



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Proposed Flood Water Storage Tank,  
Central Park, Boston, Lincolnshire**

NGR: ~~SK~~ 3273 4469

TF

Site Code: CPS 06

LCNCC Accn N<sup>o</sup>. : 2006.28

**Report**

**for**

**Anglian Water Services**

**by**

**Richard Pullen MA PIFA**

**LAS Report No. 908  
March 2006**

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Conservation  
Services

21 MAR 2006

Highways & Planning  
Directorate

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## **Proposed Storage Tank, Central Park, Boston, Lincolnshire Archaeological Evaluation**

NGR: TF 3273 4469

Site Code: CPS 06

LCNCC Accn N<sup>o</sup>. : 2006:28

### **Summary**

*An archaeological evaluation comprising a single trench was undertaken in the grounds of Central Park, Boston, Lincolnshire. The trench was located in open grassland at the north western end of the park in order to cross an area chosen for the proposed installation of a flood water storage tank. No features were noted during the excavation of the trench, but pottery and building material dating from the late 9<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> centuries was recovered from the subsoil. The pottery sherds recovered from the subsoil layer are small and much abraded and probably reflect medieval farming practices such as manuring. One of the sherds is thought to be the earliest recorded Saxon pottery found in Boston. The subsoil layer directly sealed naturally occurring seasonal flood deposits. It is considered that the flood alleviation works will impact on the sealed medieval agricultural subsoil layer and that the potential for associated features and possible occupational debris nearer to Norfolk Street cannot be ruled out.*

### **Introduction**

The following report has been prepared for Anglian Water Services Ltd, in accordance with the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* published by the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section (1998).

### **Site Location and Description**

The site of the proposed flood alleviation works is located at the northern end of Central Park, to the south of Norfolk Street. The area is grassed open space, close to a row of trees. The area is 400m to the west of the Maud Foster Drain, and 350m north-west of Wide Bargate, on the northern edge of the town centre.

### **Planning Background**

Construction of the proposed new sewerage/surface water storage tank requires planning permission. Archaeological evaluation has been requested by Lincolnshire County Council Conservation Services prior to construction so that an appropriate mitigation strategy may be formulated.

### **Archaeological Background**

Boston is situated at the mouth of the River Witham and was a port of international importance in the medieval period. Although this part of the fens developed relatively late there is substantial evidence for occupation from the Saxon period onwards.

## Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the evaluation was to;

- establish the date, quality and extent of archaeological remains and their location within the development area
- gather sufficient information to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of any archaeological remains to be made and the impact which development will have upon them
- enable an informed decision to be made regarding the future treatment of any archaeological remains and consider any appropriate mitigatory measures either in advance of and/or during development

More specifically, the purpose of the evaluation trenching was to locate the first significant archaeological horizon and to assess the total depth of archaeological deposits present.

## Method

A single trench measuring 10.00m x 2.00m was located centrally within the proposed site of the water storage tank. The trench was machine-excavated under archaeological supervision to a depth of c.0.80m below the present ground level. The western end of the trench was excavated to an overall depth of 1.60m in order to locate and positively characterise the natural geology. The trench was hand cleaned and a full record was made using scale drawings and colour photographs.

## Results

The dark grey silt clay topsoil **100** overlay a mid red/brown silt clay subsoil **101**. Material dating from the mid 15<sup>th</sup> century to the present day was recovered from the topsoil **100**. Several fragments of medieval pottery and ceramic building material were recovered from subsoil **101**. Layer **101** directly sealed several layers of clay and silts that represent seasonal flooding events (Pl. 4). A clean mid brown/red clay layer **105** was encountered at the base of the trench (Pl. 2). In order to properly characterise this layer, excavation continued, demonstrating that **105** had a depth in excess of 1.00m. Due to health and safety concerns regarding the depth excavation of the trench stopped at 1.60m but did not establish the full depth of this deposit which was probably the natural.

## Discussion

Although no archaeological features were noted during the evaluation in Central Park, Boston, dating evidence was recovered from the topsoil and subsoil layers. As may have been expected in so public an area the topsoil layer **100** contained a large amount of modern debris, pottery and glass. The topsoil directly sealed layer **101**, from which several medieval pottery sherds and building materials were recovered. The material dates from the late 9<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> centuries and all were much abraded and very small. The sherds found in layer **101** probably reflect medieval farming practices such as manuring. A single fragment of late 9<sup>th</sup> Lincoln kiln-type shelly ware was recovered from layer **101**. This sherd is thought to be the earliest recorded Saxon pottery found in Boston (pers. comm. Jane

Young Appendix 2).

In common with much of the Boston area, the northern end of Central Park has been subjected to seasonal flooding with a steady build-up of natural clays and silts clearly seen in the trench sections. The final and by far the most substantial layer encountered was **105**. This layer was characterised as being the natural geology of the trench, past excavations in the Boston area have shown similar clay and silt deposits continuing to a depth of several metres.

### **Conclusion**

The proposed flood alleviation scheme will entail the installation of a storage tank with a 17.50m internal diameter and a depth of c.20.00m. Although it appears that little archaeological material is likely to be found in excess of c.0.60m below the current ground level, the evaluation has established that the subsoil represents a sealed and undisturbed medieval ploughsoil layer with a high potential for the recovery of further pottery sherds, building material and perhaps the identification of associated archaeological features. The evaluation trench was located within the boundary of the proposed flood alleviation works, but due to the need to maintain public rights of way the trench was some 16.00m to the south of Norfolk Street. The northern boundary of the proposed works will be less than 4.00m from the road, where the potential for roadside occupation, drainage ditches and middens cannot be ruled out.

### **Acknowledgements**

LAS is grateful to Anglian Water Services Ltd, Mick Dawson (park attendant) and Maurice Belton Plant Hire for their help and co-operation throughout the evaluation. The work was carried out on site by Richard Pullen and Dave Bower. The illustrations were produced by the author, some from drawings supplied by the client. The report was edited by Naomi Field and collated by Doug Young.

Richard Pullen M.A. PIFA  
Lindsey Archaeological Services  
9<sup>th</sup> March 2006

### **Contents of Site Archive**

Correspondence

Developer's site plans

Site notes

06 context sheets and associated registers

One sheet of scale drawings: 1 trench section 1:20 and 1 trench plan 1:50

Photographs: colour prints, LAS film nos. 06/16

**APPENDIX 1**



## Appendix 1

### Central Park, Boston (CPS06) Context Summary

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation
100	Layer	Topsoil
101	Layer	Subsoil/ buried soil horizon/medieval agricultural layer
102	Layer	Mid to light grey clay flood horizon
103	Layer	Dark grey clay stagnant water flood horizon
104	Layer	Mid to light grey clay flood horizon
105	Layer	Natural geology

**APPENDIX 2**

# Pottery Archive CPS06

Anne Boyle and Jane Young

context	cname	full name	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	description	date
100	BL	Black-glazed wares	large jar/bowl	1	1	22		BS	slightly abraded	18th to 19th
100	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	?bowl	1	1	9		BS	interior and exterior glaze	mid 16th to 18th
100	TB	Toynton/Bolingbroke wares	jar/bowl	1	1	7		BS		mid 15th to 16th
100	TGW	Tin-glazed ware	dish	1	1	66	blue handpaint floral decoration	base	worn footring; internal stilt scar; English or Dutch	late 16th to mid 17th
100	WHITE	Modern whiteware	small jar	1	1	8	worn brown overpaint on exterior basal angle	base		19th to 20th
101	BOSTTT	Boston Glazed ware - Toynnton type	jug	2	1	9	applied vertical fe strip	BS		mid 13th to 14th
101	LKT	Lincoln kiln-type shelly ware	jar?	1	1	6		BS	shell leached; abraded; ?ID or LSH	late 9th to 10th
101	LSW2	13th to 14th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	jug	1	1	29		handle	abraded; misfired glaze?; hollow strap; ?ID as a Lincoln product	13th

# Tile Archive CPS06

Anne Boyle and Jane Young

context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	description	date
100	BRK	Brick	calcareous	1	367	wood/fabric impressions; abraded; 31mm by 85mm by 95mm+	late 14th to 16th
100	MODTILDISC	Modern tile (discarded)	hard dark red	2	75		20th
100	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Boston Fabric 1	1	138	flat roofer, near vitrified; part glassed over broken edge; depth 16mm; bedded on sand and small pebbles?	late 12th to 15th
100	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Boston Fabric 2	1	24	flat roofer; abraded; corner; depth 11mm	late 12th to 15th
100	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Boston Fabric 2	1	28	flat roofer; badly abraded; soot	late 12th to 15th
101	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Boston Fabric 1	1	111	flat roofer, part glassed over broken edge; roughly bedded; depth 15mm	late 12th to 15th
101	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Boston Fabric 2	1	69	flat roofer; depth 10mm	late 12th to 15th

**THE FIGURES**

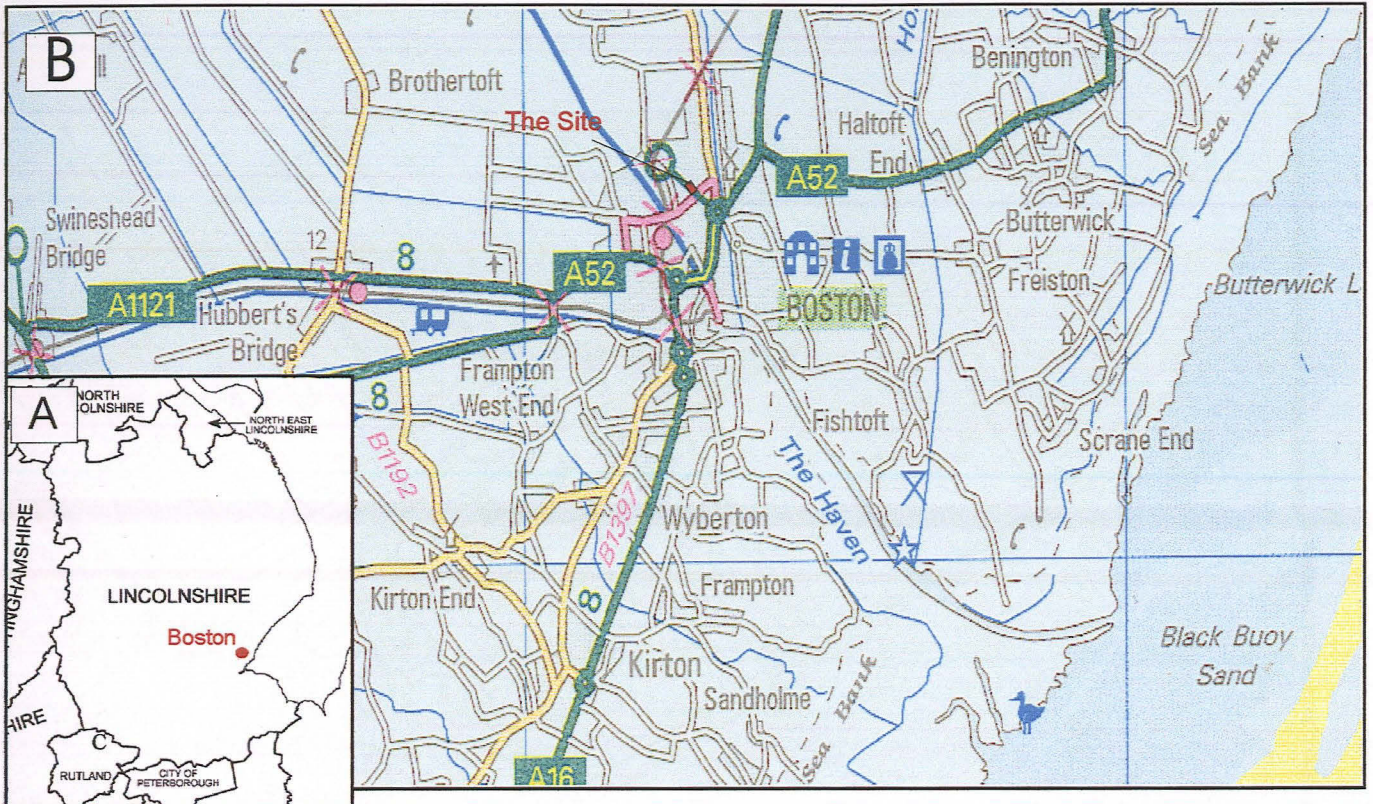


Fig. 1 Location of Boston (B based on the 1994 1:250 000 Ordnance Survey Road Atlas of Britain. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No.AL 10002165).

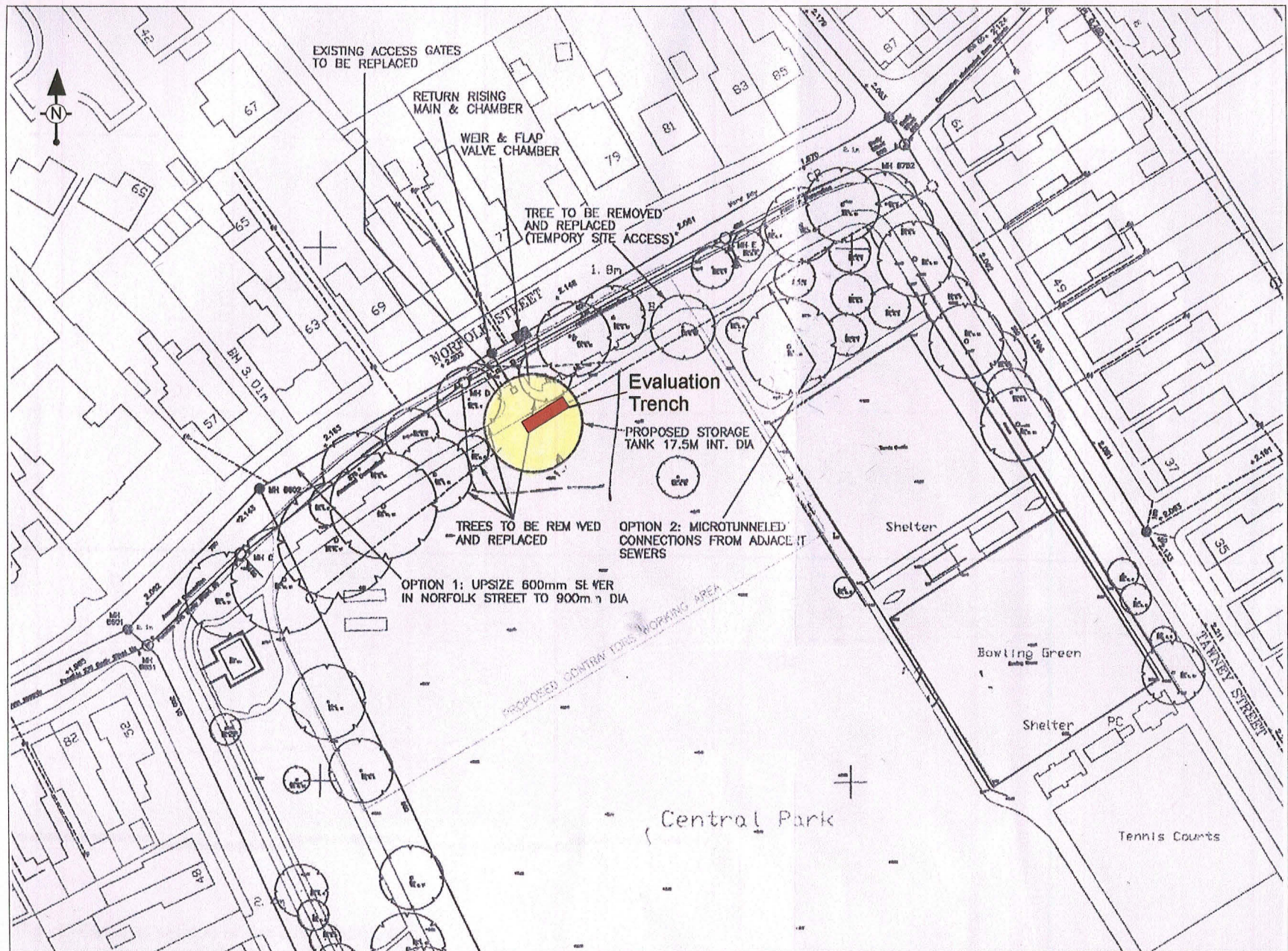


Fig. 2 Plan showing Central Park with the proposed development site and evaluation trench superimposed (from a plan supplied by the client)

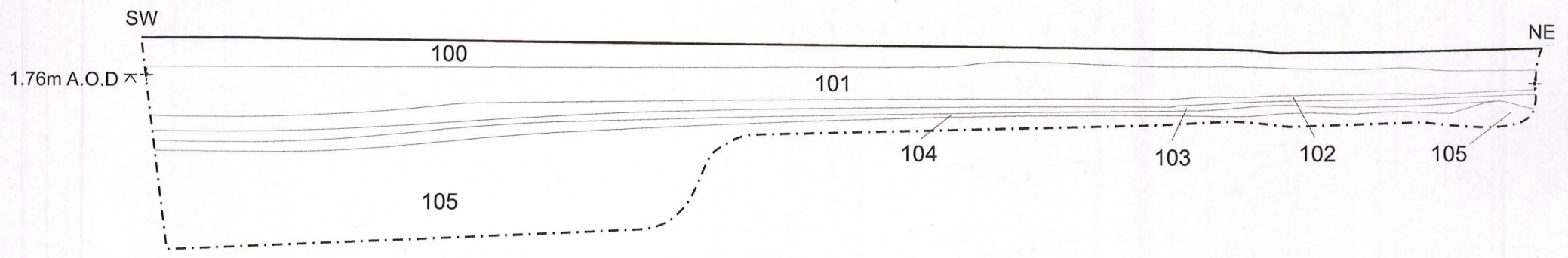
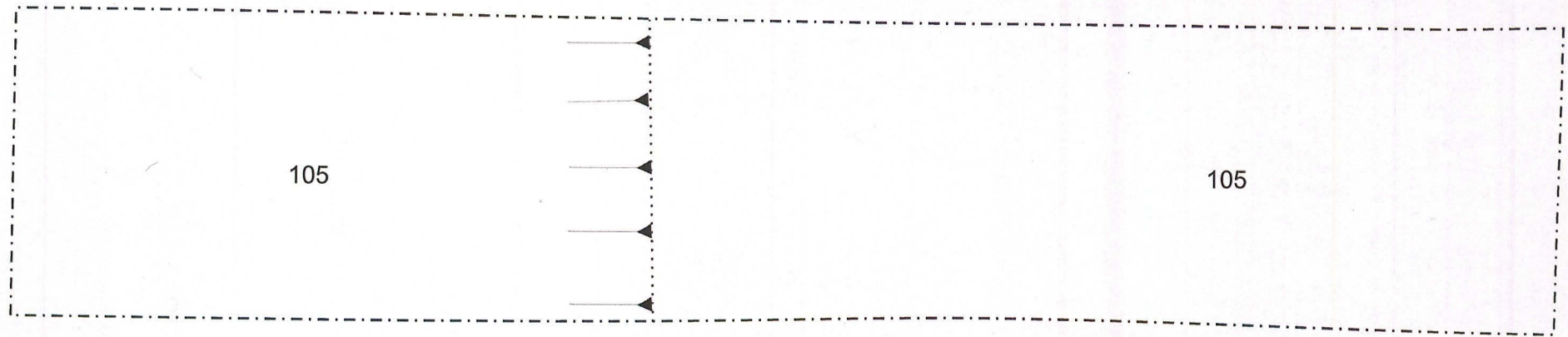


Fig. 3 Plan and section of the evaluation trench



**THE PLATES**



Pl. 1 The site prior to any excavation



Pl. 2 Looking south-west at the evaluation trench after excavation and hand cleaning (1m and 2m scales)



Pl. 3 Looking south at the section of the evaluation trench (1m and 2m scales)



Pl. 3 Detail photograph looking south-east at the section of the evaluation trench (1m and 2m scales)