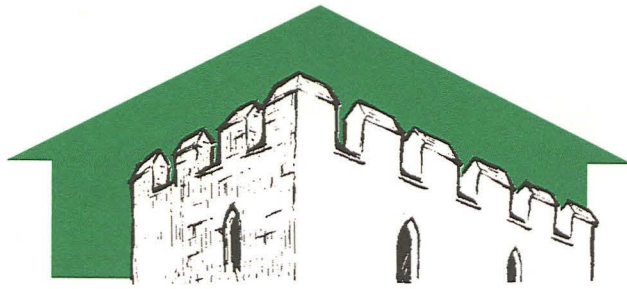


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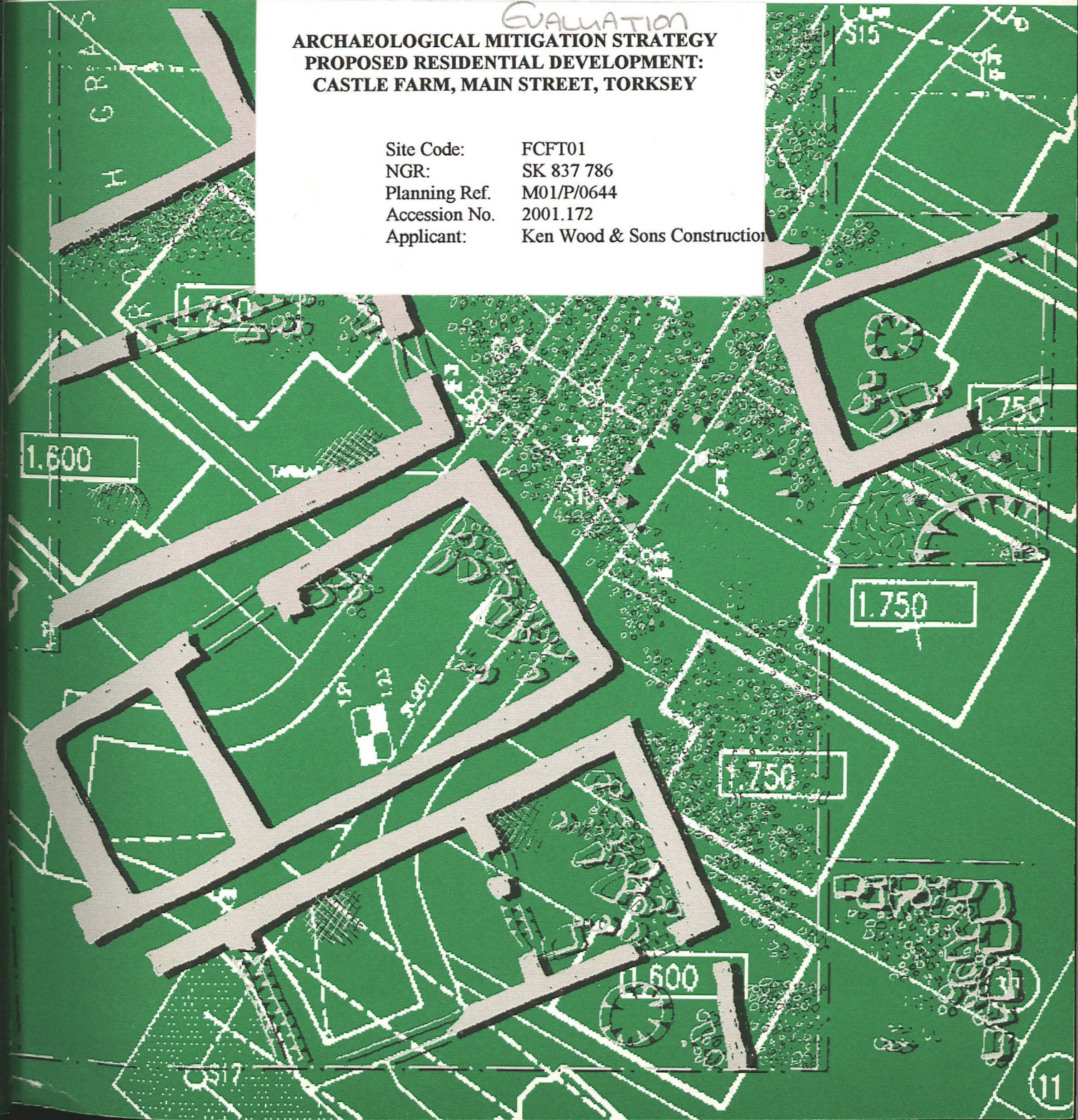


PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

L I N C O L N

EVALUATION
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION STRATEGY
PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT:
CASTLE FARM, MAIN STREET, TORKSEY**

Site Code:	FCFT01
NGR:	SK 837 786
Planning Ref:	M01/P/0644
Accession No.	2001.172
Applicant:	Ken Wood & Sons Construction



Worcestershire County Council
Archaeology Section

Conservation
Services

21 AUG 2001

Highways & Planning
Directorate



2001.172

EUGNT LI 2542
SOURCES LI 7122
LI 7123

S2263 Emed
S2545 Emed
S4613 LIB2148 Preh
S4556 Pmed

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By C Palmer-Brown and M Allen

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August 2001

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1.0 Introduction

Planning consent is sought for a residential development on the site of the former Castle Farm, Main Street, Torksey, Lincolnshire. Investigations at this site have demonstrated that it is an area of high archaeological potential.

This document has been prepared for Ken Wood & Sons Construction. Its aim is to address matters relating to the protection of archaeological remains and, at the same time, to propose a formal strategy that will seek to address the interests of the developer.

2.0 Location and description

Torksey is approximately 12km north-east of Lincoln, 9km south of Gainsborough on the east side of the River Trent. The proposed development is on the extreme south side of the village, west of Main Street. It is the former site of Castle Farm.

The land is currently an area of derelict pasture that has seen relatively little activity since archaeological excavations took place in 1994, excluding a supplementary phase of evaluation in June 2001. There are trees on the west and the south-east sides of the site, some of which are protected by Tree Preservation Orders (T101, T102, T104).

The upper geology of the area is dominated by blown sand deposits, and these overlie colluvial and alluvial sands and gravels. Excavations at the site have exposed post-Saxon blown sand deposits that range in depth from 300mm to 1000mm, and excavations elsewhere in Torksey have identified similar accumulations over late Saxon remains.

Planning permission is sought for the erection of four dwellings, with associated garages, access and services. The footprint of the scheme can be seen on fig. 2.

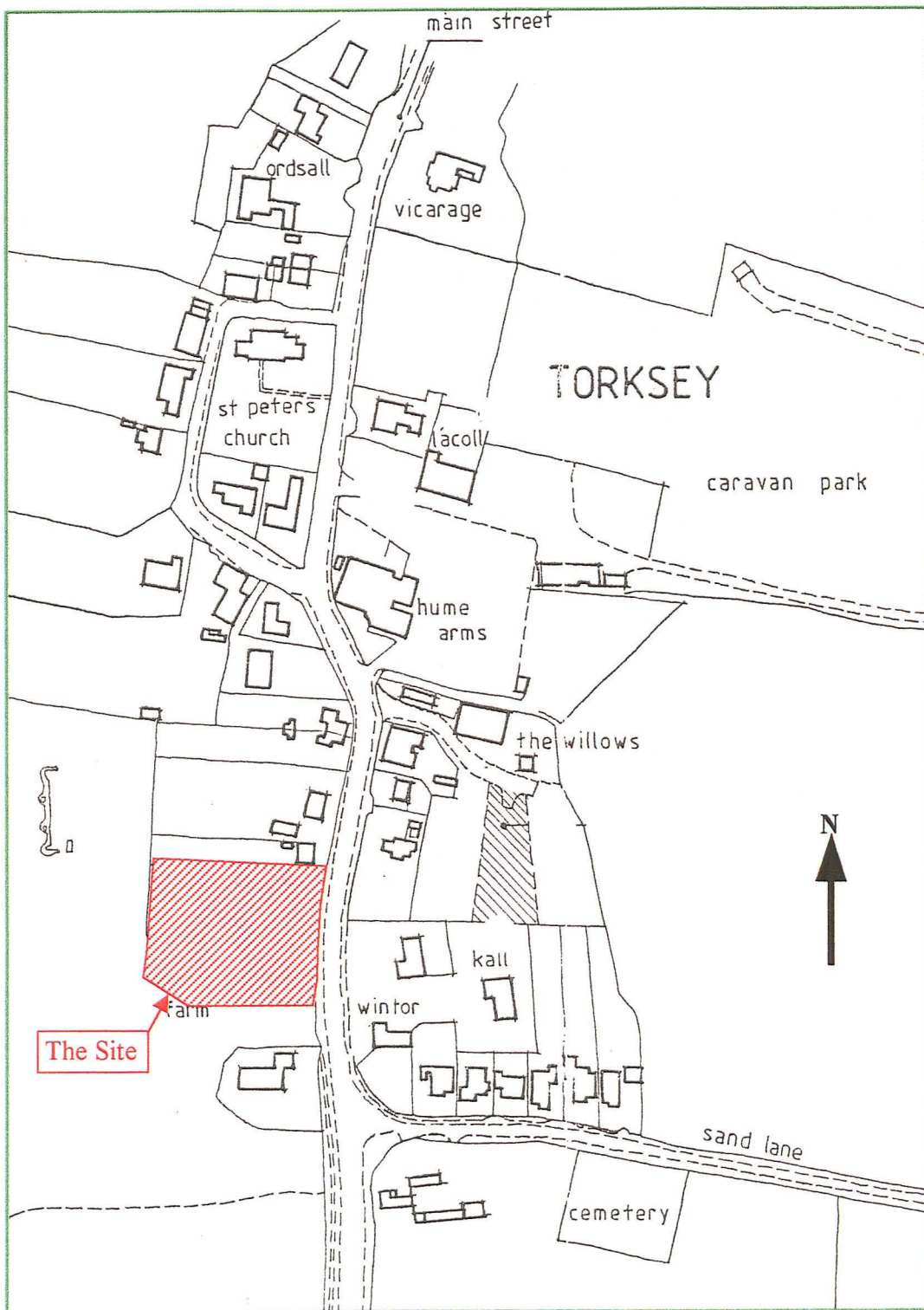


Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:2500

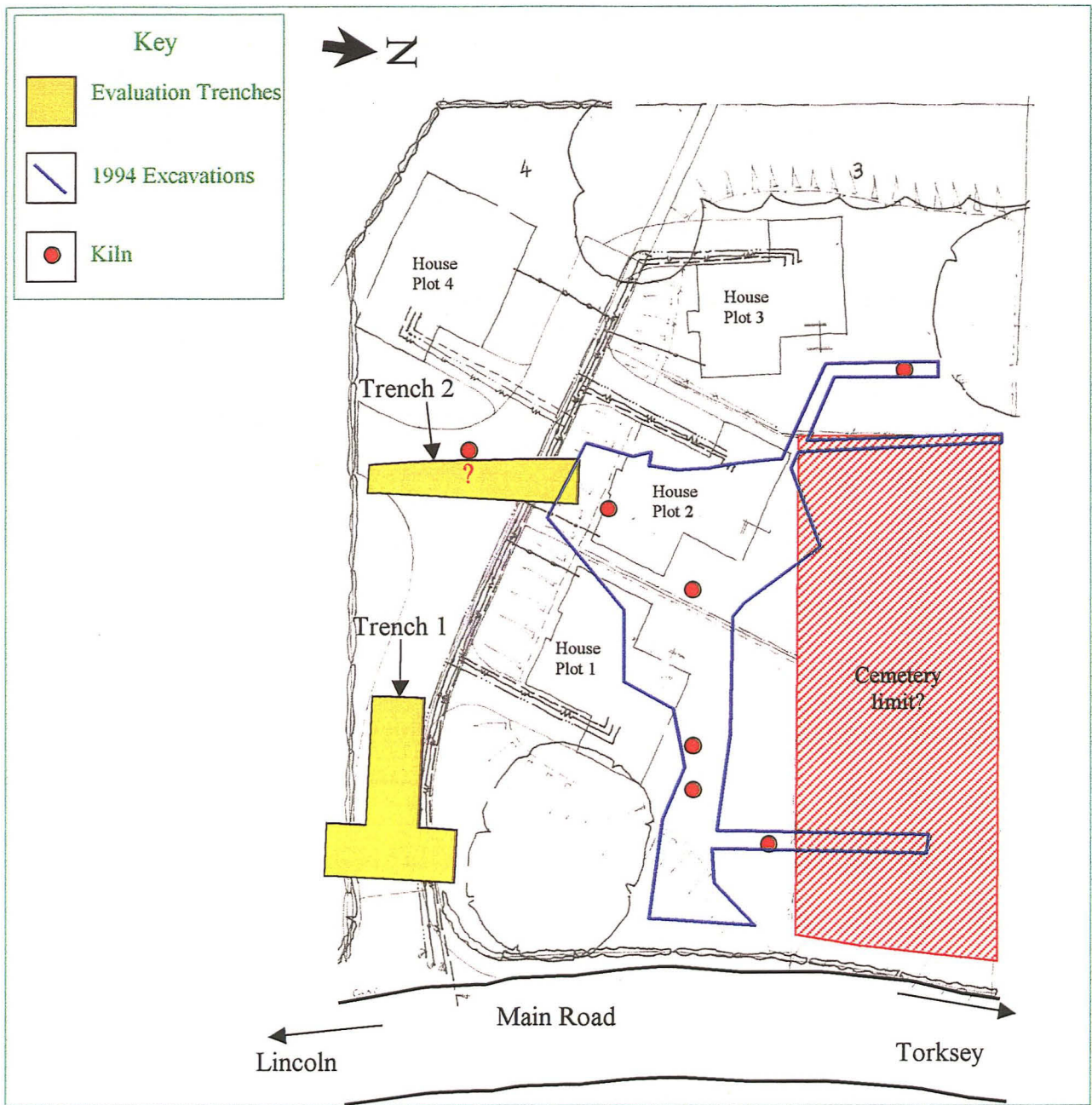


Figure 2: Location of trenches at scale 1:500
(includes 1994 excavation areas and known kilns)

3.0 Archaeological background (incorporating the results of further evaluation in June 2001)

3.1 General archaeological background

Torksey is known for its important late Saxon pottery industry, and a series of excavations, carried out since the 1960's, have demonstrated the existence of an extensive manufacturing base that was operating between the late 9th and the 11th centuries AD. These wares were widely traded to important centres such as Lincoln via the Fosse Dyke.

In the medieval period, Torksey was one of the largest settlements in Lincolnshire: the Domesday Book records that it was the third largest borough in in 1086.

In the Roman period, an important pottery industry was established at Little London on the south side of the Fosse Dyke. Associated products are relatively common on Lincoln excavations.

At Castle Farm, which is the principal theme of this document, excavations were carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology in 1994, exposing part of a late Saxon inhumation cemetery, several late Saxon pottery kilns, a medieval lime kiln, and post-medieval building remains (Palmer-Brown 1994).

The site was the subject of an earlier evaluation by Lindsey Archaeological Services (Field 1990). This investigation first identified the cemetery remains that exist at the site, as well as a hoard of Saxon coins. Pottery kilns were not exposed, although they were suspected, due to the presence of significant quantities of late Saxon pottery.

3.2 Evaluation in June 2001 (by Mark Allen)

Summary

- A rapid supplementary field evaluation was undertaken to assess the archaeological potential of the southern part of the site.
- Foundations of the former Castle Farm had truncated post-Saxon blown sand deposits, with only minimal damage to deeply buried archaeological horizons. A deeper impact was associated with a brick cellar.

3.2.1 Methodology

The evaluation was requested by West Lindsey District Council as a basis for further determining the archaeological potential of the site.

Two evaluation trenches were investigated as indicated on fig. 2. The work was undertaken by a team of two experienced field archaeologists (including the author) over a period of three days, between 11th and 13th June 2001.

For each trench, a JCB fitted with a smooth ditching blade was used to remove all topsoil, subsoil and underlying non-significant archaeological deposits in spits no greater than 20cm in depth. All further excavation was by hand.

Where archaeological remains were exposed, features and deposits were drawn to scale, in plan and in section. Archaeological contexts were photographed, and some prints are reproduced within this report (see Appendix 1). Several archaeological features were sample excavated.

Archaeological finds were recovered (eg domestic pottery sherds). They were washed and processed at the offices of PCA prior to submission for specialist appraisal (animal bone was not submitted on this occasion).

3.2.2 Results

3.2.3 Trench 1 (See fig. 3)

Trench 1 was positioned approximately 5m west of Main Street, in the south-east corner of the site. The 3m wide trench was T-shaped, measuring 10m north – south and 10m east – west.

Foundations for the former farm buildings had impacted upon archaeological horizons, especially towards the west end of the trench, in the vicinity of a brick cellar. A series of pits/postholes were exposed, including a possible alignment (of late 16th to early 17th century date) running parallel with Main Street. They were sealed beneath post-Saxon blown sands.

Natural sand that pre-dated the late Saxon archaeological horizons (127) was exposed throughout the trench at approximately 0.9m below modern ground level. Sporadic patches of dark pink clay (128), identified as Mercia Mudstone, pre-dated the sand (127). Above (127) was a series of later blown sands, (117) and (116).

Four sub-circular features were exposed within the north-south limb of the trench. Three of these ([132], [134] and [136]), were approximately 0.75m in diameter, whilst the fourth, [138], was only 0.4m. All four were filled with grey/brown silty sand with some charcoal flecking. The four postholes were orientated north-south, parallel with Main Street. A remarkably well-preserved brass Nuremburg jetton of late 16th to early 17th century date was recovered from the fill of [136], (135) – K Leahy, *pers. com.*

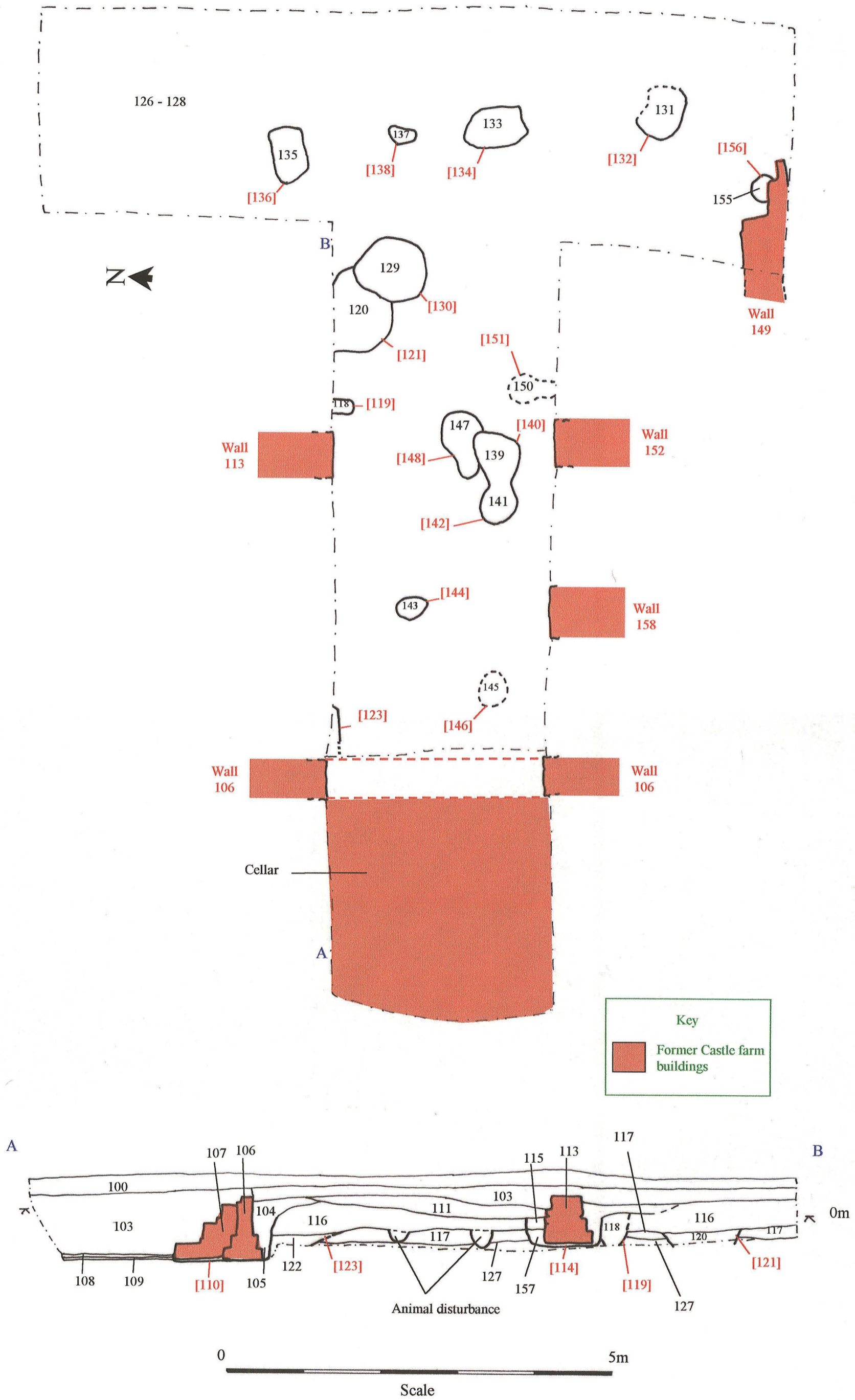


Figure 3: Trench 1 plan and section

At the north end of the trench was an outlying posthole, [156]. This was sealed immediately beneath a wall foundation associated with Castle Farm (149), approximately 1m below the modern surface.

The east – west limb of Trench 1 contained numerous features of almost certain archaeological origin. Without excavation it was not possible to ascertain whether they represented small pits or postholes. Pottery of late Saxon date (Torksey ware) was recovered from the surfaces of [121] (fill (120)), [130] (fill (129)) and [140] (fill (139)).

The majority of the farm walls in Trench 1 (of brick construction) appeared to truncate the blown sands that post-dated the more significant archaeological levels. However, at the west end of the trench a backfilled cellar cut into the underlying Mercian Mudstone (128).

3.2.4 Trench 2 (See fig. 4)

Trench 2 was approximately 35m west of Main Street, between two concrete platforms (related to the former Castle Farm). It was 16.5m long and was orientated north – south.

The edge of a possible stoking area was identified at depth, immediately beneath brick foundations. Several gullies, a ditch and posthole alignment attest to several phases of activity, possibly from the late Saxon period onwards.

The brick foundations that were exposed were approximately 1m deep. They truncated an extensive post-Saxon blown sand deposit.

Machine excavation exposed Mercia Mudstone beneath clean blown sand, (205), approximately 1.3m below existing ground level at the south end of the trench; shallowing to 0.65m towards the north. The natural sand (205) contained spreads of small and medium-sized limestone, (231), that may be of archaeological origin. A single struck flint was found within (205).

Immediately above (205) was a familiar brown blown sand (204). This appeared to seal a number of archaeological features that contained late Saxon pottery. A thin lens of dark brown sand, (203), overlying (205), was truncated by a series of modern concrete and brick foundations, (202). These foundations appeared to represent part of an addition to the Castle Farm complex.

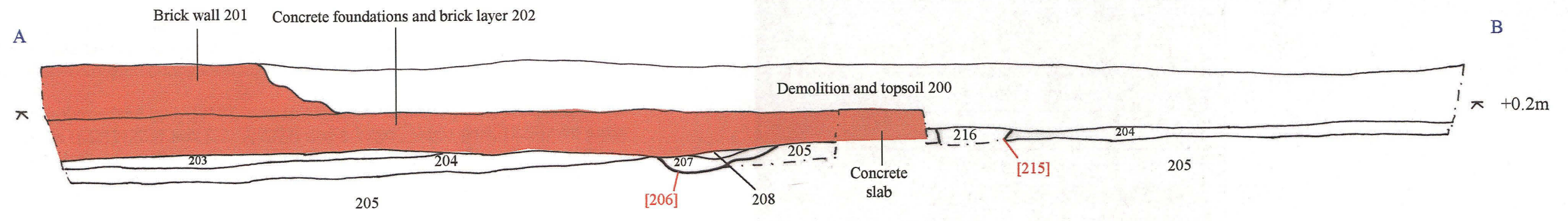
A shallow, possibly oval-shaped, pit was exposed along the west edge of the trench, [206]. This feature was filled with black sand (burnt) and charcoal (207), sealed by a brown/pink clay lens, (208). The feature (which contained Torksey ware pottery) was possibly a rake-out pit associated with a nearby kiln, although this could not be established.

Further north, and sealed by a concrete slab, was a shallow gully, [209], with possible associated postholes ([211] and [213]). The gully, running ESE – WNW, was approximately 0.4m wide and 0.2m deep, with vertical edges and a flat base. It was filled with brown sand, (210), that incorporated two sherds of Torksey ware and a single, unusual, heavy spout (also a local product).

The two postholes, [211] and [213], were c. 0.2m in diameter, and were filled with similar brown sand.

Directly north of the concrete slab was ditch [215]. This was orientated east-west, and was observed in section to cut the post-Saxon blown sand (204). Its dark grey sandy fill, (216), contained the disarticulated remains of a cow-sized animal and several sherds of modern pottery.

The north end of the trench exposed part of the 1994 excavation (see fig. 2). Less than 1m to the south was a series of intercutting features. These included a gully, [219], following a similar alignment to gully [209] (ESE – WNW), 3.9m further south. No dating evidence was recovered from its light brown sand fill, (220). The unexcavated gully may have been structural, although it was not possible to clarify this.



Key

Former Castle farm buildings

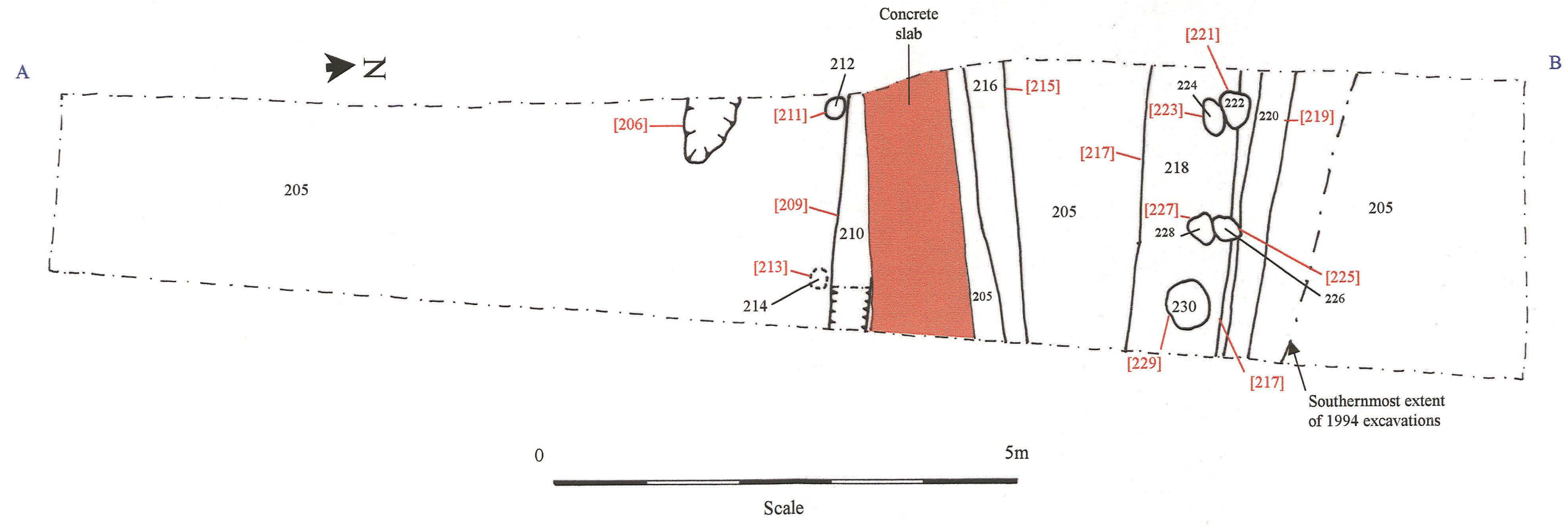


Figure 4: Trench 2 plan and section

On a similar alignment was ditch [217]. This was approximately 1m wide, and was filled with mid brown sand, (218). Three sherds of Torksey ware (including one kiln waster) were recovered during cleaning of this feature.

Cutting the above (and gully [219]) was an alignment of three posts, comprising two double posts ([221]/[223] and [225]/[227]) and a larger, single post, [229]. All were filled with dark grey sand with occasional charcoal flecks, devoid of artefacts. Posthole [227] contained two medium sized pieces of limestone (post packing?) within its fill, (228).

3.2.5 Summary and interpretation

The two evaluation trenches exposed deposits that are considered to be of interest within the southern part of the development site.

Although the date of the former farm is uncertain, it is likely to have originated in the 18th/19th century. A number of walls of later construction imply additions to the farm, probably in the 20th century. Where associated foundations were exposed, it was determined that, for the most part, the only archaeological horizons destroyed or truncated were post-Saxon. Only at the west end of Trench 1 had deeper (cellar) foundations cut into the solid geology, and it may be inferred that this depth of truncation continued westwards for an undetermined distance.

With minimal excavation taking place, it is difficult to draw any firm conclusions, although (not surprisingly) pottery recovered from the surface of some features was late Saxon. It can be inferred from previous investigations at Castle Farm that further kilns and kiln-related structures will occur within the confines of this site.

Parallel with Main Street was a post-alignment (late 16th to early 17th century?), approximately 8m away from the road verge. In the same general area, a series of pits and/or postholes are possibly associated with the late Saxon occupation of the area and/or the pottery industry that is known to have been extensive in this part of the former town. The dating evidence for the post alignment is interesting, in that it may relate to a 16th century stone building that was investigated in 1994. This could represent part of a structure that is depicted on a mid-18th century map (Hume Estate Map, purchased ?1751) when Castle Farm was known as Hall Yards.

In Trench 2, possible structural remains are present, consisting of two parallel gullies and a later post-alignment. The gullies may represent beam slots for a structure, although this was not established.

The relatively clean blown sand that overlies the Mercia Mudstone throughout the site may contain, or cover, earlier archaeological horizons. This is suggested by the presence of a single struck flint from the sand.

4.0 Archaeological mitigation strategy

The Department of the Environment document *Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning* (1990) states that "where nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not, and their settings, are affected by proposed development there should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation *in situ* i.e. a presumption against proposals which would involve significant alteration or cause damage, or which would have a significant on the setting of visible remains" (PPG16, Section 27).

The 1994 investigation was undertaken to mitigate against the effects of a specific development proposal. The current proposal (based on drawings CMS/1717/01 and CMS/1717/01-MS, prepared by Construction Management Services) is of a different design: it will involve the construction of four dwellings and a revised access towards the south of the site.

It is known that the archaeology occurs at different levels relative to the modern ground surface, and the impact of the former Castle Farm has now been addressed (see Section 3 above).

Towards the west of the site, archaeological deposits are buried beneath up to 1000mm of blown sand, reducing to 300mm close to Main Stree. On the north-east side, in the vicinity of the Saxon inhumation cemetery, there is between 500mm and 750mm of cover. The south side of the site is more disturbed, resulting from the impact of the former farm complex.

To mitigate against the impact of the proposed development, the archaeological curator has advised that two approaches are required:

- 1) Preservation *in situ* of almost all of the archaeological remains
- 2) Preservation by record of those remains that cannot be preserved *in situ* (access, trenches for essential services, the depths of which will be governed by statutory limitations).

Acting on behalf of the proposed developer, Construction Management Services has produced site drawings showing a) the footprint of the proposed development (CMS/1717/01) and b) details of the proposed rafting techniques to be applied to plots 1/ 2 / 3 and 4 (CMS/1717/01-MS). These drawings should be referred to in conjunction with this document. Furthermore, it is suggested that the raft design proposed for plot 3 should be extended to plots 4 and 5.

A strategy for development of the site that will safeguard the archaeological interest is set out in the sections that follow

4.1 The Saxon inhumation cemetery

No development will take place within the confines of the projected cemetery (see fig. 2). Preservation *in situ* will be achieved by importing topsoil and ensuring that the total area outlined in fig. 2 (shaded red) is covered by not less than 600mm. This area will be seeded/turfed and a hedge line will delineate the boundary that will separate

plots 1 and 2 as shown on drawing CMS/1717/01). Excavations for this hedge must not exceed 500mm (following topsoil importation).

There must be no tracking of vehicles over the disused burial ground, which will be clearly delineated from the outset of the construction project.

4.2 Plot 1

Plot 1 will occupy a south-central position. Previous excavations in this part of the site revealed a complex and significant archaeological stratigraphy, commencing at 300mm – 400mm beneath the modern ground surface. This comprised the remains of a post-medieval (?16th century) building, two late Saxon pottery kilns and related features.

To preserve the archaeological remains in this area, no excavations can take place on Plot 1, excluding removal of the vegetation layer (not exceeding 100mm). This will then form the level of raft construction.

After removal of the vegetation soil, the footprint of the building will be raised by 525mm using hardcore over a terram membrane. Above the hardcore, the foundation raft will be set.

4.3 Plot 2

The remains of two kilns were exposed in the vicinity of/on the proposed footprint, however the remains were protected beneath 700mm – 900mm of post-Saxon wind blown sand. The recent phase of evaluation (Trench 2) has confirmed the presence of further archaeological remains in this area, although these also appear to occur at depth; resulting either from overlying blown sands or from truncation by the former buildings attached to Castle Farm).

To avoid disturbing the archaeological resource, the dwelling will be built on a raft foundation. The footprint excavations for this foundation will not exceed 100mm (ie removal of the vegetation layer only), and similarly to plot 1, the ground surface will be artificially raised with hardcore by 375mm. This will form the level at which the foundation raft will be set.

4.4 Plots 3 and 4

Each of the dwellings will be built over a concrete raft, the footprint excavations for which will not exceed 150mm from existing ground level. The excavated footprint will be covered with a terram membrane, prior to hardcore deposition (275mm). This will be the level at which the concrete raft will be set.

Investigation results show that the west side of the site contains thick deposits of post-Saxon blown sand (approx. 800mm – 1000mm from existing ground level). This will present no problems as far as plots 3 and 4 are concerned.

4.5 Access drives and footways

A tarmac private road will be constructed, extending west-west-north off Main Street (see fig. 2 and drawing CMS/1717/01). The plan of this access has been designed to ensure that the nearby ruins of Torksey Castle (an Elizabethan manor house) remain visible from Main Street.

Access construction will require excavations not exceeding 500mm from existing ground level, with the base of the cut being lined with a geo-textile membrane.

Work in evaluation Trench 1 has confirmed that archaeological remains survive in this area at approximately 700mm below existing ground level, and excavations in 1994 suggest that archaeology could be exposed at 300mm at the proposed access/Main Street interface. In view of this, all excavations for the access must be under strict archaeological supervision. In addition, the contractor must allow pauses (at the discretion of the archaeologist) to allow appropriate excavation and recording of any archaeological remains that will be disturbed or destroyed: it is likely that such pauses will occur only towards the Main Street frontage.

4.6 Soakaways

Deep surface water soakaways will not be used. Surface water will be disposed of via gravel grips and porous pipes.

4.7 Service trenches

There will be restricted excavations for essential services. Minimum depths for such services will be governed by statutory limits.

The proposed layout for essential services is indicated on drawing CMS/1717/01-MS. One trench will be excavated for gas, electricity, telephone and water. The latter will constitute the deepest of these excavations; to maximum 900mm below existing ground level.

All excavations for essential services must be intensively monitored by an appointed archaeological contractor in accordance with an agreed written scheme of investigation.

4.8 Storage areas

All soil must be stored on the west side of the site (west of the footprints for plots 3/4). Blown sand deposits in this area are up to 1m deep, and must be utilised also to store cabins and any other heavy equipment. Cabins must be positioned over spreader plates to ensure weight distribution.

4.9 Site conditions

In accordance with the requirements of the archaeological curator, **all soil stripping and excavation at the site must be carried out in dry weather** to avoid deep rutting during the movement of plant/machinery.

5.0 Archaeological strategy

5.1 Archaeological observation and recording

A formal 'comprehensive' programme of archaeological observation and recording must take place during all groundworks, defined as:-

vegetation stripping

excavations for all house foundations and ancillary structures

excavations for all services

excavations for access roads and private drives.

In the few areas where the resource will be at potential risk (service trenches, northern side of access), the developer must arrange for pauses in the groundworks to allow complete recording of any remains that will be disturbed or destroyed as a result of the essential groundworks.

If human remains are encountered, then burials must be fully excavated and removed from the site for further study. This would require application for, and the granting of, a Section 25 licence.

6.0 Post-excavation and reporting

All phases of the archaeological investigation/mitigation strategy must be documented in a comprehensive archaeological report. This report should be prepared in accordance with current national (eg IFA 1994) and local guidelines (Lincolnshire County Council 1998).

A summary account on the results of the investigation should be submitted to the editor of the county journal, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*.

On project completion, a detailed project archive should be prepared in accordance with the LCCM document '*Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*', and the completed archive should be submitted to the City & County Museum at Lincoln for long-term curation and storage.

Copies of the site report will be submitted to the commissioning client, to Lincolnshire County Council, English Heritage, the County Sites and Monuments Record, and West Lindsey District Council.

7.0 Additional information

7.1 Treasure Act 1997 and Code of Practice.

If finds containing precious metals are recovered as a result of the investigation, they must be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner immediately upon discovery.

7.2 Monitoring

The Assistant Built Environment Officer for Lincolnshire would be responsible for monitoring standards throughout the course of the development and archaeological investigation.

8.0 Bibliography

Dept. of the Environment 1990 *Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16)

IFA, 1994 *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*.
Birmingham, Institute of Field Archaeologists.

LAS 1990 *Castle Farm, Torksey: Archaeological Evaluation Report* (unpublished, SMR No. 45)

LCC, 1998 *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice*. Lincolnshire County Council.

PCA 1994 *Castle Farm, Torksey: Archaeological Excavation Report* (unpublished, SMR No. 341)



Pl. 1 Site location shot taken from SW corner of site, looking NE. Trench 2 is in the middle-ground, with Trench 1 in the background.



Pl. 2 Trench 1 (N-S limb) after cleaning, looking S.



Pl. 3 Trench 1 (E-W limb) after cleaning, looking NE. Note Former Castle Farm brick cellar in foreground.



Pl. 4 Trench 2 after cleaning, looking S. Note complex of features in foreground.



Pl. 5 Trench 2, looking W. E-facing section through ?rake-out [206].



Pl. 6 Trench 2, looking W. Detailed shot of complex of features at N. end of trench.

Archive Report on the Pottery from an Evaluation at Castle Farm, Torksey, Lincolnshire (FCFT01)

Jane Young
Lindsey Archaeological Services

Introduction

A small group of 22 sherds of pottery representing 20 vessels was recovered from the site. The material ranges is entirely late Saxon in date. The pottery was examined both visually and using a x20 magnification, then recorded on an Access database using locally and nationally agreed codenames.

Condition

The pottery recovered was in variable condition with most sherds showing some small degree of abrasion. The fabric of the only shell-tempered vessel from the site is leached. Two of the Torksey ware sherds are wasters and several other vessels suggest bad firing technique.

Overall Chronology and Source

Only two different pottery ware types were found on the site, the type and general date range for these fabrics are shown in Table 1. A limited range of vessel types was recovered including examples of bowls, jars and a large storage jar/pitcher.

Table 1: Pottery codenames and date range with total quantities by sherd count

codename	full name	earliest date	latest date	sherds
LKT	Lincoln kiln-type shelly ware	850	1000	2
TORK	Torksey ware	850	1070	20

With the exception of one vessel, all of the material recovered from the site is Torksey ware. The competence of manufacture, together with the diagnostic rim types and sherd colour suggests that the Torksey ware vessels date to the period between the late 10th and mid 11th centuries. The three bowls with thumbled rims in context 117 all have different methods of executing the decoration, possibly suggesting the work of more than one potter. Only two vessels can be identified as direct production waste although several other vessels appear to have been fired to colours outside the normal range for Torksey ware. The single shell-tempered vessel is of Lincoln Kiln-type and dates to between the late 9th and late 10th centuries.

Summary and Recommendations

This is a small assemblage of post-Roman pottery dating to the late Saxon period. Kilns are known in the immediate vicinity and the pottery found on this site may be associated with this production.

The assemblage should be kept for future study, especially as part of any type series of rim types.

Pottery Archive FCFT01

Jane Young

Lindsey Archaeological Services

context	cname	form type	sherds	vessels	decoration	part	description
117	TORK	bowl	1	1		rim	flanged rim
117	TORK	bowl	1	1	thumb pressed rim	rim	flanged rim;pressed with upright thumb
117	TORK	bowl	1	1	thumb pressed rim	rim	flanged rim;pressed with thumb from above
117	TORK	bowl	1	1	thumb pressed rim	rim	flanged rim;pressed with thumb from side
117	TORK	pitcher	2	1		handle	small strap handle
120	TORK	bowl	1	1		rim	inturned rim
120	TORK	jar	1	1		BS	oxid surfaces
129	TORK	jar	1	1		BS	oxid;waster
129	TORK	jar	1	1		BS	
139	TORK	large storage jar/pitcher	1	1	applied thumbed strip	BS	
205	LKT	jar	2	1		BS	leached
207	TORK	small jar	1	1		rim	
207	TORK	?	1	1		BS	
207	TORK	?	1	1		BS	coarse fabric
210	TORK	jar	1	1		BS	soot
210	TORK	jar	1	1		BS	soot
210	TORK	spouted bowl	1	1		rim	odd crude heavy spout

context	cname	form type	sherds	vessels	decoration	part	description
218	TORK	jar	1	1		BS	spalled;waster
218	TORK	jar	1	1		rim	
218	TORK	jar	1	1		BS	

Castle Farm, Torksey, Lincolnshire.

FCFT 01

Lithic Materials: Catalogue

Report by Jim Rylatt – July, 2001

1.0 Catalogue

1 piece of worked flint were recovered during excavation:

Context No.		Description
205	Tertiary flake	Conchoidal flake, with very small platform, moderately pronounced bulb, and hinged termination. Dorsal surface has scars suggesting removal of flakes from two or more platforms. Mid brownish-grey opaque flint, with chalky inclusions. 28 x 21mm.