

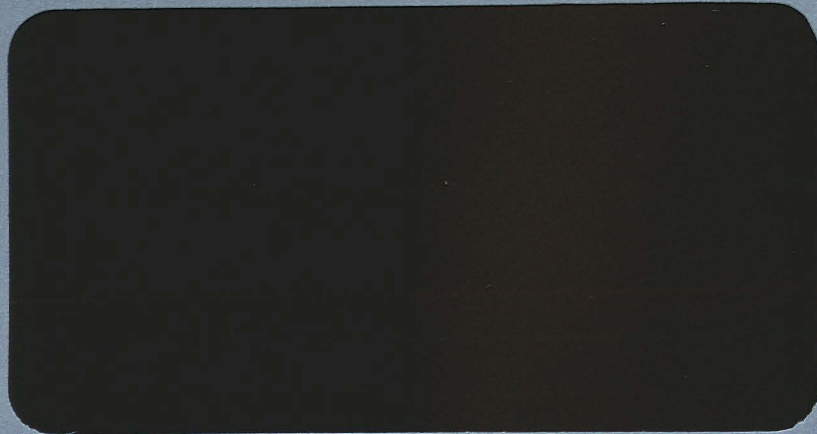
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MANOR CLOSE, BASTON
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

LCNCC Accession No.: 126.96

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Report prepared by Simon C Johnson of Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) for
Burmor Construction

October 1996

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- The map illustrates the Baston area, highlighting several key archaeological features and landmarks. In the center, 'The Site' is marked with a large circle. Surrounding it are areas labeled 'Medieval Pottery', 'Roman Pottery', and 'Medieval Pottery'. To the right, 'Cropmarks' and 'Inholms' are indicated. The central area is labeled 'Baston'. To the left, 'Kazes Bridge Poultry Farm' is shown. In the bottom left, 'Roman Pottery', 'Roman Inhumation', 'Anglo-Saxon Cemetary', and 'Iron Age Ditch and Pit' are marked. Other features include 'Playing Field', 'Hall', 'Tonne', 'Sch', 'Urn Farm', 'Brook House Farm', 'Fen Fringes', 'Minor Farm', 'Car Dyke (course of)', 'Drain', 'Road (Track)', 'Ditch', 'Trench', 'Pit', 'Sewer', 'Ch', 'Wc', 'Bkic', 'Pav', '7m', '10m', '15m', '20m', '25m', '30m', '35m', '40m', '45m', '50m', '55m', '60m', '65m', '70m', '75m', '80m', '85m', '90m', '95m', '100m'. The map also shows a network of roads, tracks, and drains, as well as various buildings and structures.

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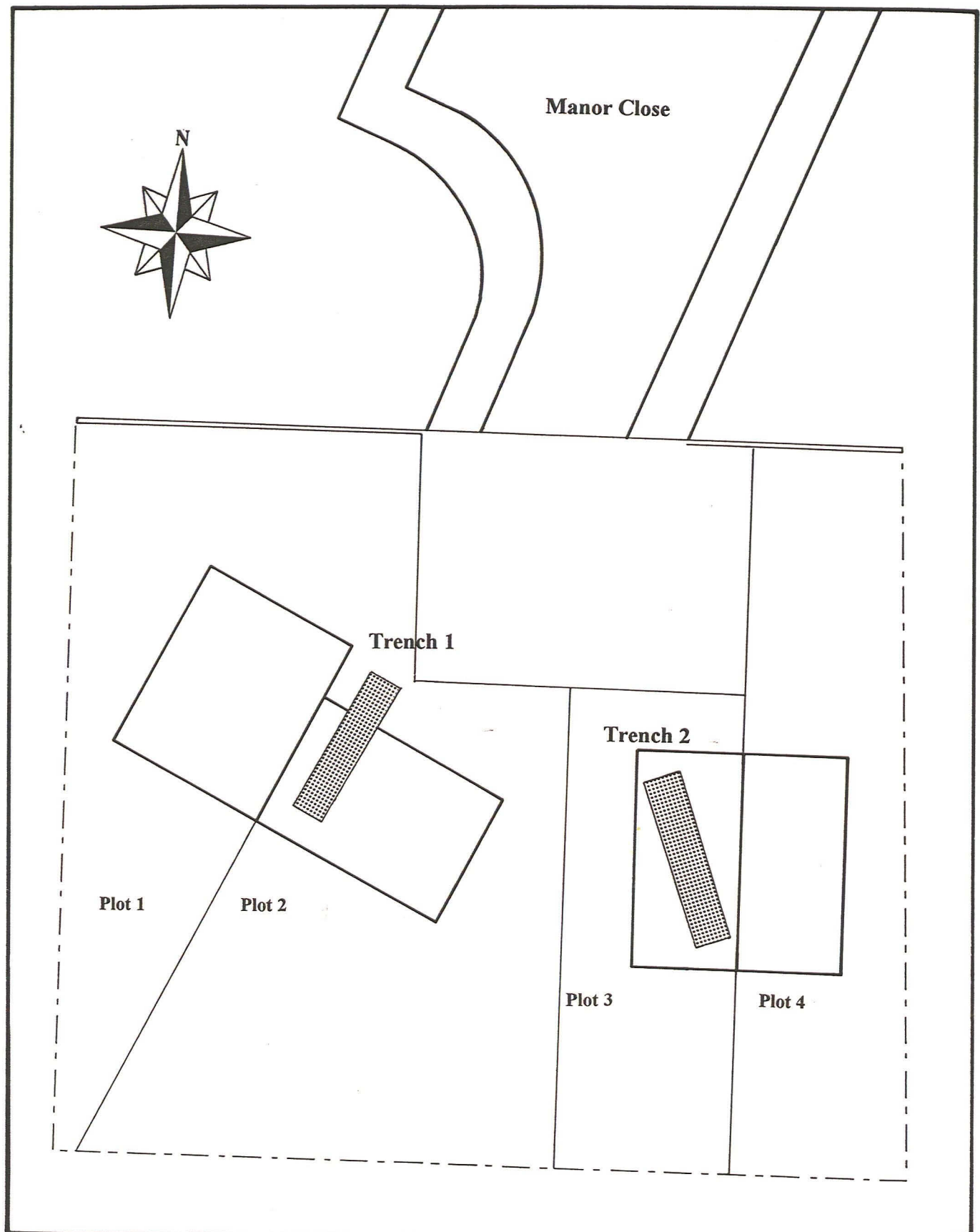


Fig. 2: 1:200 Proposed Development with Trial Trench Locations

1.0 Introduction

A three-day programme of archaeological trial trenching was carried out within a square unit of land set adjacent to the terminus of Manor Close, Baston, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Burmor Construction in response to a planning constraint issued by South Kesteven District Council.

The results presented in this report will be taken into consideration by the planning authority when assessing the archaeological potential of the site; the potential impact of development; and the requirement or non-requirement of further archaeological intervention in advance of, or during, development.

2.0 Location and description

Baston lies in the administrative district of South Kesteven 9 km north-west of Peterborough, 8 km north-east of Stamford. The site is on the east side of the village and comprises a square unit of approximately 550 sq.m. The land was formally used as the domestic gardens to No's 13 and 18 Manor Close.

The drift geology comprises Fen and Terrace gravels dating from the Pleistocene onwards: the underlying solid geology consists of Jurassic Kellaways sand.

The site is centred at NGR TF 1176 1436 and lies at an altitude of approximately 5.7 m. OD. Prior to fieldwork the site was covered by a dense blanket of vegetation, domestic rubbish and fruit trees.

3.0 Archaeological background

Baston is recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086 as *Bacstune* (Old Scandinavian for 'Farmstead of a man called Bak') (Mills 1993, 27). The village appears to have been moderately prosperous in the medieval period: it held regular markets and annual fair. (Roffe 1993, 42)

In common with many villages, the only surviving medieval structure is the parish church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist. The chancel was rebuilt in 1860 but the fabric is essentially Perpendicular (*circa* 1335-1530) with Decorated (*circa* 1290-1350) arcades to the nave (Pevsner & Harris 1989, 129-30).

Information derived from the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) indicates that Baston has been an attractive location from at least the later prehistoric period. Fieldwork undertaken in advance of development in 1989 off Deeping Road resulted in the discovery of a series of late Iron Age features containing bone and pottery.

The area has yielded significant evidence of occupation during the Romano-British period. An evaluation undertaken earlier this year at Appletrees led to the recovery of a modest pottery assemblage and an inhumation burial dating between the late C2nd.-

early C3rd. A.D. Recent fieldwork has produced other significant quantities of Roman material, including stamped *Samian* (fine pottery imported from Belgic Gaul in the C1st/2nd AD), a glossy red slipped high status table ware; a C1st import, also from Gaul. The results of this work are not yet in the public domain, and the extent and character of the Roman occupation is unclear.

The Roman road King Street/Mareham Lane, which runs to the west of Baston was probably one of the principal communication lines for the Roman army during the Conquest period. A side road named the 'Baston Out gang' branches off to Baston and can be traced across ploughed fields as a gravel stain. (Whitwell, 1992, 48)

The Car Dyke, an important Roman canal/catchment which connects the Witham with the Nene, runs through the east of the village. Despite stray finds having been recorded east of the Car Dyke, including a coin from No. 1 Manor close, it is possible that the waterway marked the principal eastern boundary of the Roman settlement at Baston.

Baston is well known for its Anglo-Saxon cemetery: first discovered in 1851 and excavated in 1863 and 1966, the cemetery is dated to the C5th.-C6th. Excavations undertaken by Trollope exposed ten Anglian urns which were decorated with raised knobs and concentric circles. Other finds included a fragment of a bone comb and iron shears. Excavations in 1966 exposed the remaining area of the cemetery; producing a further 44 urns and associated material.

Saxo settlement remains have also been found in the form of grain processing and iron working areas to the south of the main occupation area, centred around the church. The site appears to have been one of some considerable status as the excavations exposed buildings made from stone (a material usually reserved for ecclesiastical structures during the period between the departure of the Romans and the arrival of French building traditions in the mid-C11th). The stone must have been imported from further afield as there are no local sources. Timber structures were found elsewhere on the site and evidence of iron working, including particularly well-preserved hearths was present. Of macabre interest is an example of worked human bone. (Jarvis 1993, 34-36)

4.0 The objectives of field evaluation

The Community Archaeologist for South Kesteven issued a project brief requiring that two archaeological trenches (representing just over 2% of the site) should be excavated to determine the character, date, depth, state of preservation; extent and significance of any archaeological deposits extant within the site. The overall objective of the project, therefore, was to present the District Planning Authority with a set of data from which reasoned decisions may be taken regarding future management of the archaeological resource and the granting (or refusal) of planning permission on archaeological grounds (ie in line with the Deposit Plan for South Kesteven and 'Archaeology and Planning' *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16*)

5.0 Methodology

The two trenches (located in Fig. 2) were sited as follows:

Trench 1: orientated north-east /south-west within plot 2.

Finished dimensions = approx. 5.4m x 1.5m

Trench 2: orientated north-west /south-east within plot 3.

Finished dimensions = approx. 6m x 1.5m

Prior to the start of fieldwork, no details of the development layout had been provided, and the siting of random trenches was agreed with Mr D Start (Heritage Lincolnshire) acting as curator in the absence of the Community Archaeologist. On arrival at the site, however, a 'general arrangement' plan was provided by the client, and the trenches were relocated to correspond with the proposed foundation footprints of the intended development.

The trenches were marked-out in advance of excavation, and a JCB, fitted with a smooth ditching blade was used to remove all topsoil and overburden: to the top of the first significant or natural level. This was a gradual process involving excavation in spits under archaeological supervision. All subsequent excavation was by hand.

Recording was undertaken using standard proforma context sheets (incorporating physical descriptions, interpretations and stratigraphic relationships). Features were drawn to scale (1:20) in both plan and section. Comprehensive photographic recording was undertaken and some prints are reproduced in this report.

Artefacts (pottery, animal bone and other finds) were coded according to their stratigraphic contexts and were subsequently removed from the site for processing and specialist appraisal, where appropriate.

Excavation was carried by the writer and Mr W Livesey.

6.0 Results

6.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

Trench 1 was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.4 m. beneath the modern ground surface (the excavation was stepped in order to maintain safe working conditions without the need of shoring).

Modern Pit [105]

Topsoil removal exposed the upper fill of a modern pit [105] in the centre of the trench. It measured approximately 2.1 m. in diameter and 0.6 m in depth, and contained a series of fills consisting of mixed silts, gravels and ash. (102-104). Each fill contained modern glass, pottery, and/or corroded iron. The majority of the feature was machine excavated following an assessment of its limited archaeological worth. After machining, residual fills were removed by hand and the cut was exposed. The excavation was then stepped and deposits to the north and south investigated.

Undated Quarry Workings

Controlled excavation consisted of the systematic removal of superimposed deposits down to natural (undisturbed) gravels. These deposits were contained within a large feature of undetermined size, but whose north edge fell just within the trench. The overall size and character of the feature suggested it was associated with gravel extraction -a common economic pursuit in this location.

A *sondage*, sunk at the south end of the trench, revealed a useful profile through the natural banded gravel (contexts (125-127)) to approximately 4.54 m.OD.

The Quarry base was defined by the top of the undisturbed gravels; it's irregular base retained evidence of the final phase of extraction: two regular gully-type features [113] and [123] were interpreted as drag lines from a final phase of extraction. One of these, [123], had cut through an earlier feature [122]. This was a rectangular pit/slot c. 40 cm. wide. It contained two distinct fills (120 and 121), but no datable finds. It probably related to gravel extraction at a higher level as the fills consisted of weathered natural soils washed-in from the quarry sides.

Basal deposits within the ?drag lines ([113] and [123]) comprised poorly-sorted grey sandy gravels and silt (112 and 119).

Sealing the above were deposits of predominantly sandy silt containing gravel inclusions (contexts (109-111) and (118)). They contained a high proportion of organic remains in the form of unworked timber and smaller vegetation fragments. The quarry, having become redundant, was left in a dormant state allowing the accumulation of organic and inorganic waste within a waterlogged environment.

Eventually, the quarry was purposely backfilled with a series of silt and sand based soils: fills (131, 106-108/129, 114, 115-117). The relationship between some deposits was destroyed by the modern pit [105].

Quarry backfill deposits were part-sealed beneath a subsoil (101) which was beneath modern topsoil (100).

Pottery recovered from the trench was dominated by early modern forms but two sherds of early medieval pottery were recovered from residual contexts.



Plate 1: General view of Trench 1 looking north

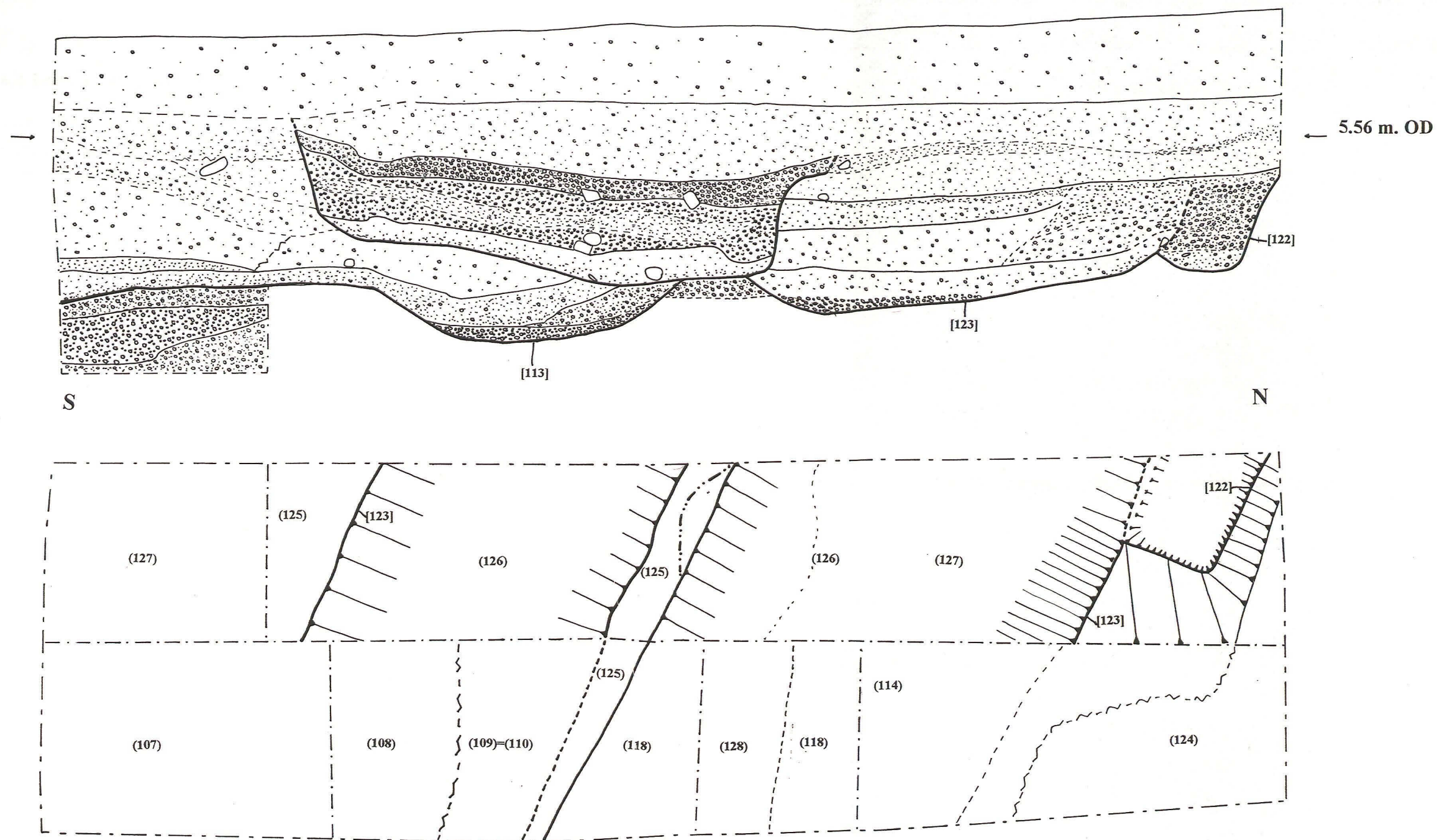


Fig. 3: Composite Plan & Section of Trench 1 (1:20)

6.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

Trench 2 was excavated to a depth approximately 0.76 m. beneath the modern ground surface. No significant archaeological deposits were exposed, and no stray artefacts were recovered. The deposit sequence may be summarised as follows:-

- (200) c. 30 cm. Recent topsoil horizon consisting of a light-mid brown friable silt with occasional rounded and sub-angular flint inclusions and limestones. Covered in dense vegetation.
- (201) Variable depth to 30 cm. Light yellow-brown friable silt with frequent angular and sub-angular flint inclusions. Occasional white limestones. Naturally formed sub-soil horizon.
- (202) Layer of variable depth to 22 cm. and comprised of an homogenous yellow Fen silt with occasional white patches possibly due to leached calcium salts. Totally seals and fills undulating natural gravel (203)
- (202) Upper horizon of natural whitish yellow gravel sequence: hard, moderately sorted coarse grained sandy gravel. Limestone based with occasional angular and sub-angular flint inclusions. Undulating, but generally flat horizon with occasional deeper depressions.



Plate 2: General view of Trench 2 looking north

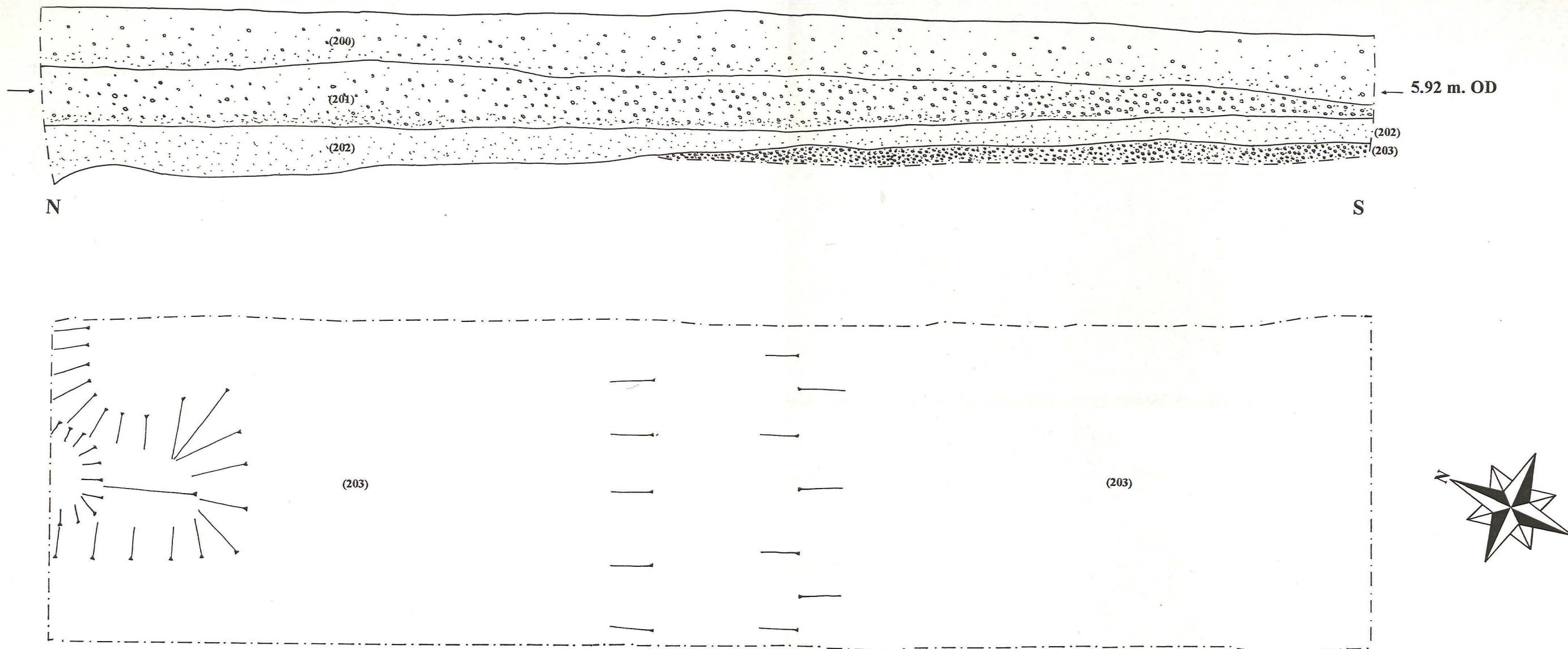


Fig. 4: Composite Plan & Section of Trench 2 (1:20)

7.0 Summary and Conclusions

The evaluation did not identify any significant archaeological remains.

The site lies on the periphery of the medieval settlement and east of the Roman Car Dyke (which may mark the eastern boundary of principal Romano-British settlement).

In the opinion of the writer, further archaeological intervention is unlikely to significantly enhance the archaeological record for Baston, and it is suggested that any future archaeological condition, if deemed appropriate, should be of low intensity and proportionate to the size of the development.

8.0 Acknowledgements

Sincere thanks are expressed to Mr G Morza of Burmor Construction for commissioning PCA (Lincoln) to undertake the evaluation. Thanks are also expressed to J Young for producing an archive of the post-Roman/modern pottery.

9.0 Appendices

9.1 Post-Roman pottery archive by J Young

9.2 List of contexts

9.3 Site archive

9.4 References

Appendix 9.1

POST-ROMAN POTTERY ARCHIVE: MBC96 WARE TYPES BY CONTEXT

| Context | Ware | Sherds | Form | Comments |
|---------|---------|--------|--------|-------------|
| 104 | BS | 4 | HOLLOW | VARIOUS |
| 104 | CRMWARE | 1 | PLATE | - |
| 104 | CRMWARE | 3 | ? | VARIOUS |
| 104 | LPM | 1 | HOLLOW | BL/W |
| 104 | LPM | 1 | PLATE | BL/W |
| 109 | BOUA | 1 | COOK | UNGLZE |
| 109 | BOUA | 1 | COOK | UNGLZE |
| 114 | LPM | 1 | MUG | PLAIN WHITE |
| 114 | LPM | 1 | SAUCER | PRIMROSA |

POST-ROMAN POTTERY ARCHIVE: MBC96 HORIZON DATING

| Context | Earliest horizon | Latest horizon | Probable horizon | Date range |
|---------|------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 104 | EMH | EMH | - | mid 19th |
| 109 | MH3 | MH6 | - | late 12th to mid 14th |
| 114 | EMH | EMH | - | 20th |

9.2 List of Contexts

Trench 1

| Context | Classification |
|---------|--|
| 100 | Humic layer of loose light-mid brown friable sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions. Depth c. 30 cm. |
| 101 | Sub-soil layer comprised of a light-mid grey-brown friable sandy silt with gravel and limestone inclusions. Depth c. 38 cm. |
| 102 | Fill of Cut [105]. Loose gravel, predominantly yellow with occasional iron staining. Depth c. 10 cm. |
| 103 | Fill of Cut [105]. Light mid grey ash matrix with charcoal and coal. Contained modern glass and tile fragments. Depth variable to 15 cm. |
| 103a | Fine silt lens within [103]. |
| 104 | Fill of Cut [105]. Primary fill of rubbish pit: light brown homogenous fine silt with occasional coarse sand pockets. Depth 17 cm. |
| 105 | Cut: steep sided with undulating base, deepening northwards. Domestic rubbish pit, C20th. Depth 64 cm. |
| 106 | Fill: deliberate infill of quarry pit comprised of a light orange-brown firm silty coarse sand. Depth 18 cm. |
| 107 | Fill of quarry pit: light orange-brown fine (clayey) silt. |
| 108 | Fill of quarry pit: light orange-grey plastic gritty clayey silt. |
| 109=110 | Light brownish grey sticky fine silt with grit inclusions and organic matter; appears to be inwash / accumulation after quarry pit is disused. Depth 13 cm. |
| 111 | Water washed deposit laid after quarry had gone out of use; comprised of a mid grey gritty sandy silt with frequent coarse gravel inclusions. Depth 13 cm. |
| 112 | Uniform light-mid grey mixed deposit of poorly sorted coarse sand and gravel. Similar to [119], this represents disturbed natural of the working base of the quarry pit. Depth c. 10 cm. |
| 113 | Cut: linear 'gully' with c. 45° sides running broadly E-W. Represents a workings' cut of quarry pit, possibly by a drag line. |

- 114 Fill of quarry pit. light brown homogenous sandy silt with frequent grit inclusions and occasional limestones and flint inclusions. Dark earth; may be redeposited top soil. Depth 18 cm.
- 115 Fill of quarry pit. Mixed dark red-brown coarse gritty silt with limestones and flint inclusions. Depth 22 cm.
- 116 Fill of quarry pit. Yellow brown sandy silt with gravel inclusions. Depth 10 cm.
- 117 Fill of quarry pit. Light brown mixed deposit consisting of gravel in a silty sand matrix. Slopes slightly N-S. Depth 17 cm. (max.).
- 118 Fill/Deposit. Dark grey loose grit and silt matrix with gravel. Humified; this appears to be a water borne deposit accumulated after the quarry had become redundant. Depth 12 cm. Cf. [109]=[110].
- 119 Very compact Fill/Deposit of dark grey-black sand and gravel within a very fine silt matrix. Re-worked/stained natural representative of quarry working floor. Depth 9 cm. Similar to [112].
- 120 Deposit/Fill. Light brown-grey mixed context comprised of a coarse sandy silt matrix with moderately sorted limestone gravel. Unclear whether this represents an upper fill of [122] or weathered natural washed in. Depth 33 cm.
- 121 Fill of [122]. Moderately uniform light brown sandy/gritty silt with occasional limestone inclusions. Depth 9 cm.
- 122 Cut: sub-rectangular cut in N-W corner of trench. Generally flat bottomed with near vertical, slightly under cutting, N & E sides. Truncated by [123] but still representing quarry workings.
- 123 Cut; linear cut with c. 45° sides aligned broadly E-W. Possibly caused by a drag line. Represents quarry cut at this juncture.
- 124 Natural white/yellow-orange limestone based gravel.
- 125 Natural orange gravel, forming a 'crest' between quarry drag lines.
- 126 Natural gravel lens comprised of grey sandy gravel.
- 127 Lowest natural gravel horizon sampled. Dark orange.
- 128 Deposit/Fill: dirty mid-dark grey gravel lens between contexts [118] & [119]. Doesn't show in section. Depth 7 cm.

- 129 Same as [108]
- 130 Horizon: very fine orange/grey-brown pliable fine silt. Similar to [108] / [129]
- 131 Light brown slightly sandy silt with a moderate quantity of small rounded limestones. Depth 20 cm.
- 132 Generic context for quarry pit cut: comprised of contexts [113], [122] & [123]

Trench 2

| Context | Classification |
|---------|---|
| 200 | Humic layer comprised of loose light-mid brown friable sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions. Depth c. 30 cm. |
| 201 | Layer comprised of light yellowish brown friable silt with firm patches; frequent flint and limestone inclusions. Depth c. 30 cm. |
| 202 | Layer comprised of a light mottled yellow fine Fen silt. Seals underlying gravels. Depth c. 22 cm. |
| 203 | Natural Gravels: moderately sorted coarse grained sandy matrix with rounded / sub-angular limestones and occasional angular and sub-rounded flints. Predominantly mixed white-yellow with occasional yellow-orange patches. |

Appendix 9.3 Site archive

Primary records and finds are currently with PCA; a detailed site archive of the paper and physical element is in preparation. This will be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln within six months following project completion. A summary of material contained in the archive is presented thus:-

- x34 context record sheets
- x 2 composite 1:20 site drawings
- x 2 colour print films
- post-Roman pottery archive by J Young
- x1 bag of artefacts
- interim/developers report
- miscellaneous notes and correspondence.

Following submission, the site archived may be accessed at Lincoln City and County Museum by quoting the global accession number: 126.96

9.4 References

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