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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Proposed Farm Reservoir, Bishop Norton Lane,
Glentham**

Archaeological Evaluation

NGR: SK 9925 9140

Site Code: GBNL 03

LCNCC Museum Accn No. 2003.3

WLDC Planning Application No. M02/P/1007

Report for

J.H. Walter

on behalf of

J.R. Green and Sons

by

Patrick Daniel

LAS Report No. 651
March 2003

Conservation Services
12 MAY 2003
Highways & Planning Directorate

NEGATIVE

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation of the above site was carried out in advance of the proposed excavation of a reservoir. The evaluation did not uncover any archaeological deposits, features or artefacts.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned in December 2002 by JH Walter on behalf of J R Green and Sons to produce an archaeological desk-based assessment and undertake an archaeological evaluation of a proposed farm reservoir site, south of Bishop Norton Lane, Glentham, Lincolnshire (Figs. 1 and 2).

Site Location and Description

The 1.75ha site lies at the NW corner of an arable field, south of Bishop Norton Lane. It is 0.5km NW of Glentham village, and 150m south of the Bishop Norton parish boundary. The application site lies at the base of a slope, beside a field boundary ditch, which may have been a minor natural watercourse. Until recently the field has been ploughed, and there are air photographic indications of medieval ridge and furrow from arable farming.

Planning Background

A planning application for a farm reservoir has been submitted to West Lindsey District Council (M02/P/1007). The District Council's archaeological advisors, Lincolnshire County Council Conservation Services, indicated that the proposed development is adjacent to a Scheduled Ancient Monument, and near other known archaeological sites. They recommended that archaeological information be obtained in order to inform determination of the planning application. To this end, Lindsey Archaeological Services have produced an archaeological desk-based assessment (LAS Report No. 636) and have undertaken investigative fieldwork of the effected area.

Archaeological Background

The site lies within a landscape of Neolithic, late prehistoric and Romano-British sites, known from cropmarks and surface finds. The most significant is a site thought to be a levelled Neolithic burial mound, immediately north of Bishop Norton Lane; that site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. A settlement site, probably Late Iron Age, is known 150m SW of the

application site. Cropmarks visible on aerial photographs of the site itself have been interpreted as medieval ridge and furrow. No archaeological finds had been reported from this field prior to the archaeological evaluation.

Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the evaluation was to:

- Check for the presence of any archaeological features, deposits or artefacts in the effected area.
- Ascertain the form, function and date of any such findings.
- Position the site within a local, regional and national context.

Methods

Three trenches were dug within the affected area. These measured 12m in length by 1.8m in width. The trenches were machine excavated with a JCB using a back-actor unit fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil was removed, under the supervision of an archaeologist, down to the next soil horizon. The excavation area was inspected for archaeological remains. Each trench was photographed and recorded in plan and section.

Results

TRENCH 1

Natural subsoil was found 0.4m below the level of the existing ground surface. This subsoil consisted of a tenacious orange-brown clay (**101**). 2 non-archaeological features were noted in this trench, an east-west orientated land drain and a dark-coloured feature interpreted as an animal burrow. To confirm context **101** was natural, a sondage 0.5m deep was dug at the western end of the trench. This did not reveal any change in soil type.

TRENCH 2 (PI. 2)

Natural subsoil was found 0.3m below the level of the existing ground surface. This subsoil consisted of a firm yellow clay (**102**). A curving dark-coloured feature, interpreted as an animal burrow, was seen in this trench.

TRENCH 3 (PI. 3)

Natural subsoil was found 0.4m below the level of the existing ground surface. This subsoil consisted of a firm yellow clay (**103**). 2 non-archaeological features were noted in this trench, a north-south orientated land drain and another animal burrow.

Discussion

Trial trenching of the land directly affected by the proposed farm reservoir suggests that it is of little archaeological interest. Traces of medieval plough soil, responsible for the ridge and furrow crop marks visible in aerial photographs, were expected to be encountered. However, these

may have been removed by deep ploughing or other groundworks that may have occurred since the photographs were taken. Such works may have affected other, unknown archaeological features, and may account for their absence. However, given the generally shallow depth of topsoil encountered in the excavation area, truncation does not appear to have been too severe and would not have affected deeper features. Given this fact, and the absence of surface artefacts, it is likely that the area is indeed archaeologically sterile.

The ridge and furrow demonstrates an agricultural function for the land. The absence of any other archaeological features suggests that the land has always had this function, whilst occupation and other activity occurred elsewhere. The absence of surface finds may result from a lack of manuring of the ground in the past. This may suggest that the land was either undeveloped or used for pasture before the medieval period.

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank the following organisations and individuals for their help:

J.R. Green and Sons; Rob Ward (J.H. Walter); archaeologists in the Built Environment Team, Lincolnshire County Council (Highways and Planning Directorate). The archaeological excavation and recording was carried out by. The report was prepared by Patrick Daniel and and was edited by Naomi Field.

Patrick Daniel

20th March 2003

APPENDIX 1

Glenthams Reservoir (GBNL 03)

Context Summary

Context No	Type	Description
100	Layer	Topsoil
101	Layer	Orange-brown clay subsoil
102	Layer	Yellow clay subsoil
103	Layer	Yellow clay subsoil

THE FIGURES

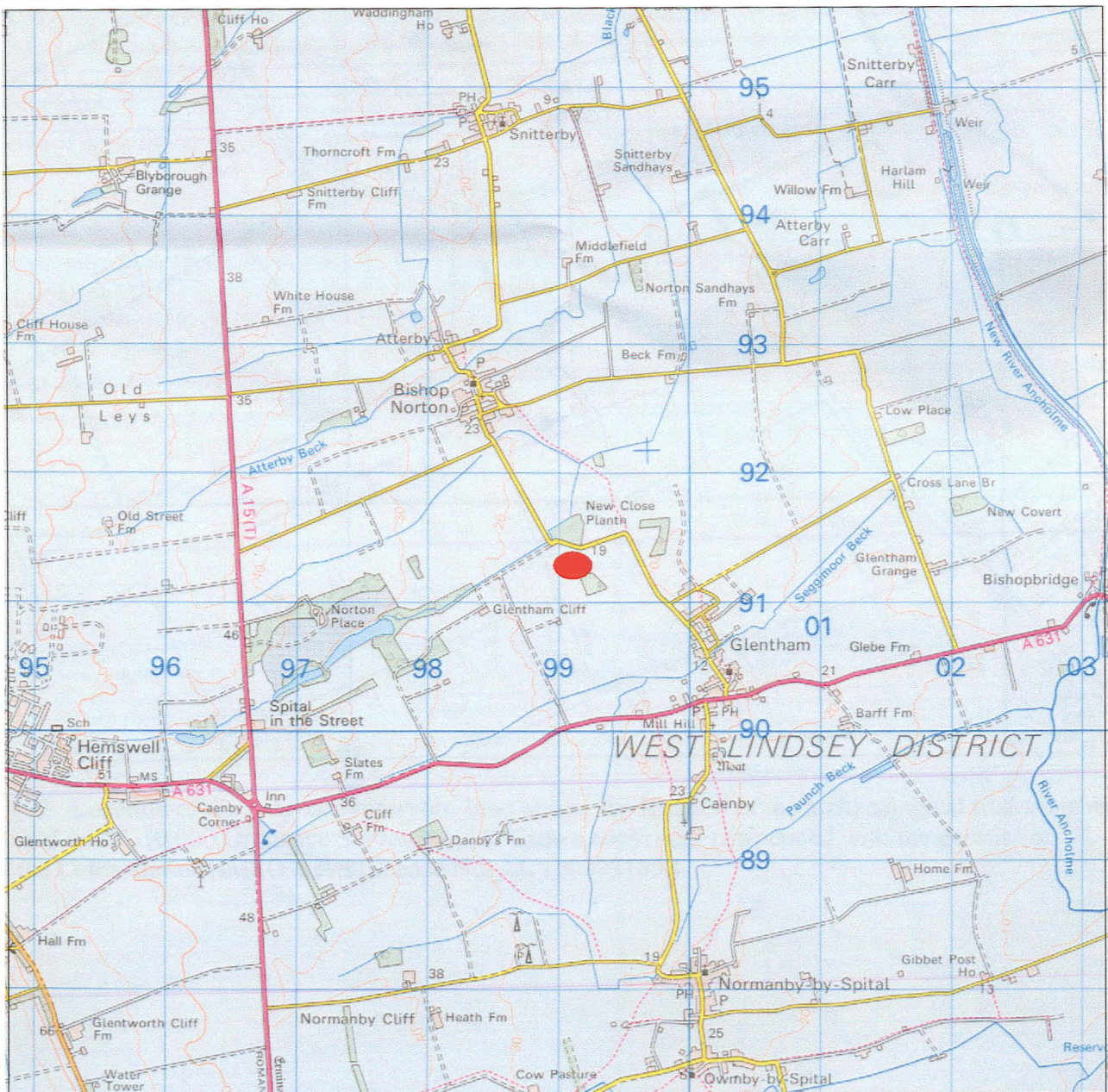
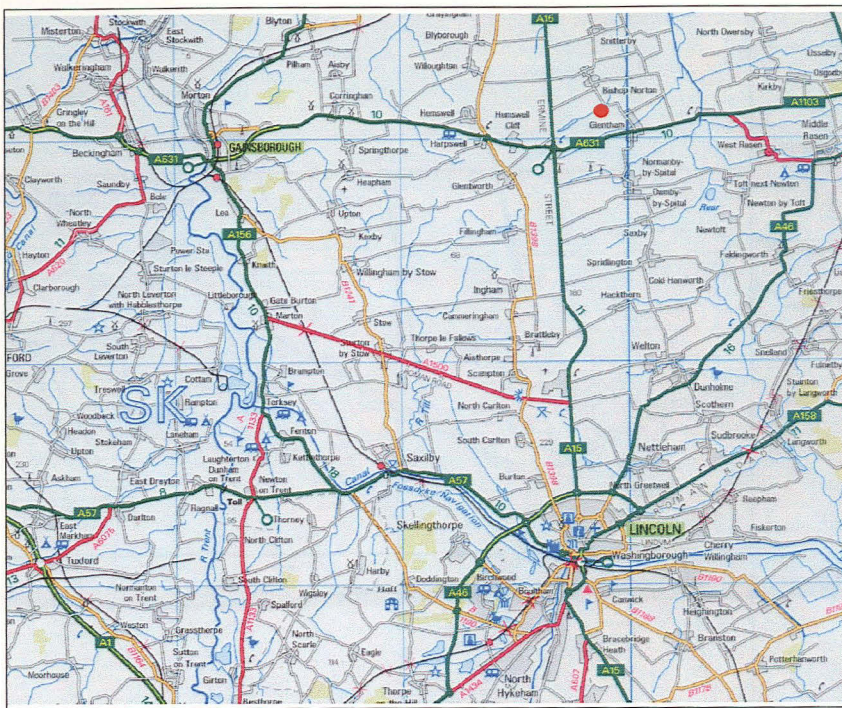


Fig. 1 Location of Glentham and Bishop Norton (C based on the 1992 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey Landranger map Sheet 112. Crown copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO T.A.S Licence No. AT. 100002165)

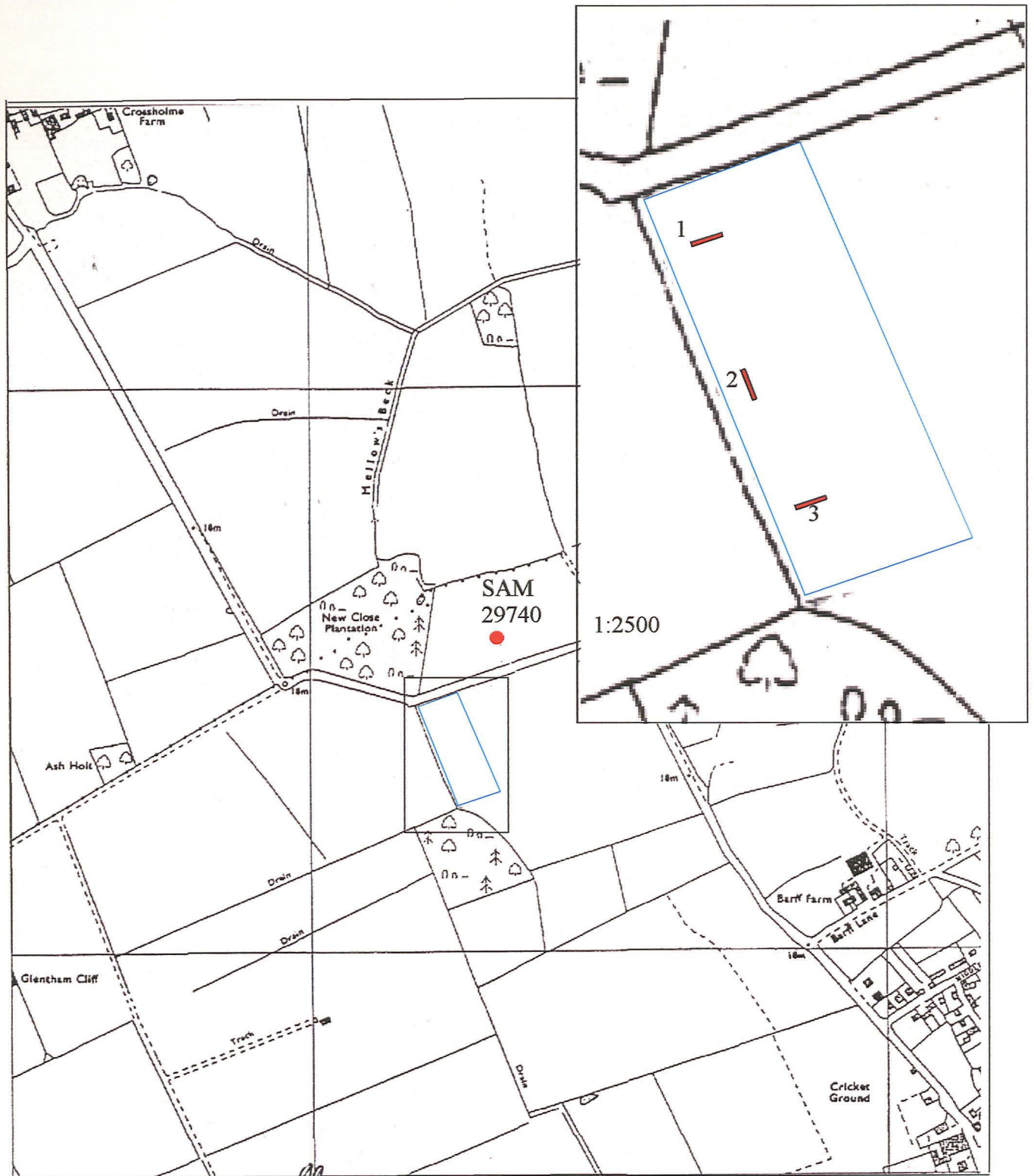
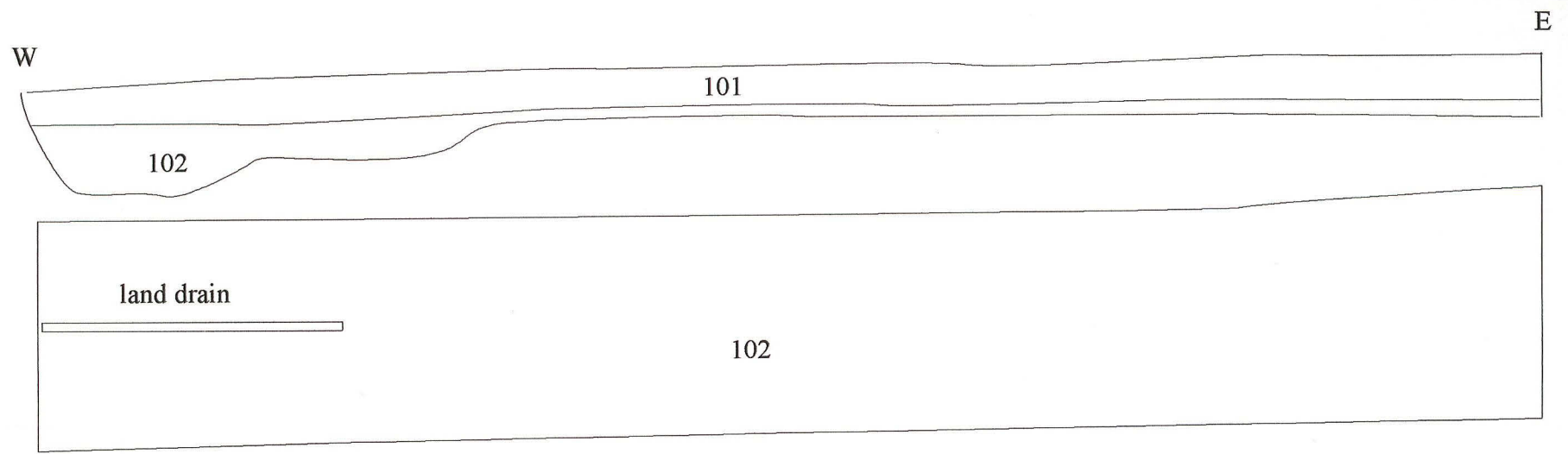
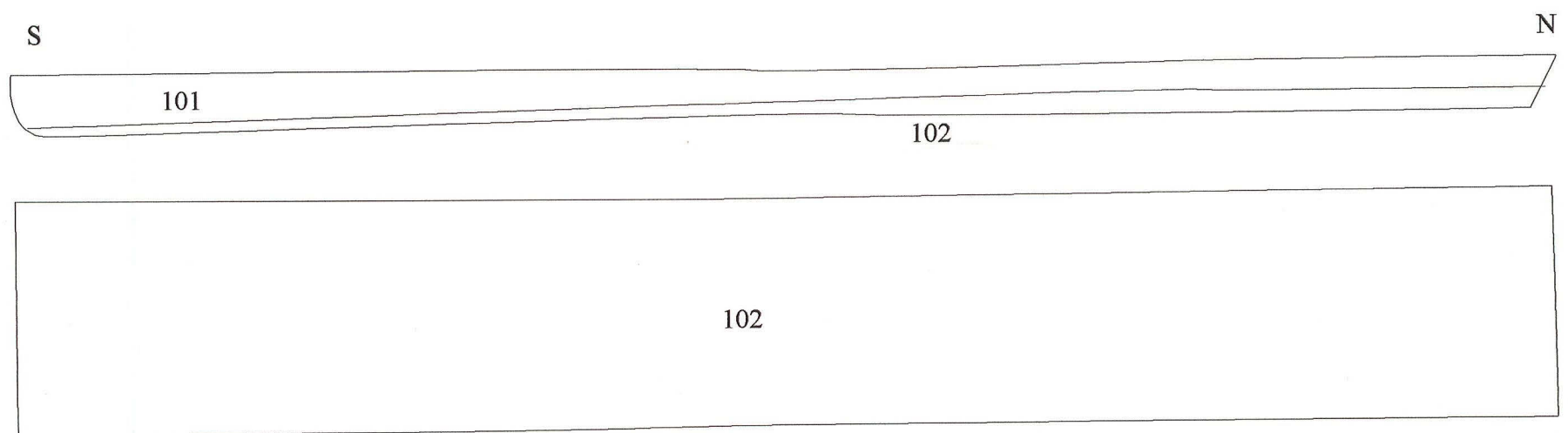


Fig. 2 Location of the proposed reservoir. Inset shows the location of the archaeological trial trenches (based on a 1:10,000 Ordnance Survey map, © Crown copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165.) .

Trench 1



Trench 2



Trench 3

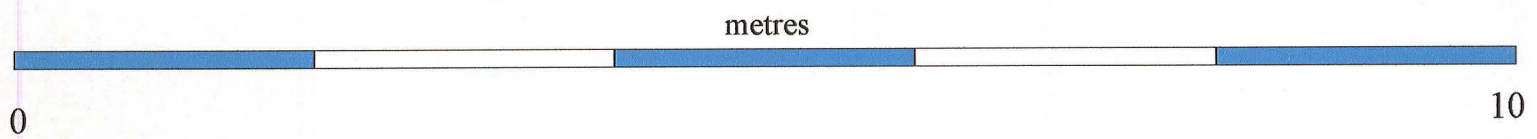
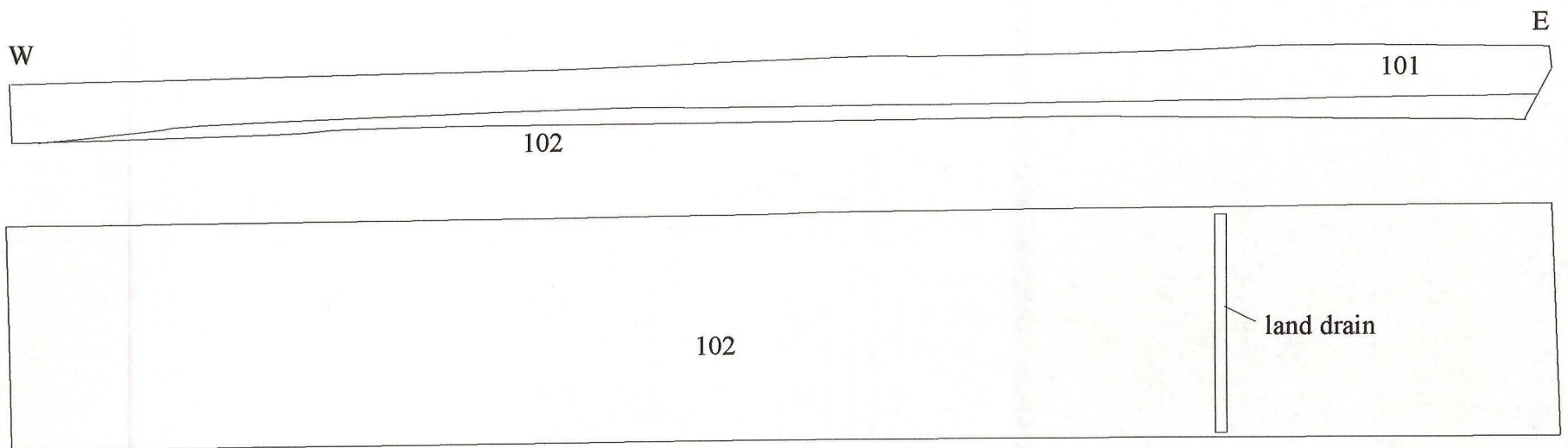


Fig. 3 Trench plans and sections

THE PLATES



Pl. 1 (above) General view of the site, looking south-west.



Pl. 2. Trench 2 looking north



Pl. 3 Trench 3 looking east