
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
ON LAND AT
DRAIN BANK NORTH,
SPALDING,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SPRC 13)**

Work Undertaken For
Spalding Rugby Club

February 2014

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological trenching evaluation was undertaken on land at Drain Bank North, Spalding, Lincolnshire as the area was archaeologically sensitive.

Cropmarks plotted from aerial photographs in areas adjacent to the site are likely to date from later prehistory through to the post-medieval period (AD 1540-1900) and comprise linear field systems. Archaeological remains of Roman (AD 43-410) and medieval (AD 1066-1540) date are also known from the wider area.

The evaluation revealed a sequence of natural, undated and recent deposits. Undated deposits comprise a series of parallel ditches typical of medieval to post-medieval dyings. At least two phases of dyling construction were identified, the later phase partly evident on maps of the area dating from the 19th century.

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 Spalding Rugby Club to undertake an archaeological trenching evaluation on land at Drain Bank North, Spalding, Lincolnshire in support of a planning application H16/0435/13 for development of the site from agricultural to recreational use as a rugby club. This followed an earlier desk-based assessment (Savage 2013). The work was carried out between the 29th January 2014 and the 6th February 2014 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the Historic Environment Officer of Lincolnshire County Council.

2.3 Site location, Topography and Geology

Spalding is located 23km southwest of Boston and 30km southeast of Sleaford, in the administrative district of South Holland, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The proposed development site is located 2.8km southeast of the centre of Spalding as defined by the Market Place at National Grid Reference TF 2490 1960 (Fig. 2). The site lies immediately west of the roundabout of the junction of the A16 and the A1175, bounded to the north and south by the former road and to the east by Drain Bank. The proposed area of development comprises a roughly rectangular area measuring approximately 15 hectares. The site lies on generally level ground at a height of c. 2mOD.

Local soils are of the Wisbech Series, typically coarse silty calcareous alluvial gley soil (Robson 1990). These soils are developed on a drift geology of younger overlying older marine alluvium which, in turn, seals a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (BGS 1992).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Cropmarks identified to the south of the site were examined by trial trenching and watching briefs in 1993. This did not produce any artefacts with which to date the complex. However, pollen analysis suggested a prehistoric, probably Iron Age, date for the enclosures (Field and Tann 1993).

Two Romano-British sites are recorded on the Heritage Environment Record (HER). To the east of the site, an ash-filled pit with Romano-British pottery was recorded during dyke cleaning. A series of cropmarks to the north of the site were also assigned to this period. Though no dating evidence is known, the form of the cropmarks would suggest a Romano-British date (Cope-Faulkner 2013).

Spalding is first mentioned in the 7th century. The name is derived from the Old English group name *Spaldingas*, meaning the ‘people of the *Spalde*’. *Spalde* is the name of a tribe recorded in the 7th century tribute list known as the Tribal Hideage (Cameron 1998, 114).

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

During the early medieval period, the site lay within the fen. To the north of the site, Burr Lane follows the course of the Old Fendyke which marks the southern limit of fen reclamation from Spalding, and is preserved in the nearby hamlet of Fen End. This is first referenced in 1214-29 and is possibly a 12th century construction (Hallam 1965, 19). The site had probably been reclaimed from the fen by the end of the 12th century, when the New Fendyke was constructed from Cowbit to the east

(*ibid.* 24).

Investigations undertaken along the route of the new A16 identified a medieval ditch, adjacent to which was a medieval salt-making site. The latter was unusual for its date (Peachey *et al.* 2011). Two medieval sites recorded in the HER lie to the north of the site. They include the findspot of a lead seal matrix and a series of dylings, represented by earthwork remnants. However, dylings continued in use into the post-medieval period (Cope-Faulkner 2013).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

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

Nine trenches, each measuring 50m long by 2m wide, were excavated by mechanical excavator to provide random coverage of the site (Fig. 3).

Removal of topsoil and other overburden

was undertaken 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 1:200. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

The location of the trenches was surveyed using a Thales Global Positioning System (GPS).

Following excavation, the records were checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced.

5. RESULTS

The results of the archaeological evaluation are discussed in trench order. Archaeological contexts are listed and 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 the base of this trench was a natural layer of grey and brown silt (109). Alluvial in origin, this measured over 0.3m thick.

Cut into the alluvium were three ditches. The most easterly ditch (103) was aligned northeast-southwest and was 1.15m wide by 0.33m deep (Fig. 5, Section 1; Plate 3). This contained a single fill of bluish grey silt (102).

Parallel to this ditch some 5.7m to the northwest was ditch (105). This was 0.9m wide by 0.14m deep (Fig. 5, Section 2) with a similar bluish grey silt fill (104).

Cutting both these ditches and evident along the northeast side of the trench was ditch (108). Aligned northwest-southeast this was over 30m long, was over 0.8m wide and 0.3m deep (Fig. 5, Section 3; Plate 4). Two fills were recorded, a lower of greyish brown organic silt (107) and an upper of brown sandy silt (106).

Sealing all deposits was the current topsoil comprising greyish brown clayey silt (101) that was 0.4m thick.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3)

Natural deposits were recorded as orange brown silt (204).

Towards the northern end of the trench was ditch (202). Aligned northwest-southeast it was over 5m long, 3.2m wide and 1.1m deep and was filled with orange brown silt (205).

Parallel to this ditch, some 34m to the southwest, was ditch (203). This was 2m wide and 0.8m deep and also contained a fill of orange brown silt (206).

Sealing this was a subsoil layer comprising greyish brown silt (201) overlain by the current topsoil, also brownish grey silt (200).

Trench 3 (Fig. 3; Plate 5)

The earliest natural deposit was a layer of brown sandy silt (307) which measured in excess of 0.6m thick. This was sealed by a further natural layer of brownish grey silt to clayey silt (305).

Cut into natural at the southeastern end of the trench was a northwest-southeast

aligned ditch (304). Measuring over 3.5m long, it was 0.8m wide by 0.14m deep (Fig. 4, Sections 4 and 5; Plate 6). A lower fill of bluish grey clayey silt (303) was recorded over which was a fill of grey organic silt (302).

Topsoil was a 0.3m thick layer of greyish brown silt (301).

Trench 4 (Fig. 3; Plate 7)

Natural was recorded as a mixed grey and brown silt (407). A natural creek (406) was identified towards the southeast that was filled with brown sandy silt (407).

Located towards the centre of the trench was ditch (410). Aligned northeast-southwest, it was 2.16m wide. The uppermost fill comprised a mid brown silt (409).

Parallel to this, some 17.9m to the northwest, was ditch (405). This was 0.94m wide and was deeper than 0.14m (Fig. 6, Section 6; Plate 8). Two fills were recorded, the lower of bluish grey clayey silt (404) and an upper of greyish brown silt (403).

Cutting this ditch to the north was northwest-southeast aligned ditch (402). This measured greater than 9.9m long and was over 1.19m wide and deeper than 0.12m. A single fill of greyish brown silt (401) was identified.

Sealing all features was a greyish brown silt (400) topsoil.

Trench 5 (Fig. 3; Plate 9)

A stiff grey silt layer (506) was identified as natural across the base of this trench. Towards the northern end, a band of yellowish brown sandy silt (513) was also identified as natural, though may be the infill of a natural feature.

A ditch (512) was recorded at the northern end of the trench. Aligned northwest-southeast, it was over 1m wide but was not excavated. Brown silt (511) constituted its fill.

To the south of this was the northeast-southwest aligned ditch (505) that measured over 5m long and was 1.1m wide and 0.19m deep (Fig. 6, Section 7; Plate 10). Three fills were recorded; a bluish grey clayey silt (504) at the base followed by greyish brown organic silt (503) and then grey silt (502).

Situated 5.8m to the south was northwest-southeast aligned ditch (510). Measuring 1.87m wide, it was not excavated. It contained a fill of brown silt (509).

Also unexcavated was a parallel ditch (508) that was 1.79m wide. This also contained a fill of brown silt (507).

All ditches were sealed by the current topsoil of greyish brown silt (501) that was 0.3m thick.

Trench 6 (Fig. 4)

Natural deposits in this trench comprised orange brown silt (606).

Natural was cut by three parallel northwest-southeast aligned ditches, none of which were excavated. The more northerly (602) was 0.93m wide with a fill of greyish brown silt (607).

Towards the centre of the trench was ditch (603). This was 4.31m wide with a fill of orange grey brown silt (605).

At the southern end of the trench was ditch (604) which was over 2.61m wide with a fill of greyish brown silt (608).

The three ditches were sealed by a 0.26m thick subsoil consisting of yellowish

brown silt (601). This was in turn sealed by the topsoil of greyish brown silt (600).

Trench 7

This trench revealed a sequence of natural orange brown silt (702) overlain by a 0.36m thick yellowish brown silt (701) subsoil that was in turn sealed by greyish brown silt (700) topsoil.

Trench 8 (Fig. 4; Plate 11)

A grey and orange brown silt (811) was identified as the natural within this trench.

Towards the eastern end of the trench was a northeast-southwest aligned ditch (809) that measured over 3m long by 1.3m wide and 0.35m deep (Fig. 6, Section 9; Plate 12). This contained three fills, the lowest of which was a mixed reddish brown and grey silt (810). Above this was grey silt (808) followed by grey silt with 'peat' patches (807).

This ditch was cut by northwest-southeast aligned ditch (806). Although unexcavated, a width of 2.4m was established and two fills, greyish brown silt (804) and brownish grey organic silt (805), were recorded.

A field drain (803) was also recorded.

Sealing the trench was a greyish brown silt (800) topsoil.

Trench 9 (Fig. 4)

Mixed grey and orange brown silt (905) constituted the natural alluvial deposits within this trench.

Cutting this was an east-west aligned ditch (904) which was over 2.59m long and was 0.9m wide by 0.3m deep (Fig. 6, Section 11; Plate 13). Two fills were identified, a basal fill of greyish brown and yellowish brown silt with clay patches (903) with an upper fill of black organic silt (902).

Sealing the ditch was a subsoil of greyish brown silt (901) sealed by a further greyish brown silt (900) topsoil.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits across the site comprised silts or clayey silts and represent alluvial deposition, probably from marine incursions into the area. A single natural channel or creek was also identified.

The archaeological features recorded during the evaluation comprise rows of parallel ditches that are regularly spaced. These are suggestive of dylings, small narrow fields often found in flood prone areas. Dylings are first recorded in the 14th century and appear to be used for pasturing sheep, by creating higher land in between the ditches (Hallam 1965, 152). The dylings contained no artefactual material so cannot be closely dated. However, two phases of dyling construction can be ascertained, an earlier phase with ditches orientated northeast to southwest with a later northwest-southeast orientation. The later orientation accords well with the arrangement of fields shown on the 1819 enclosure award map, although even by this date some of the ditches had already been infilled (LAO Holland Award 10).

There are two ditches (304) and (505), however, which are slightly differently aligned. These could attest to earlier field or enclosure boundaries, though as they are both undated, their origin must remain obscure.

7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological trenching evaluation was undertaken on land at Drain Bank North, Spalding, as the site lay close to areas of known cropmarks and where

remains of Roman and medieval date have previously been discovered.

However, no prehistoric or Roman remains were encountered during the evaluation. Instead evidence for probable post-medieval agricultural activity was revealed in the form of dyings, parallel arrangements of ditches used to enclose small fields. No other remains were encountered and no artefacts were retrieved during the work.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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9. PERSONNEL

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 Post-excavation Analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Dale Trimble

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IfA Institute for Archaeologists

LAO Lincolnshire Archive Office

OD Ordnance Datum

PCAS Pre-Construct Archaeological
Services Limited



Figure 1 - General location plan

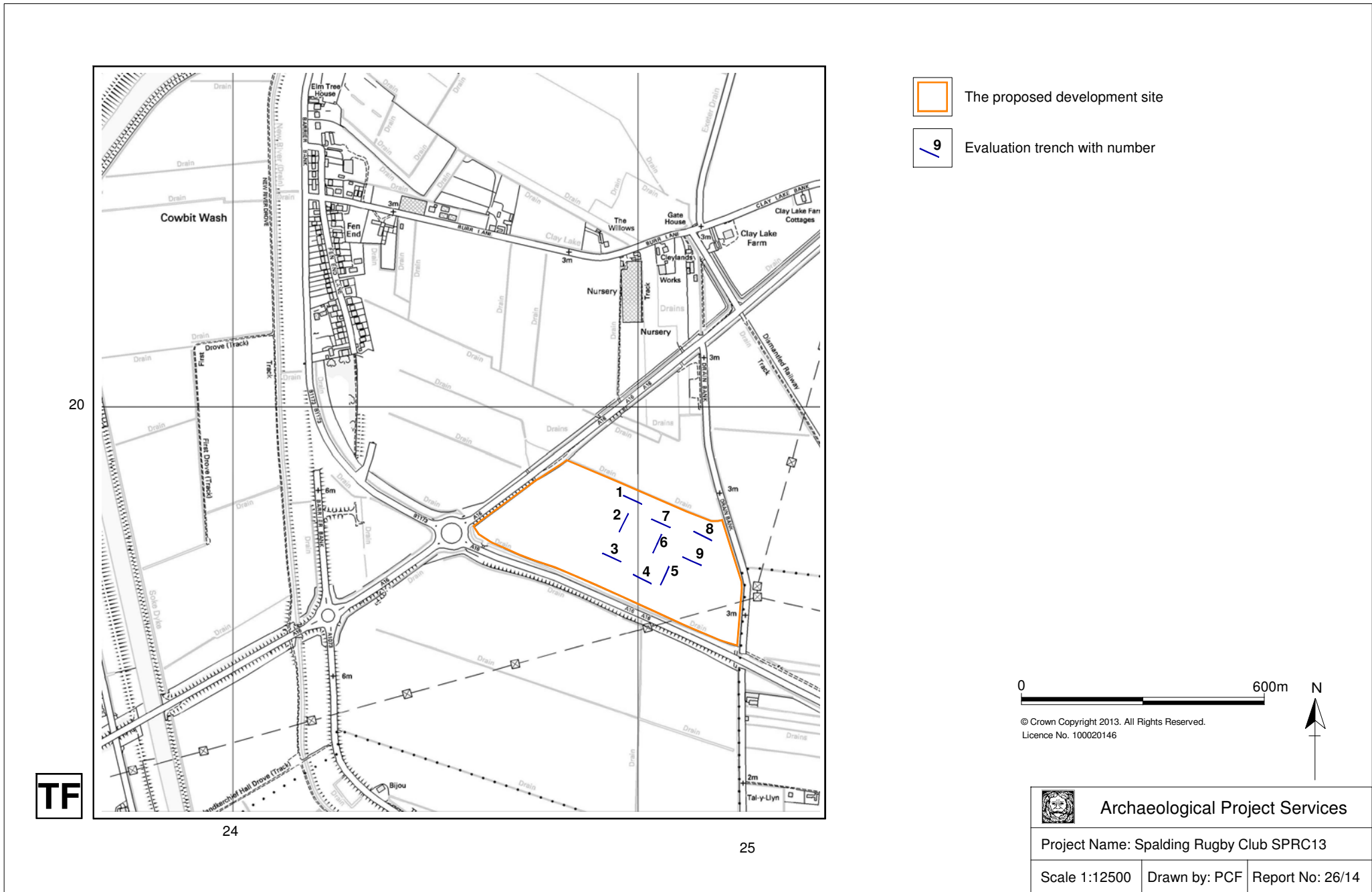
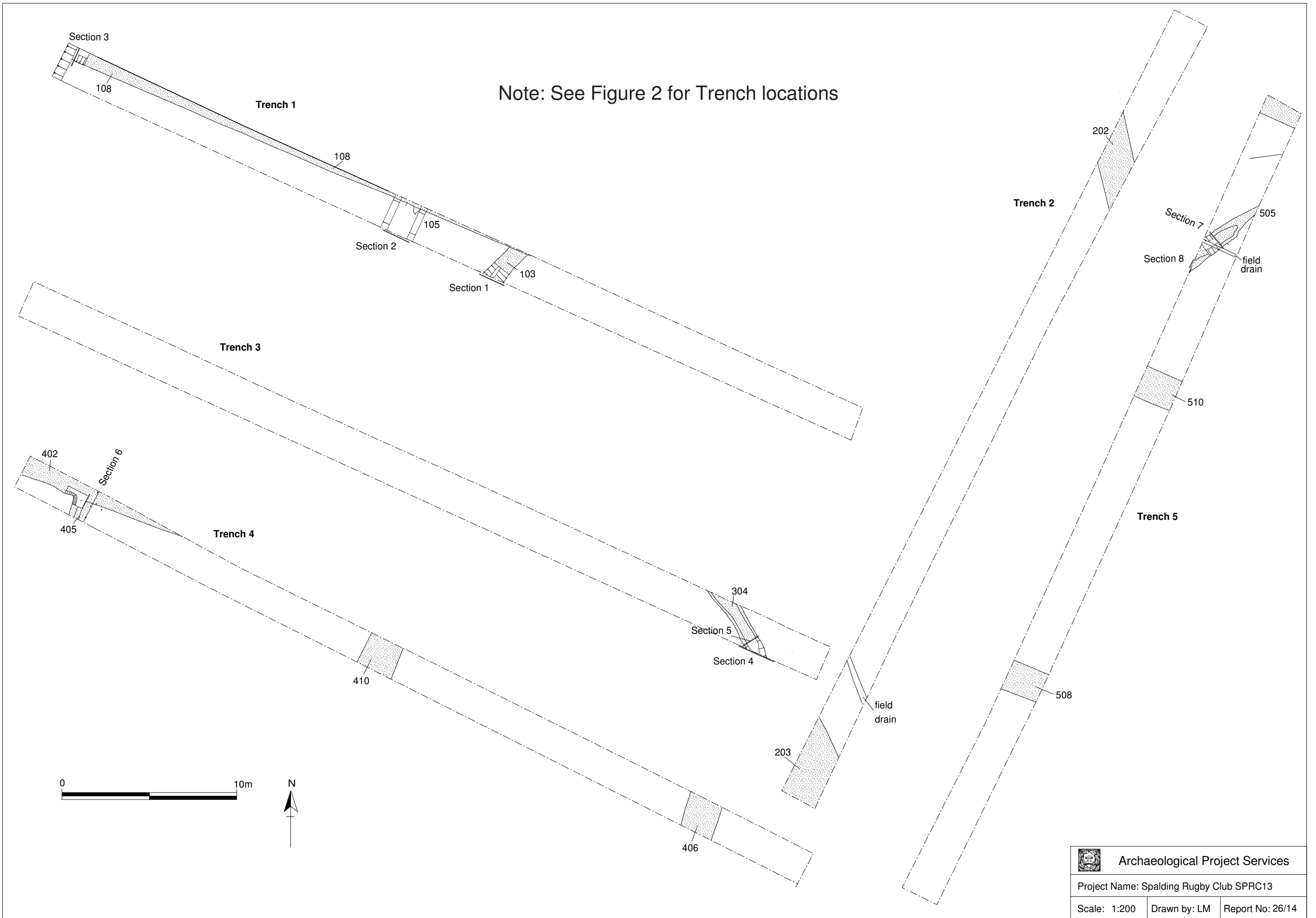


Figure 2 - Site and trench location plan




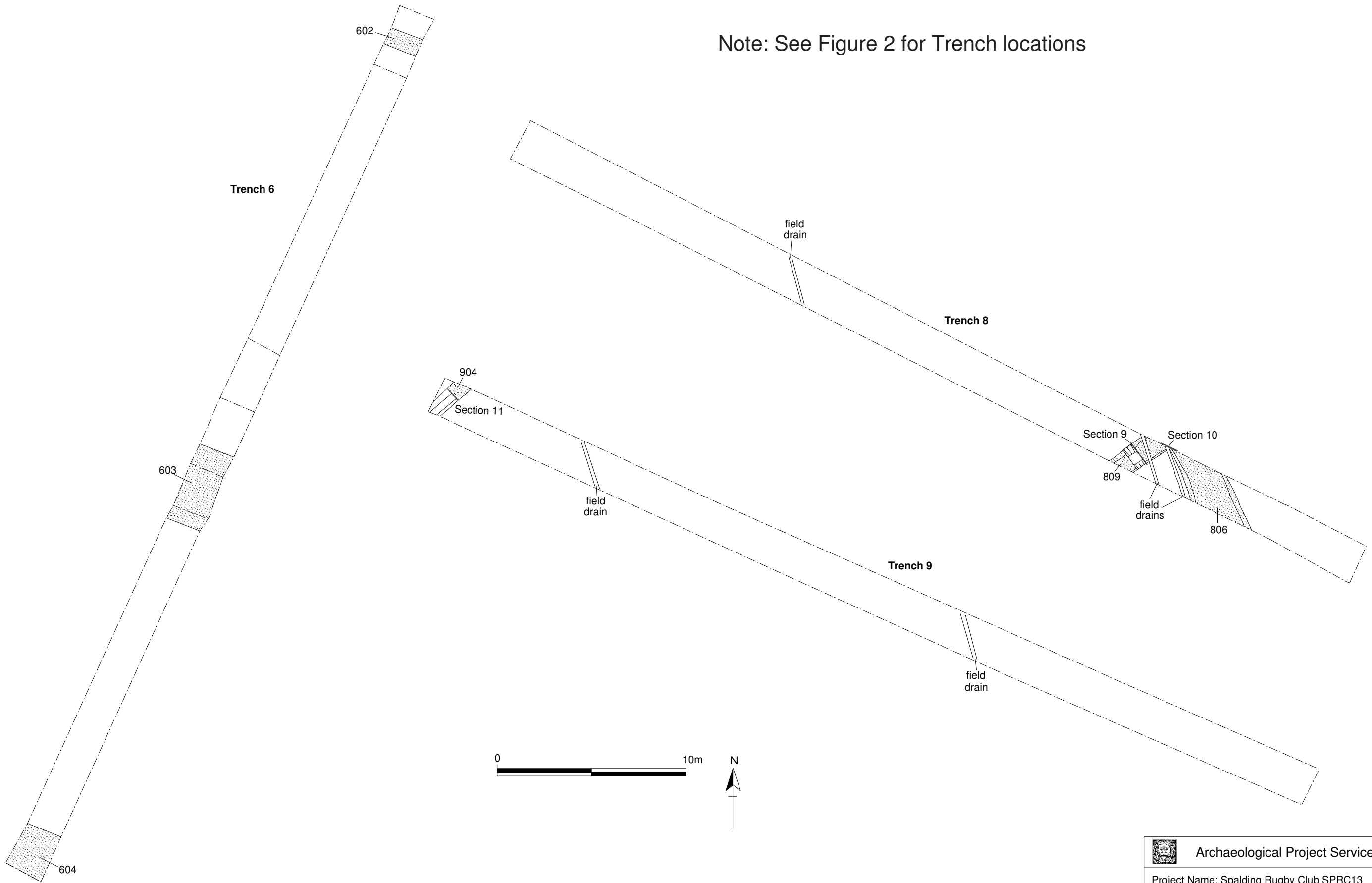
 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Spalding Rugby Club SPRC13		
Scale: 1:200	Drawn by: LM	Report No: 26/14

Figure 3 - Trenches 1 to 5: Plans

Note: See Figure 2 for Trench locations




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Figure 4 - Trenches 6, 8 and 9: Plans

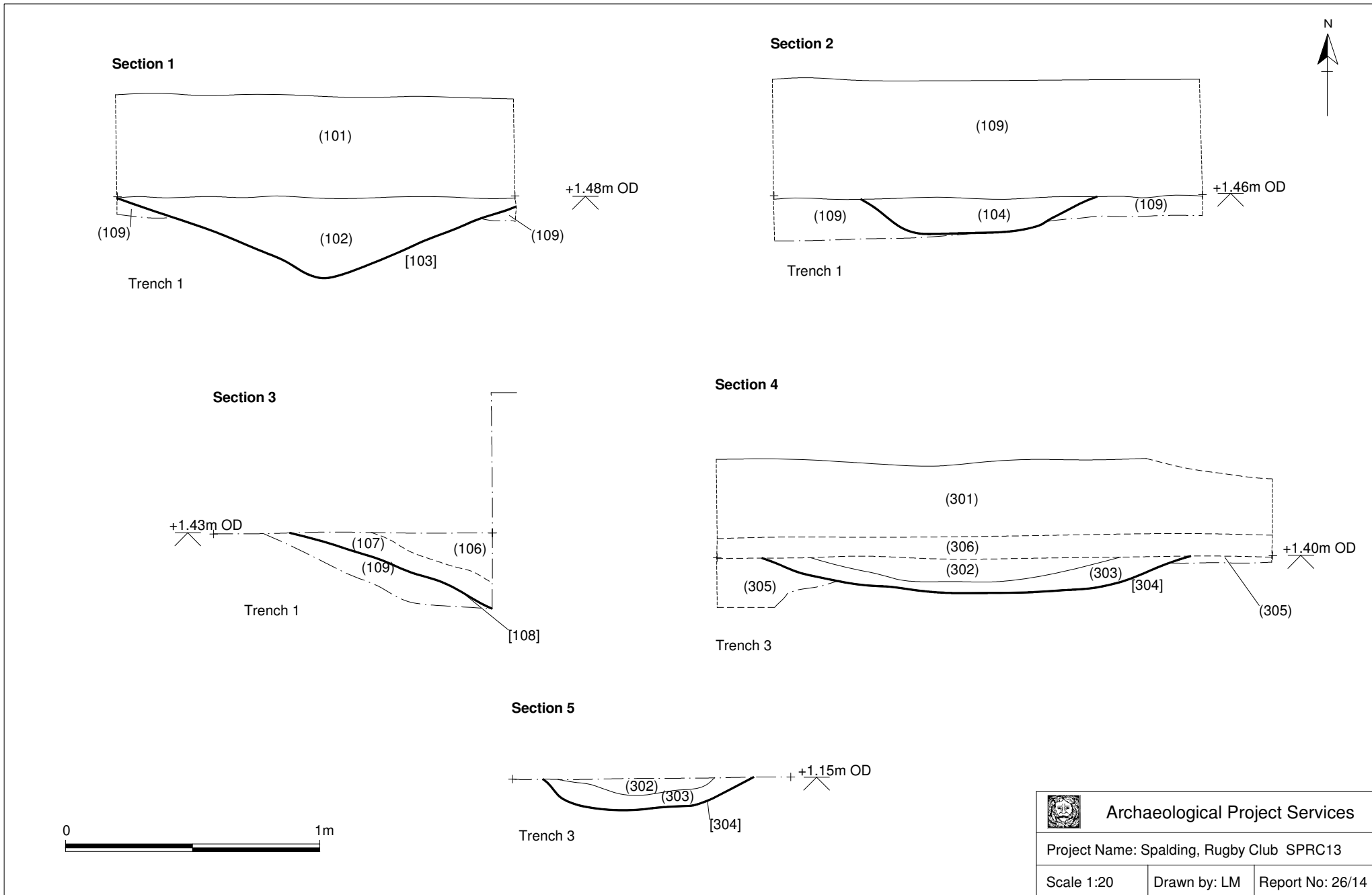


Figure 5 - Sections 1 - 5

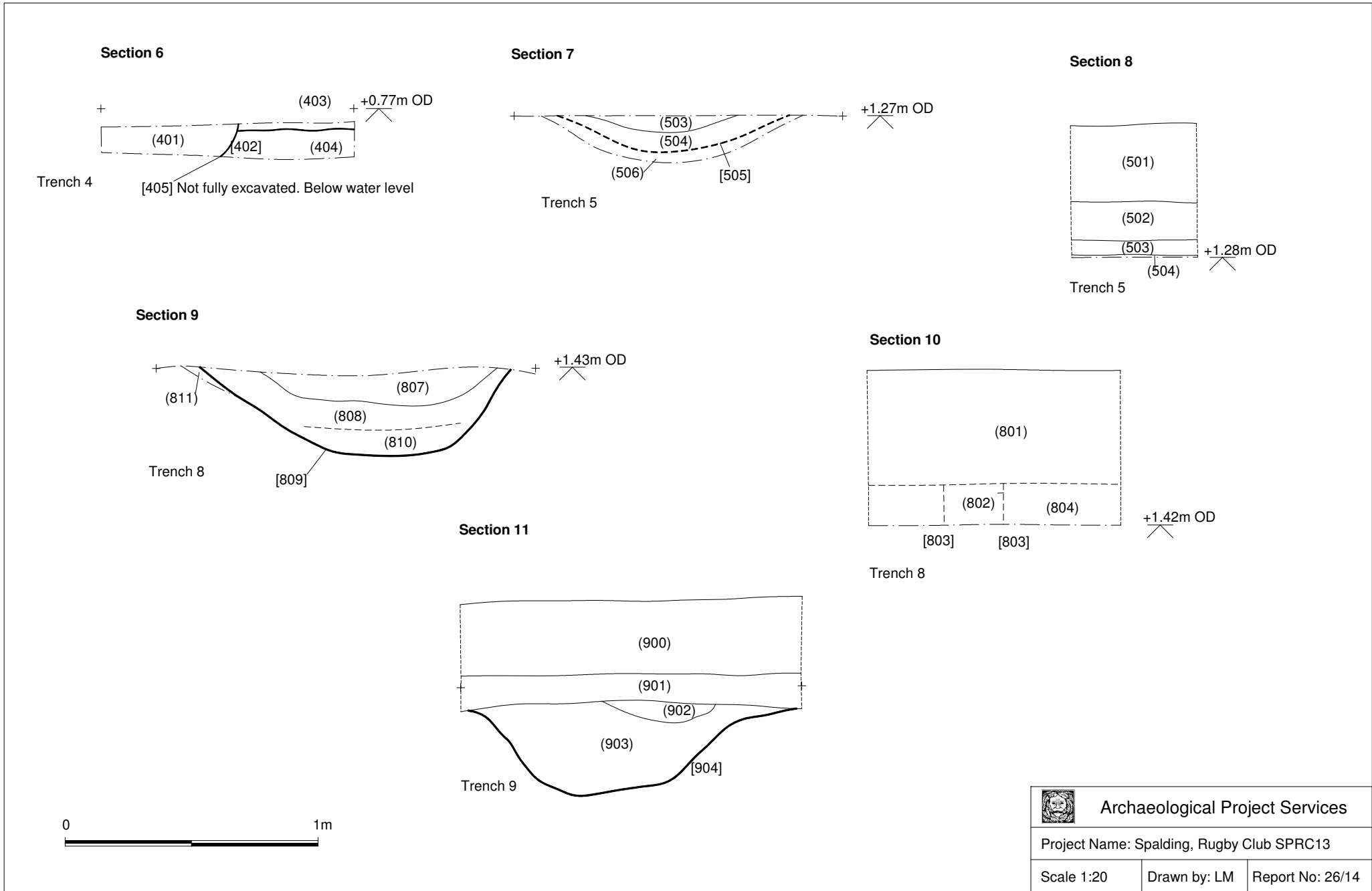


Figure 6 - Sections 6 -11


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Plate 1 – View looking southwest across the proposed development area



Plate 2 – Trench 1, looking southeast



Plate 3 – Trench 1, ditch (103), looking southwest



Plate 4 – Trench 1, ditch (108), looking northwest



Plate 5 – Trench 3, looking southwest



Plate 6 – Trench 3, ditch (304), looking southwest



Plate 7 – Trench 4, looking southeast



Plate 8 – Trench 4, ditches (402) and (405), looking southeast



Plate 9 – Trench 5, looking northeast



Plate 10 – Trench 5, ditch (505), looking northeast



Plate 11 – Trench 8, looking northwest



Plate 12 – Trench 8, ditch (809), looking northeast



Plate 13 – Trench 9, ditch (904), looking east

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

No.	Description	Interpretation
101	Firm dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.4m thick	Topsoil
102	Firm to stiff light bluish grey silt	Fill of (103)
103	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, >2.5m long by 1.15m wide by 0.33m deep, gentle sides and rounded base	Ditch
104	Firm to stiff light bluish grey silt	Fill of (105)
105	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, >2.5m long by 0.9m wide by 0.14m deep, gradual sides and rounded base	Ditch
106	Firm mid brown sandy silt	Fill of (108)
107	Firm dark greyish brown organic silt	Fill of (108)
108	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, >30m long by >0.8m wide by >0.3m deep, gentle sides, not fully excavated	Ditch
109	Firm to stiff mixed mid to light grey and brown silt	Alluvial deposit

Trench 2

No.	Description	Interpretation
200	Firm mid greyish brown silt, 0.2m thick	Topsoil
201	Firm mid greyish brown silt, 0.4m thick	Subsoil
202	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, >5m long by 3.2m wide by 1.1m deep	Ditch
203	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, >5m long by 2m wide by 0.8m deep	Ditch
204	Soft mid orange brown silt	Natural deposit
205	Firm dark orange brown silt	Fill of (202)
206	Firm dark orange brown silt	Fill of (203)

Trench 3

No.	Description	Interpretation
301	Stiff and plastic dark greyish brown silt, 0.3m thick	Topsoil
302	Firm to stiff dark grey organic silt	Fill of (304)
303	Stiff and plastic light to mid bluish grey clayey silt	Fill of (304)
304	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, >3.5m long by 0.8m wide by 0.14m deep, gentle sides and rounded base	Ditch
305	Firm to stiff mid brownish grey silt to clayey silt	Natural deposit
306	Mixed of (301) and other deposits	Plough horizon
307	Soft light brown sandy silt, >0.6m thick	Natural deposit

Trench 4

No.	Description	Interpretation
400	Firm mid greyish brown silt,	Topsoil

No.	Description	Interpretation
401	Soft dark greyish brown silt	Fill of (402)
402	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, >9.9m long by >1.19m wide by 0.12m deep, moderate sides and flattish base	Ditch
403	Soft dark greyish brown silt	Fill of (405)
404	Soft bluish grey clayey silt	Fill of (405)
405	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, >0.94m wide, steep sides, not fully excavated	Ditch
406	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest,	Natural creek
407	Firm to plastic mixed mid grey and brown silt	Natural deposit
408	Soft light brown sandy silt	Fill of (406)
409	Firm mid brown silt	Fill of (410)
410	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, >2m long by 2.16m wide, not excavated	ditch

Trench 5

No.	Description	Interpretation
501	Firm and plastic dark greyish brown silt, 0.3m thick	Topsoil
502	Firm mid grey silt	Fill of (505)
503	Firm and friable dark greyish brown organic silt	Fill of (505)
504	Stiff and plastic light bluish grey clayey silt	Fill of (505)
505	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, >5m long by 1.1m wide by 0.19m deep, gentle sides and rounded base	Ditch
506	Stiff mid grey silt	Natural deposit
507	Firm mid brown silt	Fill of (508)
508	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, >2m long by 1.79m wide, not excavated	Ditch
509	Firm mid brown silt	Fill of (510)
510	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, >2.1m long by 1.87m wide, not excavated	Ditch
511	Firm to plastic mid brown silt	Fill of (512)
512	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, >2m long by >1m wide, not excavated	Ditch
513	Soft light yellowish brown sandy silt	Natural deposit

Trench 6

No.	Description	Interpretation
600	Firm mid greyish brown silt, 0.45m thick	Topsoil
601	Firm mid yellowish brown silt, 0.26m thick	Subsoil
602	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, 0.93m wide, not excavated	Ditch
603	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, 4.31m wide, not excavated	Ditch
604	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, >2.61m wide, not excavated	Ditch
605	Soft mid orange grey brown silt	Fill of (603)
606	Soft mid orange brown silt	Natural deposit
607	Soft mid greyish brown silt	Fill of (602)

No.	Description	Interpretation
608	Soft mid greyish brown silt	Fill of (604)

Trench 7

No.	Description	Interpretation
700	Firm mid greyish brown silt, 0.2m thick	Topsoil
701	Firm mid yellowish brown silt, 0.36m thick	Subsoil
702	Soft mid orange brown silt, >60mm thick	Natural deposit

Trench 8

No.	Description	Interpretation
801	Firm to stiff dark greyish brown silt, 0.45m thick	Topsoil
802	Firm to stiff mid greenish brown silt	Fill of (803)
803	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, >4m long by 0.15m wide by >0.2m deep, vertical sides, not fully excavated	Field drain
804	Firm mid greyish brown silt	Fill of (806)
805	Firm and friable dark brownish grey organic silt	Fill of (806)
806	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, >5m long by 2.4m wide	Ditch
807	Firm mid grey silt with 'peat' patches	Fill of (809)
808	Firm to stiff mid grey silt	Fill of (809)
809	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, >3m long by 1.3m wide by 0.35m deep, steep sides and flattish base	Ditch
810	Firm to stiff mixed reddish brown and grey silt	Fill of (809)
811	Firm and plastic mid grey and mid orange brown silt, >0.3m thick	Natural deposit

Trench 9

No.	Description	Interpretation
900	Soft mid greyish brown silt, 0.4m thick	Topsoil
901	Firm mid greyish brown silt, 0.1m thick	Subsoil
902	Firm black organic silt	Fill of (904)
903	Firm mid greyish brown and yellowish brown silt with clay patches	Fill of (904)
904	Linear feature, aligned east-west, >2.59m long by 0.9m wide by 0.3m deep, steep sides and rounded base	Ditch
905	Firm to stiff mid grey and orange brown silt	Natural deposit

Appendix 2

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.
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, <i>e.g.</i> (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, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Dylings	Medieval strips (selions) that are generally broader than ridge and furrow and separated by wide flat bottomed ditches, typical in areas prone to flooding where the upcast from the ditch raises the ground level of the ridge.
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).
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.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1 st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saltern	Salt producing site typified by ash, derived from fuel needed to evaporate sea water, and briquetage.
Saxon	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:

57	Context records
3	Trench record sheets
7	Daily record sheets
3	Photographic record sheets
13	Sheets of scale drawings

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
Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire
Danes Terrace
Lincoln
LN2 1LP

Accession Number: LCNCC: 2013.226

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: SPRC 13

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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