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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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PROPOSED QUARRY EXTENSION KIRKBY-ON-BAIN

NGR : TF238617
Site Code : KBQ 95
LCNCC Accession No. 193.95

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

for

Woodhall Spa Sand and Gravel Company

February 1996

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Kirkby on Bain Proposed Quarry Extension Archaeological Evaluation

NGR : TF 238617
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Summary

The evaluation dealt with the land due to be quarried during the first phase of the proposed gravel extraction. A 1% sample of the two fields within this area was investigated with 26 machine-excavated trenches. The 20 trenches in the larger of the fields revealed a series of recently-dug gullies and a few small, often unconvincing and undated, pits. The only significant features were a small gully in Trench 6 containing several sherds of pottery from a Roman vessel, and a possible trackway in Trench 20.

The smaller field, already known from previous fieldwalking to contain a scatter of worked flints of probable Neolithic date, was intensively re-walked. In spite of poor ground visibility, this demonstrated that the artefacts extended nearly the full length of the field, whilst a small, hand-excavated test-pit over the scatter produced an additional 110 worked flints. Analysis of the flint indicates a probable Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date for the assemblage.

Overall, the findings suggest that the archaeological potential of the larger field is low, whilst that containing the worked flints clearly requires further investigation.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned in December 1995 by Woodhall Spa Sand and Gravel Company to carry-out the archaeological evaluation of part of their proposed quarry extension, which lies 1km south of Kirky-on-Bain in central Lincolnshire (Fig 1). The evaluation followed a geophysical survey carried-out by Stratascan in January 1995, and a Desk-Top Assessment, prepared by LAS for David Jones and Co. Chartered Civil Engineers (on behalf of the gravel company) in February 1995.

The fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Brief prepared by the Archaeology Section of Lincolnshire County Council (December 1995). The purpose of the evaluatory work was to:

- establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains and their location within the first-phase extraction area;
- determine the quality and extent of any such remains;
- determine the level of further archaeological investigation required prior to extraction.

Copies of the report have been sent to Woodhall Spa Sand and Gravel Company, East Lindsey District Council, the Archaeology Section of Lincolnshire County Council, and the City and County Museum, Lincoln. The archive records and the artefacts will be lodged with the museum when the project is completed.

For information regarding the physical setting of, and the archaeological background to the site, the reader is referred to the LAS Desk-Top Assessment.

Evaluation Strategy

The evaluation area covered 7.8ha of set-aside land, divided by a recent drainage dyke. This formed two fields, one c.5.1ha in area (north of the dyke), the other approximately 2.7ha (lying adjacent to Kirkby Lane) (Fig 2). The objective was to investigate a 1% sample of the threatened land, on the assumption that this would provide a representative picture of any archaeological remains present.

Accordingly, 26 trenches were positioned at regular intervals across the site, 20 north-west of the drainage dyke (Trenches 1-20), 6 south-east of it (Trenches 21-26), all but three measuring 20x1.6m (Pls.1-2). The regular layout of trenches was only varied in the area of the geophysical anomalies: here three square trenches (c.5x6m) were positioned over three of the circular anomalies, whilst one of the narrow trenches was placed across the most substantial linear magnetic anomaly. Each trench was machine-excavated to the base of ploughsoil, all subsequent work being carried-out by hand. Features were recorded using LAS's standard recording system. In the text, context numbers are quoted in bold (cuts) or bold and italic (fills or layers).

The flint scatter discovered by Chowne (SMR primary record No. 40125), and relocated by LAS in December 1994 was re-walked to define more precisely the distribution of artefacts (Fig 4). This was followed by the hand-excavation of a 2x2m test-pit (Trench 27) over the densest concentration. All ploughsoil was sieved to maximise artefact recovery. The subsoil (***198***) was trowelled and sieved in two c.0.07m spits to recover artefacts that had become incorporated into it.

In the absence of archaeological finds in virtually all of the recorded features, a sampling strategy for environmental evidence was devised in conjunction with Dr James Rackham. A 10-litre sample was taken from the lowermost fill of each significant feature (*ie.* deeper gullies, possible pits and any layers deemed to be of potential importance). It was not anticipated that pollen would survive, but it was felt that charcoal, for instance, might aid in the interpretation of the features.

The positions of the trenches and the flint artefacts were recorded using a standard theodolite. An above-sea-level height of 12.53m O.D., located in the centre of Kirkby Lane opposite the site entrance (exact position on Fig 3 supplied by engineers working for the gravel company), was used to establish three temporary bench-marks on the site (all at 12.32m O.D).

Results

In the larger field north-west of the dyke, 4 of the 20 trenches were completely devoid of any recognisable archaeological features (Trenches 1-4) (Fig 3; Pl.3). The three square trenches produced features, but nothing that could be equated with the circular anomalies, suggesting that the latter were superficial, perhaps related to topsoil or natural variations. Of the 16 trenches that did produce something, they all contained very few, or only some features. Nearly all of these can be divided into two broad groups:-

- 27 small, shallow, often irregularly-shaped features, potentially pit-like but in many cases better interpreted as animal burrows or infilled tree-root holes (Fig 3; eg.Pls.4-6). One artefact, a medieval/post-medieval pot sherd, was recovered from the uppermost part of possible Pit **10**.
- 24 narrow, shallow, V-shaped gullies, most tending to run north-west to south-east (parallel with the field boundaries which ran at right angles to Kirkby Lane) and most of which are best interpreted as recent drainage gullies (many run parallel with the post-medieval land-drains recorded) (Fig 3, eg.Pls.7-8). The only artefact recovered was a sherd of medieval pot from the fill of Gully **144** in Trench 18, the gully being equated with the magnetic anomaly.

The most notable feature in the larger field was in Trench 6: a small gully (**7**) yielding several sherds of Romano-British pottery and containing abundant charcoal flecks/fragments; its function remains unclear (Fig 5A and C; Pl.9).

Trench 6 also produced the most convincing pit from the site, Context **2** (Fig 5A and B; Pls.10-11). Difficulty in locating the sides of this feature, and the absence of any artefacts, initially led to the supposition that it may have been natural in origin (*ie.* periglacial- or fluvial-related), particularly as its base appeared to contain preserved wood fragments. A box-section through it, however, revealed a convincing pit-like profile, whilst in its centre was a vertical-sided, slot-like fill (**15**), suggestive of the void of a former wooden post. Furthermore, analysis of a sample of lowermost fill **28** betrayed the presence of charcoal (Appendix 1).

A puzzling aspect of Pit **2** was related to what lay beneath it. The box-section revealed a further apparent cut (**30**), very similar to the profile of Pit **2** and situated directly below it (Fig 5B). The simplest explanation might be that it merely represented an earlier cut of the same feature. However, the upper fill of **30** was convincingly sealed by bands of natural gravel, whilst the north-west facing section of the box (not illustrated here) appeared to show the two fills of **30** (**31** and **32**) continuing to the south-east underneath the natural sands and gravels. In addition, lower fill **31** contained abundant waterlogged twig and root fragments (Appendix 1), more reminiscent of the fill of a natural channel than that of an archaeological feature. This apparent contradiction between both the pit-like and the natural character of **30/31/32** remains a mystery.

Trench 20, which lay adjacent to the drainage dyke, revealed a short sequence of archaeological features (Fig 6A and B). The earliest consisted of a V-shaped gully which ran for 12m through the trench and terminated at its north end (**148**) (Pl.12).

Two other linear features, a second V-shaped gully (**147**) and an elongated pit (**150**), appeared to cut Gully **148**, though the latter's relationship with the pit was not completely certain. No artefacts were found in any of these features.

The longest gully was sealed by a band of stiff, clean clay (**158**) which ran north-west to south-east through the trench, adjacent with the nearby drainage dyke. It filled a very broad, shallow hollow, only part of which was exposed in the trench at this stage (Fig 6A; Pls.13-14). Extension of the trench towards the south-east revealed the full width of the hollow and the overlying clay to be c.7m (Pls.16-17). It also exposed a second deposit of stiff clay (**191/190**) closer to the drainage dyke; this clay, though more dirty than **158**, also sat in a slight hollow (Fig 6A).

A possible interpretation for the hollows is that they represent former trackways; the distinct profile of the most substantial of the two might suggest a considerable period of use. The presence of the clay may indicate that at sometime afterwards, the hollows were deliberately sealed in order to level-off the ground during a substantial change in land-use, perhaps when the drainage dyke was constructed.

Directly beneath and to the north-west of clay **158** lay a lens of dark grey-brown sandy silt (**159**) (Fig 6A; Pl.15), itself sealing earlier Gully **147** (and probably also Gully **148**). This is presumably a buried soil horizon, and perhaps represents the contemporary land surface when the possible trackway was in use. Sealing both clay **158** and soil horizon **159** was an unusually thick recent ploughsoil (**187**). This is in part likely to be hillwash, as the land slopes down slightly from the north-west. Its build-up would account for the preservation of an earlier soil horizon.

Dating of the above layers remains problematical as the only artefact recovered from Trench 20 was a sherd of probable medieval pottery from clay **158**. The alignment of the possible track and the later clay capping with the recent drainage dyke do though, suppose a date within the medieval/early post-medieval eras to be more likely than any earlier period.

South-east of the drainage dyke

Here, five of the trenches were devoid of recognisable archaeological features (though Trench 25 did contain a probable medieval furrow), whilst the other (Trench 26) revealed a fairly substantial V-shaped cut feature (**162**), largely filled with a greasy grey-black silty clay (Fig 5D; Pls.18-19). Although a ditch could be the simplest explanation for **162**, the confusion of some of its apparent fills with the natural deposits encountered, might suggest a natural (*ie.* periglacial or riverine) origin. In particular, upper fill **199** appeared to be almost identical to, and seemed to merge with, natural sand **99** immediately to its north-east (Fig 5D). Furthermore, the grey-black silty fill of **162** (primarily **167**) appeared to be identical to a layer of material (**172**) running the whole length of the trench above the natural sands and gravels. In fact, as it approached cut **162**, this layer dipped down and in effect became the lower fill of **176**, a smaller feature lying adjacent to **162**. Layer **172** is presumed to be natural in origin, and the land at this point is lower than anywhere else on site, so the layer could reflect poor drainage that may once have affected the area. Cuts **162** and **176** might in some way also relate to this, though their precise origins, functions, and date, remain unknown.

Flint Scatter

The smaller field had been set-aside for 18 months and vegetation cover was fairly restricting; visibility was at best 50% (Pl.20). The ground was walked once at close intervals (c.3-5m) and individual finds plotted. A total of 178 flints was recovered from an area of c.300x40m (Fig 4). In addition to flint, 98 other artefacts were recovered, most of these sherds of medieval or post-medieval pottery, and likely to represent manuring rather than evidence for actual settlement on the site.

Trench 27 was positioned over the densest concentration of flint. Sieving of both the ploughsoil and the subsoil (Pls.21-23) yielded 107 flints, 68 from the ploughsoil, 39 from subsoil **198**, as well as 13 sherds of pottery, a few of these Roman but most in prehistoric fabrics. No features were noted in the surface of the natural sand, though modern ploughscores were seen to penetrate through the 0.15m-deep subsoil into the sand.

Analysis of the flint assemblage (see Appendix 2) reveals a total of 238 worked flint artefacts (the remainder are natural, thermally produced flint). The worked pieces, which appear to have been manufactured using local till- and gravel-derived flint pebbles, include 154 flakes, 25 cores, 20 blades, 10 scrapers and a possible sickle fragment. As a whole, the technology applied suggests 'competent but unexciting knapping', with little evidence to indicate that the material derives from more than one cultural group.

Dating of the assemblage is difficult, though a Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age range is most likely, as the possible sickle fragment and the form of the scrapers both point to such a date. The material fits into the context of extensive prehistoric occupation in the Bain valley and surrounding areas; though the lack of a Mesolithic element, common on most other sites, is notable.

Conclusions

The trenches in the larger field north-west of the drainage dyke produced a series of small, undated, pit-like features (some of which may be animal/natural rather than archaeological in origin), together with a series of largely recent drainage gullies. A single, isolated gully containing Roman pottery, and a possible trackway, were the two most significant discoveries. Given the almost total lack of dating evidence from the excavated features, and their relatively insignificant nature, it is considered that there is little to recommend further work on this part of the site. The environmental assessment, too, indicates no real potential for the recovery of useful environmental evidence.

Apart from the possible ditch and furrow, no other features were discovered in the six trenches opened in the field adjacent to Kirkby Lane. However, the flint scatter was found to be more extensive than previously recorded, and the hand-dug test-pit revealed a significant density of material (equal to 27 flint artefacts per square metre). Analysis of the flint indicates a probable Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date range, and suggests that additional work may well enhance our knowledge of the cultures dependant upon lithic technology in the region. This aspect of the site will therefore need to be further investigated.

Acknowledgements

Lindsey Archaeological Services gratefully acknowledge Woodhall Spa Sand and Gravel Company for their assistance and for providing a mechanical excavator on site. In particular, we are grateful to John Martin and his colleagues for their help and interest during the evaluation. Thanks are also due to Elizabeth Healey who identified the flint artefacts, David Knight who looked at the prehistoric pottery, and James Rackham for identifying the animal bone and analysing the soil samples. Work on site was supervised by the author with the following archaeologists : Naomi Field, Andrew Mayes, Mick McDaid, Malcom Otter, Rob Schofield, Iain Charles, Fred Coupland and Aleck Russell. Surveying-in of the trenches and plotting of the flint artefacts was carried out by Mick Clark.

C. Taylor

February 1996

Kirkby on Bain, KBQ 95 193.95

Environmental Archaeology Assessment

Excavations were conducted on an area of uncultivated rough pasture on sandy soils. The site lies within the floodplain of the River Bain on late Pleistocene sands and gravels. Numerous variations in the colour and texture of the sands exposed in the base of the excavation trenches can be attributed to variations in the original depositional environment and subsequent post-depositional changes. A number of negative features, particularly ditches were observed in the evaluation trenches. These produced very little archaeological material and in order to test this result soil samples were collected to establish whether there was an equally limited amount of culturally derived environmental evidence such as charcoal and carbonised seeds. The soil conditions were such that animal bone of any antiquity did not survive although a recent pig burial was uncovered.

23 samples of varying size were taken (Table 1). These were all washed over a 0.5mm sieve and a flot collected on a 0.5mm mesh. The residues which were comprised entirely of coarse sands and gravel were returned to LAS for checking for flint artefacts and flakes. The flots were studied under a binocular microscope and the presence of charcoal, carbonised seeds, and modern seed contaminants recorded.

Results

Most of the samples contained either no environmental remains whatsoever or small quantities of carbonised material. Charcoal was present in 60% of the samples but in extremely small quantities and in pieces rarely more than 2-3mm in diameter. Only one sample produced any significant quantity, 7/9, and in this sample most of the 30 mls of flot was composed of small twig charcoal, carbonised plant stems and incompletely mineralised wood and stem fragments. Identifiable carbonised seeds were found in only 6 samples and never in numbers exceeding 3 or 4. Although one grass seed was identified no identifiable cereal grains were present in any of the samples, although 7/9 may have had some very poorly preserved cereal grain fragments. This latter sample also included two fragments of partly mineralised animal bone.

Waterlogged samples

Two of the samples (2/28 and 30/31) contained waterlogged remains. A proportion (approx 10%) of the 500 mls of flot that each produced was scanned for identifiable invertebrate and botanical material. The flots were composed largely of fibrous plant matter, mainly roots with some small pieces of wood and plant stems. No identifiable seeds or insects were seen in the scan. Sample 2/28 contained many small pieces of charcoal with some up to 10mm diameter. Apart for this latter no evidence of human activity was present and the samples would yield little environmental data of any use.

Animal bone

A few fragments of animal bone were collected from two contexts. Context 8 produced a few small unidentifiable fragments of cancellous bone. Context 9 produced pieces of the enamel cusps of two or three cattle molars. Enamel is more resilient and survives better in acid soils than bone or dentine and clearly these fragments derive from whole teeth and probably a jawbone that soils conditions has corroded away.

The incidence of material in these features is extremely low and there is no indication of any domestic occupation in the vicinity that might have been expected to yield quantities of charcoal from fires or food processing waste. Carbonised material, both charcoal and seeds, is fairly robust and generally only destroyed through mechanical action. Their absence on the site suggests little human occupation near by.

No further work is warranted on the samples from this site .

Table 1

Sample No	Trench	Context	Volume	Weight	Flot vol	Charcoal	Seeds(carbonised)
8	13	103	6 l.	8.5 kg	<1 ml	1	1
9		146	4	5.5	<1	1	1
10		153	4	5.5	<1	1	0
11		149	4	6	<1	1	1
12		159	4	5.5	<1	1	1
13		145	4	6	<1	1	0
14		108	4.5	6.5	<1	1	0
15	17	110	5	6.5	<1	1	0
16		134	2	2.5	<1	1	0
17		158	3	4	<1	0	0
18		159	5	6	<1	1	1
19	26	167	3.5	4	<1	0	0
19		194	5	6.5	<1	0	0
20	26	167	4	4.5	<1	0	0
21		164	2.5	4	<1	0	0

Square	Trench	Circle	Volume	Weight	Flot vol	Charcoal	Seeds
2	6	4	7	7.5	5	1	0
2	6	28	5	6	500*	2	0
5	6	6	6	8	<1	1	1?
7		9	3.5	4.5	30	5	0
30	6	31	5	7.5	500*	0	0
48	9	49	10	10	5	0	0
70	8	72	5	5	5	2	0

Key

Charcoal: 0 - no remains; 1 - few tiny unidentifiable fragments charcoal; 2 - > 10 & <100 small fragments; 5 - several hundred fragments

Seeds: 0 - no remains; 1 - between 1 and 10 identifiable seeds.

Volume in litres; weight in kilogrammes; flot vol in mills

* waterlogged preservation

Animal Bone Catalogue

KBQ95 context 8	UNI FRAG	6 FRAGMENTS OF UNIDENT. CANCELLOUS BONE
KBQ95 context 9	BOS TOOTH	12 FRAGMENTS ENAMEL
KBQ95 context 9	UNI FRAG	MINERALISED BONE FRAG

The Lithics
Elizabeth Healey

The lithics described in this report were mostly found in the plough soil and in some of the excavated trenches. The scatter is that initially found by Chowne, SMR No. 40125; Trench 27 was excavated in the area of greatest concentration, but the limits of the scatter were not determined.

In general terms they may be described as follows (full details may be found in the archive):

Context	Cores	Uncl. Struck pieces	Flakes	Blades	Scrapers	Other	Total of artefacts
Trench 27	2	2	54 3 chips	9	1	1 denticulate 2 edge retouched 1 frag from retouched piece	75
Evaluation Trenches	2 1 frag		4	1			8
Field walking	10 9 frags	17	90	8	11	4 piercers 1 sickle frag 8 edge retouched 1 bifacial ?	159
Totals	24	19	151	18	12	18	242

Table I: General Categories by context

From this it is clear that the lithics are unevenly distributed and that there is nothing particularly diagnostic amongst them, except for the possible sickle fragment.

The artefacts, especially those collected during field walking, are damaged (over 50% of the flakes are broken) or are very rolled or battered - so much so that it is often difficult to determine whether some of the struck material has been worked or whether it is the result of mechanical (plough) damage. Much has also been subject to thermal shatter. This is less evident in the excavated material.

The local tills and gravels seem to have provided an adequate supply of raw material (Henson 1985; 1989). The flint is generally of reasonable flaking quality though of fairly small size and in the form of rounded pebbles (e.g. core no 36). Cortex varies from thin and fairly fresh to water-worn. A flint of dark brownish red colour and translucent, with inclusions is most usually used, though occasional pieces of other colours are present including a dark grey flint with water-worn cortex. Two blades and a scraper are of a light whitish grey flint which could have come from the Wolds. A few pieces with evidence of older cortication have been re-used.

Although it is by no means certain that the collection derives from a single cultural group, there is little evidence to the contrary. Core reduction strategies appear expedient but that may have been dictated by the size of the raw material. All stages of reduction are present, from preparation flakes, through trimming (*sensu* Brown 1995, 65), thinning and rejuvenation flakes to small flakes and chips and discarded cores. Two flakes from retouched pieces, nos. 414 and 514 suggest that retouching was also practised on site. Pieces selected for retouch are amongst the larger pieces as is clear from the scrapers and retouched flakes though in general the removals tend to be squat and small the majority being under 40 mm in length.

The poor condition of a large proportion of the raw material has been remarked on and this is most clearly evident amongst the cores. Many pebbles have scars of struck flakes but have fractured through a thermal scar and are not further classifiable; these have been termed struck pieces. All the cores are flake cores. The fourteen more formal cores are described in Table II below:

Ref	Single platform	Changed orientation	Other	striking platform type	maximum dimension in mm	weight in gm	amount of cortex
eval Tr. 20		1		core face	34	35	5%
eval Tr. 26		1		plain/core face	32	35	10%
5		1		plain	32	22	30%
31		?		? keeled	34	25	40%
36	1			plain	30	15	50%
41		1		plain/core face	34	32	trace
101	1 écaillé			? core face	fragment	-	50%
175		1		plain/core face	37	35	30%
				ring cracks			
181		1		plain/core face	32	32	trace
187	1 ?			plain	29	25	50%
233	1			plain	40	35	45%
243	1 ?			plain	31	20	25
	écaillé						
432	1 écaillé ?chip			splintered	(20)	(5)	trace
509			flat sub discoidal	faceted	43	45	45%

In addition there are 10 unclassifiable fragments.

Table II: Cores

Smallish pebbles seem to have been selected for flake production (for example nos., 36, 233 where the original shape of the pebble can still be seen) and worked to the point of exhaustion. Striking platforms are prepared to the extent that a struck scar is used or an earlier core face in the case of the changed orientation cores. The use of the écaillé technique probably simple reflects the small size of the raw material. The weight of the complete cores ranges from 15 to 45 gm, the average being 31 gm and the average maximum dimension is 29 mm. The sub-discoidal core, no 509, stands out for two reasons: firstly its form - it is flat and has been flaked all round the edges, though the other face is almost entirely covered with cortex, (no. 35 a very damaged piece, may have been of similar form), and secondly because it is made of mid to dark grey flint with white mottling and has a different type of cortex from the other pieces.

The removals for the most part reflect the information derived from the cores apart from the few blades; they have been subdivided according to their type and presumed stage in the knapping sequence:

blades and blade-like pieces	18
preparation flakes	5
flakes	134 (over 80% of which have some cortex)
thinning flakes	2
trimming flakes	7

The small size of the raw material is also apparent in the size of the flakes (over 77 % of complete flakes measure less than 40 mm in length and nearly 43 % less than 20 mm) and in the high proportion of flakes with areas of cortex on them. Dorsal scarring indicates that uni-directional cores were most frequent, but the re-orientation of cores is not unknown and this is corroborated by the cores themselves. Striking platforms are for the most part plain but some faceted striking platforms were noted, some of which are the result of the reorientation of the cores, but on others it seems to have been a deliberate technique. Hinge fractures were remarked on 13 flakes and some pieces had a very pronounced ripple and ring cracks probably all of which suggest the use a of hard hammer; in at least four instances the flake had overshot the end of the core producing outré passé flakes.

All in all the technology suggests competent but 'unexciting' knapping

As mentioned earlier it is often not clear whether the edge chipping and apparent retouch present on many pieces is deliberate and for this reason pending further clarification only the more certainly retouched pieces are described.

The twelve scrapers form a heterogeneous group. They include four with retouch across an end, nos. 457, 58, ? and 68, and seven with retouch extending around the end and down the sides. One, no. 151, is made on a thermal flake and at least some of the retouch may be due to plough damage. They are made on a variety of blanks from large flakes to cores. The shape of the retouched edges are more or less convex except for no 113 which is nosed,. Retouch rarely extends beyond the thickness of the blank and the angles of retouch are mainly abrupt. However, no 144 has semi-invasive scale flaking and is more extensively retouched than the others. A broken flake, no 219, has scraper-like retouch on one edge and has been included here as a possible scraper fragment.

The fragment of a single-piece sickle, no.72, is interesting. It is the tip part with the curved edge of a bifacially worked and the thicker straight edge left un-retouched.

A thin bifacially flaked piece, no. 256 is enigmatic; it is made good quality dark grey flint which has a thin hard cortex and is unlikely to have come from the local gravels. It has been flaked all round with one edge carefully worked. However, most of the edge is damaged and its original form is uncertain. It is unlikely to be a core as it is too thin, and may be a laurel leaf or similar.

Three flakes, nos. 3, 176 and 248 have retouch or chipping forming a point and might be described as piercers. Two have converging sides which naturally come to a point at the distal end but no. 3 has a concave areas retouched from alternate faces to form a point. A fourth piece, no. 27, has 'retouch' from alternate faces forming a two pronged point.

The pieces which could with reasonable certainty be distinguished as having deliberate retouch from those with edge chipping or uncertain derivation, include three fragments of blades with edge retouch and a larger flake, no. 25, with nibbling edge retouch. No. 458 has a worn edge and a thermal flake, no. 515 has a denticulated edge which seems to have been the result of deliberate retouch.

There are also small flakes which, judging by the dorsal scarring pattern and the shape of the flake may have come from a retouched piece; there is a small fragment of a retouched piece which is otherwise unclassifiable.

The dating of surface assemblages is always difficult especially in the absence of culturally diagnostic forms or other corroborative material. The sickle is similar to a fragment found at Thoresway (Everatt 1970,15) which was also a surface find, and probably to the one from Nettleton Top (Healy 1993a, 16). Single piece sickles are relatively rare but seem to have

associations both with earlier Neolithic ceramics and in later contexts (Healy 1982). Scrapers are particularly difficult to place chronologically, but seem closest to later Neolithic forms (see for example Riley 1990, 225-7) rather than the exceptionally thick steeply retouched forms found in later Bronze Age industries (Healy 1993b, 98). The core sizes are broadly similar to other groups in the area (Healy 1993a 16), though there are less changed orientation cores, but with only small numbers present this could simply be an accident of recovery. The practice of re-orienting the core to produce a new flaking surface is a technique common in the later (Holgate 1988, 60) and may be a way of maximising the potential of the small sized raw material available (Saville 1980, 20); the prepared 'Levallois' cores found in later Neolithic where raw material is abundant and of good quality, for example at Grimes Graves (Saville 1981, 47-8), are not found.

It is clear from published material that the area was extensively occupied in prehistoric times and that in some respects the KBQ material fits into such a context, though the Mesolithic element found on other sites in the valley such as Tattershall Thorpe (Healy 1993b) and West Ashby (Saville 1985) and Horncastle (unpublished) is absent. Further work (survey and excavation), particularly in the area of the flint scatter, and subsequent analytical work may produce more definitive data thereby enlarging our knowledge of the behavioural and activity patterns of the peoples who depended on lithic technologies in the Bain Valley.

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KBQ 95 : SUMMARY OF CONTEXTS

CONT	TRENCH	TYPE	RELATIONSHIPS	DESCRIPTION	DATE	PLATES	FIGS
1	all	layer	seals all features	ploughsoil	post-medieval/modern	MOST	5C,D
2	6	cut	contains 3,4,15,26-9	pit	?	4;10-11	5A,B
3	6	fill	within 2	fill of pit	?	4;10-11	5A,B
4	6	fill	within 2	fill of pit	?	4;10-11	5A,B
5	6	cut	contains 6,12	gully	?		
6	6	fill	within 5	fill of gully	?		
7	6	cut	contains 9	gully	Romano-British	9	5A,C
8	6	fill	within 37	fill of gully	Romano-British	9	
9	6	fill	within 7	fill of gully	Romano-British	9	5C
10	6	cut	contains 11	?pit	?		
11	6	fill	within 10	fill of ?pit	?		
12	6	fill	within 5	fill of gully	?		
13	6	cut	contains 14	?pit/gully	?		5A
14	6	fill	within 13	fill of ?pit/gully	?		5A
15	6	fill	within 2	fill of pit	?	11	5B
16	6	layer	sealed by 1	natural sand	post-glacial		
17	6	layer	sealed by 1	natural sand	post-glacial		
18	6	layer	sealed by 1	natural sand	post-glacial		
19	6	layer	sealed by 1	natural sand	post-glacial		
20	6	layer	sealed by 1	natural sand	post-glacial		
21	6	layer	sealed by 1	natural sand	post-glacial		
22	6	layer	sealed by 1	natural sand	post-glacial		
23	6	layer	sealed by 1	natural sand	post-glacial		
24	6	layer	sealed by 1	natural sand	post-glacial		
25	6	layer	sealed by 1	natural sand	post-glacial		
26	6	fill	within 2	fill of pit	?	11	5B
27	6	fill	within 2	fill of pit	?	11	5B
28	6	fill	within 2	fill of pit	?	11	5B
29	6	fill	within 2	fill of pit	?	11	5B
30	6	cut	contains 31-32	?pit/natural	?	11	5B
31	6	fill	within 30	fill of ?pit/natural	?	11	5B
32	6	fill	within 30	fill of ?pit/natural	?	11	5B
33	5	cut	contains 35	?gully	?		
34	5	cut	contains 36	gully	?		
35	5	fill	within 33	fill of ?gully	?		
36	5	fill	within 34	fill of gully	?		
37	6	cut	contains 8	gully	Romano-British	9	5A
38	14	cut	contains 39	?gully	?		
39	14	fill	within 38	fill of ?gully	?		
40	9	cut	contains 41	?pit/gully	?		
41	9	fill	within 40	fill of ?pit/gully	?		
42	9	cut	contains 43	?gully	?		
43	9	fill	within 42	fill of ?gully	?		
44	9	cut	contains 45	??pit	?		
45	9	fill	within 44	fill of ??pit	?		
46	9	cut	contains 47	?pit	?		
47	9	fill	within 46	fill of ?pit	?		
48	9	cut	contains 49	gully	?		
49	9	fill	within 48	fill of gully	?		
50	9	cut	contains 51	?gully	?		
51	9	fill	within 50	fill of ?gully	?		
52	9	cut	contains 53	?pit	?	5	
53	9	fill	within 52	fill of ?pit	?	5	
54	9	cut	contains 55	?pit	?	5	
55	9	fill	within 54	fill of ?pit	?	5	
56	9	cut	contains 57	?pit	?	5	
57	9	fill	within 56	fill of ?pit	?	5	

KBQ 95 : SUMMARY OF CONTEXTS

58	9	cut	contains 59	gully	?		
59	9	fill	within 58	fill of ?gully	?		
60	10	cut	contains 61	?it	?		
61	10	fill	within 60	fill of ?pit	?		
62	10	cut	contains 63	?	?		
63	10	fill	within 62	?	?		
64	7	cut	contains 65	?animal/tree	?		
65	7	fill	within 64	fill of ?animal/tree	?		
66	7	cut	contains 67	?animal/tree	?		
67	7	fill	within 66	fill of ?animal/tree	?		
68	8	cut	contains 69	?animal/pit	?	6	
69	8	fill	within 68	fill of ?animal/pit	?	6	
70	8	cut	contains 71-72	gully	?		
71	8	fill	within 70	fill of gully	?		
72	8	fill	within 70	fill of gully	?		
73	13	cut/fill	sealed by 1	landdrain	post-medieval		
74	11	cut/fill	sealed by 1	landdrain	post-medieval	8	
75	11	cut	contains 76-78	drainage gully	post-medieval	8	
76	11	fill	within 75	fills drainage gully	post-medieval	8	
77	11	fill	within 75	fills drainage gully	post-medieval	8	
78	11	fill	within 75	fills drainage gully	post-medieval	8	
79	11	fill	contains 80-82	drainage gully	post-medieval	8	
80	11	fill	contains 80-82	fills drainage gully	post-medieval	8	
81	11	fill	contains 80-82	fills drainage gully	post-medieval	8	
82	11	fill	contains 80-82	fills drainage gully	post-medieval	8	
83	12	cut	contains 84	?pit/gully	?		
84	12	fill	within 83	fill of ?pit/gully	?		
85	12	cut/fill	sealed by 1	landdrain	post-medieval		
86	12	cut/fill	sealed by 1	landdrain	post-medieval		
87	14	cut/fill	sealed by 1	landdrain	post-medieval		
88	14	cut/fill	sealed by 1	landdrain	post-medieval		
89	10	cut/fill	sealed by 1	landdrain	post-medieval		
90	9	cut/fill	sealed by 1	landdrain	post-medieval		
91	10	cut/fill	sealed by 1	landdrain	post-medieval		
92	7	cut/fill	sealed by 1	landdrain	post-medieval		
93	6	cut/fill	sealed by 1	landdrain	post-medieval		
94	15	cut/fill	sealed by 1	landdrain	post-medieval		
95	15	cut/fill	sealed by 1	landdrain	post-medieval		
96	15	cut/fill	sealed by 1	drainage gully	post-medieval		
97	15	cut/fill	sealed by 1	landdrain	post-medieval		
98	13	cut	contains 127	?gully	?		
99	most	layer	cut by most features	natural sand/gravel	post-glacial	MOST	5; 6
100	13	cut	contains 101	?pit	?		
101	13	fill	within 100	fill of ?pit	?		
102	13	cut	contains 103	gully	?		
103	13	fill	within 102	fill of gully	?		
104	13	cut	contains 105	gully	?		
105	13	fill	within 104	fill of gully	?		
106	13	cut/fill	sealed by 1	landdrain	post-medieval		
107	16	cut	contains 108,135	gully	?	7	
108	16	fill	within 107	fill of gully	?	7	
109	17	cut	contains 110,134	gully	?		
110	17	fill	within 109	fill of gully	?		
111	17	cut	contains 112	?pit	?		
112	17	fill	within 111	fill of ?pit	?		
113	17	cut	contains 114	?pit	?		
114	17	fill	within 113	fill of ?pit	?		
115	17	cut	contains 116	?pit	?		

KBQ 95 : SUMMARY OF CONTEXTS

116	17	fill	within 115	fill of ?pit	?		
117	17	cut	contains 118	?pit/hollow	?		
118	17	fill	within 117	fill of ?pit/hollow	?		
119	17	cut	contains 120	?hollow/pit	?		
120	17	fill	within 119	fill of ?hollow/pit	?		
121	16	cut	contains 122	?pit	?		
122	16	fill	within 121	fill of ?pit	?		
123	13	cut	contains 124	?pit/burrow	?		
124	13	fill	within 123	fill of ?pit/burrow	?		
125	16	cut	contains 126	?pit	?		
126	16	fill	within 125	fill of ?pit	?		
127	13	fill	within 98	?gully	?		
128	17	cut	contains 129	?pit	?		
129	17	fill	within 128	fill of ?pit	?		
130	16	cut	contains 131	?posthole	?		
131	16	fill	within 130	fill of ?posthole	?		
132	16	cut	contains 133	pig burial	?med/post-medieval		
133	16	fill	within 132	fill of pig burial	?med/post-medieval		
134	17	fill	within 109	fill of gully	?		
135	16	fill	within 107	fill of gully	?		
136	19	cut	contains 137	?pit	?		
137	19	fill	within 136	fill of ?pit	?		
138	19	cut	contains 139	linear feature	?		
139	19	fill	within 138	fills linear feature	?		
140	19	cut	contains 141	?gully	?		
141	19	fill	within 140	fill of ?gully	?		
142	13	cut	contains 143	?gully	?		
143	13	fill	within 142	fill of ?gully	?		
144	18	cut	contains 145	gully	?medieval		
145	18	fill	within 144	fill of gully	?medieval		
146	20	cut	contains 147	gully	?	12	6B
147	20	fill	within 146	fill of gully	?	12	6B
148	20	cut	contains 149	gully	?	12;17	6B
149	20	fill	within 148	fill of gully	?	12;17	6B
150	20	cut	contains 151	?pit	?	12	6B
151	20	fill	within 150	fill of ?pit	?	12	6B
152	20	cut	contains 153	?ditch/hollow	?	14;17	6A,B
153	20	fill	within 152	fills ?ditch/hollow	?	14;17	6A,B
154	20	cut	contains 155	gully	?		6B
155	20	fill	within 154	fill of gully	?	12	6B
156	20	layer	sealed by 159	natural staining	post-glacial	12	6B
157	20	layer	sealed by 159	natural staining	post-glacial		
158	20	layer	sealed by 187	clay capping	?medieval/post-med	12-17	6A,B
159	20	layer	sealed by 158	preserved soil	?medieval/post-med	12-15	6A
160	20	cut	contains 161	?pit/gully	?		
161	20	fill	within 160	fill of ?pit/gully	?		
162	26	cut	contains 163-165	?ditch	?	18-19	5D
163	26	fill	within 162	fill of ?ditch	?	18-19	5D
164	26	fill	within 162	fill of ?ditch	?	18-19	5D
165	26	fill	within 162	fill of ?ditch	?	18-19	5D
166	26	cut	cons 167-9,175,200	?recut of 162	?	18-19	5D
167	26	fill	within 166	fill of ?recut	?	18-19	5D
168	26	fill	within 166	fill of ?recut	?	18-19	5D
169	26	fill	within 166	fill of ?recut	?	18-19	5D
170	26	layer	sealed by 1	?alluvium	?	18-19	5D
171	26	fill	within 176	fill of ?pit/hollow	?		5D
172	26	layer	sealed by 170-1	?organic alluvium	?	18	5D
173	19	layer	sealed by 1	clay capping	?medieval/post-med		

KBQ 95 : SUMMARY OF CONTEXTS

174	19	layer	sealed by 1	?ploughsoil/subsoil	?		
175	26	fill	within 166	fill of ?ditch	?	18-19	5D
176	26	cut	contains 171-172	??pit/hollow	?		5D
177	18	cut	contains 178	?pit	?		
178	18	fill	within 177	fill of ?pit	?		
179	18	cut	contains 180	gully	?		
180	18	fill	within 179	fill of gully	?		
181	18	cut	contains 182	landdrain	post-medieval		
182	18	fill	within 181	fill of landdrain	post-medieval		
183	18	cut	contains 184	?posthole/pit	?		
184	18	fill	within 182	fill of ?posthole/pit	?		
185	25	cut	contains 186	furrow	?medieval		
186	25	fill	within 185	fill of furrow	?medieval		
187	20	layer	seals 196	ploughsoil/hillwash	?medieval/post-med	13-17	6A
188	20	layer	seals 189	ploughsoil/hillwash	?medieval/post-med		6A
189	20	layer	seals 190	ploughsoil/hillwash	?medieval/post-med		6A
190	20	layer	seals 191	?capping	?medieval/post-med		6A
191	20	layer	seals 193	?capping	?medieval/post-med		6A
192	20	layer	above 193	soil pocket	?medieval/post-med		6A
193	20	layer	seals 194	?preserved soil	?medieval/post-med	17	6A
194	20	layer	seals 153	?soil horizon	?	17	6A
195	20	layer	seals 158	clay capping	?medieval/post-med	17	6A
196	20	layer	seals 195	clay capping	?medieval/post-med	13-15;17	6A
197	20	layer	above 99	stained natural	post-glacial	13-15	6A,B
198	27	layer	above 99	natural subsoil	post-glacial	21-23	
199	26	fill	within 166	fill of ?ditch	?	18-19	5D
200	26	fill	within 166	fill of ?ditch	?	18-19	5D
201	20	layer	seals 188	ploughsoil/hillwash	?medieval/post-med		6A

Appendix 4 : Contents of Site Archive

1. Evaluation Report

2. Context sheets x 201 (and summary list)

3. Photographs (and list, with colour negatives):

LAS film numbers: 95/43 (0-37)
95/44 (1A-36A)
95/45 (27A-36A)
95/46 (1-37)
95/47 (2-37)
95/48 (2-37)
95/49 (0-35)

4. Site Drawings (and list):

27 plans on 16 sheets (1:20, 1:50, 1:200, 1:1000);
38 sections on 8 sheets (1:20, and 1 unscaled sketch)

5. Flint Report by Elizabeth Healey

6. Environmental Assessment Report by James Rackham

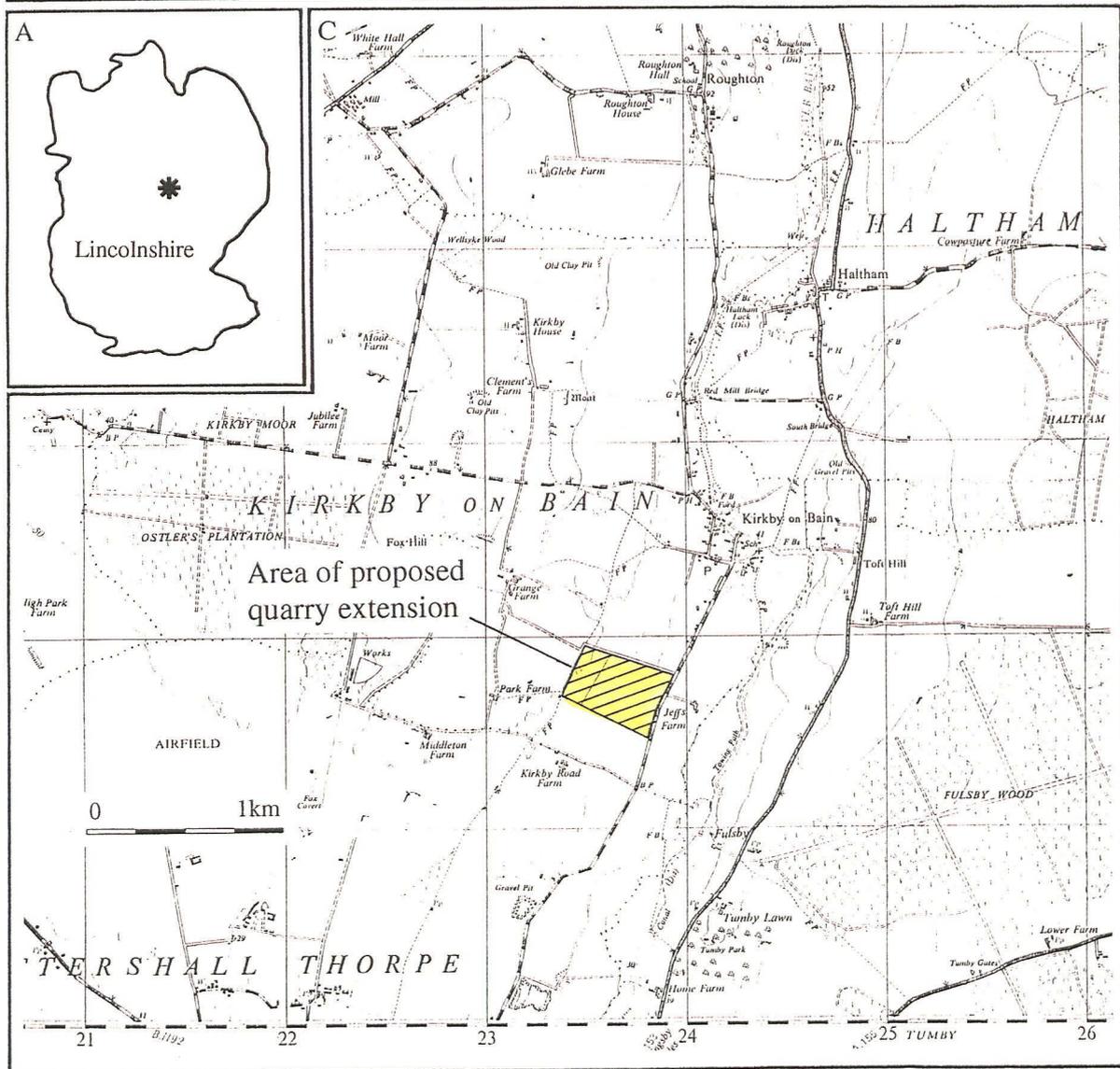
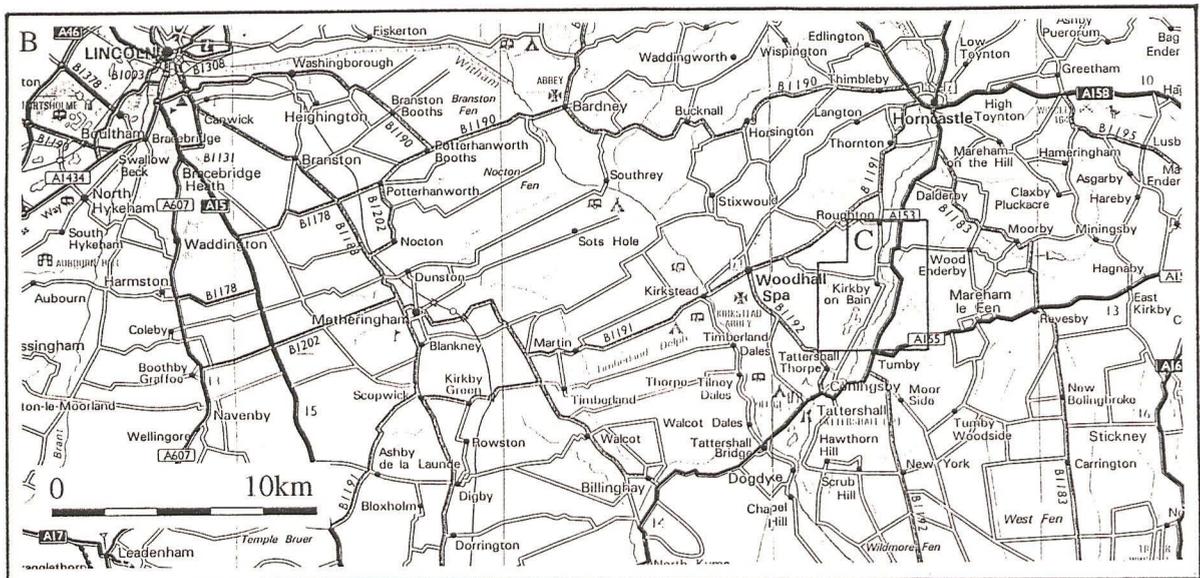


Fig 1 : Location of proposed quarry extension. (Inset C based on O.S 1:25000, Sheet TF 26. Crown Copyright 1953. Reproduced with the permission of the controller of HMSO. LAS licence No. AL 50424A).

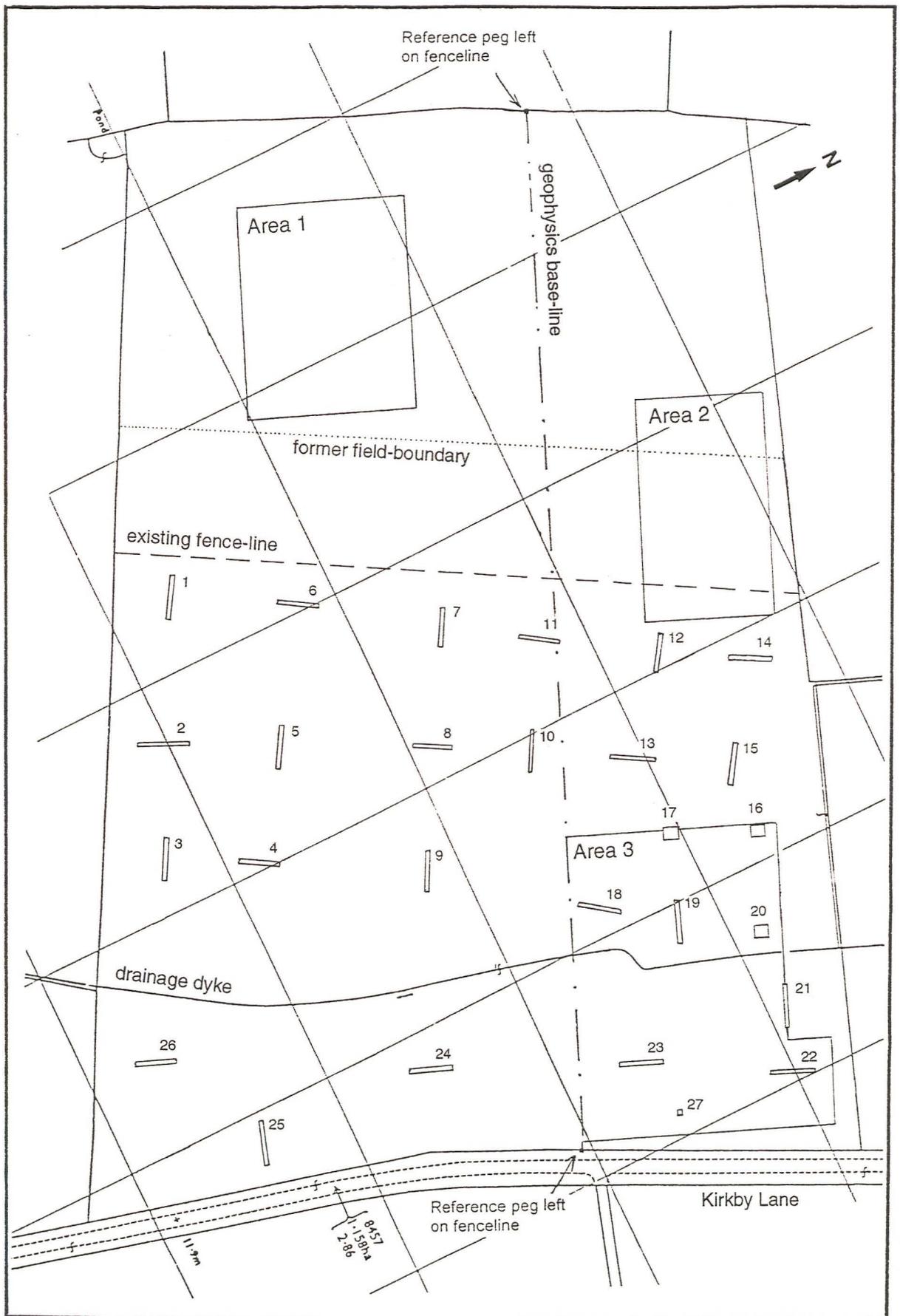


Fig 2 : Area of proposed quarry extension, showing geophysics areas and evaluation trenches 1-27. Grid-squares 100x100m. (Based on Stratascan's 'Fig 5', Kirkby-on-Bain D.T.A, LAS, Feb 95).

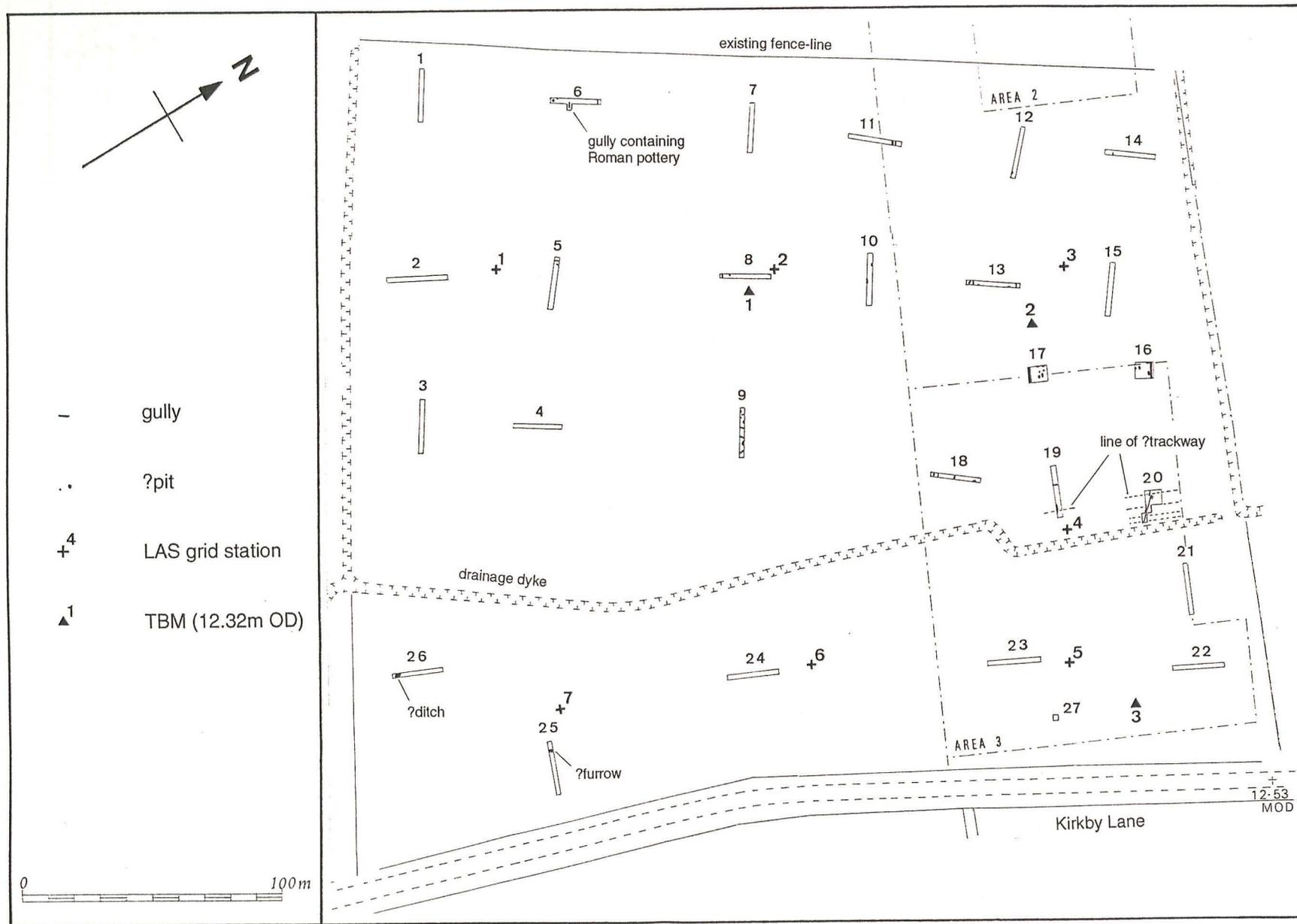


Fig 3 : Evaluation Trenches 1-27 with main archaeological features discovered.

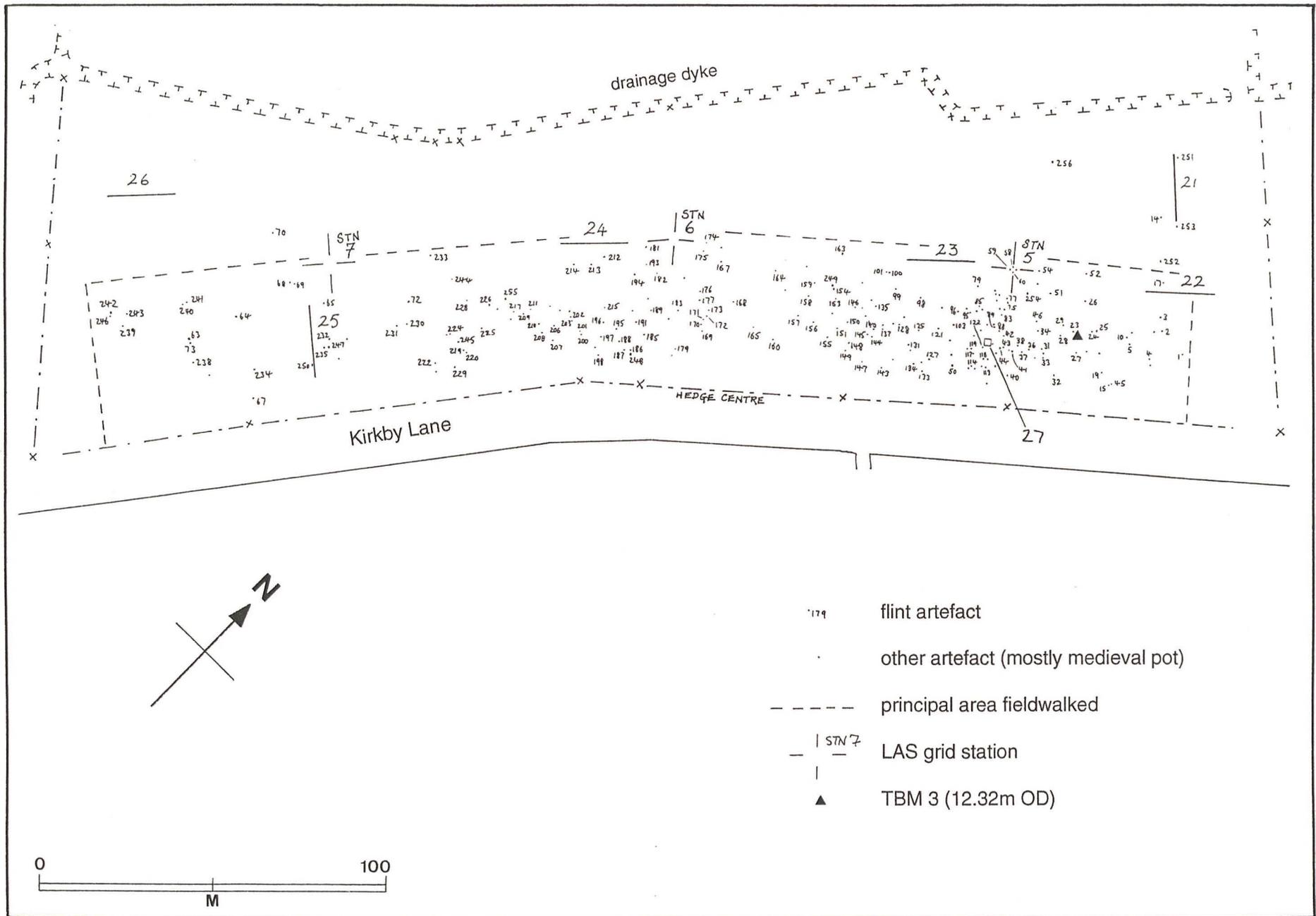


Fig 4 : Plot of finds from fieldwalked area

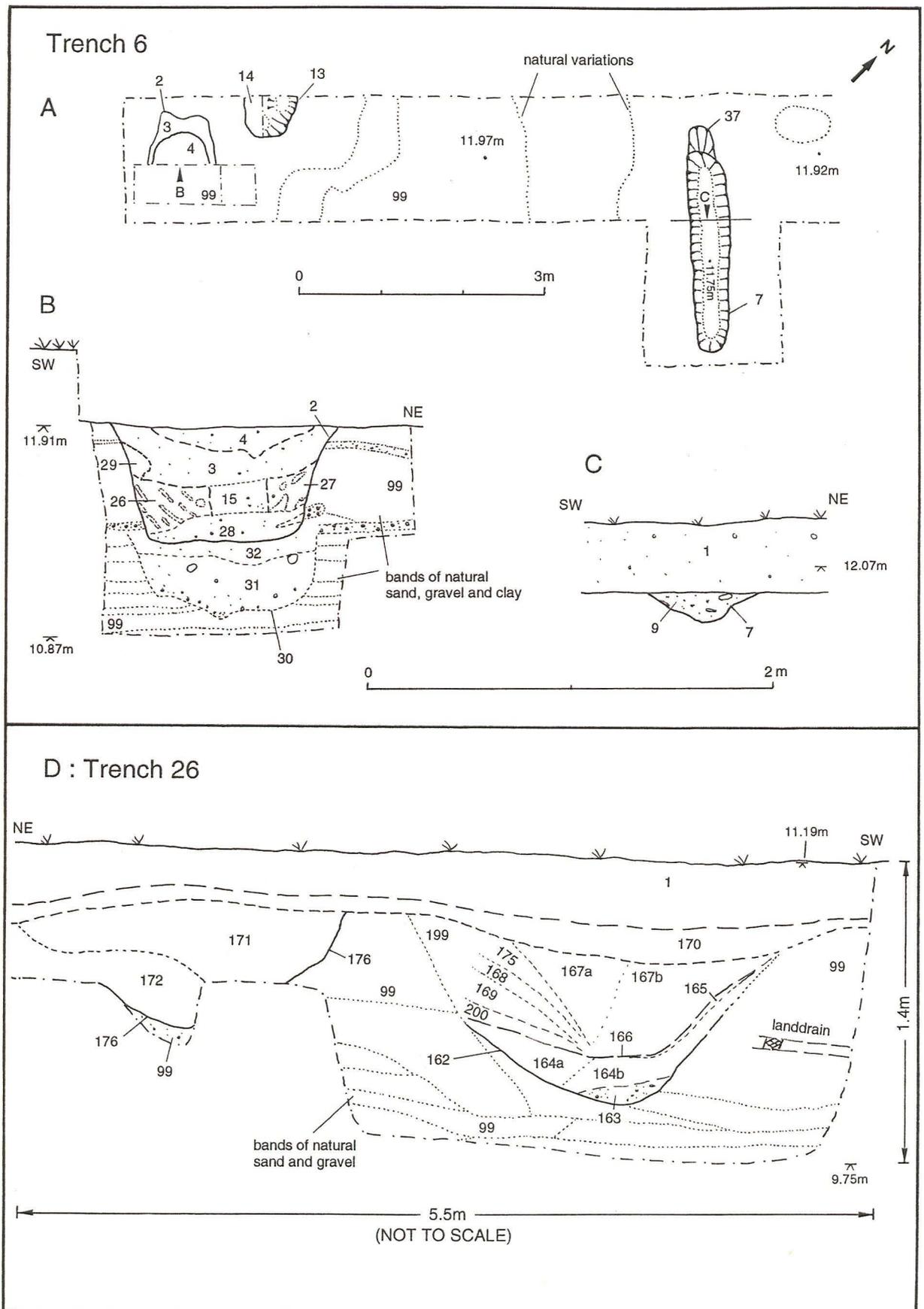


Fig 5 : A : Trench 6, plan of SW part showing Pit 2, ?Pit 13, and Gully 7; B : SE-facing section of Pit 2; C :NW-facing section of Gully 7; D : Trench 26, NW-facing sketch section of ?Ditch 162.

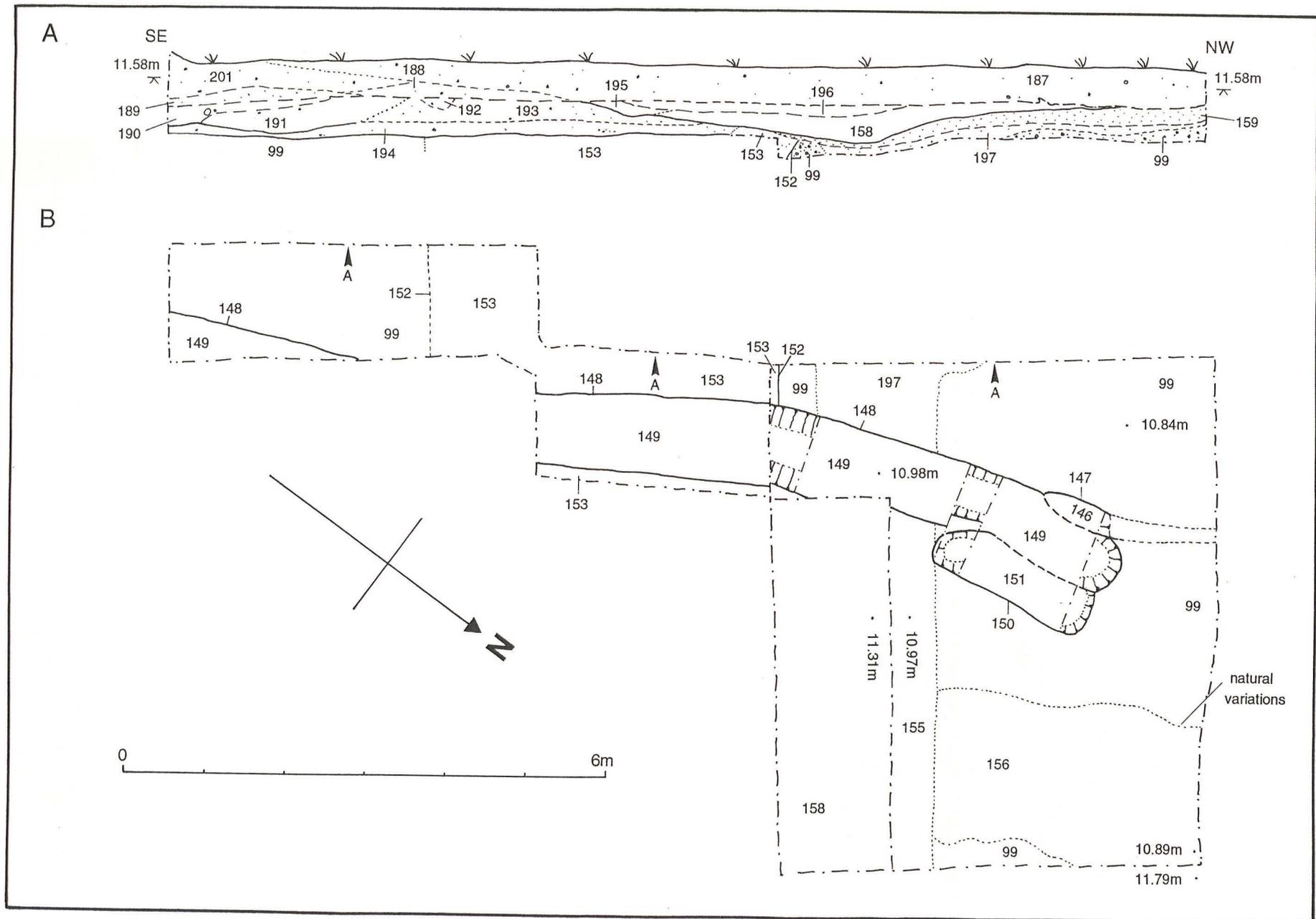


Fig 6 : Trench 20 : NE-facing section showing clay-capped ?trackway; plan showing earlier archaeological features



Pl. 1 General view of site from west corner, trenches opened;
looking east towards site entrance on Kirkby Lane.

Pl. 2 General view from centre of site, looking east towards site
entrance on Kirkby Lane.





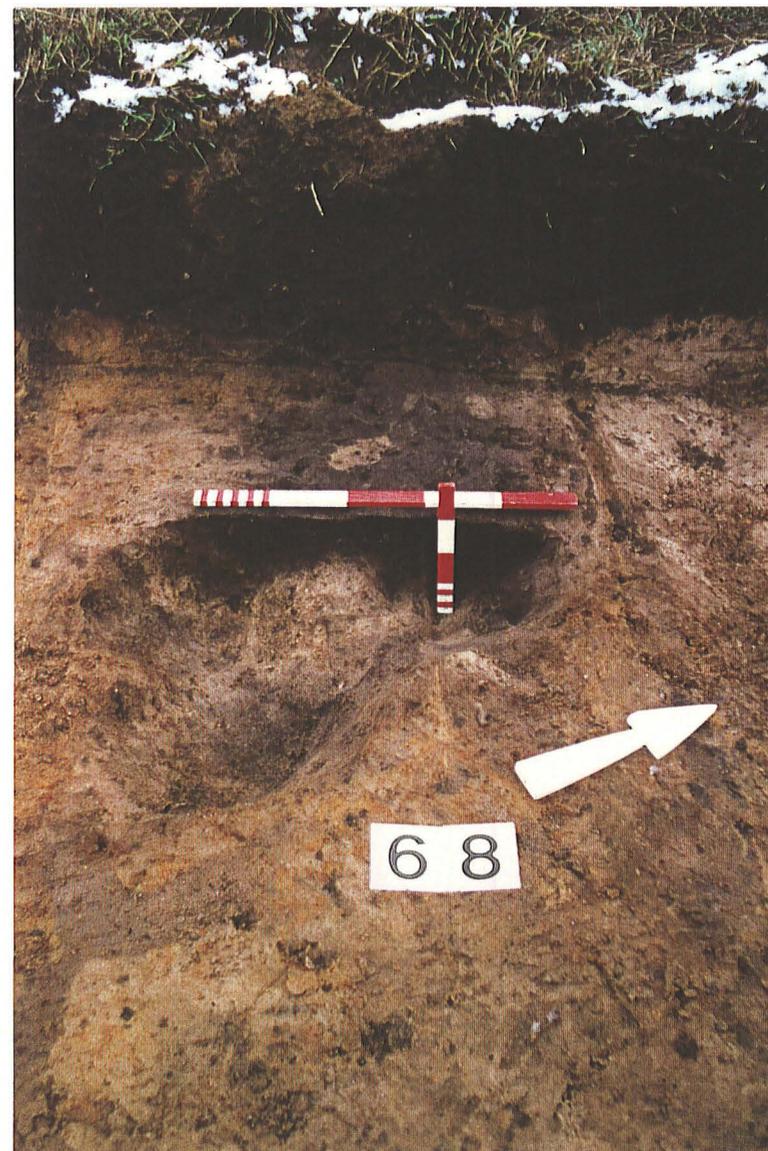
Pl. 3 Trench 3, machine-excavated to base of ploughsoil, looking north-west. Scale 2m.



Pl. 4 Trench 6 : background: cleaning surface after machine-opening; foreground: excavating upper part of pit 2. Looking east.



Pl. 5 Trench 9: recording a pit section, looking north-west.



Pl. 6 Trench 8, feature 68 half-excavated, looking north-west.
Scales 0.50m and 0.20m.



Pl. 7 Trench 16 after cleaning; gully 107 to left of picture.
Looking south-east. Scale 2m.

Pl. 8 Trench 11, south-east facing section of gullies 75 and 79.
Looking north-west. Scales 2m, 0.50m and 0.20m.





Pl. 9 Trench 6, north-west facing section of gully 7, looking south-east. Scales 0.50m.



Pl. 10 Trench 6, pit 2 box-sectioned, looking south-west.
Scales 2m and 0.50m.

Pl. 11 Trench 6, pit 2, south-east facing section after box-sectioning.
Looking north-west. Scales 0.50m.





Pl. 12 Trench 20, after surface cleaning and part-excavation of gullies 148 and 147, and pit 150. looking south-west. Scales 2m and 0.50m.

Pl. 13 Trench 20, cleaning section containing stiff clay lens 158. Looking south-west.





Pl. 14 Trench 20, detail of stiff clay lens 158 in north-east facing section (central part). Looking south-west. Scales 2m and 0.50m.

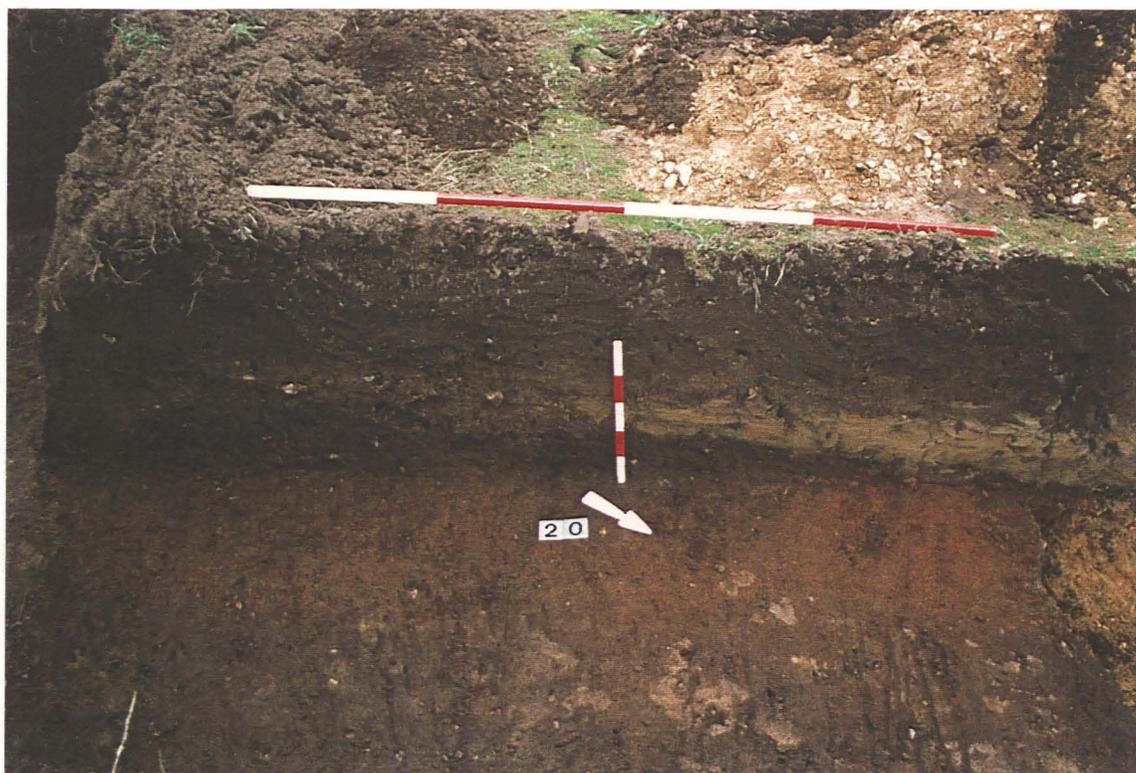
Pl. 15 Trench 20, detail of stiff clay lens 158 in north-east facing section (north-west part). Looking south-west. Scales 2m and 0.50m.





Pl. 16 Trench 20, extending trench to south-east; remainder of stiff clay lens 158 being exposed in section. Looking south.

Pl. 17 Trench 20, north-east facing section of extension; south-east part of stiff clay lens 158. Looking south-west. Scales 2m and 0.50m.





Pl. 18 Trench 26, cleaning ?ditch 162. Looking east.

Pl. 19 Trench 26, north-west facing section of ?ditch 162. Looking south-east. Scales 2m and 0.50m.





Pl. 20 General view from site entrance, looking west. Sieving in progress in Trench 27 (left part of picture).

Pl. 21 Trench 27, sieving ploughsoil in search of flint artefacts. Looking south.





Pl. 22 Trench 27, cleaning upper surface of subsoil after removing ploughsoil. Looking east.

Pl. 23 Trench 27 after excavation of subsoil. Looking north-west.

