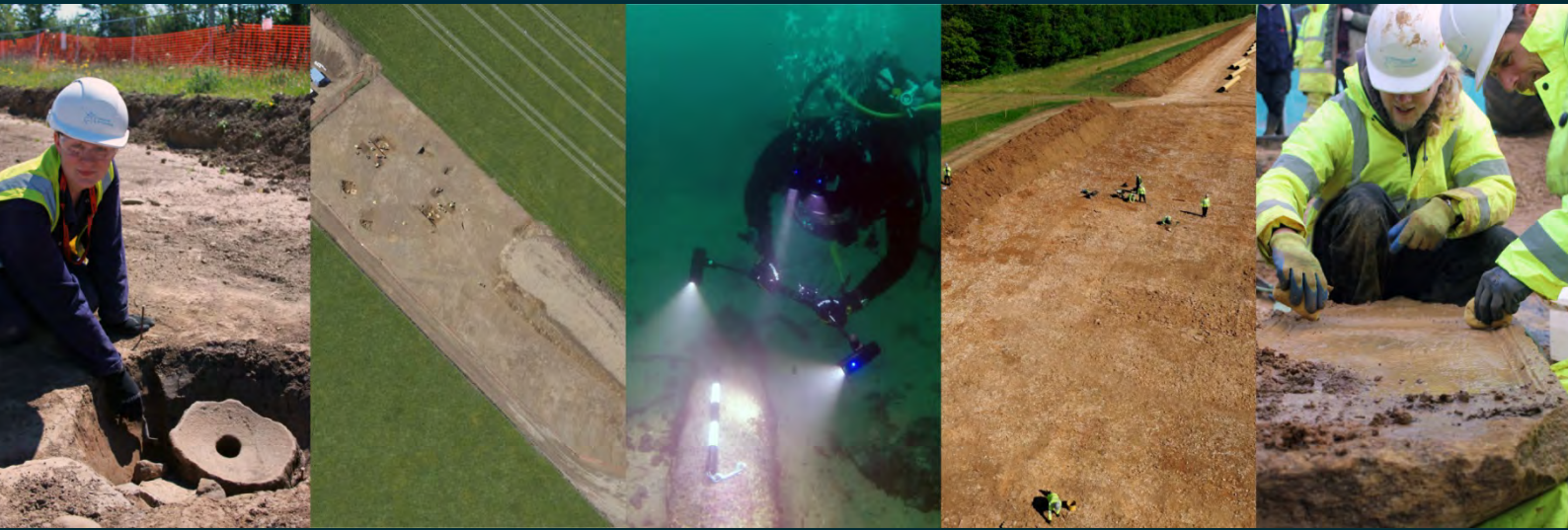


Land at Manor Farm, Wainfleet Road Irby in the Marsh Lincolnshire

Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample



for
Anesco Ltd

CA Project: 660990
CA Report: 18553

February 2019



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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	3
1. INTRODUCTION.....	4
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	5
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	6
4. METHODOLOGY	7
5. RESULTS (FIGS 2–9).....	8
6. THE FINDS	13
7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE	14
8. DISCUSSION.....	15
9. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	18
10. STORAGE AND CURATION.....	18
11. REFERENCES.....	18
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	21
APPENDIX B: POTTERY BY JANE YOUNG	24
APPENDIX C: ANIMAL BONE	30
APPENDIX D: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE.....	32
APPENDIX E: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	35



LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 Plan of SMS area and previous evaluation trenches, showing archaeological features (1:2000)
- Fig. 3 Plan of SMS area and previous evaluation trenches, showing archaeological features (1:500)
- Fig. 4 Sections and photograph (sections 1:20)
- Fig. 5 Sections and photograph (sections 1:20)
- Fig. 6 Sections and photographs (sections 1:20)
- Fig. 7 Sections and photographs (sections 1:20)
- Fig. 8 Sections and photographs (sections 1:20)
- Fig. 9 Plan of SMS area and previous evaluation trenches, showing geophysical anomalies and archaeological features (1:1000)
- Fig. 10 Plan of SMS area and previous evaluation trenches, showing historical mapping and archaeological features (1:6000)
- Fig. 11 Underlying geology (1:10,000)
- Fig. 12 Site topography (1:10,000)



SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land at Manor Farm
Location:	Wainfleet Road, Irby in the Marsh, Lincolnshire
NGR:	Centred on 546692 363146
Type:	Strip, Map and Sample
Date:	8 to 19 October 2018
Planning Reference:	S/051/00772/17; Conditions 13-15
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Lincolnshire Museum Service
Accession Number:	LCNCC: 2017.172
Site Code:	MFI 17

An archaeological strip, map and sample (SMS) exercise was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2018 on land at Manor Farm, Wainfleet Road, Irby in the Marsh, Lincolnshire. The SMS area targeted features identified during a previous evaluation of the site.

The SMS identified a number of archaeological features associated with settlement within the immediate vicinity in the period between the late 9th and 11th centuries AD. The archaeological features comprised the ditches associated with small paddocks or stock pens and with larger fields which superseded them, as well as a number of pits.

Finds from the Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman features included pottery, animal bone, ceramic building material, fired clay and a fragment of an iron knife or shears blade, as well as a small amount of flint, including residual pieces comprising a scraper and a flake. Of particular interest was the identification of a previously unrecognised fabric type within the ceramic assemblage.

The fieldwork also identified a number of later features representing boundaries first depicted on the local tithe map dated to 1840.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In October 2018, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological strip, map and sample (SMS) exercise, at the request of Anesco Ltd, on land at Manor Farm, Wainfleet Road, Irby in the Marsh, Lincolnshire (centred at NGR: 546692 363146; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 Planning permission for the construction of a solar farm and associated groundworks was granted by East Lindsey District Council (ELDC; Planning ref: S/051/00772/17), conditional on a programme of archaeological work (Conditions 13-15). These works were to take the form of an archaeological SMS excavation, as agreed following discussions with Jan Allen, the Historic Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council (LCC), the archaeological advisor to ELDC.
- 1.3 The SMS was undertaken in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2018) that was approved by Jan Allen. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological Excavation* (CIfA 2014); Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook* (2016), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* and accompanying *PPN3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015).

The site

- 1.4 The development site as a whole is approximately 34ha in extent and comprises land currently in arable use bounded to all sides by further agricultural land. The SMS area measured 75m x 75m (5625m²) and lies at approximately 3m AOD on generally flat ground.
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Spilsby Sandstone Formation of the Cretaceous and Jurassic Periods (BGS 2018). This is overlain by tidal deposits of clays and silts relating to former shorelines. These deposits were encountered throughout the SMS area.



2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been presented in detail in a historic environment desk-based assessment (DBA; CA 2017a); which was followed by a geophysical survey of the site (PCG 2017) and a subsequent archaeological evaluation (CA 2017b). The following section is a summary of these preceding reports and reference should be made to the original documents for further detail.

Prehistoric (500,000BC – AD 43) and Roman periods (AD 43 – AD 410)

2.2 Located 350m to the south of the current site, a single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered at 1m depth during the insertion of field drains. Other find spots, again of single artefacts (coins and a figurine), were found more than 3km distant, to the north and east (CA 2017a).

2.3 During these periods the site was likely marshland; possibly used for seasonal pasture when ground conditions allowed. Any settlement or intensive agricultural land use is likely to have been focused on higher areas of land; Burgh le Marsh 3.5km to the north being the nearest known such example (ibid.).

Early medieval (AD 410 – AD 1066) and medieval periods (AD 1066 – 1539)

2.4 Historical evidence for the earliest activity in the wider area comes at the time of the Domesday Survey, 1086, with a settlement ('Langene') being recorded c. 780m to the east of the site. During the medieval period it is probable that local marshes were subject to land reclamation with the intention of increasing agricultural potential. Drainage channels directed the water into larger bodies and it is possible that the Wold Drain, which runs through the site to the east of the SMS area, is part of this land management process. Possible medieval settlement has been identified as cropmarks and through the study of aerial photographs (ibid.) approximately 450m to the south-east of the SMS area, whilst an area of cropmarks and earthworks suggestive of medieval enclosures lies immediately north of the SMS area. In addition, a further cropmark of an enclosure of unknown date has been identified c. 375m to the north-east (ibid.).

2.5 LiDAR suggests there may be earthwork remains of former field boundaries within the site; although these broadly correlate with 19th-century field boundaries. It is likely that during the medieval period the land was subject to some agricultural

exploitation, although the focus was more to the north in Irby in the Marsh, on the higher ground, as evidenced by the survival of remains of ridge and furrow cultivation approximately 200m to the north (ibid.).

Post-medieval (1540 – 1800) and Modern (1800 – present)

- 2.6 During the post-medieval period the fens were subject to greater land reclamation due to the requirements for further land for arable farming; the site was part of an area that had long been reclaimed. The site continued to be used for agriculture with the earliest defined enclosures, predominantly in the south and west of the site, identified on the 1819 East Firsby Enclosure Map. By the 1840s the whole site was divided into fields of which the number has gradually reduced over time with the formation of larger fields (ibid.).

Geophysical Survey

- 2.7 A fluxgate gradiometer survey was undertaken in 2017 (PCG 2017) and recorded some geophysical evidence for potential archaeological remains at the far north-western edge of the site, including within the SMS area (see Fig. 9), with a limited number of possible ditches and pits registered elsewhere within the proposed development area (ibid.).

Archaeological Evaluation

- 2.8 Cotswold Archaeology excavated 18 trenches throughout the greater application area in 2017 (CA 2017b). A ditch which correlated well with a linear geophysical anomaly, along with a pit/ditch terminus, both contained pottery of presumed Iron Age date. Two undated ditches were also recorded in the same trench and are interpreted as contemporary with the prehistoric features through association. Post-medieval field boundaries, the majority of which are depicted on cartographic sources from the 19th century onwards, were also recorded (ibid.).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological mitigation were to:

- record the nature of the main stratigraphic units encountered
- assess the overall presence, survival and potential of structural and industrial remains

- assess the overall presence, survival, condition, and potential of artefactual and ecofactual remains

3.2 The specific aims of the work were to:

- record any evidence of past settlement or other land use
- recover artefactual evidence to date any evidence of past settlement that may be identified
- sample and analyse environmental remains to create a better understanding of past land use and economy

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2018). The location of the SMS area was agreed with Jan Allen (LCC), informed by the results of the preceding archaeological evaluation (CA 2017b). An area measuring 75m by 75m, targeting features identified in evaluation Trench 16, was set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4: *Survey Manual*. The SMS area was scanned for live services by trained CA staff using CAT and Genny equipment in accordance with the CA *Safe System of Work for avoiding underground services*.

4.2 Fieldwork commenced with the removal of topsoil and subsoil from the SMS area by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket, under archaeological supervision.

4.3 The archaeological features thus exposed were hand-excavated to the bottom of archaeological stratigraphy. All features were planned and recorded in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.4 Deposits were assessed for their environmental potential and five features considered to have potential for characterising the earlier phases of activity were sampled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*.

4.5 All artefacts recovered during archaeological excavation were retained in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of finds immediately after*

excavation. The recovered ceramic assemblage was sent to local specialist Jane Young, for examination and reporting upon (see Appendix B).

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2–9)

5.1 This section provides an overview of the archaeological results; detailed summaries of the contexts, finds and environmental samples (biological evidence) are to be found in Appendices A-D.

5.2 The dating evidence indicates that the majority of archaeological activity on site dates to the Late Saxon period. Stratigraphical analysis of the features has indicated two distinguishable phases of archaeological activity:

- Phase 0: Geology
- Phase 1: Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman (Late 9th–mid 11th Century AD)
- Phase 2: Later medieval/modern

Phase 0: Geology

5.3 The natural geological substrate, 2002, typically comprised brownish orange silty clay with chalk inclusions, with some localised variations. Apart from relatively modern features, the archaeological features revealed within the SMS area were cut into this substrate. The majority of the archaeological features, and the natural substrate, were sealed by silty clay subsoil 2001, which was up to 0.25m thick, and this in turn was overlain by modern ploughsoil 2000, which was generally 0.3m thick.

5.4 Irregular tree-throw pit 2088 was located along the eastern extent of the site, where it extended beyond the limit of excavation (see Fig. 3). It was devoid of any finds and was cut by a later feature which did contain artefactual material, however this was undiagnostic, therefore the tree-throw pit remains undated. Shallow, irregular feature 2003, also located close to the eastern limit of excavation and similarly devoid of any finds, is also likely to represent a tree-throw pit (see Fig. 3).

Phase 1: Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman (late 9th–mid 11th century AD; Figs 2-9)

5.5 The majority of the identified archaeological activity is dated to this period and comprised field boundaries, with evidence of some sub-division in the northern part

of the site to form smaller paddocks or stock pens, as well as a number of discrete pits suggestive of activity related to settlement within the immediate vicinity.

- 5.6 Although the dating evidence indicated that the majority of these features were broadly contemporary, a number of relationships were investigated where features intersected and basic chronologies were identified.

Linear features

- 5.7 Ditch S lay on a north-west/south-east alignment and measured 8.65m in length, 0.5m in width and up to 0.2m in depth. Although it contained no finds, it was cut by Ditch T, which was also devoid of artefactual evidence but was in turn cut by Ditch U, which is dated to the Late Saxon period, indicating a broadly similar date for ditches S and T.
- 5.8 The northern end of Ditch T was truncated by later Ditch U and it terminated to the south-west adjacent to the northern part of Ditch N, seemingly respecting this feature. Ditch T was approximately 12.2m long, up to 0.9m wide and 0.35m deep. It contained two silty clay fills, 2072 and 2073/2083, which were both devoid of any finds.
- 5.9 The longer part of Ditch N was aligned north-north-west/south-south-east and it turned westwards at its northern end. It had an overall length of approximately 34m and was up to 1.35m wide and 0.3m deep. It contained a single dark silty clay fill (2027/2040/2044; Fig. 6, Section FF), from which a total of 23 sherds of pottery of 10th to mid 11th-century date was recovered, along with a quantity of animal bone. Environmental analysis of a sample recovered from ditch fill 2027 (SS3) identified plant remains indicative of dispersed settlement waste, as well as mollusc shells of open country, marsh and amphibious species.
- 5.10 Ditch N was cut by Ditch U, which extended through the eastern part of the site on a north-north-west/south-south-east alignment. Ditch U measured up to 1.6m in width and was a maximum of 0.3m deep (Fig. 8, Section KK). It was filled by a single silty clay deposit (2042/2046/2060/2085) which contained five sherds of pottery of 10th to mid 11th-century date, as well as a small number of fragments of animal bone.
- 5.11 Within the south-eastern corner of the site, it was established that Ditch U was cut by Ditch G however no dating evidence was recovered from the latter, to establish if

it was in fact broadly contemporary with the other dated features. Ditch G was aligned east/west and extended across the southern part of the site. It was approximately 0.9m wide, 0.25m deep and contained silty clay deposit 2038 (Fig. 4, Section AA), from which single fragments of animal bone and fired clay were recovered.

- 5.12 Ditch U was also cut by Ditch H. Ditch H was aligned west-south-west/east-north-east and turned northwards at its eastern extent. It terminated just inside the western limit of excavation and was generally 1.2m wide however extended to a width of 2.65m towards its eastern end. It contained a single fill (2008/2062; Fig. 4, Section BB), within which two sherds of pottery of late 9th to 10th-century date were found, along with a single piece of coal. As previously noted with the southern length, the eastern length of Ditch H also had a wider section, located towards its southern extent.
- 5.13 East/west aligned Ditch K extended across the central part of the site, for a distance of 57m, terminating at its western end just before the western limit of excavation and at the east approximately 4m from Ditch U. It was adjoined by less substantial ditch J, however investigation of the intersection between the two failed to establish a relationship, as the fills of both were so similar. Ditch K was generally 1.2m wide and up to 0.35m deep. It contained a discrete basal fill of dumped chalky material, 2021, which was 0.1m thick and contained no finds (Fig. 5, Section DD). This was overlaid by silty clay fill, 2028/2032, up to 0.35m thick, from which two sherds of pottery of 10th to mid 11th-century date were recovered, alongside small quantities of animal bone, ceramic building material (CBM) and fired clay. These finds were in addition to two sherds of pottery of late 10th to 11th-century date recovered from Ditch K within the preceding evaluation, where it was recorded as ditch 1603, fill 1604.
- 5.14 West-south-west/east-north-east aligned Ditch J was at least 15.8m long, 0.7m wide and 0.3m deep. It was filled by silty clay deposit 2019/2030 (Fig. 4, Section CC) from which a single sherd of pottery of 10th-century date was recovered.
- 5.15 To the south of ditch K, short ditch length L represented a continuation of feature 1606 which had previously been identified within Trench 16 during the earlier evaluation. Overall, this feature was 8.35m long however feature 2063 immediately to the east probably represents a truncated continuation of the ditch. Ditch L was 1.5m wide, 0.1m deep and contained a single black silty clay fill, 2023, within which

quantities of cultural material including animal bone, mollusc shell, coal, fired clay, burnt flint and pottery of late 10th to 12th-century date was found. Environmental analysis of a sample of ditch fill 2023 (SS4) identified plant remains indicative of dumped settlement waste, as well as mollusc shells of open country and intermediate species.

- 5.16 Ditch M was aligned north-north-east/south-south-west and was located between ditches K and U. It was 7.1m long, 0.3m wide and up to 0.15m deep (Fig. 5, Section EE). Its silty clay fill, 2056/2058, contained two sherds of pottery dated between the late 9th and mid 11th centuries.
- 5.17 Ditch O was L-shaped, approximately 10.2m long, 0.7m wide and up to 0.4m deep. It contained three separate silty clay fills (2068, 2069, 2070; Fig. 6, Section GG) which were all devoid of finds.
- 5.18 Ditch P probably represents a continuation of the alignment of the eastern length of Ditch O, with a probable entrance measuring 3.9m between the two. Ditch P was aligned north-east/south-west and extended into the SMS area for a distance of 3.1m from the northern limit of excavation. It was 0.57m wide, 0.3m deep (Fig. 7, Section HH), with a rounded terminus, from which a single large sherd of late 10th to 11th-century pottery was recovered.
- 5.19 Ditch Q contained two right-angled returns and may represent a continuation of the alignment of the western end of Ditch N, with a possible entrance measuring 9.1m between the two ditches. Ditch Q had an overall length of 18.3m and was up to 0.7m wide and 0.1m deep. Its silty clay fill, 2077/2087, contained no artefactual material.
- 5.20 Ditch R was aligned approximately north/south and extended 11.95m into the site from the northern limit of excavation. It measured a maximum of 0.7m in width, 0.2m in depth and had an squared southern terminus (Fig. 7, Section II). It was filled by dark clayey silt deposit 2034/2036, which contained four sherds of pottery of mid 10th to mid 11th-century date, as well as a small quantity of animal bone.

Pits

- 5.21 A small number of pits were recorded within the north-eastern part of the SMS area. Three of these features contained Late Saxon dating evidence and it is therefore assumed that the remaining pits may by association, also date to this period.

- 5.22 Features 2009 and 2011 were initially recorded as separate pits however further investigation demonstrated that this was in fact a single pit cut through by a modern land drain. The pit would have originally been approximately 0.75m long, 0.55m wide and 0.1m deep. It was filled by black silty clay 2010/2012 with abundant charcoal, from which a single sherd of pottery of mid 10th to mid 11th-century date was recovered. No relationship with adjacent Ditch H was proven.
- 5.23 Pit 2024 was located just to the west of the terminus of Ditch R. It was oval in shape and measured 0.6m long, 0.55m wide and a maximum of 0.08m deep. Its silty clay fill 2025 contained three sherds of pottery of late 9th to 10th-century date, as well as single fragments of animal bone and fired clay.
- 5.24 Large, irregularly shaped pit 2080 extended beyond the northern edge of the SMS area. It was at least 5m long and 2.2m wide, with a maximum depth of 0.2m. It contained silty clay fill 2081 from which a number of finds including late 9th to 10th-century pottery, animal bone, CBM and a fragment of an iron blade, most probably from either a small knife or shears.
- 5.25 Oval pit 2013 measured 0.55m in length, 0.25m in width and was 0.05m deep. It contained two silty clay fills, 2014 and 2015 respectively. A total of 22 fragments of animal bone was recovered from the latter.
- 5.26 Pit 2016 was also oval in shape, 1.15m long, 0.65m wide and 0.25m deep. It contained a single silty clay fill, 2016, which was devoid of any finds.
- 5.27 Sub-circular pits 2047 and 2049 (Fig. 8, Section LL) were of similar size; 0.5m to 0.55m in diameter and approximately 0.15m deep. Both contained similar silty clay fills, 2048 and 2050 respectively, which were devoid of any finds.
- 5.28 Circular pit 2051 was 1.05m in diameter and up to 0.25m deep. It contained a very dark silty clay fill from which no finds were recovered. The pit was cut by a modern field drain.
- 5.29 Sub-oval pit 2090 cut tree-throw pit 2088. It was 1m long, 0.7m wide and 0.25m deep. It was filled by dark silty clay 2091 which contained abundant charcoal. Finds recovered from this material included single fragments of animal bone and fired clay,

as well as two worked flints, comprising a flake and an Early Bronze Age scraper. Given the almost exclusive Late Saxon dating of the majority of features on the site, it is presumed that the flints are likely to be residual within this deposit.

Phase 2: Later medieval/modern (Figs 2, 3 & 10)

- 5.30 Ditches A-F all appear to relate to former field boundaries which post-date the Late Saxon activity on site, with all except Ditch A correlating to boundaries depicted in the earliest instance on the Irby Tithe Map of 1840 (Fig. 10). As such, these were not investigated by excavation and were recorded in plan only.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Finds recovered are listed in the table below. Details are to be found below and Appendix B.

Type	Category	Count	Weight (g)
Pottery	Middle Saxon to Saxo-Norman	62	601
Worked flint	Flakes, scraper	3	16
Metalwork	Fe object	1	5

Artefactual Summary: Pottery

- 6.2 Small quantities of pottery dating were recovered, the earliest dating to the late 8th to mid 10th centuries, and the latest unlikely to date to later than the mid 11th century (appendix B). This assemblage comprises a range of coarsewares, the majority probably produced locally. It represents a small but regionally significant group which includes fabric types not previously recognised and described further in Appendix B. Additional quantities of modern pottery were recorded during the 2017 evaluation and this material has been described elsewhere (CA 2017b).

Worked flint

- 6.3 Worked or burnt flint amounts to three pieces (16g), recorded from two deposits. A scraper and a flake from fill 2091 of pit 2090 comprised the only artefactual material from this deposit, although breakage/edge damage to both pieces may indicate these were re-deposited. The (unworked) burnt piece from fill 2023 of Ditch L was associated with pottery dated to the Late Saxon period. In all cases raw material comprises dark grey-brown flint of good quality which is likely to have been sourced locally from the chalk of the Lincolnshire Wolds. Use of primary (from chalk) sources

is further indicated by cortex on the flake from deposit 2091 which is unabraded. The scraper from this deposit exhibits recortication to both faces resulting in mottled discolouration. Notably, the secondary working to this piece has bitten through the recortication, indicating reuse of material from an earlier period. Although a portion of this item is broken, it was probably of discoidal form, with the abrupt retouch continuous on the surviving edge. This, and its small size (21mm x 29mm) would be consistent with dating in the Early Bronze Age, a period where evidence for reuse of earlier lithics can be common.

Metalwork

- 6.4 A single fragmentary object of iron was recorded from pit 2080 (fill 2081), in association with pottery probably dating to the 10th to mid 11th centuries. The iron object consists of a small, medial portion from a bladed implement with a straight-backed, narrow, triangular profile and a rectangular-profiled tang (or handle) level with the blade back. The fragment measures 55mm in length, with a maximum blade width of 10mm. The implement may represent a portion of a small knife or shears. Small 'whittle tang' knives and shears, both with similarly-profiled blades are known from Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman sites, including a large number from the manorial site at Goltho, Lincolnshire (Goodall 1987, 179, Fig. 157).

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

- 7.1 Biological evidence recovered is listed in the table below. Details are to be found in Appendices C and D.

Type	Category	Count
Animal bone	Fragments	193
Samples	Environmental	2

Animal bone

- 7.2 The animal bone was recorded from 12 features and included remains of cattle (*Bos taurus*) and sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*), species typically found in assemblages of the Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman and later medieval. The bones recovered come from the extremities of the animals which, due to the very low meat yield, are commonly seen in the waste from primary butchery. No further information can be inferred due to the relatively small assemblage size

Charred Plant Remains

- 7.3 The charred assemblages, recovered from two ditches of Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman date, included grains of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), free-threshing wheat (*Triticum turgidum/aestivum* type) and rye (*Secale cereale*) and other potential crop remains recovered being celtic beans (*Vicia faba*) and oats (*Avena* sp.). These would all be typical crops of the Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman period in this area. The weed seeds included those typical of grassland, field margins and arable habitats and it is likely that some of the crops at least were grown on heavier clay soils. These assemblages appear to be indicative of general settlement waste. There is an indication that the local landscape was one of a well-established open environment with some damper areas, subject to seasonal flooding.

8. DISCUSSION

Prehistoric

- 8.1 The DBA indicated that the lack of prehistoric or Roman evidence within the vicinity of the site is likely to be the result of local landscape and geological conditions. During these periods, the site is likely to have formed an area of marshland subject to frequent tidal flooding. It is probable that such an environment would have been utilised for seasonal saltmarsh pasture (when the conditions would allow), whilst any settlement and intensive agricultural exploitation would have been focused on areas of higher ground further north of the site (see Figs 11 and 12). The discovery of a small quantity of flint during the current work, including two worked pieces, may be associated with such transient or seasonal activity during the prehistoric period.

Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman

- 8.2 The SMS, and preceding trial trenching, identified the presence of previously unknown archaeological remains associated with agricultural usage of the site in the period between the late 9th and 11th centuries (the Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman period).
- 8.3 The majority of the features encountered comprised ditches, presumably associated with the division of agricultural land. Although no evidence of structures was identified within the SMS area, the presence of a number of pits within the north-eastern part of this area, and the apparent intensification of activity in general towards its northern limit of the area, together with the presence of culturally-rich fills

within a number of features in this part of the site, suggests that the activity is likely to be associated with a settlement which lay within relatively close proximity, probably to the north and/or north-east of the SMS area on the locally higher and drier ground now occupied by the settlement of Irby in the Marsh.

- 8.4 Ditch N was cut by Ditch U, indicating that it and, by association, a number of the remaining less-substantial features in the northern part of the site, pre-date the main ditch alignments G, H, J/K and U. The shorter lengths of ditch in this part of the site appear to represent relatively insubstantial boundaries with regular gaps, possibly indicative of division into small paddocks or similar parcels of land.
- 8.5 Although there was no clear difference in the dating of the main ditch alignments G, H, J/K and U, three phases of activity could be defined from investigation of their relationships. Of these main ditches, it was demonstrated that Ditch U was the earliest. This was cut by both ditches G and H, although the order in which this occurred could not be established. The alignment of Ditch J mirrored that of Ditch H to the south, indicating that the two are possibly contemporary. Likewise with ditches G and K, which also appear to be associated with a separate phase of activity; the alignment of Ditch K in particular is similar to that of the western arm of Ditch N, which may indicate some contemporaneity between the two .
- 8.6 The apparent development from the small paddock-type enclosures to larger fields may be indicative of agricultural activity becoming more formalised, with the establishment of larger fields extending westwards and south-westwards from the higher ground formed by the more solid underlying Till geology, which is more likely to have been the focus of occupation, into lower lying marshier land more suited to agriculture (see Fig. 11).
- 8.7 The topographical model of the site and the immediate vicinity indicates that it was located on a slight ridge which lay just a few metres above sea level (Fig. 12). This slightly elevated strip of land extends to the north-west and it is evidently no coincidence that the mid 13th-century parish church of All Saints, and probably the medieval village that existed around it, as well as the 18th-century manor house all appear to have been built along this locally high ground.
- 8.8 A number of features within the north-eastern part of the SMS area contained very dark fills containing noticeably more inclusions of cultural material, such as animal

bone, marine mollusc shell, charcoal and pottery, than other features,. It is likely that whereas the other features silted up gradually, those containing the dark fills were used for the disposal of material generated within the settlement itself. These features included ditches L and N, from which samples were recovered for environmental analysis. The results of this analysis identified a number of cereal remains and mollusc shells, amongst other remains, and confirm that the assemblages recovered from both samples appear to be indicative of general settlement waste. There is an indication that the local landscape was one of a well-established open environment with some wet areas, subject to seasonal flooding.

- 8.9 The discovery of Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman activity at Manor Farm was unexpected and is of significance, particularly given that evidence for rural settlement within Lincolnshire in the early medieval period is limited (Albone 2006) there is no evidence of early medieval activity in the vicinity of the site. The nearest activity of this period was recorded c. 780m to the east, where there was a settlement called 'Langene' in the vicinity of Oxlands Lane, recorded at the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086 (CA 2017a).
- 8.10 Also of significance, most likely on a regional scale, is the identification of a previously unrecognised fabric type (WLSG) within the ceramic assemblage. This development, along with the remaining evidence from the site of activity within the Late Saxon to Saxo-Norman period can be related to Research Objective 6C of the *Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (Knight *et al.* 2012), the aim of which is to 'Review the evidence for developing settlement hierarchies' within the Early Medieval period (c. 410–1066). However, as the site of the settlement of this date at Irby in the Marsh is yet to be located, the current work does not add anything to this discussion.

Later medieval/modern

- 8.11 Ditches A-F all appear to relate to former field boundaries which post-date the Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman activity on site, with all except Ditch A evidently relating to boundaries depicted in the earliest instance on the Irby Tithe Map of 1840. It would appear to be of some significance that whilst earlier Ditch G was clearly cut by Ditch C, the earlier ditch did not extend to the west of the later feature and ditches H and J/K to the north all appear to respect the alignment of Ditch C, suggesting that Ditch C may lie along the line of an earlier feature.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

9.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Mark Brett, assisted by Lewis Ernest, Megan Reid and Dan White. The report was written by Mark Brett. The pottery report was prepared by Jane Young, the worked flint report was written by Ed McSloy, the faunal remains report by Andy Clarke and the charred plant remains and mollusc report by Sarah Wyles. The illustrations were prepared by Amy Wright. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The fieldwork was managed for CA by Richard Young.

10. STORAGE AND CURATION

10.1 The archive is currently held at CA offices in Kemble whilst post-excavation work proceeds. Upon completion of the project, and with the agreement of the legal landowners, the site archive and artefact collection will be deposited with Lincolnshire Museum Service, which has agreed in principle to accept the complete archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix E, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context Number	Context Type	Fill of	Context Description	Feature Label	Spot Date
2000	Layer		Topsoil. Dark brown silty clay.		
2001	Layer		Subsoil. Mid-dark brown silty clay.		
2002	Layer		Natural substrate. Light-mid brownish orange silty clay with variable amounts of chalk inclusions.		
2003	Cut		Tree-throw pit. Irregular shape.		
2004	Fill	2003	Black silty clay with abundant charcoal.		
2005	Cut		Pit.		
2006	Fill	2006			
2007	Cut		Ditch. Aligned c. ENE/WSW. 1.22m wide, 0.27m deep.	H	
2008	Fill	2007	Mid yellowish brown silty clay.	H	LC9-C10
2009	Cut	2009	Sub-circular pit. 0.4m long, 0.25m wide, 0.12m deep.		
2010	Fill		Black silty clay with abundant charcoal.		MC10-MC11
2011	Cut		Pit. Irregular shape. 0.53m long, 0.24m wide, 0.06m deep.		
2012	Fill	2011	Black silty clay with abundant charcoal.		
2013	Cut		Oval pit. 0.53m long, 0.24m wide, 0.06m deep.		
2014	Fill	2013	1st fill of 2013. Mid greyish brown silty clay.		
2015	Fill	2013	2nd fill of 2013. Dark greyish brown silty clay.		
2016	Cut		Oval pit. 1.115m long, 0.67m wide, 0.12m deep.		
2017	Fill	2016	Dark greyish brown silty clay.		
2018	Cut		Ditch. Aligned c. ENE/WSW. 0.68m wide, 0.3m deep.	J	
2019	Fill	2018	Mid brown silty clay.	J	E/M-LC10
2020	Cut		Ditch. Aligned c. E/W. 1.21m wide, 0.34m deep.	K	
2021	Fill	2020	1st fill of 2020. Mid whitish brown silty clay and chalk.	K	
2022	Cut		Short length of ditch. 6.2m long, 1.5m wide, 0.11m deep.	L	
2023	Fill	2022	Dark brown/black silty clay.	L	LC10-E/MC11
2024	Cut		Oval pit. 0.59m long, 0.56m wide, 0.06m deep.		
2025	Fill	2024	Dark brown/black silty clay.		LC9-C10
2026	Cut		Ditch. Aligned WNW/ESE, turning to NNW/SSE. c. 34m long, 1.07m wide, 0.28m deep.	N	
2027	Fill	2026	Mid greyish brown silty clay.	N	C10-MC11
2028	Fill	2020	2nd fill of 2020. Light-mid brown silty clay.	K	C10-MC11
2029	Cut		Ditch terminus. 0.41m wide, 0.21m deep.	J	
2030	Fill	2029	Mid whitish brown silty clay.	J	
2031	Cut		Ditch terminus. 0.7m wide, 0.1m deep.	K	
2032	Fill	2031	Light-mid brown silty clay.	K	
2033	Cut		Ditch. Aligned N/S. 0.6m wide, 0.08m deep.	R	
2034	Fill	2033	Mid brown/black clayey silt.	R	MC10-MC11
2035	Cut		Ditch terminus. 0.7m wide, 0.19m deep.	R	
2036	Fill	2035	Dark brown/black clayey silt.	R	
2037	Cut		Ditch. Aligned E/W. 0.9m wide, 0.25m deep.	G	
2038	Fill	2037	Mid orangey brown silty clay.	G	
2039	Cut		Ditch. Same as 2026/2043. 1.34m wide, 0.21m deep.	N	
2040	Fill	2039	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	N	LC10-MC11
2041	Cut		Ditch. Aligned NNW/SSE. c. 77m long, 1.28m wide, 0.31m deep.	U	C10-MC11
2042	Fill	2041	Mid greyish brown silty clay.	U	

Context Number	Context Type	Fill of	Context Description	Feature Label	Spot Date
2043	Cut		Ditch terminus. 0.63m wide, 0.16m deep.	N	
2044	Fill	2043	Dark greyish brown silty clay.	N	C10-MC11
2045	Cut		Ditch. Aligned NNW/SSE. c. 77m long, 1.3m wide, 0.2m deep.	U	
2046	Fill	2045	Mid orangey brown silty clay.	U	
2047	Cut		Sub-circular pit. 0.57m long, 0.53m wide, 0.13m deep.		
2048	Fill	2047	Mid greyish brown silty clay.		
2049	Cut		Sub-circular pit. 0.52m long, 0.49m wide, 0.17m deep.		
2050	Fill	2049	Mid greyish brown silty clay.		
2051	Cut		Circular pit. 1.07m diameter, 0.24m deep.		
2052	Fill	2051	Dark grey/black clayey silt.		
2053	Cut		Field drain. Cuts 2052.		
2054	Fill	2053	Ceramic field drain and backfill.		
2055	Cut		Gully. Aligned NNE/SSW. c. 5.8m long, 0.3m wide, 0.1m deep.	M	
2056	Fill	2055	Light-mid yellowish brown silty clay.	M	C10-MC11
2057	Cut		Gully terminus. 0.32m wide, 0.14m deep.	M	
2058	Fill		Mid yellowish brown silty clay.	M	LC9-MC11
2059	Cut		Ditch. Aligned NNW/SSE. c. 77m long, 1.6m wide, 0.2m deep.	U	
2060	Fill	2059	Mid orangey/greyish brown silty clay.	U	LC9-MC11
2061	Cut		Ditch. Aligned c. ENE/WSW. 0.95m wide, >0.25m deep.	H	
2062	Fill	2061	Mid orangey brown silty clay.	H	
2063	Cut		Sub oval pit. Probably part of 2022. 1.1m long, 0.52m wide, depth U/K 9unexcavated).	L	
2064	Fill	2063	Dark brown/black silty clay.	L	
2065	Cut		Ditch terminus. Aligned SW/NE. c. 3.2m long, 0.57m wide, 0.31m deep.	P	
2066	Fill	2065	Dark greyish orange silty clay.	P	LC10-C11?
2067	Cut		L-shaped ditch. Aligned c. WNW/ESE, turning to NE/SW. 10.25m long, 0.68m wide, 0.39m deep.	O	
2068	Fill	2067	1st fill of 2067. Light brownish/yellowish grey silty clay.	O	
2069	Fill	2067	2nd fill of 2067. Mid bluish grey silty clay.	O	
2070	Fill	2067	3rd fill of 2067. Light greyish brown silty clay.	O	
2071	Cut		Curving ditch. Aligned c. SW/NE, turning N-wards. 12.2m long, 0.74m wide, 0.29m deep.	T	
2072	Fill	2071	1st fill of 2071. Light-mid yellowish brown silty clay.	T	
2073	Fill	2071	2nd fill of 2071. Light yellowish brown silty clay.	T	
2074	Cut		Ditch terminus. 0.9m wide, 0.35m deep.	T	
2075	Fill	2074	Mid yellowish brown silty clay.	T	
2076	Cut		Ditch. Angular; contains two 90° turns. Overall length c. 18m, 0.7m wide, 0.08m deep.	Q	
2077	Fill	2076	Mid greyish brown silty clay.	Q	
2080	Cut		Irregular pit. 6.2m long, 2.2m wide, 0.21m deep.		
2081	Fill	2080	Dark greyish brown silty clay.		LC9-C10
2082	Cut		Curving ditch. Aligned c. SW/NE, turning N-wards. 12.2m long, 0.74m wide. Not fully excavated. .	T	
2083	Fill	2082	Mid-dark orangey brown silty clay.	T	
2084	Cut		Ditch. Aligned NNW/SSE. c. 77m long, 1.2m wide. Not fully excavated.	U	
2085	Fill	2084	Mid orangey brown silty clay.	U	
2086	Cut		Ditch terminus. 0.56m wide, 0.09m deep.	Q	
2087	Fill	2086	Mid greyish brown silty clay.	Q	

Context Number	Context Type	Fill of	Context Description	Feature Label	Spot Date
2088	Cut		Irregular tree-throw pit. >3.33m long, >1.55m wide, 0.22m deep.		
2089	Fill	2088	Mid bluish black silty clay with abundant charcoal.		
2090	Cut		Sub-oval pit. 1.01m long, 0.69m wide, 0.26m deep.		
2091	Fill	2090	Dark bluish black silty clay with abundant charcoal.		
2092	Cut		Ditch. Aligned NW/SE. 8.64m long, 0.5m wide, 0.18m deep.	S	
2093	Fill		Mid greyish brown silty clay.	S	

APPENDIX B: POTTERY BY JANE YOUNG

Introduction

A total of sixty-two sherds representing forty-nine vessels and weighing 0.601Kgs in total were submitted for examination. The earliest identifiable pottery dates to the middle Saxon period between the late 8th and mid 10th centuries, whilst the latest material is unlikely to date to later than the mid 11th century.

Methodology and terminology

The pottery was examined both visually and using a x20 binocular microscope, then recorded using the fabric codenames (CNAME) of the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit and other nationally agreed codenames (Young, Vince and Nailor 2005). The pottery types are summarised here by ceramic period with individual site-based fabric descriptions available in the archive. Forms and rim types were identified using the Type Series developed for recording Late Saxon shell-tempered pottery in Lincoln (Miles, Watcher and Young 1989). The assemblage was quantified by three measures: number of sherds, vessel count and weight with the resulting archive being entered onto an Access database. Recording of the post-Roman assemblage was in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski, *et al.* (2001) and jointly by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, Study Group for Roman Pottery and Medieval Pottery Research Group (2016). Where possible the pottery has been referenced to the relevant Lincoln Ceramic Horizons (Young, Vince and Nailor 2005, 10-26).

Condition

The pottery is in a variable but stable condition with most sherds exhibiting signs of post-deposition abrasion. Sherd size falls into the small to medium range (below 50grams), but is variable from 1gram to 38 grams.

The Pottery

Twelve, Lincolnshire-produced, fossil shell or quartz-tempered ware types are present in the assemblage. The range of identifiable vessel types is limited to examples of various types of bowl and jar.

Middle Saxon

Three shell-tempered sherds representing two large jars or bowls are of middle Saxon type. Early Fine-shelled ware (ELFS) is first found in deposits dating to the late 8th century at Flixborough in North Lincolnshire (Young and Vince 2009). It appears to develop out of a fine-shelled Northern Maxey ware fabric (U.4) with jar forms having a more curved profile through time. The presence of sherds in earlier Late Saxon deposits in Lincoln (Young, Vince and Nailor 2005) suggests a degree of overlap between this middle Saxon handmade type and the wheel-thrown Late Saxon wares. In urban deposits it is unlikely to post-date the end of the 9th century but could continue into the mid 10th century in rural areas.

Late Saxon

A group of fifty-one wheel-thrown late Saxon sherds representing forty-two vessels includes material tempered with fossil shell (LKT, WLSS, WLSSF and WLSSQ) and with quartz sands (LSLOC, SNLS, TORC, TORCT and WLSG). Most of the material is likely to be of 10th to early/mid 11th-century date, although the sequence could extend back to into the late 9th century.

The two wheel-thrown shell-tempered vessels made in Lincoln (LKT) comprise a tiny body sherd from a small jar and a small rim sherd from a tiny jar or cup (Jar Type 1) with what appears to be square roller-stamped decoration on the rim edge. This form is rare in Lincoln and when it occurs is usually found in mid/late to late 9th

(Ceramic Horizon ASH 7) or late 9th to early 10th (Ceramic Horizon 8) deposits. The presence of roller-stamping on the rim edge of a jar is also an early trait not extending beyond the early/mid 10th century (the early part of Ceramic Horizon ASH9). Lincoln Kiln-type ware (LKT) is known to have been produced on the eastern side of the lower city at Silver Street (Miles, Watcher and Young 1989) with misfired, probably wasted vessels also occurring at other sites in this area. This ware type appears to have been produced between the mid/late 9th and late 10th centuries and is not only found on sites in Lincolnshire but appears to have been traded to Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Rutland, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and all three regions (Ridings) of Yorkshire as well as finding its way to a grave in Birka in Sweden. Most of these occurrences are likely to be of mid 10th or earlier date as the other Lincoln shell-tempered type (LSH) dominates mid 10th century and later regional deposits.

Vessels in three other Lincolnshire-produced wheel-thrown shell-tempered ware types occurred on this site. Excavations in Kirton in 2006 (Young 2007) produced a number of wheel-thrown medium shell-tempered vessels visually not unlike that of some of the Lincoln Shelly ware fabrics (LSH Fabrics A and C). Similar fabrics had also been noted on a number of sites in the area of the Wash. Under x20 microscopic examination however, the shell appears to be thinner than is usual for Lincoln products, suggesting that the type was probably manufactured elsewhere. Two main fabrics occurred, one mainly tempered with medium-sized fossil shell (WLSS) and one with almost equal amounts of shell and sub-round to round quartz (WLSSQ). A third fabric variation containing common iron-rich grains (WLSSFE) was later identified on another nearby site. These three fabrics appear to utilise a Jurassic shelly marl and the similarity of manufacture and form suggests that they were probably manufactured together. Vessels are competently manufactured and some have thin to very thin walls (as thin as 2mm) making them quite fragile. Few chronologically diagnostic forms in these three wares have previously been recovered with previously stratified occurrences suggesting a dating of between the late 10th and mid 11th centuries. The most common type to be recovered from this site (WLSS) comprises fourteen sherds from eight vessels. At least five of these vessels are small jars of which two have EVERA1 type rims. Two sherds are from a single medium-sized jar whilst three other sherds come from a large jar or bowl and a small jar or bowl. The six recovered WLSSQ sherds each come from a separate vessel. Again small jars are common with four examples one of which has square roller stamped decoration on the shoulder. It is highly unlikely that the decorated sherd dates beyond the late 10th century as by this period such decoration on Lincolnshire products has died out. Another sherd comes from a medium-sized jar and the only rim sherd present in this group is from an in-turned rim bowl. The bowl rim suggests an early/mid 10th to early/mid 11th century dating range. A single sherd in the iron-rich fabric (WLSSFE) is from another small jar.

Vessels in five quartz-tempered late Saxon ware types were also recovered. Sixteen Torksey ware (TORK) sherds from fourteen vessels are directly comparable with material recovered from the known kiln sites or waste dumps at Torksey itself, approximately 60km to the northwest. Here a few kilns and a number of waste groups have been noted since the 1930's with the first excavation of a kiln taking place as early as the 1940's (Barley 1964 and 1981). The products of the earliest kiln (Kiln 2) are stylistically different with a grey fabric, more Roman jar shape, lack of decoration and the presence of what is usually thought of as a Roman trait of concentric wire marks on the under base. This kiln is likely to have been in production during the late 9th century. Thereafter fabric or firing is not especially chronologically significant although stratified groups suggest that fully reduced grey vessels are likely to be of 10th-century date. There is, however, considerable variation in manufacture, form and decorative technique within the 10th to mid 11th-century industry. The fourteen vessels recovered from this site include seven small jars, one medium-sized jar, a tiny jar or cup and three bowls. Three thin-walled small jars, all recovered from ditch U (deposit 2042), are in lighter firing grey fabrics suggesting a late 9th or 10th

century date. The other sherds are in more typical oxidised or reduced with oxidised margins and dark reduced surfaced fabrics. Most of these vessels are comparable with those recovered from 10th to early/mid 11th-century deposits at Flaxengate, Saltergate and Danesgate in Lincoln (Young, Vince and Nailor 2005, 88-90), and Coppergate in York (Mainman 1990). Manufacture is quite competent and vessel wall thickness is even and relatively thin. Two of the three bowls have flanged rims whilst the other one has a hammerhead rim. Flanged rims have a long currency but the hammerhead rim is likely to date to the 10th century.

Six sherds from five vessels have variant Torksey-type fabrics (TORKT). These vessels were most probably produced in Torksey itself or at other centres in Lincolnshire, but are not visually typical of Torksey products. The vessels include two medium-sized and two small-sized jars. One vessel has been irregularly fired as the sherds have 'kiln flashing' with irregular patches of oxidised red fabric occurring on an otherwise reduced fabric. This effect may however have been caused post-firing by exposure to extreme heat. None of the sherds are chronologically diagnostic.

Two of the sherds recovered from the site are from Lincoln Saxo-Norman Sandy ware (SNLS) vessels. This ware was produced in Lincoln between the late 10th and mid 11th centuries at several centres and in a number of fabrics. One sherd is probably from a large bowl with internal wear marks. The vessel was most probably produced at the Sessions House kiln in the eastern suburb of Butwerk (Young 1997) between the late 10th and early 11th centuries. The other sherd is the rim of a medium-sized jar.

Two sherds are from a jar and a jar or bowl in Local Late Saxon Fabrics (LSLOC). This fabric is a minor type on sites in Lincoln but is also found elsewhere in Lincolnshire. The two vessels recovered from this site are wheel-thrown and most probably date to between the late 9th and mid/late 10th centuries.

Lincoln-type late Saxon reduced quartz-tempered sherds have been recovered from a number of sites in southern and central Lincolnshire and usually only occur as single instances or in a variety of fabrics, in which cases they have been recorded within the LSLOC grouping. The two sherds from this site however are in the same fabric type so a new ware type has been created - Lincoln-type Wheel-thrown Late Saxon Sandy (WLSG). The fabric contains common fine subangular quartz grains including some polycrystalline grains, sparse to moderate larger grains up to 0.6mm, sparse to moderate iron-rich grains and sparse fragments of mudrock. Mudrock is a common inclusion in pottery of all periods produced in Lincoln so this type might just be a previously unrecognised Lincoln product. The two basal sherds recovered from this site are from a medium-sized and small jar of potential 10th to mid 11th-century date.

Saxo-Norman

Eight sherds from five vessels are of Saxo-Norman type. The seven Lincolnshire Fine-shelled (LFS) sherds come from four vessels, including one identifiable medium-sized jar. The handmade ware is the main Saxo-Norman pottery type found in north and central Lincolnshire in deposits dating to the mid 11th to 12th centuries, but is found as early as the late 10th century (Young, Vince and Nailor 2005). It is also found on sites in other East Midlands counties and in all three parts of Yorkshire. The type may develop in rural areas during the 10th century from the Early Fine-shelled ware as manufacture, fabric and early forms are similar. The sherds found on this site are in themselves chronologically un-diagnostic but visually are most likely to be of late 10th to mid 11th-century date. Another vessel represented by a tiny flake in a fine reduced quartz-tempered fabric is likely to be a Lincolnshire product of late 9th to 11th-century date (SNLOC).

Site Sequence

The post-Roman pottery was recovered from two deposits during the preceding evaluation stage and from sixteen deposits during the current excavation. None of the groups is large with most features producing less than ten vessels. Consequently dating of groups is somewhat tentative due mainly to the difficulty of identifying residual or intrusive material in such feature assemblages.

Evaluation

Six sherds representing three vessels were recovered from two deposits excavated as part of the evaluation. Ditch K fill 1604 produced two sherds from a large Early Lincolnshire Fine-shelled ware jar or bowl of potential late 8th to mid 10th-century date, although the vessel is most likely to have been produced within the 9th century. The three basal sherds recovered from Ditch L fill 1606 come from a small single Lincolnshire Fine-shelled ware jar or bowl of probable late 10th to mid 11th-century date. The other sherd recovered from this feature is from a small Wheel-thrown Shell and Quartz-tempered jar (WLSSQ) of 10th to mid 11th-century date.

The Excavation

The excavation produced fifty-six sherds from forty-six vessels found in sixteen deposits. Sherds from two small jars were recovered from ditch H (fill 2008). One sherd is from a Torksey ware jar whilst the other is from a Wheel-thrown Shell and Quartz-tempered jar (WLSSQ) with square roller-stamped decoration on the shoulder. The Torksey ware jar can only be dated to within the period between the 10th and early/mid 11th centuries but the other jar is likely to be of early to mid/late 10th-century date. Pit 2009 (fill 2010) produced a single sherd from a Torksey ware jar of late 10th to mid 11th-century date. Ditch J (fill 2019) contained a single sherd from an inverted rim WLSSQ bowl of early/mid 10th to early/mid 11th-century date. Ten sherds from seven vessels were recovered from ditch L (fill 2023). The mixed group contains three Torksey-type quartz-tempered (TORKT) vessels and four shell-tempered vessels, each in a different fabric. The earliest sherd in the group is possibly a Lincoln Kiln-type ware tiny jar or cup of probable late 9th to early/mid 10th-century date whereas the latest vessel is likely to be a Lincolnshire Fine-shelled ware jar of late 10th to early/mid 11th-century date with a worn basal edge. The other vessels are not closely dateable but can be dated to between the 10th and mid 11th centuries. Oval pit 2024 (fill 2025) produced four sherds from a single small Late Saxon Wheel-thrown Shell-tempered (WLSS) jar of probable 10th to mid 11th-century date. The jar has a leached internal surface suggestive of an acidic liquid containment.

Six sherds representing five vessels, each in a different ware type, were recovered from Ditch N (fill 2027). A small basal sherd from a jar or bowl in Local Late Saxon Fabric S (LSLOC) is most likely to date to between the late 9th and mid/late 10th centuries. Small jars in Torksey-type ware and Wheel-thrown Late Saxon Greyware (WLSG) and a large jar or bowl Late Saxon Wheel-thrown Shell-tempered (WLSS) are of 10th to mid 11th-century date. The other sherd in this group is from a Torksey ware (TORK) bowl with a flanged rim. These flanged-rim bowls could potentially date to between the 10th and mid 11th centuries but are most common in 10th century deposits. Fill 2040, also within ditch N, produced a small group of fifteen sherds representing thirteen vessels. The group comprises five Torksey ware vessels, four WLSS vessels, a small Lincoln Kiln-type jar, a SNLS jar and two Lincolnshire Fine-shelled ware jars or bowls. The composition of this group suggests a late 10th to early 11th-century deposition date. The two sherds found in related ditch terminus fill 2044 come from Torksey ware and Wheel-thrown Shell and Quartz-tempered (WLSSQ) jars of potential 10th to mid 11th-century date.

Ditch K (fill 2028) produced a sherd from a tiny Torksey ware jar or cup and a small Late Saxon Wheel-thrown Shell-tempered (WLSS) jar. These vessels can only be dated to within the period between the 10th and mid 11th centuries but the tiny jar or cup form is most common in late 9th to mid 10th-century deposits. Four quartz-tempered sherds from two bowls and a medium-sized jar were recovered from ditch R (fill 2034). The jar is of Torksey-type (TORKT) whilst the two bowls are in Lincoln Saxo-Norman Sandy ware (SNLS) and Torksey ware (TORK). The large Lincoln ware bowl is of late 10th to early 11th-century date. Three small Torksey ware jars and a small Wheel-thrown Late Saxon Shell and Iron-tempered jar (WLSSFE) were recovered from ditch U (deposit 2042). A single sherd from a medium-sized jar of late 9th to mid/late 10th-century date in Local Fabric S was recovered from gully M (fill 2056). Fill 2058 from the same feature produced a basal sherd from a Wheel-thrown Late Saxon Greyware (WLSG) jar of 10th to mid 11th-century date. A tiny flake in a fine reduced quartz-tempered fabric recovered from ditch U (fill 2060) is likely to be a Lincolnshire product of late 9th to 11th-century date (SNLOC). A body sherd from a large Early Lincolnshire Fine-shelled ware jar or bowl of potential late 8th to mid 10th-century date was recovered from the terminus of ditch P (fill 2066). As with the other vessel of this type it is most likely to be 9th-century date. Pit 2080 (fill 2081) produced an abraded sherd from a small Wheel-thrown Shell and Quartz-tempered (WLSSQ) of potential 10th to mid 11th-century date.

Discussion

This is a small but important group of pottery that has helped to further define the chronology of three ware types (WLSS, WLSSQ and WLSSFE) previously thought to date to no earlier than the late 10th century. A new Lincoln-type quartz-tempered ware type (WLSG) has also been identified. The nature of the pottery recovered however suggests that little of the material is likely to represent primary deposition. The potential of the assemblages is seriously hampered by this factor together with the type of deposits the pottery was recovered from. The material does however point to Late Saxon occupation in the vicinity of the site.

The assemblage has the potential to start within the middle Saxon period as two handmade vessels are of middle Saxon type, however ELFS is also found in the earliest Late Saxon deposits in Lincoln. Few individual vessels can be attributed with any confidence to a short period of time, but it is evident that some vessels of potential late 9th to 10th-century date do occur. In such a small group it is dangerous to provide a definitive end date for the recovered material by using the absence of certain types typical of the early/mid to late 11th centuries, but the absence of Torksey, or Torksey-type vessels with pressed rim edge decoration is notable, as is the lack of Stamford ware in a South Lincolnshire group.

Several sherds have been removed to the County Fabric Type Series but the remaining material should certainly be retained.

Table 1 Pottery summarised by ware type and ceramic period with vessel count and weight in grams

Code	Full name	Earliest date	Latest date	Total sherds	Total vessels	Total weight
ELFS	Early Fine-shelled ware	780	930	3	2	107
LFS	Lincolnshire Fine-shelled ware	970	1200	7	4	68
LKT	Lincoln kiln-type shelly ware	850	1000	2	2	6
LSLOC	Late Saxon Local Fabrics	850	1050	2	2	17
SNLOC	Local Saxo-Norman fabrics	870	1150	1	1	2
SNLS	Saxo-Norman Lincoln Sandy Ware	970	1060	2	2	31
TORK	Torksey ware	850	1070	16	14	90
TORKT	Torksey-type ware	850	1070	6	5	83
WLSG	Wheelthrown Late Saxon Greyware (Lincoln Type)	900	1030	2	2	43
WLSS	Wheelthrown Late Saxon Shell-tempered (Lincoln Type)	900	1030	14	8	95
WLSSFE	Wheelthrown Late Saxon Shell and Iron-tempered (Lincoln Type)	900	1030	1	1	13
WLSSQ	Wheelthrown Late Saxon Shell & Quartz-tempered (Lincoln Type)	900	1030	6	6	46

APPENDIX C: ANIMAL BONE

Animal bone amounting to 193 fragments (1885g) was recovered via hand excavation and bulk soil sampling from the fills of 12 pit and ditch features. Artefactual material dating from the Early medieval period was also recovered from these features (See Table 1, Appendix C). The material was well preserved but historical damage had fragmented the bone such that 85% of the assemblage was unidentifiable to species level. However, it was possible to identify cattle (*Bos taurus*) and sheep/goat (*Ovis aries*/*Capra hircus*).

Early medieval

A total of 176 fragments (1661g) were recovered from seven deposits. Of the fragments identifiable to species, cattle was the most common with 21 fragments (1428g) with sheep/goat represented by four fragments (10g). Each were identified exclusively by bones from the head, such as the mandible or the feet such as the metapodials, none of which displayed any cut marks or impact damage to suggest an origin in butchery waste. The remains of cattle and sheep/goat are to be expected in assemblages of this period, but the low recovery severely limits the amount of useful information that can be inferred. However, despite the lack of butchery marks, the bones recovered come from the extremities of an animal which, due to the very low meat yield, are commonly seen in the waste from primary butchery. The remaining 151 fragments (250g) could not be identified to species level. Of these, 24 fragments (93g) could be classified as cattle size and 62 (114g) as sheep size. There was clearly an origin in the same meat-poor skeletal elements seen in the identifiable part of the assemblage, but the fragmentation was such that further identification was not possible. Indeterminate bone totalling 79 fragments (43g) was also recovered where the damage was too great to identify either species or element.

Undated

The remaining 17 fragments (224g) were recovered from five deposits which remain undated. The condition of the undated portion of the assemblage matched that of the dated, with good preservation but high fragmentation. Cattle were the only species identified, from three fragments (197g) of meat-poor bones common to primary butchery waste.

Table 1: Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context.

Cut	Fill	BOS	O/C	LM	MM	Ind	Total	Weight (g)
Early Medieval								
2022	2023	2	3	18	38	76	137	598
2024	2025					1	1	1
2026	2027		1			1	2	3
2020	2028	3					3	41
2039	2040			1	12		13	36
2043	2044				4		4	11
2080	2081	16					16	971
Subtotal		21	4	19	54	78	176	1661
Undated								
2013	2015	1					1	99
2035	2036	1		5			6	99
2037	2038	1					1	9
2041	2042				8		8	16
2090	2091					1	1	1
Subtotal		3		5	8	1	17	224
Total		24	4	24	62	79	193	
Weight		1625	10	93	114	43	1885	

BOS = Cattle; O/C = sheep/goat; LM = cattle size mammal; MM = medium sized mammal; Ind = indeterminate

APPENDIX D: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Two bulk soil samples (75 litres of soil) were analysed from Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman ditches L and N. It was hoped that the environmental remains would assist in determining the nature of the local settlement and surrounding landscape during this period.

These samples were processed following standard flotation methods, using a 250µm sieve for the recovery of the flot and a 1mm sieve for the collection of the residue. All identifiable charred plant remains were recorded following nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature as provided by Zohary *et al* (2012) for cereals. The results are tabulated in **Table 1**. The presence of mollusc shells was also noted and these are recorded in **Table 1**. Nomenclature is according to Anderson (2005) and habitat preferences according to Kerney (1999) and Davies (2008).

Charred remains

A large assemblage of charred plant remains and charcoal was recovered from fill 2023 (sample 4) of section 2022 within ditch L and a small amount from fill 2027 (sample 3) of section 2026 in ditch N. The flots were between 15 and 80ml in size and contained 40 to 60% rooty material. The preservation of the charred material varied and the wood charcoal greater than 2mm included mature and roundwood fragments. The charred plant assemblages comprised almost equal numbers of cereal remains and other plant remains and this was the case for both samples.

The cereal remains recorded from ditch L included grains of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), free-threshing wheat (*Triticum turgidum/aestivum* type) and rye (*Secale cereale*) and those from ditch N included barley and free-threshing wheat. Free-threshing wheat is the predominant wheat during Saxon and medieval periods in this part of Britain and rye and barley are also found within Late Saxon assemblages (Greig 1991). Other potential crops within the assemblage recovered from ditch L include celtic beans (*Vicia faba*) and also some of the oats (*Avena* sp.) may have been those of the cultivated species (*Avena sativa*), as some of the grains were relatively large in size and the single floret base appeared to be that of the cultivated species.

The weed seeds recorded from these ditches included those typical of grassland, field margins and arable habitats such as vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.), brome grass (*Bromus* sp.) and stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*). Stinking mayweed is a species indicative of heavier clay soils and seeds of species which favour wetter environments were also present in both assemblages. This range of species included sedge (*Carex* sp.), club rush (*Schoenoplectus lacustris*), bristle club-rush (*Isolepis setacea*) and branched bur-reed (*Sparganium erectum*).

The assemblage recovered from ditch L may be representative of dumped settlement waste material with the remains of sedges, club rushes and reeds possibly being indicative of bedding material. The remains recorded from ditch N however may be reflective of dispersed settlement waste material.

Molluscs

Small numbers of mollusc shells were recovered from these ditch sections. The assemblage recorded from ditch L comprised open country and intermediate species while that from ditch N included shells of open country, marsh and amphibious species. *Anisus leucostoma* is a species which favours areas of occasional flooding and desiccation.

Summary

These assemblages appear to be indicative of general settlement waste. There is an indication from the environmental remains that the local landscape was one of a well-established open environment with some damper areas, subject to seasonal flooding the vicinity. It is likely to reflect the exploitation of the local fen-side environment. It appears probable that some of the crops at least were grown on heavier clay soils. The environmental results from this site add to the wider picture of the nature of the local settlements and landscape during this period.

Table 1 Palaeoenvironmental remains

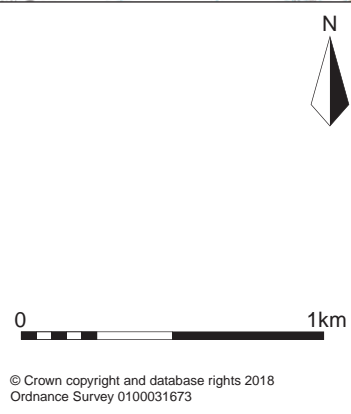
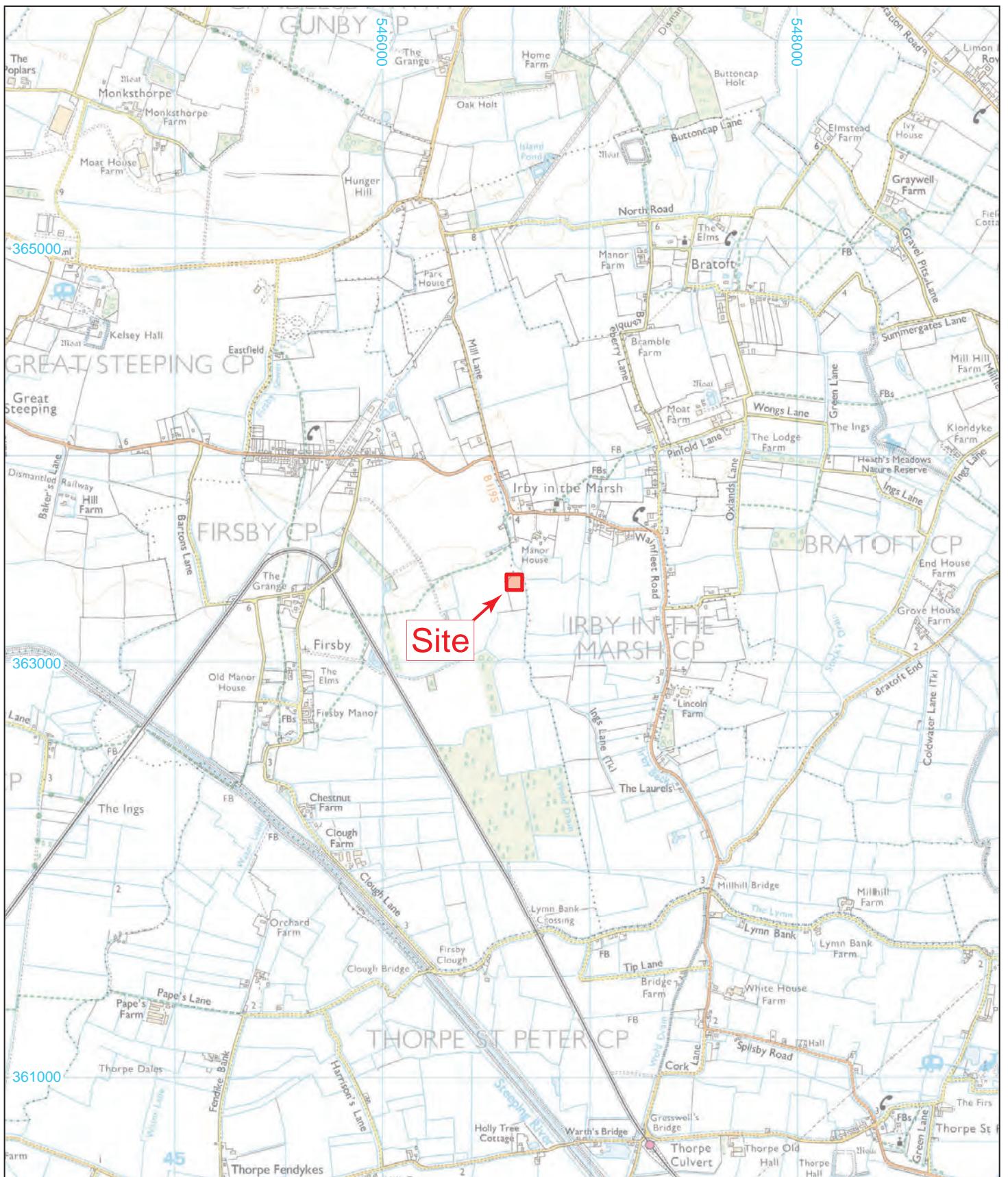
Period		1 - Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman	
		Ditch N	Ditch L
Feature Label			
Feature		2026	2022
Context		2027	2023
Sample		3	4
Vol (L)		35	40
Flot size (ml)		15	80
Roots %		60	40
Charred Plant Remains			
Cereals			
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L. <i>sl</i> (grain)	barley	6	42
<i>Triticum turgidum/aestivum</i> (grain)	free-threshing wheat	1	20
<i>Secale cereale</i> (grain)	rye		2
Cereal indet. (grains)	cereal	5	47
Cereal frags (culm node)	cereal		3
Other Species			
<i>Ranunculus</i> sp.	buttercup		2
<i>Persicaria lapathifolia/maculosa</i> (L.) Gray/Gray	pale persicaria/redshank		1
<i>Rumex</i> sp. L.	docks		3
<i>Brassica</i> sp. L.	brassica		3
<i>Vicia</i> L./ <i>Lathyrus</i> sp. L.	vetch/wild pea	1	20
<i>Vicia faba</i>	celtic bean		10
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L. (seeds)	stinking mayweed	1	8
<i>Schoenoplectus lacustris</i> Palla	club-rush	1	
<i>Isolepis setacea</i>	bristle club-rush		18
<i>Carex</i> sp. L. trigonous	sedge trigonous seed	2	7
<i>Lolium/Festuca</i> sp. L.	rye-grass/fescue	1	
<i>Poa/Phleum</i> sp. L.	meadow grass/cat's-tails		2
<i>Avena</i> sp. L. (grain)	oat grain	1	13
<i>Avena</i> sp. L. (florete) cf. cultivated	oat spikelet		1
<i>Avena</i> L./ <i>Bromus</i> L. sp.	oat/brome grass	2	23
<i>Bromus</i> sp. L.	brome grass		2
<i>Sparganium erectum</i> L.	branched bur-reed		3
Monocot. Stem/rootlet frag		2	4
Parenchyma type material			*
Charcoal > 4/2mm		*/*	**/**
Molluscs			
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>	open country		2
<i>Vertigo</i> sp.	open country	1	1
<i>Vallonia costata</i>	open country		2
<i>Vallonia excentrica</i>	open country	1	4
<i>Vallonia</i> sp.	open country	1	
<i>Cochlicopa lubrica</i>	intermediate (land)		1
<i>Succinea/Oxyloma</i> sp.	marsh	2	
<i>Anisus leucostoma</i>	amphibious	3	
<i>Planorbis planorbis</i>	intermediate (aquatic)	1	

Key: * = 1–4 items; ** = 5–19 items; *** = 20–49 items; **** = 50–99 items; ***** = >100 items,

APPENDIX E: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Manor Farm, Wainfleet Road, Irby in the Marsh, Lincolnshire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological strip, map and sample (SMS) exercise was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2018 on land at Manor Farm, Wainfleet Road, Irby in the Marsh, Lincolnshire. The SMS area targeted features identified during a previous evaluation of the site.</p> <p>The SMS identified a number of archaeological features associated with settlement within the immediate vicinity in the period between the late 9th and 11th centuries AD. The archaeological features comprised the ditches associated with small paddocks or stock pens and with larger fields which superseded them, as well as a number of pits.</p> <p>Finds from the Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman features included pottery, animal bone, ceramic building material, fired clay and a fragment of an iron knife or shears blade, as well as a small amount of flint, including residual pieces comprising a scraper and a flake. Of particular interest was the identification of a previously unrecognised fabric type within the ceramic assemblage.</p> <p>The fieldwork also identified a number of later features representing boundaries first depicted on the local tithe map dated to 1840.</p>	
Project dates	8-19 October 2019	
Project type	Strip, map and sample	
Previous work	Desk-based assessment (CA 2017a) Geophysical survey (Pre-Construct Geophysics 2017) Field evaluation (CA 2017b)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Manor Farm, Wainfleet Road, Irby in the Marsh, Lincolnshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.5625ha	
Site co-ordinates	546631 363381	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Mark Brett	
MONUMENT TYPE		
None		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
None		
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Lincolnshire Museum Service/LCNCC : 2017.172	Ceramics, animal bone, flint, shell, CBM, fired clay, metal
Paper	Lincolnshire Museum Service/LCNCC : 2017.172	Context registers, context sheets, photographic registers, drawing registers, sample registers, Permatrace drawings
Digital	Lincolnshire Museum Service/LCNCC : 2017.172	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 *Land at Manor Farm, Wainfleet Road, Irby in the Marsh, Lincolnshire: Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample*. CA typescript report **18553**



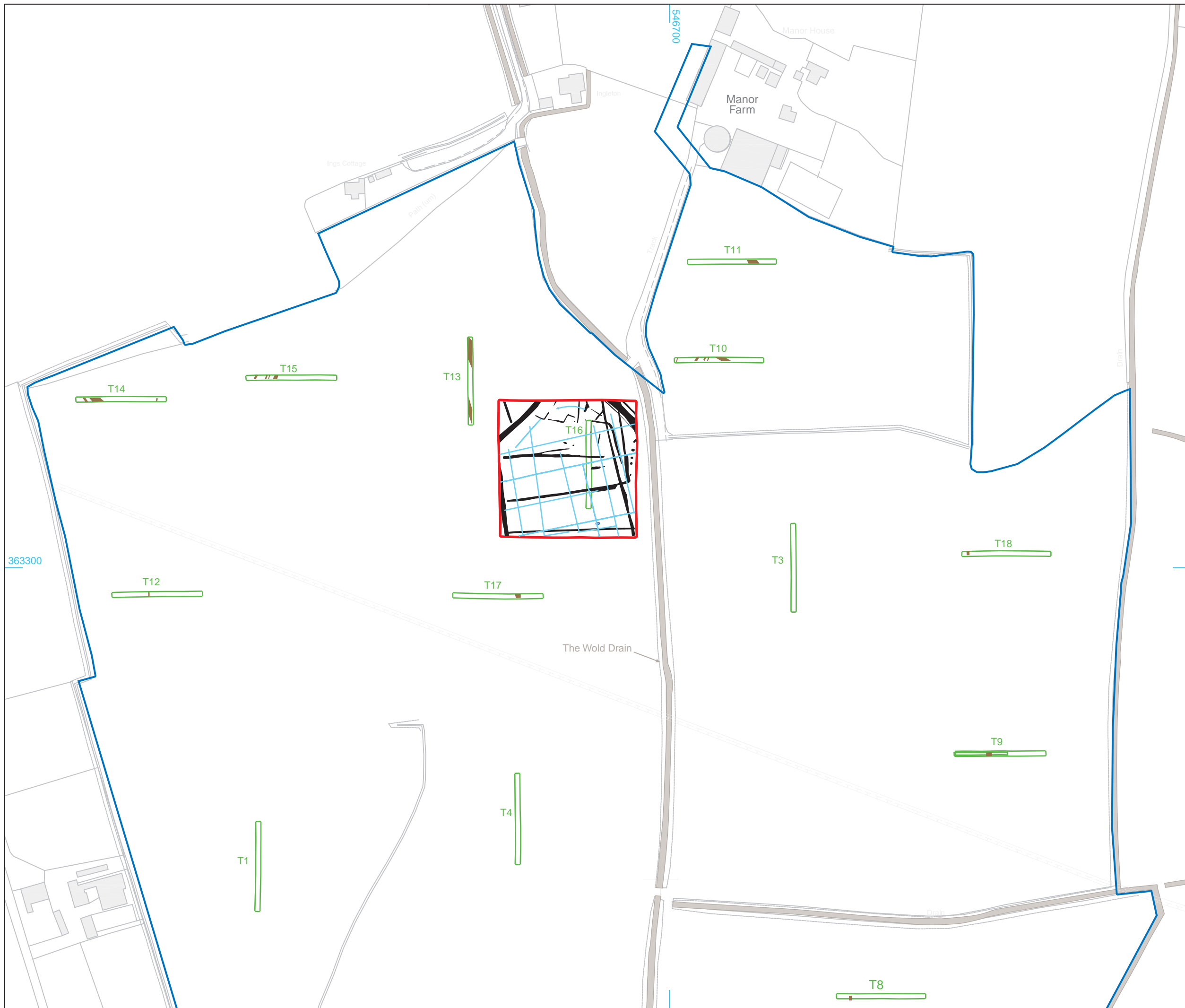

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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Manor Farm, Irby in the Marsh,
 Lincolnshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY	AW	PROJECT NO.	660990	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	05.11.18	1
APPROVED BY	MB	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	

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- Site boundary
- Cut feature
- Field drain
- Previous evaluation area
- Previous evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature from previous evaluation trench



Mapping supplied by client

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PROJECT TITLE
Land at Manor Farm, Irby in the Marsh, Lincolnshire

FIGURE TITLE
Plan of SMS area and previous evaluation trenches, showing archaeological features

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CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 07.11.2018	
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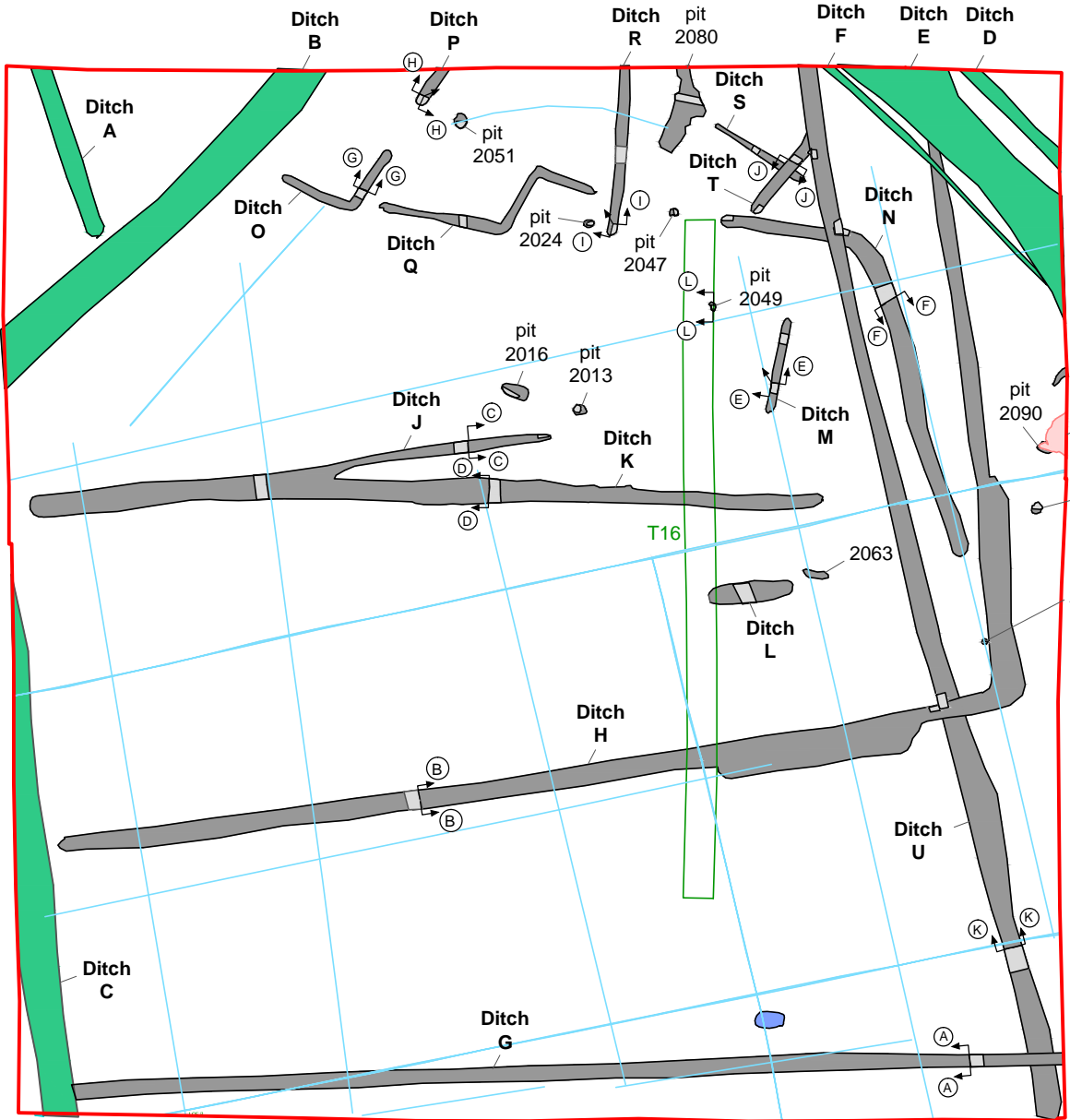
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363400

T13

546650

T10



- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Cut feature (un/excavated)
- Post-medieval/modern (Ditches A-F)
- Modern pit
- Drain
- Field drain
- Tree-throw pit
- Section location



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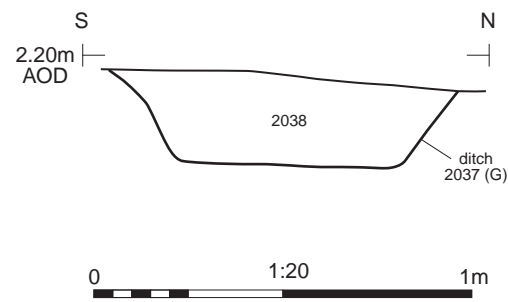
PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Manor Farm, Irby in the Marsh,
 Lincolnshire

FIGURE TITLE
**Plan of SMS area and previous
 evaluation trenches, showing
 archaeological features**

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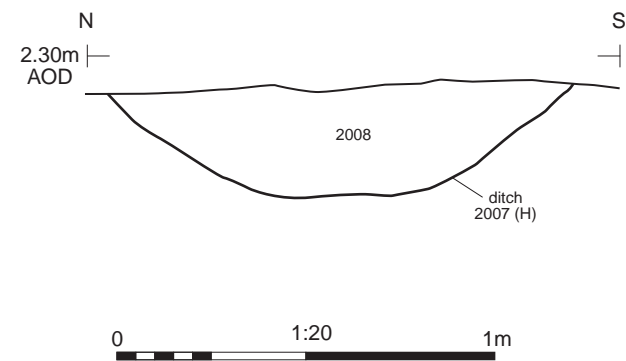


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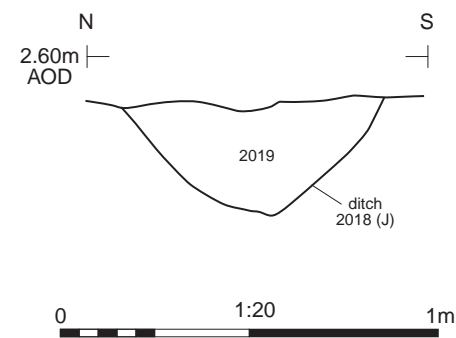


East facing section of ditch G, looking west (scale 0.5m)

Section BB



Section CC




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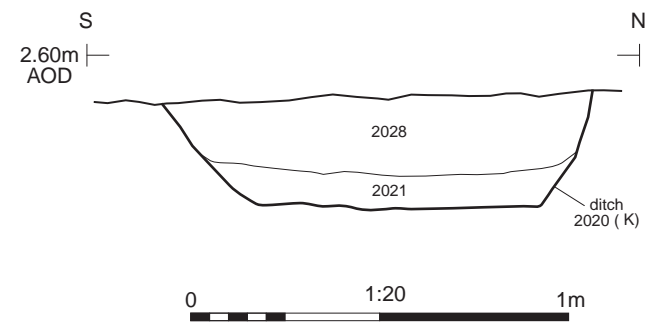
PROJECT TITLE
**Land at Manor Farm, Irby in the Marsh,
 Lincolnshire**

FIGURE TITLE
Sections and Photograph

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APPROVED BY	MB	SCALE@A3	1:20	

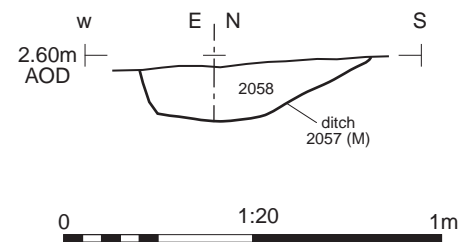


Section DD



East facing section of ditch K, looking west (scale 1m)

Section EE



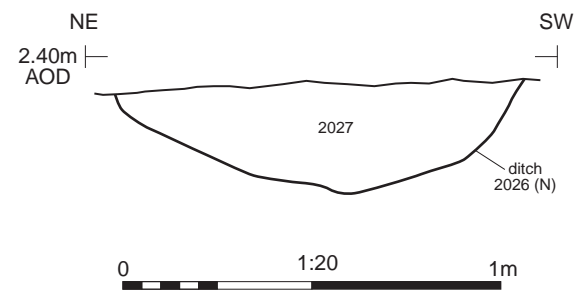
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PROJECT TITLE
Land at Manor Farm, Irby in the Marsh,
Lincolnshire

FIGURE TITLE
Sections and Photograph

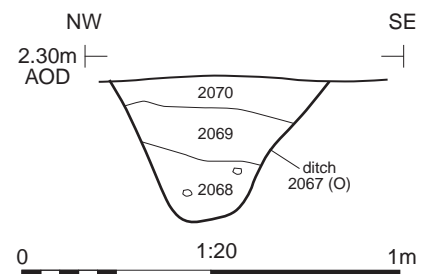
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Section FF



North-west facing section of ditch N, looking south-east (scale 1m)

Section GG



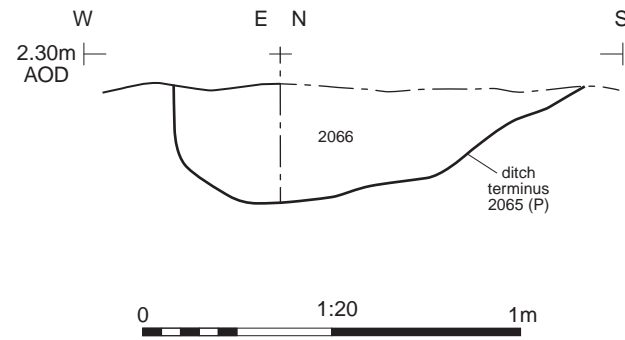
South-west facing section of ditch O, looking north-east (scale 0.5m)


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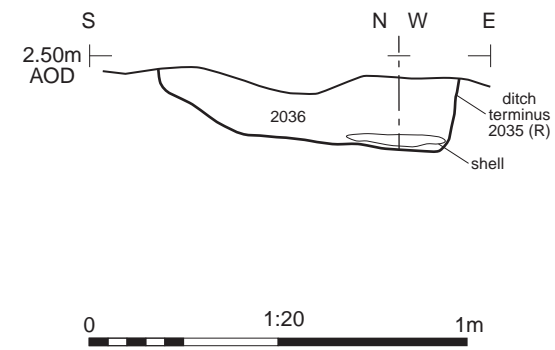
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 Land at Manor Farm, Irby in the Marsh,
 Lincolnshire

FIGURE TITLE
Sections and Photographs

Section HH



Section II

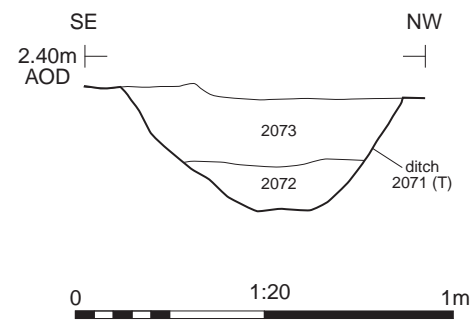


Terminus of ditch P, looking north-east (scale 0.4m)



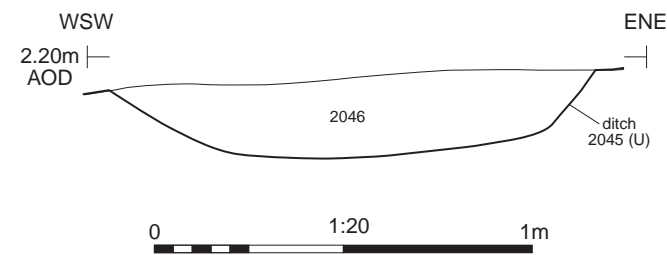
Terminus of ditch R, looking north (scale 0.4m)

Section JJ



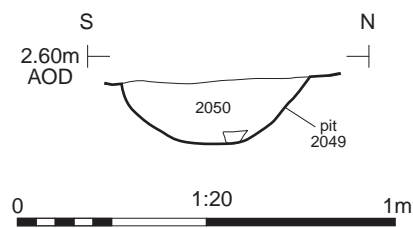
North-east facing section of ditch T, looking south-west (scale 0.5m)

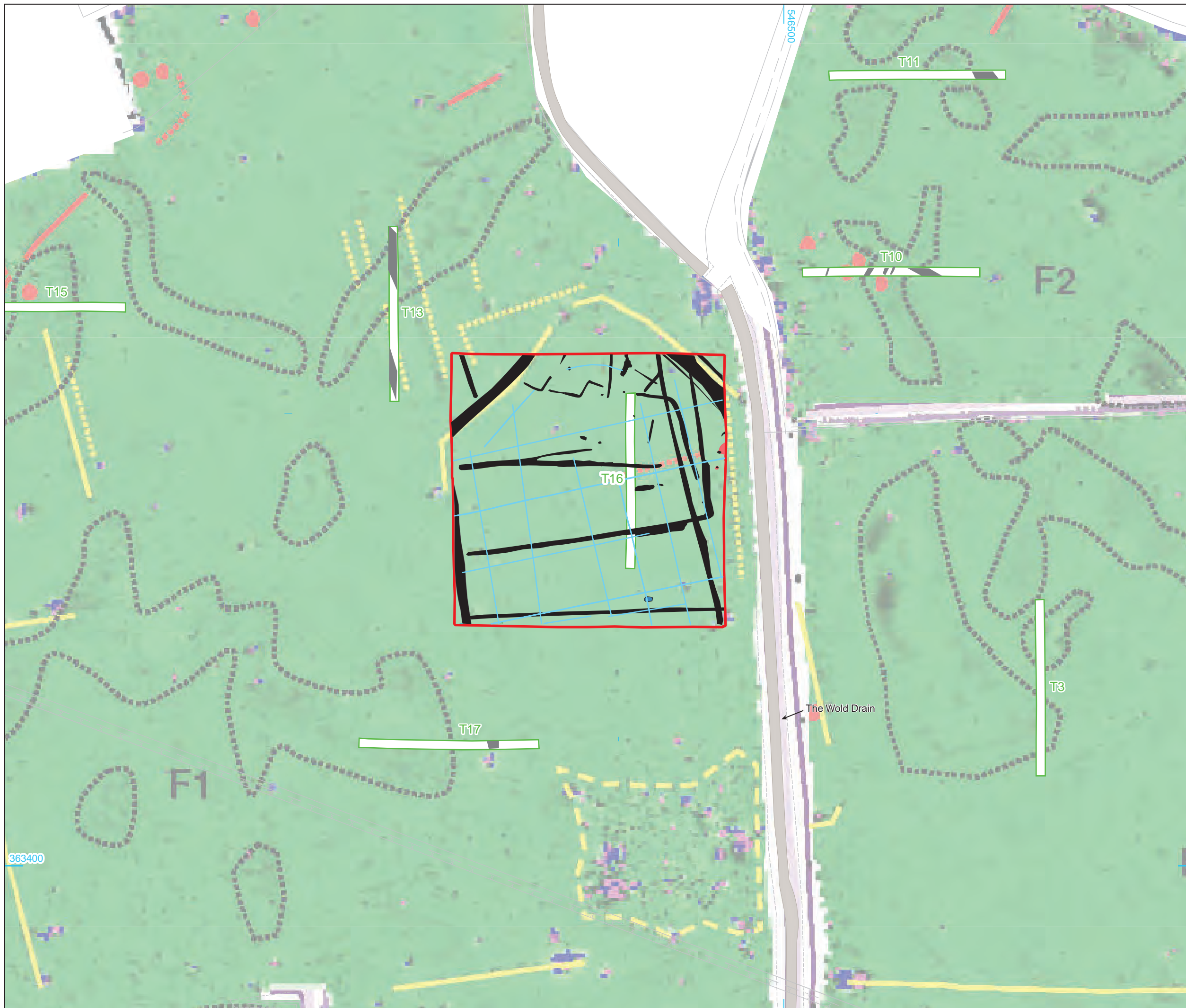
Section KK



East facing section of pit 2049, looking west (scale 0.40m)

Section LL

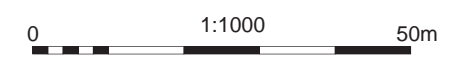




- Site boundary
- Cut feature
- Tree-throw pit
- Modern
- The Wold Drain
- Field drain
- Previous evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature from previous evaluation trench

Geophysical Survey
(Pre-Construct Geophysics Ltd. 2017)

- > Predominately modern (rubble, metal objects/fencing etc)
- Predominately natural, although archaeological remains typically produce weak magnetic anomalies within this range (e.g. ditches/pits). Exceptions include fired material (e.g. tile/pottery, kilns, hearths and other sites subject to intense heat).
- < Predominately modern (rubble, metal objects/fencing etc)
- Potential archaeology
- Recent field boundary (historic O.S)
- Potential recent agricultural, including R & F
- Potential structural remains of uncertain origin



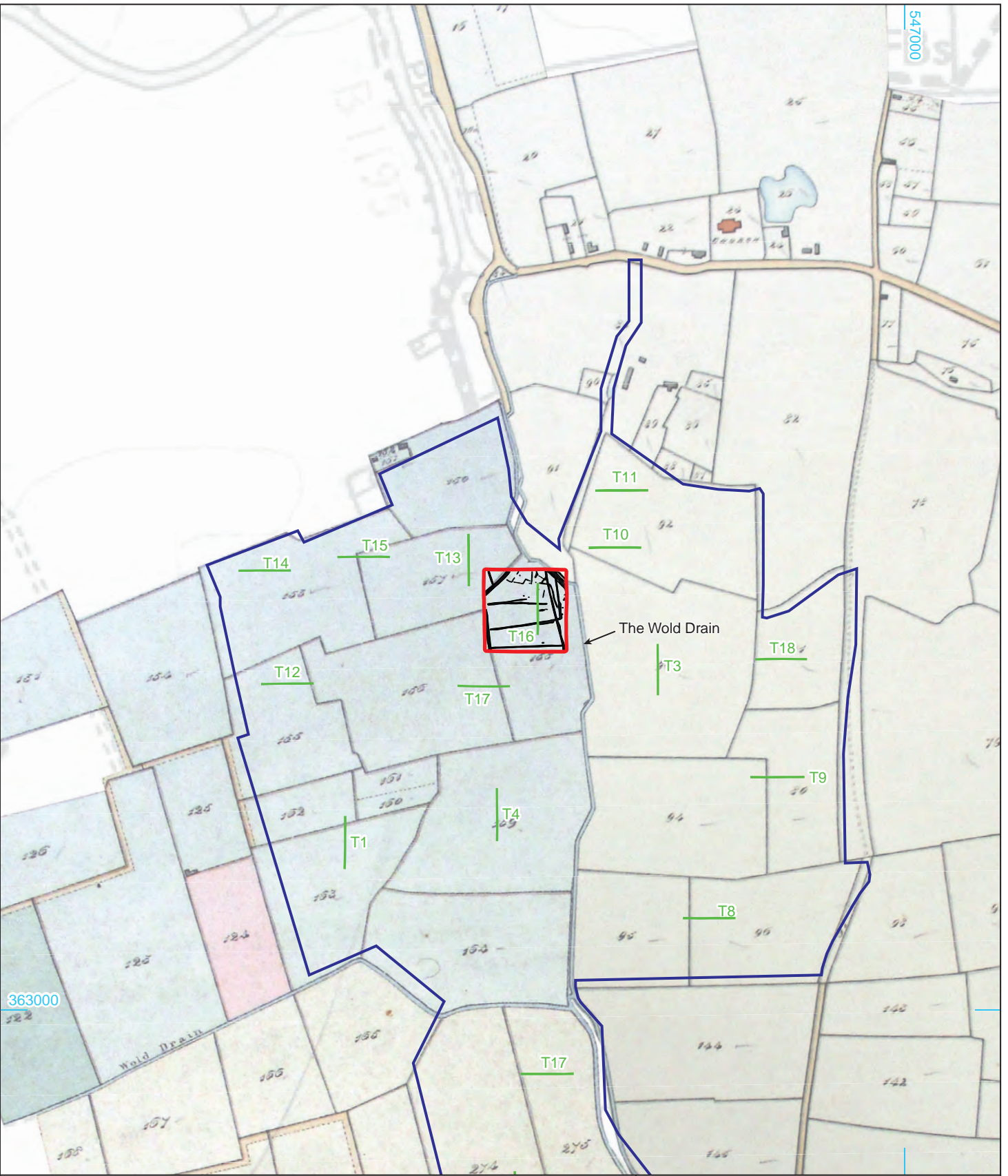
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PROJECT TITLE
Land at Manor Farm, Irby in the Marsh, Lincolnshire

FIGURE TITLE
Plan of SMS area and previous evaluation trenches, showing geophysical anomalies and archaeological features

<small>DRAWN BY</small> AW	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> 660990	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> DJB	<small>DATE</small> 07.11.18	9
<small>APPROVED BY</small> MB	<small>SCALE @A3</small> 1:1000	



- Site boundary
- Cut feature
- Previous evaluation area
- Previous evaluation trench



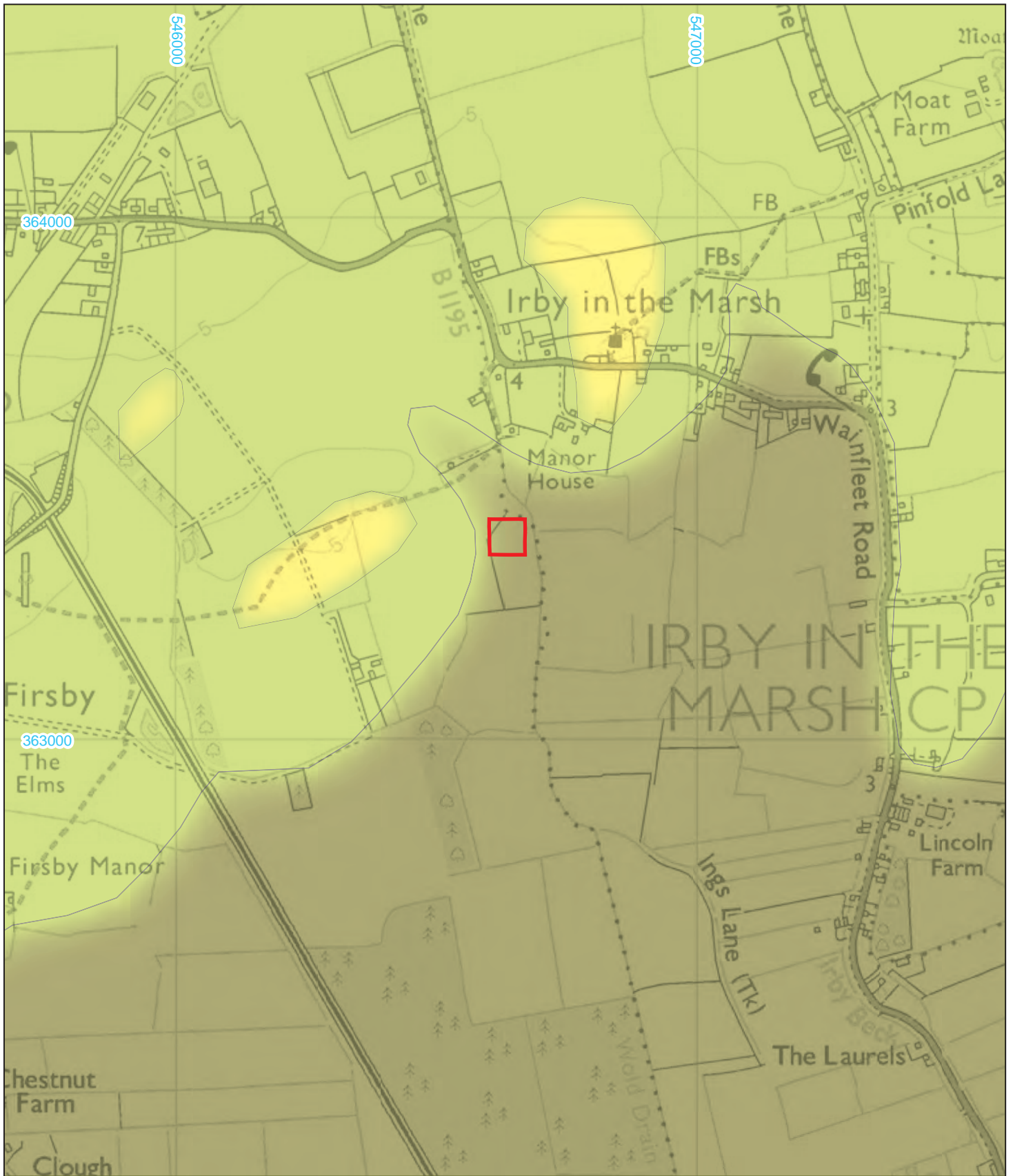
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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Manor Farm, Irby in the Marsh,
 Lincolnshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Plan of SMS area and previous
 evaluation trenches, showing historical
 mapping and archaeological features






DRAWN BY	AW	PROJECT NO.	660990	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	05.11.18	10
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 Site boundary

Geology

-  Glaciofluvial
-  Tidal flat deposits
-  Till



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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Manor Farm, Irby in the Marsh,
 Lincolnshire

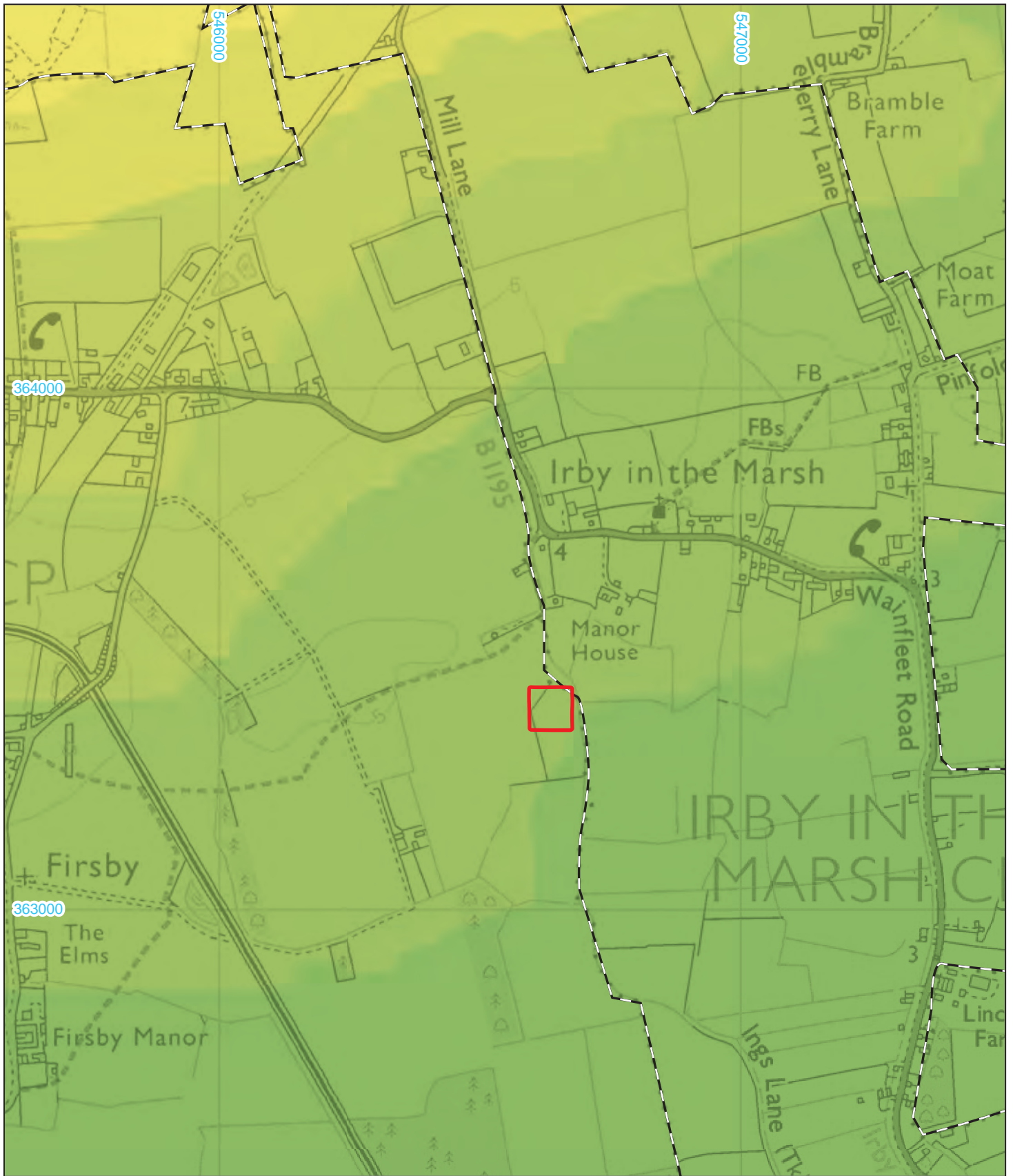
FIGURE TITLE

Underlying Geology

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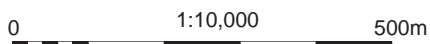
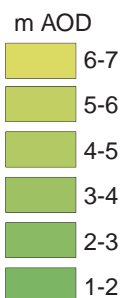
FIGURE NO.

11



Site boundary
Parish boundary

Topography:



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Land at Manor Farm, Irby in the Marsh,
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FIGURE TITLE

Site topography

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FIGURE NO.

12

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