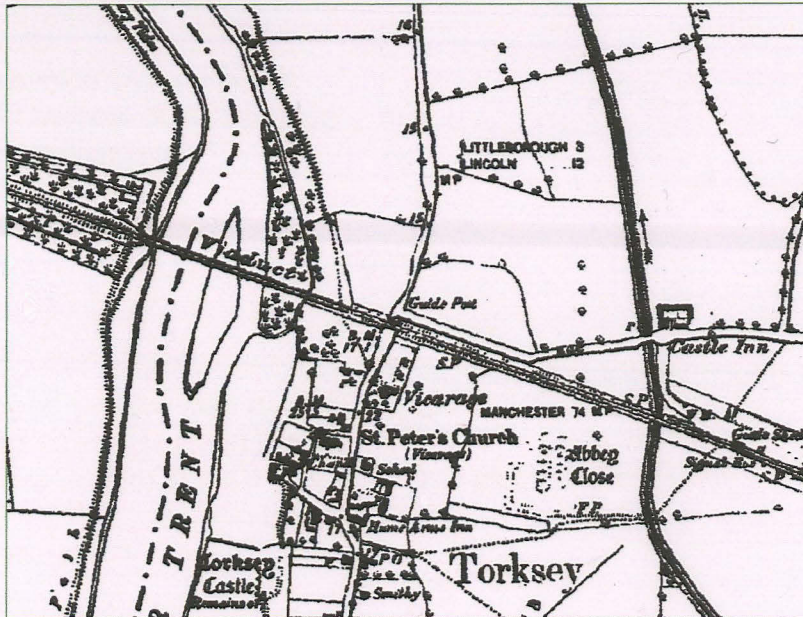


**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION REPORT:
LAND NORTH OF DISUSED RAILWAY, TORKSEY,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

Site Code: LNRT - 07
NGR: 483700 379350
Planning reference: Pre-planning scheme of archaeological works
PCA reference: PCA 07-376-rev/0



Report prepared for Trustees of F Wraith 1994 Settlement
by

Linda Hamilton
April 2008



Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)
47, Manor Road
Saxilby
Lincoln
LN1 2HX
Tel. 01522 703800
Fax. 01522 703656
e-mail simonj@pre-construct.co.uk
©Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)

Contents

Summary 1

1.0 Introduction 2

2.0 Site location and description 2

3.0 Planning background 2

4.0 Archaeological context 3

5.0 Methodology 3-4

6.0 Results 4

7.0 Discussion and conclusion 4

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology 4

9.0 Acknowledgments 4

10.0 References 4-5

11.0 Site archive 5

Illustrations

- Fig 1:** General location map at scale 1:25 000
- Fig 2:** Detailed site location plan at scale 1:1250
- Fig 3:** Drawn sections at scale 1:20 and trench plan at scale 1:1250

List of colour plates

- Plate 1:** General view of site looking north
- Plate 2:** Trench 11 looking northwest
- Plate 3:** Trench 9 looking west
- Plate 4:** General view of Trench 7 looking north west

Lincolnshire
County Council

25 JUN 2008

Planning &
Conservation

Postbook Ref:	269-652
Officer Dealing:	Mark
Date Reply Required:	—
Date Replied Via:	acknowledged receipt of rept 25/6/08 <i>yes</i>
CRM Transaction No.	

Summary

- *A pre-planning archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land situated to the north west of Wraith Accommodation, Torksey, Lincolnshire.*
- *The site lies within an area of demonstrated archaeological interest, where significant finds have established the importance of Torksey as a pottery production centre during the Roman and late Saxon periods*
- *A programme of trial excavation has revealed no finds or deposits of archaeological interest. Therefore, development of this area would have no impact on archaeological resources, and archaeology should not be a constraining factor if a future application to develop the area is submitted at some future date.*

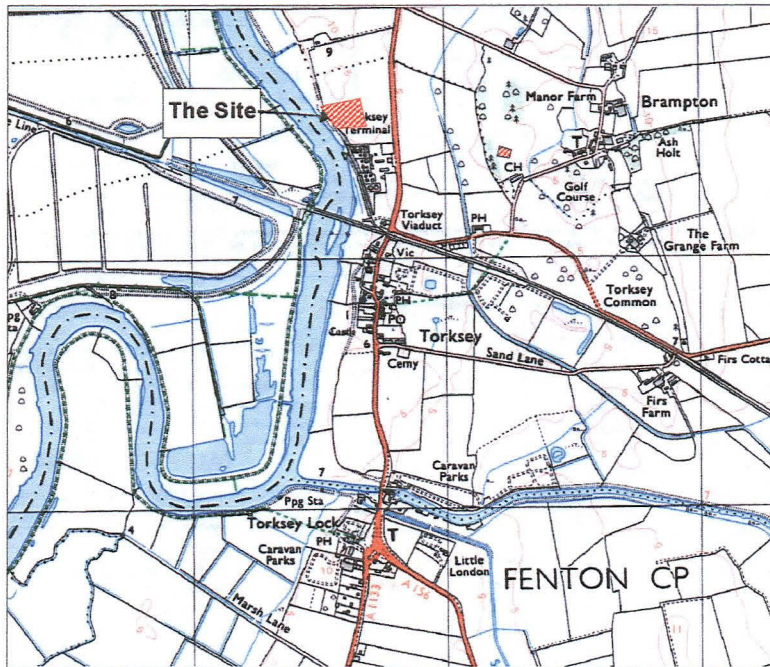


Fig.1: Site location; scale 1:25000
(O.S. Copyright license no. AL 515 21 A0001)

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by the Trustees of F. Wraith 1994 Settlement, to undertake an archaeological field evaluation on land to the northwest of Wraith accommodation, Torksey Lincolnshire.

The evaluation was supervised by the author between the 1st – 17th October 2007, and this report is a concise summary of its findings which may be used in support of a future planning application to develop the area.

The fieldwork and reporting methodologies described in this report are consistent with the recommendations of *Archaeology & Planning: Policy Guidance Note 16* (Department of the Environment, 1990); *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991); and *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IFA 1999).

2.0 Site location and description

Torksey is approximately 6 miles (9.5km) to the west of Lincoln on the east bank of the River Trent in the administrative district of West Lindsey.

The site that is the subject of this report lies to the north of the village and comprises c.1.77ha of uncultivated land. Situated immediately west/northwest of Wraith Accommodation, it is bounded to the west and north by embankments, and to the south and east by commercial premises operated by Wraith Accommodation PLC.

The site is centred on NGR: 483729 379459, where the underlying geology is comprised of drift deposits of aeolian sand, with colluvial base deposits of sand and gravel over Mercia Mudstone (BSG 1999).

3.0 Planning background

It is proposed that the site will become an extension to the current storage facilities of Wraith Accommodation PLC. An application for planning permission has not been submitted to date, although this report will be attached in support of any such application in due course.

Although currently a pre-planning concern, a recommendation for evaluation by geophysical survey and trial excavation was made by the West Lindsey District Council Archaeological Advisor; to inform an anticipated future application for commercial development.

4.0 Archaeological context

Torksey became a significant centre for pottery production during the Roman period. The focus of this industry, less than 1km from the north western end of the Fosse Dyke made it ideally suited to the rapid transportation of locally produced goods to the large urban centres of Lincoln and York (Whitwell, 1992). Pottery kilns dating to

the 3rd century AD were excavated at Little London Farm, close to the junction of the Trent and Fosse Dyke.

No evidence of Romano-British occupation has been recorded north of the Fosse Dyke (Barley 1964), excluding a single pottery sherd that was recovered during an evaluation in 1996 at Church Lane (Savage 2002).

In the post-Roman era, Torksey was again the focus of a major pottery industry. Excavations carried out at Castle Farm in 1995, for example, revealed a number of late Saxon pottery kilns of 9th-11th century date. The importance of the town during this period can also be demonstrated by the presence of a mint.

Torksey first appears in the historical record when an invading Danish army is referenced in the Anglo Saxon Chronicle as over-wintering in a place called *Turcesige* in AD 872-3 (Hill 1965).

Although of minor significance today, medieval Torksey was one of the largest settlements in Lincolnshire; where the Domesday Book records that it was the third largest borough in after Stamford and Lincoln.

Prior to trial excavation, a geophysical survey of the site was undertaken by Pre-Construct Geophysics (Bunn 2007). This survey was inconclusive and did not identify features of likely archaeological origin, despite the occurrence in this general area of Anglo-Saxon metalwork.

5.0 Methodology

Five trenches were excavated at this site to confirm its apparent archaeological sterility (with others being investigated on a separate unit further south that will form the subject of an independent report). Trenches 7, 8 and 11 were 20m x 2m; Trenches 9 and 10, 50m x 2m (see figs 2 and 3).

Modern deposits were removed using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.8m wide toothless ditching blade, in spits not exceeding 20cm, until the natural horizon was exposed; in some areas this natural horizon was penetrated.

During and following excavation, plan and section surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined to assess the presence/ absence of archaeological deposits and to record the general stratigraphy. Spoil upcast was also scanned for artefactual evidence.

Sample sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20, and context information was recorded on standard pro-forma context record sheets. A colour photographic record was maintained throughout the scheme, examples of which are appended to this report.

6.0 Results

The earliest deposit exposed was a natural layer of mid-yellow/orange sand. This was recorded as contexts (701), (801), (901), (1001) and (1101) and was encountered in all five trenches at a depth of 40-50cm below the modern ground surface.

Sealing this natural geology was a layer of dark brown silty clay ploughsoil.

No archaeological features of any period were exposed within the evaluated areas.

7.0 Discussion and conclusion

Despite the fact that this site is located in close proximity to a highly sensitive archaeological zone, no finds or deposits of archaeological interest were recorded in any of the five areas that were investigated.

This information corroborates with results that were obtained by geophysical survey and proves beyond reasonable doubt that the site is of low archaeological potential. Therefore, if an application to develop the area is submitted at some future date, then it is recommended that no condition should be attached to such a scheme.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology and recommendations

The evaluation methodology applied at this potential development area has proven extremely effective; where an initial geophysical survey produced a negative result. It was possible to further clarify this result by the application of trial excavation over a reasonable area, amounting to approximately 2% of the site.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank the Trustees of F. Wraith 1994 Settlement for this commission.

10.0 References

Barley, M.W., 1964, *The Medieval Borough of Torksey*, Excavations 1960 62 *Antiq.J* 44

Bunn, D 2007 *Geophysical Survey: Land at Torksey, Lincolnshire* (unpublished client report)

British Geological Survey, 1999, *Market Rasen, England and Wales Sheet 102, Solid and Drift Geology, 1:50,000 Provisional Series* Keyworth, Nottingham

Clay, C., 2001, *Archaeological Watching Brief Report: Plot 2, Main Street, Torksey, Lincolnshire*, Pre – Construct Archaeology (Lincoln), unpublished report

Gardner, R., 2003, *Archaeological Watching Brief Report: WheelHouse Restaurant, Torksey, Lincolnshire*, Pre – Construct Archaeology (Lincoln), unpublished report

Garmonsway, G.N. (ed and trans.) 1953, *The Anglo Saxon Chronicle*, J.M.Dent & Sons Ltd, London

Hill, J.F. W., 1965, *Medieval Lincoln*

Sealing this natural geology was a layer of dark brown silty clay ploughsoil.

No archaeological features of any period were exposed within the evaluated areas.

7.0 Discussion and conclusion

Despite the fact that this site is located in close proximity to a highly sensitive archaeological zone, no finds or deposits of archaeological interest were recorded in any of the five areas that were investigated.

This information corroborates with results that were obtained by geophysical survey and proves beyond reasonable doubt that the site is archaeologically sterile. Therefore, if an application to develop the area is submitted at some future date, then it is recommended that no condition should be attached to such a scheme.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology and recommendations

The evaluation methodology applied at this potential development area has proven extremely effective; where an initial geophysical survey produced a largely negative result. It was possible to further clarify this result by the application of trial excavation over a reasonable area, amounting to approximately 2% of the site.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank the Trustees of F. Wraith 1994 Settlement for this commission.

10.0 References

Barley, M.W., 1964, *The Medieval Borough of Torksey*, Excavations 1960 62 *Antiq.J* 44

Bunn, D 2007 *Geophysical Survey: Land at Torksey, Lincolnshire* (unpublished client report)

British Geological Survey, 1999, *Market Rasen, England and Wales Sheet 102, Solid and Drift Geology, 1:50,000 Provisional Series* Keyworth, Nottingham

Clay, C., 2001, *Archaeological Watching Brief Report: Plot 2, Main Street, Torksey, Lincolnshire*, Pre - Construct Archaeology (Lincoln), unpublished report

Gardner, R., 2003, *Archaeological Watching Brief Report: WheelHouse Restaurant, Torksey, Lincolnshire*, Pre - Construct Archaeology (Lincoln), unpublished report

Garmonsway, G.N. (ed and trans.) 1953, *The Anglo Saxon Chronicle*, J.M.Dent & Sons Ltd, London

Hill, J.F. W., 1965, *Medieval Lincoln*

Palmer-Brown C, 1995, *Castle Farm, Torksey: Archaeological Excavation Report*, Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln), unpublished report

Savage, S., 2002, *Archaeological Watching Brief Report: Plot1, Church Lane Torksey, Lincolnshire*, Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln), unpublished report

Whitwell, J.B., 1992, *Roman Lincolnshire*, History of Lincolnshire 11, History of Lincolnshire Committee, Lincoln

11.0 Site archive

The documentary archive for this site is currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln), although it is anticipated that it will be deposited at The Collection within six months. The global accession (ie reference) number is 2008.63



Figure 2: Detailed site plan showing location of trenches over geophysical survey greyscale at scale 1:1250

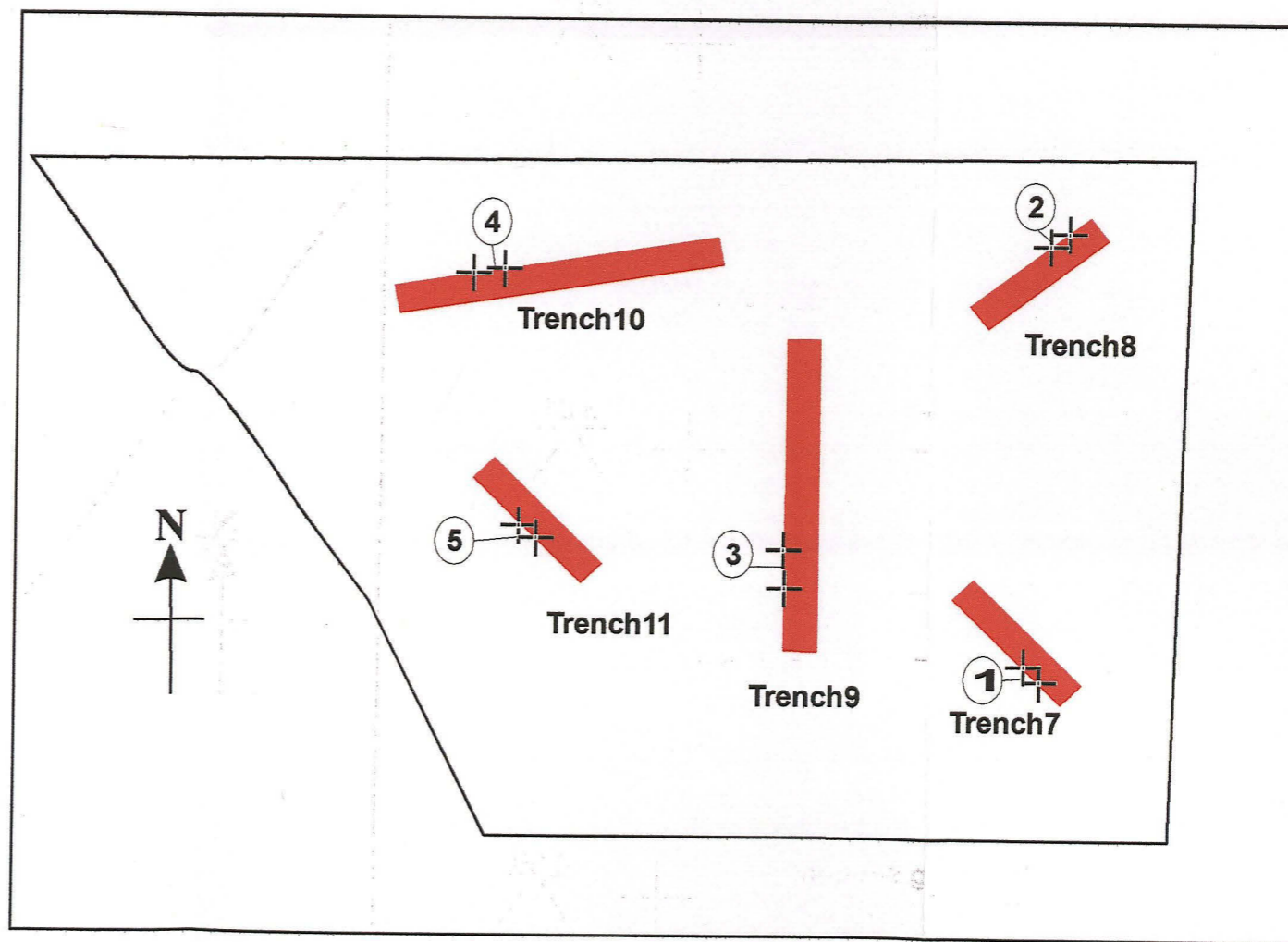
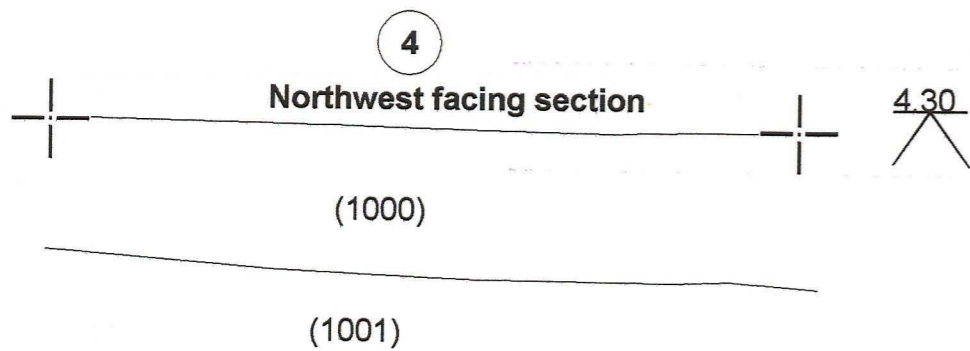
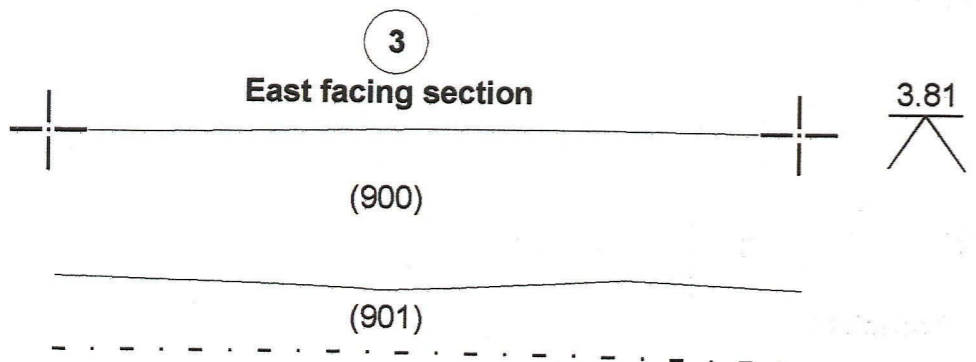
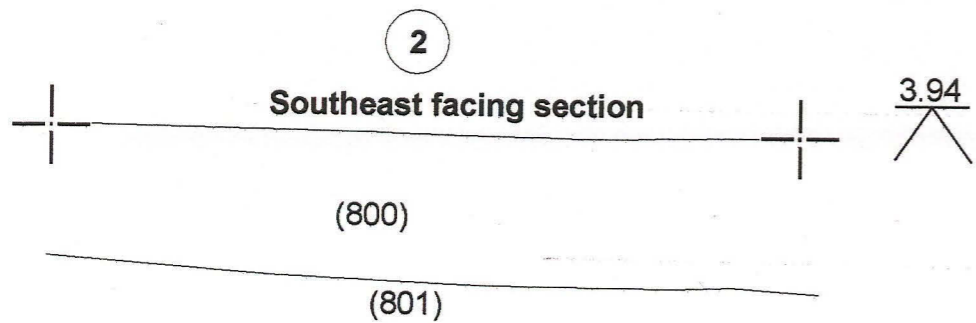
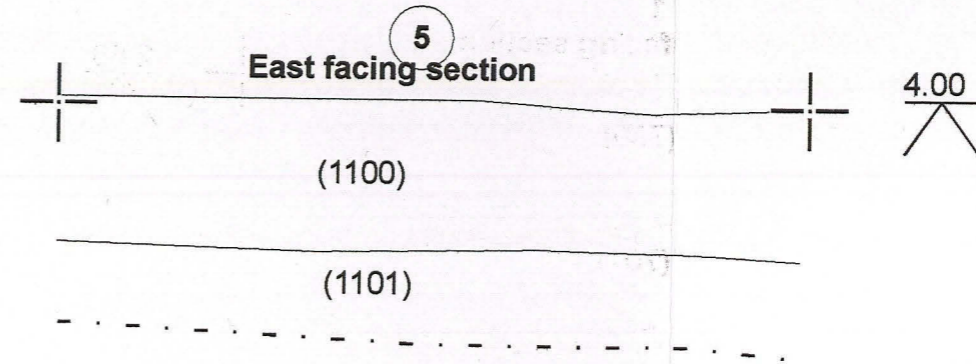
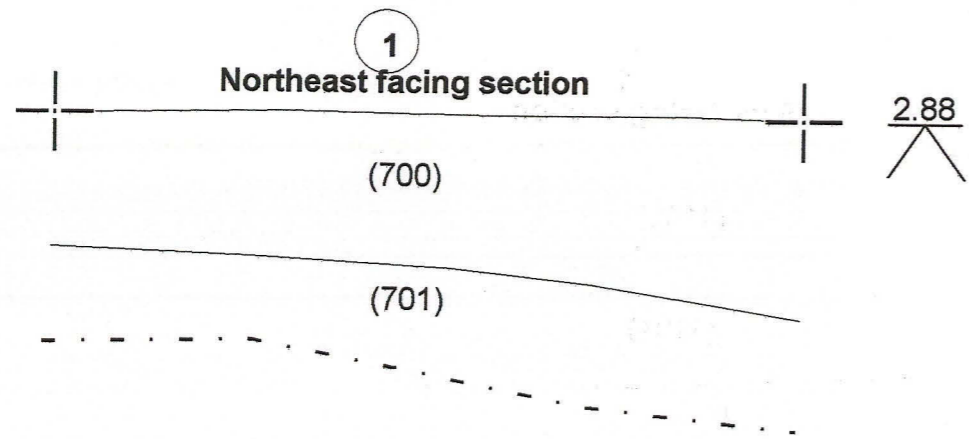


Fig 3
Drawn sections
at scale 1:20
Plan of trenches
with location of drawn sections
at scale 1:1,250

Appendix 1: colour plates



Plate 1: Trench 9 looking north showing the depth of plough soil overlying natural sand



Plate 2: Sample section Trench 11 looking west



Plate 3: Sample section Trench 9 looking west



Plate 4: General view of Trench 7 looking north west



Plate 5: General view of Trench 10 looking northeast



Plate 6: South facing section Trench 8 looking north

Appendix 2: List of archaeological contexts

Context	Type	Description
700	Layer	Dark black brown silty clay topsoil
701	Layer	Mid yellow orange sand natural
800	Layer	Dark black brown silty clay topsoil
801	Layer	Mid yellow orange sand natural
900	Layer	Dark black brown silty clay topsoil
901	Layer	Mid yellow orange sand natural
1000	Layer	Dark black brown silty clay topsoil
1001	Layer	Mid yellow orange sand natural
1100	Layer	Dark black brown silty clay topsoil
1101	Layer	Mid yellow orange sand natural