
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND
RECORDING AT
SPRING STREET,
SPALDING,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SSST11)**

**Work Undertaken For
Mr Copland**

April 2011

Report Compiled by
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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1. SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during residential development works at Spring Street, Spalding. The site is located in an archaeologically sensitive area, lying close to the medieval Spalding Priory complex, in an area of known Roman and medieval remains.

A watching brief monitored all groundworks associated with the development.

Marine silts were the earliest deposit encountered. These were identified as forming the natural horizon on site, although they may have been a post-Roman development. Saxon and Saxo-Norman pottery was recovered during the excavations. A medieval ditch, probably dating from between 1200 and 1400, was identified towards the east of the development area. This may have been further related to Spalding Priory. Post-Medieval activity was identified in the form of a ditch, a refuse pit and deposits. Modern topsoil sealed the area.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Planning permission (application no: H16/0341/08) for the construction of a residential unit has been granted by South Holland District Council, subject to archaeological monitoring of all groundworks during construction.

The watching brief was carried out, on 22nd March 2011.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Spalding is located 23km southwest of Boston, in the South Holland District of Lincolnshire. The development site is located on the west side of the town centre, to the rear of 1 Spring Street, centred on National Grid Reference TF 24552 22441.

The site lies on level ground at 3mOD, on the west of the River Welland. As an urban area, the soils have not been mapped, but are likely to be Wisbech Association coarse, silty, alluvial gleys that have developed on young marine alluvium, over a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clays (Hodge et al. 1984)

2.3 Archaeological Setting

It is likely that the majority of land in the Spalding region was submerged during much of the prehistoric period. It is not surprising therefore, that earlier prehistoric remains have yet to be found in the immediate area of the site.

During the late Iron Age ideal conditions for the production of salt existed in the area west of Spalding. One such salt-producing site (or saltern) was found northwest of the site, during an evaluation at Woolram Wygate, possibly in association with domestic occupation and a palaeochannel (Snee 2003, 12). Another saltern was found c. 300m south of the site (Herbert 1997, 9).

Several Romano-British salt making sites have been uncovered over recent years, an extremely well preserved example being excavated at Wygate Park, c.1200m to the northeast of site (D. Trimble *forthcoming*) Salt production at Woolram Wygate continued into the Romano-British period, with 1st and 2nd century activity focusing on the channels utilised during the late Iron Age. These industrial activities were eventually succeeded by settlement lasting into the 4th century (Snee 2003, 12). Another saltern was investigated at Pennygate, c.740m northeast of site (R. Trimble 2006).

A Romano-British road, known as the Baston Outgang, crosses the fens between a point north of Baston and a point to the southeast of Pode Hole Farm (Hallam 1970, 30), with its projected course running c.700m northwest of site.

No Saxon remains have been found in the vicinity of the site. However, two coins – an early 8th century penny and a coin of the Mercian King Ceonwulf (AD 796-821) – were found to the southeast (Cope-Faulkner 2004).

The Domesday Book of 1086 records that Spalding was held principally by Ivo Taillebois, with land also held by Crowland Abbey and Guy of Craon (Foster and Longley 1976). The survey also mentions a market, six fisheries, salt pans and a wood of alders.

Remains of medieval domestic settlement (HER 23840) and boundary ditches from the same period (HER 23836) have been identified to the north of the site. The site lies within the precinct of Spalding Priory. Its boundary was defined by a ditch and moat along the line of St Thomas's Road (Dugdale 1846, 214). The main Priory buildings and associated cemetery are thought to lie towards the town centre, as defined by the present day Market Place.

3. AIMS

The requirements of the monitoring and recording process, as described in the specification, were to record and interpret archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, sequence, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Foundation trenches were excavated by machine. Following excavation, where possible, the sides of the trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were excavated further to retrieve artefactual material and to determine function. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions

appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Following excavation, all records were checked and ordered to ensure that they constituted a complete Level II archive and a stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was produced. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 1. Context numbers are identified in the text by brackets. An equals sign between context numbers indicates that the contexts once formed a single layer or feature. Phasing was based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

The earliest deposit uncovered during groundworks was (012), a soft light grey silt, at least 0.3m thick. This was likely to be a marine or alluvial silt layer, forming the natural horizon in this area. It must be noted, however, that marine incursions during the immediate post-Roman period means that this deposit may overlies earlier, Roman or prehistoric remains.

Towards the eastern and north eastern extent of the excavated area, darker layers of silt (021), containing animal bone and snail shells, and (020)=(019) formed the earliest layers encountered. These deposits were probably alluvial silts, possibly contained by a large channel which was not definable given the constricted nature of the excavated trenches. The snail shells from (021) were all species that inhabited aquatic, or at least damp or seasonally wet, environments (Appendix 2). An intermittent deposit, (016), firm light blue silty clay, overlies (020)=(019). This was likely to be another alluvial silt deposit.

Towards the eastern extent of the

development area, ditch [002], greater than 3m long, 2.1m wide and 0.85m deep, was identified. This feature was northeast-southwest aligned with gradually sloping sides and was likely to form a large boundary ditch, probably being the same feature as [015], a partially exposed ditch running northwest-southeast. It seems likely that [015] forms the return of boundary ditch [002], possibly defining the limit of a property to the east. Deposit (005)=(014), a soft grey silt with occasional limestone fragments, formed the earliest exposed deposit within ditch [002]=[015]. Sherds of late 12th-14th century pottery and animal bone were recovered from this deposit (Appendix 2). Sealing (005) was (004), a soft, light brown silt. The form of (004) in section (Fig. 4, Section 1) suggests that it was cut by feature [023], possibly a recut of ditch [002]. This was filled by (006), a soft mid green grey silt. No dateable artefacts were recovered from this deposit.

Sealing all of the above deposits was (003)=(013), a soft dark green silt, with occasional fragments of CBM. This was interpreted as being a subsoil deposit extending across the excavated area. No dateable artefacts were recovered from this deposit.

At the southeast extent of the development area, ditch [008] cut through (003). This was a northeast-southwest aligned feature, at least 3m long and 1.25m wide and filled by a series of grey-green silts of varying hues ((011), (010), (009), (007)). Sherds of 19th century pottery were recovered from (010), as well as CBM.

Towards the north of the site, a post-medieval pit, [018], was identified. This was roughly rectangular with steep sides, at least 1.35m long and 0.6m wide. Post medieval glass (Appendix 2) was recovered from the filling deposit, (017).

Sealing the entire area was (001), a soft dark grey brown silt with occasional

fragments of CBM. This was a topsoil deposit forming the latest deposit on site.

A number of unstratified finds were recovered from the site during the excavation. Most interesting amongst these were a sherd of mid 9th-late 10th century pottery and one sherd of late 10th – late 12th century pottery (Appendix 2).

6. DISCUSSION

The earliest deposits uncovered during construction works were light grey brown silts which were probably alluvial or marine in origin. Overlying these deposits, to the east and northeast of the development area, another series of silt deposits were identified. These contained animal bone and snail shells. It is likely that these formed the filling deposits of a palaeochannel, the edges of which were not visible and the snail shells suggest this held water, at least seasonally.

The date of the above deposits is, however, unclear as known post-Roman marine incursions in the area have left a deposit of silts overlying Roman and earlier remains. It is entirely possible, therefore, that the 'natural' identified during this phase of works is a post-Roman deposit.

To the east of the development area, a large boundary ditch, probably forming the northwest corner of an enclosure, was identified. Medieval (late 12th-14th century, Appendix 2) pottery was recovered from this feature. Additionally, this ditch may have been recut, possibly after a long period of silting. This may indicate longevity of use. The dating of this feature is based on the recovery of only one vessel, but, if accurate, would place the feature within the period in which the land at Spring Street lay within the precinct of Spalding Priory. It is possible that the feature was an internal boundary, the external boundary of Priory lands being identified with St Thomas'

Street, some 100m west of Spring Street (Dugdale 1846, 214).

A subsoil probably dating to the post-medieval period, as indicated by the presence of CBM within the deposit, sealed the above feature and deposits.

This deposit was truncated at the southeast extent of the development by a post-medieval ditch, from which modern pottery was recovered. The purpose of this feature was unclear, but it may have been a boundary marker or drainage ditch.

A post-medieval pit, from which glass and bone were recovered, was identified to the north. This was, judging from the contents, possibly used as a refuse pit.

These features were sealed by a modern topsoil deposit.

Unstratified finds dating to mid 9th-late 10th century and late 10th-late 12th century are of significance in that they indicate activity in the area during the late Saxon and Saxo-Norman periods. There is sparse evidence of activity from these periods in the general area.

7. CONCLUSION

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during groundworks associated with residential development on land at Spring Lane, Spalding. The site is located in an archaeologically sensitive area, lying close to the medieval Spalding Priory complex, in an area of known Roman and medieval remains. All groundworks associated with the development were subject to archaeological monitoring as a planning condition.

The earliest deposits encountered were marine or alluvial silts. This was tentatively identified as the natural horizon on site, although it is equally likely that

these deposits were a post-Roman development, possibly concealing earlier archaeological remains.

Evidence of Saxon and Saxo-Norman activity in the environs of site was present in the form of unstratified finds.

A medieval ditch was identified to the east of the development area. The dating of this feature, although based on only one vessel, places it within the period during which the land was part of the precinct of Spalding Priory.

Post-medieval activity was encountered in the form of a ditch, the purpose of which was unclear, and a possible refuse pit.

The most recent deposit on site was a modern topsoil which sealed the area.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr Copland who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Steve Malone who edited this report along with Tom Lane.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Steve Malone
 Site Supervisor: Chris Moulis
 Finds processing: Denise Buckley
 Photographic reproduction: Katie Murphy
 Illustration: Katie Murphy
 Post-excavation analysis: Katie Murphy

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

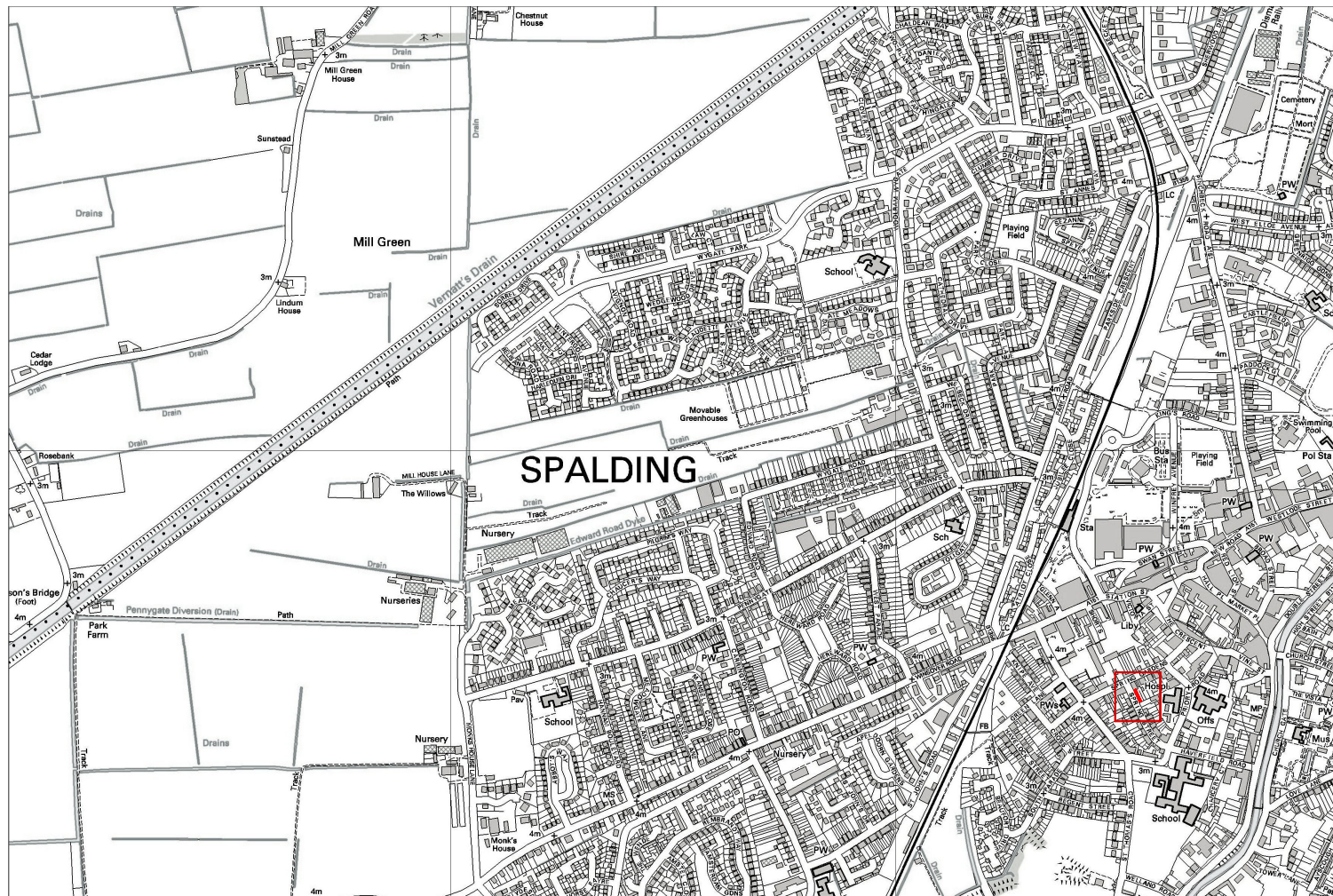
APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

CBM Ceramic Building Material



Figure 1 - General Location Plan



SPALDING

Site

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	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Spring Street, Spalding (SSST11)		
Scale 1:15000	Drawn by: KM	Report No: 43/11

Figure 2 Site location plan

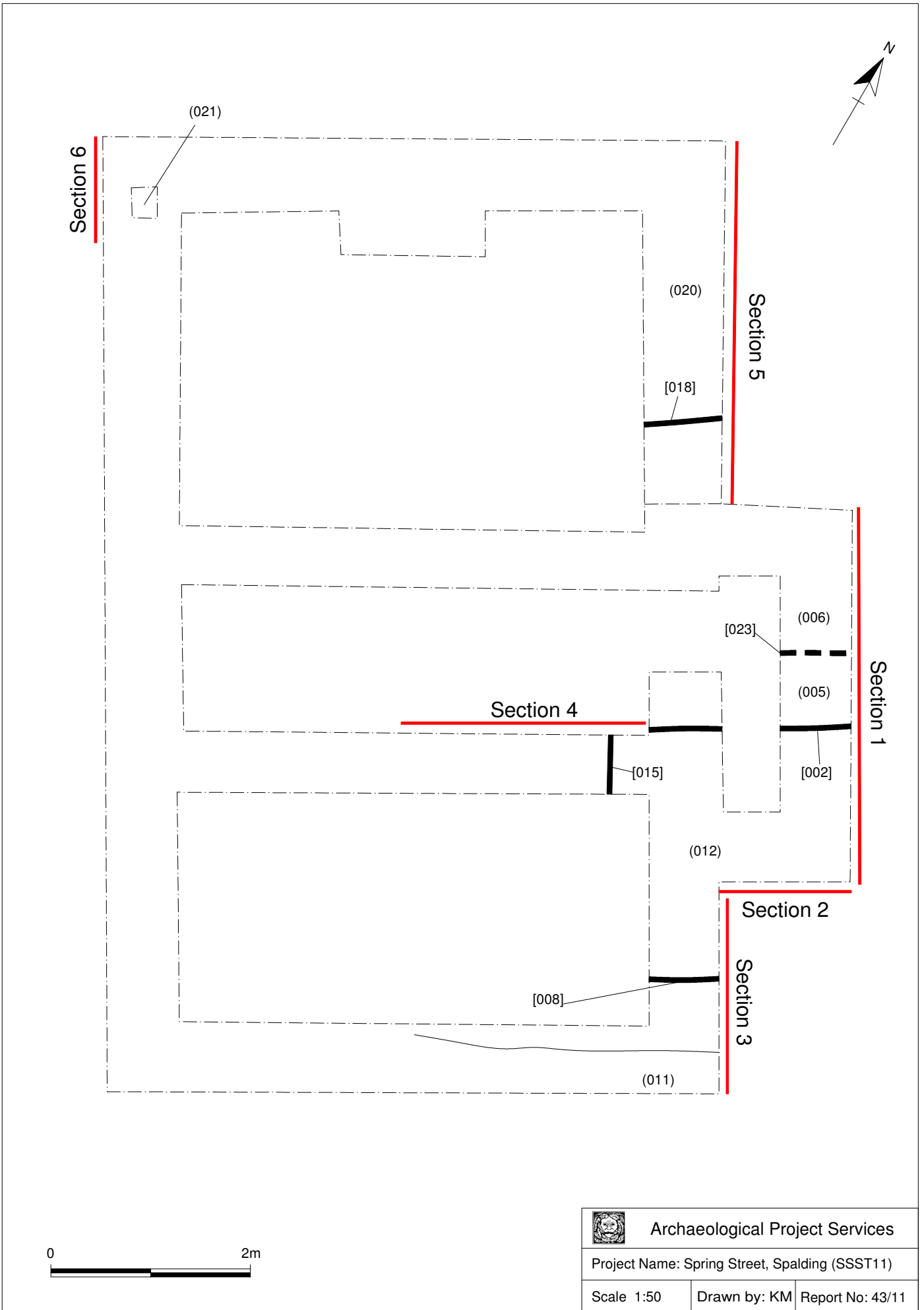
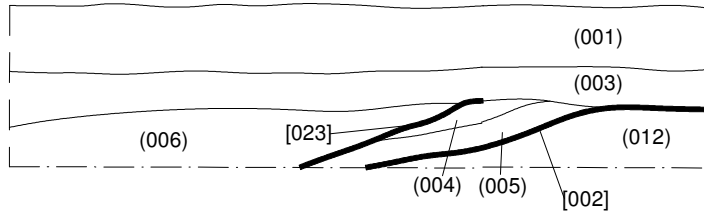
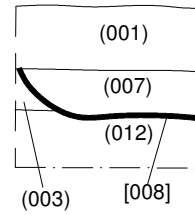


Figure 3 Plan of development showing features and section locations

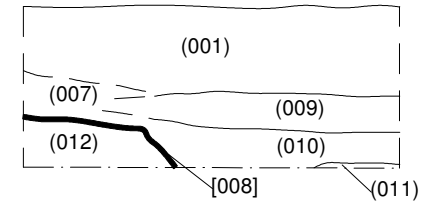
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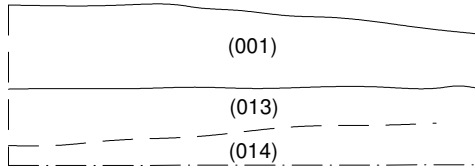
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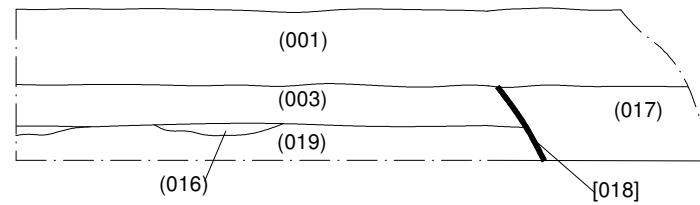
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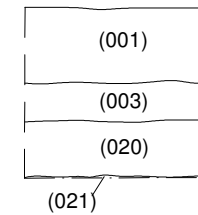
Section 4



Section 5



Section 6




 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Spring Street, Spalding (SSST11)		
Scale 1:40	Drawn by: KM	Report No: 43/11

Figure 4 Sections



Plate 1
General view of site



Plate 2
Sections 1 and 2



Plate 3
Section 3



Plate 4
Section 5



Plate 5
Section 6



Plate 6
General view of site,
Post-excavation

Appendix 1 Context Summary

Context	Description	Interpretation
001	Soft, dark grey brown silt with occasional fragments of CBM	Topsoil
002	Linear, at least 3m long, 2.1m wide and 0.85m deep with gradually sloping sides. East-west aligned.	Possible cut feature
003	Soft dark green silt with occasional fragments of CBM, 0.3m thick	Subsoil
004	Soft, light brown silt, 0.1m thick	Fill of [002]
005	Soft, mid grey silt with occasional limestone fragments, 0.12m thick	Fill of [002]
006	Soft mid green grey silt, at least 0.3m thick	Fill of [002]
007	Soft dark grey brown silt with occasional fragments of CBM, 0.22m thick	Fill of [008]
008	Possible linear feature, at least 3m east-west and 1.25m north south, 0.85m deep with gradually sloping sides, roughly east-west aligned	Cut
009	Soft dark green grey silt with occasional fragments of CBM, 0.2m thick	Fill of [008]
010	Loose, dark grey brown silt with frequent CBM fragments, 0.2m thick	Fill of [008]
011	Soft mid grey silt	Fill of [008]
012	Soft light grey brown silt, 0.3m thick	Natural silt layer
013	Soft dark grey green silt with occasional CBM fragments, 0.3m thick	Subsoil
014	Soft mid-dark grey silt with occasional limestone fragments, at least 0.2m thick	Fill of [015]
015	Linear, possibly turning at this point, with gently sloping sides, only partially exposed	Possibly a substantial boundary ditch
016	Firm light blue silty clay, 0.05m thick, intermittent	Possibly an alluvial deposit (within a channel?)
017	Soft dark grey green silt, at least 0.4m thick	Fill of [018]
018	Sub-rectangular cut, at least 1.35m long, 0.6m wide and 0.8m deep, with steep sides, only partially exposed	Pit – post-medieval
019	Soft mid-dark brown grey silt, 0.2m thick	Possibly an alluvial deposit within a channel?
020	Soft mid-dark grey brown silt, 0.3m thick	Possibly an alluvial deposit within a channel?
021	Soft mid-dark grey silt, at least 0.06m thick – containing small snail shells and bone	Deposit
022	Unstratified finds	Unstratified finds
023	Probably linear, only partially exposed, >2.41m wide x 0.3m deep with moderate-shallow sloping sides. Probably roughly North-South aligned	Probable re-cut of north-south aligned ditch [002]

Appendix 2

THE FINDS**POST ROMAN POTTERY**

By Alex Beeby and Anne Irving

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005). A total of nine sherds from eight vessels, weighing 180 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1 below. The pottery ranges in date from the late Saxon to the early modern period.

Condition

The condition of the material is generally fragmentary and two sherds from separate vessels are relatively abraded. The shell inclusions of one of those pieces is also internally leached, this was probably caused by acidic contents eating into the calcareous temper during use.

Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Cxt	Cname	Sub Fabric	Decoration	Part	Description	Date	Form	NoS	NoV	W(g)
005	BOUA	Fabric B	Stabbed rim	Rim to upper wall	Joining sherds; break not fresh	L12th-14th	Bowl	2	1	79
010	PEARL		Blue transfer print; imitation weave	Rim to Base		19th	Plate	1	1	18
010	PEARL		Blue transfer print; vegetation	Rim to Base		19th	Plate	1	1	14
010	PEARL		Black transfer print	Base	Poss jar	19th	Hollow	1	1	21
010	PEARL		Blue hand painted along rim	Rim		19th	Plate	1	1	12
010	PEARL		Blue sponged dec	Rim to Lower wall		19th	Bowl	1	1	15
022	LSH		Rectangular roller-stamping	BS	Leached internally; slightly abraded	M9th-L10th	Jar	1	1	4
022	LFS			BS	ID?; frag; abraded	L10th-L12th	?	1	1	17
Total								9	8	180

Provenance

Pottery was recovered from fill (005), within possible feature [002] and fill (010) in linear feature [008]. Two sherds of unstratified material were given context number (022).

Range

The two pieces of most interest are a single sherd Lincoln Shelly Ware (LSH) of late Saxon date, and a fragment of Lincolnshire Fine-Shelled Ware dating to the Saxo-Norman period. The LSH sherd has linear rectangular roller stamping decoration on the body wall. Even though these are unstratified, they are of note as their presence suggests late Saxon and Norman period activity on or near the site.

Two joining fragments from a Medieval period Bourne ware bowl were also recovered; these came from feature [002]. This vessel is a large example with haphazard stabbed decoration on the rim. Five sherds of pottery from five separate vessels dating to the 19th Century came from linear feature [008].

Potential

There is limited potential for further work. Material should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long term storage.

Summary

Fragments of pottery dating from the late Saxon to the Early Modern period were recovered during the watching brief. Most of the material is early modern in date or is unstratified. A medieval bowl from possible feature [002] is the only vessel of interest from a stratified context.

FAUNAL REMAINS

By Paul Cope-Faulkner

Introduction

A total of 8 (193g) fragments of animal bone were recovered from stratified contexts.

Provenance

The faunal remains were recovered from the fill (005) of a medieval cut and a deposit (021).

Condition

The overall condition of the remains was good to moderate.

Results

Table 2, Fragments Identified to Taxa

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	W (g)	Comments
005	large mammal	humerus		1	68	
	large mammal	rib		1	14	
	large mammal	skull		2	15	
	large mammal	pelvis		1	15	
	medium mammal	humerus		1	35	
021	large mammal	humerus		1	42	
	oyster	shell	bottom	1	4	Complete, small

Summary

As a small collection, the animal bone is of limited potential. The assemblage should be retained as part of the site archive.

GLASS

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

A single piece of glass weighing 97g was recovered.

Condition

Although naturally fragile the glass is in good condition. It exhibits moderate iridescent decay.

Results

Table 3, Glass Archive

Cxt	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
017	Light olive green bottle neck, probably onion bottle, moderate iridescence	1	97	17 th -18 th century

Provenance

The glass was recovered from the fill of a pit.

Range

A single piece of vessel glass of post-medieval, probably 17th-18th century, date was recovered.

Potential

Other than providing dating evidence the glass is of limited potential.

OTHER FINDS

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

Six other finds weighing a total of 233g were recovered.

Condition

All of the other finds are in good condition.

Results

Table 4, Other Materials

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
005	slag	Iron smithing slag	1	6	
	stone	Burnt stone	2	33	
010	iron	Uncertain, possible nail with flattened chisel-like shaft and point	1	48	Post-medieval
	slag	Iron smithing slag, vitrified, post-medieval	1	143	
	cinder	cinder	1	3	
				233	

Provenance

The other finds were recovered from the fills of two features.

Range

Most of the other finds relate to high temperature activities. There are two pieces of iron slag, both from smithing, though they differ in nature and may not be contemporary.

Potential

The other finds are of limited potential, though they provide indications of high temperature activities including iron smithing at the site or nearby.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 5 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 5, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
005	L12th-14th century	Based on a single vessel
010	19th century	Based on 1 slag
017	17 th -18 th century	Based on 1 glass
021		
022	L10th-L12th	

ABBREVIATIONS

BS	Body sherd
CXT	Context
LHJ	Lower Handle Join

NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
UHJ	Upper Handle Join
W (g)	Weight (grams)

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Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Alluvium	Deposits laid down by water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea, and fresh water alluvium is laid down by rivers and in lakes.
Anglo-Saxon	Pertaining to the period when Britain was occupied by peoples from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas. The period dates from approximately AD 450-1066.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> [004].
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
Layer	A layer is an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
Post hole	The hole cut to take a timber post, usually in an upright position. The hole may have been dug larger than the post and contain soil or stones to support the post. Alternatively, the posthole may have been formed through the process of driving the post into the ground.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas.
Saxo-Norman	Pertaining to the period either side of the Norman Conquest of 1066, dating from about 1000-1100 AD.
Unstratified	Not related to definable layers (strata).

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

22	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Section record sheet
1	Plan record sheet
1	Daily record sheet
4	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

The Collection
1 Danes Terrace
Lincoln
LN2 1LP

Accession Number
Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

LCNCC:2011.27
SSST11

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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