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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT:
LAND OFF VINE STREET, SPALDING,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

Site Code: VSW00
LCNCC Acc No. 2000. 28
NGR 2478 2252
6

Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Service

event
LI 1167
Source LI 5817
LI 5818

23602 - Late Saxon -
med
23604 post med - Mod

22 FEB 00
ack 23/02/00
? appl #

00/7

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Report prepared for South Holland District Council
(Housing & Planning Services Department)
by M Allen

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Contents

	Summary	1
1.0	Introduction	2
2.0	Site location and description	2
3.0	Planning background	2
4.0	Archaeological and historical background	2
5.0	Methodology	3
6.0	Results	4
7.0	Discussion	6
8.0	Effectiveness of methodology	6
9.0	References	7
10.0	Acknowledgements	7

Appendices

Appendix 1	Colour photographs
Appendix 2	Context summary list
Appendix 3	Pottery and tile report by Claire D Angus

Illustrations

Fig. 1:	Site location (1:1250)
Fig. 2:	Plan and section drawing, Trench 01
Fig. 3	Section drawing, Trench 02

Summary

- ◆ An archaeological evaluation involving the excavation of two trenches took place at Spalding in Lincolnshire prior to the construction of public toilets on land that is currently a public car park.
- ◆ Trench 01 uncovered remains of a post-medieval/modern well and wall sealing a medieval cobbled surface.
- ◆ Trench 02 contained several late Saxon/medieval pits, medieval cobbled surfaces, and numerous occupation layers, interspersed with flood deposits from the River Welland to the east.
- ◆ The evaluation exposed at least 2.5m of stratigraphy, dating from the 11th - 12th century, possibly at the time of the foundation of the Priory.
- ◆ The pottery evidence shows that trade with Stamford was occurring in the 11th - 12th century, and later.

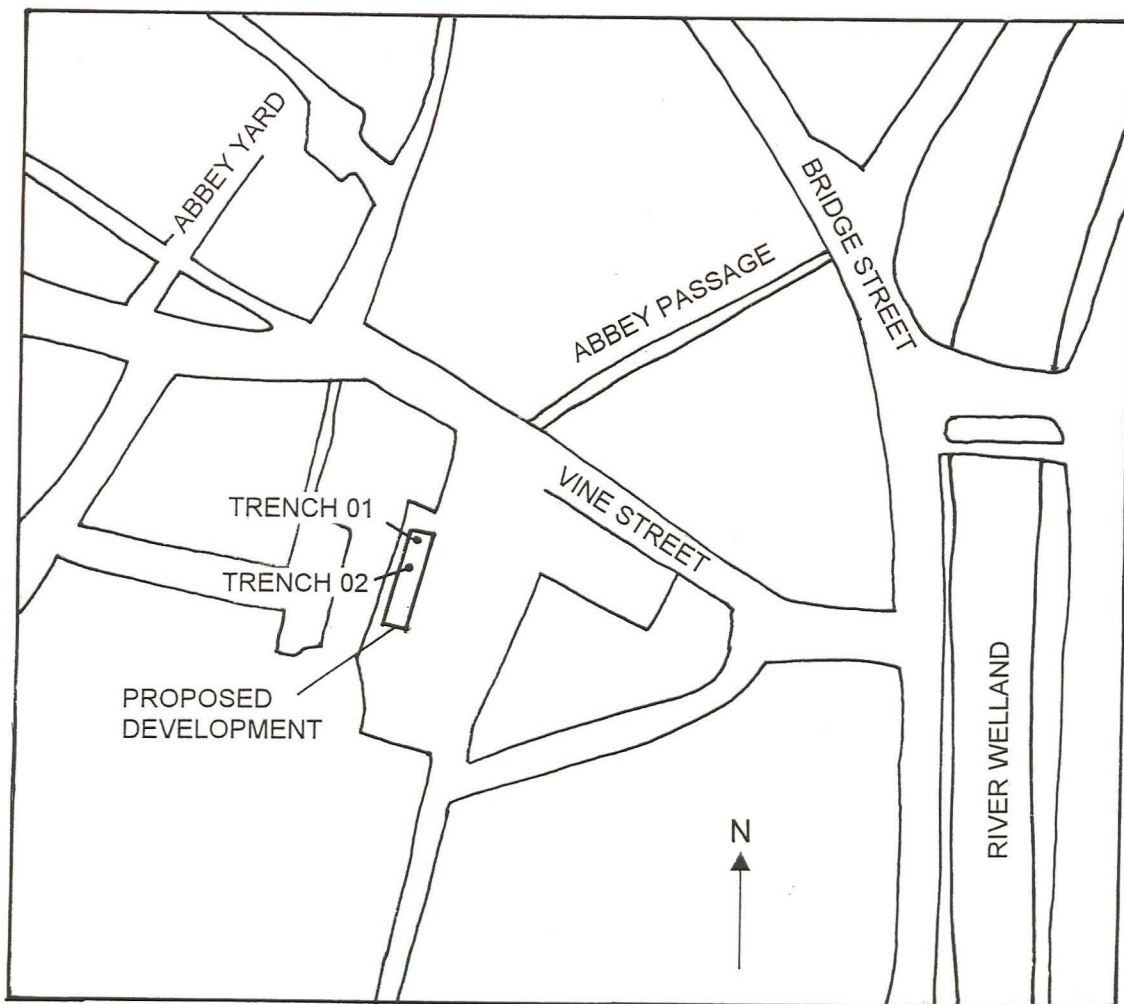


Figure 1: Location (Scale 1:1250)

1.0 Introduction

A one-day archaeological trial excavation was carried out on a rectangular unit of land at Spalding in Lincolnshire. The work was commissioned by South Holland District Council (Housing & Planning Services Dept.) to fulfil a planning requirement.

The results of this report will assist the local planning authority to assess the archaeological significance of the site, the potential impacts which may be imposed by development and the requirement (if applicable) for further archaeological investigation in advance of or during development.

2.0 Site location and description

Spalding is approximately 20km north of Peterborough, 20km south of Boston, within the administrative district of South Holland.

The proposed development site comprises a small rectangular unit of land off Vine Street at NGR 2478 2252.

Spalding falls within the Lincolnshire Fens, an area of extensive silt fenland with areas of saltmarsh. The surrounding land is characterised by large fields with drains, dykes and canalised rivers, bounded by embankments (Boutwood 1998, 26).

The site, at the time of writing, was part of a public car park.

3.0 Planning background

South Holland District Council, acting on the advice of the Assistant County Archaeologist for Lincolnshire, requested the undertaking of a field evaluation to assess the archaeological potential of the site in advance of development. The results of the evaluation will be assessed by the District Council and the Archaeological Officer, and decisions relating to the future management of the archaeological resource and development will be taken on this basis. This approach is consistent with the advice set out in *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16, 1990*.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

Spalding is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as *Spallinge* and later, in c. 1115, as *Spaldingis*, meaning '(settlement of) the dwellers in *Spald*' (Mills 1996).

Two Roman coins were found during works on High Bridge (SMR No. 23607) and a female bust in ragstone (also thought to be Roman) near Cross Street (SMR No. 23610), approximately 400m south-west of the site.

The Priory of Spalding (SMR No. 22355) was founded in 1052 as a dependency of the Benedictine Abbey of Crowland. The exact location of this structure is unknown although street name evidence (Abbey Street, Abbey Yard, Priory Road, etc.) suggests that it was near to the proposed development. Further evidence, in the form of human remains, have been found throughout Bridge Street, immediately to the east of Vine Street. This is presumed to be the site of the Priory burial ground (SMR No. 22348).

A range of medieval brick cottages approximately 20m west of the site are traditionally associated with the Priory (SMR No. 22363).

5.0 Methodology

Both trenches measured 2m x 2m, and their locations are indicated on figure 1.

A JCB, fitted with a toothed-bucket, was used to remove an upper layer of tarmac which formed the car park surface. The overburden was then removed in Trench 01 using a smooth ditching blade, to the top of the first significant cultural archaeological horizon. The desired depths were achieved by removing graded spits under strict archaeological supervision. All further excavation was by hand. The toothed-bucket continued to be used in Trench 02 to remove the overburden, as a service pipe made it impossible to use the ditching blade.

During controlled excavation, archaeological contexts (e.g. layers, feature fills, pits, ditches) were described using standard context record sheets. All features were drawn in plan and section at scale 1:50 or 1:20 and, when fully or partially excavated, were photographed in colour. Artefacts (pottery) were coded according to stratigraphic contexts and were removed from the site for processing and specialist assessment reporting.

Excavation was carried out under the direction of the writer, assisted by three experienced field archaeologists, Michael Knapton, Wayne Livesey and Rene Mouraille.

6.0 Results

6.1 Trench 01

6.1.1 Introduction

The trench was positioned at the north end of the proposed toilet block (Figure 2; Plate 1). A layer of tarmac was removed to expose archaeological deposits.

6.1.2 Post-medieval/modern

Below the tarmac was a brick rubble deposit (004), probably associated with a brick wall uncovered at the north-west end of the trench. Associated pottery has been dated to the 17th - 18th centuries.

The wall and rubble are thought to be the remains of a series of cottages that were demolished in the 1950's/60's (information supplied by a local resident).

Of a similar date was a brick well or soakaway (015) immediately east of the wall. The well was probably built to provide water for the cottages.

Both the well and the wall had cut through a number of post-medieval deposits, mainly demolition events, although the well also cut through several medieval horizons at the base of the trench.

6.1.3 Medieval

The machine-excavation was stopped at approximately 1.4m below modern ground level at a layer of cobbles (013). The cobbles are likely to be medieval, possibly part of a yard surface. It appears that a second surface (011) was built over the earlier cobbles.

6.2 Trench 02

6.2.1 Introduction

Trench 02 was positioned towards the south end of the proposed development (Figure 3; Plate 2). Again, a layer of tarmac was removed using a toothed-bucket prior to excavation of the trench.

6.2.2 Post-medieval/modern

Two deposits of modern brick rubble were uncovered immediately below the tarmac. These were probably from the demolition of the same group of cottages in the 1950's/60's.

Below the rubble was a flood deposit (203), the latest of a number of flooding events that were evident throughout the trench section. This deposit, in turn, sealed several post-medieval demolition layers, including one, 204, that contained 17th - 18th century pottery. The latest phase of flooding must have occurred in the later post-medieval period.

6.2.3 Late Saxon & Medieval

The latest medieval deposit exposed was approximately 1.0m below the modern ground surface at 4.67m OD. This appeared to be a build-up of material overlying a cobbled surface (207). The cobbles are likely to relate to the possible yard surface (013) uncovered in Trench 01 (see above).

Below the cobbles was a levelling deposit which sealed a flood layer. This, in turn, sealed an urban occupation deposit (210) containing medieval pottery. Below this was a flood deposit which overlay an earlier cobbled surface (212). This contained two pottery fragments within its make-up, one from the 11th century (late Saxon) and the other made in the 12th - 13th century (high medieval). The medieval sherd was from a handmade jug of probable Stanion/Lyveden (or possibly Ely) ware, produced at distance from Spalding, and suggesting that it may have been traded through Stamford (Appendix 11.3). The cobbles were laid directly over an occupation layer (213). This occupation layer sealed a flood horizon, (217), that was truncated by a small pit (214).

Pit 214 had a bowl-shaped profile, and contained two distinct fills. The upper fill, 215, consisted of a thin band of fine white ash, and it is suggested that this feature was used for the disposal of domestic rubbish.

Beneath the flood horizon 217 were several medieval occupation layers that sealed yet another flood deposit (223), which had also been cut by a large pit (220). The upper occupation layer, 218, contained a single sherd of early Stamford ware from a pitcher or jar, dating from the 10th - early/mid 11th century.

Pit 220 had a steep southern edge and contained two fills. The feature, probably a rubbish pit, was excavated to a depth 2.5m below the modern ground surface (3.19m OD). The upper fill, 222 contained a single sherd of a Stamford ware jar from the 11th - 12th century.

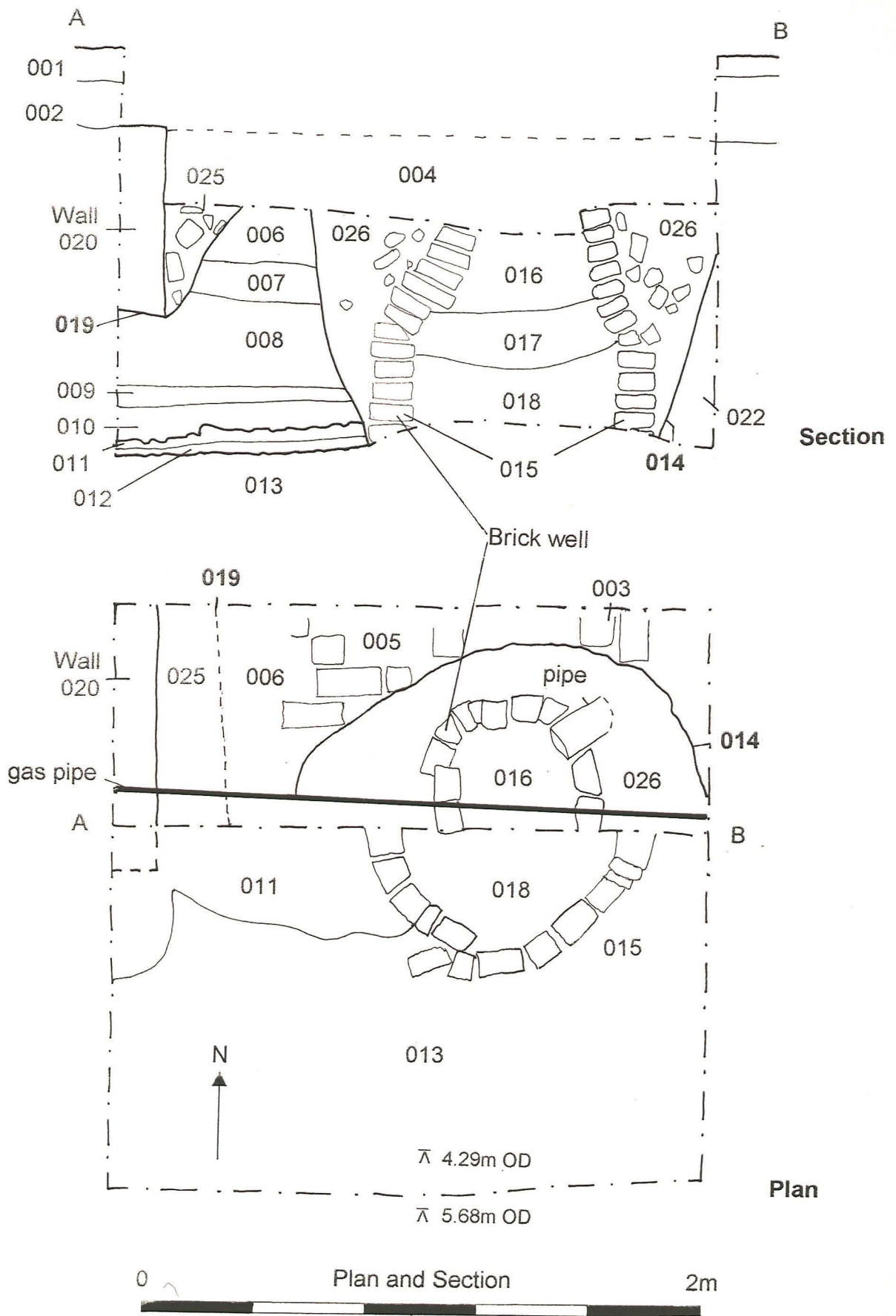


Figure 2: Trench 01 plan and section

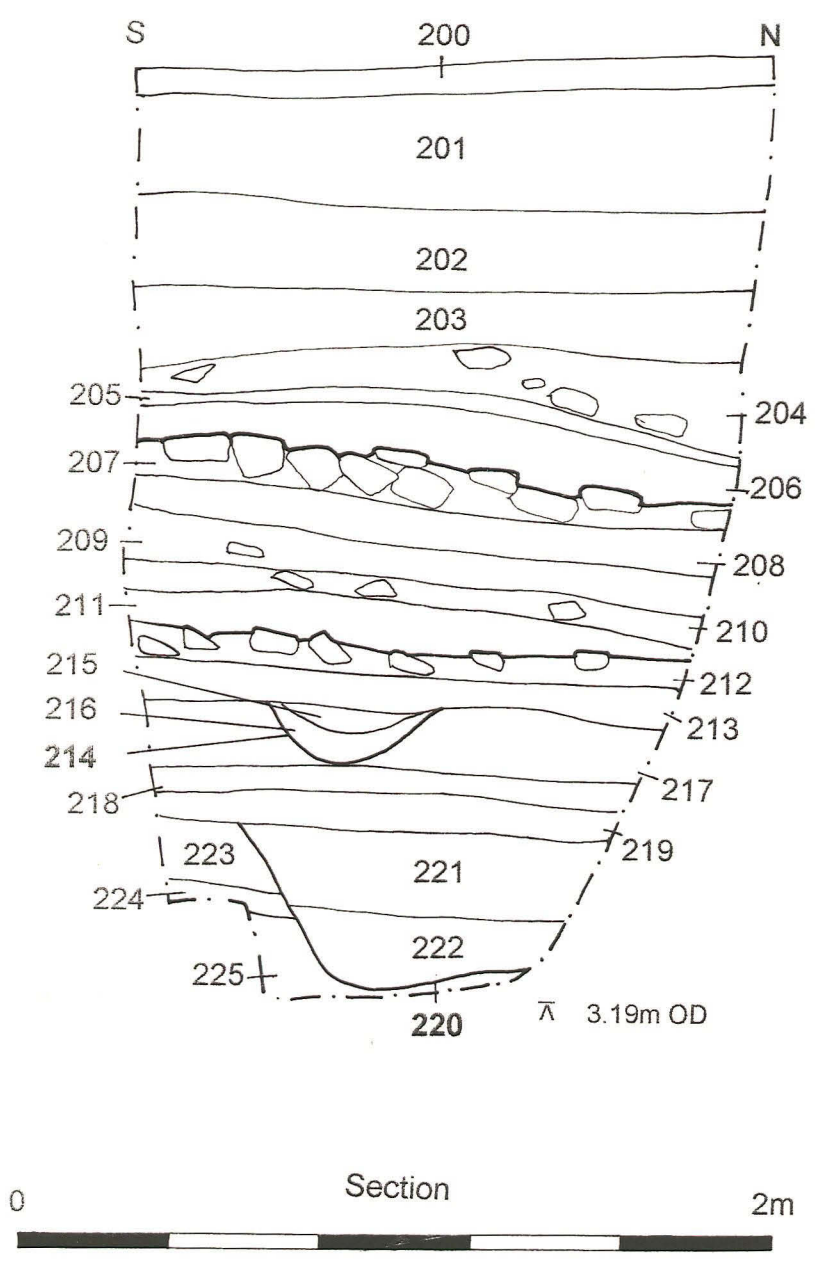


Figure 3: Trench 02 Section

Flood layer 223 sealed the earliest occupation layer exposed (224), which sealed the earliest flood deposit exposed, 225. A total of four sherds of Stamford ware were recovered from 224, all dating to the 11th - 12th century.

7.0 Discussion

Both trenches have demonstrated that post-medieval and modern deposits seal a number of late Saxon and medieval layers and features. The post-medieval and modern deposits included a brick well and wall, both within Trench 01. These, coupled with the brick rubble layers in both trenches, indicate that a suggested row of cottages almost certainly did exist here, prior to demolition in the 1950's/60's.

Below the post-medieval layers were a series of deposits, including cobbled surfaces, occupation layers and pits, all interspersed with numerous flood horizons. The pottery evidence suggests that the earliest pit and occupation layer dated to the 11th - 12th century.

With Spalding Priory being founded in 1052, it is likely these early deposits relate to the period when the Priory was built and first occupied.

The lower of the two cobbled surfaces (212) seems to have been constructed in the 12th - 13th century, judging by the pottery evidence. This shows that 0.6m of stratigraphy has formed over a period of up to 400 years.

The flood horizons indicate that the River Welland, located approximately 80m east of the site, flooded the area on a number of occasions. The earliest of these was 2.5m below modern ground level at 3.19m OD, pre-dating 11th - 12th century deposits, although it was not possible (on health and safety grounds) to determine whether or not this flood horizon sealed earlier archaeological deposits.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

Unfortunately, due to the presence of service pipes, it was not possible to excavate both trenches to the desired depths. Instead, Trench 01 was cleaned and recorded in plan and section to 1.4m beneath modern ground level, whilst Trench 02 was machine-cut to provide a profile through the stratigraphy. This was very effective as, by amalgamating the results in both trenches, it was possible to gain an insight into the occupation of the area from the 11th - 12th century through to the present day.

The depth of deposits in Trench 02, and the possibility of instability of the section from undercutting by the machine, meant that it was unsafe to take environmental samples from the late Saxon/medieval deposits.

9.0 References

Boutwood, Y., 1998, *The physical landscape of Lincolnshire*, in Bewley, R. H. (ed.), 1998, *Lincolnshire's Archaeology from the Air*, The Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology.

Mills, A. D., 1996, *Dictionary of English Place-Names*, Oxford University Press.

10.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to express their thanks to Mark Chapman of South Holland District Council (Housing & Planning Services Department). Thanks are also expressed to the Assistant County Archaeologist for Lincolnshire County Council.

Appendix 11.1 Colour plates



P1. General view, Trench 01, looking north



P2. Stratigraphy in Trench 02, looking south-west

Appendix 11.2 - Context Summary List

	Context No.	Type	Relationship
1	001	layer	seals 002
2	002	layer	seals 003/005
3	003	?surface	seals 004
4	004	layer	seals 005
5	005	?surface	seals 014/019
6	006	layer	seals 007
7	007	layer	seals 008
8	008	layer	seals 009
9	009	layer	seals 010
10	010	layer	seals 011
11	011	surface	seals 012
12	012	layer	seals 013
13	013	surface	LOE
14	014	well cut	cuts 006
15	015	well wall	in 014
16	016	fill	fill of 014
17	017	fill	fill of 014
18	018	fill	fill of 014
19	019	wall cut	cuts 006
20	020	wall	in cut 019
21	021	well cut	cuts 007
22	022	fill	fill of 021
23	023	cut	cuts well 014
24	024	pipe	in cut 023
25	025	fill	fill of 019
26	026	fill	fill of 014
27	200	layer	seals 201
28	201	layer	seals 202
29	202	layer	seals 203
30	203	layer	seals 204
31	204	layer	seals 205
32	205	layer	seals 206
33	206	layer	seals 207
34	207	surface	seals 208
35	208	layer	seals 209
36	209	layer	seals 210
37	210	layer	seals 211
38	211	layer	seals 212
39	212	surface	seals 213
40	213	layer	seals 217, 214
41	214	pit	cuts 217
42	215	fill	fill of 214
43	216	fill	fill of 214
44	217	layer	seals 218
45	218	layer	seals 219
46	219	layer	seals 220, 223
47	220	pit	cuts 223
48	221	fill	fill of 220
49	222	fill	fill of 220
50	223	layer	seals 224
51	224	layer	seals 225
52	225	layer	LOE

Appendix 11.2 - Context Summary List

	Description
1	tarmac - modern
2	brick rubble - modern
3	tiles forming ?pathway - modern
4	demolition deposit - 17th-18th century
5	bricks forming ?pathway - post-medieval
6	demolition deposit - post-medieval
7	flood deposit - post-medieval
8	occupation build-up - post-medieval
9	demolition deposit - post-medieval
10	urban build-up deposit - medieval
11	cobbled surface - medieval
12	urban build-up deposit - medieval
13	cobbled surface - medieval
14	cut for circular well - modern
15	over 13 courses of brick surviving, single width - modern
16	final silting of well - modern
17	second excavated silting fill of well - modern
18	primary excavated silting fill of well - modern
19	cut for brick wall - modern
20	survives to a depth of 0.65m, width unknown - modern
21	same as 014
22	backfill of well cut - modern
23	cut for pipe leading into well 014 - modern
24	drain pipe - modern
25	backfill of wall foundation cut - modern
26	backfill of well cut - modern
27	tarmac - modern
28	brick rubble - modern
29	brick rubble - modern
30	flood deposit - post 17th-18th century
31	demolition deposit - 17th-18th century
32	limestone rubble demolition deposit - post-medieval
33	urban build-up - medieval
34	cobbled surface - medieval
35	urban build-up - medieval
36	flood deposit - medieval
37	urban build-up - medieval
38	flood deposit - medieval
39	cobbled surface - 12th-13th century
40	urban build-up - late Saxon/medieval
41	small rubbish pit - late Saxon/medieval
42	white ash backfill of pit 214 - late Saxon/medieval
43	dark grey silt backfill of pit 214 - late Saxon/medieval
44	flood deposit - late Saxon/medieval
45	urban build-up - late Saxon/medieval
46	urban build-up - late Saxon/medieval
47	rubbish pit - 11th-12th century
48	mid grey clayey silting of pit 220 - 11th-12th century
49	backfill of pit 220 - 11th-12th century
50	flood deposit - late Saxon
51	urban build-up - mid 11th-12th century
52	flood deposit - pre-mid 11th-12th century

Late Saxon and later pottery and Post-medieval tile from Vine Street Car Park, Spalding (VSS 00). Archive Report.

Claire D Angus, Lindsey Archaeological Services

A small quantity of pottery was recovered during an evaluation at Vine Street Car Park, Spalding. This material dated to late Saxon period and later.

A total of thirteen sherds representing twelve vessels were recovered. Table 1 summarises the amount of sherds and variety of fabrics represented by the assemblage.

Table 1 : Pottery codenames and total quantities by sherd and vessel count

cname	full name	Period	SumOfsherds	SumOfvessels
BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware	Pmed	1	1
BL	Black-glazed wares	Pmed	1	1
EST	Early Stamford ware	Lsax	1	1
LSTON	Late stoneware	Emod	1	1
ST	Stamford Ware	Lsax	7	6
STANLY	Stanion/Lyveden ware	Med	1	1
TGE	Tin-glazed earthenware	Pmed	1	1

Late Saxon and Medieval pottery

All of the early material was recovered from stratified contexts in Trench 2. One sherd of early Stamford ware dating to the period between the 10th to early/mid 11th century was recovered. Five other Stamford vessels were also recovered, although these dated to the 11th to 12th century.

A single sherd of probable Stanion/Lyveden ware was among the assemblage. This vessel was a handmade jug. The fabric contained oolitic inclusions, and may possibly be Ely ware rather than Stanion/Lyveden. Both wares are produced at a distance to Spalding, and may have been traded through Stamford. This vessel has been dated to the period between the 12th and 13th century.

Post-Medieval Pottery

Four sherds were recovered, three from Trench 1 (004), and one from Trench 2 (204). These were both modern demolition deposits. The material dates from the mid 17th century to the 18th century.

Tile

Four fragments of a single wall or heath tile were recovered. These date to the late 19th/20th century.

Condition

The majority of the material was fresh, and small to medium in size.

Statement of Potential

The material recovered during the evaluation represents the discard of broken pottery in a series of demolition and urban build-up deposits.

Storage and Curation

The pottery should be retained for further study. No additional work is needed on the assemblage.

pottery archive vss00

Jane Young and Claire Angus, Lindsey Archaeological Services

context	cname	form type	sherds	vessels	decoration	part	description	date
004	BERTH	bowl/dish	1	1		rim		mid 17th-18th
004	LSTON	jar	1	1	banded brown dec	BS	thick black int dep	mid 18th
004	TGE	dish/bowl	1	1	bl/wh design; red glaze around rim	BS		18th
204	BL	?	1	1		base	int glaze	17th-18th
212	ST	jar/jug	1	1		rim	ext glaze; soot on rim	11th
212	STANLY	jug	1	1		handle	handmade; thumbled strap handle; ?ID or Ely; incl subrounded quartz and oolites; glaze spots	12-13th
218	EST	pitcher/jar	1	1		rim	ext glaze; odd rim; thick glaze	10th-e/mid 11t
222	ST	jar	1	1		base		11-12th
224	ST	?	2	1		base	unglazed; black int dep	11-12th
224	ST	?	1	1		BS	small frag; unglazed	11-12th
224	ST	?	1	1		BS	small frag; ext glaze	11-12th
224	ST	pitcher	1	1		handle	glazed; thumbled dec strap handle	mid11th-12th

tile archive vss00

Jane Young and Claire Angus, Lindsey Archaeological Services

context	cname	frags	weight	description	date
004	MODTILEDISC	4	4	greenglaze	late 19th/20th