

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY L I N C O L N

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK TOP ASSESSMENT:
LAND OFF PINCHBECK ROAD, SPALDING
LINCOLNSHIRE

NGR: 52479 32378
Planning Ref.

116/036/0



EIENT L14385

SOURCE L13974

NEGATIVE

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H16/036/03

Report prepared for Waterman Burrow Crocker (for Elsoms Seeds Ltd.)
by
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Summary

- *This archaeological assessment has been prepared for Waterman Burrow Crocker in respect of a proposed future redevelopment of land at Pinchbeck Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire*
- *The document has been prepared on the advice of the Senior Built Environment Officer of Lincolnshire County Council, and it will advise a process that will seek to address the interests of the commissioning client, whilst ensuring that archaeological resources are not unnecessarily destroyed as a result of redeveloping the site*
- *The results of this assessment suggest that the archaeological potential of the site is low*
- *It is proposed in this report that further non-intrusive investigations, such as geophysical survey, may not be appropriate, and that the only reliable means of assessing the actual potential would be trial excavation: given the paucity of archaeological evidence relating to this site, however, any such methodology should be cautiously considered and applied*

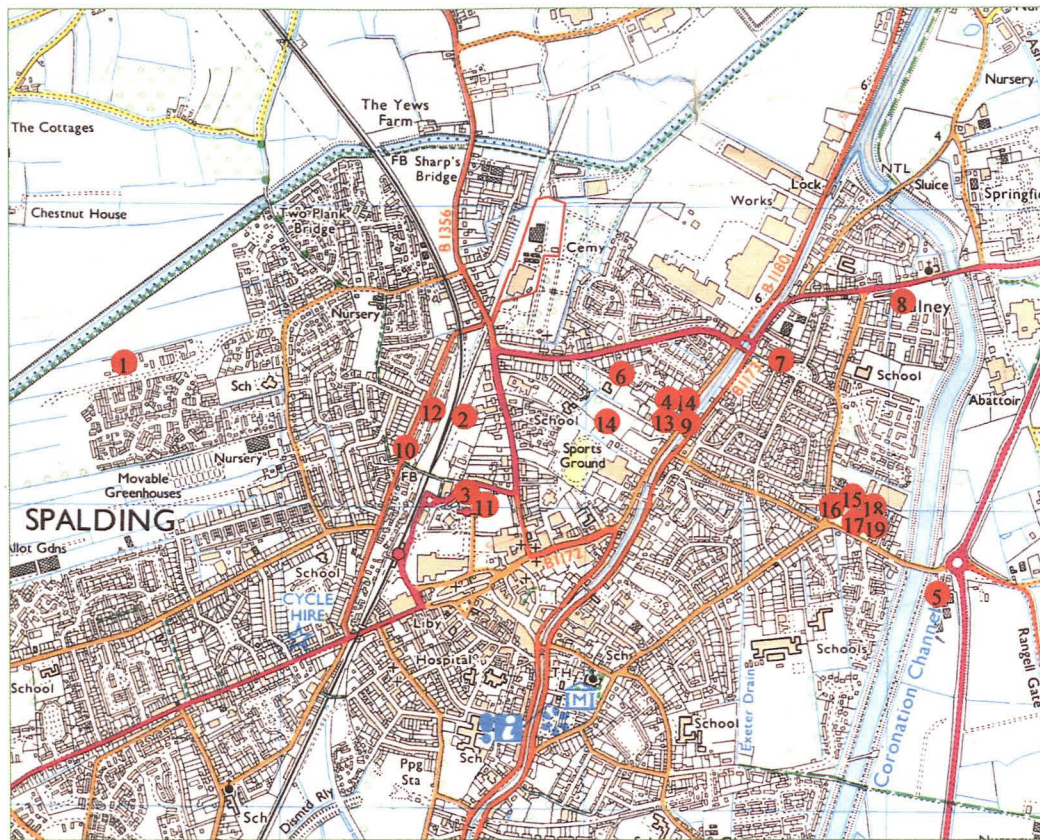


Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:25,000. Site is outlined in red, and SMR entries are in red circles (details below). OS Copyright License No. A1 515 21 A0001

SMR entry	SMR number	Description
1	22350	Medieval lynchets
2	22351	17 th century token hoard within brass box
3	22358	Motte and bailey castle
4	22365	Romano-British pot scatter
5	22366	Romano-British settlement
6	22375	Medieval artefact scatter
7	22377	Romano-British pot scatter
8	22382	Medieval chapel site
9	23062	Undated skeletons (four)
10	23540	19 th century iron railway bridge
11	23572	19 th century water tower
12	23578	World War 2 pillbox
13	23598	Romano-British pot scatter
14	82691	Medieval and post-medieval ditches
15	82709	Undated ditch
16	83062	Post-medieval brick-making site
17	83063	Post-medieval buildings
18	83314	11 th – 14 th century pot scatter
19	83317	Post-medieval settlement and agricultural activity

1.0 Introduction

Waterman Burrow Crocker commissioned this desk-based study on behalf of Elsoms Seeds Ltd. Its purpose is to assess the overall archaeological potential of a proposed development unit, without the use of intrusive fieldwork, and to assess the potential impacts that may be posed by development of land off Pinchbeck Road, Spalding. The report will assist South Holland District County Council with its decision-making in relation to archaeological matters, and will likewise inform the client of any archaeological constraints which may be of relevance to the application.

Research was conducted in accordance with the procedures set out in the Lincolnshire County Council publication *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice* (LCC, 1998); national guidelines produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists were also adhered to (IFA, 1999).

The report was researched by Chris Clay of Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) (hereafter PCA), and prepared by Claire Angus on behalf of PCA in May/June 2003.

2.0 Location and description

Spalding is in the administrative district of South Holland, and lies approximately 21km south-south west of Boston and 25km north-east of Peterborough.

The proposed development site is located on Pinchbeck Road, between a railway line and a large cemetery, to the north of Spalding town centre. Its central national grid reference is 52479 32378. It comprises an irregular unit of approximately 3.5 hectares (Figure 2). A residential area is situated to its west, with playing fields and associated sports halls located to the south-east.

Currently the land is used as offices and for trials and plant breeding by Elsoms Seeds Ltd. Office buildings, warehouses and a series of greenhouses and poly tunnels occupy the land, together with two planted areas.

3.0 Geology and topography

The local drift geology consists of Terrington Beds of the Quaternary Era. These are comprised of younger marine alluvium, salt marsh, tidal creek and riverine deposits, which have been deposited post c500BC. The underlying solid geology consists of Upper Jurassic Middle Oxford Clay (British Geological Survey, 1992)

4.0 Planning background

The Senior Built Environment Officer for Lincolnshire County Council (who advises South Holland District Council on archaeological matters) recommended that an initial archaeological assessment of the site should be undertaken in advance of a formal application for planning permission for future redevelopment. This approach is



Figure 2: Detailed site plan at scale 1:1250. Offices are in black, greenhouses are in green, poly tunnels in blue, and warehouses in orange.

consistent with the guidelines that are set out in *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16*, 1990.

5.0 Objectives and methods

The purpose of this report is to identify and assess archaeological remains that may be sensitive to construction works associated with the proposed redevelopment and, if necessary, to suggest further methods by which the site may be evaluated in advance of works.

Data for this report was, for the most part, obtained for a 1km radius, centred on the application area. This was drawn from the following sources:

- Records held by the County Sites and Monuments Record for Lincolnshire (SMR)
- Records held at the Lincolnshire Archives Office (LAO)
- Records held at the Lincolnshire Local Studies Library (LSL)
- Aerial photographs held by the National Monuments Record, Swindon (NMR)
- Published and unpublished sources
- Information supplied by the client
- A detailed inspection of the site (undertaken by Chris Clay on 16th June)

6.0 Archaeological and historical background

The extent of the prehistoric Fenland is difficult to define, where changes in sea level resulted in much of this low-lying area being frequently submerged. During these periods of inundation, Spalding and the surrounding areas would have been unable to sustain permanent human occupation, and this is reflected by the punctuated natures of the archaeological record.

While there is little evidence of prehistoric activity in the vicinity of Spalding, recent discoveries indicate that salt processing was taking place from the later Iron Age onwards (Simmons, 1993). This continued and intensified during the Romano-British period (Whitewell, 1992).

The exploitation and occupation of the Fenlands continued throughout the Romano-British period, with an apparent settlement explosion taking place during the 2nd century AD, during which period many existing settlements expanded and new ones were established (Hallam, 1970). The recovery of a number of coins from these sites indicates that the Fenland settlements were fully integrated into the Roman monetary system. It is also argued that a number of fishing and trading centres emerged along the Wash creeks during this period, including Spalding itself, which may have been a bridging point immediately downstream from the Welland estuary. The settlement

may also have been linked to Baston by road, and possibly to Crowland by canal and river.

Historical sources suggest that the modern settlement originated as an Anglo-Saxon royal estate centre in the 7th or 8th century AD. The name itself is ascribed to the *Spalda*, one of the local tribes listed in the Tribal Hidage, a document dating to this period. The coastline was still ill defined and it is thought that the shoreline lay close to Spalding itself (Sawyer, 1998; BGS, 1992).

During the Saxon and Medieval periods development in the Spalding area was strongly influenced by monasticism. The settlement grew into a sizeable community during the later Saxon period, and numerous charters attest the dominance of Crowland Abbey over Spalding (Sawyer, 1998). Crowland Abbey received numerous land grants during the 9th century AD and is listed in the Domesday Book as one of the major landowners in the area, together with Ivo Tallboys and Guy de Craon. The entries for Spalding refer to a market, fisheries and salt-houses, indicating a continuation of salt processing that was originally established in the Iron Age (Morgan & Thorne, 1986).

A Benedictine Priory was established on the west bank of the Welland at Spalding by a grant dating to 1051, although it is argued that the priory may not have actually been built until after the Norman Conquest (Sumner, 1998). The priory itself is well documented, although there is little recorded archaeological evidence.

Ivo Tallboys was made 'Lord of Spalding and all Holland' in 1073, and constructed a castle to the east of Pinchbeck Road, close to the proposed redevelopment site (White 1856). Earthworks associated with this monument were visible in 1746, but are no longer extant.

The medieval town grew up to the north-east of the Priory, between the Rivers Welland and Westlode and the precinct wall of the priory (Symonds, 1998). It was a thriving sea port and market centre: wool and woad were exported to Flanders in return for wine and luxury goods that were destined for the monasteries at Crowland, Deeping, Bourne, Stamford and Spalding itself.

The commercial significance of the town continued into the 18th and 19th centuries, when the implementation of enclosure and drainage projects throughout the parish of Holland brought large areas of previously unexploited wetland under cultivation, significantly increasing agricultural production (Beastall, 1978). The Agricultural and Industrial Revolutions resulted in further growth of the town and Spalding was one of a number of market towns in the area that became major outlets for agricultural produce destined for the rapidly expanding industrial centres.

7.0 Archaeological potential

The information presented below derives from a variety of sources: data from published and unpublished records has been synthesised, with information obtained from aerial photographic records, as well as an inspection of the site itself. The subsections describe the information obtained from each source, and are followed by a brief summary. Finally, an assessment of archaeological potential is considered.

7.1 Cartographic information held at the Lincolnshire Archives Office (LAO)

Surprisingly few early cartographic sources were available for the area. No Tithe or Enclosure Maps cover this part of Spalding. Two 18th century maps were consulted: Map of the Parish of Spalding in the County of Lincolnshire, 1793 (Misc. Dep. 23) and a Plan of the town of Spalding in South Holland in Lincolnshire, J Grundy 1732. Neither of these however extended as far northwards as the site itself.

The 1st Edition OS Map, dating to 1889, shows that an area of woodland covered part of the site, while the remainder was open fields (figure 3). The former railway line that ran between Spalding and Boston was in existence, forming the western site boundary. Several field boundaries traversed the site, including a hedged boundary and path that ran across the site centre.

7.2 The County Sites and Monuments Record

Nineteen records of direct or indirect relevance to the proposed scheme are incorporated as part of the SMR (locations indicated on fig. 1). These references have been variously described:

SMR Ref.	NGR	Description
LI 22350	TF 23502350	Possible lynchets at Woolram Wygate
LI 22351	TF 24602330	Hoard of 17 th century tokens within brass box
LI 22358	TF 24812306	Motte and Bailey Spalding Castle (documentary evidence only)
LI 22365	TF 253234	Romano-British pottery finds scatter
LI 22366	TF 26062270	Romano-British settlement site, evidenced by occupation debris consisting of charcoal, bones, pottery and slag
LI 22375	TF 25102350	Medieval artefact scatter consisting of Bourne ware and Westerwald ware pottery and Henry VI groat
LI 22377	TF 25602350	Romano-British pottery scatter

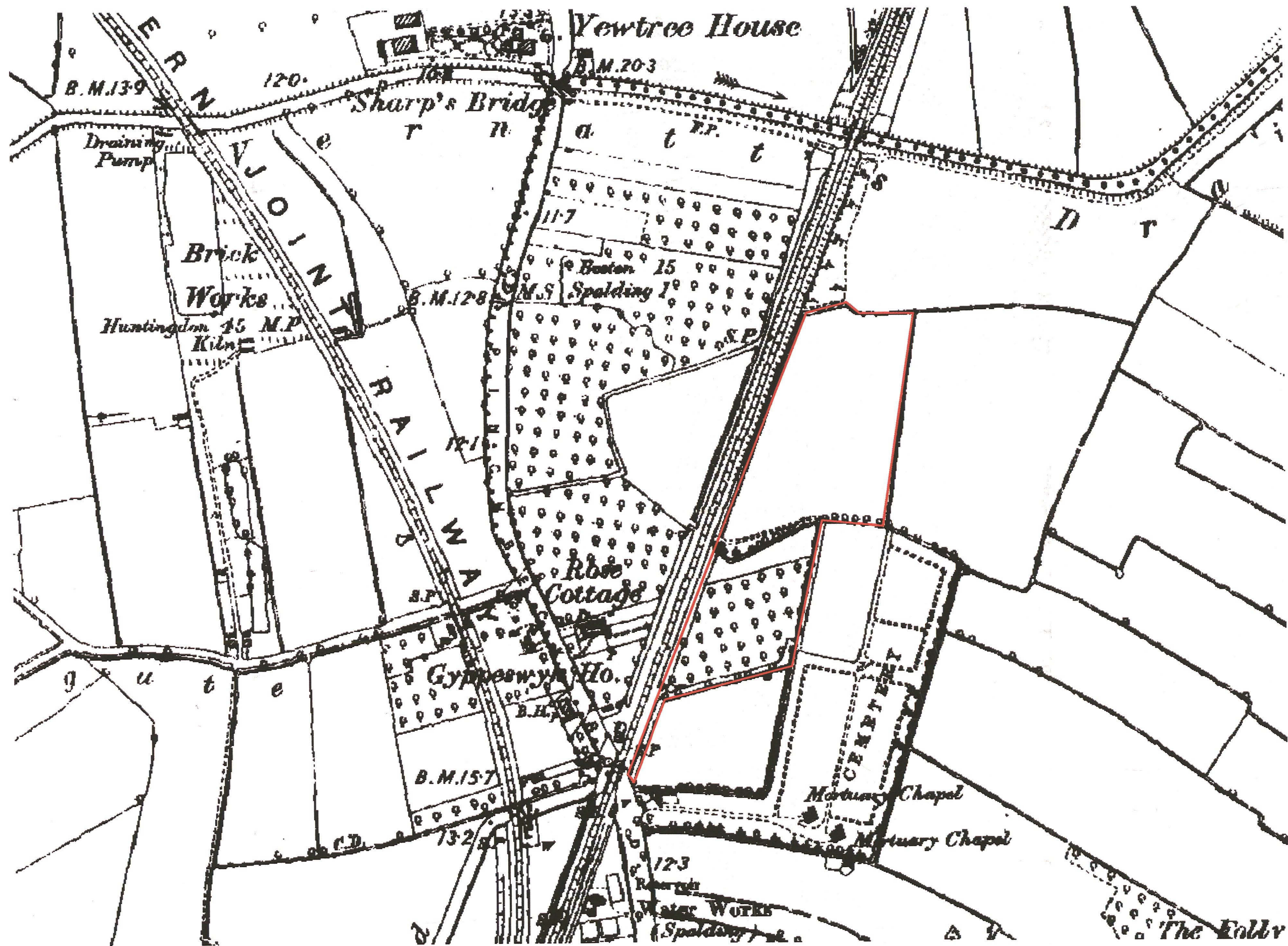


Figure 3; First Edition Ordnance Survey map dating to 1889. Site is outlined in red. Not to scale.

LI 22382	TF 25962373	Site of Medieval Chapel, thought to be connected with Spalding Priory (documentary evidence only)
LI 23062	TF 25302340	Four undated skeletons, located approximately 1m from Market Place, possible cemetery site
LI 23540	TF 244232	Steppingstone Footbridge – 19 th century Iron railway footbridge
LI 23572	TF 24702350	Demolished remains of 19 th century water tower
LI 23578	TF 245238	Non-standard square pillbox defending railway level crossing
LI 23598	TF 253234	Romano-British pottery scatter
LI 82691	TF 25362416	Medieval and Post-Medieval ditches at West Marsh Road. Associated artefacts include 10 th -14 th century, animal bone and clinker
LI 82709	TF 25052324	Undated ditch
LI 83062	TF 26052302	Possible Post-Medieval brick making site at Low Road, consisting of kiln structures, fired silt and clay rich pits and gullies
LI 83063	TF 25832300	Post-Medieval buildings, Low Road. Remains of successive buildings, thought to be agricultural in nature, the earliest dating to the 16 th century. Evidence of Iron Working in vicinity
LI 83314	TF 25852299	11 th -14 th century pottery scatter, Low Road. Later excavations revealed an agricultural ditch and postholes thought to relate to Medieval or Post-Medieval structures
LI 83317	TF 25972300	Post-Medieval settlement and agricultural activity, Low Road

7.3 Site visit

Mr C Clay of PCA undertook a site visit on 16th June. The ground surface is level throughout, with few traces of topographical variation.

For the most part, the north-eastern part of the site houses a series of poly tunnels for the cultivation of plants. These are temporary structures, built directly from existing ground level. They are surrounded by areas of grass.

A concrete track runs north-south through the centre of the site, dividing the area of poly tunnels from a planted zone, further poly tunnels and a series of greenhouses to the west. These tunnels and greenhouses are also built over the modern soil surface, surrounded by grass.

Towards the south end of the site, there is a brick office building and warehouses surrounded by tarmac, including a car parking area. A series of greenhouses, surrounded by grass, a lawn area and a second area of planting occupy the southernmost section of the site.

At the time of the site visit, there was no ground cover over the two planted areas, as these had been freshly sown. A rapid walkover survey of these areas did not identify any surface artefacts.

7.4 Aerial photographs

As part of this assessment, the (English Heritage) National Monuments Record was instructed to undertake a priority aerial photographic coversearch. A request was made for all vertical and oblique aerial photographs occurring within a 1.5km radius of the site centre to be listed, thereby providing a basis for further investigations, if required.

The NMR coversearch identified 2 oblique and 25 vertical photographs that were listed within, or just outside of, the area of interest (see Appendix 1).

Oblique aerial photographs are often the most informative sources for archaeological purposes, as they tend to have been taken at relatively low level for non-military purposes. The two listed frames fall c. 0.5km and 0.8km to the north and south of the proposed development area respectively, and have not therefore been consulted. Of the 25 vertical frames listed, each frame start/stop position was observed over a map section, and while some of these appear to take in parts of the site, further investigation of these frames was not deemed appropriate:

- most of the photographs were taken at altitude, resulting in prints that are scaled for the most part between 1:10,000 and 1: 5000
- of those frames that are considered to be of a potentially more valuable scale (1:2400), none of those that would take in part of the site area were taken at times of the year that would normally produce any clear cropmark evidence

Given this situation, it is considered unlikely that detailed inspection of the photographs held at the NMR will yield any useful information for the purpose of this study.

7.5 General considerations

In the light of information that has been variously described and collated, it is possible to present a generalised historical context for the site of proposed redevelopment,

before consideration is made of the impacts that have taken place in recent times, and which may have affected the quality and survival of any archaeological resources, if present.

There is no site-specific information for the proposed development site. No prehistoric remains are known in the immediate vicinity, and due to the sparse nature of such remains in the locale, it is unlikely, although not impossible, that features of this date will be discovered.

Neither is there any known Romano-British activity on the site, although a number of pottery scatters have been recorded in the general vicinity.

The site lies to the north of Spalding town centre and the heart of the medieval town, and while it is not expected that significant medieval remains will occur in this area, it is possible that peripheral features or those associated with the agricultural activities may be revealed.

The existence of a mortuary chapel and cemetery adjacent to the site suggests that there is a vague possibility that burials may extend into the proposed redevelopment site, although there is no previously recorded information to support this. Had such a scenario been likely, then one would have expected such finds to have been reported when the existing office complex was constructed.

8.0 Impacts to archaeological resources

If the site does contain archaeological levels/features then, it is likely that these have been impacted by root action during the period when part of the site was wooded, and also by protracted ploughing. Existing buildings would also have impacted on archaeological resources, if present.

9.0 Conclusions

It is concluded that the archaeological potential of the site is low. No known sites or findspots have been recorded within the proposed redevelopment zone, and most of the SMR entries for Spalding lie further southwards; predominantly reflecting activities within the former medieval town.

It would seem unlikely that the entire proposed redevelopment area is archaeologically sterile, as few large development units are completely without all trace of past human activity. However, this archaeological landscape (certainly for the medieval and later periods) appears to have been primarily agrarian in nature.

It is known that commercial salt production was a major industry during the medieval period, and geological maps of the area indicate that saltern mounds existed to the east of the former medieval sea bank (known as Roman Bank), which is a visible earthwork approximately 1.2km to the north-east of the subject area (BGS 1992). While it seems possible that medieval saltmaking was taking place within the area of interest, there is no existing information to suggest that this is a likely scenario.

10.0 Mitigation

It is the opinion of the author that further archaeological intervention is unlikely to be productive. A range of data has been consulted during the compilation of this report; none of which suggests that the site is likely to be archaeologically dynamic.

Present ground conditions suggest that the use on non-intrusive investigations (ie geophysical survey and/or fieldwalking) would be of little value.

11.0 Acknowledgements

Sincere thanks are expressed to the commissioning body Waterman Burrow Crocker and their client Elsoms Seeds Ltd. Thanks are also expressed to the staff at the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record, the Lincolnshire Archives Office and the Local Studies Library at Lincoln Library.

12.0 Bibliography

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Appendix 1: Details, NMR coversearch

ENGLISH HERITAGE - NATIONAL MONUMENTS RECORD
National Monuments Record - Air Photos Library

Summary report for vertical coversearch

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RAF/CPE/UK/1932	563	FP	1264	1264	P	TF237244	TF237244	17-JAN-1947	1	AC	9960	20.00	BW87	MOD	RAF
RAF/CPE/UK/2005	598	RS	4011	4013	F	TF239235	TF252235	15-APR-1947	1	A	10000	20.00	BW87	MOD	RAF
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RAF/78B/12/4	6618	V	2	2	P	TF246235	TF246235	05-AUG-1942	1	AB	4300	8.00	BW55	FDM	RAF
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OS/65097	9231	V	77	77	N	TF250233	TF250233	04-JUN-1965	1	A	7500	12.00	BW99	NMR	CRW
OS/66249	9235	V	66	67	P	TF245247	TF252246	16-SEP-1966	1	A	7500	12.00	BW99	NMR	CRW
OS/84193	12654	V	52	54	P	TF247243	TF246230	29-JUL-1984	1	A	7800	12.00	BW99	OS	CRW
OS/85186	12755	V	31	33	F	TF252232	TF251242	17-JUL-1985	1	A	7500	12.00	BW99	OS	CRW
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Total 16 Sorties 88 Prints

ENGLISH HERITAGE - NATIONAL MONUMENTS RECORD
National Monuments Record - Air Photos Library

Summary report for specialist collection

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