



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Caenby Corner, Caenby, Lincolnshire
Archaeological Evaluation**

LCNCC Accn No.: 2003.314

Site Code: CCMA 03

NGR SK 9680 8935

Planning Application: MO3/P/0135

Report

for

RPS Consultants

by

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LAS Report No. 700

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Conservation
Services

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Highways & Planning
Directorate

EVENT L14293 - Geophysical Survey.

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on a parcel of land off Caenby Corner, Lincolnshire. The evaluation consisted of the machine excavation of a single trench, 21.50m in length by 1.60m wide. Geophysical survey of the site had located two areas of high archaeological potential and the trench was specifically located in order to cross both of the two possible features. The stratigraphic make-up of the site consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil that sealed a natural geology of mixed chalk. The two areas noted on the geophysical survey were successfully located. The first was a dump of demonstrably modern material consisting mainly of fragmented ceramic wall tiles that appeared at the interface between the topsoil and the subsoil. The second feature was a thin deposit of burnt material composed mainly of heated natural soil with occasional small charcoal fragments. This directly sealed by the subsoil and sat on the natural. It contained no dating evidence, but as it was sealed by the undisturbed subsoil, it must be of some considerable age. A small possible posthole was noted cutting into the natural geology near to the deposit of burnt material, but no dating evidence was recovered from its fill.

The findings of the archaeological evaluation would appear to confirm the results of the geophysical survey that there has been little obvious past occupation on the site. The probability of encountering any further unidentified archaeological remains on the site seems low and the potential impact upon the archaeological record by any future development is considered to be negligible

Introduction

In September 2003, Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by RPS Consultants to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Caenby Corner, Lincolnshire. The evaluation was undertaken on 8th September 2003 in accordance with the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998).

Site Location and Description

The study area appears to the south-east of Caenby Corner roundabout near to the junction between the A631 and the A15 at around 45.00m A.O.D (Fig. 1). The site is approximately 2ha of reasonably level disused arable land to the south of the Moncks Arms Hotel. The area is at present rough unmanaged grass interspersed with dense self seeded weeds (Figs. 2 and 3). Much of the site is covered with fly tipped domestic and industrial debris (Pls 1 and 2).

Planning Background

Outline approval (Planning application: MO3/P/0135) for the construction of roadside facilities to include a new petrol filling station, restaurant, public house and motel has been granted by the West Lindsey District Council. Due to the possibility for the survival of archaeological remains in the area, a geophysical survey was requested prior to determination of the application. Two areas of high archaeological potential were noted by the survey necessitating an archaeological evaluation to be undertaken.

Archaeological and Historical Background

The current A15 road follows the same basic route as the Roman Ermine Street, which in turn was constructed over an early prehistoric track. Consequently, there is extensive evidence for both ritual and secular prehistoric activity all along the present route of the A15.

Known Roman activity along the route of Ermine Street is also extensive with a mixture of notable military and domestic sites being recorded at Glentham, Hibblestow, Owmbly, Old Winteringham and Newel Well.

The Anglo-Saxon period is less well represented in the area although the 19th century excavation of a round barrow to the south of the study area demonstrates the continued ritual importance of the area well into Anglo-Saxon times (Hollamby 2003, 3).

Approximately 200m north of the study area a shrine was established in the 11th century following a vision of St. Edmund the Martyr. The shrine grew steadily following the increasing numbers of Pilgrims visiting the site. A hospital of the Knights Templar was soon established that grew until the village of Spital-in-the-Street eventually evolved (Hollamby 2003, 3).

The Monckton Arms was constructed immediately adjacent to the A15 at Caenby Corner in the mid-19th century. The original building was replaced in 1936 by the present one, which gained notoriety during the Second World War as an unofficial mess for bomber crews from nearby RAF stations Hemswell, Scampton and Dunholme Lodge. The pub, now renamed the Moncks Arms has been closed and in an increasingly derelict state of repair for almost 15 years.

Aims and Objectives

The aims of the evaluation were to;

- establish the presence or absence, quality and extent of archaeological remains and their location within the proposed development area

- gather sufficient information to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of any archaeological remains to be made and the impact which any development will have upon them. Determine the extent and quality of such remains
- 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

A single trench 21.50m x 1.60m was positioned in order to cross two geophysical anomalies identified on a survey undertaken by GSB Prospection in 2003. The work was undertaken on the 9th September 2003. The trench was machine excavated using a JCB machine equipped with a flat bladed ditching bucket. Excavation stopped at the first archaeological horizon or at the natural geology, as was appropriate. Subsequent feature excavation was undertaken by hand and all features were recorded by single context, scale drawing and photographic record. A temporary benchmark of 43.97m was established on site, taken from an Ordnance Survey benchmark of 44.50m located on the A631 near to the Caenby Corner roundabout.

Results

The evaluation trench was aligned at c.45° to the southern perimeter of the study area in order to cross both of the two features noted during the recent geophysical survey of the site (Fig. 3). The topsoil **101** was a mid red/brown silty clay that contained modern refuse and frequent naturally fragmented chalk pieces and had a maximum depth of between 0.05m and 0.20m. The subsoil **102** was a similar material to the topsoil, being only slightly redder and with a higher concentration of chalk flecks (Fig. 4, Pls 3 and 4). The subsoil **102** directly overlay a fragmented chalk brash **103** that represents the natural geology. The clean chalk natural **103** was an unevenly deposited layer and solution hollows within it were filled with subsoil and fragmented chalk mix **104** (Pl. 4).

The two areas of high archaeological potential, identified on the geophysical survey, were successfully located, neither cut into the natural **103-104**. The first **109** was a dump of demonstrably modern material consisting mainly of mortar and fragmented ceramic wall tiles that appeared about 0.10m below the present ground surface at the interface between the topsoil and the subsoil. The second feature had no identifiable cut and consisted of two thin layers of burnt/heated material **105** and **106** (Fig. 4 Pls 5 and 6). Layer **105** was 0.05m deep and was composed mainly of a mid pinkish/brown heated natural silt with occasional small charcoal fragments. Two small fragments of unburnt animal bone were recovered from fill **105**. The lower of the two dump layers **106** was a red/brown clay silt, 0.05m in thickness, which contained occasional very small flecks of charcoal. The lower of the two dump layers **106** directly overlay the natural **103-104**, but was directly sealed by the undisturbed subsoil.

A third feature **107** was noted cutting into the natural geology of the evaluation trench. The feature was a small post/stake hole 0.30m in diameter and 0.10m in depth. It contained a single red/brown silty clay fill **108**. No dating evidence was recovered from the fill.

Discussion

Despite the high archaeological potential of the site outlined in the desk based assessment of the site (Hollamby 2003) there was no evidence for prehistoric Roman or Saxon activity on the site. The natural depressions noted in the base of the trench were not unexpected as this undulating horizon is quite normal when dealing with uneven brash naturals such as chalk or limestone. Of the three features identified on site, one was demonstrably modern and the others were undateable, although burnt deposits **105** and **106** must be of some considerable age due to their position below the undisturbed subsoil layer. The third feature **107** could be part of the uneven natural geology, but is more probably a post/stake hole.

Conclusion

The findings of the archaeological evaluation appears to confirm results of the geophysical survey indicating that there has been little obvious past occupation on the site. The archaeological potential appears to be low and the potential impact of development is therefore considered to be negligible.

Richard Pullen MA PIFA
Lindsey Archaeological Services
12th September 2003

References

Hollamby, K 2003 *A Desk-Based Assessment of Land at Caenby Corner, Lincolnshire*, J.S.A.C. report no. 1071/03/01

Robertson, F. 2003 *Caenby Corner, Lincs. Geophysical Survey Report*. GSP Report no. 2003/55

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Site drawings single sheet, 1 trench plan, Sections 3

Photographs LAS Film and negative nos. 03/101/00-23

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 1

Caenby Corner, Lincolnshire (CCMA 03)

Context Summary

Context	Type	Description
101	Layer	Mid red/brown silty clay topsoil
102	Layer	Mid red/brown silty clay chalky subsoil
103	Layer	Natural chalk brash
104	Deposit/Layer	Mid red/brown silty clay chalky subsoil infilling
105	Layer	Mid pinkish/brown heated silt + charcoal frags
106	Layer	Mid red/brown clay silt, + occasional charcoal flecks
107	Cut	Post/stake hole
108	Fill	Mid red/brown silty clay fill
109	Layer/Dump	Modern material, mortar + ceramic tile

THE FIGURES

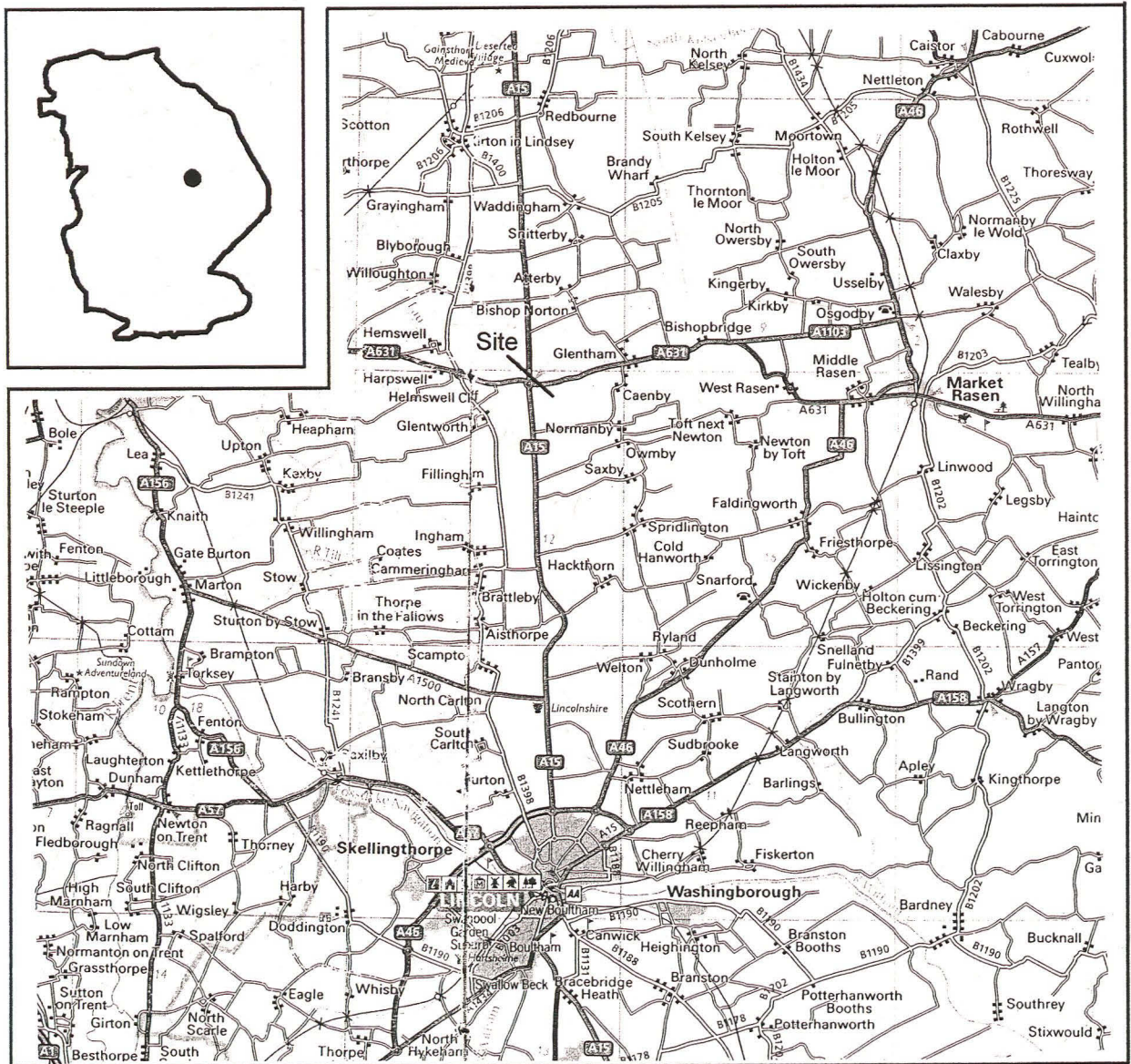
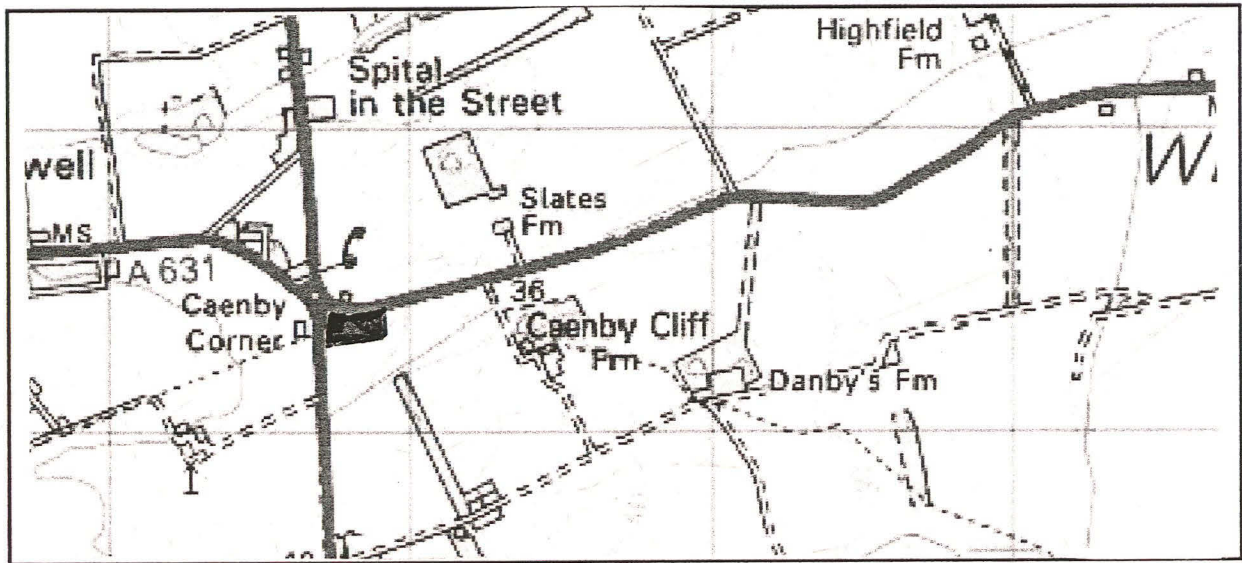


Fig. 1 Caenby Corner location plan (Inserts based on Ordnance Survey 1:25, 000 maps, Explorer Series).
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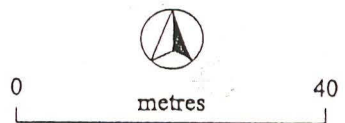
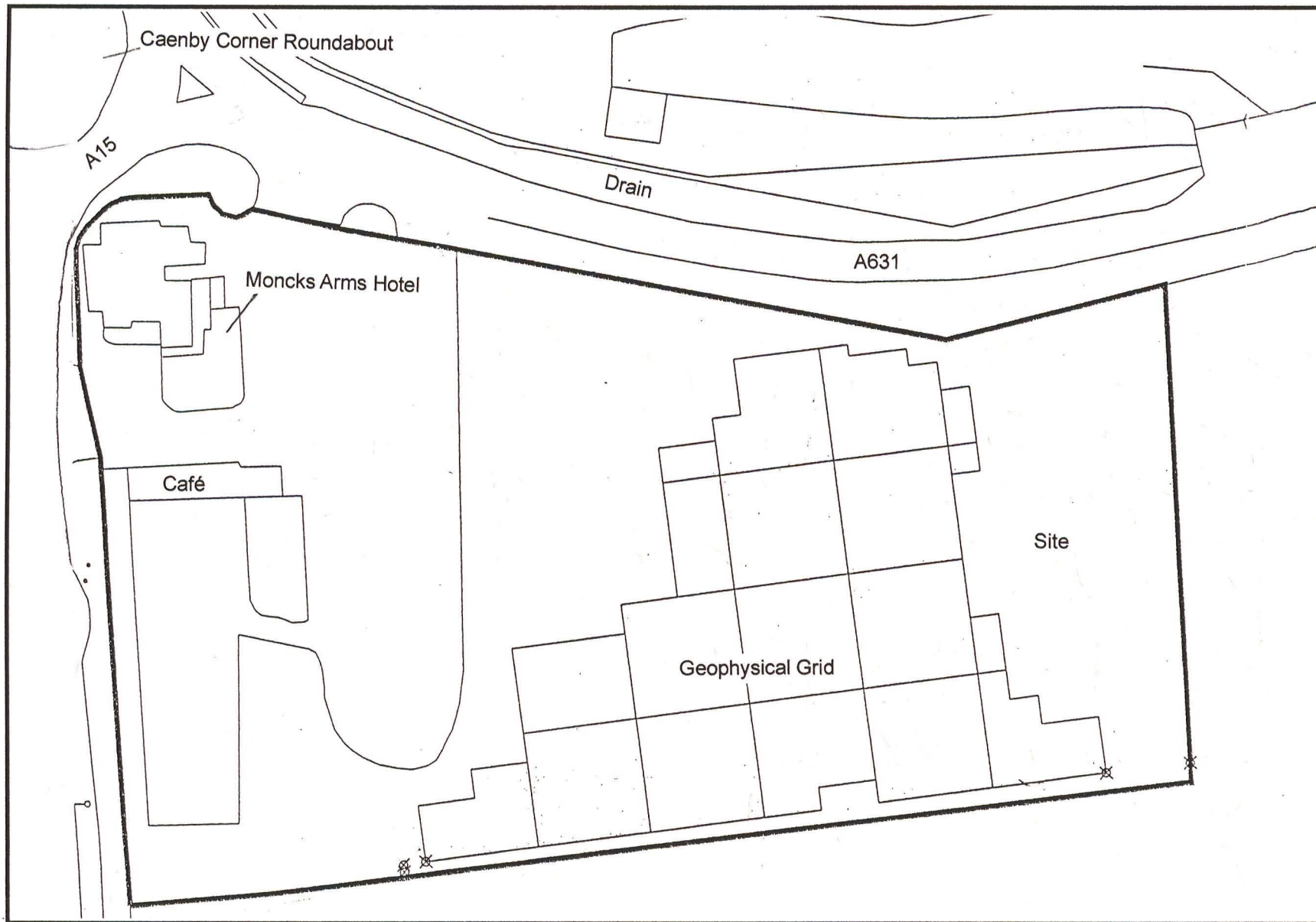


Fig. 2 Site Location plan (Based on a map supplied by GSB Prospection Ltd)



Fig 3. Trench Location Plan
 (Based on a map supplied by GSB Prospection Ltd)

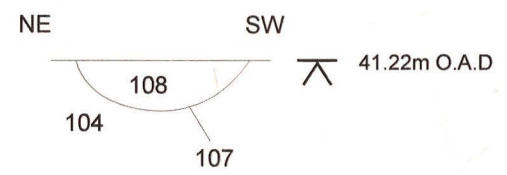
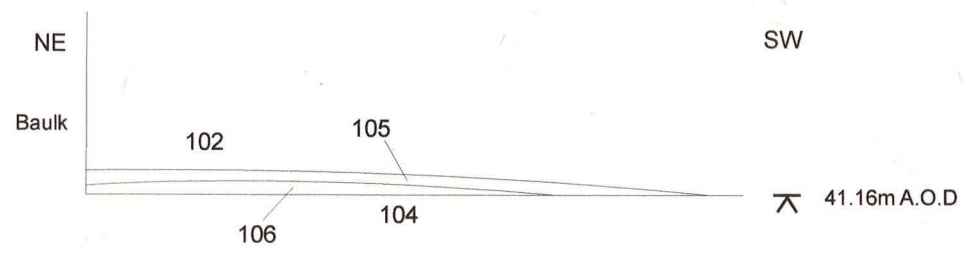
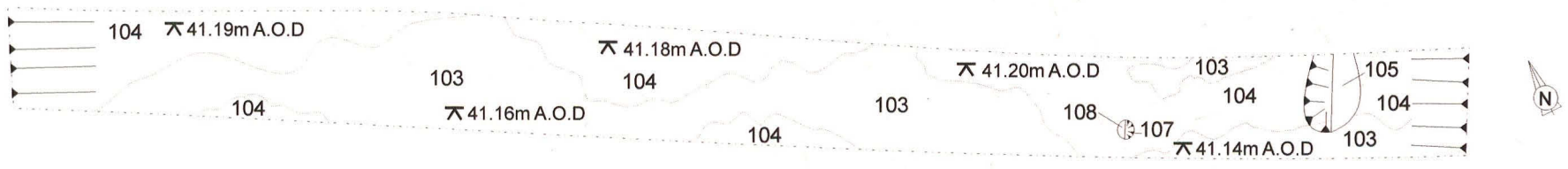
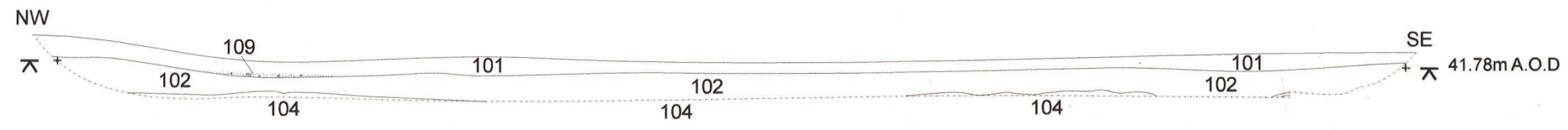


Fig. 4 Trench plan and section and sections through features 104/105 and 107

THE PLATES



Pl.1 General view of the site looking north towards the Moncks Arms.



Pl. 2 General view looking south across site



Pl. 3 Looking north-west along the evaluation trench. Scale 2m



Pl.4 General view of the trench section looking north. Scale 2m



Pl. 5 Burnt deposit 105/ 106 . Scale 0.50m



Pl. 6 Looking north-east across burnt deposit 105/106. Scale 0.50m



Pl. 7 Possible stake/posthole 107, looking north. Scale 0.50m