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**RESULTS OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION:
QUEEN ELIZABETH ROYAL FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, ON LAND OFF
HAVERFIELD ROAD, SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE**

NGR TF 248 223



PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE:

H16/1448/03

Commissioned by:

Acanthus Clews Architects

The Old Swan,
Swan Lane,
Great Bourton.
Banbury.
Oxfordshire.
OX17 1QR

Highways & Planning
Directorate
19 MAR 2004
Planning &
Conservation

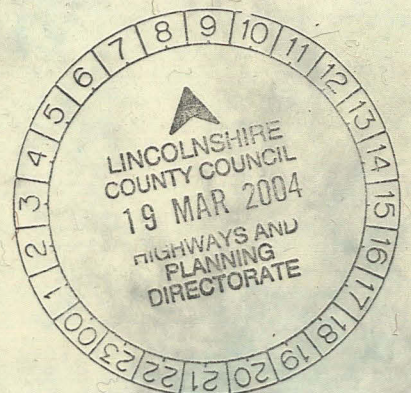
Site Code: RFGS 04

Accession No.: LCNCC 2004.37

February 2004

Undertaken by

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SUMMARY

- 1.1 *The Queen Elizabeth Royal Free Grammar School, Haverfield Road, Spalding has applied for planning consent for the construction of a new ICT and teaching block (Planning Application H16/1448/03). Acanthus Clews Architects of Banbury, Oxfordshire have been appointed as Consultant Architects to the project and have commissioned this work.*
- 1.2 *Prior to the determination of the planning application, Lincolnshire County Council Conservation Services Team (acting as archaeological advisor to South Holland District Council) requested that a pre-determination archaeological trial trench evaluation of the site should be undertaken so that the archaeological potential of the site could be assessed.*
- 1.3 *The earliest recorded material recovered was a single piece of pottery dated to the 18th – 19th century found in Trench 2. This material was recorded from the upper levels but not retained. The trenches were excavated to the natural geology where the water table was found at 1.10m below the present ground surface. No archaeological features were found during the excavation.*

2.0 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 The Queen Elizabeth Royal Free Grammar School is located on land off Haverfield Road, on the south-western side of Spalding, in the administrative district of South Holland. The site is located to the west of River Welland on London Road.
- 2.2 The development area is centred on NGR TF 248 223 and lies at an altitude of approximately 5m AOD. The underlying drift geology is Terrington Beds typified by younger marine alluvium (Romano-British to present day), salt marsh, tidal creek and river deposits (sandy silt, sand and clay) (BGS 1995 – Spalding Sheet 144 1:50,000).

3.0 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Queen Elizabeth Royal Free Grammar School have submitted a planning application to South Holland District Council for the redevelopment of the site for a multi function ICT and teaching block (Planning application reference: H16/1448/03).
- 3.2 In response to this application, the LCC Conservation Services Team acting as advisor to South Holland District Council has requested that a pre-determination archaeological trial trench evaluation is undertaken (Letter ref. JB/SPAL9672/es). The requirement was for two 10m x 2m evaluation trenches located within the footprint of the new build (see plan) giving a total area coverage of 40m². The area presently contains two wooden pre-fabricated classrooms, the remainder of the site being a car park under tarmac.

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3.3 This report details the methodology maintained during the evaluation and is prepared in accordance with current best archaeological practices and the appropriate national standards and guidance including:

Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991);
Code of Conduct (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999);
Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999).
The Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (Lincolnshire County Council 1998).

3.4 The fieldwork was undertaken by Martin Griffiths BA(Hons), AIFA and Mark Chambers FRICS in February 2004.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Spalding lies along the River Welland at around 5m AOD. Although no archaeological remains have been recorded within the site boundary, it is considered likely that remains may exist and these may date from the Roman period and later. Two finds of Roman pottery have been recorded to the west of the site (SMR 23606 & 22240).

4.2 Spalding was once a large fishing town and ships to schooner size could be accommodated along the wharfs along the river.

4.3 Excavations at Ayscough Hall School to the east of the site recorded pottery of 15th to 17th century date (M & M Archaeological Services 2003).

5.0 AIMS

The aims of the trial trench evaluation were to:

- a) to gather sufficient information to assess the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits and features;
- b) to further our understanding of the origins and development of Spalding.
- c) to report on the results of the evaluation and place them within their Local, Regional or National context
- d) to gather sufficient information so that an assessment may be made regarding the potential impact of the development on any archaeological remains that may exist

6.0 RESULTS

6.1 Two evaluation trenches were opened using a JCB digger with a flat bladed ditching bucket. The location of the trenches is detailed in Figure 2.

Trench 1.

6.2 Trench 1 measuring 10m x 2m, was excavated north east – south west in the car park (see Figure 2 & 3 and Plates 3 & 4). The earliest deposit encountered was a

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grey blue clay containing occasional oyster and mussel shell (104) at depth of 1.10m below the present ground surface. This layer represents the natural geology.

6.3 Above this deposit, a 0.7m thick layer of yellow laminated silty sand (103) was recorded and is considered to have formed during natural tidal processes. This layer was sealed by a 0.35m layer of re-deposited grey greasy layer of sand and brick which appears to have been the original surface of the car park (102). The bricks were sealed by a layer of tarmac 0.5m thick (101) which forms the present day surface.

Trench 2.

6.4 Trench 2 was located to the south and east of trench 1 (see Figure 2 & 3 and Plates 5 & 6). The earliest deposit encountered during excavation of Trench 2 was a grey blue stiff clay sand containing occasional shell and roots (204) and represents soils of the Terrington Beds association.

6.5 A 0.5m thick lens of yellow silty sand (203) sealed the natural geology. A layer 0.55m thick of a grey green silty sand containing a piece of 18th-19th century pottery was recorded within the matrix of this deposit (202). The bricks were laid on this material and it is considered likely this layer was levelling material for the earlier surface.

6.6 The top layer comprised of a 0.05m layer of tarmac, represents the present surface. A ceramic drain lay just below the tarmac in the southern end of Trench 2 and created a discolouration in the soils (Plate 6).

7.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

7.1 The earliest deposit encountered during the archaeological evaluation was natural alluvium and soils representing the Terrington Beds association. This was sealed by material forming the present day car park.

7.2 There were no archaeological artefacts, deposits or features present in either of the trenches. It is therefore considered most unlikely that any past human occupation would be affected by this development.

7.3 The only piece of dating evidence recovered was a piece of 18th – 19th century pottery which was recorded but not collected from (202) in Trench 2.

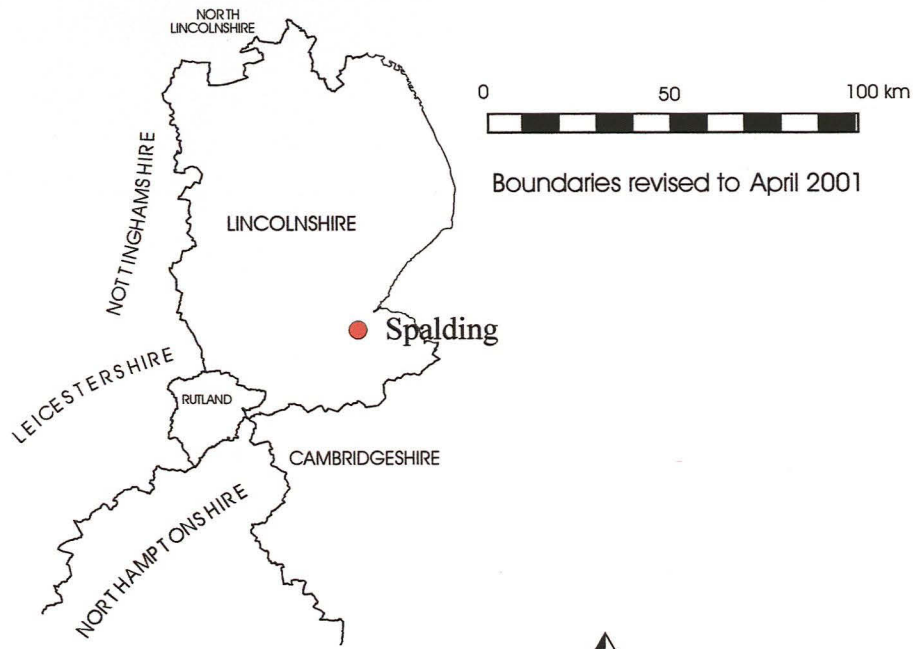
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8.0 FIGURES

Figure 1. Site location plan.

Figure 2. Trench location plan.

Figure 3. Trench plans and sections



Map based on Ordnance Survey with the sanction of the
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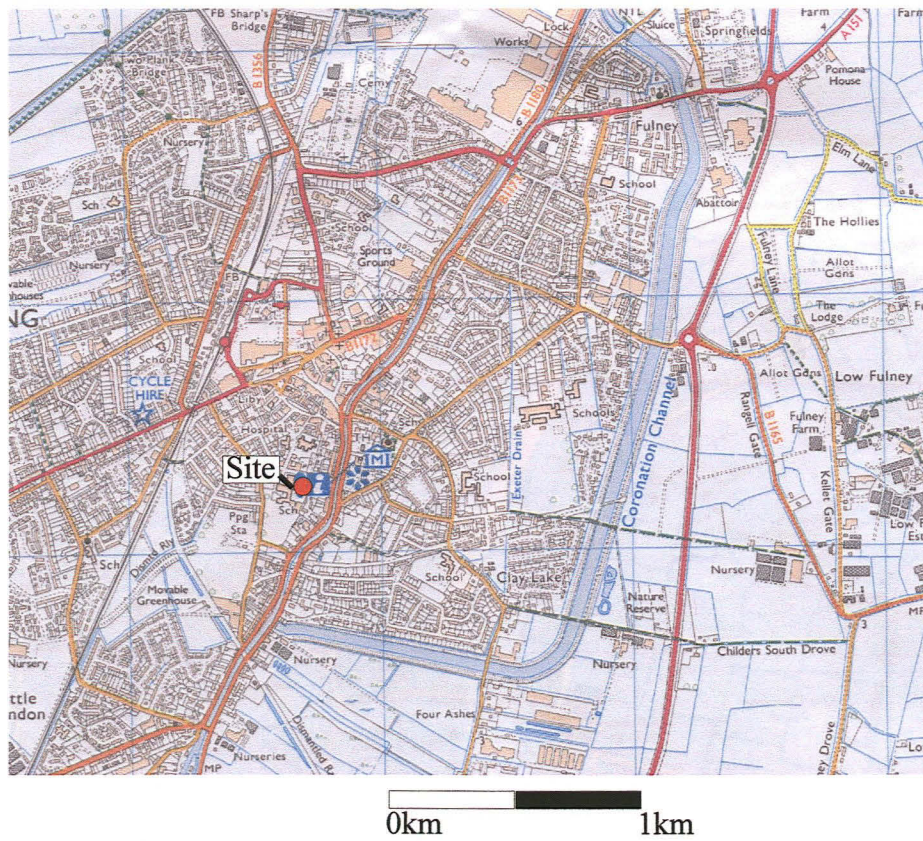
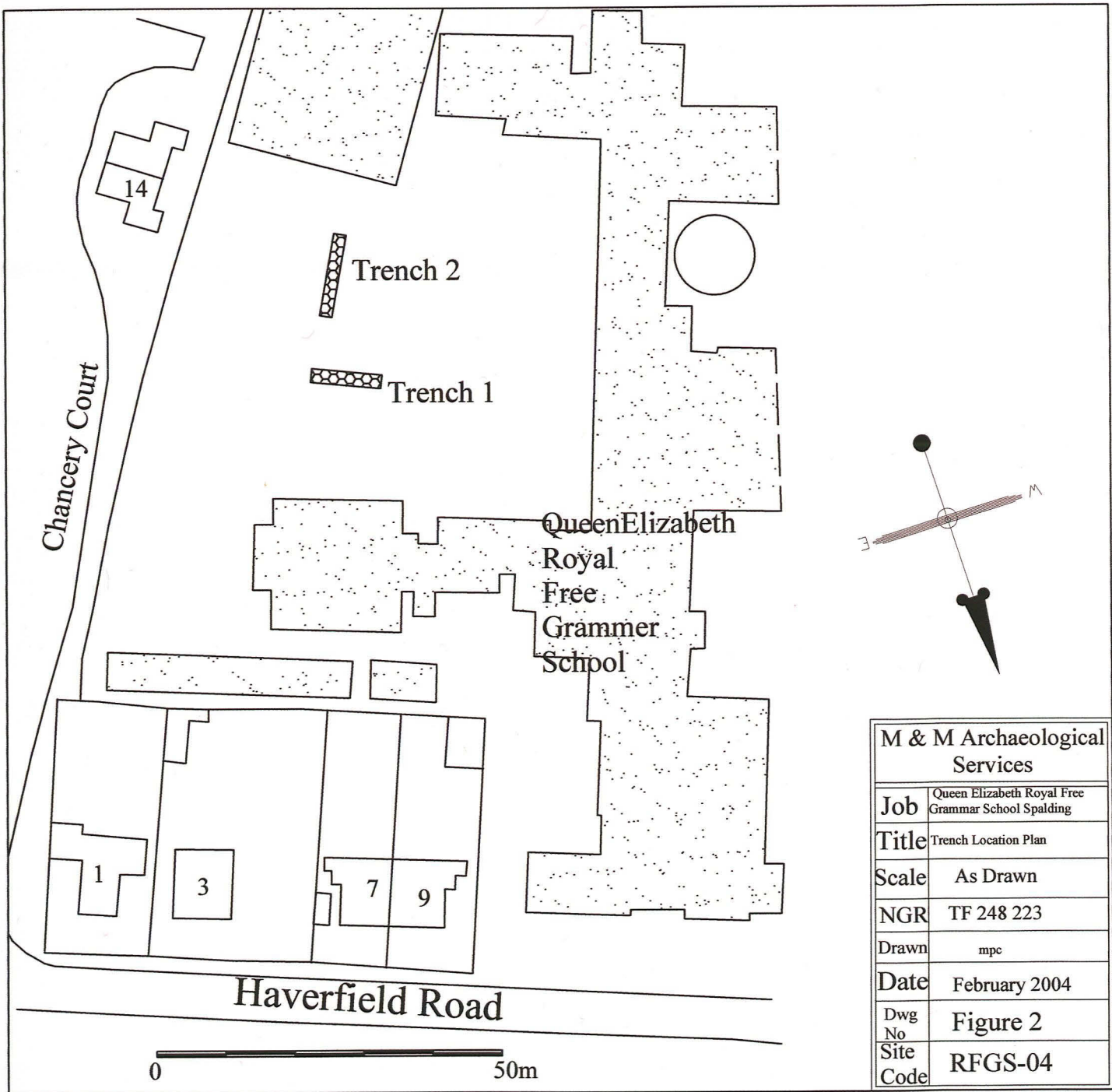
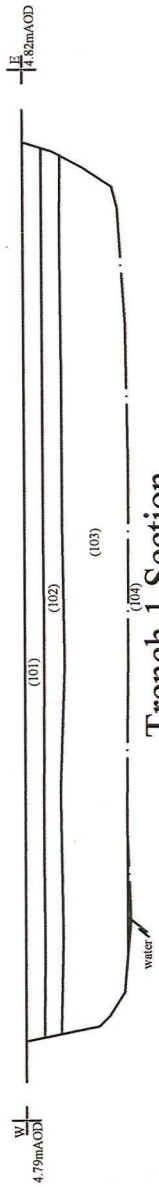


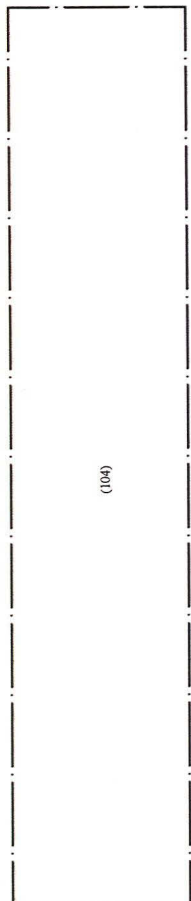
Figure 1. Site location



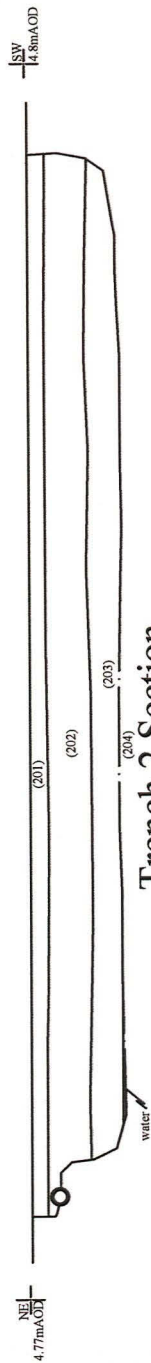
M & M Archaeological Services	
Job	Queen Elizabeth Royal Free Grammar School Spalding
Title	Trench Location Plan
Scale	As Drawn
NGR	TF 248 223
Drawn	mpc
Date	February 2004
Dwg No	Figure 2
Site Code	RFGS-04



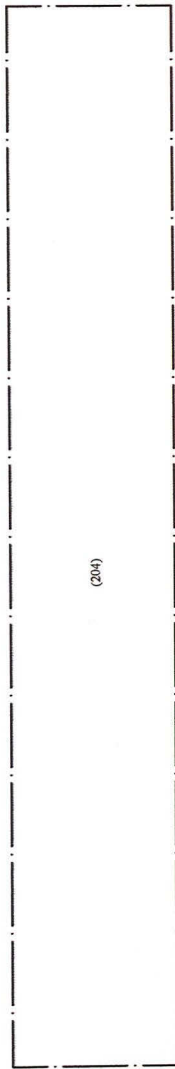
Trench 1 Section



Trench 1 Plan



Trench 2 Section



Trench 2 Plan

Levels taken from spot height of 5m at DPC level of existing building

M & M Archaeological Services	
Job	Queen Elizabeth Royal Free Grammar School, Spalding
Title	Trenches 1 & 2 Plans & Sections
Scale	As Drawn
NGR	TF 248 223
Drawn	mpc
Date	February 2004
Dwg No	Figure 3
Site	RFGS-04
Code	

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9.0 PLATES

Plate 1. General shot of site looking south west.

Plate 2. Showing brickwork below tarmac in both trenches

Plate 3. Trench 1 looking west.

Plate 4. Section of Trench 1 looking north.

Plate 5. Trench 2 looking north, water table reached in south of trench.

Plate 6. Section showing contamination in Trench 2.



Plate 1. General shot of site looking south west.



Plate 2. Showing brick work below tarmac in both trenches.



Plate 3. Trench 1 looking west.



Plate 4. Section of trench 1 looking north.



Plate 5. Trench 2 looking north, water table reached in south of trench.



Plate 6. Section showing contamination in trench 2.

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10.0 SOURCES

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Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT SUMMARY

CONTEXT NO.	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	TYPE	INTERPRETATION
101	Trench 1	Firm, grey black tarmac	Layer	Carpark surface
102	Trench 1	Red brick laid on yellow silty sand	Layer	Levelling layer/old surface
103	Trench 1	Yellow silty sand	Layer	Natural process
104	Trench 1	Grey blue clay	Layer	Natural geology
201	Trench 2	Firm,	Layer	Carpark surface
202	Trench 2	Red brick laid on green grey silty sand	Layer	Levelling layer/old surface
203	Trench 2	Yellow silty sand	Layer	Natural process
204	Trench 2	Grey blue clay	Layer	Natural geology