

**LAND ADJACENT TO NURSERY BUNGALOW,
INGOLDMELLS ROAD, BURGH LE MARSH, LINCOLNSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
REPORT**

NGR: TF 51258 65473
ELDC Planning Ref.: S/023/00295/14
PCAS job no. 1252
Site code: IRBE 14
Archive acc. code: 2014.125

Prepared for
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Contents

	Summary	1
1	Introduction	2
2	Site Location and Description	2
3	Planning Background	3
4	Archaeological and Historical Background	3
5	Aims and Objectives	4
6	Methodology	6
7	Results	7
8	Discussion and Conclusion	7
9	Effectiveness of Methodology	7
10	Bibliography	8
11	Site Archive	8

Appendix 1: Colour Plates

Appendix 2: Context Summary

Appendix 3: OASIS Summary

Figures

- Fig. 1:** Site location plan at scale 1:25,000
- Fig. 2:** Existing plan of the site at scale 1:1,000, showing the trench locations
- Fig. 3:** Proposed plan of the site at scale 1:1,000, showing the trench locations
- Fig. 4:** Plan of Trench 1, scale 1:100
- Fig. 5:** Section through top of the creek [106], scale 1:20
- Fig. 6:** Plan of Trench 2, scale 1:100
- Fig. 7:** Trench 2 Representative section, scale 1:20
- Fig. 8:** Plan of Trench 3, scale 1:100
- Fig. 9:** Trench 3 Representative section, scale 1:20
- Fig. 10:** Plan of Trench 4, scale 1:100
- Fig. 11:** Trench 4 Representative section, scale 1:20
- Fig. 12:** SE section through channel (407), scale 1:20

Colour Plates

- Plate 1:** Trench 1 sondage, looking south-east
- Plate 2:** Trench 2 Representative section
- Plate 3:** Trench 4 sondage, looking south-east
- Plate 4:** Shell layer (407) looking south-east, after sondage dug
- Plate 5:** Shell layer (407) looking south

Summary

A programme of archaeological evaluation trenching took place in advance of the construction of a proposed fishing lake on land to the north of Ingoldmells Road in the parish of Burgh le Marsh, in the East Lindsey district of Lincolnshire.

Previous archaeological work in the area has identified the remains of late Iron Age salt manufacture in the field that includes the proposed fishing lake. This industry continued into the Roman period. Further archaeological investigation was required in order to advise a scheme of mitigation to accompany the planning application.

This document describes the methodology that was adopted during the archaeological evaluation, and the reporting and archive procedures.

Nothing of archaeological interest was encountered during this evaluation; only two natural features, revealed below alluvial deposits.

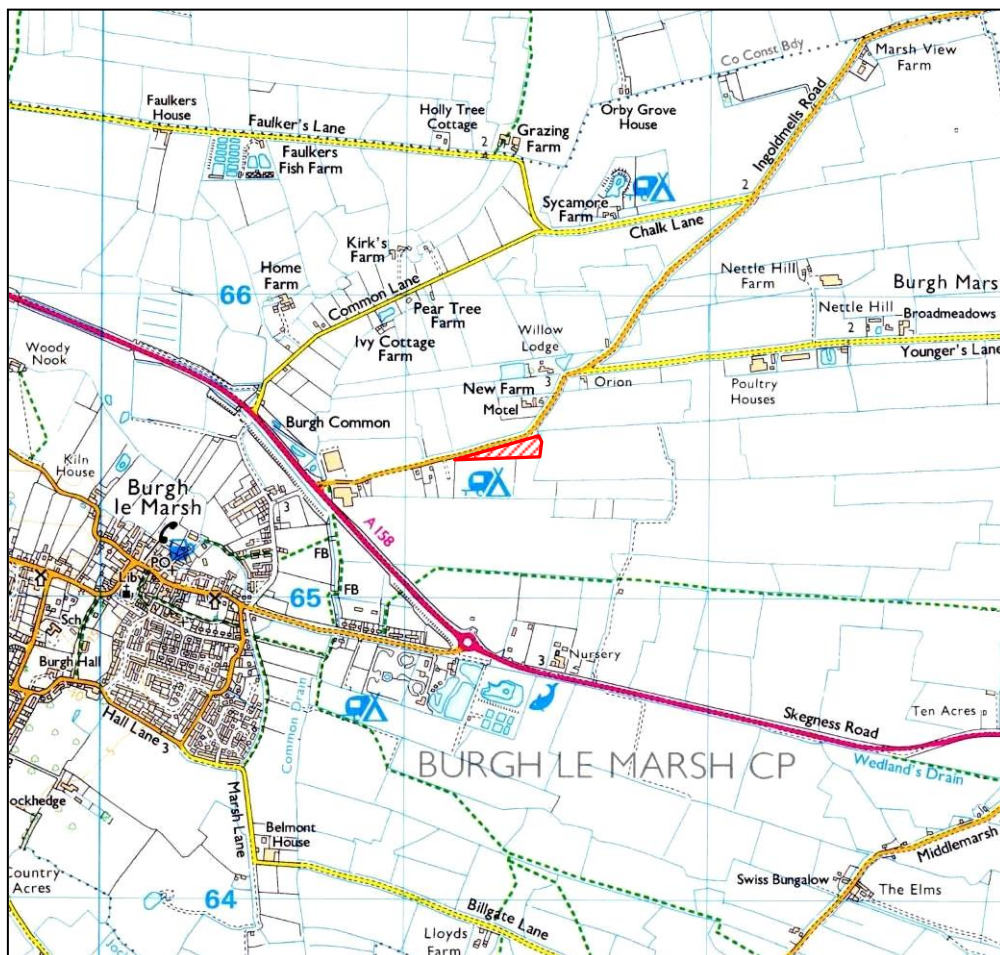


Figure 1: Location plan of the site (marked in red) at scale 1:25,000. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278.

1 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) was commissioned by Ryland Design Services Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation trenching programme on land adjacent to Nursery Bungalow, off Ingoldmells Road in the parish of Burgh le Marsh, in the district of East Lindsey in Lincolnshire.

The purpose of the evaluation was to ensure that potential archaeological remains within the development footprint were taken fully into consideration prior to the development process, to ensure their proper recording, and to determine whether any further archaeological intervention is required in order to mitigate any potential damage to the archaeological resource (via preservation *in situ* or by further investigation and recording).

This document details the results of recent archaeological trenching. It follows current best practice and appropriate national guidance including:

- NPPF, National Planning Policy Framework, 2012;
- IFA Code of Conduct (1994 as revised);
- IFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (2008);
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE);
- Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (Lincolnshire County Council, 2012).

2 Site Location and Description (Fig. 1)

The small market town of Burgh le Marsh is situated in East Lindsey, approximately 4km to the west of Skegness. It lies within the Historic Character Zone GRM5, 'The Skegness Holiday Coast', which forms part of the Grazing Marshes Character Area. This zone is dominated by large modern fields, chiefly formed by consolidation of older field patterns. Skegness Road (A158), which runs through Burgh le Marsh, forms a watershed in the appearance of the landscape: to the north, the field patterns are strongly rectilinear, while to the south, they are very irregular, with long, sinuous streams, which may be the courses of creeks in the former marshland, forming the majority of the field boundaries. As a general rule, the older settlements are to be found on higher ground, with settlement expanding into the lower land with the introduction of large-scale drainage and reclamation schemes: Burgh le Marsh is typical of this pattern, retaining a very distinct historic core on higher land, with modern estates built on the periphery of the village on former marshland (Lord and MacIntosh, 2011).

The proposed development site lies to the north-east of the town, in open agricultural land on the south side of the Ingoldmells Road. It lies within the level, reclaimed land of the coastal marshes, at less than 5m OD. Central National Grid Reference: TF 51258 65473.

The drift geology on the site is the silt and clay alluvium of the coastal marshes. The solid geology of the area is undifferentiated Cretaceous Roach Formation ferruginous oolitic clay and limestone (incorporating Sutterby Marl and Skegness Clay) with Tealby Formation mudstone and clay and Claxby Ironstone Formation ferruginous oolitic clay (BGS, 1996).

3 Planning Background

A planning application for the excavation of land to form a fishing lake, with the construction of embankments and a new access track, has been made (planning ref. S/023/00295/14), but has been withdrawn pending the collection of sufficient information to inform and submit an archaeological mitigation strategy as part of a new application.

4 Archaeological and Historical Background

During most of its history, the site would have lain within marshland, and would have been neither habitable nor cultivable, but used only for transient activities such as fishing and wildfowling, that would have left little, if any, trace in the archaeological record.

Iron Age and Roman salt manufacture took place all along this section of the Lincolnshire coastline. The method used involved boiling sea water in clay troughs over saltern hearths, resulting in broad spreads of distinctively shaped fired clay fragments known as briquetage. A rise in sea level in the later Roman period brought salt production to an end and buried the sites under a deep layer of marine alluvium: saltern sites in this part of the Lindsey Marsh are typically discovered when deep excavations, such as the cutting of drains, bring large amounts of briquetage to the surface (Rylatt, 2003). An archaeological watching brief carried out during the construction of the Ingoldmells to Burgh le Marsh Rising Main discovered 299 fragments of briquetage, along with salt-working features. Among the finds was a briquetage disc, which had possibly been used as a counter or token. The site was provisionally dated by a rim sherd of late Iron Age pottery (HER ref. 43101).

The appearance of Burgh le Marsh as a substantial settlement in Domesday Book suggests that it must have been established well before the Norman Conquest, but there are no known documentary references to it before this date (Cameron, 1998:23). Medieval activity in the vicinity of the site is attested to only by two sherds of medieval pottery found at TF 515 657, also by the watching brief on the Ingoldmells to Burgh le Marsh Rising Main (HER ref. 43665).

5 Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the evaluation is to gather sufficient information to establish the presence or absence, extent, depth, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits. Environmental evidence was taken into account; the position of the site on low-lying, formerly inundated land suggests that conditions for palaeoenvironmental survival were promising.

The site should not be treated in isolation, and reference should be made to relevant historical sources and previous archaeological work in the area when interpreting the results. The results of the evaluation will be used to inform a forthcoming planning application, allowing for a programme of archaeological mitigation to be devised and submitted in support of the application if necessary.

An online record of the project data was initiated with the Archaeological Data Service (OASIS database) before fieldwork commenced, and completed at the end of the project, including an uploaded digital copy of the report.

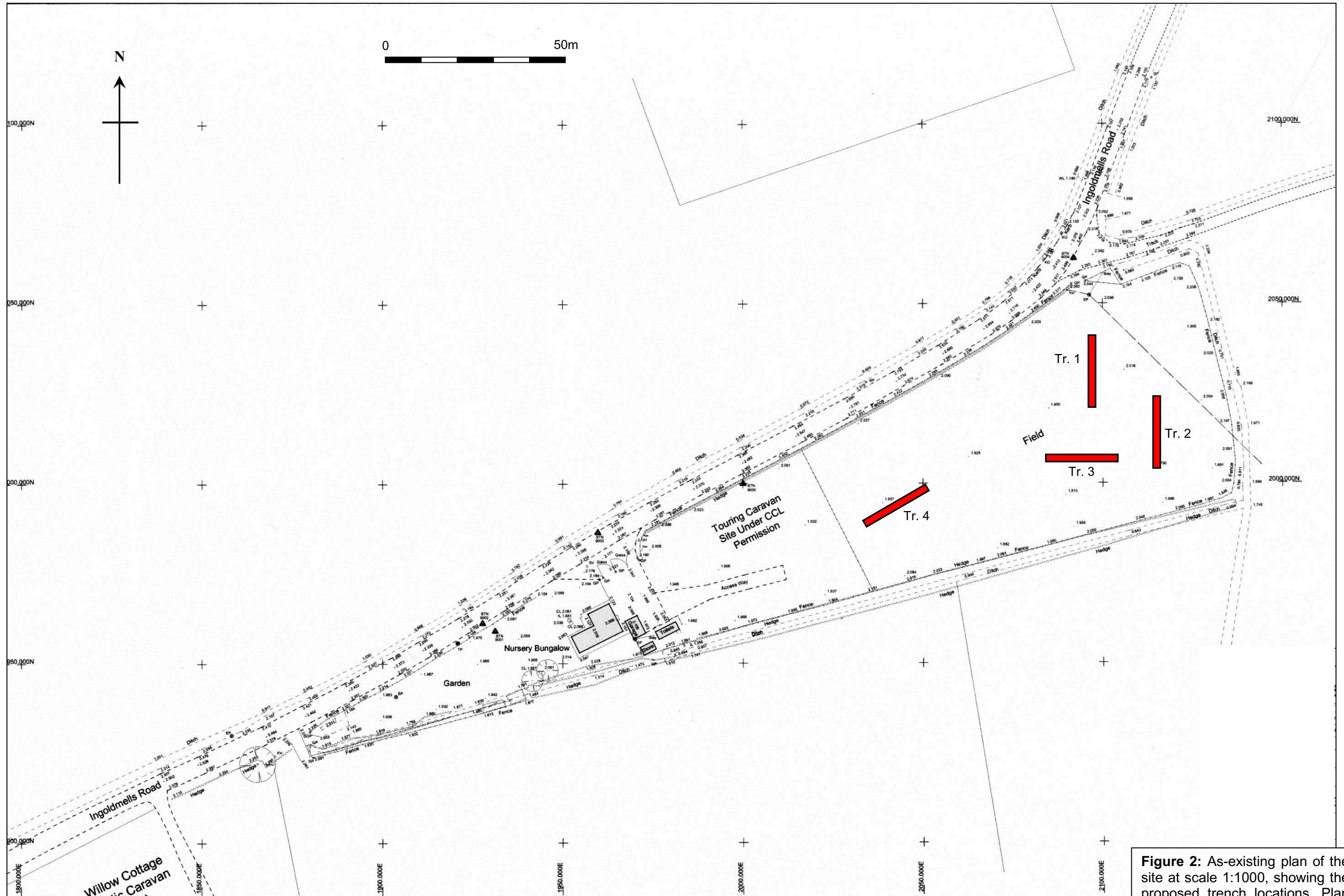


Figure 2: As-existing plan of the site at scale 1:1000, showing the proposed trench locations. Plan supplied by client.

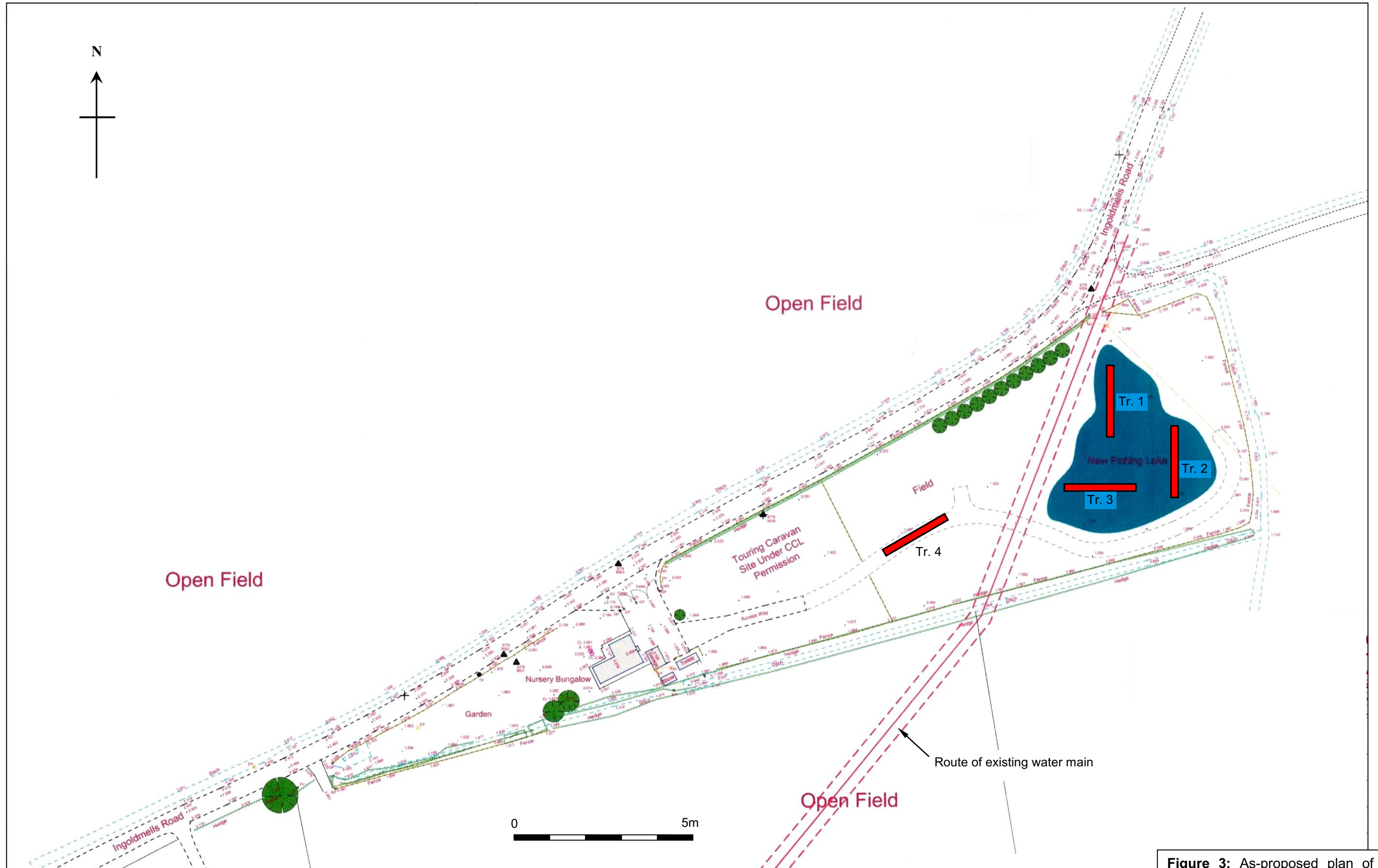


Figure 3: As-proposed plan of the site at scale 1:1000, showing the proposed trench locations. Plan supplied by client.

6 Methodology (Figs. 2-3)

The evaluation consisted of four trenches, each measuring 20m x 2m. Three of these were positioned within the footprint of the proposed fishing lake, while the fourth sampled the route of the proposed access track.

The trenches were located and laid out using triangulation off fixed landmarks, and were opened by machine using a toothless bucket under archaeological supervision, to the first archaeologically significant horizon, the maximum safe working depth or the natural geology, whichever was encountered first.

A plan of each trench was drawn to a scale of 1:100, features were examined sufficiently to determine their date, character and survival condition and then recorded by measured plan and section drawings at appropriate scales (normally 1:20), incorporating Ordnance Survey datum heights where possible. The depth of each trench was about 1.30m; there were potential archaeological features towards the bottom of two of the trenches which required the digging of sondages.

A written record of each significant stratigraphic horizon and archaeological feature was made on standard PCAS context recording forms. In addition, representative soil sections from each trench were drawn and photographed. These records were supplemented by a narrative account in the form of a site diary, on standard PCAS daily record sheets. Both digital and colour photographic records were maintained during the course of the archaeological investigation.

Fieldwork was carried out between 7th October and 9th October 2014.

7 Results

The solid natural geology was not reached in the course of the evaluation; only drift substrata were encountered. The silty loam topsoil was between 0.30m and 0.50m, so exhibited a wider variation in depth than that normally expected. Much of the area was characterised by layers of marine silts and silty clays between 0.20m and 0.35m thick, with occasional inclusions of sandstone. The deepest layer reached was a sand-based clay approximately 1.30m below ground level. Trench 4 was located to the eastern side of the area, where there were additional deposits of alluvium and the identification of a natural channel.

7.1 Trench 1 (Figures 4-5; Plate 1)

The uppermost layers followed a straightforward stratigraphy of deposition: the silty loam (101), which may have been ploughed in the past, was deposited on top of two layers of slightly different coloured marine silt (102) and (103), in turn sealing silty clay layers (104) and (105). What appeared to be a steep-sided natural channel [106] aligned east to west, was revealed at the bottom of Trench 1. Even with the inclusion of a sondage taking the depth down to 1.60m below ground level, its base was not found. The fill (107) consisted of marine silt, and contained a line of shells from sea molluscs, which confirmed it as natural rather than man made.

7.2 Trench 2 (Figures 6-7; Plate 2)

The five layers in Trench 2 were the same as the uppermost in Trench 1, consisting of silty loam topsoil (201), and marine silts (202) and (203) over the top of silty clay layers (204) and (205). Nothing of archaeological interest was encountered to a depth of 1.30m below ground level.

7.3 Trench 3 (Figures 8-9)

The five layers in Trench 3 were the same as the uppermost layers in Trench 1, consisting of a slightly thinner layer of silty loam topsoil (301), and marine silts (302) and (303) over the top of silty clay layers (304) and (305). Nothing of archaeological interest was encountered to a depth of 1.25m below ground level.

7.4 Trench 4 (Figures 10-12; Plates 3-5)

The stratigraphy in Trench 4 was slightly different. The topsoil (401) was the same silty loam as elsewhere, with two layers of marine silt beneath; the uppermost of these (402) was mottled, the lower level (403) was not. A thin layer of more sandy material, 0.10m thick, appeared to be redeposited natural, (404); present at the east end of the trench. Since there was another layer (405) identical to (403) beneath this and which covered the entire trench, it seems that the presence of the redeposited natural layer may have been due to a minor flooding event. A sondage at the interface between (404) and (405) revealed a further layer of slightly sandy material (406), very similar to the thin layer (404) above.

At a depth of about 1.20m below ground level, a line of sea mollusc shells (407) was noted running from north to south. This measured 0.40m wide by 0.25m deep, and was similar to that encountered in Trench 1. Initially, this was thought to have been food waste from a midden, but no cut feature was identified. It appears that this was part of a single deposit made from shells and sediment and deposited as a result of a storm or tidal surge.

8 Discussion and Conclusion

The trenches all exhibited different layers of alluvial and marine silts, but any unusual features such as the lines of shells in Trenches 1 and 4 were undoubtedly natural.

Nothing of archaeological interest was encountered during the course of the evaluation; certainly no evidence of salt production.

9 Effectiveness of Methodology

The methodology employed was entirely sufficient to allow the investigation and recording of deposits exposed within the evaluation trenches.

10 Bibliography

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11 Site Archive

The documentary and physical archive for this scheme is currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. This will be deposited at The Collection, Lincoln within six months of completion of the full report under Accession No. 2014.125.

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: Trench 1 sondage, looking south-east. The line of shells (107) is visible in the bottom of the sondage



Plate 2: Trench 2 Representative Section



Plate 3: Trench 4 sondage, looking south-east.
Deposit (404) is visible at the top left of the sondage



Plate 4: Shell layer (407) looking south-east, after sondage dug



Plate 5: Shell layer (407) looking south

Appendix 2: Context Summary

Trench 1 (S: 1.96m, N: 2.02m OD)

Context	Type	Description	Finds/dating
101	Layer	Mid brown silty loam topsoil, perhaps formerly ploughed. Max. 0.50m thick.	
102	Layer	Marine silts of mottled light yellowish brown and grey clay. Max. 0.50m thick.	
103	Layer	Marine silts of mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional small orange sand lenses and small sandstone fragments. Max. 0.30m thick.	
104	Layer	Mid reddish brown silty clay with rare small stones and pebbles and lenses of light yellowish brown clayey sand. LOE – at least 0.35m thick.	
105	Layer	Base of trench – mixed light to mid orange silty sand with lenses of dark reddish grey silty clay. LOE.	
106	Cut	Natural channel aligned E-W. Base over 1.60m below ground level.	
107	Fill	Marine silts of mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional small orange sand lenses and small sandstone fragments. Appears as a “linear of shells”.	

Trench 2 (S: 1.91m, N: 1.99m OD)

Context	Type	Description	Finds/Dating
201	Layer	Mid brown silty loam topsoil, perhaps formerly ploughed. Max. 0.38m thick.	
202	Layer	Marine silts of mottled light yellowish brown and grey clay. Max. 0.25m thick.	
203	Cut	Marine silts of mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional small orange sand lenses and small sandstone fragments. Max. 0.20m thick.	
204	Fill	Mid reddish brown silty clay with rare small stones and pebbles and lenses of light yellowish brown clayey sand. Max. 0.30m thick.	
205	Cut	Base of trench – mixed light to mid orange silty sand with lenses of dark reddish grey silty clay. LOE – at least 0.10m thick.	

Trench 3 (E: 1.89m, W: 1.92m OD)

Context	Type	Description	Finds/Dating
301	Layer	Mid brown silty loam topsoil, perhaps formerly ploughed. Max. 0.30m thick.	
302	Layer	Marine silts of mottled light yellowish brown and grey clay. Max. 0.20m thick.	
303	Layer	Marine silts of mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional small orange sand lenses and small sandstone fragments. Max. 0.24m thick.	
304	Layer	Mid reddish brown silty clay with rare small stones and pebbles and lenses of light yellowish brown clayey sand. Max. 0.30m thick.	
305	Layer	Base of trench – mixed light to mid orange silty sand with lenses of dark reddish grey silty clay. LOE – at least 0.20m thick.	

Trench 4 (SW: 1.94m, NE: 1.95m OD)

Context	Type	Description	Finds/Dating
401	Layer	Mid brown silty loam topsoil, perhaps formerly ploughed. Max. 0.40m thick.	
402	Layer	Mottled yellowish brown grey silty clay with some mineral flecking at the east end. Alluvial/marine silt. Max. 0.30m thick.	
403	Layer	Yellowish brown grey silty clay with some mineral flecking at the east end. Alluvial/marine silt. Max. 0.40m thick.	
404	Layer	Mixed light yellowish brown slightly sandy clay with lenses of mid-dark grey sandy mineral material. Redeposited natural. LOE – at least 0.10m thick.	
405	Layer	Yellowish brown grey silty clay with some mineral flecking at the east end. Alluvial/marine silt. Max. 0.35m thick.	
406	Layer	Mixed light yellowish brown slightly sandy clay with lenses of mid-dark grey sandy mineral material. LOE - only seen in the sondage.	
407	Deposit	Linear arrangement of marine mollusc shells 3.0m long by 0.40m wide and 0.25m deep.	

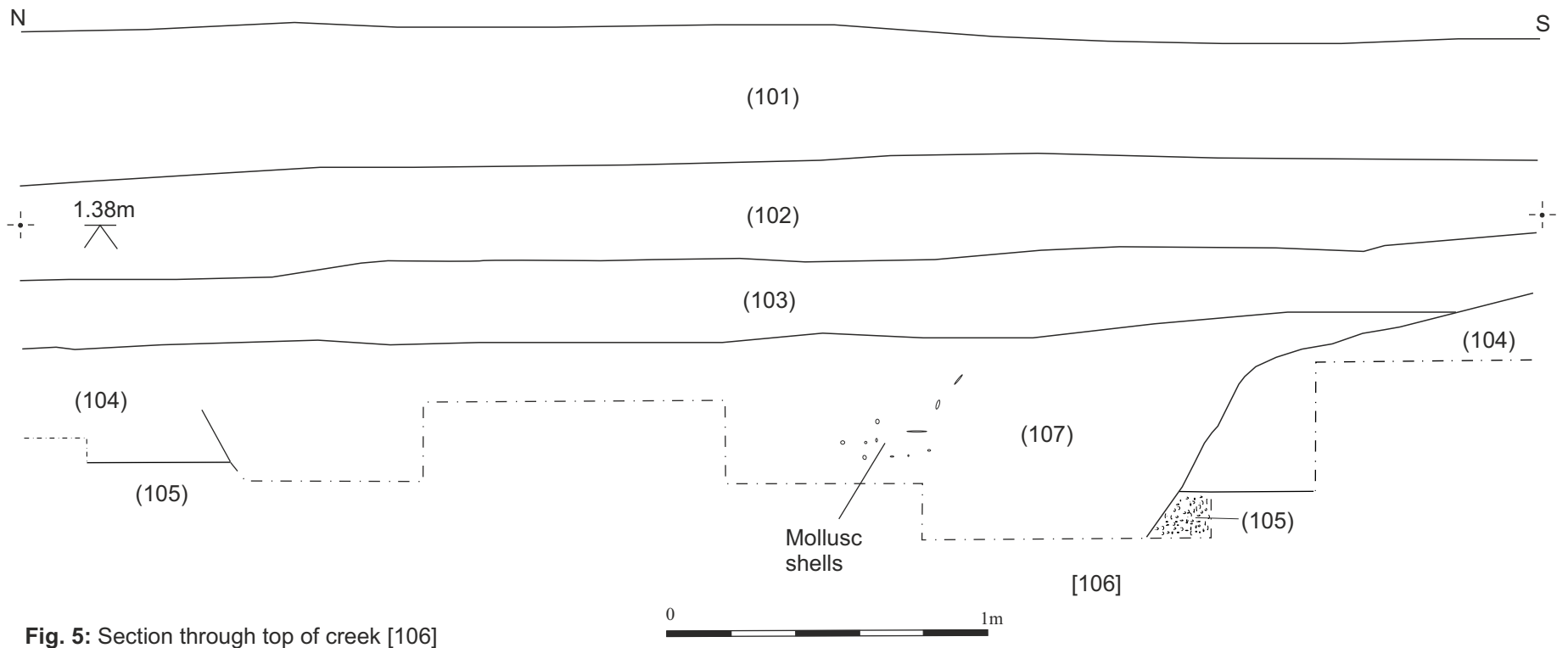
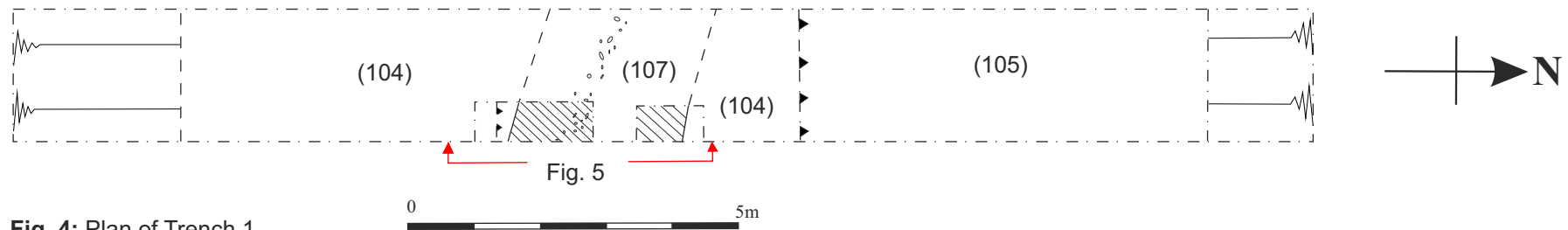




Fig. 6: Plan of Trench 2

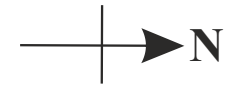


Fig. 8: Plan of Trench 3

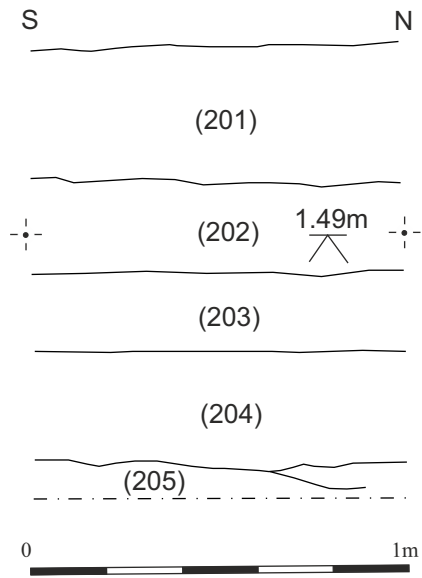


Fig. 7: Trench 2 Representative Section

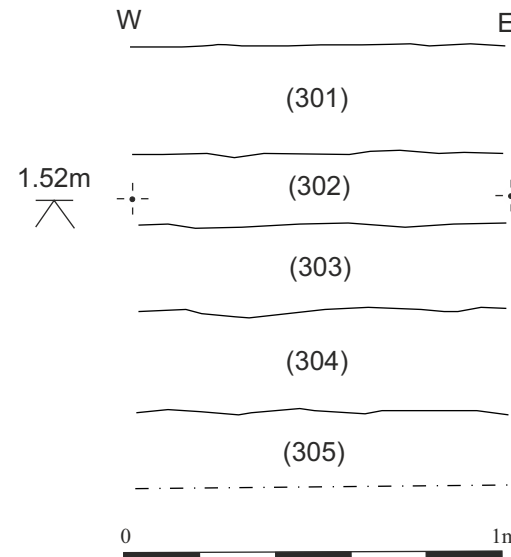


Fig. 9: Trench 3 Representative Section

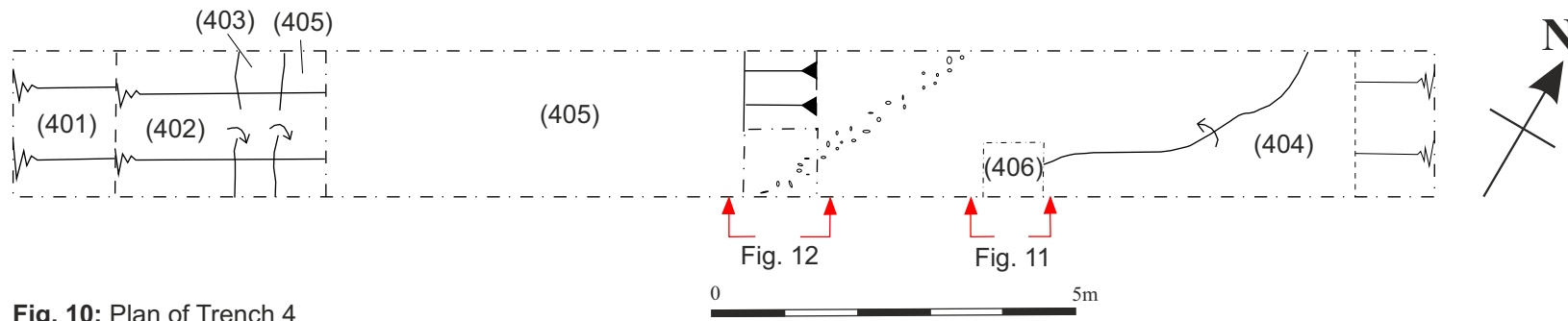


Fig. 10: Plan of Trench 4

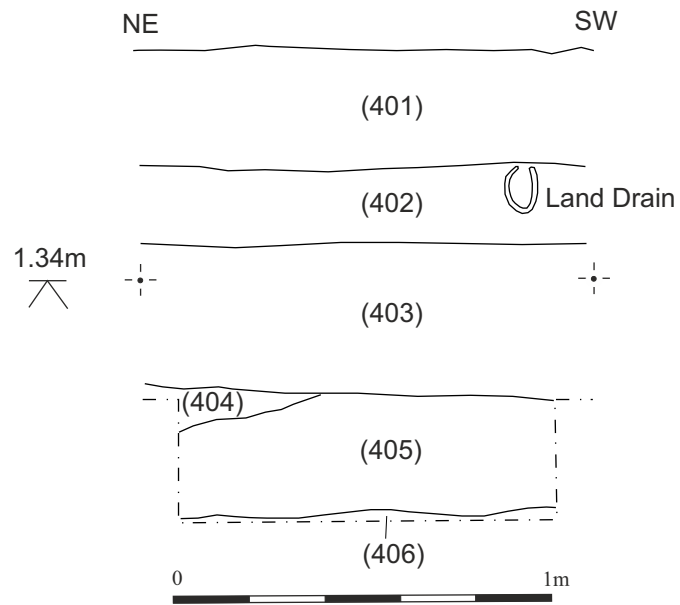


Fig. 11: Trench 4 Representative Section

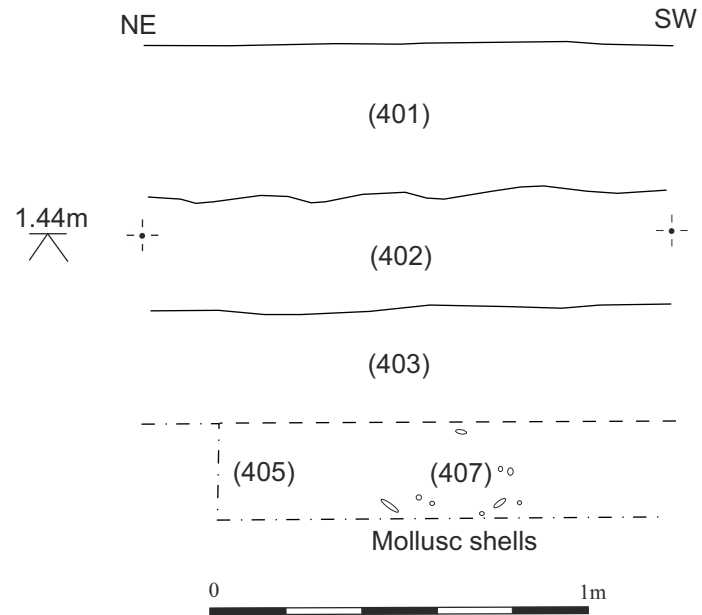


Fig. 12: SE facing section through (407)