

Archaeological Evaluation Report



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Archaeological Evaluation Report

Prepared for:

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd, on behalf of by Jelson Homes and Linden Homes, to undertake a scheme of archaeological evaluation at Rectory Farm, Grantham, Lincolnshire (NGR 48939 33700) to inform proposals for residential development. The evaluation comprised trial trenching and followed on from previous geophysical survey (GSB 2012) and desk-based assessment (CgMs 2012). The fieldwork was monitored for the local planning authority, South Kesteven District Council, by Jenny Young (Senior Historic Environment Officer, Heritage Trust for Lincolnshire).

The results of the evaluation generally correlated well with the geophysical survey results. No archaeological features were observed in Trenches 1, 2, 7, 10 and 11. Early prehistoric activity in the vicinity of Trench 2, the north-western and elevated area of the site, is indicated by the presence of a small quantity of unstratified flint which includes a small bladelet core of Late Mesolithic type.

A field system comprising primarily large ditches was observed to extend across the site (Trenches 8, 9 and 12), correlating with the results of the geophysical survey. No dating evidence associated with the field system was found, however, based on previous investigations in the surrounding area, it is assumed that the fields may date from the Bronze Age to Early Iron Age (CgMs 2012). The presence of a small gully in Trench 12 may account for the displacement of the line of a north to south field boundary in this area; however it is not possible to interpret this further at this stage. No trace of postulated pit alignments was found in Trenches 7 and 8; one of these alignments in Trench 8 corresponded with a ditch. However, it is possible that the trenches were located over gaps in the other two postulated alignments.

A complex of Romano-British features was identified in the north-western and elevated area of the site (Trenches 3 and 4), correlating with geophysical survey anomalies. The features are predominantly ditches and gullies, and the artefacts (animal bone, pottery and smithing slag) and environmental evidence recovered from them indicate probable settlement activity in this area. A date range somewhere in the 2nd or 3rd centuries AD is suggested by the pottery recovered, which is predominantly greywares with jars and bowls represented. Fine wares were limited to two body sherds of Nene Valley colour coated ware and a sherd of Spanish Dressel 20 amphora. A large cut feature in Trench 3, 8.3m in width, contained Romano-British pottery in its fill. The function of the feature was unclear. The high stone content of the filling of the feature may represent rubble from a demolished building and a single Romano-British tile was recovered from an adjacent ditch. However, no worked stones or mortar were seen and no coursed stonework was present in the feature.

Later features included two probable quarry pits infilled with Post-medieval and modern waste in Trenches 5 and 6.

The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield, under Wessex Archaeology project code 102020. The archive will be deposited with The Collection (Lincolnshire) under accession number LCNCC:2013.200 and museum site code RFG13. An OASIS form will be submitted at the time of deposition.



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Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by CgMs, on behalf of Jelson Homes and Linden Homes, and Wessex Archaeology are grateful to CgMs, Jelson Homes and Linden Homes in this regard. Jenny Young monitored the work on behalf of South Kesteven District Council and Wessex Archaeology are grateful for her assistance. The evaluation fieldwork was carried out by Ashley Tuck, Sam Fairhead, Mike O'Connell, Alex Cassels, Philip Maier and Martina Tenzer. The report was compiled by Ashley Tuck and the illustrations produced by Chris Breeden. The flint was assessed by Matt Leivers. All other finds were assessed by Lorraine Mepham. Environmental analysis was undertaken by Ellen Simmons. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Richard O'Neill.



Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd, on behalf of by Jelson Homes and Linden Homes, to undertake a scheme of archaeological evaluation at Rectory Farm, Grantham, Lincolnshire (NGR 48939 33700) (Figure 1) to inform proposals for residential development.
- 1.1.2 The evaluation comprised trial trenching and followed on from previous geophysical survey (GSB 2012) (**Figure 2**) and desk-based assessment (CgMs 2012). The fieldwork was monitored for the local planning authority, South Kesteven District Council, by Jenny Young (Senior Historic Environment Officer, Heritage Trust for Lincolnshire). A specification for the fieldwork was produced by CgMs (2013) and approved by Jenny Young.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The development Site is located to the north-west of Grantham just off the A52 Barrowby Road and covers an area of c.47.5ha centred on NGR 48939 33700 (**Figure 1**). It is bounded to the north by a railway line, to the south by the A52 Barrowby Road and to the east and west by agricultural land. The Site is currently under arable regime with some extant buildings at Rectory Farm itself.
- 1.2.2 The majority of the Site is underlain by bedrock belonging to the Marlstone Rock Formation of ferruginous sandstone and ironstone although the northern part of the Site is underlain by Dyham Formation siltstone and mudstone. Superficial deposits are not recorded over much of the Site although an area of glacio-fluvial deposits of sand and gravel is recorded within the southern part of the Site (http://maps.bgs.ac.uk).
- 1.2.3 The topography of the Site comprises relatively steep slopes down to the north with a gentler incline dropping towards the east and south-east across the remainder of the Site. The highest land rises to 108m AOD at Rectory Farm in the west falling gently to 90m AOD in the south-east and more sharply to 85m AOD in the north and north-east.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The Site, and an extended area to the north-east, has been subject to desk based assessment (CgMs 2012) and full detailed geophysical survey (GSB 2012). The results of these two surveys are summarised from the Specification (CgMs 2013) below.



2.2 Mesolithic

2.2.1 Evidence of Mesolithic finds in the vicinity would suggest that such remains are likely to survive as fairly low intensity artefact scatters on Site.

2.3 Neolithic

2.3.1 There is considered to be a moderate to high potential for low level artefact scatters of Neolithic date to survive within the study site. There is considered to be a moderate potential for discrete features of Neolithic date to be found in association with later activity.

2.4 Bronze Age and Iron Age

2.4.1 The ring ditches, possible field systems and pit alignments identified by the geophysical survey are likely to span the Early Bronze Age to Early Iron Age periods. Enclosures identified just outside of the current application Site to the north-east, are likely to mainly be of Iron Age date but may well have some elements dating to the Bronze Age.

2.5 Roman

2.5.1 The evidence for Roman activity in the vicinity of the study site would seem to indicate settlement, and possibly industrial, activity in the north-western part of the study site.

2.6 Saxon

2.6.1 Although there is evidence for Saxon activity to the east of the application Site the nature of that activity is not clear and therefore the nature of any such remains that may survive within the study Site is also unclear.

2.7 Medieval

2.7.1 There is likely to be widespread evidence of medieval agricultural practices surviving as ploughed out remains of ridge and furrow. Such remains are of very limited archaeological interest. There is considered to be no potential for settlement evidence of this date.

2.8 Post-medieval to modern

2.8.1 Rectory Farm itself is considered to be of some limited local significance.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

- 3.1.1 The aims of the evaluation were as follows:
 - to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development Site;
 - to verify the results of the geophysical survey;
 - to assess the artefactual and environmental potential of the archaeological deposits encountered:
 - to provide further information on the archaeological potential of the Site to enable that archaeological implications of the proposed development to be assessed;
 - to assess the impact of previous land use on the Site;



- to inform formulation of a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains, and;
- to produce a Site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Lincolnshire HER.
- 3.1.2 The programme of archaeological investigation was conducted within the general research parameters and objectives defined by 'East Midlands Heritage: A Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment' (Knight, Vyner and Allen undated) and the earlier Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda for the East Midlands (Cooper 2006).
- 3.1.3 The investigation also took account of the national research programmes outlined in the Strategic Framework for Historic Environment Activities and Programmes in English Heritage (SHAPE) (English Heritage 2008).

3.2 Archaeological trial trenching

- 3.2.1 Thirteen archaeological trial trenches were excavated (**Figure 2**). Three of these (**Trenches 11**, **12** and **13**) measured 20m in length, with the rest 50m long. Trenches were *c*.2m wide. The majority of the trenches were targeted to examine specific features identified by the geophysical survey, although **Trench 13** was targeted to test a blank area. All trenches were successfully dug in the locations proposed in the specification (CgMs 2013). The evaluation was carried out in line with current industry national guidelines (Institute for Archaeology 2008).
- 3.2.2 Topsoil and overburden were removed by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. Mechanical excavation ceased at undisturbed natural deposits, which were cut by buried archaeological features.
- 3.2.3 Each trench was cleaned by hand as appropriate to assist the identification and interpretation of exposed archaeological features and the nature of identified features was assessed by limited sample excavation, sufficient to establish their character and date. 20% by length of linear features was excavated, with a minimum section width of 1m.
- 3.2.4 Following discussion with the Senior Historic Environment Officer, a large feature in **Trench 3 (307)** was excavated using a combination of hand digging and machine excavation with a small toothless bucket.
- 3.2.5 Where archaeology was present, trenches were recorded in plan at 1:20 by measured drawing and photography and were located to Ordnance Survey National Grid. Recording was carried out using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. Deposits encountered were described fully on individual context recording sheets. The sections of excavated archaeological features were also recorded by measured drawing at 1:10 or 1:20 for large features. One long section of each trench containing archaeological features was recorded and a sample section of each 'blank' trench was recorded. The recording system was spot heights and those of individual features were recorded relative to Ordnance Datum.
- 3.2.6 A photographic record, utilising black and white negative film, supplemented by high resolution digital data capture (high-res DSLR), was maintained during the course of the fieldwork.



4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following section provides a summary of the information held in the Site archive, with a full list of context numbers and context descriptions within each trench contained in **Appendix 1**. All features described were consistent with anomalies identified by geophysical survey (**Figure 2**), except where noted.

4.2 General stratigraphy

- 4.2.1 Almost all of the deposits encountered comprised of silty clay or of closely allied loam. Deposits were differentiated by very slight changes in hue. Typically topsoil (e.g. 801) was mid-brown, subsoil was reddish (e.g. 802) and natural was yellowish (e.g. 803). Bedrock was often seen (e.g. 806) and was recorded as "limestone" which is approximately consistent with the expected marlstone geology. The subsoil was interpreted as a relic ploughsoil and in **Trench 8** two different relic ploughsoil horizons were found (802 and 803).
- 4.2.2 The natural to the northwest of the Site, the area of **Trenches 2**, **3** and **4**, which is at a higher elevation, was light yellowish brown clay (e.g. **203**). Other deposits in this area comprised of differently hued silty clays consistent with the rest of the Site. A band of reddish brown clay, **306** (**Plate 6**), was dug in **Trench 3**. Although this ran parallel with ditch **304**, it proved to be a band of natural dipping and running under other natural deposits to the east. **306** was not detected by the geophysics. In **Trench 11**, a large band of grey clay (**1104**) was also dug. Once again, this proved to be natural in origin.

4.3 Prehistoric

- 4.3.1 Early prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the north-western and elevated area of the Site is indicated by the presence of a small quantity of unstratified flint from the area of **Trench 2**, which includes a small bladelet core of Late Mesolithic type.
- 4.3.2 A field system comprising primarily large boundary ditches 1.8m to 2.2m in width (**Trenches 8**, **9** and **12**) was observed to extend across the Site, correlating with the results of the geophysical survey. No dating evidence associated with the field system was found, however, based on previous investigations in the surrounding area, it is assumed that the fields may date from the Bronze Age to Early Iron Age (CgMs 2012).
- 4.3.3 **Trench 8** (**Figure 5**) had an east-west "U"-shaped linear, **804**, 1.8m wide by 0.61m deep (**Plate 8**). It produced no finds. Cropmark evidence had predicted a pit alignment here (CgMs 2012), but the 2m section excavated as a part of this evaluation manifested as a linear ditch.
- 4.3.4 In **Trench 9**, two north-south linears were found (**Figure 6**). The largest, **904** (**Plate 9**), was irregular in shape, 2.2m wide by 0.6m deep. A smaller shallow linear, **907** (**Plate 10**), lay to the west of **904**, was "U"-shaped and was 0.7m wide by 0.23m deep. Neither of the features produced finds.
- 4.3.5 **Trench 12** was similar to **Trench 9** in that it contained a large north-south linear (**1203**, **Plate 11**) with a smaller north-south gully (**1205**, **Plate 12**) to the west. **1203** was 2.2m wide by 0.93m deep, and **1205** was 0.54m wide by only 0.42m deep. The presence of the gully may account for shift in the field boundary to the east as indicated by the geophysical survey (GSB 2012).



4.3.6 A shallow gully, **408**, ran approximately north-south in **Trench 4** (**Figure 4**). It did not produce any finds but was seen in plan to be cut by securely dated Romano-British features (e.g. **410**). It seems likely therefore that the gully **408** is prehistoric or early Romano-British in date. It was quite a slight feature, only 0.04m deep, and was one of a small number of archaeological features not detected by the geophysical survey.

4.4 Romano-British

- 4.4.1 Romano-British activity was identified in **Trenches 3** and **4** with a date range somewhere in the 2nd or 3rd centuries AD suggested by pottery recovered from the features. Animal bone, pottery and smithing slag were recovered indicating potential settlement activity.
- 4.4.2 **Trench 3** contained a "U"-shaped ditch (**304**, **Figure 3**, **Plate 1**), 1.8m wide by 0.5m deep. It ran from south-west to north-east towards the east end of the trench and produced a quantity of Romano-British pottery, a fragment of Romano-British tile, and animal bone.
- 4.4.3 A large cut feature, 8.3m wide and up to 0.55m in depth (307, Figure 3, Plate 6), was found at the west end of Trench 3. The fill of the feature, 308, consisted of 60% unworked stone blocks in a matrix of topsoil-like brown silty clay. Romano-British pottery and animal bone were recovered from the fill. The exact function of the feature is uncertain: no worked stones or mortar were seen and no coursed stonework was present in the feature.
- 4.4.4 Four east-west linear features were also present in **Trench 4** (**Figure 4**). From south to north, **404** (**Plate 2**), **406** (**Plate 3**), **410** (**Plate 4**), **413** (**Plate 5**). Ditches **404** and **413** were gently "U"-shaped, whereas **406** and **410**, which appear as two sides of a semi-circular feature on the geophysics, possibly a ring ditch, were squarer in profile. Artefactual and environmental evidence suggests the features are Romano-British in date. Animal bone, pottery and smithing slag were recovered from the features.

4.5 Post-medieval to modern

- 4.5.1 In **Trench 5**, a large probable quarry feature **505** was observed to contain early modern pottery, glass and ironwork (**Plate 7**) in the fill **504**.
- 4.5.2 Another large probable quarry feature **605** was observed in **Trench 6**, correlating with an irregular anomaly identified by the geophysical survey. The material filling the feature appeared to be redeposited natural clay (**604**) and coarse gravel derived from the bedrock (**603**). Modern glass was found within **604**.

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 The evaluation produced a small quantity of finds, consisting largely of pottery and animal bone, and deriving from stratified and unstratified contexts in four of the trenches excavated (**Trenches 2, 3, 4** and **6**).
- 5.1.2 Datable finds are mostly of Romano-British date (**Trenches 3** and **4**), with a few prehistoric (**Trench 2**) and post-medieval items (**Trench 6**). Finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in **Table 1**.



5.2 Pottery

5.2.1 Pottery provides the primary dating evidence for the Site. Of the 44 sherds recovered, 40 are Romano-British and four post-medieval.

Romano-British

- 5.2.2 The Romano-British assemblage is dominated by sandy greywares (30 sherds), occurring in everted rim jar (four examples) and bowl forms (two examples, one triangular-rimmed and one flat-rimmed). These greywares are non-distinctive, and their source is unspecified, but one sherd of dark-surfaced Nene Valley greyware was identified (ditch 406).
- 5.2.3 Two joining sherds in an oxidised sandy ware belong to another everted rim jar. From ditch **304** came two grog-tempered sherds (from an everted rim jar), and two Harrold-type shelly wares (including the rim from a flanged bowl).
- 5.2.4 Fine wares are limited to two body sherds of Nene Valley colour coated ware (from ditches **304** and **410** respectively); there is also one sherd of Spanish Dressel 20 amphora (feature **307**).
- 5.2.5 Romano-British sherds were found in **Trenches 3** and **4**. The condition of the sherds is generally good, with low levels of surface and edge abrasion; mean sherd weight is 20.6g. The vessel forms represented are not particularly chronologically distinctive, but a date range somewhere in the 2nd or 3rd centuries AD can be suggested.

Post-medieval

5.2.6 Post-medieval pottery was found only in **Trench 6** (possible feature **604**), and includes two complete cylindrical stoneware bottles (blacking bottle type) of later 19th or early 20th century type. Alongside these were one sherd of refined whiteware, and one from an unglazed redware flowerpot.

5.3 Worked Flint

5.3.1 The three pieces of worked flint recovered were found unstratified in **Trench 2** (and constituted the only finds from this trench). These comprise two broken flakes and one small bladelet core of Late Mesolithic type. One of the flakes and the core are lightly patinated.

5.4 Slag

5.4.1 Just over 1.5kg of slag was recovered, all deriving from iron-smithing; associated pottery indicates a Romano-British date for this activity.

5.5 Animal Bone

5.5.1 Most of the animal bone consists of cattle (48 fragments), amongst which fragments of rib, metatarsal, ulna, mandible, vertebra, astragalus, scapula and tibia were identified. A few fragments of sheep/goat bone are also present (radius, pelvis and tibia). The bone is generally in good condition.

5.6 Other Finds

5.6.1 Other finds comprise one fragment of Romano-British tile; one oyster shell; and three pieces of modern vessel glass.



Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Context	Animal Bone	Worked Flint	Pottery	Slag	Other Finds
305	6/98		12/328		1 CBM
308	2/174		6/184		1 shell
405	16/64			7/1570	
407	11/250		17/216	1/4	
411	17/280		4/26		
414	3/42				
604			4/1220		3 glass
TR 2 U/S		3/24			
U/S			1/68		
TOTALS	55/908	3/24	44/2042	8/1574	

CBM = ceramic building material

6 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Four bulk samples, each of twenty litres in volume, were taken from Roman ditch fill **305** from **Trench 3** as well as Roman ditch fills **407** and **411**, and undated ditch fill **414** from **Trench 4**, in order to evaluate the presence and preservation of palaeo-environmental remains. The samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and wood charcoal.

6.2 Charred plant remains and wood charcoal

- 6.2.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods using a water separation machine. Floating material was collected on a 300µm mesh, and the remaining heavy residue retained in a 1mm mesh. The flots and heavy residue were air dried. The residues were scanned for metallurgical debris such as hammer scale, using a large magnet and the > 2mm fraction of the heavy residue was fully sorted for organic remains and artefacts, weighed and then discarded. Where no potential for the recovery of < 2mm artefacts, such as fish bone or beads was noted, the < 2mm fraction of the heavy residue was also then weighed and discarded.
- 6.2.2 The samples were assessed in accordance with English Heritage guidelines for environmental archaeology assessments (Jones, 2011). The main aim of this assessment was to determine the concentration, diversity, state of preservation and suitability for use in radiocarbon dating, of any archaeobotanical material present within the samples. A further aim was to evaluate the potential of this material to provide evidence for the function of the contexts, the economy of the site or for the nature of the local environment.
- 6.2.3 A preliminary assessment of the samples was made by scanning under a low power binocular microscope (x7-x45) and recording the abundance of the main classes of material present. This data is recorded in **Appendix 2**. Preliminary identification of plant material was carried out by comparison with material in the reference collections at the Department of Archaeology, University of Sheffield and various reference works (e.g. Berggren, 1981; Anderberg, 1994; Cappers *et al*, 2006). Cereal identifications and nomenclature follow Jacomet (2006). Other plant nomenclature follows Stace (2010).
- 6.2.4 All four samples were dominated by intrusive roots with a very low density of charred plant remains and wood charcoal being present. Preservation of the single cereal grain noted



- as present was however relatively good with only slight distortion of the grain and epidermis largely intact.
- 6.2.5 Sample 304 from ditch fill **305** contained a fragment of charred root or tuber, a fragment of charred vesicular indeterminate material a fragment of charred parenchyma (undifferentiated plant storage tissue). An unidentified charred amaranth seed (Amaranthaceae) and an unidentified charred wild or weed plant seed were also present.
- 6.2.6 Sample 401 from ditch fill **406** contained three charred glume wheat glume bases which were too poorly preserved to be identified to species and a charred thorn.
- 6.2.7 Sample 402 from ditch fill **414** contained a small charred grass seed (<2mm Poaceae), two charred seeds of stinking may weed (*Anthemis cotula* L.) and two other unidentified charred wild or weed plant seeds.
- 6.2.8 Sample 403 from ditch fill **411** contained a charred glume base which was too poorly preserved for further identification, a probable charred spelt wheat grain (*Triticum cf. spelta*) and a fragment of charred vesicular indeterminate material.

6.3 Further potential

Environmental

Charred plant remains

- 6.3.1 The presence of a grain of probable spelt wheat in ditch fill **411** would be consistent with a Roman date for this deposit. Spelt wheat was the main cereal type cultivated during the Roman period in the East Midlands (Monckton, 2006: 273-279) although spelt was also cultivated during earlier and later periods. The unidentified glume wheat glume bases present in Romano-British ditch fill **406** and ditch fill **411** may be representative of either spelt wheat or emmer wheat, as emmer wheat is occasionally recorded from Roman period sites in the region (Monckton, 2006: 273-279).
- 6.3.2 The presence of the seeds of stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula* L.) in Romano-British ditch fill **414** would also be consistent with a Roman date for this deposit. The appearance of the seeds of stinking mayweed in the archaeobotanical record, which is generally interpreted as indicating the expansion of agriculture onto heavier clay soils, first occurs during the Roman period in Lincolnshire (Monckton 2006: 274).
- 6.3.3 It is likely that the probable spelt wheat grain present in ditch fill **411** was accidentally charred during crop processing, such as parching to assist in the removal of glumes, or food preparation. The wild or weed plant seeds present in the samples are likely to have been harvested along with the crops and charred as waste from crop processing, along with the cereal chaff. The wild or weed plant seeds may also derive from other sources however, such as kindling, waste roofing or flooring material and animal fodder.
- 6.3.4 No further analysis of the charred plant remains present in the samples would be recommended due to the paucity of material present.
- 6.3.5 No charred plant remains suitable for radiocarbon dating were present in the samples. The single possible spelt wheat grain present in ditch fill **411** is most likely to be too small.

Wood charcoal

6.3.6 Ditch fills **407**, **414** and **411** from **Trench 4**; all contained a low density of wood charcoal fragments. Less than five fragments of around 2mm in size were present in each sample.



- The charcoal fragments were in general of diffuse porous species although it was not possible to identify these with the use of low power magnification.
- 6.3.7 No further analysis of the wood charcoal present in the samples would be recommended due to the paucity of material present.
- 6.3.8 No wood charcoal fragments suitable for radiocarbon dating were present in the samples.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Summary

7.1.1 The results of the evaluation generally correlated well with the geophysical survey results. No archaeological features were observed in **Trenches 1, 2, 7, 10** and **11**. Geophysical survey anomalies in **Trenches 7** and **10** were probably caused by the intermittent presence of subsoil in these areas.

Prehistoric

- 7.1.2 Early prehistoric activity in the vicinity of **Trench 2**, the north-western and elevated area of the Site, is indicated by the presence of a small quantity of unstratified flint which includes a small bladelet core of Late Mesolithic type.
- 7.1.3 A field system comprising primarily large ditches was observed to extend across the Site (Trenches 8, 9 and 12), correlating with the results of the geophysical survey. No dating evidence associated with the field system was found, however, based on previous investigations in the surrounding area, it is assumed that the field system dates from the Bronze Age to Early Iron Age (CgMs 2012). The presence of a small gully in Trench 12 may account for the displacement of the line of a north to south field boundary in this area, however it is not possible to interpret this further at this stage. No trace of postulated pit alignments was found in Trenches 7 and 8; one of these alignments in Trench 8 corresponded with a ditch. However, it is possible that the trenches were located over gaps in the other two postulated alignments.
- 7.1.4 An undated ditch in **Trench 4** is likely to be Prehistoric or early Roman in date based on its stratigraphic relationship with securely dated features.

Romano-British

- 7.1.5 A complex of Romano-British features was identified in the north-western and elevated area of the Site (**Trenches 3** and **4**), correlating with geophysical survey anomalies. The features are predominantly ditches and gullies, and the artefacts (animal bone, pottery and smithing slag) and environmental evidence recovered from them indicate probable settlement activity in this area. A date range somewhere in the 2nd or 3rd centuries AD is suggested by the pottery recovered, which is predominantly greywares with jars and bowls represented. Fine wares were limited to two body sherds of Nene Valley colour coated ware and a sherd of Spanish Dressel 20 amphora.
- 7.1.6 A large cut feature in **Trench 3**, 8.3m in width, contained Romano-British pottery in its fill. The function of the feature was unclear. The high stone content of the filling of the feature may represent rubble from a demolished building and a single Romano-British tile was recovered from an adjacent ditch. However, no worked stones or mortar were seen and no coursed stonework was present in the feature.



Post-medieval/ Modern

7.1.7 Later features included two probable quarry pits infilled with Post-medieval and modern waste in **Trenches 5** and **6**.

7.2 Conclusion

- 7.2.1 The presence of a field system (**Trenches 8, 9** and **12**) covering most of the Site was also confirmed. No dating evidence associated with the field system was recovered, but, based in previous work in the surrounding area, it is likely that the field may date from the Bronze Age to Early Iron Age (CgMs 2012). A further prehistoric or early Romano-British ditch was also present in **Trench 4**.
- 7.2.2 The presence of a complex series of Romano-British features in the northwest area of the Site (**Trenches 3** and **4**) was confirmed. This is most likely settlement activity dating from the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD.
- 7.2.3 Later features include probable quarry pits infilled with Post-medieval and modern waste in **Trenches 5** and **6**.

8 STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

8.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with The Collection (Lincolnshire). The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project under museum site code RFG13 and Accession Number LCNCC:2013.200. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

8.2 Archive

8.2.1 The complete Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by The Collection (Lincolnshire) and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; UKIC 2001; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

8.3 Discard policy

- 8.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.
- 8.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2011).

8.4 Security copy

8.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.



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10 APPENDICES

10.1 Appendix 1: Context descriptions

Trench No. 1		Max depth: 0.55m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
101	Topsoil: mid greyish brown silty clay.	0-0.35m
102	Subsoil: mid yellowish brown clay.	0.35-0.55
103	Natural: mid yellowish brown sandy clay.	0.55m+

Trench No. 2		Max depth: 0.3m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
201	Topsoil: midgreyish brown silty.	0- 0.2m
202	Subsoil: mid greyish brown with a yellowish hue silty clay.	0.2-0.3m
203	Natural: light yellowish brown natural clay with bands of limestone bedrock.	0.3m+

Trench No. 3		Max depth: 0.95m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
301	Topsoil: mid greyish brown silty clay.	0-0.35m
302	Subsoil: mid greyish brown with a yellowish hue silty clay.	0.35-0.4m
303	Natural: light yellowish brown clay.	0.4m+
304	Cut: NE-SW linear. U-shaped ditch 1.8m wide.	0.4-0.9m
305	Fill: fill of 304. Mid yellowish brown silty clay with rare blocks of angular limestone.	0.4-0.9m
306	Natural: band of mid reddish brown clay with rare angular limestone coarse gravel. Partly underlies 303.	0.4m+
307	Cut: broad shallow man-made cut for unknown purpose.	0.4-0.95m
308	Fill: backfill of 307. Mid greyish brown silty clay with 60% unworked large sandstone blocks, RB pot and animal bone.	0.4-0.95m

Trench No. 4		Max depth: 0.6m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
401	Topsoil: mid brown silty clay.	0-0.3m
402	Subsoil: mid greenish brown silty clay.	0.3-0.5m
403	Natural: light yellow loam.	0.5m+
404	Cut: E-W linear. 1m wide possibly RB boundary ditch.	0.5-0.9m



415	Fill: fill of 413. Dark greyish brown silty clay tertiary fill.	0.5-0.52m
414	Fill: fill of 413. Reddish brown silty clay with animal bone.	0.5-0.8m
413	Cut: E-W linear. Probably RB boundary ditch.	0.5-0.8m
412	VOID	
411	Fill: fill of 410. Reddish brown silty clay with pot, bone, shell.	0.5-0.8m
410	Cut: E-W linear. RB boundary ditch.	0.5-0.8m
409	Fill: fill of 408. Mid reddish brown silty clay with rare limestone medium gravel.	0.5-0.54m
408	Cut: N-S shallow linear. Shallow gully of uncertain date apparently cut by RB features.	0.5-0.54m
407	Fill: fill of 406. Mid greyish brown sandy silt with 10% ironstone, pot, slag, bones etc.	0.5-0.9m
406	Cut: E-W linear. RB boundary ditch.	0.5-0.9m
405	Fill: fill of 404. Mid greyish brown with a yellowish hue silty clay with rare 2% angular coarse limestone gravel.	0.5-0.9m

Trench No. 5		Max depth: 0.45m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
501	Topsoil: Mid greyish brown silty clay.	0-0.35m
502	Subsoil: Mid reddish brown silty clay.	0.35-0.45m
503	Natural: Mid reddish brown silty clay with abundant limestone.	0.45m+
504	Fill: fill of 505. Mid reddish brown silty clay fill of feature at western end of trench. With 19th/20th century pot, bottles, iron etc. Possibly infilling of quarry feature	0.45m+
505	Cut: possible quarry pit;	

Trench No. 6		Max depth: 0.45m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
601	Topsoil: mid greyish brown silty clay.	0- 0.35m
602	Subsoil: mid reddish brown silty clay.	0.35- 0.45m+
603	Natural: mid reddish brown silty clay with abundant limestone coarse gravel.	0.45m+
604	Fill: fill of 605. Mid greyish brown silty clay with modern glass. Possibly infilling of quarry feature.	0.45m+
605	Cut: possible quarry pit;	

Trench No. 7		Max depth: 0.40m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
700	Topsoil: mid greyish brown silty clay.	0-0.30m



701	Subsoil: mid reddish brown silty clay.	0.3-0.4m
702	Natural: limestone bedrock.	0.4m+
703	Natural: Mid reddish brown silty clay with abundant limestone coarse gravel.	0.4m+

Trench No. 8		Max depth: 0.6m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
801	Topsoil: mid greyish brown silty clay.	0-0.25m
802	Subsoil: mid reddish brown silty clay.	0.25-0.45m
803	Subsoil: mid yellowish brown silty clay.	0.45-0.6m
804	Cut: 1.8m wide RB or prehistoric boundary ditch. U-shaped.	0.45-1.03m
805	Fill: fill of 804. Mid reddish brown silty clay with rare subangular coarse gravel.	0.45-1.03m
806	Natural: limestone bedrock.	0.6m+

Trench No. 9		Max depth: 0.5m			
Context	Description	Depth (m)			
901	Topsoil: mid greyish brown silty clay.	0-0.35m			
902	Subsoil: mid reddish brown silty clay.	0.3-0.5m			
903	Natural: mid reddish brown silty clay with abundant limestone.	0.5m+			
904	Cut: 2.2m wide u-shaped boundary ditch. N-S	0.5-1.1m			
905	Fill: Fill of 904. Mid reddish brown silty clay with rare subangular limestone (0.05-0.1m diameter)				
906	Fill: primary fill of 904. Mid reddish brown silty clay with abundant (90%) large limestone blocks. Collapse of bedrock into dtich.				
907	Cut: 0.7m wide N-S boundary ditch. U-shaped.	0.5-0.73m			
908	Fill: fill of 907. Mid reddish brown silty clay with rare subangular limestone coarse gravel. 0.5-0				

Trench No. 10		Max depth: 0.4m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
1001	Topsoil: mid greyish brown silty clay.	0-0.3m
1002	Subsoil: mid reddish brown silty clay.	0.3-0.4m
1002	Natural: mid reddish brown silty clay with abundant limestone coarse gravel.	0.4m+

Trench No. 11		Max depth: 0.45m
Context	Description	Depth (m)



1101	Topsoil: mid greyish brown silty clay topsoil.	0-0.25m				
1102	Subsoil: mid reddish brown silty clay.	0.25-0.45m				
1102	Natural: mid reddish brown silty clay with abundant limestone coarse gravel.					
1103	Natural: light grey clay band across trench.	0.45m+				

Trench No. 12		Max depth: 0.4m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
1201	Topsoil: mid brown-grey silty clay.	0-0.33m
1202	Subsoil: reddish brown silty clay.	0.33-0.37m
1203	Cut: large 2.2m wide ditch cut through natural bedrock.	0.37-0.92m
1204	Fill: fill of 1203. Brownish yellow clay loam with iron age/RB pot and burnt bone.	0.37-0.92m
1205	Cut: shallow 0.54m wide boundary ditch cut through bedrock.	0.37-0.41m
1206	Fill: fill of 1205. Reddish brown clay loam.	0.37-0.41m
1207	Natural: limestone bedrock.	0.37m+

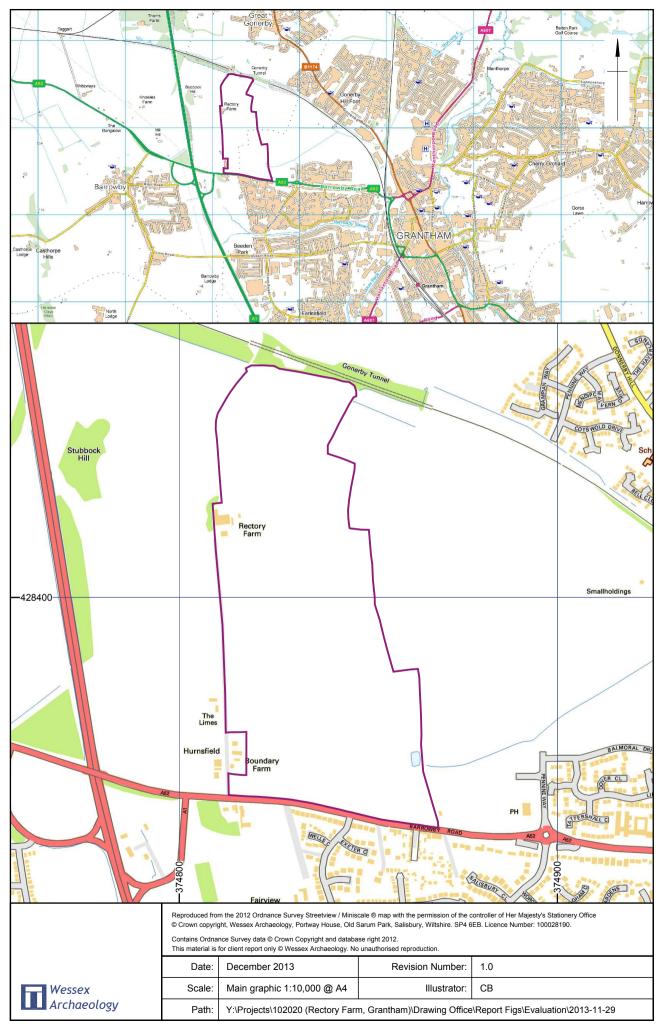
Trench No. 13		Max depth: 0.4m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
1301	Topsoil: mid greyish brown silty clay.	0-0.3m
1302	Subsoil: mid reddish brown silty clay.	0.3-0.4m
1303	Natural: loose limestone blocks at surface of bedrock.	0.4m+



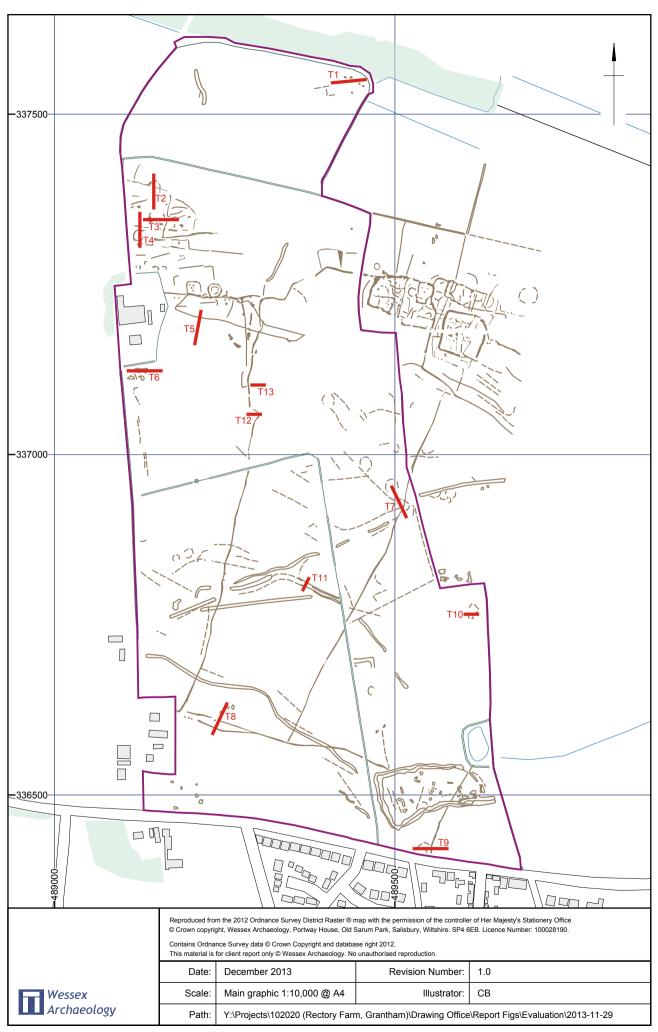
10.2 Appendix 2: Environmental data

Samples								Flot				
Facture	Caratavat	Camanala	Vol.	Flot	%		Charred	Plant Rer	mains Charcoal Other		Othor	A a l
Feature	Context	Sample	Ltrs	(ml)	roots	Grain	Chaff	Other	Comments	>4/2mm	Other Analysis	
304	305	301	20	20	95			С	1 Root /			No
									tuber. 1			
									fragment of			
									vesicular			
									material. 1			
									fragment of			
									parenchyma			
									1			
									Amaranthac			
									eae. 1 wild			
									seed indet.			
406	407	401	20	30	95		С	С	3 glume	С		No
									bases. 1			
									thorn			
	414	402	20	40	95			В	1 <2mm	С		No
									Poaceae. 2			
									Anthemis			
									cotula. 2			
									wild seed			
									indet.			
410	411	403	20	60	95	С		С	1 glume	С		No
									base. 1			
									Triticum cf.			
									spelta grain.			
									1 fragment			
									of vesicular			
									material			

Key: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C= < 5.



Site location Figure 1



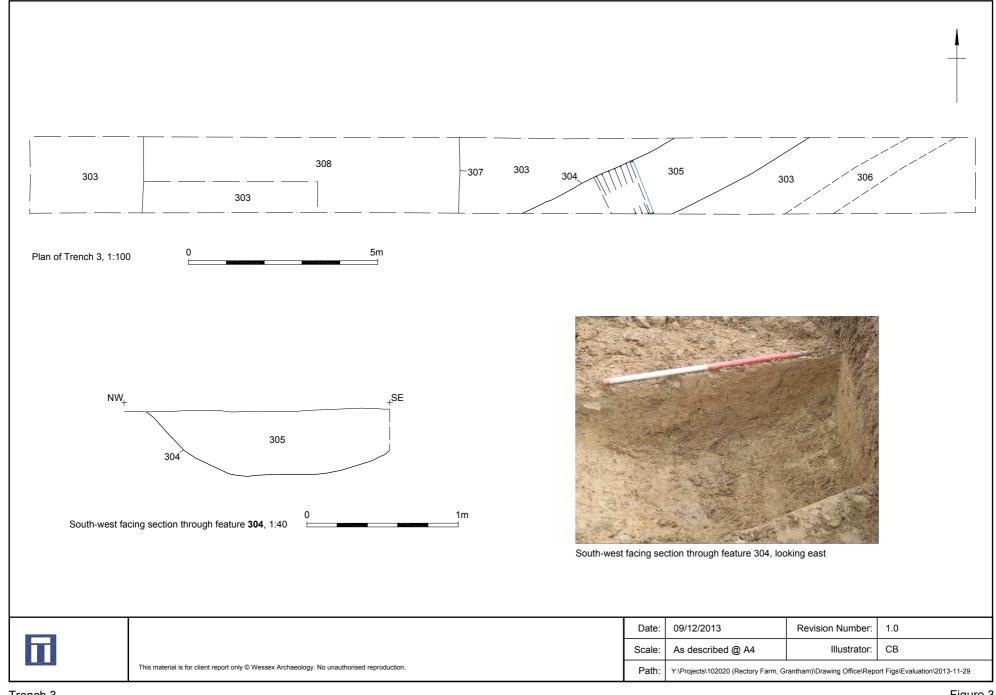
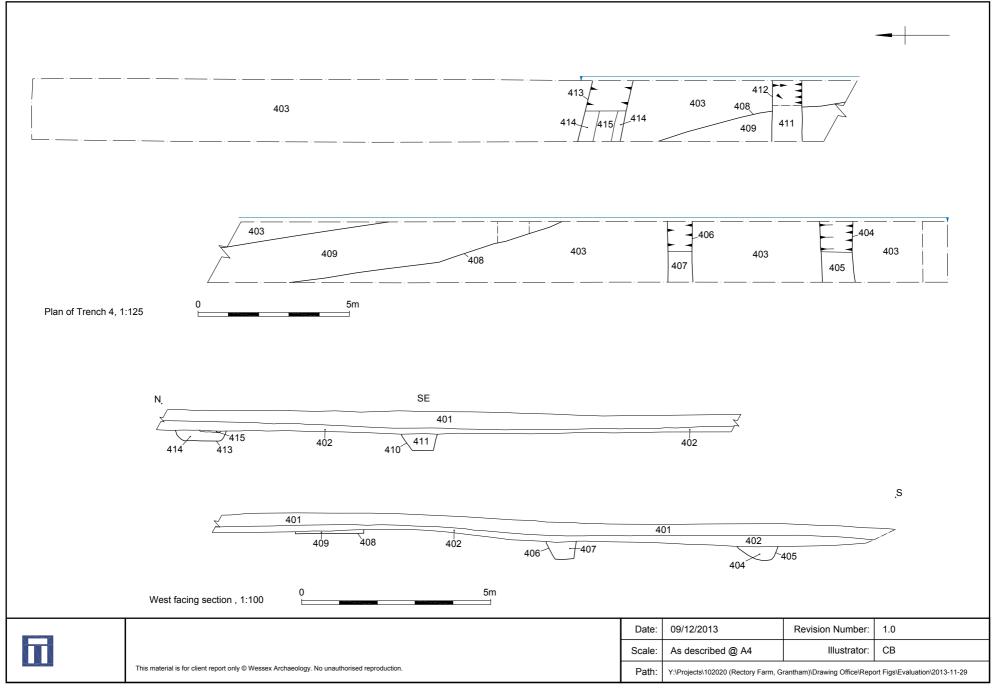
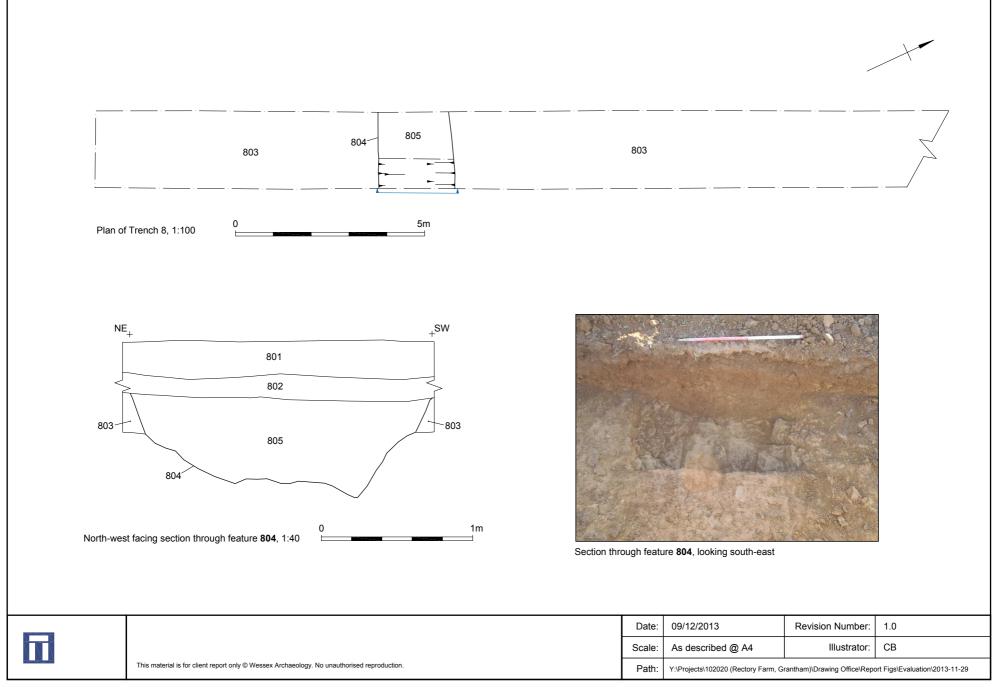


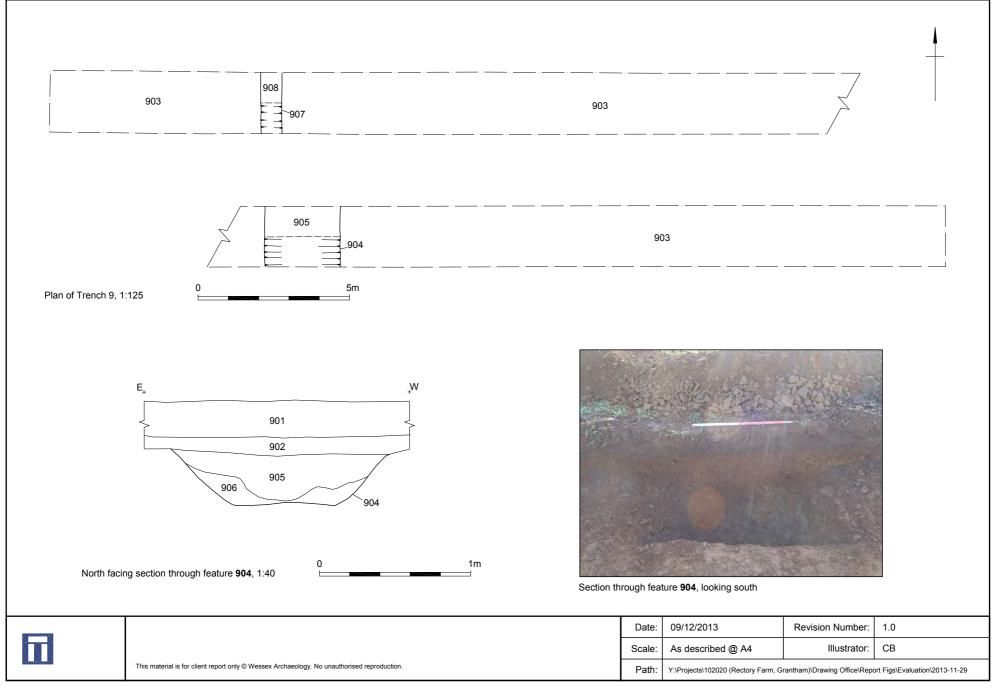
Figure 3 Trench 3



Trench 4 Figure 4



Trench 8 Figure 5



Trench 9 Figure 6



Plate 1: Romano-British boundary ditch 304



Plate 2: Boundary ditch 404

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Scale:	not to scale	Illustrator:	СВ	
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Plate 3: Romano-British ring ditch 406



Plate 4: Romano-British ring ditch 410

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Plate 5: Romano-British boundary ditch 413



Plate 6: Feature 307, possible shallow quarry pit

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Plate 7: Post-Medieval deposit 504



Plate 8: Boundary ditch 804

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Plate 9: Boundary ditch 904



Plate 10: Gully **907**

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Plate 11: Boundary ditch 1203



Plate 12: Gully **1205**

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