M3/19

FIELD NO. 6217 NEAR BISCATHORPE, LINCOLNSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION REPORT

Site Code: BISA03
NGR: TF 2181 8412.
Planning Ref. (E)N164/1175/03
Accession No. 2003.324

Report prepared for Roc Oil (UK) Ltd.

by

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September 2003

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EVENT: L15819 INTERVENTION: L19907 CON: L19246
EXCAVATION: L19908

PRN 45102 prehistoric
45101 Roman

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Summary

- *A programme of archaeological trial excavation was undertaken on behalf of Roc Oil (UK) Limited in respect of a proposed drilling platform on agricultural land to the south of Donnington Road, South Willingham, Lincolnshire.*

- *A preceding desk-based assessment determined that the surrounding landscape was a focus of activity throughout the prehistoric and Romano-British periods. A geophysical survey identified a complex of linear anomalies that appeared to reflect a system of rectilinear enclosures. Fieldwalking of the area recovered several sherds of abraded Romano-British pottery and fragments of tile, the latter suggesting the presence of a stone building of similar date. A small quantity of prehistoric worked flint was also recovered.*

- *To further assess the archaeological potential of the site, seven trial excavation trenches were investigated. These trenches allowed an examination to be made of features identified by geophysics. For the most part, these features appear to date to the Romano-British period, although one feature in Trench 6 may be of Neolithic or Bronze Age date*

- *It is concluded that archaeology should not be a significant obstruction to the proposed development, provided that an agreed mitigation strategy is in place that will seek to address the interests of the developer and the archaeology*

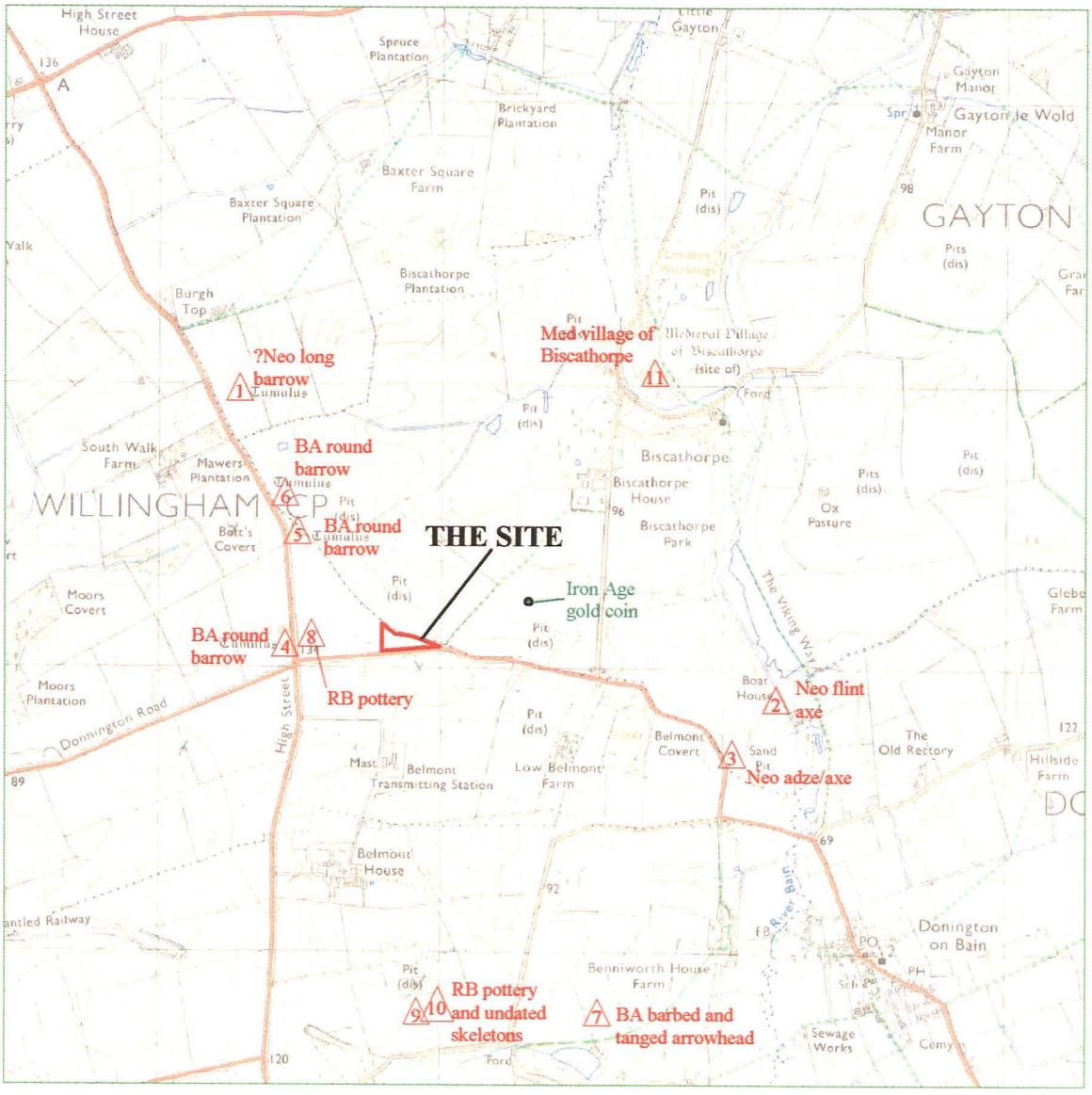

Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:25,000. Site outlined in red. SMR entries are also indicated

1.0 Introduction

Roc Oil (UK) Ltd commissioned an intrusive archaeological field evaluation of land off Donnington Road, near Biscathorpe, Lincolnshire (Field No. 6217). This phase of work was preceded by a pre-planning desk-based study, fieldwalking, field reconnaissance, and a geophysical survey. The combined results of these investigations, including the current study, are being used to determine the overall archaeological potential of the site, and to assess the potential impacts that may result from the construction of a proposed oil platform.

This archaeological programme was conducted in accordance with the procedures set out in the Lincolnshire County Council publication *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice* (LCC, 1998), and national guidelines produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 1999).

The report was written by Colin Palmer-Brown of Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) (hereafter PCA), and the fieldwork was undertaken by Chris Clay, assisted by a team of five field archaeologists.

2.0 Site location, topography and geology

The site is situated in the administrative district of East Lindsey, within the parish of South Willingham, approximately 2.5km north-west of Donington on Bain and 11.8km west-south-west of Louth. It comprises a triangular unit: part of a larger field situated to the south-west of the village of Biscathorpe, (fig. 1). Current ground cover comprises a young cereal crop.

Mean elevation is approximately 125m OD, where the site is situated upon a spur of land overlooking the valley of the River Bain to the east, with further prominent hills of the Lincolnshire Wolds beyond. To the west is the north – south aligned High Street, a Roman Road and possible prehistoric trackway (now the B1225). Prehistoric burial mounds lie adjacent to this road.

The drift geology of the area comprises chalky flinty glacial till, with undifferentiated glaciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel to the west of the site, and glaciofluvial sheet deposits (known as Biscathorpe Sand and Gravel) downslope to the north, south and east. The underlying solid geology is Lower Cretaceous Tealby Formation mudstone (British Geological Survey, 1999).

The central National Grid Reference is TF 2181 8412.

3.0 Planning background

Prior to a formal application for planning consent, preliminary consultations between Roc Oil (UK) Ltd and the Senior Built Environment Officer of Lincolnshire County Council advised the undertaking of a detailed archaeological assessment and field evaluation to determine the archaeological potential of the site, and therefore advise any future application for planning permission. This approach is consistent with the recommendations of *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (1990):

"The key to informed and reasonable planning decisions, as emphasised in paragraphs 19 and 20, is for consideration to be given early, before formal planning applications are made, to the question of whether archaeological remains exist on a site where development is planned"

Following the completion of non-intrusive archaeological surveys in the spring of 2003, a formal planning application (full) was submitted by Roc Oil (UK) Ltd. in June, and the current document is in further support of that application.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

A detailed archaeological background to this scheme has been presented elsewhere (Allen & Masters 2003) and will not, therefore be repeated here. Instead, a summarised background is offered, focusing on the results of non-intrusive surveys that formed a prelude to the current programme.

The site forms part of a rich archaeological landscape, where considerable numbers of monuments and artefacts of prehistoric date have been recorded. For the most part, these have been dated to the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods (there appears to be a dearth of Iron Age activity in the area) and include artefact scatters, isolated findspots and funerary monuments: Bronze Age barrows are known from the area, with many of these sharing a spatial relationship with the Caistor High Street (a trackway of prehistoric date; used throughout the Roman period and now preserved by the line of the modern B1225, situated approximately 0.3km to the west of the site).

There is a good deal of evidence relating to sustained occupation of the area during the Romano-British period. The Caistor High Street connected the Roman small towns of Caistor and Horncastle, and it is likely that many smaller settlements emerged along the course of this thoroughfare. Sites in the vicinity have been identified largely via surface collection within arable fields.

Prehistoric/Romano-British cropmarks have been recorded in the area.

A fluxgate Gradiometer survey of the current site was undertake by Pre-Construct Geophysics in May 2003, and this identified a range of magnetic anomalies. Some of these anomalies reflected backfilled quarry pits of relatively recent date (visible depressions in the modern ground surface). Others appeared to relate to potentially much earlier phases of archaeological activity.

Towards the south side of the site, the geophysical survey revealed a network of inter-related linear and sub-rectangular anomalies resembling a ladder-type system of enclosures; often associated with Romano-British occupation. Within this 'system',

other features were evident; suggesting perhaps that the enclosures may have had a domestic (as opposed to a purely agricultural) function. Supporting evidence for this interpretation was derived following fieldwalking of the area, which identified a 'concentration' of artefacts towards the southern site boundary: of 31 artefacts recovered, most were situated towards the south side of the site. There were three sherds of Romano-British pottery and 13 sherds of tile (probably Roman, including a fragment of combed flue tile – usually associated with Roman hypocaust).

Fifteen fragments of struck/modified flint were recovered during fieldwalking of the area; ranging in date between the Mesolithic period and the Bronze Age.

Post-Roman pottery was not present at the site.

5.0 Methodology (trial excavation)

To further evaluate the archaeological potential of the site, a series of seven trial excavation trenches were examined as indicated on fig 2. These trenches were positioned to selectively scrutinize magnetic anomalies detected by gradiometry; the broad objective being to examine the form and significance of archaeological remains, and to attempt to recover datable materials. With the submission of this report, the information will be used to inform a planning decision.

Trench dimensions and details are listed as follows:

Trench 1: 30m x 1.6m; to traverse linear north-south anomaly and assess area yielding worked/modified flints

Trench 2: 40m x 1.6m; to traverse a range of linear anomalies situated towards south-west corner of site

Trench 3: 20m x 1.6m; to traverse linear east-west linear anomaly and apparent blank area to immediate north

Trench 4: 20m x 1.6m; to traverse two localized anomalies detected by geophysics

Trench 5: 20m x 1.6m; to traverse a range of magnetic anomalies, including a small sub-square enclosure-type feature

Trench 6: 20m x 1.6m; to traverse two linear anomalies associated with proposed ladder enclosure system

Trench 7: 30m x 1.6m; to traverse linear anomaly associated with proposed ladder enclosure system

The evaluation was undertaken by a team of six experienced field archaeologists (including the project supervisor) over a period of four days; between the 16th and 19th September 2003.

Trenches were located using a Leica GS50 Global Positioning System and, for each, a

JCB fitted with a 1.6m wide smooth ditching blade was used to remove topsoil, subsoil and underlying non-archaeological strata in spits not exceeding 20cm in depth. All subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand.

Where archaeological remains were exposed, features and deposits were sample excavated manually, and context information was recorded on Context Record Sheets. Archaeological deposits were drawn to scale, in plan and in section, and Ordnance Datum heights were entered on each class of drawing. Archaeological contexts were photographed, and some prints are reproduced within this report (Appendix 1).

Archaeological finds were recovered during the investigation (e.g. domestic pottery sherds). These were washed and processed at the offices of PCA, prior to submission for detailed specialist appraisal.

Three bulk soil samples were recovered from Trench 2. These samples will be processed and assessed, but the results will form an addendum to this report at a later date (as agreed with the Senior Built Environment Officer of Lincolnshire County Council, who inspected the site on18/9/03).

6.0 Results

6.1 Trench 1 (See figs 2 & 3)

The earliest deposit was a natural layer of orange clayey sand, context 102. This was exposed in the base of the trench, and was sealed beneath an 18cm thick subsoil of mid-brown/orange clayey sand, context 101. Above this was c. 35cm of ploughsoil, 100.

Two earth-cut features were exposed in the trench, where they had cut through natural deposits. Approximately 6.4m west of the east trench end was what appeared to be a linear feature orientated approximately north-south, [103]. This was approximately 1.8m wide and 0.38m deep. In profile, its west edge was relatively steep, its east edge shallow. The feature was filled with dark brown coarse silty sand, incorporating inclusions of stone, 104. No artefactual material was recovered from this feature. The position of linear feature [103] accords with the location of geophysical anomaly 8 (which was interpreted as a possible linear ditch by the geophysicist) (Allen & Masters 2003)).

Close to the east end of the trench was a second cut feature, [105]. This was a localised sub-oval depression measuring approximately 0.9m x 0.4m in plan, and orientated north-west to south-east. Its sides were steep, and it was depth of 0.4m deep. It contained mid-brown silty sand mixed with flint gravel and limestone fragments and patches of red clay, 106. However, the edges of the cut were poorly defined and, following excavation, it was deemed to be of natural origin. Deposit 106 extended beyond the limits of [105], and it interleaved with the natural deposit 102. It is tentatively suggested therefore that 106 was a periglacial deposit, with the patches of red clay representing aggregations of iron-rich material.

6.2 Trench 2 (See figs 2, 4 & 4a)

As anticipated, Trench 2 exposed a complex arrangement of linear cut archaeological features; reflecting those which had been loosely defined by geophysics.

The earliest deposit exposed was a natural horizon of light yellow/orange coarse clayey sand, context 202. Above this was c. 28cm of brown clayey sand subsoil, 201; sealed beneath 20 – 30cm of ploughsoil, 200.

Towards the west end of the trench were five broadly parallel linear features orientated approximately north-south: [204], [206], [208], [210] and [214]. The most westerly of these, [204] displayed an irregular profile and was approximately 40cm deep. It was filled with dark grey/brown sandy silt with frequent inclusions of stone, 203. This material yielded a single sherd of Romano-British pottery of non-diagnostic form.

The east edge of the above was cut by a similarly aligned feature, [206]. This was 1.4m wide and approximately 0.6m deep, and its profile was an irregular V-form. It was filled with mid-grey sandy silt mixed with frequent small stone and charcoal inclusions, 205, and this deposit yielded 17 sherds of Romano-British pottery, dated

between the later 3rd and early 4th century. A bulk soil sample (Sample 1) was recovered from this deposit, and the processed results of this will be presented as an addendum to this report in due couse.

Approximately 1.2m east of the above, gully [208] was of similar dimension, although its base was predominantly flat. Its fill, 207, comprised dark grey/brown sandy silt mixed with stone fragments and occasional charcoal flecks, and it incorporated 29 sherds of Romano-British pottery of possible mid 3rd century form.

The east edge of the above had cut through an earlier gully, [210]. This was slightly shallower (approximately 40cm) and its profile appeared to be a regular bowl-shape. It was filled with dark grey/brown sandy silt, with occasional stone/pebble inclusions and fragments of flint, 209. 7 sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from this context, suggesting an early to mid 3rd century date.

The other linear gully within this 'group' lay approximately 2.5m to the east of the above, [214]. This was relatively narrow (c. 0.6m), its sides were quite steep, and these broke to a narrow flat base. The fill of this feature, 213, resembled soils that filled the other gullies, except that it also incorporated some large fragments of what appeared to be degraded sandstone. 8 sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered, dated to the mid 3rd century. A bulk soil sample (Sample 2) was recovered from this context, and this also will be processed in due course, with the results being presented as an addendum to this report.

Gullies [210] and [214] had both cut through an earlier linear feature that was orientated broadly east-west, [212]. This was approximately 0.9m wide, and it appeared to widen towards the east. Its profile was broadly U-shaped, and it was filled with grey/brown sandy silt that incorporated several large fragments of sandstone, flint and chalk, and two fragments of copper wire, 211. 19 sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from this context, suggesting a date in the mid 3rd century or later.

Approximately 11.2m to the east of gully [214], two further inter-cutting ditches/gullies were investigated; both orientated north-south. The earliest and most substantial of these, [217], was some 2.3m wide and 0.7m deep. Its profile can best be described as an irregular V-shape, and it contained two perceptible fills. The lower fill, 216, comprised an intermingled yellow/grey clay-silt, with frequent flint/stone inclusion and occasional charcoal flecks. Above this the bulk fill, 215, consisted of very dark brown/black sandy silt mixed with frequent flint inclusion and lots of charcoal/charred remains. A fragment of Millstone Grit from the upper stone of a rotary quern was recovered from this context, as was a fragment of possible window glass (Appendix 3) and some 36 sherds of Romano-British pottery. The latter have been dated between the later 3rd – 4th century. A soil sample (Sample 3) will be processed in due course.

Cut through the west edge of ditch [217] was a very regular shallow linear gully, [221]. The close spatial relationship between this feature and its predecessor leaves little doubt that its course was directly influenced by that of its forerunner. It was filled with a coarse yellow/brown sandy silt that incorporated few coarse inclusions, 222.

One other north-south aligned linear gully was exposed, approximately 2.3m to the east of ditch [217]. This gully, [219], was approximately 0.7m wide and 0.4m deep. Its sides were steep and regular, and these broke sharply to a level base. Its fill, 218, comprised dark yellow/brown sandy silt that incorporated some flint/stone inclusion and 8 sherds of Romano-British pottery; loosely dated between the 2nd – 3rd century AD.

It is noteworthy that Trench 2 produced the only animal bone to be recovered from the site: two large herbivore molars, one from context 205, and one from context 215. These molars (probably cattle) were not dispatched for analysis but have been retained as part of the archive. The fact that no other animal bone was recovered suggests that bone survival across the entire site will be poor.

Towards the east end of the trench, there was a patchy deposit of very coarse dark brown sand, 223, mixed with the natural deposit 202. This represents similar degraded sandstone as exposed in Trench 1.

6.3 Trench 3 (See figs 2 & 5)

A feature corresponding with the location of a linear anomaly detected by geophysics was investigated at the south end of Trench 3.

In the base of the trench, a deposit of natural orange/brown clay-sand mixed with abundant flint and chalk was exposed, context 303. This was directly beneath 30 – 35cm of ploughsoil, context 300.

Approximately 1.7m north of the south trench end, a linear east-west cut feature was exposed, [301]. This was 1.25m wide and approximately 24cm deep. This feature was deepest towards its south side, and its profile was shallow. It contained a homogenous fill of dark grey coarse sandy clay that incorporated occasional sub-angular flint and chalk fragments, 302.

No other archaeological remains were exposed in this trench, and feature [301] equates with geophysical anomaly 5, which is known to extend east-west across the south-west side of the site (although a corresponding feature was not identified towards the north side of Trench 5, which should have intercepted it).

6.4 Trench 4

No archaeological remains were exposed in Trench 4, where the modern ploughsoil 400 rested over a natural deposit of orange brown clay-sand that incorporated numerous fragments of flint and chalk, 401.

6.5 Trench 5 (See figs 2 & 6)

Only two inter-cutting east-west linear features were identified towards the south-central part of Trench 5: a scenario that contrasts with the geophysics results, which identified linear east-west anomalies towards the centre of the projected trench and towards the north of it: a rectangular anomaly towards the south was tentative.

The two inter-cutting east-west linear features were exposed approximately 7.5m north of the south trench end. The latest of these, [501], was a relatively deep (c. 0.66m) U-shaped ditch, measuring approximately 1.7m in width. It was filled with mid-orange-brown, slightly clayey, silty sand that incorporated moderate amounts of sub-angular chalk and flint, 502. One fragment of Roman tile was recovered from this context.

The north edge of the above appeared to cut through a similarly aligned, but significantly shallower, feature, [503]. The north side of this feature was shallow and its base was flat. It was approximately 32cm deep and was filled with mid-brown silty clay-sand that incorporated stone/flint inclusions and occasional flecks of charcoal, 504. This material yielded 6 sherds of Romano-British pottery; loosely dated between the $2^{nd} - 3^{rd}$ century AD.

No other archaeological remains were exposed in Trench 5.

6.6 Trench 6 (See figs 2 & 7)

The trench was positioned to intercept two linear anomalies that appeared to be part of a wider enclosure system; a dominant feature towards the south side of the site. Two corresponding ditch-like features were identified, but these were indistinct and difficult to excavate.

The natural geology (into which archaeological features had been cut) comprised orange/brown clayey sand intermingled with frequent flint nodules and fragments, 602. This was sealed beneath approximately 10cm of mid-brown/orange clay-sand subsoil, 601, which contained inclusions derived from the natural stratum. The uppermost horizon was the ploughsoil, 600, which was approximately 28cm thick.

Approximately 6.0m east of the west trench end, a north-south linear feature was investigated, [603]. The poor definition of this feature rendered it difficult to excavate: it was approximately 1.55m wide, and 0.3m deep. Its profile appeared to be a relatively shallow bowl-shape, although the illustrations that were prepared on site indicate that the excavators experienced some difficulties in determining the form of this feature, which was filled with mid-orange/brown clay-silt, unmodified flint fragments and very occasional flecks of charcoal, 604. The edges of the feature were very diffuse and the fill was only distinguishable from the surrounding natural by texture.

Approximately 5m west of the east trench end, a similar ditch-like feature was exposed, [605]: this time slightly easier to define. It was approximately 0.5m deep and 1.4m wide, and its profile was basically bowl-shaped. Its lower fill comprised mid

brown/grey clay-silt, incorporating frequent flint fragments, 607. Above this was a deposit of reddish-brown clay-silt mixed with similar inclusions, 606. Again, the edges were very diffuse, but the base of the feature was cut into the natural chalk bedrock, allowing the profile of the ditch bottom to be more clearly established. Three stratified worked flints were recovered from this ditch: a side and end scraper from context 606; two secondary flakes from 607. The side and end scraper was the only diagnostic fragment, and this could date from the very late Neolithic to early Bronze Age periods (see Appendix 4).

No other archaeological features were exposed in this trench.

6.7 **Trench** 7 (See figs 2 & 8)

The 30m trench was positioned to intercept a linear east-west anomaly towards its north-central side. A possible matching feature was exposed c.12.7m south of the north trench end, although the vague characteristics of this feature suggested to the excavator that it may have been of natural origin. The 'feature' was defined by a linear spread, context 704; a very coarse dark brown sand, similar to natural deposits exposed in Trenches 1 and 2. This filled a ditch-like void as depicted on fig 8.

The natural geology, 701, comprised orange brown silty sand containing chalk and flint chunks. At the north end of the trench was a compact layer of chalk chunks, interleaved with mid brown clayey sand, 702. A slot was excavated through this deposit, and it was interpreted as a protruding outcrop of natural chalk bedrock.

The trench was sealed by a 25cm deep ploughsoil, 700.

7.0 Discussion and conclusions

Overall, the results of the trial excavation confirm that the site of proposed development is situated over part of a rural Romano-British settlement of unknown extent. One prehistoric feature was identified in Trench 6, indicating some form of earlier settlement at the same site (backed up by fieldwalking results which identified several worked flints).

The results from a preceding geophysical survey indicate that the Romano-British settlement remains concentrate towards the south side of the site, with an apparent focus of activity occurring towards the south-west corner (in the vicinity of Trench 2). Artefactual remains suggest that the Romano-British settlement was perhaps occupied between the 3rd and the 4th centuries AD, with the main thrust of activity taking place during the 3rd century.

The development proposed by Roc Oil (UK) Ltd will involve relatively limited earth removal prior to the deposition of a stoned drilling platform and screening bund (based on Drawing No. 49-50-7106 within document:

ROC OIL (UK) LIMITED PROPOSED EXPLORATION WELLSITE PLANNING APPLICATION TO CONSTRUCT AN EXPLORATION SITE DRILL AND TEST TWO (2) EXPLORATORY WELLS AT FIELD NO. 6217 NEAR BISCATHORPE LINCOLNSHIRE APPLICATION FORM AND SUPPORTING STATEMENT (June 2003).

Topsoil will be stripped to the top of the subsoil and stored in a bund on the northeast and northwest sides of the footprint, and an impermeable liner will be laid over the subsoil, where all construction will then be above this liner. The internal site area will be built up on top of the liner using sand, then quarry stone, to form the drilling platform that will be capable of withstanding the weight of the drilling equipment. There will further excavations for a small wellhead and outer ditches. Cable runs, if required, will not exceed 610mm depth from surface. Water run off trenches will not necessarily have to be excavated from the subsoil.

Roc Oil (UK) Ltd. indicate that the plant to be used at the site will consist of the following:

Excavators	**Bulldozers**	**Rollers**
CAT 320L	CAT D6 RXL	BOWMAG 130
VOLVO EC 240	KOMATSU D65 EX	
CAT 428	CAT D5 C	

Inevitably, there will be an impact to archaeological resources from this scheme, although it should be more than possible to devise a mitigation strategy that would safeguard the interests of the developer and the archaeology; possibly involving a combination of further controlled excavation, a watching brief, and the preservation of archaeological remains *in situ* wherever possible.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology employed at the site has been extremely effective, where a programme of intrusive investigation was preceded by a series of complimentary non-intrusive surveys. Fieldwalking of the area recorded a concentration of artefactual remains towards the south side of the site, and a geophysical survey identified regular magnetic anomalies that also appeared to fall within this zone. Excavation across some of these anomalies has confirmed that they represent cut archaeological features of prehistoric and Romano-British date.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Sincere thanks are expressed to the commissioning body Roc Oil (UK) Ltd; especially Mr J Foster, who has provided a wealth of background information.

10.0 Bibliography

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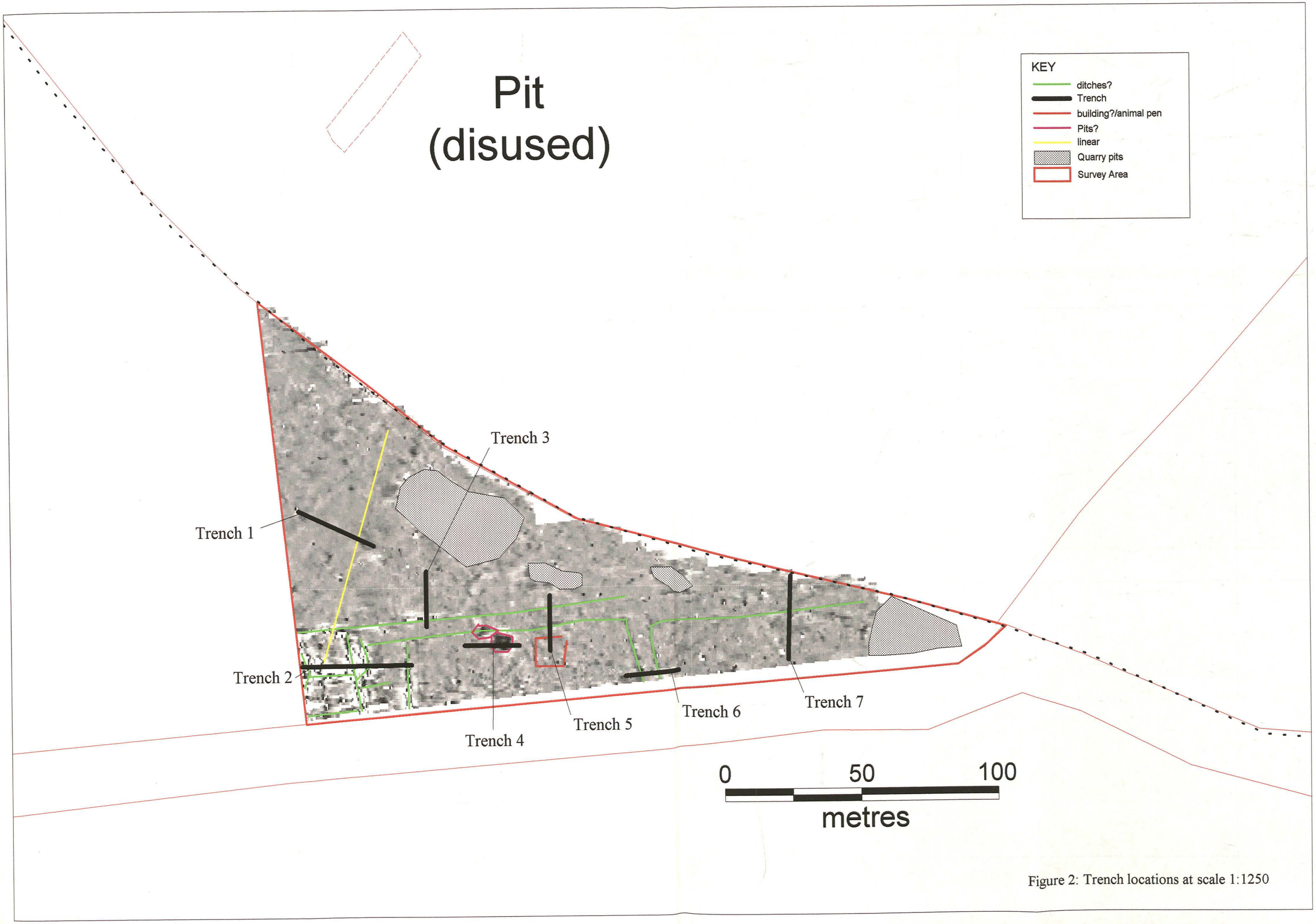


Figure 2: Trench locations at scale 1:1250

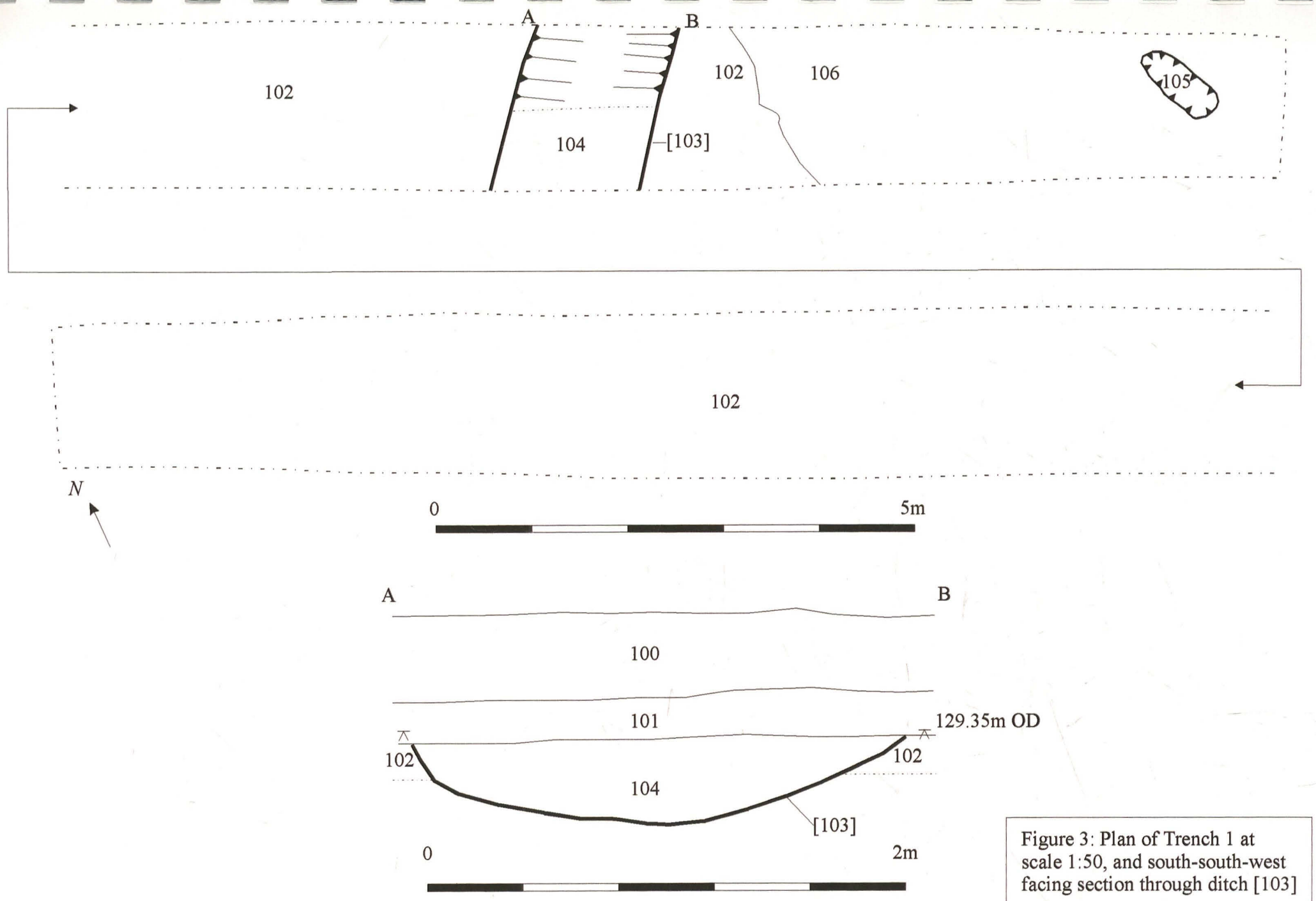


Figure 3: Plan of Trench 1 at scale 1:50, and south-south-west facing section through ditch [103]

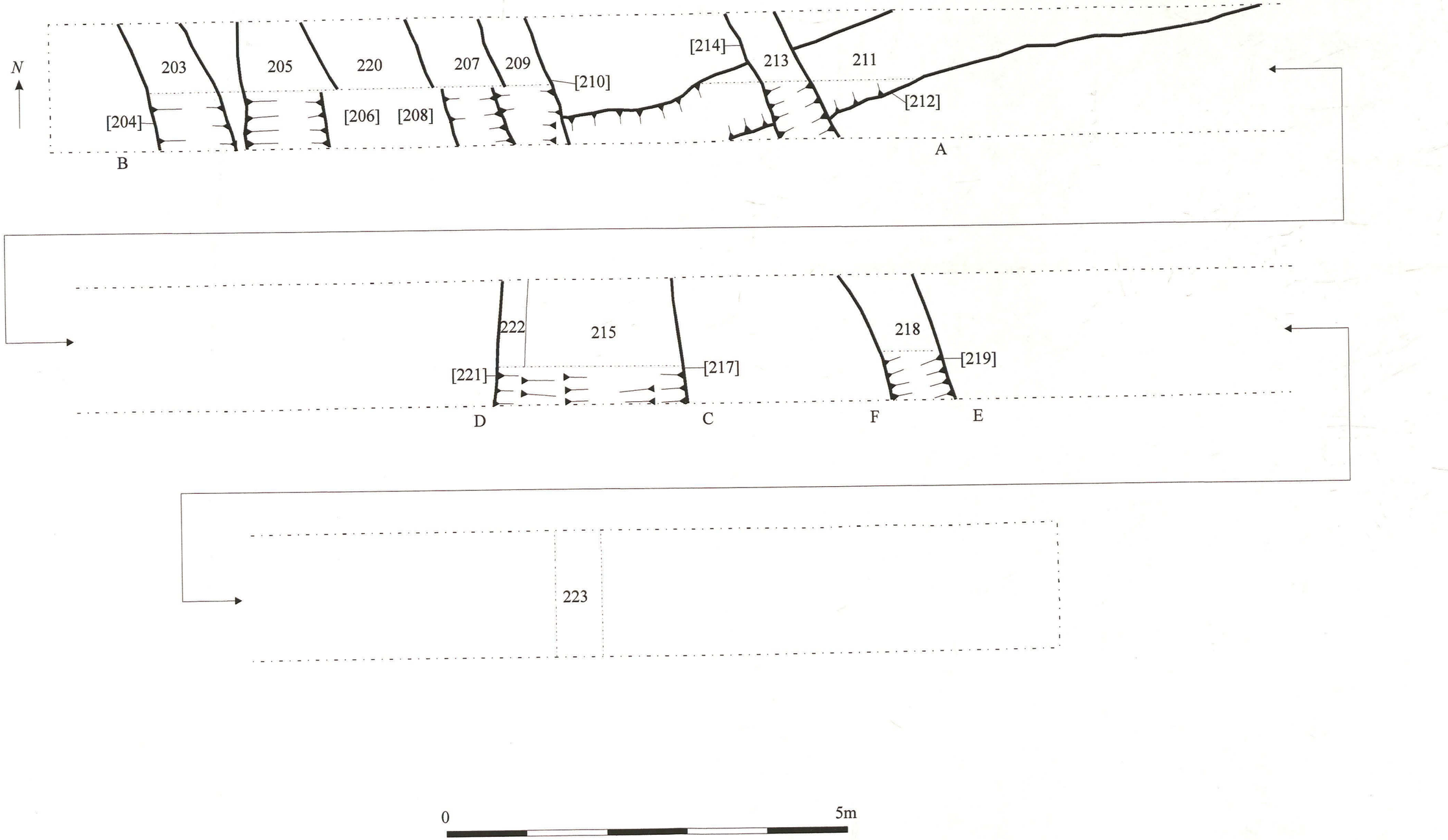


Figure 4a: Plan of Trench 2 at scale 1:50. Trench 2 sections can be found on figure 4b

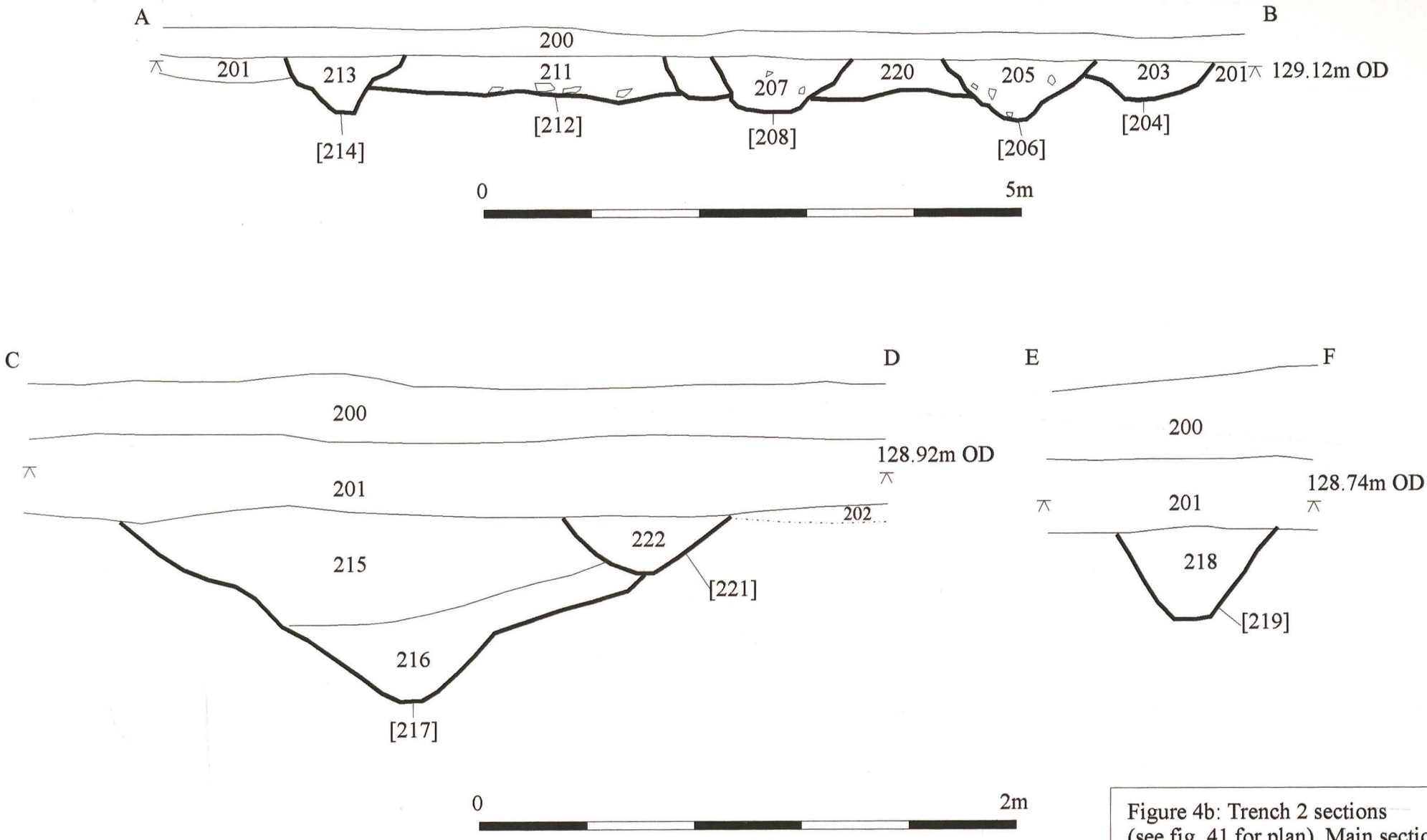


Figure 4b: Trench 2 sections (see fig. 41 for plan). Main section (A-B) at scale 1:50, sections C-D and E-F at scale 1:20

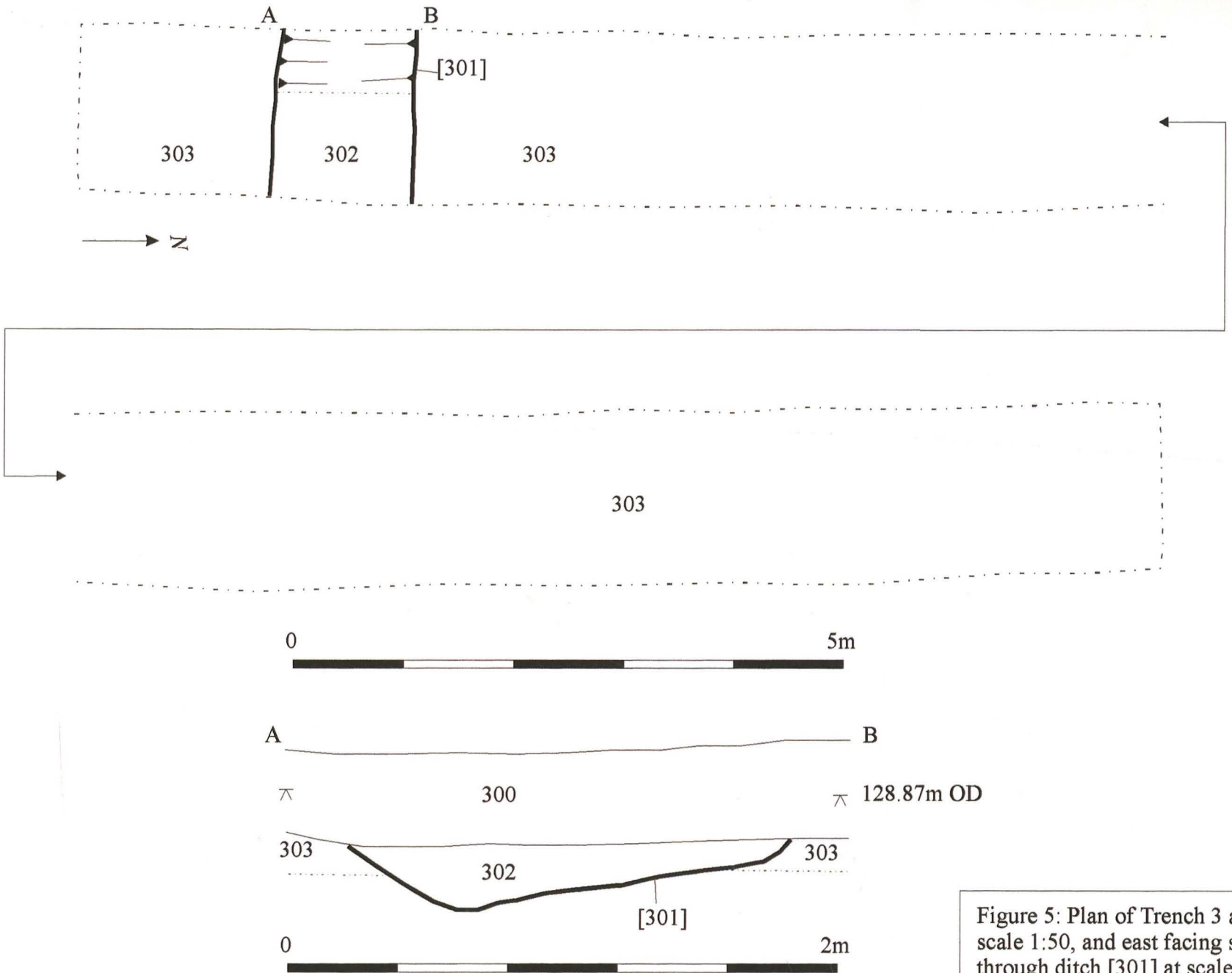


Figure 5: Plan of Trench 3 at scale 1:50, and east facing section through ditch [301] at scale 1:20

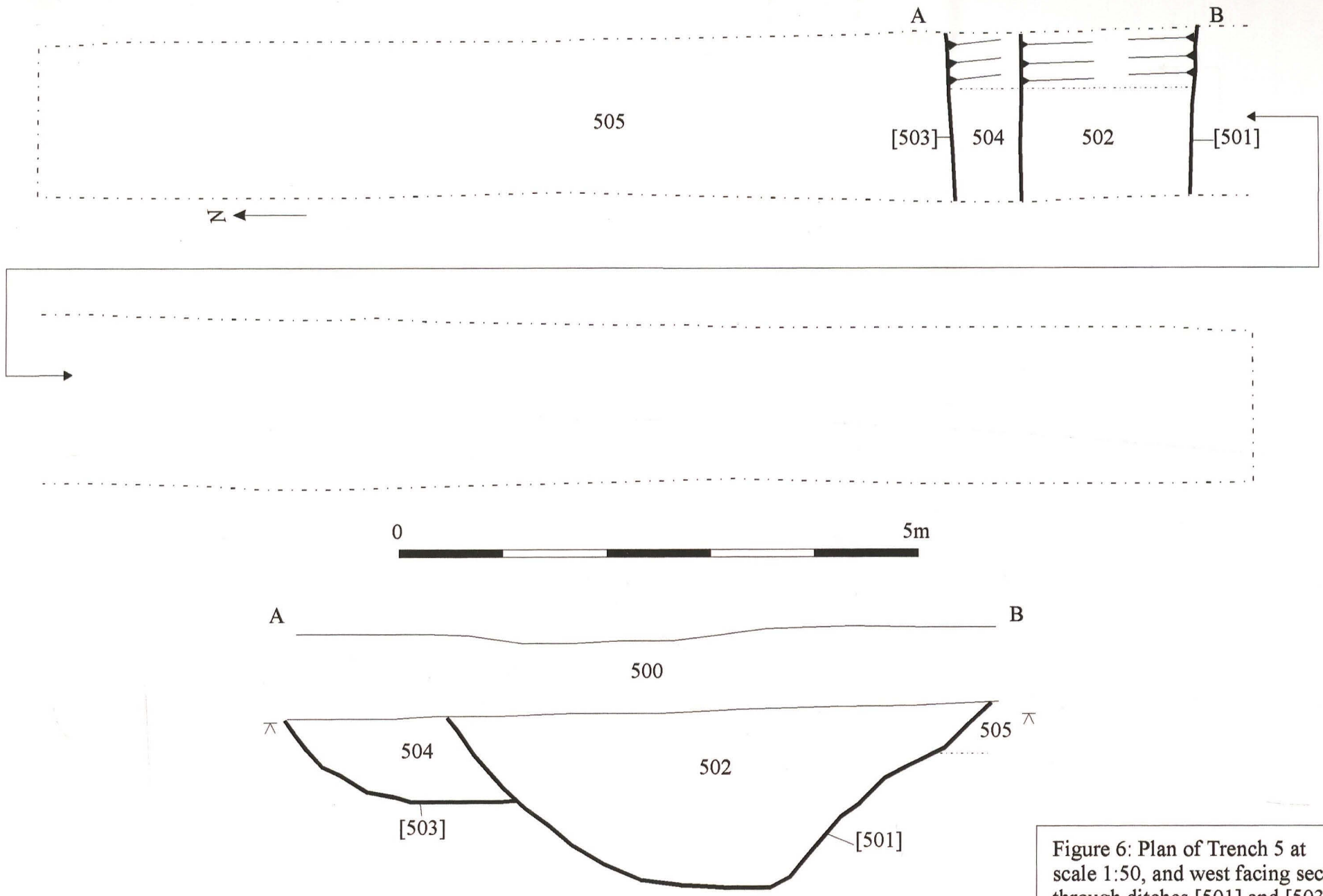


Figure 6: Plan of Trench 5 at scale 1:50, and west facing section through ditches [501] and [503]

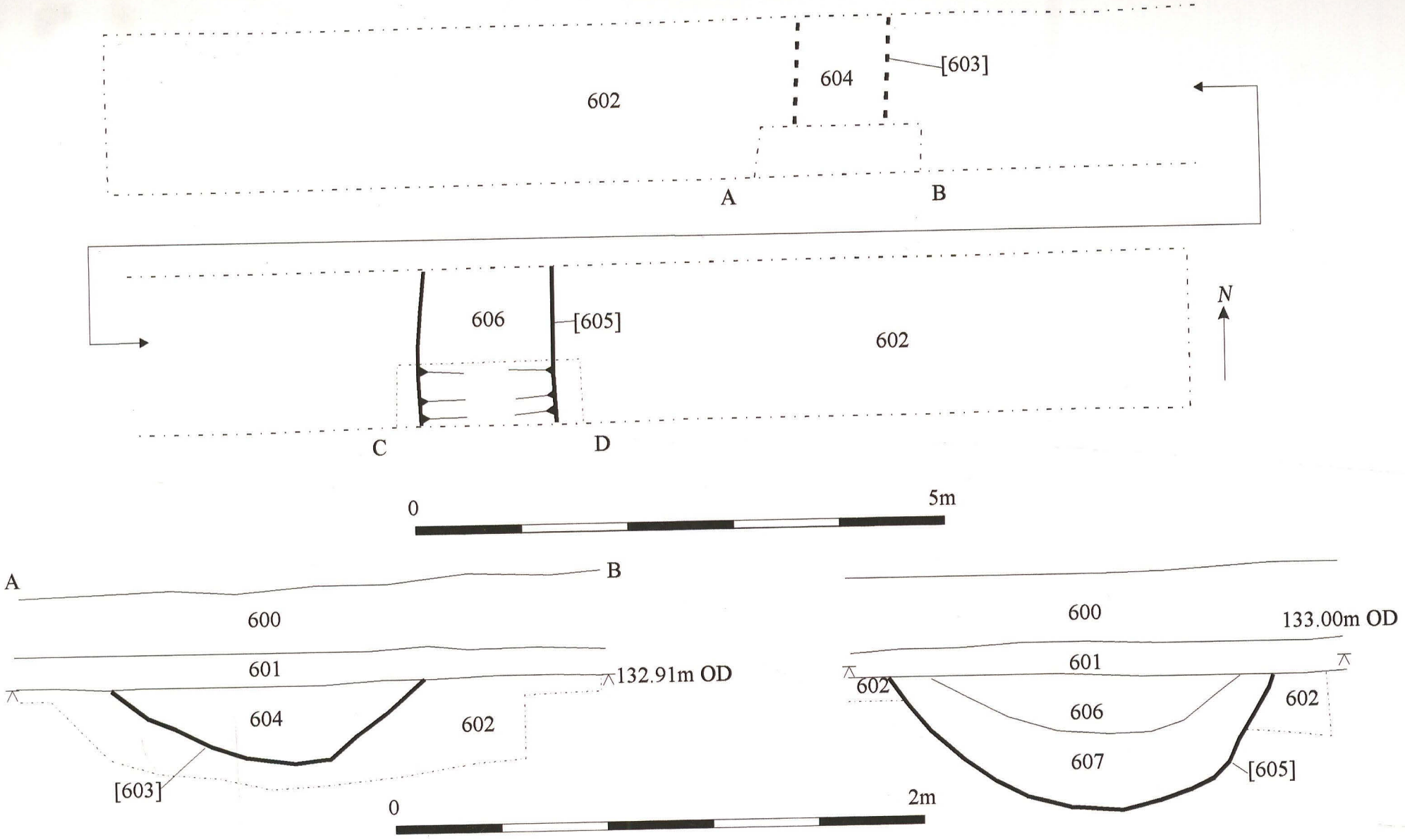
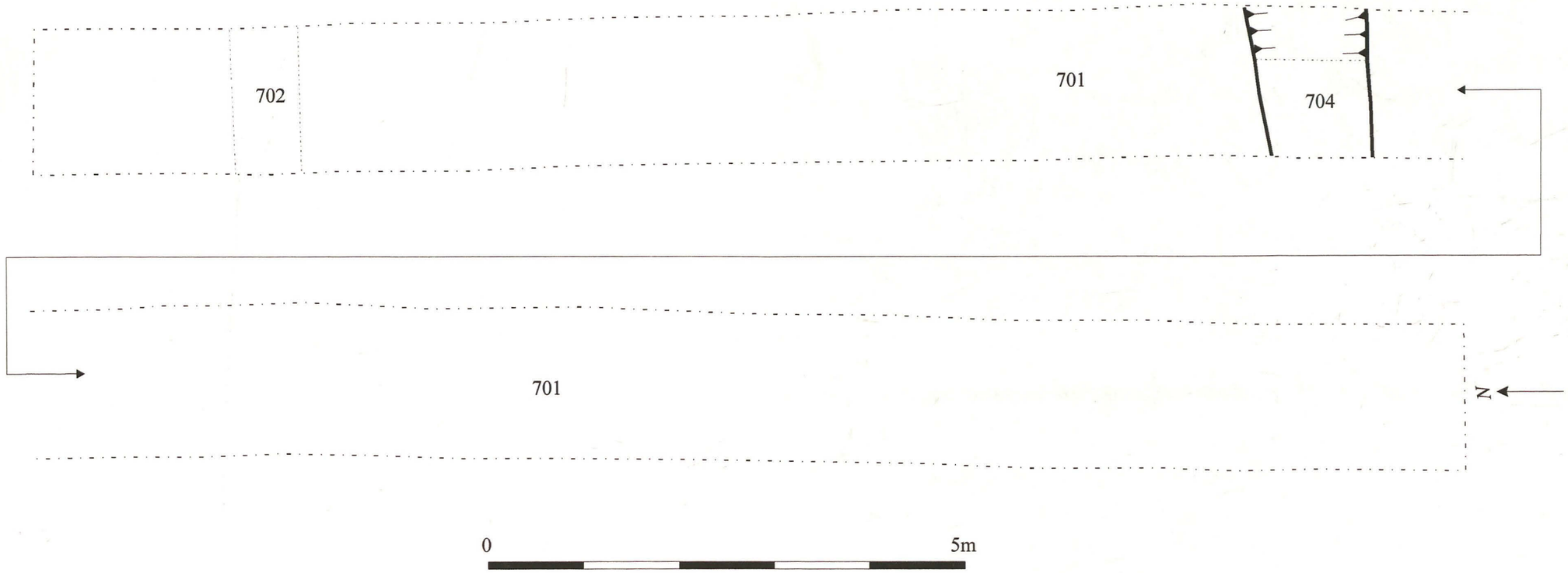


Figure 7: Plan of Trench 6 at scale 1:50, and sections at scale 1:20



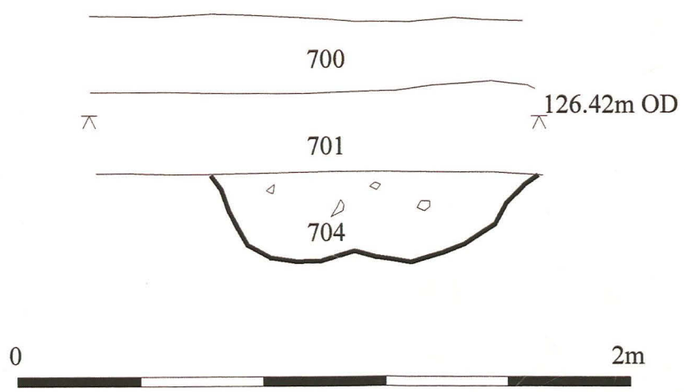


Figure 8: Plan of Trench 7 at scale 1:50, and west-facing section through 704, at scale 1:20

Appendix 1: Colour Plates

Plate 1: Section through ditch [103], looking north

Plate 2: General view of Trench 2, looking west

Plate 3: Section through ditch [219], looking south

Plate 4: Section through ditch [217], looking south

Plate 5: Section through ditches [206]/[204], looking south

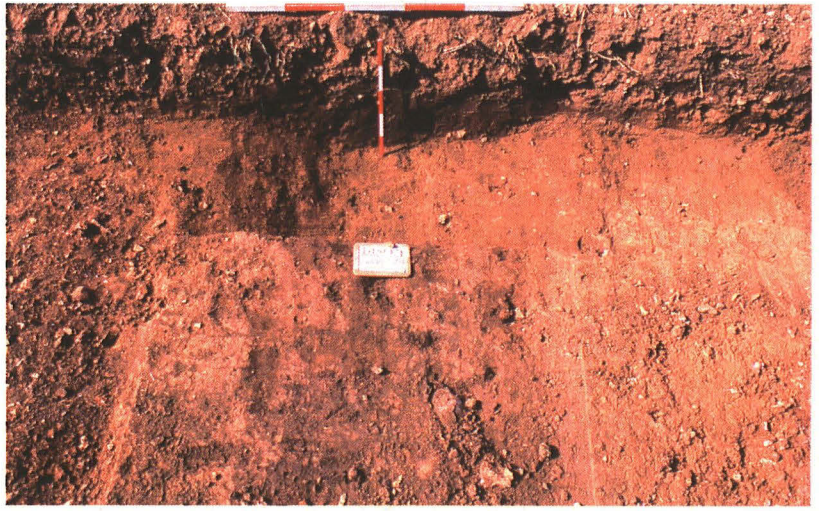


Plate 6: Section through ditch [301], looking west

Plate 7: Section through ditch [501], looking east

Plate 4: Section through ditch [605], looking south

Appendix 2: Romano-British pottery archive by M J Darling

Cxt	Sherds	Weight	Date	Comments
203	1	30	ROM	
205	17	632	L3E4	
207	29	571	M3?	
209	7	48	EM3	
211	19	318	M3+	
213	8	108	M3	
215	36	2371	L3-4	MIXED DATES;FFRESH
218	8	315	2-3C	NO GOOD DATE;SOME ABR
220	3	59	2-3C	NO GOOD DATE;SOME ABR
502	1	69	ROM;TILE	
503	6	26	2-3C?	ONE VESS;NO STRONG DATING
US	5	117	2-3C?	
US2	37	1434	L3E4	SOME ABRASION
	177	6098		

Appendix 3: Assessment of the Finds from Biscathorpe, Lincolnshire (BIS03)

Alan Vince

Three non-ceramic finds were recovered from archaeological fieldwork in Biscathorpe carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology Lincolnshire (Sitecode BIS03).

Catalogue

Copper Alloy

211. Two fragments of copper wire with a circular cross-section. The fragments probably come from a single object. Both pieces have one end formed into a roughly oval loop. Although it is possible that the wire is waste it is possible that it formed a rough hook, stitched to a piece of clothing or other material as a fastening. Such wire is, however, quite a common find in fieldwalking where it is usually assumed to be of recent date.

Stone

215. One fragment of Millstone Grit from the upper stone of a rotary quern. The fragment has one tooled face and one tooled edge. The face still shows a pattern of tooling which would have been worn away after a prolonged period of use, suggesting that the quern was abandoned before it worn out. Millstone Grit rotary querns were used in the Roman and medieval periods.

Glass

215. One fragment of possible window glass made from a dark green/blue material. Glass of this colour and appearance is probably of Roman date. Two methods of producing window glass were used in the Roman period: it could be spun, as in the 16th and 17th centuries, or formed from a cylinder which was cut down one side, the ends cut off and the sheet of glass then unfolded onto a smooth surface. It is not clear from this fragment which of these methods was used, although the latter is more likely.

Square bottles were also produced in this type of glass and it is just possible that the fragment comes from the wall of such a bottle.

Assessment

The fieldwork at Biscathorpe produced very little material of post-Roman date and it is therefore very likely that these objects are of Roman date. Only the glass is independently datable but the other two items are quite possibly Roman as well. Given the small number of finds it is not possible to infer much about the settlement which they came from, except that if the glass is indeed from a window then this settlement included Romanised buildings. The quern would have used to process cereal grains for flour. This grinding took place in a domestic context and nothing can be inferred about the production

of cereals on site from its presence, since bread was a staple food and corn would have had to be brought onto site if not produced nearby.

Appendix

REFNO	Description	Trench	Cname	Form	Nosh	NoV	Weight	Subfabric	Part	Sitecode	Condition	class
211	BROKEN IN TWO;BOTH FRAGS HAVE OVAL LOOPS AT ONE END	2	COPP	WIRE	2	1	2		BS	bis03	CORRODED	COPP
215	UPPER STONE OF ROTARY QUERN;EDGE WITH DRESSED SURFACE		STONE	QUERN	1	1	587	SSTMG	BS	bis03		STONE
215	SMOOTH ON BOTH FACES		RGLAS	WIND	1	1	10	BLUE/GREEN	BS	bis03		GLASS

Appendix 4

Land at Biscathorpe, Lincolnshire
BIS 03

Worked lithic materials: catalogue

Report by Jim Rylatt – September, 2003

1.0 Catalogue

Three pieces of worked flint was recovered during fieldwalking:

Trench No.	Context No.		Description
6	*606*	Side & end scraper	Relatively thick, parallel-sided flake, with cortical platform, very small pronounced bulb and feathered termination. Dorsal surface has scars suggesting the removal of similar flakes from single platform. The dorsal edge has been retouched by the removal of a series of uniform semi-abrupt to acute scale flakes. The majority of one lateral edge has also been retouched, this time by the serial removal of very small abrupt spalls. Scrapers such as this are difficult to date, but use of scale flaking suggests Latest Neolithic to Early Bronze age date of manufacture. Semi translucent greyish-brown flint. 26 x 19mm.
	607	Secondary flake	Irregular flake, with flat platform, very small pronounced bulb and feathered termination. Dorsal surface has scars indicating removal of similar flakes from one platform. Cortex is c. 3mm thick and has irregular surface – possibly not from river gravels? One lateral edge has possible use-wear, with very small spalls having been detached along its length. Greyish-brown semi-translucent flint, with occasional dark inclusions. 26 x 20mm.
	607	Secondary flake	Small flake, with very small platform, flat bulb and feathered termination. Approximately 10% of dorsal surface is cortical; cortex is very thin and abraded. Pale grey opaque flint. 19 x 13mm.

NB: Measurements are given only for complete flakes. The first figure relates to the maximum length, measured perpendicular to the striking platform; the second to maximum breadth, measured at a right angle to the length. Figures for the percentage of cortex relate to the total area of the dorsal surface and platform.

Appendix 5 Context Summary List

Trench 1

100 Modern ploughsoil
101 Subsoil (mid brown/orange silty clay)
102 Natural orange sandy clay
103 Cut, linear north-south ditch
104 Fill of 103: dark brown coarse silty sand, incorporating stone inclusion
105 Cut of shallow pit-like feature at east end of trench
106 Fill of 105: mid-brown silty sand with flint/stone inclusion

Trench 2

200 Modern ploughsoil
201 Subsoil deposit: grey/brown silty sand with stone/flint inclusion
202 Natural sub-stratum of light yellow/orange coarse sandy clay mixed with stone
203 Fill of feature 204: dark grey/brown sandy silt with frequent stone inclusion
204 Cut, north-south linear gully at west end of trench
205 Fill of feature 206: mid-grey sandy silt mixed with frequent stone inclusion and charcoal flecks
206 Cut, north-south linear gully at west end of trench
207 Fill of feature 208: dark grey/brown sandy clay with stone inclusion and charcoal flecks
208 Cut, north-south linear gully at west end of trench
209 Fill of feature 210: grey/brown sandy silt, occasional stone inclusion
210 Cut, north-south linear gully at west end of trench
211 Fill of feature 212: grey/brown sandy silt with large sub-angular limestone fragments, flint, occasional chalk fragments
212 Cut, east-west linear feature (earlier than 210 and 214)
213 Fill of feature 214: dark grey/brown sandy silt with frequent flint fragments, some large degraded sandstone fragments
214 Cut, north-south linear gully
215 Secondary fill of feature 217: dark sandy silt, frequent flint and charcoal inclusion
216 Primary fill of feature 217: yellow/grey clay-silt, frequent stone/flint inclusion
217 Cut, linear north-south ditch
218 Fill of feature 219: dark yellow/brown sandy silt with some flint/stone inclusion
219 Cut, north-south linear feature

Trench 3

300 Ploughsoil, Trench 3
301 Cut, east-west aligned linear ditch
302 Fill of feature 301: dark grey coarse sandy clay; occasional flint/chalk inclusion
303 Natural orange/brown clay-sand; abundant flint/chalk fragments

Trench 4

400 Ploughsoil, Trench 4
401 Natural deposit of orange brown clay-sand incorporating numerous fragments of flint and chalk

Trench 5

500 Ploughsoil, Trench 5
501 Cut, linear east-west ditch
502 Fill of ditch 501: mid-orange/brown clay-silt; moderate quantities of flint/chalk inclusion
503 Cut, linear east-west feature; ?earlier than 501

504 Fill of feature 503: mid-brown, slightly clayey silt-sand, occasional charcoal flecks
505 Natural deposit comprising yellow/brown/orange sandy silt with abundant chalk/flint inclusion

Trench 6

600 Ploughsoil, Trench 6
601 Subsoil of mid-brown/orange silty clay mixed with flint nodules, fragments of chalk
602 Natural deposit of mid brown/orange brash set in silty clay matrix
603 Poorly defined cut of north-south linear feature
604 Fill of feature 603: orange/brown clay-silt containing flint nodules and fragments and occasional flecks of charcoal
605 Cut, north-south linear ditch
606 Upper fill of 605: mid-red/brown clay-silt mixed with occasional flint fragments
607 Lower fill of 605: mid-brown/grey clay-silt, frequent flint fragments
608 Natural chalk bedrock/brash

Trench 7

700 Ploughsoil, Trench 7
701 Natural deposit of orange/brown silty sand mixed with chalk/flint chunks
702 Localised deposit at north end of trench: compact layer of chalk, interleaved with mid-brown clayey sand
703 Discarded context
704 Linear 'spread' of coarse dark brown sand