BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY
FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

An Archaeological Evaluation at Land off Field Side, Mareham-le-Fen

Lincolnshire

1998

(FSM98; Accession No. 103.98; NGR TF 2805 6120)

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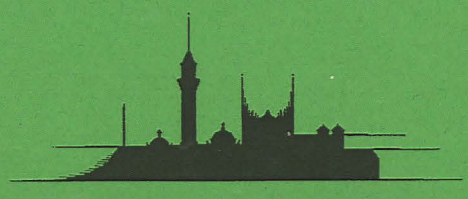

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Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
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An Archaeological Evaluation

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by
Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit

on behalf of
John Samuels Archaeological Consultants

for
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1.0 Summary

An archaeological evaluation was conducted by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit at land off Field Side, Mareham-le-Fen, Lincolnshire in the period 26th June - 2nd July 1998. The evaluation was commissioned by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants on behalf of their clients Allison Homes, in advance of the proposed residential development of the site. Prior to this project no below-ground archaeological investigations had been conducted within the proposed development site. Some indication of the potential for the survival of archaeological deposits, their nature and condition was, however, available from an earlier desk-based assessment carried out by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants in 1997 (JSAC 1997) and from a geophysical survey carried out by GeoQuest in 1998 (GeoQuest 1998). These studies suggested the potential for survival of archaeological remains dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods.

The present evaluation comprised the excavation of 11 trial-trenches. One ditch in the northern half of the site may date to the later prehistoric period. A number of medieval ditches, gullies and deposits, also within the northern half of the site, are dated to the 13th-14th century. Activity dated to the 11th-16th century was recorded to the south of a public footpath which crossed the site. These well-preserved deposits were sealed by post-medieval chalk surfaces, which were cut by a number of post-holes in Trench 11.

Trial-trenching demonstrated the presence of deposits and features which dated to the prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval periods. Deposits to the south of a public footpath which crossed the site were located at a deeper level and were better preserved than deposits to the north of the footpath which were closer to the surface and which had been heavily disturbed by more recent agricultural activity.

2.0 Introduction

This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out at land off Field Side, Mareham-le-Fen, Lincolnshire. The work was undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit. It was commissioned by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants on behalf of their clients Allison Homes, and fulfilled a planning requirement that an archaeological evaluation be undertaken in advance of a full application for proposed residential development of the land (planning application S115/2069/97). The archaeological evaluation was conducted in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994) and a

Specification prepared by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants (JSAC 1998). The evaluation conformed to Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (Department of Environment 1991).

A desk-based assessment and geophysical survey were carried out in advance of trial-trenching. The results of these preliminary stages of work are reported on separately (JSAC 1997, GeoQuest 1998). However, the results are incorporated in this report.

3.0 The Site and its Location (Figure 1)

The site consists of approximately 1.2 hectares of land, which is presently covered by rough grass (centred on NGR TF 2085 6120). The main body of the site is bounded to the north by Field Side, to the south by a partially-walled and partially-open boundary. To the east and west the site is flanked by residential development.

4.0 Previous Archaeological Work

The site had been the subject of archaeological investigation prior to this evaluation. A desk-based assessment (JSAC 1997) suggested that the site lay within the core of the medieval village, in between the parish church and the manor house. References suggested that there had been settlement in Mareham-le-Fen since the 11th century, with recent archaeological field evaluation identifying remains from the 13th century. Subsequent geophysical survey identified numerous anomalies which were thought likely to represent archaeological deposits or features (GeoQuest 1998).

The Sites and Monuments Record contains references to the recovery of a Bronze Age axe to the northeast of the site and, for the medieval period, a church, market, fair and manor house, along with a tile kiln to the southwest of the site. A late Anglo-Saxon cross is located within the churchyard and is itself a Scheduled Ancient Monument and Grade II listed. To the west of the site, 13th-14th century pits and ditches relating to backplot activity to the rear of Main Street were recorded (JSAC 1997).

5.0 Objectives

The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were to determine the location, nature, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains within the site, in order to assist the Local Planning Authority to determine the application (JSAC 1998).

6.0 Method

A detailed geophysical survey of the site (GeoQuest 1998) was followed by the excavation of a total of 11 trial-trenches. The trenches were located to transect known areas of archaeological potential as indicated by SMR references and the earlier desk-based

assessment (JSAC 1997), and known geophysical anomalies or features, and also to test the remaining areas of the site as widely as possible.

A JCB excavator, under archaeological supervision, was used to remove the modern topsoil overburden to the top of any significant archaeological features and deposits, or to the top of the subsoil, in the trial-trenches. This surface was cleaned by hand to identify the form of any archaeological features. Archaeological deposits and features were sampled manually to determine their character and to recover any datable artefacts from their fills. Following hand-sampling of the archaeological and subsoil horizons in Trenches 2, 3, 5 and 6, the trenches were mechanically excavated, under archaeological supervision, to further establish the subsoil matrix. The length of Trench 8 was limited to 17m in order to avoid transecting the public footpath, whose course differed slightly from that depicted on Figure 2.

All stratigraphic sequences were recorded, even where no archaeology was present. Environmental samples were taken where appropriate. Contextual information was supplemented by scale drawings, plans, sections and photographs which, together with recovered artefacts, form the site archive. This is presently housed at Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit.

7.0 Archaeological Results (Figures 2 - 5; Plates 1 - 6)

The results of the geophysical survey are reported on separately (GeoQuest 1998). However, Figure 2 is included in this report to illustrate those results and to depict the location of each trial-trench and to clarify its objective.

A continuous numbering system was employed for both excavated and non-excavated features and deposits within each of the 11 trial trenches. The sequence in each trial trench is described from the base of the trench upwards. However, interpretation of the stratigraphic sequence is reserved for Section 10.0 **Discussion of Archaeological Results**. A brief quantification of recovered artefacts is given at the end of each trench description. An overall quantification of this material appears in Table 1.

Spot heights were taken for each archaeological feature and trench. The values are recorded within the site archive, and relate to a temporary benchmark marked on the southwest corner of a drainage cover immediately opposite Trench 3, and located within the tarmaced surface of Field Side (notional value given as 100m). Depths given in this section relate to the depth of a deposit or feature below the modern ground surface.

For the purposes of clarity, illustrative figures which accompany the stratigraphic account within this section (Figures 3-5) show only the archaeological deposits and features. Sections of characteristic or distinctive deposits and features only are included.

The underlying geology and subsoil comprised sands and coarse loams which are derived from the underlying glaciofluvial drift geology (SSEW 1983).

Trench 1 (Figure 3; Plate 1)
(1.60m x 15m, aligned southeast-northwest, excavated to a maximum depth of 1.10m).
Objective: Transect geophysical anomaly.

Two features were identified cutting the yellow sand and sub-angular flint subsoil (1001). At the northwestern end of Trench 1, a shallow, east-west aligned, gully (F100) was filled with a grey-brown sand-silt (1002). Immediately to the southeast of this feature, a northeast-southwest aligned ditch (F101) was recorded. The ditch, which was filled with a black-brown, organic-sand-silt deposit (1003), cut an earlier feature (F102). Only the base of the southeastern profile of this feature was visible - the remainder having been erased by later agricultural activity. The fill of F102 comprised a charcoal-flecked, light-brown sand-silt deposit (1004) which extended across the trench for approximately 3m before merging into the subsoil horizon (1001). The fills of all three features was overlaid by a 0.20m-0.25m-thick layer of topsoil (1000).

Artefacts: 11 18th-20th century, 1 clay pipe fragment, 8 iron artefacts, 15 glass bottle fragments and 1 flint flake were recovered from the fill of F101 (1003); 1 13th-14th century pottery sherd, 1 16th-18th century pottery sherd, 1 14th-16th century ceramic tile, 1 iron nail, 1 retouched flint flake and 65g animal bone were recovered from 1004.

Trench 2 (Figure 3; Plate 2)
(1.60m x 10m, aligned southeast-northwest, excavated to a maximum depth of 0.70m).
Objective: Transect geophysical anomalies.

As in Trench 1, the subsoil comprised yellow sand and sub-angular flint (2001). At the southeastern end of the trench, the subsoil was partially overlaid by a thin layer of grey-brown, stony, silt-sand (2003). Towards the centre of the trench, a discrete circular scoop (F200) was recorded, filled with a brown silt-sand deposit (2002). A modern land-drain (F201) was identified at the northwestern end of Trench 2. A 0.20m-0.25m-thick layer of topsoil (2000) sealed the trench.

Artefacts: 1 17th century pottery sherd was recovered from the fill of F200 (2002); 5 13th-14th century pottery sherds and 1 flint flake was recovered from layer 2003.

Trench 3 (Figure 3)
(1.60m x 10m, aligned northeast-southwest, excavated to a maximum depth of 0.70m).
Objective: Random.

The yellow sand and sub-angular flint subsoil (3001) was partially overlaid at the northeastern end of Trench 3 by a thin layer of black-brown silt-sand (3002). This was sealed by 0.30m-0.40m of topsoil (3000).

Artefacts: 1 13th-14th century pottery sherd and 1 flint flake was recovered from layer 3002.

Trench 4 (Figure 3; Plate 3)
(1.60m x 10m, aligned northeast-southwest, excavated to a maximum depth of 0.90m).
Objective: Transect geophysical anomalies.

The yellow sand and sub-angular flint subsoil (4001) was cut by a total of twelve features, two of which appeared to be the southwestern continuation of two features recorded in Trench 1 (F101 and F102). In Trench 4, the lower profile of a ditch (F401), aligned roughly north-south, was seen to be filled with a charcoal-flecked, brown sand-silt deposit (4003). The uppermost northeastern cut of F401 had been erased by later agricultural activity, and the fill was seen to merge into the subsoil horizon at the northeastern limit of Trench 4. The southwestern profile was truncated by a later ditch (F400), also aligned northeast-southwest. This later feature was filled with a grey-black sand-silt deposit which contained some structural debris (4002). Two shallow, U-shaped gullies (F402 and F403), at a right-angle to each other, were recorded immediately to the southeast of F400. Both features were filled with a grey sand-silt deposit (4004 and 4005 respectively). Two discrete circular cuts (F406 and F407) were recorded at the western end of one gully (F403), with a third cut (F409) being recorded at the northern end of the north-south-aligned gully (F407). A small pit (F410), filled with a grey-brown sand-silt deposit (4011), was recorded against the northwestern edge of Trench 4. A group of three shallow pits (F404, F405 and F408) which each contained a concentration of articulated animal bones within their grey-brown sand-silt fills (4006, 4007 and 4012 respectively), was identified within the southwestern end of Trench 4. A tree-bole (F411) was also identified at the southwestern end, and an unexcavated layer of similar material (4014) may represent further tree-root activity. All twelve features were sealed by a 0.30m thick deposit of topsoil (4000).

Artefacts: 7 18th-20th century, 3 ?18th century, 1 mid-16th century, 1 15th-17th century pottery sherds, 1 clay pipe fragment, 12 iron artefacts, 30 glass and 1 shell fragment were recovered from the fill of F400 (4002); 1 15th-17th century, 1 16th-18th century pottery sherd, 1 14th-16th century ceramic tile, 1 iron artefact and 91g animal bone was found in the fill of F401 (4003); 2 13th-14th century, 2 18th-20th century pottery sherds and 1 fired clay piece was found in 4004 (F402); 1 clay pipe fragment was found in the fill of F403 (4005); 80g animal bone was recovered from F404 (4006); 96g animal bone was found in the fill of F405 (4007); 1 18th-20th century pottery sherd was recovered from the fill of F408 (4012); 1 16th-18th century and 1 18th-20th century pottery sherd was found in deposit 4013.

Trench 5 (Figure 4)
(1.60m x 15.50m, aligned southeast-northwest, excavated to a maximum depth of 0.55m).
Objective: Random.

One feature cut the yellow sand and sub-angular flint subsoil (5001). A shallow gully (F500), aligned roughly east-west, with gently-sloping sides and a flat base, was filled with a charcoal-flecked, dark grey-brown silt-sand deposit (5002). The gully and subsoil were sealed by a 0.23m-0.30m thick layer of topsoil (5000).

Artefacts: No artefacts were recovered from Trench 5.

Trench 6 (Figure 4; Plate 4)
(1.60m x 16m, aligned southeast-northwest, excavated to a maximum depth of 1.10m).
Objective: Transect geophysical anomaly at northwestern end of the trench.

Three features cut the yellow sand and sub-angular flint subsoil (6001). A northeast-southwest aligned ditch (F601) was identified at the northwestern end of Trench 6. Its lower fill comprised a mottled yellow-brown silt-sand (6003), whilst the upper fill comprised a stony, brown silt-sand (6004). The ditch was sealed by a 0.30m thick layer of yellow-brown sand-silt (6005). A discrete circular scoop (F600), filled with a dark brown sand-silt deposit (6002), was recorded immediately to the south of F601. A modern land-drain (F602), aligned northeast-southwest, was recorded towards the southeastern end of Trench 6. Layer 6005 and F600 and F602 were sealed by a 0.30m deep layer of topsoil (6000).

Artefacts: 1 12th century pottery sherd was found in the fill of F600 (6002); 2 flint flakes and an unworked flint pebble were recovered from the fill of F601 (6003).

Trench 7 (Figure 4; Plate 5)
(1.60m x 15m, aligned southeast-northwest, excavated to a maximum depth of 0.50m).
Objective: Transect geophysical anomalies.

The yellow sand and sub-angular flint subsoil (7001) was cut by four features. At the northwestern end of this trench, a small circular, bowl-shaped scoop (F700) was filled with a charcoal-flecked, dark-brown sand-silt deposit (7002). Immediately to the southeast of this feature, a group of three shallow gullies (F701-F703) was recorded. Aligned north-south, F701 appeared to be contemporary with an east-west aligned F702. This was, in turn, paired with a more curvilinear F703. All three gullies were filled with a brown-black sand-silt deposit, which had a high charcoal content (7003, 7004 and 7005 respectively). All four features were sealed by a 0.25m-0.40m thick layer of topsoil (7000).

Artefacts: 1 clay pipe fragment was recovered from the fill of F701 (7003); 3 18th-20th century pottery sherds were found in the fill of F702 (7004).

Trench 8 (Figure 4)
(1.60m x 17m, aligned southeast-northwest, excavated to a maximum depth of 0.70m).
Objective: Transect geophysical anomalies.

A total of seven features cut the orange-yellow sand and sub-angular flint subsoil (8001) in Trench 8. An eighth feature was represented by a chalk surface (F804). At the southwestern end of the trench, a southeast-northwest aligned gully (F805) was recorded. This U-shaped cut was filled with a black-brown silt-sand deposit (8008), and was sealed by a thin surface of crushed chalk and dark silt-sand (F804, 8007). Further to the northwest, a northeast-southwest aligned, bowl-shaped ditch (F803), filled with a grey-black silt-sand deposit (8005), was also sealed by the chalk surface (F804). The surface had a much higher chalk

content here (8006). The ditch (F803) and surface (F804) were cut by a similarly-aligned gully (F806) with steeply-sloping sides and a rounded base. The gully (F806) was filled with a mottled orange-brown silt-sand deposit (8009). A modern land-drain (F802), aligned northeast-southwest, was recorded in between F806 and a southeast-northwest aligned ditch (F807). The ditch (F807) had a bowl-shaped profile which was filled with a mid-brown silt-sand (8010), overlaid by a thin fill of sub-angular flint (8011). Two southeast-northwest aligned features (F800 and F801), with irregular and shallow cuts and filled with a dark-brown silt-sand (8002 and 8003 respectively), were recorded at the northwestern end of Trench 8.

The chalk surface (F804), gully (F806), ditch (F807), cuts (F800 and F801) and land-drain (F802) were sealed by a 0.20m-0.40m thick layer of topsoil (8000).

Artefacts: 1 16th-18th century pottery sherd was found in the topsoil (8000); 1 16th-18th century pottery sherd were found in the fill of F802 (8004); 1 16th-18th century pottery sherd, 4 fired clay pieces, 1 flint core, 2 glass fragments and 462g animal bone were found in the fill of F803 (8005); 1 15th-16th century pottery sherd, 1 retouched flint flake and 159g animal bone were recovered from F804 (8006 and 8007); 1 16th century pottery sherd and 1 flint flake were found in F806 (8009); 2 14th-16th century ceramic tiles were recovered from F807 (8010).

Trench 9 (Figure 5)
(1.60m x 15m, aligned northeast-southwest, excavated to a maximum depth of 0.85m).
Objective: Transect geophysical response.

The yellow sand and sub-angular flint subsoil (9001) was overlaid at the southwestern end of Trench 9 by a 0.15m-0.20m thick chalk surface (F901, 9006). A charcoal-flecked layer of grey-brown sand-silt (9004) with stone and tile overlaid the subsoil in the remainder of the trench. Both this layer (9004) and the chalk surface (F901) were cut by a southeast-northwest aligned ditch (F900). The steeply-sloping cut had a flat base which was filled with a grey silt-sand deposit containing a high percentage of chalk (9003). This was overlaid by an upper fill of stony grey-brown sand-silt (9004). The chalk surface, ditch and charcoal-flecked layer were overlaid by 0.25m-0.40m of topsoil (9000).

Artefacts: 3 18th-20th century pottery sherds were recovered from the topsoil (9000); 2 16th-17th century and 1 16th-18th century pottery sherds, 2 14th-16th century ceramic tile fragments, 1 clay pipe fragment, 3 iron nails and 11g animal bone were found in F900 (9002 and 9003); 4 13th-14th century pottery sherds, 4 14th-16th century ceramic tile fragments, 329g animal bone fragments and 1 shell were found in 9004.

Trench 10 (Figure 5)
(1.60m x 10m, aligned southeast-northwest, excavated to a maximum depth of 0.90m).
Objective: Transect geophysical anomalies.

The yellow sand and sub-angular flint subsoil (1051) was overlaid by a 0.20m-0.35m thick layer of charcoal-flecked black-brown silt-sand (1053). A chalk surface (F110, 1052) similar to that recorded in Trench 9 (F901) was set into this earlier layer, and extended over the southeasternmost 7.50m of Trench 10. A number of tile wasters was recorded within the make-up of the chalk surface, which had been partially cut by modern plough marks. The chalk surface (F110) and, at the northwestern end of Trench 10, layer (1053) were sealed by a 0.20m-0.25m thick layer of topsoil (1050).

Artefacts: 2 14th-16th century ceramic tile fragments and 5g animal bone were recovered from F110 (1052); 4 13th-14th century, 3 15th-18th century pottery sherds, 2 14th-16th century ceramic tiles and 2 iron nails were found in 1053.

Trench 11 (Figure 5; Plate 6)
(1.60m x 15m southeast-northwest, excavated to a maximum depth of 0.85m).
Objective: Transect geophysical anomalies.

Seven archaeological features and three layers were recorded in Trench 11. The yellow sand and sub-angular flint subsoil (1101) was overlaid by a 0.30m-0.35m thick layer of dark brown, charcoal-flecked sand-silt, recorded as 1106, 1113 and 1115 in the three sondages excavated along the length of this trench. At the southeastern end of Trench 11, the charcoal-flecked layer (1106) was cut by two post-holes (F127 and F128). Within Sondage 2, the same layer (here recorded as 1113) was overlaid by a 0.25m-0.30m thick layer of yellow-brown chalky silt-sand (1102). This later layer (1102) was cut by one post-hole (F126) and had two separate chalk surfaces (F120 and F121) set into its uppermost horizon. Within Sondage 3, the charcoal-flecked layer (here recorded as 1115) was overlaid by the northwestern continuation of the chalk surface (F120). A total of four post-holes (F122-F125) was recorded in this part of the trench, cutting the chalk surface (F120). All seven features, the two chalk surfaces and the charcoal-flecked layer in Sondage 1 were overlaid by a 0.18m-0.45m thick layer of topsoil (1100).

Artefacts: 1 13th-14th century pottery sherd was found in the topsoil (1100); 1 13th-14th century, 1 13th-15th century, 5 15th-18th century, 2 15th-16th century, and 1 16th-17th century pottery sherds, and 2 14th-16th century ceramic tile fragments were found in 1102; 1 11th-13th century, 1 12th-14th century pottery sherd and 1 14th-16th century ceramic tile fragment were recovered from 1106; 1 14th-16th century ceramic tile waster was recovered from F120 (1107); 1 18th century pottery sherd was recovered from the fill of F123 (1110); 2 14th-16th century ceramic ridge tiles and 2g animal bone was found in the fill of F125 (1112); 1 12th century, 2 13th-14th century and 1 14th-15th century pottery sherds, 2 14th-16th century ceramic tile fragments, 1 fired clay piece and 58g animal bone were recovered from 1115.

8.0 The Artefacts

Prehistoric artefacts are underlined. Medieval artefacts are italicised. Post-medieval artefacts are in normal type.

Table 1: Artefact Quantification and Dating

Trench	Feature	Context	Description	Artefacts/Dating
1	F101	1003	Ditch	11 18th-20thC pottery sherds, 1 clay pipe fragment, 8 iron artefacts, 15 glass bottle fragments, 1 flint flake
1	-	1004	Layer	1 13th-14thC, 1 16th-18thC pottery sherds, 1 14th-16thC ceramic tile, 1 iron nail, 1 retouched flint flake, 65g animal bone
2	F200	2002	Scoop	1 17thC pottery sherd
2	-	*2003*	*Layer*	*5 13th-14thC pottery sherds, 1 flint flake*
3	-	*3002*	*Layer*	*1 13th-14thC pottery sherd, 1 flint flake*
4	F400	4002	Ditch	7 18th-20thC, 3 ?18thC, 1 mid-16th, 1 15th-17thC pottery sherds, 1 clay pipe fragment, 12 iron artefacts, 30 glass and 1 shell fragment
4	*F401*	*4003*	*Ditch*	*1 15th-17thC, 1 16th-18thC pottery sherds, 1 14th-16thC ceramic tile, 1 iron artefact, 91g animal bone*
4	F402	4004	Gully	2 13th-14thC, 2 18th-20thC pottery sherds, 1 fired clay piece
4	F403	4005	Gully	1 clay pipe fragment
4	F404	4006	Pit	80g animal bone
4	F405	4007	Pit	96g animal bone
4	F408	4012	Pit	1 18th-20thC pottery sherd
4	-	4013	Layer	1 16th-18thC, 1 18th-20thC pottery sherds
6	F600	6002	Scoop	1 12thC pottery sherd
6	F601	6003	Ditch	2 flint flakes, 1 unworked flint pebble
7	F701	7003	Gully	1 clay pipe fragment
7	F702	7004	Gully	3 18th-20thC pottery sherds
8	-	8000	Topsoil	1 16th-18thC pottery sherd
8	F802	8004	Land-drain	1 16th-18thC pottery sherd
8	F803	8005	Ditch	1 16th-18thC pottery sherd, 4 fired clay pieces, 1 flint core, 2 glass and 462g animal bone
8	F804	8006	Layer/Surface	1 retouched flint flake, 64g animal bone
8	F804	8007	Layer/Surface	1 15th-16thC pottery sherd, 95g animal bone
8	F806	8009	Gully	1 16thC pottery sherd, 1 flint flake
8	F807	8010	Ditch	2 14th-16thC ceramic tiles
9	-	9000	Topsoil	3 18th-20thC pottery sherds
9	F900	9002	Ditch	2 16th-17thC, 1 16th-18thC pottery sherds, 1 14th-16thC ceramic tile, 1 clay pipe fragment, 3 iron nails
9	F900	9003	Ditch	2 13th-14thC, 1 15th-16thC pottery sherds, 1 14th-16thC ceramic tile, 11g animal bone
9	-	9004	Layer	4 13th-14thC pottery sherds, 4 14th-16thC ceramic tile, 1 fired clay piece, 329g animal bone, 1 shell
10	F110	1052	Chalk Surface	2 14th-16thC ceramic tile and 5g animal bone
10	-	*1053*	*Layer*	*4 13th-14thC, 3 15th-18thC pottery sherds, 2 14th-16thC ceramic tile, 2 iron nails*
11	-	1100	Topsoil	1 13th-14thC pottery sherd
11	-	*1102*	*Layer*	*1 13th-14thC, 1 13th-15thC, 5 15th-18thC, 2 15th-16thC, 1 16th-17thC pottery sherds, 2 14th-16thC ceramic tile fragments*
11	-	*1106*	*Layer*	*1 11th-13thC, 1 12th-14thC pottery sherds, 1 14th-16thC ceramic tile*
11	F120	1107	Chalk Surface	1 14th-16thC ceramic tile waster
11	F123	1110	Post-hole	1 18thC pottery sherd
11	F125	1112	Post-hole	2 14th-16thC ceramic ridge tiles, 2g animal bone
11	-	*1115*	*Layer*	*1 12thC, 2 13th-14thC, 1 14th-15thC, 2 14th-16thC ceramic tile, 1 fired clay piece, 58g animal bone*

8.1 The Flint *by Lynne Bevan*

A total of nine items of humanly-struck flint was recovered, comprising eight flakes, two of which were retouched, and a core. In addition, a quarter of a large, unworked flint pebble was recovered from the fill of a ditch (F601, 6003). Of coarse, opaque reddish-brown flint with fossil and crystalline inclusions, the pebble had split with an irregular fracture and it also exhibited 'potlid' fractures on its surviving outer cortex, possibly the product of being subjected to freeze-thaw conditions or burning, although the surface was not obviously crazed as would be expected had burning been the cause of the breakage. The pebble fragment was of a much lower quality than the two flakes found in the same context which were dark grey in colour with a 'fresh' appearance.

The raw material used was pebble flint of an unpredictable quality, translucent brown to dark grey in colour, and was probably obtained from the subsoil horizon. While the presence of flint flakes denotes some low-level of activity during prehistory, there is a complete absence of any formal tools or chronologically-diagnostic material. However, the generally broad shape of the flakes is suggestive of a later prehistoric (Neolithic to Bronze Age) date, but this small collection does not indicate activity of any longevity in the area.

Table 2: Quantification of Flint Artefacts

Context	Feature	Retouched Flake	Flake	Core	Unworked
1003	F101	-	1	-	-
1004	-	1	-	-	-
2003	-	-	1	-	-
3002	-	-	1	-	-
6003	F601	-	2	-	1
8005	F803	-	-	1	-
8006	F804	1	-	-	-
8009	F806	-	1	-	-

8.2 The Pottery *by Stephanie Ratkai*

Approximately 125 fragments of medieval and post-medieval pottery, tile fragments and pieces of fired clay were recovered by the evaluation. The pottery was examined macroscopically and divided into fabric groups. The fabrics were recorded using the CLAU Lincolnshire County pottery types series.

The pottery from Mareham-Le-Fen has added further to the understanding of pottery in the area. Two examples of a 12th century wheelthrown shell and quartz tempered fabric (WEMS), thought to be made at Mareham were found. This tradition seems to have survived at Mareham and contrasts with the hand-made shelly fabrics from the rest of Lincolnshire at this date. The local medieval wares (MEDLOC), in a similar fabric to that of Toynton All Saints, are, judging from the range of firing and some peculiarities of form etc likely to be produced in Mareham itself, confirming previous observations by Jane Young (CLAU) and Naomi Field (Lindsey Archaeological Services). Two wastered sherds (from 8005 and 8007) in a fabric closely related to that of the Toynton Bolingbroke industries suggests that this local production may have continued into the post-medieval period.

The production of roof tile is evidenced by wastered tile sherds. Tile kilns are known from the outskirts of the settlement. However, two joining sherds from a ridge tile with traces of applied thumbed decoration add to the repertoire of types known to have been made at Mareham.

Fragments of fired clay, possibly derived from kiln structures, may be further evidence of local tile and pottery production.

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Table 3: Quantification, Fabric Identification and Dating of the Pottery and Tile Assemblages

Trench	Context	Quantity	Fabric	Date	Spot Date
1	1003	11	EMOD	late 18th-20th c	late 18th-20th
1	1004	1	MEDLOC	13th-14th c	?17th-18th c
1	1004	1	GRE	m/late16th-m/late18th c	
1	1004	1	TILE	14th-16th c	
2	2002	1	BL	17th c	17th c
2	2003	5	MEDLOC	13th-14th c	13th-14th c
3	3002	1	MEDLOC	13th-14th c	13th-14th c
4	4002	7	EMOD	late 18th-20th c	late 18th-20th c
4	4002	3	PMED	18th c?	
4	4002	1	GRE	mid 16th	
4	4002	1	BOU	m/late 15th-e/m 17th c	
4	4003	1	GRE	m/late16th-m/late18th c	m/late16th-m/late18th c
4	4003	1	BOU	m/late 15th-e/m 17th c	
4	4003	1	TILE	14th-16th c	14th-16th c
4	4004	2	EMOD	late 18th-20th c	late 18th-20th c
4	4004	2	MEDLOC	13th-14th c	
4	4004	1	FIRED CLAY		
4	4012	1	EMOD	late 18th-20th c	late 18th-20th c
4	4013	1	EMOD	late 18th-20th c	late 18th-20th c
4	4013	1	GRE	m/late16th-m/late18th c	
4	4016	1	SLST	e/m 12th-m/late14th c	m/late14th c
4	4016	1	EMHM	late 11th-m13th c	
6	6002	1	WEMS	12th c	12th c
7	7004	1	EMOD	late 18th-20th c	late 18th-20th
7	7004	1	PMED	18th c	
8	8000	1	GRE	m/late16th-m/late18th c	18th c
8	8004	1	GRE	m/late16th-m/late18th c	18th c
8	8005	1	TB/?LOC	m/late 15th-e/m18th	15th-16th c?
8	8005	4	FIRED CLAY		
8	8007	2	TB?LOC	m/late 15th-e/m18th	15th-16th c?
8	8009	1	KOLN?	16th c	16th c
8	8010	2	TILE	14th-16th c	14th-16th c
9	9000	3	EMOD	late 18th-20th c	late 18th-20th
9	9002	2	MY	m16th-late 17th	17th c
9	9002	1	GRE	m/late16th-m/late18th c	
9	9002	1	TILE	14th-16th c	
9	9003	1	CIST	late 15th-m16th c	late 15th-m16th c
9	9003	2	MEDLOC	13th-14th	
9	9003	1	TILE	14th-16th c	
9	9004	1	SLST	e/m 12th-m/late 14th c	13th-14th c
9	9004	3	MEDLOC	13th-14th c	
9	9004	4	TILE	14th-16th c	

9	9004	1	FIRED CLAY		
10	1052	2	TILE	14th-16th c	14th-16th c
10	1053	1	TB	m/late 15th-e/m18th	post-med ?17th-18th c
10	1053	4	MEDLOC	13th-14th c	
10	1053	2	TB?	m/late 15th-e/m18th	
10	1053	2	TILE	14th-16th c	
11	1100	1	MEDLOC	13th-14th c	13th-14th c
11	1102	5	TB	m/late 15th-e/m18th	17th-e18th c
11	1102	2	TOYII	m15th-m16th c	
11	1102	1	DUTR	m16th-late 17th c	
11	1102	1	LSW2	e13th-?m14th c	
11	1102	1	POTT	?e13th-?15th c	
11	1102	2	TILE	14th-16th c	
11	1106	1	TILE	14th-16th c	14th-16th c
11	1107	1	TILE	14th-16th c	
11	1110	1	CRMWARE	m/late 18th c	m/late 18th c
11	1112	2	RIDGETILE	?14th-16th c	?14th-16th c
11	1115	1	LMLOC	14th-15th c	14th-15th c
11	1115	2	TILE	14th-16th c	
11	1115	1	WEMS	12th c	13th-14th c
11	1115	2	MEDLOC	13th-14th c	
11	1115	1	FIRED CLAY		

8.3 The Animal Bone *by Umberto Albarella*

Approximately 320 fragments of animal bone were recovered, 141 of which were from the almost complete skeleton of a young cat (F404, 4006), and 76 of which were from a pig's skull (F405, 4007). The main species represented were sheep and cattle. Smaller amounts of pig bone were identified and some single bones from chicken, rabbit and woodpigeon, horse and fox. The majority of bone was recovered either as a single fragment or in small groups, with the largest amounts of bones coming from ditches in Trench 8 (F803, 8005: 19 pig bones, a fox mandible and a horse scapula) and in Trench 9 (F900, 9004: 24 sheep, cow, pig and chicken bones). No butchery marks were identified.

Table 4: Distribution of Animal Bone

Context	Feature	Sheep	Cattle	Pig	Chicken	Horse	Fox	Rabbit	Wood Pigeon	Cat	Unident.
1003	F101	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	*	-	-
1004	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4003	F401	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4006	F404	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	-
4007	F405	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8005	F803	-	-	*	-	*	*	-	-	-	-
8006	F804	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8007	F804	*	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9003	F900	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9004	F900	*	-	*	*	-	-	-	-	-	-
1052	F110	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1106	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1112	F125	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*
1115	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*

9.0 The Environmental Evidence *by Andy Hammon*

A total of four, 20 litre, samples was taken from the sealed medieval contexts in Trenches 10 (1053) and 11 (1106, 1113 and 1115). Five litres of the samples taken from contexts 1053, 1106 and 1115 were processed and assessed for their charred plant and mollusca remains.

Method

The samples were processed using water flotation. The flots (the material which floats on the water's surface) were sieved to 500 micron, and the heavy residues (the material which does not float) were wet sieved to 1mm. Both were air dried at room temperature and bagged when fully dry.

The heavy residues and flots were scanned visually and, therefore, the results presented below are provisional. Identifications were not made at this stage.

Results

Visual scanning suggests the presence of well-preserved charred plant remains (i.e. cereal grain) and mollusca in all three contexts. The quality of the remains from Trench 11 was higher than that from Trench 10. However, all four of the samples have the potential to provide information on human activity at the site, to provide information on the wider environment and so further the understanding of the social and economic aspects of the site's development during the medieval and post-medieval periods.

Table 5: Environmental Samples

Context	Feature	Description	Date	Comment	Potential
1053	-	Layer	13th-16thC, 1 potentially later, post-med sherd	Charred plant remains present Mollusca present	Good
1106	-	Layer	11th-16thC	Charred plant remains present Mollusca present	Good
1113	-	Layer	-	Not Processed	Good
1115	-	Layer	12th-16thC	Charred plant remains present Mollusca present	Good

10.0 Discussion of the Archaeological Results

10.1 Introduction

Archaeological deposits, features and artefacts dating to the prehistoric period, medieval period, and post-medieval period were identified by the evaluation, their positions coinciding with anomalies mapped by an earlier geophysical survey. No evidence of Romano-British activity was recorded. The archaeological remains were predominantly characterised by gullies, ditches, post-holes and rough surfaces suggesting small-scale activity from the prehistoric period onwards.

10.2 Prehistoric Period

A small quantity of later prehistoric flint artefacts was recovered from Trenches 1, 2, 3, 6 and 8. With the exception of the two flakes and one unworked flint pebble from a ditch in Trench

6 (F601, 6003), the flint artefacts were recovered from medieval layers or post-medieval ditches, surfaces or gullies. The ditch (F601) in Trench 6 represents the only feature which can be securely dated to the prehistoric period.

10.3 Medieval Period

No evidence of ridge and furrow, which is characteristic of medieval agricultural practice, was recorded. The thin layers which overlaid the subsoil in Trenches 2 and 3, from which a small assemblage of medieval sherds was recovered, suggest instead that the northern part of the site served as an open space in the 13th-14th centuries. Two ditches (F102 and F401) recorded in Trenches 1 and 4, dated to the 14th-16th centuries, may represent field boundaries laid out in the medieval period, which were later re-used and re-cut in the post-medieval period. The ditches extend south from Field Side, which is thought to largely follow its medieval course, and they are likely to represent the remains of a number of long, narrow strips of land which are characteristic of the medieval period.

The main focus for later medieval activity, possibly continuing into the post-medieval period, appears to be represented by the deposits in Trenches 8, 10 and 11. The chalk surfaces in Trenches 10 and 11 sealed a thick layer of charcoal-flecked silt-sand, from which a mixed, and possibly residual, assemblage of mainly 12th-16th century pottery (with one potentially later post-medieval sherd), and 14th-16th century tile was recovered. It was not possible to fully determine the character of these layers within the areas excavated. Tile wasters found on the site and linked to the well-attested local industry must be derived from nearby, given that geophysical survey did not suggest the presence of kilns here.

The results of the evaluation suggest that, in the medieval period, the northern three-quarters of the site was set aside as uncultivated land, with only a small number of field boundaries extending south from Field Side. No evidence of ridge and furrow was recorded. The small assemblage of 13th-14th century pottery sherds recovered from this area suggests that although Field Side would have initially served as the main thorough-fare in between the manor house and the church, its frontage remained structurally undeveloped, with no associated back-plot areas being laid out. As the village expanded in the 14th-16th centuries, the present-day Main Street became the more important route, with Field Side becoming almost a back lane or service route for the uncultivated fields within the village. The medieval layers recorded in Trenches 8, 10 and 11 can be related to this village expansion and to the increasing role of Main Street in Mareham-le-Fen's market and trading connections, with back-plot activity extending north from the structures which fronted onto this street. This reflects the evidence recovered from a site within the western half of the village, where 13th-14th century pits and ditches were found, relating to backplot activity to the rear of Main Street (JSAC 1997).

10.4 Post-Medieval Period

Post-medieval deposits, features and artefacts were recorded in Trenches 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 and 9-11. The linear geophysical anomalies in Trenches 1 and 4 coincide with the line of the two medieval ditches (F102 and F401) and two post-medieval ditches (F101 and F400). An examination of the historic maps shows that the ditches correspond with former field boundaries. The cluster of small pits immediately to the northwest of the ditch in Trench 4

appear to represent the burial-cuts for domestic animals, although the burial of a pig's skull is rather curious.

In Trench 8, post-medieval remains are represented by a chalk surface (F804) which seals an earlier gully (F805) and ditch (F803). Similar chalk surfaces are recorded in Trenches 9, 10 and 11. In Trench 9, the surface was cut by a ditch (F900), whilst in Trench 10 the surface was slightly truncated by plough marks, and in Trench 11 was cut by a series of post-holes. It was not possible to determine whether the chalk surfaces in these trenches represented exterior yard surfaces or whether they represented the remains of interior floors, as the local vernacular tradition would not in some instances leave more substantial traces of buildings in the archaeological record. No hearths were found, nor was there a particularly large amount of domestic rubbish or waste found in association.

Two agricultural land-drains were recorded in Trench 2 and Trench 6.

Four truncated gullies (F500, F701-F703) differed in their character, form and quality of survival to the majority of features dated to the post-medieval period. Post-medieval artefacts were recovered from the fills of F701 and F702, however, their truncated form and darker, more compact fill, are suggestive of earlier, perhaps prehistoric, features. They may represent the remains of activity relating to the management of the prehistoric landscape.

11.0 Conclusions and Assessment of the Archaeological Importance of the Proposed Development Site

Where the trial-trenches were located to transect anomalies identified by geophysical survey as potential archaeological features, the evaluation has succeeded in characterising those anomalies. For example, the ditched field boundaries in Trenches 1 and 4, the land drain in Trench 2, the gullies in Trenches 5 and 7, the ditches in Trenches 6 and 8 and the chalk surfaces in Trenches 9, 10 and 11, all coincided with anomalies mapped by geophysical survey. The evaluation has provided evidence of prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval activity within the site.

Archaeological deposits and features within the site are variously characterised by heavily truncated, potentially prehistoric, gullies, ditches dating to the prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval periods, medieval layers and post-medieval chalk surfaces and post-holes.

The recovery of a small quantity of later prehistoric flint artefacts is suggestive of a low level of activity within the immediate vicinity of the site. The survival of a ditch in Trench 6 and the gullies in Trenches 5 and 7 indicates a potential for the preservation of agricultural or temporary settlement features elsewhere within the site. However, the preservation of these may have been compromised by later agricultural activity, resulting in the high degree of truncation seen in Trenches 5 and 7.

The identification of open fields, dating to the medieval period, in the northern half of the site and of well-preserved, but uncharacterised, medieval layers in the southern part of the site has contributed further to our understanding of the historical development of Mareham-le-Fen, and has placed it within the context of a morphologically evolving settlement, with the focus

shifting away from Field Side, which represented the main thorough-fare in the 13th and 14th centuries, to Main Street in the 14th-16th centuries.

The stratigraphic evidence was complemented by a small assemblage of flint artefacts of local importance, and an informative assemblage of pottery, tile and fired clay with local and regional importance. Given the significance of the local pottery industry, all such material has a value in terms of national strategies of understanding the medieval and early-post-medieval pottery industries. This assemblage has added to the understanding of pottery production in the area, with two examples of 12th century wheelthrown fabrics, thought to have been manufactured at Mareham-le-Fen, being found, along with a new type of roof tile which is likely to have been made in the kilns located on the outskirts of the medieval settlement. The assemblage has the potential to address questions of chronology, site status and function, and could usefully be compared with other excavated sites with the village and locality.

Assessment of the environmental remains sampled from the archaeological deposits at Mareham-le-Fen, although only provisional, suggests well-preserved charred plant and mollusca remains within the layers dated to the 11th-16th centuries, which could provide more detailed information on the surrounding environment. This would allow comparison with the results obtained from other sites within the region.

Overall, the site has the potential to provide comparative data for contemporary sites, and is of local importance. At a regional level, the relative importance of the site is reduced when compared to the survival of deserted and shrunken medieval villages elsewhere within Lincolnshire.

The use of trial-trenching as a further method of evaluation at Mareham-le-Fen has helped to characterise the potential archaeological deposits initially identified by geophysical survey. Trial-trenching has demonstrated the spatial distribution of features and has established the date of the majority of the deposits and features recorded. However, it has not been possible to characterise the medieval layers and post-medieval chalk surfaces within the southern part of the site, and these may merit further investigation.

12.0 References

JSAC (John Samuels Archaeological Consultants) 1997 *An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment of Land off Field Side, Mareham-le-Fen, Lincolnshire.* Report 324/97/01.

JSAC (John Samuels Archaeological Consultants) 1998 *A Specification for an Archaeological Field Evaluation at Land off Field Side, Mareham-le-Fen, Lincolnshire.* Report 324/98/02.

GeoQuest Associates 1998 *A Geophysical Survey of Land off Field Side, Mareham-le-Fen, Lincolnshire.*

SSEW (Soil Survey of England and Wales) 1983 *Soils of England and Wales.*

13.0 Acknowledgements

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Appendix One: List of contexts and features.

Trench	Context	Feature	Description
1	1000	-	Topsoil
1	1001	-	Subsoil
1	1002	F100	Fill of gully
1	1003	F101	Fill of ditch
1	1004	F102	Fill of ditch
2	2000	-	Topsoil
2	2001	-	Subsoil
2	2002	F200	Fill of scoop
2	2003	-	Layer
2	2004	F201	Fill of land drain
3	3000	-	Topsoil
3	3001	-	Subsoil
3	3002	-	Layer
4	4000	-	Topsoil
4	4001	-	Subsoil
4	4002	F400	Fill of ditch
4	4003	F401	Fill of ditch
4	4004	F402	Fill of gully
4	4005	F403	Fill of gully
4	4006	F404	Fill of pit
4	4007	F405	Fill of pit
4	4008	F406	Fill of circular cut
4	4009	F407	Fill of circular cut
4	4010	F409	Fill of circular cut
4	4011	F410	Fill of pit
4	4012	F408	Fill of pit
4	4013	F411	Tree-bole
4	4014	-	Layer
5	5000	-	Topsoil
5	5001	-	Subsoil
5	5002	F500	Fill of gully
6	6000	-	Topsoil
6	6001	-	Subsoil
6	6002	F600	Fill of scoop
6	6003	F601	Fill of ditch
6	6004	F601	Fill of ditch
6	6005	-	Cleaning layer
6	6006	F602	Fill of land drain
7	7000	-	Topsoil
7	7001	-	Subsoil
7	7002	F700	Fill of scoop
7	7003	F701	Fill of gully
7	7004	F702	Fill of gully
7	7005	F703	Fill of gully
8	8000	-	Topsoil
8	8001	-	Subsoil

8	8002	F800	Fill of cut
8	8003	F801	Fill of cut
8	8004	F802	Fill of land drain
8	8005	F803	Fill of ditch
8	8006	F804	Chalk surface
8	8007	F804	Chalk surface
8	8008	F805	Fill of gully
8	8009	F806	Fill of gully
8	8010	F807	Fill of ditch
8	8011	F807	Fill of ditch
9	9000	-	Topsoil
9	9001	-	Subsoil
9	9002	F900	Fill of ditch
9	9003	F900	Fill of ditch
9	9004	-	Layer
9	9005	-	Layer
9	9006	F901	Chalk surface
10	1050	-	Topsoil
10	1051	-	Subsoil
10	1052	F110	Chalk surface
10	1053	-	Layer
11	1100	-	Topsoil
11	1101	-	Subsoil
11	1102	-	Layer
11	1103	-	Cleaning layer
11	1104	-	Cleaning layer
11	1105	-	Cleaning layer
11	1106	-	Layer, Sondage 1
11	1107	F120	Chalk surface
11	1108	F121	Chalk surface
11	1109	F122	Fill of post-hole
11	1110	F123	Fill of post-hole
11	1111	F124	Fill of post-hole
11	1112	F125	Fill of post-hole
11	1113	-	Layer, Sondage 2
11	1114	-	Layer, Sondage 3
11	1115	-	Layer, Sondage 3
11	1116	F126	Fill of post-hole
11	1117	F127	Fill of post-hole
11	1118	F128	Fill of post-hole

Appendix Two: Quantification of Archive.

The site archive is currently housed at Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit. It comprises contextual information, scale drawings, plans, sections and photographs. The archive will be deposited with the City and County Museum, Lincoln, under accession number 103.98, within 6 months of the completion of fieldwork.

Table 6: Archive List

Contexts	Features	B/W Photographs	C/T Photographs	Plans/Sections	Artefacts
86	45	72	50	16	1 box

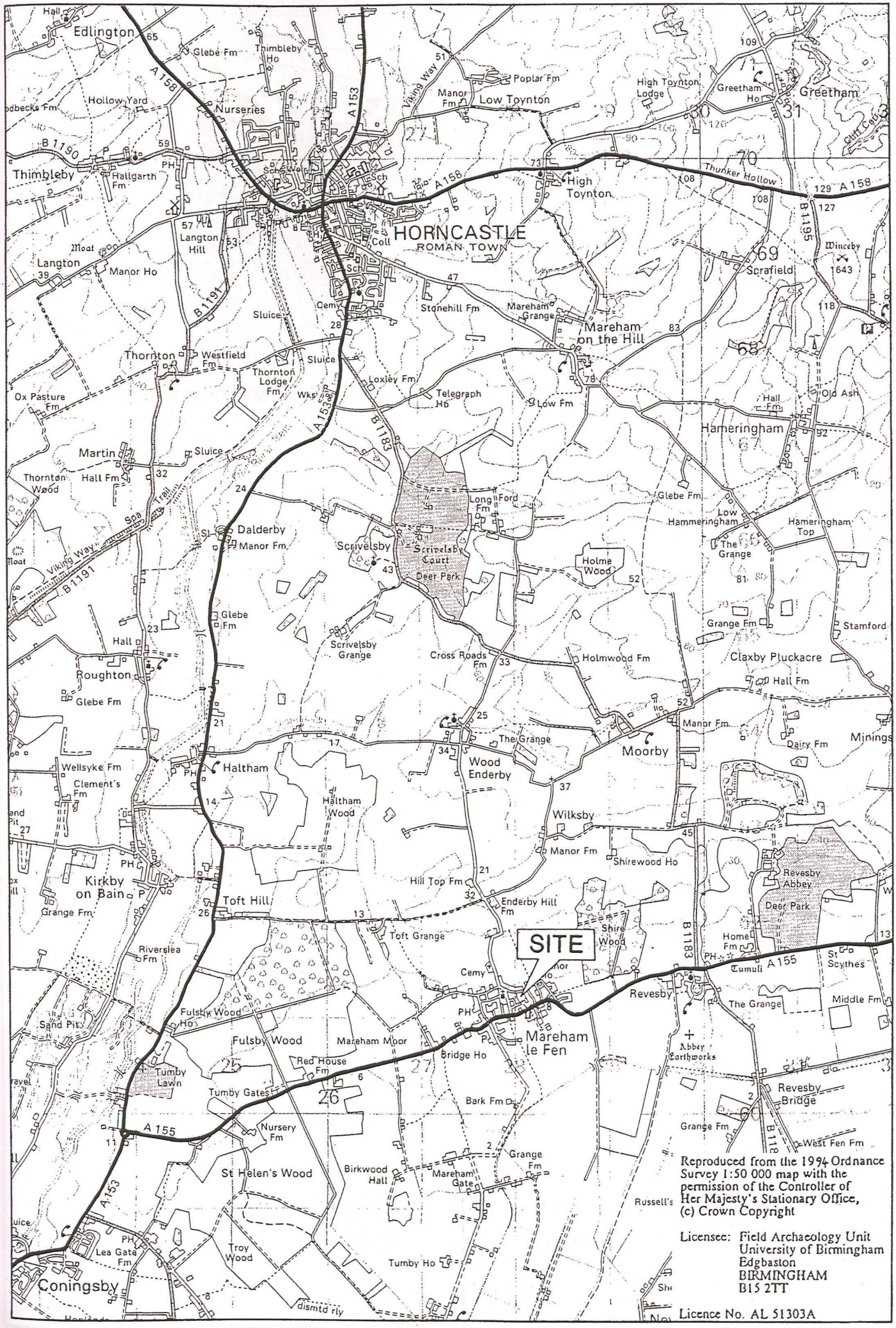


FIG. 1


Trench 1
Trench 3
Trench 4
Trench 2
Trench 5
Trench 7
Trench 6
Trench 8
Trench 10
Trench 9
Trench 11
0
50m

FIG.2

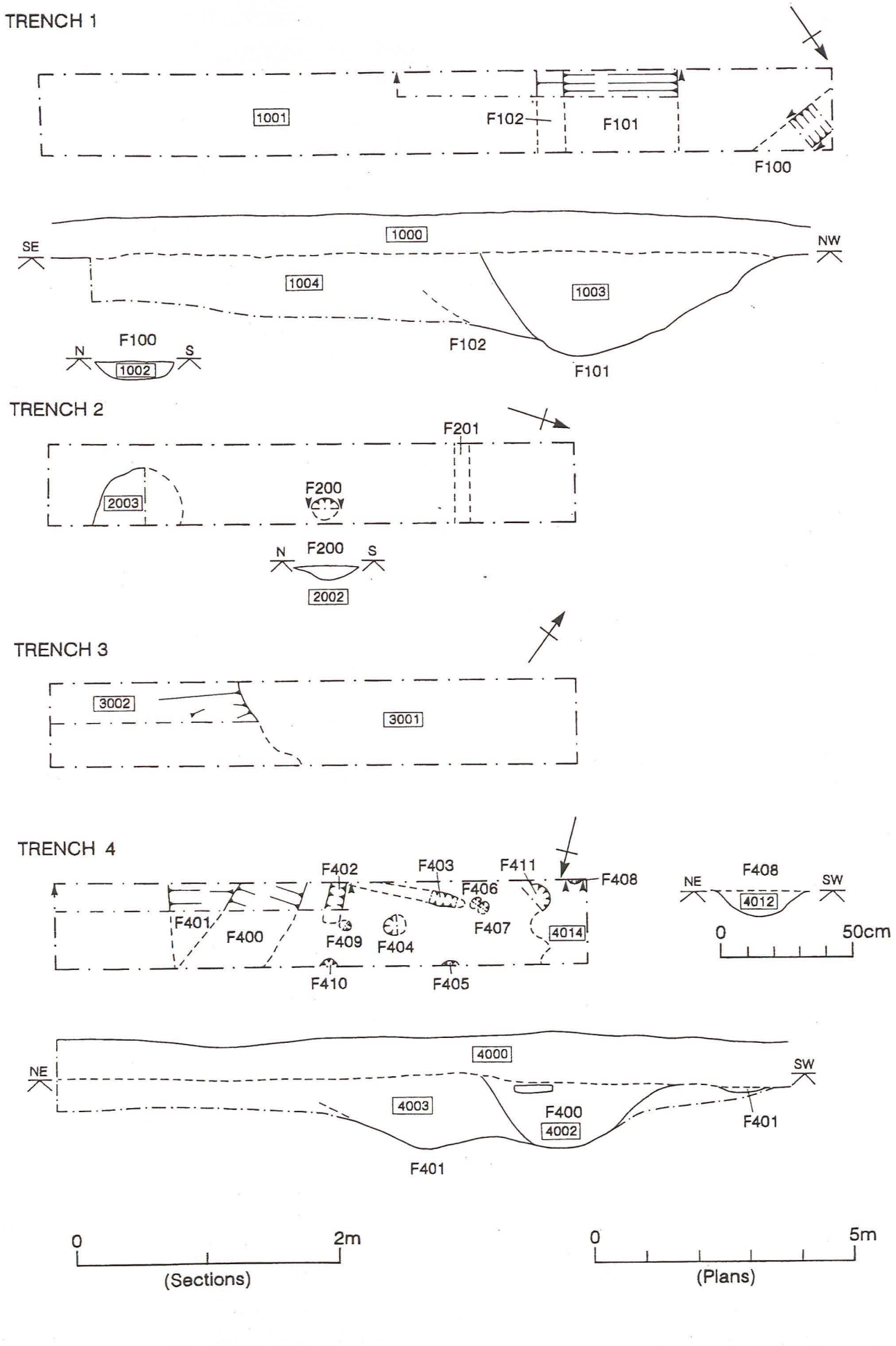

TRENCH 1
1001
F102
F101
F100
1000
SE
NW
1004
1003
N
F100
S
1002
F102
F101
TRENCH 2
F201
2003
F200
N
F200
S
2002
TRENCH 3
3002
3001
TRENCH 4
F402
F403
F411
F408
F406
F401
F400
F409
F404
F407
4014
F410
F405
NE
F408
SW
4012
0
50cm
4000
NE
SW
4003
F400
4002
F401
F401
0
2m
(Sections)
0
5m
(Plans)

FIG.3

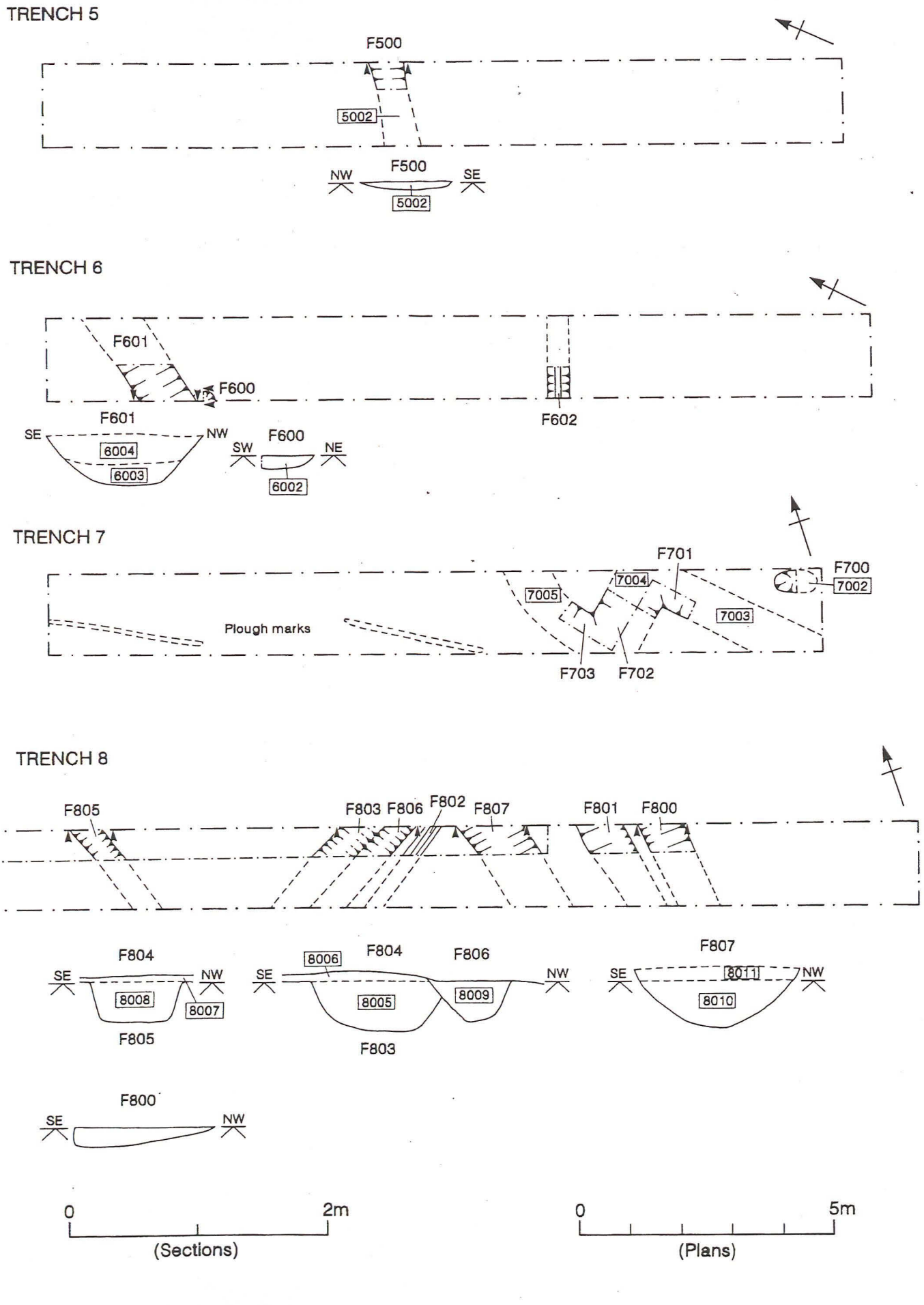
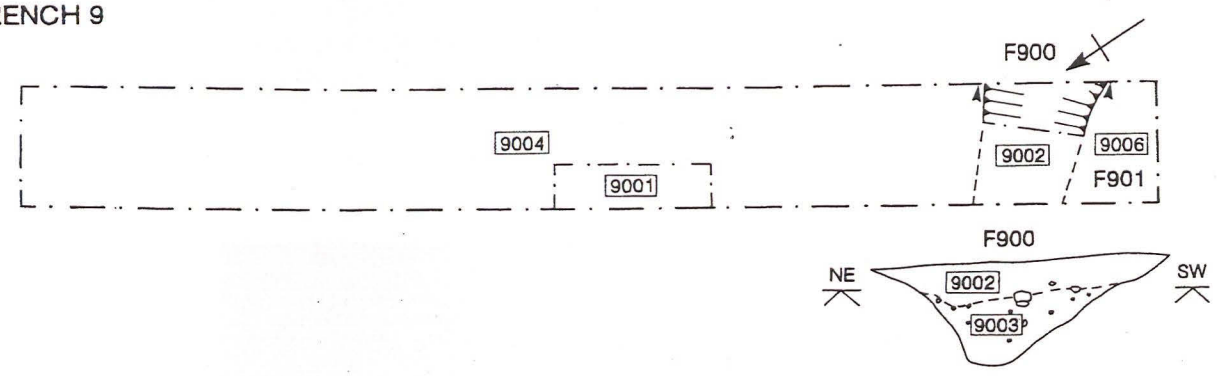
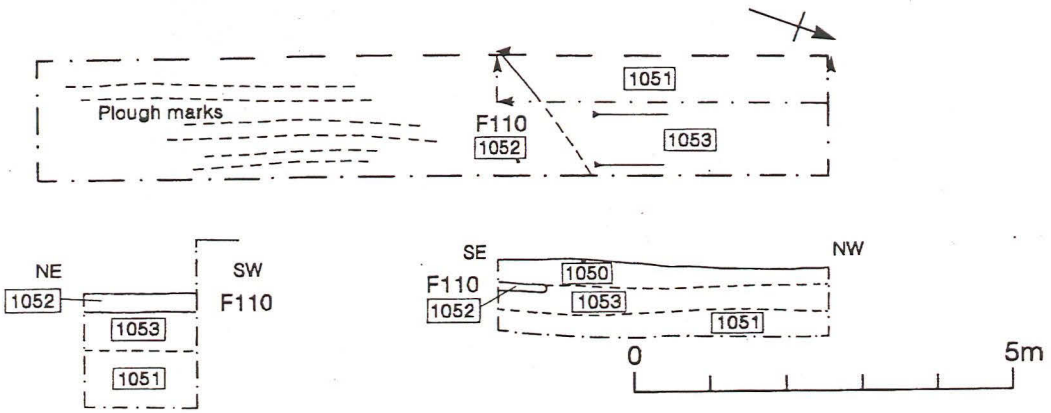

TRENCH 5
F500
5002
NW
F500
SE
5002
TRENCH 6
F601
F600
F602
F601
SE
NW
6004
6003
SW
F600
NE
6002
TRENCH 7
F701
F700
7004
7002
7005
7003
Plough marks
F703
F702
TRENCH 8
F805
F803
F806
F802
F807
F801
F800
F804
SE
NW
8008
8007
F805
8006
F804
F806
SE
NW
8005
8009
F803
F807
SE
8011
NW
8010
F800
SE
NW
0
2m
(Sections)
0
5m
(Plans)

FIG.4

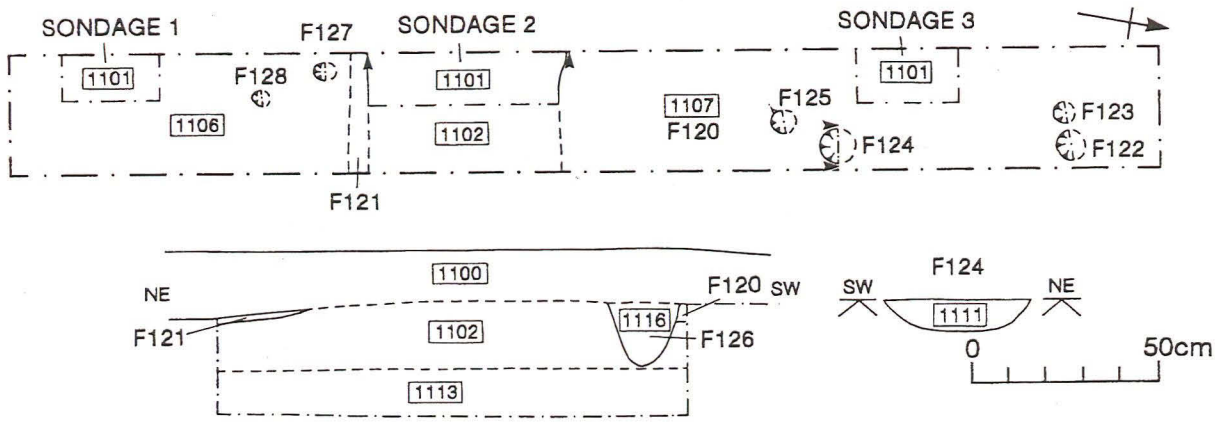
TRENCH 9

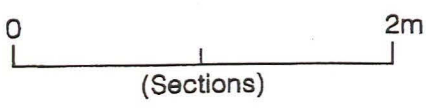


TRENCH 10



TRENCH 11





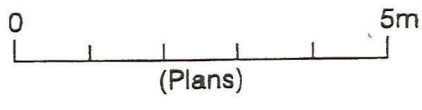


FIG.5

Plate 1: Trench 1. Facing northwest, F101 and F102 in foreground, F100 in background.

Plate 2: Trench 2. Southwest-facing section of scoop F200.

Plate 3: Trench 4. Northwest-facing section of ditches F400 and F401.

Plate 4: Trench 6. Northeast-facing section of ditch F601.

Plate 5: Trench 7. Facing southwest, F701-F703 in foreground.

Plate 6: Trench 11. East-facing section of Sondage 1, with charcoal-flecked layer (1106).