

M2/22

Final Report for an Archaeological Watching Brief at The Vines, 3 Love Lane, Spalding, Lincolnshire

TF 2552-2244-
2510 2240

Planning Authority: South Holland District Council
Planning Application No: H16/0471/01
Project Site Code: VLL02
CCM Accession Number: 2002.155

PREPARED FOR:

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COMMISSIONED BY:

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SPALDING

Event L13303
Source L18032
L18033
negative

CONTENTS

1.0	SUMMARY	1
2.0	INTRODUCTION	
2.1	PLANNING BACKGROUND	1
2.2	DEFINITION OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF	1
2.3	TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS	2
2.4	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING	2
3.0	PROJECT AIMS	4
4.0	METHODOLOGY	
4.1	THE FOOTINGS	4
4.2	TIMETABLE	4
5.0	RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS	5
6.0	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	5
7.0	REFERENCES	5
8.0	APPENDICES	
8.1	Appendix A – Illustrations	
8.2	Appendix B – Plates	
8.3	Appendix C – Sites and Monuments Data	
8.4	Appendix D – Project Specification	

1.0 Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken, on behalf of the client Mr Damian Dale, at the site of the development of a residential extension and double garage, at 3 Love Lane, Spalding. Existing archaeological information suggests the area was settled by the 7th Century, although evidence for occupation and activity is sparse until the late 11th Century.

Due to the archaeological sensitivity of the area, South Holland District Council awarded planning permission for the development on the stipulation that an archaeologist be present to monitor any ground penetrating works.

The results of the watching brief show that the development has not made any impact upon archaeological deposits.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Planning Background

Planning permission for the erection of an extension to a residential dwelling and construction of a detached double garage was granted by South Holland District Council. In accordance with *Planning and Policy Guidance note 16* (PPG16), a condition was specified upon development that all works necessitating penetration of the ground surface should be monitored intensively by an archaeologist. Following this brief, the client, Mr Damian Dale, commissioned Soke Archaeological Services Limited to undertake the works. A copy of the Project Specification outlining the proposed archaeological strategy was prepared in advance of excavation, and is included in this report as Appendix C.

2.2 Definition of an Archaeological Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is a non-intrusive form of investigation, with the ultimate aim of assessing the presence, nature, and meaning of archaeological remains. The IFA define a watching brief as being:

"...a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-

tidal zone or underwater, where there is the possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive." (IFA, 1999:2)

2.3 Topography, Geology and Soils

Centred at OS NGR TF 2552 2244, the site is situated within the silt fenlands of southern Lincolnshire, in the centre of Spalding. In this locality the Flandrian deposits of the Fen Basin reach up to 9m, such as those recorded at Pode Hole Pumping Station on the western boundary of the parish (Hayes and Lane, 1992:5). Sub-soil geology consists of Jurassic Kimmeridge and Ampthill clays, possibly overlain by the Lower Peat, a deposit of Flandrian, freshwater origin. Barroway Drove Beds (fen clay), deposited as a result of several marine incursions from between 8000 and 3000 yrs BP, underlie a thin layer of Nordelph (Upper) Peat, the onset of which began between 925 and 825 CAL BC, Q-2521 (Silvester, 1988: 151). The Terrington Beds, a series of silt deposits laid during the Iron Age and post-Roman period, overly the Nordelph peat, and although they represent two separate phases of deposition, they are not differentiated in the British Geological Survey (*ibid.*, p6-7).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

The history of human settlement in Spalding is intrinsically linked to the town's geographical location. While today it is somewhat removed from the modern littoral, lying at approximately 13.5 miles southwest of the Wash, in 1307 it's centre lay less than a mile from the Welland River estuary (Hallam, 1970:2, Fig I). While the social, political, and economic consequences of Spalding's Medieval position will be discussed below, it is notable that evidence for earlier activity is scarce if not entirely absent from the archaeological record. As evident from the local site and monuments record (SMR), the archaeological database begins in the Roman period with signs of peripheral activity, possibly of an agricultural nature. The only evidence for this supposition lies in the discovery of a small group of enclosures, ditched droves, and a trackway (SMR 23597) found in association with a Roman coin. Two artefact scatters of domestic pottery ware may also confirm this conjecture (SMR 22357 and 20258). A shard of Samian ware is listed under the former of these scatters, which may

indicate a higher status residence, although it is not stated whether the shard is French (and hence high status), or a local copy.

The absence of any prehistoric artefacts does not, of course, preclude the absence of prehistoric activity, although the landscape was flooded and probably hostile to either permanent or semi-permanent settlement.

Studies conducted on the settlement of the southern Lincolnshire silt fens suggest that the process gathered a great momentum in the final centuries of pre-Conquest England (Hallam, 1970). Proximity to the Wash and a number of navigable rivers would have meant easy access to the area, both for those travelling from the adjacent highlands and lower fens, and also for the settling Danes. A tribal *Hideage* written in the 7th Century referring to the *Spaldas*, and a later charter of 716 AD (SMR 23603), imply that the settlement of Spalding had been founded at least by the early 7th Century, although very little archaeological evidence has been gathered in support to date.

By 1086 AD, the Domesday Charter lists Spalding as being within the *wapentake* of Elloe, implying the subdivision of land, and therefore local government, had persisted under the Danelaw system. Elloe was one of the largest and wealthiest of the Danelaw wapentakes, as partly reflected by the landowners. At this time Spalding was the royal residence of Ivo de Taillebois, nephew of King William and Lord of Holland and Spalding (SMR 22358). The Domesday inventory records the presence of fisheries, woods, salt-pans and a market, all belonging to the Lord, the latter of which was required to have a licence for a town market, suggesting that by this time the population had grown substantially. The town also contained a number of manors and salterns, including those of Guy of Craon, as well as and land owned by Crowland Abbey (SMR 23602).

Certainly, the location of Spalding on the Welland estuary would have increased the town's attraction as a port, and thus a confluence of trade and communication both between England and Holland, and between Spalding and the northern Lincolnshire parishes via the Bicker Haven estuary.

The greatest increases in population and wealth occurred in the following two to three centuries, between 1086 and 1307, and although the rate of growth declined shortly after the early 14th Century, Spalding persisted as an important centre until the late post-Medieval, ca. 18th-19th Centuries (Hallam, 1970: 197-222, see Tables 7-9). This increased period of growth is seen in many of the southern Lincolnshire townships around the Wash at this time, and was brought about as a result of both dynamic government and rich ecological resources.

The extensive land reclamation movement within Elloe was largely organised by the Prior of Spalding, under the auspicious Danelaw system, which created a very favourable climate for local immigration of 'Sokemen'. In return for the investment of labour or finance in the drainage of land, each 'investor', regardless of social status, was allotted an appropriate proportion of land. Due to the enormous scale of drainage, this apportionment, which could not occur in areas under normal Norman government, created a very low level of serfdom and thus increased individual wealth and autonomy. These alluring benefits attracted large numbers of 'investors' to the area, while also increasing the availability of the silty soils, highly fertile for agriculture, and very rich grazing for sheep. Additionally the increased potential for salt production, a highly valued commodity, was a very enticing resource, aiding to attract people to the area (*ibid.*, p7, 197-204).

It is during these centuries of growth and wealth that the Medieval church of Saints Mary and Nicholas was commissioned, by the Prior of Spalding, in 1284 AD (SMR 22383). The proximity of the site to both the Priory (SMR 22355) and St Mary and St Nicholas Church would imply that it is very close, if not within, the Medieval core of Spalding. Most of the entries in the SMR register are, however, dated to the post-Medieval, and it is highly probable that existing Medieval remains have been destroyed by development in the ensuing centuries.

3.0 Project Aims

The archaeological aims and strategy of this project are outlined in the '*Aims and Objectives*' section of the project specification, provided in Appendix C. The primary aims of this watching brief are to establish the nature and character of any *in situ* archaeological deposits encountered and to supplement existing information on the nature of human occupation and activity within Spalding.

4.0 Methodology

4.1 The Footings

Initially, it was planned to erect the extension onto footings for an existing garage. However, it was later determined that the footings should be widened for the new building specifications. All disturbance to the ground surface, including widening of extant footings, was monitored intensively.

Excavation proceeded with the removal of topsoil and other overburden by a mechanical digger, fitted with a 650mm toothless ditching bucket. All machine stripping took place in 20mm spits, until depth of impact was reached, and was monitored constantly by an archaeologist. A photographic archive, consisting of colour transparencies, was compiled.

4.2 Timetable

Excavation of the extension was monitored, and completed, on Saturday 23rd March 2002. Excavation of the double garage also lasted one day, and was completed on Wednesday 27th May 2002.

5.0 Results and Conclusions

No archaeological deposits were identified in either the extension or the garage footings, and in fact both areas were found to be heavily disturbed by previous development works including foundations and services.

Two stratigraphic layers were encountered in addition to topsoil with frequent inclusions of ceramic building material (CBM)(001):

(002) > lens of charcoal not associated with any finds or features

(003) > light brown yellow loose sandy silt, identified as the Terrington Beds

Although observations made by the archaeologist have revealed that the works have not made any impact upon archaeological remains, existing disturbance implies that any remains of archaeological value may have been destroyed by development of a more recent date.

6.0 Acknowledgements

Soke Archaeological Services Limited would like to thank Mr Damian Dale for commissioning the project. David Britchfield of Soke Archaeological Services co-ordinated the project. Maisie Taylor, of Soke Archaeological Services Limited, edited this report.

7.0 References

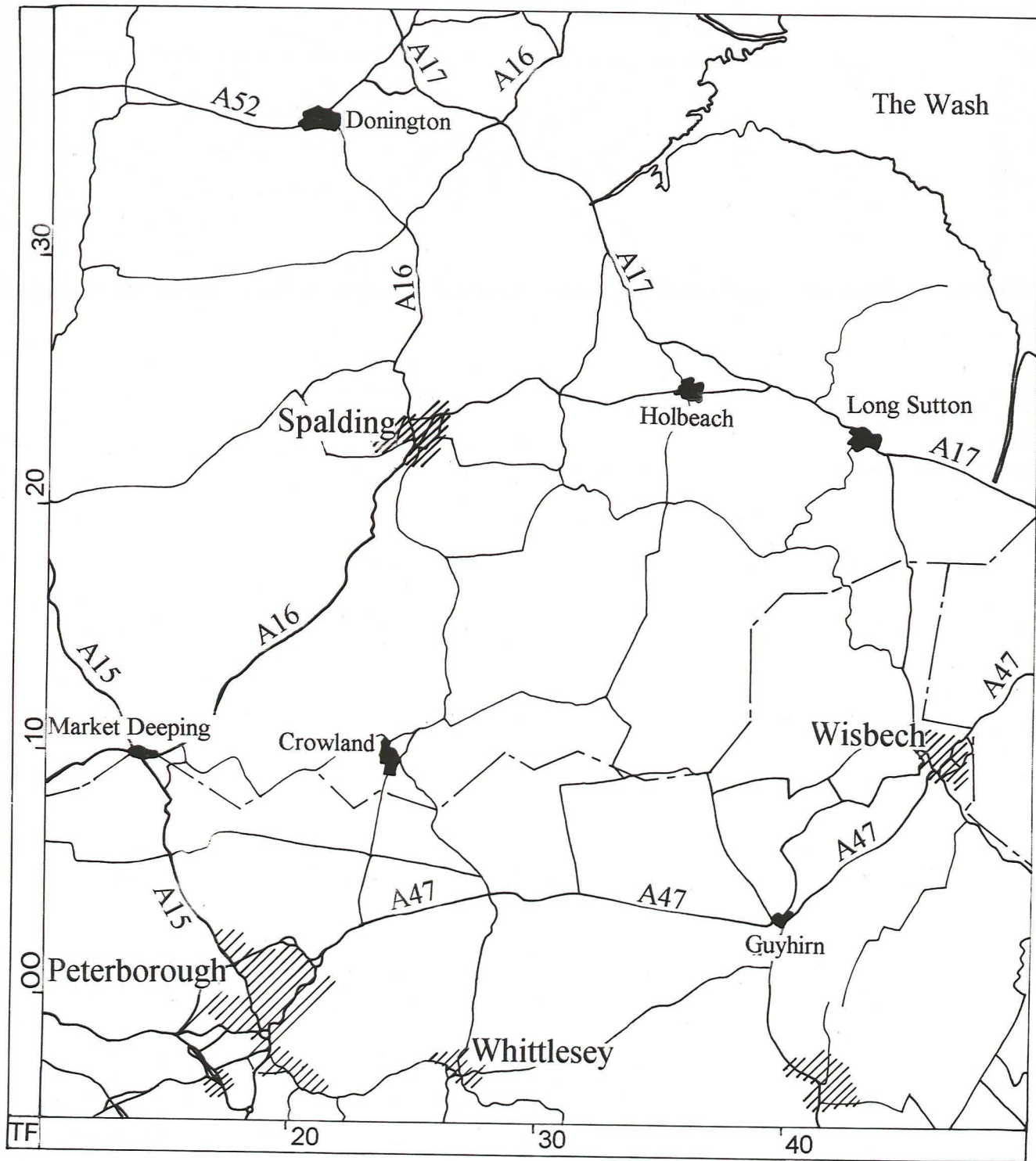
Hallam, H.E. (1965) *Settlement and Society: A Study of the Early Agrarian History of South Lincolnshire* Cambridge: C.U.P

Hayes, P.P. and Lane, T.W. (1992) *The Fenland Project Number 5: Lincolnshire Survey, The South-West Fens* East Anglian Archaeology Report No. 55 Fenland Project Committee: Heritage Lincolnshire

Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* IFA

Silvester, H J (1988) *The Fenland Project Number 3: Marshland and the Nar Valley, Norfolk* East Anglian Archaeology Report No. 45 Fenland Project Committee: Norfolk Archaeological Unit, Norfolk Museums Service

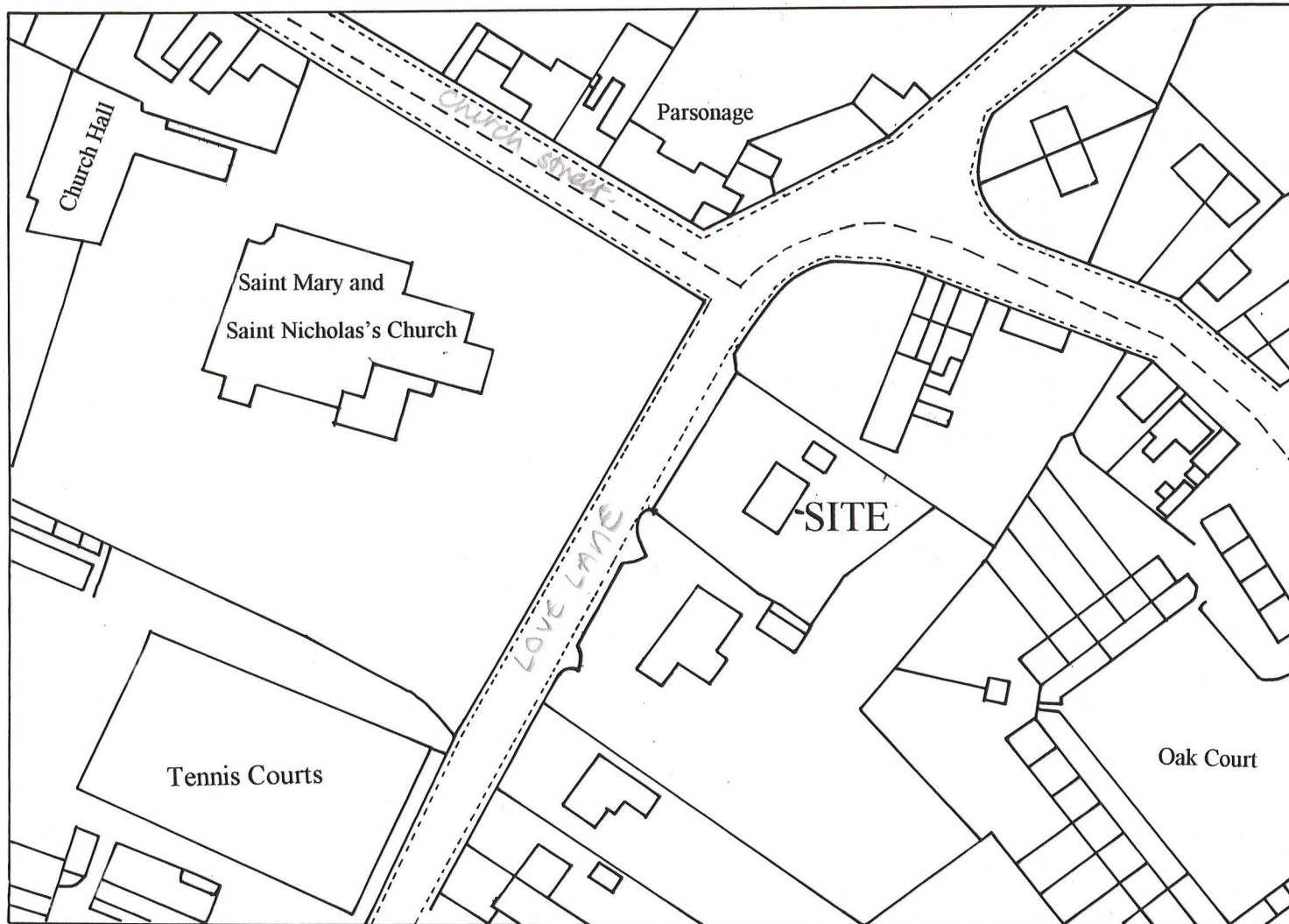
8.1 APPENDIX A – ILLUSTRATIONS



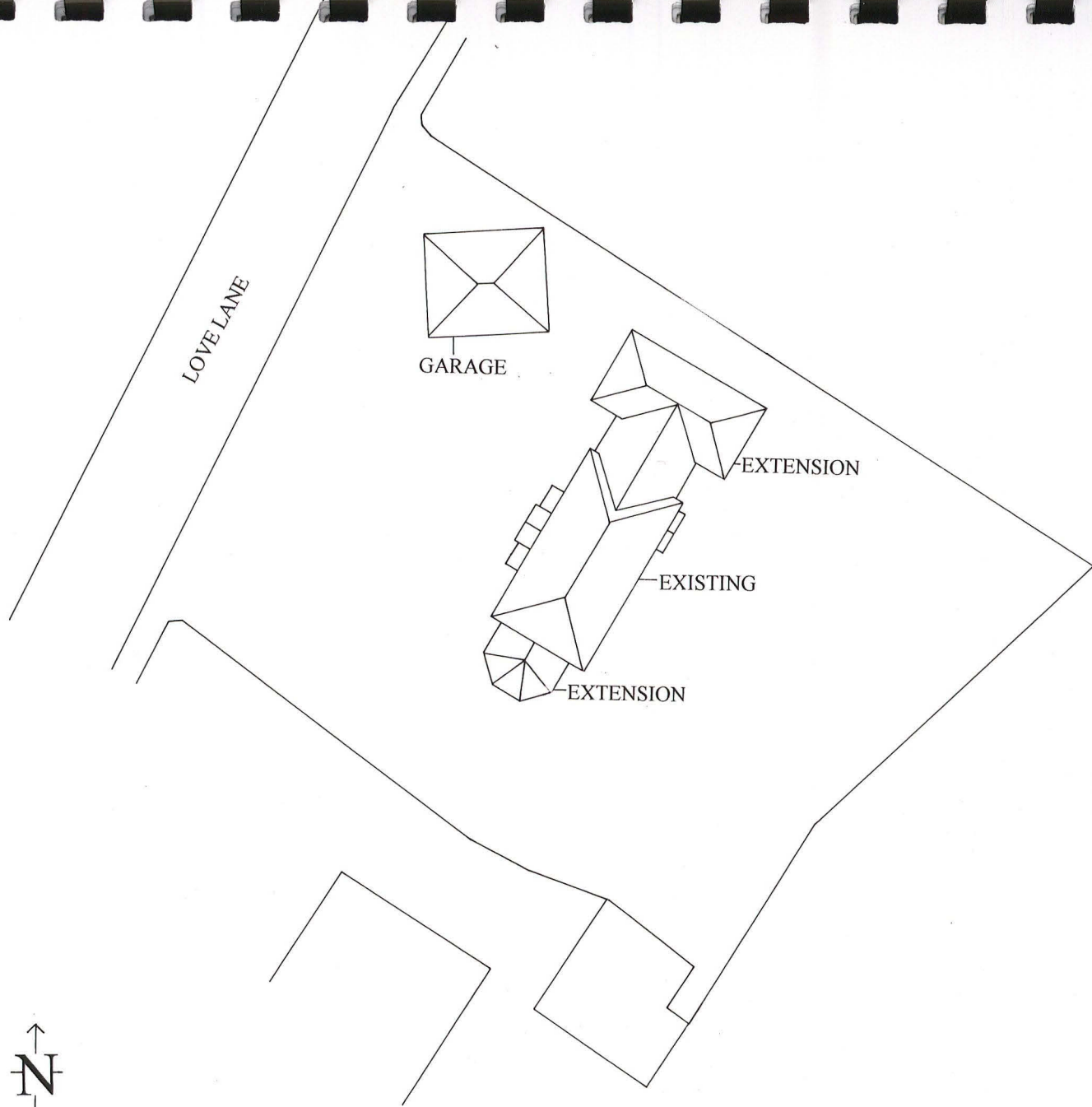
KEY

--- COUNTY BOUNDARY

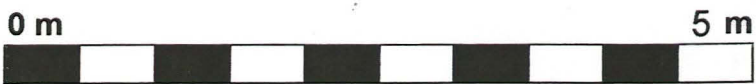
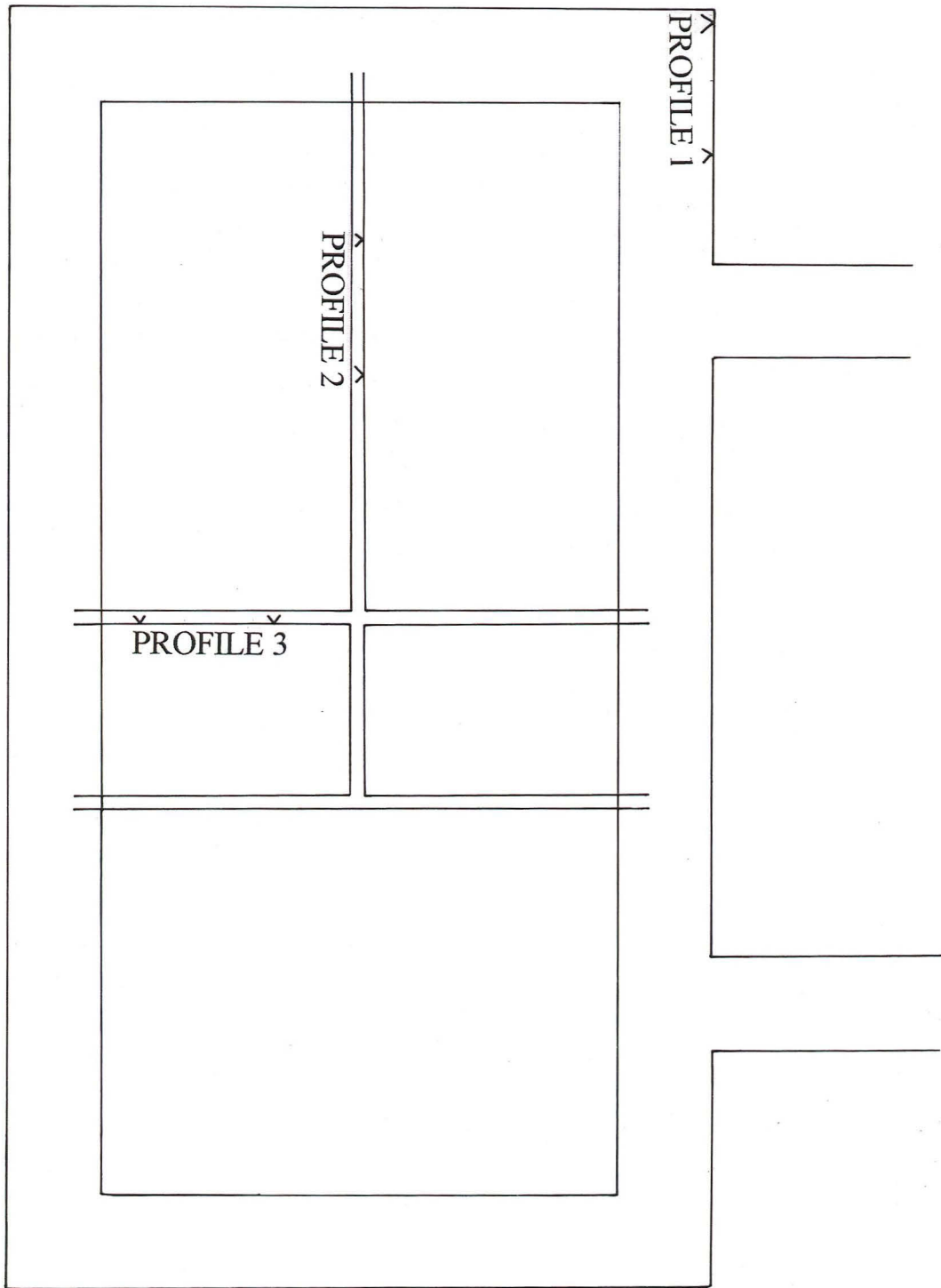
8.1.1 Regional location Plan



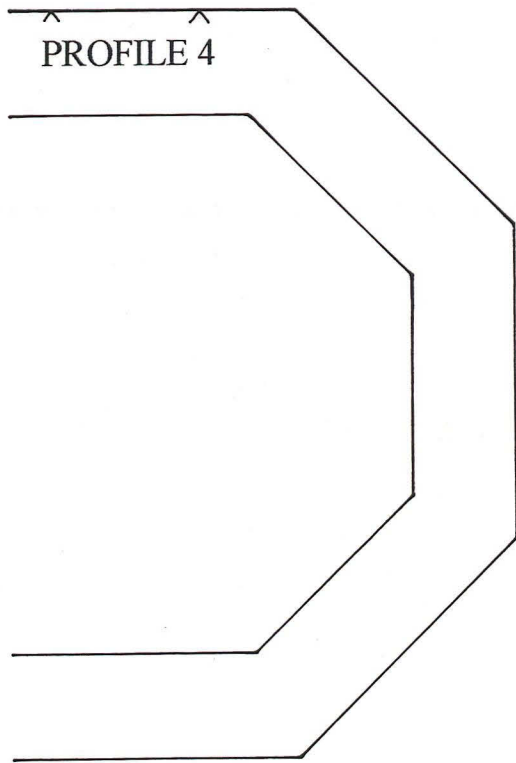
8.1.2 Site location plan



8.1.3 Site plan

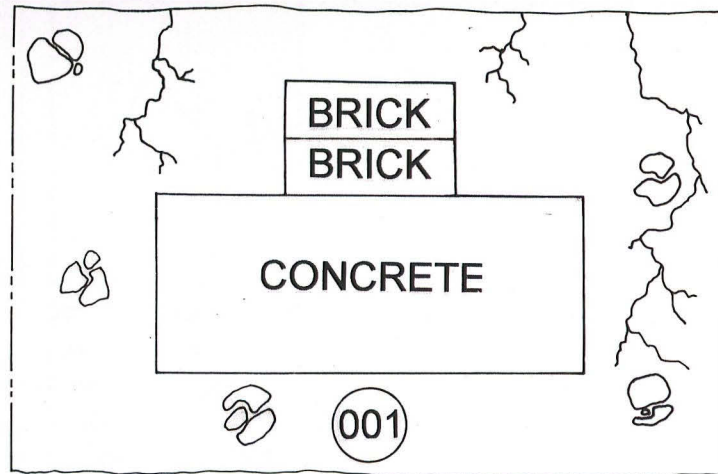


8.1.4 Profile location plan I

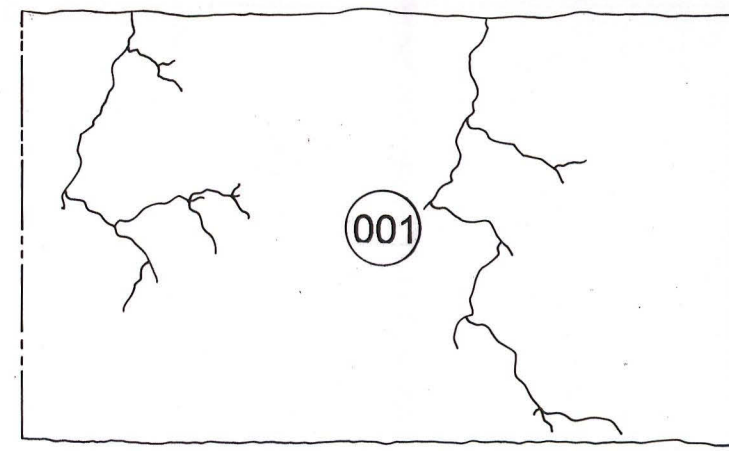


8.1.5 Profile location plan II

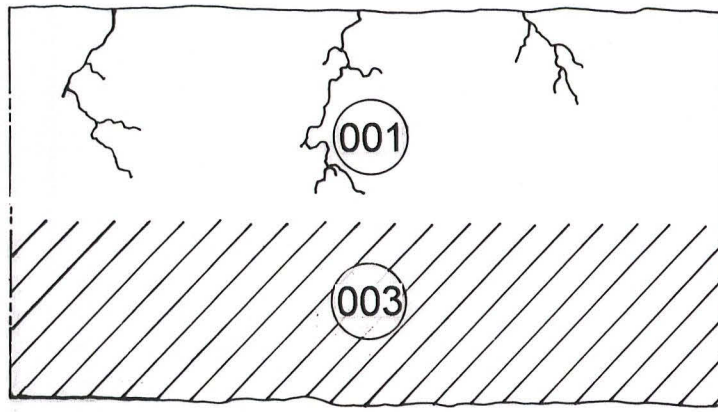
PROFILE 1



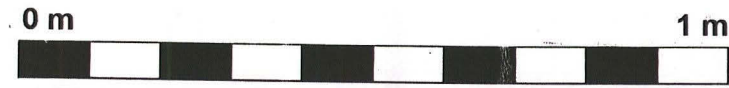
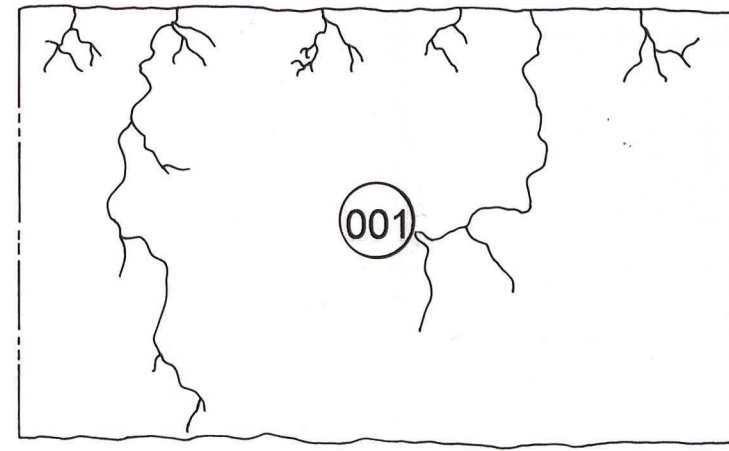
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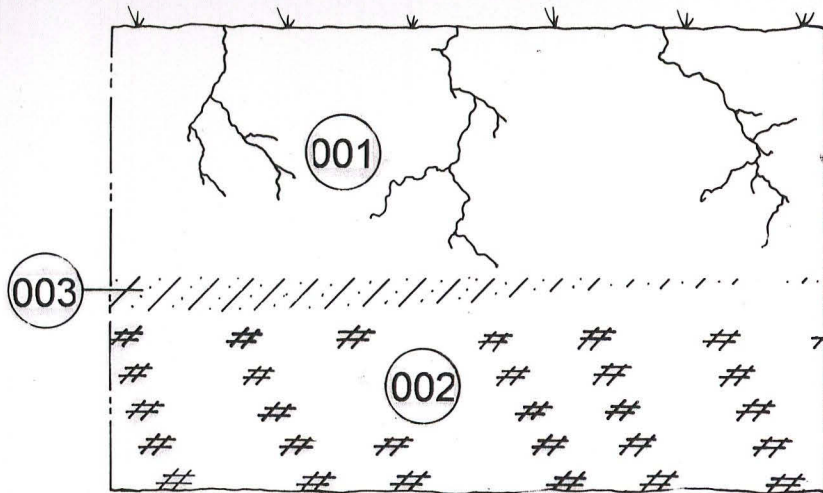
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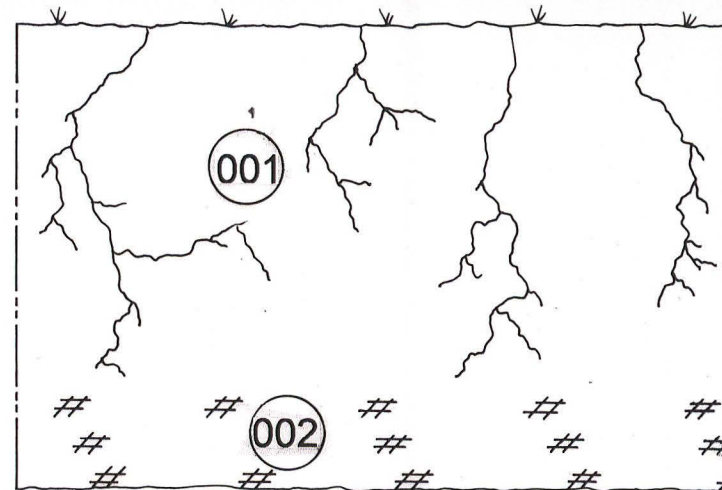
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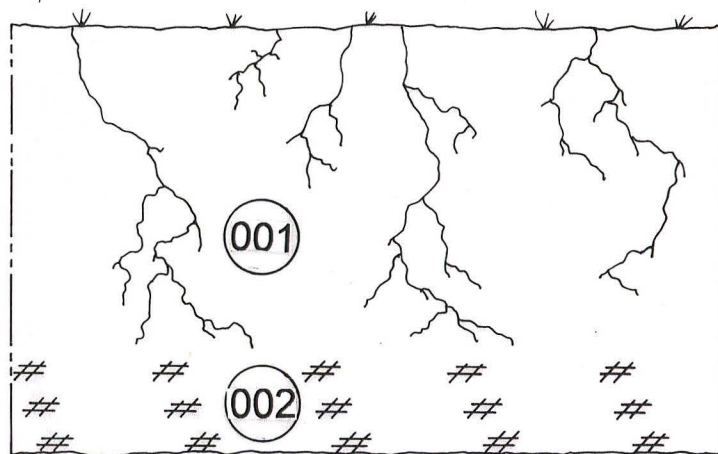
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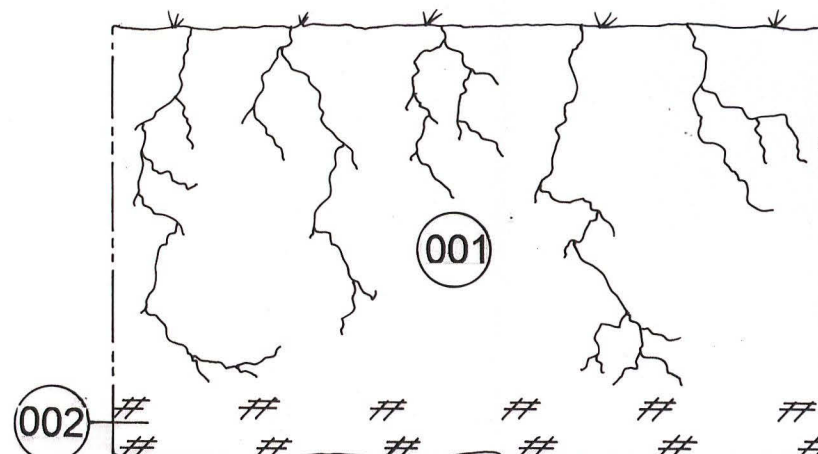
PROFILE 6



PROFILE 7



PROFILE 8



8.2 APPENDIX B – PLATES



8.2.1 Extension footings, facing north west.



8.2.2 Conservatory footings, facing north west.



8.2.3 Site of garage, pre-excavation, facing north.



8.2.4 Garage footings, facing west.



8.2.5 Profile 1, facing south west.



8.2.6 Profile 2, facing south west.



8.2.7 Profile 3, facing north west.



8.2.8 Profile 4, facing south east.

8.3 APPENDIX C – SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD DATA

SMR Number	Record Type	Date	Description	Grid Reference
20257	Mon	PM	Asgoughfee Gardens: Icehouse	TF 2488 2223
20258	Mon	R	Pottery scatter from Harrington House	TF 2487 2271
20259	Mon	M	Pottery scatter from Harrington House	TF 2487 2271
20288	Mon	PM	Dismantled railway, Midland and Great Northern Railway in use 1866 to 1965	TF 1700 2070 TF 2440 2205
20559	Mon	PM	Deeply buried occupation evidence including a wall and cellar.	TF 2482 2248
22348	Mon	M	Priory Cemetery, burial, inhumations, graves	TF 24821 22575
22351	FS	PM	Small brass box containing 21 C17th tokens	TF 2460 2330
22353	Mon	PM	Building: Bergry or Berguery House	TF 2489 2252
22354	Mon	M	Holy Rood Church and Cemetery	TF 2470 2267
22355	Mon	M	Priory of St. Mary including wall, precinct wall, artefact scatter, linear feature, ditch, moat, chapel, religios house	TF 2480 2259
22357	Mon	R	Artefact scatter including samian, greyware, cacite-gritted ware Castle and moat dated to 1066-1099AD; Court held by Ivo Tailbois from 1073, Lord of Spaldng and Holland.	TF 2448 2224
22358	Mon	M		TF 2481 2306
22359	Mon	M	Aysgoughfee Hall House	TF 2490 2236
22360	Mon	PM	Aysgoughfee Hall House and Garden	TF 2490 2236
22361	Mon	M	Ancient Market Cross	TF 2479 2263
22362	Mon	M	Prior's Oven - building	TF 2465 2270
22363	Mon	M	Abbey buildings	TF 2473 2251
22374	Mon	M	Artefact scatter including Grimston ware	TF 2510 2240
22378	Mon	M	Halmer Grange, pottery excavated to east of building	TF 2532 2228
22379	Mon	PM	Pottery scatter	TF 2487 2271
22380	FS	M	Pottery scatter - Grimston ware	TF 2510 2292
22381	Mon	PM	Brick Conduit	TF 2510 2290
22383	Mon	M	St. Mary and St. Nicholas Church	TF 2502 2242
22391	Mon	M	HolyRood House	TF 2490 2240
23061	Mon	M	Occupation site, Red Lion Street	TF 2480 2272
23066	FS	U	Large course earthenware jug	TF 2480 2270
23211	Mon	PM	Gamlyn's Almshouses	TF 2495 2255
23229	Mon	PM	Site of Pinfold in the Gore	TF 2457 2266
23538	Mon	M	Pit	TF 2508 2299
23540	Mon	PM	Railway Bridge built 1882	TF 244 232
23564	Mon	PM	Building foundations and industrial/domestic deposits	TF 2490 2256

23568	Mon	Various	Grade II listed buildings: Inn and timber framed building dated between Med and Modern; associated finds including animal bone, pottery, brick, tile	TF 2478 2266
23569	Mon	PM	House	TF 2478 2266
23589	Mon	M	Pottery scatter	TF 2505 2287
23590	Mon	PM	Pit ditch and well	TF 2505 2287
23597	Mon	R	Enclosure, Droeway, Trackway	TF 253 217
23602	Mon	M	Town of Spalding, fishery, salt works, metal working, site, ditch, boundary ditch, pit, gully	TF 2490 2250
23603	Mon	MS/LS	settlement of Spalding c.650-1065 AD	TF 2490 2250
23604	Mon	PM	Settlement; cess pit, ditch, post hole, gully, floor, feature, pit, structure	TF 2490 2250
23606	Mon	R	Pottery scatter including grey ware and samian	TF 245 222
23607	FS	R	2 coins	TF 2486 2254
23608	Mon	M	Possible stone foundations to 17thC wooden bridge	TF 2486 2254
23609	Mon	M	St. Thomas' mortuary chapel	TF 2502 2242
23610	FS	R?	Female bust	TF 247 226
23611	FS	R	Claudius coin	TF 2489 2260
23616	Mon	PM	Occupation site and building	TF 2480 2272
23617	Mon	PM	Site of St. Peter's Church, demolished in 1968	TF 2471 2245
23622	Mon	MS/LS	Pit	TF 2508 2299
23656	Mon	LS/M	Occupation remains dating to between 11th and 13th C, including occupation layers and cobbled surfaces	TF 24765 22511
23657	Mon	PM/Mod	Well, wall, artefact scatter, terraced house	TF 24765 22511
23667	Mon	M	Possible smithy	TF 2480 2259
23668	Mon	M	Feature, posthole, possible pit or ditch aligned EW	TF 2480 2259
23669	Mon	PM	Occupation features including pit, rubbish pit, ditch, posthole, linear feature, gully, feature, building	TF 2480 2260
23708	Mon	Mod	Air raid shelter	TF 2465 2237
23709	FS	M	sherd of 13th-14th C Bourne A ware	TF 246 223
23710	Mon	PM/Mod	Artefact scatter	TF 2464 2237
23725	Mon	U	Pit and ditch	TF 2513 2314
23728	Mon	U	Wall	TF 247 225
23734	Mon	U	Ditch	TF 2505 2324

8.4 APPENDIX D – PROJECT SPECIFICATION