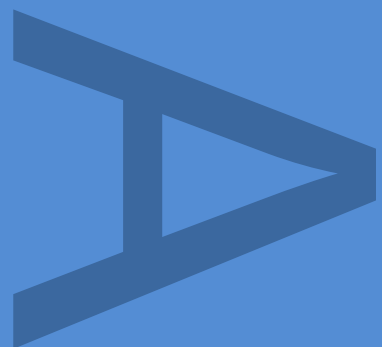


**LAND OFF UFFINGTON ROAD,
NEWSTEAD, STAMFORD,
LINCOLNSHIRE:**

An Archaeological Evaluation

November 2015

**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY
R12280**



**LAND OFF UFFINGTON ROAD, NEWSTEAD, STAMFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE:
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

Local Planning Authority: South Kesteven District Council

Central National Grid Reference: NGR TF 04511 07818

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PCA Report No.R12280

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Abstract

This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land off Uffington Road, Newstead, Stamford, Lincolnshire (NGR TF 04511 07818) in October 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by Arcadis Consulting (UK) Ltd as part of permissive works for the Environment Agency. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. No archaeological features were revealed during the evaluation. However a single Roman pottery sherd was discovered in a layer of alluvium.


1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Pre-construct Archaeology Ltd were commissioned by Arcadis Consulting (UK) Ltd in response to flood evation works undertaken by the Environment Agency. An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land off Uffington Road, Newstead, Stamford, Lincolnshire from the 26th to the 27th October 2015 (**Figure 1**).


1.1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Donald Sutherland of PCA (Sutherland 2015) and a total of two trial trenches were excavated and recorded accordingly.

1.2 Site Location and Description

1.2.1 The study area, centred on NGR TF 04511 07818, is located south of Newstead, c.1.8km northeast of the centre of Stamford. The site is isolated on an elongated piece of meadow that is bound to the west and south by the river Gwash. To the north is a leat, feeding off the river Gwash that once vered Newstead Mill to the north-east. To the east is the grassed meadow that terminates at Newstead Mill.

1.3 Topography and Geology

1.3.1 The proposed development site encompasses a roughly rectangular area of c.20, 900m² of relatively level ground. The site lies immediately north of the River Gwash and c.250m north of Uffington Road, at a height of c.20m AOD.



1.3.2 The solid geology of the site is characterised by Lower Lincolnshire Limestone Member – Limestone. This is Sedimentary Bedrock formed during the Jurassic period (approximately 168-172 million years  when the local environment was dominated by shallow carbonate seas. This is overlain superficial deposits of alluvium – clay, silt, sand and gravel. These deposits formed in the Quaternary period (up to 2 million years ago) when rivers deposited detrital material in channels to form river terrace deposits (British Geological Survey).

1.4 Historical and Archaeological Background

1.4.1 Stamford lies in a significantly rich archaeological area that mainly relates to the Saxon and Medieval periods. The location of the Newstead site, to the east of Stamford, is situated within an area both rich in earlier prehistoric and Romano-British settlement activity. The Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (LHER) was consulted along with 'grey literature' reports and other sources, that included a Desk-Based Assessment undertaken for an adjacent site in 2013, therefore only a short summary similar to that found in the Written Scheme of Investigation will follow.

1.4.2 There is considerable evidence for prehistoric activity in the immediate vicinity of the development site. The closest archaeological features are series of cropmarks suggesting a potential Bronze Age or Iron Age enclosure; this lies c.40m southeast of the site. Further evidence includes findspots of Mesolithic flint tools; and an area containing hearths as well as further flint tools dating from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age c.450m southeast of the development site. Cropmarks indicating a potential Neolithic causewayed enclosure have also been identified c.600m east of the study area with a potential Bronze Age or Iron Age pit alignment between these two sites. Additionally, there

are a series of sites c.415m southwest of the site including findspots of Neolithic to Bronze Age flint tools along with cropmarks indicating possible enclosures and pit alignments. Archeological excavations in the area have identified Iron Age features.

- 1.4.3 Elements of Roman activity have been discovered in association with some of the aforementioned prehistoric features; excavated features including a furnace discovered c.615m south of the development site. Other evidence of Roman activity in the vicinity is represented by a find spot containing coins c.820m to the west-southwest as well as, ditches and possible evidence of a building located to the north of the site in the fields situated to the north of the lead de nating the northern boundary to the development site.
- 1.4.4 Stamford is referenced in the Domesday Book, providing evidence that it was a settlement in 1086 and probably dates back to at least the late Saxon period. This is supported by the presence of a Saxon cemetery c.370m south-west of the study area and the supposed site of the Saxon monastery of St Leonard's c.885m to the west-southwest.
- 1.4.5 The HER search of the area also revealed evidence of some medieval activity in the vicinity. The Priory of St Mary at Newstead covers an area that includes the eastern half of the development site. Additionally, two areas have been identified that contain both medieval ridge and furrow as well as pottery scatters, c.580m southeast and c.605m southwest of the study area respectively. There is an additional concentration of medieval activity c.800m west-southwest of the site that includes St Leonard's Friary as well as a , pottery scatter, a mill and medieval excavated features.
- 1.4.6 A considerable amount of post-medieval activity was also identified, much of it concentrated to the southwest which includes a limestone kiln and two mills. Of most significance to the development site due to their proximity are Newstead Mill and its associated house and cart shed, c.40m north-east of the site, and the parish boundary stone c.110m east. Additionally, the edge of Uffington House Park lies c.115m east of the study area.

2 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of the investigation were:

- To establish the location, nature, extent, date and state of preservation of any archaeological or geo-archaeological deposits or features within the site, to recover any associated objects and to record the surviving evidence.
- To analyse and interpret the site archive and to disseminate the results to promote local and national research objectives.
- To deposit the site archive with the Lincolnshire Museum Service for long term conservation.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

3.1.1 The Evaluation took place between the 26th and 27th October 2015 in compliance with the relevant guidance document of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA, 2014); PCA is an Registered Organisation. The Written Scheme of Investigation for the Evaluation, as approved by the Environment Agency's Archaeologist and Historic Environment officer for Lincolnshire County Council, Jenny Young, who proposed the excavation of two trial trenches which were laid in accordance with this (**Figure 2**).

3.1.2 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 7-ton wheeled mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m-wide toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed alluvium & natural geological deposits where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools.

3.1.3 All exposed deposits/layers were cleaned using hand tools and recorded as set out in the PCA fieldwork manual (Taylor and Brown 2009). Contexts were recorded according to PCAs fieldwork manual approved for use in Lincolnshire, including written, photographic and drawn records.

3.1.4 No archaeological features were identified at the site however a *sondage* was dug into the layers of alluvium to determine their nature.

3.2 Recording Methodology

3.2.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.

3.2.2 Manual plans and section drawings of archaeological features and deposits were drawn at an appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20 or 1:50).

3.2.3 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded utilising PCAs printed *pro forma*.

3.2.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process. Digital Photographs were taken of all archaeological features and deposits.

3.2.5 Artefacts and ecofacts were collected by hand and assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from the site (IfA 2014).

3.3 Post Fieldwork Methodology

3.3.1 English Heritage's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (EH 2006) was used as the framework for post-excavation work.

3.3.2 Only a single find was recovered from the fieldwork phase. This one pottery sherd was submitted for examination by a specialist. The complete Site Archive will be packaged for long-term curation.

In preparing the Site Archive for deposition, all relevant standards and guidelines documents referenced in the Archaeological Archives Forum guidelines document (Brown, 2007) will be adhered to, in particular a well-established United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) document (Walker, UKIC, 1990) and a more recent IfA publication (IfA 2014b). The depositional requirements of the receiving body, in this case the Lincolnshire County Council Museum Service, will be met in full.

3.4 The Contexts

- 3.4.1 A unique context number was assigned to each distinguishable depositional event. Context numbers will be discussed in greater detail in Section 4 and will be given in bold.
- 3.4.2 Five context numbers were allocated in total. One was given to the topsoil, another to the subsoil and three were given to distinct layers; two of these were alluvium and one was a probable natural layer. These are presented in Appendix 1.

4 THE RESULTS

4.1 Natural deposits

4.1.1 The only natural deposit encountered within the trial trenches consisted of a layer of dark orangey mottled grey silty clay (context 104). This was a layer of natural/alluvial clay exposed at the base of Trench 2 where it was machined to a maximum depth of 2m at the eastern end of the trench.

4.2 Alluvial-wash Deposits

4.2.1 Beneath the topsoil (context 100) a subsoil (context 101) was identified, this sealed Context 102, a layer of firm/sticky mid-brown silty clay suggestive of an alluvium deposit. This layer was softer towards the top and more compact towards the base, it was exposed to a max depth of 1m at the northern end of Trench 1.

4.2.3 Trench 2 contained a similar sequence of layers that included the natural clay 104 that was sealed beneath the alluvium context 103, and was very similar to context 102 being a mid-brown silty clay; it was however slightly stickier perhaps due to its location closer to the river. The layer contained a single basal sherd from a Nene Valley Colour Coated vessel dating from the late 3rd-4th century AD. This pottery fragment was heavily abraded and had likely been exposed for some time before it was sealed in this layer of alluvium.

4.2.4 No archaeological features were identified in either trench.

4.3 Finds - Roman Pottery by Kate Anderson (PCA)

4.3.1 The ceramic presented for assessment totalled 1 sherd, weighing 46g, from context 103. The sherd is in an abraded condition with some of the brown slip still in evidence. The pottery sherd is dated to the 4th century on the basis that the base fragment with brown slip, derives from a plain-rimmed dish with external flange (Darling & Precious 2014, 36, fig 29, 226-228)

Fabric code	Fabric group	Fabric details	Sherd	Weight (g)	Total RE %
NVCC	Fine ware	Nene Valley Colour coated dish	1	46	1

4.3.2 **Conclusions:** This single sherd indicates some form of Roman activity in the vicinity of the site potentially from the Roman settlement located to the north of the leat where ditches and potential building evidence is known. This pottery should be deposited with the relevant local museum.

4.3.3 Bibliography

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5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The observation fulfilled the aims and objectives of the archaeological evaluation and no archaeological features were identified. The evaluation observed a sequence of natural formed layers/deposits. A single find identified was located within a layer of alluvium (context **103**).
- 5.2 The only natural deposit to be revealed during trial trenching was a layer of dark orangey mottled grey silty clay **104**.
- 5.3 The only evidence of archaeology came from a single fragment of Roman pottery encountered within a layer of alluvium **103**, within Trench 2.
- 5.4 No archaeological features were identified in either Trench 1 or Trench 2.

6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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<http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pre-construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank the Arcadis Consulting (UK) Ltd for commissioning the work. Additional thanks to Tom Woolhouse & Steve Jones for conducting the evaluation. Also to Kevin Trott of PCA Midlands for managing the site & editing this report. Figures accompanying this report were prepared PCA's CAD department. Additional thanks to Kate Anderson of PCA for the pottery assessment.

PLATE



Plate 1: Shot of Trench 1, facing north-northwest



Plate 2: Shot of Trench 2, facing west



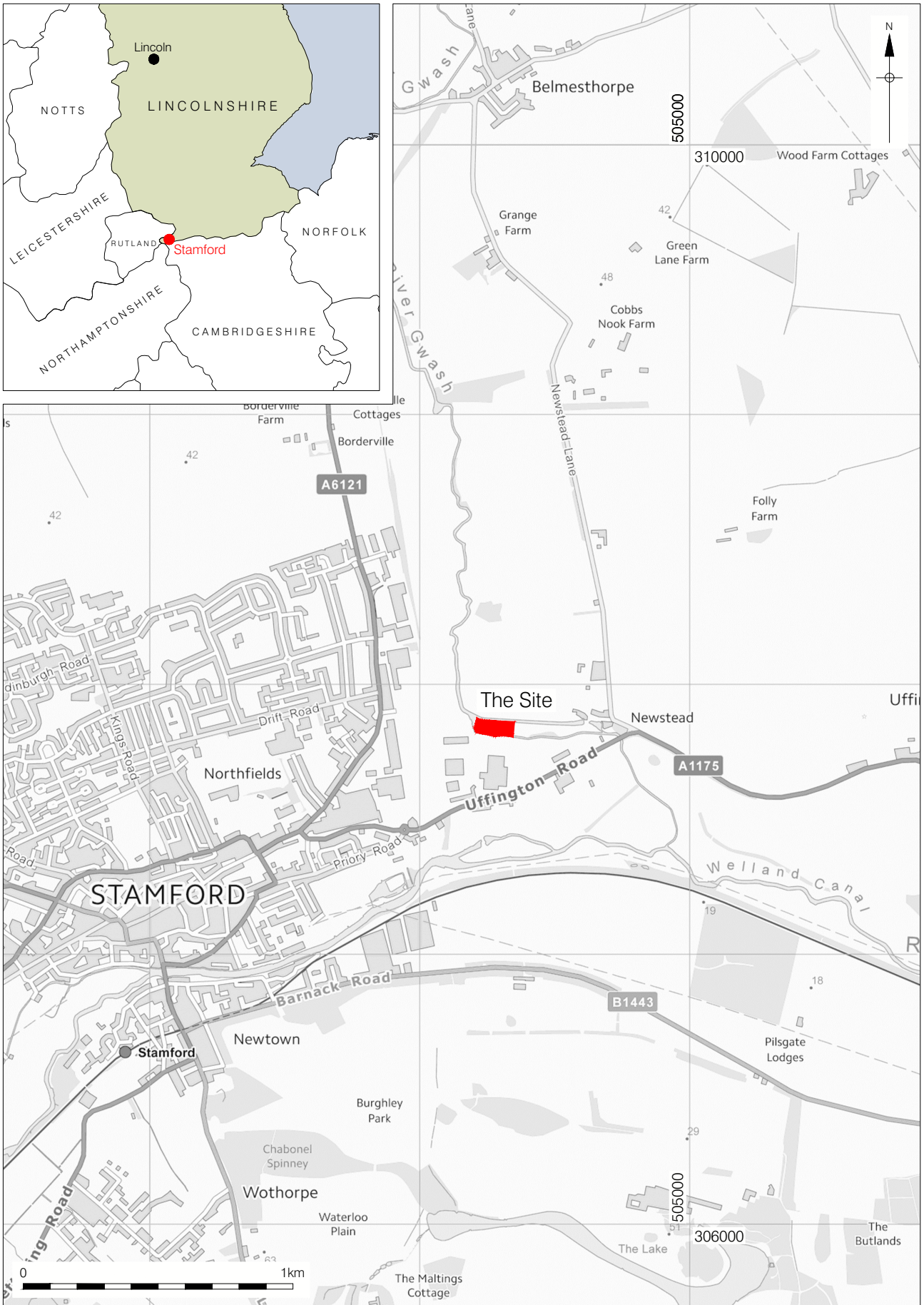
Plate 3: Shot of Trench 1, Section 1, facing east



Plate 4: Shot of Trench 2, Section 2, facing north



Plate 5: Machine on site after backfilling

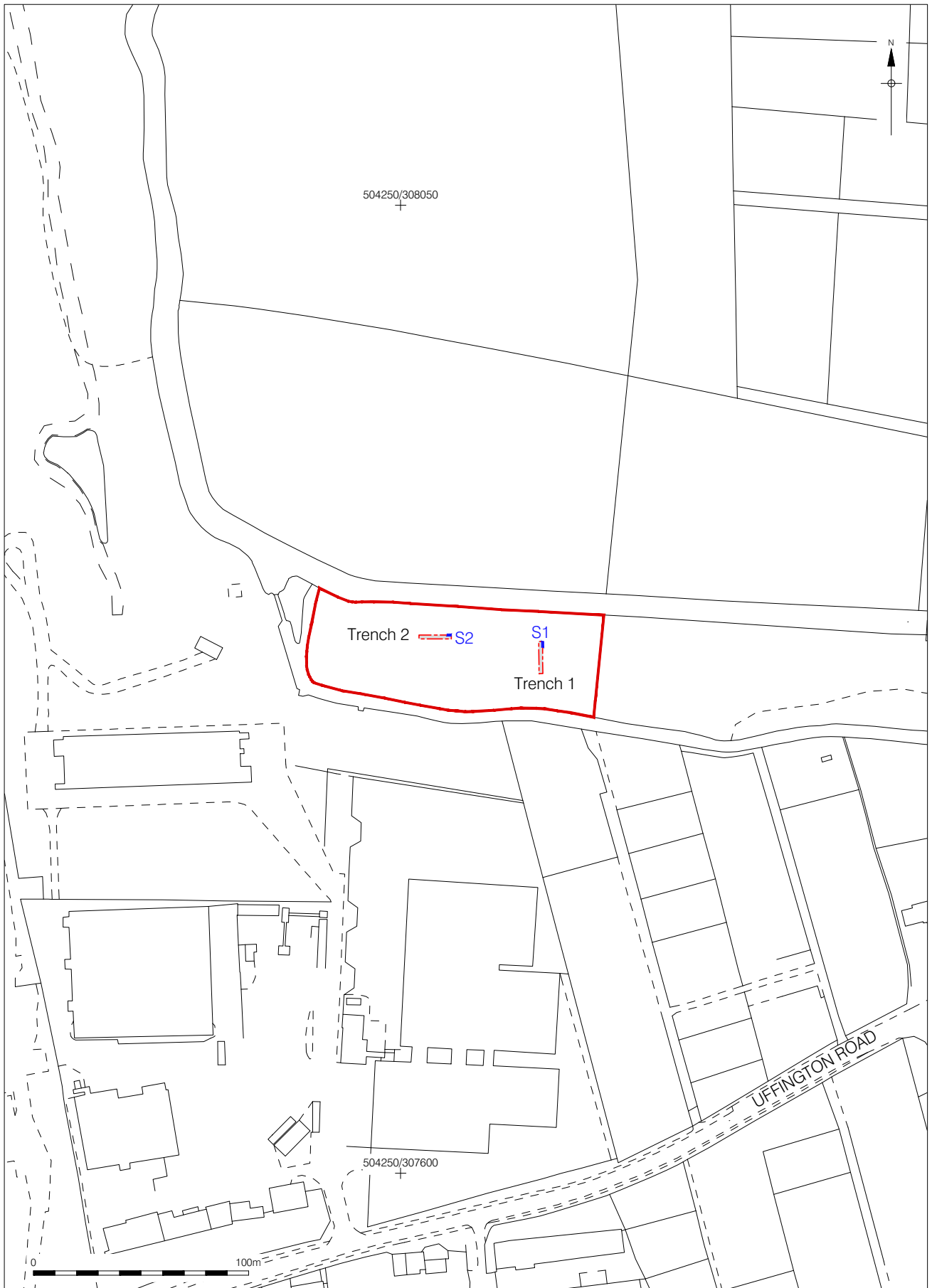


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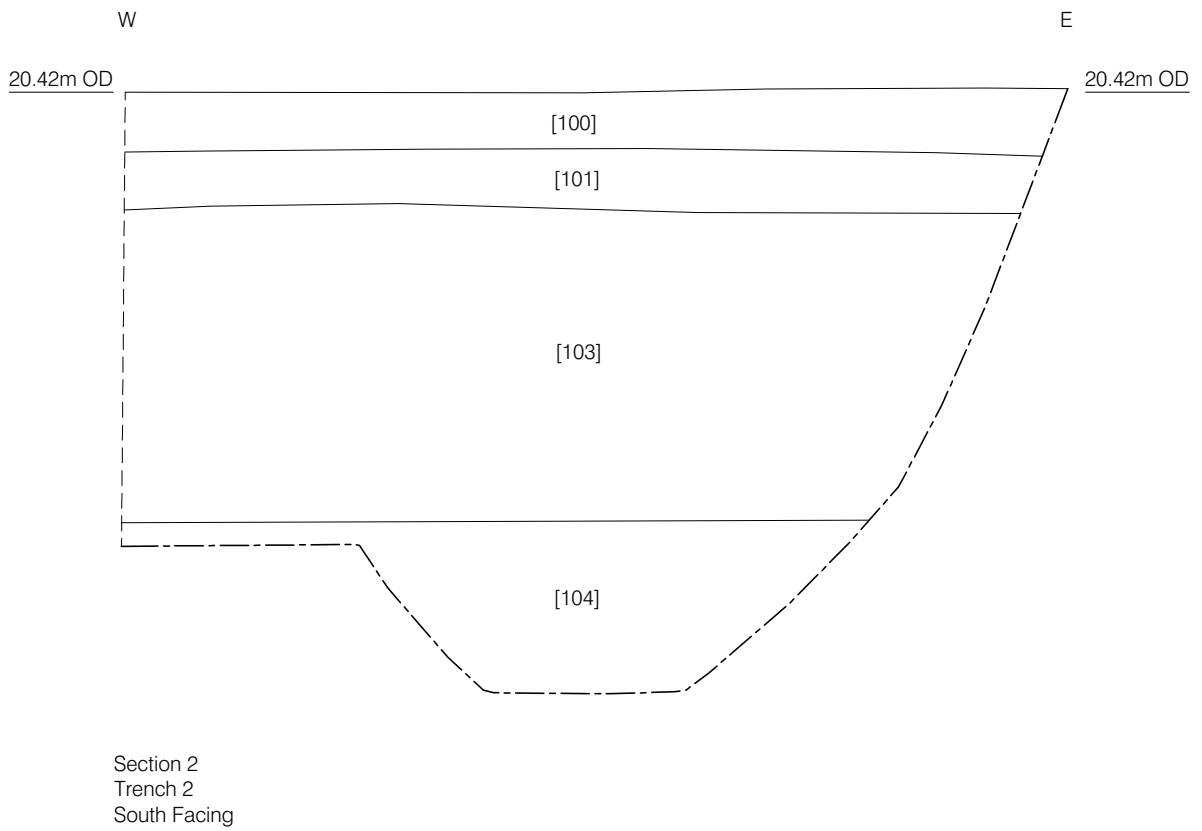
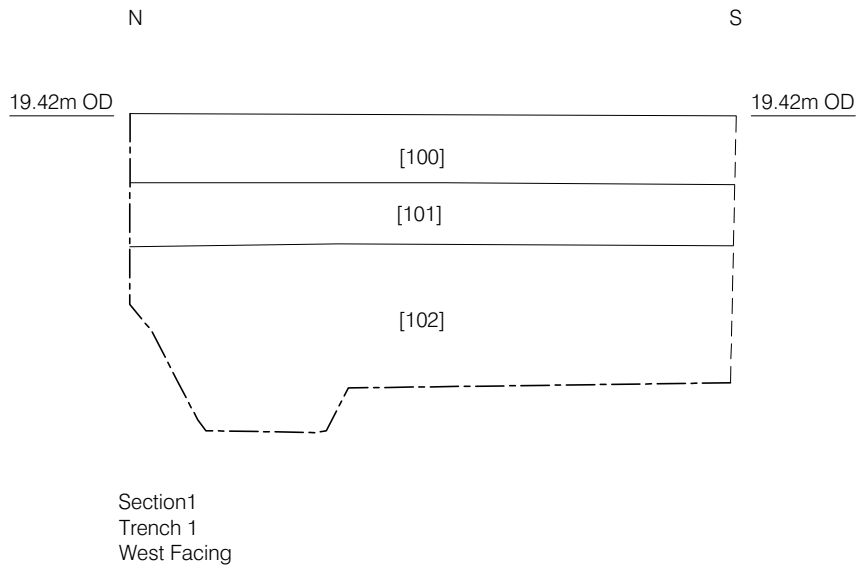
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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:2,000,000 and 20,000 at A4



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Figure 2
Trench Location
1:2,500 at A4



0 1m
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Figure 2
Trench Location
1:25 at A4

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER

Abbreviations: UE means 'unexcavated'; N/A means 'not applicable'; > means 'greater than'; < means 'up to'; Context numbers are followed by a brief description and interpretation; their dimensions in metres (in the order length x width x depth; or diameter x depth); and their critical stratigraphic relationships.

Context	Category	Description			Interpretation	Dimensions (m)	After	Before
		Colour	Texture	Inclusions				
100	Layer	Dark greyish brown	Friable	Common roots (more common in Trench 1 than 2)	Topsoil	c.0.2m deep	101	
101	Layer	Mid slightly greyish brown	Friable	-	Subsoil	c.0.2m deep	102	100
102	Layer	Mid brown	Firm/sticky silty clay	Very occasional roots	Alluvium	0.6m max exposed	103	101
103	Layer	Mid brown	Firm/sticky silty clay	-	Layer of alluvium; very similar to (102)	1.01m deep	101	104
104	Layer	Dark orangey mottled grey	Silty clay	-	Layer of natural clay exposed at base of Trench 2	0.6m exposed	103	103

APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-230420

Project details

Project name	LAND OFF UFFINGTON ROAD, NEWSTEAD, STAMFORD
Short description of the project	This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land off Uffington Road, Newstead, Stamford, Lincolnshire (NGR TF 04511 07818) in October 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by Arcadis Consulting (UK) Ltd as part of permissive works for the Environment Agency. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. No archaeological features were revealed during the evaluation. However a single Roman pottery sherd was discovered in a layer of colluvium fill-wash.
Project dates	Start: 28-10-2015 End: 16-11-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE SOUTH KESTEVEN STAMFORD Land off Uffington Road, Newstead, Stamford, Lincolnshire
Study area	20900 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 04511 07818 52.657645223169 -0.454695127533 52 39 27 N 000 27 16 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project director/manager Kevin Trott

Project supervisor Tom Woolhouse

Type of sponsor/funding body Environment Agency

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Lincolnshire Museum Service

Physical Contents "Ceramics"

Digital Archive recipient Lincolnshire Museum Service

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Text"

Paper Archive recipient Lincolnshire Museum Service

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

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