

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION REPORT;
MEADOW LANE,
NORTH HYKEHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE**

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Report prepared for
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Summary

- *An archaeological evaluation was carried out for Overbrook Homes Ltd., on land off Meadow Lane, North Hykeham, Lincolnshire.*
- *North Hykeham is situated on the southern periphery of Lincoln, a major centre of settlement throughout the Iron Age, Romano-British, Saxon and medieval periods. The area is known hold extensive Romano-British settlement remains, aspects of which were exposed during an excavation in a field that is adjacent to the current site.*
- *A preceding geophysical survey of the land revealed relatively little, although the survey results may have been distorted by the presence of large amounts of modern building debris and other dominant magnetic anomalies*
- *The fieldwork exposed two Romano-British ditches, a post medieval tile kiln of 17/18th century date and several other earth-cut features containing tile and pottery of a similar date.*

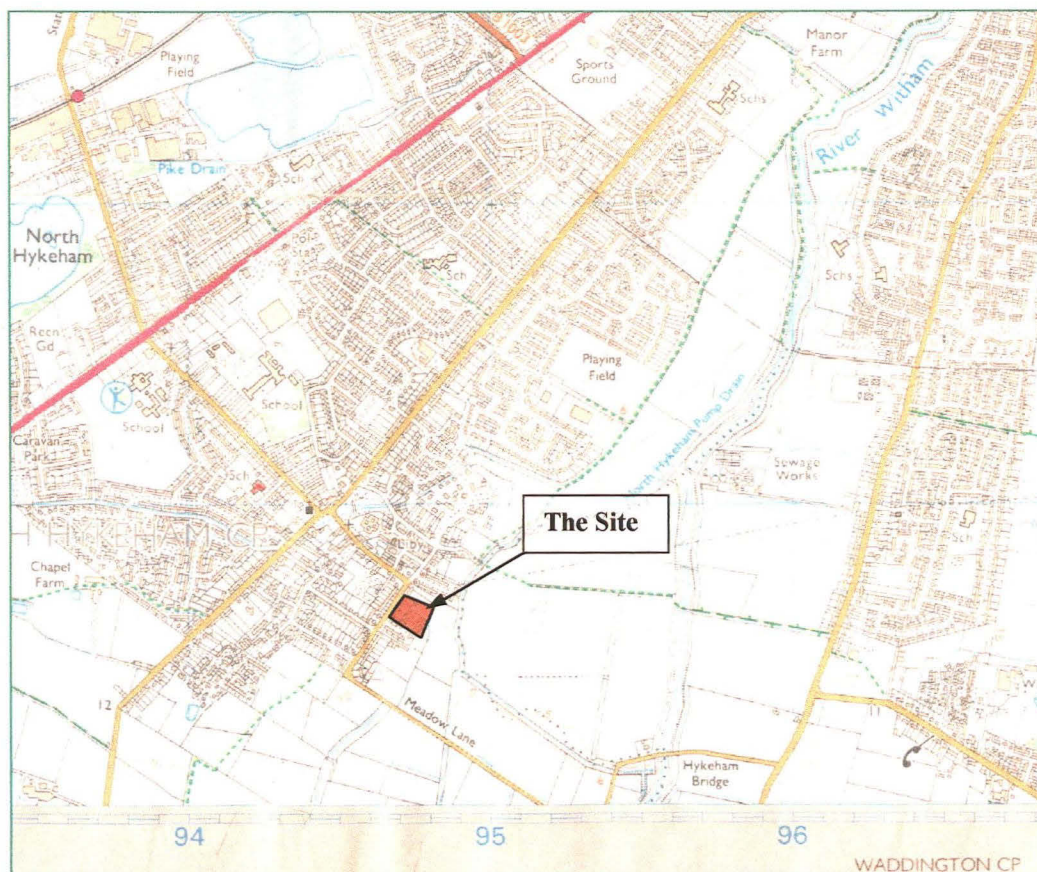


Fig.1: General site location (scale 1:25,000)
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1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by Overbrook Homes Ltd. to carry out a programme of intrusive archaeological evaluation prior to the residential development of land off Meadow Lane, North Hykeham, Lincolnshire.

This report details the results of the fieldwork. It is written to conform to national and local guidelines as set out in the Lincolnshire County Council document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice* (LCC, 1998).

2.0 Site location and description (fig.2)

North Hykeham is in the administrative district of North Kesteven, on the south-western periphery of Lincoln. The site is a sub-rectangular area of land of approximately 0.6ha on the south side of the town, adjacent to 41 Meadow Lane. The central NGR is SK 9472 6548.

The site is a former horse paddock that supports short grass vegetation. It slopes gently from north-west to south-east, from a high point of approximately 8.5m above Ordnance Datum. It is bounded by 41 Meadow Lane to the north-west, an access road to the north-east, open fields to the south-east, and a modern residential development to the south-west.

The local geology consists of Lower Lias Clay, although the eastern part of the site is made up of alluvial deposits of sand and gravel (British Geological Survey, 1973), deposited by the pre-canalised River Witham (North Hykeham Pump Drain), which now runs approximately 200m east of the current site.

3.0 Planning background

Full planning consent is sought to construct 11 dwellings with associated garages, access roads and services (planning ref: N/43/0750/01) (fig.2).

The Heritage Officer of North Kesteven District Council recommended the undertaking of an archaeological evaluation, to allow an assessment to be made of the potential impact of the development on the archaeological resource. This information will be used to inform any mitigation strategy for the area, which may be necessary to minimise the potential impact of this development on archaeological remains. This approach is consistent with the guidelines set out in *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16, 1990*.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

Numerous prehistoric artefacts have been recovered from the area, including two Neolithic polished stone axes, a perforated axe-hammer, and a Neolithic leaf shaped arrowhead (Appendix 4).



Fig.2: Trench location, in relation to proposed development plan. The coloured dots indicate excavated features (scale 1:750)

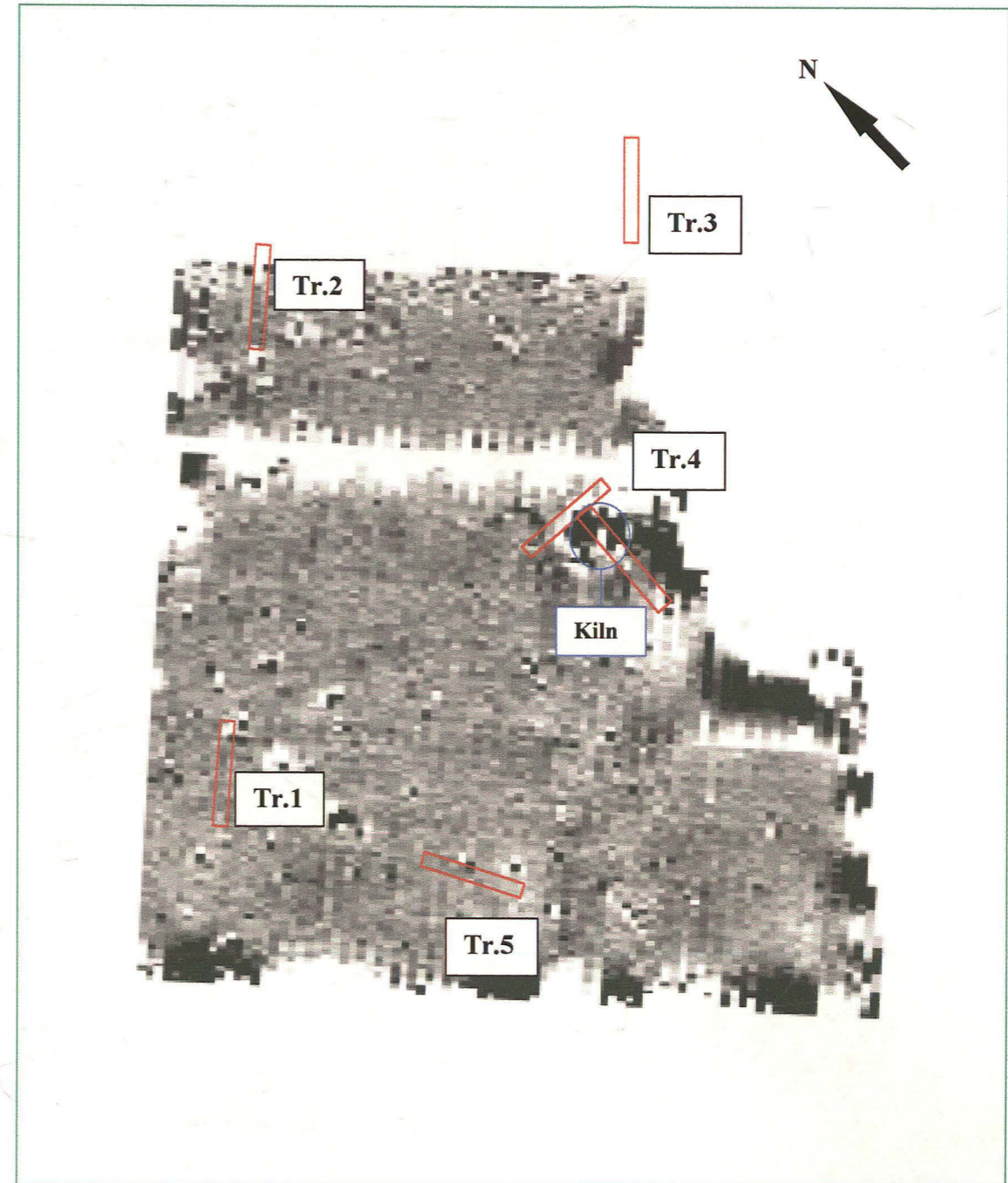


Fig.3: Trench locations, superimposed over grey scale image of geophysical survey results (after Bunn & Palmer-Brown, 2002) (scale 1:750)

North Hykeham is situated on the south-west suburbs of Lincoln, which has its origins in the later prehistoric period. Significant quantities of Later Iron Age pottery have been recovered from the vicinity of Brayford Pool in Lincoln, indicating the presence of a substantial pre-Roman settlement (Whitwell, 1992). At this time, Lincoln was within the territory of the *Corieltavi*, a socio-political entity largely based on the subsequent Romano-British *civitas*. The *Corieltavi* appear in Ptolemy's *Geography*, with their two major settlements at *Lindon* (Lincoln) and *Rhage* (Leicester) (Todd, 1991).

Small quantities of residual Iron Age pottery were recovered during an evaluation in the adjacent field (JSAC, 1999), indicating some degree of settlement activity in this period.

In the 1930's, sand and gravel quarrying exposed a late 1st/early 2nd century AD 'rustic ware' pottery kiln (SMR ref.61162), and pottery from this industry has been found on excavations in Lincoln (Whitwell, 1992). Information from the Sites and Monuments Record for Lincolnshire (Appendix 4) records a number of domestic pottery scatters throughout North Hykeham, much of which was found during the digging of drains in the mid 20th century close to Russell Avenue, approximately 200m north-west of the proposed development (SMR ref.60783). At the time it was postulated that this material was close to a substantial settlement of the 3rd to 4th centuries AD. It is likely that part of this settlement was exposed during an evaluation and subsequent excavation in the field which bounds the south-west side of the current site. The evaluation yielded quantities of 2nd and 3rd century domestic pottery, with evidence of industrial processes, and associated enclosure ditches. A subsequent area excavation exposed three principal phases of Romano-British activity from the 2nd to late 4th century AD. A series of large rectangular enclosures was exposed, possibly used to corral cattle, although there was also some evidence of metalworking on or close to the site (M.Jarvis *pers.comm.*).

In 1086, North Hykeham appears in the Domesday Book as *Northhica*, under the ownership of Baldwin the Fleming and Count Alan (Morgan & Thorne, 1986). Numerous isolated findspots, including coins of Henry VI (1421-1471) and Henry VII (1485-1509), indicate a low level of activity through the medieval period.

5.0 Methodology

The archaeological condition required a trial excavation encompassing 2% of the total site area; equating to five trenches measuring approximately 2m by 12m. A further 1% contingency was included in accordance with requirements of the project brief; its use to be agreed upon in consultation with the North Kesteven Heritage Officer (fig.2).

Initial excavation was carried out using a JCB, fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching blade. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed in spits of approximately 0.2m, until archaeological deposits were encountered. Excavation was then carried out by hand in order to establish the profile, orientation, depth and (where possible) date of archaeological features. Features were drawn in plan and section at a scale of 1:50 and 1:20, and a colour photographic record was maintained, from which selected

prints have been reproduced in this report. The work was undertaken over a period of seven days, from Monday 18th February to Tuesday 26th February 2002, by a team of four experienced archaeologists, including the project supervisor (the author).

6.0 Results

6.1 Trench 1 (fig.4)

The trench contained a single gully dated to the 2nd century AD by a sherd of Romano-British pottery. A possible pit was exposed in section.

The trench was sealed by a mid brown-grey topsoil, (100), with a maximum depth of 0.4m. This sealed a grey-brown subsoil of clay-silt, which varied in depth between 0.15-0.32m.

At the south-west end of the trench, a single linear feature was exposed, aligned north-west to south-east, [102]. Due to extensive standing water and flooding of the trench, excavation of this feature was difficult, although a full profile was established by means of a large box section. The linear feature was approximately 0.6m wide and 0.35m deep, with moderately steep sides and a concave base. It was filled with orange and grey clay-silt, (103), which incorporated one heavily abraded sherd of decorated samian ware pottery, dating to the late 1st/early 2nd century AD (Darling, Appendix 2).

A second possible feature, [104] was exposed in the same box section. This was evidenced by a layer of light grey clay-silt with orange mottling, (105), measuring approximately 1m wide and 0.25m deep. This feature produced no dating evidence, and it was only apparent in one side of the box section, merging with natural yellow and grey clay layers (106) and (107). Its interpretation remains uncertain, and it could actually have been a natural lens.

The only other feature exposed was a narrow gully running north-east to south-west, which contained a modern ceramic land drain.

6.2 Trench 2 (fig.5)

A single, truncated linear feature was exposed in this trench, aligned north-west to south-east. No dating evidence was recovered.

The upper deposit was a loose, slightly clayey topsoil, (200), approximately 0.4m deep. No subsoil was apparent beneath this, the topsoil resting directly upon a brown-yellow natural clay, (201). A single linear feature, [202], was cut through this material. It was towards the centre of the trench, orientated north-west to south-east, and measuring 0.95m wide by 0.2m deep. Its fill, (203), was a dark grey-brown sandy silt, which produced no dating evidence.

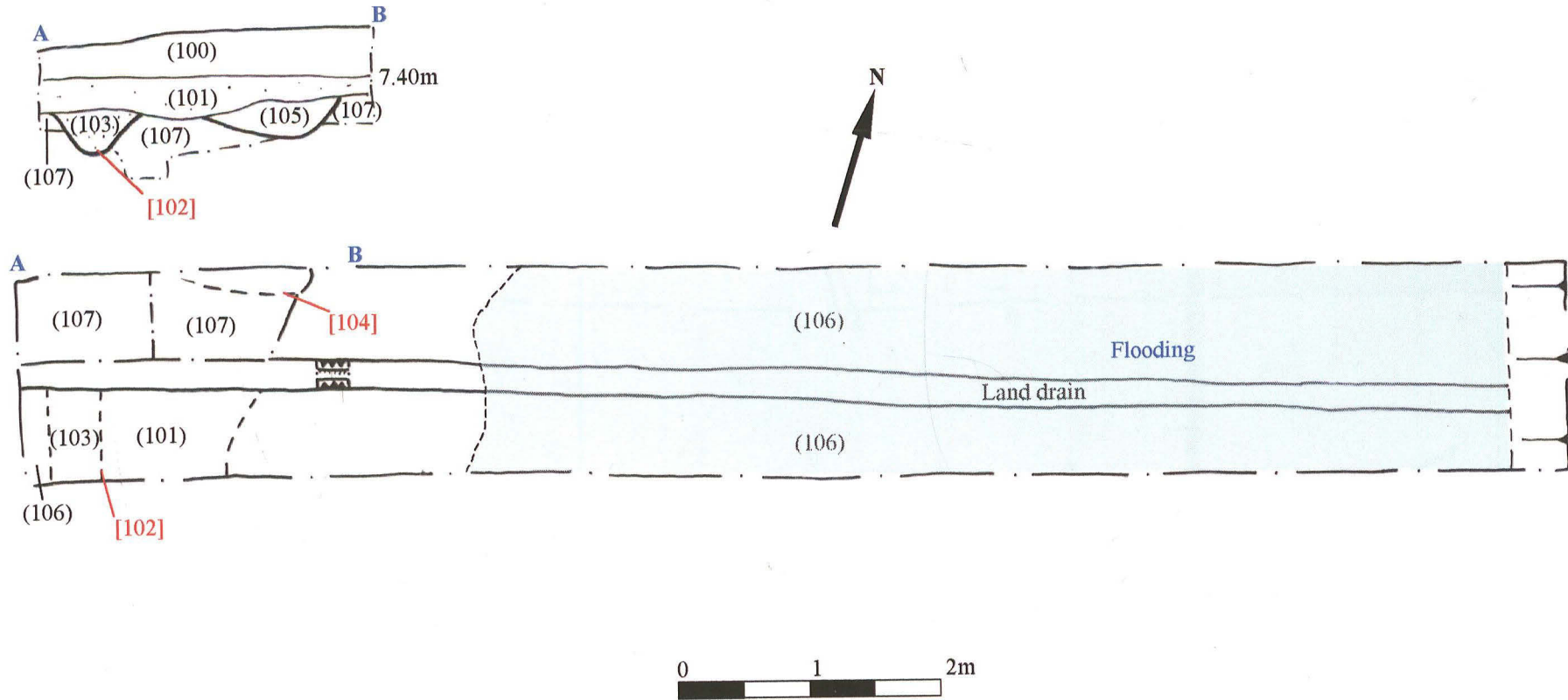


Fig.4: Trench 1 plan and section (scale 1:50)

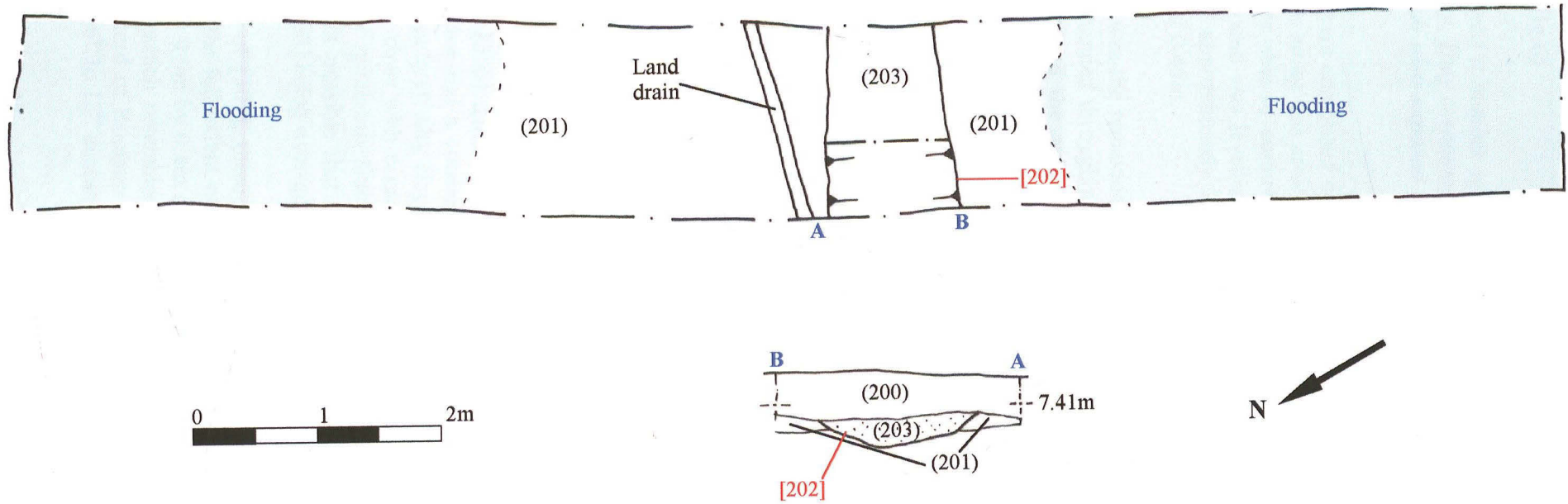


Fig.5: Trench 2 plan and section (scale 1:50)

6.3 Trench 3 (fig.6)

This trench contained a number of parallel linear features, possibly representing a migrating boundary. They contained numerous fragments of 16th to 18th century brick and tile. The trench also exposed several small, shallow pits, and one larger sub-circular feature.

The most recent layers comprised demolition deposits associated with the destruction of stables which ran along this area of the site, (300) and (303). Nearby residents and the developers were able to comment that, prior to the fieldwork, the stables were demolished, the ground was levelled, and an access was constructed. Deposits (300) and (303) extended approximately 9m from the north-east end of the trench, and had a combined depth of 0.45m.

Beneath the above was the remainder of a topsoil (302), a mid grey loamy clay up to 0.2m deep. This extended throughout the trench, increasing to a depth of 0.4m at its south-west end, beyond the extent of the demolition deposits. This sealed a grey brown silty clay subsoil (301), approximately 0.15m deep.

A number of parallel linear features, including two ceramic land drains, were sealed beneath (301) and (302), aligned north-west to south-east. The largest, and stratigraphically most recent of these was [306], 2.6m wide and 0.55m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a predominantly flat base. The ditch contained four discrete fills, (316), (317), (318) and (323). The lowest, (323), was a mixed orange/grey slightly silty clay, very similar to the natural clay (322). Above this, (318) was a light grey clay-silt, indicative of alluvial deposition. This was sealed by brown-grey and grey-orange silty clay, (316) and (317) respectively. (316) contained several fragments of brick and roof tile, dated to the 16th to 18th century (Young, Appendix 3).

The south side of [306] truncated a shallow, similarly aligned, feature, approximately 0.7m wide and 0.1m deep, [307]. This may represent the initial phase of a ditch that was later recut by [306], although this was not clarified. It was filled with brown-grey clay-silt, (315).

The north edge of [306] cut through gully, [308], which was 0.7m wide and 0.6m deep with steep sides and a concave base. This contained two fills. The upper fill, (320), was an orange/grey silty clay, 0.25m deep. This sealed (319), a mixed deposit of yellow and grey clays with occasional lenses of brown sand. Again, the similarity between the fills of numerous features on the site, and the natural sands and clays encountered make it possible that this is merely a variation in the natural geology, which has led to [308] being over-cut.

To the south-west of [307], three irregular subcircular features were exposed. The largest was [304], the full extent of which was beyond the trench. The area exposed measured 2.75m by 0.9m by 0.4m deep. The feature contained four fills (311), (312), (313), and (327), which resembled the fills of ditch [306]. Fill (312) contained a residual abraded sherd of Romano-British pottery (Darling, Appendix 2), as well as four fragments of 16th to 18th century roof tile (Young, Appendix 3).

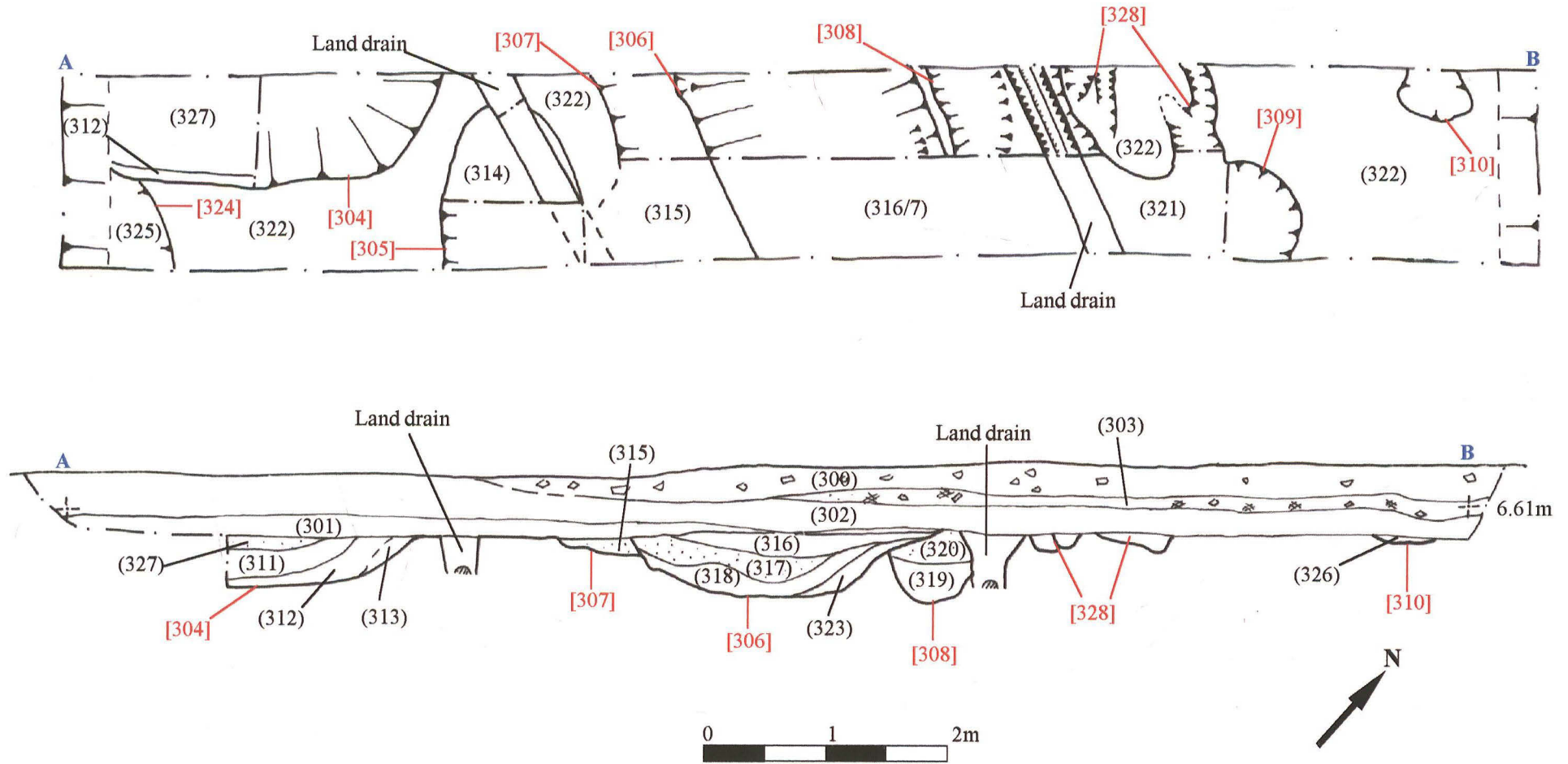


Fig.6: Trench 3 plan and section (scale 1:50)

The other pits, [305] and [324], were much shallower, not exceeding 0.1m. A small irregular pit-like feature was exposed at the north-east end the trench, [310]. This was approximately 0.6m in diameter and only 0.05m deep, containing an orange/grey clay/silt fill, (326).

Approximately 2m to the south-west of [310] was another very shallow sub-circular depression, [309]; seemingly merging with [328], an unusual arrangement of very narrow and shallow irregular and uneven 'gullies' cut into the natural clay (322). These features could represent the truncated remains of root disturbance, caused by a hedge line running along the edge of one of the ditches.

6.4 Trench 4 (figs.7, 8a, 8b)

Two north-west to south-east linear features were exposed, the earliest of which contained 2nd century Romano-British pottery. An extension to the trench revealed a large section of a brick built tile kiln of 17th/18th century date, as well as a large undated ditch to its south-east.

Approximately 2.2m from the west end of the trench was [403], a cut linear feature aligned north-west to south-east. It was approximately 2.5m wide by 0.4m deep, cut through a brown-yellow natural clay, (404). Its primary fill, (405), comprised light grey clayey silt, sealed by grey-brown sand/silt/clay, (426). No dating evidence was recovered from either of these fills. The south-western edge of the ditch was cut by a ceramic land drain.

The north-eastern edge of [403] appeared to cut a second ditch, [425], which followed a similar alignment. This was approximately 2.75m wide and 0.3m deep. The ditch was cut through red-brown sandy gravel with abundant iron panning, (402). [425] contained grey-brown sandy clay, (427), which yielded 8 sherds of Romano-British pottery, dating the feature to the 2nd century AD (Darling, Appendix 2).

To the north-east, this feature was sealed by a shallow, localised, undulating layer of dark grey/brown soil, (428) which was no more than 0.2m thick. This was possibly the base of a furrow. It sealed a small sub-circular pit-like feature, [429], which was cut into natural clay and was filled with dark grey silty clay, (430).

Initial cleaning within Trench 4 exposed a small area of brickwork in the original north-east section. As this appeared to form several courses of a brick structure, a small extension (approximately 3m by 1.5m) was excavated by hand to define this structure. It then became apparent that the structure extended well beyond the limits of the extension, and the North Kesteven Heritage Officer requested that an additional 15m of contingency trench should be excavated in a south-easterly direction in an attempt to fully assess the significance, date, extent and preservation of this feature.

The various components of this structure, [407], extended some 5.8m into the trench extension. In plan, it consisted of a slightly curved western wall measuring 2.9m long, surviving to four courses of brickwork. The north end of this turned 90° to the east, probably forming the back wall of a structure that is now known to be a kiln. Within the internal face of this junction, the wall bore traces of a mortar lining, blackened by

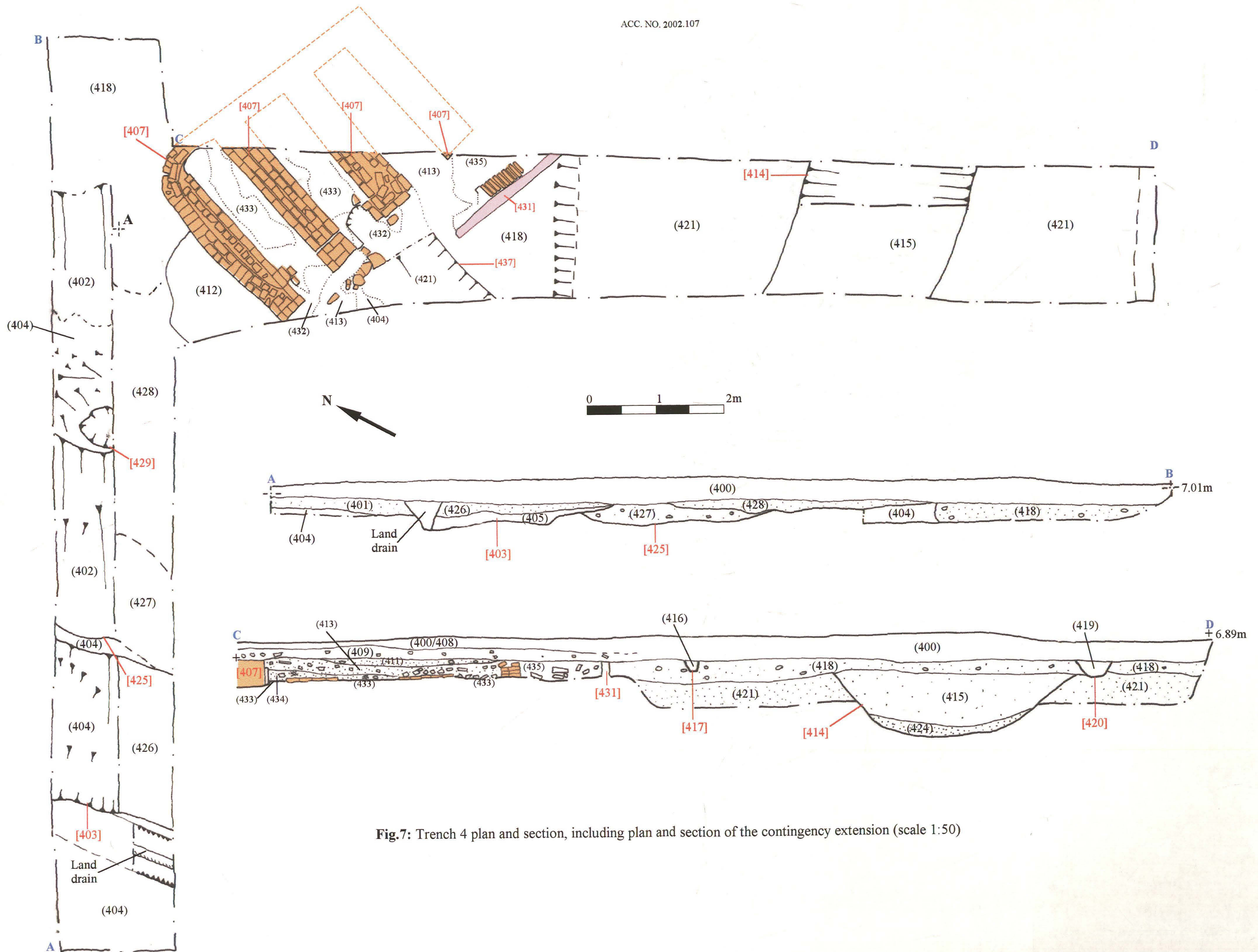


Fig.7: Trench 4 plan and section, including plan and section of the contingency extension (scale 1:50)

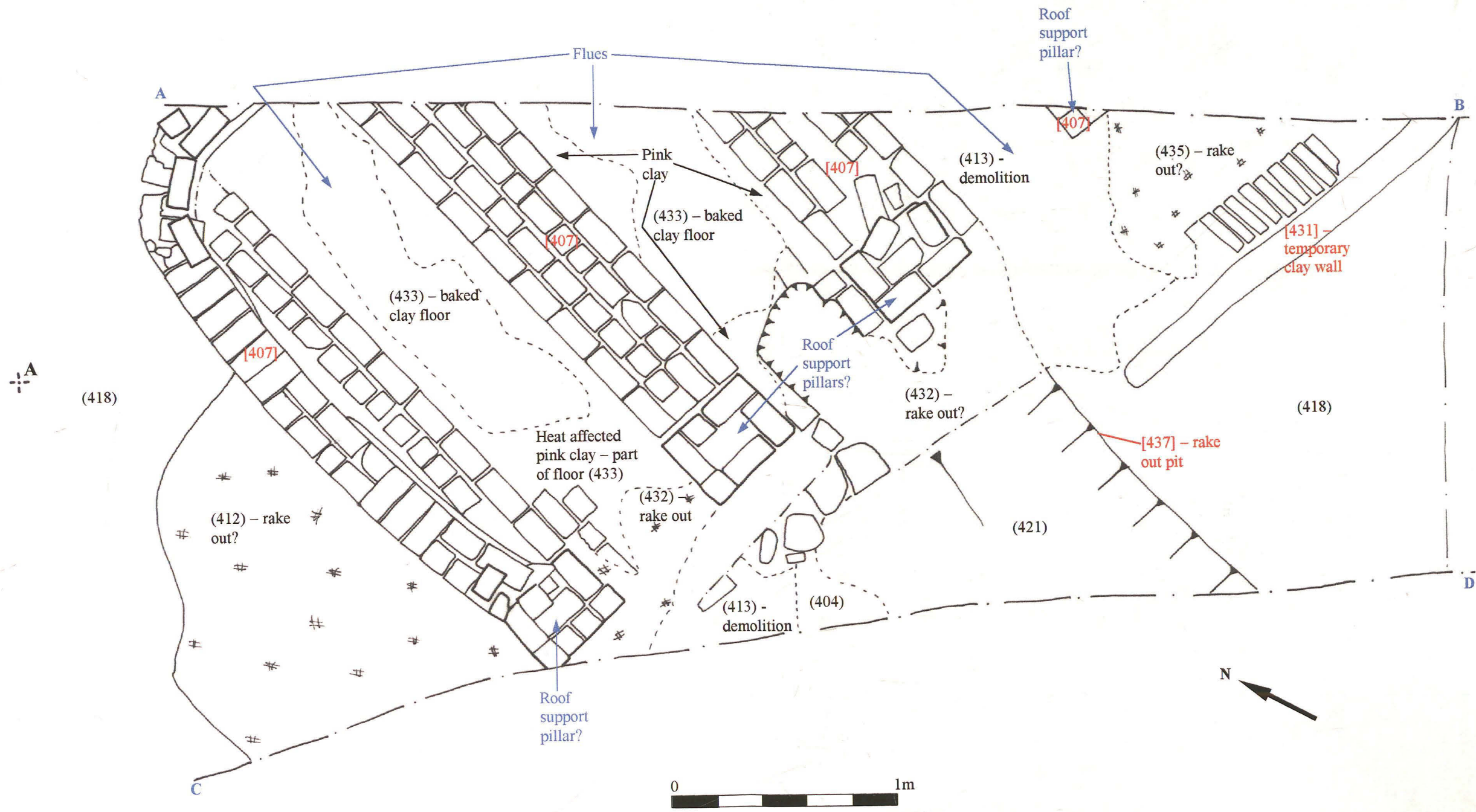


Fig. 8a: Detailed interpretive plan of kiln structure [407], Trench 4 extension (scale 1:20)

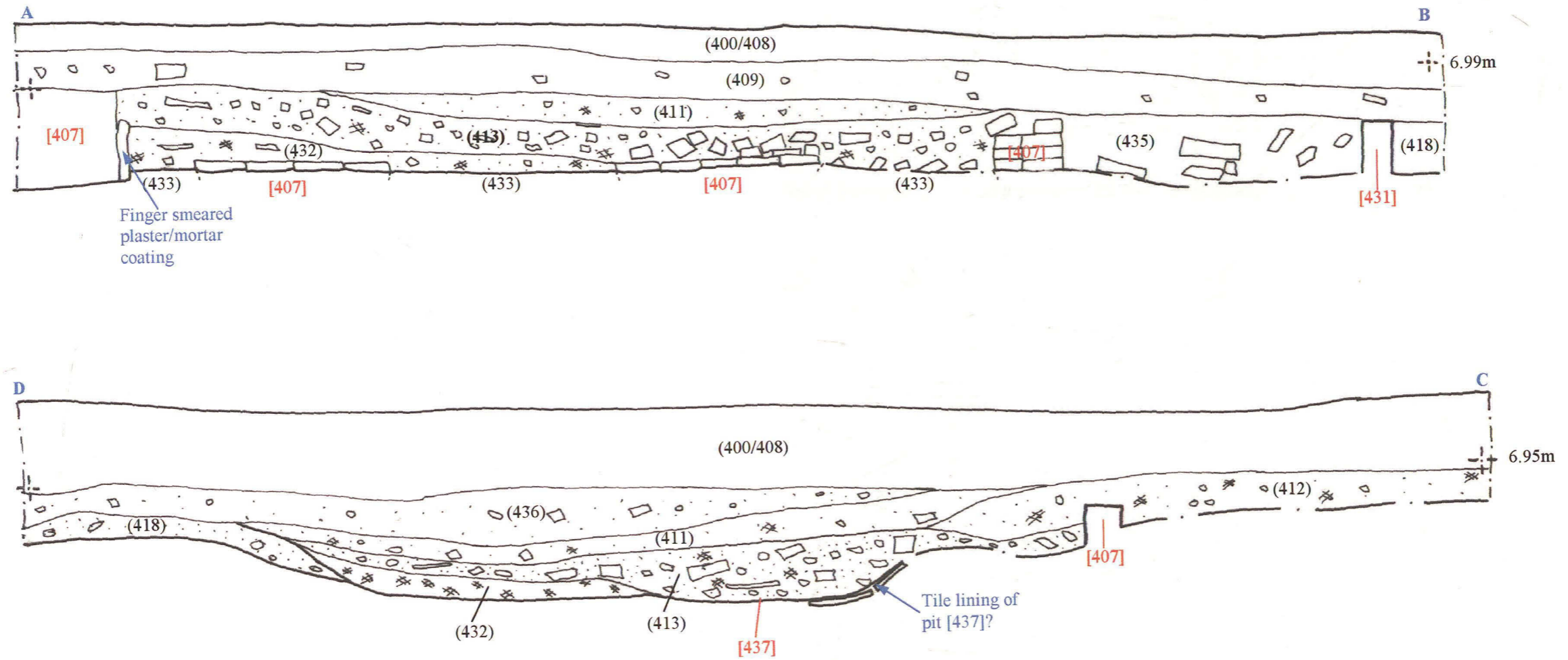


Fig.8b: Section drawings of kiln area, Trench 4 extension (scale 1:20)

heat, and showing clear finger impressions, caused when wet mortar was applied to the wall face. The south end of the wall was defined by a rectangular brick pedestal, measuring 0.34m by 0.44m.

Parallel to the above, were two (possibly three) similar walls, each being four courses wide, a single course high, and 0.6m apart. Again, the south end of each was marked by a rectangular pedestal, perhaps the base of a pillar that once supported a superstructure.

The gap between each wall was filled with a compact and heavily burnt deposit, (433); dark grey/black sand, gravel and clay. In places, a pink (burnt) clay was also exposed. This may represent a deliberately deposited mortar floor surface, or possibly the gradually accumulated accretions of residue from repeated firings of the kiln.

Abutting the outer wall of the structure was a dark grey sandy clay, containing large amounts of charcoal and ceramic building material, (434). This had a maximum depth of 0.18m, and gradually sloped downwards to the south-east, extending 1.9m into the kiln. This deposit may be a residue from the last firing, as it was sealed by two layers of demolition material, (411) and (413). Both of these deposits overlay the kiln structure, and contained several complete or almost complete bricks and roof tiles, dated to the 17th/18th century (Young, Appendix 3). (413) also contained two (residual) adjoining sherds of Romano-British pottery (Darling, Appendix 2). The brick probably derived from the kiln structure, although it is possible that these were fired within it. The tile from the demolition deposits is perhaps more likely to represent the kiln product.

At the south end of the kiln structure was a large depression, [437]. At the base of this was a band of very dark grey clay-sand, (432), with large amounts of charcoal flecking and fragments of brick and tile. It is likely that this feature represents a fire pit, where ash and other residue could be raked out in preparation for subsequent firings.

Another component of the kiln structure was wall [431], which lay at right angles to the internal walls of the kiln, 0.25m south-east of the fire-pit. A 4.5m section of this feature was exposed, measuring 0.35m wide and 0.15m deep. It consisted entirely of compacted clay, turned red and pink by the effects of heat. Small areas of the south-west face of the wall retained an unfired yellow-grey tinge, indicating that the heat had originated on the north-east side of this wall. This is supported by another possible firing residue of dark grey charcoal rich silty sand, (435), on the north-east side of [431].

Abutting the south-west side of [431] was a mid-brown gravel/sand deposit, (418). The relationship between this and the kiln is uncertain. It could represent accumulated debris around the kiln, or a ground raising deposit through which the kiln was cut. Cutting through it were two, possibly modern, features that were exposed in section: a steep sided post hole, [417], and a slightly larger feature, [420], which was 0.55m wide and 0.2m deep.

Approximately 2.75m from the south-east end of the trench extension was a substantial linear feature, aligned north-west to south-east, and sealed beneath (418).

This was 3.5m wide, and it survived to a depth of 0.9m. The ditch contained a shallow primary fill of dark grey sandy gravel, (424). The bulk fill (415), comprised mid grey clayey sand with some gravel inclusions. No dating evidence was recovered.

6.5 Trench 5 (fig.9)

The trench contained a steep sided drainage gully, and three truncated sub-circular pits. None of these features could be dated.

The uppermost deposit was a dark brown sandy topsoil, (500), approximately 0.4m deep. At the north-west end of the trench, this sealed three small cut features; possibly pits, [502], [503], and [504]. Only small sections of [502] and [504] were exposed, and both were no more than 0.1m deep. The full extent of [503] was within the trench. It was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.65m by 0.5m, and again was approximately 0.1m deep. None of these features contained artefacts.

The trench also exposed a linear feature, [509], aligned west-north-west to east-south-east. This was 0.32m wide and 0.15m deep, with a flat base and vertical sides. It contained a basal layer of greyish brown clayey sand, (510), and an overlying backfill of redeposited natural clay (511). Morphologically, this feature resembled a trench for a ceramic land drain, and it is just possible that the feature represents a decommissioned drain, from which the ceramic pipe was removed.

[509] was sealed by a localised deposit of mid brown clayey sand, (512).

This trench showed a clear deviation in the natural geology. Extending approximately 7m from the north-west end of the trench, a compact yellow clay, (501) predominated. In the remaining section, which extended south-eastwards, down slope towards the River Witham, the geology changed to a reddish brown gravelly sand with pockets of compact yellow clay, (513).

7.0 Discussion and conclusion

7.1 The kiln

Arguably, the most significant feature exposed by the evaluation was the 17th/18th century kiln in Trench 4. This was certainly producing roof tiles (examples of which were found in abundance within associated demolition deposits) and possibly bricks, recovered from the same context (Young, Appendix 3). However, it is equally possible that the bricks were originally part of the kiln structure. It was not uncommon at this time, however, to fire brick and tile in the same kiln: bricks would be stacked around the outside of the tiles, as they were more resilient to the very high temperatures that can warp tiles (Raistrick, 1972).

Brick and tile manufacture was common in the Roman period, but the use of brick did not become widespread again until the 15th century (Buchanan, 1974). However, tiles generally reappeared in the 12th century and, as early as 1212, the roof tile industry received a great boost, when an Ordinance was passed prohibiting the use of

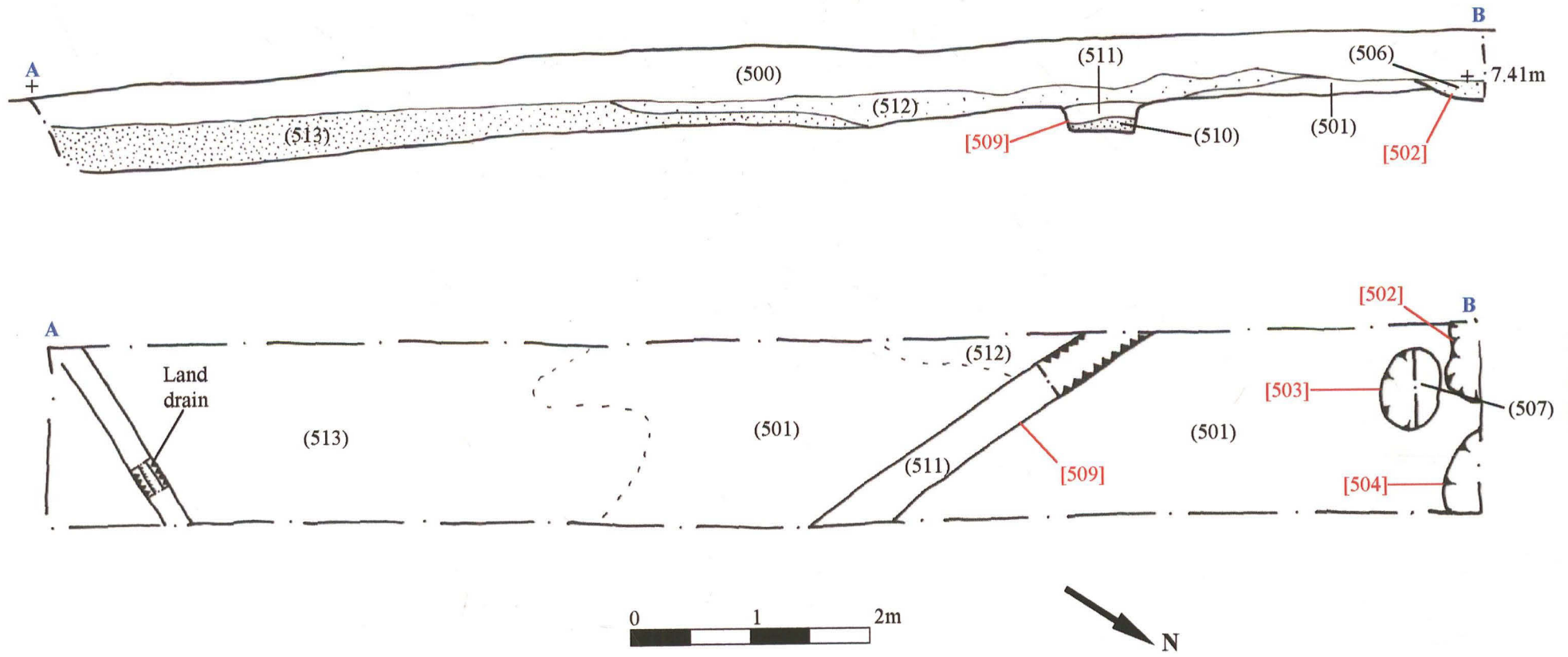


Fig.9: Trench 5 plan and section (scale 1:50)

thatch for roofs in London (Raistrick, 1972). It took some time before such ideas filtered into rural communities, but by the 14th century, tile production was widespread, both as a large scale urban industry, and as an intermittent, seasonal rural practice, often carried out by itinerant craftsmen, setting up kilns where the appropriate raw materials and the market were available (Simco, 1998).

The kiln from the current site represents an integral part of a widespread and long term industry, albeit on a small, localised scale. North Hykeham is a good example of a settlement where all the necessary raw materials are available, and in Lincoln there was a large market to sell the products. The site has both types of clay needed to make good brick and tile: a soft plastic clay which is easily moulded, and a source of sandy clay to prevent the fired products shrinking and cracking when they cool (Raistrick, 1972). There is also a readily available source of water (The Witham), only 200m from the site, which was needed to facilitate the mixing process.

Although a large section of the kiln was exposed, there are related components of the brick and tile industry that are not evident. Tile and brick making was a seasonal practice, and there are a series of very specific processes that need to be carried out at particular times of the year. This was deemed so important to the production of quality brick and tile that in 1477 an Act of Parliament was passed, strictly controlling the whole process. The raw clay had to be quarried before the beginning of November. It was then piled up and left over the winter in 'weathering heaps' (to help break down the structure and wash out sand and pebbles). The clay had to be 'turned', or mixed with water and further refined before February, and no firing was to take place before the beginning of March (Simco, 1998).

All of these processes would most likely be carried out in close proximity to the kiln, and all would leave some archaeological trace. For example, the quarrying of the clay would leave a series of shallow pits, whereas the turning or puddling of the clay would require a pit in which the clay and water could be mixed.

7.2 Other features

As well as the kiln and associated deposits, Trench 4 contained three linear features. Only one of these, [425], contained any dating evidence. It produced eight sherds of second century Romano-British pottery, 6 of which were from a single vessel with lattice decoration, which was common after AD120 (Darling, Appendix 2). This ditch was cut by, and therefore pre-dated, ditch [403].

A small possible Romano-British feature was exposed in Trench 1; tentatively dated to the late first/early second century AD by a single abraded, and possibly residual, sherd of decorated samian ware (Darling, Appendix 2), a high status fineware imported from eastern France.

Further residual Romano-British material was derived from pit [304], and demolition deposit (413).

The presence of low numbers of Romano-British features suggests that the settlement that was investigated in the adjacent field has had at least some influence on the

current site. However, the two features exposed by the current investigation reflect a much lower level of activity, suggesting that the current site is very much peripheral to the Romano-British settlement core.

Trench 3 contained a substantial complex of features, all broadly contemporary with the post-medieval kiln in Trench 4. It is possible that the large pit, [304], may have been used to puddle or turn clay prior to firing, although this idea cannot be confirmed. The complex of ditches [306], [307], and [308] were all closely spaced and followed the same alignment, as did two land drains. It is likely that these ditches were for drainage, as they extended north-west to south-east, and therefore downhill towards the river. It is also possible that they reflect successive phases of a migrating field boundary, as they closely match the alignment of the current field boundary ditch, approximately 10m to the north-east.

Trenches 2 and 5 each contained a single undated linear feature, which offers little potential for interpretation.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

All of the trenches exposed archaeological deposits, of varying significance and in varying states of preservation. Several features were undated, and exhibited considerable truncation, and can be considered to be of limited archaeological potential. However, the evaluation certainly did expose some important archaeological remains: notably, the post-medieval tile/brick kiln. It is certain that the plan of the kiln was not fully exposed, and there may be ancillary features that have yet to be discovered.

The geophysical survey which preceded the trial excavation suggested that the archaeological potential of this area was limited; though with a cautionary note (Bunn & Palmer-Brown, 2002). For the most part, this was correct, in that the report predicted that the extensive Romano-British deposits that were exposed on an adjacent site would not extend into the area of proposed residential development.

The post-medieval kiln was not flagged as a discrete anomaly because of considerable amounts of building rubble around the site, particularly in the area of Trench 4. As can be seen from fig.3, the kiln was actually detected, but was partially masked by modern anomalies caused by a nearby rubble pile, as well as an electric fence.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to offer thanks to Overbrook Homes Ltd. for this commission; in particular to Chris Brooker for his co-operation and interest in the project. Thanks also go to the excavation team, Wayne Livesey, Pete Watkin and Doug Young.

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11.0 Site archive

The primary records, and physical archive (finds) for the site are currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). 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 2002.107.

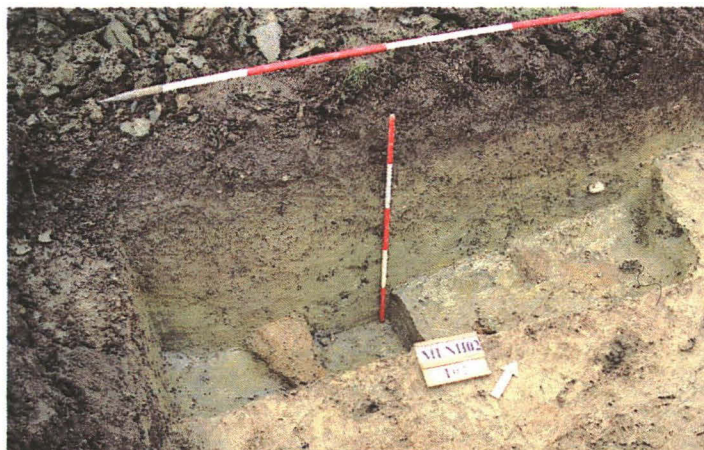
APPENDIX 1: Colour plates



Pl.1: General view of the site, looking north from the south corner of the site



Pl.2: Trench 1 pre-excitation, looking north-east. Gully [102] runs north-west to south-east across the near end of the trench



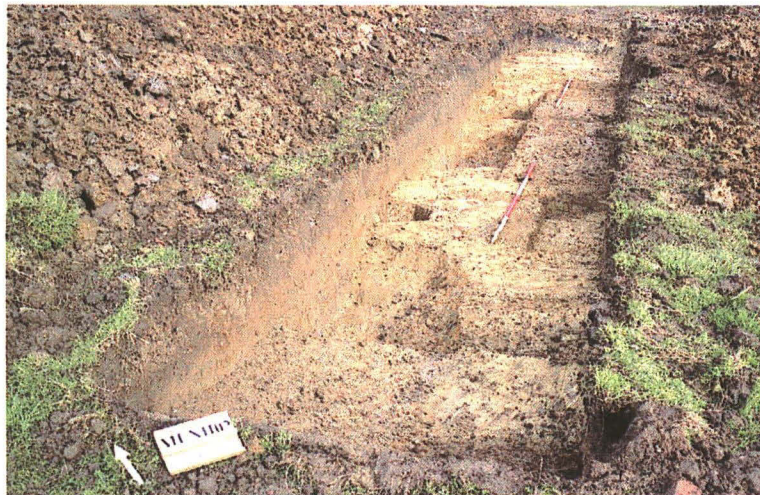
Pl.3: Box section through gully [102] and possible pit [104], south-west end of Trench 1, looking north-west



Pl.4: Trench 2, pre-excitation, looking north-east



Pl.5: Ditch [202], Trench 2, looking north-west



Pl.6: Trench 3, post excavation, looking north-east



Pl.7.: Ditches [306], [307], [308], Trench 3, looking west-north-west



Pl.8: Trench 4, post excavation, looking west-north-west



Pl.9: Trench 4 extension, pre-excitation, looking north-north-east



Pl.10.: Kiln structure [407], Trench 4, looking south-east. This shot shows the extent of the feature exposed prior to the excavation of the contingency trench



Pl.11: Kiln structure [407], looking north-east



Pl.12: Fire pit [437], adjacent to kiln [407], looking south-west. The demolition deposits sealing the structure are visible in section.



Pl.13: Trench 5, post excavation, looking north-west

5

APPENDIX 2: Romano-British Pottery Report

REPORT 100 ON POTTERY FROM MEADOW LANE, NORTH HYKEHAM, MLNH02

for PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

by Margaret J. Darling, M.Phil., F.S.A., M.I.F.A.

5 March 2002

QUANTITY AND CONDITION

The Roman pottery came from four contexts, and amounted to 12 sherds, 110g. The condition is below average, with some abrasion, and loss of surfaces, perhaps due to soil conditions. No problems are anticipated for long term storage. The pottery has been archived using count and weight as measures according to the guidelines laid down for the minimum archive by *The Study Group for Roman Pottery*. A copy of the database is below (and can be supplied on disk), and will be curated for future study.

DETAILS

The pottery from a ditch 425 had no direct relationship to the post-Medieval tile kiln found on the site. The sherds comprise just two vessels, six body sherds being from a jar or cooking pot in a thin-walled grey sandy fabric, with traces suggesting burnished lattice decoration. The other two sherds are in a grey fabric from the basal area of closed form, probably a jar. Close dating is impossible, but the occurrence of latticed decoration suggests a period after AD120 when this style became common, while the fabric and thin-walls indicate the likelihood that the date is confined to the 2nd century. Latticed cooking pots occur in the assemblage from the North Hykeham kiln (Thompson 1958, fig 3, 20) which can be dated to the early-mid 2nd century, but the known kiln site is some distance from the current site, and these sherds probably come from occupation in the area.

The single sherd from context 103 is a very abraded fragment from a samian decorated bowl, probably a form 37, and is almost certainly from South Gaul. This should date to the latter part of the 1st century into the early 2nd century. The two vessels from contexts 312 and 413 are represented by body sherds only, and cannot be closely dated.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX 2: Romano-British Pottery Report

Archive database:

Cxt	Fabric	Form	Decor+	V	Details	Shs	Wt
427	GREY	J	LA?	1	BSS THIN-WALLED;SCRUBBED;TRACES LA?	6	46
427	GREY	CLSD	-	1	BSS BASAL ZONE;RB CORTEX EXT SURF	2	51
427	ZDATE	-	-	-	2C?	-	-
103	SAMSG?	37?	-	-	BS ABRADED DEC	1	1
103	ZDATE	-	-	-	L1E2	-	-
312	OX	-	-	-	BS VABR	1	2
312	ZDATE	-	-	-	ROM	-	-
413	GREY	-	-	1	BSS JOINING;VABR	2	10
413	ZDATE	-	-	-	ROM	-	-

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APPENDIX 3

Archive Report on the Ceramic Building Material from an Excavation at Meadow Lane, North Hykeham, Lincolnshire (MLNH02)

Jane Young

Introduction

A small group of 32 fragments of ceramic building material was recovered from the site. The material was examined visually and then recorded using locally and nationally agreed codenames on an Access database. The CLAU tile type series was consulted for comparative material.

Condition

The material is in variable condition with most fragments showing no abrasion. The condition of most of the building material seems to be consistent with use in a high temperature environment.

The Ceramic Building Material

A range of ceramic building material including roof tile, brick and fired clay was found on the site. The type and general date range for these types are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Ceramic Building material codenames and total quantities by fragment count and weight

codename	full name	frags	weight
BRK	Brick	5	9747
FIRED CLAY	Fired clay [kiln lining]	16	1253
FLOOR	Floor tile	1	1660
MISC	Unidentified types	3	65
NIB	Nibbed tile	6	3732
PNR	Flat roof tile	11	4354

A small amount of flat roof tile was recovered from the site; six examples have applied and pulled central suspension nibs typical of 16th to 18th century production. The fabric used for these tiles although visually similar to that used for production in Lincoln contains slightly finer subround quartz sand. The fabric is poorly sorted and includes moderate large pebbles up to 20mm. in size. None of the tile recovered comes from the kiln structure. Four handmade bricks recovered from the kiln demolition are in the same fabric as the tiles. The bricks measure 55x110x235 and are likely to be of 17th or 18th century date. A single floor tile in a slightly more refined fabric came from a possible rake out deposit. Sixteen fragments of fired clay, presumably from the lining of the kiln structure are in the same fabric as the tiles and brick.

Summary and Recommendations

The ceramic building material recovered dates between the 16th and 18th centuries. None of the material has been discarded and all of the remaining fragments should be retained. The fabric of the tiles and the bricks should be analysed scientifically and the material should be used in a county type series.

Tile Archive MLNH02

Doug Young and Jane Young

context	cname	frags	weight	description	date
101	MISC	1	2	tile/brick	?
101	MISC	1	53	poss brk frag	?
312	PNR	1	239	18 mm thick; pebble inclusions <12mm; reduced core;oxidised over broken edge broken in kiln?	16th to 18th ?
312	PNR	2	327	18 mm thick; pebble inclusions < 12 mm;corner	16th to 18th ?
312	PNR	1	348	18 mm thick;finger marks; pebble inclusions <12mm;oxidised	16th to 18th ?
316	BRK	1	47		17th to 18th ?
316	FIRE CLAY	1	3	dk grey fired clay	?
316	PNR	1	212	16 mm thick;light firing	16th to 18th
316	PNR	1	1		?
316	PNR	1	14	18 mm thick;reduced fabric	16th to 18th ?
320	PNR	1	66	18 mm thick;oxidised	
409	FIRE CLAY	5	523	kiln lining	?
409	NIB	1	92	18 mm thick; applied and pulled central nib;oxid	16th to 18th ?
409	NIB	1	439	18 mm thick; 190 mm wide;corners;oxid;applied & pulled nib	16th to 18th ?
409	NIB	1	466	corners;oxid;central applied & pulled nib;width;knife/stick marks to top edge of nib	16th to 18th
409	NIB	1	501	corner;large inclusion blown out;oxid;central applied & pulled nib	16th to 18th
409	PNR	1	162	18 mm thick;underfired ?	16th to 18th ?

context	cname	frags	weight	description	date
412	FLOOR	1	1660	45 mm thick;corner;oxid;slightly finer fabric than tiles/bricks ?	16th to 18th ?
412	PNR	1	1435	18 mm thick;corner;190mm width;fingerprints;oxidised	16th to 18th ?
413	BRK	4	9700	2350x 110x 55mm;handmade;sanded edges and bottom;part glassy vitrification	17th to 18th ?
413	FIRED CLAY	1	2	fine reduced fabric;different to tiles/bricks;suface semi burnished	
413	FIRED CLAY	9	725	kiln lining;same clay as tiles & bricks;most reduced ext surface;outlines of bricks;2 have glassy waste	?
413	NIB	1	1060	190 mm wide;18 mm thick;corners;oxid	16th to 18th ?
413	NIB	1	1174	190 mm wide;18 mm thick;corner;oxid	16th to 18th ?
413	PNR	1	1550	190 mm wide; 18 mm thick;reduced core	16th to 18th ?
427	MISC	1	10	reduced core;tile/brick	?

Codename Glossary

BRK	Brick
MISC	Miscellaneous
NIB	Nibbed flat roof tile
PNR	Flat roof tile

Pottery Archive MLNH02

Jane Young Lindsey Archaeological Services

context	cname	full name	form type	sherds	part	date
401	TOY	Toynton Medieval Ware	jug	1	BS	13th to 14th
409	BL	Black-glazed wares	large bowl	1	BS	18th

Appendix 4: List of SMR entries

<i>SMR ref.</i>	<i>NGR (SK)</i>	<i>Description</i>
60301	9437 6566	Medieval coin - Groat of Henry VII (1485-1509)
60357	9300 6574	Romano-British villa site
60783	9452 6560	3 rd /4 th century AD Romano-British pot scatters – possible settlement
61159	9470 6590	Neolithic polished stone axe
61160	9470 6590	3 rd century AD Romano-British greyware
61162	9288 6638	Romano-British 'rustic' ware kiln
61163	9444 6601	Romano-British coin – <i>as</i> of Domitian (AD81-96)
61164	9380 6640	Medieval coin – Groat of Henry VI (1421-1471)
61165	9441 6603	Medieval coin – 14 th century Jetton
61170	'Nr. old course of River Witham'	Romano-British pottery scatter
61171	"	Assorted medieval finds
61172	"	Prehistoric flint scatters
61173	"	Medieval net sinkers
61174	"	Neolithic leaf shaped arrowhead
61175	"	Neolithic polished stone axe & perforated axe hammer
61395	9463 6543	Iron Age and Romano-British enclosure ditches (JSAC evaluation)

Appendix 5: List of archaeological contexts

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
<i>Trench 1</i>		
100	Layer	Topsoil
101	Layer	Subsoil
102	Cut	Gully cut
103	Fill	Fill of gully [102]
104	Cut	Possible pit cut
105	Fill	Fill of pit [104]
106	Layer	Natural yellow clay
107	Layer	Natural grey clay
<i>Trench 2</i>		
200	Layer	Topsoil
201	Layer	Natural clay
202	Cut	Ditch cut
203	Fill	Fill of ditch [202]
<i>Trench 3</i>		
300	Layer	Demolition deposit
301	Layer	Subsoil
302	Layer	Topsoil
303	Layer	Demolition deposit
304	Cut	Pit cut
305	Cut	Pit cut
306	Cut	Recut of [307]
307	Cut	Ditch cut
308	Cut	Gully cut
309	Cut	Pit cut
310	Cut	Pit cut
311	Fill	Fill of [304]
312	Fill	Fill of [304]
313	Fill	Fill of [304]
314	Fill	Fill of [305]
315	Fill	Fill of [307], cut by [306]
316	Fill	Fill of [306]
317	Fill	Fill of [306]
318	Fill	Fill of [306]
319	Fill	Fill of [308]
320	Fill	Fill of [308], cut by [306]
321	Fill	Fill of [309]
322	Layer	Natural clay
323	Fill	Fill of [306]
324	Cut	Pit cut
325	Fill	Fill of [324]
326	Fill	Fill of [310]
327	Fill	Fill of [304]
<i>Trench 4</i>		
400	Layer	Topsoil
401	Layer	Subsoil
402	Layer	Natural sand/gravel
403	Cut	Ditch cut
404	Layer	Natural clay
405	Fill	Primary fill of [403]
406	VOID	
407	Structure	Kiln
408	Layer	Topsoil, kiln area – same as (400)
409	Layer	Subsoil?, kiln area
410	VOID	
411	Layer	Upper demolition layer
412	Layer	Rake out?

413	Layer	Main demolition deposit, sealed by (411)
414	Cut	Ditch cut
415	Fill	Fill of [414]
416	Fill	Fill of [417]
417	Cut	Post hole cut?
418	Layer	Ground raising deposit
419	Fill	Fill of [420]
420	Cut	Gully cut
421	Layer	Natural sand/gravel
422	VOID	
423	VOID	
424	Fill	Primary fill of [414]
425	Cut	Ditch cut
426	Fill	Upper fill of [403]
427	Fill	Fill of [425], overlain by (428), cut by [403]
428	Layer	Spread, associated with kiln activities?
429	Cut	Pit cut
430	Fill	Fill of pit [429]
431	Structure	Temporary clay wall, part of kiln [407]
432	Fill	Rake out, fill of [437]
433	Layer	Baked clay/mortar surface
434	Layer	Residue of last firing?
435	Layer	Rake out/residue of last firing
436	Layer	Subsoil
437	Cut	Fire pit/Rake out pit
<i>Trench 5</i>		
500	Layer	Topsoil
501	Layer	Natural clay
502	Cut	Pit cut, contains (506)
503	Cut	Pit cut, contains (507)
504	Cut	Pit cut, contains (508)
505	Cut	Possible ground raising/levelling
506	Fill	Fill of [502]
507	Fill	Fill of [503]
508	Fill	Fill of [504]
509	Cut	Drainage gully
510	Fill	Primary fill of [509]
511	Fill	Secondary fill of [509]
512	Fill	Fill of [505]
513	Layer	Natural sand/gravel