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PHOENIX CONSULTING

Archaeology Limited

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

**BASTON No 1 QUARRY
CROSS ROAD
BASTON
LINCOLNSHIRE**

On behalf of:

Hanson Aggregates

Doc Ref: PC301.a

27th October 2008



independent advice
planning applications
project management
fieldwork

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ELI 9186

SLI 12418

12419

Baston No 1 Quarry, Baston Fen

PC 301a



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On behalf of

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Doc Ref: PC301.a

Prepared by

A Richmond BA PhD MIFA

and

G Coates BA MIFA

27th October 2008

Status:

For presentation to curatorial authority

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1997



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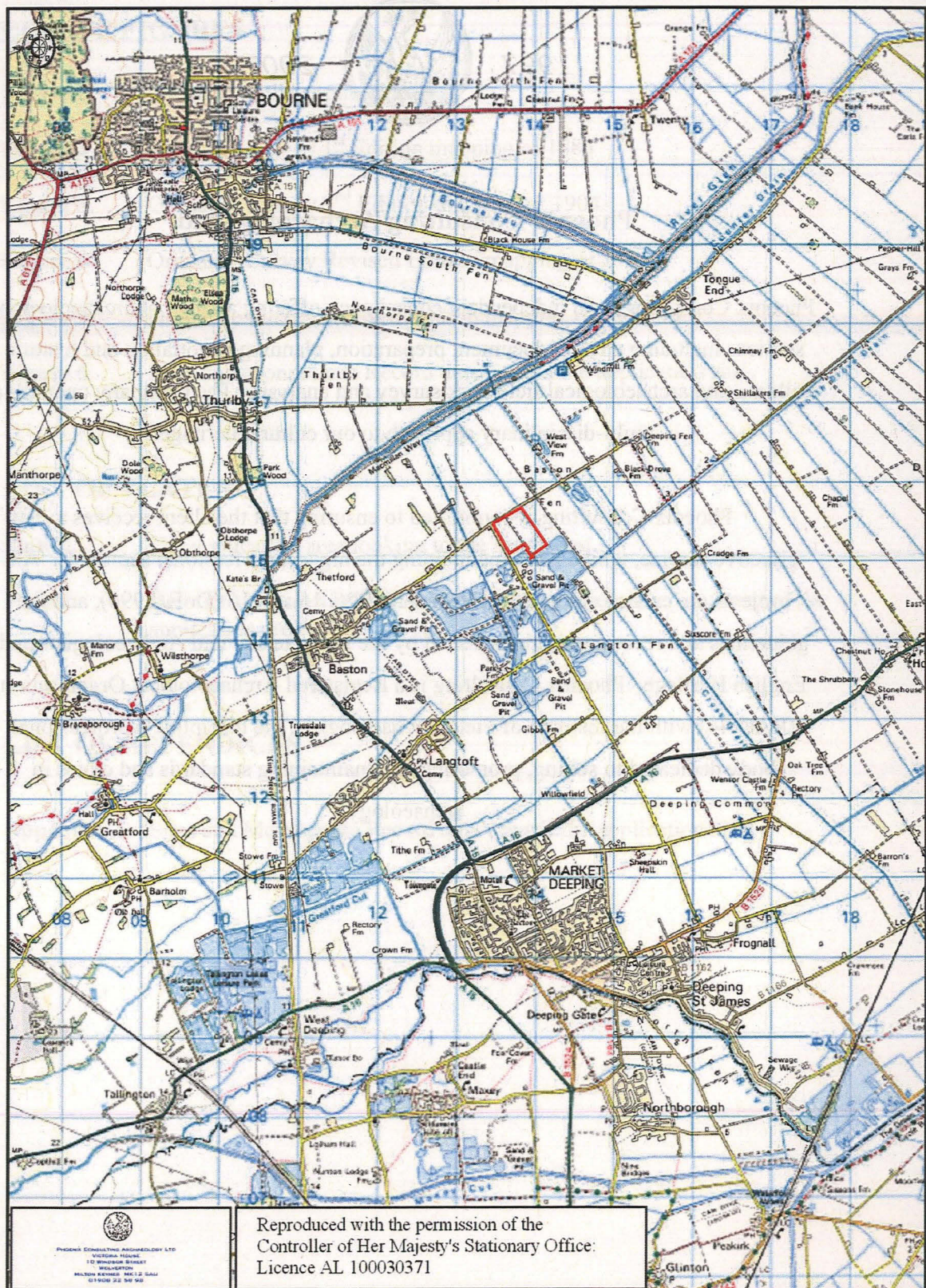


Figure 1 Baston No. 1 Quarry, Baston Fen, Lincolnshire: Site Location

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The commission

- 1.1.1 Hanson Aggregates are currently promoting a site known as Baston No. 1 Quarry, Cross Road, Baston, Lincolnshire for mineral extraction. The application area covers c. 21 ha. and is centred NGR TF 137 154 and is a north-east extension to their existing workings (*see* Figure 1). The proposals have highlighted the need for a desk-based appraisal which considers the archaeology of the site, its surrounds and the historical elements of the landscape.
- 1.1.2 This report assesses the extent of known archaeology and historic landscape development in and around the application area and discusses the likelihood for further archaeological finds as existing within the area.
- 1.1.3 Planning authorities may, where it is considered that archaeological sites might exist, expect applicants to undertake at their own expense an archaeological evaluation prior to determination of any planning application. If important archaeological sites are identified a condition may be attached to any planning permission which requires preservation in situ or outlines a scheme of further archaeological investigation that must be undertaken. This document forms part of the information required by the curatorial authority in order to allow for the assessment of the proposed development on archaeological grounds.

1.2 In connection with the commission

- 1.2.1 All records of archaeological sites and finds that relate to the application area and its immediate vicinity were collected from the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) Office of the Lincolnshire County Council, which maintains the local SMR for the South Kesteven District. Reports on previous archaeological work in the area contained in the SMR files were also consulted.
- 1.2.2 A search was made for all readily accessible manuscript and printed maps and plans and other relevant documents in the Lincolnshire Record Office, Lincoln. In addition, copies of certain maps and plans were obtained from local libraries. Maps held by the Public Record Office (PRO) at Kew were also assessed.
- 1.2.3 Geotechnical survey data of the site has also been consulted, as the results contribute to the assessment of the archaeological potential of the site¹.

¹ Site Investigation Report – 2007

- 1.2.4 Further research of published material has been undertaken to an extent appropriate to this desk-based assessment. A list of all sources is provided in the Reference section at the end of this report.
- 1.2.5 A site visit was undertaken on the 16th May 2007, during which observations were made and notes taken on topography, current landuse and any visible archaeological or historical features surviving in the immediate landscape.

1.3 **Methodology**

- 1.3.1 The desk-based assessment has been carried out in such a way as to allow the report to be structured as follows:

Introduction:

An introduction provides a summary of the physical characteristics of the area. The application area is placed in its topographical and landuse context.

Known and Potential Archaeology:

The known archaeological and historic landscape interest of the application area and its surrounds is presented and interpreted. An assessment is thereafter made of the archaeological potential of the area, taking into account features of the physical environment and other factors that may enhance or reduce the opportunities for the survival of archaeological remains.

Impact of the Development:

An assessment is made of the likely effect that proposed development would have on surviving archaeological and historical remains.

Mitigation Measures:

Comments are made on mitigation measures that it may be appropriate to apply, prior to or during development, to ensure that the archaeological potential and historic interest of the site is appropriately and adequately addressed.

2.0 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND LANDUSE

2.1 Location and current landuse

2.1.1 The proposed extension to the Baston No. 1 Quarry lies in fields to the immediate north of the existing Baston Quarry plant site, 1.5 km to the east of the village of Baston. The site presently covers part of two large agricultural fields that were under an arable regime at the time of the site visit. A large drainage course divides the two fields and further, smaller drainage channels form boundaries to the south and east. Baston Outgang Road forms the northern boundary and Cross Road the western extent. Arable fields border to the east, whilst beyond the southern boundary are lakes that are the result of former mineral workings.

2.1.2 The field visit undertaken on the 16th May 2007 did not identify any significant visible aspects of historical or archaeological interest.



Plate 1 Application area looking south toward the existing plant site

2.2 Geology and soils

- 2.2.1 The local soils are of the Badsey 2 Association (511i), being typical calcareous fine loamy soils (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983). These have developed above a drift geology of 1st Terrace sand and gravel deposits which in turn overlie a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (BGS 1984). The land of the application area is flat, at an elevation of 3.5m AOD. Hayes and Lane (1992) record that the site was fen proper (i.e. wet) from the Middle Bronze Age through to the 19th century. Drainage and ploughing of the fens, particularly during the 19th century, has led to a drying out of the former peat which now only survives as a thin band in the surrounding landscape.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL FEATURES

3.1 Introduction (numbers in bold text refer to entries on Figure 6 and Appendix A)

- 3.1.1 Any desk-based assessment of the archaeological potential of a site depends not only on an understanding of known archaeological features within the site, but also an awareness of the deficiencies in the archaeological record, the archaeological and historical context of the locality in which the proposed development is situated, and also an understanding of the site's landuse history, geology, soils and topography.
- 3.1.2 It should be born in mind that the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), upon which knowledge of the 'known' archaeology of an area is based, contains records of archaeological remains that have been identified in the following ways: as surviving earthworks or other standing monuments, as cropmarks on aerial photographs, as chance finds of artefacts on the ground surface and as accidental discoveries made during ground disturbance, usually associated with gardening, ploughing or construction work.
- 3.1.3 The collection of data for the SMR is therefore essentially random and unsystematic. Much buried archaeology does not reveal itself in the ways mentioned above. Therefore the SMR is by its nature provisional and cannot be taken as a *definitive* list of surviving archaeological remains.
- 3.1.4 This section describes the currently known archaeological remains and historical features within the application site and its surrounds. This information is from the Sites and Monuments Record, information held by the Local Records Office and the field visit undertaken. Figure 2 illustrates the distribution of known sites and features.

3.2 The application site

- 3.2.1 There are no recorded archaeological sites within the boundaries of the prospective application area. The SMR contains no such records and the field visit did not identify any significant remains of potential archaeological or historic interest. The site is known, however, to lie within a landscape rich in archaeological remains from most periods (see section 4.3 below).

Cartographic Evidence

- 3.2.2 A number of early maps survive that show the settlement of Baston and the surrounding landscape, including those of Christopher Saxton (1576), John Speed (1662), Robert Morden (1722) and Thomas Jeffery (1749), but due to their small scale they provide little in the way of cartographic detail to be of use in this assessment.
- 3.2.3 The first detailed representation to depict the site is that attached to the Enclosure Award of Baston in the County of Lincolnshire, and is dated 1813. This plan includes a survey of the majority of the application area. Rather than being two fields, in 1813 the site consisted of no less than eight plots each owned or tenanted by different individuals including William Greaseley, Sir John Trollope and Bridget Ward amongst others. The heavy division of the land soon after Inclosure attests, perhaps, to the demand there must have been in this part of the County for good farming land soon after the drainage and reclamation of the Baston Fen.



Plate 2 Derelict remains of the New Inn just outside the site's NW corner.

- 3.2.4 The first edition Ordnance Survey of 1888 is fairly similar to the Inclosure plot of 75 years earlier (Figure 2). Several field boundaries had been removed in the interim to create larger fields, although the largest field as shown on the 1813 plan had been subdivided. By 1888 the application area consisted of six plots. A small agricultural building is shown central to the area, likely to have been a field barn. Bordering the site, on the corner of Cross Road and Baston Outgang Road was a beer house, called the New Inn. The derelict remains of this former hostelry still survive (see Plate 2).

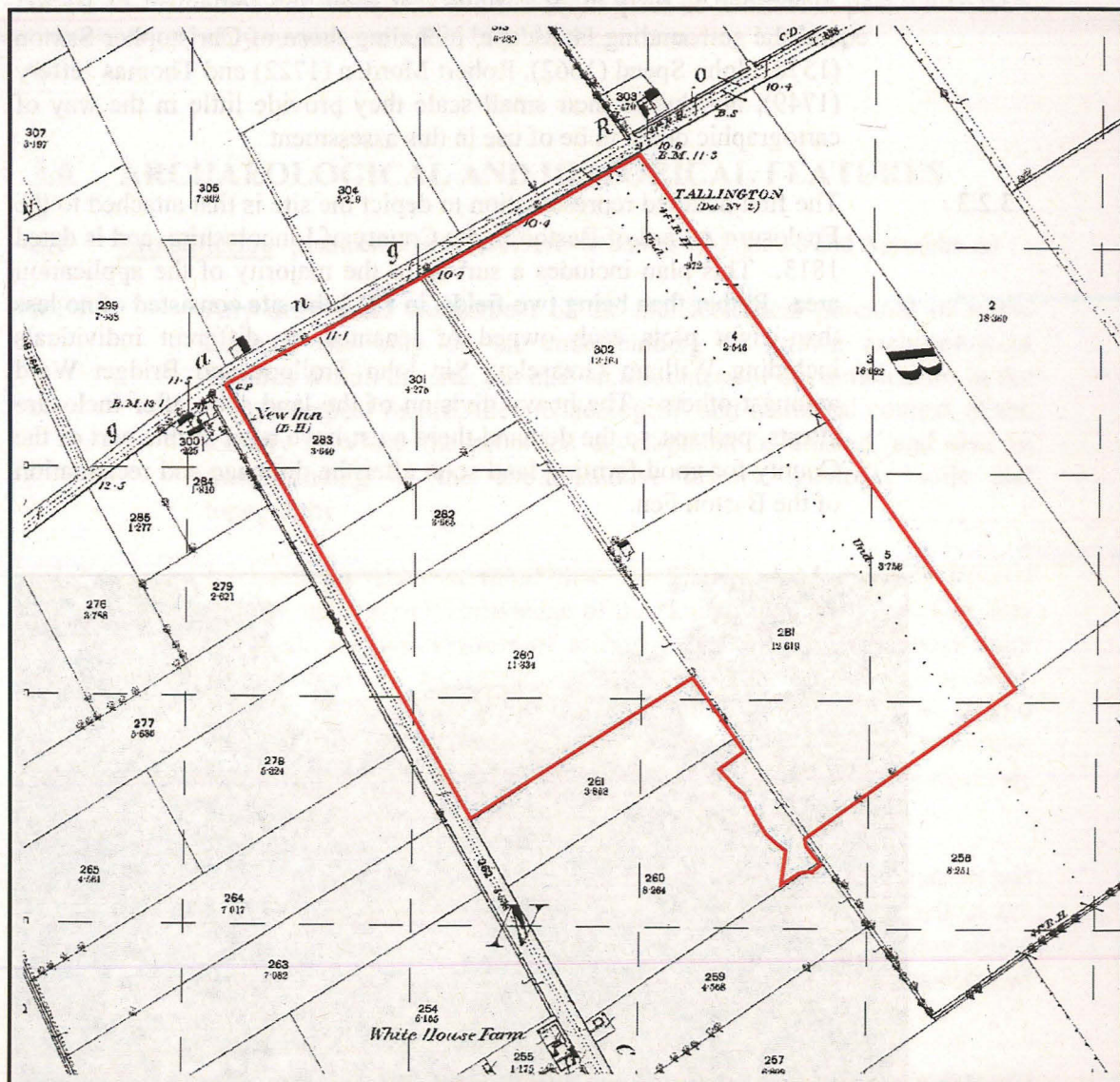


Figure 2 Ordnance Survey 1st Edition mapping of 1888

3.2.5

There is little alteration to the landscape by the date the second edition Ordnance Survey map was produced in 1904, with the field arrangement being the same as that surveyed 18 years earlier (Figure 3). Indeed, the only noticeable change is the creation of an 'allotment garden' on one of the plots to the immediate south of Baston Outgang Road. Further allotment gardens can be seen in some of the surrounding fields.

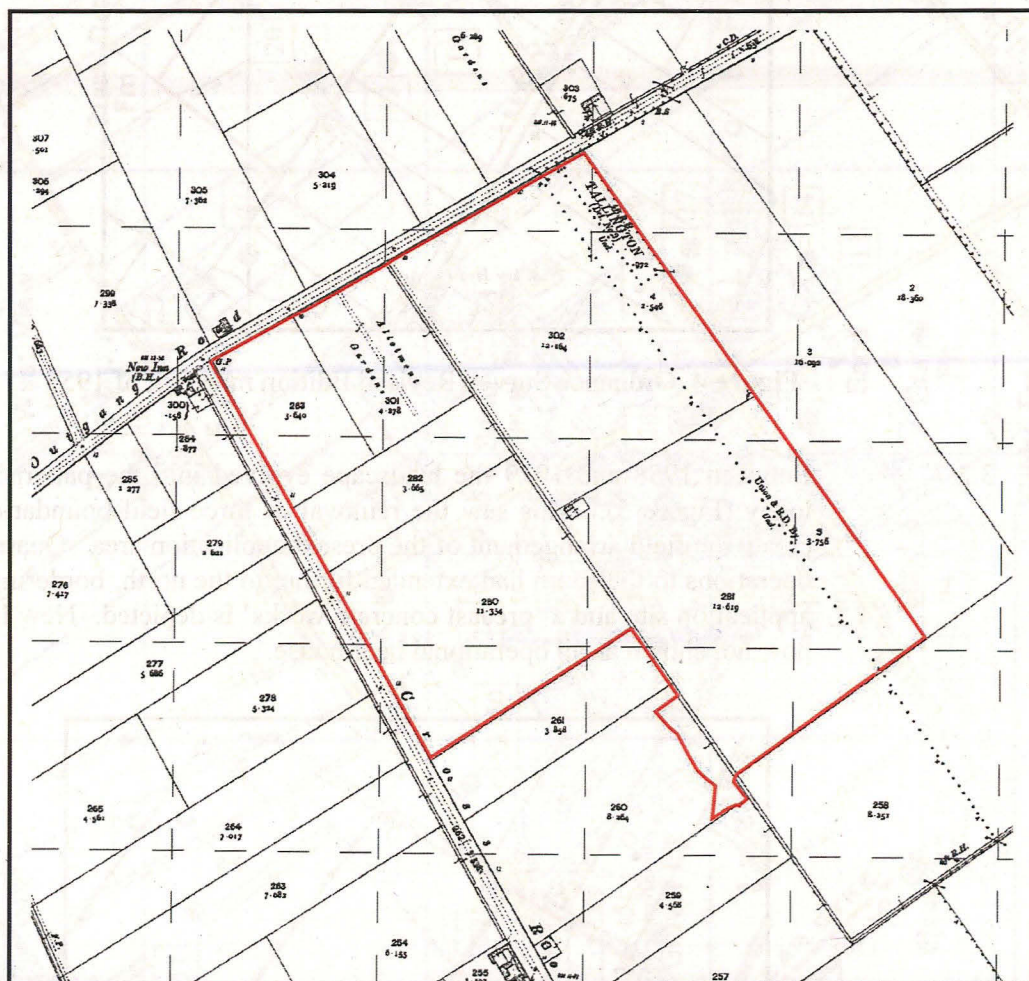


Figure 3 Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition mapping of 1904

3.2.6

The next 50 years sees little alteration to the field arrangement (Figure 4). Indeed, the revised Ordnance Survey edition of 1958 shows a field pattern the same as recorded for the first edition some 70 years earlier. The small field barn central to the application area had gone by this date and quarrying activities can be seen to the south - in the vicinity of the present plant site - to the east of White House Farm. The beer house of New Inn is still shown just outside the NW corner of the application area.

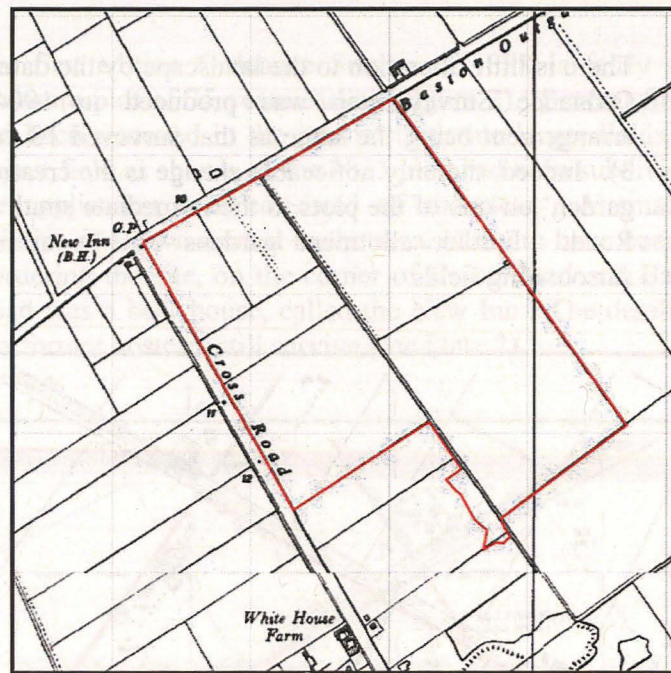


Figure 4 Ordnance Survey Revised Edition mapping of 1958

3.2.7

Between 1958 and 1979 the landscape evolved into the pattern seen today (Figure 5). This saw the removal of three field boundaries to create the field arrangement of the present application area. Quarrying operations to the south had extended further to the north, bordering the application site and a 'precast concrete works' is depicted. New Inn is now not shown as an operational beer house.

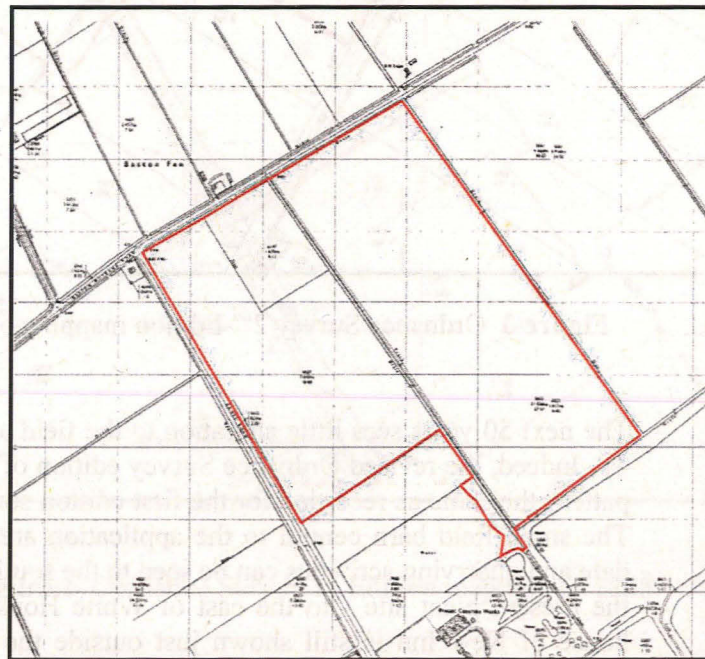
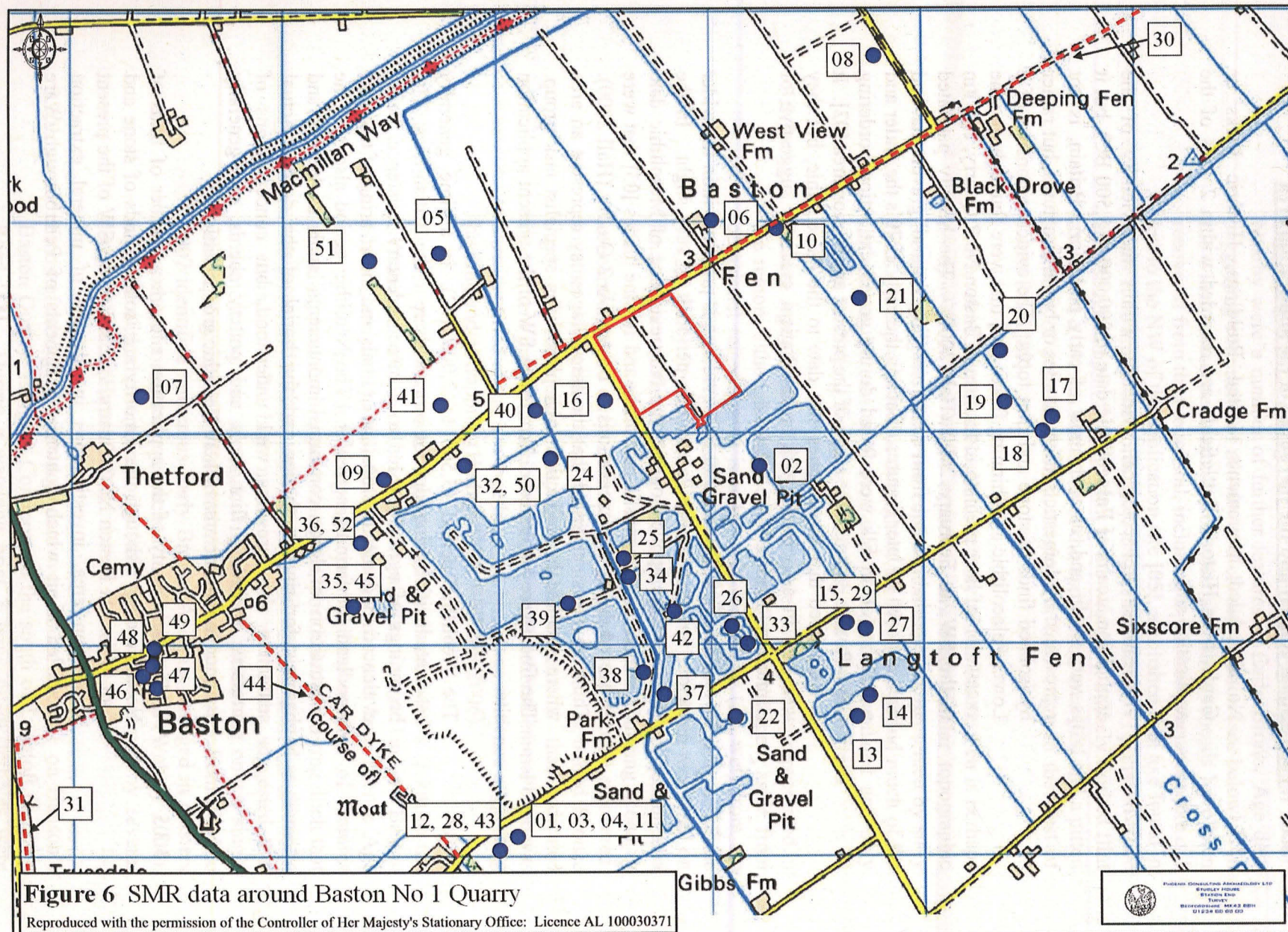


Figure 5 Ordnance Survey Revised Edition mapping of 1974-79



3.3 The regional context and the surrounds of the application area²

- 3.3.1 No Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Historic Parks or Gardens, or Historic Battlefields are recorded within 2 kms of the application site.
- 3.3.2 The earliest archaeological evidence within the vicinity of the application area is of **Palaeolithic** date (*c* 500,000 to 8,500 BC), but it is very slight and, as with most of early prehistoric Britain, is not represented by domestic settlement sites or burial structures, but rather by isolated finds of stone and flint tools. The evidence consists of 2 Lower Palaeolithic axe-thinning flakes [01] that were found during the excavation of later prehistoric features at Baston No 2 Quarry, *c.* 2 km to the SW, in February 2000 (Hall 2000). The heavily patinated artefacts probably came from the surrounding 'natural' gravels that had been exposed by later features. Back in the early 1970's the antler and a vertebra of an Elk were found during gravel extraction bordering Cross Road *c.* ½ km to the south of the present application area [02]. It is considered that these bones also date to the Palaeolithic, but they were not in association with archaeological evidence suggestive of human exploitation of the species.
- 3.3.3 **Mesolithic** (*c* 8,500 to 3,500 BC) evidence is present within the wider region, but as with the Palaeolithic period it is very slight. In the vicinity of the application site the only evidence of Mesolithic date consists of two diagnostic microliths and 10 fine blades [03] that were recovered during the excavations at Baston No 2 Quarry (Hall 2000). The excavators suggested that the assemblage may represent an area where small-scale production took place by a specialist task group. The finds were recovered *c.* 2km to the SW of the present application site.
- 3.3.4 The **Neolithic** period (3,500 to 2,000 BC), is a time generally associated with the introduction of agriculture to the British Isles. The beginnings of agriculture led to a more sedentary existence, being evidenced by domestic crops and animals and the clearing of tracts of woodland for farming activities. The Neolithic period also saw the construction of large communal monuments, such as henges and barrows for ritual activities and the burial of the dead. Actual settlement sites are less well understood, but concentrations of artefacts, including flint tools and pottery sherds, are generally assumed to indicate areas where Neolithic groups settled.
- 3.3.5 Within the vicinity of the application site are a number of finds of Neolithic date, although the majority are isolated finds of stone and flint tools. At Baston No 2 Quarry, *c.* 2 km to the SW of the present application area, investigations in advance of mineral extraction identified a pit which contained fragments of Peterborough Ware

suggesting activity during the Late Neolithic period [04] (Hall 2000). Nearby were a number of further features of Early Bronze Age date suggesting continuity of activity at a chosen location (see below). In the wider landscape, a number of stone and flint axeheads have been recovered from the ploughsoil, including a polished greenstone axe c. 1 km to the NW of the application site [05], a polished flint axe found in fields c. ½ km to the north [06], a so-called Group VI polished stone axe ploughed up in fields 2½ km to the west [07], a finely worked flint axe found c. 1½ km to the NE of the application area [08] and a pitted stone axe of possible Cornish origin in a field 1 km to the west of Cross Road [09].

3.3.6 The level of identified Neolithic activity across Baston Fen is perhaps no more than one would expect in any other similar topographic location along the entire Fen edge, which is often represented by stray finds. It is probable that throughout the Neolithic period much of the fenland to the east of Baston was periodically inundated and only suitable for fishing, foraging and hunting, but not occupation.

3.3.7 **Bronze Age** (2,000 to 1,000 BC) activities are far better represented in the region, although land to the east of Baston Village - aside from occasional raised gravel islands - was fen proper (i.e. wet) from the Middle Bronze Age through to the 19th century (Hayes and Lane 1992). Early Bronze Age settlement remains have been recovered on land adjacent to Cross Drain, c. ½ km to the NE of the application area [10]. Near to where the drain crosses Baston Outgang Road, a concentration of early Bronze Age domestic debris was recovered, together with gullies, pits, hearths and post holes. A buried Bronze Age soil contained palaeo-environmental remains that indicated intermittent marine incursions at this date. Butchered animal bone was also identified at the site together with bird bone evidence suggesting hunting and/or trapping (Herbert 1998, Williams 2006).

3.3.8 Further, potential Bronze Age occupation is recorded c. 2 km to the SW and was discovered prior to mineral extraction at Hanson's Baston No 2 Quarry [11] (Hall 2000). Here, Early and Late Bronze Age activity was recorded being associated with a number of features including pits, ditches, post-structures, post holes and a ring ditch that was associated with household refuse and was interpreted as domestic in character. The high number of pits at the site suggested that settlement here was seasonal, with a single pit serving only a single season of occupation. Excavations at the same quarry from 2004 to 2007 identified numerous Early Bronze Age pits arranged in clusters (one which contained a crouched inhumation) [12] (Webley 2004), together with the remains of a field system represented by several lengths of ditch (Hutton 2007).

3.3.9 Finds of Middle Bronze Age date were found in 2001 on Hanson's Baston Quarry, Langtoft Common, to the south of Langtoft Outgang Road [13]. During a watching brief 3 large pits/waterholes were

discovered, two containing pottery (Webley 2004a). A substantial amount of wood, including a palstave, was recovered from one of the pits. Recent investigations at the same quarry have identified a Middle Bronze Age field system aligned on a NW to SE axis, together with a number of post-holes, pits and waterholes, one containing the remains of a log ladder [14] (Hutton 2008). The truncated remains of an Early Bronze Age ring-gully, associated with a crouched inhumation, has also been recovered from the quarry, as has evidence for a ditched trackway dividing up the Middle Bronze Age field system together with the remains of three possible roundhouses and various pit complexes [15] (Hutton 2008a). The evidence has identified this part of the former fen to have been an area actively exploited by Early and Middle Bronze Age communities.

3.3.10 Further finds of Bronze Age date have been found to the immediate west of the proposed quarry extension, across Hanson Aggregates' 'Freeman Land' [16]. An evaluation in the early 1990's suggested that cropmarks in this field were of Iron Age date (Heritage Lincolnshire 1991), but in June of 2008, excavations identified a Middle Bronze Age field system together with three Bronze Age ring ditches and 12 associated cremations and a single crouched inhumation (Hutton 2008b). The inhumation comprised an adult male with two toggles of *cannel coal* on each side of his neck; these were interpreted as clothes fasteners. The skeleton of a small dog was also recovered from the burial. The ring ditches were on the eastern edge of the site, within 40m of the currently proposed extension. A cluster of pits was also excavated, the majority containing pottery of Middle Bronze Age date and preserved wood. In one large pit/watering hole the remains of a timber revetment were recovered.

3.3.11 To the east of the proposed extension, a number of further Bronze Age ritual sites are recorded. Five barrows, each having been recognised from the air as cropmarks, form part of a group of 50 such features aligned on the fen edge either side of the River Welland (French 1994). Four of the barrows lie *c.* 1-1½ km away, in the vicinity of Twopenny Cut Farm, [17, 18, 19 and 20]. A further barrow is believed to lie close to Cross Drain ¾ km to the east [21].

3.3.12 Two further Bronze Age sites are recorded for the area, although their precise locations are not known. The first consists of an Early Bronze Age unlooped palstave found on 'Langtoft Common' in the 1970's [22]. The second is a record of the 'Langtoft Canoe' which appears – from the sketchy notes that survive – to have been a Bronze Age log boat found on farmland in Langtoft in 1850 [23].

3.3.13 Throughout Britain the **Iron Age** period (1,000 BC to AD 43) represents a time when farming settlements become more widely established and human groups created a substantial reduction in the level of woodland cover with the creation of fields for pasture and arable. Around the Baston landscape, however, marine incursions

were taking place from the Middle Bronze Age and it is likely that only areas of higher ground were utilised for settlement throughout the Iron Age. The lower marshy fenland was no doubt exploited during this period through fishing, fowling and hunting.

3.3.14 Approximately ½ km to the west of the application area a number of features of Iron Age date were encountered when trial trenching took place on land at Manor Pit, Baston (Morris 2004). A multi-period landscape was identified (see below) of which the earliest activity dated to the Early Iron Age period (1,000 – 750 BC). Four pits were excavated that were assigned to the Iron Age [24]. These were substantial features and were interpreted as watering holes relating to a dispersed farming landscape. Further Iron Age activity is recorded along the gravels c. 1 km to the south of the application area. Here three sites are recorded where Iron Age ceramics have been recovered [25, 26 and 27]. At the latter site, excavation in advance of mineral extraction uncovered several features associated with briquetage, being indicative of salt making. From associated pottery, this was dated to the Middle Iron Age period (c. 400-150 BC).

3.3.15 More recently a substantial Early Iron Age settlement has been excavated at Hanson Aggregate's Baston No 2 Quarry, between Gibbs Farm and the Car Dyke [28] (Webley 2008). Here, an occupation zone with at least one roundhouse was investigated, together with a number of contemporary pits, post-holes and ditches. By the Middle Iron Age a field system had been established with occupation continuing nearby. Settlement continued at the site through into the Roman period (see below). Further Iron Age settlement activity has also recently been excavated on Hanson Aggregate's 'Glebe Land', to the south of Langtoft Outgang Road [29] (Hutton 2008a).

3.3.16 The coming of **Roman Britain** (43 to 410 AD) equates with a massive increase in the material record. Farming settlements expanded in size and number to cope with the increased demands for their produce, and new areas of land were exploited as population levels increased. Indeed throughout the region this period of expansion is reflected in an increase in the quantity and diversity of finds and settlements.

3.3.17 The northern boundary to the application area is formed by Baston Outgang Road which is believed to have been the course of a Roman road extending from south of Kate's Bridge (on the A15) across the fenland to Spalding [30]. The course of the road is visible as a linear gravel band crossing the clay fens and continuing as parallel linear cropmarks on the silts nearer to Spalding (Hayes and Lane 1992). A further Roman road, known as King Street, ran north-south just to the west of Baston village which linked up with the Ermine Street at Water Newton [31]. The establishment of these communications links during the Roman period enabled increased settlement and activity to take place across the fen-edge landscape.

3.3.18 A number of Roman sites and finds have been made to the west of the village of Baston, especially in advance of mineral extraction. These finds have suggested a strong Roman presence in the area. The trench evaluation at Manor Pit, ½ km to the west of the application area, uncovered evidence of Roman activity dating to the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD (Morris 2004) [32]. Further to the south, a series of Roman field systems are recorded [33] and a suggested Roman droveway was revealed during soil stripping in 1963 in fields to the south of the existing plant site [34]. A further drove road and associated enclosures are visible on aerial photographs to the west of this [35]. Limited excavation of a section of the drove road took place in 1989 and Roman pottery was recovered (Trust for Lincolnshire Archaeology 1991). To the north of the drove road, further Roman field systems are recorded, and when excavation of features took place in 2003, at the Manor Farm Concrete Products Factory, Roman pottery of 2nd century date was recorded [36] (Richmond 2003).

3.3.19 Within 2 km of the application site are a further six sites where Roman archaeology has been found. These include fields that were stripped of soils to the NE of Park Farm [37-38], a trench excavated to the east of Cross Road during mineral extraction [39], during fieldwalking of fields bordering Baston Outgang Road [40 -41] and on the south bank of the so-called 'gravel drain' to the south of the application area [42]. Recent excavations at Hanson Aggregate's Baston No 2 Quarry have identified a Roman field system set out in a 'ladder-type' arrangement, together with pits and enclosure ditches [43]. One pit contained the skeleton of an adult male (Webley 2004). Between 2005 and 2007 excavations at the quarry identified a settlement zone comprising part of an enclosure that was occupied from the mid late 2nd c. AD through to the mid 3rd c. AD [43] (Hutton 2007). It is believed this settlement site bordered a Roman routeway that traverses the landscape along a NE to SW alignment.

3.3.20 One further site of Roman date which is worth mentioning is the Car Dyke [44]. This is an artificial water channel thought to have been constructed around AD 125. It ran all along the western fen edge from Peterborough to Lincoln. Excavated sections have shown it to have been a water channel of 15m width that became silted in the late Roman period. The Car Dyke is the largest Roman canal in Britain and an important feature in the Roman landscape. Its course runs c. 2½ km to the west of the application area.

3.3.21 Our understanding of the post-Roman **Anglo-Saxon** period (410 to 1066 AD) is far from clear. Within the vicinity of the application site there are a number of records of Saxon activity, and it is possible that many of the existing villages of the area had their origins during the Saxon period. Aside from an isolated sherd of Saxo-Norman pottery found during fieldwalking at Manor Pit [45], no finds of Saxon date

are recorded for the Baston Fen, although Saxon activity is known at the northern and western ends of the village. It is probable that no permanent settlements existed in the fen at this time, although it was probably dry for much of the year and in use for grazing livestock.

3.3.22 To the south-west of the village of Baston a Saxon settlement appears to have been established in the area of Hall Farm [46]. Excavation in the late 1990's identified occupation and industrial zones, represented by former timber structures and an iron smithy and a second iron-working furnace. Settlement commenced at the site in the late 9th century AD and appears to have continued through to the 12th century (APS 1997). Adjacent to this site a possible Middle Saxon cemetery was discovered during investigations close to Church Street [47]. Here, human bone was found in a Saxon ditch feature representing at least two individuals, although no grave cuts were found (Taylor 2003). Further Saxon sites are recorded to the west of Baston. The Urns Farm early Saxon cemetery site is particularly well known and was first excavated in 1863, with further excavations having taken place in 1966 and 1989 (Mayes and Dean 1976).

3.3.23 In contrast to the earlier periods, there is much more evidence that the area was settled and exploited in the **Medieval** period (1066 - 1560). The Domesday Survey for Lincolnshire records that in Baston, *Saint Guthlac's of Crowland* had four caracates of land that was taxable. There was land for 4 ploughs and there were 5 villagers, 2 smallholders and 7 freemen in residence, along with a church and half mill. A certain *Gilbert of Ghent* is also recorded as holding land in Baston with 4 villagers in residence (Morgan and Thorn 1986). The earliest date for an enclosed fen at Baston is in a Charter of 1142-72. In this Charter, Abbot Edward of Crowland Abbey granted to Simon, his man, a bovate of land, three acres of other land, nine acres of marsh in one park and four acres of meadow (Hallam 1965). By the 15th century, Crowland Abbey is recorded as still holding the rights to Baston 'Marsh' which was primarily used for the digging, carting and selling of peat.

3.3.24 No evidence has been found suggesting Medieval activities on or near the application area, which is likely to have continued in agricultural use throughout the Medieval and post-Medieval periods. In the wider landscape a number of Medieval sites are recorded within, and close to the village of Baston, including a manorial complex south of Church Street [48] and the Church of St John the Baptist [49] which is believed to have its origins in the 13th century, although the Domesday Survey records a Church at Baston in 1087. The manorial complex appears to have been occupied from the 13th through to the late 14th century, after which the site was abandoned (APS 1997).

3.3.25 Pevsner and Harris (1989) record a number of historic buildings within and around Baston, but there are no such buildings within the search area, around the application site. The only **post-Medieval** (1561 -

present) activities recorded within 2 km of the site relate to 18th/19th century gravel workings [50] identified during trial trenching at Manor Pit (Morris 2004). Several undated sites exist in the vicinity including cropmarks of enclosures in fields known as North Meadow to the north of Baston Outgang Road [51] and several undated ditch features [52] that were identified at the Concrete Products Factory, Manor Farm in advance of development (Richmond 2003).

4.0 ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

4.1 Archaeological and historical potential

4.1.1 On the basis of available evidence the application area can be assumed at this stage to have a moderate to high potential for the recovery of archaeological remains. The reasons for this are detailed in the following paragraphs.

4.1.2 This comprehensive desk-based assessment has shown that there are no *recorded* archaeological sites within the confines of the application area. There are also no Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Historic Parks or Gardens, or Historic Battlefields recorded within 2 kms of the application site. Within the surrounding landscape, however, there are archaeological finds and sites representing most periods.

4.1.3 There is little evidence in the surrounding landscape dating to before the Bronze Age. It is probable that throughout the preceding Neolithic period much of the fenland to the east of Baston was periodically inundated and only suitable for fishing, foraging and hunting, but not occupation.

4.1.4 Bronze Age activities are well represented in the region, although much land to the east of Baston Village was likely to have been fen proper (i.e. wet) from the Middle Bronze Age through to the 19th century. At Hanson Aggregate's Baston No 2 Quarry ditches and clusters of Bronze Age pits were recently recorded, one containing a crouched inhumation. Bronze Age features, including ring ditches and pits with preserved wood, have also been excavated across Hanson's Quarry at Langtoft Fen. At the same quarry a Middle Bronze Age field system aligned on a NW to SE axis, was identified. The evidence identifies this part of the former fen to have been an area actively exploited by Early and Middle Bronze Age farming communities.

4.1.5 Further finds of Bronze Age date have been found to the immediate west of the proposed quarry extension, across Hanson Aggregates' 'Freeman Land'. In June of 2008, excavations identified a Middle Bronze Age field system together with 3 Bronze Age ring ditches, 12 associated cremations and a single crouched inhumation. The ring

ditches were on the eastern edge of the site, within 40m of the currently proposed extension. In one watering hole the remains of timber were recovered showing that organic remains of Bronze Age date survive in the area.

4.1.6 Settlement remains have been found c. ½ km to the NE of the application area, near to where Cross Drain encounters Baston Outgang Road and further Bronze Age occupation has been identified c. 2 km to the SW. A series of burial barrows also lie 1½ km to the east, in the vicinity of Twopenny Cut Farm.

4.1.7 It is probable that only areas of slightly higher ground were utilised for settlement throughout the Iron Age. A potential settlement is recorded at Manor Pit ½ km to the west of the application area and further Iron Age activity has been identified at several locations along the gravels 1 km to the south. An Iron Age settlement has also been recently excavated at Baston No. 2 Quarry, between Gibbs Farm and the Car Dyke.

4.1.8 The northern boundary to the application area is formed by Baston Outgang Road which is believed to have been the course of a minor Roman road. A number of Roman sites and finds have been made to the west of the village of Baston suggesting a strong Roman presence in the area. Recently, a Roman settlement was identified at Baston No. 2 Quarry (Hutton 2007).

4.1.9 Aside from an isolated sherd of Saxo-Norman pottery found during fieldwalking, no finds of Saxon date are recorded for the Baston Fen, although Saxon activity is known at the northern and western ends of the village. Similarly, no evidence has been found suggesting Medieval activities on or near the application area, which is likely to have continued in agricultural use throughout the Medieval and post-Medieval periods. The remains of Medieval ridge and furrow have been recorded at Baston No 2 Quarry.

4.1.10 The cartographic regression of the application area shows that it has changed little over the centuries. The earliest detailed mapping for the area is the Enclosure Award of 1813. Aside from the removal of several field boundaries to create larger fields the landscape appears almost unchanged to this day.

4.1.11 On the basis of current evidence the application area can be assumed to have a moderate to high potential for the recovery of archaeological remains.

5.0 SUGGESTED MITIGATION

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The proposals are for an extension to existing sand and gravel workings at Baston No 1 Quarry. The following details the undertaking of an archaeological evaluation of the site followed by appropriate mitigation based on the results of the evaluation.
- 5.1.2 Removal of soils prior to mineral extraction would potentially impact on any buried archaeological remains, if present. In addition, archaeological deposits could suffer from compaction from the movement of heavy machinery during construction works associated with haul roads and the creation of soil bunds.
- 5.1.3 In those parts of the site not proposed for development or landscaping, *i.e.* undisturbed areas, archaeological sites that may be present will naturally be preserved *in-situ*. In these areas the management will be such that long term preservation is achievable.

5.2 Archaeological Evaluation

- 5.2.1 In areas of mineral extraction, and in other areas where soil stripping is necessary, archaeology which potentially exists will be affected by the proposals. To mitigate this impact archaeological remains which warrant it can be preserved by 'record' through archaeological *excavation*. However, to reach the stage of identifying and assessing the remains it may be necessary to undertake a stage of archaeological *evaluation*. Any such evaluation would be conducted in accordance with the guidelines of PPG16 and of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. Evaluation would be targeted to answer specific questions about presence, extent, depth, character and state of preservation of potential archaeological remains.

- 5.2.2 The following methods may be considered appropriate for the Baston site:

Geophysical Survey: A survey of all available areas of the site with a view to obtaining information on the potential presence of buried archaeological remains. This will consist of a detailed magnetometer survey over c.21 ha.

Trial Trenching: utilising machine dug trenches to characterise the archaeological potential of the site. The trial trenching would seek to assess, amongst other variables, the presence, absence, quality, date and condition of preservation of archaeological and palaeo-environmental remains which lay within areas identified by the geophysical survey as of potential archaeological significance.

- 5.2.3 Prior to the undertaking of any evaluative works on-site, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) would first be agreed with the Curatorial Planning Authority.

5.3 Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief

- 5.3.1 If the evaluation of any areas revealed significant archaeological remains that merited investigation, these may be subject to open-area investigation in order to preserve the archaeology through the creation of a material archive and written records.
- 5.3.2 The material/written archive from any trial trenching or archaeological excavation would be deposited with the Lincolnshire County Archive and, if appropriate, the results would be more widely disseminated in published form.
- 5.3.3 It may be appropriate to undertake an intermittent archaeological watching brief across other parts of the site where archaeological remains could be expected to survive.

6.0 CONCLUSION

6.1 Concluding statement

- 6.1.1 A wide range of sources were consulted for this study, including the local Sites and Monuments Record, published articles and books and manuscript documents.
- 6.1.2 This desk-based assessment has shown that there are no *recorded* archaeological sites within the confines of the application area. There are also no Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Historic Parks or Gardens, or Historic Battlefields recorded within 2 kms of the application site. Within the surrounding landscape, however, there are archaeological finds and sites representing most periods.
- 6.1.3 There is little evidence in the surrounding landscape dating to before the Bronze Age. It is probable that throughout the preceding Neolithic much of the fenland to the east of Baston was periodically inundated and only suitable for fishing, foraging and hunting, but not occupation.
- 6.1.4 Bronze Age activities are well represented in the region, although much land to the east of Baston Village will have likely been fen proper (i.e. wet) from the Middle Bronze Age through to the 19th century. Settlement remains have, however, been found at several locations within 2 km of the application area. Bronze Age burials and field systems have recently been excavated in fields to the immediate

west of the application site (Hutton 2008b), and further Bronze Age field systems and associated settlement evidence has been excavated just over a kilometre to the south (Hutton 2007, 2008, 2008a). A series of burial barrows also lie 1½ km to the east, in the vicinity of Twopenny Cut Farm.

- 6.1.5 It is also likely that only areas of higher ground were utilised for settlement throughout the Iron Age. A potential settlement is recorded at Manor Pit ½ km to the west of the application area and further Iron Age activity has been identified at several locations along the gravels to the south (Webley 2004).
- 6.1.6 The northern boundary to the application area is formed by Baston Outgang Road which is believed to have been the course of a minor Roman road. A number of Roman sites and finds have been made to the west of the village of Baston suggesting a Roman presence in the area. The nearest Roman activity to the application area is at Manor Pit, ½ km to the west. A Roman field system and associated settlement have also been recently investigated at Baston No 2 Quarry (Webley 2004, Hutton 2007).
- 6.1.7 Aside from a sherd of Saxo-Norman pottery, no finds of Saxon date are recorded for the Baston Fen, although Saxon activity is known at the northern and western ends of the village. Similarly, no evidence has been found suggesting Medieval activities on or near the application area, which is likely to have continued in agricultural use throughout the Medieval and post-Medieval periods.
- 6.1.8 The cartographic regression of the application area shows that it has changed little over the centuries. The earliest detailed mapping for the area is the Enclosure Award of 1813. Aside from the removal of several field boundaries to create larger fields the landscape appears almost unchanged to this day.
- 6.1.9 On the basis of current evidence the application area can be assumed to have a moderate to high potential for the recovery of archaeological remains.

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INVENTORY OF KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES & MONUMENTS

Abbreviations used in listing below:

SMR	Sites and Monuments Record	
NGR	National Grid reference	
Unk	of unknown date	
Palaeo	Palaeolithic	<i>c 500,000-10,000 BC</i>
Meso	Mesolithic	<i>c 10,000-3,500 BC</i>
Neo	Neolithic	<i>c 3500-2000 BC</i>
BA	Bronze Age	<i>c 2000-800 BC</i>
IA	Iron Age	<i>c 800 BC - AD 43</i>
RB	Romano-British	<i>AD 43-410</i>
Sx	Saxon	<i>410-1066</i>
Med	Medieval	<i>c 1066-1500</i>
PMed	Post Medieval	<i>c 1500-present</i>

Known archaeology in the vicinity of the application area

- 01 Lower Palaeolithic axe-thinning flakes found at Baston Quarry within Late Bronze Age features. Probably originated from the surrounding gravels. Both flakes heavily patinated.
Date: Palaeo **NGR:** TF 1305 1310 **SMR:** 35240
- 02 Findspot of bones relating to antler and vertebra of an Irish Elk found in gravel workings in 1971. This species roamed the area during the Palaeolithic.
Date: Palaeo **NGR:** TF 142 149 **SMR:** 33400
- 03 Two diagnostic microliths recovered during excavations at Baston Quarry No. 2 The Meadows together with 10 fine small blades all knapped from a core.
Date: Meso **NGR:** TF 1305 1310 **SMR:** 35241
- 04 At Baston No 2 Quarry, *c.* 2 km to the SW of the present application area, investigations in advance of mineral extraction identified a pit which contained fragments of Peterborough Ware suggesting activity during the Late Neolithic period.
Date: Neo **NGR:** TF 1305 1310 **SMR:** 35109
- 05 A polished greenstone axe found *c.* 1 km to the NW of the application site in 1959.
Date: Neo **NGR:** TF 1264 1590 **SMR:** 33406

- 06 A polished flint axe found in fields c. ½ km to the north of the application area. The flint may be from the Welton Formation in the lower half of the Lincolnshire Chalk.
Date: Neo **NGR:** TF 1400 1600 **SMR:** 34690
- 07 A so-called Group VI polished stone axe ploughed up in fields 2½ km to the west of the application area.
Date: Neo **NGR:** TF 113 152 **SMR:** 33405
- 08 A finely worked flint axe found c. 1½ km to the NE of the application area.
Date: Neo **NGR:** TF 147 168 **SMR:** 33404
- 09 A pitted stone axe of possible Cornish origin in a field 1 km to the west of Cross Road.
Date: Neo **NGR:** TF 1242 1482 **SMR:** 33397
- 10 Early Bronze Age settlement remains on land near Cross Drain, c. ½ km from the application area. A concentration of Early Bronze Age domestic debris, together with gullies, pits, hearths and post holes. A buried Bronze Age soil contained palaeo-environmental remains that indicated intermittent marine incursions at this date. Butchered animal bone was also identified at the site together with bird bone evidence suggesting hunting and/or trapping.
Date: BA **NGR:** TF 1456 1583 **SMR:** 34999
- 11 A potential Bronze Age occupation site c. 2 km to the SW of the application area discovered at Baston No 2 Quarry. Early and Late Bronze Age activity was recorded being associated with a number of features including pits, ditches, post-structures, post holes and a ring ditch that was associated with household refuse and was interpreted as domestic in character. The high number of pits at the site suggested that settlement here was seasonal, with a single pit serving only a single season of occupation.
Date: BA **NGR:** TF 1305 1310 **SMR:** 35109
- 12 Early Bronze Age settlement and funerary remains identified during archaeological excavations at Baston No 2 Quarry in 2004. 25 pits arranged in 4 pit clusters with an undated crouched inhumation amongst one of them. The skeleton was of a young individual of indeterminate gender. No grave goods accompanied the skeleton. Only a single, undiagnostic pot sherd found in fill of grave.
Date: BA **NGR:** TF 131 129 **SMR:** HER R3553

- 13 Middle Bronze Age remains identified during archaeological excavations at Baston Quarry, Langtoft Common in 2004. 3 large pits/waterholes, 2 containing pottery dated to MBA. A substantial amount of wood including a 'unique' palstave recorded in one of the pits.
Date: BA **NGR:** TF 147 137 **SMR:** HER R3554
- 14 Middle Bronze Age field system on NW to SE alignment; 6 postholes; 6 pits and 5 pits/waterholes investigated, one with a poorly preserved log ladder.
Date: BA **NGR:** TF 145 135 **SMR:** HER R4014
- 15 Excavations identified Early Bronze Age truncated ring gully, possibly small (c.7.50m diameter) barrow cutting crouched inhumation of adult male. Fragments of collared urn and beaker were recovered from a small number of discrete features around the ring gully which was originally thought to have been an eaves drip gully. Middle Bronze Age remains of a field system 'partitioned' by a NW to SE aligned ditched trackway. An enclosure utilising the trackway's eastern ditch was identified. Three post-built structures, possibly roundhouses were excavated within the enclosure. Interspersed throughout the area were 5 large, isolated pits/waterholes with 3 pit complexes. The remains of an oak plank revetment held together by square cut pegs was recorded in the base of the largest pit. A post alignment, probably a fence line was recorded that was adjacent to and on same NW to SE alignment as the trackway.
Date: BA **NGR:** TF 154 144 **SMR:** HER R4114
- 16 Middle Bronze Age field system on NW to SE alignment; the remains of 3 ring ditches, two with 12 associated cremations. A crouched inhumation adjacent to the field system was excavated. It contained an adult male skeleton with two toggles of *cannel coal*, one each side of its neck. These were interpreted as clothes fasteners. A small dog had been placed over left shoulder of skeleton. A cluster of pits was excavated in the south-east portion of the excavation area, most of which contained wood and MBA pottery. The remains of a timber revetment were recorded in a large pit/watering hole.
Date: BA **NGR:** TF 133 160 **SMR:** HER R4113
- 17 Site of a possible burial barrow identified as a cropmark at Twopenny Cut Farm.
Date: BA **NGR:** TF 1563 1504 **SMR:** 34186
- 18 Site of a possible burial barrow identified as a cropmark at Twopenny Cut Farm.
Date: BA **NGR:** TF 1560 1501 **SMR:** 34185

- 19 Site of a possible burial barrow identified as a cropmark at Twopenny Cut Farm.
Date: BA **NGR:** TF 1546 1519 **SMR:** 34184
- 20 Site of a possible burial barrow identified as a cropmark at Twopenny Cut Farm.
Date: BA **NGR:** TF 1541 1540 **SMR:** 34183
- 21 A gravel mound thought to be the remains of a burial barrow. An irregular worked flint was found on the mounded area.
Date: BA **NGR:** TF 1478 1560 **SMR:** 34191
- 22 A Bronze Age Palstave found on Langtoft Common.
Date: BA **NGR:** TF 1410 1370 **SMR:** 33410
- 23 The 'Langtoft Canoe' which appears – from the sketchy notes that survive - to have been a Bronze Age log boat found on farmland in Langtoft in 1850.
Date: BA(?) **NGR:** TF 11 27 **SMR:** 33411
- 24 A multi-period landscape at Manor Pit of which the earliest activity dated to the Early Iron Age. Four Iron Age pits were excavated that were substantial features interpreted as watering holes relating to a dispersed farming landscape.
Date: IA **NGR:** TF 1315 1496 **SMR:** 36567
- 25 Iron Age pottery and bones seen in a peat bed during gravel extraction at Baston Fen.
Date: IA **NGR:** TF 136 144 **SMR:** 33392
- 26 Post holes recorded during a watching brief in 1991-2. They represent the remains of two 4-post structures thought to have been used as storage facilities.
Date: IA **NGR:** TF 1404 1406 **SMR:** 34970
- 27 Trial excavation at Langtoft Common identified salt-workings and pottery of Iron Age date.
Date: IA **NGR:** TF 1466 1403 **SMR:** 34880
- 28 Substantial Early Iron Age settlement including structures, pits (with a possible pit alignment) and wells, with 'settlement core' containing at-least one roundhouse, a ring ditch, four posters and other posthole structures. Also

identified were a Middle to Late Iron Age roundhouse, a field system, two large ponds and some smaller pits.

Date: IA **NGR:** TF 131 129 **SMR:** HER R3553

- 29 A small assemblage of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery was recovered during excavations at Hanson Aggregates quarry on Langtoft Common, mostly from the tertiary fills of pits/pit clusters.

Date: IA/RB **NGR:** TF 154 144 **SMR:** HER R4114

- 30 The course of a minor Roman Road, today following the line of Baston Outgang Road. The course of the road is visible as a linear gravel band crossing the clay fens and continuing as parallel linear cropmarks on the silts nearer to Spalding.

Date: RB **NGR:** TF 12 14 **SMR:** -

- 31 A Roman road known as King Street which ran north-south just to the west of Baston village and linked up with the Ermine Street at Water Newton.

Date: RB **NGR:** TF 1041 1392 **SMR:** 34687

- 32 A trench evaluation at Manor Pit, ½ km to the west of the application area, uncovered evidence of Roman activity dating to the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD.

Date: RB **NGR:** TF 1280 1490 **SMR:** 36566

- 33 A series of Roman field systems recorded close to Langtoft Outgang Road. Pottery recovered from some of the ditches was Roman in date.

Date: RB **NGR:** TF 1411 1400 **SMR:** 34971

- 34 A suggested Roman droveway revealed during soil stripping in 1963 in fields to the south of the existing plant site at Baston No 2 Quarry.

Date: RB **NGR:** TF 1358 1442 **SMR:** 33394

- 35 A drove road and associated enclosures visible on aerial photographs to the west of Baston No 2 Quarry. Limited excavation of a section of the drove road took place in 1989 and Roman pottery was recovered.

Date: RB **NGR:** TF 1230 1420 **SMR:** 34863

- 36 Roman field systems recorded at the Manor Farm Concrete Products Factory. When excavation of features took place in 2003, Roman pottery of 2nd century date was recorded.

Date: RB **NGR:** TF 12325 14450 **SMR:** 36537

- 37 Pits containing Roman material found during topsoil stripping to the NE of Park Farm.
Date: RB **NGR:** TF 1380 1380 **SMR:** 33420
- 38 Scatter of Roman pottery found north of Park Farm in 1959.
Date: RB **NGR:** TF 1370 1390 **SMR:** 33413
- 39 2nd to 4th century pottery found in a short trench excavated during gravel extraction in Baston Fen. Pits and ditches were also revealed.
Date: RB **NGR:** TF 133 142 **SMR:** 33398
- 40 A concentrated scatter of Roman pottery and roof tile found during a fieldwalking exercise in 2003. Scatter corresponds to several known cropmarks, including a small enclosure.
Date: RB **NGR:** TF 1308 1511 **SMR:** 36446
- 41 A scatter of Roman pottery recovered during fieldwalking in 2003 in North Meadow, Baston.
Date: RB **NGR:** TF 1268 1513 **SMR:** 36445
- 42 Samian and coarse pottery found in 1959 on the south bank of Gravel Drain.
Date: RB **NGR:** TF 1388 1413 **SMR:** 33426
- 43 Excavations between 2004 and 2007 by the CAU identified Mid to Late Romano British, NW to SE aligned field system/enclosures arranged in ladder type arrangement. A small amount of 2nd to 4th century pottery recovered from ditches. Some pits excavated and skeleton of an adult male with coffin nails found in large grave cut perpendicular to enclosure ditch. Focus of settlement to west of excavation. Also on the so-called Bluebell Land a settlement enclosure was identified and excavated in part in 2006/7.
Date: RB **NGR:** TF 131 129 **SMR:** HER R3553
HER R3910
- 44 The Car Dyke. This is an artificial water channel thought to have been constructed around AD 125. It ran all along the western fen edge from Peterborough to Lincoln. Excavated sections have shown it to have been a water channel of 15m width that became silted in the late Roman period. The Car Dyke is the largest Roman canal in Britain and an important feature in the Roman landscape. Its course runs c. 2½ km to the west of the application area.
Date: RB **NGR:** TF 124 578 **SMR:** 60706

- 45 An isolated sherd of Saxo-Norman pottery found during fieldwalking at Manor Pit.
Date: Sx **NGR:** TF 1230 1420 **SMR:** 34866
- 46 To the south-west of the village of Baston a Saxon settlement appears to have been established in the area of Hall Farm. Excavation in the late 1990's identified occupation and industrial zones, represented by former timber structures and an iron smithy and a second iron-working furnace. Settlement commenced at the site in the late 9th century AD and appears to have continued through to the 12th century
Date: Sx **NGR:** TF 114 138 **SMR:** 35064
- 47 A possible Middle Saxon cemetery discovered during investigations close to Church Street. Here, human bone was found in a Saxon ditch feature representing at least two individuals, although no grave cuts were found.
Date: Sx **NGR:** TF 1142 1378 **SMR:** 35876
- 48 A manorial complex south of Church Street which appears to have been occupied from the 13th through to the late 14th century, after which the site was abandoned.
Date: Med **NGR:** TF 1139 1388 **SMR:** 35868
- 49 Church of St John the Baptist which is believed to have its origins in the 13th century, although the Domesday Survey records a Church at Baston in 1087.
Date: Med **NGR:** TF 1138 1398 **SMR:** 33402
- 50 18th/19th century gravel workings identified during trial trenching at Manor Pit
Date: PMed **NGR:** TF 1280 1490 **SMR:** 36569
- 51 Cropmarks of enclosures in fields known as North Meadow to the north of Baston Outgang Road.
Date: Unk **NGR:** TF 1242 1558 **SMR:** 35838
- 52 Several undated ditch features that were identified at the Concrete Products Factory, Manor Farm in advance of development.
Date: Unk **NGR:** TF 1234 1444 **SMR:** 35757

