

98/13

John Samuels Archaeological Consultants

*The Manor, South Street, Normanton-on-Trent, Newark, Nottinghamshire NG23 6RQ
Telephone 01636 821727 Fax 01636 822080*



**An Archaeological Evaluation Excavation
on land South of Horseshoe Road,
Spalding, Lincolnshire**

NGR TF 233 217

carried out by

John Samuels Archaeological Consultants

on behalf of

Broadgate Builders (Spalding) Ltd
Broadgate House
Weston Hills
Spalding
Lincs PE12 6DB

*JSAC 380a/98/02
August 1998*

*Site Code :LHS 98
Museum Accession No : 174.98*

Also at : Witham Park House, Waterside South, Lincoln LN5 7JP Telephone : 01522 880050

Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section

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*An Archaeological Evaluation Excavation
at Land South of Horseshoe Road, Spalding, Lincs*

**An Archaeological Excavation
at Land South of Bourne Road, Spalding, Lincs**

Contents

List of Figures and Plates	3
Summary	4
1.0 Introduction	5
2.0 Methodology	7
3.0 Results	8
4.0 Discussion	11
5.0 Conclusions	12
6.0 Figure and Plates	13
7.0 References and Sources Consulted	32
8.0 Archive	33
Appendix A : Pottery and Bone Report by J.R. Samuels	34
Appendix B : Context Summary	36
Appendix C: Specification	40

List of Figures and Plates

Figure 1 : Location of the excavation site

Figure 2 : Trench layout plan

Figure 3 : Trench 1 a) Plan
 b) Section

Figure 4 : Trench 2 a) Plan
 b) Section
 c) Section of [210]

Figure 5 : Trench 3 a) Plan
 b) Section

Figure 6 : Trench 4 a) Plan
 b) Section

Figure 7 : Trench 5 a) Plan
 b) Section
 c) Section of [508]
 d) Section of [504]/[508]

Figure 8 : Trench 6 a) Plan
 b) Section

Plate 1 : Trench 1 looking northeast

Plate 2 : Trench 2 looking northwest

Plate 3 : Palaeochannel [210]

Plate 4 : Trench 3, south-facing section

Plate 5 : Trench 4 from the south

Plate 6 : Pit [405]

Plate 7 : Trench 5, northeast-facing section

Plate 8 : Ditch [508]

Plate 9 : Trench 6 from the southeast

Summary

Broadgate Builders have applied for planning permission for the construction of 21 dwellings for Longhurst Housing Association. The site is located to the south of Horseshoe Road Spalding, centred on NGR TF 233 217. It comprises 0.5ha of land formerly used for nursery buildings.

The site lies in an area of dense archaeological activity and although nothing has been identified within the limits of this site, the potential for buried remains is considered moderate-high. In order to assess further this potential, the County Archaeological Officer, as advisor to the South Holland Planning Authority, has requested that a programme of trial trenching be carried out.

A specification was prepared by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants and agreed with the County Archaeological Officer. The evaluation was carried out over five days in August 1998 and this document reports on its results.

Only two features of archaeological interest were identified, both in Trench 5. An additional trench (Trench 6) was excavated to determine the spread of these features eastwards but revealed only a palaeochannel. The features recorded were of Romano-British origin and comprised a narrow ditch which cut through the a large shallow pit or natural depression. These features are considered to be peripheral to a settlement of Romano-British date which, based on the evidence of the other evaluation trenches, probably lies to the south of the proposed development site.

Given the paucity of archaeological remains over the majority of the site and the minimal damage likely to be done to any remains by the proposed foundation trenches, it is considered that no further archaeological work is necessary in connection with the development of this site.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Site Location and Description

1.1.1 The proposed development site is located to the south of Horseshoe Road, within the proposed Holland Park development area in Spalding, Lincolnshire. It comprises a roughly rectangular parcel of land, measuring approximately 0.5ha and was formerly used for nursery buildings although it is currently derelict. It is centred on NGR TF 233 217 and lies at approximately 3m above Ordnance Datum. Underlying soils are of marine alluvium overlying natural undisturbed silts.

1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 Broadgate Builders are proposing the development of this site for social housing in conjunction with Longhurst Housing Association. It forms the northernmost part of a larger development site known as Holland Park. Planning permission is being sought separately for this area (Planning ref. : unknown).

1.2.2 The Lincolnshire County Archaeology Section act as advisors to the South Holland Planning Authority. The Assistant County Archaeologist was ^{to} be informed of the commencement of the excavation and visited the site to monitor the excavation.

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 The site has been subject to a desk-based assessment and aerial photographic survey as part of the larger development proposal of Holland Park (JSAC 380/98/01 & Air Photo Services 1998/13). These have identified no features within this specific site but suggest that this may be due to the presence of nursery buildings until recent times.

1.3.2 The surrounding area has been shown to display a wealth of cropmarks, presumed to date from prehistoric periods onwards. Immediately to the north of the site, a recent evaluation and excavation, undertaken by Archaeological Project Services and John Samuels Archaeological Consultants respectively, have identified the presence of a late Iron Age or Early Romano-British enclosure with evidence for salt-making (APS report no. 39/97; JSAC 379/98/02 draft).

1.3.3 Spalding itself is known to be an area of moderate early archaeological activity, thought to be due to the fact that the majority of Spalding was either submerged by marine flooding or composed of salt marshes, particularly during the prehistoric period. Roman activity in the area is perhaps best represented by the Baston Outgang Roman road. Beginning in Baston, the Romano-British gravel road can be traced from cropmarks to within five hundred metres of the area under investigation (Hallam 1970, 30).

1.3.4 Although no Saxon activity has been recorded in the Spalding area, it is thought that the

town continued to be of some importance in the post-Roman period. The strongest evidence for this is a tribal name 'Spaldas', first referred to in the seventh century Tribal Hideage (Phillips 1970, 30, 41 and 60). The name Spalding is likely to come from the word Spaldingas, meaning descendants of Spaldas in Old English (Ekwall 1991, 432). The Baston Outgang was probably still in use until at least the early Saxon period, as suggested by the presence of a cremation cemetery near its junction with King Street in Baston.

- 1.3.5 Much of the fens were the subject of wholesale drainage during the seventeenth century. In 1642 the draining of Deeping Fen and construction of Vernatt's drain only one kilometre north of the site had a profound effect on the entire area.
- 1.3.6 In recent years modern disturbance has included the construction of the railways, concrete pill box defences built during the second world war and the extensive green house developments of a garden nursery, which occupied the site prior to development.

2.0 Methodology

- 2.1 An area of approximately 170m², (3.4% of the development site) was excavated in the form of six trenches.
- 2.2 Topsoil and overburden were removed by a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket to a depth at which archaeological remains were identified or to undisturbed natural silt deposits. Following mechanical excavation the remains were hand cleaned and recorded on an individual context basis in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists guidelines (IFA 1994). In this report, fills are denoted by rounded brackets () and cuts by square brackets [].
- 2.3 All artefacts were treated in accordance with UKIC guidelines, *First Aid For Finds* (1981), and were bagged and labelled in accordance to the individual deposit from which they were recovered, ready for later cleaning and analysis. Analysis of animal bone was undertaken by Robert C. Alvey MPhil; Romano-British pottery was analysed by John Samuels BA, PhD, FSA, MIFA.
- 2.4 A full written, drawn and photographic record was kept throughout and the methodology proposed in the specification (JSAC 380a/98/01, see Appendix C) adhered to throughout.
- 2.5 The excavation was directed by Nansi Rosenberg BA, PIFA. This report was written by Nansi Rosenberg, in consultation with John Samuels BA, PhD, FSA, MIFA.
- 2.6 The excavation corresponded to the guidelines set out in Planning Policy Guidance : *Archaeology and Planning* (DoE 1991) (PPG16). It has been designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice and the appropriate national standards and guidelines, including :

Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991);

Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994);

Code of Conduct (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1995); and

Archaeology Handbook (Lincolnshire County Council 1998).

3.0 Results

3.0.1 The site was covered in a sand and gravel layer which had formed the nursery ground level. This overlay black or white polythene which sealed the deposits below. All measurements are taken from the polythene layer.

3.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

3.1.1 Trench 1 measured 9.60m x 1.94m and was located on the western side of the site on a northeast-southwest alignment. Modern overburden, topsoil and water deposited layers were excavated in spits to a depth of approximately 1 metre over the majority of the trench. A deeper test pit was excavated to 1.4m at the northeastern end of the trench to check deposits at a lower level.

3.1.2 No features or finds of archaeological interest were identified. The soil profile can be summarised as follows:

Context	Description	Maximum thickness
102	dark grey/black clayey silt (containing modern glass)	0.60m
103	light orange/grey silty clay	0.05m
104	dark brown/black silty clay	0.04m
105	grey/orange silty clay	0.22m
106	very light grey/orange sandy silt	>0.62m

3.2 Trench 2 (Figure 4)

3.2.2 Trench 2 measured 10.35m x 1.80m and was excavated to a maximum depth of approximately 1 metre. It was situated to the north of Trench 1 and contained no archaeological finds or features.

3.2.3 Three features were identified immediately following machine excavation but were determined to be a palaeochannel [210], and two natural clay filled depressions, [213] and [215]. Overlying these features were a series of silt and clay deposits, as follows:

Context	Description	Maximum thickness
202	grey/brown sandy silt	0.30m
203	dark grey/brown silty clay	0.32m
204	grey/brown silt	0.20m

These deposits appeared to be make-up rather than natural in origin and may relate to the use of this site for gardening activities.

3.3 Trench 3 (Figure 5)

3.3.1 Trench 3 was situated on an east-west alignment next to an abandoned residential building

at the northern end of the site. It measured 8.80m x 1.80m and was typified by the large quantities of sandstone rubble making up the most recent deposit and a possible former pond feature beneath this.

- 3.3.2 The sandstone rubble, (301), was 0.50m deep and contained fragments of brick, gravel and bitumen. It appeared to have formed hard-standing for a car parking area adjacent to the house. Beneath this deposit was a layer of mid grey/brown clayey silt containing frequent flecks and fragments of charcoal.
- 3.3.3 The possible pond appeared as a series of shallow silts and clays of both stagnant, (304) and (306), and active, (303) and (305), water-deposition. No cut was clearly discernible but these deposits clearly terminated within the trench with a slight up-curve. Below (306) a layer of blue grey silty clay, (307), similar to that into which the palaeochannel was cut in Trench 2.

3.4 *Trench 4 (Figure 6)*

- 3.4.1 Trench 4 was located in the eastern part of the site, on an east-west alignment. It measured 10m x 3.50m and was generally excavated to a depth of 0.60m, although a slight test pit was excavated at the northeastern end to test the deposits. The blue grey silty clay seen in most trenches, and recorded here as (402), was notably shallower towards the eastern side of the site.
- 3.4.2 Three features were exposed in this trench, a square pit [405] and two parallel linear features, [407] and [409]. The two linears were extremely interrupted and shallow and were considered to have been created by a tractor or other vehicle's wheels sinking into the underlying clay.
- 3.4.3 Pit [405] measured 1.20m by 1.04m and was approximately rectangular. It had an irregular base and generally steep sides, although the northeastern edge was more gently sloping. It contained a fill of homogenous grey/brown clayey silt, (404), from which a fragment of 19th century clay pipe bowl was recovered.

3.5 *Trench 5 (Figure 7)*

- 3.5.1 Trench 5 was excavated adjacent to the southern boundary of the site on a WNW-ESE alignment. It originally measured 10.60m x 1.80m but was widened to 3.40m in order to understand the exposed features more fully.
- 3.5.2 A 0.50m deep deposit of grey-brown clayey silt (501) formed the uppermost deposit within this trench and was similar to, although lighter than, (102) in Trench 1. These two deposits are probably equivalent as Trench 5 was exposed for longer prior to recording and was therefore drier.

- 3.5.3 Sealed beneath this topsoil deposit were two archaeological features. [504] was a large roughly circular pit, partially exposed within the trench. It measured 5.1m long and extended 1.8m from the trench baulk. In profile it was shown to be very shallow, with a maximum depth of 0.20m. The uppermost fill (505) was a light grey/brown clayey silt which contained four small sherds of 2nd century Romano-British pottery, a fragment of fired clay and two fragments of animal bone. This overlay a dark, damp black peaty clay (512) at the base of the feature. A third fill, (506), was identified on the eastern side of the feature only. This was a dark brown/grey clayey silt containing charcoal, a fragment of Nene Valley greyware (2nd century), two sheep bone fragments and two fragments of possible daub.
- 3.5.4 The second feature, [508], was an elongated pit or a ditch with a squared terminal, cut into [504]. It measured at least 1.50m long, 0.62m wide and 0.27m deep and had steeply sloping sides which led to a flat base. It was aligned northeast-southwest in the northern end of the trench and extended 1.20m from the edge of pit [504]. The full length of this feature was not determined due to the similarities of the upper fills of [508] and [504]. (507), the uppermost fill, was a mid blue/grey clayey silt which dried to a grey/brown colour. It contained several sherds of pottery, both in Roman and Iron Age forms, as well as several fragments of animal bone and teeth. Below this was a mixed deposit of blue/grey silty clay and pale brown clayey silt, (509), containing two large fragments of Romano-British greyware pottery. The primary fill, (510), was a homogenous light grey/brown silty clay that seemed to be the product of natural deposition.

5.6 *Trench 6 (Figure 8)*

- 5.6.1 Trench 6 was opened following the monitoring visit of the County Archaeological Officer. It was positioned between Trenches 4 and 5 in order to test whether the identified features extended in that direction. It was aligned roughly east-west and measured 11.50m x 3.50m.
- 5.6.2 Its fills were much more varied than those identified in any of the other trenches and it appeared that this had been the site of a former watercourse. This palaeochannel was represented by a series of deposits of sands, clay and silts. A peaty clay layer (604) may represent the same phase of slow-moving water as suggested by (209) in Trench 2. No features or finds of archaeological interest were identified in this trench.

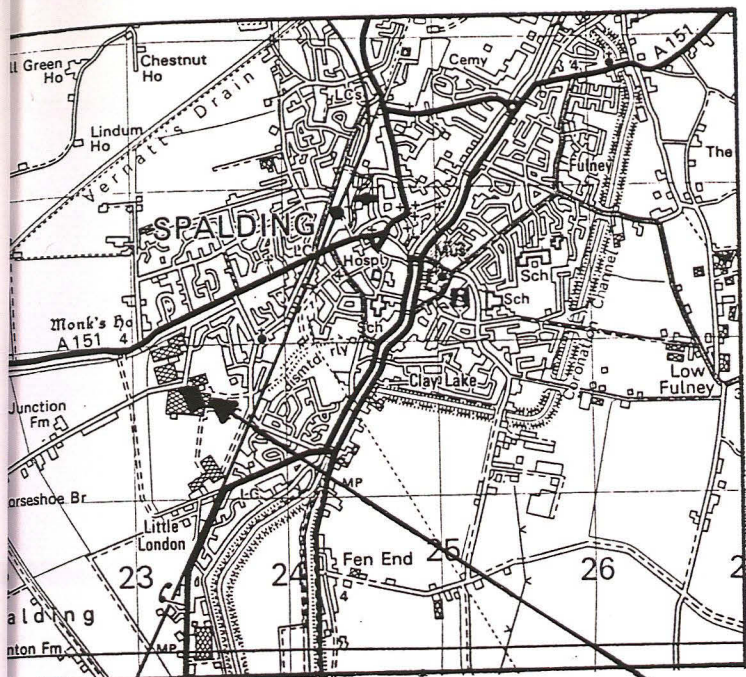
4.0 Discussion

- 4.1 The sequence of deposits identified across the proposed development site was very varied; no two trench sections looked the same. This is possibly due to landscaping involved with the use of this site as a nursery in recent years. Upper levels in Trench 1 contained quantities of modern glass, and brick fragments and bitumen were sealed beneath the hardcore layer in Trench 3, both indicating that recent activities had affected at least the upper 0.50m of soil. Within Trench 4, a feature containing a 19th century clay pipe fragment was sealed by these upper deposits and confirms that the site has been largely affected by landscaping. Also sealed beneath the modern deposits were a series of water-lain clays and silts, common to the fenland and indicative of frequent flooding episodes, interspersed with periods of standing water with vegetation, allowing the development of peat.
- 4.2 The only features of archaeological interest were those in Trench 5, a pit or depression and a ditch. The depression was very shallow with little form and contained a layer of peaty clay overlain by naturally deposited silt. Several small sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered and dated to the 2nd century. A layer of material notable for its fired clay and charcoal content (506) was observed in the eastern side of this feature. The clay was identified as possible daub and, if considered in conjunction with the charcoal, suggests that a structure had burnt down nearby and the debris been deposited, either through natural collapse or deliberate dumping, into this shallow feature. The peaty layer indicates a phase of slow-moving or stagnant water, within which vegetation had grown. This feature appears to have been a natural water-filled feature close to a settlement or other site of human activity in the 2nd century.
- 4.3 The ditch, [508], was more substantial. It was a deliberately constructed feature, although its purpose remains unknown, and it had eventually been deliberately backfilled after a period of time left open to natural silting. The large, unabraded sherds of pottery retrieved from its fills probably dated to the 2nd century, although several sherds of a shell gritted jar were recovered that would have been identified as late Iron Age had they not been associated with the distinctly Romano-British pottery. This suggests that 'traditional' pottery production continued in this area well into the Roman period, perhaps used for lower status activities. Finds of very similar fabrics from a possible saltern site to the north (JSAC 379/98/02) may therefore indicate that it had been in use in the 1st-2nd centuries AD and not 1st century BC - 1st century AD.
- 4.4 These features seem to be peripheral to a settlement site which was probably located further south. Aerial photographs show numerous undated ditched features to the south of the site (Palmer 1998 : 4). They also confirm that the area has been in use for nurseries since 1946 (*ibid.* : 5) and is likely to have suffered major disturbance from those activities, at least at higher levels.

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 Only three features of archaeological interest were found on the site, two dating to the Romano-British period and one to the 19th century. Of these, the 19th century feature is considered to be of negligible importance and its presence will not affect the development of this site. The Romano-British features are of more interest and warrant further consideration. Both were within Trench 5 which was situated on the southeastern edge of the proposed development site. It is likely that the focus of a 2nd century Romano-British settlement existed close by this trench. However, based on the evidence of the other trenches excavated within the proposed development site, this is likely to have been to the south of Trench 5 and probably in the area proposed for gardens or outside the site altogether.
- 5.2 The features and finds identified on this site can be considered to be of no more than local importance and are unlikely to be affected by the development proposals. It is therefore considered that planning permission should be granted with no further requirement for archaeological work.

6.0 Figure and Plates



Note : Map based upon Ordnance Survey with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office, Crown Copyright Reserved. Licence No. AL 52216A0001

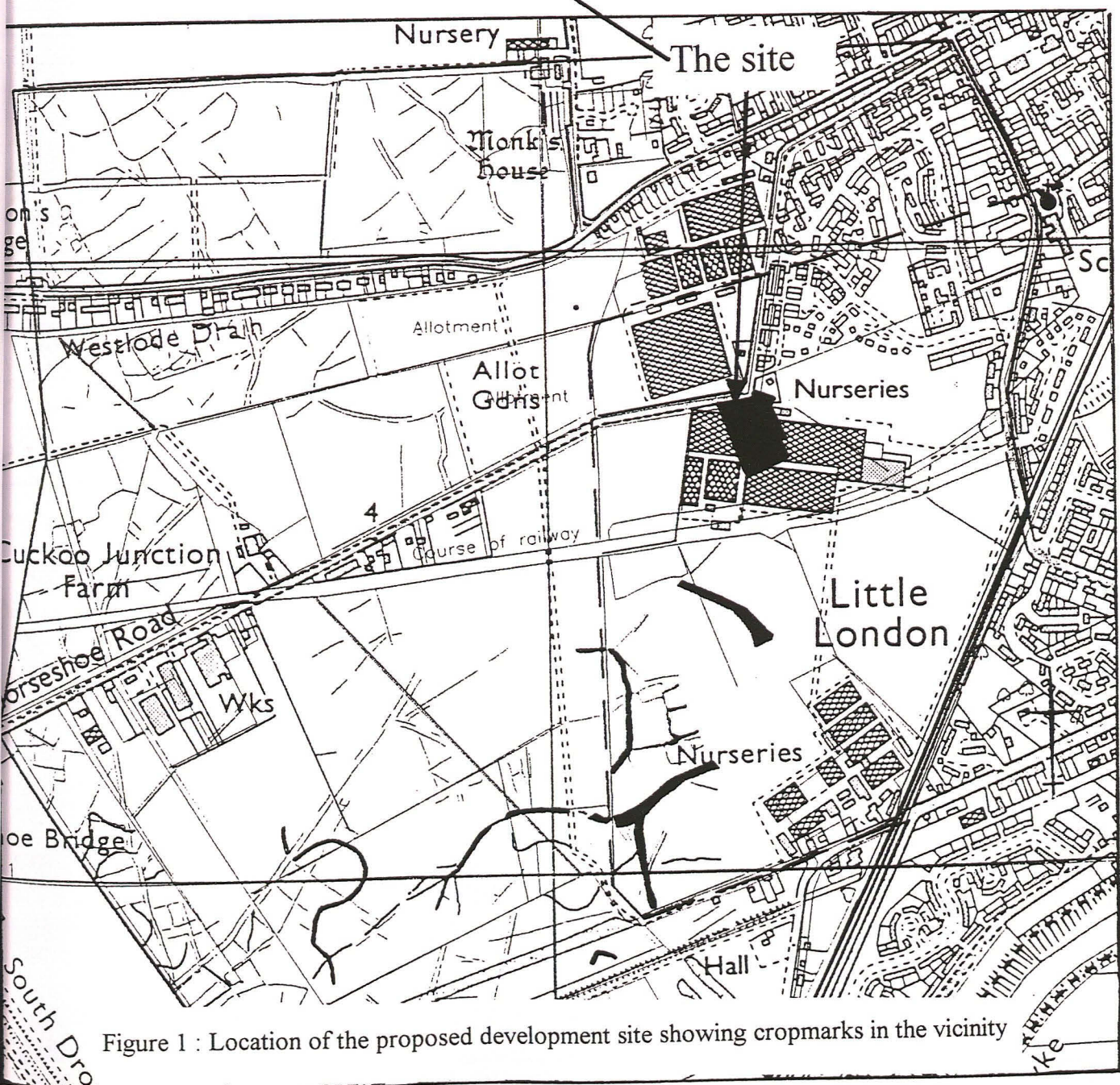
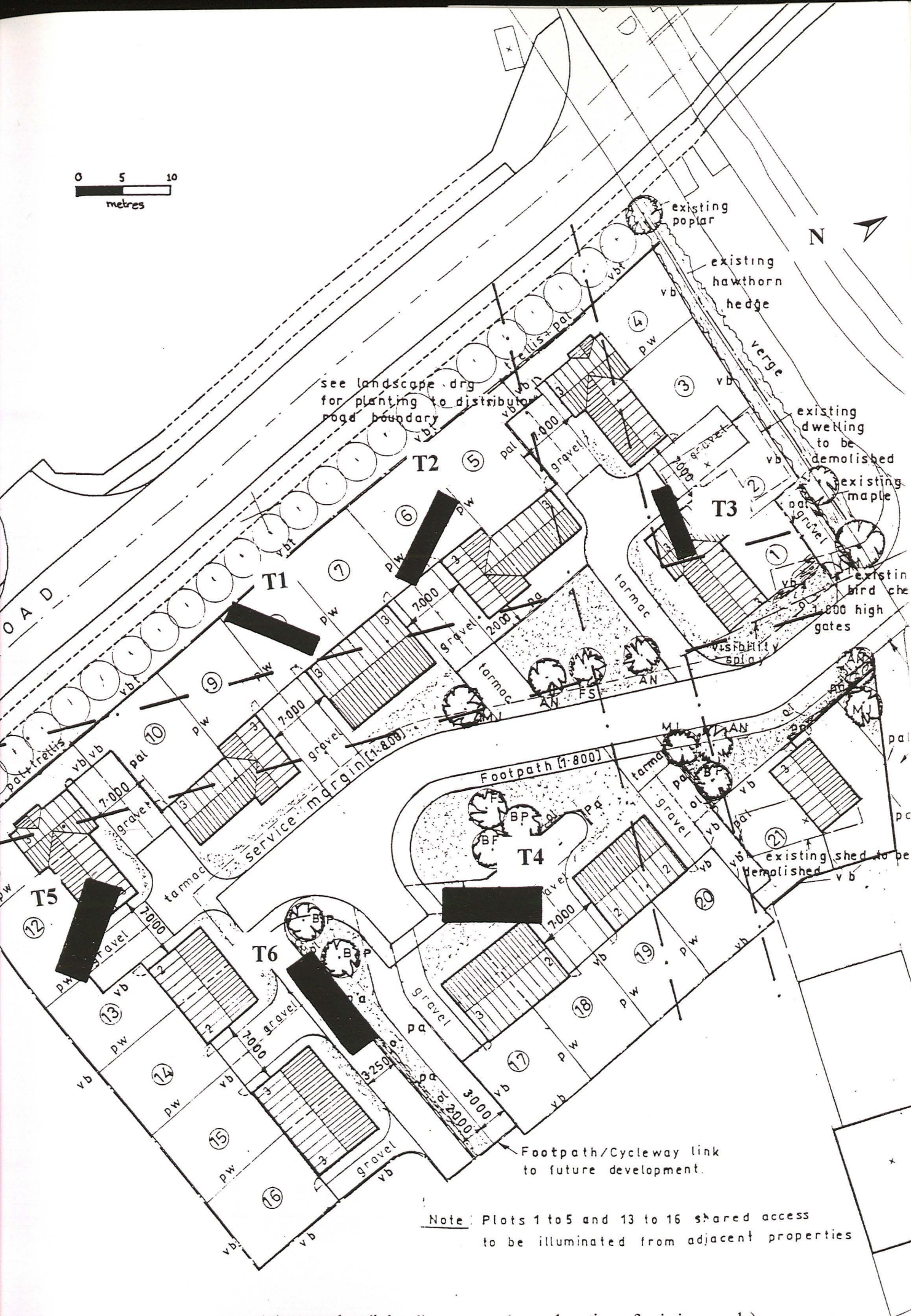
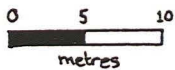


Figure 1 : Location of the proposed development site showing cropmarks in the vicinity



Note: Plots 1 to 5 and 13 to 16 shared access to be illuminated from adjacent properties

Figure 2 : Trench layout plan (including approximate location of existing roads) (based on a drawing supplied by Broadgate Homes Ltd)

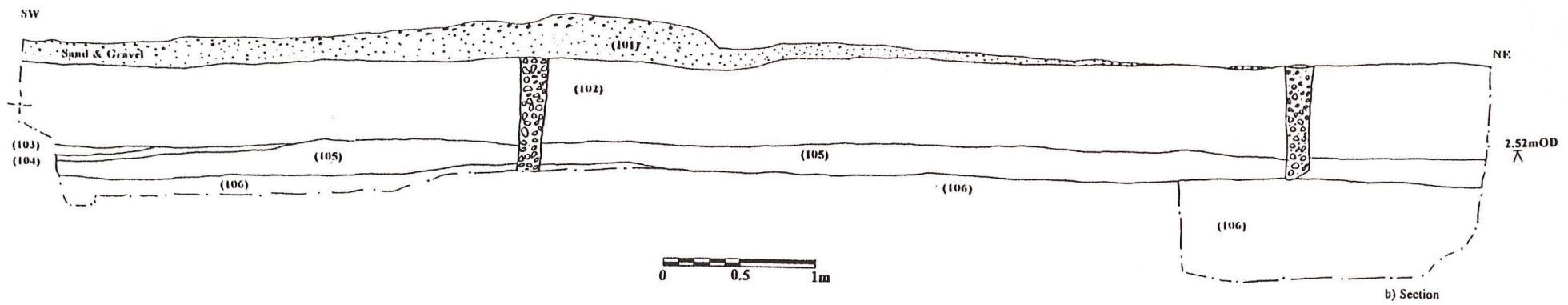
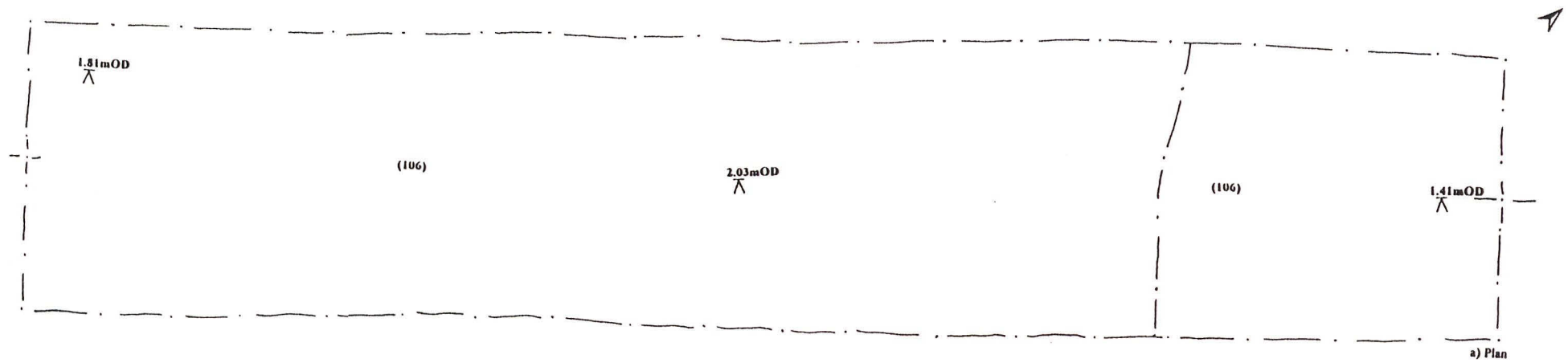


Figure 3 : Trench 1

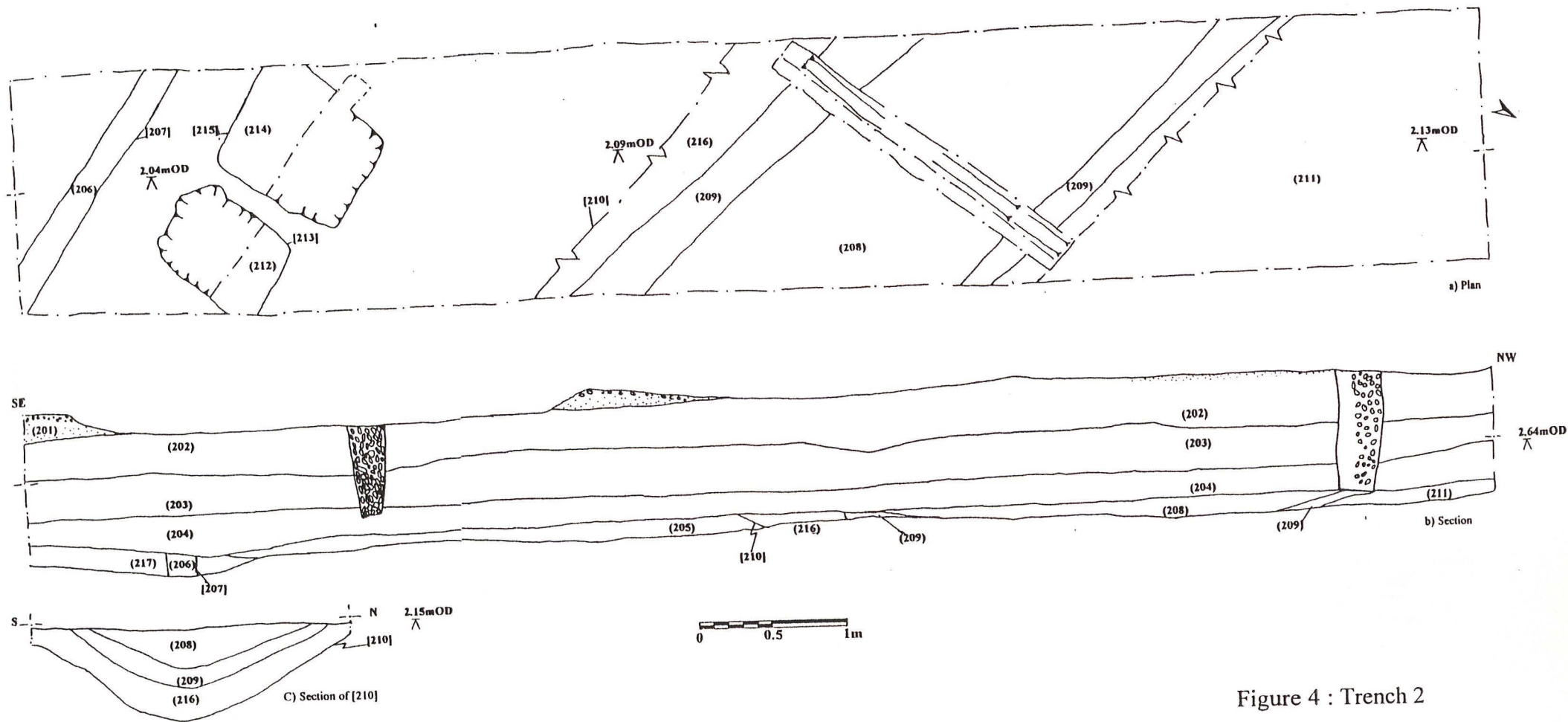


Figure 4 : Trench 2

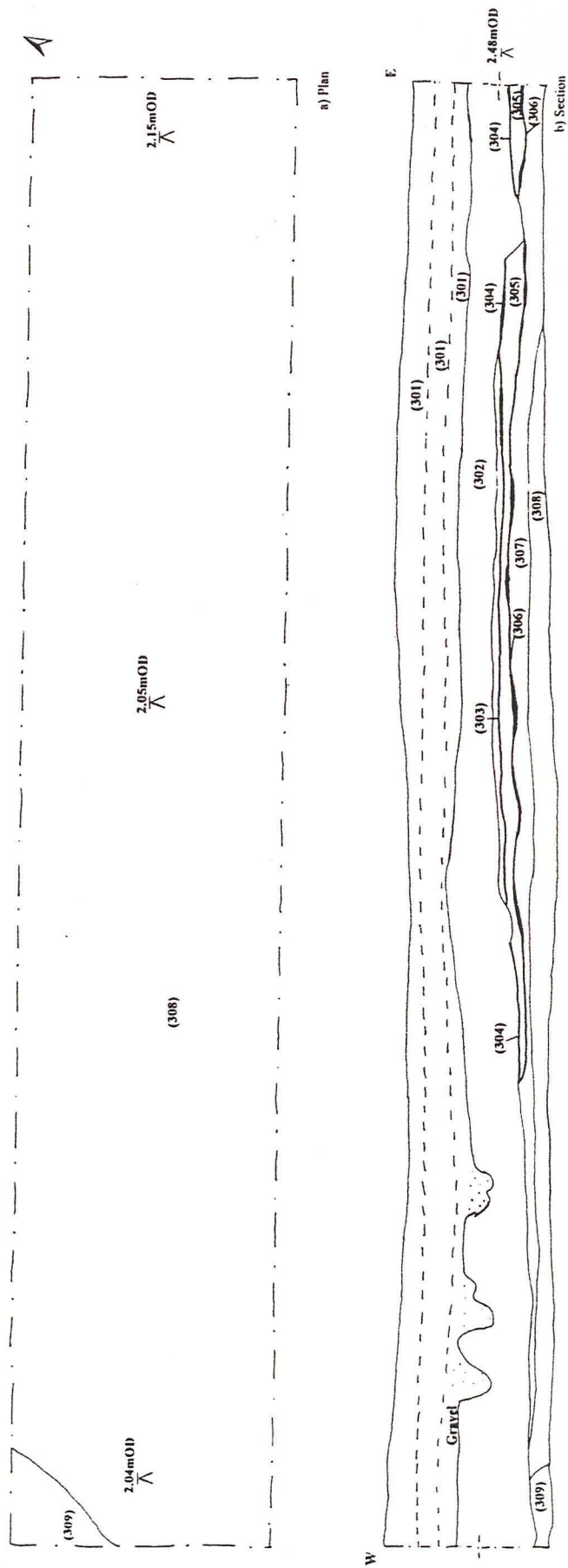
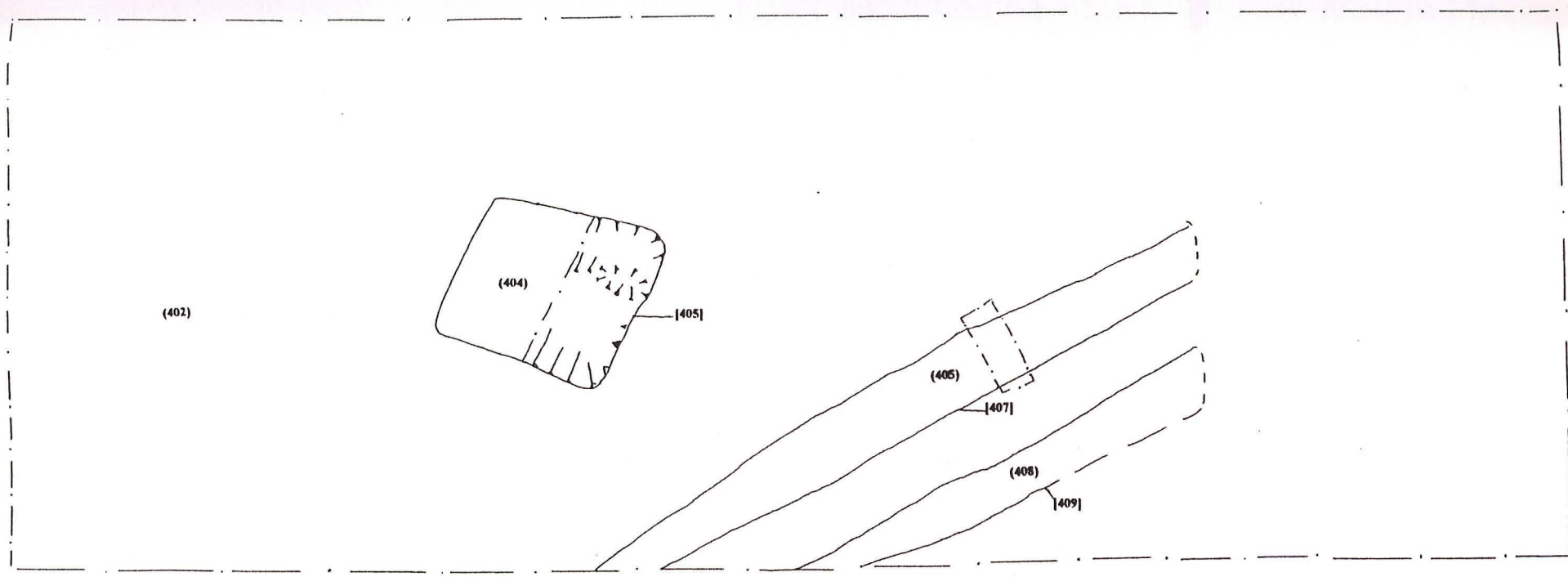
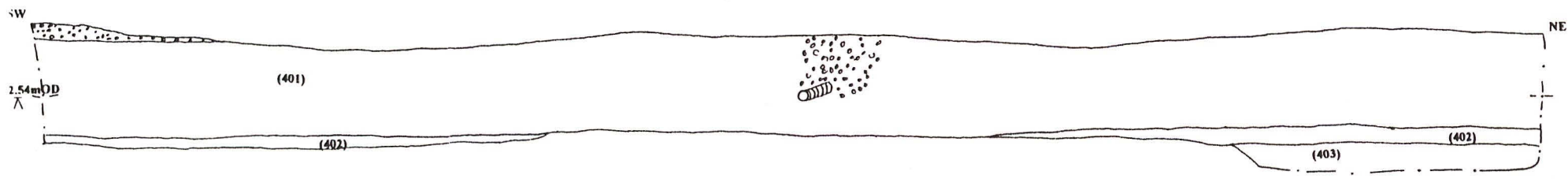


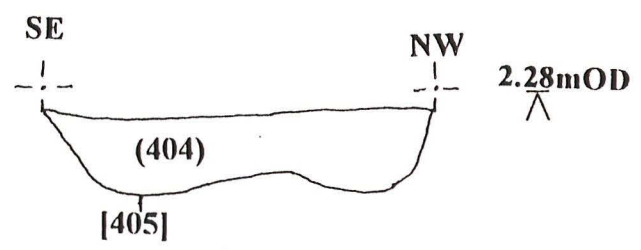
Figure 5 : Trench 3



a) Plan



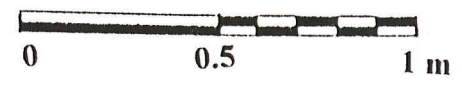
b) Section

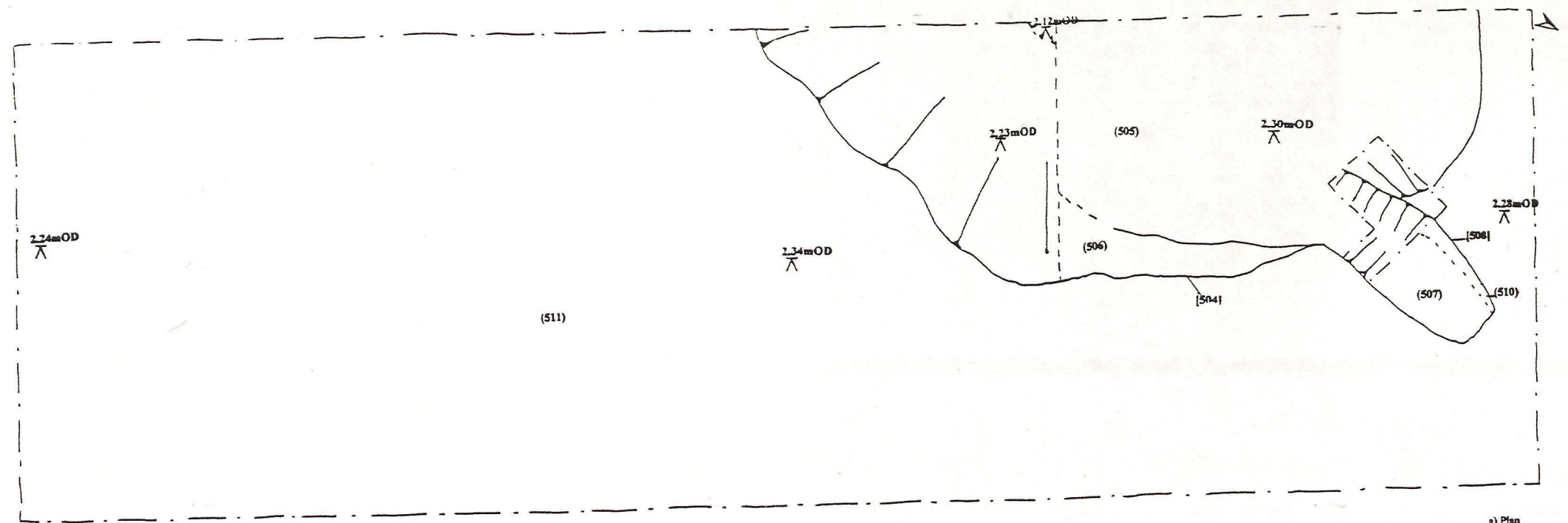


c) Section of [405]

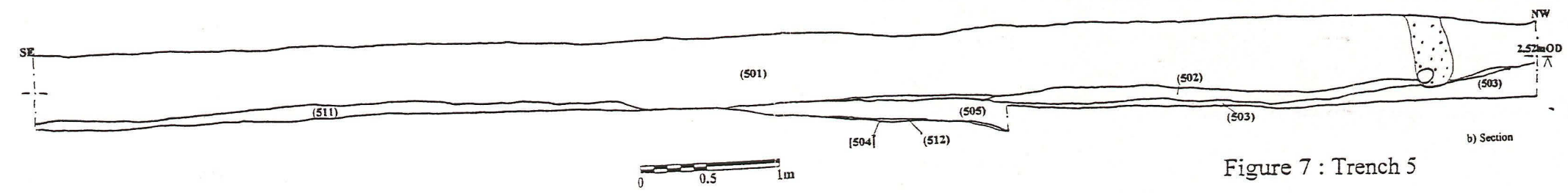


Figure 6 : Trench 4



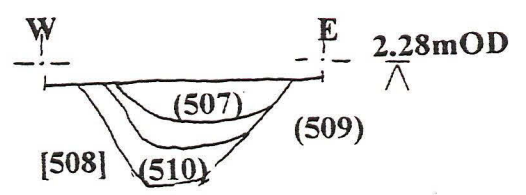


a) Plan

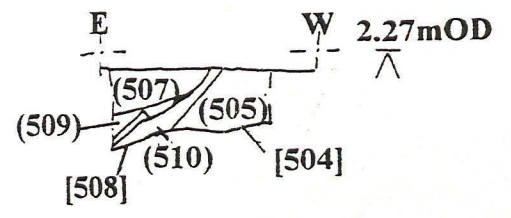


b) Section

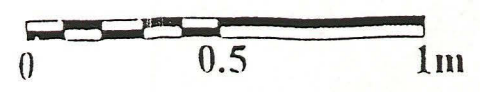
Figure 7 : Trench 5



c) Section of [508]



d) Section of [508] & [504]



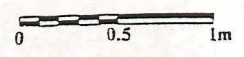
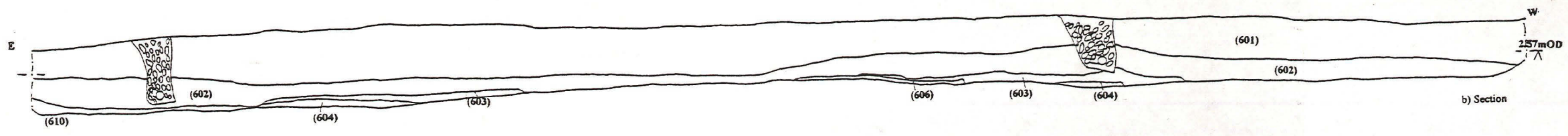
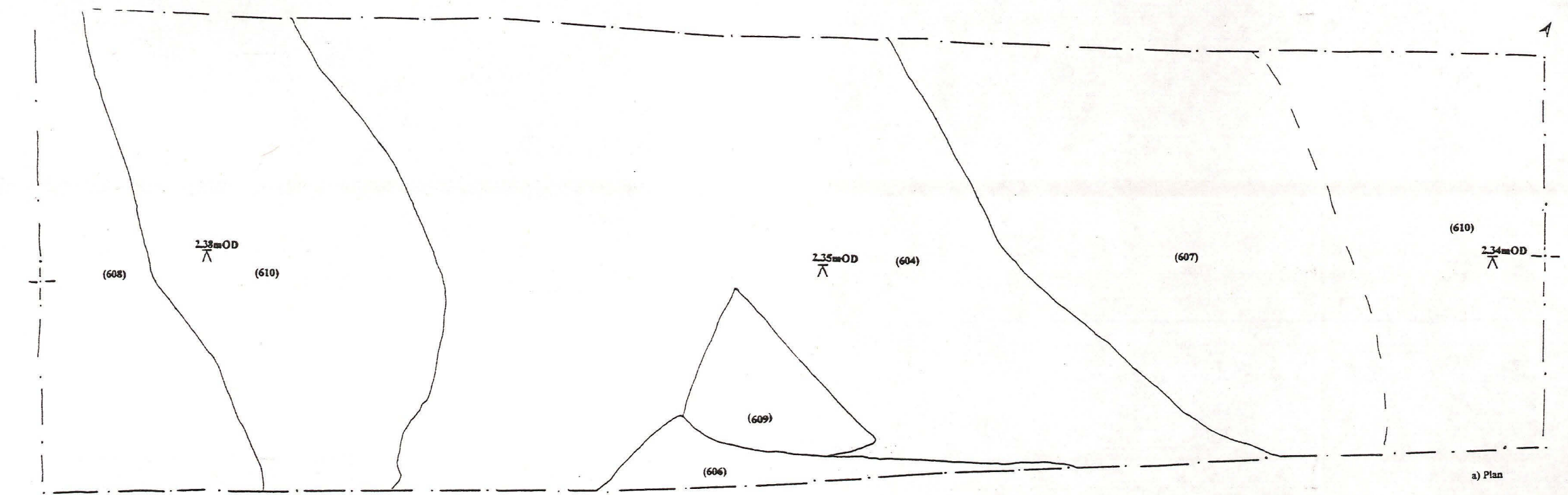


Figure 8 : Trench 6



Plate 1 : Trench looking northeast

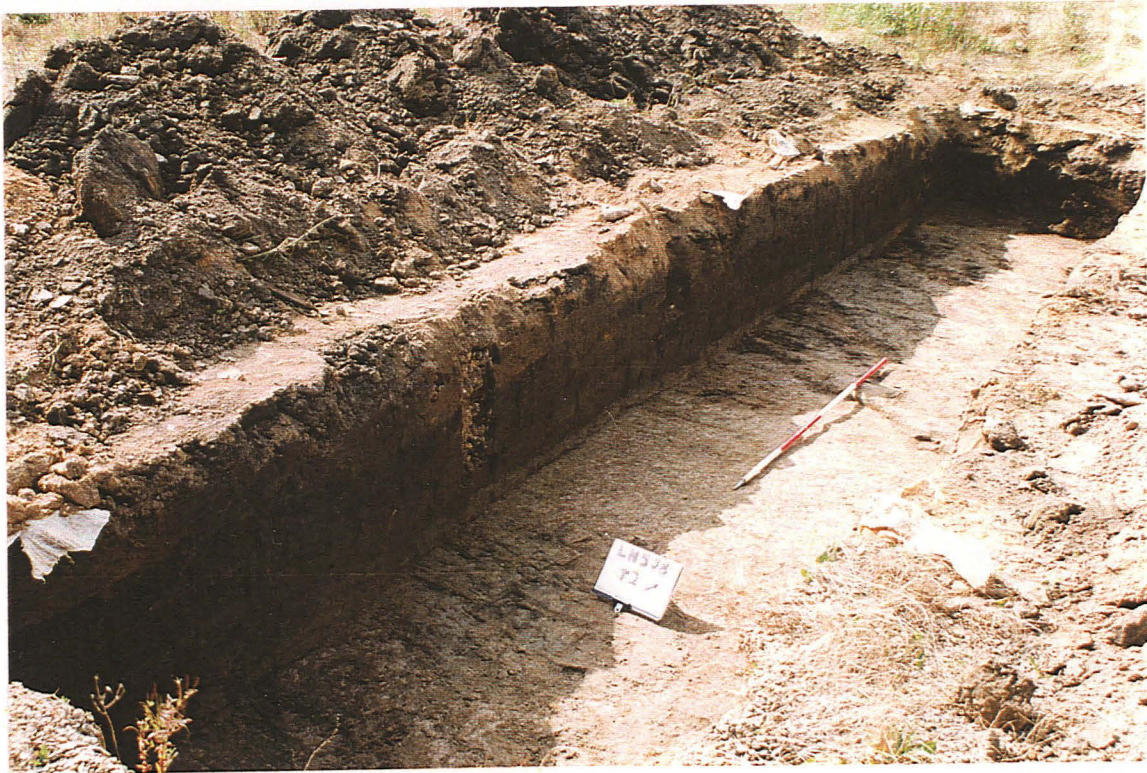


Plate 2 : Trench 2 looking northwest



Plate 3 : Palaeochannel [210]



Plate 4 : Trench 3, south-facing section



Plate 5 : Trench 4 from the south



Plate 6 : Pit [405]



Plate 7 : Trench 5, northeast-facing section



Plate 8 : Ditch [508]



• Plate 9 : Trench 6 from the southeast

7.0 References and Sources Consulted

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8.0 Archive

- 63 Context sheets
- 6 Context register sheets
- 1 Sample register sheet
- 34 each colour prints and negatives
- 1 file correspondence
- 1 box of finds

The archive is currently held by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants at The Manor, Normanton-on-Trent, Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG23 6RQ. It is to be deposited at City and County Museum Lincoln under accession number 174.98, site code LHS98.

*An Archaeological Evaluation Excavation
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Appendix A :
Pottery and Bone Report
by J.R. Samuels

Pottery Analysis

Context	No. of sherds	Weight (g)	Fabric/form	Date	Comments
404	1	3	clay pipe	19th C	fragment of bowl, stamped AT or A \boxtimes .
505	2	7	Nene Valley greyware	?2nd C	
	1	16	greyware	?	
	1	19	shell-gritted jar	2nd/3rd C	
					General date range 2nd - 3rd C
506	1	3	NV greyware	2nd C	
507	1	13	greyware	?	
	1	11	NV greyware	2nd C	
	7	397	buff fabric flagon	1st/2nd C	most of spout and handle plus body sherds
	9	89	handmade shell-gritted jar	Late IA/ Early RB	
	1	22	coarse orange fabric	?IA	
					General date range 1st - late 2nd C
509	2	302	greyware bases	? 2nd C	

Bone Analysis

Context	No of pieces	Weight (g)	Type
505	1	1	sheep - long bone
505	1	4	pig - tooth
506	2	21	sheep - pelvis frags.
507	7	42.5	sheep - frags
507	3	21	pig - teeth

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**Appendix B :
Context Summary**

*An Archaeological Evaluation Excavation
at Land South of Horseshoe Road, Spalding, Lincs*

Context No.	Description	Pot	Bone	Comments
101	Sand and gravel overlying polythene			greenhouse beds
102	dark grey slightly clayey silt layer			topsoil
103	light orange grey silty clay layer			
104	dark brown/black slightly silty clay layer			
105	grey & orange silty clay layer			natural inundation layer
106	very light grey & orange sandy silt layer			natural inundation layer
201	sand and gravel overlying polythene			greenhouse beds
202	grey brown slightly sandy silt layer			
203	dark grey brown slightly silty clay layer			
204	grey brown silt layer			
205	blue grey and orange silty clay layer			natural inundation layer
206	grey brown clayey silt fill			fill of 207
207	straight sided vertical cut			field drain
208	orangey grey silty sand			fill of 210
209	black clayey peat			fill of 210
210	linear cut feature			palaeochannel
211	blue grey silty clay layer			same as 205
212	orange grey slightly silty clay			fill of 213
213	sub-square feature			natural depression
214	orange grey silty clay			fill of 215
215	sub-square feature			natural depression
216	blue grey silty clay			fill of 210
217	light grey/orange clayey sandy silt layer			natural inundation layer
301	sandstone rubble hardcore layer with bitumen and brick			make-up material

*An Archaeological Evaluation Excavation
at Land South of Horseshoe Road, Spalding, Lincs*

Context No.	Description	Pot	Bone	Comments
302	mid grey brown clayey silt			
303	very pale grey sandy silt			natural inundation layer within possible pond
304	mid grey silty clay			natural inundation layer within possible pond
305	pale orange brown silty clay			natural inundation layer within possible pond
306	dark blue grey clayey silt			natural inundation layer within possible pond
307	light blue grey silty clay			natural inundation layer within possible pond
308	mid orange brown clayey silt			natural inundation layer
309	dark orange brown clayey silt			natural inundation layer, same as 308 but with localised colour variation
401	mid grey brown clayey silt layer			topsoil
402	orange blue greysilty clay layer			natural inundation layer
403	light grey brown & orange clay silt layer			natural inundation layer
404	grey brown clayey silt fill	clay pipe		fill of 405
405	rectangular pit-like feature			pit
406	grey silty clay			fill of 407
407	linear feature			impressed tyre marks
408	grey silty clay			fill of 409
409	linear feature			impressed tyre marks
501	mid grey brown sandy clayey silt layer			
502	light orange brown fine silty sand layer			? Levelling deposit

*An Archaeological Evaluation Excavation
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Context No.	Description	Pot	Bone	Comments
503	dark brown clayey silt layer containing coarse orange sand			dump deposit
504	shallow sub-circular feature			natural depression?
505	light grey brown slightly clayey silt fill	✓	✓	fill of 504
506	dark brown grey clayey silt fill containing charcoal and burnt clay	✓	✓	fill of 504
507	mid blue grey clayey silt fill	✓	✓	fill of 508
508	steep sided narrow linear cut			ditch
509	mixed fill of blue grey silty clay and pale brown clayey silt	✓		fill of 508
510	light grey brown silty clay fill			fill of 508
511	orange white and brown clayey silt layer			natural inundation layer
512	damp black peat layer			fill of 504
601	grey brown sandy silt layer			
602	orangey grey brown sandy silt layer			
603	orangey brown silty sand layer			
604	grey black clayey peat			fill of palaeochannel
605	linear fetaure			palaeochannel
606	browny grey clayey peat			fill of 605
607	blue grey sandy clay			fill of 605
608	orangey grey brown sandy silt			same as 602
609	grey brown clayey sand			fill of 605
610	yellow orange silty sand			natural inundation layer

*An Archaeological Evaluation Excavation
at Land South of Horseshoe Road, Spalding, Lincs*

**Appendix C:
Specification**

*An Archaeological Evaluation Excavation
at Land South of Horseshoe Road, Spalding, Lincs*

John Samuels Archaeological Consultants

*The Manor, South Street, Normanton-on-Trent, Newark, Nottinghamshire NG23 6RQ
Telephone 01636 821727 Fax 01636 822080*

A Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation at Land South of Horseshoe Road, Spalding

Planning Reference : unknown

NGR TF 233 217

by

John Samuels Archaeological Consultants

on behalf of

Broadgate Builders (Spalding) Ltd

Broadgate House
Weston Hills
Spalding
Lincs PE12 6DB

JSAC 380a/98/01
July 1998

Site Code : LHS98 (provisional)
Accession No. : applied for

Also at : Witham Park House, Waterside South, Lincoln, LN5 7JP Telephone 01522 8800501

**A Specification for an archaeological evaluation at
Land South of Horseshoe Road, Spalding**

Contents

Summary	3
1.0 Introduction	4
1.1 Site Location and Description	4
1.2 Planning Background	4
1.3 Archaeological Background	4
1.4 Aims	4
2.0 Methodology	6
2.1 Excavation	6
2.2 Post-excavation	7
3.0 Timetable and Personnel	9
4.0 Insurance	9
5.0 Health and Safety	10
6.0 Figures	11

Summary

Broadgate Builders have applied for planning permission for the construction of 21 dwellings for Longhurst Housing Association. The site is located to the south of Horseshoe Road Spalding, centred on NGR TF 233 217. It comprises 0.5ha of land formerly used for nursery buildings.

The site lies in an area of dense archaeological activity and although nothing has been identified within the limits of this site, the potential for buried remains is considered moderate-high. In order to evaluate this potential, the County Archaeological Officer, as advisors to the South Holland Planning Authority, have requested that a programme of trial trenching be carried out.

This documents specifies the methodology for undertaking an evaluation excavation of 100m², that is 2% of the proposed development site in the form of 5 trenches.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Site Location and Description

1.1.1 The proposed development site is located to the south of Horseshoe Road, within the proposed Holland Park development area in Spalding, Lincolnshire. It comprises a roughly rectangular parcel of land, measuring approximately 0.5ha and was formerly used for nursery buildings although it is currently derelict. It is centred on NGR TF 233 217 and lies at approximately 3m above Ordnance Datum. Underlying soils are of marine alluvium overlying natural undisturbed silts.

1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 Broadgate Builders are proposing the development of this site for social housing in conjunction with Longhurst Housing Association. It forms the northernmost part of a larger development site known as Holland Park. Planning permission is being sought separately for this area (Planning ref. : unknown).

1.2.2 The Lincolnshire County Archaeology Section act as advisors to the South Holland Planning Authority. The Assistant County Archaeologist will be informed of the commencement of the excavation and is welcome to visit the site at his convenience.

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 The site has been subject to a desk-based assessment and aerial photographic survey as part of the larger development proposal of Holland Park (JSAC 380/98/01 & Air Photo Services 1998/13). These have identified no features within this specific site but suggest that this may be due to the presence of nursery buildings until recent times.

1.3.2 The surrounding area has been shown to display a wealth of cropmarks, presumed to date from prehistoric periods onwards. Immediately to the north of the site, a recent evaluation and excavation, undertaken by Archaeological Project Services and John Samuels Archaeological Consultants, respectively have identified the presence of a late Iron Age or Early Romano-British enclosure with evidence for salt-making (APS report no. 39/97; JSAC 379/98/02 draft).

1.4 Aims

1.4.1 The aims of this evaluation are:

- i. to determine the presence or otherwise of buried remains of archaeological interest; and
- ii. to assess the site's archaeological potential in order to allow the Local Planning Authority to make an informed decision regarding its suitability for development.

- 1.4.2 Should any significant remains be identified, an additional set of aims are in place to allow the planning decision to be made. These are:
- iii. to assess the nature, date, density, extent, function and state of preservation of archaeological remains identified;
 - iv. to assess their potential for answering questions about the development of land use in the south Lincolnshire fenland generally and the Spalding area specifically; and
 - v. where remains are of sufficient importance, to determine the best method by which these remains can be preserved either *in situ* or by record.
- 1.5 This specification conforms to the requirements of *Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning* (DoE 1990) (PPG16). It has been designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice and the appropriate national standards and guidelines including :

Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991);

Model Briefs and Specifications for Archaeological Assessments and Field Evaluations (Association of County Archaeological Officers, 1994);

Code of Conduct (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994);

Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994);

Standard Brief for Archaeological Projects in Lincolnshire (Lincolnshire County Council 1997); and

Archaeological Handbook (Lincolnshire County Council 1998).

2.0 Methodology

2.1 Excavation

- 2.1.1 Five trenches have been identified for excavation, each 10m by 2m. This covers a total of 100m², that is 2% of the proposed development site. They are located randomly in order to test all areas of the site for archaeological remains (see figure 1).
- 2.1.2 Topsoil and overburden will be removed by mechanical excavator. The spoil generated during the evaluation will be mounded around the edges of the area with topsoil being kept separate from the other excavated material. The excavation will cease at either undisturbed natural deposits or when archaeological features are identified. The nature of these deposits will be assessed by hand excavation. Excavation of archaeological features exposed will be undertaken as far as is required to determine their date, sequence, density and nature.
- 2.1.3 The exposed areas will be cleaned by hand and discrete archaeological features (e.g. pits) that are identified for excavation will be assessed by half- or quarter-sectioning. Where linear features are encountered, sufficient will be excavated to determine their nature, profile and, where possible, their date and function.
- 2.1.4 The exposed area will be recorded at an appropriate scale by measured drawing and photography and the deposits encountered described fully on pro-forma individual context recording sheets. The sections of excavated archaeological features will also be recorded by measured drawing at an appropriate scale (normally 1:20). The recording system is based on the Museum of London's *'Archaeological Site Manual'* (1994). Spot heights and those of individual features will be recorded relative to Ordnance Datum.
- 2.1.5 The photographic record will be maintained during the course of the excavation and will include:
- i. the site prior to commencement of fieldwork;
 - ii. the site during work, showing specific stages of fieldwork;
 - iii. the layout of archaeological features within each trench;
 - iv. individual features and, where appropriate, their sections;
 - v. groups of features where their relationship is important;
- 2.1.6 All artefacts will be treated in accordance with UKIC guidelines, *'First Aid for Finds'* (1981). All finds will be bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered, ready for later cleaning and analysis.
- 2.1.7 Any material considered suitable for environmental analysis will be sampled for examination by either Mr. James Rackham or Mr. Robert Alvey who will be available for advice on site. The following strategy is proposed :

- i. Any securely dated deposits containing the following will be sampled at a minimum of 20 litres where possible.
 - charred plant remains;
 - large quantities of molluscs;
 - large quantities of bone;
 - hearths and other burnt features;
 - other domestic features, e.g. house gullies, potentially containing the above .
 - ii. Charred plant samples will be wet sieved with flotation using a 0.5mm mesh. All residues will be checked.
 - iii. Should waterlogged deposits be encountered, further consultation with one of the above named specialists will determine methods for recovery.
- 2.1.8 Any human remains encountered will be cleaned with minimal disturbance, recorded and left *in situ* and only removed if necessary. The contractor will comply with all statutory consents and licences under the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981 or other Burial Acts regarding the exhumation and interment of human remains. The archaeological contractor will comply with all reasonable requests of interested parties as to the method of removal, reinterment or disposal of the remains or associated items. Every effort will be made, at all times, not to cause offence to any interested parties.
- 2.1.9 The County Archaeological Officer will be given notice of when work is due to commence and will be free to visit the site by prior arrangement with the project director. Should any significant remains be found it may be necessary, in liaison with the County Archaeological Officer, to formulate a strategy designed to fully establish their character, distribution, extent, condition, dating and further treatment.
- 2.1.10 Archaeological staff will respect Health and Safety provisions and site specific safety regulations.
- 2.1.11 The material excavated from the trenches will be used to backfill them following the completion of work.
- 2.2 *Post-excavation*
- 2.2.1 Post excavation work will comprise the following:
- i. checking of drawn and written records during and on completion of fieldwork;
 - ii. production of a stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site, if appropriate;
 - iii. cataloguing of photographic material and labelling of slides which will be mounted on appropriate hangers;

- iv. cleaning, marking, bagging and labelling of finds according to the individual deposits from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln. Finds will be identified and dated by appropriate specialists.
- 2.2.2 A report detailing the finds of the evaluation will be prepared within three months of the completion of site works and will consist of:
- i. a title page detailing site address, site code and accession number, NGR, author/originating body, client's name and address;
 - ii. full contents listing;
 - iii. a non-technical summary of the findings of the evaluation;
 - iv. a description of the archaeological background with reference to the desk-top assessment and previous fieldwork;
 - v. a description of the topography and geology of the evaluation area;
 - vi. a description of the methodologies used during the evaluation;
 - vii. a description of the findings of the evaluation;
 - viii. plans of each of the trenches/areas showing the archaeological features exposed;
 - ix. sections of the excavated archaeological features;
 - x. interpretation of the archaeological features exposed and their context within the surrounding landscape;
 - xi. specialist reports on the artefactual/environmental remains from the site;
 - xii. appropriate photographs of specific archaeological features;
 - xiii. a consideration of the importance of the archaeological remains present on the site in local, regional and national terms
 - xiv. a list of contexts.
- 2.2.3 Copies of the evaluation report will be sent to Broadgate Builders (Spalding) Ltd, the Local Planning Authority, the Lincolnshire County Archaeological Officer and Lincolnshire SMR.
- 2.2.4 The project archive will be prepared according to the recommendations in *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for long term storage* (UKIC 1990), *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission 1992). This excludes items of gold and silver which by law must be reported to Her Majesty's Coroner. An archive list will be sent to the County Archaeological Office for subsequent inclusion in the SMR. The archive will be deposited with the City and County Museum, Lincoln under accession number (applied for), within 6 months of the completion of field work.
- 2.2.5 Notes or articles describing the results of the evaluation will be submitted for publication to Lincolnshire History and Archaeology and/or national journals, dependant on the nature of the results. A copy of any such works will be sent to the County Archaeological Officer and to the County SMR.

3.0 Timetable and Personnel

- 3.1 The excavation is expected to take up to 5 working days with 2 staff. An interim report or assessment will be produced within two weeks of the completion of field work, if required. A full report will be produced within three months of the completion of field work.
- 3.2 Nansi Rosenberg BA, PIFA will direct the project with daily site supervision by either Ms Rosenberg or Simon Johnson BA. Additional members of JSAC staff will be brought in as required. CVs will be provided on request.
- 3.3 Specialist assistance, where required, will be provided by the following persons :

Robert Alvey - Small finds / environmental sampling / post-medieval pottery
Jane Cowgill - Slag
Sheila Elsdon - Prehistoric pottery
James Rackham - Environmental analysis
John Samuels - Roman pottery
Robert White - Conservation
Jane Young - Medieval pottery

4.0 Insurance

- 4.1 The archaeological contractor will produce evidence of Public Liability Insurance to the minimum value of £5 m and Professional Indemnity Insurance to the minimum of £2m.

5.0 Health and Safety

- 5.1 It is the policy of John Samuels Archaeological Consultants ('the Employer') to conform fully with the requirements of the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act (1974).
- 5.2 It is accepted that it is the duty of the Employer to ensure, so far as is reasonably practical, the health and safety of all his employees at work.
- 5.3 The employer also has a duty to ensure that his employees are aware of their responsibility for their own health and safety, and for the health and safety of others, including the general public, who might be affected by their work.
- 5.4 Where employees are temporarily engaged at other workplaces, they are to respect relevant local regulations, both statutory and as imposed by other employers within the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act (1974).
- 5.5 In furtherance of the duty of care imposed by the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act (1974), the Employer shall make available to his employees whatever reasonable facilities are required by particular circumstances, e.g appropriate protective clothing, safety equipment, rest breaks for specialised tasks, etc.
- 5.6 Attention is paid to the requirements of more recent legislation including the provision and use of *Work Equipment Regulations 1992*, the *Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992* and the *Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 1994*. A risk assessment is undertaken, a safety officer appointed and all aspects of health and safety nominated during work.
- 5.7 In addition to the forgoing all *John Samuels Archaeological Consultants* staff will be bound by the Health and Safety requirements of the main contractor.

6.0 Figures

Figure 1 : Site Location