



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Osgodby cum Kirkby
S101A Sewerage Scheme, Lincs
Earthwork Survey and Evaluation Trenches**

NGR: TF 0700 9300 (centre)

Site Code: OSS 02

LCNCC Accn No.: 2002.88

**Report
for
Anglian Water Services Ltd
by
Naomi Field and Mark Williams**

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Conservation
Services
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Highways & Planning
Directorate

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Earthwork Survey

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Event L12813
Trial Trenching

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Osgodby cum Kirkby S101A Sewerage Scheme, Lincs

Earthwork Survey and Evaluation Trenches

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Summary

An earthwork survey along the easement of a proposed pipeline identified a series of earthworks probably related to land drainage. Evaluation trenches were dug across selected features but failed to produce any finds. It was concluded that the features were not part of the settlement remains of Osgodby and that the proposed line of the sewer pipe would cause minimal damage and should not be re-routed.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Anglian Water Services Ltd to undertake an archaeological earthwork survey and evaluation in accordance with the brief set by Lincolnshire County Council Conservation Section, and the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998).

Site Location and Description

The village of Osgodby is situated in the Lincolnshire Clay Vale c. 4km northwest of Market Rasen. The village runs east-west along Main Street with more modern development running north along Washdyke Lane. It lies at about 21m OD on Cover Sands overlying Till.

The site comprises a 15m wide strip which runs through 5 fields for a distance of c.850m. These are numbered 1-5 from west to east for the purposes of the survey. All but the easternmost field adjacent to Washdyke Lane are pasture. The land is bounded to the north by a stream, probably partly canalised at some points. A large dyke runs between Fields 2 and 3, north west of Manor Farm.

Archaeological Background

The settlement of Osgodby is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 and is clearly of Saxon or earlier origin. Osgodby was one of a group of four settlements now all within Osgodby parish. At that time it was a dependent settlement within the parish of Kirkby, whose settlement lay to the west.

The village of Osgodby is based on a double row of houses based on a slightly meandering east-west road. The north row is almost completely built up but gaps on the south side

contain village earthworks and excavation has revealed late Saxon remains. Also on the north side of the road is Manor Farm which lies adjacent to a rectilinear set of earthworks which have been identified as a possible moated site or set of fishponds, fed by a stream from the south. This site lies immediately south of the pipeline easement and the stream feeds into the dyke which runs between Fields 2 and 3 and empties into the stream forming the north boundary of the easement. This monument overlies ridge and furrow and has been interpreted as being post-medieval in date (Everson et al. 1991, 146).

The fields which are the subject of the survey contain earthwork remains associated with the medieval village of Osgodby and its field systems. Ridge and furrow has been identified in Field 5 of the pipeline survey and the outlines of field boundaries (on the same alignment as the ridge and furrow) in Field 4. However, the majority of earthworks close to the stream which forms the northern boundary to the survey area, and lying within the pipeline easement, may represent former channels of the watercourse.

Scope of Works

Anglian Water plans to lay a new vacuum sewer main from Washdyke lane through the survey area to Owersby Bridge and beyond to a new sewage treatment works north of Kirkby. After consultation with the conservation Section at Lincolnshire County Council it was agreed that an earthwork survey should be undertaken prior to any groundworks in order to inform a mitigation strategy comprising

- Excavation of test trenches to record specific information relating to the earthworks
- Choosing a route for the new main
- An archaeological watching brief during construction works

Objectives

The purpose of the earthwork survey was to record any archaeological features on the site which will be disturbed or destroyed during development of the site and to identify features of potential interest requiring further investigation prior to construction of the pipeline.

The purpose of the evaluation trenches was to investigate features of potential interest with a view to obtaining dating evidence

METHOD

Earthwork Survey (Fig. 2)

The measured survey will be carried out using a real time kinematic GPS surveying system. The resulting contour plot was annotated to produce a conventional hachured survey of the earthwork remains.

Field 1

This narrow field immediately east of the bridge on Osgodby Rd is bounded to the south by a line of trees with a ditch on their north side. The ground drops slightly towards to the stream which forms the northern boundary, with a slight rise in the ground next to the stream bank, probably created by dredging of the channel (Pl. 1). In the SE corner of the field, where the boundaries of three fields meet, a deep channel runs north to join the stream (Pl. 2).

Field 2

In the north-west corner of the field there appears to have been slippage into the stream along the north boundary. A series of four, possibly five, parallel channels run north towards the stream and are connected to an east-west channel. They don't quite reach the field boundary probably because the edge is masked by dredging along the stream edge (Pls 3 and 4). Two of the channels continue south, beyond the east-west channel. At the east end of Field 2 is a deeper channel which runs east and turns north towards the stream. It is perhaps a recut of channels belonging to the system immediately to the west (Pl. 5). These are the most pronounced features along the pipeline route.

Field 3

Field 3 was subdivided by a barbed wire fence. Earthworks in this field are less distinct and there is no indication of any continuity of the features seen in Field 2. In the north-west corner of the field is a curving channel, possibly a former loop of the stream. There is further evidence of slippage along the bank (Pl. 6). There is evidence of a shallow channel running east-west (much less distinct than in Field 2) with three channels running north from it towards the stream, one straddled by the barbed wire fence (Pls 7 and 8). The channel continues eastward into Field 3b with a further channel (and adjacent bank) at the east end of the field feeding into the stream (Pl. 9). It is possible that this was an attempt to drain the land adjacent to the stream. (Trench 5 was dug to the east of the visible channel in a depression in the north-east corner of this field, see below).

Field 4

The channel observed in Fields 3a and 3b continues east into Field 4, running south of an animal feeding trough set in a shallow scoop at west end of the field (Pl. 10). It turns north and feeds into the stream through a deep channel with a bank on its east side (Trench 3 was dug across this feature, see below). A second shallower channel to the west (Pls 11-13) (Trench 4 was dug across this feature, see below). The channel enters the stream at a point along the bank where there has been extensive erosion. There are further areas of slippage along the bank and in the north-east corner of the field, next to the stream a shallow curving channel runs diagonally into the hedge (Pl. 14).

At east end of field are two distinct straight narrow gullies one aligned NNE-SSW (Pl. 15) and

the other N-S (Pl. 16). Trenches 2 and 1 were dug across these features (see below).

Field 5.

This field is currently under cultivation. Only shallow undulations are evident in the field (Pl. 17).

Discussion

There were no obvious archaeological features in Fields 1 and 5. The main area of interest is the rectilinear arrangement of drainage channels in Field 2 and the channels feeding into the stream in Field 4. The less well-defined earthworks in Field 3 may be a continuation of the drainage system recorded in Field 2 but are less regular in form. Given that the function of these remains was not immediately apparent a programme of trial trenching was undertaken in January 2002, across some of the recorded features, in order to obtain dating evidence and to investigate their origin.

The Evaluation Trenches (M. Williams)

Trench 1 (Fig. 3 and 4a)

Located at the eastern end of Field 4 Trench 1 measured 5m by 1.6m wide and 0.50m deep. It was excavated through a linear depression orientated approximately north-south. The topsoil of dark reddish brown silty clay (101) was 0.30m deep and overlay a mid reddish brown silty clay subsoil (102) 0.2m deep (Pl. 18).

Beneath the subsoil was a single feature (103) which extended beyond the section and was dug into a yellow grey firm clay natural (107). It was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.5m below the surface and was at least 2m wide. Its primary fill was an orange grey mottled clay (104) with a possible recut (108) on its eastern side which was much narrower and filled with a mid grey mottle clay (106) and a yellow brown clay (105) (Pl. 19).

The feature did not precisely line up with the depression visible on the surface but was the most likely cause of it. The very clayey nature of the fills suggest that the channel was for drainage although the sharp cuts suggests the form of a plough furrow. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3 and 4b)

Trench 2 was 10m to the north west of Trench 1 and excavated across a linear earthwork orientated approximately east-west. It was 1m deep with 0.60m of topsoil (201) over 0.40m of subsoil (202) onto a firm yellow grey clay (203) (Pl. 20, wrongly labelled Trench1). No archaeological explanation for the earthwork was found although a variation in the natural clay possibly relates to a water channel.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3 and 4c)

Trench 3 was excavated through a much more amorphous earthwork to the northwest. The earthwork itself appeared to be linear but lost some of its coherence when it entered the area of investigation. The topsoil (301) was approximately 0.50m deep and overlay 0.30m of subsoil (302) onto a yellow grey natural (303). There was a slight depression in the natural which seemed to correspond with the overlying earthwork (Pl. 21). Again it seems likely that the depression was a water channel and or alterations to line of the stream.

Trench 4 (Fig. 5)

Trench 4 was positioned to investigate an elongated horseshoe like feature to the west of Trench 3. It was 10m long and 2m wide. The topsoil (401) was 0.40m deep, overlying a 0.30m deep mid reddish brown subsoil (402). Below the subsoil was a cut (403), 6m wide, which corresponded with the earthwork. The fills were 404, a mid grey brown clay, 405 a mid red orange brown sand and 406 mid yellow/grey firm clay (Pl. 22). The feature had a sloping north side and a much steeper south side. There were no finds and the ditch was probably for drainage.

Trench 5 (Fig. 6)

Trench 5 was excavated over a slight plateau on the western part of the site, it measured 9m in length and 1.6m wide. It was excavated through 0.35m of topsoil (501) and 0.4m of subsoil (502) onto yellow grey firm clay (505) (Pl. 23). Cut through this clay was a narrow gully (503) 0.7m wide and 0.11m deep, containing a dark grey/brown silty clay (504) (Pl. 24).

Conclusion

Archaeological features were identified in Trenches 1, 4 and 5 but none produced any dating evidence. It is probable that most, if not all, the features are related to drainage of the ground. The gridded system of drainage channels in Field 2 will be affected by the pipe trench but more significant earthwork remains, possibly indicative of settlement remains lie to the south. The features identified have yielded little significant information regarding the origins of the settlement at Osgodby and little would be gained by moving the proposed line of the pipe because more substantial earthwork remains lie to the south in Fields 3 and 4.

Naomi Field and Mark Williams

February 11th 2002

Reference

Everson, P.L., Taylor, C.C. and Dunn, C.J., 1991 *Change and Continuity: Rural Settlement in North-West Lincolnshire*. RCHME

Acknowledgements

The earthwork survey was undertaken by Midland Surveying and Engineering, under the supervision of Naomi Field. The evaluation trenches were dug by Mark Williams and Richard Pullen. Mark Williams prepared Figs 1 and 2-6. The report was collated by Jane Frost.

APPENDIX 1

Osgodby cum Kirkby S101A Sewerage Scheme (OSS 02)

Context Summary

Context No.	Type	Description
101	Topsoil	Dark reddish brown silty clay topsoil
102	Subsoil	Mid reddish brown silty clay
103	Cut	Possible ditch, steep sided at least 2m wide and 1m deep
104	Fill of 103	Orange grey mottled clay
105	Fill of 103	Mid yellow brown clay
106	Fill of 103	Firm mid grey mottled clay
107	Natural	Mid yellow / grey firm clay
108	Cut	Steep sided re cut of 103
201	Topsoil	Dark reddish brown silty clay
202	Subsoil	Mid reddish brown silty clay
203	Natural	Firm mid yellow / grey clay
301	Topsoil	Dark reddish brown silty clay topsoil
302	Subsoil	Mid reddish brown silty clay
303	Natural	Mid yellow / grey firm clay
401	Topsoil	Dark reddish brown silty clay
402	Subsoil	Mid reddish brown silty clay
403	Cut	Ditch
404	Fill of 403	Mid grey brown clay
405	Fill of 403	Mid red orange sand
406	Natural	Firm mid yellow grey clay
501	Topsoil	Dark reddish brown silty clay
502	Subsoil	Mid reddish brown silty clay
503	Cut	Narrow ditch / gully
504	Fill of 503	Dark grey brown silty clay
505	Natural	mid yellow / firm grey clay

A



B



C

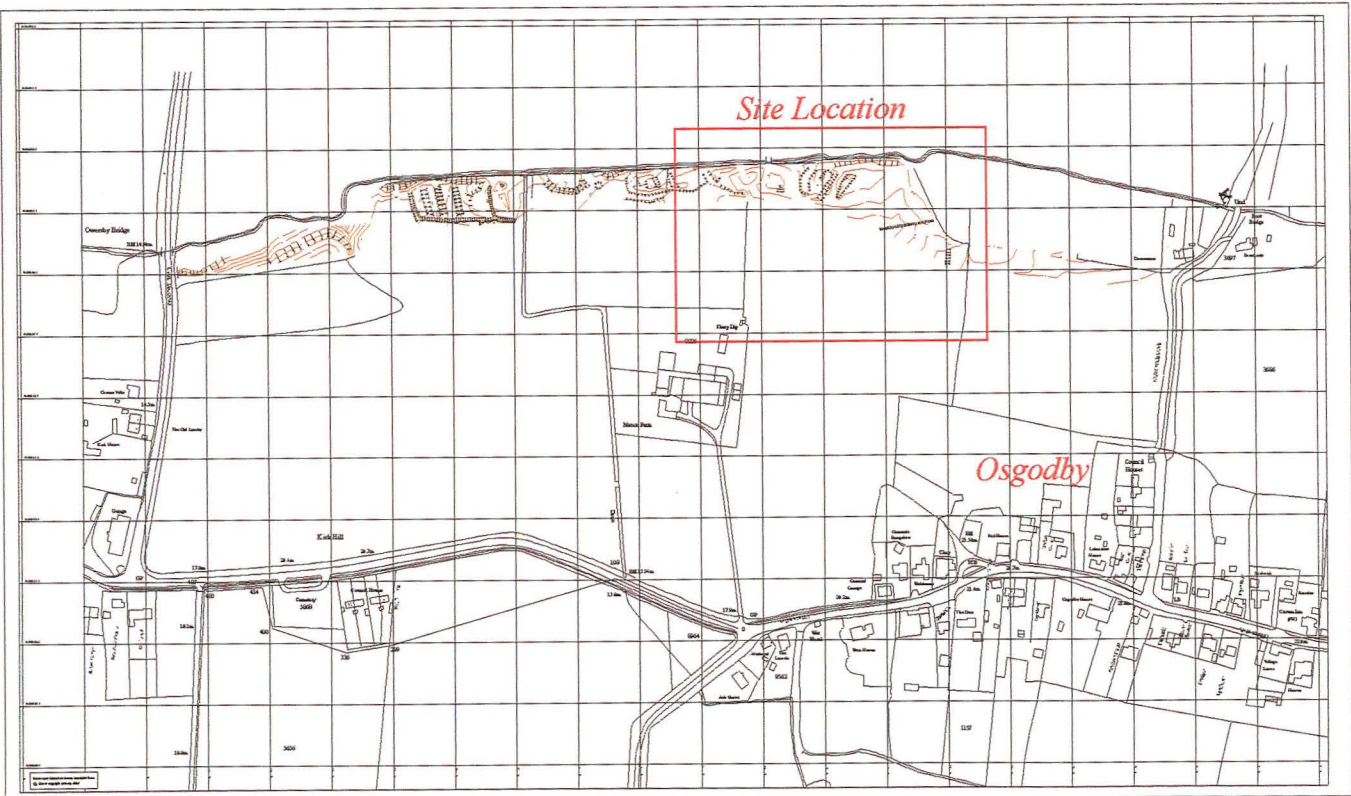


Fig. 1 Osgodby, site location. Inset C based upon O.S. basemap supplied by Anglian Water Services Ltd.

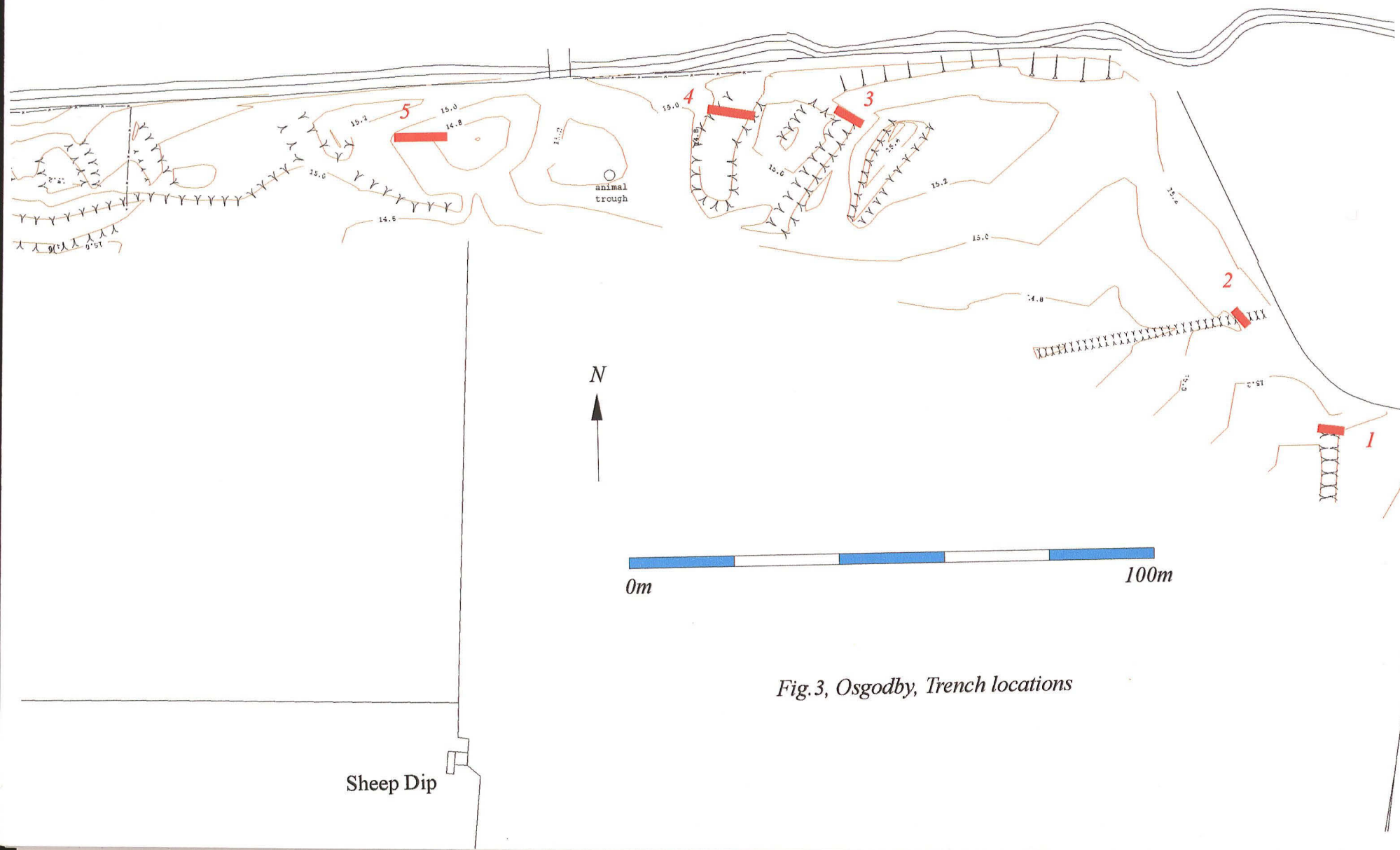


Fig.3, Osgodby, Trench locations

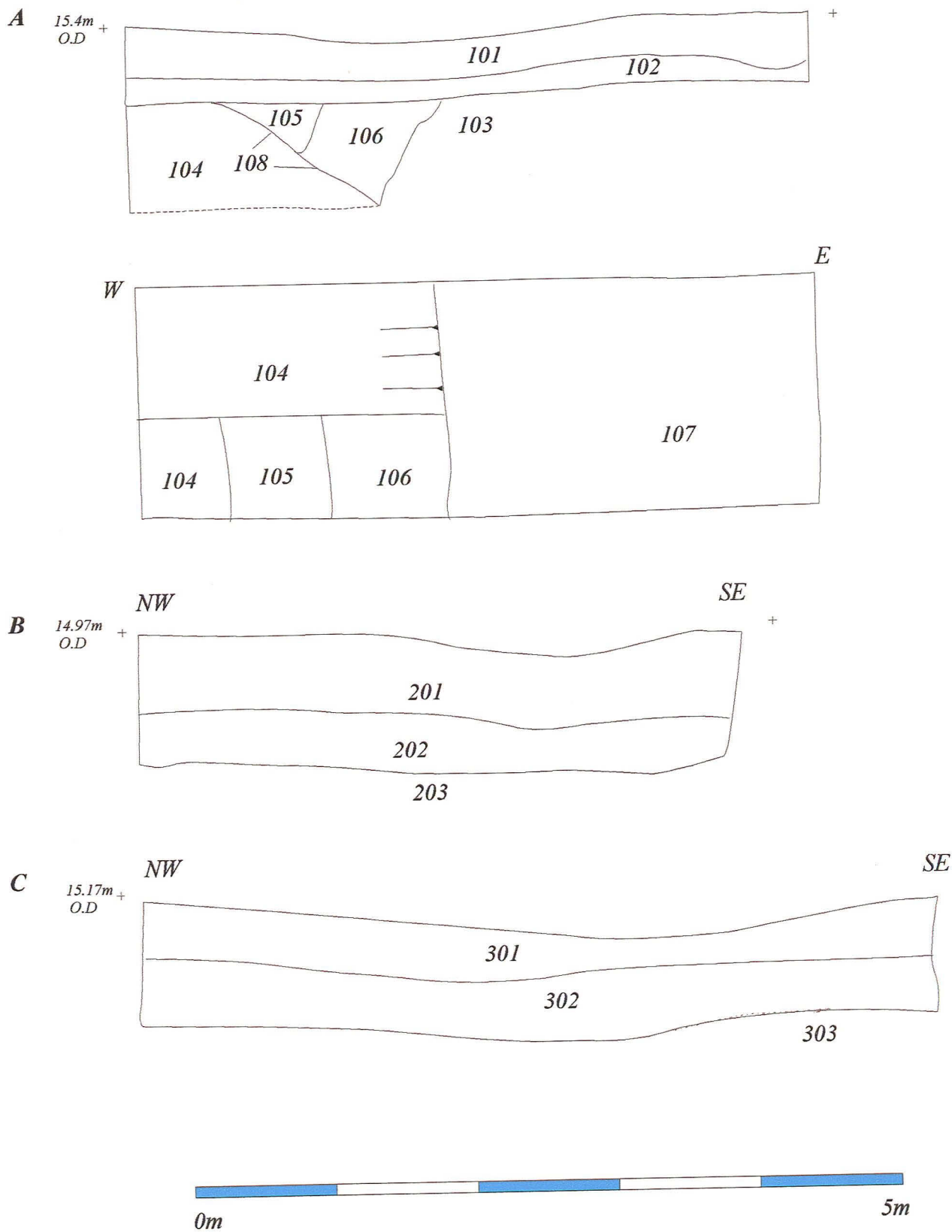


Fig 4. A) Trench 1, plan and section. B) Trench 2, plan and section. C) Trench 3, section.

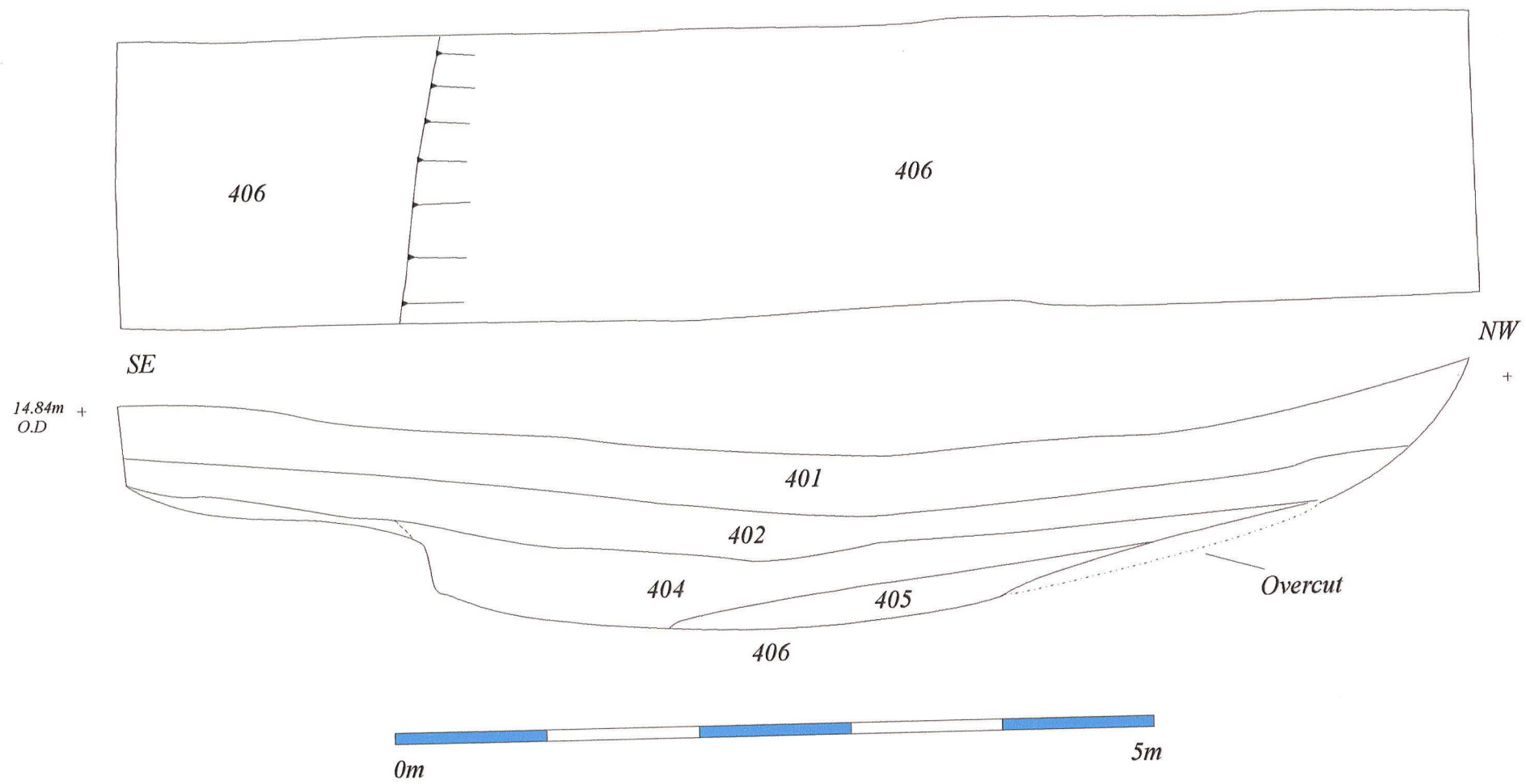


Fig. 5 Trench 4 plan and section.

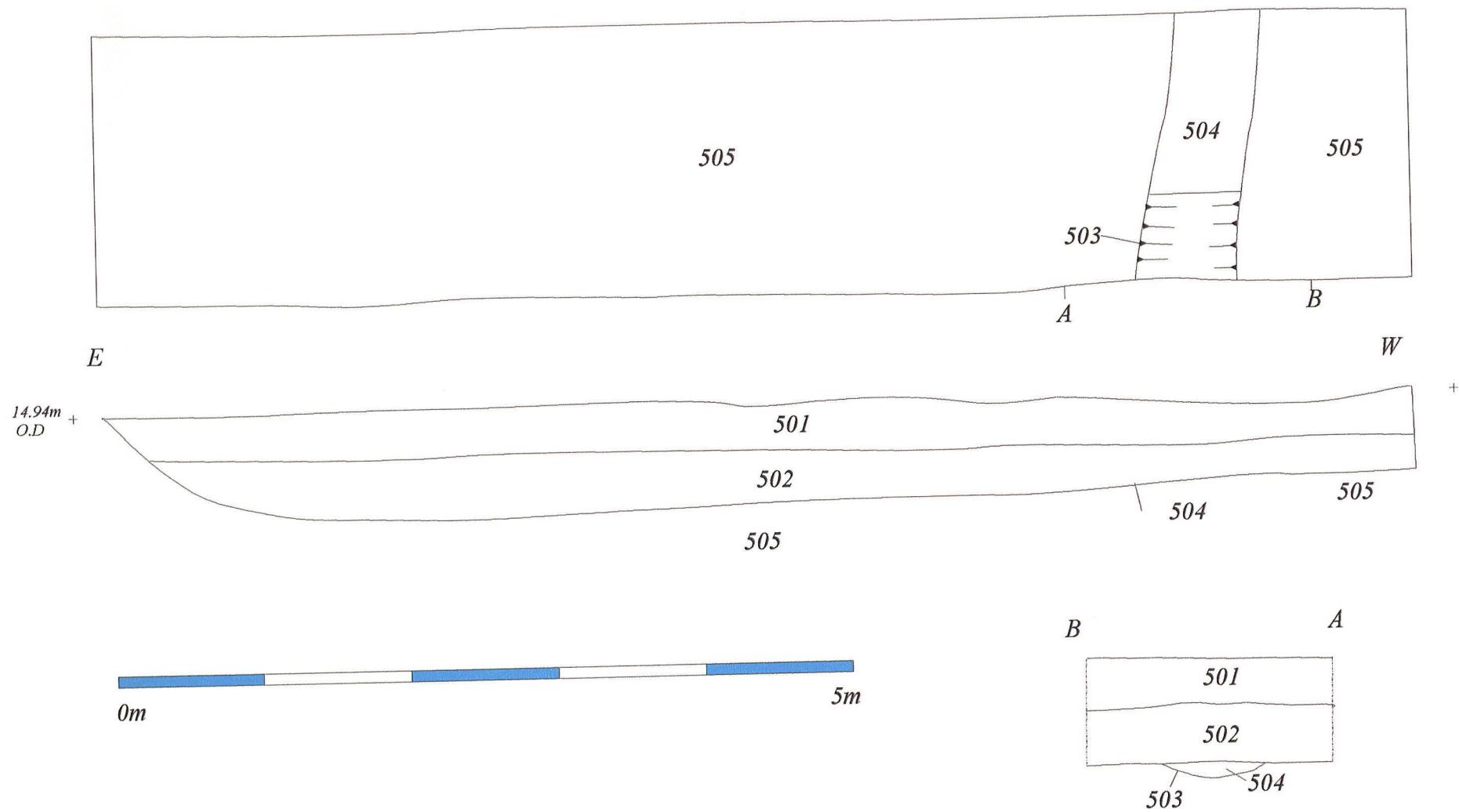


Fig 6. Trench 5, plan and section



Pl. 1 Field 1 View looking east from road showing slight fall in ground level along line of easement posts.

Pl. 2 Field 1. Depression at east end of field, probable former drainage channel running towards stream.





PI. 3 Field 2 . View looking east showing regular drainage ditches.

PI. 4 Field 2. View of western channel looking north





Pl. 5 Field 2. Deep channel at east end of field running west then north, feeding into stream at hedge boundary.

Pl. 6 Field 3a . Depression along hedgeline





Pl. 7 Field 3a. Shallow oval depressions at east end of field, looking east.

Pl. 8 Fields 3a and b. Shallow earthworks, looking east.





Pl. 9 Field 3b. Earthworks at east end of field, looking east.

Pl. 10 Field 4 General view looking east with cattle trough in foreground





Pl. 11 Field 4. View west showing drainage channels

Pl. 12 Field 4. View north along drainage channels





Pl. 13 Field 4. Bank adjacent to drainage channels. Looking north

Pl. 14 Field 4. Channel in northeast corner of field





Pl. 15 Field 4. Narrow straight channel looking east

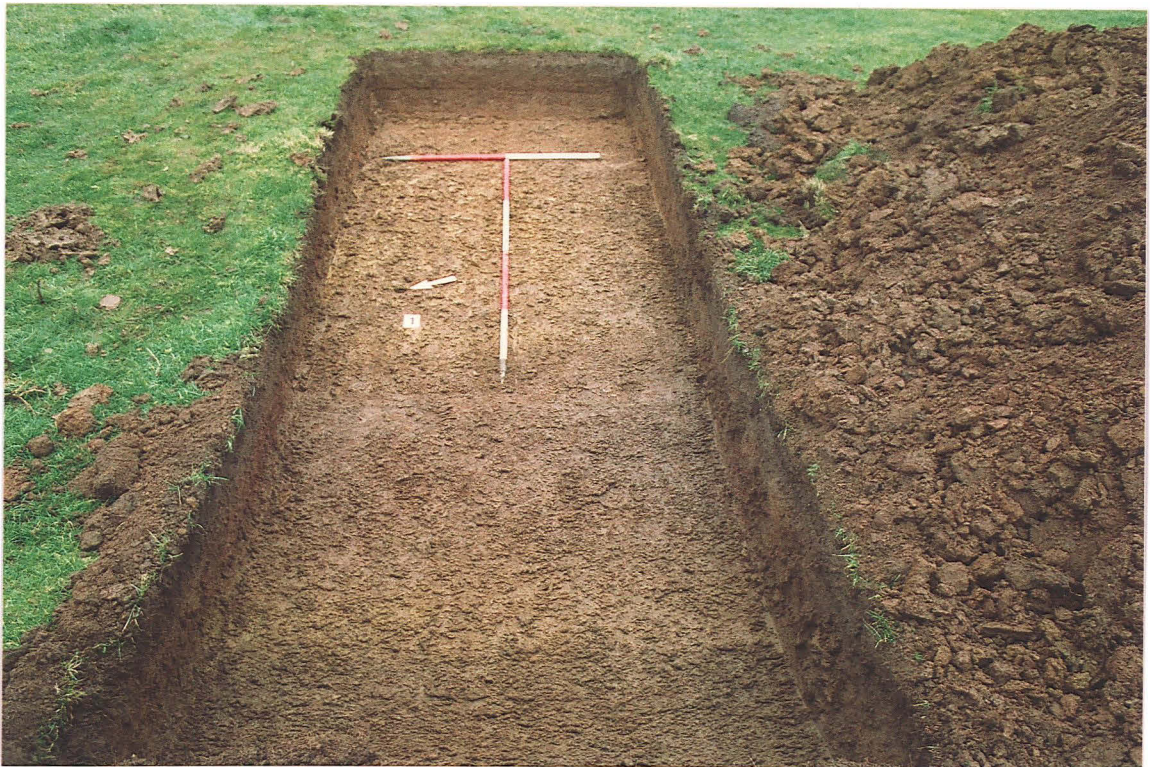
Pl. 16 Field 4. Undulations running north-south, possible ridge and furrow





P. 17 Field 5. General view looking east along pipeline easement

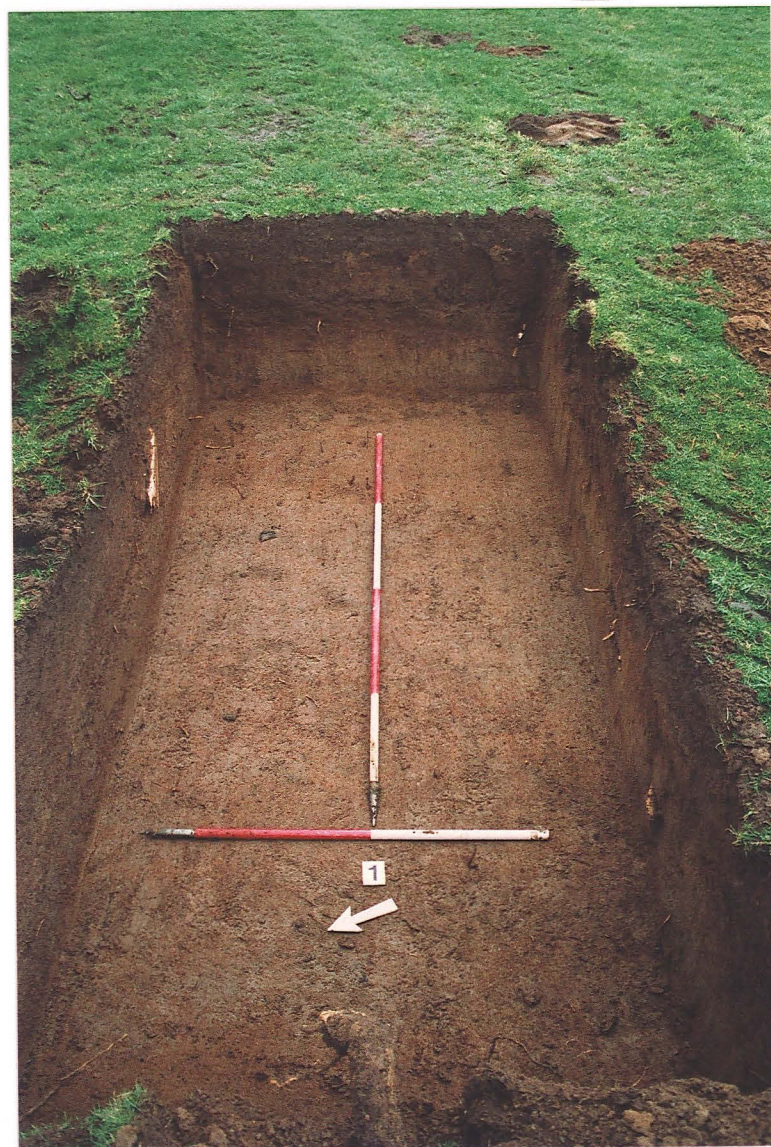
Pl. 18 Trench 1 looking east





Pl. 19 Feature 103 looking north

Pl. 20 Trench 2 looking south east





Pl. 21 Trench 3 looking south east

Pl. 22 Trench 4 looking east



Pl. 24 Trench 5 Gully 503, looking north

Pl. 23 Trench 5 looking east



Reference
 Grid is in metres to O.S.N.G. by correlation to local features
 Levels to OS benchmark on bridge abutment, Owersby Bridge, (value 14.90)

Date	Revision	Revision No.

Osgodby

S101A Scheme

Archaeological Survey

Scale: 1/1000 Date: 18/01/02

Plan Ref: LA/MSE/1793-1

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