
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT
NORTH KELSEY ROAD,
CAISTOR,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(CNKR 07)**

**Work Undertaken For
C & G Concrete Limited**

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Report Compiled by
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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1. SUMMARY

An enhanced archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at North Kelsey Road, Caistor, Lincolnshire. The investigation was undertaken in advance of sand quarrying at the site.

Previous evaluation of the site in 2006 had revealed a number of ditches of Late Iron Age date (150 BC-AD 43) which were thought to indicate agricultural activities at the site. Furthermore, the site lies in an area of known prehistoric activity including Mesolithic (8000-4000 BC) and Neolithic (4000-2250 BC) flint scatters and Bronze Age (2250-800 BC) funerary remains. North Kelsey Road, to the north of the site, is believed to fossilise the route of a Roman (AD 43-410) thoroughfare that leads west from the walled town at Caistor.

The enhanced watching brief revealed a sequence of undated and Late Iron Age features. Part of a Late Iron Age enclosure ditch was identified with an internal parallel ditch. Between these two ditches, evidence for settlement was identified that included ring-gullies, indicating buildings, though no internal hearths or ovens survived. Pits and gullies were also found across the area. The undated remains are likely to be broadly contemporary with the Iron Age enclosure and include further ditches, gullies, pits and postholes.

The finds assemblage is dominated by Late Iron Age pottery of the 1st century BC, principally cooking and storage jars. Bronze Age and Beaker pottery was also identified and may relate to funerary activities which are known in the surrounding landscape. A collection of flint tools were also identified and include scrapers, a knife as well as blades and waste flakes of Mesolithic to Bronze Age date.

Also found was a spindle whorl and two

iron objects, one possibly a strap-end.

Environmental preservation was poor, though cereal grains were identified. The principal fuel for hearths or ovens appears to have been heather. Animal bones were absent due to acidic soils.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as “a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.” (IFA 1999).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by C and G Concrete Limited to undertake an enhanced archaeological watching brief in advance of sand quarrying at North Kelsey Road, Caistor, Lincolnshire. The archaeological condition was placed following results of evaluation of the site in 2006. The watching brief was carried out between the 11th and 24th July 2007 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Caistor is located 12km north of Market Rasen and 32km northeast of Lincoln in the administrative district of West Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The quarry site is located 1.8km west of the centre of Caistor as defined by the parish church of SS Peter and Paul at

National Grid Reference TA 0983 0105 (Fig. 2). The site is located on the south side of North Kelsey Road at a height of 31m OD on an undulating landscape of small knolls.

Local soils are of the Blackwood Association, typically sandy gley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984). These soils are developed upon drift geology of windblown sand which in turn seals a solid geology of the Jurassic Ancholme Clay group (GSGB 1982).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

The site lies in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Mesolithic to the present day. Mesolithic flints were retrieved from an area within 1km to the east of the site. To the northeast of the site, flint scrapers and arrowheads of Neolithic date have been recorded.

A Bronze Age cinerary urn, suggesting a cremation cemetery, was found during building work 1.3km east of the site (Whitwell 1978, 83). Possible barrows of the period have also been identified to the east.

A number of cropmarks of pits, boundaries and enclosures have been recorded in the vicinity. Though undated, these are likely to be prehistoric or Romano-British in date.

North Kelsey Road follows the route of a Roman thoroughfare that connected the walled town of Caistor to Ermine Street to the west, although the road has yet to be traced across the Ancholme fens (Margary 1973, 240). However, this route as a candidate for a Roman road has been questioned by Whitwell (1982, 66) while acknowledging that such a route across the Ancholme valley must have existed.

Although Caistor is known as a Roman town, it is probably a late development and may date to the reorganisation of urban

centres during the 4th century under Count Theodosius (Whitwell 1982, 153). Earlier coins from the town suggest an earlier settlement in the vicinity, though little archaeological work has been undertaken. It is not known if there was an extra-mural community associated with the walled town.

A previous evaluation of the site identified a number of ditches of Late Iron Age date. A moderately low number of artefacts suggested that the site may have been related to agricultural practises rather than settlement (Murphy 2006, 8). Prior to this a geophysical survey had been carried out (GSB 2005), though anomalies were largely identified as geological in origin (Murphy 2006, 8).

3. AIMS

The requirements of the archaeological investigation, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), were to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

An area measuring 65m by 45m, chosen for the cluster of features identified during the evaluation, was stripped by machine to the surface of the underlying natural sand, removing topsoil, subsoil and more recent blown sand deposits. Selected deposits and features were excavated further to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their function. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 2. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at a scale of 1:20. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological

Project Services practice.

The excavated area was surveyed into the National Grid using a Global Positioning by Satellite (GPS) system. This was also used to provide a site plan of the features which enhanced the drawn record.

Environmental sampling was undertaken at the discretion of the site supervisor and followed guidelines established by English Heritage (2002). The subsequent processing of these samples is detailed in Appendix 6).

Following excavation finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendices 3-5). The records were also checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them and supplemented by artefact dating.

5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis four phases were identified;

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Undated deposits
Phase 3	Late Iron Age deposits
Phase 4	Recent deposits

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field. In some instances, multiple numbers have been given to individual features.

The assignation of features to Phases 2 and 3 does not imply any chronological order. It is also considered likely that the remains are all broadly contemporary.

Phase 1 Natural deposits

The earliest deposit encountered across the site was a layer of yellow sand (003). This was the principal mineral quarried at the

site and was of a significant thickness.

Phase 2 Undated deposits

Ditches

Located towards the northeast corner of the site was a short length of ditch (037). This was 6.93m long, though continued north outside of the excavated area. It was 0.72m wide and 0.12m deep (Fig. 5, Section 13) and contained a fill of brown sand (036). This cut an undated ditch revealed during the evaluation (43-004), which was not apparent during the excavation.

An L-shaped ditch (115) was also located along the southern boundary of the site. This was 10m long by 0.52m wide and 0.2m deep (Fig. 5, Section 46). This was filled with mottled grey and yellowish brown sand (114).

A detached ditch (112) was located towards the north of the site where it had a recorded length of 5.6m, a width of 0.61m and a depth of 0.38m (Fig. 5, Section 45). Two fills were recorded, a lower of yellowish brown sand (111) and an upper of greyish brown sand (110).

Ring-gully

Located north of centre of the excavated area was a small ring-gully (078 and 101), measuring only 3.14m in diameter. The gully was C-shaped with a central posthole. This cut the curvilinear gully (099) discussed below. The gully was 0.27m wide and up to 0.2m deep (Fig. 8, Sections 33 and 41). Brown (100) and mixed greyish brown, brown and yellowish brown sand (089) were recorded for the fill.

Gullies

The only feature that lay outside the Iron Age outer boundary ditch (see below) was a short gully (047). This was aligned northwest-southeast and was 5.02m long, 0.58m wide and 0.16m deep (Fig. 5, Section 18; Plate 7). This contained a

single fill of grey sand (046).

Situated on the east side of the excavated area was an L-shaped gully (067). This had a total length of 6.7m and was 0.9m wide and 0.23m deep (Fig. 5, Sections 24 and 25). A single fill of mixed grey and yellowish brown sand (068) was identified.

One gully (009, 019, 097 and 099) cut the Phase 3 ring-gully (010 and 040) and in turn was cut by the small undated ring-gully. This gully curved eastwards from a north-south alignment to form a U-shape narrowing from 0.72m wide to 0.31m as it did so. Depths varied between 40mm and 0.18m (Fig. 8, Sections 4, 6, 40 and 41). Fills comprised grey sand (011), grey and brown sand (020) and brown sand (096 and 098).

Gully (083) lay to the southwest of this complex. Aligned north-south, it measured 2.31m long by 0.57m wide and 0.34m deep (Fig. 5, Section 36). It contained a single fill of greyish brown sand (082).

Cut into the upper fill of the Iron Age boundary ditch (107) towards its southern end was an east-west aligned gully (109). This was 0.34m wide and 0.38m deep (Fig. 5, Section 44). Two fills were recorded, a primary fill of brown sand (113) and an upper fill of yellowish brown sand (108).

Pits

Located towards the centre of the site was a sub-circular pit (008). This was 1.1m long, 1.08m wide and 0.22m deep (Fig. 5, Section 3; Plate 2). A single fill of brownish grey sand (007) was recorded.

Situated 7m to the northeast of this pit was undated pit (076) that was 0.5m long, 0.48m wide and 0.11m deep (Fig. 5, Section 30). This contained a single fill of grey sand (075).

Sub-rectangular pit (014) was located 7m

to the northwest and measured 1.5m long, 0.7m wide and 0.2m deep (Fig. 5, Section 5). This contained a fill of brownish grey sand (013).

Pit (095) was located 11m northeast of pit (014). This was also sub-circular in shape measuring 1m long, 0.77m wide and 70mm deep (Fig. 5, Section 39). This contained a single fill of brown/black sand (094).

Situated 7m west of this pit was Pit (081) that was 1.29m long by 0.4m wide and 0.5m deep (Fig. 5, Section 37). This contained a single fill of greyish brown sand (080).

Lying south of the Iron Age boundary ditch (025) towards the north of the excavated area was pit (027). This measured 0.9m long and 0.64m wide and a depth of 0.27m (Fig. 5, Section 10; Plate 5). A single fill of brown sand (026) was recorded from which a single flint scraper was retrieved.

The eastern end of ring-gully (078) was cut by pit (077). This was irregularly shaped and measured 1.36m by 1.34m and 0.51m deep (Fig. 8, Section 32; Plate 10). This pit contained three fills, the lowest of grey silty sand (092), overlain by brown sand (091) followed by mixed greys and yellow sands (090).

A posthole (079) was positioned at the centre of gully (078). This posthole was 0.64m long, 0.52m wide and 0.13m deep (Fig. 8, Section 34) with fills of grey/black sand (086), grey clay (087) and mixed greyish brown, grey and yellowish brown sand (088).

Postholes

Located adjacent to the outer Iron Age boundary ditch (025) towards the northern part of the site was an isolated sub-rectangular posthole (045). This measured 0.38m long by 0.21m wide and was 87mm deep (Fig. 5, Section 17). A fill of bluish

grey sand (044) was recorded.

A second isolated posthole (085) was found towards the southeast corner of the site adjacent to ditch (107). This was 0.48m long, 0.33m wide and 0.18m deep (Fig. 5, Section 38) containing a fill of brown sand (084).

Phase 3 Late Iron Age deposits

Ditches

Starting at the southwest corner of the excavated area and continuing north before curving eastwards and exiting the site at the northeast corner was an outer boundary ditch (025, 103 and 105). This cut the undated ditch (037) and had a total length of 92.2m, wider than 1.52m and up to 0.67m deep (Fig. 6, Sections 9, 42 and 43; Plates 4 and 11). This was filled with deposits of grey and brown sand (024 and 102) and brownish grey sand (104).

Lying nearly parallel and to the east of this ditch was an inner boundary ditch (006, 035, 064 and 107) with a visible length of 67.5m. At its widest the ditch was 2.7m and had recorded depths between 0.16m and 0.85m (Fig. 6, Sections 1, 2, 12 and 23; Plate 6). Brown sand (004, 005, 031, 032, 033, 034 and 063) and silty sand (106) were recorded as the fills with deposits (004 and 031) containing significant quantities of charcoal and clay. Nearly half (47.9%) of the pottery retrieved from the investigation was obtained from the sections across this ditch. A spindle whorl and fragments of fired clay were retrieved from (031) and residual Neolithic flints were recovered from (004) and (031).

This ditch continued north as ditch (119). Though undated, it is clearly a part of the same feature and was aligned north-south, curving east towards the north. This was 27.35m long by 1.33m wide and 0.4m deep. A single fill of brown sand was recorded (118).

Cutting the inner boundary ditch (064) at its northern end was a short length of ditch (062). This was 15.25m long, 1.45m wide and 0.44m deep (Fig. 9, Section 22). Four fills were recorded, the lowest comprising yellowish brown sand (061) followed by brown sand (060), then grey ash and sand (059) and sealed by mixed grey and brown ash and sand (058). A possible strap end and a second indeterminate iron object were retrieved from the uppermost fill.

A short length of gully (072) cut the inner boundary ditch on its internal side towards the south of the excavated area. This was 3.54m long, 0.45m wide and up to 0.32m deep (Fig. 9, Section 35). A fill of grey and yellow sand (071) was recorded.

Ring-gullies

Two clear ring-gullies were identified as being of Iron Age origin. Both were located between the inner and outer boundary ditches.

The first of these ring-gullies (016, 029, 039 and 049) is located towards the south of the site. It has an approximate diameter of 7.5m with a gap located to the southeast, representing an entrance. The gully measured between 0.18m and 0.49m wide and ranges in depth from 40mm to 0.16m (Fig. 7, Sections 7, 11, 14 and 19). The gullies were filled with greyish brown sand (028, 038 and 048) or greyish brown silty sand (015). A short length of gully (051) was located within the interior of the ring-gully and was 4.2m long, 0.27m wide and 90mm deep, containing greyish brown sand (050). A significant quantity of pottery (23.2% of the total) was retrieved from the fills of this ring-gully, particularly from the northern side. A small pit or posthole (018) was located adjacent to the entrance. Measuring 0.58m long, 0.37m wide and 0.37m deep, it contained a fill of greyish brown silty clay (017).

Perhaps indicating a southern continuation of gully (049) was gully (117). This was

over 3.2m long by 0.42m wide and 80mm deep (Fig. 7, Section 47) that contained a single fill of grey sand (116).

The second ring-gully (010, 022, 040 and 042) was located 37m to the north and was c. 7m in diameter, though with a flattened south side, and a gap to the northwest. This measured between 0.27m and 0.68m wide and depths of between 40mm and 0.24m (Fig. 8, Sections 4, 8, 15 and 16). Fills comprised grey sand (012), grey and brown sand (023), grey silty sand (041) and brownish grey sand (043). Only a single sherd of later Iron Age pottery was retrieved from the fills of this ring-gully.

Gullies

A short length of gully (057) was located towards the north of the excavated area. This was 3.67m long by 0.38m wide and 0.21m deep (Fig. 9, Section 21). Two fills were recorded, a lower of greyish brown sand (056) and an upper of brown/black sand with frequent charcoal (055). Late Iron Age pottery was retrieved from the lower fill, as well as residual Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age pottery.

A second gully (066) dated to the Iron Age was located 28m to the south. This was aligned east-west with a slight bowing north at the west end. It measured 3m in length, 0.3m wide and 0.27m deep with near vertical sides (Fig. 9 Sections 28 and 29). A single fill of brown/black sand (065) was recorded.

Enclosure

Located in the southwest corner of the excavated area was ditch (069), enclosing an area of c. 18 square metres. This measured 9.08m long by 4.9m wide with the ditch having recorded widths of between 0.42 and 1.77m and a depth of 0.3m (Fig. 7, Sections 26, 49 and 50). Mottled grey and brown sand (070) was recorded as the fill from which

Pits

Only two pits contained material of Iron

Age date. The first pit (052) was located inside the ring-gully (022/042). This was sub-rectangular in shape and measured 1.24m long, 1.1m wide and 0.18m deep (Fig. 8, Section 20). Mottled dark grey, light grey and brown silty sand (053) was identified as the fill.

The second pit (074) was located 7.9m to the southwest and was 1.33m long by 0.9m wide and 0.25m deep (Fig. 9, Section 27). This was filled with greyish brown sand (073).

Phase 4 Recent deposits

Sealing all deposits was the current topsoil which comprised a 0.4m thick layer of brown silty sand (001).

Animal disturbance was noted across the site, though only recorded rarely. These comprise contexts (021, 030, 054 and 093). Pottery of late Iron Age date was retrieved from (021) and (093).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural sands (Phase 1) comprise the underlying drift geology of windblown or cover sands. As such, it is probably associated with the last glaciation (Kent 1980, 126). Later blown sand deposits were also identified, representing re-working of the drift, and suggesting that the site had probably been denuded following the Iron Age occupation.

Although number of features were found that remain undated (Phase 2) it is possible that they are all of Late Iron Age date. Furthermore, little inter-cutting of the features and a similarity of the fills suggest a single, perhaps short lived, phase of occupation at the site. In particular, the pottery suggests a 1st century BC date for the site.

The site appears to represent the western part of an enclosure of a distinctive

curvilinear form similar, though larger, than examples found at Kirmington, 10km to the north (Jones and Whitwell 1991, 61). However, within the North Kelsey Road enclosure lies a smaller enclosed area, the ditches of which run parallel to the outer ditch, and which has a marked paucity of features apart from two gullies and a posthole. This blank space may have been a stock enclosure with the area between the inner and outer ditches reserved for settlement. To determine if this is the case would require further archaeological examination of the fields to the east of the excavated area.

Ditches revealed during the previous evaluation suggest the enclosure is linked to a northeast-southwest ditch on its southern side (Fig. 10). The enclosure would then appear to form a component in a larger field system, though the extent of this can not be ascertained at present. Small enclosures attached to a larger boundary are often referred to as 'washing lines' are relatively common in Lincolnshire (for examples from west Lincolnshire see Winton 1998).

It is possible that the circular gullies may indicate the position of structures. Though no postholes were recorded, similar comparable structures are known from Dragonby (23km northwest of the site) which ranged in size from 6m to 9m (May 1976, 182). However, there was no real indication of hearths or ovens from within these gullies (though these may have been eroded by subsequent ploughing) and an overall paucity of domestic refuse, apart from the southernmost ring-gully which produced a significant quantity of pottery. Furthermore, the southern ring-gully had a gap facing the southeast, the favoured location of an entrance.

The remaining ring-gullies are not typical of a dwelling, particularly the smaller one. The larger may have been constructed to contain livestock and the smallest is not dissimilar to gullies dug to aid drainage

around a haystack, although examples from the Fenland have been assigned a Saxon or later date, though Roman examples are known (Crowson *et al.* 2005, 97). The smaller ring-gully contained a central pit or posthole to which the hay may have been secured.

Segments of other curvilinear features were also recognised and may indicate the position of further structures, though further elucidation is not helped by the subsequent wind erosion of the site.

A small rectangular enclosure was also recorded, the function of which is unclear. It would not appear to be structural and may have served some specific agricultural function and could, like the one of the northerly ring-gullies, be a stock pen.

However, the identification of ring-gullies and the enclosure as stock pens and the light they would shed on animal husbandry would be greatly assisted by faunal remains, none of which was retrieved from the investigation. Rather than representing a lack of such material, this is likely to have been caused by the acidic nature of the underlying sands.

The earliest pottery retrieved from the investigation was dateable to the early Bronze Age (2200-1800 BC) and comprises a single Beaker sherd and a sherd from a collared urn or food vessel. Both these types have associations with funerary and domestic activity. Funerary remains of this period are known immediately east of the site.

A small assemblage of flint was collected that date from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age, though most are Neolithic in date. Contemporary flints have been recovered from the general vicinity.

Pottery of Late Iron Age date was the chief artefact retrieved from the watching brief. Jars dominate the assemblage and have parallels with the material excavated at

Dragonby suggesting a local source for the material. Spindle whorls of Iron Age date were also found along with metalwork including a strap-end.

The results of the environmental sampling indicate that the charred plant material was probably derived from hearth or oven waste, principally heather, indicating nearby heathland. Charred cereal grains were present and include oat, barley and wheat with weed remains indicating the cultivated land was nearby. All four samples were reasonably uniform in their composition.

7. CONCLUSION

An enhanced watching brief was undertaken at North Kelsey Road, Caistor, as previous evaluation of the site had identified a cluster of Late Iron Age remains.

The enhanced watching brief provided further evidence for Iron Age occupation of the site, identifying the west side of a moderately sized enclosure dating to the 1st century BC. The enclosure had an inner boundary ditch, perhaps defining a smaller enclosure. Ring-gullies and pits were located along the outer boundary ditch. A number of features remain undated, but are probably contemporary with the Iron Age settlement.

Finds include prehistoric flints of Mesolithic to Bronze Age date. Residual Beaker and Bronze Age pottery, suggestive of funerary activity occurring in the vicinity, was also found and accords well with known barrows in the vicinity.

Iron Age pottery was the largest category of material retrieved from the evaluation and includes types that are typical of this period in Lincolnshire.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr A Jowett of C and G Concrete Limited for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Mr R Brocklesby, the quarry foreman, kindly allowed access to the site and provided machinery for the initial site stripping. The work was initially coordinated by Mark Williams, followed by Dale Trimble who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Dale Trimble, Mark Williams
 Site Supervisor: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Watching Brief Supervisors: Tom Bradley-Lovekin, Rachael Hall, Fiona Walker
 Site Staff: Denise Buckley, Bob Garland, Alex Loven, Mark Peachey
 Volunteer: Adam Bayly
 Surveying: Mark Dymond
 Finds processing: Denise Buckley
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS	Archaeological Project Services
BAR	British Archaeological Reports
GSB	Geophysical Surveys of Bradford
GSGB	Geological Survey of Great Britain
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
YAT	York Archaeological Trust



Figure 1 - General location plan

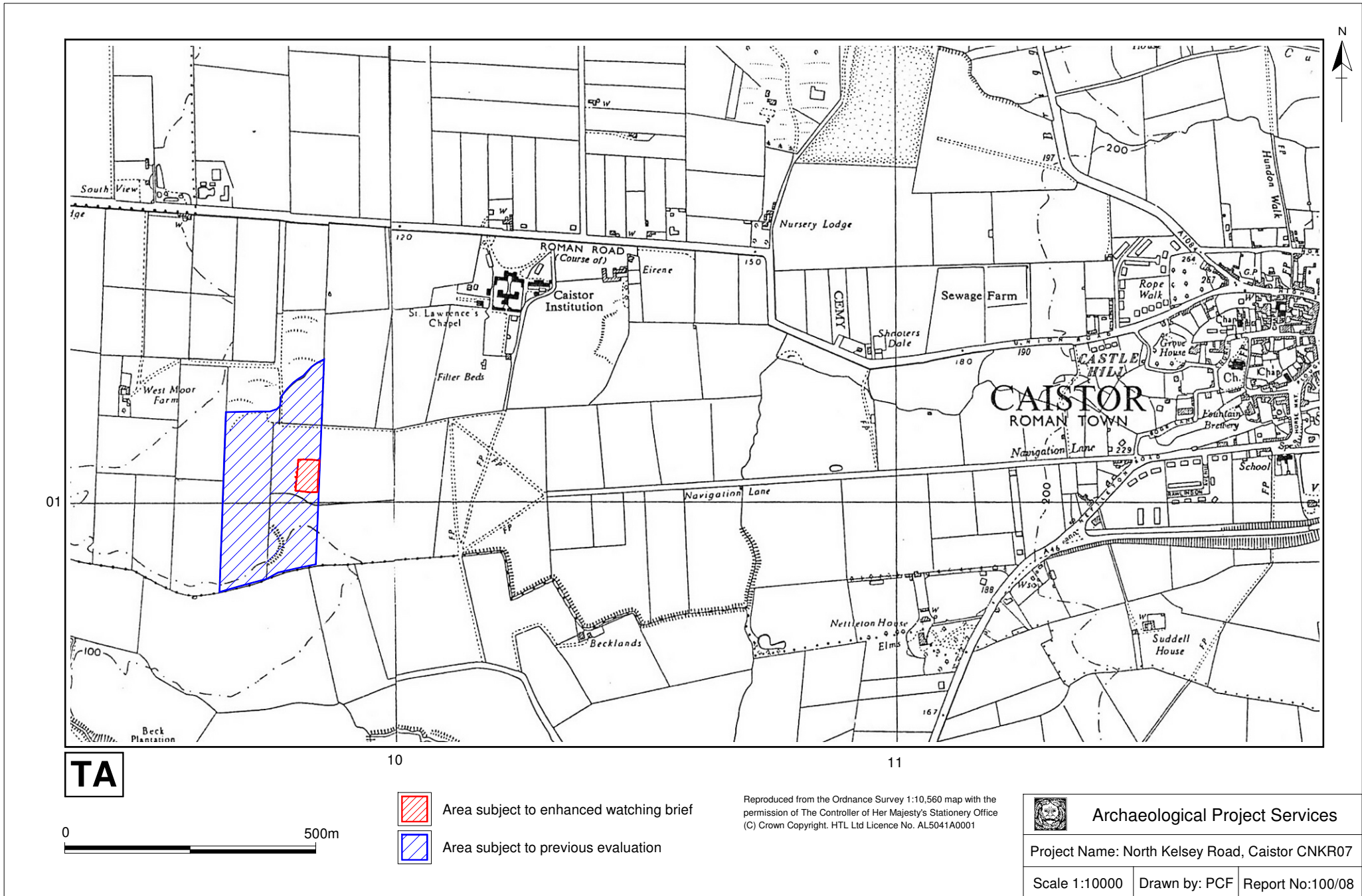
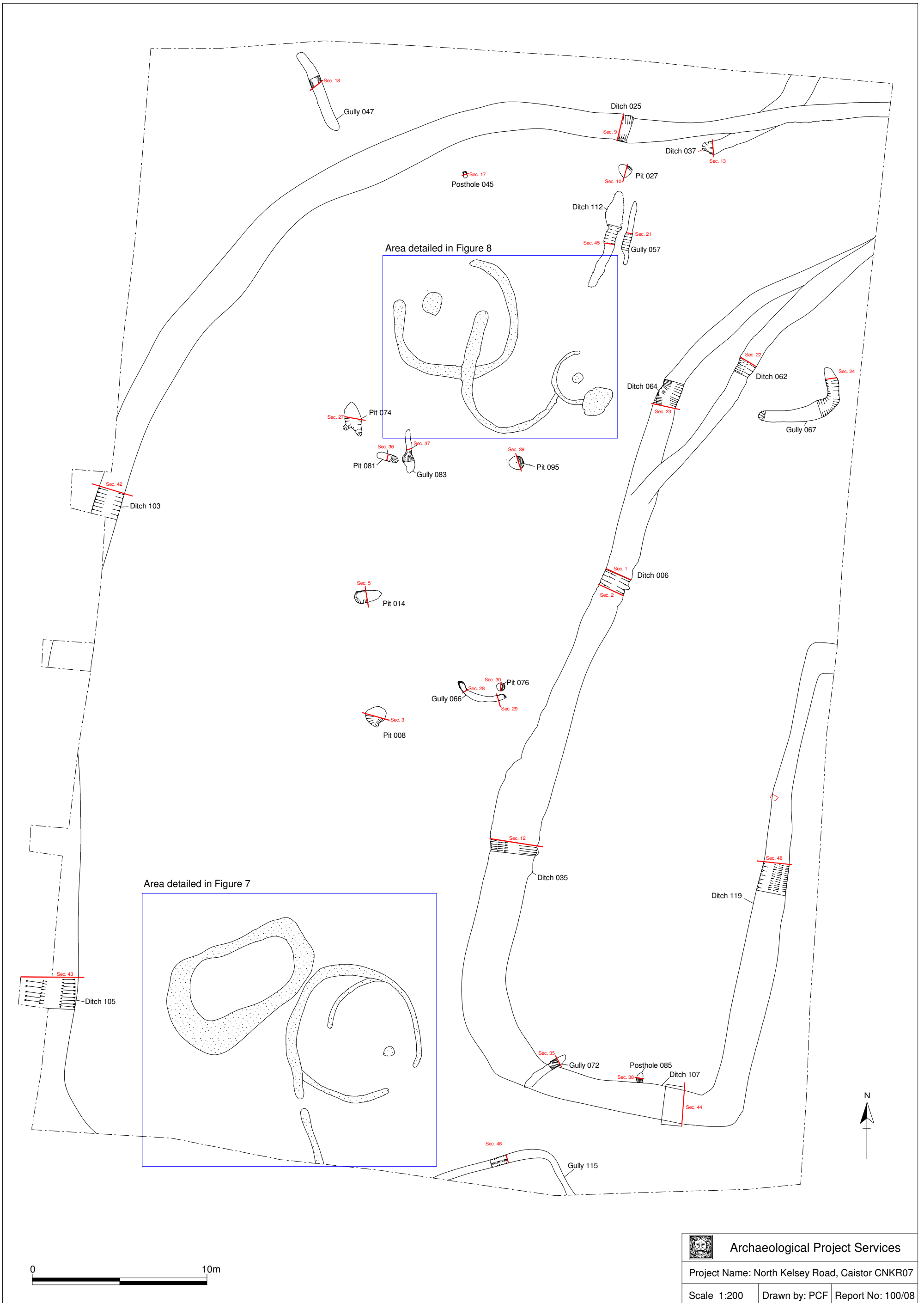


Figure 2 - Site location plan




 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: North Kelsey Road, Caistor CNKR07		
Scale 1:200	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 100/08

Figure 4 - Plan showing location of drawn sections

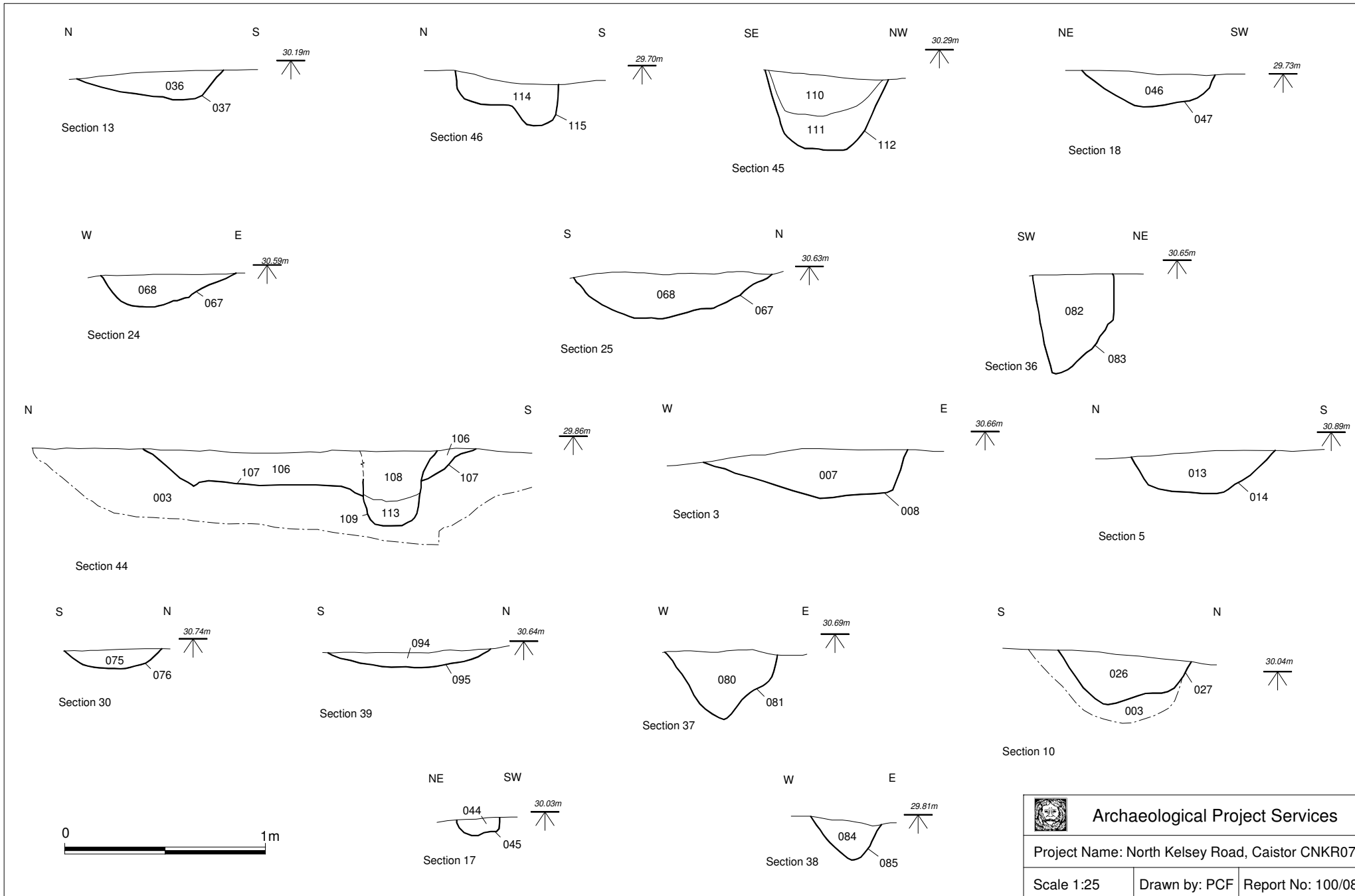


Figure 5 - Sections of undated features

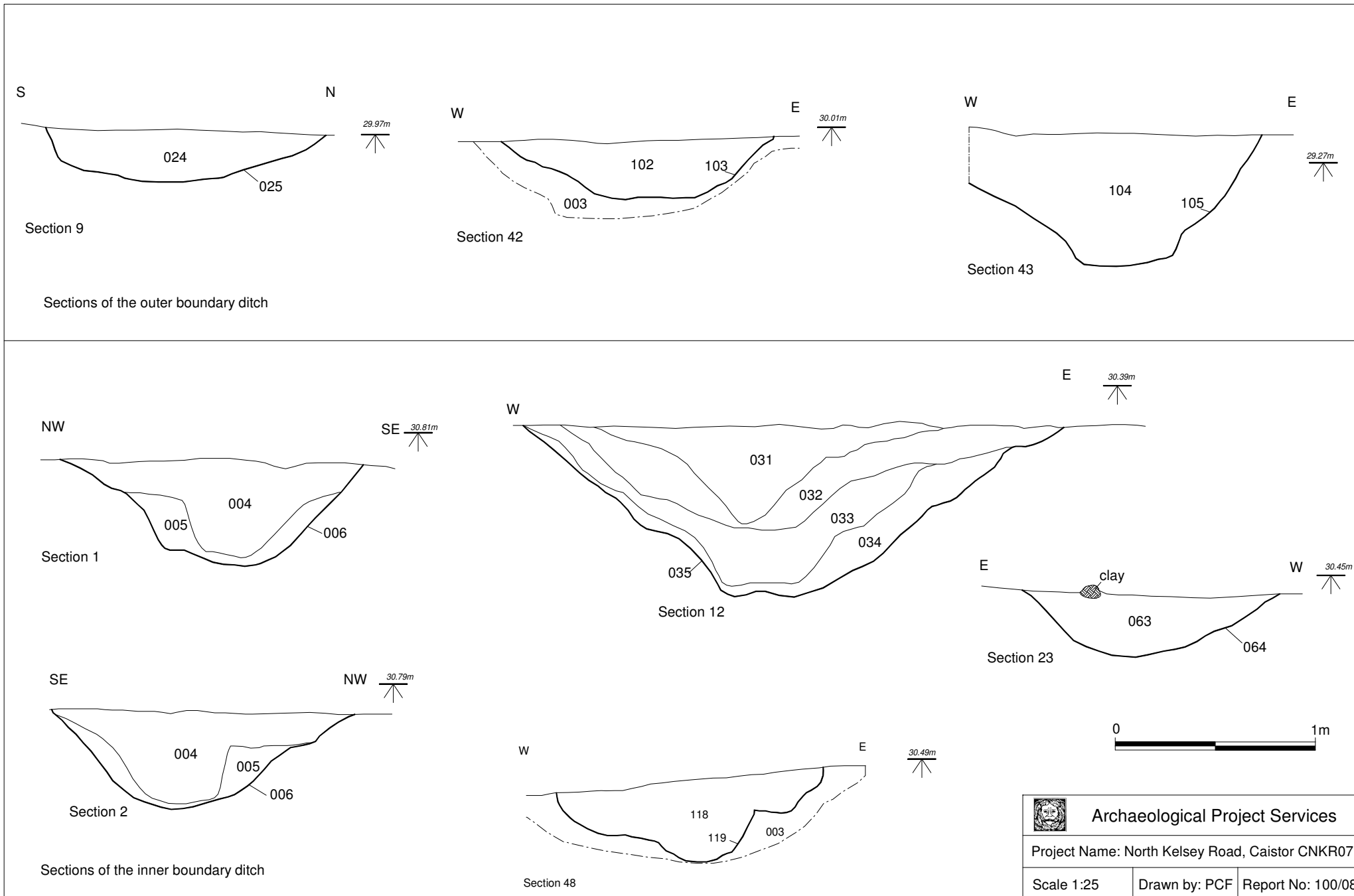


Figure 6 - Sections of the Iron Age boundary ditches

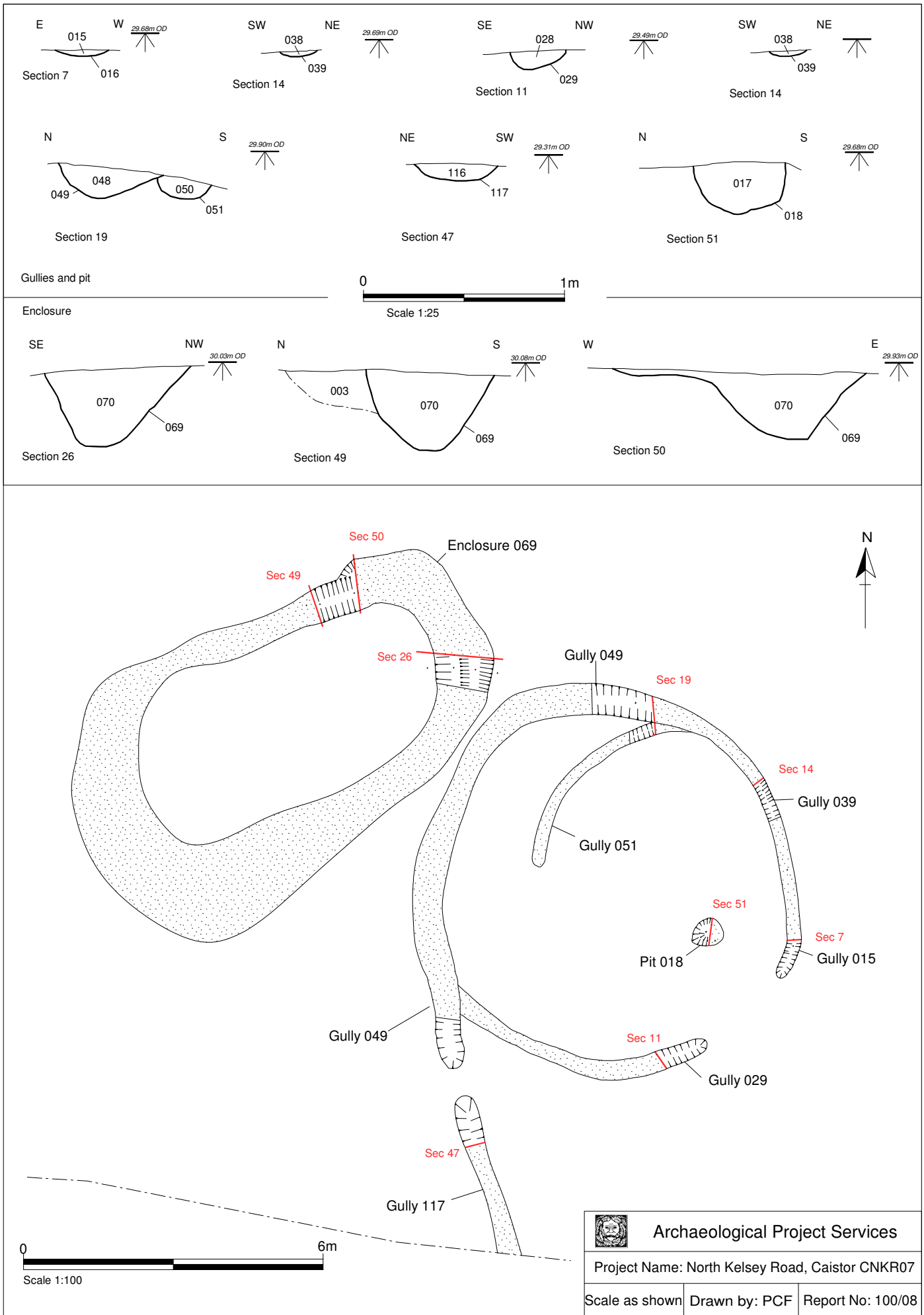


Figure 7 - Plan and sections of ring-gully and enclosure

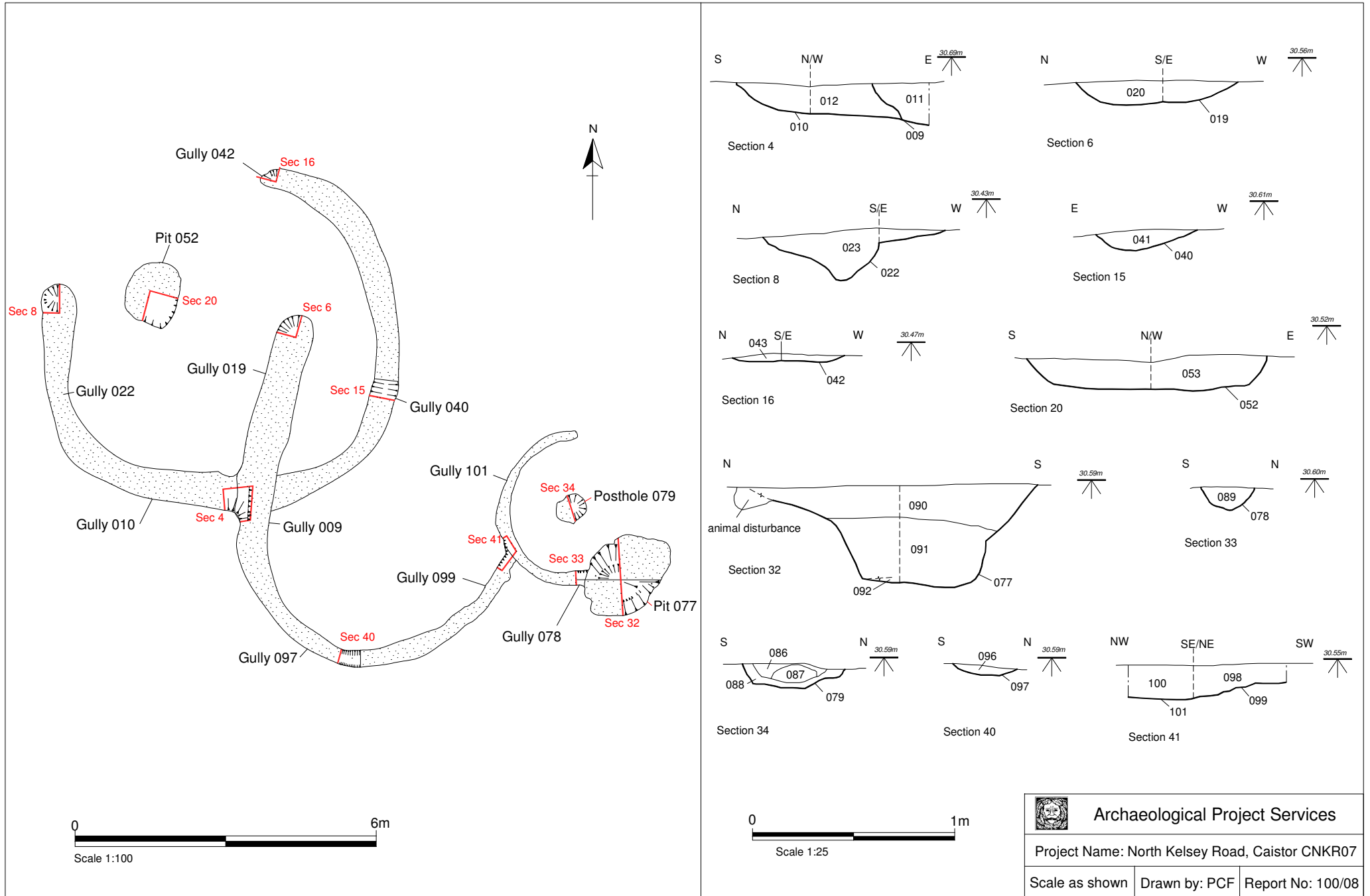
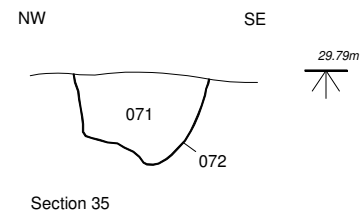
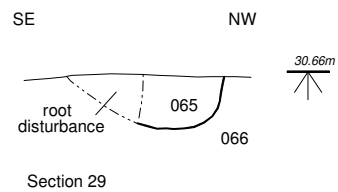
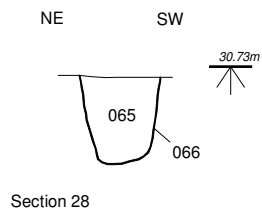
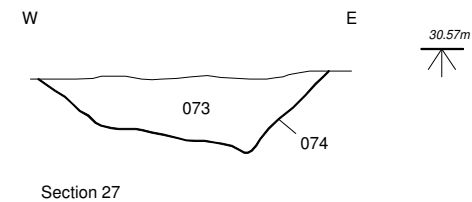
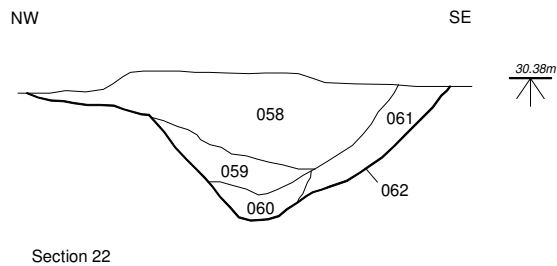
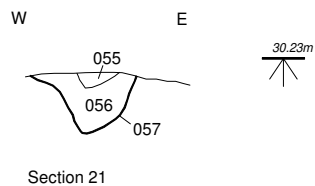


Figure 8 - Plan and sections of the smaller ring gullies




 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: North Kelsey Road, Caister CNKR07		
Scale 1:25	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 100/08

Figure 9 - Sections of Iron Age features

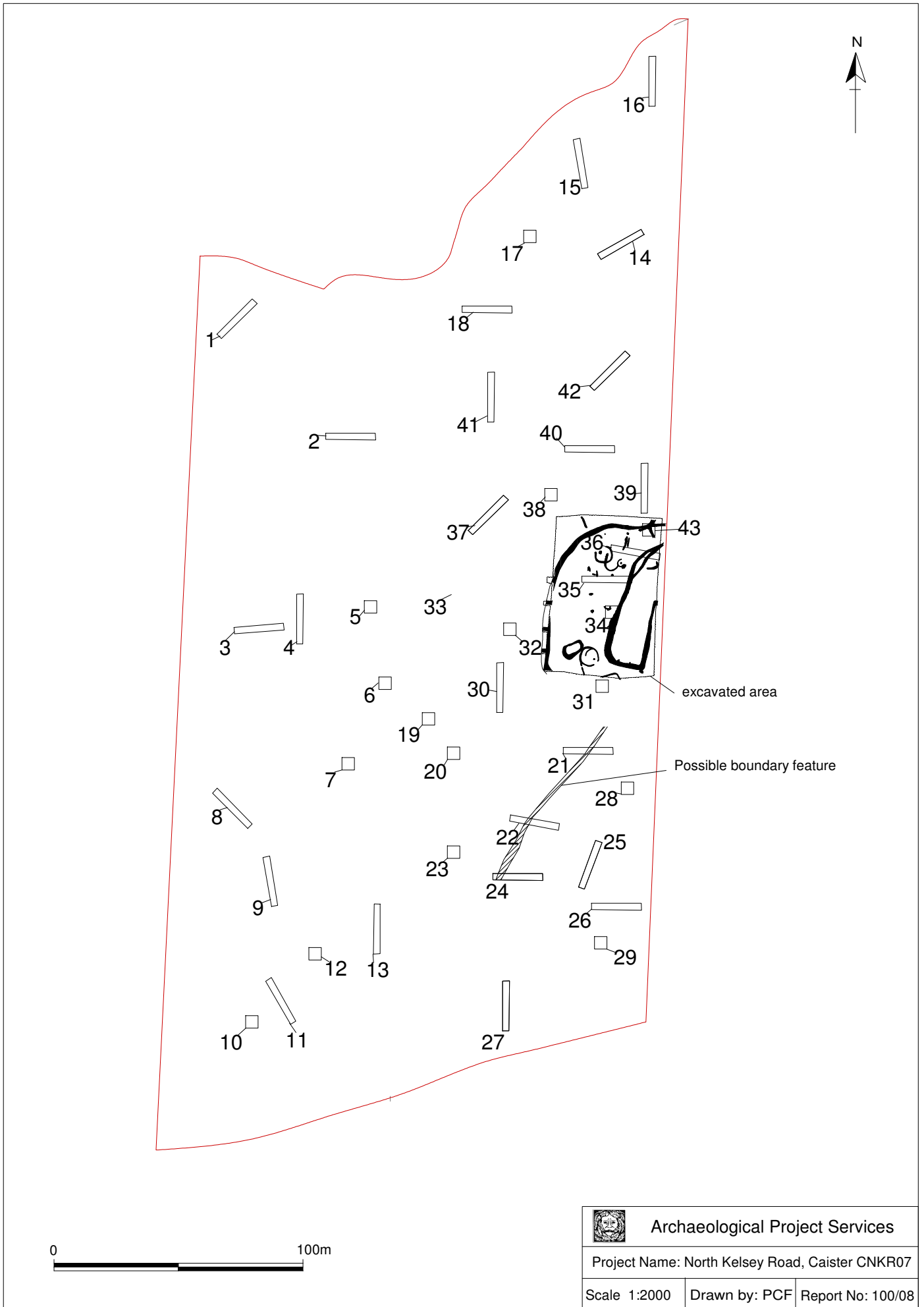


Figure 10 - Plan of the excavated area with the boundary feature identified during the evaluation



Plate 1 – View across the site after stripping, looking south



Plate 4 – Ditch (025), looking west



Plate 2 – Pit (008), looking south



Plate 5 – Pit (027), looking west



Plate 3 – Pit (018), looking east



Plate 6 – Ditch (035), looking northwest



Plate 7 – Gully (047), looking south



Plate 10 – Pit (077), looking northwest



Plate 8 – Ditch (062), looking northeast



Plate 11 – Ditch (105), looking north



Plate 9 – Ditch (069), looking southwest

Appendix 1

NORTH KELSEY ROAD, CAISTOR, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ENHANCED WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A programme of archaeological works comprising an enhanced watching brief is required at North Kelsey Road, Caistor, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The site lies in an area of archaeological significance with crop mark evidence, geophysical survey and flint scatters recorded on the site. Archaeological evaluations revealed late prehistoric / Roman features in the form of linear ditches.*
- 1.3 *The archaeological work will consist of an Enhanced Watching Brief around the area of evaluation trenches 34, 35, 36, 39 and 43*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork, a report will be prepared detailing the results of the works. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for an Enhanced Watching Brief of Land at North Kelsey Road, Lincolnshire.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
 - 2.2.1 Overview.
 - 2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
 - 2.2.3 List of specialists.
 - 2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 Caistor is located in the administrative district of West Lindsey, Lincolnshire. The site itself is located 1.5km west of the town of Caistor (NGR TA 0976 0106)

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Previous work on the site has included desk based assessment, geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation. Based upon the results of this work, Lincolnshire County Council has requested an enhanced watching brief be undertaken at the site.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The surface geology of the site is gently undulating at around 30m OD. The site is situated at the foot of the Lincolnshire Wolds and is a naturally poorly drained Carr lying below 20m OD.
- 5.2 The solid geology is Amptill Clay, Kimeridge Clay and Corallian Bedrock. The drift geology is a wind blown sand.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential. Crop mark evidence and flint scatters have been identified on the site. A geophysical survey was carried out which identified potential archaeological

remains.

- 6.2 Subsequent evaluations carried out in 2006 revealed prehistoric remains in the eastern part of the site. A single ditch ran through trenches 21, 22 and 23 and a more complicated arrangement of ditches was present in trenches 30, 35, 36 and 39 (See fig 1).

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

7.1 The aims of the enhanced watching brief will be:

- 7.1.1 To record and interpret the deposits and any archaeological features exposed during the groundwork for the scheme.

7.2 The objectives of the enhanced watching brief will be to:

- 7.2.1 Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
- 7.2.2 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
- 7.2.3 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
- 7.2.4 Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8 SITE OPERATIONS

8.1 General considerations

- 8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
- 8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the Institute (MIFA). Archaeological Project Services is IFA registered organisation no. 21.
- 8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

8.2 Methodology

- 8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the topsoil stripping at the eastern part of the site, around trenches 34, 35, 39 and 43 (See Fig. 1)
- 8.2.2 Topsoil and overburden removal will be undertaken under archaeological supervision in order to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the excavations will be recorded at a scale of 1:10, or more appropriate scale if necessary. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
- 8.2.4 Should archaeological remains be encountered during the works, these will be investigated. Ordinarily this would be in the form of sections through linear features and the quarter or half sectioning of discrete features. Features with complex stratigraphy or showing a high archaeological potential may need to be excavated in full.
- 8.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.4 Throughout the enhanced watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:

8.2.4.1 the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the area.

8.2.4.2 groups of features where their relationship is significant

8.2.5 Should human remains be located, they will be left *in situ* and only excavated if absolutely necessary. Should removal be required the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before the exhumation of the remains. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, where appropriate.

9 POST-EXCAVATION

9.1 Stage 1

9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they constitute a uniform sequence, forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.

9.1.2 All finds recovered during the fieldwork will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

9.2 Stage 2

9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.

9.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

9.3 Stage 3

9.3.1 On completion of Stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.

9.3.2 This will consist of:

9.3.2.1 A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.

9.3.2.2 A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.

9.3.2.3 Description of the topography of the site.

9.3.2.4 Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.

9.3.2.5 A text describing the findings of the watching brief.

9.3.2.6 A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.

9.3.2.7 Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.

9.3.2.8 Sections of the excavations and archaeological features.

9.3.2.9 Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.

9.3.2.10 Specialist reports on the finds from the site.

9.3.2.11 Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10 REPORT DEPOSITION

10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the client and the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

11 ARCHIVE

11.1 The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to The Collection, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long-term storage and curation.

12 PUBLICATION

12.1 Details of the investigation will be input to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS).

12.2 If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Principal Archaeologist, Lincolnshire County Council. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project.

14 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.

14.2 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator (*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* 1998, Sections 5.7 and 18).

14.3 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.

14.4 Any contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or post-excavation analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the archaeological curator and the client.

15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

15.1 The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.

15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.

15.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one person-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half person-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than approximately four days, there will be an economy of scale with regard to the post-excavation analysis.

16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

16.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist Anglo-Saxon –Medieval - J Young, Independent Specialist/A Boyle, APS Post-medieval and later - G Taylor/A Boyle, APS
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist, or G Taylor, APS
Animal Bones	J Kitch, APS
Environmental Analysis	Jane Richardson, WYAS
Human Remains Analysis	J Kitch, APS

17 INSURANCES

17.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

18 COPYRIGHT

18.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.

18.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.

18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

19 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales **13**

Specification: Version 1, 21st February 2007

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Soft mid brown silty sand, up to 0.4m thick	Topsoil
002	Soft mottled light grey and greyish yellow sand, 0.15m to 0.3m thick	Aeolian sand
003	Soft mid yellow sand	Natural deposit
004	Soft dark brown sand with frequent charcoal	Fill of (006)
005	Soft light brown sand	Fill of (006)
006	Linear feature, aligned north-south, 1.47m wide and 0.55m deep, steep side to west, stepped to east and rounded base, <i>same as (035), (064), (107) and evaluation ditch (35-004)</i>	Ditch
007	Soft and friable mid to dark brownish grey sand	Fill of (008)
008	Sub-circular feature, 1.1m long by 1.08m wide and 0.22m deep, gradual to steep sides and rounded base	Pit
009	Curvilinear feature, 0.93m wide and 0.21m deep, steep sides and undulating base <i>same as (019), (097) and (099)</i>	Ditch
010	Curvilinear feature, 0.76m wide and 0.12m deep, gradual sides and flat base, <i>same as (022), (040) and (042)</i>	Ring-gully
011	Friable light grey sand	Fill of (009)
012	Friable light grey sand	Fill of (010)
013	Loose mid brownish grey sand	Fill of (014)
014	Sub-rectangular feature, 1.5m long by 0.7m wide and 0.2m deep, steep to near vertical sides and undulating base	Pit
015	Loose light greyish brown silty sand	Fill of (016)
016	Curvilinear feature, aligned north-south, 0.24m wide and 0.1m deep, gradual sides and rounded base, <i>same as (039) and (049)</i>	Gully
017	Firm dark greyish brown silty clay	Fill of (018)
018	Sub-circular feature, 0.58m long by 0.37m wide and 0.37m deep, steep sides and rounded blunt base	Pit/posthole
019	Curvilinear feature, 0.72m wide and 0.12m deep, gradual sides and concave base, <i>same as (009), (097) and (099)</i>	Ditch
020	Friable mottled light grey and brown sand	Fill of (019)
021	Animal disturbance	
022	Curvilinear feature, 0.66m wide and 0.24m deep, gradual sides and rounded base, <i>same as (010), (040) and (042)</i>	Ring-gully
023	Friable mottled light grey and brown sand	Fill of (022)
024	Firm mid brown with brownish grey sand	Fill of (025)
025	Linear feature, aligned north-south, curving south towards west end, 1.52m wide and 0.26m deep, steep side to south, gradual to north with flattish base, <i>same as (103) and (105)</i>	Ditch
026	Firm mid brown sand	Fill of (027)
027	Irregular feature, 0.9m long by 0.64m wide and 0.27m deep, steep sides and flattish base	Pit
028	Loose light greyish brown sand	Fill of (029)
029	Curvilinear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, 5.4m long by 0.3m wide and 80mm deep, steep sides and rounded base	Gully
030	Animal disturbance	
031	Soft dark brown sand with frequent charcoal and grey clay	Fill of (035)
032	Soft mid greyish brown sand	Fill of (035)
033	Soft light to mid greyish brown sand	Fill of (035)

No.	Description	Interpretation
034	Soft light greyish brown sand	Fill of (035)
035	Linear feature, aligned north-south, 2.7m wide and 0.85m deep, steep sides and uneven base, <i>same as (006), (064) and (107)</i>	Ditch
036	Soft mid brown sand	Fill of (037)
037	Curvilinear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, 6.93m long by 0.72m wide and 0.12m deep, gradual side to north, steep to south with rounded base	Ditch
038	Loose light greyish brown sand	Fill of (039)
039	Curvilinear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, 0.18m wide and 40mm deep, gradual sides and rounded base, <i>same as (016) and (049)</i>	Gully
040	Curvilinear feature, 0.49m wide and 90mm deep, gradual sides and rounded base, <i>same as (010), (022) and (042)</i>	Ring-gully
041	Friable mottled light and mid grey silty sand	Fill of (040)
042	Curvilinear feature, 0.35m wide and 40mm deep, gradual sides and rounded base, <i>same as (010), (022) and (040)</i>	Ring-gully
043	Friable light brownish grey sand	Fill of (042)
044	Soft mid bluish grey sand	Fill of (045)
045	Sub-rectangular feature, 0.38m long by 0.21m wide and 87mm deep, steep to vertical sides and rounded base	Posthole
046	Soft mid grey sand	Fill of (047)
047	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, 5.02m long by 0.58m wide and 0.16m deep, steep to near vertical sides and rounded base	Gully
048	Loose mid greyish brown sand	Fill of (049)
049	Curvilinear feature, aligned east-west, 0.49m wide and 0.16m deep, steep sides and rounded base, <i>same as (016) and (039)</i>	Gully
050	Loose light greyish brown sand	Fill of (051)
051	Curvilinear feature, aligned east-west, 4.2m long by 0.27m wide and 90mm deep, steep sides and rounded base	Gully
052	Sub-rectangular feature, 1.24m long by 1.1m wide and 0.18m deep, steep sides and flat base	Pit
053	Friable mottled dark grey, light grey and light brown silty sand	Fill of (052)
054	Animal disturbance	
055	Firm dark brown/black sand with frequent charcoal	Fill of (057)
056	Soft mid greyish brown sand	Fill of (057)
057	Linear feature, aligned north-south, 3.67m long by 0.38m wide and 0.21m deep, steep sides with narrow rounded base	Gully
058	Firm mid grey and brown ash and sand	Fill of (062)
059	Firm dark grey ash and sand	Fill of (062)
060	Soft light to mid brown sand	Fill of (062)
061	Soft and loose light to mid yellowish brown sand	Fill of (062)
062	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, 15.25m long by 1.45m wide and 0.44m deep, steep sides and rounded base	Ditch
063	Soft mid brown sand	Fill of (064)
064	Linear feature, aligned north-south, 1.25m wide and 0.32m deep, steep sides and rounded base, <i>same as (006), (035) and (107)</i>	Ditch
065	Soft black/dark brown sand	Fill of (066)
066	Curvilinear feature, aligned east-west, 3m long by 0.3m wide and 0.27m deep, steep to vertical sides and flattish base	Gully
067	L-shaped feature, aligned east-west curving to north at east end, 6.7m long by 0.9m wide and 0.23m deep, steep sides and flat base	Gully

No.	Description	Interpretation
068	Soft mottled light grey and mid yellowish brown sand	Fill of (067)
069	Curvilinear feature, aligned north-south, 1.2m wide and 0.3m deep, steep sides and rounded base	Ditch
070	Soft mottled dark grey and brown sand	Fill of (069)
071	Firm mid to dark grey with mid yellow sand	Fill of (072)
072	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, 3.54m long by 0.45m wide and 0.32m deep, steep to near vertical sides and narrow rounded base	Gully
073	Soft and friable dark greyish brown sand	Fill of (074)
074	Oval feature, 1.33m long by 0.9m wide by 0.25m deep, gradual sides and undulating base	Pit
075	Soft dark grey sand	Fill of (076)
076	Sub-circular feature, 0.5m long by 0.48m wide and 0.11m deep, gradual sides and concave base	Pit
077	Irregular feature, 1.36m long by 1.34m wide and 0.51m deep, steep sides and flattish base	Pit
078	Curvilinear feature, 5m long by 0.27m wide and 0.11m deep, steep sides and rounded base, <i>same as (101)</i>	Gully
079	Oval feature, 0.64m long by 0.52m wide and 0.13m deep, steep sides and flat base	Posthole
080	Soft dark greyish brown sand	Fill of (081)
081	Oval feature, 1.29m long by 0.4m wide and 0.5m deep, steep sides and uneven base	Pit
082	Soft dark greyish brown sand	Fill of (083)
083	Linear feature, aligned north-south, 2.31m long by 0.57m wide and 0.34m deep, steep sides and uneven base	Gully
084	Soft mid brown sand	Fill of (085)
085	Sub-circular feature, 0.48m long by 0.33m wide and 0.18m deep, steep sides and tapering rounded base	Posthole
086	Soft and loose dark grey/black sand	Fill of (079)
087	Plastic light grey clay	Fill of (079)
088	Soft and loose mid greyish brown, grey and yellowish brown sand	Fill of (079)
089	Soft dark greyish brown and yellowish brown sand	Fill of (078)
090	Soft dark greyish brown, grey and yellowish brown sand	Fill of (077)
091	Firm mid to dark brown sand	Fill of (077)
092	Soft mid grey silty sand	Fill of (077)
093	Animal disturbance	
094	Soft dark brown/black sand	Fill of (095)
095	Sub-circular feature, 1m long by 0.77m wide and 70mm deep, gradual sides and undulating base	Pit
096	Firm mid to dark brown sand	Fill of (097)
097	Curvilinear feature, 8m long by 0.31m wide and 40mm deep, gradual sides and rounded base, <i>same as (009), (019) and (099)</i>	Gully
098	Firm mid to dark brown sand	Fill of (099)
099	Curvilinear feature, 0.31m wide and 0.18m deep, gradual sides and rounded base, <i>same as (009), (019) and (097)</i>	Gully
100	Firm mid to dark brown sand	Fill of (101)
101	Curvilinear feature, 5m long by 0.27m wide and 0.2m deep, steep sides and rounded base, <i>same as (078)</i>	Gully
102	Soft dark grey and dark brown sand	Fill of (103)
103	Curvilinear feature, aligned north-south, curving east at north end, 1.35m wide and 0.29m deep, <i>same as (025) and (105)</i>	Ditch

No.	Description	Interpretation
104	Soft mid to dark brownish grey sand	Fill of (105)
105	Linear feature, aligned north-south, 21.52m long by >1.47m wide and 0.67m deep, steep sides with steeper step and flat base, <i>same as (025) and (103)</i>	Ditch
106	Soft light to mid brown silty sand	Fill of (107)
107	Linear feature, aligned east-west, >10m long by 1.64m wide and 0.16m deep, gradual sides and undulating base, <i>same as (006), (035) and (064)</i>	Ditch
108	Firm light to mid yellowish brown sand	Fill of (109)
109	Linear feature, aligned east-west, >10m long by 0.34m wide and 0.38m deep, near vertical sides and flattish base	Gully
110	Soft and friable mid greyish brown sand	Fill of (112)
111	Soft and friable mid yellowish brown sand	Fill of (112)
112	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, 5.6m long by 0.61m wide and 0.38m deep, steep sides and rounded base	Ditch
113	Firm dark brown sand	Fill of (109)
114	Soft mottled mid grey and mid yellowish brown sand	Fill of (115)
115	Curvilinear feature, aligned southwest-northeast, turning south at east end, 10m long by 0.52m wide and 0.2m deep, near vertical sides and uneven base	Ditch
116	Soft dark grey sand	Fill of (117)
117	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, >3.2m long by 0.42m wide and 80mm deep, gradual sides and flattish base	Gully
118	Soft mid brown sand	Fill of (119)
119	Curvilinear feature, aligned north-south curving northeast at north and southwest at south, 27.35m long by 1.33m wide and 0.4m deep, gradual sides and uneven base	Ditch

Appendix 3

THE PREHISTORIC POTTERY

By Sarah Percival

Introduction

One hundred and thirty nine sherds weighing 1,329g were recovered from sixteen excavated contexts. The majority of the pottery is of later Iron Age date (98.3% 1307g). A small quantity of Later Neolithic to earlier Bronze Age and Bronze Age pottery was also found (Table 1). The pottery is in a moderate to poor condition and has a mean sherd weight of 9.5g.

Spot date	Quantity	% quantity	Weight (g)	% weight
Later Neolithic to earlier Bronze Age	1	0.7%	1	0.1%
Bronze Age	2	1.4%	9	0.7%
Later Iron Age	134	96.5%	1307	98.3%
Not closely datable	2	1.4%	12	0.9%
<i>Total</i>	<i>139</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	<i>1329</i>	<i>100.0%</i>

Table 1. Quantity and weight of pottery by spot date

Methodology

The assemblage was analysed using the pottery recording system described in the Norfolk Archaeological Unit Pottery Recording Manual and in accordance with the Guidelines for analysis and publication laid down by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (PCRG 1992; 1997). The total assemblage was studied and a full catalogue was prepared. The sherds were examined using a binocular microscope (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types present. Fabric codes were prefixed by a letter code representing the main inclusion type: F representing flint, G grog, S shell and Q quartz. Vessel form was also recorded: R representing rim sherds, B base sherds, D decorated sherds and U undecorated body sherds. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Decoration, residues and abrasion were also noted. The pottery and archive are curated by Archaeological Project Services.

Later Neolithic to Earlier Bronze Age

One small sherd weighing 1g made of grog-tempered fabric G2 may be of Later Neolithic to earlier Bronze Age Beaker. The small everted rim which came from the fill of a gully (057) has faint comb-impressed decoration. Beaker dates to around 2600 to 1800 BC (Kinnes *et al.* 1999).

Bronze Age

A single sherd of Bronze Age pottery weighing 9g was recovered from the fill of gully (057). The thick-walled sherd is made of grog and sand-tempered fabric G3 and has a dense blocky texture. A single cord-impressed band decorates the exterior suggesting that the sherd probably comes from a Collared Urn or Food Vessel. An earlier to mid-Bronze Age date is suggested for the sherd, around 2200 to 1200 BC (Gibson 2002, 96).

The origin of the earlier prehistoric pottery is uncertain. Both Beaker and Collared Urn may have both funerary and domestic associations. It is possible that the small sherds found here are residual 'background noise' within the later features.

Later Iron Age

The Later Iron Age assemblage comprises one hundred and thirty four sherds weighing 1307g and representing a minimum of fourteen vessels (by rim count).

Fabrics

Ten fabrics were identified in three fabric groups. Shell-tempered fabrics make up the majority of the assemblage, contributing over 92% of the total weight (1206g). A small number of grog-tempered (5.7% 75g) and sandy sherds (2.0% 26g) were also found. All the fabrics are handmade, though some vessels may have been wheel finished.

Fabric	Quantity	% quantity	Weight (g)	% weight
G1	7	5.2%	75	5.7%
PGW	7	5.2%	37	2.8%
S1	44	32.9%	397	30.4%
S2	36	26.9%	486	37.2%
S3	24	17.9%	281	21.5%
S4	16	11.9%	31	2.4%
Total	134	100.0%	1307	100.0%

Table 2. Quantity and weight of pottery by fabric

Shell-tempered wares are the most common fabric type found on most Iron Age sites in Lincolnshire (Knight 2002, 138). The shell found in the fabrics is fossiliferous and occurs naturally within the clay source, the local Jurassic clays (Middleton 1996, 419). A similar range of shell-tempered wares was found at Dragonby, 19km to the west of Caistor (Elsdon 1996). S1, the most common fabric found at Caistor where it was used for coarse utilitarian jars, is equivalent to Elsdon's 'E' ware identified at Dragonby (1996, 418). Finer shell-tempered ware S3 contains small shell pieces and frequently has burnished surfaces. S3 is equivalent to 'J' ware from Dragonby (Elsdon 1996, 418). Fabric S2 is a medium coarse fabric used for cooking and serving vessels. Fabric S2 occasionally contains hard rounded grains of glauconite, an inclusion also commonly found during petrological examination of shell-tempered wares from Dragonby and probably derived from the local glacial drift (Middleton 1996, 419).

A small quantity of grog-tempered sherds was found (fabric G1). The presence of grog tempering suggests a date for the assemblage of around the 1st century BC. Grog and shell are found together in fabric S4, a combination also identified at Dragonby in fabrics D, F, J, L and M (Middleton 1996, 419). Fabric PGW, a 'proto greyware' is a hard, grey, well fired, sandy fabric also found at Cambridgeshire sites, such as Wardy Hill, in the 1st centuries BC to AD (Hill and Horne 2002, 166).

Forms and decoration

The assemblage contained a minimum of fourteen vessels, mostly coarse jar forms. The most frequently found form is a medium globular jar (P1, P3) of which three examples were recovered. The globular jars are undecorated and have either beaded rims or externally expanded rims and are similar to examples found both at Dragonby (Elsdon 1996, fig. 19.23, 52) and Old Sleaford (Elsdon 1997, fig. 58, 83). The globular jars are fairly coarse and appear to have been used for cooking as evidenced by sooting to the exterior below the rim. Other coarse ware vessels include a large rolled rim storage jar in shell-tempered ware of a form common within the assemblage from Old Sleaford (P2; Elsdon 1997, fig. 52, 24)

Fine wares include a corrugated jar with everted rim (P10) which also finds parallel amongst the Old Sleaford assemblage (Elsdon 1997, fig. 55, 48) and a cordoned jar decorated with diagonal incised lines around the cordon (P9). Cordoned jars are well known from at Dragonby and often display similar incised decoration (Elsdon 1996, fig. 19.38, 341). A second cordoned jar found at Caistor has a plain cordon defined by single incised lines (Elsdon 1996, fig. 19.57, 688). A small fragment of base (P8) has a footing or proto pedestal of a form found in 1st century BC contexts at Old Sleaford (1997, fig. 56, 55).

Decoration within the assemblage is fairly rare. In addition to the decorated globular jar (P10) two sherds have incised decoration forming triangles (P5; Elsdon 1997, fig. 58, 90) and one base sherd is decorated on the exterior with an incised geometric pattern (P6). Decorated bases are also a feature noted by Elsdon at Dragonby (1996, fig. 19, 38, 341).

Distribution

The majority of the pottery came from gullies which contained 36.6% of the assemblage (478g). Sherds from the gullies were the largest and best preserved with a mean sherd weight (MSW) of 11g. Thirty-five per cent of the assemblage (458g) was recovered from the fills of ditches. This material was much smaller and more abraded with a MSW of only 6g. A very small quantity of pottery came from pits, just over 1% (14g), and the remainder came from animal disturbance, topsoil and an unknown feature (context 93).

Feature type	Feature	Quantity	% Quantity	Weight (g)	% weight
Animal disturbance	093	1	0.7%	28	2.1%
	021	18	13.5%	323	24.6%
Ditch	006	13	9.7%	57	4.4%
	010	1	0.7%	10	0.8%
	025	1	0.7%	14	1.1%
	035	6	4.5%	38	2.9%
	062	3	2.3%	40	3.1%
	064	45	33.7%	299	22.8%
Gully	029	1	0.7%	10	0.8%
	049	22	16.4%	249	19.1%
	051	8	6.1%	69	5.3%
	057	5	3.7%	23	1.8%
	066	3	2.2%	38	2.8%
	069	3	2.2%	89	6.8%
Pit	052	1	0.7%	1	0.1%
	074	2	1.5%	13	1.0%
Topsoil	Topsoil	1	0.7%	6	0.5%
<i>Total</i>		134	100.0%	1307	100.0%

Table 3. Quantity and weight of later Iron Age pottery by feature

Discussion

The range of forms present is consistent with a domestic assemblage containing coarse cooking and storage vessels and finer ‘serving’ vessels. Local parallels, particularly from Dragonby, for both the forms and fabric found, suggest that the assemblage is locally made. Petrological analysis of material from several sites in Lincolnshire has demonstrated trade links between fairly distant sites both within the county and with other areas in the East Midlands (Knight 2002). However, no evidence for such external trade is indicated within this small assemblage.

The distribution of the finds throughout the features is uneven. Larger assemblages came from ditch section 063 (ditch 064) and gully sections 048 and 056 (gullies 049 and 057). It is likely that that fills of both the gullies and the ditches were derived from the same source. This is suggested by the presence of sherds from the same vessel within gully 049 and ditch 062.

Vessel types found suggest a date in the later 1st century BC, and this is confirmed by the presence of grog-tempered fabrics and wheel-finished forms. The small size of the assemblage perhaps suggests limited or short-lived activity at the site. No wheel-made vessels were found suggesting that the site did not continue into the fully Romanised period, however handmade forms of the types found here were long lived and on many sites in the region continued in use alongside fully Roman wheel-made forms well into the 1st century AD (Knight 2002).

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CNKR07 Prehistoric Pottery Archive Catalogue

context	fabric	f2	dsc	Qty	Wt	ill	spotdate	vessel type	ab	res	surface	dec	dec +	comment	rim type	rim diam	rim %	base type	base diam	base %	
1	S1	S	U	1	6		Iron Age			S ext				voids							
4	S2	S	U	11	33		Iron Age				smoothed										
4	S1	S	B	1	23		Iron Age											simple	8	25	
4	S1	S	R	1	1		Iron Age							scrap	rounded						
12	G1	G	U	1	10		later Iron Age														
21	S2	S	R	1	14		Iron Age	bead rim jar			smoothed			single vessel	bead						
21	S2	S	U	15	234		Iron Age				smoothed			parallel May 1996, fig.19.49, 541							
21	S2	S	B	2	75		Iron Age				smoothed							simple	11	25	
24	G1	G	D	1	14		later Iron Age		Y	globular jar	burnished			?burnt, cordon below rim possible							
28	S1	S	U	1	10		Iron Age			S ext				incised decoration							
31	S1	S	U	5	17		Iron Age														
31	G1	G	U	1	21		later Iron Age														
31	G2	G	U	1	2		Bronze Age														
31	Q1	Q	U	1	11		?														
48	S3	S	D	1	29		Iron Age					incised		incised horizontal band above diagonal band alternatly filled with sort horizontal lines							
48	G1	G	D	1	20		Iron Age				burnished	incised	vertical burnished bands	Incised band parallel old sleaford page 107 Ingoldmells fragmentary remains of large rim and upper body sherd of glob jar right angle	bead		18	15			
48	S2	S	R	1	58		Iron Age	globular jar		S ext	wiped										
48	S1	S	B	3	11		Iron Age														
48	S1	S	U	6	32		Iron Age														
48	S1	S	R	1	47		Iron Age	storage jar						Elsdon 1997, fig.52, 24	rolled						
48	PGW	S	B	1	18		later Iron Age				smoothed							simple			
48	PGW	S	U	4	11		later Iron Age				smoothed										
48	S3	S	D	1	3		later Iron Age				burnished	cordon	incised								
48	S3	D	R	1	10		later Iron Age	globular jar													
48	S3	S	U	2	10		later Iron Age				smoothed										
50	S3	S	U	8	69		later Iron Age														
53	S3	S	U	1	1		later Iron Age														
56	G3	G	D	1	7		Bronze Age					cord impressed		Thick walled vessel perhaps Collared Urn or Food Vessel							
56	G4	G	R	1	1		later Neolithic to earlier Bronze Age		Beaker						rounded out turned						
56	S1	S	U	2	10		later Iron Age														
56	S3	S	U	1	5		later Iron Age														
56	PGW	Q	U	1	2		later Iron Age														
56	PGW	Q	R	1	6		later Iron Age	open jar/bowl						Romanising ?wheel finished							
58	S1	S	U	1	15		later Iron Age														
58	S2	S	U	1	20		later Iron Age														
58	S2	S	R	1	5		later Iron Age	globular jar						orange interior Parallel Elsdon 1997 fig.58, 83? Same as 48?	lid seated bead						
63	S3	S	D	2	16		later Iron Age				burnished			incised line							
63	S2	S	R	1	6		later Iron Age								ext expanded			20	7		
63	S3	S	D	1	28		later Iron Age					burnished band									
63	G1	G	R	2	9		later Iron Age	open jar/bowl			burnished				everted						

Appendix 4

THE FLINTS

By Tom Lane

A small number of flints (15) weighing 50g were retrieved from investigations at North Kelsey Road.

Results

Table 1, Worked Flint Archive

Cxt	Description	No	Wt (g)	Date
001	End Scraper; heavily patinated pronounced dorsal ridge; some secondary working along one side. 47mm x 26mm x 9mm	1	4	Early Neolithic
001	End scraper; squat; shallow retouch; no patination; 22 x 27 x 5mm	1	1	Late Neo/EBA
001	Knife on backed blade; medium patination; 55 x 17 x 4mm	1	4	Late meso/Early Neo
004	Squat End Scraper. Cortex surviving over most of the outside. Retouched area patinated; 26 x 29 x 5mm	1	4	Early Neo
004	Small chip from flint working.	1	<1	undated
004	Small waste flake; 21 x 5 x 4	1	<1	undated
004	Waste flake; heavily patinated, some edge retouch. Possibly scraper broken during manufacture; 26 x 25 x 9	1	4	Poss Early Neo
026	Side and end Scraper; Cortex on distal surface; steep angle of retouch; End retouch damaged possibly by use as hammering; 28 x 24 x 14mm	1	11	Late Neo/EBA
031	Waste flake; hinge fractured; small blades removed; 16 x 16 x 5mm	1	1	Early prehistoric
031	Small blade flake; pronounced dorsal ridge; 24 x 7 x 3mm	1	<1	Meso/Early Neo
071	Waste Flake; Much cortex surviving; 46 x 35 x 15mm	1	18	Prob BA
090	Natural piece			
110	Spall; heavily patinated; 12 x 5 x 1mm	1	<1	undated
110	Broken flake; heavily patinated; small blades removed from dorsal surface; 20 x 12 x 2mm	1	1	Late meso/early Neo
110	Broken blade; heavily patinated; 21x 20 x 4	1	2	Prob Neo
111	Flake; some cortex; moderately patinated; small blades removed from dorsal surface; 18 x 20 x 3mm	1	3	Prob Neo

Provenance

Finds were predominantly from topsoil and the fills of linears (006), (072), (112) and irregular feature (172), all in small numbers

Range

There is a range of forms, predominantly scrapers and flakes which indicated that flint working was being undertaken on the site, although this was not extensive. Dates range from Mesolithic to Bronze Age but with the majority of finds of Late Mesolithic/early Neolithic date.

Potential

Finds are not dense and there is little scope for further analysis of these items.

Summary

Flints chiefly of early prehistoric date were found in linears across the site, but their numbers are such that they could easily be residual. Nevertheless, flintworking was taking place on the site in the early prehistoric period.

Appendix 5

THE OTHER FINDS

by Gary Taylor

A moderate quantity of other artefacts, ceramic building materials, metal, fire residues and stone, comprising 39 items weighing a total of 160g, was retrieved.

Provenance

The material was recovered from ditch fills (004, 024, 031 and 063), pit fills (026, 053 and 090), gully fills (056, 065 and 089) and the fill of a posthole (086).

Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables.

Table 1: Other Artefacts

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
004	CBM	Handmade brick? Post-medieval?	1	2	Post-medieval?
	CBM	Half of irregular oval disk, 33mm x 22mm, 8mm thick, perforated on longest axis, broken on this perforation; ad hoc pendant?	1	4	
	Fire residue	Cinder	1	1	
024	Charcoal	Roundwood	2	2	
026	Fire residue	Cinder	1	1	
031	CBM	Fired clay, amorphous	4	12	Iron Age
	CBM	Fired clay, flattened side	1	49	
	Fired clay	Spindle whorl, 24mm dia, 13mm thick, 5mm dia perforation, Iron Age	2(link)	7	
	Fire residue	Cinders	2	6	
053	Fire residue	Cinders	4	3	
056	Fire residue	Cinder	1	3	
058	Iron	Possible strap end?	1	2	
	Iron	Indeterminate, heavily encrusted	1	10	
	Fire residue	Cinders/coal	4	2	
063	Stone	Burnt stone	2	47	
065	Coal	Coal	1	3	
086	Fire residue	Cinders	2	2	
089	Fire residue	Cinders	3	1	
090	Fire residue	Cinders/coal	5	3	
TOTALS			39	160	

Note: CBM = Ceramic Building Materials

A small spindle whorl made of fired clay was found in (031). This is closely similar to one found in an Iron Age ditch at Dragonby, north Lincolnshire (Barford 1996, 333).

Due to their corroded and encrusted nature, the two metal items would merit X-raying and then re-examination.

There is a small fragment of brick from (004). This is almost certainly post-medieval in date but may be from an earlier context. Consequently, it may be intrusive and contamination.

Condition

All the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. Archive storage of the collection is by material class.

Documentation

There have been previous archaeological investigations at Caistor, including at the present site itself, that are the subjects of reports. Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the Lincolnshire

County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

The collection of mixed artefacts is of limited local potential and significance, though provides some functional evidence. Fire residues indicate the presence of hearths, or perhaps uncontrolled burning, while the spindle whorl represents the spinning of thread..

The lack of any material earlier than the Iron Age is informative and suggests that archaeological deposits dating from prior to this period are absent from the area, or were not revealed by the investigation, or were of a nature that did not involve artefact deposition. Similarly, the dearth of datable artefacts later than the Iron Age would tend to suggest that the site was abandoned at that time.

References

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Appendix 6

CHARRED PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND OTHER REMAINS

By Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

Excavations undertaken by Archaeological Project Services revealed ditches, possible round-house gullies and other discrete features of Late Iron Age to Early Roman date. In accordance with the specifications of the excavation brief, samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken, and four were submitted for assessment.

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 500 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed on Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern contaminants, including fibrous roots and seeds, were present throughout. The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and sorted when dry. All artefacts/ecofacts were retained for further specialist analysis.

Results

Cereal grains and seeds of common segetal weeds were present at a very low density in all four samples. Preservation was poor to moderate, with many specimens being severely puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures.

Oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were recorded, although most of the cereals were too poorly preserved for accurate identification. Weed seeds were rare, but did include specimens of brome (*Bromus* sp.), grasses (Poaceae) and a complete wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*) siliqua. Charcoal/charred wood fragments were present throughout, but all four assemblages were largely composed of pieces of heather (Ericaceae) stem and other indeterminate root/stem fragments.

Other remains were relatively uncommon. The fragments of black porous and tarry material were probable residues of the combustion of organic remains (including cereal grains) at very high temperatures. Sample 3, from gully [069], contained a moderate density of minute pot sherds and pellets of burnt or fired clay were noted in samples 1 (ditch [064]) and 3.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The predominance of heather stem fragments within the assemblages may indicate that all four samples contain material which is partly or wholly derived from hearth or oven waste. Heather was greatly valued as a fuel for domestic ovens and light industrial purposes, as it ignited easily, reached a high temperature soon after combustion and maintained this temperature throughout firing. Near contemporary evidence for its use comes from Two Mile Bottom, Thetford, Norfolk (Fryer 1997) and Snettisham, Norfolk (Fryer 2004). As all four of the Castor samples are reasonably uniform in composition, it is assumed that they are most likely to be derived from charred fuel waste, which was either accidentally incorporated into features in the form of scattered or wind-blow detritus or was deliberately deposited as refuse.

As none of the assemblages contain sufficient material for quantification (i.e. 200+ specimens), no further analysis is recommended.

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- Stace, C., 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles*. Second edition. Cambridge University Press

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 10 – 50 specimens xxx = 50 – 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens
 cf = compare fg = fragment pmc = possible modern contaminant

Sample No.	1	2	3	5
Context No.	063	065	070	048
Feature No.	064	066	069	
Feature type	Ditch	Gully	Gully	Gully
Cereals				
<i>Avena</i> sp. (grains)	x			
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)		x		x
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)	xcf			
Cereal indet. (grains)	x	x	x	
Herbs				
<i>Bromus</i> sp.	xfg			
Small Poaceae indet.	x			
Large Poaceae indet.				x
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> L. (siliqua)	x			
<i>Rumex/Carex</i> sp.	x			
Other plant macrofossils				
Charcoal <2mm	xx	xx	xx	xx
Charcoal >2mm	x		x	x
Charred root/stem	xxxx	xxx	xxxx	xxxx
Ericaceae indet. (stem)	xxxx	xx	xxxx	xxxx
Indet.seed	x		x	
Other remains				
Black porous 'cokey' material	xx		x	
Black tarry material			x	
Burnt/fired clay	x		x	
Ferrous globule			x	
Pottery			xx	
Small coal frags.	x		x	x
Small mammal/amphibian bone			xpmc	
Sample volume (litres)	10	10	20	10
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%	100%

Appendix 7

GLOSSARY

Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
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 interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
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) which 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.
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
Layer	A layer is a term 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.
Mesolithic	The 'Middle Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 8200-4500 BC.
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.
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 1 st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.

Appendix 8

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

119	Context records
3	Photographic record sheets
31	Sheets of scale drawings
4	Processed environmental data
1	Survey data
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Box of finds

All primary records and finds 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: 2006.25

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: CNKR 07

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.

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