ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON LAND AT BOSTON ROAD, SIBSEY, LINCOLNSHIRE (SIBR13)

Work Undertaken For
Robert Doughty Consultancy
on behalf of
Allison Homes

March 2014

Report Compiled by
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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at Boston Road, Sibsey, Lincolnshire. This was in order to determine the archaeological implications of proposed development at the site.

The work was required due to the site being located in an area of known archaeological remains ranging from the prehistoric period to the present day. A previous geophysical survey at the site identified features of potential archaeological origin spreading back from the northern and western boundaries.

The evaluation identified linear features indicative of ditched boundaries. Of the six ditches that were identified, two contained pottery, one of mid 12th to 14th century date, the other of 15th to 16th century date. Further boundary ditches, aligned north-south and east-west, in the northern part of the site formed the corner of an enclosure. However, this was of late post-medieval date, containing 19th century clay pipe, and the east-west ditch extended the alignment of an extant boundary immediately to the east.

The evaluation also revealed six probable rubbish disposal pits that contained pottery mostly of the 15th to 16th century.

A single undated posthole was also identified during the investigation.

The boundary ditches and rubbish disposal pits identified during the evaluation are suggestive of medieval occupation. Much of this occurs along the western side of the field, where ditches generally ran parallel or perpendicular to Chapel Lane, the forerunner of the realigned Boston Road. In general the form of the features and relationship to the road frontages suggests that these relate to back-plot activities associated with medieval occupation alongside Station Road and Chapel Lane.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of an Evaluation

An archaeological evaluation is defined as *'a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, quality and preservation, and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate'* (IfA 2008).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Robert Doughty Consultancy on behalf of Allison Homes to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation in advance of proposed development at Boston Road, Sibsey, Lincolnshire. This was in respect of a proposed full planning application for 12 dwellings at the site. The evaluation was conducted on the 3rd to the 7th of March 2014, in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the planning archaeologist from the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Sibsey is located 7km north of Boston in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site lies on the southern edge of the village, *c*. 200m southwest of the church of Saint Margaret, on the east side of the

A16 Boston Road at its junction with Station Road, at National Grid Reference TF 3534 5049 (Fig. 2; Plate 1).

The survey area lies on level ground at *c*. 5m AOD towards the southern end of a ridge of slightly higher ground between the East and West Fens. Local soils are fine loamy over clayey soils of the Salop Association developed on Devensian till (Hodge *et al*. 1984, 305; BGS 50000 scale digital geology).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Sibsey lies on an island in the northern fens of Lincolnshire, an area which has proved attractive to settlement from the prehistoric period onwards. Neolithic and Bronze Age flintwork has been found to the southwest of the village and probable hand-made Iron Age pottery was found to the northeast. Finds of Romano-British pottery are known in the vicinity with a substantial scatter, including many large sherds, also recovered northeast of the development area on the eastern edge of the village. Medieval and later pottery was also recovered from this site.

Sibsey is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of *c.* 1086 and referred to as *Sibolci*. The place-name probably derives from the Old English personal name Sigebald and means 'Sigebald's island of land' (Cameron 1998, 109). The Domesday survey shows Sibsey as being held by Ivo Taillebois and records 6 carucates of land, 51 sokeman, 16 villeins, 10 bordars, 120 acres of meadow and a church, indicating a well-established settlement (Foster and Longley 1976, 87). Extant remains of the medieval period are found in the church of St. Margaret, located west of the development which retains Norman features (Pevsner & Harris 1989, 641). The church underwent restoration between 1854 and 1856.

Geophysical survey of the site identified features of potential archaeological origin spreading back from the northern and western boundaries. Linear features and area positive responses here are indicative of ditched boundaries and pits or discreet dumps of material. Along the western side of the field, linear features generally run parallel or perpendicular to Chapel Lane, the forerunner of the realigned Boston Road. In general the form of the features and relationship to the road frontages suggests that these relate to medieval or later occupation alongside Station Road and Chapel Lane (Malone 2013).

3. AIMS

The aim of the evaluation was to gather information to establish the presence or absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits in order to enable the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team to formulate a policy for the management of archaeological resources present on the site.

4. METHODS

Seven trenches, each measuring 30m in length by 1.6m in width, were excavated to the top of archaeological features, which coincided with the surface of the underlying natural geology (Figs 2-4).

Removal of topsoil and other overburden was undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. The exposed surfaces of the trenches were then cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains.

Each deposit exposed during the evaluation was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of

all contexts and their interpretations appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was also compiled and sections and plans were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20 respectively. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

The location of the excavated trenches was plotted using a survey-grade differential GPS.

Following excavation, finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 2). The records were also checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

The results of the archaeological evaluation are discussed in trench order. Archaeological contexts are described below. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Trench 1

The earliest deposit encountered in this trench was a layer of firm light brownish orange silty clay (103) with occasional angular stones (Figs 5 & 8, Section 1) (Plate 2).

This natural clay was truncated in a number of places by a large, *c*. 12m long, irregular shaped pit [102] (Figs 5 & 8, Section 1). Due to the irregular base of this shallow, 0.3m deep, feature, the cut was seen sporadically throughout the base of the trench.

The pit was filled with friable dark brownish grey clayey silt (101) with occasional angular stones. A single sherd of 15th to 16th century pottery was recovered from this fill.

Near the centre of this trench was a single circular post hole [105] measuring *c.* 0.32m in diameter by 0.15m deep, breaking sharply at the top with tapered sides breaking gradually to a slightly concave base (Figs 5 & 10, Section 8). The post hole was filled with friable blackish grey silty clay (104) with occasional angular stones.

Sealing all features within this trench was the current topsoil (100) of soft mid greyish black clayey silt, 0.35m thick, containing irregular stones.

Trench 2

Firm light brownish orange silty clay (201) with occasional angular stones was identified as the natural layer within this trench (Figs 5 & 9, Section 2).

Impacting the natural at the northwestern end of the trench was an irregular-shaped pit [203], measuring 1.50m wide, with moderately steep sides breaking gradually to an irregular base (Figs 5 & 10, Section 15).

This contained a single fill of moderately compact mid brownish black clayey silt (202), from which a fragment of 15th to 16th century pottery and a piece of undated daub were recovered.

A 3.8m wide boundary ditch [205] was recorded in the southeastern end of this trench (Figs 3-5) and was filled with mid greyish brown clayey silt (204) with occasional angular stones. A fragment of 19th century clay pipe was recovered from this deposit.

Sealing the ditch and pit was a 0.36m thick soft mid greyish black clayey silt (200) containing irregular stones (Fig 5, Section 2).

Trench 3

The natural deposit in this trench consisted of firm light brownish orange silty clay (103) with occasional angular stones (Figs 6 & 9, Section 3; Plates 3, 4).

The natural was truncated by a linear ditch cut [309], oriented on a roughly north-south alignment and measuring 0.78m wide by 0.16m deep, with shallow concave sides breaking imperceptibly to a concave base (Figs 6 & 10, Section 10). The ditch was filled with brownish grey clayey silt (308) with occasional angular stones.

In the southern half of the trench a circular cut [305], 0.20m deep with moderately steep sides breaking gradually to a slightly concave base, was recorded (Figs 6 & 10, Section 9) cut through the natural (Plate 3). This pit was filled with orangey grey clayey silt (304) which contained two sherds of 13th to 15th century pottery.

A linear ditch [303] truncated pit [305] and was oriented on an east-west alignment, measuring 0.93m wide by 0.21m deep with moderately steep sides breaking gradually to a flat base (Figs 6 & 10, Section 9; Plate 3). The fill of the ditch consisted of blackish grey clayey silt (302) from which a single sherd of mid 12th to 14th century pottery and a fragment of medium mammal bone were recovered.

Towards the northern end of the trench an irregular-shaped pit [307], measuring 0.82m deep by 2.5m wide, with irregular sides breaking imperceptibly to an irregular base, truncated ditch [309] (Figs 6 and 10, Section 9).

The fill of this irregular shaped pit comprised dark greyish black clayey silt (306) with shell and coal inclusions, from which two fragments of 15th to 16th century pottery were retrieved.

These later features were overlain by a layer of soft mid greyish black clayey silt topsoil (300) containing irregular stones (Fig 6, Section 3).

Trench 4

No features or finds were recovered from this trench. Deposits included firm light brownish orange silty clay natural (401) with occasional angular stones, overlain by a 0.40m thick, soft mid greyish black clayey silt (400) topsoil containing irregular stones (Figs 6 & 9, Section 4).

Trench 5

Natural clay in Trench 5 was identical to that of the other trenches, consisting of firm light brownish orange silty clay (501) with occasional angular stones (Figs 6 & 9, Section 5).

In the northwestern end of the trench the natural was cut by an irregular-shaped pit [503] measuring 8.12m wide by at least 0.86m deep (Figs 6 & 9, Section 5). The pit was filled with greyish brown clayey silt (502), with occasional angular stones, 0.88m thick.

Two agricultural furrows were also identified in this trench, although neither was excavated (Fig 6).

The features were sealed by a 0.45m thick topsoil deposit (500), consisting of soft mid greyish black clayey silt containing irregular stones.

Trench 6

Natural clay in Trench 6 comprised firm light brownish orange silty clay (601) with occasional angular stones (Figs 7 & 9, Section 6).

Three linear features were identified cut through the natural in this trench. The northernmost of these [603] was oriented on an east-west alignment, measuring 1m wide by 0.40m deep with steep sides breaking gradually to a concave base (Figs

7 & 10, Section 11; Plate 5). Ditch cut [603] was filled with dark blackish grey clayey silt (602).

Approximately 3m to the south of [603] was another linear ditch cut [605], measuring 0.50m wide by 0.10m deep, oriented roughly east-west with shallow concave sides breaking imperceptibly to a concave base (Figs 7 & 10, Section 12; Plate 6). This ditch was filled with blackish grey clayey silt, containing occasional stones. A sherd of 13th to 14th century pottery and a single piece of 15th to 16th century pottery was retrieved from this deposit.

The southernmost linear ditch cut [607] was oriented on an east-west alignment and measured 0.54m wide by 0.12m deep, with moderately steep sides breaking gradually to a concave base (Figs 7 & 10, Section 13). The fill of ditch [607] consisted of blackish grey clayey silt (606).

A total of four agricultural furrows were identified in this trench. The northernmost of these was possibly truncated by ditch cut [603] (Fig 7).

The features in this trench were overlain by 0.41m thick topsoil (600), consisting of soft mid greyish black clayey silt containing irregular stones (Fig 9, Section 6).

Trench 7

The natural deposit at the base of this trench comprised firm light brownish orange silty clay (701) with occasional angular stones (Figs 7 & 9, Section 7).

In the southwestern end of the trench the natural was impacted by an irregular-shaped pit cut [703] measuring 13.02m wide by at least 0.90m deep (Figs 7 & 9, Section 7). The pit was filled with greyish brown clayey silt (702), containing occasional stones.

A possible agricultural furrow was recorded towards the northeastern end of the trench (Fig 7).

The features in Trench 7 were sealed by a 0.34m thick deposit of topsoil (700), consisting of soft mid greyish black clayey silt containing irregular stones (Figs 7 & 9, Section 7).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits comprise silty clays representing clayey soils of the Salop Association.

Trench 1 was targeted over three positive area anomalies (Fig 3) which were identified in the previous geophysical survey. These approximately coincided with cut marks at the base of the trench from large irregular pit cut [102]. Although they appeared to be discreet features in the geophysical survey, it is possible this was a function of the sensor depth picking up the irregular undulating base of the feature rather than the whole of the fill. The large irregular pit contained a sherd of 15th to 16th century pottery.

A single circular post hole [105] was also recorded in Trench 1 that was not identified during geophysical survey.

Trench 2 was targeted over a positive area anomaly and linear anomaly, identified in the geophysical survey (Fig 3). The linear anomaly indicated the presence of a ditched boundary oriented on an east-west alignment and extending the course of an existing boundary to the east, and then turning roughly northwards about halfway across the field (Fig 3). This boundary ditch [205] was recorded twice, along its east-west and north-south alignments (Figs 4 & 5). It contained a fragment of 19th

century pipe, thus giving a tentative post-medieval date for the feature. The different morphology of this ditch in comparison to the other ditches examined in the evaluation, together with it perpetuating the alignment of the existing boundary to the east, adds further strength to this suggestion.

The positive area anomaly detected at the northwestern end of the trench in the geophysical survey was found to represent a large irregular pit cut [203], possibly a rubbish pit, which contained a sherd of late medieval 15th to 16th century pottery along with an undated piece of daub.

Other positive area anomalies from the geophysical survey were targeted in Trenches 3, 5, 6 and 7. In Trench 3, the northernmost anomaly was revealed as a large irregular possible rubbish pit [307] with a fill containing a fragment of 15th to 16th century pottery. The second area anomaly in Trench 3 was revealed to be a pit cut [305], which was truncated by a later ditch. The pit contained a fragment of 13th to 15th century pottery and was also thought to be a rubbish pit.

In Trench 5, the positive area anomaly may have been an agricultural furrow which was identified during the evaluation (Fig 6). The magnetic disturbance shown in the northern end of the trench (Fig 3) was revealed to be another large irregular-shaped probable rubbish pit [503] (Fig 6).

The area anomaly identified at the northern end of Trench 6 (Fig 3) did not appear to be a large rubbish pit as in previous trenches, but possibly represents one of three linear ditch cuts which were identified in this trench. However, the northernmost of these ditches [603] did appear as a positive linear anomaly in the geophysical survey, so it may be the case that the two other ditches, [605. 607], were not picked up in the survey. Ditch [303] contained a sherd of mid 12th to 14th century pottery.

Two positive linear anomalies in the southern end of the Trench 6 (Fig 3) may represent traces of ridge and furrow agriculture which was identified in the evaluation (Fig 7).

The large positive area anomaly in Trench 7 coincided with another large irregular probable rubbish pit [703].

A total of six pits were identified during the evaluation. Of the six, five were large and irregular, while one appeared to be smaller, however as it was truncated and extended into the trench section, the full extent of its size remains unknown. Pottery was recovered from four of the six pits and for the most part dated from the 15th to 16th century, with the exception of a sherd of 13th to 15th century Grimston type ware. The similarity of these features and the recovered pottery suggests a 15th century date for their use.

The linear ditch in Trench 6 was probably related to this period of activity as 15th to 16th century pottery was recovered from its fill and probably represents a field boundary.

A ditch in Trench 3 contained mid 12th to 14th century pottery which suggests the possibility of some earlier medieval activity at the site.

The location and alignment of ditches in the western part of the site as perpendicular or parallel to Chapel Lane, the forerunner of the realigned Boston Road are consistent with the previous interpretation that they relate to medieval occupation alongside Station Road and Chapel Lane.

7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Boston Road, Sibsey, Lincolnshire, as the site lay in an area of known archaeological remains ranging from the prehistoric period to the present day. A previous geophysical survey at the site identified features of potential archaeological origin spreading back from roads alongside the northern and western boundaries.

The evaluation revealed various linear features, most of them previously identified by the geophysical survey. One of these ditched boundaries yielded mid 12th to 14th century pottery, while another contained pottery of 15th to 16th century date. In the northern area of the site two ditches formed an L-shaped arrangement, one side east-west, the other north-south, indicating the corner of an enclosed area. The east-west ditch was a westwards extension of an existing boundary to the east, and contained a single piece of 19th century clay pipe, suggesting a post-medieval date for the feature.

The evaluation also revealed six probable rubbish disposal pits which, with the possible exception of one, were large and irregular-shaped. Pottery recovered from four of these pits dated for the most part to the 15th to 16th century.

A single undated posthole was also identified during the investigation.

With the exception of the post-medieval ditch, the boundary ditches and rubbish disposal pits identified during the evaluation are consistent with medieval occupation. Much of this occurred along the western side of the field, where ditches generally ran parallel or perpendicular to Chapel Lane, the forerunner of the realigned Boston Road. In general the form of the features and relationship to the road frontages suggests that these relate to medieval occupation alongside Station Road and Chapel Lane.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Robert Doughty Consultancy for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis on behalf of Allison Homes. The landowner, Ted Dodds, kindly allowed access to the site. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Elizabeth Bates kindly allowed access to the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

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Site Supervisor: Neil Jefferson
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Illustration: Andrew Failes
Post-excavation Analyst: Andrew Failes

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Malone, SJ, 2013 *Land at Boston Road, Sibsey, Lincolnshire, Geophysical Survey*, unpublished APS report no. **127/13**

Pevsner, N and Harris, J, 1989, *Lincolnshire*, The Buildings of England (2nd edition revised Antram, N)

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IfA Institute for Archaeologists

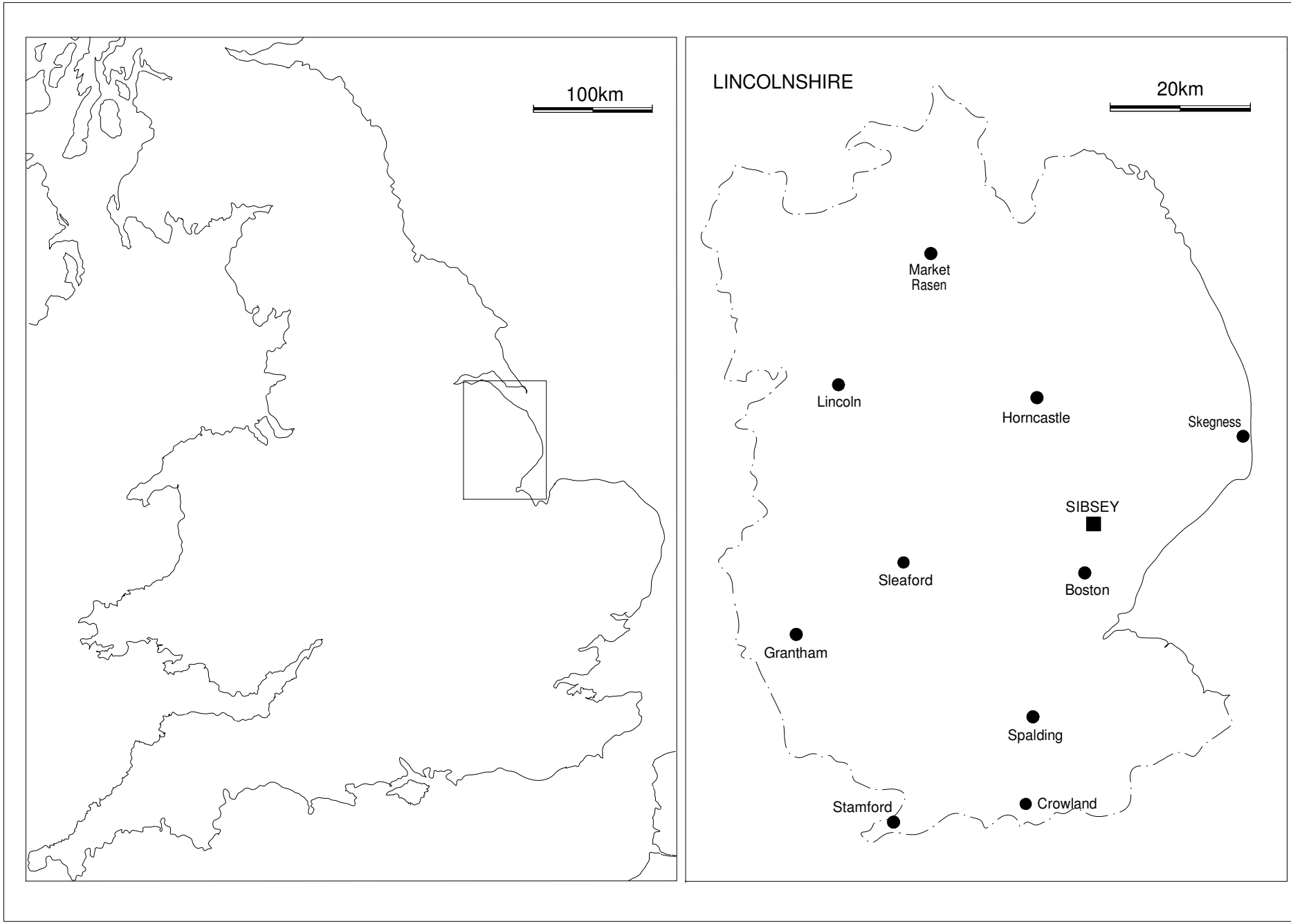

Figure 1 - General Location Plan

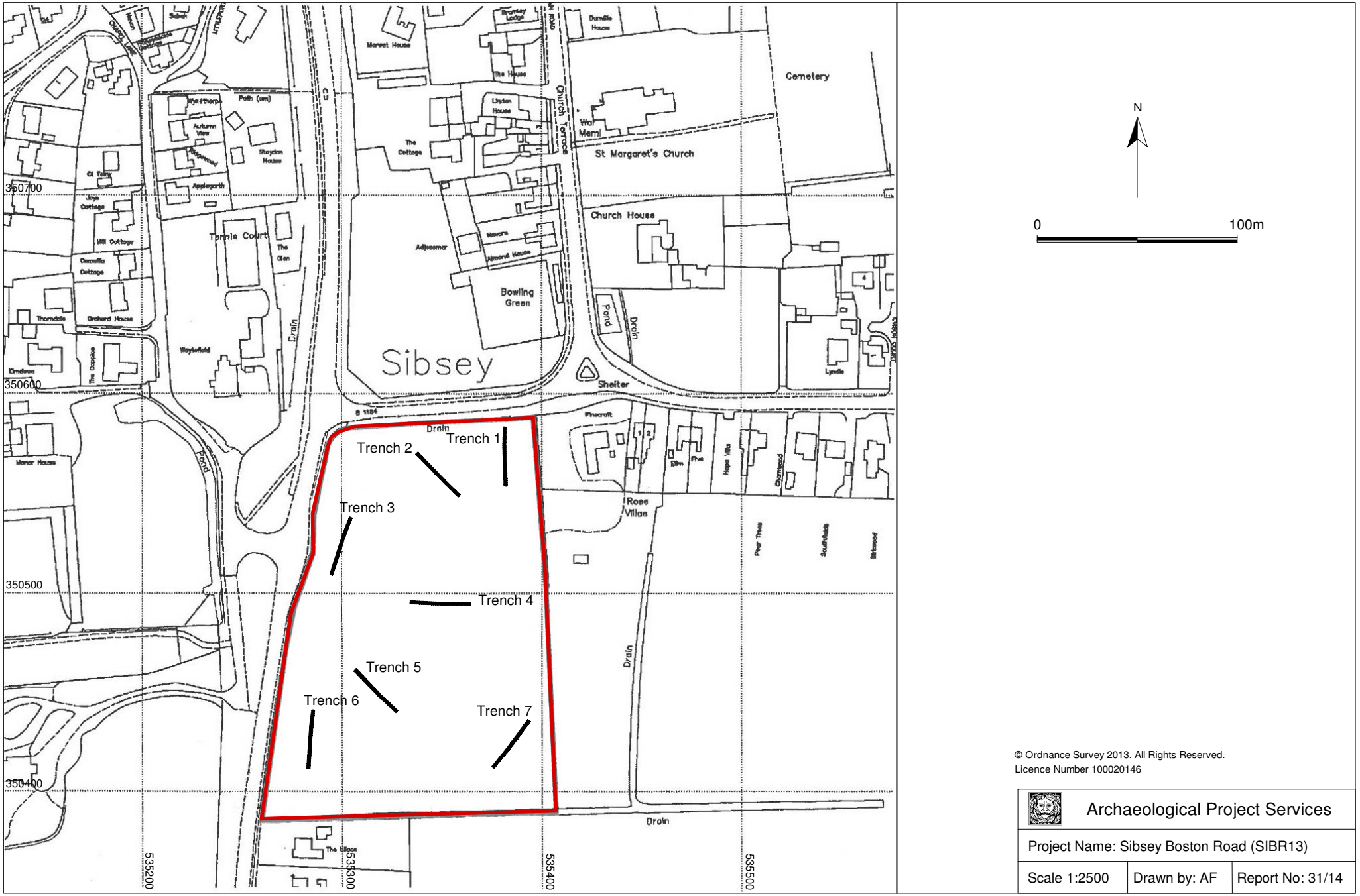

Figure 2 Location and trench layout

Figure 3 - Trench location plan overlain onto geophysical survey

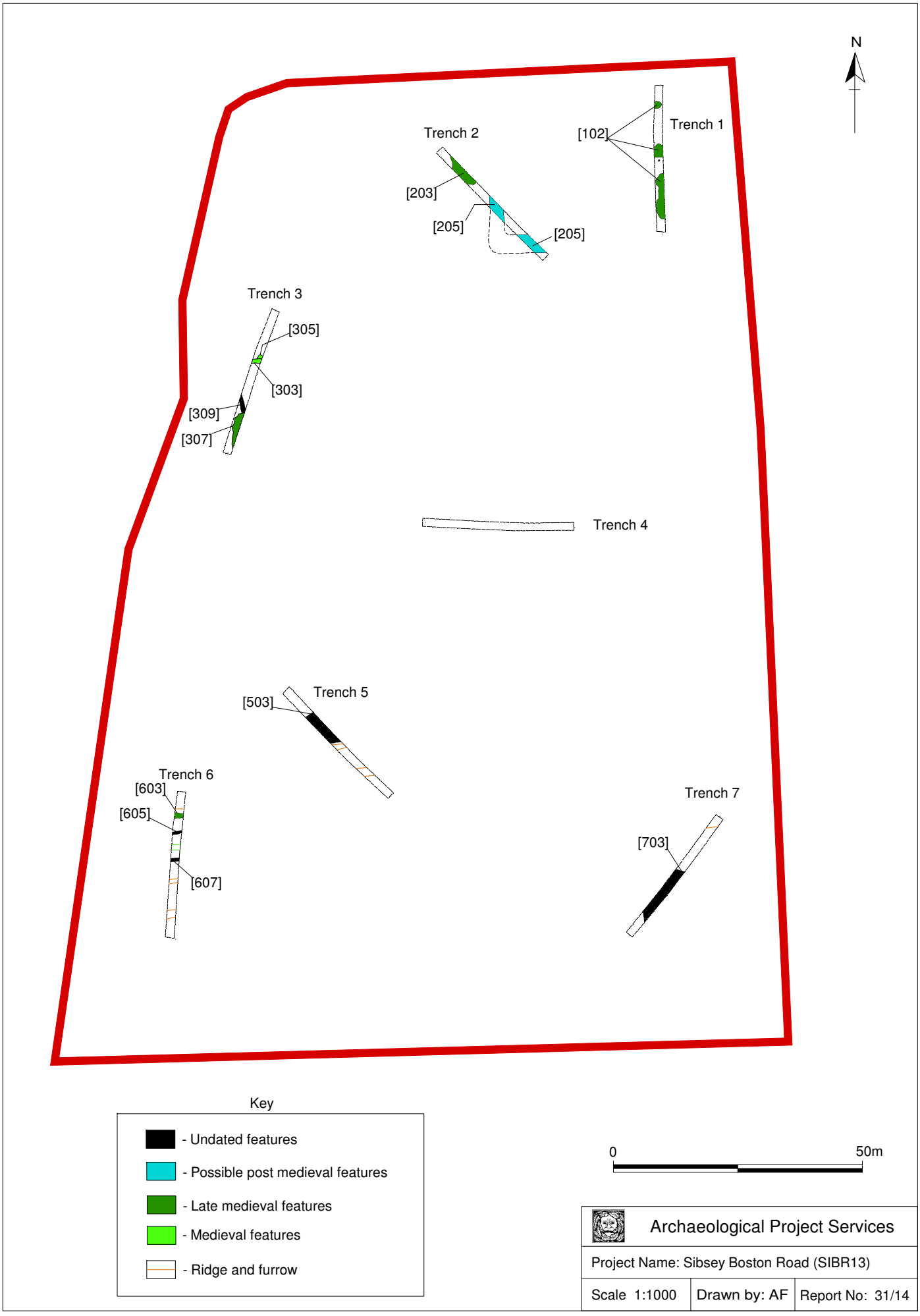

Figure 4 - Trench plan showing phased features

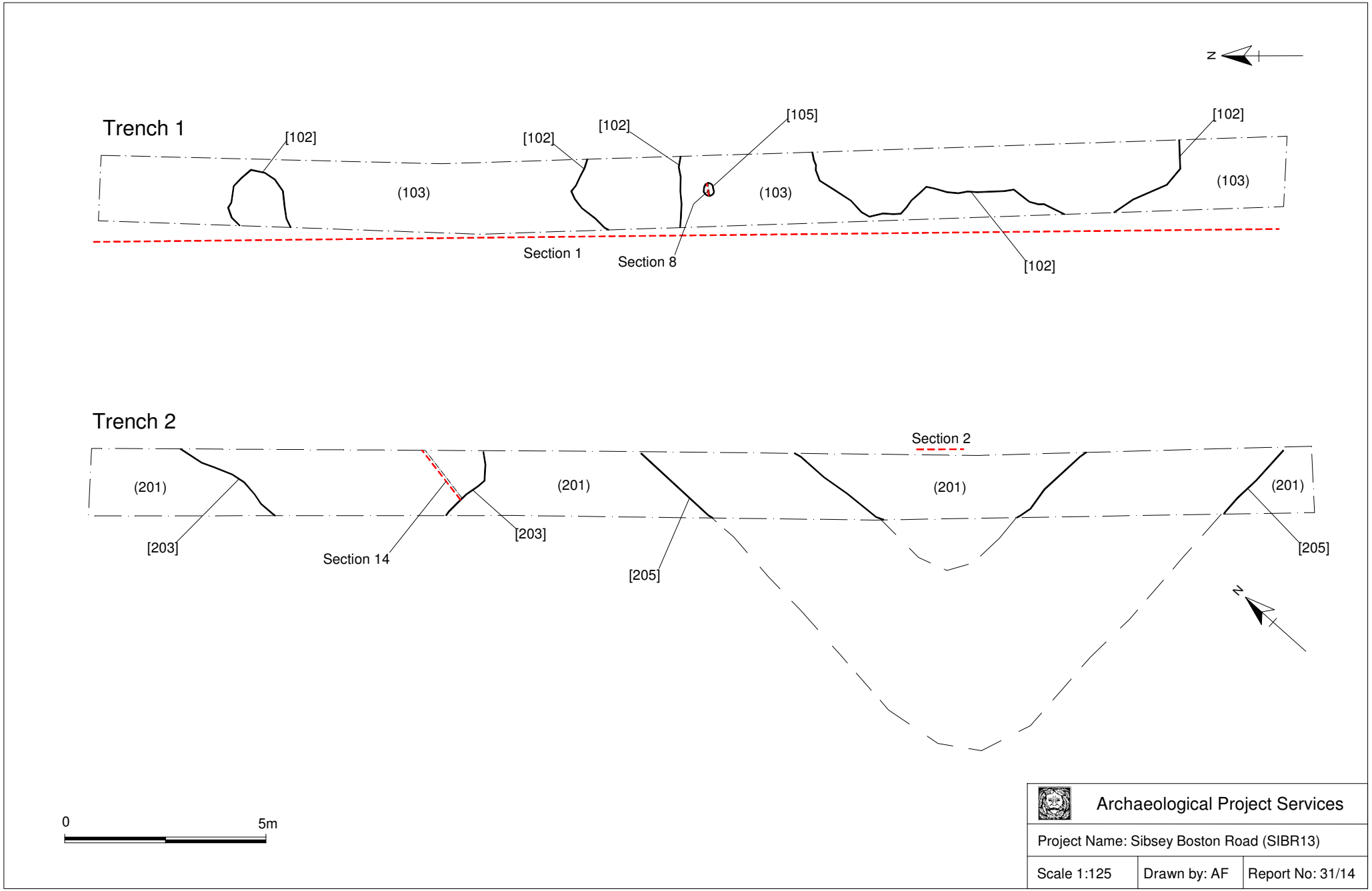

Figure 5 - Trenches 1 & 2

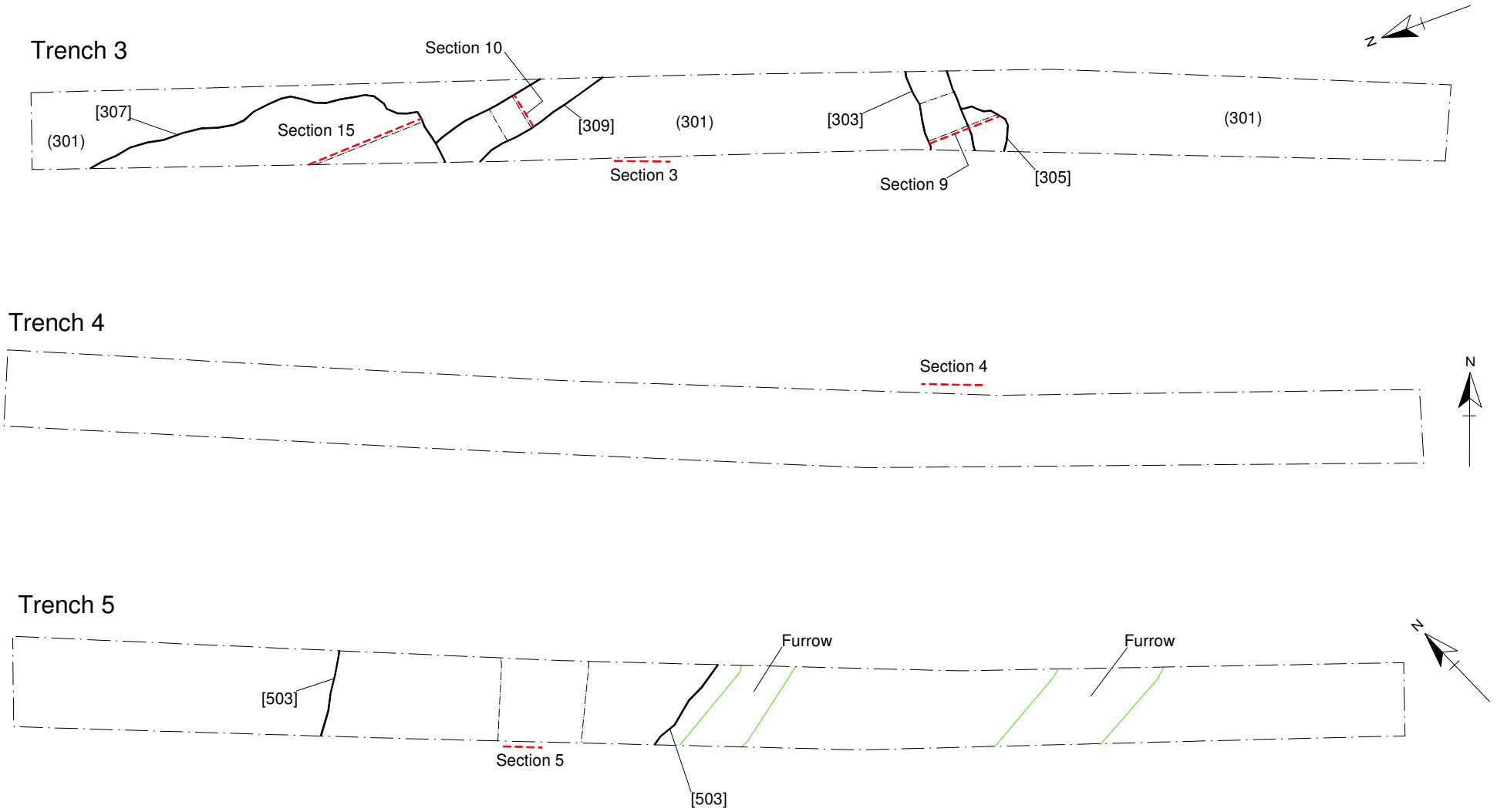

Figure 6 - Trenches 3-5

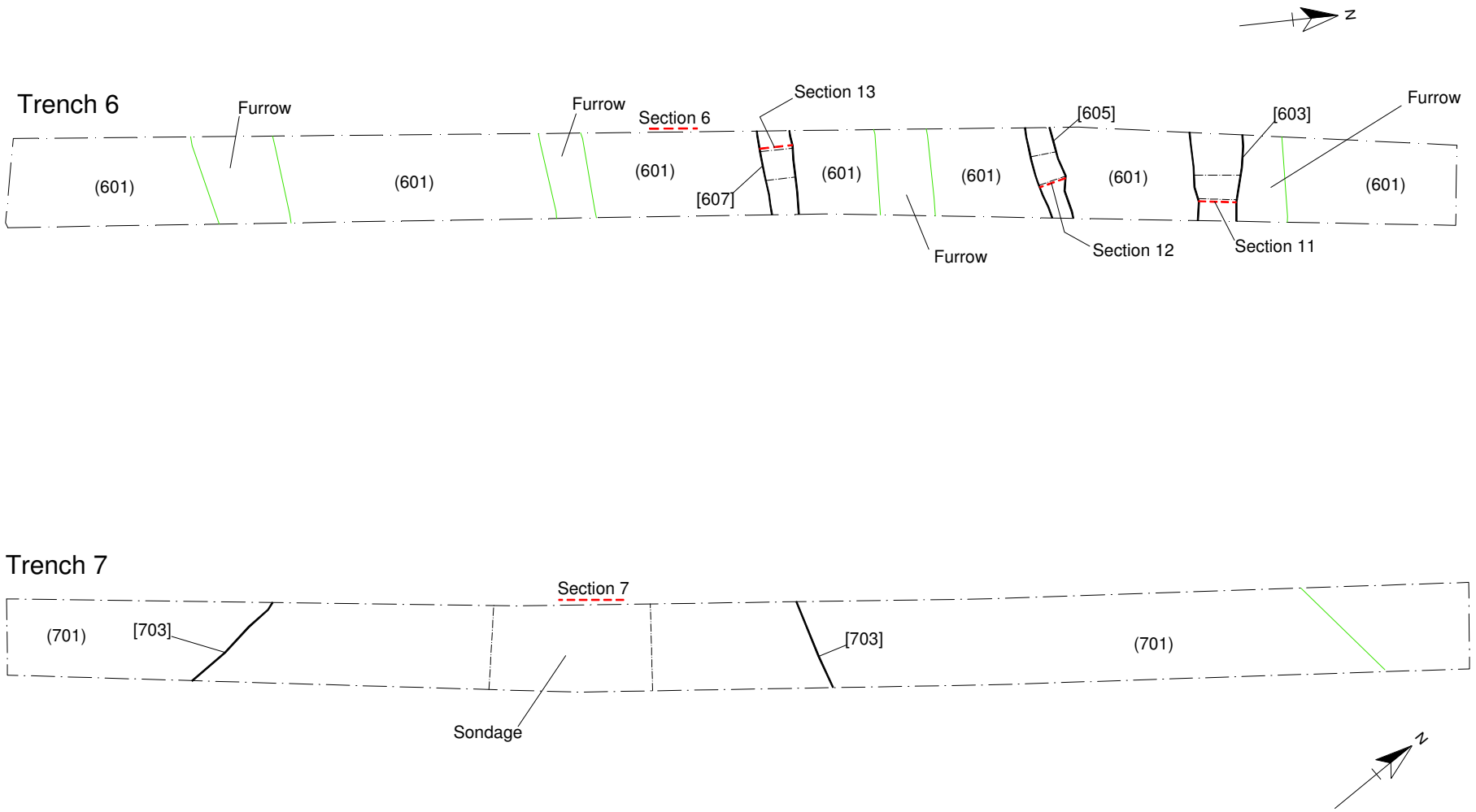

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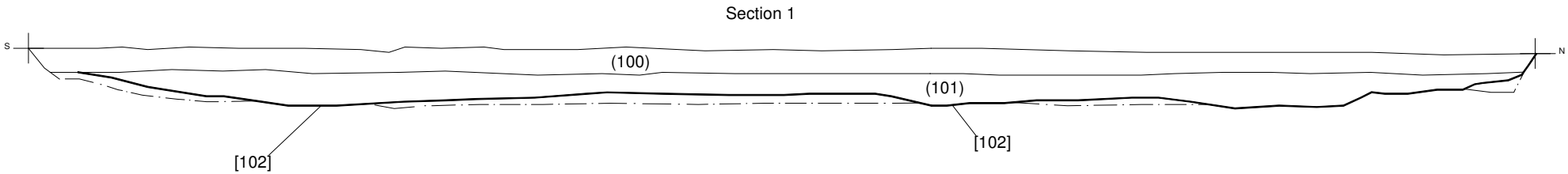
Figure 7 - Trenches 6-7



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Project Name: Sibsey Boston Road (SIBR13)		
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Figure 8 - Section 1

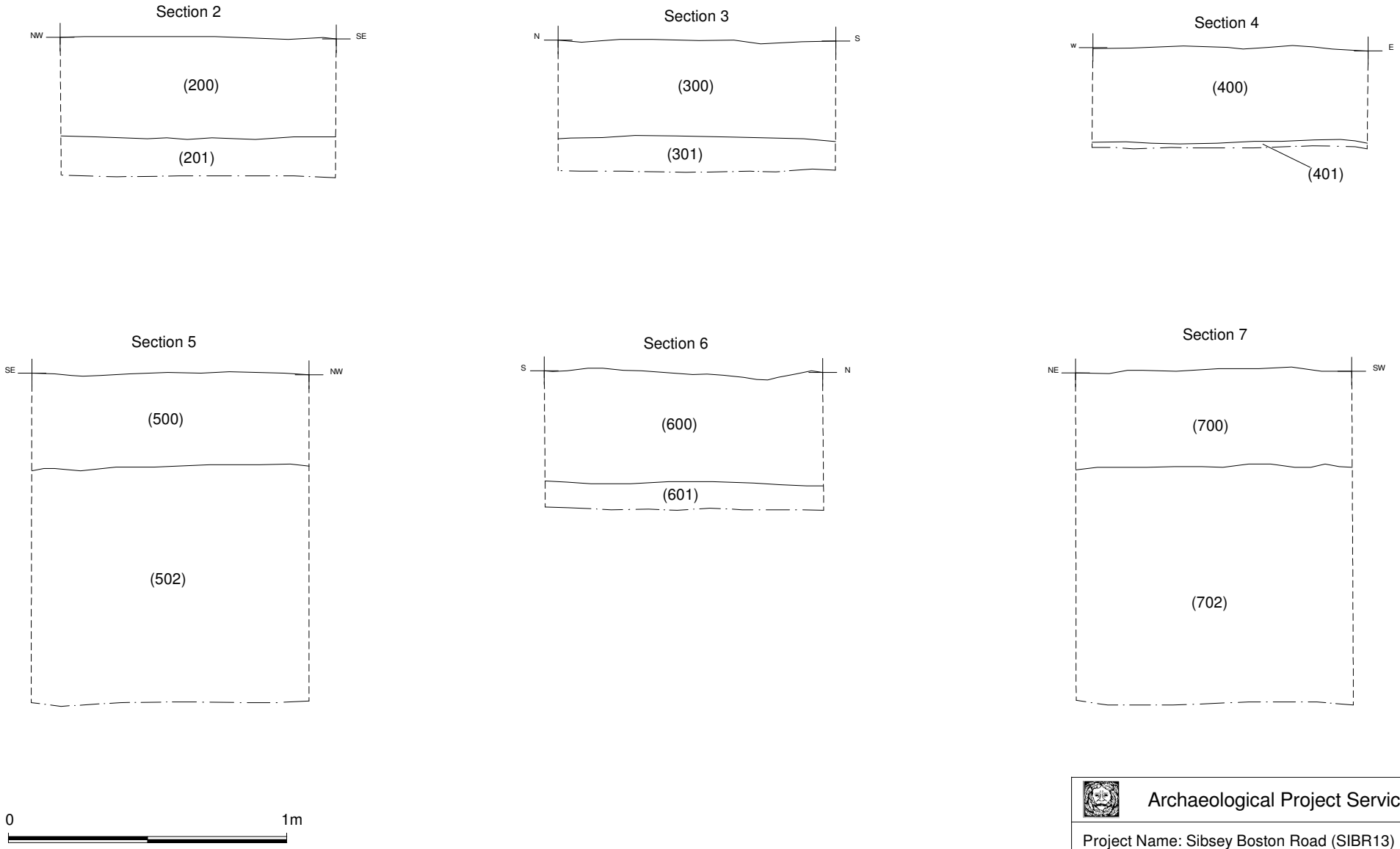

Figure 9 - Sections 2-7

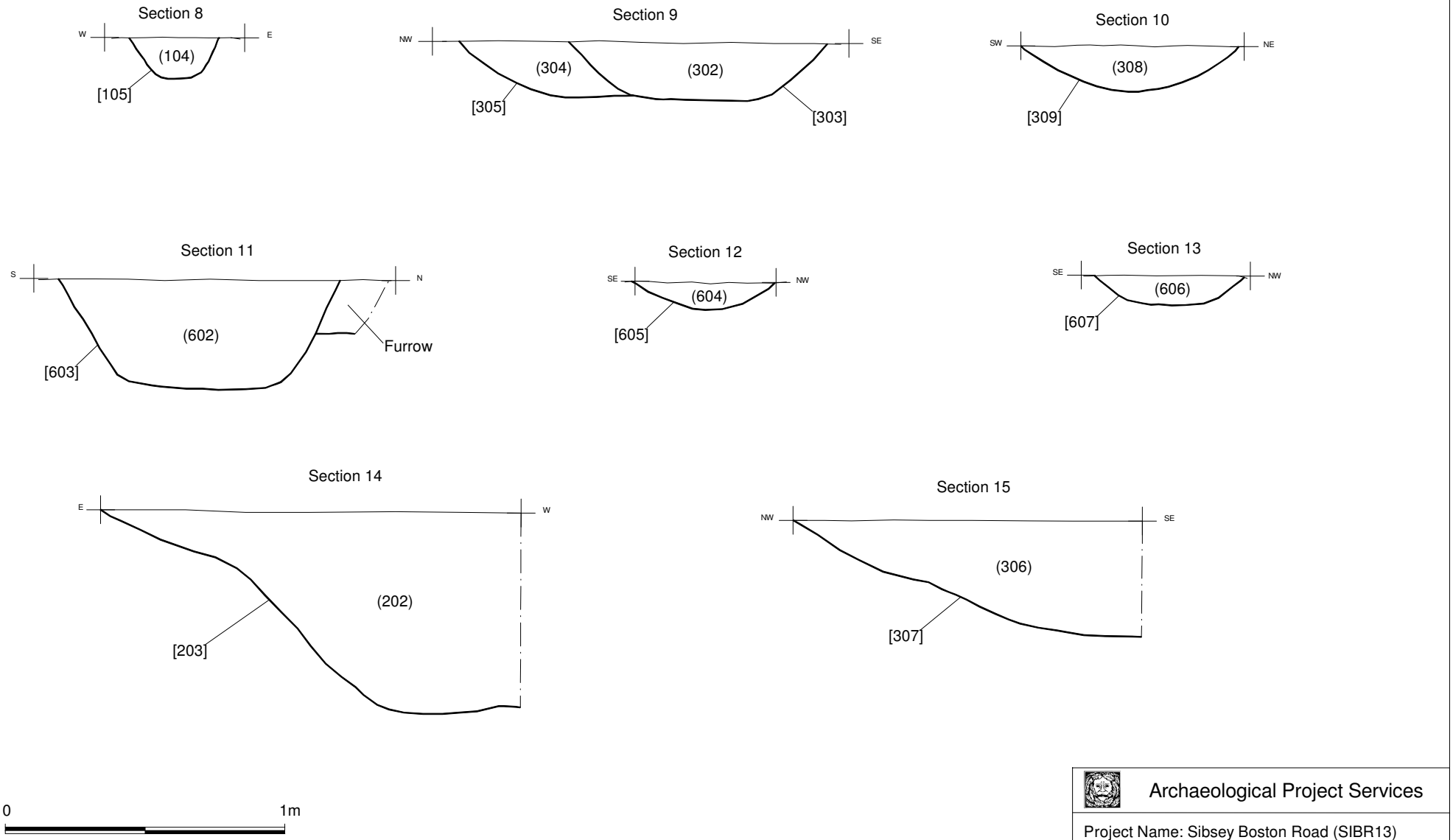

Figure 10 - Sections 8-15

Plate 1 – General view of site

Plate 2 – Trench 1: Section 1

Plate 3 – Trench 3: Pit [305] truncated by [303], Section 9

Plate 4 - Trench 3: Section 3, representative section

Plate 5 – Trench 6: Ditch [603], Section 11

Plate 6 – Trench 6: Ditch [605], Section 12

Appendix 1

CONTEXT SUMMARY

No.	Trench	Description	Interpretation
100	1	Soft mid greyish black clayey silt containing irregular stones, 0.35m thick	Topsoil
101	1	Friable dark brownish grey clayey silt with occasional angular stones, 0.53m thick	Fill of [102]
102	1	Large irregular cut, c. 12m long, up to 0.3m deep, gently undulating base	Irregular pit
103	1	Firm light brownish orange silty clay with occasional angular stones	Natural clay
104	1	Friable blackish grey silty clay with occasional angular stones	Fill of [105]
105	1	Circular cut measuring *c.* 0.32m in diameter by 0.15m depth, breaking sharply at the top with tapered sides breaking gradually to a slightly concave base	Post hole
200	2	Soft mid greyish black clayey silt containing irregular stones, 0.36m thick	Topsoil
201	2	Firm light brownish orange silty clay with occasional angular stones	Natural clay
202	2	Moderately compact mid brownish black clayey silt, 0.74m thick	Fill of [203]
203	2	Irregular shaped pit, 1.50m wide, with moderately steep sides breaking gradually to an irregular base	Large irregular pit
204	2	Mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional angular stones	Fill of ditch [205]
205	2	Linear ditch	Boundary ditch
300	3	Soft mid greyish black clayey silt containing irregular stones, 0.35m thick	Topsoil
301	3	Firm light brownish orange silty clay with occasional angular stones	Natural clay
302	3	Blackish grey clayey silt, 0.21m thick	Fill of [303]
303	3	Linear cut, oriented east-west, measuring 0.93m wide x 0.21m deep with moderately steep sides breaking gradually to a flat base	Ditch cut
304	3	Orangey grey clayey silt, 0.20m deep	Fill of [305]
305	3	Circular cut, 0.20m deep with moderately steep sides breaking gradually to a slightly concave base	Pit
306	3	Dark greyish black clayey silt with shell and coal inclusions, 0.82m deep	Fill of [307]
307	3	Irregular shaped cut, measuring 0.82m deep x 2.5m wide, with irregular sides breaking imperceptibly to an irregular base	Large irregular pit
308	3	Brownish grey clayey silt with occasional	Fill of [309]

		angular stones, 0.16m deep	
309	3	Linear cut oriented roughly north-south, measuring 0.78m wide x 0.16m deep with shallow concave sides breaking imperceptibly to a concave base	Ditch cut
400	4	Soft mid greyish black clayey silt containing irregular stones, 0.40m thick	Topsoil
401	4	Firm light brownish orange silty clay with occasional angular stones	Natural clay
500	5	Soft mid greyish black clayey silt containing irregular stones, 0.45m thick	Topsoil
501	5	Firm light brownish orange silty clay with occasional angular stones	Natural clay
502	5	Greyish brown clayey silt, with occasional angular stones, 0.88m thick	Fill of [503]
503	5	Irregular shaped pit measuring 8.12m wide by at least 0.86m deep	Large irregular shaped pit
600	6	Soft mid greyish black clayey silt containing irregular stones, 0.41m thick	Topsoil
601	6	Firm light brownish orange silty clay with occasional angular stones	Natural clay
602	6	Dark blackish grey clayey silt, 0.40m thick	Fill of [603]
603	6	Linear cut oriented east-west, measuring 1m wide x 0.40m deep with steep sides breaking gradually to a concave base	Ditch cut
604	6	Blackish grey clayey silt with occasional stones, 0.10m thick	Fill of [605]
605	6	Linear cut, measuring 0.50m wide x 0.10n deep, oriented roughly east-west with shallow concave sides breaking imperceptibly to a concave base	Ditch cut
606	6	Blackish grey clayey silt, 0.12m thick	Fill of [607]
607	6	Linear cut, oriented east-west, measuring 0.54m wide x 0.12m deep with moderately steep sides breaking gradually to a concave base	Ditch cut
700	7	Soft mid greyish black clayey silt containing irregular stones, 0.34m thick	Topsoil
701	7	Firm light brownish orange silty clay with occasional angular stones	Natural clay
702	7	Greyish brown clayey silt with occasional stones, at least 0.90m thick	Fill of [703]
703	7	Irregular shaped cut measuring 13.02m wide x at least 0.90m deep	Large irregular pit

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook.* The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005). A total of nine sherds from seven vessels, weighing 197 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1 below. The pottery ranges in date from the Medieval to the Late Medieval or Early Post Medieval periods.

Condition

The material is generally fresh, with some relatively large pieces. A single piece is burnt, probably due to post-deposition rubbish disposal.

Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Sub Fabric	Form	Dec	Part	Comment	Date	NoS	NoV	W(g)
1	101	TOYII	Late Toynton ware		Jar or Bowl		Base		15th-16th	1	1	63
2	202	BOU	Bourne 'D' ware	Slightly Bumpy	Closed		BS		15th-16th	1	1	6
3	302	BOUA	Bourne Medieval Ware	A	Jug		Rim with Lip	Upright rim; burnt; red deposit? Sooted	M12th-14th	1	1	23
3	304	GRIMT	Grimston Type ware		Jug		BSS	Misfired glaze	13th-15th	2	1	30
3	306	BOU	Bourne 'D' ware	Slightly Bumpy +Oolite	Bowl		BSS		15th-16th	2	1	67
6	604	NOTGL	Nottingham Light Fired Glazed ware		Jug	Applied clay strip and triple dot dec	BS		13th-14th	1	1	3
6	604	BOU	Bourne 'D' ware	Bumpy	Closed		BS	Leached Ca	15th-16th	1	1	5
									Total	**9**	**7**	**197**

Provenance

Trench 1

Pottery was recovered from fill (101) within Pit [102] in Trench 1.

Trench 2
Context (202) in Pit [203] was the only deposit to produce material.

Trench 3
Sherds were recovered from fill (302) in linear feature [303], as well as from pit fills (304) in [305] and (306) in cut [307].

Trench 6
Linear ditch [605] gave two sherds, both of which came from (604).

Range
There is a notably broad range of Medieval pottery types from several region production centres. Fabrics include Bourne Medieval ware (BOUA), Grimston Type ware (GRIMT) and Nottingham Light fired Glazed ware (NOTGL). Late medieval or Early Post Medieval varieties recovered include Late Toynton Ware (TOYII) and Bourne 'D' ware (BOU).

Pit [102] in Trench 1, [202] in Trench 2, [307] in Trench 3 as well as linear feature [605] in Trench 6 yielded Later Medieval dated ceramics, including Bourne 'D' (BOU) and Late Toynton (TOYII) wares. This type of material generally dates to the 15th and 16th centuries.

Linear cut [303] and pit [305] were the only feature to give pottery more typical of the Medieval period, with fragments of Bourne 'A' ware (BOUA) and Grimston (GRIMT) types coming from here.

Potential
The good range of material was recovered from stratified contexts within five trenches. This indicates that there is a relatively dense concentration of features of mid 12th to 16th century dates here. There is a good chance of recovering a sizable sample of material during any further work on the site. The pottery should be retained as part of the site archive. It is stable and should pose no problems for long-term storage.

Summary
A small but interesting assemblage of pottery dated from the mid 12th to 16th centuries was recovered during the evaluation. A total of five trenches produced material from stratified contexts.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL
By Alex Beeby

Introduction
The material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (2002) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. A single fragment of ceramic building material, weighing 16 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology
The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 2 below.

Condition
The fragment is abraded and relatively small.

Results
Table 2, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Fabric	NoF	W(g)	Description	Date
2	202	DAUB	Oxidised; medium sandy; Ca	1	16	Abraded; ?ID; ?Wattle impressions a grass/chaff; possibly BRK	Undated

Provenance
The piece came from large irregularly-shaped pit [203] in Trench 2.

Range
There is a single piece recorded. This item has what would appear to be wattle impression and a high organic content, with burnt out grass impressions, is noted with the fabric. The piece is probably daub and given the oxidised nature of the fabric, may have been exposed to high heat, perhaps within an oven or kiln structure.

Potential
There is limited potential for further work. The item should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long-term storage.

Summary
A single piece of daub was recovered during the evaluation. This came from a pit in Trench 2.

FAUNAL REMAINS
By Paul Cope-Faulkner

Introduction
A single fragment of animal bone (14g) was collected from the fill of a medieval ditch (302).

Methodology
The faunal remains were laid out in context order and reference made to published catalogues (e.g. Schmid 1972; Hillson 2003). All the animal remains were counted and weighed, and where possible identified to species, element and side. Also fusion data, butchery marks, gnawing, burning and pathological changes were noted when present. Ribs and vertebrae were only recorded to species when they were substantially complete and could accurately be identified. Undiagnostic bones were recorded as micro (mouse size), small (rabbit size), medium (sheep size) or large (cattle size).

The condition of the bone was graded using the criteria stipulated by Lyman (1996), Grade 0 being the best preserved bone and Grade 5 indicating that the bone had suffered such structural and attritional damage as to make it unrecognisable.

Condition
The overall condition of the remains was good, grade 2 on the Lyman Criteria (1996).

Results
Table 3, Fragments Identified to Taxa

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	W (g)	Comments
302	medium mammal	humerus	-	1	14	

Summary
As a single fragment of bone it is uninformative. This dearth of material may indicate that bone survives poorly at the site, although the fragment shows no sign of poor preservation. It should be retained as part of the site archive for which it is suitable.

CLAY PIPE
By Gary Taylor

Introduction
Analysis of the clay pipes followed the guidance published by Davey (1981) and the material is detailed in the accompanying table.

Condition
The clay pipe is in good condition.

Results
Table 4, Clay Pipes

Context no.	Bore diameter /64"					NoF	W(g)	Comments	Date
	8	7	6	5	4				
204					1	1	2	stem only	19th century

Provenance
The clay pipe was recovered from the fill of a ditch [205]. It is probably a fairly local product, perhaps made in nearby Boston.

Range
A single pipe stem of probable 19th century date was recovered.

Potential
Other than providing dating evidence the clay pipe is of limited potential and could be discarded.

SPOT DATING
The dating in Table 5 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 5, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
101	15th-16th	
202	15th-16th	
204	19th century	based on 1 clay pipe
302	M12th-14th	
304	13th-15th	
306	15th-16th	
604	15th-16th	

ABBREVIATIONS

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
BS	Body sherd
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
TR	Trench
W (g)	Weight (grams)

REFERENCES

~ 2002, *Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material*, version 3.2 [internet]. Available at <http://www.tegula.freeserve.co.uk/acbmg/CBMGDE3.htm >

~ 2012, *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* [internet]. Available at <http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and- planning/conservation/archaeology/ lincolnshire -archaeological-handbook>

Davey, P. J., 1981, Guidelines for the processing and publication of clay pipes from excavations, *Medieval and Later Pottery in Wales* 4**,** 65-88

Hillson, S, 2003 *Mammal Bones and Teeth. An introductory guide to methods of identification* (London)

Lyman, RL, 1996 *Vertebrate Taphonomy,* Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology (Cambridge)
Schmid, E, 1972 *Atlas of Animal Bones for Prehistorians, Archaeologists and Quaternary Geologists* (Amsterdam, London, New York: Elsevier)
Slowikowski, A. M., Nenk, B., and Pearce, J., 2001, *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2
Young, J., Vince, A.G. and Nailor, V., 2005, *A Corpus of Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln* (Oxford)

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
Carucate	A unit of land, originally based on the amount that could be ploughed annually by a team of eight oxen. Generally taken to be about 120 acres.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, e.g. [004].
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, etc. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Geophysical Survey	Essentially non-invasive methods of examining below the ground surface by measuring deviations in the physical properties and characteristics of the earth. Techniques include magnetometry and resistivity survey.
Layer	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
Neolithic	The ‘New Stone Age’ period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500 - 2250 BC.
Old English	The language used by the Saxon occupants of Britain.
Post hole	The hole cut to take a timber post, usually in an upright position. The hole may have been dug larger than the post and contain soil or stones to support the post. Alternatively, the posthole may have been formed through the process of driving the post into the ground.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.

Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Till	A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as boulder clay, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size.
Villein	Unfree but land-holding countryman of early Feudal times

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

2	Context register sheet
28	Context record sheets
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Section record sheet
5	Daily record sheets
3	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Stratigraphic matrix
7	Bags of finds

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

The Collection
Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire
Danes Terrace
Lincoln
LN2 1LP

Accession Number	LCNCC: 2013.180
Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	SIBR13
OASIS record no:	archaeol1-176591

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: archaeol1-176591

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation on land off Boston Road, Sibsey, Lincolnshire
Short description of the project	Evaluation, testing geophysical signals, revealed ditches and pits of medieval date. These are likely to be 'back-plot' activities associated with road-front occupation.
Project dates	Start: 03-03-2014 End: 07-03-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SIBR13 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'"Sample Trenches"',"'Targeted Trenches"'
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Voluntary/self-interest
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE EAST LINDSEY SIBSEY land off Boston Road
Study area	2.50 Hectares

Site coordinates	TF 3534 5049 53.0342183714 0.0185851591092 53 02 03 N 000 01 06 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Project Services
Project brief originator	None
Project design originator	Gary Taylor
Project director/manager	Gary Taylor
Project supervisor	Neil Jefferson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	The Collection
Physical Archive ID	2013.180
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	The Collection
Digital Archive ID	2013.180
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	The Collection
Paper Archive ID	2013.180
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Map","Matrices","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Please e-mail English Heritage for OASIS help and advice