned where possible. Records of the deposits and features recognised during the evaluation were also examined. A list of all contexts and interpretations appear as Appendix 3. 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 and forms part of the site archive.

5. RESULTS

Following the incorporation of specialist reports with the post-excavation analyses three phases were identified:

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Late Saxon and Medieval deposits
Phase 3	Recent deposits

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. Numbers in parentheses are the context numbers assigned in the field, thus (002).

5.1 Phase 1 Natural deposits

The lowest levels encountered during the evaluation were reached using an auger. Three auger samples were taken across the area to investigate a possible mill pond and to identify underlying deposits.

A 1.2m deep column sample was recorded from Auger Hole A, located in the centre of the boggy depression situated to the south of Trench 2 (Fig. 3) At this depth a grey silty sand (034) was revealed (Fig. 6 - Section 4), probably of glacio-fluvial origin and deposited shortly after the last glaciation. This was overlain by a 0.55m thick sequence of slightly fibrous humified peat (024, 025, 026). Humification of peat suggests a phase of dessication.

Sealing the humified peat, a 0.53m thick sequence of silty clay deposits (022 and 023) was recorded. These displayed mottling, a direct result of the drying out of waterlogged conditions and contained frequent freshwater snails.

The uppermost horizon of the auger sample, a very mixed organic dark grey silty clay (021), contained snails including ramshorn types, indicative of marsh conditions. Similarly, the presence of *planorbidae* snails identified at the interface of topsoil and subsoil horizons elsewhere on the site are indicative of standing water conditions. Processing of palaeoenvironmental samples retrieved from these same upper layers of the depression in Trench 2 recovered charred cereals and late Saxon pottery, demonstrating that although naturally formed, these sediments incorporate archaeological material. For this reason these deposits are more fully described in Phase 2.

Two auger profiles (B and C) were recorded east of the depression. Both revealed grey sand (033, 030) at a depth of between 0.6m and 0.75m below the ground surface, with overlying clay deposit (032) and a dump of silty sand (028). These deposits also contained freshwater snail shells. Neither revealed the presence of peat.

Analysis of auger samples has determined that the depression located to the south of Trench 2 is probably a natural feature. Natural deposits were also recorded in the bases of Trenches 3 and 4.

Deposit (017) was revealed in Trench 1 (Fig. 4) at a height of 27.85m OD, approximately 0.40m below the present ground surface. This comprised loosely compacted silty-sand and gravels and varied in colour from mid orange to mottled mid brown. Containing angular limestone fragments of variable

dimensions, and exhibiting some manganese staining, this deposit is of glacio-fluvial origin.

5.2 Phase 2 Late Saxon and Medieval deposits

The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 2 was a soft mid grey silt containing snail shells and fine intrusive modern roots (020) recorded within a 0.35m wide and 0.40m deep sondage excavated near east end of the trench (Fig. 5). Within the sections of the sondage, (020) appeared as a 0.24m thick deposit overlain by (018), a 0.20m thick, soft, dark grey very fine silt which lensed out 1.5m from the west end of the trench (Fig 5 - Section 2).

It is likely that deposits (020) and (018) are the tertiary fills of the natural depression noted on the surface of the field south of Trench 2 and are equivalent to the upper sediments recorded in auger sample A. Processing of the environmental samples recovered from deposits (018) and (020) revealed charred processed grain, snail shells typical of marshy conditions, amphibian bone and fragments of late Saxon pottery. The archaeological material probably originates from the nearby settlement as refuse dumped into a marshy area away from the inhabited area.

A soft, mid grey silty sand (011) with occasional chunks of limestone sealed deposit (018) and formed a continuous layer throughout the length of the trench. The limestone inclusions within this layer preclude a fluvial origin, and it is possible that this deposit represents the backfilling of the natural hollow to the south of Trench 2. This may have been undertaken to improve the land for agriculture or to improve access to the stream to the south.

Overlying natural deposit (017) in Trench 1 were two stone spreads, (015) and (016), composed of large and medium sized angular fragments of limestone (Fig. 4 and Fig. 3). Stone spread (015) was 1.00m-1.3m wide and extended north to south over a distance of approximately 1.5m, although the edges were not well defined. Moreover, the precise base of this deposit was difficult to define due to its similarity with the underlying sands and gravels (017). This stone spread was interpreted as remains of a possible boundary wall.

Stone spread (016) was parallel and approximately 1m to the east of (015). Although similar in composition to (015), this stone spread displayed irregular edges and contained frequent small sub-rounded limestone fragments, giving the appearance of a surface capping. Additionally, (016) had slightly better defined edges, and was wider, at 2.4m, than (015). However, no bonding material or coursing was visible. This feature may have been a causeway across a boggy area or former course of the stream, with the small stone capping used to present a more even surface for passage. A single sherd of patinated vessel glass was retrieved from (015), and two fragments of animal bone from (016).

A mid brown silty clay deposit (004) comprising flood alluvium, was recorded overlying natural deposit (017). A third alignment of stones (003) was recorded within (004). Composed of sub-angular limestone fragments, this feature was aligned approximately east to west along the trench for a distance of 2.20m, and interpreted as a possible former boundary wall.

At the northern end of Trench 2 a north-south alignment of stones (012), set in a very fine sandy silt matrix (013) was recorded (Fig 5). The stones were set into deposit (011) and displayed better defined edges

than (015) and (016) in Trench 1. This spread of stones appears to have been deliberately dumped to heighten the ground level, possibly to create a causeway across the waterlogged land or to act as a boundary marker. Pottery of medieval date was recovered from this deposit.

Trenches 3 and 4 were excavated in an unsuccessful attempt to reveal a southerly continuation of (012), suggesting that the southernmost edge of this alignment of stones was located between the two trenches. No archaeological remains were recorded in Trenches 3 and 4.

5.3 Phase 3 Recent Deposits

Traces of plough marks were identified in Trench 2 cutting the top of the natural subsoil adjacent to stone feature (012). Similar marks were also seen cutting the top of the natural clay (009) in Trench 3. Although no artefacts associated with this ploughing activity were recovered, it is probable that the ploughmarks date to the modern period.

A layer of mid to very dark brown sandy silt topsoil (002, 007 and 010, Trenches 1, 2 and 3) was recorded lying above Phase 2 deposits. This contained fragments of limestone and sandstone, probably the result of recent land raising activity. In Trench 1, the topsoil (002) was sealed by a 0.34m thick layer of orange sand (001) dumped by the present landowner to raise the level of the land and alleviate the problems of waterlogging.

6. DISCUSSION

Deposits of natural sands and gravels, together with clay and silty sand (Phase 1) were the earliest recorded during the evaluation. The sands and gravels probably

represent fluvial deposition during the period immediately following the last glaciation. Similarly, the lens of grey silty sand identified near the base of the auger sample taken from the middle of the boggy depression, is consistent with a period of flooding and associated deposition of silt.

If dated, the peats located during the auger survey have potential to elucidate local changes in the environment through time. However, it would be difficult to relate these deposits to local archaeological remains.

Several deposits and features of apparent late Saxon or medieval date (Phase 2) were cut into, or constructed on top of natural deposits. A spread of stones located toward the west end of Trench 2 contained artefacts of medieval date and perhaps represents the remains of a boundary or a causeway associated with The Beck. The discovery of causeways would not be surprising considering the marshy conditions which are likely to have prevailed throughout the late Saxon and medieval periods. It is possible that deposit (011) represents an attempt to infill a marshy hollow to make the area more passable or workable. When mapped, the various stone spreads recorded in Trenches 1 and 2 appear to display a common north-south, west-east alignment. This arrangement fits well with the rectilinear earthworks to the north of the proposed development, thought to represent the remains of the deserted medieval settlement of Hanbeck. This supports the interpretations of these stone spreads and alignments as medieval causeways or field walls related to the adjacent settlement.

If the late Saxon pottery within (020) and (018) derive from the nearby settlement of Hanbeck, this suggests an earlier date for this village than known from documentary sources. The recovery from the environmental samples of processed grain

indicates, perhaps not surprisingly, that cereal cropping played a role in the economy of the settlement. The millstone/quernstone retrieved from (018) suggests that the grain was processed at the site.

Stone spreads recorded on the east side of the site within Trench 1 may also represent the footings or foundation of a boundary wall and adjacent causeway. The orientation of the causeway would suggest that it linked the area of known medieval occupation to the north of the Beck. The presence of boundary walls may be associated with field division and agricultural activity. Finds recovered from these features were restricted to a single sherd of glass and some animal bones, probably of medieval date.

A further possible boundary wall foundation was revealed in close proximity to these features, but on a different alignment. Although no artefacts were recovered from this feature, it is likely to be of a later date. This would suggest a continuity of occupation in the area.

Recent activity (Phase 3) in the area of investigation was represented by a deposit of sand, laid by the present landowner as a measure against waterlogging. The plough marks identified cutting the natural subsoil in Trenches 2 and 3 are also related to recent ploughing on the site.

7. EFFECTIVENESS OF TECHNIQUES

The techniques employed during the archaeological evaluation on land at Hanbeck Farm, Wilsford, were successful and have allowed the achievement of the aims set at Appendix 1.

Machine excavation of the topsoil and subsequent manual excavation of underlying

features and deposits, successfully identified several features of medieval date. Dateable artefacts were retrieved from some of these features. The auger samples taken across the site have given an insight into the palaeoecology of the area.

8. 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

Archaeological deposits and features dating from the late Saxon and medieval periods has been recorded during the evaluation.

Rarity

The discovery of late Saxon deposits on archaeological sites in the area is not common. Medieval settlement remains related to deserted villages are well known in the county. However, few archaeological investigations have been undertaken on this type of site

Documentation

The village of Wilsford is first mentioned in the Domesday survey. Later documents refer to the deserted village of Hanbeck adjacent to the site. There are no detailed local archaeological reports

Group value

The remains recorded during the evaluation are best understood as part of the local medieval landscape. This includes the surviving remains of Hanbeck adjacent to the site and the neighbouring village of Wilsford, known to have existed at Domesday.

Survival/Condition

The latest deposits at the site have been disturbed by modern ploughing while

deposits of late Saxon date have been protected by later layers in places. The marshy conditions in the lower areas of the site appear to have led to the preservation of palaeoenvironmental evidence.

Fragility/Vulnerability

All of the features and deposits recorded at the site are vulnerable to disturbance by agricultural or development activity. The survival of organic remains would be threatened by any dewatering or drainage of the area.

Diversity

Some spreads representing the remains of field walls or causeways, dumped deposits containing domestic refuse and layers of naturally accumulated sediments incorporating discarded waste, constitute the range of medieval remains recorded at the site.

Potential

If dated, the peats located during the auger survey have potential to elucidate local changes in the environment through time. The late Saxon and medieval deposits identified during the evaluation also have potential to reconstruct the contemporary local environment. However, the potential of these deposits is considerably reduced by the absence of associated remains which could characterise the nature of the related settlement.

9. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological evaluation has revealed a sequence of modern and medieval deposits recorded to a maximum depth of 0.7m below the ground surface.

Few archaeological features were encountered, but these were consistent with an area of land peripheral to a medieval

settlement with evidence of agriculture and footings for boundary walls and causeway. The presence and quantity of charred grain suggests storage of processed grain close to the site and could possibly be associated with a mill as recorded in the Domesday Survey.

No settlement or occupation features were recorded. The large quantity and varied species of snail shells identified through environmental sampling, suggests that the area was and still is, a largely marshy or wet area. The nature of certain deposits also suggests drying out of waterlogged conditions. Waterlogging and susceptibility to flooding makes the presence of domestic structures in the investigation area unlikely.

The archaeological features revealed were largely well preserved, although traces of ploughing were identified in the natural clay subsoil, suggesting potential archaeological damage through agricultural activity.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr William Spicer who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Tom Lane MIFA. Access to the parish files was kindly given by Kate Orr, the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council.

11. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Research: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Supervisor: Jenny Young
Field Staff: Ian McGregor, Ian Miller
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Illustration: David Hopkins
Post-excavation Analyst: Ian Miller

Environmental Processing: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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13. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

DoE Department of the Environment

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain

HMSO Her Majesties' Stationary Office

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

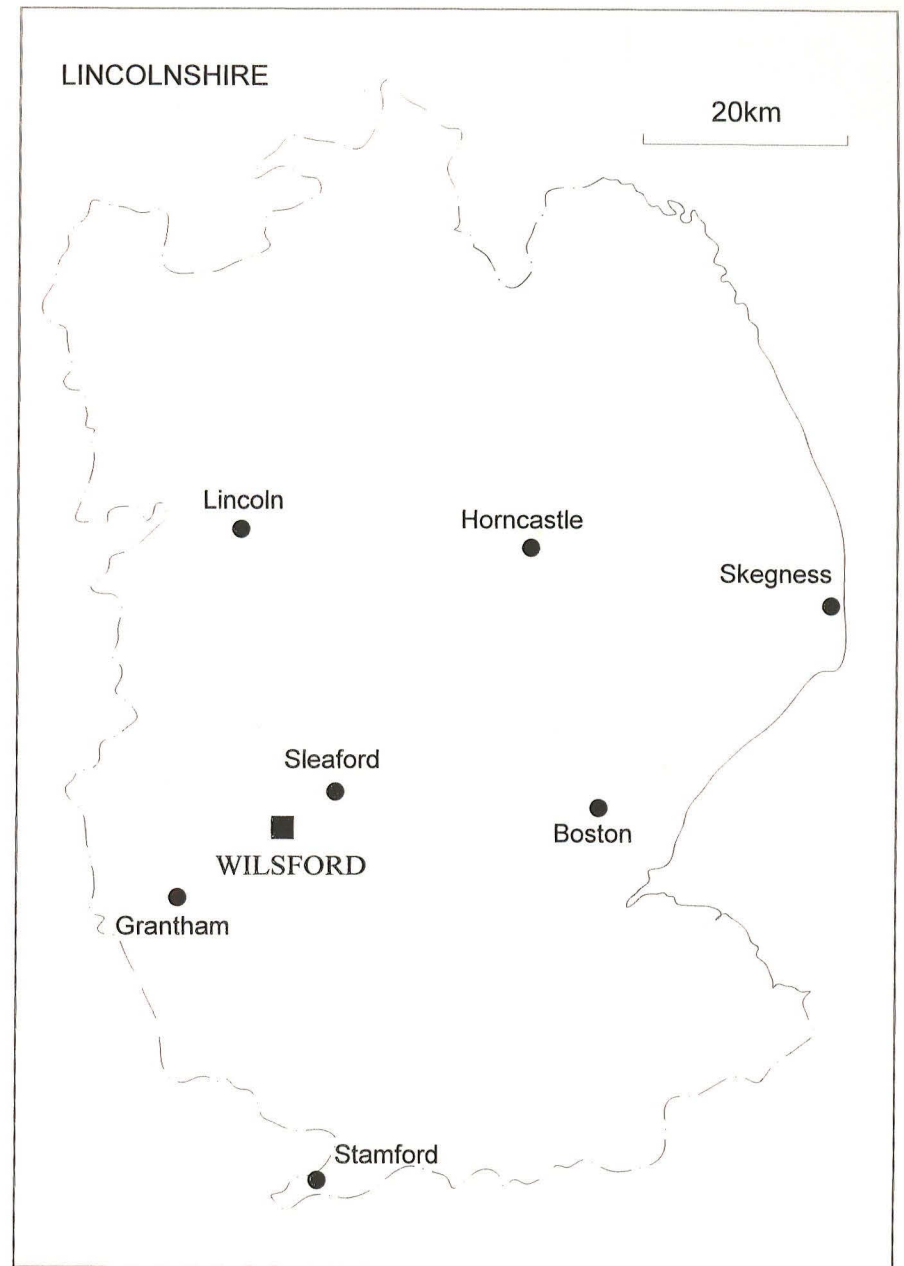
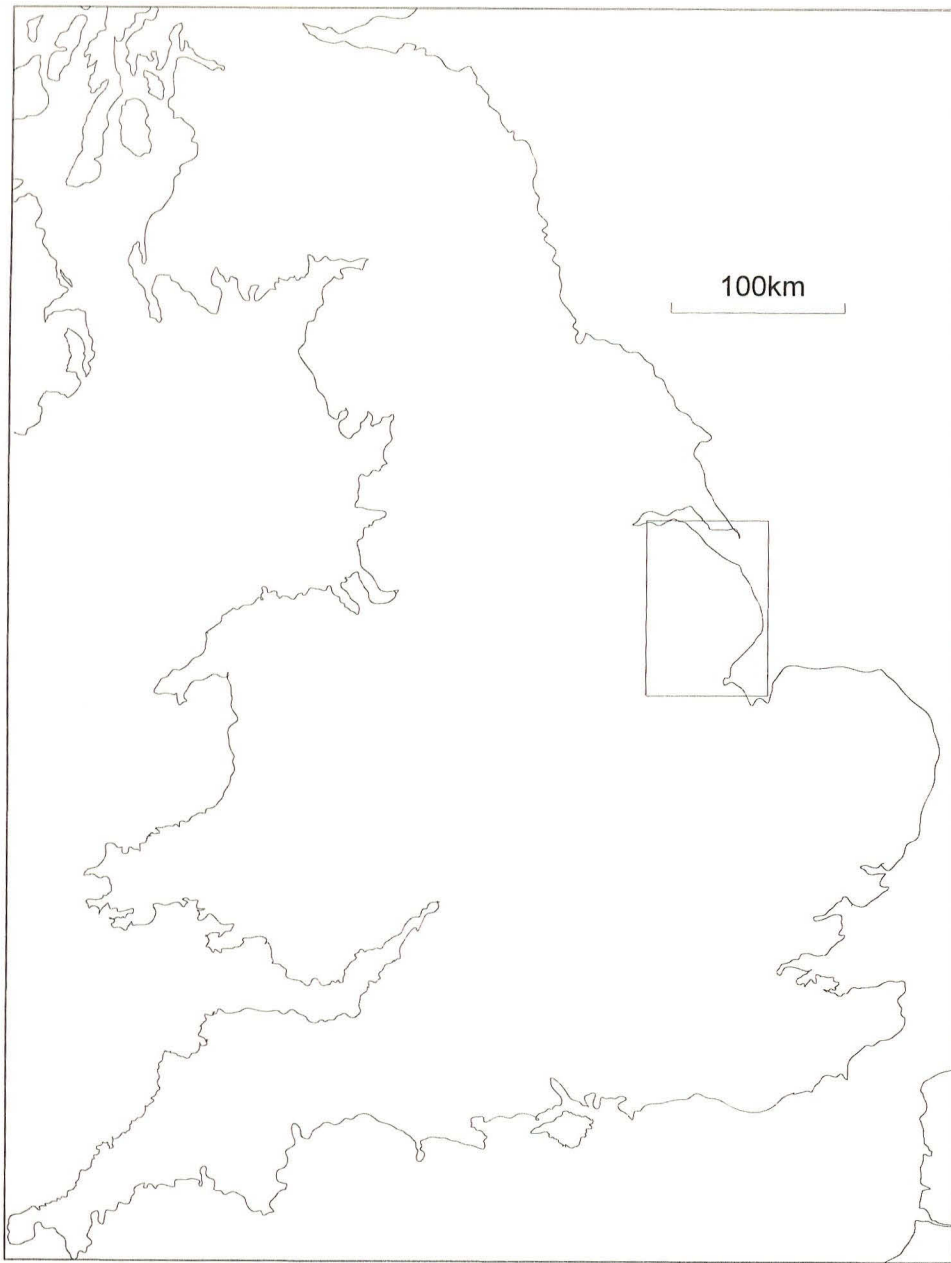


Figure 1 - General Location Plan



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Proposed reservoir location

Figure 2: Site Location Plan

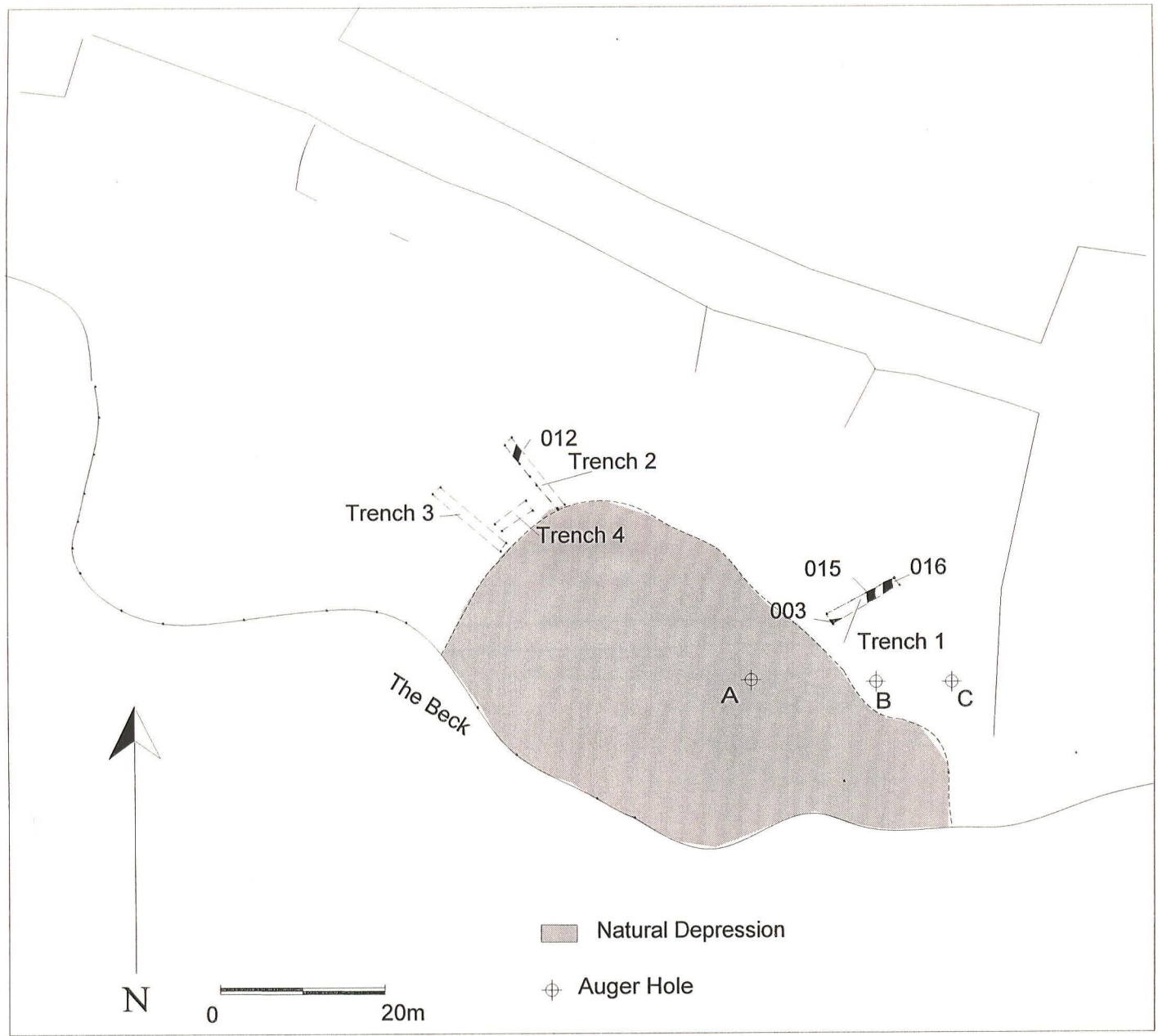


Figure 3: Trench Location Plan

Plan 1

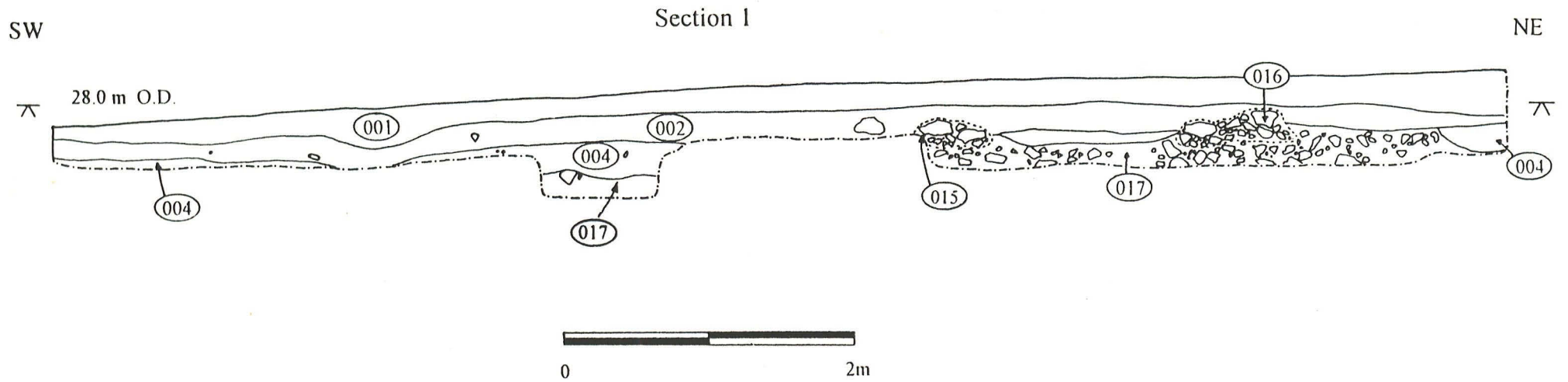
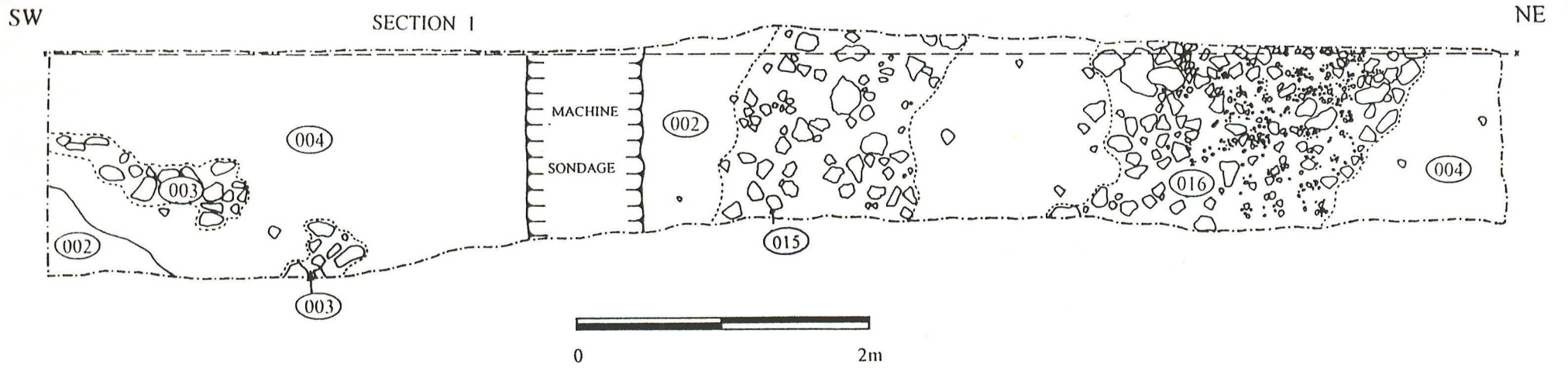


Figure 4 South facing section and plan of Trench 1

Plan 2

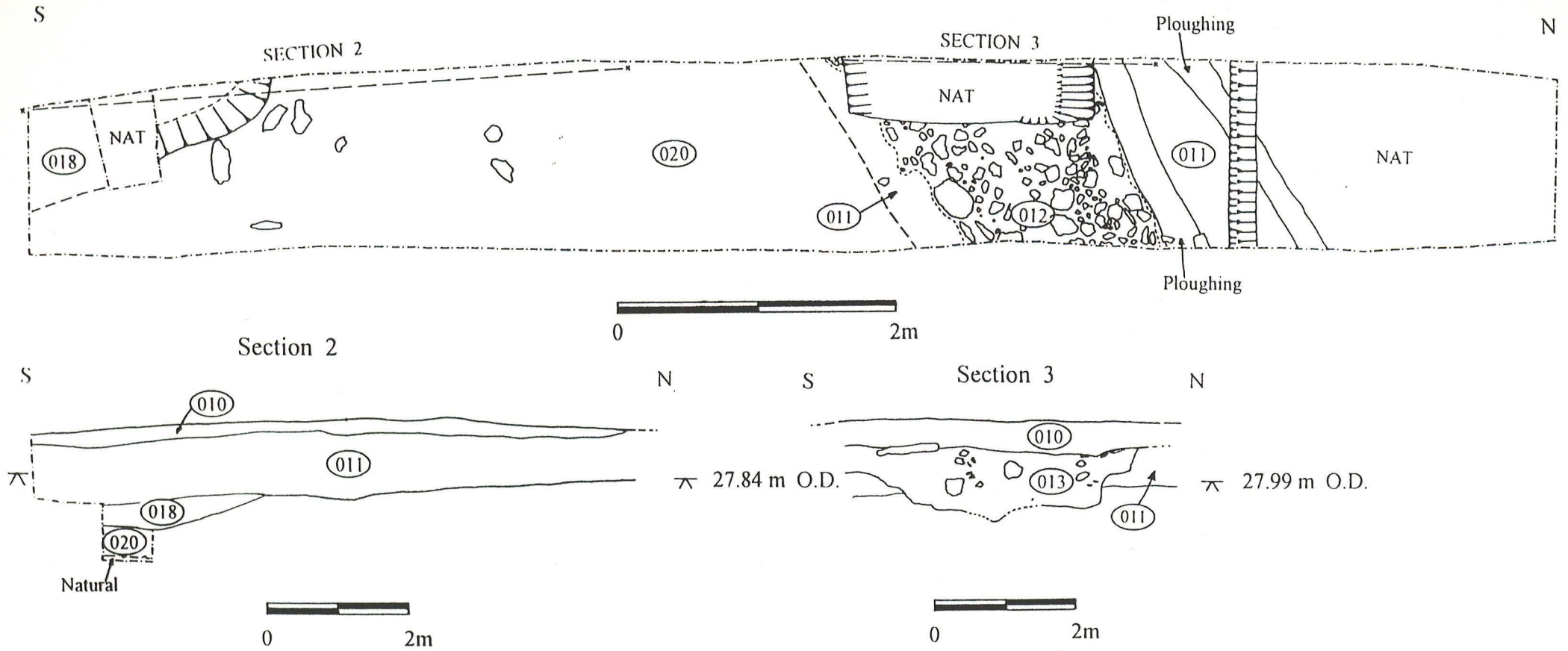


Figure 5 Sections 2 and 3 and Plan of Trench 2

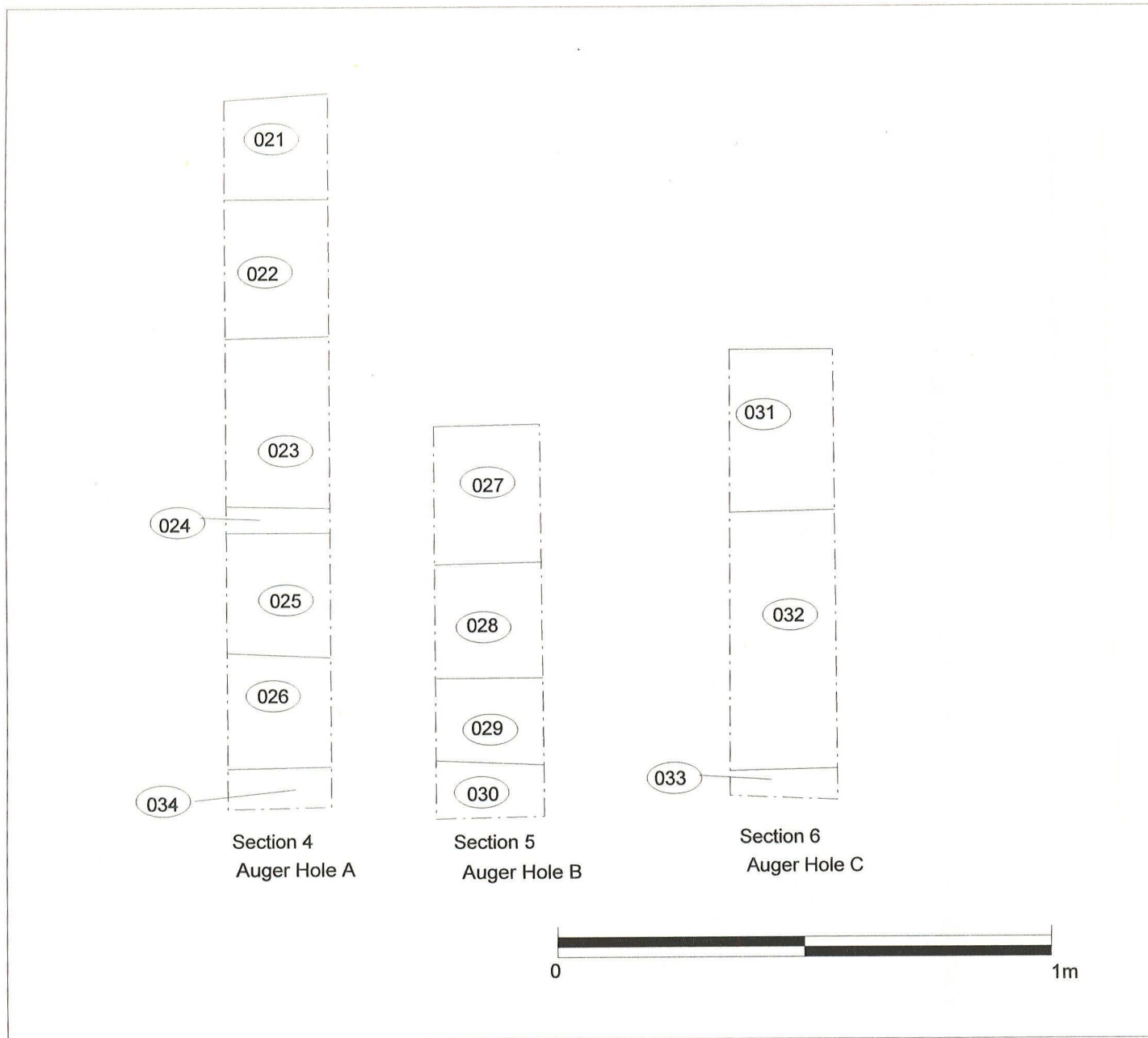


Figure 6: Auger Profile



◀ Plate 1 - Machine excavation of Trench 1, looking northeast with Hanbeck Farm in the background.



➤ Plate 2 - Trench 1, looking west, showing (015) and (016) in the foreground.



▲ Plate 3 - Trench 2, showing field boundary (012).



◀ Plate 4 - Trench 3, looking northwest, showing deposit (009).



➤ Plate 5 - Trench 4, looking northeast, showing deposit (014).

Appendix 1

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT BRIEF FOR TRIAL TRENCHING AS PART OF AN EVALUATION OF LAND AT HANBECK FARM, BACK LANE, WILSFORD, LINCS.

Planning Application Number:N/74/113/98 **NGR:** TF 500300 343170

Applicant: W R Spicer, Hanbeck Farm

Agent: W R Spicer

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 Hanbeck Farm, Wilsford. It sets out the requirements for a programme of trial trenching to evaluate the site.
- 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 All detailed specifications will be submitted by the developer for approval by the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council. The client will be free to choose between those specifications which are approved.

2. Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Wilsford is a village situated approximately 6 1/2 km south west of Sleaford and 2 km east of Ancaster.
- 2.2 The application site is located in between Back Lane (which is now a main road from Sleaford) and the Beck. It is accessed through Hanbeck Farm (see enclosed map).
- 2.3 The field is under pasture and is very wet. The Beck is 15m away from the proposed pond. The field was ploughed in the 1970s and has since been made up with earth to try and dry it out. Therefore any 'bumps' on the actual site of the proposed lake, apart from one, are modern. The application site is separated from the site of the medieval village of Hanbeck by barbed wire. Small ponds have already been recently dug by the farmer.

3. Planning Background

- 3.1 Full planning permission is sought to construct a non-commercial pond measuring 110m x 35m and being 4m deep. Before a planning decision can be made, more information is needed about the archaeology and how it will be affected.

4. Archaeological Background

- 4.1 Extensive earthworks of the deserted medieval village of Hanbeck are present on the higher ground between the application site and the Beck. There is not a great deal of information on this site or its relationship to Wilsford. Wilsford is medieval in origin being mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 and having an Anglo-Saxon Church (St Mary). Hanbeck is not mentioned in the Domesday Book.
- 4.2 The area in between the Beck and Hanbeck village would have been in use even if it was too wet to live on. Perhaps livestock were grazed here in the summer. There may have been causeways running down to the Beck or structures alongside the Beck, and items will have been dropped in between. The Beck may

not have always followed the same course that it does today and there may be evidence of its previous course.

- 4.3 There is a likelihood that in Roman or prehistoric times the area was not as wet as it is now and that there was settlement here. Prehistoric artefacts have been found around the village. A Flint axe, bronze armlet and Early Iron Age urn were found 75 m to the south. Roman pottery and a coin were found 200m to the north West. Roman pottery and a coin were found to the north of the railway line. A Bronze Age pot has been found 1km to the east.

5. Requirement for Work

- 5.1 The purpose of the archaeological evaluation should be to gather sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits. A brief has not been written for geophysical survey because waterlogging and deposition of material make the site unsuitable for it.

- 5.2 The evaluation will initially consist of the excavation of 1 % of the area of the proposed pond using trenches of 1.5m x 10m. If archaeological remains are encountered, another 0.5% of the area should be excavated. Before this decision is made, the Heritage Officer will inspect the trenches. As the water table is so high, provision should be made for pumping out the water from the trenches.

- 5.3 While a preliminary desk-top assessment is not required in this case, this site should not be treated in isolation and reference should be made to relevant historical sources and previous archaeological work in the area when interpreting the results.

- 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.

- 5.5 Any remains are likely to be well preserved due to waterlogging and there should therefore be provision for environmental analysis.

6. Methods

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

6.1.1 A projected timetable must be agreed for the various stages of work (fieldwork and production of report).

6.1.2 The staff structure and numbers must be detailed including 'person' hours for on-site work.

6.1.3 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.

6.1.4 A full description of the recovery and recording strategies to be used.

6.1.5 An estimate of time and resources allocated for the post-excavation work and report production in the form of 'person' hours. This should include lists of specialists and their role in the project. It is expected that finds from all periods may be retrieved. Adequate provision should be made for specialists including environmental specialists.

6.1.6 A contingency for unexpected costs e.g. due to more artefacts or ecofacts recovered than expected. This should only be activated after discussion with the Heritage Officer and the client.

- 6.2 Excavation is a potentially destructive technique and the specification should include a detailed reasoning behind the application of this technique. The following factors should be borne in mind:

6.2.1 the use of an appropriate machine with a wide toothless ditching blade.

6.2.2 the supervision of all machine work by an archaeologist.

- 6.2.3 the machine should be used to remove topsoil down to the first archaeological horizon.
- 6.2.4 the most recent archaeological deposits are not necessarily the least important and this should be considered when determining the level to which machining will be carried out.
- 6.2.5 when archaeological features are revealed by machine these will be cleaned by hand.
- 6.2.6 a representative sample of every archaeological feature must be excavated by hand (although the depth of surviving deposits must be determined, it is not expected that every trench will be excavated to natural).
- 6.2.7 all excavation must be carried out with a view to avoiding features which may be worthy of preservation in situ.
- 6.2.8 any human remains encountered must be left in situ and only removed if absolutely necessary. The contractor must comply with all statutory consents and licences regarding the exhumation and interment of human remains. 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. Attempts must be made at all times not to cause offence to any interested parties.
- 6.2.9 it is expected that an approved recording system will be used for all on-site and post-fieldwork procedures.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

- 7.1 The Heritage Officer will be responsible for monitoring progress to ensure that fieldwork meets the specification. To facilitate this she should be contacted at least one week prior to the commencement of fieldwork.
- 7.2 Any adjustments to the brief for the evaluation should only be made after discussion with the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council. If any major archaeological discovery is made it is hoped that this will be accommodated within the scheme, and preservation in situ be given due consideration.

8. **Reporting Requirements**

- 8.1 The evaluation report should be produced to the level outlined in The Management of Archaeological Projects, Appendix 3, English Heritage, 1991 and should be produced within two months of the completion of the fieldwork phase. If this is not possible then the Heritage Officer must be consulted at the earliest possible opportunity. The report should include:
 - 8.2.1 plans of the trench layout and features therein.
 - 8.2.2 tables summarising features and artefacts together with a full description and brief interpretation.
 - 8.2.3 section and plan drawings with ground level Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scales as appropriate.
 - 8.2.4 plans of actual and potential deposits.
 - 8.2.5 a consideration of the evidence within the wider landscape setting.
 - 8.2.6 a consideration of the importance of the findings on a local, regional and national basis.
 - 8.2.7 a critical review of the effectiveness of the methodology;
- 8.3 A copy of the evaluation report must be deposited with Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record, the Heritage Officer, The District Planning Authority and the client.

9. **Archive Deposition**

- 9.1 Arrangements must be made with the landowner(s) and/or developers and an appropriate museum for the deposition of the object and paper archive. If the receiving museum is to be 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.

10. **Publication and Dissemination**

- 10.1 The deposition of a copy of the report with the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record and with the Heritage Officer will be deemed to put all 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 Heritage Officer but is expected this will not exceed six months.

- 10.2 Consideration must be given to a summary of the results being published in Lincolnshire History and Archaeology in due course.

11. **Additional Information**

- 11.1 This document attempts to define the best practice expected of an archaeological evaluation but cannot fully anticipate the conditions that will be encountered as work progresses. However, changes to the approved programme of evaluation work are only to be made with the prior written approval of the Heritage Officer.

Brief set by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer 20/3/1998

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	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
001	1	Loose, orange sand 0.34m thick.	Recent land raising deposit.
002	1	Friable, dark brown sandy silt, 0.25m thick.	Old topsoil.
003	1	Limestone fragments, aligned east-west.	Possible boundary feature.
004	1	Friable, mid brown to orange brown silty clay, 0.22m thick (same as 009, 022 and 032).	Flood alluvium.
005		Unstratified finds retrieved from field surface.	
006	2	Finds retrieved from machine excavation.	
007	3	Soft, dark brownish grey sandy silt containing occasional clay and limestone fragments, 0.22m thick (same as 010, 021, 027 and 031).	Topsoil.
008	3	Finds retrieved from machine excavation.	
009	3	Firm, light yellow brown clay (004, 022 and 032).	Flood alluvium.
010	2	Friable, mid brownish black sandy silt containing large limestone and sandstone blocks, 0.25m thick.	Topsoil.
011	2	Soft, mid grey silty sand containing occasional limestones.	?Natural silting/dumped deposit.
012	2	Deposit of limestones, 1.30m wide by 0.45m deep.	Boundary feature or causeway.
013	2	Loose, mid grey brown fine sandy silt matrix for 012.	Natural silting deposit.
014	4	Soft, mid brownish black peat.	Peat deposit.

015	1	Deposit of stone fragments, aligned north-south.	?Boundary feature.
016	1	Deposit of stone fragments with gravel capping, aligned north-south.	Causeway.
017	1	Loose, orange to grey brown silty sand with gravel.	Natural deposit.
018	2	Soft, dark grey very fine silt with freshwater snail shells.	Natural silting deposit.
019	void		
020	2	Soft, mid grey silt containing snail shells and fine roots.	Natural silting deposit.
021	A	Dark grey silty clay, containing occasional snail shells.	Topsoil.
022	A	Grey with orange brown mottled silty clay containing snail shells.	Flood alluvium.
023	A	Greyish brown silty clay containing occasional snail shells.	Flood alluvium.
024	A	Dark brown, fibrous humified peat containing occasional sand.	Peat deposit.
025	A	Dark brown, slightly fibrous humified peat containing occasional sand.	Peat deposit.
026	A	Humified fibrous silty peat.	Peat deposit.
027	A		Topsoil.
028	B	Slightly silty sand containing moderate snails.	?Dumped deposit.
029	B		Old topsoil.
030	B	Grey sand (same as 033).	Natural deposit.
031	C		Topsoil.
032	C	Light grey brown mottled clay.	Flood alluvium.
033	C	Grey sand (same as 030).	Natural deposit.

034	A	Grey silty sand.	Natural deposit.
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Appendix 4

The Finds,

By Hilary Healey MPhil, Paul Cope-Faulkner BA and Gary Taylor MA

Provenance

All of the material was recovered from topsoil, subsoil and archaeological features and was random in distribution. Medieval artefacts were also recovered from the field surface adjacent to the excavations.

All of the medieval and early post-medieval material derives from production centres in the Lincolnshire area, including Potterhanworth to the north, Bourne and Stamford to the south and Nottingham to the west. However, the later pottery is likely to come from manufacturing sites in the Midlands, particularly Staffordshire.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables.

The earliest artefacts are fragments of pottery date to Late Saxon - early medieval period. Most of these were retrieved from the upper fills of the natural depression identified at the south end of the site. Some pottery of 13th-14th century date was collected, though later material of the 18th-20th century provides the most abundant aspect in the small assemblage. The collection consists of pottery, roof and floor tile, glass, a millstone or quern fragment, animal bone and mollusc shell.

Table 1: The Pottery and Slate

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DATE
002	1x black glazed earthenware	19th early 20th century
	1x polychrome tableware	20th century
005	1x Potterhanworth ware	13th-14th century
006	1x Nottingham green glazed ware	13th-14th century
007	1x Bourne D ware	16th-17th century
	2x Brown glazed earthenware	18th-early 19th century
	3x black glazed earthenware	19th-early 20th century
	1x roof tile	?18th-19th century
	1x trimmed floor tile	?medieval
	1x olive green bottle glass	19th-20th century
008	1x Stamford ware	10th-13th century
	1x mussel shell	
	1x ?Bourne A/B ware	12th-14th century

013	1x Bourne B ware	12th-14th century
	1x ?Nottingham green glazed ware	13th-14th century
	1x shelly ware	11th-13th century
	1x tile	
015	1x ?Nottingham ware	13th-14th century
	1x vessel glass	
018	1x millstone grit ?rotary quern/millstone fragment, broken and reused as grinder/hone	
	2 x shelly ware (from sample 3)	Late Saxon - early medieval
020	3 x shelly ware (from sample 7)	Late Saxon - early medieval

Table 2: The Animal Bone

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	NOTES
001	1 horse radius	Aged, displays evidence of disease
002	1 cattle sized radius	Gnawing apparent from dog and rodent
013	1 cattle sized mandible (lower jaw)	Youngish, unworn teeth

Condition

Certain of the pottery sherds are more abraded than others, though this is not chronologically related as the most worn fragment is probably of 18th-19th century date. All of the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. The assemblage should be archived by material class.

Documentation

Medieval and post-medieval artefact assemblages from throughout the county have previously been examined and reported.

Potential

The assemblage has limited potential, though the presence of the trimmed floor tile may suggest the presence of a higher status building in the vicinity. Additionally, the fragment of millstone or quern may relate to Late Saxon-medieval mills documented in the vicinity, though the piece has been reused. However, the degree of importation of material to the site is unknown, though the area has been subject to dumping in the past. In consequence, as some of the artefacts may have arrived on the site through dumping, rather than through association with settlement in the vicinity, the assemblage must be viewed cautiously and therefore has low potential.

Appendix 5

ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY ASSESSMENT

Paul Cope-Faulkner

1. INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

The evaluation exposed the upper fills of a natural depression containing two fills of naturally derived silt (018 and 020). The underlying natural subsoil was also sampled but was not processed.

Sample No.	Context	Deposit description
1	018	Fill of natural depression - dark grey fine silt
2	011	Possible make up layer - soft mid grey silt
3	018	As above
4	018	As above
5	018	As above
6	020	Fill of natural depression - mid grey silt
7	020	As above
8	020	As above
9	020	As above

The samples were processed in the following manner:

Sample weight was measured prior to processing. The samples were washed in a siraf tank on a 1mm mesh. Floating material was washed over onto a 250 μ mesh. Both residues were dried, and the weight of the residue and the volume of the flot recorded.

The residue of the floated portion was scanned under a low power binocular microscope while the coarser fraction was sorted by eye. Environmental and archaeological finds were picked out and bagged separately. The presence of environmental finds (*ie* snails, charcoal, carbonised seeds, bones *etc*) were noted and their abundance and species diversity recorded on an assessment sheet.

2. RESULTS

Context 018 Samples <1, 3, 4 and 5> (Samples 1 and 5 remain unprocessed)

A layer of dark grey silt was identified as the upper fill of a natural depression. Upon processing it was found to contain a quantity of charred grain, some charcoal, frequent snails, some marine shell and animal bone. The charred grain is likely to be barley and the absence of significant amounts of chaff and other seeds suggest that it had been processed prior to being burnt. Several hundred snail were recovered and include *Planorbis* sp. *Segmenta complanata* (Ramshorn snail), *Lymnaea trunculata* (Liver Fluke snail) and *Lymnaea palustris* (Marsh snail) as well as a single example of *Lymnaea peregra* (Wandering Marsh Snail). All these species of snail are common in marshes, ditches and ponds (McMillan 1973, 107 - 111). Small sherds of pottery were also recovered of the Late Saxon - early medieval shelly ware types.

Context 020, Samples <6, 7, 8 and 9> (Sample 9 remain unprocessed)

Comprising mid grey silt, this deposit was identified as the primary fill of the pond. Again carbonised grain and snail shells were the most common element of the sample, although charcoal was present in significant quantities. The grain was again free of chaff and weed seeds and the snails were of the *Planorbis* and *Lymnaea* species discussed above. Some small animal bone was also recovered and include some fragments of amphibian bone (eg. toad, frog or newt). Pottery of the type recovered from the above samples was also found.

3. INTERPRETATION

The fills contain snails that support the interpretation of the natural depression as a boggy or wet area into which archaeological material has been dumped. The *Planorbis* snails suggest that the area was once under water. However, the abundant *Lymnaea* shells indicate that the area was also marshy, presumably, on the basis of present good conditions, after the area silted up. A sizeable quantity of charred grain was recovered and is thought to be of a sufficient quantity to represent burning of stored processed grain and not refuse disposal. A mill is recorded in Wilsford in the Domesday Survey and some association may be derived from this connection.

4. STORAGE AND CURATION

The float fraction and sorted material from the residue will form part of the site archive and be deposited with the receiving museum. After sorting the residues were discarded. Unprocessed samples will be kept by Archaeological Project Services for a period of six months before disposal, unless any further action is required.

Table 1: Summary of Results

Sample	Charcoal *	Carb. Grain*	Chaff*	Snails*	Marine shell*	Animal bone*	Burnt clay*	Pottery
1	Not processed							
2	Not processed							
3	1	2		5	1	1	Present	Present
4	2	2	1	3		1		
5	Not processed							
6	1	2		2				
7	2	2		5	1	2	Present	Present
8	1			1				
9	Not processed							

(* - Scales for these categories are: 1=1-10 items, 2=11-100, 3=101-250, 4=251-500, 5=>500)

McMillan, N.F., 1973 *British Shells*

Appendix 6

The Archive

The site archive consists of:

34	Context records
7	Sheets of scale drawings
4	Photographic record sheets
1	Box of finds

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum
12 Friars Lane
Lincoln
LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number: 113.98

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: WBL98

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 7

Glossary of Terms

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> (004).
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.
Mesolithic	The 'Middle Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 8,000-4000 BC.
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.
Palaeolithic	The 'Old Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 1 million years to 10,000 BC.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period from AD 43-410 when Britain formed part of the Roman Empire.
Tertiary fill	The latest fills of a natural or archaeological feature (pit, ditch etc.).