

99/8

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION REPORT
LAND BETWEEN ROYAL OAK LANE AND CHAPEL LANE,
AUBOURN, LINCOLNSHIRE**

Site Code: ROA99
LCNCC Acc No. 133.99
NGR SK 9250 6270



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14 III 59
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Event 42406
Sources 47043 47044
61906 482078
61907 482088

99/8

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Report prepared for Claude Bingley Developments Ltd.
by James Albone BSc. PIFA.

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)
61 High Street
Newton on Trent
Lincoln
LN1 2JP
Tel. & Fax. 01777 228155

June 1999

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Summary

- * *An archaeological field evaluation was undertaken on land between Royal Oak Lane and Chapel Lane, Aubourn, Lincolnshire, where six trenches were excavated to establish the archaeological potential of the site following a fluxgate gradiometer survey. (Fig. 1)*
- * *A small number of medieval ditches and pits, dating from the tenth to fourteenth centuries, were identified. Pottery from these features suggested that settlement activity was taking place in the vicinity of the site during this period. No contemporary structural evidence was encountered.*
- * *Demolition deposits, probably associated with a seventeenth to eighteenth century cottage, were also exposed in Trench 5.*

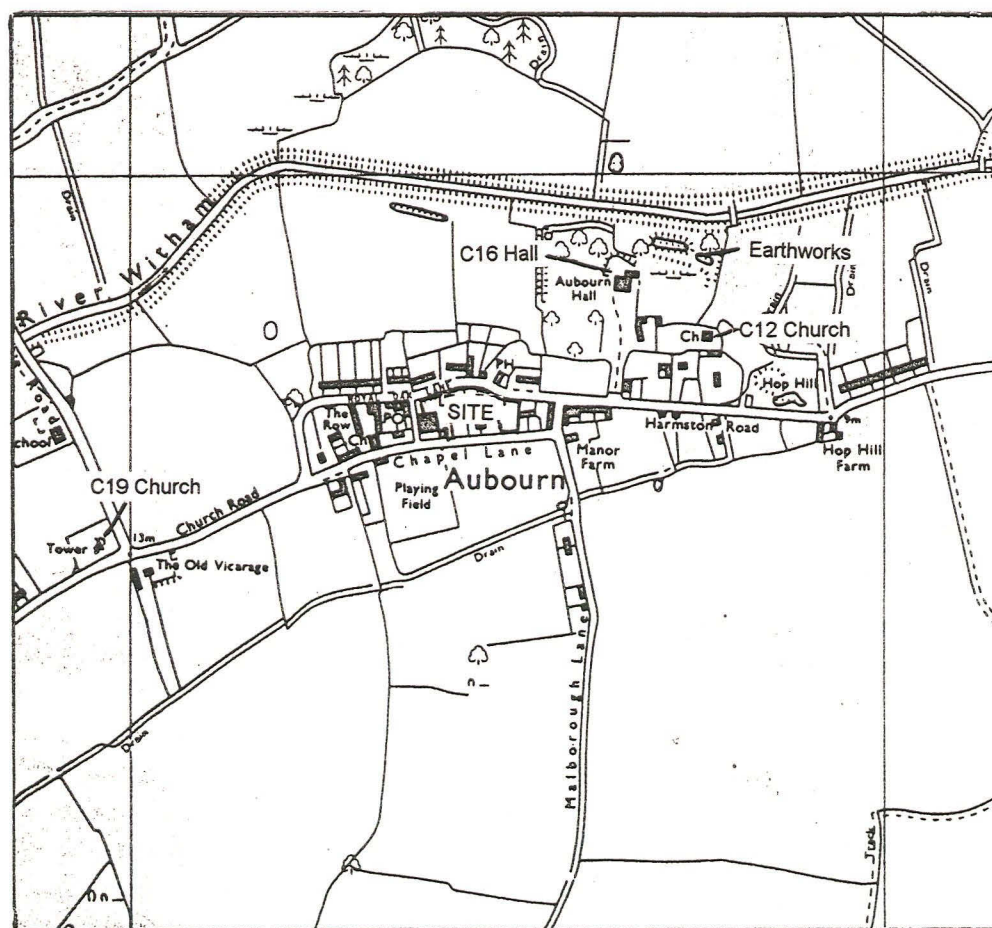


Fig. 1: Site location (1:10,000)
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1.0 Introduction

An archaeological field evaluation (trial trenching) was carried out on the site of a proposed housing development on land between Royal Oak Lane and Chapel Lane, Aubourn, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The trial trenching was based on the results of a geophysical (fluxgate gradiometer) survey (Snee 1999). The work was commissioned by Claude Bingley Developments Ltd. in accordance with a requirement of the planning permission (Ref. N/5/249/99).

The results contained in this report will enable the client and local planning authority to assess the archaeological significance of the site and the potential impacts which may be imposed by development.

Copies of this report will be deposited at the County SMR and the City and County Museum, Lincoln, accompanied with an ordered project archive. 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.

2.0 Location and Description

Aubourn is in the administrative district of North Kesteven and is approximately 10 km south south west of Lincoln. The village lies immediately to the south of the River Witham and several kilometres to the east of the Foss Way. The site lies between Royal Oak Lane and Chapel Lane and is centred on NGR SK 9250 6270. It covers an area of approximately 0.5 hectares and lies at c.11 m. OD. The area of the site was predominantly pasture with sparse trees and some concrete and tarmac surfaces associated with a former farmyard at the west end.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The earliest archaeological evidence from the vicinity of Aubourn is of Roman date. Pottery has been found in the parish approximately 600m south west of the village.

The place-name *Aburne* is Old English and probably refers to 'the stream where the alders grow' (Cameron 1998, 6). At the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086 the manor was owned by Robert of Tosny. A church, mill and fishery with 1000 eels are among the holdings recorded at the settlement (Morris 1986).

Aubourn has the remains of two churches. The Old Church, which is now the parish church, dates from the twelfth century. Only the original Early English style chancel survives, to which has been added a small Victorian tower. St. Peter's church, which was built in 1862, is located to the west of the village. It was partly demolished in 1973, leaving only its tower (Pevsner et al, 1995, 109-110). The present brick building of Aubourn Hall was built by the Meres family in the sixteenth century. Earthworks to its north and east, including possible fishponds, suggest that it may have had a medieval predecessor on the same site (Pevsner et al, 1995, 110).

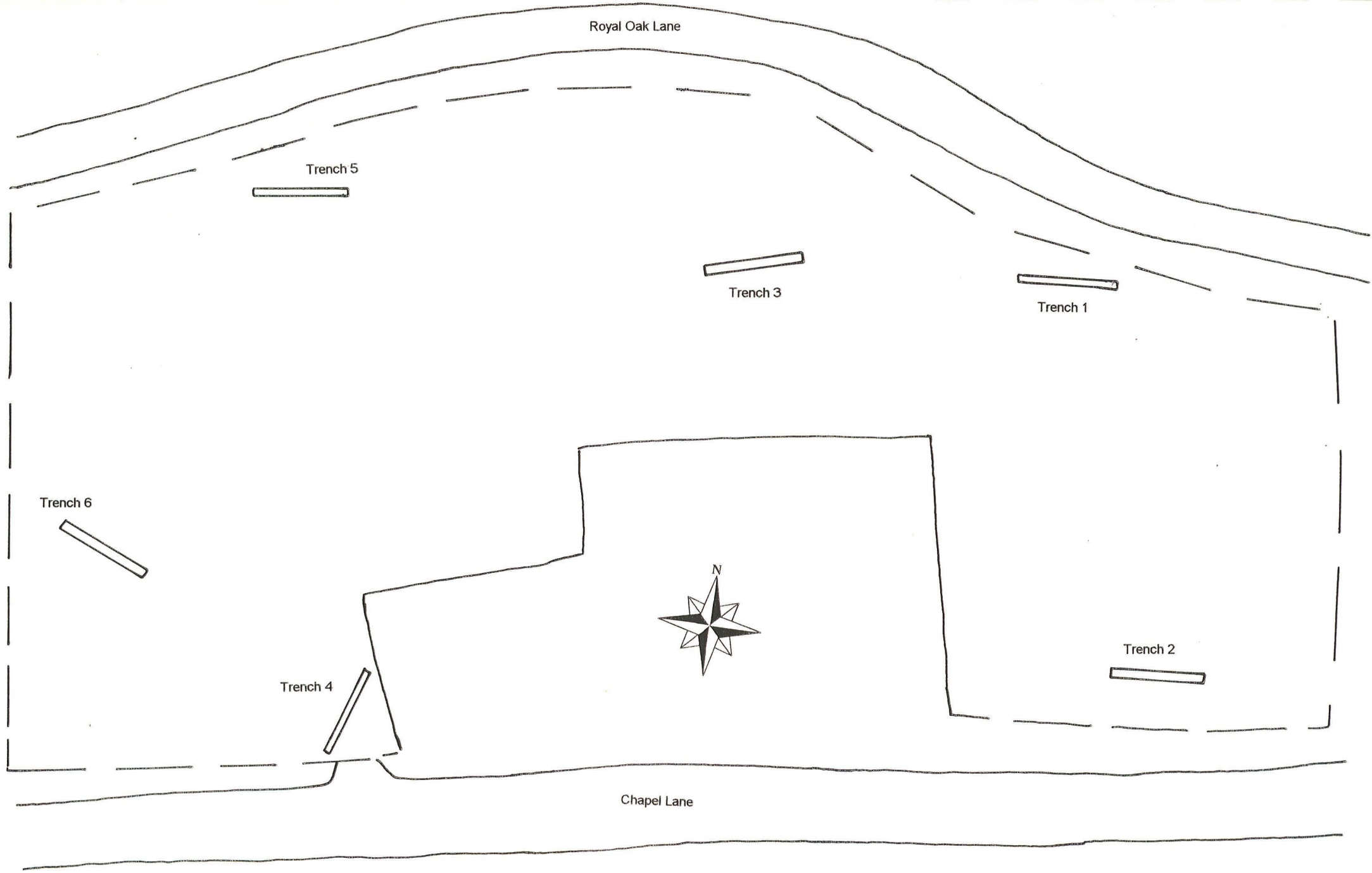


Fig. 2: Site plan showing the location of Trenches 1 to 6 (1:500)

4.0 Methodology

The North Kesteven Heritage Officer issued an archaeological project brief requiring that six trenches should be excavated to investigate anomalies detected by the geophysical survey. The purpose of these trenches was to determine the nature of the archaeological resource (its character, date, depth, state of preservation, extent and significance). Only by sampling a percentage of the site could the actual archaeological potential be fully addressed. The overall objective of this phase of work, therefore, was to present the client and the planning authority with a set of data from which reasoned decisions may be taken regarding future management of the archaeological resource. The location of the trenches (all of which measured 10m x 1.6m) are shown on Figure 2.

Recording was undertaken using standard context record sheets (incorporating physical descriptions, interpretations, and stratigraphic relationships). Features were planned and drawn to scale in section, and photographic recording was undertaken (some prints are reproduced in this report). The drawings, and the rest of the paper record, will form the basis for a long-term project archive. A quantity of pottery and animal bone were recovered; specialist reports on these are included in the appendices. No deposits which were considered to have potential for environmental remains were encountered and consequently no sampling was undertaken. The evaluation was supervised by the writer assisted by three field archaeologists and was carried out between the 14th and 18th of June 1999.

5.0 Results

A dark grey-brown silt topsoil extended over the whole of the site. Beneath this was a lighter grey-brown silt subsoil which was present in most of the trenches. The natural deposit across the site was yellow to orange coloured sand and clay.

5.1 Trench 1 (Figs. 3 - 6)

The strongly positive north to south anomaly identified by the geophysical survey in this area corresponded to a large spread of limestone **rubble (101)** which was contained within the topsoil.

Ditch [102] was aligned north west to south east and had a broad irregular profile. Its dark grey brown clayey silt fill (103) contained sherds of late twelfth to mid thirteenth century pottery. Three possible **pits [104, 107 & 109]** were identified in the eastern part of the trench. The fill of one of these features (108) contained sherds of tenth to fifteenth century pottery.

All of the archaeological features in this trench were sealed by subsoil layer (105). Pottery dating from the late thirteenth to mid fourteenth centuries were recovered from this deposit.

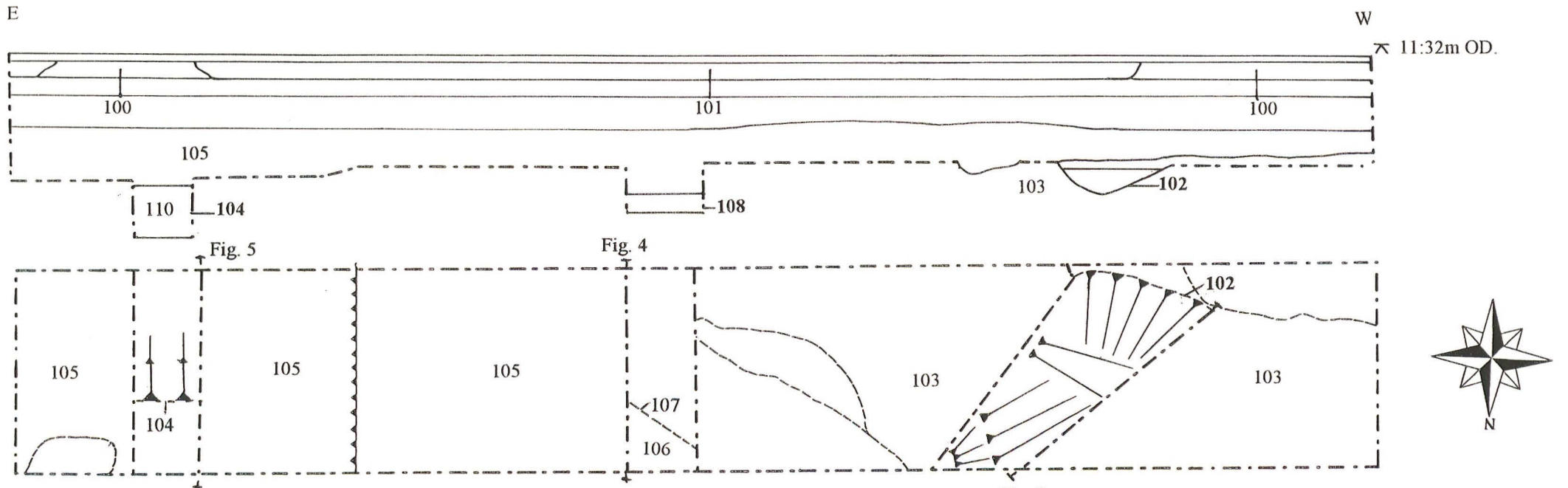


Fig. 3: Plan and section of Trench 1 (1:40)

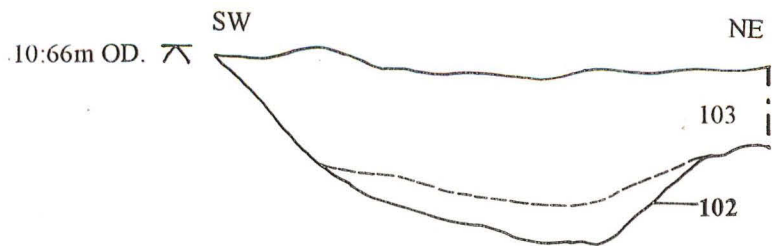


Fig. 4: Section of ditch 102 (1:40)

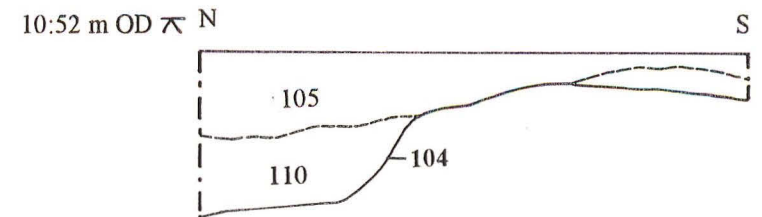


Fig. 5: Section of pit 104 (1:20)

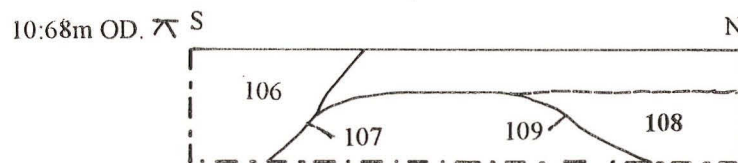


Fig. 6: Section of pits 107 and 109 (1:20)

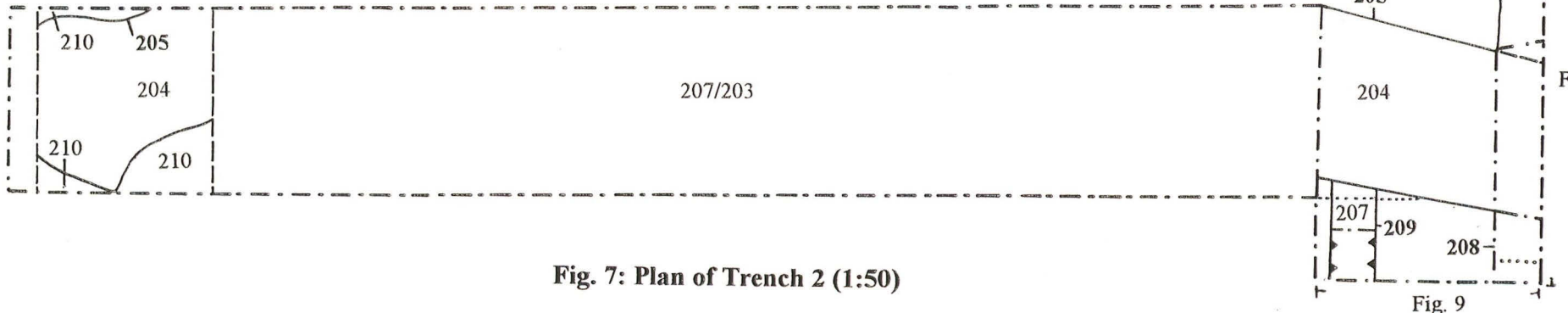


Fig. 7: Plan of Trench 2 (1:50)

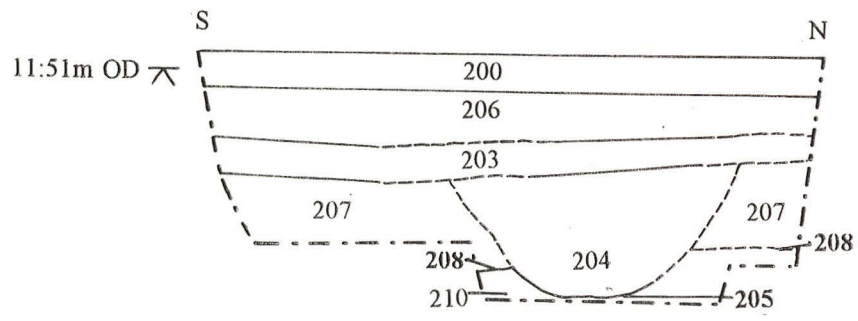


Fig. 8: Section of ditch 205 (1:40)

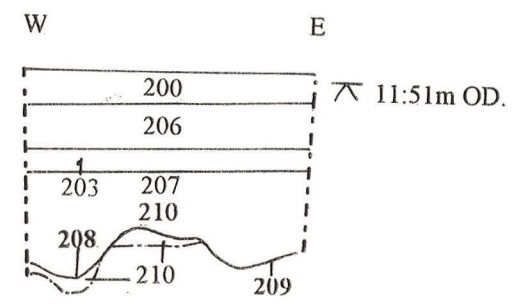


Fig. 9: Section of ditches 208 and 209 (1:40)

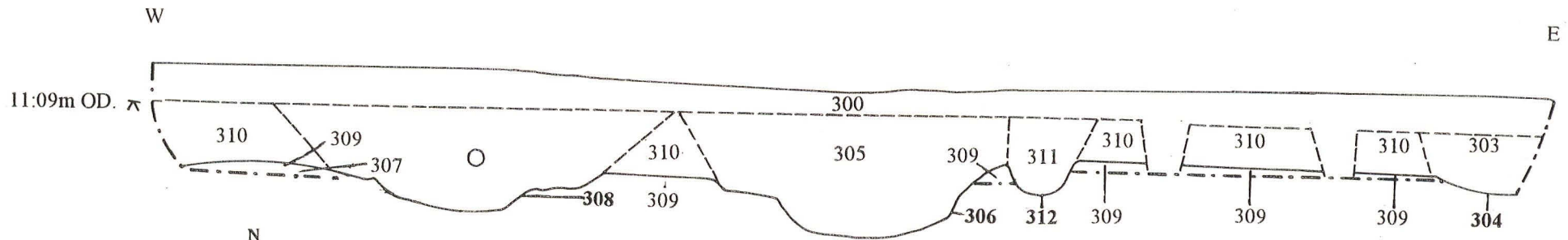


Fig. 10: Plan and section of Trench 3 (1:40)

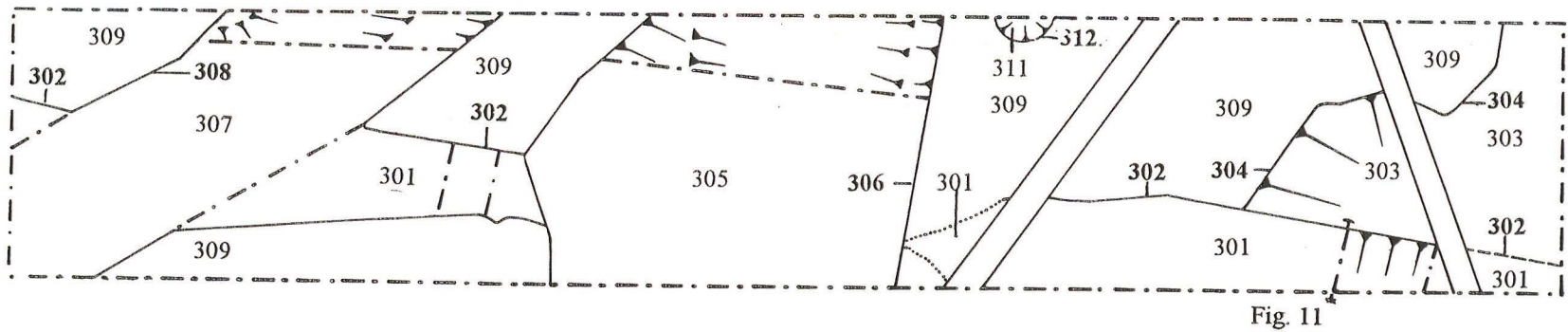


Fig. 11

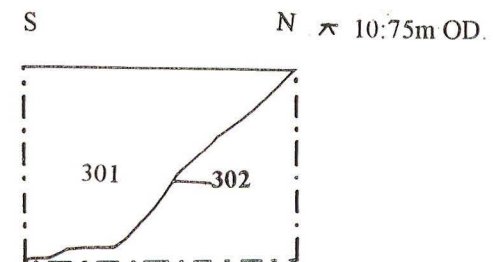


Fig. 11: Section of ditch 302 (1:10)

5.2 Trench 2 (Figs. 7 - 9)

A linear feature, aligned north to south which had been identified as a strong positive anomaly by the geophysical survey was confirmed to be a track of relatively modern origin.

Ditch [205] had a steep sided U-shaped profile and was aligned west to east along the length of the trench. A single sherd of possible eleventh century pottery was recovered from the fill (204) of this feature. An extension was excavated at the western end of this trench to clarify the alignment of this ditch. It was found to cut a north to south **ditch [208]**. Its relationship to a second **ditch [209]**, which was parallel to [208], was not established.

5.3 Trench 3 (Figs. 10 & 11)

Five archaeological features were identified in this trench. The stratigraphically earliest of these was **pit [304]** which was located at the east end of the trench. Only the base of this feature remained and it had an irregular plan. The fill of this pit (303) contained early thirteenth to early fourteenth century pottery and animal bones. Cutting through this feature was a broadly west to east aligned **ditch [302]**. This feature had an irregular profile with an uneven base.

Pit [306] was located in the centre of the trench and had an irregular plan. Its fill (305) contained pottery fragments dating to the early to mid thirteenth century. It is possible that this feature corresponded with one of the geophysical anomalies detected in this area. Adjacent to the east side of this feature was a small undated **pit [312]**. **Ditch [308]** was aligned north east to south west. Its fill contained sherds of pottery dating to the mid to late eighteenth century as well as a small quantity of residual medieval wares.

5.4 Trench 4

No archaeological features were identified in this trench. Deposits of rubble (400) associated with a track into the farmyard and topsoil (401) sealed a grey silty clay subsoil (403).

5.5 Trench 5 (Figs. 12 & 13)

A series of deposits associated with post-medieval structural remains were encountered in this trench. A layer of brick rubble (505) was located immediately beneath the topsoil was responsible for the strong positive anomaly detected by the geophysical survey. This deposit was apparently dumped and did not appear to relate to the demolition of a structure.

Beneath the brick rubble was a layer of dark grey brown clay silt (507) which contained mid seventeenth to mid eighteenth century pottery and lenses of limestone rubble (508). Ashy deposits (501 & 502) beneath this layer also contained sherds of late seventeenth to late eighteenth century pottery and iron smithing slag. It is likely

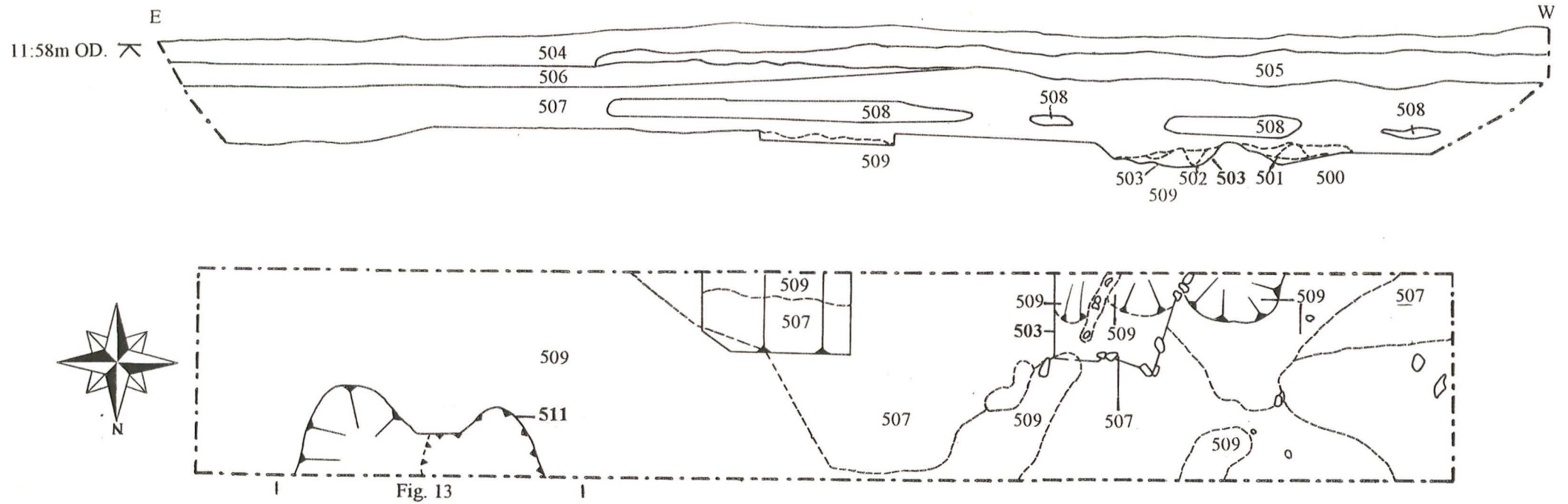
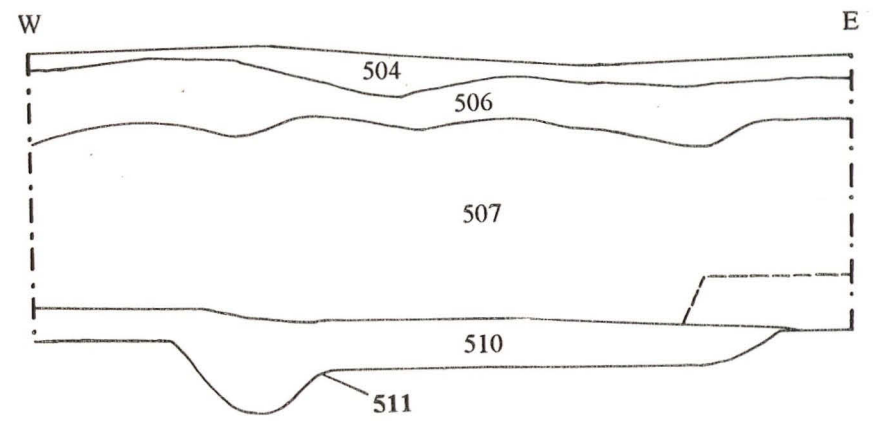


Fig. 12: Plan and section of Trench 5 (1:40)

Fig. 13: Section of pit 511 (1:20)



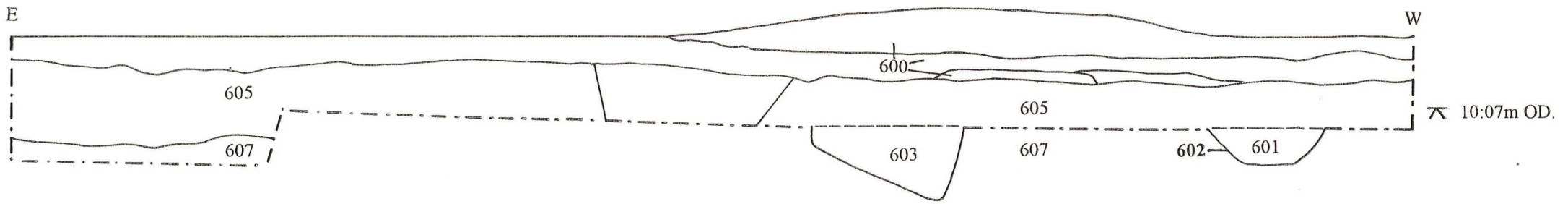
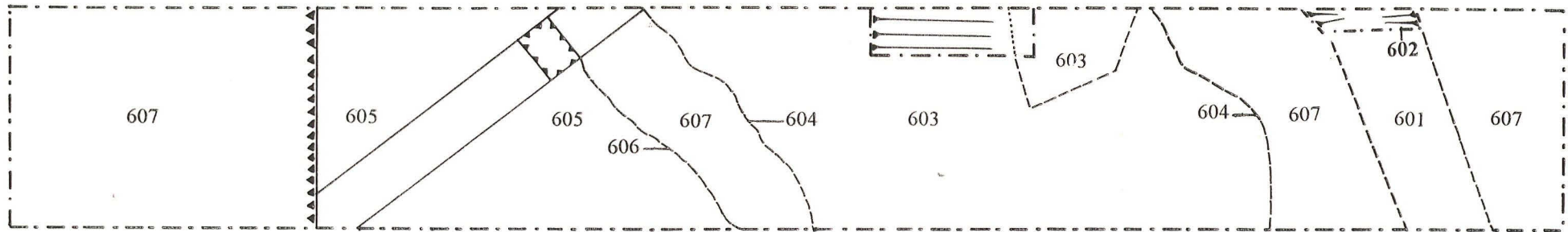


Fig. 14: Plan and section of Trench 6 (1:40)



that all these deposits related to the occupation and demolition of thatched cottages which are supposed to have existed on this part of the site.

The fill (110) of a shallow and irregular **pit 511** at the east end of the trench contained a single sherd of late ninth to late tenth century pottery.

5.6 Trench 6 (Fig. 14)

The results of this trench showed that this area of the site had been extensively disturbed by late post-medieval and modern activity. Sealed beneath modern tarmac and concrete associated with the former farmyard was a dark grey clayey silt subsoil deposit (605). This deposit was the same as the fill of three features. **Ditch [602]** was aligned north north west to south south east and had a rounded profile. Its fill (601) contained a single sherd of late seventeenth to late eighteenth century pottery. Two large **pits [604 & 606]** were located beside this feature. The fill of one of these (603) contained pottery contemporary with that found in ditch [602].

6.0 Discussion and Conclusion

The evaluation identified a range of features which date between the tenth and twentieth centuries. As suspected the results of the geophysical survey (Snee 1999) appeared to relate mainly to areas of modern dumping, track make-up and the demolition of farm buildings. A number of medieval features, which had not been identified by the gradiometer survey were encountered in Trenches 1, 2 and 3. These features were quite deep and probably masked by the more recent anomalies.

A number of medieval pits and ditches, dating from the tenth to fourteenth centuries, were identified. The small amount of late Saxon and Saxo-Norman pottery from features in Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 5 is interesting. The fresh condition of some of this pottery may indicate that settlement activity was taking place in the vicinity of, but not necessarily on, the site. It is likely that these features were drainage and boundary ditches and pits used for occasional refuse disposal. The pottery evidence suggests that the period between the fourteenth and seventeenth centuries saw little activity on the site.

The demolition deposits exposed in Trench 5 were probably associated with thatched cottages which are known to have existed on the site. Pottery from these deposits suggested a seventeenth to eighteenth century period of activity. The presence of iron smithing slag in the ashy deposits below the rubble may indicate the presence of a blacksmith's pre-dating the one north of the site on Royal Oak Lane.

The western end of the site, around Trench 6, has been subjected to significant amounts of disturbance in the post-medieval period associated with the construction of farm buildings.

7.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to express their thanks to Claude Bingley Developments Ltd. for this commission. Thanks are also expressed to the specialist contributors to this report, Jane Cowgill, James Rackham and Jane Young; to Mark Bennett and Sarah Grundy of the County SMR, and to the site team; Andrew Kirkham, Dan Miller and Alex Norman.

Appendix 1.



P.1 General view of the site with Trench 1 in the foreground, looking west.



P.2 Ditch 102, looking north west.



P.3 Ditch 205, looking east.



P.4 Pit 306, looking north.

P.5 Trench 3 pre-excitation looking east.



P.6 Trench 5 part excavated, looking south.

Appendix 2 Pottery Analysis by J. Young

Post Roman pottery from the ROA99 site

A total of one fragment of tile and 53 sherds of pottery representing 46 vessels were found on the site. The identified material ranges from late Saxon to early modern in date. The condition of the pottery is variable, some of the sherds are of fresh appearance whilst others are well abraded. All of the shell-tempered sherds are heavily leached.

The earliest datable pottery (an LKT jar) belongs to the 10th century, several unidentifiable shell and quartz tempered sherds may also belong to this period. A small number of sherds (mainly Stamford ware) date to the 11th century. At least seven vessels belong to the early medieval period (12th to first quarter of the 13th). These include jugs from Lincoln and Nottingham.

None of the small number of medieval sherds present on the site post-dates the middle of the 14th century. Included are possible local vessels together with jugs from Lincoln and Nottingham and bowls and jars from south Lincolnshire.

There is a gap in the ceramic sequence until the mid or late 17th century, a small number of vessels belong to the later 17th and 18th centuries.

The size and freshness of some of the medieval and Saxo-Norman sherds suggests that at least some of the material derives from occupation of this date in the near vicinity of the site.

pottery dating roa99

<i>context</i>	<i>earliest horizon</i>	<i>latest horizon</i>	<i>probable horizon</i>	<i>date range</i>	<i>comments</i>
103	mh4	mh5	mh4	early 13th to early/mid 13th	or 13th with residual 12th
	mh3	mh4		late 12th to early/mid 13th	
105	mh6	mh7		late 13th to mid 14th	
108	ash9	mh10		10th to 15th	
204	ash12	ash14		probably 11th	
304	mh4	mh6		early 13th to early 14th	
305	mh4	mh5		early to mid 13th	
307	pmh9	pmh10		mid to late 18th	
501	pmh7	pmh8		late 17th to mid 18th	
502	pmh7	pmh9		late 17th to late 18th	
507	pmh6	pmh8		mid 17th to mid 18th	
	mh4	mh6		early 13th to early 14th	
510	ash7	ash11		late 9th to late 10th	
601	pmh7	pmh9		late 17th to late 18th	
603	pmh7	pmh9		late 17th to late 18th	

pottery archive for roa99

<i>context</i>	<i>cname</i>	<i>form</i>	<i>nosh</i>	<i>nov part</i>	<i>description</i>
103					
	LFS	jar	5	1 rim & BS	leached; ridged shoulder
	MEDLOC	jug	1	1 BS	subround quartz + comm FE
	LSW1/2	jug/jar	1	1 BS	
	NSP	jug	1	1 BS	
	EMLOC	jug	1	1 BS	spl glaze
	LSW1	jug	1	1 handle	
	LSW1	jug	1	1 BS	
	LSW1	jug	1	1 BS	
	LSW2	jug	1	1 handle	wide;? Thumbled edges
	SLST	bowl	1	1 BS	completely leached;sooted;? ID or POTT
	EMLOC	jug	1	1 BS	hard sparse quartz sim to LSW;developed spl glaze
	MISC	jar	1	1 BS	neck;subround quartz + leached shell;? Date

<i>context</i>	<i>cname</i>	<i>form</i>	<i>nosh</i>	<i>nov part</i>	<i>description</i>
105	LSW2/3	jug	1	1 base	thumbed;late 13th+
108	MISC	jar/jug	1	1 BS	worn;wheel thrown;subround quartz + leached shell;? Date
204	ST	jar/pitcher	1	1 BS	glaze;11/12th prob 11th
304	MISC	?	1	1 BS	handmade; subround quartz + shell
	NOTG	jug	1	1 BS	?id or NEWG
305	SLST	jar	1	1 BS	soot; leached;? Id or POTT
	ST	jar/pitcher	2	1 BS & base	soot int & ext;glaze;11/12th;prob 11th
	MISC	?	1	1 base	subround quartz + leached shell;?date
	MISC	?	1	1 BS	subround quartz + leached shell;?date
	MISC	?	1	1 BS	subround quartz + leached shell;?date

<i>context</i>	<i>cname</i>	<i>form</i>	<i>nosh</i>	<i>nov part</i>	<i>description</i>
	LSWA	jug	1	1 base	thumbed
	LSW2	pipkin	1	1 base	soot;untrimmed
	ST	pitcher	1	1 handle	glaze;11/12th
307	TORK	jar/bowl	1	1 BS	
	MEDLOC	jar/small jug	1	1 BS	underfired glaze;subround quartz + comm FE
	MEDLOC	jar/pipkin	1	1 base	subround quartz + comm FE;untrimmed
	CRMWARE	dish	1	1 rim	
	PORC	?	1	1 BS	
	BL	?	1	1 BS	late 17/18th
	WS	dish?	1	1 BS	
	LSW2	jar/small jug	1	1 BS	? ID
	LSW2	jug	1	1 rim	long rounded collar;burnt glaze;? ID;hard fabric sparse quartz

501

<i>context</i>	<i>cname</i>	<i>form</i>	<i>nosh</i>	<i>nov part</i>	<i>description</i>
	STMO	bowl	2	1 profile	early ?;? Or BORDB
	TGE	small bowl/cup	1	1 rim	flaked;plain ?
	BL	mug/jug	1	1 handle	m17-late 17th
502	STSL	dish	1	1 BS	feather dec
	SLIP	dish	1	1 rim	soot;trailed tan & brown dec
	SLIP	bowl	1	1 base	? Staffs
507	LSW2	bowl	1	1 base	int brown glaze;?id
	SLIP	dish?	1	1 BS	yellow trailed on brown
	MISC	?	1	1 BS	very worn;subround quartz + leached shell;? Date
510	LKT	jar	1	1 BS	soot;leached
601	BL	large jar?	1	1 BS	l17/18th

<i>context</i>	<i>cname</i>	<i>form</i>	<i>nosh</i>	<i>nov part</i>	<i>description</i>
603	BL	bowl	2	1 BS	late 17/18th

tile archive roa99

<i>context</i>	<i>cname</i>	<i>no frags</i>	<i>description</i>
502	PNR	1	late med to post med

Appendix 3

Animal Bone from Aubourn, ROA99

A small collection of bones were recovered from evaluation excavations at Royal Oak and Chapel Lane, Aubourn. Twenty three fragments of bone were recorded, although a number of these were recently broken into two or more pieces. The material is recorded in the attached catalogue.

No dating was available for the different contexts from which the bone was recovered so the material is briefly summarised without consideration of its date.

Six fragments of cattle were identified, six of pig, four of horse and sheep (or goat) and one of dog. Only one fragment, a cattle size rib, was not identified to species. The bones included large pieces of horse and cattle bone that clearly indicate a low level of fragmentation of some of the bones. The largely intact horse innominate (although recently broken) in context 204 suggests that there were probably horse burials on the site. The condition of the bones is good, although one or two bones show some flaking.

Should further excavation be required on the site then the condition and character of the bones from the evaluation indicate that this element of the archaeological evidence has good potential for understanding the diet and animal husbandry of the settlement..

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23 June 1999

Archive catalogue of Animal Bone - Royal Oak Lane and Chapel Lane, Aubourn - ROA99

site	cont.	species	bone	no	side	fusion	zone	butchery	gnawing	tooth-wear	measurement	path.	comment	preservation
ROA99	103	BOS	MAN	1	F								VENTRAL FRAG HORI RAMUS- 2 PIECES	3
ROA99	103	SUS	MAN	1	R		8						VENTRAL PART ASC RAMUS	4
ROA99	103	SUS	SCP	1	L		5						DISTAL BLADE FRAG- SEVERAL PIECES	4
ROA99	103	SUS	SKL	1	R		8						TEMPORAL AND PARIETAL- 2 PIECES	4
ROA99	105	BOS	UM2	1	R					J15			CUSPS DAMAGED	4
ROA99	105	EQU	RUL	1	L	PF	12323		DG		Bp-65 Dp-37 SD-27.5		PROX END AND SHAFT OF RADIUS WITH PROX ARTIC OF ULNA- 3 PIECES	4
ROA99	204	EQU	INN	1	R	EF	2357						6 PIECES	3
ROA99	304	BOS	RAD	1	R	PFDF	123456						BROKEN- 5 PIECES	3
ROA99	304	BOS	UM2	1	L					J16			COMPLETE	4
ROA99	304	BOS	UM3	1	L					K11			COMPLETE	4
ROA99	304	OVCA	PH1	1	L	PF	12						COMPLETE	4
ROA99	304	OVCA	TIB	1	L	DF	567				Bd-24.8 Dd-19		DISTAL END	4
ROA99	304	SUS	LC	1	F								CUSP FRAG-FEMALE	4
ROA99	305	BOS	MTC	1	F		5		DG				DISTAL SHAFT-DIST END CHEWED	4
ROA99	305	CAN	LC	1	W								CANINE	4
ROA99	305	EQU	LM	1	W								SL WEAR-JUVENILE	4
ROA99	305	OVCA	MTC	1	F				DG				SPLIT SHAFT FRAG-DISTAL CHEWED	4
ROA99	502	SUS	SCP	1	L		345		DG		SLC-29		DISTAL PART OF BLADE-MECK CHEWED	4
ROA99	507	BOS	MTC	1	L		12				Bp-54.7 Dp-34.7 SD-29.9		PROX END AND SHAFT	4
ROA99	507	EQU	MTT	1	L		12				Bp-51.6 Dp-47.5 SD-33.5		PROX END AND SHAFT- 2 PIECES -LARGE	4
ROA99	507	OVCA	SCP	1	R	DF	1235				GLC-30.9 SLC-18.1		GLENOID AND NECK	4
ROA99	507	SUS	SCP	1	R		35						DISTAL BLADE AND PART OF NECK	4
ROA99	510	CSZ	RIB	1	F								SHAFT FRAG	4

Appendix 4

ASSESSMENT OF THE FINDS FROM ROYAL OAK LANE, AUBOURN (ROA99).

CATALOGUE.

Context 307.

Glass wine bottle neck and rim; Post medieval. (If a close date is required show this to Dr A Vince.)

Context 501.

Smithing-slag lump generated by iron smithing. A mixture of coal and charcoal was used as the fuel. Weight 74g.

Three pieces of clay tobacco pipe stem with a wide central perforation suggesting a late 17th – 18th century date.

Context 502.

Three cindery smithing-slag lumps generated by iron smithing. A mixture of coal and charcoal was used as the fuel; some large pieces of coal are incorporated within the slag. Weight 71g.

Slagged piece of coal. Weight 21g.

A plano-convex slag accumulation (commonly known as a hearth bottom) with charcoal and charcoal inclusions indicating that this was the fuel type used. Weight 86g.

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

The assemblage is all probably post-medieval in date and the presence of the iron smithing debris in a fresh condition suggests that there was probably a village smithy and/or farriers in the locality.

No further work is recommended on these finds.

Jane Cowgill

June 1999

Appendix 5 Site Archive

Primary records are currently with PCA (Lincoln). An ordered archive of both paper and object elements is in preparation and will be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, within six months.

Appendix 6 References

- Cameron, K. 1998 *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names.*
- Morris, J. (gen. ed.) 1986 'Lincolnshire' *Domesday Book.*
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Royal Oak Lane and Chapel Lane Aubourn,
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