ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
ON LAND AT LOW ROAD,
SPALDING,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SLR02)



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
ON LAND AT LOW ROAD,
SPALDING,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SLR02)

Work Undertaken For Persimmon Homes (East Midlands) Ltd

February 2003

Report Compiled by James Snee BSc (Hons.)

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



Conservation Services

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON LAND AT LOW ROAD,	, SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE (SLR02).
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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological excavation on land at Low Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire (NGR TF 259 230), was undertaken because the area is archaeologically sensitive. Settlement in the area dates from the Romano-British period, and deposits of this date are encountered in and around Spalding

The aim of the excavation was to achieve preservation by record of archaeological features within specific areas threatened by development.

The objectives of the excavation were to fully investigate and establish the type, chronology, density, spatial arrangement and extent of archaeological remains within the specified areas.

Previous investigations on the site identified a number of post-medieval features, and undated remains of probable similar age in the centre and the west of the site. These represent enclosure and settlement of the land. Structural remains in the form of postholes and stake holes were recorded demonstrating the presence of a timber building or buildings between the 16th / 17th century and the 19th century. Further investigation was requested by the archaeological curator in order to clarify the nature and extent of these remains.

Three areas of significance were identified, which required excavation: Area 1 - the site of a possible mud and stud cottage in the south of the site; Area 2 - where structural remains of early post-medieval timber structures were identified in the west of the site; and Area 3 - remains of possible 18th-19th century brickmaking in the east of the site.

Although the excavation of Area 1 did exposed the full extent of the small rustic enclosure, it did not produce significant structural features within it, nor were there any dumps of domestic refuse. This does not preclude the possibility that a dwelling was sited on the site, but it makes it less likely, and the preferred interpretation of the feature is that it was either the base of a hay rick, or the site of a hovel or cote.

Area 2 revealed further evidence of timber buildings on this part of the site. The earliest phase of construction was dated to the 16th-17th century and represents a substantial agricultural building, such as a barn or granary. Evidence was also recovered of iron smithing in the locality. Later, possibly during the 18th, but certainly by the 19th century the building had been replaced or modified, and the finds recovered in the vicinity suggest that it had become a domestic dwelling.

Finds of pottery, brick, tile, metal work, clay pipe and industrial residue dating between the 12th and 20th centuries were recovered from the site. Analysis of environmental samples recovered well preserved, charred and waterlogged plant macrofossils.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of an Excavation

An archaeological excavation is defined as, 'a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. The records made and objects gathered during the fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the project design' (IFA 1999).

2.2 Planning Background

Between the 28th October and 6th December 2002, an archaeological excavation was undertaken on land at Low Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire.

Planning permission (Application Number H16/1099/01) for the development was subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological scheme of works. This comprised a programme of trial trenching to provide information on the archaeological potential Following the site. this. archaeological mitigation strategy was produced that required further archaeological work.

The archaeological evaluation identified three areas of significance in which further work was required: Area 1 - the site of a possible mud and stud cottage in the south of the site; Area 2 - where structural remains of early post-medieval timber structures were identified in the west of the site; and Area 3 - remains of possible 18th-19th century brickmaking in the east of the site.

Archaeological Project Services (APS) was commissioned by Persimmon Homes Ltd to undertake the archaeological excavation of the three areas of the site. Specifications (Appendices 1 & 2) detailing the methods, techniques and procedures of the evaluation were produced by APS and approved by the Senior Built Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council.

The excavation was carried out in accordance with the guidelines specified in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (IFA 1999).

2.3 Topography and Geology

Spalding is located 23km southwest of Boston and 30km southeast of Sleaford in the South Holland district of Lincolnshire (Figure 1). The site is located at Low Road (Figure 2), approximately 1.3km northeast of Spalding town centre, centred on National Grid Reference TF 259 230 and lies at a height of approximately 3m OD. The site, approximately 3ha in area, is bounded on the south by Low Road, on the west by Queen's Road and on the east by Coronation Channel and previously occupied by industrial buildings.

Local soils have not been mapped as the area is urban, but on the basis of surrounding deposits are likely to be deep stoneless clayey and silty soils of the Wallasea 2 Association developed on marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 338). Previous investigations have shown that the sequence of natural deposits on the site is dominated by the presence of a roddon, the infilled channel and banks of an extinct natural creek.

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Evidence of Romano-British activity has been found in and around Spalding and on the east side of the town during the excavation of the Coronation channel. A layer containing pottery, indicative of settlement activity was recorded at Oakley Drive to the northwest of the development site (Phillips 1970, 292). To the northeast, the possible remains of an early Roman settlement have been recorded (Miller 1998) and closer to the centre of the town significant Romano-British remains were revealed during development at Pinchbeck Road (APS forthcoming). In addition to this, cropmark evidence from the area around the town indicates a pattern of fields, roads and possible settlements converging on the town and it is possible that Spalding town stands on the site of a nucleated Romano-British settlement, or small town (Phillips 1970, Taylor 2000).

Spalding is generally connected with a tribal group called the *Spaldas* who are recorded in the Tribal Hideage, a 7th century Mercian tribute list (Sawyer 1998, 47). The place-name is Old English in origin and refers to the 'the people of the Spalde' (Cameron 1998, 114). Although little evidence of Saxon activity has been recorded at Spalding, pottery from the later part of the period has been found 1km northeast of the development site (Cope-Faulkner 1998, 6).

The town was recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086, when land there was owned by Ivo Tallboys, Guy of Craon and Crowland Abbey (Morris 1986). Among the holdings were a market, six fisheries, salt pans and a wood of alders.

Medieval evidence for Spalding is largely concentrated in the town centre with little having been recorded in the vicinity of the development site.

Previous investigations on the site have shown that the sequence of natural deposits is dominated by the presence of a roddon. In the centre and the west of the site a number of post-medieval remains, and undated remains of probable similar age, were revealed which represent enclosure and settlement of the land. Structural remains in the form of postholes stake holes were recorded demonstrating the presence of a timber building or buildings between the 16th / 17th century and the 19th century. A buried soil dating to the 13th-14th century was also identified in this area. On the eastern side of the site, the flues from a possible 18th-19th century brickmaking site were revealed. In the southern part of the site, the remains of what is believed to be an early post-medieval gutter were recorded.

It was suggested that this feature was associated with a Mud and Stud cottage.

3. AIMS

The aim of the excavation was to achieve preservation by record of archaeological features within specific areas threatened by development.

The objectives of the excavation were to fully investigate and establish the type, chronology, density, spatial arrangement and extent of archaeological remains within the specified areas.

Specific objectives within Area 2 were to investigate:

- the nature and development of activity with specific emphasis on the transition from medieval to post-medieval
- the economic basis of the activity and changes in the economy through time
- evidence for the form and function of buildings on the site with specific reference to the early post-medieval period.

Within Area 3 the specific objective was to investigate the industrial process taking place.

4. METHODS

4.1 Excavation

Three areas were selected for excavation (Figure 3). Area 1 was an area 10m wide by 10m long, positioned to examine the western end and interior of the drainage gully identified during evaluation; Area 2, within the area of Plots 8 and 9 and covering some 430m², was placed to further investigate the structural remains in the west of the site; and Area 3, 20m wide

x 20m long, to investigate the possible brick-making site.

Removal of the topsoil and subsoil was undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. To ensure that the correct amount of material was removed and that no archaeological deposits were damaged, this work was supervised by Archaeological Project Services. The exposed surfaces of the Areas were then cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains, which were excavated by hand in order to retrieve dateable artefacts and other remains.

Each deposit exposed during evaluation was allocated unique a reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at a scale of 1:20. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

The location of the excavated areas was surveyed with an EDM in relation to fixed points on boundaries and on existing buildings (Figure 3).

4.2 Post-excavation

Following excavation, all records were checked and ordered to ensure that they constituted a complete Level II archive and a stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was produced. Artefacts recovered from excavated deposits were examined and a period date assigned where possible. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 2. Context numbers are identified in the text by brackets. Phasing was based on artefact dating and the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Description of the results

The three areas of excavation, each had a unique objective, and character. The results from each area will therefore be described separately.

5.2 Area 1 (Figure 4)

Five phases of deposits and other archaeological remains were revealed in Area 1:

Phase 1: Undated alluvial deposits

Phase 2: Undated archaeological deposits

Phase 3: 16th-17th century deposits

Phase 4: 18th century deposits

Phase 5: 19th-20th century deposits

Phase 1: Undated alluvial deposits

The earliest deposit encountered during the excavation of Area 1 was firm, mid brown clayey silt (2044), with blue-grey gleyed patches.

Phase 2: Undated archaeological deposits

Cutting alluvium (2044) were a number of undated postholes (Figure 4).

In the northeast corner of the excavated area was a 0.07m deep circular posthole (2035) with a light yellowish grey silty clay fill (2036) (Figure 8).

To the south west of (2036) was a group of three sub-rectangular postholes between 0.19m and 0.27m wide (2003, 2028 & 2030) (Figure 7 & 8), with dark grey clayey silt fills (2002, 2027 & 2029). In (2003) a possible packing deposit of greybrown silt (2004) was observed.

Approximately 2m to the west of postholes (2028) and (2030) was a north-south

oriented line of postholes (2025, 2032, 2034, 2039 & 2041). At the north end was a sub-rectangular posthole (2025), 0.37m wide and 0.10m deep, with a mid greybrown clayey silt fill (2026). South of (2025) were two pairs of sub-rectangular postholes (2032 & 2034) and (2039 & 2041) with dark grey and dark red-brown silty clay fills (2031, 2033, 2037, 2038 & 2040) (Figures 7 & 8).

Phase 3: 16th-17th century deposits

North of posthole (2025) was an irregular posthole (2008), 0.50m wide and filled with mid grey silty clay (2007). On the southeast side of (2008) was a connected cut (2017), possibly a packing slot, filled with grey and yellow silty clay and sand (2016) (Figure 7). Pottery recovered from fill (2007) was dated to the 16th-17th century.

Enclosing a large part of the excavation area was a 0.60m wide and 0.25m deep ditch (2015 & 2023) with a mid to dark grev and grev-brown silty clay fill (2013, 2014, 2018, 2021, 2024) (Figures 7 & 8). The enclosure had approximately straight north and south sides with rounded corners to the east and west and enclosed an area c. 13m long and 7m wide (Figure 4). Two rounded termini (2019 & 2022) were observed on the west side of the enclosure, forming an apparent entrance close to the northwest corner, the eastern end extended beyond the limits of the excavation and it could not be determined if a second entrance was located in this side. Finds from the fills of the enclosure ditch included pottery dated between the 12th and 16th centuries. However, finds from previous investigations date the feature to the post-medieval period, this would suggest a date of 16th century for this feature.

Phase 4: 18th century deposits

Cutting enclosure ditch (2015) was an irregular sub-rectangular pit (2012) 1.65m long and 0.20m deep, with a dark greybrown fill (2011) (Figure 7). Pottery recovered from (2011) was dated to the 18th century.

Phase 5: 19th-20th century deposits

On the extreme west side of the excavated area (Figure 4) was a series of east-west oriented linear trenches with mid to dark grey clayey silt fills (2000, 2001, 2005, 2006, 2045 to 2058). These were dated to the 19th to 20th centuries by the presence of pottery, brick and glass fragments.

In the centre of the excavation, and in the south east corner, were a number of recent plough furrows (2009, 2010, 2061 to 2066).

On the eastern side of the excavation two recent service trenches were recorded (2059 & 2060).

Covering the entire area was 0.30m of topsoil (2042) overlain by 0.25m of demolition rubble.

5.3 Area 2 (Figures 5 & 14)

Five phases of deposits and other archaeological remains were revealed in Area 2:

Phase 1: Undated alluvial deposits

Phase 2: Medieval or later deposits

Phase 3: Undated archaeological deposits

Phase 4: 16th-18th century deposits

Phase 5: 19th-20th century deposits

Phase 1: Undated alluvial deposits

The earliest deposit encountered in Area 2 was firm, mottled light blue-grey and reddish brown clayey silt (2072), overlain

by 0.27m of mottled brown and reddish brown sandy silt (2071 & 2074) and up to 0.27m of grey to brown sandy silt (2073 & 2070) (Figure 8).

In a sondage in the northwest part of the excavated area (Figure 9), lens of gleyed clayey silt (2092) was recorded.

Phase 2: Medieval or later deposits

Two features containing medieval pottery were revealed during the investigation, both cutting the alluvial deposits.

In the northern part of the site (Figure 5), part of a curving east-west oriented ditch was excavated (2162), 0.66m wide and 0.31m deep with steep sides and a flattish base. It was filled with brown silt (2161) (Figure 10) from which two small abraded medieval potsherds were recovered. It is possible that these sherds were residual, and the feature has been dated as medieval or later.

In the southeast corner of the excavation area (Figure 5), a single 0.27m wide posthole (2101) (Figure 12) was excavated with a brown silty fill (2100) from which a single sherd of abraded medieval pottery was recovered. It is possible that this posthole is medieval in date, although it is located in a group of later postholes, suggesting that the potsherd is residual.

Phase 3: Undated archaeological deposits

Cutting the natural alluvium was a number of undated pits and postholes.

At the southeast side of the excavated area (Figure 5) was the northwest portion of a northwest-southeast oriented gully (2113), 0.27m wide and 0.09m deep with a brown silty fill (2112). This was truncated by subrectangular posthole (2111), 0.48m wide

and 0.14m deep with greyish brown sandy silt fill (2110) (Figure 12).

To the northwest of (2111) were seven undated sub-rectangular postholes (2115, 2125, 2127, 2133, 2137, 2164 & 2168) (Figure 9 – 12) between 0.10m and 0.36m wide with dark brown silty fills (2114, 2124, 2126, 2132, 2136, 2163 & 2167). In close proximity to these undated postholes were a number of post-medieval postholes, and it is likely that they are broadly contemporary.

Further to the north were two undated postholes (2153 & 2155) (Figure 10). Posthole (2153) was sub-rectangular, 0.10m wide and filled with greyish brown silt (2152). To the west was sub-oval posthole (2155), 0.30m wide with a yellowish brown silt fill (2154).

In the southwest corner (Figure 5 & 11) was a group of undated pits. The earliest cut was for an elongated rectangular pit (2177) more than 2.70m long by 1.00m wide and 0.30m deep and containing mixed orange to grey fills (2176 & 2180). Cutting fill (2180) at the east end of the pit was a 0.69m wide sub-rectangular cut (2181), brown sand and silt fills (2182 & 2183). The southern edge of pit (2177) was cut by a sub-oval posthole (2179), 0.40m wide and filled with dark brown clayey silt (2178).Although no artefacts were recovered from these features, they are grouped with a similar set of pits dated to the post-medieval period, and are likely to be of the same date.

Phase 4: 16th-18th century and other post-medieval deposits

To the east of undated pit (2177) (Figure 5) was a sub-rectangular pit (2094) (Figure 11), 3.08m long by 1.34m wide and 0.40m deep that appeared to truncate an undated posthole (2175) with two brown clayey fills (2173 & 2174). The primary fill of the

pit was 0.03m of dark reddish brown silt (2172), overlain by 0.20m of mottled brown and grey clay (2171) from which finds of residual medieval pottery and post-medieval brick were recovered. Cutting through fill (2171) was sub-rectangular posthole (2166), 0.30m wide and a brown silty fill (2161). The final fills of the pit (2093 & 2095) were 19th century dumping (see below).

Three dated postholes were recorded to the west of pit (2094) (Figure 5). The earliest was sub-square posthole (2103), 0.34m wide and filled with greyish brown silt. Pottery dated to the 16th-17th centuries was recovered from the fill (2102) (Figure 12).

To the southeast of (2103) was subrectangular posthole (2099), 0.27m wide and filled with reddish brown silt (2098) with small fragments of post-medieval brick (Figure 12).

Northwest of (2103), sub-rectangular posthole (2107) was 0.26m wide (Figure 12), filled with brown silt (2106) and dated to the 17th-18th centuries.

Approximately 5m to the north (Figure 5) were postholes (2121 & 2131) up to 0.24m wide, filled with greyish brown silts (2120 & 2130) and dated to the post-medieval period (Figures 10 & 12).

Further to the northwest was a group of four post-medieval sub-rectangular postholes (2139, 2141, 2143 & 2145) (Figures 10 & 11) up to 0.40m wide and filled with brown silts (2138, 2140, 2142, 2144).

In the northern half of the site was an isolated sub-rectangular posthole (2076), 0.38m wide and filled with grey-brown silt (2075). Pottery from the fill was dated to the late 18th century.

Phase 5: 19th-20th century deposits

The final fills of pit (2094) were dark brown ashy and clayey silts (2093 & 2095), from which fragments of 19th century pottery were recovered (Figure 11).

Amongst the undated and post-medieval postholes, four were dated to the 19th century (Figures 10 & 12): (2105 & 2123) which were sub-rectangular and approximately 0.50m wide and filled with brown silts (2104 & 2122); (2119) was sub-rectangular and 0.19m wide with a brown silt fill (2118); and (2117) was an irregular double posthole with a mottled grey and yellow silt fill (2116).

Throughout the area were a number of 20th century disturbances including pits and service trenches. Covering the whole of the excavation area was topsoil layer (2129).

5.4 Area 3 (Figure 6)

Four phases of deposits and other archaeological remains were revealed in Area 3:

Phase 1: Undated alluvial deposits Phase 2: 17th-18th century deposits Phase 3: 18th-19th century deposits Phase 4: 19th-20th century deposits

Phase 1: Undated alluvial deposits

The earliest deposit encountered in Area 3 was mid to dark grey silty clay (2188), overlain by c. 0.30m of mid to light yellowish brown silty sand.

Phase 2: 17th-18th century deposits

Cutting through the natural alluvial deposits (2188 & 2189) were two east-west oriented ditches (Figure 6). In the south was ditch (1613) which was investigated

and described in the second phase of the evaluation, and approximately 13m north was a parallel ditch (2184) (Figure 12), with grey to brown fills (2186, 2187 & 2196).

Phase 3: 18th-19th century deposits

A number of features were revealed, which were dated by their stratigraphic position to the 18th-19th centuries. Eight of the features were linear trenches that defined two sub-rectangular structures.

In the northern half of the area of investigation (Figure 6) Structure 1, approximately 8m long and 7m wide, was defined by trenches (1603 (described in Phase 2)), (2197), (2201 & 2190) and (2203), up to 0.90m wide and 0.25m deep with a U-shaped profile (Figures 12 & 13). Filling the trenches was a mixture of grey to brown silts and clays and a significant quantity of low fired brick fragments (1602, 2185, 2191, 2200 & 2202).

In the centre of Structure 1 (Figure 6) was an irregular patch of natural silt reddened by *in situ* baking (2208), this baking is believed to be contemporary to Structure 1.

Immediately south of Structure 1 was Structure 2 (Figure 6), approximately 9m wide and 9m long and defined by trenches (1609 (described in Phase 2)), (2198), (2205 & 2213) and (2207), up to 0.70m wide and 0.24m deep with a U-shaped profile (Figure 13), and an L-shaped terminus at the north end of trench (2207). The fills were similar to those in Structure 1, with low fired brick fragments mixed with silts and clays (1608, 2199, 2204, 2206, 2209, 2210, 2211 & 2212).

Immediately east of Structure 2 (Figure 6) were further linear features (1605 & 1607) with similar fills (1604 & 1606), which were investigated and described as part of the Phase 2 evaluation. It is likely that

these form the western side of a third structure.

Phase 4: 19th-20th century deposits

Traversing both axes of the area of investigation, and cutting the trenches associated with both defined structures, were two gullies (Figure 6).

The earlier of the two was north-south gully (2194), 0.37m wide and 0.10m deep with mixed and mottled brown silty clay fills (2192, 2193 & 2195). Finds of 19th-20th century pottery and glass were recovered from the fills (Figure 13).

A later, east-west oriented gully (1611) was investigated and described during the Stage 2 evaluation. This gully was also dated to the 19th-20th century.

A number of modern service trenches truncated the area, and the entire site was covered by a layer of modern topsoil (2214).

6. DISCUSSION

Area 1

As discussed in the previous investigations (Snee 2002a & b) the earliest deposit was an undated alluvium of natural origins (Phase 1).

It is likely that the four undated (Phase 2) post-holes (2003, 2028, 2030, & 2035) located within the 16th-17th century (Phase 3) rectilinear ditch (2015, 2022, 2023 & 2069) were associated with a timber structure or structures constructed within the ditch and were contemporary with it (see below).

The north-south oriented row of undated postholes (2025, 2032, 2034, 2039 & 2040) continued with a single 16th-17th

century (Phase 3) posthole (2008), and further undated (post-medieval) posthole (516), partially exposed in evaluation Trench 5 (Snee 2002a). It is probable that these features are contemporary and are related, in that they form part of the same structure. This structure may be a substantial fence, perhaps to enclose a grazing area, or define a property boundary. Alternatively these postholes may be part of a larger sub-rectangular pattern relating to a building, possible for agricultural use (a barn, granary or stable). Unfortunately, the area to the west of these postholes was heavily disturbed by later features and after consultation with the Senior Built Environment Officer, it was decided that no attempt would be made to investigate further west to pursue this possibility.

Dominating the archaeological sequence in Area 1 was 16th-17th century (Phase 3) rectilinear ditch (2015, 2022, 2023 & 2069). To understand this feature was the main aim of this part of the excavation.

During the second stage of the evaluation, when the size of the area enclosed by the ditch had been determined, it was proposed that this unusual feature was the gutter for a mud and stud cottage. In order to confirm this interpretation the excavation would have had to reveal evidence of structural remains within the area enclosed, and to have recovered artefacts and other indicators of domestic activity.

Within the area enclosed by the ditch were four undated post-holes (Phase 2 above) that are believed to be contemporary with the ditch. However, these postholes do not form a complete house plan and they are not substantial enough for house timbers. The archaeological remains within the ditch do not support the possibility of the feature supporting a dwelling, although it does not preclude entirely such an interpretation.

In addition very few finds were recovered from the exposed features, in particular no bone was recovered. Whilst it is possible that refuse disposal took place a distance from any dwelling, and not within it, the lack of occupational debris does lessen the likelihood of the feature representing a dwelling.

With no clear evidence to suggest a domestic function for the enclosing ditch and its related features, other possibilities must be considered and the ditch reexamined.

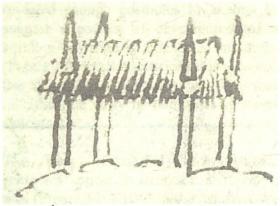
The ditch encloses an area c.13m long by 7m wide, with a 2.3m wide opening in the west side. The excavation of the ditch would have generated approximately 17m³ of spoil, which if spread over the interior of the enclosure would have raised the ground level by approximately 0.20m. This would have created an area slightly higher, but significantly drier that the surrounding lands. It is possible that this was an end itself.

If the enclosing ditch was located closer to the historic core of Spalding, or in an area that showed signs of moderate to intensive settlement and agriculture, it could be interpreted as the boundary of postmedieval labourers allotment garden, albeit a very small one.

However, the site is located a distance for the historic core of Spalding and in an area that has produced very little evidence of settlement. It is believed that the agricultural regime in this area was essentially pastoral. It is possible therefore that the enclosure has and agricultural function, uniquely tied to the needs of a pastoral economy in a fen landscape. Two possible functions are proposed for the enclosure, and it is possible that both could have been carried out at different times.

The first is that the enclosed low mound was the base for a 'Rick', a stack of mown hay, reed or straw "made after the form of a Barn with a shedding ridg" (Holme 1688). The low mound would provide a slightly dryer platform for the Rick to stand on and the ditch would help keep fodder dry in times of rain. However, this function would not explain the postholes found within the ditch.

The second explanation is that the ditch and mound supported an insubstantial agricultural building, such as a Hovel or a Cote. Hovels were common structures in the 16th and 17th century and are included in a description of outbuildings "appendant to great houses" (Holme 1688) as synonymous with sheds. They are further described as "Moveable houses", a term that also included tents, booths, huts and cabins (Holme 1688). A Cote is described as "a kind of open house having nothing else but a cover, made of straw, rushes or gorst" (Holme 1688).



A 17th century sketch of a cote (Holme 1688).

Cotes were used in the fens for sheep and a associated with raised platforms (Healey 1997).

Cutting the fill of ditch (2015) was an 18th century (Phase 4) pit (2012), of uncertain function. This feature, however demonstrates that the ditch had been filled in by the 18th century, confirming the 16th

to 17th century date previously assigned to it.

Disturbing the undated alluvium on the west side of the area, were a number of east-west oriented linear features dated to the 19th to 20th century (Phase 5). These were interpreted as planting trenches from allotment gardens, and it is believed that these features would mask any earlier features present at this end of the excavation or further west. A number of other recent disturbances (plough marks and service trenches) were also observed.

Area 2

An examination of the undated alluvial deposits (Phase 1) showed that this part of the site was subject to localised gleying.

Cutting the alluvium were two features of medieval or later date (Phase 2). In the northern half of the site was ditch (2162). Two small fragments of abraded 12th to 14th century pottery were the only finds recovered from the fill of the ditch. However, The form and position of the ditch strongly suggests that it, and two sections of ditch identified during previous investigations, form a rectilinear ditched enclosure of similar form to the rustic enclosure identified in Area 1. If this is the case then evidence from the other sections of ditch suggest a 16th to 17th century date for the feature. The enclosure would be approximately 10m long by 7m wide, slightly shorter than in Area 1 and no entrance was identified (although portions of the ditch lay outside the area of excavation). If the ditch is part of such an enclosure then its functions would be similar to those proposed for Area 1 (see above). Alternatively, if the ditch is a separate feature, and of medieval date, it may be an agricultural feature, peripheral to settlement that has been proposed for west of the site.

A second feature containing medieval pottery was posthole (2101). Although it is possibly an outlier of a group of medieval postholes located to the east of the excavated area, it is considered more likely that it is part of the known group of post medieval postholes to the north and west, and that the single abraded sherd of 12th – 14th century pottery was residual.

In the eastern half of the site, which was less disturbed by modern construction and services that the north and west, was a spread of postholes. Many of these were undated (Phase 3) but a number were dated as post-medieval (Phases 3 & 4). These will be discussed together with the results of previous investigations.

In the initial evaluations stage Trench 6 approximately reveal north-south oriented linear group of undated and postmedieval postholes (Figure 14 AC). The second stage of evaluation (Trench 12) demonstrated that the pattern of postholes extended east. This investigation has revealed enough postholes to attempt to suggest a pattern of development of a building or range of connected buildings (Figure 14). In all discussions it is accepted that the undated postholes may form part of either the early or later post-medieval structures.

(Phase 4) post-medieval The early postholes appear to delineate an L-shape area (Figure 14 ABDF), although there are too few to be certain that this forms a single building. It is possible that in the area between the excavated trenches there are postholes that define two separate buildings, or confirm that these (and some of the undated postholes) form a single sub-rectangular structure approximately 13.5m long and 10m wide, with outlying postholes to the east suggesting additional buildings or extensions. It is possible that the undated posthole line (GC) forms part of the early post-medieval structure, making it an L-shaped building with wings extending south and east.

The later post-medieval postholes form a distinct L-shaped building (ACDE), possibly incorporating parts of the earlier structure, although it appears to reduce the northern extent of the building. Again a number of undated and late post-medieval outliers are observed, suggesting additional structures.

The function of the buildings is less clear, and cannot be interpreted on the basis of form. The pottery assemblage recovered from this area during Stage 1 of the evaluation suggested that during the 19th century there was domestic activity in the vicinity, suggesting that the later postmedieval building was a dwelling. The absence of significant quantities of earlier material would suggest that the earlier phase of building was not occupied on a permanent basis, and may represent an agricultural building such as a barn, granary or stable. Such a building would have been located in close proximity to a dwelling, perhaps located to the southwest, closer to the road.

To the south of the timber buildings were two rectangular pits (2094) and (2177). Pit (2094) was early post-medieval (Phase 4) in origin, and although its function is uncertain, analysis of the basal fill discovered fine charcoal, coal, clinker and waterlogged wood fragments, in addition fragments of smithing slag were also recovered from an early post-medieval fill. It is possible that this pit was open and water filled close to an area of low level industrial activity such as iron smithing. This features was filled in at approximately the same time as the second phase of building. Pit (2177) was undated but appears to be similar to (2094) and possibly contemporary.

Disturbing the earlier remains in the excavation areas were a number of 20th century (phase 5) service trenches and structural elements.

Area 3

The earliest phase (Phase 1) investigated during the excavation of Area 3 was composed of undated silty clay overlain by coarse alluvium.

Cutting through the undated alluvium were two 17th-18th century (Phase 2) ditches, which are believed to be part of a wider system of strip fields or dylings, supporting an agricultural regime base predominantly on grazing and the gathering of mown fodder.

A number of 18th-19th century (Phase 3) linear features were revealed, forming two definable structures, and possibly the western edge of a third, all of which contained fills of clay mixed with low-fired brick wasters.

Based on the results of a single evaluation trench (Trench 16), these linear features were originally interpreted as the flues associated with one or more brick clamps. However, the excavation of an area has exposed linear elements of at least two sub-rectangular structures. Whilst these are interpreted as brick clamps or kilns the interpretation of the gullies is no longer that they are flues, but they are perceived as elements of the upstanding kiln structures.

To elucidate the matter, a fuller discussion of post-medieval brickmaking is needed, drawing on the primary source evidence of Randall Holme III (1627 – 1713) who compiled a list of Brickmakers terms as part of his 'Academy of Armory' (1688).

The process of brickmaking begins with the mining of the raw material, the clay, and placing it in large heaps (Casting the clay) to weather and break down (Tempering the clay). The Wheeler used a wheelbarrow to carry the clay from the clay pit to the foot of the Moulding board where the Staker took the clay from the ground and put it on the board.

The Moulding board was a low table with a tub of water (*Dropping tub*) to one side and a ridge or stay on the top to prevent the brick mould from slipping, here the Moulder would then work the clay into a wet brick mould, trimming off the excess clay with a *Pallet* or *Slice*. Two main types of brick mould were used, either Shod moulds that had a base plate, or Bare-foot moulds which did not. Once the mould was correctly filled the Bearer off took the mould and the clay and placed it on the ground to dry, the mould was then removed from the brick and dropped back into the tub. The wet bricks on the ground were often sprinkled with dry sand (Sanding the brick) and then turned on one side to dry quicker.

A *Taker up* of the brick finished the bricks by smoothing the edges and then stacked them in rows (*Walling the brick*) and covering the top of the stack to protect them from the weather. Once the bricks were dry they were stacked in a kiln or clamp.

As can be seen the process leading up to the creation of the kiln was a chain of production involving at least five people (and probably more). One important feature that has not been identified during the current excavations, or during the earlier phases of evaluation is a clay pit. This feature would have been of considerable size, and would have been located relatively close to the kilns (a convenient barrow run away). Since the clay pit is not located to the west of the kilns it is reasonable to believe it is to the east. Aerial photographs taken in 1947

show a group of ponds to the east of the site and that it is possible that these represent the remains of the brick pits, which have since been eradicated by the Coronation Channel. An examination of the brick fabrics from the site suggest that the tempering of the clay was not particularly thorough, and it is possible that this stage of the brickmaking process was omitted completely. Although the clay for the bricks is almost certainly local, the coarse sand needed for brick making is not readily available in the Spalding area, although some of the roddons in the area contain very sandy silts. The closest source of pure coarse sand is probably the outcrops of glacial sand and gravel in the area immediately north of Bourne, approximately 16km west of the town. In the early 19th century there were a number of carriers working between Bourne and Spalding, and it has been proposed (Page 1982) that the carrier routes recorded in the 19th century were continuations of an earlier post-medieval transport network, in addition it is known from historical records that the Bourne Eau was navigable in the 18th century, and in 1740 boats laden with bulk goods were sailing from Bourne to Spalding (Wright 1982).

The building and firing of the brick kilns (or brick clamps as they are locally known) was the final stage in the production process. The kilns were essential temporary structures, constructed using the bricks that were to be fired. A crude illustration from the Academy of Armory (1688) shows a brick kiln to be a step pyramid, its height slightly less than its width; this is consistent with later illustrations and descriptions (Robinson 1999).



Illustration of a brick kiln (after Holme 1688)

The early stages of construction would have included the Arches of the kiln, which are described as 'the hollow places at the bottom, where the fire is'. This would suggest that the flues for the kiln were above ground, and therefore, will not archaeologically discernable. description of the various courses of wet brick make it clear that the kilns were internally divided with possibly a grid of air spaces to allow the fire to spread as evenly as possible through the structure. Slack or small coal was laid between every course and row of bricks to fuel the kiln, and quantities of small coal have been recovered during environmental analysis.

Covering the outside of the kiln was a layer of clay (a process called Daubing), probably mixed with fragments of underfired brick from previous firings. The kiln was fired by setting alight to the fuel in the arches, which were then filled with earth to direct the fire and heat upwards to the top of the kiln. After the kiln had burnt itself out (which took several days) the entire structure was broken apart and the bricks removed and carried to where they were needed.

The structures identified in Area 3 represent the foundations of the four clay walls surrounding the bricks. The walls did not join at the corners, possible suggesting the position of the arches. In the centre of Structure 1 was an area where the natural clay had been reddened by heat, this is

consistent with the description of the brick kilns, which would have been hottest in the middle. If the kilns were of a similar form to the illustration of the Academy of Armory, then Structure 1 would have been approximately 5m to 6m high and Structure 2 would have been 6m to 7m high. The capacity of a brick kiln is generally put at between 40-50,000 bricks (Robinson 1999), yet the volume of the kilns is approximately double this. This would suggest that the brick to fuel ratio was approximately 1:1. On this basis each firing would have required c. 150 tons of slack or small coal. In the 18th and 19th centuries, prior to the arrival of the railways, coal was imported into Spalding via the Welland, which was navigable as far as Stamford. From the Welland the coal would have to have been moved by cart. The scale of production from the site is difficult to gage, two kiln structures are identified, although the number of burnings these represent is unclear. In addition, evidence from the previous investigations suggests the presence of at least one more kiln to the east, and there remains the potential for others located outside the area of development to the east and south. If the three known kilns were to be used only once each (as the methodology would suggest) then the site produced somewhere in the region of 120,000-150,000 bricks, sufficient for 1400m² of wall.

Amongst the brick wasters recovered from the kiln area was a low fired frogged brick. At the east end of the site fragments of similar frogged bricks had been recovered in the vicinity of the post-medieval timber framed building complex. One common 18th century phenomenon is the brick cladding of timber structures, such as farmhouses and associated structures. It is possible that the brick production at the east side of the site is tied to the development of the building range located at the west end of the site.

The two 19th-early 20th century (Phase 4) gullies traversed the site, cutting the remains of the brick clamps, effectively dating the brick making to the 18th to early 19th century.

A number of recent service trenches disturbed the earlier features and deposits.

7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological excavation was undertaken on land at Low Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire, because previous investigations had revealed significant post-medieval remains including one or more timber buildings, a possible cottage site, and an area of brick making.

Three areas of significance were identified, which required excavation. Area 1 - the site of a possible mud and stud cottage in the south of the site, Area 2 - structural remains of early post-medieval timber structures were identified in the west of the site, and Area 3 - remains of possible 18th-19th century brick-making in the east of the site.

Although the excavation of Area 1 did exposed the full extent of the small rustic enclosure, it did not produce significant structural features within it, nor were there any dumps of domestic refuse. This does not preclude the possibility that a dwelling was sited on the site, but it makes it less likely, and the preferred interpretation of the features is that it was either the base of a hay rick, or the site of a hovel or cote.

Area 2 revealed further evidence of timber buildings on this part of the site. The earliest phase of construction was dated to the 16th-17th century and represents a substantial agricultural building, such as a barn or granary. Evidence was also recovered of iron smithing in the locality. Later, possibly during the 18th, but

certainly by the 19th century the building had been replaced or modified, and the finds recovered in the vicinity suggest that it had become a domestic dwelling.

The excavation of Area 3 was particularly successful, revealing the remains of at least 2 brick clamps or kilns. To date these are the first brick clamps of this period that have been excavated, in this region.

Overall the site provides an interesting insight into the post-medieval economic development of the area.

The earliest archaeological evidence suggests that the lands to the west of the site were subject to settlement and agriculture in the late medieval period.

Post-medieval remains, including two rustic enclosures (in Areas 1 & 2) of 16th-17th century date, suggest that the land was subject to a pastoral economy, possibly a mixture of grazing and fodder gathering. At the west side of the site (Area 2) at large agricultural building is raised (removing one of the enclosures), suggesting that the economy of the area was growing stronger.

At this same time, or slightly later the central and eastern portions of the site were dyked, either as a drainage scheme to establish arable agriculture or, more likely, to form dylings for better grazing.

In the later post-medieval period, the ditches were filled in, probably as the land was in a dryer more stable state.

At the east side of the site (Area 3) a brickmaking site was established, possibly for only a short space of time, producing significant quantities of bricks for the local economy. This brickmaking site was part of a regional trade network, probably utilising the waterways of South Holland, which could bring bulk goods such as sand

and coal, either from local towns and villages or from the coastal traders.

Evidence from the buildings on the west of the site (Area 2) suggests that some of the bricks produced at Low Road were for use in the immediate area.

In the 19th century the main activity on the site was the domestic occupation of Area 2, with either a new building constructed, or the earlier building modified.

In the 20th century the site was cleared and over the decades following World War II was put to industrial use.

Finds of pottery, brick, tile, metal work, clay pipe and industrial residue dating between the 12th and 20th centuries were recovered from the site. Analysis of environmental samples recovered well preserved, charred and waterlogged plant macrofossils.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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10. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

DoE Department of the Environment

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

OD Ordnance Datum

OS Ordnance Survey

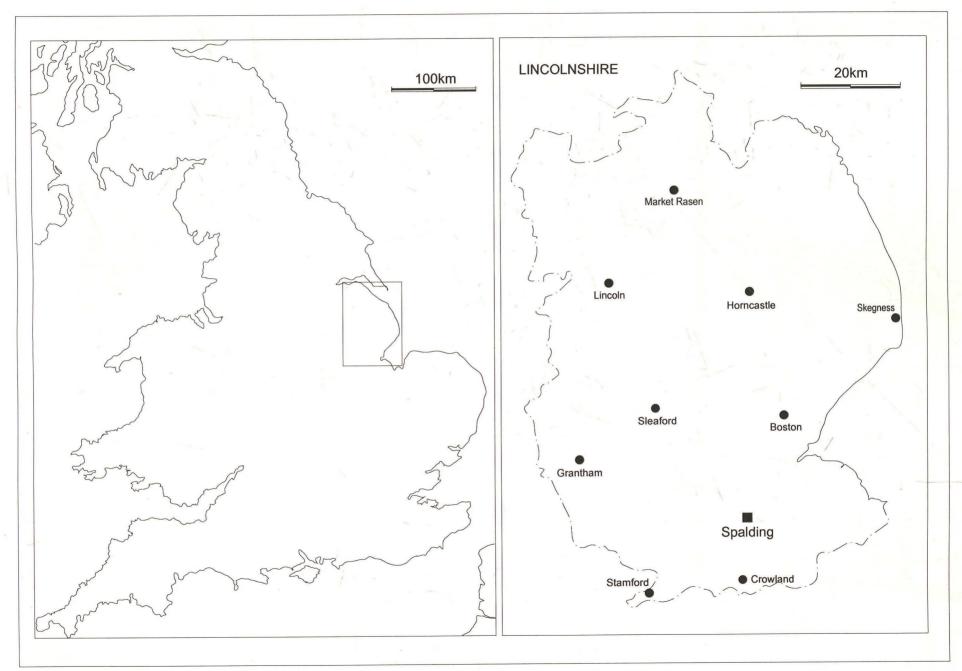


Figure 1: General Location Plan

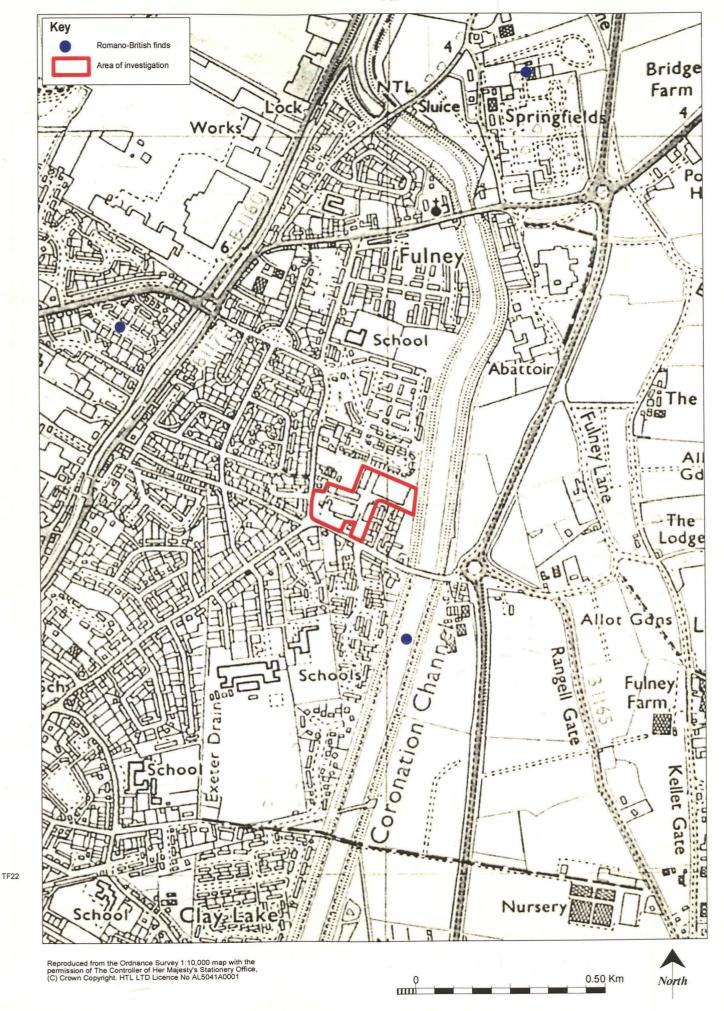


Figure 2 Location plan and archaeological setting

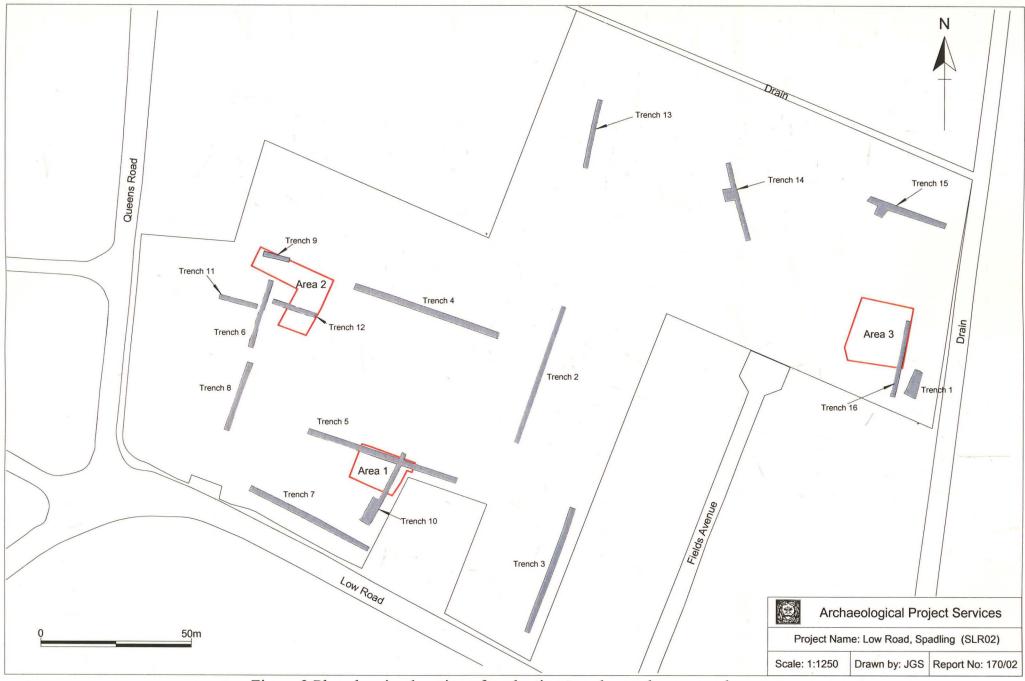


Figure 3 Plan showing location of evaluation trenches and excavayed areas.

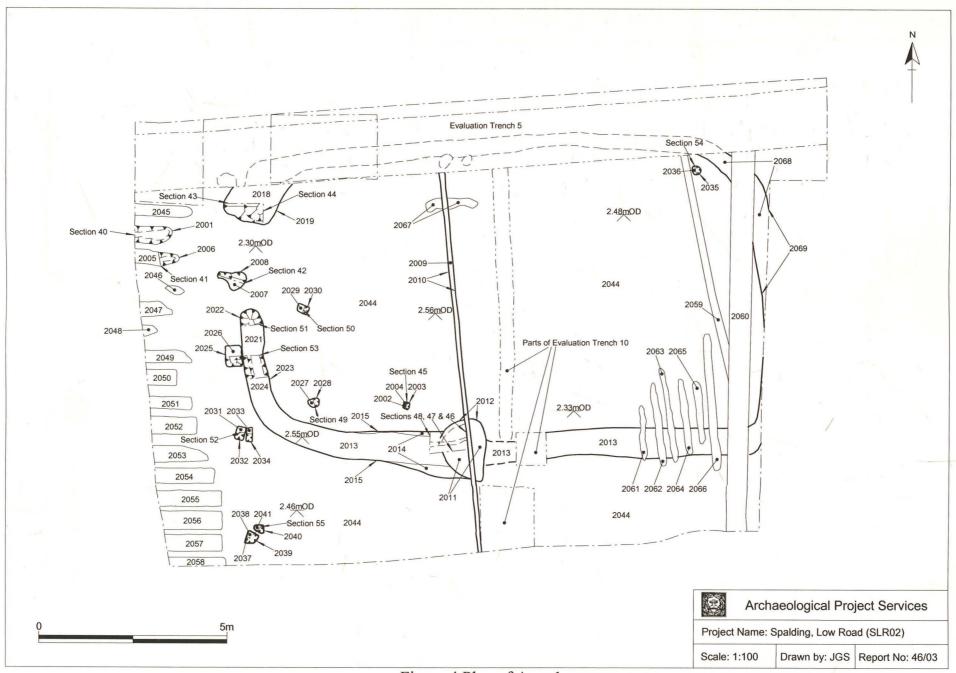


Figure 4 Plan of Area 1.

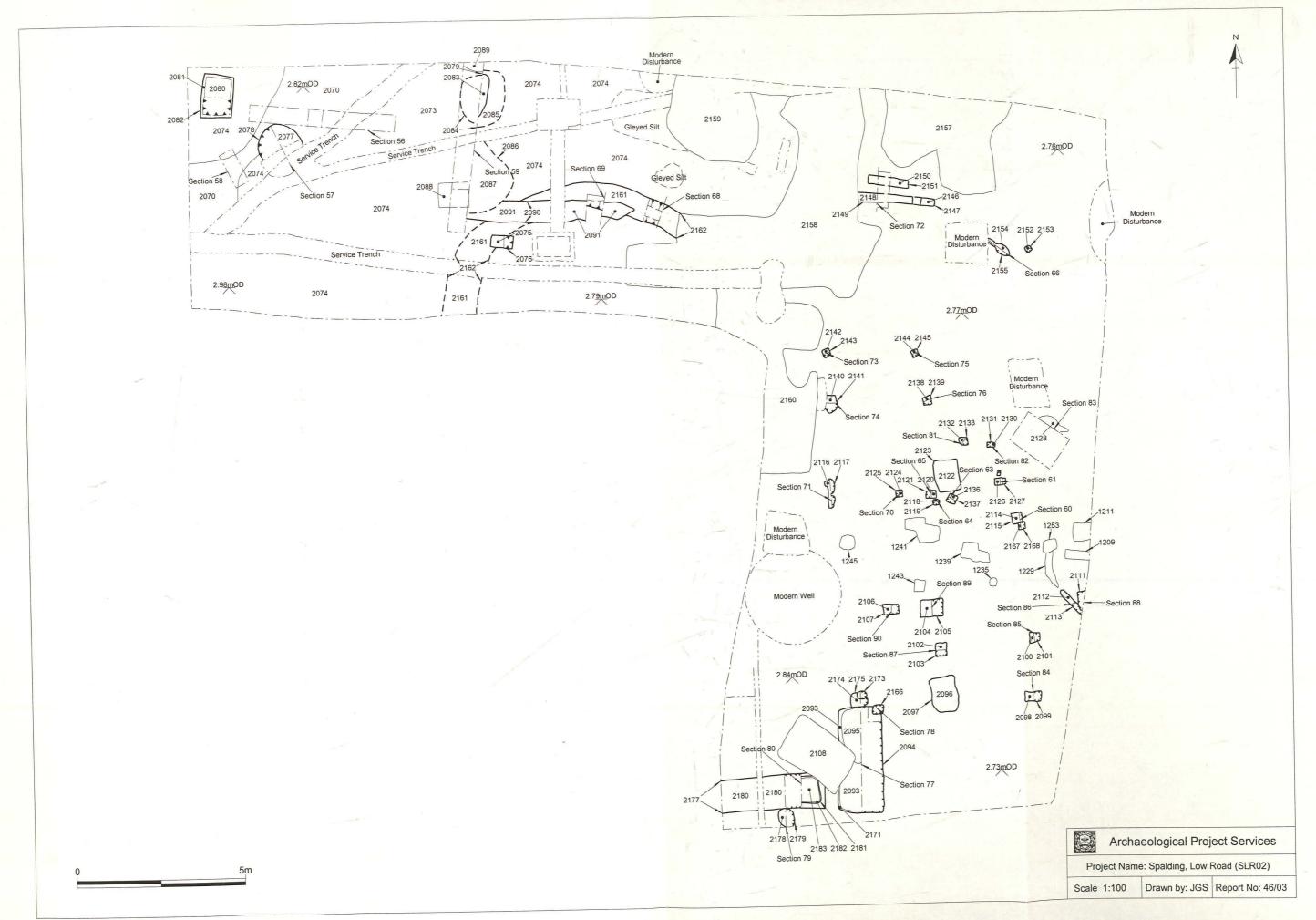
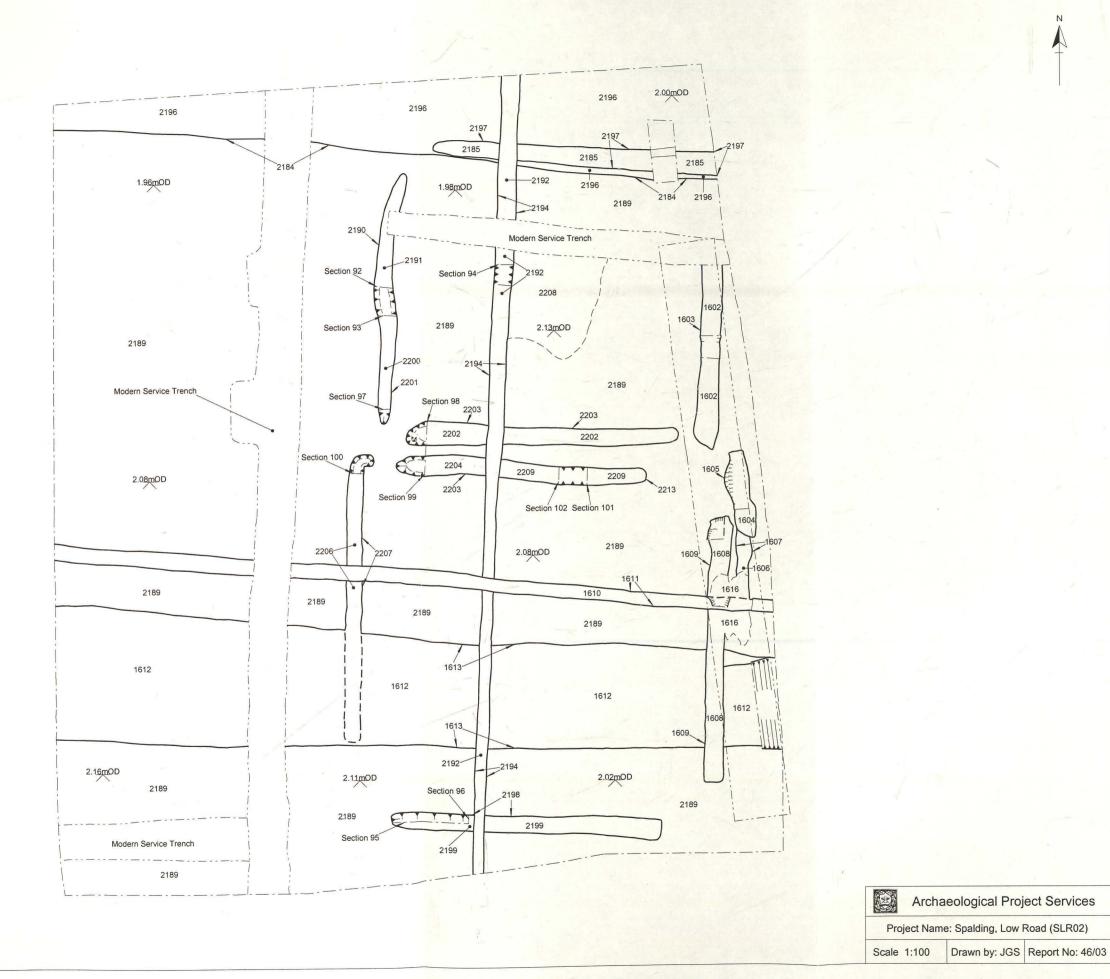


Figure 5 Plan of Area 2.



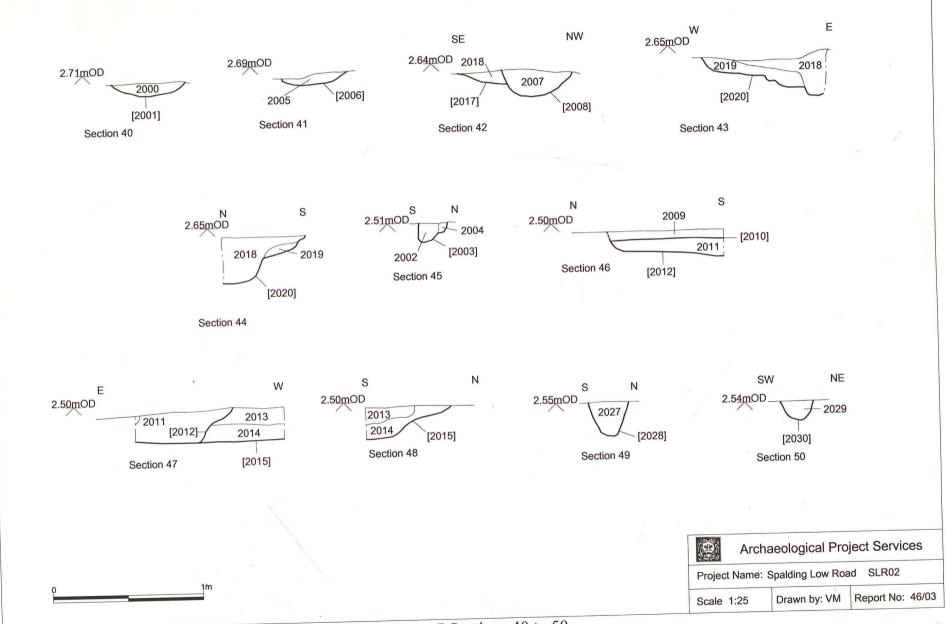


Figure 7 Sections 40 to 50.

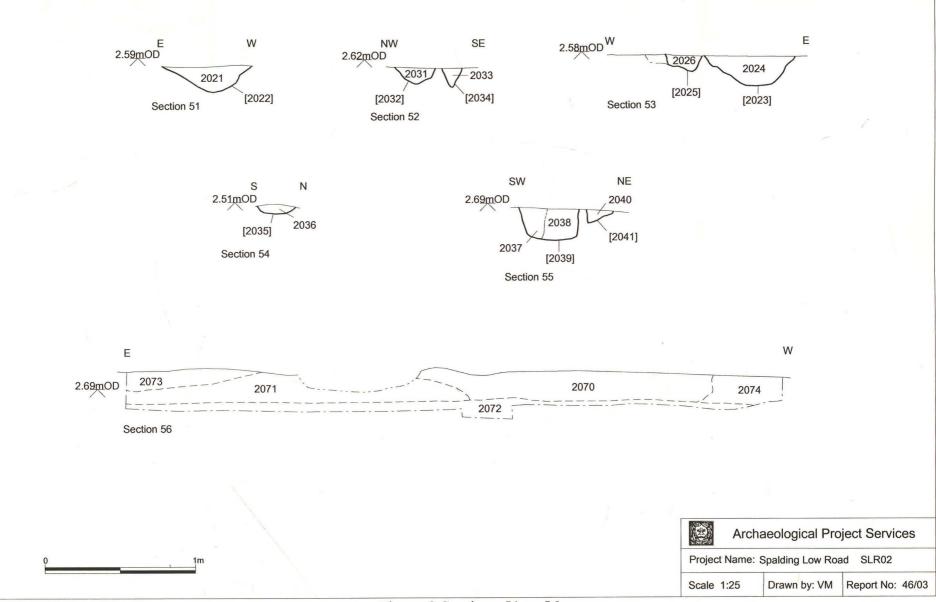
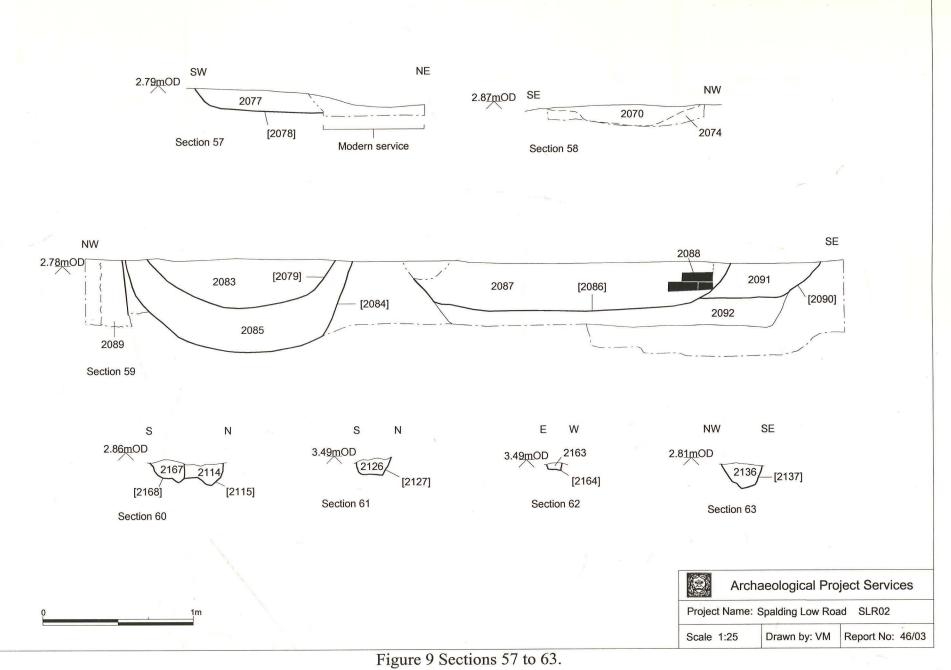


Figure 8 Sections 51 to 56.



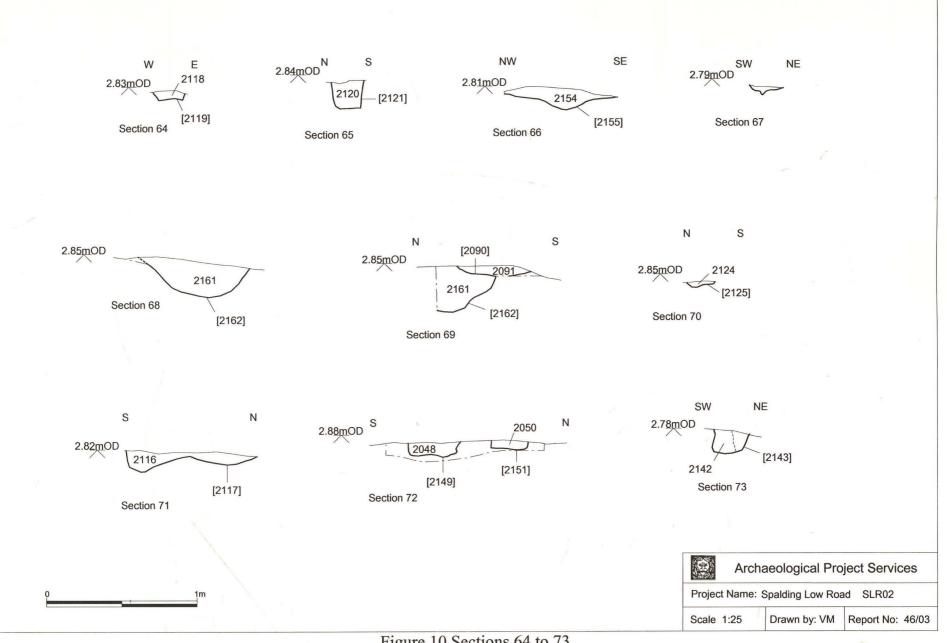


Figure 10 Sections 64 to 73.

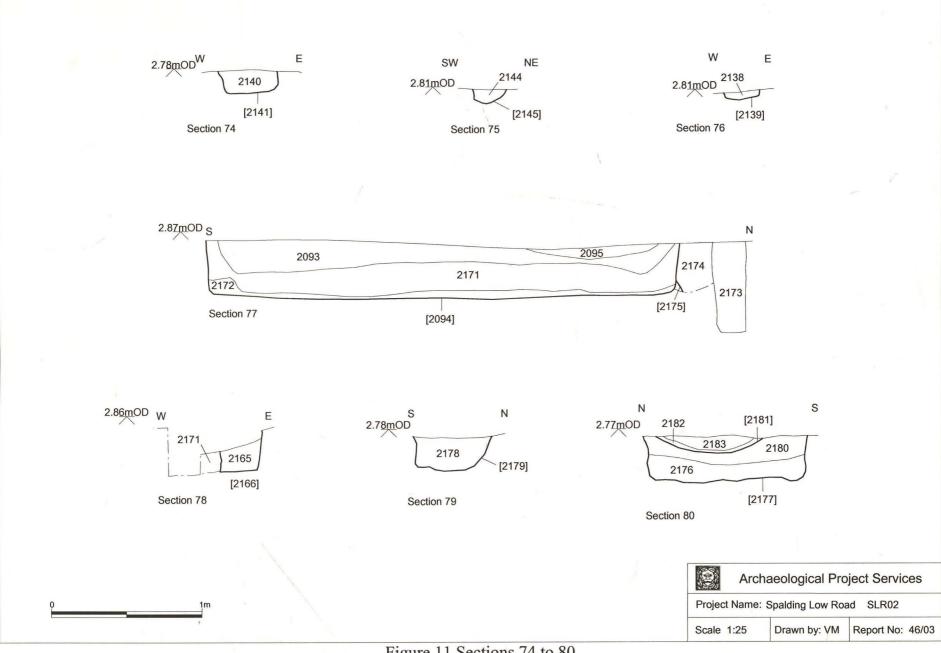


Figure 11 Sections 74 to 80.

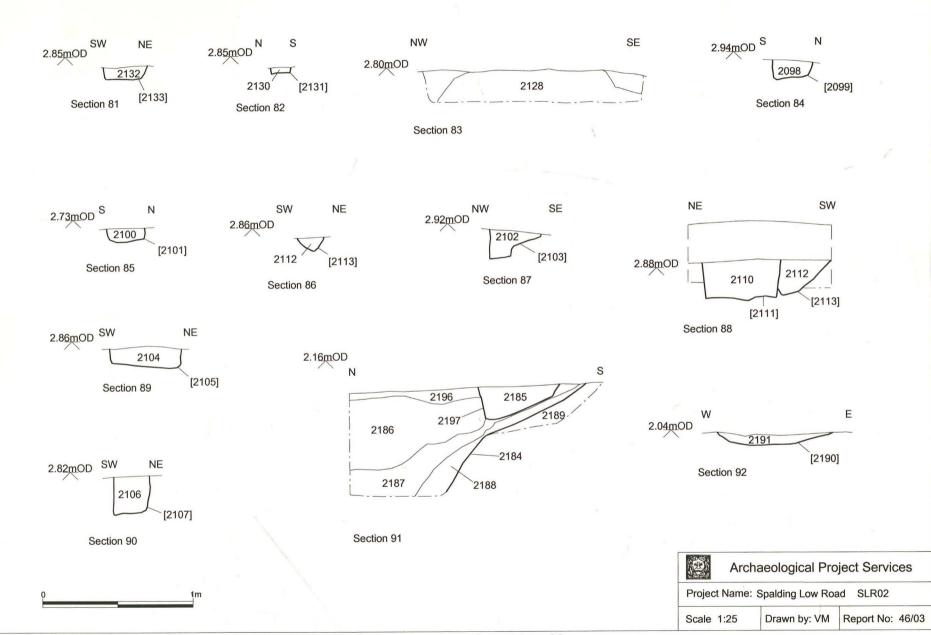


Figure 12 Sections 81 to 92.

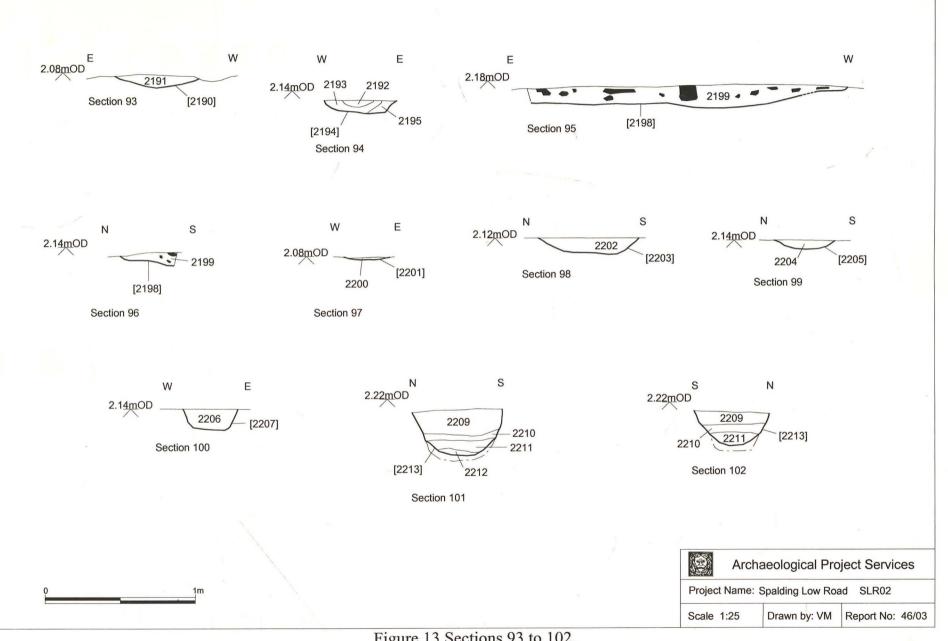


Figure 13 Sections 93 to 102.

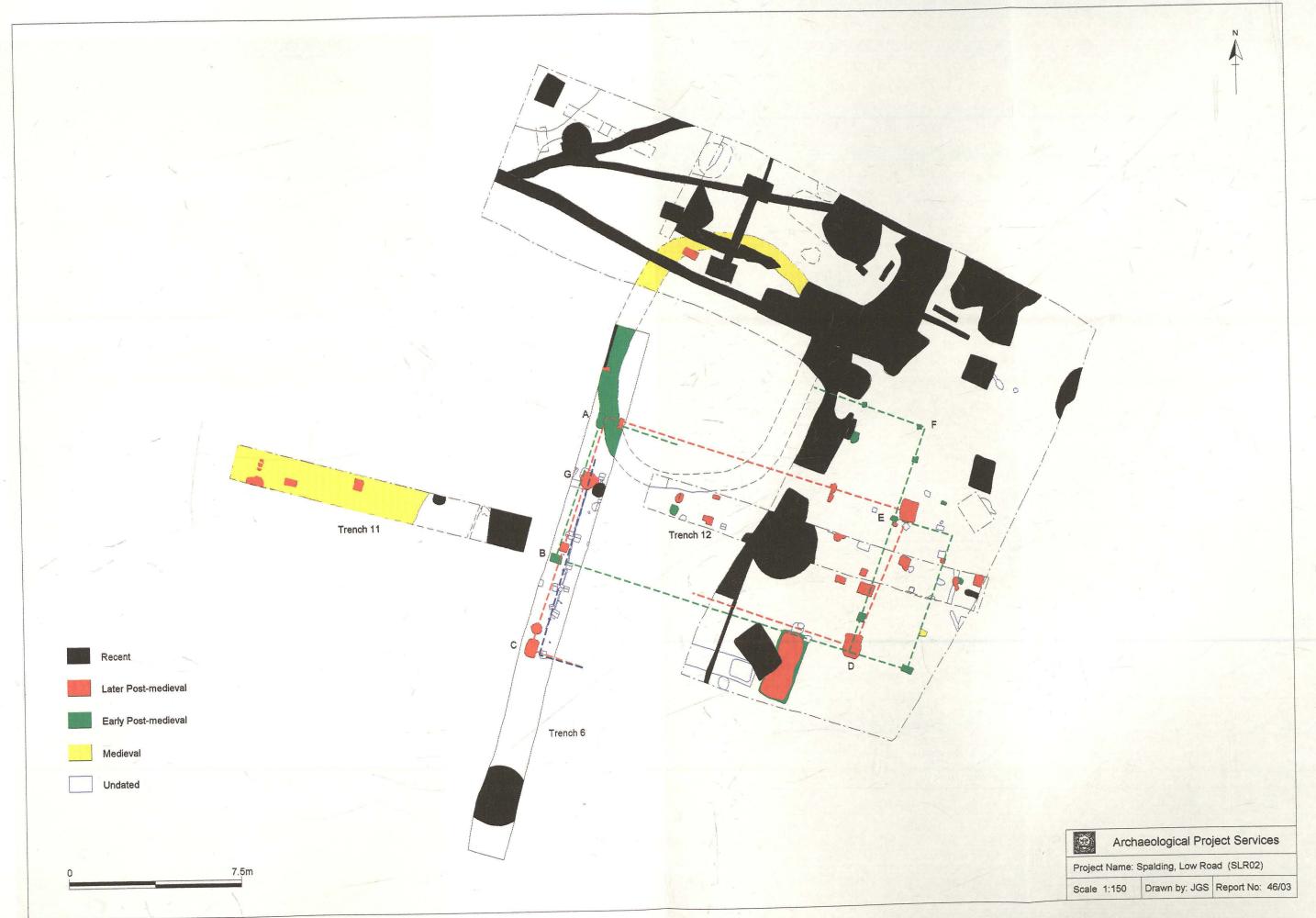


Figure 14 Interpretave plan of Area 2.



Plate 1 General view of Area 1, looking east.



Plate 2 General view of the west end of Area 1, looking north.



Plate 3 General view of Area 2, looking north.



Plate 4 Working shot of Area 3 showing Structure 1 during cleaning, looking north.



Plate 5 General view of Structure 1 in Area 3, looking northeast.



Plate 6 General view of Structure 1 in Area 3, looking northwest.



Plate 7 Area 1 - terminus of post-medieval ditch (2022), looking south.



Plate 8 Area 1 - section through post-medieval ditch (2023) and undated posthole (2025), looking north.



Plate 9 Area 1 – section through undated posthole (2028) with postmedieval ditch (2023) in the background, looking west.



Plate 10 Area 2 – section through medieval or later ditch (2162), looking east.



Plate 11 Area 2 – general view of post-medieval postholes (2103), (2105) and (2107) after excavation, looking northwest.



Plate 12 Area 3 – partial section through post-medieval ditch (2184), looking east.



Plate 13 Area 3 – section through termini of 18th to 19th century brick clamp walls (2203) and (2205), looking east.



Plate 14 Area 3 – Section through terminus of brick clamp wall (2198), looking south.

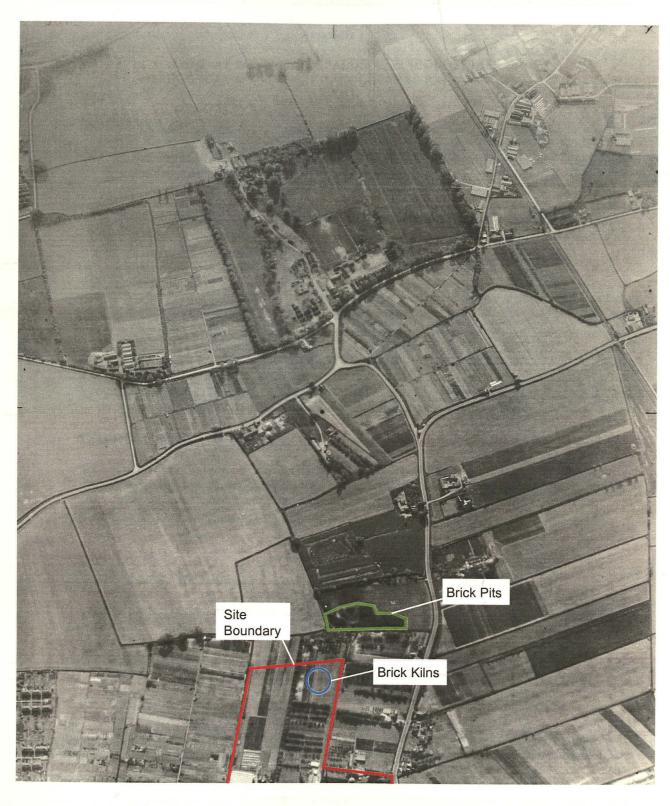


Plate 15 Aerial photograph showing the location of the site, the position of known brick clamps and the probable clay pits.

LAND AT LOW ROAD, SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AREA 1

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This document comprises a specification for archaeological excavation on land at Low Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 Archaeological evaluation identified three areas of significance in which further work is required. Structural remains of early post-medieval timber structures were identified in the west of the site, remains of possible 18th-19th century brick-making in the east of the site and the site of a possible mud and stud cottage in the south of the site.
- 1.3 The first stage of archaeological excavation will be undertaken in the southern area of the site on the site of the possible cottage. Topsoil will be stripped by mechanical excavator and the archaeological features uncovered excavated according to the sampling criteria laid out below. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.
- 1.4 On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the investigation. The report will consist of a text describing the nature of the archaeological deposits located and will be supported by illustrations and photographs.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for the archaeological excavation on land at Low Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire. The site is located at National Grid Reference TF 259 230.
- 2.2 The document contains the following parts:
 - 2.2.1 Overview
 - 2.2.2 The archaeological and natural setting
 - 2.2.3 Stages of work and methodologies to be used
 - 2.2.4 List of specialists
 - 2.2.5 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

3 SITE LOCATION

3.1 Spalding is located 23km southwest of Boston and 30km southeast of Sleaford in the South Holland district of Lincolnshire. The works are to take place at Low Road, approximately 1.3km northeast of Spalding town centre, centred on National Grid Reference TF 259 230. The site, approximately 3ha in area, is bounded on the south by Low Road, on the west by Queen's Road and on the east by the Coronation Channel and was largely occupied by industrial buildings, now demolished.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 Planning permission for the development is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological scheme of works. Evaluation has already been undertaken. Excavation is now required in certain areas of the site.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The site lies in the fenland of south Lincolnshire on fairly flat land at c. 3m OD. Local soils have not been mapped as the area is urban, but on the basis of surrounding deposits are likely to be deep stoneless clayey and silty soils of the Wallasea 2 Association developed on marine alluvium (Hodge et al. 1984, 338).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Spalding is situated in an area of known archaeological remains that date primarily from the Romano-British period and later. Since at least 2000 BC the area has been subject to a series of freshwater and marine inundations resulting in the deposition of several metres of alluvium. During the Romano-British period the former marshland stabilized enabling settlement which has continued through the medieval and post-medieval periods.
- 6.2 Evaluation of the site prior to development identified a sequence of natural deposits and archaeological remains in the southwest and east of the site representing enclosure and settlement of the land. Structural remains in the form of postholes and stake holes demonstrate the presence of a timber building or buildings in the west of the site between the 16th/17th and 19th centuries. A buried soil dating to the 14th-14th century was also identified in this area. On the eastern side of the site the flues from a possible 18th-19th century brick making site were revealed. In the southern part of the site the remains of what is believed to be an early post-medieval gutter were recorded. It is suggested that this feature was associated with a Mud and Stud cottage and this is the subject of the first stage of excavation.

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aim of the excavation will be to achieve preservation by record of archaeological features within specific areas threatened by development.
- 7.2 The objectives of the excavation will be to fully investigate and establish the type, chronology, density, spatial arrangement and extent of archaeological remains within the specified area.

8 SITE OPERATIONS

- 8.1 General considerations
 - 8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the investigations.
 - 8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIFA). Archaeological Project Services is IFA registered organisation no. 21.
 - 8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.
- 8.2 Methodology

- 8.2.1 An area 10m wide x 10m long will be excavated to examine the eastern end and interior of the drainage gulley identified during evaluation.
- 8.2.2 Removal of the topsoil and subsoil will be undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. To ensure that the correct amount of material is removed and that no archaeological deposits are damaged, this work will be supervised by Archaeological Project Services. Thereafter, excavation will be by hand to enable the identification and analysis of the archaeological features exposed.
- 8.2.3 Investigation of the archaeological features exposed will be undertaken in order to determine their date, form and function and will be undertaken in accordance with the sampling criteria laid out below. The level of sampling may be varied depending on the state of preservation but it is envisaged that features on site be subject to intensive sampling, as defined below.
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- 8.2.5 Plans of features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10. Should individual features merit it, they will be drawn at a larger scale.
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- 8.2.10 Finds collected during the fieldwork will be bagged and labelled according to the

individual deposit from which they were recovered ready for later washing and analysis. A metal detector may be used to assist artefact recovery.

8.2.11 The precise location of features within the site and the location of site recording grid will be established by an EDM survey.

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- 8.3.3 Timber structures represented by postholes, beam slots etc:
 - Non-intensive 50% of postholes/structural features to be half-sectioned.
 - Intensive increase sample to 100%; Structures with high quality evidence for the nature of wall construction full excavation; Structures with in-situ floors full excavation with 3-dimensional spatial recording of finds.

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- For non-intensive excavation of individual pits or small groups of pits, 50% of pits will be half-sectioned.
- Intensive excavation increase sampling level to 100%; full excavation of particularly well-preserved or potentially informative features.
- 8.3.5 Burials. Whether inhumation or cremation, all burials will necessitate full and detailed excavation. This will be undertaken under appropriate Home Office and environmental health regulations.
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10.1 Stage 1

- 10.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the trial trenching will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence constituting a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued: the colour slides will be labelled and mounted on appropriate hangers and the black and white contact prints will be labelled, in both cases the labelling will refer to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 10.1.2 All finds recovered during the trial trenching will be washed, marked, bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

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- 7.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

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- 7.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the investigation will be prepared. This will consist of:
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 - Sections of the archaeological features.
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 - Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
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Task Body to be undertaking the work

Conservation Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum,

Lincoln.

Pottery Analysis Prehistoric: Dr D Knight, Trent and Peak Archaeological

Trust

Roman: B Precious, independent specialist

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Radiocarbon dating Beta Analytic Inc., Florida, USA

Dendrochronology dating University of Sheffield Dendrochronology Laboratory

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- 17.1 Fieldwork is expected to be undertaken by 3 staff, a Project Officer and 2 assistants, and to take 3-4 days.
- 17.2 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken after conclusion of excavations in all three areas. The Project Officer will undertake most of the analysis, with assistance from the finds supervisor and CAD illustrator. Specialist time is allotted in the project budget.

17.3 Contingency

- 17.3.1 Contingencies have been specified in the budget. These include: environmental sampling/analysis of waterlogged remains; pump (trenches may become waterlogged at depth); Medieval pottery large quantities (moderate amounts allowed for); faunal remains -large quantities (moderate amounts allowed for); Conservation and/or Other unexpected remains or artefacts.
- 17.3.2 Contingency is also allowed for the excavation of further trenches should further work be required to more closely define areas of archaeological interest.
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Specification: Version 1, 24 October 2002

LAND AT LOW ROAD, SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AREAS 2 & 3

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This document comprises a specification for archaeological excavation on land at Low Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 Archaeological evaluation identified three areas of significance in which further work is required. Structural remains of early post-medieval timber structures were identified in the west of the site, remains of possible 18th-19th century brick-making in the east of the site and the site of a possible mud and stud cottage in the south of the site.
- 1.3 Excavation has been undertaken in Area 1, the site of the possible cottage, and is now to follow in Areas 2 and 3. Topsoil will be stripped by mechanical excavator and the archaeological features uncovered excavated according to the sampling criteria laid out below. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.
- 1.4 On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the investigation. The report will consist of a text describing the nature of the archaeological deposits located and will be supported by illustrations and photographs.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for the archaeological excavation on land at Low Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire. The site is located at National Grid Reference TF 259 230.
- 2.2 The document contains the following parts:
 - 2.2.1 Overview
 - 2.2.2 The archaeological and natural setting
 - 2.2.3 Stages of work and methodologies to be used
 - 2.2.4 List of specialists
 - 2.2.5 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

3 SITE LOCATION

3.1 Spalding is located 23km southwest of Boston and 30km southeast of Sleaford in the South Holland district of Lincolnshire. The works are to take place at Low Road, approximately 1.3km northeast of Spalding town centre, centred on National Grid Reference TF 259 230. The site, approximately 3ha in area, is bounded on the south by Low Road, on the west by Queen's Road and on the east by the Coronation Channel and was largely occupied by industrial buildings, now demolished.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 Planning permission for the development is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of

an archaeological scheme of works. Evaluation has already been undertaken. Targeted excavation is now required in three areas of the site. The first of these has been investigated. Excavation of the other two areas is now proposed.

5 **SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY**

5.1 The site lies in the fenland of south Lincolnshire on fairly flat land at c. 3m OD. Local soils have not been mapped as the area is urban, but on the basis of surrounding deposits are likely to be deep stoneless clayey and silty soils of the Wallasea 2 Association developed on marine alluvium (Hodge et al. 1984, 338).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Spalding is situated in an area of known archaeological remains that date primarily from the Romano-British period and later. Since at least 2000 BC the area has been subject to a series of freshwater and marine inundations resulting in the deposition of several metres of alluvium. During the Romano-British period the former marshland stabilized enabling settlement which has continued through the medieval and post-medieval periods.
- 6.2 Evaluation of the site prior to development identified a sequence of natural deposits and archaeological remains in the southwest and east of the site representing enclosure and settlement of the land. Structural remains in the form of postholes and stake holes demonstrate the presence of a timber building or buildings in the west of the site between the 16th/17th and 19th centuries. A buried soil dating to the 14th-14th century was also identified in this area. On the eastern side of the site the flues from a possible 18th-19th century brick making site were revealed. In the southern part of the site the remains of what is believed to be an early post-medieval gutter were recorded. It is suggested that this feature was associated with a Mud and Stud cottage and this has been the subject of the first stage of excavation.

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aim of the excavation will be to achieve preservation by record of archaeological features within specific areas threatened by development.
- 7.2 The objectives of the excavation will be to investigate and establish the type, chronology, density, spatial arrangement and extent of archaeological remains within the specified area.
- 7.3 Specific objectives within Area 2 will be to investigate:
 - the nature and development of activity with specific emphasis on the transition from medieval to post-medieval
 - the economic basis of the activity and changes in the economy through time
 - evidence for the form and function of buildings on the site with specific reference to the early post-medieval period.
- 7.4 Within Area 3 the specific objective is to investigate the industrial process taking place.

8 SITE OPERATIONS

- 8.1 General considerations
 - 8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in

operation at the time of the investigations.

- 8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIFA). Archaeological Project Services is IFA registered organisation no. 21.
- 8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

8.2 Methodology

- 8.2.1 Two further areas are to be excavated as indicated on the plans supplied by the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section: Area 2, within the area of Plots 8 and 9 and covering some 430m², to further investigate the structural remains in the west of the site; and Area 3, 20m wide x 20m long, to investigate the possible brick-making site.
- 8.2.2 Removal of the topsoil and subsoil will be undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. To ensure that the correct amount of material is removed and that no archaeological deposits are damaged, this work will be supervised by Archaeological Project Services. Thereafter, excavation will be by hand to enable the identification and analysis of the archaeological features exposed.
- 8.2.3 Investigation of the archaeological features exposed will be undertaken in order to determine their date, form and function and will be undertaken in accordance with the sampling criteria laid out below. The level of sampling may be varied depending on the state of preservation but it is envisaged that features on site be subject to intensive sampling, as defined below.
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Specification: Version 1, 11 November 2002

CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context No	Area		Description	Interpretation
2000	1	40	Firm, mid to dark grey clayey silt, with occasional small stones.	Fill of (2001).
2001	1	40	Linear cut with rounded corners at the east end, 0.50m wide and 0.10m deep, with concave sides and a rounded base, oriented east-west.	Planting trench.
2002	1.	45	Firm, dark grey silt.	Fill of (2003).
2003	-1	45	Sub-rectangular cut with rounded corners, 0.19m wide and 0.14m deep, with steep sides and a flat/stepped base.	Posthole.
2004	1	45	Firm, mid grey-brown silt, up to 0.07m thick.	Fill of (2003).
2005	1	41	Firm, mid to dark grey clayey silt, with occasional small stones.	Fill of (2006).
2006	1	41	Linear cut with rounded corners, 0.50m wide and 0.10m deep, with concave sides and a rounded base, oriented east-west.	Planting trench.
2007	1	42	Firm, light to mid grey fine silty clay.	Fill of (2008).
2008	1	42	Sub-oval cut with rounded corners, 0.50m wide by 0.70m long and 0.18m deep, with concave sides and a rounded base.	Posthole.
2009	1	46 & 47	Firm, dark brown clayey silt, with occasional patches of blue-grey clay.	Fill of (2010).
2010	1	46 & 47	Linear cut, 0.10m wide and 0.06m deep, with steep sides and a rounded base, oriented north-south.	Probable plough furrow.
2011	1	46 & 47	Firm, dark grey-brown silt.	Fill of (2012).
2012	1	46 & 47	Irregular sub-rectangular cut with rounded corners, 1.65m long by 1.10m wide and 0.20m deep, with irregular stepped sides and a flat base, oriented north-south.	Pit.
2013	. 1	47 & 48	Firm, mixed dark grey-brown and mid grey clayey silt, up to 0.11m thick.	Fill of (2015).
2014	1	47 & 48	Firm, mid grey silt, up to 0.10m thick.	Fill of (2015).
2015	1	47 & 48	Linear cut, 0.65m wide and 0.21m deep, with convex sides and a flat base, oriented east-west with a rounded curve to the north at both the east and west ends.	Enclosure ditch/possible gutter.
2016	1	42	Firm, mid to dark grey and yellow laminated silty clay and sand.	Fill of (2008).
2017	1	42	Sub-oval cut with rounded corners, with sloping sides and a rounded base.	Possible packing slot.
2018	1	43	Firm, light to mid grey silty clay.	Fill of (2020).
2019	1	43	Firm, mid to light yellowish brown and dark grey laminated sandy clay and silt.	Fill of (2020).
2020	1	43	Curving linear cut with rounded corners, 0.50m wide and 0.30m deep, with convex sides and a flat base, terminus at south end, extends north approximately 0.90m and turns east.	Terminus of enclosure ditch/possible gutter.
2021	1	51	Firm, mid to dark grey silty clay.	Fill of (2022).
2022	1	51	Curving linear cut with rounded corners, 0.60m wide and 0.17m deep, with convex sides and a rounded base, extends south approximately 2.5m and curves to the east.	Terminus of enclosure ditch/possible gutter.
2023	1	53	Curving linear, 0.60m wide and 0.25m deep, with sloping sides and a rounded base, oriented north south,	Enclosure ditch/possible

			terminates to the north, curves east at the south end.	gutter.
2024	1	53	Firm, mottled mid grey-brown clayey silt, with rare small stones.	Fill of (2023).
2025	1	53	Sub-square cut with rounded corners, 0.37m wide and 0.10m deep, with steep sides and an irregular sloping base.	Posthole.
2026	1	53	Firm, mottled mid grey-brown clayey silt, with rare small stones.	Fill of (2025).
2027	1	49	Firm, dark grey silt.	Fill of (2028).
2028	1	49	Sub-rectangular cut with rounded corners, 0.27m wide and 0.22m deep, with steep sides and a flat base.	Posthole.
2029	1	50	Firm, dark grey clayey silt.	Fill of (2030).
2030	1	50	Sub-rectangular cut with rounded corners, 0.22m wide and 0.12m deep, with steep sides and a flattish base.	Posthole.
2031	1	- 52	Firm, mid to dark grey silty clay.	Fill of (2032).
2032	1	52	Sub-rectangular cut with rounded corners, 0.27m wide and 0.11m deep, with concave sides and a rounded base.	Posthole.
2033	1	52	Firm, mid to dark grey laminated silty clay.	Fill of (2034).
2034	1	52	Sub-rectangular cut with rounded corners, 0.13m wide and 0.13m deep, with sloping sides and a pointed base.	Posthole.
2035	1	54	Sub-circular cut, 0.24m wide and 0.07m deep, with sloping sides and a slightly rounded base.	Posthole.
2036	1	54	Firm, mid to light yellowish grey laminated silty clay.	Fill of (2035).
2037	1	55	Firm, dark red-brown clayey silt.	Fill of (2039).
2038	1	55	Firm, dark grey silt, with occasional patches of blue- grey clay.	Fill of (2039).
2039	1	55	Sub-rectangular cut with rounded corners, 0.40m wide and 0.20m deep, with steep sides and a flat base.	Posthole.
2040	1	55	Firm, dark red-brown silt.	Fill of (2041).
2041	1	- 55	Sub-rectangular cut with rounded corners, 0.17m wide and 0.08m deep, with steep sides and a sloping base.	Posthole.
2042	1	-	Soft, dark brown clayey silt, with occasional charcoal fragments, <i>c</i> . 0.30m thick.	Topsoil.
2023	1	-	Firm, mixed yellow-brown and dark brown limestone rubble and clayey silt, with frequent building debris fragments, <i>c</i> . 0.25m thick.	Demolition/levellindeposit.
2044	1	-	Firm, mid brown clayey silt, with blue-grey gleyed patches.	Natural alluvium.
2045	1	-	Linear cut with rounded corners at the east end, filled with firm, mid to dark grey clayey silt, with occasional small stones.	Planting trench.
2046	1	-	Linear cut with rounded corners at the east end, filled with firm, mid to dark grey clayey silt, with occasional small stones.	Planting trench.
2047	1	-	Linear cut with rounded corners at the east end, filled with firm, mid to dark grey clayey silt, with occasional small stones.	Planting trench.
2048	1	-	Linear cut with rounded corners at the east end, filled with firm, mid to dark grey clayey silt, with occasional small stones.	Planting trench.
2049	1	-	Linear cut with rounded corners at the east end, filled with firm, mid to dark grey clayey silt, with occasional small stones.	Planting trench.
2050	1	-	Linear cut with rounded corners at the east end, filled with firm, mid to dark grey clayey silt, with occasional small stones.	Planting trench.
2051	1	-	Linear cut with rounded corners at the east end, filled	Planting trench.

			with firm, mid to dark grey clayey silt, with occasional small stones.	
2052	1	<u> </u>	Linear cut with rounded corners at the east end, filled with firm, mid to dark grey clayey silt, with occasional small stones.	Planting trench.
2053	1		Linear cut with rounded corners at the east end, filled with firm, mid to dark grey clayey silt, with occasional small stones.	Planting trench.
2054	_ 1		Linear cut with rounded corners at the east end, filled with firm, mid to dark grey clayey silt, with occasional small stones.	Planting trench.
2055	1	-	Linear cut with rounded corners at the east end, filled with firm, mid to dark grey clayey silt, with occasional small stones.	Planting trench.
2056	- 1	-	Linear cut with rounded corners at the east end, filled with firm, mid to dark grey clayey silt, with occasional small stones.	Planting trench.
2057	1		Linear cut with rounded corners at the east end, filled with firm, mid to dark grey clayey silt, with occasional small stones.	Planting trench.
2058	1	-	Linear cut with rounded corners at the east end, filled with firm, mid to dark grey clayey silt, with occasional small stones.	Planting trench.
2059	1	-	North-south oriented land drain cut with a dark brown clayey silt fill.	Land drain.
2060	1	-	North-south oriented service trench cut with dark brown clayey silt fill.	Service trench.
2061	1	x	North-south oriented irregular linear cut, with dark brown clayey silt fill.	Plough mark.
2062	1		North-south oriented irregular linear cut, with dark brown clayey silt fill.	Plough mark.
2063	1	-	North-south oriented irregular linear cut, with dark brown clayey silt fill.	Plough mark.
2064	1		North-south oriented irregular linear cut, with dark brown clayey silt fill.	Plough mark.
2065	1		North-south oriented irregular linear cut, with dark brown clayey silt fill.	Plough mark.
2066	1	-	North-south oriented irregular linear cut, with dark brown clayey silt fill.	Plough mark.
2067	1	'	North-south oriented irregular linear cut, with dark brown clayey silt fill.	Plough mark.
2068	1	-	Firm, mid grey-brown fine clayey silt.	Fill of ditch (2069)
2069	1	-	Curving linear cut, c. 0.60m wide, oriented north-south then turning west at north end.	Return of enclosur ditch/possible gutter.
2070	2	- 56	Soft, mid – light brown sandy silt, 0.23m thick.	Alluvial deposit.
2071	2	56	Soft, light brown sandy silt, mottled with mid reddish brown, 0.27m thick.	Transformed alluvial deposit.
2072	2	56	Firm, mottled light blue-grey and reddish brown clayey silt.	Gleyed alluvium.
2073	2	56	Soft, mid grey sandy silt, c. 0.10m thick.	Gleyed alluvium.
2074	2	56	Soft, light brown sandy silt, mottled with mid reddish brown, 0.20m thick.	Transformed alluvial deposit.
2075	2	-	Firm, pale grey-brown silt, with occasional medium sub-angular stones, 0.21m thick.	Fill of pit (2076).
2076	2	-	Rectangular cut, 0.68m long by 0.38m wide and 0.21m deep, with vertical sides and a rounded base.	Posthole.
2077	2	57	Soft, dark grey silt, with common glass, cinder, and	Fill of pit (2078).

79-7047-66-627	Sitter	100000	decayed wood fragments, 0.12m thick. Sub-circular cut, 1.40m in diameter and 0.12m deep,	
2078	2	57	with steep sides and a flattish base.	Modern pit.
2079	2	59	Sub-circular cut, 1.10m wide and 0.32m deep, with sloping sides and a rounded base.	Possible re-cut of pit.
2080	2		Firm, mixed pale grey and orange-brown silt, 0.16m deep.	Fill of pit (2082).
2081	2	-	Firm, mottled grey silty clay, with common glass and metal fragments, 0.16m deep.	Fill of pit (2082).
2082	2		Rectangular pit 1.35m long by 0.85m wide and 0.32m deep, with vertical sides.	Modern pit.
2083	2	59	Firm, black silty sand, with frequent small rounded stones, 0.32m thick.	Fill of pit cut (2079).
2084	2	59	Sub-circular cut, 1.50m wide and 0.60m deep, with sloping sides and a rounded base.	Pit.
2085	2	59	Loose, grey-black silty sand and gravel, with frequent medium to small stones, 0.29m thick.	Fill of pit (2084).
2086	2	59	Sub-circular cut, 2.18m wide and 0.32m deep, with sloping sides and a flattish base.	Pit.
2087	2	59	Firm, grey-black silty clay, with occasional small irregular stones, 0.30m thick.	Fill of pit (2086).
2088	2	59	Rectangular brick structure 0.90m long and 0.70m wide, three courses surviving of machine made brick bonded with cement.	Base of manhole.
2089	2	59	Edge of cut, with vertical sides, lined with firm, brownish grey clay and filled with ash and clinker, > 0.30m wide and > 0.44m deep.	Modern pit.
2090	2	59 & 69	Linear cut, 0.24m deep and > 0.80m wide, with sloping sides and a flattish base, oriented east-west.	Possible modern ditch.
2091	2	59 & 69	Firm, light brownish grey silty clay, 0.24m thick.	Fill of (2090).
2092	2	59	Firm, bluish grey clay, 2.15m wide and 0.20m thick.	Possible gleying an clay translocation.
2093	2	77	Firm, dark reddish brown clayey silt, with occasional small stones, shale and CBM fragments, up to 0.22m thick.	Fill of pit (2094).
2094	2	77	Sub-rectangular cut, 3.08m long by 1.34m wide and 0.40m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base.	Pit.
2095	2	77	Soft, mid to dark greyish brown ashy silt, with occasional slate, slag, coal and charcoal fragments, up to 0.10m thick.	Fill of pit (2094).
2096	2	-	Soft, mid to dark grey ashy silty sand, with common slag and occasional pebbles, glass and CBM fragments.	Fill of posthole (2097).
2097	2		Sub-rectangular cut, recorded in plan.	Posthole.
2098	2	84	Soft, mid reddish brown silt, with occasional shell, coal, slag and CBM fragments, 0.12m thick.	Fill of posthole (2099).
2099	2	84	Sub-rectangular cut, 0.47m long by 0.27m wide and 0.12m deep, with vertical sides and a slightly rounded base.	Posthole.
2100	2	85	Firm, mid yellowish brown silt, with occasional charcoal, coal and CBM fragments, 0.11m thick.	Fill of posthole (2101).
2101	2	86	Sub-square cut, 0.27m wide and 0.11m deep, with near vertical sides and a sloping base.	Posthole.
2102	2	87	Firm, mid greyish brown silt, with occasional pebbles, slag, shell, charcoal and coal fragments, 0.18m thick.	Fill of posthole (2103).
2103	2	87 /	Sub-square cut, 0.41m long by 0.34m wide and 0.18m deep, with near vertical sides and a sloping base.	Posthole.
2104	2	89	Firm, mid yellowish greyish brown silt, with occasional charcoal, glass, slag and CBM fragments,	Fill of posthole (2105).

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			0.16m thick.	
2105	2	89	Sub-rectangular cut, 0.62m long by 0.50m wide and 0.16m deep, with near vertical sides and a flat base.	Posthole.
2106	2	90	Firm, mid greyish yellowish brown silt, with occasional charcoal and CBM patches, 0.24m thick.	Fill of posthole (2107).
2107	2	90	Sub-rectangular cut, 0.48m long by 0.26m wide and 0.24m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base.	Posthole.
2108	2		Firm, mottled mid grey-brown and yellow-brown clayey silt, with common charcoal and occasional CBM fragments.	Modern disturbance
2109	2		Firm, mid brownish grey sandy silt, with common ash and occasional charcoal, CBM and pot fragments.	Modern disturbance
2110	2	88	Firm, mid to dark greyish brown silt, with occasional small sub-angular stones, 0.14m thick.	Fill of posthole (2111).
2111	2	- 88	Sub-rectangular cut, 0.48m wide and 0.14m deep, with near vertical sides and a flat base.	Posthole.
2112	2	86 & 88	Firm, mid brown silt, with occasional shell fragments, 0.09m thick.	Fill of gully (2113)
2113	2	86 & 88	Linear cut, > 0.75m long by 0.27m wide and 0.09m deep, with steep sides and an irregular profile, oriented northwest-southeast.	Gully.
2114	2	60	Firm, mid to dark greyish brown silt, with occasional charcoal flecks, 0.14m deep.	Fill of posthole (2115).
2115	2	60	Sub-square cut, 0.36m wide and 0.14m deep, with vertical sides and a sloping base.	Posthole.
2116	2	71	Soft, mottled light grey and brownish yellow silt, with occasional shell, and common small sub-angular stones, 0.14m thick.	Fill of posthole (2117).
2117	2	71	Irregular cut, 0.75m long and 0.30m wide and 0.14m deep, with sloping side and an undulating base.	Possible double posthole.
2118	2	64	Firm, mid greyish brown silt, with frequent coal fragments, 0.06m thick.	Fill of posthole (2119).
2119	2	64	Oval cut, 0.23m long by 0.19m wide and 0.06m deep, with sloping sides and a flat base.	Posthole.
2120	2	65	Firm, mid greyish brown silt, with occasional coal flecks, 0.18m thick.	Fill of posthole (2121).
2121	2	65	Sub-rectangular cut, 0.27m long by 0.24m wide and 0.18m deep, with vertical sides and a rounded base.	Posthole.
2122	2	- x	Firm, mid greyish brown clayey silt, with occasional charcoal and coal fragments.	Fill of pit (2123).
2123	2	-	Sub-rectangular cut, 0.92m long by 0.64m wide, recorded in plan only.	Modern pit.
2124	2	70	Firm, dark grey silt, with some ash, 0.04m thick.	Fill of posthole (2125).
2125	2	70	Sub-rectangular cut, 0.24m long by 0.20m wide and 0.04m deep, with sloping sides and a rounded base.	Posthole.
2126	2	61	Firm, mid greyish brown silt, 0.11m thick.	Fill of posthole (2127).
2127	2	61	Sub-rectangular cut, 0.30m long and 0.23m wide and 0.11m deep, with near vertical sides and a rounded base.	Posthole.
2128	2	83	Firm, light grey sand and silt, with occasional shell fragments, 0.25m thick and 0.75m in extent.	Localised gleying.
2129	2	-	Soft, dark brown clayey silt, with occasional charcoal fragments, <i>c</i> . 0.30m thick.	Topsoil.
2130	2	82	Firm, mid greyish brown silt, with occasional charcoal, coal and clinker fragments, 0.05m thick.	Fill of posthole (2131).
2131	2	82	Sub-rectangular, 0.25m long by 0.13m and 0.05m deep,	Posthole.

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2132	2	81	with vertical sides and a flat base. Firm, mid grey-brown silt, with occasional slag/clinker	Fill of posthole
2132	2	81	fragments, 0.10m thick.	(2133).
2133	2	81	Sub-circular cut, 0.30m in diameter and 0.10m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base.	Posthole.
2134	2		VOID.	
2135	2		VOID.	
2136	2	63	Firm, mid brown silt, with occasional shell fragments, 0.16m thick.	Fill of posthole (2137).
2137	2	63	Sub-square cut, 0.27m wide and 0.16m deep, with vertical sides and a rounded base.	Posthole.
2138	2	76	Firm, dark brown silt, with occasional charcoal and coal fragments, 0.04m thick.	Fill of posthole (2139).
2139	2	76	Sub-rectangular cut, 0.23m long by 0.20m wide and 0.04m deep, with vertical sides and a flattish base.	Posthole.
2140	2	74	Firm, mid to dark greyish brown silt, with common CBM and occasional charcoal fragments, 0.15m deep.	Fill of posthole (2141).
2141	2	74	Sub-rectangular cut, 0.50m long by 0.40m wide and 0.15mdeep, with vertical sides and a rounded base.	Posthole.
2142	2	73	Firm, mid grey-brown silt, with occasional coal fragments, 0.16m thick.	Fill of posthole (2143).
2143	2	73	Sub-square cut, 0.23m wide and 0.16m deep, with vertical sides and a rounded base.	Posthole.
2144	2	75	Firm, mid brown silt, with occasional clinker, slag and coal fragments, 0.10m thick.	Fill of posthole (2145).
2145	2	75	Sub-square cut, 0.23m wide and 0.10m deep, with vertical sides and a flattish base.	Posthole.
2146	2	_	Firm, mid to dark greyish brown silt, with occasional small pebbles, charcoal and shell fragments.	Fill of (2147).
2147	2	-	Sub-rectangular cut, 0.40m long and 0.20m wide, recorded in plan.	Continuation of gully (2149).
2148	2	72	Firm, mid to dark greyish brown silt, with occasional small pebbles, charcoal, shell and CBM fragments, 0.14m thick.	Fill of gully (2149
2149	2	72	Linear cut, 2.10m long by 0.22m wide and 0.14m deep, with vertical sides and a flattish base, oriented eastwest.	Gully – possibly horticultural.
2150	2	72	Firm, mid to dark greyish brown silt, with occasional small pebbles, charcoal and shell fragments, 0.09m thick.	Fill of gully (215
2151	2	72	Linear cut, 1.52m long by 0.25m wide and 0.09m deep, with vertical sides and a flattish base, oriented eastwest.	Gully – possibly horticultural.
2152	2	-	Firm, mid greyish brown silt, 0.05m thick.	Fill of posthole (2153).
2153	2	-	Sub-rectangular cut, 0.13m long by 0.10m wide and 0.05m deep, with sloping sides and a rounded base.	Posthole.
2154	2	66	Firm, mid yellowish brown silt, 0.15m thick.	Fill of posthole (2155).
2155	2	66	Sub-oval cut, 0.17m long by 0.30m wide and 0.15m deep, with steep sides and a rounded base.	Posthole.
2156	2	-	Soft, dark grey brown silt, with frequent CBM and concrete fragments.	Modern disturban
2157	2	_	Soft/plastic, mixed dark brown, grey and yellow-brown silt, with frequent patches of clay, and building debris.	Modern disturban
2158	2	-	Soft, mixed dark brown, grey and yellow-brown silt, with frequent patches of clay, and building debris.	Modern disturban
2159	2	-	Soft/plastic, mixed dark brown, grey and yellow-brown	Modern disturban

			silt, with frequent patches of clay, and building debris.	
2160	2	-	Firm, dark grey silt, with occasional shell and pottery fragments.	Modern disturbance
2161	2	68 & 69	Firm, light to mid yellowish brown silt, with occasional small shell fragments, up to 0.31m thick.	Fill of ditch (2162).
2162	2	68 & 69	Curving linear cut, > 5m long by 0.66m wide and 0.31m deep, with steep sides and a flattish base, oriented east west and gently curving to the south.	Ditch, possibly enclosure or gutter.
2163	2	62	Firm, mid greyish brown silt, 0.05m thick.	Fill of posthole (2164).
2164	2	62	Sub-rectangular cut, 0.16m long by 0.11m wide and 0.05m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base.	Posthole.
2165	2	78	Firm, mid brown silt, with patches of yellow-brown clay and occasional charcoal flecks, 0.25m thick.	Fill of posthole (2166).
2166	2	78	Sub-rectangular cut, 0.30m long by 0.35m wide and 0.25m deep, with near vertical sides and a flat base.	Posthole.
2167	2	60	Firm, dark greyish brown silt, with occasional charcoal flecks, 0.14m thick.	Fill of posthole (2167).
2168	2	60	Sub-square cut, 0.23m wide and 0.14m deep, with vertical sides and a stepped base.	Posthole.
2169	2	-	VOID	×
2170	2	-	VOID	
2171	2	77	Firm, mottled light-mid yellow-brown and light grey clay, with occasional charcoal flecks, 0.20m thick.	Fill of pit (2094).
2172	2	77	Soft, dark reddish brown silt, with occasional slag and charcoal, 0.03m thick.	Fill of pit (2094).
2173	2	77	Soft/friable, mid to dark greyish brown silt, with occasional charcoal fragments, 0.60m thick.	Post pipe, fill of posthole (2175).
2174	2	77	Firm/plastic, mottled mid brown and grey clay, > 0.35m thick.	Fill of posthole (2175).
2175	2	- 77	Sub-circular cut, 0.50m long by 0.40m wide and approximately 0.60m deep, with steep sides.	Posthole.
2176	2	80	Firm, dark brown fine clayey silt, with occasional/common small sub-rounded stones, 0.17m thick.	Fill of pit (2177).
2177	2	80	Rectangular cut, > 2.70m long by 1.0m wide and 0.30m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base, oriented east-west.	Pit.
2178	2	79	Firm, dark brown slightly clayey silt, with occasional/common small sub-rounded stones, 0.25m deep.	Fill of posthole (2179).
2179	2	79	Sub-oval cut, 0.52m long by 0.40m wide and 0.25m deep, with steep to vertical sides and a an irregular rounded base.	Posthole.
2180	2	80	Firm, mixed mid grey and orange silty clay, with rare/Occasional small sub-rounded stones, 0.13m thick.	Fill of pit (2177).
2181	2	80	Sub-rectangular cut, 0.60m long by 0.69m wide and 0.11m deep with sloping sides and a rounded base, oriented east-west.	Pit.
2182	2	80	Firm, mottled dark brown and black sand and cinder, with common large clinker fragments, 0.04m thick.	Fill of pit (2181).
2183	2	80	Firm, mid brown clayey silt, with rare small subrounded stones, 0.07m thick.	Fill of pit (2181).
2184	3	91	Linear cut, 1.40m wide and 0.70m deep, with sloping sides and a flattish base, oriented east-west.	Ditch.
2185	3	91	Loose, mid to dark grey silty sand, with occasional small stones, clay patches and slag fragments, 0.20m thick.	Fill of clamp trench (2197).

2186	3	91	Loose, mid to light grey fine sandy silt, with occasional small rounded stones, 0.48m thick.	Fill of ditch (2184).
2187	3	91	Soft, mid to dark reddish brown sandy silt, 0.17m thick.	Fill of ditch (2184).
2188	3	91	Soft, mid to dark grey silty clay, 0.30m thick.	Natural alluvium.
2189	3	91	Loose, mid to light yellowish brown silty sand, c. 0.30m thick.	Natural alluvium.
2190	3	92 & 93	Linear cut, 0.90m wide and 0.10m deep, with sloping sides and a rounded flat base, oriented north-south.	Clamp trench.
2191	3	92 & 93	Compacted, mid red brick dust and low fired brick fragments, with occasional charcoal, 0.10m thick.	Fill of clamp trench (2191).
2192	3	94	Firm, dark brown silty clay, 0.05m deep.	Fill of gully (2194).
2193	3	94	Firm, mottled green, yellow and dark brown sandy silty clay, with occasional charcoal fragments, 0.10m thick.	Fill of gully (2194).
2194	3	- 94	Linear cut, 0.37m wide and 0.10m deep, with sloping sides and a rounded base, oriented north-south.	Gully.
2195	3	94	Soft, dark grey-brown silty clay, 0.15m thick.	Fill of gully (2194).
2196	3	91	Loose, mid to dark grey sine sandy clay, 0.10m thick.	Fill of ditch (2184).
2197	3	91	Linear cut, 0.60m wide and 0.25m deep, with steep sides and a sloping base, oriented east-west.	Clamp trench.
2198	3	95 & 96	Linear cut, 0.70m wide and 0.10m deep, with steep sides and a flattish base, oriented east-west.	Clamp trench.
2199	3	95 & 96	Firm, mixed mid red, mid grey and brown sandy silty clay with frequent CBM fragments, 0.10m thick.	Fill of clamp trench (2198).
2200	3	97	Soft, mid brown clayey silt, with frequent coal and CBM fragments, 0.02m thick.	Fill of clamp trench (2201).
2201	3	97	Linear cut with rounded terminus, 0.30m wide and 0.02m deep, with sloping sides and a flat base, oriented north-south.	Clamp trench.
2202	3	98	Firm, mixed mid brown and pinkish red clayey silt, with frequent coal and CBM fragments, 0.11m thick.	Fill of clamp trench (2203).
2203	3	98	Linear cut with rounded terminus, 0.65m wide and 0.11m deep, with sloping sides and a flat base, oriented east-west.	Clamp trench.
2204	3	99	Firm/friable, pinkish red under fired brick rubble, with frequent coal fragments and patches of mid brown silt, 0.05m thick.	Fill of clamp trench (2205).
2205	3	99	Linear cut with a rounded terminus, 0.40m wide and 0.05m deep, with sloping sides and a flattish base, oriented east-west.	Clamp trench.
2206	3	100	Firm, mid brown, clayey silt, with frequent coal and low fired CBM fragments, 0.14m thick.	Fill of clamp trench (2207).
2207	3	100	Linear cut with rounded terminus, 0.37m wide and 0.14m deep, with steep sides and a sloping base, oriented north-south with a 0.20m long turn to the east at the north end.	Clamp trench.
2208	3	-	Soft, mid reddish brown silty clay, 0.08m thick and <i>c</i> . 2.5m in extent.	<i>In situ</i> baking of natural alluvium.
2209	3	101 & 102	Firm, mottled dark grey and red silty clay, with occasional charcoal fragments, 0.08m thick.	Fill of clamp trench (2213).
2210	3	101 & 102	Firm, yellow-red silt and low fired CBM fragments, 0.11m thick.	Fill of clamp trench (2213).
2211	3	101 & 102	Firm, dark grey and red silty clay, with occasional charcoal fragments, 0.06m deep.	Fill of clamp trench (2213).
2212	3	101 & 102	Loose, dark grey and red silt sand, 0.03m thick.	Fill of clamp trench (2213).
2213	3	101 & 102	Linear cut, 0.52m wide and 0.24m deep, with sloping sides and a rounded base, oriented east-west, a	Clamp trench.

continuation of clamp trench (2205).

Abbreviations:

CBM - Ceramic Building Material.

THE FINDS

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Recording of the pottery was undertaken with reference to guidelines prepared by the Medieval Pottery Research Group (Slowikowski *et al.* 2001) and the pottery was quantified using the chronology and coding system of the Lincolnshire ceramic type series. A total of 101 fragments of pottery weighing 7757g was recovered from 24 separate contexts. In addition to the pottery, a large quantity of other artefacts, glass, brick/tile, clay pipe and industrial residue, comprising 78 items weighing a total of 4864g, was retrieved. Faunal remains were also recovered.

Provenance

The material was recovered from a variety of pits, ditches and postholes.

All the early pottery was made in proximity to Spalding, at Bourne 15km to the west. However, most of the early modern pottery was probably manufactured in Staffordshire.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables.

A small quantity of medieval, 12th-14th century, pottery was recovered, though the majority of the assemblage is later, predominantly dating from the 18th-19th century.

Table 1: Pottery

Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
2000	BOUA	Bourne A/B ware, jug	1	9	12 th -14 th century
2006	LSTON	Brown stoneware	1	23	19 th -20 th century
2007	BOU	Bourne D ware, slightly abraded, 16 th -17 th century	2(link)	45	16 th -17 th century
	BOUA	Bourne A/B ware, incl jug, abraded, 12 th -14 th century	2	10	
2011	BOUA	Bourne A ware, abraded	1	5	12 th -14 th century
2021	BOUA	Bourne A/B ware, abraded	2	9	12 th -14 th century
2024	BOU	Bourne D ware, slightly abraded, 15 th -16 th century	1	11	15 th -16 th century
	BOUA	Bourne A/B ware, slightly abraded, 12 th -14 th century	1	8	,
2026	BOUA	Bourne A/B ware jug, slightly abraded	1	21	12 th -14 th century
2075	UGRE	Plant pot, ?19 th century	1	13	?19 th century
	NOTS	Nottingham salt-glazed stoneware, 18 th century	1	5	
	UGRE	Red painted earthenware, 18 th century	1	4	
	BL	Red painted earthenware, black glazed, 18 th century	1	38	
2081	LSTON	Stoneware bottle, trademarked	1	494	1890-1919
2083	UGRE	Plant pot, ?19 th century	3	287	19 th -early 20 th
	TPW	Blue and white transfer printed tableware, 1 trademarked, 19 th century	3	283	century

Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
	TPW	Purple and white transfer printed tableware, probably only 2 separate vessels, 1 trademarked, 19 th century	8(3 link)	263	
	LSTON	Grey stoneware bottle, 19 th -early 20 th century	1	175	
	WHITE	White glazed tableware, jar, 19 th -early 20 th century	5	177	
	BL	Red painted earthenware, black glazed, 18 th century	3(2 link)	251	
2085	LSTON	Brown salt-glazed stoneware, blacking bottle, 19 th -early 20 th century	1	732	19 th -early 20 th century
	WHITE	White glazed tableware, 19 th century	1	53	
	BL	Black glazed tableware, late 17 th -18 th century	4(2 link)	76	
	BL	Red painted earthenware, black glazed, pancheons, 2 vessels, 18 th century	10(9 link)	4208	
2087	UGRE	Unglazed earthenware/plant pot, 19 th century?	1	89	19 th century?
	BL	Red painted earthenware, black glazed, jug, 18 th century	1	56	
2093	TPW	Blue and white transfer printed tableware, 19 th century	5	7	19 th century
	PORC	Soft paste porcelain, 19 th century	1	1	
	LPM	Mocha ware, 19th century	2	25	
	NOTS	Nottingham stoneware, late 18 th century	1	63	
	GRE	Glazed red earthenware, abraded, 17 th -18 th century	1	4	
2095	TPW	Blue and white transfer printed tableware, 19 th century	1	1	19 th century
	WHITE	White glazed tableware, 19 th century	1	14	
	UGRE	Plant pot, 19 th century?	1	4	
2100	BOUA	Bourne A/B ware, very abraded	1	15	12 th -14 th century
2104	LPM	Mocha ware	1	2	19 th century
2116	TPW	Blue and white transfer printed tableware, 19 th century	1	9	19 th century
r	BOU	Bourne D ware, 16 th -17 th century	1	3	
2118	TPW	Purple and white transfer printed tableware	1	7	19 th century
2122	TPW	Blue and white transfer printed tableware	1	2	19 th century
2161	BOUA	Bourne A/B ware, 1 abraded	2	3	12 th -14 th century
2171	BOUA	Bourne A/B ware, abraded	1	52	12 th -14 th century
2187	LPM	Mocha ware, 19th century	1	3	19 th century

Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
	BL	Red earthenware, black glazed, 18 th century	1	16	-
	BOUA	Bourne A/B ware, jug, abraded, 12 th -14 th century	1	4	
2195	TPW	Blue sponged tableware, 19 th century	1	10	19 th century
	UGRE	Plant pot, 19 th century?	1	10	
2215	LPM	Mocha ware, jug, probably 1 vessel, 19 th century	8(3 and 5 link)	124	19 th -early 20 th century
	PORC	Soft paste porcelain, cup, 19 th century	2(link)	25	
	WHITE	White glazed tableware, 19 th century	1	21	
	TPW	Blue and white transfer printed tableware, 19 th century	1	17	
	LPM	Blue sponged tableware, 19 th century	1	87	
	LSTON	Stoneware, 19 th -early 20 th century	1	1	
	LSTON	Salt glazed stoneware drainpipe, 19 th -early 20 th century	1	32	
	LPM	Polychrome tableware plate, 19 th century	1	9	

A stoneware bottle recovered from (2081) is trademarked:

LEE & GREEN
Ginger Beer
BOURNE
SLEAFORD & SPALDING

Lee and Green mineral water manufacturers were established in the 3 towns from 1890 and were taken over in 1919 (Wright 1973, 46).

A blue and white transfer printed dish from (2083) bears the trademark:

WARRANTED STAFFORDSHIRE

JTH.

This is the trademark of the firm of J.T. Hudden of Longton, Staffordshire, who were working between 1859-85 (Cushion 1986, 202). A second vessel from the context, a purple and white transfer printed plate, is also trademarked but only part of the marking survives and has not been identified.

Of the 101 fragments of pottery recovered during the current investigation, only 13 are medieval, and at least eight of these occur as redeposited artefacts with later material. Additionally, four pieces of early post-medieval, 15th-17th century, pottery were retrieved, one redeposited with later material. Many of the medieval and early post-medieval pottery sherds are small and many were abraded. As such, they are likely to represent manuring scatter which would, in turn, imply the area was agricultural land in the medieval and early post-medieval periods. Notably, the medieval is slightly more abundant than the post-medieval pottery. This concurs with the results of previous investigations at the site (Hall *et al.*, 2002; Cope-Faulkner *et al.* 2002). Cumulatively, the evidence probably indicates that the land was maintained as agricultural in to the post-medieval period, but perhaps altered in nature, possibly to pasture.

There are only three contexts that contain solely medieval material, (2026, 2100 and 2161), and only two (2007, 2024) that yielded material no later than the early post-medieval period.

Table 2: Clay pipe

Context	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
2011	Stem, bore 5/64"	1	1	18 th century
2093	Stems, bore 5/64", 18 th century	2	4	19 th century
	Stems, bore 4/64", 19 th century	3	9	
2095	Stem, bore 5/64"	1	4	18 th century
2118	Stems, bore 5/64"	3	5	18 th century
2122	Stem, bore 5/64"	1	3	18 th century
2215	Stem, bore 5/64"	1	3	18 th century

Context			Wt (g)	Context Date	
302 (SLR01)	Roof tile	1	42	Late post-medieval	
306 (SLR01)	Handmade brick	1	22	Post-medieval	
310 (SLR01)	Fired clay, probably post-medieval brick or tile	5	6	Post-medieval.	
401	Handmade brick	1	25	Post-medieval	
(SLR01)	Fired clay fragments, probably post- medieval brick or tile	3	34	1	
518 (SLR01)	Handmade brick, 56mm thick, post- medieval	2	216	Post-medieval	
	Brick fragment, probably post-medieval or early modern	1	4		
642 (SLR01)	Brick or tile fragments	3	13	Late post-medieval.	
648 (SLR01)	Brick or tile fragment	1	22	Early post-medieval	
667 (SLR01)	Handmade brick with slag inclusions, frogged, with mortar to base and top, 109mm wide and 67mm thick, postmedieval (probably 18 th -early 19 th century).	3 (2 joining)	1644	19 th century.	
	Handmade brick 69mm thick	2	587	3	
	Pantile 19 th century	1	92		
	Mortar, with brick and finger impressions.	1	1284		
669	Roof tile, late post-medieval	1	16	Late post-medieval	
(SLR01)	Handmade brick, 63mm thick, post-medieval.	1	538		
671 (SLR01)	Machine made air brick	1	407	20 th century	
702 (SLR01)	Brick or tile fragment	1	10	Undated.	
918 (SLR02)	Handmade brick fragment, frogged.	1	38	Post-medieval	
922 (SLR01)	Machine made air brick, 70mm wide.	1	44	Modern	
929 (SLR01)	Post-medieval brick fragment.	1	3	Post-medieval	
932	Pantile, post-medieval	1	102	Post-medieval	
(SLR01)	Brick/tile, post-medieval	1	16		
	Burnt clay, iron slag adhering	1	14	7	

Context	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date	
1010	Handmade brick/fired clay, post- medieval	1	27	Post-medieval	
1012	Handmade brick, straw impressions to base, 55mm thick	1	293	Post-medieval	
1111	Tile	2	102	Post-medieval	
1206	Brick/tile	1	2		
1210	Brick/tile	3	3	Post-medieval	
1213	Brick/tile	2	2		
1225	Handmade brick, 52mm thick	2	93	Post-medieval	
1242	Handmade brick, complete, chamfered end, frogged, 200-230mm long, 109mm wide, 73mm thick	1	2775	Post-medieval	
1244	Handmade brick, 62mm thick	1	356	Post-medieval	
1305	Handmade brick	1	36	Post-medieval	
1604	Low fired handmade brick wasters, 74mm thick and 101mm wide.	4	4565	Post-medieval (probably 18 th to early 19 th)	
1610	Fireclay tile, 102mm square, up to 18mm thick	1	345	19 th -20 th century	
1612	Handmade brick, occasional vegetation temper, rare grog temper	3	59	Post-medieval	
1615	Handmade brick, moderate vegetation temper	1	103	Post-medieval	
2011	Brick/tile, overfired purplish/green, moderate vegetation temper, moderate slag temper	2	27		
	Fired clay, 1 with occasional vegetation temper	2	3		
2024	Brick/tile, oxidized throughout	1	2		
2038	Brick/tile, grey core, purplish exterior	1	19		
2075	Handmade brick, overfired reddish purple, rare vegetation and slag temper, post-medieval	1	45	Late post-medieval	
	Handmade brick, occasional shell, rare vegetation and slag temper	1	27		
	Brick, machine-made?, coarse granular fabric, moderate-abundant shell, rare slag temper, late post-medieval	1	33	- t	
	Handmade brick, occasional-moderate vegetation temper	2	33		
	Brick/tile, rare vegetation temper, post- medieval	2	17		
2083	Handmade brick, occasional vegetation temper, post-medieval	1	43	Post-medieval	
	Handmade brick, underfired, rare vegetation and grog tempered	1	136		
	Pantile, 15mm thick, occasional vegetation, rare slag temper, formed on a sand bed, post-medieval	1	131		
2085	Pantile, 16mm thick, rare vegetation temper, post-medieval	1	36	Post-medieval	
	Tile, 17-18mm thick, oxidized throughout, rare vegetation temper, postmedieval	1	27		

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Context	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
2093	Overfired handmade brick fragments.	2	162	Post-medieval
2104	Pantile, 12mm thick, rare vegetation temper, 2 concavities from material ejected during firing, post-medieval	1	24	Post-medieval
	Tile, oxidized throughout, 17mm thick, rare vegetation temper, post-medieval	2(link)	19	
	Handmade brick, 54mm thick, rare- occasional slag temper, rare vegetation temper, post-medieval	1	151	
2106	Overfired handmade brick, 110mm wide and 75mm thick.	1	907	Post-medieval.
2116	Slightly overfired slag tempered handmade brick, frogged, with mortar adhering.	1	70	Post-medieval (probably 18 th to early 19 th)
2122	Pantile, 17mm thick, weather-darkened outer edge, post-medieval	1	27	Post-medieval
	Brick/tile, oxidized throughout, rare slag temper	1	10	
2140	Handmade brick, vegetation temper	2	252	Post-medieval
2171	Overfired and warped handmade brick fragment.	1	425	Post-medieval
2199	Low fired handmade brick waster with frequent slag inclusions, possibly frogged, 103mm wide and 76mm thick.	1	1531	Post-medieval (probably 18 th to early 19 th)
2215	Brick, pale orange/cream very fine fabric, moderate vegetation temper	4	81	Post-medieval

Due to the nature of the evidence, all the ceramic building material from the current and previous investigations at the site has been examined.

The fabric of the handmade brick was predominantly silty clay, without much evidence of pugging or other preparation prior to moulding, it is probable that they are all derived from local silt clay subsoils. However, a variety of tempers were observed, including grog, iron slag and vegetable matter (one straw impression and a possible reed impression), although the occurrence of these was variable, irregular and generally badly sorted.

The brick wasters recovered from the kiln area were generally low fired with the fabrics varying from blue-grey to pale pink. The fragments recovered on other parts of the site were generally well fired (darker pinkish red fabrics) although a number of overfired fragments were noted (dark red/purple to black fabrics). The majority of the bricks showed clear striations where the excess clay had been removed by a pallet or slice, and generally the edges were sharp, irregular and showed little sign of smoothing. One brick waster was frogged, with a shallow rectangular impression, other wasters showed no sign of frogging. This possibly suggests that both shod and unshod brick moulds were in use on the site. Significantly a number of brick fragments from the west end of the site (SLR01 Trench 6) were frogged in a similar manner, and this could suggest that the bricks produced on the site were intended for use on the post-medieval buildings believed to have existed in this part of the site.

Several of the bricks employed crushed iron smithing slag as a temper. Although generally these slag inclusions were small, usually less than 1mm, larger pieces occurred occasionally. These larger fragments are visually identical to the smithing debris recovered on the site. This implies that the slag temper of the bricks derived from other industrial activity in the area, though whether this was intentional or not is unclear.

Table 1. The Class

Context	Description	No	Date
No.		16	
2081	Mould produced cylindrical Rose's lime cordial bottle,		Late C.19 th
	decorated with embossed vines, string rim neck, punt		/early C.20 th
	mark 1482 (same as complete Lime cordial bottles below)		th
	Window pane sherds	3	Late C.19 th
	Bottle stoppers, light green	2	C.19 th
	Mould produced cylindrical bottle, embossed decoration	3	Late C.19 th
	Small body sherd of green bottle	1	Undated
	Base and body sherds of dark green cylindrical bottle	8	
	Two complete Rose and Co. Lime cordial bottle,	2	Late C.19 th /early
	cylindrical, mould produced (two piece mould) with		C.20th
	embossed moulded vine decoration, string rim, punt mark 1503	√	71
	Complete colourless cylindrical mould produced (two	1	Late C.19 th
	piece mould) cordial bottle, string rim for cork stopper	1	Late C.19 th -early
	Complete brown cylindrical beer bottle, moulded shoulders and neck, string rim	1	C.20 th
	Complete colourless cylindrical glass phial, additional	1	C.19 th
	moulded neck and rim, embossed ASHTON & PARSON		
	on shoulders, crown punt		
	Complete colourless, mould produced rectangular	1	Late C.19th
	pharmaceutical (cough medicine) bottle, plate for paper		
	label, diamond punt		
	Complete colourless mould produced rectangular	1	Late C.19 th
	pharmaceutical bottle		
2083	Colourless sherds of window glass	3	
	Base of dark green cylindrical wine bottle and body sherd	2	1850
	Neck and string rim of cylindrical wine bottle	1	1850
	Base of colourless cut glass tumbler	1	1850
	Fire rounded rim colourless, glass beaker	1	C.19 th
	Neck and fire rounded rim of colourless bottle	2	C.19 th
2085	Base of light green bottle, shallow and body sherd	2	mid-C.19 th
	Colourless sherd of window glass	1	undated
2104	Small colourless fragment of bottle?	1	Undated
	Small green fragment of bottle	1	C.19 th
2187	Base of green wine bottle, deep push-up	1	Late C.18 th
2195	Neck and body sherd colourless glass bottle	2	C.19 th
_1,,	Small body sherd of bottle	1	Undated

<u>Discussion:</u>
The glass recovered during excavations at Low Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire dates between 1850 and the mid-20th century. Seven complete bottles were retrieved from context (2081), which was identified as the fill of rubbish pit [2082]. These bottles represent an 'everyday' cross section of glassware including cordial, medical, wine and beer bottles. The glass is in good condition with little or no weathering, again suggesting a late date. Glass retrieved from context (2083), the fill of pit [2079] is slightly earlier in date, and in a slightly poorer condition with no complete examples of bottles or vessels.

In summary the assemblage is 'typical' of 19th-early 20th century contexts, but is limited in quantity. Therefore no further analysis of the assemblage is recommended.

Table 5: Other finds

Context	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date	
2000	Collyweston slate, 7mm thick, smooth faces, post-medieval	1	6	Post-medieval	
	Iron smithing slag	1	3		
2011	Shale/jet	1	7	-	
2021	Iron smithing slag, contains coal	1	9	Post-medieval	
2024	Coal	1	1		
2038	Iron smithing slag, part of hearth bottom	1	28		
	Clinker	2	7		
2075	Iron smithing slag	1	10		
2083	Mortar, with brick impressions	1	97		
2093	Clinker/coal	4	73		
2095	Clinker	1	122		
2102	Clinker/coke	4	13		
2122	Coal	2	26		
2171	Iron smithing slag	2	104		
	Clinker	2	17		
2187	Iron smithing slag, part of hearth bottom	1 .	56		
2215	Slate, Welsh, post-medieval	1	3	Post-medieval	
	Clinker	2	15		

A single piece of Collyweston slate roofing tile was recovered from (2000) Previously identified late medieval Collyweston tiles are generally about 20mm thick, with uneven surfaces while post-medieval tiles are much thinner and smoother (RCHME 1984, xlvii). The size and nature of the recovered example suggests it is of post-medieval date.

All of the small quantity of iron slag recovered is associated with smithing. With the exception of the two hearth bottom fragments, which are not particularly diagnostic, all the slag has the appearance of late post-medieval smithing waste and one piece incorporates coal which was only introduced as a smithing fuel in the post-medieval period. Similar small assemblages of post-medieval iron smithing debris have been recovered during previous investigations at the site (Hall *et al.*, 2002; Cope-Faulkner *et al.*, 2002).

Table 6: Faunal Remains

Context	Species	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Comments
2007	Oyster	Shell	1	3	Fragment
	Cockle	Shell	1	1	Fragment
2098	Cockle	Shell	2	1	Fragments
2104	Cockle	Shell	1	1	Fragment
2116	Cockle	Shell	1	1	Fragment
	Mussel	Shell	2	7	Complete

All the mollusc shells are marine and probably represent food waste. The assemblage is slightly unusual in that the examples of the most robust shell type, of cockle, are all fragmentary while the least durable mussel shells are complete. This may imply that the cockle shells were deliberately broken.

Condition

All the material is in good condition and present no long-term storage problems. Archive storage of the collection is by material class.

Documentation

There have been many previous archaeological investigations at Spalding, including at the current site, which are the subjects of reports (Snee 2002a and 2002b). Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

As a predominantly early modern collection of material the assemblage has limited local potential but does signify activity on the site, probably occupation in the late 18th-19th centuries. The small quantity of medieval and early post-medieval material is probably plough scatter, suggesting the land was used for agriculture from perhaps the 12th-18th centuries.

In general, the later post-medieval-early modern material is of moderate local significance and appears to indicate the presence of buildings of this period in the area. However, the collection of brick wasters indicate the presence of brick making in the post-medieval period and this is of high local potential and moderate regional significance. Although many town and villages will have had brick clamps or small kilns until the early modern period, few such industrial sites have been archaeologically examined. Additionally, the fabrics of waster bricks provide a reference against which bricks employed in buildings and other structures can be checked. Although these small brick production sites mainly served the immediate area, some of their products could have been transported to nearby settlements.

The absence of any material earlier than the 12th century is informative and suggests that archaeological deposits dating from prior to this period do not occur in the area, or were not revealed during the investigation.

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PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND OTHER REMAINS FROM A SECOND PHASE OF EXCAVATION AT SPALDING LOW ROAD, SLEAFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE (SLR 02): AN ASSESSMENT.

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Introduction

A second phase of excavations at Spalding Low Road, Sleaford revealed features of post-medieval date, including deposits possibly associated with brick manufacture. Three samples were taken for the assessment of the plant macrofossil assemblages.

Methods

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover, collecting the flots in a 500 micron mesh sieve. Sample 5 was seen to contain waterlogged macrofossils and was stored in water prior to sorting. The remaining flots were dried. All material (or sub-samples thereof) was scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16, and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed on Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). Tabulated material is charred unless otherwise stated.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve, and will be sorted when dry.

Results of assessment Plant macrofossils

Plant macrofossils were extremely rare and were poorly preserved. Heavily distorted charred seeds of fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*) and orache (*Atriplex* sp.) were noted in samples 5 and 7 respectively and a single goosegrass (*Galium aparine*) fruit was recovered from sample 6. Waterlogged stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*) seeds were present in sample 5 along with bramble (*Rubus* sect. *Glandulosus*) 'pips'. Charcoal fragments and pieces of charred stem were found in samples 5 and 6.

Other materials

Small coal fragments were common or abundant in all three samples, along with a black porous material (possibly clinker), black tarry globules and small fragments of burnt or fired clay. Other remains were extremely rare, but sample 6 did contain small pieces of burnt bone, fish bones and fragments of marine mollusc shell.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

All three samples were taken from deposits which the excavator felt were associated with industrial activities, most notably the manufacture of bricks. The assemblages would appear to indicate that coal was the most common fuel utilised for the firing of the kilns, but as this burns at a very high temperature, traces of any other organic fuels have largely been destroyed, with only very rare seeds surviving. Rare fragments of possible food detritus are present in sample 6, but these may be accidental inclusions.

Plant macrofossils are so rare within these assemblages that further analysis is not possible.

References

Stace, C., 1997, New Flora of the British Isles. Second edition. Cambridge University Press.

Key to Table

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x = 1 - 10 specimens xx = 10 - 100 specimens xx = 100 +  specimens xx = 100 +  specimens x = 100 +  spe
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Sample No.	5	6	7	
Context No.	2127	2202	2209/10	
Herbs				
Atriplex sp.			Х	
Chenopodium album L.	Х			
Chenopodiaceae indet.		Х	Х	
Galium aparine L.	-	Х		
Urtica dioica L.	xw	N.		
Trees/shrubs				
Rubus sect. Glandulosus Wimmer & Grab	xw			
Other plant macrofossils				
Charcoal <2mm	X	Х		
Charcoal >2mm		Х		
Charred root/rhizome/stem		Х	,	
Waterlogged root/rhizome/stem	X			
Waterlogged wood frags.	XX			
Other materials				
Clinker/black porous 'cokey' material	XX	XX	XXX	
Black tarry material	xx	XX		
Burnt/fired clay		XX	XXX	
Bone		xb		
Fish bone		Х		
Coal	XX	XXX	XXX	
Marine mollusc shell frags.	*	X		
Sample volume (litres)	5ss	10ss	8	
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	0.3	0.1	
% flot sorted	100%	50%	100%	

Table 1. Plant macrofossils and other remains from Spalding Low Road, Sleaford (Phase2), Lincolnshire.

GLOSSARY

Anglo-Saxon

Pertaining to the period when Britain was occupied by peoples from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas. The period dates from approximately AD

450-1066.

Context An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For

> example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the

report text by brackets, e.g. [004].

Croft A piece of enclosed ground used for tillage or pasture, often an arable field near a

house

Cropmark A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological or geological

features influencing the growth of a particular crop.

Cut A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, etc. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological

investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.

Domesday Survey A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I

for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.

Fill Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be

back-filled manually. The soil(s) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as

its fill(s).

Layer A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not

contained within a cut.

Manuring Scatter A distribution of artefacts, usually pottery, created by the spreading of manure and

domestic refuse from settlements onto arable fields. Such scatters can provide an

indication of the extent and period of arable agriculture in the landscape.

Medieval The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.

Mud and Stud A traditional building technique using a timber frame, reinforced by nailed vertical

> laths, which in turn support a mud mix. The earliest surviving examples are dated to the 16th century, and historical records show that the tradition proliferated in Lincolnshire during the 17th and 18th centuries. Most buildings in this tradition were demolished in the 19th and early 20th century.

Old English The language used by the Saxon (q.v.) occupants of Britain.

The hole cut to take a timber post, usually in an upright position. The hole may have **Posthole**

been dug larger than the post and contain soil or stones to support the post. Alternatively, the posthole may have been formed through the process of driving the

post into the ground.

Post-medieval The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.

The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the **Prehistoric**

prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000

BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.

Ridge and Furrow The remains of arable cultivation consisting of raised rounded strips separated by

furrows. It is characteristic of open field agriculture.

Roddon Silt ridges formed from deposition at the sides of old watercourses. The watercourses

often show as dark channels between two roddons.

Romano-British Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

Saxon Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled

by tribes from northern Germany

Toft The site of a house or former house.

TransformedSoil deposits that have been changed. The agencies of such changes include natural processes, such as fluctuating water tables, worm or root action, and human activities

such as gardening or agriculture. This transformation process serves to homogenise

soil, erasing evidence of layering or features.

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 11 Context register sheets
- 215 Context records
- 59 Sheets of plans
- 15 Sheets of section drawings
- 9 Daily Record sheets
- 2 Plan record sheet
- 2 Section record sheet
- 3 Photographic record sheets
- 3 Stratigraphic matrices
- 2 Boxes of finds

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services

The Old School

Cameron Street

Heckington

Sleaford

Lincolnshire

NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum

12 Friars Lane

Lincoln

LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Museum Accession Number: LCNCC: 2001.453

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: SLR02

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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