

**PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT, HIGH DIKE, NAVENBY  
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION TRENCHING**

NGR: SK 99302 58061  
NKDC Planning Ref.: pre-application  
LCNCC Museum Accn No. 2010.136  
Site Code: NVHD 10  
PCA Job Ref: 692

Report prepared for

**Robert Doughty Consultancy Ltd.**

by

N. Parker

September 2010



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## 1.0 Non-Technical Summary

- Four archaeological evaluation trenches were opened by machine under archaeological supervision on a proposed development site off High Dike, Navenby, Lincolnshire.
- No archaeological features were uncovered during the evaluation.
- Occasional hollows in the underlying natural limestone were filled with clayey sand deposits sealed beneath ploughsoil.
- It is concluded that the site shows little potential for archaeological remains.

## 2.0 Introduction

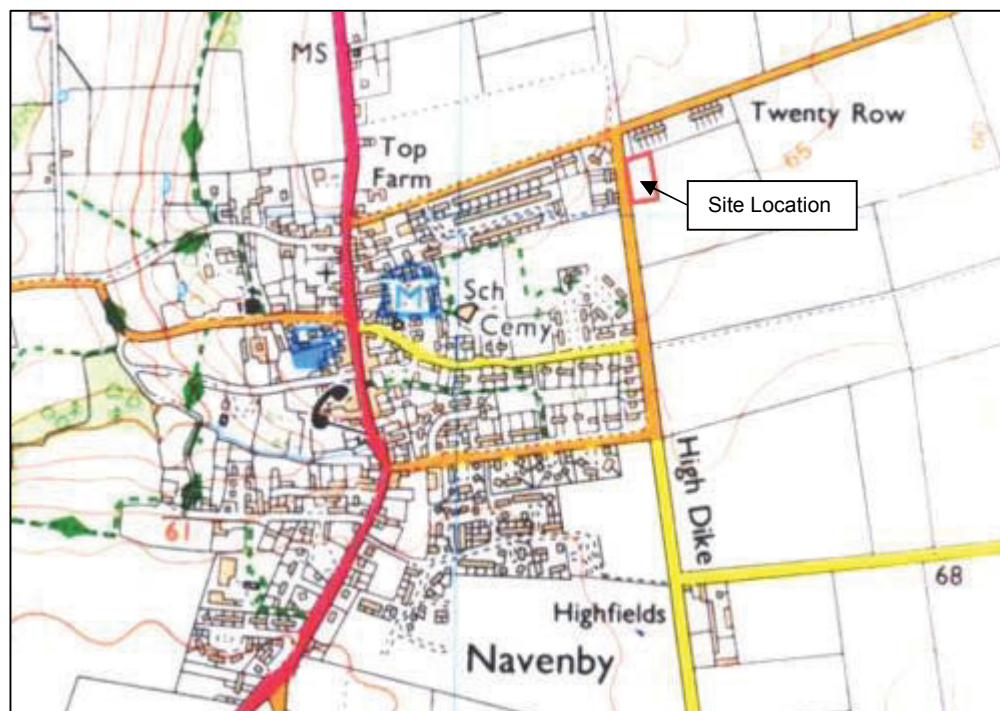
Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCA) was commissioned by the Robert Doughty Consultancy Ltd. in August 2010 to undertake archaeological evaluation trenching on a proposed development site to the east of High Dike, Navenby, Lincolnshire. Site works, directed by Julian Sleaf, commenced 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010 and were completed 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010.

The archaeological programme was undertaken to meet the objectives of a project specification prepared by PCA (dated 23<sup>rd</sup> August April 2010) and approved by the North Kesteven District Council archaeological advisor. The work was conducted in accordance with the recommendations of *Code of Conduct* (Institute for Archaeologists, 2008), *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2008 as revised), and the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council, 2010 v2.1).

## 3.0 Site Location and Description (Figs. 1 and 2)

The village of Navenby is located 15km south of Lincoln and 15km north-west of Sleaford, Lincolnshire. High Dike is a road to the north-east of the village, along the line of the Roman Ermine Street. The site comprises a block of land approximately 110m x 50m, situated to the south of a row of 1950's houses known as Twenty Row which front onto Green Man Road. The site of the proposed new development is currently farmland.

The solid geology of the area has been mapped as Lower Lincolnshire Limestone with no overlying drift deposits.



**Fig. 1** Site location plan at scale 1:12 500 (based on the 2006 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey Explorer map, Sheet 272. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCA Licence No. 100049278).

#### 4.0 Planning background

A pre-planning application enquiry was made to the NKDC archaeological advisor regarding a proposal for the construction of houses, bungalows and apartments on a 0.58ha site. The advisor noted that the proposed development area is located at the margin of a known Roman settlement and within a multi-period archaeological landscape, with potential for outlying or discreet archaeological deposits or features to be preserved within the development area.

The advisor requested evaluation trenching of the site in order to establish the presence/absence, extent and nature of any such archaeological deposits that may be impacted by the development.

#### 5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

A Roman settlement centred on Ermine Street at Navenby came to light in 1965 following fieldwalking by Navenby Primary School. This settlement possibly developed following the foundation of a small fort and/or posting station (*mansio* or *mutatio*).

Almost all of the invasive archaeological work of the past fifteen years has been on the west side of Ermine Street which has undergone considerable new development to the south of Chapel Lane. This has established the presence of an extensive Romano-British ribbon development, incorporating well preserved walls and foundations of stone/half-timbered structures over a (north-south) distance exceeding some 400m. There is every reason to believe that similar buildings lay to the east of Ermine Street, where Navenby, in its developed form, may have resembled settlements such as Hibaldstow to the north or Sapperton further south.

The proposed development site lies beyond the hypothesised northern limits of the roadside settlement, which is believed to end c. 450m to the south (C Palmer-Brown, pers. comm.). Furthermore, the Navenby area has been a focus for human occupation since the Bronze Age and possibly earlier times; evidenced by a range of artefactual, structural and burial evidence. This influenced the possibility that hitherto unknown pre-Roman remains would be encountered at the site.

## 6.0 Aims and Objectives

The principal aim of the evaluation was to gather information to establish presence/absence, character, extent, state of preservation and date of any archaeological remains present. This information would be used to inform and assist the development process, and at the same time seek to ensure the preservation of any significant archaeological remains; either *in situ* or by record.

## 7.0 Methodology

The evaluation involved the investigation of three 20m x 2m trenches and one 10m x 2m trench. Trench positions were designed to examine a sample of the land affected by the proposed development footprint (see fig. 2). Trenches were opened using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless blade.

All machining was carried out under constant supervision, until the first archaeologically significant or natural deposit was encountered. Anomalous natural deposits were investigated in order to confirm their status.

Context numbers were assigned for recording each deposit, and pro-forma recording sheets were completed. A context summary is provided (Appendix 2). Trenches were recorded in both plan and section, where plans were prepared at scale 1:100 and sections at 1:20. A photographic record was maintained to complement these accounts, and selected photographs are reproduced in this report (Appendix 1).

## 8.0 Results

### **Trench 1** (Figs. 2 -4; Plates 3 and 4)

This trench was aligned approximately east-west at the northern end of the proposed development area and was located on the building footprint for Plots 9 and 10. The ploughsoil (100) comprised a 0.4m thick deposit of friable, dark brown silty clay with frequent fragmented limestone inclusions and was representative of the ploughsoil site-wide.

Natural deposits consisted of a hard limestone brash (101) consistent with the underlying solid geology and present in all of the evaluation trenches. No archaeological features were uncovered in this trench.

### **Trench 2** (Figs. 2, 5 and 6; Plates 5 and 6)

Aligned approximately north-south, Trench 2 was positioned centrally in the investigation area and located over the proposed central roadway. Similarly to Trench 1, only natural deposits were uncovered in the form of the 0.4m thick ploughsoil (200) overlying the natural limestone brash (201).

**Trench 3** (Figs. 2, 7 and 8; Plates 7 and 8)

Situated toward the southeast of the site and located on the building footprint of Plot 21, this 10m trench was aligned roughly east-west. The ploughsoil (300) and limestone natural (301) were comparable with the deposits in the other trenches.

The only feature present was a small, natural hollow on the northern edge of the trench, which was filled by a clayey sand deposit (302) distinct from the overlying topsoil.

**Trench 4** (Figs. 2 and 9-11; Plates 9-11)

Positioned over the building footprints for Plots 1-3 and situated at the southwest corner of the development area, Trench 4, aligned approximately north-south also contained no archaeological features. Beneath the marginally thinner 0.32m thick topsoil (400), the Limestone brash natural (401) was more heavily disturbed than in previous trenches. Similarly filled to the hollow in Trench 3, the clayey sand deposit (402) was investigated and again found to be a natural deposit filling uneven areas of the underlying geology.

## **9.0 Discussion and Conclusion**

Only natural deposits were encountered during the excavation of the four evaluation trenches. The ploughsoil (100), (200), (300), (400) was of a fairly standard thickness across the site and would appear to reflect quite long term agricultural usage of the land.

Where present (Trenches 3 and 4), the undulations and hollows, possibly caused by glacial activity, that occurred in the Limestone brash natural (101), (201), (301), (401) were uniformly filled with a clayey sand deposit (302) and (402) that may represent the formation of a shallow subsoil where ploughing had not disturbed and sufficiently aerated the soil.

The conclusion of the evaluation is that the site is archaeologically sterile.

## **10.0 Effectiveness of Methodology**

The methodology employed was appropriate to allow the investigation and recording of deposits and features within the evaluation trenches, thus providing both the developer and the local planning authority with information that can be used to inform the advancement of the proposed development scheme.

## **11.0 Acknowledgements**

Pre-Construct Archaeological services Ltd would like to thank Robert Doughty Consultants for this commission.

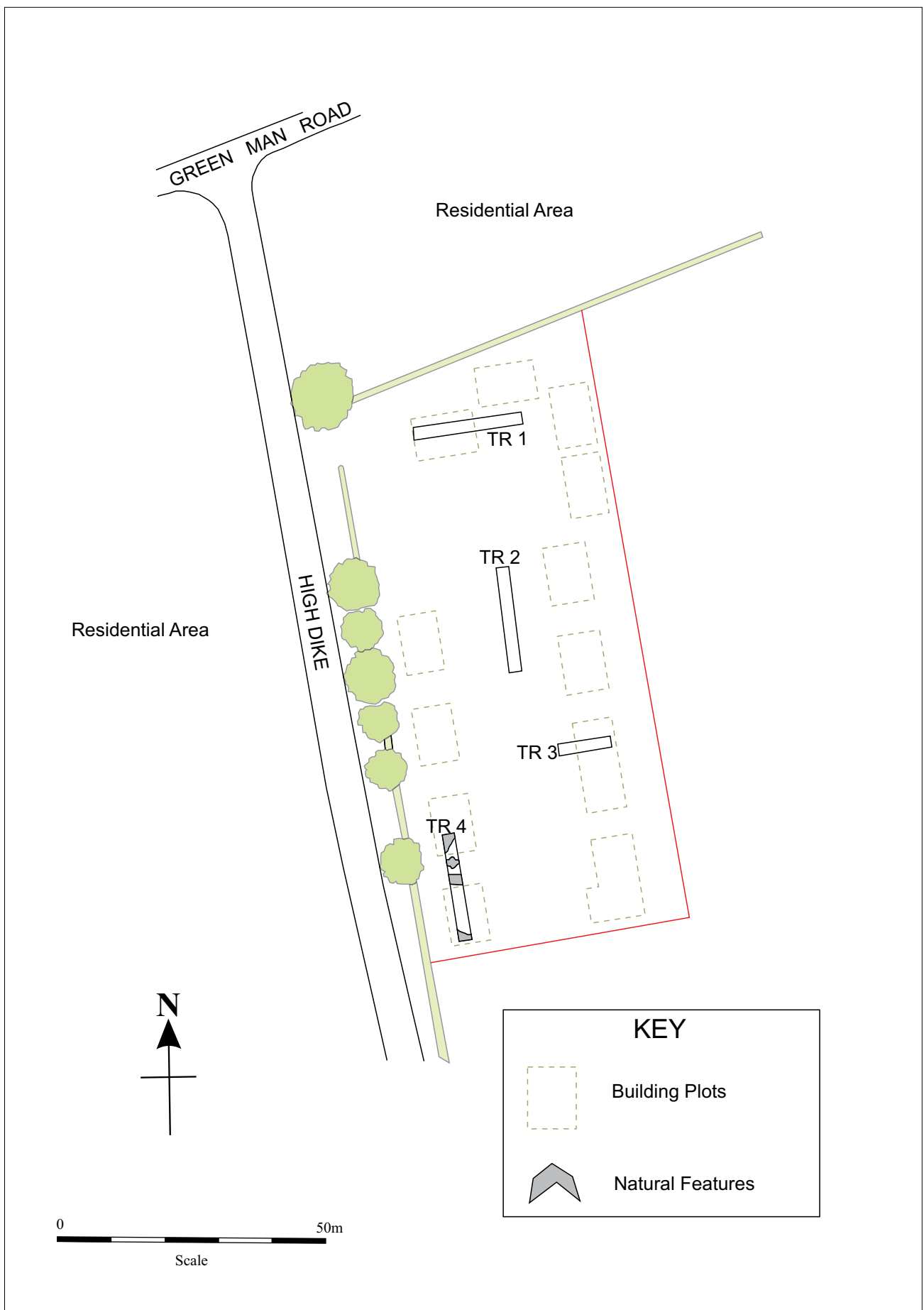
## **12.0 Bibliography**

Specification for a Scheme of Archaeological Evaluation Trenching. G. Tann. *PCAS 2010*

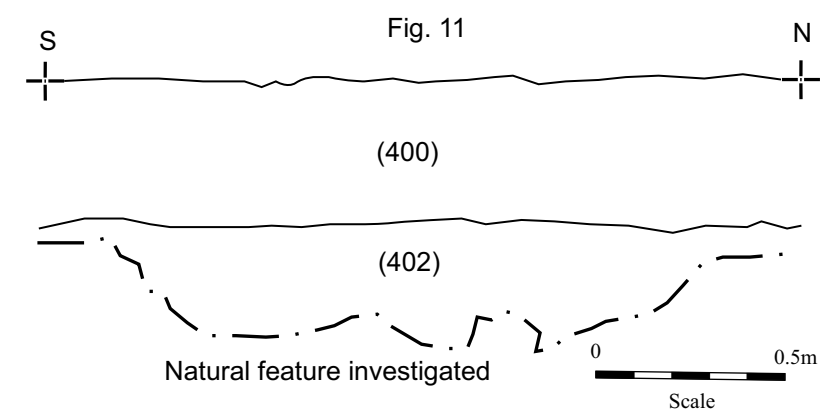
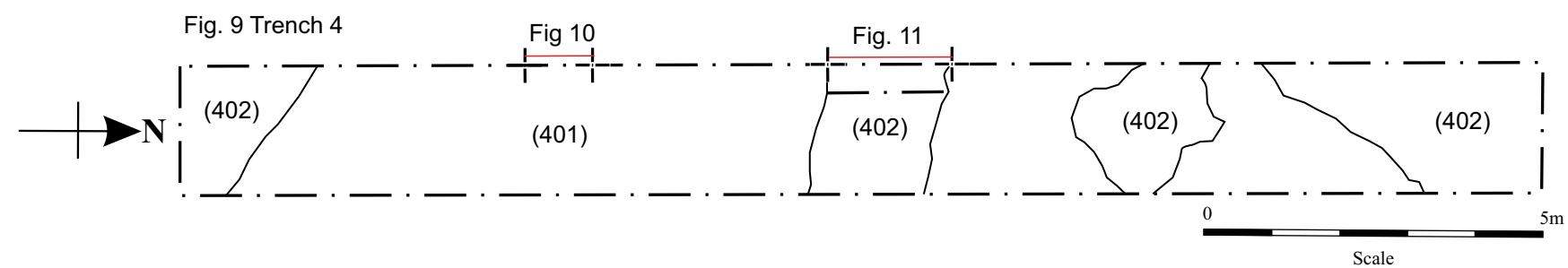
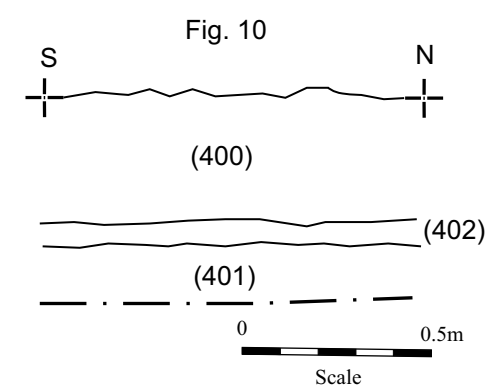
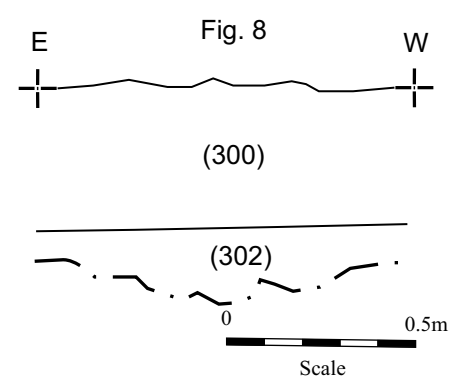
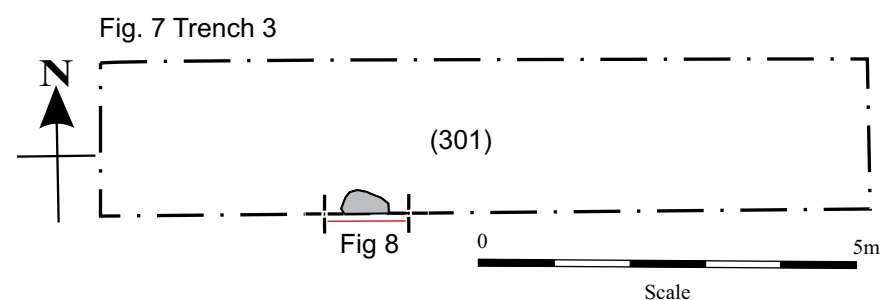
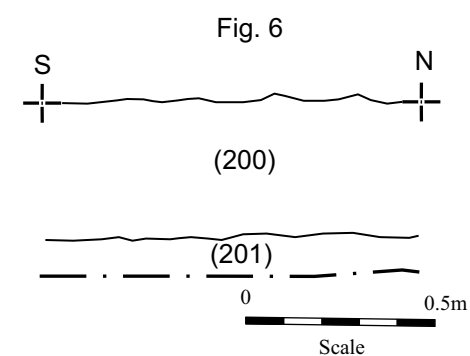
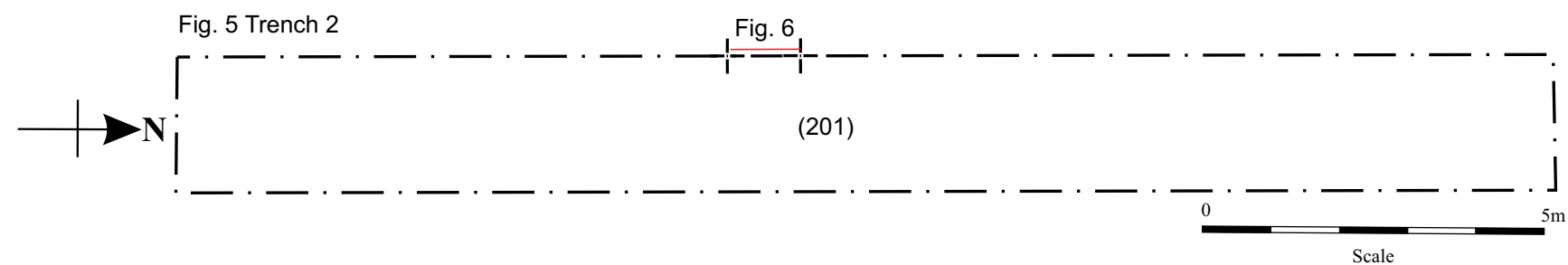
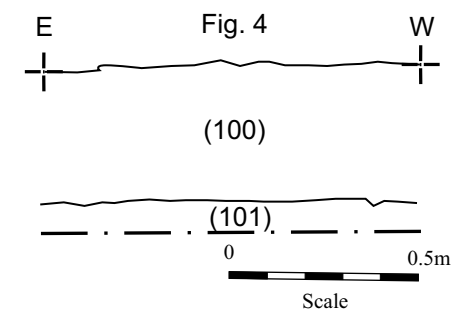
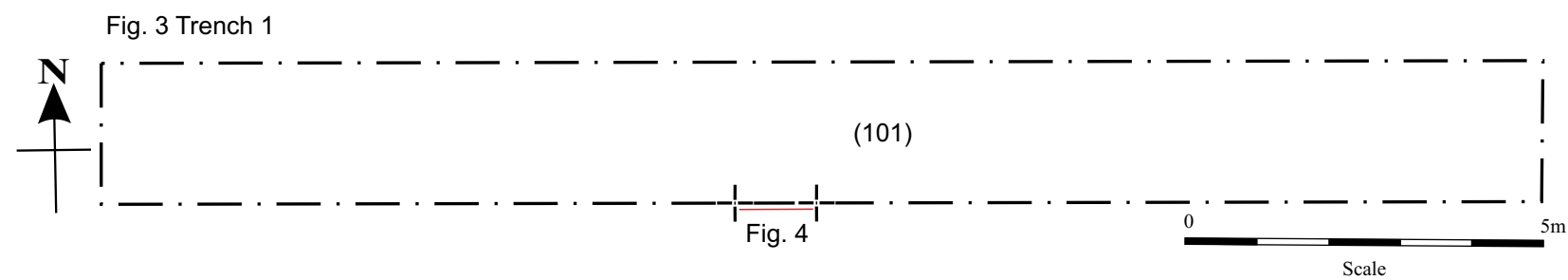
## **13.0 Site Archive**

The documentary archive for the site is currently held by Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. This will be deposited with The Collection before the end of December 2010. (Accn. No. LCNCC: 2010.55).





**Fig 2.** Trench Location Plan



Figs. 3 -11. Trench Plans and Sections



Plate 1. General View of the Site. Looking North



Plate 2. General View of the Site. Looking South



Plate 3. Trench 1



Plate 4. Trench 1 Representative Section.



Plate 5. Trench 2



Plate 6. Trench 2 Representative Section



Plate 7. Trench 3



Plate 8. Trench 3 Representative Section





Plate 9  
Trench 4



Plate 10.  
Trench 4  
Section 1, Representative Section



Plate 11.  
Trench 4  
Section 2, Showing Natural Feature

## Appendix 2

## Context Summary (NVHD 10)

Trench	Context	Type	Relationships	Description	Finds	Dating
1	100	Layer	Above 101	Friable, dark brown silty clay topsoil. Up to 0.4m thick	None	None
1	101	Layer	Below 100	Hard, Limestone brash. Uneven natural.	None	None
2	200	Layer	Above 201	Friable, dark brown silty clay topsoil. Up to 0.4m thick	None	None
2	201	Layer	Below 200	Hard, Limestone brash. Uneven natural.	None	None
3	300	Layer	Above 302	Friable, dark brown silty clay topsoil. Up to 0.4m thick	None	None
3	301	Layer	Below 302	Hard, Limestone brash. Uneven natural.	None	None
3	302	Layer	Below 300, above 301	Clayey sand deposit, up to 0.08 thick. Possibly subsoil.	None	None
4	400	Layer	Above 402	Friable, dark brown silty clay topsoil. Up to 0.32m thick	None	None
4	401	Layer	Below 402	Hard, Limestone brash. Uneven natural.	None	None
4	402	Layer	Above 401	Clayey sand deposit, up to 0.3m thick. Possibly subsoil.	None	None

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**Project details**

Project name	PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT, HIGH DIKE, NAVENBY LINCOLNSHIRE
Short description of the project	Four archaeological evaluation trenches were opened by machine under archaeological supervision on a proposed development site off High Dike, Navenby, Lincolnshire. No archaeological features were uncovered during the evaluation. Occasional hollows in the underlying natural limestone were filled with clayey sand deposits sealed beneath ploughsoil. It is concluded that the site shows little potential for archaeological remains.
Project dates	Start: 31-08-2010 End: 01-09-2010
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	PCA Job Ref: 692 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	LCNCC Museum Accn No. 2010.136 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	Site Code: NVHD 10 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches','Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

**Project location**

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE NORTH KESTEVEN NAVENBY PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT, HIGH DIKE, NAVENBY LINCOLNSHIRE
Postcode	LN5.0
Study area	0.55 Hectares
Site coordinates	SK 99302 58061 53.1101796177 - 0.516349388221 53 06 36 N 000 30 58 W Point

**Project creators**

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

**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	The Collection, Lincoln
Paper Archive ID	2010.136
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT, HIGH DIKE, NAVENBY LINCOLNSHIRE
Author(s)/Editor (s)	Parker, N.
Other bibliographic details	PCAS Job 692 September 2010
Date	2010
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Saxilby, Lincoln
Description	A4, heat bound, 5pp + 3 appendices, 11 figs, 11 plates
Entered by	Johanna Gray (findsroom@pre-construct.co.uk)
Entered on	14 September 2010

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