

# PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY L I N C O L N

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION REPORT;  
PROPOSED GRAVEYARD EXTENSION,  
SHING LANE, DUNHOLME, LINCOLNSHIRE**

NGR: <sup>TF</sup>~~SK~~ 0258 7927  
SITE CODE: ALD02  
LCNCC ACC. NO: 2002.156

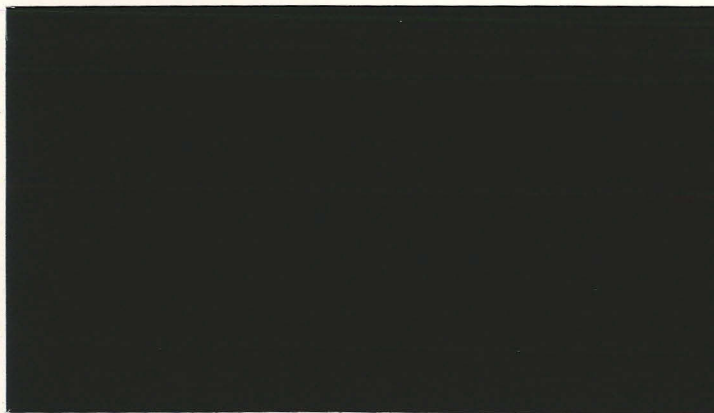
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M01/P/1144

Report prepared for  
Dunholme Parish Council  
by Chris Clay  
April 2002

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## CONTENTS

Summary	1
1.0 Introduction	2
2.0 Site location and description	2
3.0 Planning background	2
4.0 Archaeological and historical background	2
5.0 Methodology	3
6.0 Results	4
7.0 Discussion and conclusion	5
8.0 Effectiveness of methodology	5
9.0 Acknowledgements	5
10.0 Bibliography	6
11.0 Site Archive	6
Appendix 1: Colour Plates	7
Appendix 2: Pottery report	8
Appendix 3: List of archaeological contexts	9

### **List of Figures**

**Fig 1:** General site location (scale 1:25,000)

**Fig.2:** Site location, showing position of evaluation trench (scale 1:2000)

**Fig.3:** Trench plan and section (scale 1:50)

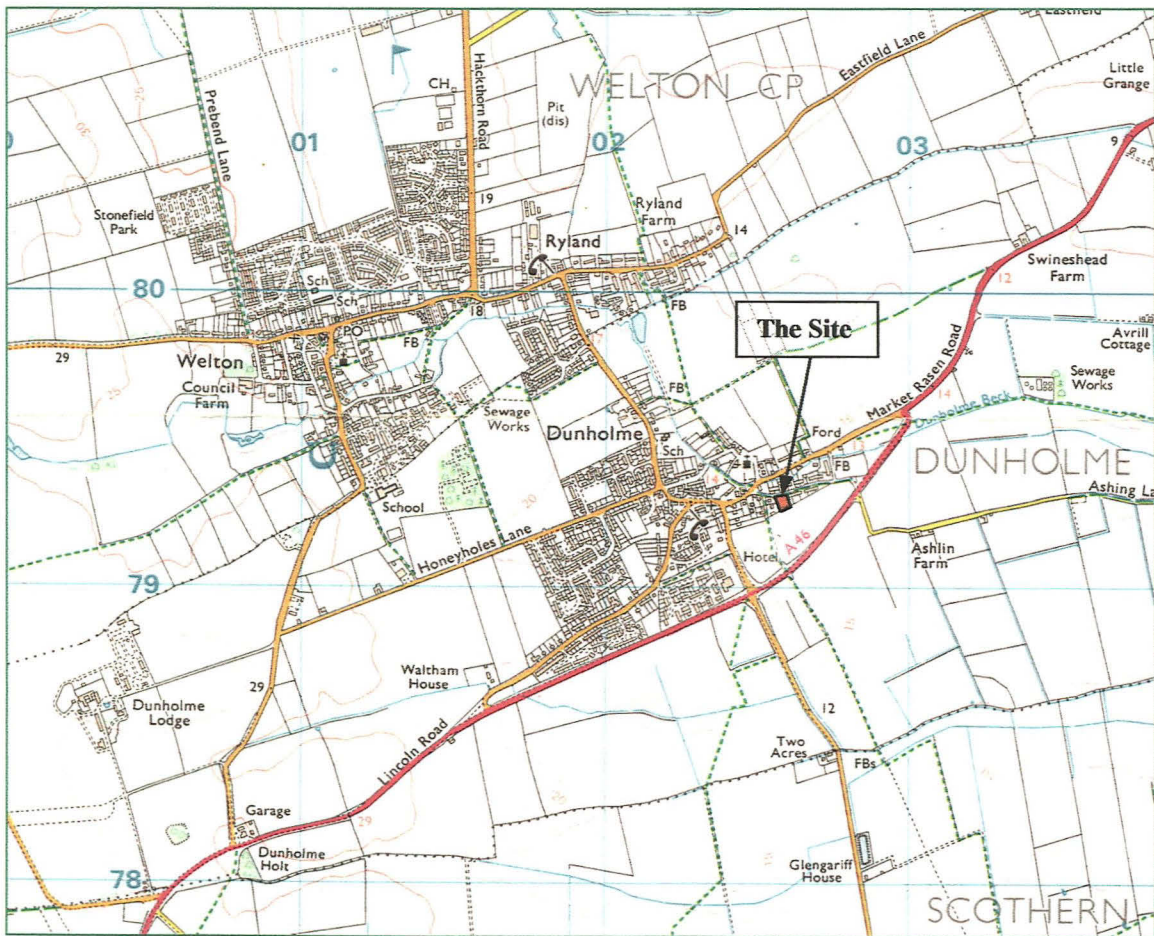
### **List of Plates**

**PL1:** General view of the site, looking west

**PL2:** Post excavation shot of the trench, looking north-east

### Summary

- A field evaluation was undertaken on land off Ashing Lane, Dunholme, for Dunholme Parish Council.
- Previous investigations to the immediate south of the current site revealed extensive evidence of Saxon settlement activity and exposed part of the medieval manor of Dunholme. Some residual material suggested Romano-British activity in the vicinity.
- The trench exposed a single linear feature and a small pit, both of which were undated, although their relationship with a wind blown sand horizon may indicate a pre-late Saxon origin.



**Fig.1: General site location (scale 1:25,000)**  
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## 1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) were commissioned by Dunholme Parish Council to undertake an archaeological field evaluation in advance of the extension of an existing graveyard, on land off Ashing Lane, Dunholme, Lincolnshire.

The land (hereafter 'the site') has been evaluated for its archaeological potential using an agreed strategy of trial excavation, the design of which was based largely on the findings of an adjacent program of works that culminated in an archaeological excavation and watching brief (Brett & Allen, 2002). The results of this investigation are presented below.

The report follows current national guidelines (IFA, 1994), the guidelines set out in the Lincolnshire County Council document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: a manual of archaeological practice* (LCC, 1998), and a formal project specification prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln).

## 2.0 Site location and description

Dunholme is in the administrative district of West Lindsey, approximately 6.5km north-east of Lincoln. The current site is a sub-rectangular area of grassland that adjoins the south side of an existing graveyard, south of Ashing Lane.

The local solid geology consists of Kellaways Formation sandstone (British Geological Survey, 1999). This is overlain by a drift geology comprising Aeolian (wind blown) sand that is up to 1m deep.

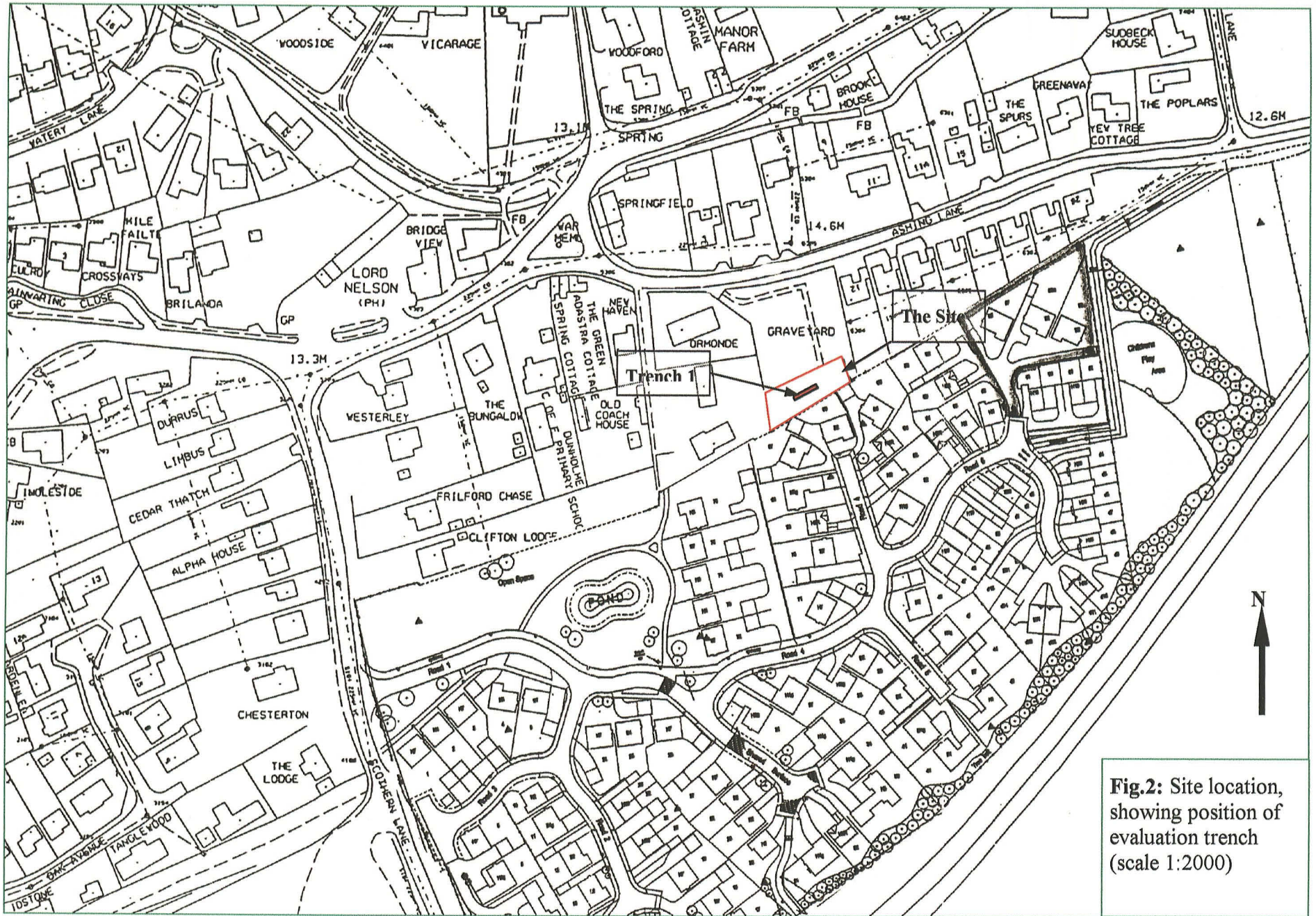
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## 3.0 Planning background

Planning permission is sought for the extension of the existing graveyard southwards (Planning Reference: M01/P/1144). Prior to the granting of this permission, the Assistant Built Environment Officer for Lincolnshire County Council requested the undertaking of an archaeological evaluation of the site, consisting of a single machine-cut trench.

## 4.0 Archaeological and historical background

There is some evidence of settlement activity around Dunholme before the Iron Age. Excavation in advance of the adjacent residential development yielded residual worked flints of Mesolithic or early Neolithic date (Brett & Allen, 2002). A single Neolithic polished stone axe was found to the east of the current site (SMR ref. 53159), and Bronze Age flint implements were recovered during the construction of Dunholme bypass (Tann, 1987).





There is more evidence for later Iron Age activities at Dunholme. A single gold coin was found in 1998 to the east of the site, and cropmarks approximately 700m north-west of the site appear to represent Iron Age enclosures. A watching brief on a water pipeline immediately to the east of these cropmarks exposed linear features and a driveway with associated Late Iron Age pottery (Albone, 1997).

Some degree of Romano-British activity in the area, is suggested by scatters of pottery north of the site, and residual sherds of Romano-British pottery that were recovered from the previous archaeological investigations carried out on the development immediately south of the current site (Allen 2000a, Allen 2000b, Brett & Allen 2002).

Evidence from the Domesday Book suggests that Dunholme was in existence from at least the later Saxon period. The village appears as '*Duneham*'. Probably interpreted as 'Dunna's homestead or estate', from the Old English *Dunna* and *hām* (Cameon 1998).

There is abundant evidence of Saxon and medieval settlement in Dunholme. Several phases of fieldwork were carried out during the residential development of a large area of land off Scothern Lane. The northern edge of this development borders the current site.

Two archaeological evaluations were carried out, in 1999 and 2000, exposing field systems and settlement activity of Saxon date, as well as stone walls, believed to be associated with the medieval Dunholme Manor and a Bishop's Palace (Allen, 2000a & 2000b).

A subsequent open area excavation and watching brief exposed a series of earth cut linear features. Four phases of activity were noted during the excavation: Early/Middle Saxon, Late Saxon, medieval and modern. The excavated features were interpreted as evidence of agricultural activities, including stock rearing and cereal processing, related to the settlement evidence exposed in previous phases of work. The watching brief revealed further linear features, many of which were undated (Brett & Allen, 2002).

## 5.0 Methodology

The archaeological works described in this document were requested by East Lindsey District Council as a basis for evaluating the archaeological potential of the site. The primary purpose of these investigations is to gather and collate information for planning purposes: to assess the archaeological potential of a site and provide a basis for mitigating against the effects of development, if appropriate. The approach is consistent with the guidelines set out in *Archaeological Planning: Planning policy guidance note 16 (PPG16)* (1990).

These works comprised a single trench 10m long and 1.6m wide, and aligned broadly east to west across the centre of the site. The machine excavation was carried out using a 360° tracked mini excavator fitted with a 1.2m wide smooth trenching blade. Topsoil and subsoil layers were removed in spits not exceeding 0.2m in depth. The

process was repeated until the first archaeologically significant or natural horizon was exposed. All further excavation was by hand.

Where archaeological remains were exposed, features and deposits were sample excavated manually, and context information was recorded on Context Record Sheets. Archaeological deposits were drawn to scale, in plan and section, and Ordnance datum Heights were entered on each class of drawing. Archaeological contexts were photographed, and some prints are reproduced within this report (Appendix 1).

Archaeological finds were recovered during the investigation (eg domestic pottery sherds and flint). They were washed and processed at the offices of PCA, prior to submission for detailed specialist appraisal.

The fieldwork was carried out on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2002 by the author and Simon Savage.

## 6.0 Results (fig.3)

The uppermost deposit was a mixed layer of dark grey sandy loam, (100) with patches of orange sand, and abundant modern rubble and building material. This deposit was approximately 0.2m deep, and was interpreted as a modern layer of redeposited building material, most likely originating from the adjacent recent residential development. This sealed a former topsoil layer, (101) which was up to 0.5m deep, and was separated from (100) by a layer of vegetation that marked the former ground surface.

Directly beneath (101) was dark greyish brown sand, 6.2m wide and 0.31m deep, (103). This may equate to a late Saxon wind blown sand that was identified during a previous phase of archaeological investigation on the adjacent development (Allen, 2000a). The truncation of this deposit may have been a direct consequence of levelling of earthworks in the field in the 1940's (Cope-Faulkner, 1998).

Two features were exposed beneath layer (103), both of which were cut into a 0.35m deep mottled yellow/brown sand, (102), interpreted as a post glacial wind blown sand layer. Towards the western end of the trench was a small sub-circular feature with a concave base, [104], possibly a small pit. The second feature was a linear feature, [106], approximately 2m to the east of [104]. This was aligned north-north-west to south-south-east, and was partially truncated by machine. In section, the feature measured 2.6m wide by 0.37m deep. No dating evidence was recovered from either of these features.

At the base of the trench, the natural geology was exposed. This was a mixed deposit of mottled yellow, orange and grey sand, with patches of poorly sorted sub-angular limestone chunks, (108).

Three sherds of pottery and a single flint were recovered after machine excavation. The pottery was of varying dates; consisting of a sherd of Romano-British greyware, one sherd of Maxey Type ware (8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> century AD), and one sherd of Potterhanworth Type ware, dated to the 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> century (Young, Appendix 2). The flint was a

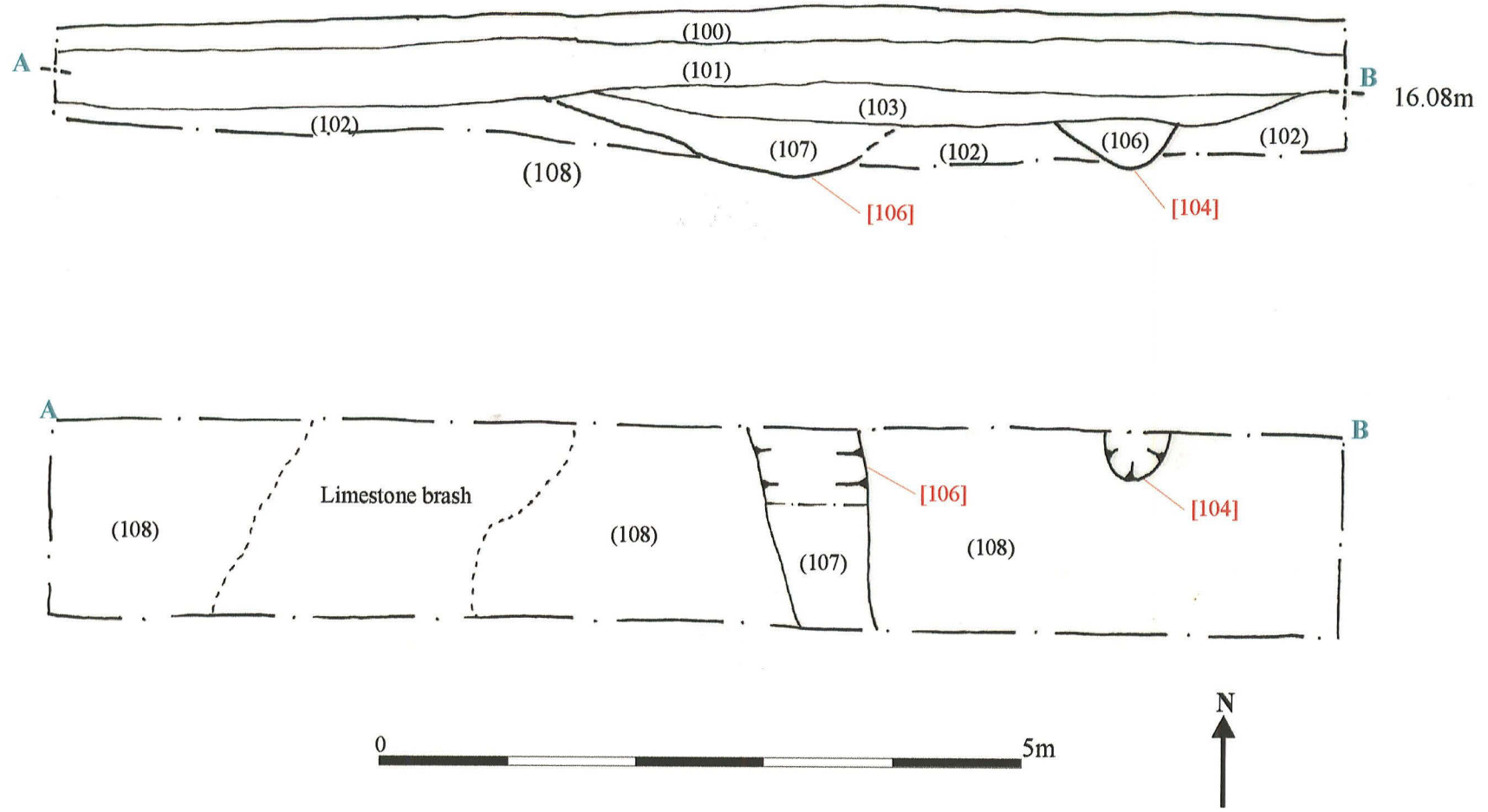


Fig.3: Trench plan and section (scale 1:50)

secondary flake exhibiting semi-abrupt retouch on the proximal end, working suggestive of a Late Neolithic/Bronze Age date (J.D.Rylatt *pers.comm.*). Although these artifacts were unstratified, the diverse range of dates suggest they may have been brought onto the site through the disturbance of archaeological deposits on the adjacent development (via layer 100).

#### **7.0 Discussion and conclusion**

The archaeological features exposed in this evaluation offer little potential for interpretation, as they produced no artefacts allowing a date or specific function to be established. Both features were sealed by the wind blown sand deposit, (103). The wind blown sand exposed during fieldwork in the adjacent residential development was believed to be late Saxon in origin (c.9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> centuries AD), suggesting that features [104] and [106] pre-date this period.

#### **8.0 Effectiveness of methodology**

The methodology was appropriate to the development. The excavation of a single trench allowed a rapid and accurate assessment of the archaeological potential of the site.

#### **9.0 Acknowledgements**

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Dunholme Parish Council for this commission.

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## 11.0 Site archive

The documentary and finds archive for the site is currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeology. This will be deposited at Lincoln City and County Museum within six months. Access to the archive may be gained by quoting the global accession number 2002.156.

**APPENDIX 1: Colour Plates**



**Pl.1: General view of the site, looking west**



**Pl.2: Post excavation shot of the trench, looking north-east**

## APPENDIX 2: Pottery report by Jane Young

<i>Context</i>	<i>name</i>	<i>sub fabric</i>	<i>form</i>	<i>sherds</i>	<i>weight</i>	<i>decoration</i>	<i>part</i>	<i>description</i>	<i>date</i>
U/S	Roman pottery (RB)	greyware	jar	1	5	incised wavy	BS		Roman
U/S	Potterhanworth Type (POTT)		large bowl	1	38		rim		13 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup>
U/S (MAX)	Maxey Type	B	large jar 1	76		BS	soot ext & part int		8 <sup>th</sup> to 9 <sup>th</sup>

## APPENDIX 3: List of archaeological contexts

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
100	Layer	Redeposited material
101	Layer	Former topsoil
102	Layer	Wind blown sand
103	Layer	Subsoil
104	Cut	Pit cut
105	Fill	Fill of [104]
106	Cut	Ditch cut
107	Fill	Fill of [106]
108	Layer	Natural sand and gravel