

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT
43 WEST STREET, WINTERTON, NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

NLM Acc. No.: WNTBV 2723
NGR: SE 9277 1860
Planning Ref: PA/2006/1681
PCA job no.: 06-321

prepared for
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Archaeological Evaluation Report

43 West Street, Winterton, North Lincolnshire

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Summary

- *This document reports on the results of pre-determination field evaluation undertaken in support of Planning Application PA/2006/1681.*
- *The site covers an area of approximately 1.6ha and is located adjacent to All Saints' Church within the historic core of Winterton centred on NGR SE 9277 1860.*
- *The evaluation required the excavation and recording of four trial trenches in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by the North Lincolnshire Sites & Monuments Record on behalf of the local planning authority.*
- *Archaeological features were identified in three trenches. These included an un-dated pit on the east side of the site and an undated east-west aligned ditch in the centre. A second ditch, aligned north-south, was exposed towards the west side and contained two small sherds of pottery dating between the late tenth and twelfth centuries.*
- *The archaeological remains identified are considered to be of only local significance and thus do not preclude development. However, they were sealed, on average, by only 0.7m of archaeologically insignificant deposits and this is probably too shallow for effective preservation in situ. It is thus concluded that further archaeological works will be required to preserve them by record and this can be effectively managed by the adoption of a standard negative condition based on the model in PPG 16, para 30.*

1.0 Introduction

A full planning application has been submitted to North Lincolnshire Unitary Council for the erection of eight residential dwellings on land at 43 West Street, Winterton (ref: PA/2006/1681).

The North Lincolnshire Sites & Monuments Record (NLSMR), who act as archaeological advisor to the local planning authority, recommended that determination of the application be deferred pending the results of an archaeological evaluation in accordance with Policy HE9 of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan.

The NLSMR subsequently issued a brief for evaluation by trial trenching and Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) [PCA] was appointed to undertake the works following a competitive tendering exercise.

2.0 Site Location and description

The site is an L-shaped land parcel of approximately 0.16ha on the south side of West Street. The current land use is defined in the west by the former garden of No 43 West Street and a timber yard to the east. The timber yard is characterised by hard standing and two workshops. It lies at an altitude of approximately 25m AOD and is centred on NGR SE 9277 1860 (Fig. 1).

The solid geology is comprised of Middle Jurassic Lincolnshire Limestone that forms the Lincolnshire Edge escarpment. The southwest corner of the application area lies on or close to

the junction between the limestone and the Kirton cementstone also of the Redbourne Group (BGS 1:50,000 sheet 80D)

3.0 Methodology

The works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (wsi) prepared by PCA. This was based on the requirements of a project brief issued by the NLSMR, common practice and the relevant national guidance issued by English Heritage (1991) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994 *as revised*). The wsi was approved by the NLSMR on behalf of the local planning authority and the evaluation commenced in December 2006.

In summary, this comprised the surveying of trench locations by triangulation off the site boundaries followed by machine excavation to the first significant archaeological horizon. Machining was undertaken with a JCB 3CX fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. A breaker was used within the east side of the site to punch through hard standing associated with the current site use as a timber yard.

On completion of machine excavation, each trench was hand cleaned and the exposed archaeological features investigated by sample hand excavation.

All deposits (contexts) were recorded by scale drawing, 35mm photography (monochrome and colour transparency) and described on pro-forma context sheets identified by a unique reference number. Where multiple sections were investigated within the same feature, a letter code was added to the context number to spatially isolate the finds from each intervention.

Artefacts recovered from the evaluation were removed from site in sealed bags marked with the site code and context number. These were processed in-house prior to submission to appropriate specialists for assessment.

On completion of site works, the trenches were backfilled with the up cast from excavation lightly compacted.

The evaluation was undertaken between the 18-21 December 2006 by Simon Savage. Specialist reporting has been undertaken by Jane Young (ceramics) and Palaeoecology Ltd (animal bone). Post-excavation management was undertaken by Steve Williams and this report written by Simon Johnson with illustrations by Simon Savage.

4.0 Archaeological and historic background

Prehistoric activity in the area is concentrated predominantly to the east of the village, and includes a number of stone axe fragments and significant numbers of flint arrowheads.

A Roman villa was discovered in 1699, when mosaics and other building remains were identified. It was not, however, until the 1960s that systematic excavations were carried out dating the occupation of the site between the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD. Further Romano-British settlement is reflected in extensive cropmarks to the northwest of the site, which have been identified as enclosures, paddocks and field systems. A late Roman stone building was

discovered in this area in 1953, and a Roman pottery kiln was found in 1868 at the north end of the settlement.

The placename, Winterton, is derived from *Wintringatune*, translating as ‘Farmstead of the family or followers of *Winter*’ (Cameron, 1998). The Domesday Book of 1086 lists the village as *Wintrintune* (Mills, 1996). Further evidence for the early development of the present village form is evident in Saxon elements surviving within the fabric of All Saints' church.

The site lies within this historic core of Winterton and was thus considered likely to contain archaeological features and horizons dating to the late Saxon/medieval periods.

5.0 Results

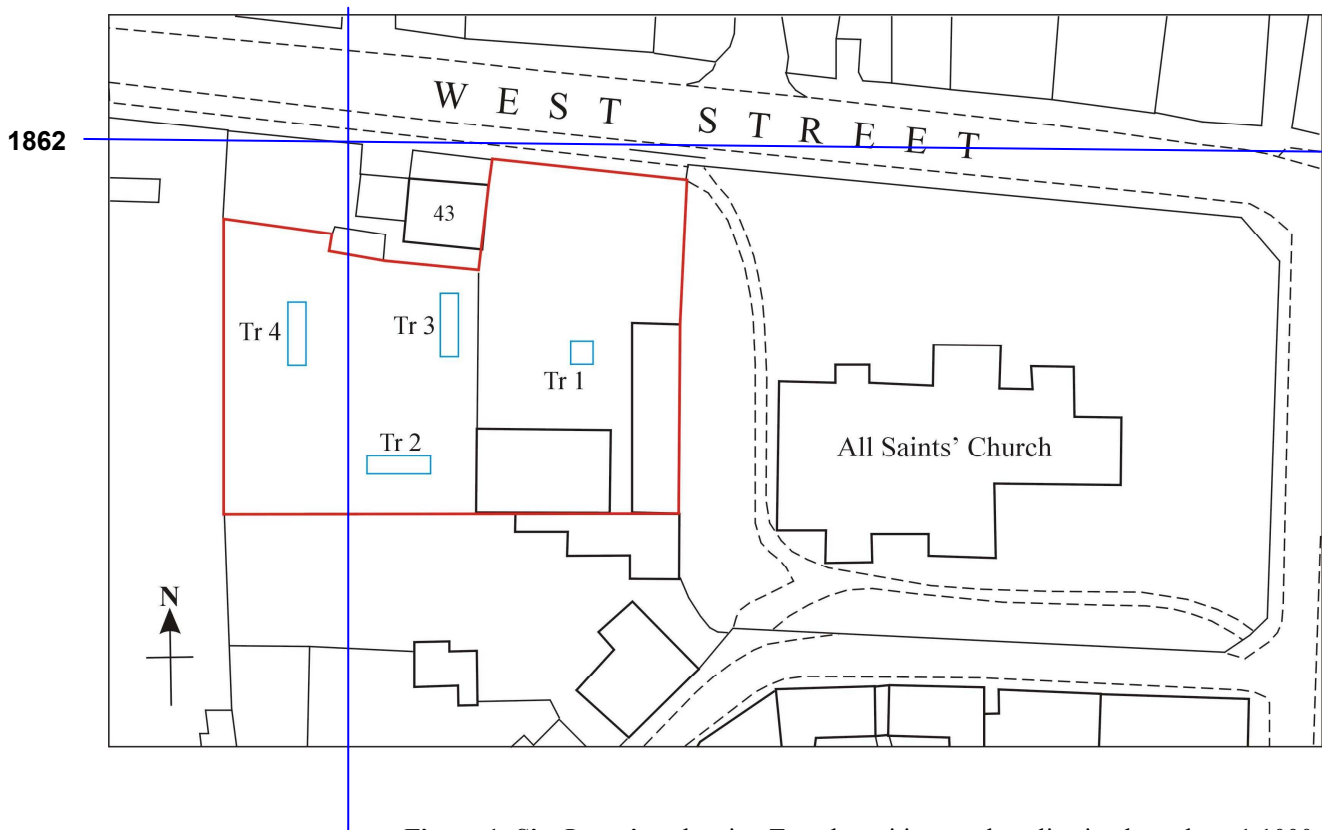


Figure 1: Site Location showing Trench positions and application boundary, 1:1000
9276

5.1 Trench 1 (Figure 2)

Trench 1 was located in the east of the application area within the timber yard and measured approximately 2.5m x 2.5m with an average depth of 0.98m. A breaker was required to punch through the hard standing prior to reduced-level excavation down to the first archaeological horizon.

The earliest deposit exposed (104) was the natural limestone. This had weathered along the natural bedding into a brashy layer with sandy clay pockets (105).

The natural was cut by a sub-rounded pit [107] approaching 1m in diameter with a depth of approximately 0.4m. This contained a single fill (106) of mid brown gritty silty clay with large limestone and occasional fired clay and rare charcoal flecks. In spite of a 50% sample investigation being dug, no dating evidence was recovered but its status as an archaeological rather than natural feature is suggested by the texture of the fill material which equates with other cut features recorded within the site and the collection of a small assemblage of animal bone.

This pit was sealed below an undifferentiated topsoil horizon (103) that was in turn overlain by two make-up layers [(102) & (103)] for the existing hard standing (100). In total, these deposits amounted to 0.76m of overburden above the level where archaeology was identified.

5.2 Trench 2 (Figure 3)

This trench was excavated close to the south boundary just within the west half of the Site. Its final dimensions were 8m x 2m with an average depth of 0.8m.

No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts recovered. The natural deposit sequence, from the existing ground surface downwards, comprised:

Context (200)	0.36m	Recently dumped undifferentiated topsoil
Context (201)	0.35m	Original (buried) undifferentiated topsoil
Context (202)	0.08m+	Mid grey clayey sand with limestone inclusions. Natural infill of pocket in underlying limestone.
Context (203)	0.01+	Natural weathered limestone

5.3 Trench 3 (Figure 4)

This trench was broadly located in the centre of the site and measured 8m x 2m with an average depth of 0.79m.

The earliest deposit exposed (306) was again the natural limestone with sandy clay pockets (303). This was overlain in the majority of the trench by dark, orangey brown, sandy silt subsoil (302). It was not clear if this deposit was a natural subsoil infilling a slight depression within the underlying natural or a more recent panning created by the translocation of fine material down through the deposit sequence.

This subsoil was cut by an east-west aligned gully [305]. This extended beyond the confines of the trench and had an average width of 0.82m and a depth of only 0.2m, with a bowl shaped profile. It was filled by mid greyish brown silty sand (304).

A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from a c. 50% sample excavation of this feature. The fragments were generally very small and unidentifiable as to species; but their condition indicates that bone survives well within the soils that characterise the site. Given the small and fragmentary nature of the bone, little can be gleaned regarding the site taphonomy other than that some bones show evidence of gnawing and the sharp edges indicate that the fragmentary nature of the bone occurred prior to entering the archaeological record rather than as a consequence of post-depositional damage.

This gully was sealed by 0.75m of buried and imported topsoil (301 & 302) as first identified in Trench 2 as deposits (200) and (201).

5.4 Trench 4 (Figure 5)

This trench again measured 8m x 2m and was excavated to an average depth of 0.9m. Located in the east of the application area, the basal deposits were still characterised by natural weathered limestone (402) with silty pockets (405).

The natural was cut by a single north-south aligned cut [404]. This extended beyond the limits of the trench and thus the full profile of the feature was not recorded; but it is considered most likely that this is a further ditch.

Three investigative sections were dug across the ditch totalling c. 25% of the extent exposed. These revealed a consistent fill (403) of dark yellowish brown sandy silt with rare poorly sorted charcoal flecks.

The sample excavations demonstrated that the feature had an irregular profile and the one at the north end of the trench revealed a maximum depth of 0.22m.

Finds recovered from the feature included two sherds of Lincolnshire Fine-Shelled Ware pottery and a further small collection of animal bone. The pottery dates to between the late tenth to twelfth centuries and is from either jars or perhaps one jar and a bowl. This type of pottery is not very robust, being relatively low-fired and is therefore likely to have been deposited relatively quickly following its discard. As such, it is considered that the date of the excavation and backfilling of this feature lies within the broad chronology of the pottery fabric. What is not known, however, is if it dates to the beginning of the date range and therefore belongs to the pre-conquest period, or later Norman period of Winterton's Development.

The animal bone assemblage recovered from this ditch was slightly larger than that from the features in earlier trenches, but was still too small for any meaningful statistical analysis. It was again in good condition and the general lack of post depositional damage indicates that it is a primary deposit.

6.0 Discussion

The evaluation has resulted in the identification of three archaeological features: two ditches and one pit. Each contained a single undifferentiated fill that is uninformative in terms of establishing the depositional history of the site: it is not known if the ditch features, for example, were deliberately backfilled or became buried through the natural processes of localised erosion and soil development. Given the lack of any tip lines of limestone, there is no evidence that these features were banked although this remains the most likely use of the arisings from the original excavation of the ditches.

Given the location of the application area adjacent to the parish church, the site was modelled to have been at the heart of the early medieval settlement and a favoured location for domestic occupation. However, the insignificant artefact assemblage does not support this: despite good preservation the animal bone and pottery assemblages are too pitifully small to be part of a domestic occupation of any size or longevity and the lack of potential for charred remains within

the features investigated again casts doubt on this site being the location of domestic habitation. More likely is that the ditches represent property boundaries to a small croft or other early land parcel used for either small scale horticulture or grazing.

6.1 Assessment of Importance

The simple deposit sequence and ubiquitous, undifferentiated, single fills of the features limits the understanding of the primary deposition and taphonomic changes that will have occurred within the site to only the most simple of interpretation. The stratigraphic and interpretative value of the remains is therefore considered low.

The bone assemblage was reasonably well preserved and thus the miniscule quantity of largely unidentifiable bone recovered can be seen as a valid indication of the quality of animal bone within the site. Given the relatively small quantity and low percentage of identifiable fragments, the potential for the site to yield an assemblage of sufficient size and completeness to significantly contribute to the understanding of past animal exploitation is also considered to be low.

Similarly, the dearth of ceramic artefacts and lack of differentiated fills in the features indicates that the potential of the site to yield quality chronological data is also low.

That the deposits did not have potential to contain charred remains and the absence of waterlogged deposits also indicates that the site has a low potential for environmental archaeology and the preservation of organic remains

Given that the potential for all the significant data sets that contributes to the overall narrative and research value of an archaeological site is low, the remains identified within the site are considered to be of only local importance. On this basis, they do not preclude development but they may require additional investigation, analysis and reporting depending on the final redevelopment proposals.

6.2 Mitigation

The archaeological features identified within the application area are buried below a minimum of 0.7m of insignificant overburden comprised of topsoil, redeposited topsoil or makeup and hard surfaces associated with the timber yard.

This gives a window of opportunity to preserve the archaeology largely undisturbed if the development can be designed to fall above this level.

Whilst this may be possible to achieve by the use of raft foundations and shallow formation dig for an un-adopted access, it is likely that the invert levels of drainage will mean that some impact is unavoidable. This could be effectively mitigated during development by the implementation of an archaeological watching brief.

If traditional strip footings become the preferred foundation option the remains will be subject to a much greater impact. However, given the paucity of artefactual remains and the simplistic

stratigraphic sequence, it may still be possible to manage the archaeology and seek its preservation by record during development.

7.0 Conclusions

The evaluation has identified limited archaeological remains of local importance that do not preclude development.

These lie at a minimum depth of 0.7m below existing ground level.

Options for minimising the impact on the buried remains by engineering design should be considered.

Any residual impact of the redevelopment proposals can be mitigated by a further scheme of archaeological works. Such a scheme can be secured by condition based on the model in PPG 16, para 30.

8.0 Archive

The resultant archive from the evaluation is currently in preparation and will be deposited with the North Lincolnshire Museum within the next six months, where it will be accessible by appointment and by quoting Accession Number WNTBV 2723.

8.1 Paper element

The paper archive comprises:

- 1no 35mm monochrome film as negatives and contact sheet
- 1no 35mm colour transparency film mounted
- 1no copy of project brief
- 1no copy of project specification
- 2no A3 acetate drawing sheets of trench plans and sections
- 1no PCA Drawing Record Sheet
- 1no PCA Site-specific Risk Assessment
- 4no PCA Site Diary sheets
- 2no PCA Photographic Register sheets
- 1no PCA Context Summary sheet
- 25no PCA Context Record sheets

8.2 Object Element

The object element comprises:

- Context (403) 2no Lincolnshire Fine-shelled ware sherds
- Context (106) 2no unidentified mammal bone
- Context (304) 1no cattle tooth

- 1no *caprovid* fragment
 - 6no unidentified mammal fragments
- Context (403N)
 - 1no *caprovid* tooth
 - 6no unidentified mammal fragments
- Context (403S)
 - 2no unidentified mammal fragments

Conditions during the evaluation were good and the field archaeologist undertaking the site work has in excess of 20 years experience, seven of which are at Project Officer level. It is thus considered that the site archive has integrity and that a high confidence rating can be assigned to the evaluation.

9.0 References

- DoE. 1990. 'Archaeology and Planning' *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16*
- English Heritage. 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*
- NLSMR 2006 'Brief for Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching. 43 West Street, Winterton' *unpublished project brief*
- PCA Lincoln 2007 'Archaeological Works Specification. 43 West Street, Winterton' *unpublished written scheme of investigation*

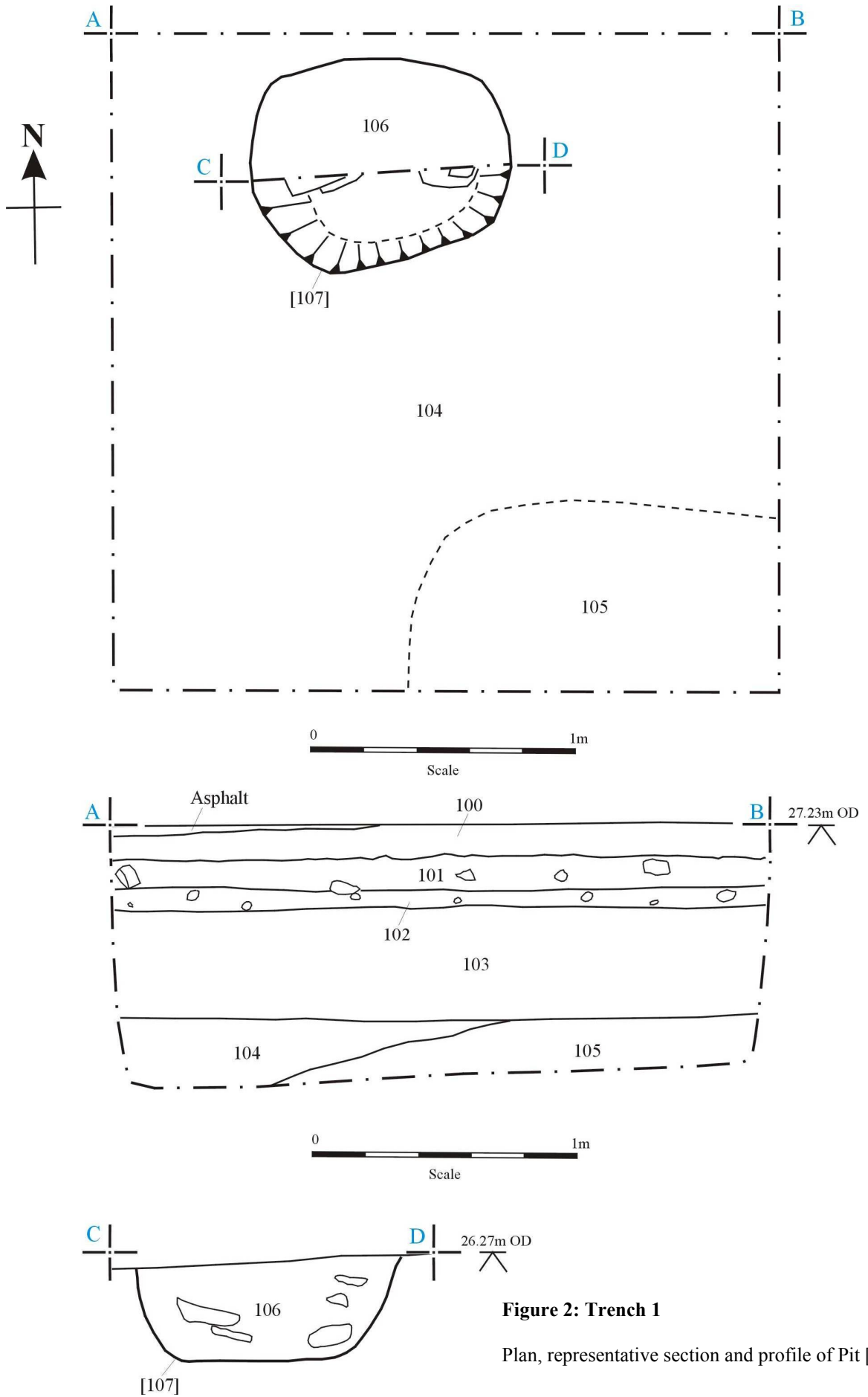


Figure 2: Trench 1

Plan, representative section and profile of Pit [107]

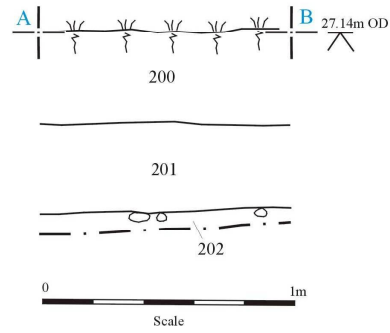
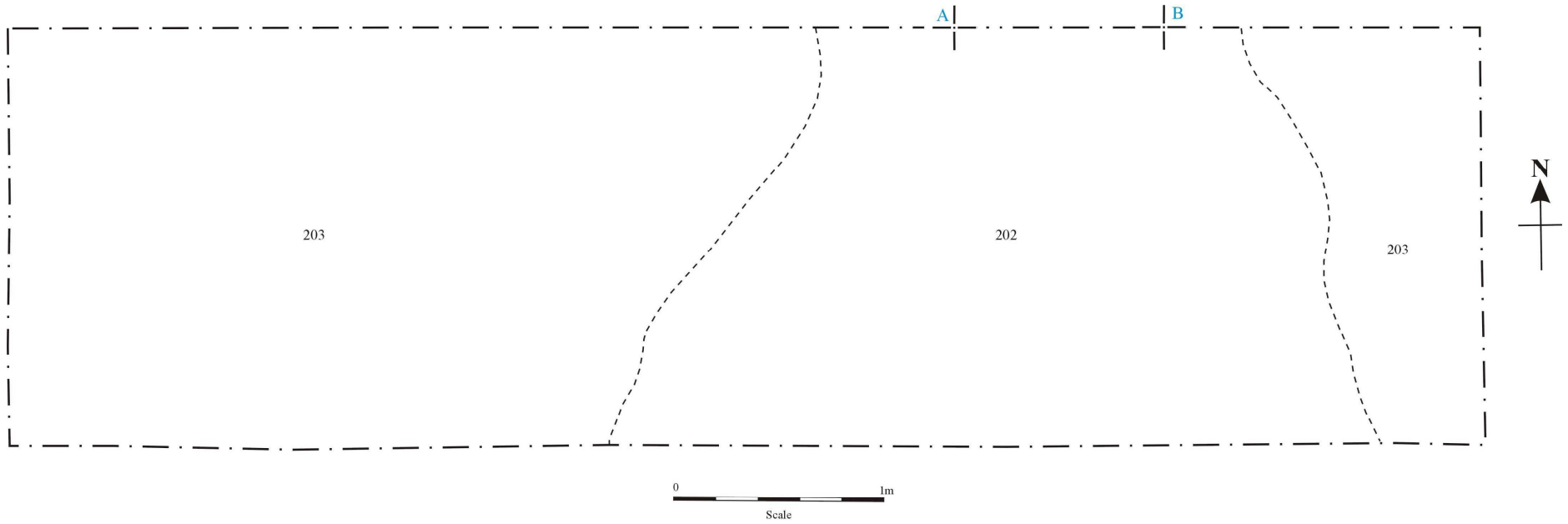


Figure 3: Trench 2 showing natural silt pockets within the natural weathered Lincolnshire Limestone and representative section

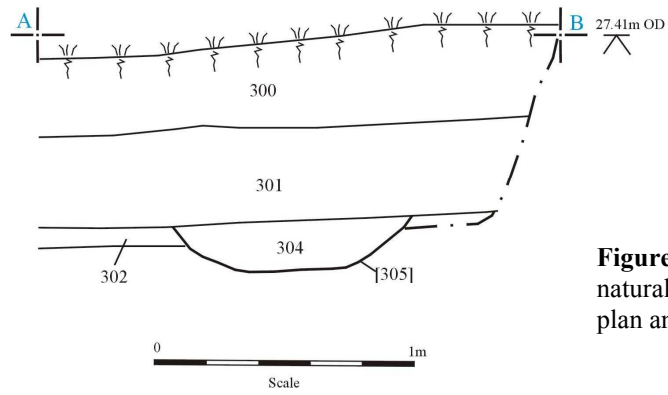
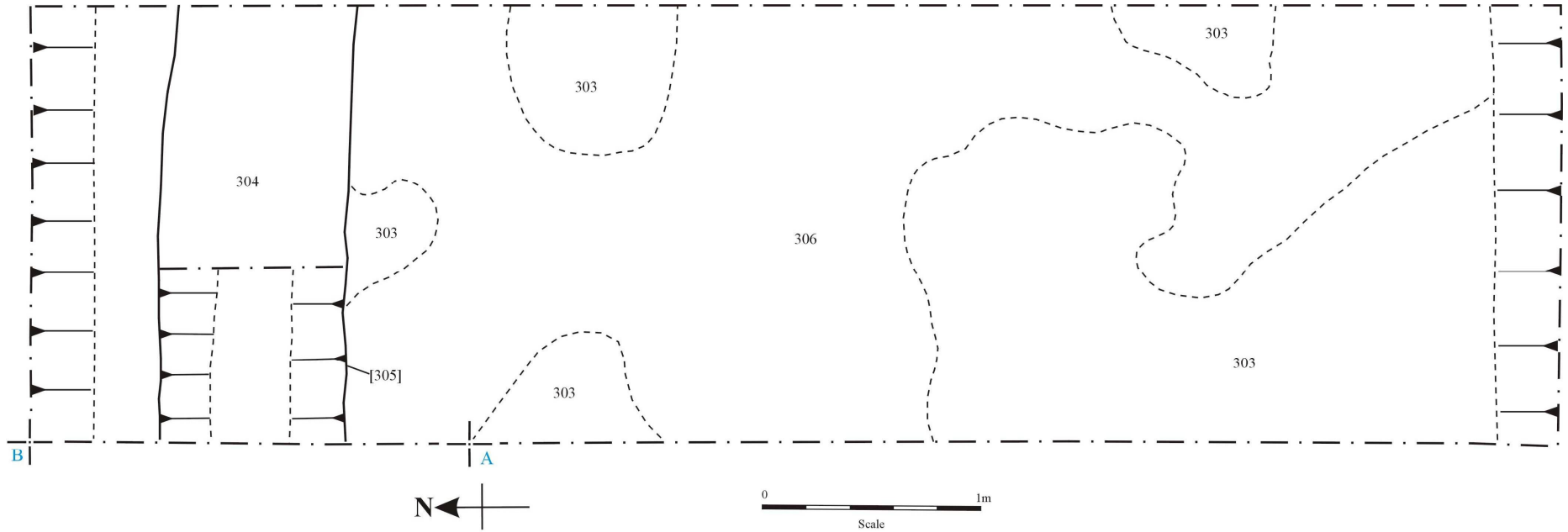


Figure 4 Trench 3 showing natural silt pockets within the natural weathered Lincolnshire Limestone ditch [305] in plan and section

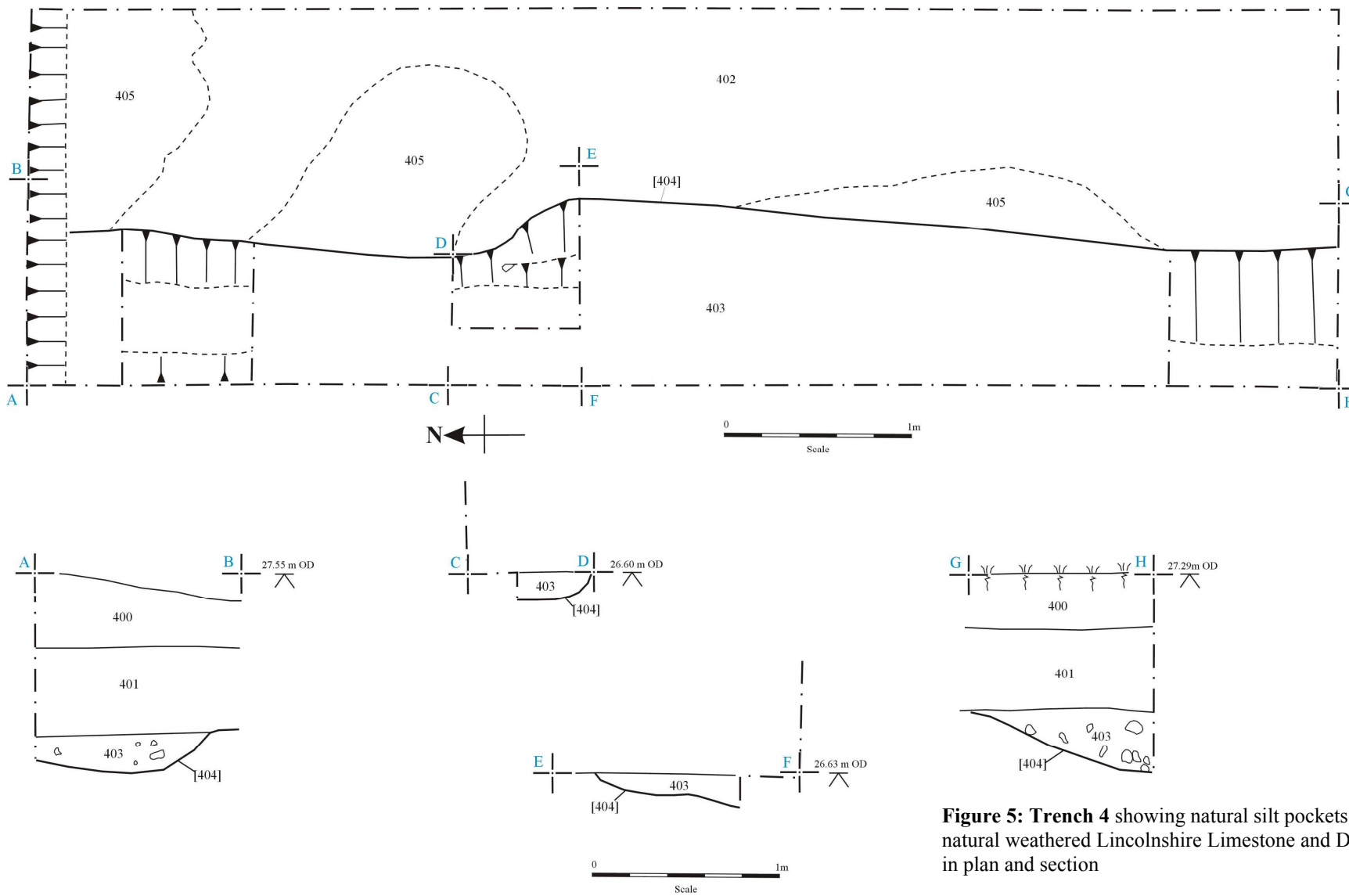


Figure 5: Trench 4 showing natural silt pockets within the natural weathered Lincolnshire Limestone and Ditch [404] in plan and section

Appendix A: Pottery Archive

context	cname	full name	form type	sherds	weight	part	desc.	date
403	LFS	Lincolnshire Fine Shelled ware	Jar/bowl	1	7	Base	Int & ext soot Leached internal surface	L 10 th to 12 th
403	LFS	Lincolnshire Fine Shelled ware	Jar	1	7	BS		L10th to 12th

Appendix B: Faunal Remains Assessment***Palaeoecology Research Services* PRS 2007/15****Evaluation of vertebrate remains from excavations at 43 West Street,
Winterton, North Lincolnshire (Job no: 321; site code: WNTBV06)**

by

Deborah Jaques

Summary

A very small quantity of hand-collected bone, recovered from deposits encountered during excavations at 43 West Street, Winterton, North Lincolnshire, was submitted for an evaluation of its zooarchaeological potential. Archaeological features of possible early medieval date were revealed, including ditches and layers.

Vertebrate remains were reasonably well preserved, although, few were identifiable to species. The current assemblage was of little interpretative value and no further work is recommended on these remains. However, the recovered remains clearly indicated the potential for good preservation of bone within some deposits in this area which should be considered in the event of further excavation.

KEYWORDS: 43 WEST STREET; WINTERTON; NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE; EVALUATION; EARLY MEDIEVAL; VERTEBRATE REMAINS

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March 2007

Evaluation of vertebrate remains from excavations at 43 West Street, Winterton, North Lincolnshire (Job no: 321; site code: WNTBV06)

Introduction

An archaeological evaluation excavation was carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) at 43 West Street, Winterton, North Lincolnshire (NGR SE 9277 1860), between the 17th and the 20th of December 2006. The work was undertaken prior to a residential redevelopment of the site.

The excavations encountered several ditches and layers of ?early medieval date from which a small quantity of animal bone was recovered by hand-collection. The vertebrate remains were submitted to Palaeoecology Research Services Ltd (PRS), County Durham, for an evaluation of their zooarchaeological potential.

Methods

Subjective records were made of the state of preservation, colour of the fragments, and the appearance of broken surfaces ('angularity'). Other information, such as fragment size, dog gnawing, burning, butchery and fresh breaks, was noted, where applicable.

Bone fragments were identified to species or species group using the PRS modern comparative reference collection. The bones which could not be identified to species were described as the 'unidentified' fraction. Within this fraction, fragments were grouped into two categories: large mammal (assumed to be cattle, horse or large cervid) and medium-sized mammal (assumed to be caprovid, pig or small cervid).

Results

Nineteen fragments of bone were recovered from four contexts at this site, three of which (Contexts 304, 403 N and 403 S) were the fills of two ditches. The vertebrate remains were mostly of reasonable preservation, with little evidence of reworking or redeposition. Fresh breakage damage, which had occurred during the excavation and post-excavation processes, was noted on the material from Context 403 N, whilst dog gnawing was observed on a shaft fragment from Context 304.

Only three of the bones could be identified to species. Two of these were isolated deciduous fourth premolars, one of which was identified as cattle, the other as caprovid (probably sheep rather than goat). The third identified bone was a radius shaft of a neonatal or juvenile caprovid. The proximal articulation was unfused suggesting that this animal was less than ten months old when it died. Other fragments were assigned to the unidentified fraction and represented large and medium-sized mammals.

Discussion and statement of potential

Excavations at this site produced an extremely small assemblage of vertebrate remains, recovered mainly from fills of ditches of possible early medieval date. No interpretative information can be provided by this material beyond that reported in the 'Results' above and summarised in Table 1.

Recommendations

No further study of the current vertebrate assemblage is warranted. It seems unlikely, given the small size of the current assemblage, that further excavation in the area would produce sufficient material to be of interpretative value. However, the remains were reasonably well preserved and the possibility of encountering deposits with greater quantities of bone should not be discounted entirely.

Retention and disposal

The current vertebrate assemblage may be discarded unless required for a purpose other than the provision of zooarchaeological data.

Archive

All material is currently stored by Palaeoecology Research Services (Unit 8, Dabble Duck Industrial Estate, Shildon, County Durham), along with paper and electronic records pertaining to the work described here.

Acknowledgements

The author is grateful to Steve Williams, of PCA (Lincoln), for providing the material and the archaeological information.

Table 1. Hand-collected vertebrate remains from excavations at 43 West Street, Winterton, North Lincolnshire, by context.

Context	Context type	Total fragments/wt	Notes
106	layer	2/2 g	<i>Preservation:</i> good to fair preservation, brown in colour, sharp edges to the fragments <i>Unidentified:</i> 2 medium-sized mammal shaft fragments
304	fill of Ditch 305	8/53 g	<i>Preservation:</i> fair preservation, brown in colour, sharp edges to the fragments, evidence of dog gnawing <i>Cattle:</i> 1 deciduous fourth premolar – mandibular <i>Caprovid:</i> 1 radius fragment representing a neonatal/juvenile individual <i>Unidentified:</i> 6 fragments in total – 2 large mammal mandible fragments, 1 large mammal shaft fragment, 1 large mammal rib fragment, 1 medium-sized mammal shaft fragment, 1 unidentified fragment
403 N	fill of Ditch 404	7/42 g	<i>Preservation:</i> good preservation, brown in colour, some fresh breakage damage, sharp edges to the fragments <i>Caprovid:</i> 1 deciduous fourth premolar – mandibular <i>Unidentified:</i> 6 fragments in total – 2 large mammal shaft fragments, 2 medium-sized mammal rib fragments, 2 medium-sized mammal shaft fragments, 1 medium-sized mammal shaft fragment
403 S	fill of Ditch 404	2/29 g	<i>Preservation:</i> good preservation, brown in colour, sharp edges to the fragments <i>Unidentified:</i> 1 large mammal shaft fragment, 1 unidentified fragment

Colour Plates



Plate 1: Trench 1 looking east. Pit [107] is in the lower left corner



Plate 2: Trench 2, looking East :
no archaeological features exposed



Plate 3: Trench 3 looking North



Plate 4: Trench 4 looking South. Ditch [404] is running along the right hand side