ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS ON LAND AT FEN ROAD, RUSKINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE (RFRA01)

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS ON LAND AT FEN ROAD, RUSKINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE (RFRA01)

Work Undertaken For
Chanceoption Homes

appl N/52/942/99 DKDC

June 2004

Report Compiled by
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National Grid Reference: TF 08900 51100

A.P.S. Report No. **89/04**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES

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1. SUMMARY

Archaeological investigations were undertaken on land at Fen Road, Ruskington, Lincolnshire as a part of a scheme of archaeological works. Earlier Geophysical Survey and Trial Trenching of the site identified features dating to the Iron Age and Roman periods. Iron Age ditches and pits including parts of a possible ring gully were identified in the southwestern part of the site. Roman 1st-2nd century AD ditches were identified in the southern part of the site along with 3rd-4th century AD ditches and pits. A late Roman grave was also identified in the southern part of the site.

The current investigations at the site took the form of archaeological excavation of the main Drainage Trench and archaeological monitoring of the building plots located in the western and southwestern area of the site.

The investigations identified several Late Iron Age ditches across the site, with two parallel curvilinear ditches identified in the northeastern area possibly representing a trackway. Early-Roman ditches and a pit were also identified in the northern and eastern half of the site. A number of undated ditches were also identified across the site, several of which may also be of Late Iron Age date. No further structural evidence was identified within any of the monitored areas. Later agricultural activity was identified in the form of ridge and furrow, especially in the westernmost area of the site.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of an Excavation

An archaeological excavation is defined as a, *'a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts, and other remains within a specified area or site on land, intertidal zone or underwater. The records made and objects gathered during the fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the project design'* (IFA 1999).

2.2 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as, *'a formal program of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits maybe disturbed of destroyed'* (IFA 1999).

2.3 Planning Background

Planning permission (Application No. N/52/942/99) for the development was subject to a condition requiring the implementation of a scheme of archaeological works within specified areas of the site. The area of the main Drainage Trench was to be fully excavated. The excavation of the beam and block foundations was subject to archaeological monitoring and any archaeological features exposed within the foundations were excavated

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Chanceoption Homes to undertake the archaeological investigation of the site in accordance with the requirements of the local planning authority. A watching brief was undertaken between 12th July 2001-8th May 2002 with excavation of the drainage trench taking place between 1st-3rd August 2002.

2.4 Topography and Geology

Ruskington is located approximately 6km north of Sleaford and 24km south of Lincoln in the North Kesteven district, Lincolnshire (Fig 1).

The development site, which is an irregular block of land *c.*2.09ha in extent lies *c.*600m east of the village centre as defined by All Saint's church, to the south of Fen Road. The site is centred on national grid reference TF 089 511, and is situated on the north bank of The Beck, a partially canalised stream.

Local soils are gleyic brown calcareous earths of the Ruskington Association, developed on glaciofluvial sand and gravel with a calcareous substrate containing limestone, flints and quartzite (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 304). The site lies at *c.*10m OD on land that slopes gently downwards towards the nearby watercourse.

2.5 Archaeological Setting

Ruskington village is located in an area of archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric through to the medieval period. A Palaeolithic handaxe (NK 52.4) was discovered *c.* 700m southwest of the present investigation area. Flint axes (NK 52.14 and 40) dated to the Neolithic period have been found approximately 100m south of the development site and worked flints (NK 52.12) have been recovered 800m to the southeast. Two inhumation burials (NK 52.56), accompanied by beaker pottery dated to the Bronze Age, were recorded during building work 400m southwest of the development site.

Passing through the western edge of the village in an approximately north-south direction is the important Roman Road, King Street (NK 52.21). Aerial photographs have located field systems and enclosures of probable Roman date in the vicinity of King Street (NK 52.11, 24, 29 and 34). Roman coins have been recovered from various locations within 700m of the development area (NK 52.6, 7, 8 and 9).

An Anglo-Saxon cemetery (NK 52.1) was located at the western edge of the village. Iron spearheads, also of Anglo-Saxon date, have been found at several places to the east and southeast of the cemetery (NK 52.25 and 26).

Ruskington is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. Referred to as *Riscintone* and *Reschintone* the name is derived from the Old English *riscen* meaning 'rushy' with the suffix indicating a homestead or village (Ekwall 1974, 397). At the time of the Domesday Survey, Ruskington was held principally by Geoffrey Alselin and contained 60 acres of meadow, 240 acres of wood for pannage, a church, a priest and 3 mills (Foster and Longley 1976). No standing remains of 11th century date are recorded at the present church, suggesting that the Domesday Book is referring to an earlier precursor.

The Medieval period is represented by All Saints' church which contains a Norman tower arch and an Early English chancel and chancel arch (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 617). Medieval pottery (NK 52.54) has been recorded 300m south west of the development site.

Cropmarks have been recorded immediately to the south of the development site and apparently define an enclosure alongside a trackway. A geophysical survey within the development area, undertaken in December 1999 identified a possible trackway, curvilinear features and pits. The cropmarks and survey results may define contemporary features possibly dating to the prehistoric or Roman period.

Geophysical survey undertaken at the site

revealed the presence of a possible trackway, curvilinear ditches and pits. Trial trenching took place on the basis of the survey results and revealed several Iron Age pits and ditches, with the ditches including parts of a possible ring gully. 1st-2nd century Roman ditches were revealed throughout the southern half of the site. Two of the ditches also visible in the geophysical survey were interpreted as a possible trackway. Later Roman ditches of a 3rd-4th century date were identified throughout the southern part of the site. A late Roman grave was exposed near the southern edge of the site. Undated postholes in a curvilinear arrangement found in the southwestern part of the site may represent a late Iron Age or Early Roman round house type structure (Rayner *et al* 2000).

3. AIMS

The aims of the archaeological investigations were:

- to identify and excavate significant archaeological features
- to identify structural/stratigraphic, artefactual and environmental data
- to determine the date and function of individual features and of the site as a whole
- to determine the functional diversity of features excavated
- to determine the local contemporary environment, identify changes therein through time and interpret the reason for changes
- to determine the economic base of the site and changes therein through time

4. METHODS

4.1 Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief

A full excavation was undertaken on the main Drainage Trench along the roadway. Overburden was removed using a Mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket. The exposed surfaces of the trenches were then cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains. Where present, features were 100% excavated by hand in order to retrieve dateable artefacts and other remains.

A watching brief was undertaken on Plots 15-33 in the southern part of the site with enhanced watching brief being carried out on the Plots in the southwestern corner of the site.

Each deposit exposed during the investigations was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at a scale of 1:20. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

The location of the excavated drain was surveyed with an EDM in relation to fixed points on boundaries and on existing buildings.

4.2 Post-excavation

Following excavation, all records were checked and ordered to ensure that they constituted a complete Level II archive and a stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was produced. Artefacts recovered from excavated deposits were examined and a period date assigned where possible. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 2. Context numbers are identified in the text by brackets. An equals sign between context numbers indicates that the contexts once formed a single layer or feature. Phasing was based on artefact dating and

the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Description of the results

Above the natural deposits, the archaeology is divided into five phases:

Phase 0: Natural deposits
Phase 1: Undated deposits
Phase 2: Late Iron Age
Phase 3: Roman 1st-2nd century
Phase 4: Post-medieval
Phase 5: Modern deposits

Archaeological contexts are described below. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

The site been divided into three areas to aid discussion (Fig 5). The results of the Drainage Trench excavation have been incorporated with those of Area I.

5.2 Phase 0: Natural deposits

The natural deposits varied across the site from natural light brownish yellow sand and gravel (011), (026), (040), (066), (067), (072), (076), (123), (124), (141), (155), (161) and (173) to light reddish brown and bluish clay (012), (041), (101), (131) and (147) in the central plots.

Identified within the main Drainage Trench was a 0.50m wide by 0.15m deep natural channel [023], filled by mid-greyish brown clayey silt (022). Further natural deposits consisting of light brown clayey silt (014) and (015), 0.04m thick were also identified within the service trench.

Located at the westernmost end of the main Drainage Trench was a deposit of loose black silt (021), representing the remains of a former hedge.

5.3 Phase 1: Undated deposits

Area I

There area no undated deposits in Area I.

Area II (Figures 5,10,11,12)

The Plots monitored within Area II are characterised by the presence of a large number of undated ditches. It is possible that some of these may be Late Iron Age as earlier evaluation results identified activity of this period within the vicinity.

A large number of undated ditches were identified in the adjacent Plots 25 and 26. It has been impossible to identify any connection between features identified in the two plots.

Located in the westernmost corner of Plot 25 was a small concave-profiled curvilinear ditch [183]. The ditch was filled by mid-grey silty sand and gravel (182) and mid-brown gravel (181). Truncating [183] was an irregular-profiled northeast-southwest aligned ditch [180], 1.80m wide by 0.45m deep. The ditch contained a single fill comprising dark brown sandy silt (179).

Parallel to [180] cutting across the southern corner of Plot 25 was ditch [172]. The concave profiled ditch measured 1.50m wide x 0.25 deep and was filled by light-mid-yellowish brown silty sand (171) and mid-yellowish brown silty sand (174).

Two further undated ditches/gullies were identified centrally within Plot 25. A northwest-southeast aligned 1.35m wide x 0.30m deep, steep-sided ditch with a concave base [178], filled by mid-yellowish brown silty sand (177); and in the southwestern half a 0.78m wide x 0.30m deep southwest-northeast orientated gully [176], containing (175) mid-

yellowish brown silty sand.

An undated sub-circular pit [160], 1.60m wide x 0.50m deep, filled by dark grey silty sand (162) was also observed along the southwestern edge of Plot 26.

Area III (Figures 5,13,14)
This Area, like Area II, is also characterised by a number of undated ditches. However, the ditches identified within this Area can largely be grouped together with many sections ditches representing the same feature.

A WNW-ESE ditch [053]=[039] was identified cutting through Plots 28, 29 and 30. The ditch had a generally steep sided and flat-based profile and was 0.75m wide by 0.22m deep. Filling the ditch was greyish brown sandy clay (052)=(038).

Located in the southern half of Plot 29 was round-based ditch [051], 0.50m wide x 0.11m deep. This contained greyish brown sandy clay (050).

Further undated ditches were recorded within Plot 30. A flat-based curvilinear ditch [043] measuring 1.13m wide by 0.20m deep was identified in the northeastern corner of the Plot. In the southern half of the plot was curvilinear ditch [045]=[047], measuring 1.40m at its widest by 0.25m deep. Both were filled by greyish brown sandy clay (042), (044)=(046) respectively.

Located along the northeastern edge of Plot 32 was steep sided ditch [061], 0.70m wide by 0.38m+ deep. Light greyish brown sandy clay (060) was contained within the ditch. In the adjacent Plot 33 a smooth sided 3m wide x 0.41m deep northwest-southeast aligned ditch [057] was identified cutting across the northeast corner of the plot. Filling this was mid-brown sandy clay and gravel (056).

5.4 Phase 2: Late Iron Age deposits

Area I (Figures 5, 7, 8, 9)
Five ditches dating to the Late Iron Age were identified within the Plots located in Area I. These are described below.

A steep sided, flat based, northeast-southwest orientated ditch [149]=[146] was identified along the western edge of Plot 22. This was filled by dark brown clayey sand (148)=(145) containing three sherds of Late Iron Age pottery.

Located in the southernmost end of Plot 17 was a 2.80m wide x 0.57m deep ditch [086], filled by mid-greyish brown sandy clay (090). Recutting [086] centrally and identified in both Plots 17 and 18 was curvilinear ditch [087]=[086]=[104] =[108]=[109], a steep sided ditch with concave base, measuring 1.30m at it widest by 0.45m deep. Filling the ditch was dark grey clayey sand (089) and mid-brownish grey clayey sand (088) from which Late Iron Age pottery was recovered. In Plot 18 three fills were recorded filling the ditch; light-mid-brownish grey sandy clay (112)=(118), dark grey clayey silt (111)=(121)=(117), and mid-olive brown clayey sand (110)=(120)=(116). Late Iron Age pottery was retrieved from these fills.

A second curvilinear ditch [077]=[094]=[092]=[105]=[107]=[126] was identified to the north of the former. This ditch took the same alignment through Plots 17, 18 and 19 as the more southerly ditch recorded cutting through Plots 17 and 18 to the south. The second ditch varied in width from 0.90m-2m and had an average depth of 0.30m. Filling the ditch was a single deposit comprising mid-brownish grey and mid-grey clayey sand (084)=(093)=(090)=(113)=(115)=(125). Although no dateable material was recovered from this ditch it seems probable, based upon the shared alignment

with the southern ditch, that this ditch should also be attributed to the Late Iron Age.

In the northeastern corner of Plot 18 a steep sided ditch with a concave base [104] measuring 2m wide x 0.72m deep was identified. This contained light-mid-brownish grey sandy clay (112) from which Iron Age pottery was retrieved, dark grey clayey silt (111) and mid-olive brown clayey silt (110).

Partially exposed in the southwesternmost corners of Plots 21 and 22 was ditch [140]=[146], measuring 0.90m+ wide by 0.55m deep. Contained within the ditch was greyish brown silty sand (139)=(145) containing Iron Age Pottery. Sealing the fills was a layer of dark brown silty sand (138)=(144).

Area II (Figures 5, 10)
Only one feature containing Iron Age material was identified within Area II.

A partially exposed irregular shaped pit [163], at least 1m in diameter and 0.25m deep was identified in the northernmost corner of Plot 26. Filling the pit was dark grey silty sand (162) containing Late Iron Age pottery.

Area III (Figures 5, 13,14)
Within Area III four Late Iron Age ditches and a pit were identified. These are described below.

Curvilinear ditch [095]=[096]=[055] was present in Plot 28 and its associated garage. The ditch widens to 1.55m as it southwards. Contained within the ditch was mid-brownish grey clayey sand (100), (103) and (054). Late Iron Age pottery was retrieved from the fill of the ditch. Sealing the ditch was a 0.35m thick layer of mid-dark brownish grey clayey sand (099)=(102).

A west-east aligned concave ditch [075]=[071] cut through the northwestern edge of the garages of Plots 31 and 32. The ditch contained a single fill comprising mid-brown sandy silt (074)=(071) from which Late Iron Pottery was retrieved.

The southwestern edge of a ditch [059] was identified cutting across the northeastern corner of Plot 33 (the northeastern edge was truncated by undated ditch [057]). Where exposed the ditch had gradually sloping sides and a rounded base and measured at least 1.30m+ wide by 0.34m deep. It was filled by greyish brown clayey sand (058) containing 3 sherds of Late Iron Age pottery.

Located in the northeast corner of Plot 32 was sub-oval steep sided pit [063] 0.96m wide x 0.50m deep. A fragment of Late Iron Age pottery was retrieved from the dark greyish brown silty clay (062).

5.5 Phase 3: Roman (1st-2nd century) deposits

Area I (Figures 5,6, 9)
Only four features dating to the early Roman period were recorded during the Archaeological Investigations. Three of these were identified within Area I.

In the southwestern half of the Drainage Tench was a 1.85m wide x 0.60m+ deep ditch [008]. Filling this was mid-greyish brown silty clay (019) and mid-reddish brown silty clay (007) containing 1st-2nd century pottery. This was sealed by a 0.09m thick layer (024) of mid-yellowish brown clay.

In Plot 20 a west-east curvilinear ditch [130]=[133]=[135] was identified. The ditch was irregular sided with a flat base measuring an average of 1.90m wide by

0.40m deep. Filling the ditch was mid-grey clayey sand (129)=(132)=(134) containing 1st-2nd century pottery.

Located at the eastern end of the Drainage Trench was irregular pit [010] with a stepped profile, dimensions 1.70m+ x 1.80m+ wide. Filling the pit was dark grey sandy clay (025) and mixed dark grey sandy clay and greyish brown clay (013) containing 2nd century Roman pottery. Sealing this was dark grey sandy silt (009). Environmental samples taken from the pit contained a low density of material including grains and chaff.

Area II (Figures 5, 10)
A steep sided, flat based, northwest-southeast ditch [154] cut centrally through Plot 23/24. Measuring 2.50m wide by 0.50m deep, it was filled by mid-light grey clayey sand (153). 1st-2nd century pottery was recovered from the fill.

Area III (Figures 5, 8)
Running parallel to the northwestern side of Plot 29 was shallow sided ditch [049], 1.70m wide x 0.35m+ deep. Dark grey sand (048) containing late 1st-2nd century pottery filled the ditch.

5.6 Phase 4: Post-medieval deposits

Area I (Figures 5,6)
A 1.45m wide by 0.56m deep northwest-southeast aligned ditch [004] was identified in the southwest half of the main Drainage Trench. Filling the ditch was grey clay (005), brownish grey sandy clay (003) and brownish grey sandy clay with sandstone fragments (006). 17th century and Roman pottery was retrieved from the fills

Area II (Figures 5,10)
Several east-west aligned furrows [164], [165], [167] and [166] were identified within Plot 26. These were all filled by subsoil layer (158) consisting of mid-dark brown silty sand.

5.7 Phase 5: Modern deposits

Areas I-III
A number of land-drains were identified across the site. Full summaries of these appear in Appendix 2. The remains of earlier evaluation trenches were also identified.

Sealing the archaeological features was a 0.30m layer of subsoil consisting of mid-brown and mid-yellowish brown clayey silt subsoil (002), (036), (065), (069), (073), (081), (098), (127), (137), (143), (152), (158) and (170).

A 0.30m thick layer of topsoil consisting of dark yellowish-greyish brown sandy silt (001), (035), (064), (068), (080), (097), (122), (128), (136), (142), (150), (151), (157) and (169) was identified across the site.

Hard-standing layer (079) sealed the topsoil in Plot 17, and in Plot 25 a dumped deposit (168) consisting of blackish brown and yellow sand overlay the topsoil.

6. DISCUSSION

The earliest recorded deposits found within the foundations and Drainage Trench, were light brownish yellow sand and gravel and light reddish brown clay. These are likely to have been deposited through glaciofluvial processes.

Earlier archaeological evaluation of the site had identified several Iron Age pits and ditches, including parts of a possible ring gully in the southwestern part of the site. 1st-2nd century Roman ditches were also revealed in the southern and western half of the site, with later Roman ditches of 3rd-4th

century date identified to the east. A late Roman grave was exposed near the southern edge of the site. Undated postholes in a curvilinear arrangement found in the southwestern corner of the site may represent a late Iron Age or Early Roman round house type structure (Rayner *et al* 2000).

The results of the Drainage Trench Excavation and Watching Brief confirm the presence of Late Iron Age and Roman activity across the site although there appears to be no spatial distinction between Iron Age and Roman activity zones, with Late Iron Age–Early Roman activity widespread across the area of investigation.

Late Iron Age

Late Iron Age ditches were identified throughout the monitored Building Plots. In the eastern half of the site two parallel curvilinear ditches were recorded in Plots 17-19. The continuation of the ditches beyond these plots was not identified, but it would appear that these ditches are those identified during the Geophysical Survey and subsequent evaluation of the site and interpreted as defining a trackway.

The partially exposed remains of a further Iron Age ditch were identified within Plots 21 and 22.

In the southwestern part of the site a curvilinear Late Iron Age ditch was identified in Plot 28. The ditch could not be seen in the eastern half of Plot 28, though it is possible that the ditch is broken and restarts in Plot 29/30 where an west-east undated ditch is seen to follow a similar alignment Together, these would define an enclosure at least 28m long x 12.50m wide. Further evidence of Late Iron Age activity was found within the vicinity of Plots 29 and 30 during the earlier evaluation.

Two further Iron Age ditches were seen in this area within Plots 22 and 32/33. These ditches are at right angles to each other, with one taking a north-south course and the other an east-west. These might represent part of a system of land division, but neither of these ditches was identified during Geophysical Survey of the site so tat their extent remains unknown.

The northwestern area of the site, was highlighted during the Evaluation for the number of Iron Age features and deposits and for possible structural evidence. The features identified in that area during the watching brief remain largely undated but it is possible that some should also be attributed to the Iron Age. No further structural evidence was identified within the northwestern area of the site during the Watching Brief phase.

No coherent pattern could be observed. In general the Late Iron Age ditches follow several different alignments, which could suggest several phases of activity within this period. Field boundaries, trackways and enclosures can be identified but no definite signs of habitation in this area.

Early Roman (1st-2nd Century AD)

Further evidence of Early Roman occupation was identified in the northern Building Plots and Drainage Trench. Again the location of the Roman features identified during the Watching Brief confirms the results of the earlier evaluation. In Plot 23 a large northwest-southeast ditch was identified both in the Evaluation and later Watching Brief. A curvilinear Roman ditch was identified in Plot 20. It is likely that this represents the northeast-southwest ditch identified during the Geophysical Survey, although seen there to take a more linear course.

Within the Drainage Trench the Early Roman ditch observed in the adjacent Evaluation Trench 12, was identified

continuing on a southwestern alignment.

Environmental sampling of the large Roman pit located at the eastern end of the Drainage Trench suggests that the processing of cereals was taking place in the near vicinity of the site (Fryer, Appendix 6) but there were no signs of intensive occupation.

The pottery assemblage from the current investigations shows a bias towards the earlier Roman occupation of the site, with no pottery of mid-3rd century or later. The pottery mostly represents cooking wares characteristic of rural settlement with very little imported or fine wares (Precious, Appendix 4).

No evidence of later Roman activity as revealed in the earlier evaluation was identified during the current investigations.

Post-Medieval

The Drainage Trench Excavation and Watching Brief identified several post-medieval features. A large post-medieval feature was identified in the Drainage Trench, but no continuation was identified in any of the adjacent Building Plots.

Considerable evidence of agricultural activity was identified across the site both in the earlier Evaluation and later Watching Brief. This was most evident in Plot 26, located in the westernmost corner of the site, where a number of furrows was identified.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations at Fen Road, Ruskington, Lincolnshire were undertaken as previous evaluation identified Iron Age ditches, a possible trackway, a ring gully and a group of undated postholes which may represent a roundhouse type structure of Iron Age or Romano-British form in the southwestern part of the site. Roman ditches and a north-south aligned grave were also identified.

The investigations confirmed the presence of Late Iron Age and Early Roman activity at the site. A number of Late Iron Age ditches were identified across the site. It is likely that these functioned as drainage ditches and possible land divisions. The two parallel curvilinear ditches identified in the northeastern area may represent a possible trackway. No further structural evidence was identified within the monitored Building Foundations.

Evidence of Early-Roman remains were identified in the northeastern half of the site in the form of ditches and a pit. Again no structural evidence was identified during the investigations. Iron Age pottery was present only in small quantities but together with the Roam material would seem to indicate occupation of Late Iron Age to early Roman date in close proximity.

Later agricultural activity was identified in the form of ridge and furrow, especially in the westernmost area of the site, where it is likely that the formation of furrows had damaged some of the earlier archaeological remains in this area of the site.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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9. PERSONNEL

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

SMR Sites and Monuments Record

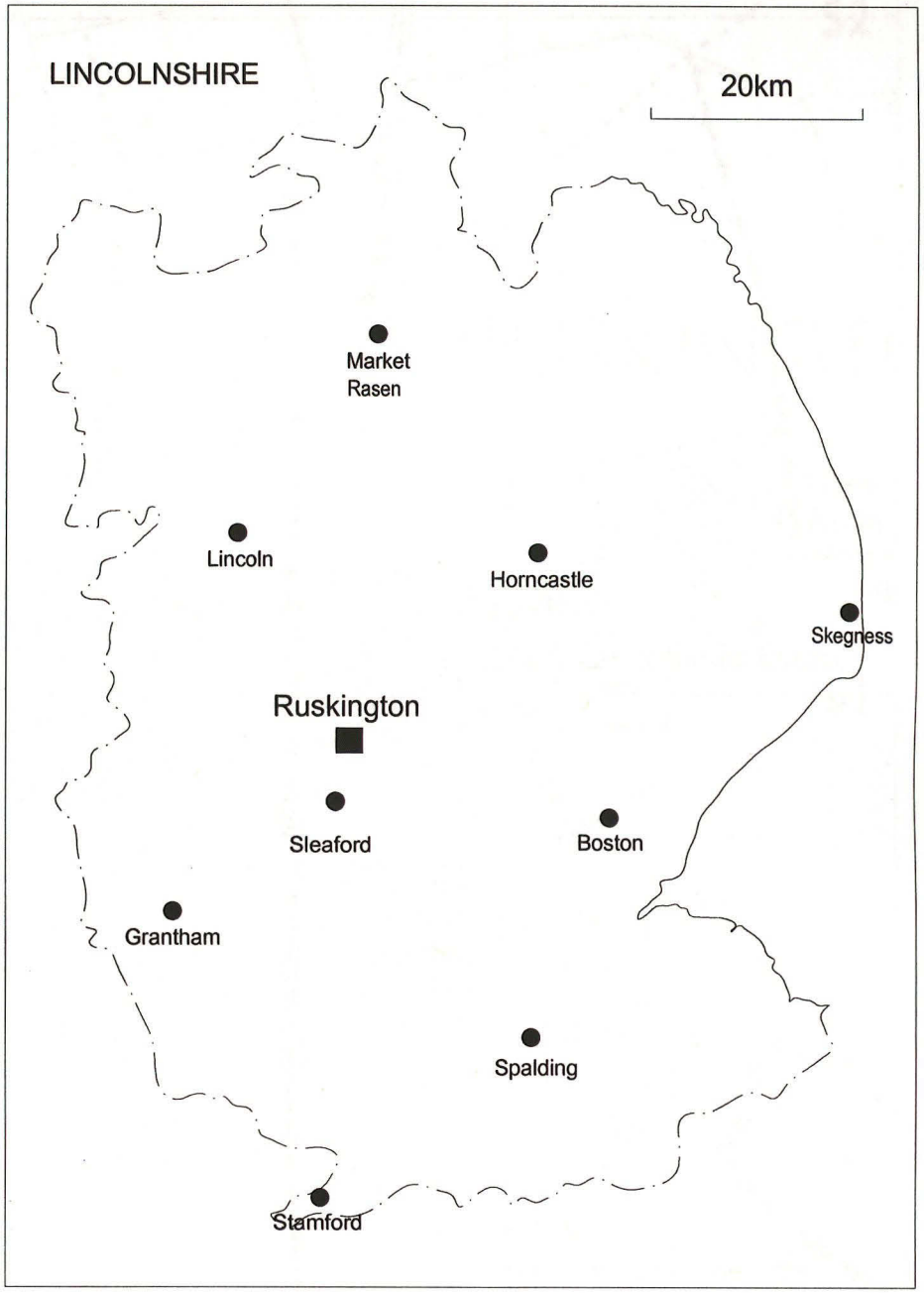

Figure 1: General Location Map

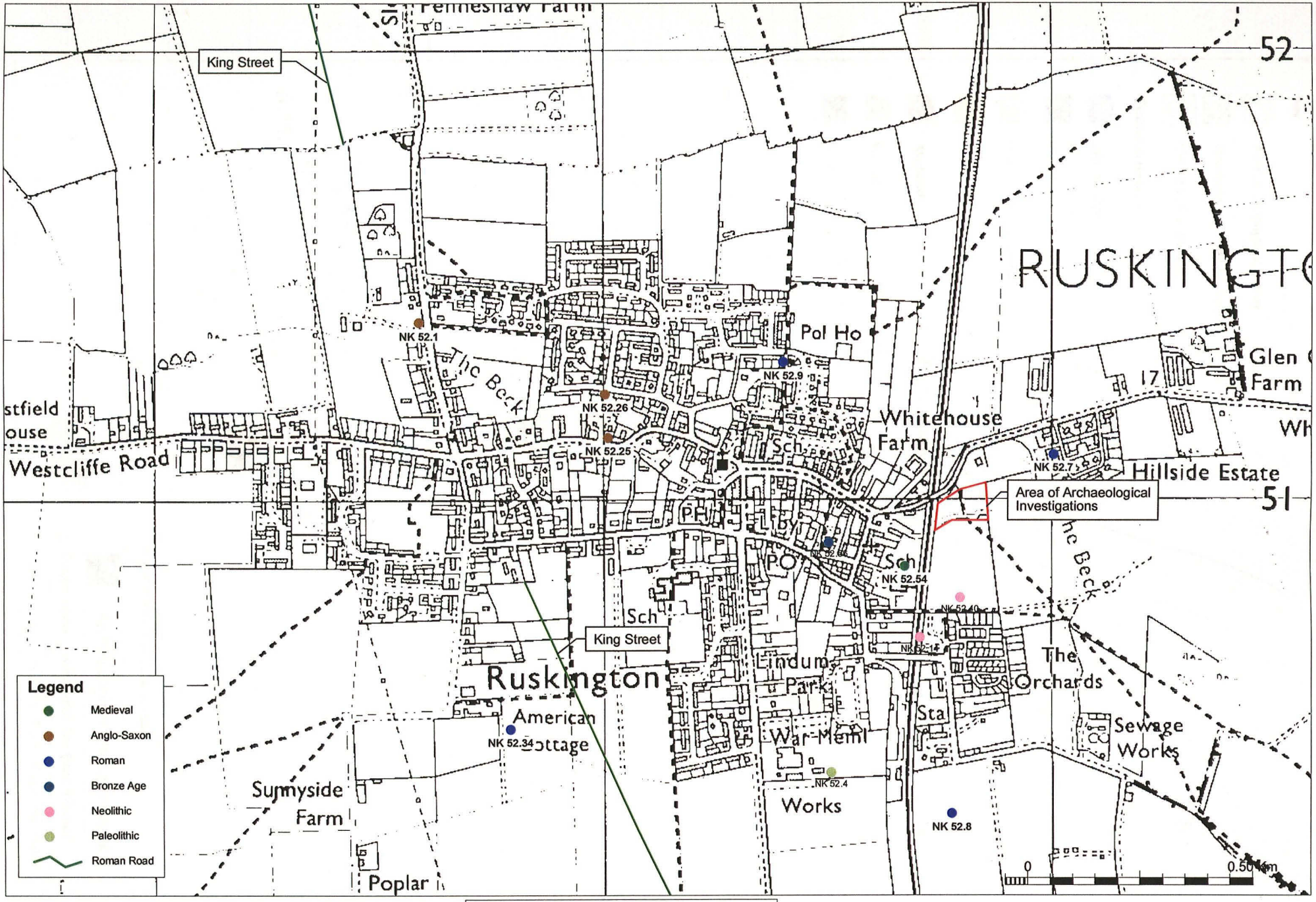

Figure 2 Site Location and Archaeological Setting

Key

Area of Geophysical Survey

Geophysical Survey Anomalies

Monitored foundations

Evaluation Results

Late Iron Age

Iron AgeRoman

Roman 1st - 2nd century

Roman 3rd - 4th century

Medieval

Modern

Undated

Existing Building

Fen Road

Tr.4

Tr.5

Tr.6

Tr.8

Tr.9

Tr.10

Tr.11

Tr. 12

Tr.13

Tr.15

Tr. 14

Plot 15

Plot 16

Plot 17

Plot 18

Plot 19

Plot 20

Plot 21

Plot 22

Plot 23

Plot 24

Plot 25

Plot 26

Plot 27

Plot 28

Plot 29

Plot 30

Plot 31

Plot 32

Plot 33

Eval Tr

0 20m

N

Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Ruskington Fen Road RFRA01

Scale 1:500 | Drawn by:RVH | Report No: 89/04

Figure 3: Combined plan of Earlier Evaluation, Drainage Excavation and Watching Brief

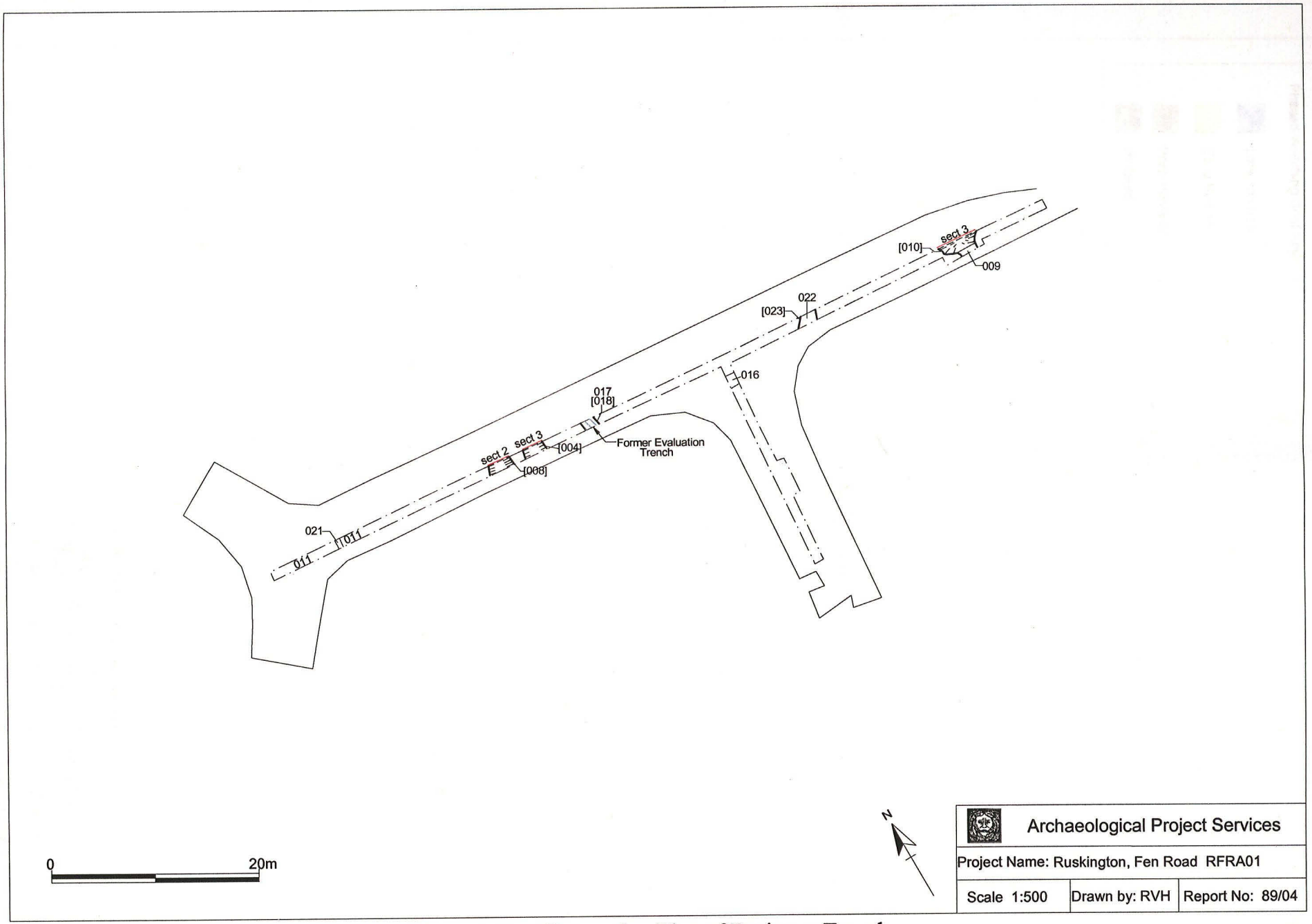

Figure 4: Post Excavation Plan of Drainage Trench

Phased Watching Brief Key

- Late Iron Age
- Early Roman
- Post-medieval
- Undated

Fen Road

AREA I

AREA II

AREA III

Plot 15

Plot 16

Plot 17

Plot 18

Plot 19

Plot 20

Plot 21

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[004] [008] [010] [039] [043] [045] [047] [049] [051] [053] [055] [057] [059] [061] [063] [071] [075] [077] [086] [087] [092] [094] [095] [096] [104] [105] [107] [108] [109] [126] [130] [133] [135] [140] [146] [149] [154] [160] [163] [164] [165] [166] [167] [172] [176] [178] [180] [183]

S.5 S.6 S.7 S.8 S.9 S.10 S.11 S.12 S.14 S.15 S.17 S.18 S.19 S.20 S.21 S.22 S.23 S.24 S.25 S.26 S.27 S.28 S.29 S.31 S.32 S33 S34 S.36 S.37 S.38 S.39 S.40 S.41 S.42 S.43 S.44 S.45 S.46 S.47

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Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Ruskington Fen Road RFRA01

Scale 1:500 | Drawn by:RVH | Report No: 89/04

Figure 5: Phased Plan of Drainage Trench and Watching Brief Results

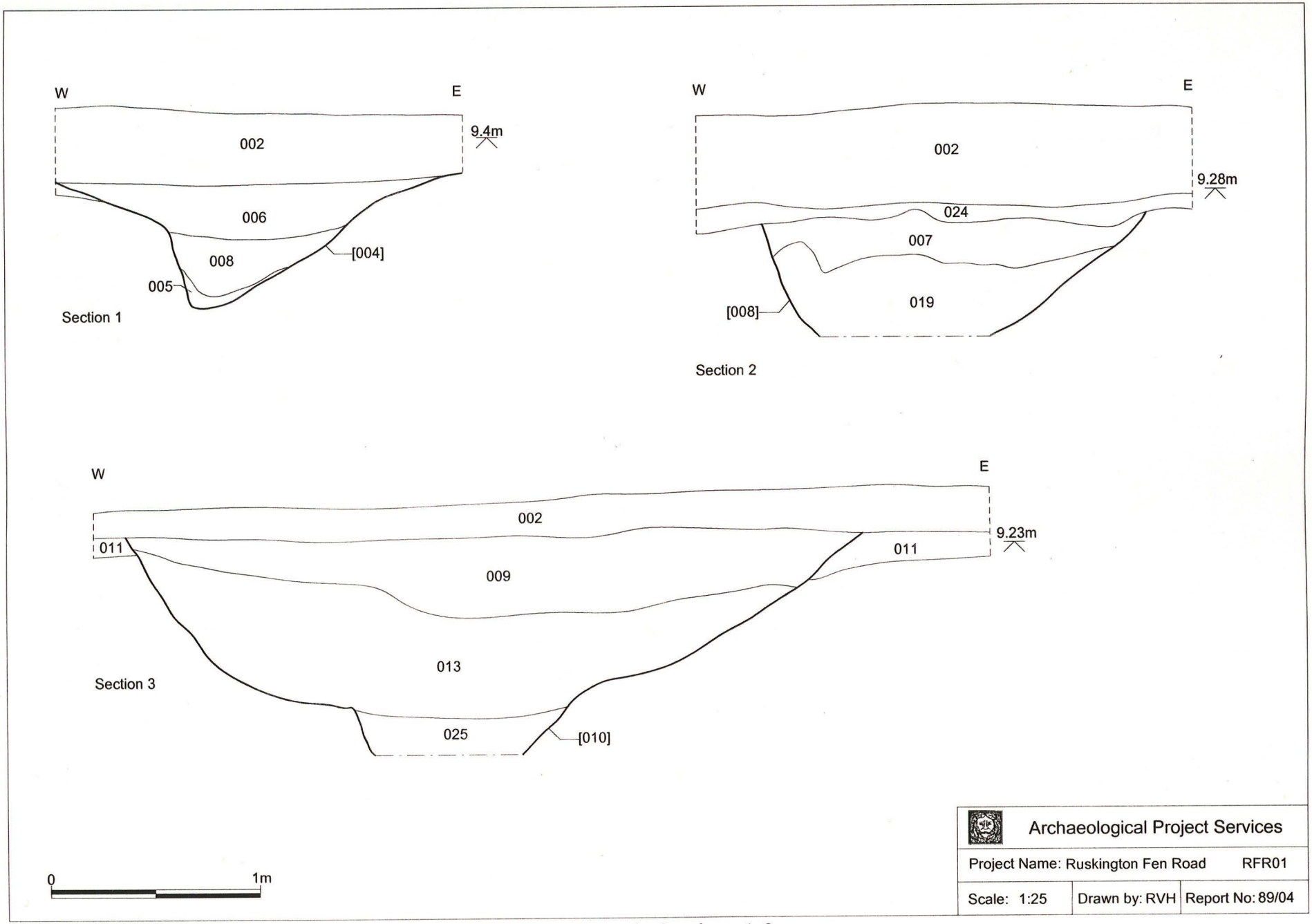
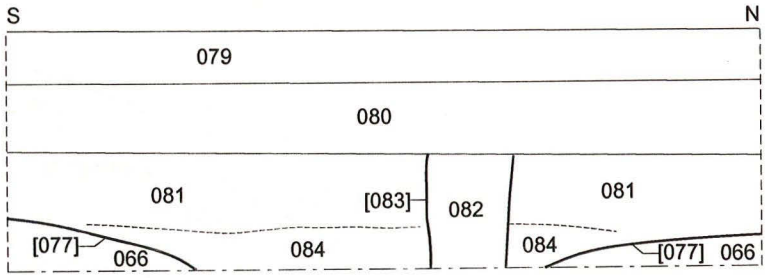
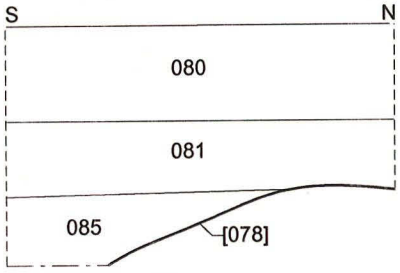


Figure 6 Drainage Trench, Sections 1-3



Plot 17/Section 19



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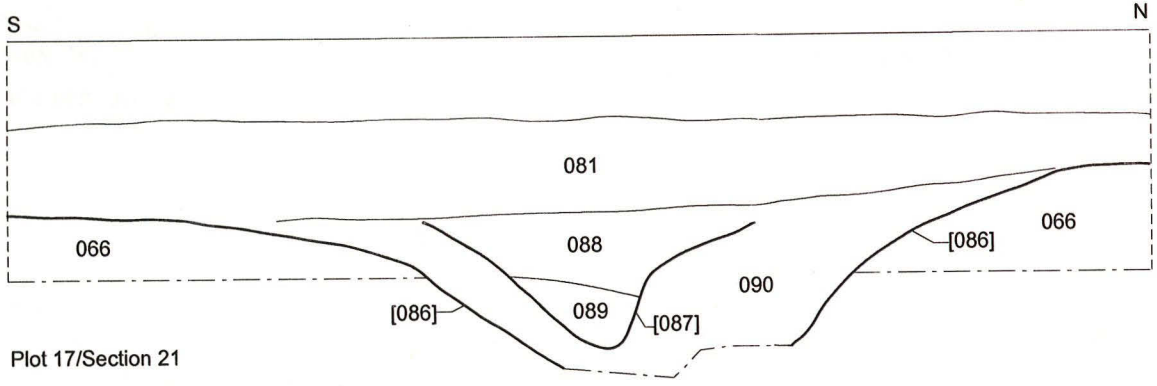


Plot 17/Section 21

Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Ruskington Fen Road		RFRA01
Scale: 1:25	Drawn by: RVH	Report No: 89/04

Figure 7 Plot 17, Sections 19-21

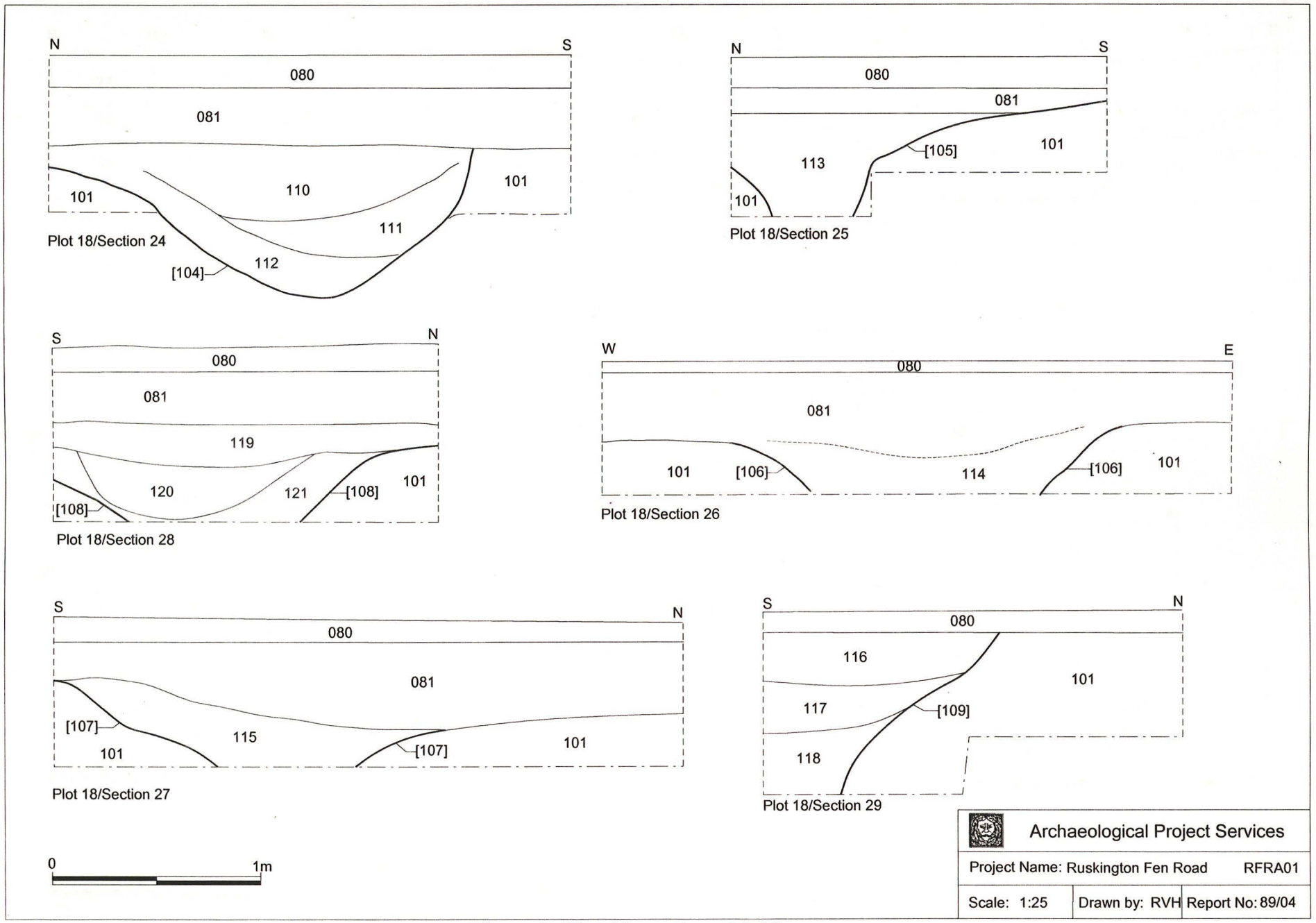


Figure 8: Plot 18, sections 24-29

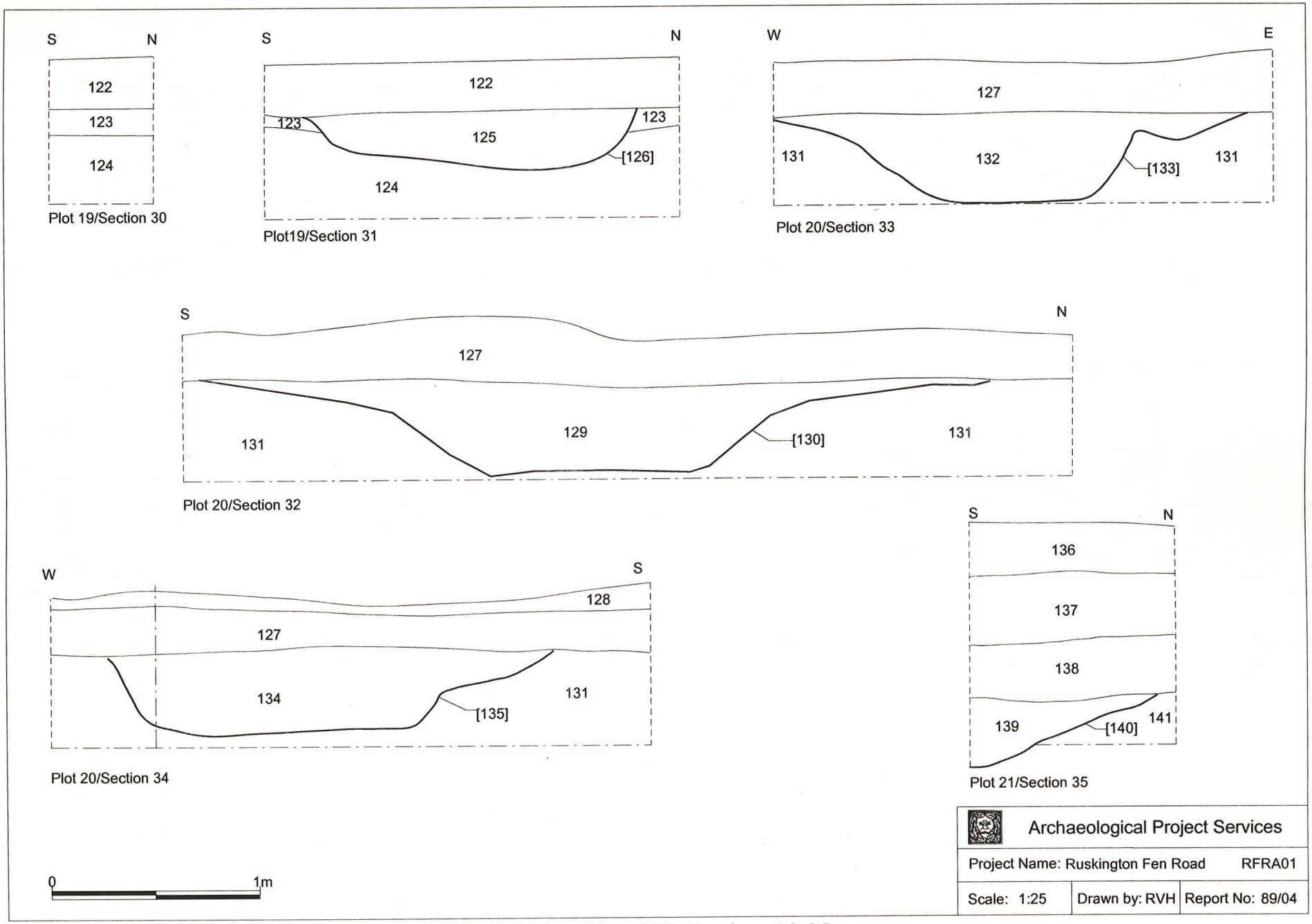
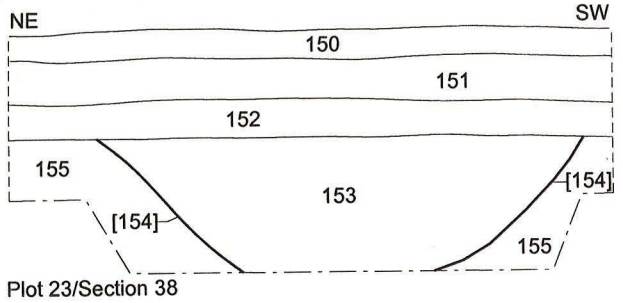
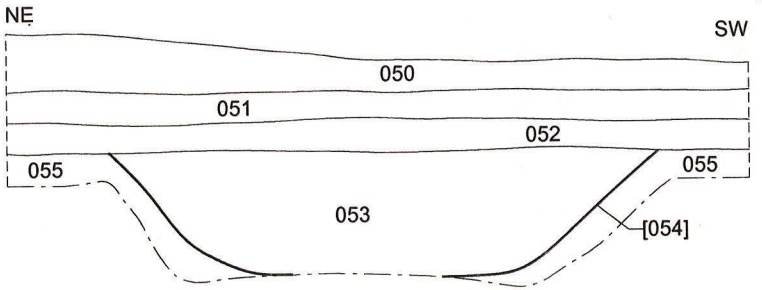


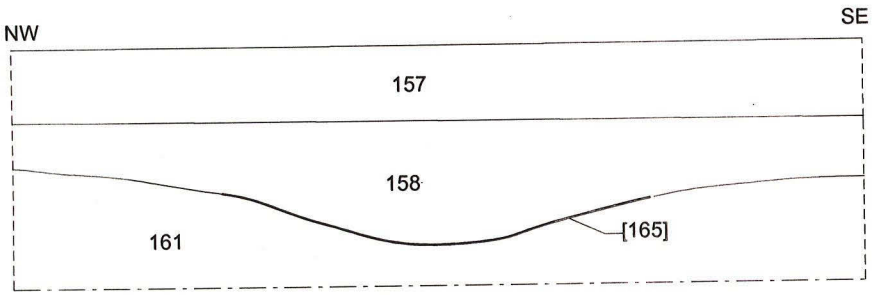
Figure 9 Plots 19 and 20, Sections 30-35



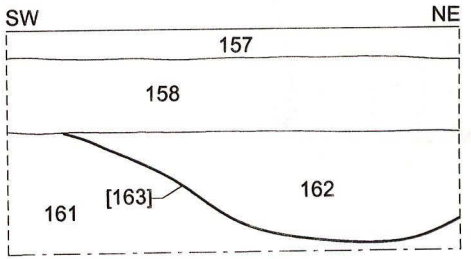
Plot 23/Section 38



Plot 23/Section 39



Plot 26/Section 41



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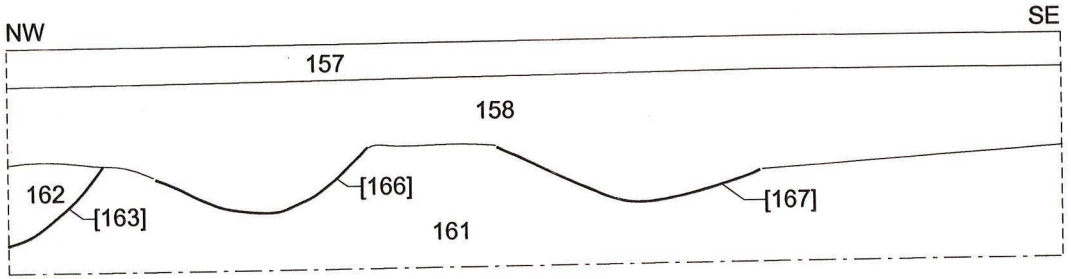

Plot 26/Section 43

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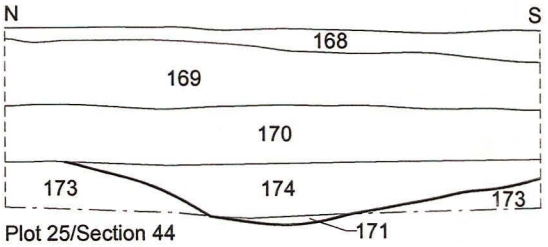
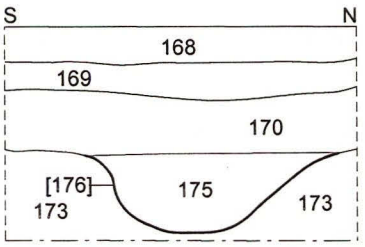
Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Ruskington Fen Road		RFRA01
Scale: 1:25	Drawn by: RVH	Report No: 89/04

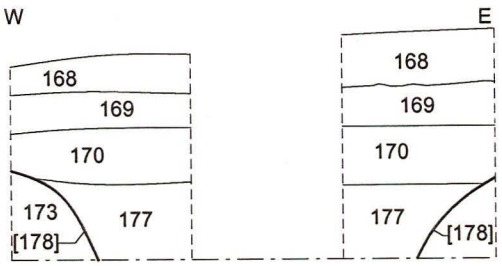
Figure 10 Plots 23, 24 and 26, Sections 38, 39 and 41-43



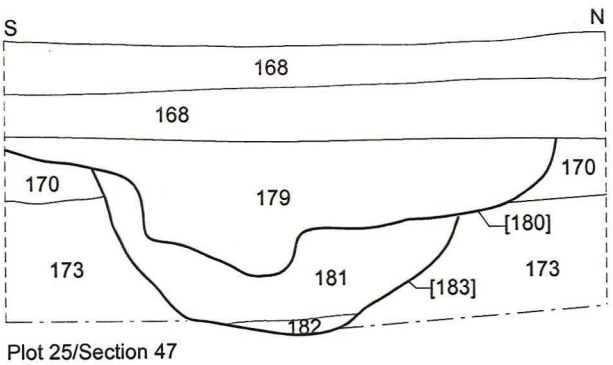
Plot 25/Section 44



Plot 25/Section 45



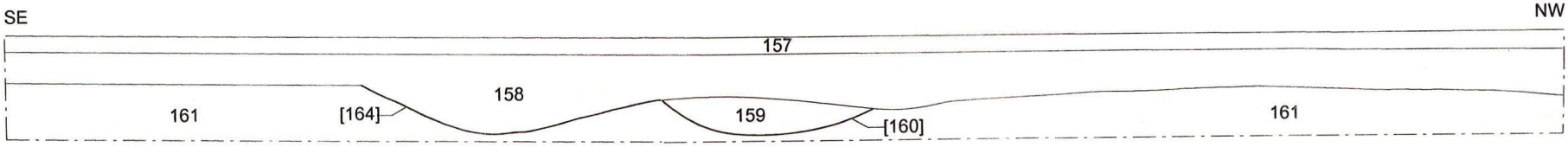
Plot 25/Section 46



Plot 25/Section 47

Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Ruskington Fen Road		RFR01
Scale: 1:25	Drawn by:RVH	Report No: 89/04

Figure 11 Plot 25, Sections 44-47



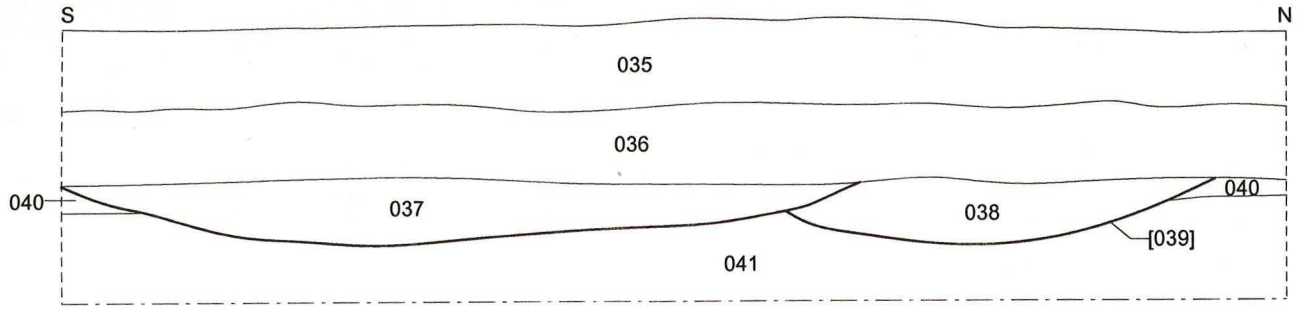
Plot 26/Section 40

0 2m

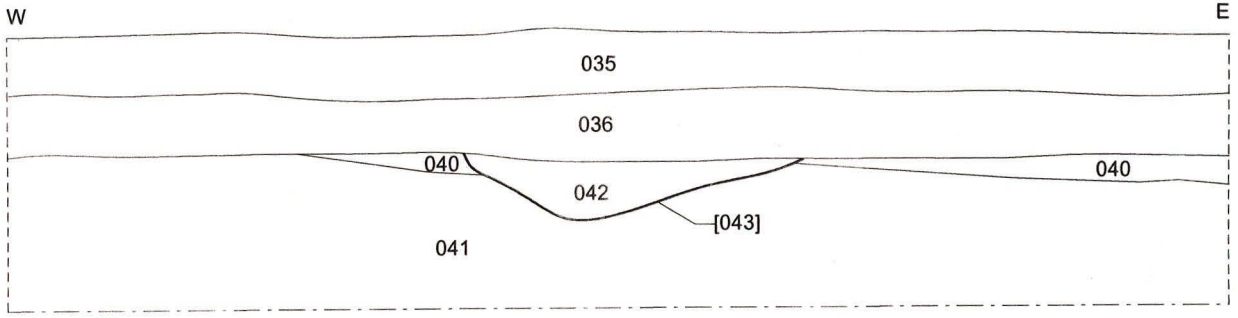
Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Ruskington Fen Road		RFRA01
Scale: 1:50	Drawn by: RVH	Report No: 89/04

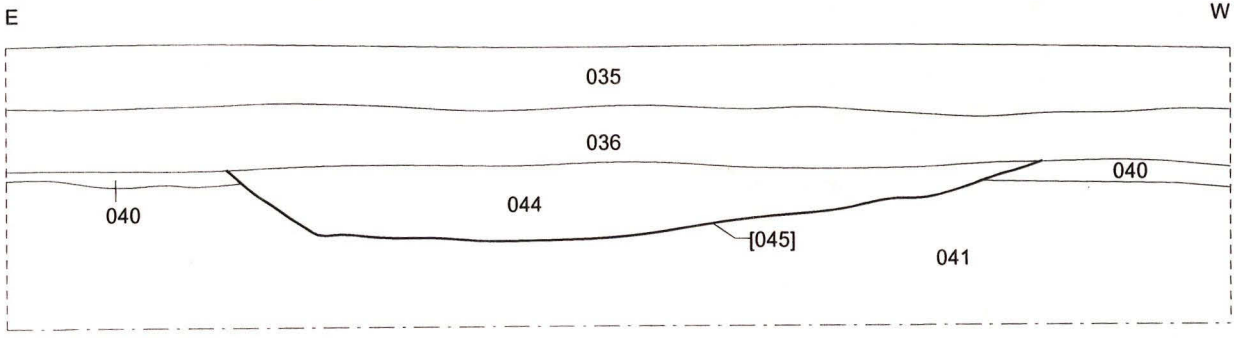
Figure 12: Plot 26, Section 40



Plot 30/Section 5



Plot 30/uuSection 6

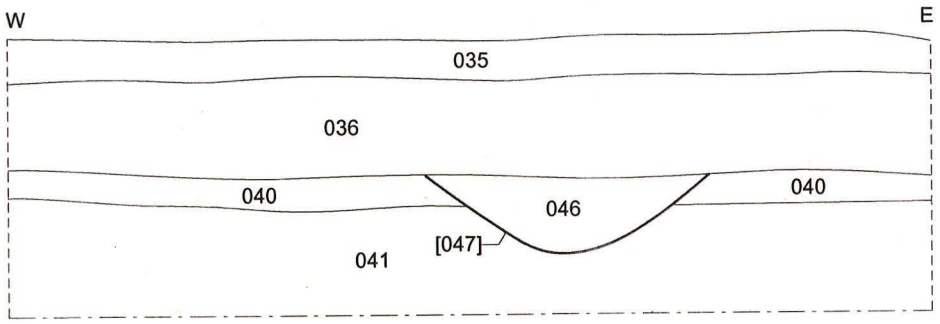


Plot 30/Section 7

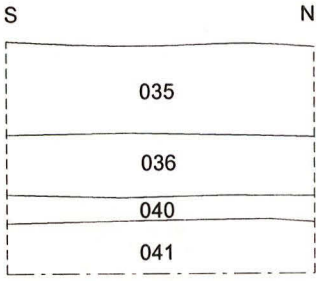
0 1m

Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Ruskington Fen Road		RFRA01
Scale: 1:25	Drawn by: RVH	Report No: 89/03

Figure 13 Plot 30, Sections 5-7

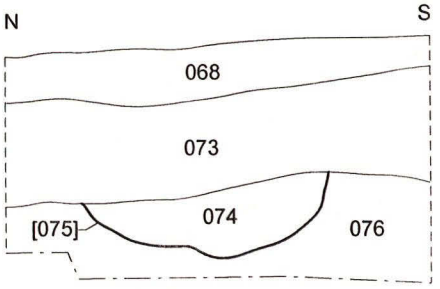


Plot 30/Section 8

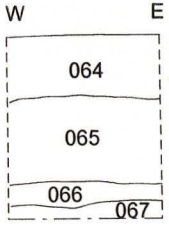


Plot 30/Section 15

Plot 31/Section 17



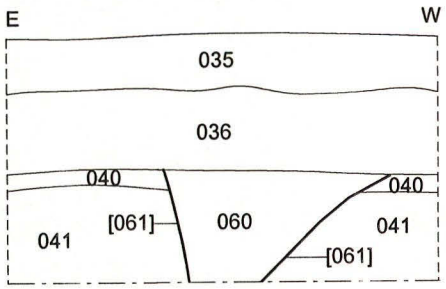
Plot 31/Section 18



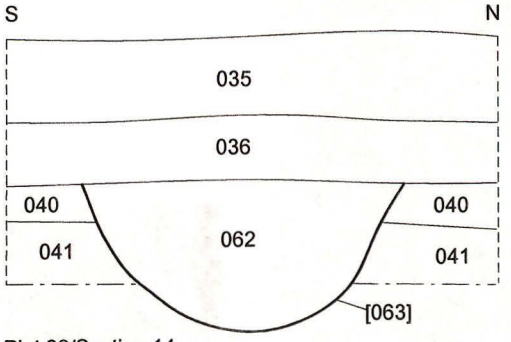
Plot 30/Section 16

Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Ruskington Fen Road		RFRA01
Scale: 1:25	Drawn by: RVH	Report No: 89/04

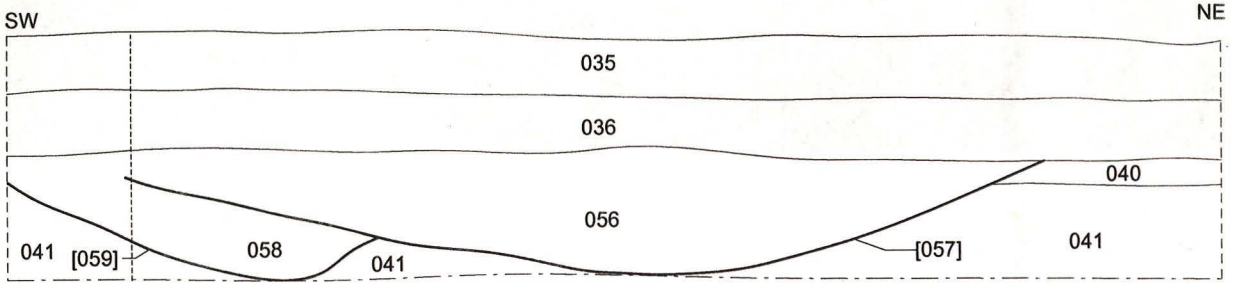
Figure 14 Plots 30 and 31, Sections 8, 15-18



Plot 32/Section 13



Plot 32/Section 14



Plot 33/Section 12

Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Ruskington Fen Road		RFRA01
Scale: 1:25	Drawn by: RVH	Report No: 89/04

Figure 15 Plots 32 and 33, Secions 12-14

Plate 1 General View of Site, looking east

Plate 2 Drainage Trench, looking west

Plate 3 Drainage Trench, Roman Ditch [008], looking north

Plate 4 Drainage Trench, Roman Pit [010], looking east

Plate 5 Plot 17, Iron Age Ditch section [094], looking northeast

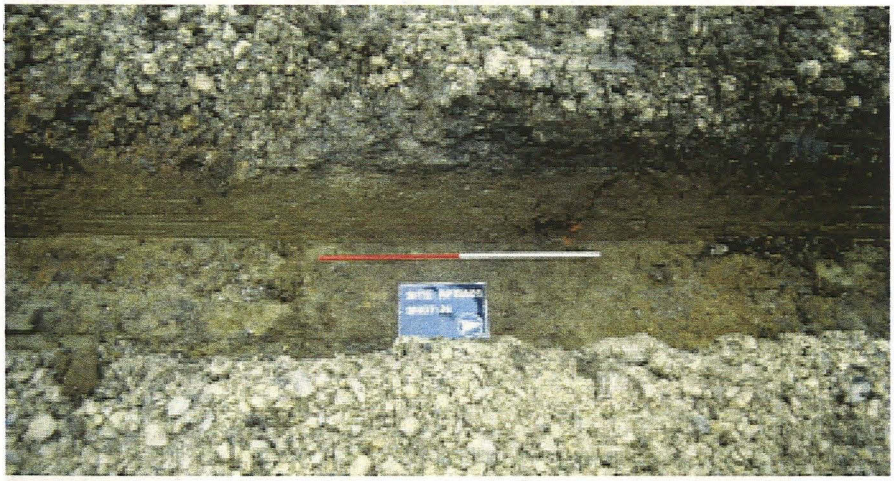


Plate 6 Plot 17, Iron Age Ditch section [077], looking west

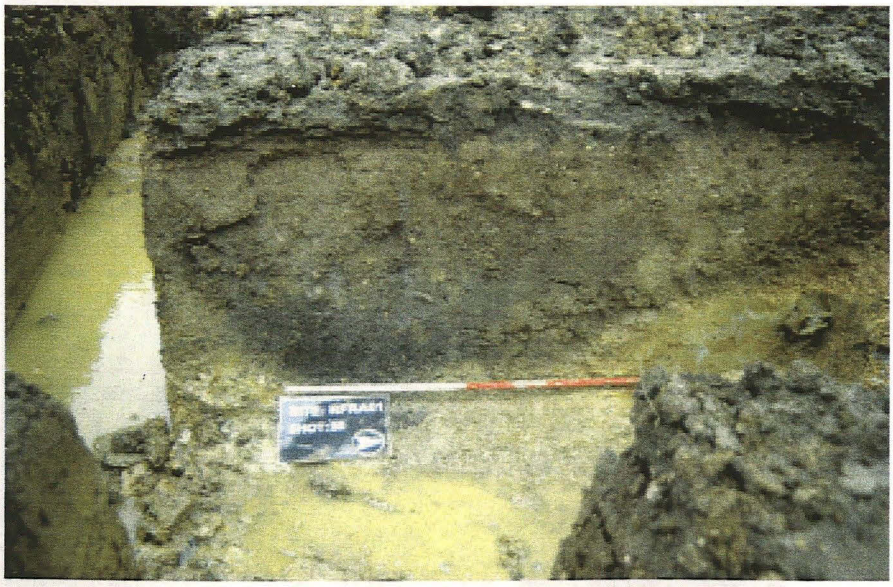


Plate 7 Plot 17, Iron Age Ditch section [108], looking west

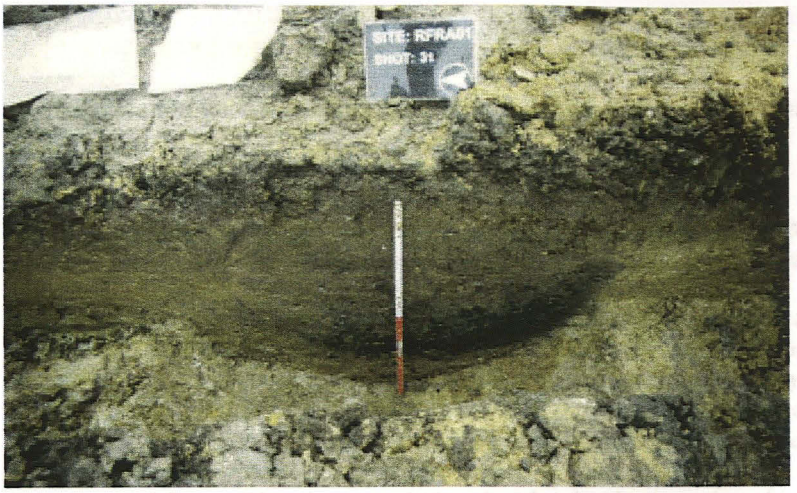


Plate 8 Plot 17, Iron Age Ditch section [104], looking east

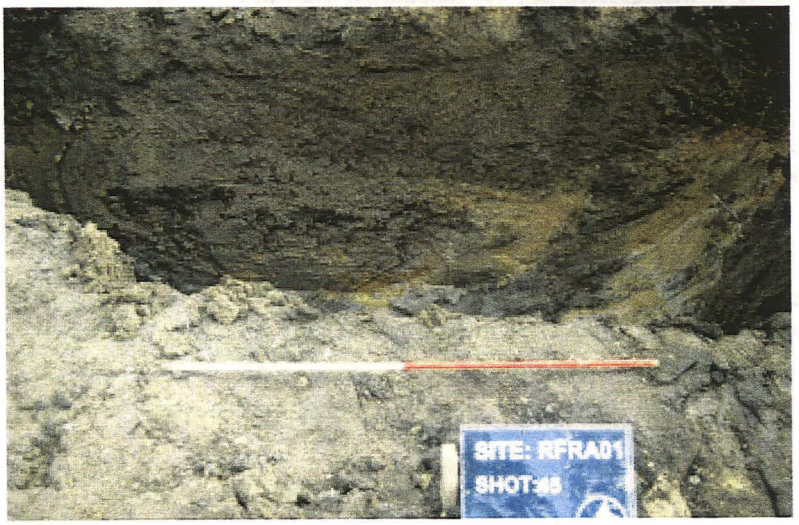


Plate 9 Plot 23, Roman Ditch [154], looking north

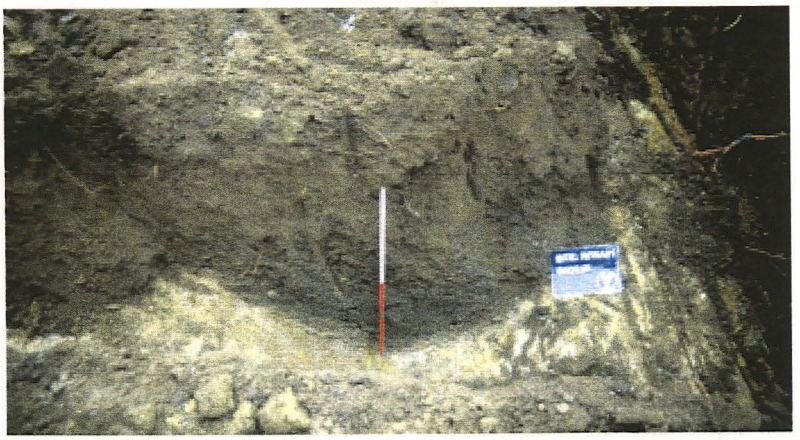


Plate 10 Plot 28, Iron Age Ditch section [096], looking south

Plate 11 Plot 33, Iron Age Ditch [059] truncated by undated ditch [057], looking north

Appendix 1

Specification for Archaeological Excavation and Monitoring on Land at Fen Road, Ruskington

1 SUMMARY

1.1 This document comprises a specification for archaeological excavation and monitoring during development on land at Fen Road, Ruskington, Lincolnshire.

1.2 Cropmarks, perhaps of Roman or earlier enclosures alongside a trackway, have been identified immediately to the south and appear to run in to the investigation area. Geophysical survey of the site has revealed possible extensions of this trackway and various curvilinear features that may be small enclosures, hut circles or burials, in the southern half of the site. Trial trenching on the site identified a large number of features of Iron Age and Roman date, including a burial.

1.3 Planning permission for the development is subject to a condition requiring a scheme of archaeological work to be undertaken prior to development. This will consist of excavation and/or monitoring within specified areas.

1.4 On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the investigation. The report will consist of a text describing the nature of the archaeological deposits located and will be supported by illustrations and photographs.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 This document comprises a specification for the archaeological excavation and monitoring during development on land off Fen Road, Ruskington, Lincolnshire, National Grid Reference TF 089 511.

2.2 The document contains the following parts:

2.2.1 Overview

2.2.2 The archaeological and natural setting

2.2.3 Stages of work and methodologies to be used

2.2.4 List of specialists

2.2.5 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

3 SITE LOCATION

3.1 Ruskington is located 5km north of Sleaford in the administrative district of North Kesteven, Lincolnshire. The site is in the eastern part of the village, south of Fen Road, at National Grid Reference TF 089 511.

3.2 The site is an irregular block of land approximately 2.09ha in extent. Phase 1 of the development, comprising the northern part of the site, is nearing completion. Phase 2 comprises the southern and western extent of the site.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 A full planning application (N/52/942/99) for the erection of 43 dwellings with garages and estate roads has been submitted to North Kesteven District Council. Permission is subject to a condition requiring a scheme of archaeological works to be undertaken.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 Located on the north bank of the partially canalised stream, The Beck, the site lies at approximately 10m OD on land that slopes down gently toward the watercourse. Soils at the site are Ruskington Association gleyic brown calcareous earths on glaciofluvial sand and gravel (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 304).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

6.1 Ruskington lies in an archaeologically rich area. Chance finds and archaeological investigations indicate that the area has attracted settlement from the Neolithic and Bronze Age to the present day. The important Roman road, King Street/Mareham Lane, passes through the west of the village. An Anglo-Saxon cemetery has also been identified in the area.

6.2 Immediately to the south cropmarks have been recorded, apparently defining an enclosure alongside a trackway. It is likely that these remains are of late prehistoric or Roman date. The cropmarks appear to extend into the application area. Geophysical survey undertaken as a first stage of evaluation identified a possible trackway and curvilinear features which may be small enclosures, the foundation trenches of circular huts or ring ditches around burials. These geophysical signals were located in the southern half of the site.

6.3 Further archaeological evaluation in the form of trial trenching of the site confirmed the archaeological nature of these features, revealing ditches and pits relating to settlement of Late Iron Age and Roman date. Iron Age features, including a possible ring gully, occurred in the southwestern part of the site. Roman features were revealed throughout the southern part of the site and included a north-south aligned grave containing a fragmented pottery vessel and coffin nails. Further undated arrangements of post-holes may represent additional roundhouse-type structures.

6.4 Requirements for further archaeological work are based on the results of the evaluation and are divide into three main zones. Within the area of the roadway, archaeological features are to be fully excavated. At the eastern end of this phase of the development (Plots 15-18, 31-33) watching brief is required during construction. At the western end of the development (Plots 19-30) there is also a requirement for archaeological excavation of features within ring beam foundations and service trenches or other excavations deeper than 0.5m below ground level.

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

7.1 The aim of the project is to effectively 'preserve' the archaeological resource within specified areas of the development site by means of excavation and full recording, interpretation and reporting of archaeological features.

7.2 To attain this aim the following broad objectives will be fulfilled:

- to identify and excavate significant archaeological features
- to retrieve relevant structural/stratigraphic, artefactual and environmental data
- to determine the date and function of individual features and of the site as a whole
- to determine the functional diversity of features excavated
- to determine the local contemporary environment, identify changes therein through time and interpret the reason for changes
- to determine the economic base of the site and changes therein through time

7.3 Specific objectives are listed below linked to key research issues.

7.3.1 Field evaluation identified post-holes of probable Iron Age date marking the location of boundaries, structures or enclosures. Excavation will seek to clarify the nature of these structures and to what extent they represent the site of domestic occupation.

7.3.2 Excavation will address the areas of settlement and aim to determine:

- where it was focussed;
- when it was established and abandoned; and
- whether there is any overlap between later Iron Age and Roman period use of the site and how Romanization affected the settlement.

7.3.3 Within such settlement areas the objectives of excavation will be

- to identify any physical evidence of domestic, farm or industrial structures and to determine their chronology and their role in the site economy
- to compile a plan of their spatial distribution in order to consider their social/hierarchical or functional relationships
- to sample any negative features associated with the structures such as enclosure ditches and internal boundaries; storage or refuse pits; and routes or communication links such as tracks/paths

7.3.4 The objectives of environmental study will be

- to define the character of the natural environment
- to define the character of agricultural and pastoral production at the site through the study of crop remains and associated weeds and animal bones should such evidence survive
- to determine the location and nature of any specific functional areas (eg crop processing)

7.4 Specific project aims include:

7.4.1 Investigation of the Roman trackway in order to establish whether it marks the continuation of the cropmark feature in the field to the south.

7.4.2 The presence or absence of other human burials and their type.

7.4.3 The function and date of the L-shaped enclosure

8 EXCAVATION

8.1 Topsoil has been removed within the area of the roadway, but excavation below this depth is not envisaged over the majority of this area. Service trenches for mains and sewers will impact on archaeological deposits, however, and these are to be subject to archaeological excavation.

8.2 Plots 19-30 are to be constructed using beam and block foundations. Archaeological features exposed within ring beam foundations and service trenches or other excavations deeper than 0.5m in this area will also be excavated.

8.3 General Considerations

8.3.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the evaluation.

8.3.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practice issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA). *Archaeological Project Services* is an IFA Registered Archaeological Organisation (No. 21).

8.3.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

8.4 Methodology

8.4.1 Removal of the topsoil will be undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. To ensure that the correct amount of material is removed and that no archaeological deposits are damaged, this work will be supervised by Archaeological Project Services. Thereafter, excavation will be by hand to enable the identification and analysis of the archaeological features exposed.

8.4.2 Investigation of the archaeological features exposed will be undertaken in order to

determine their date, form and function and will be undertaken in accordance with the sampling criteria laid out below. It is envisaged that features on site be subject to at least intensive sampling; the nature of the investigations, within relatively narrow trenches, is likely to require a near 100% sample in most cases.

8.4.3 The archaeological features encountered will be recorded on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma context record sheets. The system used is the single context method by which individual archaeological units of stratigraphy are assigned a unique record number and are individually described and drawn.

8.4.4 Plans of features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10. Should individual features merit it, they will be drawn at a larger scale.

8.4.5 Throughout the duration of the trial trenching a photographic record consisting of black and white prints (reproduced as contact sheets) and colour slides will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:

- the site before the commencement of field operations.
- the site during work to show specific stages of work, and the layout of the archaeology in specific areas.
- individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
- groups of features where their relationship is important.
- the site on completion of field work

8.4.6 Finds collected during the fieldwork will be bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered ready for later washing and analysis. A metal detector may be used to assist artefact recovery.

8.4.7 The precise location of features within the site and the location of site recording grid will be established by an EDM survey.

8.5 <u>Sampling criteria</u>

8.5.1 Enclosure and linear ditches:

- Non-intensive - 5% of exposed length, targeted at intersections, entrances/terminals and in evenly spaced sections along their length.
- Intensive - up to 10% sample of exposed length.

8.5.2 Ring/curvilinear ditches:

- Non-intensive - 25% of each feature targeted at entrances/ terminals, a section diametrically opposed to the entrance causeway and sections at the mid-point of each side.
- Intensive - increase sampling level to 50% or more.

8.5.3 Timber structures represented by postholes, beam slots etc:

- Non-intensive - 50% of postholes/structural features to be half-sectioned.
- Intensive - increase sample to 100%; Structures with high quality evidence for the nature of wall construction - full excavation; Structures with *in-situ* floors - full excavation with 3-dimensional spatial recording of finds.

8.5.4 Pits:

- For non-intensive excavation of individual pits or small groups of pits, 50% of pits will be half-sectioned.

- Intensive excavation - increase sampling level to 100%; full excavation of particularly well-preserved or potentially informative features.

8.5.5 Burials. Whether inhumation or cremation, all burials will necessitate full and detailed excavation. This will be undertaken under appropriate Home Office and environmental health regulations.

8.5.6 Special deposits: any deposits of particular importance - e.g. potential ritual deposits, large closely stratified pottery assemblages, good environmental deposits etc. will require full excavation.

9 WATCHING BRIEF

9.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development within the specified area, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.

9.2 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.

9.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.

9.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:

9.4.1 the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.

9.4.2 groups of features where their relationship is important

10 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

10.1 A sampling strategy will be agreed in consultation with the environmental specialist. In accordance with their earlier recommendations, it is likely to include bulk samples of up to 30 litres taken from feature fills in order to recover and study charred plant remains and molluscs. Sampling will be stratified to take account of the whole range of feature types and periods. Animal bones will be recovered by hand for further study.

11 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORT

11.1 Stage 1

11.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the trial trenching will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence constituting a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued: the colour slides will be labelled and mounted on appropriate hangers and the black and white contact prints will be labelled, in both cases the labelling will refer to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.

11.1.2 All finds recovered during the trial trenching will be washed, marked, bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

11.2 Stage 2

11.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.

11.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

11.3 Stage 3

11.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the evaluation will be prepared. This will consist of:

- A non-technical summary of the findings of the investigation.
- A description of the archaeological setting of the site.
- Description of the topography and geology of the investigation area.
- Description of the methodologies used during the investigation and discussion of their effectiveness in the light of the findings
- A text describing the findings of the investigation.
- Plans of the trenches showing the archaeological remains exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
- Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.
- Interpretation of the archaeological remains exposed and their context within the surrounding landscape.
- Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features or groups of features.
- A consideration of the significance of the remains found, in local, regional, national and international terms, using recognised evaluation criteria.

12 ARCHIVE

12.1 The documentation, finds, photographs and other records and materials generated during the excavation will be sorted and ordered into a format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This sorting will be undertaken according to the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long term storage and curation.

13 REPORT DEPOSITION

13.1 Copies of the excacation report will be sent to: the client, Chanceoption Homes; the North Kesteven Heritage Officer; North Kesteven District Council Planning Department; and the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record.

14 PUBLICATION

14.1 A report of the findings of the excavation will be published in Heritage Lincolnshire's annual report and an article of appropriate content will be submitted for inclusion in the journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*. Notes or articles describing the results of the investigation will also be submitted for publication in the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date and *Medieval Archaeology* and *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for medieval and later remains.

15 CURATORIAL MONITORING

15.1 Curatorial responsibility for the project lies with North Kesteven Heritage Officer. As much written notice as possible, ideally at least seven days, will be given to the archaeological curator prior to the commencement of the project to enable them to make appropriate monitoring arrangements.

16 VARIATIONS TO THE PROPOSED SCHEME OF WORKS

16.1 Variations to the scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation from the archaeological curator.

16.2 Should the archaeological curator require any additional investigation beyond the scope of the brief for works, or this specification, then the cost and duration of those supplementary examinations will be negotiated between the client and the contractor.

17 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

17.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principal and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

Task	Body to be undertaking the work
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln.
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric: Dr D Knight or Sheila Elsdon, Trent and Peak Archaeological Unit Roman: B Precious, independent specialist Anglo-Saxon: J Young, independent specialist Medieval and later: G Taylor, APS in consulatation with H Healey, independent archaeologist
Other Artefacts	J Cowgill, independent specialist; or G Taylor, APS
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, independent specialist
Animal Remains Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Environmental Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Radiocarbon dating	Beta Analytic Inc., Florida, USA
Dendrochronology dating	University of Sheffield Dendrochronology Laboratory

18 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

18.1 Fieldwork is expected to be undertaken by 2-4 staff, a supervisor and up to 3 assistants. The duration of the works is to a large degree dependent on the progress of development works, especially within the area of Plots 19-30.

18.2 Post-excavation analysis and report production is expected to take 20-25 person-days within a notional programme of 20 days. A project officer or supervisor will undertake most of the analysis, with assistance from the finds supervisor and CAD illustrator.

18.3 **Contingency**

18.3.1 Contingencies have been specified in the budget. These contingencies include: environmental sampling/analysis of waterlogged remains; pump; prehistoric pottery - medium/large quantities (small amounts expected and allowed for); Roman pottery - medium/large quantities (small amounts expected and allowed for); Anglo-Saxon pottery (not expected); medieval and later pottery - medium/large quantities (small amount expected and allowed for); faunal remains - large quantities (moderate amounts expected and allowed for); Conservation and/or Other unexpected remains or artefacts.

18.3.2 Other than the pump, the activation of any contingency requirement will be by the

archaeological curator (North Kesteven Heritage Officer), not Archaeological Project Services.

19 INSURANCES

19.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability insurance to £10,000,000. Additionally, the company maintains Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

20 COPYRIGHT

20.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

20.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.

20.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 and may result in legal action.

20.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

21 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales **13**

Rayner, T., Trimble, D. and Taylor, G. 2000 *Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Fen Road, Ruskington, Lincolnshire*, unpublished APS report **24/00**

Appendix 2
Context Summary:
Ruskington Fen Road

Excavation of Drainage Trench

Context No.	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation	Date
001	Deposit	Firm, dark yellowish clayey silt	0.40	Topsoil	
002	Deposit	Firm, mid-yellowish brown clayey silt	0.35	Subsoil	
003	Deposit	Firm, brownish grey sandy clay, freq. sub-rounded flint, occ. shell frags	0.30	Fill of [004]	C.17th
004	Cut	N-S linear cut with concave base, 1.45m wide	0.56	Ditch	C.13-C.15
005	Deposit	Firm, iron stained grey clay, occ. sub-angular flint	0.15	Fill of [004]	
006	Deposit	Firm, brownish grey sandy clay, occ. sm. sandstone frags and sub-angular flint	0.15	Fill of [004]	
007	Deposit	Firm, mid-reddish brown silty clay, freq. sm. angular gravel	0.30	Fill of [008]	Erom
008	Cut	N-S linear, smooth sided, 1.85m wide	0.60	Ditch	
009	Deposit	Firm, dark grey sandy silt, mod. flint	0.19	Fill of [009]	LC.1-MC.2
010	Cut	Sub-circular, irregular sided cut, 1.70m wide x >1.80m	0.52	Pit	
011	Deposit	Loose, light brownish yellow medium grained sand	-	Natural	
012	Deposit	Firm, light reddish brown clay with blue lenses		Natural	
013	Deposit	Firm, dark grey sandy clay and greyish brown clay, mod. flint	0.60	Fill of [010]	Erom
014	Deposit	Firm, light brown clayey silt, freq. sm. gravel	0.04		
015	Deposit	Firm, light brown clayey silt, freq. gravel	0.04		
016	Deposit	Soft, mid-brown silt and ceramic land drain		Land Drain	
017	Deposit	Loose, dark brown-black silt, freq. gravel	-	Fill of [018]	
018	Cut	NW-SE linear, 1.60m wide, un-excavated	-	Evaluation Trench	
019	Deposit	Firm, mid-greyish brown silty clay with iron staining, freq. gravel	0.40	Fill of [008]	
020	Deposit	Soft, mid-greyish brown silt. Freq. gravel	0.20	Layer	Roman
021	Deposit	Soft, mid-greyish brown silt, freq. gravel		Hedge line	
022	Deposit	Firm, mid-greyish brown clayey silt, freq. gravel	0.15	Fill of [023]	
023	Cut	N-S linear, smooth sided concaved base, 0.50m wide	0.15	Natural Channel	
024	Deposit	Hard, mid-yellowish brown clay, freq. chalk flecks and gravel	0.09	Layer	
025	Deposit	Firm, dark grey sandy clay, occ. charcoal	0.16	Fill of [010]	
026	Deposit	Firm, mid-greyish brown sandy silt with iron staining	-	Natural	
027-034		Not Used			

Appendix 2
Context Summary:
Ruskington Fen Road

Plot 30

Context No.	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation	Date
035	Deposit	Firm, dark greyish brown sandy clay	0.30	Topsoil	
036	Deposit	Firm, mid-brown clayey sand, mod. gravel	0.25	Subsoil	
037	Deposit	Loose, mid-brown sand	0.20	Land-drain	
038	Deposit	Firm, mid-brown clayey sand, occ. gravel	0.21	Fill of [039]	
039	Cut	E-W linear, round base, 1.42m wide	0.21	Ditch	
040	Deposit	Friable, pale yellow brown sand, freq. gravel	-	Natural	
041	Deposit	Firm, mid-brown and bluish grey clay	0.40	Natural	
042	Deposit	Firm, greyish brown sandy clay, occ. gravel	0.20	Fill of [043]	
043	Cut	N-S curvilinear, flat based ditch,1.13m wide	0.20	Ditch	
044	Deposit	Firm, mid-greyish brown sandy clay, occ. pebbles	0.24	Fill of [045]	
045	Cut	NE-SW linear, flat based, 2.70m wide	0.24	Ditch	
046	Deposit	Firm, greyish brown sandy clay, occ. gravel	0.25	Fill of [047]	
047	Cut	N-S linear, round based ditch, 0.95m wide	0.25	Ditch	

Plot 29

Context No.	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation	Date
048	Deposit	Firm, dark grey sand, mod. gravel		Fill of [049]	LC.1-C.2
049	Cut	N-S linear, smooth and gradual sided		Ditch	
050	Deposit	Firm, greyish brown sandy clay, occ. gravel		Fill of [051]	
051	Cut	E-W linear, with round base		Ditch	

Plot 28

Context No.	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation	Date
052	Deposit	Firm, dark grey clayey sand, mod. gravel		Fill of [053]	
053	Cut	NW-SE linear, flat based ditch		Ditch	
054	Deposit	Firm, grey sandy clay, occ. gravel		Fill of [055]	
055	Cut	NE-SW linear		Ditch	

Appendix 2
Context Summary:
Ruskington Fen Road

Plot 33

Context No.	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation	Date
056	Deposit	Firm, mid-brown sandy clay, freq. gravel	0.41	Fill of [057]	
057	Cut	NW-SE linear, round based ditch, 3m wide	0.41	Ditch	
058	Deposit	Firm, greyish brown clayey sand, mod. gravel	0.34	Fill of [059]	LIA
059	Cut	NW-SE linear, round base ditch, 1.30m wide	0.34	Ditch	

Plot 32

Context No.	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation	Date
060	Deposit	Firm, light greyish brown sandy clay, freq. gravel	0.38	Fill of [061]	
061	Cut	N-S linear, vertical sided and round based ditch, 0.70m wide	0.38	Ditch	
062	Deposit	Soft, dark greyish brown silty clay, freq. gravel	0.50	Fill of [063]	LIA
063	Cut	Sub-oval steep sided, round based cut, 0.96m wide	0.50	Pit	

Plot 30/Garage

Context No.	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation	Date
064	Deposit	Mid-brown sandy silt, occ. pebbles	0.30	Topsoil	
065	Deposit	Mid-yellowish brown sandy silt, occ. stones	0.28	Subsoil	
066	Deposit	Loose, light yellow sand	0.08	Natural	
067	Deposit	Firm, light yellowish brown clay	-	Natural	

Plot 31/Garage

Context No.	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation	Date
068	Deposit	Blackish brown silt, occ. brick	0.35	Topsoil	
069	Deposit	Mid-yellowish brown sandy silt	0.27	Subsoil	
070	Deposit	Loose, mid-brown sandy silt	0.24	Fill of [071]	LIA
071	Cut	E-W linear with flat base, 2m wide	0.24	Ditch	
072	Deposit	Loose, mid-yellow gravel	-	Natural	
073	Deposit	Mid-yellowish brown sandy silt	0.27	Subsoil	
074	Deposit	Loose, dark blackish brown silt, occ. pebbles	0.25	Fill of [075]	

Appendix 2
Context Summary:
Ruskington Fen Road

075	Cut	E-W, concave linear, 0.80m wide	0.25	Ditch	
076	Deposit	Firm, mid-yellow silty clay	-	Natural	

Plot 17

Context No.	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation	Date
077	Cut	SE-NW linear, gradual and shallow sided sided, 0.20m wide	0.15	Ditch	
078	Cut	SE-NW linear, shallow and gradual sided, 2m wide	0.20	Ditch	
079	Deposit	Limestone rubble	0.17	Modern surface	
080	Deposit	Firm, dark greyish brown clayey sand, mod. sm. pebbles and limestone	0.30	Topsoil	
081	Deposit	Firm, mid-brown clayey sand, freq. sm. limestone frags	0.24	Subsoil	LC.1-C.2
082	Deposit	Firm, mid-greyish brown silty sand	0.40	Fill of [083]	
083	Cut	E-W linear, vertical sided, 0.25m wide	0.40	Land Drain	
084	Deposit	Firm, mid-brownish grey clayey sand, freq. sm limestone frags	0.13	Fill of [077]	
085	Deposit	Firm, mid-brown clayey sand, freq. sm. limestone frags	0.22	Fill of [078]	
086	Cut	SE-NW linear, shallow sided at top, breaks into steeper sided ditch, 2.80m wide	0.57	Ditch	
087	Cut	SE-NW linear, steep sided concave base, 1.30m wide	0.45	Recut of [086]	
088	Deposit	Firm, mid-brownish grey clayey sand, mod. sm. limestone frags	0.25	Fill of [087]	LIA
089	Deposit	Firm, dark grey clayey sand, occ. charcoal frags, mod. limestone frags	0.19	Fill of [087]	
090	Deposit	Firm, mid-greyish brown sandy clay, freq. sm. limestone frags	0.48	Fill of [086]	
091	Deposit	Firm, mid-greyish brown sandy clay, freq. sm. limestone frags		Fill of [092]	
092	Cut	Linear, shallow, 0.90m wide	0.15	Ditch	
093	Deposit	Firm, mid-brownish grey clayey sand, freq. sm. limestone frags	0.15	Fill of [094]	
094	Cut	Linear, 0.90m wide	0.15	Ditch	

Plot 28/Garage

Context No.	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation	Date
095	Cut	SE-NW linear, steep sided with concave base, 1m wide	0.33	Gully	
096	Cut	N-S linear, steep sided concave base, 1.55m	0.60	Ditch	
097	Deposit	Firm, dark grey clayey sand, mod. limestone frags	0.20	Topsoil	
098	Deposit	Friable, mid-brown clayey sand	0.60	Layer	
099	Deposit	Firm, mid-dark brownish grey clayey sand, occ. charcoal flecks, freq. limestone frags	0.15	Layer	
100	Deposit	Firm, mid-dark grey clayey sand, freq. sm. limestones frags	0.33	Fill of [095]	LIA

Appendix 2
Context Summary:
Ruskington Fen Road

101	Deposit	Mixed bluish grey and yellow grey clay and limestone	-	Natural	
102	Deposit	Firm, mid-dark greyish brown clayey sand, mod. limestone	0.35	Layer	
103	Deposit	Firm, dark brownish grey clayey sand, mod. limestone frags	0.55	Fill of [096]	

Plot 18

Context No.	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation	Date
104	Cut	E-W linear, steep sided, concave base, 2.0m wide	0.72	Ditch	
105	Cut	E-W linear, steep sided, 1.20m wide	0.50	Ditch	
106	Cut	N-S linear, steep sided,1.90m wide	0.30	Ditch	
107	Cut	E-W linear, steep sided, 1.20m wide	0.50	Ditch	
108	Cut	E-W linear, steep sided, 1.20m wide	0.72	Ditch	
109	Cut	E-W linear, steep sided, 1.20m wide	0.72	Ditch	
110	Deposit	Firm, mid-olive brown with light grey mottles, clayey sand, freq. limestone	0.37	Fill of [104]	
111	Deposit	Soft, dark grey clayey silt, occ. shell frags and charcoal	0.25	Fill of [104]	
112	Deposit	Firm, light-mid-brownish grey sandy clay, freq. limestone, occ. charcoal flecks	0.20	Fill of [104]	LIA
113	Deposit	Firm, mid-grey clayey sand, freq. sm. limestone frags	0.50	Fill of [105]	
114	Deposit	Firm, mid-grey clayey sand, freq. limestone frags, occ. charcoal flecks	0.24	Fill of [106]	
115	Deposit	Firm, mid-grey clayey sand, freq. sm. limestone frags, occ. charcoal	0.50	Fill of [107]	
116	Deposit	Firm, mid-olive brown with light grey mottles clayey sand, freq. limestone frags	0.37	Fill of [109]	
117	Deposit	Soft, dark grey clayey silt, occ. shell frags and charcoal	0.25	Fill of [109]	
118	Deposit	Firm, light-mid brownish grey sandy clay, freq. limestones frags	0.20	Fill of [109]	LIA
119	Deposit	Firm, light-mid-brownish grey sandy clay, freq. limestones frags and charcoal flecks	0.37	Fill of [108]	
120	Deposit	Soft, dark grey clayey sand, occ. shell frags and charcoal	0.25	Fill of [108]	LIA
121	Deposit	Firm, light-mid brownish grey sandy clay, freq. limestone frags and charcoal flecks	0.20	Fill of [108]	

Plot 19

Context No.	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation	Date
122	Deposit	Firm, dark greyish brown clayey silt, occ.sm. gravel	0.27	Topsoil	
123	Deposit	Compact, bright yellow clay and gravel	0.10	Natural	
124	Deposit	Firm, light brownish yellow clay	0.40	Natural	
125	Deposit	Firm, mid-brown clayey silt, freq. gravel	0.36	Fill of [126]	

Appendix 2
Context Summary:
Ruskington Fen Road

126	Cut	E-W linear, smooth sided and concave base, 1.58m wide	0.36	Ditch	

Plot 20

Context No.	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation	Date
127	Deposit	Moderate, mid-yellowish brown sandy clay	0.32	Subsoil	Late C.19th-C.20th
128	Deposit	Friable, dark brown silty clayey sand, occ. pebbles	0.11	Topsoil	
129	Deposit	Moderate, mid-grey clayey sand, mod. sm. stones	0.40	Fill of [130]	ERom
130	Cut	NE-SW linear, gradual sided, flat base, 3.80m wide	0.40	Ditch	
131	Deposit	Plastic, mid-yellow clay	-	Natural	
132	Deposit	Friable, dark brown silty clayey sand, occ. pebbles	0.42	Fill of [133]	C.1
133	Cut	NE-SW linear, stepped sides and flat base, 2.26m wide	0.42	Ditch	
134	Deposit	Moderate, mid-grey clayey sand, mod. sm. stones, occ. charcoal	0.40	Fill of [135]	Erom
135	Cut	NE-SW linear, stepped sides, flat base, 1.90m wide	0.40	Ditch	

Plot 21

Context No.	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation	Date
136	Deposit	Firm, dark grey brown sandy silt, occ. pebbles	0.25	Topsoil	
137	Deposit	Soft, dark brown silty sand, occ. pebbles	0.30	Subsoil	
138	Deposit	Soft, dark brown silty sand and gravel	0.30	Layer	
139	Deposit	Soft, light greyish brown clayey sand, freq. gravel	0.33	Fill of [140]	
140	Cut	Partially exposed linear, gradual sided, 0.90+m wide	0.33	Ditch	
141	Deposit	Yellowish brown clay, sand and gravel	-	Natural	

Plot 22

Context No.	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation	Date
142	Deposit	Firm, dark greyish brown sandy silt, occ. stones	0.20	Topsoil	
143	Deposit	Soft, dark brown silty sand, occ. pebbles	0.30	Subsoil	
144	Deposit	Soft, dark brown silty sand, occ. pebbles	0.20	Layer	
145	Deposit	Soft, dark greyish brown sity sand and gravel	0.55	Fill of [146]	LIA

Appendix 2
Context Summary:
Ruskington Fen Road

146	Cut	NW-SE linear, steep sided, 0.80m wide	0.55	Ditch	
147	Deposit	Grey and yellow clay	-	Natural	
148	Deposit	Soft, dark brown clayey sandy silt	0.25	Fill of [149]	
149	Cut	N-S linear, steep sided with flattish base, 0.70m wide	0.25	Ditch	

Plot 23/24

Context No.	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation	Date
150	Deposit	Firm, dark grey brown sandy silt, occ. pebbles	0.25	Topsoil	
151	Deposit	Firm, dark grey sandy clayey sily	0.30	Topsoil	
152	Deposit	Firm, mid-brown sandy clayey silt	0.12	Subsoil	
153	Deposit	Mid-light grey clayey sand	0.50	Fill of [154]	ERom
154	Cut	Linear, steep sided with concave base, 2.50m wide	0.50	Ditch	
155	Deposit	Gravel	-	Natural	
156	Finds	Unstratified			C.1-eC.2

Plot 26

Context No.	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation	Date
157	Deposit	Friable, dark grey silty sand, mod. sm. limestone frags	0.12	Topsoil	Post-med
158	Deposit	Friable, mid-dark brown silty sand, freq. limestone frags	0.57	Subsoil	C.15-C.17
159	Deposit	Friable, dark grey silty sand, mod. limestone frags	0.26	Fill of [160]	
160	Cut	Sub-circular, shallow sided with concave base, 1.60m x 0.50+ wide	0.26	Cut	
161	Deposit	Sand and limestone gravel		Natural	
162	Deposit	Friable, dark grey silty sand, occ. charcoal, freq. limestone	0.40	Fill of [163]	LIA
163	Cut	Irregular shaped, gentle sloping sides, concave base, 1.0m x 0.25m+	0.40	Pit	
164	Cut	SW-NE linear, gradual sided, concave base, 2.30m wide	0.60	Furrow	
165	Cut	Linear, gradual sided, concave base, 2.50m wide	0.40	Furrow	
166	Cut	Gradual sided, concave base, 0.90m wide	0.20	Cut	
167	Cut	Gradual sided with concave base, 0.70m	0.20	Cut	

Appendix 2
Context Summary:
Ruskington Fen Road

Plot 25

Context No.	Type	Description	Thck (m)	Interpretation	Date
168	Deposit	Firm, dark blackish brown and yellow sand and silt, occ. rubble	0.30	Dump	
169	Deposit	Moderate, mid-brown sandy silt, occ. pebbles and gravel	0.20	Topsoil	
170	Deposit	Moderate, mid-yellowsih brown silty sand, mod.gravel	0.25	Subsoil	Erom
171	Deposit	Moderate, light-mid yellowish brown silty sand	0.40	Fill of [172]	
172	Cut	E-W linear, smooth sided with concave base, 1.50m wide	0.25	Ditch	
173	Deposit	Firm, mixed reddish brown and reddish yellow sand and gravel, occ. clay patches	0.40	Natural	
174	Deposit	Moderate, mid-yellowish brown silty sand, mod. gravel	0.18	Fill of [172]	
175	Deposit	Moderate, mid-yellowish brown silty sand, mod. gravel	0.26	Fill of [176]	
176	Cut	NE-SW linear, smooth sided, flattish base, 0.78m wide	0.30	Gully	
177	Deposit	Moderate, mid-yellowish brown silty sand, mod. gravel	0.30	Fill of [178]	
178	Cut	E-W, linear, steep sided with concave base, 1.35m wide	0.30	Ditch	
179	Deposit	Firm, dark brown sandy silt, occ. limestone	0.45	Fill of [180]	
180	Cut	E-W linear, gradual sided with undulating base, 1.80m wide	0.45	Drain	
181	Deposit	Moderate, mid-brown gravel and silt	0.34	Fill of [183]	
182	Deposit	Moderate, mid-grey silty sand and gravel	0.50	Fill of [183]	
183	Cut	Curvilinear, steep sided with undulating base, 1.20m wide	0.50	Ditch	

Abbreviations:

Descriptions:

occ	occasional	sm	small	frags	fragments
mod	moderate	med	medium		
freq	frequent	lrg	large		

Date:

LIA Late Iron Age
ERom Early Roman (1st-2nd century AD)
Post-med Post-medieval

Appendix 3

THE POST-ROMAN POTTERY AND OTHER FINDS

by Gary Taylor

Recording of the pottery was undertaken with reference to guidelines prepared by the Medieval Pottery Research Group (Slowikowski *et al.* 2001) and the pottery was quantified using the chronology and coding system of the Lincolnshire ceramic type series. A single fragment of post-Roman pottery weighing 63g was recovered, together with a few other objects, ceramic building material and charcoal, comprising 6 items weighing a total of 641g. A Moderately large groups of Roman pottery and faunal remains were also recovered and are reported separately

Provenance
The material was recovered from the fill of ditch [004], and a subsoil layer.

The single piece of pottery may be a relatively local Lincolnshire product. A more certain local product is the Roman tile which is in the fabric of the kilns at Heckington, 10km to the southeast.

Range
The range of material is detailed in the table.

Context	Fabric Code/ material	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
003	BL/MP	Blackware/Midlands Purple-type ware bowl	1	63	17th century
007	Charcoal	Charcoal, including small round wood (twig)	4	1	
020	Ceramic Building Material	Tile, 32mm thick	1	362	Roman
127	Ceramic Building Material	Drain pipe cover	1	278	Late 19th-20th century

Condition
All the material is in good condition and present no long-term storage problems. Archive storage of the collection is by material class.

Documentation
There have been previous archaeological investigations at Ruskington, including the current site, which ae the subjects of reports. Previous investigations at the site recovered a similar assemblage, dominated by Roman material and with few later artefacts (Rayner *et al.*, 2000). Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the files of the North Kesteven Heritage Officer and the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential
As a small, mixed collection this aspect of the site assemblage is of limited local potential and significance. However, the Roman tile suggests the presence of buildings of the period, which is of high local potential and contributes to the evidence of the relatively abundant Roman pottery from the site, reported separately.

The dearth of post-Roman material is informative and implies that the site was abandoned after that period. The single post-medieval pottery fragment may have entered the area in manuring scatter, which would suggest the area was arable in the 17th century.

References

Rayner, T., Trimble, D. and Taylor, G., 2000 *Archaeological Evaluation on land at Fen Road, Ruskington, Lincolnshire (RFR00)*, unpublished Archaeological Project Services report no. **24/00**

Slowikowski, A., Nenk, B. and Pearce, J., 2001 *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper **2**

Appendix 4

The Roman Pottery (RFRA01)

By B J Precious

The Roman Pottery

The pottery has been recorded according to the Study Group for Roman Pottery (SGRP) guidelines, using codes currently in use by the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU), and sherd count as a measure. See also the site archive 'The Roman pottery from Ruskington, Fen Road - RFRA01 (rfra01.xls).

The site produced a small assemblage of pottery - 141sherds, ranging in date from the mid to late Iron Age to the end of the 2nd century AD (see Table 1, below). In addition there is post-medieval pottery from Context 3, a sherd of medieval pottery from Context 4, and two sherds from Context 158 of late medieval to post-medieval date (pers comm J Young). There are no definite sherd links but related fabrics occur in contexts 62 and 88.

Table 1- The date-range of the Roman pottery by context and sherd count.

Context	Sherds	Date range
3	11	2C/POSTRO
4	1	13-15C
7	25	EROM
9	14	L1-EM2C
13	9	2C+
48	1	L1-2C
58	3	LIA
62	3	LIA?
70	4	LIA?
81	2	L1-2C
88	2	LIA?
100	2	LIA?
112	2	LIA-EROM
118	1	LIA?
120	1	LIA-EROM
127	3	LIA-EROM
129	17	1C
132	3	1C
134	12	1-2C
145	3	LIA
153	5	L1-2C
156	4	1-E2C
158	2	15-17C
162	10	LIA-EROM
170	1	RO?

Table 1, below, shows that few of the contexts produced more than 10 sherds (contexts 3, 7, 129, and 134), and much of the material consists of mainly undiagnostic body sherds. A number of these body sherds are hand-made examples of Iron Age shell-tempered wares that probably date from the late Iron Age into the early Roman period. However, as very small groups of largely, body sherds, the dating is not precise. Contexts assigned these dates (LIA and LIA-EROM) form the second largest group, 34 sherds. At least two sherds may date from the mid to late Iron Age, although they occur with later pottery. One is a fragment from a large jar or bowl in a native tradition fabric with faint scoring on the body wall (Context 7- NAT, JBL, drawing 10). The other is a closed form in a fabric with common but fine shell that also has scoring on the lower body wall, however it is not the typical random scoring typical of mid to late Iron Age pottery (Context 3 – SHCF, CLSD).

Definitive early Roman and 1st century wares form the largest group, 45 sherds, including sherds of South Gaulish samian ware (Context 129) and native tradition cooking pots together with wheel-made, thin-walled jars or beakers (Context 7). Pottery with more Romanised forms and fabrics of later 1st to early to mid 2nd century date is present in some quantity, 38 sherds, Context 9, in particular. There are no groups that can be securely dated beyond the 2nd century although Contexts 3 and 13 (20 sherds) contain grey wares of more certainly 2nd century date, and one vessel from Context 13 may be later in date. It is a jar with a ledge or lid-seat in a fabric with common, fine shell. The rim is reminiscent of Dales-type jars but is more rounded, and may be a precursor (SHCF, JLS, drawing 4).

Condition

Most of the assemblage is in good condition, although the fine wares are more abraded. One vessel, a carinated bowl in SLGY is particularly abraded (context 9 - drawing 14) and a segmental bowl from Context 3 appears to be water-worn. A number of vessels are either burnt or sooted due to use as cooking pots, whilst burning on the interior is indicative of Iron Age rather than Roman pottery.

Statement of Potential (Table 2, below)

The pottery from this site has a much earlier bias than that from the intervention in 2000 (RFR00), having no pottery of mid-3rd century and later date. There are, however, many similarities between the late Iron Age to early Roman shell-tempered wares from both sites.

The assemblage, although small, provides good dating evidence for the site, especially for a late Iron Age to early Roman interface. The wares from this period are largely cooking wares and indicative of a rural settlement. However, there is also a good example of a pedestal jar that has been finely made (drawing 2). Occupation on the site continues into the 2nd century. Imported wares are rare consisting of a few sherds of samian of early Roman date (see Table 2, below), and are indicative of higher status occupation.

Table 2 - The Roman and other fabrics by sherd count.

Fabric	Code	Sherds	%
Miscellaneous colour-coat	CC	1	0.71%
Cream ware	CR	1	0.71%
Fine grey ware	GFIN	3	2.13%
Grey ware	GREY	32	22.70%
Grey 'sandwich' fabric	GRSAN	2	1.42%
Grey with browner surfaces	GYBN	13	9.22%
Late medieval local	LMLOC	1	0.71%
Medieval local	MEDLOC	1	0.71%
Native tradition fabric	NAT	6	4.26%
South Gaulish samian	SAMSG	3	2.13%
Iron Age shell: common fine	SHCF	27	19.15%
Iron Age shell: common medium	SHCM	28	19.86%
Iron Age shell: moderate fine	SHMF	3	2.13%
Iron Age shell: moderate medium	SHMM	1	0.71%
Iron Age shell: sparse fine	SHSF	3	2.13%
Roman shell tempered ware	SHEL	1	0.71%
South Lincs grey ware	SLGY	14	9.93%
Toynton/Bolingbroke ware	TB	1	0.71%
	TOTAL	141	100.00%

A number of the Iron Age and Roman shell-tempered wares contain punctate brachiapods that do not appear in the shell-tempered wares found either in Lincoln or in north Lincolnshire. These would benefit from further analysis in order to determine precisely where this difference in inclusions occurs. Several vessels occur in a grey ware (SLGY) that was first noted at Hangman's Lane, Stainfield (SHR93) (Davies, 1994). The fabric consists of a silty matrix with rare inclusions of large, rounded quartz <0.7mm). Several examples have been selected for drawing from RFRA01, and will augment the growing typology for this ware. One fine ware fabric requires further analysis. It is a closed form with a dark red, matt colour-coat that only survives on the interior. The fabric is pale and poorly mixed with a soapy texture with silt-sized quartz and rare to moderate amounts of larger quartz (<0.5mm). The colour-coat is most unusual and reminiscent of terra rubra, a late Iron Age to early Roman fabric that has been noted at Old Sleaford (Elsdon, 1997).

Fourteen vessels have been selected for illustration to illustrate the continuation of native and gallo-belgic traditions into the early Roman period, together with examples that demonstrate the later 1st to 2nd century wares, both for dating purposes and intrinsic value. An appropriate specialist should examine the samian ware in order to refine the dating for this important Conquest period, and early Roman site.

Storage and Curation

The pottery should be retained for further study.

References

Davies (now Precious) B J, 1994 *The Roman pottery from Hangman's Lane, Stainfield (SHR93)*, CLAU Pottery Report

Elsdon, S.M., 1997 *Old Sleaford Revealed, A Lincolnshire settlement in Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and Medieval times: excavations 1882-1995*, Oxbow Monog 78. Nottingham Studies in Archaeology 2.

Precious B J, 2000 *The Roman Pottery from Ruskington (RFR00),* Assessment Report

CXT	FABRIC	FORM	DEC	VESS	DWG	COND	COMMENTS	JOIN	SHERDS
4	MEDLOC	JAR				ABR	RIM		1
4	ZDATE						13-15C		
4	ZZZ						MPOT ONLY		
158	TB						BS;GLAZ INT EXT		1
158	LMLOC					ABR	BS		1
158	ZDATE						15-17C		
170	SHEL	CLSD	HM?				BS NO PUNC		1
170	ZDATE						RO?		
170	ZZZ						POSS LIA		
48	GREY	J				ABR	BS BODY GROOVE		1
48	ZDATE						L1-2C		
58	SHMF	JEV	HM	1		SOOTEX	RIM BSS BLK RDBN		3
58	ZDATE						LIA		
62	SHCM	CLSD	HM	1			BSS GRY DEPOSIT EXT; AS IN	88	3
62	ZDATE						LIA?		
62	ZZZ						POSS EROM		
88	SHCM	CLSD	HM	1		ABR	BSS GRY DEPOSIT EXT; AS IN	62	2
88	ZDATE						LIA?		
88	ZZZ						POSS EROM		
70	SHCF	CLSD	HM?	1			FRAGS		4
70	ZDATE						LIA?		
70	ZZZ						UNDIAGNOSTIC		
81	GYBN	JBK		1			BS RDBN CORE THIN		2
81	ZDATE						L1-2C		
81	ZZZ						UNDIAGNOSTIC		
153	GYBN	J					BS SLIGHT TWISTED		1
153	SHCM	JS	HM?				BS V THICK;PUNC SEA URCHIN FRAG		1
153	SHCF	JBL	HM?			SCALE	BS PUNC		1
153	NAT	J	HM?				BS SOME GROG		1
153	SHCF	CLSD	HM?			SOOTEX	BS PUNC SOME SPINES		1
153	ZDATE						L1-2C		
156	GFIN	JBK					FTM CF PART		1
156	SLGY	J					BS		1
156	SHSF	CLSD	HM?	1			BSS RDBN PUC		2
156	ZDATE						1-E2C		
162	SHCM	CLSD	HM?	1			BSS;MICACEOUS		10
162	ZDATE						LIA-EROM		
162	ZZZ						UNDIAGNOSTIC		
134	GRSAN	J		1		ABR	BSS		2
134	GREY	J				ABR	BS BODY GROOVE		1
134	GYBN	JBL		1			BASES BSS FRAGS;FAB CF SLGY		9
134	ZDATE						1-2C		
118	SHMM	CLSD				BURNTIN	BS PUNC		1
118	ZDATE						LIA?		
118	ZZZ						UNDIAGNOSTIC		
112	SHCF	JBKCUR	WF?	1			RIM FRAG BS		2
112	ZDATE						LIA-EROM		

100	SHCM					BURNTIN	BSS		2
100	ZDATE						LIA?		
100	ZZZ						UNDIAGNOSTIC		
132	NAT	CLSD	HM?				BS BODY GROOVE RDBN		1
132	GYBN	CLSD	WM			BURNTIN	BS		1
132	GFIN	JBK					BS THIN		1
132	ZDATE						1C		
127	GREY	JBK	WM				BS THINNER WALL SOME LIMEST		1
127	SHCM	JBL	HM?			BURNTIN	BS THICKER;PUNC		1
127	SHCM	JBL	HM?			BURNTIN	BS THICKER;ABR		1
127	ZDATE						LIA-EROM		
120	SHSF	JBK	WM		D1		RIM NECK FINE THIN WALLED VESS		1
120	ZDATE						LIA-EROM		
145	SHCF	J	WF		D2		PEDESTAL BASE		1
145	SHCM	JBL	HM?			BURNTEX	BS		1
145	SHCF	J	HM			BURNTIN	BS RDBN SPINES		1
145	ZDATE						LIA		
129	GREY	J		1			BSS		7
129	SLGY?	JBK					BS		1
129	GREY	JBK			D3		RIM NECK TALL AS 334 TYPE		1
129	GREY	J					RIM FRAG TALL NECK		1
129	GREY	CLSD		1			BSS COARSE Q		2
129	SLGY	CLSD				BURTN	BS		1
129	GREY	CLSD					BS		1
129	SAMSG	27		1		ABR	BSS		2
129	SAMSG	33		1		ABR	BS		1
129	ZDATE						1C		
13	SHCF	JBK	WM?				BS BODY GROOVE THINNER		1
13	SHCM	JBL	HM?	1		ABR	BSS FRAG TAR? EXT		4
13	SHCF	JLS	WM		D4		RIM NECK CF DALES TYPE;PRECURSOR?		1
13	SHCF	JBEV	WM		D5		RIM PUNC		1
13	SHCF	BCUR	WM	1	D6	BURNTR	RIM GIRTH BS		2
13	ZDATE						2C+		
13	ZZZ						POSS MIX THIN BODY BS COULD BE 1C		
7	GREY	JBKCUR			D7		RIM NECK		1
7	GREY	J		1		ABR	BASES BSS FRAGS SOAPY FAB;BURNT		9
7	GFIN	JBK				VABR	FRAG		1
7	SHCF	J	HM?	1			BSS		6
7	SHCM	JB	HM?	1		ABR	BSS THICKER		3
7	GREY	JB				ABR	BS THICKER		1
7	NAT		HM			VABR	BS;MLIA?		1
7	NAT	JBL	SCR		D10		BS MLIA?		1
7	NAT	BNAT	WF?		D8		RIM SHLDR		1
7	SHCF	CPN	WF?		D9		RIM SHLDR		1
7	ZDATE						EROM		
7	ZZZ						MIX SOME MLIA		
3	CR	BK?				VABR	BS THIN POSS VABR NVCC		1
3	SHCF	CLSD	HM;SCR?	1			BSS W IRREG SCORED HORIZ LINES MLIA		2

3	NAT	CLSD	HM?			VABR	BS W LIMEST;IA		1
3	SLGY	JCUR		1	D11	BURNTR	RIMS BS SHLDR;RDBN CORE; SAME FAB		3
3	SLGY	JCUR		1	D12		RIM SHLDR BSS;RDBN CORE;SAME FAB		3
3	SLGY	BSEG			D13	WWORN	RIM GIRTH		1
3	ZDATE						2C/POSTRO		
3	ZZZ						MIX MLIA; 17C POT		
9	SHCF	CLSD	HM				BSS;LIA?		3
9	GREY	CLSD		1		BURNTEX	BSS FRAGS		5
9	GREY	BCUR					RIM UPPER WALL		1
9	SLGY	BCAR		1	D14	VABR	RIMS LWR WALL FRAGS		4
9	CC	CLSD	WM			ABR	BS; MATT RED CC INT ; V UNUS SOAPY MOD 0.5 Q		1
9	ZDATE						L1-EM2C		
9	ZZZ						FRAG CBM;SOME LIA?		

Appendix 5

THE ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY CONSULTANCY

By James Rackham

Key to codes used in the cataloguing of animal bones and marine shells

SPECIES:

SPECIES CODE			SPECIES CODE	
MAN	human		DOVE	Dove species
EQU	Horse		FER	Feral dove
EQSZ	Horse size		PART	Partridge
BOS	Cattle		SWAN?	Swan?
BOSL	Cattle-large		WOOD	Woodcock
CSZ	cattle size		CURL	Curlew
SUS	Pig		WADE	wader
OVCA	sheep or goat		CROK	Crow or rook
OVI	Sheep		CORV	Crow or rook
CRA	Goat		JACK	Jackdaw
SSZ	sheep size		OWL	Owl indet.
FEL	Cat		BUZZ	Buzzard
CAN	Dog		GULL	Gull sp.
AUR	Aurochs			
AUR?	Aurochs?		TURD	Turdidae
CER	red deer		BIRD	Identifiable but not id'd
DAM	Fallow deer		PASS	Passerine
CLS	roe deer		LBIRD	Large bird
LEP	Hare		UNIB	Bird indet
ORC	Rabbit			
LAG	Lagomorph		FROG	Frog
CARN	Carnivore		FRTO	Frog or toad
FOX	Fox			
POLE	Polecat/ferret			
WEA	weasel		GAD	Gadid, cod family
BADG	Badger		LING	Ling
SEAL	seal		HADD	Haddock
SQU?	Squirrel?		RAY	ray
BEAV	Beaver		FISH	Fish
ROD	Rodent		UNIF	Fish indet
RAT	Rat			
AGR	Field vole		OYS	oyster
ARV	Water vole		COK	Cockle
MUS	House mouse		MUSS	Common Mussel
SORA	Common shrew		WHELK	Common whelk
MOLE	Mole		HEL	Helix aspersa
SMA	Small mammal		HELIX	Helix sp.
UNI	Unknown		HELN	Helix nemoralis
			SNAIL	snail
CHIK	Chicken			
CHKZ	Chicken size		FOSS	Fossil bone
GOOS	Goose, dom			
GOOS?	Goose, dom.?			
GSSZ	Goose size			
GSSP	Goose species			
GOSZ	Goose, poss. Wild			
DUCK	Duck, domestic sp.			
DUCK?	Duck?			
DKSP	Duck species			
DSP	Duck species indet			
MALL	Duck, dom.			
TURK	Turkey			

BONE ELEMENT:

BONE CODE		BONE CODE	
SKEL	skeleton	SCP	scapula
SKL	skull	HUM	humerus
ANT	antler	RAD	radius
ANT?	antler?	ULN	ulna
ATT	antler tine	RUL	radius and ulna
HC	horn core	C/T	carpus/tarsus
TEMP	temporal	C23	carpus 2+3
FRNT	frontal	CAR	carpus
PET	petrous	CPA	accessory carpal
PAR	parietal	CPI	intermediate carpal
OCIP	occipital	CPR	radial carpal
ZYG	zygomatic	CPU	ulnal carpal
NAS	nasal	MTC	metacarpus
PMX	premaxilla	MC1-5	metacarpus 1-5
MAN	mandible	MTP	metapodial
MNT	mandibular tooth	MPL	lateral metapodial
DLI	deciduous lower incisor	INN	innominate
DLPM1-4	deciduous lower premolar 1-4	ILM	ilium
LI	lower incisor (and 1-3)	PUB	pubis
LC	lower canine	ISH	ischium
LPM1-LPM4	lower premolar 1-4	FEM	femur
LM1-LM3	lower molar 1 - molar 3	PAT	patella
MAX	maxilla	TIB	tibia
DUI	deciduous upper incisor	FIB	fibula
UI	upper incisor (1-3)	LML	lateral malleolus
UC	upper canine	AST	astragalus
DUPM	deciduous upper premolar	CAL	calcaneum
DUPM1-4	deciduous upper premolar 1-4	CQ	centroquartal
UPM1-UPM4	upper premolar 1-4	TAR3	tarsus 3
UM1-UM3	upper molar 1 - molar 3	T4	tarsus 4
MXT	maxillary tooth	TAR	tarsus
TTH	indeterminate tooth	MTT	metatarsus
INC	incisor	MT1-5	metatarsus 1-5
HYD	hyoid	MTL	lateral metatarsus
ATL	atlas	SES	sesamoid
AXI	axis	PH1	1st phalanx
CEV	cervical vertebra (and 3-7)	PH2	2nd phalanx
TRV	thoracic vertebra (and 1-13)	PH3	3rd phalanx
LMV	lumbar vertebra	PHL	lateral phalanx
SAC	sacrum	LBF	long bone
CDV	caudal vertebra	UNI	unidentified
VER	vertebra		
STN	sternum	CLV	clavicle
CC	costal cartilage	COR	coracoid
RIB1	first rib (2 etc)	CMP	carpo-metacarpus
RIB	rib	CMC	carpo-metacarpus
		WPH1-3	wing phalanges 1-3
URO	urostyle	WPH	wing phalanx
		LSA	lumbosacrale
DENT	dentary		
CLEI	cleithrum		
RAY	fin ray		
SHELL	shell		
UV	upper valve		
VAL	valve		

NUMBER: number of fragments in the entry

SIDE: W - whole L - left side R - right side F - fragment

FUSION: records the fused/unfused condition of the epiphyses
P - proximal; D - distal; E - acetabulum; N - unfused; F - fused; C - cranial; A - posterior

ZONES: records the part of the bone present.
The key to each zone on each bone is on page 4

BUTCHERY: records whether a bone has been chopped (CH), cut (KN), worked (W), burnt (C)

GNAWING: records if a bone has been gnawed by dogs (DG), cats (FEL) or rodents (RG)

TOOTH WEAR - Codes are those used in Grant, A. 1982 The use of tooth wear as a guide to the age of domestic animals, in B.Wilson, C.Grigson and S.Payne (eds) *Ageing and sexing animal bones from Archaeological sites*, 91-108.

Teeth are labelled as follows in the tooth wear column:

Deciduous	Permanent
f ldpm2/dupm2	F lpm2/upm2
g ldpm3/dupm3	G lpm3/upm4
h ldpm4/dupm4	H lpm4/upm4
	I lm1/um1
	J lm2/um2
	K lm3/um3

MEASUREMENTS :Any measurements are those listed in A.Von den Driesch (1976) *A Guide to the Measurement of Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites*, Peabody Museum Bulletin 1, Peabody Museum, Harvard, USA

PATHOLOGICAL: A 'P' indicates that the bone fragment carries a pathology

COMMENTS: This may include a short description of the fragments, any pathologies, butchery or gnawing evidence

PRESERVATION: records the condition of the bone in the following manner

1- enamel only surviving
2- bone very severely pitted and thinned, tending to break up; teeth with surface erosion and loss of cementum and dentine
3- surface pitting and erosion of bone, some loss of cementum and dentine on teeth
4- surface of bone intact, loss of organic component, material chalky, calcined or burnt
5- bone in good condition, probably with some organic component

ZONES - codes used to define the zones on each bone

SKULL	1. paraoccipital process	METACARPUS	1. medial facet of proximal articulation, MC3
	2. occipal condyle		2. lateral facet of proximal articulation, MC4
	3. intercornual protuberance		3. medial distal condyle, MC3
	4. external acoustic meatus		4. lateral distal condyle, MC4
	5. frontal sinus		5. anterior distal groove and foramen
	6. ectorbitale		6. medial or lateral distal condyle
	7. entorbitale		
	8. temporal articular facet	FIRST PHALANX	1. proximal epiphysis
	9. facial tuber		2. distal articular facet
	0. infraorbital foramen		
		INNOMINATE	1. tuber coxae
MANDIBLE	1. Symphyseal surface		2. tuber sacrale + scar
	2. diastema		3. body of illium with dorso-medial foramen
	3. lateral diastemal foramen		4. iliopubic eminence
	4. coronoid process		5. acetabular fossa
	5. condylar process		6. symphyseal branch of pubis
	6. angle		7. body of ischium
	7. anterior dorsal acsending ramus posterior M3		8. ischial tuberosity
	8. mandibular foramen		9. depression for medial tendon of rectus femoris
VERTEBRA	1. spine	FEMUR	1. head
	2. anterior epiphysis		2. trochanter major
	3. posterior epiphysis		3. trochanter minor
	4. centrum		4. supracondyloid fossa
	5. neural arch		5. distal medial condyle
			6. lateral distal condyle
SCAPULA	1. supraglenoid tubercle		7. distal trochlea
	2. glenoid cavity		8. trochanter tertius
	3. origin of the distal spine		
	4. tuber of spine	TIBIA	1. proximal medial condyle
	5. posterior of neck with foramen		2. proximal lateral condyle
	6. cranial angle of blade		3. intercondylar eminence
	7. caudal angle of blade		4. proximal posterior nutrient foramen
			5. medial malleolus
HUMERUS	1. head		6. lateral aspect of distal articulation
	2. greater tubercle		7. distal pre-epiphyseal portion of the diaphysis
	3. lesser tubercle		
	4. intertuberal groove	CALCANEUM	1. calcaneal tuber
	5. deltoid tuberosity		2. sustentaculum tali
	6. dorsal angle of olecranon fossa		3. processus anterior
	7. capitulum		
	8. trochlea	METATARSUS	1. medial facet of proximal artciulation, MT3.
	9.		2. lateral facet of proximal articulation, MT4
	0.		3. medial distal condyle, MT3
RADIUS	1. medial half of proximal epiphysis		4. lateral distal condyle, MT4
	2. lateral half of proximal epiphysis		5. anterior distal groove and foramen
	3. posterior proximal ulna scar and foramen		6. medial or lateral distal condyle
	4. medial half of distal epiphysis		
	5. lateral half of distal epiphysis		
	6. distal shaft immediately above distal epiphysis		
ULNA	1. olecranon tuberosity		
	2. trochlear notch- semilunaris		
	3. lateral coronoid process		
	4. distal epiphysis		

Archive Catalogue of Animal Bone from Fen Road, Ruskington – RFRA01

site	cont.	species	bone	no.	side	fusion	zone	butchery	gnawing	toothwear	measurement	path	comment	preservation
RFRA01	003	BOS	MAN	1	L		5						FRAGMENT WITH CONDYLE- 2 PIECES	4
RFRA01	003	CSZ	PH1	1	F	PF							SPLIT FRAGMENT PROX END	4
RFRA01	007	BOS	LM1	1	R					I8			ROOTS BROKEN	4
RFRA01	007	BOS	MAN	1	F								POST FRAG ASC RAMUS	3
RFRA01	007	BOS	RAD	1	F								PROX END SHAFT	4
RFRA01	007	BOS	SCP	1	F		4						SPINE FRAGMENT	4
RFRA01	007	BOS	TIB	1	L	DF	567						DISTAL END AND SHAFT-FRAGMENTED- 6 PIECES	3
RFRA01	007	BOS	ULN	1	L		3						PROX SHAFT FRAGMENT	3
RFRA01	007	CSZ	SKL	1	F								MAXILLA-4 PIECES	4
RFRA01	007	CSZ	UNI	2	F								INDET	4
RFRA01	007	CSZ	UNI	1	F								INDET-MAND?	3
RFRA01	007	CSZ	UNI	4	F								INDET	4
RFRA01	007	OVCA	DUP4	1	W					h16			COMPLETE	4
RFRA01	007	OVCA	MTT	1	F								ANT MIDSHAFT FRAGMENT	4
RFRA01	007	OVCA	MTT	1	F								POST MIDSHAFT FRAGMENT	3
RFRA01	007	OVCA	MTT	1	L								DISTAL HALF SHAFT	4
RFRA01	007	UNI	UNI	1	F								SPLIT RIB FRAGMENT?	4
RFRA01	009	BOS	HUM	1	R		9						DISTAL SHAFT-7 PIECES	3
RFRA01	009	BOS	TIB	1	R	DF	567				Bd-58.1		DISTAL END	3
RFRA01	009	OVCA	TIB	1	F				DG				DISTAL SHAFT FRAGMENT-CHEWED	4
RFRA01	009	SSZ	LBF	1	F								SHAFT FRAGMENT	4
RFRA01	009	SUS	MAN	1	F		1						SYMPHYSEAL FRAG WITH 5 LOOSE TEETH-INC UNERUPTED-	3
RFRA01	009	UNI	UNI	2	F								INDET	4
RFRA01	013	BOS	LMV	1	F	AF	345	CH					CENTRUM AND ARCH-ANT CENTRUM CHOPPED OFF TRANS	4
RFRA01	013	BOS	MTC	1	F				DG				PROX SHAFT FRAGMENT-PROX CHEWED-POROUS-IMM	4
RFRA01	013	OVCA	LM3	1	L					K10			COMPLETE	4
RFRA01	013	SSZ	FEM	1	F								MIDSHAFT-POSSIBLE DOG	4
RFRA01	013	SUS	FEM	1	F		4						DISTAL SHAFT FRAGMENT	4
RFRA01	013	SUS	MAN	1	L		11						SYMPHYSIS-WITH INCISORS-FEMALE-ADULT2 PIECES	4

site	cont.	species	bone	no.	side	fusion	zone	butchery	gnawing	toothwear	measurement	path	comment	preservation
RFRA01	048	BOS	PH1	1	R	PF	12						SOME DAMAGE	4
RFRA01	070	BOS	HUM	1	F		5						PROX SHAFT FRAGMENT-DELTOID	3
RFRA01	070	BOS	SKL	1	R		9			h15			MAXILLA- 2 PIECES-M3 NOT UP	4
RFRA01	070	SSZ	LBF	1	F								MIDSHAFT FRAGMENT	4
RFRA01	110	BOS	FEM	1	F								DISTAL SHAFT FRAGMENT	4
RFRA01	110	OVCA	MAN	1	R		2			GH12			ANT RAMUS-PM2 CONGEN ABSENT	4
RFRA01	110	SSZ	RIB	1	F				DG				SPLIT RIB FRAGMENT-CHEWED	4
RFRA01	110	SSZ	RIB	1	L								PROX HALF SHAFT-SMALL	4
RFRA01	110	SUS	HUM	1	L				DG				DISTAL SHAFT FRAGMENT-CHEWED	3
RFRA01	110	SUS	ULN	1	R	PN	23		DG				PROX HALF-OLECRANON CHEWED OFF	4
RFRA01	112	BOS	MAN	1	R		23			fgh12			DIASTEMAL FRAG-3 PIECES-CONCRETED	3
RFRA01	113	BOS	INN	1	R		4						ANT PUBIC FRAGMENT	4
RFRA01	113	BOS	LMV	1	F	CJAF	12345						CENTRUM AND ARCH	4
RFRA01	113	BOS	MAN	1	L		13						SYMPHYSEAL FRAGMENT	4
RFRA01	113	BOS	SCP	1	F								FRAG CRANIAL MARGIN NEAR ORGIN OF SPINE	4
RFRA01	113	BOS	SCP	1	L		4						CRANIAL MARGIN AND PART SPINE	4
RFRA01	113	BOS	TIB	1	R		4						MIDSHAFT-4 PIECES	4
RFRA01	113	CSZ	LMV	1	F								POST ZYGOPOPHYSES	4
RFRA01	113	EQU	TRV	1	F	CN	4						CENTRUM- 2 PIECES	4
RFRA01	134	CSZ	LBF	1	F								SHAFT FRAGMENT	4
RFRA01	145	BOS	HUM	1	L	PF	1						PART OF PROX END	4
RFRA01	153	BOS	SAC	1	F	CF	12345						ANT 2 THIRDS SACRUM	4

Appendix 6
PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND OTHER REMAINS FROM FEN ROAD, RUSKINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE (RFRA 01): AN ASSESSMENT.

Val Fryer, Church Farm, Sisland, Loddon, Norwich, Norfolk, NR14 6EF
March 2003

Introduction

Excavations at Fen Road, Ruskington were undertaken by Archaeological Project Services. The work revealed features of Roman and later date including pits, ditches and small discrete deposits of charred material. Three samples were taken for the extraction of the plant macrofossil assemblages.

Methods

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover, collecting the flots in a 500 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16, and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed on Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). With the exception of sample 2, which contained a waterlogged assemblage, all plant remains were preserved by charring.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and sorted when dry. Artefacts/ecofacts were removed and retained for specialist analysis.

Results of assessment
Plant macrofossils

Cereal grains/chaff, seeds and nutshell fragments were present at a very low density in all three samples. Preservation was moderate to good, although some puffing and distortion of the cereal grains had occurred during combustion.

Wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains and spikelet bases were noted in sample 1 along with glume bases of spelt wheat (*T. spelta*). Weed seeds were extremely rare, but grass (Poaceae) fruits were recorded from sample 3. A single hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell fragment was also found in sample 3. Waterlogged elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) seeds were common in sample 2.

Charcoal fragments and pieces of charred root or stem were common in samples 1 and 3, and sample 2 contained abundant fragments of wood or woody stem.

Other materials

Other materials were extremely rare within the assemblages. The pieces of black porous 'cokey' material and black tarry material are probably derived from the combustion of organic materials at very high temperatures.

Molluscs

Rare mollusc shells were recorded from samples 1 and 3. As most retained delicate surface structuring and pigmentation, it is suggested that all are probably modern in origin.

Discussion

Samples 1 and 3 are both from features of Roman date. The extremely low density of material recovered from these samples may suggest that the assemblages are derived from wind blown detritus, which accidentally accumulated within various features across the site. The presence of grains and chaff elements within sample 1 may indicate that the processing of cereals was taking place in the near vicinity of the site during the Roman period.

Sample 2 comes from the waterlogged fill of a ditch, which is currently undated. A very restricted range of material is present, but the assemblage is consistent with a natural accumulation of plant debris within the ditch.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The assemblages from samples 1 and 3 appear to be derived from small accidental accumulations of material. As a result, there is little or no indication of the intended purpose of the features from which the samples were taken. However, cereal processing may possibly have been conducted in the near vicinity of the site during the Roman period.

As the density of material recovered is so low (<10 specimens per sample), no further analysis is recommended.

References

Stace, C., 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles*. Second edition. Cambridge University Press.

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 10 – 100 specimens xxx = 100+ specimens
fg = fragment w = waterlogged pmc = possible modern contaminant

Sample No.	1	2	3
Context No.	**OO9**	**O19**	**O13**
Cereals			
Cereal indet. (grains)	x		
(sprout frags.)	x		
Triticum sp. (grains)	x		
(spikelet bases)	x		
T. spelta L. (glume bases)	x		
Herbs			
Small Poaceae indet.			x
Trees/shrubs			
Corylus avellana L.			x
Sambucus nigra L.		x+xxfgw	
Other plant macrofossils			
Charcoal <2mm	xx		xx
Charred root/rhizome/stem	xx		x
Indet.seeds			x
Waterlogged wood/twig frags.		xxx	
Other materials			
Black porous 'cokey' material	x		
Black tarry material			x
Bone	x		
Small coal frags.			x
Small mammal/amphibian bones	xpmc		
Waterlogged arthropods		x	
Sample volume (litres)	**10**	**10**	**10**
Volume of flot (litres)	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**
% flot sorted	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

Table 1. Plant macrofossils and other remains from Fen Road, Ruskington, Lincolnshire.

Appendix 7

Glossary

Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, *e.g.* (004).
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, *etc*. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original ?cut? is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the ?cut? are referred to as its fill(s).
Layer	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany

Appendix 8

The Archive

The archive consists of:

174	Context Records
32	Scale Drawing Sheets
15	Context Record Sheets
1	Plan Record Sheet
1	Section Record Sheet
5	Photographic Record Sheets
8	Daily Record Sheets

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum
12 Friars Lane
Lincoln
LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number: 2000.47

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: RFRA01

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.