
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS
ON LAND AT
SLEAFORD ROAD,
EAST KIRKBY,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(EKSR09)**

Work Undertaken For

David Panton

December 2009

Report Compiled by
Vicky Mellor BSc (Hons)

National Grid Reference: TF 321 617
Planning Application: S/046/00438/08
OASIS ID: archaeol1-68919

APS Report No. **127/09**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



Quality Control
Sleaford Road, East Kirkby
Lincolnshire
(EKSR09)

Project Coordinator	Gary Taylor
Project Officer	Vicky Mellor
Excavation team	Andy Failes, Ross Kendall, Chris Moulis, Jim Robertson & Jonathon Smith
Surveying	Andy Failes
Finds Processing	Denise Buckley
Illustration	Vicky Mellor
Photographic Reproduction	Vicky Mellor and Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst	Vicky Mellor

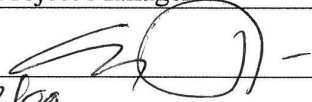
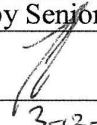
Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
Gary Taylor 	 Tom Lane
Date: 3/12/09	Date: 3-12-09

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1. SUMMARY

Archaeological investigations were undertaken during development on land at Sleaford Road, East Kirkby, Lincolnshire.

The investigation was required as the development lay in an archaeologically sensitive area, previous investigations immediately to the north of the site having identified remains of Roman and possibly prehistoric date. The first stage of works on the present site comprised geophysical survey, the results of which were inconclusive. Following this, trial trenching was required in order to identify the presence and location of any archaeological remains within the site in order to inform subsequent targeting in an archaeological monitoring exercise during development groundworks. In the event, the requirement for monitoring was removed by the curator, and the trial trenching represents the final stage of archaeological investigation.

The investigation revealed linear features including ditches, the majority of which were undated. These followed various alignments, suggesting that they dated to a variety of periods.

One linear feature contained a single worked flint of probable later prehistoric date. It was not clear whether this feature was prehistoric, or whether the flint was incorporated into a later feature. Three of the ditches at the north of the area were Roman, two dating to the 3rd century AD and a third to the 2nd century or later.

A small number of undated possible post holes and pits were also identified.

Roman pottery was only retrieved from the most northerly trench, this being the closest to the previously investigated area of possible Roman settlement.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

A planning application (S/046/00438/08) was submitted for development of poultry houses. Permission was granted for the development subject to conditions for a scheme of archaeological investigation. Geophysical survey was carried out at the site in order to identify buried archaeological remains, but the results were inconclusive. As a result, further work was requested, comprising trial trenching to identify areas of heightened archaeological potential, which might then be subsequently targeted in monitoring of groundworks.

The investigation was carried out between the 25th and 30th June 2009, in accordance with a specification designed by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the local planning authority.

The investigation was limited to trial trenching, and the requirement for monitoring during groundwork was removed by the curator.

2.2 Topography and Geology

East Kirkby is located 17km north of Boston in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Figure 1). East Kirkby lies at the northern edge of the fens, at the southern end of the Lincolnshire Wolds.

The proposed development site lies approximately 1.5km west of the village, off Sleaford Road at National Grid Reference TF 321 617 (Figure 2). The site is located in part of a field (Plates 1 & 2), an area of approximately 2.8ha.

The site lies on a gradual south-facing slope at approximately 15m OD. Local soils are Blackwood Association, sandy gleys in glaciofluvial drift (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 127).

2.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

Several prehistoric sites have been recorded in the area as a result of field walking (Lane 1993) including three large flint scatters identified west of East Kirkby, along the Sleaford Road. The sites, which lie between 30m and 100m northeast of the site, indicate the presence of late Neolithic or early Bronze Age settlement.

Previous archaeological investigation undertaken immediately to the north of the site identified remains of Roman date. A number of archaeological features including ditches, gullies and pits were revealed and finds recovered included pottery of late 2nd to at least 3rd century date together with bone and burnt flint. Analysis of a soil sample from a Roman feature indicated that the remains were associated with domestic activity, possibly a settlement. A large number of undated features were exposed which could also date to the Romano-British period or may be of prehistoric date (Cope-Faulkner 2002, Snee 2000).

Although the area had been subject of fieldwalking no surface pottery scatters, a common feature of Romano-British settlements, had been recorded on the site prior to those investigations. This suggested that the deposits have been protected from later agricultural activity and a high level of preservation may be expected (Snee 2000).

Geophysical survey was carried out at the site. The results of this were generally inconclusive, although linear and amorphous magnetic anomalies of possible archaeological origin were identified. Linear features associated with modern ploughing and land drains were also recognised (Sabin and Donaldson 2007).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims of the work were to record and interpret the archaeological features

exposed during groundworks in order to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curator to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resource present on the site.

The objectives of the work were to determine the type, spatial arrangement, date, function and state of preservation of any archaeological features present within the site, and to establish the way in which any archaeological features identified fitted into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

4. METHODS

Trial trenching was used to determine the location, nature and density of archaeological features present on the site.

Three approximately east-west aligned and c.120m long trenches were excavated across the area, positioned to test the potential for archaeological remains near the south, north and centre of the site. A single c.47m long and roughly north-south aligned trench was also excavated in order to identify any differently-aligned archaeological features (Figure 3).

The trenches were stripped of overburden under archaeological supervision by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket (Plate 1).

A programme of investigation of the archaeological remains revealed was agreed with the archaeological curator. This comprised sample excavation of the majority of exposed archaeological features in the trenches.

The exposed surfaces of the trenches were selectively cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains.

Each deposit exposed during the investigation was allocated a unique

reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled. Plans of features were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at 1:10. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 1.

The location of the excavated trenches was surveyed with a survey-grade GPS system.

On-site discussions between APS, the client, principal contractor and curator indicated that subsequent groundworks for the development were to comprise the rapid excavation of numerous small pits across the site. It was decided by the curator that monitoring during the excavation of these pits was likely to be difficult and uninformative, and therefore further work following the trial trenching was not required.

5. RESULTS

Naturally-formed features and deposits

The earliest deposit identified in each of the four trenches was a layer of mid yellowish to reddish-brown sand and gravel (101), (201), (315) and (401).

Possible feature [217] was identified in Trench 2, but on investigation it became apparent that this was most likely naturally-formed (Figure 5, Plate 14). The form of this feature is similar to the characteristic shape of tree throws, formed when a large tree topples and soil becomes buried in the hollow formed by the upcast rootball, and feature [217] may have been formed in this way.

Prehistoric features and deposits

A single feature was identified in Trench 4, a northnorthwest-southsoutheast aligned linear [402], which was 0.72m wide and

0.22m deep (Figure 4, Figure 7: Section 21, Plate 20). This had steepish sides and a flattish base, and contained a single fill of mid to light grey silty sand with frequent gravel (403). A single worked flint flake was retrieved from this fill. Although this was an undiagnostic waste flake, it may date to the later part of the prehistoric period (Appendix 2). This may indicate a prehistoric date for [402], although this single flake might have been incorporated into a later feature.

Roman features and deposits

Three linear features in Trench 1 contained pottery of Roman date (Appendix 2).

Ditch [112]

Ditch [112], located at the western end of the trench, was eastsoutheast-westnorthwest aligned, 2.60m wide and 0.55m deep (Figure 4, Figure 7: Section 5, Plates 3 & 4). The sides of this ditch were slightly concave at the southwest and slight convex at the northeast and its base was flat. Forming the earliest fill of this ditch, was a 0.11m thick soft mid grey silty clay with occasional pebbles (113). A single sherd of Roman pottery, probably dating to the 3rd century AD or later was retrieved from (113) (Appendix 2). The southwestern edge of the feature was filled by a mid brownish-yellow silty sand (114) with occasional pebbles. This was similar to the underlying natural sand and gravel, and may represent slumping of the natural or upcast banked material into the open ditch. The remainder of the ditch was infilled with deposit (115), a 0.44m thick mid brownish-grey clayey sandy silt with occasional pebbles. Eight sherds of pottery, the latest of which dated to the early to mid 3rd century AD, were retrieved from this fill, along with a single unidentifiable fragment of bone (Appendix 2). The high angle of the boundary between fills (115) and (114) could mark a re-cut of the ditch.

Ditch [110]

Northnorthwest-southsoutheast aligned ditch [110] was located near the centre of Trench 1 (Figure 4). This was 2.60m wide and 0.55m deep with steep sides, which sloped more gently towards the base at the west. It had moderately steep sides at the east and a concave base (Figure 7: Sections 8 & 9, Plate 8). The lowest fill of this ditch was (125), a 0.18m thick mid grey silty and clayey sand with frequent pebbles, from which two fragments of cattle skull were retrieved (Appendix 2). Sealing this was (126), a 0.10m thick layer of mid yellowish- and reddish-brown sand and gravel with occasional mottles of grey silty clayey sand. The third fill of [110] was deposit (111), a 0.31m thick mid greyish-brown to brownish-grey silty sand and gravel with reddish yellow mottles. Four sherds of Roman pottery were retrieved from this fill including a flake of 2nd century AD Samian and 3rd century pottery. A small quantity of bone from a medium-sized mammal was also retrieved from (111).

Ditch [116] was located close to the eastern end of the trench (Figure 4). This northnorthwest-southsoutheast aligned feature was 1.00m wide and 0.45m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave base (Figure 7: Section 6, Plate 7). Filling this ditch was (117), a dark brown sandy silt with frequent pebbles. A single sherd of Roman pottery dating to 125 AD or later was retrieved from this fill (Appendix 2).

Undated features and deposits–Trench 1

Linear features [102], [104], [108] and [118]

Northnorthwest-southsoutheast aligned linear feature [102] (Figure 4) was 1.33m wide and 0.15m deep and was located close to the western end of the trench. It had moderately steep sides and a flat base (Figure 7: Section 4) and contained a

single fill (103), a mid brown sand and gravel.

Approximately 7.5m to the east of [102] was a further linear feature [104], on the same alignment (Figure 4). This was 1.40m wide and 0.19m deep with a flattish to gently concave base (Figure 7: Section 1, Plate 5) which contained single fill (105), a mid grey to slightly yellowish silty sand and gravel.

A third undated linear feature [108], again shared the same alignment as [102], and lay c.8.20m to the east of [104] (Figure 4). It was 0.50m wide and 50mm deep with a flattish base (Figure 7: Section 3) and filled by (109), a mid grey to slightly yellowish silty sand and gravel.

A final undated linear on this alignment in Trench 1 was [118] (Figure 4), this being 0.90m wide and 0.20m deep with moderately steep sides and a flattish to gently concave base (Figure 7: Section 7) Fill (119) was a darkish brown sandy silt with frequent pebbles.

The shallow depth and flattish bases of these four undated linear features are similar to the characteristics of medieval plough furrows. However, these features cannot be confidently identified as furrows, and could equally be ditches.

Possible post hole [106]

A single possible post hole [106] was identified in the western part of the trench (Figure 4). This amorphous feature was 0.40m by 0.32m wide and 70mm deep with steepish sides and a concave base (Figure 7: Section 2, Plate 6). Fill (107) was a light to mid grey sandy silt with occasional pebbles.

Possible pit [122]

A possible pit [122] was excavated near the eastern end of the trench (Figure 4), although this was very faint and may have

been a localised variation in the natural sand and gravel. This amorphous possible pit was 1.05m wide and 0.65m deep with steep sides and a concave base (Figure 7: Section 10, Plate 9) and contained a single fill (123) of mid brown sand with moderately frequent pebbles. A single water-worn cobble was retrieved from this deposit, but it was unclear whether this was entirely naturally-formed or whether an area of greater wear might indicate its use as a hone (Appendix 2).

Unexcavated features

Two faint narrow linear features and an amorphous possible feature were also identified in Trench 1 but were not excavated (Figure 4).

Undated features and deposits–Trench 2

Ditch [203]

A eastnortheast-west southwest aligned ditch [203] was identified at the western end of Trench 2 (Figure 5). This was 0.92m wide and 0.27m deep with moderately steep sides and a gently concave base (Figure 7: Section 11, Plate 10). It contained a single fill (202), a mid to light grey clayey sand with light rusty mottles and frequent pebbles.

Linear feature [205], probable ditch

A short distance to the east of ditch [203], linear feature [205] was aligned northnorthwest-southsoutheast (Figure 5) and was 0.60m wide and 0.20m deep with gently sloping sides and a gently concave base (Figure 7: Section 12, Plate 11). Fill (204) comprised light yellowish-brown clayey sand with frequent pebbles.

Ditch [216]

Approximately 17m east of [205] was a further undated linear feature [216] (Figure 5). This north-south aligned feature was possibly curvilinear, although too little of

its length was exposed to determine this (Figure 5). This 1.35m wide and 0.43m deep ditch had moderately steep sides and a concave base (Figure 7: Section 20, Plate 16). It contained a mid to light grey clayey sand with mid to light rusty mottles and frequent pebbles (215).

Pit or ditch terminus [208]

Feature [208], in the eastern half of Trench 2, extended beyond the northern edge of the trench (Figure 5). It was over 0.60m by 0.70m wide and 0.14m deep with moderately sloping sides and a gently concave to flat base (Figure 7: Section 14, Plate 12). It contained a light yellowish-grey sandy silt with frequent pebbles (209).

Ditch [210]

Approximately 8m east of [208] was a northnorthwest-southsoutheast aligned linear feature [210]. This was 1.10m wide and 0.28m deep with moderately steep sides and a concave base (Figure 7: Section 16, Plate 15). The earliest fill of this feature was (211), a 0.28m thick light grey sandy silt with moderately frequent pebbles. Over this was (212), a 0.15m thick light reddish-grey silty sand with frequent pebbles.

Possible linear terminus [218]

Just over 5m east of ditch [210] was a possible linear terminus [218] (Figure 5). This northeast-southwest aligned feature was 0.46m wide and 0.24m deep with steep to concave sides and a concave base (Figure 7: Section 18, Plate 16). Within this was a single fill (219) of light greyish-brown sandy silt with moderately frequent pebbles.

Unexcavated features

A single linear feature near the centre of this trench was left unexcavated (Figure 5).

Undated features and deposits–Trench 3

Ditch [306]

Ditch [306] at the far western edge of Trench 3 was east-west aligned, 0.78m wide and 0.15m deep (Figure 6, Figure 7: Section 13, Plate 17). It had a gently concave base and contained a single fill (307) of mid brown slightly sitly sand with frequent pebbles.

Post hole [316]

Circular post hole [316] was 0.32m in diameter and 0.15m deep with steep, regular sides and a concave base (Figure 5, Figure 7: Section 17, Plate 19). A mid slightly greenish-brown sand with frequent pebbles (317) filled this feature.

Ditch [308=?=312]

A northnorthwest-southsoutheast aligned ditch was identified at the far eastern end of Trench 3 (Figure 5). A recent land drain was also recorded in this area, and the relationship between the land drain and ditch was unclear (Figure 7: Section 15). Due to the uncertain relationship with the land drain trench [310], the ditch either side of this was allocated separate cut and fill numbers. The ditch to the east of the land drain was allocated [308], and that to the west was recorded as [312] (Figure 5, Figure 7: Section 15, Plate 18). Ditch [308] was over 0.55m wide and 0.48m deep with steep, regular sides. Ditch [312] was over 1.58m wide and 0.41m deep with moderately steep sides near its top, steep sides lower down and a flattish base (Figure 7: Section 15, Plate 18). The combined width of ditches [312] and [308] was over 2.40m. The fill of the western part of the ditch was allocated number (313) and that to the east (309), each of which was a dark greyish-brown silty sand with frequent pebbles.

These fills were indistinguishable in section from the fill of land drain trench

[310] and it was not possible to determine the relationship between the drain and ditch.

Unexcavated features

Further possible features were identified in Trench 3 and recorded in plan, but were not excavated due to time constraints. One of these was a possible post hole close to excavated post hole [316]. The second was a linear feature, parallel with and adjacent to a land drain with which it may have been directly associated (Figure 6). A linear feature in the eastern half of the trench was also left unexcavated. A small number of probable natural features, patches of probable overburden and linear features containing land drains were also left unexcavated (Figure 6).

Post-medieval to recent features and deposits

In Trench 1, a small amorphous feature [120] truncated ditch [110] (Figure 5, Figure 7: Section 8, Plate 8). Although its edges were unclear, especially in plan, this had the general appearance of a post hole. It had vertical sides and a concave base and was 0.35m deep and 0.20m wide. Three fragments of 18th to 20th century ceramic drain pipe were retrieved from its fill, suggesting that it might be associated with drainage, possibly being a deeper sump within a land drain trench.

In several areas of the field, land drains were noted at shallow depths, at the base of the topsoil. It could be that a land drain at a higher level than feature [120] had been laid but had since been ploughed-out. If this interpretation is correct [120] might be a small hand-excavated deeper area of a drain trench, perhaps dug in order to assess the changed ground conditions where Roman ditch [110] was encountered during drain laying.

Further post-medieval to recent features comprised a series of land drains in each

of Trenches 2 & 3 (Figures 5 & 6).

6. DISCUSSION

As the vast majority of features identified during the investigation were undated these provide relatively little indication as to the character of the area in antiquity, but at least some of these features may be ancient. During previous investigations immediately to the north, a large number of undated features were exposed which it was suggested may have been of Roman or prehistoric date (Cope-Faulkner 2002, Snee 2000). The majority of the undated features in the present investigation were ditches, and may have bounded fields and enclosures. The dearth of artefacts within these could indicate that these were away from areas of dumping of waste, and perhaps slightly removed from settlement.

A single post hole was excavated in Trench 3, and a possible post hole or naturally-formed feature was encountered in each of Trenches 1 & 2. These features are undated and isolated, and as such are of limited use in understanding the development of the site, but could indicate the former presence of fences or other structures.

Prehistoric sites have been previously recorded in the area and include three large flint scatters between 30m and 100m northeast of the present investigation site. These indicate the presence of late Neolithic or early Bronze Age settlement in the area. A single worked flint was retrieved in the current investigation from the fill of a ditch or gully in Trench 4, and this may date this feature. Alternatively this single flint may have been incorporated into a later feature, and so does not provide strong dating evidence. This single flint is however further evidence for prehistoric activity in the area. This linear feature aligns with an unexcavated possible linear feature in Trench 2, which may be a continuation of it (Figure 3).

Previous archaeological investigation undertaken immediately to the north of the site identified features of Roman date. Ditches, gullies and pits were identified and finds included pottery of late 2nd to 3rd century date together with bone and burnt flint. Environmental sampling of a Roman feature indicated that the remains were associated with domestic activity, possibly a settlement (Snee 2000, Cope-Faulkner 2002).

During the present investigation, three ditches, all in Trench 1 at the north of the site, were found to contain Roman pottery, and so have been dated to this period. Two of these dated to the 3rd century AD or later, and the third contained pottery dating to AD 125 or later. The two 3rd century ditches are aligned quite differently to the modern field boundaries, and also to one another (Figure 3). Undated ditches at the far western end of Trenches 2 and 3 are similarly aligned to 3rd century ditch [112], at the western end of Trench 1. This could be an indication that these may be broadly contemporary, but this remains speculative. Some of the Roman ditches identified in earlier investigations immediately to the north also shared a similar alignment to ditch [112] (Snee 2000: Figure 3).

The 2nd century ditch in Trench 1 has an alignment which is similar to that of the present field boundaries. Again, this echoes the findings of earlier investigations to the north, where Roman ditches were on at least two different alignments. These different orientations could be an indication that distinct phases of Roman activity are superimposed. It may be that one set of boundary and drainage ditches became infilled over time, and a new layout was later established. It is also possible however that some Roman material may have been incorporated into later linear features, the alignment of which is perpetuated in the present day layout of fields. The 2nd century ditch aligns with an undated ditch in Trench 2 and an unexcavated linear feature in Trench 3, and these may all be a single ditch

(Figure 3).

The only dated Roman ditches in the present study area were within Trench 1, the trench closest to the previous investigation site immediately to the north. In that investigation, possible indications of settlement of this date were identified. Few artefacts were associated with the Roman ditches of the present study, and the complete lack of pottery from undated ditches in the other trenches may reflect the increasing distance away from a possible settlement area to the north, nearer Sleaford Road.

Four linear features in Trench 1 had characteristics similar to those typically seen in the buried remains of medieval ridge and furrow, but this interpretation is uncertain, and these may be further ditches.

Geophysical survey was carried out at the site, the results of which were generally inconclusive, although linear and amorphous magnetic anomalies of possible archaeological origin were identified. Linear features associated with modern ploughing and land drains were also recognised (Sabin and Donaldson 2007). Undated ditch [203] at the far west of Trench 2 appears to correspond to the location of one of the linear features identified in the geophysical survey, and land drains of the same orientation as those recorded in the survey were also identified in trenching.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were undertaken during development on land at Sleaford Road, East Kirkby, Lincolnshire as the site lay adjacent to an area of known Roman and possibly prehistoric remains.

As geophysical survey of the site had been inconclusive, trial trenching was undertaken in order to identify any archaeological remains within the site

The investigation revealed linear features

including ditches, the majority of which were undated. These followed various alignments, suggesting that they dated to a variety of periods. A small number of undated possible post holes and pits were also identified.

One linear feature contained a single worked flint of probable later prehistoric date. It was not clear whether this feature was prehistoric, or whether the flint was incorporated into a later feature.

Three of the ditches at the north of the area were Roman, two dating to the 3rd century AD and a third to the 2nd century or later.

Roman pottery was only retrieved from the most northerly trench, this being the closest to the previously investigated area of possible Roman settlement.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of David Panton who commissioned this investigation. The work was co-ordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report with Tom Lane.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor

Project Officer: Vicky Mellor

Excavation Team: Andy Failes, Ross Kendall, Chris Moulis, Jim Robertson, Jonathon Smith

Work Experience Volunteer: Christie Ivens

Surveying: Andy Failes

Finds Processing: Denise Buckley

Photographic reproduction: Vicky Mellor & Sue Unsworth

CAD Illustration: Vicky Mellor

Post-excavation analysis: Vicky Mellor

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

OD Ordnance Datum (height above sea level)



Figure 1 General location map

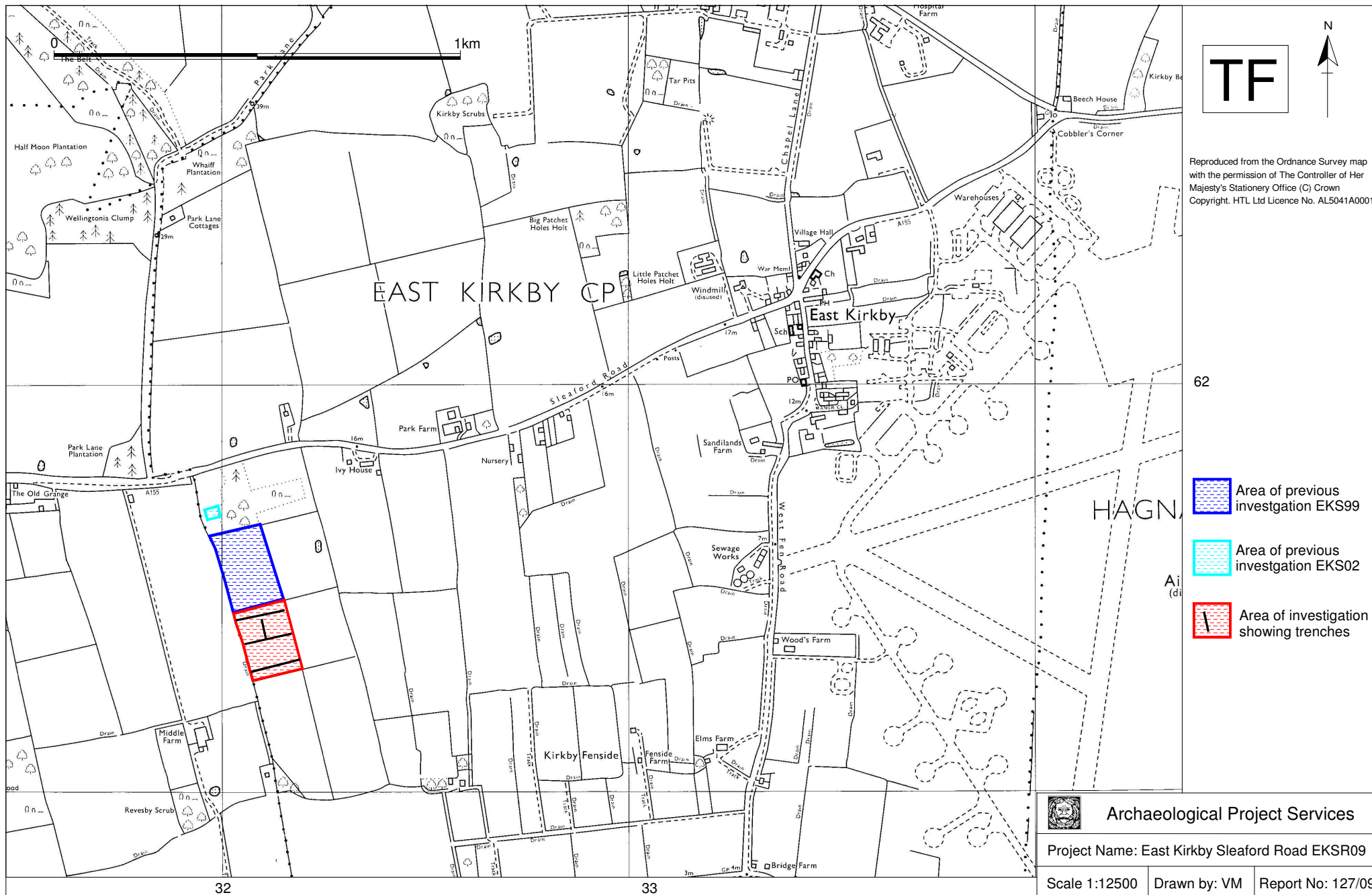
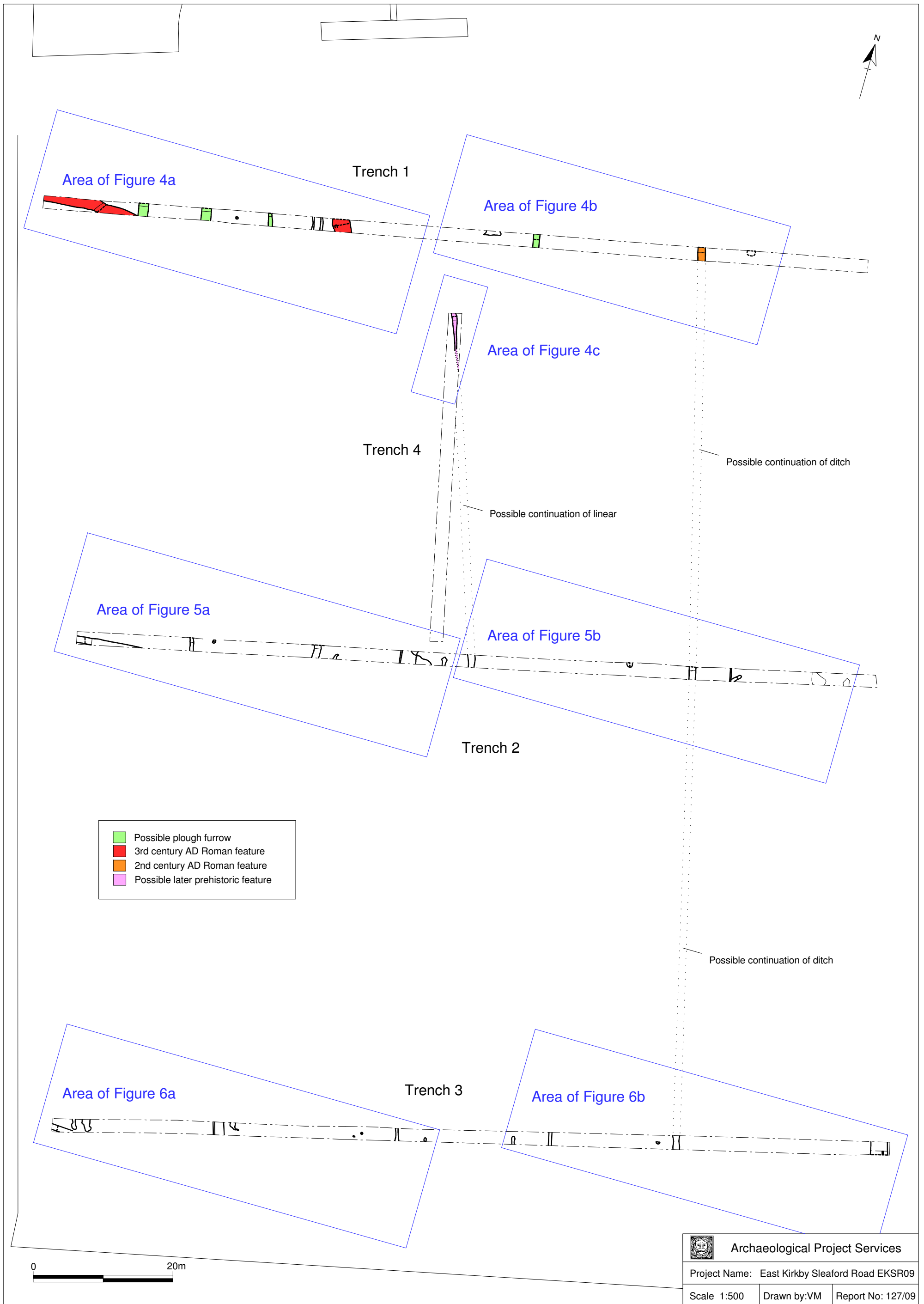


Figure 2 Site location map




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Scale 1:500	Drawn by: VM	Report No: 127/09

Figure 3 Trench location plan

Figure 4a

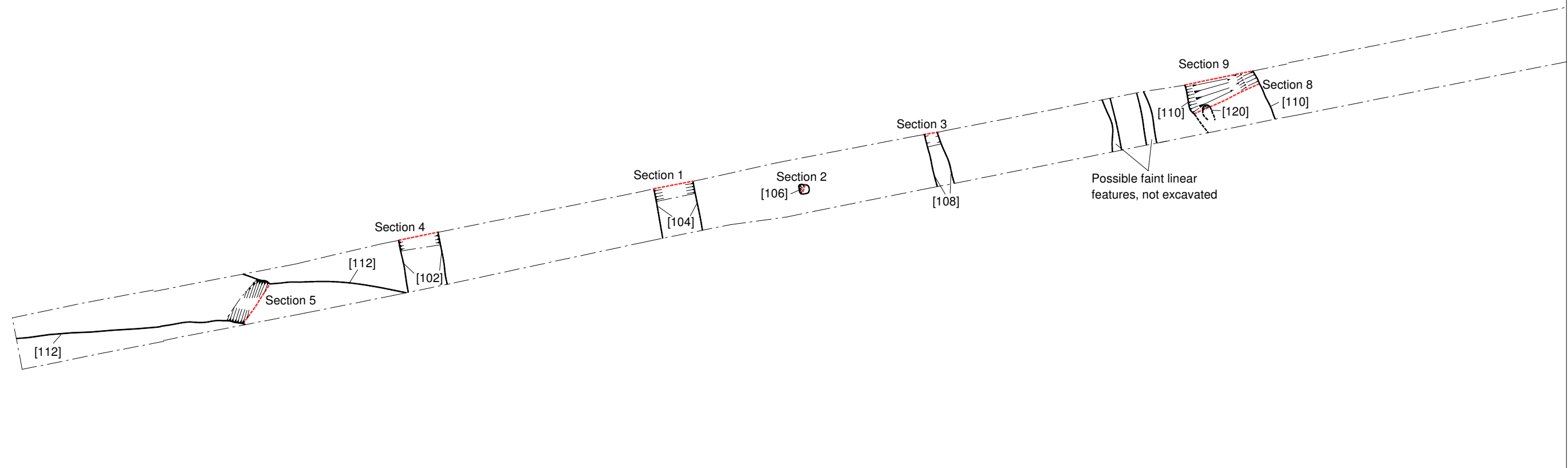


Figure 4b

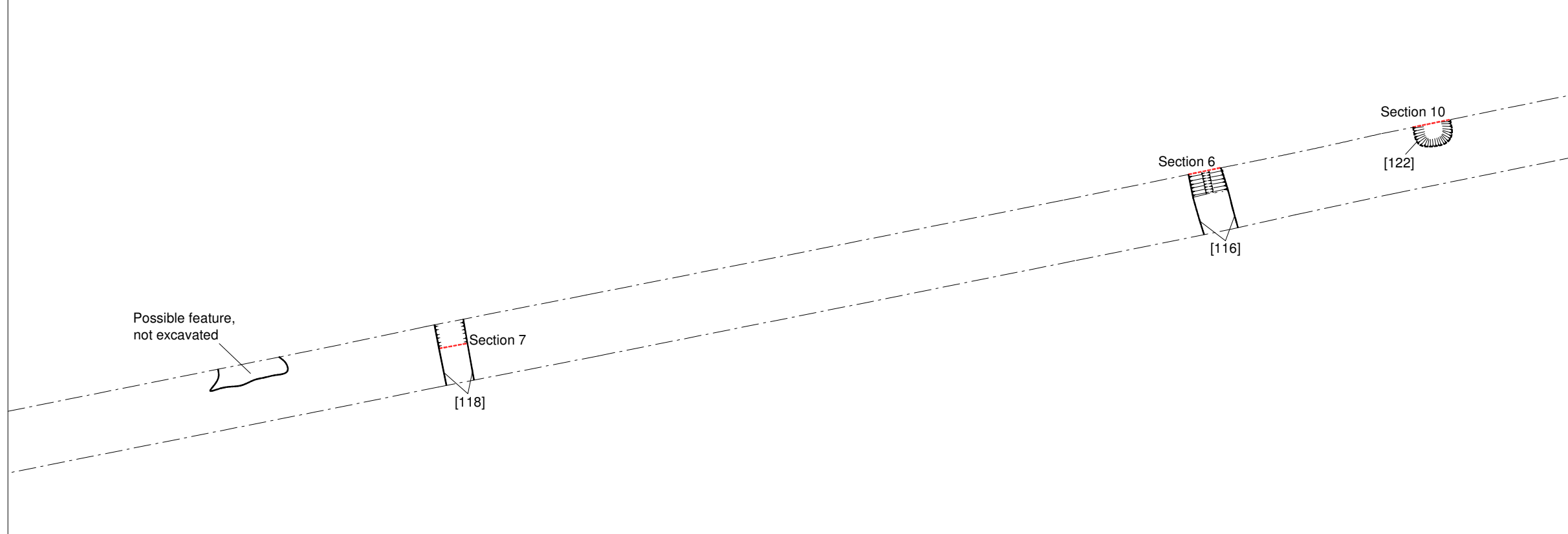
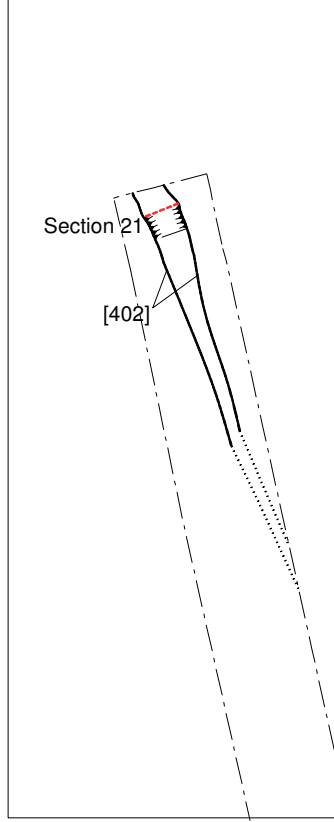


Figure 4c



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Scale 1:150 | Drawn by: VM | Report No: 127/09

Figure 4 Plans of features in Trenches 1 & 4

Figure 5a

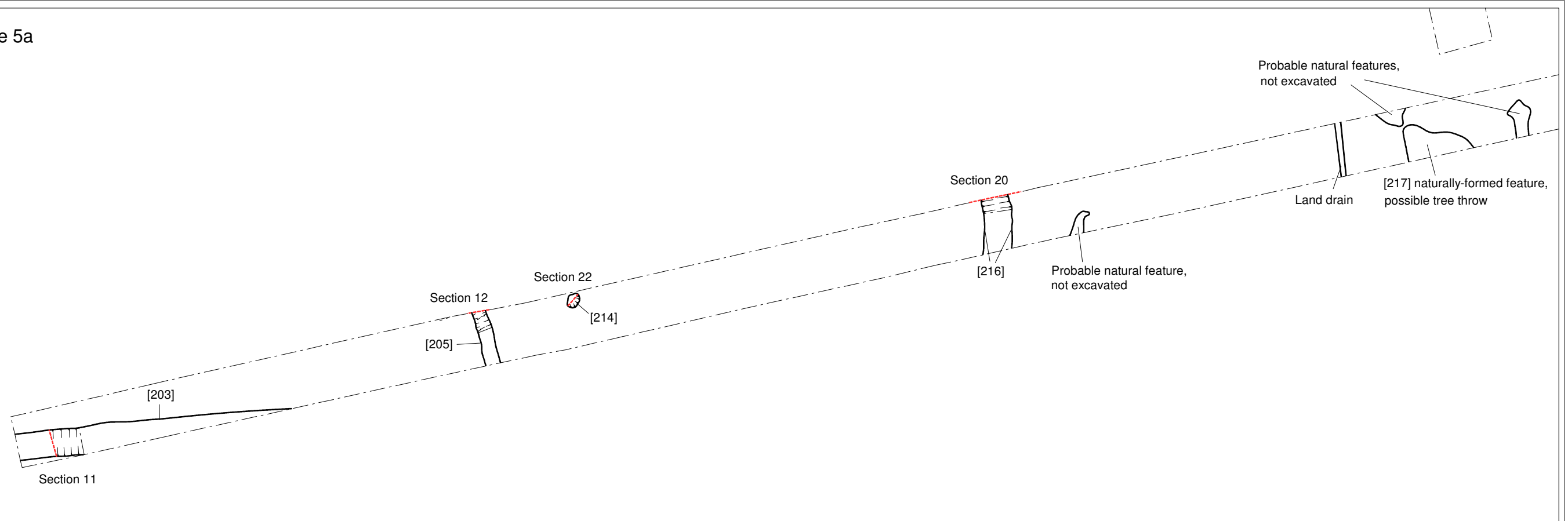
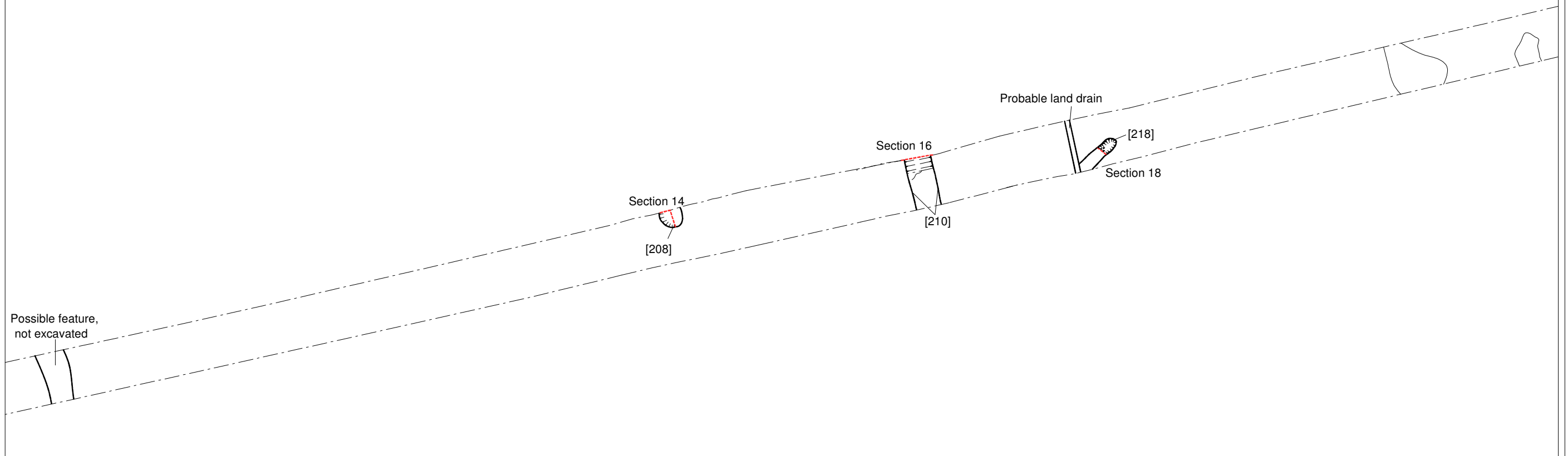


Figure 5b




	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: East Kirkby Sleaford Road EKSR09		
Scale 1:150	Drawn by: VM	Report No: 127/09

Figure 5 Plans of features in Trench 2

Figure 6a

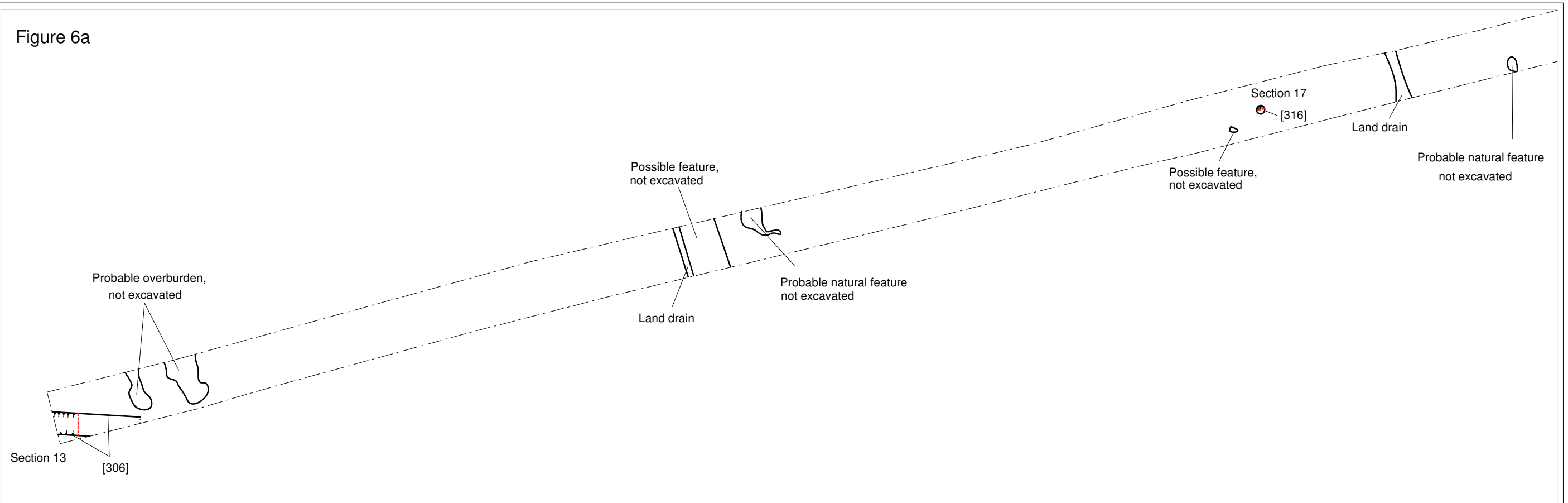
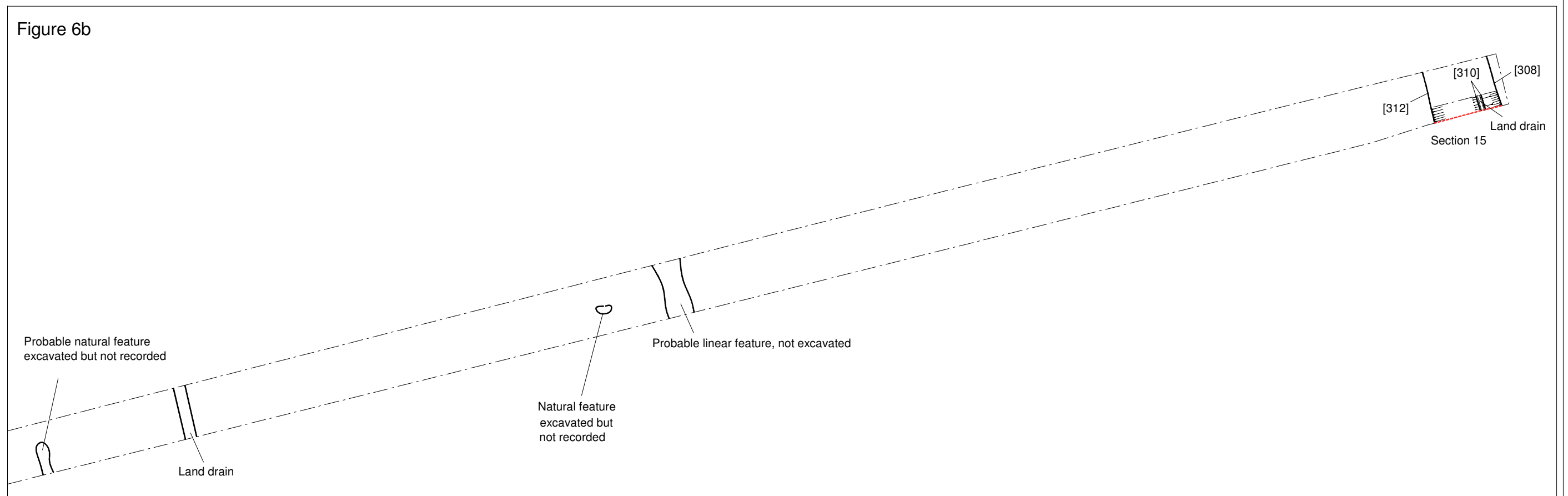


Figure 6b




	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: East Kirkby Sleaford Road EKSR09		
Scale 1:150	Drawn by: VM	Report No: 127/09

Figure 6 Plans of features in Trench 3

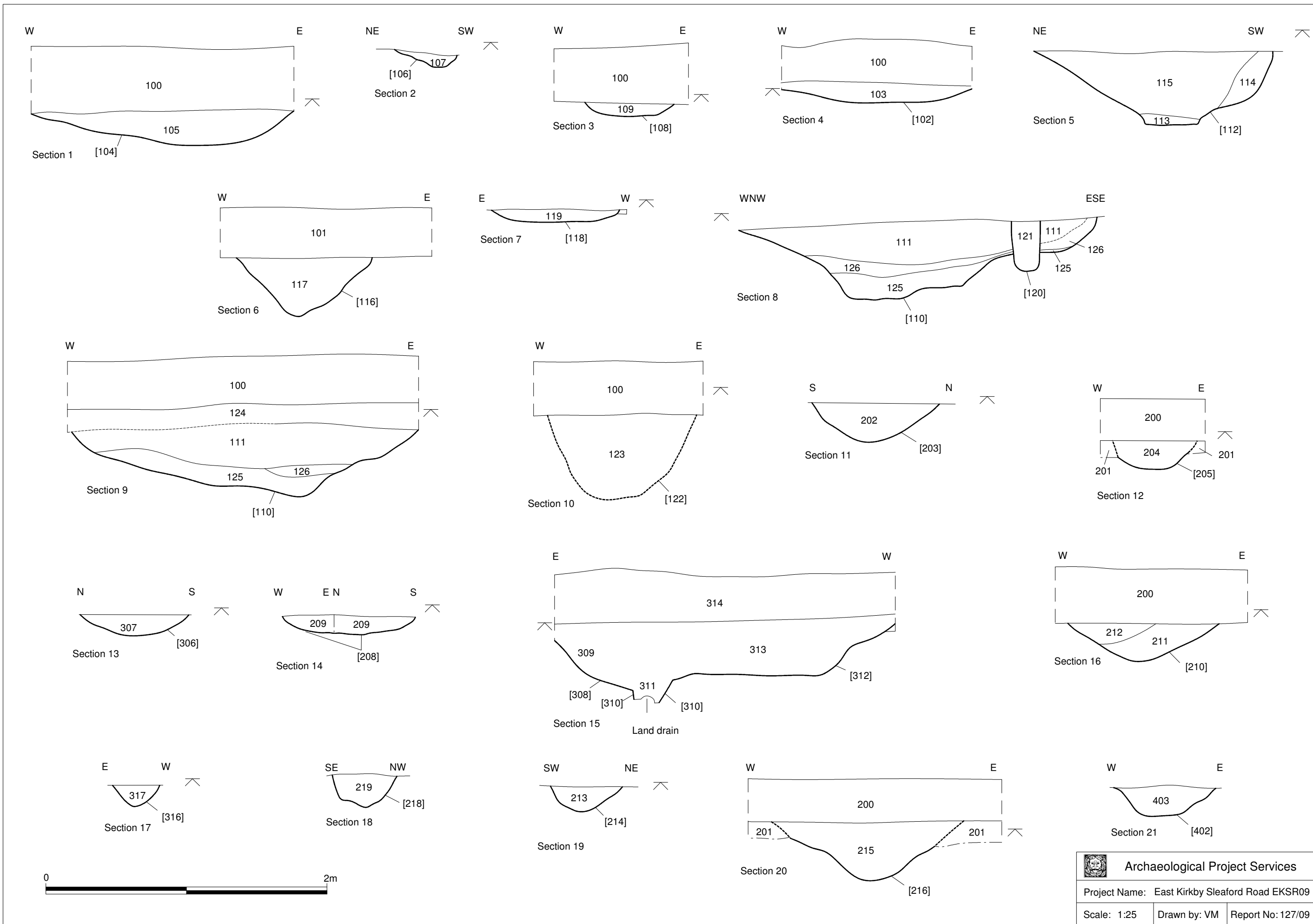


Figure 7 Sections



Plate 1 General view of site from northwest corner, showing Trench 1 during machining, looking east, southeast and south



Plate 2 General view of site from southwest corner, looking north, northeast and east



Plate 3 Post-excavation view of Trench 1, 3rd Century Roman ditch [112] in foreground, looking east



Plate 4 3rd Century Roman ditch [112], Section 5, looking southeast



Plate 5 Undated linear feature [104], possibly a plough furrow, Section 1, looking north



Plate 6 Undated post hole [106],
Section 2, looking east



Plate 7 2nd Century AD Roman
ditch [116], Section 6, looking
north



Plate 8 3rd Century AD Roman
ditch [110], truncated by
modern feature [120], Section 8,
looking southeast



Plate 9 Possible pit or natural variation [122], Section 10, looking north



Plate 10 Undated ditch [203], Section 11, looking west



Plate 11 Undated linear feature [205], probably a ditch but possibly a plough furrow, Section 12, looking north



Plate 12 Undated pit or ditch terminus [208], Section 14, looking east



Plate 13 Undated ditch [216], Section 20, looking north



Plate 14 Naturally-formed feature [217], possible tree throw, looking southeast



Plate 15 Undated ditch [210],
Section 16, looking north



Plate 16 Undated possible linear
terminus [218], Section 18,
looking southwest



Plate 17 Undated linear feature
[306], Section 13, looking east



Plate 18 Undated ditch
[308=?=312] and land drain
trench [310], Section 15,
looking southwest



Plate 19 Undated possible post
hole [316], Section 17, looking
south



Plate 20 Probably prehistoric
linear feature [402], Section 21,
looking north

Appendix 1

CONTEXT SUMMARY

Trench 1

Context	Description	Interpretation
100	Soft dark brown silty sand, 0.48m thick	Topsoil
101	Loose to firm mid yellowish to reddish-brown sand and gravel	Natural
102	Northnorthwest-southsoutheast aligned linear feature, 1.33m wide and 0.15m deep with steep to moderately steep sides and a flat base	Linear, possibly a plough furrow
103	Firm mid brown sand and gravel, 0.15m thick	Fill of linear [102]
104	Northnorthwest-southsoutheast aligned linear feature, 1.40m wide and 0.19m deep with flattish to gently concave base	Linear, possibly a plough furrow
105	Firm mid grey to slightly yellowish silty sand and gravel, 0.19m thick	Fill of linear [104]
106	Amorphous feature, 0.40m by 0.32m and 70mm deep with steepish sides and concave base	Possible post hole
107	Soft light to mid grey sandy silt with occasional pebbles, 70mm thick	Fill of possible post hole [104]
108	Northnorthwest-southsoutheast aligned linear feature, 0.50m wide and 50mm deep with flattish base	Linear, possibly a plough furrow
109	Firm mid grey to slightly yellowish silty sand and gravel, 50mm thick	Fill of linear [108]
110	Northnorthwest-southsoutheast aligned linear feature, 2.60m wide and 0.55m deep with steep sides at top, gently sloping sides below and moderately steep sides at east with a concave base	Ditch
111	Soft to firmish mid greyish-brown to brownish-grey with reddish yellow mottles silty sand and gravel, 0.31m thick	Fill of ditch [110]
112	Eastsoutheast-westnorthwest aligned linear feature, 1.70m wide and 0.55m deep with slightly concave side to southwest, slightly convex side to northeast and flat base	Ditch
113	Soft mid grey silty clay with occasional pebbles, 0.11m thick	Fill of ditch [112]
114	Loose mid brownish-yellow silty sand with occasional pebbles, 0.28m thick	Fill of ditch [112]
115	Loose mid brownish-grey clayey sandy silt with occasional pebbles, 0.44m thick	Fill of ditch [112]
116	Northnorthwest-southsoutheast aligned linear feature, 1.00m wide and 0.45m deep with moderately steep sides and sharply concave base	Ditch
117	Loose dark brown sandy silt with frequent pebbles, 0.45m thick	Fill of ditch [116]
118	Northnorthwest-southsoutheast aligned linear feature, 0.90m wide and 0.20m deep with moderately steep sides and flattish to gently concave base	Linear, possibly a plough furrow
119	Loose darkish brown sandy silt with frequent pebbles, 0.20m thick	Fill of linear [118]
120	Feature not fully evident in plan, 0.20m wide and 0.35m deep with near-vertical sides and concave base	Feature with appearance of post-hole in plan, but possibly a deeper portion of a land drain trench
121	Firm to loose mixed mid reddish- yellowish-brown to mid grey silty sand and gravel, 0.35m thick	Fill of feature [120]
122	Amorphous feature, 1.05m wide and 0.65m deep with steep sides and concave base	Possible pit or probable localised variation in natural
123	Loose mid brown sand with moderately frequent pebbles and occasional black flecks, 0.65m thick	Fill of [122]
124	Soft to firm mid to dark brown silty sand with frequent pebbles, 0.15m thick	Layer, possibly localised subsoil in hollow above feature [110]. Possibly a fill of [110]
125	Soft mid grey silty and clayey sand with frequent pebbles, 0.18m thick	Fill of ditch [110]
126	Loose to firm mid yellowish- reddish-brown sand and gravel with occasional mottles of grey silty clayey sand, 0.10m thick	Fill of ditch [110]

Trench 2

200	Soft dark brown silty sand, 0.48m thick	Topsoil
201	Loose to firm mid yellowish to reddish-brown sand and gravel	Natural

202	Softish mid to light grey with light rusty mottles clayey sand with frequent small pebbles, 0.27m thick	Fill of ditch [203]
203	Eastnortheast-west-southwest aligned linear feature, 0.92m wide and 0.27m deep with moderately steep sides and gently concave base	Ditch
204	Soft light yellowish-brown clayey sand with frequent small pebbles, 0.20m thick	Fill of [205]
205	Northnorthwest-southsoutheast aligned linear feature, 0.60m wide and 0.20m deep with gently sloping sides and gently concave base	Linear, probable ditch or possibly a plough furrow
208	Feature, extending beyond limit of excavation, >0.60m by 0.70m wide and 0.14m deep with moderately sloping sides and gently concave to flat base	Pit or ditch terminus
209	Firmish light yellowish-grey sandy silt with frequent pebbles, 0.14m thick	Fill of [208]
210	Northnorthwest-southsoutheast aligned linear feature, 1.10m wide and 0.28m deep with moderately steep sides and concave base	Ditch
211	Firmish light grey sandy silt with moderately frequent pebbles, 0.28m thick	Fill of ditch [210]
212	Firm light reddish-grey silty sand with frequent pebbles, 0.15m thick	Fill of ditch [211]
213	Soft light grey with light rusty mottles clayey sand with frequent pebbles, 0.18m thick	Fill of probable naturally-formed feature [214]
214	Irregular to sub-oval feature, 0.51m by 0.42m wide and 0.18m deep with moderately steep sides and concave base	Probable naturally-formed feature, possibly a small pit or post hole
215	Softish mid to light grey with mid to light rusty mottles clayey sand with frequent pebbles, 0.43m thick	Fill of ditch [216]
216	North-south aligned possibly curvi-linear feature, 1.35m wide and 0.43m deep with moderately steep sides and concave base	Ditch
217	Context number allocated to possibly feature interpreted after investigation as a natural anomaly. Possibly part of a tree throw.	
218	Northeast-southwest aligned linear feature, 0.46m wide and 0.24m deep with steep to concave sides and concave base	Possible linear terminus or naturally-formed feature
219	Firm light greyish-brown sandy silt with moderately frequent pebbles, 0.24m thick	Fill of [218]

Trench 3

306	East-west aligned linear feature, 0.78m wide and 0.15m deep with gently concave base	Ditch
307	Soft mid brown slightly silty sand with frequent pebbles, 0.15m thick	Fill of ditch [306]
308	Northnorthwest-southsoutheast aligned linear feature, over 0.55m wide and 0.48m deep with steep regular sides	Ditch, probably same as [312]
309	Soft dark greyish-brown silty sand with frequent pebbles, 0.48m thick	Fill of ditch [308]
310	Northnorthwest-southsoutheast aligned linear feature, over 0.57m deep and 0.30m wide with vertical to very steep sides	Land drain trench
311	Soft dark greyish-brown silty sand with frequent gravel, over 0.57m thick	Fill of land drain trench [310]
312	Northnorthwest-southsoutheast aligned linear feature, over 1.58m wide and 0.41m deep with moderately steep sides near top, steep sides near base and flattish base	Ditch, probably same as [308]
313	Soft dark greyish-brown silty sand with frequent pebbles, 0.41m thick	Fill of ditch [312]
314	Loose dark brown silty sand with frequent pebbles, 0.38m thick	Topsoil
315	Loose to firm mid yellowish- reddish-brown sand and gravel	Natural
316	Circular feature, 0.32m in diameter and 0.15m deep with steep, regular sides and concave base	Post hole
317	Soft mid slightly greenish- brown sand with frequent pebbles, 0.15m thick	Fill of post hole [316]

Trench 4

400	Loose dark brown sandy silt with frequent gravel, 0.30m thick	Topsoil
401	Soft to firm mid yellowish- reddish-brown sand and gravel	Natural
402	Northnorthwest-southsoutheast aligned linear feature, 0.72m wide and 0.22m deep with steepish sides and a flattish base	Linear feature, ditch or gully
403	Indurated - baked at top, softish beneath, mid to light grey silty sand with frequent gravel, 0.22m thick	Fill of linear [402]

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby and Barbara Precious

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by Darling (2004) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. The pottery was recorded using the codes developed by the City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit (Darling and Precious, forthcoming). A total of 14 sherds from 10 vessels, weighing 273 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 2 below. A single sherd of Site Specific Grey Ware Type 1 (GREY1) was removed for the South Lincolnshire Roman pottery type series held by the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire.

Condition

The condition of the assemblage is mixed but is generally fragmentary. The average sherd weight is relatively low at 17 grams, though the presence of three tiny sherds within the group weighing five grams or less, does very slightly distort this figure. A single sherd is abraded and two further sherds have leached fabric, both of these effects are probably due to soil conditions or post depositional wear. There is a single cross-context vessel; fragments from this occurring in contexts (113) and (115) (see Table 1 below). This vessel also has external sooting suggesting use over a hearth or fire.

Table 1, Cross-context vessels

Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Form	NoS	W (g)
113, 115	DWSH?	Dalesware Late Shell Tempered?	JDW?	2	28

Dating

A summary of dating listed by context is included in the table below (Table 2). Most of the material dates to the 3rd Century AD, though the single sherd from context (117) may date to as early as the second quarter of the 2nd Century AD.

Table 2, Date of the Pottery

Tr	Date Range (Latest Date within Context*)	Context (Fill)	Context (Cut)	Total NoS (all dates)	W (g)	Av. Sherd Weight (g)
1	3rd Century	(111)	[110]	4	94	23.5
1	Roman probably 3rd Century+	(113)	[112]	1	5	5
1	Early to Mid 3rd Century	(115)		8	171	21.4
1	AD 125+	(117)	[116]	1	3	3
Total				14	273	-

*Context may also include earlier residual material

Results

A summary of pottery types recovered from EKSRO9 is included in the table below (Table 3). The pottery is almost entirely coarse Grey Ware, though a single vessel in Nene Valley Grey Ware (Coarse Variant) and some of the finer vessels in the Grey Ware fabric GREY1 are fine enough to have perhaps been used as tableware. A tiny fragment from a 2nd Century Samian fineware vessel is also present within the assemblage.

Table 3, Summary of the Roman Pottery

Fabric Type	Cname	Full name	NoS	NoV	W (g)
Reduced	GREY1	Miscellaneous Grey Ware Type 1 (Site Specific)	9	6	193
Reduced	NVGWC	Nene Valley Coarse Grey Ware Variant	1	1	3
Samian	SAMCG	Central Gaulish Samian ware	1	1	1
Shell	DWSH/DWSH?	Late Shell Tempered ware	3	3 (2*)	36
Total			14	11 (10*)	233

* Excludes cross-context vessel

Provenance

All of the Roman pottery came from Trench 1. Material was retrieved from three ditch features within this trench, [110], [112] and [116].

Range

This group consists almost entirely of coarsewares, the most common being a miscellaneous Grey Ware type (GREY1). There are six vessels represented in this fabric representing just over half (60%) of all the vessels within the assemblage. GREY1 is a sandy fabric containing Greensand Quartz, carbonized organic voids, ferruginous grits and, possibly, milky quartz and rare flint inclusions. There are a range of forms in this fabric including Jars and at least one bowl. The material of the larger vessels has a higher Quartz content than that of the smaller, finer vessels suggesting that a fairly broad repertoire of products was being produced in this fabric. The bowl, a Low Bead and Flange Rimmed type, is a typologically early variant within the Bead and Flange Bowl tradition. This vessel is the only certain example of an open form within the assemblage. The production origin of GREY1 is unknown but it may have been produced locally.

The only other Grey Ware vessel within the group is in a relatively sandy, pale Nene Valley type fabric (NVGWC). This apparent variant is coarser than the typical lower Nene Valley Grey Wares common in southern Lincolnshire. NVGWC may have a production source further south in the Upper Nene Valley (Lindsey Rollo, Pers Comm.), or it may be a local Lincolnshire product. This vessel, a beaker with a Curved Rim is very similar in both fabric and form to one from Morton Saltern. That beaker is dated to the early to mid 2nd Century, post 125 AD (see Precious, 2001, 143, fig 41, 9). In addition to the grey ware vessels, there is at least one, probably two, examples of Late Shell-tempered, Dales Ware (DWSH) jars within the assemblage. Dales Ware is usually thought to be produced in the north of the county, near the Humber Estuary (Loughlin 1977, 102). A single tiny piece of Central Gaulish Samian is also present within the group, representing the only import from outside the region. There is no evidence of decoration on any of the vessels from this site and there are no sherds which could clearly be said to be the result of primary deposition.

Potential

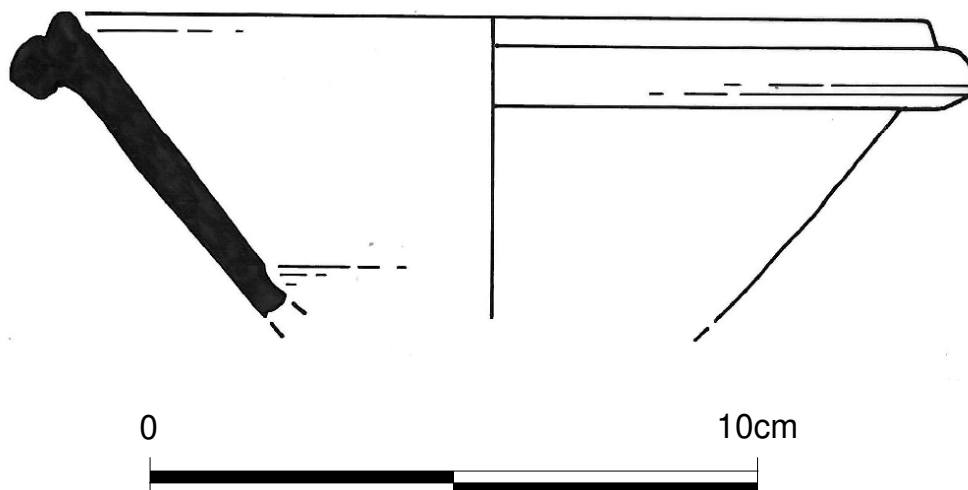
This assemblage poses no problems for long-term storage and should be retained. A single vessel has been selected for illustration as a typologically important example of a vessel in this fabric type. Detail of this is shown below in table 4.

Table 4, illustrated vessels

Draw	Trench	Cxt	Fabric	Cname	Form
01	1	115	GREY1	BFBL	Low Bead and Flange Rimmed Bowl

Drawing 01 (115)

Not to scale

**Summary**

A small group of Roman pottery was recovered during the excavation. Most of this material dates to around the 3rd Century AD. Two small pieces dating to the 2nd Century were also recovered. The bulk of the material can be classed as cooking, or 'oven to table' wares and was recovered from linear ditch features. The general lack of Finewares is fairly typical of rural or semi-rural sites of this period, although the presence of Samian Ware and the very small size of this assemblage make it impossible to make any general assumptions about the nature of the settlement or the type of activity here in antiquity.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

The material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the ACBMG (2001) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. A total of 3 fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 150 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed before being counted and weighed. 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 5 below.

Condition

The fragments of ceramic building material are in fragmentary but relatively fresh condition.

Results

Table 5, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Fabric	NoF	W (g)	Description	Date
121	MODDRAIN	Modern Ceramic Drain	Dull oxid; medium sandy; calcareous grits, fine mica	3	150	Modern ceramic pipe drain; 12mm thick; low fired	18th- 20th

Provenance

The material was recovered from probable linear drain cut [120], within Trench 1.

Range

There are three joining pieces from a section of ceramic pipe drain.

Potential

The material should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long-term storage.

Summary

A three pieces of ceramic pipe drain were recovered from probable drain cut [121].

FAUNAL REMAINS

By Paul Cope-Faulkner

Introduction

A total of 11 (23g) fragments of animal bone were recovered from stratified contexts.

Provenance

The material was retrieved from 111 and 125, fills of ditch [110] and 115 fill of ditch [112].

Condition

The overall condition of the remains was poor.

Results

Table 6, Fragments Identified to Taxa

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Number	W (g)	Comments
111	medium mammal	unknown	8	10	chalky
115	unidentified	unknown	1	4	chalky
125	cattle	skull	2	9	

Summary

The assemblage is too small and in a poor state of preservation to invite further comment. The bone should be retained as part of the site archive.

WORKED FLINT

By Tom Lane

Introduction

Two flint flakes were collected, one of which had not been worked and has been discarded.

Condition

The unworked example is very heavily abraded. The example from context 403 is less abraded. It requires no further conservation.

Results

Table 7, Worked Flint Archive

Cxt	Description	No	Wt (g)	Date
123	Unworked heavily abraded Natural Flake (Discarded)	1	16	Natural
403	Waste Flake. Much cortex surviving. 28 x 26 x 10mm	1	6	Undated

Potential

The discovery of a single flint flake adds little to the overall picture of prehistory in the region. There is little potential for further study.

Summary

Two flint flakes, one of which was natural and discarded, were the only flints retrieved from the site. The waste flake

was undated but probably from the later part of the prehistoric period.

OTHER FINDS

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

A single 'other find' weighing 1192g was recovered.

Condition

The stone is in good condition.

Results

Table 8, Other Materials

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
123	Stone	Water-worn cobble with some areas of greater wear, possible hone	1	1192	

Provenance

The stone was recovered from 123, fill of possible pit or probable variation in natural [122].

Range

A single stone object was recovered. This may be an entirely natural water-worn cobble. However, there are a couple of areas, in concavities in the stone surface, that seem to exhibit greater wear and it is possible that the stone was used as an ad hoc hone.

Potential

As an isolated item that has not certainly been used or modified by human action, the stone is of limited potential.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 9 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 9, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
111	3rd Century	
113	Roman probably 3rd Century+	
115	Early to Mid 3rd Century	
117	AD 125+	
121	18th- 20th Century	

ABBREVIATIONS

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
BS	Body sherd
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
LHJ	Lower Handle Join
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
PCRG	Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group
TR	Trench
UHJ	Upper Handle Join
W (g)	Weight (grams)

REFERENCES

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ARCHIVE CATALOGUES*Archive catalogue 1, Roman Pottery*

Cxt	Fabric	Form	Dec	Alter	Draw	Comments	Join	NoS	NoV	W (g)
111	GREY1	CLSD				BSS		2	2	42
111	GREY1	JS?				RIM; ROLLED, DIAM 29; CF BWM		1	1	51
111	SAMCG					FLAKE; 2C		1	1	1
111	ZDATE					3C				
111	ZZZ					MIX				
113	DWSH?	JDW?	HM	SOOT EX; LEACH		BS; PROB DWSH	115	1	1	5
113	ZDATE					RO; PROB 3-4C				
115	DWSH	JDW				RIM; POSS SAME AS SHEL?		1	1	8
115	GREY1	J				BSS; FS		4	1	67
115	GREY1	JBL		ABR		BASE		1	1	28
115	GREY1	BFBL			1	RIM TO L WALL		1	1	45
115	DWSH?	JDW?	HM	SOOT EX; LEACH		BSS; PROB DWSH	113	1	1	23
115	ZDATE					E-M3C				
115	ZZZ					HOMO				
117	NVGWC	BKCR				RIM; CF MORTON SALTERN		1	1	3
117	ZDATE					125C+				
Total								14	11 (10*)	233

Appendix 3

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 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.
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.
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.
Ridge and Furrow	The remains of arable cultivation consisting of raised rounded strips separated by furrows. It is characteristic of open field agriculture.
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 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

4	Daily record sheets
2	Photographic register sheet
1	Plan register sheet
1	Section register sheet
5	Context register sheets
61	Context record sheets
31	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Bag 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: 2009.91

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: EKSR09

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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