ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT THE WASTE TRANSFER SITE, PRIDE PARKWAY, SLEAFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE (SLPP 12)

Work Undertaken For
Lincolnshire County Council

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES

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1. SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological works was undertaken at Pride Parkway, Sleaford, Lincolnshire. The works were undertaken in advance of the construction of a waste transfer plant and its associated infrastructure.

The site lies within an area of ditches defining field systems of Iron Age (800 BC-AD 42) and Romano-British (AD 42-410) date that lay to the north of the Late Iron Age settlement known at Old Sleaford and its Roman successor. A Middle Iron Age enclosure has been examined to the east of the site and settlement is also known from the north of Sleaford Wood. A possible Roman villa is located 300m to the north. Stone tools of Upper Palaeolithic (35,000-10,000 BC), Mesolithic (10,000-4200 BC) and Neolithic (4200-2250 BC) date have also been retrieved from the vicinity and a late Neolithic segmented ring ditch has also been examined to the north of Sleaford Wood. Ridge and furrow of the medieval (AD 1066-1540) field system has previously been recorded at the site and in the general locality. Within the immediate area of the waste transfer plant, a number of trial trenching programmes have been undertaken which produced Neolithic flints, Iron Age and Romano-British ditches as well as a number of undated features.

The current investigations identified a sequence of natural, undated, Late Iron Age, Romano-British, medieval, post-medieval and recent deposits.

Late Iron Age deposits were found in the eastern part of the site and consist of a ditch and gully of 1st century AD date.

Medieval remains consisted of a number of parallel infilled furrows of the medieval field system. Post-medieval features were also agricultural in origin and include a number of infilled planting trenches apparent across the site.

The largest category of finds retrieved from the investigation comprise pottery sherds spanning the Late Iron Age to post-medieval periods but with none dating from the 3rd century to Late Saxon period present. Brick/tile, glass and clay pipe was also found along with a Neolithic flint flake.

Environmental analysis recovered low amounts of plant remains and animal bone. Plant remains included cereals, grasses, sedge and charcoal. Cattle and sheep/goat are present in the faunal remains as are unidentifiable fragments.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of an Excavation

An archaeological excavation is defined as, *"a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. The records made and objects gathered during the fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the project design"* (IfA 2008).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Lincolnshire County Council to undertake a programme of archaeological investigations in advance of the construction of a waste transfer plant at Pride Parkway, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, as detailed in Planning Application PL/0109/11. The works were undertaken

between the 24th April and 14th June 2012 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Planning Archaeologist, Lincolnshire County Council.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Sleaford is situated 28km south of Lincoln and 18km northeast of Grantham in the administrative district of North Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located 1km northeast of the centre of Sleaford as defined by the parish church of St Denys at National Grid Reference TF 0732 4682 (Fig. 2). The site is located to the north of Pride Parkway and immediately south of Sleaford Wood and lies at a height of *c*. 10m OD on land that slopes gently down to the north.

Local soils are of the Deepdales Series, typically cambic gley soils (George and Robson 1978, 74). These soils are developed on a solid geology of Jurassic Kellaways Sands (BGS 1996).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Sleaford is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Palaeolithic period to the present day. Three Acheulian flint tools of the Upper Palaeolithic period have been found in the vicinity, although they are likely to derive from the gravel deposited during the Wolstonian glaciation.

Some indication of a Neolithic presence is provided by finds of stone axes and flints in the area. To the north of Sleaford Wood, adjacent to the A17, an early Neolithic tree bole and gully was recorded beneath a later Neolithic segmented ring ditch, which may have had a ritual function (Allen 2007, 10). Bronze Age flints have also been found in the Sleaford area.

Middle Iron Age activity has been recorded in the general vicinity of the site. Excavations some 790m to the east of the site, on a previously identified cropmark, revealed a sub-rectangular enclosure that contained remains of timber structures with a droveway located to the west (Hambly 2001). Other Middle Iron Age enclosures have been recorded around the Sleaford area.

The focus of Later Iron Age settlement is located south of the River Slea. High status pottery and a significant collection of coin pellet mould fragments were found adjacent to Old Place and has led to speculation that at this time Sleaford was an important centre or *oppidum* of the *Corieltauvi*, the local tribe (Elsdon 1997, 75). However, recent work has demonstrated that the late Iron Age settlement was not as large as previously thought, encompassing only 4 hectares (Taylor 2010, 114). Late Iron Age features have been recorded close to the site, including ditches to the north of Sleaford Wood (Allen 2007, 11) and a gold coin from the site of a Roman villa.

Following an apparent absence of occupation at the beginning of the Roman period, a small town was established on the site of the Iron Age settlement alongside the Roman thoroughfare, Mareham Lane, that once connected Bourne to Sleaford and beyond to Lincoln (Margary 1973, 234).

Pride Parkway itself lay outside the area of the Romano-British town and was probably under an agricultural regime as evidenced by a pattern of field boundaries recorded on aerial photographs that lie parallel or perpendicular to Mareham Lane and other Roman trackways in the area (Palmer 2004, 5). A possible villa site lies to the north of Sleaford Wood as evidenced by finds of building material, including tessera. Pottery from this site is

3rd to 4th century in date. A Late Roman or Anglo-Saxon mount was found within Sleaford Wood.

During the medieval period, the site lay within the open fields of Holdingham which served as the agricultural centre of the town (Pawley 1996, 17, 28).

Previous Archaeological Interventions

This area of Sleaford has been subject to a high number of previous interventions since 1999. An archaeological evaluation undertaken in 1999 revealed remains of Iron Age and Romano-British date with some evidence for Neolithic activity recorded adjacent to the railway line to the south (Armour-Chelu 1999). This evaluation was curtailed and a second evaluation was undertaken at the site in 2005. This second stage of evaluation identified Mesolithic and Neolithic flint tools, pits of possible Bronze Age date and a system of Iron Age ditches and pits (McDaid 2005). The latter had been truncated by ditches of Roman field systems which were later replaced by medieval ridge and furrow. A Saxo-Norman ditch was also identified adjacent to the current site.

Further work was undertaken during 2006 when the access road was inserted. A concentration of Iron Age and Romano-British ditches was located immediately southeast of the site. Furthermore, Saxon pottery was also collected (McDaid 2008).

Prior to this investigation, a limited programme of archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the site of the waste transfer station. This revealed three ditches, two pits and several postholes which were all undated (Holderness 2011, 1).

3. AIMS

The aims of the archaeological investigations were to excavate, record and interpret any archaeological deposits revealed in the areas affected by groundworks relating to the construction of the waste transfer plant. Specific objectives were to determine the form and function of deposits encountered, determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological deposits, to recover dating evidence as far as is practicable and to establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

4. METHODS

The area of archaeological monitoring (Fig. 3) comprised the footprint of the new building (Area A), a concrete apron (Area B), the site of an attenuation pond (Area C), the road strip (Area D) and the foundations for the weighing office (Area E).

Removal of topsoil and other overburden was undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. The exposed surfaces of each of the areas were inspected for archaeological remains and, if present, cleaned by hand to determine their extent. Persistent rain often made recording difficult and the northern parts of Areas A and B remained below standing water throughout the period of groundworks. Furthermore, the excavations were not to exceed the depth of the final dig levels for the new building and its infrastructure. Therefore, not all features that were identified during the previous evaluation phases could be traced during this investigation. Also, some features identified in one area could not be traced into adjacent areas due to different dig levels.

Each deposit exposed during the

investigations was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their interpretations appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was also compiled and sections and plans were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20 respectively. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Environmental sampling was undertaken on the discretion of the site supervisor using guidelines established by English Heritage (2002). The subsequent processing of the samples is detailed in Appendix 3.

The locations of the excavation area and archaeological features within it were surveyed using a Thales Z-Max GPS. Raw satellite data is calibrated via the OS NET service resulting in extremely accurate readings. The calibrated data is logged in the field to a mobile device running Fast Survey and subsequently processed in the office by n4ce data processing software which is used to produce customised CAD files.

Following excavation, finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 2). The records were also checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis, seven phases were identified;

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Undated deposits
Phase 3	Late Iron Age deposits
Phase 4	Romano-British deposits
Phase 5	Medieval deposits
Phase 6	Post-medieval deposits
Phase 7	Recent deposits

Archaeological contexts are described below. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Phase 1 Natural deposits

Natural deposits were encountered throughout all the examined areas. In Areas A and B these comprised a deposit of mixed greyish brown and orange brown silty clay (008). Area C natural layers consisted of yellowish brown clayey sand (031) and in Area D, natural was recorded as orange brown and bluish grey clay (041). A yellow silty clay (138), measuring over 0.5m thick, constituted the natural in Area E.

The surface of the underlying natural deposits varied in height from 13.22m OD to 11.95m OD, being higher in the southern part of the site sloping gently down to the north.

Phase 2 Undated deposits

Area A

Four broadly parallel ditches were revealed in the northwest corner of this area (Fig. 4). Each was not recorded due to inclement weather and standing water, although the alignments of each were plotted. However, three of the four had previously been examined during the 1999 evaluation. The fourth ditch began a little to the west of the evaluation trench.

Located 15.25m to the southeast of these ditches was a possible pit (033) that measured 0.82m long by 0.58m wide and 0.11m deep (Fig. 6, Section 5; Plate 2). It contained a single fill of greyish green sand (032).

Lying adjacent to this pit was a posthole

(035). This measured 0.36m long by 0.3m wide and was 0.16m deep (Fig. 6, Section 6; Plate 3) and was also filled with greyish green sand (034).

Area B

Situated on the western edge of Area B was a row of five postholes (Fig. 4). The northernmost (014) was 0.5m by 0.4m and measured 0.21m deep. Some 0.44m to the south the next posthole (015) was 0.5m long, 0.31m wide and 0.23m deep. Posthole (016), was 0.62m long, 0.34m wide and 0.25m deep (Fig. 6, Sections 8, 9 and 10; Plates 5 and 6). Postholes (017) and (018) were not excavated but measured 0.6m by 0.4m and 0.38m by 0.26m respectively. Each of the postholes contained a fill of brown sandy silt (019, 020, 021, 022 and 023).

Located towards the southeast of this area and visible only in section was a pit (092). This was 1.36m wide and 0.47m deep (Fig. 6, Section 24) and contained a single fill of brownish grey silty sand (091).

Situated 15.8m to the north of this pit was ditch (072). Aligned northwest-southeast, it measured over 32m long and was 1.2m wide by 0.55m deep (Fig. 6, Section 18; Plate 7) and continued into Area D. A possible turn to the north was suggested at its western end. Six fills were recorded and comprised primary slumping of yellowish brown clayey silt (073), greyish yellow clay (074) and grey clayey silt (075) with secondary deposits of grey silty clay (076) and greyish brown clayey silt (077 and 078).

Area D

At the western end of this area (Fig. 5) was an east-west aligned ditch (122) that was visible for 13.7m and was 1.75m wide and 0.35m deep (Fig. 7, Section 35). Its continuation westwards into Area B was not visible, although it continued east into Area E as ditch (133/144). It contained two fills, a lower of mixed orange clay and grey silty sand (121) and an upper of grey and brown silty sand (120).

Lying north of this ditch was a north-south aligned ditch (100). This was 2.12m long, terminating at its northern end, by 0.67m wide and 0.23m deep (Fig. 7, Section 27). Two fills were present and consisted of a lower of yellow silty clay (099) and an upper of brownish grey sandy silt (098).

On the opposite, north, side of this part of Area D were two further north-south ditches, also terminating within the road strip. The first (115) measured over 2.56m long and was 1.35m wide and 0.41m deep (Fig. 7, Section 33; Plate 14). This contained a fill of grey silty sand (116). The second ditch (111) lay a little to the east and was 0.61m wide by 0.42m deep with three fills. The lowest fill comprised grey silty sand (112) which was overlain by orange brown silty sand (113) followed by grey silty sand (114).

Lying between the ditches termini were a number of postholes. Posthole (117) was the most northerly and was 0.63m by 0.51m in extent by 0.16m deep. It contained fills of orange brown silty sand with a clay pad (118) and orange grey silty sand (119). To the west was posthole (108), measuring 0.6m by 0.5m and 90mm deep with a fill of grey silty sand (107).

Located to the southeast, posthole (102) measured 0.5m by 0.37m by 0.15m deep with a heavily mottled grey, orange and brown sand (101) fill. East of this was (126), 0.61m long by 0.32m wide and 0.13m deep containing a fill of grey silty sand (125).

Situated 2.3m to the southwest was posthole (104). This was smaller, measuring 0.28m by 0.25m and measured 0.18m deep. Grey sand (103) was identified as its fill. This posthole cut an

earlier pit (106) that measured 1.72m long by 1.5m wide and 0.3m deep (Fig. 7, Sections 29 and 30; Plate 13). Grey silty sand (105) constituted its fill.

A final posthole (124) lay north of the ditch terminus (100). This was 0.72m long and 0.68m wide with a fill of grey silty sand (123) and was not excavated.

Approximately 9m to the east was a northeast-southwest aligned ditch (097). This terminated within the stripped area and was over 3.8m long by 0.64m wide and 0.15m deep (Fig. 6, Section 26). A single fill of yellowish brown silty sand (096) was recorded.

Located a further 19m to the northeast was a curvilinear ditch (132) which was over 14.5m long, by 0.7m wide and 60mm deep. This contained a fill of grey silty sand (131).

This had been cut by two parallel north-south aligned ditches. To the west was ditch (128) measuring 1.7m wide with a fill of greyish brown sand (127) and to the east was (130), 1.4m wide with a fill of brown silty sand (129). These three features were not excavated.

At the eastern side of this area was a northeast-southwest aligned ditch (046 and 083). This measured over 16m in length, was 1.05m wide by 0.4m deep (Fig. 6, Section 13). The fills were obscured by groundwater levels but included deposits of yellowish grey silty clay (047), grey clayey silt (048), yellowish grey clay (049) and grey silty clay (088). This ditch had subsequently been re-cut as (064/090) which was 0.83m wide and 0.36m deep. This contained fills of grey silty clay (050) and grey clayey silt (051, 052 and 089).

Cutting the north side of this ditch was a shallow, heavily truncated, pit (063). This measured 1.63m long, over 0.3m wide and 80mm deep with a single fill of grey silty clay (053).

Area E

Representing an eastern extension of ditch (122) in Area D was ditch (133/144) that was over 0.4m deep and 3m wide (Fig. 7, Section 37; Plate 15). This was filled with grey with orange brown mottled clayey silt (136) and grey clayey silt (143).

Ditch (072) in Area B continued into Area E as ditch (134/142) and was 2.5m wide and over 0.4m deep (Fig. 7, Section 38; Plate 16). It was filled with grey with orange brown mottling, clayey silt (137 and 141).

Phase 3 Late Iron Age deposits

Area D

Located in the eastern part of this area (Fig. 3) was a gully (067), broadly aligned northwest-southeast. It measured over 5.22m long by 0.4m wide and was 0.13m deep (Fig. 8, Section 17). Two fills were identified and comprised a basal fill of grey clayey silt (068) overlain by brownish grey clayey silt (069). A single fragment of Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from the lower fill along with a probable Neolithic flint flake.

This was cut at its eastern end by ditch (065) which curved northwards at its eastern end. This had a visible length of 21.32m, was 0.7m wide and 0.18m deep (Fig. 8, Sections 17, 21 and 23; Plate 10). A single fill of grey clayey silt (066) was recorded that produced Iron Age pottery, typical of the Sleaford area, with a number of sherds from a Romanised fineware carinated bowl (Fig. 11). The fragments of a possible brooch were also found.

Phase 4 Romano-British deposits

Area A

Situated towards the centre of Area A (Fig.

4) was a north-south aligned ditch (036). This measured over 28m long and was 1.14m wide and 0.26m deep (Fig. 8, Section 7). Four fills were recorded, at the base a mixed grey, greyish brown and orange sandy silt (037), overlain by orange brown sandy silt (038), then brown silt (039) followed by brown/black sandy silt (040). A single fragment of Roman tile was observed within fill (040).

Area D

At the western end of this area (Fig. 5), amongst the group of undated postholes and ditches, was an oval pit (110). This was 0.94m long, 0.62m wide and 0.18m deep (Fig. 9, Section 32). A single fill of grey silty sand (109) produced a sherd of Roman grey ware.

Cutting the Late Iron Age ditch (065), towards the east of this area, was a northwest-southeast aligned ditch (070) that was over 5.82m long, 0.67m wide and 0.22m deep (Fig. 9, Sections 22 and 23; Plate 11). Grey and greyish brown clayey silt (071) constituted the fill which produced 1st to 2nd century pottery.

Cutting the Iron Age ditch (065) and the undated ditch (046) and pit (063) was an east-west aligned ditch (045) that measured over 9.85m long and was 1.7m wide by 0.5m deep (Fig. 9, Section 12). It had a primary fill of mid orange brown clay (054) over which were secondary deposits of light orange brown clay (055), orange brown mottled silty clay (056), bluish grey clay and silty clay (057) and finally orange brown mottled silty clay (058). No dating evidence was recovered from this ditch.

Situated 2.2m to the east was an oval pit (060) that measured 2.66m long by 1.39m wide and 0.28m deep (Fig. 9, Sections 14 and 15). A single fill of grey silty clay (061) was identified which produced a fragment of Roman tile and glass.

Further east was a northwest-southeast ditch (082) that cut the undated ditch (090). This was traced for a length of 6.5m and was 0.8m wide by 0.25m deep (Fig. 9, Sections 19 and 20; Plate 12). Two fills were recorded, a lower of yellowish grey silty clay (086) and an upper of grey clayey silt (087). Two sherds of Black Burnished ware and a single sherd of prehistoric date were collected from the uppermost fill.

Ditch (082) had in turn been cut by ditch (081) along its eastern side. This ditch measured over 9.6m in length and was 0.9m wide and 0.25m deep. Primary fill comprised mid grey clayey silt (084) and a secondary fill was recorded as dark grey clayey silt (085) which produced a single sherd of Roman grey ware and a stone muller from a saddle quern of probable Iron Age date.

Phase 5 Medieval deposits

Area A

Lying 10m from the western edge of this area was a furrow (Fig. 4). Although its position was planned, no further recording was possible.

Area C

Aligned northwest-southeast through this area were two furrows (028 and 030) at a distance of some 12.34m apart (Fig. 5). Only the easternmost furrow was excavated and was proved to be 0.2m deep. Fills comprised grey clayey silt (027) and brownish grey clayey silt (029). The easternmost furrow was noted to extend into Area D to the south, although this was not recorded in any detail.

Area D

Lying parallel to the furrow that extended into this area from Area C was a shallow undated feature, identified as a probable furrow (095). This was 1.58m wide by 0.33m deep and contained a single fill of

greyish brown clayey sand (094).

Phase 6 Post-medieval deposits

General
Across all the stripped areas an intermittent subsoil layer comprising brown clayey silt (079) in Area B, brown clayey sand (026) in Area C and brown clayey silt (059) in Area D was identified.

Area B
Recorded across this area, cut into the subsoil (079), were a number of broadly northeast-southwest aligned planting trenches or plough marks of which four were recorded in detail. These ranged between 7.4m and 18.8m in length.

The first (002) was 0.47m wide by 80mm deep (Fig. 10, Section 1) with fills of orange brown sandy silt (003) and greyish brown sandy silt (004). A fragment of 18th – 19th century clay pipe and 17th – 19th century pottery was retrieved from (004).

The second feature (005) was 0.47m wide and 60mm deep (Fig. 10, Section 2) and also contained two fills, a lower of orange brown sandy silt (006) and an upper of greyish brown sandy silt (007).

To the south was (009) that contained a single fill of greyish brown sandy silt (010) and was 0.3m wide by 30mm deep (Fig. 10, Section 3). Late post-medieval glass was collected from the fill.

The final recorded planting trench (011) measured 0.5m wide by 90mm deep (Fig. 10, Section 4). A lower fill of greyish brown sandy silt (012) was overlain by grey sandy silt (013).

Area E
Cut into the undated ditch (134), was an east-west aligned field drain (140) that was 0.2m wide and 0.36m deep. This contained a fill of brown clayey silt (139) and a ceramic drain.

Phase 7 Recent deposits

Topsoil across the site comprised brown sandy silt (025), brown clayey silt (042), grey clayey silt (080) and greyish brown sandy silt (135) and measured between 0.27m and 0.36m thick.

Above the topsoil in Area D were two dumped deposits, comprising mottled orange brown clay (043) and brown clayey silt (044). Both these deposits derived from the stripping of the access road (Pride Parkway) in 2008 and were only evident along the southern boundary of this area (Fig. 10, Section 11).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits comprise clay, silty clays and sandy clays representing the upper weathered surface of the underlying solid geology of Kellaways Sands.

A number of features remain undated (Phase 2) due to a lack of artefactual and/or stratigraphic evidence. These include ditches, postholes, gullies and a pit. Some ditches appear to be parallel or perpendicular to the known arrangement of Romano-British fields and are likely to be part of the extensive field system previously identified from cropmarks (Palmer 2004). Two pits remain undated and their function is not clear, though one may be a tree bole.

A group of five postholes, in Area B, in a closely spaced linear arrangement probably indicates the remnant of a northwest-southeast aligned fence. No postholes were found parallel to this group so a structure is unlikely. The fact that the fence-line is located perpendicular to modern field boundaries would suggest a probable post-medieval or modern date for

its construction.

An arrangement of postholes in Area D lying between the termini of three ditches is likely to indicate a field entrance with either a gate or a 'drafting gate' arrangement for the handling of livestock, such has been excavated at Fengate, Peterborough (Pryor 1996, 319). If these are an indication of livestock farming, it is probable that many of the ditches would have an accompanying hedge as they are too shallow in themselves to impede the movement of animals. The number of postholes may instead indicate that the gate was replaced over a period of time. Although largely undated, a single sherd of pottery from one of the features was of Roman date which may provide dating for the group as a whole.

Late Iron Age (Phase 3) features were located principally in the eastern part of the site (Area D) and comprise a gully and a ditch. The ditch appears to define an enclosure, extending northwards from the area or possibly turning westwards as ditch (132). If the latter, the enclosure would measure in the region of 21m by 16m with a possible entrance towards its northern corner. An enclosure this size may have functioned as a small livestock paddock.

Romano-British (Phase 4) deposits were spread across the site but again were mainly concentrated towards the east side of Area D. These comprised ditches, a gully and two pits. The ditches are suggestive of agricultural practises and generally contain little in the way of cultural material indicating settlement in the vicinity of the site.

The Romano-British deposits date to the 1st to 2nd century with no deposits or finds clearly of 3rd to 4th century date. This would suggest a change in the agricultural regime at the site, such as the amalgamation of fields into larger areas which are no longer managed from dispersed farmsteads. This may have occurred as a result of the establishment of a villa some 300m to the north of the site in the 3rd century. The Roman small town of Sleaford has mainly produced 3rd – 4th century material (Taylor 2010, 122) and may support the idea that agricultural practises were being administered from central areas rather than from dispersed settlements.

Despite Saxon material having been identified during previous evaluation of the site, no further deposits were revealed that could be assigned to this period.

Deposits dating to the medieval period (Phase 5) comprise the infilled furrows of the former ridge and furrow field system. These share a common north-south alignment and are between 12.3m and 13.4m apart.

Post-medieval deposits (Phase 6) are largely indicated by subsoil development across the site and features of an agricultural nature. Throughout the site, parallel trenches were visible above the subsoil on a generally northeast-southwest alignment. Usually no more than 90mm deep, these are believed to be planting trenches or broad plough marks. In addition, the excavated areas contained several phases of land drain insertions, of which some incorporated hand-made pipes. No formal record was made of these, apart from a field drain in Area E, although were planned where they affected other features.

Finds retrieved from the investigation include a range of pottery dating from the Late Iron Age to the post-medieval period. Late Iron Age pottery was dated to the 1st century AD and may be regarded as spanning the transition into the Romano-British period. A similar range of pottery was recovered during the stripping of the

access road which highlighted the possibility of a military or official presence at the site or involved in its ceramic supply shortly after the Conquest (Rowlandson and Precious 2008). Also of probable Iron Age date is a possible copper alloy brooch and the top stone from a saddle quern.

Romano-British pottery spans the later 1st to 2nd century with no later material present. Quantities of this material are small, confirming that the site was not located in close proximity to settlement.

Medieval pottery and post-medieval pottery was also retrieved, principally as unstratified material and is likely to have derived from the topsoil. Such finds are likely to represent manuring scatters when rubbish from settlements was spread over the fields to improve soil fertility. Post-medieval clay pipe, brick and glass were also recovered from the investigation.

The earliest artefact found was a broken flint flake of probable Neolithic date. A Neolithic presence has been previously noted in proximity to the site.

Overall, the number of finds recovered during this investigation is relatively low. This supports the suggestions that the site was largely agricultural in nature throughout the prehistoric to medieval periods. Most of the significant finds were retrieved from features located in the eastern part of the site and it is possible that any contemporary settlement is located in this direction.

Environmental data was largely disappointing, although a number of charred cereal grains, including spelt wheat, were retrieved. It is thought that most of the plant remains entered the features as scattered refuse. Similarly, only low numbers of animal bone were recovered during the investigation with cattle and sheep/goat the only securely identifiable species present.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Pride Parkway, Sleaford, as the site lay in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period to the present day.

The investigations revealed deposits of Late Iron Age, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval date as well as a number of undated features. Undated features include ditches, postholes, gullies and a pit. Although undated, their association with other features may ascertain that they belong to the Romano-British and later periods.

A gully and a ditch were dated to the Late Iron Age and were agricultural in origin. Romano-British deposits appear to suggest that agriculture continued at the site until the 2nd century. Medieval agricultural practises were also identified in the form of the infilled furrows of the ridge and furrow field system.

Iron Age to post-medieval pottery was the largest category of finds retrieved from the site. However, the amount of this material is low and suggests that the site lay away from any contemporary settlement. Other finds include ceramic building materials, clay pipe and glass. A Neolithic flint flake was also recovered.

Environmental evidence suggests that cereals were grown or processed in the vicinity, but otherwise was largely disappointing. Animal bone, primarily of sheep/goat and cattle were also recovered.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Dale Trimble
Site Supervisor: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Site Staff: Alex Beeby, Bryn Leadbetter, Chris Moulis, Liz Murray, Mark Peachey, Jonathon Smith
Surveying: Chris Moulis, Dale Trimble
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Sample Processing: Jonathon Smith
Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Finds illustration: Dave Watts
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IfA Institute for Archaeologists

LAS Lindsey Archaeological Services

PCA Pre-Construct Archaeology

Figure 1 - General location plan

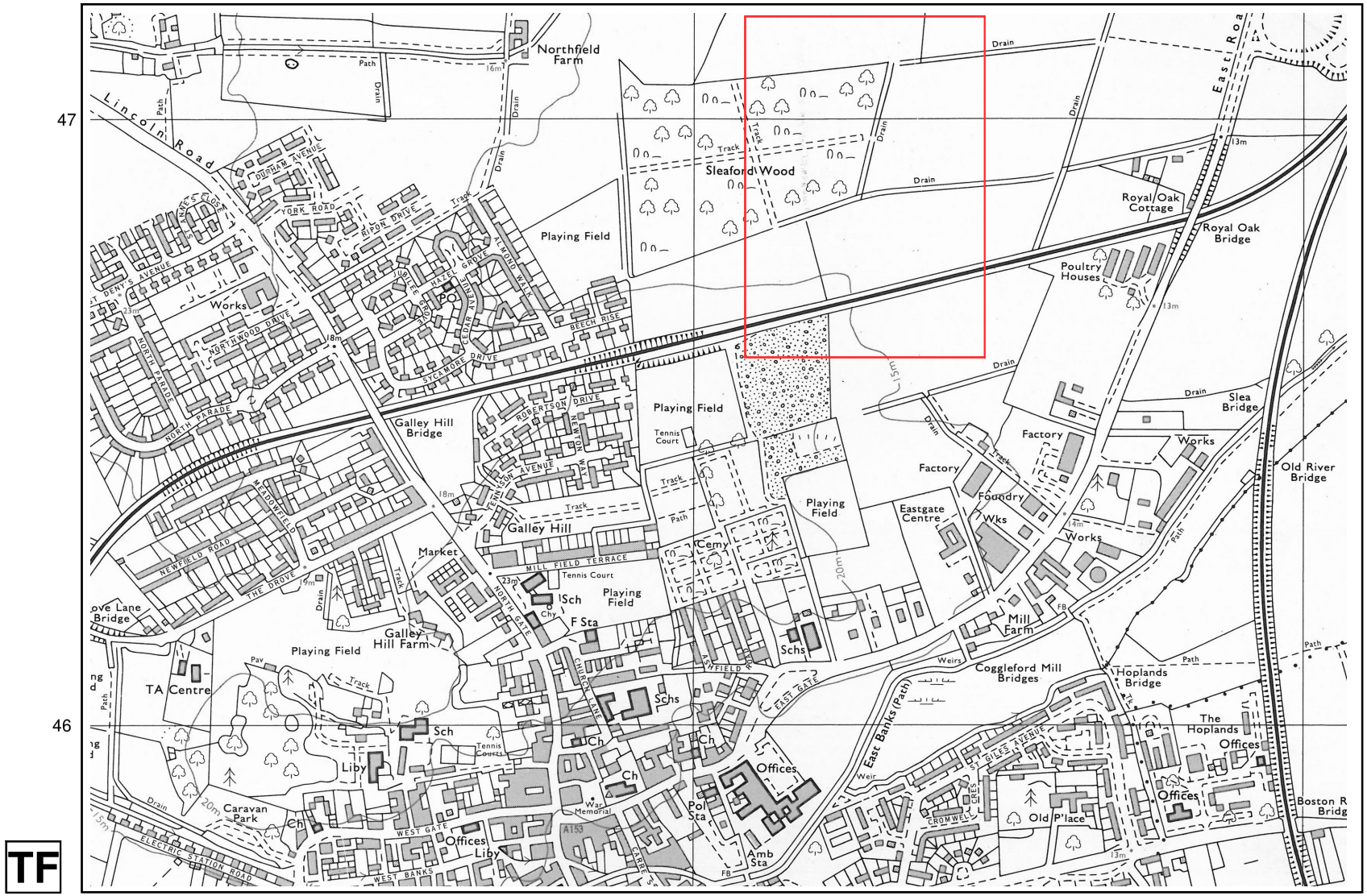


Figure 2 - Site location plan

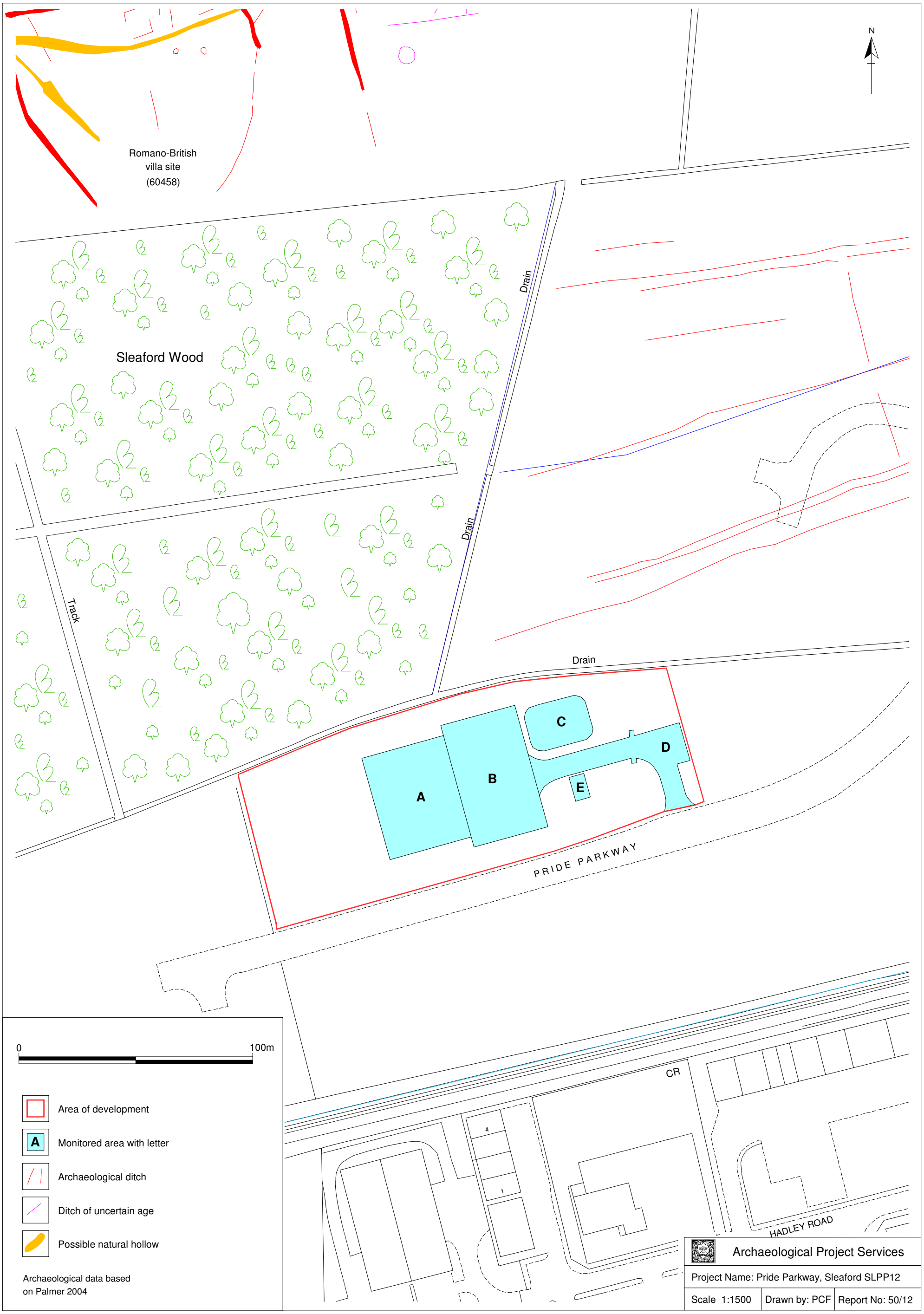


Figure 3 - Area location plan showing archaeological data in the vicinity

Figure 4 - Site phase plan

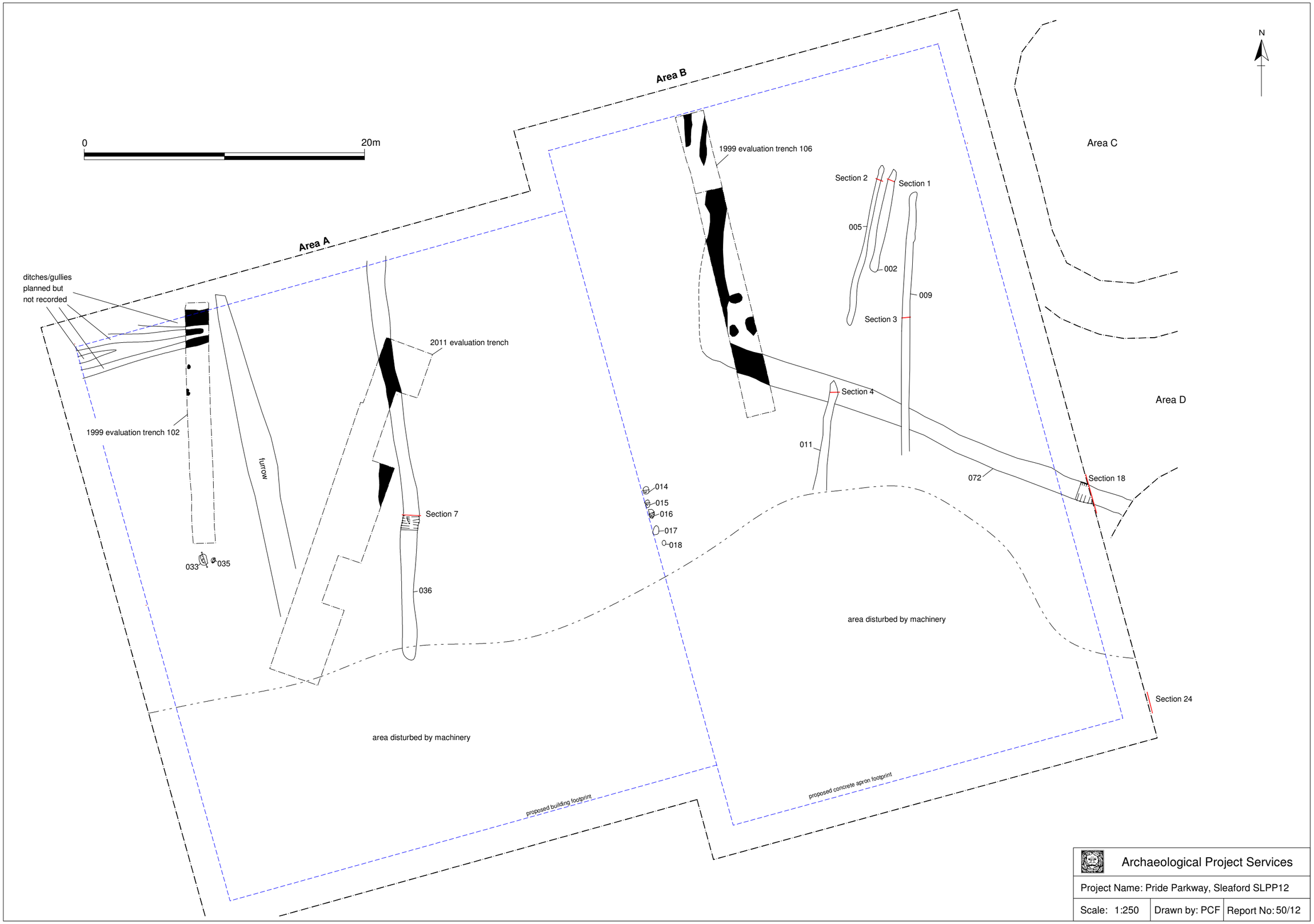


Figure 5 - Area A and B plan

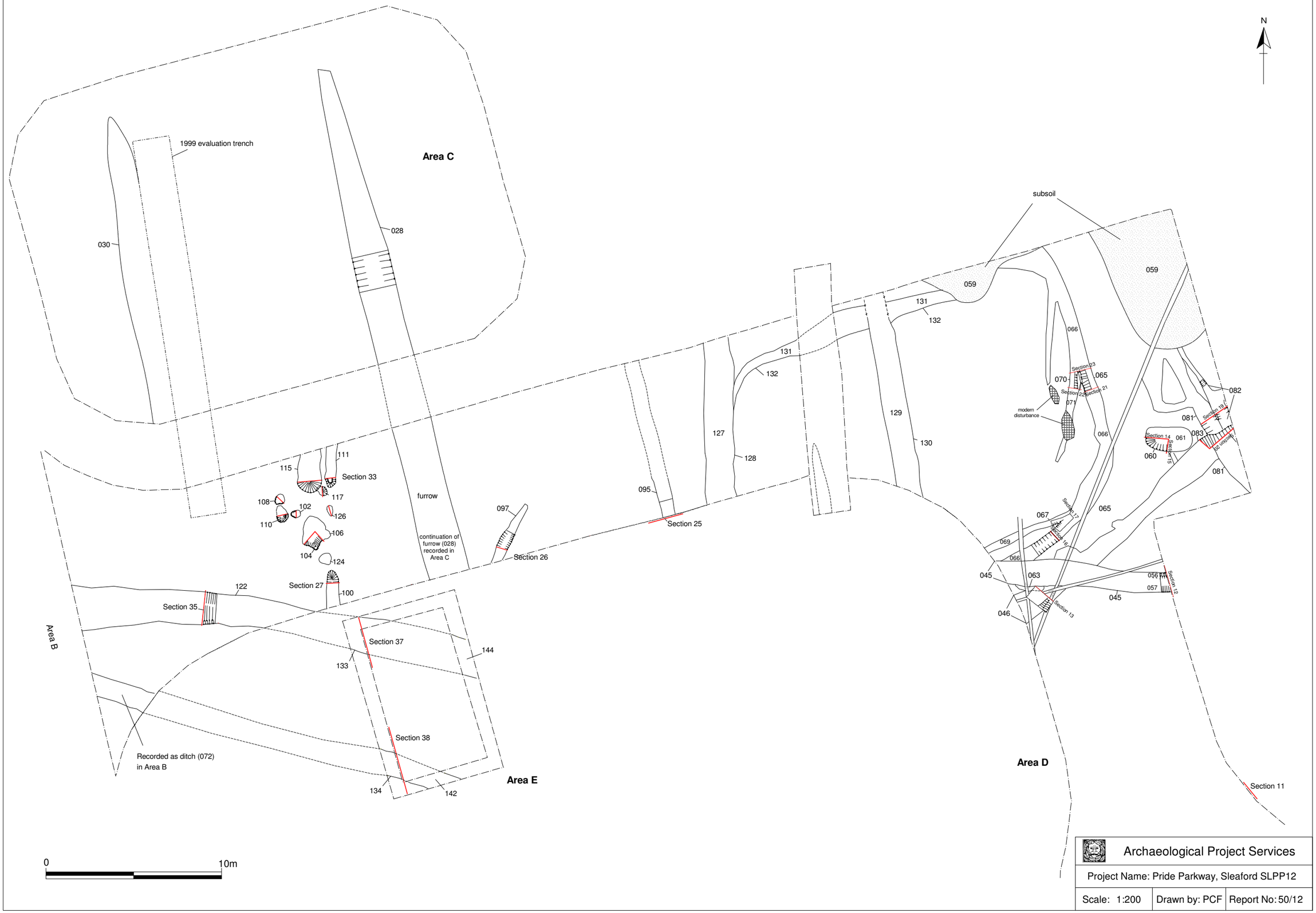
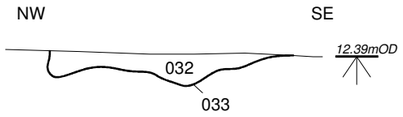


Figure 6 - Areas C, D and E plan



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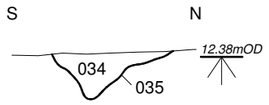

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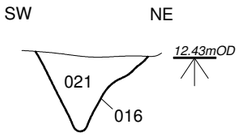

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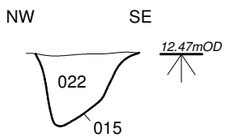

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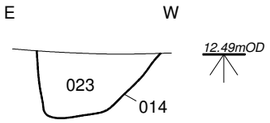

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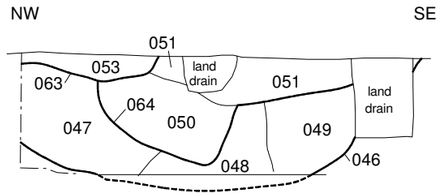

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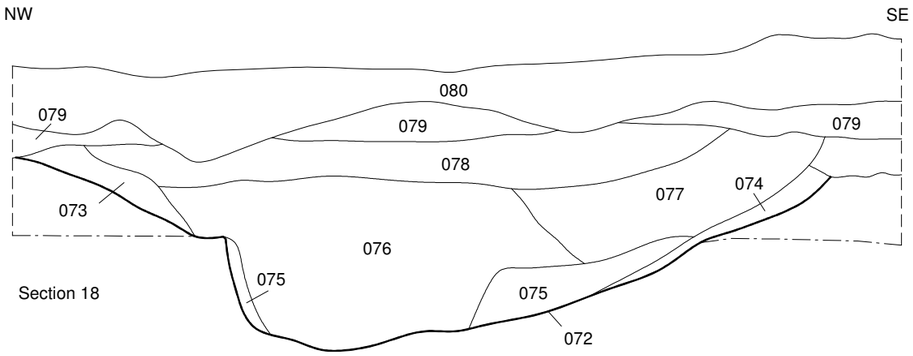

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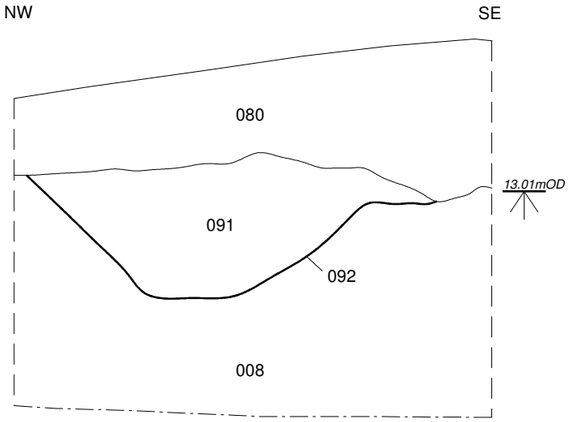

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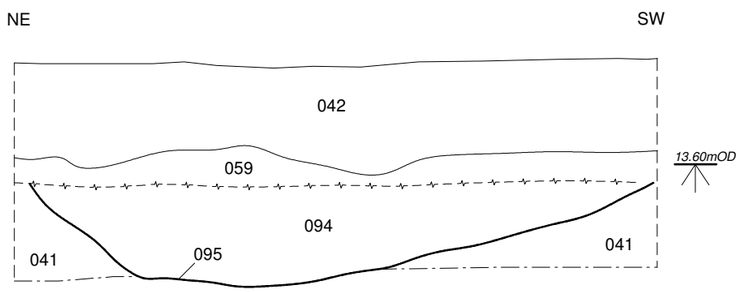

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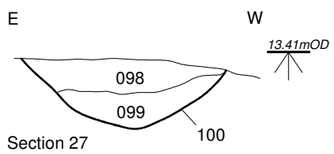
Section 26



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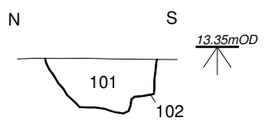


Section 28

Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Pride Parkway, Sleaford SLPP12		
Scale: 1:20	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 50/12

Figure 7 - Phase 2 sections

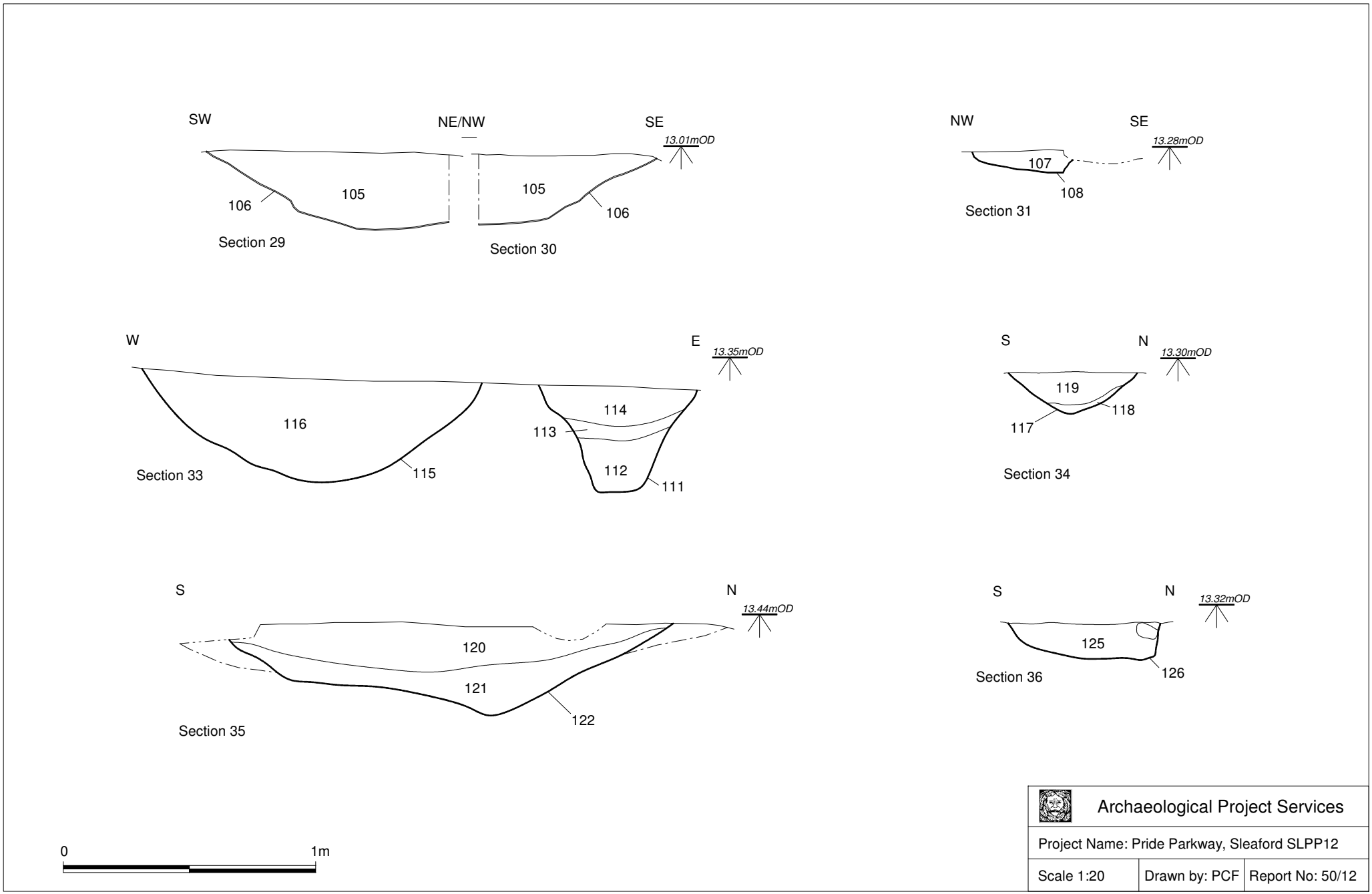
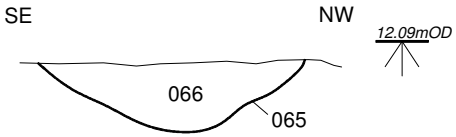


Figure 8 - Phase 2 sections (continued)



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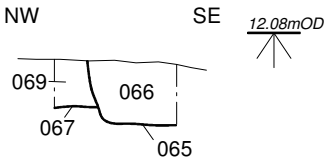

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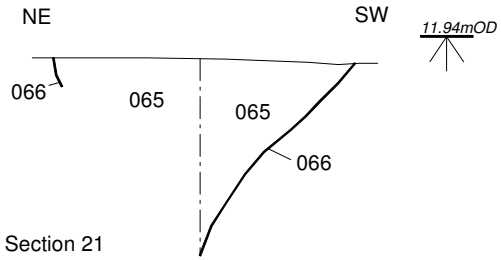

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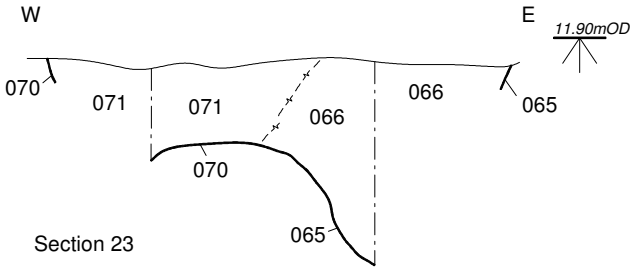

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Figure 9 - Phase 3 sections

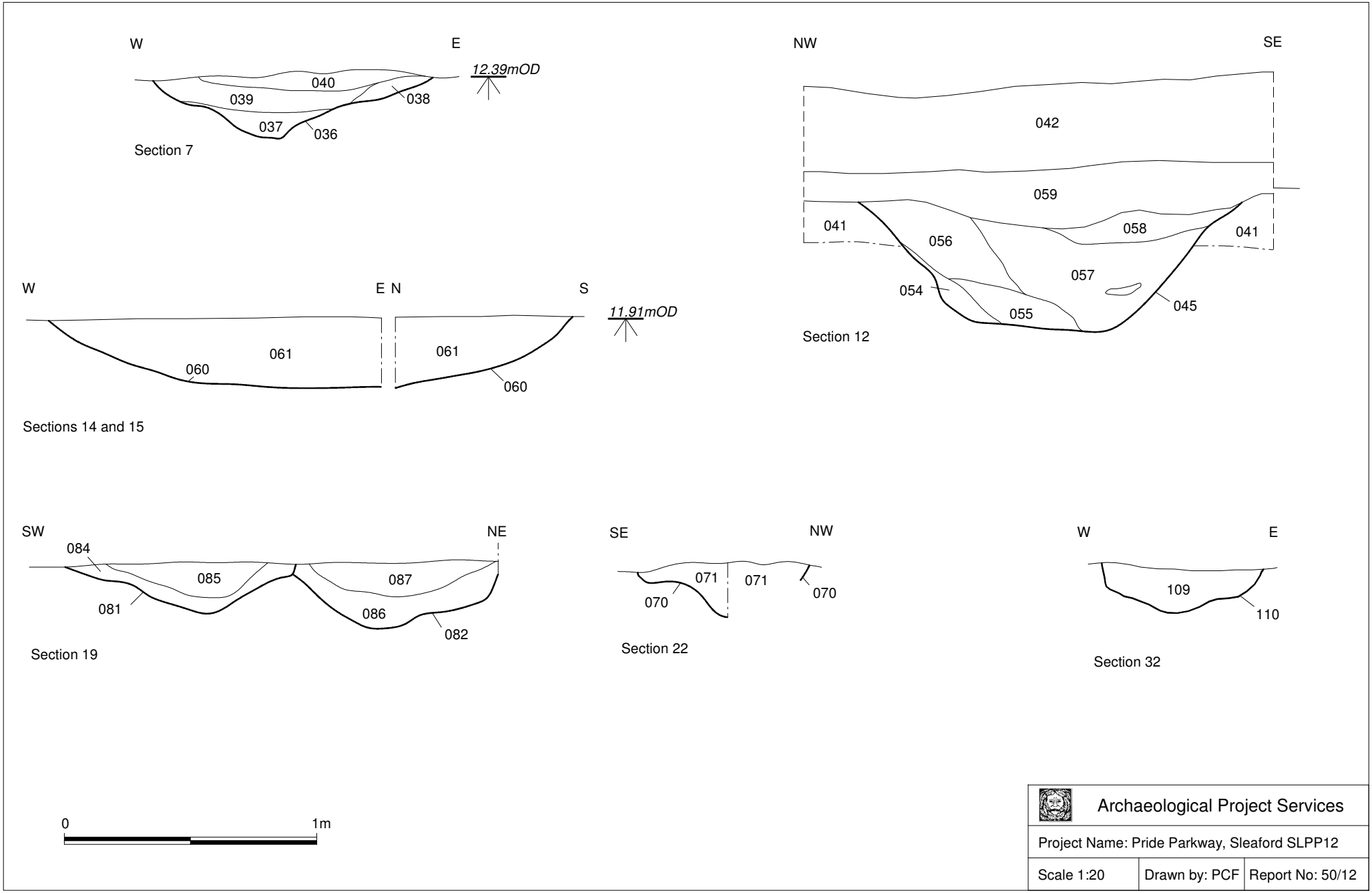


Figure 10 - Phase 4 sections

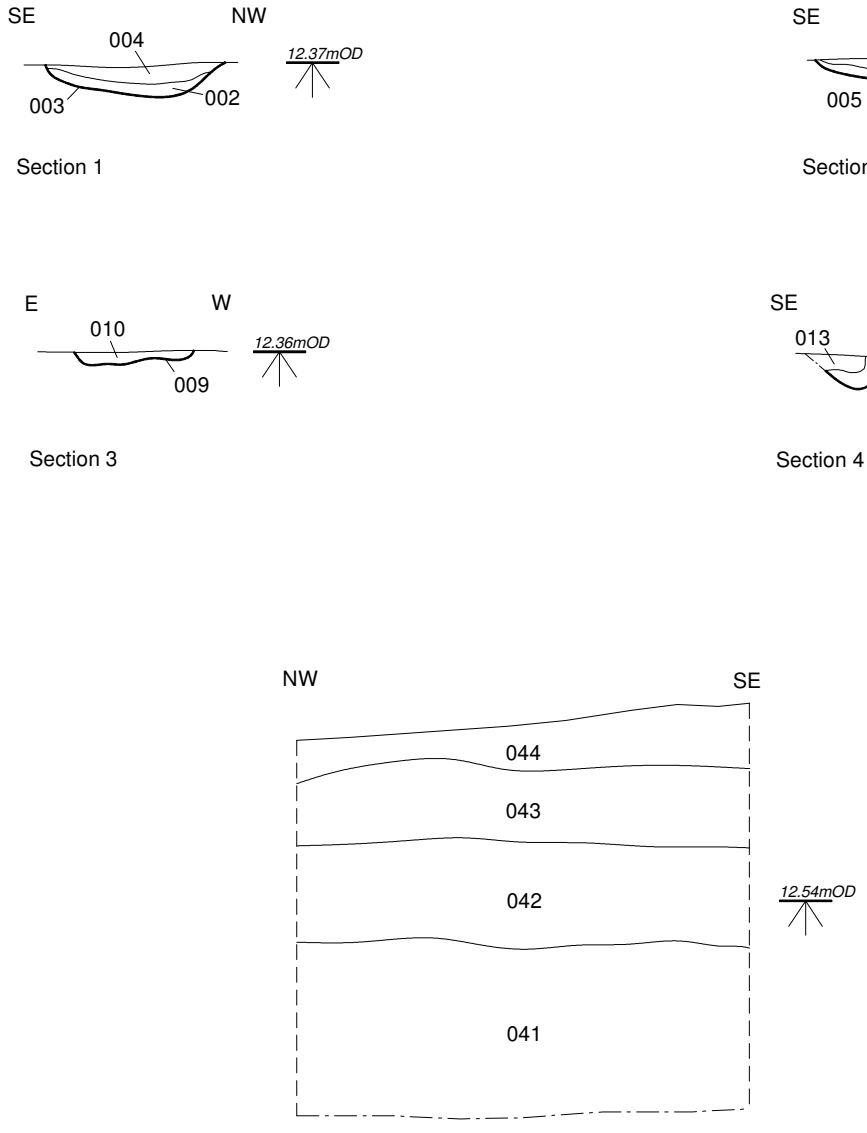
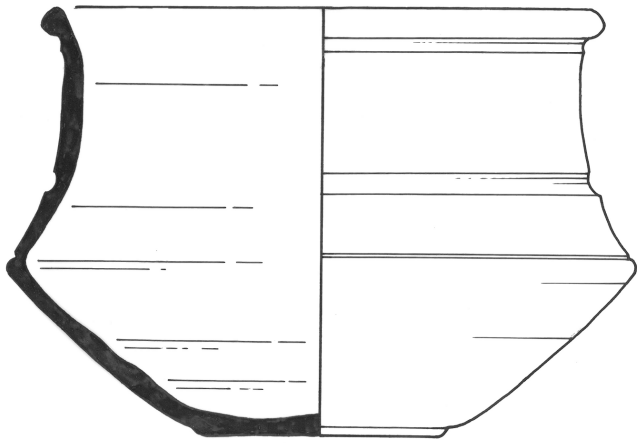
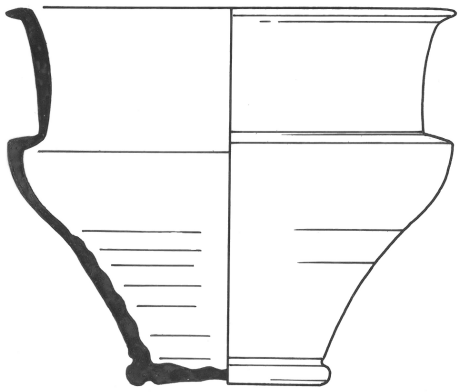


Figure 11 - Phase 6 and later sections



1. Context (066), Native Tradition Shell-tempered carinated bowl



2. Context (066), Miscellaneous fine grey ware carinated bowl

0 10cm

Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Pride Parkway, Sleaford		
Scale 1:2	Drawn by: DW	Report No: 50/12

Figure 12 - The illustrated pottery

Plate 1 – View across the development site, looking southwest

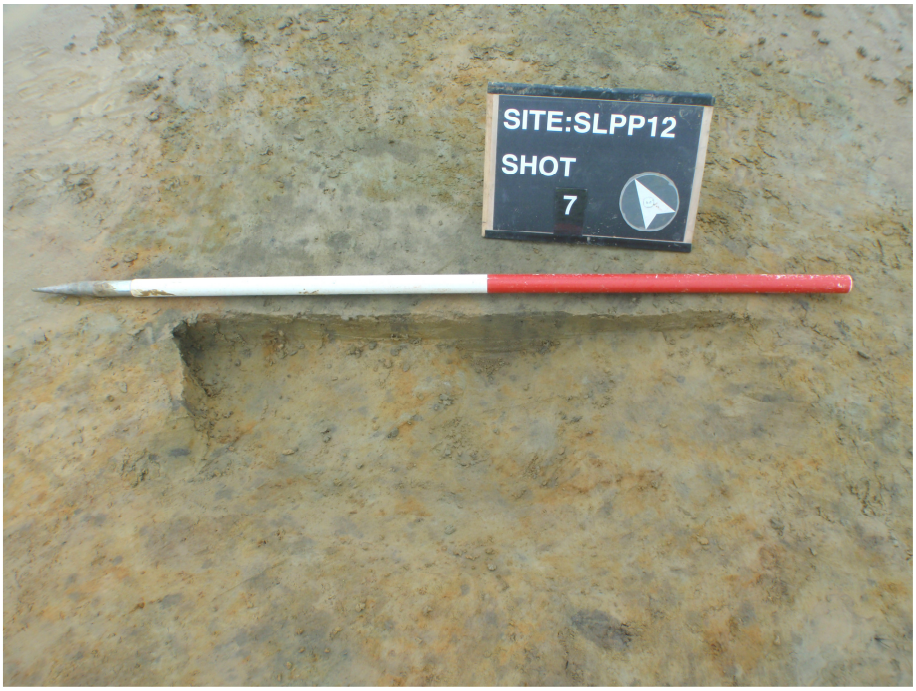


Plate 2 – Area A: undated pit (033), looking northeast

Plate 3 – Area A: undated posthole (035), looking northwest

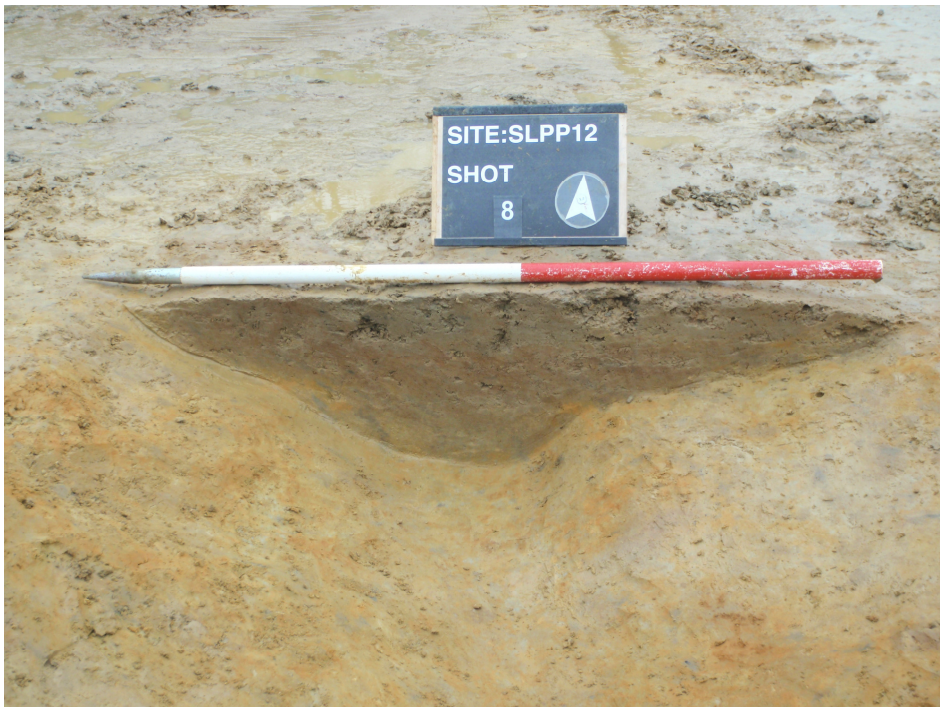


Plate 4 – Area A: Romano-British ditch (036), looking north

Plate 5 – Area B: undated posthole (016), looking north

Plate 6 – Area B: undated posthole (015), looking north

Plate 7 – Area B: undated ditch (072), looking northeast

Plate 8 – Area D after stripping with the Iron Age ditch (065) towards the centre of the photograph and the Romano-British pit (060) in the foreground, looking northwest

Plate 9 – Excavations underway at the western end of Area D, looking west

Plate 10 – Area D: Section 16, showing Late Iron Age ditch (065), looking northeast

Plate 11 – Area D: Section 23 with Romano-British gully (070) to the left and ditch (065) to the right, looking north

Plate 12 – Area D: Section 20 showing Romano-British ditches (081) and (082), looking southeast

Plate 13 – Area D: undated pit (106), looking north

Plate 14 – Area D: undated ditches (111) and (115), looking north

Plate 15 - Area E: Section 37 showing undated ditch (133), looking east

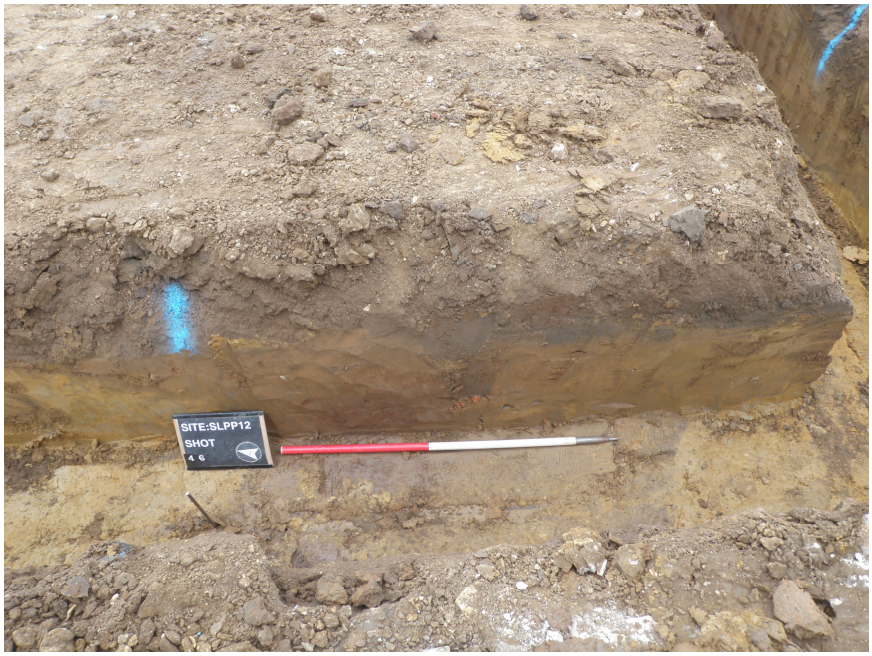


Plate 16 - Area E: Section 38 showing ditch (134), looking east

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Area	Description	Interpretation
001	B	Unstratified finds retrieval	
002	B	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, 7.44m long by 0.47m wide by 80mm deep, gentle sides and flattish base	Planting trench
003	B	Firm mid orange brown sandy silt	Fill of (002)
004	B	Firm mid greyish brown sandy silt	Fill of (002)
005	B	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, 11.59m long by 0.4m wide by 60mm deep, gradual sides and rounded base	Planting trench
006	B	Firm to friable mid orange brown clayey silt	Fill of (005)
007	B	Firm mid greyish brown sandy silt	Fill of (005)
008	B	Firm mid greyish brown and orange brown silty clay	Natural deposit
009	B	Linear feature, aligned north-south, 18.78m long by 0.3m wide by 30mm deep, indistinct sides and undulating base	Planting trench
010	B	Firm dark greyish brown sandy silt	Fill of (009)
011	B	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, 8.06m long by 0.5m wide by 90mm deep, steepish sides and undulating base	Planting trench
012	B	Firm mid greyish brown sandy silt	Fill of (011)
013	B	Firm dark grey sandy silt	Fill of (011)
014	B	Oval feature, 0.5m long by 0.4m wide by 0.21m deep, steep sides with tapered base	Posthole
015	B	Oval feature, 0.5m long by 0.31m wide by 0.23m deep, steep sides with tapered base	Posthole
016	B	Oval feature, 0.62m long by 0.34m wide by 0.25m deep, steep sides with rounded base	Posthole
017	B	Oval feature, 0.6m long by 0.4m wide, not excavated	Posthole
018	B	Oval feature, 0.38m long by 0.26m wide, not excavated	Posthole
019	B	Friable mid to light brown sandy silt	Fill of (018)
020	B	Friable mid to light brown sandy silt	Fill of (017)
021	B	Friable mid to light brown sandy silt	Fill of (016)
022	B	Friable mid to light brown sandy silt	Fill of (015)
023	B	Friable mid to light brown sandy silt	Fill of (014)
024	A	Unstratified finds retrieval	
025	C	Firm to soft dark brown sandy silt with modern dumped stone, 0.36m thick	Topsoil
026	C	Firm mid brown clayey sand, 100mm thick	Subsoil
027	C	Firm mid grey clayey silt	(Fill of (028)
028	C	Linear feature, aligned north-south, >17.6m long by 2m wide by 0.2m deep, gradual sides and rounded base	Furrow
029	C	Firm mid to light brownish grey clayey silt	Fill of (030)
030	C	Linear feature, aligned north-south, not excavated	Furrow
031	C	Firm to plastic mid yellowish brown clayey sand	Natural deposit
032	A	Firm mid greyish green sand	Fill of (033)
033	A	Oval feature, 0.82m long by 0.58m wide by 0.11m deep, gradual sides and uneven base	Possible pit
034	A	Firm mid greyish green sand	Fill of (035)
035	A	Oval feature, 0.36m long by 0.3m wide by 0.16m deep, steep sides with tapered base	Posthole

No.	Area	Description	Interpretation
036	A	Linear feature, aligned north-south, >28.75m long by 1.14m wide by 0.26m deep, gradual sides and rounded base	Ditch
037	A	Firm to friable mixed mid to dark grey, greyish brown and orange brown sandy silt	Fill of (036)
038	A	Firm to friable mid orange brown sandy silt	Fill of (036)
039	A	Firm to friable mid to dark brown silt	Fill of (036)
040	A	Firm dark brown/black sandy silt	Fill of (036)
041	D	Firm mid orange brown and light bluish grey clay	Natural deposit
042	D	Friable mid brown clayey silt, 0.27m thick	Topsoil
043	D	Firm mid orange brown with light bluish grey mottling, clay, 0.2m thick	Dumped deposit
044	D	Friable mid brown clayey silt, 0.17m thick	Dumped deposit
045	D	Linear feature, aligned east-west, >9.85m long by 1.7m wide by 0.5m deep, moderate sides and flat base	Ditch
046	D	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, >16.09m long by 1.05m wide by 0.4m deep, steep sides and rounded base	Ditch
047	D	Soft light yellowish grey silty clay	Fill of (046)
048	D	Firm mid grey clayey silt	Fill of (046)
049	D	Firm light yellowish grey clay	Fill of (046)
050	D	Firm mid grey silty clay	Fill of (064)
051	D	Soft mid grey clayey silt	Fill of (064)
052	D	Firm mid grey clayey silt	Fill of (064)
053	D	Firm dark grey silty clay	Fill of (063)
054	D	Firm mid orange brown clay	Fill of (045)
055	D	Firm light orange brown clay	Fill of (045)
056	D	Firm mid orange brown with light bluish grey mottling, silty clay	Fill of (045)
057	D	Firm mid bluish grey clay and silty clay with occasional large cobbles	Fill of (045)
058	D	Firm mid orange brown with light bluish grey mottling, silty clay	Fill of (045)
059	D	Friable light brown clayey silt, 0.2m thick	Subsoil
060	D	Oval feature, 2.66m long by 1.39m wide by 0.28m deep, gradual sides and flat base	Pit
061	D	Friable mid to dark grey silty clay	Fill of (060)
062	Cancelled context		
063	D	Oval feature, 1.63m long by >0.3m wide by 80mm deep, steep sides and flattish base	Pit
064	D	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, 0.83m wide by 0.36m deep, steep sides and rounded base	Re-cut of ditch (046)
065	D	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, curving to the north at the east end, >21.32m long by 0.7m wide by 0.18m deep, steepish sides and rounded base	Ditch
066	D	Soft dark grey clayey silt	Fill of (065)
067	D	Curvilinear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, turning north to the west, >5.22m long by 0.4m wide by 0.13m deep, steepish sides and flat base	Gully
068	D	Firm light grey clayey silt	Fill of (067)
069	D	Firm mid brownish grey clayey silt	Fill of (067)
070	D	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, >5.82m long by 0.67m wide by 0.22m deep, vertical to steep sides and V-shaped base	Ditch
071	D	Friable dark grey and greyish brown clayey silt	Fill of (070)

No.	Area	Description	Interpretation
072	B	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, >32.9m long by 1.2m wide by 0.55m deep, stepped and gradual sides and rounded base	Ditch
073	B	Soft mid yellowish brown clayey silt	Fill of (072)
074	B	Firm light greyish yellow clay	Fill of (072)
075	B	Soft dark grey clayey silt	Fill of (072)
076	B	Firm mid grey silty clay	Fill of (072)
077	B	Soft mid greyish brown clayey silt	Fill of (072)
078	B	Soft mid greyish brown clayey silt	Fill of (072)
079	B	Soft mid brown clayey silt, 0.13m thick	Subsoil
080	B	Firm dark grey clayey silt, 0.3m thick	Topsoil
081	D	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, >9.66m long by 0.9m wide by 0.25m deep, gradual sides and flat base	Ditch
082	D	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, >6.5m long by 0.8m wide by 0.25m deep, steepish sides and flat base	Ditch
083	D	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, >11.54m long by 1.52m wide by 0.6m deep, steep sides	Ditch
084	D	Firm mid grey clayey silt	Fill of (081)
085	D	Firm dark grey clayey silt	Fill of (081)
086	D	Firm mid yellowish grey silty clay	Fill of (082)
087	D	Firm dark grey clayey silt	Fill of (082)
088	D	Firm mid grey silty clay	Fill of (083)
089	D	Firm dark grey clayey silt	Fill of (090)
090	D	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, 0.8m wide by 0.4m deep, steep sides and rounded base	Re-cut of ditch (083)
091	B	Firm mid brownish grey silty sand	Fill of (092)
092	B	Feature, 1.36m wide by 0.47m deep, steep side to north, moderate to south and rounded base	Pit
093	C	Unstratified finds retrieval	
094	D	Soft light greyish brown silty sand	Fill of (095)
095	D	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, >2.28m long by 1.58m wide by 0.33m deep, steep side to east, gradual to west, rounded base	Possible furrow
096	D	Firm light yellowish brown silty sand	Fill of (097)
097	D	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, >3.8m long by 0.64m wide by 0.15m deep, steep side to east, moderate to west, rounded base	Ditch
098	D	Firm dark brownish grey sandy silt	Fill of (100)
099	D	Firm to plastic dark yellow silty clay	Fill of (100)
100	D	Linear feature, aligned north-south, 2.12m long by 0.67m wide by 0.23m deep, steep sides and rounded base	Ditch
101	D	Firm mottled mid grey, mid orange and mid brown sand	Fill of (102)
102	D	Oval feature, 0.5m long by 0.37m wide by 0.15m deep, vertical to very steep sides and uneven base	Posthole
103	D	Soft mid to light grey sand	Fill of (104)
104	D	Sub-circular feature, 0.28m long by 0.25m wide by 0.18m deep, near vertical sides and flattish base	Posthole
105	D	Firm dark grey silty sand	Fill of (106)
106	D	Irregular feature, 1.72m long by 1.5m wide by 0.3m deep, moderate to steep sides and rounded base	Pit
107	D	Firm mid to dark grey silty sand	Fill of (108)
108	D	Sub-circular feature, 0.6m long by 0.5m wide by 90mm deep, very steep sides and sloping base	Posthole

No.	Area	Description	Interpretation
109	D	Firm dark grey silty sand	Fill of (110)
110	D	Oval feature, 0.94m long by 0.62m wide by 0.18m deep, moderate sides and rounded base	Small pit
111	D	Linear feature, aligned north-south, >2.43m long by 0.61m wide by 0.42m deep, steep sides, step at terminus and flattish base	Ditch
112	D	Loose mid grey silty sand	Fill of (111)
113	D	Loose mid orange brown silty sand	Fill of (111)
114	D	Loose mid grey silty sand	Fill of (111)
115	D	Linear feature, aligned north-south, >2.56m long by 1.35m wide by 0.41m deep, moderate sides and rounded base	Ditch
116	D	Loose mid grey silty sand	Fill of (115)
117	D	Sub-circular feature, 0.63m long by 0.51m wide by 0.16m deep, moderate sides and rounded base	Posthole
118	D	Friable dark orange brown silty sand with clay 'pad'	Fill of (117)
119	D	Friable mid orange grey silty sand	Fill of (117)
120	D	Firm mid grey and brown silty sand	Fill of (122)
121	D	Firm to plastic mixed mid orange clay and mid grey silty sand	Fill of (122)
122	D	Linear feature, aligned east-west, >13.72m long by 1.75m wide by 0.35m deep, gradual sides becoming steeper at depth, rounded base	Ditch
123	D	Firm dark grey silty sand	Fill of (124)
124	D	Sub-circular feature, 0.72m long by 0.68m wide, not excavated	Posthole
125	D	Firm dark grey silty sand	Fill of (126)
126	D	Oval feature, 0.61m long by 0.32m wide by 0.13m deep, vertical sides to north, moderate to south, flattish base	Posthole
127	D	Soft light greyish brown sand	Fill of (128)
128	D	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, >9.17m long by 1.7m wide, not excavated	Ditch
129	D	Soft light brown silty sand	Fill of (130)
130	D	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, >11.13m long by 1.4m wide, not excavated	Ditch
131	D	Soft mid to dark grey silty sand	Fill of (132)
132	D	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, curving south towards west, >14.5m long by 0.7m wide by 60mm deep, gradual sides and rounded base	Ditch
133	E	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, 3m wide by >0.4m deep, gradual sides, not fully excavated	Ditch
134	E	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, 2.5m wide by >0.5m deep, gradual to steep sides, not fully excavated	Ditch
135	E	Firm dark greyish brown sandy silt, 0.3m thick	Topsoil
136	E	Firm mid grey with orange brown mottled clayey silt	Fill of (133)
137	E	Firm mid grey with orange brown mottled clayey silt	Fill of (134)
138	E	Firm mid yellow silty clay, >0.5m thick	Natural deposit
139	E	Firm dark brown clayey silt	Fill of (140)
140	E	Linear feature, aligned east-west, 0.2m wide by 0.36m deep, vertical sides and rounded base	Field drain
141	E	Firm mid grey with orange brown mottled clayey silt	Fill of (142)
142	E	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, steep sides, not fully excavated	Ditch *(same as (134))*
143	E	Firm mid grey clayey silt	Fill of (144)
144	E	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, steep sides, not fully excavated	Ditch *(same as 133))*

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

ROMAN AND LATE IRON AGE POTTERY

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by Darling (2004) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. A total of 54 sherds from 14 vessels, weighing 823 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 Archive Catalogue 1, with a summary of fabric types in Table 1 below.

Condition

The condition of the material is good, with the vast majority of sherds being fresh and unabraded. Most of the pottery came from a single context (066), which includes primary deposition material.

Results

Table 1, Summary of the Roman Pottery

Category	Fabric	Cname	Full name	NoS	NoV	W(g)
Iron Age Tradition Fabrics	Grog	IAGROG	Iron Age Grog Tempered Wares	4	1	188
	Reduced	IASA	Iron Age Sandy Wares	1	1	6
	Shell	IASH	Native Tradition Shell-Tempered	21	3	321
Romanised Fabrics	Reduced	BB1	Black Burnished Ware 1	2	1	19
	Reduced	GFIN	Miscellaneous Fine Grey Ware	14	1	176
	Reduced	GREY	Miscellaneous Grey Ware	2	2	13
	Oxidised	CRMIC	Micaceous Creamwares	1	1	8
	Shell	SHEL	Undifferentiated Shell-Tempered	2	1	77
Other	N/A	MISC	Miscellaneous Uncategorized	2	1	1
	Shell?	VESIC	Vesicular Fabric	5	2	14
			Total	**54**	**14**	**823**

Provenance

The bulk of the pottery was recovered from (066), the single fill context within ditch (065). Small numbers of sherds were also recovered from linear features (067), (071), (087), (085) and (109) and a single piece came from pit feature (063).

Range

Ditch (065)

There are five vessels here, two of which are represented by over ten sherds per vessel. These are likely to be evidence of primary deposition. There are two carinated bowls, one jar or bowl with an everted rim and two large jar or bowls. All but one of these vessels is likely to be wheelmade. The fabrics are essentially very late Iron Age types and include three vessels in Iron Age Shell Tempered (IASH) wares, one in Iron Age Grog Tempered ware (IAGROG) and a fifth in a Romanised fineware (GFIN), Which has minimal grog inclusions

The carinated bowl in GFIN has a very sharply angled carinated body wall with a long neck and a moulded footring at the base (Dr 2). This type of form is a long lived one which begins in the early to mid 1st century and seems to survive, into the late second, and perhaps even early third century in this region (*c.f.* Darling 1984, 62 and Elsdon & Oetgen 1997, fig 62.139), perhaps with a hiatus in the early to mid 2nd century. The notably sharp carination here and the grey fabric with minimal grog tempering suggest an earlier rather than a later date, probably in the mid to late 1st century AD.

The remaining pottery from this feature is much more typical of the very late Iron Age in Sleaford with dark fabrics displaying oxidised surfaces or margins and well sorted shell and/or grog tempering. Only one of these vessels in an Iron Age Tradition fabric (IASH) has a full profile, this has a sharp carination and a thick, low cordon below a wide everted neck (Dr 1). Cordoned and carinated vessels at old Sleaford have a 1st century date, belonging to Phase/Period 2 (Elsdon and Oetgen, 1997, 108).

Other features
Other diagnostically significant material includes two fragments from a jar (Cook Pot) in Black Burnished Ware Type 1 (BB1), which were recovered from ditch (082) and two rim sherds from a wheel made jar in shell tempered ware (SHEL) from ditch (071). The jar in BB1 dates to the 2nd century and is very unlikely to have been made before AD120. The large shell tempered vessel is a neatly formed wheel made item, probably of later 1st or 2nd century date. A single fragment of handmade Iron Age pottery was also recovered from gully (067).

Potential
Two vessels are worthy of illustration as these are likely to be primary deposition material and are excellent and unique examples of their type. Vessels suitable for illustration are listed in Table 2 below.

Table 2, Vessels suitable for Illustration

Dr	Area	Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Form Cname	Form Full Name	NoS	W(g)
1	D	066	IASH	Native Tradition Shell-Tempered	BCAR	Carinated Bowl	19	168
2	D	066	GFIN	Miscellaneous Fine Grey Ware	BCAR	Carinated Bowl	14	176

Summary
A number of linear features produced pottery dating to the Late Iron Age Transition and Roman period. A single ditch, (065), yielded large fresh pieces from five vessels likely to date to the mid to late 1st century AD.

POST ROMAN POTTERY
By Alex Beeby

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 16 sherds from 10 vessels, weighing 95 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 Archive Catalogue 2, with a summary of fabrics in Table 3 below . The pottery ranges in date from the Medieval to the Early Modern period.

Condition
The pottery is fragmentary and a high proportion of the material is abraded.

Results

Table 3, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Cname	Full Name	Earliest Date	Latest Date	Period	NoS	NoV	W(g)
BOUA	Bourne Medieval Fabrics A-C	1150	1400	Medieval	1	1	4
BOU	Bourne D ware	1350	1650	Late Medieval to Post Medieval	1	1	4
RAER	Raeren stoneware	1450	1600		1	1	8
GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	1500	1650	Post Medieval	1	1	9
STSL	Staffordshire/Bristol slipware	1650	1780		1	1	5
BL	Black-glazed wares	1700	1900	Post Medieval - Early Modern	3	2	18
LERTH	Late Earthenwares	1600	1900		3	1	19
CREA	Creamware	1800	1830	Early Modern	3	1	10
PEARL	Pearlware	1770	1850		2	1	18
MISC	Unidentified types	-	-	N/A	1	1	1
				Total	**16**	**10**	**95**

Provenance

Pottery was recovered from ditch (036) in Area A and linears (002) and (009), both of which were in Area B. Unstratified material was also retrieved from Areas A, B and C; finds from these sections were labelled with context numbers (001), (024) and (093).

Range

There is a range of commonly found pottery types, most of which came from unstratified contexts. Only three sherds were stratified, these are a piece of Medieval Bourne ware (BOUA) from ditch (036), a fragment of Late Earthenware (LERTH), from (002), and a sherd of miscellaneous unidentified ceramic material which was recovered from (009). The Late Earthenware piece is post-medieval or early modern in date and the second sherd (MISC), although undated, could well be of a similar age.

Potential

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

Summary

A small assemblage of post Roman pottery was recovered. Most of this is unstratified. Two sherds from linear features (002) and (009) are likely to be post medieval in date, whilst a third, from ditch (036), belongs to the medieval period.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the ACBMG (2001) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. A total of eight fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 143 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 4 below.

Condition

The ceramic building material is fragmentary and most is also abraded. Three pieces are burnt and a third has soot over the broken edge.

Results

Table 4, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Area	Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Fabric	Description	Date	NoF	W(g)
B	001	PANT	Pantile			18th-19th	1	57
B	001	RTMISC	Miscellaneous Roof Tile	Oxidised; medium sandy	Tile; undated; probably post medieval	Roman or Post Roman	1	12
B	007	BRK?	Brick?	OX/R; partially vitrified		Roman or Post Roman	1	16
B	007	CBM	Ceramic Building Material		Abraded; burnt	Roman or Post Roman	1	16
B	010	CBM	Ceramic Building Material		Surfaceless fragment; abraded	Roman or Post Roman	1	1
B	012	CBM	Ceramic Building Material		Abraded; burnt; single surface; soot over broken edge	Roman or Post Roman	1	17
B	012	RTMISC	Miscellaneous Roof Tile	Oxidised; medium sandy; mudstone	Abraded; single surface; tile; soot over broken edge; poorly mixed clay	Roman or Post Roman	1	18
D	061	CBM	Ceramic Building Material		Abraded; surfaceless; burnt; highly fired sanded fabric	Roman or Post Roman	1	6
						Total	**8**	**143**

Provenance

Ceramic building material was recovered from linear features (005), (009) and (011) in Area B as well as pit (060) in Area D.

Range

None of the stratified material is diagnostic and could be of Roman or post Roman date.

Potential

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

Summary

A small assemblage of ceramic building material was recovered during the strip map and sample investigation. None of the stratified material is diagnostic.

GLASS

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

Two pieces of glass weighing a total of 6g were recovered.

Condition

The glass is in good condition.

Results

Table 5, Glass Archive

Cxt	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
010	Knop from drinking glass, colourless	1	4	Late post-medieval
061	Blue-green, folded over rim of bottle/flask	1	2	Roman, 1st-2nd century?

Provenance
The glass was recovered from the fill of a linear feature (010) and a pit fill (061).

Range
One of the fragments of glass is a knop from a drinking vessel. Goblets with knopped stems first appear in the late 15th century but became common during the 16th century (Willmott 2002, 58). This example does not exhibit iridescent decay and is probably somewhat later.

The second fragment is from the rim of a bottle or flask in blue-green glass. Blue-green glass was used throughout the Romano-British period, but was the most common colour in the 1st-3rd centuries. Although none of the vessel body survives to confirm form, the rim shape is more similar to those found on cylindrical bottles of late 1st-early 2nd century date (Price and Cottam 1998, 191-3).

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

CLAY PIPE
By Gary Taylor

Introduction
Analysis of the clay pipes followed the guidance published by Davey (1981) and the material is detailed in the accompanying table.

Condition
The clay pipes are in good condition, though several are abraded.

Results
Table 6, Clay Pipes

Context no.	Bore diameter /64"					NoF	W(g)	Comments	Date
	8	7	6	5	4				
001				2	1	3	9	Stems only; all abraded	19th century
004						1	2	Fluted bowl fragment	1790-1840
Totals				2	1	4	11		

Provenance
The clay pipes were recovered as unstratified finds (001) and from the fill of a linear feature (004). They are probably all local Sleaford products.

Range
The clay pipes are 18th-19th century in date and there is a mixture of stem and bowl fragments.

Potential
The clay pipes are of limited potential other than providing some dating evidence.

WORKED FLINT
By Tom Lane

Introduction
A single flint flake was retrieved during excavation of a gully.

Condition
The item is abraded and has been broken, possibly recently.

Results
Table 7, Worked Flint Archive

Cxt	Description	No	Wt (g)	Date
068	Broken Flake. Heavily patinated but with subsequent break. Prominent striking platform. 32 x 18 x 4mm	1	3	Prob Neolithic

Provenance
The flint was recovered from a fill of a curvilinear gully (067).

Range
A single broken flake was retrieved.

Potential
There is little potential for further understanding the prehistory of the area from this single item

OTHER FINDS
By Gary Taylor

Introduction
A small, mixed assemblage of other finds was recovered, partially by sampling.

Condition
Most of the other finds are in good condition, though the metal item is represented by decayed fragments.

Results
Table 8, Other Materials

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
061<1>	Magnetic material	1 flake hammerscale; remainder are natural grains	-	1	
066	Copper alloy	Indeterminate fragments, possible brooch, Roman?	1	2	Roman?
066<2>	Magnetic material	Natural grains	-	1	
	Industrial residue	Slag?	1	<1	
085	stone	Probable muller from saddle quern	1	1900	Iron Age

Provenance
The other finds were recovered from a pit fill (061) and ditch fills (066, 085).

Range
Very small amounts of slag, probably all from iron working, were recovered. Magnetic grains associated with this are natural material that probably became magnetised due to being affected by high temperatures. There is a possible copper alloy brooch but this is too corroded and fragmented to be certain. A large stone muller for use with a saddle quern was also found. This is similar to examples of late Iron Age date found at Dragonby in North Lincolnshire and is probably of comparable age (Wright 1996, 374-5).

Potential
The other finds are of limited potential. The magnetic material indicates fires in the area. Only 1 flake of hammerscale was recovered and may suggest iron smithing somewhere in the general vicinity of the investigation site. Processing of foodstuffs is indicated by the quern grindstone.

SPOT DATING
The dating in Table 9 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 9, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
001	19th century	Unstratified
004	1790-1840	Based on 1 clay pipe
010	Late post-medieval	Based on 1 glass
061	Roman, poss. late 1st-early 2nd century	Based on single piece of glass
066	Mid to Late 1st century AD	
068	Late Iron Age	Based on a single sherd
071	Late 1st to 2nd	Likely 2nd century
085	Roman	Based on single sherd
087	Early mid 2nd to Late 2nd century	Post AD 120
109	Roman	Possibly Mid 2nd to 3rd; based on a single sherd

ABBREVIATIONS

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
BS	Body sherd
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
TR	Trench
W (g)	Weight (grams)

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ARCHIVE CATALOGUES

Archive catalogue 1, Roman Pottery

Area	Cxt	Cname	Sub Fab	Form	Decoration	NoV	Alter	Dr	Comments	NoS	W(g)
D	053	CRMIC		U		1	VABR		BS; OXRC?	1	8
		ZDATE							ROMAN		
D	061	MISC		U		1	FRAGS		SAMPLE 1; TINY FRAGS	2	1
D	061	ZDATE							UNDATED – POSS PH		
D	066	GFIN		BCAR	WM	1	SL ABR	2	RIMS; BSS; LWALL TO BASE; PROFILE; MINIMAL GROG; VERY FINE; MICA; AS FORM B334	14	176
D	066	IAGROG	R/R/OX	JBL	B EX; WM	1	ABR INT		BASE WITH FTM	4	188
D	066	IASH	R/OX	BCAR	B EX; CORD BELOW NECK; WM	1	LEACH	1	RIMS; BSS; PROFILE; SHARPLY CARINATED; SMASHED VESS; MICA	19	168
D	066	IASH	OX/R/OX	JBL	HM?	1	LEACH		BS	1	100
D	066	IASH	OX/R/OX	JBEV	CORD BELOW NECK; WM	1	LEACH		RIM TO UWALL; EVERTED RIM ALMOST LID SEATED; MICA	1	53
D	066	VESIC		U		1	LEACH			2	8
D	066	ZDATE							M1-L1C		
D	066	ZZZ							CLAUDIAN? GD GRP OF SMASHED VESSELS; COULD BE SLIGHTLY EARLIER		
D	068	IASA		U	HM	1	LEACH		BS	1	6
D	068	ZDATE							LIA		
D	071	SHEL		JEV	WM; DOUBLE BG GIRTH	1	LEACH		RIMS; J	2	77
D	071	ZDATE							M1-2C		
D	085	GREY		LPL		1			RIM; PROB LID; BLUE GREY FABRIC	1	7
D	085	ZDATE							ROMAN		
D	087	BB1		CP	LA	1			BSS	2	19
D	087	VESIC		U		1	V ABR		BSS; LOW FIRED; PH POTTERY	3	6
D	087	ZDATE							EM2-L2C (POST AD 120)		
D	109	GREY		U		1	ABR; BURNT?		BS; COULD BE NVGW	1	6
D	109	ZDATE							ROMAN		

Archive catalogue 2, Post Roman Pottery

Cxt	Cname	Sub Fabric	Form	NoS	NoV	W(g)	Decoration	Part	Description	Date
001	BL	Pale orange fabric	?	1	1	7		BS	Slightly abraded	18th-19th

Cxt	Cname	Sub Fabric	Form	NoS	NoV	W(g)	Decoration	Part	Description	Date
001	BL	Dark orange fabric	Hollow	2	1	11		BSS		17th-18th
001	CREA		Bowl or Dish?	3	1	10		Bases; BS	Abraded	E19th-M19th
001	PEARL		Flat	2	1	18	Engine turned; and wiped/scored decoration; blue wash	Bases		Late 18th-M19th
001	RAER		Hollow	1	1	8		BS		M15th-16th
001	STSL	Pink fabric	Press Moulded Dish	1	1	5	Joggled brown and yellow	Base	Very abraded	M17th-L18th
004	LERTH		?	3	1	19	Abraded BL?	BSS	Abraded	17th-19th
010	MISC		?	1	1	1	Abraded BL? ?ID; could even be CBM	BS	Very abraded	Roman or Post Roman
024	GRE		?	1	1	9		BS		16th-M17th
040	BOUA	Fabric A	Jug	1	1	9		Rim	Upright rim	13th-15th
093	BOU	Slightly sandy	?	1	1	4		BS	Abraded	M14th-16th

Appendix 3

THE ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CHARRED PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND OTHER REMAINS
By Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

Excavations at Sleaford Pride Parkway, undertaken by Archaeological Project Services (APS), recorded a limited number of features of Late Iron Age and Romano-British date. Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from a pit fill (context [061]) and a ditch of a first century AD date (context [066]), and two were submitted for assessment.

The samples were bulk floated by APS and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern seeds and fibrous roots were also present within both assemblages.

Results

The assemblages are small (<0.1 litres in volume) and very limited in composition, with charcoal/charred wood fragments being the principal component in both instances. All plant remains are heavily coated with mineral concretions, to the extent that it is very unlikely that full retrieval of the macrofossils was achieved during flotation. Preservation is poor, with most of the grains and seeds being severely puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures. It is also noted that the charcoal/charred wood fragments are very abraded, possibly suggesting that the remains were exposed to the elements for some considerable time prior to deposition.

Although cereal grains are present within both assemblages, few can be closely identified as preservation is so poor. However, elongated 'drop-form' wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains are present within the assemblage from sample 2 (context [066]) along with a single spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) glume base. Sample 2 also includes seeds of brome (*Bromus* sp.) and other indeterminate large grasses (Poaceae), while sample 1 (context [061]) includes a possible fragmentary sedge (*Carex* sp.) nutlet.

Black porous/tarry residues and small fragments of coal ('coal dust') are present within both assemblages, but it is currently unclear whether these may be contemporary with the features from which the samples were taken, or later contaminants.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

As plant macrofossils are so scarce, accurate interpretation of the assemblages is largely impossible. However, it would appear most likely that the remains are derived from low densities of scattered refuse (possibly hearth waste), some or all of which was accidentally incorporated within the feature fills.

As neither assemblage contains a sufficient density of material for quantification (i.e. 100+ specimens), no further analysis is recommended. However, a summary of this assessment should be included within any publication of data from the site.

Reference

Stace, C, 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles*. 2nd edition. Cambridge University Press

Key to Table

x = 1 = 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens cf = compare fg = fragment
R/B = Romano-British LIA = Late Iron Age

Table 1: Plant fossils and other remains

Sample No.	**1**	**2**
Context No.	**061**	**066**
Feature No.		
Feature type	**Pit**	**Ditch**
Date	**R/B**	**LIA**
Cereals		
Triticum sp. (grains)		xcf
T. spelta L. (glume base)		x
Cereal indet. (grains)	x	x
Herbs		
Bromus sp.		x
Large Poaceae indet.		x
Wetland plants		
Carex sp.	xcffg	
Other plant macrofossils		
Charcoal <2mm	xx	x
Charcoal >2mm	x	xx
Charcoal >5mm		x
Charred root/stem	x	x
Indet.seed		x
Other remains		
Black porous and tarry material	x	x
Small coal frags.	x	x
Sample volume (litres)	**8**	**8**
Volume of flot (litres)	**<0.1**	**<0.1**
% flot sorted	**100%**	**100%**

THE ANIMAL BONE

By Dr Matilda Holmes

A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from Roman and unstratified contexts. It was highly eroded and very friable. Three fragments of bone were identified as cattle and sheep/goat, and were not considered worthy of further analysis.

Table 2: Recorded species against phase

Species	**R/B**	**Unstratified**
Cattle	Humerus, molar	Humerus; calcaneus
Sheep/ Goat	3rd molar	
Unidentified Mammal	Unidentified Fragment (5)	Unidentified Fragment (9)
Medium Mammal	Rib (2)	
Large Mammal	Unidentified Fragment	

Appendix 4

GLOSSARY

Alluvium — A deposit (usually clay, silts or sands) laid down in water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea and freshwater alluvium by streams, rivers or within lakes.

Bronze Age — A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.

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 interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, *e.g.*(004).

Cropmark — A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.

Cut — A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, *etc*. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.

Dumped deposits — These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground surface.

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) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).

Geophysical Survey — Essentially non-invasive methods of examining below the ground surface by measuring deviations in the physical properties and characteristics of the earth. Techniques include magnetometry and resistivity survey.

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 a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.

Medieval — The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.

Mesolithic — The 'Middle Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 8200-4500 BC.

Natural — Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.

Neolithic — The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500-2250 BC.

Palaeolithic — The earliest part of the 'Stone Age' dating from the first period of human occupation to the end of the last ice age (approximately 10,000 years ago). It is usually sub-divided into lower, middle and upper, each characterised by differing stone tools and sub-

	species of humans.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1900.
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.

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

144	Context records
7	Context register sheets
3	Photographic record sheets
15	Daily record sheets
1	Plan record sheet
2	Section record sheets
22	Sheets of scale drawings
2	Sample sheets
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Box of finds

All primary records and finds 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
Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire
Danes Terrace
Lincoln
LN2 1LP

Accession Number: LCNCC: 2012.70

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: SLPP 12

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.

Appendix 6

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

OASIS ID: archaeol1-129333	
Project details	
Project name	Waste Transfer Site, Pride Parkway, Sleaford
Short description of the project	Strip, map and sample investigation revealed ditches, pits, gullies that are largely undated but include Late Iron Age and Romano-British examples. Medieval ridge and furrow was also recorded.
Project dates	Start: 24-04-2012 End: 14-06-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SLPP12 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	LCNCC: 2012.70 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 3 - Disturbed
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	POSTHOLE Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Late Iron Age
Monument type	GULLY Late Iron Age
Monument type	PIT Roman
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	POSTHOLE Roman
Monument type	RIDGE AND FURROW Medieval
Significant Finds	FLINT Neolithic
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	STONE Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	BROOCH Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	TILE Roman
Significant Finds	GLASS Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Part Excavation"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Project location	
Country	England

Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE NORTH KESTEVEN SLEAFORD Pride Parkway
Study area	4938.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 0732 4682 53 0 53 00 27 N 000 24 01 W Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeological Project Services
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Dale Trimble
Project director/manager	Dale Trimble
Project supervisor	Paul Cope-Faulkner
Type of sponsor/funding body	County Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	Lincolnshire CC
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	The Collection
Physical Archive ID	LCNCC: 2012.70
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Glass","Industrial","Metal","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Archaeological Project Services
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Glass","Industrial","Metal","Stratigraphic","Survey","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	The Collection
Paper Archive ID	LCNCC: 2012.70
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Glass","Industrial","Metal","Stratigraphic","Survey","Worked stone/lithics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Matrices","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological investigations at the waste transfer site, Pride Parkway, Sleaford, Lincolnshire (SLPP 12)
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cope-Faulkner, P.
Other bibliographic details	50/12

Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	Archaeological Project Services
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