

Witham Archaeology

A Report to DNS Transport Ltd

March 2016



LAND OFF SEAGATE ROAD, LONG SUTTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

G Trimble

LAND OFF SEAGATE ROAD, LONG SUTTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

Museum Accession No.: LCNCC : 2015.85

Planning Reference : H11-0543-13

NGR: 543517 321651

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

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LAND OFF SEAGATE ROAD, LONG SUTTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by Witham Archaeology during groundworks relating to the construction of a cattle shed on land off Seagate Road, Long Sutton, Lincolnshire. The work was commissioned by DNS Transport Ltd in response to a condition of planning permission imposed by South Holland District Council.

The site lies to the southeast of the village centre where the finding of a small quantity of Romano-British material suggests activity of this date. Findspots of medieval pottery sherds have also been found within and surrounding the village.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were recorded during the work and no artefacts were retrieved.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by Witham Archaeology during groundworks relating to the construction of a cattle shed. The development is on land off Seagate Road, Long Sutton, Lincolnshire. The work was commissioned by DNS Transport Limited, in response to a condition of planning permission imposed by South Holland District Council. Fieldwork was carried out on 11th May 2015, in accordance with a generic brief for archaeological monitoring and recording issued by the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Service.

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. Witham Archaeology cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Archaeologists.

2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY (see Figs. 1 and 2)

The site is located in Long Sutton Lincolnshire, at NGR 543517 321651, approximately 14.5km north of Wisbech and 21km west of Kings Lynn. The proposed area of development is located approximately 1.5km south of the centre of the village and south of the A17 at Seagate Farm and west of Seagate Road. The area currently comprised open farmland to the north, south and west. The proposed cattle shed lies immediately west of the property boundary of an industrial unit which lies to the east. Approximately 80% of the site had a covering of asphalt representing an area of hardstanding.

The geology of the area is Jurassic period mudstone of the Oxford Clay Formation, overlain by superficial deposits of quaternary clay and silt (British Geological Survey, Solid and Drift, 1:50 000).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The first known reference to Long Sutton is in the Domesday survey of 1086 which records that the area was in 'the Kings Manor of Tydd St Mary'. Referred to as Sudtone the name is derived from the Old English suth and tun meaning 'the farmstead or village to the south'. The prefix is first recorded in 1385. The present church of St Mary was built in the thirteenth century, replacing a wooden church built in 1120 and is the only extant remains of the medieval period in the village. It was built by the Abbots of Castle Acre priory

There is no evidence of prehistoric material from the area. Any material of this date would be deeply buried due to the change in the position of the coastline which was accompanied by marine inundation from the late Bronze Age onwards and subsequent marine regression.

Although two 4th century Roman coins have been found near the centre of the village and pottery of the period is recorded from the Market Place, very little material of Roman date has been recovered from the immediate area. Land reclamation in the area is first recorded in the year 1111 when Picot gave Tithes of land in Sutton to Spalding Priory and 50 years later this is known as Pigotus Neueland. It has been suggested that the 'Roman Bank, a north-south embanked sea defence located to the east of the village, was in fact constructed in the century before Domesday. One findspot of late medieval pottery was recorded in the Market Place whilst further findspots of medieval pottery have been found around the village. Two post-medieval windmills are recorded in the area situated along the Roman Bank. A large moated mansion house is supposed to have once existed to the southeast of the church and is thought to have belonged to John of Gaunt, the duke of Lancaster. No trace of this building survives.

4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The principal objectives of the project were to:

- *allow the preservation by record of any surviving archaeological deposits and artefacts exposed by the development groundwork within the constraints imposed by the contractor's working methods, programme and development design.*
- *produce a project archive for deposition with the appropriate museum together with a client report.*
- *provide information for accession to the County Historic Environment Record.*

5.0 METHODOLOGY (Figs. 2 and 3 & Plates 1-3 and 6)

The development involved the construction of a cattle shed which necessitated the excavation of 18 stanchion pits utilising a 360° mechanical excavator (Fig. 3, Plates 1-3). Each pit measured 1.10m x 0.80m in plan with depths ranging between 0.80m and 1.20m. The pits located at each corner of the proposed structure were the deepest of the pits. Topsoil was stripped from the areas outside of the area of asphalt prior to the machining of the stanchion pits. Topsoil was also partially stripped from the road way leading off Seagate Road to the site of the cattle shed (Fig. 2 & Plate 6). The topsoil stripping was not monitored and was carried out prior to site attendance. The stripped surface was examined for evidence of archaeological features and artefacts but stripping did not reach the level of the underlying subsoil and did not represent a threat to subsurface features. Each stanchion pit was archaeologically monitored during excavation.

The site record comprises 35mm monochrome and colour digital photographs, section drawings and plans at scale 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate, and written context descriptions produced for each unit of stratigraphy.

6.0 RESULTS (Figs 3-4 & Plates 2-4)

No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded during the ground works and no artefacts were retrieved.

Two stanchion pit sections were drawn which illustrate the underlying geological deposits (Fig. 3). The area occupied by the asphalt hardstanding had been stripped of topsoil and subsoil prior to the laying of the asphalt. However, a full profile including subsoil and topsoil was present in the west sections of the most westerly of the stanchion pits which abutted the areas not stripped of topsoil.

Section 1

Section 1 was located within a stanchion pit positioned within the area of pre-existing asphalt hard standing (Fig. 3). It is evident that the topsoil had been stripped away prior to the laying of the asphalt and underlying hardcore.

Subsoil recorded in Section 1 (Fig. 4 & Plate 4) consisted of a light brown silty sand with small lenses and patches of beige sand (101). Its full depth was not exposed in the stanchion pit but a thickness of 0.38m was recorded. Immediately above subsoil (101) was a hardcore deposit comprised entirely of creamy white limestone fragments (102). It measured 0.35m in average depth. A layer of asphalt (103) which measured 0.06m in average thickness covered the limestone hardcore.

Section 2

Section 2 was positioned to the west of the southwest corner stanchion (Fig. 3) and records the in situ subsoil and topsoil deposits immediately west of the site. The stanchion pit was excavated to a depth of 1.20m.

Undisturbed natural deposits were encountered at a depth of around 0.92m from the present ground surface (Fig. 4 & Plate 5). The deposits comprised beige fine sand (104). Natural deposit (104) was sealed by a 0.32m depth of light creamy brown subsoil (105) which consisted of fine sand. The topsoil (106) consisted of mid brown silty sand which included occasional quantities of small rounded stones. Above the topsoil (106) was a turfline (107) of around 0.10m in depth which consisted of a friable light brownish grey silty sand. It included frequent rooting and small rounded stones.

7.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

Monitoring and recording of the stanchion pits revealed natural sands occurred at a depth of around 0.90m below the present ground surface. The total area of the site occupied by the stanchion holes represents a relatively small area available for archaeological inspection. Of the 18 stanchions holes excavated only four – those located at each corner of the proposed structure - were of sufficient depth to penetrate the considerable thickness of subsoil down to the level of the natural sands. Therefore, the chances of located archaeological features or deposits on the site were relatively small. In the event, none were recorded and no artefacts were retrieved.

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author of this report would like to thank DNS Transport Ltd for assistance in ensuring that the project was brought to a successful conclusion.

9.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

9.1 Project Details

MUSEUM ACCESSION No: LCNCC:2015.85

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: H11-0543-13

FIELD OFFICER: G Trimble

NGR: 543517 321651

CIVIL PARISH: Long Sutton

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 11st May 2015

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Monitoring and Recording

UNDERTAKEN FOR: DNS Transport Ltd

9.2 Archive Details

PRESENT LOCATION: Witham Archaeology Limited, 2 High Street, Sleaford, Lincolnshire NG34 9DT

FINAL LOCATION: Lincolnshire Museums Service

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: To be allocated when accessioned

ACCESSION DATE: TBC

The Site Archive Comprises:

Context Records	7
Section Drawings at Scale 1:20	2
Digital Photographs	17 shots
Monochrome 35mm photographs	9 shots
Set of Site Notes	1

It is intended that transfer of the archive in accordance with current published requirements will be undertaken following completion of this project.

COLOUR PLATES



Plate 1: Work in progress. Excavation of the stanchion pits in the west area of the site



Plate 2: General view of the excavated stanchion pits looking west



Plate 3: General view of the site facing northeast.



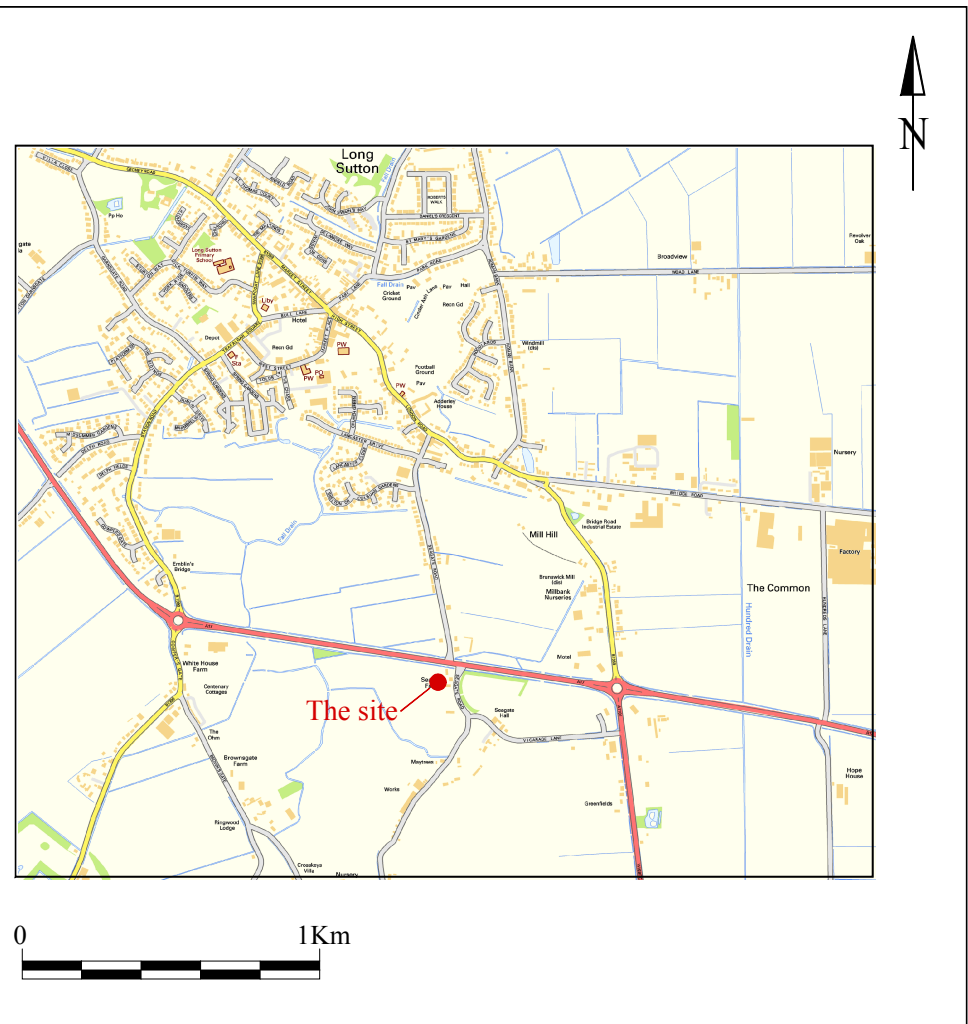
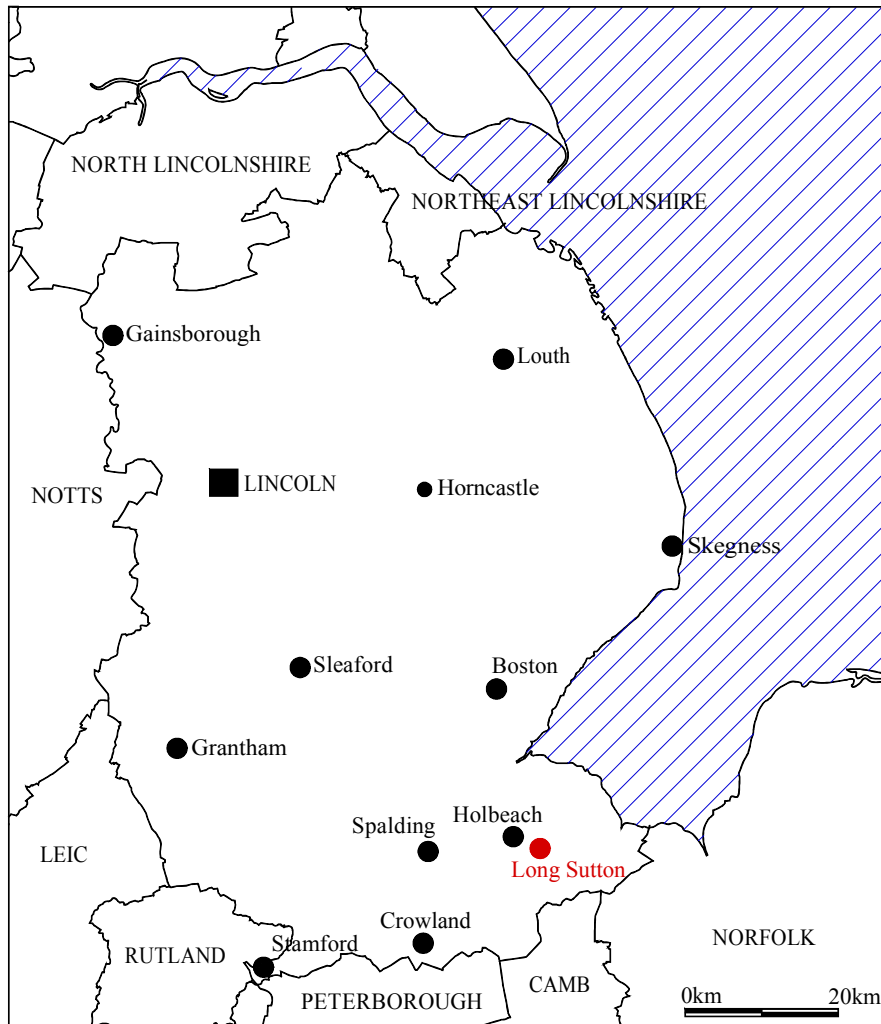
Plate 4: View of Section 1 facing south, scales 2 x 1m



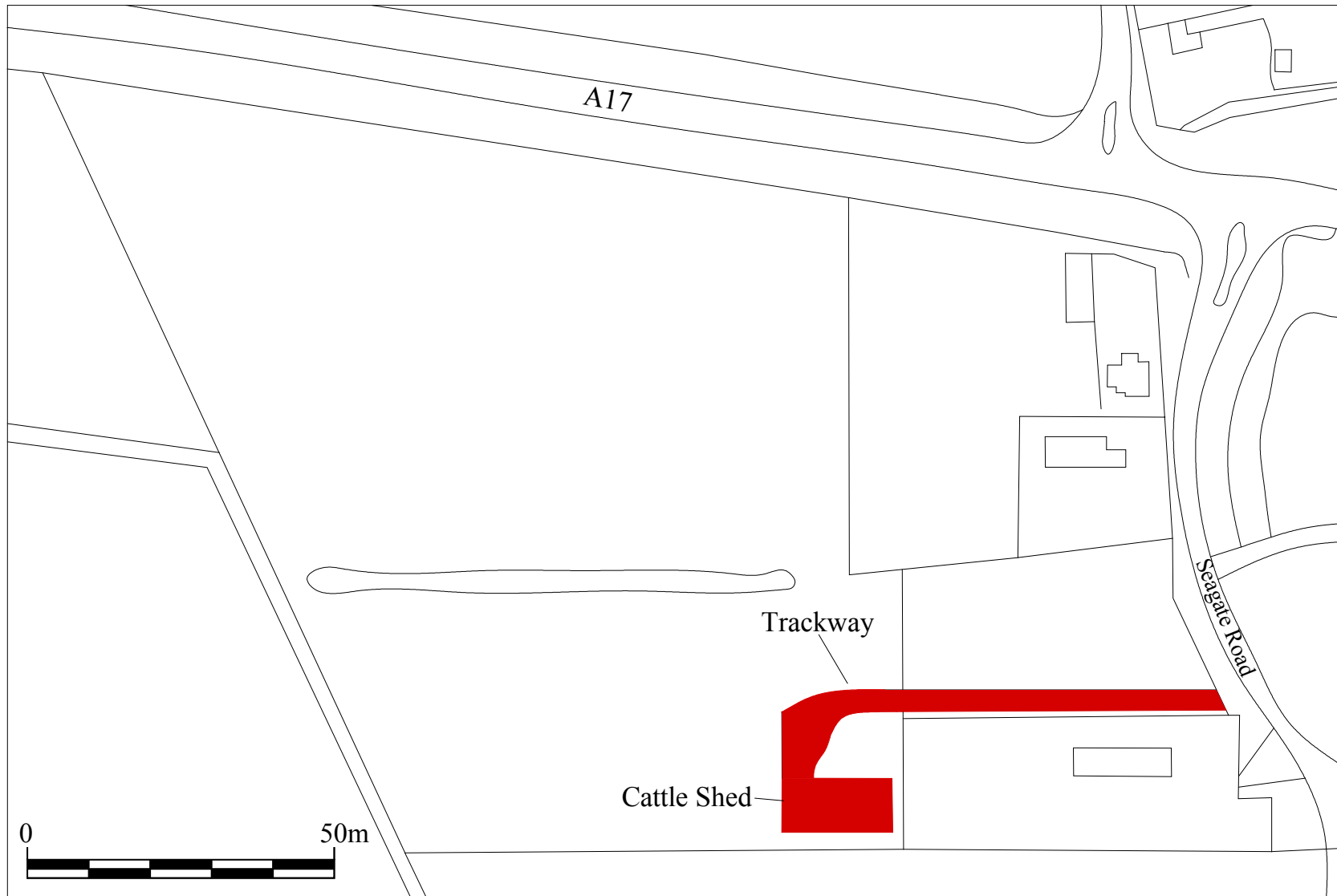
Plate 5: View of Section 2 facing west, scales 2 x 1m

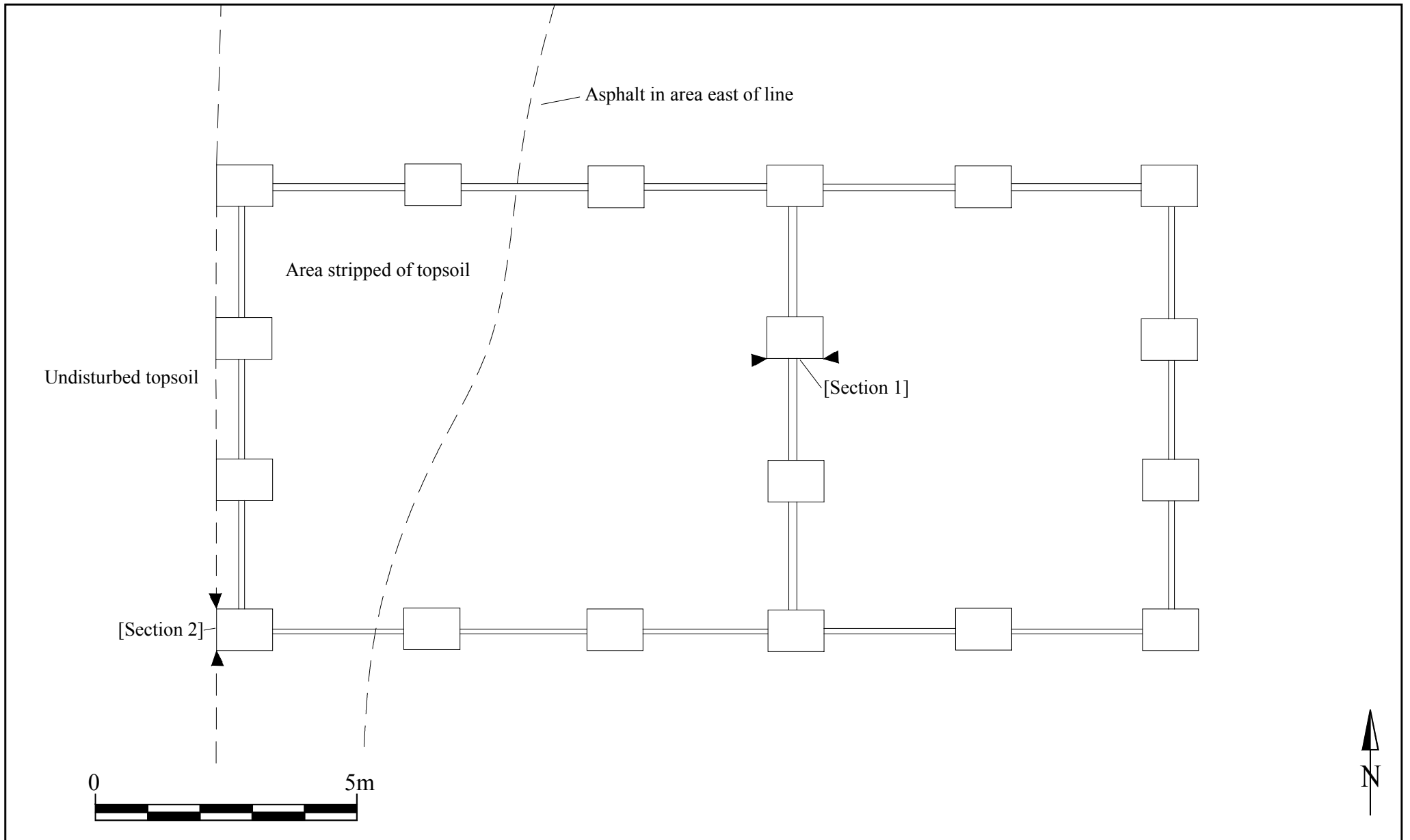


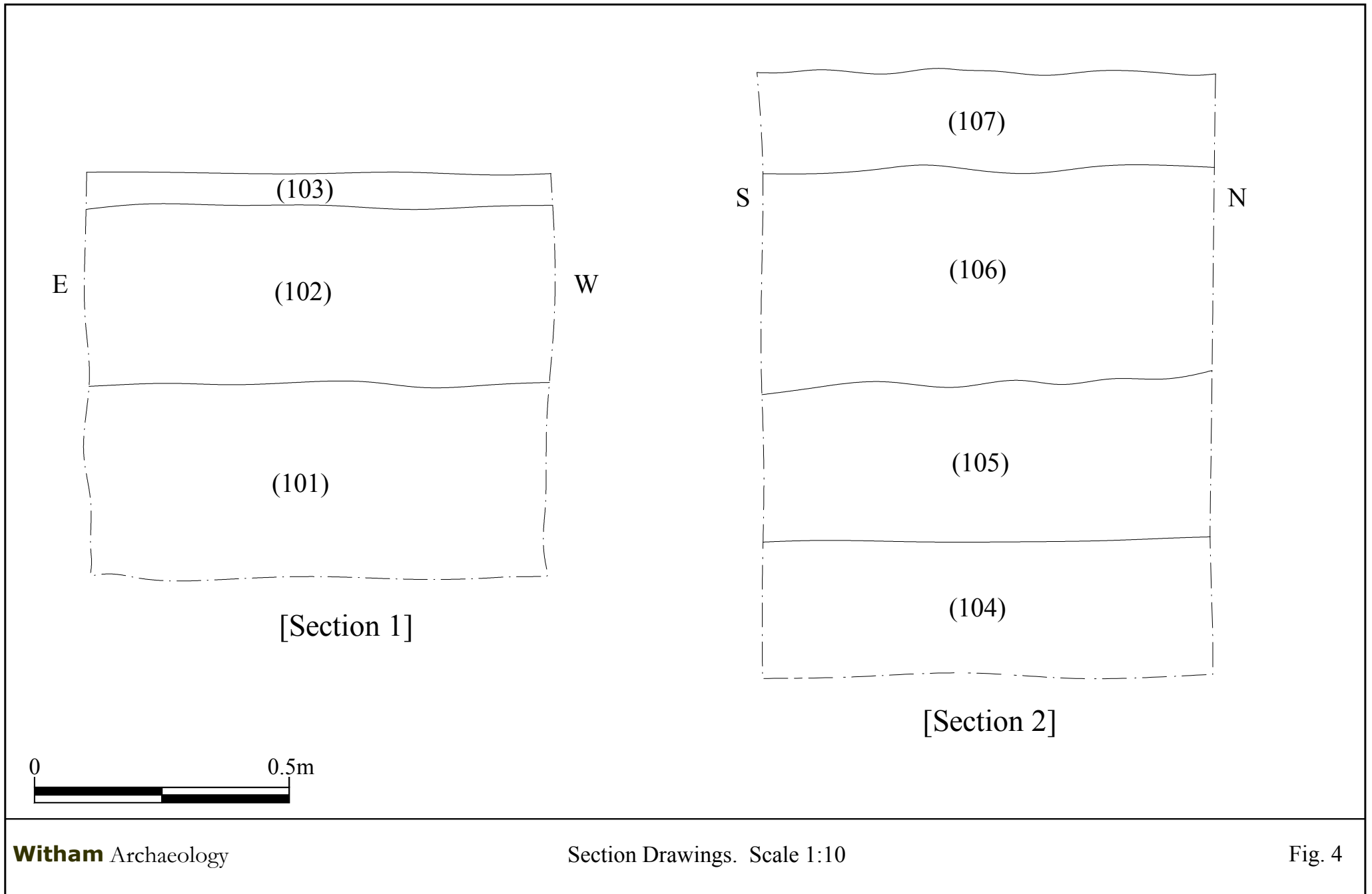
Plate 6: View of roadway leading to the site partially stripped of topsoil facing west



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Appendix A. Context Descriptions

<i>Context</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>
101	Subsoil	Light brown silty sand with small lenses and patches of beige sand. The deposit measured 0.38m in depth.
102	Hardcore for asphalt	Creamy white limestone fragments. The deposit measured 0.35m in average depth
103	Asphalt over former car park	The Asphalt measured 0.06m in average thickness.
104	Natural deposits	Clean beige fine sand which measured 0.28m in recorded thickness
105	Subsoil	Light creamy brown fine sand.which measured of 32m depth in depth
106	Topsoil	Mid brown silty sand which included occasional quantities of small rounded stones. It measured 0.40m in average depth.
107	Turfline	Friable light brownish grey silty sand. It included frequent rooting and small rounded stones. The deposit measured 0.10m in thickness.

Appendix B. Oasis Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: withamar1-235864

Project details

Project name	Land off Seagate Road, Long Sutton, Lincolnshire. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording
Short description of the project	A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during groundworks relating to the construction of a cattle shed on land off Seagate Road, Long Sutton, Lincolnshire. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were recorded during the work and no artefacts were retrieved.
Project dates	Start: 11-05-2015 End: 11-05-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	LCNCC:2015.85 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE SOUTH HOLLAND LONG SUTTON Land off Seagate Road
Postcode	PE12 9RX
Study area	492 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 43517 21651 52.772989241016 0.127718058043 52 46 22 N 000 07 39 E Point

Project

creators

Name of Organisation	Witham Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Dale Trimble
Project director/manager	Gary Trimble
Project supervisor	Gary Trimble
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	DNS Transport Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln LN2 1LT
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln LN2 1LT
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text"
Entered by	Gary Trimble (gary.trimble@withamarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	4 January 2016

OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice

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