

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
OF LAND AT FEN ROAD  
RUSKINGTON  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(RFR00)**



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
OF LAND AT FEN ROAD  
RUSKINGTON  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(RFR00)**

Work Undertaken For  
Chanceoptions Homes

February 2000

Report Compiled by  
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Planning Application No: N/52/942/99  
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A.P.S. Report No. 24/00

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## 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at Fen Road, Ruskington, Lincolnshire, in response to proposals for residential development of the site. Several archaeological sites and findspots are located in the vicinity of the proposed development. Prehistoric flint axes have been found nearby and a Roman road passes through the village. An Anglo-Saxon cemetery has also been identified on the west side of the village. Cropmarks immediately south of the proposed development area apparently define an enclosure alongside a trackway. Previous geophysical survey of the site revealed a possible trackway, curvilinear ditches and pits. These cropmarks and geophysical signals are considered to represent Iron Age or Roman remains.*

*It was anticipated that, by virtue of these sites and findspots, the area could contain archaeological remains of prehistoric or Roman date. The proposed development could affect related deposits and, in consequence, a programme of trial trenching was undertaken at the site to test for the presence and survival of archaeological remains.*

*This investigation revealed several ditches and pits of Iron Age date located in the southwestern part of the site. These ditches included parts of a possible ring gully, likely to represent a circular building. Roman ditches of 1st-2nd century AD date were revealed throughout the southern part of the site. Two of these ditches, evident on geophysical survey, probably define a trackway. Later Roman ditches and pits, of 3rd-4th century date, also occurred throughout the southern part of the site. In addition, a north-south aligned grave of later Roman date, containing a fragmented pottery vessel and coffin nails, was revealed*

*near the southern edge of the site. This burial was not excavated.*

*Undated postholes were identified, mostly in the southwestern part of the site. One group of these postholes occurred in a curvilinear arrangement and may represent a round-house type structure of Iron Age or native Romano-British form.*

*No Iron Age or Roman remains were found in the northeastern part of the site. However, ditches and furrows of medieval date were located throughout the area. These probably represent agricultural use of the site in the medieval period.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Definition of an Evaluation

*An archaeological evaluation is defined as 'a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, quality and preservation, and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.' (IFA 1997)*

### 2.2 Background

Between the 24<sup>th</sup> January and 4<sup>th</sup> February 2000, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at Fen Road, Ruskington, Lincolnshire. The evaluation was requested prior to the determination of planning permission for the erection of 43 dwellings (Planning Application No. N/52/942/99), in order to assess the presence and character of the archaeological resource within the proposed development area. The



archaeological investigation was commissioned by Chanception Homes. Archaeological Project Services carried out the work in accordance with a brief set by the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council (Appendix 1).

### 2.3 Topography and Geology

Ruskington is situated approximately 6km north of Sleaford and 24km south of Lincoln in North Kesteven district, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The investigation site is located *c.* 600m east of the village centre as defined by All Saint's church, south of Fen Road, at national grid reference TF 089 511.

The site is an irregular block of land approximately 2.09ha in extent and is currently under pasture. Situated on the north bank of the partially canalised stream, The Beck, the site lies at *c.* 10m OD on land that slopes down gently toward the watercourse.

Local soils are the Ruskington Association, gleyic brown calcareous earths on glaciofluvial sand and gravel with a calcareous substrate containing limestone stones, flints and quartzite pebbles (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 304).

Recording of the underlying natural gravels within the excavated trenches noted that the clay component of these deposits increased significantly from west to east. The drainage of small field at the east end of the site was significantly better than the remainder of the area.

### 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Ruskington village is located in an area of archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric through to the medieval period. A

Palaeolithic handaxe (NK 52.4) was discovered *c.* 700m southwest of the present investigation area. Flint axes (NK 52.14 and 40) dated to the Neolithic period have been found approximately 100m south of the development site and worked flints (NK 52.12) have been recovered 800m to the southeast. Two inhumation burials (NK 52.56), accompanied by beaker pottery dated to the Bronze Age, were recorded during building work 400m southwest of the development site.

Passing through the west edge of the village in an approximately north-south direction is the important Roman Road, King Street (NK 52.21). Aerial photographs have located field systems and enclosures of probable Roman date in the vicinity of King Street (NK 52.11, 24, 29 and 34). Roman coins have been recovered from various locations within 700m of the development area (NK 52.6, 7, 8 and 9).

An Anglo-Saxon cemetery (NK 52.1) was located at the western edge of the village. Iron spearheads, also of Anglo-Saxon date, have been found at several places to the east and southeast of the cemetery (NK 52.25 and 26).

Ruskington is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. Referred to as *Riscintone* and *Reschintone* the name is derived from the Old English *riscen* meaning 'rushy' with the suffix indicating a homestead or village (Ekwall 1974, 397). At the time of the Domesday Survey, Ruskington was held principally by Geoffrey Alselin and contained 60 acres of meadow, 240 acres of wood for pannage, a church, a priest and 3 mills (Foster and Longley 1976). No standing remains of 11<sup>th</sup> century date are recorded at the present church, suggesting that the Domesday Book is referring to an earlier precursor.

The Medieval period is represented by All Saints' church which contains a Norman tower arch and an Early English chancel and chancel arch (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 617). Medieval pottery (NK 52.54) has been recorded 300m south west of the development site.

Cropmarks have been recorded immediately to the south of the development site and apparently define an enclosure alongside a trackway. A geophysical survey within the development area, undertaken in December 1999 (Appendix 10), identified a possible trackway, curvilinear features and pits. The cropmarks and survey results may define contemporary features possibly dating to the prehistoric or Roman period.

### **3. AIMS**

The aims of the archaeological evaluation, as outlined in the brief set by the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council, were to gather information to establish the presence or absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits.

### **4. METHODS**

A geophysical survey of the southern area of the site was undertaken by GSB Propection during December 1999 (Appendix 10) prior to the commencement of trial trenching. The result of the survey was used to position the evaluation trenches over potential archaeological features Fig. 3).

The trial trenching consisted of the excavation of a 1.5% sample within the northern half of the site and a 2% sample within the southern area of the approximately 2.09 hectare site, as requested by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer. This

was achieved by the excavation of 15 trenches measuring on average 15m x 1.5m. The trenches were positioned in accordance with the project brief.

Topsoil was stripped from the trenches by mechanical excavator to the level of the archaeological deposits or the undisturbed natural. The exposed surfaces of the trenches were then cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains. Where present, features were excavated by hand in order to retrieve dateable artefacts and other remains.

Each deposit exposed during the evaluation was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled, and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at a scale of 1:20. Recording of deposits encountered during the evaluation was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Field survey of the excavated trenches and existing reference points within the development area was completed using a Geodolite Total Station in conjunction with a Psion Datalogger. The local grid established during an earlier survey for Chanceoption Homes was utilised for the entire archaeological evaluation. Initial control was from station points set into the sidewalk on Fen Road adjacent to the site. The location of these is shown on Figure 3.

## **5. RESULTS**

### **5.1 The Stratigraphic Sequence**

Finds recovered from the deposits identified during the evaluation were examined and a date assigned where possible (Appendices 3-8). Records of the deposits encountered were also examined. A list of all contexts and

interpretations appears as Appendix 2. Phasing was based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them, supplemented by artefact dating where relevant. Six phases were identified:

Phase 1:	Natural deposits
Phase 2:	Iron Age deposits
Phase 2.1:	Late Iron Age deposits
Phase 3:	Roman (1 <sup>st</sup> - 2 <sup>nd</sup> century)
Phase 3.1:	Roman (3 <sup>rd</sup> - 4 <sup>th</sup> century)
Phase 4:	Medieval
Phase 5:	Undated
Phase 6:	Modern

Context numbers appear in brackets, and these refer to the individual cut and deposit descriptions recorded during excavation.

## 5.2 Phase 1: Natural deposits

The earliest recorded layers comprised mixed mid reddish yellow and brown sandy gravels and light blueish grey clays (103, 204, 303, 406, 503, 504, 605, 703, 808, 905, 1003, 1103, 1104, 1217, 1303, 1327, 1403 and 1507). These natural geological deposits were recorded to a maximum depth of 1.40m during the excavation of archaeological features and were present within all the trenches.

Natural features formed by root and animal disturbance were recorded within all the trenches.

## 5.3 Phase 2: Iron Age deposits

**Trench 15:** (Figs. 8,9 and 12) A 1.00m diameter and 0.45m deep semi-circular feature (1513) recorded near to the west end of the trench contained the rim sherd of a pottery vessel, diagnostically Iron Age in date. Burnt cobbles and fragments of animal bone were also retrieved from the dark brown sandy silt fill (1512) of this feature.

The burnt cobbles appeared to be arranged around the edge of feature and might indicate that the stones were used as packing for a post.

The mollusc assemblage retrieved from the fill of this pit during the processing of environmental samples differs from that from other features in that a woodland habitat may be indicated. This might suggest that the post hole/pit is of a different phase.

The stratigraphically earliest features in this trench were two lengths of curving gully (1515) and (1510) recorded in the west half of the trench, which, if projected, probably form part of a circular ring gully. The maximum depth of the gullies was 0.13m and neither was more than 0.5m in wide, becoming narrower from east to west and terminating adjacent to possible post hole (1513). As the cut is so shallow it is possible that this terminal represents a variation in the depth of the gully rather than a true end to the feature. No dateable artefacts were retrieved from the fills of either of these features but both were truncated by features thought to be of Iron Age date. Fragments of animal bone were recovered from the fills of both sections of the ring gully.

The east section of the ring gully (1510) was truncated by a shallow 0.25m deep and 0.54m wide north south aligned linear gully (1508) containing a single silty sand fill (1501). Although no dateable finds were recovered from the gully it was truncated by ditch (1509) which is likely to be of Iron Age date. This 0.5m deep and 0.6m wide deep ditch crossed the trench on a slightly curving southwest to northeast alignment. A single small sherd of shelly pottery, probably of Iron Age date, was recovered during the processing of environmental samples from this ditch. Two pieces of briquetage, a type of ceramic material associated with salt making, recovered from fill (1502) of the

ditch are comparable to Iron Age types recovered on excavations elsewhere in the county (Lane, Appendix 7). Ditch (1509) is likely to be represented on the geophysical survey plot as a c 20m long curved anomaly on this area of the site (Appendix 7) .

The west side of the possible ring gully (1515) was truncated by (1504), a 0.95m wide and 0.57m deep north-south linear ditch (1504). Iron Age pottery, burnt stone and animal bone was recovered from the mid brown sandy silt fill (1503) of this ditch which is probably represented on the geophysical survey plot as a c. 10m long curved anomaly.

A probable sub-circular pit (1516) measuring 0.80m in diameter x 0.10m deep was recorded 5m from the west end of the trench and contained two sherds of Iron Age pottery within its dark grey gravelly silt fill (1517). Two post holes recorded in the west half of the trench and within the area enclosed by the putative ring gully are thought to be probably of Iron Age date.

#### 5.4 Phase 2.1: Late Iron Age deposits

**Trench 10:** (Figs 6.9 and 11) Diagnostically late Iron Age pottery was recovered from two features within this trench. These were pit (1009) and gully terminal (1013) recorded at the east end and central areas of the trench respectively. The pit was only 50mm deep but truncated adjacent pit (1011) from which shelly body sherds of Iron age pottery were also recovered The 90mm deep and 0.7m wide gully (1013) terminal contained a single clayey sand fill from which an everted neck of a fine bowl was recovered. This type could be earlier but would not be out of place in the late Iron Age (*pers comm* D. Knight)

#### 5.5 Phase 3: Roman (1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> century)

**Trench 6:** (Figs. 5 and 10) Two sherds of early to middle 2<sup>nd</sup> century Samian pottery were recovered from the mid brownish grey sandy clay fill of a 0.45m deep linear feature (603) recorded at the west end of the trench. Only a 2.5m length of this probable ditch was recorded on a west to east alignment at the west end of the trench as the remainder was obscured by a modern land drain which ran along the length of the trench. An anomaly identified in this area during the geophysical survey was thought to probably represent ferrous material and it seems unlikely to be represented by this linear feature.

**Trench 9:** (Figs. 6 and 9) A northwest-southeast linear ditch (910) measuring 1.30m wide x 0.17m deep was identified towards the middle of this trench. Although no dateable finds were recovered from its mid grey silty gravel fill (911), the position of the feature appears to correspond to an L-shaped linear geophysical survey anomaly which extends westwards to Trench 11 where pottery of 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century date was retrieved from a similar ditch.

**Trench 11:** (Fig. 7, 9 and 11) Pottery of 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century date was retrieved from the fills of a 1.3m wide and 0.49m deep east-west linear ditch (1111) located 5m from the north end of the trench. This ditch is likely to be represented on the geophysical survey plot as the northern of two parallel linear anomalies identified on this area. The earlier phase of this ditch (1109) contained no dateable artefacts within its fills but is thought to be of a similar date to (1111)

No dateable artefacts were recovered from a ditch (1118), located 5m from the southern end of the trench. However, it is suggested that this ditch represents the southern of the two linear anomalies recorded by the

geophysical survey on this area of the site and (1109) is likely to be of early Roman date.

**Trench 12:** (Fig. 7) A 1.05m wide and 0.24m deep northeast-southwest linear ditch (1214) recorded close to the north end of the trench is likely to be represented on the geophysical survey plot as the northern of the two parallel linear anomalies identified in this area. Pottery of 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century date was recovered from ditch (1111) representing the corresponding anomaly in Trench 11.

### 5.6 Phase 3.1: Roman (3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> century)

**Trench 8:** (Figs. 6 and 10) Three features of this periods were recorded in this trench. Excavation of a spread of mid bluish grey silty clay (803) located near to the centre of the trench recovered 50 sherds of abraded pottery thought to date to the Late 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century. The clayey nature of the sediment and the abraded pottery suggest that this layer may represent an area of wet ground into which quantities of domestic rubbish have been dumped. This layer was cut by a 1.9m wide and 0.47m deep northwest-southeast aligned linear ditch (802) which contained a dark blackish grey clayey silt fill (801) from which 25 sherds of mid to late 3<sup>rd</sup> century pottery were recovered. As this feature truncated layer (803) from which late 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century pottery was recovered it must be assumed that the ditch is at least of the this date.

Ditch (802) was also stratigraphically later than linear feature (805) which contained a mid bluish grey clayey silt fill (804) from which a single sherd of pottery broadly dateable to the Roman period was recovered. It is assumed that (805) represents the earliest phase of this ditch and that it is broadly of the same date as (802).

The ditch is likely to be represented on the geophysical survey plot as the curving linear anomaly identified on this area of the site.

**Trench 10:** (Figs 6,9,10 and 11) An oval 1m long and 0.48m wide pit (1007) located near the north end of this trench contained a clayey sand fill from which four sherds of 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century pottery were collected. Processing of an environmental sample from this pit retrieved a relatively large charcoal and charred cereal assemblage, and although small quantities of chaff and charred weed seeds were present, the material is likely to have been charred in a domestic rather than crop processing context (Rackham, Appendix 9) The pit was truncated by two ditches, (1005) to the south and (1019) to the north. Cut (1005) was 0.75m wide and 0.10m deep east-west linear feature which terminated 3.00m from the eastern end of the trench. The mid brown clayey sand fill (1004) of (1005) contained middle to late 3<sup>rd</sup> century pottery sherds. Although no dateable artefacts were recovered from the fills of (1019), a ditch cut on the same alignment as (1005), it is thought to be of a similar date as the gully based on its shared alignment and truncation of pit (1007)

**Trench 12:** (Fig. 7 and 11) Situated parallel and immediately adjacent to the 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century ditch (1214) was a northeast-southwest linear gully (1210) containing a mid brownish yellow silt fill (1208), from which middle to late 3<sup>rd</sup> century pottery was collected. The gully was truncated on its southern side by a north-south aligned grave (1212) containing an articulated skeleton (1211) Only the legs of the skeleton were recorded within the grave, the remainder extending beneath the south edge of excavation, left *in-situ* as required by the brief. Numerous fragments of a mid to late 3<sup>rd</sup> century colour coated indented beaker pottery vessel retrieved from the sandy clay grave fill (1209) are very likely to represent

the remains of a complete pot placed with the burial. A number of nails recovered from within the grave indicate that the body had been contained within a wooden coffin.

**Trench 14:** (Figs 8,9 and 10) A large 3.8m wide northwest-southeast linear ditch (1409) was recorded towards the centre of this trench. Contained within the ditch were three silt fills (1408), (1412) and (1413) from which a quantity of Roman pottery was recovered. The base of the ditch was not recorded within the 1.2m depth limit imposed by health and safety considerations. The earliest fill recorded was (1413) from which eleven sherds of pottery thought to date to the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries were recovered. Running parallel to the south of ditch (1409) was a linear gully (1405) containing a mid brown sandy silt fill (1404). Although no dateable evidence was retrieved from the gully its date may be inferred from its association with the ditch.

#### 5.7 Phase 4: Medieval

**Trench 1:** (Fig. 4) A broad and shallow east-west linear feature (107) measuring 2.30m wide and 0.20m deep was recorded centrally within the trench and has been interpreted as a medieval plough furrow. Contained within the cut was a mid grey sandy clay fill (106) from which two residual sherds of Roman pottery were recovered. A second parallel east-west linear feature (105) was recorded *c.* 5m north of furrow (107) containing an undated similar sandy clay fill (104). The corresponding nature of these two features suggests that they are probably contemporary and feature (105) can therefore also be interpreted as a furrow.

**Trench 3:** (Fig. 4) A 2.80m wide x 0.27m deep northeast-southwest linear ditch (307) was recorded running centrally across the trench. Three sherds of 14<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> century pottery were recovered from the mid grey

sandy clay fill (306). An undated east-west aligned linear feature (305) measuring 1.50m wide x 0.11m deep was recorded 2m from the northern end of the trench. Contained within this feature was a mid brownish grey sandy clay fill (304), similar to fill (106) within Trench 1. This feature has been interpreted as a medieval plough furrow and is possibly the continuation of (107) in Trench 1. A second undated linear feature (309) aligned northeast-southwest was recorded at the southern end of the trench. This feature has been interpreted as a gully or small ditch and contained a single mid brown clayey sand fill (308). This feature has a similar alignment to (307) and may also be tentatively dated to medieval period.

**Trench 9:** (Fig. 6) Two east-west linear features (906 and 913) located at either end of the trench, containing silty fills (907) and (912) respectively, have been interpreted as medieval plough furrows. Cutting furrow (906) at the southern end of the trench were two east-west linear ditches (908) and (901).

**Trench 11:** (Fig. 7) Two features (1125) and (1123) recorded within the trench have been interpreted as furrows due to their form and alignments.

**Trench 12:** (Fig. 7) Two shallow east-west aligned linear ditches (1207) and (1206) were recorded within the trench. Measuring 1.05m wide x 0.12m deep they contained a mid greyish brown silt fill (1203) and (1205) respectively. Fill (1205) contained a residual sherd of 3<sup>rd</sup> century pottery. The ditches have been interpreted as furrows due to their form and the nature of their fills.

**Trench 14:** (Fig. 10) Two parallel east-west linear ditches (1411) and (1407) were recorded within the trench and have both been interpreted as furrows due to their form and alignment.

## 5.8 Phase 5: Undated

**Trench 10:** (Fig. 9) At the west end of the trench a north-south linear ditch (1015) and an adjacent parallel gully (1021) were recorded. Neither of these features contained any dateable evidence and their differing alignment to adjacent features gives no indication to their date. Excavation of a linear gully recorded at the west end of the trench produced no dateable artefacts.

**Trench 11:** (Figs. 7 and 9) No dateable pottery was recovered from an east-west linear ditch terminal (1116) containing a mid brownish grey sandy clay fill (1117) recorded centrally within the trench. A 0.72m wide and 0.15m deep gully terminal (1107) recorded at the north end of the trench contained a fill (1108) from which a very small sherd of shelly pottery was collected. As this could easily be residual the feature is considered undated.

**Trench 13:** (Figs. 7, 9 and 10) An arc of seven undated, shallow sub-circular features identified as post holes (1305, 1309, 1310, 1311, 1313, 1320, and 1322) were recorded centrally within the trench contained fills from which no finds were recovered. The maximum depth of any of the post holes was 0.29m and most were much shallower. Although interpretations of such a ephemeral features must be tentative it is possible that this group of post holes represent some kind of structure or enclosure boundary. Another post hole (1334) measuring 0.46m in diameter x 0.22m deep was situated to the northeast of the post hole group and is probably contemporary.

An east-west linear ditch (1301) measuring 1.10m wide x 0.16m deep was recorded at the west end of the trench and appears to respect the post hole alignment, possibly suggesting a contemporary date. The environmental assessment of samples from

this ditch recovered a range of material not dissimilar to those from the Romano-British examples. Also a very small sherd of pottery found in the sample may be 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> century South Lincolnshire Shelly Ware.

A northwest-southeast linear ditch terminal (1318) containing a two silt fills (1316) and (1317) truncated post hole (1305).

**Trench 15:** (Figs. 8,9 and 12) Two east-west linear features (1522) and (1526) located at the eastern end of the trench have been interpreted as probable gully terminals. Both contained a similar dark grey silt fills. Although undated these features are located in a Trench in which almost exclusively Iron Age features were recorded.

## 5.9 Phase 6: Modern deposits

A deposit of dark brown silty clayey sand (101, 201, 301, 401, 501, 601, 701, 806, 903, 1001, 1101, 1216, 1328, 1401 and 1524) containing roots and overlain with rough grassland was recorded within all of the evaluation trenches to a thickness of 0.35m and represents the modern topsoil.

Below the topsoil was a mid brown silty clayey sand subsoil (102, 202, 203, 302, 402, 502, 602, 702, 807, 904, 1002, 1102, 1202 = 1215, 1329, 1402 and 1525), recorded to an average thickness of 0.30m. However, a subsoil 0.65m thick was recorded in Trench 7 suggesting a different formation process to that across the rest of the development site.

Trenches 2, 5 and 7 revealed a sequence of natural geology, subsoil and topsoil, and contained no archaeological features.

**Trench 4:** (Fig. 5) A 1.00m wide x 0.33m deep north-south linear gully (405) was recorded running centrally across the trench. Contained within the gully was a firm dark brownish grey sandy silt fill (404), from

which a mid 19<sup>th</sup> century dated horse shoe was recovered.

## 6. DISCUSSION

### 6.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

The earliest recorded deposits, found within all of the trenches, were sandy gravels and clays. These are likely to have been deposited as part of a glaciofluvial process.

### 6.2 Phases 2 and 2.1: Iron Age and Late Iron Age deposits

Archaeological deposits dating to the Iron Age period were recorded over the southwest part of the site, in Trenches 10 and 15 and possibly 13. The types of features recorded include post holes, pits, gullies and ditches from which pottery, animal bone and burnt stone were recovered. Two curving gullies recorded in Trench 15 possibly form part of a circular ring gully which may have surrounded a roundhouse, a type of building typically recorded on sites of this period. Ring gullies of this type have been recorded on several prehistoric site in Lincolnshire, although by the standards of other counties in the East Midlands, remarkably few examples have been recorded in the county (Willis, 1997). The accepted interpretation for these ring gullies is that they acted as drains for the enclosed area where a roundhouse of timber construction would have stood. The two post holes recorded within the area enclosed by the gully may represent the remains of posts used to support the roof and wall of the building, although they seem too close to the ring gully.

The possible ring gully was truncated by two later features which suggests that several phases of activity may be represented by the archaeological deposits in this trench. A

ditch (1509) which truncated one of the sections of ring gully is almost certainly represented by the same feature as a 20m long curved anomaly recorded on the geophysical survey plot. The projected diameter and the size of this ditch would conclusively rule out a ring gully surrounding a round house and the feature is not of the correct period to represent a round barrow. The most likely interpretation might be that the feature represents a small enclosure surrounding an occupied area.

The linear ditch (1504) cutting the ring gully at the west end of the Trench 15 appears to be represented on the geophysical survey plot by an anomaly with a much tighter curve and is not consistent with the straight course of (1504). Again, the most likely interpretation would see this feature enclosing an area around a settlement.

Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from a pit and a gully in Trench 10, indicating that the settlements extended the 50m distance between the two trenches at least.

The two pieces of briquetage container recovered at the site may be of some significance. It is not believed that a supply of saltwater was available at the site during the period. There is certainly no hint of a marine phase at the site from the environmental assessment. It may be that these two fragments of briquetage reflect exchange between the community at Ruskington and other groups engaged in salt making on the fen edge to the east.

An arc of post holes tentatively identified in Trench 13 may date to the Iron Age period although this is speculative due to lack of dating evidence



### **6.3 Phase 3: Roman (1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> century) deposits**

Deposits of this phase were mainly located in Trenches 12, 11, 10 and 9 on the south side of the site. The trenches were mainly located to investigate two parallel linear anomalies identified on the geophysical survey and thought to possibly represent a trackway. On the geophysical survey plot this possible trackway appears to be linked to a L shaped rectilinear feature which could represent part of an enclosure ditch. The excavation demonstrated the presence of ditches which almost certainly represent the anomalies on the geophysical survey. There is no reason at present to challenge the hypothesis that a trackway and associated enclosure exist at the site. Pottery of 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century date and quantities of animal bone and charred cereals recovered from environmental samples indicate the proximity of a settlement although no structural remains to confirm this were discovered. The possibility that an area of occupation within the area enclosed by the putative enclosure and trackway ditches does not seem unlikely.

It is also possible that the trackway identified within the proposed development area is associated with the plotted cropmark identified to the south of the site (Fig. 2).

### **6.4 Phase 3.1: Roman (3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> century) deposits**

A burial (1212) recorded in Trench 12 truncates one of the ditches thought to be part of the 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century trackway, suggesting that this routeway was out of use by the later Roman period. This is not to say that the enclosed area was not still defined and the burial has been placed at the limit of the occupied area. In a similar fashion burials placed close to perimeter enclosures dating to the late Roman period and containing grave goods have been recorded at Old

Place, Sleaford (J Oetgen and B Simmons 1985). The suggestion of a parochial burial ritual being practised around Old Sleaford may possibly be extended to Ruskington and there is the possibility of other burials within the near vicinity.

A small pit (1006) recorded in Trench 10 contained a large assemblage of charcoal and charred cereal which is thought most likely to derive from a domestic context. This suggests that the site continued to be occupied into the later Roman period as a domestic settlement. The 50 sherds of abraded pottery and animal fragments recovered from the clayey hollow represented by (803) possibly represent dumping of material outside the enclosed area into a wet poorly drained area. The results of the environmental assessment certainly confirm that the clayey east area of the site was poorly drained in comparison to the more gravelly west end.

### **6.5 Phase 4: Medieval deposits**

Evidence of agriculture within the development area during the Medieval period comes from furrows recorded within Trenches 1, 3, 9, 11, 12 and 14.

### **6.6 Phase 5: Undated deposits**

Of significance is the possible structure represented by the arc of post holes in Trench 13. The projected diameter of the arc would be around 16m, probably too large for a roundhouse, although buildings of this size are not unknown. A small enclosure, perhaps in the form of a stockade could be a possibility. It should be stressed that these post holes were very shallow and ephemeral. Any further investigation would require sensitive excavation to recover any meaningful evidence.

## 6.7 Phase 6: Modern deposits

A modern deposit of topsoil and subsoil was recorded across the development site. Iron Age and Roman pottery sherds were recovered from these deposits. The thick subsoil within Trench 7 may have been formed during the medieval period and be the remains of a headland produced during ploughing. However, it is probably the remains of a bank associated with the canalised stream, The Beck, to the south.

## 7. ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

For assessment of significance the *Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling ancient monuments* has been used (DoE 1990, Annex 4; See Appendix 11).

### Period

Archaeological deposits dating from the late Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods were recorded during the evaluation. Few of the features were particularly period-specific, though remains of possible round houses are characteristic of the Iron Age, but occur in other periods also. Coffin burials with grave goods are typically Roman.

### Rarity

Identifiable sites of the Late Iron Age period are rare within the region. In particular it is uncommon to recover diagnostically late Iron pottery on what is in effect a rural site. Within a local context Ruskington is one of several sites of this period which appear to cluster around the major late Iron Age site of Sleaford. Of particular significance is the identification of conquest period remains. Although remains dating from the Roman period are not particularly rare, little detailed archaeological investigation has been undertaken on sites of this date.

Medieval agricultural remains, as also found on the site, are commonplace.

### Documentation

The site has previously been subject to geophysical survey which identified archaeological remains at the site. In addition, records of archaeological sites and finds made in the Ruskington area are held in the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record and the files maintained by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer.

### Group value

Moderate group value is indicated by the association of Iron Age settlement evidence with Romano-British tracks and funerary remains. Some of the Romano-British ditches may also be related to settlement or field systems of the period, which enhances the group value further.

### Survival/Condition

Most of the archaeological features at the site will have undergone some degree of attrition from the effects of ploughing, both in the medieval and modern periods. Furrows characteristic of medieval arable farming were recorded extensively across the site. The ridges in between these furrows will have provided protection although these are now longer visible on the site, presumably due to truncation by more recent ploughing. However, numerous archaeological features were recorded across the site which survive in good condition. Post holes marking the location of boundaries, structures or enclosures were identified. Some of these post holes were extremely shallow and identification in some cases was tentative. To some degree judgements as to whether these do represent the remains of structures would only be determined through the investigation of larger areas of the site.

Ditches and gullies of varying depth were recorded across the site and these will also

have demarcated different areas of the settlement. It is unlikely shallow features, floor levels or any surface archaeological deposits would have survived at the site.

Human bone, animal bone and ceramics all survive at the site in moderate-good condition. Waterlogged deposits were not identified at the site nor recovered from environmental samples.

#### **Fragility/Vulnerability**

Development of the site is likely to impact into natural deposits. Consequently, all archaeological remains present are vulnerable. As no organic remains were recorded, de-watering is unlikely to present a significant threat to the archaeological potential of the site.

#### **Diversity**

By virtue of the Iron Age, Roman and medieval remains found in the area, the site has moderate period diversity. Additionally, functional diversity is moderately high, with evidence of settlement, funerary activity, movement/transport zones and agricultural activity found at the site.

#### **Potential**

There is very high potential that further Iron Age and Roman remains occur in the area. This is largely confirmed by the correlation of the geophysical survey and trench evaluation results; the trenches crossed several of the linear geophysical signals, identifying them as remains of Iron Age or Roman date.

There is low potential for the survival of waterlogged environmental remains.

### **8. EFFECTIVENESS OF TECHNIQUES**

The techniques employed during the

archaeological evaluation were effective. Removal of overburden deposits by mechanical excavator allowed a rapid appraisal indicating that archaeological remains were largely confined to the southern part of the site, though were moderately dense in this area. Moreover, the evaluation recognized many of the geophysical signals previously recorded at the site and revealed other remains not identified by the geophysics examination.

Manual excavation of the remains established that archaeological deposits were well-preserved with different phases of activity, from Iron Age to medieval, at the site and also indicated the functions of the remains.

### **9. CONCLUSIONS**

Archaeological investigations at Fen Road, Ruskington, were undertaken because the site was near to prehistoric and Roman remains, with previous geophysical survey having identified possible ditches and pits at the site. It was therefore probable that archaeological remains were located on the site and, in consequence, an evaluation was undertaken to categorize the evidence to provide information to assist the determination of a planning application for development of the area.

The investigation revealed that many of the geophysical signals were produced by Iron Age, Roman and medieval remains across the area. These remains were generally sealed by about 0.7-0.8m of topsoil and subsoil.

Ditches and probable building foundations of Iron Age date were encountered in the southwestern part of the site. There were also slight indications for Iron Age salt-making in this area. Roman ditches, including a pair apparently defining a

trackway, were revealed across the southern part of the site, though the Iron Age and Roman remains were mutually exclusive, with no features of Romano-British date encountered in the zone of Iron Age evidence at the southwest of the site. Although no clear Roman habitation remains were identified, the quantity of artefacts of the period indicate the proximity of Romano-British occupation. A single Romano-British burial containing a fragmented Roman pottery vessel was revealed near the southern edge of the site.

There were no Iron Age or Roman remains in the northeastern part of the investigation area, though medieval ditches and furrows, representing agricultural activity of the period, were located here and elsewhere throughout the site.

There was no evidence of waterlogging at the site and ancient plant remains are only preserved through charring, though bone and mollusc shell of Iron Age to medieval date also survived.

The presence of ridge and furrow was confirmed. Formation of the furrows would have damaged earlier archaeological features, although, correspondingly, enhanced feature preservation would be expected beneath the ridges.

## 10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr N. Allen of Chanceoption Homes who commissioned the evaluation and post-excavation analysis. The archaeological project was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Dale Trimble and Tom Lane. Kate Orr, the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council, kindly permitted examination of the relevant parish

archaeological files

## 11. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor  
Project Officer: Tobin Rayner  
Site Assistants: Rachael Hall, Jo Hambly, Phil Mills, Jim Snee, Sue Unsworth, Fiona Walker and Katie-Sue Wilson  
Photographic Reproduction: Sue Unsworth  
Illustration: Dave Hopkins, Phil Mills and Tobin Rayner  
Post-excavation Analyst: Tobin Rayner

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### 13. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

OD Ordnance Datum

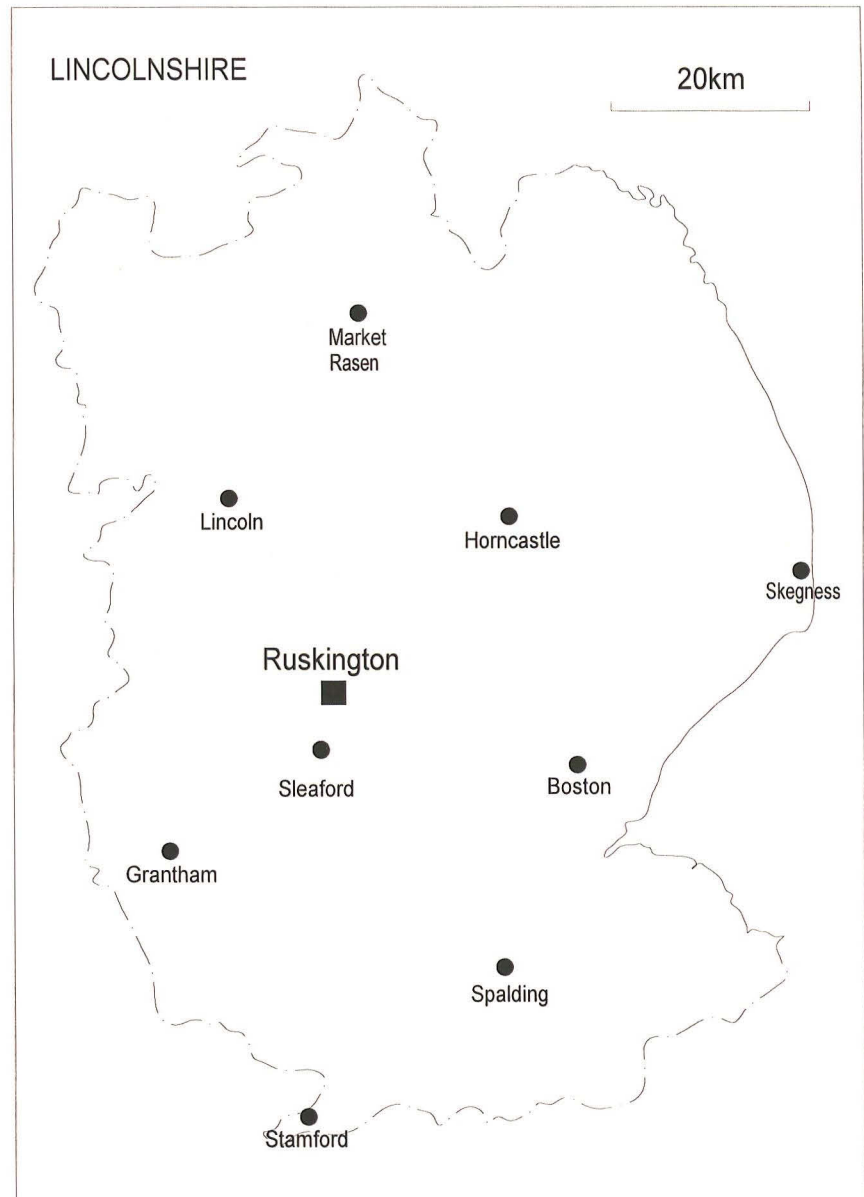


Figure 1: General Location Map

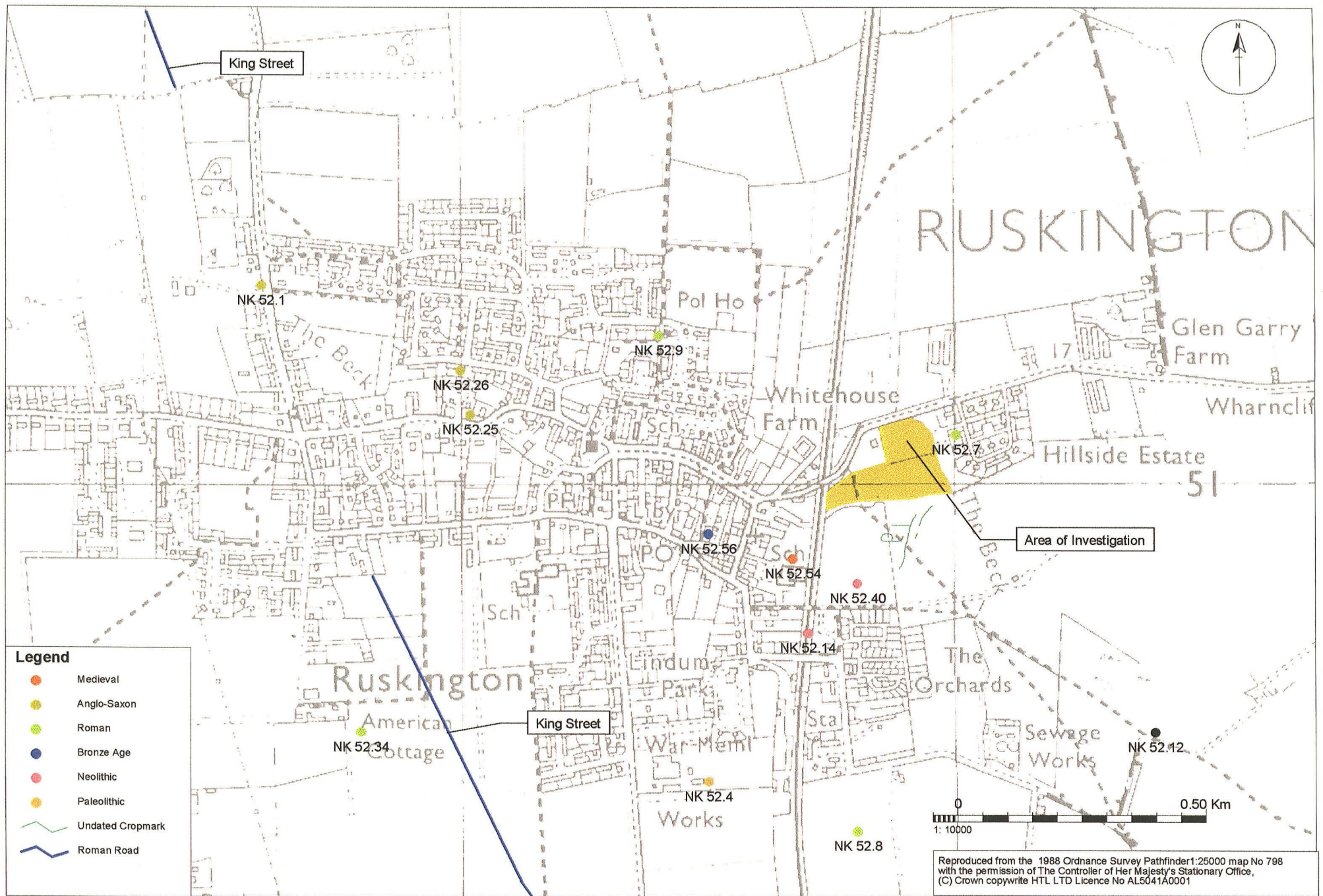


Figure 2: Site location plan, showing archaeological setting

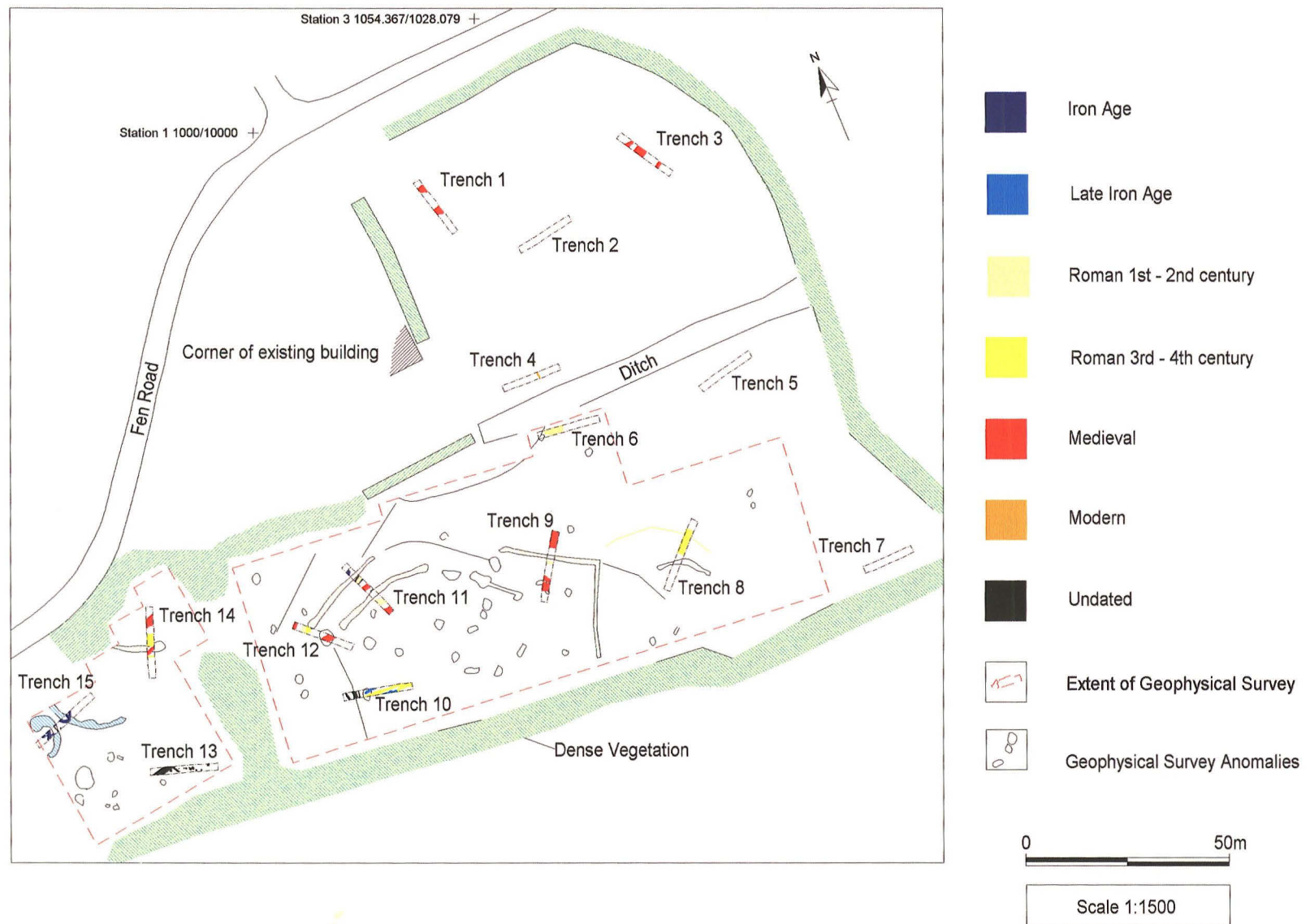
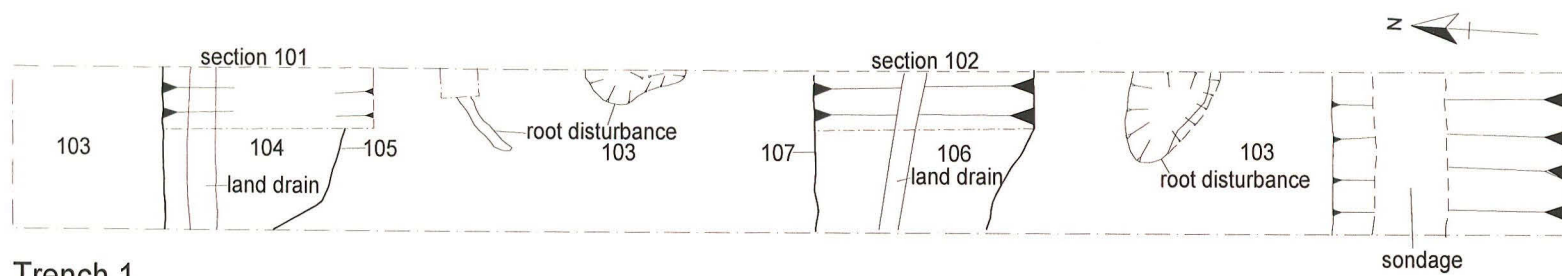
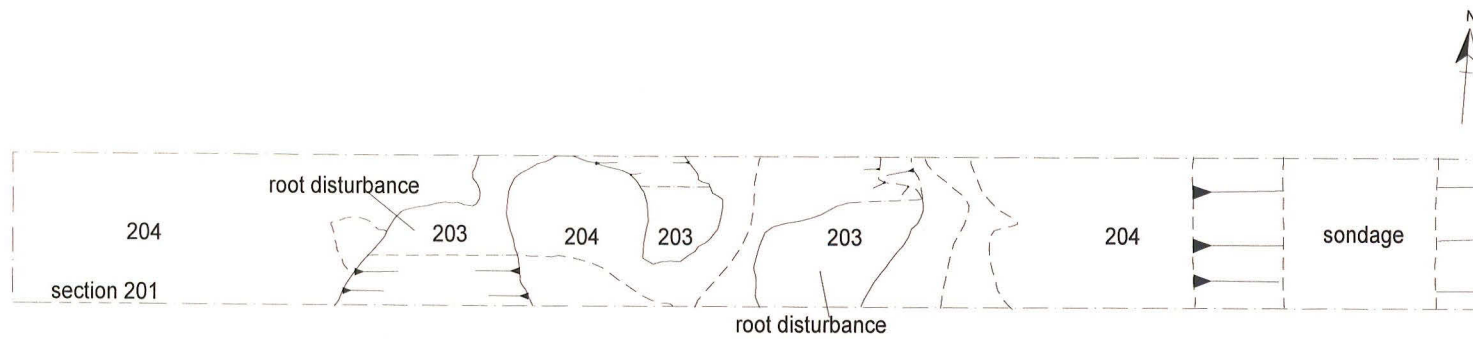


Figure 3: Trench Location, Detail and Geophysical Survey Results

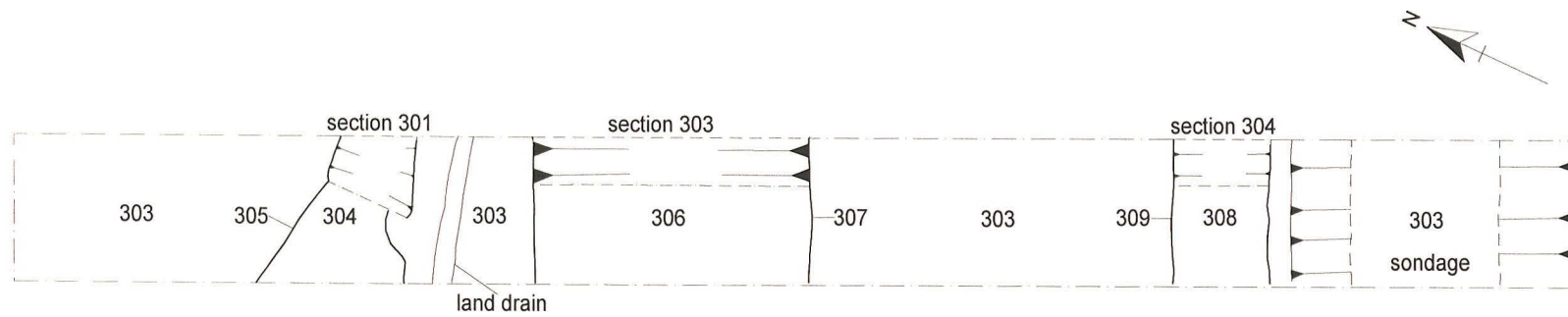




Trench 1



Trench 2



Trench 3

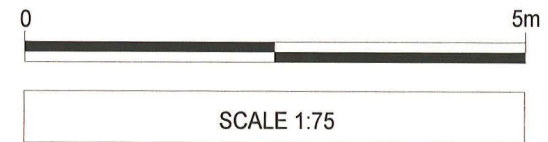
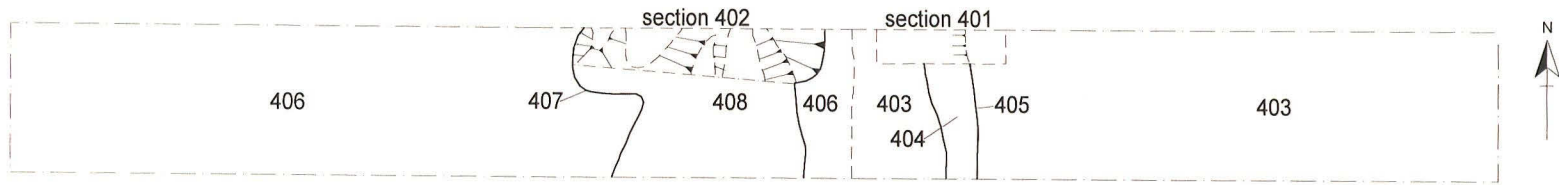
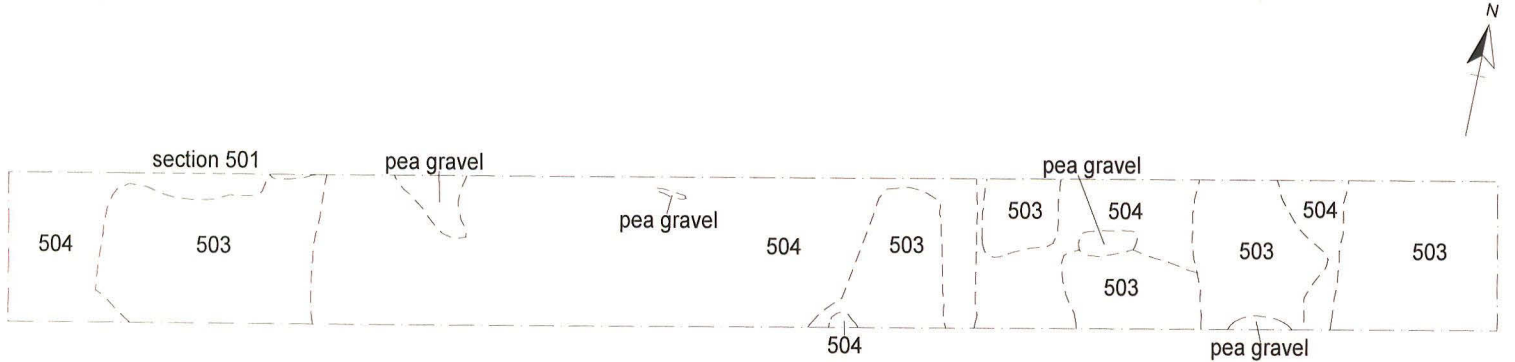


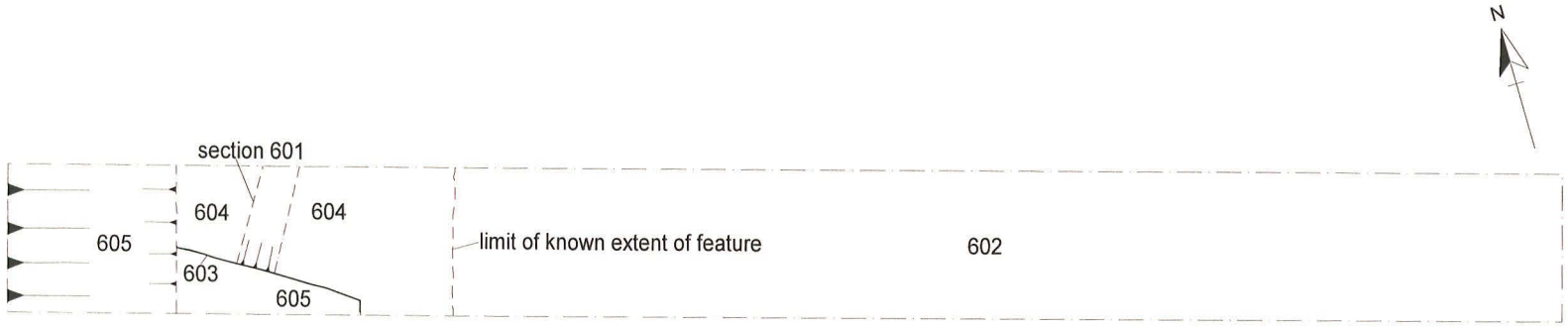
Figure 4: Trench Plans 1 - 3



Trench 4



Trench 5



Trench 6

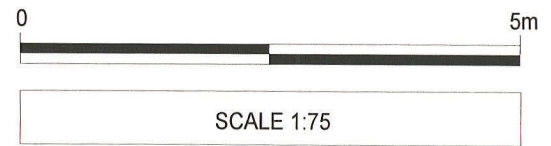
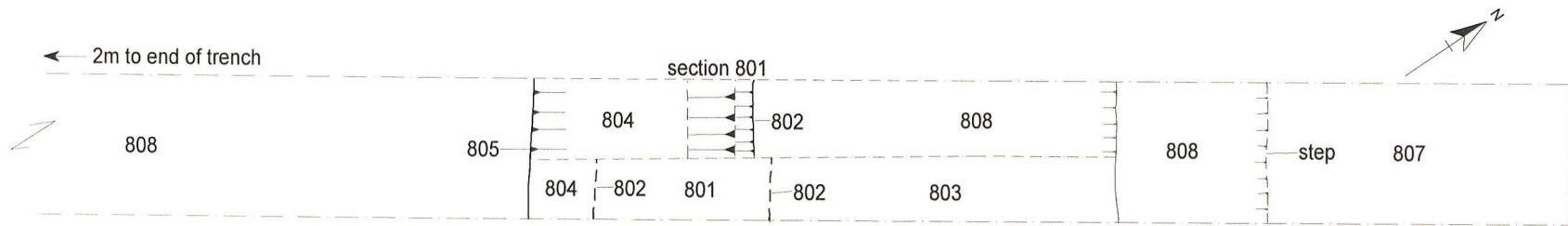
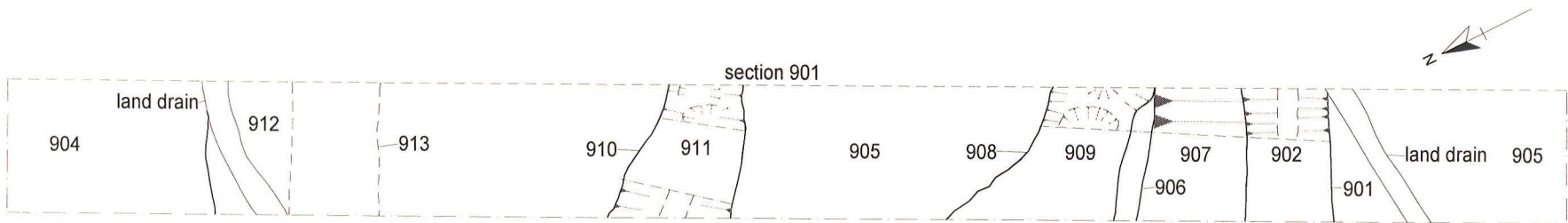


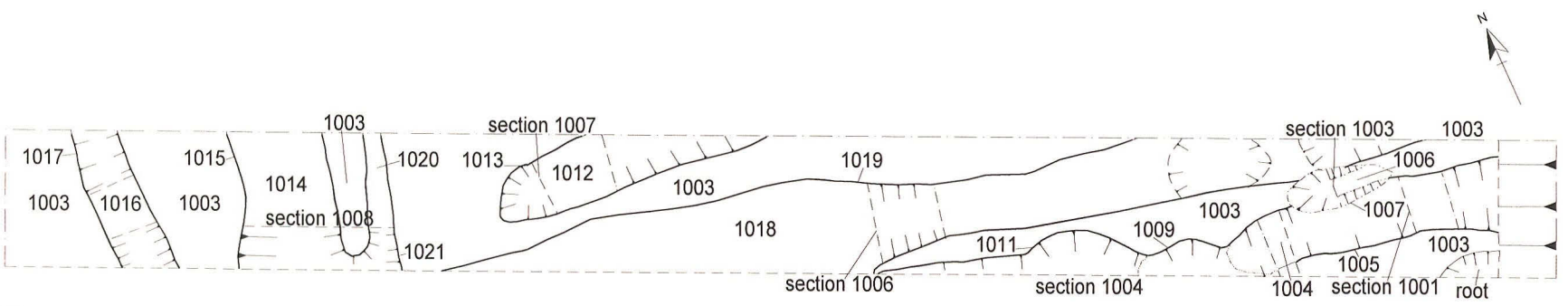
Figure 5: Trench Plans 4 - 6



Trench 8



Trench 9



Trench 10

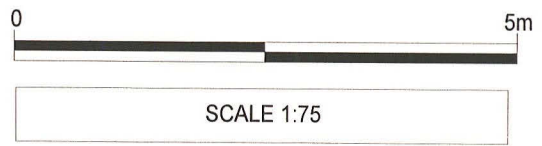
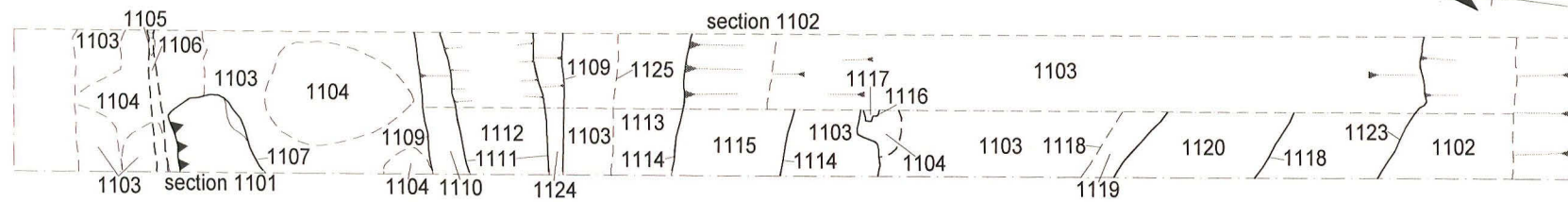
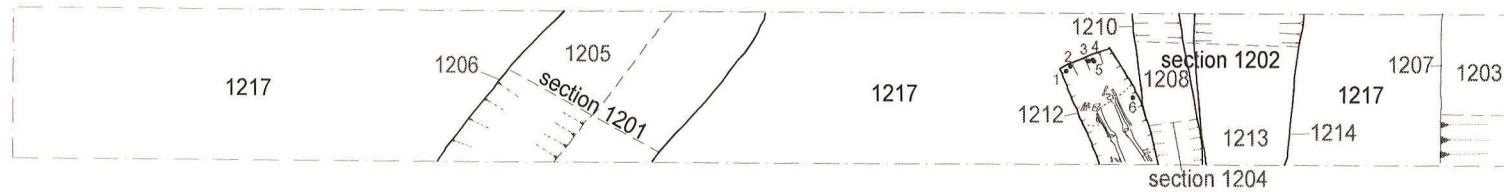


Figure 6: Trench Plans 8 - 10

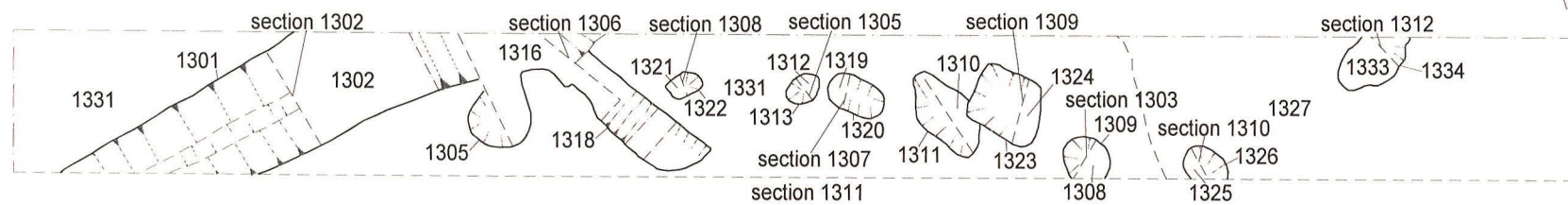


Trench 11



Trench 12

• Small Finds



Trench 13

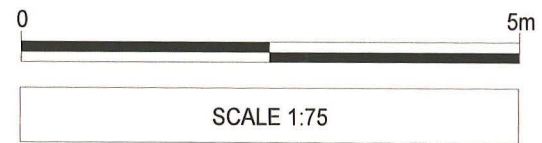
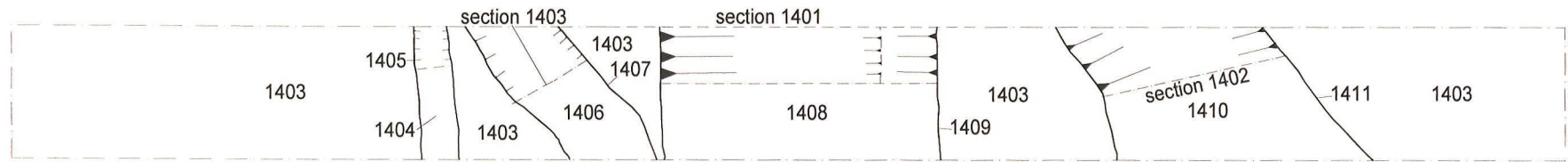
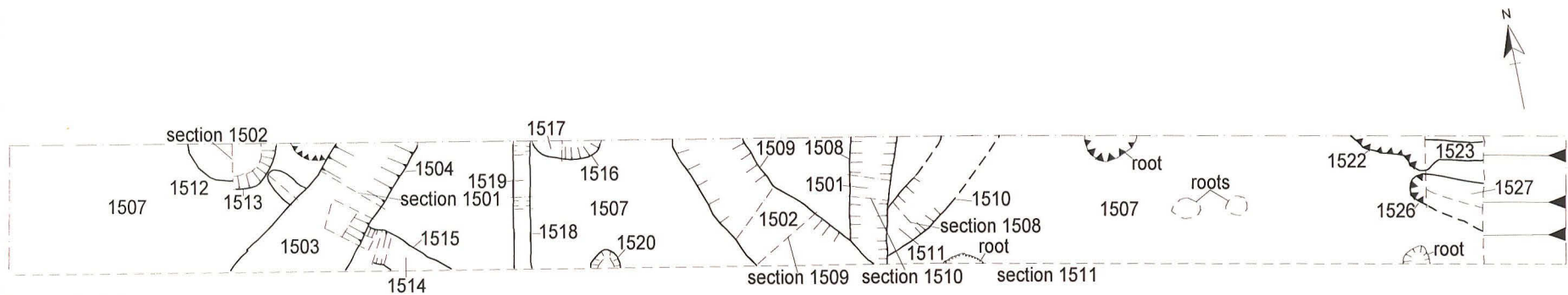


Figure 7: Trench Plans 11 - 13



Trench 14



Trench 15

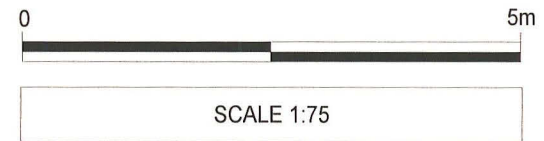


Figure 8: Trench Plans 14 - 15

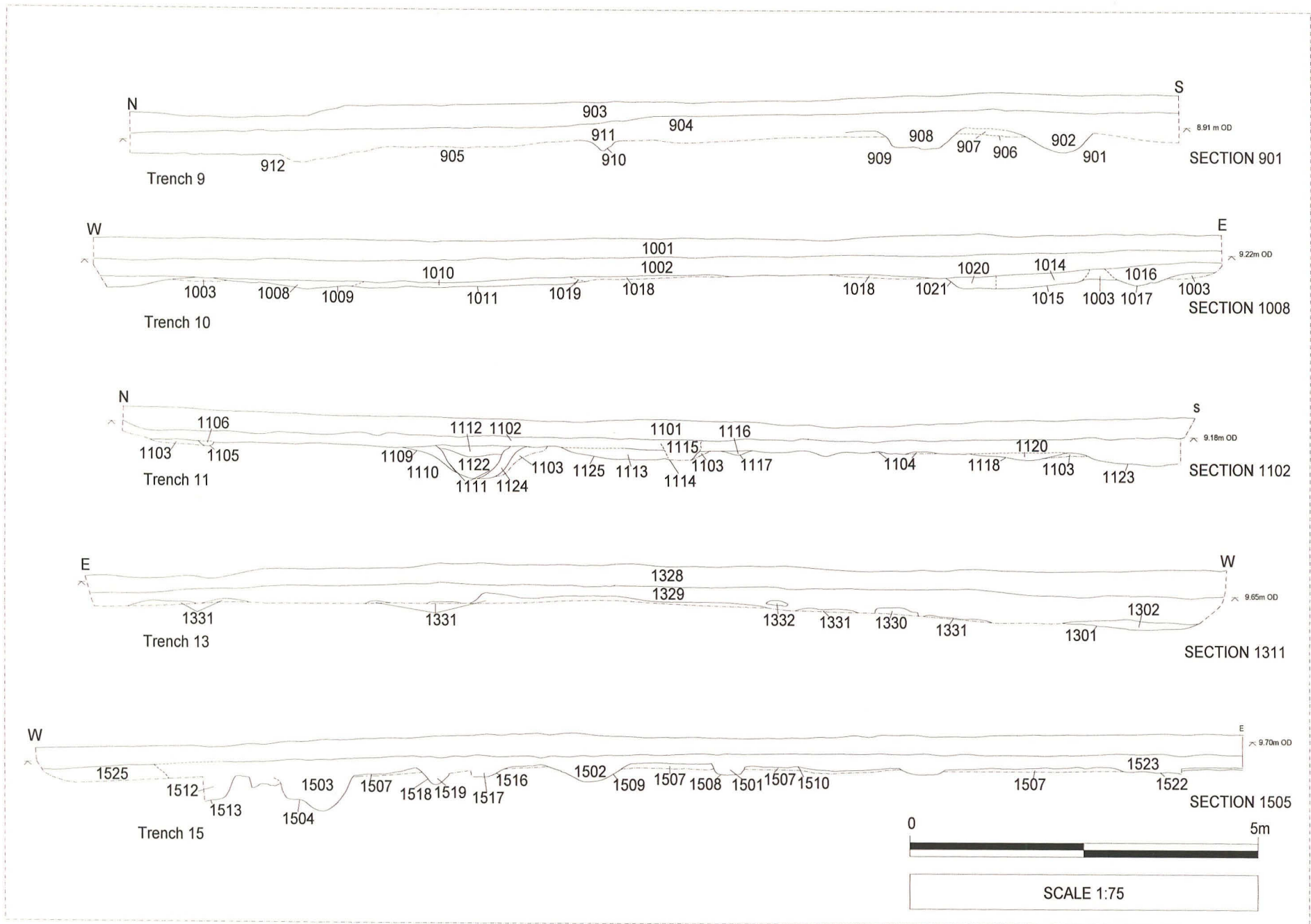


Figure 9: Long Sections Trench 9, 10, 11, 13 and 15

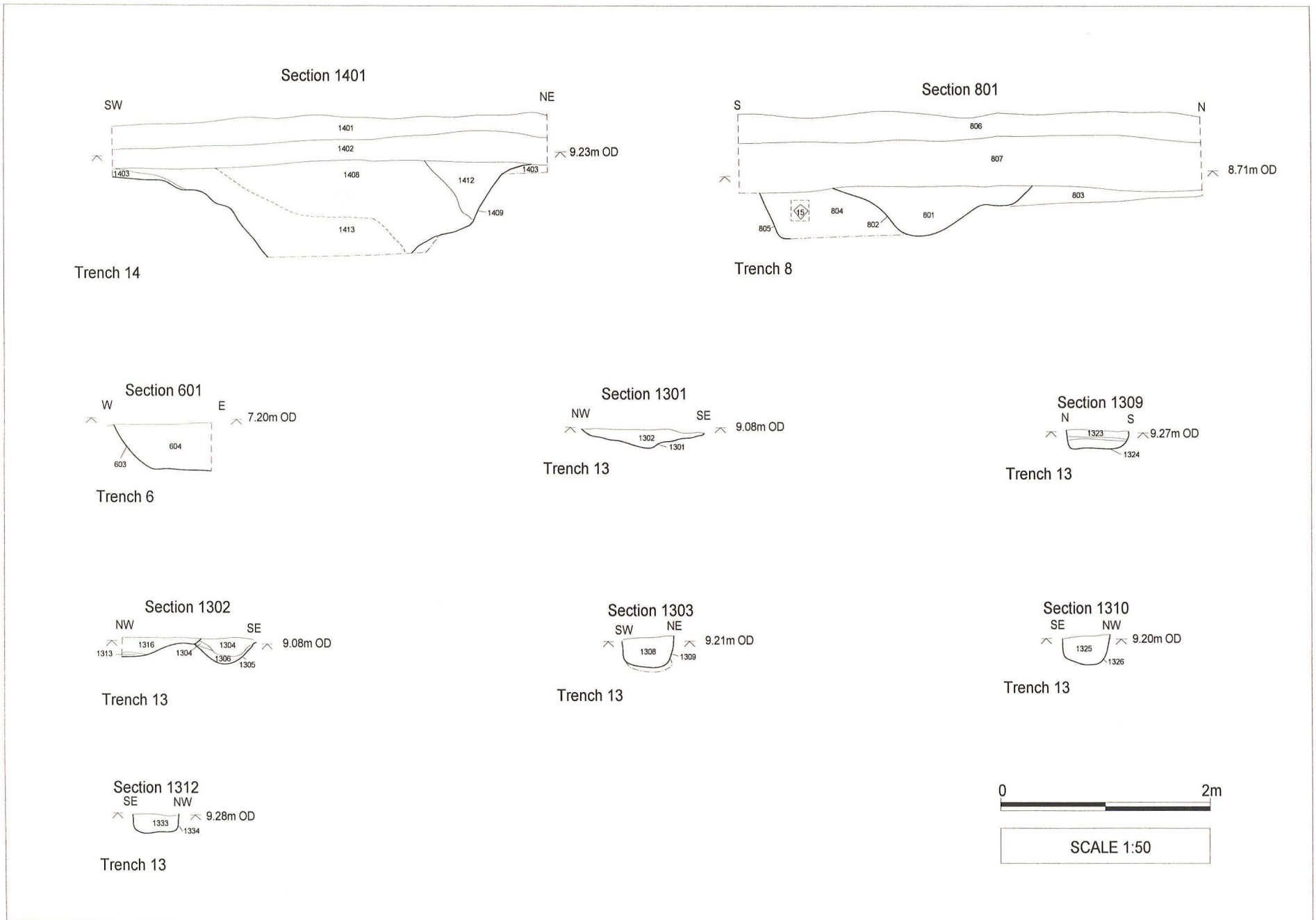
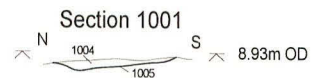
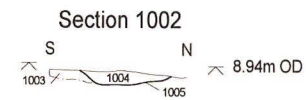


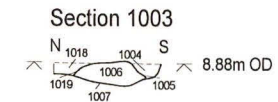
Figure 10: Sections 601, 801, 1301 - 1303, 1309, 1310, 1312 and 1401



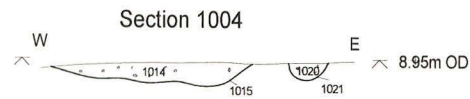
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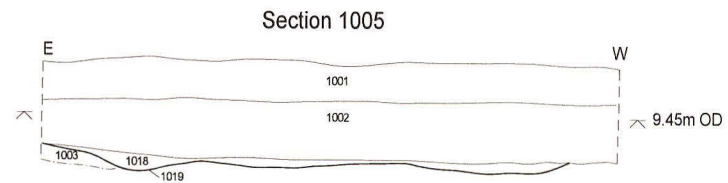
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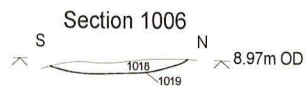
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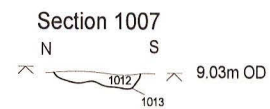
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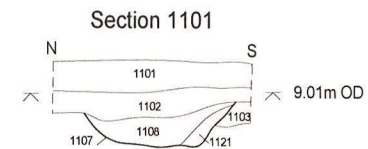
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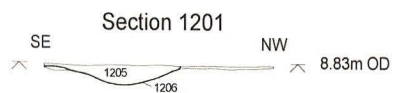
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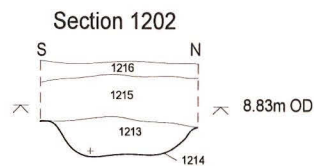
Trench 10



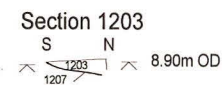
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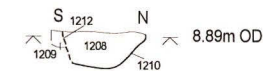
Trench 12



Trench 12



Trench 12



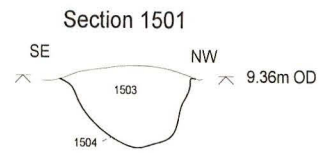
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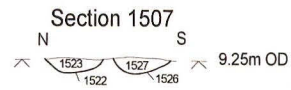
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Figure 11: Sections 1001 - 1007, 1101 and 1201 - 1204

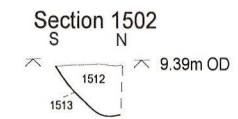




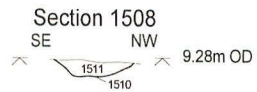
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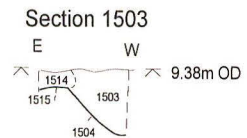
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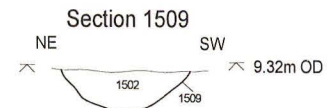
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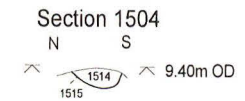
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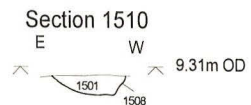
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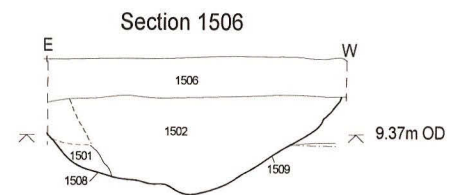
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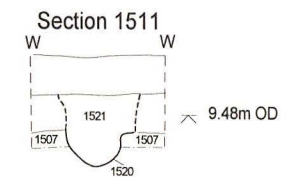
Trench 15



Trench 15



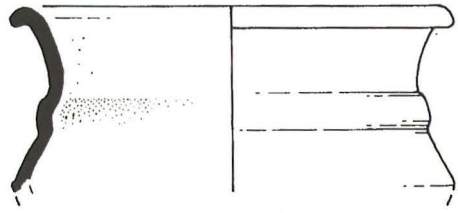
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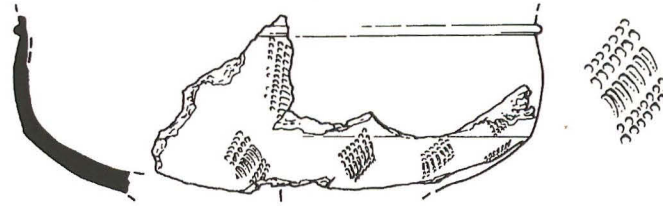
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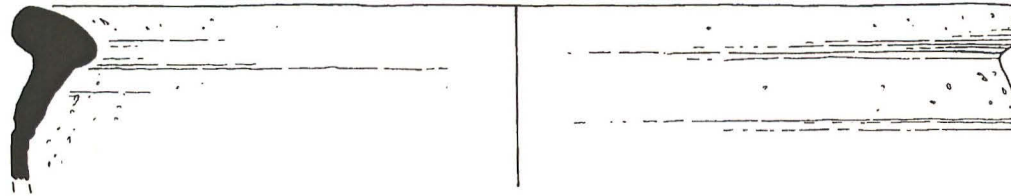
Figure 12: Sections 1501 - 1504 and 1506 - 1511



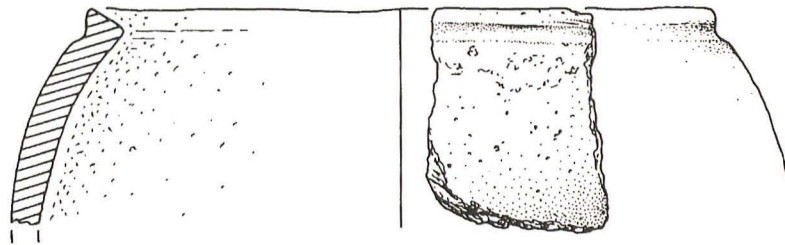
Drawing No. 2: Late Iron Age/Gallo-Belgic tradition cordoned vessel  
Context 1408. Trench 14



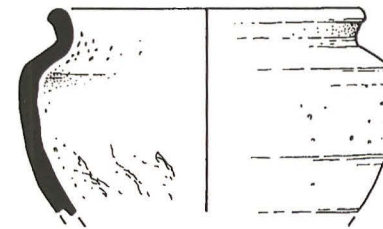
Drawing No. 4: Parisian-type ware with lozenge stamp  
Contexts 1412 and 1414. Trench 14



Drawing No. 5: Native Style Bowl (BNAT)  
Context 1412. Trench 14



Drawing No. 1: Native Style Bowl (BNAT)  
Context 1408. Trench 14



Drawing No. 3: Late Iron Age/Gallo-Belgic tradition cordoned vessel  
Context 1408 and 1414. Trench 14

0 100mm

SCALE 1:2.50

Figure 13. 1st to 2nd century pottery



Plate 1 A composite panoramic view of the site, from the southeast corner



◀ Plate 2 Trench 13, showing arc of post-holes, looking west

▶ Plate 3 Post-ex view of Trench 15, with the Iron Age features clearly visible, looking east



◀ Plate 4 Post-ex view of Trench 10, looking west





Plate 5 The large Roman ditch (802) dated to the 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> century, in Trench 8, looking west



Plate 6 The 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> century Roman burial (1212), in Trench 11, looking east



Plate 7 View of the 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> century Roman ditch (1409), in Trench 14, looking north

## Appendix 1

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT BRIEF FOR TRIAL TRENCHING AS PART OF AN EVALUATION OF LAND AT LAND SOUTH OF FEN ROAD, RUSKINGTON

**Planning Application Number:** N/52/942/99  
**NGR:** 508900 351100

**Applicant:** Chanceoption  
**Agent:** Richard Hunt Design

#### 1. Summary

1.1 This document sets out the brief for archaeological fieldwork, recording and publication to be carried out prior to the development of land at. It sets out the requirements for a programme of trial excavations to evaluate the site.

1.2 This brief should be used by archaeological contractors as the basis for the preparation of a detailed archaeological project specification. In response to this brief contractors will be expected to provide details of the proposed scheme of work, to include the anticipated working methods, timescales and staffing levels. (The Heritage Officer does not maintain a list of archaeological contractors but names of local units can be found in the Yellow Pages)

1.3 All detailed specifications will be submitted by the developer for approval by the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council. The client will be free to choose between those specifications which are considered to adequately satisfy this brief.

#### 2. Site Location and Description.

2.1 Ruskington is a large village situated approximately 5km north of Sleaford. The application area is located on the eastern side of the village to the south of Fen Road. The site is bounded to the west by the railway line and a house, to the south by the Beck, to the east by Hillside Housing estate and to the north by Fen Road. The 2.09 Ha site is currently under pasture and is relatively flat.

2.2 Local soils are the Ruskington Association 512c. Calcareous earths overlie glaciofluvial sands and gravels.

#### 3. Planning Background

A full planning application has been made to erect 43 dwellings with garages and estate roads. Before planning permission can be determined an evaluation needs to be carried out to provide information on the archaeological impact of the development.

#### 4. Archaeological Background.

4.1 Ruskington is extremely rich archaeologically. Chance finds and archaeological investigations carried out as part of other development proposals have shown that the area has attracted settlement from the Neolithic and Bronze Age to the present day. The Roman Road - Mareham Lane - passes through the village to the west and there is a well known Anglo-Saxon cemetery site on Lincoln Road.

4.2 The proposed development site is situated in an area that has not been subject to much archaeological investigation so far. Aerial photographs show a linear cropmark in the adjacent arable field to the south which appears to be running into the application area. The cropmark is

likely to be a Romano-British or prehistoric enclosure alongside a track.

4.3 Two flint axes have been found to the south which are thought to date from the Neolithic - a period when the first farmers cleared areas of land to grow crops and graze animals.

4.4 As the first stage of the evaluation, a magnetometer survey has been carried out by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford. Scanning of the northern half of the application showed it to be magnetically quiet. Detailed survey on the southern half revealed two parallel curvilinear responses, two tentative ring ditches and possible pit-type anomalies to the south west. To the south east a complex of linear and curvilinear ditch type responses forming either one or two enclosures with associated point type anomalies has been identified. These may reflect a continuation of the cropmark to the south.

## 5. Requirement for Work

5.1 The purpose of the archaeological evaluation should be to gather sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits.

5.2 The evaluation will consist of the excavation of 1.5% of the northern field to test the blank areas with 0.5% of excavation held as a contingency. 2% of the southern area should be evaluated by excavation.

5.3 While a preliminary desk-top assessment is not required in this case, this site should not be treated in isolation and reference should be made to relevant historical sources and previous archaeological work in the area when interpreting the results.

5.4 The investigation should be carried out by a recognised archaeological body in accordance with the code of conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. The specialists to be used by the archaeological body should be members of the IFA, and/or members of the appropriate finds group. If this is not the case, a CV or some other form of reference should be provided with the specification.

## 6. Methods

6.1 The contractor's specification should be prepared according to requirements of this brief and the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook's section 'Standard Briefs for Archaeological Projects in Lincolnshire' (August 1997) and should include the following details:

6.1.1 A projected timetable must be agreed for the various stages of work (fieldwork and production of report).

6.1.2 The staff structure and numbers must be detailed including 'person' hours for on-site work.

6.1.3 It is expected that all on-site work will be carried out in a way that complies with the relevant Health and Safety legislation and that due consideration will be given to site security.

6.1.4 A full description of the recovery and recording strategies to be used.

6.1.5 An estimate of time and resources allocated for the post-excavation work and report production in the form of 'person' hours. This should include lists of specialists and their role in the project. It is expected that Iron Age and Romano-British finds will be encountered and therefore adequate provision should be made for specialists in these areas.

6.1.6 A contingency for unexpected costs e.g. due to more artefacts or ecofacts recovered than expected. This should only be activated after discussion with the Heritage Officer and the client.

6.2 Excavation is a potentially destructive technique and the specification should include a detailed reasoning behind the application of this technique. The following factors should be borne in mind:

6.2.1 the use of an appropriate machine with a wide toothless ditching blade and the supervision of all machine work by an archaeologist.

6.2.2 the machine should be used to remove topsoil down to the first archaeological horizon.

6.2.3 the most recent archaeological deposits are not necessarily the least important and this should be considered when determining the level to which machining will be carried out.

6.2.4 when archaeological features are revealed by machine these will be cleaned by hand.

6.2.5 a representative sample of every archaeological feature must be excavated by hand (although the depth of surviving deposits must be determined, it is not expected that every trench will be excavated to natural).

6.2.6 all excavation must be carried out with a view to avoiding features which may be worthy of preservation in situ.

6.2.7 any human remains encountered must be left in situ and only removed if absolutely necessary. The contractor must comply with all statutory consents and licences regarding the exhumation and interment of human remains. It will also be necessary to comply with all reasonable requests of interested parties as to the method of removal, re-interment or disposal of the remains or associated items. Attempts must be made at all times not to cause offence to any interested parties.

6.2.8 it is expected that an approved recording system will be used for all on-site and post-fieldwork procedures.

6.2.9 Environmental samples will be taken unless otherwise agreed with the Heritage Officer and environmental specialist.

6.2.10 Should the site merit it, consideration should be given to drawing a sample of pottery for reference purposes. The pottery specialist (s) should advise on the size of the sample to be drawn.. This should be treated as a contingency.

6.2.11 Should any gold or silver finds thought to qualify as treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act be retrieved, they should be stored safely and reported to the appropriated coroner's office.

## **7. Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 The Heritage Officer will be responsible for monitoring progress to ensure that fieldwork meets the specification. To facilitate this she should be contacted at least one week prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

7.2 Any adjustments to the brief for the evaluation should only be made after discussion with the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council. If any major archaeological discovery is made it is hoped that this will be accommodated within the scheme, and preservation in situ be given due consideration.

## **8. Reporting Requirements**

8.1 The evaluation report should be produced to the level outlined in The Management of Archaeological Projects, Appendix 3, English Heritage, 1991 and should be produced within two months of the completion of the fieldwork phase. If this is not possible then the Heritage Officer must be consulted at the earliest possible opportunity. The report should include:



- 8.2.1 plans of the trench layout and features therein.
  - 8.2.2 tables summarising features and artefacts together with a full description and brief interpretation.
  - 8.2.3 section and plan drawings with ground level Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scales as appropriate.
  - 8.2.4 plans of actual and potential deposits.
  - 8.2.5 a consideration of the evidence within the wider landscape setting.
  - 8.2.6 a consideration of the importance of the findings on a local, regional and national basis.
  - 8.2.7 a critical review of the effectiveness of the methodology;
- 8.3 A copy of the evaluation report must be deposited with Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record, the Heritage Officer, The District Planning Authority and the client.

## **9. Archive Deposition**

9.1 Arrangements must be made with the landowner(s) and/or developers and an appropriate museum for the deposition of the object and paper archive. If the receiving museum is to be the City and County Museum, Lincoln then the archive should be produced in the form outlined in that museum's document 'Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives', see address below.

## **10. Publication and Dissemination**

10.1 The deposition of a copy of the report with the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record and with the Heritage Officer will be deemed to put all information into the public domain, unless a special request is made for confidentiality. If material is to be held in confidence a timescale must be agreed with the Heritage Officer but is expected this will not exceed six months.

10.2 A summary of the results will be published in Lincolnshire History and Archaeology in due course.

10.3 Should the evaluation reveal finds of national or regional importance, provision should be made for publication in the appropriate regional or national journal.

## **11. Additional Information**

11.1 This document attempts to define the best practice expected of an archaeological evaluation but cannot fully anticipate the conditions that will be encountered as work progresses. However, changes to the approved programme of evaluation work are only to be made with the prior written approval of the Heritage Officer.

11.2 Further contact addresses:

Kate Orr  
North Kesteven Heritage Officer  
Heritage Lincolnshire  
The Old School  
Cameron Street  
Lincs. NG34 9RW  
Tel:01529 461699

County Sites and Monuments Record

Highways and Planning Directorate  
Lincolnshire County Council  
3rd Floor  
City Hall  
Lincoln LN1 1DN

Mr T. Page  
City and County Museum  
12 Friars Lane  
Lincoln LN2 5AL  
01522 530401

Planning Services  
North Kesteven District Council Offices  
PO Box 3  
Kesteven St  
Sleaford  
NG34 7EF

Brief set 17/1/00  
This brief is only valid up to one year from this date.

## Appendix 2

### Context Summary

#### Trench 1

Context	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Interpretation	Fill of
101	Deposit	Dark Brown Sandy Clay			0.13	Topsoil	
102	Deposit	Mid Greyish Brown Sandy Clay			0.17	Subsoil	
103	Deposit	Mid Reddish Yellow Sand and Clays			0.80	Natural	
104	Deposit	Mid Grey Sandy Clay			0.19	Furrow Fill	105
105	Cut	Linear	1.50	2.10	0.19	Furrow	
106	Deposit	Mid Grey Sandy Clay			0.20	Furrow Fill	107
107	Cut	Linear	1.50	2.30	0.20	Furrow	

#### Trench 2

Context	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Interpretation	Fill of
201	Deposit	Dark Brown Sandy Clay			0.13	Topsoil	
202	Deposit	Mid Greyish Brown Sandy Clay			0.17	Subsoil	
203	Deposit	Mid Yellowish Brown Clayey Sand			0.09	Subsoil	
204	Deposit	Light Bluish Grey Clays and Sandy Clays			0.50	Natural	

#### Trench 3

Context	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Interpretation	Fill of
301	Deposit	Dark Brown Sandy Clay			0.13	Topsoil	
302	Deposit	Mid Greyish Brown Sandy Clay			0.17	Subsoil	
303	Deposit	Mid Yellowish Brown Sand and Clays			0.80	Natural	
304	Deposit	Mid Brownish Grey Sandy Clay			0.11	Furrow Fill	305
305	Cut	Linear	1.50	1.50	0.11	Furrow	
306	Deposit	Mid Grey Sandy Clay			0.27	Furrow Primary Fill	307
307	Deposit	Linear	1.50	2.80	0.27	Possible Furrow Fill	
308	Deposit	Mid Brown Clayey Sand			0.12	Ditch Primary Fill	309
309	Cut	Linear	1.50	1.20	0.12	Ditch	

#### Trench 4

Context	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Interpretation	Fill of
401	Deposit	Mid Brown Sandy Clay			0.10	Topsoil	
402	Deposit	Light Brownish Grey Sandy Clay			0.15	Subsoil	
403	Deposit	Light Reddish Yellow Sand			0.17	Natural	
404	Deposit	Dark Brownish Grey Sandy Silt			0.33	Gully Fill	405
405	Cut	Linear	1.80		0.33	Gully	
406	Deposit	Mid Yellowish Red Gravelly Sand with Clay patches				Natural	
407	Cut	Irregular	2.50		0.40	Tree Bole	
408	Deposit	Mid Greyish Brown Silty Sandy Clay			0.40	Tree Bole Fill	407

#### Trench 5

Context	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Interpretation	Fill of
501	Deposit	Dark Brown Sandy Clay			0.35	Topsoil	
502	Deposit	Mid Brown Clayey Sand			0.47	Subsoil	
503	Deposit	Mid Yellowish Brown Gravelly Sand				Natural	
504	Deposit	Light Bluish Grey Clay				Natural	

**Trench 6**

Context	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Interpretation	Fill of
601	Deposit	Dark Brown Sandy Clay			0.25	Topsoil	
602	Deposit	Light Yellowish Brown Sandy Clay			0.45	Subsoil	
603	Cut	Linear			0.47	Linear	
604	Deposit	Mid Brownish Grey Sandy Clay			0.47	Linear Fill	603
605	Deposit	Mid Yellowish Red Gravelly Sand			0.19	Natural	

**Trench 7**

Context	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Interpretation	Fill of
701	Deposit	Dark Brown Sandy Clay			0.17	Topsoil	
702	Deposit	Mid Reddish Brown Sandy Clay			0.65	Subsoil	
703	Deposit	Light Yellowish Brown Clay			0.15	Natural	

**Trench 8**

Context	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Interpretation	Fill of
801	Deposit	Dark Blackish Grey Clayey Silt			0.47	Ditch Fill	802
802	Cut	Linear		1.90	0.47	Ditch	
803	Deposit	Mid Greyish Silt			0.17	Spread	
804	Deposit	Mid Bluish Grey Clayey Silt			0.47	Ditch Fill	805
805	Cut	Linear			0.47	Ditch	
806	Deposit	Dark Brown Silt			0.29	Topsoil	
807	Deposit	Mid Yellowish Brown Silt			0.45	Subsoil	
808	Deposit	Mid Yellowish Blue Clay				Natural	

**Trench 9**

Context	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Interpretation	Fill of
901	Cut	Linear		0.74	0.32	Ditch	
902	Deposit	Mid Greyish Brown Sandy Silt			0.30	Ditch Fill	901
903	Deposit	Dark Brown Sandy Clay				Topsoil	
904	Deposit	Mid Greyish Brown Sandy Clay				Subsoil	
905	Deposit	Gravel and Clay				Natural	
906	Cut	Linear				Possible Furrow	
907	Deposit	Mid Grey Gravelly Silt				Furrow Fill	906
908	Cut	Linear	0.88			Ditch	
909	Deposit	Mid Grey Silty Gravel				Ditch Fill	908
910	Cut	Linear		1.30	0.17	Ditch	
911	Deposit	Mid Grey Silty Gravel			0.17	Ditch Fill	910
912	Deposit	Light Brownish Grey Sandy Silt		0.90		Furrow Fill	913
913	Deposit	Linear		0.90	0	Furrow	

**Trench 10**

Context	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Interpretation	Fill of
1001	Deposit	Dark Brown Clayey Sand			0.30	Topsoil	
1002	Deposit	Mid Brown Clayey Sand			0.30	Subsoil	
1003	Deposit	Light Brown Sandy Gravel				Natural	
1004	Deposit	Mid Brown Clayey Sand			0.10	Ditch Fill	1005
1005	Cut	Linear	3.00	0.75	0.10	Ditch	
1006	Deposit	Mid Greyish Blue Clayey Sand			0.15	Pit Fill	1007
1007	Cut	Sub-Circular	1.10	0.48	0.15	Pit	
1008	Deposit	Mid Brown Clayey Sand			0.05	Possible Pit Fill	1009
1009	Cut	Sub-Circular	1.45	0.40	0.05	Possible Pit	1010

Context	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Interpretation	Fill
1010	Deposit	Mid Brown Clayey Sand			0.08	Possible Pit Fill	1011
1011	Cut	Irregular	2.90	0.50	0.08	Pit Fill	
1012	Deposit	Mid Brown Clayey Sand			0.09	Ditch Fill	1013
1013	Cut	Linear	3.00	0.70	0.09	Ditch Terminus	
1014	Deposit	Dark Greyish Brown Clayey Sand			0.20	Ditch Fill	1015
1015	Cut	Linear	1.50	1.04	0.20	Ditch	
1016	Deposit	Dark Greyish Brown Clayey Sand			0.26	Ditch Fill	1017
1017	Cut	Linear	1.50	0.62	0.26	Ditch	
1018	Deposit	Mid Greyish Brown Clayey Sand			0.10	Ditch Fill	1019
1019	Cut	Linear	10.90	1.30	0.10	Ditch	
1020	Deposit	Dark Greyish Brown Clayey Sand			0.12	Gully Fill	1021
1021	Cut	Linear	1.50	0.20	0.12	Gully	

### Trench 11

Context	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Interpretation	Fill of
1101	Deposit	Dark Brownish Black Silty Clay			0.30	Topsoil	
1102	Deposit	Mid Yellowish Brown Clayey Silt			0.22	Subsoil	
1103	Deposit	Mid Reddish Brown Silty Gravels				Natural	
1104	Deposit	Mid Greyish White Clay				Natural	
1105	Cut	Linear	0.19	0.30		Land Drain	
1106	Deposit	Mid Greenish Brown Clayey Silt			0.19	Land Drain Fill	1105
1107	Cut	Linear	0.80	0.72	0.15	Gully Terminus	
1108	Deposit	Mid Yellowish Brown Clayey Silt			0.20	Gully Secondary Fill	1107
1109	Cut	Linear		1.85	0.48	Ditch	
1110	Deposit	Mid Grey Sandy Clay			0.12	Ditch Primary Fill	1109
1111	Cut	Linear		1.30	0.49	Ditch Recut	
1112	Deposit	Mid Brown Sandy Clay			0.15	Ditch Secondary Fill	1111
1113	Deposit	Mid Brown Clayey Sand				Ditch Fill	1125
1114	Cut	Linear		0.60	0.31	Land Drain	
1115	Deposit	Mid Yellowish Brown Sandy Clay			0.31	Land Drain Fill	1114
1116	Cut	Linear	0.90	0.45	0.50	Ditch Terminus	
1117	Deposit	Mid Brownish Grey Sandy Clay				Ditch Fill	1116
1118	Cut	Linear		1.45	0.10	Ditch	
1119	Deposit	Mid Brownish Grey Sandy Clay				Ditch Primary Fill	1118
1120	Deposit	Mid Brownish Grey Clayey Sand		1.45	0.10	Ditch Secondary Fill	1118
1121	Deposit	Dark Greyish Brown Silty Gravel			0.10	Ditch Primary Fill	1107
1122	Deposit	Dark Grey Sandy Clay			0.24	Ditch Primary Fill	1111
1123	Cut	Linear		1.40	0.20	Ditch	
1124	Deposit	Mid Grey Sandy Clay			0.16	Ditch Primary Fill	1109
1125	Cut	Linear			0.16	Furrow	

### Trench 12

Context	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Interpretation	Fill of
1201	Void					U/S Finds	
1202	Deposit	Mid Yellowish Brown Silt			0.29	Subsoil	
1203	Deposit	Mid Greyish Brown Silt			0.12	Furrow Fill	1207
1204	Void					U/S Finds	
1205	Deposit	Mid Greyish Brown Silt			0.12	Furrow Fill	1206
1206	Cut	Linear		1.05	0.12	Furrow	

Context	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Interpretation	Fill of
1207	Cut	Linear		0.41	0.12	Furrow	
1208	Deposit	Mid Brown Clayey Sand				Gully Fill	1210
1209	Deposit	Mid Greyish Brown Sandy Clay				Grave Fill	1212
1210	Cut	Linear		0.60	0.23	Gully	
1211	Skeleton					Burial	
1212	Cut	Sub-Rectangular	1.20	0.60		Grave	
1213	Deposit	Mid Brownish Yellow Silt			0.24	Ditch Fill	1214
1214	Cut	Linear		1.05	0.24	Ditch	
1215	Deposit	Mid Yellowish Brown Silt			0.29	Subsoil	
1216	Deposit	Dark Greyish Brown Silt			0.15	Topsoil	
1217	Deposit	Mid Brown Gravelly Sand				Natural	

### Trench 13

Context	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Interpretation	Fill of
1301	Cut	Linear		1.10	0.16	Ditch	
1302	Deposit	Mid Greyish Brown Silt			0.16	Ditch Fill	1301
1303	Deposit	Mid Bluish Greyish Clay				Natural	
1304	Deposit	Mid Greyish Brown Silt			0.18	Post Hole Tertiary Fill	1305
1305	Cut	Sub-Circular	0.54	0.54	0.24	Post Hole	
1306	Deposit	Mid Yellowish Brown Sand			0.09	Post Hole Primary Fill	1305
1307	Deposit	Light Yellow Gravel			0.05	Post Hole Secondary Fill	1305
1308	Deposit	Mid Greyish Brown Silt		0.51	0.29	Post Hole Fill	1309
1309	Cut	Circular	0.51	0.50	0.29	Post Hole	
1310	Deposit	Dark Brown Silt			0.18	Post Hole Fill	1311
1311	Cut	Oval	1.01	0.41	0.18	Post Hole	
1312	Deposit	Mid Brown Silt			0.12	Post Hole Fill	1313
1313	Cut	Sub-Circular	0.28	0.23	0.12	Post Hole	
1314	Deposit	Mid Brown Sandy Silt			0.12	Burrow Fill	1315
1315	Cut	Sub-Rectangular	0.62	0.23	0.12	Burrow	
1316	Deposit	Mid Greyish Brown Silt			0.17	Ditch Secondary Fill	1318
1317	Deposit	Mid Greenish Grey Clayey Silt			0.50	Ditch Primary Fill	1318
1318	Cut	Linear		1.10	0.16	Ditch	
1319	Deposit	Mid Greyish Brown Sandy Silt			0.15	Post Hole Fill	1320
1320	Cut	Sub-Rectangular	0.62	0.36	0.15	Post Hole	
1321	Deposit	Mid Greyish Brown Sandy Silt			0.12	Post Hole Fill	1322
1322	Cut	Sub-Circular	0.32	0.23	0.12	Post Hole	
1323	Deposit	Mid Greyish Brown Sandy Silt			0.19	Post Hole Fill	1324
1324	Cut	Sub-Rectangular	0.80	0.60	0.19	Post Hole	
1325	Deposit	Mid Greyish Brown Sandy Silt			0.28	Post Hole Fill	1326
1326	Cut	Sub-Circular	0.46	0.40	0.27	Post Hole	
1327	Deposit	Mid Yellowish Brown Sandy Gravel				Natural	
1328	Deposit	Dark Brown Silt			0.40	Topsoil	
1329	Deposit	Mid Yellowish Brown Silt			0.36	Subsoil	
1330	Deposit	Mid Yellowish Grey Gravel			0.11	Layer	
1331	Deposit	Light Greyish White Gravel				Possible Occupation Layer	
1332	Deposit	Light Grey Gravel			0.10	Natural	
1333	Deposit	Mid Brown Silt			0.21	Post Hole Fill	1134

Context	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Interpretation	Fill of
1334	Cut	Sub-Rectangular		0.46	0.22	Post Hole	

#### Trench 14

Context	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Interpretation	Fill of
1401	Deposit	Dark Brown Sandy Silt			0.25	Topsoil	
1402	Deposit	Mid Yellowish Brown Sandy Silt			0.16	Subsoil	
1403	Deposit	Mid Yellow Gravelly Sand			0.10	Natural	
1404	Deposit	Mid Brown Sandy Silt			0.08	Gully Fill	1405
1405	Cut	Linear	1.56	0.36	0.08	Gully	
1406	Deposit	Mid Brown Sandy Silt			0.08	Furrow Fill	1407
1407	Cut	Linear	1.60	0.90	0.08	Furrow	
1408	Deposit	Dark Greyish Brown Silt			0.92	Ditch Tertiary Fill	1409
1409	Cut	Linear		3.80	0.94	Ditch	
1410	Deposit	Mid Yellowish Brown Silty Sand				Furrow Fill	1411
1411	Cut	Linear	1.50	1.93	0.16	Furrow	
1412	Deposit	Mid Brownish Grey Clayey Silt				Ditch Secondary Fill	1409
1413	Deposit	Dark Greyish Brown Sandy Silt			0.40	Ditch Primary Fill	1409

#### Trench 15

Context	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Interpretation	Fill of
1501	Deposit	Mid Yellowish Grey Silty Sand			0.10	Gully Fill	1508
1502	Deposit	Dark Brownish Grey Sandy Silt			0.25	Ditch Fill	1509
1503	Deposit	Mid Brown Sandy Silt			0.57	Ditch Fill	1504
1504	Cut	Linear	1.80		0.57	Ditch	
1505	Deposit	Mid Brown Sandy Silt			0.10	Burrow Fill	
1506	Cut	Linear	0.40		0.10	Burrow	
1507	Deposit	Mid Yellow Gravelly Sand			0.10	Natural	
1508	Cut	Linear	1.50	0.54	0.25	Gully	
1509	Cut	Linear		0.60	0.50	Ditch	
1510	Cut	Linear		0.50	0.13	Ditch	
1511	Deposit	Dark Grey gravelly silt				Ditch Fill	1510
1512	Deposit	Dark Brown Sandy Silt			0.34	Post Hole Fill	1513
1513	Cut	Sub-Circular		1.00	0.45	Post Hole	
1514	Deposit	Mid Brown Sandy Silt			0.13	Linear Fill	1515
1515	Cut	Linear	1.25	0.33	0.13	Gully	
1516	Cut	Sub-Circular	0.80		0.10	Pit	
1517	Deposit	Dark Grey Gravelly Silt			0.15	Pit Fill	1516
1518	Cut	Linear		0.24	0.20	Gully	
1519	Deposit	Light Grey Sand			0.18	Linear Fill	1518
1520	Cut	Sub-Circular	0.350		0.25	Post Hole	
1521	Deposit	Yellowish Brown Silty Sand			0.22	Post Hole Fill	1520
1522	Cut	Linear		0.40	0.01	Plough Mark	
1523	Deposit	Dark Grey Gravelly Silt			0.01	Plough Mark Fill	1522
1524	Deposit	Dark Brown Sandy Clay				Topsoil	
1525	Deposit	Mid Greyish Brown Sandy Clay				Subsoil	
1526	Cut	Linear		0.40	0.12	Plough Mark	
1527	Deposit	Dark Grey Silt			0.12	Plough Mark Fill	1526

#### Finds

Context	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Interpretation	Fill of
1	Void					U/S Finds	

## Appendix 3

### **Later prehistoric pottery from Ruskington Fen Road**

*by Dale Trimble based on comments by David Knight*

A number of pieces of prehistoric pottery were recovered during an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Archaeological Project Services at Fen Road, Ruskington.

A total of 65 sherds from the site are thought to be from the later prehistoric period, probably dating to the late Iron Age.

Most of the collection comprised shelly body sherds with only a few diagnostic pieces present. However, the diagnostic material includes the rim and body of a bead rimmed bowl from context 1008 of diagnostically late Iron Age date. The everted neck of a fineware bowl from context 1012 could be earlier but would not be out of place as a late Iron Age type. The pottery from context 1112 include the rim of a wheel thrown fine bowl which is likely to be of the 1<sup>st</sup> century conquest period. This was associated with an everted fine rim similar to the one from context 1012 and the rim and neck of a handmade shelly bowl.

The lack of scored ware types among the collection would perhaps suggest a date in the late rather than middle Iron Age. Scored ware pottery has been recovered from several sites in the Sleaford area and does not seem to be associated with late Iron Age material such as that found at Ruskington. Also, very little scored ware was recovered during the excavations at the major late Iron Age site at Old Place in Sleaford. As Scored ware has now been recovered from three sites within 0.5m kilometre of Sleaford it seems reasonable to assume that a chronological separation is represented.

#### **Potential**

The characterisation of a late Iron Age pottery assemblage from this site would significantly enhance the knowledge of the ceramics from this period within the region. The chronological development of pottery within the Iron Age and into the Roman period is poorly understood, in particular it would be important to the study the pottery in terms of the transition between the late Iron Age and Roman periods. The pottery would also provide a means of assessing the relationship of the Ruskington site with the nearby major late Iron Age at Sleaford and other Iron Age sites in the area



The Later Prehistoric Pottery

Context	Area	Context type	Comments	Number	Dates
902	Trench 9	Ditch Fill	Two shelly body sherds with medieval	2	Residual
1001	Trench 10	Topsoil	Two shelly body sherds. Quartz grains fairly abundant.	2	Iron Age
1004	Trench 10	Ditch Fill	Shelly body sherd	1	With Roman
1008	Trench 10	Possible Pit Fill	Rim and body of bead rimmed necked bowl	2	Diagnostically Late Iron Age
1010	Trench 10	Possible Pit Fill	All shelly handmade body sherds.	33	IA
1012	Trench 10	Ditch Fill	Everted neck of fine bowl could be earlier but not out of place in LIA.	1	LIA?
1108	Trench 11	Gully Fill	V Small shelly sherd	1	IA
1112	Trench 11	Ditch Fill	Rim and base of shelly handmade bowl. V. Fine Rim of wheelturned bowl. One piece fine wheelturned rim with finely crushed shell. Nine shelly body sherds, one quite fine with 'brushing'.	13	1st to Early 2nd Century
1412	Trench 14	Ditch Fill	Combed body sherd. 'Non Shelly'	1	Poss Late Iron Age or conquest or even Roman. With 1st - 2nd material
1503	Trench 15	Ditch Fill	All shelly body sherds, one has much more rounded quartz grains	6	IA
1512	Trench 15	Post Hole Fill	1 Shelly vertical rim, joins with broken sherd. 1 Shelly base	2	IA
1517	Trench 15	Ditch Fill	Shelly body sherd	1	IA
				65	Total

## Appendix 4

### Assessment of the Roman Pottery

*By B J Precious*

The pottery has been recorded according to the Study Group for Roman Pottery (SGRP) guidelines, using codes currently in use by the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU), and sherd count as a measure. See also the site archive 'The Roman pottery from Ruskington - RFR00 (rfr00.xls).

The site produced a small assemblage of pottery - 174 sherds, ranging in date from the late Iron Age to the 4th century AD (see Table 1, below). In addition there were two sherds from Context 106, of medieval date (pers comm A G Vince). Numerous sherd associations show that much of the stratigraphy is inter-related (801 & 803; 1006, 1408 & 1414; 1203, 1205, 1208 & 1209; 1412, 1413 & 1414).

**Table 1- The date-range of the Roman pottery by context and sherd count.**

CONTEXT	SHERDS	DATE RANGE
909	1	LIA-EROM
1408	22	EROM
604	2	1C
1412	5	1-E2
1414	12	1-E2
0001	3	ML2
1203	1	M3+
1205	2	M3+
801	16	ML3
1204	3	ML3
1208	2	ML3
1209	36	ML3
803	50	L3-4C
1006	4	2-3C
1413	11	2-3C
1004	2	2-4c
804	1	RO
1401	1	RO
	<b>174</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

There is a moderate concentration of early Roman pottery which extends in date into the early 2nd century (27 sherds). The group includes cordoned vessels in shell-tempered and grey burnished fabrics of late Iron Age/ Gallo-belgic traditions (drawings 2 & 3). Other vessels of later 1st to early 2nd century date are native style bowls (BNAT) in local shell and native-type, grit and grog-tempered fabrics (drawings 1 & 5). Most unusual is a fine bowl in Parisian-type ware with a lozenge stamp, a type which does not appear in Elsdon, 1982 (drawing 4).

Evidence for mid 2nd to early 3rd century occupation is sparse, relying on a single example of a mould-decorated bowl manufactured in Central Gaul. The bulk of the material is of mid to late 3rd century date, including Dales-type jars and Nene Valley, colour-coated beakers of the same date (RPNV types 42/3 - Howe *et al*, 1980).

However, the latter are very fragmented, quite complete vessels, which accounts for the high amount (32) of the total number of sherds (57 sherds). Late 3rd to 4th century occupation is suggested by the presence of Nene Valley colour-coated bowl/dish forms together with pentice-moulded beakers (Total - 50 sherds).

### Condition

There is a high degree of abrasion, especially on the colour-coated wares. Much of this appears to be the result of wear by water or soil conditions. A number of vessels are either burnt or sooted due to use as cooking pots.

### Statement of Potential

The assemblages, although small, provide good dating evidence for site, especially for a late Iron Age to early Roman interface and for occupation from the mid 3rd into the 4th century. In particular the Imported wares are rare consisting of a few sherds of samian on early and to mid Roman date (see Table 2, below). The presence of later Roman finewares and mortaria suggest a moderately high status occupation from the mid 3rd to the 4th century. A good example of a mould-decorated bowl from the Lezoux kilns in Central Gaul should be examined by a specialist (cxt 0001), as should a bowl in Parisian-type ware with an unusual lozenge-shaped stamp (cxts 1412 & 1414 - drawing 4). A further four vessels have been selected for drawing to illustrate the continuation of gallo-belgic traditions on pottery styles extending into the early 2nd century AD (see site archive). The local fabrics, native (IAGR) and shell-tempered wares (SHEL; SLSH etc), which contain sparse examples of punctate brachiopods, would benefit from further analysis.

**Table 2 - The Roman fabrics by sherd count.**

FABRIC	SHERDS	FABRIC	SHERDS
BB1	1	MOMH?	1
BBT	1	MONV?	1
CC?	1	NVCC	37
CR?	1	PART	6
DWSH	17	SAMCG	3
GFIN	1	SAMSG?	2
GREY	51	SHEL	2
GROG	1	SLSH	15
GRSAN	4	SLSHC	5
GYBN	7	SLSHF	4
IAGR	9	VESIC	1
IASH	1	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>174</b>

### Storage and Curation

The pottery should be retained for further study.

### References

Elsdon S M, 1982, Parisian ware, in VORDA Research, 4 ser

Howe *et al.* 1980, *Roman Pottery from the Nene Valley: A Guide*, Peterborough  
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The Roman pottery from Ruskington (RFR00)

CXT	FABRIC	FORM	DEC	VESS	DWG	COND	COMMENTS	JOIN	SHERDS
1	SAMCG	DR37			1	GOOD	GIRTH BASE; LGE SH;GOOD DEC; BSS		3
1	ZDATE						ML2		
1	ZZZ						SAM ONLY;SHOW SPECIALIST		
106	ZZZ						MED ONLY		
106							2 SHERDS BOTH MED		
604	SAMSG?					VABR	FLAKES		2
604	ZDATE						1C		
604	ZZZ						SAM ONLY		
801	BB1	CP				VABR	BS		1
801	DWSH	J					BS AS IN	806	1
801	GREY	J					BS LGE SH		1
801	GREY	JCUR					RIM NECK; BURNT RIM		1
801	GREY		RIV?			ABR	BSS WATER WORN; ?RIVET HOLE		3
801	GREY				1		BSS		5
801	GREY						BS W CALC		1
801	GRSAN	J			1		BSS		2
801	GYBN						BS		1
801	ZDATE						ML3		
801	ZZZ						SOME WATER WORN		
803	BBT		B			VABR	BS		1
803	DWSH	JDW			1		RIMS BSS BASE		7
803	GREY	BRR				ABR	RIM FRAG		1
803	GREY	BWM			3	ABR	RIMS WATER WORN		3
803	GREY	DPR					RIM BASE PROF		1
803	GREY	DTR				VABR	RIM FRAG		1
803	GREY	J				ABR	BS LGE SH WATER WORN		1
803	GREY					ABR	BSS WATER WORN; SMALL SHS		8
803	GRSAN	J					BS		1
803	MOMH?	MHH					RIM FLANGE		1
803	NVCC	B/D				VABR	BASE		1
803	NVCC	BKFBR				VABR	RIM WHT FAB		1
803	NVCC	BKFO				VABR	BS WHT FAB		1
803	SLSH	JCUR					RIM		1
803	ZDATE						L3-4C		
803	ZZZ						MUCH WATER WORN ABRASION		
803	DWSH	JDW			2		RIM FRAGS BSS; SOME BURNT AS IN	801	6
803	GREY	BWM			2		RIM FRAGS		2
803	GREY	JUP				ABR	RIM GIRTH; WATER WORN		1
803	GREY					ABR	BSS		6
803	GREY						BS		1
803	MONV?	M?				VABR	FLANGE FRAG BURNT		1
803	NVCC	B/D				VABR	BS BASAL; PINK FAB		1
803	NVCC	BKPEN	ROUZ		1	VABR	BSS CF RPNV 56; CR FAB		2
803	SLSH					ABR	BS RED BN		1

The Roman pottery from Ruskington (RFR00)

803	ZDATE					4C		
803	ZZZ					MUCH ABRASION		
804	GRSAN	J				BS ;LGE SH W OBV. CALC IN SURFACE		1
804	ZDATE					RO		
909	GREY	J	WM;RIL		ABR	BS FINE RILLING;SOOT EXT;		1
909	ZDATE					LIA-EROM		
1004	GREY					BSS		2
1004	ZDATE					2-4C		
1006	CC?	B			VABR	BS		1
1006	SLSH	J			1	BASE BS; BURNT INT JOIN	1408	2
1006	SLSH	JS				RIM SHLDR RED BN; V MIN PUNCTAT BRACHS		1
1006	ZDATE					2-3C		
1203	DWSH					BS AS IN	1206	1
1203	ZDATE					M3+		
1204	NVCC	BKFO			ABR	BS BUFF FAB	1208;1209	1
1204	SHEL				VABR	CHIPS		2
1204	ZDATE					ML3		
1205	SLSH					BS		1
1205	ZDATE					RO		
1206	DWSH					BS AS IN	1203	1
1205	ZDATE					M3+		
1205	NVCC	BKFO			ABR	BS	1204;1209	1
1208	SLSHF	JL				BS AS IN	1209	1
1208	ZDATE					ML3		
1209	DWSH					BS		1
1209	GREY				ABR	BS		1
1209	GREY				VABR	BS		1
1209	NVCC	BKFO		1	ABR	BSS; CF RPNV42/3; V FRAG;BUFF FAB; SAME IN	1204;1208	11
1209	NVCC	BKFPR		1	ABR	RIM BSS BASE; CF RPNV42/3;V FRAG; CR FAB		18
1209	SLSH					BS		1
1209	SLSHF	JBK				BS THIN		1
1209	SLSHF					BS AS IN	1208	1
1209	VESIC					BS IA?		1
1209	ZDATE					ML3		
1209	ZZZ					NVCC BEAKERS VERY FRAGMENTED		
1401	SLSH	J				BS SOOT EXT		1
1401	ZDATE					RO		
1408	CR?	?			VBURNT	RIM OR BASE		1
1408	GREY	JNN	WM		DWG2	RIM NECK W CORDON		1
1408	GREY			1		BSS W CALC		3
1408	GREY					BS		1
1408	GYBN		HM?			BS		1
1408	IAGR	BKCUR	WM?		DWG3	RIM NECK; JOIN	1414	2
1408	IAGR	JCUR	WM?		DRAW?	RIM NECK		1
1408	IAGR	JCUR	WM?		DRAW?	RIM NECK		1

The Roman pottery from Ruskington (RFR00)

1408	IAGR		WM				BSS BURNT EXT			2
1408	IASH	JCOR					BS CORDONED			1
1408	SLSH	BNAT	WM		DWG1		RIM GIRTH;SOOT EXT RIM			1
1408	SLSH	J	WM	1			BASE BS; WATER WORN; JOIN	1006		2
1408	SLSH	J	WM				BASE			1
1408	SLSH	J	WM	1			BSS			2
1408	SLSHC		WM				BS			1
1408	SLSHF	JBCAR					BS; SOME PUNCTATE BRACHS			1
1408	ZDATE						EROM			
1408	ZZZ						FRAG BURNT CLAY; SOME IA TRAD VESS			
1412	GYBN		WM				BS AS IN	1413		1
1412	IAGR	BNAT	WM		DWG5	ABR	RIM GIRTH; WITH GROG; WATER WORN	1		1
1412	PART	B	STAMP	1?	DWG4		BS; LOZENGE STAMP JOINS	1414		1
1412	GFIN	JCUR				BS	RIM; CF PART FAB			1
1412	SLSH						BS			1
1412	ZZZ						NEW PART STAMP			
1412	ZDATE						1-E2			
1413	GREY						BS			1
1413	GREY						BS W CALC			1
1413	GYBN	JLS	WM	1		ABR	RIMS NECK BSS SOOT RIM;RED BN CORE			5
1413	SLSHC	JL	WM	1			BSS SOOT EXT			4
1413	ZDATE						2-3C			
1414	GREY	J		1		ABR	BSS MIN GROG; BURNT			3
1414	IAGR	BKCUR	RIL?;WM		DWG3		RIM BSS SLIGHT RILLING;JOIN	1408		3
1414	PART	B	STAMP	1	DWG4		BSS; LOZENGE STAMP NEW;JOIN	1412		5
1414	GROG	J					BS LGE SH;MIN GROG			1
1414	ZDATE						1-E2			
1414	ZZZ						NEW PART STAMP			
							<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>174</b>

## Appendix 5

### Pottery from Samples

*By Gary Taylor*

A quantity of pottery was recovered from the samples. This material has been compared and correlated with the hand-retrieved material examined by B. Precious and Dr D. Knight (Appendices 3 and 4). The material is listed below, with comments.

CONTEXT	SHERDS	COMMENTS	DATE
801	2x GREY	?Same vessel as hand-retrieved, abraded	2nd century AD
	1x SAMCG?	Abraded	
	5x SLSH		
	1X GREY?	Very abraded	
1006	5x SLSH	?Same vessel as hand-retrieved	Early Roman
1122	3x SLSH		Early Roman
1209	12x NVCC	Beaker, same vessel as hand-retrieved; very abraded	Mid-Late 3rd century
	1x SLSH	Very abraded	
	1x Glazed polychrome	Minute fragment, 18th-20th century, intrusive	
1302	2x SLSH		Roman
1413	14x SLSH	Sooted, ?same vessel as hand-retrieved	2nd-3rd century
	1x GYBN	?Same vessel as hand-retrieved	
1502	1x SLSH		IA
1503	1x SLSH		IA
1512	1x IASh	?Same vessel as hand-retrieved	Iron Age

The pottery retrieved from the samples fully reflects that recovered by hand-excavation.

#### Abbreviations

- GREY - Greyware
- GYBN - Grey-brown ware
- IASh - Iron Age Shelly ware
- NVCC - Nene Valley Colour-coated ware
- PART - Parisian-type ware
- SLSH - South Lincolnshire Shelly ware
- SAMCG - Samian, Central Gaulish



## Appendix 6

### The Ceramic Building Material

By Phil Mills B.Sc. (Hons)

#### Methodology

The fragments of ceramic building material recovered from the site were examined under a 20 x binocular microscope. Their fabrics were described, following the system outlined by Orton et al 1993 and Peacock 1977 and compared with the fabric type series retained at Archaeological Project Services.

#### Condition of the material

Only two fragments of material were recovered, weighing a total of 30g. The small nature of the assemblage suggests that the material was brought in from elsewhere. It could reflect a Roman structure some distance away from the site, or some reuse of tile bought in from out of site.

#### Statement of Potential

It is recommended that the pieces be retained for future study of this fabric type.

#### The Fabric

##### SPS2

A red fabric with grey core (Munsell: 7.5YR5/1 Core: 10R5/8) very hard smooth feel subchoidal fracture, with inclusions of abundant well sorted medium sized subrounded quartzite, sparse well sorted medium sized sub-rounded iron ore, sparse ill sorted medium sized angular slate and sparse well sorted coarse angular voids.

This fabric type has been found associated with Roman material at sites from Lincoln and Sleaford (Mills 1999) where it was associated with a late 3<sup>rd</sup> century/ early 4<sup>th</sup> century building. It is also known from the tile kiln at Heckington (Simmons 1977), which has been dated to the late 3<sup>rd</sup> / early 4<sup>th</sup> century AD, Heydour and Market Deeping. Further work is required to determine if this fabric has a discreet source and is being transported around Lincolnshire or if it is a reflection of the utilisation of similar clays and similar technologies around the region.

#### Bibliography

Herbert N. A 1999 *Archaeological Investigations at the New Police Station, Sleaford, Lincolnshire*; Unpublished APS Report No 30/98

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Peacock, D. 1977 *Ceramics in Roman and medieval archaeology* in Peacock 1977a

Peacock, D 1977a *Pottery and early ceramics: change and trade in Roman and later ceramics* (London)

Simmons, B.B. 1977 *Roman Tile Kilns at Heckington, Lincolnshire* (Car Dyke Publication No. 3)

**The Catalogue**

	<b>Fabric</b>	<b>Wt (g)</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Cnrs</b>	<b>Len(mm)</b>	<b>Wth(mm)</b>	<b>Tk (mm)</b>	<b>Mortar</b>
<b>803</b>								
B/T	SPS2	15	1					No
<i>fab series</i>								
<b>806</b>								
B/T	SPS2	15	1					Yes

*Wt = Weight, No = No of fragments, Cnrs = No of Corners, Len = Mean Length, Wth = Mean Width TK = Mean Thickness, Mortar = presence or absence*

## CBM Catalogue

Weight

30

Frag

2

SPS2

A grey (munsell: 7.5yr5/1)10r5/8 very hard smooth feel sub-choidal fracture, with inclusions of

sparse well medium sub-rounded iron ore

abundant well medium sub-rounded quartzite

sparse ill moderate angular slate

sparse well coarse angular voids

	Fabric	Wt (g)	No	Cnrs	Len(mm)	Wth(mm)	Tk (mm)	Mortar	Glaze
<b>803</b>									
B/T	SPS2	15	1					No	
	<i>fab series</i>								
<b>806</b>									
B/T	SPS2	15	1					Yes	

*Wt = Weight, No = No of fragments, Cnrs = No of Corners, Len = Mean Length, Wth = Mean Width TK = Mean Thickness, Mortar = presence or absence*

## Appendix 7

### Briquetage

*by Tom Lane*

A total of four sherds (two joining) of briquetage were retrieved from context 1502 (ditch fill). These were examined macroscopically.

#### **Fabric**

Two joining pieces are moderately hard fired and contain evidence of tempering using small quantities of vegetation, along with a few fragments of grog. The two remaining sherds are both harder fired and have less organic temper but both contain grog, coarse sand, small stones (including a burnt example) and a limited amount of shell. It is likely that the shell derives from fossiliferous limestone, such as that found in the Oxford Clays.

On the undamaged external surface of the joining pieces is a white scale or slip-like surface deposit. Such deposits are formed by the migration of soluble salts through the vessel fabric, concentrating on the surface as a white efflorescence (Rice 1987, 336).

#### **Form**

All the sherds likely to be from ceramic containers but only one has both internal and external surfaces surviving. This fragment, with a wall thickness of 10mm, is a body sherd from a vertical sided container and located near to the junction with the base, as seen by a thickening out of the piece. The inside surface is roughened, consistent with vessels from saltern sites in Lincolnshire (e.g. Cowbit and Market Deeping), the abrasions resulting from the scraping out of the vessel contents.

#### **Discussion**

The form and fabric of the sherds resemble other briquetage from along the fen edge in Lincolnshire. In particular, the tempering agents resemble those in briquetage on Iron Age sites such as Market Deeping and Cowbit (Lane and Morris forthcoming) and Helpringham (Healey forthcoming). In those areas the equivalent Roman material contains almost exclusively chopped vegetation. Therefore, it is likely that the Ruskington finds are of Iron Age date.

Presence of this material at such an inland location is intriguing. It is unlikely that salt was transported from production sites encased in briquetage containers but this may have happened. However, it may be that the nearby stream was tidal enough in the Iron Age for salt making to be attempted. The nearest known Iron Age salterns lie some 12km to the southeast on the fen edge in Little Hale and Helpringham. The material from Ruskington, though sparse and from a single context, represents the first briquetage from this area and extends the known distribution of this material type.

## References

Healey, H., forthcoming, An Iron Age saltmaking site at Helpringham, Lincolnshire

Lane, T. and Morris, E., forthcoming, 'A millennium of saltmaking: Prehistoric and Romano--British saltmaking in the Fenland'. *Lincolnshire Archaeology and Heritage Reports Series 4*

Rice, P.M., 1987, *Pottery Analysis; a sourcebook* The University of Chicago Press (Chicago)

## Appendix 8

### Non-Pottery Finds

*By Jane Cowgill and Gary Taylor*

#### Provenance

The material was collected as stratified artefacts from a number of archaeological contexts. The largest collection of clearly Roman material was recovered from Trench 8 (context numbers 801, 803 and 806).

#### Range

The range of material is detailed in the table below.

Context	Description	Date
404	1x iron horseshoe, 495g	Post-medieval
801	1x stone ?palette, max. length 78mm, max. width 69mm, thickness 6mm. Bevelled edges, main polish on underside. Olivine schist? Roman, 82g 2x tile fragments, ?tesserae, Roman, 22g 7x iron hobnails/fragments, domed heads, ave. dia. 10mm, dome ht. 5mm, shaft length 10mm, 9g 1x iron nail, 45mm long, rectangular section, bent. In 2 pieces, 8g 2x burnt pebbles, 6g	Roman
803	1x tile, ?tessera, Roman, 13g 1x coal, 15g	Roman
806	1x iron nail, 13g 1x tile, ?Roman, 14g	?Roman
1006	4x fired clay, 278g	
1101	1x tile, ?tessera, Roman, 7g	Roman
1112	1x fired clay, ?tile, 3g 1x flint cobble, minor impact damage to one end, polish on one side, ?pounder, 380g	
1122	8x burnt clay, ?brick/tile, 2g	
1208	2x burnt pebbles, 6g	
1209	6x iron nails, all rectangular shafts, 55g 1x iron object, slightly curved, ?nail shaft, 2g	
1302	1x iron slag, 2g 1x globular concretion ?natural, 1g	
1401	1x iron spike, 210mm long, head 21mm x 21mm, 343g	Post-medieval
1402	1x clay pipe stem, bore 8/64", 17th century, 4g	17th century
1408	1x bone, knife handle, surviving length 55mm, with 10mm, Roman 1x burnt stone, one face flattish and polished, 427g	Roman
1502	1x flint blade, some edge damage, 3g 4x baked clay, 37g	Neolithic
1503	2x burnt stones, 1x 465g, 1x 54g	

Context	Description	Date
1506	1x lead shot, <1g	
1512	1x flint blade fragment, <1g 1x flint flake, 82g 1x burnt stone, 456g	
1524	1x iron ring, external diameter 25mm, internal diameter 15mm, ?machine made, 8g	Post-medieval

The horseshoe from (404) is slightly pointed and is closely similar to examples of mid 18th-mid 19th century date (Hume 1991, 238). It possesses a prominent toe clip but no obvious calkins.

A stone plaque in a green schisty stone, was recovered from context (801). This is probably cosmetic palette, though it lacks the central concavity and circular polish often found on such items. Very similar pieces, including examples in 'greenstone', have been found in Colchester, dated from the late 1st century AD to c. 350 (Crummy 1983, 57-8). The main polish is on the underside (the largest face, below the bevel), comparable to one of the Colchester examples (*ibid.*). Bevelled edge palettes or architectural inlay of similar form have also been found at Baldock in Hertfordshire and dated to the late 3rd century (Robinson and Foster 1986, 177-8). Stone wall veneers of similar form have also been found in London (Pritchard 1986, nos 19, 20, 34, 43). However, although of similar area, wall veneers are invariably thicker than palettes (*ibid.*).

A fragment of a high polished handle made from a cow-sized long bone was recovered from (1408). This is probably a one-piece knife handle of Roman date and has a 'bamboo stem' decorative pattern.

Several apparent tesserae were recovered. These may imply the proximity of a mosaic floor, though none of the pieces had any attached mortar, which may indicate that they were made or prepared at the site to be used elsewhere.

The group of hobnails from (801) probably derive from a single shoe.

#### Condition

All the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. The objects are archived by material class.

None of the iron was X-rayed.

#### Documentation

Results of archaeological work in Ruskington have been reported upon previously. Geophysical survey has previously been undertaken at the site, revealing archaeological remains that are the subject of the present investigation.

#### References

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## Appendix 9

### Environmental Archaeology Assessment

By James Rackham

#### Introduction

Evaluation excavations conducted by Archaeological Project Services in Ruskington resulted in the taking of fifteen soil samples for environmental assessment and the hand excavation of a small sample of animal bones from a number of contexts. These samples are briefly assessed.

**Table 1:** Samples taken for environmental analysis

site	sample	context	trench	sample vol. lt	feature	date
RFR00	1	1006	10	14	fill possible pit	1-2nd C
RFR00	2	801	8	11	fill of 802	m-1 3rd C
RFR00	3	1209	12	10	fill of grave 1212	m-1 3rd C
RFR00	4	1502	15	6	fill of linear cut	LIA
RFR00	5	1503	15	5	fill of linear cut	LIA
RFR00	6	1512	15	4	fill of posthole? 1513	LIA
RFR00	7	1308	13	5	fill of posthole 1309	undated
RFR00	8	1302	13	7	fill of ditch? 1301	undated
RFR00	9	1413	14	5	top fill of ditch 1409	1-2nd C
RFR00	10	1413	14	4	bottom fill of ditch 1409	1-2nd C
RFR00	11	1208	12	4	fill of gully 1210	m-1 3rd C
RFR00	12	1122	11	7	fill of ditch	1-2nd C
RFR00	13	604	6	3	fill of cut 603	1-2nd C
RFR00	14	902	9	4	fill of linear cut 901	Med.
RFR00	15	804	8	4	fill of 805	Roman

#### Methods

The soil samples were processed in the following manner. Sample volume and weight was measured prior to processing. The samples were washed in a 'Siraf' tank (Williams 1973) using a flotation sieve with a 0.5mm mesh and an internal wet-sieve of 1mm mesh for the residue. Both residue and float were dried, and the residues subsequently re-floated to ensure the efficient recovery of charred material. The dry volume of the flots were measured, and the volume and weight of the residues recorded.

The residue was sorted by eye, and environmental and archaeological finds picked out, noted on the assessment sheet and bagged independently. A magnet was run through each residue in order to recover magnetised material such as hammerscale and prill. The residue was then discarded. The float of each sample was studied under a low power binocular microscope. The presence of environmental finds (ie snails, charcoal, carbonised seeds, bones etc) was noted and their abundance and species diversity recorded on the assessment sheet. The float was then bagged. The float and finds from the sorted residue constitute the material archive of the samples.

The individual components of the samples were then preliminarily identified and the results are summarised below in Tables 2 - 4.



## **Results**

Although modern rootlets and earthworm egg capsules were present in most samples few recent uncharred plant seeds were present and the charred plant remains and other environmental evidence is probably secure and uncontaminated.

All the sample residues are sub-rounded limestone gravel, with some difference in the proportion of unbroken down sediment crumb. The latter may reflect either an organic component in the original deposits or fine-textured material that moved down through the soil and accumulated in the interstices of the gravel matrix and becoming iron rich. Despite the apparent high water table on the site no waterlogged deposits survived, neither in the deep ditch 1409 nor on the clays to the east of the site.

### *Late Iron Age*

Three samples were taken from features in Trench 15. These produced a few sherds of pottery, a fragment of spheroidal hammerscale, a few grammes of animal bone - including cow, pig, sheep and duck, and a few tiny fragments of marine mussel shell. The flots produced charcoal, charred cereal and hazelnut shell fragments. These features appear to include small quantities of domestic debris.

The mollusc remains (Table 4) from the samples suggest a damp grassland environment, contemporary with the filling of the features, although the woodland species *Discus rotundatus* is the most numerous taxa in context 1512, the fill of a possible posthole.

### *Roman*

Samples were taken from deposits dated to the Romano-British period in trenches 8, 10, 11, 12 and 14. Most of these samples include sherds of pottery, bone fragments, charcoal, charred cereals and fragments of mussel shell implying some input of domestic rubbish into the features. Two features, cut 603 and 805 produced very little archaeological material and only very small amounts of charred remains. The environmental evidence from these suggests natural infilling of a wet habitat, and these and the other sample from trench 8, lie on a clay subsoil and the mollusc assemblage (Table 4) clearly indicates an aquatic depositional environment in all three samples from these eastern trenches. This wet environment is much less evident to the west of the site where aquatic snail taxa only appear in any numbers in the deeper ditch fills, particularly the lower fill of the large ditch 1409, in trench 14. In the western part of the site the features are cut into gravels, and the ground was better drained.

Two contexts, 801 and 1006, contained relatively large charcoal and charred cereal assemblages, and although both contained one or two fragments of chaff and a few charred weeds seeds, the cereals appear to derive from a cleaned crop and are likely to have been charred in a domestic context, rather than during crop processing. Plant taxa preliminarily identified from the Romano-British contexts include, barley, wheat, hazelnut and possible pulse, although other species are certainly present.

One or two flakes or spheroids of hammerscale (Table 2) suggest that iron smithing occurred on site, but at these low densities the possibility of contamination, as a result of movement through the soil, cannot be ruled out.

The sample from the grave fill, 1209, in trench 12 included bones from the burial.

The palaeoenvironment of the site is suggested by the snail assemblages and the small vertebrates. Apart from the mollusc assemblage in the deep ditch in trench 14, that has a number of shade loving taxa, and the trenches on the clay already mentioned, the snails indicate a calcareous grassland environment with the marshland taxa, *Lymnaea truncatula* and *Succinea* sp., probably being restricted to the damper environment of the ditches themselves. The small vertebrates include frog/toad, newt and snake with occasional vole and rodent bones.

**Table 4:** Freshwater and terrestrial mollusca from the samples ( habitat preferences based on Ellis 1969; Evans 1972; Cameron and Redfern 1976)

sample	13	2	15	14	1	12	11	3	7	8	9	10	4	5	6
phase	1-2	3rd	rom	med	1-2	1-2	3rd	3rd	und	und	1-2	1-2	LIA	LIA	LIA
context	604	801	804	902	1006	1122	1208	1209	1308	1302	1413	1413	1502	1503	1512
abundance*	4	4	4	3	4	2	2	2	2	4	3	3	2	2	2
<b>Freshwater</b>															
<i>Pisidium</i> sp.	+														
<i>Planorbis planorbis</i>	++														
<i>Planorbis laevis</i>	+	+		+											
<i>Planorbis carinatus</i>		+								+					
<i>Planorbis leucostoma</i>	++	++	++		+		+	+		+	+	++			+
<i>Lymnaea pereger</i>	+		+									+			
<i>Lymnaea palustris</i>	+														
<i>Aplexa hypnorum</i>		+													
<b>Marsh</b>															
<i>Lymnaea truncatula</i>	+	+	+	+	+					+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Succinea</i> sp.	+	+			+					+	+	+			
<i>Vertigo angustior</i>										+					
<b>Open country/grassland</b>															
<i>Cecilioides acicula</i>		+						+	+	+			+	+	
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>	+		+	+	+				+		+	+			
<i>Vallonia</i> sp.	+			+		+			+		+		+	+	+
<i>Vallonia pulchella</i>		+	+	+	+	+	+		+	+		+		+	+
<i>Vallonia excentrica</i>	+	++		+	+	+		+		+		+			
<i>Vallonia costata</i>		++	+								+	+			
<i>Vertigo</i> sp.	+	+	+	+							+				
<i>Helicella</i> sp.		+					+		+	+			+	+	+
<i>Helicella itala</i>				+											
<b>Catholic</b>															
<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp.		+	+	+	++		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
<i>Trichia hispida</i>	+	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Helix hortensis</i>					+	+		+		+					
<i>Helix aspersa</i>		+													
<i>Arianta arbustorum</i>			+												
<i>Punctum pygmaeum</i>												+			
<b>Shaded/woodland</b>															
<i>Vertigo pusilla</i>		+						+							
<i>Vitrea</i> sp.											+				
<i>Carychium</i> sp.		+								+	+				
Clausilidae								+					+		
<i>Discus rotundatus</i>												+			+
<i>Ena montana</i>									+						
<i>Retinella radiatula</i>											+	+			
<i>Retinella</i> sp.															
<i>Oxychilus</i> sp.			+									+			
Slug				+	+		+	+	+	+			+	+	

+ 1-10 shells; ++ 11-50 shells; +++ >50 shells

\* abundance rating: 1=1-10 shells; 2=11-50 shells; 3=51-150 shells; 4=151-250 shells; 5=>250 shells

### Medieval

One linear cut in trench 9 has been assigned to the medieval period. This produced two small sherds of pottery, a little charcoal, bone and shell but very little else. The snail fauna indicates a calcareous grassland with the aquatic and marsh taxa probably living in the 'ditch'. Some of the occupation debris may even be re-worked Roman material.

### *Undated*

Two undated samples from trench 13 produced undiagnostic pottery, a little bone, charcoal, charred cereal and mussel shell not dissimilar to the poorer Romano-British samples, with snail assemblages again suggestive of a grassland, although the ditchfill, 1302, has an aquatic and marsh component as well. This context produced the only slag on the site, a small piece - probably smithing slag (Cowgill pers. comm.)

### *Animal Bone*

A collection of 110 fragments of animal bone were submitted for assessment. A number of these were broken and had fragmented further during excavation and subsequent washing, and in general the condition of the bone was not good. Almost all fragments were brittle or chalky indicating the loss of the organic fraction, while some were clearly leached, and others had suffered root damage. Contexts were somewhat variable and it is possible that some deposited bone has been lost, although severely eroded bone and tooth enamel did not occur so there was no evidence for extreme erosion. The loss of the organic component of the bone has made it very brittle and it will have a tendency to fracture during excavation if care is not taken.

The identified species include horse, cattle, sheep and pig, with a mandible fragment of a small dog or fox (Table 5). A single oyster valve was also recovered and two snail shells which have not been catalogued.

**Table 5:** Excavated animal bone and shell

	No. fragments
Horse	5
Cattle	38
Cattle size	22
Sheep/goat	21
Sheep size	10
Pig	4
Dog/fox	1
Unidentified	8
Oyster	1

An archive catalogue has been produced (attached) following the recording system used by the Environmental Archaeology Consultancy (key also attached). The recorded material includes fragments of lamb and calf among the bones and despite the condition of the assemblage information on slaughter patterns and husbandry should be extractable from bone assemblages in this condition.

### *Discussion*

No waterlogged deposits are present in the sampled features and it is unlikely that future excavation would uncover any. The palaeo-economic and palaeo-environmental potential of the site is therefore limited to the charred plant remains, animal bones and mollusc shells. Even the animal bones are in relatively poor condition owing to the very calcareous nature of the soils, which has led to some leaching of the bone. Nevertheless, given larger samples, assessment of the economic importance of the domestic species, their slaughter pattern and economic role should be realisable. Measurement data is more problematic and superficial damage to the bones is likely to substantially reduce the number of useful measurements that could be taken.

The charred plant material is fairly ubiquitous across the site although in relatively low densities in all but two contexts. Much of the charcoal and cereal evidence could be contemporary background material blowing around the site, but its distribution in features and its density can assist in the identification of activity areas, and although no evidence for crop processing is apparent in the evaluation samples other parts of the site may display a different pattern. Many of the cereal remains are in a poor condition but enough are well enough preserved to suggest that barley probably predominates.

Snails represent the most abundant environmental remains, occurring in every sample and generally in sufficient numbers for some assessment of the local palaeo-environment. They have identified the clay areas on the east of the site as wet, while the western part was clearly better drained. They have the potential for illustrating any broad changes in vegetation cover or dampness on the site and even if no further excavation takes place it would be useful to quantify the taxa in a number of the richer dated samples.

### ***Recommendations***

As more and more evidence for rural settlements of Late Iron Age and Roman date is discovered the potential for understanding the economy of the Lincolnshire lowlands during these centuries becomes greater. This does however demand a strategy of sampling and bone recovery such that each site can contribute to the broader picture and illustrate any changes that may take place as a result of the Romanisation of the region.

Any further excavation should therefore ensure that the features are well sampled, and that the sampling is stratified to take account of the whole range of feature types and periods within the excavation areas. Samples should be of 30 litres and taken primarily to recover and study the charred plant remains and molluscs, although for the latter a series of samples taken as a column through the fills of some of the deeper features may be appropriate. Animal bones should be recovered by hand during excavation with particular care being taken to limit breakage during excavation and subsequent washing. It may be necessary, where bones become fragmented, to place all the pieces from a single bone in their own bag. This will considerably assist in the post-excavation analysis, reducing identification time, increasing the likelihood of identification and making sure that parts of the same bone do not get recorded as individual fragments, potentially biasing the quantification.

In the event that no further excavation takes place on the site it would be appropriate to obtain a botanical analysis of the two richest Romano-British samples and the richer mollusc assemblages from Late Iron Age, 1-2nd century and 3rd century deposits (samples 1502 and 1503, 9 and 10, 1 and 13, and 2).

### ***Acknowledgments***

I should like to thank Alison Foster, Jeremy Dubber and Andrea Snelling for the sample processing. Jane Cowgill kindly commented on the piece of slag.

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**Table 2:** Ruskington - RFR00. Archaeological finds from the samples

sample	context	feature	sample vol. lt	Res. wt. g.	Fired clay wt g.	Pot *	Flint	Burnt flint no.	H'scale no.	Metal	Bone wt g.	date	comment
1	1006	fill possible pit	14	8000	9	2/30			1		2	1-2nd C	
2	801	fill of 802	11	1800		9/81		2	1?	8 Fe	23	m-1 3rd C	nails?, building stone?
3	1209	fill of grave 1212	10	4050		14/7				Fe	46	m-1 3rd C	tiny post-med pot, human foot bones, fuel ash slag?
4	1502	fill of linear cut	6	2300		1/2					9	LIA	one cracked pebble
5	1503	fill of linear cut	5	2200		1/<1			1 sph		34	LIA	
6	1512	fill of posthole? 1513	4	1400		1/24	2			Pb	24	LIA	lead shot!
7	1308	fill of posthole 1309	5	2500								undated	
8	1302	fill of ditch? 1301	7	3350		2/3			1?		1	undated	2g piece of slag (iron working?)
9	1413	top fill of ditch 1409	5	1400		4/107					1	1-2nd C	
10	1413	bottom fill of ditch 1409	4	2000		7/100					3	1-2nd C	
11	1208	fill of gully 1210	4	1100					1 sph		<1	m-1 3rd C	
12	1122	fill of ditch	7	1750	2	3/7			2 sp&f		4	1-2nd C	fired clay possible brick/tile
13	604	fill of cut 603	3	620							125	1-2nd C	fragmented anterior horse mandible
14	902	fill of linear cut 901	4	1700		2/<1					1	Med.	
15	804	fill of 805	4	890							<1	Roman	

\* fragment or sherd no/weight in grammes

**Table 3: Ruskington - RFR00: Environmental finds from the samples**

sample	context	sample vol. lt	flot vol ml.	char-coal #	cereal #	chaff #	seeds, charr'd #	seeds, water-logged #	snails *	marine shells wt g.	bone #	burnt bone	egg-shell #	comments
1	1006	14	12	3	3	1	1		4/3	<1	2	+		barley, wheat, hazelnut, mussel, snake
2	801	11	25	4	3	1	1	1	4/3	5	2	+	3	wheat, barley, sheep, frog/toad, rodent, bird, mussel, barnacle - many aquatic molluscs
3	1209	10	2	2	1		1		2/2	<1	2			wheat?, human foot bones, dog, frog/toad, rodent, mussel
4	1502	6	1	3			1		2/2		1	+		hazelnut, pig, vole
5	1503	5	2	3	1				2/2	<1	1			wheat?, cow, mussel
6	1512	4	1	1	1				2/2		2			sheep, duck
7	1308	5	2	1	1				2/2	<1			1	wheat?, mussel
8	1302	7	4	2	1			1	4/3	1	1	+		wheat, frog/toad, mussel, ostracod
9	1413	5	2	1					3/3	<1	1		1	frog/toad, mussel - molluscs mainly aquatic
10	1413	4	5	2				1	3/3		1			sheep, frog/toad - molluscs mainly aquatic
11	1208	4	2	2	1		1		2/2		1	+		barley, pulse?, vole, newt, frog/toad
12	1122	7	3	2	1		1	1	2/2		2	+		barley, hazelnut
13	604	3	9	1					4/3		2			ant. horse mandible - fragmented - molluscs mainly aquatic
14	902	4	1	2					3/2	<1	1	+		mussel
15	804	4	5		1				4/3		1			frog/toad - molluscs mainly aquatic

# frequency of items: 1=1-10; 2= 11-50; 3=51-150; 4=151-250; 5=>250

\* frequency/diversity - frequency as above and diversity as follows: 1=1-3; 2=4-10; 3=11-25; 4=26-50 taxa.

+ present

\$ present and probably modern contaminants

## Appendix 10

### Geophysical Survey By GSB Prospection

#### SITE SUMMARY SHEET

99 / 147 Ruskington, Lincolnshire

NGR: TF 0885 5105 (approx. centre)

#### Location, topography and geology

The site lies on the eastern side of the village of Ruskington, Lincolnshire. It is bound to the north by Fen Road and to the west by a railway. The southern and eastern boundaries consist of a stream and the Hillside estate respectively. The accessible portions of the site were under rough pasture and short grass. The soils over the whole site consist of argillic brown earths and rendzinas of the Aswarby Association (512a). These loamy and clayey calcareous soils overlie a parent geology of Jurassic limestone and clay and associated drift.

#### Archaeology

Ruskington lies within an area which is fairly rich in archaeology. There is evidence for continuous settlement in the area dating from the Neolithic and Bronze Age through to the present day. Mareham Lane, a Roman road, passes through the western half of the village and there is an Anglo-Saxon cemetery site in the vicinity. There are aerial photographs (AP) of the fields to the south of the application area which show a linear cropmark, possibly an enclosure alongside a track, which may extend into the investigation area (JSAC, 1999).

#### Aims of Survey

The site was investigated by gradiometry in both scanning and detailed modes, with the aim of identifying any anomalies of potential archaeological interest, in particular to see if any features shown on the AP continue into the application area. The work forms part of a wider evaluation undertaken by *John Samuels Archaeological Consultants (JSAC)* in advance of proposed development at the site.

#### Summary of Results \*

Scanning showed the application area to be magnetically quiet, however, two areas of potential archaeological interest were identified for further detailed survey. This was carried out in the southern half of the site and revealed two areas of archaeological interest.

Two parallel curvilinear responses, two tentative ring ditches and possible pit type anomalies have been noted in the field in the south west of the site. However, the confined survey area, makes interpretation of responses within this field cautious.

To the east a complex of linear and curvilinear ditch type responses forming either one or two enclosures with associated pit type anomalies has been identified. These may extend beyond the southern limits of the application area and reflect a continuation of cropmark features recorded to the south.

\* It is essential that this summary is read in conjunction with the detailed results of the survey.



## SURVEY RESULTS

99 / 147 Ruskington, Lincolnshire

### 1. Survey Area

- 1.1 Approximately 3ha, over four fields, was investigated by scanning. Two sample blocks (Areas A and B), totalling 1ha, were selected for detailed gradiometry. The location of the survey areas is given in Figure 1 at a scale of 1:1000.
- 1.2 The survey grid was set out by *GSB Prospection* and tied in to existing field boundaries using tapes. A copy of the tie-in information has been lodged with the client.

### 2. Display

- 2.1 Figure 2 is a summary greyscale of the gradiometer data at a scale of 1:1000. This is accompanied by a summary interpretation at the same scale (Figure 3).
- 2.2 X-Y traces, dot density plots and interpretations are provided for both of the detailed survey areas at 1:500 in Figures 4 - 7.
- 2.3 The display formats referred to above are discussed in the *Technical Information* section, at the end of the text.

### 3. General Considerations - Complicating factors

- 3.1 Conditions for survey were varied. Although the ground was under rough pasture it was relatively flat over the majority of the area, which also included an orchard. Scanning was precluded in two areas due to the presence of a large bonfire, a house, caravan and other ferrous material.
- 3.2 Small scale ferrous responses have been recorded in all the detailed survey areas. These are attributed to ferrous debris scattered in the topsoil and are assigned a modern origin. Whilst, they are highlighted on the interpretation diagrams, they are not discussed in the text, unless considered relevant.

### 4. Results of Scanning

- 4.1 With gradiometers in scanning mode, the evaluation area was examined along traverses spaced at intervals of approximately 10m. During this operation, fluctuations in magnetic signal were observed on the instruments display panel. Any significant variations were investigated more closely to determine their likely origin and those anomalies considered to have archaeological potential were marked with canes for recorded survey.

- 4.2 The northern portion of the application area was very quiet away from areas of modern magnetic disturbance, with no anomalies of archaeological potential being noted.
- 4.3 Scanning of the two southern fields identified several potentially archaeological responses. These were investigated more thoroughly by detailed survey.

## 5. Results of Detailed Survey

*Detailed survey blocks were positioned to investigate the targets noted during scanning and to provide a broad sample of the southern portion of the application area. The samples also allowed us to establish whether AP features recorded immediately to the south extend into this area.*

### Area A

- 5.1 Detailed survey located several anomalies which may be of archaeological interest. Only a limited area was available for survey within this field which has complicated the interpretation.
- 5.2 There are two curving parallel anomalies aligned approximately northwest-southeast in the northern section of the block. However, they do not form a coherent and recognisable pattern and appear to fade out within the survey area. As a result an archaeological interpretation is tentative.
- 5.3 A relatively strong curving response in the northwestern corner of the survey area is suggestive of a ring ditch and a pit type anomaly was also noted within this feature. However it must be stressed that the survey area could not be extended further, due to a railway line and associated fencing, and therefore this interpretation is cautious.
- 5.4 A rather faint trend forms a very small circular anomaly to the south. This cannot be confirmed as archaeological in nature and therefore a natural response cannot be ruled out.

### Area B

- 5.5 Several responses of interest have been noted within this field. Although they are very weak, the nature and form of the anomalies tend to suggest an archaeological rather than a natural origin, although the data are not particularly coherent. It would appear that there is part of a rectilinear enclosure in the east with a double ditched feature just to the west. Alternatively both these features could form a single large enclosure. Isolated pit type responses have also been noted within these possible enclosure(s). It is possible that these anomalies relate to archaeological features visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs, immediately to the south of the application area.
- 5.6 Several weak linear trends are also apparent within the data. These may be archaeological, although a natural or modern origin, such as cultivation, cannot be excluded.
- 5.7 A large ferrous anomaly along the northern edge is caused by the presence of a caravan on the other side of the boundary.

## 6. Conclusions

- 6.1 Scanning found the application area to be generally quiet, with areas of disturbance caused by buildings, field boundaries and a semi-constructed bonfire. Several anomalies of archaeological potential were noted in the southern half of the site and were targeted by detailed survey.
- 6.2 Area A contains two curvilinear responses and two very tentative ring ditches. However, it has not been possible to confirm the exact nature and extent of these features because of the limited area available for survey.
- 6.3 Area B contains several linear anomalies potentially forming either a single large enclosure or one enclosure and a double ditched feature. This area also contains isolated pit type responses.
- 6.4 Information regarding the cropmarks to the south of the application area is not detailed enough to comment on the possibility that the anomalies located during this survey are a continuation of the AP features.

Project Co-ordinator: S. Ovenden-Wilson  
Project Assistants: F Robertson & A Shields

Date of Survey: 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> December 1999  
Date of Report: 5<sup>th</sup> January 2000

### References:

- SSEW 1983. *Soils of England and Wales. Sheet 4: Eastern England.* Soil Survey of England and Wales.
- JSAC 1999 *A Specification for undertaking a geophysical survey at land south of Fen Road, Ruskington. Lincolnshire,* John Samuels Archaeological Consultants.

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION

The following is a description of the equipment and display formats used in **GSB Prospection (GSB)** reports. It should be emphasised that whilst all of the display options are regularly used, the diagrams produced in the final reports are the most suitable to illustrate the data from each site. The choice of diagrams results from the experience and knowledge of the staff of **GSB**.

*All survey reports are prepared and submitted on the basis that whilst they are based on a thorough survey of the site, no responsibility is accepted for any errors or omissions.*

### Instrumentation

#### (a) Fluxgate Gradiometer - Geoscan FM36

This instrument comprises of two fluxgates mounted vertically apart, at a distance of 500mm. The gradiometer is carried by hand, with the bottom sensor approximately 100-300mm from the ground surface. At each survey station, the difference in the magnetic field between the two fluxgates is conventionally measured in nanoTesla (nT), or gamma. The fluxgate gradiometer suppresses any diurnal or regional effects. Generally features up to one metre deep may be detected by this method. Readings are normally logged at 0.5m intervals along traverses 1.0m apart.

#### (b) Resistance Meter - Geoscan RM15

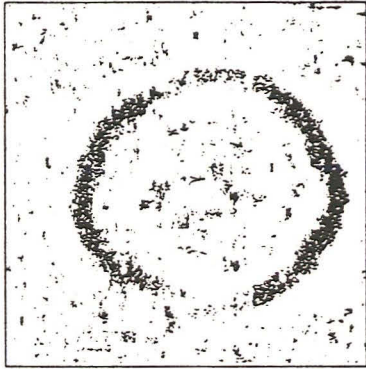
This measures the electrical resistance of the earth, using a system of four electrodes (two current and two potential.) Depending on the arrangement of these electrodes an exact measurement of a specific volume of earth may be acquired. This resistance value may then be used to calculate the earth resistivity. The "Twin Probe" arrangement involves the pairing of electrodes (one current and one potential) with one pair remaining in a fixed position, whilst the other measures the resistance variations across a fixed grid. The resistance is measured in Ohms and the calculated resistivity is in Ohm-metres. The resistance method as used for area survey has a depth resolution of approximately 0.75m, although the nature of the overburden and underlying geology will cause variations in this generality. The technique can be adapted to sample greater depths of earth and can therefore be used to produce vertical "pseudo sections". In area survey readings are typically logged at 1.0m x 1.0m intervals.

#### (c) Magnetic Susceptibility

Variations in the magnetic susceptibility of subsoils and topsoils occur naturally, but greater enhanced susceptibility can also be a product of increased human/anthropogenic activity. This phenomenon of susceptibility enhancement can therefore be used to provide information about the "level of archaeological activity" associated with a site. It can also be used in a predictive manner to ascertain the suitability of a site for a magnetic survey. The instrument employed for measuring this phenomenon is either a field coil or a laboratory based susceptibility bridge. For the latter 50g soil samples are collected in the field. Sampling intervals vary widely but are often at the 10m or 20m level.

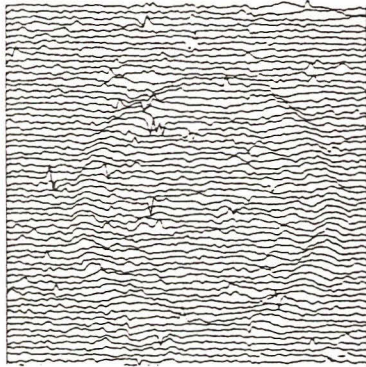
## Display Options

The following is a description of the display options used. Unless specifically mentioned in the text, it may be assumed that no filtering or smoothing has been used to enhance the data. For any particular report a limited number of display modes may be used.



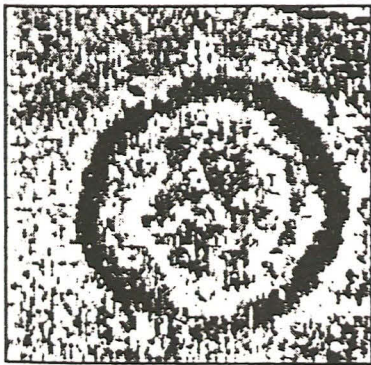
### (a) Dot Density

In this display minimum and maximum cut-off levels are chosen. Any value that is below the minimum will appear white, whilst any value above the maximum will be black. Values that lie between these two cut-off levels are depicted with a specified number of dots depending on their relative position between the two levels. Assessing a lower than normal reading involves the use of an inverse plot that reverses the minimum and maximum values, resulting in the lower values being presented by more dots. In either representation, each reading is allocated a unique area dependent on its position on the survey grid, within which numbers of dots are randomly placed. The main limitation of this display method is that multiple plots have to be produced in order to view the whole range of the data. It is also difficult to gauge the true strength of any anomaly without looking at the raw data values. However, this display is favoured for producing plans of sites, where positioning of the anomalies and features is important.



### (b) XY Plot

This involves a line representation of the data. Each successive row of data is equally incremented in the Y axis, to produce a stacked profile effect. This display may incorporate a hidden-line removal algorithm, which blocks out lines behind the major peaks and can aid interpretation. The advantages of this type of display are that it allows the full range of the data to be viewed and shows the shape of the individual anomalies. The display may also be changed by altering the horizontal viewing angle and the angle above the plane. The output may be either colour or black and white.



### (c) Greyscale

This format divides a given range of readings into a set number of classes. These classes have a predefined arrangement of dots or shade of grey, the intensity increasing with value. This gives an appearance of a toned or grey-scale. Similar plots can be produced in colour, either using a wide range of colours or by selecting two or three colours to represent positive and negative values. While colour plots can look impressive and can be used to highlight certain anomalies, greyscales tend to be more informative.

## Terms commonly used in the graphical interpretation of gradiometer data

### Ditch / Pit

This category is used only when other evidence is available that supports a clear archaeological interpretation e.g. cropmarks or excavation.

### Archaeology

This term is used when the form, nature and pattern of the response is clearly archaeological but where no supporting evidence exists. These anomalies, whilst considered anthropogenic, could be of any age. If a more precise archaeological interpretation is possible then it will be indicated in the accompanying text.

### ? Archaeology

The interpretation of such anomalies is often tentative, with the anomalies exhibiting either weak signal strength or forming incomplete archaeological patterns. They may be the result of variable soil depth, plough damage or even aliasing as a result of data collection orientation.

### Areas of Increased Magnetic Response

These responses show no visual indications on the ground surface and are considered to have some archaeological potential.

### Natural

These responses form clear patterns in geographical zones where natural variations are known to produce significant magnetic distortions e.g. palaeochannels or magnetic gravels.

### ? Natural

These are anomalies that are likely to be natural in origin i.e. geological or pedological.

### Ridge and Furrow

These are regular and broad linear anomalies that are presumed to be the result of ancient cultivation. In some cases the response may be the result of modern activity.

### Ploughing Trend

These are isolated or grouped linear responses. They are normally narrow and are presumed modern when aligned to current field boundaries or following present ploughing.

### Linear Trend

This is usually an ill-defined, weak or isolated linear anomaly of unknown cause or date.

### Areas of Magnetic Disturbance

These responses are commonly found in places where modern ferrous or fired materials are present e.g. fencelines, pylons or brick rubble. They are presumed to be modern.

### Ferrous Response

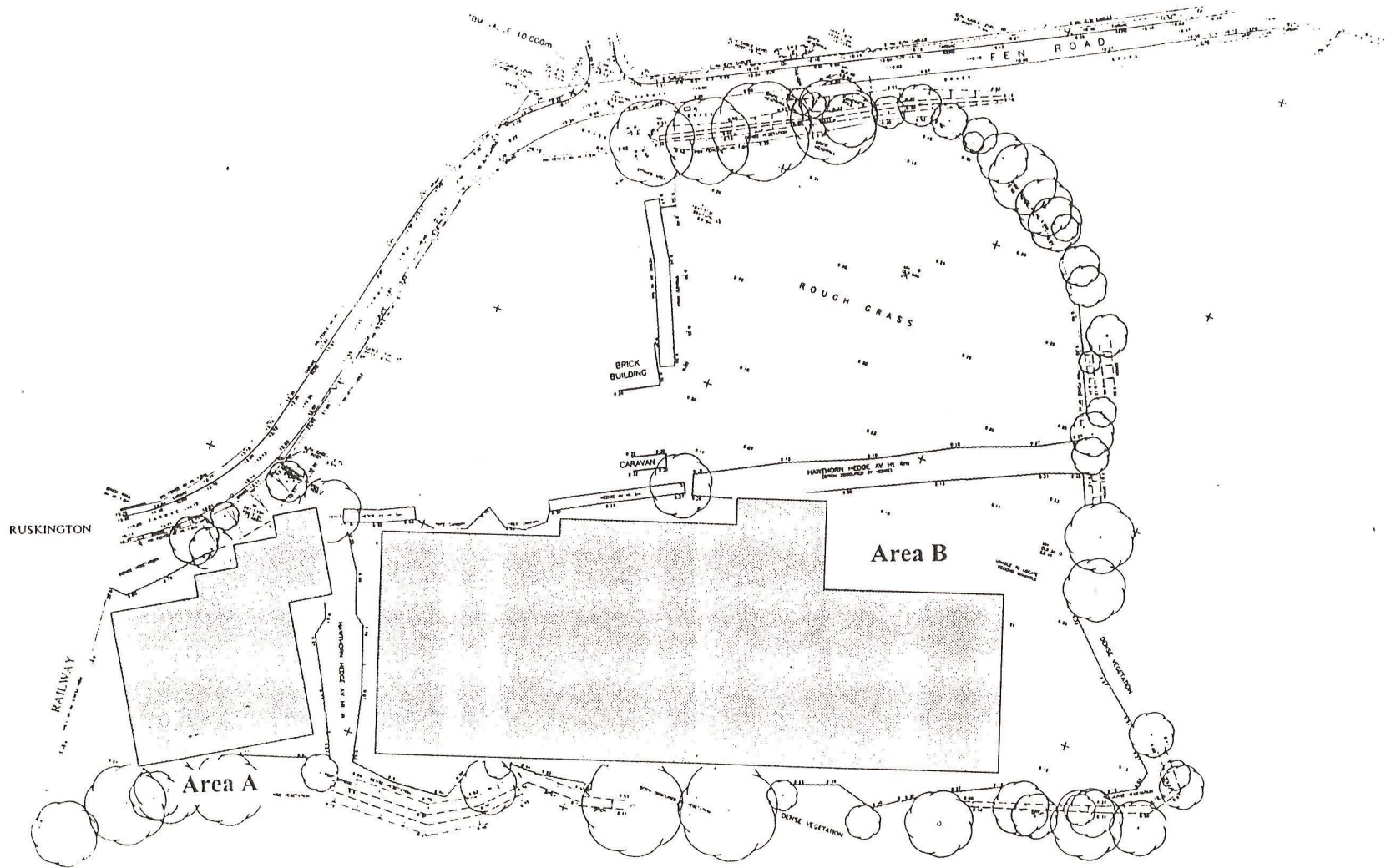
This type of response is associated with ferrous material and may result from small items in the topsoil or larger buried objects such as pipes. Ferrous responses are usually regarded as modern. Individual burnt stones, fired bricks or igneous rocks can produce responses similar to ferrous material.

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# RUSKINGTON

## General Location of Survey Areas

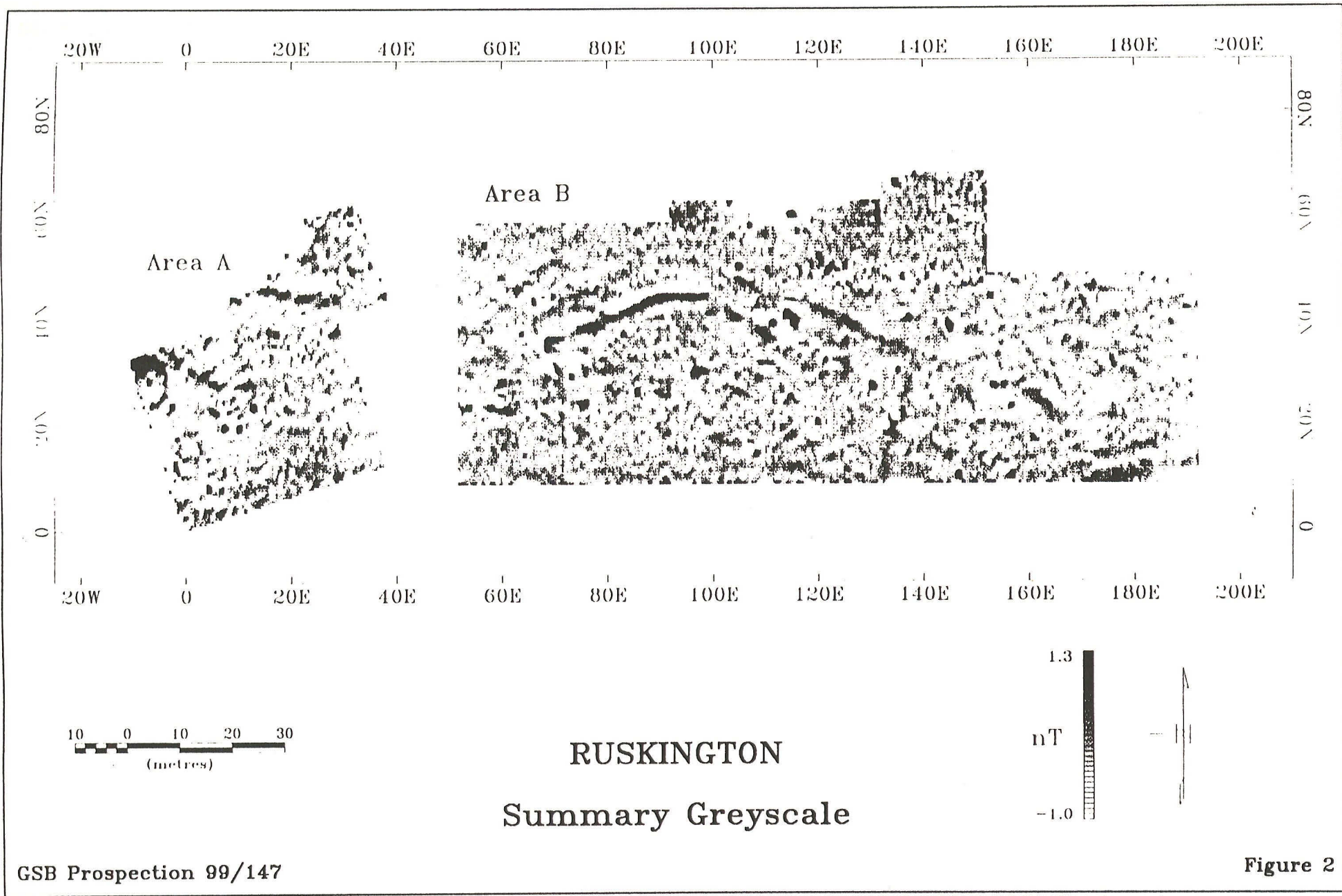


• Based on a plan supplied by JSAC



1:1000





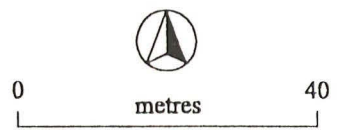
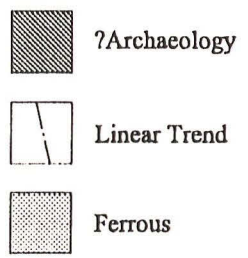
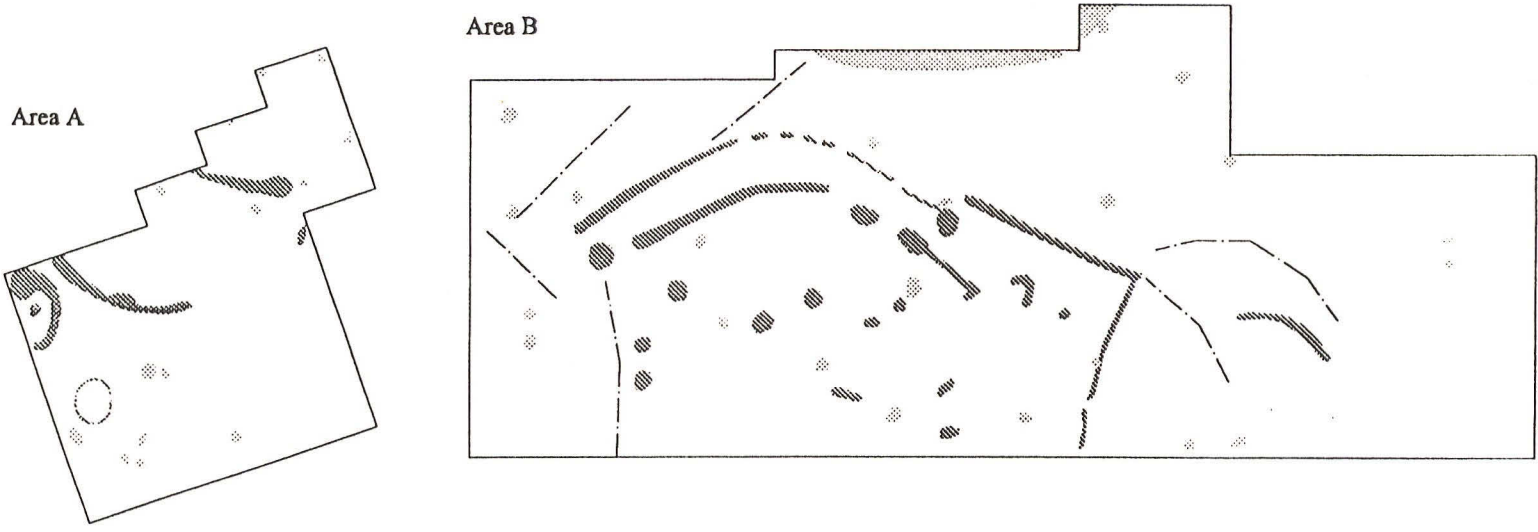
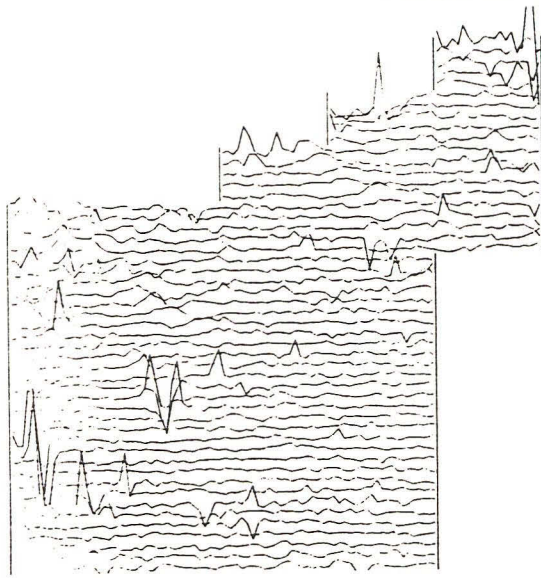


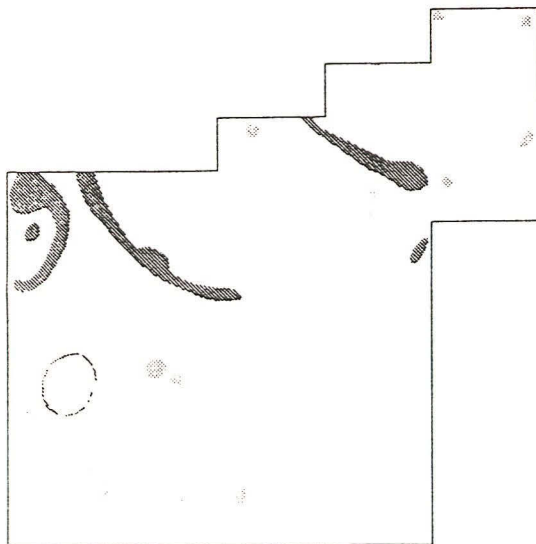
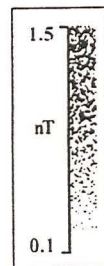
Figure 3

# RUSKINGTON

## Area A



15 nT



?Archaeology

Ferrous



0 m 20

RUSKINGTON  
Area B

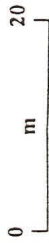
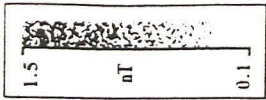
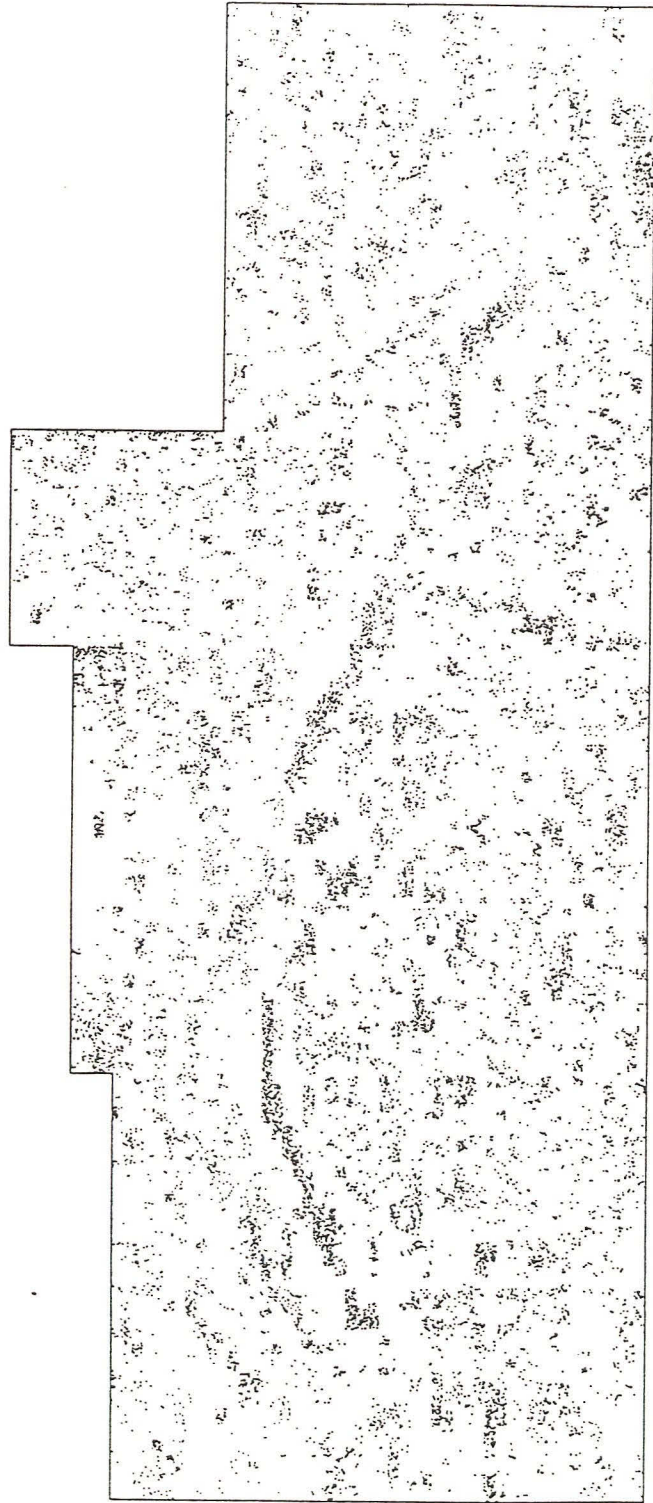


15 nT

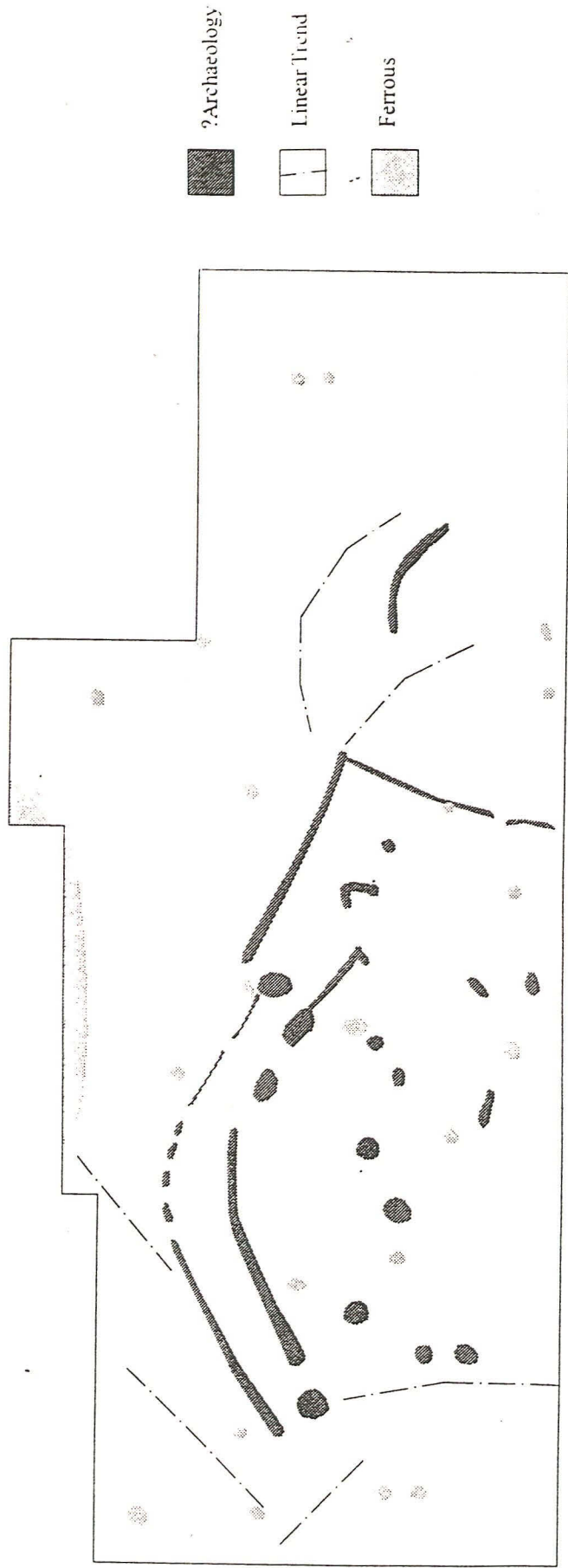


0 m 20

RUSKINGTON  
Area B



# RUSKINGTON Area B



## Appendix 11

### Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling Ancient Monuments - Extract from *Archaeology and Planning* DoE Planning Policy Guidance note 16, November 1990

The following criteria (which are not in any order of ranking), are used for assessing the national importance of an ancient monument and considering whether scheduling is appropriate. The criteria should not however be regarded as definitive; rather they are indicators which contribute to a wider judgement based on the individual circumstances of a case.

i *Period*: all types of monuments that characterise a category or period should be considered for preservation.

ii *Rarity*: there are some monument categories which in certain periods are so scarce that all surviving examples which retain some archaeological potential should be preserved. In general, however, a selection must be made which portrays the typical and commonplace as well as the rare. This process should take account of all aspects of the distribution of a particular class of monument, both in a national and regional context.

iii *Documentation*: the significance of a monument may be enhanced by the existence of records of previous investigation or, in the case of more recent monuments, by the supporting evidence of contemporary written records.

iv *Group value*: the value of a single monument (such as a field system) may be greatly enhanced by its association with related contemporary monuments (such as a settlement or cemetery) or with monuments of different periods. In some cases, it is preferable to protect the complete group of monuments, including associated and adjacent land, rather than to protect isolated monuments within the group.

v *Survival/Condition*: the survival of a monument's archaeological potential both above and below ground is a particularly important consideration and should be assessed in relation to its present condition and surviving features.

vi *Fragility/Vulnerability*: highly important archaeological evidence from some field monuments can be destroyed by a single ploughing or unsympathetic treatment; vulnerable monuments of this nature would particularly benefit from the statutory protection that scheduling confers. There are also existing standing structures of particular form or complexity whose value can again be severely reduced by neglect or careless treatment and which are similarly well suited by scheduled monument protection, even if these structures are already listed buildings.

vii *Diversity*: some monuments may be selected for scheduling because they possess a combination of high quality features, others because of a single important attribute.

viii *Potential*: on occasion, the nature of the evidence cannot be specified precisely but it may still be possible to document reasons anticipating its existence and importance and so to demonstrate the justification for scheduling. This is usually confined to sites rather than upstanding monuments.

## Appendix 12

### Glossary

<b>Context</b>	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
<b>Cut</b>	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
<b>Fill</b>	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
<b>Layer</b>	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Natural</b>	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
<b>Post-medieval</b>	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
<b>Prehistoric</b>	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
<b>Romano-British</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
<b>Saxon</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany



## Appendix 13

### The Archive

The archive consists of:

185	Context records
65	Scale drawing sheet
15	Context record sheet
14	Plan record sheet
15	Section record sheet
6	Photographic record sheet
1	Sample record sheet
15	Environmental sample sheet
8	Daily record sheets
1	Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services  
The Old School  
Cameron Street  
Heckington  
Sleaford  
Lincolnshire  
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum  
12 Friars Lane  
Lincoln  
LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number: 2000.47

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: RFR00

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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