

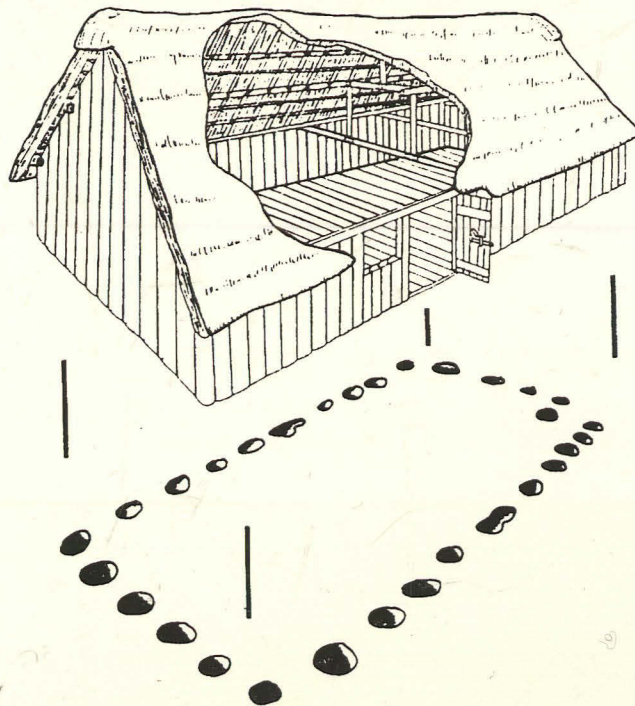


University of
Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation
On land to the rear of
Manor Farm, Main Street,
Greatford, Lincolnshire
(TF 08803 11808)**

John Thomas



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For Waterwheel Ltd.

**University of Leicester
Archaeological Services**

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**An Archaeological Evaluation on land to the rear of Manor Farm, Main Street,
Greatford, Lincolnshire (NGR TF 08803 11808).**

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out, in advance of proposed development, on land to the rear of Manor Farm, Main Street, Greatford, Lincolnshire (TF 08803 11808). The work was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) and consisted of nine trial trenches. The proposed development area can be broadly divided between that currently occupied by a farmyard and part currently under pasture. Scattered, undated remains were revealed beneath the farmyard area, in the form of small pits, although large-scale disturbance was evident. A single ditch provided a later Iron Age date and a collection of snails from within its fill also gave some idea of the contemporary environment. Other finds including a collection of heat cracked stones and animal bone indicated nearby settlement. Evidence of deep, possibly medieval, ploughing was encountered in the pasture field which contained slight earthwork remains of the ridge and furrow. Beneath the plough zone a small, scattered group of features (small pits and post holes) was revealed although these remained undated. The archive will be kept by the City and County Museum, Lincoln, under the Accession Number 2001.110 and the Site Code GMF01.

1 Introduction

1.1 An outline planning application has been submitted to South Kesteven District Council for redevelopment of land to the rear of Manor Farm, Main Street, Greatford (Figure 1). The site currently forms part of a farmyard and there are two associated buildings within the proposed development area, one of which is to be demolished.

1.2 The proposals include residential development (five dwellings) and construction of an access road in areas that are currently used as the farmyard and an adjacent pasture field.

1.3 The evaluation forms part of staged archaeological work, in accordance with the DOE Planning and Policy Guidance note 16 (PPG 16, Archaeology and planning, para.30), designed to provide preliminary indications of the archaeological potential of the development site. Out line proposals for the archaeological work were set out in the 'Brief for Archaeological Evaluation and recording (Trial trenching).' (Gail Smith, South Kesteven Community Archaeologist. The work was undertaken by ULAS between May 9th and May 17th 2001 and followed the guidelines set out in the 'Design Specification for a scheme of trial trenching as part of an evaluation of land to the rear of Manor Farm, Greatford, Lincolnshire (TF 08803 11808; P.A. S00/1117/36).' (ULAS 12.1.01-hereinafter DS) and consultation with Gail Smith.

2 Location

2.1 The application area lies south of Main Street, Greatford, in the district of South Kesteven, Lincolnshire (TF 08803 11808-Figure 2). The site is on flat land which lies at a height of approximately 10m OD. The areas affected by the development proposals are currently covered by a concrete yard. The proposed

5.5 All excavated features were recorded using the standard ULAS Recording Manual. This involved a written description, a drawn and a photographic record of all excavated deposits.

5.6 The location of the trenches was surveyed using a Topcon GTS 303 Total Station Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) linked to a hand held Psion data logger. The data were processed using n4ce. 101 survey software and the final illustrations produced with the aid of TurboCad drawing software version 6.

5.7 All work adhered to the Institute of Field Archaeologist (IFA) *Standard and Guidance For Archaeological Evaluation*.

5.8 Following the evaluation all trenches were backfilled. The turf in the pasture field and the concrete in the farmyard, were re-instated.

6 Results

6.1 A total of nine trenches were excavated within the development area, five within what is currently being used as a farmyard and four in an adjacent pasture field.

6.2 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

Trench 1 was located on the western edge of the development area, within the limits of the concrete farmyard. It was approximately 18m long x 1.5m wide and was oriented northwest to southeast. In practice this was the only trench requiring the use of a concrete breaker during excavation.

Natural subsoil, consisting of orange/yellowish brown sands and gravels, was revealed some 0.55m beneath the farmyard surface (some 13.3m OD). Cutting the natural at the south-eastern end of the trench was a shallow, sub-circular pit with gently sloping sides and a rounded base (Cut [6]). Its fill (Context 5) consisted of mottled pale brown clay containing occasional angular and rounded stones and pebbles but remained undated. Slightly to the north of Pit [5] lay another feature, Cut [8], which protruded from the eastern trench wall. Cut [8] had fairly steep sloping sides, a rounded base and appeared circular in plan. This feature appeared less truncated than Pit [5] and had two fills. The lower fill (Context 9) consisted of mixed yellow and dark brown sands with occasional silty patches. An upper fill (Context 7) comprised mottled, dark reddish brown, slightly sandy clay with occasional rounded pebbles. This feature remained undated. A plough scar ran adjacent to the eastern edge of the trench, slightly truncating Cut [9]. The plough scar was itself truncated by a modern feature at the northwestern end of the trench.

Above the features, a layer of truncated topsoil or plough soil consisted of dark greyish brown sandy clay, which was some 0.23m thick at the south eastern trench end but became more truncated towards the northwestern end (0.10m thick). A 0.25m thick layer of rubble overlay the top/plough soil layer and was, in turn, covered with a concrete surface layer some 0.10m thick.

At the south western end of the trench two brick lined drains were revealed (Contexts 27 and 28) and at the north eastern end lay a square modern pit (Context 29). It was evident that this area of the farmyard had seen some disturbance and no trace of any surviving topsoil was revealed. Instead a succession of compacted yard surface layers covered the natural subsoil and the modern features.

6.6 Trench 5 (Figure 5)

Trench 5 was positioned, on an east to west alignment, near the centre of the development area. It was some 21m long x 1.5m wide. The easternmost 7m of the trench were within the pasture field, and the remaining 14m in the farmyard area. The natural gravels were reached at a depth of some 0.50m below the modern ground surface level which was 13.0mOD.

There was a marked difference in the amount of disturbance between the length of trench within the farmyard area and that in the pasture field. In the farmyard area the majority of the evidence reflected extensive modern pitting and animal burial (Contexts 35-42). At the western end of the trench a possible linear feature on a north south alignment lay in a heavily disturbed area and may have been the edge of a large pit (Cut [44]).

A single archaeological feature was revealed at the eastern end of the trench. This was a linear feature, roughly aligned north south with steep sloping sides and a rounded base. Its lower fill (Context 33) consisted of mixed yellowish brown, slightly plastic, sandy clay containing frequent small stones and pea gravels. Overlying this, a secondary fill (Context 32) comprised mid greyish brown, slightly plastic, silty clay with occasional angular and rounded small stones and pebbles. A small collection of heat affected stones; pottery and animal bone was also recovered. A collection of large, preserved snail's shells was also revealed in the fill of the ditch. Snails are a potentially good indicator of the surrounding contemporary environment due to their particular tastes for certain types of habitat. Environmental sampling of the ditch fill provided further snail evidence.

In the eastern half of the trench a 0.30m thick subsoil layer (Context 31) was recorded. This consisted of mid brown silty sandy clay containing common small stones and pebbles. This was covered by a 0.30-0.35m thick topsoil layer, (Context 30), consisting of very dark greyish brown silty clay containing common small pebbles and stones. No subsoil existed in the western half of the trench suggesting that a large area had been stripped prior to the pitting episode(s) and rapidly backfilled.

6.7 Trench 6 (Figure 6)

Trench 6 was positioned to the east of Trench 5, on a rough northwest to southeast alignment. It was some 14.5m long x 1.5m wide. The natural subsoil, consisting of orange sands and gravels with limestone outcrops, was reached at a depth of 0.60m beneath the present ground surface level which was 13.4mOD.

A single archaeological feature was revealed cutting the natural surface. This was situated near the southeastern end of the trench and was a small pit (Cut [50]). Cut

adjacent to several established trees. No archaeological remains were revealed in this trench.

7 Discussion

7.1 A scatter of archaeological remains was revealed during the evaluation. These concentrated on the centre of the proposed development area although there were outlying features on the western side of the site. All had been subject to varying degrees of truncation and only a single feature provided datable evidence.

7.2 The two features in Trench 1 had very similar fills and may therefore suggest some contemporaneity. Unfortunately neither produced dating evidence and both appeared fairly shallow suggesting some truncation had occurred. A single plough scar in the trench, cutting one of the features, added to this suggestion.

7.3 As may be expected there was a large amount of disturbance in the area of Trenches 2 and 3 (beneath the former building). Inspection of the trench sections suggested that the whole area had been stripped prior to the construction of the former building. The overlying layers in the trenches consisted of brick and rubble demolition. A single feature (Cut [22]) in Trench 3 may have been of some antiquity although no dating evidence was revealed during its excavation. Its fill however, in its pale appearance, may suggest a broad relationship with the features in Trench 1. Other remains revealed in the two trenches yielded modern finds, or had a distinctly modern appearance, and probably related to the former building.

7.4 The area of Trench 4, on the northern edge of the area, had been subject to major disturbance in recent times. The trench was relatively shallow and consisted of overlying layers of compacted gravels and hardcore, probably successive yard surfaces.

7.5 Trench 5 was interesting as it lay partly within the 'farmyard' area and partly within the pasture field. The western two-thirds of the trench lay in the farmyard area and had been subject to large-scale truncation in the form of modern pitting for animal and refuse disposal. A single archaeological feature, a ditch dating to the Iron Age, was revealed at the easternmost part of the farmyard area. The eastern third of the trench lay in the pasture field and contained no archaeological remains. It did reveal however, the extent of the ploughing in this field, the remains of which were still evident in the adjacent field as ridge and furrow earthworks.

7.6 Evidence of deep ploughing was also encountered in Trench 6 where a furrow lay on the western side of the trench, some 0.80m below the modern ground level. A single, undated, feature in the trench may have been the truncated remains of a pit.

7.7 A group of possible post holes was revealed in Trench 7 and appeared to have survived to a deeper level, possibly as they were lying beneath an unploughed ridge. As with other features on the site, they were filled with similarly pale silty clay, however they remained undated.

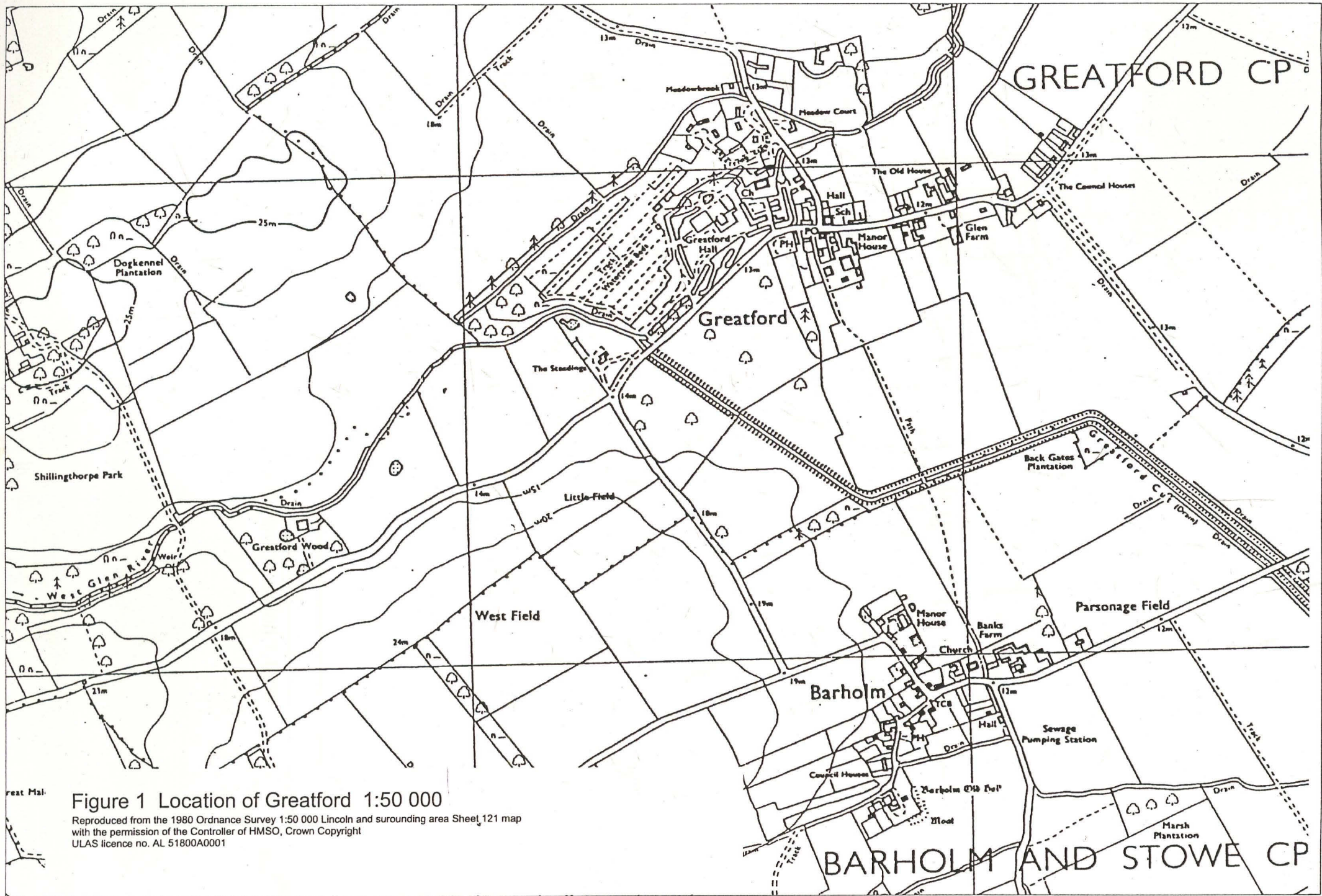


Figure 1 Location of Greatford 1:50 000

Reproduced from the 1980 Ordnance Survey 1:50 000 Lincoln and surrounding area Sheet 121 map with the permission of the Controller of HMSO, Crown Copyright
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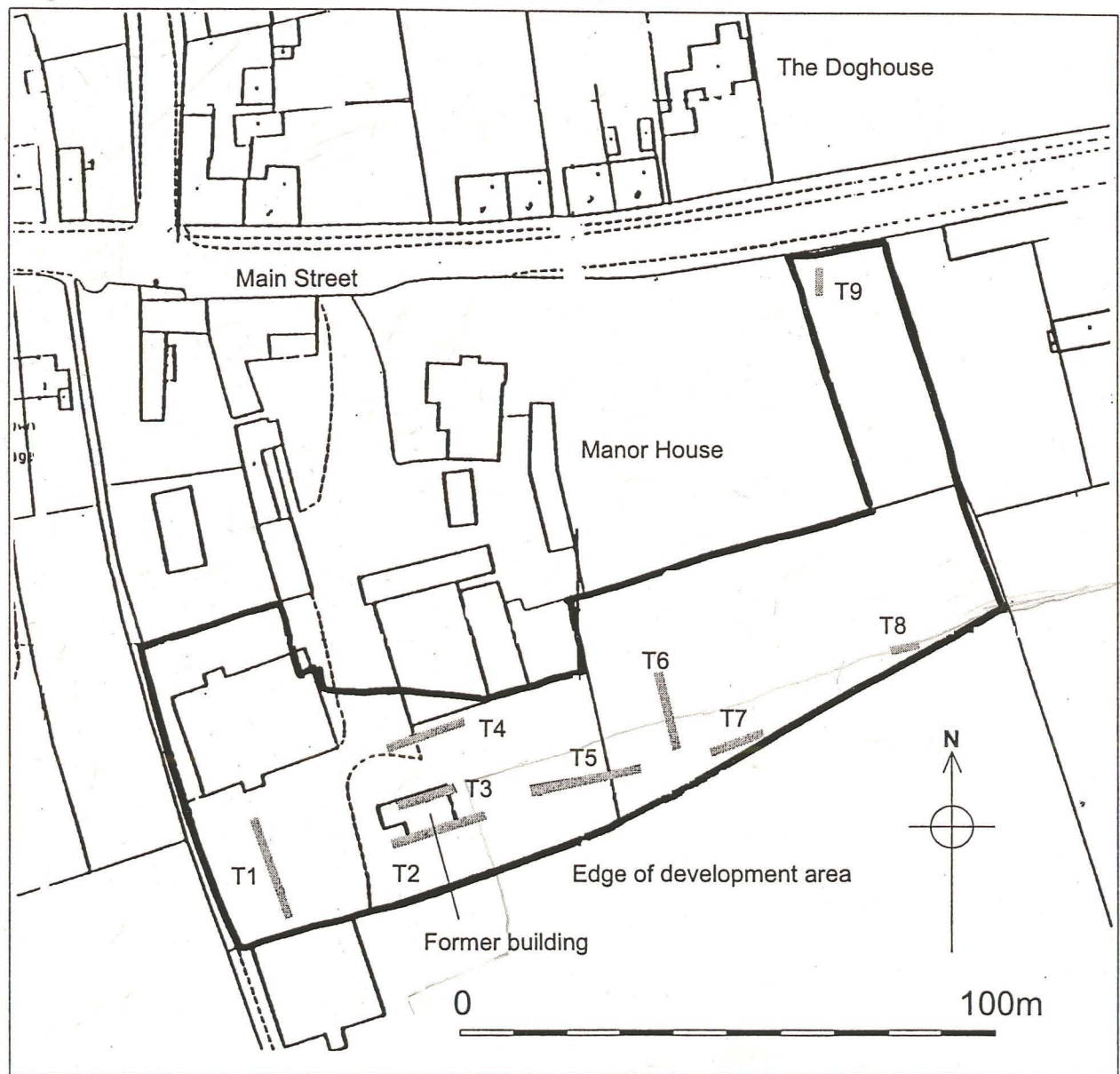


Figure 2 Location of the development area and trench location 1:1250

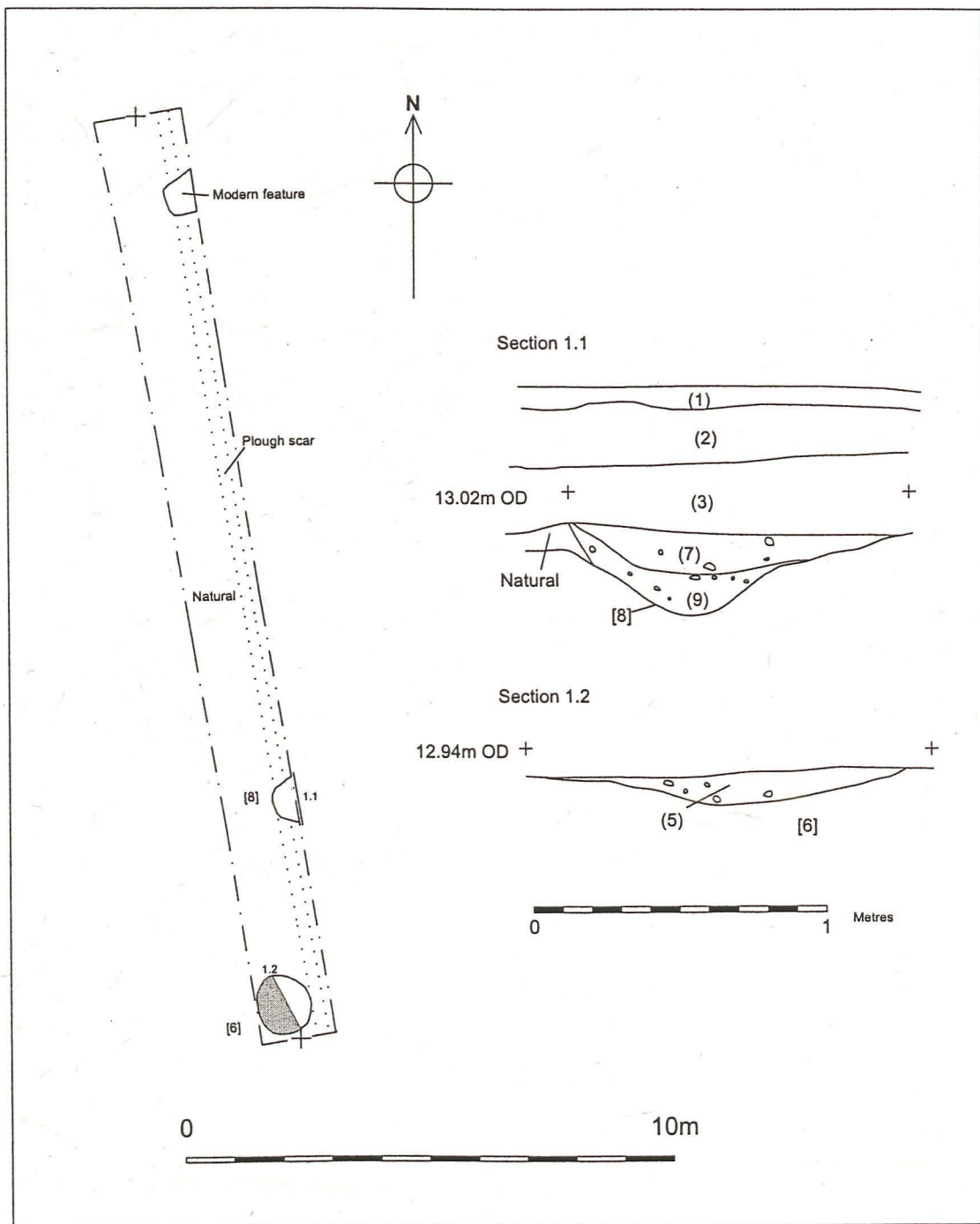


Figure 3 Trench 1 plan and sections

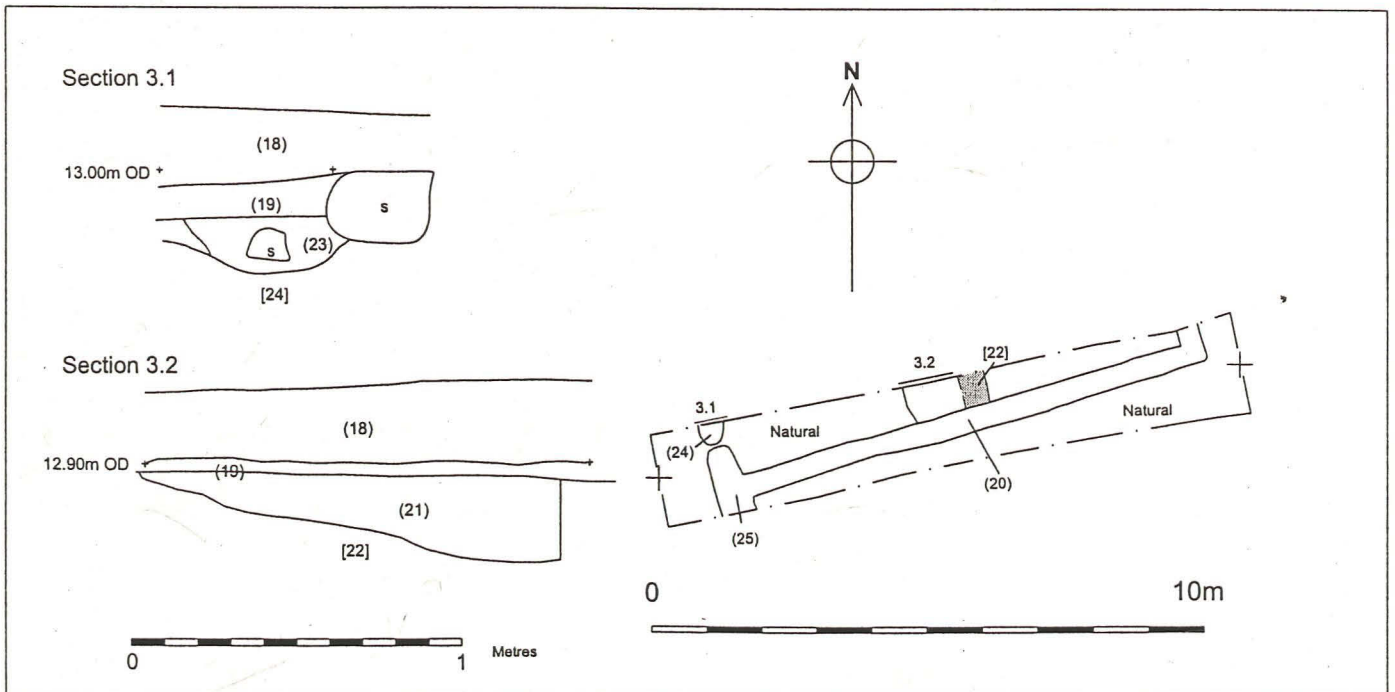
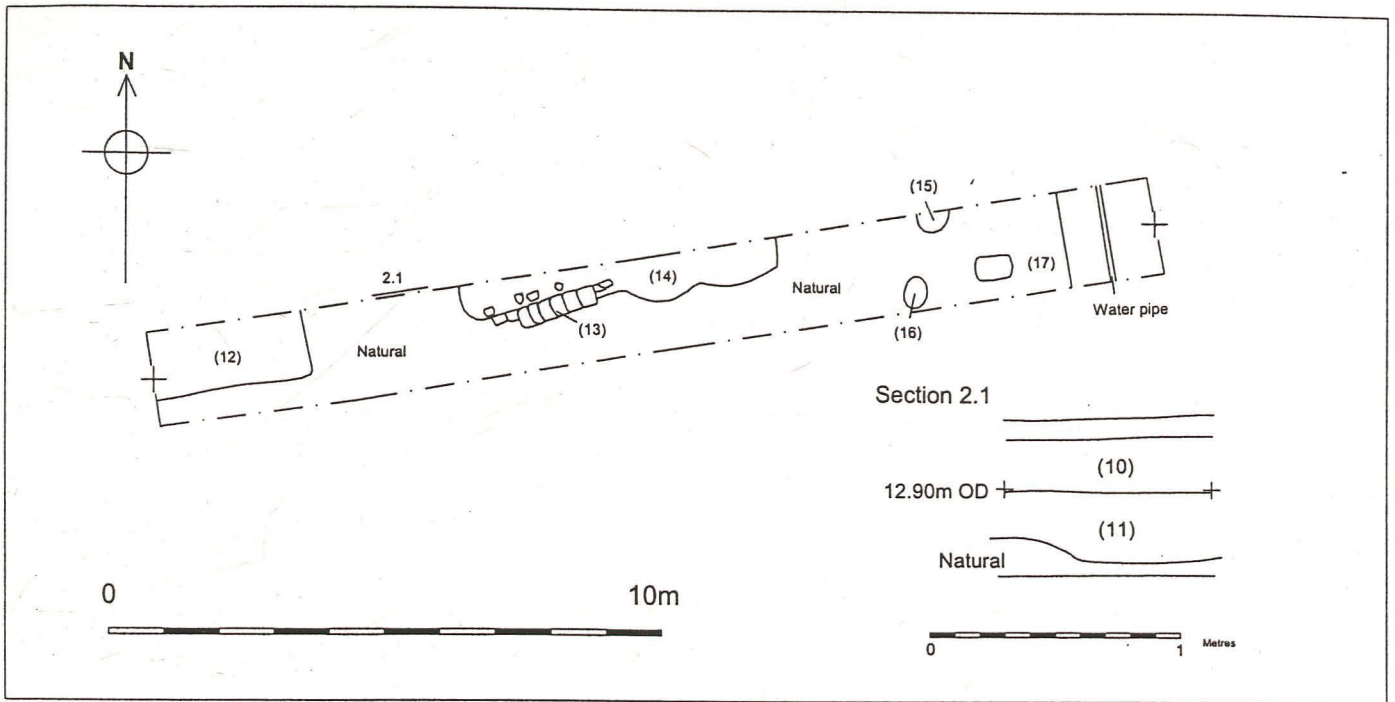


Figure 4 Trenches 2 and 3 plans and sections

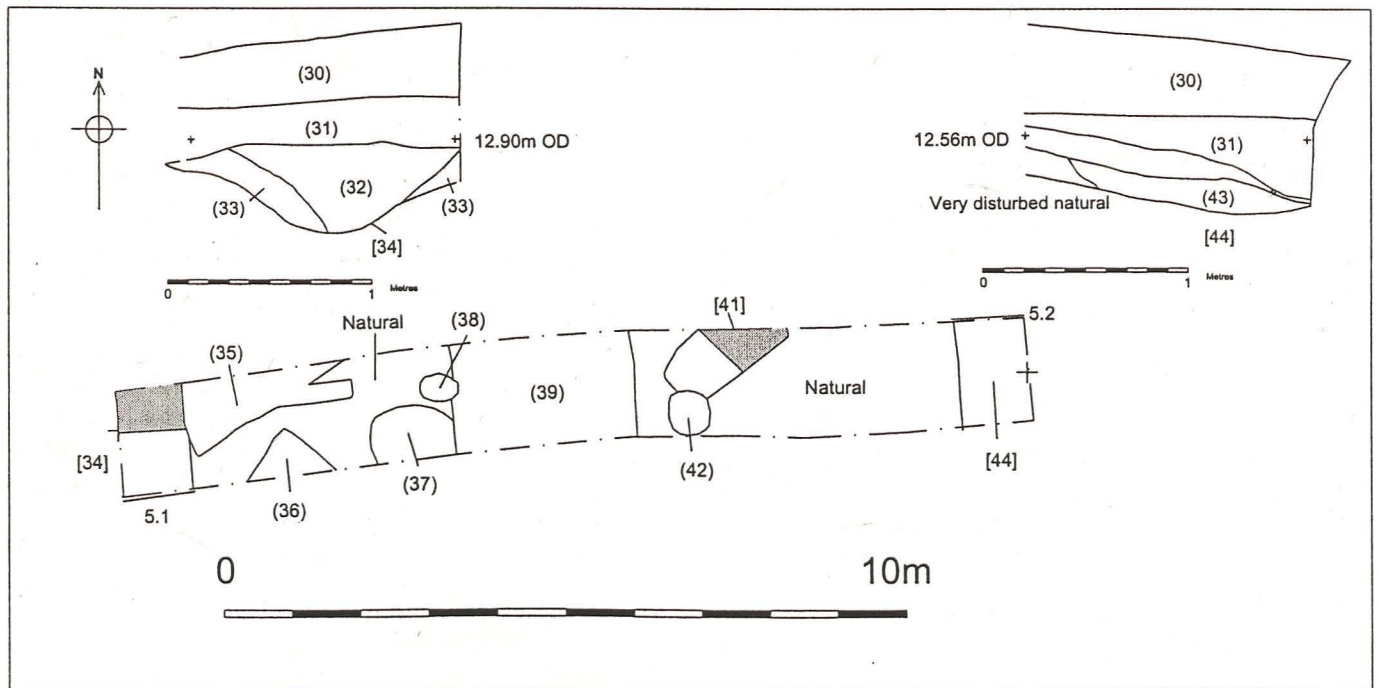
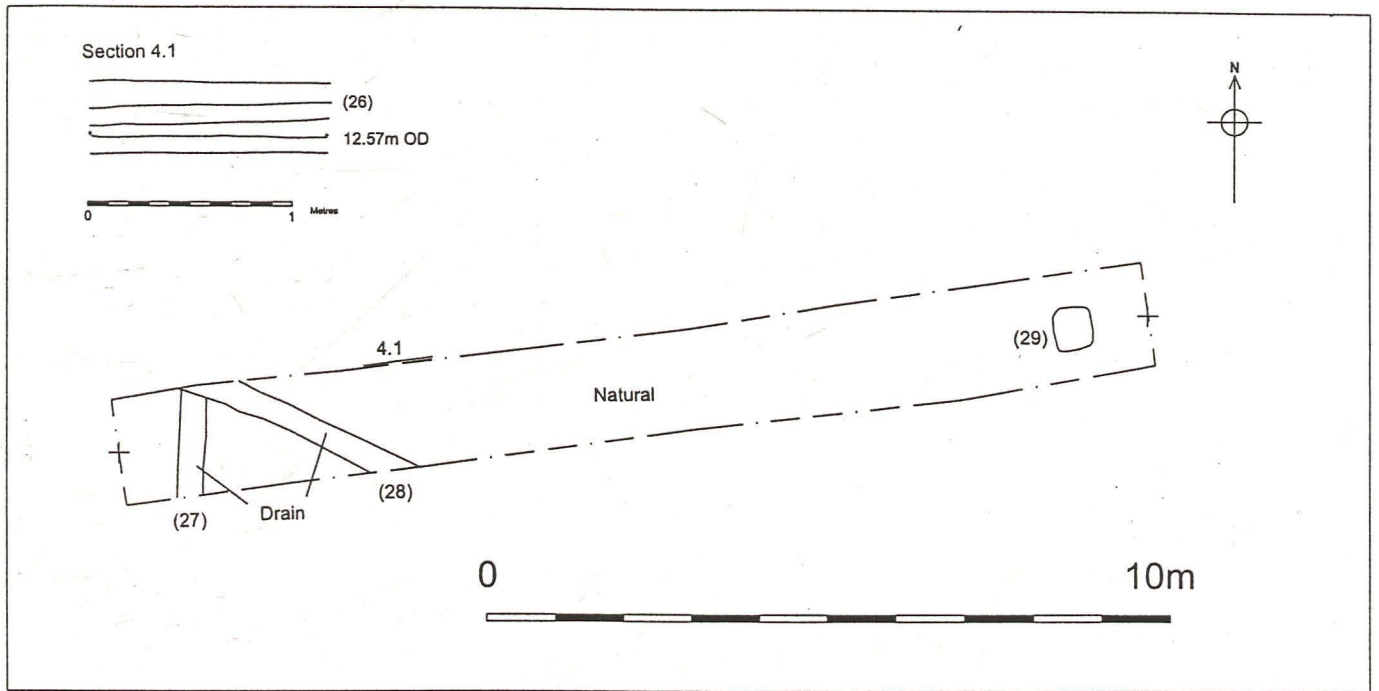


Figure 5 Trenches 4 and 5 plans and sections

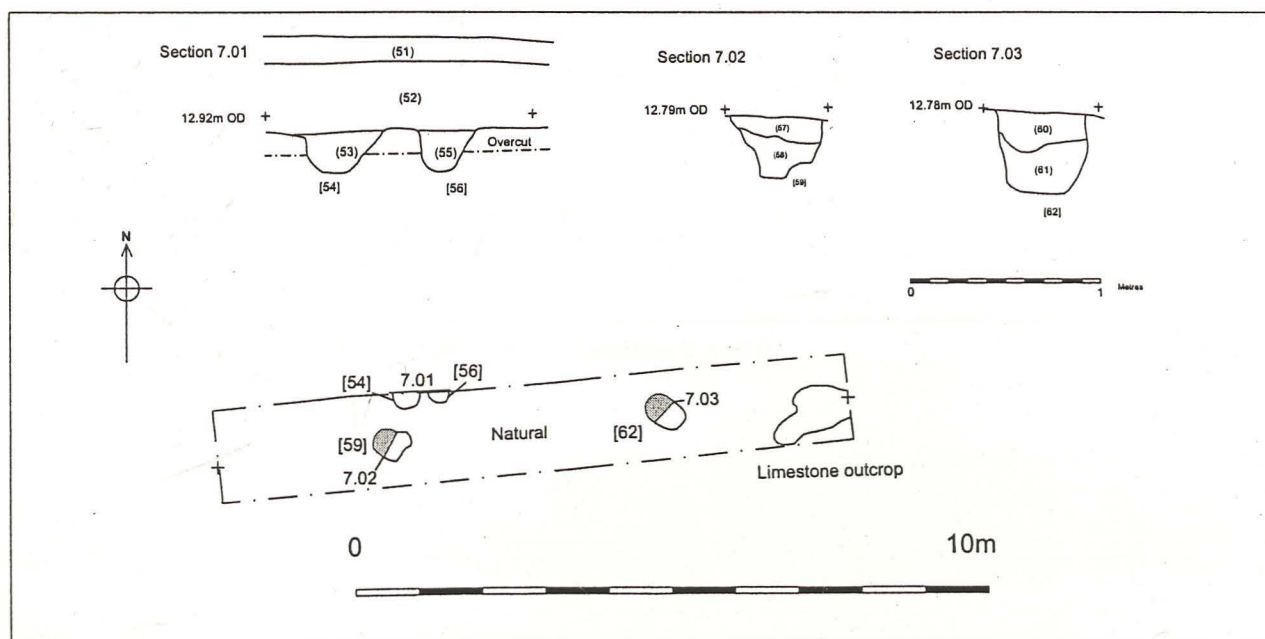
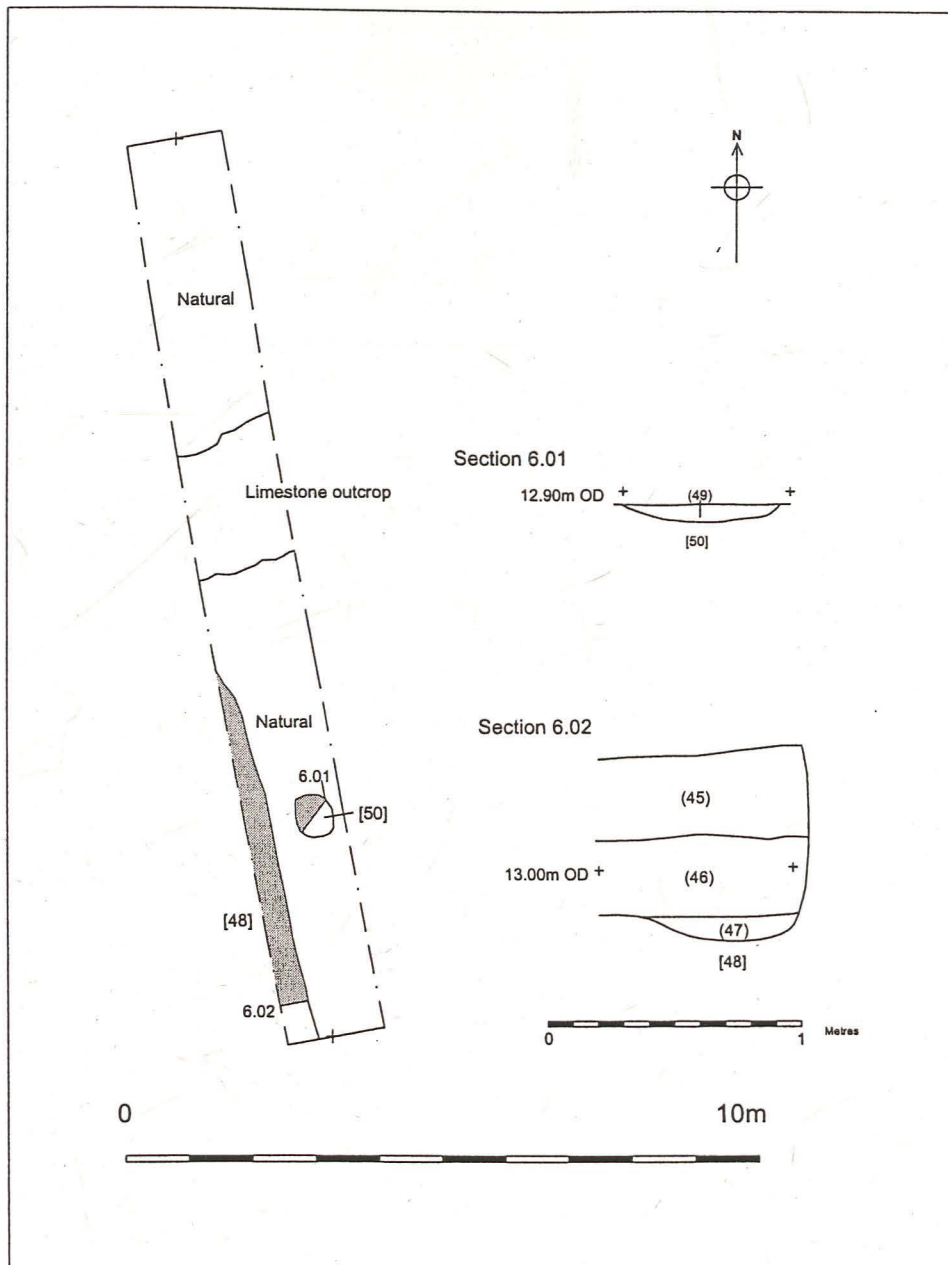


Figure 6 Trenches 6 and 7 plans and sections

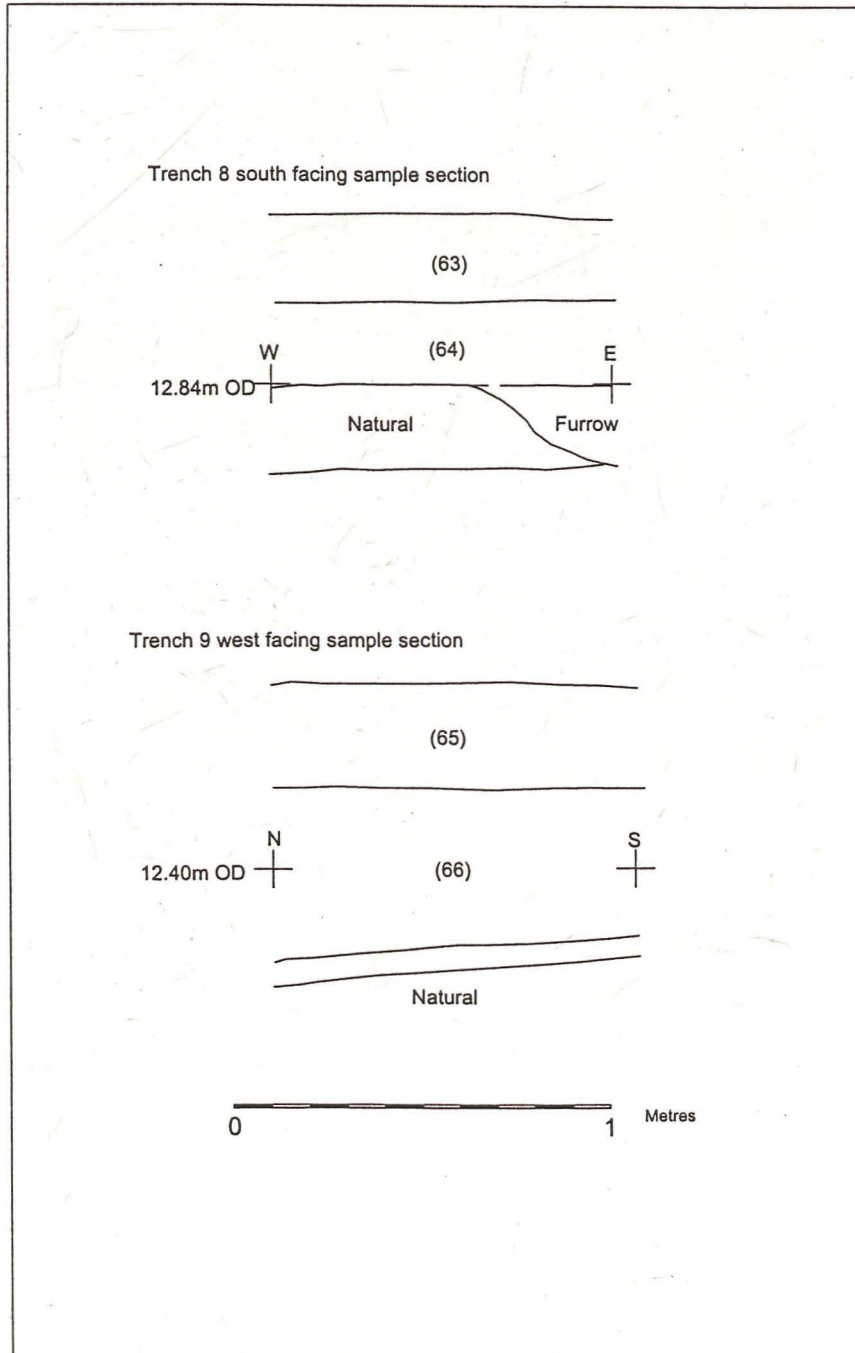


Figure 7 sample sections from Trenches 8 and 9

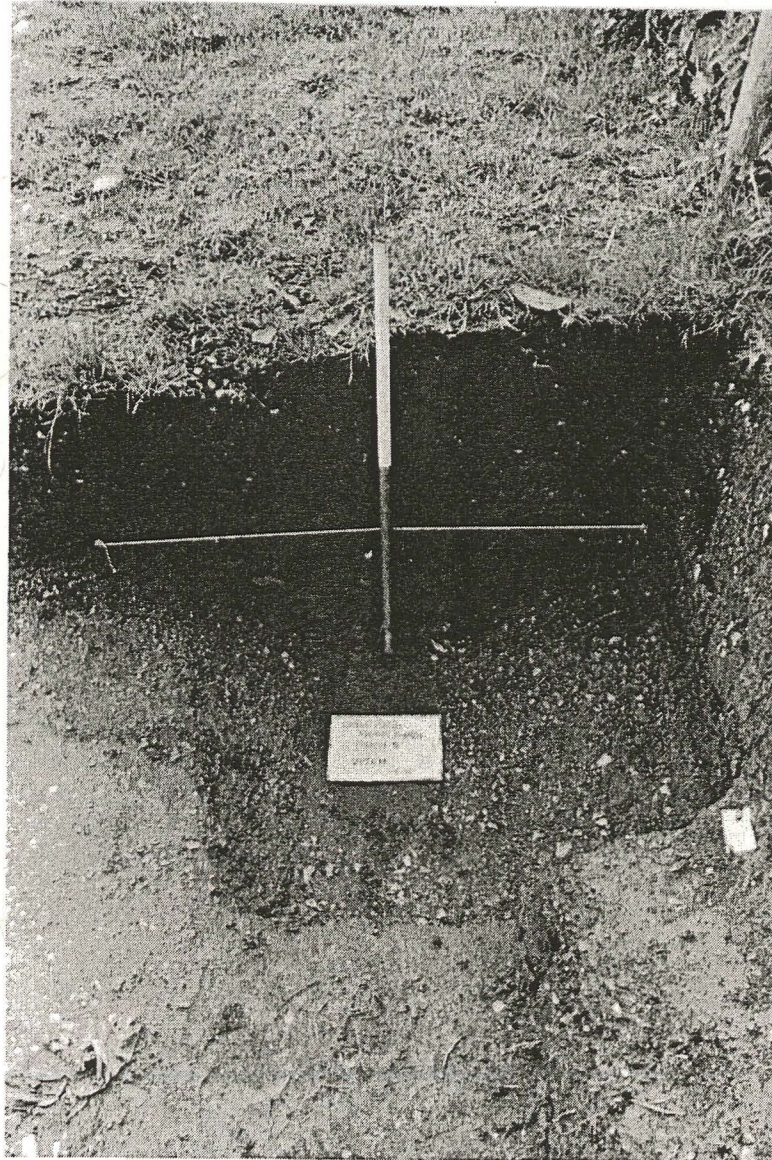


Plate 1 Trench 5 Ditch [34]

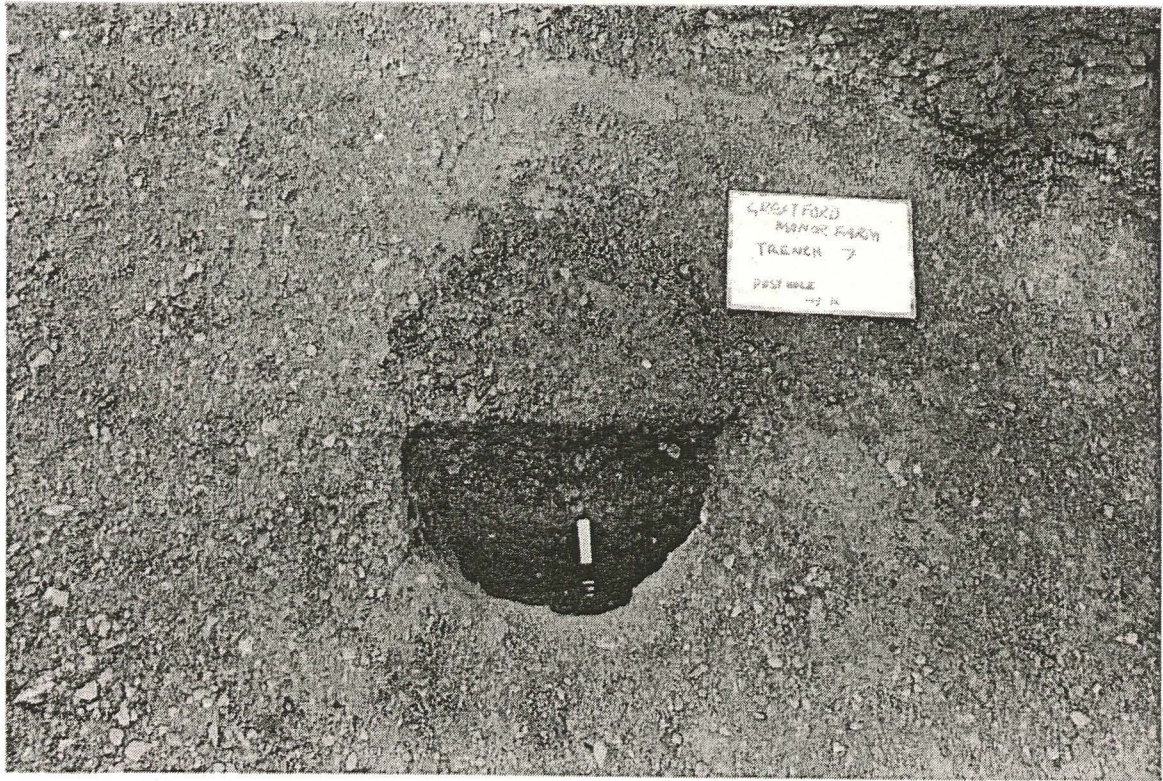


Plate 2 Trench 7 Post Hole [62]

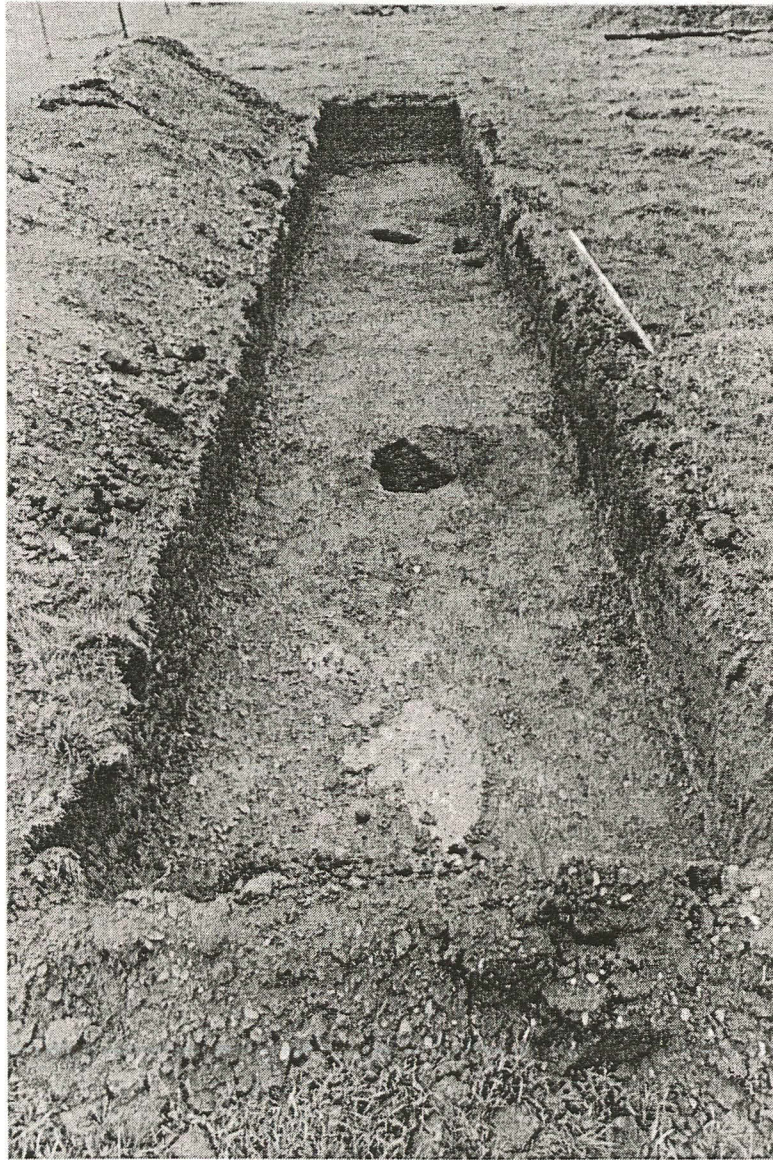


Plate 3 Trench 7 General view with features at western end

Appendix I The Finds

The Prehistoric and Roman Pottery

Pat Marsden

Context 32 contains three sherds of pottery weighing 20g in a fabric containing fossil shell. These appear to be hand-made and perhaps Iron Age in date. Two of these join (10g) and the remaining sherd displays probable scoring, indicating a mid to late Iron Age date. A single sherd of Lower Nene Valley colour coat pottery was unstratified from Trench 5 indicating activity in the area between the mid 2nd and 4th century AD.

The medieval and modern pottery

Identified by Debbie Sawday

Trench 3 Context 20:

EA10 white earthenware-modern

Trench 6 Sub/ploughsoil

ST2 Fine Stamford ware c.1050-c.1200

BO2 Bourne A/B ware 13th/14th c

EA2 earthenware, EA10 white earthenware, SW stoneware all modern

Table 1 The Animal Bone. Jennifer Browning

Context	No. Fragments	Species	Bone	%	Description
32	7	unidentified	Shaft fragments		6 sheep-sized. 1 ox-sized.
32	1	Ox-sized	humerus	10	Part of distal shaft only.
32	1	<i>bos</i>	mandible	10	M3 present & in wear.
32	1	<i>bos</i>	mandible	5	Fragment. Probably part of same bone as above.
32	1	Ox-sized	Shaft fragment	10	Gnawing at 1 end.
32	1	<i>bos</i>	scapula		Fused. Fragment of epiphysis.
Total	12				

Environmental Samples

Angela Monckton

A sample of 10 litres of sediment from the Iron Age ditch fill (32) was processed by wet sieving with flotation in 0.5mm meshes and the residues dried and examined for plant and animal remains.

The flot of 25mls in size consisted mainly of roots with a few uncharred seeds of nettle and fat hen. There were numerous small snail shells of the burrowing snail *Cecilioides acicula*. This snail can burrow to a depth of 2 metres and is therefore likely to be intrusive. A few other snails were represented including *Oxychilus sp* which often live in shady habitats such as in ditches, and a single shell of *Pupilla muscorum* is of a snail of disturbed ground. A couple of small fragments of charcoal were the only charred plant remains found. The coarse fraction contained only stone fragments and was discarded, the fine fraction residue (below 4mm) contained only charcoal flecks and was retained. The sample had no potential for further analysis.

A group of 19 snail shells of the common snail *Helix aspersa* was found in the ditch context 32. The group were mainly large shells but included a few juveniles. These may have been inhabiting the ditch side when it was open but could have been living in a void in the fill later. This is a widespread snail and a single group is uninformative.

Although some Iron Age ditch sections can produce good evidence from plant and animal remains this section of the ditch appears to have little potential to produce evidence of occupation or environment.

Appendix II: Full list of contexts

Context	Type	Comment
1	Layer	Trench 1-Concrete yard surface
2	Layer	Trench 1-Hardcore
3	Layer	Trench 1-Topsoil-dark greyish brown sandy clay
4	Plough scar	Trench 1-Dark greyish brown linear plough scar
5	Fill	Trench 1-Fill of pit [6]-pale brown silty clay
6	Cut	Trench 1-Cut of pit-sub-circular with shallow sloping sides and a flat base
7	Fill	Trench 1-Fill of Cut [8]-mottled dark, slightly sandy clay
8	Cut	Trench 1-Cut of pit-rounded with shallow sloping edges and rounded base
9	Fill	Trench 1-Lower fill of [8]-mixed yellow and dark brown silty sands
10	Layer	Trench 2-demolition layer-loose formation of bricks, mortar and tile fragments
11	Layer	Trench 2-Truncated topsoil-dark greyish brown sandy clay
12	Fill	Trench 2-Fill of large modern pit-unexcavated
13	Wall	Trench 2-Stone wall footings (modern)
14	Spread	Trench 2-Spread of topsoil like material
15	Fill	Trench 2-Fill of modern post hole-unexcavated
16	Fill	Trench 2-Fill of modern post hole-unexcavated
17	Fill	Trench 2-Fill of modern pit-unexcavated
18	Layer	Trench 3-demolition layer
19	Layer	Trench 3-Topsoil remains
20	Drain	Trench 3-Modern drain (unexcavated)
21	Fill	Trench 3-Fill of possible pit-fairly compact, mid brown silty clay
22	Cut	Trench 3-Cut of possible pit-possibly sub-circular with gently sloping northern end and flat base
23	Fill	Trench 3-Fill of post hole (modern)-dark grey sandy clay
24	Cut	Trench 3-Cut of post hole-possibly sub-circular with sloping sides and slightly rounded base
25	Fill	Trench 3-Fill of modern post hole/pit-unexcavated
26	Layer	Trench 4-Generic number for successive yard surface layers of compacted hardcore (modern)
27	Drain	Trench 4-modern drain-unexcavated
28	Drain	Trench 4-modern drain-unexcavated
29	Pit	Trench 4-Modern pit-unexcavated
30	Layer	Trench 5-Topsoil-very dark greyish brown silty clay
31	Layer	Trench 5-Subsoil layer-mid brown silty sandy clay
32	Fill	Trench 5-Fill of ditch [34]-mid greyish brown clayey silt
33	Fill	Trench 5-Fill (lower) of ditch [34]-mixed yellowish brown sandy clay, slightly plastic and friable
34	Cut	Trench 5-Cut of linear feature-shallow upper edges, steeper lower edges, rounded base, aligned northwest southeast
35	Pit	Trench 5-modern pit-unexcavated
36	Pit	Trench 5-modern pit-unexcavated
37	Pit	Trench 5-modern pit-unexcavated
38	Pit	Trench 5-modern pit-unexcavated
39	Pit	Trench 5-modern pit-unexcavated
40	Fill	Trench 5-fill of pit [41]-slightly silty gravels, no clear edge against the natural
41	Cut	Trench 5-cut of modern animal burial
42	Pit	Trench 5-modern pit-unexcavated
43	Fill	Trench 5-fill of cut [44]-dark greyish brown sandy silt (loose)
44	Cut	Trench 5-cut of probable modern feature
45	Layer	Trench 6-Topsoil layer-dark greyish brown silty clay

46	Layer	Trench 6-sub/plough soil layer-greyish brown silty clay
47	Fill	Trench 6-fill of furrow-same as (46)
48	Cut	Trench 6-cut of furrow-linear, aligned northwest southeast with shallow soloing edges and a flat base
49	Fill	Trench 6-fill of cut [50]-mottled orange brown silty clay
50	Cut	Trench 6-cut of small pit-shallow, circular pit with flat base
51	Layer	Trench 7-topsoil layer-dark greyish brown silty clay
52	Layer	Trench 7-subsoil layer-very similar to (51) but more stoney
53	Fill	Trench 7-fill of post hole [54]-mixed mid greyish brown and pale brown sandy silts
54	Cut	Trench 7-cut of post hole-circular with steep sloping sides and narrow, flat base
55	Fill	Trench 7-fill of post hole-same as (53)
56	Cut	Trench 7-cut of post hole-same as [54]
57	Fill	Trench 7-upper fill of Cut [59]-dark greyish brown sandy clay
58	Fill	Trench 7-lower fill of Cut [59]-mid greyish brown sandy silt
59	Cut	Trench 7-possible post hole/small pit-irregularly shaped with steep sloping sides and narrow, flat base
60	Fill	Trench 7-Fill of Cut [62]-slightly mottled mid greyish brown/reddish brown clayey silts
61	Fill	Trench 7-lower fill of Cut [62]-same as (58)
62	Cut	Trench 7-cut of possible post hole/small pit-circular with steep sloping sides and flat base
63	Layer	Trench 8-Topsoil layer-same as (51)
64	Layer	Trench 8-Subsoil layer-same as (52)
65	Layer	Trench 9-topsoil layer-dark greyish brown slightly clayey silt
66	Layer	Trench 9-subsoil layer-mid/dark brown slightly clayey silts

With compliments

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