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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Mountbridge Works, Fishtoft Road, Boston, Lincs.
Archaeological Evaluation**

NGR: TF 3350 4310

Planning Application No.: B/01/0182/OUTL

Site Code: MBWB03

LCNCC Accn No.: 2003. 311

Report

For

Chestnut Homes Limited

By

David Britchfield

Conservation
Services

20 JAN 2004

Highways & Planning
Directorate

**LAS Report No. 713
December 2003**

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Contents

List of Figures	ii
List of Plates	ii
SUMMARY	1
INTRODUCTION	1
SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION	1
PLANNING BACKGROUND	1
ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	2
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	3
METHOD	4
PROJECT CONSTRAINTS	4
MONITORING	4
RESULTS	4
Trench 1	4
Trench 2	6
Trench 3	7
Trench 4	8
Trench 5	9
Trench 6	9
Trench 7	11
Trench 8	11
Trench 9	12
Trench 10	13
Trench 11	14
DISCUSSION	17
CONCLUSION	19
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	19
REFERENCES	19
Appendix 1 – Context Summary	20
Appendix 2 – Stratigraphic Matrix for Trench 11	
Appendix 3 – The Post- Roman Ceramic Material (Jane Young)	
Appendix 4 – Roman Pottery Archive (Barbara Precious)	
The Figures	
The Plates	

List of Figures

Fig.1 Location of Mountbridge Works, Boston (B based on the 1994 1:250,000 Ordnance Survey Road Atlas of Britain, © Crown copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165)

Fig.2 Trench location plan

Fig.3 Conveyance survey of 1859 (1)

Fig.4 Conveyance survey of 1859 (2)

Fig.5 Trench 1 plan, east facing profile & associated sections

Fig.6 Trenches 2 & 3 (plans only)

Fig.7 Trench 4 plan & sections

Fig.8 Trench 5 plan & profile

Fig.9 Trench 6 plan & sections

Fig.10 Trench 7 plan & profile

Fig.11 Trench 8 plan & profile

Fig.12 Trench 9 plan & profile

Fig.13 Trench 10 plan & sections

Fig.14 Trench 11 plan, north facing section and associated sections

List of Plates

Pl.1 General view of Trench 1 looking south

Pl.2 Channel [104] looking west

Pl.3 Plough marks and post holes located within the central area of Trench 1

Pl.4 Plough marks and pits located within the northern area of Trench 1

Pl.5 Feature [107], Section 2

Pl.6 Feature [106], Section 1

Pl.7 General view of Trench 6 looking east

Pl.8 General view of Trench 6 looking west

Pl.9 Test pit 6, looking south, located within the western extent of Trench 6

Pl.10 Feature [607], Section 11

Pl.11 General view of Trench 11 looking south-west

Pl.12 General view of Trench 11 looking south-east

Pl. 13 Central profile through Trench 11, facing south

Pl. 14 Feature [1118]

Pl. 15. Palaeochannels [1120] & [1122]

Pl. 16 Feature [1114], Section 15

**Mountbridge Works, Fishtoft Road, Boston, Lincs.
Archaeological Trial Trenching and Watching Brief**

NGR: TF 3350 4310

Planning Application No.: B/01/0182/OUTL

Site Code: MBWB 03

LCNCC Accn No.: 2003. 311

SUMMARY

Evaluation trenches at Mountbridge Works, Fishtoft Road, Boston revealed the presence of plough marks and post holes, possibly associated with a medieval field system, within the northern extent of the site, along with relatively short-lived contemporary phases of inundation and land reclamation within the southern area of the site.

A 19th century windmill and iron works which were thought to have been present within the assessment area were not located and cartographic evidence suggests that these sites lay directly beneath Dock Terrace, a privately owned area of Victorian terrace housing beyond the north-western extent of the site.

For much of medieval and post-medieval period the land was probably too prone to flooding to be suitable for occupation, with evidence for cultivation being confined to the northern limits of the site. The areas of highest archaeological potential lie in the north-eastern and south-eastern corners of the site, where former watercourses, or palaeochannels of medieval date were identified. Significant archaeological deposits within Trench 11 were encountered at a depth of c.3.64m AOD, while those in Trench 1 were at 2m AOD. Careful design of foundations should minimise the impact of development on archaeological remains.

INTRODUCTION

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Chestnut Homes Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with general requirements set out in *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998) and the brief set by the Boston Community Archaeologist dated.

SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The application site is an irregular plot of land 1.71ha in extent and is located on the south east side of Boston. The southern boundary is formed by the River Witham, to the west lies the Maud Foster Drain. The eastern boundary is formed by Rectory road and the north by Fishtoft Road. The site was recently occupied by industrial units associated with the processing of feathers.

PLANNING BACKGROUND

A full planning application was submitted by Chestnut Homes Limited to Boston Borough Council for the construction of three-storey town houses, integral garages and vehicular access. Planning consent

as given subject to a condition that required a scheme of archaeological works comprising trial trenching, with any mitigation measures to follow.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Boston is situated at the mouth of the River Witham and was a port of international importance in the medieval period. Although this area of the fens developed relatively late there is substantial evidence for occupation from the Saxon period onwards. The location of the development site, in relation to the River Witham, is particularly important when attempting to define potential archaeological deposits within this local environment.

Exploitation of the fens increased during the Roman period following the development of sea water creeks within the lowlands. Navigable trade routes along major rivers such as the Witham, provided access from the fens to the markets of Sleaford and Lincoln. By the 10th and 11th centuries) the growth of Lincoln was such that it had become one of the country's largest and most important cities. This was reflected in the surrounding landscape which developed an extensive network of trade routes connecting the markets towns of the eastern fens to the larger provincial cities such as Lincoln and Peterborough.

The proposed development site lies approximately 150m west of Skirbeck Church and its adjacent settlement recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086. The port at Boston appears to have developed in the period after the Norman Conquest taking over from Skirbeck which was on the opposite bank of the river. By the 15th century Boston was second in importance only to London as a major international port

Later phases of development include the industrial expansion of Skirbeck and Boston, in particular the siting of a post-medieval windmill and later iron foundry. Conveyance plans (see Figs 3 and 4), dated May 1859, show the details of the land, known as Church Pasture, purchased by the Tuxford family of Boston, from Mrs Ann Catherine Roy, widow of the Reverend William Roy, Rector of Skirbeck, who died in 1852. It shows that the Tuxford family, which comprised Weston Tuxford (1747 – 1837), who had five sons; William Wedd Tuxford (Baker), Weston Ingram Tuxford (Watch/clock maker and silversmith), James Edward Tuxford (Pawn broker and Shipowner), John Tuxford (Glass, Earthenware and China dealer) and Peter Tuxford (Lawyer), as well as three daughters, purchased the land for the value of £1000. The Boston and Skirbeck Iron Works appears to have been established in 1826 by William Wedd Tuxford (1782-1871), adjacent to his existing eight-sail windmill at Mountbridge, within a small parcel of land occupying the north-western corner of the site (see Fig. 3). The sale of the Church Pasture to William Wedd, Peter (1787 – 1833) and James Edward (1774 – 1855), witnesses the development of various small industrial concerns, such as a woodworkers shop (J), painters shop (L), smiths and boilers makers shops and forges (PPP) etc, constructed either before (the only 'proposed' shop is that of the painter) or immediately after the sale, associated with Tuxfords and Sons Iron Works (BCDE) (Fig. 4).

Following liquidation in 1911, the land was sold to J.B Arch & Son (Glass Manufactures), which was subsequently afforded to Fogarty & Co Ltd in 1930.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

In general terms the purpose of the evaluation was to

- establish the presence or absence, quality and extent of archaeological remains and their location within the 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 development will have upon them
- 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

More specifically, attention was given to the nature of deeper alluvial deposits associated with early phases of occupation. The dynamic nature of inundation within and around Boston has been shown to conceal both medieval and possible Romano-British layers at depths up to 3m below the modern land surface. Test slots were therefore machine-excavated in the trenches in order to evaluate these lower archaeological horizons and establish, and possibly date, phases of occupation and inundation.

Particular attention was paid to investigate a reported post-medieval iron foundry associated with a windmill, located immediately between the existing feather factory and Dock Terrace.

METHOD

Work was carried out between 22nd September 2003 and October 5th 2003, with the excavation of eleven trial trenches of various sizes (see below). Trench locations were agreed prior to the excavation in an onsite meeting between Rebecca Wilcox (Boston Community Archaeologist), Neil Kempster (Land and Development Manager), Chestnut Homes Limited) and Mark Williams (Project Manager, LAS). Slight amendments to these locations were necessary during the evaluation (see Fig. 2) due to the presence of services etc., which were approved by Rebecca Wilcox during monitoring visits to site.

Trenches 1-4 were located along the eastern extent of the site, equally spaced, adjacent and approximately parallel to Rectory Road. To the west, Trenches 5 and 6 were positioned immediately north of the existing feather factory targeting potential post-medieval industrial activity associated with the mill and iron foundry. Three trenches (7-9), were located within the existing feather factory, while a Trench 10 focused on the southern car parking/unloading area. Trench 11 was located within the south-east corner of the site.

Each trench was machine excavated, subject to the presence of existing services and other obstacles, using a JCB excavator. A toothless ditching bucket was used to remove the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon. All machine excavation was supervised by an

experienced archaeologist. The increase in the width of the some trenches, coupled with the anticipated depth of potential archaeological horizons, meant that the excavations were stepped in. This was carried out in strict accordance to maximum health and safety recommendations.

All trenches were hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and carefully selected cross-sections through the features were excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary.

A single context recording system was used to record the deposits, a full list is presented in Appendix 1. Layers and fills of features are recorded (100). The cut of a feature is shown [100].

PROJECT CONSTRAINTS

Initial estimates in the on-site schedule needed to be adjusted due to the unforeseen depth of the heavily reinforced concrete slabs which extended the time that machines were required on site. Trenches 7, 8 & 10, located within the feather factory could only be excavated using 5 ton mini 360° machine, because of insufficient headroom for a larger machine, thereby limiting the depth of excavation. The water table varied around the site, averaging a depth of approximately 1-1.5m below the existing ground level. This resulted in the need to backfill some of the more unstable test pits immediately after excavation.

MONITORING

Monitoring visits by both Jo Hambly (Heritage Trust Lincolnshire) and Rebecca Wilcox (Boston Community Archaeologist) were carried during the course, and on completion, of the evaluation. Reasons as to the relocation of some of the trenches were explained and approved during these the meetings as was permission to backfill those trenches/test pits considered a health and safety risk. A final site meeting was held on the 3rd October 2003 in order to confirm and discuss preliminary results and methodologies.

RESULTS

Trench 1 (10 x 3m) Figs. 3 and 5

Trench 1 was located adjacent to the Fishtoft Road entrance to the site. The modern deposits comprised a layer of tarmac (100) up to 0.26m deep which overlay two clay levelling deposits (101) and (102). In the southern area of the trench a circular post hole filled by concrete, [111] was removed by the machine during initial excavation, loosely and partially backfilled by (138). Below these was a former topsoil (103) 0.16m in depth, which filled a modern pit or ditch, [113], which crossed the full width of the trench. It had vertical sides and a flat base and measured 0.50m wide 0.08m deep, The presence of a modern stake directly above this feature may suggest a delineating boundary, although this was not recognised in plan.

Directly underlying layer (103) was a second former topsoil (114) consisting of friable mid grey brown clay silt with frequent inclusions of tiny pulverised flecks of ceramic building materials (e.g brick and tile) and mortar. Two features were dug into (114). [147] was a shallow 'trough-like' feature measuring 2.40m in length with a depth of 0.18m. Its single fill, (146) contained flecks of brick or tile. A rectangular pit [109] measuring 0.88m x 0.52m and 0.62m deep, with vertical sides and flat base, also cut (114). Its primary fill (127) comprised washed in bands of dirty silty sand with no inclusions. 0.31m deep. Above this deposit was (126) which contained 14th to 17th century pottery which was overlain by an upper fill (125) of silty sand which had been truncated by [113] mentioned above.

Beneath pit [147] and cutting into layer (123) was post hole [105]. It ran partially beneath the western baulk edge and measured 0.24m in diameter, with a depth of 0.30m. Its fill (133), contained a fragment of 14-17th century hand made brick.

Immediately south of pit [109] was pit [115] which was sealed by layer (114)/(116). It measured 0.42m in width with a depth of 0.22m. It was filled by (117), a soft yet friable mid brown sandy clay with moderate sized fragments of brick and tile. This pit had cut through an earlier feature [144], bearing similar characteristics to adjacent plough marks. However, this feature, differed in that it had been cut at a 45° angle. Its fill (145), consisted of mixed grey brown and yellow brown clay silts with very occasional flecks of brick/tile.

Approximately 1.5m to the north of pit [109], was [110], a second rectangular pit 0.80m x 0.65m with a depth of 0.31m. This was sealed by layers (129) and (130) which both lay beneath (114). While a direct relationship could not be determined in section, it is likely that these two deposits are contemporary, although (130) contained pottery dating to the 14th and 16th centuries while (129) contained 19th – 20th century pottery. A shallow undulation with the upper area of (129), recorded as (128) consisted of friable very dark brown silt surrounding compacted brick/tile fragments up to 0.03m in size. With a length of 0.22m and depth of 0.07m it is unlikely that this deposit represents anything more than surface trample.

Directly below, and filled by (129), were three parallel depressions interpreted as possible plough scores. Features [154] and [156] were visible in Profile 1 and on plan, [155] is only visible on plan (see Fig. 5). They were only 0.03m deep and 0.05-0.07m wide but were similar in dimensions and alignment to more convincing plough scores to the south which suggests that they were not natural in origin.

To the south of pit [110] was a buried soil horizon (123), comprising a mixture of mid brown and yellow brown silty sand with moderate inclusions of pebbles and tile and brick fragments of 14th - 16th century date, which sealed three more convincing plough scores [153], [152] and [157]. Each of these features was aligned east-west with rounded U-shaped profiles measuring 0.08-0.10m wide and 0.8-0.11m deep.

Layer (123) continued south, sealing four additional plough scores within the centre of the trench, [158] [112], [150] and [149]. All four of the plough scars had been filled by (123), and cut through underlying natural silts (124) and (142).

Post hole [106], by far the largest within the trench, measured 0.34m square with a depth of 0.27m) truncated plough scar [158]. It contained two packing stones and two fills (134) and (135) comprising sandy clays and silt. Layer (123) also sealed post hole or possible shallow pit, [140] in the centre of the trench. It was only partially exposed in the deeper slot dug on the west side of Trench 1, but measured 0.25m in diameter and was 0.05m deep.

Located approximately 1m north of [106] was post hole [107]. It was also square in plan with slightly rounded corners, and measured 0.55m in width with a depth of 0.09m. The single fill, (136) consisted of very pale yellow brown and grey brown mottled sandy clay with no inclusions. A very shallow depression, [108], located within the centre of the trench against the eastern baulk edge, may have been the truncated base of a square cut post hole. With a width of 0.45m and depth of 0.03m, this feature contained a very pale yellow brown and grey brown mottled sandy clay fill with no inclusions (137), very similar to (136).

A silt-filled former water channel [104], was located in the southern part of the trench which is possibly contemporary with (124) and earlier than the plough scores sealed by (123). The feature contained fills (122) and (121) which were overlain by the buried soil (123) indicating a period of stabilisation at this point. Further fills 120, 119 and 118 followed this period of stabilisation. Fills (119) and (120), both contained handmade bricks, dating to between the 14th and 16th centuries.

The excavation of Test Pit 1 at the north end of the trench revealed a band of light blue grey flood clay (159), 0.20m thick sloping towards the north to a depth of 1.40m below the existing tarmac level. Below this layer light yellow brown slightly clayey silt (160) continued to a depth of 2.50m below existing ground level.

Trench 2 (10 x 3m) Figs 3 and 6

Trench 2 was orientated north-south and located 20m to the south of Trench 1, adjacent to the eastern boundary of the site. Removal of the tarmac (200) revealed live services at the north end of Trench 2 resulting in a reduction in the overall size of the trench. Machine excavation was carried out to the top of layer (202) over the entire trench, at which point two further service trenches were uncovered. The presence of live services meant that no further excavation could take place, except at the north end of the trench where a test pit (TP2) was dug to a depth of 3.50m below the existing ground surface. A photographic record was made prior to immediate backfilling, due to collapse of the trench sides. No archaeological features were seen within the exposed layers.

The sequence of deposits was as follows:

Depth AOD	Context Number	Description
3.19 – 3.09m	(200)	Tarmac surface
3.09– 2.64m	(201)	Layers of hardcore mixed with modern industrial waste (wire, clinker, plastics etc.)
2.64– 2.02m	(202)	Very stiff mid brown clay, with occasional orange silt mottling, containing friable CBM and occasional charcoal flecks
2.02 – 1.46m	(203)	Stiff blue grey clay with light brown silt mottling. Occasional inclusions of shell fragments and rooting. Low energy flood deposit.
1.46 – -0.31m+	(204)	Reasonably compact light green grey silt. Sterile deposit with evidence of oil contamination which had leaked down and spread within this more free draining layer (between 1.90m – 2.50m below tarmac level)

Trench 3 (10 x 5m) Figs 3 and 6

Trench 3 was located adjacent to the eastern boundary of the site and aligned north-south. The sequence of deposits was as follows.

Depth AOD	Context Number	Description
3.21 – 3.01m	(300)	Hardcore rubble
3.01– 2.76m	(301)	Dark grey contaminated silty clay
2.76– 2.46m	(302)	Very stiff red brown clay with sporadic 'pools' of mid grey blue clay. Very sterile flood deposit likely caused during long term phases of inundation. No recognisable patterns to suggest channels etc.
2.46– 2.36m	(303)	Stiff blue grey clay with no inclusions. Low energy flood deposit.
2.36 – 1.46m	(304)	Mid brown slightly silty clay, similar to (302) in that occasional intrusions of blue clay present.
1.46– 0.71m	(305)	Stiff mid brown clay silt below the water table. Sterile flood deposit.
0.71–0.61m	(306)	Very stiff mid brown clay silt (10:90) with occasional inclusions of orange sand. Sterile flood deposit.
0.61–0.21m+	(307)	Very stiff dark grey clay. Sterile deposit.

Excavation was carried out to the top of layer (302) over the entire trench. Four pottery sherds, from two vessels, were retrieved from (302) dating to between the 13th and 14th centuries. A 1.5m slot wide (TP3) was excavated through the centre of the trench to determine the nature of lower flood deposits and to investigate any potential archaeological horizons at a lower depth. While five early phases of

inundation were recognised none contained any organic content or material remains. Excavation ceased at a depth of 3m below the existing ground surface at which point a photographic record was produced prior to immediate backfilling (due to collapse). No archaeological features were present.

Trench 4 (10 x 5m) Figs 3 and 7

Trench 4 was aligned north-south and located adjacent to the eastern boundary of the site, south of Trench 3. The sequence of deposits was as follows.

Depth AOD	Context Number	Description
3.45 – 3.30m	(400)	Concrete slab & hardcore rubble
3.30 – 2.79m	(401) & (412)	Friable mid brown clay silt, with very occasional inclusions of CBM fragments. Flood deposit.
2.79 – 2.13m	(413)	Very stiff red brown clay with sporadic 'pools' of mid grey blue clay. Very sterile flood deposit likely caused during long term phases of inundation. No recognisable patterns to suggest channels etc. Same as (302).
2.13 – 1.55m	(414)	Orange yellow silt with occasional inclusions of blue grey mottled clay.
1.55 – 1.42m	(415)	Very stiff mid brown clay, very similar to (305), although slightly greyer.
1.42 – 0.81m	(416)	Very stiff mid brown clay silt (10:90) with occasional inclusions of orange sand. Sterile flood deposit. Same as (306).
0.81m- 0.64m+	(417)	Very stiff dark grey clay. Sterile deposit. Same as (307).

Excavation was carried out to the top of layer (401) over the entire trench, at which point archaeological features were recognised. A 1.5m wide test pit (TP4) was excavated at the north end of the trench, examine the nature of lower flood deposits and identify any potential archaeological horizons at a lower depth. Excavation ceased at a depth of 2.80m below the existing ground surface . A photographic record was made prior to immediate backfilling (due to the close proximity of field staff).

Two post holes, one pit and the edge of a possible water channel were cut into the upper flood silt (401). A large channel, [403], dominated the entire eastern side of the trench with an exposed width of approximately 1.90m. The lowest fill (405) comprised waterlogged dark brown clay silt with very occasional flecks of brick/tile. This was overlain by (404) a dump of brick and tile in a deposit of clay with charcoal inclusions. (402) was the uppermost fill of dark brown clay silt. Layers (404) and (402) appeared to be associated with the post-medieval levelling of the site prior to industrial development, because they contained medieval brick and tile finds also included 19th-20th century pottery.

Adjacent to the channel were two circular post holes. [408] measured 0.14m in diameter with a depth of 0.13m. Its fill (409) comprised relatively loose, friable, very dark brown clay silt. Part of a timber post had survived within this fill, along with small fragments of 14th-16th century residual brick/tile. The second post hole, [410], measured 0.30m in diameter with a depth of 0.15m. Its fill (411) consisted of light grey and pale grey brown clay, again with part of the post remaining. Partially beneath the western baulk of the trench, was a small pit [406] with near vertical sides, 0.16m deep. Its friable dark grey brown clay silt fill, (407), contained tiny fragments of pulverised brick or tile. The shape, profile and characteristics of the fill suggest a date contemporary with the other two post holes.

Trench 5 (5 x 4m) Figs 3 and 8

Trench 5 was located immediately south of Dock Terrace, adjacent to the north end of the feather factory and aligned east-west. The trench had to be moved from its proposed location due the presence of drains and services adjacent to the northern boundary wall of the site. The revised trench location resulted in a reduction in its proposed size because of the need for continued access into the adjacent unit. The sequence of deposits was as follows:

Depth AOD	Context Number	Description
3.10– 2.88m	(500)	Concrete slab
2.88 –2.67m	(501)	Crushed limestone hardcore
2.67 – 2.53m	(502)	Hardcore layer comprising fragments of modern brick, angular and sub-angular stone, along with frequent inclusions of clinker.
2.53 – 1.00m	(503)	Mid red brown silty clay of firm density, with sporadic blue clay mottling (approximately 5% of exposed area). Inclusion of charcoal flecks and friable shell. Heavily rooted in upper 0.40m.
1.00m+	(504)	Stiff blue grey flood clay with occasional red brown silty clay mottling.

Excavation was carried out to a depth of 1.20m, within layer (503), over the extent of the entire trench. Following this, a 1.5m wide test pit (TP5) was excavated at the eastern end of the trench, in order to determine the nature of lower flood deposits and identify any potential archaeological horizons at a lower depth. Excavation ceased at a depth of 2.10m below the existing ground surface at which time a photographic record was made. The water table was encountered at a depth of 1.095m AOD. No archaeological features were present within this trench.

Trench 6 (20 x 2m) Figs 3 and 9

Trench 6 was aligned east-west and located 60m east of Trench 5, in order to identify any possible post-medieval deposits associated with the windmill and/or iron foundry. Removal of the concrete slab (600) revealed a layer of black ash and clinker filled silt (602) in the west end of the trench, adjacent to

a surface constructed of modern machine-pressed bricks (601). Removal of these two deposits revealed layer (605), a mid red brown silty clay which had been truncated by potential archaeological deposits. Machine excavation penetrated 0.39m into the upper surface of (605) over the entire trench. Following this, a 1.5m wide test pit (TP6) was excavated at the west end of the trench, in order to determine the nature of lower flood deposits and identify any potential archaeological horizons at a lower depth. Excavation ceased at a depth of 1.50m below the existing ground surface, at layer (606), at which point a photographic record was made of the excavation prior to backfilling.

Three post holes and a possible water channel were revealed cutting layer (605), along with seven features containing modern waste (plastic, steel binding straps etc.), that were examined but not recorded. Within the western part of the trench, adjacent to TP6, a sub-rectangular post hole [613], with vertical sides and a concave base measured 0.35m in depth, with a width of 0.30m. The single fill of this feature, (614), consisted of the clinker filled ash as recorded in the above layer (602).

The sequence of deposits was as follows:

Depth AOD	Context Number	Description
3.02 – 2.87m	(600)	Concrete slab
2.87 – 2.63m	(601) & (602)	Modern brick surface and clinker filled silt
2.63 – 1.52m	(605)	Mid red brown silty clay of firm density, with sporadic blue clay mottling (approximately 5% of exposed area). Inclusion of charcoal flecks and friable shell. Heavily rooted in upper 0.40m. Same layer as (503)
1.52m+	(606)	Stiff blue grey flood clay with occasional red brown silty clay. Same as (504)

Two post holes towards the eastern end of the trench. [609] measured 0.30m in diameter and 0.36m deep, while [611] had a diameter of 0.30m and depth of 0.15m. Both fills, (610) and (612) respectively, comprised loose dark grey silty clay with occasional charcoal and decomposed friable wood fragments. Finds from (610) included 19th-20th century pottery.

In the centre of the trench was [607] which was 5.50m in width 0.48m deep. Its fill (608), consisted of firm dark grey alluvial clay with finds of c.18th century date. Adjacent to the south side of the trench was a triangular-shaped patch of layer (605) suggesting that (607) as recorded probably represents more than one natural alluvial channel whose fills could not be distinguished. A modern drain (608), cut through the top of (608).

Trench 7 (10 x 3m) Figs 3 and 11

Trench 7, aligned north-south, was located inside the feather factory, adjacent to the western side of the building. The original trench location, which was planned to be within the eastern area of the factory, needed to be amended due height restrictions associated with machine access. The sequence of deposits was as follows:

Depth AOD	Context Number	Description
3.14– 2.98m	(700)	Concrete slab
2.98– 2.78m	(701)	Crushed brick hardcore
2.78–2.70m	(702)	Dark grey brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and hardcore contamination. Former topsoil horizon.
2.70–1.72m	(703)	Mid yellow brown clay silt of moderate density. Sterile flood deposit.
1.72–1.24m	(704)	Very firm mid brown flood clay, with occasional areas of blue grey clay mottling.
1.24 – 0.74m+	(705)	Stiff blue grey flood clay with occasional red brown silty clay mottling.

Machine excavation was carried out to a depth of 0.4m, within layer (702), at which point a modern live storm drain was encountered at the south end of the trench. This was left *in situ*, with the remaining area of excavation stepping down to a depth of 1.20m (within layer 703). A test pit (TP7), 1.5m wide and 4m long was running northwards from the storm drain, in order to determine the nature of lower flood deposits and to identify any potential archaeological horizons at a lower depth. Excavation ceased at a depth of 2m below the existing factory floor at which point a photographic record was made. The water table was encountered at a depth of 1.14m AOD. No archaeological features were present within this trench.

Trench 8 (10 x 3m) Figs 3 and 11

Trench 8 was aligned north-south and located inside the feather factory, 35m east of Trench 7. Excavation was carried out to a depth of 1.20m, to the base of layer (803) and clipping the top of layer (804) in the southern half of the trench. A 1.5m wide test pit (TP8) was excavated at the eastern end of the trench, in order to determine the nature of lower flood deposits and identify any potential archaeological horizons at a lower depth. Excavation ceased at a depth of 2.20m below the existing ground surface at which time a photographic record was made. The water table was encountered at a depth of 1.20m AOD. Truncation had occurred within the southern extent of the trench, with two modern service trenches cutting through (803) to a depth greater than 1.20m. No archaeological features were present within this trench. The sequence of deposits was as follows:

Depth AOD	Context Number	Description
3.20 – 3.01m	(800)	Concrete slab
3.01– 2.89m	(801)	Crushed brick hardcore
2.89 – 2.51m	(802)	Dark grey brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and hardcore contamination. 19 th – 20 th century topsoil horizon. Same as (702).
2.51– 1.98m	(803)	Mid yellow brown clay silt of moderate density. Sterile flood deposit. Same as (703).
1.98 – 1.00m	(804)	Very firm mid brown flood clay, with occasional areas of blue grey clay mottling. Same as (704)
1.00m+	(805)	Stiff blue grey flood clay with occasional red brown silty clay mottling.

Trench 9 (5 x 4m) Figs 3 and 12

Trench 9 was located outside the feather factory, just south of the southern entrance, within a car parking and unloading area. The proposed trench size had to be reduced due to the presence of drains. The tarmac surface (900) was approximately 0.05m in depth, overlying a mixture of hardcore rubble (901) and crushed limestone (905). Cutting through layer (901) were two late 19th/early 20th century pits, [907] and [911] were present within the trench, both filled with glass, (906) and (912) respectively, associated with the former wholesalers and manufacturers located on this part of the site until c.1920.

Underlying (901) was a contaminated area of oil-soaked soil (915) which was removed during by machine. This sat directly over an alluvial deposit of light green grey silty clay (904) to a depth of c. 0.80m below the tarmac level. Beneath (901) the foundation cut [908] for a modern east-west orientated wall (909) was present along the southern extent of the trench, cutting into layer (904).

Below (904), was deposit (903) which consisted of light orange brown silty clay and directly overly (902), a light green grey silty clay. Neither of these deposits contained any inclusions, both being formed through natural phases of inundation, although (903) did contain two fragments of 14th-16th century hand-made brick.

The first phase of excavation ceased at a depth of 1.20m, being followed the excavation of a slot (TP9) through lower deposits in order to determine the nature of lower flood deposits and identify any potential archaeological horizons at a lower depth. Excavation ceased at a depth of 3.20m below the existing ground surface. No archaeological features were encountered within this trench. The sequence of deposits was as follows:

Depth AOD	Context Number	Description
2.06 – 1.81	(910)	Very firm mid brown flood clay, with occasional areas of blue grey clay mottling. Same as (704) and (804), although contained 16 th 18 th century tile.
1.81 – 1.51m	(916)	Mid orange brown silty clay. Reasonably wet of moderate density, with no finds or inclusions. Natural flooding horizon.
1.51 – 0.01m	(913)	Mid brown orange slightly clayey silt. Very wet. Compact but loose when test slot excavated. No finds or features.
0.01m+	(914)	Stiff blue grey flood clay with occasional red brown silty clay mottling.

Trench 10 (10 x 3m) Figs 3 and 13

Trench 10 was aligned north-south and located at the south end of the feather factory, 35m south-west of Trench 9. The general sequence of deposits was as follows:

Depth	Context Number	Description
3.29 – 3.11m	(1000)	Concrete slab
3.11– 2.91m	(1001)	Crushed brick hardcore
2.91 – 2.19m	(1002)	Friable dark grey brown clay silt with frequent inclusions of CBM as well as a fragment of 14 th -16 th century brick. Areas of contamination recognised.
2.19m+	(1003)	Heavily waterlogged mid grey brown clay silt, with moderate inclusions of shell and CBM. Single sherd of 14 th century pottery recovered.

Machine excavation was carried out to a depth of 1.10m, to layer (1003) over the entire trench, at which point archaeological features were recognised. A live storm drain was encountered at the south end the trench and was left *in situ*. The water table was encountered at a depth of 1.285m AOD.

[1005], an east-west orientated gully, was located near the south end of the trench. Its fill, (1004), comprised dark grey brown clay silt and contained pottery dating to between the 14th and 17th centuries. Approximately 1.20m to the north, the corner of a small pit was recognised partially beneath the eastern baulk edge, [1007]. Its fill (1006) consisted of dark grey brown clay silt, identical to (1004), and contained a single fragment of abraded mid to late 13th-14th century pottery.

Two parallel ditches were recorded north of pit [1007], within the central and northern areas of the trench, were aligned east-west, also contained deposits similar to (1006). [1009] was 0.50m wide, with

a depth of 0.10m and containing fill (1008), while to the north [1011] was 1.0m wide and 0.10m deep. Its fill (1010) contained brick/tile fragments 16th - 18th century date.

Trench 11 (20 x 5m) Figs 3 and 14

Trench 11 was located in the south-east corner of the site, in an area formerly used as a car park. A stratigraphic matrix for Trench 11 is provided in Appendix 2. The upper surface of tarmac (1100) overlay limestone hardcore (1101) 0.29m deep. Underlying (1101) was layer (1102) which comprised demolition material associated with a former cottage that had recently stood on this part of the site. It was, on average, 0.30-0.45m in depth, containing fragments of bricks, glass, slag, concrete and demolished drains and filled areas which had cut into a former topsoil layer of dark brown silt (1103 & 1112) below. This deposit contained occasional fragments of trampled-in brick and concrete, made up, with an average depth of 0.55m. Finds from this layer included eight sherds of residual Roman pottery, twenty six sherds of medieval pottery, a single hand-made brick and four tile fragments. At the west end of the site, the topsoil overlay a flood deposit comprising clean light orange brown silt with a depth of 0.15m (1104).

Beneath (1102) at the east end of the trench was a shallow irregular oval pit [1144], which ran beneath the northern limits of the trench. It cut through layer (1112) below. It measured 1.22m x at least 0.60m+ with a depth of 0.10m. Its single fill of mid brown silt with blue and red clay mottling (1145) contained six fragments of mid/late 13th to 14th century pottery.

A sub-circular post hole [1116] was located beneath the southern baulk edge at the western end of the trench. It cut through flood deposit (1104) and later channel [1125], see below. It measured 0.35m in diameter with a depth of 0.12m, containing a single fill of compact dark brown clay silt (1115). Pottery retrieved dated this feature from the 15th to the 17th century.

The initial stage of excavation ceased at a depth of c. 1.20m, after which a deeper slot was excavated through the centre of the trench (see Fig. 14). Layer (1103/1112) which contained 14th century pottery sealed a sequence of medieval flood deposits to a depth of at least 2m below the existing ground level. The eastern half of the site was dominated by two palaeochannels, the most easterly of which was [1120]. It was orientated NW-SE and contained a deposit of light brown silt (1119). Darker laminated silt lenses were present within the layer, which also contained a single sherd of pottery dating to the 13th century.

Immediately west of [1120] was a second palaeochannel [1122] which possessed more clearly defined edges and was c.6.20m wide. This larger channel was filled with two natural flood deposits. (1111) comprised a mid brown silt with occasional friable shell and contained mid/late 13th-14th century pottery, and (1121), below (1111), consisted of light brown silt, with 13th century pottery. Underlying (1121) on the western edge of the feature, was a tip or slumped deposit (1124) comprising a compact dark brown grey clay silt. Both of these channels cut through a deposit of mid grey silt with rare

inclusions of shell (1146) and pottery dating to the mid/late 13th-14th century, overlying a lower deposit of mid grey clay silt (1123) with rare shell inclusions and late 12th to 14th century medieval pottery fragments.

The western edge of channel [1122] cut through an earlier channel [1139]. At least 11 layers of silting were identified but the upper levels were truncated by later features [1132] and (1128). The lowest visible fill of [1139] comprised mid to dark grey clay silt with occasional inclusions of charcoal and shell (1138). Overlying this deposit, a horizon of grey brown and very light brown clay silt, with occasional inclusions of charcoal and shell (1136), which contained mid/late 13th-14th century pottery, and was probably the same layer as (1137) to the east of later channel [1132]. Directly above (1136) and (1137) were layers (1131) and (1142), to either side of [1132]. Deposit (1131) also sealed a separate phase of flooding [1134], which appeared to cut through the edge of channel [1139]. Its fill (1133) was a compact mixture of medium brown, light brown and blue silt, contained within a shallow cut 0.15m in depth and 0.80m wide. Deposit (1141) sat directly above (1142), consisting of a mixture of medium and very light brown silt.

Cut into (1131) was [1125] a shallow concave feature 1.65m wide by 0.30m in depth, orientated NE-SW which disappeared beneath the southern baulk edge. No sign of the northern extent of the feature was visible, which contained a single late 13 to 14th century sherd of pottery in its fill (1110). Similarly, a north-south orientated channel, [1132], which cut (1131) and (1141), formed what appeared to represent the final phase of channelling within this area of the site. With a width of approximately 2.5m and depth of 0.3m, the sides of this feature were rounded in section but very undulating in plan. The fill, (1130) consisted of a mixture of light and medium brown laminated silts with occasional inclusions of shell, and containing 13th to 14th century pottery. A thin layer of shells within a compact dark brown silt (1147), containing mid/late 13th and 14th century pottery, sat directly above (1130), on a north-south alignment with an oval pit/post hole [1127] cutting through the central area of this fill. It measured 0.4m x 0.55m and was 0.40m deep. Its fill (1126) contained a single late 12th to 14th century sherd of pottery.

To the east of [1132] was a shallow sub-rectangular depression, [1129] also cutting into (1141). It measured 0.70m in length, with a width of 0.50m and depth of 0.10m. It was filled with a dark brown compact silt with occasional inclusions of friable shell (1128).

Test pit 11, which was excavated at the west end of the site, revealed further layers of flooding (1134), (1135), (1158), (1105), (1106), (1107) and (1108), west of channel [1139]. They may have all filled another palaeochannel whose edge lay beyond the western limit of the trench. The eastern edge of the channel was truncated by the later channels [1134] and [1125].

Depth AOD	Context Number	Description
3.12 – 2.90m	(1135)	Mid brown silt clay. No inclusions. Flood material.
2.90 – 2.63m	(1158)	Mixture of grey brown and very light brown clay silt. 1% inclusions of charcoal and shell
2.63 – 2.40m	(1105)	Mid grey clay silt. Rare shell inclusions. Rare inclusions of shell, containing medieval pottery fragments. Possible topsoil horizon. Decorated 13 th century pottery recovered.
2.40 – 2.22m	(1106)	Mid grey brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of shell. Flood deposit.
2.22 – 2.14m	(1107)	Mottled grey silt clay. Sterile flood deposit.
2.14m+	(1108)	Grey blue clay. A single sherd of 14 th century pottery was present.

Near the top of these flood deposits was post hole [1118] which was cut by channel [1125] and cut into (1135). It was 0.15m in diameter and 0.55m deep. Its fill, (1117) contained a single fragment of mid 13th to 14th century pottery. Approximately 0.5m to the north of this feature, was an oblong pit [1114] which measured 0.98m in (exposed) length, with a depth of 0.48m and width of 0.35m. The fill, (1113) contained eleven fragments of pottery dating to the early/mid 14th century.

East of pit [1114] and overlying (1130) was shallow oval shaped pit [1151] measuring at least 1m x 0.45m with a depth of 0.12m

The Auger Survey

Due to the depth of the stepped excavation, deeper excavation would have breached health and safety recommendations. A hand auger was therefore used in order to determine the nature of deeper alluvial deposits associated with channel [1122]. The examination of channel [1122] confirmed deep stratified alluvial deposits to a depth greater than -0.36m AOD. Deposit (1123), which underlies the eastern extent of the channel, was recorded at 1.13m AOD, on top of which a sterile primary fill (1155) and two alluvial deposits with a high organic content (1154 and 1155) would suggest a channel depth of 1.36m. Earlier phases of inundation are visible in (1156) and (1157).

The following results were obtained (for location see Fig. 14 – A1).

Level AOD	Context Number	Description
2.49 – 1.68m	(1121)	As described above
1.68 – 1.56m	(1153)	Reasonably soft, waterlogged light grey brown sandy silt with frequent inclusions of organic material.
1.56 – 1.40m	(1154)	Firm waterlogged mid grey sandy silt with frequent organic inclusions, including decomposed reeds and wood. Single fragment of mussel shell.
1.40 – 1.13m	(1155)	Reasonably loose waterlogged light orange grey sand silt. No inclusions.
1.13 – 0.79m	(1123)	As described above.
0.79 – 0.45m	(1156)	Soft waterlogged light grey clay. No inclusions.
0.45 – (-)0.36m	(1157)	Blue black clay silt with brown clay silt laminations. No inclusions.

DISCUSSION

Trenches 2,3,5,7,8 and 9 were blank and contained only layers of silt (apart from modern intrusions). The remaining trenches contained archaeological features included medieval plough marks, post holes, ditches, alluvial deposits and dumped domestic waste, along with later post-medieval post holes, pits, channels and glass dumps.

Trenches 1, 4,6 10 and 11 contained remains of possible former water channels suggesting the presence of a low energy creek and/or rodden network extending north of the present course of the River Witham. Of particular interest is the alignment of channels running in a roughly north-south direction in Trench 6 at the north end of the site, Trench 4 towards the eastern limit of the site and Trench 11 in the south-eastern extremity of the site. It may be possible that a natural precursor, or precursors to the Maud Foster Drain, run through the eastern part of the site. The fill of [607] in Trench 6 contained 18th century finds, whilst the channel in Trench 4 [403] contained both medieval brick and tile fragments and 19-20th century pottery.

The channels in Trench 11 appear to belong to a much earlier phase with associated pottery dating to the 13-14th centuries. There is a distinct difference in deposits west of palaeochannel [1122]. This area comprises a series of relatively thin lenses of silts and clays containing domestic waste, along with post holes and pits, all sealed by the same 14th century topsoil (1103/1112). These thinner lenses may represent dumped material deliberately used to control the course and level of water filled channels feeding in to the adjacent river. This is further confirmed by observing the degree of preservation between the 'alluvial' pottery and the 'dumped' pottery. Those deposits west of [1122] contained

relatively unabraded sherds in contrast to those fragments within (1119) and (1121) etc., which were subject to standing water (Jane Young *pers. comm.*)

Running through the southern limit of Trench 1 was the edge of a large ditch or channel [104] which contained brick fragments of 14-16th century date. As only the northern edge of the feature was exposed it is difficult to give a definitive interpretation of its function. If it was a natural water channel it adjacent to low lying arable farm land. Alternatively, it may have been a ditch draining the cultivated land to the north.

North of [104] was a series of plough marks running parallel to the channel. They were sealed by a 14th – 16th century buried plough soil (133), and were recorded at a depth of approximately 2m AOD. This suggests that this part of the site was dry enough for cultivation and possibly occupation.

The smaller gullies recorded in Trench 10, which run roughly west-east and parallel to the Haven, appear to be man-made rather than natural in origin. The gully closest to the river contained pottery ranging in date from the 14-17th century whilst the northernmost gully contained later pottery of 16-18th century date. Were they constructed to assist controlling phases of inundation and long term flooding and did they supersede one another?

In summary there was a distinct lack of evidence for domestic occupation within the evaluation site. It is likely that ground conditions were not suitable for occupation until the 18th or 19th centuries. There may have been a natural precursor or precursors to the Maud Foster Drain running close to the eastern boundary to the site of medieval date, with possible later channels recorded to the west in Trenches 6 and 4.

The presence of medieval brick and tile fragments in many of the deposits is of note, especially given the proximity of the Hussey Tower 600m north-west of the site. The manufacture of brick and or tile in the vicinity cannot be discounted.

Part of the evaluation strategy was to locate and define the extents of the post-medieval windmill and iron foundry. No archaeological evidence suggested that either of these two processes were associated with the evaluated areas of the site, although this can be explained using conveyance information dated to 1859. Prior to the sale of the land by Mrs Roy (see p.5) the Tuxford family owned the plot of land north-west of the site, an area now known as Dock Terrace (see Figs 3 & 4). If the windmill was indeed owned by William Wedd Tuxford, the Baker, then it is likely that it would have located within this smaller plot of land, beyond the extent of the assessment site. However, if this was not the case then a significant amount of truncation has occurred to the surviving archaeological record. Trench 5 had to be relocated due to the presence of modern services, services that would have had a tremendous effect on underlying deposits. Similarly, Fig. 4 shows the location of the iron works as being at Dock Terrace. The only trench to provide contemporary deposits was Trench 6,

which happened to be located approximately 20m east of the suspected site. The post holes maybe associated with the painter's workshop although no direct correlation was recognised, while the channel [607] predated the ownership of the land by the Tuxford family.

CONCLUSION

The archaeological evaluation at Mountbridge Works, Fishtoft Road, Boston, has identified archaeological deposits ranging from the mid to late 13th century to the industrial practices associated with a 19th century ironworks. However, for much of that period the land was probably too prone to flooding to be suitable for occupation, with evidence for cultivation being confined to the northern limits of the site. The areas of highest potential impact lie in the north-eastern and south-eastern corners of the site, where former watercourses, or palaeochannels of medieval date were identified. Significant archaeological deposits within this area of the site were encountered at a depth of c.3.64m AOD, while those in Trench 1 were at 2m AOD. Careful design of foundations should minimise the impact of development on archaeological remains.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LAS would like to thank Chestnut Homes Limited for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Jo Hambly (Heritage Trust Lincolnshire) and Rebecca Wilcox (Boston Community Archaeologist) for their advice and assistance, as well as Jay Bland (Fogarty Ltd) for his invaluable local knowledge and insights. Finally, thanks are due to the hard working site team who assisted the author on site: Mick McDaid, Wayne Livesey and Mike Garrett. All illustrations were produced by David Britchfield. This report was edited by Naomi Field.

David Britchfield
Lindsey Archaeological Services
25th November 2003

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APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 1

Mountbridge Works, Fishtoft Road, Boston Lincs (MBWB 03)

Context Summary

Context No.	Description
(100)	Tarmac surface
(101)	Friable dark black grey clay silt, 0.05m in depth, with occasional inclusions of CBM, white china and small rounded stones up to 0.06m in diameter.
(102)	Plastic mottled dark grey brown sandy clay, with occasional patches of friable red orange brown sand.
(103)	Friable, predominantly silt deposit, mixed in colour from dark grey brown to mid brown, that contained occasional to moderate fragments of CBM and rounded stones (up to 0.04m in diameter). Former Topsoil horizon.
[104]	Water channel
[105]	Post hole
[106]	Post hole
[107]	Post hole
[108]	Post hole
[109]	Pit
[110]	Pit
[111]	Modern disturbance.
[112]	Plough mark
[113]	Pit or ditch filled by (103)
(114)	Friable mid grey brown clay silt with frequent inclusions of tiny pulverised flecks of CBM and mortar
[115]	Pit
(116)	Same as (114).
(117)	Fill of [115]. Soft yet friable mid brown sandy clay with moderate inclusions of CBM flecks
(118)	Fill of [104]. Very dirty friable mid grey brown silty clay with flecks of CBM and mortar.
(119)	Fill of [104]. Yellow brown silty sand with occasional traces of CBM and mortar
(120)	Fill of [104]. Heavily waterlogged grey brown and yellow brown laminated silty clay
(121)	Fill of [104]. Laminated horizons of green grey clay with yellow brown clay lenses
(122)	Fill of [104]. Very pale yellow brown sand
(123)	Buried soil horizon, comprising a mixture of mid brown and yellow brown silty sand with moderate inclusions of CBM flecks and pebbles
(124)	Layer of alluvial grey brown sandy silt
(125)	Fill of [109]. Mid brown silty sand with yellow brown mottling
(126)	Fill of [109]. Mixed dark grey brown loam, with mid brown mottling, that varied in consistency. Very occasional inclusions of pulverised CBM and charcoal flecks were present within this deposit.
(127)	Fill of [109]. Soft friable 'washed-in' bands of dirty yellow brown to mid brown silty sand
(128)	Friable very dark brown silt surrounding compacted CBM fragments up to 0.03m in size. With a length of 0.22m and depth of 0.07m it is unlikely that this deposit represents anything more than trampled in building materials.
(129)	Loose dark brown silty sand with frequent inclusions of friable CBM fragments
(130)	Partially filling [110]. Light grey and mid brown clay silt with occasional inclusions of tiny pebbles
(131)	Fill of [110]. Similar to (132) with a higher content of grey brown sandy silt. Moderate inclusions of CBM fragments were included within this material.
(132)	Fill of [110]. Mottled deposits of blue grey clay and grey brown and sandy silts
(133)	Fill of [105]. Friable grey brown and yellow brown mottled clay silt with occasional rounded pebbles
(134)	Fill of [106]. Gritty, plastic grey brown and yellow brown mottled sandy clay with no inclusions
(135)	Fill of [106]. Yellow brown sandy silt

Context No.	Description
(136)	Fill of [107]. Very pale yellow brown and grey brown mottled sandy clay with no inclusions. Similar to (137).
(137)	Fill of [108]. Very pale yellow brown and grey brown mottled sandy clay fill with no inclusions. Similar to (136).
(138)	Fill of [111]. Modern backfill.
(139)	Fill of [140]. Loose dark grey brown sandy silt, with no inclusions
[140]	Post hole/shallow pit
(141)	Stone and flint up to 0.03m in diameter, likely created during plough action. Non-archaeological.
(142)	Natural flood deposit comprising loose mottled yellow brown and orange brown sand.
(143)	Fill of [104]. Yellow brown silty sand with occasional traces of CBM and mortar
[144]	Possible plough scar
(145)	Fill of [144]. Mixed shades of grey brown and yellow brown clay silts with very occasional flecks of CBM.
(146)	Fill of [147]. Friable mixes of dark brown and grey brown sandy silt with moderate inclusions of CBM flecks and rounded stones
[147]	Shallow cut, 'trough-like' feature.
(148)	Same as (123)
[149]	Plough mark
[150]	Plough mark
[151]	Ploughing disturbance delineated by (123)
[152]	Plough mark
[153]	Plough mark
[154]	Plough mark
[155]	Plough mark
[156]	Plough mark
[157]	Plough mark
[158]	Plough mark
(159)	Light blue grey flood clay
(160)	Light yellow brown slightly clayey silt. Flood deposit.
(200)	Tarmac surface
(201)	Layers of hardcore mixed with modern industrial waste (wire, clinker, plastics etc.)
(202)	Very stiff mid brown clay, with occasional orange silt mottling, containing friable CBM and occasional charcoal flecks
(203)	Stiff blue grey clay with light brown silt mottling. Occasional inclusions of shell fragments and rooting.. Low energy flood deposit.
(204)	Reasonably compact light green grey silt. Sterile deposit with evidence of oil contamination which had leaked down and spread within this more free draining layer (between 1.90m – 2.50m below tarmac level)
(300)	Hardcore rubble
(301)	Dark grey contaminated silty clay
(302)	Very stiff red brown clay with sporadic 'pools' of mid grey blue clay. Very sterile flood deposit likely caused during long term phases of inundation. No recognisable patterns to suggest channels etc.
(303)	Stiff blue grey clay with no inclusions. Low energy flood deposit.
(304)	Mid brown slightly silty clay, similar to (302) in that occasional intrusions of blue clay present.
(305)	Stiff mid brown clay silt below the water table. Sterile flood deposit.
(306)	Very stiff mid brown clay silt (10:90) with occasional inclusions of orange sand. Sterile flood deposit.
(307)	Very stiff dark grey clay. Sterile deposit.
(400)	Concrete slab & hardcore rubble
(401)	Friable mid brown clay silt, with very occasional inclusions of CBM fragments. Flood deposit.
(402)	Fill of [403]. Friable dark brown clay silt with moderate inclusions of CBM flecks and charcoal. Levelling deposit.
Context	Description

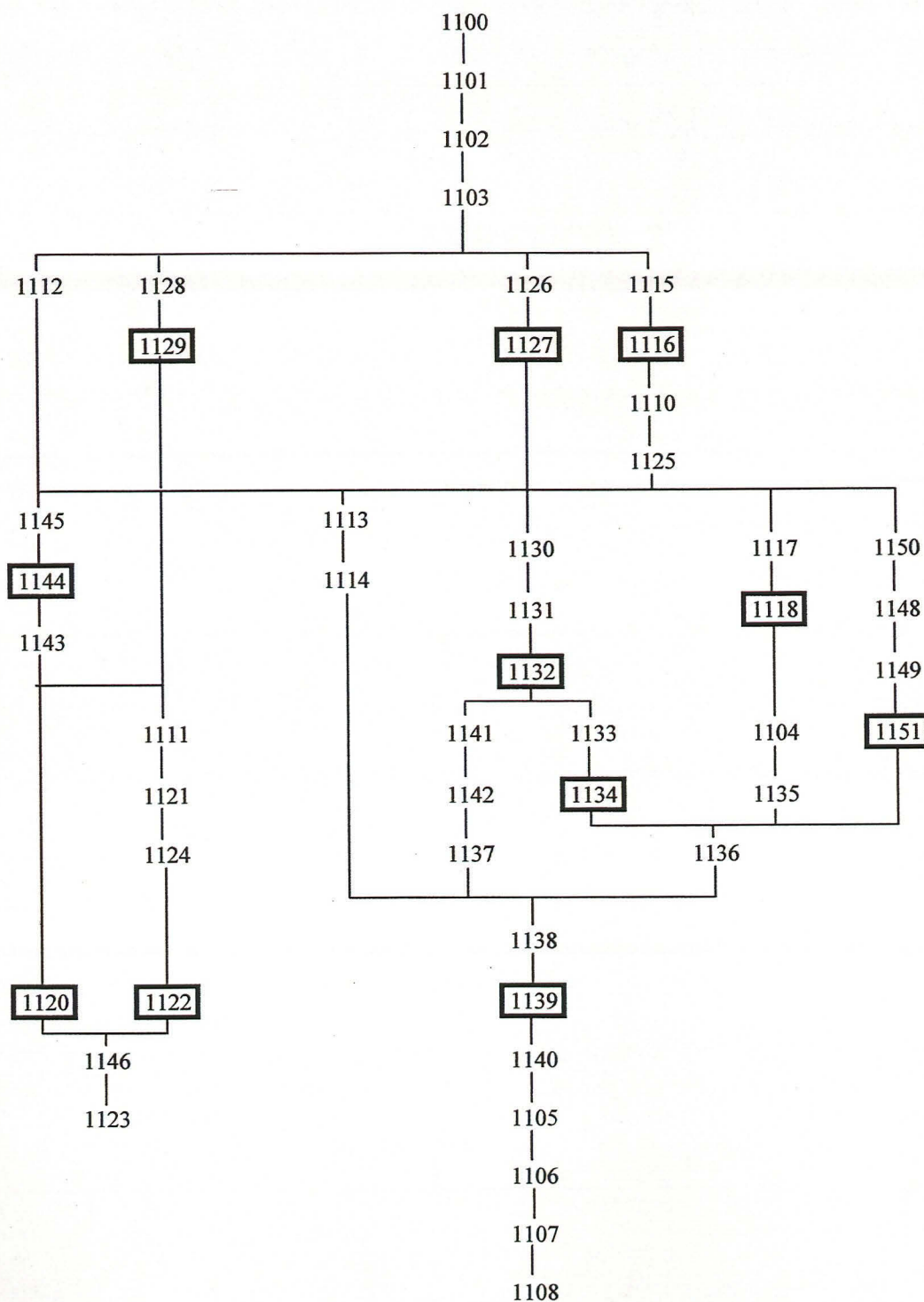
No.	
[403]	Water channel
(404)	Fill of [403]. Dumped CBM material and charcoal with plastic light grey clay
(405)	Fill of [403]. Waterlogged dark brown clay silt with very occasional flecks of CBM
[406]	Pit
(407)	Fill of [406]. Friable dark grey brown clay silt fill containing tiny fragment of pulverised CBM
[408]	Post hole
(409)	Fill of [408]. Relatively loose, albeit friable, very dark brown clay silt. Part of the timber post had survived within this fill
[410]	Post hole
(411)	Fill of [410]. Light grey and pale grey brown clay, with part of the post remaining
(412)	Same as (401)
(413)	Very stiff red brown clay with sporadic 'pools' of mid grey blue clay. Very sterile flood deposit likely caused during long term phases of inundation. No recognisable patterns to suggest channels etc. Same as (302).
(414)	Orange yellow silt with occasional inclusions of blue grey mottled clay.
(415)	Very stiff mid brown clay, very similar to (305), although slightly greyer.
(416)	Very stiff mid brown clay silt (10:90) with occasional inclusions of orange sand. Sterile flood deposit. Same as (306).
(417)	Very stiff dark grey clay. Sterile deposit. Same as (307).
(500)	Concrete slab
(501)	Crushed limestone hardcore
(502)	Hardcore layer comprising fragments of modern brick, angular and sub-angular stone, along with frequent inclusions of clinker.
(503)	Mid red brown silty clay of firm density, with sporadic blue clay mottling (approximately 5% of exposed area). Inclusion of charcoal flecks and friable shell. Heavily rooted in upper 0.40m.
(504)	Stiff blue grey flood clay with occasional red brown silty clay mottling.
(600)	Concrete slab
(601)	Modern brick surface and clinker filled silt
(602)	Black ash and clinker filled silt underlying (600) contemporary with (601)
(603)	Same as (602)
(604)	NOT USED
(605)	Mid red brown silty clay of firm density, with sporadic blue clay mottling (approximately 5% of exposed area). Inclusion of charcoal flecks and friable shell. Heavily rooted in upper 0.40m. Same layer as (503)
(606)	Stiff blue grey flood clay with occasional red brown silty clay. Same as (504)
[607]	Gully or estuarine channel
(608)	Fill of [607]. Firm dark grey alluvial clay
[609]	Post hole
(610)	Fill of [609]. Loose dark grey silty clay with occasional charcoal and decomposed friable wood fragments. Same as (612).
[611]	Post hole.
(612)	Fill of [611]. Loose dark grey silty clay with occasional charcoal and decomposed friable wood fragments. Same as (610).
[613]	Post hole
(614)	Fill of [613]. Clinker filled ash, same as (602)
(700)	Concrete slab
(701)	Crushed brick hardcore
(702)	Dark grey brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and hardcore contamination. Former topsoil horizon.
(703)	Mid yellowish brown clay silt of moderate density. Sterile flood deposit.
(704)	Very firm mid brown flood clay, with occasional areas of blue grey clay mottling.
(705)	Stiff blue grey flood clay with occasional red brown silty clay mottling.
(800)	Concrete slab
(801)	Crushed brick hardcore
Context	Description

No.	Description
(802)	Dark grey brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and hardcore contamination. Former topsoil horizon. Same as (702).
(803)	Mid yellowish brown clay silt of moderate density. Sterile flood deposit. Same as (703).
(804)	Very firm mid brown flood clay, with occasional areas of blue grey clay mottling. Same as (704)
(805)	Stiff blue grey flood clay with occasional red brown silty clay mottling.
(900)	Tarmac surface
(901)	Hardcore brick rubble
(902)	Light green grey silty clay. Flood deposit.
(903)	Light orange brown silty clay. Flood deposit.
(904)	Alluvial deposit of light green grey silty clay
(905)	Crushed limestone hardcore
(906)	Fill of [907]. Glass
[907]	Pit
[908]	Foundation cut for modern brick wall
(909)	Brick wall associated with [908]
(910)	Very firm mid brown flood clay, with occasional areas of blue grey clay mottling. Same as (704) and (804)
[911]	Pit
(912)	Fill of [911]. Glass
(913)	Mid brown orange slightly clayey silt. Very wet. Compact but loose when test slot excavated. No finds or features.
(914)	Stiff blue grey flood clay with occasional red brown silty clay mottling.
(915)	Contaminated ground
(916)	Mid orange brown silty clay. Reasonably wet of moderate density, with no finds or inclusions. Natural flooding horizon.
(1000)	Concrete slab
(1001)	Crushed brick hardcore
(1002)	Friable dark grey brown clay silt with frequent inclusions of CBM. Areas of contamination recognised.
(1003)	Heavily waterlogged mid grey brown clay silt, with moderate inclusions of shell and CBM.
(1004)	Fill of [1005]. Saturated dark grey brown clay silt
[1005]	Gully
(1006)	Fill of [1007]. Saturated dark grey brown clay silt. Same as (1004)
[1007]	Pit
(1008)	Fill of [1009]. Same as (1004)
[1009]	Ditch/
(1010)	Fill of [1009]. Same as (1004)
[1011]	Ditch
(1100)	Tarmac
(1101)	Crushed limestone hardcore
(1102)	Demolition material
(1103)	Former topsoil horizon. Dark brown silt with occasional fragments of trampled in brick and concrete. Same as (1112)
(1104)	Flood deposit comprising clean light orange brown silt
(1105)	Mid grey clay silt. Rare shell inclusions. Rare inclusions of shell, containing medieval pottery fragments. Possible topsoil horizon.
(1106)	Mid grey brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of shell. Flood deposit.
(1107)	Mottled grey silt clay. Sterile flood deposit.
(1108)	Grey blue clay. Sterile.
(1109)	Clean mottled grey silt clay.
(1110)	Fill of [1125]. Mixture of yellow and dark brow silt shell occasional (<1%) inclusions of shell
(1111)	Fill of [1122]. Alluvial deposit of mid brown silt with occasional friable shell
(1112)	Same as (11 03)
(1113)	Fill of [1114]. Grey brown clay silt with occasional fragments of friable shell (<1%)
Context	Description

No.	
[1114]	Elongated pit or possible structural beam slot.
(1115)	Fill of [1116]. Compact dark brown clay silt
[1116]	Post hole
(1117)	Fill of [1118]. Dark grey clay silt with occasional inclusions of charcoal (<1%) and shell (<1%)
[1118]	Post hole
(1119)	Fill of [1120]. Alluvial deposit of light brown silt with darker laminated silt horizons.
[1120]	Palaeochannel
(1121)	Fill of [1122]. Light brown alluvial silt similar to (1119)
[1122]	Palaeochannel
(1123)	Same as (1105)
(1124)	Tip/slump deposit within [1122]. Compact dark brown grey clay silt
[1125]	Possible palaeochannel
(1126)	Fill of [1127]. Dark grey brown silt, with patches of lighter brown silt mottling and occasional fragments of shell.
[1127]	Post hole/pit
(1128)	Fill of [1128]. Dark brown compact silt with occasional inclusions of friable shell
[1129]	Possible beam slot
(1130)	Fill of [1132]. Light and medium brown laminated silts with occasional inclusions of shell
(1131)	Alluvial deposit. Medium brown silt with sporadic inclusions of blue grey clay contained approximately 1% charcoal and 1% shell.
[1132]	Palaeochannel
(1133)	Fill of [1134]. Compact mixture of medium brown, light brown and blue silt
[1134]	Palaeochannel
(1135)	Mid brown silt clay. No inclusions. Flood material.
(1136)	Fill of [1139]. Mixture of grey brown and very light brown clay silt. 1% inclusions of charcoal and shell. Same as (1152)
(1137)	Fill of [1139]. Alluvial flood deposit of brown and very light brown silt
(1138)	Fill of [1139]. Flood deposit comprising mid to dark grey clay silt with occasional (<1%) inclusions of charcoal and shell
[1139]	Palaeochannel.
(1140)	Slump of medium grey clay silt, with a slight green tinge, overlying layer (1105).
(1141)	Flood deposit. Mixture of medium and very light brown silt
(1142)	Alluvial deposit. Grey clay silt with occasional charcoal inclusions
(1143)	Grey brown silt with occasional shells (<1%)
[1144]	Pit
(1145)	Fill of [1144]. Mid brown silt with blue and red clay mottling (approximately 5%).
(1146)	Alluvial flood deposit. Mid grey silt with rare inclusions of shell
(1147)	Black silt of moderate density with frequent inclusions of shell fragments
(1148)	Fill of [1151]. Soft orange silt with occasional (<1%) charcoal flecks
(1149)	Fill of [1151]. Light blue silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal (<1%).
(1150)	Fill of [1151]. Mid grey brown silt clay
[1151]	Pit
(1152)	Same as (1136)
(1153)	Reasonably soft, waterlogged light grey brown sandy silt with frequent inclusions of organic material.
(1154)	Firm waterlogged mid grey sandy silt with frequent organic inclusions, including decomposed reeds and wood. Single fragment of mussel shell.
(1155)	Reasonably loose waterlogged light orange grey sand silt. No inclusions.
(1156)	Soft waterlogged light grey clay. No inclusions.
(1157)	Blue black clay silt with brown clay silt laminations. No inclusions.
(1158)	Mixture of grey brown and very light brown clay silt. 1% inclusions of charcoal and shell. Alluvial flood layer.

APPENDIX 2

Appendix B - Stratigraphic Matrix for Trench 11



APPENDIX 3

THE CERAMIC MATERIAL FROM MOUNTBRIDGE WORKS, FISHTOFT ROAD, BOSTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE (MBWB03).

JANE YOUNG CERAMIC CONSULTANT

INTRODUCTION

In total, one hundred and forty sherds of pottery representing one hundred and eighteen vessels, fifty-seven fragments of brick and thirty-seven fragments of tile were recovered from the site. The assemblage was quantified by three measures: number of sherds, weight and vessel count within each context. Fabric identification of some of the pottery was undertaken by x20 binocular microscope. The ceramic data was entered on an Access database using fabric codenames agreed locally and nationally.

CONDITION

The pottery is in variable condition with sherd size varying between small (less than 10grams) and large range (above 50grams). In total twelve vessels are represented by more than one sherd. Three vessels appear to have cracked during firing and may have been sold as seconds. Twenty-two vessels have exterior soot residues showing that they have been used over an open fire. There is a noticeable difference between vessels that appear to have been deposited as fresh rubbish (contexts 1119, 1111, 1112 and 1146) and those that show signs of having been in a waterborne environment (contexts 1110 and 1126). None of the sherds however, show signs of having been in running water for any length of time.

THE POTTERY

In total one hundred and eighteen vessels in twenty-three identifiable post-Roman pottery ware types were recovered (Table 1). The range of form types is limited with examples of various types of jug, jar and bowl forming the body of the assemblage. Single examples of a cup, ladle and pipkin were also found.

Table 1 Pottery types with total quantities by vessel count

codename	full name	earliest date	latest date	sherds	vessels
BL	Black-glazed wares	1550	1750	1	1
BLGR	Paffrath-type or blue-grey ware	1050	1200	1	1
BOSTLT	Boston Glazed ware - Lincoln type	1230	1330	10	8
BOSTTT	Boston Glazed ware - Toynton type	1230	1330	3	3
BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics A, B and C	1150	1350	20	19
CREA	Creamware	1770	1830	1	1
DUTRT	Dutch Red Earthenware-types	1550	1650	1	1
EMHM	Early Medieval Handmade ware	1100	1250	6	4
ENGS	Unspecified English Stoneware	1750	1900	1	1
FREN	Unidentified French whitewares	1170	1650	2	1
GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	1500	1750	8	6
LSW2	13th to 14th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	1200	1320	1	1
LSW3	14th to 15th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	1280	1450	2	2
MEDX	Non Local Medieval Fabrics	1150	1450	4	4
NOTGL	Nottingham glazed ware Light Bodied	1200	1320	1	1

POTT	Potterhanworth-type Ware	1250	1500	15	9
POTTG	Potterhanworth Glazed ware	1200	1500	1	1
SAIM	Saintonge mottled glazed ware	1250	1500	2	2
SCAR	Scarborough ware	1150	1350	1	1
TGW	Tin-glazed ware	1640	1770	1	1
TOY	Toynton Medieval Ware	1250	1450	46	42
TPW	Transfer printed ware	1770	1900	4	2
WHITE	Modern whiteware	1800	1900	8	6

Medieval

Overall, ninety-nine of the pottery vessels submitted for examination are of medieval type and can be dated to the period between the 12th and 14th centuries. Only one vessel, an imported Paffrath-type ladle probably predates the 13th century. The remaining vessels are of 13th to 14th century date and include possible local vessels (BOSTLT and BOSTI) as well as vessels from known regional production centres at Toynton All Saints (TOY), Bourne (BOUA), Lincoln (LSW2 and LSW3), Potterhanworth (POTT and POTTG), Nottingham (NOTGL) and Scarborough (SCAR). A small number of imported French sherds (SAIM and FREN), one possible Dutch import (DUTRT) and four un-provenanced vessels (MEDX) were also recovered. Toynton vessels are the most common type recovered (forty-two vessels) and include jugs, jars and bowls. The absence of Humberware and imported German stonewares in the assemblage strongly suggests that the majority of the medieval pottery predates the mid 14th century.

Post-medieval to early modern

A group of nineteen vessels post-date the mid 16th century, the vessels comprise mainly Lincolnshire made bowls and jars (GRE) with one regional import (BL) present. Ten vessels are industrial early modern wares (CREA, ENGS, TPW and WHITE), of late 18th to 19th century date.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

One hundred and two fragments of ceramic building material including fifty-seven handmade bricks were recovered from the site (Table 2). The majority of the bricks appear to be of medieval to late medieval type and vary from soft underfired examples to overfired semi-vitrified ones. Thirty-one fragments of medieval flat roof tile, including four nibbed examples were also recovered, however none is closely datable.

Table 2 Ceramic building material types with total quantities by fragment count and weight in grams

codename	full name	frags	weight in grams
BRK	Brick	57	9989
GFLOOR	Glazed floor tile	1	64
NIB	nibbed tile	4	581
PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	37	2365
RID	Unidentified ridge tile	3	555

DISCUSSION

The pottery examined from this evaluation dates mainly to between the late 13th and mid 14th centuries. The condition and size of some of the pottery sherds from Trench 11 suggests that material was being dumped, possibly at the water's edge in several episodes over a relatively short period of time. Other pottery from this Trench is more typical of material recovered from deposits subjected to standing water.

The brick recovered from this site is mainly of medieval to late medieval type. Brick is known to have been used in the construction of a medieval (probably 14th century) tile kiln in Boston and is known to have been in use in Beverley and Hull, where there were brickyards, from the early to mid 14th century onwards. Further work would be needed to identify the source of the brick found on this site.

The entire collection should be kept for future study.

APPENDIX 4

CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	DEC	VESS	ALTER	COMMENTS	JOIN	SHS	WT
1112	GFIN	OPEN?	BWL			BS BODY GROVES; FINE; GRY CORE CF PART		1	7
1112	GREY	OPEN?				BS DK GRY WASH INT		1	11
1112	GREY	CLSD				BS		1	8
1112	GREY	CP	B			RIM FRAG; BURNISH RIM		1	19
1112	GREY	BFL				RIM LWR WALL GOOD EG		1	75
1112	GREY	BTR	B		WWORN	RIM LWR WALL; FE ENCRUST; RIM ROUNDED		1	32
1112	ZZZ					FAIR GROUP 6 DIFF VESS; 1 WATER WORN			
1112	ZDATE					L2-M3C/POSTRO			

THE FIGURES

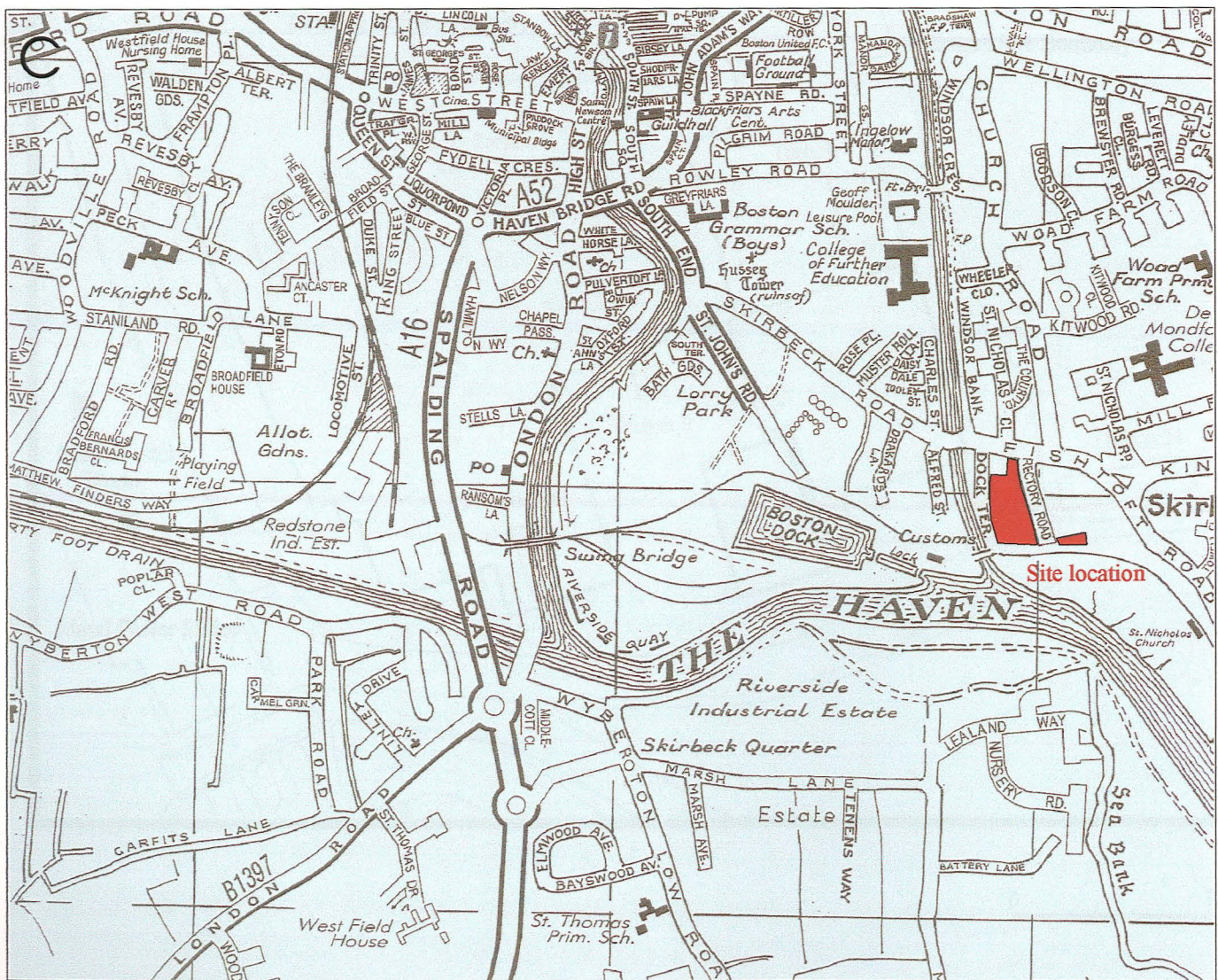
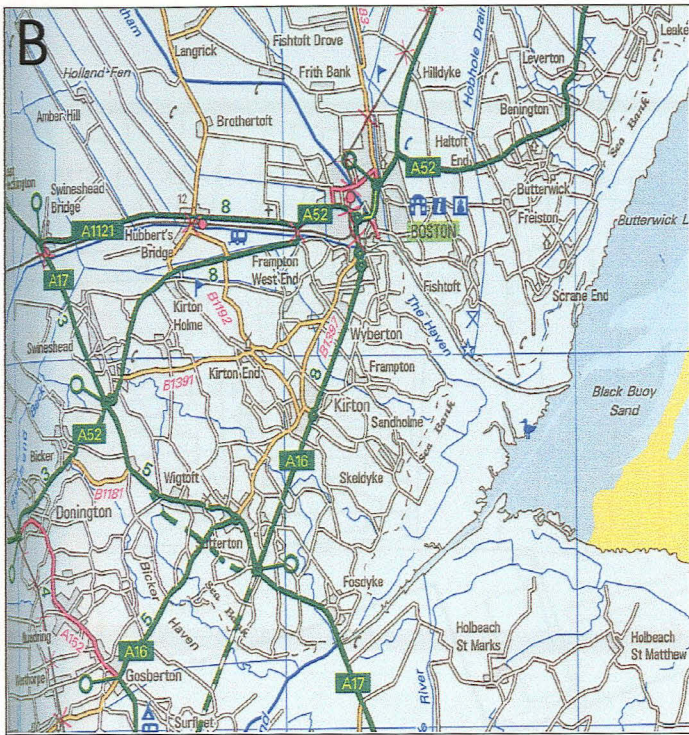


Fig. 1 Location of Mounbridge Works (B based on the 1994 1:250 000 Ordnance Survey Road Atlas of Britain. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No.AL 10002165).

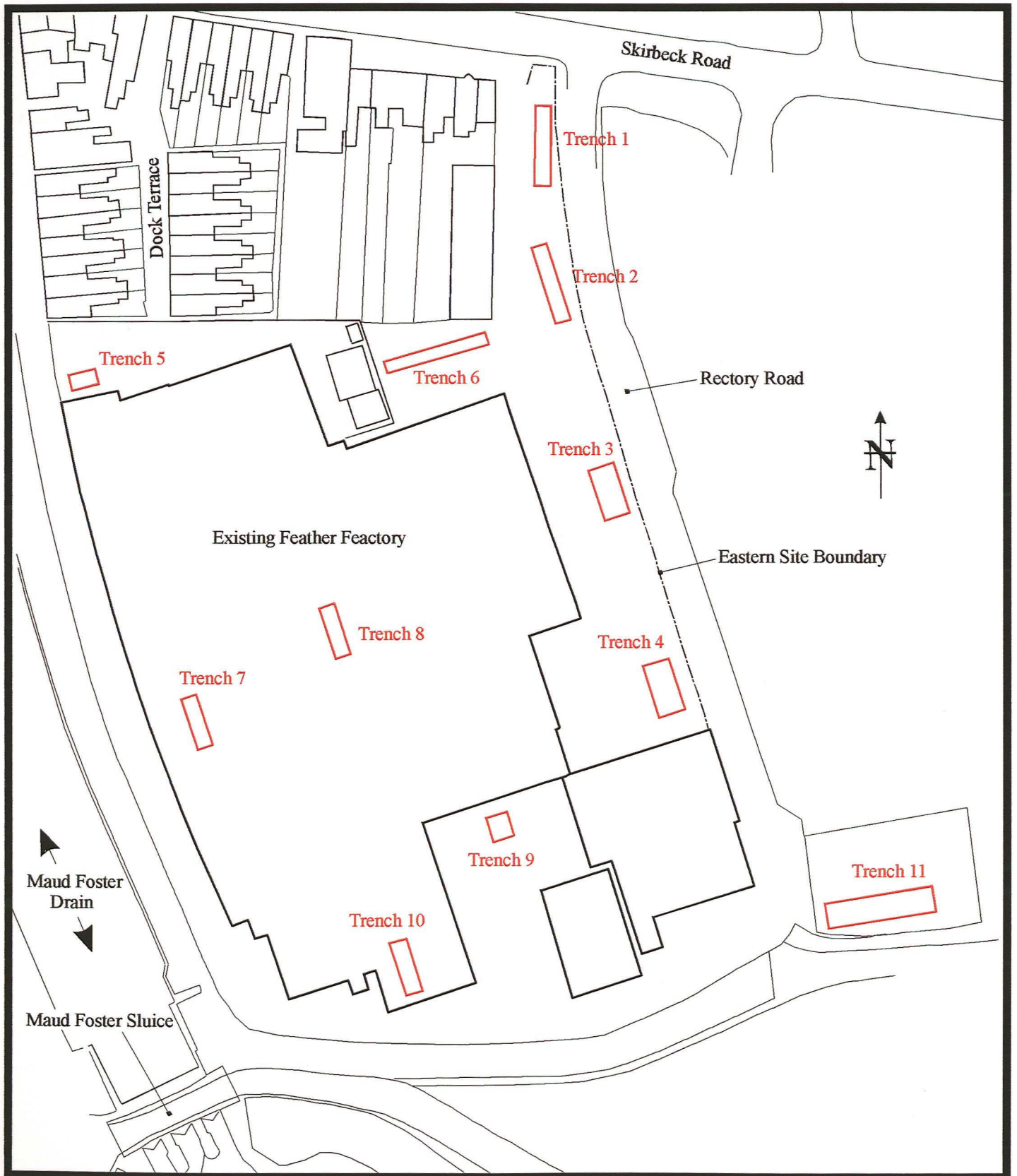


Figure 2 - Trench Location Plan

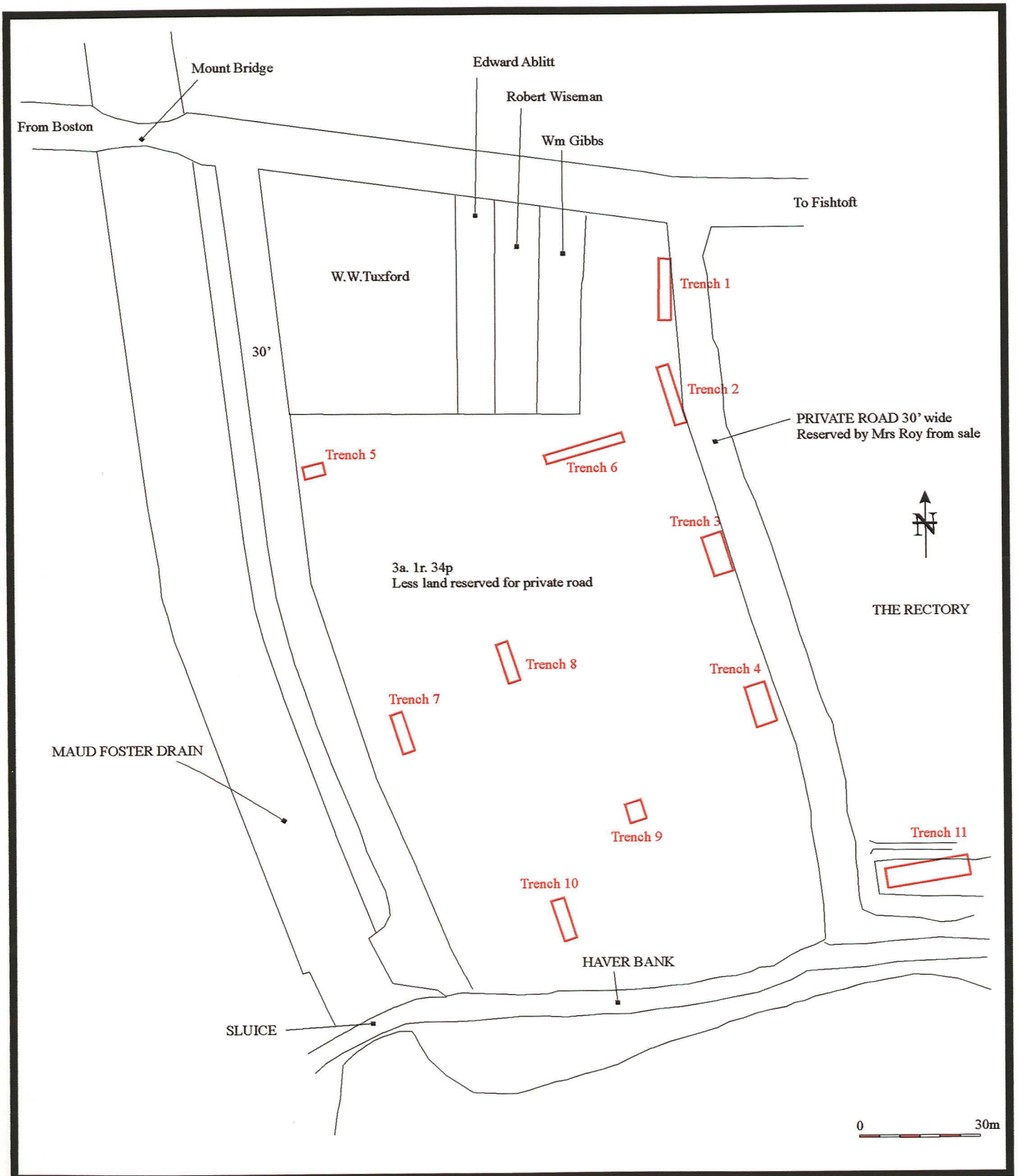


Figure 3 - Conveyance Survey of 1859 (1)

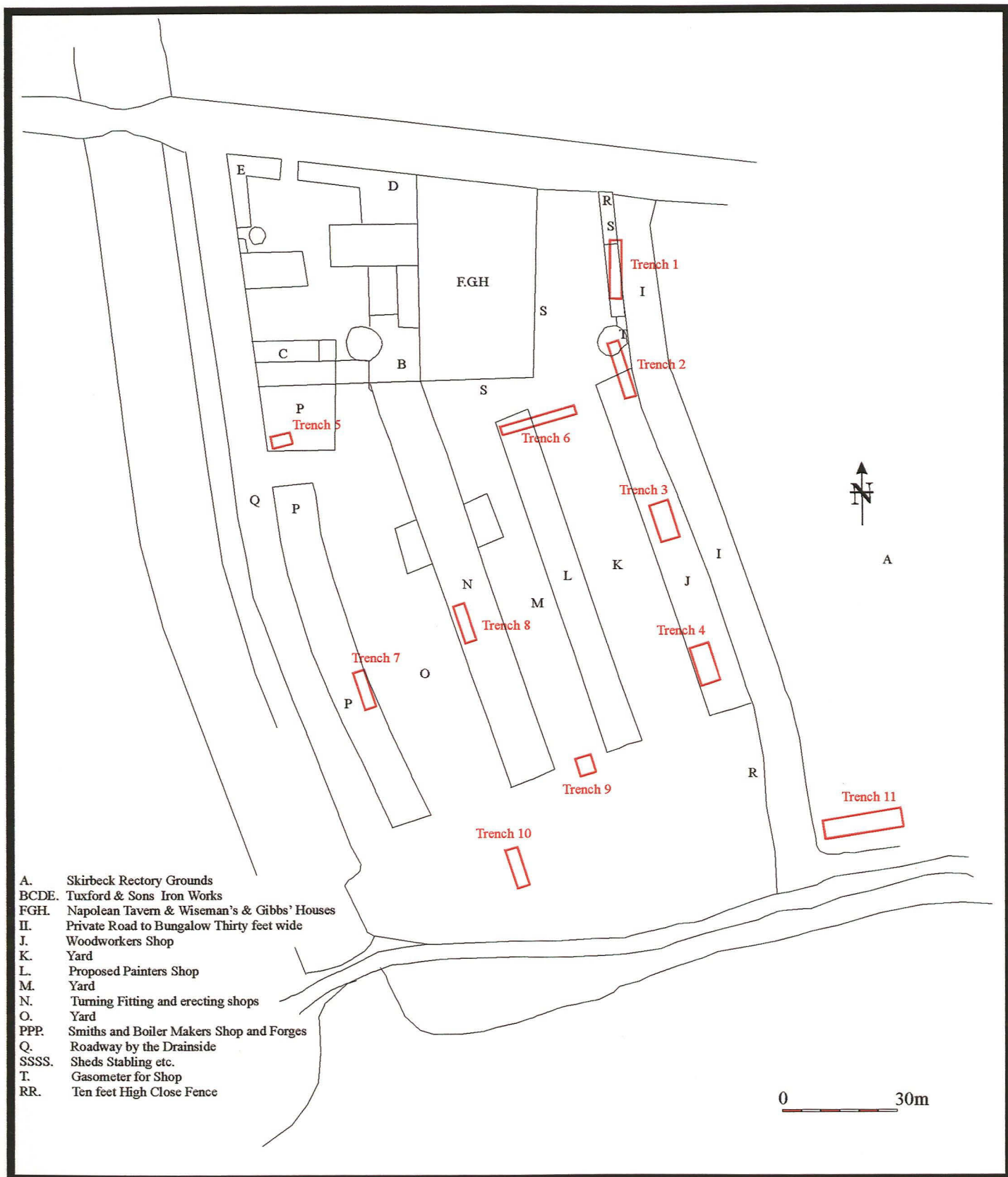
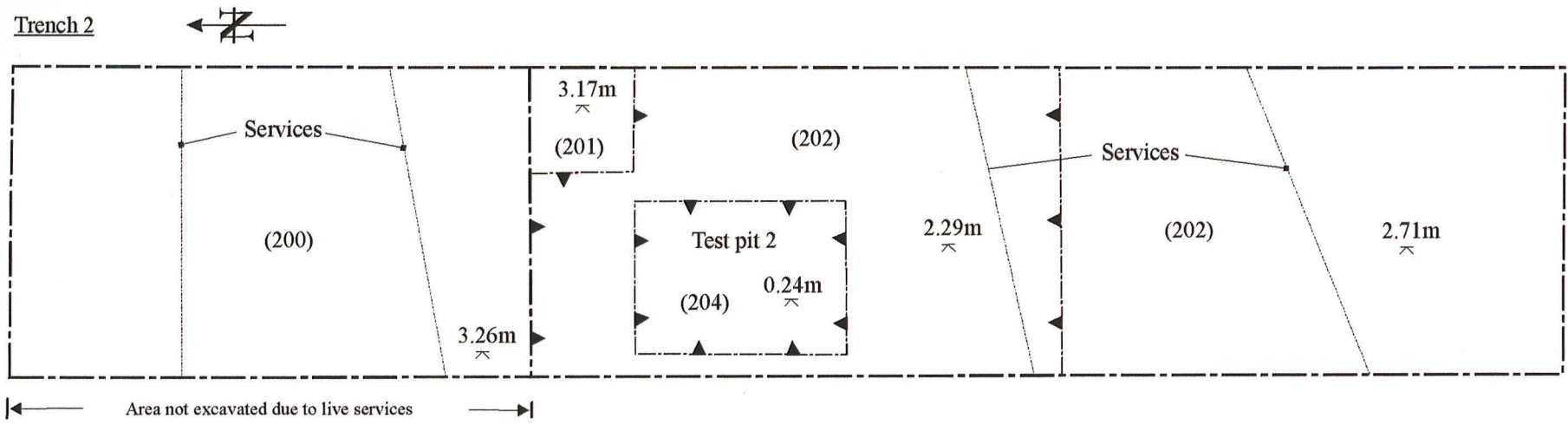


Figure 4 - Conveyance Survey of 1859 (2)

Trench 2



Trench 3

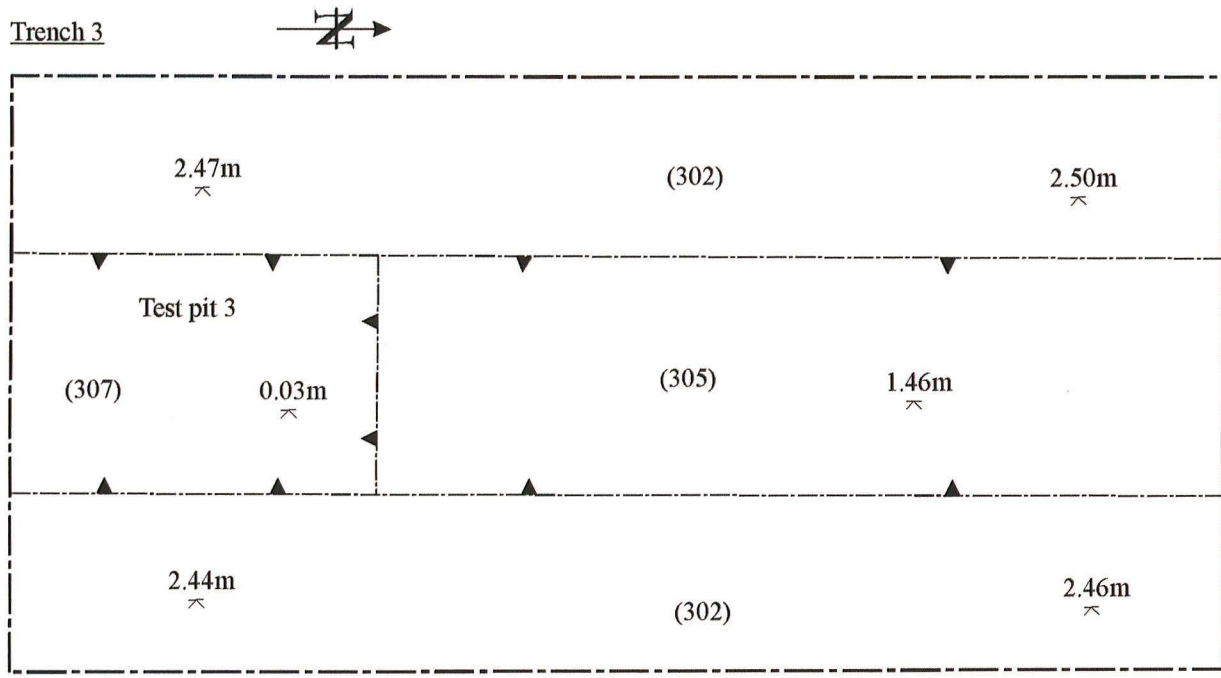
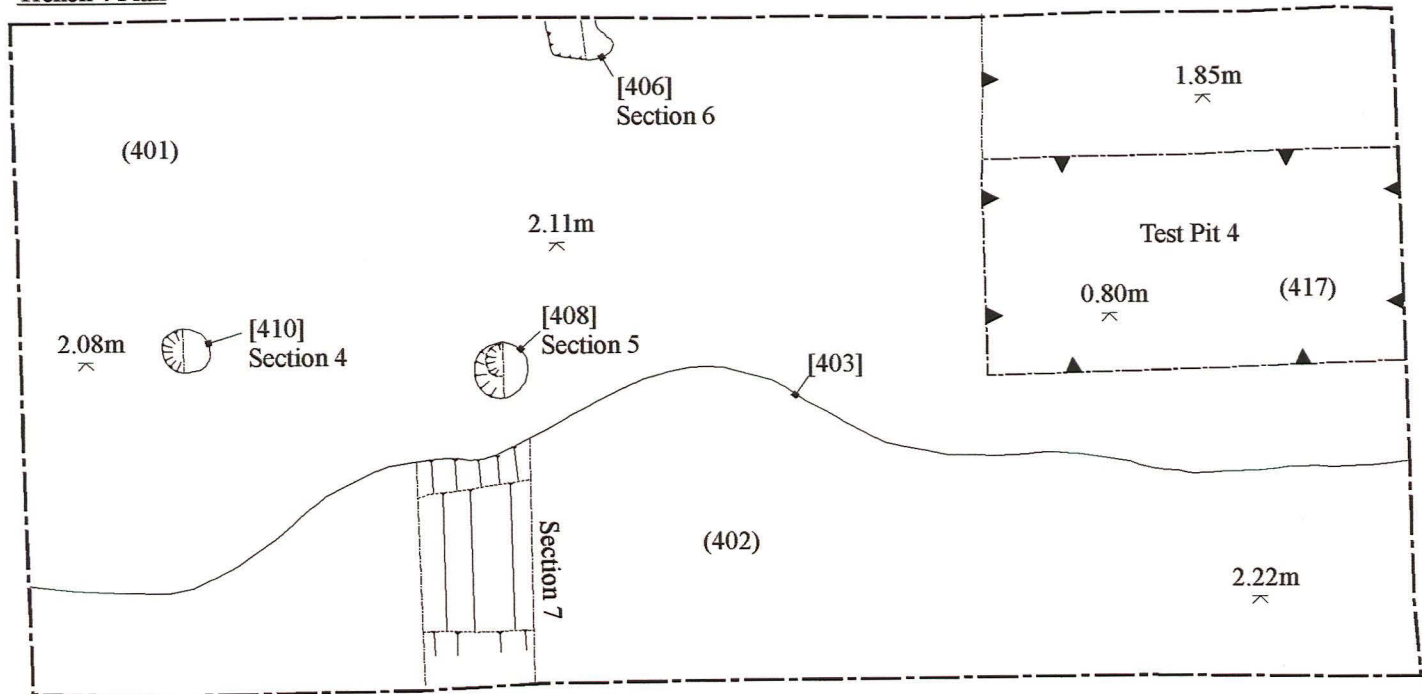


Figure 6 - Trenches 2 & 3 (plans only)

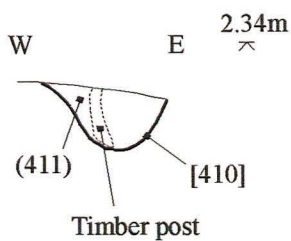
Trench 4 Plan



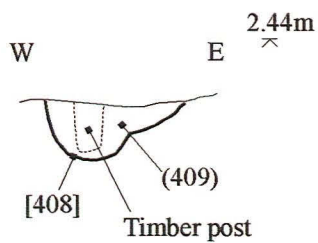
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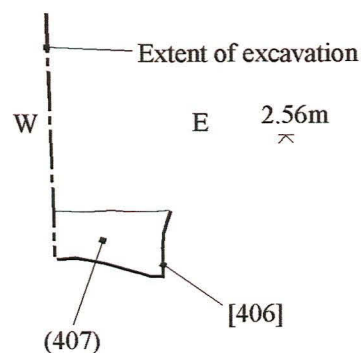
Section 4



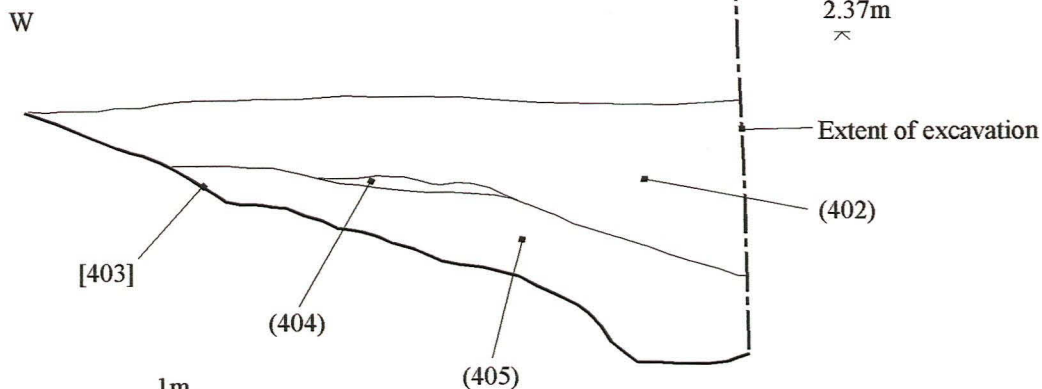
Section 5



Section 6



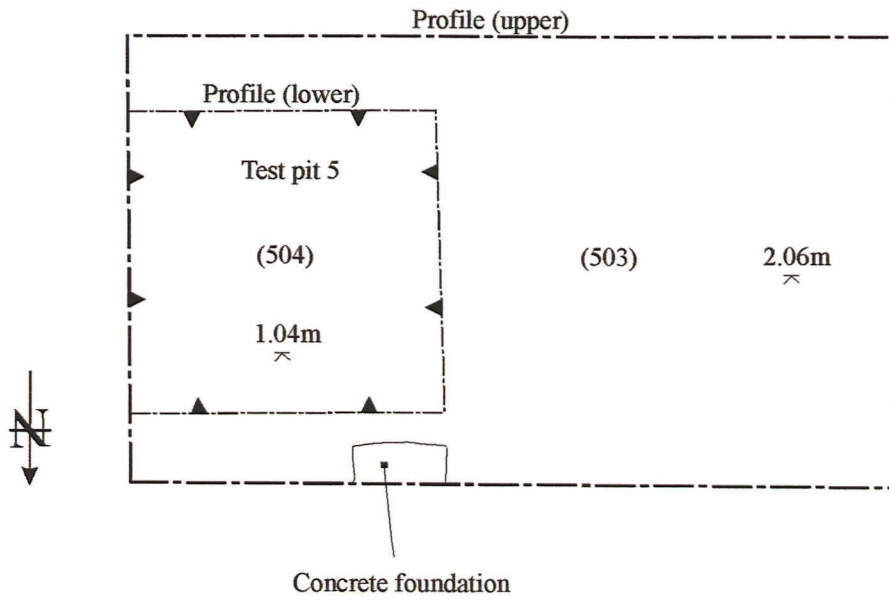
Section 7



(Sections only)

Figure 7 - Trench 4 plan and sections

Plan



North facing profile

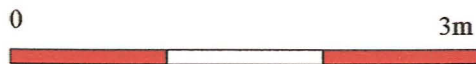
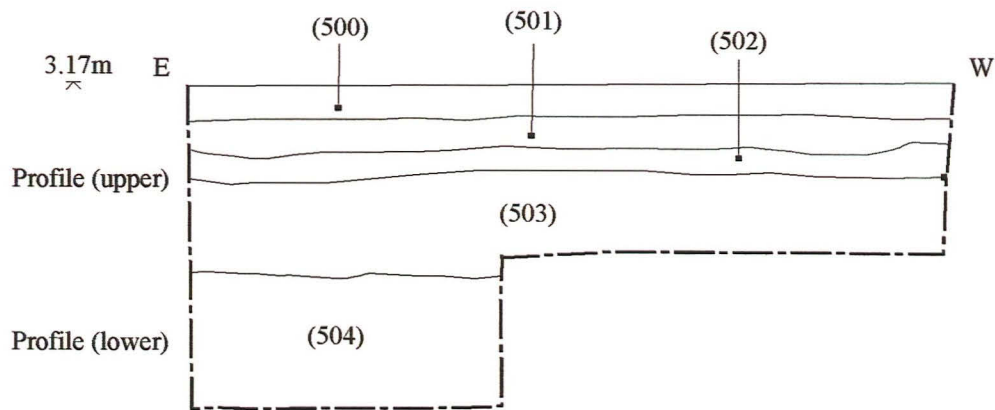


Figure 8 Trench 5 plan and profile

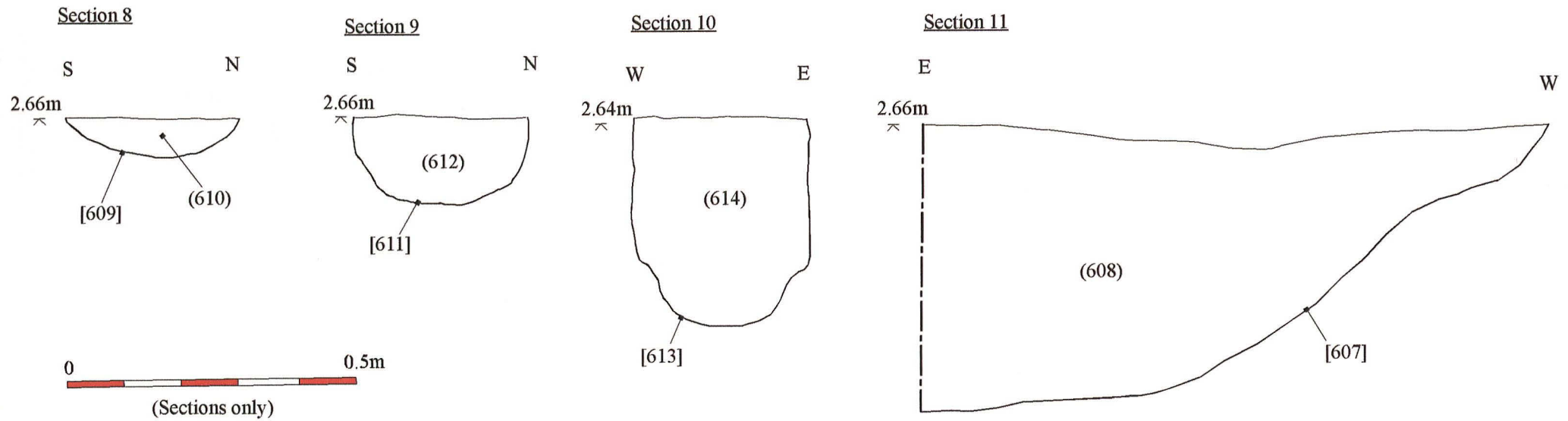
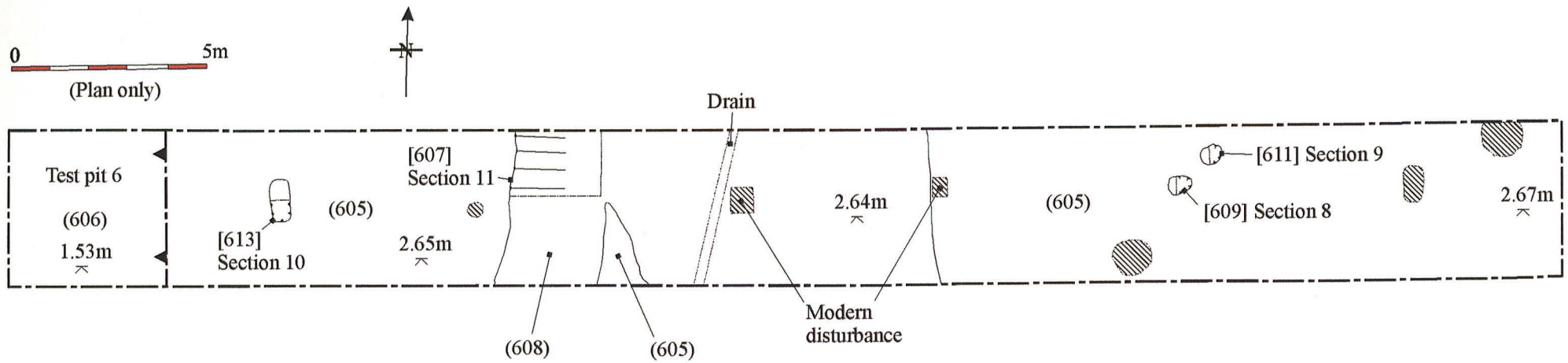


Figure 9 - Trench 6 plan & sections

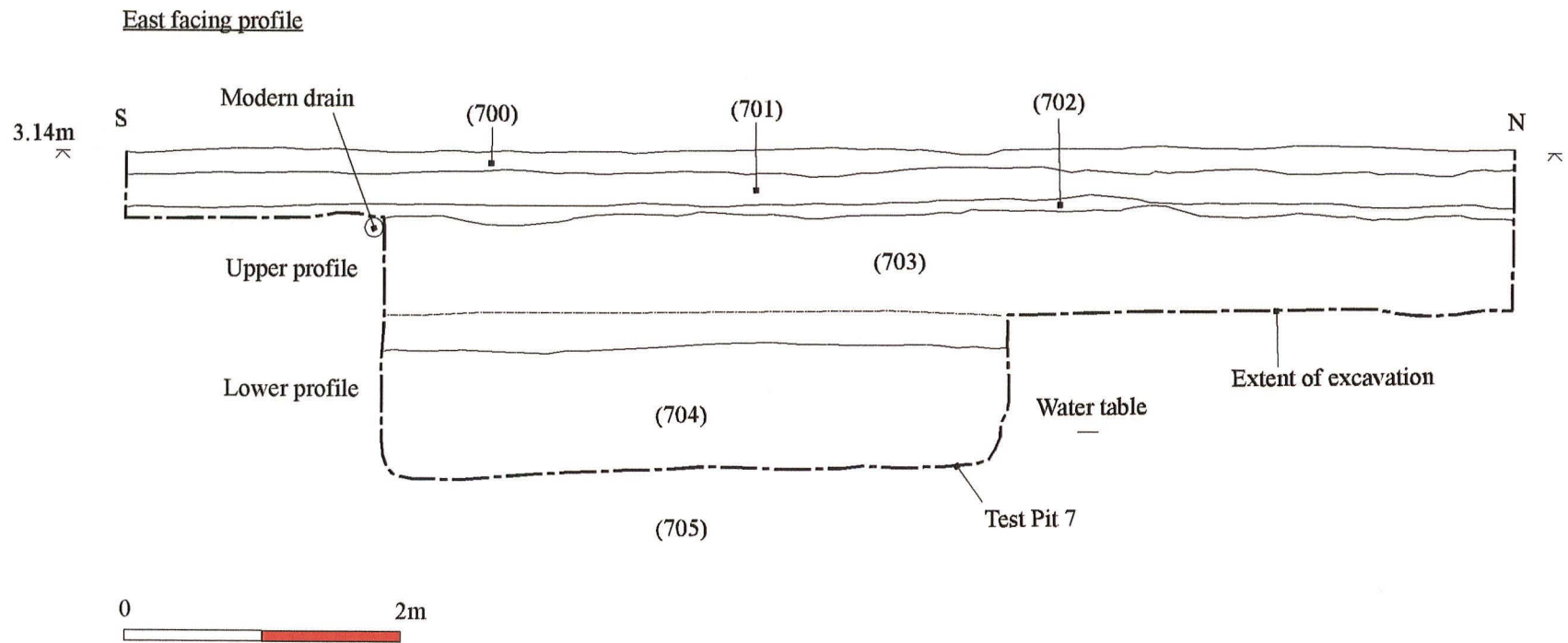
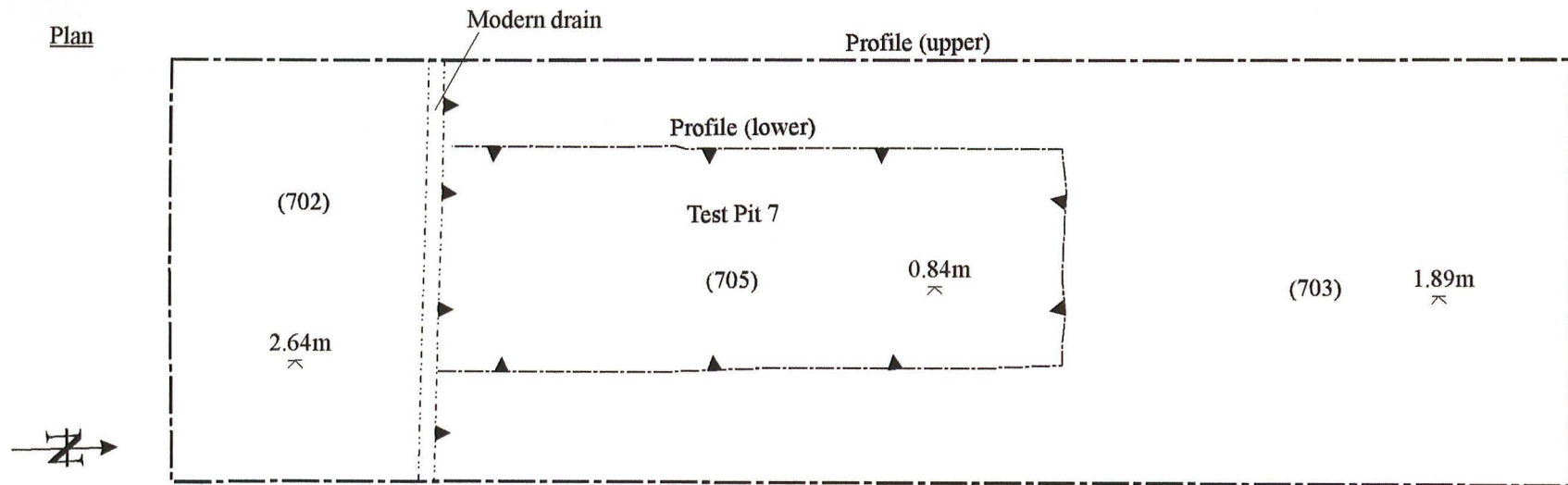
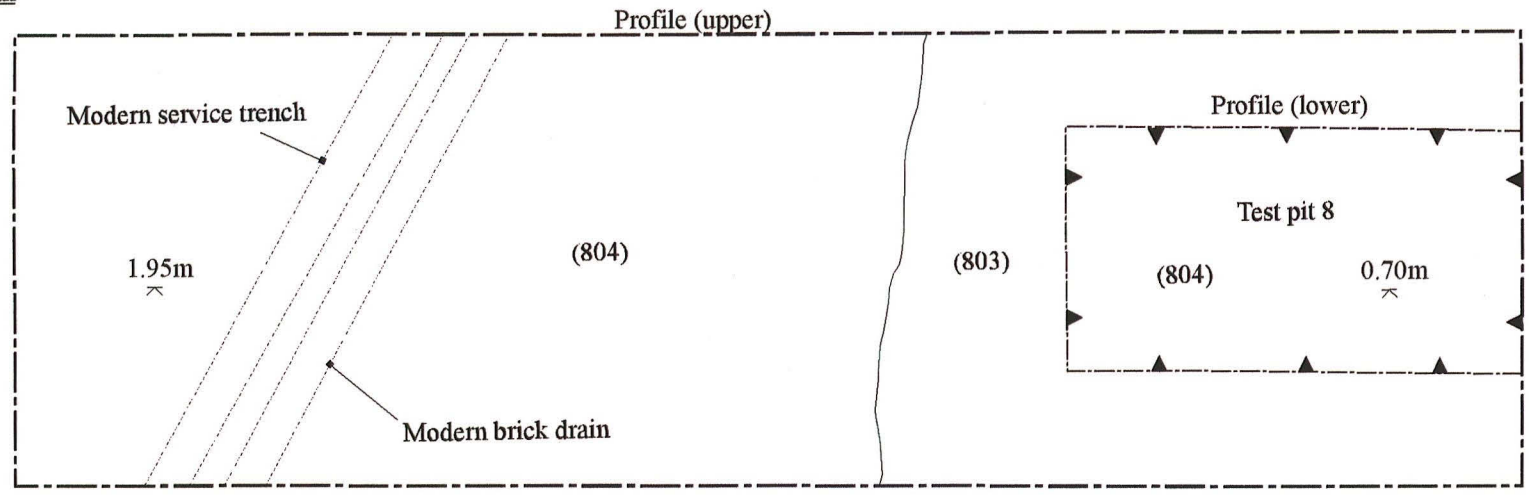


Figure 10 - Trench 7 plan and profile

Plan



Profile

3.20m

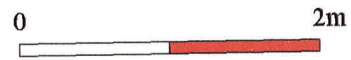
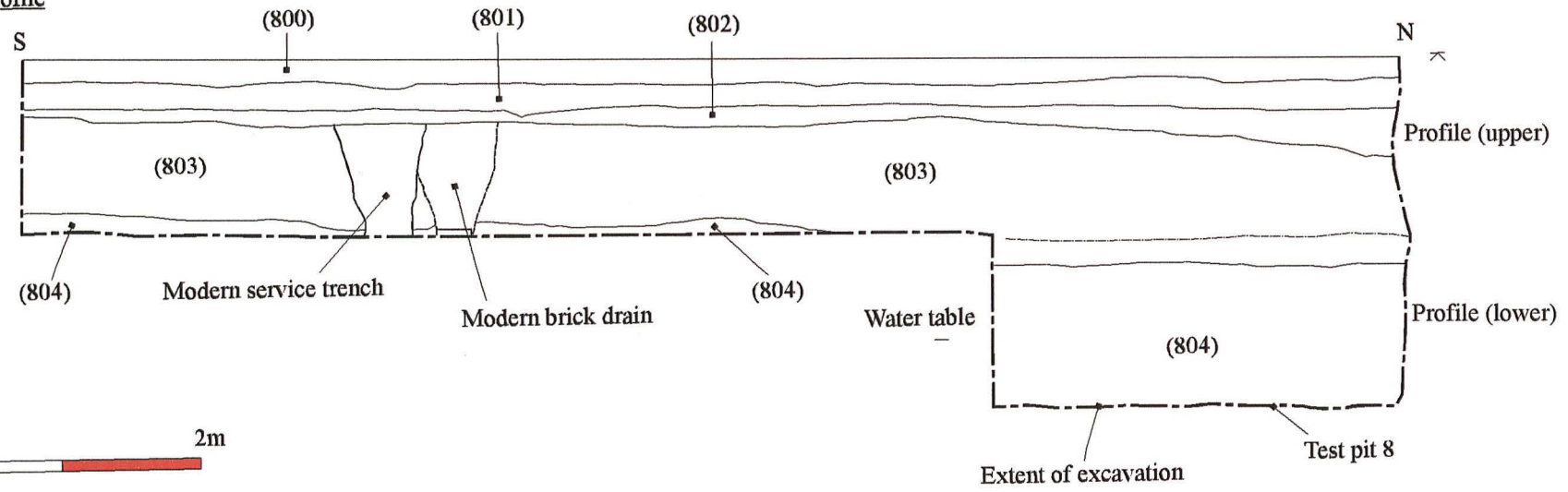
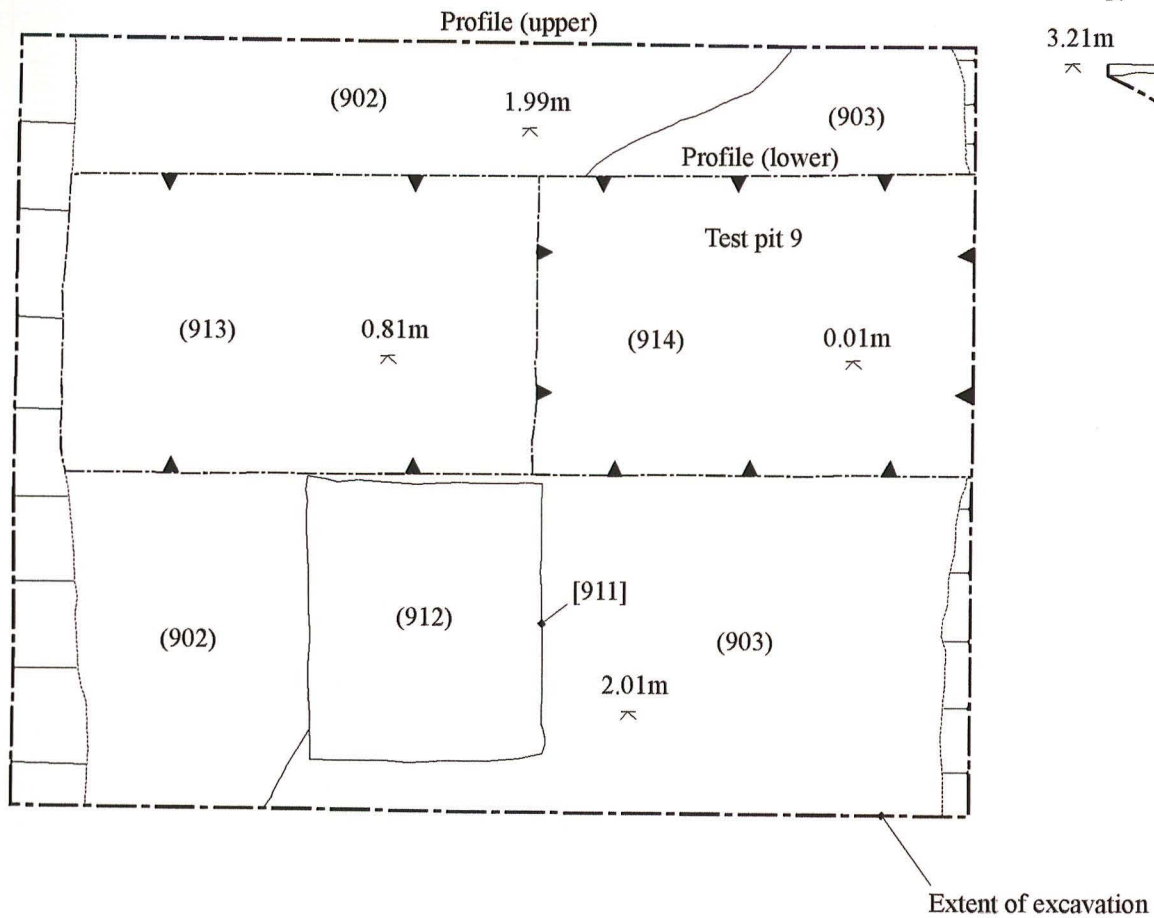


Figure 11 - Trench 8

Plan



Profile

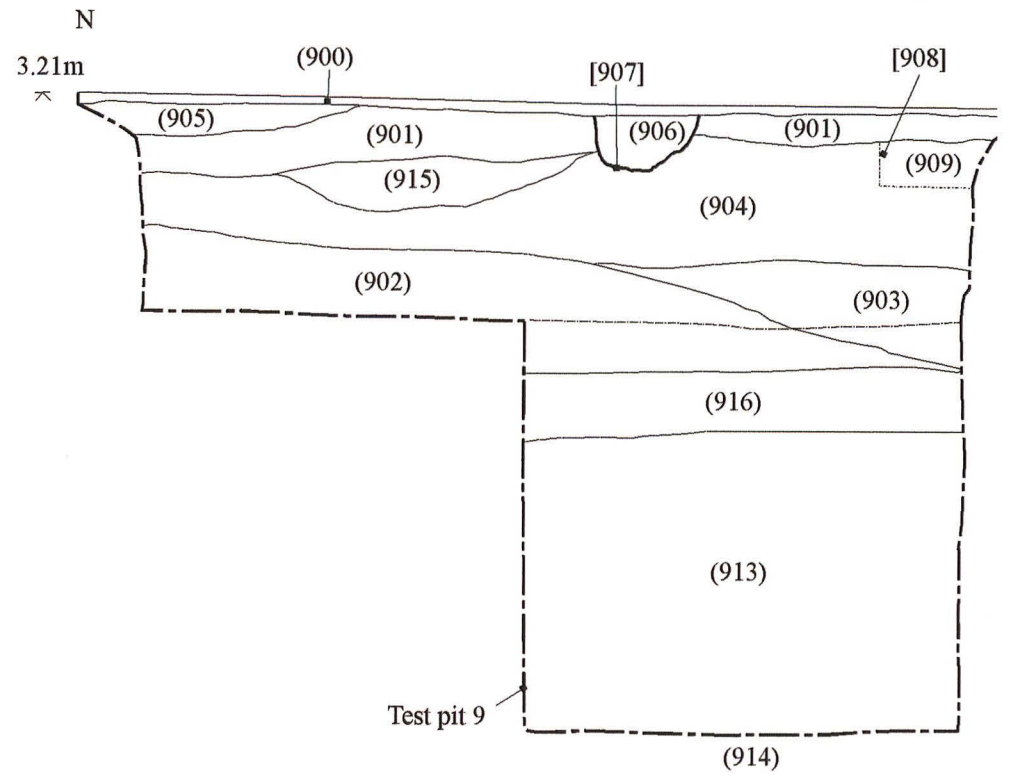
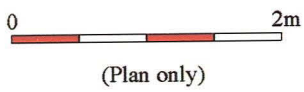
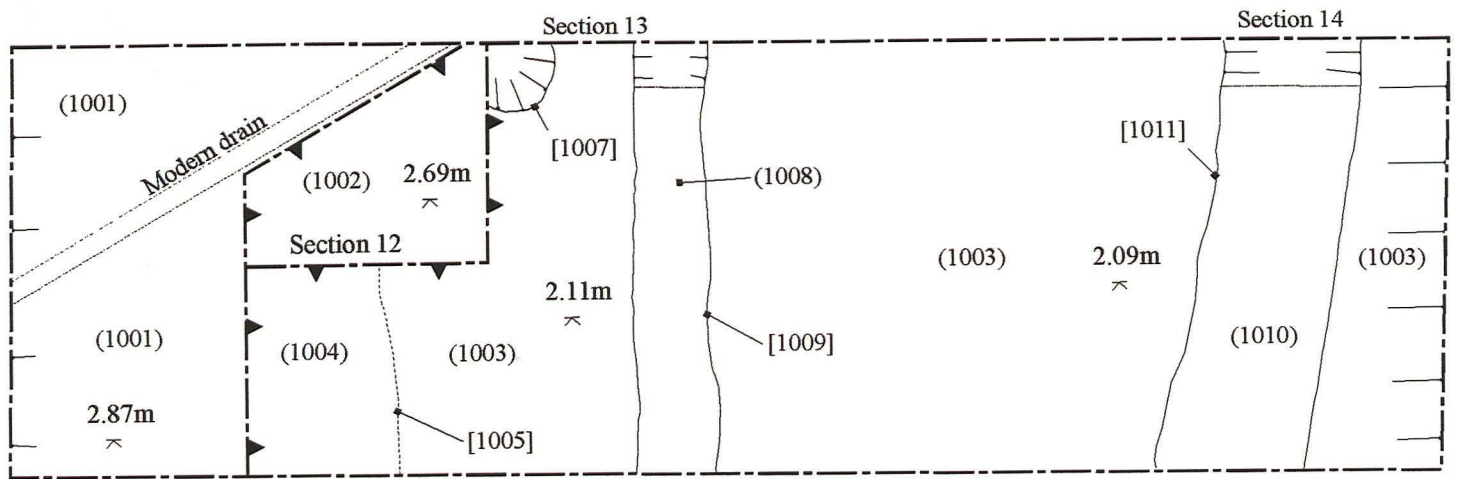
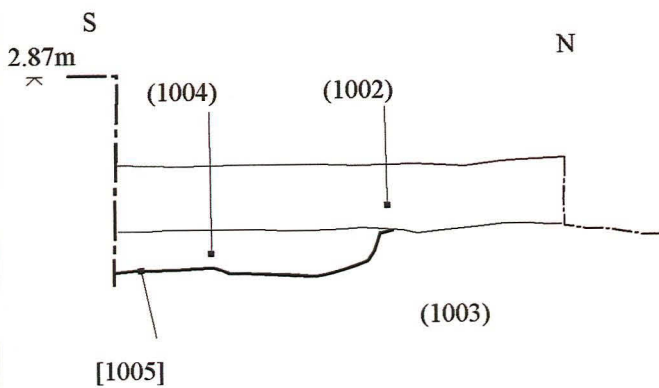


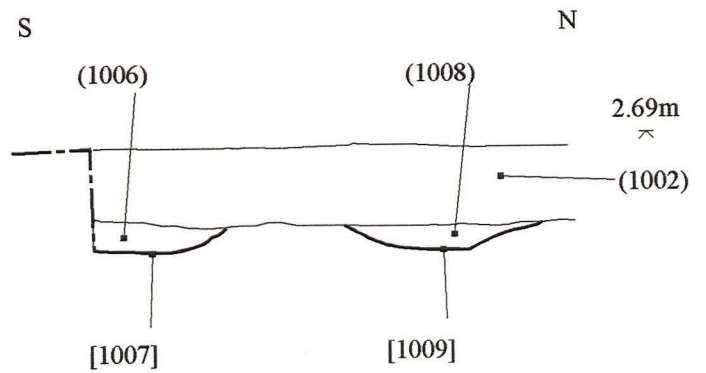
Figure 12 - Trench 9



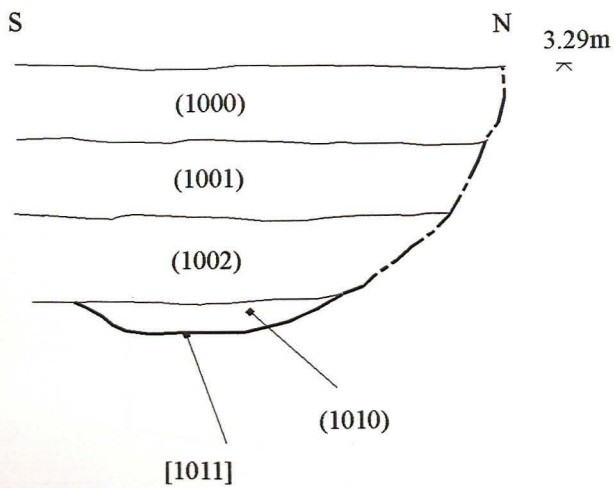
Section 12



Section 13



Section 14



(Sections only)

Figure 13 - Trench 10 plan and sections

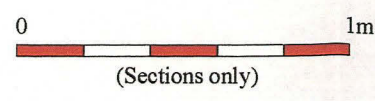
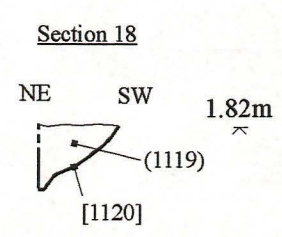
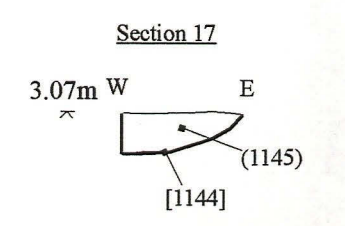
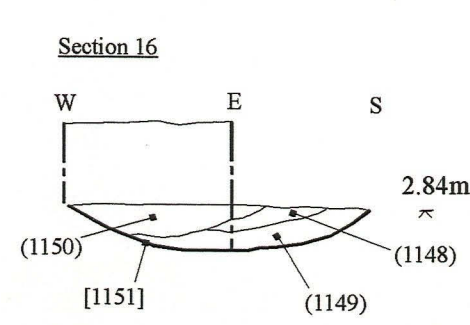
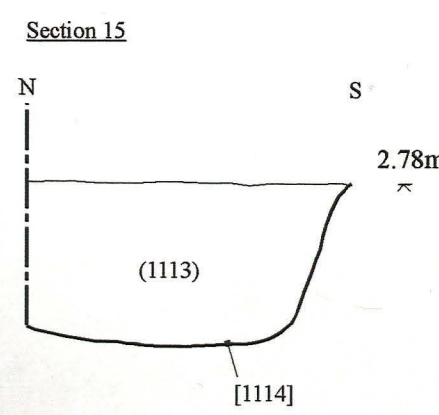
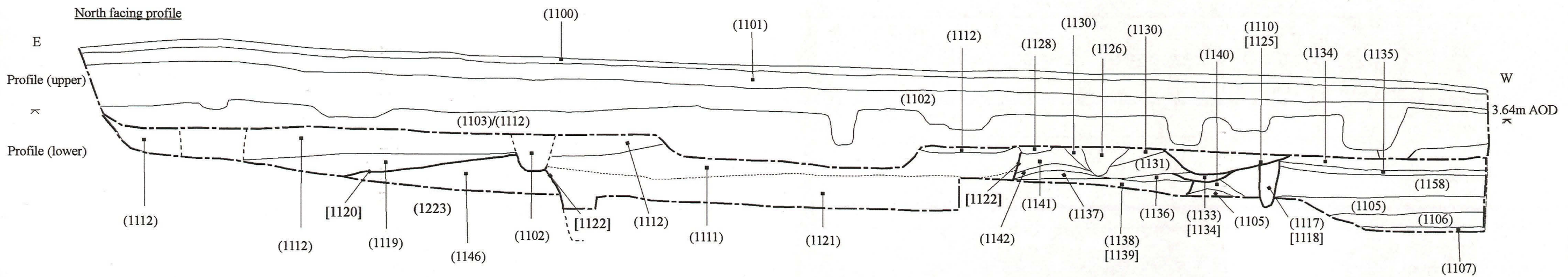
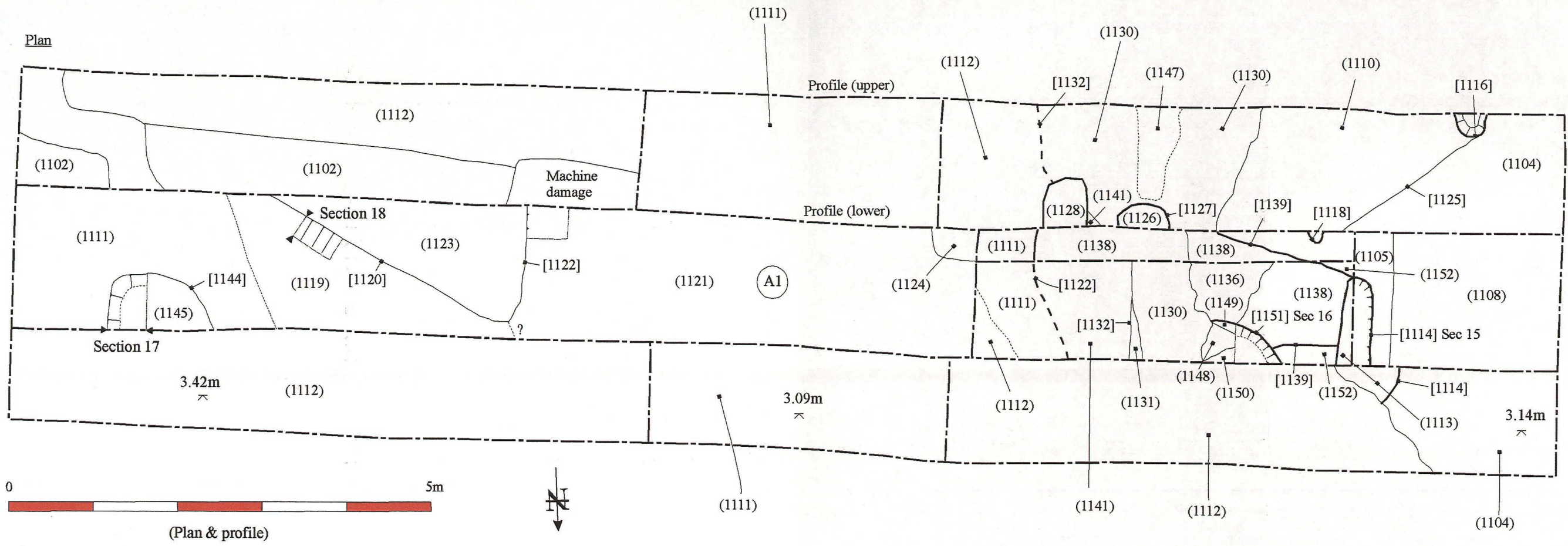


Figure 14 - Trench 11 plan, profile and associated sections

THE PLATES



Pl. 1 General view of Trench 1
looking south



Pl. 2 Channel [104] looking west



Pl. 3 Plough marks and post holes located within the central area of Trench 1



Pl. 4 Plough marks and pits located within the northern area of Trench 1



Pl. 5 Feature [107], Section 2



Pl. 6 Feature [106], Section 1



Pl. 7 General view of Trench 6 looking east



Pl. 8 General view of Trench 6 looking west



Pl. 9 Test pit 6, looking south, located within the western extent of Trench 6



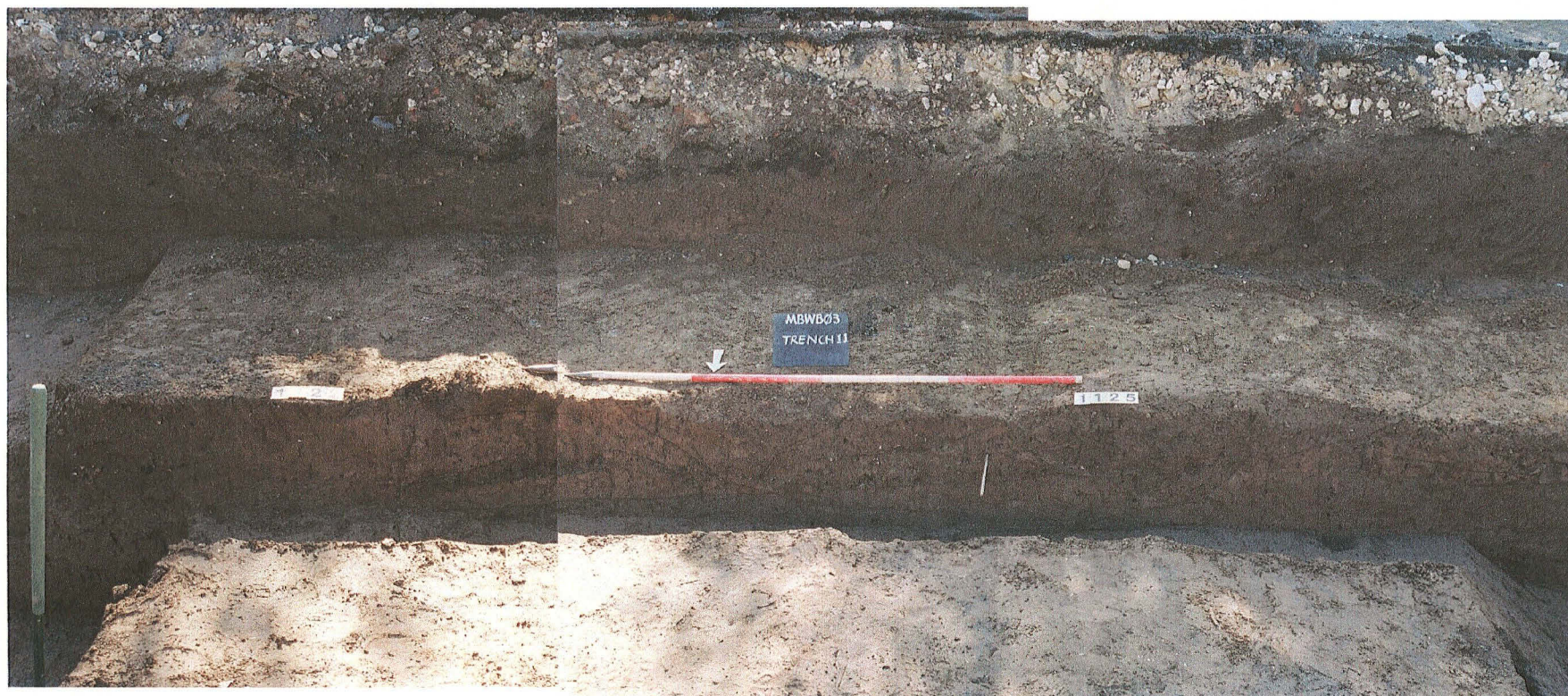
Pl. 10 Feature [607], Section 11



Pl. 11 General view of Trench 11 looking southwest



Pl. 12 General view of Trench 11 looking southeast



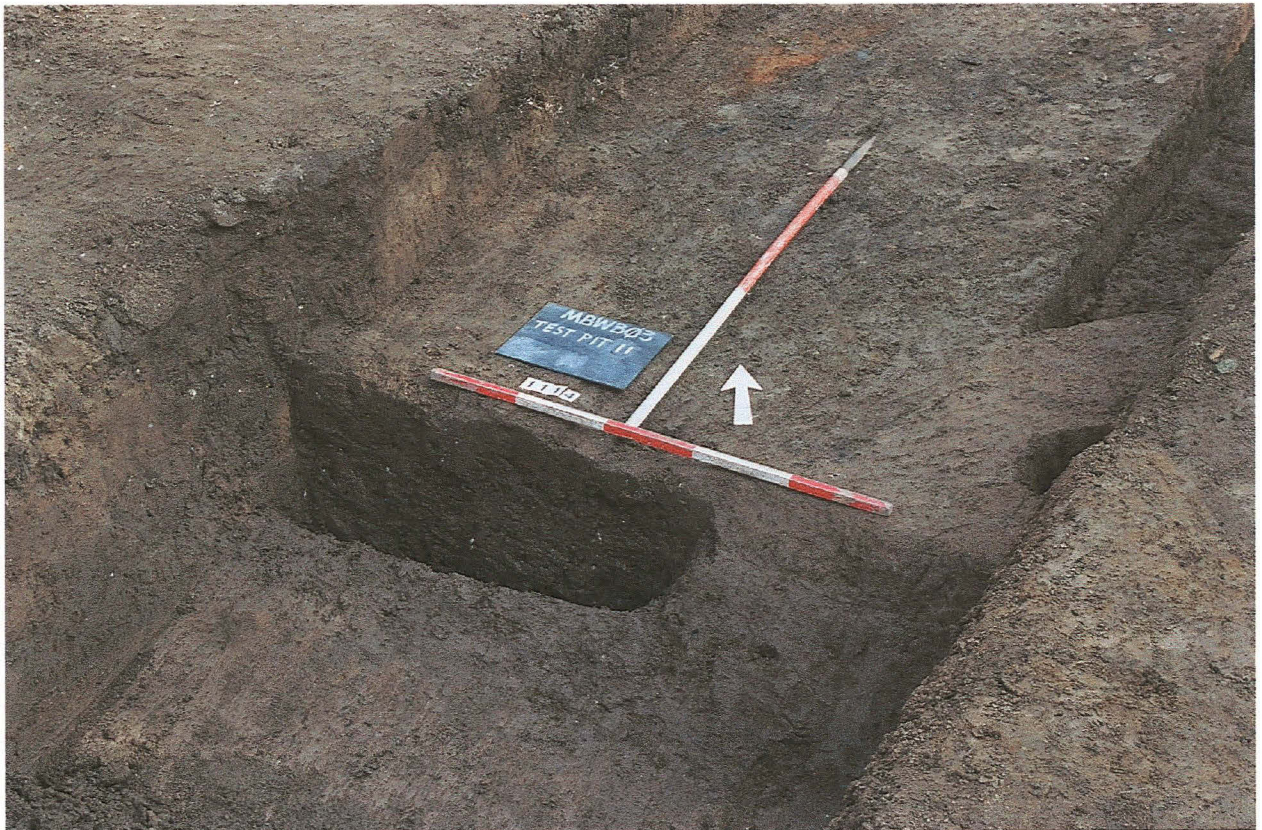
Pl. 13 Central profile through Trench 11, facing south



Pl. 14 Feature [1118]



Pl. 15. Palaeochannels [1120] & [1122]



Pl. 16 Feature [1114], Section 15