

Witham Archaeology

A Report to Mr & Mrs Lovelace
May 2007



PLOT 1, LOW ROAD, WYBERTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief

R Trimble

PLOT 1, LOW ROAD, WYBERTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

Site Code: LRWY07
LCCM Accession No.: 2007.90
Planning Application No.: B07/0075/RESM
NGR: TF 32767 41051

Archaeological Watching Brief

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PLOT 1, LOW ROAD, WYBERTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY

This report describes the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Witham Archaeology during groundworks relating to the construction of a single house at Plot 1, Low Road, Wyberton, Lincolnshire. The work, commissioned by the developers, Mr and Mrs Lovelace, was carried out in response to a condition of planning permission issued by Boston Borough Council.

Information held by the County Historic Environment Record indicates earthwork remains of medieval ridge and furrow, as well possible house platforms on land immediately east of the site. Roman pottery has also been found in the village.

The watching brief resulted in the discovery of a number of medieval features, including ditches and a possible pit. The associated pottery indicates activity spanning the late 12th to 14th centuries, although the assemblage might support a slightly broader date range.

It seems likely that the remains relate to occupation in the 'shrunk' medieval settlement of Wyberton. This would be consistent with the evidence of earthwork house platforms on land to the east.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Witham Archaeology during groundworks relating to the construction of a single house and associated garage at Plot 1, Low Road, Wyberton, Lincolnshire. The work, commissioned by the owners Mr and Mrs Lovelace, in response to a condition of planning permission issued by Boston Borough Council, was carried out on 30th April 2007.

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 Field Archaeologists.

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

The village of Wyberton, in the parish of Wyberton and the administrative district of Boston Borough, is situated approximately 3km south of the centre of Boston. Plot 1, covering an area of approximately 650m² lies on the eastern side of Low Road, at NGR TF 32767 41051. The plot is bounded by a residential property to the north and open ground to the east and south. Prior to the commencement of groundworks the site was under grass and generally level.

The site is located on drift geology; namely, the Terrington Beds; younger marine deposits, sandy silt, sand and clay (British Geological Survey, England & Wales Sheet 128, Solid & Drift, 1:50 000).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Wyberton is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 where it is referred to as *Wibertune*. The place-name is thought to derive from an amalgam of the Old English personal name *Wigberht* (alternatively the Continental Germanic name *Wi(g)bert*) and the Old English 'tun', giving the meaning 'Wibert's farmstead/village' (Cameron 1998, 144).

There were two major landholdings in Wyberton in 1086, one in the possession of Count Alan of Brittany, the other held by Guy de Craon (Morgan & Thorn 1986). By the 13th century, much of the land at Wyberton was held by the Earl of Richmond.

The church of St Leodegar, situated approximately 200m to the south of the development, has an Early English interior, but almost wholly Perpendicular exterior – the result of rebuilding after a collapse of the tower in AD1419. (Pevsner, Antram & Harris 1989, 816).

Wybert's Castle, a medieval moated site, lies approximately 800m east of the development, while the lost hamlet of Tytton and Tytton Hall (18th century but probably located on the site of an earlier hall) lie about 800m to the north. The County Historic Environment Record also contains references to medieval earthworks, including the remains of ridge and furrow and possible house platforms on land immediately to the east. Further earthworks of the period, including those relating to a moated manor house lie to the south, in Wyberton Park.

Sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from the site of Wyberton Old School, to the south of the site.

4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The principal objectives of the project, as set out in a Witham Archaeology specification of 5th April 2007, 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

Turf from the footprint of the house was removed by machine, prior to the excavation of foundation trenches.

Excavation of the foundation trenches was carried out by a tracked machine fitted with a smooth-bladed bucket, to a general width of 0.6m, with depths varying between 0.9 and 1m (as measured from the pre-existing ground level). Intensive cleaning was required to distinguish archaeological features and their fills from the underlying clay deposits. For this reason, recording within the footprint of the house was largely restricted to the trench on the northern side of the plot (designated Area B), through hand cleaning of the entire trench base, and cleaning at selected intervals of the south facing trench side (to determine the broad stratigraphic sequence). Other trenches within the footprint of the house were subjected to visual inspection.

To facilitate archaeological recording, the trench (Area A) for a drain running between the house and the road was partially excavated (where accessible), from a point just west of the house footprint to the

line of a hedge forming the western site boundary. The base of this trench and the south facing section were cleaned and recorded.

A soakaway pit (Area C), *c.* 1.5m deep and measuring approximately 1.8m² in plan, was excavated on ground to the east of the house. To represent the generally uniform stratigraphy revealed in the pit, a part of the south facing section was cleaned and recorded.

A series of colour photographs details archaeological deposits and features as well as the progress of groundwork operations. Drawings were produced at scale 1:20 and 1:50 as appropriate, while written context descriptions were made for each unit of stratigraphy.

6.0 RESULTS (Fig. 3 & 4)

For ease of reference, the results of archaeological fieldwork are presented by area.

6.1 Service Trench (Area A)

The earliest deposit located in the Area A was a light brown clay (010), encountered at a depth of *c.* 0.75m below existing ground level.

The clay, (010), was cut by a feature, [005], partially revealed at the eastern end of the trench, and interpreted as a probable ditch. This was filled by silty clay, (004), containing two sherds of pottery dated as 13th to 15th century.

An ill-defined cut, [009], at the western end of the trench may be interpreted as a ditch aligned north-south. It contained a silty clay fill, (008), from which a single sherd of pottery dated as late 12th to 13th century was recovered. Feature [009] was cut to the south by a possible pit, [007] containing clayey silt (006), which produced four sherds of pottery identified as being late 13th to 14th century in date.

A layer of clayey silt, (003), *c.* 0.10 – 0.20m thick, extended over (010). Although the stratigraphic relationships between layer (003) and deposits filling [004] and [009] were not conclusively established, there was some indication that (003) sealed the fill of [005]. To avoid contamination, finds from above [005] and [009] were allocated separate finds numbers (see Appendix A). Overlying (003) was a layer, (002), of sandy clay *c.* 0.20m thick. This was originally interpreted as alluvium, but it could (particularly in view of its sandy content) be regarded as a ploughed horizon identical to that noted elsewhere on the site (see below). Topsoil *c.* 0.60m thick (max) occupied the upper levels of the trench.

6.2 Northern Foundation Trench (Area B)

Light brown clay, (017), extended throughout the base of Area B, predating the archaeological features described below.

An east-west aligned ditch, [023], was visible in plan at the eastern end of Area B. The northern side of the feature was observed to continue westward for a distance of at least 5m, to the point where it became indistinct. Another feature, [019], intermittently visible in the central part of Area B, was recorded as a gully *c.* 0.35m wide. However, its northern edge aligned with [023]. It could, therefore, be regarded as a continuation of [023], with its clayey silt fill, (018), representing a primary fill of the larger ditch. The latter deposit contained three sherds of pottery dated as 13th to 15th century.

An ill-defined feature, [021], lay between [023] and [019]. Limits of the feature were located to the east and north, but its true extent was not clearly established. Its silty clay fill, (020), produced a single sherd of 13th century pottery.

A band of clay, (015), approximately 0.15m thick, was visible in section, overlying the primary deposit, (017). It was in turn overlain by sandy clay, (014), interpreted as a probable plough-soil, and topsoil (001).

6.3 Soakaway East of the House-plot (Area C)

The earliest deposit in Area C was a light brown clay with blue-grey mottles, (027), at least 0.4m thick. It was overlain - with the exception of (015) - by a sequence of deposits comparable to that previously encountered in Area B.

7.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

7.1 Pre-occupation deposits

Deposits (017) and (027), which were probably alluvial in origin, apparently predate all of the archaeological features recorded on the site.

7.2 Medieval Activity

Medieval activity on the site was represented by a number of features including ditches and at least one possible pit. The size (relative to the scale of the project) and character (see Appendix B) of the pottery assemblage suggests an element of domestic occupation, if not on the site itself, in very close proximity. It seems highly likely, therefore, that the site forms part of the 'shrunk village' of Wyberton as indicated by earthwork remains (including possible house platforms) on land to the east. Although the pottery from the site indicates settlement spanning the late 12th to 14th centuries, the assemblage includes vessels that may extend the date range in either or both directions.

7.3 Post-occupation Activity

A thick deposit of sandy clay, (014), present in Areas B and C, could represent a later phase of arable cultivation on the site. A similar deposit, (002), found in Area A could represent a further extent of the same material.

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author of this report would like to thank the developers of the property, Mr and Mrs Lovelace, for their interest and support in ensuring the successful completion of this project. Thanks are also due to Anne Boyle, Rachel Hall, Jennifer Kitch and Gary Taylor of Archaeological Project Services for production of the specialist reports and archives.

9.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Cameron, K & Insley, J 1998 *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names*. English Place-Name Society
- Morgan, P & Thorn, C (Eds.) 1986 *Domesday Book, A Survey of the Counties of England: Lincolnshire*. Phillimore
- Pevsner, N, & Harris, J 1989 *The Buildings of England. Lincolnshire*. Penguin (2nd Ed., Revised by N Antram)

10.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

10.1 LHA Note Details

SITE CODE: LRWY07

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: B07/0075/RESM

FIELD OFFICER: R Trimble

NGR: TF 32767 41051

CIVIL PARISH: Wyberton

SMR No.:

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 30th April 2007

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Mr & Mrs Lovelace, 52 Wing Drive, Boston

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM ID: withamar-26559

10.2 Archive Details

PRESENT LOCATION: Witham Archaeology, 65 Grantham Road, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 7NG

FINAL LOCATION: The City and County Museum, Friars Lane, Lincoln

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: 2007.90

ACCESSION DATE: -

The Site Archive Comprises:

Context Records	27
Plans at Scale 1:20	1
Plans at Scale 1:50	1
Section Drawings at Scale 1:20	1
Section Drawings at Scale 1:50	4
Colour Print Photographs	21
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 – View showing 'Pit' [007], looking west (1m scale)



Plate 2 – View showing south facing trench side in Area B, looking northeast (1m scale)

APPENDIX A - CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Area	Interpretation	Description
001	All	Topsoil	Moderately compact, mid to dark greyish brown clayey sand; 0.3 to 0.6m thick
002	ST	Layer – alluvium?	Compact, mid brown and mid to dark greyish brown (mottled) sandy clay; 0.2m thick
003	ST	Layer	Soft, mid greyish brown clayey silt containing occ shell flecks; 0.1 to 0.2m thick
004	ST	Fill of [005]	Moderately compact, mid brown silty clay
005	ST	Ditch	Orientated N-S?; only partially revealed; not excavated
006	ST	Fill of [007]	Soft, mid grey brown clayey silt; occ shell flecks and frequent charcoal flecks
007	ST	Cut (possible pit)	Only partially revealed in plan; rounded NE corner; at least 1.46m E-W x 0.38m N-S
008	ST	Fill of [009]	Moderately compact/ fairly soft mid grey brown silty clay
009	ST	Ditch?	Partially revealed in plan; at least 1.3m wide
010	ST	‘Natural’ clay	Compact light brown clay; at least 0.15m thick
011	ST	Finds No.	Finds from 003 – immediately over cut [009]
012	ST	Finds No.	Finds from 003 – immediately over cut [005]
013	ST	Finds No.	Unstratified finds
014	HP/SA	Layer – ploughsoil?	Compact, mid grey-brown sandy clay; occ shell and charcoal flecks; 0.25 – 0.4m thick
015	HP	Layer – alluvium?	Compact, light to mid grey-brown clay; occ shell and charcoal flecks; approximately 0.15m thick
016	HP	Layer – alluvium?	Soft, mottled light brown and mid grey clayey silt
017	HP/SA	‘Natural’ clay	Compact, light brown clay; iron-pan flecks; about 0.45m thick in soakaway
018	HP	Fill of [019]	Soft, mid grey-brown clayey silt; occ stone to 10mm & occ pot
019	HP	Ditch or gully?	Linear; width uncertain
020	HP	Fill of [021]	Moderately compact/fairly soft, mid grey-brown silty clay; occ shell flecks
021	HP	Cut	Indeterminate shape and extent; at least 2m E-W x 0.60m N-S; only eastern limit found
022	HP	Fill of [023]	Moderately compact/fairly soft, mid grey-brown silty clay
023	HP	Ditch	Linear, 1.5m wide and at least 5m long; orientated E-W
024	HP	Finds	Find from edge of waterlogged area – part of (018)?
025	HP	Finds	Find from area between (018) and (020); possibly part of (018)
026	HP	Finds	Unstratified finds from house-plot area
027	HP	‘Natural’ clay	Compact, light brown with blue-grey mottles, clay; at least 0.4m thick

Key to Abbreviations:

HP	<i>House Plot</i>
OCC	<i>Occasional</i>
SA	<i>Soakaway</i>
ST	<i>Service Trench</i>

APPENDIX B - POST ROMAN POTTERY ARCHIVE

ANNE BOYLE, Archaeological Project Services

The assemblage contains a range of medieval wares that are known to occur in Boston and the surrounding area, though few groups of this date are known from Wyberton. The range of forms and the presence of soot on some of the vessels suggests the pottery is domestic in nature. The pottery mainly spans the late 12th to 14th century, though vessels that may pre- and post-date this period are also present. Two vessels are recommended for incorporation into the Lincolnshire fabric type series. No further work on the assemblage is required at this stage.

trench	context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	action	description
ST	004	BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics A, B and C	A	jar	1	1	5		BS		external soot
ST	004	BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics A, B and C	A/C	jug	1	1	47	thumb pressed edges	handle	removed to type series	strap handle with central hollow; unusual - possibly a Baston product
ST	006	BOSTTT	Boston Glazed ware - Toynton type		jug	1	1	24	horizontal cordon	BS		
ST	006	BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics A, B and C	A/C	bowl	1	1	41		base		external soot
ST	006	BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics A, B and C	C	jar	1	1	45		rim		patchy external and internal soot; round everted rim; ? same vessel
ST	006	TOY	Toynton Medieval Ware		jar	2	1	68		BS	removed to type series	external soot; glaze on shoulder only; ? ID unusual, visually like TOY but odd
ST	008	LEMS	Lincolnshire Early Medieval Shelly		jar	1	1	4		base		? ID
ST	008	PSHW	Peterborough Shelly Ware		jar	1	1	16		BS		abraded; external soot; ? ID
ST	010	SLSQ	South Lincs Shell and Quartz (generic)		jar	1	1	5		rim		everted; patchy soot on rim; abraded

trench	context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	action	description
ST	011	BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics A, B and C	A	jar	2	1	31		BS		external soot
ST	011	SLST	South Lincolnshire Shell Tempered ware		jar / bowl	1	1	21		BS		
ST	012	BOSTTT	Boston Glazed ware - Toynton type		jug / jar	1	1	9		BS		
ST	013	BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics A, B and C		jar	1	1	28		BS		external soot; internal residue and over break
ST	013	LSW3	14th to 15th century Lincoln Glazed Ware		jug	1	1	18	applied curved cordon	BS		possibly not Lincoln production
HP	018	POTT	Potterhanworth-type Ware		bowl ?	2	1	39		BS		spalled surface
HP	018	PSHW	Peterborough Shelly Ware		bowl	2	1	45		base		
HP	018	TOY	Toynton Medieval Ware	light firing	jug / jar	1	1	19		BS		? ID
HP	020	BEVO2	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 2	A/B	jug	1	1	72		BS		brown glaze
HP	024	LSW2	13th to 14th century Lincoln Glazed Ware		jug	1	1	42	single pinch at basal angle	base		
HP	025	BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics A, B and C	A/B	jar	2	1	27		rim		long everted rim; patchy soot on rim
HP	026	BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware		jar	1	1	11		BS		internal glaze
HP	026	STMO	Staffordshire/Bristol mottled-glazed		jar / chamber	1	1	15		base		

APPENDIX C - THE OTHER FINDS

by Rachael Hall, Jennifer Kitch and Gary Taylor

A small quantity of mixed artefacts, fired clay, metal and glass, comprising 6 items weighing a total of 72g, was retrieved. Faunal remains were also recovered.

The excavated animal bone assemblage comprises 3 stratified fragments weighing 10g. The animal bone was identified by reference to published catalogues. No attempt is made to sex or age animals represented within the assemblage, although where this is readily apparent is noted in the comments column.

Provenance

The material was recovered from a possible alluvial layer (016), a ditch/gully fill (018), as unstratified artefacts (026) and as finds perhaps from ditches (011 and 025).

Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables.

Table 1: Other Artefacts

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
016	Iron	Nail, turned over head, bent	1	9	
018	Fired clay	Lightly fired silt/clay, one side flat, incorporates coal fragment	4	25	
026	Glass	Dark green bottle base, much iridescence	1	38	19 th century

Table 2: The Faunal Remains

Context	Species	Bone	No.	Wt (g)	Comments
011	Unidentified	Unidentified	1	2	
018	Sheep/goat	Thoracic vertebra	1	6	Cut mark; fully-fused epiphyses, adult
025	Large mammal	Unidentified	1	2	Charred

Condition

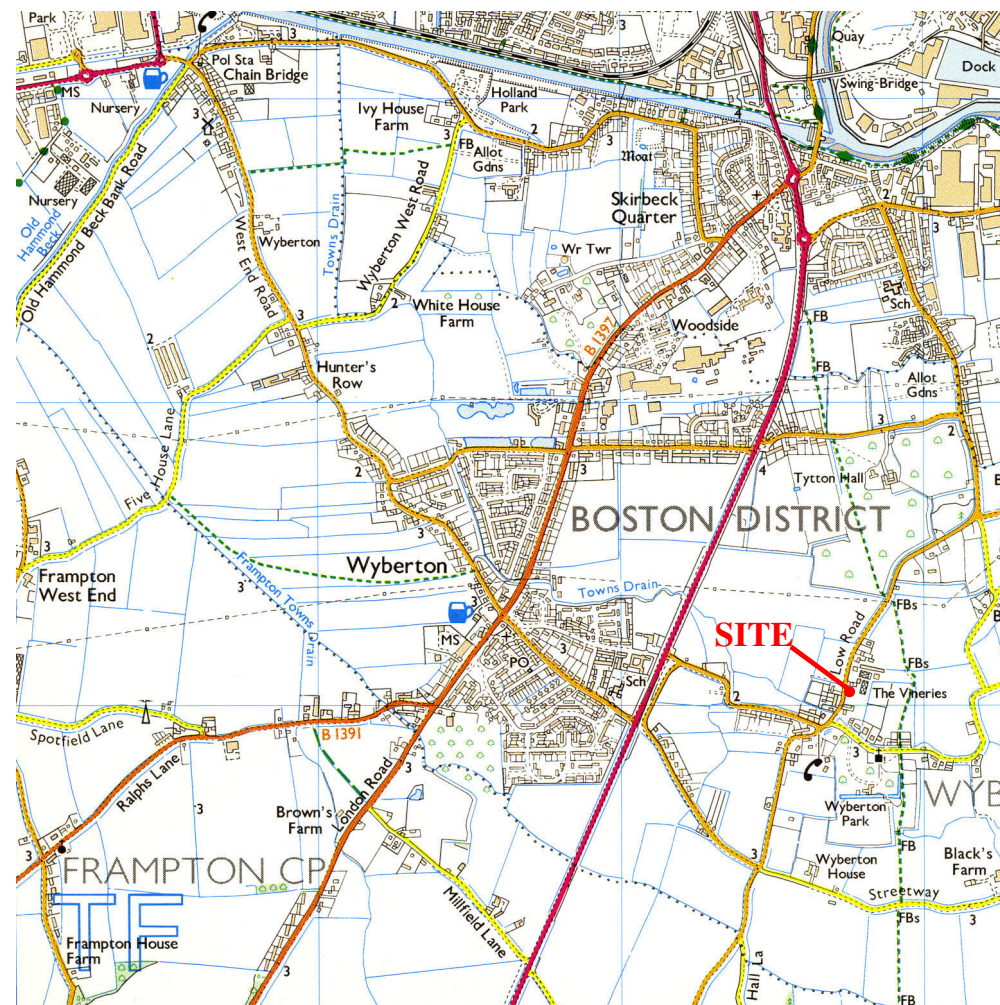
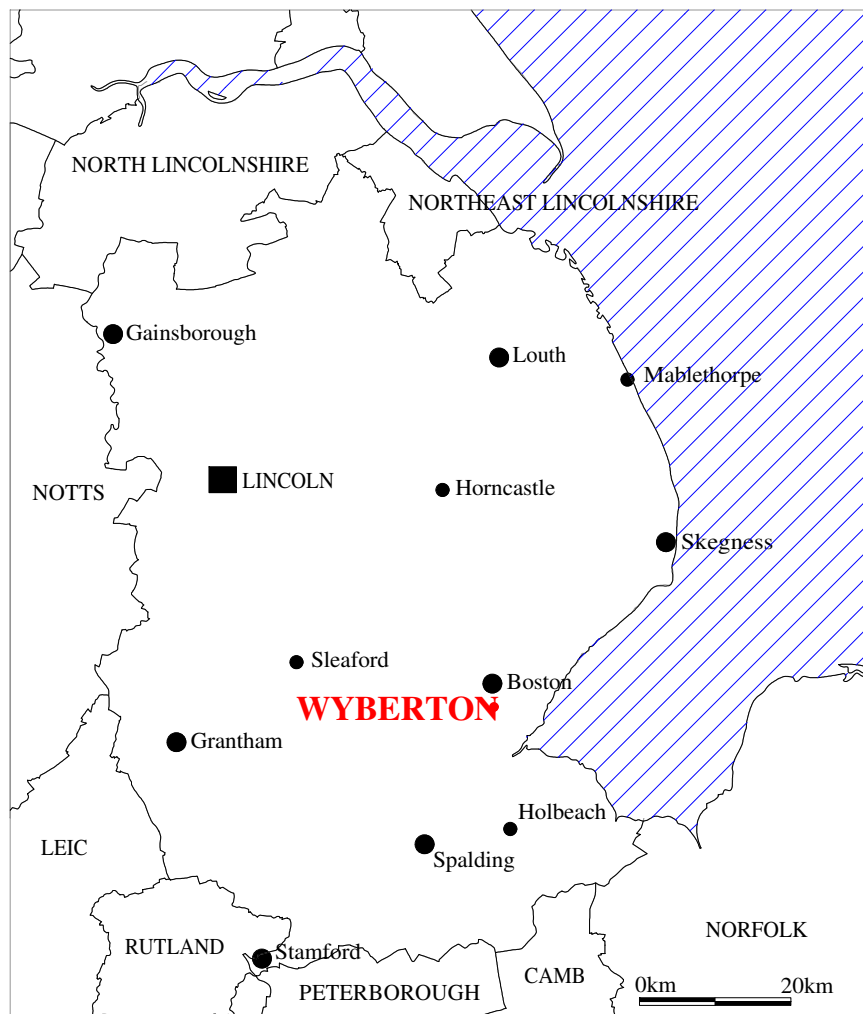
All the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. Archive storage of the collection is by material class.

Documentation

There have been previous archaeological investigations at Wyberton, including elsewhere on Low Road, that are the subjects of reports. Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the files of the Boston Planning Archaeologist and the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

The small collection of mixed artefacts is of limited local potential and significance. None of the material types occur in enough abundance to suggest function or, beyond the glass, dating.



Based upon the Explorer 1:25 000 Ordnance Survey map with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright
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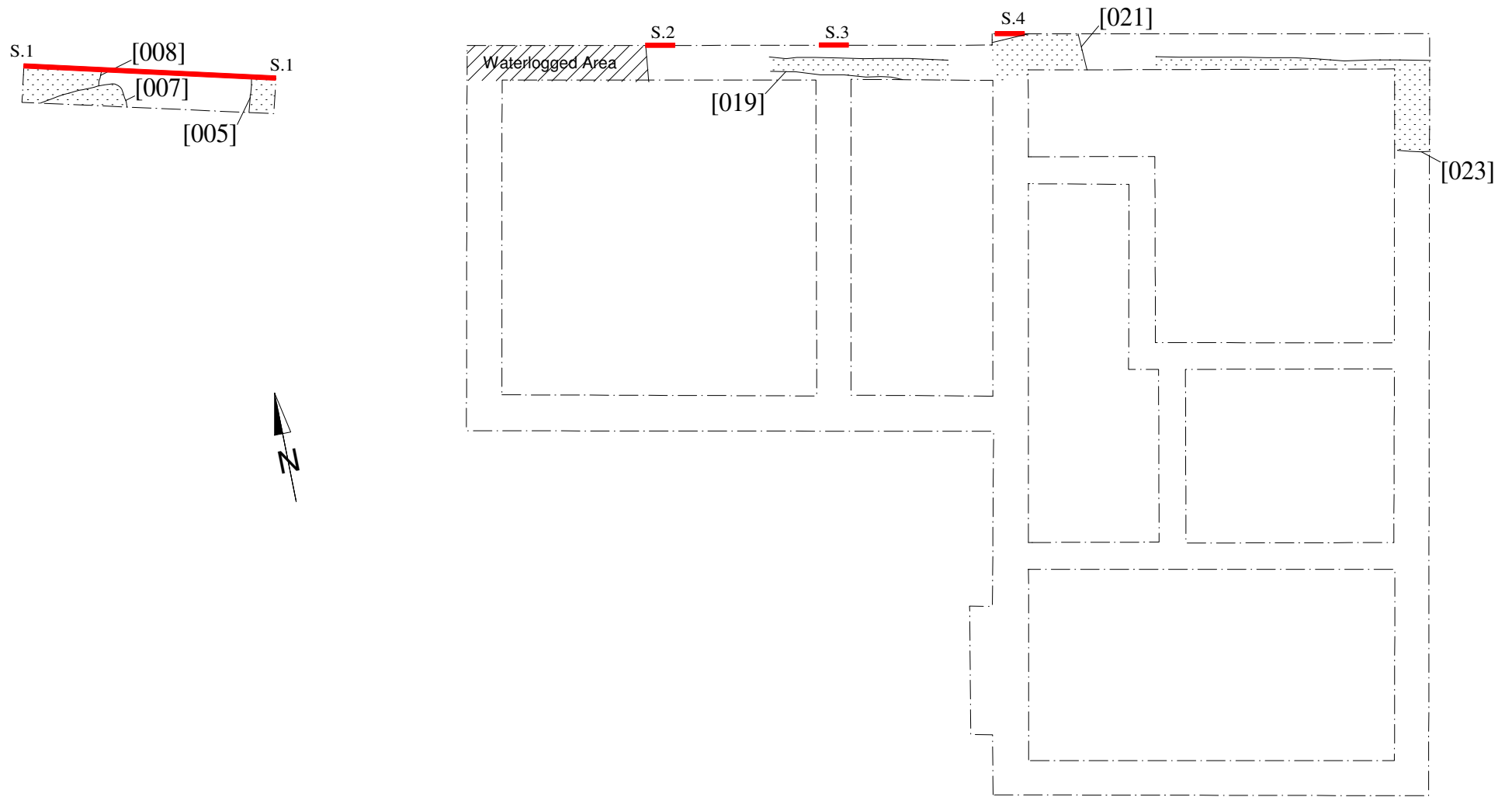
From a drawing provided by
D. W. Bradley, Chartered Surveyor

May 2007

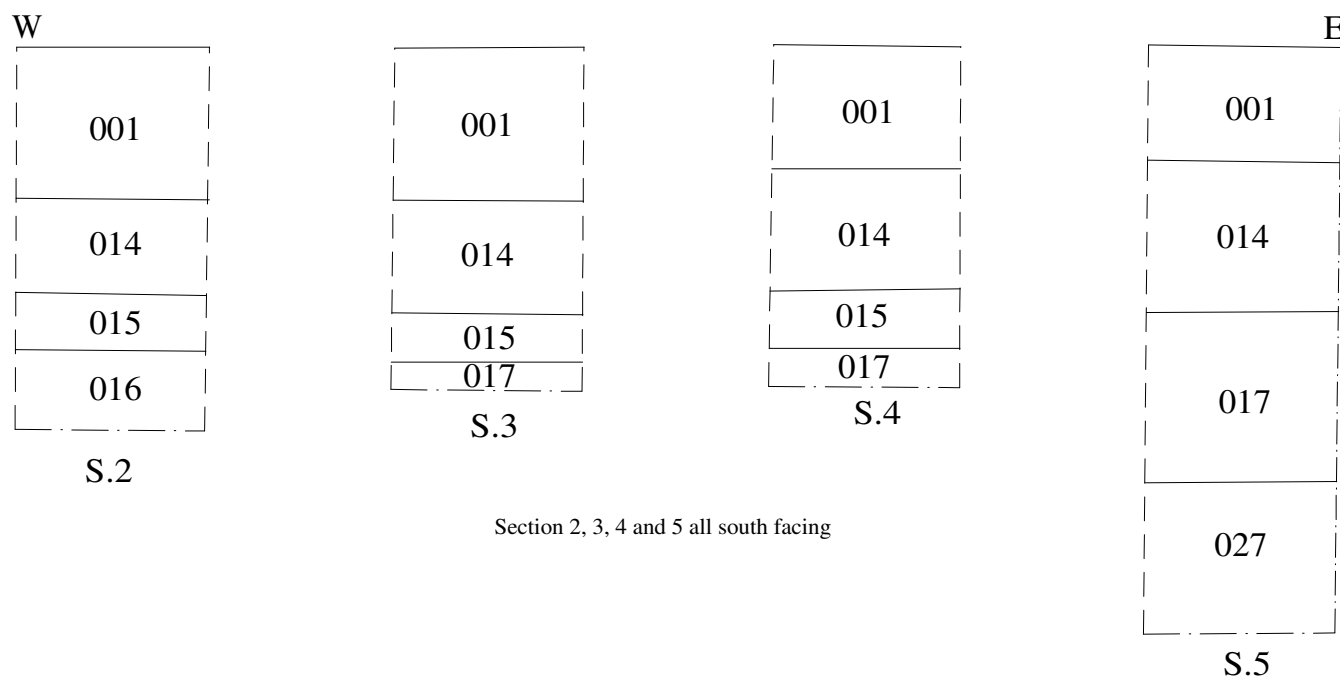
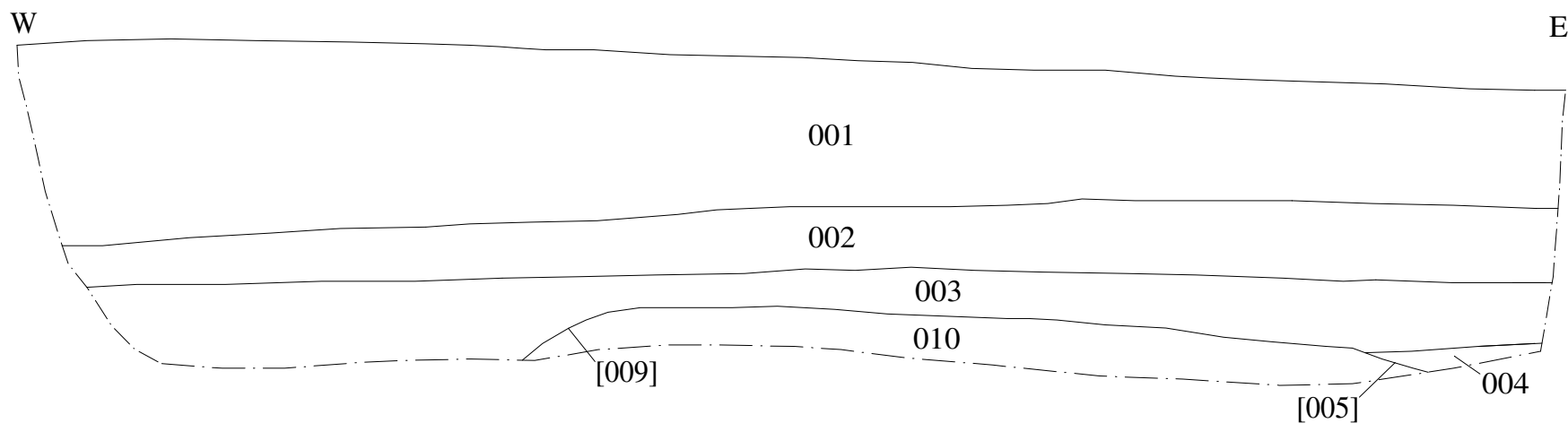
Site Location Plan

Scale 1:500

Fig 2



From a drawing provided by
D. W. Bradley, Chartered Surveyor



Section 5 located at NE corner
of soakaway pit (see Fig.2)

Section 2, 3, 4 and 5 all south facing