

**LAND ADJACENT MAPLE LEA, GAINSBOROUGH ROAD, KIRTON IN LINDSEY, NORTH
LINCOLNSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

NGR: SK 93369 97951
PCAS job no. 2160
Site code: GRKE 19
Planning Authority: North Lincolnshire Council
North Lincolnshire Museum code.: KLBV

Prepared for

Gelder Design

by

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Non-Technical Summary

PCAS Archaeology Ltd (PCAS) was commissioned by Gelder Design to undertake an archaeological evaluation required as a condition of planning for the erection of sixteen dwellings with associated hard and soft landscaping on land adjacent to Maple Lea, Gainsborough Road, Kirton in Lindsey, North Lincolnshire (NGR: SK 93369 97951, Fig. 1).

The site is located on the south side of Gainsborough Road, to the west of the junction with Grayingham Road, at a central National Grid Reference of SK 93372 97955; it lies outside the southwestern border of the Kirton in Lindsey Conservation Area. Kirton was a very large Saxon settlement, well established as a royal manor by Domesday, and probably had an early church, although evidence of this is purely documentary to date.

The evaluation revealed a low density of archaeology, with all four trenches containing at least a single furrow, and one trench (Tr. 1) containing an additional three modern post holes.

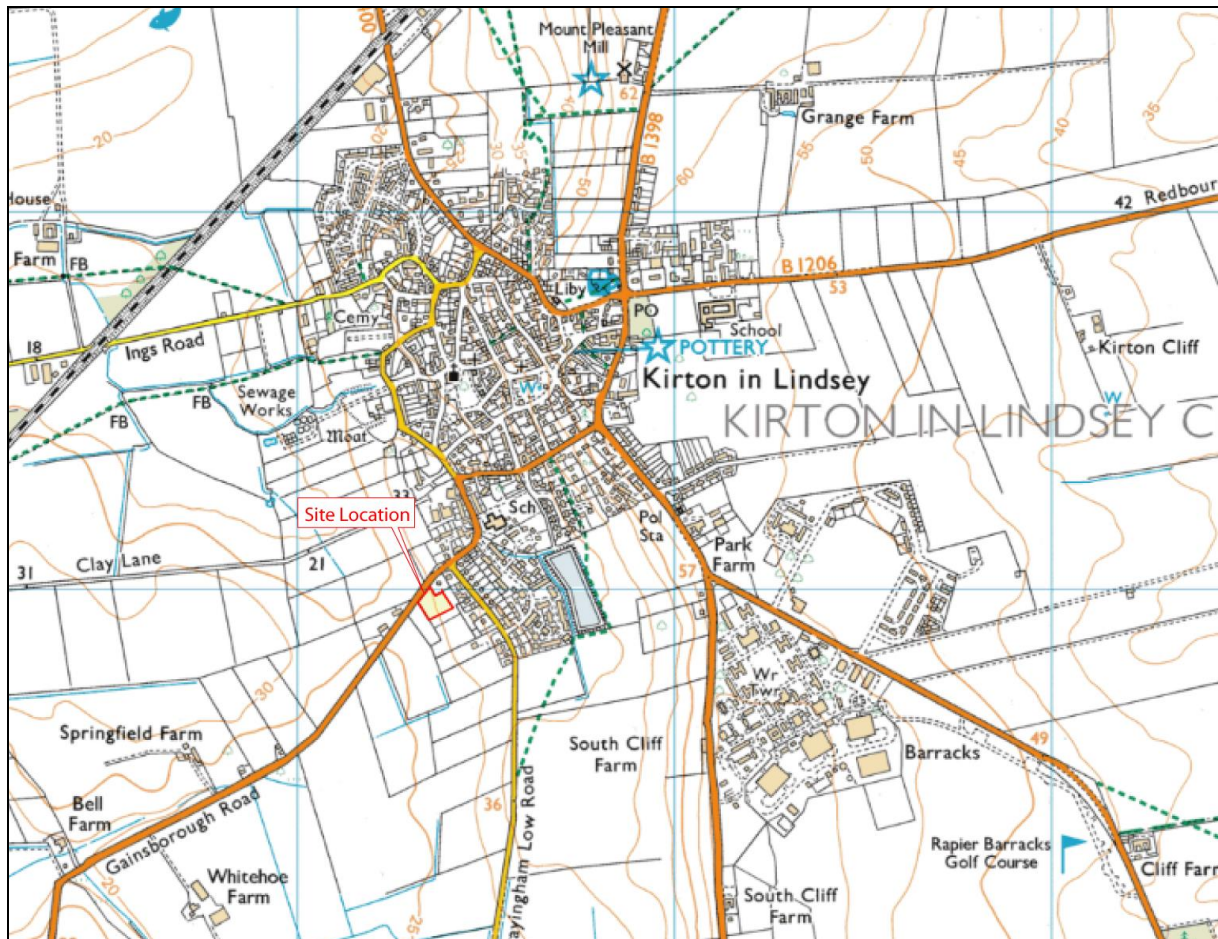


Figure 1: Site location plan with proposed development area shown in red. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278.

1. Introduction

PCAS Archaeology Ltd (PCAS) was commissioned by Gelder Design to undertake an archaeological evaluation required as a condition of planning for the erection of sixteen dwellings with associated hard and soft landscaping on land adjacent to Maple Lea, Gainsborough Road, Kirton in Lindsey, North Lincolnshire (NGR: SK 93369 97951, Fig. 1).

The methodology adopted during fieldwork followed current best practice and appropriate national guidance including:

- NPPF, National Planning Policy Framework (2019)
- ClfA Code of Conduct (2014);
- The Lincolnshire Archaeology Handbook (2016)
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)

This strategy was subject to the approval of the Historic Environment Officer for North Lincolnshire.

2. Location and description (Fig. 1&2)

The former market town of Kirton in Lindsey is situated at the southern edge of the county of North Lincolnshire, approximately 12km south of Scunthorpe and 10km south-west of the county town of Brigg. It lies on the B1398 (Middle Street), which runs along the west side of the crest of the Lincoln Edge, roughly parallel to the course of the A15 (Roman Ermine Street), which passes approximately 2.5km to the east of Kirton. Kirton is primarily now a commuter town with a number of small, local shops centred around the Market Place and along High Street; a large amount of modern housing has been built around and within the town in the last forty years (NLC, 2004).

The Kirton Conservation Area Assessment notes that 'Kirton is notable for the survival of its medieval street pattern. The overall plan form is somewhat confusing and this is explained by the response to the hilly topography, the siting of the early Saxon church on the lower slopes, and the much later positioning of the Market Place some distance from the church, up the hill, where presumably it was closer to the main road to Scunthorpe and Lincoln, and to Ermine Street. This provides a somewhat dispersed settlement, with scattered groups of cottages and small houses around the churchyard, most of which have generous gardens. These contrast with development along the High Street and Market Place, which contain continuous terraces of varied late 18th and early 19th century houses, many of which have ground floor shopfronts. However, to the rear of nos. 20-36 High Street are a number of long, thin garden plots which stretch back to South Cliffe Road and which contain a variety of outbuildings. These are probably medieval in origin, with names like "Duck Lane" providing a link to the rural character of these back yards' (ibid.).

The site is located on the south side of Gainsborough Road, to the west of the junction with Grayingham Road, at a central National Grid Reference of SK 93372 97955; it lies outside the southwestern border of the Kirton in Lindsey Conservation Area. It consists of a sub-rectangular plot of grassland to the rear of properties fronting onto Grayingham Road; the rear boundaries of these properties form its eastern border, while open paddocks lie to the south. It is located at the edge of the settlement and contains evidence of medieval agriculture in the form of ridge-and-furrow earthworks.

3. Geology and Topography

Kirton in Lindsey is situated on the limestone ridge of the Lincoln Edge, on a steep west-facing slope which levels out at the base into the Trent valley. To the east of the town is the

elevated open farmland which occupies the crown of the Lincoln Edge (NLC, 2004). The town lies on a spring line: a spring rises at the west side of Moat House Road directly to the north of the possible late medieval moated site and runs westwards into the Trent valley.

The British Geological Survey records no drift geology in the neighbourhood of the site: it lies on the exposed solid geology of Lower Lias Coleby Mudstone, one of the lower strata of the Lincoln Edge (BGS, 1982).

4. Planning background

Full planning permission was granted on appeal by North Lincolnshire Council for the construction of sixteen three/two-bedroom houses/bungalows for affordable housing with associated hard and soft landscaping on land adjacent to Maple Lea, Gainsborough Road, Kirton in Lindsey, North Lincolnshire in March 2018 (planning application ref. PA/2017/511).

Planning permission was granted subject to conditions. Among these, Condition 7 requires a written archaeological mitigation strategy to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority before the commencement of development works.

As the site lies in an area of archaeological interest, in order to ensure compliance with policy HE9 of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan, Condition 7 of the appeal decision requires the submission to and approval in writing by the Local Planning Authority of an archaeological mitigation strategy (in this case a scheme of archaeological trench evaluation to identify and assess the extent, character and significance of below ground archaeological remains. The scheme of archaeological mitigation was to be carried out in accordance with the approved details and timings, followed by the deposition of the archaeological report and site archive with the North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (HER) within six months of the date of completion of the development.



Plate 1: Site prior to excavation of trenches (looking S)

5. Archaeological and historical background

Prehistoric artefacts from the Mesolithic – Iron Age have been recovered during fieldwalking (10m transects) around Kirton Lindsey, including a scatter of worked flints and debitage found on the northwest side of the railway during fieldwalking and dating from the Mesolithic – Bronze Age (NLHER ref: 20172). A single sherd of Bronze Age pottery was also found on the opposite side of the railway line, and a pit and ditch tentatively dated to the Neolithic – Bronze Age were revealed during trenching on Spa Hill (NLHER ref: 19775), which may suggest early occupation in the area.

Iron Age occupation has been confirmed in Kirton Lindsey. A “D” shaped enclosure on Spa Hill dates from the mid – late Iron Age, a large feature defined by a wide, deep ditch and possibly banks both internally and externally. Slag recovered from the enclosure indicates ironworking in the area, with other features and the artefact assemblage of pottery and animal bone indicating occupation (NLHER ref: 19777).

Occupation at the Iron Age enclosure continues into the Roman period. Aerial photography has identified cropmarks of a broad linear feature on a NW-SE alignment with rectangular enclosures to the south, interpreted in connection with a range of Roman artefacts recovered during fieldwalking as a possible ladder settlement (NLHER ref: 19997). A Roman “pavement” was reported exposed in a garden off Grove Street in 1934 (NLHER ref: 690) and the Roman Ermine Street lies c.2.5km to the east of the modern village.

Occupation continued into the post-Roman period, and Saxon dated deposits and artefacts have been found around the town. The place name derives from the Old English *cirice*, later replaced by the Old Norse *kirkja*, meaning church. This indicates Kirton Lindsey had an early church in the 9th century; however, no church is recorded in the Domesday Book in the mid-11th century. Kirton, or Chirchetune, is recorded as the primary manor of a very large estate held by King William, suggesting it was an important local settlement. The Kirton estate itself is very large, recorded as having enough arable land to occupy sixteen plough-teams, with 200 acres of meadow, and supporting 117 households. A mill is also listed. The existing church of St. Andrew (List entry ID 1083025) dates from the 11th-12th century and may have replaced the Saxon church.

Kirton was held by the Earls of Mortain in the 12th century, and in the early 13th century was granted to the Earl of Kent before the manor changed hands several times throughout the next few decades eventually becoming part of the Duchy of Cornwall. A market was granted to Kirton in 1228, and five fairs are recorded as being granted to Kirton throughout the 13th – 14th centuries.

The site contains ridge and furrow earthworks of former medieval cultivation strips. The earthworks are visible from aerial imagery but the HER has no further information about their state of preservation.

The railway was constructed through Kirton Lindsey in the mid-19th century, with the station lying on the north side of the village. A flour mill and a malthouse lay on the southeast side of the railway. Historic mapping does not record any buildings or activity on the site during the late 19th and 20th centuries.

6. Methodology

To investigate the archaeological potential of the proposed development area, four trenches, measuring 20m x 2m, were excavated across the footprint of the proposed new buildings and access road (Fig. 2).

The evaluation trenches were located on the site by GPS. The trenches were then opened by machine. Excavation was carried out under archaeological supervision to the first archaeologically significant horizon, the maximum safe working depth or the natural geology, whichever was encountered first. In order to facilitate reinstatement, topsoil was removed and stockpiled separately from any subsoil or other underlying overburden deposits. The machine employed a smooth bladed ditching bucket to ensure a clean surface to identify the archaeological horizon, and minimise the disturbance to any underlying deposits. Archaeological deposits encountered were then cleaned and defined by hand.

All identified archaeological deposits and features were sample excavated, in order to establish their form, depth, character, date, state of preservation and extent, as well as to recover artefactual / ecofactual remains for further study. This process included the following level of sampling:

- Ditches, gullies and linear features were excavated sufficiently to determine the character of each individual linear feature over its exposed course. Additional sections were excavated at all terminals and at intersections unless the relationships were clearly apparent in plan.
- Pits were generally half or quarter-sectioned according to size.
- Post-holes and stake-holes were half-sectioned, ensuring that relationships are investigated

All excavated features were recorded by measured plan and section drawings at appropriate scales (1:100 & 1:20 respectively). A written record of each significant stratigraphic horizon and archaeological feature was made on standard PCAS context recording forms. These were supplemented by a narrative account in the form of a site diary. The written record was accompanied by colour slide and monochrome film, supplemented by digital photography, a selection of which is reproduced within this report.

All artefacts were treated in accordance with UKIC guidelines, *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson & Neale 1998). All artefacts encountered during the groundworks were retrieved and stored in polythene bags labelled with the site code and the context number of the individual deposit from which they were recovered, in order to be returned to PCAS premises for later cleaning, marking and in-house assessment or dispatch to external specialists. An initial record of the presence of finds by type was made for each context as part of the written recording on site; a full record of the type and count of artefacts retrieved from each context was made during initial processing.

Following fieldwork completion, finds and samples were processed and dispatched to relevant specialists. Specialist reports are included as appendices to this document.

The aims of the evaluation were to determine the character, date, condition and significance of the archaeological resource, and to inform and advise the design and extent of any archaeological mitigation scheme that may be required.

The fieldwork at the site was undertaken from the 8th to the 12th August 2019 by T. Cobbald. Conditions at the time were good.

7. Results (Figs: 3-6)

Trenches containing furrows (Fig: 3-6)

All trenches excavated contained at least one furrow, with a total of nine being identified across the site. Each one was on an approximate NE to SW alignment and, for the most part,

evenly spaced. They ranged between 2m and 3m wide and each one contained a mid-grey brown silt clay deposit within it.

All trenches exhibited the same stratigraphic sequence of natural clay overlain by subsoil and ultimately topsoil, the depths of these deposits being consistent throughout at 0.35m and 0.3m for subsoil and topsoil respectively. All the furrows were sealed by the subsoil deposit. The only variation in this deposition was that a layer of re-deposited natural and topsoil were seen in the sequence in Trench 2. These layers were seen above the topsoil (201).

The only other features seen during the evaluation were a row of three modern post holes seen at the northern end of Trench 1.



Plate 2: Trench 1 (looking SSW).



Plate 3: Trench 2 (looking SSE).



Plate 4: Trench 3 (looking NW).



Plate 5: Trench 4 (looking NE).



Plate 6: Furrow [405] (looking NE).

8. Discussion & Conclusions

The evaluation revealed a low density of archaeology, with all four trenches containing at least a single furrow, and one trench (Tr. 1) containing an additional three modern post holes.

Each furrow was approximately 2m to 3m wide, evenly spaced and orientated approximately NE-SW, indicates that they were most likely part of the same field system. No dateable finds were recovered from any of the features, so the precise date of this agricultural activity is unknown (although likely medieval to early post-medieval). A single fragment of burnt hare or cat bone was recovered from furrow [405] in Trench 4 (pers comm J. Curl).

The features identified during the evaluation suggest that the site was used for agricultural purposes throughout the medieval period, continuing through to present day.

9. Effectiveness of Methodology

The results show that in addition to being present as earthworks on site, the furrows survive below ground. Other than this, the evaluation failed to identify any further archaeological features. The body of data produced by this evaluation will be able to inform the planning and development process.

10. Project Archive

Following acceptance of this report, a project archive (documentary and material) will be prepared in accordance with the guidelines contained in *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990) and *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission 1992). The entire archive will be prepared at the offices of PCAS. The North Lincolnshire Museums archive will assign the unique accession code at the time of deposition; the museum site code tbc has been assigned to the project. Archive deposition is provisionally scheduled for late 2019.

11. Acknowledgements

PCAS Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Gelder Design for this commission.

12. References

Savage, R. D, 2016. *Proposed new grain store, Eastfield Farm, Winteringham, North Lincolnshire*. PCAS doc ref 1799

NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Crown Copyright.

Web-pages

<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/>

<http://domesdaymap.co.uk>

<http://list.historicengland.org.uk/mapsearch.aspx>

<http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/> GeolIndex

<http://maps.nls.uk/view/114644331>

<http://www.old-maps.co.uk/maps.html>

<http://www.pastscape.org.uk/>

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

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

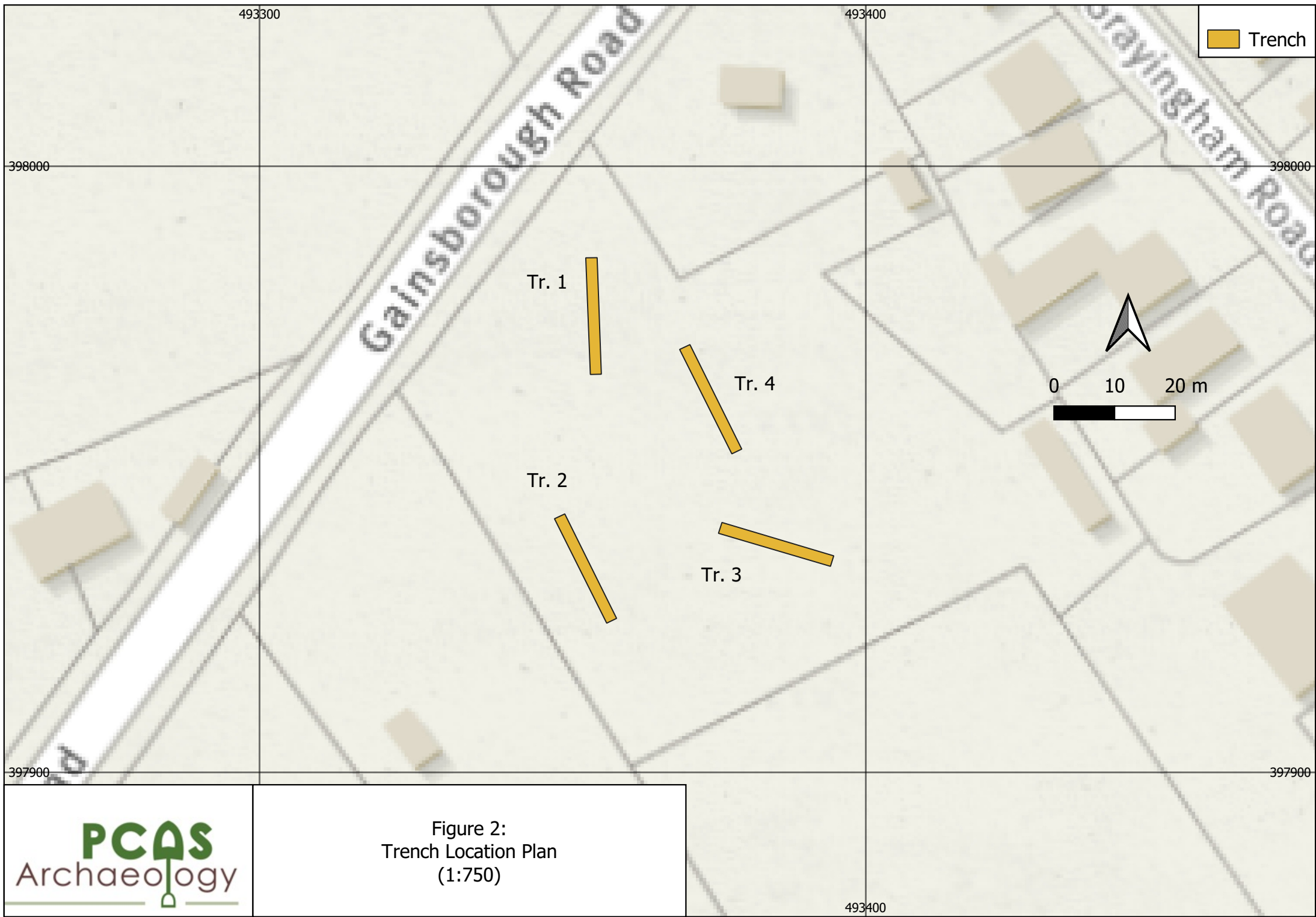


Figure 2:
Trench Location Plan
(1:750)

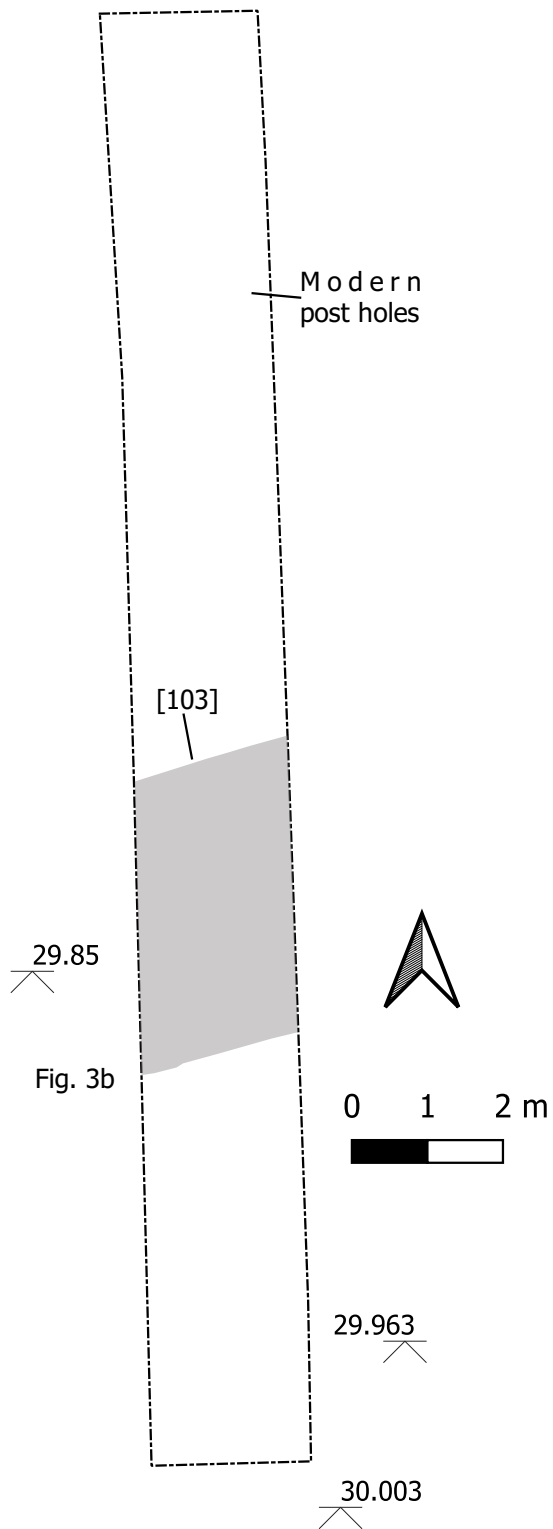
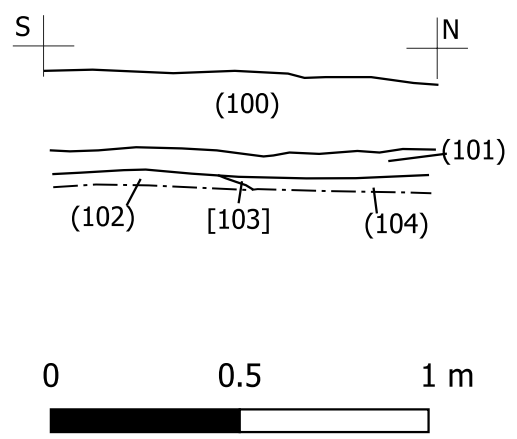


Figure 3b:
Trench 1 representative
section



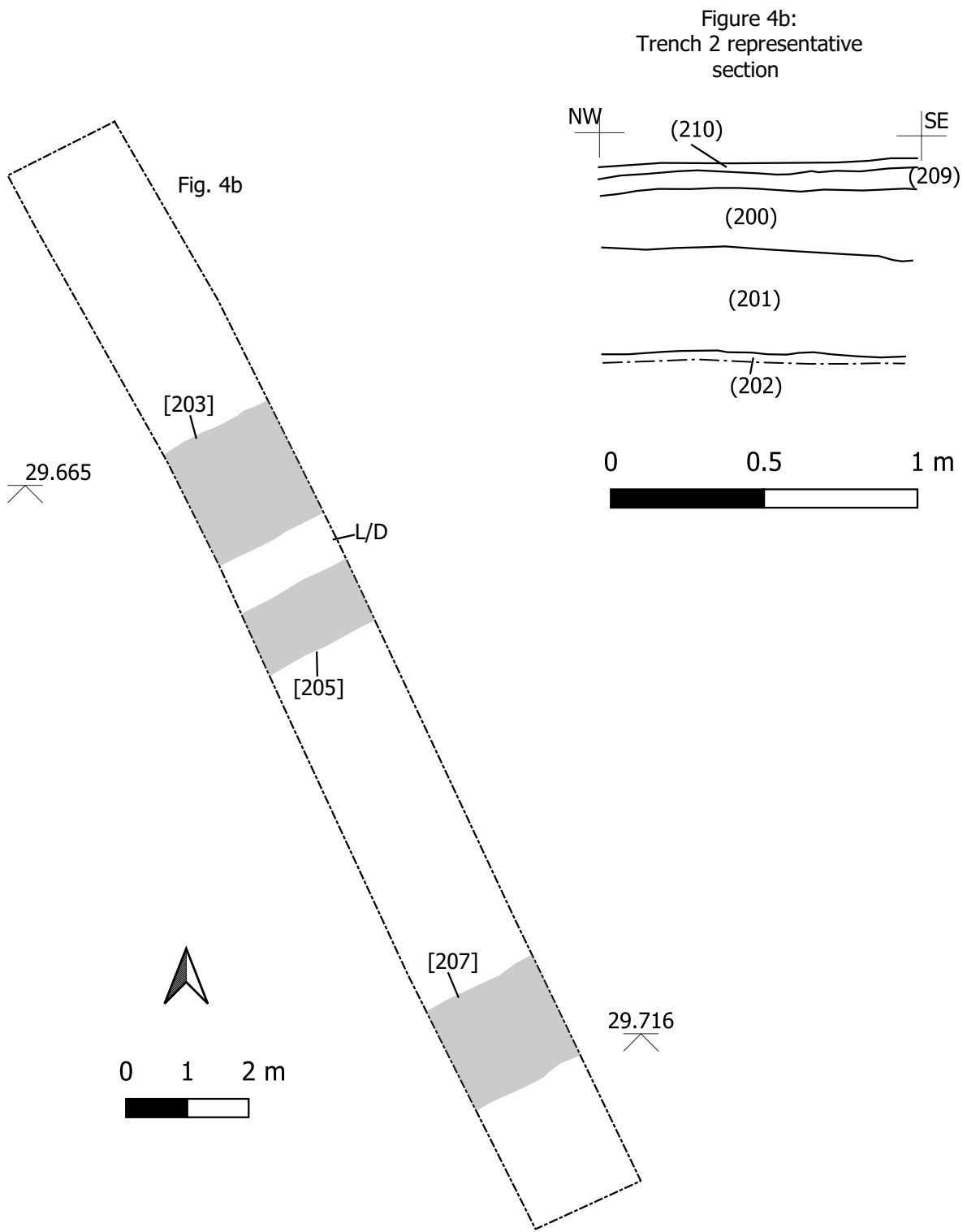
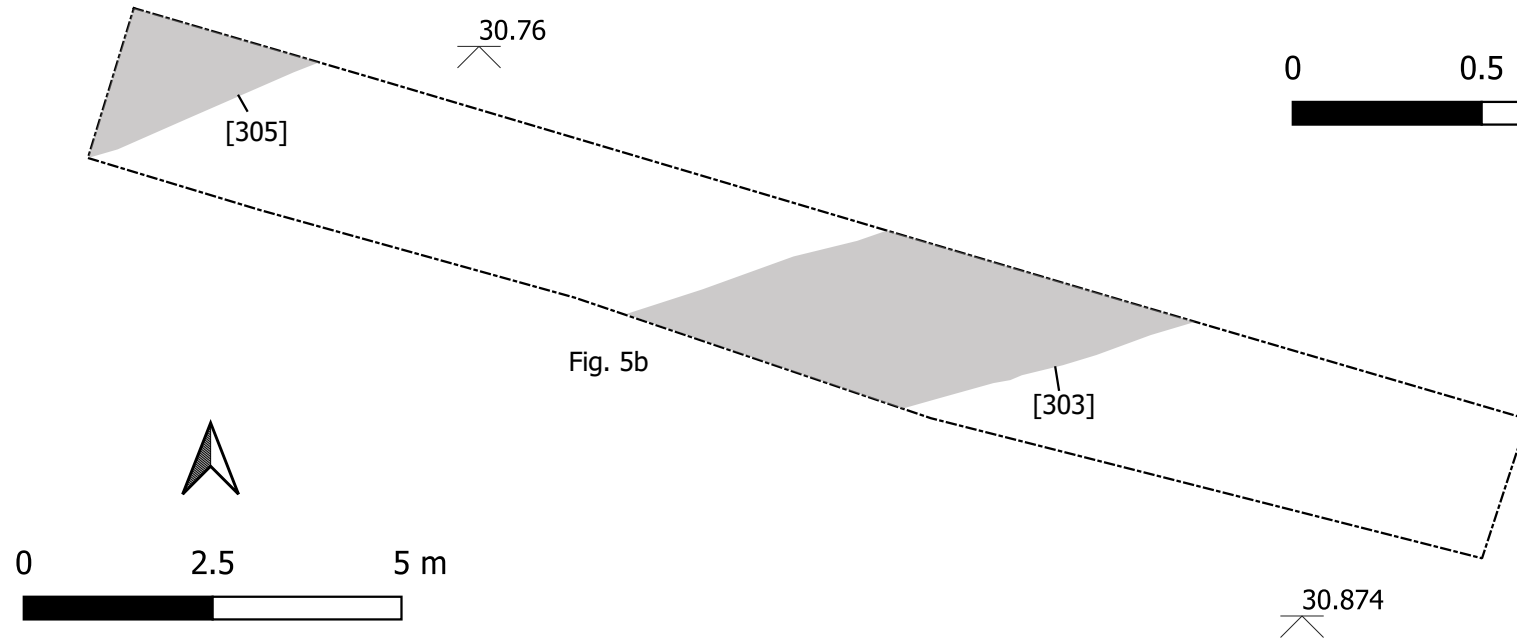
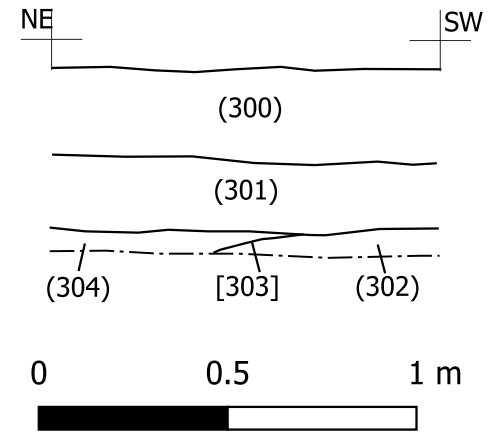
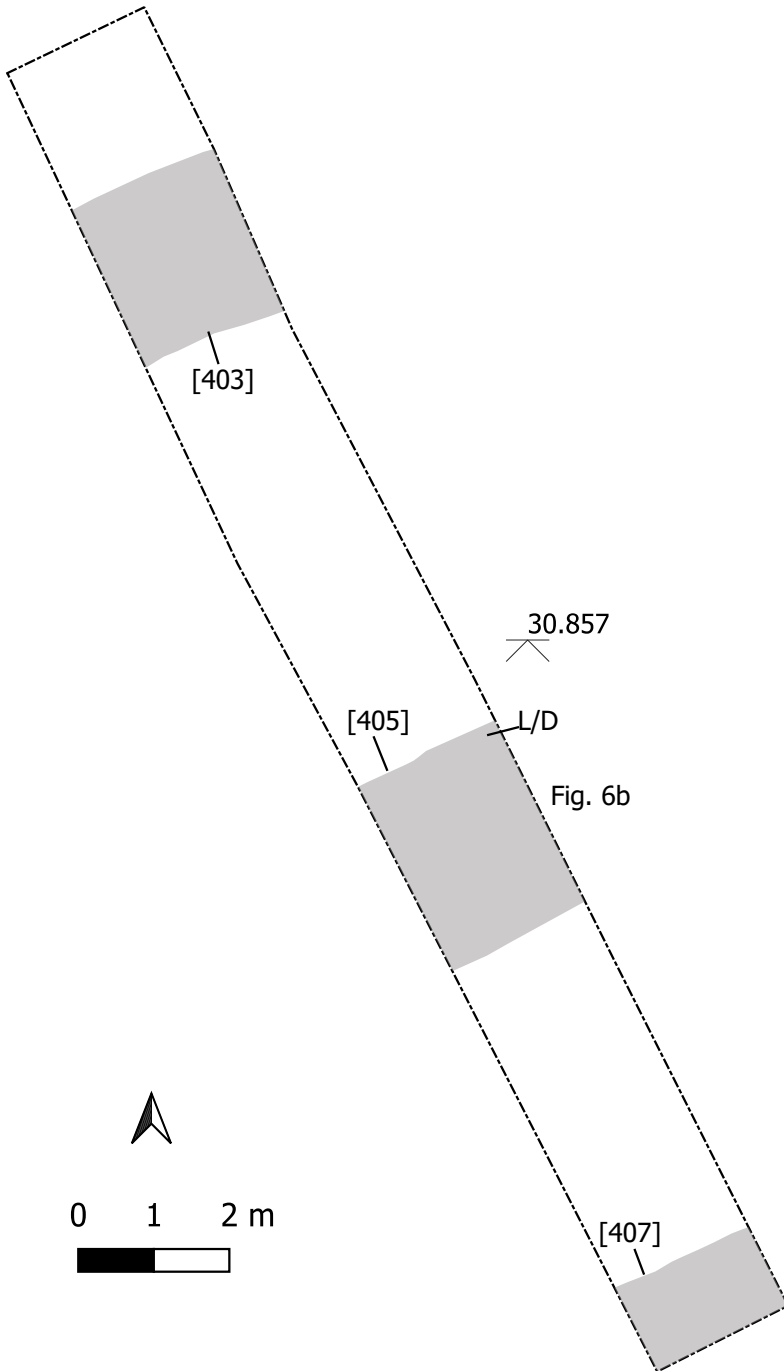


Figure 5b:
Trench 3 representative
section



30.793



30.857

[405]

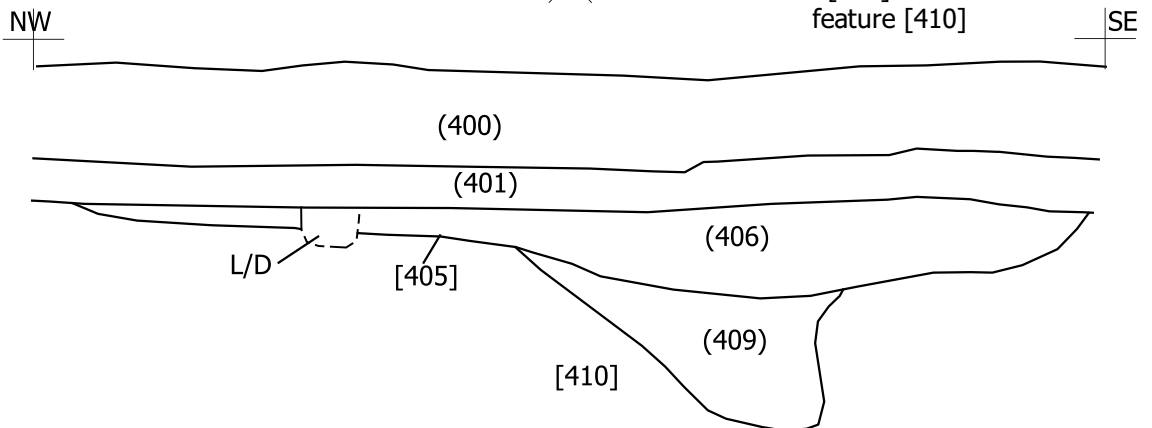
L/D

Fig. 6b

[407]

30.671

Figure 6b:
Furow [405] and natural
feature [410]



NW

SE

(400)

(401)

(406)

(409)

L/D

[405]

[410]



Figure 7:
Plan of furrows identified
(1:750)

2160 Gainsborough Rd., Kirton Lindsey

Appendix 1 - Context Summary

Context No.	Type	Description	Finds
Trench 1			
100	Layer	Topsoil. Dark brown clay loam. Frequent roots. 0.3m thick.	
101	Layer	Subsoil .Mid greyish brown sandy clay. Friable. Occasional sub angular limestone fragments. 0.38m thick.	
102	Layer	Natural substrate. Firm. Yellow clay.	
103	Cut	Furrow.	
104	Fill	of furrow [103].	
105		Void	
106		Void	
107		Void	
108		Void	
109	Cut	Post hole. Modern.	
110	Fill	of modern post hole [109].	
Trench 2			
200	Layer	Topsoil. Same as (100).	
201	Layer	Subsoil. Same as (101).	
202	Layer	Natural substrate. Same as (102).	
203	Cut	Furrow. Orientated NE to SW.	
204	Fill	of furrow [203].	
205	Cut	Furrow. Orientated NE to SW.	
206	Fill	of furrow [205].	
207	Cut	Furrow. Orientated NE to SW.	
208	Fill	of furrow [207].	
209	Layer	Layer of re-deposited clay on surface. Above topsoil. 0.2m thick.	
210	Layer	Further layer of soil brought on to site. Lovated above (209). 0.1m thick.	
Trench 3			
300	Layer	Topsoil. Same as (100).	
301	Layer	Subsoil. Same as (101).	
302	Layer	Natural substrate. Same as (102).	
303	Cut	Furrow. Orientated NE to SW.	
304	Fill	of furrow [303].	
305	Cut	Furrow. Orientated NE to SW.	
306	Fill	of furrow [305].	
Trench 4			
400	Layer	Topsoil. Same as (100).	
401	Layer	Subsoil. Same as (101).	
402	Layer	Natural substrate. Same as (102).	
403	Cut	Furrow. Orientated NE to SW. 2.2m wide.	

404	Fill	of furrow [403]. Light greyish brown sandy clay. Occasional small limestone fragments.	
405	Cut	Furrow. Orientated NE to SW. 2.4m wide.	
406	Fill	of furrow [405].	Bone
407	Cut	Furrow. Orientated NE to SW.	
408	Fill	of furrow [407].	

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Project details

Project name	LAND ADJACENT MAPLE LEA, GAINSBOROUGH ROAD, KIRTON IN LINDSEY, NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE
Short description of the project	PCAS Archaeology Ltd (PCAS) was commissioned by Gelder Design to undertake an archaeological evaluation required as a condition of planning for the erection of sixteen dwellings with associated hard and soft landscaping on land adjacent to Maple Lea, Gainsborough Road, Kirton in Lindsey, North Lincolnshire (NGR: SK 93369 97951, Fig. 1). The site is located on the south side of Gainsborough Road, to the west of the junction with Grayingham Road, at a central National Grid Reference of SK 93372 97955; it lies outside the southwestern border of the Kirton in Lindsey Conservation Area. Kirton was a very large Saxon settlement, well established as a royal manor by Domesday, and probably had an early church, although evidence of this is purely documentary to date. The evaluation revealed a low density of archaeology, with all four trenches containing at least a single furrow, and one trench (Tr. 1) containing an additional three modern post holes.
Project dates	Start: 08-08-2019 End: 12-08-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	GRKE 19 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	FURROW Medieval
Significant Finds	BONE Uncertain
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE KIRTON IN LINDSEY LAND ADJACENT MAPLE LEA, GAINSBOROUGH ROAD, KIRTON IN LINDSEY, NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE
Study area	0 Hectares

Site coordinates SK 93372 97955 53.469782663314 -0.593187354123 53 28 11 N 000 35 35 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation PCAS Archaeology Ltd.

Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator PCAS Archaeology Ltd.

Project director/manager Will Munford

Project supervisor T. Cobbald

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient North Lincolnshire Museum

Physical Contents "Animal Bones"

Digital Archive recipient North Lincolnshire Museum

Digital Contents "Animal Bones"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient North Lincolnshire Museum

Paper Contents "Animal Bones"

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

Entered by Leigh Brocklehurst (leigh.brocklehurst@pcas-archaeology.co.uk)

Entered on 13 September 2019

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