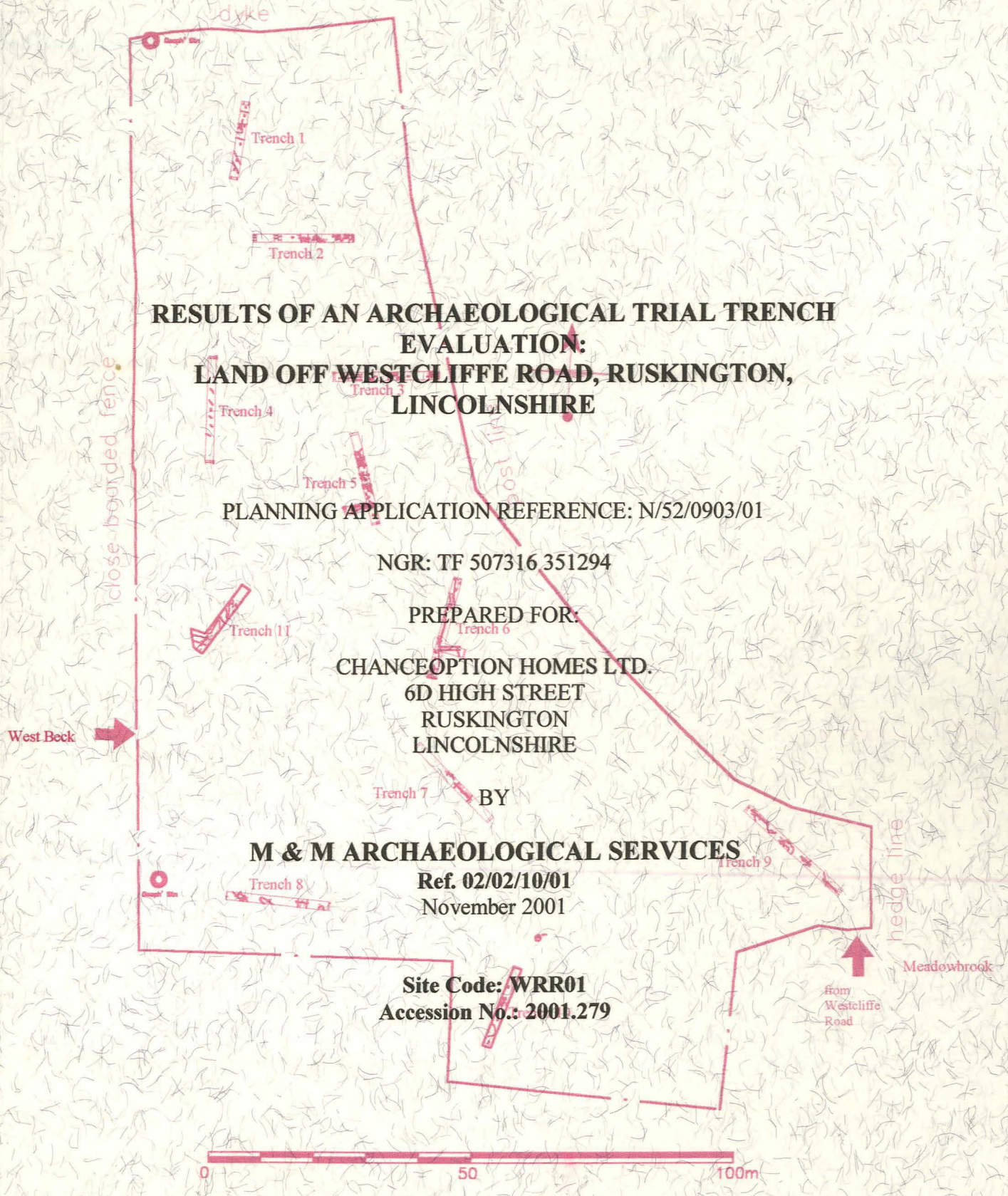

Trench Location Plan

RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION: LAND OFF WESTCLIFFE ROAD, RUSKINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE: N/52/0903/01

NGR: TF 507316 351294

PREPARED FOR:

CHANCEOPTION HOMES LTD.
6D HIGH STREET
RUSKINGTON
LINCOLNSHIRE

BY

M & M ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Ref. 02/02/10/01
November 2001

Site Code: WRR01
Accession No.: 2001.279

Event L12641
Source L17257
L17258

MON L82400
PRN 61947 R&F.

MON L181430
61576 I.A.

M & M Archaeological Services
The Old Coach House, Church End, Donington, Lincs. PE11 4SQ Tel No.: 01775 822759 Fax No.: 01775 822025 email: magriff@talk21.com

RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION: LAND OFF WESTCLIFFE ROAD, RUSKINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY

Chanceoption Developments have applied for planning permission for the construction of 64 residential dwellings off Westcliffe Road, Ruskington, Lincolnshire (Planning Application N/052/0903/01).

Prior to the determination of the planning application, the Heritage Officer, North Kesteven District Council requested that a pre-determination archaeological trial trench evaluation of the site should be undertaken. A specification was prepared in response to a brief set by the Heritage Officer and was approved prior to fieldwork commencing.

The earliest remains recorded by the evaluation date from the Iron Age period and later. Such remains include a large northeast-southwest aligned ditch or channel. These remains are thought to be related to the Iron Age settlement recorded during fieldwork undertaken to the east of the site. In the case of the northeast-southwest aligned ditch or channel, this feature is likely to represent a boundary of rural settlement where the local environs are represented by pasture land and woodland. Excavation of Trench 1, also produced deposits relating to such an environment. Where remains of this date were encountered, a build of subsoil was recorded which may have preserved such remains.

Medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow recorded by the earlier geophysical survey, was found to be present across the site. An east-west aligned ditch was also encountered and possibly represents a former field boundary. These remains are not very well preserved.

Several undated features were also recorded and may or may not represent human activity. Modern disturbance and activity in the form of burning were also recorded and were located towards the southern end of the site.

1.0 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

Ruskington is located 5km north of Sleaford in the administrative district of North Kesteven. The site is located to the western edge of Ruskington village and on the northern side of Westcliffe Road. The site is a rectangular piece of rough grassland comprising an area of approximately 2.7ha in total. The current planning application area to which this fieldwork refers to, is the southwestern half of the larger area which comprises 1.4ha (see Figure 1).

The development area is centred on NGR TF 507316 351294 and lies at an altitude of 15m AOD. The site is level and is bounded by the Beck on the northern side, recent development to the east and west and open fields to the north. Agricultural and residential buildings exist to the south and fronting onto Westcliffe Road.

Soils at the site are Ruskington Association (512c) comprising deep permeable calcareous coarse and fine loamy and sandy soils overlying Glaciofluvial sands and gravel (SSEW 1983).

2.0 PLANNING BACKGROUND

Chanceoption Homes Ltd. have applied for full planning permission for the construction of 64 residential dwellings with associated access roads and services (Planning application reference: N/52/0903/01). In response to this application, the Heritage Officer, North Kesteven District Council requested that a pre-determination archaeological trial trench evaluation should be undertaken prior to any determination of the planning application. The requirement was for a 2% evaluation of the site by area.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

A geophysical survey of the site was undertaken in June 2001 by GSB Prospection, Bradford (*Survey Report 2001/56*) and the results of this survey were assessed by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants (*JSAC 822/01/01*). The results of both of these reports suggested that the site offered a medium-high archaeological potential. This conclusion is also confirmed by the close proximity of recorded archaeological sites in the vicinity of the development area. These remains comprise briefly, ring ditches of possible Bronze Age date, Iron Age and Romano-British enclosures and an Anglo-Saxon cemetery.

4.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims of the trial trench evaluation were to:

a) to gather sufficient information to assess the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits and features;

b) to report on the results of the evaluation and place them within their Local, Regional or National context

c) to gather sufficient information so that an assessment may be made regarding the potential impact of the development on any archaeological remains that may exist

5.0 METHODOLOGY

A 2% trial trench evaluation was required of the south western side of the site. The area evaluated was 1.4ha in size and therefore the minimum total area evaluated covered 280m^2. However, in the field, archaeological features were revealed which were difficult to interpret without further stripping and therefore certain trenches were extended. The total evaluation area therefore comprised 333m^2. Initially, ten 20m x 1.6m trenches were detailed within the specification but after consultation with the Heritage Officer, eleven trenches were excavated. The dimensions of these eleven trenches is detailed within the results section of this report (Section 6). The trenches were located to assess those anomalies identified by the geophysical survey as well as blank areas. The location of the trenches is detailed in Figure 2.

The fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the specification prepared as well as with current best archaeological practices and the appropriate national standards and guidance including:

Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991);
Code of Conduct (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999);
Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999);
Lincolnshire Handbook (Lincolnshire County Council 1998).

6.0 RESULTS

The evaluation was undertaken by Martin Griffiths BA(Hons), AIFA and Mark Chambers FRICS during October 2001.

6.1 *Trench 1 – 15m x 1.6m wide (Figure 4; Plate 1)*

The earliest deposit encountered during excavation of Trench 1 was a yellowish white silty sand and gravel (104). Two silted up streambeds (Rackham pers. comm.) were encountered cutting through the natural geology.

The southern most stream bed [105] contained a mid grey silty sand (108) which remains unexcavated due to the level of the water table. Towards the northern extents of the trench, an east-west aligned irregular cut [106] was excavated. No archaeological artefacts were recovered from the fill of this cut. The close proximity of the Beck on the northern boundary of the site and the alignment of both these streambeds would suggest that the course has diverted in the past.

A 0.23m thick layer of dark grey sandy peat (103) was recorded sealing both the streambeds. This layer is thought to represent a marginal marshy area or former stream channel (Appendix B -*Rackham et al. 2001*). Pollen analysis of this deposit suggests the local environment was relatively open, possibly pasture land, with some woodland present. In particular, this deposit contained substantial quantities of alder pollen suggesting the presence of alder growth along the banks of the channel or as localised alder carr floodplain woodland (*Rackham et al.*). Traces of cereal pollen were also present which suggests arable cultivation in the vicinity but not necessarily in the immediate surrounding environs.

A 0.39m thick layer of mid brown sand (102) with occasional gravel was recorded sealing this peat layer. This deposit represents the subsoil and was in itself sealed by the topsoil (101) which extended to a depth of 0.3m below the present ground surface.

6.2 Trench 2 – 19.25m x 1.6m (Figure 4)

Excavation of Trench 2 revealed the presence of two north-south aligned linear cuts [210] and [203] which cut through the natural geology (202). Both of these features were filled with a red brown sandy silt (211). These features are thought to represent ridge and furrow as identified by the geophysical survey (*GSB 2001/56*). The regularity and profile of these features as well as the slight undulations in the field surface, also confirm that this interpretation was accurate.

To the east of these furrows, two terminus ends of linear features (or pits) [206] and [204] were recorded cutting through the natural geology. The full extent of these cuts were not exposed. The fills of these features were very similar and are represented by a mid brown sandy gravel (205) and (207) respectively. No archaeological artefacts were recovered from either of these fills.

A further feature [208] was also recorded cutting through the natural geology. Its exact function is unknown and with its shallow nature, may or may not represent human activity.

All features were sealed by the topsoil (201) to a depth of 0.34m below the present ground surface.

6.3 Trench 3 – 20.2m x 1.6m (Figure 5)
Three north-south aligned parallel linear features [304], [305] and [308] were recorded during excavation of Trench 3. These were recorded cutting through the natural geology (302) and were filled with red brown sandy silts (303) identical to the fill of furrows recorded during excavation of Trench 2. The geophysical survey had identified the presence of three north-south aligned furrows within the extents of this trench as well as the presence of ferrous material.

An irregular shaped feature [307] was also recorded cutting through the natural geology and is thought to represent an animal burrow. To the side of the trench substantial animal disturbance in the form of burrows were present.

All four of these features were sealed by a 0.38m thick layer of topsoil (301). No subsoil was encountered during excavation of this trench.

6.4 Trench 4 – 20.4m x 1.6m (Figure 5)
No archaeological features or finds were encountered during excavation of Trench 4. The earliest deposit encountered was the natural geology (402) which had been scored by modern plough marks. This was sealed by a 0.28m thick layer of topsoil (401).

6.5 Trench 5 – 18m x 1.6m (Figure 6; Plates 3 & 4)
The earliest deposit encountered during excavation of Trench 5 was the natural geology (503) and was sealed by the subsoil (502). Several undated features were excavated and cut through the subsoil. Elsewhere on the site, remains of Iron Age date have been sealed by the subsoil.

An east-west aligned L-shaped cut [526]/[528]/[530] was recorded at the southern end of the trench cutting through the subsoil. This feature may be structural but given the extent of animal disturbance within the trench, its excavation may also be attributable to animal disturbance. One sherd of Iron Age pottery was retrieved from the surface of this feature and may or may not be residual.

To the north of this feature, the terminus end of an east-west aligned gully [516] was recorded. It may or may not be related to [526]. However, also on the same alignment a further elongated cut [524] was recorded which may have some association to [516].

Two postholes were recorded and cut through the subsoil. Cut [504] containing a mid grey silty sand, may be archaeological in origin but posthole [522] is thought to be modern in origin due to its infilling with toposoil.

North-south aligned ridge and furrow [531] containing a reddish brown sandy silt was recorded on the southernmost extent of the trench.

Animal disturbance is represented by cuts [506], [508], [510] [512]/[514] and [518]. A layer of topsoil (501) measuring 0.32m thick was recorded sealing all features.

6.6 Trench 6 – 19.65m x 1.6m (Figure 7)
Trench 6 was positioned in order to establish the presence and condition of an east-west aligned linear anomaly and pit-like feature identified by the geophysical survey. Removal of the topsoil revealed the natural geology (603) and (610) at a depth of 0.35m below the present ground surface.

The east-west aligned anomaly was on excavation, found to be a slightly V-shape shallow cut (0.45m deep) [611] (*Plate 5*) and was filled with a mid grey brown silty sand (612). This feature has been interpreted as possibly representing the remains of a boundary ditch of probable post-medieval date (see Section 6.11 – Trench 11).

A north-south aligned cut [604]/[609] was recorded cutting through (603) and was filled with red brown sand (602)/(605)/(608). It is considered that this feature represents a furrow.

Animal disturbance [606] was also recorded cutting through the natural geology. All features were sealed by the topsoil (601) which was recorded to a depth of 0.35m below the present ground surface.

6.7 Trench 7 – 20m x 1.6m (Figure 8)
Excavation of Trench 7 revealed the presence of a ditch and two post holes. The ditch [704] was northeast-southwest aligned and cut through the natural geology (703) (see Plate 6). This feature had been identified by the geophysical survey as a palaeochannel and excavation confirmed that the anomaly was a ditch of Iron Age date. The primary fill of this ditch comprised a black organic silty sand (705) which contained preserved organic remains (*Appendix B*). However, no archaeological finds were present in this layer.

Pottery of Iron Age date was recovered from a secondary fill (708) of the ditch. The sherds recovered suggest the presence of a single vessel of Middle Iron Age date (see *Appendix C*). Hammerscale was recovered from this deposit during environmental processing and suggests that iron smithing was occurring within the Iron Age settlement which is located nearby. Animal bone, mussel shell, charred grain, grass

seed, charcoal and hazelnut shell were all recovered from this deposit and represent the local environment and economy at the time that the ditch was open.

To the north of this ditch, two circular cuts were recorded [712] and [710] which were filled with a red brown sand and sandy silt respectively. These features are thought to represent a posthole or pit. No archaeological artefacts were recovered from either of the fills of these features.

A 0.46m thick layer of subsoil (702) sealed all three of these features. Topsoil was recorded to a depth of 0.24m below the present ground surface and sealed the subsoil.

6.8 Trench 8 – 19.8m x 1.6m (Figure 8)
Trench 8 was located in area of the geophysical survey, which was masked by high ferrous activity. The earliest deposit encountered during excavation of Trench 8 was the natural geology (803). At the western end of the trench, a northwest-southeast aligned cut [808] representing a ditch was recorded. No artefacts were recovered during excavation.

To the east of this feature, terminus end of a further northwest-southeast aligned cut [804] was recorded. One sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered during excavation of this feature. It is thought that this feature may be related to [808] given the similar alignment. The deposits within both features are also similar, with the single fills comprising grey brown sandy gravels (805 & 809).

At the eastern end of the trench, a north-south aligned cut [806] was recorded and represents a furrow as identified by survey and excavation elsewhere on the site. To the east of this feature a further terminus end or pit [810] was recorded. No archaeological artefacts were recovered.

A 0.26m thick layer of subsoil (802) was recorded across the western half of the trench but petered out on the eastern side. Topsoil (801) was recorded sealing the subsoil to a depth of 0.33m below the present ground surface.

6.9 Trench 9 – 24.24m x 1.6m (Figure 9)
Excavation of Trench 9 revealed the presence of three features cutting through the natural geology (902). This trench had been located in order to assess the condition of a curvilinear feature identified by the geophysical survey.

At the south-eastern end of the trench in the vicinity of the anomaly identified by the survey, a north-south aligned linear cut [912] was recorded and cut through the natural geology (902). One sherd of 13^{th}-14^{th} century medieval pottery made of local fabric was recovered during excavation. However, environmental analysis suggests that this feature is Iron Age in date and therefore the presence of medieval pottery is likely to be intrusive. Given the close proximity of Iron Age activity to this trench (i.e. fieldwork to the east of the site), the latter interpretation of date is more believable. Hammerscale and iron slag was recovered during environmental processing and may or may not be a contaminant (*Rackham et. al 2001- Appendix B*). Its presence suggests that

some iron smithing is likely to have taken place although the amount of material recovered is small.

An irregular shaped feature [910] containing a mid grey brown sandy gravel (911) was encountered and is thought to represent a natural channel. A curvilinear cut [904] was recorded to the south of this and its function remains unclear. The full extent of this feature was not revealed as it extended beyond the limit of excavation. One fragment of 13th-14th century medieval pottery was recovered during excavation.

A linear feature [908] aligned northeast-southwest measuring 0.67m wide and 0.17m deep was also recorded. This may represent the ploughed out remains of an enclosure ditch. All four of these features were sealed by a 0.41m thick layer of topsoil (901).

6.10 Trench 10 – 16.1m x 1.6m (Figure 9)

Trench 10 was located to assess a possible boundary identified during the geophysical survey. No such boundary was uncovered during excavation of this trench.

An irregular cut [1004] cut through the natural geology (1003) and was filled with a grey brown sandy gravel (1005). This feature is thought to represent a natural depression.

On the eastern side of the trench a further feature representing a posthole [1006] was encountered which was filled with a dark brown sandy gravel (1007). No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill of this feature.

At the northern end of the trench a north-south aligned feature [1009] representing a furrow was recorded cutting through the natural geology. Subsoil (1002) sealed all of these features and was in turn sealed by the topsoil (1001) to a depth of 0.22m below the present ground surface. At the southern end of the trench, an area of burning was recorded extending through the topsoil.

6.11 Trench 11 – 15.50m 1.6m (Figure 10)

Trench 11 was located in order to assess the terminus end of an east-west aligned anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. This feature was assessed during excavation of Trench 6.

The natural geology (1103) was encountered at a depth of 0.36m below the present ground surface. An east-west aligned linear ditch [1104] was recorded cutting through the natural geology and was filled with a mid grey sandy silt gravel (1105). Modern white glazed pottery was recovered from the base of this feature.

A thin layer of orange brown sandy gravel (1102) representing the remnants of ridge and furrow was recorded and aligned approximately north-south and adjacent to this feature.

Topsoil (1101) was recorded to a depth of 0.36m below the present ground surface and sealed all features.

7.0 DISCUSSION

Archaeological evaluation at Westcliffe Road, Ruskington has recorded four phases of human activity dating from the Iron Age period and later. The earliest deposit encountered was the natural geology comprising Glaciofluvial sands and gravel.

The first phase of human activity on the site occurred during the Iron Age whereby ditches were excavated. In particular, a large ditch bisects the application site and its condition and preservation is good. The preservation of this feature and others of this date is not only likely to be attributable to its width and depth but also to the presence of a layer of subsoil which protects the upper layers of deposits. Subsoil was not present across the whole of the site and it is considered that in areas where this layer is not present, the underlying deposits have been affected by modern farming practices.

The purpose of this ditch is likely have been to indicate the extent of a settlement boundary or may equally have been utilised for drainage. Environmental sampling of the basal fill of this ditch suggests open country or grassland taxa prior to the deposition of Iron Age pottery. In particular the pollen assemblage from this deposit suggests that there was more woodland than demonstrated for other regions of the country at the time of deposition. Cereal was also present in the sample suggesting local arable cultivation.

The layer from which the pottery was excavated included shade loving and marshy elements suggesting a slight change in the immediate landscape, possibly abandonment of the land.

The medieval and post-medieval periods are represented by agricultural activity in the form of ridge and furrow and field boundaries. In the case of the ridge and furrow, an exact period date is not possible and the remains may relate to farming practices during either period. Their condition is poor, although slight undulations in the field surface can be felt and seen. Given the condition of such remains, their importance is considered to be negligible.

Modern activity is the final phase of disturbance on the site. Such activity is represented by the burning and dumping of material towards the southern edge of the site.

Environmental sampling of the ditch and deposits within Trench 1, suggest that pollen preservation is good. Such preservation is generally rare on the gravels in this area of Lincolnshire and therefore a potential exists for a consideration of the local environment prior to the deposition of the Iron Age artefactual material (Appendix C - Rackham et al. 2001). Both deposits are broadly similar in character with open pasture indicated with some woodland present and are possibly of the same date.

In general, artefactual material was strongly lacking which may suggest that the development site was not the main focus of settlement during the Iron Age period. The sites monitored to the east and west of the current application site are more likely to represent focussed settlement with the ditch excavated during this evaluation, forming a boundary between the two.

In conclusion, archaeological evaluation at Westcliffe Road, Ruskington has confirmed the presence of Iron Age, medieval, post-medieval and modern remains within the application site. In particular, the preservation of remains and environmental material of Iron Age date is good and is considered to be of local-regional importance. Remains of medieval, post-medieval and modern date are of negligible importance. This consideration is based on their condition. Several undated features exist on the site, which may or may not be attributed to human activity.

8.0 FIGURES

Boundaries revised to April 2001

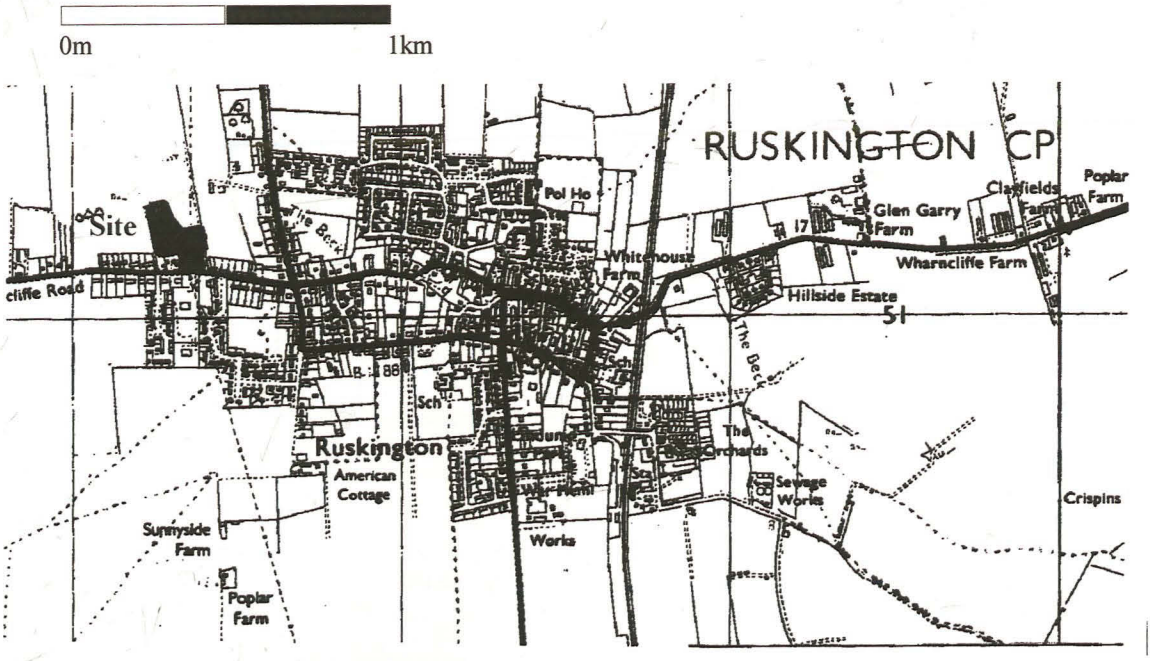


Figure 1. Site location

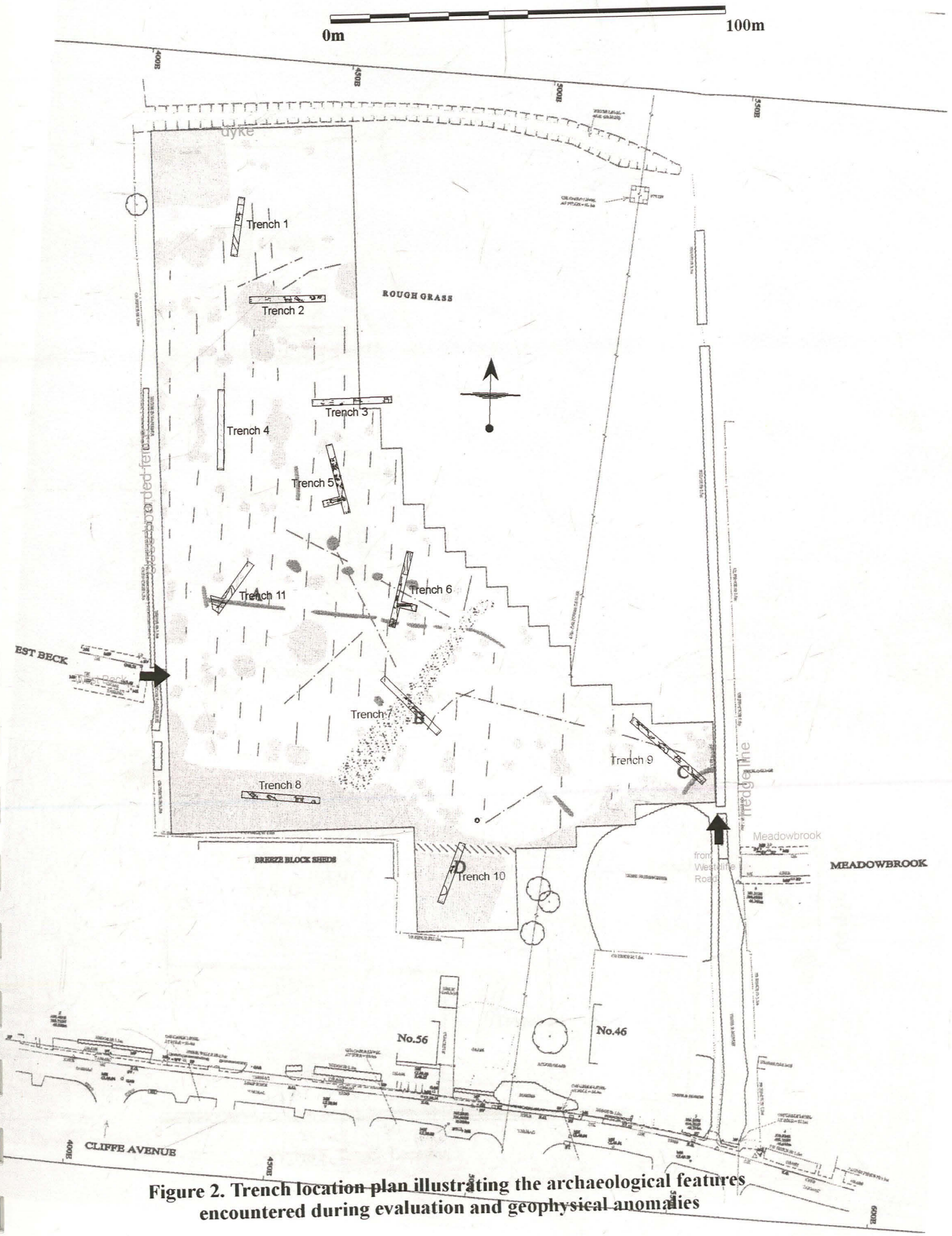


Figure 2. Trench location plan illustrating the archaeological features encountered during evaluation and geophysical anomalies

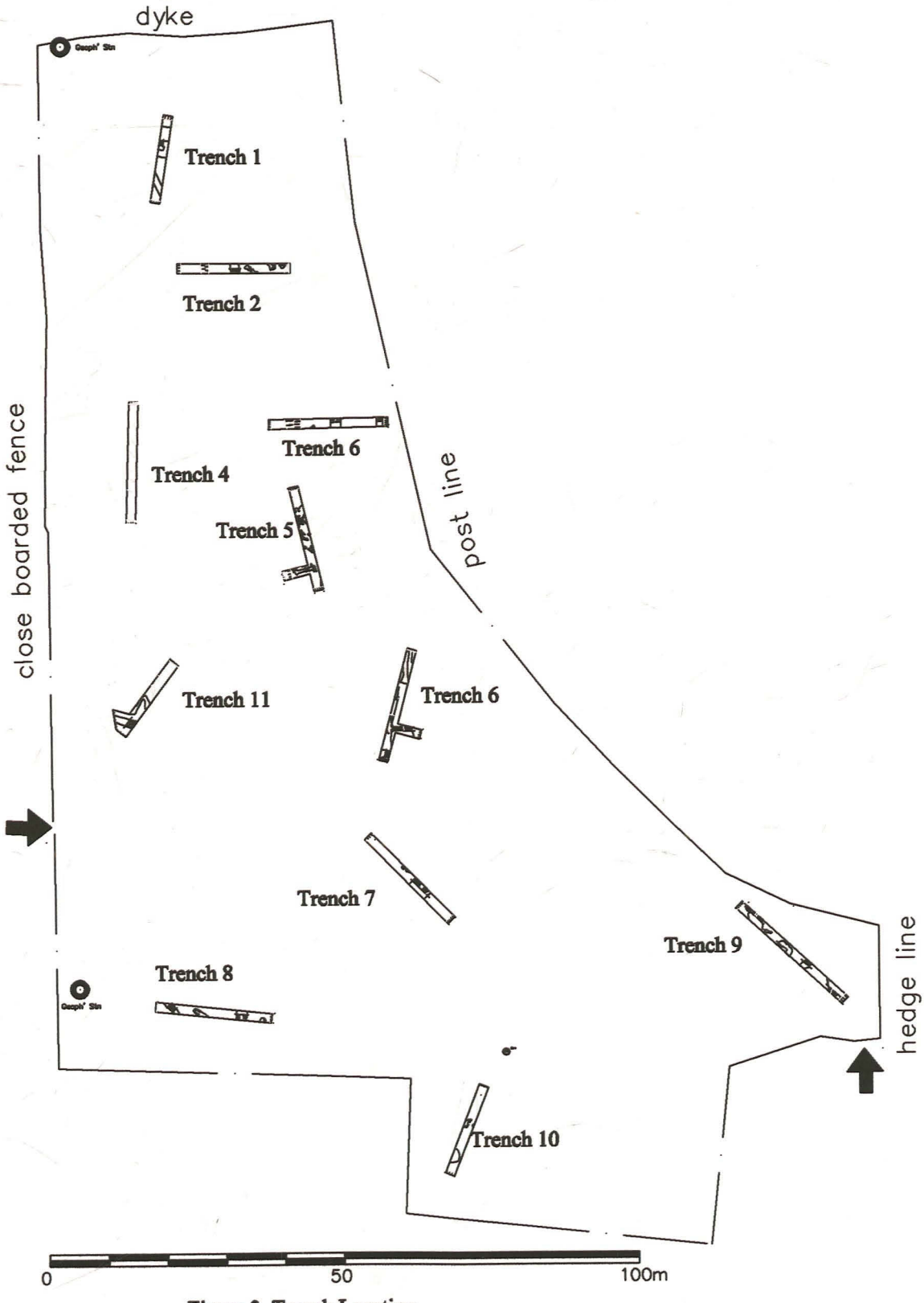
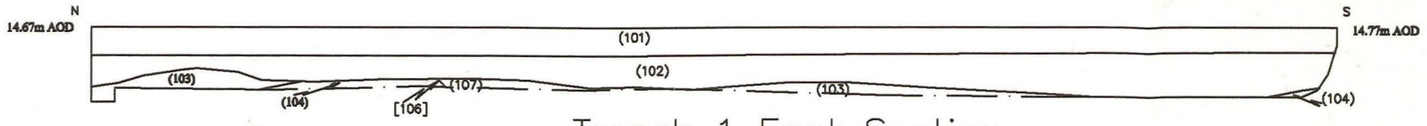


Figure 3. Trench Location



Trench 1 East Section

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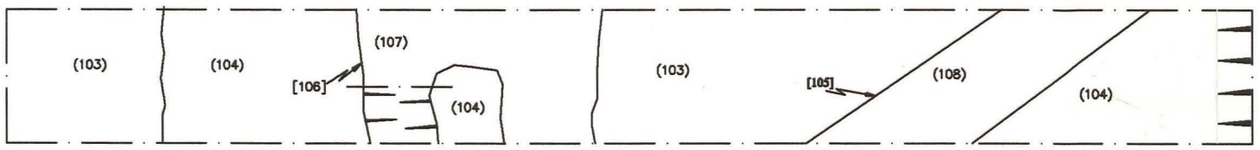
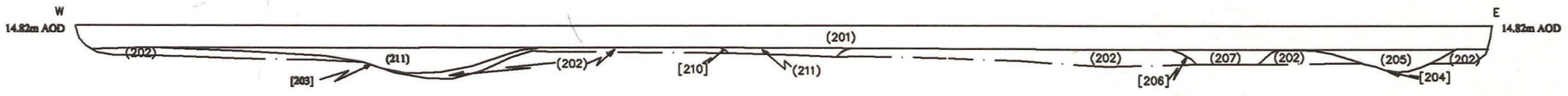
[106]



Trench 1 Plan



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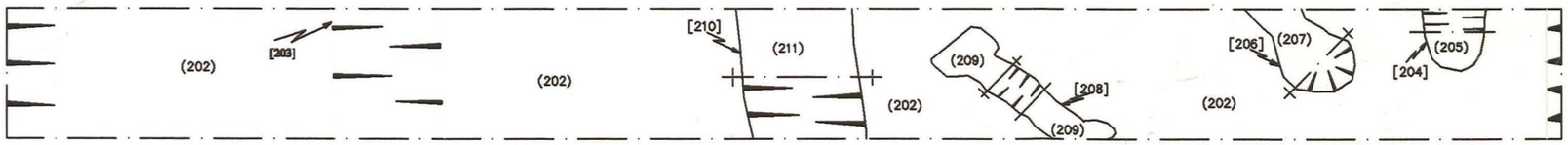

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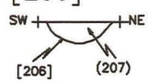
Section
[210]

Section
[206]



Section
[208]

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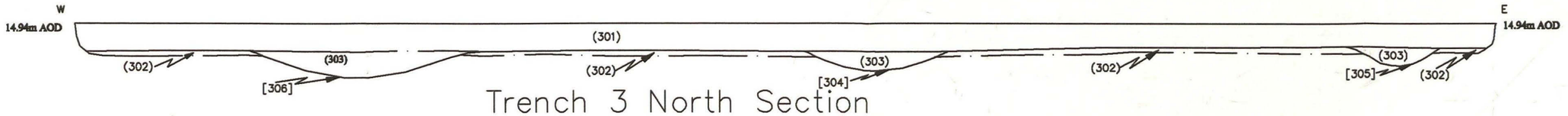

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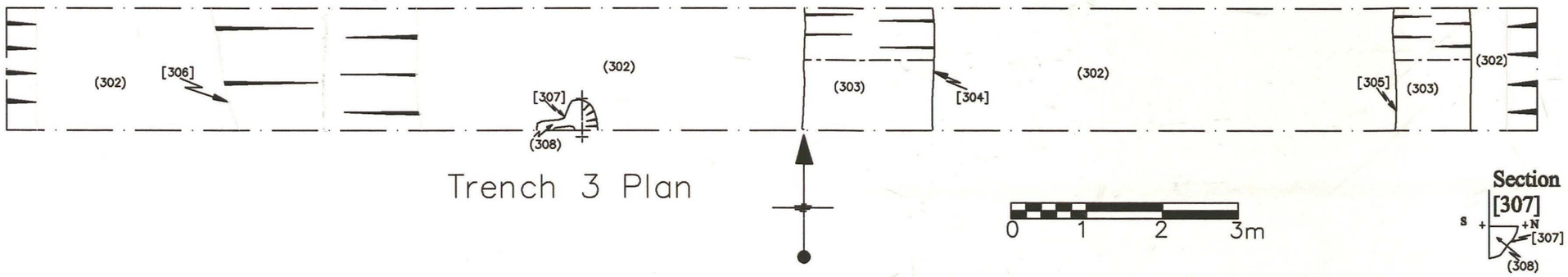
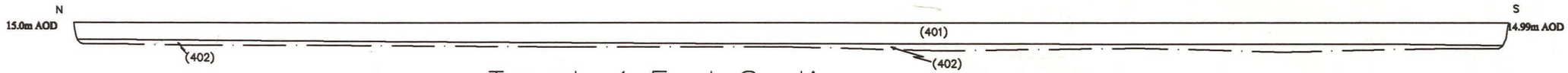


Trench 3 Plan



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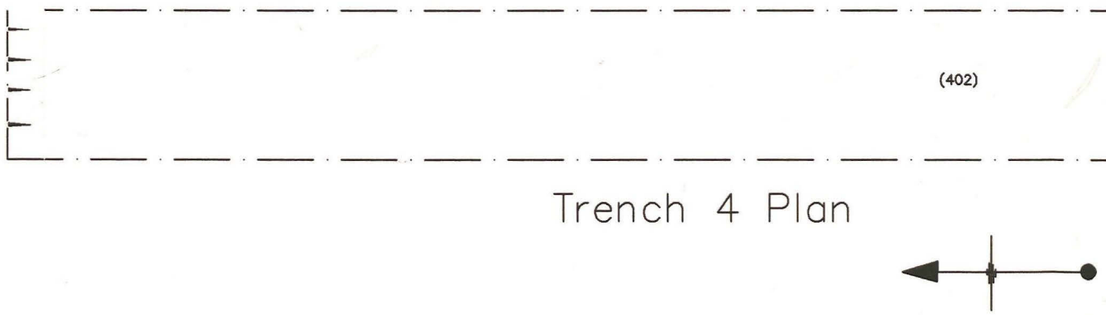

Trench 4 Plan

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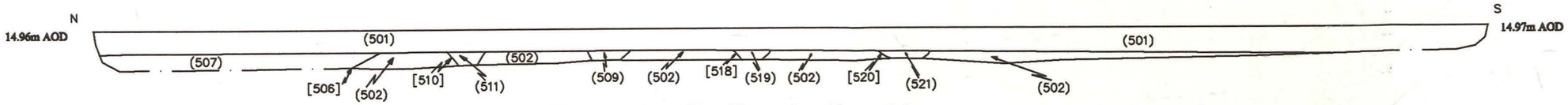

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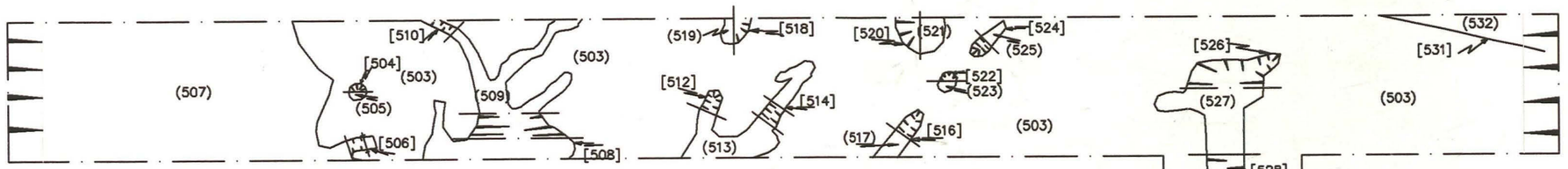

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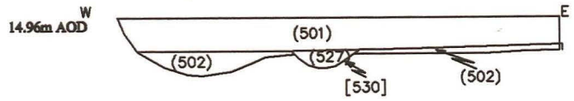

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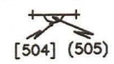

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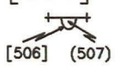

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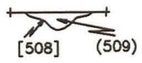

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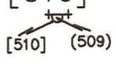

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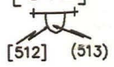

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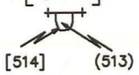

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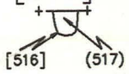

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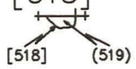

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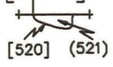

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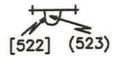

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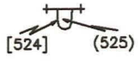

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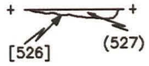

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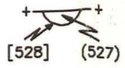

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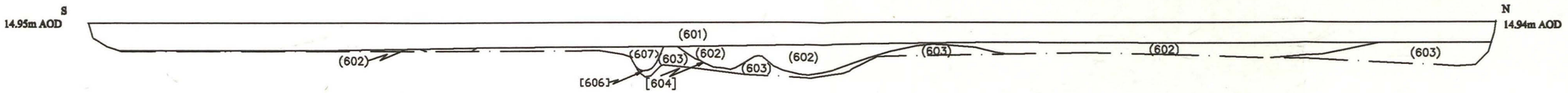
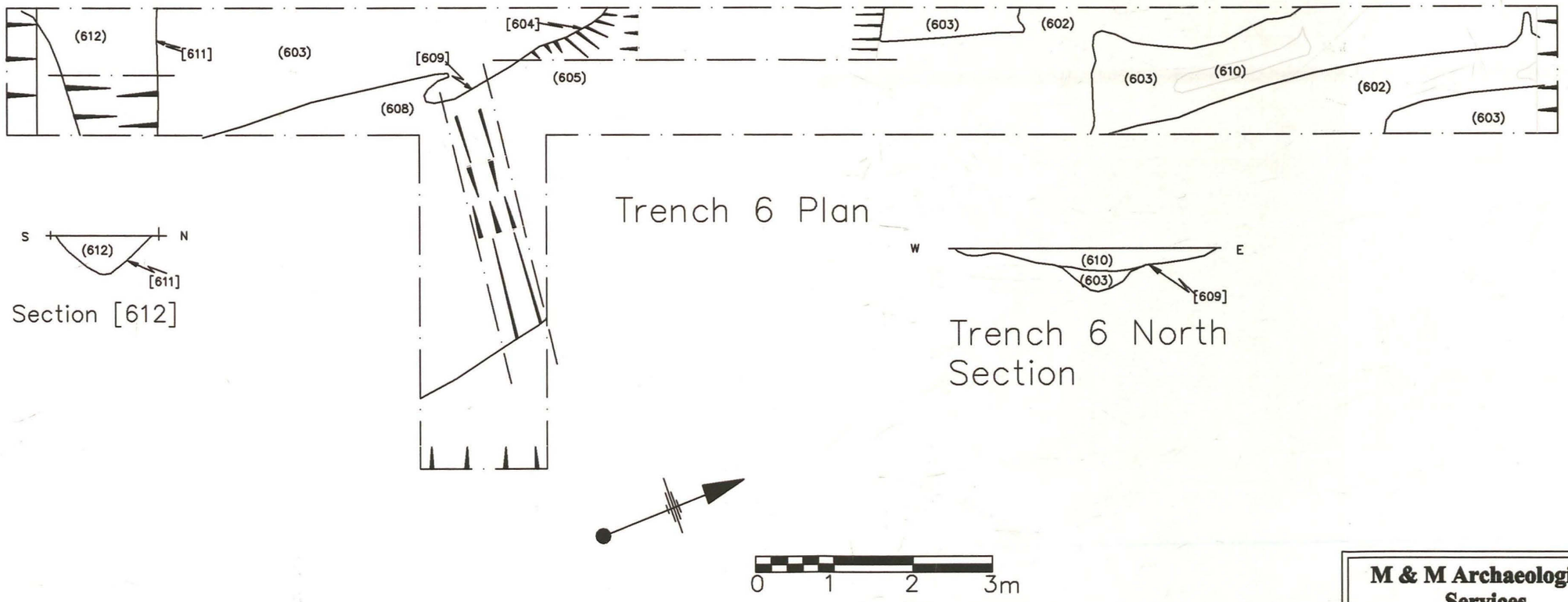
Job	Westcliffe Road Ruskington, Evaluation
Title	Trench 5
Scale	As Drawn
NGR	TF507316 351294
Drawn	mpc
Date	October 2001
Dwg	06
Site Code	WRR-01



Trench 6 West Section

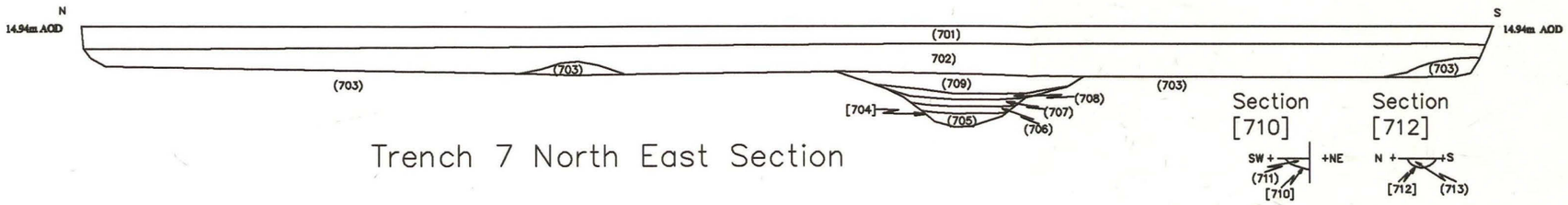


Trench 6 Plan

Section [612]

Trench 6 North Section

M & M Archaeological Services	
Job	Westcliffe Road Ruskington, Evaluation
Title	Trench 6
Scale	As Drawn
NGR	TF507316 351294
Drawn	mpc
Date	October 2001
Dwg	07
Site Code	WRR-01



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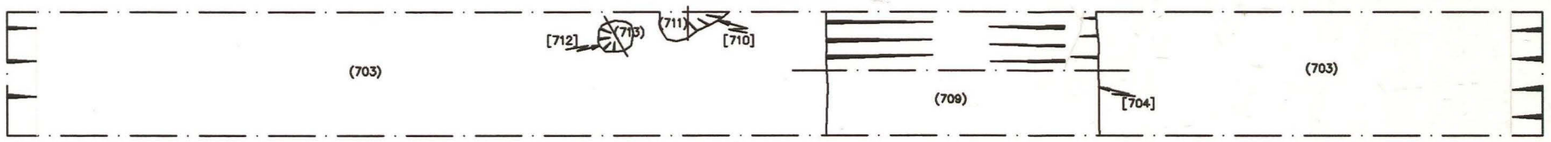
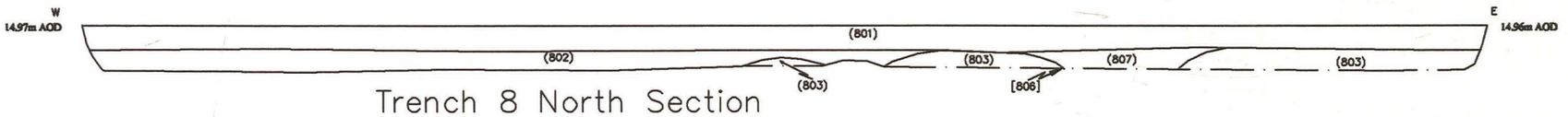
Section [712]



Trench 7 Plan



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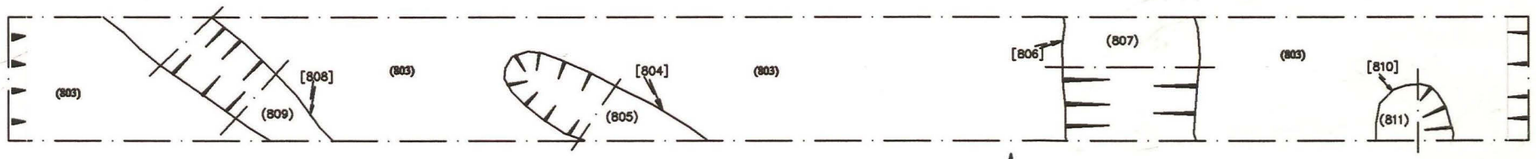

Trench 8 Plan

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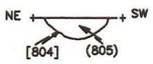

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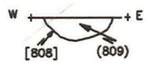

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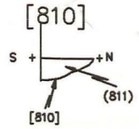

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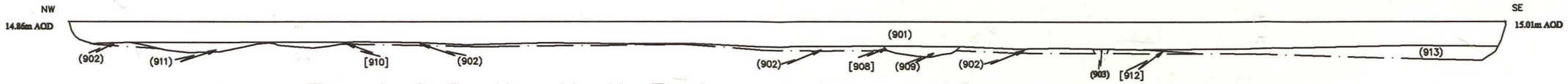
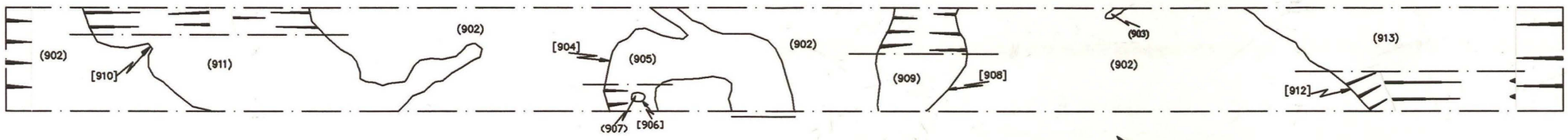
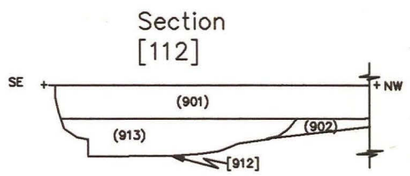
Job	Westcliffe Road Ruskington, Evaluation
Title	Trenches 7 & 8
Scale	As Drawn
NGR	TF507316 351294
Drawn	mpc
Date	October 2001
Dwg	08
Site Code	WRR-01

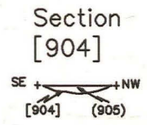


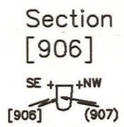
Trench 9 Section North East

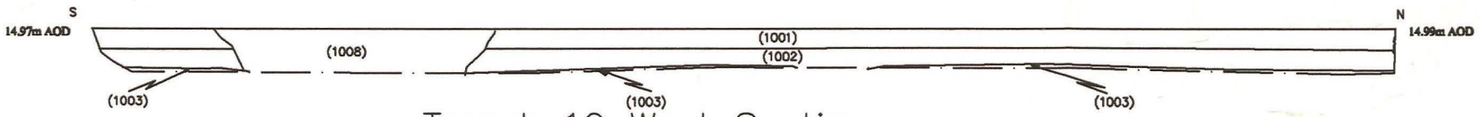


Trench 9 Plan









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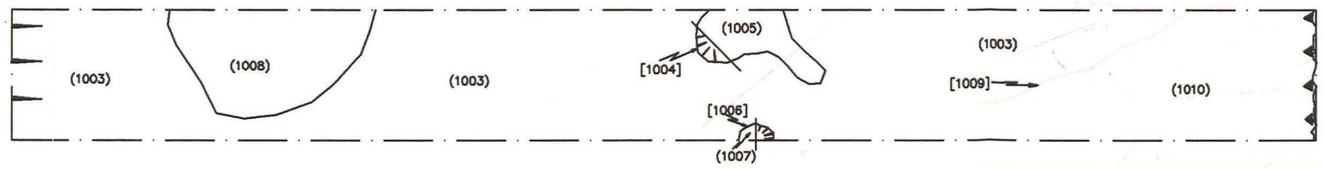

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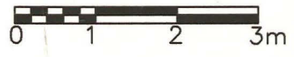

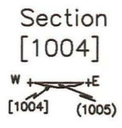

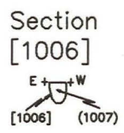

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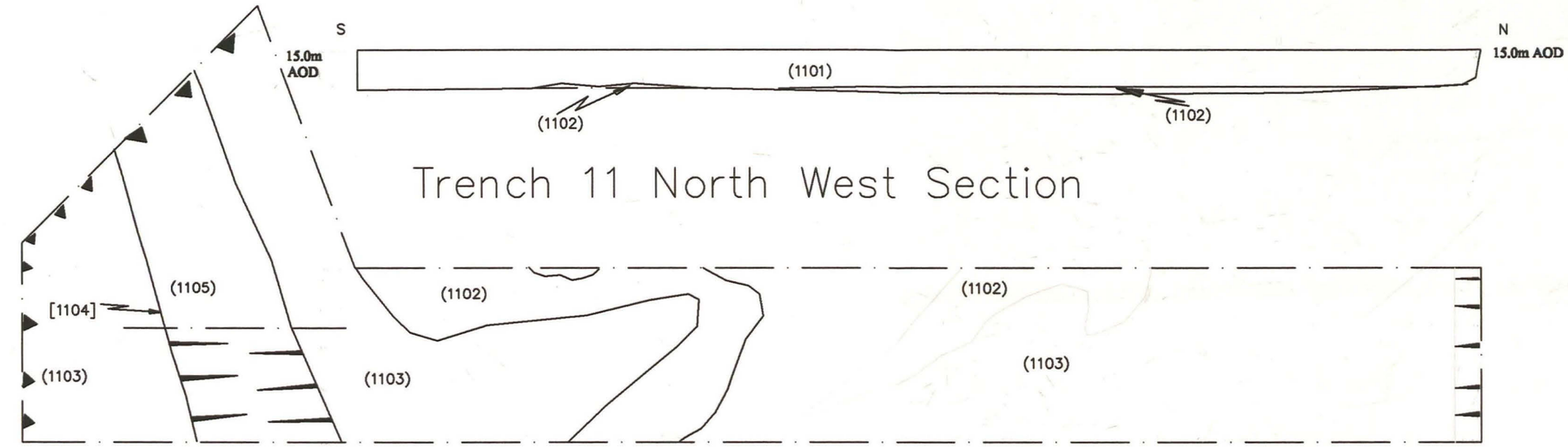
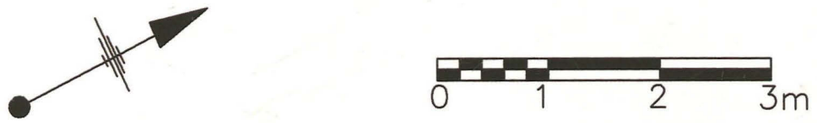
Job	Westcliffe Road Ruskington, Evaluation
Title	Trenches 9 & 10
Scale	As Drawn
NGR	TF507316 351294
Drawn	mpc
Date	October 2001
Dwg	09 09
Site Code	WRR-01

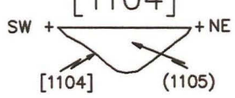


Trench 11 North West Section

Trench 11 Plan



Section
[1104]



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Title	Trench 11
Scale	As Drawn
NGR	TF507316 351294
Drawn	mpc
Date	October 2001
Dwg	10
Site Code	WRR-01

9.0 PLATES

Plate 1. General shot of the site looking southeast
Plate 2. Trench 1 looking north towards the Beck
Plate 3. Trench 5 illustrating [526]/[528]/[530]
Plate 4. Trench 5 looking north
Plate 5. East-west aligned linear [611]
Plate 6. Northeast-southwest aligned ditch [704]

Plate 1. General shot of the site looking southeast

Plate 2. Trench 1 looking north towards the Beck

Plate 3. Trench 5 illustrating [526]/[528]/[530]

Plate 4. Trench 5 looking north

Plate 5. East-west aligned linear [611]

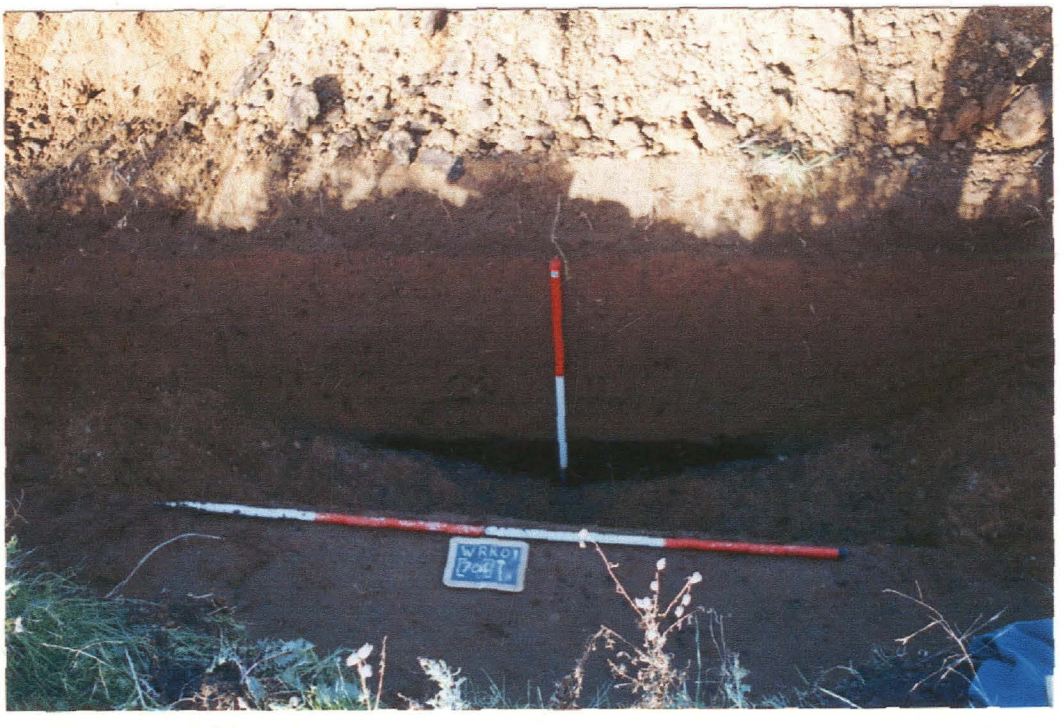

Plate 6. Northeast- southwest aligned ditch [704]

10.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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JSAC (822/01/01). *A geophysical survey of land off Westcliffe Road, Ruskington, Lincolnshire.*

SSEW (1983). *Soil Survey of England and Wales. Sheet 4.*

Appendix A:

Context Summary

Context	Description	Sampled	Interpretation	Location
101	Dk Grey Brown sandy silt loam	N	Topsoil under grass with evidence of Rigg and Furrow	T 1
102	Med Brown sand with occ gravel	N	Subsoil	T 1
103	Dk Grey sandy peat	Y	Organic greasy layer leaching through subsoils	T1
104	Yellow White silty sand/gravel	N	Natural deposit	T1
105	Cut Linear feature	N	Palaeo-channel ne - sw	T1
106	Cut Irregular feature	N	Silted up stream channel	T1
107	White Grey silty sand peat	N	Fill of cut [106]	T1
108	Mid Grey silty sand	N	Fill of cut [105] not excavated due to water table	T1
201	Dk Grey Brown sandy silt loam	N	As T1	T2
202	Yellow grey white limestone	N	Natural geology	T2
203	Cut linear feature	N	Rigg and Furrow n - s	T2
204	Cut for pit/linear feature	N	Possible pit or terminus of linear feature LOE.	T2
205	Med Brown sandy gravel	N	Single fill of cut [204] No artefacts	T2
206	Cut for irregular linear pit/terminus	N	Possible pit or terminus of linear feature nw - se	T2
207	Mid Brown sandy silt occ gravel inc.	N	Single amorphous fill of cut [206]	T2
208	Cut of angular linear feature	N	Short angular shallow feature nw – se purpose N/K	T2
209	Mid Brown sandy gravel	N	Single fill of cut [208] No finds.	T2
210	Cut of linear feature	N	Rigg and Furrow n - s	T2

211	Red Brown sandy silt	N	Single fill of cut [203] and [210]	T2
301	Dk Grey Brown sandy silt loam	N	As T1, T2	T3
302	Grey White limestone gravel	N	Natural Geology	T3
303	Red Brown sandy silts	N	Single fill of cuts [304] [305] and [306]	T3
304	Cut of linear feature	N	Rigg and Furrow n - s	T3
305	Cut of linear feature	N	Rigg and Furrow n - s	T3
306	Cut of linear feature	N	Rigg and Furrow n - s	T3
307	Cut of irregular curvilinear feature	N	Shallow curved burrow, animal disturbance	T3
308	Dk Brown silty sand	N	Single fill of cut [307]	T3
401	Dk Grey Brown sandy silt loam	N	As (101),(201) and (301)	T4
402	Yellow White Limestone	N	Natural Geology	T4
501	Dk Grey Brown sandy silt loam	N	As (101),(201), (301), (401)	T5
502	Dk Brown sandy gravel	N	Subsoil not in full length of section	T5
503	Grey White Limestone	N	Natural geology	T5
504	Circular cut feature	N	Possible shallow post hole	T5
505	Mid Grey silty sand	N	Single fill of cut [504]	T5
506	Cut of curved linear feature	N	Animal disturbance	T5
507	Red Brown sandy gravel	N	Natural geological deposit with animal disturbance	T5
508	Cut of irregular feature	N	Probable animal disturbance lying ne – sw	T5
509	Red Brown sandy gravels	N	Single fill of cut [508] and [510]	T5
510	Cut of shallow	N	See [508]	T5

	bowl shaped feature			
511	Not used			T5
512	Cut of irregular feature	N	Probable animal disturbance	T5
513	Red Brown sandy gravel	N	Single fill of cut [512] and [514]	T5
514	Cut of irregular feature see [512]	N	See (513)	T5
515	Not used			T5
516	Cut of linear feature	N	Possible terminus lying e – w maybe associated with [522} [524]	T5
517	Dk Brown sandy gravel	N	Single fill of cut [516]	T5
518	Semi circular pit or terminus	N	Probably animal activity. No finds	T5
519	Dk Brown sandy gravel	N	Single fill of [518]	T5
520	Cut of semi circular feature	N	Possible pit or terminus maybe associated with [516],[522] and [524]	T5
521	Mid Brown sandy gravel	N	Single fill of cut [520]	T5
522	Circular cut feature	N	Probable Modern post hole due to topsoil fill	T5
523	Dk Grey Brown sandy silt loam	N	Single fill of cut [522] appears modern topsoil	T5
524	Cut of short linear feature	N	Possibly associated with [522] [516] and [520]	T5
525	Dk Brown sandy gravel	N	Single fill of cut [524] No finds	T5
526	Cut of eastern end of linear feature	N	Possible structure but very shallow 1 piece I.A. Pottery on surface	T5
527	Mid Grey Brown sandy gravel	N	Single fill of cut [526] [528] and [530]	T5
528	Cut of middle of linear feature	N	Bowl shaped section with no finds	T5

529	Not used			T5
530	Cut of west end of linear feature	N	Similar to [528]	T5
531	Cut of linear feature	N	Rigg and Furrow	T5
532	Red Brown sandy silt	N	Single fill of cut [531] Unexcavated	T5
601	Dk Grey Brown sandy silt loam	N	As (101) (201) (301) (401) (501)	T5
602	Red Brown sands	N	Subsoil	T5
603	Grey White Limestone	N	Natural geology	T6
604	Cut of linear irregular feature	N	Shallow broad channel, probably natural channel	T6
605	Red Brown sand	N	Single fill of cut [604] same as (602)	T6
606	Cut of linear feature	N	Animal activity	T6
607	Grey Brown silty sand	N	Single fill of cut [606]	T6
608	Red Brown sand	N	Single fill of cut [609] same as (605) and (602)	T6
609	Cut of linear feature	N	Probable natural channel lying n – s. No finds	T6
610	Grey Brown sand	N	Natural deposit	T6
611	Cut of linear feature	N	Roughly V shaped ditch lying e – w same as [1104]. Probably post med boundary ditch	T6
612	Mid Grey Brown silty sand	N	Single fill of cut [611] Pottery in same feature in T11 of modern date	T6
701	Dk Grey Brown sandy silt loam	N	As (101) (201) (301) (401) (501) (601)	T7
702	Red Brown sand silt	N	Subsoil	T7
703	Grey White limestone	N	Natural geology	T7
704	Cut oif linear	N	Large ditch lying ne	T7

	feature		– sw , purpose not certain	
705	Black Dk Grey organic wet silty sand	Y	Primary fill of cut [704]	T7
706	Grey sandy silt	Y	Secondary fill of cut [704]	T7
707	Yellow Brown sand	N	Secondary fill of cut [704]	T7
708	Dk Brown organic sandy silt	Y	Secondary fill of cut [704] containing bone and pottery of I.A. date. Occ charcoal inclusions.	T7
709	Dk Grey Brown sandy silt	N	Upper fill of cut [704]	T7
710	Cut of irregular semi-circular feature	N	Possible terminus or pit. No finds	T7
711	Red Brown sand	N	Single fill of cut [710]	T7
712	Cut of circular bowl shaped feature	N	Possible post hole	T7
713	Red Brown sandy silt	N	Single fill of cut [712]	T7
801	Dk Grey Brown sandy silt loam	N	As (101) (201) (301) (401) (501) (601) (701)	T8
802	Red Brown sand	N	Subsoil	T8
803	Orange White sandy gravel	N	Natural geology	T8
804	Cut of linear feature	N	Shallow oval pit or terminus of linear feature	T8
805	Grey Brown sandy gravel	Y	Single fill of cut [804]	T8
806	Cut of linear feature	N	Shallow feature lying n – s probably Rigg and Furrow	T8
807	Grey Brown sandy silt	N	Single shallow fill of cut [806]	T8
808	Cut of linear feature	N	Bowl shaped ditch lying nw – se No finds	T8
809	Lt Grey Brown sandy gravel	N	Single fill of cut [808]	T8

810	Cut of semi-circular feature	N	Pit or terminus of linear feature	T8
811	Grey Brown sandy gravel	N	Single fill of cut [810]	T8
901	Dk Grey Brown sandy silt loam	N	As (101) (201) (301) (401) (501) (601) (701 (801)	T9
902	Grey White limestone	N	Natural Geology	T9
903	Grey Brown silty sand	N	Animal disturbance	T9
904	Cut of curvilinear feature	N	Shallow feature purpose not known.	T9
905	Lt Grey Brown silty sand	N	Single fill of cut [904].	T9
906	Cut for circular feature	N	Possible post hole sealed by (905)	T9
907	Grey Brown silty sand	N	Single fill of cut [906]	T9
908	Cut of linear feature	N	Shallow bowl shaped ditch lying east – west possible boundary/enclosure ditch	T9
909	Lt Grey Brown silty sand	N	Single fill of cut [908]	T9
910	Cut of irregular linear feature	N	Shallow irregular based feature probably natural channel. No artifacts	T9
911	Mid Grey Brown sandy gravel	N	Single fill of cut [910]	T9
912	Cut of linear feature	N	Probable ditch purpose unknown dated to Iron Age from environmental sample	T9
913	Grey Brown sandy gravel	Y	Single fill of cut [912]	T9
1001	Dk Grey Brown sandy silt loam	N	As (101) (201) (301) (401) (501) (601) (701) (801) (901)	T10
1002	Orange brown sandy gravels	N	Subsoil	T10
1003	Lt Grey Brown limestone gravel	N	Natural geology	T10

1004	Cut of irregular shaped feature	N	Shallow probable natural depression.	T10
1005	Grey Brown sandy gravels	N	Single fill of cut [1004]	T10
1006	Cut for semi circular feature	N	Possible pit/ post hole	T10
1007	Dk Brown sandy gravel	N	Single fill of cut [1006)	T10
1008	Dk Grey Black burnt sand gravel	N	Area of burnt material cut through topsoil contains modern pottery and metal	T10
1009	Cut for linear feature	N	Probable remains of Rigg and Furrow lying n –s	T10
1010	Red Brown sand	N	Single fill of cut [1009]	T10
1101	Dk Grey Brown sandy silt loam.		As (101) (201) (301) (401) (501) (601) (701) (8010 (901) (1001)	T11
1102	Orange Brown sandy gravel	N	Remnants of Rigg and Furrow	T11
1103	Lt Grey White limestone	N	Natural geology	T11
1104	Cut of linear feature	N	Roughly V shaped linear feature same as [611] in T6. Modern white glazed pottery in base	T11
1105	Mid Grey sandy silt gravel	N	Single fill of cut [1104]	T11

Appendix B:

Environmental Assessment

Westcliffe Road, Ruskington – WRR01

Environmental Archaeology Assessment

Introduction

An evaluation excavation conducted by M & M Archaeological Services investigated a series of features on calcareous gravels at Westcliffe Road, Ruskington. Six bulk samples and two monolith samples were collected from the evaluation. Four of the bulk samples were submitted to the Environmental Archaeology Consultancy for processing and assessment (Table 1) and a single sample was taken from the base of each of the monoliths for pollen assessment.

Table 1: Westcliffe Road, Ruskington. Samples taken for environmental analysis

Trench	context no.	sample volume (l)	description	assessed	date
7	705	8	0-5cm basal ditch fill, dark organic silt	Y	Iron Age ?
7	705		5-10 cm fill of ditch with wood- for C14	N	Iron Age?
7	705	Monolith	Column of the lower 30cm of ditch fill	Y	Iron Age?
7	708	30	Sandy silt, secondary ditch fill	Y	Iron Age
8	805	21	Sandy gravel fill of ditch 804	Y	Medieval
9	913	22	Sandy gravel fill of ditch 912	Y	Iron Age
1		Monolith	50cm column of stream margin? sediments	Y	Undated
1			Basal organic sediments of above monolith for C14	N	Undated

Methods

The bulk soil samples were processed in the following manner. Sample volume and weight was measured prior to processing. The samples were washed in a 'Siraf' tank (Williams 1973) using a flotation sieve with a 0.5mm mesh and an internal wet sieve of 1mm mesh for the residue. Both residue and flot were dried and the residues subsequently re-floated to ensure the efficient recovery of charred material. The dry volume of the flots was measured and the volume and weight of the residue recorded. The sample from context 705 included waterlogged material and the first flot was kept wet. The samples taken for potential C14 analysis were not processed during this assesment.

The residue was sorted by eye, and environmental and archaeological finds picked out, noted on the assessment sheet and bagged independently. A magnet was run through each residue in order to recover magnetised material such as hammerscale and prill and a count made of the number of flakes or spheroids of hammerscale collected. The residue was then discarded. The flot of each sample was studied using x10 magnification and the presence of environmental finds (i.e. snails, charcoal, carbonised seeds, bones etc) was noted and their abundance and species diversity recorded on the assessment sheet. The flots were then bagged and along with the finds from the sorted residues, constitute the material archive of the samples.

The individual components of the samples were then preliminarily identified and the results are summarised below in Tables 2, 3 and 4.

Results

All of the samples contained modern root fragments. A few uncharred seeds occurred in two of the samples and are probably contaminants. However in the other two assessed samples (705 and 913) uncharred seeds are very abundant and in 705 particularly, these have survived and are contemporary with the formation of the deposits. The shells of the burrowing blind

snail *Cecilioides acicula* in contexts 805 and 913 may also be contaminants since this species burrows to depth of up to 2m (Evans 1972).

Apart from the middle fill, 708, of the Iron Age ditch, archaeological finds are fairly limited. A few tiny fragments of animal bone have been recovered, and context 913, also probably Iron Age in date, produced a piece of iron smithing slag (Cowgill pers comm.) and four flakes of hammerscale, and a tiny splinter of old glass. 705 and 913 produced one or two fragments of charred grain, one fragment from 913 possibly being from a free-threshing wheat.

Table 2:Westcliffe Road, Ruskington. Finds from the processed samples

Context number	sample volume (l)	residue volume (l)	pottery no/wt.g.	brick /tile	coal wt.g.	bone wt g	marine shell wt.g.	slag wt.g.	mag. wt. g	h'scale (count)	comments
705	8	1				1					
708	30	3.5	16/38		+	66	<1		3	1	
805	21	6		+	+				2		
913	22	5.5			1	<1		8	2	4	splinter of ancient glass

+ - tiny fragments

Context 708 produced a range of material indicating Iron Age occupation nearby. As well as the pottery and animal bone excavated on site the sample has produced further finds, a tiny fragment of mussel shell, bones of cattle, sheep and pig, burnt bone, a single flake of hammerscale, charred grain, grass seeds, charcoal and a hazelnut shell fragment. The organic layer, 705, in the base of this ditch, while largely lacking archaeological material has very well preserved organic remains including twigs, wood fragments, seeds, beetles, caddis larval cases and other remains. The pollen preservation in the deposit was good (see below) and these sediments clearly have some potential for a consideration of the local environment prior to the deposition of the Iron Age artefactual material above them. In anticipation of this potential a monolith was taken on site of these lower organic fills and two bulk samples, including that reported here, were taken to permit an analysis of the macroscopic remains in the deposits and generate material for radiocarbon dating the deposits.

Table 3: Westcliffe Road, Ruskington. Environmental finds from the processed samples

context no.	sample volume (l)	flot volume (ml)	char-coal *	charred grain *	charred seed *	un-charred seed */#	insect *	egg-shell*	snails */#	comment
705	8	250*	1		1	4/3			1	Uncharred *Rumex, Carex, Ranunculus, Rubus, Chenopodium, Polygonum, Polygonum* cf *aviculare*, Compositae, lots small wood and twigs, moss, caddis, beetles
708	30	7	3	1	1	1/1			3/3	Charred *Hordeum* grain, Poaceae, indet cereal grain, hazelnut, wood fragments, sheep, pig, cattle, mussel; uncharred Compositae, *Sambucus*
805	21	4	2	1		1/1			3/2	Charred cf *Avena*, cf *Triticum*, wood fragments
913	22	10	2	1		4/2		1	4/2	Charred cf *Triticum* grain, indet cereal grain, uncharred *Chenopodium, Rubus, Sambucus, Galium*,

*frequency 1=1-10; 2=11-50; 3=51-150; 4=151-250; 5=>250 items
diversity – 1=1-3; 2=4-10; 3=11-25 taxa

Terrestrial snails are abundant in three of the samples, but the basal fill of the Iron Age ditch produced a much lower density of shells. The assemblages are dominated by open country or grassland taxa, but the archaeologically rich layer, 708, includes some shade loving and marshy elements, and a single aquatic snail.

Table 4: Molluscan taxa recorded from the samples

Trench	7	7	8	9
Context	705	708	805	913
	1	3	3	4
Open country/grassland				
Cecilioides acicula			+	+
Helicella sp.		+	+	+
Vertigo pygmaea		+	+	
Vertigo sp.				+
Pupilla muscorum		+	+	+
Vallonia costata		+		
Vallonia pulchella		+		+
Vallonia excentrica	+	+	+	+
Catholic				
Trichia hispida		+		+
Helix hortensis/nemoralis				
Cochlicopa lubrica				
Cochlicopa sp.		+	+	+
Shade loving/woodland				
Discus rotundatus			+	
Vertigo pusilla		+		
Punctum pygmaeum		+		
Marsh/wet ground				
Carychium sp.		+	+	
Succinea sp.		+		
Vertigo antivertigo		+		
Lymnaea truncatula		+		
Valvata macrostoma		+		

habitat groupings broadly taken from Evans, 1972; Ellis 1969; Cameron and Redfern 1976

In Trench 1 at the northern edge of the site where the development area approaches an existing stream valley dark organic silt deposits, possibly representing a marginal marshy area or former channel of the stream, were present at the base of the evaluation trench. A second monolith was collected from these deposits and a sample from its base submitted for pollen assessment. A bulk sample of the basal woody layer of this deposit was also collected in case further work on these sediments was warranted after assessment, particularly the radiocarbon dating of the deposit.

Pollen Assessment of Samples taken from Trenches 1 and 7

Rob Scaife

Two samples sumitted for assessment have been examined for their sub-fossil and spore content. The principal aims of the study were to establish the presence or absence of pollen and the potential of the sediments for reconstructing the past (Iron Age) environment of the site. A sample from the base of the monolith taken through the highly humic/organic silts of the Iron Age ditch in Trench 7, context 705, was assessed. A second sample of similar character from Trench 1 is as yet undated and appears to come from sediments filling a river or stream palaeochannel. It was anticipated that pollen analysis might provide an initial indication of the age of this channel.

Sub-fossil pollen and spores were recovered from both of the samples and preliminary pollen counts and interpretation are given in this report.

Pollen Method

Samples for pollen analysis were taken from the open faces of Trenches 1 and 7 using box monolith profiles. Two sub-samples taken from the base of these profiles have been analysed. Standard pollen extraction techniques were used on samples of 2ml volume (Moore and Webb 1978; Moore *et al.* 1992) with the addition of micromesh sieving to aid removal of the clay fraction. Pollen was identified and counted using an Olympus biological research microscope fitted with Leitz optics. The pollen sum counted for each sample was 100 grains plus extant fern spores. These data are presented in Table 5 as raw pollen counts (i.e. also as percentages as the sum is based on 100 grains per sample !).

The Pollen Data

Pollen was found in well preserved condition and was relatively abundant in both samples. This enabled counts to be readily made (Table 5). The two samples appear to have some similarities and differences. The characteristics of these pollen spectra are described briefly as follows:

Trench 1: This is thought to contain the alluvial/sedimentary fills of a river/stream channel of unknown age. The dominant pollen taxon present is *Alnus* (alder) (34%) which is clearly commensurate with the view that this is an alluvial channel. The only other marsh/aquatic taxa present are occasional *Typha/Sparganium* type (reed-mace and bur-reed) and Cyperaceae (sedges). Trees and shrubs (excluding alder) form some 23% of total pollen and comprise *Quercus* (oak), *Corylus avellana* (hazel) and sporadic occurrences of *Fraxinus* (ash), *Tilia* (lime), and *Pinus* (pine). Herb assemblages are dominated by Poaceae (grasses; 16%) with *Plantago lanceolata* (ribwort plantain; 11%). A single grain only of cereal type pollen was noted.

Trench 7, context 705: The sediment sample from Trench 7 is possibly attributable to the Iron Age period. Trees and shrubs form 29% of total pollen. *Alnus* which was more important in Trench 1 is only represented by 3 grains here and appears to be of little local importance. *Corylus avellana* type (hazel) is most important (15%) with lesser quantities of *Quercus* (oak; 5%), *Tilia* (linden; 4%) and *Fraxinus* (ash; 2%). Conversely, herbs are important with Poaceae (grasses) dominant (35%) along with a diverse range of other taxa which include *Plantago lanceolata* (ribwort plantain; 12%), and sporadic occurrences of Caryophyllaceae (*Stellaria* type; *Cerastium* type), *Sinapis* type (brassicas/charlocks), *Ranunculus* type (buttercups), and cereal type (2%). There are few wetland taxa (as might be expected from this context) but Cyperaceae are, however, present (6%). Spores of ferns comprise *Pteridium aquilinum* (bracken) and *Dryopteris* type.

Inferred Vegetation and Environment

Both samples are broadly similar in character suggesting that the local environment was relatively open, possibly largely pasture but with some woodland remaining. Both samples also have traces of cereal pollen which also implies some arable cultivation but possibly not in immediate, close, proximity to the site.

The possible stream channel fill in Trench 1 contains substantial quantities of alder pollen, confirming alder growth along the banks of this channel or as localised alder carr floodplain woodland. Other woodland on drier ground, where it remained after forest

clearance, comprised oak and hazel (on the lower valley slopes?) and lime/lindens and ash. The latter are more important in Trench 7 and it should be noted that the pollen of these two taxa are poorly represented in pollen spectra thus suggesting that they were more important than may be indicated by their small numbers.

Table 5: Pollen data obtained from samples obtained from Trenches 1 and 7.

	Trench 1 (North End)		Trench 7 (Iron Age Ditch)
TREES & SHRUBS			
Betula	1		
Pinus	1		
Quercus	10		5
Fraxinus	1		2
Tilia	1		4
Alnus	34		3
Corylus avellana type	9		15
Sorbus type	1		
Prunus/Malus type	1		
HERBS			
Ranunculus type	1		4
Sinapis type			1
Hornungia type			1
Stellaria type			1
Cerastium type			1
Chenopodiaceae	1		
Filipendula ulmaria	2		1
Rumex undiff.	1		1
Scrophulariaceae undiff.			1
Plantago media/major type	1		1
Plantago lanceolata	11		12
Galium	1		
Valeriana officinalis	1		
Scabiosa	1		
Anthemis type	1		
Artemisia	3		
Lactucoideae			4
Poaceae	16		35
Cereal type	1		2
MARSH			
Cyperaceae	1		6
Typha/Sparganium	2		
FERN SPORES			
Pteridium aquilinum	5		6
Dryopteris type	1		8
Polypodium vulgare	1		

The pollen assemblage from Trench 7 is commensurate with the vegetation expected/likely to be growing during the Iron Age although quantities of tree and shrub pollen may indicate more woodland than demonstrated for other regions of the country. The undated deposits in Trench 1 appear to be of similar age/environment. The

presence of cereal pollen, absence of elm and lime pollen suggests at least, a late prehistoric age for the sample and possibly Iron Age or later. The marked difference of alder pollen in this sample compared with Trench 7 is clearly due to the fluviatile depositional habitat and thus represents the autogenic component. Radiocarbon dating would easily demonstrate the age of the channel fills.

Suggestions for Future Analysis
Pollen is well preserved and present in sufficient numbers to enable 'full' pollen counts and pollen diagrams to be constructed if required. In conjunction with radiocarbon dating of the organic fills, this would provide a framework for the past vegetation and environment of the site and local region.

Discussion
Only context 708 has produced clear evidence of significant archaeological activity on the site. The quantities of charcoal and occasional charred cereal grains in the other samples indicate activity but need not imply any local focus. 708 on the other hand does suggest settlement may be nearby in the mid-late Iron Age. The presence of hammerscale in 708 and 913, and slag in 913 suggests that iron smithing was undertaken in this Iron Age settlement, although with such small numbers of finds it is not impossible that this material could be contaminant.

The pollen evidence appears to indicate a fairly open Iron Age environment, but with some mixed oak and hazel woodland around. Cereal pollen testifies to local arable cultivation. The undated deposits in Trench 1 although similar in terms of their pollen, except for the high alder count, could be of similar date, but without radiocarbon dating the pollen data do not afford any reliable key to their date.

Recommendations
The presence of the archaeological debris in 708 clearly indicates that Iron Age settlement exists in the immediate vicinity. The survival of such well preserved organic sediments with excellent preservation of plant and insect macrofossils and pollen on a fairly well drained calcareous gravel site of the 1st millennium BC is unexpected and such opportunities are rare on the gravels of this area of Lincolnshire.

It is therefore recommended that the organic sediments in Trenches 1 and 7 are dated by radiocarbon, and depending upon the results of these dates, further work on the monolith samples and bulk samples from these features is undertaken to reconstruct the local and regional environment at the time of deposition.

The following aspects are suggested for such work:

-Radiocarbon dating of the profile(s).
-Description of the sediment profiles.
-Sampling at 4cm intervals for pollen analysis.
-Standard pollen counts of 400 grains or more should be counted for each level.
-Plant and insect macrofossil analysis of the bulk samples
-Integration of the pollen and plant macrofossil/seed data to reconstruct the environment.

Such analyses would provide statistically valid results including pollen diagrams and a report to publication standard.

Should further archaeological excavation be required at the site bulk sampling of dated archaeological deposits, particularly those of mid-late Iron Age date, should be undertaken for the recovery of the charred plant remains, industrial evidence such as hammerscale and slag and other occupation debris. The good assemblages of terrestrial snails in some of the evaluation samples indicates that this line of data could help with the environmental reconstruction at the site and a series of samples in column up through the fills of a dated ditch, such as that sampled in the evaluation, may prove useful in monitoring local changes in the environment during its occupation.

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Appendix C:

Pottery Assessment

Iron Age Pottery Report

The pottery recovered from Trench 7 (708) appears to represent one vessel probably broken and discarded during an open phase of the ditch. All the recovered fragments were found in a single context approximately 10cm in thickness. The pottery was concentrated within an area not exceeding one metre in diameter in the centre of the ditch. The pottery is provisionally dated to the Iron Age period. A specific date cannot be given with any certainty, however, the fact that the pottery was hand made may suggest middle iron age. It should be noted that hand made pottery did continue through to the late Iron Age, after wheel-made pottery had been introduced.

The pottery sherds recovered can be partially reconstructed and suggest an ovoid shaped vessel with a flat base and an inverted rim. The base fragment found shows evidence of pinched indentations around the edge of the base. The sides of the pottery were quite thin approximately 5mm in most places. There were no signs of the pottery having any form of decoration. The outer surface was badly abraided probably due to the sandy context in which it was found. Only one fragment of rim has been recovered and this revealed evidence of a shallow lip suggesting the vessel had been covered with a lid of some kind. No fragments identifiable as part of the lid were recovered.

The pottery is a reddish outer colour and light grey on the inside, it is suggested that it may have been made from local Jurassic clays found to the west of Ruskington. The pottery has a uniform shell content and it is considered that it is a natural deposit in the clays rather than added manually for tempering purposes.

A single piece of similar pottery was recovered from a shallow linear feature in Trench 8 (805), this piece is of similar appearance to the pottery recovered in Trench 7 to the east and is considered to be contemporary with the rest of the assemblage.

The above information was kindly provided by Dr David Knight of Trent and Peak Archaeology Unit at Nottingham University

Pottery Archive WRR01

Jane Young *Lindsey Archaeological Services*

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	weight	part	description	date	condition
905	MEDLOC	Medieval local fabrics	reduced with oxid ext surface;fine sandy;hard	jug	1	10	BS	no glaze;common quartz below 0.3mm mod. Fe	13th to 14th	slightly abraded
913	MEDLOC	Medieval local fabrics	reduced with white ext margin;fine sandy;hard	jug	1	8	rim	thick reduced glaze;common quartz below 0.3mm mod. Fe	13th to 14th	slightly abraded