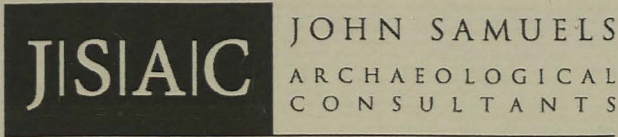


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**Results of an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation:
 Plot 3, Albion Street, Spalding, Lincolnshire
 (Planning Application: H16/0820/01)**

NGR TF 2518 2326

by

John Samuels Archaeological Consultants

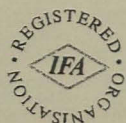
on behalf of

Broadgate Homes Ltd.
 Broadgate House
 Weston Hills
 Spalding
 Lincolnshire
 PE12 6DB

**Site Code: ASS01
 Accession No.: LCNCC 2001.259**

JSAC 507/01/03

November 2001



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Certificate Number 1967/99

Event L12658
Source L17274
L17275

*Results of an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation:
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NGR TF 2518 2326

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Summary

Broadgate Homes Ltd. propose to develop approximately 0.16ha of land off Albion Street, Spalding, Lincolnshire. The site lies on the western side of Albion Street, Spalding adjacent to the disused gas works. The proposal is for the construction of one house with associated garage, driveway and services.

Planning permission has not yet been granted (Planning Application: H16/0820/01) and the evaluation was undertaken pre-determination. John Samuels Archaeological Consultants were commissioned to undertake an evaluation of the site and the results are documented within this report.

The evaluation established that the majority of the site was covered by a 0.25m thick layer of cinders and ash comprising the remains of a former bowling green. This was sealed by a layer of topsoil and turf. The earliest deposit encountered was the natural geology comprising marine alluvium which is typical of the Spalding and Fenland landscape. No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered.

In conclusion, it is considered that the former bowling green is likely to have disturbed any underlying deposits at the time of its construction. It appears that the site was stripped of topsoil and subsoil prior to the construction of the bowling green.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Site location and description

1.1.1 The development site is located to the west of Albion Street, Spalding, Lincolnshire centred on NGR TF 2518 2326 (Figures 1 & 2). The site is square in plan with access gained along a gravel road and covers an area of approximately 0.16ha. The site is currently maintained lawn but was a bowling green during the last century.

1.1.2 Geologically, Spalding is currently unmapped (SSEW 1983) although soils to the west of the site and on the western side of the River Welland are Wisbech Association (812b) comprising stoneless calcareous coarse silty soils overlying marine alluvium. The site is level and lies at an altitude of approximately 5.2m AOD.

1.2 Project Background

1.2.1 A rapid archaeological desk-based assessment was carried out in February 1999 (JSAC 507/99/01) and discussions with the Archaeological Advisor, South Holland District Council in September 2001, concluded that a 2% evaluation trench covering 32m² should be excavated. A trench measuring 20m long x 1.6m wide was excavated archaeologically across the house plot. The objective of the evaluation was to identify whether any remains existed and if so, define their nature, condition and extent.

1.2.2 John Samuels Archaeological Consultants were commissioned by Broadgate Homes Ltd. to undertake the fieldwork and a specification was prepared (JSAC 507/01/02) and agreed with the Archaeological Advisor, South Holland District Council. This report conforms to the requirements of *Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning* (DoE 1990) (PPG16). It has been designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice and the appropriate national standards and guidelines including :

Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991);

Model Briefs and Specifications for Archaeological Assessments and Field Evaluations (Association of County Archaeological Officers, 1994);

Code of Conduct (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994);

Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994; revised 1999).

1.2.3 The evaluation and watching brief was undertaken by Jenny Young BA (Hons), AIFA on the 16th October 2001. This report was written by Jenny Young in consultation with John Samuels BA, PhD, MIFA, FSA, MLI.

2.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.1 The earliest archaeological remains recorded from the Spalding area and close to the development site date from the Roman period and later. These remains comprise finds of coins, pottery and statuettes as well as settlement remains represented by ditches and enclosures (Phillips 1970).
- 2.2 Roman burials (SMR 23062) and occupation layers (SMR 23598) have been recorded to the north of the site. A Venus statue has also been recorded to the south (SMR 22372).
- 2.3 The earliest written reference to Spalding occurs in 795 in the *Codex Diplomaticus aevi Saxonici (Spaldyng)* and in the later Domesday (*Spallinge*) and Lindsey (*Spaldingis*) Surveys (Ekwall 1960). The word Spalding originates from the Old English word 'Spaldingas' and is likely to refer to descendants or members of the tribe of Spaldas. The word *Spaldas* is probably derived from the Old High German verb 'spalden' meaning to cleave and from this derives the noun cleave or ravine.
- 2.4 The Domesday Survey of 1086 lists Spalding in the Elloe Wapentake within the district of Holland. Guy of Craon, St. Guthlac of Croyland and Ivo Taillebois are listed as landowners. The land of Ivo Taillebois is also listed as containing a market, six fisheries, salt pans and woods (Foster and Longley 1976).
- 2.5 Spalding grew during the Medieval period from the Benedictine priory which was founded in 1052 to the south of the present market place (Pevsner and Harris 1964). A castle also apparently existed to the east of Pinchbeck Road but no remains of either have been located.
- 2.6 During the 13th century the parish church of St. Mary and St. Nicholas was built by the priory under Prior William de Littleport. The church lies on the site of the Norman cemetery chapel of St. Thomas Becket and 600m to the south of the application area. Later additions occurred during the 14th and 15th centuries as well as the later post-medieval period.
- 2.7 The medieval period is represented by finds of pottery to the north and south of the site (SMR 22375 & 22380). A Grange associated with Spalding Priory has been recorded to the south of the site (SMR 22390). A castle is also thought to have existed to the east of Pinchbeck Road, thus giving name to the Castle Sports Complex.
- 2.8 Late medieval and post-medieval activity has been recorded during archaeological evaluation on Double Street (SMR 23589, 23590 & 22381). Such remains include pottery, drainage ditch, pit and brick culvert.
- 2.9 Cartographic evidence suggests that the site has remained largely uninhabited during the

post-medieval period. Plans of the town extending as far as the application area are rare. An undated map of the town and parish illustrate that the site is flanked on either side by the gas works and buildings. To the west lies a windmill and union workhouse.

- 2.10 A map of the town (1732) illustrates the presence of a castle to the southwest of the site (known as Castlefields) and remains of the priory to the south. However, the plan does not extend as far as the application area.
- 2.11 The 2nd Edition Ordnance survey map of the area (1906) illustrates that the site is still uninhabited. The castle, workhouse and windmill are also illustrated.

3.0 Aims and Objectives

3.1 Trial Trench Evaluation

The aims of the evaluation were:

- i. to determine the nature, date, extent, state of preservation and importance of any remains which may exist within the application area;
- ii. to assess the site's archaeological potential in order to allow the Local Planning Authority to make an informed decision regarding its suitability for development;
- iii. to assess their potential for answering questions about the origins of Spalding; and
- iv. where remains of are of sufficient importance, to determine the best method by which these remains can be preserved.

4.0 Methodology and Results

- 4.1 One evaluation trench was identified for excavation and was positioned east-west across the proposed design layout for the single house plot (see Figure 2). The trench measured 20m long x 1.6m wide which resulted in a 2% evaluation of the site by area. The trench was excavated to the natural geology which was encountered at a depth of 0.65m below the present ground surface and at this point, excavation ceased in accordance with the specification prepared (JSAC 507/01/02). No archaeological finds or features were encountered.
- 4.2 The earliest deposit recorded during the evaluation was the natural geology at a minimum depth of approximately 0.40m below the present ground surface (see Figure 3). A layer of orange brown silty clay (004) was recorded and represents the uppermost horizon of the natural geology.

- 4.3 A 0.20m thick black layer of compacted clinker and ash (003) sealed the natural geology. A drain and curbing for the former bowling green was encountered butting up to this layer. Beyond the curbing, a layer of disturbed subsoil was encountered (002). A 0.25m thick layer of topsoil (001) sealed by turf was recorded.

5.0 Discussion

- 5.1 The trial trench evaluation on land off Albion Street, Spalding did not encounter any archaeological deposits, features or artefacts. Excavation of the trench did however, record the presence of the former bowling green as depicted on Ordnance Survey maps.
- 5.2 Archaeological monitoring of the site to the south, has so far recorded post-medieval remains at depth (Gary Taylor, APS - pers. comm.). Monitoring of groundworks to the west of the site and off Pinchbeck Road (*JSAC 853/01/03* - forthcoming) have recorded a substantial depth of topsoil. However, no archaeological features were encountered during the evaluation and the relatively shallow depth of the bowling green remains would suggest that the site has not been subjected to any extensive reworking either by excavation or dumping prior to its' construction. However, the presence of the bowling green suggests that any underlying deposits at the time of the construction would have been impacted upon. Recording of the section of the trench also established that the lower level of the bowling green make-up was lower than the upper level of natural geology recorded outside the bowling green perimeter.
- 5.3 In conclusion, the archaeological evaluation on Plot 3, Albion Street, Spalding has produced a negative archaeological result. The evaluation established the presence of the former bowling green which may have had some impact on any underlying deposits at the time of construction.

6.0 Figures

Figure 1. Site Location

Figure 2. The site, illustrating the trial trench location and design layout

Figure 3. Trench plan and southern section drawing

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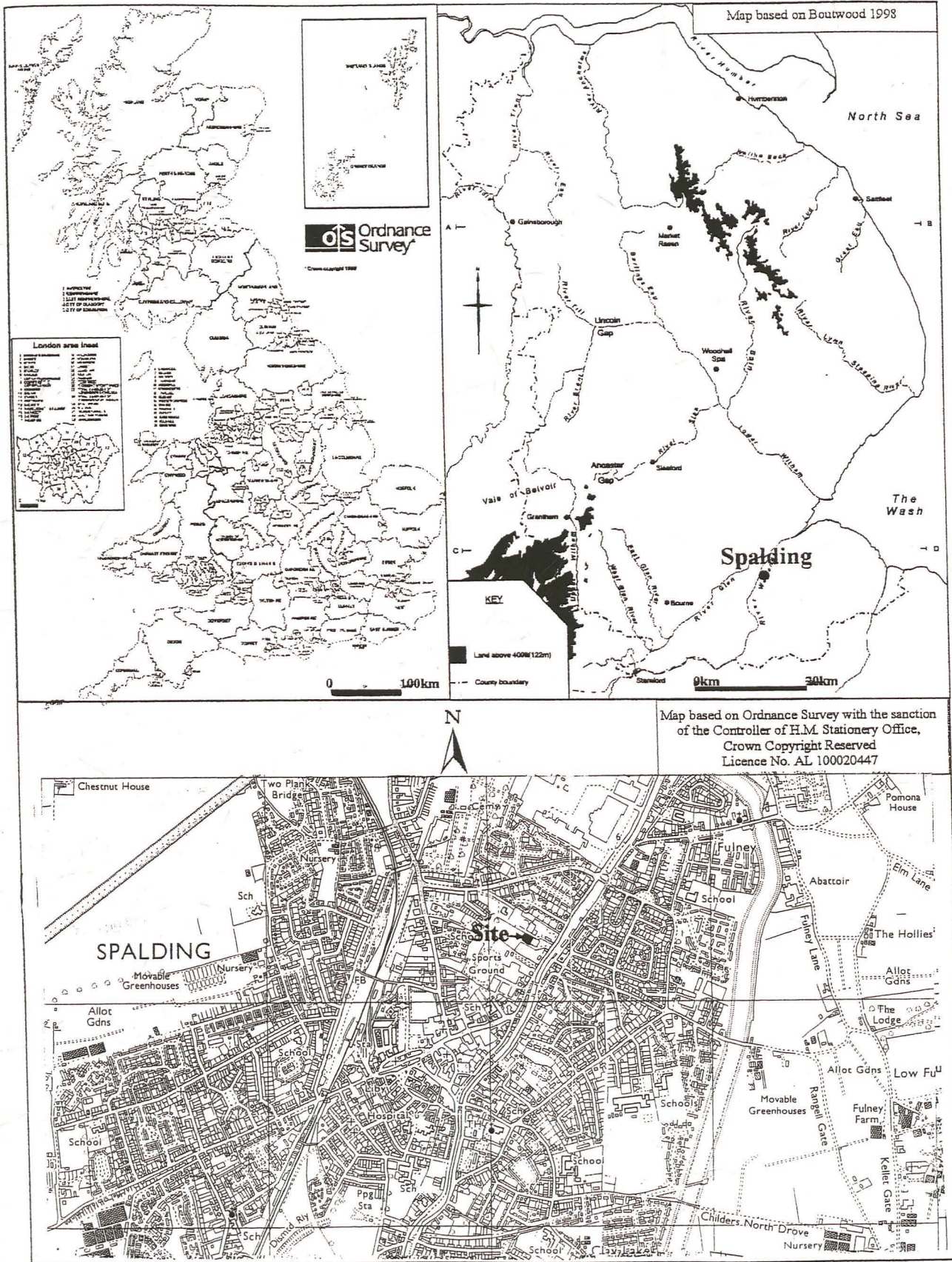


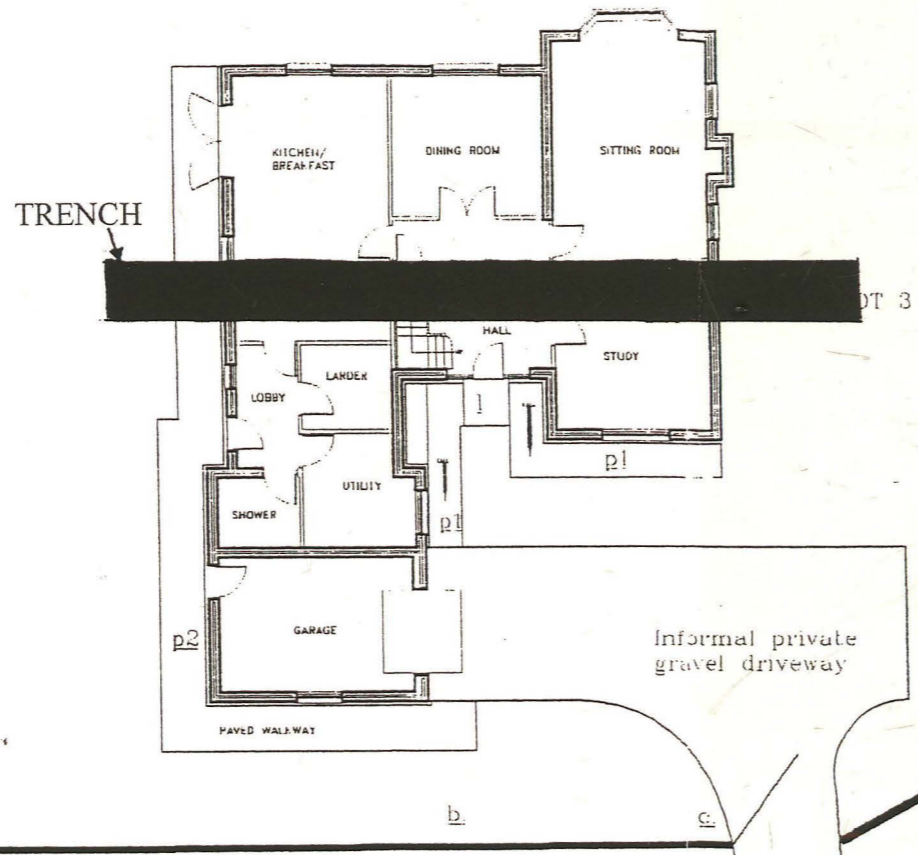
Figure 1. Site location



EXISTING 1.8m HIGH CHAIN LINK FENCE

EXISTING 1.3m HIGH TIMBER PANEL FENCE

NO 89, ALBION STREET EXISTING PROPERTY



FENCING

- a. 1.8m high timber panel fencing
- b. 1.3m high latticework trellis top to brick walling
- c. Latticework gates

Paving

- l 1200mm level landing
- p1 paved walkway 900mm
- p2 paved walkway 1200mm



Broadgate Homes Limited
 Broadgate House, Weston Hill,
 Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE12 6SE.
 Telephone 01430 280032 Fax 01430 280014

PROJECT TITLE
 PROPOSED HOUSE WITH GARAGE
 PLOT 3, ALBION STREET
 SPALDING, Lincs

DRAWING
 SITE LAYOUT

REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY

SCALE
 1:200

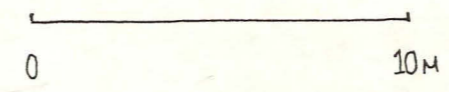
DRAWN
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REV

DATE
 JUNE 2001

DRAWING No.
 0017 03/SL01

Figure 2 The site, illustrating the trial trench location and design layout



Sample section illustrated below

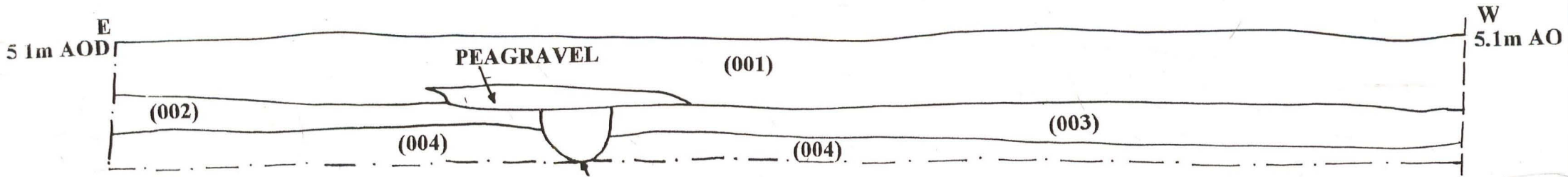
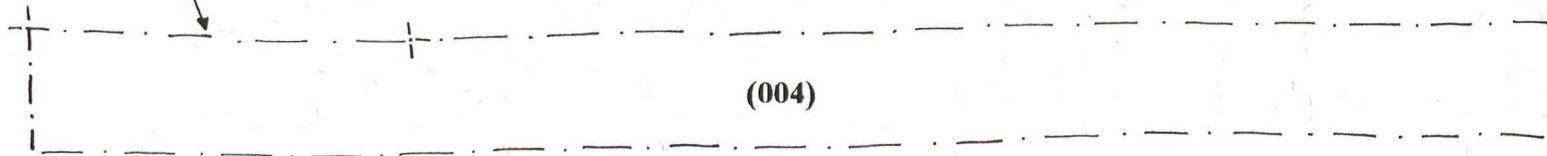


Figure 3 Trench plan and souther section drawing

7.0 Plates

Plate 1. The site prior to excavation

Plate 2. The trench looking west

Plate 3. Close up shot of the southern section



Plate 1. The site prior to excavation

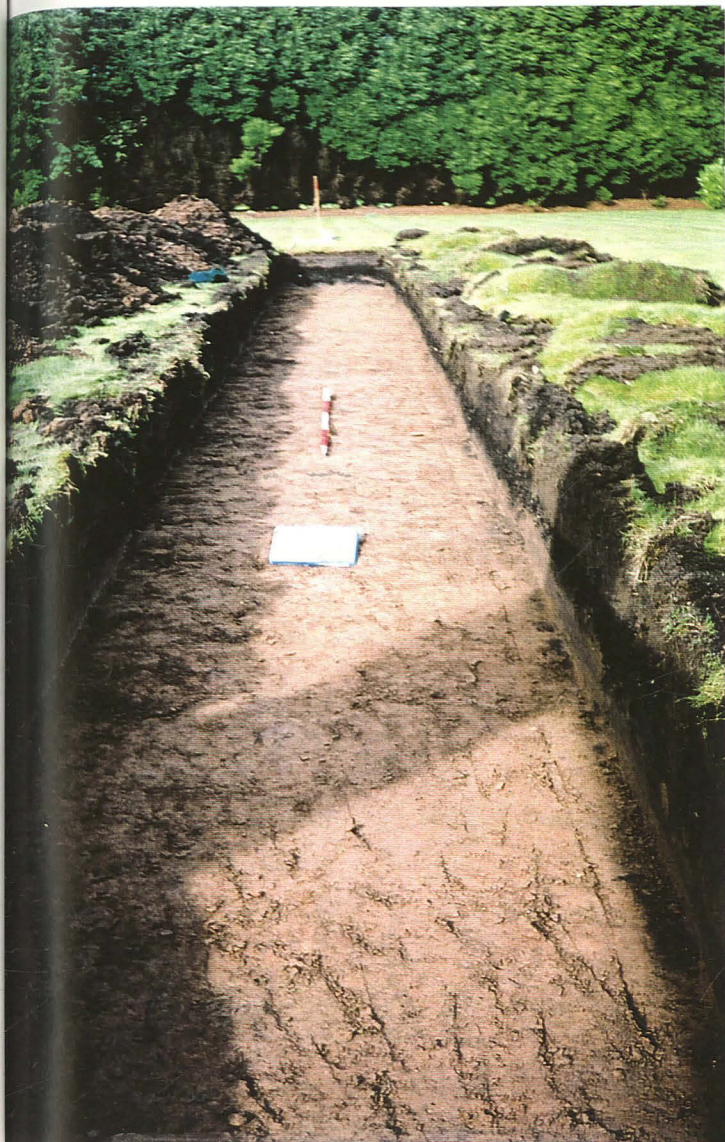


Plate 2. The trench looking west



Plate 3. Close up shot of the southern section

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JSAC 853/01/02. *Land off Pinchbeck Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire - Results of an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation and Watching Brief*. Unpublished Report.

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**Appendix A:
Context Summary**

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Context No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Firm, mid brown silt (c. 0.25m thick)	Topsoil
002	Firm, mid yellow brown silt (c. 0.20m thick)	Subsoil
003	Compacted black clinker and ash	Bowling green make-up
004	Firm, orange brown silty clay	Natural geology