

**LAND OFF  
STATION ROAD,  
KIRTON,  
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**REPORT ON AN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION**

**Planning Reference: B15/0503;**

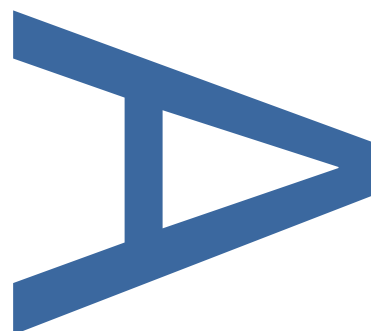
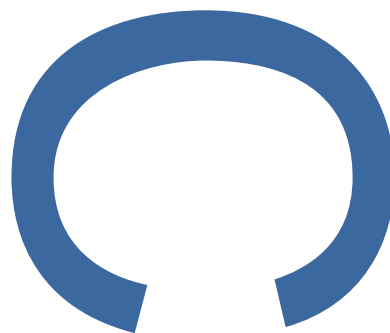
**Appeal Ref:**

**APP/Z2505/W/16/3156914**

**Museum Accession No: 2018.63**

**PCA Report Number: R13299**

**July 2018**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

**DOCUMENT VERIFICATION**

**LAND OFF STATION ROAD,  
KIRTON, LINCOLNSHIRE:**

**REPORT ON AN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

Quality Control

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**Land at Station Road, Kirton, Boston, Lincolnshire:  
Report on an Archaeological Evaluation**

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**Local Planning Authority:** Boston Borough Council

**Central National Grid Reference:** TF 3096 3829

**Planning Reference:** B15/0503; Appeal Ref: APP/Z2505/W/16/3156914

**Site Code:** SRKL18

**Museum Accession No:** LCNCC 2018.63

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July 2018

PCA Report Number: R13299

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## **ABSTRACT**

*This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at Station Road, Kirton, Boston, Lincolnshire (NGR TF 3096 3829). The evaluation was undertaken between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018. The archaeological work was commissioned by D & R Homes (Kirton) Ltd., for whom the Robert Doughty Consultancy Ltd. acts in this matter, and the evaluation took place in anticipation of the construction of a residential development. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.*

*The archaeological evaluation identified ditches dating to the early medieval period; the artefactual evidence recovered indicates a possible early medieval settlement in the vicinity. The ditches identified could relate to the early medieval ditches and postholes that were previously found just to the west of the site. Subsoil was absent across most of the site which could indicate that the site had an agricultural usage in the post-medieval to modern periods.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at Station Road, Kirton, Boston, Lincolnshire (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TF 3096 3829). The evaluation took place from the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018 (**Figures 1 and 2**).

The archaeological work was commissioned by D & R Homes (Kirton) Ltd, for whom the Robert Doughty Consultancy Ltd acts in this matter. The archaeological evaluation was undertaken as a condition of an appealed and granted planning application (application B/15/0503; appeal ref APP/Z2505/W/16/3156914) for the proposed construction of new residential housing.

The archaeological works were carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA 2018) following consultation with the Senior Historic Environment Officer.

The planned archaeological works involved the excavation of six 30m trenches (**Figure 2**).

The aim of the trial trenching evaluation was to identify and record any surviving archaeological remains and/or deposits that may be impacted upon during the proposed development.

The archaeological works sought to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition, and quality of any archaeological remains on the site, to assess the significance of any such remains in a local, regional, or national context, as appropriate, and to assess the potential impact of the development proposals on the site's archaeology.

This report describes the results of the archaeological works. The site archive will be deposited with Lincolnshire County Council Museums Services (The Collection) under archive number LCNCC:2018.63.

## **2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **Geology**

- 2.1.1 The solid geology of the site is West Walton Formation Mudstone and Siltstone of the Jurassic period. This is overlain by superficial Tidal Flat Deposits of clay and silt, deposited up to 2million years ago in the Quaternary period when the local environment was dominated by shorelines (British Geological Survey Viewer, [www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)).
- 2.1.2 Superficial geological deposits across the site consisted of light to mid yellowish brown silt and mid to dark reddish yellow brown silts, sandy silts and silty clay (contexts 1002, 2001, 3001, 4001, 5001, 6001).

### **Topography**

- 2.1.3 The site is comprised of a field with a house and garden at the southern end. It lies on flat level land at c.3.4m OD.

### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 3.1.1 The Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (HER) show that the application site lies within an area of archaeological potential. Prehistoric activity is likely to be deeply buried beneath later alluvium.
- 3.1.2 Roman activity in the area is represented by a single scatter of pottery of the period, found c. 500m east of the investigation site.
- 3.1.3 Evidence of Late Saxon – Saxo-Norman activity has been identified just to the west of the area under investigation. Ditches and postholes that probably represent a structure were identified and date from the 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> centuries. Several pits, some containing large amounts of fresh water mussel shells were identified, together with a number of penannular ditches which may have been for drainage around haystacks. The remains were thought to have been peripheral to habitation of the period. Evidence of Late Saxon and medieval habitation, including posthole structures, pits and ditches, has also been identified about 225m from the Study Site, south of Wash Road. Bozon Hall, first recorded in 1377, was located a short distance to the southeast of the Study Site. Previous investigations in the area, to the south of Wash Road, identified the moat ditch and structures within the confines of the moat.
- 3.1.4 Bozen Hall, just east of the Study Site, is a redeveloped 19<sup>th</sup> century farmstead. Buildings of post-medieval date are mostly located around King Street and London Road in the historic centre of Kirton, at least 250m from the Study Site. Evidence of post-medieval smithing was identified during the investigations at the Bozon Hall site to the southeast.



## 4 PROJECT AIMS AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

### Project Aims

- 4.1.1 The project is 'threat-led' with potential to disturb or destroy important sub-surface archaeological remains, if present. Therefore, the broad aim of the archaeological project was to inform the Local Planning Authority and the Client regarding the character, date, extent and degree of survival of archaeological remains at the site.
- 4.1.2 With the results of the geophysical surveys available, archaeological trial trenching was selected as the next most appropriate investigative tool to test the archaeological potential of the site.
- 4.1.3 Additional aims of the project were:
- To compile a site archive consisting of all site and project documentary and photographic records, as well as all artefactual and palaeoenvironmental material recovered;
  - To compile a report that contains an assessment of the nature and significance of all data categories, stratigraphic, artefactual, etc.

### Research Objectives

*The Archaeology of the East Midlands, An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, Leicester Archaeology Monograph **13**, ed. N Cooper (2006), along with the *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*, ed. D. Knight, B. Vyner & C. Allen (2012) will be referenced for specific research criteria.

The archaeological evaluation addressed the following objectives:

- To record the nature, extent, date, character, quality, significance and state of preservation of any archaeological remains affected by the investigation;
- To assess where appropriate any ecofactual and palaeo-environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features from within the site.

In addition, the evaluation sought to address the following research questions:

- To set the site and its potential archaeological remains into the context of the wider landscape;
- To confirm the presence or absence of any prehistoric activity;
- To confirm the presence or absence of any Romano-British activity;
- To confirm the presence or absence of any Saxon activity;
- To confirm the presence or absence of any medieval activity;

- To confirm the presence or absence of post-medieval activity relating to the wider settlement of Kirton.

## 5 METHODOLOGY

### Fieldwork Methodology

- 5.1.1 The Evaluation took place from 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> May 2018 compliance with the relevant guidance document of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a); PCA is a CIfA registered organisation (No. 23) and operates within the Institute's 'Code of Conduct'. The evaluation trenches were laid out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation, as accepted by the Senior Historic Environment Officer (**Figure 2**).
- 5.1.2 All trial trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision using a JCB 3CX excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Deposits were removed in spits to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon, or the clearly defined top of the natural substratum, whichever was reached first. Sondages were machine-excavated in each trench to confirm the depth and nature of natural deposits. All potential archaeological features were identified and marked at the time of machine clearance of overburden.
- 5.1.3 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 in accordance with PCA's fieldwork manual approved for use in Lincolnshire, including written, photographic and drawn records.
- 5.1.4 Discrete features such as pits and postholes were at least 50% excavated and, where considered appropriate, 100% excavated.

### Recording Methodology

- 5.1.5 The trench locations were established using a survey grade differential GPS.
- 5.1.6 Manual plans and section drawings of archaeological features and deposits were drawn at an appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20 or 1:50).
- 5.1.7 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*.
- 5.1.8 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process. Digital Photographs were taken of all archaeological features and deposits.
- 5.1.9 All finds encountered 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 (CIfA 2014b).

### Post-Fieldwork Methodology

- 5.1.10 Historic England's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers Guide (HE 2015) was used as the framework for post-excavation work.
- 5.1.11 The stratigraphic data for the project comprises written, drawn and photographic records. A total of 23 archaeological contexts were defined within the six trenches. Post-excavation work involved checking and collating site records, and phasing the stratigraphic data (**Appendix 1**). A written summary of the archaeological finds was then compiled, as described in Section 6 with a discussion and chronological sequencing of the site in Section 7.
- 5.1.12 The artefactual material from the evaluation comprised a small assemblage of ceramic material, animal bone and mollusc shells. Specialist examination of these finds was undertaken and relevant comments integrated into Section 6, with reports in **Appendices 3 to 5**. Finds determined to be of archaeological significance or of use to further research will be retained.
- 5.1.13 No other categories of organic or inorganic artefactual material were represented. None of the material recovered during the evaluation required specialist stabilisation or an assessment of its potential for conservation research.
- 5.1.14 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, the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) document (Walker 1990) and the relevant ClfA publication (ClfA 2014b). The depositional requirements of the body (The Collection) to which the Site Archive will be ultimately transferred will be met in full.

## 6 THE RESULTS

*During the archaeological evaluation, separate stratigraphic entities were assigned unique and individual 'context' numbers, which are indicated in the following text as, for example (context 123).*

### Natural deposits

6.1.1 As discussed in Section 2, natural deposits across the site consisted of light to mid yellowish brown silt and mid to dark reddish yellow brown silts, sandy silts and silty clay (contexts 1002, 2001, 3001, 4001, 5001, 6001).

### Additional deposits

6.1.2 Topsoil across the site consisted of a moderately compact mid greyish brown to mid to dark brown silt and silty clay (contexts 1000, 2000, 3000, 4000, 5000, 6000).

6.1.3 At the northern end of the site, above the natural and underlying the topsoil in trench 6 was a subsoil deposit consisting of firm mid yellowish brown silt (**1001**).

### Trench 1

6.1.4 Two features truncated the natural (**1002**) near the southern end of the trench. The southernmost of these was a linear ditch [**1003**] measuring 0.75m wide by 0.26m deep, extending in length through the width of the trench, oriented on a northeast to southwest alignment with straight sides and a moderately flat base. This was filled with firm mid greyish brown silt (**1004**) containing occasional shell fragments. This fill contained two fragments of late tenth to early eleventh-century pottery and two fragments of cattle bone. Environmental sampling of this deposit revealed quantities of charred barley and wheat grains and a few weed seeds, bones of mouse, newt and small fish, bird (probably chicken and goose) eggshell, and snail shells indicative of open grassland (Appendix 5).

- 6.1.5 To the north of ditch [1003] was a linear ditch [1005] measuring 1.25m wide by 0.18m deep, extending through the width of the trench on a northwest to southeast alignment with moderately steep concave sides and a concave base. Both sections of this feature were recorded as they showed a slightly different sequence of deposits. In Section 5 the basal fill of this feature comprised moderately compact mid brown silty clay (1006), up to 0.10m thick, with orange mottle and occasional charcoal flecks. This fill contained cattle, sheep and pig bone. The second fill in this sequence comprised 0.10m thick mid brownish orange silty clay (1007) with occasional charcoal flecks. The uppermost fill consisted of moderately compact dark grey silty clay (1009), up to 0.15m thick with frequent charcoal fleck inclusions. This deposit contained medieval pottery sherds dating to the late tenth to eleventh century and a single fragment of sheep bone. In Section 10 the basal fill of this feature comprised firm mid brown silty clay (1011), up to 0.14m thick with orange mottle and occasional charcoal flecks. This deposit is probably the same as (1006) identified in Section 5. This was overlain by deposit (1010) which comprised firm to friable, mid to dark greyish brown silt, up to 0.30m thick containing frequent charcoal and shell fragments. This deposit contained similar pottery and animal bone to the finds in (1009) which dates these deposits to the medieval period. Environmental sampling of (1010) recovered quantities of charred barley and wheat grains and weed seeds, pulses (pea and bean), bones of rodents, frog/toad, eel, herring and small fish, bird (probably chicken and goose) eggshell, and snail shells indicative of open grassland (Appendix 5).
- 6.1.6 Both of these features were overlain by a sequence of 0.14m thick subsoil (1001) and topsoil (1000) up to 0.30m thick.

## Trench 2

- 6.1.7 A single feature was identified truncating the natural in Trench 2. This was a wide, shallow linear ditch [2002] or furrow, measuring 1.08m wide by 0.31m deep with concave sides, on a northwest to southeast alignment. This feature contained a single fill comprising soft dark grey silty sand (2003) with charcoal flecks. A single sherd of pottery dating to the mid-eleventh to twelfth century and one piece of fired clay were recovered from this deposit, as well as sheep, cattle, pig and goose bone fragments. The goose bone found in this deposit had possibly been modified for use as a musical instrument (see Appendix 4).
- 6.1.8 Ditch [2002] was overlain by 0.46m thick topsoil (context 2000).

## Trench 3

- 6.1.9 Sealing the natural (3001), was a 0.38m thick topsoil deposit (3000).
- 6.1.10 No archaeological features were observed in this trench.

## Trench 4

6.1.11 The natural deposit (**4001**) was overlain by topsoil (**4000**) of 0.40m thickness.

6.1.12 No archaeological finds or features were identified in Trench 4.

#### **Trench 5**

6.1.13 A sequence of natural (**5001**) sealed by 0.31m thick topsoil (**5000**) was recorded in Trench 5.

6.1.14 Trench 5 contained no archaeological finds or features.

#### **Trench 6**

6.1.15 Natural silts (**6001**) in Trench 6 were sealed by a 0.38m thick deposit of topsoil (**6000**).

6.1.16 No archaeological finds or features were observed in this trench.

## **7 DISCUSSION – THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE**

The archaeological sequence is described by placing stratigraphic sequences within broad phases, assigned on a site-wide basis in this case. An attempt has been made to add interpretation to the data, and correlate these phases with recognised historical and geological periods.

### **Summary**

7.1.1 The archaeological evaluation identified three boundary ditches which have all been dated to the early medieval period. The characteristics of the artefacts recovered during the evaluation indicate a possible settlement nearby. No evidence dating to the prehistoric, Romano-British, Saxon, post-medieval or modern periods was recovered.

### **Phase 1: Natural sub-stratum**

7.1.2 Phase 1 represents natural geological material exposed within all three trenches. This consisted of brown silty clay, recognisable as Tidal Flat Deposits of clay and silt, deposited in the Quaternary period.

7.1.3 The boundary between the natural and the overlying subsoil was vague and diffuse, with greyish streaking around it. This is probably caused by a fluctuating water table that has led to some gleying of the deposits. This, in turn, has homogenised the deposits leaving the transition between them vague.

### **Phase 2: Medieval to post-medieval**

7.1.4 Three shallow ditches were identified on the site, two in trench 1 and one in trench 2. Early medieval pottery with a date range from the late tenth to mid-twelfth century was recovered from all these features. Fragments of cattle, sheep/goat, pig and goose bone were also found within these features; the deposition of food waste in the area is evident from the mixed nature of the bone assemblage and butchery marks on one of the bones (see Appendix 4). Two of the ditches [1005] and [2002] with a northwest-southeast orientation, were parallel to one another, with the other northeast-southwest aligned ditch [1003] perpendicular to the other two. The ditches in trench 1 form a projected 90° angle to the east of the trench and are possibly part of the same enclosure system. The pottery recovered from these ditches indicates that the features all date to the early medieval period.

7.1.5 The features and associated artefacts provide evidence for early medieval activity in the area. The presence of un-abraded pottery and the mixed assemblage of animal bone within the ditches points to a possible settlement nearby. The linear features could be field boundaries, indicating a former agricultural usage of the site.

### **Phase 3: Modern**



7.1.6 Topsoil provided the modern ground surface across most of the site, with subsoil being present only in the northernmost part of the site. This absence of subsoil may indicate that the site had an agricultural usage in the post-medieval to modern periods, with ploughing extending to the surface of the natural deposits. The site is located in an area of undeveloped land and no evidence for modern disturbance was observed in any of the trenches.

## **8 CONCLUSIONS**

- 8.1.1 The observation fulfilled the aims of the archaeological evaluation and recovered evidence for activity possibly associated with settlement in the area during the early medieval period. The features observed are likely to have been located on the edge of or outside a habitation area, indicating possible occupation in the vicinity. These Saxo-Noman remains were restricted to the northern part of the site
- 8.1.2 Natural deposits on the site generally consisted of brownish silty clay, identifiable as marine alluvium.
- 8.1.3 There is potential for further work to be undertaken in the northern area of the site, around trenches 1 and 2 in the northern part of the site where the features were observed. Any future work will be decided at the discretion of the Senior Historic Environment Officer.

## **9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank the Robert Doughty Consultancy for commissioning the work on behalf of D & R Homes (Kirton) Ltd. The investigation was supervised by the author. Gary Taylor of PCA Newark managed the site and edited this report. Figures accompanying this report were prepared by PCA's CAD department. Thanks are due to Jane Young and Charlotte Bentley for the specialist report on the ceramics; Kevin Rielly for the specialist report on the animal bone; and James Rackham for the specialist report on the environmental archaeology samples.

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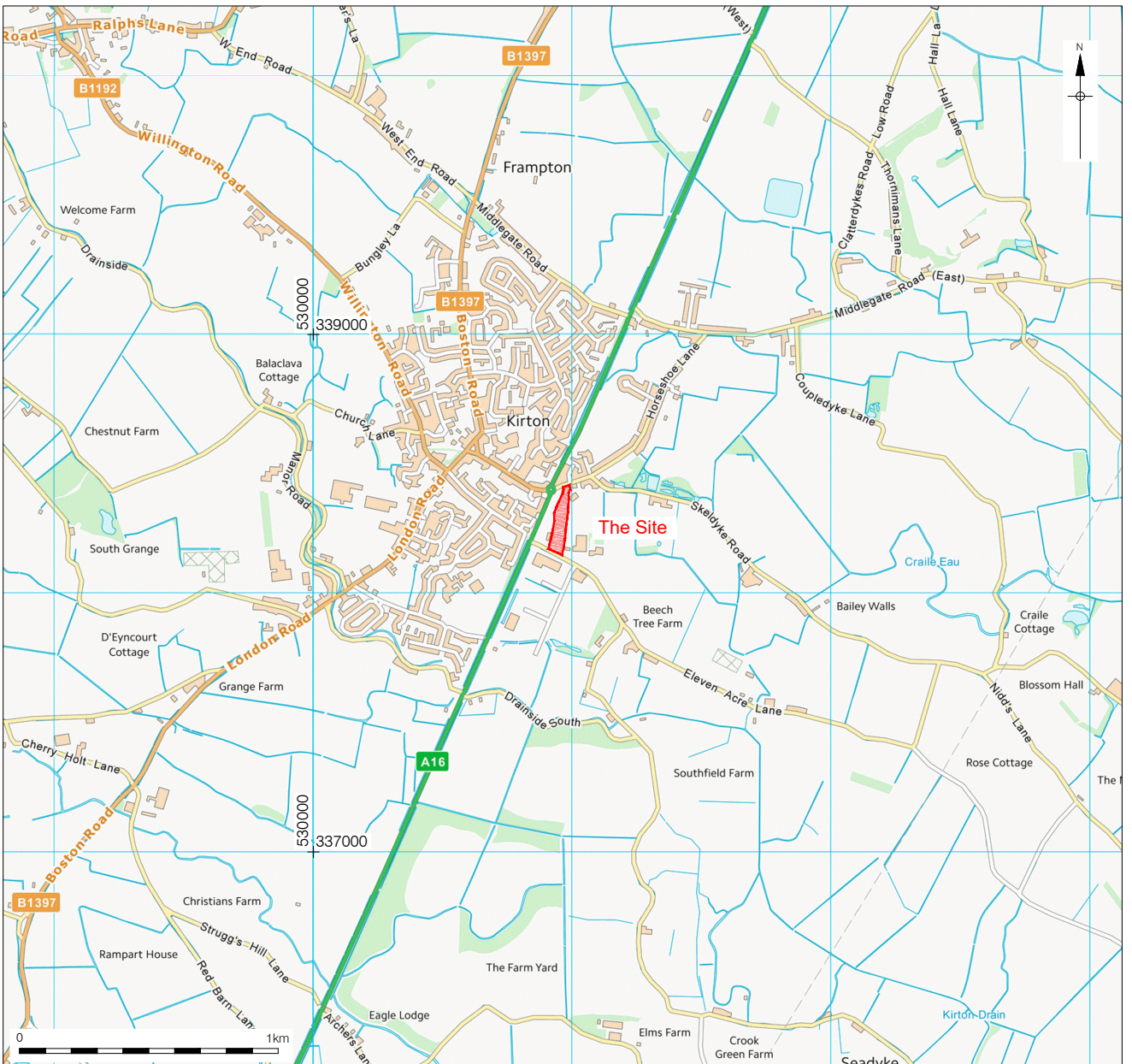
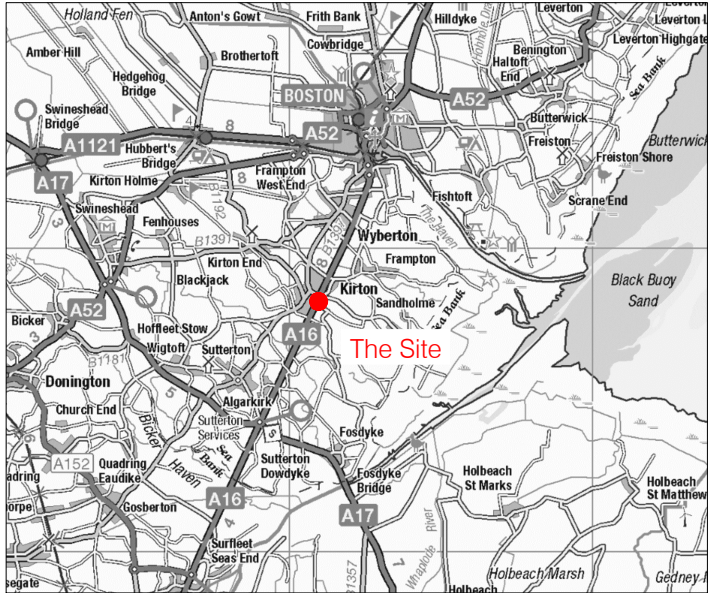
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Accessed on 05/04/2018



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 11/06/18 AT

Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:2,000,000; 250,000 & 25,000 at A4

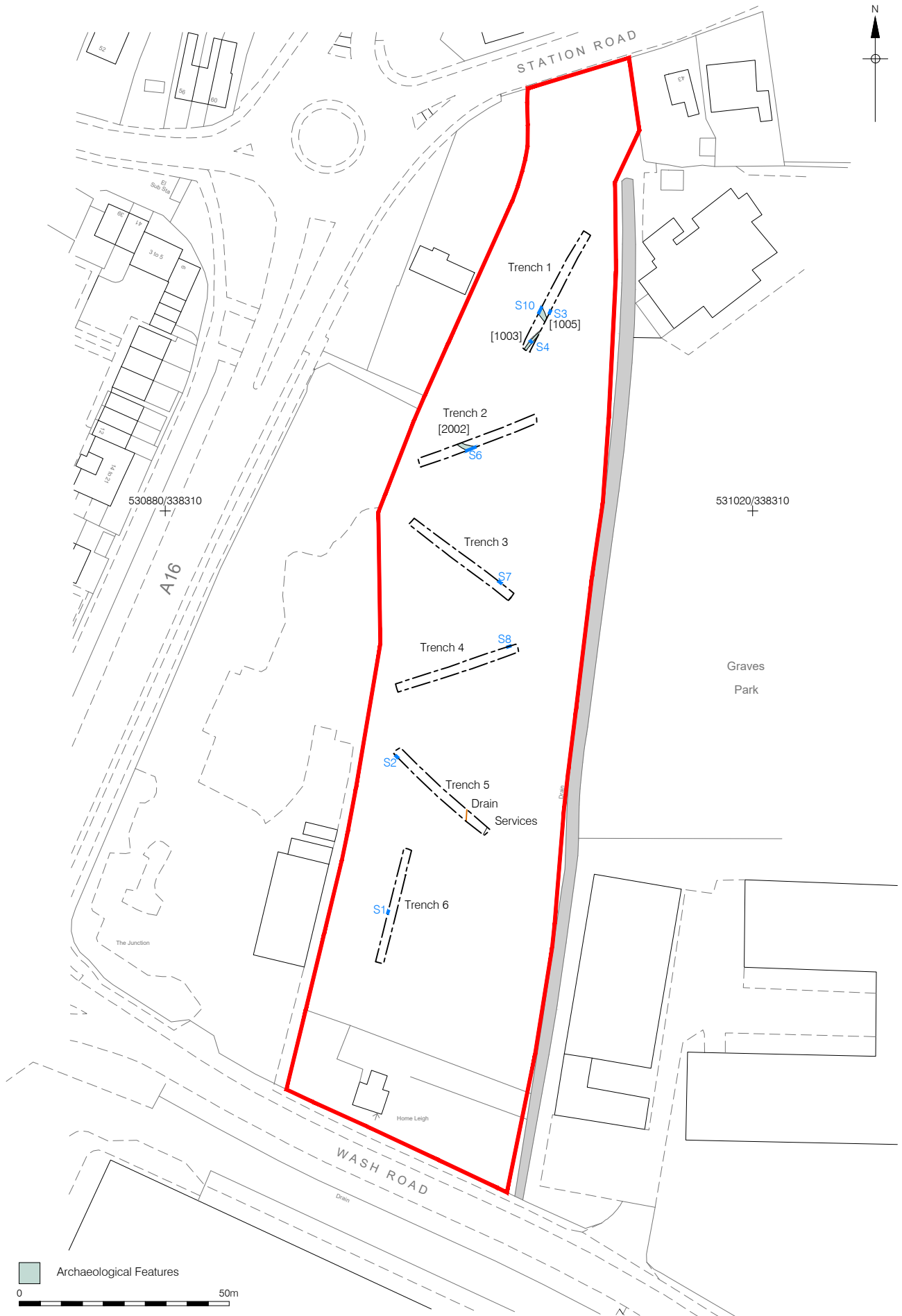
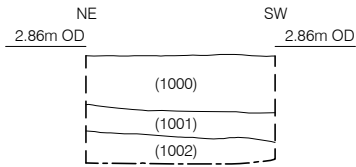
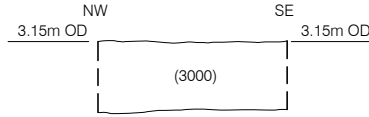


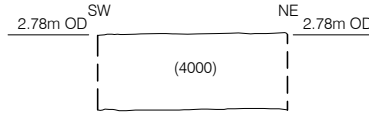
Figure 2  
 Trench Location  
 1:1,250 at A4



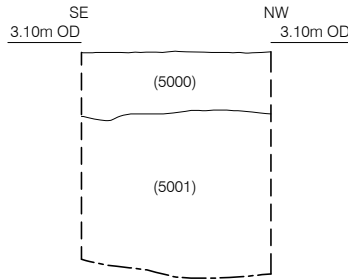
Section 3  
North West facing  
Trench 1



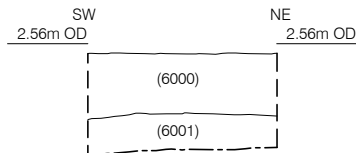
Section 7  
South West facing  
Trench 3



Section 8  
South East facing  
Trench 4



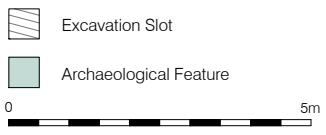
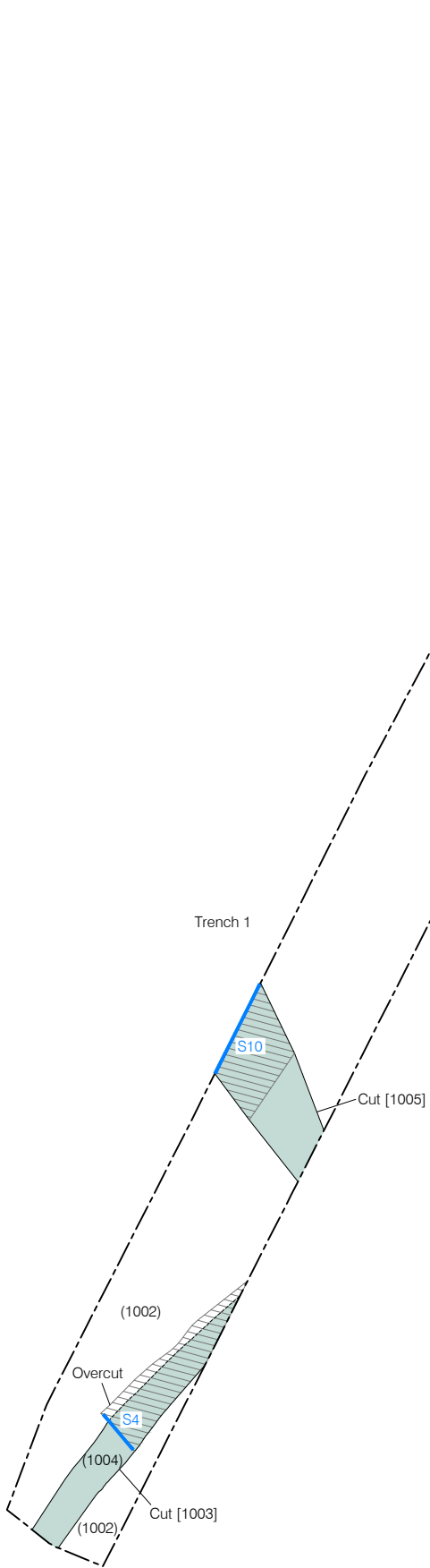
Section 2  
North East facing  
Trench 5



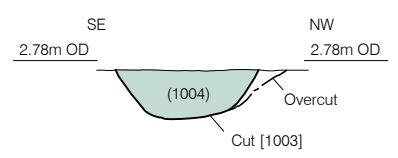
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Trench 6



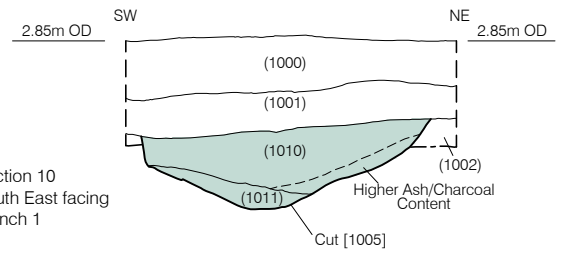




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Section 4  
North East facing  
Trench 1

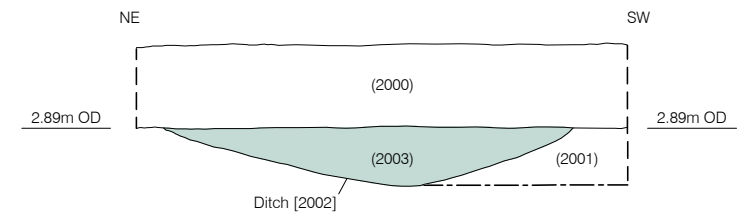
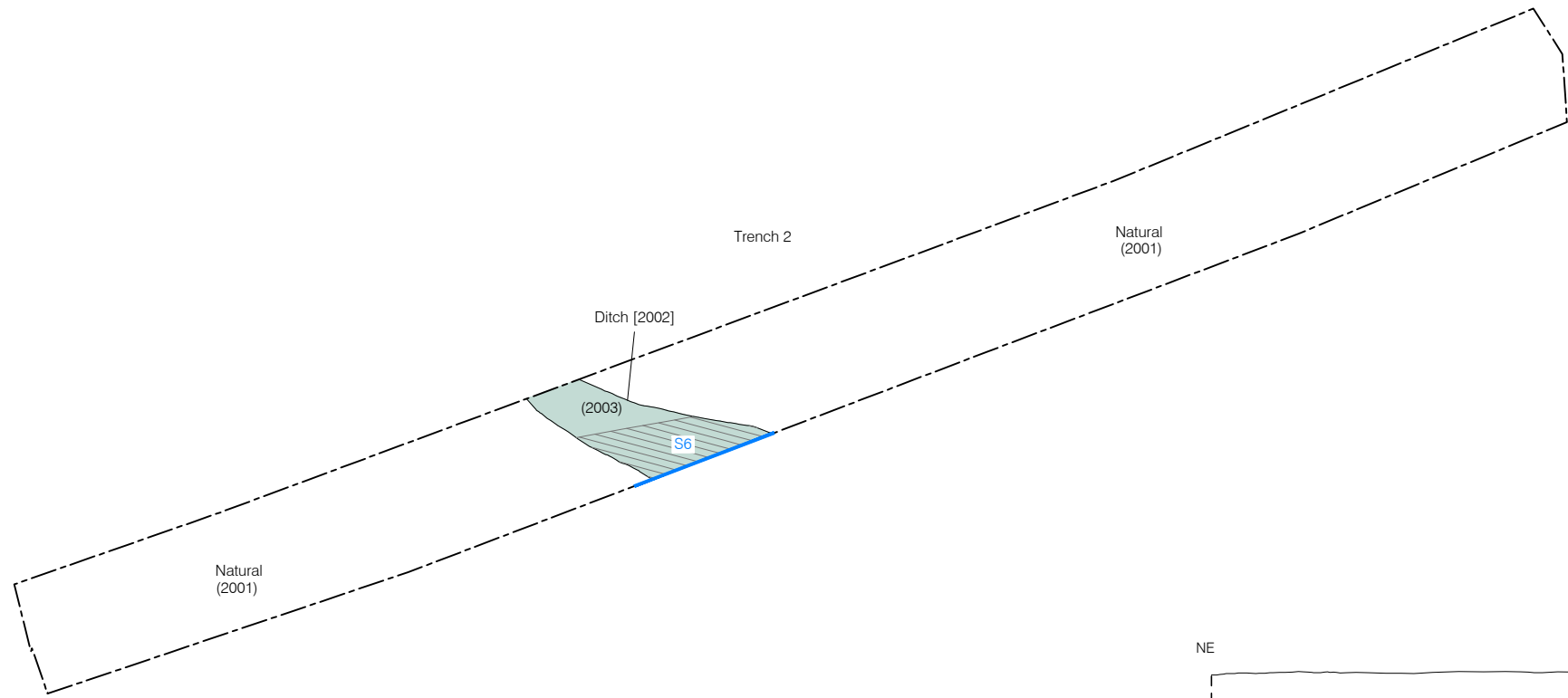


Section 10  
South East facing  
Trench 1



Figure 4  
Plans and Sections of [1003] and [1005] in Trench 1  
1:125 and 1:40 at A4





Section 6  
North West facing  
Trench 2



-  Excavation Slot
-  Archaeological Feature



Figure 5  
Plans and Sections of [2002] in Trench 2  
1:125 and 1:40 at A4

## Appendix 1: Context Index

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)	Above	Below	Trench
		Colour	Texture and Composition	Inclusions					
1000	Layer	Mid greyish brown	Firm silt	-	Topsoil	0.3m deep	1001	-	1
1001	Layer	Mid yellowish brown	Firm silt	-	Subsoil	0.14m deep	1004, 1009	1001	1
1002	Layer	Light yellowish brown	Firm silt	-	Natural	-	-	1003, 1005	1
1003	Cut	Linear cut oriented on a northeast to southwest alignment with straight sides breaking gradually to a flat base			Ditch cut, possibly forming part of an enclosure?	0.75m wide x 0.26m deep	1002	1004	1
1004	Fill	Mid greyish brown	Firm silt	Rare shell fragments	Fill of 1003	0.26m deep	1003	1001	1
1005	Cut	Linear cut oriented on a northwest to southeast alignment with moderately concave sides and concave base			Ditch cut, possibly forming part of an enclosure?	1.25m wide x 0.33m deep	1006	1002	1

1006	Fill	Mid brown with orange mottle	Moderately compact silty clay	Occasional charcoal flecks	Fill of 1005	0.10m deep	1007	1005	1
1007	Fill	Mid brownish orange	Moderately compact silty clay	Occasional charcoal flecks	Fill of 1005	0.08m deep	1009	1006	2
1008	VOID								
1009	Fill	Dark grey	Moderately compact silty clay	Moderate charcoal flecks	Fill of 1005	0.15m deep	1007	1001	1
1010	Fill	Mid to dark greyish brown	Silt	Frequent charcoal flecks and shell fragments	Fill of 1005	0.30m deep	1011	1001	1
1011	Fill	Light to mid brownish orange	Firm silty clay	Occasional charcoal flecks	Fill of 1005	0.14m deep	1005	1010	1
2000	Layer	Dark brown	Soft silty clay	-	Topsoil	0.46m deep	2003	-	2
2001	Layer	Mid to dark brownish red	Soft silty sand	-	Natural	-	-	2002	2
2002	Cut	Linear cut with shallow concave sides oriented on a northwest to southeast orientation			Shallow ditch or furrow	1.08m wide x 0.31m deep	2001	2003	2
2003	Fill	Dark grey	Soft silty sand	Moderate charcoal flecks	Fill of 2002	0.31m deep	2002	2000	2

3000	Layer	Mid brown	Soft silty clay	-	Topsoil	0.38m deep	3001	-	3
3001	Layer	Mid yellowish reddish brown	Sandy silt	-	Natural	-	-	3000	3
4000	Layer	Mid brown	Soft silty clay	-	Topsoil	0.40m deep	4001	-	4
4001	Layer	Dark reddish yellowish brown	Silty clay	-	Natural	-	-	4000	4
5000	Layer	Dark greyish brown	Friable silt	-	Topsoil	0.31m deep	5001	-	5
5001	Layer	Mid yellowish brown	Firm silt	-	Natural	-	-	5000	5
6000	Layer	Mid greyish brown	Friable silt	-	Topsoil	0.35m deep	6001	-	6
6001	Layer	Light to mid yellowish brown	Friable silt	-	Natural	-	-	6000	6

## Appendix 2: Site Photographs



**Plate 1:** General view of the site, looking north.



**Plate 2:** Trench 1 looking north, showing ditch [1003] with a northeast-southwest alignment and ditch [1005] with a northwest-southeast alignment.





**Plate 3:** Representative section of trench 1, looking east, showing the topsoil, subsoil and natural deposits.



**Plate 4:** Northeast-facing section of ditch [1003].





**Plate 5:** Northwest-facing section of ditch [1005] in trench 1.



**Plate 6:** Trench 2 looking southwest, showing northwest-southeast aligned ditch [2002] in the middle distance.





**Plate 7:** Representative section of trench 2, showing the topsoil and natural deposits.



**Plate 8:** Northwest-facing section of ditch [2002], overlain by topsoil.





**Plate 9:** Trench 6, looking north.



**Plate 10:** Representative section of trench 6, looking west, showing the topsoil and natural deposits.

## Appendix 3: Report on the Pottery and Fired Clay

Jane Young and Charlotte Bentley

### Introduction

In total, ten sherds of pottery representing five vessels and two pieces of fired clay were submitted for examination. The pottery is entirely of Saxo-Norman type. The assemblage was quantified by three measures: number of sherds, weight and vessel count within each context. Fabric identification of the pottery was undertaken by x 20 binocular microscope. The ceramic data was entered on an Access database using fabric codenames agreed locally and nationally. Recording of the assemblage was in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski, *et al.* (2001) and. complies with the Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeological Handbook* (sections 13.4 and 13.5).

### Condition

The pottery is in a fairly fresh condition with sherd size falling into the small to medium size range (below 50 grams). The fired clay however is in a very abraded but stable condition.

### Overall pottery Chronology and Source

Two post-Roman pottery ware types were identified; the type and general date range for these fabrics are shown in Table 1. The post-Roman pottery is entirely of Saxo-Norman type dating to between the late 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries. A limited range of vessel types was recovered including examples of jar, dish and jar/pitcher.

**Table 1: Pottery codenames and date ranges with total quantities by sherd and vessel count**

codename	full name	earliest date	latest date	total sherds	total vessels
SLSNT	South Lincolnshire St. Neots-type	980	1100	9	4
ST	Stamford Ware	970	1200	1	1

### Saxo-Norman

Nine sherds are from four vessels in South Lincolnshire St. Neots type ware (SLSNT). These vessels are tempered with dense fine to medium crushed fossil oyster shell. Visually the fabric looks like St. Neots ware, however under x20 microscopic examination, it lacks the distinctive shell temper of the Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Oxford wares and is more likely to be a Lincolnshire or, less possibly, a Norfolk product. Two vessels can be identified as small jars and one as a large shallow dish. Currently evidence from other sites in the local area suggests the type is thought to date to between the late 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> centuries.

A single sherd of Stamford ware was found on the site. The unglazed sherd is from a mid/late 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century jar or pitcher in Fabric B.

### **Fired Clay**

Two small and very abraded fragments of fired clay were recovered from the site. The fired clay is in an oxidised fine micaceous fabric. One piece can be identified as daub with a c. 18mm wattle impression whilst the other is a formless lump.

### **The Site Sequence**

Ceramic material was recovered from four deposits on the site. Ditch **1003** (fill **1004**) produced two small South Lincolnshire St. Neots type ware sherds from a small jar and an unidentified form. The vessels are of late 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> century date. Seven sherds of pottery and a very abraded piece of daub were recovered from two fills of ditch **1005** (fills **1009** and **1010**). The seven sherds come from a small jar and a shallow dish in South Lincolnshire St. Neots type ware. The recovered forms may suggest a pre-conquest late 10<sup>th</sup> to mid 11<sup>th</sup> century date but little is known about the chronological sequence of this ware type. Ditch **2002** (fill **2003**) produced an un-glazed Stamford ware sherd from a mid/late 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century jar or pitcher in Fabric B and a very abraded piece of un-diagnostic fired clay.

### **Summary and Recommendations**

This is a small group of post-Roman pottery that suggests late 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century activity in the local area. The Saxo-Norman material is similar to that recovered from other sites in Kirton and also at Old Leake and Wrangle.

The assemblage is in a stable condition and should be kept for future study, especially as part of any characterisation of the fabrics for a type series.

## References

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Slowikowski, A. Nenk, B. and Pearce, J. 2001. *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*. Medieval Pottery Research Group, Occasional Paper 2.



## **Appendix 4: Report on the Animal Bone**

Kevin Rielly, June 2018

### **Introduction**

The area of investigation covers an area sum 260m north to south and 50m west to east, abutting Station Road to the north and Wash Road to the south, located at the eastern perimeter of Kirton, running parallel and just to the east of the A16. In more general terms it lies some 5km west of The Wash and about 3km south-west of Boston. The excavations included a series of 6 30m strip trenches, situated across the study area, which revealed evidence for early medieval activity. This activity and indeed the animal bone collection were limited to the northern part of the area i.e. taken from trenches 1 and 2. All of the bones were hand collected.

### **Methodology**

The bone was recorded to species/taxonomic category where possible and to size class in the case of unidentifiable bones such as ribs, fragments of longbone shaft and the majority of vertebra fragments. Recording follows the established techniques whereby details of the element, species, bone portion, state of fusion, wear of the dentition, anatomical measurements and taphonomic including natural and anthropogenic modifications to the bone were registered. A concerted effort was undertaken to refit as many bones as possible, noting the actual number of fragments prior to refitting.

### **Description of faunal assemblage**

The site provided a total of 27 animal bones, this reducing to 17 fragments following refitting. Most of the bones were 25-50% complete and were generally minimally fragmented apart from a cattle mandible and a sheep horncore, both from (1006) which were originally (before refitting) composed of 8 and 3 fragments respectively. This collection was also in a rather good state of preservation, a few fragments displaying some minor root damage.

Dating evidence was supplied by 4 out of the 5 contexts with animal bones, or 3 out of the 4 deposits in Trench 1 as well as the single deposit in Trench 2. These include the fills (1004) and (1010) dated between the 10<sup>th</sup> and mid 11<sup>th</sup> centuries and one slightly earlier fill (1009) dated between the late 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> centuries, (1004) derived from ditch [1003] and the others from ditch [1005], all potentially part of an enclosure system. The remaining undated deposit from Trench 1, (1006) was also taken from [1005] and could then be roughly contemporary with (1009) and (1010). This has been assumed to be the case in the bone distribution by species shown in Table 1, classifying all the Trench 1 bones

as early medieval. Those from (2003) in ditch [2002] (another potential enclosure ditch) are dated 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> century, again approximately within the same period.

The bones recovered from these two trenches are principally composed of cattle, sheep/goat and pig with the inclusion of a single goose fragment. Each of the former species provided a mix of parts suggesting the deposition of general processing and food waste. These were all taken from adult animals with the exception of a cattle mandible from (1006) which represented a veal aged calf. Butchery was limited to a chopped cattle-size rib, while there were just two measurable bones, a cattle scapula from (1006) and a sheep/goat tibia from (2003). The goose bone, an ulna, had two holes cut into the shaft, one above the other, this item possibly representing a musical instrument of some sort.

### **Conclusion and recommendations for further work**

This is a rather small collection considering the extent of the excavations. There is obviously some potential for further excavation within the northern part of the site, the few bones recovered suggestive of general food waste perhaps taken from some nearby early medieval settlement. The condition of the bones certainly suggests that more bones will be recovered following further work in this area, their state also indicative of the likely preservation of smaller bones and the potential value of including a sampling strategy alongside the general hand recovery. Considering the quantities so far recovered, it cannot be expected that further work will provide more than a moderately sized collection.

The value of further faunal studies in this general area is clearly highlighted by the absence of any nearby reasonably sized comparable/contemporary collections, here referring to other rural sites. Otherwise moderate to large quantities of animal bones from Late Saxon-medieval levels have been found at Wragby to the north (10km east of Lincoln) and also from Baston near Peterborough some distance to the south (Jones and Ruben 1987 and Dobney 2003, with information taken from Albarella and Pirnie 2008).

### **References**

**Albarella, U, and Pirnie, T, 2008 A Review of Animal Bone Evidence from Central England.**

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**Dobney, K, 2003 Animal bone, in G, Taylor, Hall Farm, Baston, Lincolnshire: Investigation of a Late Saxon Village and Medieval Manorial Complex, Lincolnshire Hist. Archaeol. 38, 31-2.**

**Jones, R, T, and Ruben, I, 1987 Animal bones, with some notes on the effects of differential sampling, in G, Beresford, Goltho: the development of an early medieval manor c 850-1150, English Heritage Archaeological Reports 4. HBMCE, 197-206**

<b>Feature:</b>	<b>1003</b>	<b>1005</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>Species</b>				
Cattle	2	3	1	6
Equid		1		1
Cattle-size		1	2	3
Sheep/Goat			1	1
Sheep		1		1
Pig		1	1	2
Sheep-size		2		2
Goose			1	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>

Table 1: The distribution of animal bones by 'period,' feature and species.

## Appendix 5: Environmental Archaeology Assessment

James Rackham

Evaluation excavations conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology at Station Road, Kirton resulted in the collection of two environmental soils samples (Table 1). The samples derive from ditch fills of 10-11<sup>th</sup> century AD. The samples were submitted to the Environmental Archaeology Consultancy for processing and assessment.

**Table 1.** Environmental samples collected from the evaluation at Kirton – SRKL18

Sample	context	feature	Volume l.	Weight kg.	Provisional date
1	1003	Ditch fill	36	40	Late 10-11 <sup>th</sup> C
2	1010	Ditch fill	36	40	Late 10-11 <sup>th</sup> C

### **Methods**

The soil samples were processed in the following manner. Sample volume and weight was measured prior to processing. The samples were washed in a 'Siraf' tank (Williams 1973) using a flotation sieve with a 0.5mm mesh and an internal wet sieve of 1mm mesh for the residue. Both residue and flots were dried and the residues subsequently re-floated to ensure the efficient recovery of charred material. The dry volume of the flots was measured and the volume and weight of the residue recorded. The residue was sorted by eye, and environmental and archaeological finds picked out, noted on the assessment sheet and bagged independently. A magnet was run through each residue in order to recover magnetised material such as hammerscale and prill and an estimate made of the number of flakes or spheroids of hammerscale present. The residue was then discarded. The flots of each sample were studied using x30 magnifications and the presence of environmental finds (i.e. snails, charcoal, carbonised seeds, bones etc) was noted and their abundance and species diversity recorded on the assessment sheet. The flots were then bagged and along with the finds from the sorted residue, constitute the material archive of the samples.

The individual components of the samples were then preliminarily identified and the results are summarised below in Tables 2-3.



## **Results**

The samples washed down to a residue sediment concretions, fired earth, fragmented mussel shell, earthworm granules, and a little quartz and flint. Both samples included tiny chips of pottery, animal bone, marine shell, a small magnetic fraction – with sample 2 producing a few flakes of hammerstone and a little coal in sample 1 (Table 2). None of the larger bone was identifiable to species but mouse, newt, frog/toad, eel and herring have been preliminarily identified (Table 3). Thin and thick eggshell is present in both samples and tentatively assigned to chicken and goose. Mussel and cockle shell are present although mussels make up well over 90% of the shell. The flots are not large but charred grain of barley and wheat is present, with large legume fragments preliminarily assigned to cf pea and bean. A few charred weed seeds are also present.

A few snail shells indicative of an open grassland habitat are present in both samples, with the burrowing snail *Cecilioides acicula* particularly abundant in sample 2, and possibly intrusive.

**Table 2:** Kirton – SRKL18. Finds from the processed samples

sample no.	context	sample vol. l.	residue volume (ml)	pot no/wt (g)	fired earth wt. g.	slag wt g.	magnetic wt. g.	hammer - scale	marine shell wt g.	bird eggshel l	bone wt g.
1	1003	36	900	1/0.2			0.2		37	0.2g	6.4
2	1010	36	150	2/0.4	44		0.2	6 flakes	14.2	0.2	7

+ - present

**Table 3:** Kirton – SRKL18. Environmental finds from the processed samples

sampl e no.	cont. no.	sample vol. (l)	flot vol. (ml)	charcoa l *	charre d grain *	chaff *	charre d seed *	Un- charre d seed	snail *	comment
1	1003	36	11	2/4	3		1	1	3	Charred barley, wheat, a few seeds; uncharred elder; indet bone, mouse, newt, small fish; cf chicken and cf goose eggshell; mussel, cockle; snails – <i>Vallonia excentrica</i> , <i>Pupilla muscorum</i> , <i>Cecilioides acicula</i> , <i>Vertigo pygmaea</i> , <i>Hydrobia ulvae</i>
2	1010	36	26	2/4	3		2		5	Charred barley, wheat, cf pea, cf bean, legume, culm nodes; uncharred elder; indet bone, rodent, frog/toad, eel, herring, small fish; cf chicken and cf goose eggshell; mussel, cockle; snails – <i>V. excentrica</i> , <i>C. acicula</i> , <i>V. pygmaea</i> , <i>Cochlicopa</i> sp., <i>Anisus leucostoma</i>

\*frequency 1=1-10; 2=11-50; 3=51-150; 4=151-250; 5=>250; + present.

# waterlogged flot

The species *Hydrobia ulvae* in sample 1 is indicative of coastal and brackish water, while the shell of *Anisus leucostoma* in sample 2 is found in aquatic habitats that dry out seasonally.

### **Conclusion**

The presence of coal, a few flakes of hammerscale and the numerous shells of *C. acicula* in sample 2 suggest a possible low level of contamination in the samples, the coal and hammerscale potentially moving down through the soil from deposits above. The hammerscale could indicate contemporary smithing but at these densities it is not convincing. The remainder of the material almost certainly represent contemporary debris.

Charred plant remains, charcoal, animal bone, bird eggshell, marine shell and terrestrial snail shells all survive well in the soils of the site and can be expected to occur in any deposits if further excavation is undertaken. The occurrence of charred cereal grain, pulses, animal bone, eggshell and marine shellfish indicate that the archaeological components of these two ditch fills probably largely derive from domestic waste, and their densities suggest that there may be occupation nearby. Only the snail shells afford any insight into the local environment, suggesting an open grassland.

If further excavation is undertaken then sampling would allow aspects of the site economy and diet to be addressed, establish whether the smithing evidence is medieval or intrusive and refine the picture of the local landscape. Samples should be 30 or 40 litres in size and it may be appropriate to take a column of samples through a dated ditch fill to establish whether there were any changes in the local environment.

### **Acknowledgments**

I should like to thank Trude Maynard and Angela Bain for the sample processing and sorting.

### **Bibliography**

Williams, D.1973 Flotation at Siraf, *Antiquity*, 47, 198-202

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3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018

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## **Appendix 6: OASIS Report**

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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**OASIS ID: preconst1-321597**

### Project details

Project name	Evaluation on land off Station Road, Kirton, Lincolnshire
Short description of the project	Evaluation near to the historic core and close to a medieval moated site identified Saxo-Norman ditches/gullies, two perhaps defining a corner of an enclosure
Project dates	Start: 02-05-2018 End: 08-05-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SRKL18 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	2018.63 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	DITCH Early Medieval
Monument type	FURROW Early Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Early Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE BOSTON KIRTON land off Station Road
Study area	1.1 Hectares
Site coordinates	TF 3096 3829 52.925694004098 -0.051639371495 52 55 32 N 000 03 05 W Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA Newark
Project brief	none

originator	
Project design originator	Gary Taylor
Project director/manager	Gary Taylor
Project supervisor	Andy Failes
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	The Collection Lincolnshire
Physical Archive ID	2018.63
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental"
Digital Archive recipient	The Collection Lincolnshire
Digital Archive ID	2018.63
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Digital Media available	"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	The Collection Lincolnshire
Paper Archive ID	2018.63
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Map", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at Station Road, Kirton, Boston, Lincolnshire Report on an Archaeological Evaluation
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