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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION REPORT
LAND SOUTH OF ~~S~~WALDING ROAD, BOURNE,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

Site Code: LSRB99
LCNCC Acc No. 296.99
NGR: TF 10741 20096

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Report prepared for Lincolnshire County Council Property Division
by R Mouraille

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Summary

- Following a gradiometer survey on land south of Spalding Road, Bourne, an intrusive phase of archaeological field evaluation took place in December 1999
- Five archaeological trenches were investigated to evaluate anomalies identified by geophysics, and also to assess areas of the site that were not responsive to remote sensing
- Although a few sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from one area, it is concluded that the site is largely archaeologically sterile, and that magnetic anomalies detected by geophysics were the result of modern activities of no archaeological significance

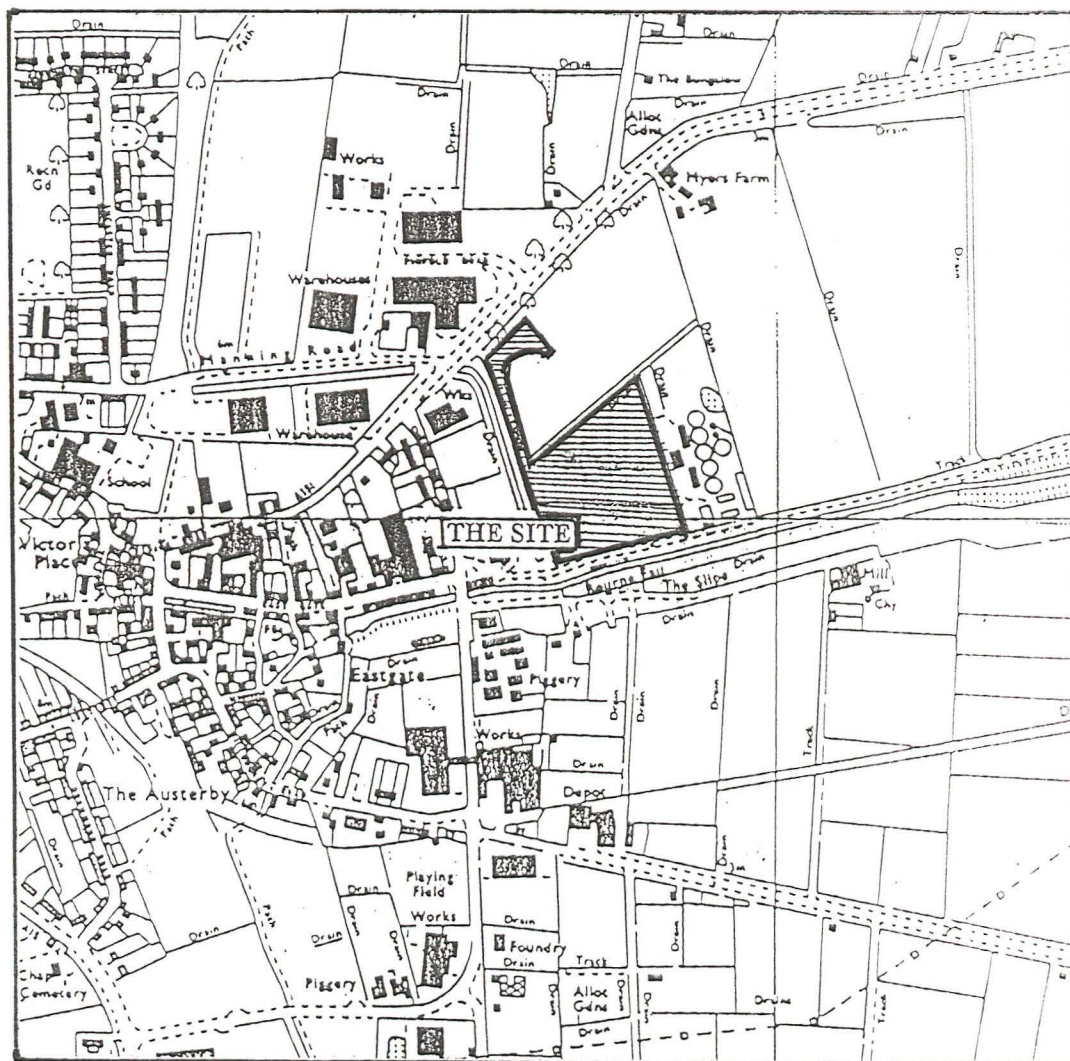


Fig. 1 Site location (scale 1:10,000)

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1.0 Introduction

An archaeological investigation was undertaken to assess the potential of approximately 4 hectares of land to the south of Spalding Road in Bourne. This work was a condition of planning and it precedes development of the site for industrial purposes.

This report constitutes the second phase of an evaluation that commenced with a geophysical survey of the site. Copies of this report have been forwarded to the client company, Lincolnshire County Council; to the Community Archaeologist for South Kesteven; to South Kesteven District Council; to the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record, and to the Lincolnshire Archives Office. A summary account will be published in the journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*, and this will be deemed to have placed the information in the public domain. The site archive, when complete, will be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln for long term storage.

2.0 Location and site description

The town falls within the administrative district of South Kesteven; approximately 15km west of Spalding, 22km south-east of Grantham. The proposed development site lies towards the eastern edge of the town and centres on NGR TF 10741 20096.

The unit measures approximately 4 hectares in area and is defined by Spalding Road (north side), the Car Dyke (west side), the Bourne sewage works (east side) and a drainage channel on the south side.

Recently the land has been agricultural and contains remnants of a previous crop (stubble). For the most part, the land is flat, with very minor undulation on the east side.

3.0 Planning background

Outline planning permission is sought from South Kesteven District Council for industrial development of the site, consisting of warehousing development and associated infrastructure (Ref. S/99/0631/12).

In view of the potential archaeological significance of the site, the Community Archaeologist for South Kesteven advised the planning authority that evaluation in advance of development would be desirable, so that measures could then be put in place to safeguard the interests of both the client and the archaeological resource. This approach is consistent with the guidelines set out in *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 / PPG16* (1990).

The archaeological field evaluation was a condition of planning.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

Following the introduction of PPG16 in 1990, this area of the town has witnessed many, predominantly small-scale, archaeological investigations, most of which have been development-led.

Bourne is particularly well known for its medieval and post-medieval pottery industry, although the archaeological significance of the area commences much earlier.

The area of the modern town incorporates the Roman road Ermine Street and also the Roman Car Dyke, which is immediately west of the current site. Roman pottery kilns have been found at Bourne in the area of the local Grammar School (Swan 1984, 141).

The place-name, which is first mentioned in AD960 as *Brunne*, is Old English and refers to a stream, probably the Bourne Eau (Elkwall 1989, 55).

There are several listings for the town in the Domesday Book of 1086, with land being held by Sveinn, Thorketill, Earl Morcar, Leofwine, Halfden and Wulfric (Morris 1986). The earthworks of Bourne Castle comprise the remains of an C11th motte and bailey, which lies on the south side of the town. The parish church, dedicated to St Peter & St Paul, is the only surviving element of a priory founded by Augustinian canons in AD1138 (Pevsner et al 1995, 172).

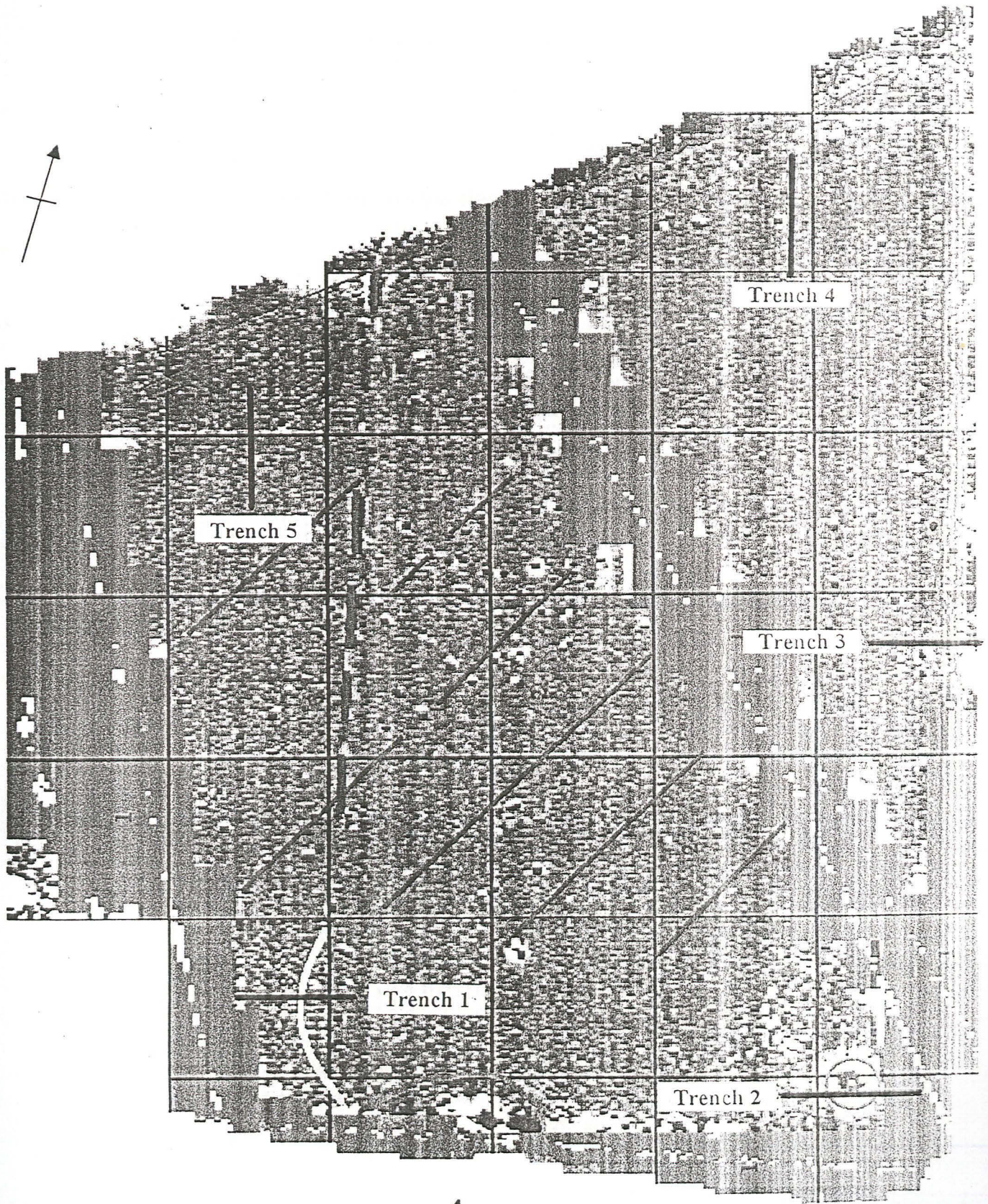
In the Eastgate area of the town, an important pottery manufacturing base was established by the C13th, with production at the centre continuing until at least the C18th.

Within the front garden of a house to the west of the current site, pottery sherds have been recovered and further to the west of this, evaluation in 1992 on Potters Close of the former slaughter house site exposed C13th/14th occupation deposits. Subsequent work in the same area has revealed evidence of C16th/17th pottery manufacture. Closer to the application site itself, further sites relating possibly to medieval pottery manufacture have also been identified. An on-going watching brief on the former Spalding Road Industrial Estate has identified a substantial dump of medieval waster sherds (report forthcoming). Most of the vessels identified as a result of the brief resemble a Saxon tradition, although it is likely that they are medieval (J Young, pers. Com.).

Clearly, in view of this background, there was a potential for the recovery of important archaeological data relating to the Bourne medieval pottery industry. The purpose of the evaluation was therefore to assess this potential in advance of development.

A gradiometer survey of the site was undertaken by Pre-Construct Geophysics in October 1999 (Snee & Bunn 1999). Although a significant degree of patterned magnetic variability was recorded as a result of this survey, the conclusions reached were that most, if not all, of the variability was the result of modern activities (modern services and boundaries, as well as ferrous litter in the topsoil. One faint curvilinear

Fig 2. Interpretative greyscale image including location of trenches. Scale 1:1000



anomaly on the south-west side of the site was considered to be of potential archaeological significance.

5.0 Methodology

The Community Archaeologist for South Kesteven required the excavation of five trial trenches to further assess the archaeological significance of the site. Whilst some of these trenches were specifically targeted to intercept magnetic anomalies recorded by geophysics, others were required to assess the potential of magnetically quiet areas.

Each of the five trenches (the locations of which are indicated on Fig. 2) measured 20m in length. Each was cleared of its topsoil using a JCB fitted with back actor and smooth ditching blade. The desired depths were achieved by removing graded spits under archaeological supervision, with all further excavation being by hand.

Archaeological contexts (eg layers, cuts, fills) were described on context recording sheets. Plans and section drawings were prepared at scale 1:20, and a colour photographic record was maintained. Artefacts were coded according to stratigraphic context, and these were washed and processed prior to specialist assessment. Of the latter, only the medieval pottery was examined in detail: other finds were either modern, or too small in terms of frequency (six fragments of animal bone) to warrant specialist input.

The excavations were supervised by the writer, assisted by Michael Knapton, Tom McArthy and Mark Allen.

6.0 Results

6.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

This trench, located in the southwest corner of the investigation, was positioned to traverse a faint curvilinear anomaly that was detected during the earlier gradiometer survey.

Following removal of the topsoil, a ditch-like feature orientated north-south was exposed and sample excavated, as were other areas of possible disturbance.

The linear feature, 103, proved, upon excavation, to be late, and was cut through the topsoil: a fragment of tile found in the upper fill was of modern origin.

An alluvial deposit was beneath the topsoil, and this was divided by a north-south aligned bank of alluvial clay (105). Slightly to the west of the bank at a depth of around 0.10m, six sherds of pottery were recovered. Five of these are Bourne ware type, dating to the late 12th-13th centuries. A single sherd of 17th-18th century black ware was also recovered from this layer, 101, suggesting that the medieval sherds are residual. Four fragments of animal bone were recovered from this context.

No other features were exposed, excluding areas of animal disturbance.

6.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

In the south-east corner of the site, the gradiometer survey defined an area of localised magnetic variation. This was considered to be modern, although the interpretation was handicapped to some extent by the proximity of known modern magnetic debris and required clarification by sample excavation.

A 20m trench was positioned over the anomaly and the topsoil carefully removed by machine. A number of modern land drains were exposed.

Beneath a thin layer of subsoil, a large northeast- southwest linear feature was cut through two natural layers of sands and silts, 202 and 204. A section was excavated across the earth-cut feature, 205, to retrieve dating evidence and to interpret it. Although, very rich in charcoal, the fills of the feature contained no datable finds, excluding a C19th bottle stop (within 206). The feature could not be bottomed on the grounds of both health and safety and problems with a rising water table, but sufficient data was recovered to be certain that it was of limited archaeological potential.

Fragments of modern tile, glass and land drain were recovered from the topsoil, as was a single lump of modern tarmac (discarded).

6.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 5)

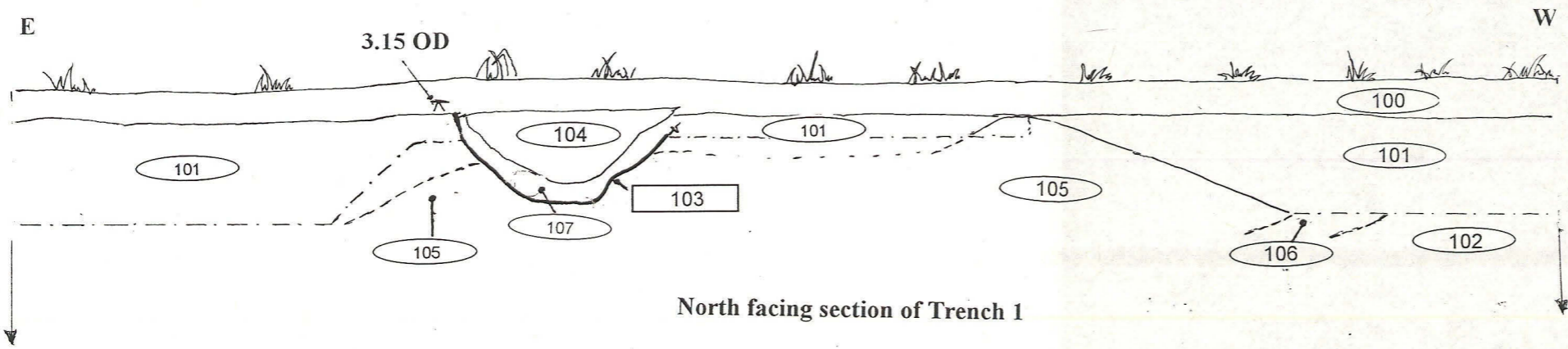
The trench was positioned mid-way along the east edge of the investigation area. It measured 20m in length and was orientated east-west within a magnetically quiet area.

Towards the east end of the trench, a modern drainage channel containing pea gravel was exposed, and it appeared to be cut through the topsoil. Two modern land drains were also exposed.

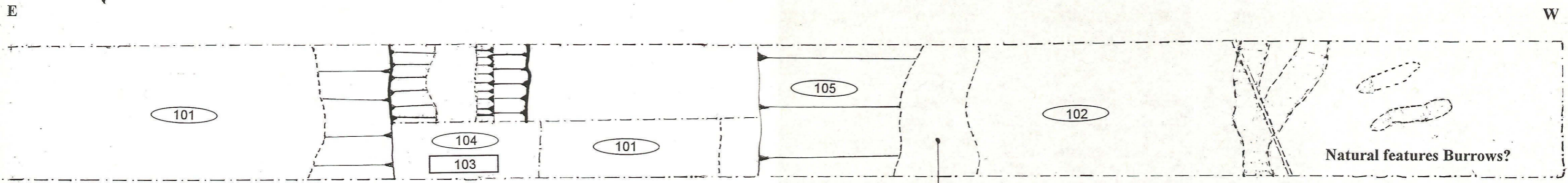
6.4 Trench 4 (Fig. 6)

Trench 4 was located in the north-east corner of the gradiometer survey within a magnetically quiet area. Close to the centre of the trench, an area of possible disturbance was investigated. However, the 'feature' proved difficult to define, and no dating evidence was recovered.

No further areas of disturbance were defined; a situation consistent with the gradiometer results. For the most part, the ploughsoil sealed a sterile horizon of grey/brown alluvial clay, interspersed with protruding areas of natural gravel.



North facing section of Trench 1



← Continues for 2.5m

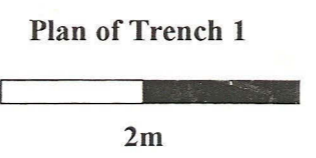


Figure 3

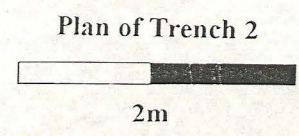
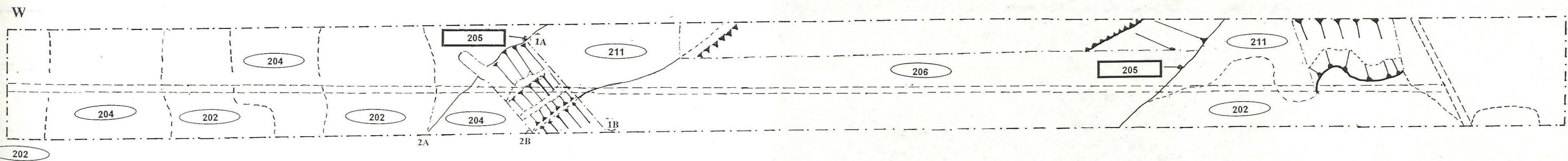
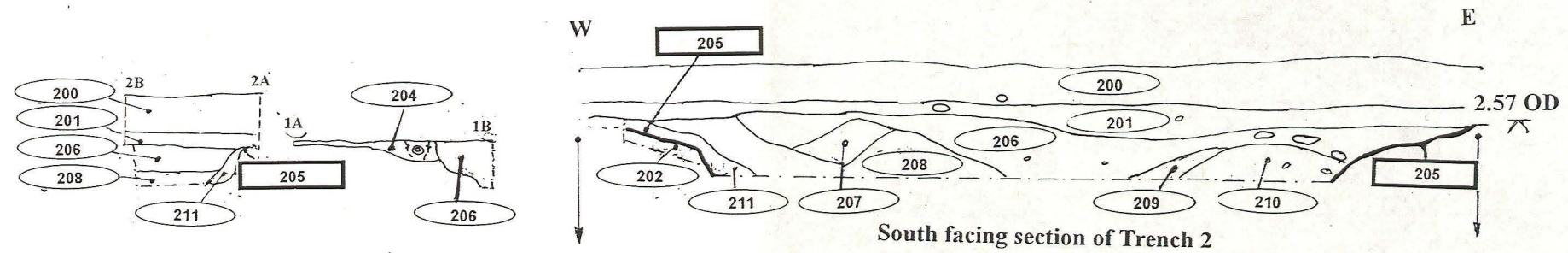


Figure 4

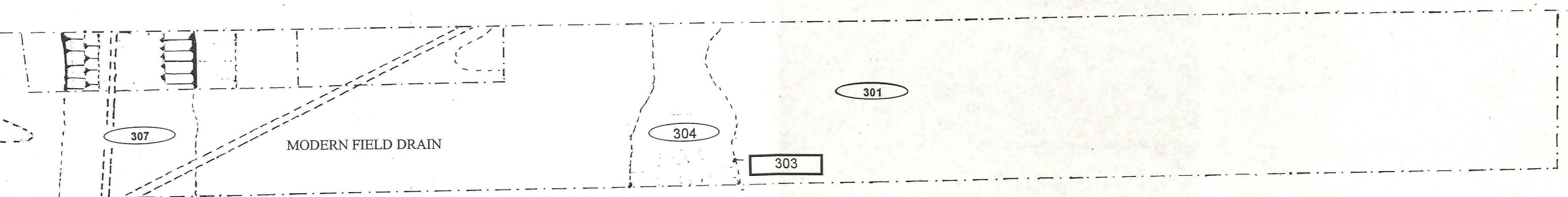
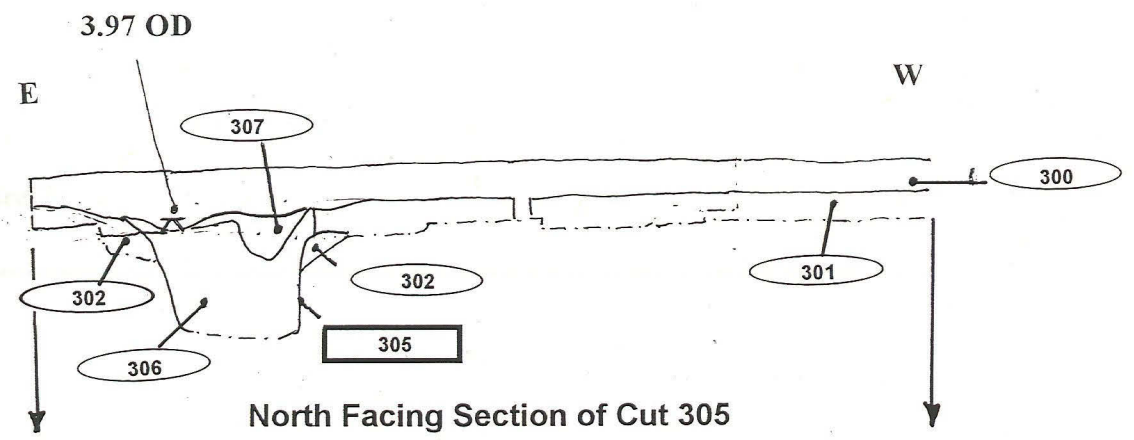


Figure 5

Plan of Trench 3



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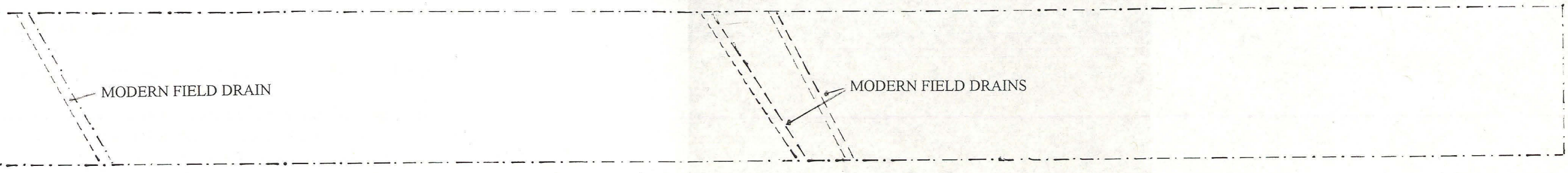
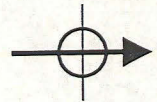
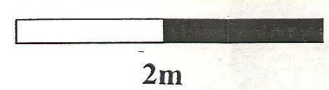


Figure 7

Plan of Trench 5



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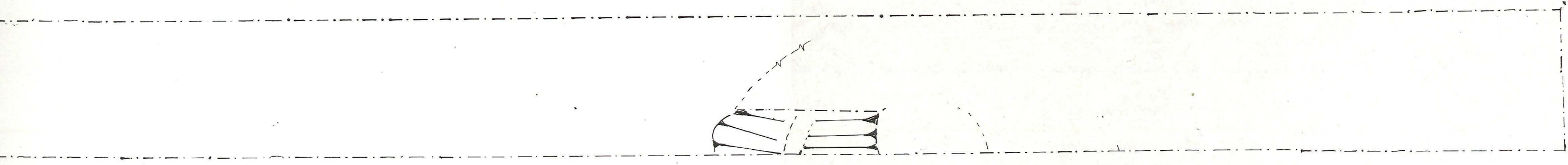
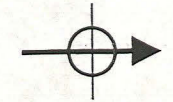


Figure 6

Plan of Trench 4



6.5 Trench 5 (Fig. 7)

Trench 5 was sited in the north-west corner of the site and was orientated north-south. Sealed beneath the topsoil and subsoil, a clean layer of natural gravel was exposed. This had been disturbed towards the south edge of the trench by a modern field drain. Otherwise, the trench was archaeologically sterile.

7.0 Summary and conclusions

It is broadly concluded that the site is of little or no archaeological importance.

The gradiometer survey carried out in October 1999 identified a number of magnetic anomalies and it was suggested that most of these, if not all, were of modern origin. The results of the current investigation would appear to confirm this, although a few sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from one of the excavation trenches (Trench 1).

The excavations have confirmed that the localised strong positive anomaly in the south-east corner of the excavation is of recent (ie C19th) origin, although a functional interpretation has not been possible. The possibility that the anomaly reflected the presence of a kiln structure required assessment, and this has now been achieved.

The curved anomaly identified on the south-west side of the gradiometer survey was a tentative identification. Trial trenching has confirmed the presence of an archaeological feature (a ditch) that corresponds with this anomaly. A date for the initial cutting of this feature has not been established, although it was certainly backfilled in very recent times. It is suggested that this feature also is of limited archaeological potential.

Although located within an area of medieval pottery production, it is concluded that the current site was peripheral to this industry. It may even have been predominantly agricultural.

8.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) are grateful to Lincolnshire County Council Property Division for this commission: in particular to Marie Gutteridge. Thanks are also expressed to the Community Archaeologist for South Kesteven, Jo Simpson, and to the site excavation team.

9.0 References

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10.0 Appendices

10.1 Colour photographs

10.2 List of archaeological contexts

10.3 Assessment of medieval pottery by J Young

Appendix 10.1 Colour Photographs



P1 Trench 1 looking east



P2 Ditch 103 looking southeast



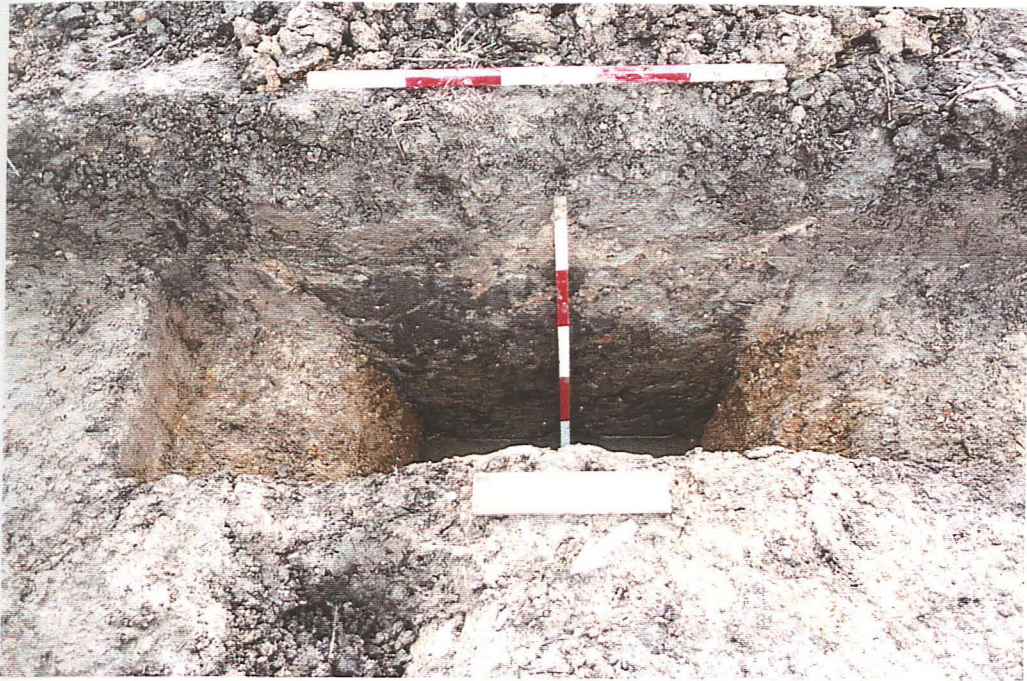
P3 Trench 2 looking northeast



P4 Modern feature 205 looking west



P5 Trench 3 looking east



P6 Modern ditch 305 looking southeast



P7 Trench 4 looking southeast



P8 Trench 5 looking northwest

Appendix 10.2

List of archaeological contexts from LSRB99 Bourne, Lincolnshire

Context Number	Trench Number	Description
100	Trench 1	Topsoil
101	Trench 1	Subsoil
102	Trench 1	Silty-Clayey-Sand (Natural).
103	Trench 1	Cut for modern curvilinear ditch
104	Trench 1	Tertiary fill of curvilinear ditch
105	Trench 1	Clay bank
106	Trench 1	Organic mud
107	Trench 1	Primary fill of cut 103
200	Trench 2	Topsoil
201	Trench 2	Subsoil
202	Trench 2	Silty-Clayey-Sand (Natural).
203	Trench 2	Unused
204	Trench 2	Organic mud
205	Trench 2	Cut fo modern Pit?
206	Trench 2	Modern backfill deposit
207	Trench 2	Modern backfill deposit
208	Trench 2	Modern backfill deposit
209	Trench 2	Modern backfill deposit
210	Trench 2	Modern backfill deposit
211	Trench 2	Modern backfill deposit
300	Trench 3	Topsoil
301	Trench 3	Subsoil
302	Trench 3	Natural silty gravel
303	Trench 3	Cut of irregular disturbance (Animal)
304	Trench 3	Fill of irregular disturbance (Animal)
305	Trench 3	Cut for modern services drain
306	Trench 3	Primary fill of Modern services drain
307	Trench 3	Tertiary fill of Modern services drain
401	Trench 4	Topsoil
402	Trench 4	Subsoil
403	Trench 4	Natural silty gravel
501	Trench 5	Topsoil
502	Trench 5	Subsoil
502	Trench 5	Natural silty gravel

Appendix 10.3

**The medieval and post-medieval pottery from LSRB99, Bourne,
Lincolnshire**

Jane Young, 5/1/00

Six sherds were presented, all from context 101.

Five of the sherds are typical Bourne type (same fabric). A date range between the twelfth and thirteenth century is suggested. All of the sherds derive from cooking pots and/or jars. Similar medieval ware types and forms have been found at Baston.

A single sherd of black ware is included in the assemblage. A date between the later seventeenth and eighteenth century is likely.

No further work is recommended.