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Event LI1579
Source LI1835

EVALUATION EXCAVATION ON LAND NEXT TO THE WATER PUMPING STATION, BRANSTON BOOTHS, LINCOLNSHIRE

Work Undertaken For
Anglian Water Services Ltd

October 1993

Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire
28 Boston Road,
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Charity No: 1001463. Company No: 2554738 (England)

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1 Summary

An evaluation was undertaken on land adjacent to a water pumping station at Branston Booths, in response to a proposal for redevelopment of the site. It was anticipated that, by virtue of the proximity of the Car Dyke Roman waterway and several Romano-British sites and findspots in the vicinity, the area could fall within a zone of Romano-British activity. The development could affect related deposits and, in consequence, six trenches were excavated to test for their presence and survival.

A quantity of flintwork of late Mesolithic date was recovered from a small, isolated pit, suggesting low level, perhaps transient, prehistoric activity in the vicinity. No Roman material or contemporary features were encountered. An early, perhaps medieval, phase of agriculture was represented by the bases of furrows and a single posthole. Agricultural activity of relatively modern date was indicated by ploughmarks, land drains and the present topsoil which had recently been set-aside from arable land.

2 Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken north of Branston Booths (NGR TF 057 696 centre), on land adjacent to a water pumping station. This was in respect of a planning application submitted by Anglian Water Services Ltd for a proposed water treatment plant, and in accordance with a brief set by the North Kesteven Community Archaeologist. Sections of the Car Dyke, the Romano-British waterway which is close to the evaluation site, are designated as a scheduled ancient monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. The proximity of the Roman waterway, together with numerous sites and finds of the same period, suggested that the evaluation area may fall within a zone of Romano-British activity.

Branston Booths pumping station is located 8km east of Lincoln in the civil parish of Heighington, North Kesteven district, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The site lies at the western edge of the Witham valley, close to the scarp of the Lincoln Edge. Upper Jurassic Kellaways beds, overlain by Oxford Clay provide the solid geology. The investigation area is located on soils of the Adventurers' 2 association, earthy eutro-amorphous soils, immediately adjacent to their boundary with the Beccles 1 association, typical stagnogley soils (Soil Survey 1983). These soils are developed on glaciofluvial sands (Hodge et al. 1984, 86). The area to the north and east of the evaluation area is crossed by the River Witham, approximately one and a half kilometres distant.

The water pumping station at Branston Booths lies adjacent to the Car Dyke (Fig. 2), a Romano-British waterway which connected the Witham near Lincoln with the Nene east of Peterborough (Whitwell 1970, 57). Within half a kilometre of the present investigation area are tile kilns (to southwest and northwest) and an occupation site (to northwest), all of Romano-British date. A further tile kiln is located approximately 1km southwest and several crop- and soilmarks approximately 1km west and southwest of the investigation area have been recorded on aerial photographs. Additionally, a mid-4th century coin has been recovered from a point approximately half a kilometre to the southwest (NK 13.11)

Evidence of earlier human activity in the vicinity is provided by two Neolithic stone axes found at locations approximately half and one kilometre to the northwest (NK

32.15 and 32.20 respectively).

A borehole survey revealed that beneath the topsoil, which was generally *c.* 0.40m deep, natural deposits were encountered. These geological strata were successively silty sandy clay overlying dark-brown stiff clay, down to mudstone at approximately 5m depth. Occasional pockets of peat were observed in the alluvial sandy, uppermost natural layer (A F Howland Associates 1993).

Geophysical examination of the site, undertaken prior to the excavation, revealed a large number of magnetic anomalies. Predominantly linear, three groupings were definable by orientations (Fig. 3). A collection of four equidistant, parallel anomalies, aligned approximately east-west, were interpreted as probably representing drainage. Two other arrays of linear anomalies, trending generally northwest-southeast, were considered potentially to be caused by archaeological remains.

3 Aims

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

Six trenches were opened (Fig. 3) and selected deposits partially or fully excavated by hand to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their nature. The trenches were located to provide sample coverage of the entire development site in order to evaluate the potential survival of archaeological deposits and features across the area. Several of the trenches were positioned to investigate anomalies registered on a geophysical survey, and also to avoid live service pipes which traversed north-south through the centre of the area.

All six trenches were opened by machine to the surface of undisturbed archaeological layers, then cleaned and excavated by hand. Soundings to a maximum depth of *c.* 1.20m below the present ground surface were excavated by machine in trenches 2 and 4. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire practice.

5 Analysis

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 four phases was identified during the evaluation:

Phase 1 Natural deposits
Phase 2 Mesolithic deposits (8000 - 4000 BC)
Phase 3 Undated Agricultural deposits
Phase 4 Modern deposits

5.2 Phase 1 Natural deposits

Natural deposits of banded sands and silts, which were occasionally pebbly or clayey, were encountered in all six trenches. The surface of these deposits sloped naturally from the west, where it was encountered at

c. 3.00m OD, down to *c.* 2.50m OD at the east, toward the River Witham which lies about 1.5km to the north.

Within the banded sands, a lens of peaty silt (50), 60mm thick, was encountered, signifying an interruption in the alluviation allowing plant growth.

Investigatory soundings through the sand layers revealed deposits of green-grey natural clay.

5.3 Phase 2 Mesolithic deposits

A single pit (18) was revealed in trench 5 (Fig. 4), towards the east of the investigation area. Recovered from the two fine sandy fills (19, 20) of this pit was a collection of 22 pieces of flint and chert. This assemblage included a triangular microlith, possible micro-burin and core rejuvenation flake together with quantities of blades, flakes and chips. A late Mesolithic date is suggested by the composition of the assemblage.

5.4 Phase 3 Undated Agricultural deposits

A number of wide and shallow linear features (1, 90, 132, 139) were observed crossing several of the trenches (Fig. 5). Filled with dark, silty material (28, 29, 89, 133, 138, 144), these are interpreted as the bases of old plough furrows. Those in trench 3 (132, 139) and trench 6 (90) were oriented roughly north-south, while that in trench 1 (1) was aligned approximately east-west.

In trench 1, a sub-circular feature (3) approximately 0.50m across and 0.10m deep was revealed (Fig. 5). This contained two sandy deposits (32, 33), the former being surrounded by the latter. These are interpreted as a possible posthole with post pipe and backfill.

5.5 Phase 4 Modern deposits

Observed scoring the surface of the phase 1 natural deposits in several trenches were a number of dark soil-filled narrow linear grooves (111, 127, 147, 155, 156). The single east-west example (156) was crossed by one of the remaining group, which were all oriented approximately north-south. These features are explained as ploughmarks (Fig. 4).

A number of linear features (96, 107, 109, 134, 140, 142, 151, 153) filled with mixed soils and ceramic pipes (95, 106, 108, 135, 141, 143, 150, 152) represent land drains.

Occurring patchily on the surface of natural, and occasionally overlying the backfills of the land drains, were thin layers of mixed sandy soil (8, 100, 136, 160, 161) and peat (21). These are interpreted as plough-disturbed deposits, mostly natural in origin, and a preserved patch of the original peaty vegetation which survived due to being just below the limit of agricultural disturbance.

Covering the entire investigation area was a topsoil deposit (34, 105, 130, 142, 148, 162) which constituted the present ground surface.

6 Discussion

Glaciofluvial silty sands, overlying clay, occurred as natural deposits across the area (phase 1). The surface of these dipped from west to east towards the River Witham. Peat deposits buried within the alluvial natural may represent periods of lower river levels with peripheral vegetation development.

A quantity of late Mesolithic flintwork (phase 2) was recovered, indicating prehistoric activity in the vicinity.

No remains of Romano-British date were revealed, though the site lies immediately east, and downhill, of the Car Dyke Roman waterway. It is possible, and the evidence presently known suggests, that the Romano-British activity in the general vicinity was located on higher land west of the Car Dyke.

Furrow bases, apparently remains of ridge and furrow ploughing, signify arable use of the land (phase 3). This exploitation may, perhaps, be dated to the medieval period. Near to one of the furrows was a single, undated posthole which has been consigned to this phase of activity. However, this feature is of uncertain function and associations.

Land improvement associated with agricultural use of recent date (phase 4) was represented by an intensive regime of land drain provision. Ploughmarks supplemented the evidence for the arable function of the land. Cross-cutting examples indicate different phases of ploughing.

The modern ground surface was redundant ploughsoil that had recently been taken out of agricultural service under the set-aside policy.

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:**
Flint scatters, generally with no associated structural evidence, are characteristic of the Mesolithic period.

7.3 **Rarity:**
Scatters of Mesolithic flintwork are the commonest archaeological site-type in Britain. However, such scatters are generally found as spreads on surfaces and deposition of a discreet assemblage in a pit is less common.

7.4 **Documentation:**
Records of archaeological sites and finds made in the Branston Booths vicinity are kept in the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record and the relevant parish files of the North Kesteven Community Archaeologist. However, no synopses or syntheses of this evidence has been produced for the Branston Booths area.

There are no appropriate historical surveys of the Branston Booths area.

7.5 **Group value:**
Romano-British sites, including the Car Dyke, several tile kilns, occupation sites and stray finds, are clustered in the general vicinity. The conjunction of these with the prehistoric remains encountered in the area confers moderate group value to the site.

7.6 **Survival/Condition:**
Deposits of Mesolithic date survived in a generally good condition, though no contemporary levels were identified. If originally present, these may have been truncated by agricultural usage of the land.

Environmental evidence, in the form of peat pockets within the alluvium, survived well.

7.7 **Fragility/Vulnerability:**
Due to imminent development which will impact much of the investigation area to a depth well into natural strata, any and all archaeological deposits present on the site are extremely vulnerable.

7.8 **Diversity:**
Both functional and period diversity were restricted. The evidence recovered suggests that the Mesolithic occupation of the area was low level and probably transient. In spite of the proximity of the Car Dyke, no remains of Romano-British activity were encountered.

7.9 **Potential:**
Further Mesolithic activity may survive elsewhere in the investigation area, though the spatially restricted nature of the collection suggests that there is probably low potential for further recovery.

Palaeoenvironmental material of early Holocene date survives within the natural alluvial deposits but has been minimally examined and is, at present, poorly understood.

8 Conclusions

This evaluation identified the presence of apparently isolated deposits of Mesolithic date in a good state of preservation. Roman deposits were absent, probably genuinely so. An extended period of arable use was represented by furrow bases of possible medieval date and more recent plough marks and field drains. Agricultural processes may have effectively erased any surface deposits associated with the Mesolithic remains.

9 Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Paul Hide, Andrew Page and Nina Sage (Anglian Water Services Ltd.). This report was edited by Steve Haynes, who also coordinated the evaluation, and Dave Start. Advice on finds was given by Dale Trimble, Tom Lane and William Bee, who provided an assessment of the flint assemblage. Examination of the relevant parish files was permitted by Nicola Nuttall, the North Kesteven Community Archaeologist. Access to the County Sites and Monuments Record was provided by Ian George of the Archaeology Section, City and County Museum, Lincoln.

10 Personnel

Project Manager: Steve Haynes
Supervisor: Andrew Thompson
Site Assistants: Richard Hilton, Steve Williams
Finds Processing and Illustration: Denise Buckley
Post-excavation Analyst: Gary Taylor

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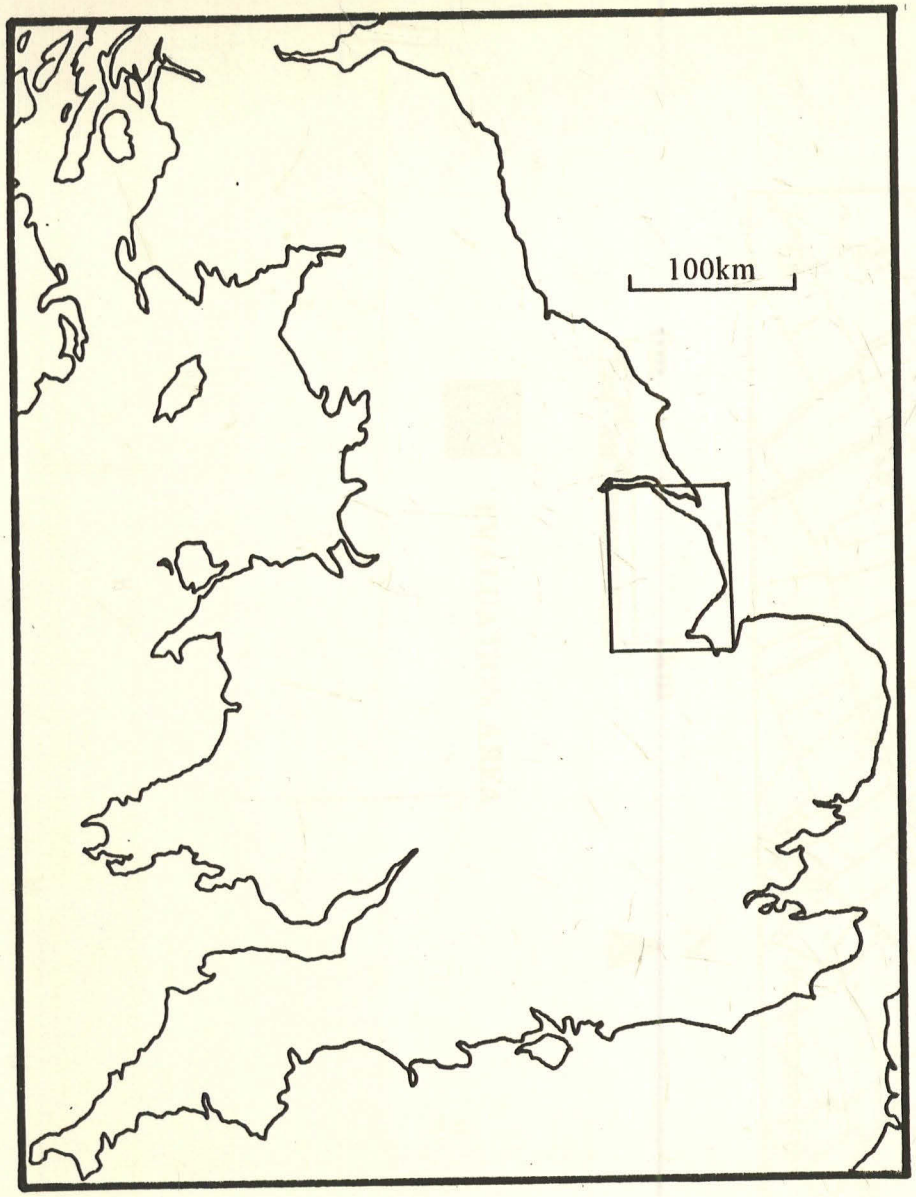


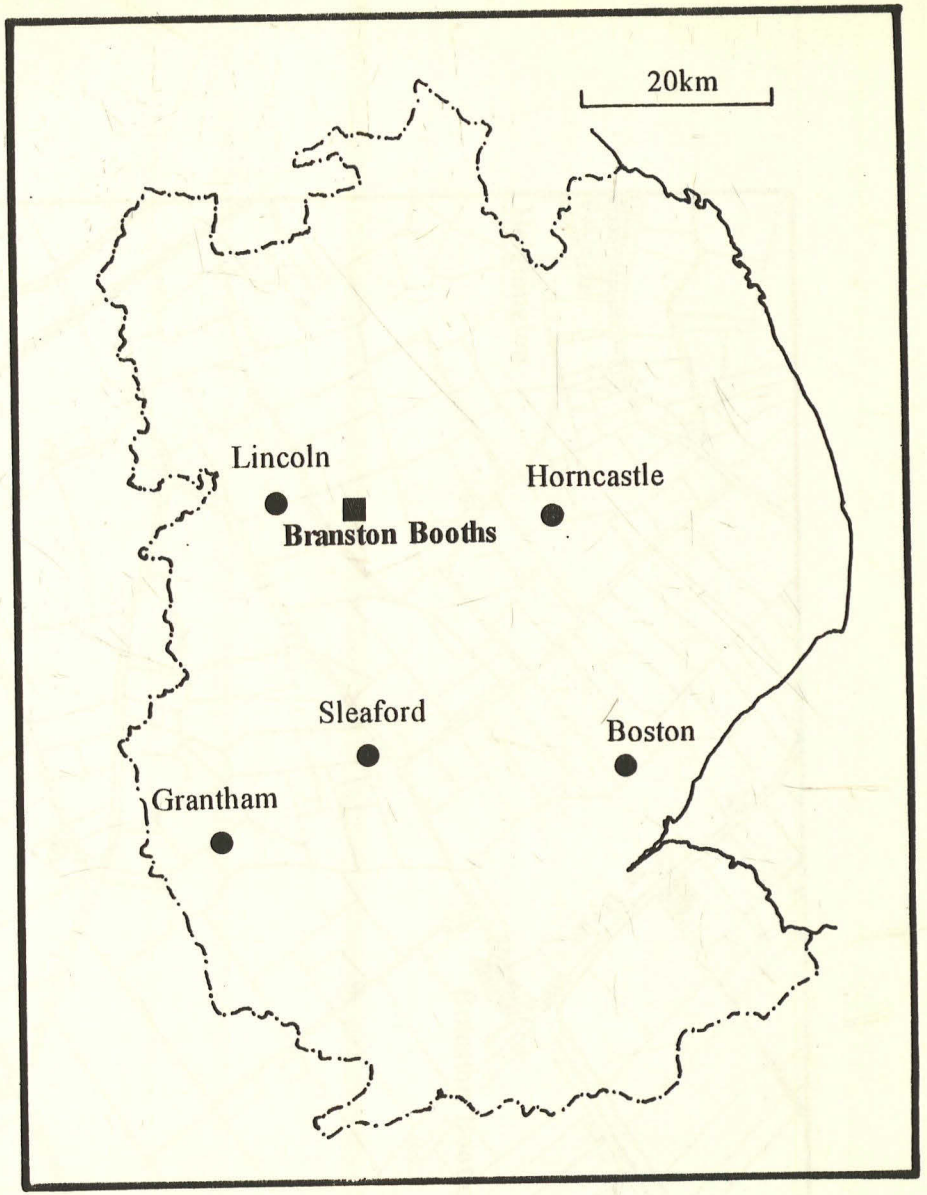
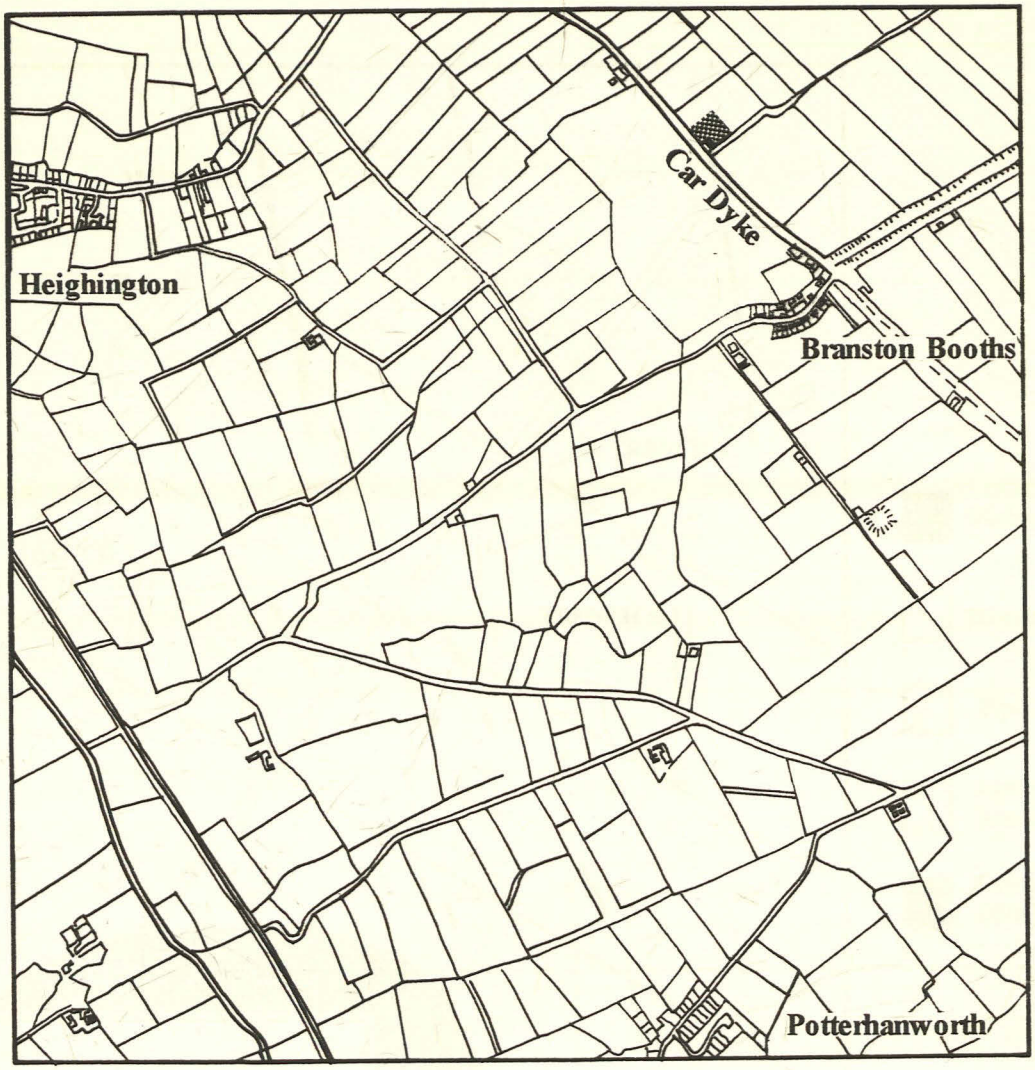


Fig. 1 GENERAL LOCATION PLAN

Fig. 2 SITE LOCATION PLAN



0m 1km

N

EVALUATION AREA

Fig. 3 TRENCH LOCATION PLAN
SUPERIMPOSED ON RESULTS OF GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

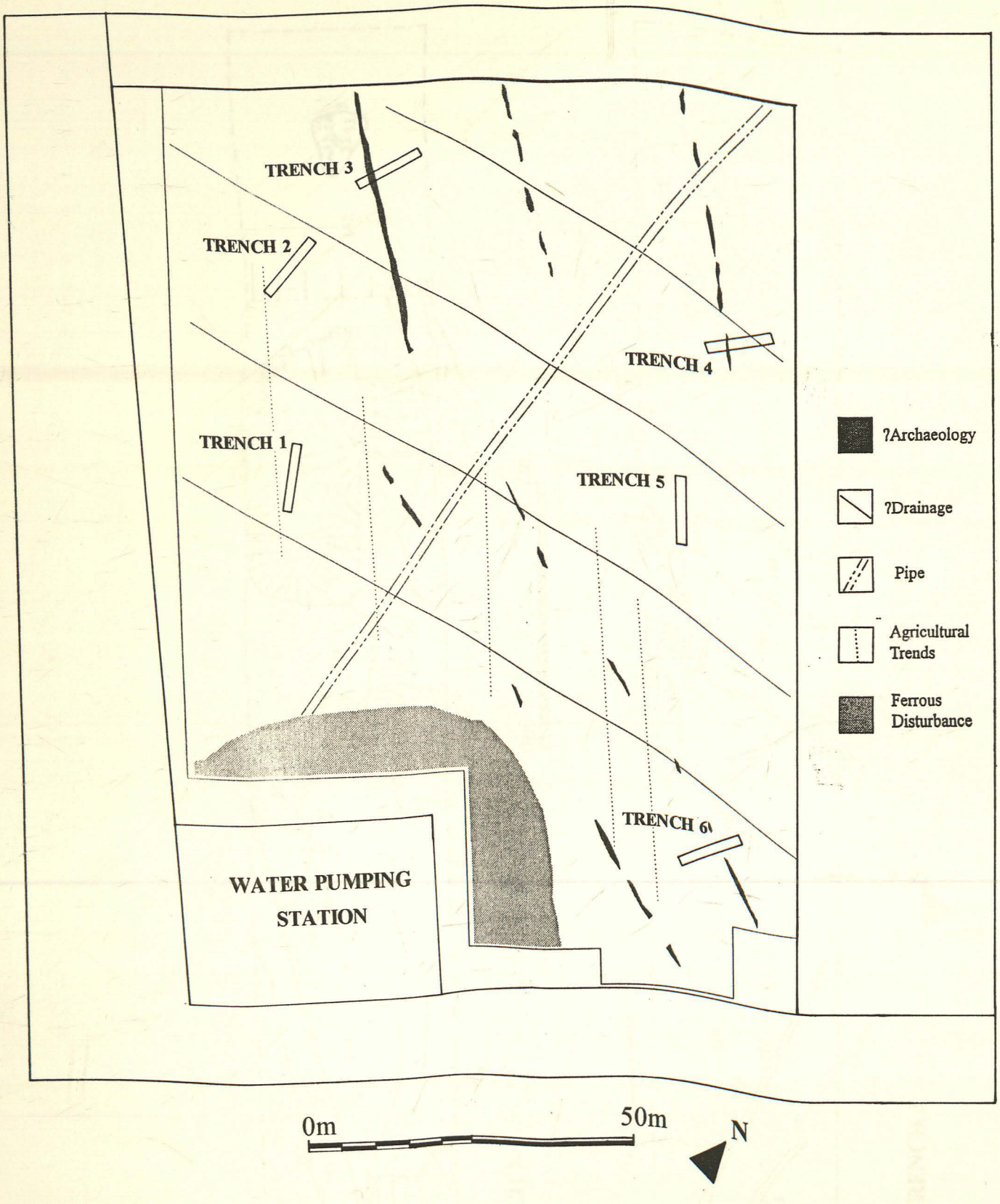
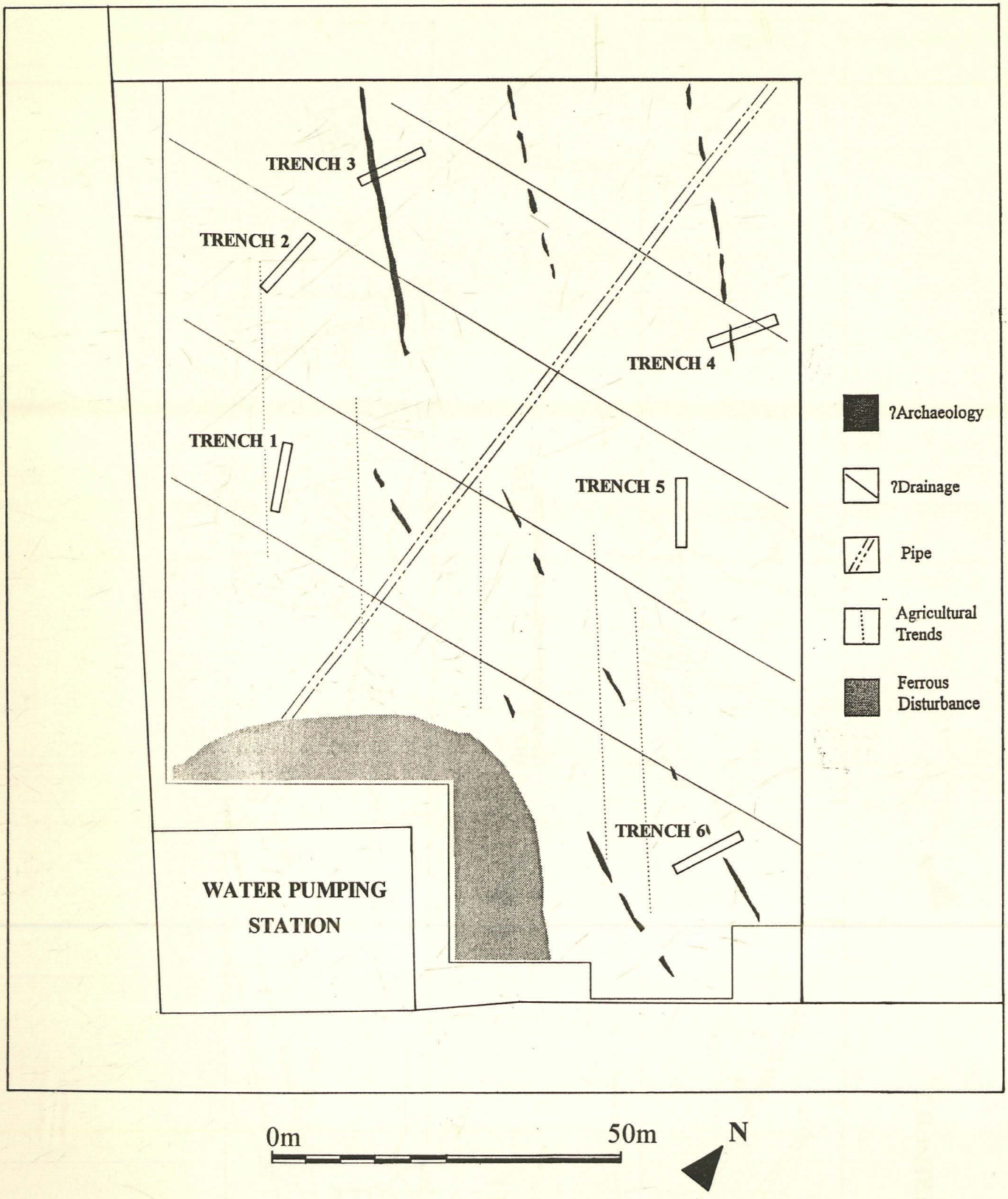
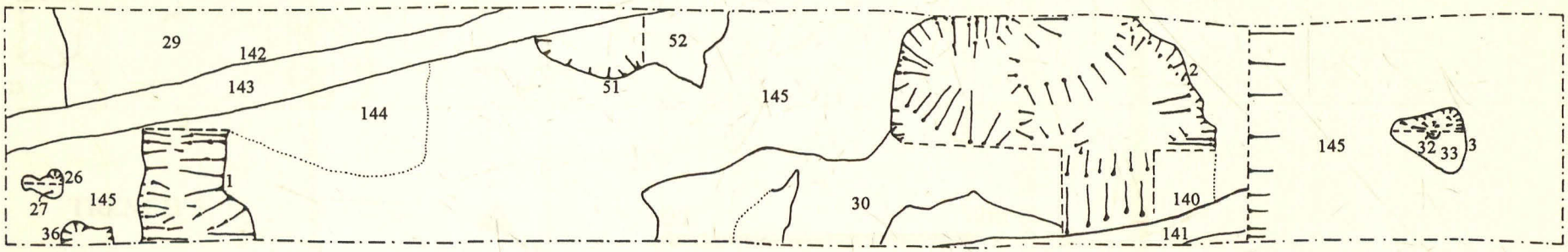


Fig. 3 TRENCH LOCATION PLAN
SUPERIMPOSED ON RESULTS OF GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

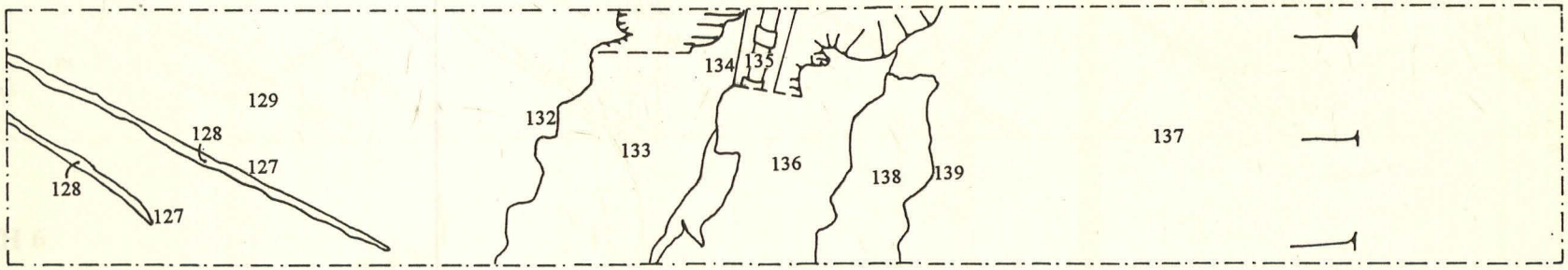




TRENCH 1

N

0m 2m



TRENCH 3

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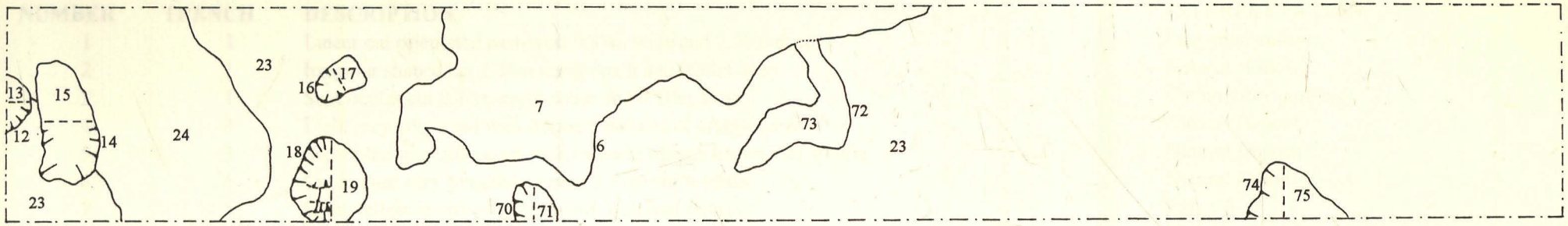
Fig. 4 PLANS OF TRENCHES 1 AND 3



TRENCH 5

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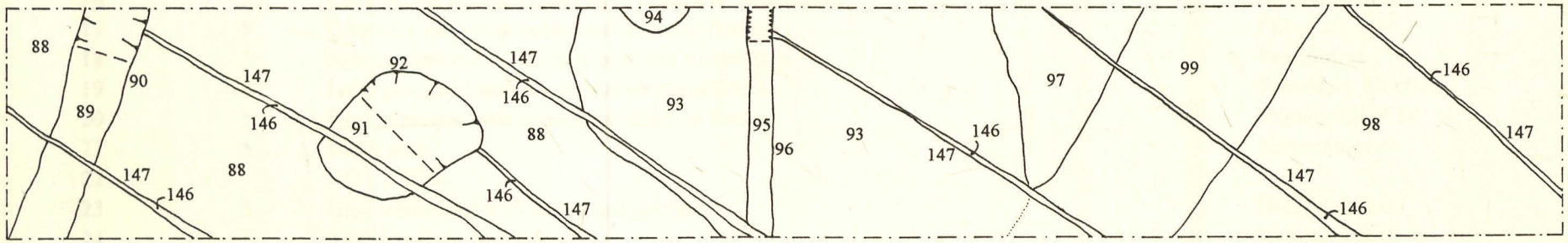

TRENCH 6

N

Fig. 5 PLANS OF TRENCHES 5 AND 6

APPENDIX 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

NUMBER	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
1	1	Linear cut orientated east-west 0.88m wide and 0.25m deep.	East-west gulley.
2	1	Irregular shaped cut 2.10m north-south and 0.38m deep.	Natural Hollow.
3	1	Subcircular cut 0.46m north-south and 0.10m deep.	Cut possibly post-hole.
4	3	Light grey silty sand with frequent patches of orange sand.	Natural Deposit
5	3	Light blue-grey silty sand with frequent orange brown clay mottle.	Natural Deposit
6	5	Cut feature very irregular in plan 3.34m north-south.	Natural hollow
7	5	Light yellow brown silty sand with charcoal flecks.	Fill of 6
8	5	Yellow brown sand.	Base of plough soil
9	3	Grey silty sand with occasional small pebbles.	Not used
10	3	Grey brown silty sand with frequent flecks of orange silt.	Not used
11	3	Orange sand and gravel.	Not used
12	5	Cut feature roughly circular in plan 0.40m north-south and 0.18m deep.	Natural hollow
13	5	Dark grey silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks.	Fill of 12
14	5	Cut sub oval in plan 0.83m east-west and 40mm deep.	Natural hollow
15	5	Dark grey silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks.	Fill of 14
16	5	Cut sub oval in plan 0.36m north south and 30mm deep.	Natural hollow
17	5	Grey silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks.	Fill of 16
18	5	Sub -circular cut 0.62m east-west and 0.20m deep.	Possible pit
19	5	Light grey sand with occasional charcoal flecks.	Secondary fill of 18
20	5	Grey silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks.	Primary fill of 18
21	5	Black peat.	Natural deposit
22		NOT USED	
23	5	Grey white sand with occasional pebbles.	Natural deposit
24	5	Mottled yellow brown sand.	Natural deposit
25	5	Mottled yellow brown sand.	Natural deposit
26	1	Cut amorphous in plan 0.24m north-south and 80mm deep.	Possible post hole
27	1	Grey sandy silt with occasional brown lenses and charcoal flecks.	Fill of 26
28	1	Grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks.	Fill of 1
29	1	Grey/ yellow brown sand.	Fill of 1
30	1	Light grey silty sand with occasional rounded pebbles.	Fill of 2
31	1	Brown grey sand.	Fill of 2

32	1	Grey brown silty sand with occasional flecks of charcoal.	Possible post pipe
33	1	Grey sand.	Fill of 3
34	1	Grey brown sandy silt.	Ploughsoil
35	2	Grey sandy silt with lenses of grey silt.	Natural deposit
36	1	Cut semi circular in plan 0.33m north-south and 0.13m deep.	Natural hollow
37	1	Grey silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks.	Fill of 36
38		NOT USED	
39		NOT USED	
40	2	Sondage	Sondage
41	2	Lens of natural sand	Natural deposit
42	2	Beige sand with lenses of orange sand and occasional small pebbles.	Natural deposit
43	2	Light brown sand with occasional small pebbles.	Natural deposit
44	2	Grey sand with occasional lenses of orange sand.	Natural deposit
45	2	Green grey silty clay with lenses of orange sand.	Natural deposit
46	2	Orange sand.	Natural deposit
47	2	Green grey silty sand with lenses of orange silt.	Natural deposit
48	2	Orange sand with frequent lenses of yellow sand and occasional pebbles.	Natural deposit
49	2	Light yellow sand with occasional small pebbles.	Natural deposit
50	2	Dark brown peaty silt.	Natural deposit
51	1	Linear cut 1.30m north-south 0.30m wide and 80mm deep.	Natural hollow
52	1	Grey sandy silt.	Fill of 51
53	1	Grey brown sand.	Fill of 51
54	1	Linear cut 0.36m north south and 0.10m deep.	Natural hollow
55	1	Grey sandy silt with occasional iron panning.	Fill of 54
56		NOT USED	
57		NOT USED	
58		NOT USED	
59		NOT USED	
60		NOT USED	
61		NOT USED	
62		NOT USED	
63	5	Mottled yellow brown/yellow grey sand.	Natural deposit
64	5	Yellow brown sand.	Natural deposit
65	5	Yellow red sand with iron panning.	Natural deposit

66	5	Grey clay.	Natural deposit
67	5	Yellow red sand with frequent iron panning.	Natural deposit
68	5	Grey clay.	Natural deposit
69	5	Mottled yellow brown/yellow grey sand.	Natural deposit
70	5	Cut roughly circular in plan 0.30m north south and 20mm deep.	Natural hollow
71	5	Grey silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks.	Fill of 70
72	5	Cut irregular in plan 0.30m wide.	Natural hollow
73	5	Light yellow brown silty sand with charcoal flecks.	Fill of 72
74	5	Cut irregular in plan 0.70m north-south and 30mm deep.	Natural hollow
75	5	Light grey sand with occasional charcoal flecks.	Fill of 074
76	5	Light grey with yellow brown mottles sand with occasional pebbles.	Natural deposit
77	5	Yellow red sand with iron panning.	Natural deposit
78	5	Mottled yellow brown/yellow gray sand with occasional pebbles.	Natural deposit
79	5	Yellow brown sand.	Natural deposit
80	5	Grey clayey sand with occasional pebbles.	Natural deposit
81	5	Yellow brown sand.	Natural deposit
82	5	Yellow red sand with frequent iron panning.	Natural deposit
83	5	Light grey with yellow brown mottles sand with occasional charcoal flecks.	Natural deposit
84	5	Yellow brown/ yellow grey sand with occasional pebbles.	Natural deposit
85	5	Dark grey silty sand.	Natural deposit
86	5	Light brown sand.	Natural deposit
87		NOT USED	
88	6	Yellow browns and with occasional pebbles.	Natural deposit
89	6	Grey silty sand with occasional pebbles.	Fill of 90
90	6	Linear cut 0.40m wide, 1.60m long and 20mm deep.	Possible plough furrow
91	6	Brown grey silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks.	Fill of 92
92	6	Cut ovoid in plan 0.90m north-south and 20mm deep.	Natural hollow
93	6	Light grey sand with occasional pebbles.	Natural deposit
94	6	Grey clay.	Natural deposit
95	6	Dark brown with frequent yellow grey lenses sandy silt.	Fill of 96
96	6	Linear cut 0.23m wide.	Cut for land drain
97	6	Yellow grey with yellow brown sand with patches of iron pan.	Natural deposit
98	6	Light grey sand with occasional pebbles.	Natural deposit
99	6	Yellow brown sand with occasional pebbles.	Natural deposit

100	6	Sand	Natural deposit
101	6	Yellow red sand.	Natural deposit
102	6	Light grey with yellow brown mottles sand.	Natural deposit
103	6	Yellow red sand.	Natural deposit
104	6	Grey brown sand.	Natural deposit
105	4	Grey brown sandy silt.	Ploughsoil
106	4		Fill of 107
107	4	Linear cut 0.25m wide, 1.50m long.	Cut for land drain
108	4		Fill of 109
109	4	Linear cut 0.30m wide, 2.20m long.	Drain cut
110	4	Grey brown sandy silt.	Fill of plough marks
111	4	Linear cuts (4) 60mm wide and 1.50m long.	Plough marks
112	4	Light grey sand.	Fill of 113
113	4	Linear cut 0.40m long and 0.30m wide.	Animal burrow
114	4	Light grey sand.	Fill of 115
115	4	Linear cut 0.70m long and 0.30m wide.	Animal burrow
116	4	Light grey sand.	Fill of 117
117	4	Circular cut 0.35m in diameter.	Animal burrow
118	4	Light grey sand.	Fill of 119
119	4	Oval shaped cut 1.20m x 0.40m.	Animal burrow
120	4	Grey brown sandy silt with yellow sand.	Fill of 121
121	4	Oval shaped cut 0.50m x 0.20m.	Natural hollow
122	4	Light yellow sand.	Natural deposit
123	4	Light yellow sand.	Natural deposit
124	4	Yellow sand.	Natural deposit
125	4		Natural deposit
126	4		Natural deposit
127	3	Linear cuts (2) 2.50m long and 0.10m deep.	Plough marks
128	3		Fill of 127
129	3	Sand	Natural deposit
130	3	Dark grey humic silt with occasional small pebbles.	Ploughsoil
131	3	Mixed sand and gravel.	Natural deposit
132	3	Cut roughly linear in plan 1.60m long, 0.45-0.90m wide and 0.12m deep.	Possible plough furrow
133	3	Dark grey sandy silt.	Fill of 132

134	3	Linear cut 1.60m long, 0.25m wide and 0.33m deep.	Drain cut
135	3	Ceramic pipe	Fill of 134
136	3	Yellow and orange sand.	Disturbed natural
137	3	Mixed yellow and orange sand with frequent small stones and dark grey sandy silt.	Natural deposit
138	3	Dark grey sandy silt.	Fill of 139
139	3	Cut irregular shaped in plan 1.25m north-south.	Possible plough furrow
140	1	Linear cut 2.00m long and 0.20m wide.	Drain cut
141	1		Fill of 140
142	1	Linear cut 4.40m long and 0.30mwide.	Drain cut
143	1		Fill of 142
144	1	Grey sandy silt with occasional flecks of charcoal and iron panning.	Fill of 1
145	1	Sand	Natural deposit
146	6	Grey brown sandy silt.	Fill of plough marks 155
147	6	Linear cut 2.70m long and 50mm wide.	Plough marks
148	6	Grey brown sandy silt.	Plough soil
149	2	Dark grey humic silt.	Plough soil
150	2	Ceramic pipe	Land drain
151	2	Cut feature 0.20m wide and 0.37m deep.	Drain cut
152	3	Mixed clays and drain pipe.	Fill of 153
153	2	Linear cut 1.50m long, 0.18m wide and 0.32m deep.	Drain cut
154	2		Fill of plough marks
155	2	Linear cut 1.20m long and 50mm wide.	Plough mark
156	2	Linear cut 0.50m long and 50mm wide.	Plough mark
157	2		Fill of 156
158	2	Green clay.	Natural deposit
159	2	Orange sand.	Natural deposit
160	2	White/ light yellow sand.	Natural deposit
161	2	White/ light yellow sand.	Natural deposit
162	5		Plough soil

APPENDIX 2

CHIPPED STONE DATA
BY WILLIAM BEE

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
19	Assymmetrical scalene triangle, worked on 2.5 edges. Clarke's Microlith type D1b.
19	Unworked blade.
19	Burnt flint chip with bulb of percussion.
19	Possible core rejuvenation flake with 5 scars.
19	Possible micro-burin
19	Chert fragment.
19	Unworked flake.
19	Broken cortical flake.
19	Unworked flake
19	Hinge-fractured flake with dihedral butt.
19	Broken flake.
19	Hinge-fractured flake.
19	Unworked flake, debitage.
19	Unworked flake, debitage.
19	Broken flake, debitage
19	Flake, debitage
19	Secondary flake, debitage
19	Chert chip.
20	Broken rejuvenation flake.
20	Negative bulb flake.
20	Flake, debitage
20	Natural.

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:

162	Context records
10	Photographic records
25	Scale drawings
1	Box 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: 56.93