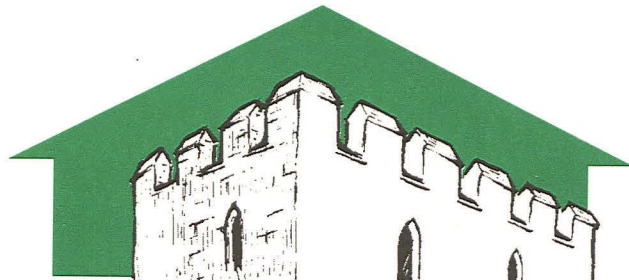


M2111

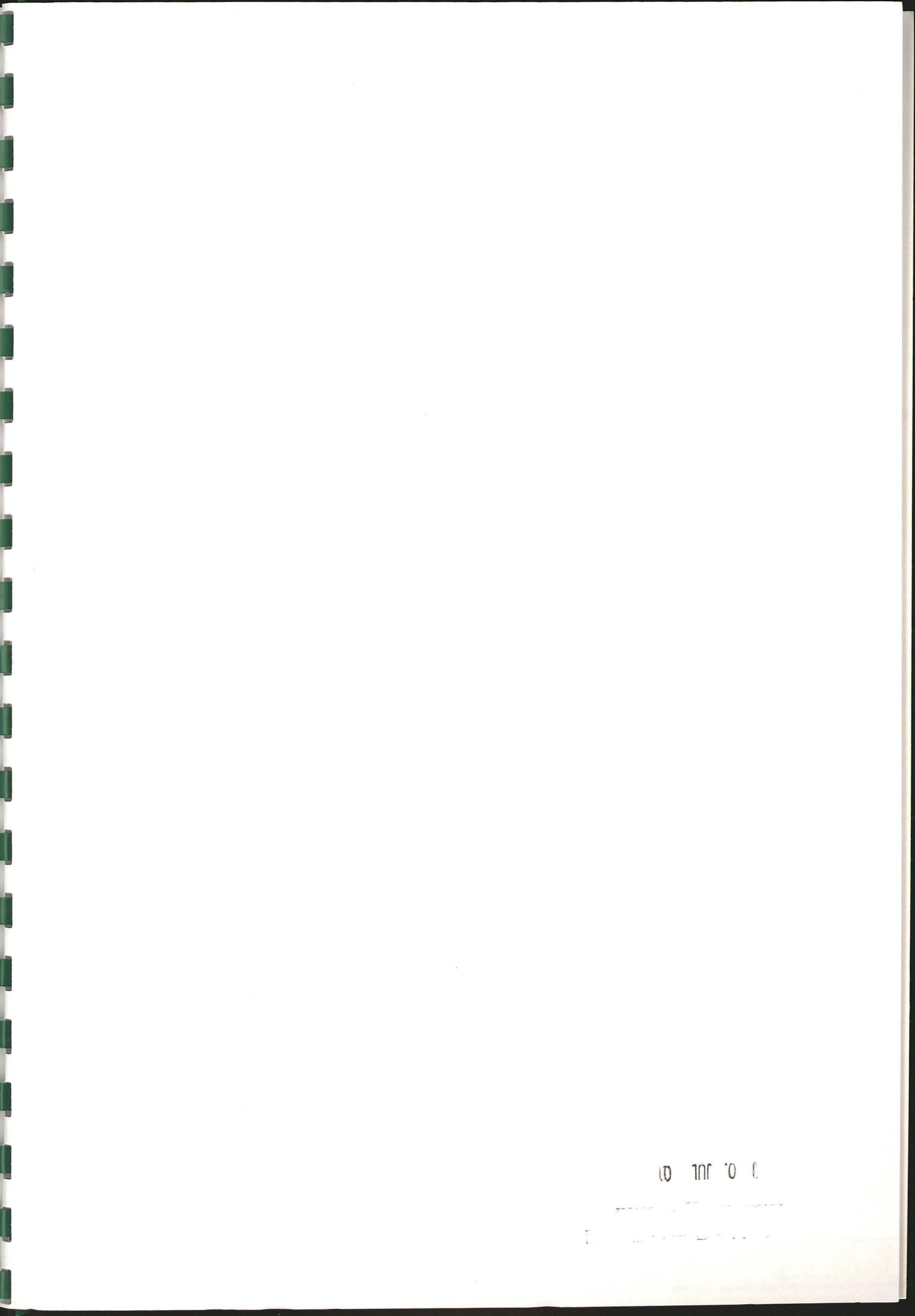


PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY L I N C O L N

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT
LAND OFF HALL ORCHARD LANE,
WELBOURN, LINCOLNSHIRE.**

NGR: SK 9660 5438
Site Code: HORW 01
LCNCC Acc. No. 2001.123





10 JUL 0 0
10 JUL 0 0
10 JUL 0 0

Contents

Summary	1
1.0 Introduction	2
2.0 Location and description	2
3.0 Planning background	2
4.0 Archaeological and historical background	3
5.0 Methodology	4
6.0 Results	5
6.1 Trench 1	5
6.2 Trench 2	7
6.3 Trench 3	8
6.4 Trench 4	9
6.5 Trench 5	10
6.6 Trench 6	11
6.7 Trench 7	12
7.0 Summary and conclusions	13
8.0 Acknowledgments	14
9.0 Bibliography	14
10.0 Site Archive	15

Illustrations

Fig. 1:	Location of site at scale 1:12500
Fig. 2:	Location of trenches at scale 1:1000
Fig. 3:	Aerial photograph of Welbourn taken in 1967, looking south.
Fig. 4:	Trench 1 plan and section
Fig. 5:	Trenches 2 and 3 plans and sections
Fig. 6:	Trench 4 section
Fig. 7:	Trench 5 plan and section
Fig. 8:	Trench 6 plan and section
Fig. 9:	Trench 7 plan and section

Appendices

Appendix 1	Colour photographs
Appendix 2	Post-Roman pottery and tile report by Jane Young
Appendix 3	Prehistoric and Romano-British pottery report by Barbara Precious
Appendix 4	List of archaeological contexts

Summary

- *An intrusive phase of field evaluation was undertaken to assess the archaeological potential of a sub-rectangular unit of land at Welbourn in Lincolnshire in advance of a possible residential development.*
- *A small enclosure, first identified by gradiometry, was confirmed by excavations in Trench 1, which defined an entranceway towards the east. Pottery from the enclosure ditch dates it to the 13th century.*
- *Part of a rectilinear enclosure in the north-east corner of the site (seen on a 1967 aerial photograph) was traversed by Trench 5. Pottery suggests the ditch, with a stone drain at its base, was originally established in the 13th century. It was replaced by a shallower ditch, also containing a stone drain, and this replacement may date as late as the mid – late 18th century.*
- *Trench 3, at the west end of the site, investigated an area that was thought to be potentially sterile. However, it revealed a small pit containing fragments from two Romano-British pottery vessels, an undated posthole and a ditch/gully running north-west – south-east. Two additional excavations close to Trench 3 confirmed the continuation of this feature, with a contemporary gully running perpendicular to it. These features were not dated.*
- *An undated channel was exposed in Trench 2, and this corresponds with an anomaly detected by geophysics*
- *Trench 4 traversed ridge and furrow earthworks that are known from aerial photographs and geophysics. Although a buried soil of likely medieval date was identified, it was not possible to define the earthworks themselves.*

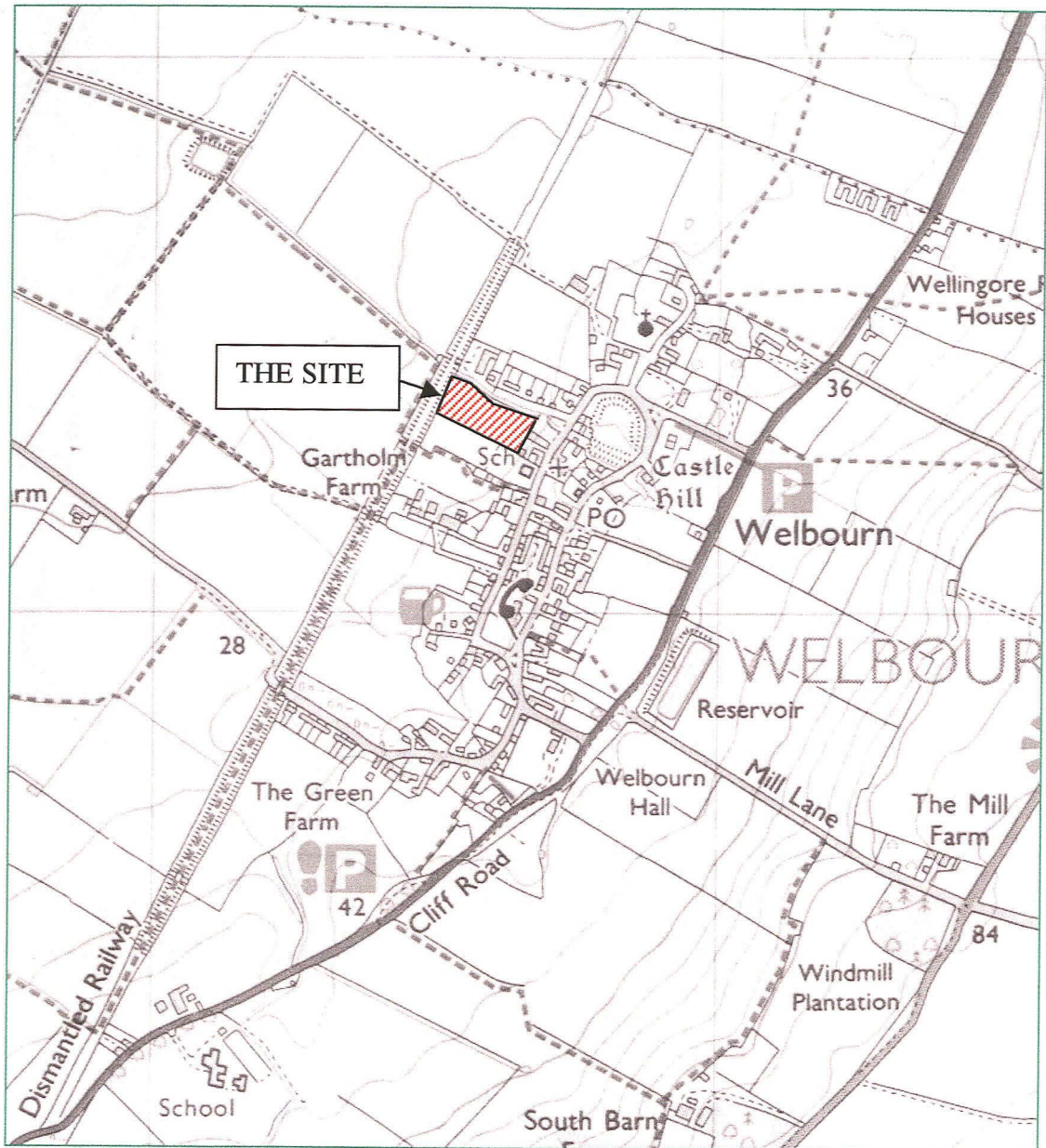


Figure 1: Location of site at scale 1:12500
(O.S. Copyright License No. AL515 21 A0001)

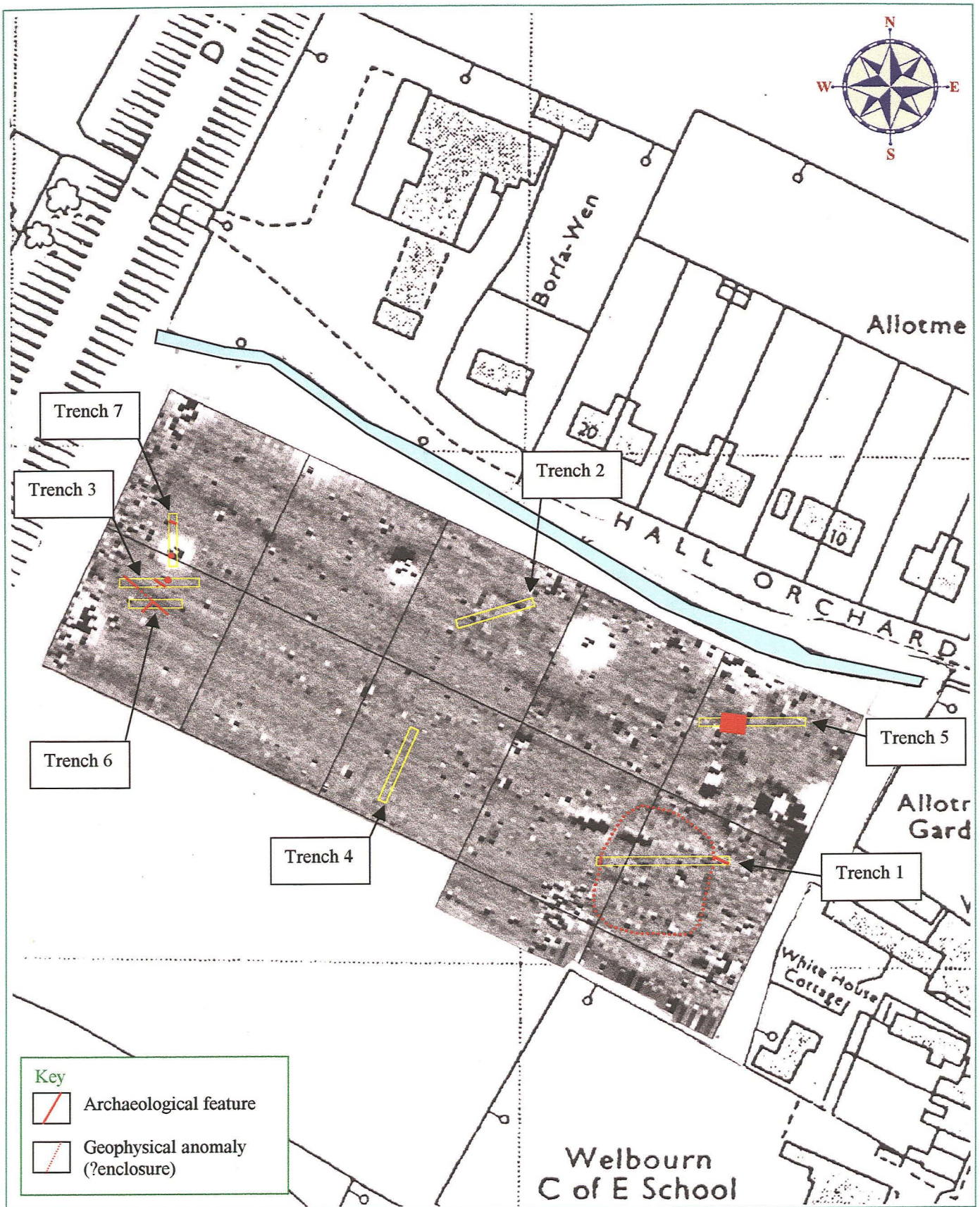


Figure 2: Location of trenches at scale 1:1000
(Superimposed over geophysical survey results)

1.0 Introduction

This report has been prepared for Ploughsound Ltd. to advise an application for residential development on a unit of land at Welbourn in Lincolnshire. Its purpose is to advise both the commissioning body and the Heritage Officer of North Kesteven District Council of archaeological constraints which may exist, and which may warrant future protection and/or further investigation in advance of/during development of the site.

The land (hereafter 'the site') has been evaluated for its archaeological potential using an agreed strategy of trial excavation, the design of which was based largely on the findings of a preceding fluxgate gradiometer survey (Bunn and Palmer-Brown 2001). The results of this excavation are presented below, and incorporate a series of specialist reports that have aided the interpretation of the deposits and features that were sampled. The report follows current national guidelines (IFA, 1994), the guidelines set out in the Lincolnshire County Council document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice* (LCC, 1998), and a formal project specification prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology.

2.0 Location and description

Welbourn is in the administrative district of North Kesteven, approximately 15km south-south-east of Lincoln, 19km north-east of Grantham. The village lies towards the base of the dip slope of the Lincoln Edge, and it occupies land that is 30 – 40m OD.

The site is in the ownership of Mr and Mrs Francis, comprising a sub-rectangular unit of approximately 1.2 hectares. The field lies to the west of the traditional village core south of Hall Orchard Lane and approximately 100m west of 'Castle Hill' (see fig. 1). The field is currently pasture (used for cattle grazing), and is bounded to the north-west by a railway embankment, a drain to the north-east, allotments to the south-east and a hedge field boundary to the south-west (see fig. 2).

The site is positioned at the geological junction between a Jurassic Marlstone Rock Bed of ferruginous oolitic limestone, ironstone and calcareous sandstone to the east, and earlier Jurassic Middle Lias clay and shale with ferruginous and phosphatic nodules in upper parts to the west (BGS 1972 and BGS 1973).

Central national grid reference: SK 9660 5438.

3.0 Planning background

The evaluation was undertaken to establish the archaeological potential of the site in advance of a formal planning application. Ploughsound Ltd. may, at some future date, submit this report in support of an application for planning permission to develop some areas of the site.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

Archaeological data for the parish is relatively limited, although evidence derived from a variety of sources suggests that the general area has been of some significance since the Romano-British period at least.

Earlier prehistoric material has not been found on the site, although a Neolithic flint axe and an edge scraper have been found in the parish. These finds probably reflect prehistoric activity along the limestone ridge.

The site is approximately 2.7km to the west of Ermine Street, the major Roman road that ran from London to York. Scatters of Roman pottery and several coins are known from the parish. A rectangular block of land immediately to the north of the site was originally described as a 'Roman encampment', although it is more likely associated with the Castle Hill earthwork to the east (see below). A watching brief less than 100m to the east in 1994, recovered three sherds of Roman pottery, although these are thought to have been imported during deliberate ground-raising during the 13th century (Palmer-Brown 1994). Further away (200m to the north-north-east), 'Roman remains' of an unspecified nature are recorded in the Lincolnshire SMR.

Welbourn is listed in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as *Wellebrune*, from the Old English *wella* and *burna*, meaning the stream running from a spring. A stream rises from a spring to the north of the village and flows to the River Brant to the west (Cameron 1998).

Anglo-Saxon remains are recorded at Welbourn, although these are limited to undetermined material 200m to the north-north-east, and a single stratified Saxo-Norman pot sherd from a watching brief off the High Street, less than 200m to the south (Palmer-Brown 1995). Further to the east, burials and metalwork have been found between the village and Ermine Street.

The Domesday Survey of 1086 records that there were 12 carucates of land taxable, a priest, a church and a mill; with all land owned by Robert Malet (Morgan and Thorn 1986). Although no trace of this early church remains, the dedication to St. Chad suggests an early dedication. The present church contains no evidence of its origin; the earliest surviving elements are of 13th century construction (Pevsner and Harris 1989).

The site is within 100m of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 116), 'Welbourn Castle'. The medieval ringwork was in existence by 1158 at the latest, when it is recorded that stone defences were being ordered (Pevsner and Harris 1989). The site was probably ruinous by the end of the 14th century (Roffe 1993).

To the immediate north of the site a large rectangular earthwork was erroneously recorded as a 'Roman encampment' on early Ordnance Survey maps. Subsequent investigation has suggested the earthwork is the remains of either an outer bailey for the 'castle', or a block of ridge and furrow within a well-defined field bank.

The Manor House at Welbourn contains 13th century architectural fragments and a 15th century fireplace, although the present building is of 17th century construction.

Medieval pottery has been recovered from a field to the west of the site during ploughing in the 1960's. This possibly represents disturbed material from rubbish pits of domestic buildings at the edge of the village.

Within the site itself, aerial photographs taken in 1932 and 1967 show well-defined ridge and furrow and the corner of a square enclosure (see fig. 3). The enclosure is located towards the north-east corner of the field, and may be related to the 'castle'.

During the 19th century the Lincolnshire to Honington Branch railway was constructed alongside the village. These works involved the erection of a large earth embankment along the western edge of the field.

A fluxgate gradiometer survey of the site was undertaken by Pre-Construct Geophysics in March 2001. This covered the whole of the proposed development site, and it identified significant levels of magnetic variability, some of which was believed to be of archaeological significance (Bunn and Palmer-Brown 2001).

The purpose of the current investigation was to consider the anomalies detected by geophysics and to assess the presence/absence of archaeological remains that may not have responded to non-intrusive survey.

5.0 Methodology

The archaeological works described in this document were requested by the North Kesteven District Council Heritage Officer as a basis for evaluating the archaeological potential of the site, which may be developed for residential purposes by Ploughsound Ltd. The primary purpose of such investigations is to gather and collate information for planning purposes: to assess the archaeological potential of the site and provide a basis for mitigating against the effects of development, if appropriate. The approach is consistent with the guidelines set out in *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (1990).

Initially, five evaluation trenches were investigated. Following a period of consultation, two additional trenches (Trenches 6 and 7) were excavated in an attempt to ascertain if further Roman remains existed adjacent to the railway embankment. The trench locations are indicated on fig. 2.

The evaluation was undertaken by a team of four experienced field archaeologists (including the author, who was project supervisor) over a period of four days, between 4th and 7th June 2001.

For each trench, a JCB fitted with a smooth ditching blade was used to remove all topsoil, subsoil and underlying non-archaeological deposits in spits no greater than 20cm in depth. The process was repeated until the first archaeologically significant or natural horizon was exposed. All further excavation was by hand.

Where archaeological remains were exposed, features and deposits were sample

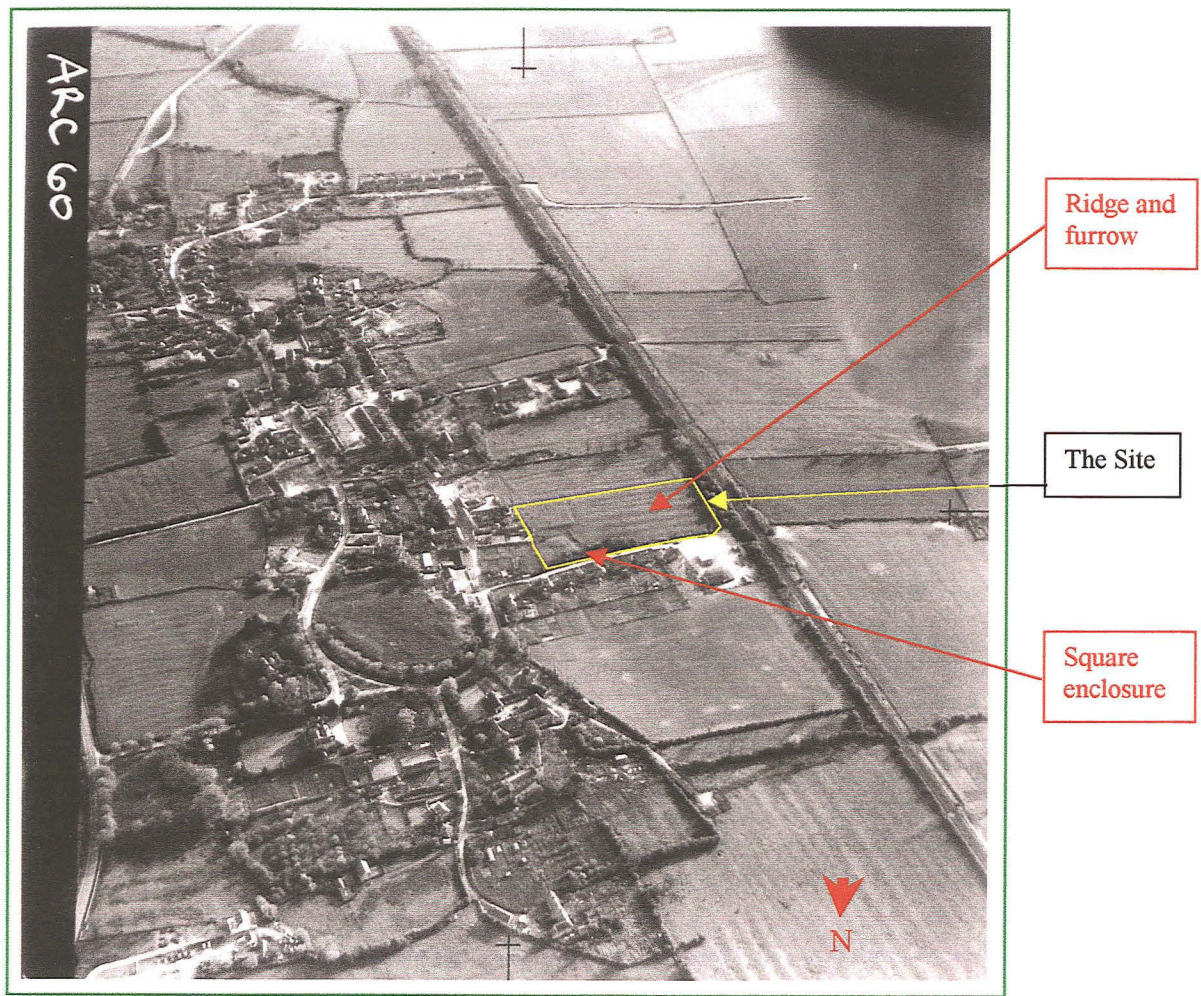


Figure 3: Aerial Photograph of Welbourn taken in 1967, looking south.
Cambridge University Collection of Air Photographs (Ref. No ARC 60)

excavated manually, and context information was recorded on Context Record Sheets. Archaeological deposits were drawn to scale, in plan and in section, and Ordnance Datum heights were entered on each class of drawing. Archaeological contexts were photographed, and some prints are reproduced within this report (see Appendix 1).

Archaeological finds were recovered during the investigation (eg domestic pottery sherds and animal bone). They were washed and processed at the offices of PCA prior to submission for detailed specialist appraisal.

6.0 Results

The topsoil that was common to the site consisted of a 0.2 – 0.3m deep mid grey silty loam with occasional small limestone and flint pebbles. The topsoil sealed an orange/brown clay-silt horizon measuring 0.1 – 0.3m deep, identified as a buried soil of probable medieval date.

6.1 Trench 1 (See fig. 4)

Trench 1 was positioned approximately 20m west of White House Cottage. Its primary purpose was to investigate a small sub-rectangular anomaly; identified during the previous geophysical survey. The trench was 25m long, orientated east – west.

The enclosure was demonstrated to be of medieval date (13th century), with an entrance exposed at the east end of the trench. A shallow undated ditch running south-east – north-west cut across this entranceway. A narrow palaeochannel running north – south across the middle of the trench was not identified by the geophysical survey.

Natural sand and clay (111) was exposed throughout the trench at approximately 0.65m below modern ground level. This was beneath grey/brown clay-silt (101) incorporating a single sherd of 13th – 14th century pottery, identified as a possible buried ploughsoil.

At the west end of the trench was a wide shallow ditch, [105], that corresponds with the western enclosure ditch identified by geophysical survey. The fill of this feature comprised grey clay-silt with occasional limestone pieces, (104). A quantity of 13th century pottery and two medieval tile fragments was recovered from this material.

Approximately 13m east of the above was a small ditch or channel, [109]. This was orientated north-east – south-west. Its fill comprising grey/brown coarse sand, (108), that was devoid of artefactual evidence.

Towards the east of the trench the enclosure was represented by a ditch terminal of unusual form, [107]. The shallow ditch, which had quite steep sides, was 2.2m wide and 0.4m deep. Its uniform fill comprised grey sandy silt, (106), that was devoid of artefacts.

Truncating the above was a gully that was orientated north-west – south-east, [103]. This was filled with grey/brown sandy silt, (102). No finds were recovered from which to date the gully.

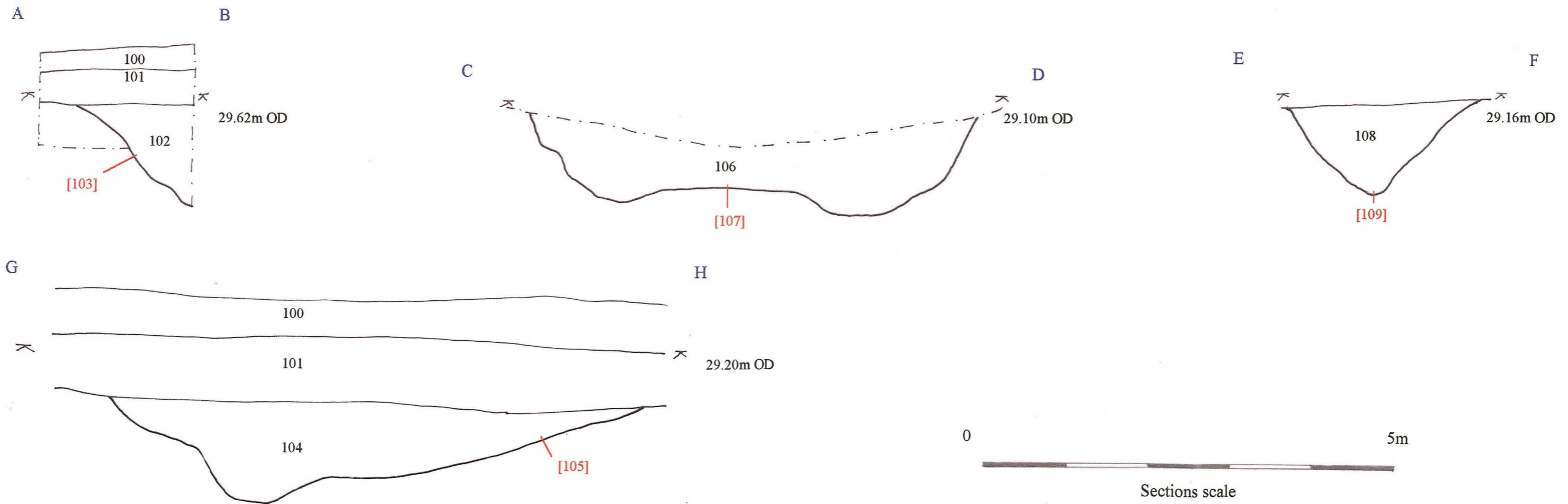
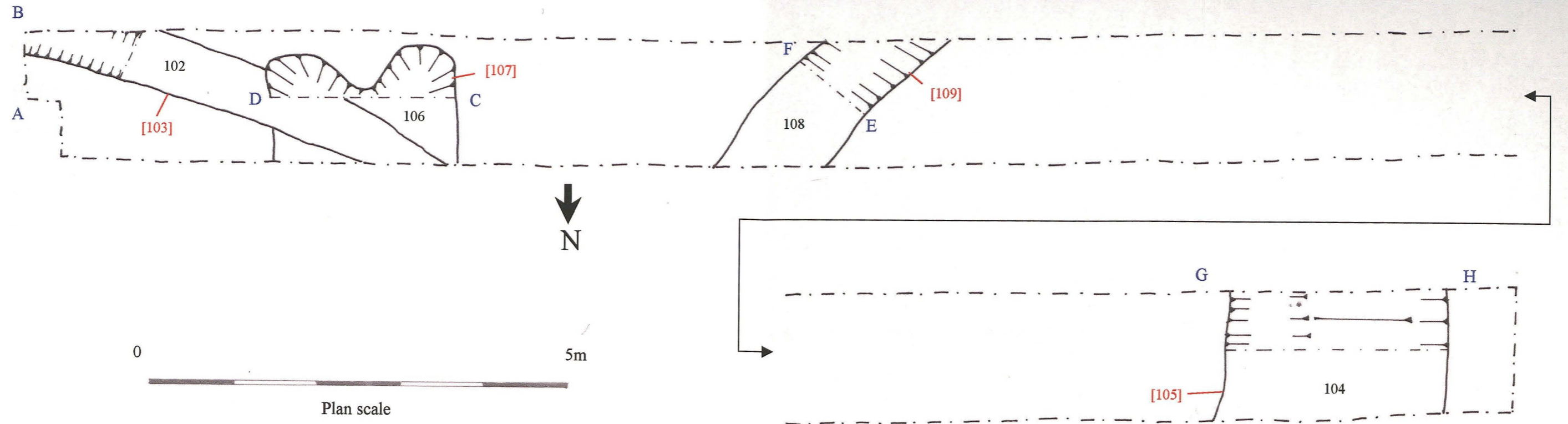


Figure 4: Trench 1 plan and sections

6.2 Trench 2 (See fig. 5)

Trench 2 was positioned towards the north-central part of the field, approximately 12m south of Hall Orchard Lane, to examine a group of short curvilinear geophysical anomalies. It was 15m long and was orientated north-east – south-west.

A natural channel was identified towards the south-west end of the trench, and a known sewer trench was exposed close by.

Machine excavation exposed light blue clay and orange sand and gravels, (202). This was sealed by soft white chalky limestone and powdered limestone, (203), beneath the medieval ploughsoil (201). Layer (201) contained a single sherd of late 9th – 10th century pottery.

A natural channel was exposed towards the south-west end of the trench; orientated north-west – south-east (204). The channel, which corresponded with geophysical anomaly 13, was not excavated.

A sewer trench (also located by gradiometry) was exposed less than 2m to the north-east of the above. This also was orientated north-west – southeast.

There were no other archaeological features in this trench.

6.3 Trench 3 (See fig. 5)

Trench 3 was positioned approximately 10m from the railway embankment. It was 15m long, and was orientated north-east – south-west.

A small pit containing sherds from three Romano-British pottery vessels was exposed, along with an undated posthole and east – west aligned ditch. A medieval furrow was also excavated.

A buried soil (301) (represented within all trenches) contained three residual sherds of probably early Iron Age pottery.

A small, shallow, sub-oval pit-like feature, [303], was exposed along the north edge of the trench. This was more than 0.8m long; 0.4m wide. The pit was filled with grey silty clay, (304), containing sherds from at least three Romano-British vessels. These include two greyware fabrics (a wide-mouthed bowl and a relatively small jar) and a shell-tempered jar in the Dales tradition that was probably used for cooking. The assemblage is dated to the mid to late 3rd century AD, and is taken to indicate the proximity of a Romano-British settlement in the nearby vicinity (see Appendix 2).

The base of a medieval furrow orientated north-west to south-east was exposed towards the centre of the trench [305]. This contained three sherds of 13th century pottery. The furrow reflected the alignment of features identified by geophysical survey and on an aerial photograph taken in 1967.

Immediately to the north of the furrow was an undated, vertically-sided, flat-bottomed, posthole [307] that was filled with brown clay-silt (308).

At the west end of the trench a ditch/gully orientated north-west to south-east was exposed, [309]. This had fairly steep sides and a flat base. Its brown clay-silt fill, (310), was devoid of artefacts.

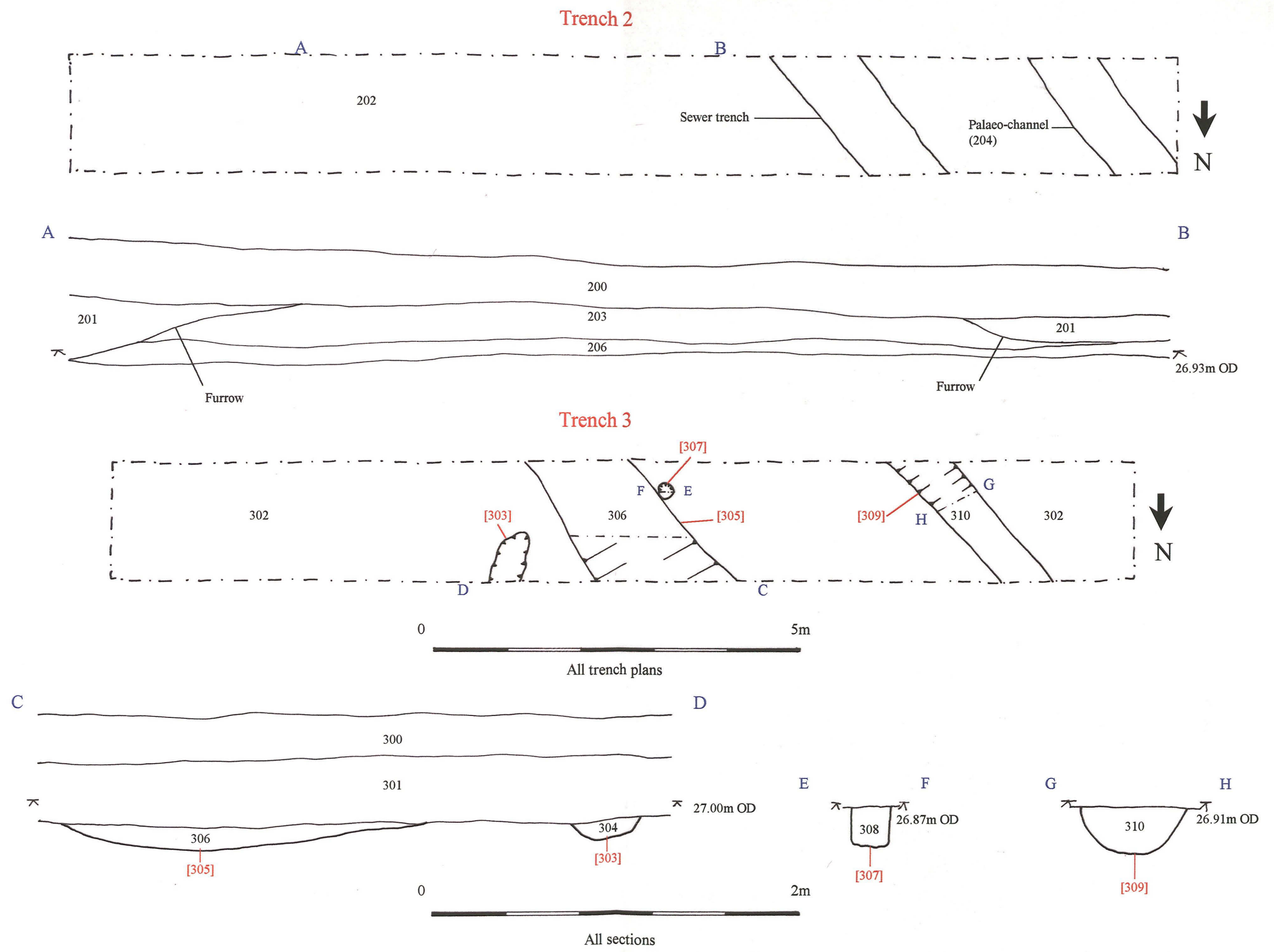


Figure 5: Trenches 2 and 3 plans and sections

6.4 Trench 4 (See fig. 6)

This was located towards the south-central part of the site, and was orientated NNE – SSW. It was positioned to traverse the ridge and furrow that was known from geophysical survey and aerial photographs.

Three 13th century pottery sherds were recovered from the subsoil, (401), but discrete ridge and furrow (ie furrows/*selions*) was not identified in the soil profile, and there were no underlying features of archaeological origin.

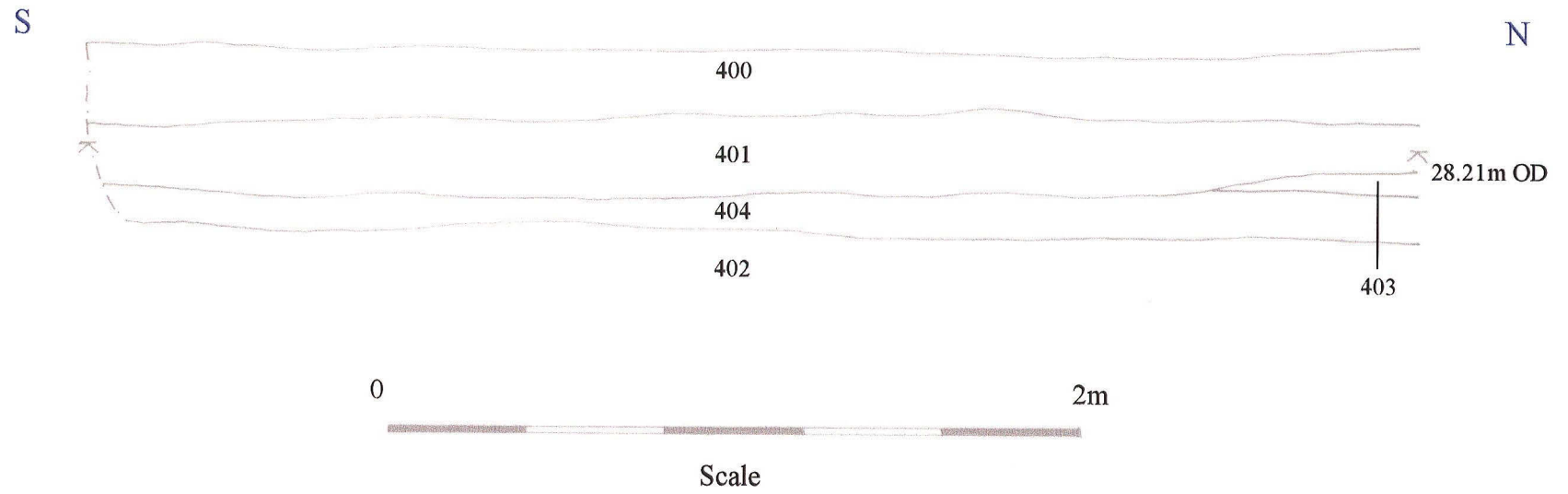


Figure 6: Trench 4 section

6.5 Trench 5 (See fig. 7)

The trench was positioned towards the north-east corner of the field to traverse anomaly group 11 and the corner of a rectilinear enclosure that is visible in a 1967 aerial photograph. The trench was 20.5m long and was orientated east – west.

A large ditch of possibly 13th century origin was exposed. This contained a stone drain at its base. It was recut, probably during the mid-to-late 18th century. The resulting hollow left by the extensive ditch was backfilled after 1967.

Removal of the topsoil and subsoil layers exposed an outcrop of soft, degraded limestone throughout the east half of the trench. The natural deposits at the west end of the trench comprised sand and gravel (503) over clay (504).

A substantial linear ditch of several phases, orientated north – south was exposed towards the west side of the trench. The earliest of several cuts, [529], was largely truncated by a successor [526]. Ditch [529] appeared to be linear, with a gradually sloping west side. Its fills comprised orange/brown sandy silt (527), sealing brown/orange sand and gravel (528). It was not dated.

A successor to the above, [526], had steep sides and a flat base, measuring over 4.5m wide and 1.5m deep. At its base, a narrow slot incorporated a limestone drain (525). The ditch was filled with a series of silt and slump deposits, comprising clay-silts of varying hues. The earliest, (521), contained pottery of 13th century date. A later deposit, (519), contained 15th century sherds.

The above was recut by a much slighter feature, [515]. This was 2.5m wide and 0.4m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. Again, a stone drain was incorporated within the base of the cut (514). Its fill comprised mid brown and grey/brown clayey silts, with pottery of mid – late 18th century date within the secondary fill, (511).

[515] was cut through the west edge of an earlier alignment, [532]. Its fill comprised orange/brown slightly sandy silt, (530), that was devoid of finds. This could represent the eastern edge of ditch [526], although this was not established within the restricted excavation.

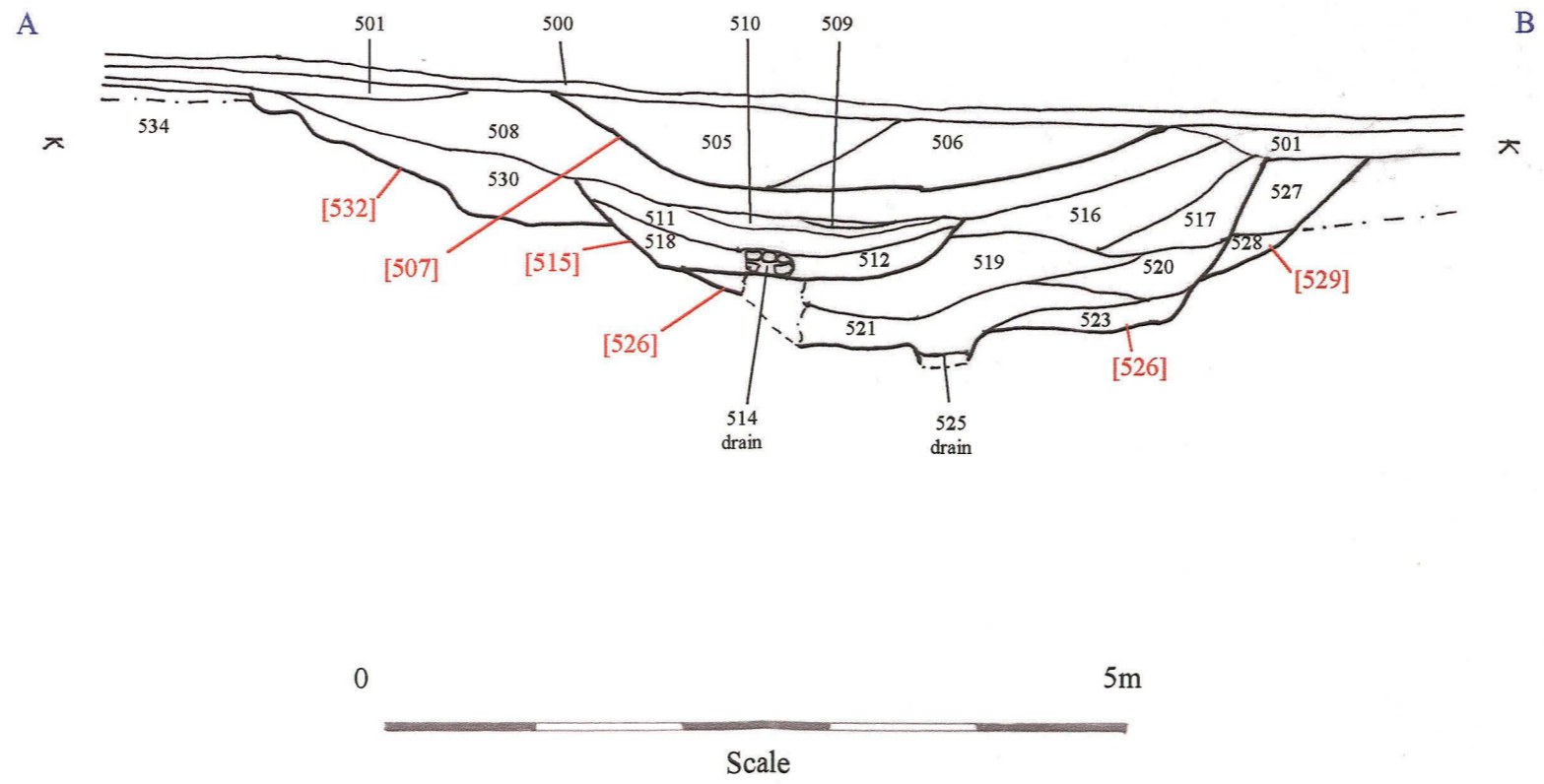
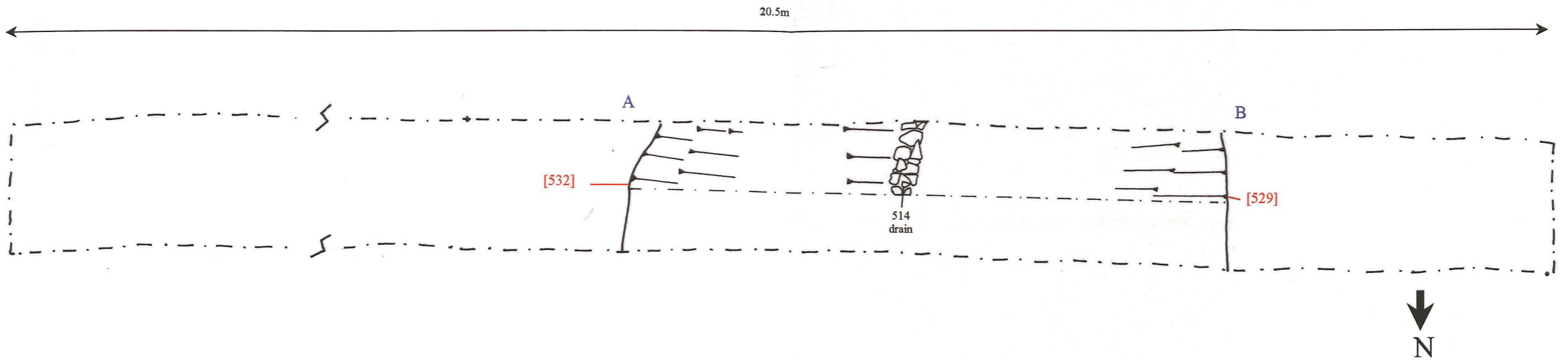


Figure 7: Trench 5 plan and section

6.6 Trench 6 (See fig. 8)

Trench 6 was investigated to examine the extent of archaeological remains that were exposed in Trench 3. This was parallel with Trench 3, approximately 3m to its south.

The undated ditch in Trench 3 continued into Trench 6, with a second, possibly contemporary, ditch running perpendicular to it.

Natural sand and clay (602) was exposed throughout the trench at approximately 0.65m below the modern ground surface. This was beneath a subsoil horizon (601). Three sherds of pottery dating from the mid 13th – 14th century was recovered from (601), as was a quantity of medieval tile.

Towards the centre of the trench was a north-west to south-east aligned ditch or gully [603]. This survived to a depth of 0.3m and was 0.7m wide. Its fill, (604), a brown/grey clayey silt, was devoid of artefacts. This appeared to be a continuation of [309] in Trench 3.

Extending south-west from [603] was a contemporary linear, [605]. This was 0.6m wide and 0.2m deep, with a V-shaped profile. Its fill, (606), was similar to the fill of [603]. Again, no artefacts were recovered.

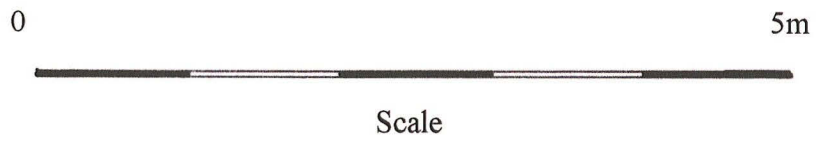
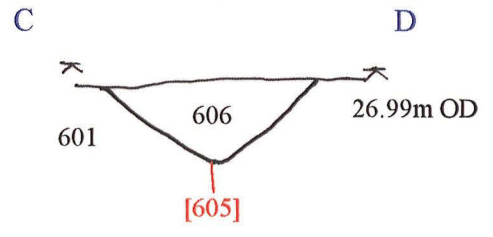
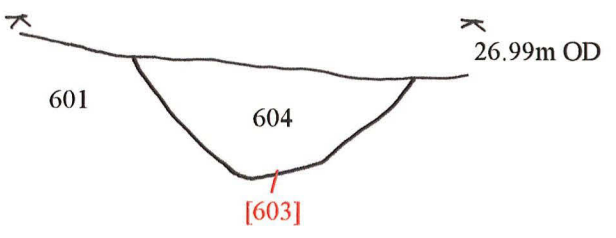
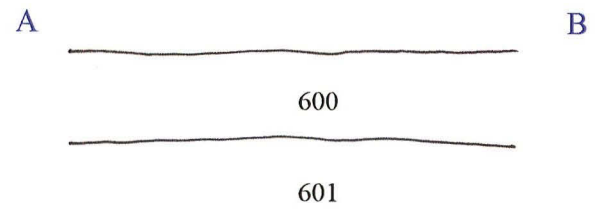
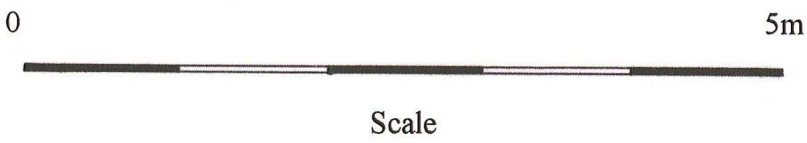
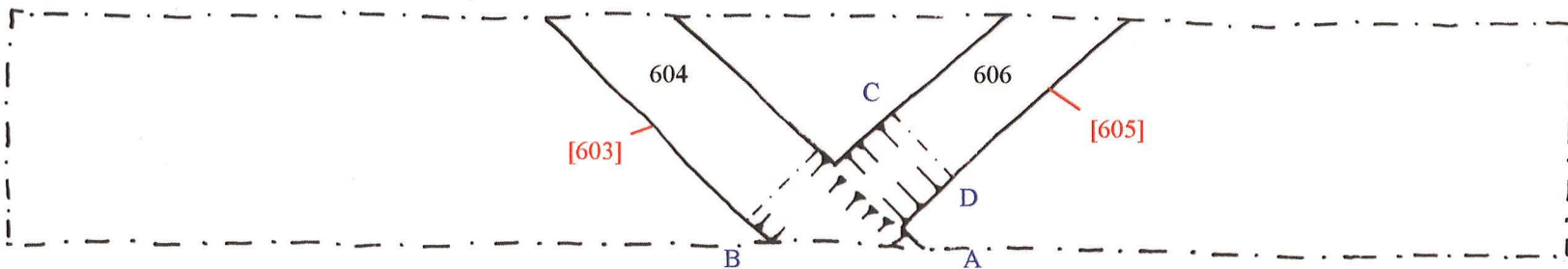


Figure 8: Trench 6 plan and sections

6.7 Trench 7 (See fig. 9)

This was positioned immediately to the north of Trench 3; again, in an attempt to define the extent of remains exposed in that area. The trench was 10m long, and was orientated north – south.

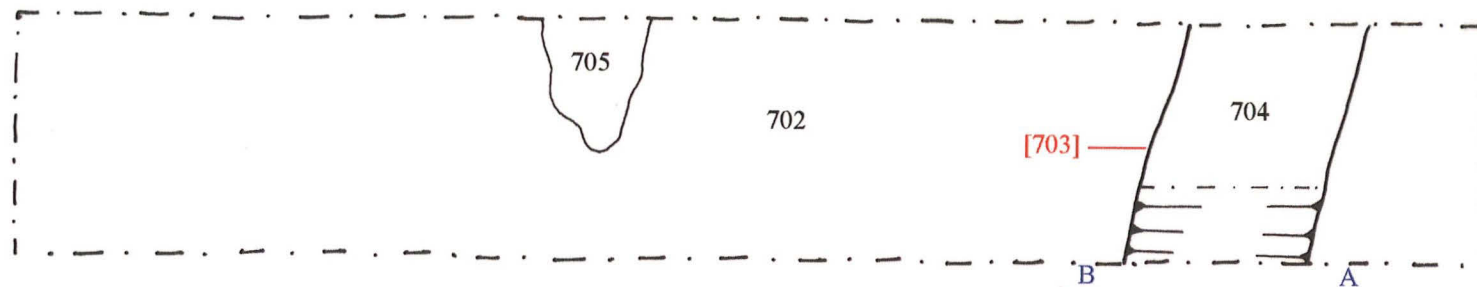
A medieval furrow and a spread of burnt material of unknown date was defined.

Removal of the topsoil, (700), and subsoil, (701), exposed natural clay (602) throughout the trench. Pottery sherds from (701) have been dated to the 13th century.

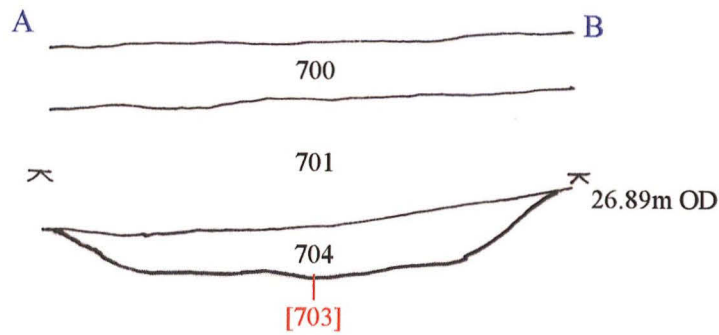
A 1.4m wide linear [703], orientated ESE – WNW was exposed at the north end of the trench. This was filled with brown clay-silt (704), that was devoid of finds.

Approximately 3.5m south of the above was a spread of burnt natural clay, [705]. This is likely to be the residue of a bonfire of unknown date. This spread seems to correlate with a localised area of high magnetic susceptibility.

No other features were exposed in this area.



Scale



Scale

Figure 9: Trench 7 plan and section

7.0 Summary and conclusions

The trenches that were investigated exposed deposits that are considered to be of interest within two areas of the field.

Towards the east end of the site, a small enclosure was identified by gradiometry. Excavations within Trench 1 revealed this to be a medieval enclosure of 13th century date with a possible entrance towards the east. This sub-rectangular enclosure is 24m north – south and 20m east – west. The function of the enclosure has not been determined.

Further north, in Trench 5, part of a more substantial ditch (part of a known rectilinear enclosure complex) was investigated. The ditch, which had been identified from a 1967 aerial photograph, was probably first cut in the 13th century. A stone drain was incorporated within the base of the cut. The feature may have been re-established in the mid – late 18th century. At some point after 1967 the hollow that resulted from these features was backfilled during widespread levelling.

The west end of the field was initially thought to be archaeologically sterile, excluding formerly extant ridge and furrow. The presence of the Lincolnshire to Honington Branch railway embankment immediately to the west suggested that any archaeological deposits were probably destroyed during its construction in the 19th century. Archaeological deposits were uncovered in Trench 3, however, requiring the excavation of two further trenches (6 and 7). The archaeology in this area included a small pit containing the remains mid to late 3rd century pottery vessels. These finds suggest the proximity of a previously unknown late Roman settlement, although the exact location of this is uncertain. Although no dating evidence was recovered from the ditches/gullies exposed in Trenches 3 and 6, it is possible that these features are contemporary with the small Roman pit, although an interpretation for the linears themselves is problematic, given the relatively small areas that were investigated. The possibility that these features themselves were in some way structural should not be excluded, especially given that a small, undated posthole was exposed in Trench 3.

Two trenches were placed towards the centre of the field to examine ridge and furrow (Trench 4) and a curious sub-circular anomaly (Trench 2). The latter was identified as a possible natural channel, although previous excavations at Navenby, for example, have exposed periglacial ice wedges, and one wonders whether or not this feature was of similar origin.

It is concluded that there are two areas of archaeological interest. The east end of the field contains settlement remains dating from the 13th century. This may have had a direct association with the 'Castle', prior to its abandonment by 1374 (Tann 1999).

The west end of the proposed development lies across an area of previously undetected archaeology, including undated gullies that may be contemporary with a Romano-British pit. Although Romano-British finds of pottery and coins have been recovered in the parish, none are known from the immediate vicinity of the site.

8.0 Acknowledgments

The author would like to thank the commissioning client, Ploughsound Ltd. They would also like to thank the landowners, Mr. And Mrs. Francis, for allowing access during the current foot and mouth crisis. The North Kesteven Heritage Officer, Jo Hambley, is thanked for her assistance throughout the course of this investigation.

9.0 Bibliography

B.G.S., 1972 *Grantham – Sheet 127*. 1: 50,000 solid and drift edition. Keyworth, British Geological Survey.

B.G.S., 1973 *Lincoln – Sheet 114*. 1: 50,000 solid and drift edition. Keyworth. British Geological Survey.

Bunn, D. and Palmer-Brown, C., 2001 *Fluxgate Gradiometer Survey: Land off Hall Orchard Lane, Welbourn, Lincolnshire*. Pre-Construct Geophysics. Unpublished.

Cameron, K., 1998 *A dictionary of Lincolnshire place-names*. The English Place-Name Society.

IFA, 1994 *Standard Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations*. Birmingham, Institute for Field Archaeologists.

LCC, 1998 *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice*. Lincoln, Built Environment Section, Lincolnshire County Council.

Morgan, P & Thorn, C (ed.), 1986 *Domesday Book: Lincolnshire*, Phillimore

Palmer-Brown, C. 1994 *Archaeological Watching Brief Report. 28 High Street, Welbourn, Lincolnshire*. Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). Unpublished report.

Palmer-Brown, C. 1995 *Archaeological Watching Brief Report. 33 High Street, Welbourn, Lincolnshire*. Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). Unpublished report.

Pevsner, N. & Harris, J., 1989 *The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire* (2nd Edition revised by N. Antram). London, Penguin.

Roffe, D., 1993, *Castles in Bennett, S. and Bennett, N. 1993, An Historical Atlas of Lincolnshire*. 42-43. The University of Hull Press.

Tann, J., 1999, *Welbourn Castle, Lincs. Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Earthwork Survey*. Lindsey Archaeological Services. Unpublished report.

10.0 Site archive

The site archive (documentary and physical) for this project is in preparation and will be deposited at Lincoln City and Council Museum within six months. Access to the archive may be granted by quoting the global accession number 2001.123.

Appendix 1: Colour Photographs



Pl.1 Site location shot, taken from north-west corner of field, looking south-east.



Pl.2 Trench 1, enclosure ditch butt-end [107] and later ditch [103], looking east.



Pl.3 Trench 2, after cleaning, looking east. Note palaeochannel [204] in the foreground.



Pl.4 Trench 3, Roman pottery within pit [303], looking north.



Pl.5 Trench 3, ditch [309] after excavation, looking south-east.



Pl.6 Trench 4, after cleaning, looking south.



Pl.7 Trench 5, ditch complex after excavation, looking east-south-east.



Pl.8 Trench 6, ditches [603] and [605] after excavation, looking north-west.



Pl.9 Trench 7, after cleaning, looking north.

Archive Report on the Post-Roman Ceramic Building Material and Pottery from a Site at Hall Orchard Road, Welbourn, Lincolnshire (HORW01)

Jane Young

Lindsey Archaeological Services

Introduction and Methodology

A total of 46 sherds of pottery and 20 fragments ceramic building material were recovered from the site. The material ranges in date from the Saxo-Norman to the early modern period. The pottery and tile was examined visually and where necessary using a x20 binocular microscopic, then recorded using locally and nationally agreed codenames on an Access database.

Condition

The material is in variable condition with most vessels being at least slightly abraded. Only one vessel from context 104 is typical of primary deposition, the remaining vessels are mostly represented by small featureless body sherds.

Overall Chronology and Source

The post-Roman pottery dates to between the 10th or 11th and 18th centuries. A suggested date range for the deposition of each stratified context is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Suggested deposition date of stratified pottery groups from contexts

context	date	sherds
101	13th to early 14th	1
104	13th	13
201	late 9th to 10th	1
306	13th	3
401	13th	1
501	14th	1
508	late 18th	9
511	mid to late 18th	8
519	15th	2
521	13th	1
601	mid 13th to mid 14th	3
701	13th	3

Fourteen different post-Roman pottery ware types were found on the site, the type and date range for each fabric together with those for the ceramic building material are shown in Table 2. The pottery is mainly of either 13th to mid 14th century or 18th century date.

Appendix 2: Pottery and tile report by Jane Young and Barbara Precious

Two vessels date to between the 10th and 11th centuries suggesting activity of this period in the area, neither vessel however is diagnostic of any period within this date span. The medieval vessels are mainly glazed jugs from Nottingham and Lincoln. That seven of the eleven medieval jugs are Nottingham ware suggests that Nottingham pottery was being marketed through Newark. None of the twenty medieval roof tiles found on the site are in Lincoln fabrics; the fabrics are more typical of tiles found in Newark and Nottingham. The two vessels from context 519 are of 15th century date; one is a Lincoln ware jug and the other a jug in the late medieval Toynton tradition.

The fifteen post-medieval vessels date to the second half of the 18th century and are typical coarseware and fineware types found in the area.

Table 2: Pottery and tile codenames and total quantities by sherd or fragment count and vessel counts where appropriate.

codename	full name	earliest date	latest date	sherds
BL	Black-glazed wares	1550	1750	10
CREA	Creamware	1770	1830	1
DERBS	Derby Stoneware	1830	1900	1
LFS	Lincolnshire Fine-shelled ware	970	1200	1
LMLOC	Late Medieval local fabrics	1350	1550	1
LSLOC	Late Saxon Local Fabrics	850	1050	1
LSW2	13th to 14th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	1200	1320	2
LSW2/3	13th to 15th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	1200	1450	2
LSW3	14th to 15th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	1280	1450	1
MEDLOC	Medieval local fabrics	1150	1450	2
NIB	Nibbed roof tile	med	post-med	1
NOTG	Nottingham glazed ware	1250	1500	20
PEARL	Pearlware	1770	1900	1
PNR	Peg, ridge or nib tile	med	post-med	19
STSL	Staffordshire/Bristol slipware	1680	1800	1
SWSG	Staffordshire White Saltglazed stoneware	1700	1770	2

Summary and Recommendations

The material recovered represents a small mixed assemblage, mainly of medieval and late post-medieval date.

No further work is needed on the group, although all of the material should be retained for further study.

Pottery Archive HORW01

Jane Young

Lindsey Archaeological Services

context	cname	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	decoration	part	description	date
101	LSW2		small jug	1	1		BS		
104	NOTG	light firing	jug	13	1	combed horizontal & wavy dec	handle & BS	cu glaze;cream fabric	
201	LSLOC	med shell	small jar	1	1		BS	wheelthrown;burnished black ext	
306	NOTG	light firing	jug	2	1		BS	tiny scrap	
306	NOTG	light firing	jug	1	1		BS	tiny scrap	
401	NOTG	light firing	jug	1	1	ridged	BS	abraded;cu glaze	
501	NOTG	light firing/reduced	jug	1	1		handle	odd light olive glaze	
508	BL		?	2	1		BS		17th to 18th
508	BL		?	1	1		base		17th to 18th
508	BL		bowl	1	1		BS		17th to 18th
508	BL		hollow	1	1		BS		late 17th to 18th
508	CREA		hollow	1	1		BS		
508	DERBS		bottle/jar	1	1		BS		
508	PEARL		open	1	1	blue underglaze paint	BS		
508	SWSG		small bowl/cup	1	1		BS		
511	BL		?	1	1		rim		17th to 18th
511	BL		?	1	1		BS		17th to 18th
511	BL		?	1	1		BS	flake	17th to 18th

context	cname	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	decoration	part	description	date
511	BL		bowl ?	1	1		BS		17th to 18th
511	BL		large cylindrical jar	1	1		rim		17th to 18th
511	LSW2/3		jug	1	1		BS		
511	STSL		press mould dish	1	1	trailed	base		
511	SWSG		dish ?	1	1		base		
519	LMLOC		jug	1	1		BS	Tb type	
519	LSW3		jug	1	1		BS	scrap	
521	LSW2		jug	1	1		BS		
601	LFS		jar	1	1		BS	abraded scrap	
601	LSW2/3		?	1	1		BS		
601	NOTG	light firing	jug	1	1	combed dec	BS		
701	MEDLOC	fine-coarse shell + med quartz	?	1	1		BS	fine-coarse shell + mod subround quartz + aggregate sandstone	
701	MEDLOC	fine-coarse shell + med quartz	bowl ?	1	1		rim	fine-coarse shell + mod subround quartz + aggregate sandstone	
701	NOTG	light firing	jug	1	1		BS	abraded	

Tile Archive HORW01

Jane Young

Lindsey Archaeological Services

full name	context	cname	frags	weight	description	date
nibbed tile						
	104	NIB	1	50	thin tile;prob not Lincoln;moulded nib;corner	13th
Peg, nib or ridge tile						
	104	PNR	1	230	hard fine quartz;finger impressions on sanded side	med
	104	PNR	1	322	not Lincoln;poor fabric	med
	519	PNR	1	140	not Lincoln fabric	med
	601	PNR	13	747	various fabrics	med
	601	PNR	1	52	not Lincon	med
	601	PNR	1	23	not Lincon	med
	601	PNR	1	29	hard fine red fabric	med

Appendix 3: Prehistoric and Roman pottery by Barbara Precious

A Summary Report on the Roman Pottery from Welbourn for Colin Palmer-Brown

B J Precious

04/07/01

The pottery has been recorded to the basic archive level according to the guidelines laid down by the Study Group for Roman Pottery using the current computer codes developed by CLAU and sherd count and weight as measures (see The Roman pottery archive horw01.xls).

The site produced a small assemblage of 56 sherds weighing 776 gms from two contexts (301 & 304). The two contexts produced pottery of quite different dates. The wares from Context 301 are certainly pre-Roman in date, probably early to mid Iron Age. They consist of a single, thin sherd from either a hand-made jar or beaker in fine shell with no obvious punctate brachiopods, and two abraded and burnt fragments in a hand-made reduced fabric with small amounts of grog or clay pellets and occasional larger rounded quartz.

The pottery from Context 304 is quite different consisting of a homogenous group of three broken vessels dating to the mid to late 3rd century. All three vessels consist of quite large sherds and appear to have been deposited together. Two vessels are in slightly different grey ware fabrics, one of which has a pale grey core and both the surfaces of are worn, possibly by water or soil conditions. The larger vessel is a wide-mouthed bowl with a fairly short neck (Drawing 1), and the other is a relatively small jar. A shell-tempered jar in the Dales ware tradition is the third vessel from this group. The lower half of the jar is almost complete but the upper half appears to have been sheared off. This vessel has been burnt whilst being used for cooking but is also flaked and very friable. A yellowish deposit is also noticeable on the exterior.

The homogenous nature of this group suggest that there is a Roman settlement in the vicinity. One vessel has been selected for drawing to illustrate the date of the group from Context 304. The pottery should be retained for further work.

CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	DEC	NO VESS	DRAW	STATE	COMMENTS	JOIN	SHS	WT
304	GREY	BWM		1	D1	WW	RIM SHRT NECK BSS GIRTH		7	225
304	GREY	J		1		WW	BSS THINNER WALL PALE GRY CORE		15	96
304	DWSH	J		1		B;F;D	BASE BSS FRIABLE FLAKES;DEPOSIT CESS?		31	448
304	ZZZ						GREY WATER WORN; DWSH FRIABLE			
304	ZDATE						ML3C			
301	SHELF	JBK	HM				BS THIN;PALE BN NO PBS		1	2
301	GREY		HM	1		A;B	BSS; MIN GROG OR CLAY; LGE R PEBBLES		2	5
301	ZZZ						ALL HAND MADE;PROB EIA			
301	ZDATE						PREHIST			

Appendix 4: List of Archaeological Contexts

Trench 1

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Description</i>
100	layer	topsoil
101	layer	buried soil
102	fill	fill of [103]
103	cut	ditch
104	fill	fill of [105]
105	cut	enclosure ditch
106	fill	fill of [107]
107	cut	enclosure ditch butt-end
108	fill	fill of [109]
109	cut	palaeochannel
110	layer	powdered lime
111	layer	sand and clay natural
112	layer	same as (111)

Trench 2

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Description</i>
200	layer	topsoil
201	layer	buried soil
202	layer	powdered lime
203	layer	orange sand and gravel and clay natural
204	cut	palaeochannel
205	cut	sewer trench
206	cut	lower buried soil

Trench 3

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Description</i>
300	layer	topsoil
301	layer	buried soil
302	layer	natural sand, gravel and clay mix
303	cut	pit
304	fill	backfill of pit [303]
305	cut	furrow
306	fill	fill of [305]
307	cut	posthole
308	fill	fill of [307]
309	cut	ditch
310	fill	fill of [309]

Trench 4

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Description</i>
400	layer	topsoil

Appendix 4: List of Archaeological Contexts

401	layer	buried soil
402	layer	natural sand, gravel and clay mix
403	layer	powdered lime
404	layer	buried soil

Trench 5

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Description</i>
500	layer	topsoil
501	layer	?buried soil
502	void	-
503	layer	natural sand and gravel
504	layer	boulder clay
505	fill	upper fill of [507]
506	fill	lower fill of [507]
507	hollow	hollow
508	layer	buried soil (former topsoil)
509	fill	upper fill of [515]
510	fill	fill of [515]
511	fill	fill of [515]
512	fill	fill of [515]
513	fill	fill of [515]
514	stone	drain in [515]
515	cut	drainage ditch
516	fill	fill of [526]
517	fill	fill of [526]
518	fill	fill of [515]
519	fill	fill of [526]
520	fill	fill of [526]
521	fill	fill of [526]
522	fill	fill of [526]
523	fill	fill of [526]
524	fill	fill of [526]
525	stone	drain in [526]
526	cut	drainage ditch
527	fill	fill of [529]
528	fill	fill of [529]
529	cut	drainage ditch
530	fill	fill of [532]
531	fill	fill of [532]
532	cut	?ditch
533	fill	fill of [526]
534	layer	natural limestone outcrop

Appendix 4: List of Archaeological Contexts

Trench 6

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Description</i>
600	layer	topsoil
601	layer	buried soil
602	layer	sand, gravel and clay natural mix
603	cut	ditch
604	fill	fill of [603]
605	cut	ditch
606	fill	fill of [605]

Trench 7

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Description</i>
700	layer	topsoil
701	layer	buried soil
702	layer	sand, gravel and clay natural mix
703	cut	furrow
704	fill	fill of [703]
705	spread	burnt natural