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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Woodbank, Skellingthorpe

NGR: SK 9203 7203
Planning Application Number N56/0225/00
Site Code: SKW 00
LCNCC Accn No.: 2000.300

Archaeological Evaluation

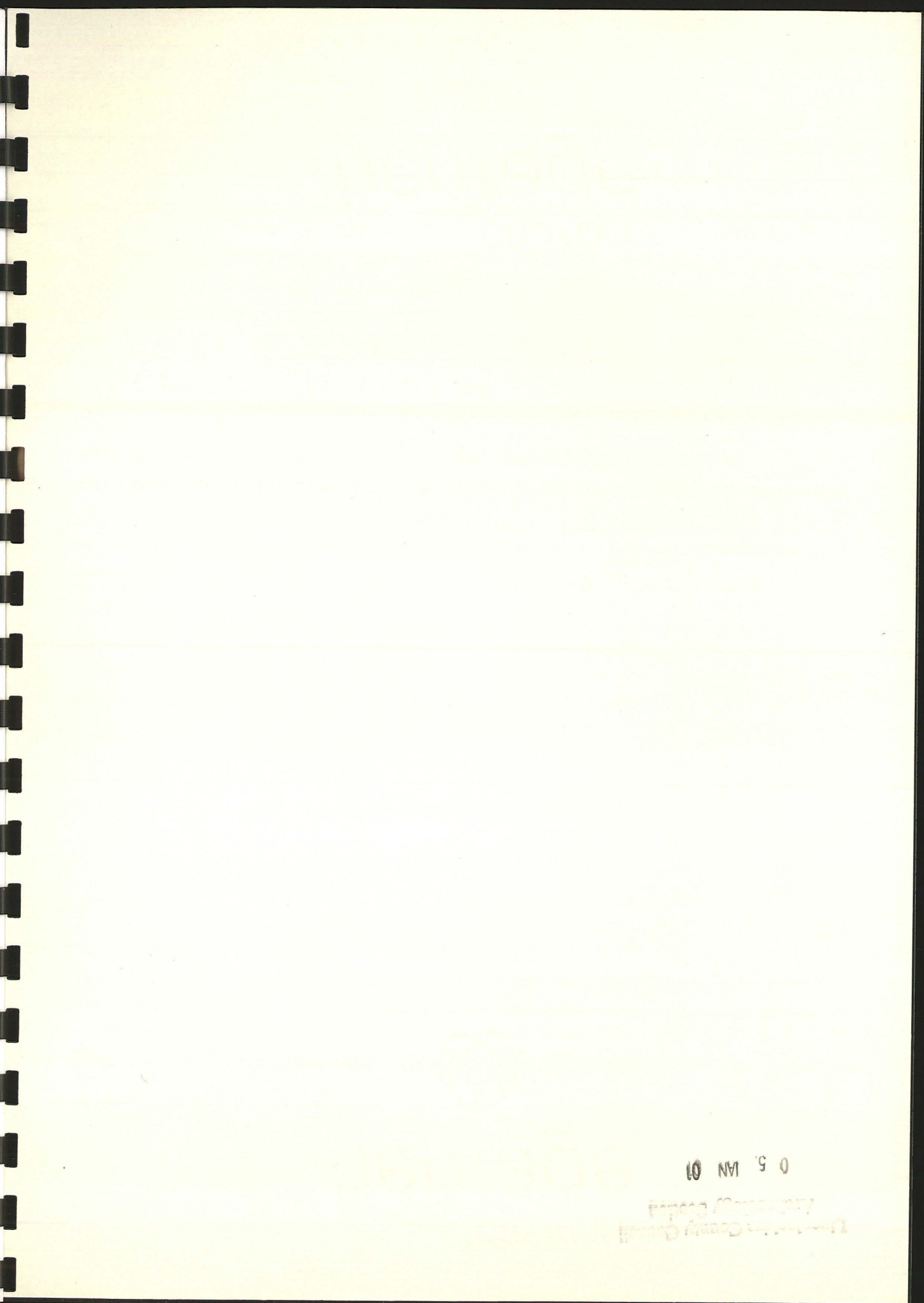
Report for

Skellingthorpe Parish Council

by

Sue Farr

LAS Report No. 491
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University County Council
Administration Center

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Summary

Four 10m x 1.8m trenches were excavated on the site of a proposed new cemetery and adjacent separate dwelling. A single ditch of unknown date was the only archaeological feature identified within these trenches.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Skellingthorpe Parish Council, to undertake evaluation in accordance with a brief supplied by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer (dated 18th April 2000), and the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, 1998).

Site Location and Description

Skellingthorpe village is situated 4km west of Lincoln. The application site is a 0.36ha area of agricultural land, situated to the north of Woodbank, the name of a minor road leading to Skellingthorpe Old Wood (Fig.1, Pl. 1).

Planning Details

An application was submitted by Skellingthorpe Parish Council to North Kesteven District Council, for a new cemetery and an adjacent separate dwelling. Planning permission was deferred pending the results of the trial trenching outlined in this report.

Archaeological Background

The settlement at Skellingthorpe is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as being part of an estate in Doddington. The application site itself lies in an area where no archaeological fieldwork has been undertaken. A single recorded prehistoric flint artefact plotted on the SMR is of uncertain provenance, and is unlikely to indicate the presence of an archaeological site. Other flints, Romano-British and later finds are known from the parish but the location of early occupation sites is not known.

Aims and Objectives

In general terms the purpose of the evaluation was to

- establish the presence or absence, quality and extent of archaeological remains and their location within the development area
- gather sufficient information to enable an assessment of the potential significance of any archaeological remains to be made and the impact which development will have upon them

- enable an informed decision to be made regarding the future treatment of any archaeological remains and consider any appropriate mitigatory measures either in advance of and/or during development

Evaluation Trenches

The four trenches, each 10m x 1.8m, were excavated using a JCB fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision (Fig.2, Pl. 2). All archaeological works were carried out by a team of 2 experienced archaeologists, including a Site Director.

Both the topsoil and subsoil layers were removed to reveal the underlying natural sand and gravel. The trenches were then hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and selected excavation of features was carried out in order to achieve the objectives outlined above.

A full written (single context) and photographic record was made during the excavations, along with a representative section drawing of one side and a plan of each trench. All recorded deposits were assigned context numbers by LAS who operate a standard context recording system, developed by its staff over the past 20 years, based on MOLAS and CAS formats.

Results

The topsoil across the site, **101**, consisted of a uniform dark brown sandy silt containing frequent rounded gravels with an average depth of 0.40m. This was above **102**, a mid brownish orange sandy silt and gravel subsoil with varying depths of between 0.25m-0.40m, (Pl.4). The natural sand and gravel, **103**, was recorded below .

Trench 1 (Fig. 3, Pls. 3 & 4).

Trench 1 was positioned at the street frontage and aligned north-south. No archaeological features were present in this trench

Trench 2 (Pl. 5)

One NW-SE linear ditch **204** (Fig.5, Pl. 6), was located in this trench. Sealed below **201**, it had a width of 1.20m and a maximum depth of 0.20m. A single fill **205**, a light grey silty sand was identified. No finds were recovered from this deposit and the feature remains undated.

Trenches 3 & 4 (Fig. 4, Pls. 7 & 8)

Trenches 3 and 4 were both positioned perpendicular to the road. No archaeological features were present in either of these trenches.

Discussion

Despite the trenches being evenly distributed over the entire application site only a single undated ditch, most likely a drainage feature, a former field boundary or a remnant of ridge and furrow, was

discovered. Even the topsoil and developing subsoil evident in all trenches displayed a total lack of archaeological material. No finds were recovered from any of the deposits revealed by the trial trenching.

While modern day farming practices may in part have been responsible for the absence of remains the fact that the topsoil also contained no finds suggests that deep ploughing in the area has not destroyed archaeological features.

Conclusion

Development of this site is very unlikely to disturb any undiscovered archaeological remains.

Acknowledgements

All fieldwork was carried out by the author, assisted by Mark Williams. This report was edited by Naomi Field and produced and collated by Jane Frost.

Sue Farr
December 15th 2000

Woodbank Skellingthorpe SKW 00 Context Summary

Context	Type	Description	Finds
Trench 1			
101	Layer	Topsoil	none
102	Layer	Subsoil	none
103	Layer	Natural	none
Trench 2			
201	Layer	Topsoil	none
202	Layer	Subsoil	none
203	Layer	Natural	none
204	Cut	Ditch	none
205	Fill	Fill of 204	none
Trench 3			
301	Layer	Topsoil	none
302	Layer	Subsoil	none
303	Layer	Natural	none
Trench 4			
401	Layer	Topsoil	none
402	Layer	Subsoil	none
403	Layer	Natural	none

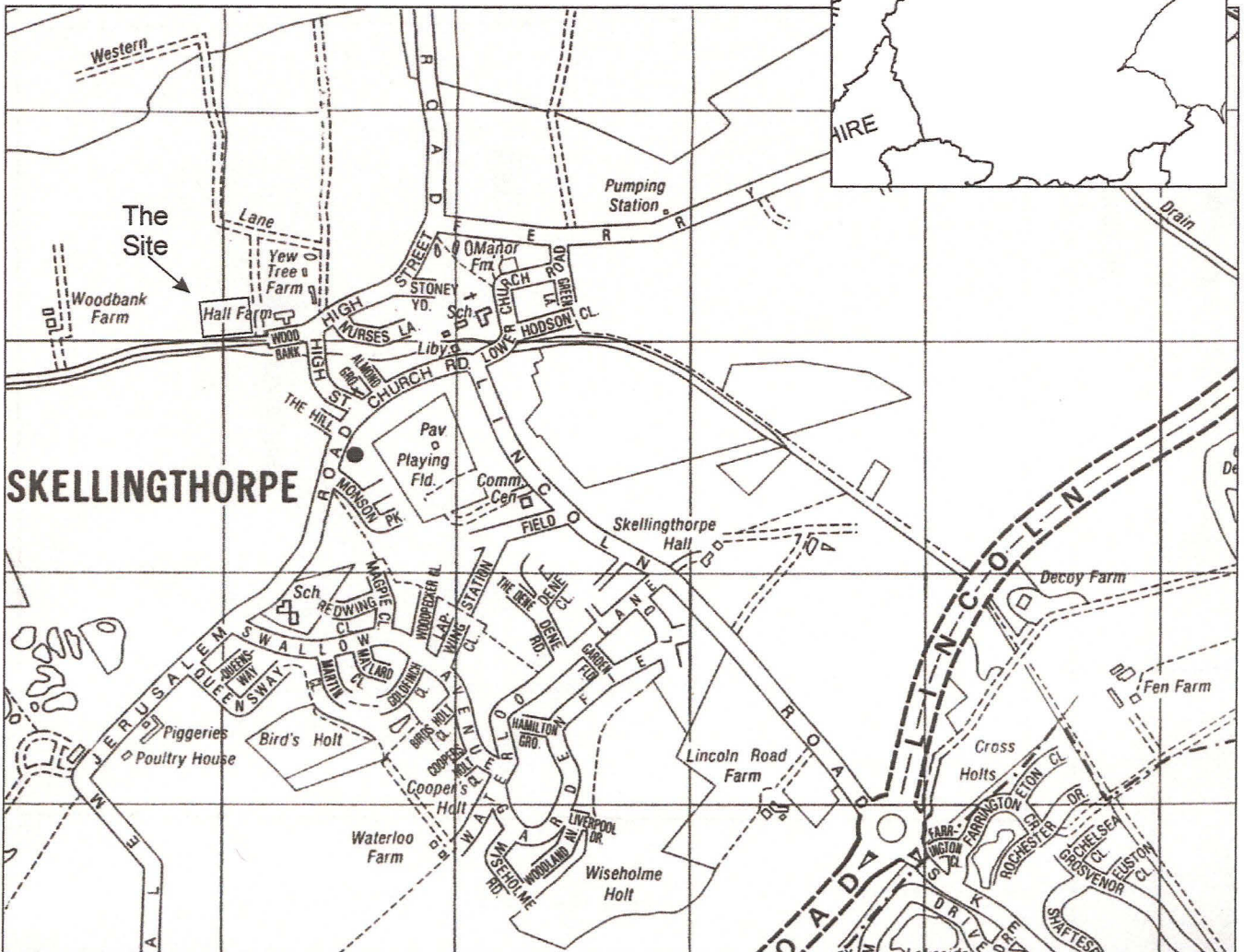


Fig. 1 Woodbank, Skellingthorpe, site location, reproduced from the 1:250,000 OS Map. © Crown copyright; reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence number AL 50424A.

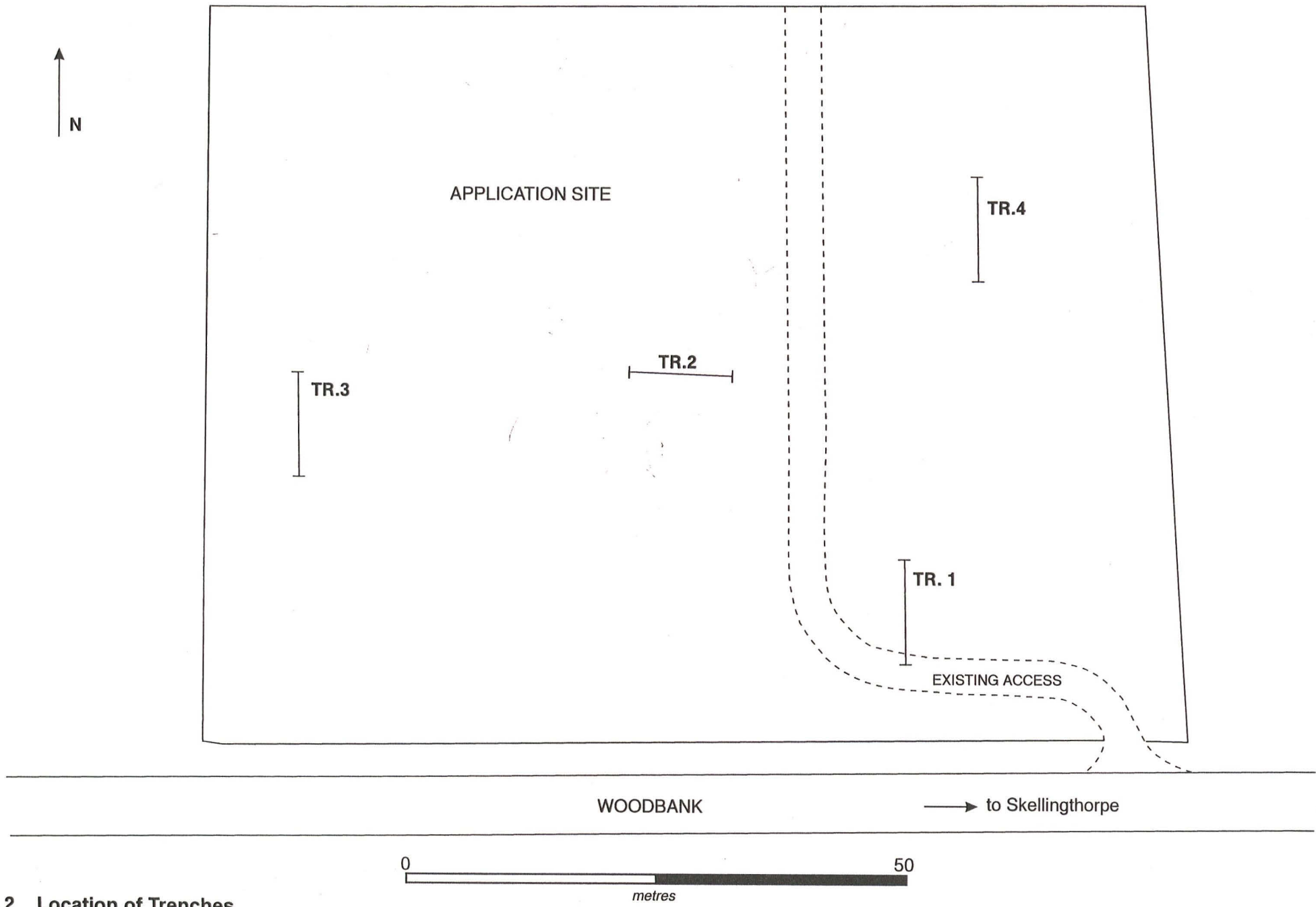


Fig. 2 Location of Trenches

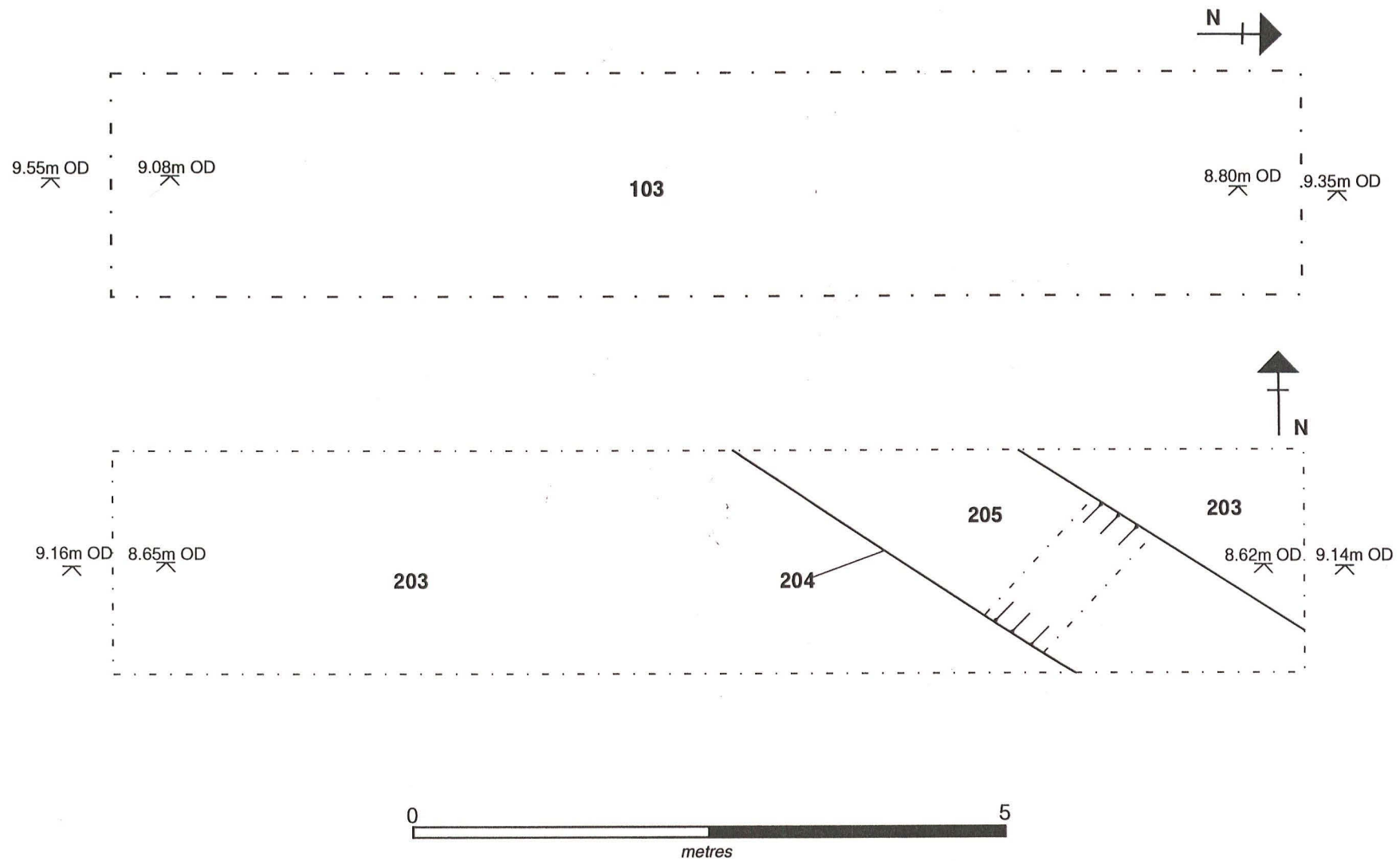


Fig. 3 Plan of trenches 1 & 2

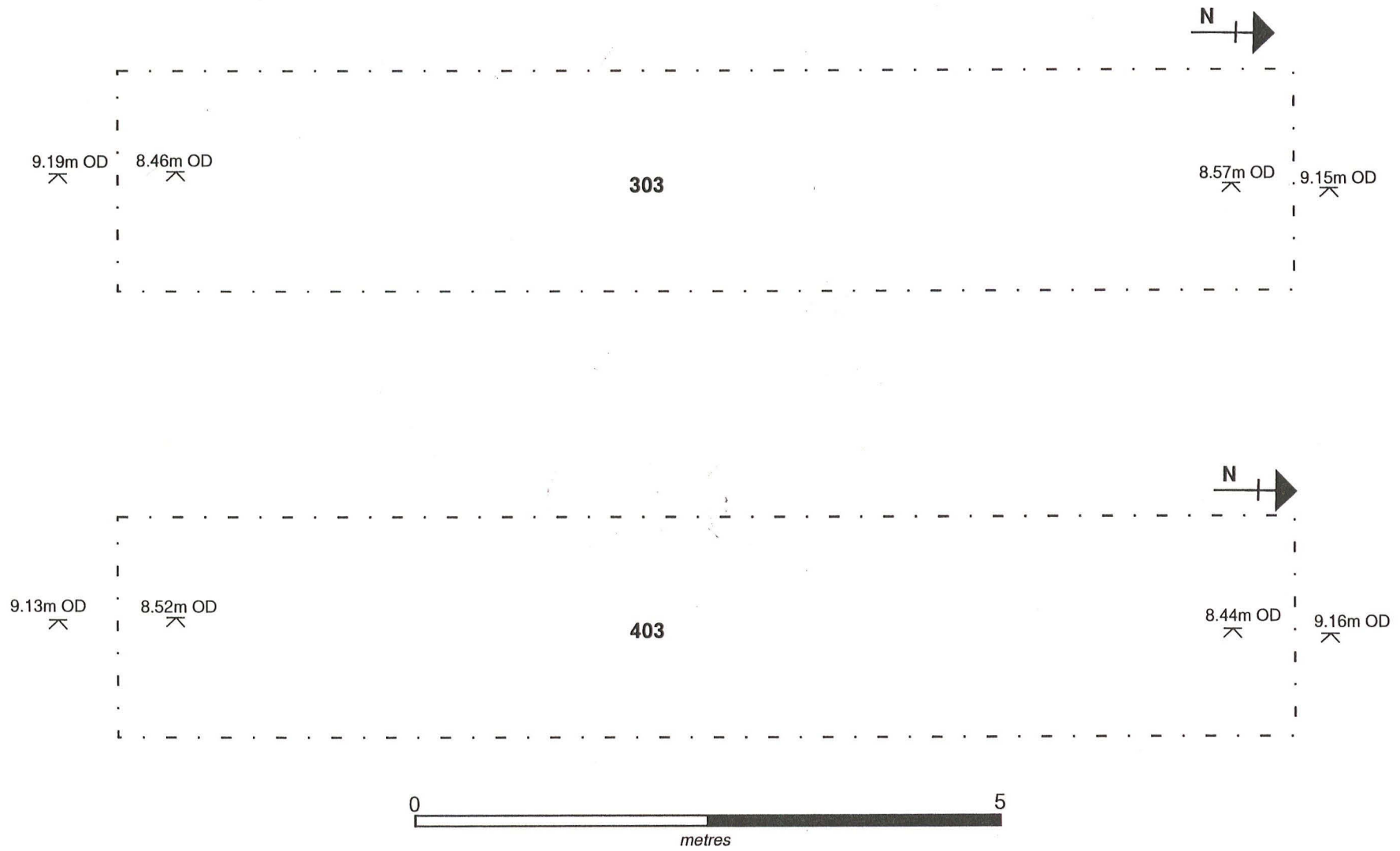


Fig. 4 Plan of trenches 3 & 4

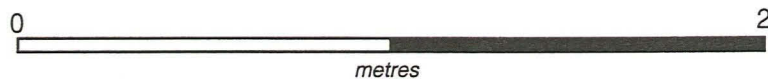
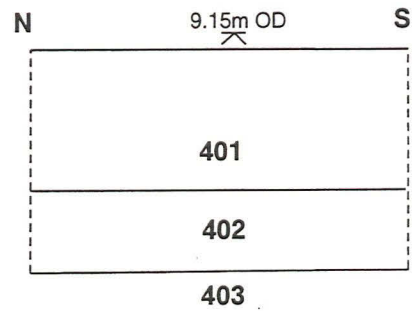
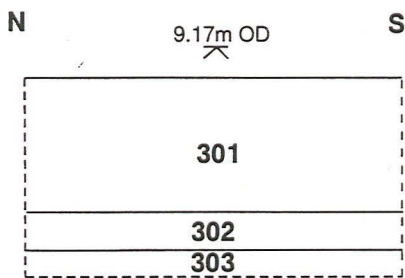
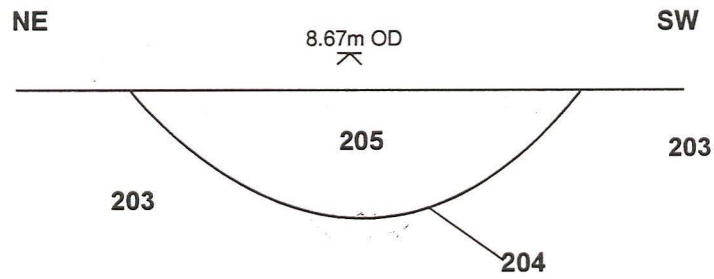
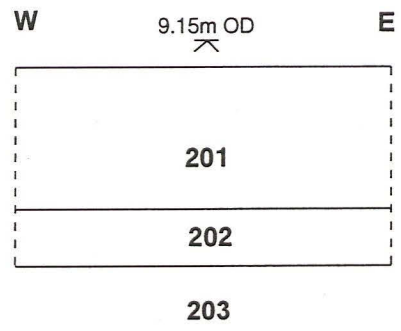
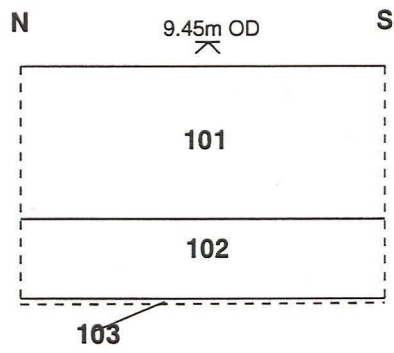


Fig. 5 Sample sections of trenches and ditch 204.



Pl. 1 General view of application area, looking north-west towards trenches 3 & 4.

Pl. 2 Machine excavation of trenches under archaeological supervision.





Pl. 3 Trench 1, looking south, showing subsoil deposit. Scales 2m.

Pl. 4 Trench 1, looking south, after removal of 102.



Pl. 5 Trench 2, looking west. Scales 2m.

Pl. 6 Ditch 204, looking south-east, note the plough mark in the foreground. Scales 2m.





Pl. 7 Trench 3, looking north. Scales 2m

Pl. 8 Trench 4, looking north. Scales 2m.