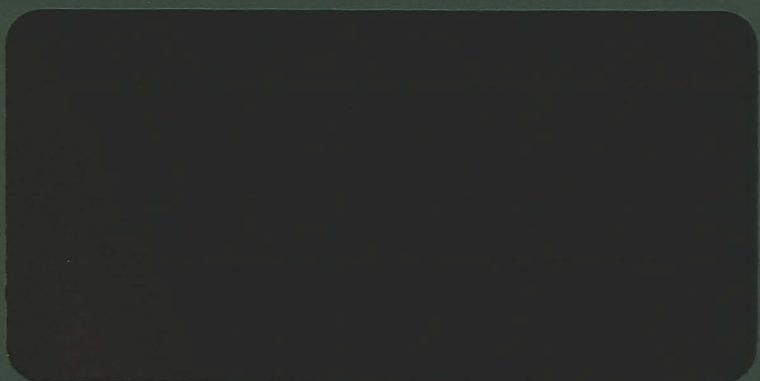


99/18

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION REPORT  
AT GRANGE LE INGS FARM, FALDINGWORTH, LINCOLN**

Site Code: GIFF99  
LCNCC Acc No. 186.99  
NGR: 506780 384650  
Planning Ref. P/99/10109



*Handwritten text, possibly a signature or date, located in the bottom right corner of the page.*

Event L13970  
Sources L18572 L18573  
Negative

99/18

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Report prepared for Mr J Connor on behalf of Mr E Backus  
by Quentin Hutchinson PGD.FA, PIFA.

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September 1999

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**Summary**

- \* *An Archaeological trial excavation was undertaken on land at Grange Le Ings Farm, Faldingworth, Lincolnshire.*
- \* *Five trenches were excavated to investigate anomalies identified by an earlier geophysical survey.*
- \* *Several natural variations in the underlying till and boulder clay were identified, but no archaeological features were exposed in any of the areas investigated.*
- \* *One piece of modern drain pipe recovered from the topsoil was discarded.*
- \* *It is suggested that the site is of limited archaeological potential*

**Fig. 1: Site Location**  
(1:2500 and 1:50,000)

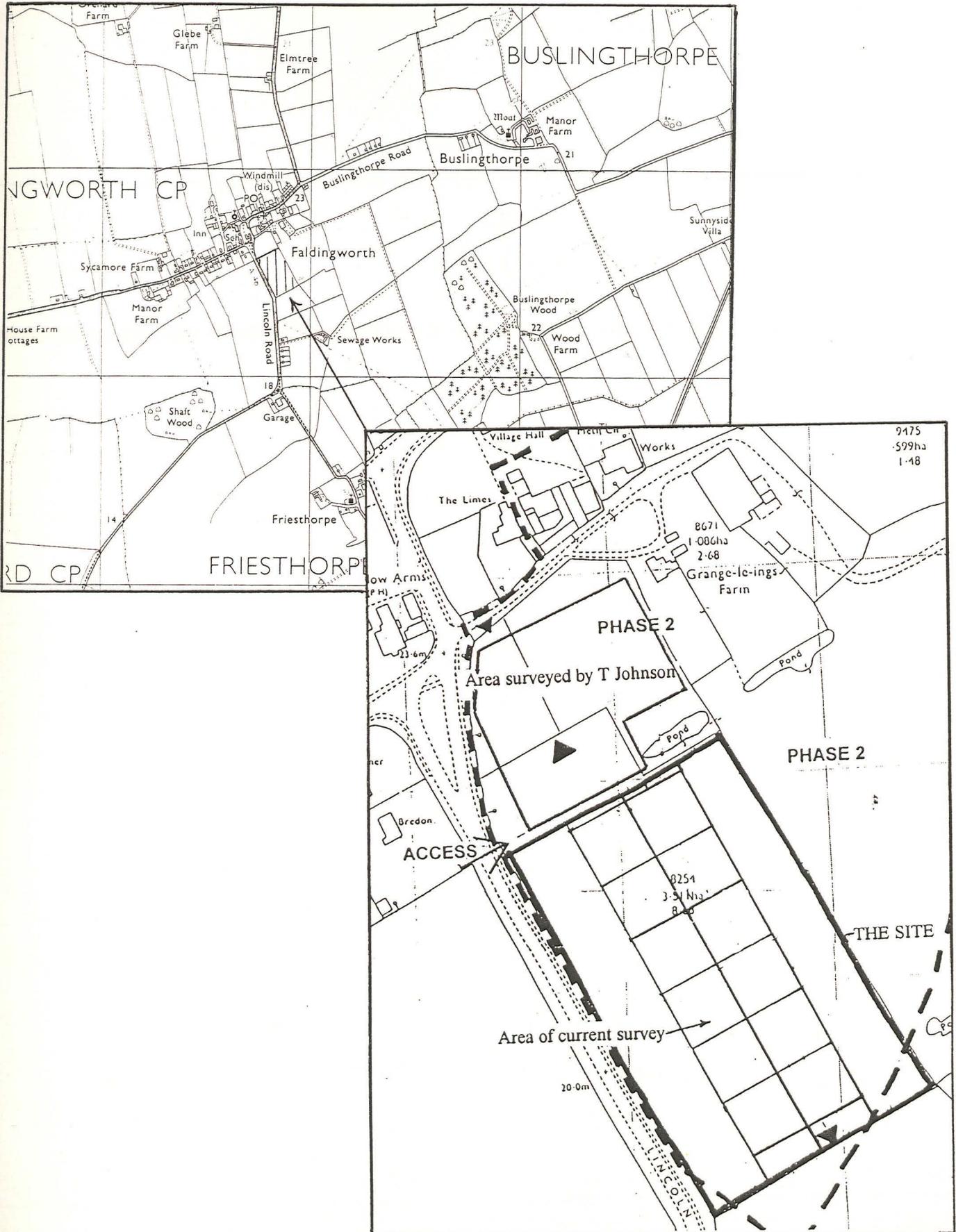
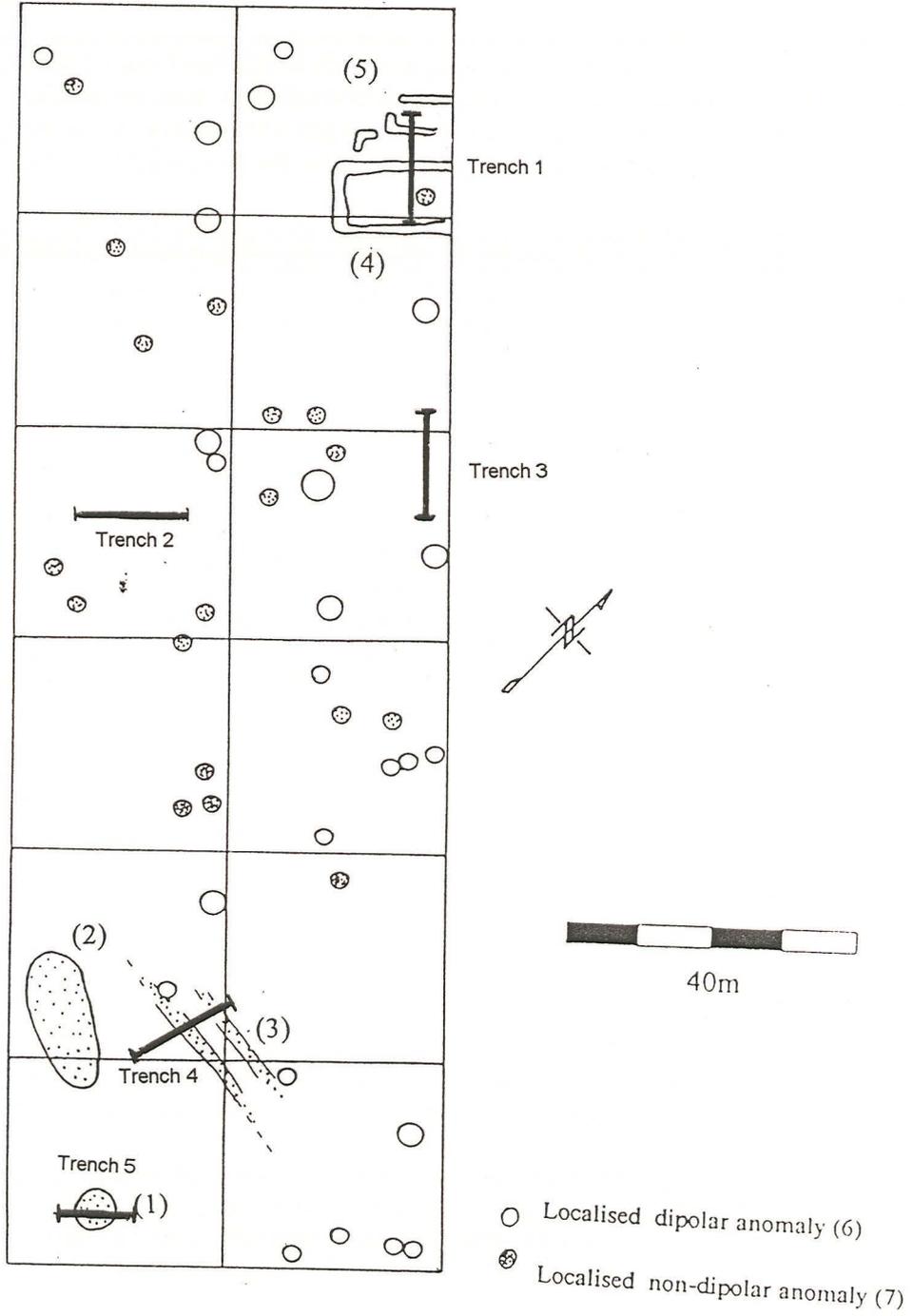


Fig. 2: Location of gradiometer survey in relation to trial trenches



## 1.0 Introduction

A three-day programme of archaeological trial excavation was carried out on land south west of Grange Le Ings Farm, Faldingworth, Lincolnshire (fig. 1 ). The evaluation was commissioned by Mr J. Connor on behalf of his client Mr E. Backus to fulfil a planning requirement issued by West Lindsey District Council. The trial trenching followed an earlier geophysical survey (Snee 1999), the results of which formed the basis for the programme.

The results of this report will assist the local planning authority and the client to further 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 village of Faldingworth is approximately 5 km southwest of Market Rasen, and over 13 km north east of Lincoln on the A46. The site is to the south east of the village (centred on NGR 506780 384650) and adjacent to the A46. It comprises a rectangular unit of approximately 2.5 hectares, and is on a shallow gradient, sloping southwards (circa 23.6m AOD at the north, c. 21.5m AOD at the south).

## 3.0 Archaeological and Historical background

The place-name Faldingworth derives from the Old English 'Falding(e) Urde, meaning 'enclosure for folding livestock'. Reference is found to it in the Domesday book, and features in the field to the immediate north of the current site were possibly indicative of the Shrunken Medieval Village (CLAU 1998): a recent magnetometer survey of this land (Oxford Archaeotechnics Ltd, Feb. 1999) could not positively identify domestic features associated with medieval occupation. It did however reveal other anomalies that may reflect buried drainage ditches of an earlier period.

During the Upper Palaeolithic period (more than 18,000 years ago) the whole landscape had been subjected to the effects of glacial advances from the north, depositing a chalky boulder clay and till of unsorted stones over the landscape.

A fluxgate gradiometer survey was carried out over most of the site in September 1999 (Snee 1999). Several anomalies were detected which appeared to be of some archaeological potential. Excavation, however, has determined that the features detected were probably natural.

#### 4.0 Methodology

Information held at the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the results of earlier geophysical surveys suggested that the site may have been of archaeological potential. In view of this, the Assistant County archaeologist for Lincolnshire approved a project specification for the excavation of five evaluation trenches to investigate anomalies identified during the geophysical survey. The trenches were excavated as follows;

**Trench 1** (15m x 1.6m): located in the north corner of the area surveyed by gradiometry, and orientated north west to south east. This was sited to investigate a series of linear anomalies that appeared to reflect potential building remains.

**Trench 2** (15m x 1.6m): located to the south west and in a central area of site to investigate a magnetically quiet area. This trench was orientated south west to north east.

**Trench 3** (15m x 1.6m): located in a central/north west area of site to investigate a similarly magnetically quiet area. This trench was orientated north west to south east.

**Trench 4** (15m x 1.6m): located in the south corner of the gradiometer survey, and orientated south west to north east to investigate two faint linear anomalies.

**Trench 5** (10m x 1.6m): located in the far south corner of the survey area and orientated south west to north east; to investigate a large circular anomaly.

Trench locations are shown on fig. 2, along with the graphic representation of the magnetic anomalies detected. The aim of these trenches was to identify and determine the nature of any archaeology (character, date, depth, extent and significance) that had been suggested from the results of the gradiometer survey.

Recording was undertaken using standard context record sheets. Where anomalies were detected these were drawn in plan and section to scale, and colour prints were taken of all trenches (some prints are reproduced in this report).

The drawings and paper archive will form the basis of a long term project archive. Only one find was retrieved from the topsoil: a fragment of modern drain pipe that was discarded.

No environmental samples were taken.

The evaluation was supervised by the writer assisted by two experienced field archaeologists, and was carried out between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of September 1999

## 5.0 Results

### 5.1 Trench 1 (fig. 3 )

The gradiometer survey suggested that this trench held the strongest potential for exposing significant archaeological remains: excavation, however, demonstrated that the trench was devoid of any archaeologically significant material.

Geophysical survey in this area had detected an isolated group of faint linear anomalies that had alignments closely resembling those of a walled structure (these were expressed as negative anomalies). The trench was excavated by machine in spits of 20cms down to natural deposits of chalky boulder clay, which lay at a depth circa thirty centimetres below the modern ground surface. One fragment of brick was observed whilst machining through the topsoil; otherwise the trench was devoid of any finds. An isolated area of lighter clay was observed on the trench floor, roughly corresponding with one of the linear anomalies. It is suggested that the gradiometer detected a subtle difference in the natural clay .

### 5.2 Trench 2 (fig. 4 )

This trench was located in a magnetically quiet area, and exposed correspondingly quiet results. No finds of any period were retrieved and no features were encountered. The trench was machine excavated to a depth of circa 35cms, exposing only chalky boulder clay.

### 5.3 Trench 3 (fig. 5)

This trench was similarly located in a magnetically quiet zone and produced identical results to trench 2. No finds were retrieved and no features were exposed. The trench was machine excavated to a depth of 35cms onto the chalky boulder clay. Some isolated fire-cracked flints were observed, although no context for this material was exposed.

### 5.4 Trench 4 (fig. 6 - 7 )

This trench was designed to traverse two faint east-west linear anomalies that were detected by the gradiometer survey. The excavation did indeed expose two features running east-west, but these features were not of an archaeological origin.

The first feature, (0402) transpired to be a glacial feature (?ice wedge) of irregular profile, approximately 18cms deep and 63cms wide. The second feature (0404) was initially interpreted as a possible land drain, but cleaning revealed an irregular shape in plan. Excavation showed it to have a similar depth of 18cms, but with an average width of 1.04m. Its gradient was much shallower. It was interpreted as a natural lens of gravel within the glacial till, possibly deposited by meltwater rivulet. It contained no finds.

The trench contained little boulder clay, and was machined to a depth of c.35cms onto a base of till.

#### 5.5 Trench 5 (fig. 8 – 9)

The trench was positioned to intercept a large circular anomaly detected by the gradiometer survey. Excavation suggested that this feature was probably larger than suggested by the magnetometer survey (see figs). A similar but larger anomaly (not sampled by excavation) was detected approximately 20m further to the north, and this was a fairly obvious depression in the modern ground surface.

The base of the sampled feature, 502, was predominantly flat and it revealed stony till below. With a recorded depth of only 15cm, it is likely that this feature was a depression of natural, possibly glacial, origin.

One piece of modern drainpipe was found whilst machining of the topsoil took place.

#### 6.0 Discussion and Conclusions

The evaluation did not identify any archaeological remains.

For the most part, features were revealed which corresponded with anomalies detected by gradiometry: the one clear exception being the group of negative linear anomalies in the north-east of the survey area. No satisfactory explanation has been provided, although it is certain that Trench 1 was positioned exactly as indicated in Fig. 2.

It is concluded that the current site is of limited archaeological potential, and that any future development of the site would not result in the needless destruction of important archaeological remains.

The Client, Mr E. Backus, has indicated that, in his memory, no finds have ever been recovered from this field following ploughing.

Fig. 3. Trench 1, south west facing section

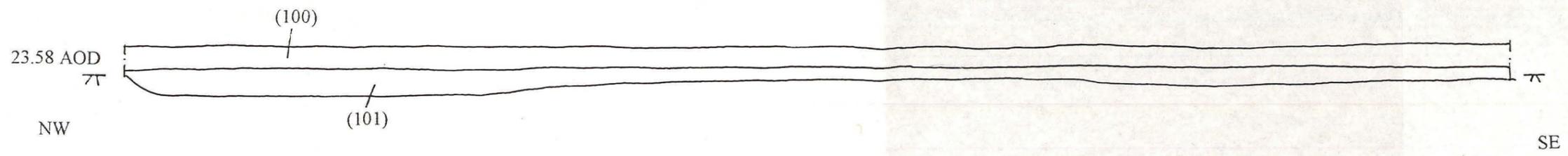


Fig. 4. Trench 2, south east facing section

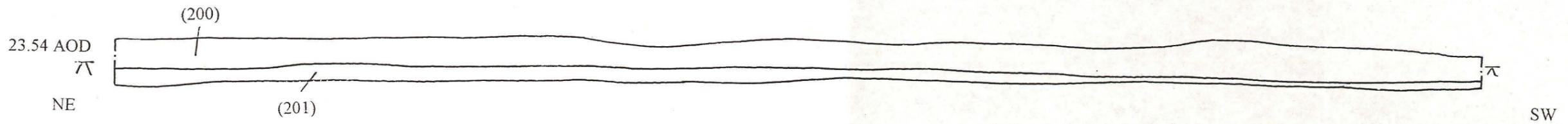


Fig. 5. Trench 3, north east facing section

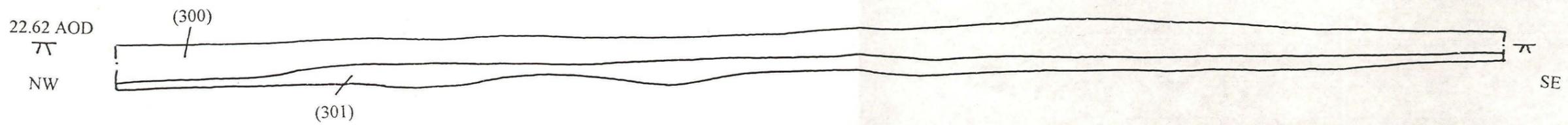


Fig.6. Trench 4, west facing section

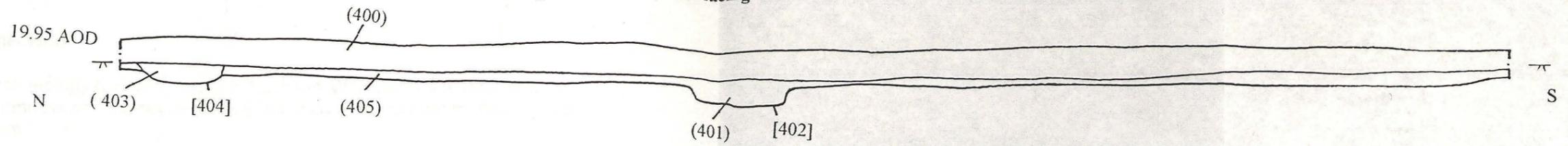


Fig.7. Trench 4, plan

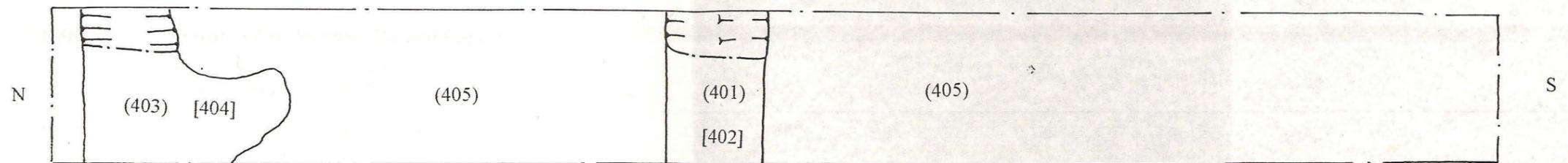


Fig.8. Trench 5, north west facing section

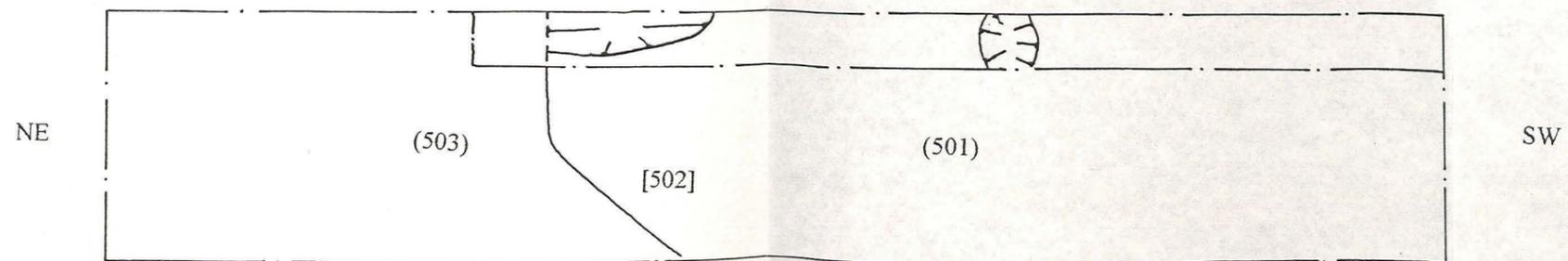
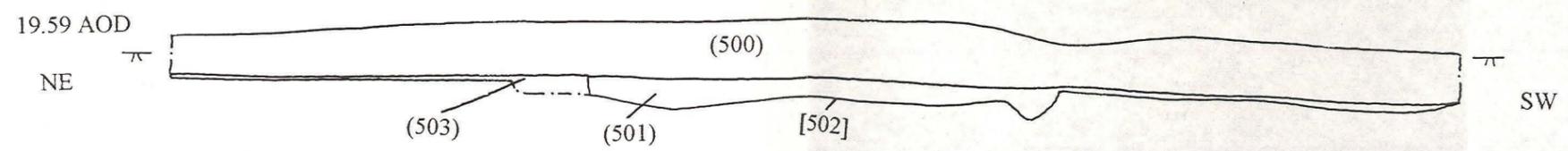


Fig.9. Trench 5, plan



## 7.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) express thanks to Mr J. Connor and to Mr E Backus for this commission. Thanks are also expressed to the site team: Anne Irving and Andy Kirkham.

## 8.0 Appendices:

### 8.1 References

Mills A. D.	1993	<i>English Place Names</i>
Phillimore	1986	<i>Domesday book, part 2: Lincolnshire</i>
Snee, J.	1999	<i>Fluxgate Gradiometer Survey Report: Land at Grange Le Ings, Faldingworth, Lincolnshire</i> (unpublished)
West, R.G	1979	<i>Pleistocene Geology and Biology</i>

### 8.2 Site Archive

Primary records are currently with PCA (Lincoln). An ordered archive is in preparation and will be deposited at the city and County Museum, Lincoln, within six months. It can be accessed by quoting the reference number LCNCC 186.99. The archive comprises: 1 x A4 file of site records, 1 x colour print film, 4 sheets of site drawings.

8.3 Colour photographs



P.1 General view of the site from the west corner looking south east



P.2 Trench 1, looking south east



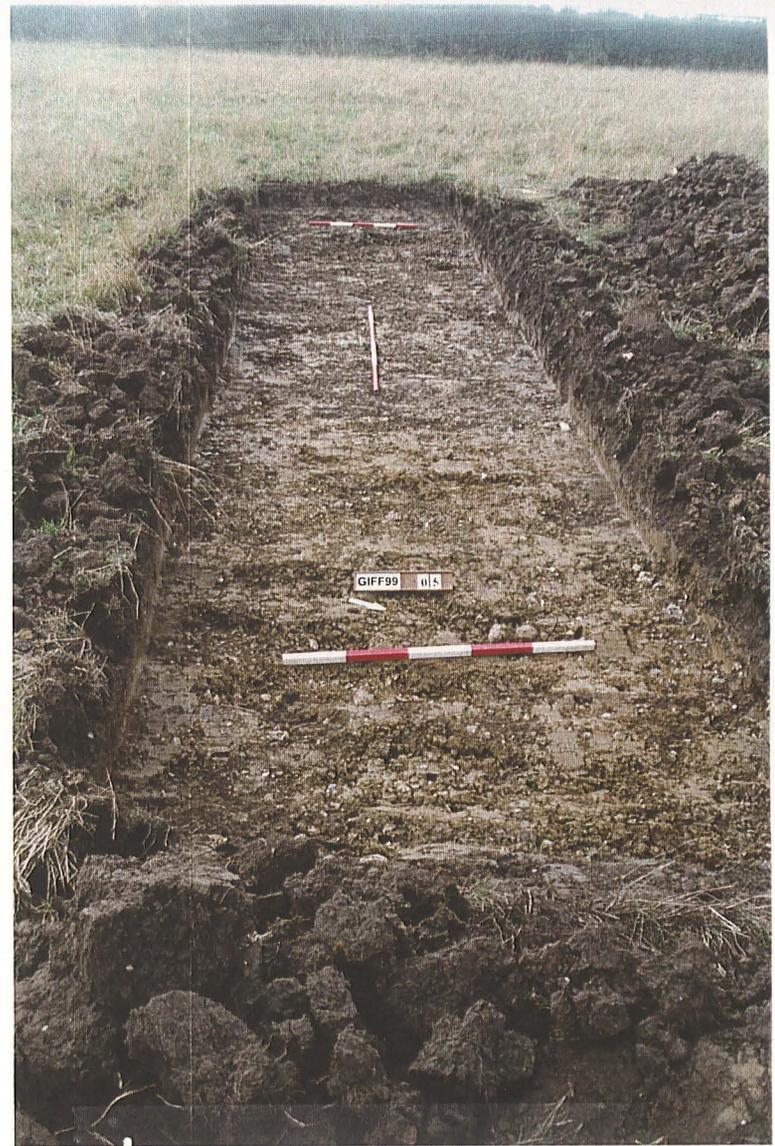
P.3 Trench 2, looking north east



P.4 Trench 3, looking south east



P5 Trench 4, looking north east



P.6 Trench 5, looking north east