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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
ON LAND AT SPALDING ROAD (Phase 2),  
DEEPING ST JAMES,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(DJSR 12)**

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Work Undertaken For  
**Larkfleet Homes**

July 2012

Report Compiled by  
Mark Peachey BA (Hons)

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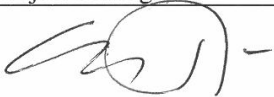
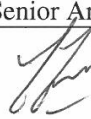
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES**





**Quality Control  
Archaeological Evaluation on land at  
Spalding Road (Phase 2),  
Deeping St James,  
Lincolnshire  
(DJSR 12)**

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Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
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Date: 6 July 2012	Date: 6 July 2012



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## 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land at Spalding Road, Deeping St James, Lincolnshire. This was in order to determine the archaeological implications of proposed development at the site.*

*A Neolithic (4000-2200 BC) stone axe has been found nearby and the site lies within an area of Bronze Age (2200-800 BC) funerary activity. Romano-British (AD 43-410) settlement, identified from chance finds and aerial photography, is known from the general area. During the medieval period (AD 1066-1540), the site lay within the open fields of Deeping St James. Medieval pottery was previously found on the northwest side of the development area.*

*The evaluation revealed a sequence of natural, alluvial, subsoil and topsoil deposits.*

*No archaeological remains were revealed and no artefacts were retrieved.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Definition of an Evaluation

*An archaeological evaluation is defined as a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, quality and preservation, and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate (IfA 2008).*

### 2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Larkfleet Homes to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation in advance of Phase 2 of proposed residential development at Spalding Road, Deeping St James, Lincolnshire, as detailed in Planning Application S11/2050. This followed on from the previous evaluation of Phase 1, on the eastern part of the site (Cope-Faulkner 2010). The evaluation was undertaken on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2012 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist.

### 2.3 Topography and Geology

Deeping St James is located 12km east of Stamford and 15km southwest of Spalding in the administrative district of South Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located 640m north of the centre of the village as defined by the parish church of St James at National Grid Reference TF 1545 1020 (Fig. 2). Situated on the north side of Spalding Road, the site lies at a height of c. 4.8m OD on generally level ground.

Local soils are of the Fladbury 1 Association, pelo-alluvial gleys (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 194). These overlie a drift geology of silty clay alluvium which seals sands and gravels of River Terrace Deposits (Booth 1983, 114). Below this is a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay with Kellaways sands to the immediate west (BGS 1984).

### 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Deeping St James is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from

the Neolithic to the present day. A Neolithic polished stone axe was found to the southwest of the site. A Bronze Age funerary urn and other evidence for funerary activity of this period is known from alongside Linchfield Road and a possible barrow lies 450m to the south of the site (Cope-Faulkner 2010).

During the Romano-British period an extensive settlement was established to the south of Frognall, immediately east of Deeping St James. Aerial photographs indicate that the site was around 9 hectares in extent and finds from the area include ritual crowns, coin hoards and scatters of pottery (Hayes and Lane 1992, 190). Pottery of the period has also been found in several locations in closer proximity to the site.

Deeping is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Depinge*, the name is derived from the Old English and means 'the deep place' (Cameron 1998, 37). The Domesday Survey records that Alfred of Lincoln and Godfrey of Cambrai were the principal landowners with 183 acres of meadow and two fisheries (Foster and Longley 1976).

Deeping St James has been suggested as a later settlement which resulted from the drainage of the fen in the later 11<sup>th</sup> century (Hayes and Lane 1992, 191). However, the references suggest that the planned settlement of this period is likely to have been Market Deeping (Riley 1893, 156). The extant remains of the period include St James' church which is the only surviving element of a priory established in 1139 (DoE 1987, 34).

Medieval finds have been retrieved from several locations within the village and include pottery and silver coins. A scatter of medieval and post-medieval pottery was retrieved during fieldwalking immediately northwest of the development area, but

within, and extending beyond, the overall orchard site (Allen 2005, 8).

Aerial photographs held by Heritage Lincolnshire show traces of ridge and furrow of the medieval field system.

A watching brief undertaken 600m northeast of the site identified a boundary ditch, a linear feature and two pits, all of which were undated but possibly post-medieval (Peachey 2009, 1). A watching brief to the south revealed only natural, subsoil and topsoil (Cope-Faulkner 2001, 1)

An evaluation of Phase 1, the eastern part of the site, revealed an undated, but early, pit sealed by alluvium, several natural channels of probable prehistoric date and a prehistoric flint. Evidence of medieval ridge and furrow and probable agricultural ditches were also revealed (Cope-Faulkner 2010).

### 3. AIMS

The aim of the work was to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curator to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site.

The objectives were to establish the type of archaeological activity that might be present within the site, to determine its likely extent, the date and function of the archaeological features present on the site, their state of preservation, spatial arrangement and the extent to which surrounding archaeological features extended into the application area, and to establish the way in which any archaeological features identified fitted into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.



## 4. METHODS

Three trenches, two measuring 15m by 1.5m and one measuring 20m by 1.5m were excavated to the surface of the underlying natural geology (Fig. 3).

Removal of topsoil and other overburden was undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. The exposed surfaces of the trenches were then cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains.

Each deposit exposed during the evaluation 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 were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at 1:20 and 1:50. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

The location of the excavated trenches was surveyed by GPS in relation to fixed points on boundaries and on existing buildings.

Following excavation, 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

The results of the archaeological evaluation are discussed in trench order. Archaeological contexts are described below. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

### **Trench 1** (Fig. 3, Plate 2)

The earliest deposit encountered in this trench was natural light bluish grey clay

(105), seen in patches up to 0.5m across. Overlying it was natural orange brown sand and gravel (104) which measured in excess of 0.22m thick.

There were no archaeological features and the gravel was overlain by a 0.36m layer of light orangey brown silty clay alluvium (103). Above this was 0.26m thick mid greyish brown clayey silt subsoil (102) overlain by 0.08m thick topsoil (101) (Fig 4 representative section).

### **Trench 2** (Fig. 3)

Mid reddish brown, with grey mottling, sand and gravel (204), at least 0.12m thick formed the natural deposit in the base of this trench.

No archaeological features were identified and the gravel was sealed by 0.41m thick yellowish brown silty clay alluvium (203). This was overlain by 0.45m thick mid greyish brown clayey silt subsoil (202) above which was 0.08m thick topsoil (201) (Fig 4 representative section, Plate 3).

### **Trench 3** (Fig. 3, Plate 4)

In Trench 3 the earliest deposit identified was mid reddish brown, with grey mottling, sand and gravel (304) at least 0.07m thick.

Once again, there were no archaeological features and the gravel was overlain by 0.53m thick yellowish brown silty clay alluvium (303). Above this was 0.25m thick mid greyish brown clayey silt subsoil (302). Topsoil (301) was 0.1m thick.

## 6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits comprised river terrace sands and gravels. These were overlain by silty clay alluvium formed during flood episodes of the nearby River Welland. A subsoil overlying this was probably former ploughsoil.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Spalding Road, Deeping St James, as the site lay in an area of known archaeological remains of prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval date.

However, no prehistoric, Romano-British or medieval remains were encountered during the evaluation. Instead, a sequence of natural, alluvial, subsoil and topsoil was recorded.

No archaeological remains were revealed and no artefacts were retrieved.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Larkfleet Homes for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Jenny Young, the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist, kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor  
 Site Supervisor: Mark Peachey  
 Site Staff: Bryn Leadbetter, John Bowskill (work experience)  
 Surveying: Andy Failes  
 Photographic reproduction: Mark Peachey  
 CAD Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Mark Peachey  
 Post-excavation Analyst: Mark Peachey

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## **11. ABBREVIATIONS**

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

DoE Department of the Environment

IfA Institute for Archaeologists



Figure 1 - General location plan

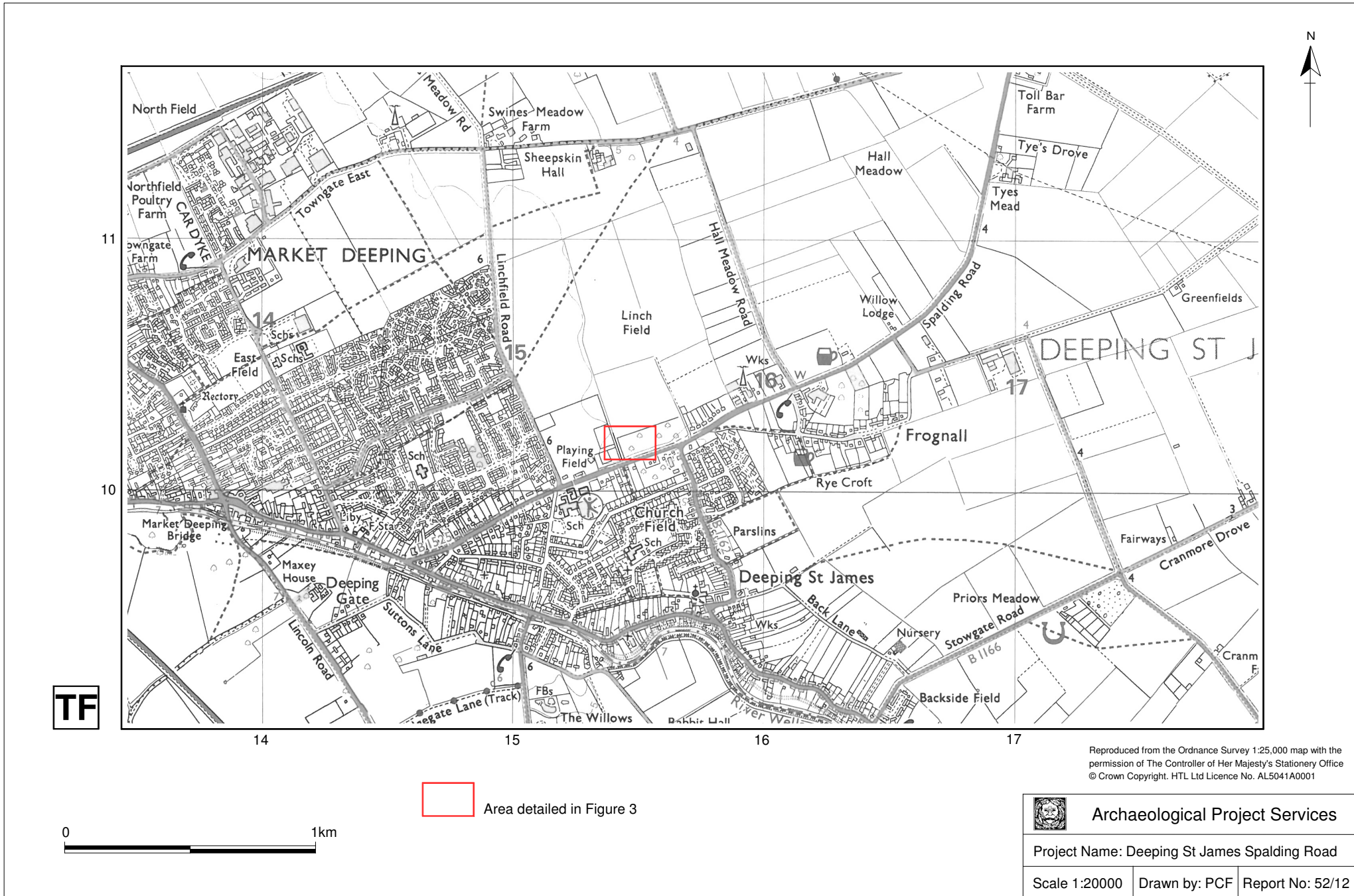


Figure 2 - Site location plan

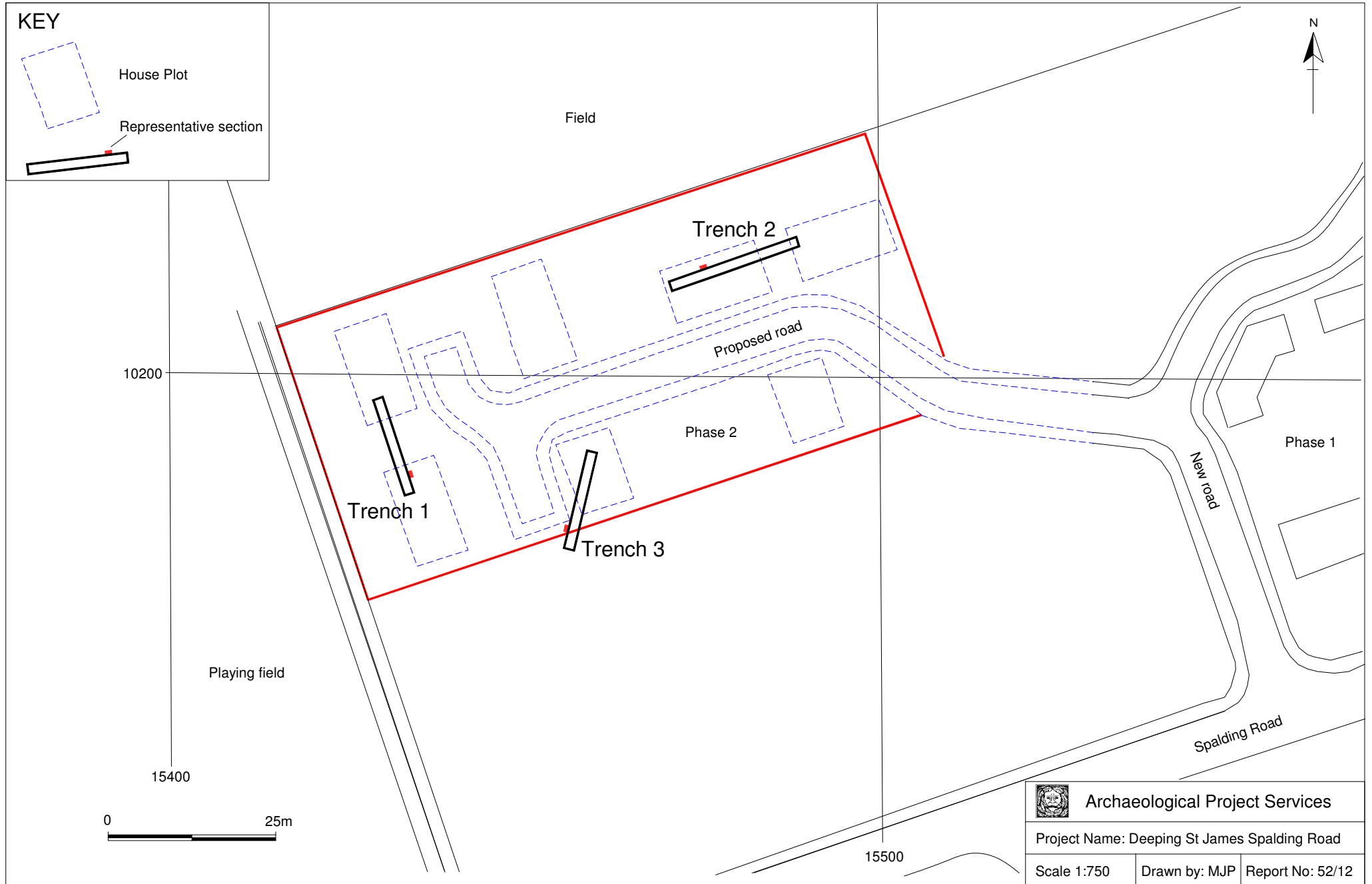
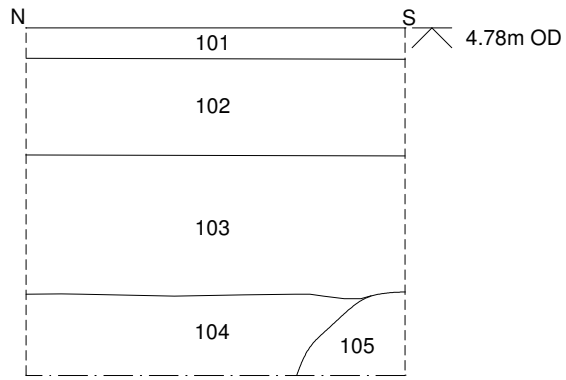
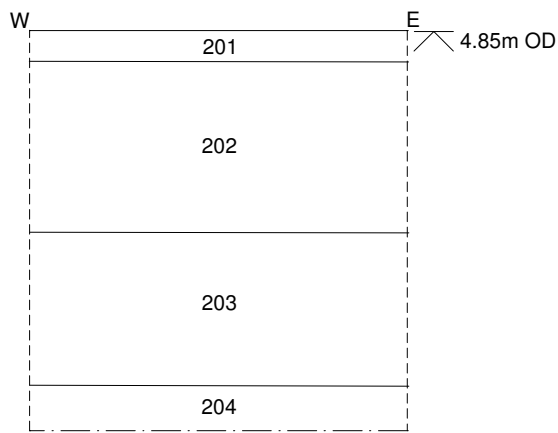


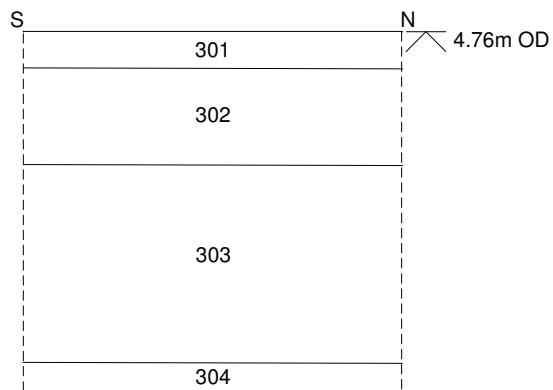
Figure 3. Trench Location Plan



Trench 1



Trench 2



Trench 3



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Deeping St James Spalding Road

Scale 1: 20

Drawn by: MJP

Report No: 52/12

Figure 4. Representative sections



Plate 1. The site looking southeast prior to machining



Plate 2. Trench 1 looking north





Plate 3. Trench 2 representative section looking northwest



Plate 4. Trench 3 looking NNE

## Appendix 1

### CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Date
101	1	Friable dark brown clayey silt with moderate small stones, 0.08m thick	Topsoil	
102	1	Fairly firm mid greyish brown clayey silt, 0.26m thick	Subsoil	
103	1	Firm light orangey brown silty clay with occasional angular flint, 0.36m thick	Alluvium	
104	1	Loose orangey brown sand and gravel, at least 0.22m thick	Natural	
105	1	Firm light bluish grey clay patches, up to 0.5m wide, at least 0.22m thick	Natural	
201	2	Loose dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.08m thick	Topsoil	
202	2	Friable mid greyish brown clay silt, 0.45m thick	Subsoil	
203	2	Fairly firm light yellowish brown silty clay, 0.41m thick	Alluvium	
204	2	Loose mid reddish brown, with grey mottles, sand and gravel, at least 0.12m thick	Natural	
301	3	Loose dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.1m thick	Topsoil	
302	3	Friable mid greyish brown clay silt, 0.25m thick	Subsoil	
303	3	Fairly firm light yellowish brown silty clay, 0.53m thick	Alluvium	
304	3	Loose mid reddish brown, with grey mottles, sand and gravel, at least 0.07m thick	Natural	

## Appendix 2

### GLOSSARY

<b>Alluvium</b>	Deposits laid down by water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea, and fresh water alluvium is laid down by rivers and in lakes.
<b>Bronze Age</b>	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
<b>Context</b>	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, e.g. [004].
<b>Domesday Survey</b>	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
<b>Layer</b>	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Natural</b>	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
<b>Neolithic</b>	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500 - 2250 BC.
<b>Old English</b>	The language used by the Saxon (q.v.) occupants of Britain.
<b>Post-medieval</b>	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
<b>Prehistoric</b>	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.
<b>Ridge and Furrow</b>	The remains of arable cultivation consisting of raised rounded strips separated by furrows. It is characteristic of open field agriculture.
<b>Romano-British</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
<b>Saxon</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany

## Appendix 3

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

3	Trench record sheets
1	Photographic record sheet
2	Daily record sheets
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  
Danes Terrace  
Lincoln  
LN2 1LP

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

The Collection Accession Number:	2012.99
Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	DJSR 12
OASIS Record No:	archaeo11-129703

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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