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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Land NW of St Peter's Road, Scotter
Archaeological Evaluation**

*NGR: SE 88466 00784
Site Code: SSPR 02
LCNCC Museum Accn No.: 2002.139
W. Lindsey District Council Planning Application No. M01/P/1180*

for

Hett Stubbs & Kemp

on behalf of

M. C. Developments

**LAS Report No. 592
June 2002**

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Conservation
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28 JUN 2002

Highways & Planning
Directorate

Event 413136
Source L17853
L17854
negative

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Pl.1 Trench 1 looking west showing 103 in the foreground.

Pl.2 Trench 1 section. Undulations in the base of the trench may relate to ridge and furrow, which is visible on other parts of the site.

Pl. 3 Trench 2 after the sides of the trench collapsed.

**Land NW of St Peter's Road, Scotter
(formerly known as Home Paddock, Soulby Farm)
Archaeological Evaluation**

NGR: SE 88466 00784

Site Code: SSPR 02

LCNCC Museum Accn No.: 2002.139

W. Lindsey District Council Planning Application No. M01/P/1180

Summary

Archaeological evaluation at the above site revealed no archaeological features or finds. There was some evidence of modern topsoil dumping. There is no evidence that the proposed development will cause significant impact upon archaeological deposits.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Hett Stubbs & Kemp on behalf of M. C. Developments, to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998).

Site Description

Scotter is situated 10km south of Scunthorpe, 13km NE of Gainsborough, and 5.5km NW of Kirton in Lindsey, in the West Lindsey district of Lincolnshire. The application site is located immediately outside the existing settlement core but beside twentieth century housing estates and ribbon development. The c. 1ha SW-NE aligned plot is linked by a narrow easement to Gainsborough Road.

Planning Background

The present application (WLDC Application No. M01/P/1180) is for outline planning permission for residential development. The proposal envisages nineteen plots, with 318m² of open space, and 633m² of affordable housing land; a footpath will connect the site with Gainsborough Road, utilising the easement of a proposed sewer. An access road is proposed to extend the existing St. Peter's Road, and to connect with a separate proposed development (Fig. 3).

West Lindsey District Council (WLDC) consulted their archaeological advisors (Archaeology Section, Conservation Services, Lincolnshire County Council), who identified the site as having significant archaeological potential and requested evaluation prior to determination. A stage programme of evaluation has been undertaken comprising geophysical survey and excavation of evaluation trenches, which are the subject of this report.

Archaeological Background

This site lies at the edge of the known medieval settlement focus in Scotter, on ground which may have been mostly part of a larger open field. Traces of ridge and furrow from medieval ploughing remain visible across the south-western half of the site, but the remaining part of the site is less easily interpreted. There remains a slight possibility that medieval house platforms are present at the northern end of the site. Since the medieval period, this plot of land may have remained under pasture. Small-scale gravel extraction may have created depressions and irregularities in the ground surface, and a succession of boundary realignments are probably responsible for further undulations. No evidence has been established for any development on the site.

In addition to any medieval remains, the site has potential for prehistoric, and Saxon archaeological remains masked by medieval ploughing, although none have yet been recognised.

An archaeological desk-based assessment for an adjoining, but separate, development proposal had concluded that there were prehistoric and Saxon remains on that site, and had noted extant earthwork features within the present application site (Tann 2002).

The first stage of evaluation on the present site comprised a geophysical survey (Bunn 2002) which failed to identify any anomalies to indicate significant archaeological activity but there were faint linear features recorded in the north-east part of the site which were thought might represent archaeological remains.

Aims and Objectives

In general terms the purpose of the evaluation was to:

- establish the presence or absence, quality and extent of archaeological remains and their location within the development area
- gather sufficient information to enable an assessment of the potential significance of any archaeological remains to be made and the impact which development will have upon them
- enable an informed decision to be made regarding the future treatment of any archaeological remains and consider any appropriate mitigatory measures either in advance of and/or during development

Method

Two trenches were positioned in the north-east corner of the site to investigate the weak anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. Trench 1 was 20m x1.6m and Trench 2 was 10m x1.6m. These were machine excavated, using a JCB with a toothless dyking bucket, to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon. All machine excavation was

supervised by an archaeologist.

Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes; these are used in the report and are listed in Appendix 1.

Results

Trench 1

Trench 1 was orientated approximately north-west south-east and was excavated to a depth of between 0.5m to 1.20m. A dark brown silty sand topsoil, **100**, approximately 0.30m deep, sealed **101**, a loose greyish brown silty sand which varied in depth across the trench between 0.35m and 0.60m. Below this was **102** which possibly represents an earlier subsoil which overlay an undulating natural surface **110** of firm orange brown silty sand.

Three features were identified in Trench 1. Ditch **103**, at the south east end of the trench, was 1.1m below the ground surface and appeared to be sealed by layer **102** but ground conditions were very disturbed by tree roots. It was had a rounded profile but with a narrow slot in the base and contained 19th/20th century pottery. A narrow gully **107** was recorded towards the north west end of the trench. It was c.0.55m wide and 0.20m deep and also sealed by **102**, and had a rounded profile. It also contained 19th/20th century pottery.

Immediately north-west of ditch **103** was a small pit, **106**. It contained animal bone and medium sized stones. It contained no datable finds but was dug from a higher level than the two ditches so is assumed to be even later in date.

The very late finds from the features **103** and **107**, apparently sealed by **102** suggest that layers **102** and **101** are dumped deposits of very recent date. The undulating surface of the natural **110** may indicate the vestiges of levelled ridge and furrow. The two high points in the trench were approximately 9m apart, which is similar in spacing and orientation to the anomalies identified as ridge and furrow during the geophysical survey.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was excavated to the north-east of Trench 1. The topsoil was 0.20m deep but a further 1.20m of overburden, that was very similar to the topsoil was recorded. This reinforces the interpretation that much of the soil on the site has been deposited recently. The natural **110** was reached at a depth of 1.40m and there was no evidence of archaeological features. The trench edges were highly unstable and collapsed, which made it impossible to closely examine the trench.

Conclusion

No indication of any medieval features or artefacts was found during the evaluation. The

possible presence of truncated ridge and furrow suggests that the area lay beyond the limits of the medieval village and in an area of cultivation. The 'earthworks' in the field are likely to be the result of recent disturbance and/or dumping of soil and are not thought to represent village remains. The impact of the proposed development on any archaeological remains is therefore considered to be minimal.

Acknowledgements

Lindsey Archaeological Services would like to thank Mrs Wood for her help on site and Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology staff for their help and advice. Archaeological evaluation was carried out by the author together with, Andrew West.

References

Bunn, D. 2002 *Land NW of St Peter's Road, Scotter. Geophysical Survey*. Pre-Construct Geophysics report.

Tann, G. 2002 *Land NW of St Peter's Road, Scotter. Archaeological Desk Based Assessment*. Lindsey Archaeological Services report 580.

Contents of Site Archive

- 1 Context record sheet
- 10 Context sheets
- 2 Sheets of permatrace containing plans and sections
- 1 Drawing register sheets
- 12 photographs

Mark Williams
Lindsey Archaeological Services
June 19th 2002

APPENDIX 1

Context Summary: SSPR 02

Context No	Type	Description
100	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand
101	Subsoil	Loose greyish brown silty sand
102	Subsoil	Orangey brown silty sand
103	Cut	ditch
104	Fill of 103	Grey brown sandy silt
105	Fill of 106	mid grey brown sandy silt
106	Cut	Pit
107	Cut	Linear gully
108	Fill of 107	Grey brown sandy silt
109	Fill	Dumped material just below the topsoil, possibly fill of 106
110	Natural	Firm orange brown silty sand
111	Fill of 106	Loose greyish brown silty sand

THE FIGURES

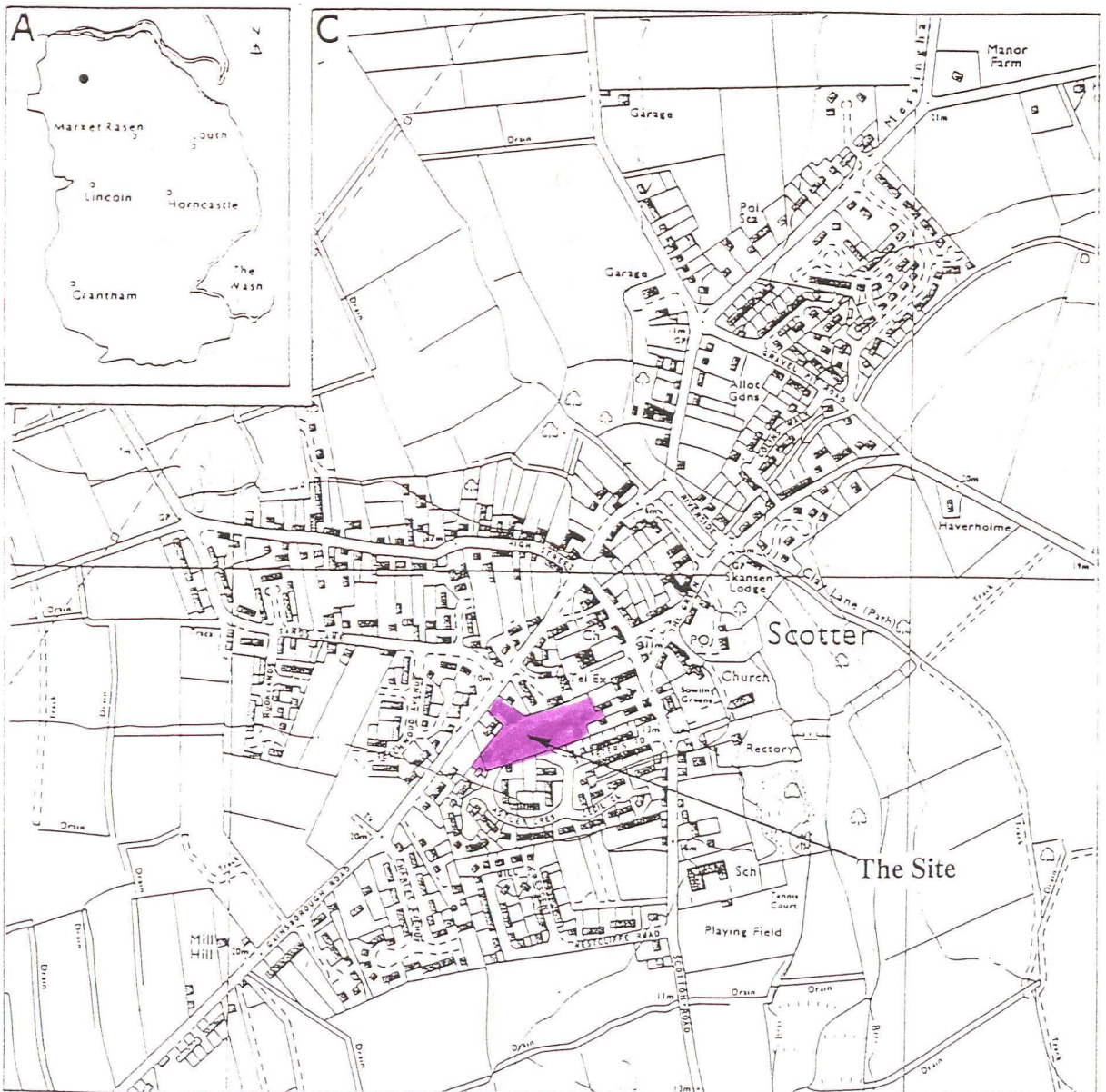
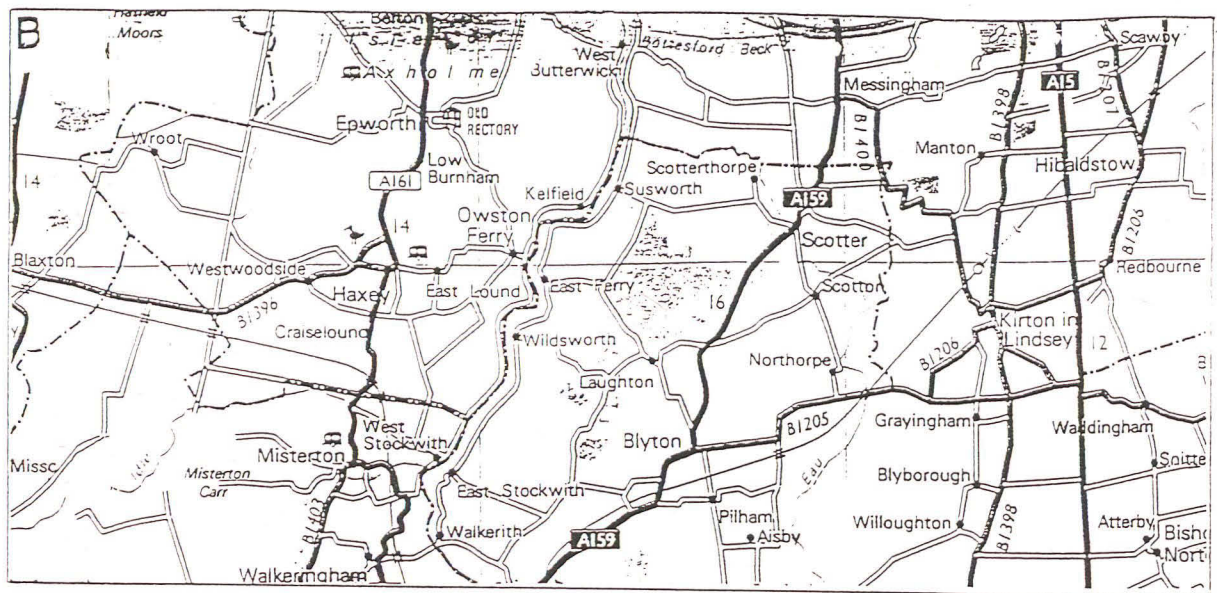
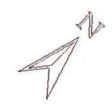
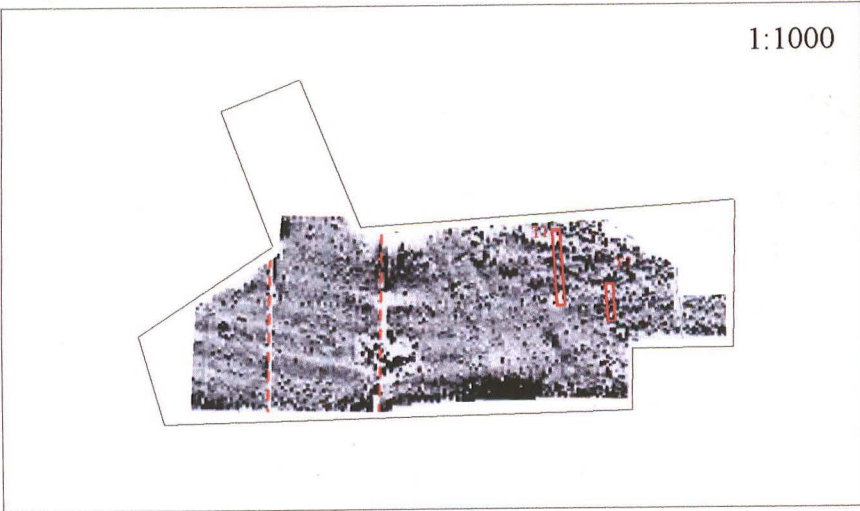


Fig. 1 Location of Scotter (inset C based on the 1975 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map sheet SE 80 SE. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 10002165).

1:1000



1:250

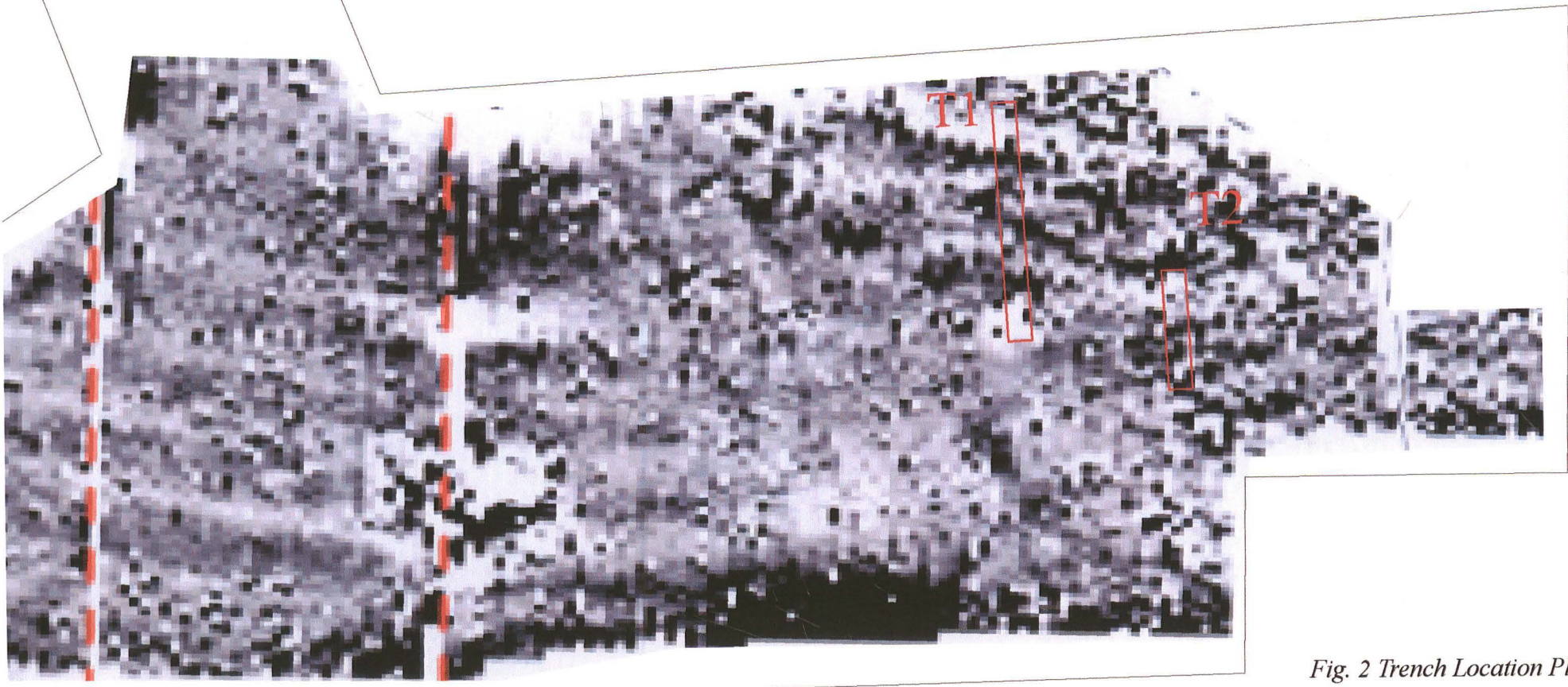


Fig. 2 Trench Location Plan

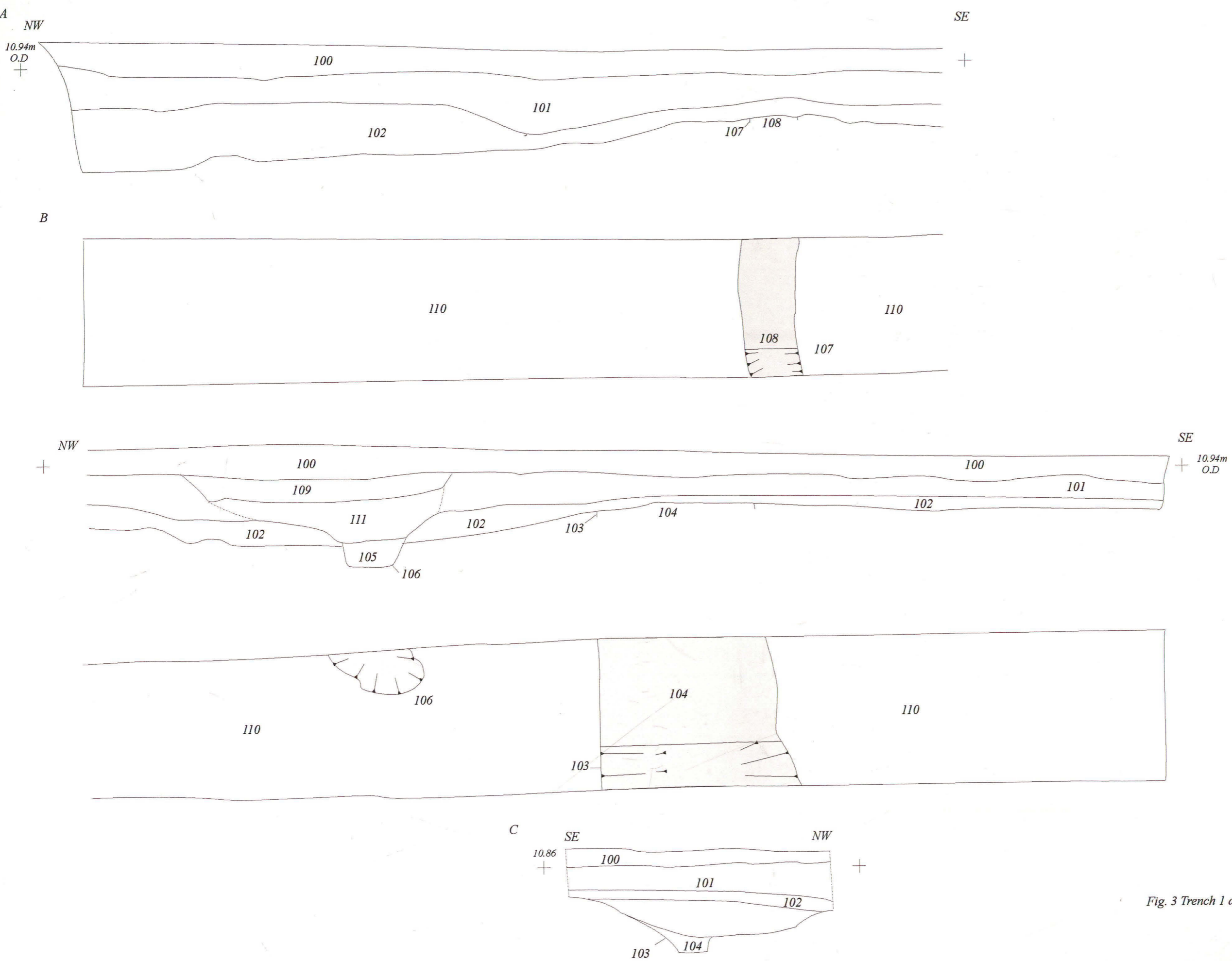
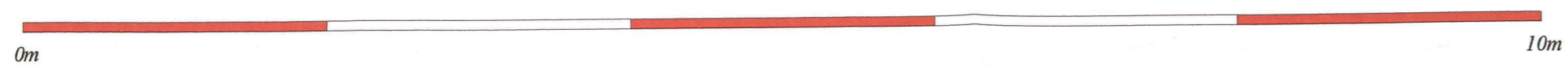


Fig. 3 Trench 1 a) section b) plan c) section of feature 103



THE PLATES



Pl.1 Trench 1 looking west showing 103 in the foreground.

Pl.2 Trench 1 section. Undulations in the base of the trench may relate to ridge and furrow which is visible on other parts of the site.





Pl. 3 Trench 2 after the sides of the trench collapsed.