Archaeological Evaluation report:

William Street Business Park, William Street, Saxilby, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, LN1 2lP

NGR: SK 89493 75262

Planning Authority: West Lindsey District Council

PCAS Job No.: 1158

PCAS Site Code: SWSE 14

Accession no.: 2014.3

Prepared by

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For

Planning Prospects Ltd.,

On behalf of Birch Property Company Ltd.

July 2014

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Non-technical summary

Outline Planning Permission has been granted for a mixed residential development at William Street Business Park, William Street, Saxilby, Lincolnshire. An archaeological condition placed on the permission stipulated the need for programme of archaeological work, to protect any items of archaeological interest. Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. were commissioned by Pride Homes Ltd. to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation, involving the excavation of 7 No. 2m x 10m trial trenches. This report details the findings of this scheme of work.

The site had unknown archaeological potential. It is located on the southern edge of Saxilby village, close to the Fossdyke Navigation Canal, which has Roman origins and has been utilised as a waterway ever since. It is also lies within the medieval settlement of Saxilby.

All trenches were found to be archaeologically negative.

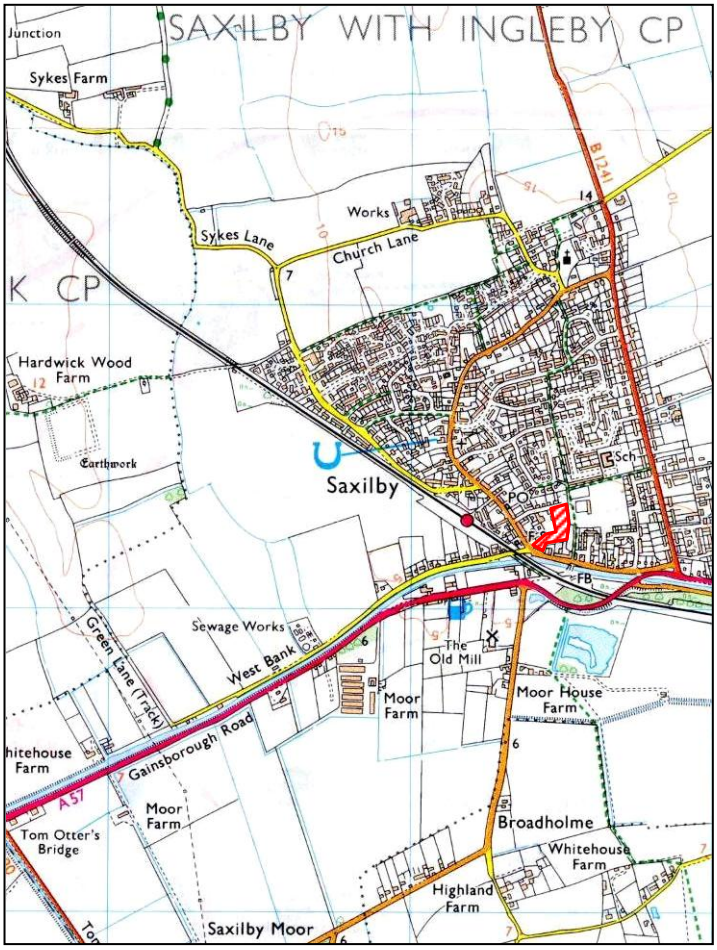

Figure 1: Site location map at scale 1:25,000. Site location is shown in red. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278.

1.0 Introduction

Outline Planning Permission was granted for a mixed residential development at William Street Business Park, William Street, Saxilby, Lincs. An archaeological condition placed on the permission stipulated the need for a programme of archaeological work; to protect any deposits of archaeological interest, either *in situ* or by record. Therefore, archaeological evaluation was requested by the planning archaeologist for West Lindsey District Council, to determine the archaeological potential of the site and inform the need for any further archaeological mitigation.

2.0 Location and description (figs. 1)

Saxilby is a large village within the administrative district of West Lindsey, located approximately 12km northwest of Lincoln (**Fig. 1**). Along with the nearby village of Ingleby, Saxilby forms part of the Civil Parish of Saxilby and Ingleby and is located close to the villages and hamlets of Broadholme, Burton, Broxholme, and Hardwick. Saxilby is situated to the north of the A57 and the Fossdyke Navigation canal.

The development site is located at the southern edge of Saxilby village, on land between William Street and Bridge Street, formerly known as the William Street Business Park. Bridge Street, at the southern end of the site, runs alongside the Fossdyke Canal. The site is bordered to the west by the residential development of Poachers Court; to the north by William Street; to the south by the Bridge Street thoroughfare; and to the east by the rear garden and car park of the former Ship Inn Public House, with a large recreation ground, car park and public library slightly further north (Planning Prospects Ltd. 2010). The central NGR is SK 89493 75262.

3.0 Geology and topography

The site is generally flat but with a slight fall towards Bridge Street to the south. It has a mean elevation of between 5m and 10m AOD.

The underlying geology is the Scunthorpe Mudstone Formation, which comprises of interbedded mudstone and limestone. This is sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 190 to 204 million years ago in the Jurassic and Triassic periods and indicates a local environment previously dominated by shallow lime-mud seas. No superficial deposits are recorded (http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html).

2.0 Planning background

On 18 October 2011, Outline Planning Permission was granted by West Lindsey District Council for a '*mixed residential- Use Class C3 – up to 33no. dwellings and office – Use Class B1a – up to 480 sq m, open space, access, parking and landscaping*' at William Street Business Park, William Street, Saxilby (Application No.: 126448). The information presented in this report will inform an archaeological mitigation strategy, if required.

3.0 Archaeological and historical background

A search of the Lincolnshire Historical Environment Record (**LHER**) shows that there are 27 records within a 1km radius of the development site, ranging from Prehistoric find spots, through to modern industrial developments.

Prehistoric (c.500000 BC – 43 AD)

Sporadic Prehistoric evidence has been noted within a 1km radius of the site. These include several find-spots and potential cropmarks.

The find spots comprise of three Neolithic stone axes (**LHER No. 52781**, **52820** and **52766**), and the cropmarks include a potential Bronze Age barrow (**LHER No. 52818**) and a possible prehistoric and/or Romano-British enclosure (**LHER No. 55440**).

Roman (43 AD – 409 AD)

The development lies 'in the vicinity of the Fosse Dyke (**LHER No. 52273**), which probably came into being in the Roman period and has been utilised ever since. As such, there was the potential that the development of the area would impact archaeological deposits of this date. The Fosse Dyke is generally accepted as being an artificial canal of Roman construction, although there is some speculation as regards its Roman origins.

An assemblage of 2nd – 4th century Roman pottery and coins evidences a Roman presence in the area (**LHER No. 52767**). These were discovered during construction works on Mill Lane during the 1950s.

Medieval (1066 AD – 1539 AD)

Medieval Saxilby (**LHER No. 52790**) features in documentary sources as being a relatively large settlement. It seems to have had a poly-focal form, which can be seen in an estate map dated to 1648. This map indicates that there were three distinct settlement groups; one centred on St Botolph's church (Dated to the 13th – 15th century; **LHER No. 51474**); a row of properties along the northern bank of the Fosse Dyke; and finally a group of properties along the High Street that leads to a triangular market area at the junction with Sykes Lane.

Post-Medieval (1540 – 1900)

The majority of the HER records for Saxilby are Post-Medieval, with 14 covering this period. These include various buildings located within the village, such as numerous Methodist Chapels (**LHER No. 55125**, **55122** and **55124**), the railway station (**LHER No. 55798**), and a 16th century Manor house (**LHER No. 56086**).

Modern (1900 – Present)

Historic maps of the area show that the site comprised undeveloped open agricultural land as late as 1886 (MCE 2004). Development began on site by 1956, in the form of a long narrow building and three, smaller rectangular buildings; expanded upon during the 1970s, as OS maps indicate the development of an Engineering Works, possibly incorporating the earlier long building. A large building is shown on the northern part of the site and another to the south; as well as two above-ground tanks and a pumping station in the south-western corner. By 2000, the main Engineering Works building had been demolished and rebuilt or much reduced in size (MCE 2004, 8).

4.0 Aims and methodology

Although the scheme was to involve the excavation of 10 trenches, it was decided that the evaluation would consist of 7, each measuring (approx.) 10m x 2m. The trenches were positioned in order to give the broadest possible coverage of the site within areas where groundworks were proposed (fig. 2).

The results of the evaluation will inform the potential impact of the development on any significant archaeological deposits. It will likewise inform the planning application that is

currently under consideration, allowing for a programme of archaeological mitigation to be included, should this be necessary.

The broad aims of the evaluation were:

- To determine the presence/absence, nature, date, depth, quality of survival, importance, extent, form and function of any archaeological features on the site in advance of proposed development;
- To recover stratified dating evidence;
- To establish the sequence of archaeological remains on the site;
- To interpret the archaeology in the context of known archaeological remains in the vicinity.

A methodology for the scheme was fully set out in a WSI prior to excavation.

5.0 Results

A full descriptive context summary list appears as Appendix 2, and selected photographs can be seen in Appendix 1. For trench locations, see Figure 2.

Following consultation with the WLDC planning archaeologist it was decided that 7, rather than 10, trenches would be excavated; summarised below.

Trench 1

Trench 1 (10m x 2m, 0.7m deep) was orientated approximately N - S and was devoid of significant archaeological deposits. The exposed sequence comprised of modern hardcore (100), a compacted made ground (101), a subsoil (102) and an underlying natural substrate (103).

Trench 2

Trench 2 (10m x 2m and 0.5 deep) was orientated approximately E – W and was archaeologically sterile. It did expose a palaeochannel of natural origin.

The exposed sequence comprised of modern hardcore (200), a compacted subsoil (201) and the natural substrate (204). The palaeochannel, [203], was sealed by the subsoil and contained an homogenous clay fill, (202).

Trench 3

Trench 3 (10m x 2m and 1m deep) was orientated approximately N – S and was archaeologically sterile.

The exposed sequence comprised of modern hardcore (300), a thick layer of made ground (301) - possibly a buried soil, and the natural substrate (302).

Trench 4

Trench 4 (10m x 2m and 0.5m deep) was orientated approximately N – S. This also was archaeologically sterile.

The exposed sequence comprised of modern hardcore (400) overlying the natural substrate (401).

Trench 5

Trench 5 (10m x 2m and 1.25m deep) was orientated approximately E – W and was archaeologically sterile.

The exposed sequence comprised of modern hardcore (500), a demolition layer containing modern waste (501), and two layers of possible buried soil, (502) and (503), that contained modern CBM. These overlay the natural substrate (504).

Trench 6

Trench 6 (10m x 2m and 0.46m deep) was orientated approximately E – W and was archaeologically sterile.

The exposed stratigraphic sequence comprised of modern hardcore (600), overlying a deposit (603) containing large amounts of charcoal, other burnt material and modern CBM. Beneath this a layer of orange sand (601) covered the natural substrate (602).

Trench 7

Trench 7 (10m x 2m and 0.6m deep) was orientated approximately N – S and was typically archaeologically sterile.

The exposed sequence comprised of modern hardcore (700), a layer of clay (701), which incorporated modern waste, and the natural substrate (702).

6.0 Discussion and conclusion

No significant archaeology was recorded in any of the trenches investigated.

The results indicate that the development of the area would have no impact upon any significant archaeological remains.

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered from the site.

7.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology employed during this project achieved its primary objective, ensuring that the proposed development area was fully evaluated to advise the proposed development.

8.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. would like to thank Pride Homes Ltd. for this commission.

11.0 References

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Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record consulted 4-07-2014 at
http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway

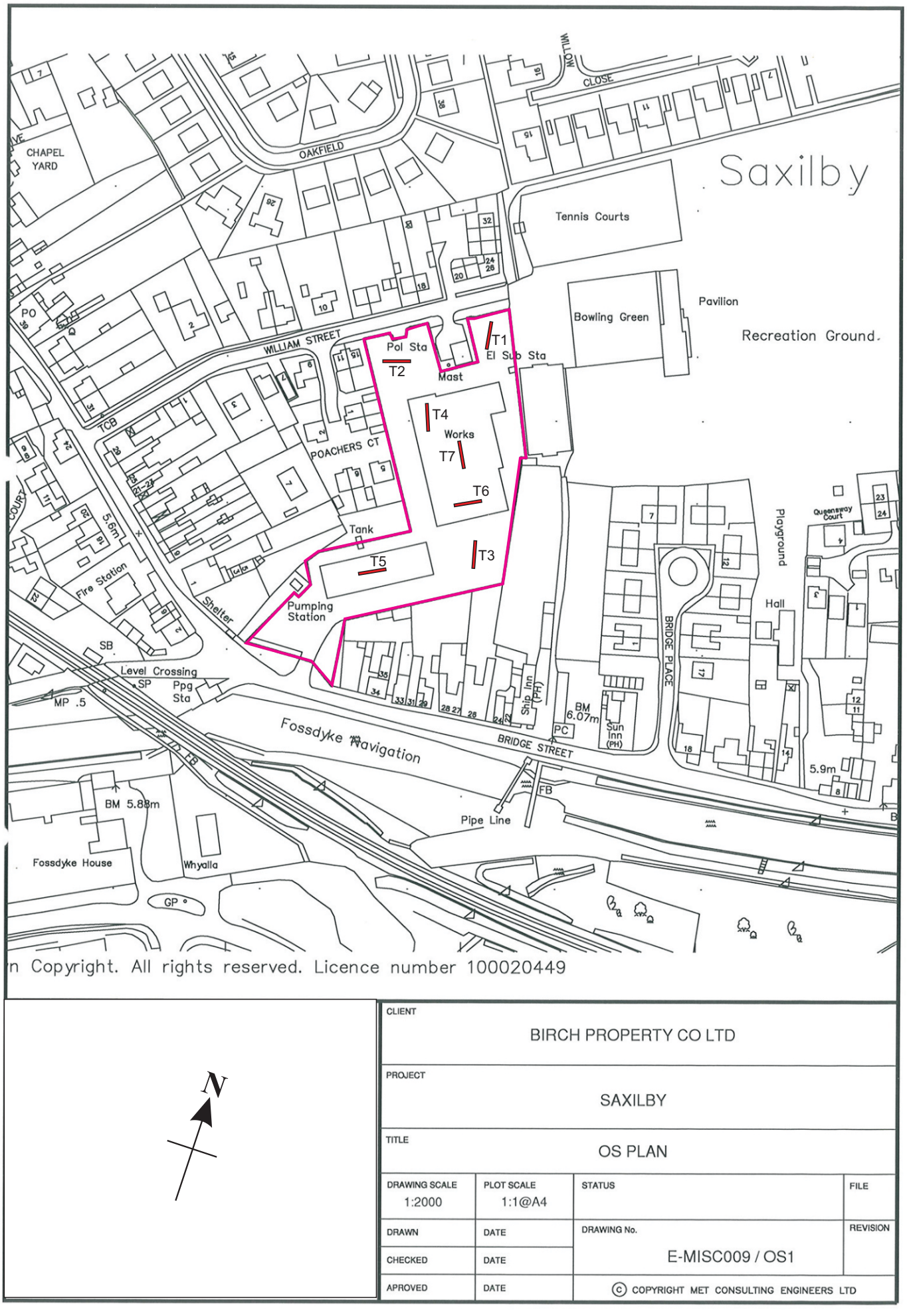

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Fig. 2. Detailed site location plan showing the proposed locations of the 7 trenches (scale c. 1:2000)

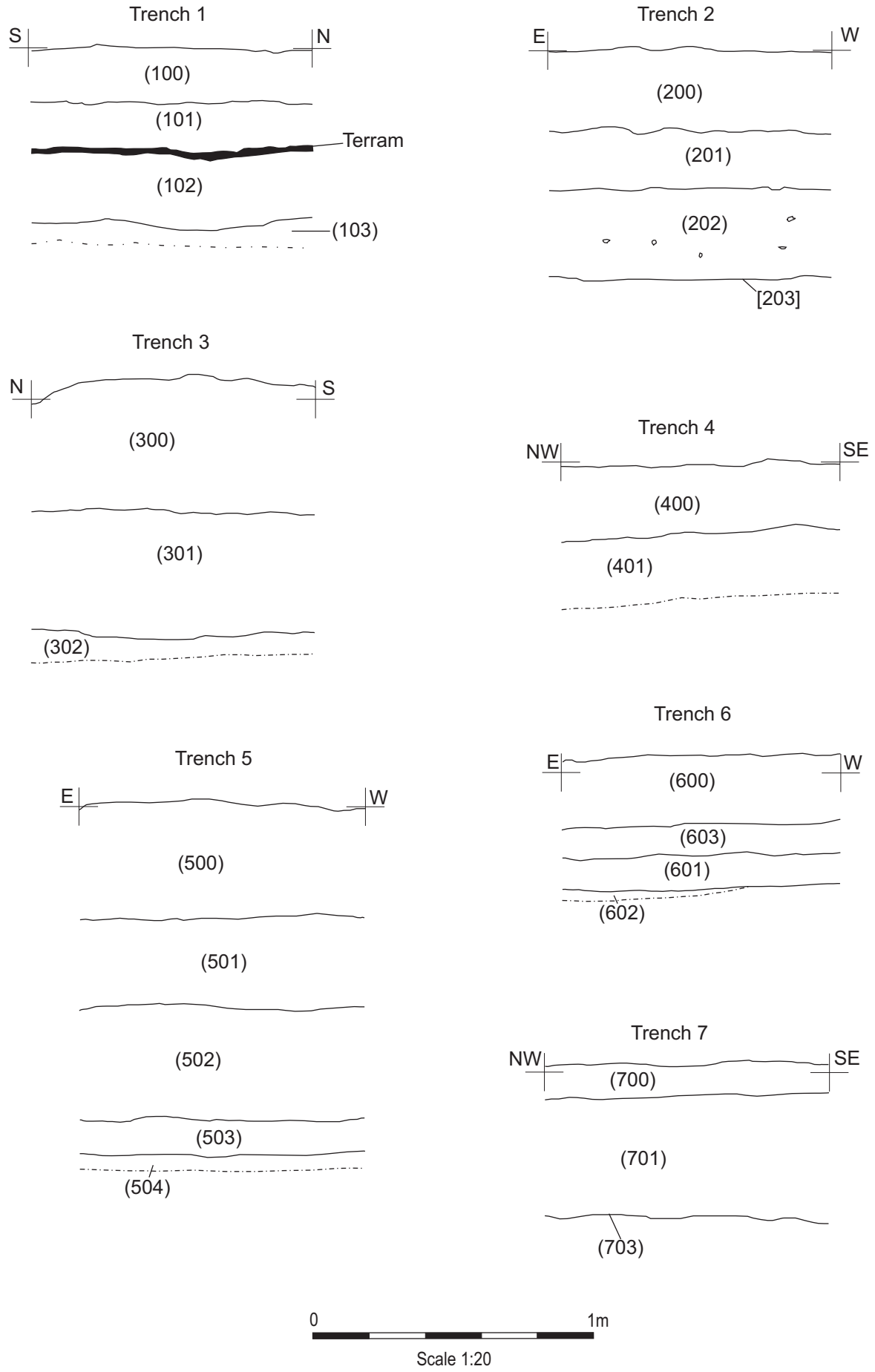

Figure 3: Representative sections of Trenches 1 - 7. Scale 1:20

Appendix 1 – Colour Plates

Plates 1 (left; looking S) and 2 (above; looking E): pre-excavation views, N end of site.

Plate 3: Trench 1(left) post-excavation (looking N).

Plate 4: Trench 2 (right) post-excavation (looking E).

Plate 5: Trench 2 representative section and natural feature [203] (looking S).

Plate 6: Trench 3 post-excavation (looking N).

Plate 7: Trench 4 post-excavation (looking NW).

Plate 8: Trench 5 post-excavation (looking E).

Plate 9: Trench 6 post-excavation (looking W).

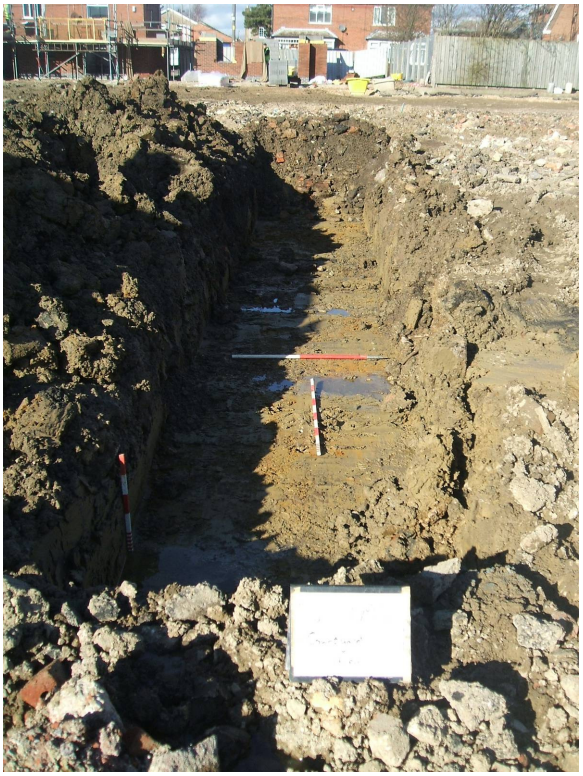

Plate 10: Trench 7 post-excavation (looking NW).

Appendix 2 – Context Summary

Context	Type	Description	Finds
Trench 1			
100	Layer	Modern hardcore. 0.2m thick.	
101	Layer	Made ground. Compacted dark grey brown sandy silt. Contains some stones. 0.17m thick.	
102	Layer	Possible subsoil. Dirty yellow to mid brown silty clay. Very stiff. 0.24m thick	
103	Layer	Mid yellow brown clay. Natural.	
Trench 2			
200	Layer	Same as (100). 0,3m thick.	
201	Layer	Same as (102). 0.2m thick.	
202	Fill	Of [203]. Mid yellow brown silty clay. Very compact. Contained fossils. Natural. 0.3m deep.	
203	Cut	Of palaeochannel. Orientated SW – NE across length of trench 2. Shallow sloping sides. 6m long, 4m wide and 0.3m deep.	
204	Layer	Natural. Mid orange brown clay.	
Trench 3			
300	Layer	Same as (100). 0.48m thick.	
301	Layer	Buried soil. Mid green grey silt. Firm but friable. 0.4m thick.	
302	Layer	Natural. A light greenish grey clay. Very firm.	
Trench 4			
400	Layer	Same as (100). 0.3m thick.	
401	Layer	Natural. Same as (302).	
Trench 5			
500	Layer	Same as (100). 0.42m thick.	
501	Layer	Black sandy silt. Very loose. Contains frequent modern waste material. Probable demolition layer. 0.45m thick.	
502	Layer	Made ground. Mid to dark grey silty clay. Very compact. Contains modern CBM. 0.32m thick.	
503	Layer	Made ground. Dark grey silty clay. Compact and firm. 0.12m thick.	
504	Layer	Natural. Same as (302).	
Trench 6			
600	Layer	Same as (100). 0.3m thick.	
601	Layer	Orange sand that overlies the natural substrate. Possibly natural as well. Very coarse. 0.12m thick.	
602	Layer	Natural. A dark grey clay. Very firm.	
603	Layer	Waste deposit located between (600) and (601). Black silt, very loose and contains lots of charcoal. 0.1m thick.	
Trench 7			
700	Layer	Same as (100). 0.1m thick.	
701	Layer	Mid grey clay. Firm and very compact. Contains some modern CBM. 0.4m thick.	
702	Layer	Natural. Light yellow grey clay. Very firm and compact.	

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OASIS ID - preconst3-184293

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