



## Blackhills Farm and The Hollys Wickenby, Lincolnshire

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results



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**Blackhills Farm and The Hollys, Wickenby, Lincolnshire**

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# **Blackhills Farm and The Hollys, Wickenby, Lincolnshire**

## **Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results**

### **Summary**

In May 2007 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at the site of Blackhills Farm and The Hollys in Wickenby, Lincolnshire (NGR 509500 383400). An evaluation comprising eight trenches confirmed the density of Iron Age and Romano-British activity on the Site. Geophysical evidence suggested three main phases of use on three separate alignments.

The earliest activity appeared to comprise a number of penannular ditch structures and a north-west – south-east alignment of linear boundaries, thought to be Late Iron Age or early Romano-British in date. Two further alignments of rectangular enclosures and possible trackways, thought to be Romano-British in date, although of uncertain chronological relationship to each other, were also seen. As the area of the Site was extensive much was unexcavated, but interventions were placed into a number of ditches and pits and dating from the Romano-British period.

Traces of medieval ridge and furrow ploughing were visible in several trenches, cutting across the Iron Age and Romano-British alignments and in many cases obscuring the earlier archaeology.

Only a small area of the site was excavated, and the quantity of finds recovered was small; the chronological sequence, therefore, remains somewhat tentative.

# **Blackhills Farm and The Hollys, Wickenby, Lincolnshire**

## **Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results**

### **Acknowledgements**

This programme of post-excavation and assessment work was commissioned and funded by Videotext Communications Ltd, and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank the staff at Videotext, and in particular Michael Douglas (Series Editor), Melinda Corkery (Production Manager), James Franklin (Assistant Producer), Ben Knappett (Researcher) and Emily Woodburn (Production Coordinator) for their considerable help during the recording and post-excavation work.

The geophysical survey was undertaken by John Gater, Matt Brolly and Emma Wood of GSB Propection. The field survey was undertaken by Henry Chapman, University of Birmingham and landscape survey and map regression was undertaken by Stewart Ainsworth of English Heritage. The excavation strategy was devised by Francis Pryor. The on-site recording was co-ordinated by Naomi Hall, and on-site finds processing was carried out by Laura Catlin, both of Wessex Archaeology.

The excavations were undertaken by Time Team's retained archaeologists, Phil Harding (Wessex Archaeology), Tracey Smith, Ian Powlesland, Faye Simpson and Matt Williams assisted by Andy Failes, Bob Garland, Chris Moulis, Maria Gale, Mary Newgent and Steve Williams. The metal detector survey was carried out by Keith Kelway and Ken Toyne.

The archive was collated and all post-excavation assessment and analysis undertaken by Wessex Archaeology. This report was compiled by Naomi Hall with specialist reports prepared by Rob Perrin (finds) and Chris J. Stevens (palaeo-environmental). The illustrations were prepared by Kenneth Lymer. The post-excavation project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Lorraine Mepham.

The work benefited from discussion on site with Phil Harding. Wessex would like to thank Chris Clay (of Allen Archaeological Associates) and Pre-Construct Geophysics for providing information for the report.

Finally thanks are extended to Sam Herring and Mr and Mrs Doughty for allowing access to the Site for geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation.

# **Blackhills Farm and The Hollys, Wickenby, Lincolnshire**

## **Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results**

### **1 BACKGROUND**

#### **1.1 Introduction**

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Videotext Communications Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological recording and post-excavation work on an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at the site of Blackhills Farm and The Hollys Farm in Wickenby and Lissington, Lincolnshire (hereafter the 'Site') (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 This report documents the results of archaeological survey and evaluation undertaken by Time Team, and presents an assessment of the results of these works.

#### **1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology**

1.2.1 The Site consisted of land from the two adjacent farms of Blackhills and The Hollys, centred on NGR 509400 383400, and is located approximately 15km north-east of Lincoln. The Site itself is divided between the parishes of Wickenby and Lissington with the westernmost field lying in the parish of Wickenby and the easternmost field in the parish of Lissington. The Site is situated on a gentle slope with the ground rising to the north-west.

1.2.2 The Site comprises three fields currently under plough, which form a north-west – south-east aligned block that rises from the south to the north. The two fields comprise an area of approximately 0.21km<sup>2</sup>. The underlying geology is Carboniferous Limestone (Geological Survey of Great Britain and Wales, sheet 102).

#### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

##### *Prehistoric*

1.3.1 Near Buslingthorpe, some 2.6km to the north-west of the Site, a Bronze Age bowl barrow (Scheduled Monument no. 29744) is situated. The barrow is about 15m in diameter and still stands to a height of about 1.3m. There is also a possible barrow cemetery (LSMR no. 50719) 2.4km to the south-west of the Site.

1.3.2 A perforated stone hammer or macehead (findspot 53213) was found just to the south-west of the Site beyond the southern boundary of the field, and a number of other prehistoric artefacts have been found in the area.

1.3.3 A prehistoric settlement lies approximately 5km to the south-west of the site (LSMR no. 53183).

- 1.3.4 During the Iron Age the region was under the control of a group of peoples known as the *Corieltauvi* with their principal urban centres at *Lindum* (Lincoln) and *Ratae* (Leicester) (May 2001, 12). Regular issues of coinage from the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC seem to indicate a period of stability and prosperity.

*Romano-British*

- 1.3.5 The evidence is that there was a continuity of occupation in many towns and villages from the Iron Age through the Roman period (Whitwell 2001, 14). Lincoln (*Lindum Colonia*) became the location of a legionary fortress and the only chartered town in the county (Whitwell 2001, 14).

- 1.3.6 On the south-western outskirts of Lissington a possible iron working site has been identified (LSMR 53240) and 4.5km to the north-west of the Site is a Roman kiln site (LSMR 5393). There are also several recorded artefact scatters of Romano-British pottery listed within the parishes of Lissington and Wickenby.

*Anglo-Scandinavian*

- 1.3.7 Archaeological evidence indicates that many of the present day nucleated settlements of Lincolnshire have their origins in the Anglo-Scandinavian period (Vince 2001, 22). The system of parish divisions seems to pre-date the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> century and may even reflect a pre-Viking administration.

- 1.3.8 Wickenby is listed as ‘Wighingesbi’ and the associated hamlet of Westlaby is listed as ‘Westledebi’ in the Domesday Book of 1086; both place-names have an Old Scandinavian origin (Cameron 1985, 137-8).

*Medieval*

- 1.3.9 Lissington is listed as ‘Lessintone’ in Domesday, a name which is Old English in its derivation (Cameron 1985, 81).

- 1.3.10 Earthworks within the village of Wickenby suggest that Manor House is on the site of a moated manorial block listed in the Domesday survey (Everson *et al.* 1991, 216-8). A monastic grange was held by the Cistercian Abbey of Kirkstead at Westlaby (Page 1906, 135-8).

## **1.4 Previous Archaeological Work**

- 1.4.1 A metal detector survey undertaken by Keith Kelway over one and a half years retrieved over 300 artefacts, not all metallic, ranging in date from Neolithic to the present day, but dominated by Roman material (Videotext Communications 2007, 3-4). The area covered was larger than the Site (approximately 0.39km<sup>2</sup>) as it included fields to the south, with two find spots beyond Wickenby Road. Iron Age material includes five high value coins.

- 1.4.2 While the brooches from the metal detector survey mainly date from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD, the majority of the coins date from the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD, probably reflecting social and economic changes rather than changes in the function of the Site (A. Dawby pers. comm.). The high value Iron Age coins may represent votive offerings and the discovery of a bronze bull-headed

spout and a sceptre head in the form of Mars suggest ritual activity. The concentration of brooches and scrap copper may indicate a workshop on the Site (C. Clay pers. comm.).

- 1.4.3 Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincolnshire) (hereafter PCA) carried out a small evaluation in the western field in 2004. Five trenches were opened although one was unworkable due to the high water table. The four trenches excavated lay near the eastern field boundary.
- 1.4.4 All four trenches produced Romano-British material, mostly from the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD, although Iron Age material was recovered from one of the trenches (Videotext Communications 2007). Evidence of medieval ridge and furrow was also found (C. Clay pers. comm.).
- 1.4.5 The features encountered were pits, ditches and gullies. No definite structural remains were discovered but fragments of roof tile and box flue tile were found within some of the deposits suggesting a moderately high status Roman building in the vicinity. The fills of the features were all quite dark, with plenty of charcoal, but there was nothing to indicate that this wasn't from domestic hearths rather than industrial activity.
- 1.4.6 While the metal detector evidence suggests that there was ritual activity on the site in the Late Iron Age, the excavated and geophysical evidence appeared to be largely domestic in nature, with a whole series of intercutting enclosures, which shifted across the site over time (C. Clay pers. comm.). The wider landscape in the east Midlands saw a massive increase in settlement density from the very Late Iron Age into the Roman period, and this site reflects that change.

## **2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1.1 A project design for the work was compiled (Videotext Communications 2007), providing full details of the research aims and methods. A brief summary is provided here.
- 2.1.2 The aim of the project was to characterise the nature and date of the Site and place it within its historical, geographical and archaeological context. Broadly, the role that this area might have played as the hinterland of Roman Lincoln is of interest.
- 2.1.3 However, based on the previous work on the Site, of particular interest was the possibility of industrial activity, as well as the implications of the possible votive artefacts located by the metal detector survey.

### **3 METHODS**

#### **3.1 Geophysical Survey**

3.1.1 Prior to the excavation of evaluation trenches, a geophysical survey was carried out across the Site using a combination of resistance and magnetic survey. The survey grid was set out by Dr Henry Chapman and tied in to the Ordnance Survey grid using a Trimble real time differential GPS system.

#### **3.2 Landscape and Earthwork Survey**

3.2.1 A landscape survey and analysis of the cartographic evidence was undertaken by Stewart Ainsworth, Senior Investigator of the Archaeological Survey and Investigation Team, English Heritage. A summary of the findings are included here.

#### **3.3 Evaluation Trenches**

3.3.1 Eight trenches of varying sizes were excavated, their locations determined in order to investigate and to clarify geophysical anomalies (**Figure 1**).

3.3.2 The trenches were excavated using a combination of machine and hand digging. All machine trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision and ceased at the identification of significant archaeological remains, or at natural geology if this was encountered first. When machine excavation had ceased all trenches were cleaned by hand and archaeological deposits investigated.

3.3.3 At various stages during excavation the deposits were scanned by a metal detector and signals marked in order to facilitate investigation. The excavated up-cast was scanned by metal detector.

3.3.4 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. Trenches were located using a Trimble Real Time Differential GPS survey system. All archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:20 with sections drawn at 1:10. All principal strata and features were related to the Ordnance Survey datum.

3.3.5 A full photographic record of the investigations and individual features was maintained, utilising colour transparencies, black and white negatives (on 35mm film) and digital images. The photographic record illustrated both the detail and general context of the archaeology revealed and the Site as a whole.

3.3.6 At the completion of the work, all trenches were reinstated using the excavated soil.

3.3.7 A unique Site code (WIC 07) was issued prior to the commencement of works. The work was carried out on the 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> May 2007. The archive

and all artefacts were subsequently transported to the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury where they were processed and assessed for this report.

## **4 RESULTS**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 Details of individual excavated contexts and features, the full geophysical report (GSB 2007), the summary of the landscape and earthwork survey and details of artefactual and environmental assessments, are retained in the archive. Summaries of the excavated sequences can be found in **Appendix 1**.

### **4.2 Geophysical Survey**

4.2.1 Geophysical survey was carried out over a total area of 4.6 hectare using a magnetometer (**Figure 2**). Within this were three distinct survey areas. Area 1 comprises the largest area and was located within the western field. Area 2 was located within the triangular field to the north of this and Area 3 was located in the field beyond that, again to the north of Area 1.

#### *Area 1*

4.2.2 A number of linear features could be clearly seen, some apparently isolated while others form possible enclosures. Some may mark trackways. At least three different alignments could be seen which may reflect changing activity on the Site over time.

4.2.3 A large curving ditch (A) on the western limits of the survey may indicate an Iron Age boundary feature. A possible entranceway for this is seen at (B).

4.2.4 A clear response can be seen at (C), a ring-ditch over 15m in diameter. There are further examples of ring-ditches, or partial ring-ditches in the results, e.g. (D), (E) and (F). These suggest an Iron Age component to the site that could be seen as being associated with the postulated boundary (A).

4.2.5 A further type of anomaly can be seen at (G), (H), (I) and (J) and also elsewhere throughout the survey. These have the indication of an industrial component, such as ovens, furnaces or small kilns, but none are of a strength normally expected from substantial pottery or tile kilns. The sheer size of the feature at (G) will have given an 'industrial' response. Areas of increased magnetic response initially interpreted as possible waste material from (G), proved in the case of (K) to be a layer of burnt debris of uncertain origin. A similar response was noted on the earlier geophysics and proved on excavation to be modern material dumped in the field by the farmer. This may therefore account for these increased responses elsewhere in the results.

4.2.6 Indications of both ridge and furrow cultivation and modern ploughing are visible in the results. In places these have both clearly cut into the underlying archaeological deposits.

### *Area 2*

- 4.2.7 The decision to survey Area 2 was based on the premise that a former spring was located in this area. It transpired that the information about the spring was incorrect, although earlier watercourses may have flowed through the area. Magnetic survey only revealed a series of small ferrous anomalies and natural magnetic changes in the soil. There were no indications that the settlement extended into this field.

### *Area 3*

- 4.2.8 The pair of parallel anomalies (L) are thought to be associated with an earlier road that ran along the edge of this field identified in the landscape survey. A weak response at (M) may be a continuation of one of the ditch anomalies in Area 1.
- 4.2.9 The data from this area are dominated by ridge and furrow ploughing anomalies orientated in a north-south direction.

## **4.3 Landscape and Earthwork Survey**

- 4.3.1 Investigation was conducted to Level 2 standards (Ainsworth *et al.* 2007). Existing maps, plans and background documentary material provided as part of the project were used as the base for analysis.
- 4.3.2 The site is located on relatively flat ground, along a gentle east-west ridgeline. This is one of a number of such low ridges formed between a series of similarly oriented run-off valleys which emanate from the higher ground to the east. Thus the landscape, although appearing flat, comprises a series of gentle east-west oriented ridges and stream valleys.
- 4.3.3 The geophysical survey indicated a pattern of anomalies typical of a multi-period complex of probable Late Iron Age and early Roman period settlement. Surface examination of these two fields, however, revealed no significant archaeological earthworks. The geophysical anomalies broadly followed a north to south axis, which was contrary to the modern field pattern which is generally north-west to south-east, and were indicative of a number of phases. The hedgeline separating the two fields clearly cuts across the anomalies and is a much later imposition. Examination of the 1800 Brownlow map and the 1842 tithe map indicated the existence of a major roadway running along the east side of this hedgeline, which is also the parish boundary between Lissington and Wickenby parishes. By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, Ordnance Survey mapping (OS 25 inch, 1887) indicates that this road had been relegated to a field trackway. Overall, the road and field pattern that overlies the site falls into a pattern of regular enclosure and enclosure of former medieval strip fields associated with the villages of Wickenby and Lissington nearby. This is supported by evidence from aerial photography (RAF 1947) which shows extensive ridge and furrow ploughing of typical medieval form in many of the now enclosed fields in this area, and specifically in the western field of the survey area. There would appear to be no continuity between the historical road pattern and the trackway system evident in the geophysical survey.

- 4.3.4 The northern boundary of the western field surveyed is conspicuous by its erratic course and orientation compared to the other boundaries around. This line has clearly been influenced by the line of a former sinuous stream which can be traced running from the north, and which also carried the Wickenby-Lissington parish boundary. This appears to be a small tributary of the wider stream pattern noted above. The significance of this stream may be seen in that the orientation of the modern boundary at the north of the western survey field is similar to a number of features and general trends on the geophysical survey, showing that the layout of the western part of the settlement complex was clearly influenced by location of the stream, as well as potentially providing a source for water for animals and domestic use. Grant's map of 1827 shows also a road or track running alongside the north of this boundary, linking the road to the east noted earlier with the road alongside Wickenby Wood to the west. Within the western survey field, the earthworks of a now dry pond can be seen. This is not shown on the early 19<sup>th</sup> century maps noted above but is shown on later OS maps, being enlarged over a period of time and clearly has been fed by a diversion from this stream. Examination of the 1947 aerial photograph also shows that the pond has been cut through the medieval ridge and furrow and thus is a late feature and not part of the prehistoric and Roman settlement identified during the survey.
- 4.3.5 This former stream course (now in places barely a field drain) appears to have been a significant factor in the layout of the settlement, fields and paddocks detectable in the various phases in the geophysical survey and all broadly seem to reflect the orientation of this former topographic boundary. The southern boundary of the two survey fields is also formed by a stream course which runs east to west. The underlying topography of the overall stream pattern noted earlier, as well as having influenced the orientation of the settlement, may also have dictated the extent. It is possible that only a small proportion of the settlement may lie within the survey area, with this being on the southern fringes of a larger one straddling the ridge between two of the east-west stream valleys (which are only 1km apart), and along the line of tributary branch which flowed southwest off this ridge. The discovery of a concentration of Roman and Saxon finds to the south (Videotext Communications 2007) also suggests linear activity in a north - south direction. The limited size of the area surveyed geophysically does not clarify whether the site discovered lies at the core of a small nucleated settlement, or lies toward the southern end of a linear settlement which evolves and migrates through time, although the latter seems more likely from the available evidence.

#### **4.4 Evaluation Trenches**

##### *Introduction*

- 4.4.1 Six of the eight trenches were positioned in the western field with Trench 3 in the eastern field and Trench 4 in the northern field. The size and shape of the trenches varied to account for the varying targets that they were sited on and the archaeology subsequently uncovered. Trench 2 was situated nearest to the base of the slope at a height 22.44m aOD and Trench 3 occupied the highest position at a height of 23.51m aOD.

- 4.4.2 Between 0.20m and 0.34m of overlying plough soil and between 0.10m and 0.25m of subsoil was removed in each trench in order to expose the archaeological deposits. A boulder clay geology was found in all trenches.

*Trench 1 (Figure 3)*

- 4.4.3 Trench 1 was positioned over a concentration of metal finds identified by previous metal detector survey and adjacent to an identified hollow-way. This was thought to suggest high settlement potential within this area.
- 4.4.4 Stripping of the ploughsoil and subsoil revealed a number of small gullies and ditches. Three of these gullies (109), (111) and (118) were relatively shallow, (111) in particular being very ephemeral and truncated to the east rather than truly terminating. Gully (109) had a slightly meandering east – west alignment while (111) and (118), which were closely situated parallel to each other, were on a more south-east – north-west alignment. Although these features are likely to have been truncated, their shallow and gradually derived secondary fills suggests that these are drainage features. To the east (109) was cut by the north-west – south-east aligned plough furrow (131), and beyond this was gully (126), a likely continuation of (109) although slightly deeper and wider.
- 4.4.5 Another small gully (115), this time north-west – south-east aligned, could be seen emerging from the northern edge of the trench. Its alignment was markedly different from the other gullies and it was much more sharply defined with steep sides and a darker fill. At the very least this suggests that different material has been deposited in this feature, possibly as the result of different kind of activity. The dissimilar alignment suggests a potentially different date and the differences in profile indicate that this may not be a drainage feature; it could be a beam slot.
- 4.4.6 An intervention placed at the junction of north-east – south-west ditch (120) and the diffuse plough furrow (133) along the western edge of the trench showed the presence of another ditch (122) obscured by the plough furrow. The alignment of this ditch was either north-west – south-east terminating within the intervention and therefore obscured by the plough furrow, or it followed a similar course to (120) and was totally truncated by this later ditch. Again the continuity with an intervention further to the east is unproven due to plough furrow (131). However the characteristics seem to suggest that (120) is the same ditch as (122). In this eastern slot another ditch (124) cut ditch (122) on almost the same alignment. Ditch (122) itself cut another feature (128) although its shape in plan and most of its profile was obscured by later features. If this feature was a south-west – north-east aligned linear then it could be the continuation of (113). The recutting of this north-east – south-west linear suggests that this was a significant boundary.
- 4.4.7 Pottery recovered from features in Trench 1 does not help to disentangle the stratigraphic sequence; most features produced pottery dated as early to mid Roman (1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD), with two features – gullies (111) and (115) yielding mid to late Roman material (2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century AD).

- 4.4.8 Wood charcoal was recorded in moderate to high quantities from ditch (113), while gullies (109), (111), (113) and (118) contained quite high numbers of burnt twigs, roots and stems. This may represent the burning of local vegetation and therefore could relate to clearance activities, or it could equally well be that such resources were used rather than wood charcoal.

*Trench 2 (Figure 4)*

- 4.4.9 Trench 2 was positioned over an area the farmer had identified as where his plough had frequently snagged on buried objects.
- 4.4.10 Stripping revealed a north – south ditch (206) partially obscured by a later plough furrow (204). Pottery indicates that this ditch is early to mid Roman in date. It was moderately sized and appears to have gradually silted up. It was probably a boundary and drainage ditch. Nothing to account for the course of the plough being interrupted was found.

*Trench 3 (Figure 5)*

- 4.4.11 Trench 3 was targeted on a strong possible industrial anomaly identified by the geophysical survey conducted by PCA. This appeared to correspond with a large pit (320) in the centre of the trench. Although only partially excavated, sondages showed the pit to be over 1m deep on its western edge, although a sondage on its eastern side suggested that it was much shallower there. While the upper deposit contained frequent archaeological components, particularly animal bone and pottery (over 100 sherds), much less was found in the deposits beneath this. One of the lower deposits (322) consisted of a large amount of stone rubble within a clay matrix (see front cover). Although obviously a deliberate deposit its function was unclear. Pottery from secondary fill (323) is dated as middle Roman (2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> century AD), while sherds from the upper fill (321) are mid to late Roman.
- 4.4.12 Ditch (314/6) forms a west-north-west – east-south-east aligned curvilinear alignment similar to gully (318), which may be segmented or interrupted with (332) as its continuation. Gullies (318) and (332) are stratigraphically earlier than the ditch and so (314/6) may represent a reinforcement of this alignment. Ditch (314/6) also cut (328) and (330). Feature (328) was very irregular and diffuse and clearly the result of tree disturbance whereas (330) was more homogenous with clearer edges, suggesting that it was a linear feature. It contained a large part of a small pottery jar in a shelly fabric, dated as early Roman (mid to late 1<sup>st</sup> century AD). Pottery from the stratigraphically later ditch (314/6) is mid to late Roman.
- 4.4.13 The PCA geophysical survey suggests that ditches to the west and east of pit (320) (ditches (314/6), (338), (344)) may form an enclosure around it. Ditch (338) appears to be a significant boundary as it was later re-cut by (344). There were a number of depositional events within each feature suggesting changing activity in the immediate vicinity during the lifetime of these features. It was within the later deposits of both these ditches that traces of occupational debris were found. This may suggest that in the early stages of the use of this boundary, occupation was more distant. The geophysical survey certainly seems to suggest that activity diminishes to the east of this boundary.

4.4.14 Two small gullies (305), (307/334) were found to the west of curvilinear (314/6), along with two possible postholes (324), (326). This area of the trench was considerably disturbed by tree throw (328) and general bioturbation as well as the cut of a modern land drain. North – south gully (305) was crossed by roughly east – west aligned gully (307) which terminated to the east of the land drain as (334). The relationship between these features could not be determined stratigraphically. Both contained very similar deposits and were very shallow. Both produced occasional charcoal flecks and the fill of (307) also contained a small concentration of burnt bone indicating possible infilling of the gullies by surrounding material contaminated by domestic or perhaps industrial activity. Gully (334) contained Late Iron Age to early Roman pottery (1<sup>st</sup> century BC/1<sup>st</sup> century AD). Slightly further to the east was another possible east – west aligned gully (312). This was slightly irregular and obscured in plan but could continue the line of (334), although pottery from this gully was dated as middle Roman.

4.4.15 The two postholes (324) and (326) were both fairly shallow and of different shape and profile. Posthole (324) might be a gully terminal since it was not fully seen in plan. However both these and the gullies do suggest possible buildings, and domestic or industrial activity could be located to the south-west of the trench.

4.4.16 A small irregular pit (337) was found to be truncated by ditch (338). Its shape in plan was obscured but its shallow and irregular profile suggests that it could be a natural hollow or tree throw similar to (309).

#### *Trench 4*

4.4.17 Trench 4 was positioned on what was rumoured to be a possible spring site. Excavation and further clarification with the land owner revealed that in fact it was the location of a modern pond with no perceived archaeological potential. The landscape analysis showed that it cut through the medieval ridge and furrow and must therefore post-date this.

4.4.18 Stripping revealed colluvial clays; the trench was abandoned and the pond reinstated.

#### *Trench 5 (Figure 6)*

4.4.19 Trench 5 was positioned over a curving geophysical anomaly with activity within it. The archaeological features encountered provided good correlation to these anomalies but also revealed a number of other features.

4.4.20 Curvilinear feature (509/535) was seen to be a substantial ring ditch with a number of deposits. These deposits contained a significant amount of archaeological material - in particular, secondary deposit (511), seen only in the westernmost intervention, contained a large amount of wall plaster fragments. This clearly indicates a nearby building decorated in the Roman manner. However, no ceramic building material was found in this trench and very little across the site as a whole. Deposit (532), which occurred at the same point in the sequence as (511) in the eastern slot, was a defined dump of material including frequent fired clay flecks. The geophysical survey

suggests that this ring ditch could have a diameter in excess of 17.5m. All the pottery from the ring ditch was dated as Late Iron Age to early Roman.

- 4.4.21 Ring ditch (509/535) was cut by east – west ditch (531/527), a relatively later feature seen higher up in the stratigraphic sequence. Related to this was a north-west – south-east gully (529) also observed early in the stripping. This originally continued right across the trench, cutting (535) and (507).
- 4.4.22 Feature (507) was a north-west – south-east aligned gully obscured to the south by the remnants of plough furrow (503). For a relatively small, shallow feature, it contained a large amount of animal bone fragments.
- 4.4.23 The south-eastern part of Trench 5 contained a very clearly defined sub-rectangular feature (514). It formed a distinct platform or surface cut into natural geology to the west and layer (522) to the east.
- 4.4.24 Layer (522) overlay and obscured a shallow linear (518), and this in turn cut through deposit (520). Both (522) and (520) represent the remnants of occupation layers preserved under the medieval plough ridges. Beneath (522) a preserved subsoil horizon (523) could be seen.
- 4.4.25 A small pit (516) in the western part of the trench was very shallow and may be a natural feature.

*Trench 6 (Figure 7)*

- 4.4.26 Trench 6 was targeted on a large geophysical anomaly identified by PCA in their 2004 survey. Excavation proved this anomaly to be caused by a dump of modern material. This modern material was removed to expose the archaeology beneath.
- 4.4.27 After stripping, a number of linear features (606), (608), (610), (612), (616), (620), a pit (604) and two possible postholes (614) and (618) could be seen. Although there was some surface collection of finds made to provide dating, this trench was unexcavated. All pottery recovered – from pit (604) and ditches (612) and (616) - was of early Roman date.
- 4.4.28 Ditches (610) and (612) continue the same south-west – north-east alignment and may in fact be the same feature, or segments of the same ditch. Ditches (606) and (608) to the east are on a similar alignment. Both (610) and (606) appear in plan to be cut by pit (604). Postholes (614) and (618) are on a parallel alignment to (610) and (613) and could be traces of a fence line.
- 4.4.29 Ditch (616) by contrast is on a roughly east – west alignment that appears to be earlier than the prevailing south-west – north-east alignment. This in turn appears to cut (620) though this is quite diffuse and slightly irregular and may not be a true archaeological feature.

*Trench 7 (not illustrated)*

- 4.4.30 Trench 7 was situated on the western boundary line identified by the geophysical survey. For health and safety reasons the trench could not be fully recorded from within; consequently there are no graphic records.

- 4.4.31 Excavation confirmed a large north-north-west – south-south-east aligned ditch (710). This was later re-cut by ditch (708) on the same alignment. Later still a large posthole (706) was cut into this ditch once it was almost entirely silted up. This posthole contained a number of grains of barley and hulled wheat.
- 4.4.32 Ditch (710) represents an extremely substantial feature. Its excavated width was over 2.6m but its north-eastern edge may be obscured by the plough ridge meaning that it could potentially have been wider and much deeper. Its fills showed a process of gradual, natural silting. The later re-cut (708) of this significant boundary ditch was much narrower and shallower. Re-cut (708) appears to be earlier than the posthole (706), but the western edge may be obscured by an overlying deposit of material similar to the upper fill; the possibility remains that they are contemporary. Whatever the case it seems likely that (706) contained a sizeable timber and may be part of a number of postholes outlining this important boundary line. After the removal of the timber a deliberate deposit of material (707) containing frequent fired clay and charcoal flecks was dumped into the cut; pottery from this layer is Late Iron Age to early Roman in date.

*Trench 8 (Figure 8)*

- 4.4.33 Trench 8 was situated over a geophysical anomaly similar to that seen in Trench 3. The anomaly proved to be a large pit (804) some 7.3 by 5.3m in size and over 1m deep. Two sondages were excavated but it was not bottomed due to the height of the modern water table; the steep angle of the sides, however, suggests a potentially deep feature (**Figure 8, Plate 8**). The upper fills within this contained a number of deliberately dumped deposits incorporating archaeological material, including frequent charcoal, mortar, plaster and fired clay fragments; the pottery is a mixture of early, middle and late Roman. Fill (806), a very dark deposit, contained a concentration of heat-affected stones. The size of the feature and its depth suggests that this is possibly a well or waterhole later filled with refuse.
- 4.4.34 Two small gullies appeared to branch out from this pit, the more southerly of which (813) showed a distinct ‘V’-shaped profile. The northern gully was cut by plough furrow (811).

## **5 FINDS**

### **5.1 Introduction**

- 5.1.1 Finds were recovered from seven of the eight trenches excavated (none were recovered from trench 4). All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and totals by material type and by trench are presented in **Table 1**. Subsequent to quantification, all finds have been at least visually scanned in order to gain an overall idea of the range of types present, their condition, and their potential date range. Spot dates have been recorded for selected material types as appropriate (pottery, ceramic building material). All finds data are currently held on an Access database.

- 5.1.2 This section presents an overview of the finds assemblage, on which is based an assessment of the potential of this assemblage to contribute to an understanding of the site in its local and regional context.

## 5.2 Pottery

- 5.2.1 The pottery was recorded using simple fabric classifications, based on principal inclusion (e.g. shell-gritted ware) or firing technique (e.g. grey ware); some known ware types have been identified (e.g. Oxfordshire and Nene Valley wares). Simple form codes were also used and, where possible, the fabric classifications and form codes follow the mnemonic codes used to record pottery from other Lincolnshire sites. All the data are held in the project archive, and **Table 2** shows the pottery assemblage by ware type.
- 5.2.2 The pottery assemblage suggests that the Site was occupied from the Late Iron Age through to the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. Over 90% was of Roman date and most of the late Iron Age pottery was recovered from a number of discrete features. Two pits (320 and 804) contained, respectively, 24% and 15% of the total assemblage by sherd count. The average sherd weight was a relatively high 23g and that in pit (804) was almost 32g; even that from the topsoil had an average weight of 16g. These high figures probably reflect the fact that most of the pottery was recovered from cut features.

### *Late Iron Age/early Roman*

- 5.2.3 The pottery identified as Late Iron Age or early Roman occurs as a type of shell-gritted ware which is generally darker in colour, less hard fired and has larger inclusions than the Roman shell-gritted wares. It is possible that some of the grog-tempered wares might also be of Late Iron Age or early Roman date. The majority of the recognisable forms are jars and there is one example each of a bowl and a dish. One globular jar has a looped handle. The greatest concentration of Late Iron Age or early Roman pottery occurred in the curvilinear ditches of the ring-ditch in Trench 5 (509 and 535). Late Iron Age or early Roman sherds were also found in other ditches or cuts and one post-hole (706, Trench 7).

### *Roman*

- 5.2.4 The only imported wares were South Gaulish and Central Gaulish samian ware, a mortarium from the Massif Central region and Dressel 20 amphora. All the amphora sherds came from a pit in Trench 8 (804). Identifiable samian ware forms are 18/31, 33 and 37, all of South Gaulish origin. Other non-local wares comprise vessels from the Nene Valley and Oxfordshire production sites, and some sherds in a hard-fired, pimply fabric may well be products of the Trent Valley kilns. One large jar has a rim form reminiscent of Horningsea products. Sherds from a number of Dales-ware jars were also noted and a large vessel has been tentatively identified as a Swanpool product, probably a mortarium. The fabric is grey with oxidised core edges and the vessel has a curved rim and an internal bead. It has a white slip decorated with red painted 'S' shapes.

- 5.2.5 70% of the assemblage by sherd count comprises various grey wares and a further 13% shell-gritted wares. The total for oxidised wares is relatively low at around 4% and grog-tempered wares account for a further 1.5%.
- 5.2.6 Visually, there is a lot of variety in the grey ware with differing coloured fabrics and surfaces; there is also some variety in hardness and inclusions with some having noticeable amounts of shell. Most of the recognisable grey ware forms are jars with various rim types, though bowls and dishes are also represented and there is one lid among the assemblage. The grey ware includes a vessel with rusticated decoration and a number of sherds are decorated with burnished lines or open lattice. Some have girth grooves or rouletting and a few have stabbed decoration. One jar has a looped handle reminiscent of those on Late Iron Age vessels.
- 5.2.7 The shell-gritted wares include some sherds with additional grog or ironstone inclusions and most of the shell-gritted ware forms are also jars although, again, there are some bowls and dishes. The few recognisable vessels in grog-tempered ware are all jars and most of the oxidised ware probably came from flagons. One of the Oxfordshire ware sherds is from a curved-sided bowl with a cornice rim, decorated with dimples, over which a white-painted decoration, possibly a cross motif, has been applied.
- 5.2.8 It is likely that all of the grey wares are the products of local kilns. There is a concentration of these around 10 to 15 kilometres to the north-east of the site at Linwood, Market Rasen, Claxby, Tealby and Walesby, while the kilns discovered at, or in the vicinity of Lincoln, are a similar distance to the south-west. To the north, some 30 to 40 kilometres away, are the north Lincolnshire industry kiln sites of Messingham, Thealby, Roxby, Dragonby, Conesby, Low Santon and South Ferriby. Other kiln sites undoubtedly await discovery. The shell-gritted and grog-tempered wares and the Dales ware were probably also locally produced.

### **5.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)**

- 5.3.1 All of the CBM is of Roman date. No complete items were recovered, and many of the fragments can only be assigned to an undiagnostic category. There are, however, a few examples of *imbrex* and *tegula* roof tiles, as well as a fragment of brick, and a box flue tile. One tile, probably from a *tegula*, occurred in a buff fabric; the rest were in the more usual reddish-orange fabric.

### **5.4 Stone**

- 5.4.1 The stone mainly comprises featureless fragments of sandstone and limestone, probably building material. There were also possible roof tile and quern fragments, as well as a pebble which could have been used as a smoother or rubbing stone. Two interesting fragments both came from one of the curvilinear ditches (509/535). One is a septarian nodule, which may have been used as a rubbing stone, and the other is a small piece of 'beef' calcite. The latter derives from Jurassic period beds which outcrop in the

Lincolnshire wolds to the east of the Site. The unusual nature of these two pieces raises the possibility that they were deliberately collected or kept.

## **5.5 Flint**

- 5.5.1 The flint comprises various nodule fragments, one of which is small, oval and complete. It has a diameter of *c.* 55-65mm and has traces of cracking on the surface, suggesting that it may have been used as a hammer or pounding tool. One other flint object appears to have been worked.

## **5.6 Glass**

- 5.6.1 Only one piece of glass was recovered, a tiny fragment of blue/green vessel glass, diagnostically Romano-British, but not attributable to vessel form.

## **5.7 Coins**

- 5.7.1 Ten copper alloy coins were recovered, five from the topsoil in Trench 3, one each from pits also in Trench 3 (320, 337), and three unstratified. Only one (found unstratified) is closely datable (AD 330-335) and another is probably of 4<sup>th</sup> century date (trench 3 topsoil). One was possibly silvered. These can provide little information other than confirmation that the site continued in use into the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD.

## **5.8 Metalwork**

- 5.8.1 As well as coins, objects of copper alloy, iron and lead were recovered. All iron and copper alloy objects have been X-radiographed, as an aid to identification, and also to act as a basic record. Many of the objects, particularly the ironwork, are heavily corroded.
- 5.8.2 Apart from the coins, there was only an undiagnostic copper alloy fragment and a piece of sheeting. The ironwork comprises nine nails, two fittings, a rod and three uncertain pieces. There are three pieces of lead, one a possible ingot fragment from a pit in Trench 3.

## **5.9 Animal Bone**

### *Introduction*

- 5.9.1 A total of 381 hand collected mammal bones and 124 fragments from samples was recovered. No bird or amphibian bone was present. Conjoining fragments that were demonstrably from the same bone were counted as one bone in order to minimise distortion, and therefore specimen counts (NISP) given here may differ from the absolute raw fragment counts in **Table 1**. No fragments were recorded as 'medium mammal' or 'large mammal'; these were instead consigned to the unidentified category.

### *Condition and preservation*

- 5.9.2 The overall condition of the bone is good. Although some bones showed root-etching, this seldom penetrated the outer layer. 285 bone fragments could be identified to species. 9% of the bone was gnawed and it is thus likely that the assemblage is partly biased towards smaller bones and smaller

animals as the dogs would have destroyed the complete bone. 12% of all the fragments showed signs of contact with fire (mainly from the samples from gully (507) and curvilinear ditch (509)). The number of loose teeth was with 6% relatively low and attests of the many mandibles in the assemblage. It might also indicate the reworked nature of some of the contexts.

#### *Species proportions*

- 5.9.3 The assemblage is dominated by cattle (58%), followed by: sheep/goat (33%), pig (5%), horse (4%) and deer (1%). A single fish vertebra was recovered from pit (320). Some of the sheep/goat bones definitively belonged to sheep. No goat bones were identified. As the site is Roman in date, the horse remains might incorporate horses, donkeys, mules and hinnies. The mandible from ditch (113) could be identified as horse (Armitage & Chapman 1979). Although dog bones are not present in the assemblage, the large gnawing marks on some of the bones indicates their presence on the site.

#### *Population characteristics*

- 5.9.4 The high number of ageable bones (24%) and measurable bones (15%) can provide information on husbandry practices and phenotype of the animals. The large size of most of the cattle bones was noted. Contrary, the horse bones were rather small. A sheep/goat metacarpus from pit (320) provided an estimated height at the withers of 64 cm, whereas a metacarpus from curvilinear (509) produced 58 cm (Teichert 1975). A cattle metacarpus from pit (804) produced a height at the withers of *c.* 119 cm (von den Driesch and Boessneck 1974). Both, bones of adult and subadult animals were present for cattle and sheep/goat. The horse bones were from adult animals only.
- 5.9.5 Many of the cattle bones belonging to the lower extremities showed minor changes indicative of using these animals as beasts of burden. A sheep/goat mandible from pit (320) showed traces of an inflammation around the last premolar/first molar. This is a very common pathology in sheep/goat. The articular surface of a cattle mandible from plough furrow (503) showed extensive pitting. This condition is often seen in cattle and jokingly referred to as 'extensive chewing the cud'. Pit (804) contained a cattle rib with evidence of a healing fracture (callus).

#### *Butchery*

- 5.9.6 5% of the bones show signs of butchery. Especially the large cattle carcass was divided into handier portions. The presence of all parts of the skeleton including heads and feet makes it likely that at least some animals were butchered on site. Butchery marks seen on the bones were caused by cleavers and knives.
- 5.9.7 Topsoil and cleaning layers in Trench 3 contained pieces of the same antler. It is probably part of a tine and was sawn-off the rest of the antler indicating antler working near the site. Gully (305) contained a complete sheep/goat metacarpus characterised by a high surface polish. Some areas were 'thinned' through intensive handling/use. It is unclear what activity the bone was used for.

## **5.10 Other Finds**

- 5.10.1 Other finds comprise small quantities of wall plaster, fired clay, a fragment of iron smithing slag and part of a crucible with copper alloy deposits adhering to the rim. Almost all the wall plaster came from the curvilinear ditch in Trench 5 (509/535). The plaster skim is 1.5mm thick and white in colour, though one piece had traces of a red-brown stripe. The underlying gritty mortar is a hard buff coloured and appears to have been applied in two layers around 10 – 15mm thick. Another small piece of plaster with traces of a red stripe was recovered from a pit in Trench 8.

## **5.11 Potential and further recommendations**

- 5.11.1 Chronological evidence from the evaluation suggests that there was activity on the site from the late Iron Age through to the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. The range of material culture is relatively limited; only pottery occurred in any quantity, and provides some evidence for sources of supply, although the limited amount of pottery deriving from well stratified contexts would prevent any significant analysis of changing sources through time. There is little structural evidence (stone and ceramic building material), or evidence for lifestyle (personal items, vessel glass), craft/industrial activities (slag, crucible) or economy (animal bone). No further analysis is recommended for the finds assemblage.

# **6 PALAEO-ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE**

## **6.1 Introduction**

- 6.1.1 Fourteen bulk samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoals. The samples came predominantly from ditches in Trenches 1 and 5, as well as a gully (115) and layer (509). In addition two pits (320 and 341) were sampled from Trench 3 and a posthole (706) in a boundary ditch from Trench 7.
- 6.1.2 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the presence of charred remains quantified (**Table 3**) to record the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).
- 6.1.3 With the exception of a single larger flot from pit 320 in Trench 3 and posthole (706) in Trench 7, the flots contained moderate to quite high numbers of roots (40-90%), with occasional modern seeds. These can be taken as indicative of stratigraphic movement and the possibility that some of the material may be reworked or intrusive. Cereal remains were generally poorly preserved, although some of the weed seeds were in a good state of preservation.

## 6.2 Charred plant remains

- 6.2.1 Cereal remains were present in all of the samples. The predominant remains were the glumes of hulled wheats (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*), probably mainly of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*), although a single spikelet fork of emmer wheat (*Triticum dicoccum*) was seen within ditch (509). Cereal grains were relatively infrequent, and barley grains (*Hordeum vulgare* sl) were only present in number in posthole (706) in Trench 7. Grains of hulled wheat, despite glumes being so common, were only present in number in this same sample. A rachis of free-threshing wheat was also seen in ditch (111).
- 6.2.2 Weed seeds were also very infrequent, the most common being those of dock (*Rumex* sp.), sedge (*Carex* sp.), brome grass (*Bromus* sp.) and oats (*Avena* sp.).
- 6.2.3 A relatively high number of seeds of dock (*Rumex* sp.) were seen in ditch (111) but, given the low number of cereal remains in this sample and the presence of charred roots and stems may derive rather from the burning of local vegetation.
- 6.2.4 Spelt wheat was the predominant crop over much of Roman Britain (Greig 1991) although emmer wheat does appear to have been an important localised crop within some parts of eastern Britain, including East Anglia (cf. Murphy 2003; 1991; Green 1985) and County Durham (van der Veen 1992). The evidence from this site generally indicated that spelt was probably the predominant crop, and while the single spikelet fork from ditch (509) might indicate some persistence of emmer it might be noted that sites to the west also have little emmer compared to spelt (Jones 1987).
- 6.2.5 The general absence of weed seeds may be attributed to the probability that crops came onto the site more or less fully processed.

## 6.3 Wood charcoal

- 6.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples. Four samples had moderate to high amounts of wood charcoal within them; from the ditch terminus (113) in Trench 1, pit (320) in Trench 3, ring ditch (509/535) in Trench 5 and posthole (706) in Trench 7. Of these only posthole (706) and ring ditch (509/535) had fragments of wood charcoal from large wood within them including ring-porous pieces that are probably of oak *Quercus* sp. The other two samples, as well as several others, had quite high numbers of burnt twigs, roots and stems. All of these were concentrated in Trench 1, ditches (109), (111), (113) and gully (118). Such remains were in Trench 3 in pits (320) and (341), pit (320) also containing several probable basal culm nodes or rootlets of grass or sedge. No such remains were noted within any of the features examined from Trench 5.
- 6.3.2 The high presence of what appears to be the burning of local vegetation is of some interest and may relate to clearance activities, but equally it may be that such resources were used rather than wood charcoal.

#### **6.4 Land and fresh/brackish water molluscs**

- 6.4.1 During the processing of bulk soil samples for the recovery of charred remains, snails were noted in the flots. The presence of these shells may aid in broadly characterising the nature of the wider landscape.
- 6.4.2 The predominant shells were of open country species, particularly *Vallonia* sp. and *Helicella itala*, but also occasionally *Vertigo* sp. which were present in most of the samples, with the exception of pit (320) and ring ditch (509/535). Intermediate species such as *Cochlicopa* sp. were also present in most of the samples but a few of the features from Trench 5 (ditches (514), (534) and layer (522)) where no shells other than those of *Vallonia* were recorded.
- 6.4.3 Seeds of shaded species included *Discus rotundatus*, *Oxychilus/Aegopinella* and *Carychium* sp., the last being particularly common in posthole (706). These species were also present in the quarry pit (341). Otherwise they were generally absent from the assemblages.
- 6.4.4 Of some interest were shells of pond snail, *Lymnaea* sp. although some may also be of *Succinea* sp. These species indicative of intermittent standing water occurred within two of the ditches within Trench 1, ditches (113) and (112), and ditches (507) and (509/535) in Trench 5. A few specimens also occurred within quarry pit (341) in Trench 3.

#### **6.5 Small animal/fish bones**

- 6.5.1 A single fish vertebra was recovered from pit (320), while several small mammal bones were also present in a number of the samples. However, given the number of roots in the samples and the quite fresh appearance some of these bones may be intrusive.

#### **6.5.2 Recommendations and potential**

- 6.5.3 The charred plant remains have the potential to examine the range of crops grown and the processing and cultivation practices. However, given the low number of weed seeds present in the samples such potential is limited.
- 6.5.4 The wood charcoal has the potential to examine the range of woodland species present and can be used to broadly characterise the nature of the local wooded environment as well as any woodland management practices. Given the high numbers of stems and roots there may also be some potential to examine whether the assemblages represent clearance or the use of alternative fuel supplies.
- 6.5.5 The shells have the potential to broadly define the local environment however given that no specific samples were taken for mollusc remains and the high numbers of roots such potential from the excavation samples alone is limited.

## **7 DISCUSSION**

### **7.1 Introduction**

- 7.1.1 This evaluation, although limited in its extent, confirmed the density of Late Iron Age and Romano-British activity on the site.
- 7.1.2 The suggestion from both the geophysical surveys conducted on the site is that the Site has a long settlement history and that this is reflected in a number of different alignments (**Figure 9**).

### **7.2 Late Iron Age to early Roman**

- 7.2.1 The western edge of the settlement appears to have been marked by a large north-west – south-east aligned linear boundary. This feature was excavated in Trench 7 as (710), where it was shown to have been re-cut by (708). A large posthole (706) was also seen and this may either suggest a palisade fence or, if the break seen in the GSB data (B) is real, then it may relate to a structure at the entranceway. Pottery from both (706) and (710) is Late Iron Age to early Roman in date.
- 7.2.2 The ring ditch (509/535) in Trench 5 and the penannular ditches seen in the GSB data at (D), (E) and (F) are of a type usually associated with Iron Age settlement. However this style of Iron Age houses did continue into the Roman period (Branigan 1982, 86). Other possibly similar features can be seen in the PCA geophysical survey. The interventions through the ring-ditch in Trench 5 found a wealth of Roman material, in particular wall plaster, but also pottery dating to the Late Iron Age to early Roman period. Within the area enclosed by the ditch was an undated feature (514) that seemed to form some form of platform or surface. No other evidence for internal structures was found. The ring ditch is considerably larger than the features at (D), (E) and (F) and the evidence suggests this has a different function and may in fact be Romano-British, although probably early within the period.
- 7.2.3 The PCA geophysical survey had a strong linear response in the eastern field similar to (A), which seemed to mark a possible eastern boundary. This feature was excavated in Trench 3 as (338). Although not as large as (710) this feature was also re-cut by another ditch (344). Pottery from (338) is also of Late Iron Age to early Roman date. Whether (710) and (338) do in fact form the boundaries of the settlement would need to be verified by a wider geophysical survey.

### **7.3 Romano-British**

- 7.3.1 Two further distinct alignments can be observed in the geophysical surveys which appear to form networks of largely rectangular enclosures, the most westerly of which can be clearly seen in the GSB survey in the northern part of the survey area. The fact that it does not respect or is not respected by the penannular features at (E) and (D) clearly show it to be of a different phase. A possible trackway can be seen dog-legging around the western edge.

- 7.3.2 Although none of the trenches excavated any of the main linear features associated with this alignment, pit (804) lies within the area demarcated by these enclosures, as do responses (H), (I) and (J). In fact all of these appear to lie within the same enclosure, while the enclosure immediately to the south-east does not display any similar responses. This may be an indication that different activity was associated with different enclosures. Pit (804) produced a mixed assemblage of pottery apparently spanning the Roman period. Pit (320), while giving a similar response to (804), contained very different deposits and the pottery recovered from it dates to the mid to late Roman period. These deposits may of course relate to a period of disuse, rather than to the initial use of the feature. To determine the exact purpose of both these features and their association with surrounding activities would require further excavation.
- 7.3.3 A second alignment of enclosures was identified by the PCA geophysical survey. This was concentrated on, although not respecting the modern field boundary. Where these two alignments meet there is no evidence of one cutting across the alignment of the other; there may have an overlapping period of use and occupation.
- 7.3.4 While no definite structural remains were encountered the artefacts and number of features located suggests a thriving rural settlement. No clear indications of any industrial activity beyond the domestic scale were encountered.
- 7.3.5 The drift of settlement is a well known feature of many Romano-British sites though there is a large amount of variation in the nature and character of rural settlements (Taylor 1982, 3, 11). A large number of sites have Iron Age antecedents and demonstrate continuity of occupation. Any further archaeological work could most profitably be targeted on the conjunction of the varied alignments in order to provide definite dating and phasing.

## **7.4 Medieval and later**

- 7.4.1 Trenches 1, 2, 5, 7, and 8 all show traces of medieval ridge and furrow ploughing, often truncating or obscuring the archaeology. This landuse dominated the results from the GSB geophysical survey in Area 3.
- 7.4.2 The present field alignments and boundaries relate to medieval enclosure rather than respecting the Romano-British settlement. This may suggest a hiatus in occupation.

## **8 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1.1 The evaluation has produced some interesting, but rather limited results. Full-scale publication is not warranted, and no further analysis is proposed. A short summary of the results will be submitted to *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology* for the annual round-up of archaeology in the county.

## **9 ARCHIVE**

- 9.1.1 The excavated material and archive, including plans, photographs and written records, are currently held at the Wessex Archaeology offices under the project code 65304 and site code WIC 07. It is intended that the archive should ultimately be deposited with Lincolnshire Museum Service under the Accession code **LCNCC: 2007.94**.

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**Table 1: Finds totals by material type and by trench (number / weight in grammes)**

Material Type	Tr 1	Tr 2	Tr 3	Tr 5	Tr 6	Tr 7	Tr 8	unstrat	TOTAL
Pottery	124/2054	18/450	326/7093	36/992	6/309		115/3448	6/112	633/14,527
	5/36	-	11/125	20/465	-	2/69	4/272	-	42/967
	119/2018	18/450	315/6968	16/527	6/309	2/69	111/3176	6/112	591/13,560
Ceramic Building Material	2/21	1/17	17/1341	-	-	-	5/740	-	25/2119
Wall Plaster	-	-	-	54/1353	-	-	1/18	-	55/1371
Fired Clay	1/19	-	3/102	2/18	-	-	-	-	6/139
Stone	2/802	-	16/5734	2/185	-	-	-	-	20/6721
Flint	1/291	-	3/395	-	-	-	-	-	4/686
Glass	1/1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/1
Slag	-	-	1/55	-	-	-	-	-	1/55
Metalwork (number of objects)	4	-	17	2	-	2	2	4	31
	1	-	7	-	-	-	1	3	12
	2	-	9	2	-	2	1	-	16
Animal Bone	151/2762	6/40	284/3746	235/3434	-	16/169	54/885	3/30	749/11066
Shell	6/116	-	16/329	2/17	-	-	43/1042	3/64	70/1568

**Table 2: Pottery totals by ware type**

<b>Broad period</b>	<b>Ware</b>	<b>No. sherds</b>	<b>Weight (gms)</b>
LIA/ER	Shell-gritted	41	967
ROMAN	South Gaulish samian	7	79
	Central Gaulish samian	1	10
	Amphora	4	544
	Massif Central	1	325
	Nene Valley colour-coat	2	98
	Oxfordshire	1	12
	Dales	4	129
	Trent Valley	6	51
	Swanpool	2	145
	Grey ware	447	9957
	Oxidised ware	24	236
	Grog-tempered ware	10	494
	Shell-gritted ware	83	1480
	<i>sub-total Roman</i>	<i>592</i>	<i>13,560</i>
	<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>14527</b>

**Table 3: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal**

Feature type/no	Context	Sample	size litres	Flot							Charcoal >4/2mm	Other
				flot ml	size	Grain	Chaff	Charred other	Seeds			
<b>Trench 1</b>												
Ditch 109	110	4	7	40	<sup>80</sup>	C	C	C	Spelt glume and 2x grain. 1x Carex.	2/2	Moll-t (B) Smb (C)	
Ditch 111	112	3	9	50	<sup>70</sup>	C	C	A	1x Barley, 1x spelt 1x indet grain, 1x spelt gb?, 1x f-t rachis. 18x Rumex, 2x Carex, 2x Avena	0.5/0	Moll-t (B) Moll-f (C) Smb (C)	
Ditch terminus 113	114	1	8	50	<sup>40</sup>	C	-	C	2x hulled wheat, 1x cereal indet. 1x Rumex, 2x Carex, ?pea/bean sloe/hawthorn thorn, charred stems	20/10	Moll-t (A) Moll-f (B)	
Ditch terminus 115	116	2	5	25	<sup>40</sup>	C	-	C	1x Barley, 1x ?Fragaria vesca, 1x Rumex, 1x Carex,	0/0.5	Moll-t (C)	
Gully 118	119	5	10	25	<sup>50</sup>	C	C	-	1x Barley, 2x glume bases, 1x?tuber	0/1	Moll-t (B)	
<b>Trench 3</b>												
Pit 320	321	8	24	125	<sup>10</sup>	A	A*	C	5x Barley, 3x Spelt, 10+ spelt glumes 30+ glumes, 1x Rumex, 1x Vicia/Lathyrus sp. Monocot stems and rootlets	8/10	Moll-t (C) Fish (C) Smb (C)	
Quarry Pit 341	342	7	18	40	<sup>50</sup>	A*	A	C	25+ cereal grains, 3x spelt, 12x spelt glumes 2x ?pea/bean	2/2	Moll-t (B)	
<b>Trench 5</b>												
Ditch 507	508	10	9	30	<sup>40</sup>	C	C	C	1x glume base, 1x cereal indet. 1x Plantago lanceolata	2/2	Moll-t (B) Moll-f (C)	
Ditch 509	510	9	8	30	<sup>50</sup>	C	A*	C	1x hulled wheat grain 8x spelt glumes 1x emmer spikelet fork 1x Carex 3x Avena/Bromus	3/2	Moll-t (C) Moll-f (B)	
Ditch 509	512	11	12	180	<sup>60</sup>	-	B	-	8x glumes	10/25	Moll-t (B) Moll-f (C) Smb (c)	
Ditch 514	515	14	8	15	<sup>90</sup>	-	C	C	2x glume bases+1x spelt, 1x Avena/Bromus	3/0	Moll-t (C)	
Ditch 534	532	12	12	40	<sup>70</sup>	C	A	-	1x cereal indet. 18x glume bases	0/0	Moll-t (C)	
Layer	522	13	10	30	<sup>80</sup>	B	A**	C	1x Barley, 3x spelt, 3x cereal indet. 75+ glume bases, 20+ x spelt glumes, 1x Poa/Phleum 1x Vicia/ Lathyrus, 2x Bromus/ Avena, 2x Bromus	0.1/0.3	Moll-t (A)	
<b>Trench 7</b>												
Posthole 706 in boundary ditch	707	6	10	60	<sup>5</sup>	A	C	C	10x barley, 8x spelt/emmer grains, 3x spelt/emmer glumes+1 spikelet fork 1x Rumex	20/20	Moll-t (A)	

KEY: A\*\*\* = exceptional, A\*\* = 100+, A\* = 30- 99, A = ≥10 items, B = 9 - 5 items, C = < 5 items, smb/f = small mammal/fish bones; Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs Moll-f = freshwater molluscs;

## Appendix 1: Trench Summaries

bgl = below ground level

TRENCH 1		Type:	Machine Excavated
Dimensions: 10.20x10.45m		Max. depth: 1.10m	
		Ground level: 22.43-23.50m aOD	
context	description		depth
101	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Dark grey brown sandy silt loam. Heavily bioturbated. Friable but fairly compact. Fairly homogeneous. 2% flint, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-6cm. Clear interface with (102).	0.00-0.31m bgl
102	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Dark yellow brown sandy clay. Heavily bioturbated. Fairly compact. Occasional mid yellow brown mottles. 5% flint, sub-angular – rounded, <1-8cm. 1% chalk flecks. Clear interface with (103).	0.30-0.55m bgl
103	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid yellow clay with sandier and chalkier patches. Compact. Some bioturbation. 2% chalk flecks.	0.55m+ bgl
104	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Same as (109).</b>	-
105	<i>Deposit</i>	Same as (110).	-
106	<i>Layer</i>	Mid yellow grey silty clay. 2% flint, sub-angular – sub-rounded, 2-4cm. <1% chalk flecks. Overlies deposits to north end of trench.	-
107	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Same as (111).</b>	-
108	<i>Deposit</i>	Same as (112).	-
109	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of south-east – north-west aligned gully terminus. Possible drainage feature. Fairly shallow. Moderate concave sides, concave base. Slightly diffuse in plan and section. Slightly meandering course. Terminates at western edge. Cut in plan by plough furrow (131). Filled with (117) and (110).</b>	<b>0.26m</b>
110	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper secondary fill of gully (109). Mid grey sandy clay. <1% flint, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-4cm. <1% chalk flecks. Fairly mixed deposit, frequent mid grey-green sandy clay mottles. Diffuse interface with (117). Some bioturbation. Compact. Overlies (117).	0.15m
111	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of south-east – north-west aligned gully terminus. Possible drainage feature. Very shallow. Shallow concave sides, concave base. Slightly diffuse in plan and section. Truncated to the east rather than a true terminus. Filled with (112). Parallel to (118).</b>	<b>0.05m</b>
112	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of gully (111). Mid grey sandy clay; compact. 1% flint, sub-rounded – rounded, <1-3cm. 1% chalk, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Slightly mixed deposit, mid brown-orange mottling. Some bioturbation.	0.05m
113	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Possible linear, cut by (120) and obscured by plough furrow. Moderate, concave sides. Filled with (114).</b>	<b>0.34m</b>
114	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of (113). Mid grey silty clay. 1% stone, sub-angular, 6-8cm. 1% chalk, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Slightly mixed deposit, moderately compact. Some bioturbation.	0.34m
115	<i>Cut</i>	<b>South-south-east – north-north-west aligned gully terminus. Probably field boundary. Filled with (116). Steep sides, flat base.</b>	<b>0.14m</b>
116	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of gully (115). Dark grey-brown sandy loam. 1% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Humic, topsoil derived. Moderately compact, some bioturbation.	0.14m
117	<i>Deposit</i>	Lower secondary fill of gully (109). Mid orange brown sandy clay. <1% flint, sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Very slightly mixed, compact deposit. Some bioturbation. Diffuse interface with (110). Mainly subsoil material with some redeposited natural.	0.12m
118	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of south-east – north-west aligned gully. Possible drainage feature. Moderate convex sides, concave base. Slightly diffuse in plan and section. Some root disturbance on south-west edge. Filled with (119). Parallel to (111).</b>	<b>0.20m</b>
119	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of gully (118). Mid grey-green clay. 1% flint, sub-rounded, <1-3cm. 1% chalk, sub-rounded, <1-4cm. Slightly mixed deposit, occasional mid orange clay mottling. Some bioturbation. Compact. Overlies (118).	0.20m
120	<i>Cut</i>	<b>South-west – north-east aligned ditch. Possible boundary ditch. Steep,</b>	<b>0.57m</b>

		<b>concave sides, concave base. Slightly diffuse in plan and section. Cuts (113). Filled with (121).</b>	
121	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of ditch (120). Pale grey silt loam. 1% chalk, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-4cm. 1% stone, angular, <1-4cm. Slightly mottled deposit. Friable. Some bioturbation. Gradual infilling of ditch.	0.57m
122	<i>Cut</i>	<b>South-west – north-east aligned ditch. Possible boundary ditch. Moderate concave sides, concave base. Cuts possible pit or ditch terminus (128). Southern edge slightly diffuse in plan. Filled with (123) and (130).</b>	<b>0.38m</b>
123	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper secondary fill of ditch (122). Mid-light grey sandy clay. 2% flint, sub-rounded, <1-5cm. <1% chalk flecks. Slightly mixed deposit, contained patches of redeposited natural. Diffuse interface with (130). Some bioturbation. Compact. Overlies (130).	0.38m
124	<i>Cut</i>	<b>South-west – north-east aligned ditch. Possible boundary ditch. Moderate concave sides, concave base. Cuts ditch (122). Northern edge unclear in plan but clear in section. Filled with (125).</b>	<b>0.28m</b>
125	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of ditch (124). Dark grey sandy clay loam. 2% flint, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-6cm. Slightly diffuse deposit, occasional orange clay flecks. Compact. Some bioturbation. Gradual infilling of ditch.	0.28m
126	<i>Cut</i>	<b>North-east – south-west aligned ditch. Filled with (127). Moderate, slightly convex sides, very slightly concave base. Obscured by plough furrow. Possibly the same as (109).</b>	<b>0.30m</b>
127	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of ditch (126). Mid grey sandy silt. 1% flint/gravel, sub-rounded, <1-4cm. Slightly diffuse deposit, moderately compact. Some bioturbation. Gradual infilling of ditch.	0.30m
128	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Only seen in excavated slot, obscured by ditches (122) and (124), unclear whether this is a ditch terminus or a pit. Concave base. Filled with (129).</b>	<b>0.30m</b>
129	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of ditch (128). Mid grey sandy clay. 1% flint, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Slightly diffuse deposit, occasional iron oxide mottling. Compact. Some bioturbation. Gradual infilling of ditch.	0.30m
130	<i>Deposit</i>	Lower secondary fill of ditch (122). Mid grey sandy clay. 1% flint, sub-rounded, <1-6cm. Very compact deposit. Increasing amounts of redeposited natural towards the base of the deposit. Some bioturbation. Diffuse interface with (123). Derives from the south. Probable combination of topsoil material and erosion of the southern edge of the feature.	0.32m
131	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of north-west – south-east aligned plough furrow. Diffuse in plan. Filled with (132). Unexcavated.</b>	-
132	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper fill of plough furrow (131). Filled with topsoil and subsoil derived material.	-
133	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut of north-west – south-east aligned plough furrow. Diffuse in plan. Filled with (134). Unexcavated.</b>	-
134	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper fill of plough furrow (133). Filled with topsoil and subsoil derived material.	-

<b>TRENCH 2</b>		<b>Type:</b>	Machine Excavated
<b>Dimensions:</b> 9.90x1.55m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 0.79m	<b>Ground level:</b> 22.44-22.57m aOD
<b>context</b>	<b>description</b>		<b>depth</b>
201	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Mid brown sandy silt loam. Heavily bioturbated. Friable. Fairly homogeneous. 2% flint, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-6cm. 1% chalk flecks. Clear interface with (202).	0.00-0.25m bgl
202	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid yellow grey silty clay. Heavily bioturbated. Fairly compact. 2% chalk, sub-rounded – rounded, <1-3cm. 1% flint, sub-angular – rounded, <1-2cm. Diffuse interface with (203).	0.24-0.50m bgl
203	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of plough furrow (204). Very similar to subsoil. Slightly mixed, some bioturbation. Mid yellow-grey silty clay. 2% chalk, sub-rounded – rounded, <1-3cm. 1% flint, sub-angular – rounded, <1-2cm. Some variation in colour present but not consistently seen in all section. Reflects variations in	0.16m

		a gradual infilling. Very similar to (202).	
204	<i>Cut</i>	<b>North – south aligned plough furrow. Filled with (203). Moderate to shallow sides, a very slightly concave base. Truncates ditch (206). Diffuse interface with (205). Overlies (205).</b>	<b>0.16m</b>
205	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of ditch (206). Mid grey to yellow brown silty clay. 2% flint, sub-angular – rounded, <1-4cm. 1% chalk flecks. Diffuse, slightly mixed deposit. Some bioturbation.	0.24m
206	<i>Cut</i>	<b>North – south aligned ditch. Moderate, concave sides, concave base. Slightly diffuse in plan and section. Some bioturbation. Probable filed boundary. Filled with (205). Overlies (207).</b>	<b>0.24m</b>
207	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid yellow clay with sandier and chalkier patches. Compact. Some bioturbation. 2% chalk flecks.	0.48m+ bgl

<b>TRENCH 3</b>			<b>Type:</b>	Machine Excavated
<b>Dimensions:</b> 18.30x9.00m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 1.20m	<b>Ground level:</b> 23.39-23.51m aOD	
<b>context</b>	<b>Description</b>		<b>depth</b>	
301	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Dark grey-brown sandy clay. Heavily bioturbated. Friable but fairly compact. Fairly homogeneous. 5% flint, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-5cm. Slightly diffuse interface with (303).	0.00-0.30m bgl	
302	<i>Layer</i>	Number given to hand cleaning along curvilinears (314), (316), (318) and (332).	-	
303	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid yellow-brown silty clay. Heavily bioturbated. Fairly compact. Occasional small mid brown mottles. <1% flint, sub-angular – rounded, <1-3cm. Slightly diffuse interface with (304).	0.30-0.45m bgl	
304	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid orange clay with frequent sandier and chalkier patches. Compact. Some bioturbation. Frequent yellow-orange and orange-grey mottles.	0.31m+ bgl	
305	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Small north – south aligned gully. Probable drainage feature. Shallow, concave, moderate sides, concave base. 0.28m wide. Diffuse. Relationship to (307) uncertain. Filled with (306).</b>	<b>0.10m</b>	
306	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of gully (305), gradual infilling. Dark grey-green silty clay. 1% flint, sub-angular – rounded, <1-3cm. 1% chalk, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Occasional charcoal flecks. Slightly mixed, fairly friable. Some bioturbation. Very similar to (308).	0.10m	
307	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Small east - west aligned gully. Probable drainage feature. Shallow, concave, moderate sides, concave base. 0.27m wide. Diffuse. Relationship to (305) uncertain. Filled with (308). Thought to continue to the east as gully (334) but course is interrupted by a modern land drain.</b>	<b>0.11m</b>	
308	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of gully (307), gradual infilling. Dark grey-green silty clay. 1% flint, sub-angular – rounded, <1-3cm. 1% chalk, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Occasional charcoal flecks. Slightly mixed, fairly friable. Some bioturbation. Very similar to (306).	0.11m	
309	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Tree throw. Irregular sub-oval in plan. Shallow, concave sides, concave base. 0.78m long, 0.55m wide. Bioturbated. Filled with (310) and (311).</b>	<b>0.11m</b>	
310	<i>Deposit</i>	Redeposited natural, lowest fill of (309). Mid orange clay. Frequent mid grey-brown mottles. No visible inclusions, fairly compact.	0.09m	
311	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of (309). Mid grey-brown sandy clay. 2% flint, sub-rounded – sub-angular, <1-7cm. Occasional chalk flecks. Diffuse interface with (310). Friable. Bioturbated. Overlies (310).	0.11m	
312	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Possible north-east – south-west aligned gully. Very shallow, concave sides. 0.33m wide. Slightly irregular. Slightly diffuse. Cuts tree throw disturbance. Filled with (313).</b>	<b>0.0.9m</b>	
313	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of (312). Mid grey-brown silty clay. 1% flint, sub-rounded – sub-angular, <1-2cm. Occasional chalk flecks. Fairly compact, slightly mixed. Some bioturbation.	0.09m	
314	<i>Cut</i>	<b>West-north-west – east-south-east aligned ditch, possible curvilinear. Probable boundary ditch. Slightly diffuse in plan and section. Cuts threethrow (330). Relationship to (332) slightly unclear but thought to</b>	<b>0.50m</b>	

		<b>cut this gully. Concave, moderate sides, concave base. 1.23m wide. Identical to (316). Filled with (315). Cuts (331) and (333).</b>	
315	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of ditch (314). Gradually deposited topsoil and subsoil derived material. Mid grey silty clay. 2% chalk, rounded, <1-4cm. Occasional charcoal flecks. Fairly compact, some bioturbation. Identical to (317).	0.50m
316	<i>Cut</i>	<b>West-north-west – east-south-east aligned ditch, possible curvilinear. Probable boundary ditch. Slightly diffuse in plan and section. Cuts threethrow (328). Relationship to (318) slightly unclear but thought to cut this gully. Concave, moderate sides, concave base. 1.43m wide. Identical to (314). Filled with (317) and (347). Cuts (319) and (329).</b>	<b>0.45m</b>
317	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of ditch (316). Gradually deposited topsoil and subsoil derived material. Dark grey-black silty clay. 2% chalk, rounded, <1-4cm. 1% flint, rounded, 1-2cm. Occasional charcoal flecks. Fairly compact, some bioturbation. Diffuse interface with (347). Identical to (315). Overlies (347).	0.28m
318	<i>Cut</i>	<b>North-west – south-east aligned curvilinear. Follows similar alignment to (314/316). Fairly shallow. Concave, moderate sides, concave base. 0.50m wide. Diffuse in plan, slightly diffuse in section. Appears to terminate to the south-east but may in fact be segmented or interrupted and (332) is its continuation. Filled with (319).</b>	<b>0.20m</b>
319	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of gully (318). Gradually deposited topsoil and subsoil derived material. Mid grey silty clay. <1% chalk flecks. Slightly mixed, occasional yellow-brown mottling concentrated at the base of deposit. Fairly compact, some bioturbation. Cut by (316).	0.20m
320	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Large ovoid pit. Possible quarry pit. Shape in plan unclear, eastern extent unclear. Diffuse. Not bottomed. Steep, concave sides. Filled with (321), (322) and (323).</b>	<b>1.04m+</b>
321	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper secondary fill of (320). Very dark grey-black silty clay. <1% chalk flecks. Occasional charcoal and burnt clay flecks. Fairly compact. Clear interface with (322), slightly diffuse interface with (323). Overlies (322) and (343).	0.63m+
322	<i>Deposit</i>	Deliberate deposit within pit (320). Mid yellow-brown clay loam. 40% stone, sub-angular – angular, 5-46cm. Compact. Clear interface with (321) and (323). Overlies (323).	0.14m+
323	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of pit (320). Mid green-brown silt clay loam. 1% chalk, sub-rounded – rounded, <1-2cm. <1% stone, sub-rounded – sub-angular, 2-8cm. Compact. Slightly diffuse interface with (321), clear interface with (322).	0.42m+
324	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Cut truncated by edge of trench, probable posthole, possible gully terminus. Concave, moderate sides, concave base. 0.41m wide. Cuts through diffuse area of disturbance. Different in characteristics to (326). Filled with (325).</b>	<b>0.13m</b>
325	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of (324), represents gradual infilling of topsoil derived material. Dark grey-black sandy clay. 1% flint, sub-angular – rounded, <1-3cm. Fairly homogeneous but occasional mid yellow sandy mottles. Compact. Some bioturbation.	0.13m
326	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Possible posthole. Very diffuse in plan. Irregular sub-oval, steep concave sides, concave base. 0.37m wide, 0.30m long. Cut into ground disturbed by earlier tree throw. Chalk lumps may be possible packing material. Different in characteristics to (324). Filled with (327).</b>	<b>0.17m</b>
327	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of posthole (326), represents gradual infilling of topsoil, subsoil and redeposited natural derived material. Dark grey-green silty clay. 1% chalk, sub-rounded, <1-4cm. Very mixed fill, frequent mid orange grey mottling. Upper 3-4cm darker in colour. Compact. Bioturbated.	0.17m
328	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Irregular diffuse feature, shape in plan unclear. Tree throw. 0.47m wide. Cut by (314/316). Filled with (329). Possibly identical to (330).</b>	<b>0.25m</b>
329	<i>Deposit</i>	Fill of tree throw (328). Mid yellow-brown sandy clay loam. <1% chalk flecks. Mottled, diffuse deposit. Some bioturbation. Moderately compact.	0.25m
330	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Unclear in plan making it difficult to determine whether this is a continuation of (328) or a ditch entirely obscured by later features. Fill is more homogenous than (329) and edges are more defined and regular</b>	<b>0.26m</b>

		<b>than (328). 0.58m wide. Filled with (331).</b>	
331	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of (330). Mid grey silty clay. 1% flint, sub-angular, 2-3cm. <1% chalk flecks. Very slightly mixed compact deposit. Some bioturbation.	0.26m
<b>332</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>North-west – south-east aligned curvilinear. Follows similar alignment to (314/316). Fairly shallow. Concave, moderate sides, concave base. 0.43m wide. Diffuse in plan, slightly diffuse in section. May be of continuation of (318). Filled with (333).</b>	<b>0.23m</b>
333	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of gully (332). Gradually deposited topsoil and subsoil derived material. Mid yellow-grey silty clay. 1% flint, sub-angular – angular, 2-4cm. <1% chalk flecks. Slightly mixed, occasional mid-yellow diffuse mottling. Fairly compact, some bioturbation. Cut by (314).	0.23m
<b>334</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Small east - west aligned gully. Probable drainage feature. Shallow, concave, moderate sides, concave base. 0.30m wide. Slightly diffuse, southern edge cut through earlier tree throw. Filled with (335). Thought to continue to the west as gully (307) but course is interrupted by a modern land drain.</b>	<b>0.18m</b>
335	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of gully (334), gradual infilling. Mid grey-green silty clay. <1% flint, sub-angular, <1cm. <1% chalk, flecks. Slightly mixed, fairly compact. Fill darker higher up the profile. Some bioturbation.	0.18m
336	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of pit (337). Derives from the east, higher energy deposition. Light brown clay loam. 2% chalk, sub-rounded – rounded, <1-2cm. Occasional charcoal flecks. Mixed. Compact. Overlies (339).	0.12m
<b>337</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Shallow, irregular pit or hollow. Shape in plan obscured, shallow, convex sides. 1.50m wide. Slightly diffuse. Filled with (336) and (339).</b>	<b>0.40m</b>
<b>338</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>North – south aligned boundary ditch. Re-cut by ditch (344) to the east. Cuts pit (337). 1.40m wide. Filled with (350), (351) and (352). Moderate, concave sides, slightly concave base. Overlies (336).</b>	<b>0.78m</b>
339	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of pit (337). Gradually deposited. Mid grey sandy silt loam. <1% chalk, sub-rounded – rounded, <1-2cm. Occasional charcoal flecks. Compact.	0.19m
340	<i>Deposit</i>	Dark grey-black silty clay. 1% chalk, sub-rounded – rounded, <1-2cm. 1% stone, sub-angular, 2-4cm. Rare charcoal flecks. Overlies (336). Either a spread of reworked (321) or directly equivalent to (321).	0.10m
<b>341</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Shallow cut seen in box section. Possibly eastern part of (320). Filled with (342) and (343).</b>	<b>0.40m</b>
342	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of (341). Mid grey silty clay. 1% chalk, sub-rounded – rounded, <1-2cm. <1% stone, sub-rounded – sub-angular, 2-4cm. Occasional mid yellow-grey diffuse mottling. Compact. Diffuse interface with (343).	0.27m
343	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of (341). Mid grey silty clay. 1% chalk, sub-rounded – rounded, <1-2cm. <1% stone, sub-rounded – sub-angular, 2-8cm. Compact. Slightly diffuse interface with (342). Overlies (342). Overlain by (321).	0.15m
<b>344</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>North – south aligned boundary ditch. Re-cut of ditch (338). Steep, straight sides, concave base. 1.20m wide. Filled with (345), (346), (347), (348) and (349). Cuts (350).</b>	<b>0.70m</b>
345	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of ditch (344). Gradually accumulated mostly topsoil derived material. Dark grey silty clay. 1% chalk, sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Rare charcoal flecks. Compact, some bioturbation. Slightly diffuse interface with (346). Overlies (346).	0.10m
346	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of ditch (344). Gradually accumulated mostly topsoil derived material. Dark grey silty clay. 1% chalk, sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Rare charcoal flecks. Compact, some bioturbation. Slightly more mixed than (348). Slightly diffuse interface with (348) and (345). Overlies (348).	0.15m
347	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of ditch (316). Includes more subsoil and redeposited natural derived material than (317). Mid yellow-brown sandy silt loam. 5% chalk, sub-rounded, <1-5cm. Fairly compact, some bioturbation. Diffuse interface with (317).	0.19m
348	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of ditch (344). Gradually accumulated mostly topsoil derived material. Dark grey silty clay. 1% chalk, sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Rare charcoal flecks. Compact, some bioturbation. Slightly diffuse interface with	0.40m

		(349) and (346). Overlies (349).	
349	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of ditch (344). Derives from the east, topsoil and subsoil derived material. Pale grey silty clay. 1% chalk, sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Rare charcoal flecks. Compact, some bioturbation. Slightly diffuse interface with (348).	0.70m
350	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of ditch (338). Gradually accumulated mostly topsoil derived material. Mid grey silty clay. 1% chalk, sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Rare charcoal flecks. Compact, some bioturbation. Slightly diffuse interface with (351). Overlies (351).	0.25m
351	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of ditch (338). Gradually accumulated topsoil and subsoil derived material. Lenses of redeposited natural may reflect nearby activity. Light grey sandy clay loam. 1% flint/stone, sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Compact, some bioturbation. Rare charcoal flecks. Fairly clear interface with (352), slightly diffuse interface with (350). Overlies (352).	0.35m
352	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary/primary fill of ditch (338). Gradually accumulated topsoil, subsoil and weathered natural. Light yellow-orange sandy clay. 1% chalk, sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Compact, some bioturbation. Fairly clear interface with (351). Overlies (336).	0.18m

<b>TRENCH 4</b>			<b>Type:</b>	Machine excavated
<b>Dimensions:</b> 11.46x1.95m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 0.47m	<b>Ground level:</b> 22.84-22.95m aOD	
<b>context</b>	<b>Description</b>			<b>depth</b>
401	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern ploughsoil. Mid grey-brown silty clay. 2% flint, sub-angular – rounded, <1-5cm. Occasional chalk flecks. Fairly friable. Heavily bioturbated. Fairly homogeneous.		0.00-0.33m bgl
402	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid yellow-brown silty clay. Fairly compact. 1% flint, sub-angular, <1-3cm.		0.25-0.47m bgl
403	<i>Layer</i>	Colluvial deposit. Mid yellow clay. Compact.		0.47m+ bgl

<b>TRENCH 5</b>			<b>Type:</b>	Machine excavated
<b>Dimensions:</b> 11.14x9.70m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 0.97m	<b>Ground level:</b> 23.22-23.07m aOD	
<b>context</b>	<b>Description</b>			<b>depth</b>
501	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern ploughsoil. Mid grey-brown silty clay. 2% flint, sub-angular – rounded, <1-4cm. Occasional chalk flecks. Fairly friable. Heavily bioturbated. Fairly homogenous. Slightly diffuse interface with (502). Overlies (502).		0.00-0.30m bgl
502	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid yellow-brown clay. Occasional chalk flecks. Fairly compact. Frequent mid-brown clay mottles. Bioturbated. Moderately compact. Seen on eastern side of trench. Clear interface with (535). Overlies (535).		0.20-0.30m bgl
<b>503</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>North-west – south-east aligned plough furrow. Shallow, concave sides, concave base. Approx. 2.42m wide. In many parts of the trench above the level of stripping. Filled with (504). Cuts (508) and (532).</b>		<b>0.16m</b>
504	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of plough furrow (503). Mid grey-green silty clay. 5% flint, sub-angular, 2-6cm. 1% chalk, rounded, <1cm. Fairly homogenous, moderately friable deposit.		0.16m
505		VOID		
506		VOID		
<b>507</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>North-west – south-east aligned gully. Moderately, concave sides, concave base. 0.46m wide. Truncated and removed to the south by plough furrow (504). Filled with (508).</b>		<b>0.16m</b>
508	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of gully (507). Mid brown-grey silty clay. 1% flint, sub-angular, 2-4cm. 1% chalk, rounded, <1cm. Rare charcoal flecks. Slightly mixed, moderately compact deposit. Likely to include deliberately deposited domestic refuse.		0.16m
<b>509</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Large curvilinear ditch, running approximately north-west – south-east.</b>		<b>0.74m</b>

		<b>Concave, moderate sides, concave base. 1.9m wide. Northern edge is slightly steeper. Filled with (510)-(513) and (524). Fairly clear in plan and section. Identical to (535). Cut by ditch (531).</b>	
510	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of curvilinear (509). Dark grey sandy clay. <1% chalk flecks. Slightly mixed, moderately compact deposit. Slightly diffuse interface with (522). Overlies (511).	0.08m
511	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of curvilinear (509). Mid grey sandy clay. <1% chalk flecks. Contained a large amount of plaster. Clear interface with (510). Overlies (524).	0.07m
512	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of curvilinear (509). Mid grey sandy clay. 1% flint, sub-rounded, 2-4cm. <1% chalk flecks. Occasional charcoal flecks. Slightly mixed, moderately compact deposit. Clear interface with (511). Identical to (533). Overlies (513).	0.26m
513	<i>Deposit</i>	Primary fill of curvilinear (509). Mid to Pale yellow-grey sandy clay. 1% flint, sub-rounded, 2-4cm. 1% chalk, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Fairly homogeneous, moderately compact deposit. Slightly diffuse interface with (512). Identical to (534).	0.31m
<b>514</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Shallow, sub-rectangular cut. Concave shallow sides, flat base. Filled with (515). 2.16m long, 1.76m wide. Clear in plan and section. Cuts (522).</b>	<b>0.14m</b>
515	<i>Deposit</i>	Fill of (514). Mid yellow-brown clay. 10% chalk, rounded, <1cm. Redeposited natural clay. Apparent deliberate deposit.	0.14m
<b>516</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Shallow, oval feature, possible root disturbance. Shallow, concave edges, concave base. Slightly diffuse. 0.56m long, 0.41m wide. Filled with (517).</b>	<b>0.08m</b>
517	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of (516), gradual infilling. Mid yellow-grey silty clay. No visible inclusions.	0.08m
<b>518</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>North – south aligned linear obscured by layer (522) which has settled in the top of it but extends beyond its edges. Concave, moderate sides, concave base. Shallow. 0.70m wide. Filled with (519). Overlies (520).</b>	<b>0.18m</b>
519	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of ditch (518), gradual infilling. Dark yellow-grey silty clay. 2% chalk, sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Fairly compact and slightly mixed.	0.18m
520	<i>Layer</i>	Occupation layer. Similar to (522). Dark yellow brown clay loam. 2% flint and stone, sub-rounded – sub-angular, 2-4cm. 2% chalk flecks. Occasional charcoal flecks. Overlies (536).	0.13m
521	<i>Layer</i>	Remains of plough ridge. Mid grey-green sandy clay. 2% flint and stone, sub-rounded – sub-angular, 2-4cm. 1% chalk flecks. Cut by (531). Overlies (522).	0.16m
522	<i>Layer</i>	Possible occupation layer preserved below plough ridge (521). Dark grey sandy clay loam. 5% flint and stone sub-rounded – sub-angular, 2-6cm. <1% chalk flecks. Occasional charcoal flecks. Similar to (520). Overlies (510) and (519). Slightly diffuse interface with (521). Cut by (514).	0.11m
523	<i>Layer</i>	Preserved subsoil. Mid grey-green sandy clay. 2% flint, sub-rounded – sub-angular, 2-4cm. 2% chalk, sub-rounded – rounded, <1-2cm. Occasional charcoal flecks. Overlies (536).	0.07m
524	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of curvilinear (509). Dark red-grey sandy clay. 40% flint, rounded, 2-4cm. Fairly homogeneous, moderately compact deposit. Clear interface with (511), slightly diffuse interface with (510). Overlies (512).	0.09m
525	<i>Layer</i>	Unclear whether (525) is an upper fill of (531) or an overlying deposit. Light yellow-brown sandy clay. Fairly homogeneous and compact. Overlies (530).	0.25m
526	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of gully (527). Dark brown clay loam. 5% flint and stone, sub-rounded, 2-4cm. 1% chalk flecks. Fairly homogeneous and compact. Occasional charcoal flecks. Identical to (530).	0.08m
<b>527</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Shallow east – west aligned gully. Fairly late, stratigraphically above all other features. Moderate, concave sides, concave base. 0.40m wide. Identical to (531). Filled with (526).</b>	<b>0.08m</b>
528	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of gully (529). Dark brown clay loam. 5% flint and stone, sub-rounded, 2-4cm. 1% chalk flecks. Fairly homogeneous and compact. Occasional charcoal flecks. Appears identical to (526) and (530). Overlies (529).	-

529	<i>Cut</i>	<b>Shallow north – south aligned gully. Fairly late, stratigraphically above all other features. 0.25m wide. Unexcavated. Offshoot of (527)/(531). Filled with (529).</b>	-
530	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of gully (531). Dark brown clay loam. 5% flint and stone, sub-rounded, 2-4cm. 1% chalk flecks. Fairly homogeneous and compact. Occasional charcoal flecks. Identical to (526).	0.12m+
<b>531</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Shallow east – west aligned gully. Fairly late, stratigraphically above all other features. Moderate, concave sides, concave base. 0.90m wide. Identical to (527). Filled with (535). Unclear whether (525) is an upper fill or an overlying deposit. Only partially excavated.</b>	<b>0.12m+</b>
532	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of curvilinear (535), possible dumped deposit. Mid grey-yellow clay. 5% chalk flecks. Rare charcoal flecks. Mixed, moderately compact deposit. Frequent mid yellow clay mottles. Occasional fired clay flecks. Cut by (503). Overlies (533).	0.08m
533	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of curvilinear (535). Mid grey clay. <1% chalk flecks. Rare manganese flecks. Rare charcoal flecks. Slightly mixed, moderately compact deposit. Slightly diffuse interface with (532). Identical to (512). Overlies (534).	0.28m
534	<i>Deposit</i>	Primary fill of curvilinear (535). Pale yellow-grey clay. Rare manganese flecks. Fairly homogeneous, moderately compact deposit. Slightly diffuse interface with (533). Identical to (513).	0.12m
<b>535</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Large curvilinear ditch, running approximately north-west – south-east. Concave, moderate sides, concave base. 1.84m wide. Filled with (532), (533) and (534). Fairly clear in plan and section. Identical to (509). Cut by plough furrow (503).</b>	<b>0.62m</b>
536	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid yellow-brown clay. Compact. 1% chalk flecks.	0.30m+ bgl

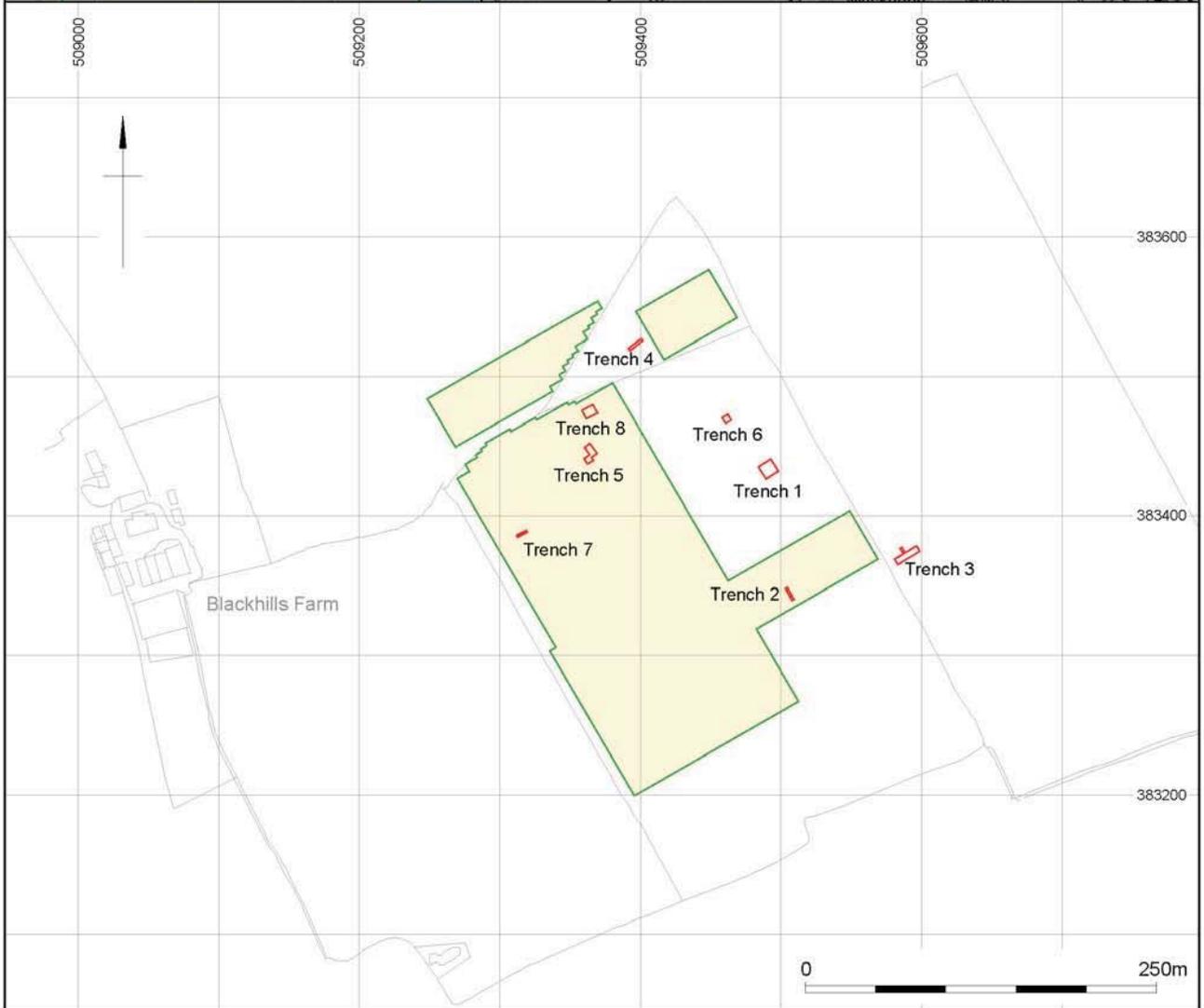
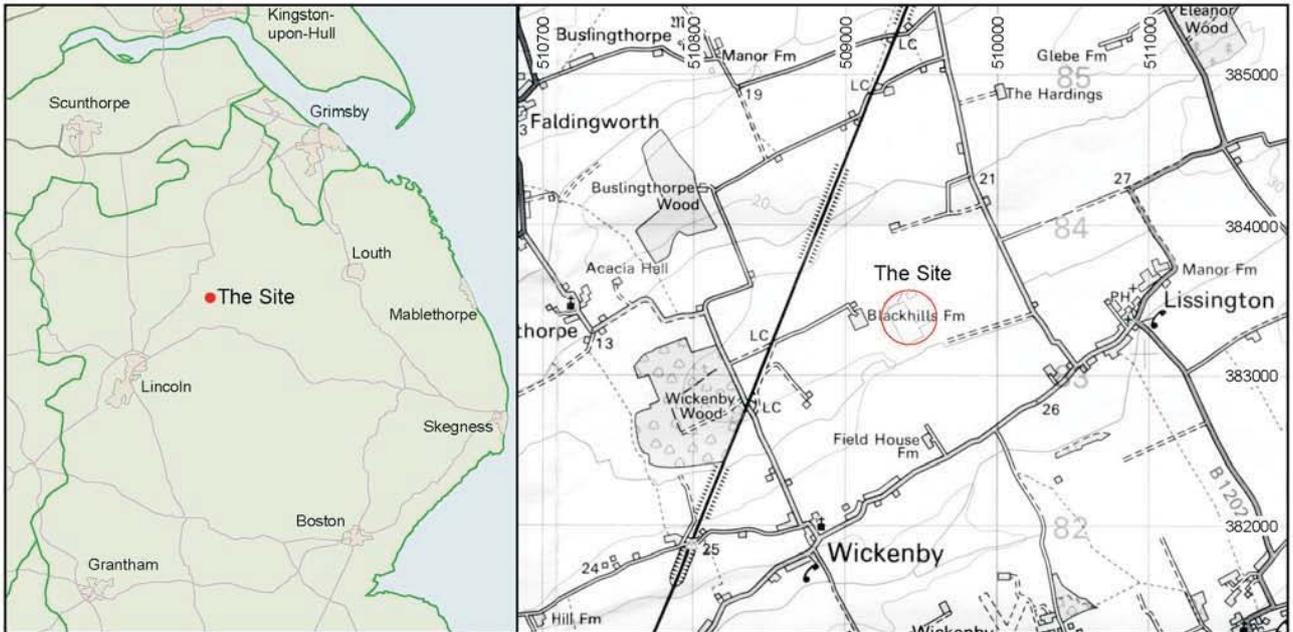
<b>TRENCH 6</b>		<b>Type:</b>	Machine excavated
<b>Dimensions:</b> 4.90x4.80m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 0.40m	<b>Ground level:</b> 23.38-23.39m aOD
<b>context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>depth</b>	
601	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Mid brown silty sand. Heavily bioturbated. Fairly compact. Fairly homogeneous. 2% flint, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-6cm. Clear interface with (602).	0.00-0.34m bgl
602	<i>Subsoil</i>	Undeveloped modern subsoil, only found on western edge of trench. Mid grey-brown silty clay. Heavily bioturbated. Compact. 1% chalk flecks. Slightly diffuse interface with (603).	0.30-0.27m+ bgl
603	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid yellow-brown clay. Compact. 1% chalk flecks.	0.30m+ bgl
<b>604</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Sub-oval pit. Unexcavated. Filled with (605). Appears to cut linears (606) and (610).</b>	-
605	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper secondary fill of pit (604). Light grey-brown silty sand. 1% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-4cm. Rare charcoal flecks. Unexcavated.	-
<b>606</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>North – south aligned linear. Cut by pit (604). Relationship with linear (608) uncertain. Filled with (607). Unexcavated.</b>	-
607	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper secondary fill of linear (606). Dark orange-grey sandy clay. 15% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-8cm. Iron oxide mottling. Unexcavated.	-
<b>608</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>North – south aligned ditch terminus. Filled with (609). Relationship with (606) uncertain. Unexcavated.</b>	-
609	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper secondary fill of linear (608). Dark orange-grey sandy clay. 5% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-4cm. Iron oxide mottling. Unexcavated.	-
<b>610</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>North-east – south-west aligned linear. Filled with (611). Appears to cut (612) but very diffuse. May actually be a single feature or a segmented ditch. Cut by (604). Unexcavated.</b>	-
611	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper secondary fill of linear (610). Mid to light grey-brown sandy clay. 2% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Rare charcoal flecks. Some evidence of bioturbation. Cut by (604). Unexcavated.	-
612	<i>Cut</i>	North-east – south-west aligned linear. Filled with (613). Appears to be cut by (610) but very diffuse. May actually be a single feature or a segmented ditch. Unexcavated.	-

613	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper secondary fill of linear (612). Mid to light grey-brown sandy clay. 2% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-3cm. Rare charcoal flecks. Some evidence of bioturbation. Possibly cut by (610). Unexcavated.	-
<b>614</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Irregular, sub-circular feature. Possible posthole. Filled with (615). Unexcavated.</b>	-
615	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper secondary fill of possible posthole (614). Dark grey silty sand. Unexcavated.	-
<b>616</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>East – west aligned linear. Filled with (617). Cut by (610) and (618). Unexcavated.</b>	-
617	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper secondary fill of linear (616). Mid grey-brown silty sand. 20% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-6cm. Cut by (618) and (610). Unexcavated.	-
<b>618</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Irregular, sub-circular feature. Possible posthole. Filled with (619). Relationship with (616) uncertain. Unexcavated.</b>	-
619	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper secondary fill of possible posthole (618). Dark grey silty sand. Unexcavated.	-
<b>620</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Irregular in plan. Possible linear but very diffuse. Filled with (621). Cut by (616). Unexcavated.</b>	-
621	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper secondary fill of irregular feature (620). Mid orange-brown silty sand. 1% gravel, sub-rounded, <1-2cm. Cut by (616). Unexcavated.	-

<b>TRENCH 7</b>			<b>Type:</b>	Machine excavated
<b>Dimensions:</b> 7.75x1.55m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 1.13m	<b>Ground level:</b> 22.49-22.63m aOD	
<b>context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>depth</b>		
701	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern topsoil. Dark grey brown silty clay. Heavily bioturbated. Fairly compact. Fairly homogeneous. 2% flint, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-6cm. Clear interface with (702).	0.00-0.31m bgl	
702	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid grey-green clay. Heavily bioturbated. Compact. 1% chalk flecks. Slightly diffuse interface with (703).	0.28-0.38m bgl	
703	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid yellow-brown clay. Compact. 1% chalk flecks.	0.38m+ bgl	
<b>704</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Cut of north – south aligned plough furrow. Shallow concave sides, concave base. Filled with (705).</b>	<b>0.32m</b>	
705	<i>Deposit</i>	Fill of plough furrow (704). Similar to (702). Mid green clay. 1% chalk flecks. Some bioturbation. Slightly friable. Slightly diffuse.	0.32m	
<b>706</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Large, sub-circular posthole. Filled with (707). Cuts (709), the upper fill of ditch (708). Slightly diffuse in plan and section.</b>	<b>0.40m</b>	
707	<i>Deposit</i>	Fill of posthole (706), concentration of burnt material suggests deliberate dump. Dark grey-black clay. 1% flint, sub-angular – rounded, <1-3cm. <1% chalk flecks. Abundant charcoal and fired clay flecks, concentrated in the centre of the deposit. Slightly mixed, diffuse, compact deposit. 0.84m wide. Occasional mid yellow-brown mottles.	0.40m	
<b>708</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>North-north-west – south-south-east aligned ditch. Re-cut of ditch (710). Concave, moderate sides, concave base. 1.43m wide. Eastern edge slightly convex and moderately inclined, western edge appears much shallower but it may be that the cut is obscured by a deposit of similar material in the top of the ditch. Filled with (709). Cuts (712).</b>	<b>0.43m</b>	
709	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of ditch (708). Mid grey sandy clay. 2% flint, sub-angular - rounded, <1-5cm. 1% chalk lumps and flecks. Occasional charcoal flecks. Slightly mixed deposit. Compact. Some bioturbation. Cut by (706).	0.43m	
<b>710</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>North-north-west – south-south-east aligned ditch. Re-cut by ditch (708). Convex, steep to moderate sides, concave base. Eastern edge may be obscured by ridge and furrow, may therefore be much deeper and wider, 2.64m wide. Eastern edge steep and convex, western edge appears much shallower but it may be that the cut is obscured. Filled with (711), (712) and (713).</b>	<b>0.57m+</b>	
711	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of ditch (710). Mid yellow clay. 1% stone and flint, sub-angular – sub-rounded, <1-6cm. 1% chalk flecks. Frequent mid orange and pale grey-brown mottles. Compact. Some bioturbation.	0.27m	
712	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of ditch (710). Mid yellow-grey clay. <1% flint, sub-rounded,	0.34m	

		2-4cm. <1% chalk, rounded, <1-2cm. Mixed, diffuse deposit. Fairly compact. Some bioturbation. Slightly diffuse interface with (708) and (713). Overlies (713).	
713	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of ditch (710). Pale grey clay. 1% flint, sub-rounded, 2-8cm. Mixed, very diffuse deposit. Fairly compact. Some bioturbation. Overlies (711).	0.25m

<b>TRENCH 8</b>		<b>Type:</b>	Machine excavated
<b>Dimensions:</b> 8.90x6.90m		<b>Max. depth:</b> 1.20m	<b>Ground level:</b> 23.01-23.03m aOD
<b>context</b>	<b>Description</b>		<b>depth</b>
801	<i>Topsoil</i>	Modern ploughsoil. Mid grey-brown silty clay. 2% flint, sub-angular – rounded, <1-4cm. Occasional chalk flecks. Fairly friable. Heavily bioturbated. Fairly homogenous. Diffuse interface with (802). Overlies (802).	0.00-0.27m bgl
802	<i>Subsoil</i>	Modern subsoil. Mid yellow-brown clay. Occasional chalk flecks. Fairly compact. Bioturbated. Moderately compact. Clear interface with (812). Overlies (812).	0.27-0.32m bgl
803	<i>Natural</i>	Natural geology. Mid yellow-brown clay. Compact. 1% chalk flecks.	0.47m+ bgl
<b>804</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Large, ovoid pit. Steep, slightly convex sides. Not bottomed. Possible well or watering hole. Filled with (805)-(809).</b>	<b>1.08m+</b>
805	<i>Deposit</i>	Deliberate backfill of (804). Dark black-brown silty clay. 10% chalk, sub-rounded, <1-4cm. 2% flint, sub-rounded, 2-4cm. Compact. Fairly homogeneous deposit. Frequent charcoal flecks. Slightly diffuse. Some bioturbation. Overlies (806).	0.22m
806	<i>Deposit</i>	Deliberate backfill of (804). Very dark black-grey silty clay. <1% chalk flecks. Soft, very dark deposit, includes concentration of heat affected stone. Slightly diffuse interface with (805). Overlies (807).	0.35m
807	<i>Deposit</i>	Deliberate backfill of (804). Mid yellow-grey silty clay. 1% chalk, rounded, <1-2cm. Occasional charcoal flecks. Compact, slightly mixed deposit. Mid-yellow-orange clay mottles. Slightly diffuse interface with (806). Overlies (808).	0.31m
808	<i>Deposit</i>	Deliberate backfill of (804). Mid grey silty clay. 1% chalk, rounded, <1-2cm. Occasional charcoal flecks. Compact, slightly mixed deposit. Slightly diffuse interface with (807). Overlies (809).	0.30m
809	<i>Deposit</i>	Deliberate backfill of (804). Mid yellow-brown clay. 5% chalk, sub-rounded – rounded, <1-4cm. Frequent charcoal flecks. Compact, slightly mixed deposit. Not bottomed. Fairly clear interface with (808).	0.22m+
810	<i>Deposit</i>	Deliberate backfill of (804). Dark grey-brown sandy clay loam. 1% chalk, rounded, <1-2cm. Frequent charcoal, mortar, plaster and fired clay flecks. Compact, mixed deposit. Stratigraphic relationship to (805) unknown. Not bottomed.	0.28m+
<b>811</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Cut of north-north-west – south-south-east plough furrow. Filled with (812). Shallow, concave sides and base. Cuts (814).</b>	<b>0.24m</b>
812	<i>Deposit</i>	Secondary fill of plough furrow (811). Mid yellow-grey sandy clay. 2% flint, sub-angular, 2-4cm. 2% chalk, sub-rounded – rounded, <1-2cm.	0.24m
<b>813</b>	<b><i>Cut</i></b>	<b>Cut of curvilinear gully. Moderate, straight sides, concave base. 0.30m wide. Runs into (804).</b>	<b>0.18m</b>
814	<i>Deposit</i>	Upper secondary fill of gully (813). Dark grey silty clay. 2% flint, sub-angular, 2-4cm. 2% chalk, sub-rounded – rounded, <1-2cm. Slightly mixed, fairly compact. Overlies (815).	0.09m
815	<i>Deposit</i>	Lower secondary fill of gully (813). Mid grey-brown silty clay. 2% flint, sub-angular, 2-4cm. Slightly mixed, fairly compact. Diffuse interface with (814). Overlies (816).	0.08m
816	<i>Layer</i>	Equivalent to (802).	0.34-0.47m bgl



- Trench
- Area of Ground Penetrating Radar Survey



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Location of site and trenches

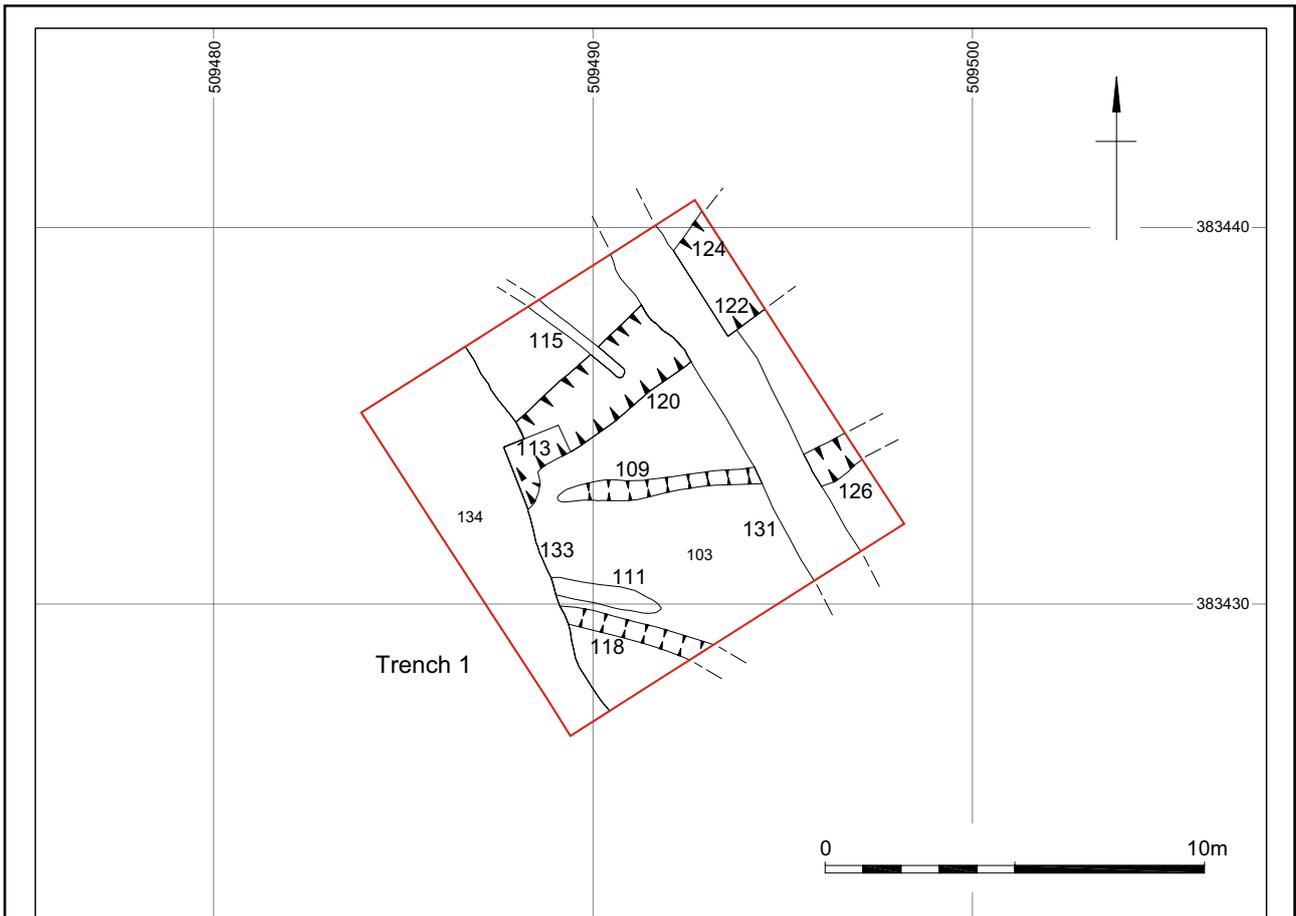
Figure 1



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Results of the geophysical survey

Figure 2



Plan of Trench 1

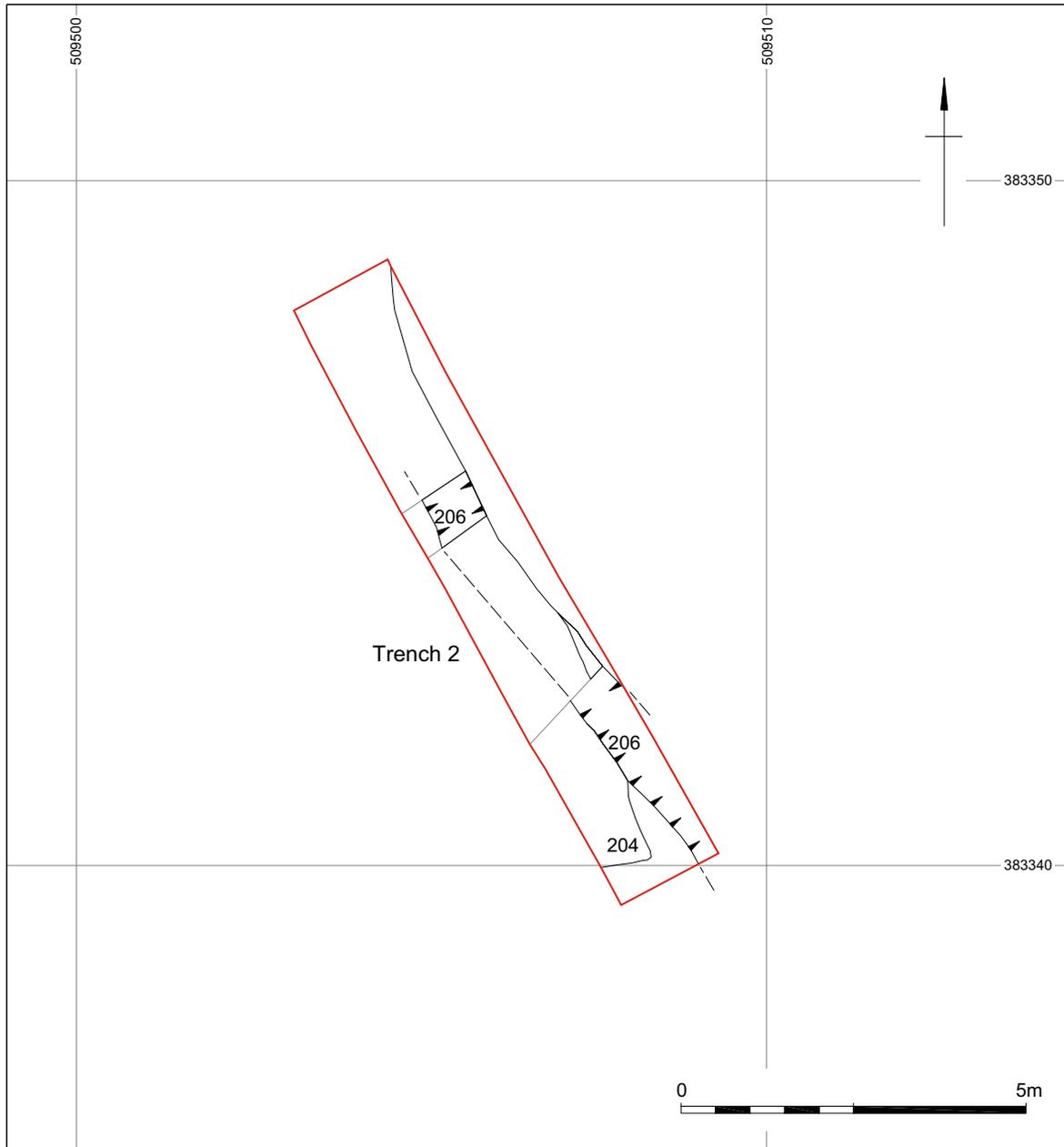


Plate 1: View of Trench 1 from the south-east

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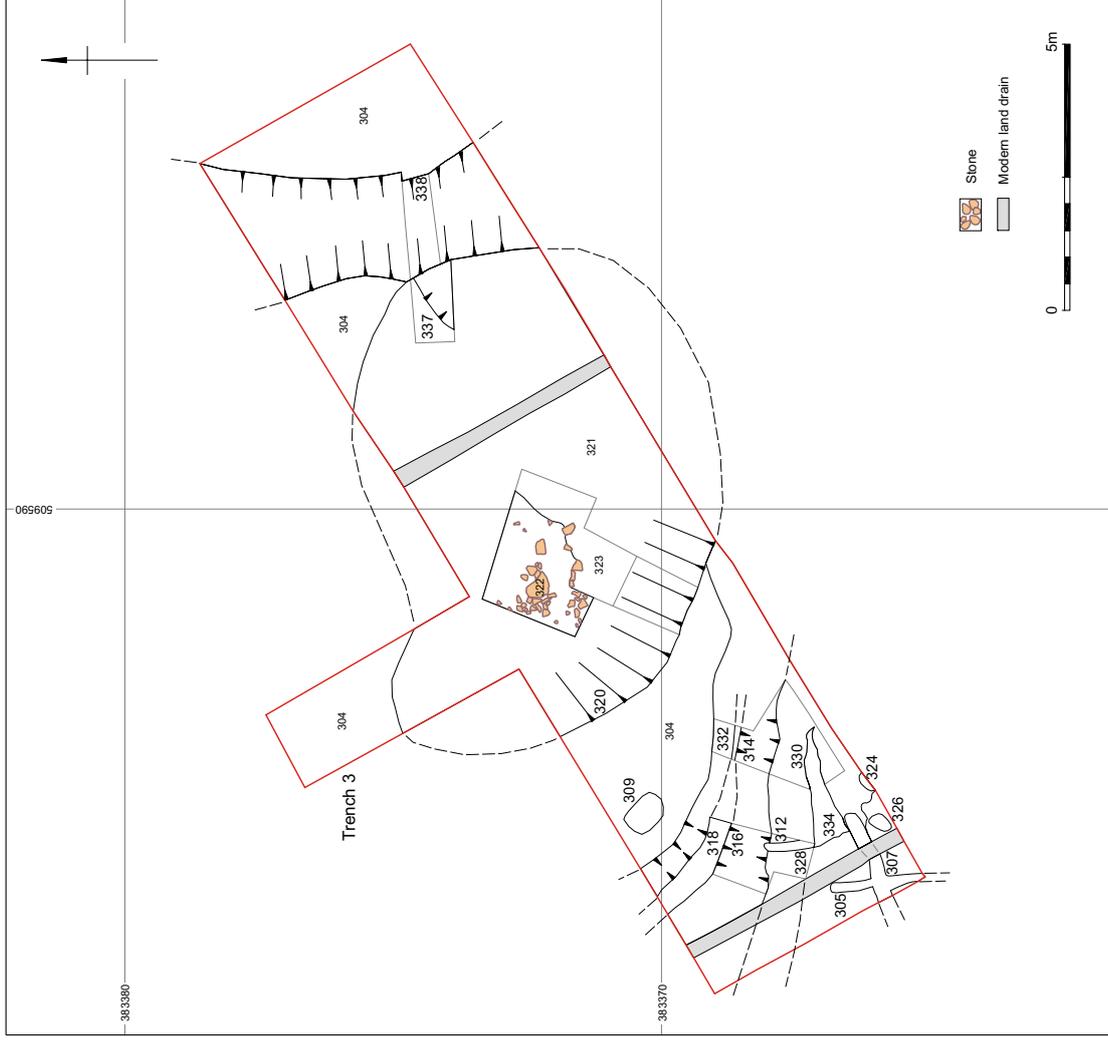
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Plan of Trench 2

Figure 4



Plan of Trench 3

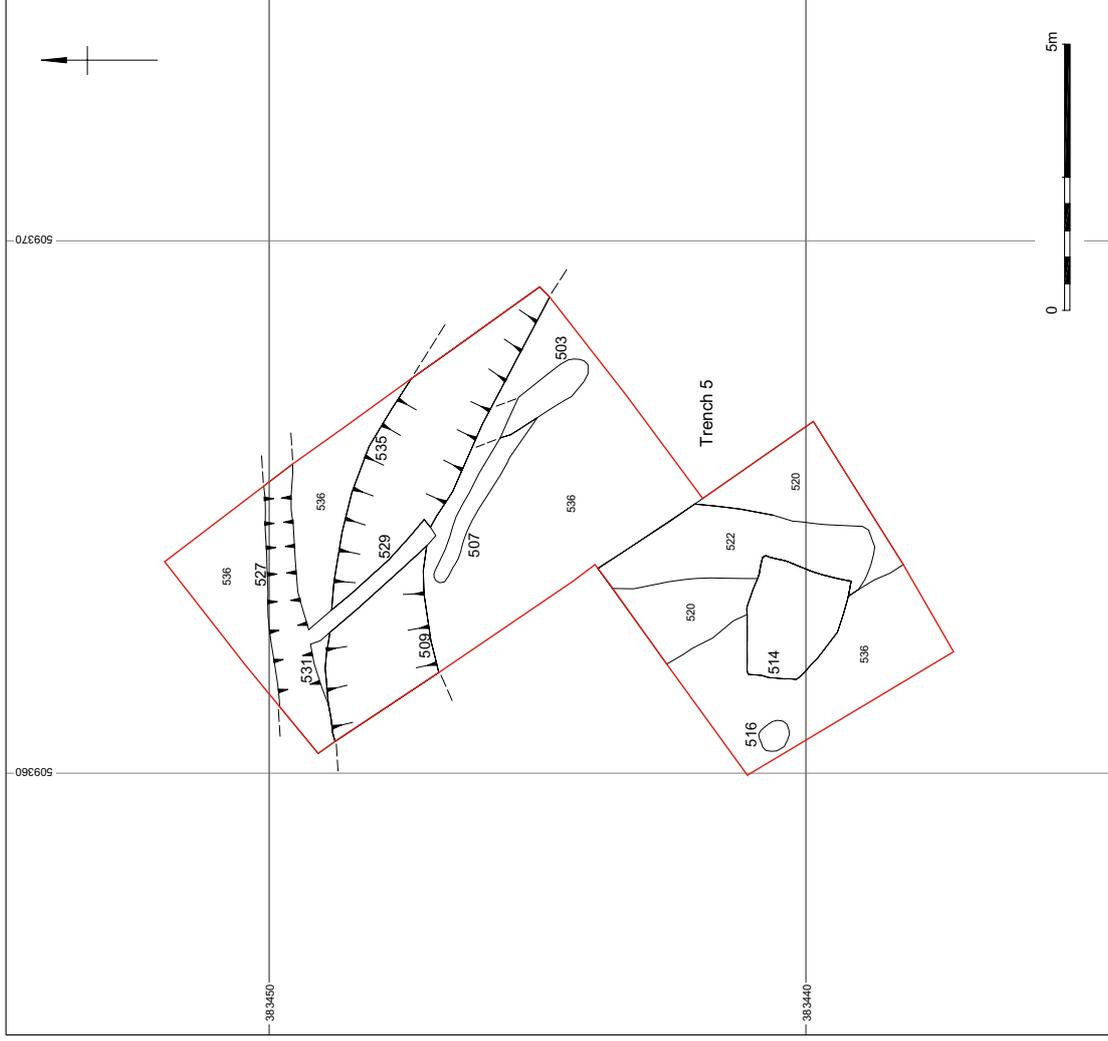


Plate 2: View of western part of Trench 3, gully (318), ditch (316) and treethrow (328) from the west



Plate 3: View of eastern part of Trench 3, from the south-east

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Plan of Trench 5

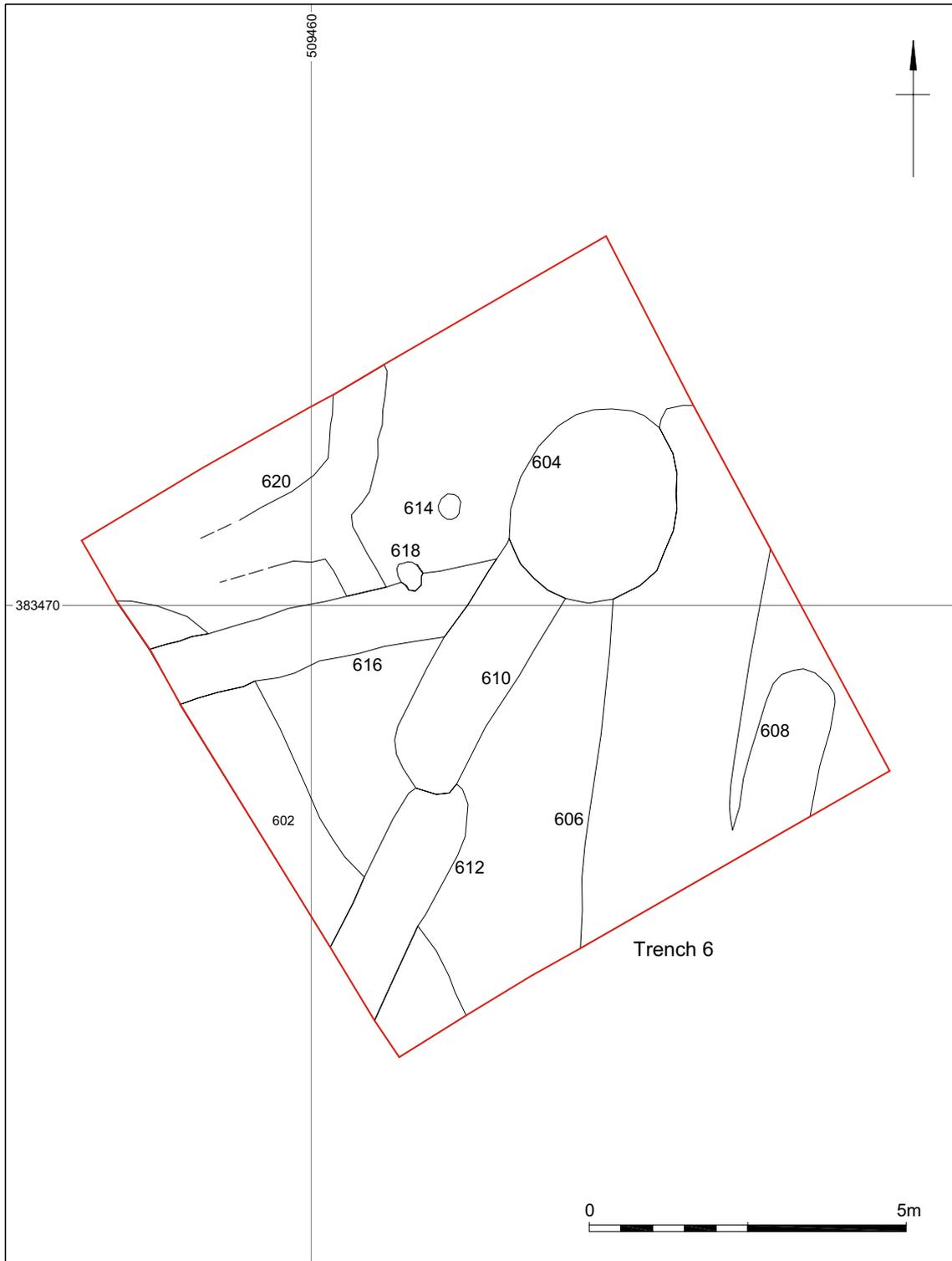


Plate 4: Pre-excavation view, northern part Trench 5, from the south-west



Plate 5: Pre-excavation view, southern part Trench 5, from the west

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Plan of Trench 6

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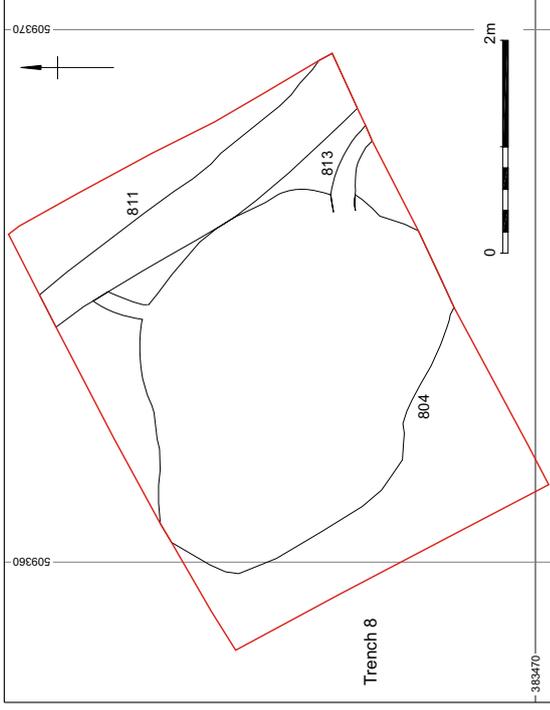
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Plate 6: Pre-excavation view, post-hole (706)



Plate 7: East-facing section through pit (804) sondage



Plan of Trench 8



Plate 8: Western view of Trench 8

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The three phases of alignment suggested by the geophysical survey (data courtesy of GSB Prospection Ltd and Pre-Construct Geophysics)



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