

BARGE CLOSE, SPALDING

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

Site Code: BCS03
NGR: TF 2550 2334
Planning Ref. H16/0877/02
Accession No. 2003.271

Report prepared for Castle Building Ltd

by

Alex Brett

August 2003



Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)
Unit G
William Street Business Park
Saxilby
Lincoln
LN1 2LP
Tel. & Fax. 01522 703800

©Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)

Contents

	Summary	
1.0	Introduction	2
2.0	Site location and description	2
3.0	Planning background	2
4.0	Archaeological and historical background	3
5.0	Methodology	4
6.0	Results	4
7.0	Conclusions	4
8.0	Effectiveness of methodology	5
9.0	Acknowledgements	5
10.0	References	5
11.0	Site archive	6

Illustrations

- Fig. 1 Site location (1:25,000, inset at 1:2,500).
Fig. 2 Site plan showing monitored areas and archaeological feature.
Fig. 3 Representative sections showing modern material.
Fig. 4 Sections showing feature [008].

Appendices

- Appendix 1 Colour plates
Appendix 2 Context summary



Summary

- *An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the construction of 14 new dwellings on land at Barge Close, Spalding, Lincolnshire.*
- *Due to the shallow depth of the trenches that were monitored, the bulk of the deposits exposed was of modern origin; a mixture of refuse deposits and made-up ground.*
- *A single linear feature orientated north-south was exposed. This was believed to be a former dyke that had been piped and filled in relatively recent times.*
- *Regrettably, some of the deepest groundworks were not monitored*

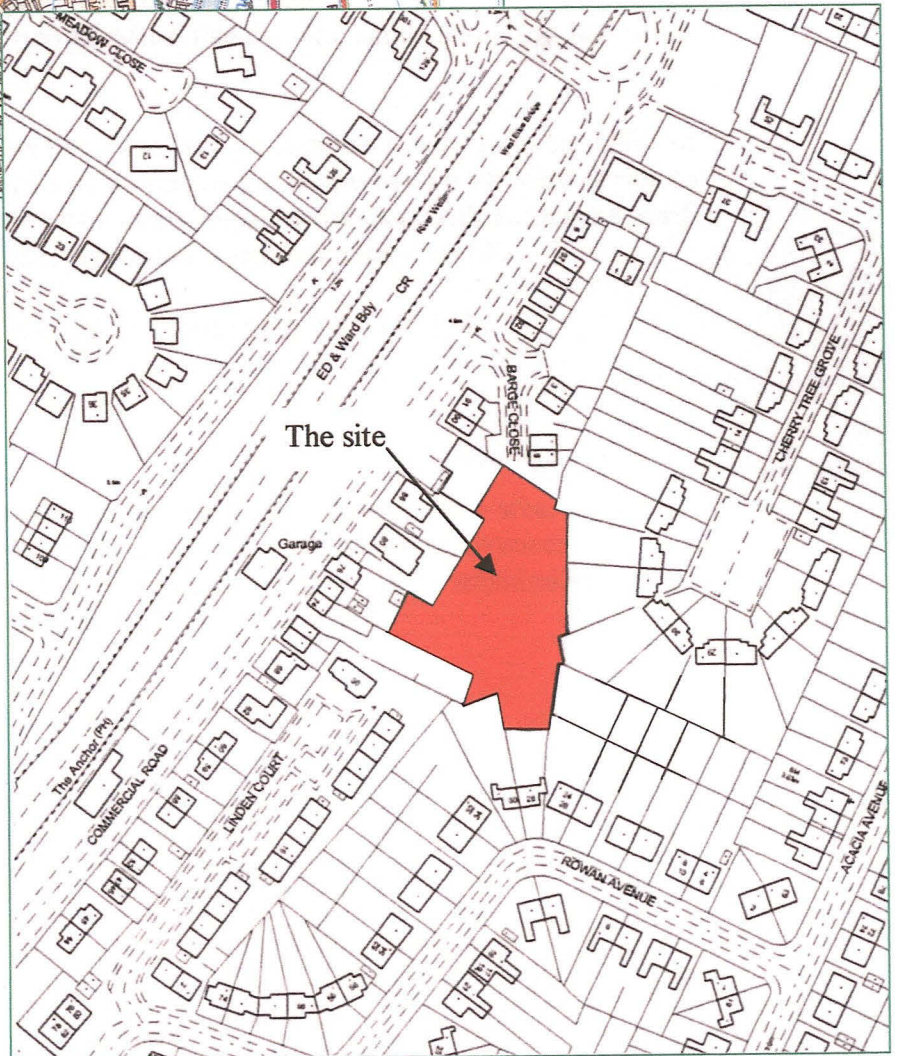


Fig. 1 : Site location, shown in red.
 Top map section at 1:25,000, lower
 map section at 1:2,500

O.S. Copyright license number
 A1 515 21 A0001

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) were commissioned by Castle Building Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of four blocks representing fourteen new dwellings at land off Barge Close, Spalding, Lincolnshire. This report documents the results of the brief, which has been prepared in accordance with a formal project brief issued by the Lincolnshire County Council Built Environment Team. This complies with the recommendations of *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16*, Dept. of Environment (1990); *Management of Archaeological Projects*, EH (1991); *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations*, IFA (1994) and the LCC document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice*, 1998.

2.0 Site location and description

Spalding is within the administrative district of South Holland, approximately 22km south-west of Boston, 25km north-east of Peterborough. The proposed development site is situated towards the north-east edge of the town, to the south-east of Commercial Road and south of the existing end of Barge Close.

The underlying solid geology of the area is characterised by extensive beds of Upper and Middle Jurassic Oxford Clays overlain by drift deposits known as the Terrington Beds; laminated marine and riverine alluvium (sandy silts, sands and clays laid down after c.500 BC).

The area of investigated (hereafter 'the site') comprises an irregular unit of approximately 0.21 hectares, bordered by residential properties on all sides. Prior to redevelopment, it was a derelict former motor repair workshop with associated yard. The site is predominantly level and its elevation is approximately 5m OD.

The National Grid Reference for the centre of the site is TF 2550 2334.

3.0 Planning background

Full planning consent was granted for residential redevelopment of the area, subject to the undertaking of a watching brief on all groundworks, (planning reference: H16/0877/02). This condition will have been fulfilled following the submission of this report and its acceptance by South Holland District Council.

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The coastline of prehistoric Lincolnshire was considerably further inland than it is at present, and the Spalding area was a frequently submerged island, uninhabitable for long periods of time. A prehistoric stone axe and a stone axe-hammer appear in the Sites and Monuments Record for the parish (reference numbers 22367 and 22368), and pre-Roman salt workings have been found in the area (Simmons, 1993).

Salt production continued to flourish during the Roman period, and the Wash creeks may have been used for river traffic and fishing. A ditch or creek and a pond containing 2nd century pottery are known from the junction of the A16 and the A151 (SMR No. 23651) and a possible salt making site is located 500m to the southwest, (23065); settlement increased greatly in the 2nd century AD, probably due to a widespread drainage and administration programme (Hallam, 1970). A number of Romano-British coins and pottery scatters are recorded in the SMR within Spalding itself, many of them across the River Welland from the site. Of particular interest are finds of *mortaria* fragments, stratified within a possible industrial horizon at 26 Oakley Drive (SMR refs. 22365&23598). Other significant finds from the area include a statue, probably of Venus (SMR ref. 22372), Romano-British pottery has also been found in the vicinity of the site, (22357&22377).

By the Saxon period, falling sea levels had encouraged the emergence of Spalding as a coastal settlement, although the coastline still varied with tide and season. The Fenland Survey records 6th century and later Saxon pottery in the west of the parish (Sawyer, 1998). The name itself is ascribed to the *Spalda*, one of the local tribes listed in the 7th/8th century *Tribal Hidage*.

Saxon and medieval development of the area was strongly influenced by monasticism. Crowland Abbey established a Benedictine priory at Spalding: the charter granting land for its foundation is dated 1051, but it may not have been built until after the Norman Conquest (Sumner, 1988). The priory is well documented, but archaeologically, little survives. Ivo Tallboys was made 'Lord of Spalding and all Holland' in 1073, and subsequently built a castle in the town at Coney Garth.

Both the town and the district were radically altered by the massive enclosure and drainage projects carried out in the Fens in the 18th and 19th centuries: large areas of previously unexploited wetland came under cultivation, and much of the produce was exported via Spalding, a prosperous port whose population doubled in the first half of the 19th century. Steam-powered pumping engines made the Welland obsolete in 1824 (Gooch, 1940): it was filled in, and its course is now followed by New Road and Westlode Street.

In 2001, a single archaeological trial trench was investigated at 3 Albion Street, approximately 300m south-west of the current site. No archaeological deposits were encountered (JSAC, 2001). An archaeological evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology at land of Holbeach Road to the north-east of the site produced evidence for salt making and arable agriculture, (Brett, 2003).

5.0 Methodology

These will be used to
 2007 These will be used

For the purpose of this
 investigation, the
 layout plan of the
 residential plot is
 referred to as the
 master plan.

2.1 Layout
 description



Fig. 2 : Site plan showing locations of foundation trenches, drainage runs, drawn sections and alignment of feature [008]. 1:250

5.0 Methodology

Three visits were made to the site; on the 23rd and 28th of May and the 14th of July 2003. These visits were by Peter Masters and the author.

Following mechanical excavation, all exposed surfaces were inspected and intermittently cleaned. Archaeological features or deposits were recorded using pro-forma context recording sheets, supplemented with scale section drawings and referenced to base plans provided by the developers. A photographic record was also maintained.

P.C.A. was not informed when some of the drainage works were being undertaken, although all of the foundation trenches were monitored and recorded.

6.0 Results (see figs. 2-4)

The latest deposits removed from the majority of the footprint were of modern date: comprising a series of rubble dumps and a rubble-rich topsoil, (contexts (001) - (004) and (011); see Appendix 2 for details).

Towards the northeast of the footprint, below the topsoil, a layer of mid brown silt (005) was exposed. This appeared to be an *in-situ* subsoil, with brick/tile fragments having been introduced by root action. This deposit sealed (006), mottled brown silt with occasional small pockets of grey clay.

A single cut feature was observed on the site; sealed beneath modern rubble layers (001) and (011). This was a large linear feature [008], situated to the eastern side of the site and appearing in all the trenches examined. Its top fill (010) was of modern origin, comprising rubble and metal scrap, apparently tipped into the top of a redundant channel. Below this was (009); a substantial deposit of dark brown silt. The homogenous nature of this material suggested that it reflected large scale dumping, probably deliberate back-filling of the feature, which could not be dated. The bottom of this feature was not observed.

7.0 Conclusions

Only one feature of potential interest was exposed: a large linear feature. It seems probable that this was a former drainage dyke, which was later piped and back-filled. The modern date of the top fill suggests that this took place relatively recently, and a pipeline that matches the alignment of this feature is depicted on Morley Newborn Dwg. No. 1699.01.22.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology employed allowed a full record to be made of all sub-surface deposits, and from this an understanding of the site to be gained, with no disruption to the primary scheme.

Regrettably, P.C.A. were not informed when some of the drainage works were being undertaken and so only limited inspection of the drainage trenches was possible. Also, all of the deeper 'foul-water' drains were not observed and so the deepest excavations on the site were not monitored.

9.0 Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank Castle Building Ltd, for commissioning this report and for providing site plans.

10.0 Bibliography

- Brett, A., 2003, *Holbeach Road, Spalding. An Archaeological Evaluation Report*. Unpublished client report.
- British Geological Survey, 1992. *Spalding. England and Wales Sheet 144. Solid and Drift Geology. 1:50000 Provisional Series*. Keyworth, Nottingham: British Geological Survey.
- Cameron K., 1998, *A dictionary of Lincolnshire place-names*, English Place-Name Society, University of Nottingham, Nottingham
- Gooch, 1940, *A History of Spalding*, The Spalding Free Press Co. Ltd., Spalding
- Hallam S.J., 1970, 'Settlement around the Wash', in Phillips C.W. (ed.), *The Fenland in Roman times*, RGS research series no.5, pp.22-113
- JSAC, 2001, *Results of an archaeological trial trenching evaluation: Plot 3, Albion Street, Spalding*, John Samuels Archaeological Consultancy, unpublished report.
- Morgan P., & Thorn C., (eds.), 1986, *Domesday Book: vol.31: Lincolnshire*, Phillimore & Co. Ltd, Chichester
- Palmer-Brown C., 2000, *Former Petrol Filling Station, Albion Street, Spalding: An Archaeological Desk Top Study*, Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) unpublished report
- Sawyer P., 1998, *Anglo-Saxon Lincolnshire*, History of Lincolnshire III, History of Lincolnshire Committee, Lincoln

Simmons B., 1993, 'Iron Age and Roman coasts around the Wash II: Archaeology', in Bennett S. & Bennett N. (eds.), *An Historical Atlas of Lincolnshire*, pp.20-21, University of Hull Press, Hull

Sumner N., 1988, 'The Countess Lucy's Priory? The Early history of Spalding priory and its estates', in *Reading Medieval Studies*, vol.XIII, University of Reading, Reading

11.0 Site Archive

An archaeological archive, consisting of written, drawn and photographic records, is in preparation and will be deposited at the Lincoln City and County museum within six months following completion of this report. Access can be gained by quoting the L.C.C. Museum accession number 2003.271.

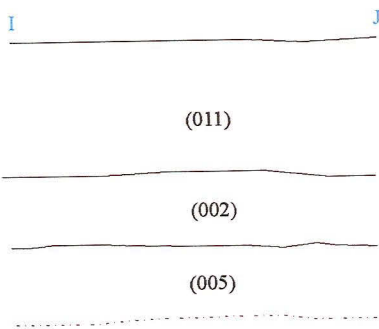
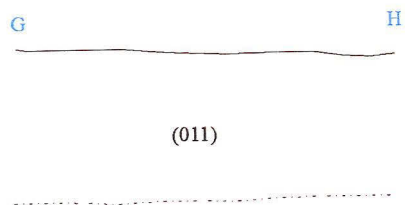
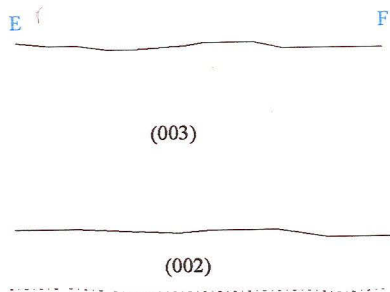
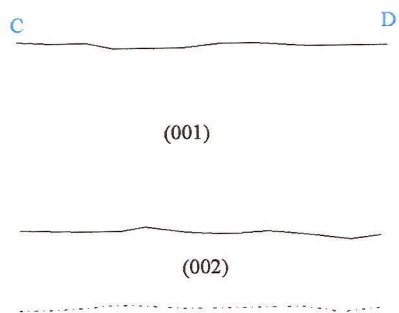
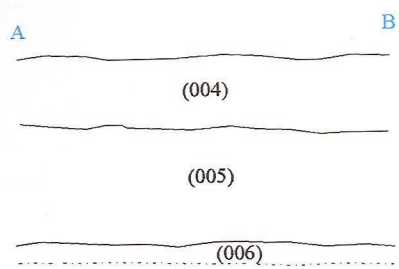


Fig. 3 : Sections from monitored foundation trenches.
All at 1:20.

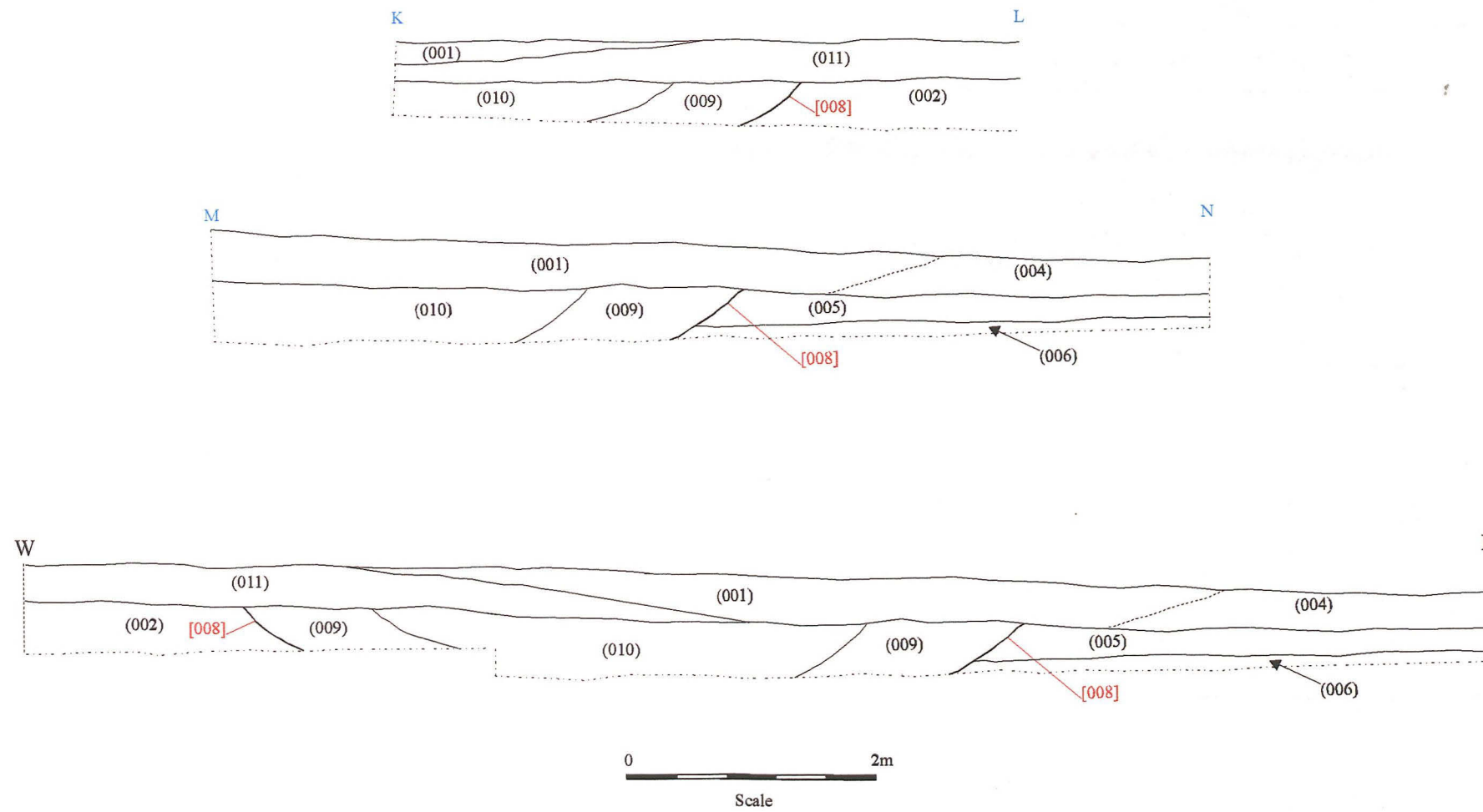
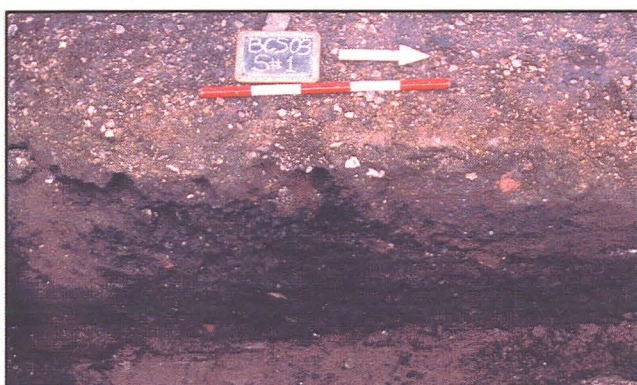


Fig. 4: Sections showing large linear feature [008]. The positions of the top two are shown on fig. 2 with the letters K-N. The lower drawing is a composite formed by reversing K-L and combining it with M-N to give a clearer picture of the size and profile of the feature. All at 1:50.

Appendix 1. Colour plates



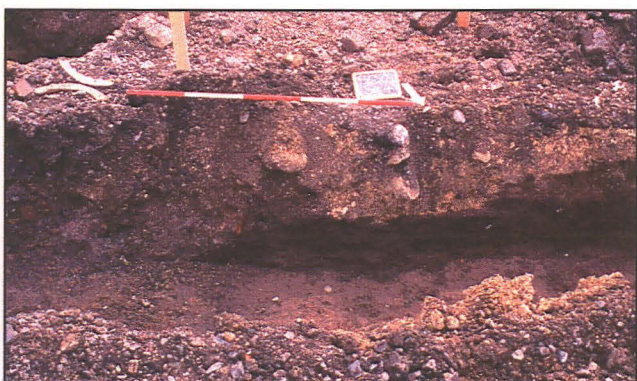
Pl. 1 : General view of site, looking SE. Plot 13-14 in foreground and 8-12 with piling rigs beyond.



Pl. 2 : Sample section from southwest of site, E-F from fig. 3. All the deposits shown here contained modern material. Looking W.



Pl. 3 : Sample section from north of site, J-I from fig. 3. All the deposits shown here contained modern material. Looking W.



Pl. 4 : Section K-L from fig. 4. Note western edge of ditch [008] to right of image. Looking S.

Appendix 2. Context summary.

CONTEXT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
001	Topsoil. mid brown, silty, frequent modern inclusions.
002	Disturbed subsoil. Dark brown silt, modern inclusions.
003	Dump layer. Modern tarmac and rubble, made-up ground.
004	Topsoil, mid brown silt, no inclusions.
005	Subsoil, mid to light brown silt, occ. rooting and CBM.
006	Mottled mid/light brown silt with clay pockets. Undisturbed alluvium.
007	Number not used.
[008]	Large ditch, probably former dyke.
009	F.O. [008]. Homogenous dark brown silt, back-filling.
010	F.O. [008]. Modern rubble, metal et c.
011	Dump layer. Modern tarmac and rubble, made-up ground.