

GDFS22



## Land at Gibbet Fen, Donington, Lincolnshire

### Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

PLANNING REF. DC/21/03781/STPLFE

Headland Archaeology Scotland  
13 Jane St | Edinburgh EH6 5HE

for Clarke Construction Group  
on behalf of Ian Pick Associates Ltd

Draft v.1.0  
25/04/2022

## PROJECT INFORMATION:

|                     |                                                         |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| PROJECT NAME        | Land at Gibbet Fen, Donington, Lincolnshire             |
| TYPE OF WORK        | ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION                  |
| PLANNING REF.       | DC/21/03781/STPLFE                                      |
| MUSEUM ACCESSION NO | LCNCC : 2022.56                                         |
| CONSULTANT/AGENT    | Ian Pick Associates Ltd                                 |
| CLIENT              | Clarke Construction Group Ltd                           |
| PROJECT CODE        | GFDS22                                                  |
| NGR                 | TF 19296 35859                                          |
| PARISH              | Donington Parish                                        |
| LOCAL AUTHORITY     | Lincolnshire County Council                             |
| FIELDWORK DATES     | 29/03/2022 – 01/04/2022                                 |
| OASIS REF.          | headland1-506160                                        |
| ARCHIVE REPOSITORY  | Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Record |

## PROJECT TEAM:

|                 |                                        |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------|
| PROJECT MANAGER | David Harrison                         |
| AUTHOR          | Armi Utriainen                         |
| FIELDWORK       | Armi Utriainen and Stephanie McCulloch |
| GRAPHICS        | Click or tap here to enter text.       |
| ENVIRONMENTAL   | N/A                                    |
| FINDS           | N/A                                    |

## PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by Ian Pick Associates Ltd on behalf of Clarke Construction Group Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Land at Gibbet Fen, Donington, Lincolnshire, to support a planning application (DC/21/03781/STPLFE) for the construction of 6 No. poultry houses and associated infrastructure as well as the construction of 2 No. of agricultural workers dwellings.

The works comprised the excavation of 11 trial trenches. A single post-medieval drainage/boundary ditch was encountered. No finds were encountered. No further archaeological work is anticipated.

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# Land at Gibbet Fen, Donington, Lincolnshire

## Archaeological Evaluation

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by Ian Pick Associates Ltd on behalf of Clarke Construction Group Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Land at Gibbet Fen, Donington, Lincolnshire (NGR TF19296 35859) in support of a planning application (DC/21/03781/STPLFE) for the construction of 6 No. poultry houses and associated infrastructure as well as the construction of 2 No. of agricultural workers dwellings.

The work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Harrison 2022) which was submitted to and approved by Ian Marshman (Historic Environment Officer at Lincolnshire County Council) and conforms with current industry best practices and the National Planning Policy Framework (CfA 2020a & b, 2021 and 2021).

#### 1.1. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Application Boundary comprises a pentagonal-shaped parcel of land within the north-western end on an arable field on Gibbet Fen, 1km west of Donington village and centred at TF 1900 3592. It is bound to the north-east by a railway line between Sleaford and Spalding, to the north-west by the Hammond beck and by arable land and irrigation ditches on all other sides. The PDA connects to the A52 by existing farm

The bedrock geology comprises Oxford Clay Formation - Mudstone. This is overlain by Tidal Flat Deposits 1 - Clay And Silt (NERC 2022).

#### 1.2. Archaeological background

The proposed development was located directly southwest of the construction of Triton Knoll and Viking Link, which have revealed evidence of Iron Age and Roman settlements some of which were previously unknown. Lincolnshire Environment Record (HER) entries of known remains consisted of cropmarks and an Iron Age/Roman beehive quern stone, discovered in the plough soil on the southern side of the railway, west of area of the evaluation area. Due to the discoveries at Viking Link there was a likelihood of previously unknown archaeological remains within the site boundary.

#### 1.3. Aims and objectives

The main aim of the evaluation was to identify and assess the significance of any element of the historic environment that might have been affected by the proposal, including the affect on the setting of the heritage assets.

As detailed in the WSI document this was achieved by determining the nature, function and character of the site, in its cultural and environmental setting.

The specific information collection was focused on:

- The location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits present.
- The integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits present.

The archive that was compiled during the field work has been prepared in accordance to the Archaeological Archive Deposition Policy as detailed by Lincolnshire County Council's Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook, 2019.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

All trenches were set-out using differential GPS. A cable avoidance tool (CAT Scanner) was used to scan trenches in advance of opening.

### 2.1. SITE WORKS

Works were conducted with a 360° tracked excavator equipped with toothless ditching bucket. All trenches were excavated by machine under direct archaeological supervision to remove topsoil deposits were excavated in controlled spits. Machine excavation terminated at the top of the natural geology or the first significant archaeological horizon, whichever was encountered first. Any further excavation required to satisfy the objectives of the evaluation was continued by hand. On completion of machine excavation, all faces of the trench that require examination or recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools. The stratigraphic sequence was recorded in full in each of the trenches, even where no archaeological deposits were identified. All excavation by machine and hand was undertaken with a view to avoid damage to archaeological deposits or features which appear worthy of preservation in situ or more detailed investigation than for the purposes of evaluation.

### 2.2. RECORDING

All recording followed ClfA Standards and Guidance (2020a). All contexts, small finds and environmental samples were given unique numbers. All recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards.

A photographic record of all contexts was taken using digital photography; a graduated metric scale was clearly visible. The digital photographs will be submitted to the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) for long-term archive storage.

A site plan including all identified features, areas of excavation and other pertinent information was recorded digitally. The site plan was accurately linked to the National Grid and heights to OD. Where appropriate, sections and stratigraphic sequences were recorded digitally. Digital recording was undertaken using a differential GPS linked to a hand-held computer in order to allow data checking while in the field.

### 2.3. REPORTING AND ARCHIVES

The archive and report will be provided to the client and deposited to the Lincolnshire County Council

Heritage Environment Record in digital (PDF/CD format) for public access to the site discoveries.

## 3. RESULTS

Full context descriptions and trench descriptions are presented in the Appendices along with a full photographic register.

No significant archaeological remains were encountered during the evaluation. Eleven trenches were excavated, of which three contained the same post-medieval boundary ditch (Illus 2). Each trench measured 2m by 50m and the orientations of each trench and their detailed descriptions can be found in Appendix 1.1.

### 3.1. FEATURES

Trenches 4, 5, and 6, contained two large ditches running along the northeaster edge of the site they were excavated in Trench 4. Ditch [T04004] 4.32m in width and 0.97m in depth, with a U-shaped profile and slightly concave sides. The fill (T04003) consisted of soft dark greyish brown silty clay with frequent shell inclusions. Ditch [T04006] running north to south was much shallower measuring 3.80m in width and 0.57m in depth. The profile of the ditch is a U-shape with a flat base, straight sloping sides and a gradual break of slope. The fill of the ditch (T04005) consisted of soft mid-greyish brown silty clay with frequent mollusc and shell inclusions. Both of the ditches were likely infilled slowly over time and frequently contained enough water for the shell and molluscs.

These features were determined to be the same features that appeared in trenches 5 and 6 so were not investigated within these trenches

### 3.2. STERILE TRENCHES

Trenches 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 were all archaeologically sterile trenches. They all showed similar deposits of a topsoil at approximately 0.40m depth with little to no subsoil present, that were overlying the natural blueish grey clay. This was tested in Trench 1 with a sondage at the northern end, down to a depth of 0.75m.

## 4. DISCUSSION

No significant archaeological remains were encountered during the evaluation. The large ditch recorded in Trench 4 and present in Trenches 5 and 6 corresponds to a former boundary depicted on first edition OS mapping.

No further archaeological work is recommended.

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## 6. APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1 SITE AND CONTEXT REGISTERS

#### 1.1 Trench register

| Trench No | Width (m) | Length (m) | Trench Alignment | Min Depth (m) | Max Depth (m) | Archaeological Status                                                  |
|-----------|-----------|------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1         | 2         | 50         | N-S              | 0.53          | 0.75          | Archaeologically Sterile                                               |
| 2         | 2         | 50         | N-S              | 0.37          | 0.42          | Archaeologically Sterile. 1 land drain and mottled geological deposits |
| 3         | 2         | 50         | NW-SE            | 0.32          | 0.42          | Archaeologically Sterile. 1 land drain                                 |
| 4         | 2         | 50         | NE-SW            | 0.41          | 1.65          | 2 ditches. Drainage predating railway. Machine excavated.              |
| 5         | 2         | 50         | E-W              | 0.45          | 0.53          | 2 ditches same as seen in trench 4                                     |
| 6         | 2         | 50         | NE-SW            | 0.39          | 0.52          | 1 possible ditch same as [040004]. Modern land drain                   |
| 7         | 2         | 50         | N-S              | 0.52          | 0.63          | Archaeologically Sterile. 3 land drains                                |
| 8         | 2         | 50         | E-W              | 0.45          | 0.49          | Archaeologically Sterile. 1 flint land drain                           |
| 9         | 2         | 50         | NW-SE            | 0.43          | 0.59          | Archaeologically Sterile                                               |
| 10        | 2         | 50         | N-S              | 0.33          | 0.58          | Archaeologically Sterile. 2 land drains                                |
| 11        | 2         | 50         | SW-NE            | 0.52          | 0.97          | One possible ditch excavated and determined to be a natural deposit    |

#### 1.2 Context register

| Trench No | Context No | Type | Dimensions (m) | Description                                        |
|-----------|------------|------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 1         | 1001       | D    | 0.43           | Topsoil, mid greyish brown, silty clay             |
| 1         | 1002       | D    | -              | Natural, compact, mottled yellowish grey, clay     |
| 2         | 2001       | D    | 0.29           | Topsoil, mid greyish brown, silty clay             |
| 2         | 2002       | D    | 0.13           | Natural, mottled blueish grey yellow, clay         |
| 2         | 2003       | D    | -              | Natural, compact, light greyish yellow, silty sand |

|    |       |   |            |                                                                              |
|----|-------|---|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3  | 3001  | D | 0.34       | Topsoil, mid greyish brown, silty clay                                       |
| 3  | 3002  | D | -          | Natural, compact, mottled yellowish grey, clay                               |
| 4  | 4001  | D | 0.28       | Topsoil, mid greyish brown, silty clay                                       |
| 4  | 4002  | D | -          | Natural, compact, mottled yellowish grey, clay                               |
| 4  | 4003  | F | 0.97       | Soft, dark greyish brown, silty sand                                         |
| 4  | 4004  | C | 4.32m wide | Cut of large ditch with flattish base and curved sides running NW/SE         |
| 4  | 4005  | F | 0.57       | Soft, mid greyish brown, silty sand. Containing molluscs                     |
| 4  | 4006  | C | 3.8m wide  | Cut of shallow ditch with flattish base and vertical sides and running NW/SE |
| 5  | 5001  | D | 0.31       | Topsoil, mid greyish brown, silty clay                                       |
| 5  | 5002  | D | -          | Natural, compact, mottled reddish brown and bluish grey, clay                |
| 6  | 6001  | D | 0.33       | Topsoil, mid greyish brown, sandy silt                                       |
| 6  | 6002  | D | -          | Natural, compact, mottled yellowish brown and blueish grey, clay             |
| 7  | 7001  | D | 0.45       | Topsoil, mid greyish brown, sandy silt                                       |
| 7  | 7002  | D | -          | Natural, compact, mottled yellowish brown and blueish grey, clay             |
| 8  | 8001  | D | 0.34       | Topsoil, mid greyish brown, silty clay                                       |
| 8  | 8002  | D | -          | Natural, compact, mottled yellowish brown and blueish grey, clay             |
| 9  | 9001  | D | 0.34       | Topsoil, mid greyish brown, silty clay                                       |
| 9  | 9002  | D | -          | Natural, compact, mottled yellowish brown and blueish grey, clay             |
| 10 | 10001 | D | 0.3        | Topsoil, mid greyish brown, silty clay                                       |
| 10 | 10002 | D | -          | Natural, compact, mottled yellowish grey, clay                               |
| 11 | 11001 | D | 0.42       | Topsoil, mid greyish brown, silty clay                                       |
| 11 | 11002 | D | 0.11       | Subsoil, mid greyish yellow, sandy clay                                      |
| 11 | 11003 | D | -          | Natural, compact, mid blueish grey, clay                                     |

### 1.3 Photographic register

| Photo No | Context | Description           | Direction |
|----------|---------|-----------------------|-----------|
| 00001    | T01     | Trench 1 Overall shot | N         |
| 00002    | T01     | Trench 1 Overall shot | N         |
| 00003    | T01     | Trench 1 Overall shot | S         |
| 00004    | T01     | Trench 1 Overall shot | S         |
| 00005    | T01     | East facing rep sec   | W         |
| 00006    | T01     | East facing rep sec   | W         |
| 00007    | T01     | East facing rep sec   | W         |
| 00008    | T04     | Trench 4 Overall shot | W         |

|       |       |                                            |      |
|-------|-------|--------------------------------------------|------|
| 00009 | T04   | Trench 4 Overall shot                      | W    |
| 00010 | T04   | Trench 4 Overall shot                      | E    |
| 00011 | T04   | Trench 4 Overall shot                      | E    |
| 00012 | 40004 | Eastern ditch in T4 040004                 | W    |
| 00013 | T04   | Old land drain in T4                       | P    |
| 00014 | 40006 | Wester ditch in T4 040006                  | E    |
| 00015 | T04   | North facing rep sec                       | S    |
| 00016 | T04   | North facing rep sec                       | S    |
| 00017 | T04   | North facing rep sec                       | S    |
| 00018 | T05   | Trench 5 Overall shot                      | W    |
| 00019 | T05   | Trench 5 Overall shot                      | W    |
| 00020 | T05   | Eastern ditch in T5                        | W    |
| 00021 | T05   | Wester ditch in T5                         | E    |
| 00022 | VOID  | VOID                                       | VOID |
| 00023 | T05   | Land drain in T5                           | P    |
| 00024 | T05   | Land drain in T5                           | P    |
| 00025 | T05   | Modern land drain in T5 west end of trench | W    |
| 00026 | T05   | Trench 5 Overall shot                      | E    |
| 00027 | T05   | South facing rep sec                       | N    |
| 00028 | T06   | Trench 6 Overall shot                      | W    |
| 00029 | T06   | Trench 6 Overall shot                      | W    |
| 00030 | T06   | South facing rep sec                       | N    |
| 00031 | T06   | Eastern ditch in T6                        | W    |
| 00032 | T06   | Trench 6 Overall shot                      | E    |
| 00033 | T07   | Trench 7 Overall shot                      | E    |
| 00034 | T07   | Trench 7 Overall shot                      | E    |
| 00035 | T07   | North facing rep sec                       | S    |
| 00036 | T07   | North facing rep sec                       | S    |
| 00037 | T07   | Land drain in T7                           | P    |
| 00038 | T07   | Land drain in T7                           | P    |
| 00039 | T07   | Eastern land drain in T7                   | P    |
| 00040 | T07   | Trench 7 Overall shot                      | E    |
| 00041 | T07   | Trench 7 Overall shot                      | E    |
| 00042 | T07   | Flint stone land drain in T7               | P    |

|       |       |                                                               |    |
|-------|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 00043 | T03   | South west facing rep sec                                     | SE |
| 00044 | T03   | Trench 7 Overall shot                                         | E  |
| 00045 | T03   | Trench 7 Overall shot                                         | E  |
| 00046 | T03   | Trench 7 Overall shot                                         | E  |
| 00047 | T03   | Trench 7 Overall shot                                         | W  |
| 00048 | T03   | Trench 7 Overall shot                                         | W  |
| 00049 | T03   | South western land drain :                                    | P  |
| 00050 | T03   | Northern land drain                                           | P  |
| 00051 | T02   | South facing rep sec                                          | N  |
| 00052 | T02   | Trench 2 Overall shot                                         | N  |
| 00053 | T02   | Trench 2 Overall shot                                         | N  |
| 00054 | T02   | Possible feature/ geology S side                              | P  |
| 00055 | T02   | Land drain                                                    | P  |
| 00056 | T02   | Trench 2 Overall shot                                         | S  |
| 00057 | T02   | Trench 2 Overall shot                                         | S  |
| 00058 | T08   | North facing rep sec                                          | S  |
| 00059 | T08   | Flint stone land drain in T8                                  | P  |
| 00060 | T10   | West facing rep sec                                           | N  |
| 00061 | T10   | Possible land drain                                           | P  |
| 00062 | T10   | Land drain                                                    | P  |
| 00063 | T10   | Trench 10 Overall shot                                        | N  |
| 00064 | T10   | Trench 10 Overall shot                                        | N  |
| 00065 | T10   | Trench 10 Overall shot                                        | N  |
| 00066 | T09   | East facing rep sec                                           | W  |
| 00067 | T09   | Trench 09 Overall shot                                        | SE |
| 00068 | T09   | Trench 09 Overall shot                                        | SE |
| 00069 | 40004 | East facing section of machine slot through ditch in trench 4 | W  |
| 00070 | 40004 | East facing section of machine slot through ditch in trench 4 | W  |
| 00071 | 40004 | East facing section of machine slot through ditch in trench 4 | W  |
| 00072 | 40004 | East facing section of machine slot through ditch in trench 4 | W  |
| 00073 | 40004 | East facing section of machine slot through ditch in trench 4 | W  |
| 00074 | T11   | North facing rep sec                                          | S  |
| 00075 | T11   | North facing rep sec                                          | S  |
| 00076 | T11   | Trench 11 Overall shot                                        | W  |

|       |       |                                                  |    |
|-------|-------|--------------------------------------------------|----|
| 00077 | T11   | Trench 11 Overall shot                           | W  |
| 00078 | T11   | Trench 11 Overall shot                           | E  |
| 00079 | T11   | Sondage showing subsoil in west end of trench 11 | NW |
| 00080 | T11   | Sondage showing subsoil in west end of trench 11 | NW |
| 00081 | 40006 | South east facing section of ditch in trench 4   | NW |
| 00082 | 40006 | South east facing section of ditch in trench 4   | NW |
| 00083 | 40006 | South east facing section of ditch in trench 4   | NW |
| 00084 | 40006 | South east facing section of ditch in trench 4   | NW |
| 00085 | T08   | Trench 08 Overall shot                           | E  |
| 00086 | T08   | Trench 08 Overall shot                           | E  |
| 00087 | T08   | Trench 08 Overall shot                           | W  |
| 00088 | T08   | Trench 08 Overall shot                           | W  |
| 00089 | T08   | Trench 08 Overall shot                           | W  |
| 00090 | T11   | West facing section of geological feature        | E  |
| 00091 | T11   | West facing section of geological feature        | E  |
| 00092 | T11   | West facing section of geological feature        | E  |

## APPENDIX 2 OASIS ENTRY

**Summary for headland1-506160**

|                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| OASIS ID (UID)                    | headland1-506160                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Project Name                      | Trial Trench at Land at Gibbet Fen, Donington                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Sitename                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Activity type                     | Trial Trench                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Project Identifier(s)             | GFDS22                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Planning Id                       | DC/21/03781/STPLFE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Reason For Investigation          | Planning requirement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Organisation Responsible for work | Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Project Dates                     | 29-Mar-2022 - 01-Apr-2022                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Location                          | Land at Gibbet Fen, Donington<br>NGR : TF 19296 35859<br>LL : 52.9069306794306, -0.227623814486712<br>12 Fig : 519296,335859                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Administrative Areas              | Country : England<br>County : Lincolnshire<br>District : South Holland<br>Parish : Donington                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Project Methodology               | Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by Ian Pick Associates Ltd on behalf of Clarke Construction Group Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Land at Gibbet Fen, Donington, Lincolnshire, to support a planning application (DC/21/03781/STPLFE) for the construction of 6 No. poultry houses and associated infrastructure as well as the construction of 2 No. of agricultural workers dwellings.<br>The works comprised the excavation of 11 trial trenches. A single post-medieval drainage/boundary ditch was encountered. No finds were encountered. No further archaeological work is anticipated |
| Project Results                   | A post-medieval boundary was discovered. No finds were recovered and no other features were present.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Keywords                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Funder                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| HER                               | Lincolnshire HER - unRev - STANDARD                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Person Responsible for work       | Armi, Utrainen                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| HER Identifiers                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Archives                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |



# LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

**ILLUS 1** SITE LOCATION

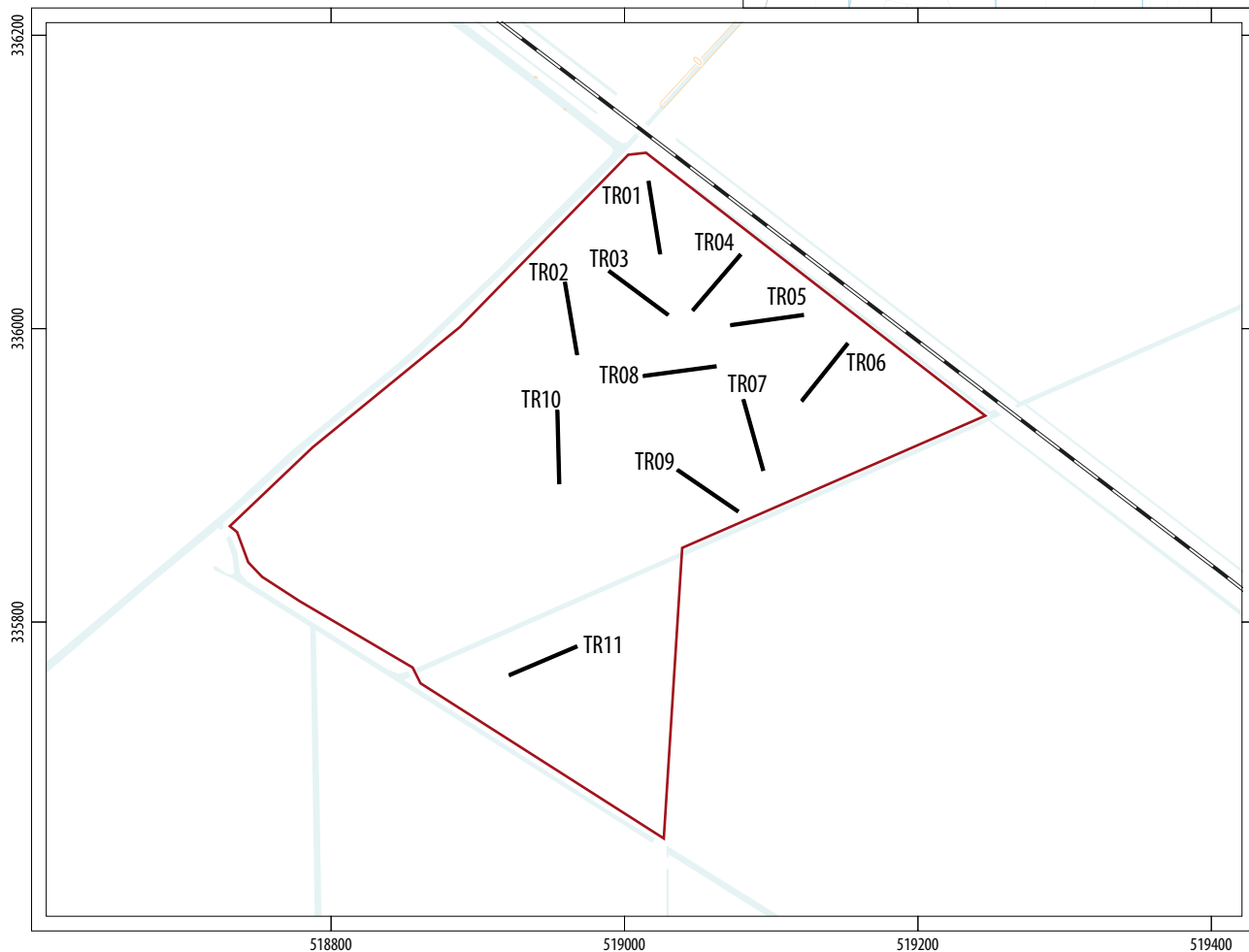
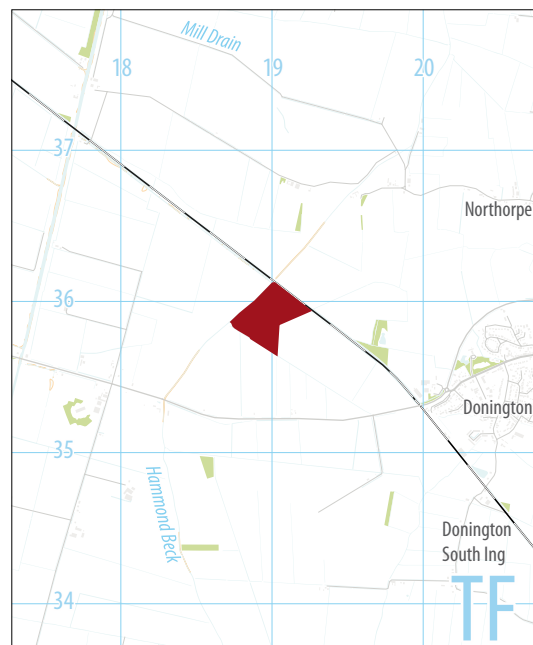
**ILLUS 2** POST-MEDIEVAL BOUNDARY IN TRENCHES 4, 5 AND 6

**ILLUS 3** SOUTH-EAST FACING SECTION THROUGH POST-MEDIEVAL DITCH IN TRENCH 4

Gibbet Fen  
Donington  
Spalding  
Lincolnshire



0 200km  
1:12,500,000 @ A4



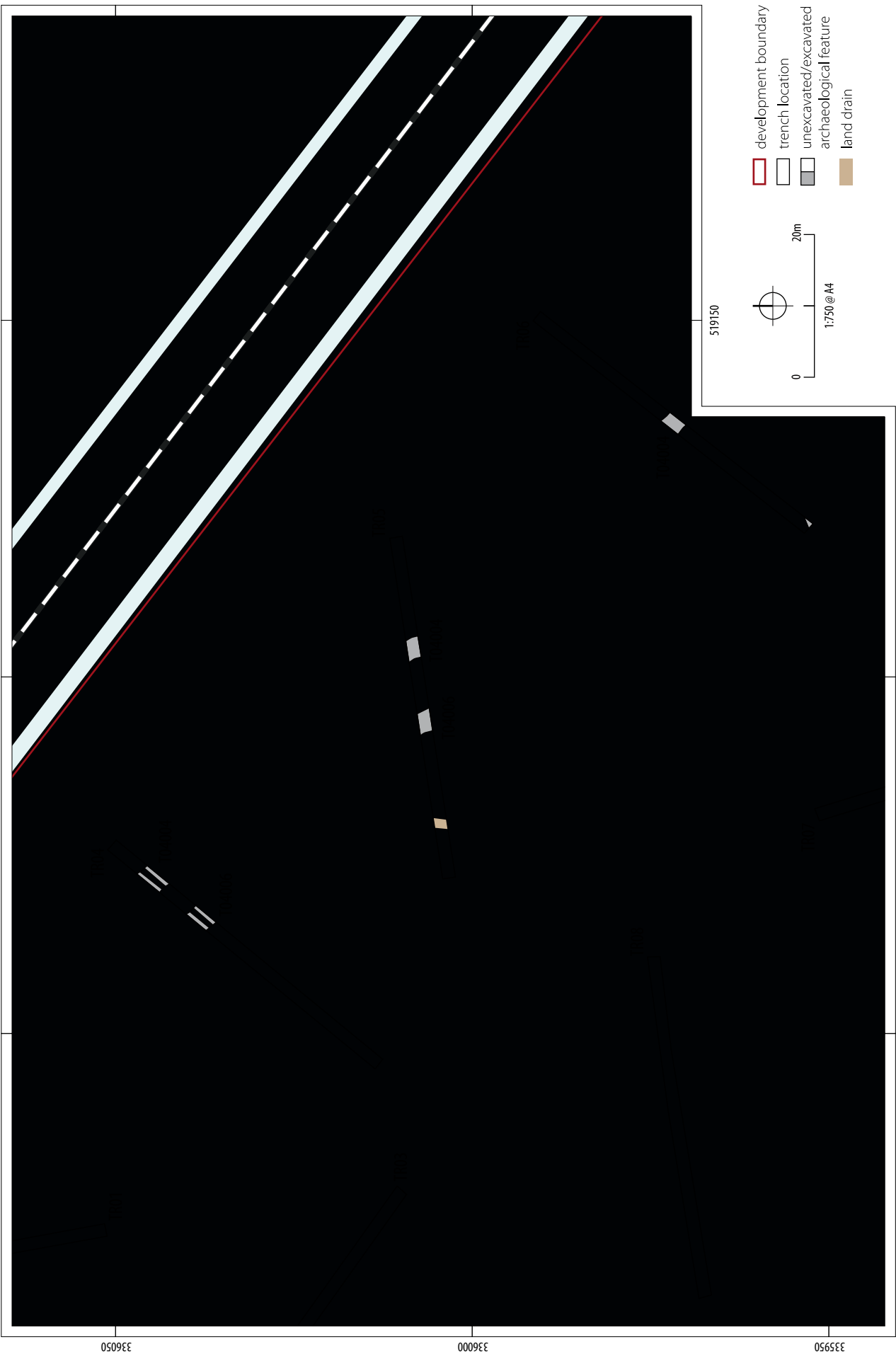
0 200m  
1:5,000 @ A4

development boundary  
trench location

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ILLUS 1 Site location



ILLUS 2 Post-medieval boundary in Trenches 4, 5 and 6



**ILLUS 3** South-east facing section through post-medieval ditch in Trench 4