

Archaeological Evaluation
 at
 Parsons Drove, West Pinchbeck,
 Lincolnshire
 by
 Heritage Lincolnshire
 TF 1657 2765
 on behalf of
 Anglian Water Services Ltd. 1992

ELI 6940

SLI 5265

23595 - Undated

Between the 15th and 19th June 1992 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Heritage Lincolnshire on behalf of Anglian Water Services Ltd at West Pinchbeck, near Spalding, Lincolnshire (N.G. R 13 275). The site is situated on a loop proposed for the construction of an extension to the water mains which lie to the west of the site.

Archaeological Evaluation
at
Parsons Drove, West Pinchbeck,
Lincolnshire

The purpose of the evaluation was to identify any archaeological features which might be encountered during the construction of the proposed extension. A geophysical survey was carried out during December 1991.

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Heritage Lincolnshire
TF 1667 2765
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1992

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Between the 15th and 19th June 1992 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Heritage Lincolnshire on behalf of Anglian Water Services Ltd. at West Pinchbeck, near Spalding, Lincolnshire (N.G.R. 175 274). The work was carried out on land proposed for the construction of an extension to the existing water treatment works which lie to the west of the site.

The purpose of the evaluation was to investigate possible buried archaeological features located during a geophysical survey undertaken by Heritage Lincolnshire during December 1991.

Investigation of the features revealed a series of land-drains cutting an earlier disused and ploughed-over field boundary/ditch.

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INTRODUCTION

Between the 15th and 19th June 1992, Heritage Lincolnshire undertook an archaeological evaluation commissioned by Anglian Water Services Ltd. on land proposed for the construction of an extension to the water treatment works at West Pinchbeck, near Spalding, Lincolnshire (National Grid Reference: TF 175274).

The purpose of the evaluation was to investigate, by means of excavation, possible buried archaeological features previously located during a geophysical survey of the land undertaken during December 1991.

LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

The site lies approximately 3 miles to the north-west of West Pinchbeck on the south side of Parson Drove, (see fig.1). At the time of the evaluation, the site was under a mature cereal crop.

The underlying geology consists of a complex sequence of silts and clays associated with former river channels.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING

Aerial photography has revealed the presence of cropmarks indicating enclosures, field systems and extinct river channels in the vicinity of the evaluation area. There is a concentration of cropmarks at Dunsby Fen Farm approximately 200m south-west of the site and previous archaeological work has established that the features are of Roman date.

Concentrations of Roman pottery and occupation debris, which may indicate a settlement area, have been located c.230m to the south of the site.

Fig. 1

METHODOLOGY

Two trenches were excavated over specific features located by the geophysical survey. Trench 1 measured 4.00m x 1.50m and was orientated north-south. Trench 2 measured 28m x 1.50m and was orientated east-west. The ploughsoil was removed using a mechanical excavator and any archaeological features exposed were cleaned and excavated by hand.

The recording of the archaeological features consisted of a written description and the allocation of a unique record number to each context encountered. In addition, plans and sections were drawn at 1:10 and 1:20 scale respectively, and a photographic record compiled where appropriate.

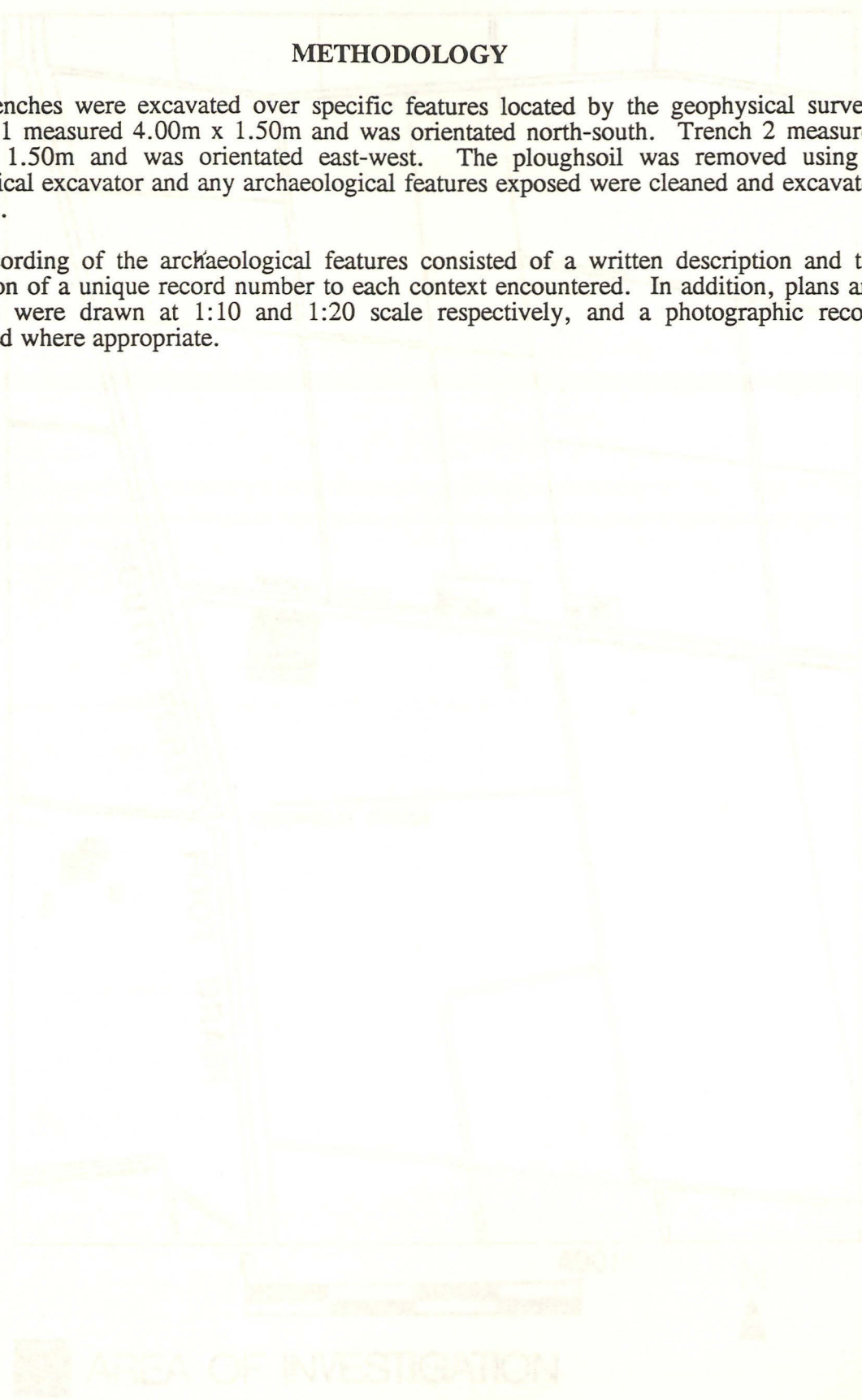
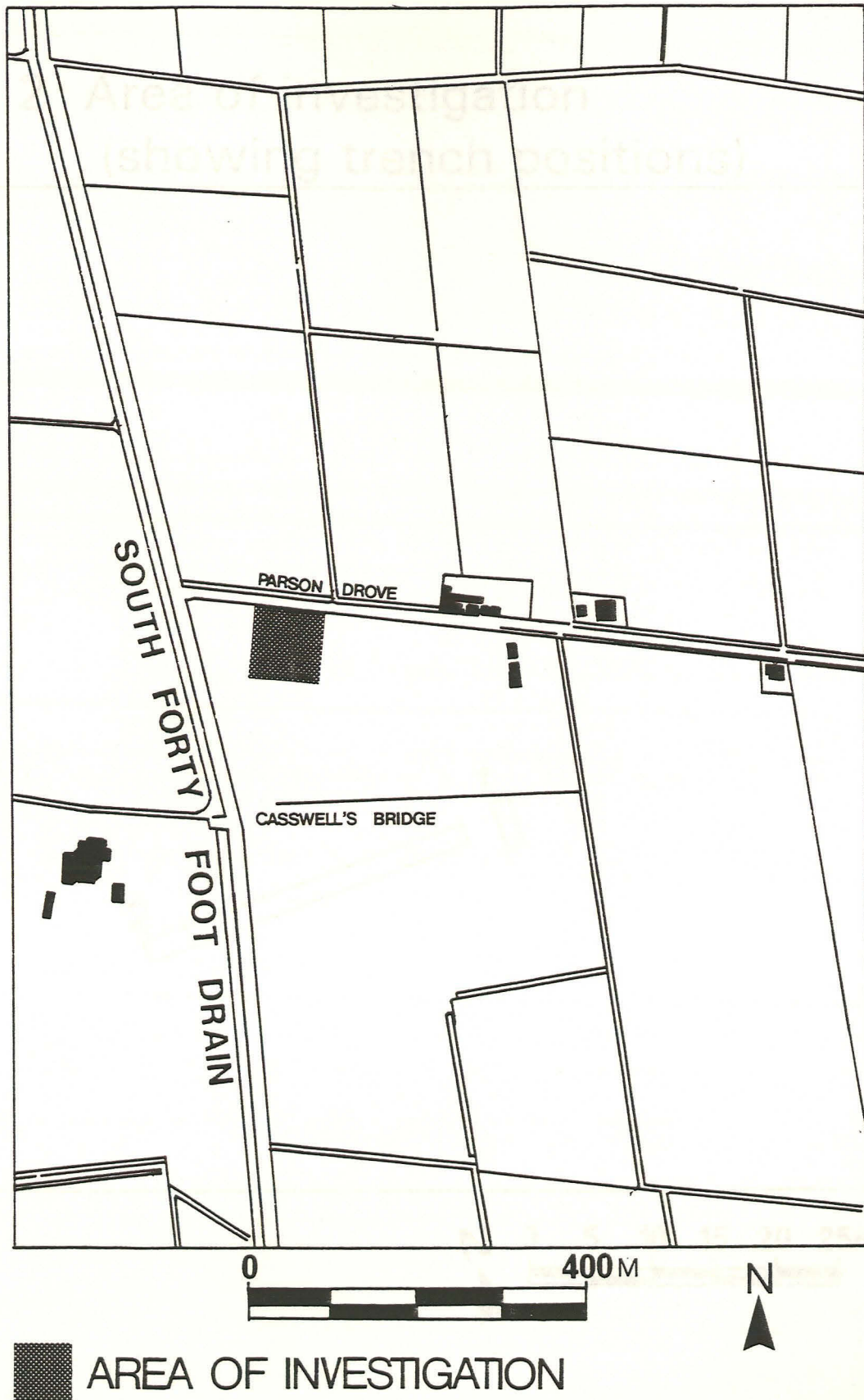
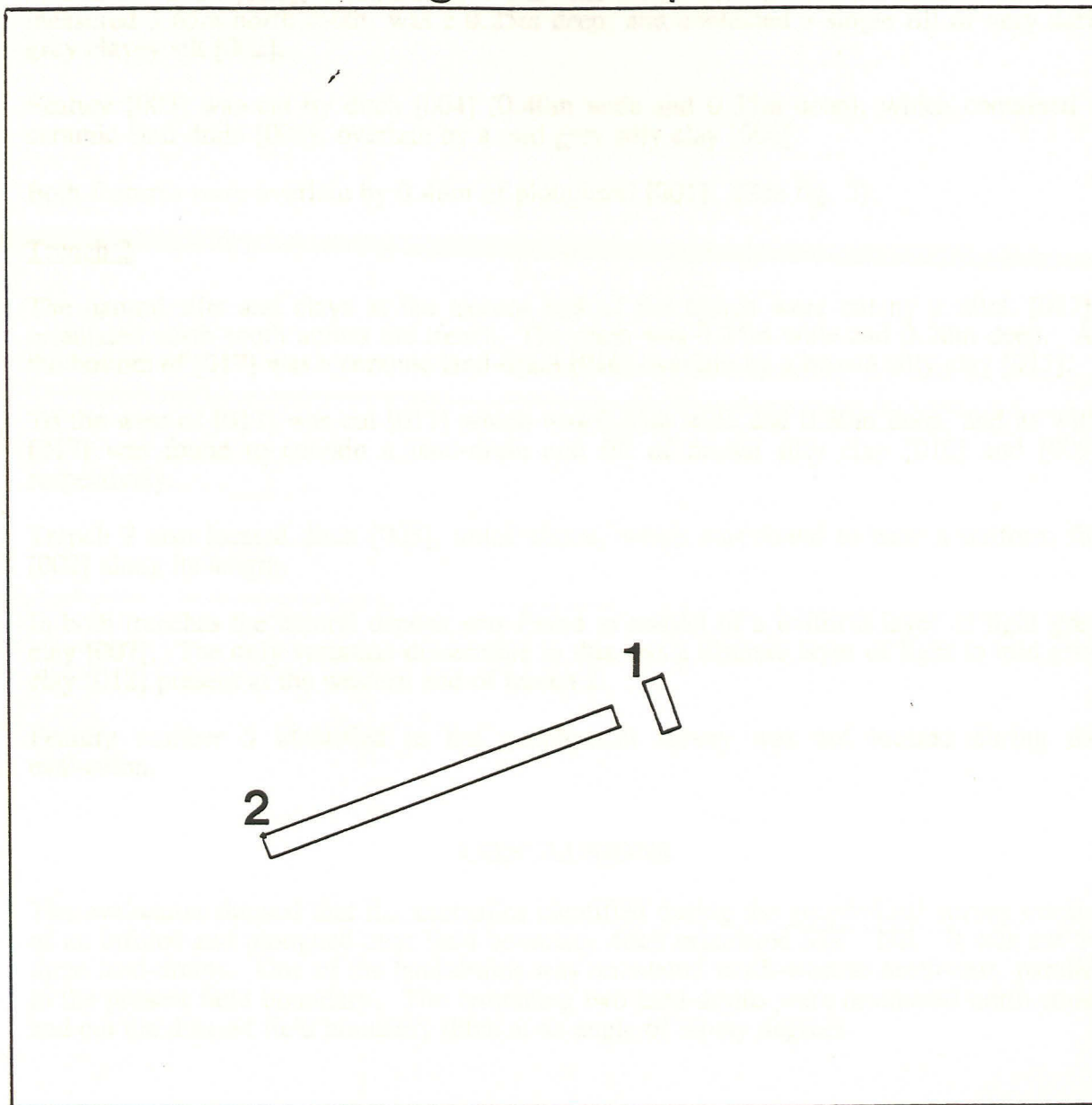


Fig. 1



EVALUATION RESULTS

Fig. 2 Area of investigation
(showing trench positions)



EVALUATION RESULTS

Trench 1

A shallow ditch [003], orientated SW-NE was noted cutting into the natural clay. It measured 3.65m north-south, was c.0.25m deep, and contained a single fill of very dark grey clayey silt [002].

Feature [003] was cut by ditch [004] (0.40m wide and 0.35m deep), which contained a ceramic land-drain [005], overlain by a mid grey silty clay [006].

Both features were overlain by 0.48m of ploughsoil [001]. (See fig. 3).

Trench 2

The natural silts and clays at the eastern end of the trench were cut by a ditch [017], orientated north-south across the trench. The ditch was 0.25m wide and 0.70m deep. At the bottom of [017] was a ceramic land-drain [016] overlain by a brown silty clay [015].

To the west of [017] was cut [011] which was 0.25m wide and 0.80m deep, and as with [017] was found to contain a land-drain and fill of brown silty clay [010] and [009] respectively.

Trench 2 also located ditch [003], noted above, which was found to have a uniform fill [002] along its length.

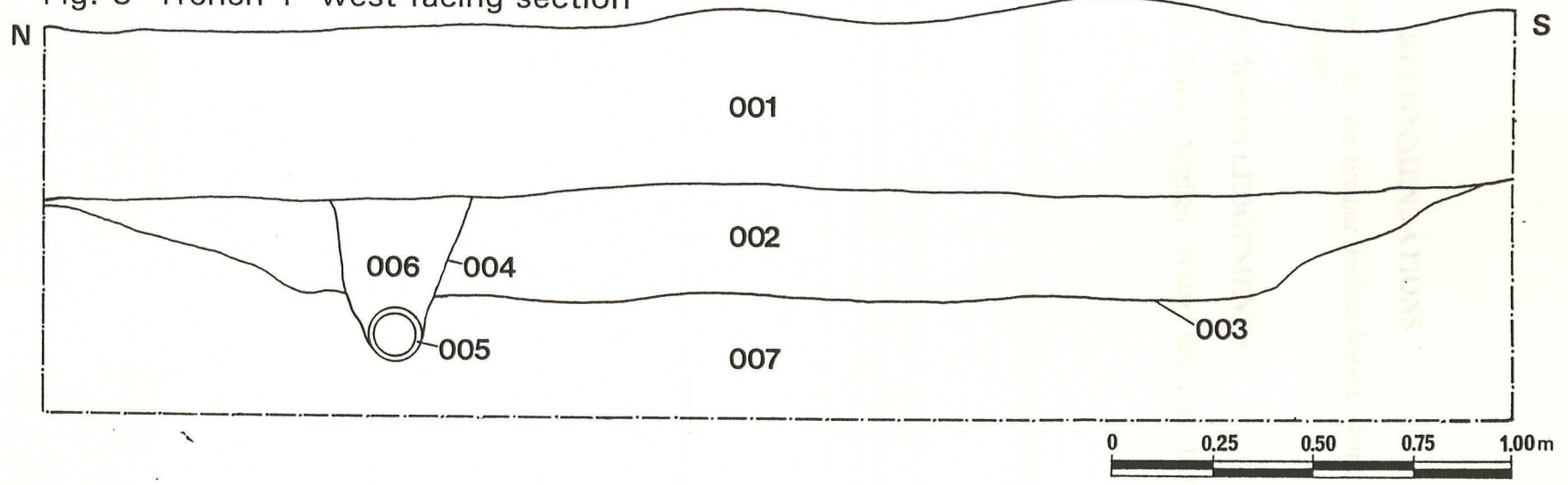
In both trenches the natural deposit was found to consist of a uniform layer of light grey clay [007]. The only variation discernible in this was a discrete layer of light to mid grey clay [012] present at the western end of trench 2.

Feature number 5 identified in the geophysical survey was not located during the evaluation.

CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation showed that the anomalies identified during the geophysical survey consist of an infilled and ploughed over field boundary ditch orientated SW - NE. It was cut by three land-drains. One of the land-drains was orientated south-west to north-east, parallel to the present field boundary. The remaining two land-drains were orientated north-south and cut the disused field boundary ditch at an angle of ninety degrees.

Fig. 3 Trench 1 west facing section



RECOMMENDATIONS

Heritage Lincolnshire recommend that no further archaeological work is necessary within the area of the proposed development.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Heritage Lincolnshire wish to thank Anglian Water Services Ltd. for funding the evaluation.

APPENDIX 1

SUMMARY OF CONTEXTS

Number	Trench	Description
001	1 & 2	Ploughsoil
002	1 & 2	Dark grey clay-silt fill of 003
003	1 & 2	Cut of infilled ditch
004	1	Cut of land-drain
005	1	Land-drain in 004
006	1	Mid grey silt-clay, fill of 004
007	1	Light-mid grey silt-clay - natural deposit
008	2	Dark grey clay-silt, fill of 003. (same as 002)
009	2	Mottled brown and mid grey silt-clay, fill of 011
010	2	Land-drain in 011
011	2	Cut of land-drain
012	2	Light grey silt - natural deposit
013	2	Light-mid grey silt-clay - natural deposit
014	2	Dark grey clay-silt, fill of 003. (same as 002)
015	2	Mottled brown and mid grey silt-clay, fill of 017
016	2	Land-drain in 017
017	2	Cut of land-drain
018	2	Light-mid grey silt-clay - natural deposit