



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Central Technology School,
Grantham, Lincolnshire
Archaeological Evaluation**

NGR: SK 9136 3705

Planning Application: S04/0029/35

Site Code: GCTS 04

LCNCC Accn No.: 2004.87

Report for

HBS

by

Matthew Jordan

LAS Report No. 748

May 2004



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VAT Registration No. 819 8029 41

EVENT L15305

SOURCE L19576
L19577

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Grantham, Central Technology School, Lincolnshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation comprising the excavation of four trenches was undertaken in the area of the proposed development. These trenches revealed modern ground works and service trenches but produced no archaeological remains.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by Mr.C.Duncan, of HBS in April 2004 to carry out archaeological trial trenching at the above site (Fig. 1). The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements of set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeological Section, (1998). Work commenced on April 5th 2004 and was completed on April 9th 2004.

Site Location and Description

The Central Technology School, Rushcliffe Road is situated west of the A607 and north of Grantham town centre. The proposed new sports centre is located within the grounds, south-west of the main entrance and on the south side of the school complex. The plot is currently occupied by a portakabin classroom, cycle racks and two long jumps.

Planning Background

An application has been made for the construction of a new Sports Centre. The application is to be determined by Lincolnshire County Council, after evaluation of the site.

Archaeological Background

Records held at the County SMR indicate that during construction of the school in the late 1970s finds of Anglo-Saxon date were made including two spearheads, a buckle, pottery and coloured stones of irregular shape (possibly beads). These finds suggest the possible presence of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery of 5-6th century date. Evaluation of an extension to the school north of the proposed new sports block in 2000 (LAS report 483) failed to locate any archaeological remains.

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 precisely the purpose of the evaluation was to establish whether Anglo-Saxon burials were present within the proposed development area.

Method

The Brief required the excavation of four 12m x 1.8m trenches as shown on Fig. 2. These were positioned to avoid existing facilities on the site. Each trench was machine excavated, using a JCB excavator with a toothless dyking bucket, to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon. All machine excavation was supervised by an archaeologist. Archaeological recording was carried out by a team of 3 experienced archaeologists. A full written (single context) and photographic record was made of the site, including site plans at a scale of 1:50, and section drawings at 1:50 and 1:20. A full photographic record was made during the progress of the excavation to cover each trench together with general site views. LAS operates a standard context recording system, developed by its staff over the past 20 years based on MOLAS and CAS models

Results

Trench 1 (Fig. 3; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was positioned parallel to the western end of the proposed development and was excavated to a depth of 1m to 1.15m. The upper-most layer was a 0.12m thick dark brown sandy silt topsoil, **100**, beneath which was a 0.10m thick orange and grey mottled sandy silt, **101**, which may represent modern levelling of the area. Beneath this was a 0.35m thick dark grey brown sandy silt, **102**, possibly representing a buried topsoil or ploughsoil. This lay over a 4.5m long and 0.20m thick extent of loose mid grey brown sandy silt, **103**. The lower horizons of **102** and **103** undulated suggesting at east/west orientated ploughing activity. Beneath these layers was a 0.40m thick, loose grey brown sand, **104**, which lay over natural orange sand.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3; Pls 2, 5)

Trench 2 was located to the south-west of an existing bicycle shed. The trench had to be moved 1m further south-west of its intended location as topsoil stripping revealed modern services immediately beneath the topsoil running in an north-west/south-east direction. The western half of the relocated trench also could not be fully excavated down to natural as another service trench was revealed. It entered the trench in the centre of the western end and exited through the northeastern corner. Despite this a full north-east facing profile was exposed.

Excavation revealed a 0.15m – 0.20m thick loose mid brown grey sandy silt topsoil, **200**, from which several pieces of struck flint were found. The topsoil however has been imported on to the site and lies above several man made layers. Beneath this were three layers which represent ground levelling possibly undertaken during the construction of the school or creation of the playing fields. In the

eastern half of the trench was a 0.25m – 0.40m thick layer of compact orange brown sand, **201**, with inclusions of mortar, limestone and modern rubbish such as rubber pipe and metal. In the western end of the trench was a 0.25m thick layer of compact grey brown sand with orange mottling, **203**. Between layers **201** and **203** was a 2m long and 0.10m thick lens of dark grey compact silty sand, **202**. It is likely these three layers represent different material which was deposited in order to level this area of ground.

Beneath these layers was a 0.25m – 0.40m thick mid compacted dark brown grey sandy silt, **204**, with occasional charcoal flecks and inclusions of pebbles which may represent a former ploughsoil/topsoil. Beneath **204** in the eastern half of the trench was a small 0.60m long x 0.20m thick layer of light grey brown sandy silt, **205**, which may indicate ploughing or possibly natural activity such as an animal burrow or tree root. Under **204** and **205** was a 0.25m – 0.40m thick brown orange sand of medium compaction, **206**, which overlay the clean orange natural sand. The south-east facing section of the trench showed part of the service trench, **208**, in section. It cut all the layers in the trench except the topsoil and contained a mixed orange grey sand, **209**, with frequent inclusions of stone material, mortar and metal objects including paint tins etc. Also revealed in this section was a 0.30m thick mid orange brown sand, **207**, with compact limestone inclusions, this was present in the northern half of the section and was cut by the service trench, **208**. It could represent ground make up prior to construction of the bike sheds to the north.

Trench 3 (Fig. 4; Pls 3, 6)

Trench 3 was located in the middle of the proposed development area. The topsoil was a 0.15m thick, mid brown grey sandy silt, **300**. Beneath this in the western half of the trench was a 0.06m – 0.12m thick layer of compacted limestone hardcore, **301**, which may represent a layer of ground makeup or possibly an area of hard standing. **301** at its eastern end overlay a 0.05m – 0.15m layer of limestone rubble hardcore and mid grey sandy silt, **302**. Under **301** and **302** was a 0.07m thick layer of firmly compacted mixed bands of orange brown sand and dark grey silty sand, **303**. This overlay a 0.15m thick layer of compact orange brown sand, **304**, with frequent inclusions of pockets of dark grey silty sand and occasional charcoal flecks. Beneath this was a 0.16m – 0.30m thick layer of mid grey silt sand, **305**, which could represent a buried topsoil similar to **104** and **204** in trenches 1 and 2. The uneven and mixed lower horizon of this layer suggests ploughing activity. Beneath **305** was a 0.20 – 0.25m thick layer of brown orange sand, **306**, which overlay the clean orange natural sand.

Trench 4 (Fig. 4; Pl. 4)

Trench 4 was located in the north-east corner of the development area and had to be shortened to 10m due to the presence of a paved path running to a portakabin classroom to the west of the trench and the presence of tree roots to the east. A 2m section in the middle of the trench was also left unexcavated due to the presence of a modern pipe located near the surface in this area. A service trench similar to that found in trench 2 was also present and ran north-west/south-east across the eastern portion of the trench. Topsoil was 0.12m – 0.20m thick and was a mid brown grey sandy silt,

400. This overlay a 0.10m thick mixed layer of mixed orange sand and mid grey silty sand, **401**, which was compact and contained occasional charcoal flecks, which may represent a layer of ground makeup. Beneath **400** in the centre of the south facing section of the trench was the cut for the service trench, **403**, which was linear with straight edges and steep sides and cut layers **401**, **405**, **406** and **407**. It contained a mixed deposit of orange sand and dark grey silty sand, **402**. Beneath **401** was **405** a 0.28m thick layer of dark brown grey silty sand which may represent a buried topsoil. Beneath **405** was a 0.25m – 0.30m thick orange brown sand, **406**, which overlay the natural orange sand.

Conclusion

The only archaeological material found during the evaluation was from an imported topsoil above several layers of modern ground levelling work. Beneath this no archaeological material was found and it appears unlikely that any archaeological features including the suggested Anglo-Saxon cemetery are present in the proposed development area.

Acknowledgements

The evaluation was carried out by Matthew Jordan, Mick McDaid, Wayne Livesey and Mike Garrett. Internal monitoring and editing of this report was carried out by Naomi Field (LAS).

Matthew Jordan
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May 2004

Contents of Site Archive

Correspondence:

Photographs: Film no. 04/52 1-32.

Photocopies of Ordnance Survey and other maps:

Drawings: (13)

Finds:

Context Register including: Context Register (1), Drawings Register (1), Photographic Register (1) and Context Sheets (32)

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 1

Central Technology School, Grantham

GCTS 04

Context Summary

Context No.	Type	Description	Trenches
100	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy silt	1
101	Deposit	Mixed orange sand and grey brown silty sand	1
102	Buried topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt	1
103	Subsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt	1
104	Subsoil	Grey brown sand	1
105	Natural	Orange sand	1
200	Topsoil	Mid brown grey silty sand	2
201	Deposit	Mixed orange brown sand	2
202	Deposit	Dark grey silty sand	2
203	Deposit	Grey brown sand with orange mottling	2
204	Buried topsoil	Dark brown grey sandy silt	2
205	Subsoil	Light grey brown sandy silt	2
206	Subsoil	Brown orange sand	2
207	Deposit	Mid orange brown sand and limestone hardcore	2
208	Cut	Service trench	2
209	Fill	Fill of 208	2
300	Topsoil	Mid brown grey sandy silt	3
301	Deposit	Limestone hardcore	3
302	Deposit	Limestone rubble hardcore and mid grey sandy silt	3
303	Deposit	Mixed bands of orange brown sand and dark grey silty sand	3
304	Deposit	Mixed orange brown sand and grey silty sand	3
305	Buried topsoil	Mid grey silty sand	3
306	Subsoil	Orange brown sand	3
307	Natural	Orange coarse sand	3
400	Topsoil	Mid brown grey silty sand	4
401	Deposit	Mixed orange sand and grey silty sand	4
402	Fill	Fill of 403	4
403	Cut	Service trench	4
404	Pipe	Service pipe	4
405	Buried topsoil	Dark brown grey silty sand	4
406	Subsoil	Orange brown sand	4
407	Natural	Orange coarse sand	4

THE FIGURES

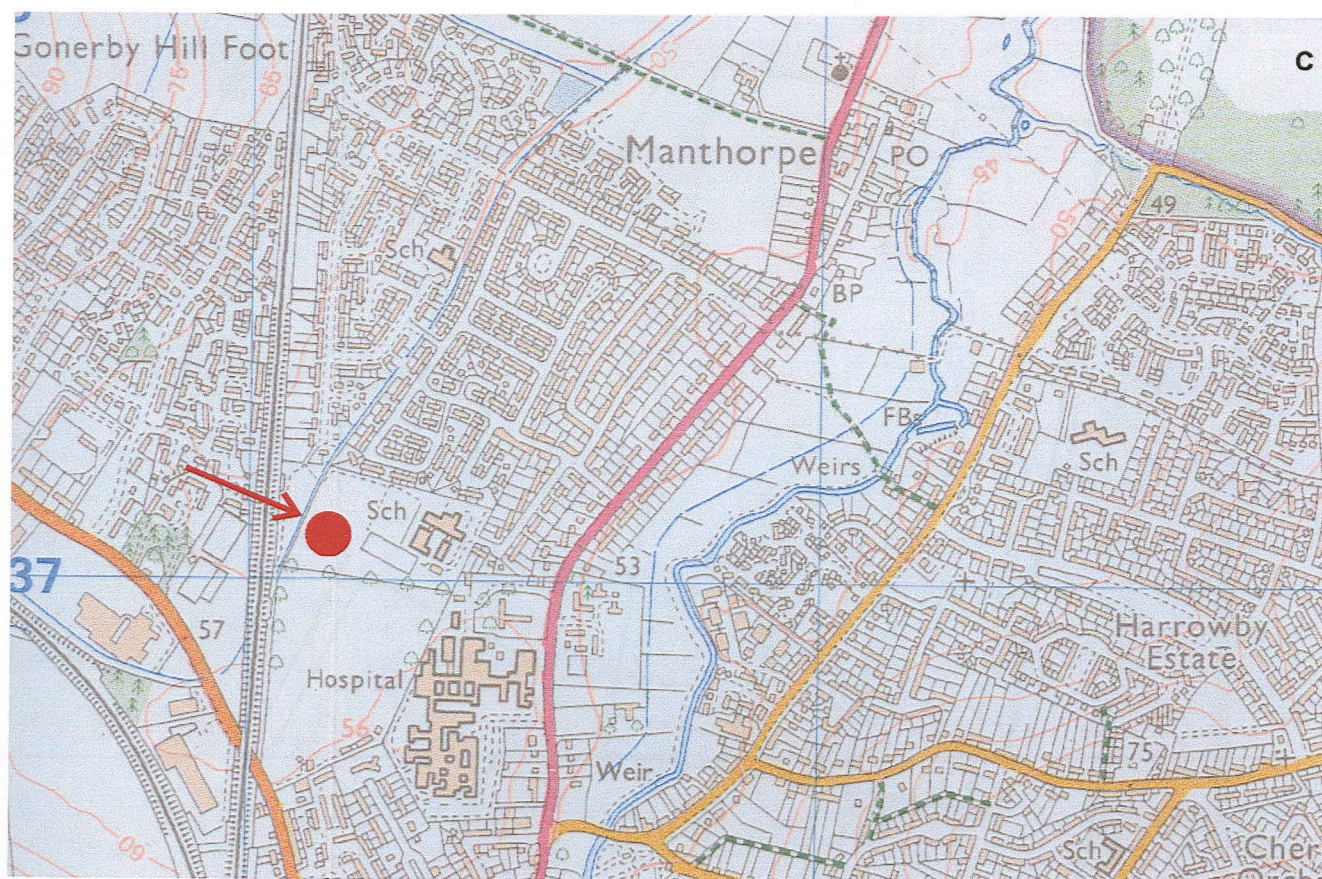
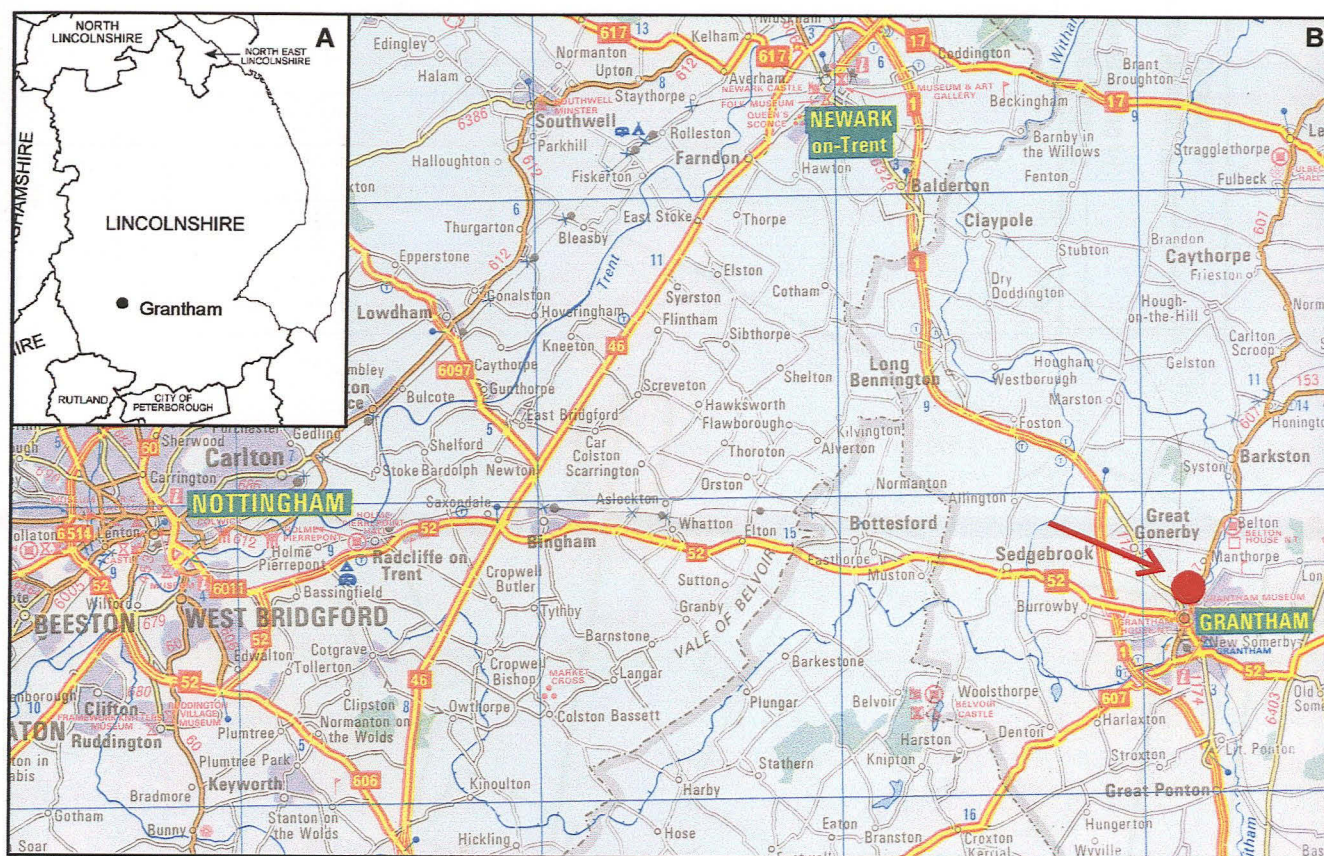


Fig. 1 Location of Central Technology School, Grantham. (C based on the 2000 1:25 000 Ordnance Survey map, Explorer 247, Crown copyright, reproduced with the permission of the controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165).

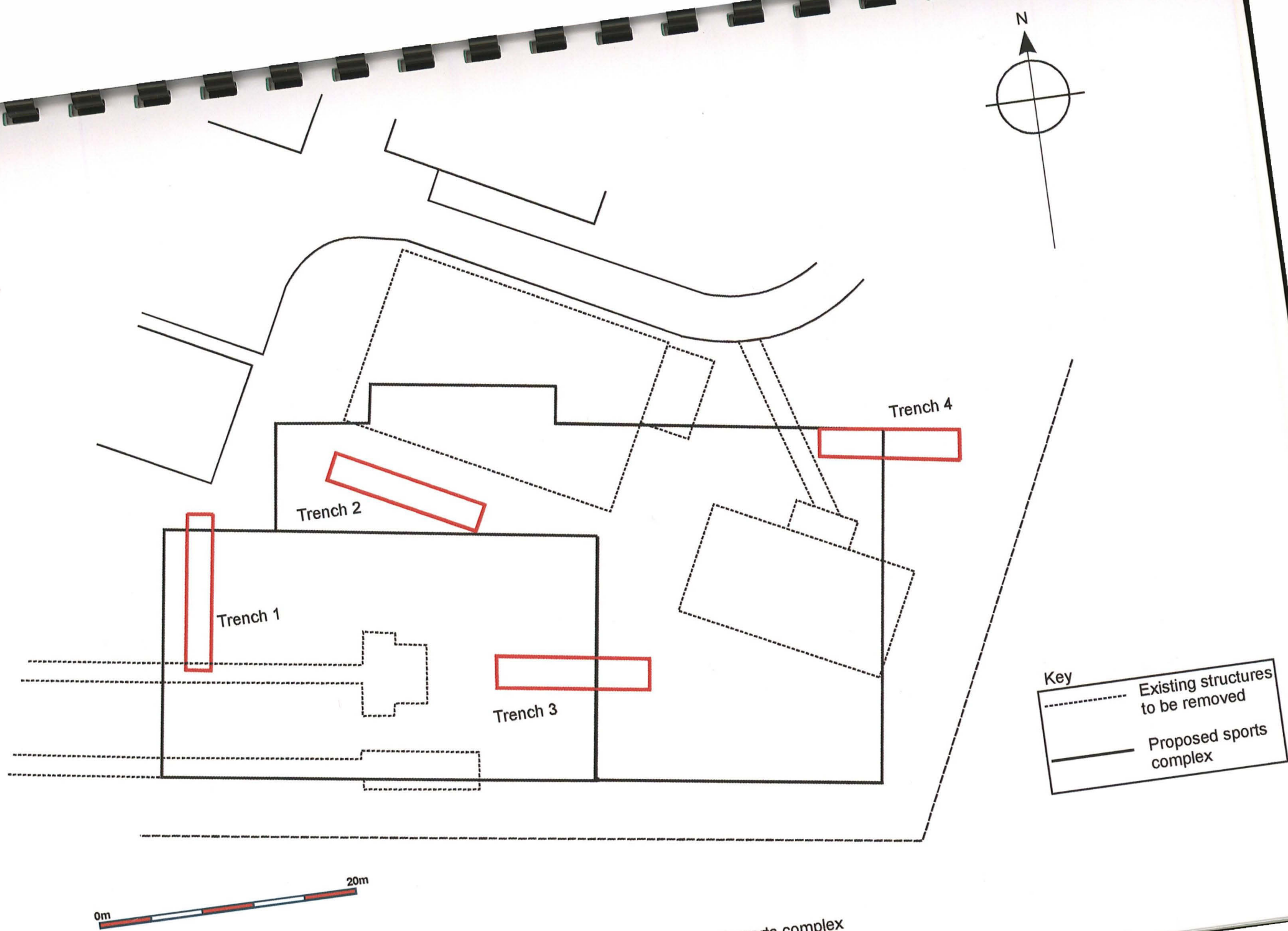
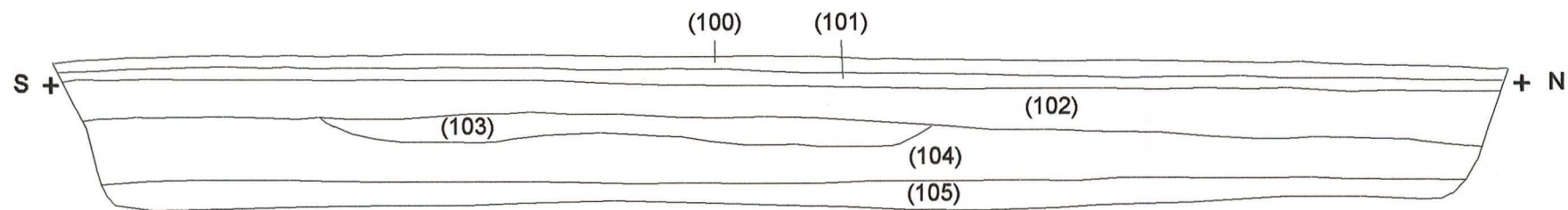
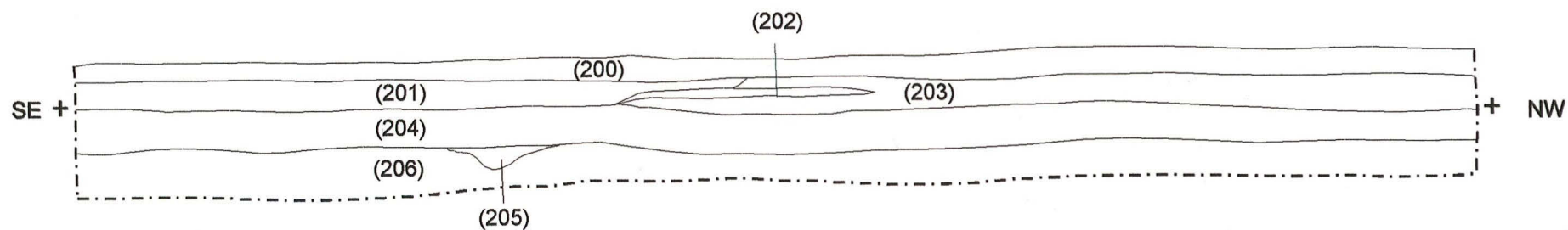


Fig 2. Location of evaluation trenches in relation to existing structures and proposed sports complex

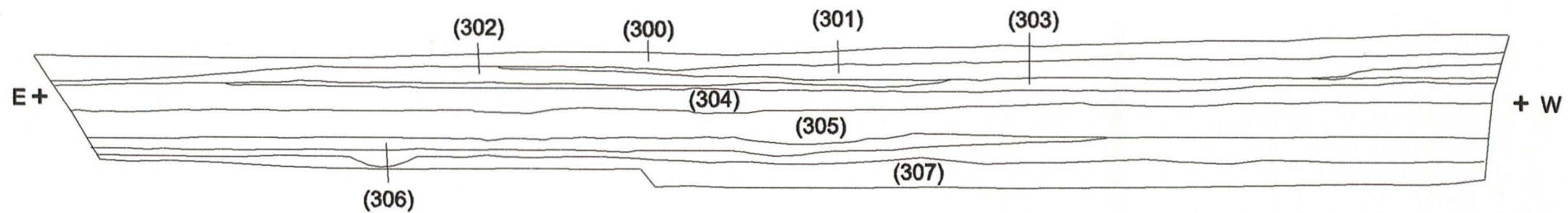


A) Trench 1: East facing section

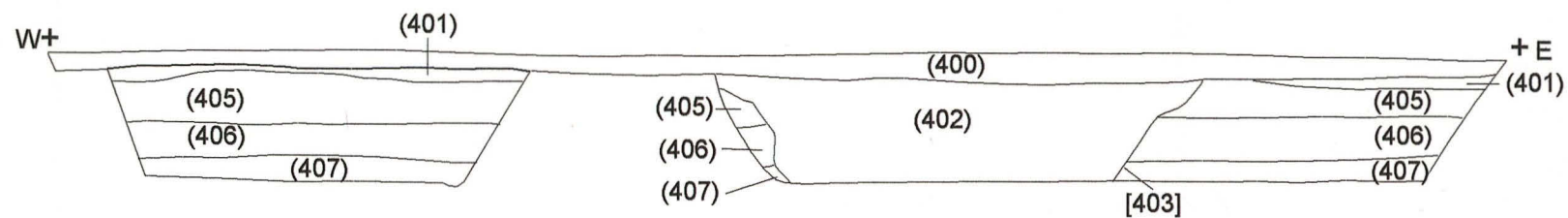


B) Trench 2: North-east facing section

Fig 3.A) Trench 1: East facing section. B) Trench 2: North-east facing section



A) Trench 3: North facing section



B) Trench 4: South facing section



Fig 4. A) Trench 3: North facing section. B) Trench 4: South facing section

THE PLATES



Pl. 1 Trench 1, looking south



Pl. 2 Trench 2, looking north west



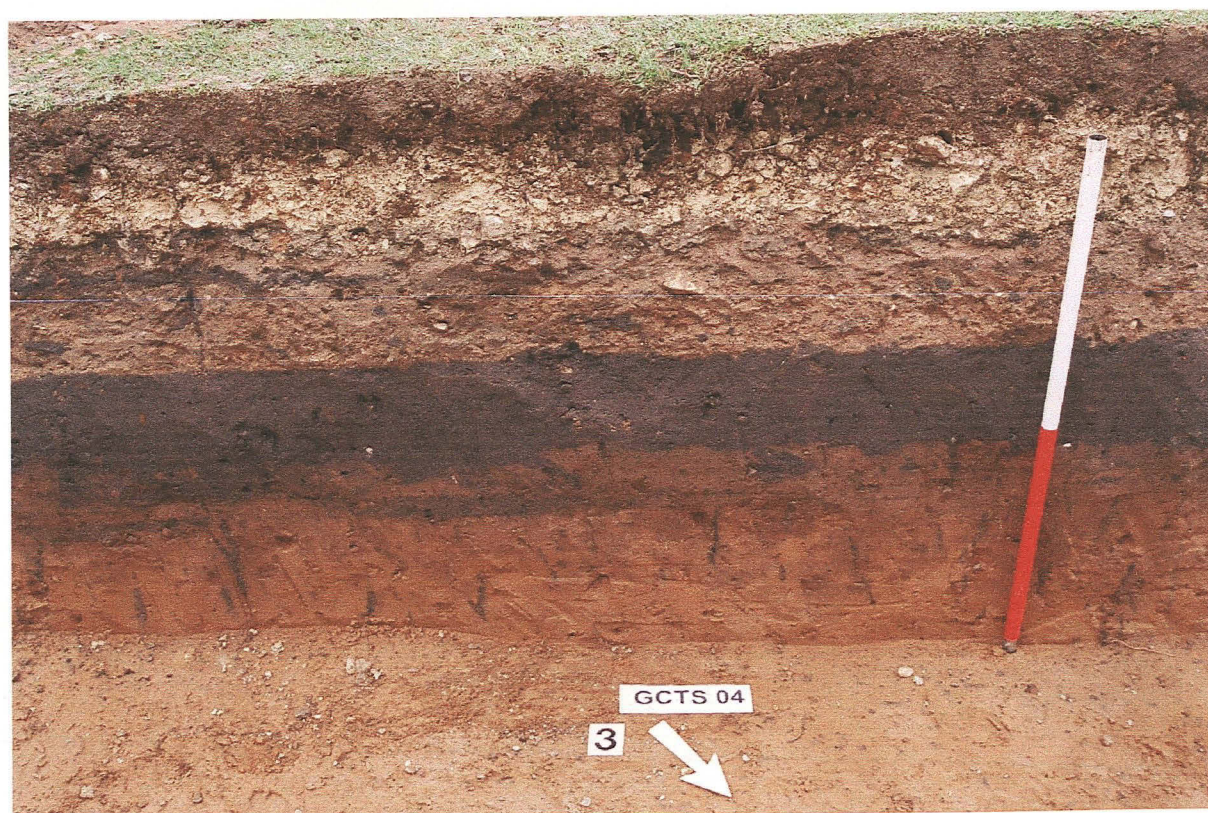
Pl. 3 Trench 3, looking east.



Pl. 4 Trench 4, looking south west.



Pl. 5 Trench 2, looking west



Pl. 6 Trench 3, looking south-west