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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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**New Medical Centre
Torksey, Lincs**

Site Code: TKM 99
NGR: SK 837 782 ? 8380 7819
Planning Application: 99/P/0093
LCNCC Accn: 291.99

Archaeological Evaluation

Report for

Kinvena Homes Ltd

LAS Report No. 383
December 1999

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**New Medical Centre,
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Summary

Archaeological evaluation of the proposed development site consisted of three machine excavated trenches. Two of these were positioned across the proposed access road, and the third across the proposed location of the building.

Only one of the three trenches, Trench 1, produced any archaeological remains. These were post-medieval in date and of no great archaeological significance.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Kinvena Homes Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to the main road, north of The Elms, close to the Foss Dyke, Torksey. The proposed development is for a doctors' surgery with associated parking and landscaping.

The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998).

The aims of the evaluation were:

- to establish the presence or absence, quality and extent of archaeological remains and their location within the development area;
- gather sufficient information to assess the potential and significance of any archaeological remains present;
- enable any appropriate mitigatory measures to be made either in advance of and/or during development.

Site Location

The application site is situated slightly south of the village of Torksey, immediately north of the Foss Dyke and The Elms, adjacent to the main road (A156) (Figure 1). The River Trent is located to the west of the site. The proposed development site covers an area of approximately 57m x 40m. The land is currently under cultivation.

Topography and Geology

The proposed development site is flat, lying on the floodplain of the River Trent (PI 1). The solid geology here is Mercia Clay with overlying deposits of windblown sand.

Archaeological Background

Torksey was an important Anglo-Saxon town which became a borough before the Norman Conquest, falling into decline in the 13th century when the Foss Dyke silted up. Evidence of a large Roman settlement and Roman pottery industry was found close to the proposed development site. In addition, the Scheduled Ancient Monument (Lincs 137) which contains the remains of a Cistercian priory, lies opposite the development area.

Method

Three trenches were machine-excavated under archaeological supervision using a 1.6m toothless dyking bucket, removing the topsoil and windblown sand to a level where archaeological horizons were visible. The trenches were located as specified in the proposal, with the topography taken into consideration on site. Trenches 1 and 2 measured 10m in length, and Trench 3 was 20m long (PI 2).

After removal of the topsoil and the wind blown sand, the trenches were cleaned and recorded using colour photographs, scale plans and sections.

Archaeological features were assigned context numbers by LAS for recording purposes. These context numbers are referred to in the following report and illustrations (Appendix 1).

Results

Trench 1

The removal of dark grey-brown sandy silty loam topsoil (**100**) exposed a dark brown wind blown sand (**105**) in the eastern end of the trench, and evidence of human activity in the western end (PI 3).

Three features were identified in this trench, two of which can be dated to the post-medieval period (Figure 3; PI 3). No dating evidence was retrieved from feature **107**, the earliest of the three features. Due to the size of these features they were machine excavated, and their profiles recorded in section.

Only a small section of feature **107** was visible, as the eastern edge was cut by **108**, and the western edge extended beyond the limits of the trench. The profile of this feature therefore remains undetermined, as does its function. It contained two fills (**103** and **104**), both of which appear to be the result of natural deposition of material rather than deliberate backfill.

Possible pit **108** was a large feature measuring 3.95m wide and 1.20m deep, located towards the centre of the trench, cutting feature **107**. This was a large feature measuring 3.95m wide and 1.20m deep. It contained a single fill (**102**) pit, resembling the topsoil both in colour and consistency. It is possible that this represents the deliberate backfilling of this feature when it was no longer needed.

A very small quantity of finds were recovered from this fill, animal bone, the remains of a clay pipe, and a post-medieval brick.

Feature **109** cut through the top of ?pit **108**. This also contained a single fill (**101**), a mid orange-brown clayey silt, from which a number of artefacts were recovered. Fragments of a late stoneware bottle or jar, dating to the eighteenth or nineteenth century were recovered from here. A single fragment of hip tile, also post-medieval in date, and a small quantity of cattle bone and teeth were also recovered. It was not possible to determine the exact nature or function of this feature, although it is possible that it was a pit, as its full extent continued beyond the trench limits.

A single sherd of locally produced Torksey ware pottery was found in the topsoil, next to Trench 1.

Trench 2

The removal of the dark humic topsoil (**200**) revealed a deposit of dark brown wind blown sand (**201**). This layer varied in depth from 0.30m at the eastern end of the trench to 0.72m at the western end (Figure 3; PI 6). This material was also removed by machine, exposing natural orange sand, with frequent iron staining (**202**). No archaeological features were identified in this trench.

The presence of wind blown sand deposits sealing archaeology is common in Torksey, therefore Trenches 2 and 3 were machined to a depth of 1.25m to 1.50m to ensure that all of the wind blown sand had been removed.

Trench 3

As in Trench 2, the removal of topsoil (**300**) exposed wind blown sand (**301**), below which was natural sand (**302**). No archaeological features were recorded in this trench (PI 7).

Discussion

The function of the features located in Trench 1 could not be determined due to the constraints of the trench width and length. Features **108** and **109** are definitely post-medieval in date, **107** is earlier but of unknown date. The absence of any medieval features and the low number of artefacts present suggests that this site lies outside the settlement of Torksey.

Conclusion

Despite the close proximity of the proposed development site to the Scheduled Ancient Monument (Lincs 137) and the Roman site located to the south of the Foss Dyke, no significant archaeological remains were evident in the three evaluation trenches excavated.

Claire D Angus
December 1999

Acknowledgements

LAS are grateful to Kinvena Homes Ltd and Mr J. Kinch for his help during the evaluation. The work was undertaken by the author, assisted by Wendy Booth. The report was edited by Naomi Field and collated by Jane Frost.

Appendix 1: Context List

TRENCH 1					
Context Number	Context Type	Description	Finds	Relationship	Same As
100	Layer	Topsoil	-	Above 101, 102, 105	200, 300
101	Fill	Fill of 109	Pottery, tile, animal bone	Above 109	
102	Fill	Fill of 108	brick, clay pipe, animal bone	Above 108	
103	Fill	Fill of 107	-	Above 104	
104	Fill	Fill of 107	-	Above 107	
105	Layer	Wind blown sand	-	Above 106	201, 301
106	Layer	Sand	-	Above 110	202, 302
107	Cut	?pit/ditch	-	Cuts 110	
108	Cut	?pit	-	Cuts 107	
109	Cut	?pit	-	Cuts 108	
110	Layer	Natural Clay	-	Limit of Excavation	

TRENCH 2					
Context Number	Context Type	Description	Finds	Relationship	Same As
200	Layer	Topsoil	-	Above 201	100, 300
201	Layer	Wind blown sand	-	Above 202	105, 301
202	Layer	Sand	-	Limit of Excavation	106, 302

TRENCH 3					
Context Number	Context Type	Description	Finds	Relationship	Same As
300	Layer	Topsoil	-	Above 301	100, 200
301	Layer	Wind blown sand	-	Above 302	105, 201
302	Layer	Sand	-	Limit of Excavation	106, 202

Appendix 2

Notes on the pottery from the New Medical Centre, Torksey (TKM 99)

Claire D Angus

Lindsey Archaeological Services

A total of 8 sherds of post-Roman pottery were examined, representing three vessels. These vessels date to the late Saxon, medieval (14th/15th century) and post-medieval (18th/19th) periods. The late Saxon vessel was sooted, possibly representing domestic rubbish. No decoration was visible on any of the sherds examined.

Notes on the brick and tile from the New Medical Centre, Torksey (TKM 99)

Claire D Angus

Lindsey Archaeological Services

A hip tile fragment and a small brick fragment were examined. These both date to the post-medieval period.

pottery archive TKM 99

Claire D Angus Lindsey Archaeological Services

context	cname	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	part	description	date
101	LSTON		bottle/jar	6	1	bs		18/19th
u/s	TORK		jar	1	1	bs	ext. soot	L9-11th
u/s	NOTG	reduced	jug	1	1	bs		14/15th

ceramic code names

cname	full name	period
LSTON	Late stoneware	emod
NOTG	Nottingham glazed ware	med
TORK	Torksey-type ware	lsax

tile archive TKM 99

Claire D Angus Lindsey Archaeological Services

<u>context</u>	<u>cname</u>	<u>frags</u>	<u>date</u>
101	HIP	1	18th +
102	BRK	1	17th +

tile code names

<u>cname</u>	<u>full name</u>	<u>period</u>
HIP	hip tile	med - post-med
BRK	brick	med - post-med

**New Medical Centre
Torksey, Lincs
Proposal for Archaeological Evaluation
NGR: SK 837 782**

for

Kinvena Homes Ltd

November 1999



COUNTY OFFICES
NEWLAND • LINCOLN

LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

HIGHWAYS & PLANNING DIRECTORATE
Director: Paul Kirby

City Hall, Lincoln LN1 1DN
Telephone (01522) 552222 Fax (01522)553149
Minicom (01522) 552055

Your Ref: 99/P/0093
My Ref: BL/TORK0093/SP1/JC

For further information contact
Dr Beryl Lott
Telephone Lincoln (01522) 553074

Lindsey Archaeological Services
25 West Parade
LINCOLN
LN1 1NW

3 December 1999

Dear Naomi

Many thanks for forwarding a copy of the specification for the above to this office. I have read the document and can confirm that it meets the requirements of this section.

Yours sincerely

for Director of Highways and Planning

14028.POL

LINCOLNSHIRE - Part of the East Midlands Region

**New Medical Centre
Torksey, Lincs
Proposal for Archaeological Evaluation
NGR: SK 837 782**

Introduction

The following specification has been prepared for Mr J. Kinch in accordance with general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998).

Site Description

The application site is situated north of the Foss Dyke and The Elms, adjacent to the main road and covers an area c.57m x 40m in extent. The proposed development is for a doctors' surgery with associated parking and landscaping. The land is currently under cultivation.

Archaeological Background

Torksey was an important Anglo-Saxon town which became a borough before the Norman Conquest. It went in to decline when the Foss Dyke silted up in the 13th century. Evidence for a Roman pottery industry was found at Little London, Torksey in the 1930s and evidence for a large Roman settlement was found close by. The proposed development site lies opposite the Scheduled Ancient Monument (Lincs 137) which contains the remains of a Cistercian priory. There is potential for identifying medieval and possibly Roman settlement remains on the site.

Aims and Objectives

In general terms the purpose of the evaluation will be to

- establish the presence or absence, quality and extent of archaeological remains and their location within the development area
- gather sufficient information to enable an assessment of the potential significance of any archaeological remains to be made and the impact which development will have upon them
- enable an informed decision to be made regarding the future treatment of any archaeological remains and consider any appropriate mitigatory measures either in advance of and/or during development

Excavation

The evaluation will comprise three machine excavated trenches as shown on the enclosed drawing. Two trenches to be 10m x 1.8m and a third 20m x 1.8m.

Archaeological recording will be carried out by a team of 2 experienced archaeologists, including a Site Director. Each trench will be machine excavated to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, using a toothless ditching bucket. The trenches will be hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan. Carefully selected cross-sections through the features will be excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and

stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations should these prove to be necessary.

A full written (single context) and photographic record will be made of the site, to include site plans at a scale of 1:50 or 1:20, as appropriate, and section drawings at 1:10. A plan of each trench will be made with section drawings of at least one side. In addition, further plans and sections will be made of individual features, or groups of features, as appropriate. A full photographic record will be made during the progress of the excavation to cover each feature together with general site shots. LAS operates a standard context recording system, developed by its staff over the past 20 years based on MOLAS and CAS models.

Environmental sampling

It is proposed that any samples taken will be processed in order to establish the potential of remains rather than to provide a full analysis at this stage in the evaluation.

Samples normally to be a maximum of 30 litres or the total fill of a feature if less than 30 litres in volume. Where a feature is obviously rich in remains the sample should be greater to allow for the retrieval of species less well represented.

Material to be processed off-site. Wet sieving using a 50mm sieve. The flots to be dried and re-sieved to allow maximum retrieval of charcoal.

The possibility of industrial material is recognised. Slag, coal, fired clay etc will be collected for examination. Total retrieval of such items.

Human Remains

The possibility of encountering human remains is noted and provision will be made for obtaining the necessary Home Office Licence, as required under the 1857 Burials Act, should the need arise.

Conservation

Provision will be made for basic conservation of finds requiring stabilisation (eg metal glass organic remains) including X-rays of all metal finds, for archiving purposes. Work to be carried out by the Lincolnshire County Council Conservation Laboratory.

Post Excavation

Finds processing will be carried out by LAS for distribution to the various specialists (see list below). A basic archive list of pottery and animal bones will be made with an assessment of their significance in the light of the general site interpretation.

Environmental samples will be processed to establish their potential for further study but full analysis will not be carried out at this stage unless the evaluation proves to be the final stage of excavation and material of intrinsic value is identified.

Report Preparation and Contents

The report will include

- a non-technical summary of the results of the work
- location and trench plans showing the position of archaeological remains with at least one section showing the sequence of deposits in each trench. Additional plans and/or section drawings of specific features will be included as appropriate.
- a descriptive account of the recording methods used and the evaluation results, together with an assessment of their archaeological importance, their possible relationship to any relevant features adjacent to the Proposal Site and estimated reliability of the results
- consideration of the potential impact of the proposed development on any archaeological remains based on available data.
- specialist assessments of all categories of artefacts recovered (except modern items). Full archive lists will accompany the specialists finds reports. These reports will comprise a basic identification of material retrieved and a general discussions of their importance. In depth analysis is not considered appropriate at this stage of evaluation.
- specialist assessment of environmental samples taken and their potential for subsequent study.
- recommendations for further post-excavation work if required
- a complete context list with short description
- a photographic record of selected general views and key features

Dissemination

Results of the Evaluation will be presented to the client. A copy of each report will be supplied to the client and further copies deposited with the District Planning authority, Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

The deposition of a copy of the report at the SMR will be deemed to put all information in the public domain, unless a request is made for confidentiality. If material is to be held in confidence a timescale must be agreed with the Lincolnshire County Archaeological Officer. In normal circumstances the agreed term does not usually exceed six months.

Publication

In addition to the client report described above a short note summarising the main results of the Archaeological Evaluation will be presented for publication to the Editor of *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology* with full acknowledgement to the client, the cost of which is included in this tender.

Copyright

LAS and its sub-contractors shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports or other project documents, including all data, text and graphics, (in accordance with IFA guidelines) under the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides a licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification. The Museum will be

given a licence to make all reasonable professional use of this material, granted that the LAS copyright is acknowledged.

Site Archive

It is proposed that the site paper archive and any archaeological finds should be deposited with the City and County Museum, Lincoln, after completion of the site analysis and subject to agreement with the landowner. LAS and its sub-contractors follow the conditions laid down by the City and County Museum, Lincoln in its draft document *Guidelines for the Transfer of Project Archives*, and will comply with their current requirements.

Health and Safety

All site work will be carried out in accordance with the relevant current Health and Safety legislation. A copy of the LAS Health and Safety Document is available on request and a Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to commencement of work on site.

Insurance

LAS is fully covered by Employers and Public Liability and Professional Indemnity insurances, copies of which are available for inspection on request.

Monitoring

Internal monitoring of the project will be carried out by Naomi Field (Partner, LAS). Responsibility for the external archaeological monitoring of this project lies with the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council.

Timetable

Site work
Team of 2 x 3 days
Finds processing 2 days
+ specialists reports
Report and archive 3.5 days

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Prior to commencement of the work an Accession Number and site code will be obtained from the City and County Museum, Lincoln, in accordance with current requirements.

LAS operates according to the Codes of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists and its Standard on Archaeological Evaluations.

In the event that commencement of work is delayed or should a delay occur within the works programme without fault on the part of LAS then LAS shall be entitled to recover from the client any additional fees costs or expenditure directly or indirectly and properly resulting therefrom.

All invoices are due strictly 30 days from date of invoice.

Naomi Field
November 30th 1999

APPENDIX 1

STRUCTURE OF TEAM AND ASSIGNED TASKS

Lindsey Archaeological Services

Fieldwork Director: Mark Williams/ Claire Angus

Task: to carry out excavations, prepare assessment report and co-ordinate specialists' reports.

Finds and Other Specialists to include as required

Roman pottery (Margaret Darling, freelance archaeologist)

Saxon and medieval pottery (Jane Young, LAS)

Animal bone and environmental samples (James Rackham Environmental Consultancy)

Conservation (Lincoln Conservation Laboratory, Lincolnshire County Council Museums Service)

Task: Identification of finds and preparation of assessment reports

LAS reserves the right to use alternative specialists depending on availability.

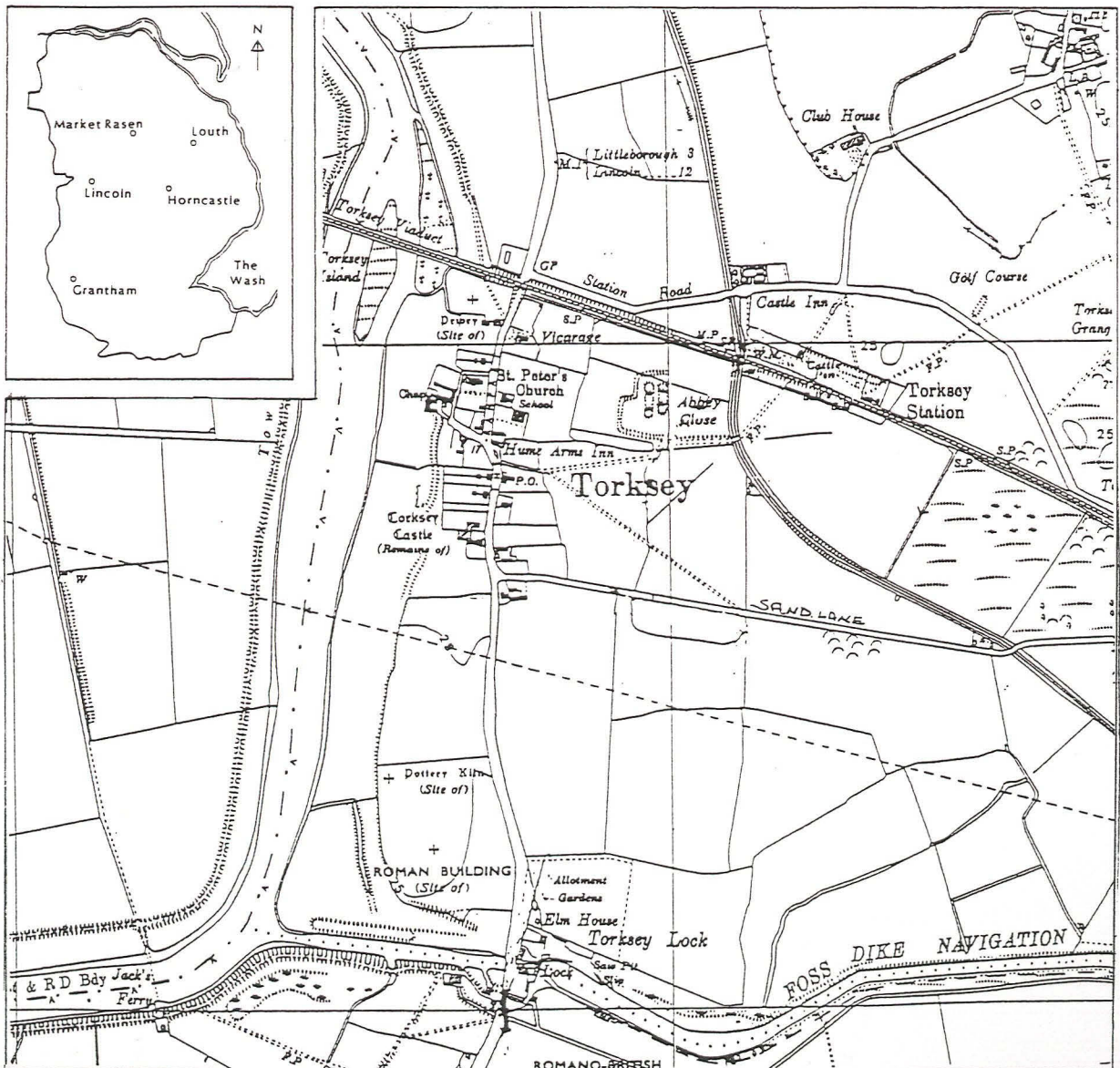
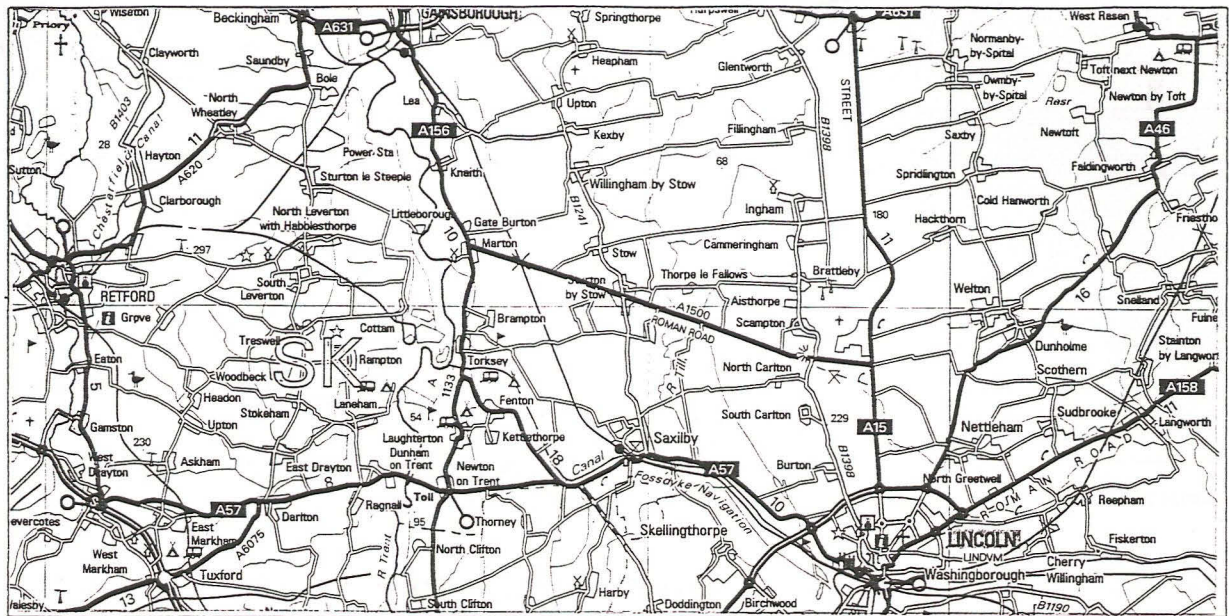


Figure 1. Location of site based on Ordnance Survey 1:10 000 map © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL50424A

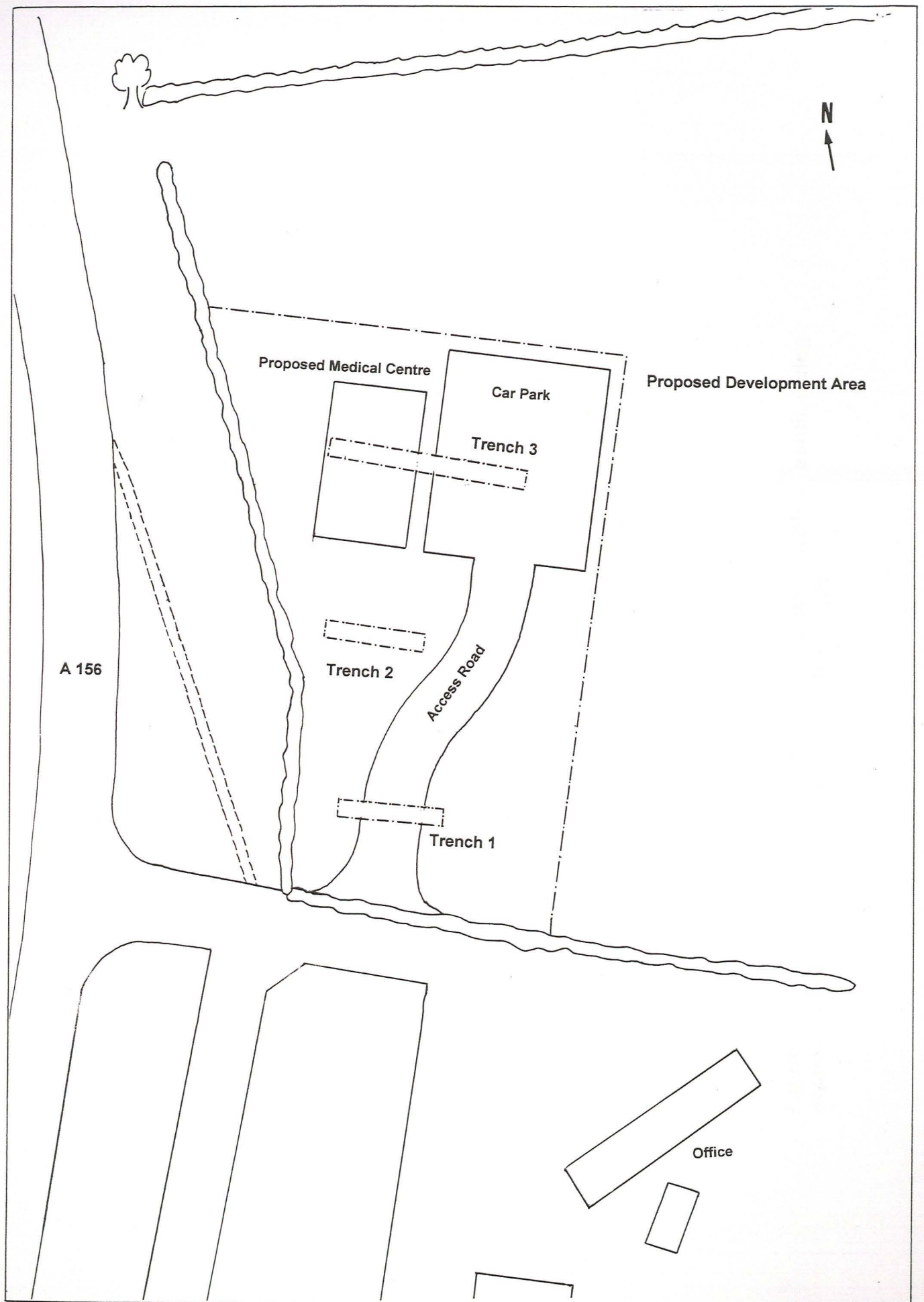
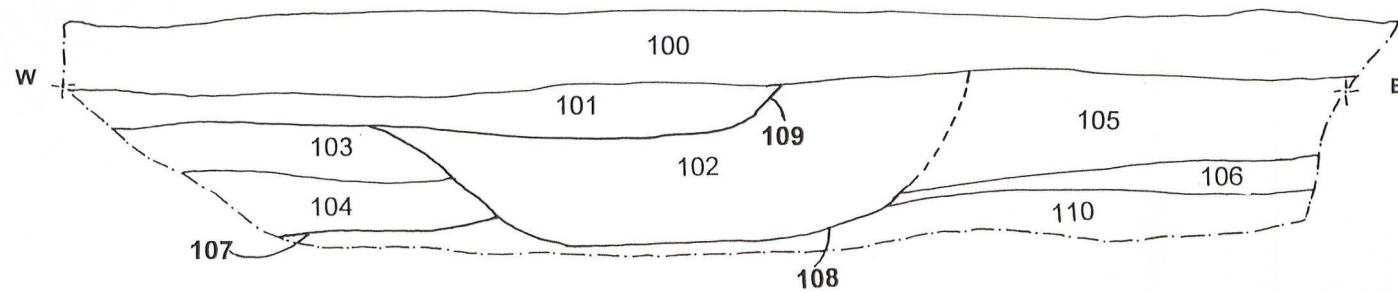


Figure 2. Location of Trenches, based on map supplied by Kinvena Homes Ltd (Scale 1:500)

(a)



(b)

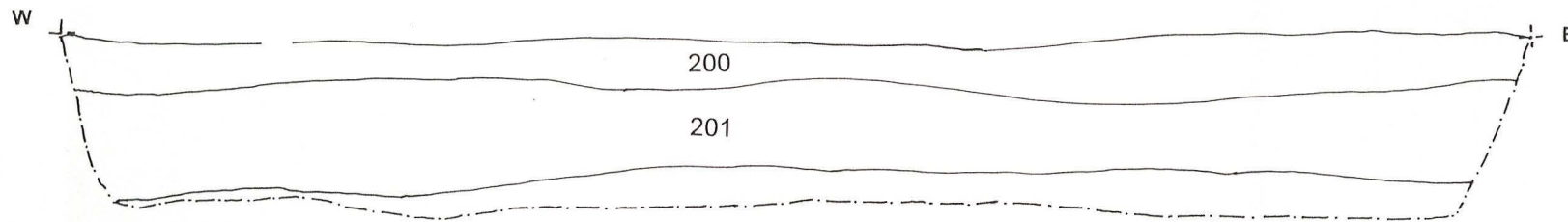


Figure 3 (a) Trench 1, south facing section; (b) Trench 2, south facing section showing succession of deposits. Scale 1:50



PI 1 The proposed development site

PI 2 Location of the trenches





PI 3 Trench 1, Features 107, 108 and 109



PI 4 Trench 1, looking north-east



PI 5 Trench 2, looking north-west



PI 6 Trench 2, Section

PI 7 Trench 3, looking south-east

