

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT:**

### **Land off Tothby Lane, Alford, East Lindsey, Lincolnshire**

NGR:	TF 4460 7265
Planning Ref.:	Pre-application
PCAS job No.:	1395
Site code:	ATLE 15
Archive acc. no.:	Pending

Report prepared for  
James Howe Farming Ltd.

By

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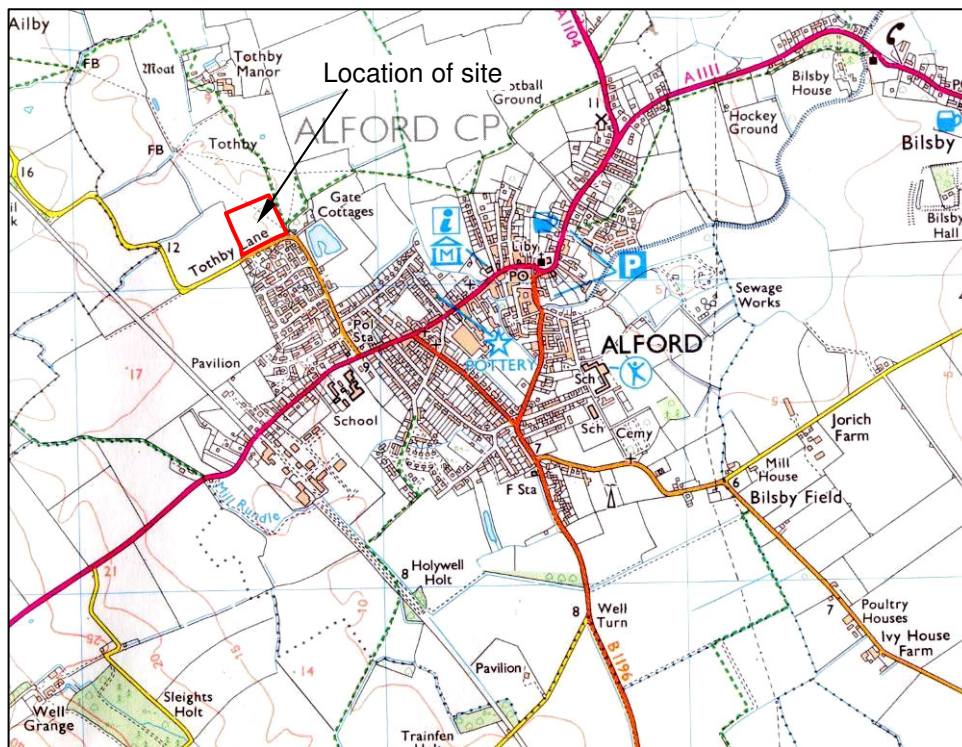
**Plate 13:** Section through pit [309] (looking north-west).

## Summary

A programme of archaeological evaluation trenching took place to inform a proposed development on land to the north of Tothby Lane in Alford, in the East Lindsey district of Lincolnshire. The site lies between the historic core of Alford town and the deserted medieval village of Tothby, now represented only by Tothby Manor to the north of the site.

A preceding geophysical survey recorded a dense array of rectilinear enclosures (some with possible internal boundaries and containing pits) across the western and south-eastern parts of the site, with a group of anomalies also recorded in the north-eastern part.

This document describes the results of a three trench evaluation. Each of the investigated trenches contained archaeological features, with Trenches 1 and 2 corroborating the results of the geophysical survey, suggesting the presence of enclosures, which have been dated to the Roman period.



**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.



## **1.0 Introduction**

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) were commissioned by James Howe Farming Ltd. to undertake a scheme of archaeological evaluation trenching in advance of a proposed development on land to the north of Tothby Lane in the town of Alford.

## **2.0 Site location and description**

The small town of Alford is within the East Lindsey administrative district of Lincolnshire, approximately 21 km north-west of Skegness. It lies at the foot of the east-facing slope of the Lincolnshire Wolds, and occupies a crossing-point on the stream formerly known as the Eau, but now canalised as the Wolds Grift Drain.

The proposed development site occupies an area of *c.* 2ha and is situated at the north-western edge of the town, to the immediate north of Tothby Lane. It comprises the south-eastern part of a large arable field and is bounded to the east by a road leading northwards to Tothby Manor, and to the west by a hedge.

Central National Grid Reference: TF 4460 7625

## **3.0 Topography and geology**

Alford town centre is situated on a deposit of drift glacio-fluvial sands and gravels, representing a reliably dry 'island' in the surrounding marsh. The majority of the site occupies the edge of this island, but the western edge falls within the drift geology of Till (a chalk-rich sandy gravelly clay) surrounding the town. The underlying solid geology is recorded as Cretaceous Ferriby Chalk (BGS, 1996).

The town lies within an artificially drained landscape, generally between 5 and 10m above sea level: the site itself is level and lies at an approximate Ordnance Datum height of 11m (Bunn, 2014).

## **4.0 Planning background**

This project is currently pre-application, but the results of the evaluation will inform a future application for planning permission.

## **5.0 Archaeological and historical background**

Evidence for prehistoric activity within Alford is limited to a small number of casual finds, although barrows (prehistoric burial mounds) are recorded to the east and west of the town. Roman activity is similarly represented by a small number of isolated finds: these were all recorded around the centre of the present town, less than 200m from the Eau, suggesting that the crossing point was well used during the Roman period, but that there was probably little or no permanent habitation (Lane, 2013).

The name Alford probably originates from the Old English and means 'the old ford' (HER ref. 45900). The Domesday Survey of AD 1086 records a manor belonging to the minor landowner William Taillebois, which possessed small amounts of arable and meadow land; a single tenant farmer is listed. Gilbert de Ghent also owned slightly larger areas of arable and meadow land, with a population of 6 households; this was not a manor in its own right, but was administered from Gilbert's manor of Well (Williams and Martin, 2003, pp. 922, 956). The site of the lost hamlet of Tothby is mentioned in the Domesday Book and was still in existence in 1565. Although medieval Tothby had a manor, Domesday Book records the early medieval settlement only as an outlying holding of the Bishop of Bayeux's manor of Rigsby: the agricultural land consisted of

arable, meadow and managed woodland, and sustained three households. The moated enclosure of its medieval manor survives, although the moat is now no more than a pond connected to the stream by a ditch contemporary with the adjacent ridge and furrow. Earthwork tofts, crofts, ponds and ridge and furrow were identified from aerial photographs (HER ref. 42529; Williams and Martin, 2003, p. 896). The manor is known to have possessed a chantry chapel (HER ref. 42544). Earthwork ridge and furrow from the open fields of Alford has also been identified from aerial photographs to the north-west of the town centre and the east of the site (EH PastScape ref. 1061991).

Alford Manor House is a Grade II\* Listed Building, and was identified by a building survey (including dendrochronological dating) as being largely of one build, of composite timber and brick construction, dating to the early 17<sup>th</sup> century (HER ref. 45801). An archaeological evaluation carried out at the Manor House in 2010 following a geophysical survey encountered a number of pits containing early medieval and medieval pottery, as well as an undated linear feature (HER ref. 45900). The present Tothby Manor is a Grade II listed mid-17<sup>th</sup>-century farmhouse standing beside the early moated manor site (HER ref. 42849).

Alford remained a small agricultural town into the post-medieval period; it flourished in the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, and many of the buildings in the town centre are of this date (Lane, 2013).

A geophysical survey carried out on the proposed development site recorded a dense array of ditches in the western and south-eastern parts. These appeared to represent traces of settlement remains - complete and partially resolved enclosures of various size. Enclosed areas in the western part of the site were particularly well-defined, flanked by a probable N-S trackway. Discrete anomalies, recorded within and adjacent to the enclosures, potentially signified pits and/or sites containing burnt materials (fig. 3: ditches marked with red lines, trackway labelled '1', hearths, middens, pits etc: highlighted red). The anomalies in the north-eastern part of the site were not associated with any linear features and may have represented a different form of activity, possibly industrial. Traces of furrows left by medieval strip ploughing were also recorded: these appear to continue through the enclosures, indicating either that the enclosures had gone out of use before the open fields of Alford or Tothby were laid out, or that they were later intakes from the open fields. A band of stronger anomalies along the western site boundary indicated the route of a track to Tothby Manor, known to have existed into the late 20<sup>th</sup> century (Bunn, 2014).

## **6.0 Aims and methodology**

The evaluation consisted of three trenches, each measuring 20m x 2m, positioned in order to evaluate potential archaeological features identified by the 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.

All trenches were accurately fixed into the National Grid using a Leica GS50, Topcom GRS1 global positioning system (GPS). The locations of the 5 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.

The results of the evaluation presented here will be used to provide site-specific archaeological information that will allow the Local Planning Authority to make an informed judgement on any appropriate archaeological mitigation for the proposed development.

## **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 for trench plans and sections.

### *Trench 1*

Trench 1 was at the western edge of the site and was orientated approximately ENE-WSW. It was positioned in order to explore the enclosures that had been highlighted on the geophysical survey. Excavations exposed a stratigraphy of topsoil (100), a sandy silt subsoil (101), overlying a natural clay sand substrate (102). Two large ditches were identified, in addition to a single posthole and probable pit located in between. All of the features were cut into the natural substrate. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.6m below original ground level.

Towards the west end of the trench was an NW-SE orientated ditch, [103]. This had a steep western edge, with a stepped eastern edge. The base of the feature was not exposed due to its depth. It was 3.4m wide and 0.7m+ deep. It contained three silt clay fills, two of which, (104) and (106), produced substantial amounts of Roman pottery and animal bone. This feature corresponds with the geophysical survey and most likely represents the ditch of the westernmost enclosure.

To the east of this, a single posthole, [111], and an elongated pit, [107], were exposed. The pit had shallow sides and a flat base, and was 0.9m long, 0.7m wide and 0.18m deep. It contained a single silt clay fill. The posthole was cut through [107] at its south-western corner. It also had shallow sides and a flat base, with a single silt clay fill. It was 0.4m in diameter and 0.08m deep. No finds were recovered from either feature.

At the east end of the trench was another NW-SE orientated ditch, [109]. This had a stepped western edge, and a steeper eastern one. It had a fairly broad, rounded base, and was 2.8m wide and 0.6m deep. It contained a single clay fill, (110), which produced multiple sherds of Roman pottery and animal bone. As with [103], this feature corroborates the geophysical survey and most likely represents the western edge of the large central enclosure.

### *Trench 2*

Trench 2 was positioned in the south-east corner of the site and was orientated approximately N-S. It was positioned in order to explore the possibility of further enclosures and possible pitting activity that had been identified by geophysical survey. Excavations exposed a stratigraphy of topsoil, (200), a deep, sandy silt subsoil, (201), and a sandy gravel natural substrate, (202).

Three linear features were identified across the length of the trench, in addition to a single pit within the northern half. All of these features were cut into the natural substrate. The trench was excavated to 0.7m below original ground level.

At the south end of the trench, ditch [203] was orientated approximately E-W and had steep edges and a concave base. It was 0.8m wide and 0.26m deep and contained a single sand silt deposit, which produced one sherd of Roman pottery. This feature appears to correspond with the geophysical survey and is most likely the northern ditch of a small enclosure.

A few metres to the north, a potential gully terminus, [205], was exposed. This was also on an E-W alignment; it had steep edges and a concave base. It was 0.62m wide and 0.26m deep, and contained a single sand silt deposit. This feature produced no finds, and does not appear to correspond to anything observed on the geophysical survey results.

An oval shaped pit, [207], was within the northern half of the trench. This had very steep, near vertical, edges and a narrow concave base. It was 0.7m in diameter and 0.58m deep. It was filled with two sandy silt deposits, one of which, (208), produced sherds of Roman grey ware pottery. The natural clay surrounding the primary fill of this feature appeared to have been heat affected, suggesting this pit contained the remnants of a hearth, or may have been a fire pit itself. The feature appears to correspond to a circular anomaly that had been highlighted on the geophysical survey.

Located at the very northern extent of the trench, ditch [210] ran on an approximately E-W alignment. This had a wide V-shaped profile, with steep sides and a narrow concave base. It was 1.68m wide and 0.6m deep and contained a single silt sand deposit which produced three sherds of Roman grey ware pottery. This feature most likely represents the northern ditch of the larger south-eastern enclosure.

### *Trench 3*

Trench 3 was in the north-east corner of the site and was orientated approximately E-W to explore geophysical anomalies that were identified as being differing from those associated with the enclosures in Trenches 1 and 2. Excavations exposed a stratigraphy of topsoil, (300), a sandy silt subsoil, (301), a further subsoil, (302), which had a higher gravel content than (301), and a red gravel natural substrate, (303). Three possible features were identified, two pits and a single ditch. Two of these cut through the secondary subsoil (302), whilst another was cut into the natural substrate. The trench was excavated to 0.6m below original ground level.

A single pit, [304], was at the eastern end of the trench. It appeared to be circular in shape; however half of it was located under the northern baulk. It had steep sides and a concave base and was filled by two deposits, a thin lens of mid grey sand silt and a light brown sand silt with a high gravel content. It was 1m in diameter and 0.56m deep and cut through the secondary subsoil (302).

Approximately 2.0m to the west of [304] was a N-S aligned ditch, [307]. This had steep edges and a narrow concave base. It was 1.0m wide and 0.5m deep, and contained a single silt sand gravel fill. As with [304], this feature was cut through the secondary subsoil (302).

At the very eastern end of the trench was another, larger, pit [309]. This appeared to be oval in shape; however half of it was located under the northern baulk. It had short, steep edges and a wide concave base. It was 2.1m in diameter and 0.34m deep and contained a single sand gravel deposit. This feature was sealed by the secondary subsoil (302), and cut into the natural substrate (303).

Although features were present in this trench, none appeared to correspond directly with anomalies that had been observed on the geophysical survey. In addition, no finds were recovered from this trench.

## **8.0 Discussion and conclusion**

Of the three trenches investigated, each contained archaeological features.

Trenches 1 and 2 were targeted what appeared on the geophysical survey to be enclosures. The archaeology exposed would appear to corroborate this hypothesis, with two enclosure ditches located in each trench. In addition to the enclosure ditches, further evidence of occupation was present in both trenches, in the form of a posthole and pit in Trench 1, and a pit and a gully terminus in Trench 2. Both trenches produced Roman pottery, however based on the quantities of pottery and animal bones recovered from Trench 1, it is hypothesised that the focus of settlement was centred around the enclosure on the west side of the site (although clarification of this is not possible on present evidence).

All of the pottery (with the exception of a few sherds, dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century) dates to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. This evidence is corroborated by the results of the sampling, which found evidence of spelt wheat being the main crop used. This is consistent with the Roman date indicated by the pottery. The animal bone recovered from Trench 1 has mostly been attributed to cattle, with a single fragment of equid (horse) also identified. Cut marks associated with disarticulation and jointing were noted on faunal remains from ditch [109], providing evidence for butchery.

Trench 3, located in the north-east of the site targeted geophysical anomalies that appeared to differ from those centred on the enclosures to the south and to the west. Three features were exposed, with two of these, a pit and a ditch, appearing to be cut from quite high, which may indicate their use as more recent agricultural features. Another pit, cut through the natural substrate and containing a very mixed sand gravel deposit within it, may have been of natural origin. No finds were recovered from any of the features in this trench.

## **9.0 Effectiveness of methodology**

For the most part, the archaeology identified appeared to corroborate the geophysical survey results. Therefore, the methodology employed during has achieved its objective, ensuring that the proposed development area has been explored in order to confirm presence/absence and to characterise any archaeology exposed.

## **10.0 Acknowledgements**

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. is grateful to James Howe Farming Ltd. for this commission.

## **11.0 References**

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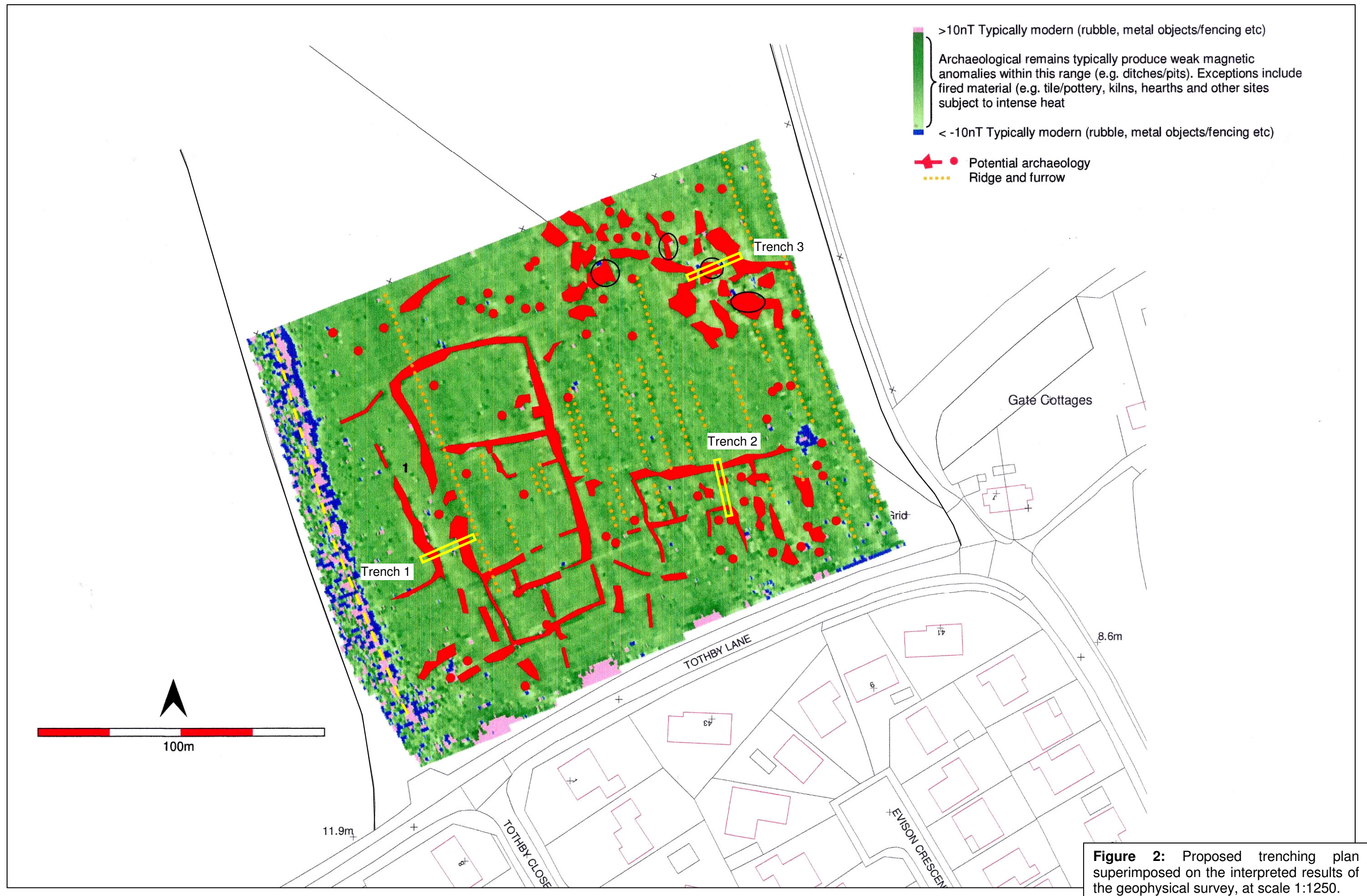
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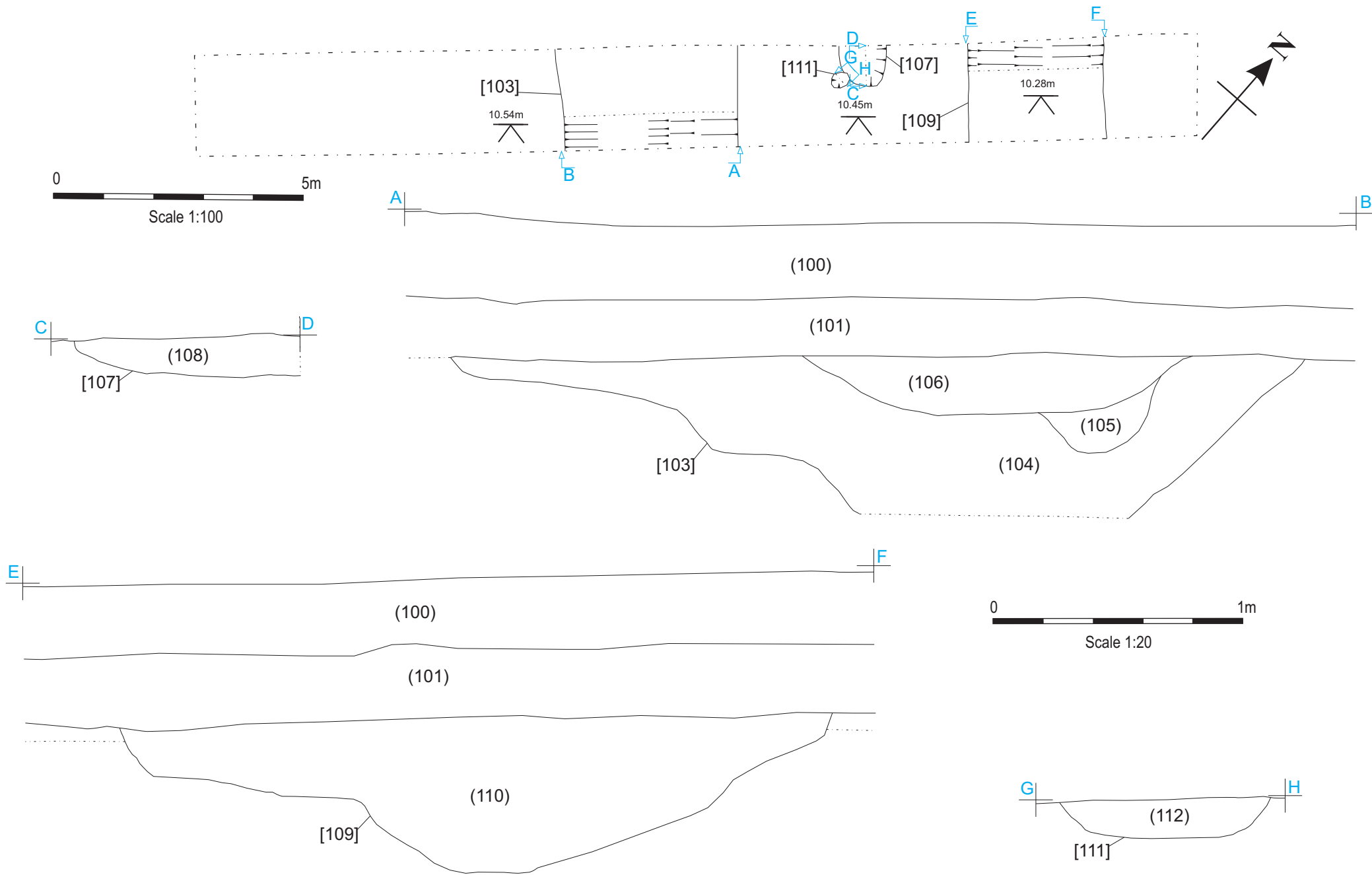


Figure 3: Trench 1 plan (1:100) and feature sections (1:20).

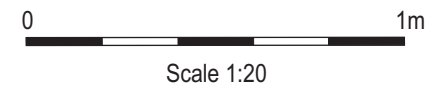
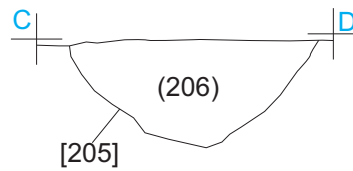
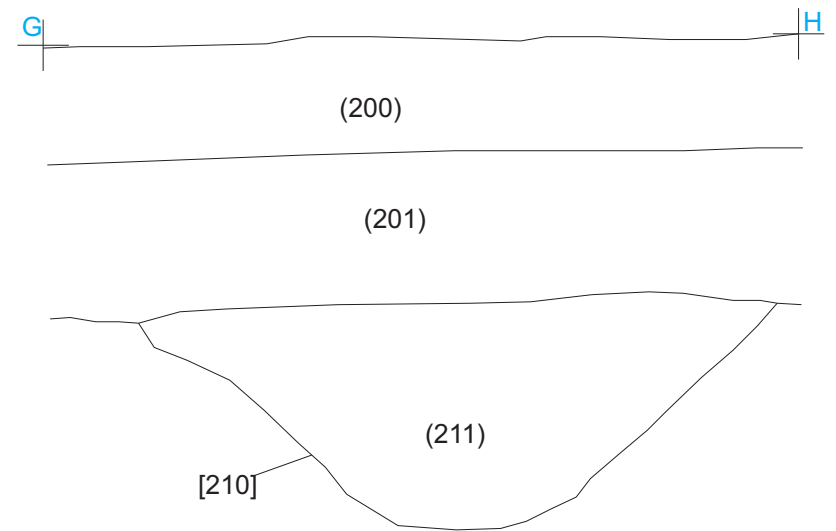
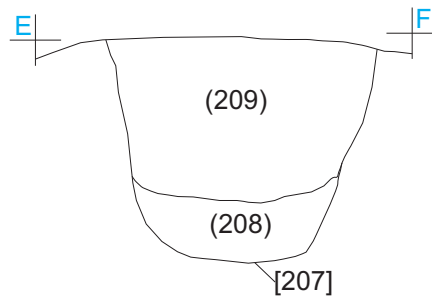
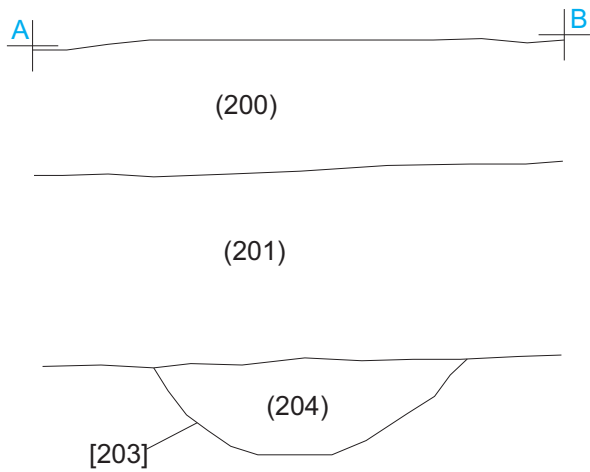
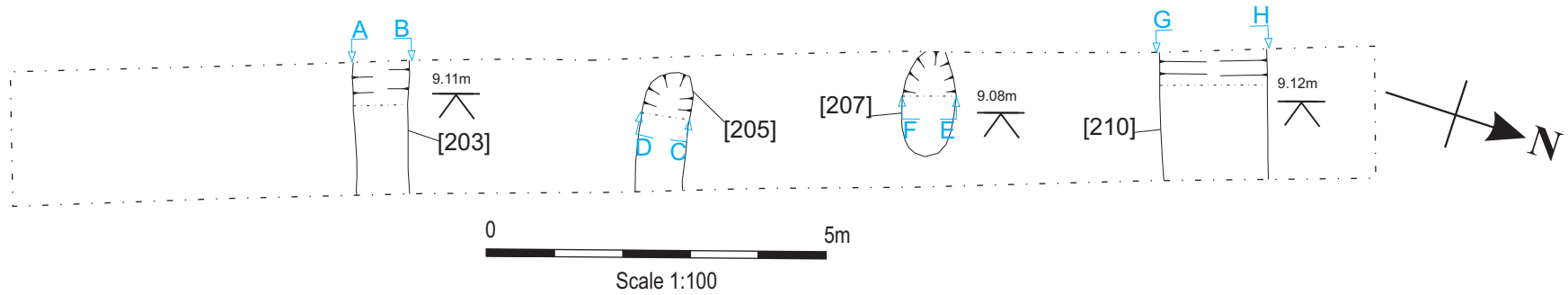


Figure 4: Trench 2 plan (1:100) and feature sections (1:20).



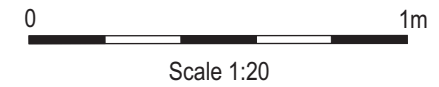
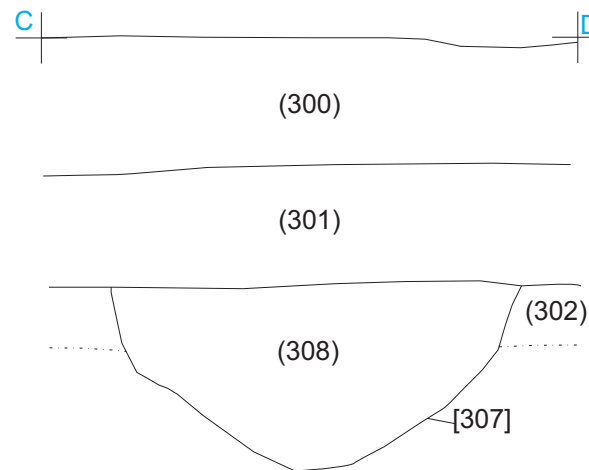
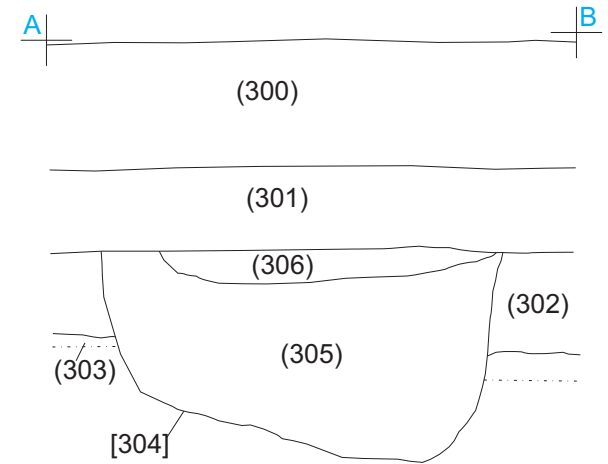
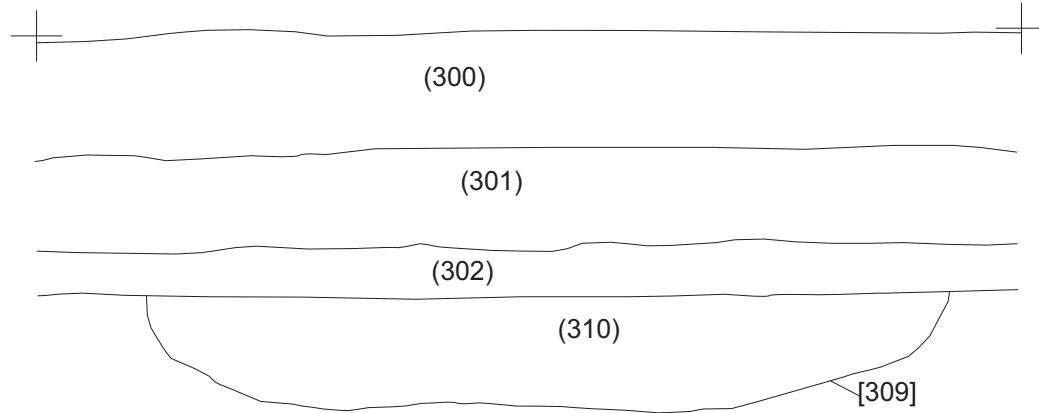
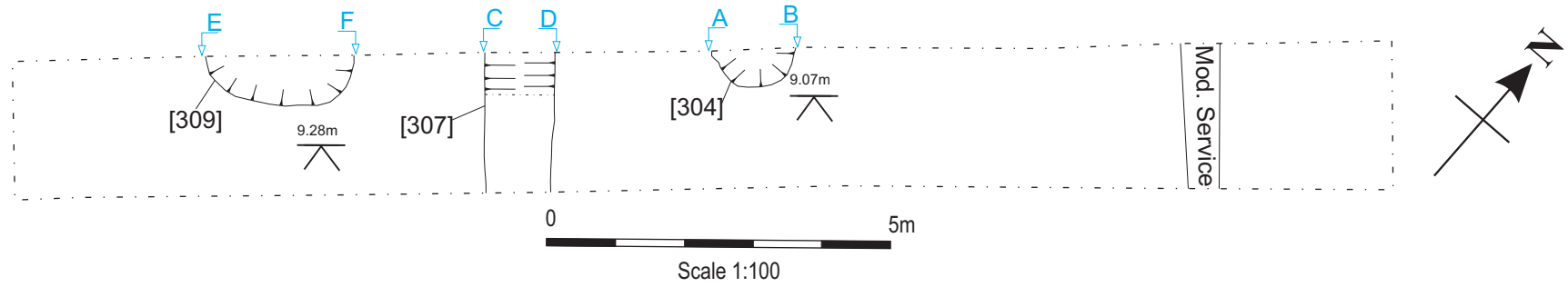


Figure 5: Trench 3 plan (1:100) and feature sections (1:20).

Appendix 1 – Colour plates



Plate 1: General view of site, includes Trench 2 (foreground) and Trench 1 (background) (looking west).



Plate 2: General view of site, includes Trench 2 (foreground) and Trench 3 (background) (looking north).



Plate 3: Oblique frame of ditch [103] (looking south).



Plate 4: Oblique frame of pit [107] (looking west).



Plate 5: Section through ditch [109] (looking north-west).



Plate 6: Section of posthole [111] (looking north-east).





Plate 7: Section through ditch [203] (looking west-south-west).



Plate 8: Section through gully terminus [205] (looking east).



Plate 9: Section through pit [207] (looking north-east).



Plate 10: Section through ditch [210] (looking south-west).



Plate 11: Section through pit [304] (looking north-west).



Plate 12: Section through ditch [307] (looking north-west).



Plate 14: Section through pit [309] (looking north-west).

Appendix 2 – Context Summary

Context No.	Type	Description	Finds
<b>Trench 1</b>			
100	Layer	Topsoil. Mid brown sandy silt. Very friable and fine. 0.35m thick.	
101	Layer	Subsoil. Light brown sandy silt. Very fine. 0.3m thick.	
102	Layer	Natural substrate. Mix of red/yellow clay with patches of red sand throughout.	
103	Cut	NW-SE orientated ditch. Steep western edge, with a stepped eastern edge. Base of feature not exposed due to depth of feature. 3.4m wide and 0.7 deep (not fully excavated).	
104	Fill	Primary fill of [103]. Light grey silt clay. Friable but fairly compact. Contained infrequent small flint stones throughout deposit. 3.4m wide and 0.7m deep (not fully exposed).	Multiple sherds of Roman pottery. Fragments of animal bone.
105	Fill	Secondary fill of [103]. Located between (104) and (106). Mid grey silt clay. Very firm and compact. 0.4m wide and 0.25m deep.	
106	Fill	Upper fill of [103]. Dark grey sandy silt. Fairly loose and friable. Contains infrequent small stones throughout deposit, in addition to some small fragments of charcoal. 1.5m wide and 0.25m deep.	Multiple sherds of Roman pottery. Fragments of animal bone.
107	Cut	Possible ditch terminus or elongated pit. Orientated NW-SE, with shallow edges and a flat base. 0.9m long, 0.7m wide and 0.18m deep.	
108	Fill	Single fill of [107]. Light to mid grey silt clay. Fairly compact and firm. Obvious mixing with the light natural clay beneath as the fill becomes diffuse towards the edges of the feature. Some small stones throughout deposit.	
109	Cut	NW-SE orientated ditch at eastern end of trench. Western edge of feature is stepped, whilst eastern edge is steeper. It has a narrow, rounded base. 2.8m wide and 0.6m deep.	
110	Fill	Single fill of [109]. Mix of mid brown and light grey clay. Very firm and compact. Frequent small stones located throughout the deposit.	Multiple sherds of Roman pottery. Fragments of animal bone.
111	Cut	Small post hole, which cuts through the south-eastern edge of [107]. Circular in plan, shallow edges and a flat base. 0.4m in diameter and 0.08m deep.	
112	Fill	Single fill of [111]. Light grey silt clay. Firm and compact.	
<b>Trench 2</b>			
200	Layer	Topsoil. Same as (100). 0.3m thick.	
201	Layer	Subsoil. Mid brown silt sand. Loose and soft. 0.5m thick.	

202	Layer	Natural substrate. Light brown mixed with mid red brown sand. Loose and fine.	
203	Cut	NE-SW orientated ditch. Steep but curved edges, with a narrow concave base. 0.8m wide and 0.26m deep.	
204	Fill	Single fill of ditch [203]. Mid grey sand silt. Firm but friable.	Single sherd of pottery
205	Cut	NE-SW orientated ditch terminus. Steep sides and a concave base. 0.62m wide and 0.26m deep.	
206	Fill	Single fill of ditch [205]. Very similar in composition to (204), however contains infrequent small stone inclusions within deposit.	
207	Cut	Oval shaped pit. Very steep, near vertical, edges and a narrow concave base. Clay surrounding primary fill appears to have been heat affected. Possibility of it being a hearth or fire pit. 0.7m in diameter and 0.58m deep.	
208	Fill	Primary fill of [207]. Black sand silt. Friable and loose. Natural clay around this deposit has been heat affected. 0.5m wide and 0.26m deep.	Two sherds of pottery.
209	Fill	Upper fill of [207]. Dark grey clay silt. Firm and compact. 0.7m wide and 0.45m deep.	
210	Cut	SW-NE orientated ditch. Wide V-shaped profile, with steep sides and a narrow concave base. 1.68m wide and 0.6m deep.	
211	Fill	Single fill of [210]. Very similar in composition to (204) and (206). Unlike those two fills it contains frequent small stone inclusions throughout deposit.	Three sherds of pottery.
<b>Trench 3</b>			
300	Layer	Topsoil. Same as (100). 0.3m thick.	
301	Layer	Subsoil. Mid brown silty sand. Fine and loose, clear of inclusions. 0.3m thick.	
302	Layer	Further subsoil. Similar to (301), however has frequent small stone inclusions throughout. [304] and [307] both cut through this deposit, whilst it seems to seal [309]. 0.2m thick.	
303	Layer	Natural substrate. Mix of light brown to mid red sand gravels.	
304	Cut	Circular shaped pit. Half of it is located under the baulk. It has steep sides, and a concave base. 1m wide and 0.56m deep.	
305	Fill	Primary fill of [304]. Light to mid brown silt sand. High gravel content. Very natural-like, loose and fine. 1m wide and 0.56m deep.	
306	Fill	Upper fill of [304]. Thin lens of mid grey silt. Friable and loose. 0.88m wide and 0.09m deep.	
307	Cut	NW-SE orientated ditch. Steep edges and a narrow concave base. 1m wide and 0.5m deep.	
308	Fill	Single fill of [307]. Mid brown silt sand with frequent gravel mixed throughout. Loose and fine.	
309	Cut	Large oval shaped pit. Much of feature is under the baulk, outside of the excavation area. Short steep edges and a concave base. As with [307], fill is very natural-like,	

		therefore this could be natural in origin. 2.1m wide and 0.34m deep.	
310	Fill	Single fill of [309]. Mid-light brown silt sand. Lots of small gravel stone mixed throughout. Loose and fine.	

**The Roman Pottery archive – Land off Tothby Lane, Alford, East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (ATLE15, NGR TF 4460 7265)**

**I.M. Rowlandson  
April 20<sup>th</sup> 2015**

A small group of Roman pottery (48 sherds, 1.797 kg, RE 1.22) 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). Additional fabric codes are described in the Hornsea Wind Farm Cable Route evaluation report (Rowlandson 2012, GREY1 & 4). 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.

The average sherd weight of 37.44g was very high and the presence of a large proportion of a limited number of vessels from contexts 104, 106 and 110 would suggest the presence of Roman settlement in the vicinity in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. The inhabitants appear to have had access to a typical range of grey ware and shell-gritted wares from this part of Lincolnshire. With the exception of a few sherds of the native gritted wares IAGR that ought to date no later than the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD the majority of pottery could be dated to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.

ATLE15 Dating Summary					
Context	Spot date	Comments	Sherd	Weight (g)	RE Total
104	ML3	Large, freshly-broken fragments from a lipped dish, a plain-rimmed dish and a lug-handled jar. Also present were fragments from three shell-gritted jars, two of these consisted of whole bases one of which had definitely been trimmed to make a disc.	14	972	35
106	AD140-250	A small group including a single sherd from a samian bowl or dish, a base from a grey ware jar, fragments from wide mouth bowls and a lid or dish and a shell-gritted sherd.	10	443	42
110	L3-4	A small group including fragments from grey ware wide mouth bowls and a straight sided bead & flange bowl. Also present was the rim from a Dales ware jar.	17	333	45
204	Roman	A single basal sherd.	1	7	0
209	Roman	Small grey ware sherds.	3	17	0
211	Roman	Small grey ware sherds.	3	25	0

ATLE15 Fabric Summary							
Fabric code	Fabric group	Fabric details	Sherd	Sherd %	Weight (g)	Weight %	RE Total
SAMEG	Samian	East Gaulish	1	2.08%	25	1.39%	0
GREY	Reduced	Miscellaneous grey wares	1	2.08%	2	0.11%	0
GREY?	Reduced	Miscellaneous grey wares	1	2.08%	7	0.39%	0
GREY1	Reduced	Reduced fabric 1	35	72.92%	1137	63.27%	114
GREY4	Reduced	Reduced fabric 4	1	2.08%	7	0.39%	0
IAGR	Reduced	Native tradition/transitional grit-tempered wares	3	6.25%	32	1.78%	0
DWSHT	Calcareous	Dalesware type	4	8.33%	247	13.75%	8
SHEL	Calcareous	Miscellaneous undifferentiated shell-tempered	2	4.17%	340	18.92%	0



ATLE15 Form Summary							
Form	Form Type	Form Description	Sherd	Sherd %	Weight (g)	Weight %	RE Total
BFB	Bowl	Bead and flange bowl	3	6.25%	39	2.17%	4
BNNK	Bowl- large	Large bowl with no neck	1	2.08%	49	2.73%	17
BWM	Bowl- large	Wide-mouthed; D&P No 1225-30	1	2.08%	74	4.12%	21
BWM1	Bowl- large	Wide-mouthed; D&P No.1225-7	1	2.08%	46	2.56%	13
BWM2	Bowl- large	Wide-mouthed; D&P No. 1228	3	6.25%	248	13.80%	16
BD	Bowl/dish	-	1	2.08%	25	1.39%	0
CLSD	Closed	Form	12	25.00%	76	4.23%	0
DFL	Dish	Flange rimmed (eg Gillam 1970 Types 218-220)	2	4.17%	146	8.12%	22
DPR	Dish	Plain rim	3	6.25%	187	10.41%	16
J	Jar	Unclassified form	4	8.33%	597	33.22%	0
JDW	Jar	Dales ware	1	2.08%	10	0.56%	8
JLH	Jar	Lug-handled	8	16.67%	204	11.35%	0
LD	Lid/dish	Unclassified	1	2.08%	14	0.78%	5
-	Unknown	Form uncertain	7	14.58%	82	4.56%	0

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ATLE15 Pottery archive												
Context	Fabric	Form	Decoration	Vessels	Alt	D. No	Comments	Join	Sherd	Weight	Rim diam	Rim eve
104	DWSHT	J		1			BASE; ?TRIMMED; BASE DIA 9CM		1	217	0	0
104	SHEL	J		1	TRIMMED TO BASE		BASE; WHOLE BASE TRIMMED; REDUCED FABRIC; IA TRADITION OR LATE ROMAN SHELL. IDENTIFICATION UNCERTAIN. BASE DIA 10.5CM		1	324	0	0
104	SHEL	-	HM	1	ABR		BS; OX/R/OX; ?DATE		1	16	0	0
104	GREY1	DPR		1			RIM BASE		1	65	20	13
104	GREY1	DFL		1			RIM BASE; SIMILAR FABRIC MATCHING SET WITH DPR? SEE DIAMETERS.		2	146	22	22
104	GREY1	JLH		1			BASE SHLDR; FTG; SMALL COUNTERSUNK LUG ON UPPER SHOULDER; LATE ROMAN		8	204	0	0
106	GREY1	J		1			BASE; FTM		1	52	0	0

ATLE15 Pottery archive												
Context	Fabric	Form	Decoration	Vessels	Alt	D. No	Comments	Join	Sherd	Weight	Rim diam	Rim eve
106	GREY1	LD		1			RIM		1	14	20	5
106	GREY1	BWM		1			RIM		1	74	26	21
106	GREY1	BWM2	SHG	1			RIM GIRTH		3	248	34	16
106	GREY1	-		1			BS		1	12	0	0
106	GREY	CLSD		1	BURNT		BS		1	2	0	0
106	DWSHT	-		1			BS; SANDY FABRIC; ?ID		1	16	0	0
106	SAMEG	BD		1			BS; FORM 31?		1	25	0	0
110	DWSHT	JDW		1			RIM		1	10	18	8
110	DWSHT	-		1	ABR		BS		1	4	0	0
110	IAGR	-		1	ABR		BS		1	14	0	0
110	GREY1	CLSD		1			BS		2	20	0	0
110	GREY1	CLSD		1	ABR		BS		2	5	0	0
110	GREY1	-		2			BS		2	20	0	0
110	GREY1	J		1			BS SHLDR		1	4	0	0
110	GREY1	BWM1		1			RIM		1	46	26	13
110	GREY1	BNNK		1			RIM		1	49	22	17
110	GREY1	DPR		1			RIM BASE		2	122	22	3
110	GREY1	BFB		1			RIM		3	39	29	4
204	GREY?	CLSD		1	ABR		BS		1	7	0	0
209	GREY1	CLSD		2			BS		3	17	0	0
211	IAGR	CLSD		1	VAB		BS; DARK SURFACES; GROG; SAND		2	18	0	0
211	GREY4	CLSD	RUST?	1			BS		1	7	0	0

**Tothby Lane, Alford,  
Lincolnshire (ATLE 15)**  
*The Animal Bone*  
By Jennifer Wood

**Introduction**

A total of 22 (485g) refitted fragments of animal bone were recovered by hand during archaeological works undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Services Ltd at Tothby Lane, Alford, Lincolnshire. The remains were recovered from Trench 1, ditches [103] and [109], provisionally dated from the Romano-British period.

**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.

Cut marks associated with disarticulation and jointing of the carcass were noted on remains from Ditch [109].

*Table 1, Summary of Identified Bone*

Context	Cut	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	Weight	Comments
104	103	Equid (Horse Family)	Radius	R	1	142	Distal shaft, Bd=64mm
		Large Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	1	3	Shaft fragment
		Cattle	Tooth	R	1	15	Lower M2
110	109	Large Mammal Size	Rib	X	2	24	Blade
		Large Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	4	19	Shaft fragments
		Medium Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	1	1	Shaft fragment
		Large Mammal Size	Lumbar	L	1	45	Body
		Cattle	Radius	R	1	65	Proximal shaft, Chopped through the medial articulation, cut marks on the anterior shaft
		Large Mammal Size	Innominate	L	1	41	Ilium, Chopped through
		Cattle	Humerus	R	1	37	Distal condyle, in two pieces
		Cattle	Mandible	L	1	29	Body fragment, no teeth in occlusion
		Large Mammal Size	Scapula	L	1	31	Partial glenoid
		Large Mammal Size	Scapula	X	5	20	Blade fragments
		Large Mammal Size	Long Bone	X	1	13	Part of articular surface

As can be seen, cattle were the predominant species identified within the assemblage, with a single fragment of equid (horse family). The remaining assemblage was unidentifiable beyond size category.

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 1, this may suggest a focus of activity.

**References**

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES  
DURHAM UNIVERSITY

on behalf of  
Pre Construct Archaeological Services Ltd

Land off Tothby Lane  
Alford  
Lincolnshire

palaeoenvironmental assessment

report 3781  
April 2015

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## **1. Summary**

### **The project**

- 1.1 This report presents the results of palaeoenvironmental assessment of a bulk sample taken during archaeological works at land off Tothby Lane, Alford in Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The works were commissioned by Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS), and conducted by Archaeological Services Durham University.

### **Results**

- 1.3 The assessment provides evidence indicating spelt wheat was the main crop used at the site. The occurrence of this cereal is consistent with the Roman date indicated by the pottery. Charred rhizomes and heath-grass remains frequently occur in Iron Age and Romano-British deposits and may reflect native settlement at the site. The unusual presence of ash, blackthorn and elder charcoal may represent a specific use for these species rather than highlighting limited woodland resources.

### **Recommendations**

- 1.4 No further work is required for the palaeoenvironmental remains as the flot was scanned in its entirety and no additional information would be provided from an analysis. If additional work is undertaken at the site, the results of this assessment should be added to any further palaeoenvironmental data produced.
- 1.5 The flot should be retained as part of the physical archive of the site. The residue was discarded following examination.

## 2. Project background

### Location and background

- 2.1 Archaeological works were conducted by PCAS at land off Tothby Lane, Alford, East Lindsey in Lincolnshire. This report presents the results of palaeoenvironmental assessment of a bulk sample taken from the upper fill (106) of a ditch comprising multiple sherds of Roman pottery.

### Objective

- 2.2 The objective of the scheme of works was to assess the palaeoenvironmental potential of the sample, establish the presence of suitable radiocarbon dating material, and provide the client with appropriate recommendations.

### Dates

- 2.3 The sample was received by Archaeological Services on 8th April 2015. Assessment and report preparation was conducted between 20th and 24th April 2015.

### Personnel

- 2.4 Assessment and report preparation was conducted by Lorne Elliott. Sample processing was by Hannah Woodrow.

### Archive

- 2.5 The site code is **ATLE15**, for **Alford Tothby Lane evaluation 2015**. The flots and finds are currently held in the Environmental Laboratory at Archaeological Services Durham University awaiting collection. The charred plant remains will be retained at Archaeological Services Durham University.

## 3. Methods

- 3.1 The bulk sample was manually floated and sieved through a 500 $\mu$ m mesh. The residue was examined for shells, fruitstones, nutshells, charcoal, small bones, pottery, flint, glass and industrial residues, and was scanned using a magnet for ferrous fragments. The flot was examined at up to x60 magnification for charred and waterlogged botanical remains using a Leica MZ7.5 stereomicroscope. Identification of these was undertaken by comparison with modern reference material held in the Environmental Laboratory at Archaeological Services Durham University. Habitat classification follows Preston *et al.* (2002). Plant nomenclature follows Stace (1997).
- 3.2 Selected charcoal fragments were identified, in order to provide material suitable for radiocarbon dating. The transverse, radial and tangential sections were examined at up to x600 magnification using a Leica DMLM microscope. Identifications were assisted by the descriptions of Schweingruber (1990) and Hather (2000), and modern reference material held in the Environmental Laboratory at Archaeological Services Durham University.
- 3.3 The works were undertaken in accordance with the palaeoenvironmental research aims and objectives outlined in the regional archaeological research framework and resource agendas (Monckton 2006; Hall & Huntley 2007; Huntley 2010).

## 4. Results

- 4.1 The sample produced a moderate-sized flot containing fragments of charcoal, coal, clinker/cinder, charred plant macrofossils and modern roots. Preservation of the charred botanical remains and charcoal was good to poor due to pitted or degraded grains and mineral inclusions in the charcoal.
- 4.2 The charred plant macrofossil assemblage included wheat remains (grains/chaff) and weed seeds typical of arable, damp ground and grassy heathland. The wheat grains comprised the oval shape and parallel-sided morphology typical of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*), as summarised by Jacomet (2006). Diagnostic glume bases and spikelet forks (chaff) confirmed the presence of this species. Small charred rhizomes (probably grasses) were also recorded.
- 4.3 The unusual small charcoal assemblage included fragments of ash with weak to moderate ring curvature and anatomical properties associated with stemwood, and blackthorn and elder small calibre branchwood with slight vitrification were noted.
- 4.4 Finds comprised small quantities of fired clay, pottery, bone (unburnt/calcined), a fragment of animal tooth and a hobnail.
- 4.5 Material suitable for radiocarbon dating is available for the sample. The results are presented in Appendix 1.

## 5. Discussion

- 5.1 The assessment provides evidence indicating spelt wheat was the main crop used at the site. The occurrence of this cereal is consistent with the Roman date indicated by the pottery, as spelt wheat regularly occurs at sites of this period (Greig 1991). The abundance of spelt chaff suggests the local production of this crop. Brome grass, present in the pit fills, is frequently associated with spelt wheat, and is believed to have been brought to Britain in imported spelt (Godwin 1975). It has been suggested that this large grass seed was deliberately included to bulk up harvests (Jones 1984). A few poorly preserved remains of barley (grains/chaff) indicate this cereal was also cultivated at the site.
- 5.2 Low numbers of charred rhizomes and weed seeds typical of damp grassy heathland suggests some of the material may represent the remains of gathered hay for fodder or bedding, or may reflect the remains of burnt turves used as fuel or construction material such as roofing and clamp kilns (Hall 2003). Charred rhizomes and heath-grass remains frequently occur in Iron Age and Romano-British deposits and may reflect native settlement at the site.
- 5.3 The unusual occurrence of ash, blackthorn and elder charcoal may reflect a specific use for these species rather than highlighting limited woodland resources in the local area.

## 6. Recommendations

- 6.1 No further work is required for the palaeoenvironmental remains as the flot was scanned in its entirety and no additional information would be provided from an



analysis. If additional work is undertaken at the site, the results of this assessment should be added to any further palaeoenvironmental data produced.

- 6.2 The flot should be retained as part of the physical archive of the site. The residue was discarded following examination.

## 7. Sources

- Greig, J R A, 1991 The British Isles, in W Van Zeist, K Wasylikowa & K-E Behre (eds) *Progress in Old World Palaeoethnobotany*. Rotterdam
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## Appendix 1: Data from palaeoenvironmental assessment

<b>Sample</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Context</b>		<b>106</b>
<b>Feature number</b>		<b>103</b>
<b>Feature</b>		<b>ditch</b>
<i>Material available for radiocarbon dating</i>		✓
<i>Volume processed (l)</i>		19
<i>Volume of flot (ml)</i>		130
<b>Residue contents</b>		
Bone (calcined)	indet. frags	+
Bone (unburnt)	indet. frags	++
Flint	unworked	++
Fired clay		++
Hobnail (number of fragments)		1
Pot (number of fragments)		12
Tooth (animal - enamel fragment)		1
<b>Flot matrix</b>		
Charcoal		++
Clinker / cinder		+
Coal		+
Rhizomes (charred)	grass-type	++
Roots (modern)		++
<b>Charred remains (total count)</b>		
(a) <i>Bromus</i> sp (Bromes)	caryopsis	12
(a) <i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> (Wild Radish)	pod	2
(c) Cerealia indeterminate	grain	>20
(c) <i>Hordeum</i> sp (Barley species)	grain	3
(c) <i>Hordeum</i> sp (Barley species)	rachis fragment	8
(c) <i>Triticum</i> cf. <i>spelta</i> (cf. Spelt Wheat)	grain	>100
(c) <i>Triticum spelta</i> (Spelt Wheat)	glume base	>400
(c) <i>Triticum spelta</i> (Spelt Wheat)	spikelet fork	7
(c) <i>Triticum</i> sp (Wheat species)	grain	>30
(h) <i>Danthonia decumbens</i> (Heath-grass)	caryopsis	1
(w) <i>Ajuga reptans</i> (Bugle)	nutlet	1
(w) <i>Carex</i> sp (Sedges)	biconvex nutlet	1
(w) <i>Carex</i> sp (Sedges)	trigonus nutlet	6
(w) Cyperaceae undiff. (Sedge family)	large nutlet	1
(w) <i>Eleocharis</i> sp (Spike-rushes)	nutlet	1
(x) Poaceae undiff. >1mm (Grass family)	caryopsis	1
(x) Poaceae undiff. <1mm (Grass family)	caryopsis	7
(x) <i>Rumex</i> sp (Docks)	nutlet	11
(x) <i>Vicia</i> sp (Vetches)	seed	14
<b>Identified charcoal (✓ presence)</b>		
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Ash)		✓
<i>Prunus spinosa</i> sp (Blackthorn)		✓
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> (Elder)		✓

[a-arable; c-cultivated; h-heathland; w-wet/damp ground; x-wide niche.

(+): trace; +: rare; ++: occasional; +++: common; ++++: abundant]

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: preconst3-210065**

### Project details

Project name	Tothby Lane, Alford
Short description of the project	A programme of archaeological evaluation trenching took place to inform a proposed development on land to the north of Tothby Lane in Alford, in the East Lindsey district of Lincolnshire. The site lies between the historic core of Alford town and the deserted medieval village of Tothby, now represented only by Tothby Manor to the north of the site. A preceding geophysical survey recorded a dense array of rectilinear enclosures (some with possible internal boundaries and containing pits) across the western and south-eastern parts of the site, with a group of anomalies also recorded in the north-eastern part. This document describes the results of a three trench evaluation. Each of the investigated trenches contained archaeological features, with Trenches 1 and 2 corroborating the results of the geophysical survey, suggesting the presence of enclosures, which have been dated to the Roman period.
Project dates	Start: 01-03-2015 End: 29-03-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ATLE 15 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	PIT Roman
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Roman
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

**Project location**

Country England

Site location LINCOLNSHIRE EAST LINDSEY ALFORD Land off Tothby Lane, Alford

Study area 0 Hectares

Site coordinates TF 4460 7625 53.2632057825 0.168224049662 53 15 47 N 000 10 05 E 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 "Database", "Geophysics", "Images vector", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient The Collection, Lincoln

Paper Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics"

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Diary", "Drawing", "Map", "Notebook - Excavation", ' Research', ' General Notes', "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Entered by Leigh Brocklehurst (leigh@pre-construct.co.uk)

Entered on 29 April 2015

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