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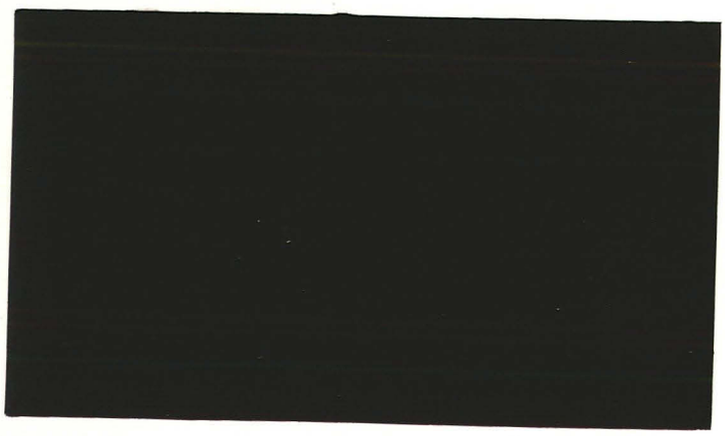
PRE-CONSTRUCT
ARCHAEOLOGY
LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION: LAND EAST OF LINWOOD ROAD, MARKET RASEN LINCOLNSHIRE.

NGR: TF 1125 8870
Site Code: LRMR 01
LCCM Acc. No. 2001.206



Event - L12576
Source - L17173
L17174.

MON Ridge & furrows
L152751.
PRN 52751

MON - Roman
L152736
PRN 52736

Mon MED
L152750
52750

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Report Prepared for
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by Mark Allen BSc AIFA

August 2001

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Summary

- *An intrusive phase of field evaluation was undertaken to assess the archaeological potential of two units of land at Market Rasen in Lincolnshire in advance of a possible residential development.*

- *The larger, sub-rectangular unit (Area A), contained extant ridge and furrow earthworks running north – south across the whole field.*

- *Area B contained a complex of Romano-British ditches, gullies and pits. The volume of pottery, number of pieces of kiln furniture, and charcoal-rich fills of these features would suggest the presence of a pottery kiln in the near vicinity. The material seems to exclusively date to the mid 2nd – 3rd century.*

- *Ridge and furrow earthworks were visible in Area B. These were mainly a continuation of earthworks in Area A, with east – west ridge and furrow in the south half of the field.*

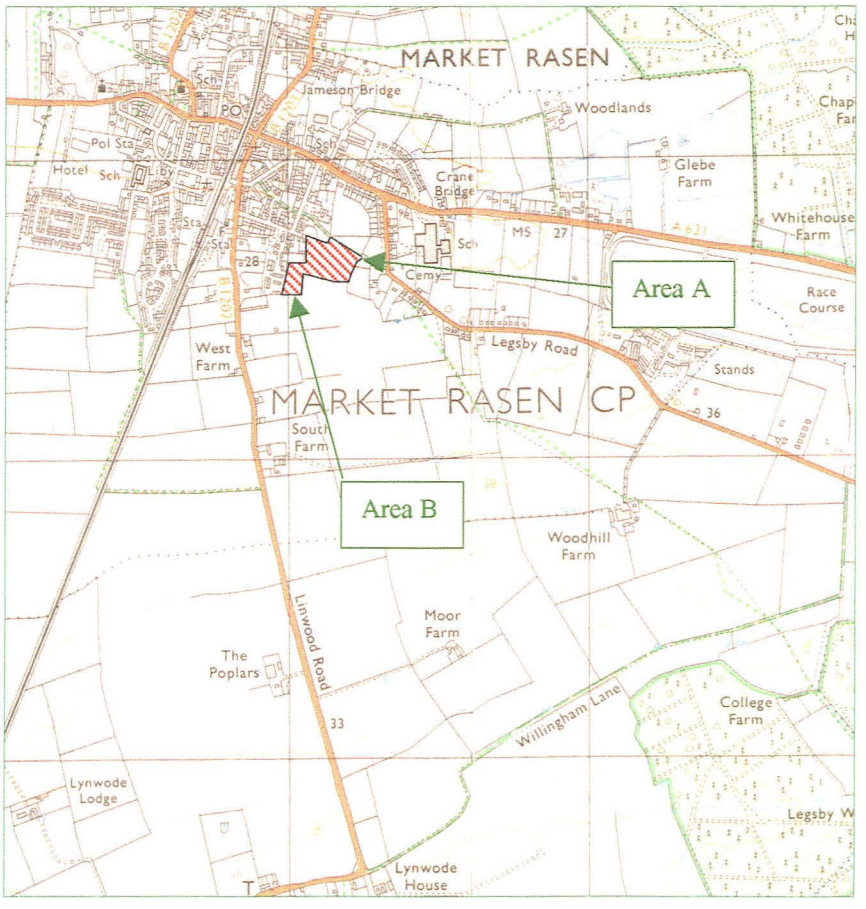


Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:25000
(OS Copyright Licence No: A1 515 21 A0001)

1.0 Introduction

This report has been prepared for Hugh Bourn Developments (Wragby) Ltd. to advise an application for residential development on a unit of land at Market Rasen in Lincolnshire. Its purpose is to advise both the commissioning body and the Assistant Built Environment Officer for Lincoln County 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

Market Rasen is in the administrative district of West Lindsey, approximately 18km north-east of Lincoln. The site is located to the south-east of the town centre, and to the north of 'The Ridings' development, occupying land that is 25 – 30m OD (fig. 1).

The site comprises two sub-rectangular units extending to c. 2.0 hectares (Area A) and 0.6 hectares (Area B) (fig. 2). Area A is bounded to the north-west, east and south by mature hedging and wire fencing. A redundant ditch extends c. 60m along the western end of the southern boundary. The north-east edge of the field is defined by a metal fence and path. Mature hawthorn trees separate the two Areas.

Area B is bounded to the west, south and south-east by mature hedging and wire fencing. The northern edge of the survey area is unbounded.

Both areas contain grazed permanent pasture, with ridge and furrow earthworks visible in Area A. These are more defined in the eastern two thirds of the field, where drainage ditches cut across the ridges. Area B is predominantly level, sloping down to the north, towards wetter ground. The most significant topographical change is a step c. 60m from the southern edge of the site, with the higher ground to the south.

The site is situated at the south edge of a drift deposit comprising blown sand. This mantles Upper Jurassic Kimmeridgean clay (B.G.S. 1999).

Central National Grid Reference: TF 1125 8870.

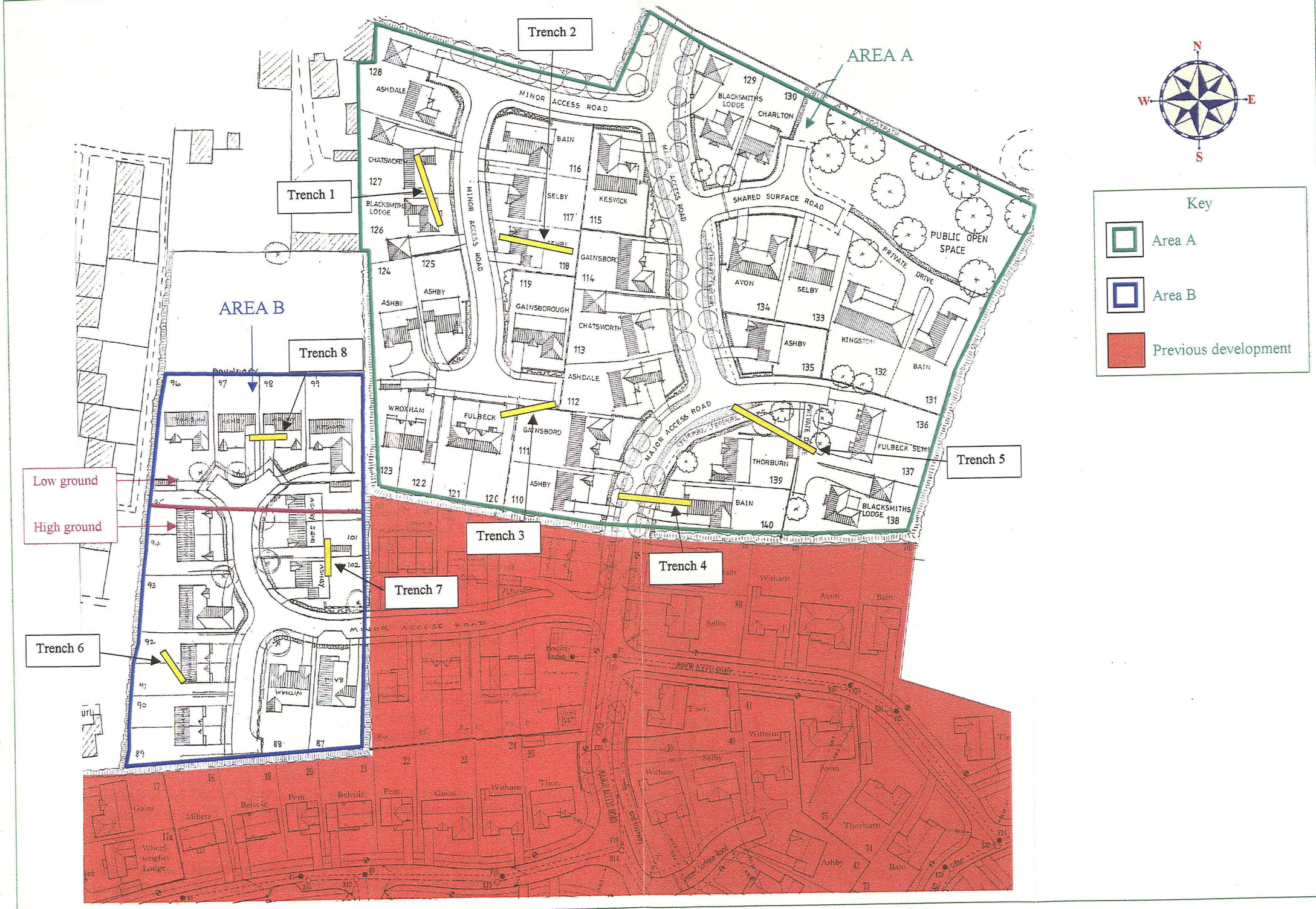


Figure 2: Location of trenches superimposed over proposed development plan at scale 1:1000

3.0 Planning background

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

The site is designated for development in the West Lindsey District Council Local Plan (Area MR5).

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

Evidence from a variety of sources show that the general area has been of some significance since the Romano-British period at least.

It is perhaps surprising there is no evidence for early prehistoric activity, as an association between Mesolithic sites and early post-glacial cover sands is known elsewhere (for example, Risby Warren).

Approximately 750m to the south-east of the site are a series of cropmarks identified from aerial photographic evidence (SMR PRN 52748 and 52749). These have been identified as possible later prehistoric enclosures and associated field systems.

In the Romano-British period Market Rasen was the focus for a considerable pottery production industry. This has been located to the south of the town, immediately to the south of the site. Evidence for this industry is extensive, particularly on the west side of Linwood Road. Whitwell refers to a field in this locality as the 'kiln field' (Whitwell 1992). Kilns were investigated by members of De Aston School in 1966, at NGR TF 107 885, and a summary of these investigations is held at the County SMR in Lincoln. Of the three excavated examples, all were of the typical single flue up-draught category. The majority of the pottery comprised greyware domestic sherds, similar to those associated with the Trentside industries of Torksey, Lea, Knaith and Newton on Trent (Palmer-Brown 1998). This industry appears to have prospered between the 2nd and 4th centuries AD (Todd 1991).

An archaeological evaluation by PCA in 1997 on land that is now The Ridings Housing Development (immediately south of the current site) uncovered numerous features of Romano-British date, and large quantities of material associated with pottery production (Albone 1998).

The post-Roman settlement of Market Rasen itself probably emerged as a minor market centre in the late Saxon period, although the foci for this settlement is unknown (Palmer-Brown 1998).

Market Rasen is listed in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as *Resne*, from the Old English meaning 'at the planks'. This may refer to a plank bridge or planks laid across marshy ground (Cameron 1998). At this time the town had a mill on the River Rase, and land was owned by Roger Poitou, Alfred of Lincoln and Jocelyn, son of Lambert

(Morgan, P & Thorn, C 1986).

A fluxgate gradiometer survey of the site was undertaken by Pre-Construct Geophysics in May 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 work that is described in this document was based on a scheme derived by PCA to evaluate the archaeological potential of the site, which may be developed for residential purposes by Hugh Bourn Devlopments Ltd. The primary purpose of such investigations is to gather and collate information for planning purposes: to assess the archaeological potential of a 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, six evaluation trenches were investigated. Following a period of consultation, two additional trenches (Trenches 7 and 8) were excavated in an attempt to ascertain if further Roman remains existed within Area B. 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 6th and 9th August 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 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). 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 Area A consisted of a 0.2 – 0.3m deep dark brown sandy loam. The topsoil sealed a dark brown silty sand horizon measuring 0.15 – 0.3m deep, identified as a buried soil of probable medieval date. This appeared to relate to visible north – south orientated ridge and furrow earthworks ubiquitous to the whole of Area A. The high water table throughout Area A resulted in fluctuating levels of flooding within the various trenches.

In Area B, the topsoil comprised a 0.2 – 0.4m deep brown sandy loam. This sealed a medieval ploughsoil horizon associated with ephemeral east – west aligned ridge and furrow earthworks. Standing water was present towards the north of Area B, in an area of low-lying ground. In the south half of the field, a water-filled horizon within the natural sands resulted in problems with excavation and caused sections to collapse.

6.1 **Trench 1** (See fig. 3 below)

Trench 1 was positioned at the north-west corner of Area A. Its primary purpose was to investigate two linear anomalies; identified during the previous geophysical survey. The trench was 20m long, orientated north-north-west – south-south-east.

Remnants of north – south furrows were visible within the trench. The anomalies appeared to coincide with several land drains.

Natural sand (102) was exposed throughout the trench at approximately 0.4m below modern ground level. This was beneath dark brown silty sand (101), identified as a possible buried ploughsoil. The ubiquitous ridge and furrow earthworks were visible within the trench.

The geophysical anomalies appeared to relate to land drains that were removed during machine excavation.

No other archaeological deposits were encountered.

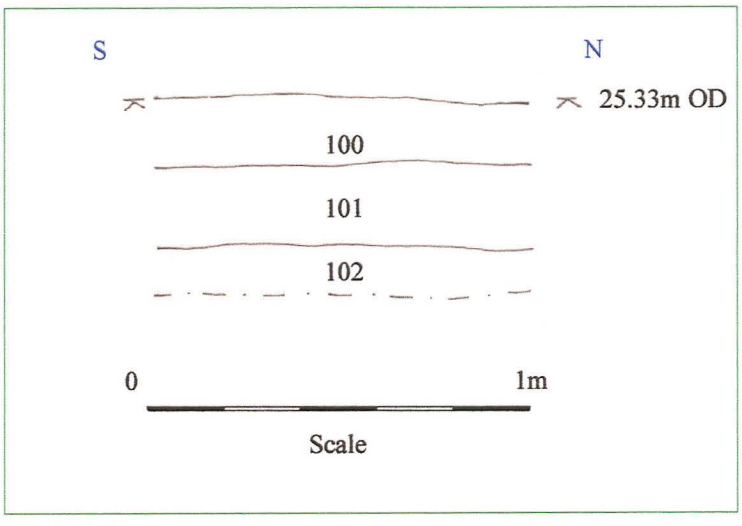


Figure 3: Trench 1 east-facing representative section

6.2 **Trench 2** (See fig. 4 below)

Trench 2 was located approximately 12m east of Trench 1, to examine two linear geophysical anomalies. It was 20m long and was orientated west-north-west – east-south-east.

No archaeological deposits were exposed within the trench, save the ubiquitous medieval furrows. The geophysical anomalies seem to respect two land drains within the trench.

Machine excavation exposed orange/brown sand, (202). This was sealed beneath the medieval ploughsoil (201).

There were no archaeological features in this trench.

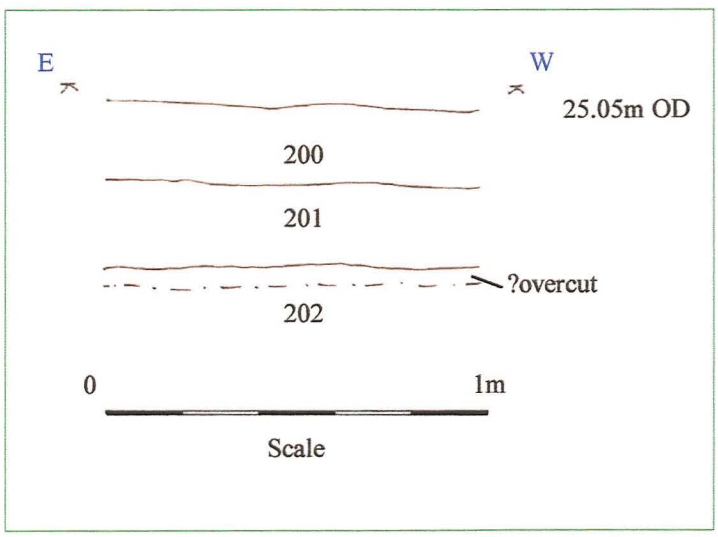


Figure 4: Trench 2 north-facing section

6.3 **Trench 3** (See fig. 5 below)

Trench 3 was positioned approximately 37m from the south-west corner of Area A. It was 15m long, and was orientated east-north-east – west-south-west. The trench was positioned to traverse two linear anomalies.

Neither of the two anomalies were picked up during excavation of the trench. It is possible the anomalies relate to activity within the topsoil/subsoil horizons.

The topsoil sealed a buried soil (301) (represented within all trenches), in turn covering natural sand (302).

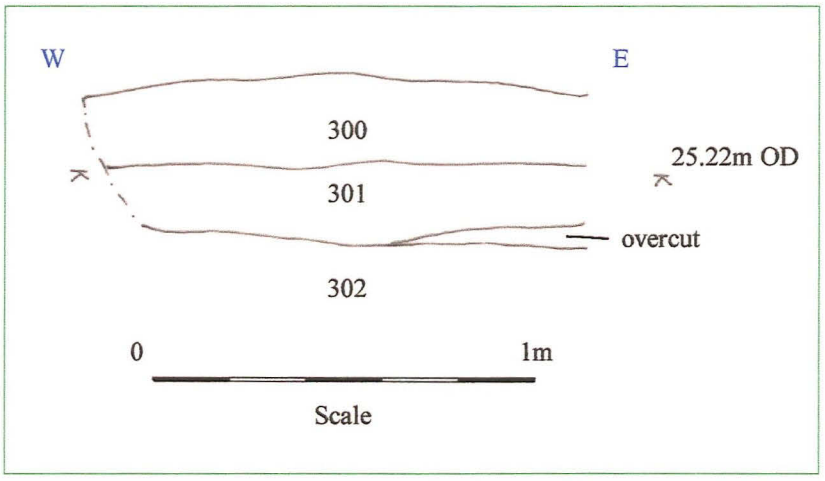


Figure 5: Trench 3 south-facing representative section

6.4 **Trench 4** (See fig. 6 below)

This trench ran parallel with the southern field boundary of Area A, and was orientated west-north-west – east-south-east. It was positioned to traverse an area of magnetic disturbance highlighted by the geophysical survey.

The magnetic disturbance may be related to an area of wet ground through which the trench was positioned.

There were no underlying features of archaeological origin below the medieval ploughsoil (401). A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered during machine excavation of the topsoil.

Upon excavation the trench filled with water. The high water table may explain the magnetic anomaly at this part of the site.

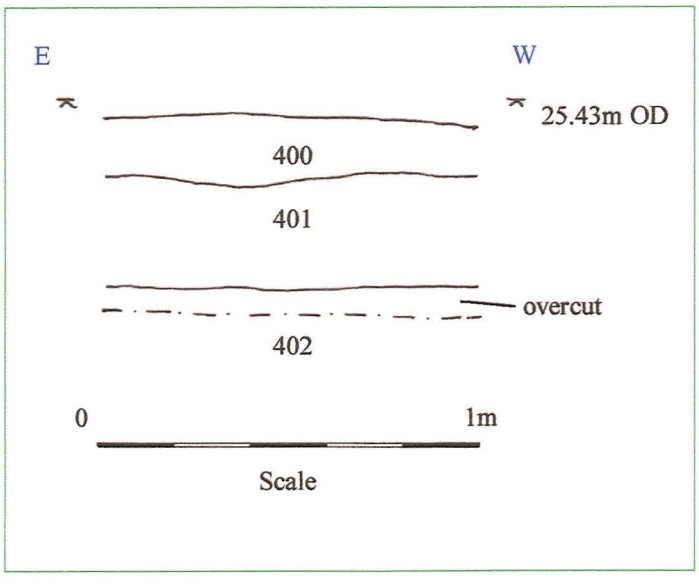


Figure 6: Trench 4 north-facing section

6.5 **Trench 5** (See fig. 7)

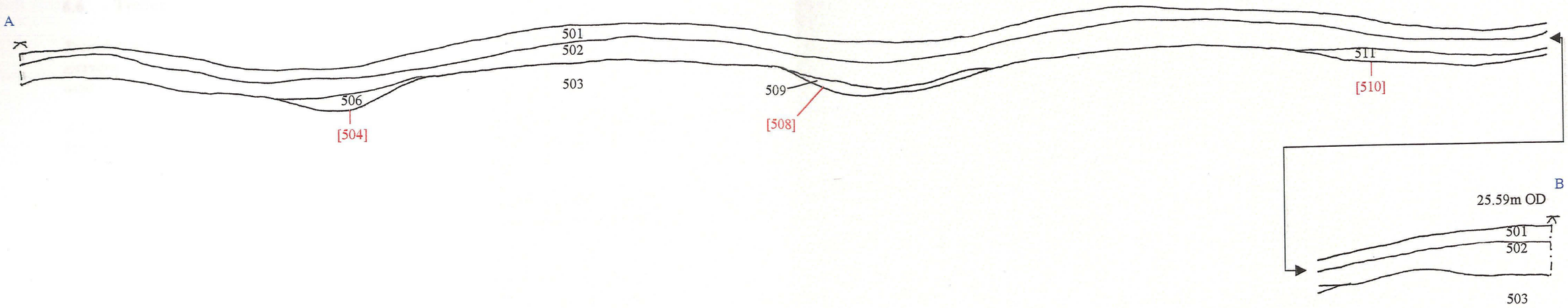
The trench was positioned towards the south-east corner of Area A to traverse the ridge and furrow earthworks that occur throughout the field. The trench was 25m long and was orientated north-west – south-east.

Excavation showed the medieval ploughing existed as pronounced ridge and furrow throughout the trench. These earthworks survived to a height of 0.5m (from base of furrow to top of ridge. A single small possible pit was exposed on the crest of a ridge.

Removal of the topsoil and subsoil layers exposed natural sand, (503), at approximately 0.4 – 0.5m below the modern ground level.

The three exposed furrows were all approximately 2m wide, with the resulting ridges measuring c. 4m across. All the furrows appeared to contain a primary fill of grey/black silty sand that may have formed through standing water.

A single circular feature (506]) was found to cut through the natural sand between two furrows. This small pit had a bowl-shape profile and measured 0.24m deep. Its fill, (507), comprised grey/brown silty sand, devoid of finds.



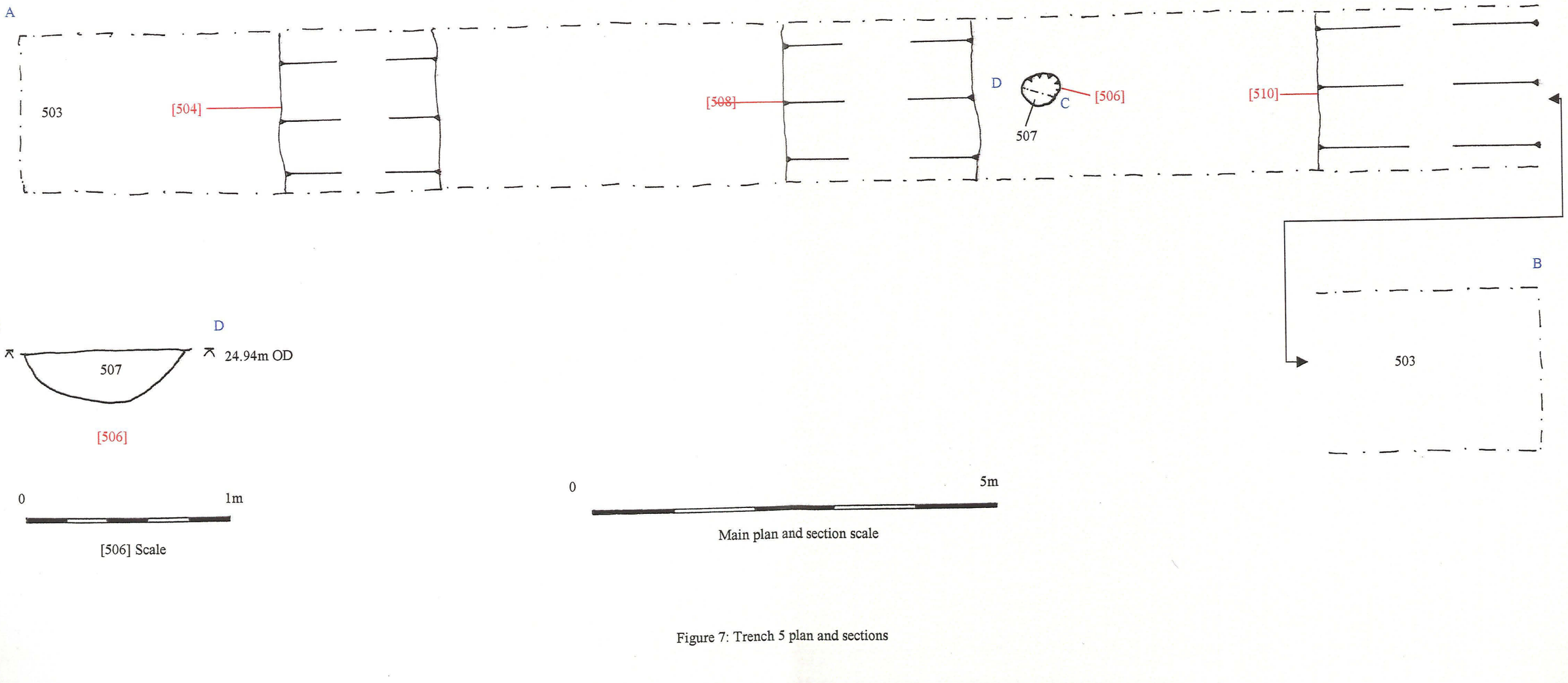


Figure 7: Trench 5 plan and sections

6.6 Trench 6 (See fig. 8)

Trench 6 was positioned approximately 20m from the south-west corner of Area B, to examine an area of magnetic disturbance. It was 10m long and was orientated north-west – south-east.

A large ditch containing the possible rake-out from a nearby Romano-British pottery kiln was exposed within the trench, along with two pits of a similar date. Two furrows of probable medieval date ran east – west across the large ditch.

Natural sand and clay (602) was exposed throughout the trench at approximately 0.75m below the modern ground surface. This was beneath a subsoil horizon, (601), that comprised grey/brown silty sand.

A ditch, [609], ran west-north-west – east-south-east along the trench, possibly turning to the north at the north-west end of the trench. The ditch was approximately 2m wide and 1m deep with a gradual north-east edge. The high water table caused difficulties for excavating and recording the feature due to collapsing of the section. Initially, a dump of grey sand, (610), was deposited on the edge of the ditch. The ditch subsequently filled with dark grey sand, (613), incorporating 11 sherds of mid 2nd century pottery. The final fill, (614), comprised a large concentration of Romano-British pottery and several pieces of kiln furniture, within a black silty sand matrix. The pottery was of mid 2nd to possibly early 3rd century AD. This final fill almost certainly represents the dumping of rake-out material from a nearby Romano-British pottery kiln.

A small pit or gully butt-end ([611]) was found to cut the above ditch. The feature sloped gradually, with a flat base. Its fill comprised grey sand (612), beneath a thin lens of grey slightly silty sand, (616). The upper (final) fill was dark grey slightly silty sand (615), incorporating 12 sherds of mid – late 2nd century pottery.

A shallow pit or hollow, [607] was excavated towards the south-east end of the trench. The feature has a slightly irregular profile and contained nineteen sherds of mid 2nd century pottery within its grey/brown sandy fill (608). The relationship between ditch [609] and the pit/hollow was not determined.

Two furrows of probable medieval date were exposed at either end of the trench ([603] and [605]). Both were filled with grey brown silty sand. Five residual sherds of late 2nd – 3rd century pottery were recovered from the fill of [605], (606).

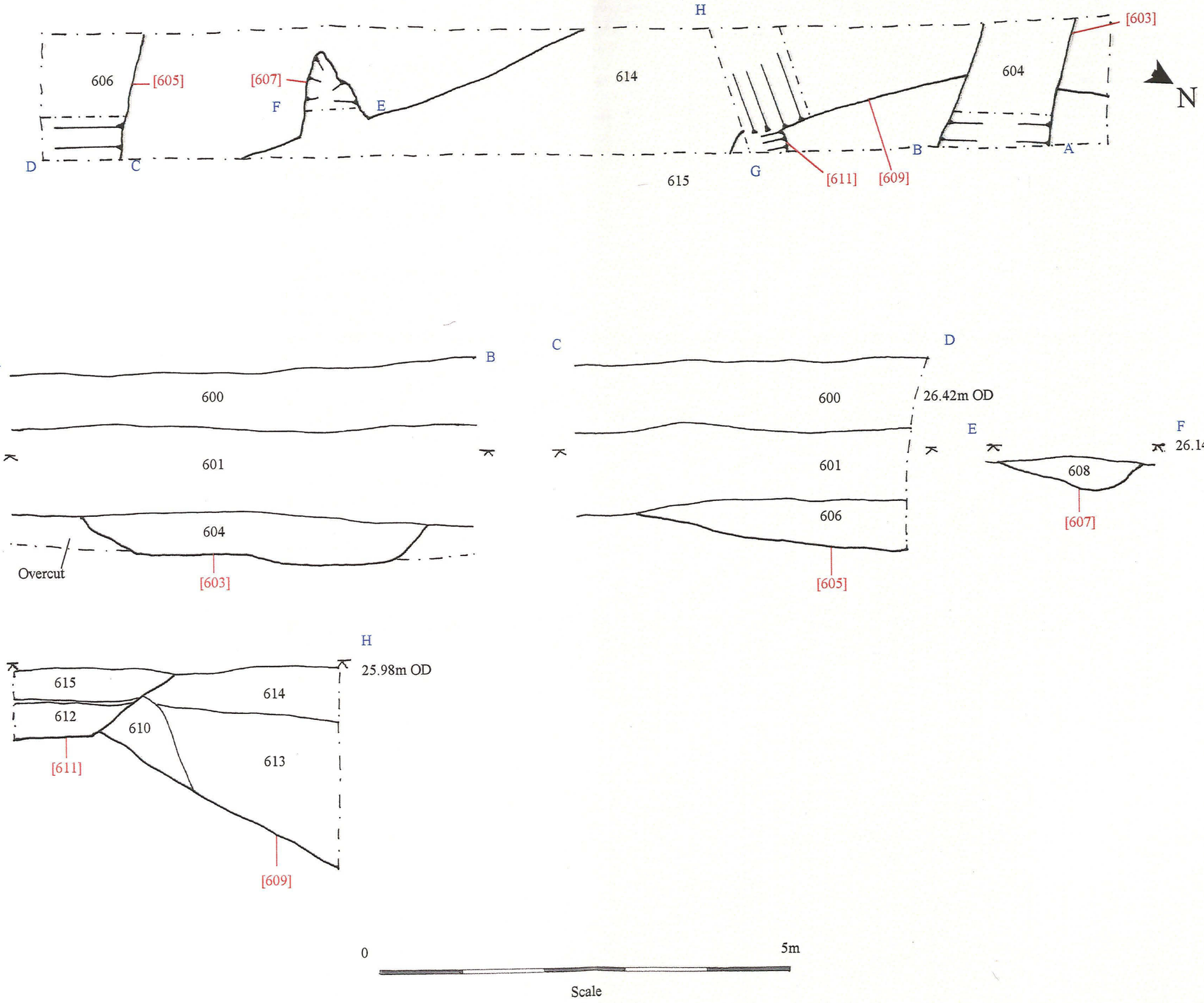


Figure 8: Trench 6 plan and sections

6.7 **Trench 7** (See fig. 9)

This was positioned approximately 40m to the north-east of Trench 6; in an attempt to define the extent of remains exposed in Area B. The trench was 10m long, and was orientated approximately north – south.

A Romano-British ditch and two pits were exposed within the trench. Several post-medieval field ditches and part of a medieval furrow were also exposed.

Removal of the topsoil, (700), and subsoil, (701), exposed natural sand (702) throughout the trench.

A 1m wide linear [709], orientated north-north-west – south-south-east was exposed towards the south end of the trench. This was filled with black silty sand (710), incorporating the part remains of a firebar (kiln furniture) and six sherds of mid 2nd – 3rd century pottery. Excavation and recording of the ditch proved difficult due to the high water table.

A shallow pit, [711], was found to be cut by the above ditch along its eastern edge. The sub-circular pit was 0.8 – 0.9m in diameter and 0.2m deep. This was filled by a dark grey/brown silty sand (712).

The west edge of a pit ([703]) measuring 1.5m wide was exposed at the north end of the trench. The pit was filled with brown/grey silty sand, (704), devoid of finds.

Approximately 1m south of the above was a linear, [705], running east – west across the trench. This is likely to be a fairly modern field boundary as pottery from the fill, (706), was modern.

Two linears, [707] and [715], appear to be two components of a medieval furrow running east – west. Both were filled with grey/brown silty sand.

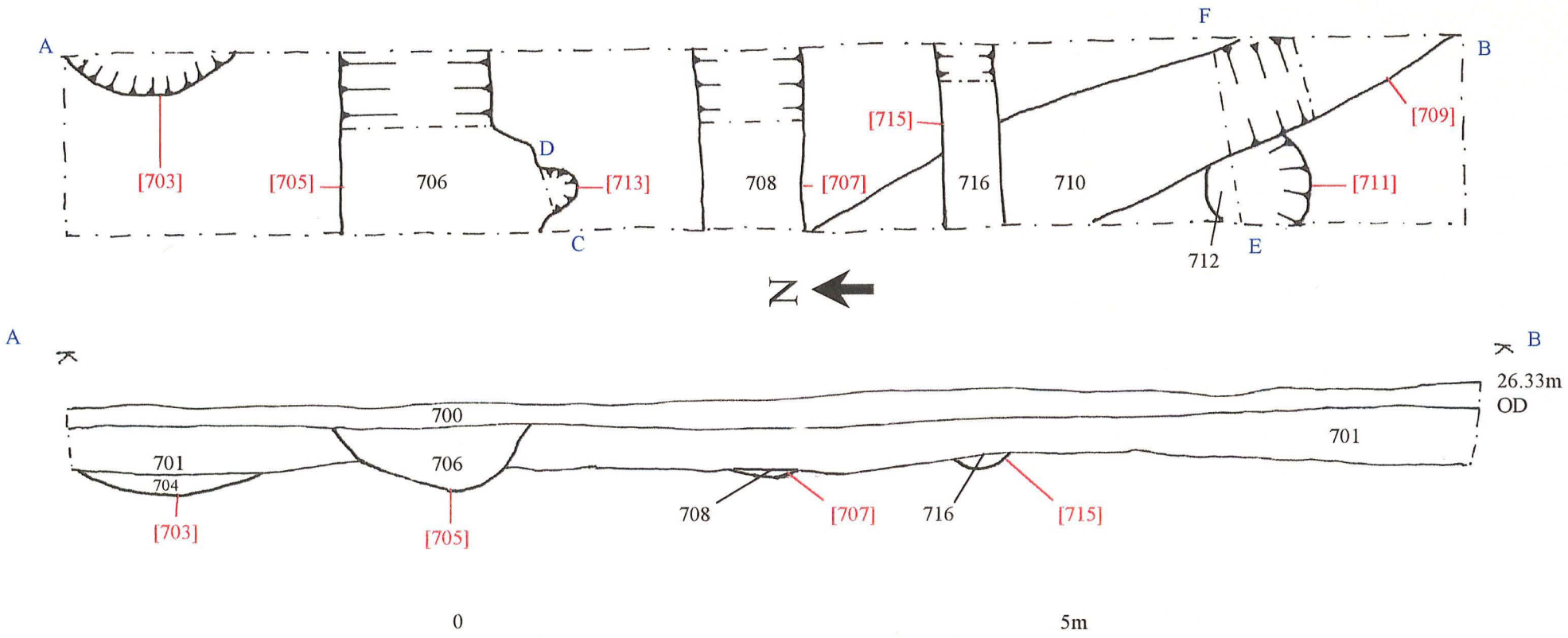


Figure 9: Trench 7 plan and sections

6.8 **Trench 8** (See fig. 10)

This was positioned approximately 40m to the north-east of Trench 6 in an attempt to define the extent of remains exposed in Area B. The trench was 10m long, and was orientated east – west.

A small ephemeral curvilinear gully of unknown date and a narrow gully of probable modern derivation were exposed, both following a broadly north – south trend. A single furrow running north – south was also exposed.

Removal of the topsoil (800) and subsoil (801), exposed natural sand (802) at 0.4m below the modern ground surface.

Approximately 3.5m from the west end of the trench was linear [803]. This feature was 0.3m wide and filled with loose, wet, dark grey silty sand (804). A small piece of modern glass and a sherd of 'willow pattern' pottery date this modern drain.

Less than 1m to the east of the above was [805], a shallow curvilinear gully of unknown date. The gully was only 0.08m deep below the subsoil (801), and was filled with grey silty sand (806).

No other features were exposed in this area.

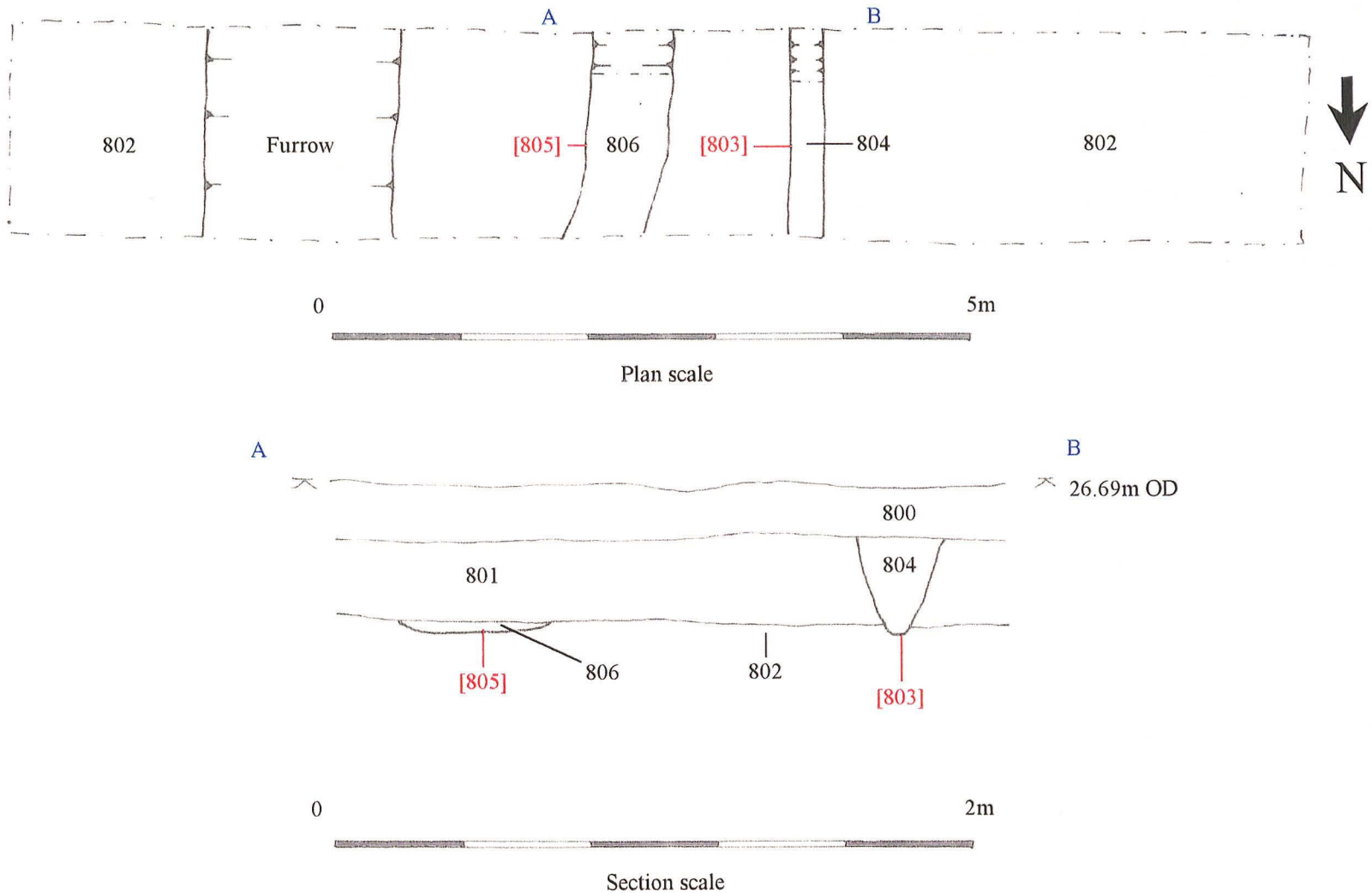


Figure 10: Trench 8 plan and section

7.0 Summary and conclusions

Area A comprised a series of prominent ridge and furrow earthworks running north – south throughout the field. Within all five trenches, only a single undated feature (towards the south-east corner of the field) was felt to be of minimal interest.

The geophysical anomalies within the field seem to relate almost exclusively to modern ceramic drains.

There was no evidence of the extensive Romano-British pottery industry in Area A. Although medieval activities may have destroyed earlier remains, the lack of Roman pottery within the ploughsoil suggests this is unlikely.

Area B however, contained numerous features of some interest. These may be confined to an area of higher ground within the southern 60m of this small field (See fig. 2).

Evidence for localised pottery production is suggested by a quantity of burnt soil (rake-out), large quantities of greyware pottery and kiln furniture throughout the southern half of the field.

The pottery evidence indicates this industry is restricted to the mid 2nd – 3rd century. This suggests the local pottery production was early in the sequence, providing important evidence for early pottery production in Lincolnshire.

The location of such a kiln remains unresolved, although it may be associated with a diffuse geophysical anomaly near the south-west corner of Area B, that was part-sampled during this investigation.

The Romano-British activities in Area B seem to be exclusively related to the pottery industry. The lack of domestic activity is attested by the complete absence of animal bone within Romano-British contexts.

The area of high ground within the south half of Area B reflects a field of east – west orientated ridge and furrow. The north – south ridge and furrow in Area B was part of a larger field incorporating the earthworks in Area A. The higher ground also seems to correspond with the Romano-British remains. This suggests either the industry is confined to this higher ground or the north – south ridge and furrows have truncated the remains. The former is perhaps the more likely.

8.0 Acknowledgments

The author would like to thank the commissioning client, Hugh Bourn Developments Ltd.

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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 2001.206.

Appendix 1: colour plates

P1. General view, north-west corner of main field

P2. General view, north-east corner of small field

P3. Trench 1 following cleaning, looking north

P4. Trench 2 following cleaning, looking south-east

P5. Trench 3 following cleaning, looking east

P6. Trench 4 following cleaning and flooding, looking west

P7. Trench 5 following cleaning, looking SSE

P8. Trench 6, post-excavation, looking SSE

P9. Trench 7, post-excavation, looking north

Appendix 2: Romano-British pottery

REPORT 87 ON THE POTTERY FROM LINWOOD ROAD, MARKET RASEN, LRMR01

for PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

by Margaret J. Darling, M.Phil., F.S.A., M.I.F.A.

27 August 2001

QUANTITY AND CONDITION

The pottery came from seven contexts and unstratified, and amounted to 150 sherds/fragments weighing 5.707 kg. The condition varied with most rims being fairly fragmentary, and in generally poor condition consistent with having coming from a pottery production site, under- and mis-fired. Relatively soft fabrics were probably the cause of some abrasion. Excluding fragments of kiln furniture, the average sherd weight of the pottery is a relatively high 29.5g per sherd. At least 108 vessels are represented on the basis of rims, bases and diagnostic sherds. No problems are anticipated for long term storage. The pottery has been archived using count and weight as measures according to the guidelines laid down for the minimum archive by *The Study Group for Roman Pottery*. A copy of the database is attached (and can be supplied on disk), and will be curated for future study.

The pottery quantities and dating by context is shown on Table 1.

Table 1 Quantities and dating

Deposit	Cxt	Sherds	Weight	Date
Unstrat	US	4	205	M2-3
Topsoil	400	1	19	POST-RO
Fill furrow 605	606	5	46	L2-3
Fill pit/gully 607	608	19	268	M2?
Fill ditch 609	613	11	672	M2
Fill ditch 609	614	92	3426	M2-E3?
Fill pit 611	615	12	330	ML2
Fill ditch 709	710	6	741	M2-3
Total		150	5707	

No sherd links were observed between contexts, but these are unlikely to occur in such a small collection.

OVERVIEW OF FABRICS AND VESSEL TYPES

The fabrics are detailed on table 2.

Table 2 Fabrics

Fabric	Code	Sherds	Weight
Grey	GREY	134	3993
Vesicular	VESIC	1	40
Post-Roman	PRO	1	19
Fired clay	FCLAY	2	13
Kiln furniture	KILN	12	1642
Total		150	5707

All except one sherd of the Roman pottery is in grey fabrics, with a small amount of variation, some almost certainly from firing differences and mishaps. Many sherds were under-fired, with clear signs of being waste from pottery production, partially oxidized, with crazing of surfaces, and some distortion. There does, however, appear to be a number of sherds which have darker finished surfaces, often with a thin oxidized cortex below the surface, and thinner walled; it is possible these belong to earlier production, perhaps confined to the 2nd century. With such a small collection from this evaluation, it is impossible to be certain. All the grey fabrics are consistent with what has already been found from the Market Rasen kilns, currently under investigation.

The solitary sherd in a vesicular fabric (from 613, Ditch 609) is again as seen from earlier material excavated from Market Rasen, possibly originally shell-gritted, although other tempering is possible. This is a rim fragment from a bowl in a local native tradition. A similar rim also occurs in the normal grey fabric, indicating that the type continued to be made well into the 2nd century (from 614, Ditch 609).

No evidence for the production of Parisian ware, seen from other groups in Market Rasen occurred. This may, however, be entirely due to the small sample, as these fine ware sherds are always relatively rare. One jar rim (from 613, Ditch 609) has a fairly fine fabric, with the remains of a high burnish on the shoulder, verging towards the Parisian standard.

The grey ware forms are predominantly jars and bowls, the lid-seated jar type (J105) being almost equally represented alongside everted and/or curved rim types. The common decoration of stabbing on the shoulders of the lid-seated J105 also occurs as body sherds. Evidence for rusticated jars occurs only as body sherds or bases, but their rim types would fit with the types of rim found as fragments. The bowls are more difficult to assess due to the fragmentary nature of the rims, few with shoulders. Most, however, appear to be of relatively early types, and may include a type of flanged bowl. Of the less common forms, the carinated bowl or beaker which is a common type in the production from Market Rasen in the 2nd century (B334) occurs as a single small vessel in the darker ?earlier fabric (from 608, Pit/gully 607). A further carinated vessel, more likely to be a beaker, came from 614 (Ditch 609) as a base up to, and including, a plainer type of carination, again in the darker fabric. A bowl of a type seen from other Market Rasen kilns, B333, came from 614 (Ditch 609), in a lighter fabric, and without the usual bifurcated end to the rim. Three possible lids were found, a rim also from 614, and a probable knob from 710 (Ditch 709), and a complete profile from an unstratified deposit, all in darker fabric.

The kiln furniture is an interesting collection, with several fragments of kiln bars, one with a complete square section, and a possible portable pedestal fragment. Fragments occurred in 613, 614 (ditch 609), 615 (pit 611), and 710 (ditch 709). Several fragments had holes pierced into the

fabric; it is uncertain on present evidence whether this was to aid the firing of such thick objects, or is a functional part of the kiln furniture. More evidence is required. Fragments of fired clay, probably, but not conclusively, related to kilns, came from 606 and 608 (a furrow and Pit/gully 607).

The single post-Roman sherd, a glazed body sherd, came from Trench 4, topsoil.

DISCUSSION

The bulk of the pottery and finds came from Ditch 609 in Trench 6, and kiln furniture debris occurred in both Trenches 6 and 7. Only a few finds came from Trench 7, but these appeared to be very similar to those from Trench 6. Of particular interest is the fact that there appears to be little evidence for later Roman vessels in this small collection. This is important in view of the widespread evidence for pottery production in Market Rasen on the one hand, and the lack of evidence for any settlement site on the other. Spatial differences between assemblages from the kiln area are therefore especially interesting, and the apparent absence of later material from this group may suggest that it is early in the sequence of pottery production in Market Rasen, known to extend from the 2nd to the 4th centuries.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is hoped that this evaluation will be followed by excavation to examine more closely the evidence of pottery production in this area, vital to fit this particular area into the overall picture of pottery production in Market Rasen. This is particularly important in view of the more confined dating of this small group of pottery, and the proximity to the excavations in the field to the south where a kiln was found (Site MRL99). The spatial extent of the pottery industry in Market Rasen is at present undefined, and any evidence to define a northern and eastern limit would be very valuable. Evidence for kiln structures is badly needed for the Market Rasen industry, as so far, only fragmentary, very damaged structures have been found.

It is worth emphasizing that the Market Rasen pottery industry is particularly important for this area of Lincolnshire, as this appears to be the earliest industry, giving rise to later kilns in the area.

A few sherds have been noted as being worth illustration, depending upon further material being excavated. These are noted on the archive database.

ROMAN POTTERY REPORTS

All pottery assemblages are recorded according to the guidelines established by the *Study Group for Roman Pottery* (1994), and fulfill the requirements for the acceptance of archives of most museums including the Lincoln City and County Museum (1999). The pottery is recorded for fabric and form, decoration and other features such as manufacture, graffito, condition, and the minimum measure of sherd count is used only for minor groups, most assemblages having both count and weight. The archive database is recorded using the *Linux* operating system, and the resulting files are readily transferrable to other software as comma-separated (*.csv) files. The recording fields for the **BASIC ARCHIVE** are:

1. **Context**
2. **Fabric** - Fabrics are recorded using mnemonic codes, originally established for the Lincoln City publication project, and extended for other areas.
3. **Form** - Forms and vessel types are recorded using mnemonic codes which are hierarchical, the first letter denoting the vessel class, jar, bowl, beaker etc., and the following letters defining the type in more detail. The codes follow those used for the Lincoln City publication project.
4. **Manuf+** - includes codes to extract decoration, manufacture, alteration, stamps, graffito etc.
5. **Vessels** - denotes the number of vessels represented by the single record, usually to give a measure of the number of vessels comprising more than one sherd, a qualitative rather than a quantitative measure.
6. **Draw?** - a field to denote the necessity of drawing, usually shown as D for a vessel considered essential for illustration, or D? for a vessel which may prove to need illustration if another better example does not occur, or where the site stratigraphy gives it a higher importance for illustration.
7. **Dwg No.** - drawing numbers are issued routinely during archive work, and the vessels extracted and separately bagged. Some may prove to be unnecessary for illustration when the final selection is made.
8. **Comments** - gives the extent of the sherd/s and notes any information likely to be of value, including condition, abrasion (where excessive). Rim diameters are added for vessels for illustration, and occasionally the EVE, estimated percentage of surviving rim if this is felt to be useful.
9. **Links** - joins with other contexts, and sherds likely to be from the same vessel.
10. **Sherds**
11. **Weight**

At the end of the records for each context, a 'pseudo' fabric, **ZDATE**, records the date of the pottery for that context, focusing on the latest feasible date. A further code, **ZZZ**, is used to record any comments about the context, such as condition, spread of dates or any other information felt to be useful. The combination of fabric and form can be used to examine functional aspects, and as a basis for chronological analysis. Pottery which may require specialist attention, e.g., samian, mortaria, amphorae, is extracted during archiving. If a fully quantified record is required, including a record of rim diameters and estimated vessel equivalents based on rim percentages (EVEs), the basic archive database is copied to a quantified database with extra fields to enable the recording of the additional quantified data.

M.J. Darling

Darling, M.J. (ed.) 1994. *Guidelines for the Archiving of Roman Pottery,* The Study Group for Roman Pottery.

Guidelines for the deposition of archives with the City and County Museum, April 1999

Appendix 3: List of Archaeological Contexts

Trench 1

Context No.	*Category*	*Description*
100	layer	topsoil
101	layer	buried soil
102	layer	natural sand and gravel

Trench 2

Context No.	*Category*	*Description*
200	layer	topsoil
201	layer	buried soil
202	layer	natural sand and gravel

Trench 3

Context No.	*Category*	*Description*
300	layer	topsoil
301	layer	buried soil
302	layer	natural sand and gravel

Trench 4

Context No.	*Category*	*Description*
400	layer	topsoil
401	layer	buried soil
402	layer	natural sand and gravel

Trench 5

Context No.	*Category*	*Description*
500	layer	
501	layer	topsoil
502	void	buried soil
503	layer	natural sand and gravel
504	cut	furrow
505	fill	fill of [504]
506	cut	pit
507	fill	fill of [506]
508	cut	furrow
509	fill	fill of [508]
510	cut	furrow
511	fill	fill of [510]

Trench 6

Context No.	*Category*	*Description*
600	layer	topsoil
601	layer	buried soil
602	layer	natural sand and gravel
603	cut	furrow
604	fill	fill of [603]
605	cut	furrow

606	fill	fill of [605]
607	cut	pit/gully
608	fill	fill of [607]
609	cut	ditch
610	fill	fill of [609]
611	cut	pit
612	fill	fill of [611]
613	fill	fill of [609]
614	fill	fill of [609]
615	fill	fill of [611]
616	fill	fill of [611]

Trench 7

Context No.	*Category*	*Description*
700	layer	topsoil
701	layer	buried soil
702	layer	natural sand and gravel
703	cut	?pit
704	fill	fill of [703]
705	cut	ditch
706	fill	fill of [705]
707	cut	furrow
708	fill	fill of [707]
709	cut	ditch
710	fill	fill of [709]
711	cut	pit
712	fill	fill of [711]
713	cut	?pit
714	fill	fill of [713]
715	cut	furrow
716	fill	fill of [715]

Trench 8

Context No.	*Category*	*Description*
800	layer	topsoil
801	layer	buried soil
802	layer	natural sand and gravel
803	cut	drain/guly
804	fill	fill of [803]
805	cut	gully
806	fill	fill of [805]