

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT:**  
**LAND AT CANOPUS FARM, FRITH BANK, BOSTON, EAST LINDSEY,  
LINCOLNSHIRE, PE22 7BD**

NGR:	TF 30858 47592
Planning app:	Pre-application
PCAS job No.:	1339
Site code:	BCFE 14
Archive acc. no.:	LCNCC: 2014.226

Report prepared for  
Countryside Renewables Capital LLP

By

L. Brocklehurst

December 2014



Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd  
47, Manor Road  
Saxilby  
Lincoln  
LN1 2HX  
Tel. 01522 703800  
e-mail: [info@pre-construct.co.uk](mailto:info@pre-construct.co.uk)

Summary	3
1.0 Introduction	4
2.0 Site Location and description	4
3.0 Topography and geology	4
4.0 Planning background	4
5.0 Archaeological and historical background	5
6.0 Aims and methodology	5
7.0 Results	6
7.1 Trenches containing archaeological remains	6
7.2 Trenches containing no archaeological features	8
8.0 Discussion and conclusions	8
9.0 Effectiveness of methodology	8
10.0 Acknowledgments	8
11.0 References	8

### Figures

**Fig.1:** Site location map at scale 1:25000. Site location shown in red.

**Fig 2:** Trench location plan overlain on interpretive geophysical survey results. 1:2000@A3

**Fig 3:** Trench 3 plan (1:100) and sections (1:20).

**Fig 4:** Representative sections (1:20) of archaeologically negative trenches.

### Appendices

**Appendix 1** - Colour Plates

**Appendix 2** - Context Summary

**Appendix 3** - Animal Bone Report

**Appendix 4** – Pottery Report

**Appendix 5** – Oasis summary

## Plates

**Plate 1:** Trench 1 excavated (looking W).

**Plate 2:** Trench 2 excavated (looking SW).

**Plate 3:** Trench 3 excavated (looking NE).

**Plate 4:** Trench 4 excavated (looking S).

**Plate 5:** Trench 5 excavated (looking W).

**Plate 6:** Trench 6 excavated (looking NE).

**Plate 7:** Trench 7 excavated (looking NNW).

**Plate 8:** Trench 8 excavated (looking SW).

**Plate 9:** Trench 1 representative section (looking SW).

**Plate 10:** Trench 8 representative section (looking NW).

**Plate 11:** Section through ditch [302] (looking SE).

**Plate 12:** Section through ditch [306] (looking E).

**Plate 13:** Section through ditch [308] and the upper fills of [310] (looking SW).

**Plate 14:** Section through western edges of ditch [310]. Note significant stepped edge (looking NW).

## Summary

In November 2014, a trial trench evaluation took place on c.25 hectares of farmland at Canopus Farm, Frith Bank, Boston. This was commissioned by Countryside Renewables Capital LLP and was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the Historic Environment Officer for East Lindsey. The results will be used to inform an upcoming planning application.

A preceding geophysical survey of the proposed development zone had identified the area as having low archaeological potential. This potential was further investigated through the excavation of trial trenching; the results of which matched the findings of the geophysical survey.

Five trenches (1, 5, 6, 7 and 8) contained no archaeology. Two (2 and 4) contained modern agricultural features, which had been highlighted during the geophysical survey. Only one trench (3) contained archaeology; this consisted of multiple ditches, all but one on an approximate N-S alignment. These were cut from just below the topsoil and contained very little in the way of finds. Two fragments of late medieval pottery were recovered from the largest of the ditches.



Figure 1: Site location map at scale 1:25000. Site location shown in red. OS Explorer sheet 261. (OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278).

## **1.0 Introduction**

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd., (PCAS) were commissioned by Countryside Renewables Capital LLP to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a proposed development site at Canopus Farm, Frith Bank, Boston. The scheme was undertaken on the advice of the Historic Environment Officer for East Lindsey District Council, prior to the submission of a planning application for a new solar field at the site.

The results of the evaluation, presented here, along with the geophysical survey and a Heritage Impact Assessment, will be submitted in support of the application, to inform and advise the planning committee if any archaeological mitigation is required in association with the proposals.

## **2.0 Site location and description**

The proposed site lay c.4km northwest of the centre of Boston, on the north side of Firth Bank, the road which runs along the north bank of Cowbridge Drain from West Fen Drain and the B1183 Boston Road, to the hamlet of Antons Gowt, which lies less than 1km west of the site. It is also in the natural flood plain of the River Witham, less than 200m from the northeast bank of the river as it flows from Tattershall southeast towards Boston, as such the site is very flat.

The site comprises of two fields of arable farmland, c. 25 acres of land; the southeast corner of the southern-most field lies directly adjacent to the existing buildings of Canopus Farm. A small number of modern bungalows have been constructed to the east of Canopus Farm, fronting on to Frith Bank, the rear boundary of the bungalows is shared with the development site. The north and west boundary of the southern field is defined by a drain, which also extends along the west and north boundaries of the northern field. There is an unnamed local road extending north from Frith Bank towards Peacocks Farm which defines the eastern boundary of the north field.

The approximate central NGR for the entire development site is TF 30858 47592

## **3.0 Topography and geology**

The site lies on a band of Amphill Clay Formation – Mudstone which extends from the south bank of the River Humber east of Barton, through eastern Lincolnshire towards the coast close to Boston. The bedrock was formed in shallow seas in the Jurassic period. It is overlain by Tidal Flat Deposits of clay and silt, which were deposited in the Quaternary periods as global sea level fell and the clays and silts fell out of suspension on beaches and other shoreline environments (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

The proposed development site lies within the natural flood plain of the River Witham, less than 200m southwest of the southern site boundary. Ground levels in this area are consistently low, with the site lying entirely below 4mOD. A benchmark recorded in the centre of Antons Gowt is at 3.33m OD, while a cut benchmark on the southwest face of one of the outbuildings at Canopus Farm is recorded as 3.60m OD (0.60m above ground level).

## **4.0 Planning background**

On 27 March 2012, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) replaced PPS5. The NPPF places the responsibility for dealing with heritage assets affected by development proposals with the developer. Local planning authorities now need to be assured by those applying for planning permission that any such remains are not under threat of being destroyed unrecorded. As a result developers are required to produce a definitive method of mitigating the effect of development on the historic environment within the planning process.

Section 12, paragraph 128 of the NPPF states that, '128. *In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. 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*'.

A planning application for a solar field at Canopus Farm is currently under preparation for submission to East Lindsey District Council. The Historic Environment Officer for East Lindsey has been consulted, and recommended a scheme of work to investigate the archaeological potential of the site, the results of which are to be submitted with the application to advise on any archaeological mitigation connected with the development proposals.

The recommended scheme included a geophysical survey followed by targeted trial trenching, which in combination with a Heritage Impact Assessment would investigate the archaeological background and potential of the site, as well as the potential impact of the development proposals on any identified archaeological remains in and around the site.

This document reports the results of the scheme of targeted trial trenching, based on the results of a recently completed geophysical survey (Bunn, 2014).

## **5.0 Archaeological and historical background**

There are no known archaeological or historical records which relate directly to the proposed site, there is also little known evidence of early activity; for much or early prehistory it is likely the site lay below the shoreline, and was either permanently or semi-permanently waterlogged and therefore inhospitable. Sea levels gradually fell during later prehistory, allowing for Iron Age and Roman occupation on the islands of higher ground formed in the Lincolnshire Wash.

There is no evidence of Saxon occupation of this area; the Domesday Book records the settlements of Sibsey to the northeast and Boston, an inland port by the early medieval period; however no settlements in the immediate area of the site are recorded in this historic document. Sea levels were still high compared with today's levels, and this area likely remained waterlogged throughout the Saxon and early medieval period.

Undated cropmarks around Frith Bank may indicate medieval occupation, however it was not until the draining of the Fens that it became possible to live and work on this low lying land. First attempts were made in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, with repeated efforts to reclaim this land throughout the post-medieval period, resulting in the rich open arable farmland of today's landscape.

A geophysical survey of the site was undertaken by Pre-Construct Geophysics (Bunn 2014), which revealed very low archaeological potential.

## **6.0 Aims and methodology**

A written scheme of investigation (WSI) for the evaluation was submitted to and approved by the Historic Environment Officer for East Lindsey. Trench locations were chosen in order to fully explore the potential archaeology of the area of proposed development as indicated by the preceding geophysical survey.

The broad aim of the evaluation was:

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

A proposed methodology for the scheme had been fully set out in the WSI; approved by the Historic Environment Officer for East Lindsey in advance of the evaluation.

All trenches were accurately fixed into the National Grid using a Leica GS50, Topcom GRS1 global positioning system (GPS). The precise locations of the 17 trenches had been agreed in advance, but their locations were subject to minimal adjustment to avoid services, overhead obstructions etc. These alterations did not affect the features that were being targeted. Trench positions are shown overlain on greyscale geophysical survey imagery on Figure 2.

The excavation of all trial trenches took place initially using a mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. Machine excavation progressed in spits no greater than 200mm and ceased either at the first significant archaeological horizon, or the natural substrate.

All archaeological features were examined sufficiently to determine their date, character, state of preservation and extent, as well as to recover artefactual / ecofactual remains for further study. Features were recorded by measured plan and section drawings at appropriate scales (1:20 and 1:10 respectively). A written record for each stratigraphic horizon and archaeological feature was made on standard PCAS recording forms. A photographic archive and a narrative account in the form of a site diary supplements these records.

## **7.0 Results**

A full descriptive context summary list appears as Appendix 2, whilst selected photographs can be seen in Appendix 1. A Trench location plan is included as Figure 2; see Figure 3 and 4 for trench plans and sections.

### *7.1 Trenches containing features*

#### *Trench 2*

Trench 2 (30m x 1.75m) was positioned in the very southwest corner of the site. It was positioned in order to expose a potential boundary ditch that had been identified during the geophysical survey, and that can be seen on historical maps as a field boundary. This ditch, along with a large modern pit, was identified in the trench.

The boundary ditch, [201], runs approximately N-S through the centre of the trench. It was filled with a mixed deposit of silt clay, (202), which contained modern waste, such as glass and CBM. This ditch appears on historic mapping and is clearly a backfilled field boundary. It was partially excavated, however, a modern land drain was found towards the base which halted excavation. It extended the full width of the trench and was 2.7m wide. A single fragment of late medieval pottery, dated from the mid 16<sup>th</sup> to the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century was recovered from the top of this feature.

Further to the ditch, a large pit-like feature, [203], was identified at the western end of the trench. It was only partially exposed; however seemed to be circular in plan. As with the boundary ditch, this feature contained fragments of modern pottery and general waste, suggesting it had fairly recently been backfilled and had a modern origin.

Both of these features were sealed by the topsoil (200) and cut through the subsoil (205). As well as the topsoil, and subsoil, multiple layers of alluvial silts were exposed during excavation.

### *Trench 3*

Trench 3 (30m x 1.75m) was positioned on the southern edge of the site, next to Canopus Farm itself. This trench was positioned in order to explore potential ditch features that had been identified during the geophysical survey. In total five ditches, the majority of which were on an approximate N-S alignment were identified. Pottery recovered from one of these has been dated to the late medieval period.

Two ditches were located towards the eastern end of the trench, [302] and [304]. The easternmost ditch, [302], was on an approximate NNW-SSE orientation. It had steep edges, which curved into a flat base. It was filled by a single silty deposit, (303), which produced no finds. It extended across the width of the trench, and was 1.2m wide and 0.5m deep. A few metres to the west of this feature another ditch, [304], was exposed. This was also on an approximate NNW-SSE orientation. Unlike [302] it had shallow edges that curved into a broad, flat base. It was filled by a single silty deposit, (305), which produced no finds. It extended across the width of the trench, and was 1.08m wide and 0.22m deep.

In the centre of the trench a further ditch, [306], this time on an approximate E-W alignment was identified. This feature was cut by two ditches located to the west, [308] and [310], suggesting it was one of the earlier features in the trench. It had a V-shaped profile, with fairly steep edges that ran into a narrow concave base; it was 0.9m wide and 0.32m deep. It was filled by a single silty deposit, (307), and contained two fragments of animal bone, identified as sheep/goat and goose. Condition of the bone suggested they were of a modern date.

As mentioned above, a further two ditches were exposed at the west end of the trench. These were [308] and [310]. The latest of these ditches, [308], was on an approximate N-S alignment and cut through the upper fills of the ditch [310]. It had steep edges and a broad, flat base. It was filled by a single silty deposit, (309), which produced no finds and extended across the width of the trench, and was 0.8m wide and 0.4m deep.

By far the most significant feature, in terms of size, in this trench was the westernmost ditch, [310], which was on an approximate N-S alignment. It was cut by [308] on its eastern edge, whilst it cut [306]. Its eastern edge was destroyed by the later feature; however it had a stepped western edge that ran steeply into a fairly flat base. It was filled by multiple deposits of silt clays, one of which, (312), produced fragments of large mammal bone, including a rib fragment which displayed signs of butchery, and two dog bones. Two fragments of late medieval pottery dates the feature to the mid 15<sup>th</sup> to mid 16<sup>th</sup> century.

The underlying geology differed from the majority of the site, as it was on an 'island' rather than the natural flood plain. This meant the natural substrate was silty sand, rather than the silt clays seen elsewhere. All of the features were sealed by the topsoil (300) and cut into the natural substrate (301). The trench was excavated to a depth of approximately 0.7m below original ground level.

### *Trench 4*

Trench 4 (30m x 1.75m) was positioned in the southern half of the southwest field. As with Trench 2 and 3 it was positioned on a geological 'island' and therefore the natural substrate was a silty sand, rather than silt clays. This trench was targeting a large feature that had been identified in the geophysical survey. As with the previous two trenches, the feature targeted was exposed.

The only feature seen in this trench was a large pit, [403], located in the very centre of the trench. It was approximately 16m in diameter and was filled (as far seen during excavation) by a single deposit, (404), which contained multiple sherds of modern pottery, CBM and general waste. The central part of the trench was excavated deeper in order to see if the base could be reached, however after 1m below ground level this was stopped. The farmer did point out to the archaeologist on site that this was a feature that he had backfilled himself within the last thirty years, and that before that it had been used as a watering hole for cattle.

This feature was sealed by the topsoil (400) and cut into the natural substrate (401). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of approximately 1m below original ground level.

## 7.2 Trenches containing no features

Out of the eight trenches excavated five (1, 5, 6, 7 and 8) of them were identified as being archaeologically negative. Due to the nature of the site and the surrounding area lying within the natural flood plain of the River Witham, each of these trenches were sondaged to a depth of 1.2m below existing ground level. This was done in order to investigate the potential of archaeology being buried beneath alluvial silting that had inevitably occurred on site. No archaeology was encountered at this level in any trench on site.

## 8.0 Discussion and conclusion

The scheme of trial trenching consisted of eight trenches (30m x 1.75m) spread out across two fields. These trenches had been located specifically to target and investigate anomalies that were highlighted by a geophysical survey that was undertaken prior to investigation. Out of the eight trenches, five (1, 5, 6, 7 and 8) are archaeologically negative, two (2 and 4) contained purely modern agricultural features and one (3) contained multiple archaeological features.

All of the features excavated in Trench 3 are linear in nature, with all but one, [306], on an approximate N-S alignment. Due to the local environment, low lying and situated on a natural flood plain, drainage would have undoubtedly been an issue throughout the sites history. Therefore it would seem that these features are of an agricultural origin, most likely representing late medieval/post medieval/modern phases of field boundaries, and/or drainage features.

This is further evidenced by the lack of finds from these ditches. If the features were of a domestic origin, far more pottery and general domestic waste would be expected to have been retrieved, rather than the two sherds that were obtained.

## 9.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology employed during this project achieved its primary objective, ensuring that the proposed development area was explored in order to confirm the presence/absence and to characterise the archaeology that was exposed. Much of the archaeology identified corroborated the results of the geophysical survey.

## 10.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. is grateful to Countryside Renewables Capital LLP for this commission.

## 11.0 References

<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/>

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

Bunn, D, 2014, *Archaeological Geophysical Survey: Land at Canopus Farm, Frith Bank, Boston*. Forthcoming client report by Pre-Construct Geophysics.

OS Explorer Map, 2006, Sheet 261: *Boston, Tattershall, Billingham & Heckington*. Ordnance Survey, Southampton. (OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278).



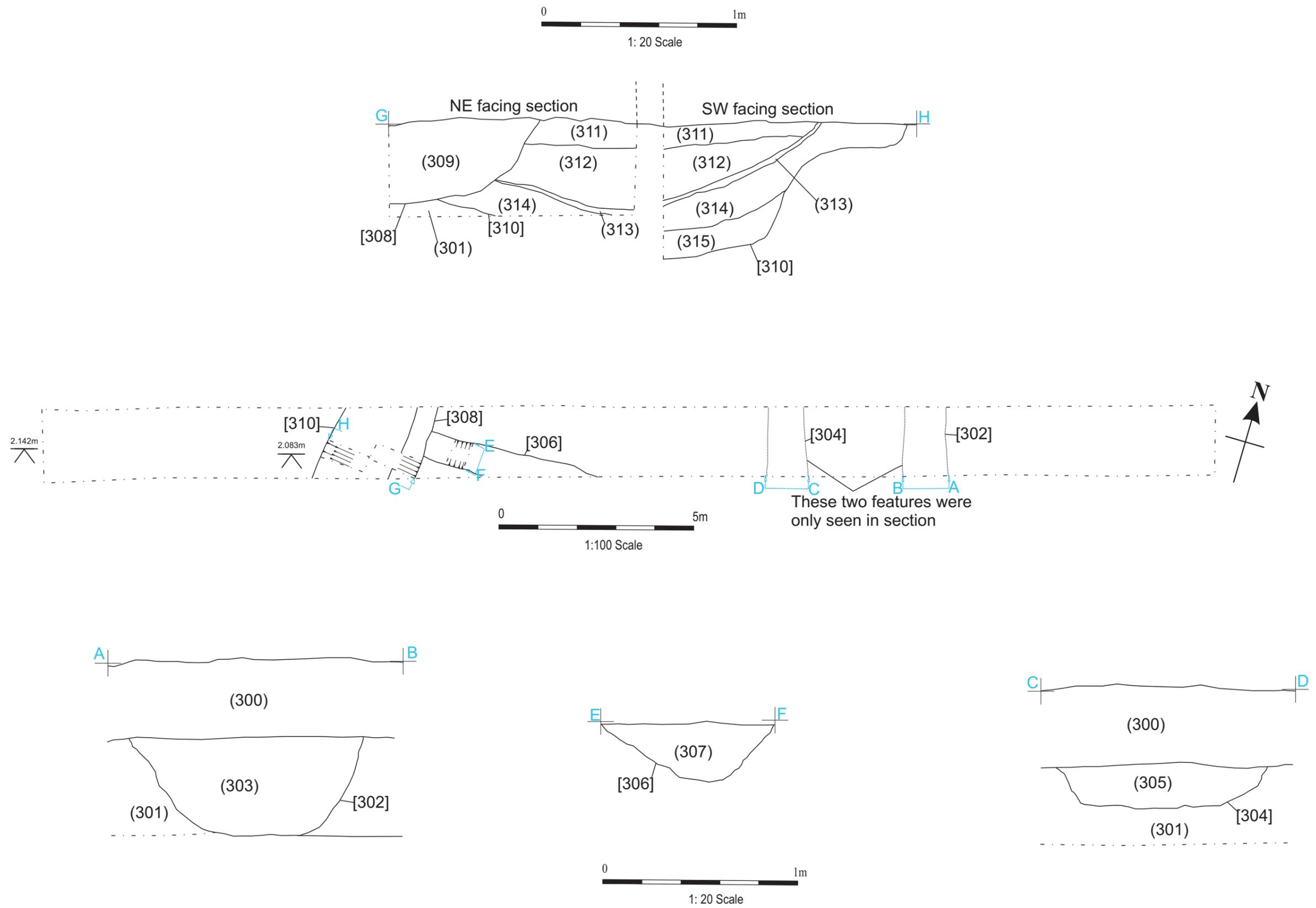


Figure 3: Trench 3 plan (1:100) and sections (1:20).

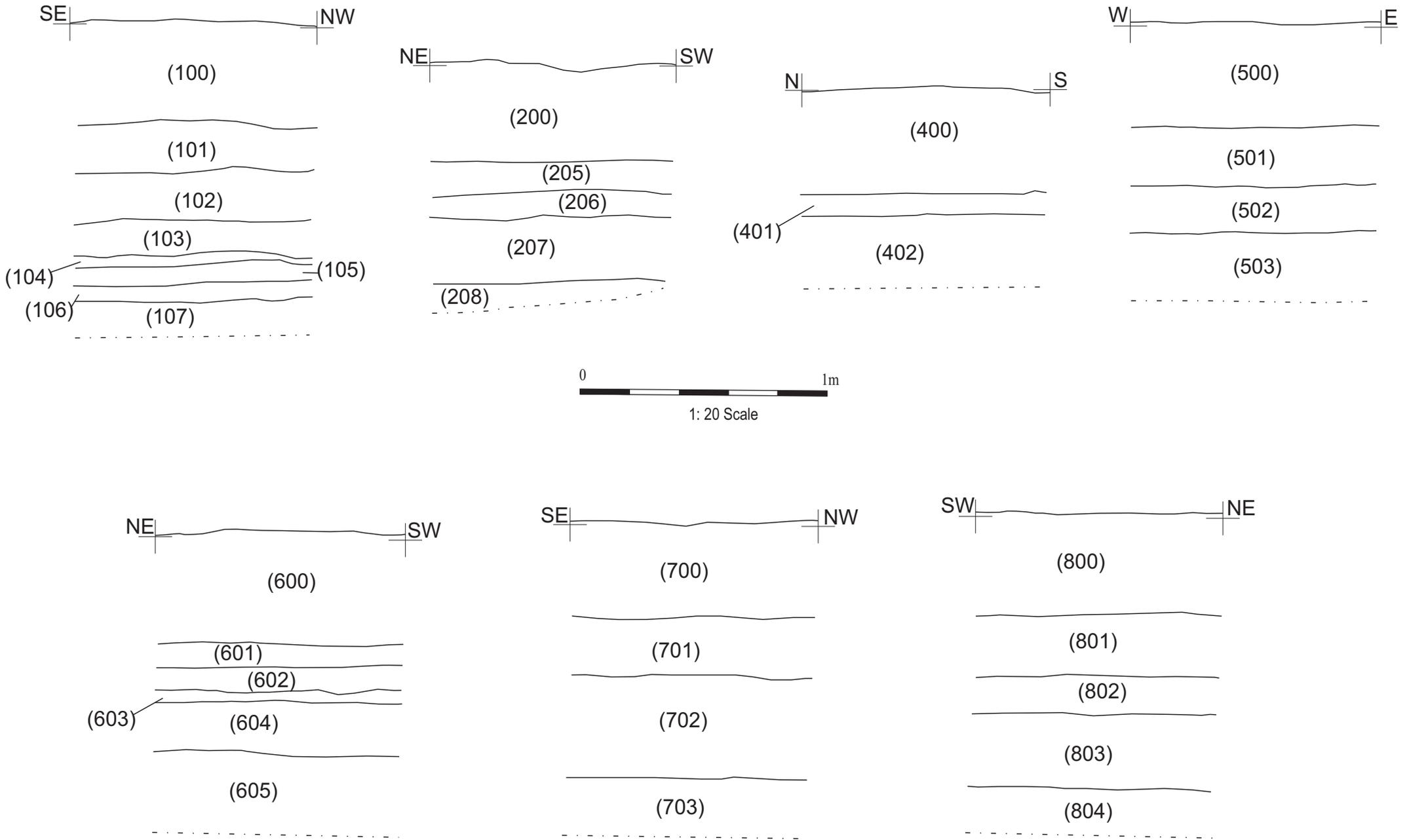


Figure 4: Representative sections of archaeologically negative trenches

Appendix 1 – Colour Plates



Plate 1 (left): Trench 1 excavated (looking W).



Plate 2 (right): Trench 2 excavated (looking SW)



Plate 3 (left): Trench 3 excavated (looking NE).



Plate 4 (right): Trench 4 excavated (looking S)



Plate 5 (left): Trench 5 excavated (looking W).



Plate 6 (right): Trench 6 excavated (looking NE)



Plate 7: Trench 7 excavated (looking NNW).



Plate 8: Trench 8 excavated (looking SW).



Plate 9: Trench 1 representative section. Note the distinct layers of silting caused by flooding (looking SW).



Plate 10: Trench 8 representative section. Note the distinct layers of silting caused by flooding (looking NW).



Plate 11: Section through ditch [302] (looking SE).



Plate 12: Section through ditch [306] (looking E).



Plate 13: Section through ditch [308] and the upper fills of [310] (looking SW).



Plate 14: Section through western edges of ditch [310]. Note significant stepped edge (looking NW).

Appendix 2 – Context Summary

Context No.	Type	Description	Finds
<b>Trench 1</b>			
100	Layer	Topsoil. Dark brown clay silt. Firm but friable. 0.42m thick.	
101	Layer	Dark brown blue silt clay. Firm and compact. Alluvial silting. 0.2m thick.	
102	Layer	Mid brown orange silt clay. Firm and compact. Alluvial silting. 0.21m thick.	
103	Layer	Dark grey clay. Very compact and firm. Alluvial silting. 0.16m thick.	
104	Layer	Mid brown orange clay. Very firm and compact. Alluvial silting. 0.06m thick.	
105	Layer	Dark brown grey silt clay. Firm and compact, but slightly friable. 0.09m thick.	
106	Layer	Dark brown grey mixed silt clay. Firm and compact. Alluvial silting. 0.07m thick.	
107	Layer	Dark brown clay. Very firm and compact. Alluvial silting. 0.16m exposed, but full extent unknown.	
<b>Trench 2</b>			
200	Layer	Topsoil. See (100) for description. 0.4m thick.	
201	Cut	Modern boundary ditch. Appeared on the geophysical survey and on maps. Has been backfilled within the last 30 years. Contained a modern land drain at its base. 2.7m wide.	
202	Fill	Backfill of boundary ditch [201]. Dark grey to black silt. Firm but friable. Contained frequent modern waste, such as glass and CBM.	Pottery
203	Cut	Large modern pit-like feature at very western end of trench. Partially exposed and, seemingly circular in plan.	
204	Fill	Backfill of pit [203]. Dark grey silt. Firm but friable. As with (202), contained modern waste, including two fragments of modern pottery.	Pottery
205	Layer	Mid brown orange clay silt subsoil. Friable but firm. 0.14m thick.	
206	Layer	Mid grey blue clay. Firm and compact. 0.1m thick.	
207	Layer	Mid brown blue silt clay. Firm and compact. 0.26m thick.	
208	Layer	Dark grey brown clay. Very firm and compact. 0.1m exposed, but full extent unknown.	
<b>Trench 3</b>			
300	Layer	Topsoil. See (100) for full description. 0.41m thick.	
301	Layer	Light to mid brown orange silt sand. Loose and friable. Seems to be the natural substrate in this area, most likely on an 'island' in the surrounding flood plains.	
302	Cut	Linear feature that is on a NNW-SSE alignment. It has steep edges that curve into a fairly flat base. It is 1.2m wide and 0.5m deep.	
303	Fill	Single fill of [302]. Mid grey silt. Friable and quite loose. No finds.	
304	Cut	Linear feature that is on a NNW-SSE alignment. It has shallow edges and a broad, flat base. It is 1.08m wide and 0.22m deep.	
305	Fill	Single fill of [304]. Similar to (303). No finds.	

Appendix 2 – Context Summary

306	Cut	Linear feature that is on an approximate E-W alignment. Is cut by later feature [308] and [310]. It is 0.9m wide and 0.32m deep.	
307	Fill	Single fill of [304]. Dark brown clay silt. Friable and quite loose.	Animal bone
308	Cut	Linear feature on a N-S alignment. This feature cuts through the upper fills of [310], on its eastern edge. It has steep edges and a flat base. 0.8m wide and 0.4m deep.	
309	Fill	Single fill of [308]. Dark brown clay silt. Friable and loose.	
310	Cut	Linear feature on a N-S alignment. This feature is wide and deep. Its eastern edge is partially destroyed by [308], and it has a stepped western edge into a flat base. It is 1.8m wide and 0.7m deep.	
311	Fill	Upper fill of [310]. Re-deposited natural silt on top of feature. Orange in colour.	
312	Fill	Upper silting of ditch [310]. Mid brown silt clay. Very firm and compact.	Animal bone and Pottery.
313	Fill	Thin layer of black silt that is located in the centre of the feature. Possible organic layer. It doesn't look like in situ burning.	
314	Fill	Lower fill of [310]. Light grey silt clay. Very firm and compact.	
315	Fill	Primary fill of [310]. Mid grey orange silt. Friable but firm.	
<b>Trench 4</b>			
400	Layer	Topsoil. See (100) for description. 0.42m thick.	
401	Layer	Mid brown orange clay silt subsoil. Friable and soft. 0.1m thick.	
402	Layer	Mid brown grey clay. Very firm and compact. Not fully exposed so full extent is unknown.	
403	Cut	Large pit located in centre of trench. Modern in origin. Farmer spoke to archaeologist on site and indicated that he used to use it as a cattle watering hole and backfilled it himself within the past 30 years.	
404	Fill	Dark brown black silty fill of [403]. Loose and friable. Contained lots of modern waste material, such as CBM.	
<b>Trench 5</b>			
500	Layer	Topsoil. See (100) for description. 0.4m thick.	
501	Layer	Mid grey blue clay, with some orange mottling. Very firm and compact. 0.23m thick.	
502	Layer	Light grey brown clay, with some orange mottling. Very firm and compact. 0.2m thick.	
503	Layer	Very similar to (502), however a slightly darker brown colour. Very firm. 0.3m exposed, but full extent not known.	
<b>Trench 6</b>			
600	Layer	Topsoil. See (100) for description. 0.4m thick.	
601	Layer	Mid brown orange silt clay. Firm but friable. 0.1m thick.	
602	Layer	Light blue and orange silt clay. Firm but friable. 0.1m thick.	
603	Layer	Thin layer of light orange clay silt. Very firm. 0.05m thick.	
604	Layer	Dark brown silt clay. Firm and compact. 0.2m thick.	
605	Layer	Mid brown silt clay. Firm and friable. 0.25m thick.	
<b>Trench 7</b>			

Appendix 2 – Context Summary

700	Layer	Topsoil. See (100) for description. 0.38m thick.	
701	Layer	Mixed light blue and mid grey silt clay. Very firm and compact. 0.24m thick.	
702	Layer	Mid brown silt clay with a slight orange mottling throughout. Friable. 0.42m thick.	
703	Layer	Light grey blue clay silt. Friable. Similar to (702). 0.3m exposed, but full extent unknown.	
<b>Trench 8</b>			
800	Layer	Topsoil. See (100) for description. 0.4m thick.	
801	Layer	Light brown orange silt clay. Quite friable but firm. 0.25m thick.	
802	Layer	Light brown grey silt clay. Firm, friable and compact. 0.15m thick.	
803	Layer	Light blue grey silt clay. Firm and compact. 0.33m thick.	
804	Layer	Dark brown sit clay. Firm and compact. 0.2m exposed but full extent unknown.	

## Appendix 3:

**Canopus Farm, Frith Bank,  
Boston, Lincolnshire  
(BCFE 14)  
*The Animal Bone*  
By Jennifer Wood**

### Introduction

A total of 9 (192g) refitted fragments of animal bone were recovered by hand during archaeological works undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Services Ltd at Canopus Farm, Frith Bank, Boston, Lincolnshire. The remains were recovered from Trench 3, ditches [304] and [310].

### Results

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

No evidence of burning, working or gnawing was noted on the remains.

A single knife cut associated with meat removal was noted on a single large mammal size rib blade recovered from ditch [310].

*Table 1, Summary of Identified Bone*

Context	Cut	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	Weight	Comments
307	304	Sheep/Goat	Femur	L	1	40	Unfused proximal end, fragmentary shaft. Large. Modern?
		Goose Size	Tarso-metatarsus	R	1	1	Distal shaft
312	310	Large Mammal Size	Rib	X	1	37	Blade, single knife cut on the blade
		Large Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	3	53	Shaft fragments
		Cattle	Tibia	L	1	24	Lateral distal articulation fragment
		Dog	Radius	L	1	16	Distal shaft and articulation, Bd=28mm
		Dog	Humerus	L	1	21	Distal shaft and condyles, Bd=36mm, BT=29mm

As can be seen dog, cattle, sheep/goat and goose size bird were the only species identified within the assemblage. The remaining assemblage was unidentifiable beyond size category. The dog remains probably originated from a single animal.

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. As all of the animal remains were recovered from Trench 3, this may suggest a focus of activity.

### References

Lyman, R L, 1996 *Vertebrate Taphonomy*, Cambridge Manuals in Archaeology, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge

BCFE14

<b>Cxt</b>	<b>Cname</b>	<b>Full name</b>	<b>Form</b>	<b>NoS</b>	<b>NoV</b>	<b>W (g)</b>	<b>Part</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
204	TB	Toynton/Bolingbroke wares	Bowl	1	1	31	BS	Abraded	Mid 16th to Mid 18th
312	TOYII	Toynton Late Medieval ware	Jug	2	1	21	BS		Mid 15th to Mid 16th

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

## Printable version

**OASIS ID: preconst3-195937**

### Project details

Project name	Canopus Farm, Frith Bank, Boston
Short description of the project	In November 2014, a trial trench evaluation took place on c.25 hectares of farmland at Canopus Farm, Frith Bank, Boston. This was commissioned by AAH Planning Consultants and was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the Historic Environment Officer for East Lindsey. The results will be used to inform an upcoming planning application. A preceding geophysical survey of the proposed development zone had identified the area as having low archaeological potential. This potential was further investigated through the excavation of trial trenching; the results of which matched the findings of the geophysical survey. Five trenches (1, 5, 6, 7 and 8) contained no archaeology. Two (2 and 4) contained modern agricultural features, which had been highlighted during the geophysical survey. Only one trench (3) contained archaeology; this consisted of multiple ditches, all on an approximate N-S alignment. All of these were cut from just below the topsoil and contained very little in the way of finds. Two fragments of late medieval pottery (provisionally dated) were recovered from the most significant of the ditches, suggesting a fairly recent date.
Project dates	Start: 12-11-2014 End: 14-11-2014
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BCFE 14 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Solar Development
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the	Pre-application

planning process

### Project location

Country England  
 Site location LINCOLNSHIRE BOSTON BOSTON Canopus Farm, Frith Bank, Boston  
 Study area 25.00 Hectares  
 Site coordinates TF 30858 47592 53.0092978174 -0.0493957286939 53 00 33 N 000 02 57 W Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd  
 Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body  
 Project design originator Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd  
 Project director/manager Will Munford  
 Project supervisor L. Brocklehurst  
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient The Collection, Lincoln  
 Physical Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics"  
 Digital Archive recipient The Collection, Lincoln  
 Digital Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics"  
 Digital Media available "Geophysics", "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"  
 Paper Archive recipient The Collection, Lincoln  
 Paper Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics"  
 Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Diary", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"  
 Entered by Leigh Brocklehurst (leigh@pre-construct.co.uk)  
 Entered on 21 November 2014

# OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2012 Created by [Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham](#), [email](#) Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012

Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page