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**M & M ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES**

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**RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION:  
ON LAND OFF WOLSEY WAY, LINCOLN, LINCOLNSHIRE  
PLANNING APPLICATION: W/65/0566/95**

**SITE CODE: WWL02**

**ACCESSION NO: LCNCC 2002.460**

**NGR: TF 0000 7370**



**January 2003**

**COMMISSIONED BY:**

**LINDSEY SECURITIES LTD.**

465 High Street

Lincoln

LN5 8JB

**PREPARED BY**

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*GREETWELL*

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## **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 *Lindsey Securities Ltd. are seeking to develop approximately 13ha of agricultural land off Wolsey Way, Lincoln. Following a desk top study and geophysical survey of the site, the Archaeological Advisor to West Lindsey District Council requested that ten archaeological evaluation trenches be excavated to investigate anomalies and blank areas identified by the geophysical survey.*
- 1.2 *The geophysical survey recorded very few features of archaeological potential and soil conditions were not ideal. Ten trenches measuring 2m x 10m were located over the anomalies which had been recorded. The condition, date, depth and importance of these features was unknown and therefore the purpose of the trial trench evaluation was to establish the nature of the anomalies prior to the determination of the planning application.*
- 1.3 *On excavation of the trenches it was revealed that the anomalies had been created by natural undulations in the subsoil or agricultural activity. This report has been prepared based on this fieldwork and within nationally recognised archaeological guidelines.*

## **2.0 SITE LOCATION & DESCRIPTION**

- 2.1 The site is located on the northern side of Lincoln approximately 5km northeast of the city centre. The site is located on the southern side of the A46/A158 bypass with Wolsey Way to the south (see Figure 1). The development area is centred on NGR TF 0000 7370 and lies at an approximate altitude of 35m AOD.
- 2.2 Soils at the site are Elmton 1 Association (343g), well drained brashy calcareous fine loamy soils over limestone (SSEW 1983).

## **3.0 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Lindsey Securities Ltd. are seeking to develop approximately 13ha of agricultural land off Wolsey Way, Lincoln. Following discussions with the Archaeological Advisor to West Lindsey District Council, a programme of archaeological works was required to prior to the determination of an outline planning application (Ref. W65/0566/95). This included a desk-based assessment and geophysical survey. The next stage of fieldwork requested was a trial trench evaluation to investigate geophysical anomalies and apparent blank areas.
- 3.2 A specification was prepared for the fieldwork and the subsequent reporting on the results was undertaken according to the specification agreed and within nationally recognised archaeological guidelines including:

Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991);  
Code of Conduct (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999);  
Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (IFA 1994);  
Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (LCC 1998).



- 3.3 The fieldwork was undertaken by Martin Griffiths BA (Hons), AIFA and Mark Chambers FRICS in January 2003. This report has been written and prepared by both parties.

#### **4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The closest remains to the site date from the Bronze Age period and later. A multiple ditched system southeast of the site has been excavated and recorded and dates from the Bronze Age-Iron Age (SMR 50348) and is overlain by Roman settlement. Within the parish, a Wilburton phase bronze hoard has been recorded (May 1976, p. 103). To the east and north of the site prehistoric enclosures have also been identified by aerial photography (SMR 52417, 52418, 52419, 52420, 54422 & 52423). These have not been excavated.
- 4.2 To the north of the site a north-south linear crop mark representing a boundary has been recorded (SMR 50357). The crop mark runs from Nettleham Glebe to Danby Hill and was excavated in 1979. It is possible that it continues into the southern most part of the site. A further linear crop mark is recorded immediately east of Danby Hill but discontinues to the north and outside the site (SMR 50358).
- 4.3 The Roman period is represented not only by cropmarks but also by chance finds. A bronze Roman fitment, possibly representing the god Mars, has been recorded to the east of the site (SMR 52416). Within Nettleham, an arch dedicated to the God Mars has also been recorded (Whitwell 1970, p124). To the south of the site, the A15/Wragby Road is a known Roman Road.
- 4.4 The site lies within Nettleham parish, although located on its southwestern boundary. The name Nettleham derives from the Old English *netel* and *hām*. 'Netel' represents nettles, which is thought to be indicative of a place past human settlement and 'ham' meaning settlement (Cameron 1998).
- 4.5 Nettleham is first mentioned historically in the Domesday Survey of 1086AD. Queen Edith, Gilbert of Ghent and Bishop Remigius are listed as holders of land. Twenty-eight villagers, 12 smallholders and 1 freeman resided in the parish (Morris 1986).
- 4.6 A site of medieval date has been recorded as part of an evaluation prior to quarrying to the south of the site (SMR 54248 & 54280). The finds have been linked to manuring of the fields between the 12<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- 4.7 Cartographic evidence suggests that the site has generally been agricultural land during the post-medieval period. The enclosure plan and award for Nettleham parish dated 1777 & 1778 respectively show that the majority of the site was one large field divided by the ?Guntithe drain under the ownership of Sir Francis Bernard. The remainder of the site was under the ownership of the Reverend Doctor Stintin.



- 4.8 By 1857, the land under Sir Francis Bernard ownership, has been sub-divided into smaller parcels of land. Megg House is first illustrated. By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Ordnance Survey 6" Series shows the site much the same. However, at the north western corner of the site, an old quarry is shown and is likely to be that identified by the geophysical survey.

## **5.0 AIMS**

The aims of the evaluation trenching were to:

- a) to identify past human activity on the site;
- b) to confirm and investigate areas of geophysical anomalies and blank areas, as well as assess the archaeological potential on the site;
- c) to report on the results of the evaluation trenches and place them within their Local, Regional or National context

## **6.0 METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS**

- 6.1 Ten trenches measuring 10m x 2m were located over anomalies recorded in the geophysical survey and apparent blank areas (see Figures 2 & 3). The location of the trenches was defined by the Conservation Service Team, LCC in a letter and plan addressed to M&M Archaeological Services dated 26<sup>th</sup> November 2002 (Ref. BL/jmp).

- 6.2 A mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket was used. The topsoil removed during soil stripping was kept separate and mounded at a safe distance away from the trench. The soil excavated from the trenches was used to backfill them following completion of the fieldwork. No specialist reinstatement was undertaken. Topsoil removal was monitored by a qualified archaeologist and excavation ceased once the first archaeological horizon was reached. The trenches were cleaned by hand and photographed prior to any hand excavation.

### **6.3 TRENCH 1 (Figure 4 & Plate 1)**

- 6.3.1 The earliest recorded material comprised a yellow brown natural degraded limestone (103) which had been cut by a red ceramic field drain [104]. Poor jointing had washed in a sandy deposit around the junction causing the anomaly recorded. At the eastern end of the trench, a natural depression 0.3m deep and filled with an orange sand was present (102). The topsoil (101) sealed these features and was a dark grey brown silty loam measuring 0.5m in depth. No archaeological features were recorded.

### **6.4 TRENCH 2 (Figure 5 & Plate 2)**

- 6.4.1 Trench 2 was located over a large east-west aligned geophysical anomaly. On excavation, it was revealed that this response was caused by the presence of an iron water pipe [203] and a parallel ceramic field drain [204] at a depth of 0.6m below the present ground surface. The trenches for these pipes had been cut through a 0.2m thick layer of orange sand subsoil (202). This sand sealed the natural geology of a grey white degraded limestone (205). Topsoil (201) comprised a dark grey brown silty loam 0.4m in depth.



6.5 TRENCH 3 (Figure 6)

6.5.1 Trench 3 was excavated to a depth of 0.8m. The natural geology was a grey white degraded limestone (303) with occasional orange sand deposits present in natural undulations. An orange red sandy silt subsoil (302) measuring 0.4m deep sealed the natural. Above this layer was a 0.4m thick topsoil (301), consisting of a dark grey brown silty loam and showed evidence of deep ploughing.

6.5.2 The water table was reached at a depth of 0.8m below the present ground surface and partial flooding occurred. No archaeological features were present.

6.6 TRENCH 4 (Figure 7 & Plate 3)

6.6.1 Trench 4 contained a modern fire pit which had obviously occurred in the topsoil in the southern end of the trench. This interpretation was made due to the fact that it was clearly visible during topsoil removal and contained modern refuse material. As a result, the southern side of the trench was not machined as deep as the rest of the trench. It is recorded as (404) comprising a deep purple red sand. This was the reason for the geophysical anomaly recorded.

6.6.2 The natural geology was reached at a depth of 0.5m and is represented by a grey white limestone (403). This layer was sealed by orange brown sandy silt subsoil (402) measuring 0.2m deep. The dark grey brown silty loam topsoil (401) was 0.3m in depth.

6.7 TRENCH 5 (Figure 8 & Plate 4)

6.7.1 Trench 5 was excavated to a depth of 0.8m down onto the natural limestone (503). It was at this depth that the water table was reached in the south east end of the trench. A natural orange sandy silt subsoil (502) measuring 0.35m deep sealed the limestone. A 0.45m layer of dark grey brown silty loam made up the topsoil (501). No archaeological features were recorded.

6.8 TRENCH 6 (Figure 9 & Plate 5)

6.8.1 Trench 6 contained no archaeological features and was excavated to the top of the natural geology, comprising the grey white limestone (603) at a depth of 0.95m. This was sealed by an orange sandy silt (602) measuring 0.6m deep and was covered by a 0.35m thick layer of topsoil (601).

6.9 TRENCH 7 (Figure 10 & Plate 6)

6.9.1 Trench 7 contained no archaeological features. The natural geology (703) was reached at a depth of 0.7m. At the western end of the trench, an area of natural sand (702) filled a natural depression in the limestone. The sand (702) was sealed by dark grey brown topsoil (701) which was 0.3m deep and showed evidence of deep ploughing.

6.10 TRENCH 8 (Figure 11)

6.10.1 Trench 8 was excavated to a very shallow depth, at 0.4m. A dark grey brown silty loam topsoil (801) lay directly onto the natural limestone at the northern

end of the trench. A 0.05m layer of orange sand subsoil (802) was visible in section at the southern end. A ceramic field drain [804] lay southeast – northwest and cut into the natural limestone (803). This would cause the geophysical anomaly.

**6.11 TRENCH 9 (Figure 12 & Plate 7)**

- 6.11.1 Trench 9 was excavated to 0.7m below the present ground surface and onto the natural geology, a grey white degraded limestone (903). A field drain constructed of broken limestone [904], aligned northwest–southeast was cut into (903). This was sealed by a 0.25m layer of orangey sandy silt subsoil (902) which was sealed by a 0.45m layer of dark grey brown silty loam ploughsoil (901). The field drain contained no dateable evidence but is likely to be post-medieval in date as the cut for it is seen in section below the topsoil.

**6.12 TRENCH 10 (Figure 13 & Plate 8)**

- 6.12.1 Trench 10 contained no archaeological features. The natural limestone (1003) was reached at a depth of 0.7m. It was sealed by a 0.4m layer of orangey sandy silt subsoil (1002) which lay beneath a 0.3m layer of dark grey brown silty loam topsoil (1001).

**7.0 CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1 The geophysical anomalies recorded during the survey were investigated and recorded. They were found to be of natural or modern human intervention on the site. Most of the anomalies appeared to be as a result of agricultural activity, apart from the water pipe recorded in Trench 2. This pipe is part of an old water supply to Megg House.

- 7.2 The topsoil showed signs of deep ploughing in all trenches to a depth of around 0.4m. There was no evidence to suggest that anything other than agricultural activity had occurred on the site. An additional trench was placed over a geophysical anomaly but this turned out to be a modern cut relating to the track to Megg House. As a result of this it was not recorded in this report.



## **8.0 FIGURES**

Figure 1. Site location plan.

Figure 2. Trench location plan southern end of site.

Figure 3. Trench location plan northern end of site.

Figure 4. Trench 1 plan and section.

Figure 5. Trench 2 plan and section.

Figure 6. Trench 3 plan and section.

Figure 7. Trench 4 plan and section.

Figure 8. Trench 5 plan and section.

Figure 9. Trench 6 plan and section.

Figure 10. Trench 7 plan and section.

Figure 11. Trench 8 plan and section.

Figure 12. Trench 9 plan and section.

Figure 13. Trench 10 plan and section.





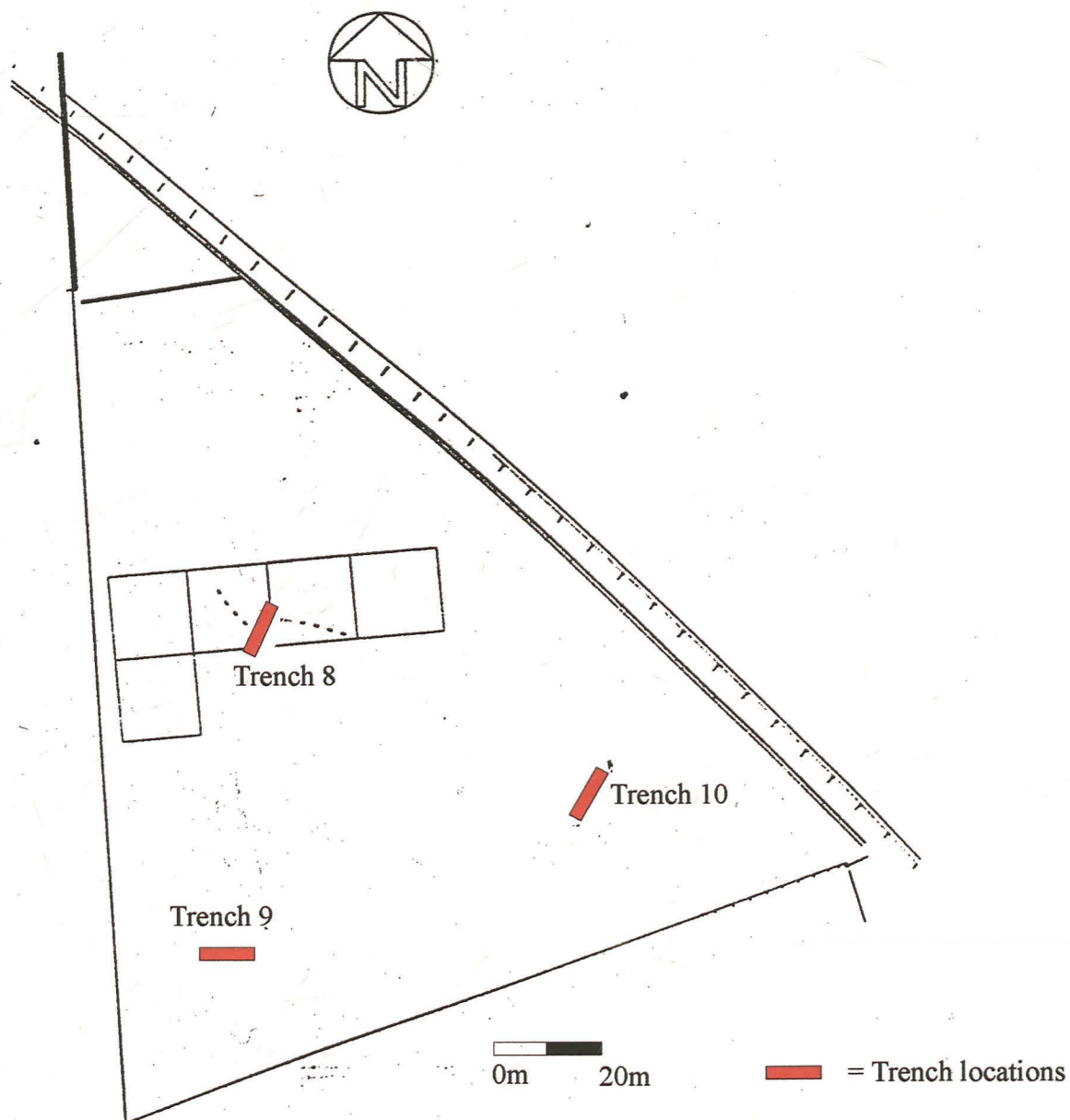


Figure 2. Trench locations - southern end of site

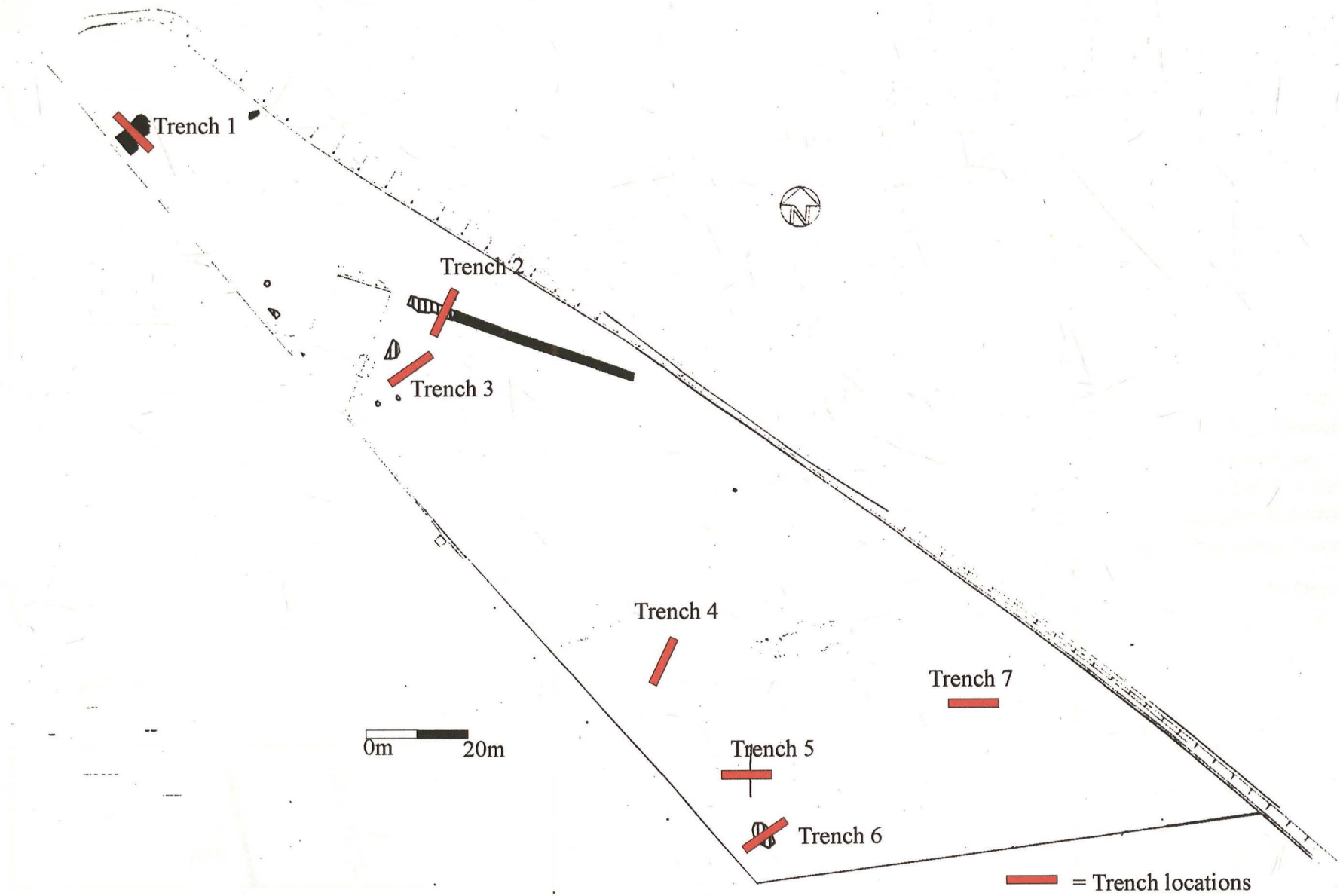
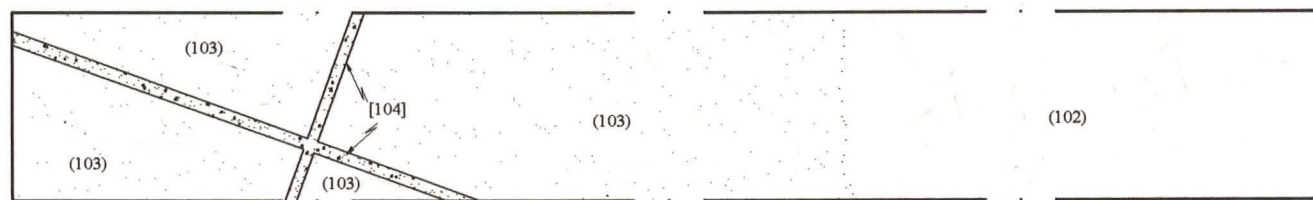
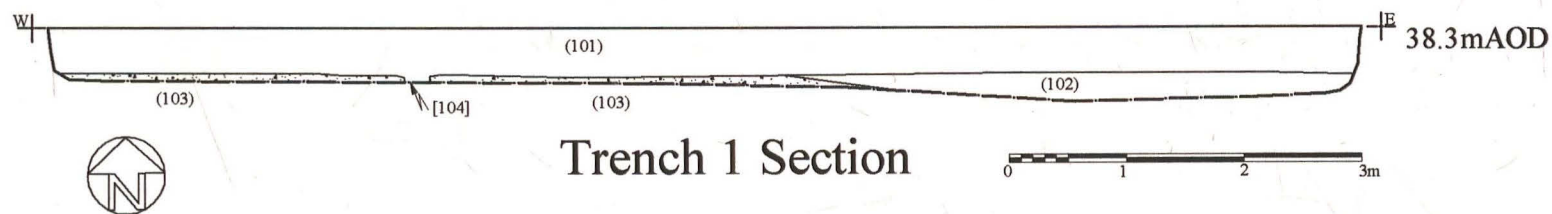
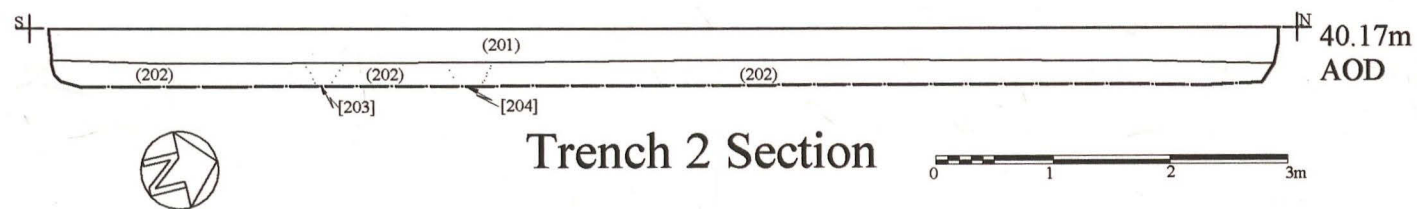


Figure 3. Trench locations - northern end of site





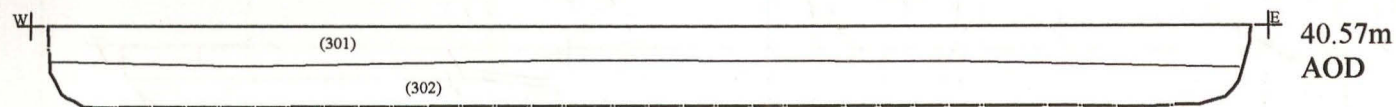
**Fig. 4 Trench 1 Plan**



**Fig. 5 Trench 2 Plan**

**M & M Archaeological Services**

<b>Job</b>	LF2 & 3 Wolsey Way, Lincoln, Lincolnshire
<b>Title</b>	Evaluation Trenches 1 & 2
<b>Scale</b>	As Drawn
<b>NGR</b>	TF 0000 7370
<b>Drawn</b>	mpc
<b>Date</b>	January 2003
<b>Dwg</b>	Figures 4 & 5
<b>Site Code</b>	WWL-02



Trench 3 Section

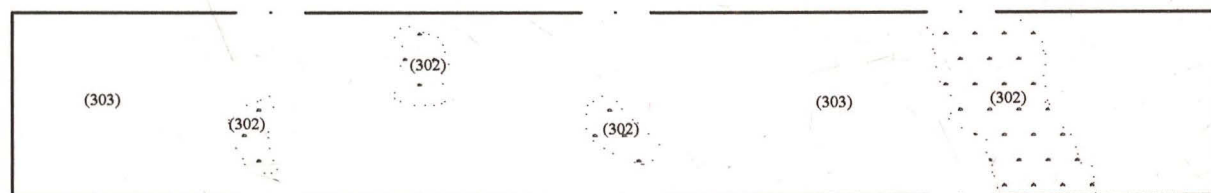
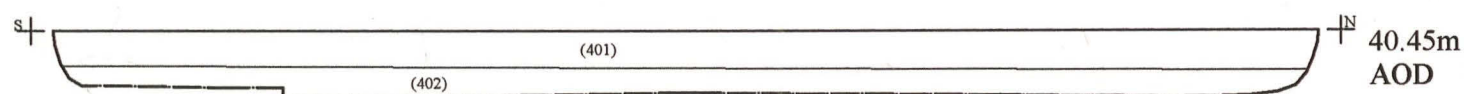


Fig. 6 Trench 3 Plan



Trench 4 Section

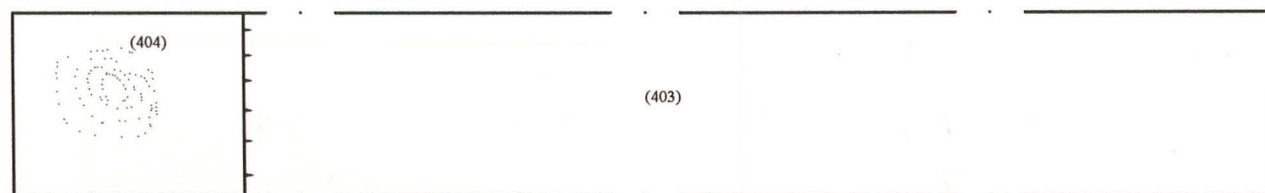


Fig. 7 Trench 4 Plan

### M & M Archaeological Services

Job	LF2 & 3 Wolsey Way, Lincoln, Lincolnshire
Title	Evaluation Trenches 3 & 4
Scale	As Drawn
NGR	TF 0000 7370
Drawn	mpc
Date	January 2003
Dwg	Figures 6 & 7
Site Code	WWL-02





Trench 5 Section

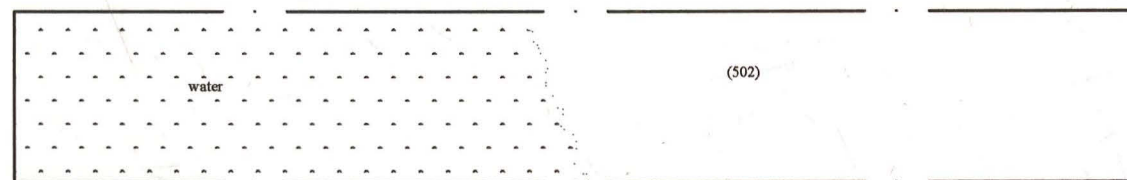


Fig. 8 Trench 5 Plan



Trench 6 Section

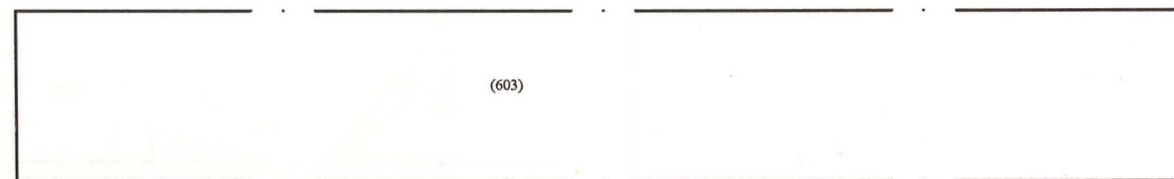
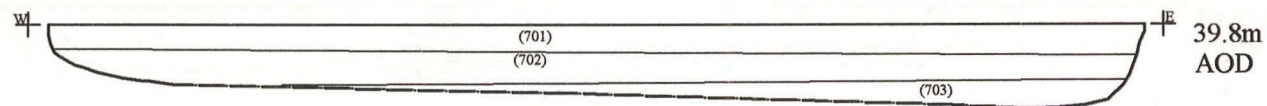


Fig. 9 Trench 6 Plan

**M & M Archaeological Services**

Job	LF2 & 3 Wolsey Way, Lincoln, Lincolnshire
Title	Evaluation Trenches 5 & 6
Scale	As Drawn
NGR	TF 0000 7370
Drawn	mpc
Date	January 2003
Dwg	Figures 8 & 9
Site Code	WWL-02



Trench 7 Section

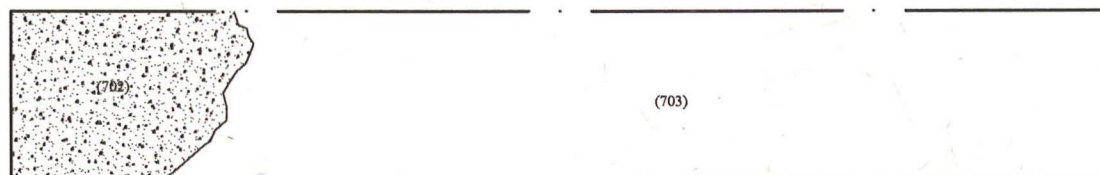


Fig. 10 Trench 7 Plan



Trench 8 Section

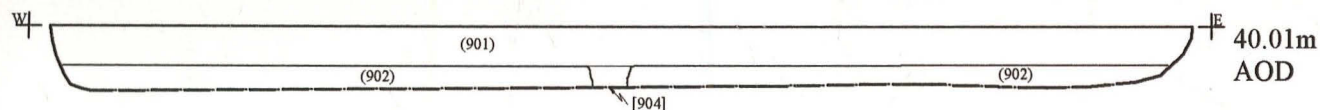


Fig. 11 Trench 8 Plan

**M & M Archaeological Services**

Job	LF2 & 3 Wolsey Way, Lincoln, Lincolnshire
Title	Evaluation Trenches 7 & 8
Scale	As Drawn
NGR	TF 0000 7370
Drawn	mpc
Date	January 2003
Dwg	Figures 10 & 11
Site Code	WWL-02





Trench 9 Section

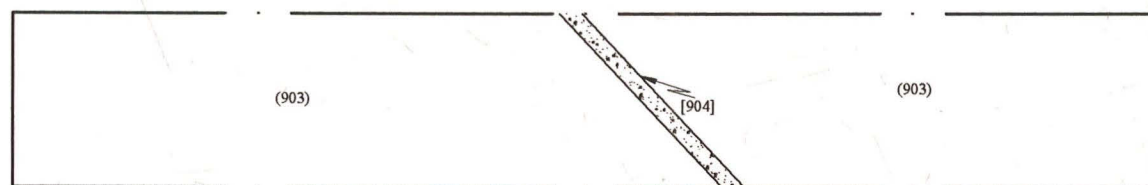


Fig. 12 Trench 9 Plan



Trench 10 Section

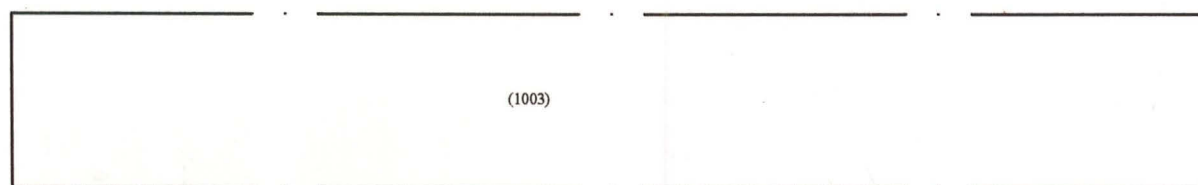


Fig. 13 Trench 10 Plan

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<b>Job</b>	LF2 & 3 Wolsey Way, Lincoln, Lincolnshire
<b>Title</b>	Evaluation Trenches 9 & 10
<b>Scale</b>	As Drawn
<b>NGR</b>	TF 0000 7370
<b>Drawn</b>	mpc
<b>Date</b>	January 2003
<b>Dwg</b>	Figures 12 & 13
<b>Site Code</b>	WWL-02

## **9.0 PLATES**

Plate 1. Field drain disturbance in Trench 1.

Plate 2. Trench 2 Metal water main and field drains.

Plate 3. Trench 4 looking north.

Plate 4. Trench 5 looking north-east.

Plate 5. Trench 6 looking north.

Plate 6. Trench 7 looking north east.

Plate 7. Trench 9 looking north-east.

Plate 8. Trench 10 looking north-east showing field drains.



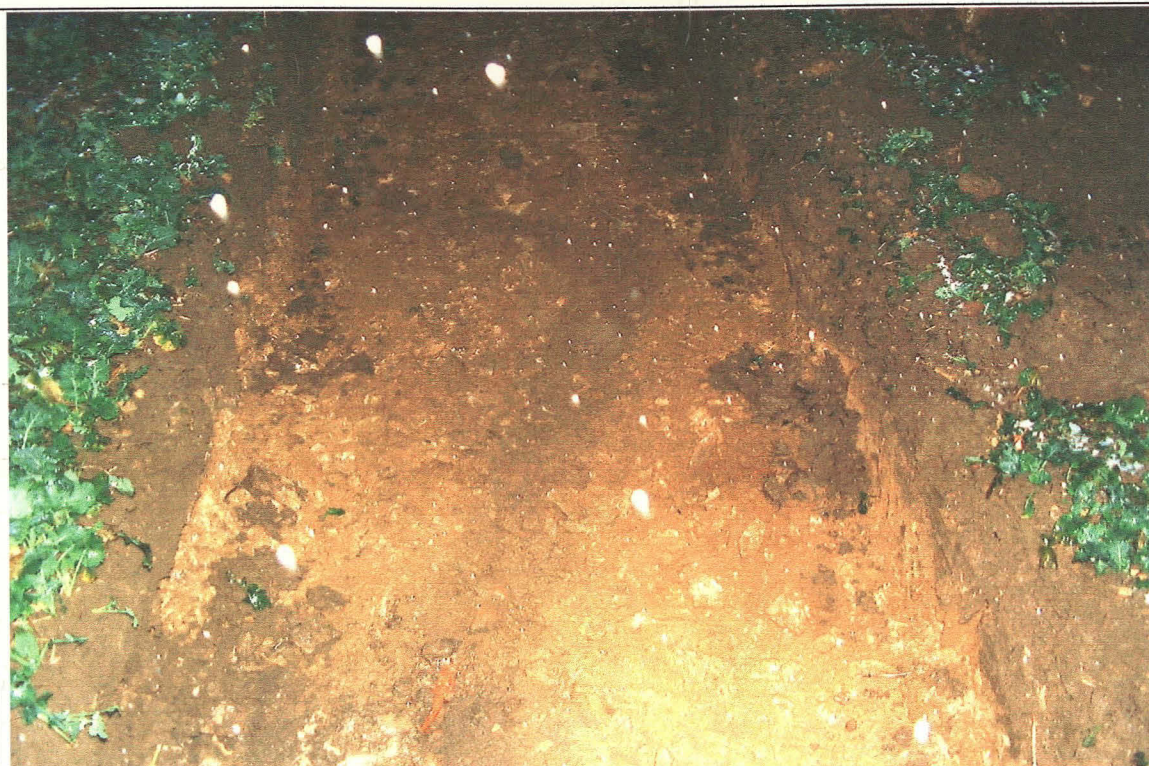


Plate 1. Field drain disturbance in Trench 1.



Plate 2. Metal water main and field drains in Trench 2.





Plate 3. Trench 4 looking north.



Plate 4. Trench 5 looking north east.





Plate 5. Trench 6 looking north.



Plate 6. Trench 7 looking north east.





Plate 7. Trench 9 looking north east.



Plate 8. Trench 10 looking north east showing field drains.



# **APPENDIX A: CONTEXT SUMMARY**

<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
101	Trench 1	Dark, grey brown silty loam	Ploughsoil/topsoil
102	Trench 1	Orange sand	Subsoil
103	Trench 1	Yellow brown naturally degraded limestone	Natural geology
104	Trench 1	Cut	Ceramic field drain
201	Trench 2	Dark, grey brown silty loam	Ploughsoil/topsoil
202	Trench 2	Orange sand	Subsoil
203	Trench 2	Cut	Metal water pipe
204	Trench 2	Cut	Ceramic field drain
205	Trench 2	Yellow brown naturally degraded limestone	Natural geology
301	Trench 3	Dark, grey brown silty loam	Ploughsoil/topsoil
302	Trench 3	Orange-red sandy silt	Subsoil
303	Trench 3	Grey-white degraded limestone	Natural geology
401	Trench 4	Dark, grey brown silty loam	Ploughsoil/topsoil
402	Trench 4	Orange-brown sandy silt	Subsoil
403	Trench 4	Grey-white limestone	Natural geology
404	Trench 4	Deep red-purple sand	Modern refuse pit
501	Trench 5	Dark, grey brown silty loam	Ploughsoil/topsoil
502	Trench 5	Orange sandy silt	Subsoil
503	Trench 5	Grey-white limestone	Natural geology
601	Trench 6	Dark, grey brown silty loam	Ploughsoil/topsoil
602	Trench 6	Orange sandy silt	Subsoil
603	Trench 6	Grey-white limestone	Natural geology
701	Trench 7	Dark, grey brown silty loam	Ploughsoil/topsoil
702	Trench 7	Orange sandy silt	Subsoil
703	Trench 7	Grey-white limestone	Natural geology
801	Trench 8	Dark, grey brown silty loam	Ploughsoil/topsoil
802	Trench 8	Orange sand	Subsoil
803	Trench 8	Grey-white limestone	Natural geology
804	Trench 8	Cut	Ceramic field drain
901	Trench 9	Dark, grey brown silty loam	Ploughsoil/topsoil
902	Trench 9	Orange sandy silt	Subsoil
903	Trench 9	Grey-white limestone	Natural geology
904	Trench 9	Cut	Limestone field drain
1001	Trench 10	Dark, grey brown silty loam	Ploughsoil/topsoil
1002	Trench 10	Orange sandy silt	Subsoil
1003	Trench 10	Grey-white limestone	Natural geology