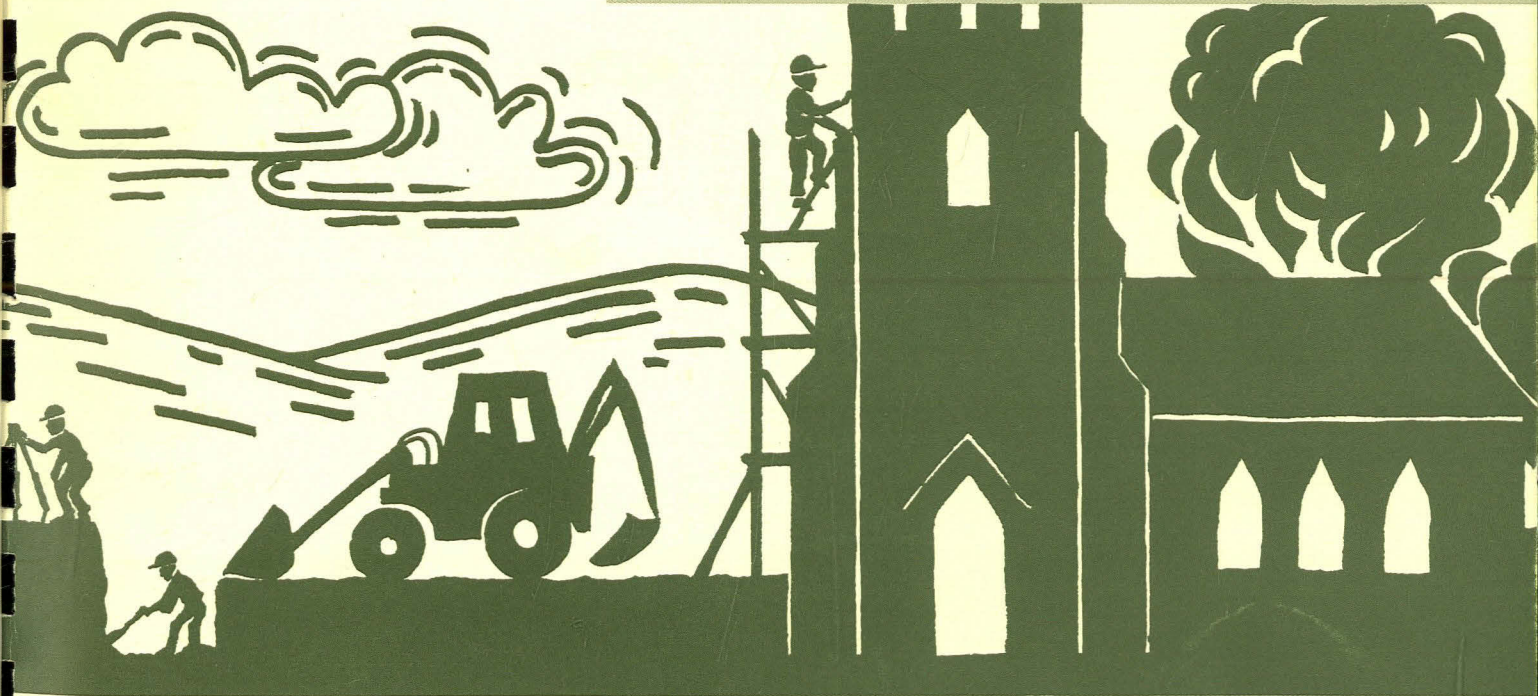


HERITAGE  
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ADVANCING LINCOLNSHIRE'S PAST



EVENT EL16400

SL11951  
SL11696

PRN 60480 ROMAN  
60481 PREHISTORIC

60482 EARLY MEDIEVAL

60536 UNDATED

**EVALUATION EXCAVATION OF  
RAF DIGBY AIRMEN'S MARRIED QUARTERS,  
ASHBY DE LA LAUNDE,  
LINCOLNSHIRE**

Work Undertaken For  
Frank Graham Consulting Engineers Ltd  
on behalf of the  
Ministry of Defence

October 1993

Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire  
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Charity No: 1001463. Company No: 2554738 (England)

DLS 93

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## 1 Summary

- 1.1 An evaluation was undertaken on land within the southern part of the camp at RAF Digby, Ashby de la Launde, in response to a proposal for redevelopment of the site. It was anticipated that the area could fall within a zone of Romano-British settlement. The development could affect related archaeological deposits and, in consequence, fourteen trenches were excavated to test for their presence and survival.
- 1.2 Redeposited flintwork of early Neolithic date was recovered, supporting previously discovered evidence for prehistoric exploitation of the area.
- 1.3 Romano-British activity was represented by a single pot sherd, probably indicating that the investigation area was peripheral to the known Roman period occupation sites in the vicinity, though not settled itself.
- 1.4 A single sherd of Early Saxon pottery provides a tentative indication of Anglo-Saxon activity, though of indeterminate nature, in the area.
- 1.5 Ditches and postholes of unknown age were identified thinly distributed across the site. Though no clear function could be identified for these, some of them may be connected with land parcelling.
- 1.6 Associated with the 20th century military usage of the site, active and disused services, together with demolished structural remains, were identified. Although widespread, there was little evidence that this modern activity had significantly reduced the height of natural or archaeological deposits.

## 2 Introduction

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in the area of the Airmen's Married Quarters, RAF Digby, Ashby de la Launde. This was in respect of a planning application, for a housing development, submitted by Frank Graham Consulting Engineers Ltd on behalf of the Ministry of Defence. The development would occur close to the major Roman highway, King Street, and in an extensive area of known prehistoric remains and Romano-British settlement. This work was undertaken in accordance with a brief set by the North Kesteven Community Archaeologist.
- 2.2 RAF Digby is located approximately 11km north of Sleaford (Fig. 1) at the junction of the civil parishes of Ashby de la Launde and Bloxholm, Rowston and Scopwick in North Kesteven district, Lincolnshire (Fig. 2). The soil type is the Marcham association, brown rendzinas developed on the oolitic limestone with, immediately to the east, Aswarby association gleyic brown calcareous earths (Soil Survey 1983). Mixed arable and dairy farming constitute the present land use in the area around Ashby de la Launde. Contours suggest that the investigation area lies at the head of a valley that carried an extinct tributary to the Beck, which presently rises in Scopwick village, about 2km to the northeast.

- 2.3 Artefacts and structures of prehistoric date are known from the general area surrounding RAF Digby. A site of Palaeolithic date, and a hand axe provide indications of early prehistoric activity in the vicinity. A later prehistoric presence is denoted by stray finds (15) of flint and stone axes of Neolithic and Bronze Age date. These artefacts are particularly concentrated in the parishes of Ashby de la Launde (8 examples) and Rowston (6). Flint tools of similar date have also been recovered from the former parish. Burials of presumed Bronze Age date, identified as earthworks or as cropmarks recorded on aerial photographs, occur across the area, with higher numbers in Ashby de la Launde and Scopwick parishes. From the same two parishes, Iron Age pottery has been recovered, and enclosures identified as cropmarks are potentially of Iron Age or Romano-British date. One such example is located less than half a kilometre to the northwest of the RAF camp (North Kesteven reference 53.11).
- 2.4 Occupation of the general area in the Romano-British period is indicated by a more significant body of evidence. The major Roman highway, King Street, passes within half a kilometre to the east and northeast of the RAF camp, and separate scatters of Romano-British pottery have been recovered from approximately one and one-and-a-half kilometres east of the camp, with a third scatter about 2km to the east-northeast. Other artefacts have also been recovered within 2km to the southwest of the RAF station.
- 2.5 Romano-British buildings are known at the villages of Ashby de la Launde, one-and-a-half kilometres southeast of the RAF camp, and Scopwick, 2km to the northeast. Major Romano-British settlement remains have been discovered close to Bloxholm village, 3km southwest of the military installation.
- 2.6 The stray find of a hanging bowl escutcheon of late Roman or early Saxon date from Ashby de la Launde village provides the only evidence for potential Anglo-Saxon activity in the area.
- 2.7 Medieval and later remains are generally located in or close to the present villages and other settlement foci. A map of 1789 (Lincolnshire Archives Par. 23/1; Fig. 3) reveals that much of the parish of Ashby de la Launde was enclosed by that date. Additionally, the area of quarrying depicted immediately east of the airmen's quarters on recent Ordnance Survey maps was named Stonepit Close on the 18th century parish map. Comparison with present Ordnance Survey maps also reveals that the land parcelling depicted on the plan of 1789 remained essentially unchanged to the present day, with no evidence of field sub-division. Furthermore, the proposed development area (the southern part of the RAF camp) is located entirely within the limits of the field named 'Second' on the parish map.
- 2.8 RAF Digby was first used as a relief landing ground in the First World War and by mid-1917 the site was enlarged to accommodate cadets. Aircraft sheds and domestic facilities were built, the aerodrome being officially opened in 1918. Construction of housing commenced on the northern side of the proposed development area, as revealed by an aerial photograph of the station taken in the late 1920s (Field 1993, Fig 3), and progressed southwards. Demolition of some of this housing, accompanied by subsequent landscaping, was undertaken in the late 1980s (Field 1993).

### 3 Aims

- 3.1 The aims of the evaluation were to locate archaeological deposits and determine, if present, their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability, documentation, quality of setting and amenity value. The purpose of this identification and assessment of deposits was to establish their significance, since this would make it possible to recommend an appropriate treatment that could then be integrated with any proposed development programme.

### 4 Methods

- 4.1 Fourteen trenches were opened (Fig. 4) and selected deposits partially or fully excavated by hand to determine their nature and retrieve artefacts. The trenches were located to provide sample coverage and to evaluate the potential survival of archaeological deposits and features across the entire development area. To examine the level of destruction caused by construction, six of the fourteen trenches were located on, or immediately adjacent to, the locations of past RAF structures. A fifteenth trench, requested in the Brief for Excavation set by the North Kesteven Community Archaeologist, was found to be located in an area that had been subject to recent landscaping, being mounded up to 2m high above the surrounding ground surface, and which also encompassed the modern Guardhouse of the RAF camp. Consequently, and with the agreement of the North Kesteven Community Archaeologist, work on this particular trench was cancelled.
- 4.2 Four of the fourteen trenches were 10 x 2m in extent, and ten were 5 x 2m. All were opened by machine, then cleaned and excavated by hand. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire practice.

### 5 Analysis

- 5.1 Finds from the deposits identified in the evaluation were examined and a period date was assigned where possible. A stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was produced and phased. A total of three phases was identified during the evaluation:

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Undated archaeological deposits
Phase 3	Modern deposits

#### 5.2 Phase 1 Natural deposits

- 5.2.1 Natural deposits, consisting of a silty soil with frequent small limestone fragments, were encountered in twelve of the fourteen trenches, the exceptions being trenches 3 and 14. The surface of these deposits sloped naturally from *c.* 30.4m OD at the southwest limit of the investigation area, down to *c.* 29.5m OD at the northeast,

though they rose again to 30.7m OD at the extreme northwest.

- 5.2.2 A number of irregular features, (21, 22, 39, 45), apparently cutting the limestone brash, and filled with brown sandy silts (20, 38, 44) were observed and investigated. This material was indistinguishable from, and in places contiguous with, the subsoil (8, 16, 19, 26, 33, 36, 47, 50, 54, 71, 78, 101, 103, 104) which occurred patchily on the surface of the brash (Fig. 5). These features are considered to be natural in origin.

### 5.3 Phase 2 Undated Archaeological deposits

- 5.3.1 A flint blade of probable early Neolithic date (50) and a sherd of Early Saxon pottery (47) were recovered from some of the subsoil layers. Such artefacts suggest a human presence during the formation of these deposits.
- 5.3.2 Several small, shallow circular features (28, Fig. 6; 43, 58) filled with greyish sandy silt (29, 42, 57) were observed cutting the natural brash or the subsoil. Filled with similar grey sandy silt (11), a shallow, sub-rectangular feature (12) that cut the subsoil was revealed in trench 4. These are interpreted as postholes, possibly robbed of their posts and allowed to fill with silt. No artefacts were directly associated with these features.
- 5.3.3 Revealed in the corner of trench 9, and apparently aligned on the location of the posthole (58) but terminating approximately 0.7m to the west, was a large, apparently linear or sub-rectangular feature (56), filled with brown sandy silt (55). Oriented east-west, with a butt-end to the east, this is considered to represent a ditch or gully (Fig.7). The locational arrangements of the posthole and ditch would suggest that they are related in function. No artefacts were directly associated with these features, though a fragment of the handle of a black-glazed pottery vessel of 18th/19th century date was recovered from this trench.
- 5.3.4 In trench 13, one side of a large, north-south oriented linear feature (83) was revealed cutting the subsoil (Fig.8). At least 1.75m wide and 0.8m deep, this was filled by alternate rubbly (80, 82) and silty (79, 81) deposits. This feature is interpreted as a ditch, with stages of deliberate backfilling, represented by the rubble deposits, interposed and terminated by, episodes of natural silting. No artefacts were directly associated with this feature or its fills.

### 5.4 Phase 3 Modern deposits (20th century)

- 5.4.1 A number of sub-rectangular (5) and sub-circular (3, 9, Fig. 9; 13, 40) features, none more than *c.* 1m across, were revealed cutting natural. Filled with mixed soils (4, 6, 10, 14, 41) which contained plastic and other modern materials including a halfpenny coin dated 1917, these are interpreted as recent rubbish pits or robbed and backfilled postholes associated with the use of the RAF camp.
- 5.4.2 Two north-south linear features (52, 72), neither more than *c.* 0.5m across, were encountered cutting the subsoil (Fig. 10). These were filled with limestone rubble (51, 68) or pebbly soil with inclusions of brick and tile (73). The function of these features



is unclear but there are considered possibly to represent old service trenches that had been emptied and backfilled.

- 5.4.3 Further north-south narrow linear features (25, 91) were observed cutting the subsoil. These contained, respectively, a plastic-sheathed cable (24) and a steel pipe (92), together with various mixed deposits (23, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100). These represent service trenches associated with the RAF camp.
- 5.4.4 In trench 5, apparently lapping up against limestone rubble deposits (61, 62), was a group of silt (69, 102) and sand (64) layers that provided a moderately level surface which was cut by an east-west feature (65) that contained the footings of a brick wall (66, Fig. 9). To the south of this wall was a silty sand layer (63), and to the north was a rubbly soil (67). Overlying the sand layer (63) was a rubbly sand (60). Together, these contexts are interpreted as constituting construction layers (63, 64, 67, 69, 102) associated with the erection of a brick wall (66), and a dumped deposit (60), perhaps related to demolition of the brick structure.
- 5.4.5 Mixed deposits containing frequent fragments of brick and tarmac (31, 77) were encountered just below the topsoil layers in trenches 1 and 13 respectively. These are interpreted as debris resulting from previous demolition activities at the RAF camp.
- 5.4.2 Turf and brown silty soils (1, 7, 15, 18, 30, 32, 34, 35, 46, 49, 53, 59, 70, 75, 76, 84, 93) provided the uppermost deposits across the entire evaluation area. These deposits constitute the modern topsoil.

## 6 Discussion

- 6.1 Fragmented brashy limestone occurred as natural deposits across the area (phase 1). These dipped from the southwest to east, and also to the north, before rising again at the northern limit of the investigation area.
- 6.2 A small quantity of redeposited flintwork of possible early Neolithic date was recovered. This material supports earlier discoveries of artefacts, settlements and ritual remains that indicate exploitation of the area in the prehistoric era (Field 1993).
- 6.3 A single sherd of Romano-British grey coarseware pottery provides the only distinct evidence of the Roman period. However, with the known concentration of Romano-British activity in the general vicinity, this single artefact may have been introduced into the area as part of manuring scatter in the Roman period.
- 6.4 Potentially of greater significance is the sherd of Early Saxon pottery. Considerably more rare than Romano-British ceramics, such material may betray the presence of otherwise unidentified Anglo-Saxon activity in the immediate vicinity. However, the sherd is of small size and undiagnostic to the function, whether settlement or funerary, which it served.
- 6.5 A series of undated, isolated postholes (phase 2) may represent timber structures of

uncertain form and function, though no floor surfaces or other occupation remains were associated with these. Alternatively, they may be fenceposts and signify land parcelling.

- 6.6 The association of an apparently butt-ended ditch and posthole (trench 9) possibly also represents land demarcation, perhaps a field boundary and gate post.
- 6.7 A large north-south oriented ditch in trench 13 is of indeterminate function. Although only partially observed, the feature appears to be excessively large for a field ditch, though a higher status demarcator, such as an estate or farm boundary, or enclosure ditch, is possible.
- 6.8 The land parcelling depicted on the 1789 map of the parish (Fig 3) has remained largely unchanged, with no sub-division of the fields. Furthermore, the domestic occupation areas of the RAF station are entirely enclosed within one of the fields depicted on the parish map. Therefore, the archaeological features revealed by the evaluation signify some indeterminate activity that most probably pre-dates 1789.
- 6.9 Remains of active and disused services, construction and demolition deposits, brick walls and robbed fence-post holes associated with the military establishment (phase 3) were revealed widely spread across the area. However, with the exception of two trenches, there was limited evidence that activities connected with the construction and use of RAF station had substantially reduced the level of natural deposits.
- 6.10 Recent deposits comprised the present ground surface which was provided by turf.

## 7 Assessment of significance

- 7.1 For assessment of significance the *Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling ancient monuments* has been used (DoE 1990, Annex 4; see Appendix 3).
- 7.2 **Period**
  - 7.2.1 No clear evidence of the date of the pre-RAF features was identified by the evaluation. Furthermore, the definitive functions served by the archaeological remains encountered were not established, hence it is not possible to say if they are characteristic of any particular period.
- 7.3 **Rarity:**
  - 7.3.1 Individual elements as identified on the evaluation, such as postholes and ditches, are not in themselves rare. Similarly, limited quantities of flintwork and Romano-British pottery are not scarce in this region.
  - 7.3.2 The sherd of Early Saxon pottery is a rare local find of material of this date, the only previous discovery of the same period from the general area being a hanging bowl escutcheon.

7.4 **Documentation:**

7.4.1 Previous archaeological study of this area has been limited to the documentation of stray finds of artefacts and sites discovered during agricultural or construction activities, together with recording of cropmarks observed on aerial photographs. A summary synopsis (Field 1993) of this previously obtained information was produced prior to the archaeological curator's request for the archaeological evaluation here reported.

7.4.2 There are no appropriate historical surveys of the area encompassing the parishes of Ashby de la Launde and Bloxholm, Rowston and Scopwick.

7.5 **Group value:**

7.5.1 Due to their generally thin clustering, uncertain date and indeterminate functions, the archaeological features have low group value within the extent of the evaluation area. Elsewhere in the neighbouring parishes, numerous other sites and finds of various dates are known. By virtue of possible associations with these, the group value of the monument is, in local terms, potentially high.

7.6 **Survival/Condition:**

7.6.1 Archaeological deposits, where present, are largely undamaged by later disturbance. Additionally, limited reduction of the surface of natural deposits, in spite of extensive modern construction, was identified.

7.6.2 There was no evidence for the survival of environmental remains, either by waterlogging or charring.

7.7 **Fragility/Vulnerability**

7.7.1 Construction as part of the proposed redevelopment at the RAF camp threatens surviving archaeological deposits. Although the depth of deposits overlying archaeological and natural levels was largely sufficient to preserve archaeological remains from damage by previous construction regimes, the same cannot be assumed for any future building activities.

7.8 **Diversity**

7.8.1 Evidence examined by the evaluation had limited diversity, being restricted to postholes and ditches of uncertain function and date.

7.8.2 Previous discoveries in the general area have identified aspects of prehistoric occupation and ceremonial functions, Romano-British settlement, including buildings and roads, and medieval and later activity of varied nature.

7.9 **Potential:**

7.9.1 Potential for further clarifying discoveries remains high. Isolated archaeological features have been recorded and associations with other remains can be expected. Furthermore, the extent, function and date of the features identified may be revealed by further examinations.

7.9.2 Extensive archaeological remains of a variety of dates and functions are known from

the general area, but apparently absent from the site of the RAF camp. Discoveries made on the evaluation suggest that this may be due to limited archaeological study of the specific area, by virtue of the recent use and nature of the site, rather than because of a genuine lack of utilisation of the area in the past. Further examination may clarify whether archaeological activity is genuinely low-level or more widespread than presently known.

## **8 Conclusions**

- 8.1 This evaluation identified the presence of thinly distributed archaeological deposits of unknown date in a generally good state of preservation. These included land dividing elements. Possible timber structures were also tentatively identified. However, as undated it is possible that these features were related to the construction and use of the RAF camp. Flint artefacts supplement the well-established evidence for prehistoric exploitation of the general area. A sherd of Early Saxon pottery provides a possible indication of otherwise unidentified Anglo-Saxon activity in the area. Occupation of the site by a military establishment commenced in the first quarter of this century and has continued with alterations and additions to the present day. In spite of the concentration of buildings and associated services, the investigation revealed that, particularly in areas of least disturbance, damage to archaeological and natural deposits was less than had hitherto been suggested.

## **9 Acknowledgements**

- 9.1 Thanks are due to Ken Philip, Frank Graham Consulting Engineers Ltd. This report was edited by Steve Haynes, who also coordinated the evaluation, and Dave Start. Dr G A Knight (Lincolnshire Archives) permitted reproduction of the section of the shby de la Launde parish map. Advice on finds was given by Hilary Healey (ceramics); Bill Bee, Tom Lane and Dale Trimble commented on the flint assemblage. Access to the County Sites and Monuments Record was provided by Ian George of the Archaeology Section, City and County Museum, Lincoln. Examination of information held in the relevant parish files was permitted by Nicola Nuttall, the North Kesteven Community Archaeologist

## **10 Personnel**

Project Manager: Steve Haynes

Supervisor: Paul Cope-Faulkner

Site Assistants: Mike Garrett, Jim MacDonald, Chris Moulis, Simon Poole, Fiona Walker, Steve Williams

Finds Processing and Illustration: Denise Buckley

Post-excavation Analyst: Gary Taylor

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Lindsey Archaeological Services

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(Southampton)

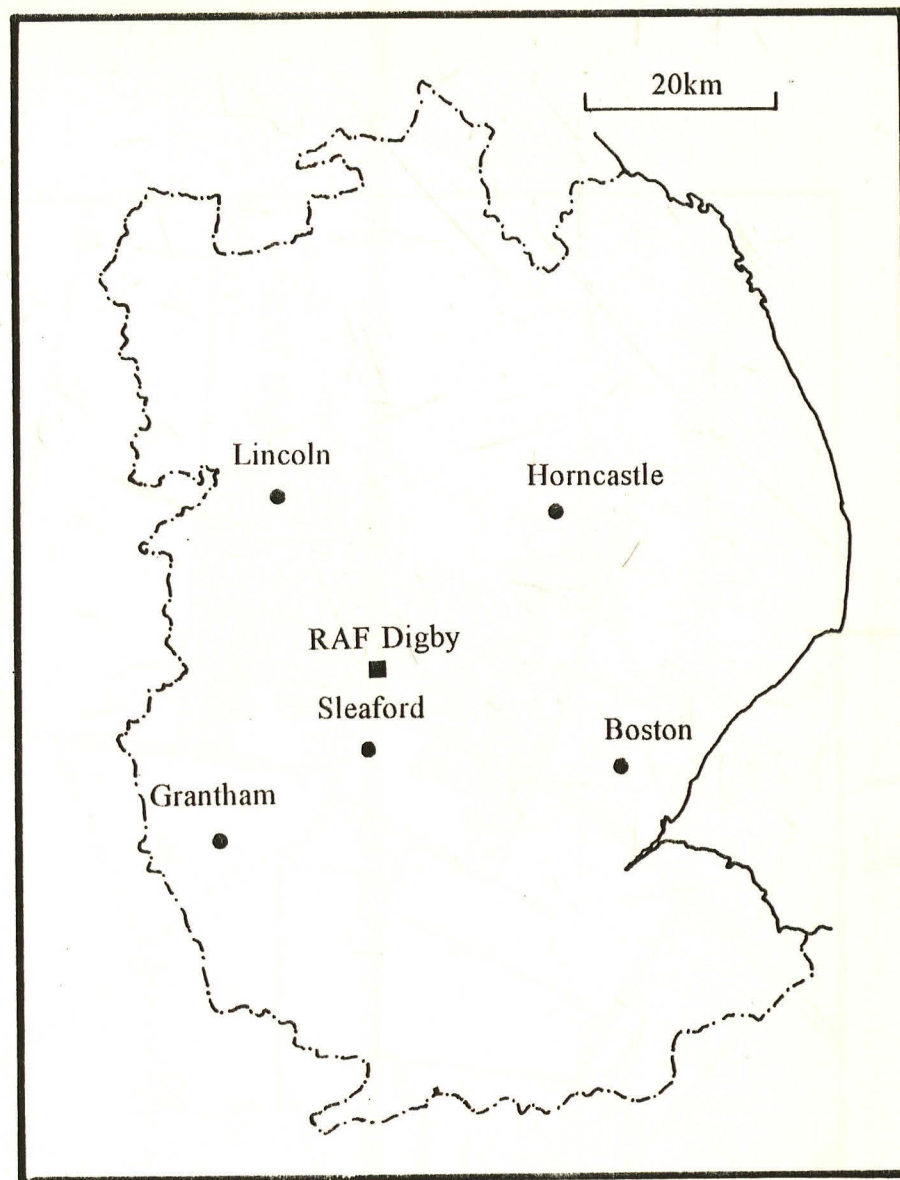
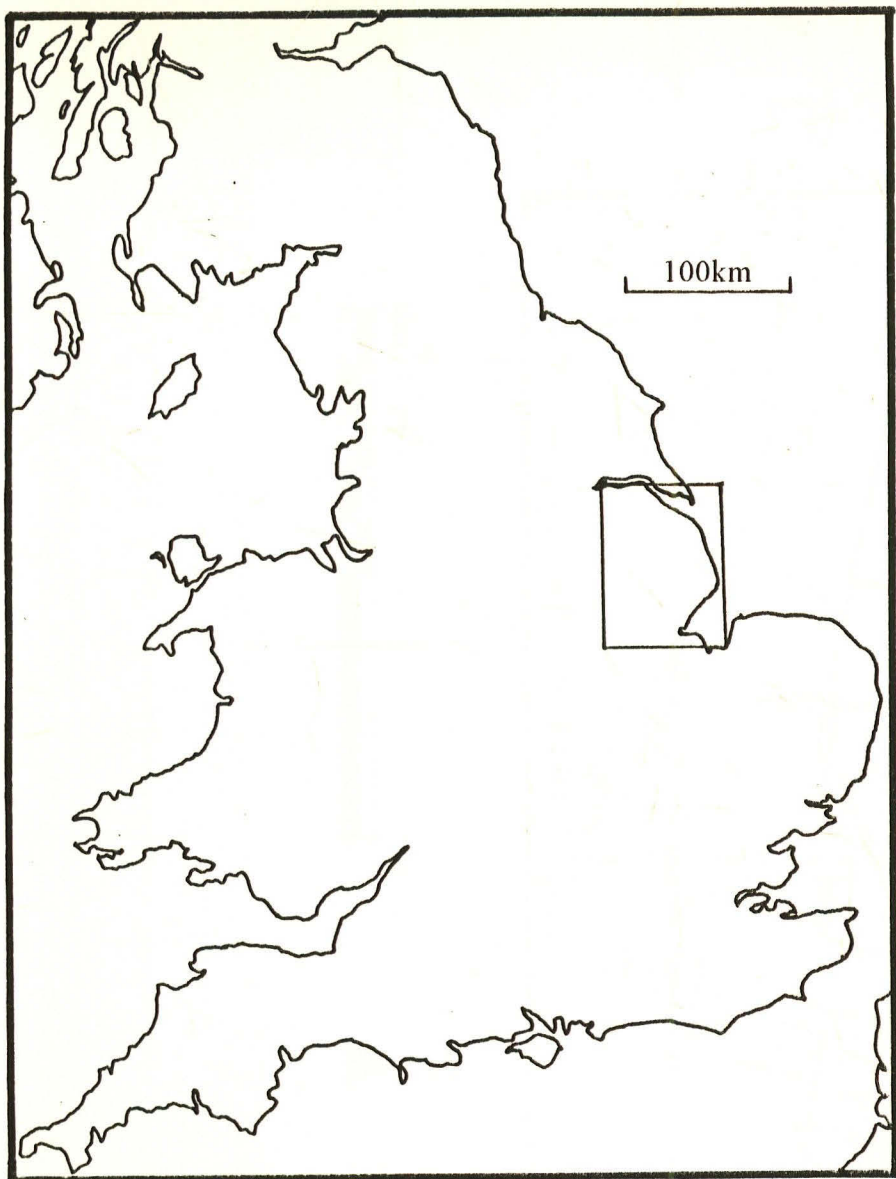
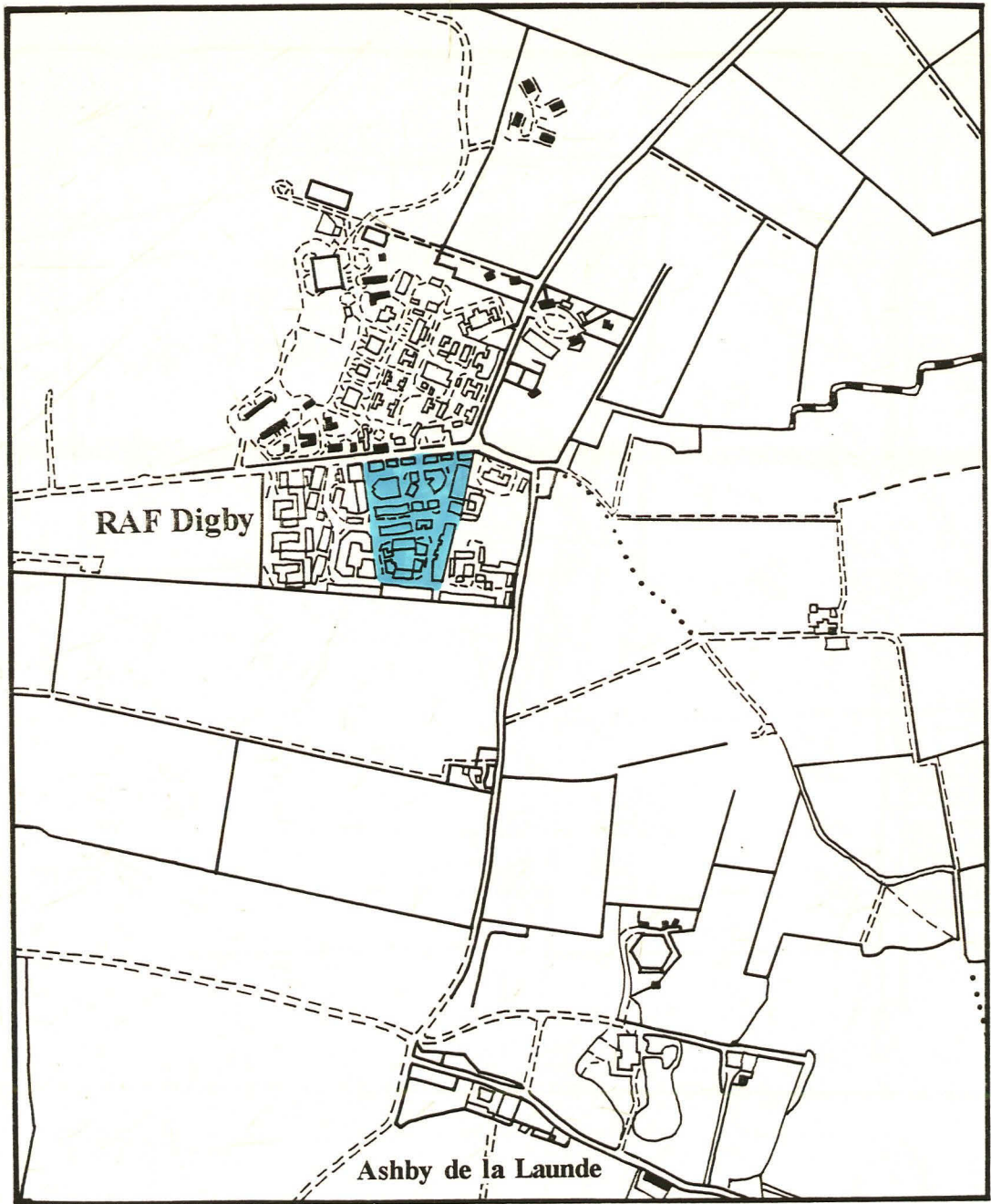


FIG. 1 GENERAL LOCATION PLAN

Fig. 2 SITE LOCATION PLAN



0m

1km

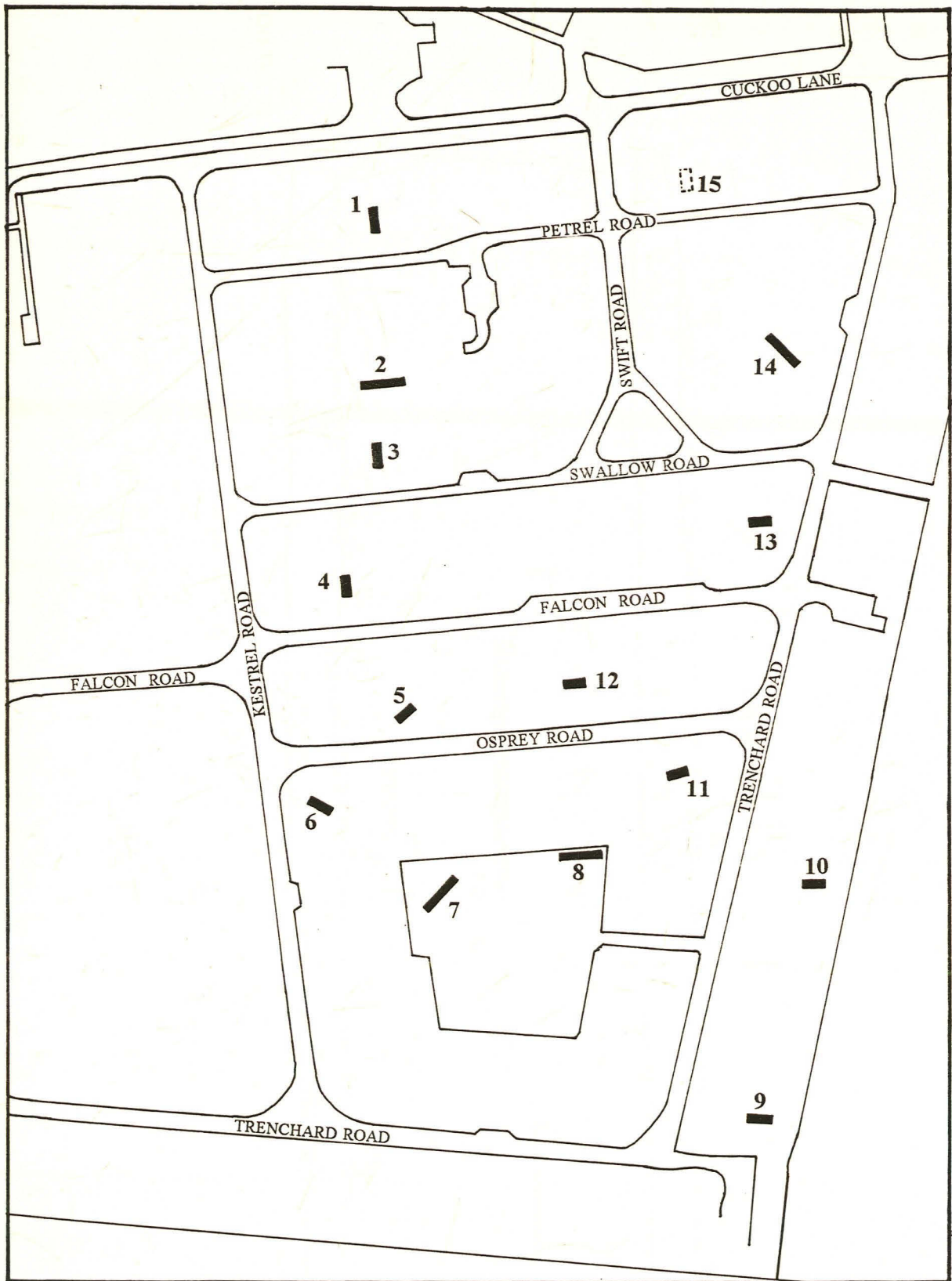
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Fig. 4 TRENCH LOCATION PLAN



0m 100m



-  TRENCHES
-  CANCELLED TRENCH

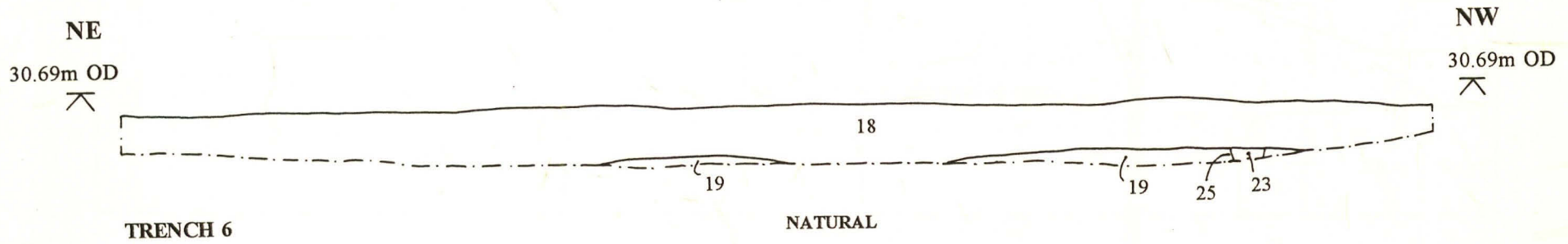
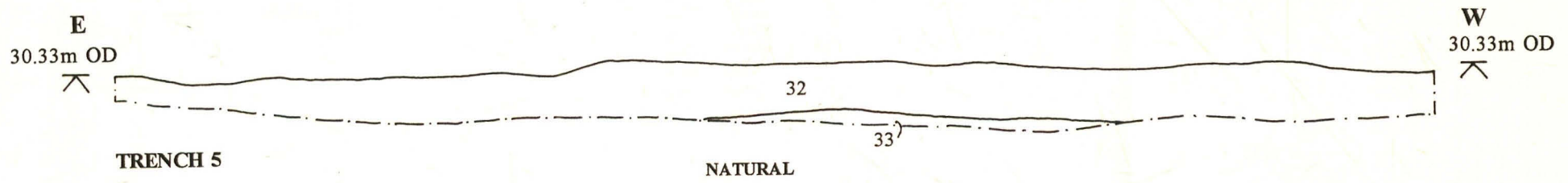


Fig. 5 SECTIONS OF TRENCHES 5 AND 6

Fig. 6 TRENCH 1 PLAN  
SHOWING POSTHOLE (28)

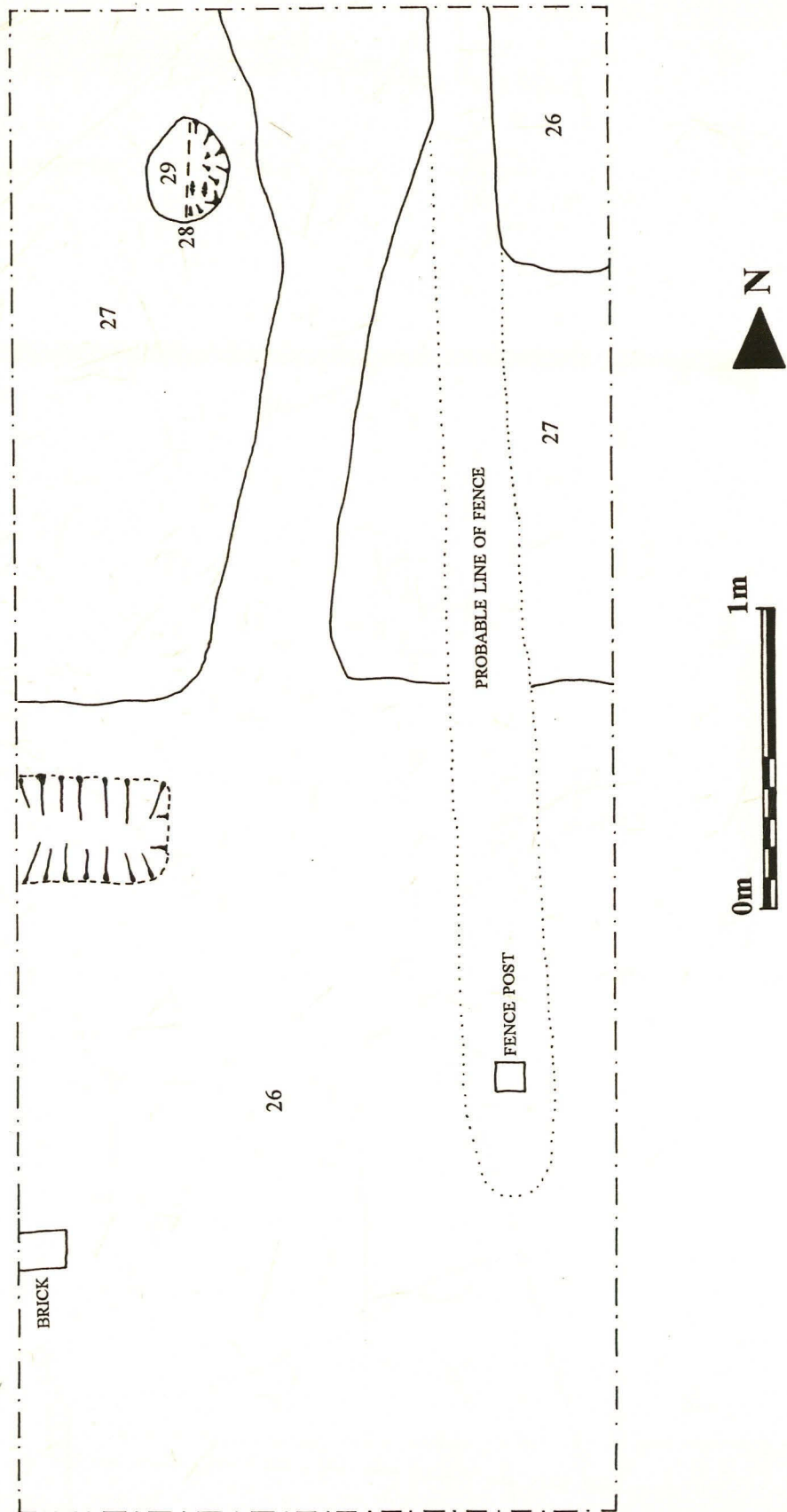


Fig. 7 TRENCH 9 PLAN  
SHOWING GULLY AND POSTHOLE

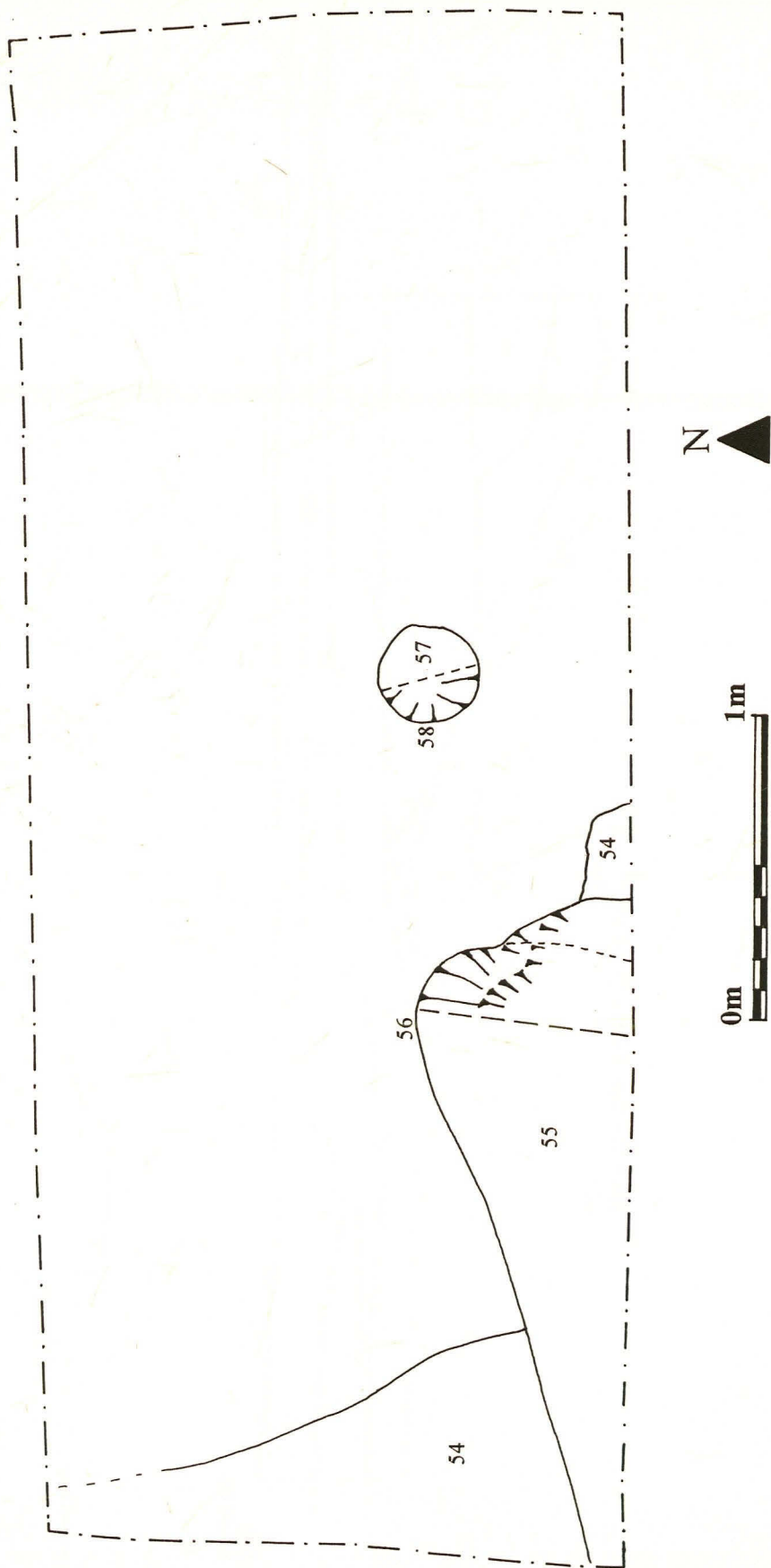
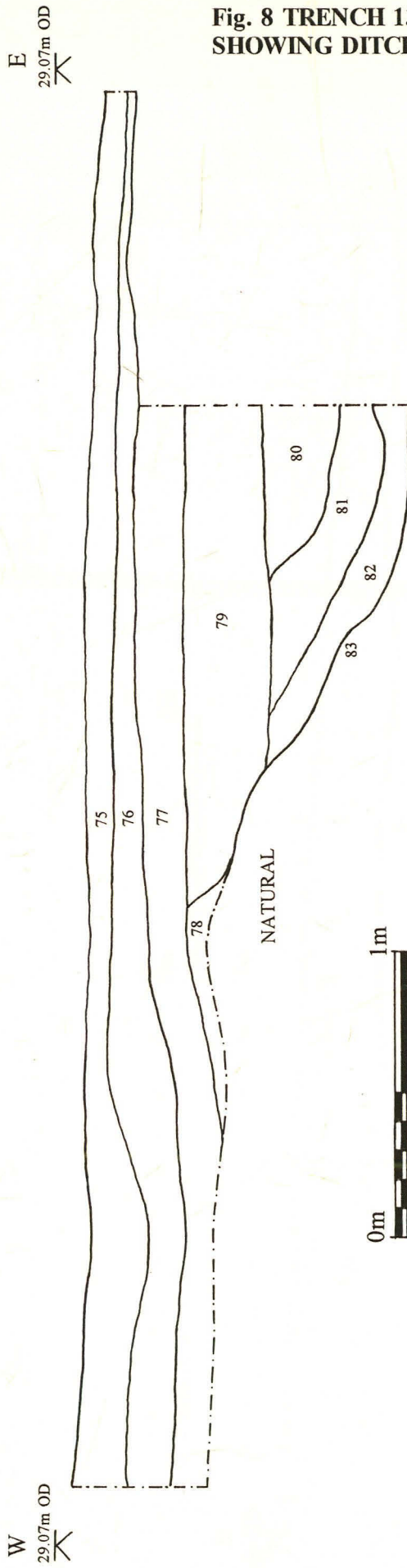


Fig. 8 TRENCH 13 SECTION  
SHOWING DITCH



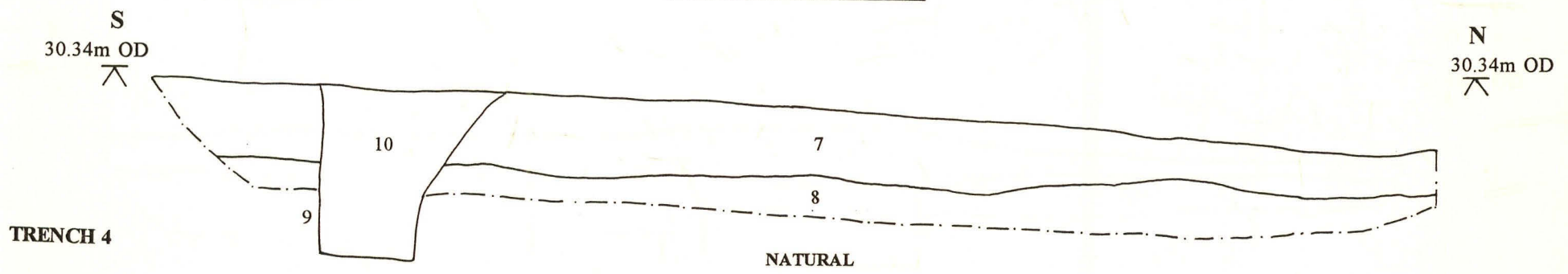
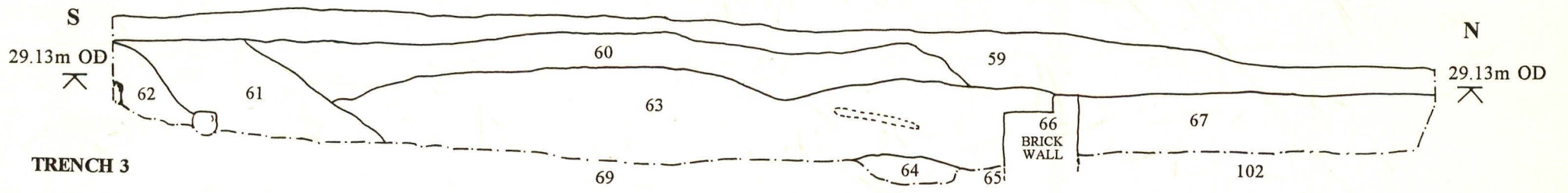


Fig. 9 SECTIONS OF TRENCHES 3 AND 4

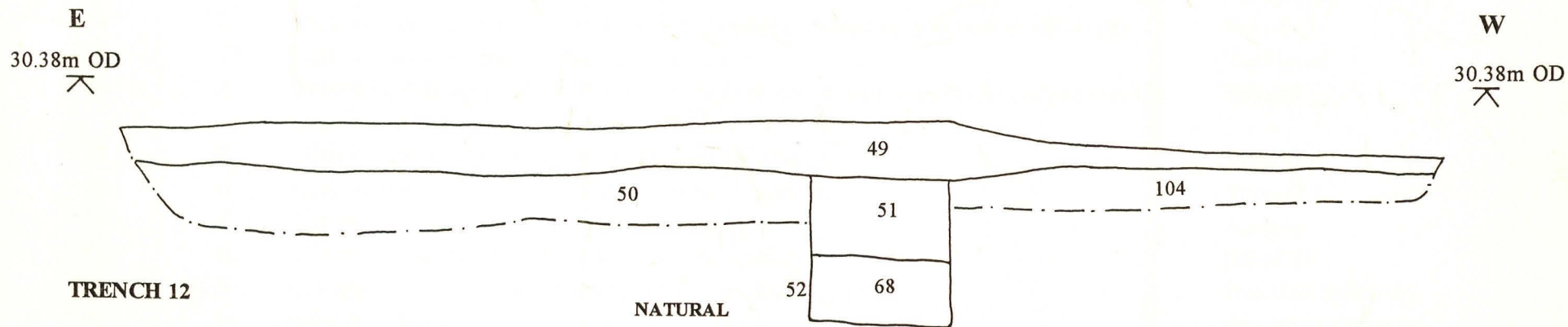
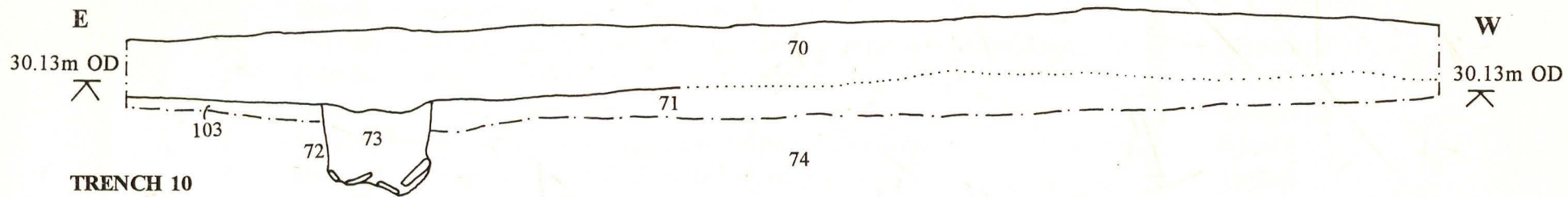


Fig. 10 SECTIONS OF TRENCHES 10 AND 12

APPENDIX 1

RAF DIGBY CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

NUMBER	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
1	2	Dark brown sandy clay with occasional small stones and building material.	Topsoil
2	2	Brown-red sandy silt frequent small stones.	Subsoil
3	2	Cut feature roughly semi circular in plan 0.60m north south and 0.20m deep.	Modern pit
4	2	Dark brown grey silty sand with occasional limestone fragments.	Fill of 3
5	2	Irregular shaped cut 1.00m north-south.	Modern pit
6	2	Medium brown silty clay with fragmented limestone fragments.	Fill of 5
7	4	Dark brown clayey silt with occasional limestone fragments.	Topsoil
8	4	Red brown clayey sand with limestone fragments.	Subsoil
9	4	Sub-circular cut 0.50m north south.	Post hole
10	4	Grey brown sandy silt with occasional limestone fragments.	Fill of 9
11	4	Grey sandy silt	Fill of 12
12	4	Cut ovoid in plan 0.75m east west and 50mm deep.	Possible of natural origin
13	1	Cut circular in plan 1m in diameter and 0.40m deep.	Modern pit
14	2	Dark brown sand clay with fragmented limestone fragments and very small stones.	Fill of 13
15	7	Dark brown silty sand with occasional stones.	Turf layer
16	7	Yellow brown sandy silt with rounded pebbles occasional coal, brick, cement and tile fragments.	Subsoil
17	7	Light red-brown sandy clay with frequent small stones.	Subsoil
18	6	Dark grey brown sandy silt with limestone fragments.	Topsoil
19	6	Red-brown sandy silt with limestone fragments.	Subsoil
20	6	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional small stones.	Fill of 21
21	6	Cut feature "crescent shaped" in plan 0.33m deep.	Function unknown
22	6	Irregular shaped cut 0.20m deep.	Function unknown
23	6	Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional small stones and limestone fragments.	Fill of 25
24	6	Black sheathed cable.	Service cable
25	6	Linear cut 1.60m wide and 60mm deep.	Cut for services trench



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26	1	Reddish brown sandy silt with pebbles and occasional modern debris.	Subsoil
27	1	Yellow brown limestone fragments.	Natural deposit
28	1	Sub circular cut 0.37m east west and 80mm deep.	Possible post hole cut
29	1	Grey brown sandy silt occasional pebbles.	Fill of 43
30	1	Grey brown sandy silt with angular pebbles.	Topsoil
31	1	Yellow brown sand with tarmac, brick and pebbles.	Building debris
32	5	Dark brown clay silt with occasional limestone fragments	Topsoil
33	5	Red brown sandy silt with limestone fragments.	Subsoil
34	8	Grey brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles.	Topsoil
35	8	Red brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles .	Topsoil
36	8	Orange brown clayey sand with occasional limestone pebbles.	Natural deposit
37	8	Yellow white limestone fragments.	Natural deposit
38	8	Orange brown clayey sand with occasional limestone pebbles.	Subsoil
39	8	Cut bowl shaped in section 0.42m wide and 0.15m deep.	Natural feature
40	8	Grey brown sandy silt in equal proportions to limestone fragments.	Fill of 41
41	8	Cut bowl shaped in section 0.72m wide and 0.17m deep.	Function unclear
42	8	Grey brown sandy clay with frequent limestone fragments.	Fill of 43
43	8	Cut bowl shaped in section 0.35m wide and 0.11m deep.	Post hole
44	8	Orange brown clayey sand with occasional limestone pebbles.	Subsoil
45	8	Cut feature 0.57m east west and 0.37 east west and 0.10m deep.	Natural deposit
46	11	Dark brown sandy silt with rounded pebbles.	Topsoil
47	11	Red brown sandy silt with occasional rounded stones .	Subsoil
48	11	Red brown clay silt with frequent angular pebbles.	Natural deposit
49	12	Dark brown clayey silt with occasional limestone fragments.	Topsoil
50	12	Red brown sandy silt with frequent chalk flecks and moderate chalk flecks.	Subsoil
51	12	Light brown sandy limestone fragments.	Fill of 52
52	12	Linear cut 2.00 m north south 0.50m wide and 0.60m deep.	Modern cut
53	9	Grey brown sandy silt with limestone fragments.	Topsoil
54	9	Red brown sandy silt.	Subsoil
55	9	Dark yellow brown sandy silt with limestone fragments.	Fill of 56

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56	9	Cut linear in plan 1.90m long 0.66m wide and 0.30m deep.	Purpose unknown
57	9	Dark grey brown sandy silt with angular limestone fragments.	Fill of 58
58	9	Cut circular in plan 0.32m in diameter and 70mm deep.	Post hole
59	3	Top soil	Topsoil
60	3	Dark brown sandy silt with limestone fragments.	Demolition deposit
61	3	Dark brown sandy silt with fragmented limestone.	Dumped deposit
62	3	Dark brown sandy clay with small limestone fragments.	Dumped deposit
63	3	Brown sandy silt with occasional clay lumps and limestone fragments.	Dumped deposit
64	3	Yellow/light brown sand and fragmented limestone.	Dumped deposit
65	3	Cut.	Foundation trench
66	3	Brick wall surviving to 3 courses high	Modern wall
67	3	Dark brown sandy silt with limestone rubble.	Dumped deposit
68	12	Brown sandy silt with considerable quantities of limestone rubble.	Fill of 52
69	3	Red brown sandy silt with occasional limestone fragments.	Bedding layer
70	10	Grey brown sandy silt with pebbles.	Topsoil
71	10	Yellow brown sandy silt with occasional very small stones.	Subsoil
72	10	Cut linear in plan 2.0m north south 0.44m wide and 0.30m deep.	Cut function unknown
73	10	Grey brown sandy silt with small pebbles and occasional brick and tile fragments.	Fill of 72
74	10	Yellow brown limestone fragments.	Natural deposit
75	13	Dark brown sandy silt with occasional limestone fragments.	Topsoil
76	13	Red brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and small pebbles.	Subsoil
77	13	Dark grey brown clay silt with moderate charcoal flecks and frequent limestone and glass fragments.	Demolition debris
78	13	Red brown sandy silt with frequent limestone fragments.	Subsoil
79	13	Red brown clay sand with frequent limestone fragments.	Fill of 83
80	13	Brown silty sand with considerable quantities of limestone fragments.	Fill of 83
81	13	Light red brown sandy silt with moderate chalk flecks.	Fill of 83
82	13	Light brown sandy limestone rubble.	Fill of 83
83	13	Linear cut 2.00m north south 1.85m wide and 0.80m deep.	Ditch
84	14	Dark grey brown sandy silt with small stones and limestone fragments.	Topsoil

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85	14	Dark grey brown sandy silt with limestone fragments.	Fill of 91
86	14	Red brown sandy silt with small pebbles and limestone fragments.	Fill of 91
87	14	Dark brown sandy silt with limestone fragments and occasional fragments of coal and slate	Fill of 91
88	14	Dark grey sandy silt with moderate amounts of charcoal flecks and occasional limestone and concrete fragments.	Fill of 89
89	14	Irregular shaped cut 0.76m x 0.82m and 0.48m deep.	Possibly a pit
90	14	Brown sandy silt with frequent limestone fragments.	Fill of 91
91	14	Linear cut 10m long 0.30m wide and 0.32m.	Cut for service pipe
92	14	Steel pipe.	Ill of 91
93	14	Yellow brown sandy silt with occasional stones.	Topsoil
94	14	Black grey and yellow brown clayey sand with frequent charcoal fragments and occasional limestone fragments.	Fill of 91
95	14	Yellow brown sandy silt with occasional small stones and frequent clay patches.	Fill of 91
96	14	Brown clayey silt with frequent small pebbles.	Fill of 91
97	14	Yellow brown clayey sand with frequent small stones.	Fill of 91
98	14	Grey brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal lumps, slate, sandstone and cement fragments and small stones.	Fill of 91
99	14	Light yellow brown with grey brown mottle silty sand with occasional limestone fragments.	Fill of 91
100	14	Red brown clayey sand with very small stones and charcoal fragments.	Fill of 91
101	14	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional coal flecks and limestone fragments.	Subsoil
102	3	Red brown sandy silt with occasional limestone fragments.	Bedding layer
103	10	Yellow brown sandy silt with occasional very small stones.	Subsoil
104	12	Red brown sandy silt with frequent chalk flecks and moderate chalk flecks.	Subsoil

## APPENDIX 2

## RAF DIGBY ARTEFACT CATALOGUE

TRENCH	CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
1	Unstratified	Bullet
2	6	1917 Half penny
5	32	1939 Half penny
7	Unstratified	Abraded Roman grey ware sherd Limestone roof tile
9	Unstratified	18/19 century black glazed vessel handle
11	Unstratified	Brick/tile fragment Broken flint blade probably Early Neolithic
11	47	Sherd of Early Saxon pottery
12	50	Flint blade probably Early Neolithic

### Appendix 3

#### 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 4 The archive

The archive consists of:

- 1 Site diary
- 104 Context records
- 14 Photographic records
- 36 Scale drawings
- 1 Boxes of finds
- 1 Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Heritage Lincolnshire  
28 Boston Road  
Sleaford  
Lincolnshire  
NG34 7ET

City and County Museum, Lincoln Accession Number: 49.93