



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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**Beech Rise, Sleaford**  
**Planning Application N/57/1031/96**  
**Site Code SBR 98**  
**NGR: TF 0695 4670**

## **Archaeological Evaluation**

for

**Kings Quality Homes**

**LAS Report No. 281**  
**March 1998**

25 WEST PARADE · LINCOLN · LN1 1NW  
TELEPHONE 01522 544554 · FACSIMILE 01522 522211 · EMAIL [las@lasarchaeology.demon.co.uk](mailto:las@lasarchaeology.demon.co.uk)

PARTNERS: F.N.FIELD B.A.(Hons), MIFA · M.V.CLARK

Lincolnshire County Council  
Archaeology Section

1 0. MAR 98

12 Friars Lane  
LINCOLN LN2 5AL  
Tel: 01522 575292 Fax: 01522 530724



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Pl. 1 General view of site looking north-west towards Sleaford Wood

Pl. 2 General view of site looking south-east towards the railway

**Beech Rise, Sleaford**  
**Archaeological Evaluation**  
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**LCNCC Museum Accn No. 71.98**  
**NGR: TF 0695 4670**

**Summary**

*An archaeological evaluation at the above site revealed no significant archaeological deposits and only modern features were found. Colluvial and alluvial deposits were removed but there was no evidence of archaeological deposits beneath.*

**Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Kings Quality Homes to carry out an archaeological evaluation at land off Beech Rise, Sleaford. The work was carried out in accordance with the Brief set by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer. The purpose of the evaluation was to:

- establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains and their location within the development area
- determine the quality and extent of any remains
- determine the level of further archaeological recording required prior to development if appropriate

**The Site (Fig. 1)**

The proposed development covers approximately 1ha and is located to the north-east of the modern town of Sleaford. It is bounded by Sleaford Wood and a stream to the north, a railway line and hedge to the south, a modern housing estate to the west with no eastern boundary to the site (Pls. 1 and 2). The ground surface is uneven and slopes noticeably to the north towards the stream. It is currently under rough grass.

**Planning Background**

Outline planning permission has been given to construct 35 houses on the site. Detailed plans are unavailable at this stage.

**Archaeological Background**

Excavations on the eastern side of Sleaford have identified late Roman and Iron Age finds, including coin mould fragments and a rich pottery assemblage which suggests that a high status settlement was located at the eastern side of the modern town. A possible Roman villa lies to the north of the development site and linear features, shown as cropmarks, are present to the east. No direct evidence exists from within the site but features may extend into the area.

A geophysical survey carried out by Landscape Research Centre Ltd. failed to show any significant archaeological remains. This was thought to have been due to the nature of the soil, or disturbance created by the construction of the railway to the south (Tann pers. comm.). Given the proximity of known



archaeological remains, a further stage of evaluation was requested comprising machine excavated trenches.

### **The Excavation**

Six trenches were excavated, which consisted of five trenches approximately 10m x 1.5m and a sixth trench measuring 20m x 1.5m (Fig. 2). The 20m trench was excavated perpendicular to the maximum slope in order to examine colluvial and alluvial deposits. The remaining five trenches were located randomly throughout the site.

#### Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

This trench was located in the approximate centre of the field, and orientated north-south. It was excavated to between 0.40m deep at the southern part of the trench and 0.60m deep at the northern part. A small circular feature **104** was located 6.8m from the northern baulk. It was a shallow concave feature with a sandy silt fill and was cut through by a field drain on its east side. No artefacts were found

A large shallow feature 8.2m from the northern baulk was determined to be a tree bole. A linear feature **106**, 12.5m from the northern baulk, was shallow concave with a rounded base and a deeper slot in the southern part which is probably the result of ploughing. No artefacts were recovered.

The natural deposits were mixed clays and silts overlain by alluvial sands which were, in turn, overlain by mixed grey brown colluvial deposits. A machine section was excavated at the northern end of the trench which revealed alluvium overlying reduced clays to a depth of 1.50m. No evidence of archaeological features or preserved land surfaces was revealed in these deposits.

#### Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

Trench 2 was excavated east-west, perpendicular to Trench 1 to a depth between 0.50m and 0.55m. Topsoil was 0.32m deep and overlay approximately 0.20m of mixed clayey silt which probably represents colluvial deposits. No features were observed cutting through the colluvium, although two linear features were cut into the natural silty clay. **207** was 0.20m wide and filled with a mixed sandy clay **208**, and traversed the trench c.3m from the eastern baulk. It was probably a plough furrow.

A second linear feature, **204**, was orientated approximately north-south curving slightly to the west. It was 0.65m wide at the top but narrowed to only 0.40m wide. It remained incompletely excavated at a depth of 1.50m. Its sharp, narrow deep cut suggest that it was probably a field drain, cut by machine.

#### Trench 3

Trench 3 was excavated at the top of the slope in the south-east corner of the site. It was 10m long and excavated to a depth of between 0.23m at the southern end of the trench and 0.30m at the northern end. The topsoil directly

overlay natural clays and silts. There were no features or archaeological finds in this trench.

#### Trench 4

Trench 5 was located in the south-west corner of the site and was 10.50m long. The topsoil was between 0.23m at the south-east of the slope, and 0.33m deep at the north-west. This directly overlay natural clays and silts. There were no archaeological features or finds from this trench.

#### Trench 5

Trench 5 was located in the north-east corner of the site and excavated to a maximum depth of 1m. The topsoil was 0.50m deep overlying an orange brown silty clay. This sealed a grey brown clay which overlay deposits of silts and clays, probably alluvial material.

#### Trench 6

Trench 6 was excavated in the north-west corner of the site and excavated to a depth of 0.40m. Topsoil was 0.38m deep and overlay a deposit of mixed clays and silts 0.20m in thickness, which was probably a colluvial deposit. At the base of this was a deposit of brown clay. A deep section was excavated by machine at the north-west end of the trench which showed that the silts and clays became progressively more clayey and at 1.15m consisted of a stiff clay. No archaeological features were revealed in this trench.

#### **Discussion**

None of the trenches revealed anything of archaeological significance. There were no features, other than a field drain and plough furrows, nor were there any artefacts recovered from the site. There was evidence of colluvium and possibly alluvium in Trenches 1, 5 and 6. Deep sections in Trenches 1 and 6 did not expose any features preserved below this horizon.

The lack of a true subsoil or plough pan in any of the trenches may indicate that ploughing has caused erosion until relatively recently which could have destroyed any archaeological features, but there were no residual artefacts in the ploughsoil.

#### **Conclusion**

The evaluation failed to find any archaeological remains. Although the evaluation only covered 1% of the proposed development site there is no evidence from any stages of the evaluation that the proposed development will have significant impact upon archaeological remains.

#### **Acknowledgements**

LAS would like to thank Kings Quality Homes for their co-operation, the North Kesteven Community Archaeologist for her advice and the SMR staff at the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council for their help.

Mark Williams  
6<sup>th</sup> March 1998



## APPENDIX 1

### **Contents of Site Archive**

#### *Records Archive*

6 Context register sheets

27 Context recording sheets

3 Sheets of drawing film

Photographs Film no. 98/17 Negs. 4-6

#### *Finds*

3 sherds of post-medieval pottery

## APPENDIX 2

### Beech Rise, Sleaford Context Summary

Context Number	Type	Description
<b>Trench 1</b>		
101	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey clay loam
102	Layer	Light greyish brown sandy clay
103	Layer	Mixed sands and silts
104	Cut	Pit
105	Fill of 104	Mid yellowish brown sandy silt
106	Cut	
107	Fill	Fill of 106
108	layer	Anaerobic clay
<b>Trench 2</b>		
201	Topsoil	Dark brownish grey silty clay
202	Layer	Mid yellow brown greyish brown
203	Layer	Mid yellow brown clayey sand
204	Cut	Linear
205	Fill 204	Mid reddish brown silty clay
206	Layer	Orange mottled silty clay
207	Cut	Modern linear feature
208	Fill of 207	Mixed greyish brown sandy clay
<b>Trench 3</b>		
301	Topsoil	Very clayey silt
302	Layer	Orange natural clay
303	Layer	Orange clayey silt
304	Layer	Orange grey clay
<b>Trench 4</b>		
401	Topsoil	Grey brown clay
402	Layer	Orange grey clay
403	Layer	Orange clay sandy silt
<b>Trench 5</b>		
501	Topsoil	Grey brown clayey silt
502	Layer	Orange brown clay with occasional rounded pebbles
503	Layer	Grey brown clay
504	Layer	Mixed yellow sand
505	Deposit	Grey brown clay
<b>Trench 6</b>		
601	Topsoil	Dark Brown / grey clayey silt
602	Layer	Brown / orange silty clay
603	Layer	Brown / orange slightly silty clay



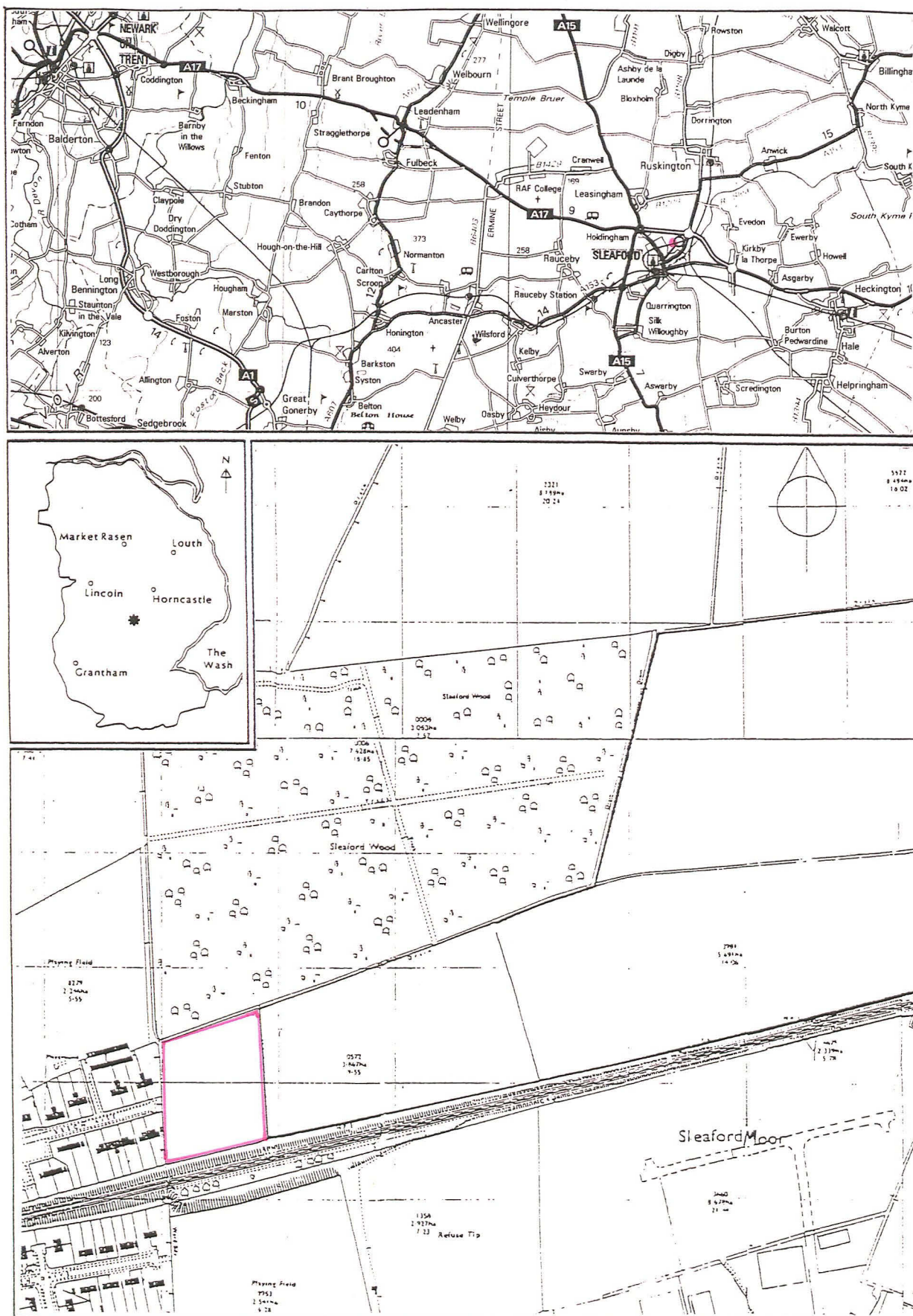


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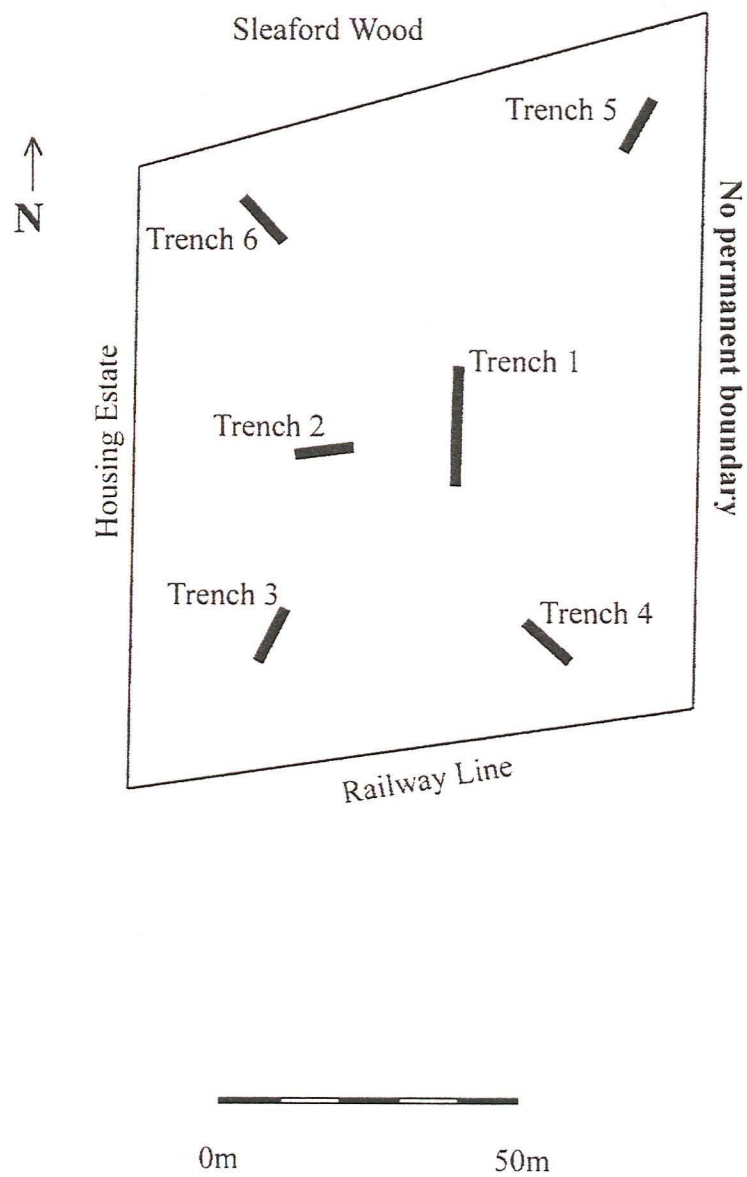


Figure 2: Trench Location

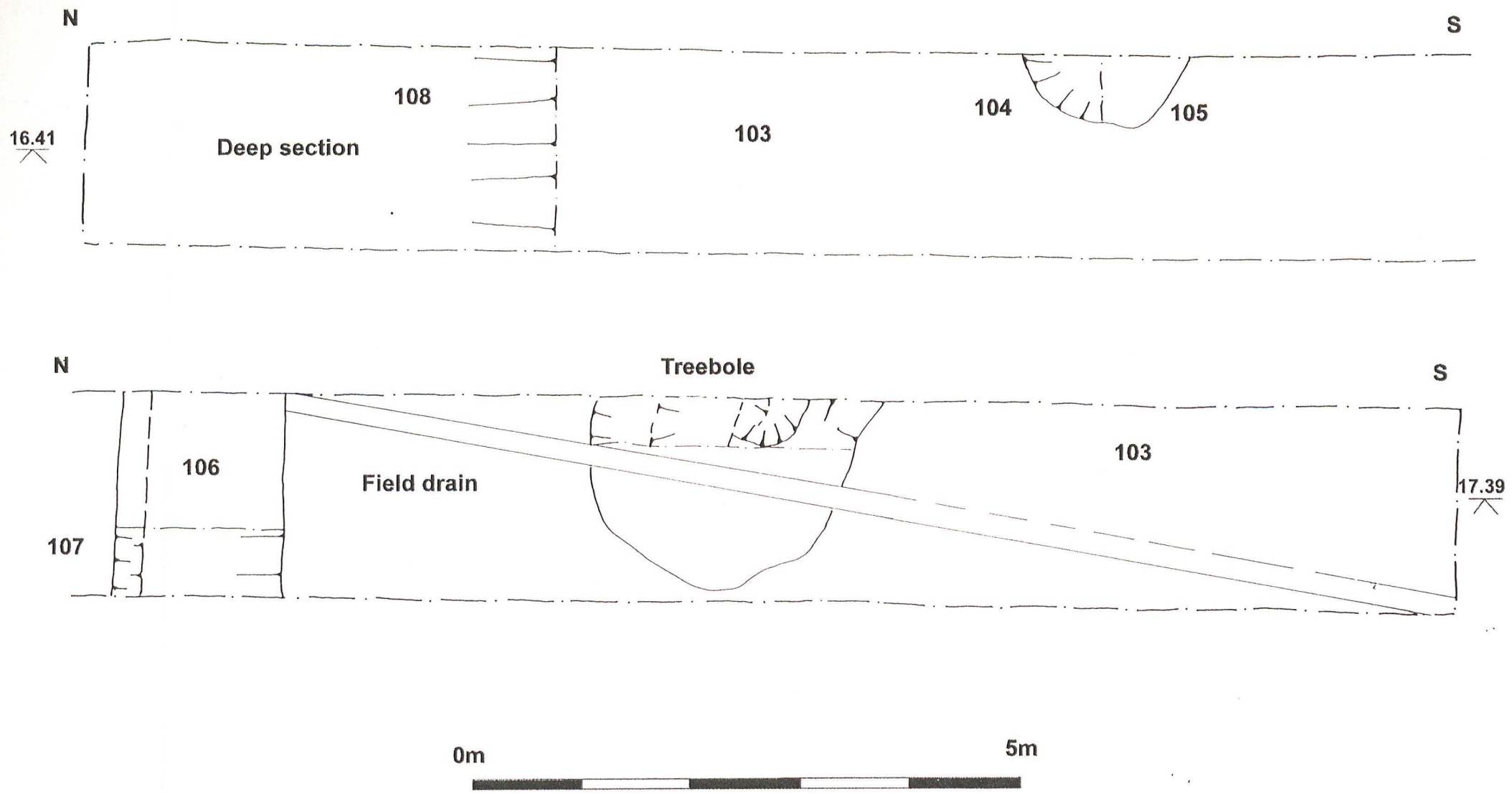


Figure 3: Trench 1

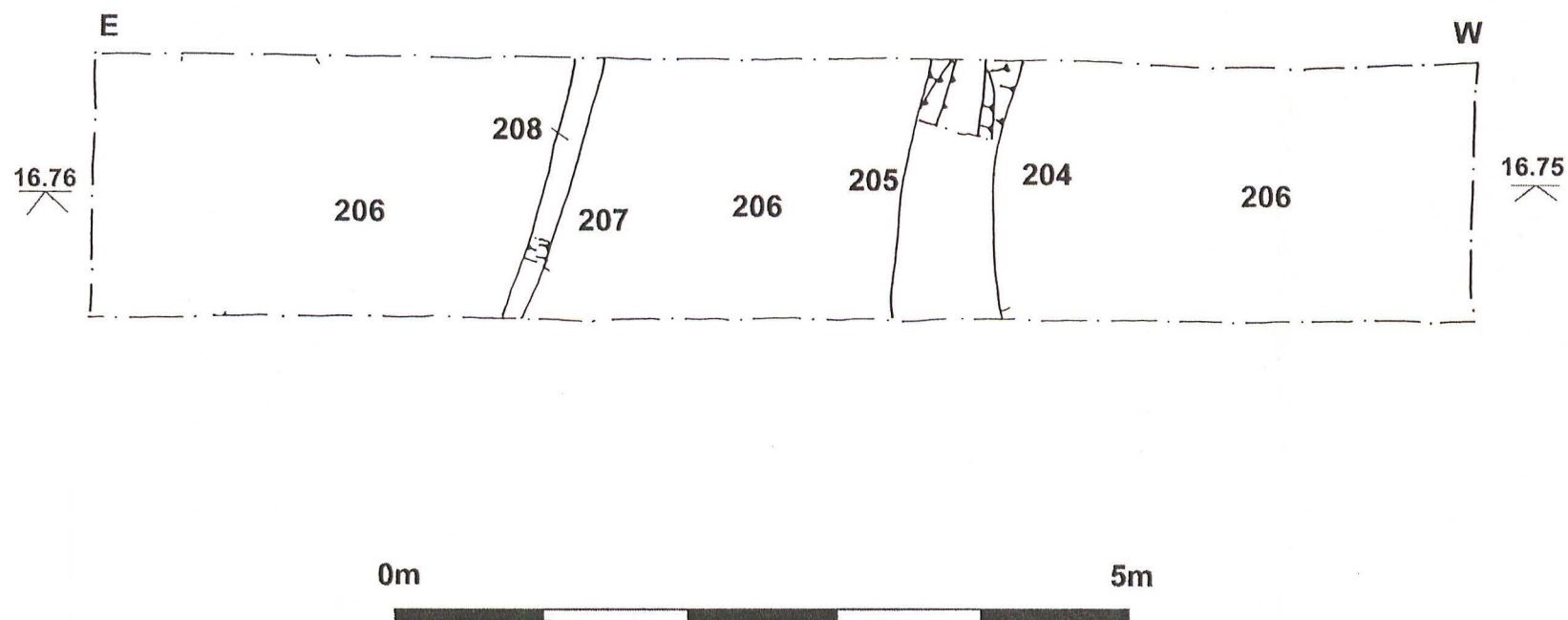


Figure 4: Plan of Trench 2





Pl. 1 General view of site looking north-west towards Sleaford Wood

Pl. 2 General view of site looking south-east towards the railway

