

*Wessex Archaeology*

# Land to the south and east of Mill House, Brayford Wharf North Lincoln

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Ref: 54468

*September 2003*

**LAND TO THE SOUTH AND EAST OF MILL HOUSE  
BRAYFORD WHARF NORTH, LINCOLN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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**LAND TO THE SOUTH AND EAST OF MILL HOUSE  
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Hamilton Associates (The Client) to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Land to the south and east of Mill House, Brayford Wharf North, Lincoln (NGR 497069 371293).

The archaeological evaluation consisting of one machine excavated trench, was undertaken between the 30<sup>th</sup> of September and the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2003.

The trench was excavated initially to 5m x 2m in plan to a depth of 1.20m, scanned and recorded then doubled in size, a further probe with the machine was undertaken in the eastern half of the trench. No dated archaeological deposits were recorded and the water table was reached in the trench at a depth of c1.30m

The sequence of deposition within the trench was modern in date consisting of crushed limestone and brick rubble overlying concrete, in turn overlying a further deposit of brick rubble and modern debris within a black silty clay recorded to a depth of 1.20m. A Victorian culvert drain was recorded in the south-eastern corner of the trench at approximately 0.40m below the ground surface. This substantial structure was left *in situ*. This sequence of deposition within the trench indicated that the potential survival of archaeological deposits is low, although there is the possibility that further archaeological deposits may be encountered below the current water table.

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**Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Hamilton Associates and Wessex Archaeology gratefully acknowledges their assistance. Wessex Archaeology would also like to acknowledge the assistance and co-operation of Mr. Mick Jones, Lincoln City Archaeologist.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Lawrence Pontin, the fieldwork was carried out by Angela Batt and Robert De'Athe. This report was compiled by Angela Batt. Finds analysis was undertaken by Lorraine Mephram. The illustrations were produced by Rob Goller.

**LAND TO THE SOUTH AND EAST OF MILL HOUSE  
BRAYFORD WHARF NORTH, LINCOLN**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 Project Background**

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Hamilton Associates (The Client) to undertake an archaeological evaluation at land south and east of Mill House, Brayford Wharf North Lincoln (hereafter 'the Site') centred on NGR 497069 371293. The evaluation was required in support of a planning application to develop the site.
- 1.1.2 The project design (Wessex Archaeology, September 2003) was set out in compliance with a "Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation of Land to the south and east of Mill House, Brayford Wharf North, Lincoln" (the Site) issued by the Heritage Team of the Department of Planning, City of Lincoln.
- 1.1.3 The archaeological evaluation consisting of one trench was undertaken between the 30<sup>th</sup> of September and the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2003.

**1.2 Site Location, Geology and Topography**

- 1.2.1 The Site is approximately 0.16ha in area, lies adjacent to the Mill House on the north side of Brayford Wharf North which is north again of Brayford Pool and to the west of the historical core of the City of Lincoln (Fig. 1).
- 1.2.2 The Site comprises open level ground with an elevation of c5m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The area is surrounded by buildings and a chain link fence. Its surface consists of crushed hardcore material.
- 1.2.3 The underlying geology comprises mainly Limestone uplands overlain by Holocene alluvial deposits.

**1.3 Planning Background**

- 1.3.1 The evaluation was required in support of a planning application to develop the Site. It is proposed that a building linked to the adjacent Mill House will be constructed on piled foundations without a basement.
- 1.3.2 The requirement for the archaeological evaluation stemmed from the Site's location within an area of potential archaeological importance (details below) as considered by the Heritage Team of the Planning Department, City of Lincoln.

## **2      ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

2.1.1    The “Brief” considered the Site to potentially possess archaeological deposits that would inform upon the following potential research agendas:

- Prehistoric Era: (-10000 – 60); Limestone Uplands
- Prehistoric Era: (-10000 – 60); Valley Floor Deposits
- Roman Military Era (60-90); Valley floor Deposits
- Roman Colonial Era (60-90); Riparian Deposits
- Early Medieval Era (410-850); Riparian Deposits
- Early Medieval Era (410-850); Central elements of former Roman city and Roman Network
- High Medieval Era (850-1350); Housing in Newland suburb
- High Medieval Era (850-1350); Wetlands
- High Medieval Era (850-1350); Common “diggings” in the cliff faces north-west and south of the city
- Early Modern Era (1350-1750); The Wetlands
- Early Modern Era (1350-1750); Housing in Newland Suburb
- Early Modern Era (1350-1750); Common quarries in the cliff faces north-west and south of the city
- Industrial Era (1750-1945); Brayford’s northern waterside
- Industrial Era (1750-1945); Food processing industries and brewing industry

2.1.2    The Site was partially occupied by a mill, malthouse and smithy during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and 20<sup>th</sup> century before its closure in 1973 and subsequent demolition (City of Lincoln Industrial Monument 5171 – Hovis Mill).

### **3 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Aims and Objectives**

- 3.1.1 The objective of the evaluation was to establish and record the presence and nature of any archaeological remains that may survive beneath present ground surface associated with human occupation and activity adjacent to Brayford Pool.

#### **3.2 Methodology**

- 3.2.1 Before excavation began, the trench location was scanned with a cable avoidance tool (CAT) to check for the existence of underlying services.
- 3.2.2 The fieldwork strategy comprised the excavation of one trench within the Site. This was placed in an area shown to have not been occupied by Mill buildings on the Ordnance Survey Map of 1884 (as kindly supplied by the Mick Jones of the Heritage Team). The trench was initially 5m x 2m in plan and with the intention to excavate to important archaeological horizons or to a depth of 1.2m whichever was the lesser. The dimensions of the trench were subsequently doubled as the initial trench did not locate potential archaeological deposits. This allowed for the potential location of presumed 19<sup>th</sup> century foundations from the previous mill thought to be still present on the Site and to further locate archaeological deposits. Probing for archaeological deposits to a depth greater than 1.2m was done by machine only.
- 3.2.3 In total a trench of 5m x 4m was excavated to a depth of 1.40m where the natural water table was encountered.
- 3.2.4 Excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision using a JCB equipped with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket. The trench was excavated in spits where possible to a depth of 1.20m initially, later probing extended to 1.40m. The compacted overburden and concrete present in the first metre of the trench meant the JCB used a toothed bucket to remove the majority of the modern deposits.
- 3.2.5 All archaeological features, horizons and natural deposits encountered were fully recorded on Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's guidelines for fieldwork recording (Wessex Archaeology 1994). A full photographic (both 35mm black and white and colour transparencies, and digital) and graphic record were kept, the site drawings at an appropriate scale, typically 1:10 for sections and 1:20 for plans.
- 3.2.6 Provision was made for bulk sampling from appropriate archaeological deposits for artefactual, economic and environmental data. The overburden was scanned for artefacts using a metal detector.
- 3.2.7 All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at work etc. Act 1974 and the management of Health and Safety Regulation 1992, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time. Wessex Archaeology supplied a copy of their Health and Safety Policy, a site specific Health & Safety Method Statement and a Risk Assessment to the Client before the commencement of the fieldwork



## 4 RESULTS

- 4.1.1 The results set out in this report represent a synthesis of the principal archaeological horizons investigated. Although a number of contexts were identified and recorded, no cut features were present in the evaluation trench. The single standing brick feature was the remnants of a 19<sup>th</sup> century drain (Fig.2). A summary of the deposits can be found in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.1.2 The natural geological deposits were not reached in the trench, modern overburden and compacted material was excavated to a depth of 1.20m a cleaner sandy deposit was noted below this in the northern half of the trench below this level, although this deposit remains undated.
- 4.1.3 The sequence of deposition is mainly modern in origin, **Table 1** summarises the sequence;

**Table 1: Generalised Sequence of Deposits**

Depth Below Ground Level	Description
0-0.42m	Compacted Overburden
0.42-0.50m	Concrete
0.50-1.30m	Clay layer with modern debris
1.30m+	Black silty clay
1.40m+	Light brown sand
0.42-1.20m	Brick drain

- 4.1.4 Finds were retrieved from deposit **103** in the trench; these are described in the **Finds** section.

## **5 FINDS**

- 5.1 The finds recovered from modern deposit **103** comprise four pieces of animal bone (cattle skull and rib), one sherd of pottery, one small wooden peg (length 150 mm), a small fragment of a metal disc (probably copper alloy) of uncertain function, and a periwinkle shell.
- 5.2 Of these, the only datable item is the pottery sherd. This is a base angle in a hard-fired, well sorted shelly fabric, with a burnt residue on the internal surface; such fabrics had a lengthy currency in Lincoln from the late 9<sup>th</sup> century through to the early 13<sup>th</sup> century, and this is not a chronologically distinctive form.

## **6 DISCUSSION**

### **6.1 Interpretation of Results**

- 6.1.1 The depth of modern compacted overburden within the trench means it is probable that archaeological deposits pre-dating the Victorian period have not survived above the water table. Below this a clearer silty deposit was encountered in the north-western half of the trench, it remains undated and un-sampled because of the high water table.
- 6.1.2 It seems certain that any surviving deposits that predate the 19<sup>th</sup> century are at some depth given the quantity of modern compacted debris and the drainage system found within the trench. Any potential development impact on archaeological remains would probably be restricted to the location of piled foundations. The need for and scale of mitigation for such limited impact will now need to be considered by Heritage Team of the Planning Department, City of Lincoln.

## **7 PROJECT ARCHIVE**

- 7.1.1 The evaluation archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology under the site code 54468. In due course it will be deposited the City and County Museum of Lincoln.
- 7.1.2 The archive consists of
- A copy of this report
  - A copy of the project specification
  - The day book
  - Trench record sheets
  - Graphics index and drawings
  - Photographic index, black and white contact sheets and colour slides
  - Levels and survey data
  - Finds data
  - Finds

## **8 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Wessex Archaeology (2003) *Land To The South and East Of Mill House, Brayford Wharf North, Lincoln; Specification For An Archaeological Evaluation* (Document Reference 54468)

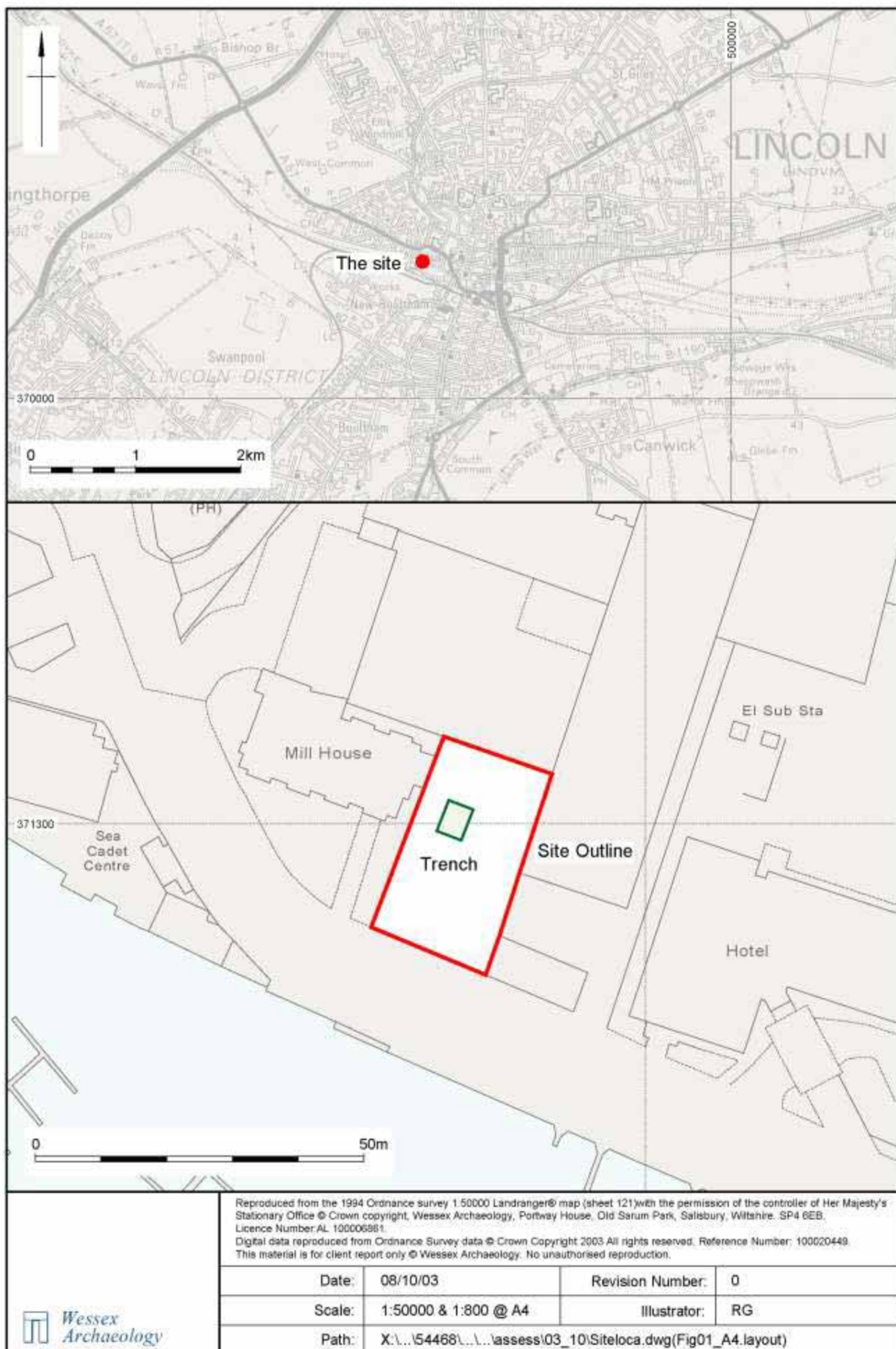
## Appendix 1: Trench Summaries

(All depths are below Ground Level)

The order in which the deposits are listed reflects their stratigraphic position, except where noted.

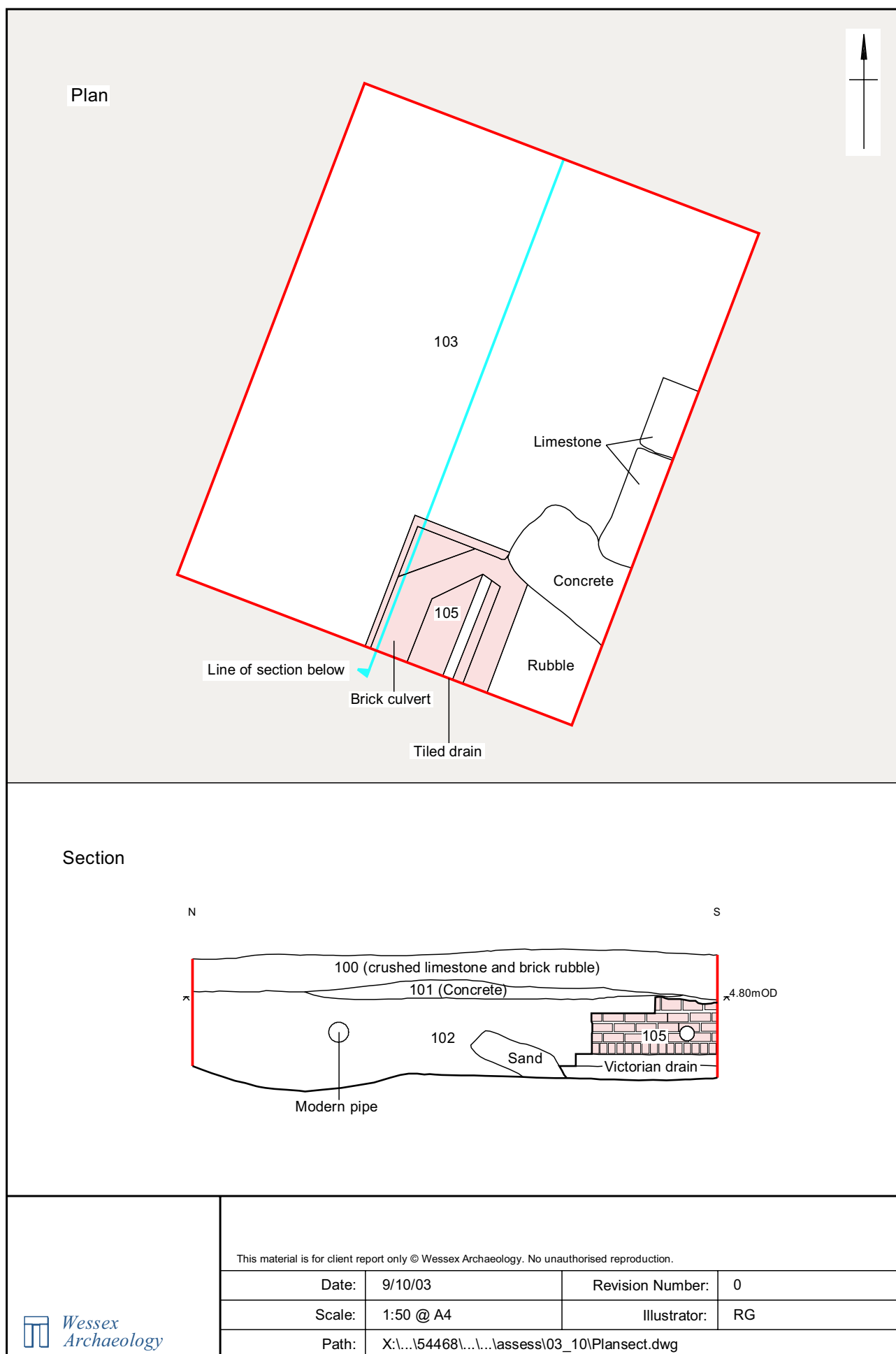
\*= Layer containing finds

<b>Trench 1</b>		Max depth: 1.40m	Length: 5m	Width: 4m
Ground Level		5.36m aOD		
No.	Type	Description	Depth	
<b>100</b>	Hard Core	Compacted hardcore of crushed limestone and brick	0-0.42m	
<b>101</b>	Concrete	Concrete layer broken in places does not extend full width of trench	0.42-0.50m	
<b>102</b>	Modern Layer	Mixed layer containing modern brick rubble and sand, all within a dark black brown silty clay matrix	0.50-1.30m	
<b>103 *</b>	Modern Layer	Black silty clay layer contains brick rubble is less quantities than <b>102</b> peaty patches located at northern end of trench. Animal bone and pottery retrieved from this layer.	1.30m+	
<b>104</b>	Sandy Layer	Light brown sand layer with lenses of peaty material only visible in north east corner of trench	1.40m+	
<b>105</b>	Victorian drain	Victorian brick built culvert. 7 courses of brick identified lies below concrete layer <b>101</b> in southern half of trench. Lowest two courses of brick form foundations.	0.42-1.20m	



Site and trench location

Figure 1



Trench plan and section

Figure 2



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