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Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Observation,  
Investigation, Recording, Analysis and  
Publication of Works at Deeping Fen  
Farm, Baston Outgang Road, Baston  
Fen, Spalding, Lincolnshire  
NGR: TF 15200 16740 (PE6 9PU)  
Roger Kipling**



**ULAS Report No. 2019-052  
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**An Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis  
and Publication of Works at Deeping Fen Farm, Baston Outgang  
Road, Baston Fen, Spalding, Lincolnshire**

**NGR: TF 15200 16740 (PE6 9PU)**

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**Roger Kipling**

**For: R.P Watts (Baston Fen) Limited**

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University of Leicester  
Archaeological Services  
University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH  
Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614

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# **An Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Works at Deeping Fen Farm, Baston Outgang Road, Baston Fen, Spalding, Lincolnshire**

**NGR: TF 15200 16740 (PE6 9PU)**

*Roger Kipling*

## **Summary**

*The Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Works at Deeping Fen Farm, Baston Outgang Road, Baston Fen, Spalding, Lincolnshire, consisted of the monitoring of groundworks associated with the construction of 32,000 Bird Multi-Tier Free Range Egg Production Unit. No archaeological evidence was forthcoming from the site.*

*The report will be archived under Accession Number LNCC201927/BFB019.*

*Cover photo: Ground works in progress, looking south*

## **Introduction**

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 16 *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment* this document forms the report for an Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Works (hereafter referred to as a Watching Brief) at Deeping Fen Farm. The Watching Brief undertaken at Deeping Fen Farm was undertaken in March-April 2019 and follows the strategy of work set out in the Written Scheme for Investigation (WSI; ULAS 2019).

Planning consent has been granted for the construction of a 32,000 bird multi-tier free range egg production unit at Deeping Fen Farm, Baston Outgang Road, Baston Fen, Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE6 9PU (P/A Ref: H03-08756-18). Condition (8) of the planning consent stated that *'No development shall take place until a written scheme of archaeological investigation has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.'*

The Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment advisor (on behalf of the Local Planning Authority) requested attendance for archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks for the proposed development, in order to safeguard any archaeological remains that may be present.

## **Site Description, Topography and Geology**

The site is situated within the parish of Spalding, which lies in the Fen basin of south-eastern Lincolnshire (Figure 1). Access is via a farm track that leads north from Deeping Fen Farm. The proposed development area is located within a parcel of agricultural land measuring c.1.8ha in extent that lies at a height of 3-4m OD (Figure 2).

The British Geological Survey website indicates that the underlying geology of the area is Oxford Clay Formation – Mudstone Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 157 to 166 million years ago in the Jurassic Period. This is overlain by Tidal Flat Deposits of clay and silt formed up to 3 million years ago.

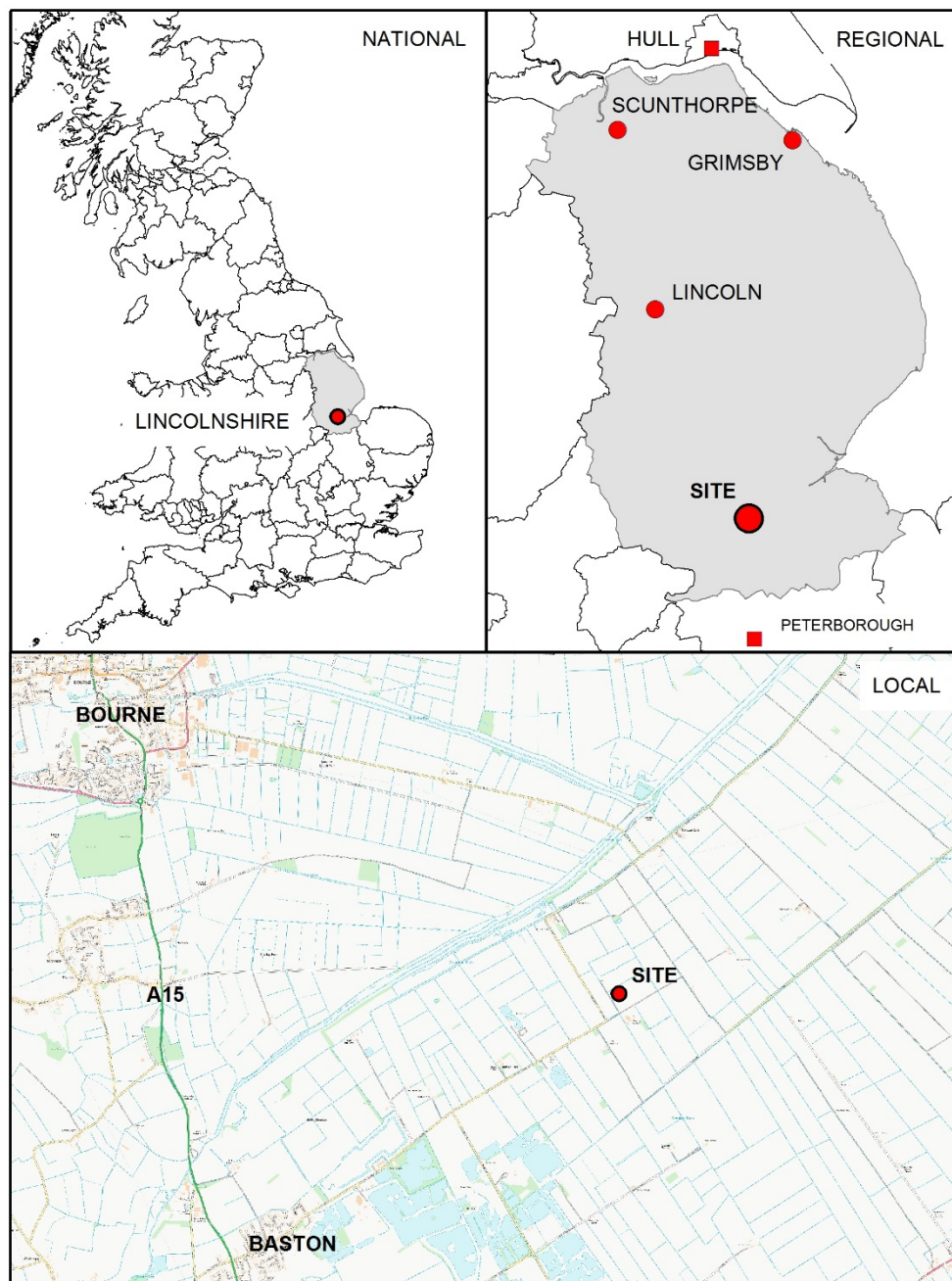


Figure 1: Location plan in its national, regional, and local settings

'Local' plan contains OS open data © Crown copyright and database right (2019)



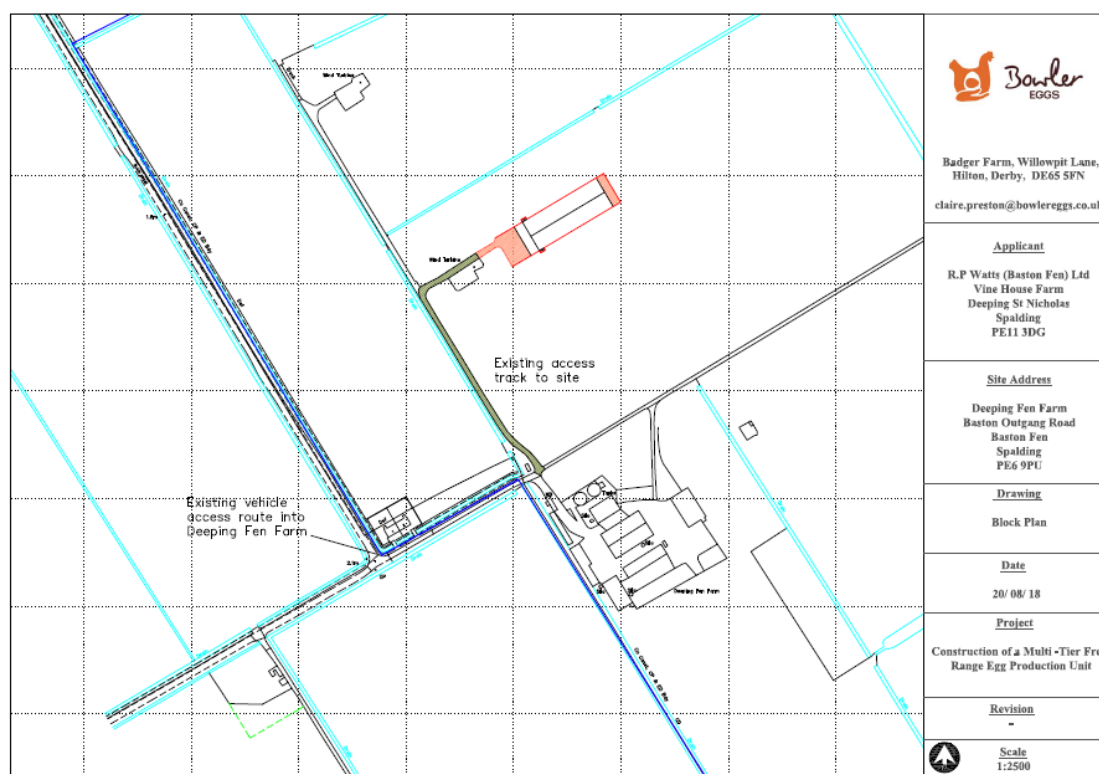


Figure 2: Location plan showing proposed development area  
Plan provided by client.

## Archaeological and Historical Background

A desk-based assessment previously compiled by ULAS (Carroll 2018) revealed that no known archaeology was located within proposed development area. A previous intervention (watching brief) during the construction of the adjacent wind turbines also produced mainly negative results, locating two modern linear features (Murray 2013).

The remains of early Bronze Age settlement activity have been recorded adjacent to Cross Drain at Baston Fen Farm (located c.1km to the south-west) during the construction of a reservoir (ML134999). Archaeological features recorded comprised structural remains, pits, hearths, gullies and a buried soil deposit. Pottery, flint tools, burnt stone and animal bone were found during these excavations and probably date to the middle of the second millennium BC (Herbert 1998, 8). Some of the features also contained wood and peat, suggesting Palaeoenvironmental evidence was likely to survive to a good degree on or near the site (*ibid*)

The HER also records a Roman road heading towards Spalding, passing c.200m south-east of the proposed development area (ML122343).

## Aims and Objectives

The main objectives of the archaeological work were as follows:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits.
- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.

- To recover artefacts and ecofacts to compare with other assemblages and results
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits and features encountered.
- To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscape and to advance understanding of the heritage assets.
- To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to assess the impact of the proposed development on cultural heritage and to help formulate a mitigation strategy
- To record any archaeological deposits and produce an archive and report of any results.

The results of the monitoring were intended to provide information in order for the local planning authority to make informed recommendations and to identify an appropriate mitigation strategy for the proposed development.

### **Research Objectives**

The presence of prehistoric features in the area suggested a potential for further features of this date. It is therefore possible to determine some initial objectives derived from *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda* (2006), *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (2012) and the online resource:

<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/researchframeworks/eastmidlands/wiki/>

The results of the project will also be considered against national research aims.

The site had the potential for further understanding of Early Bronze Age settlement morphology (3.5.3).

The site had the potential to contribute to understanding of intra-regional variations in the character of sites and artefacts (3.8.1).

These research aims have been identified based on the current state of knowledge within the area of the scheme. The research aims will be re-assessed and updated during the course of the fieldwork.

### **Methodology**

All work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (2014b) and adhered to their Code of Conduct (2014a).

The Museums Accession Number (LNCC201927/BFB019) has been used to identify all records and artefacts.

### **Watching Brief**

The project involved the observation groundworks associated with the construction of the Multi-Tier Free Range Egg Production Unit, as agreed with the LCC Historic Environment Advisor. This work was carried out by experienced professional archaeologists over two days, 25/03/19 and 09/04/19.

The proposed unit measures 89m x 31m, ground working activity associated with construction of which involved a shallow initial topsoil strip and stoning up of the access road and building footprint prior to construction of concrete foundation blocks for the latter (Figure 3).

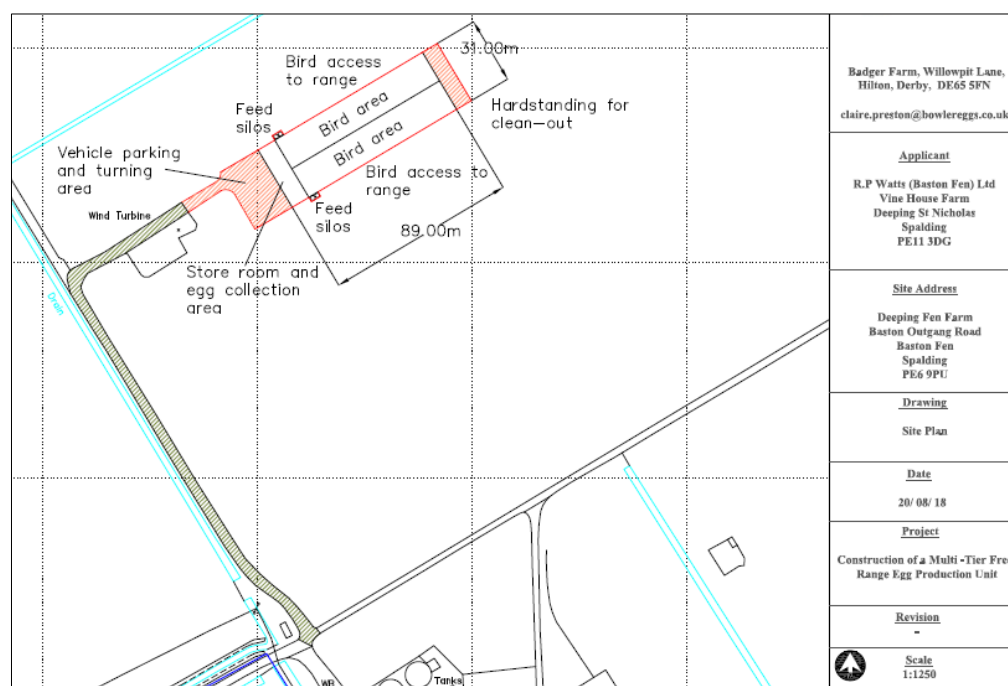


Figure 3: Proposed master plan of development  
Supplied by client



Figure 4: General view of site with ground works in progress





Figure 5: Ground works in progress: view east

## Results

The watching brief comprised two stages; firstly monitoring of a topsoil strip across the general construction area, an area measuring c.50mx 80m, to a depth of 0.25m-0.30m. No subsoil or natural were observed due to the shallow nature of the machine strip.

The second stage followed the topsoil strip and setting down of roadstone and consisted of the machine excavation of around 45 square foundation trenches for footings pads, measuring c.1.70mx 1.30m x 0.75m-0.90m deep. Around 0.20m of dark grey-brown organic clay silt plough soil overlay the compact mid grey/mid orange brown clay natural. No archaeology was observed.



Figure 6: Sample footing pad cut: view southwest (1m scale)

## Discussion and Conclusions

The programme of archaeological observation, investigation, recording and analysis at Deeping Fen Farm, Spalding, Lincolnshire, revealed no evidence of archaeological activity.

## Archive

The site archive consists of:

- 2 x watching brief recording sheets
- 1 x digital photographic index
- 9 x digital photos

The archive will be held by The Collection and Usher Gallery (Lincolnshire Museums Service) under the accession number LNCC201927/BFB019.

## Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work to the *Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) at the University of York.

A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in an appropriate local archaeological journal in due course.



## Acknowledgments

The fieldwork was carried out by and Roger Kipling and managed for ULAS by Richard Buckley. ULAS would like to thank Robert Golland for his assistance during this work.

## Bibliography and Sources

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## Oasis Information

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	universi1-348485		
	Project Name	Deeping Fen Farm, Baston Outgang Road, Baston Fen, Spalding, Lincolnshire		
	Start/end dates of field work	23/03/2019, 09/04/2019		
	Previous/Future Work	No		
	Project Type	Construction		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Agricultural land		
	Monument Type/Period	None		
	Significant Finds/Period	None		
	Development Type	Commercial		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Post determination		
	Planning Ref.	H03-08756-18		
PROJECT LOCATIO N	Site Address/Postcode	TF 15200 16740 (PE6 9PU)		
	Study Area	1.8ha.		
	Site Coordinates			
	Height OD	3-4m OD		
PROJECT CREATOR S	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Lincolnshire CC		
	Project Design Originator	Richard Buckley		
	Project Manager	Richard Buckley		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Roger Kipling		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Client		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	Lincolnshire Museums Service		Lincolnshire Museums Service
	ID (Acc. No.)	LNCC201927/BFB019		LNCC201927/BFB019
	Contents	None		Paper records
PROJECT BIBLIOGR APHY	Type	Grey literature		
	Title	An Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Works at		

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ULAS  
University of Leicester  
University Road  
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel:0116 252 2848  
Fax: 0116 252 2614

Email: [ulas@le.ac.uk](mailto:ulas@le.ac.uk)

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UNIVERSITY OF  
**LEICESTER**

### Archaeological Services

University of Leicester  
University Road  
Leicester LE1 7RH  
UK

Directors

**Dr Richard Buckley** OBE BA PhD FSA MCifA

**e:** [rjb16@le.ac.uk](mailto:rjb16@le.ac.uk)

**t:** +44 (0)116 252 2848

**f:** +44 (0)116 252 2614

**e:** [ulas@le.ac.uk](mailto:ulas@le.ac.uk)



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