

**LAND OFF CHURCH LANE, ULCEBY, NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

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by

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### Colour Plates

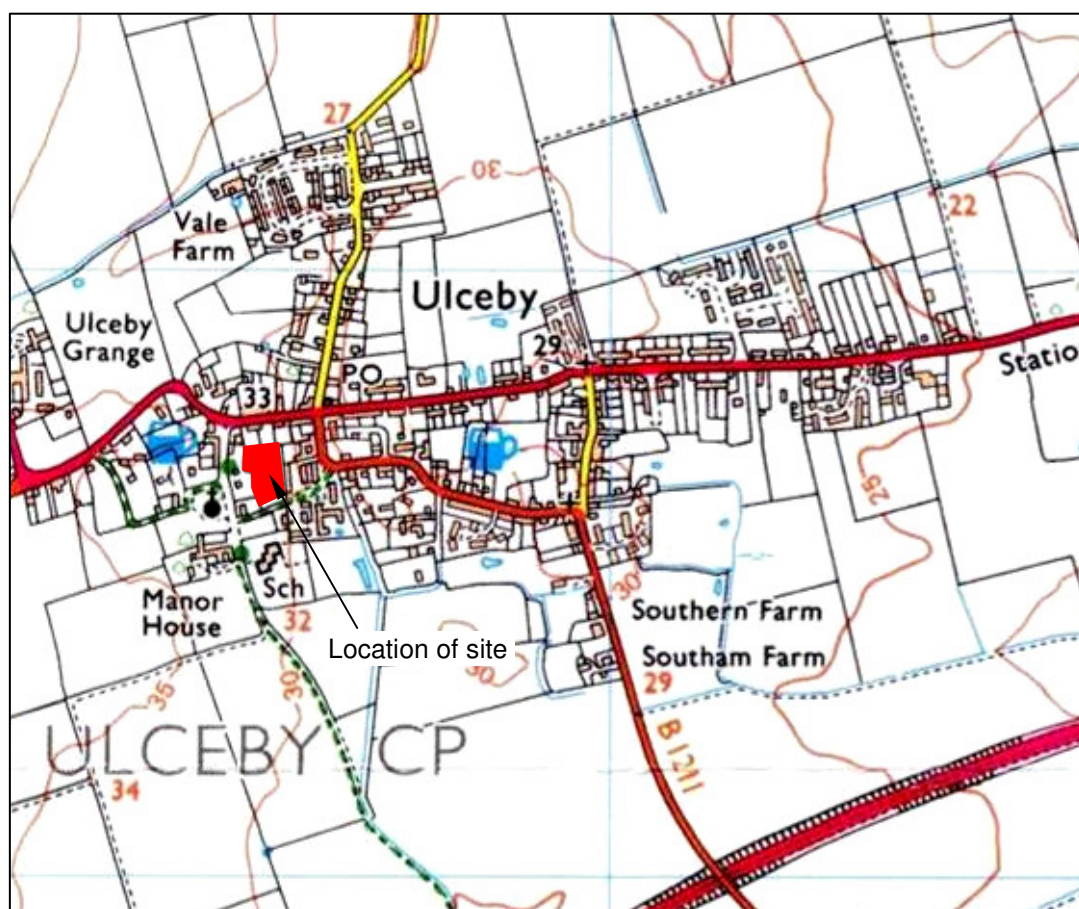
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## Summary

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) was commissioned by Rollinson Planning Consultancy Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land to the east of Church Lane, Ulceby, in North Lincolnshire (NGR: TA 1044 1467).

A low density of Roman occupation is known from the surrounding area, probably peripheral to the Iron Age hill fort and later Roman settlement on Yarborough Hill. The origins of the present settlement of Ulceby are believed to be late Saxon, but prior to this evaluation, there was little evidence for the pre-Domesday settlement. Later medieval Ulceby, a large agricultural village, is evinced by the earthworks of tofts and crofts around the modern village, and ridge-and-furrow further out.

The evaluation encountered portions of a complex of ditches, probably representing enclosures, dating from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the mid-11<sup>th</sup> centuries, with a small amount of dating evidence potentially as early as the mid-9<sup>th</sup> century; the ceramic assemblage included three previously unrecorded fabric types. A few small features of stratigraphically earlier date, and a small amount of redeposited Romano-British pottery, may indicate that the site was also occupied in the Roman period.



**Figure 1:** Location plan of the site at scale 1:12,500. The position of the proposed development site is shown in red. (OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278.)

## 1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) undertook an archaeological evaluation on land to the east of Church Lane, Ulceby, North Lincolnshire. This work was undertaken between the 22/7/14 and 1/8/14, and the results presented here are intended to inform and advise the planning process with regards to the application for a residential development.

The programme of archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with an approved Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation (PCAS 2013), and follows current best practice and appropriate national guidance including:

- NPPF, National Planning Policy Framework, 2012;
- IFA Code of Conduct (2008 as revised);
- IFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (2008);
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE v1.1, 2009, English Heritage)

This document is the final report for this project, incorporating the specialist assessment of the finds and environmental samples, and supersedes the previously produced interim report.

## 2.0 Location and Description (figs. 1 and 2)

The site is located c. 7.5km west of Immingham and c. 11km south-east of Barton upon Humber, in the county of North Lincolnshire. It is situated towards the west end of the modern village of Ulceby, within its historic core. It lies on the south side of the A 1077 High Street; east of Church Lane and west of Front Street and Hallcroft, centred on NGR TA 1044 1467.

It occupies an approximately rectangular-shaped piece of land, covering c. 1.3 acres and is now predominantly overgrown with a few large trees flanking a former field boundary with crosses the site from east to west and is survives as a slight linear hollow in the ground. A similar hollow is also apparent extending to the south in the southern part of the site.

The site lies within a predominantly wider agricultural landscape that surrounds the modern village. It is flanked by rear gardens of mostly 20<sup>th</sup> century residential properties to the east and west, with slightly older properties to the north. The south of the site is defined by a metalled footpath, with the derelict site of the former Health Centre beyond. The medieval parish church of St. Nicholas is situated c. 60m to the southwest. Ulceby village has no designated Conservation Area (NLC, 2014).

## 3.0 Topography and Geology

The site is located within the undulating landscape of the northeast edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds. The site occupies a low rise which is discernibly higher than the surrounding gardens, within an area where the ground rises slightly towards the north between the 30m and 35m OD contours.

The underlying solid geology is mapped as Burnham Chalk Formation of the Cretaceous Period. Drift geology is recorded as Devensian – Diamicton Till, consisting of outwash sand

and gravel deposits from seasonal and post glacial meltwaters. To the east of the site, lying along Front Street and Hallcroft, a narrow finger of alluvium deposited by a former river channel is recorded (BGS 2006).

#### **4.0 Planning Background**

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) came into force in March 2012. This places the responsibility for dealing with heritage assets affected by development proposals with the developer. Developers are required to 'record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible' (NPPF, s141). Developers are obligated to produce a definitive method of archaeological mitigation to fulfil this requirement.

An extract of Section 128 of NPPF reads:

*128. In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected ... Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.*

An application for the construction of 18 new mixed type dwellings with associated landscaping was submitted to North Lincolnshire Council in 2012 (Planning ref: PA/2012/1028). The proposal was denied while the archaeological potential of the site was assessed and considered, and the Historic Environment Record Officer for North Lincolnshire Council advised a desk-based assessment of the site to inform any archaeological investigations and considered a scheme of evaluation trenching in order to assess the potential and survival of any below ground archaeological remains was necessary to fulfil Section 128 of NPPF, and advise the planning decision.

#### **5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background**

A detailed archaeological and historical background has previously been compiled for this project as part of the Heritage Impact Assessment prepared to inform the planning decision (Lane 2014). A summary of this document follows:

Only a single known prehistoric monument is listed in North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (NLHER) within Ulceby. This is the approximate route of the prehistoric precursor to modern Barton Street, which ran from the south bank of the Humber at Barton towards a crossing of the River Eau at Alford (NLHER ref: 15492). The projected route of this trackway is less than 100m from the north-east corner of the site; however, no evidence of it has been revealed during archaeological investigations on Front Street.

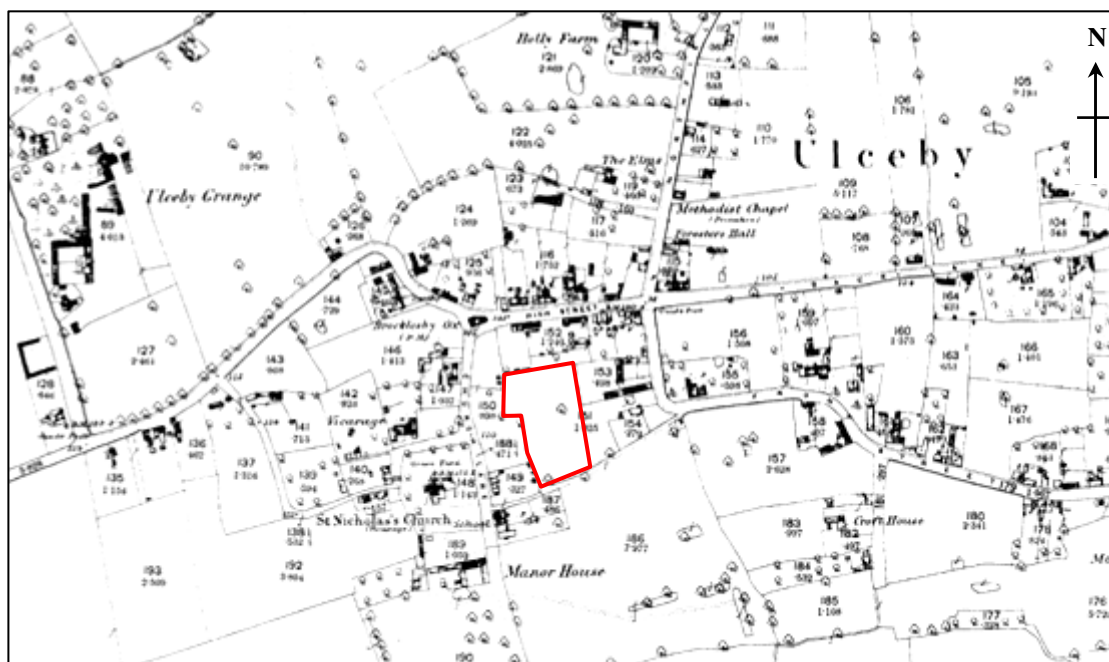
A dispersed scatter of flint artefacts have been recovered from the wider surrounding area, and there are records of three possible Bronze Age round barrows within 1km, the closest lying c. 550m south-southwest of the site (PastScape ID: 10535).

A complex of late Iron Age - Roman earthworks have been identified to the east, close to Ulceby station, and unstratified Roman pottery has been recovered from Ulceby brickyard and Coronation Road, both within c. 500m of the site (NLHER refs: 2280, 4632). This low density occupation is likely to have been peripheral to the Iron Age hillfort at Yarborough Hill, which latterly developed into a large Roman settlement (NLHER ref: 743; List entry no.:

1016427). Excavations at Kirmington have identified settlement activity spanning the Iron Age, Roman and Saxon periods (NLHER ref: 2268).

Settlement in Ulceby is believed to have originated as an isolated farmstead in the late Saxon period, although evidence of this is limited to the stone cross in St. Nicholas' churchyard which is thought to be 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> century in date, and may have originated in the church recorded in Domesday Book (NLHER ref: 8387). St. Nicholas' church itself dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> century (List entry ID: 1227927). Ulceby appears repeatedly in medieval documents, a large agricultural village, the extent of which can be estimated through the toft and croft earthworks of medieval dwellings, and the ridge and furrow earthworks of farming in the surrounding area. One such complex of these features can be seen less than 150m southeast of the development site, at the end of Church Lane (NLHER ref: 2283).

Occupation based on a primarily agricultural economy continued throughout the medieval period. Apart from the church the only Listed Buildings in Ulceby date from the later post-medieval period, including Ashtree House on the corner of Front Street (List entry ID: 1103717). The village contracted in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, with occupation in the core of the village becoming denser; however, the proposed development site remained unoccupied. Historic OS mapping indicates that it was agricultural land in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (fig. 2).



**Figure 2:** Extract from the 1887 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25" to the mile Ordnance Survey map of Ulceby, reproduced at approximately 1:12,500. The site, outlined in red, appears to be agricultural land.

## 6.0 Methodology

The adopted methodology followed the scheme set out within the Specification (PCAS, 2013). Four trenches, measuring 1.6m x 15m were positioned approximately as indicated by the Specification, allowing for the very dense vegetation around the edge of the site, and subsequently accurately located by GPS (fig. 3).

The trenches were opened using a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth ditching bucket. All machining was carried out under constant supervision.

The trenches were then hand-cleaned, and all features and deposits were investigated and recorded. Context sheets were completed for each feature/deposit, and multi-context drawings were produced in both plan and section. Colour slide and digital photographs were taken to complement these accounts.

The evaluation was carried out by Michael Rowe between the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July and the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, 2014. Weather conditions were generally hot, bright and dry.

## **7.0 Results (figs. 3-7)**

A total of fifteen archaeological features were identified within the four evaluation trenches. These consisted of features cut into the top of the natural substrate and were characterised by fills that were almost universally homogeneous brown silts, visually very similar to the subsoil and glacial till deposits. Datable finds were not numerous but present in low numbers across the site; animal bone was notably sparse and mostly highly degraded, and environmental samples produced either low levels of charred organic material or none at all. The site contains a relatively high density of diffuse but still legible archaeological features, the majority of which can be ascribed to the Saxo-Norman period, dated by pottery assemblages featuring three previously unrecorded fabric types.

### **7.1 Trench 1 (fig. 4)**

*Trench 1 was located towards the north-west corner of the site. A single ditch was identified, which had probably been truncated from above; dating evidence was slight and ambiguous.*

The natural geology, consisting of yellow/orange-brown clay with flint pebbles and cobbles (103), was encountered c. 0.4m below the existing ground surface. A test sondage was excavated to a depth of c. 0.6m below the surface of the natural substrate to confirm that the raised ground in this area was not an artificial platform. No evidence of re-deposition was observed in the sondage. The presence of archaeology across the site would also confirm that the raised nature of the site is entirely natural (see also Trenches 2 and 4 below).

Cut into the surface of the clay, broad, shallow linear feature **104**, aligned roughly east to west, was identified near to the middle of the trench. This possible shallow ditch was c. 1.2m wide but only c. 0.1m deep (plate 2). Its shallow depth, in contrast to its width, suggests that some truncation of archaeological levels may have occurred in this area. A sherd of Romano-British grey ware and a sherd of late 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>-century Lincoln Shelly Ware were recovered from ditch fill 105: both sherds were in an abraded condition, suggesting that they had been dragged by ploughing, and therefore that neither can be confidently assumed to have been securely stratified within the ditch fill.

The observed archaeological feature and the natural substrate were all sealed by c. 0.15m of subsoil 102, and c. 0.25m of topsoil 101. This trench was located in the highest part of the site and the soils were at their most shallow here, possibly confirming that there may have been some truncation/erosion of levels at this location.

### **7.2 Trench 2 (fig. 5)**

*Trench 2 was located in the north-east part of the site. A ditch and the ends of two gullies or elongated pits were identified; only small portions of the two possible gullies were exposed, but the three features appear to have been in conjunction with one another.*

The natural clay geology 203 was encountered c. 0.6m below the existing ground surface: a box section was excavated at the southern side of this trench to confirm that the natural



substrate had been correctly identified, as so little of it was exposed in the main area of the trench.

The greater part of the trench was occupied by another roughly east to west-aligned ditch, which terminated towards the western end of the trench (plate 4). Four sections were excavated through ditch **204**, revealing that it had a shallow sloping terminal at its west end and had a maximum depth of c. 0.6m below the top of the natural substrate. It varied in width and profile along its length (plates 3 and 4). It is possible that this variation may have been the result of regular re-cutting and maintenance, although no clear sign of re-cutting was apparent in the observed final fills. Except at the shallower terminal, which displayed only the primary fill, a sequence of three fills could be discerned in the ditch: an orange-brown silt primary fill, a greyish-brown silt secondary fill and a final fill of sandy silt containing recognisable lumps of natural clay. These last may have been the original excavated material from the ditch, possibly derived from an adjoining upcast bank, which may have been deliberately levelled into the ditch when it had ceased to serve its purpose. No dating evidence was retrieved from the primary fill of any of the ditch sections, but the secondary fill produced evidence of human activity in all three of the sections in which it was present: pottery fragments, charcoal and degraded fragments of bone, indicative of deliberate dumping of waste material into an open ditch, were retrieved from fills 206, 214 and 216. The ceramic assemblage included one scrap of hand-made prehistoric pottery, possibly Bronze Age (Appendix 3), but the majority was of late Saxon and Saxo-Norman date: ten sherds from eight vessels were present. Three of the ceramic fabrics have not previously been identified in the county. A number of the sherds had a coating of soot, indicating that they had been used for cooking; the majority were leached and/or abraded, suggesting that they may have been deposited in the ditch some time after they were discarded, and possibly at some distance (Appendix 4). Five fragments of animal bone, including cattle and sheep or goat, were retrieved: little information could be derived from this assemblage, but one fragment, identifiable only as a long bone from a mammal of cow-size, had been charred, again possibly indicating cooking refuse (Appendix 6). An environmental sample taken from fill 216 contained small quantities of cereal grains and fragments, including wheat, barley and oats, as well as common weeds of cultivation; the ratio of grains to other material indicated that the grains had been brought to the site as a processed product, rather than having been threshed on site (Appendix 7).

At the west end of this trench two smaller features, which appeared to be gully terminals but may have been portions of elongated pits, were recorded, extending beyond the limit of excavation. Feature **208** terminated to the east 1.20m from the western terminal of ditch **204**, and continued, apparently on approximately the same westward line, beyond the excavated trench. The gap may represent an entrance gap left in a long boundary ditch, although the two features were not alike: **208** was slightly deeper than **204** with a sharper profile, and notably had the darkest, most distinct charcoal-rich fill of all the features identified (plates 4 and 5). No dating evidence was recovered from the excavated section, but an environmental sample produced a large number of charred cereal grains, with a small quantity of cereal chaff and charred seeds of wild plants associated with arable land and grassland. As with the results of the sample from ditch **204**, the grain appeared to have been brought on to the site already cleaned, rather than having been processed on site. The types of grain present suggest that the deposit was made before the Norman Conquest (Appendix 7). This deposit indicates that food preparation was taking place nearby, and that hearth sweepings were being deposited in the ditch.

Feature **210** was aligned approximately north to south, and was c. 0.6m wide and c. 0.18m deep, with a shallow, bowl-shaped profile. It terminated to the south within the trench: the terminal lay between the terminals of linear features **204** and **208**, and did not extend beyond the southern edges of these features. Its position very close to **208** had the effect of halving the width of the gap between them. Apart from a single abraded sherd of 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>-century pottery, no inclusions suggesting human activity were observed in fill 211; however, the

juxtaposition of these features is unlikely to be coincidental, and suggests that either all three are contemporary, or that **204** and **208** were still open and in use when **210** was dug.

The observed archaeological features and the natural substrate were all sealed by c. 0.1m of subsoil 202, and c. 0.5m of topsoil 201.

### **7.3 Trench 3 (fig. 6)**

*Trench 3 was located in the middle of the site. Five converging/intersecting ditches and/or gullies, a further isolated ditch along with two possible postholes and two possible beam slots were identified.*

The natural clay geology 303 was encountered c. 0.7m below the existing ground surface, and was overlain by c. 0.2m of subsoil 302. The relationships of the features in this trench to the subsoil were not always clear: many cuts could be traced through part of the thickness of the subsoil, but not all the way to the lower horizon of the topsoil, although, conversely, no subsoil could be identified overlying the feature fills. The diffuseness of all horizons in this zone was possibly caused by post-medieval ploughing.

At the north end of the trench, both the natural and the subsoil appeared to be cut by ditch **304**, which ran c. east-north-east to west-south-west, perpendicularly across the trench. Ditch **304** was c. 1.4m wide and c. 0.32m deep, with a generally shallow, bowl-shaped profile (plate 6). No finds or other anthropogenic material were recovered from either of its fills. The upper fill 306 consisted of mostly re-deposited natural clay and, as with ditch **204** in Trench 2, may indicate former bank material being returned to the ditch during deliberate backfilling and ground levelling.

Directly to the south of ditch **304** were two partially exposed small features, both of which extended beyond the western trench baulk (plate 6). Feature **309** was a narrow gully, with vertical sides and a flat base, which may have been a beam slot, and ran roughly parallel to **304** at a distance of approximately 0.6m. Between the two linear features was the edge or rounded end of a further small feature: so little of feature **307** was exposed that it was impossible to tell whether the exposed portion represented half a post-hole or the terminal of another possible beam slot, although its steep, but not vertical, sides and concave base suggested that it was not a feature of the same type as **309**. Both features here may indicate the former existence of a timber structure. Both features had identical brown sandy silt fills and ambiguous stratigraphic relationships, possibly cutting the subsoil; seven sherds of early medieval pottery were retrieved from the fill of **309**, giving a 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> century date, and again including sherds of a previously unknown fabric type (Appendix 4). An environmental sample produced three charred cereal grains, suggesting a low background level of domestic waste, rather than deliberate disposal into an open feature (Appendix 7).

To the south of the two possible structural features another roughly east-north-east to west-south-west ditch was identified. Ditch **311** may have had a spatial relationship with ditch **304**, as the two features were on the same alignment, and had similar dimensions and profiles (plate 7). In contrast to **304**, however, in ditch **311** it was the lower fill 312 that appeared to consist of deliberately redeposited material, while brown sandy silt upper fill 313 appeared to be the product of natural silting with no observed evidence of deliberate infilling. A sherd of 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>-century pottery, with a tiny fragment of pottery likely to be 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>-century, were retrieved from fill 313, but an environmental sample proved to be unproductive (Appendices 4 and 7).

Ditch **311** was truncated to the west by ditch **316**, which was aligned roughly north-north-west to south-south-east, but appeared to be slightly curved. This ditch was similar in character to the others observed on this site, with generally steep sides and a bowl-shaped profile; it was irregular in width, but generally measured some 1.2m wide by 0.6m deep (plate 8). Its single fill appeared to be derived from natural silting-up of the ditch. Two sections were

excavated, but the only finds that could be confidently identified as within the fill of **316** were two sherds of Romano-British pottery: a very abraded greyware sherd and a scrap of hand-made pottery (Appendix 3). Five sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery, in a fresher condition, were retrieved from the section at the south end of the trench, at the junction of ditch **316** and feature **324**, but their position and the similarity between the fills made it impossible to ascribe these finds to either feature with any confidence, and the separate context number 326 was assigned to them. It seems plausible, however, that the Roman material was residual in this context, having been moved, possibly repeatedly, by ploughing, digging or weathering, while the larger amount of less abraded Saxo-Norman material is likely to have been in its original place of deposition (Appendix 4). An environmental sample from the fill of ditch **316** proved to be unproductive, containing only an unidentifiable charred seed (Appendix 7).

Ditch **316** intersected three other linear features, only small portions of which were exposed in the evaluation trench. The small ditch **314**, 0.9m wide by 0.3m deep and aligned approximately north-north-east to south-south-west, joined it on the north-east side. A single sherd of abraded Romano-British greyware pottery was the only find recovered from its fill 315, which was indistinguishable from the fill of ditch **316**. Directly to the south of the junction of **314** and **316**, another, smaller gully intersected ditch **316**. Gully **318** was only 0.25m wide by 0.12m deep, and had a homogeneous brown fill identical to that in **314** and **316** (plate 8). It seems plausible that these features were contemporary, with smaller drainage channels running into a main ditch.

At the south end of the trench, feature **324** intersected the west side of ditch **316**. Only a small part of this feature – some 3m long, but no more than 0.25m wide, and excavated to a depth of 0.6m – was exposed in the evaluation trench. It appeared to terminate both to the south and the north, possibly indicating a large, roughly square pit intersecting the ditch at one corner, but it is also possible that it was part of a ditch with an irregular plan form, intersecting ditch **316** at an acute angle. A single sherd of 10<sup>th</sup> to mid-11<sup>th</sup>-century pottery was recovered from its fill, 325, which was indistinguishable from that of ditch **316**; five sherds of pottery of a previously unrecorded fabric type, deriving from two vessels and probably dating to the late 10<sup>th</sup> to mid-11<sup>th</sup> centuries, were recovered from the intersection between the two features and assigned the context number 326, as it was not clear which feature they were in. Unlike much of the pottery assemblage from this project, these sherds were in a fairly fresh condition and may have still been in their original place of deposition (Appendix 4); if, as seems likely, the two features are contemporary, these sherds probably provide reliable dating evidence for both.

Fragments of two small features were observed on the western side of ditch **316**, nearly opposite its junction with gully **318**. Features **320** and **322** appear to have been truncated by the ditch, as they were not identified until the ditch fill in the excavated section had been removed. The shallow rounded feature **320** may have been the truncated remains of a posthole: if so, a single large cobble within its fill may have formed part of the packing around a timber post. To the north of this, feature **322** had vertical sides and a flat base and measured 0.34m wide by 0.2m deep. In combination, **320** and **322** were reminiscent of features **307** and **309**, interpreted as a post-hole and associated beam-slot, and so may also indicate the former presence of a timber structure (plate 9).

The trench was sealed by 0.6m of topsoil 301.

#### 7.4 Trench 4 (fig. 7)

*Trench 4 was located towards the south of the site. Two ditches and a gully were identified.*

The natural clay geology 403 was encountered c. 0.7m below the existing ground surface. The earliest feature recorded in this trench was the roughly north to south-aligned gully **411**, which was 0.6m wide by 0.25m deep with a shallow, bowl-shaped profile and an unremarkable brown silt fill, from which no dating evidence was retrieved.

Apparently truncating this gully was ditch **407**, which extended across the western half of the evaluation trench, aligned roughly east-north-east to west-south-west. This feature was 1.2m wide by 0.55m deep with steep sides and a rounded base, broadly similar to other ditches observed on the site apart from a flaring upper section which gave it a bell-shaped rather than bowl-shaped profile; possibly the ditches in the other trenches had been more heavily truncated. As with other ditches on the site, one of its fills – in this case, final fill 410 – appeared to contain redeposited natural and to be a product of deliberate backfilling, while the two lower fills appeared to have arisen through natural silting processes (plate 10). Little dating evidence was retrieved from this feature: a single sherd of late 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>-century pottery, again of a previously unrecorded fabric, was recovered from 409, the second and most substantial fill, while an environmental sample proved to be completely unproductive. A second partial section was excavated into this ditch to confirm that the final fill was composed of re-deposited material, but no additional recording was done other than locating this section on the trench plan.

Ditch **407** was cut in turn by the roughly north-north-west to south-south-east aligned ditch **404**; the position of the ditches within the trench did not allow it to be ascertained whether or not **407** continued eastwards beyond ditch **404**. This ditch had never been fully in-filled and survived as a recognisable hollow in the ground, extending both to the south and a short distance to the north (plate 11). It was the largest ditch observed on site, some 1.8m wide by 0.6m deep with a broad, bowl-shaped profile and steep sides, and appeared to be cut through subsoil 402. Its earliest fill, sandy silt 405, contained five sherds of late 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>-century pottery, the tooth of a sheep or goat, and pieces of a cattle bone which may have been gnawed by a dog or other scavenging carnivore, as well as a Mesolithic or early Neolithic struck flint which was presumably residual in this context; an environmental sample proved completely unproductive. A single sherd of glazed 14<sup>th</sup> to mid-16<sup>th</sup>-century pottery was recovered from upper fill 406 (Appendices 4-7). The pottery assemblage from ditch **404** supports the impression given by its stratigraphic relationships and its continuing presence as a surface earthwork that this feature was both created and filled in considerably later than the other features on the site.

As noted above, another former field boundary survives as a similar negative earthwork, crossing the site from east to west near the middle of the site. The survival of these features indicates that little disturbance has occurred to the site in the recent past.

Another sondage was excavated into the natural at the east end of Trench 4, and identified no evidence of re-deposited material at this location. With the exception of ditch **404**, which appeared to cut the subsoil, the observed features were all sealed by c. 0.2m of subsoil 402, and c. 0.6m of topsoil 401. As in Trench 3, the relationships of the apparently underlying features to the subsoil were not entirely clear, probably due to the effect of ploughing pulling material up from underneath the base of the subsoil and so giving the appearance in section that the fills of the underlying features extended partially through it.

## 8.0 Discussion and Conclusions

The evaluation identified archaeological features in each of the trenches investigated. There may be some truncation/erosion of archaeological levels on the highest part of the site, towards the north-west corner, but otherwise the level of preservation is good, with the latest phase of activity still surviving as perceptible surface earthworks. The north-west quadrant of the site also displayed the lowest level of archaeological remains, with a single feature being recorded in Trench 1 (although as the trenches only exposed small portions of the evaluated area, no definite assertion can be made about the relative density of features across the site).

There is little evidence for prehistoric activity on the site, with only a single sherd of pottery, possibly of Bronze Age date, and a Mesolithic to Neolithic struck flint being retrieved, both from residual contexts. Consequently, it can only be said that a low level of prehistoric activity appears to have taken place in the general vicinity; the finds may have been moved some distance, by natural and/or human agencies before being redeposited in the later features.

Similarly, Romano-British activity is evidenced only by four abraded sherds of pottery, associated with later material in most contexts – indicating that they were not in their original place of deposition. This alone is not convincing evidence of early occupation, although a number of features remain undated. In particular, the possible evidence for beam and post structures, presented by the appearance of a possible beam slot and associated post-hole in two places in Trench 3, may be relevant, particularly as one of these groups, features **307** and **309**, were discovered below the cut of a probable early medieval ditch containing redeposited Roman pottery.

The majority of activity on the site appears to be indicated by an early medieval network of ditches, with smaller gullies draining into them: features encountered in Trench 3 appeared to meet at oblique angles rather than in the grid pattern that would be more typical of a field drainage/boundary system, but the uniformity of the feature fills strongly suggested contemporaneity. The features exposed in Trench 2 did not meet, and had dissimilar fills, but their layout nonetheless suggested that they must have been in use at the same time. The ceramic dating evidence for these features, which included vessels from three previously unrecorded fabric types, placed the majority in a date range spanning the 10<sup>th</sup> to the mid-11<sup>th</sup> centuries, with a small number of sherds potentially as early as the mid-9<sup>th</sup> century. Environmental sampling produced evidence of several types of cultivated cereal, chiefly bread wheat, but rivet wheat was absent: as this variety became popular after the Norman Conquest, the environmental evidence broadly supports the ceramic dating. The palaeoenvironmental assemblage appears to have been derived from the disposal of domestic waste, rather than initial crop processing, suggesting that the site lay in the vicinity of early medieval dwellings rather than among farmland or near a threshing floor. These remains are of some significance within the local context, as evidence for the early medieval settlement of Ulceby had previously been confined to the presence of a 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>-century cross in the churchyard of the 13<sup>th</sup>-century parish church.

A single ditch at the south side of the site appeared to be of a considerably later date, cutting both the early medieval feature complex and the subsoil and producing late medieval pottery. This feature could still be seen on the surface as a negative earthwork, running perpendicular to another such surface feature not intersecting any of the evaluation trenches. Both had ceased to function as plot boundaries before the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, as they do not appear on early Ordnance Survey mapping.

## 9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

The methodology applied during this evaluation has been successful in demonstrating the presence of archaeological remains on the site, and seems likely to have been effective in characterising the depositional sequence and the nature of the archaeology contained therein, although the dating evidence from some of these features remains limited.

## 10.0 Project Archive

The project archive, consisting of the site recording, the finds and copies of this report and the previous interim report, will be deposited with the North Lincolnshire Museums Service within six months of completion of the full report, under the NLM archive accession code UCAI.. A copy of this report will also be uploaded to the Archaeology Data Service OASIS (Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigationS) database, where it will be publicly accessible online.

## 11.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services would like to thank Rollinson Planning Consultancy Ltd. for this commission.

## 12.0 References

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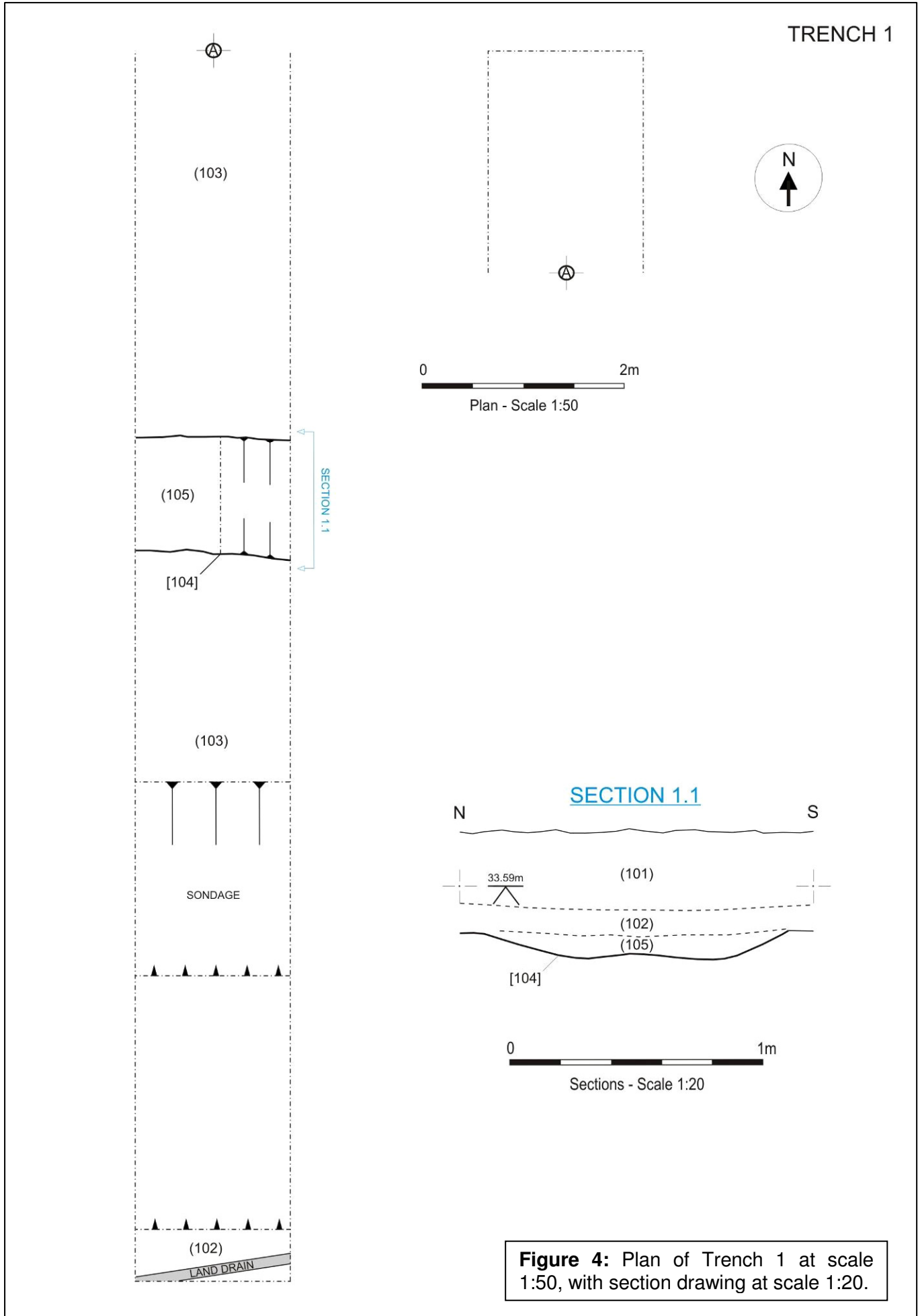
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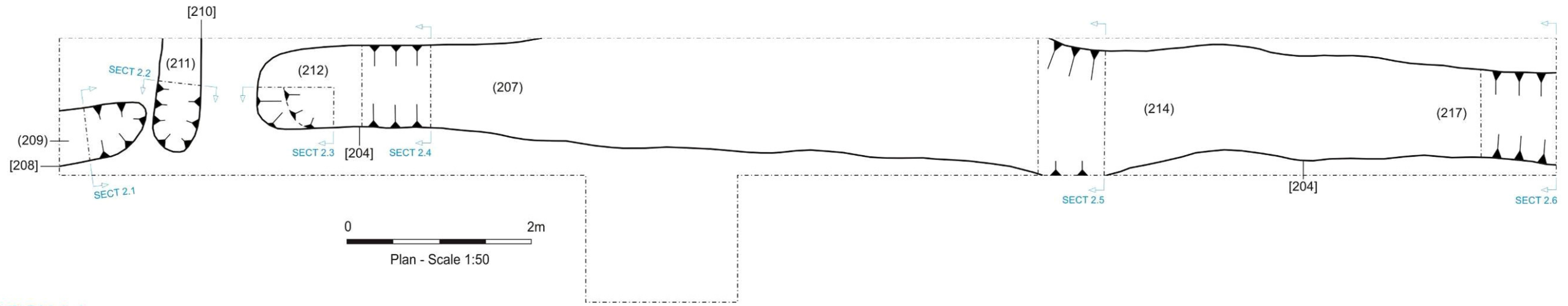
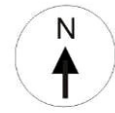


**Figure 3:** Trench location plan at scale 1:750. The application area is outlined in red.  
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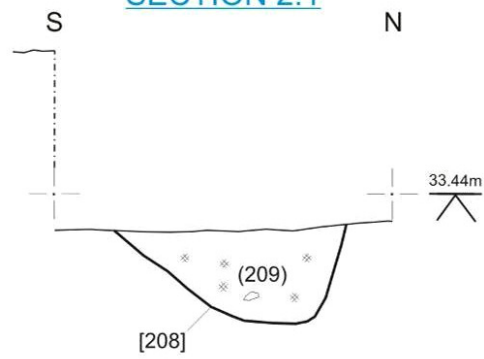


TRENCH 2

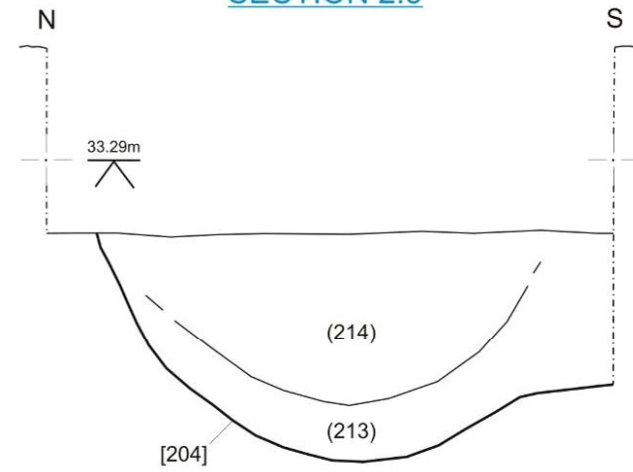


0 2m  
Plan - Scale 1:50

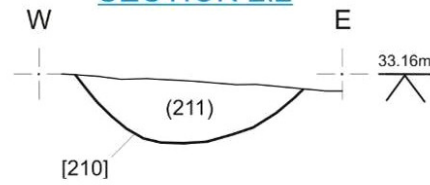
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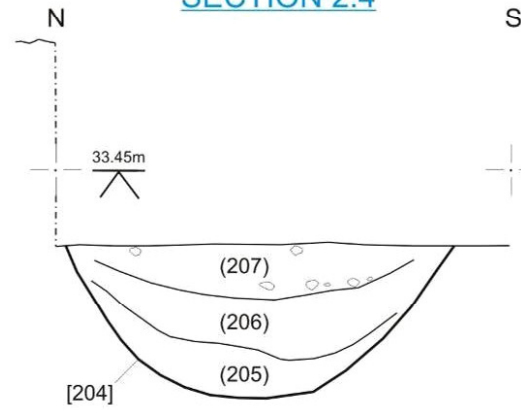
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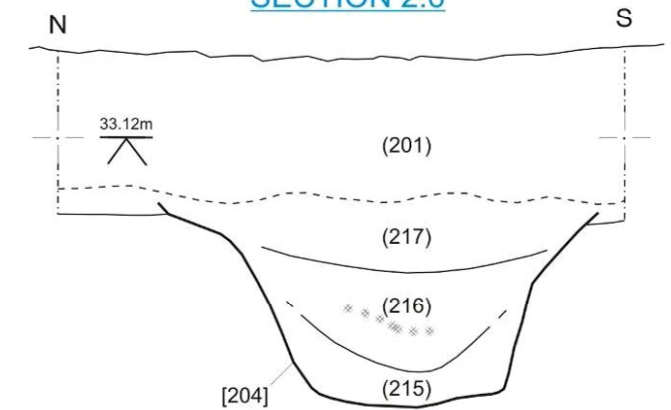
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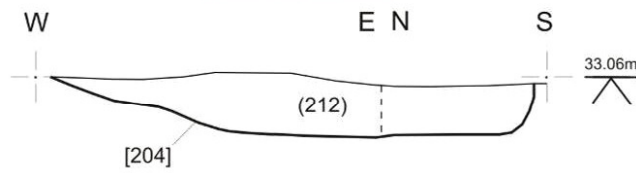
SECTION 2.4



SECTION 2.6



SECTION 2.3



0 1m  
Sections - Scale 1:20

Figure 5: Plan of Trench 2 at scale 1:50, with section drawings at scale 1:20.

TRENCH 3

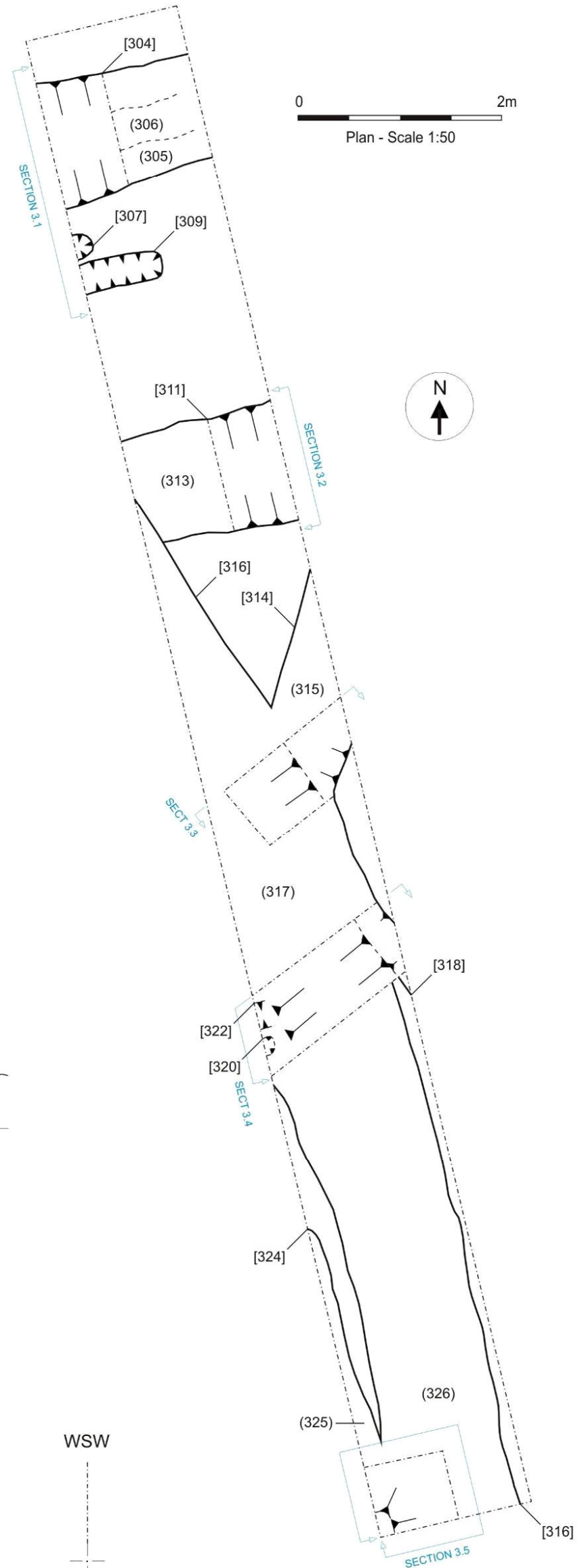
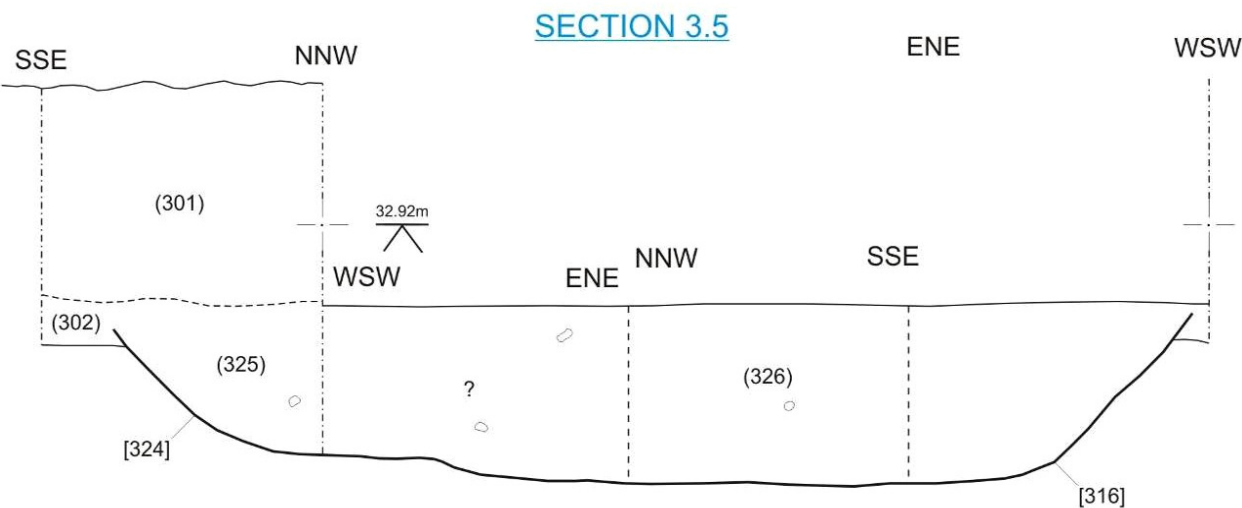
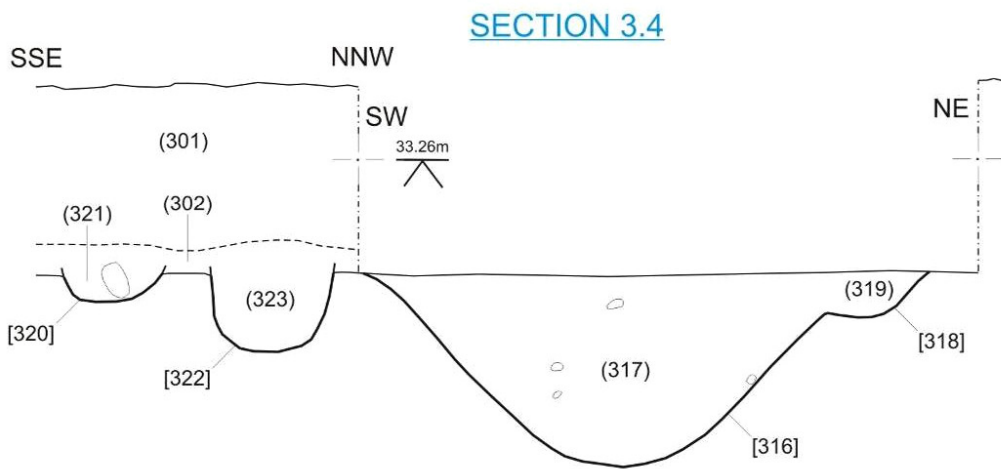
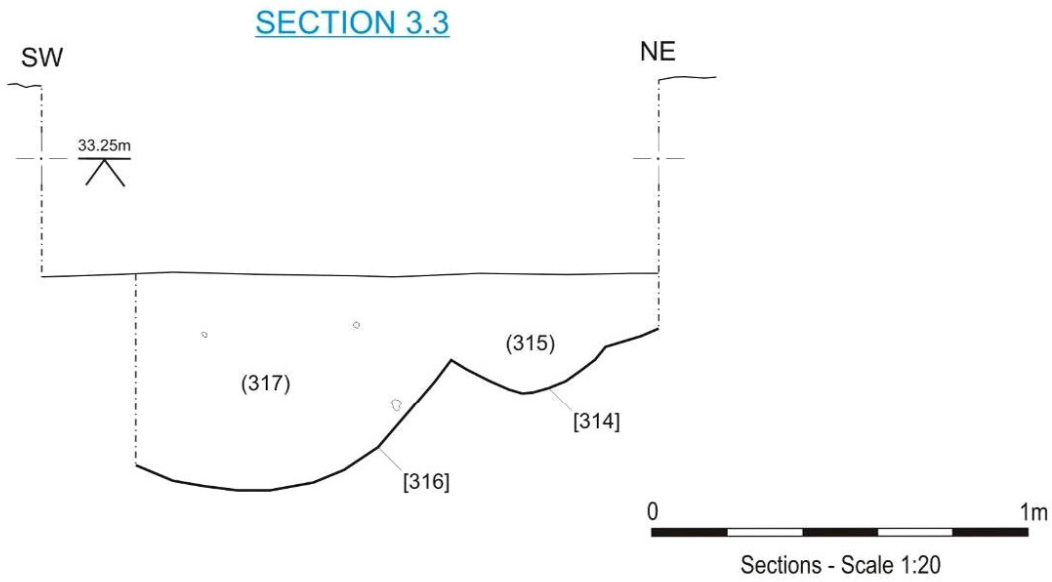
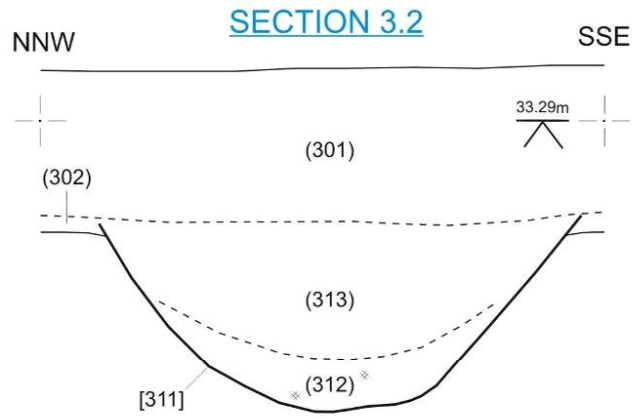
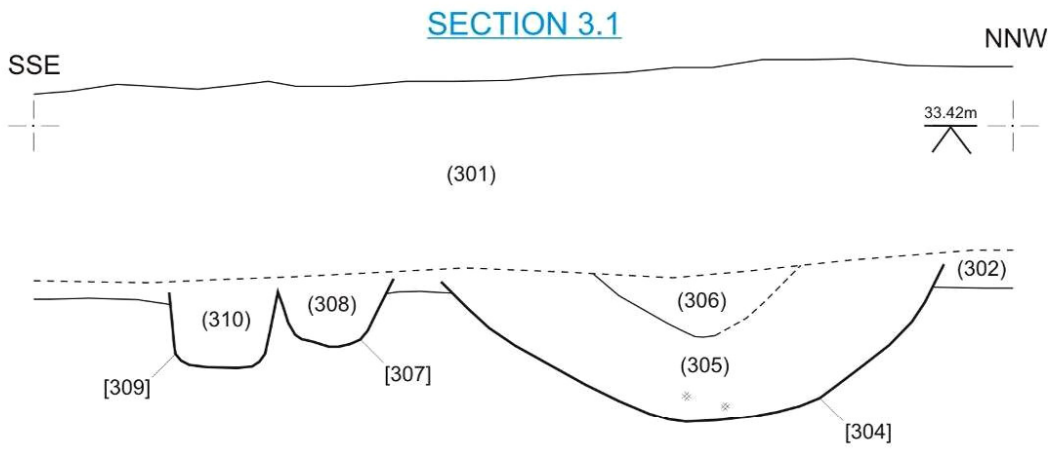
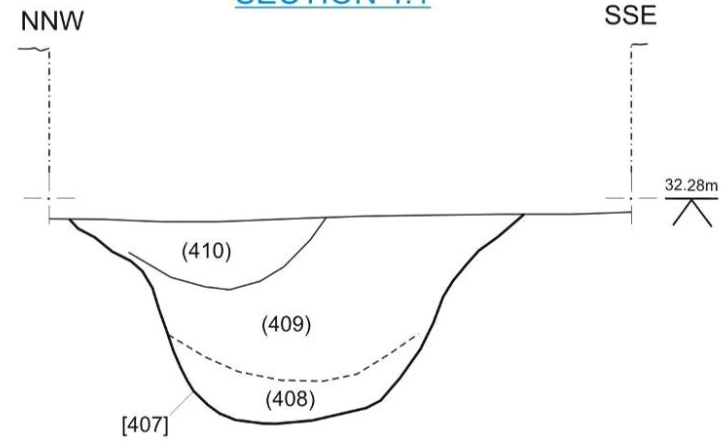


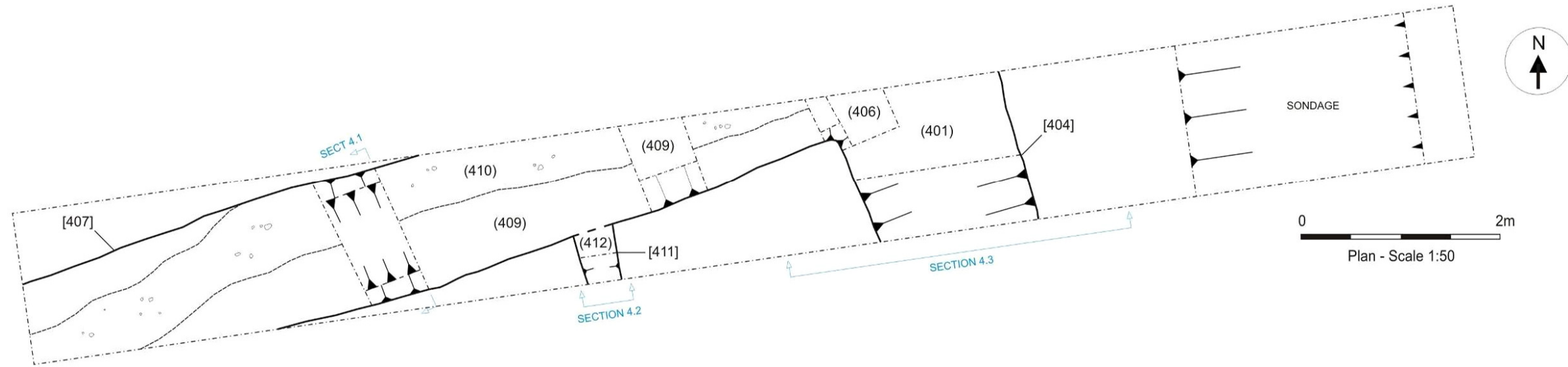
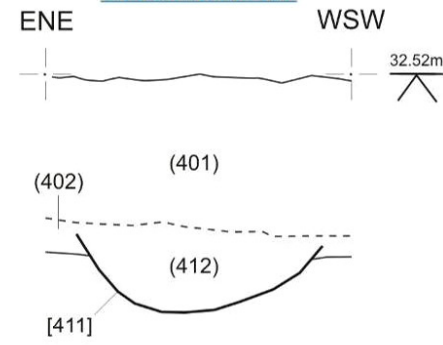
Figure 6: Plan of Trench 3 at scale 1:50, with section drawings at scale 1:20.

TRENCH 4

SECTION 4.1



SECTION 4.2



SECTION 4.3

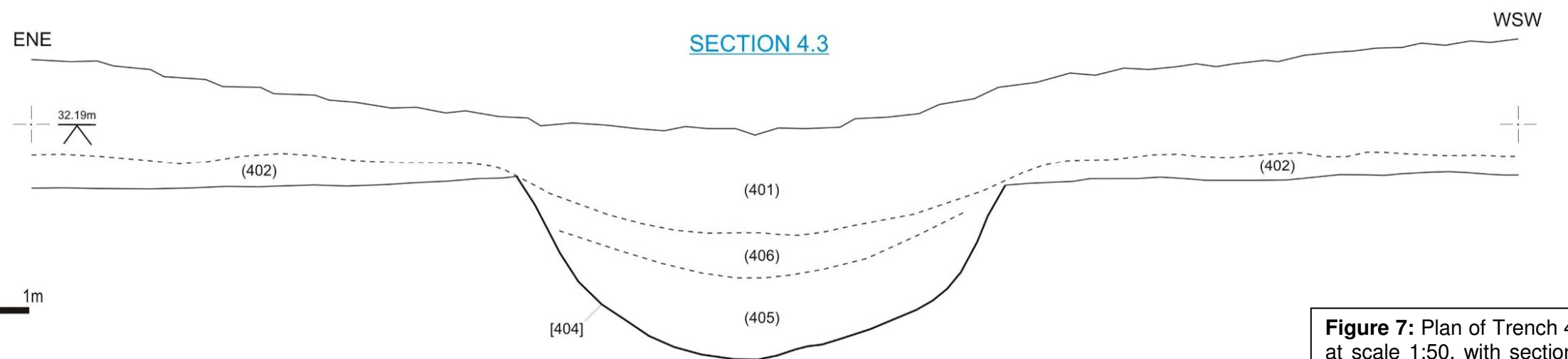


Figure 7: Plan of Trench 4 at scale 1:50, with section drawings at scale 1:20.

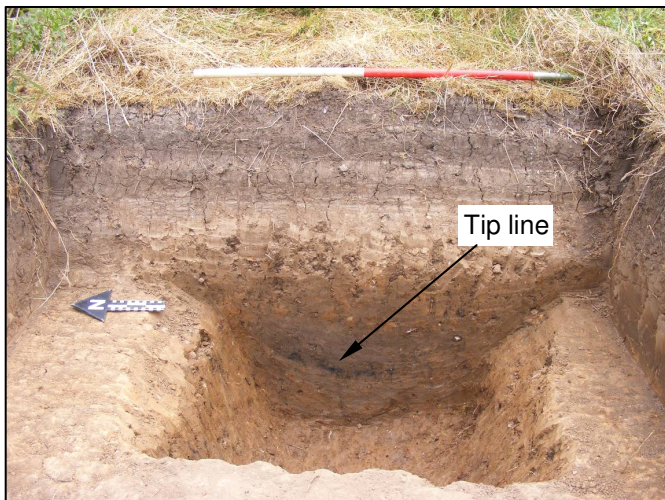
## Appendix 1: Photographs



**Plate 1:** Composite image of the site looking NW. The mature tree on the right marks the former field boundary that divides the site. The rear of the modern houses that front on to Church Lane are on the left.



**Plate 2:** Shallow linear feature **104** in Trench 1, located on the highest part of the site, where the soil was thinnest. Scale 1m; looking E.



**Plate 3:** Section excavated through ditch **204** at the E end of Trench 2. The charcoal-rich tip line is indicative of material being dumped into the ditch while it was still open. Scale 1m; looking E.



**Plate 4:** Trench 2 post-excitation. Gullies/linear pits **208** and **210** are in the foreground. Ditch **204** extends along most of the length of the trench to the east. Scales both 1m; looking E.



**Plate 5:** Gully terminal or linear pit **208** in Trench 2 had a distinct charcoal-rich fill. Scale 0.5m; looking W.



**Plate 6:** Possible beam slot **309** (left), posthole **307** (centre) and ditch **304** (right). Scales 1m and 0.5m; looking W.



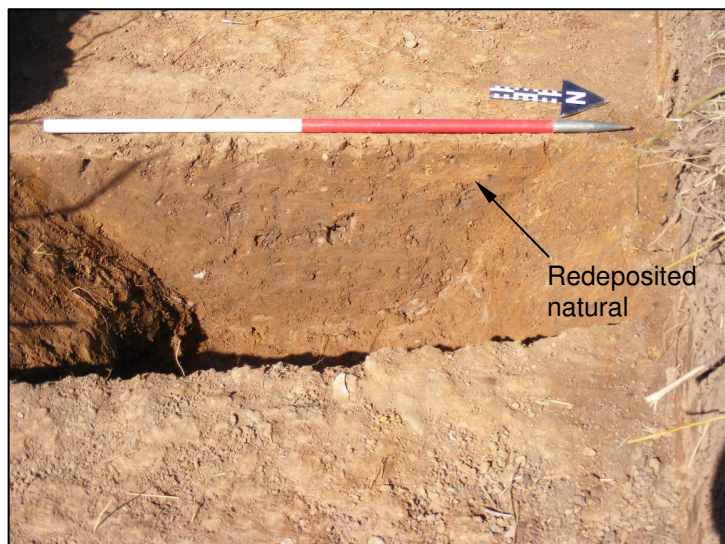
**Plate 7:** Section excavated through ditch **311** in Trench 3. Ditches **311**, **304** and **104** were all aligned c. E-W and characteristically broad and relatively shallow. Scales 1m and 0.5m; looking E.



**Plate 8:** Ditch **316** with gully **318** on the right. Characteristically, the fills were indistinguishable. Scale 1m; looking NW.



**Plate 9:** Section excavated through possible posthole **320** in Trench 3 (left), with possible packing stone and gully/beam slot **322** (right). Both appeared to have been truncated by ditch **316**. Scale 0.5m; looking W.



**Plate 10:** Section excavated through ditch **407** in Trench 4. Unlike ditch **404**, this ditch appears to have been deliberately back-filled after it had mostly silted up: redeposited natural clay forms a distinct band along the top of this ditch. Scale 1m; looking WSW.



**Plate 11:** Large ditch **404** in Trench 4 has never fully silted up and is recognisable as a depression in the ground extending to the south. Scales 1m and 0.5m; looking SSE.

## Appendix 2: Context Summary

<b>Trench 1</b>			
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds/Dating</b>
101	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy loam. 0.25m-0.35m thick.	Modern
102	Subsoil	Mid orange brown slightly sandy silt mottled with greyish silts. V. occasional natural pebbles. 0.05m-0.15m thick	-
103	Natural	Light-mid yellow orange brown silty clay with occasional natural pebbles and lint cobbles.	-
104	Cut	Ditch cut on c. E-W alignment. Shallow concave sides and base. Possible furrow? 1.20m wide and 0.06m deep.	
105	Fill of <b>104</b>	Mottled light-mid grey and light-mid reddish orange brown slightly sandy silt with rare charcoal flecks (may be intrusive). Single fill of <b>104</b> .	Roman and late 9 <sup>th</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup> -century pottery

<b>Trench 2</b>			
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds/Dating</b>
201	Topsoil	Same as 101. 0.60m thick.	Modern
202	Subsoil	Same as 102. 0.10m thick.	-
203	Natural	Same as 103.	-
204	Cut	Ditch cut on c. E-W alignment. Moderate-steep sloping sides and concave base. 1.50m wide and 0.60m deep.	
205	Fill of <b>204</b>	Mixed orange brown silt clay and mid brown slightly sandy silt. Natural silting. 1 <sup>st</sup> fill of <b>204</b> . 0.15m thick	
206	Fill of <b>204</b>	Slightly grey brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and natural stone inclusions. Natural silting with some evidence of deliberate dumping suggesting occupation in the vicinity. 2 <sup>nd</sup> fill of <b>204</b> . 0.20m thick.	10 <sup>th</sup> to 11 <sup>th</sup> -century pottery
207	Fill of <b>204</b>	Brown slightly sandy silt with occasional orange brown silt/clay lumps and natural stone. 3 <sup>rd</sup> fill of <b>204</b> . 0.15m thick.	
208	Cut	Elongated pit or ditch/gully terminal; extends beyond the west end of trench. c. E-W alignment. Irregular moderately steep sides and concave base. 0.90m exposed length 0.64m wide and 0.24m deep.	
209	Fill of <b>208</b>	Charcoal rich mid brown and orange sandy silt. Single fill of <b>208</b> .	Sample <1>
210	Cut	Gully cut on c. NNE-SSW alignment. Shallow sloping sides and concave base 1.25m exposed 0.60m wide and 0.18m deep.	



<b>Trench 2</b>			
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds/Dating</b>
211	Fill of 210	Light-mottled orange grey brown silt with occasional natural stone. Single fill of 210.	Late 9 <sup>th</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup> -century pottery (single sherd)
212	Fill of <b>204</b>	Ditch fill at western terminal of ditch <b>204</b> . Mottled orange brown slightly sandy silt. 0.16m deep.	
213	Fill of <b>204</b>	Same as 205. 0.40m thick.	
214	Fill of <b>204</b>	Same as 206. Decayed fragments of bone noted but not retained. 0.46m thick.	10 <sup>th</sup> to 11 <sup>th</sup> -century pottery, animal bone
215	Fill of <b>204</b>	Same as 205. 0.20m thick.	
216	Fill of <b>204</b>	Same as 214. Charcoal "tip" line noted. 0.26m thick.	Sample <2> Prehistoric pottery (scrap), animal bone
217	Fill of <b>204</b>	Same as 207. 0.20m thick.	

<b>Trench 3</b>			
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds/Dating</b>
301	Topsoil	Same as 101. 0.60m thick.	Modern
302	Subsoil	Same as 102. 0.20m thick.	
303	Natural	Same as 103.	
304	Cut	Ditch cut on c. E-W alignment. Moderate-steep sloping sides and concave base. 1.50m long (exposed) 1.38m wide and 0.32m deep.	
305	Fill of <b>304</b>	Mixed brown sandy silt loam with small patches of redeposited natural, especially on N side, and "clods" of redeposited natural at base. 0.32m thick.	
306	Fill of <b>304</b>	Upper fill of <b>304</b> mixed re-deposited natural and soil (possibly former bank material). Possible deliberate backfill of ditch. 0.18m thick.	
307	Cut	Small feature partially exposed in trench. Oval? in plan with moderately steep sides and concave base. 0.20m exposed length, 0.30m wide 0.20m deep.	
308	Fill of <b>307</b>	Mid brown sandy silt. Single fill of <b>307</b> .	Late 9 <sup>th</sup> to mid-10 <sup>th</sup> -century pottery (single sherd)
309	Cut	Small gully partially exposed in trench. E-W alignment with feature extending to west. V. steep sides and flat base. 0.80m length exposed 0.30m wide 0.26m deep.	
310	Fill of <b>309</b>	Mid brown sandy silt. Single fill of <b>309</b> .	10 <sup>th</sup> to 11 <sup>th</sup> -century pottery; sample <3>
311	Cut (Cut by <b>316</b> )	Cut of ditch on E-W alignment. Moderately steep sides with a broad concave base. 1.50m exposed length 1.30m wide 0.50m deep.	
312	Fill of <b>311</b>	Mottled grey orange brown sandy silt including re-deposited "clods" in base of feature. 0.16m thick. 1 <sup>st</sup> fill of <b>311</b> .	

<b>Trench 3</b>			
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds/Dating</b>
313	Fill of <b>311</b>	Mid brown sandy silt loam. Natural silting of <b>311</b> . 0.36m thick.	Sample <4> 10 <sup>th</sup> to 11 <sup>th</sup> -century pottery (single sherd)
314	Cut (see <b>316</b> )	Possible ditch/gully partially exposed in trench. C.NNE-SSW alignment. Moderately sloping sides and concave base. 1.50m exposed length, c.0.90m wide 0.30m deep.	
315	Fill of <b>314</b>	Mid brown slightly sandy silt with occasional patches of orange brown silty clay. Natural silting of <b>314</b> . Single fill of <b>314</b> .	Roman pottery (single sherd)
316	Cut (relationship with <b>314</b> not clear. Appears to cut <b>311</b> )	Ditch cut on c. NNW-SSE alignment, curving round to N-S alignment. Moderately sloping sides and concave base. c.10.5m long 1.20m wide 0.58m deep.	
317	Fill of <b>316</b>	Mid brown slightly sandy silt with occasional patches of orange brown silty clay. Natural silting of <b>316</b> . Single fill of <b>316</b> .	Sample <5> Roman pottery (probably residual)
318	Cut	Gully on NNW-SSE alignment. Shallow sloping sides and concave base. 1.5m long 0.25m wide 0.12m deep.	
319	Fill of <b>318</b>	Mid-brown silt. Natural silting of <b>318</b> .	
320	Cut (cut by <b>316</b> )	Only seen in section under edge of ditch <b>316</b> . Possible posthole. Moderately steep sides and shallow concave base. 0.25m wide 0.10m deep.	
321	Fill of <b>320</b>	Mid brown silt with occasional charcoal flecks and single moderately sized stone – packing stone? Single fill of <b>320</b> .	
322	Cut (cut by <b>316</b> )	Only seen in section under edge of ditch <b>316</b> . Possible trench? Nearly vertical sides and flat base. 0.34m wide 0.20m deep.	
323	Fill of <b>322</b>	Mid- to light orange brown sandy silt. Single fill of <b>322</b> .	
324	Cut (merges with <b>316</b> )	Possible ditch on SW LOE. C.N-S alignment, merges with <b>316</b> to east, terminates to south? steep sides, base undefined.	
325	Fill of <b>324</b>	Mid-brown slightly sandy silt with some orange brown silty clay patches. Natural silting. Single fill of <b>324</b> .	10 <sup>th</sup> to mid-11 <sup>th</sup> -century pottery (single sherd)
326	Finds	Finds from the junction of features <b>316</b> and <b>324</b> , unable to be assigned to either fill 317 or 325 due to the similarity of the fills.	Late 10 <sup>th</sup> to 11 <sup>th</sup> -century pottery

<b>Trench 4</b>			
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds/Dating</b>
401	Topsoil	Same as 101. 0.60m thick.	Modern
402	Subsoil	Same as 102. 0.20m thick.	-
403	Natural	Same as 103.	-
404	Cut	Large ditch on c. N-S alignment. Steep sides and concave base. Observed as an earthwork.	
405	Fill of <b>404</b>	Mid orange brown slightly sandy silt with occasional flint and pebble inclusions. 1 <sup>st</sup> fill of <b>404</b> . 0.35m thick.	Sample <7> Late 13 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup> - century pottery, struck flint (residual), animal bone
406	Fill of <b>404</b>	As 405 but more brown and loam composition. Diffuse horizon with 405. 2 <sup>nd</sup> fill of <b>404</b> . 0.20m thick.	14 <sup>th</sup> to mid-16 <sup>th</sup> - century pottery
407	Cut	Large ditch on ENE-WSW alignment. Moderately steep sides and gently concave base. 8m exposed 1.20m wide 0.55m deep.	
408	Fill of <b>407</b>	Mottled light grey brown silty clay. Natural silting at base of <b>407</b> . 0.14m thick.	
409	Fill of <b>407</b>	Mid brown slightly sandy silt with rare lumps of chalk and occasional natural flint pebbles. Natural silting. 2 <sup>nd</sup> fill of <b>407</b> . 0.42m thick.	Sample <6> Late 10 <sup>th</sup> to 11 <sup>th</sup> - century pottery (single sherd)
410	Fill of <b>407</b>	Re-deposited natural- mottled yellow orange brown sandy silt clay. Deliberate backfill of <b>407</b> . 3 <sup>rd</sup> fill of <b>407</b> . 0.18m thick.	
411	Cut	Possible gully on N-S alignment. Moderately sloping sides and concave base. Unclear relationship with <b>407</b> but does not cut 410.	
412	Fill of <b>411</b>	Mixed mid brown and yellow brown silt with occasional natural pebbles. Single fill of <b>411</b> .	

### Appendix 3: The Prehistoric and Roman Pottery

by I. M. Rowlandson

A small group of prehistoric and Roman pottery (5 sherds, 21g) was presented to this author for archiving. An archive has been produced to comply with the requirements of the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Darling 2004) using the codes and system developed by the City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit (Darling and Precious 2014). A tabulated summary by context and a sherd archive are presented below. The dates provided represent the pottery recorded here: the main text of the report and other specialist contributions should be consulted to ascertain the overall date attributed to each context.

It is recommended that this pottery should be deposited with the relevant local museum along with the rest of the archive.

UCLE14- Prehistoric and Roman pottery dating summary					
Context	Spot date	Comments	Sherd	Weight (g)	Total RE %
105	Roman	A single abraded greyware sherd	1	5	0
216	Prehistoric	A single scrap of handmade pottery	1	3	0
315	Roman	A single abraded greyware sherd	1	7	0
317	Roman	A single abraded greyware sherd and a scrap of handmade pottery	2	6	0

UCLE14- Prehistoric and Roman pottery archive												
Context	Fabric	Form	Decoration	Vessels	Alt	Drawing	Comments	Join	Sherd	Weight	Rim diam	Rim eve
105	GREY	-		1	VAB		BS		1	5	0	0
216	QU	-	HM	1	VAB		BS; SCRAP; OX/R; PERHAPS BRONZE AGE		1	3	0	0
315	GREY	-		1	VAB		BS		1	7	0	0
317	VESIC	-	HM	1	VAB		BS; SCRAP; R		1	1	0	0
317	GREY	-		1	VAB		BS		1	5	0	0

### REFERENCES

- Darling, M.J., 2004, Guidelines for the archiving of Roman Pottery. *Journal of Roman Pottery Studies* 11, 67-74.
- Darling, M.J. and Precious, B.J., 2014, *Corpus of Roman Pottery from Lincoln*, Lincoln Archaeological Studies No. 6, Oxbow Books, Oxford

## Appendix 4: The Post-Roman Pottery

by J. Young

### Introduction

A group of thirty-five Post-Roman pottery sherds and a fragment of fired clay recovered from the site were examined for this report. A summary of the pottery by ceramic period is presented in Table 1.

**Table 1 Pottery summarised by ceramic period with sherd and vessel count**

Ceramic period	Total sherds	Total
Late Saxon (late 9th to early/mid 11th)	12	9
Saxo-Norman (10th to 11th)	17	11
Medieval (13th to mid 16th)	6	4
Totals	35	24

In total, thirty-five sherds of post-Roman pottery representing twenty-four vessels and a small fragment of fired clay were recovered from the site. The pottery ranges in date from the Late Saxon to the medieval period. The pottery was examined both visually and where necessary using a x20 binocular microscope, then recorded using the fabric codenames (CNAME) of the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (Young, Vince and Nailor 2005). The assemblage was quantified by three measures: number of sherds, vessel count and weight and the resulting archive entered onto an Access database (Appendix 4b). Recording of the assemblage was in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski, *et al.* (2001) and complies with the Lincolnshire County Council's Archaeological Handbook (sections 13.4 and 13.5). Three new pottery types were identified and these are described below.

### Condition

The pottery is in a variable condition although most sherds are in an abraded to slightly abraded condition with sherd size entirely falling into the small to medium size range (1 to 39 grams). The calcareous inclusions have been leached from the surfaces of all vessels. The condition of most sherds is consistent with plough damage. Six vessels are represented by more than one sherd and no cross-contextual joins were noted.

### The range and variety of materials

A range of nine identifiable post-Roman pottery ware types and one fragment of fired clay were identified; the type and general date range for these fabrics are shown in Table 2. The post-Roman pottery ranges in date from the Late Saxon to medieval periods and includes probable local and regional vessels. A narrow range of vessel types was recovered with forms mainly being limited to various types of jugs, jars and bowls.

**Table 2 Pottery types with total quantities by sherd and vessel count**

Codename	Full name	Earliest date	Latest date	Total sherds	Total vessels
BEVO2	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 2	1230	1350	4	2
ELSNQC	East Lincolnshire Saxo-Norman Coarse Quartz and Chalk	950	1050	7	4
ELSNFQ	East Lincolnshire Saxo-Norman Fine Sandy ware	950	0	6	3
ELSNQ	East Lincolnshire Saxo-Norman Sandy ware	950	1050	4	4
FIREDC CLAY	Fired clay	-	0	1	1
HUM	Humberware	1250	1550	2	2
LKT	Lincoln kiln-type Shelly ware	850	1000	1	1
LSH	Lincoln Shelly ware	850	1000	9	6
LSLOC	Late Saxon Local Fabrics	850	1050	1	1
TORK	Torksey ware	850	1100	1	1

### ***Late Saxon (late 9th to early/mid 11th century)***

Twelve mainly abraded sherds from nine vessels of Late Saxon type were identified amongst the assemblage. A single small sherd from a Lincoln Kiln-type (LKT) jar of general late 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> century date was recovered from Trench 2. Nine sherds representing six vessels are in Lincoln Shelly ware Fabric B (LSH). Four of the vessels are jars, one is an in-turned rim bowl and one sherd comes from a jar or bowl. This fabric type starts to be used in the late 9<sup>th</sup> century and continues in use until the end of the industry probably in the late 10<sup>th</sup> century. Only the in-turned rim bowl is chronologically diagnostic. These bowls are first found in groups of early/mid 10<sup>th</sup> century date and continue to be produced until the end of the industry. A basal sherd from a small jar in a Lincolnshire produced shell-tempered fabric (LSLOC). Vessels in this Fabric D date to between the late 9<sup>th</sup> and early 10<sup>th</sup> centuries and are usually an indicator of early Anglo-Scandinavian occupation. A single tiny sherd from a small Torksey ware (TORK) jar was recovered from Trench 3. The sherd is typical of late 9<sup>th</sup> to mid 11<sup>th</sup> century production.

### ***Saxo-Norman (10th to 11th century)***

Seventeen sherds representing eleven vessels are in three newly defined ware types. Typologically these wheel-thrown sherds are of Saxo-Norman type, although their use could be confined to the pre-conquest period. Visually these sherds could easily be mistaken for Roman grey or oxidised fabrics.

#### ***East Lincolnshire Saxo-Norman Coarse Quartz and Chalk (ELSNQC)***

Seven sherds from four vessels in this ware type were recovered from the site. The sherds are fired to a dull oxidised colour and have a variable reduced external surface. Microscopic examination at x20 reveals common mixed mainly coarse subround to subangular quartz grains up to 3.0mm, moderate iron-rich grains of mainly up to 0.6mm but up to 2.0mm, sparse to moderate round chalk, occasional aggregated sandstone and occasional erratic rock fragments. This fabric may have affinities with the North Lincolnshire Grit-tempered Coarse ware (NLGTCW) identified at Barton and thought to be of 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century date (Young 2000). All of the vessels are probably jars although three sherds from ditch **316** could come from a jar or a bowl. The only rim present in the group is from a small jar. The rim shape is atypical of other Lincolnshire industries of 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> century date and is more reminiscent of Late Saxon Stafford ware rims. Dating for this type is probably within the period between the mid 10<sup>th</sup> to mid 11<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### *East Lincolnshire Saxo-Norman Sandy ware (ELSNQ)*

Four sherds each from a separate vessel were recovered from the site. Three sherds are fired to a dull oxidised colour and have a variable reduced to light reduced internal surface. One sherd however has reduced external surfaces, oxidised margins and a reduced core being visually similar to the idealised vision of Torksey ware. This fabric contains common rounded to sub-rounded quartz grains of between 0.2mm and 0.6mm, moderate iron-rich grains up to 0.6mm, sparse to moderate organic voids and occasional calcareous grains. This fabric may have affinities with the North Lincolnshire Sand-tempered Coarse ware (NLSTCW) identified at Barton and thought to be of 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century date (Young 2000). Two of the sherds definitely come from jars whilst the other two could be from jars or bowls. Three of the vessels in this ware type are represented by basal sherds. These suggest a typical Late Saxon to Saxo-Norman 'sagging base'. Dating for this type is probably within the period between the mid 10<sup>th</sup> to mid 11<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### *East Lincolnshire Saxo-Norman Fine Sandy ware (ELSNFQ)*

Six sherds representing three vessels were recovered from the site. The sherds have dull oxidised surfaces and variable reduced cores. This fabric contains abundant fine round to sub-round quartz grains up to 0.3mm with occasional larger grains, moderate iron-rich grains up to 0.6mm, sparse organic voids and occasional fine aggregated sandstone. One sherd comes from a small jar whilst the other two vessels are either jars or bowls. All of the sherds are small and abraded giving no indication of form detail. Dating for this type is probably within the period between the mid 10<sup>th</sup> to mid 11<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### **Medieval (13th to mid 16th)**

Six sherds found in Trench 4 come from four medieval vessels. Three sherds in Beverley 2 ware (BEVO2) come from a single small jug with a splayed base. Another Beverley ware sherd is from a jug or a jar. The sherds are similar to Fabric B at Beverley (Didsbury and Watkins 1992) which spans the life of the ware type from the 13<sup>th</sup> until at least the early/mid 14<sup>th</sup> century (BEVO2). A basal sherd is from a Humberware (HUM) jug of late 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date. A second Humberware sherd comes from a jug of 14<sup>th</sup> to mid 16<sup>th</sup> century date.

## **Site Summary**

Pottery was recovered from twelve deposits in four trenches. Most of the pottery was recovered from Trenches 2 and 3.

### **Trench 1**

A single small sherd from a Lincolnshire Shelly ware jar or bowl of general late 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> century date was recovered from ditch **104** in this trench. The sherd is very abraded and appears to have undergone post-deposition plough damage.

### **Trench 2**

Twelve sherds representing ten vessels were recovered from three deposits in Trench 2. Gully **210** produced a single abraded sherd from a shell-tempered Lincoln Kiln-type jar of late 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> century date. Ditch **204** contained a small group of ten sherds representing eight vessels and a fragment of fired clay from two fills. The group comprises three shell-tempered Late Saxon types and five quartz-tempered Saxo-Norman type vessels. A body sherd comes from a Lincoln Kiln-type jar of late 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> century date. One of the two Lincoln Shelly ware sherds comes from an in-turned rim bowl of early/mid to late 10<sup>th</sup> century date; the other is from a jar of general late 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> century date. A tiny body sherd is from a small East

Lincolnshire Saxo-Norman Coarse Quartz and Chalk-tempered jar. Four sherds are from East Lincolnshire Saxo-Norman Quartz-tempered vessels. Two of the sherds come from small jars and two are from small jars or bowls. Three sherds are from a single jar or bowl in East Lincolnshire Saxo-Norman Fine Quartz-tempered ware. Dating for all three quartz-tempered types is probably within the period between the mid 10<sup>th</sup> to mid 11<sup>th</sup> centuries. Overall dating for this small group is difficult, as the shell-tempered sherds could be residual in an 11<sup>th</sup> century fill, the quartz-tempered sherds could date to the 10<sup>th</sup> century or all of the sherds could be residual. Almost all of the sherds exhibit signs of plough damage. A single small and very abraded formless lump of fired clay was also recovered from this feature. The fabric is similar to that used for the East Lincolnshire Saxo-Norman Quartz-tempered vessels possibly suggesting that these might be a fairly local product.

### **Trench 3**

Sixteen sherds representing nine vessels were recovered from five features in Trench 3. Cut feature **307** produced a single basal sherd from a small jar in shell-tempered Lincolnshire Late Saxon Fabric D. Vessels in this fabric date to between the late 9<sup>th</sup> and early 10<sup>th</sup> centuries and are usually an indicator of early Anglo-Scandinavian occupation. Gully **309** produced seven sherds representing three vessels. Two sherds come from a jar or bowl in East Lincolnshire Fine Sandy ware. This vessel can only be dated to between the 10<sup>th</sup> and mid 11<sup>th</sup> centuries. The other sherds come from two jars in Lincoln Shelly ware Fabric B. These jars are of late 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> century date. A small sherd from a similar jar and a tiny sherd from a small Torksey ware jar were recovered from ditch **311**. The Torksey ware sherd is likely to be of 10<sup>th</sup> to mid 11<sup>th</sup> century date. Ditch **324** produced a tiny sherd from a small East Lincolnshire Saxo-Norman Fine Quartz-tempered ware jar of 10<sup>th</sup> to mid 11<sup>th</sup> century date. Five sherds representing two vessels were recovered from ditch **316**. Unlike most of the pottery recovered from the site these sherds are in a fairly fresh condition and may represent primary or undisturbed deposition. Two sherds come from a small jar and three come from the base of a small jar or bowl. Both vessels are in East Lincolnshire Saxo-Norman Coarse Quartz and Chalk-tempered ware and probably date to between the late 10<sup>th</sup> and mid 11<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### **Trench 4**

Seven sherds representing five vessels were recovered from three deposits in this trench. A tiny sherd from a small East Lincolnshire Saxo-Norman Coarse Quartz and Chalk-tempered ware jar was recovered from ditch **407**. The sherd is in a fairly fresh condition and is similar to that recovered from ditch **316** in Trench 3. This ware type probably dates to between the 10<sup>th</sup> and mid 11<sup>th</sup> centuries. Ditch **404** produced six sherds from four vessels of medieval date. Three sherds come from a single small Beverley 2 jug with a splayed base whilst another Beverley ware sherd is from a jug or a jar. These two vessels are of 13<sup>th</sup> to early/mid 14<sup>th</sup> century date. A single basal sherd is from a Humberware jug of late 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date. A second Humberware sherd is from a jug of general 14<sup>th</sup> to mid 16<sup>th</sup> century date.

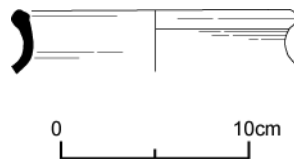
## **Summary and Recommendations**

This is a small but important assemblage, which provides us with three new pottery types.

The post-Roman pottery indicates that the area was occupied from at least the 10<sup>th</sup> century with pottery of 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> century types occurring on the site. There is a hiatus in the assemblage until the medieval period but this may not be significant, as the assemblage is very small. Our understanding of the social and functional development of the site is hampered by the small size of the assemblage and the lack of stratified sequences. Much of the Late Saxon to Saxo-Norman material appears to have undergone post-depositional plough damage with only the two vessels from ditch **326** being in a fresh condition.



The jar rim in the newly established fabric should be drawn for the archive (fig. 4.1 below) and the entire archive should be retained for future study. Type sherds have been removed for the County and North Lincolnshire Fabric Types Series.



**Figure 4.1:** Illustration of the jar rim from context 326 at scale 1:4.

## References

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## Appendix 4a: Post-Roman Pottery Dating Archive.

Site Code	Trench	Context	Date	Comments
UCLE 14	Trench 1	105	late 9th to 10th	single sherd
UCLE 14	Trench 2	206	early/mid 10th to mid 11th	
UCLE 14	Trench 2	211	late 9th to 10th	single sherd
UCLE 14	Trench 2	214	10th to 11th	
UCLE 14	Trench 3	308	late 9th to early/mid 10th	single sherd
UCLE 14	Trench 3	310	10th to mid 11th	
UCLE 14	Trench 3	313	10th to mid 11th	single sherd
UCLE 14	Trench 3	325	10th to mid 11th	single sherd
UCLE 14	Trench 3	326	late 10th to 11th	
UCLE 14	Trench 4	405	late 13th to 14th	
UCLE 14	Trench 4	406	14th to mid 16th	
UCLE 14	Trench 4	409	late 10th to 11th	single sherd

### Appendix 4b: Post-Roman Pottery Archive

Trench	Context	Cname	Sub Fabric	Form Type	Sherds	Vessels	Weight	Part	Action	Ref No	Description
Trench 1	105	LSH	Fabric B	jar/bowl	1	1	10	BS			very abraded; leached surfaces
Trench 2	206	ELSNQ		small jar/bowl	1	1	11	base	County Type Series		abraded
Trench 2	206	ELSNQ		small jar/bowl	1	1	7	base			carbonised deposit int
Trench 2	206	ELSNQ		small jar	1	1	5	BS			int soot
Trench 2	206	LSH	Fabric B	jar ?	1	1	3	BS			leached surfaces; int soot
Trench 2	206	ELSNQQC		small jar	1	1	1	BS	North Lincolnshire Fabric Type Series		soot
Trench 2	206	LSH	Fabric B	inturned rim bowl	1	1	11	rim			leached surfaces; soot on body
Trench 2	206	FIRED CLAY	med sandy	-	1	1	3	BS			very abraded formless lump;fabric is a fine version of ELSNQ
Trench 2	211	LKT		jar	1	1	16	BS			leached surfaces; soot part ext & int;abraded
Trench 2	214	ELSNFQ		jar/bowl	3	1	8	BS	County Type Series and North Lincolnshire Type Series		abraded
Trench 2	214	ELSNQ		small jar	1	1	21	base	North Lincolnshire Fabric Type Series		sagging base;quite light firng fabric;ext soot upwards from 10mm above basal angle
Trench 3	308	LSLOC	Fabric D	small jar	1	1	9	base			leached;abraded;very thin base;soot int & ext;? Fabric ID
Trench 3	310	LSH	Fabric B	jar ?	1	1	10	BS			leached;fabric incl mod-comm fe
Trench 3	310	ELSNFQ		jar/bowl	2	1	3	BS			soot;abraded

Trench	Context	Cname	Sub Fabric	Form Type	Sherds	Vessels	Weight	Part	Action	Ref No	Description
Trench 3	310	LSH	Fabric B	jar ?	4	1	5	BS			leached;fabric incl mod-comm fe
Trench 3	313	TORK		small jar ?	1	1	2	BS			abraded
Trench 3	313	LSH	Fabric B	jar ?	1	1	3	BS			abraded;leached
Trench 3	325	ELSNFQ		small jar	1	1	1	BS			abraded;soot
Trench 3	326	ELSNCQC		small jar/bowl	3	1	35	BS			soot part ext;carbonised deposit int
Trench 3	326	ELSNCQC		small jar	2	1	20	rim & BS		DR1	wheelthrown;tall neck;draw for record
Trench 4	405	BEVO2	Fabric B	small jug	3	1	23	base			splayed base;glaze on underside
Trench 4	405	BEVO2	Fabric B	jug/jar	1	1	3	BS			glaze spot
Trench 4	405	HUM		jug	1	1	39	base			heavily knife trimmed just above base;late 13th to 14th
Trench 4	406	HUM		jug	1	1	7	BS			glazed;14th to mid 16th
Trench 4	409	ELSNCQC		jar ?	1	1	3	BS			very abraded

## **Appendix 5: The Lithic Materials**

*by Tom Lane*

Two flints, both heavily abraded, were collected from deposit 405. Only one, a blade flake, had been worked. The worked example is heavily abraded and the level of surface damage suggests it is very unlikely to have been in a primary context. As an isolated find of waste flint it is unlikely to represent more than a single episode of knapping and there is no evidence that flint was worked more extensively in the immediate environs.

I - Natural unworked flint. Discarded

1 - Blade flake. Pronounced dorsal ridge. Very heavily patinated (white). Heavily abraded. Wt 2 gms. Mesolithic or early Neolithic.

## Appendix 6: The Faunal Assemblage

by Jennifer Wood

### Introduction

A total of 5 (541g) fragments of animal bone were recovered by hand during archaeological works undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Services Ltd at Church Lane, Ulceby, North Lincolnshire. The remains were recovered from Trench 2 ditch [204], and Trench 4 ditch [404]. All of the remains were tentatively dated from the Medieval/Post-medieval periods.

### Results

The remains were generally of a moderate overall condition, averaging at grade 3 on the Lyman criteria (1996).

Gnawing was noted on a single fragment from ditch [404]. Where possible to assess the gnawing appeared to be *canid* in origin, which would suggest that the remains were left open to scavengers as part of or after the disposal process. No evidence of butchery or pathology was noted on the remains. A single fragment of large mammal long bone from ditch [204] was charred black, which may have been a result of roasting meat or an incidental burning event.

**Table 1, Summary of Identified Bone**

Context	Cut	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	Weight	Comments
214	204	Cattle	Humerus	L	1	97	Distal condyles, in four pieces
		Large Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	1	5	Shaft fragment, Charred black
		Sheep/Goat	Mandible	R	1	5	Diastema
		Cattle	Tooth	L	1	3	Enamel fragment
216		Large Mammal Size	Rib	X	1	6	Blade fragment
405	404	Cattle	Metatarsal	L	1	29	Shaft, in three pieces. Possible carnivore gnawing on the distal end
		Sheep/Goat	Tooth	R	1	2	Lower M3=g?, broken.

As can be seen within Table 1, cattle remains were the predominant species identified, with a two fragments of sheep/goat remains also identified. The assemblage is too small to provide meaningful information on animal husbandry and utilisation on site, save the presence/use of the animals on site. In the event of further works, the site is liable to produce more bone of a similar nature with a moderate potential for providing further information on site economy and husbandry practices.

### References

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## Appendix 7: The Charred Plant Remains

by Rachel Small, ULAS

### Introduction

Seven samples were taken during excavation at Ulceby, Lincolnshire. The samples were taken from three types of feature ditch fill, gully terminal and beam slot which date between the late Saxon and early post-medieval periods. They were taken to establish if they contained charred plant remains which are a useful indicator of activities associated with crop processing.

### Method

The samples had high silt content. Approximately a litre of each was sent for assessment, so the decision was made to bucket float each sample into a 0.3mm mesh sieve. The flotation fractions (flots) were transferred into plastic boxes; air dried and then sorted using an x10-40 stereo microscope. The plant remains were identified by comparison with modern reference material available at ULAS and were counted and tabulated below (table 1). The plant names follow Stace (1991).

### Results

Samples 1 and 2 had high numbers of charred plant remains including grains, chaff and wild seeds. In samples 3 and 5 charred plant remains were present but in low numbers. In the remaining samples charred plant remains were absent. Charcoal flecks were found in small quantities in each sample.

#### **Chaff**

Small numbers of bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) rachis were identified in samples 1 and 2. No rivet wheat (*Triticum turgidum*) rachis was identified; this becomes widely consumed after the Norman Conquest.

#### **Grain**

Grains were abundant (151) in sample 1, common (25) in sample 2, and present (3) in sample 3. The most common type of grain was *Triticum* free-threshing wheat; as no rivet wheat was identified, it can be assumed these grains are bread wheat. Barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) was the next most common, and was identified in samples 1 and 2. A small number (3) of cultivated oats (*Avena* sp.) were identified in sample 2. It is also likely that wild oats are present in sample 1 (included in cereal/Poaceae grains).

#### **Wild seeds**

A small number of weed seeds were present in samples 1, 2, 3 and 5. Those which could be identified are generally associated with arable fields and grasslands (Jones et al. 2004): stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula* L.), clover (*Trifolium* sp.), speedwell (*Veronica* sp.) and

wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum* L.). Goosefoots (*Chenopodium* sp.) were identified and are associated with nitrogen-rich soils.

### **Uncharred wild seeds**

An uncharred elder (*Sambucus nigra* L.) seed was identified in sample 1. Elder has a good survival rate and is common in archaeological soil samples. Uncharred seed casing was identified in samples 4 and 7, and could be modern contaminants. Modern rootlets were present in all samples in low numbers.

### **Sample 1 and 2**

Van der Veen's (2007: 987) ratios are used to identify crop processing stages represented in samples, and where possible these were calculated. She advises a minimum of 25 items per ratio to produce reliable conclusions. Ratios A, B and D could be calculated for samples 1 and 2 (table 2). For each ratio the values for samples 1 and 2 were low suggesting the samples primarily represent a grain product. Sample 1 had a much higher number of items per litre than sample 2; this suggests a more intensive rate of deposition.

It is of note that in the ratios represented at this site, cereal grains predominate, with little chaff and few weed seeds, and this is typical of medieval sites, for example Dunchurch, Vicarage Garden, Warwickshire (Monckton 2013).

### **Discussion/conclusion**

Samples 1 and 2 are primarily cleaned grain and probably represent food spillage or food waste. It is most probable that the grain was brought to site 'clean'; it can be assumed the rachis and weed seeds were contaminants and picked out by hand to prepare the grain for consumption. This waste would have been thrown onto the hearth. The one piece of straw found in sample 2 may have been used as kindling. The sweepings of the hearth would have been deposited in the respective features. The main difference between samples 1 and 2 was the intensity of deposition.

The small amounts of charred plant remains in sample 3 and 5 probably represent background domestic waste that has accidentally entered the feature such as the beam slot. Samples 4, 6 and 7 did not contain charred plant remains: the lack of evidence may suggest that crop-processing activities were not carried out in the immediate vicinity of these features.

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**Table 1: Charred plant remains**

Date	Late Saxon – medieval	Late Saxon – early medieval	Late Saxon	Late Saxon	Unknown	Unknown	Medieval – early post-medieval	
Feature type	Shallow pit/gully terminal	Ditch fill	Beam slot	Ditch fill	Ditch fill	Ditch fill	Ditch fill	
Sample	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
<b>Cereal chaff</b>								
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> rachis	6	2						Bread wheat
<i>Triticum</i> free-threshing rachis	4	2						Wheat, free threshing
Cereal culm node		1						Cereal
<b>Total</b>	10	5						
<b>Cereal grains</b>								
<i>Triticum</i> free-threshing grains	80	8	1					Wheat, free threshing
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. grains	10	3						Barley
<i>Avena</i> sp. grains		3						Oats
Cereal grains	26	6	2					Cereal
Cereal/Poaceae grains	35	5						Cereal/grass
<b>Total</b>	151	25	3					
<b>Wild plants</b>								
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.	3	1						Stinking chamomile
<i>Chenopodium</i> sp.	2		1					Goosefoots
<i>Chenopodium album</i> sp.		2						Fat hen
<i>Trifolium</i> sp.		1	1					Clover
<i>Veronica</i> sp.		1						Speedwell
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> L.		1						Wild radish
Indeterminate seeds	2				1			Indeterminate seeds
<b>Total</b>	7	6	2		1			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>1</b>			



<b>Litres</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Part sorted</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	

**Table 2: Calculations and values for ratios (van der Veen 2007: 987) for samples 1 and 2.**

<b>Ratio A</b>	<b>Sample 1</b>	<b>Sample 2</b>
Number of cereal straw nodes	0	1
Number of cereal grains	151	25
Number of cereal straw nodes/grains	0	0.04
<b>Ratio A</b>	<b>Sample 1</b>	<b>Sample 2</b>
Number of free-threshing rachis internodes	10	4
Number of free-threshing grains	80	8
Number of free-threshing rachis internodes /grains	0.13	Void
<b>Ratio A</b>	<b>Sample 1</b>	<b>Sample 2</b>
Number of weed seeds	7	6
Number of cereal grains	151	25
Number of weed seeds/cereal grains	0.05	0.24

## Appendix 8: OASIS Summary

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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## Land off Church Lane, Ulceby - Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd

OASIS ID - preconst3-194530

### Versions

View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date
<a href="#">View 1</a>	1	Mrs. R. D. Savage	rachel@pre-construct.co.uk	7 November 2014
<a href="#">View 2</a>	2	Mrs. R. D. Savage	rachel@pre-construct.co.uk	7 November 2014

### Completed sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
No	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/1

### Validated sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
No	No	No	No	0/1

### File submission and form progress

Grey literature report submitted?	No	Grey literature report filename/s
Boundary file submitted?	No	Boundary filename
HER signed off?		NMR signed off?

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