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RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION: LAND ADJACENT TO WILLOW HOUSE, CHURCH END, GEDNEY,

LINCOLNSHIRE

NGR TF 4026 2420

4032 2424

Planning Application Reference: H06/1373/01

Site Code: WHG02

Accession No.: LCNCC 2002.158

COMMISSIONED BY:

**Mr. J.D. Noon,
Willow House,
Church End,
Gedney,
Lincolnshire**

April 2002

Conservation
Services

16 APR 2002

Highways & Planning
Directorate

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L17628

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CONTENTS

Negative

1.0	SUMMARY	3
2.0	SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION	3
3.0	PLANNING BACKGROUND	3
4.0	PROJECT MANAGEMENT	3
5.0	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	4
6.0	AIMS	5
7.0	METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS	5
8.0	DISCUSSION	6
9.0	FIGURES	6
10.0	PLATES	7
11.0	BIBLIOGRAPHY & SOURCES	8
12.0	SITE DETAILS AND ARCHIVE	8
13.0	CONTEXT SUMMARY	9

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *Mr. J.D. Noon applied for the renewal of full planning permission for the construction of a single dwelling and access on land adjacent to Willow House, Church End, Gedney, Lincolnshire (Planning Application H06/1373/01).*
- 1.2 *Prior to the determination of the planning application, the Archaeology Section, Conservation Services, Lincolnshire County Council (acting as archaeological advisors to South Holland District Council) requested that a pre-determination archaeological trial trench evaluation of the site should be undertaken so that any archaeological remains may be taken into account.*
- 1.3 *A specification was prepared in response to a brief set by the Conservation Services, Lincolnshire County Council (Ref.: GEDN7417.EVL). The evaluation recorded a drainage ditch with modern infill. No archaeological finds or features were encountered.*

2.0 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 Gedney is located 14km east of Spalding in the administrative district of South Holland. The site is located on Church End in the centre of Gedney and opposite the church of St. Mary Magdalen. The site is situated between Willow House and Churchgate Mews. The site is a rectangular piece of landscaped gardens measuring 730m² in total (see Figure 1).
- 2.2 The development area is centred on NGR TF 4026 2420 and lies at an altitude of 2.9m AOD. Soils at the site are Wisbech Association (812b) comprising deep stoneless calcareous coarse silty soils overlying Marine Alluvium (SSEW 1983).

3.0 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Mr. J.D. Noon applied to South Holland District Council to renew full planning permission for the construction of a single dwelling and access (Planning application reference: H06/1373/01). In response to this application, the Archaeology Section, Conservation Services (LCC) acting as advisors to South Holland District Council requested that a pre-determination archaeological trial trench evaluation be undertaken. A Project Brief was issued by the Archaeology Section (Ref.: GEDN7417.EVL). The requirement was for a 4% evaluation of the site by area (two trenches 10m x 1.5m).

4.0 PROJECT MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 A specification detailing the methodology to be maintained during the evaluation was prepared prior to fieldwork and was approved by the Archaeology Section, Conservation Services (LCC). The fieldwork and subsequent reporting was undertaken in accordance with current best archaeological practices and the appropriate national standards and guidance including:

Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991);
Code of Conduct (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999);
Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999).
The Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (Lincolnshire County Council 1998).

- 4.2 The fieldwork was undertaken by Martin Griffiths BA (Hons), AIFA and Mark Chambers FRICS between 4th-5th April 2002.

5.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 There are no securely dated prehistoric remains in Gedney parish although cropmarks recorded towards the fen may date from the Iron Age. It is likely that early prehistoric remains are buried beneath more recent flood deposits.
- 5.2 The Roman period is represented by sites to the south of the village towards the fen. Cropmarks and artefact scatters are recorded from this area. An archaeological watching brief undertaken 40m to the southwest of the site has recorded features, pottery and briquetage of Roman date and suggests a possible Romano-British saltern close by (SMR 23730).
- 5.3 Gedney is mentioned in c. 973 AD when King Edgar granted land and privileges to Thorne Abbey (Sawyer 1998, p. 234). However, few finds of post-Roman date have been found in the parish. The Domesday Survey of 1086 AD mentions *Gadenai* (SMR 20461) which derives from the old English personal name *Gæda* and the word *ēg* meaning island of land (Morris 1986). The survey lists the King and Count Alan as holders of land in the parish (Foster & Longley 1976). A total of 47 villagers, 110 acres of meadow and a fishery were held between the two.
- 5.4 During the medieval period, Ralph of Goxhill held the manor of Gedney which had a high proportion of grazing land (Platts 1985). Between 1287-1483 Spalding saw an increase in tenants on land but Gedney in comparison, did not (Platts 1985, p. 185).
- 5.5 Medieval pottery was found during the straightening and reconstruction of the main road which confirms a presence in the area at this time (SMR 22282). The site of the Abbott of Crowlands manor house is recorded to the north of the church (SMR 22282).
- 5.6 During the 12th century the Church of St. Mary Magdalene was endowed to Crowland Abbey by Emecina of Gedney. The church dates mainly to the 13th-14th centuries but was considerably restored in the 19th century. The church itself lies on raised ground which is thought to be the remains of an earlier saltern mound (SMR 22281; Sawyer 1998, p. 15).
- 5.7 Recorded post-medieval remains within the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) are confined to the church itself. During the installation of a church heating system two brick vaults were found below the chancel (SMR

20459). One contained the remains of the wife of the lay rector of the parish who died in 1844.

6.0 AIMS

The aim of the trial trench evaluation was to:

- a) to gather sufficient information to assess the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits and features;
- b) to report on the results of the evaluation and place them within their Local, Regional or National context
- c) to gather sufficient information so that an assessment may be made regarding the potential impact of the development on any archaeological remains that may exist

7.0 METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS

7.1 Excavation of two trenches measuring 1.5m wide x 10m long was required prior to the determination of the planning application. The area to be evaluated is 730m² and this equated to a 4% trial trench evaluation of the site. However, it became clear on site that Trench 1 could only be excavated to a width of 1m and its length could not be extended due to site boundary constraints. Therefore the total area evaluated covered 25m² comprising a 3.5% evaluation. The location of the trenches is detailed in Figure 2.

7.2 A mechanical mini excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket was used for the removal of turf and topsoil. Excavation of Trench 1 revealed a layer of topsoil (101) comprising a 0.4m dark brown humeric soil (see Figure 3 and Plate 1). Fine to medium tree roots were encountered during stripping with the closest trees within 2m of the trench. The topsoil sealed a layer of sandy light brown silt (102) which became wetter with depth. No features or finds were encountered other than 20th century, white and blue glazed pottery fragments in topsoil.

7.3 Excavation of Trench 2 revealed similar deposits with a 0.4-0.6m thick layer of dark humeric topsoil (201) containing modern pottery and brick fragments. This modern material was probably incorporated into the topsoil during the main house construction. Below this a light brownish-yellow mixed sand and clay lens (203) was recorded at the southern end of the trench. The topsoil sealed dark brown wet silt (205) containing modern pottery fragments and plastic and was the only fill of ditch [204] (see Figure 3 and Plates 3 and 4).

7.4 The east-west aligned ditch [204], a fairly straight sided cut perpendicular to the trench length, was not fully excavated due to water ingress at approx 1m from land surface. The ditch is thought to represent a possible water course/drain or field boundary as shown on ordnance survey maps from 1972 (Scale 1: 2500) (see Figure 1).

7.5 The ditch cut into a mid brown silt natural (202) with shell inclusions and represents a period of flooding.

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8.0 DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The archaeological evaluation did not encounter any archaeological finds or deposits. The only disturbance that was recorded on site was an east-west aligned ditch which cut through the natural silts. The ditch is likely to be the drain as illustrated on ordnance survey maps dating from 1972 (Scale 1: 2500) (Figure 1).
- 8.2 The absence of archaeological material would suggest that settlement was located elsewhere outside the site boundaries. In particular, remains of medieval date are likely to be nearer the church around which medieval settlement and activity would have been centred.

9.0 FIGURES

Figure 1. Site location

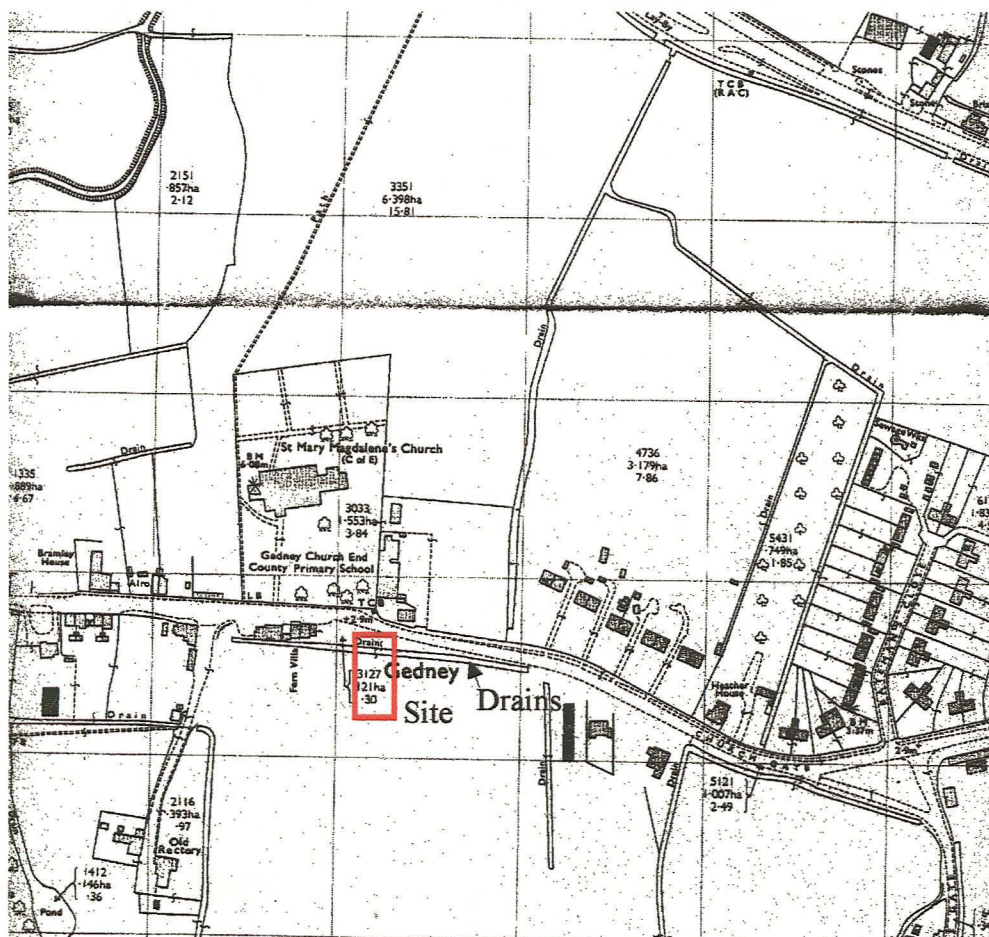
Figure 2. Site plan and location of trenches

Figure 3. Trench sections and plans

Map based on Ordnance Survey with the sanction of the
 Controller of H.M. Stationery Office,
 Crown Copyright Reserved.
 Licence Number AL 100035919

0 50 100 km

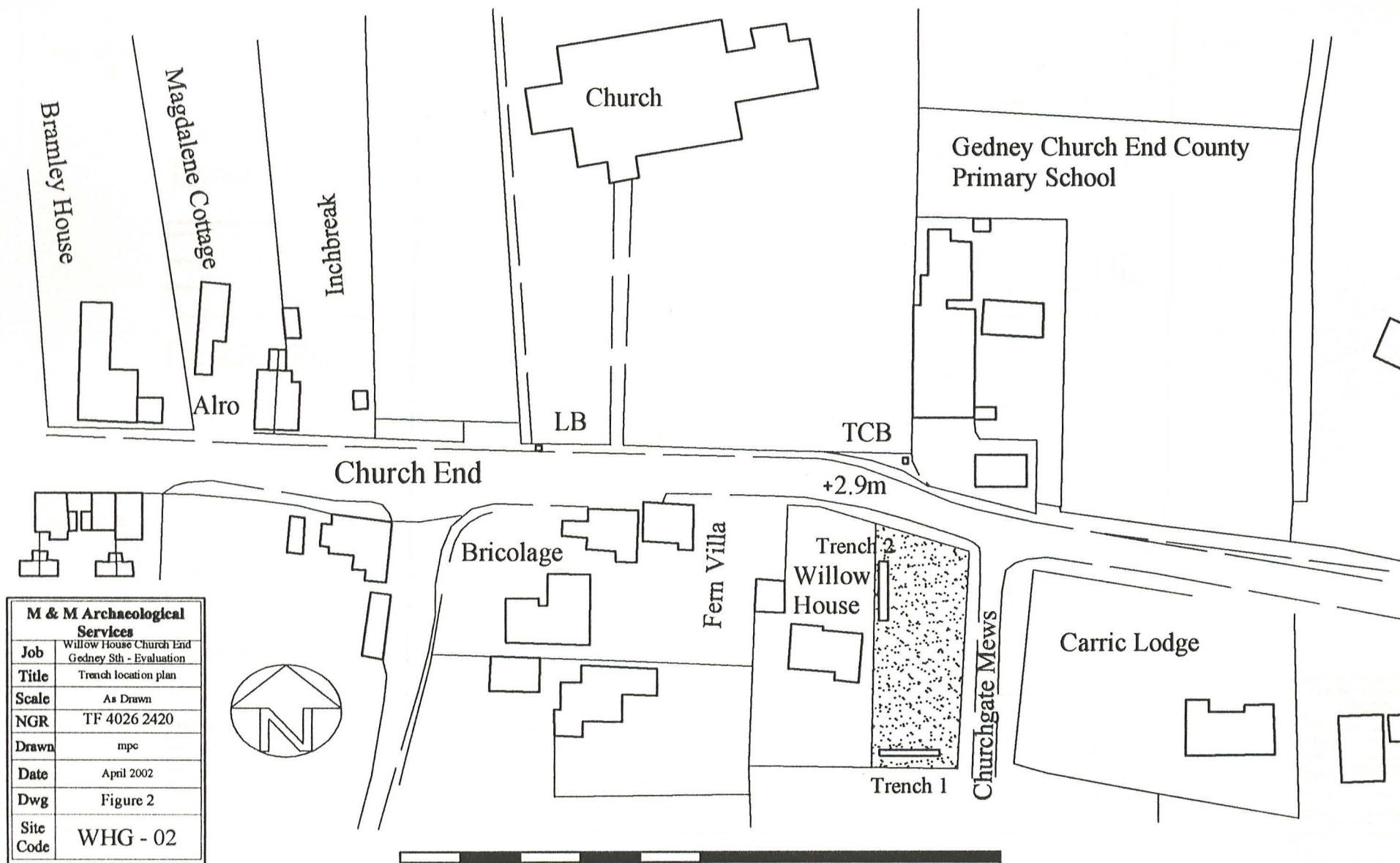
Boundaries revised to April 2001

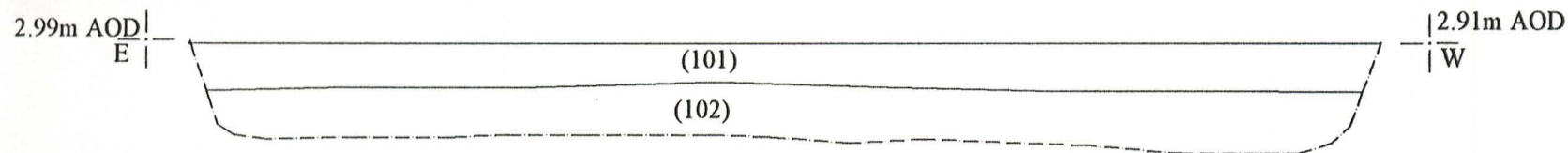


0m

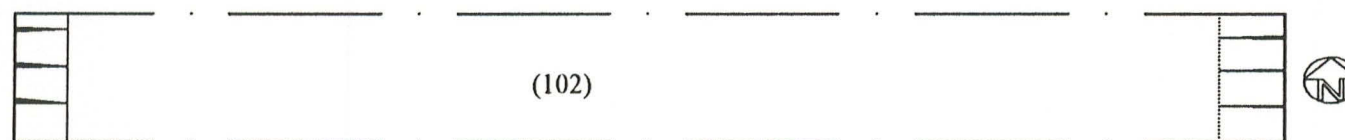
200m

Figure 1. Site location

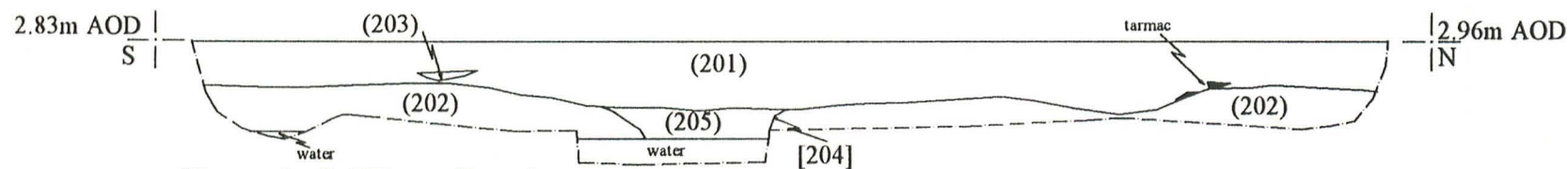




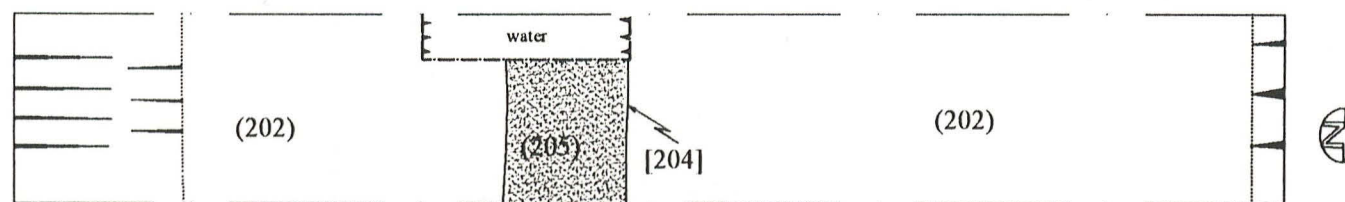
Trench 1 South Section



Trench 1 Plan



Trench 2 West Section



Trench 2 Plan

M & M Archaeological Services	
Job	Willow House Church End Gravelly Bth - Evaluation
Title	Trenches 1 & 2
Scale	As Drawn
NGR	TF 4026 2420
Drawn	mpc
Date	April 2002
Dwg	Figure 3
Site Code	WHG - 02

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10.0 PLATES

Plate 1. Trench 1, looking west

Plate 2. Area of Trench 2 prior to excavation

Plate 3. Trench 2, looking north

Plate 4. Trench 2, showing ditch [204], looking west



Plate 1. Trench 1 looking west



Plate 2. Location of Trench 2 looking south east



Plate 3. Trench 2 looking north



Plate 4. Trench 2 showing ditch

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12.0 SITE DETAILS AND ARCHIVE

SITE DETAILS				
SITE NAME:		Willow House, Gedney		
SITE ADDRESS:		Willow House, Church End, Gedney		
NGR:		TF 4026 2420		
SITE CODE:		WHG02		
ACCEPTING MUSEUM:		City and County Museum, Lincoln		
ACCESSION NUMBER:		LCNCC 2002.158		
SITE AREA:		730m ²		
SITE TYPE:		Evaluation		
		No. of trenches	2	Dimensions10m x 1.5m & 10m x 1m
		Percentage evaluated:		3.5%
PLANNING REF:		H06/1373/01		
PLANNING AND CONSERVATION GROUP FILE REF:		GEDN7417.EVL		

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SITE ARCHIVE			
CONTEXT SHEETS	7		
DRAWINGS	4		
PHOTOGRAPHS	Colour Print	15	
	Colour Slide	0	
	B&W	0	
FINDS	Ceramic	Pottery	0
		Brick	0
		Tile	0
	Bone	0	
	Metal	0	
	Glass	0	
	Stone	0	
SAMPLES	Nil		

13.0 CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context No.	Location	Description	Type	Interpretation
101	Trench 1	Dark brown humeric topsoil with fine to medium tree roots (0.4m thick)	Layer	Topsoil and turf
102	Trench 1	Loose, sandy light brown silt	Layer	Natural silts
201	Trench 2	Dark brown humeric topsoil containing modern pottery and brick (0.4-0.6m thick)	Layer	Topsoil and turf
202	Trench 2	Mid brown silt with shell inclusions	Layer	Natural silts
203	Trench 2	Light brownish-yellow sandy clay lens	Lens	Redeposited natural
204	Trench 2	East-west aligned linear 1.2m wide x ?depth	Cut	Drainage ditch
205	Trench 2	Dark brown wet silt with modern pottery and plastic	Fill	Single fill of ditch [205]