
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND
RECORDING ON LAND AT
BURRINGHAM ROAD,
BURRINGHAM
NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE
(BUBR 15)**

Work Undertaken For
The Environment Agency

August 2015

Report Compiled by
Mark Peachey BA (Hons)

National Grid Reference: SE 8420 1026
North Lincolnshire Museum Accession No: BURAD
OASIS Record No: archaeo11-220876

APS Report No. **78/15**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



**Quality Control
Archaeological Monitoring and Recording on land
at Burringham Road,
Burringham,
North Lincolnshire
(BUBR 15)**

Project Coordinator	Gary Taylor
Site staff	Andy Pascoe, Mark Peachey, Fiona Walker
Surveying	Fiona Walker
Finds Processing	Denise Buckley
CAD Illustration	Mark Peachey
Photographic Reproduction	Mark Peachey
Post-excavation Analyst	Mark Peachey


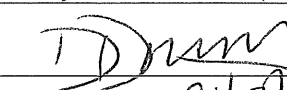
Checked by Senior Manager (Archaeology)	Approved by Team Leader (Archaeology)
Gary Taylor  -	 Denise Drury
Date: 17/8/15	Date: 21/8/15

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1. SUMMARY

A scheme of archaeological investigation was undertaken during works to realign the flood defences at Burringham Road, Burringham, North Lincolnshire.

The site is archaeologically sensitive. Various Bronze Age hoards and individual artefacts have been found close by including on the adjacent bed of the Trent. In the post-medieval period the prehistoric horizons were buried by deliberately introduced flood silt brought in from the river through warping drains. A warping drain and sluice are located adjacent to the site and recently demolished buildings on the site were probably associated with the construction of the drain.

The investigation involved monitoring of development groundwork. In addition, a trench was excavated under archaeological control to examine and characterise the warping drain outfall.

The trench for the installation of the flood defence sheeting was shallow, no more than 0.8m. As a result, the monitoring and recording revealed no archaeological remains. The trench across the warping drain outfall revealed it to be 20m wide and filled with dark silt containing organic material including twigs.

Finds retrieved included 19th and 20th century pottery.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as “a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological

deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.” (CIfA 2014).

2.2 Planning Background

An Environment Agency scheme to realign a length of flood embankment beside the River Trent at Burringham involved the demolition of Brumby Rose Cottage and outbuildings. Following consultation with the North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Service, a desk-based assessment (Parker 2015) was undertaken to determine the heritage significance of these standing buildings and the site. This assessment indicated that prehistoric hoards had been found in the area and that the buildings were associated with the adjacent Earl Beauchamp’s warping drain. As a result, the North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Service (NLHES) advised that a programme of archaeological monitoring should be undertaken during groundworks. In addition, a trench was to be excavated under archaeological control to characterise the warping drain outfall. Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by the Environment Agency to undertake this work which was carried out between 22nd May and 28th July 2015 in accordance with a written scheme of investigation prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by NLHES.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Burringham is located 5km west of Scunthorpe and 20km north of Gainsborough in North Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The proposed development site is located approximately 1km northeast of Burringham village on the east bank of the River Trent, on the west side of Burringham Road, at National Grid Reference SE 8420 1026 (Fig. 2).

Local soils are fine alluvial silts introduced artificially by the process of “flood warping”. These are developed on a drift

geology of clay and silt which seal a solid geology of Mercia Mudstone formed in the Triassic period (GSGB). The proposed development site encompasses 1565 square metres and lies at approximately 3-4m OD.

2.4 Archaeological Setting

The site is in an area of archaeological remains dating from the Bronze Age to the post-medieval period. Although the positions are not known, a bronze hoard and bronze shield have been found in the local area, along with a hoard of axes from the bed of the River Trent, immediately north of the site.

In the post-medieval period the site was occupied by a cottage and outbuildings connected with the construction of Earl Beauchamp's Warping Drain in 1866. Immediately south of the site is the sluice and outfall for the warping drain. The process of land improvement by warping involved the covering of low-lying, unproductive land (peaty and acidic soils and heavy clays) with light well-drained silt that was brought in on high, particularly spring, tides that were allowed to flood the land (Parker 2015). Masonry structures, part of the warping drain outfall, were encountered in one of two geotechnical test pits, previously excavated on the west side of the road, opposite the sluice abutment. These were similar to structures still visible on the east side of the sluice. Boreholes in the area identified organic or peaty deposits, some containing decayed wood, from about 3m to 13m below present ground level (WYG Environmental 2014).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the work was to record and interpret the deposits and any archaeological features exposed during the development groundwork.

The objectives of the investigation were to:

- Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
- Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
- As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features; and
- Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

4. METHODS

The trench for the sheet piling was excavated by machine to the depth required by the development, around 0.7m, the sheet piling then being pushed down through lower deposits. The trench across the warping drain outfall was excavated under archaeological supervision to a depth which exposed both banks. Following excavation, and where possible selected sides of the trenches were cleaned. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

5. RESULTS

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

Flood defence barrier trench (Fig. 3)

This trench was excavated from north to south, parallel to the river, for the sheet

piling for the flood defence barrier (Plate 1).

Towards the north end of the trench, the deposits, to a depth of at least 0.7m comprised mid brown clayey silt (101) (Fig. 5, Section 1) overlain, in the east side of the trench, by 0.4m thick crushed limestone (102) (Fig. 5, Section 2) forming the contractor's track.

Midway along the trench, at least 0.15m thick mid yellow brown clayey silt deposit (106), which contained 19th century pottery and ceramic building material, was overlain by a band of dark brown clayey silt buried topsoil (105). This was sealed by a 0.5m thickness of mid yellowish brown clay silt (104), the current flood defence bank, above which was 0.2m thick topsoil (103) (Fig. 5, Section 3; Plate 2).

In the area between the demolished buildings, the trench encountered tarmac layer (107), overlain by a 0.3m thickness of contractor's crushed limestone (102) (Fig. 5, Section 2).

Warping drain trench (Fig. 4; Plate 3)

A trench was placed across the projected line of the warping drain parallel to the adjacent sluice, which lies beneath Burringham Road.

A layer (at least 0.45m thick) of mid to dark brown clayey silt alluvium (111) was cut by the east-west aligned warping drain [110]. The drain was 20m wide and was filled with mid to dark grey clayey silt (109) with occasional angular stones and organic material such as twigs. Mid 20th century pottery was retrieved from it. It was sealed by an up to 1.18m thick layer of mid brown/light grey silt (108), probably deliberately redeposited alluvium (Fig. 5; Section 5).

6. DISCUSSION

Due to its shallow depth, no more than 0.8m, the trench for the sheet piling of the flood defences revealed only probable alluvial deposits and the existing bank material.

The trench across the warping drain was excavated between the river and the culvert under the road. As a result, the trench did not expose the culvert. However, the warping drain outfall was revealed as it widened out towards the river. It matches the position shown on OS maps of 1886, 1907 and 1951 (Parker 2015). Following the final opening of the sluice, at an unknown date, the outfall would have filled up with flood silts, from which 20th century pottery was retrieved. The silted up outfall had latterly been overlain by redeposited alluvium forming a flood defence bank.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during flood defence works at Burringham Road, Burringham, North Lincolnshire as the site was archaeologically sensitive lying close to discoveries of Bronze Age hoards and individual artefacts. In addition, a trench was excavated in order to characterise the outfall of a warping drain.

The investigations confirmed cartographic evidence that the warping drain outfall widened out from the sluice to the river and was still open in the mid twentieth century.

Finds retrieved included 19th and 20th century pottery.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of The

Environment Agency for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was co-ordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Denise Drury.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Site Staff: Andy Pascoe, Mark Peachey, Fiona Walker
Surveying: Fiona Walker
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Photographic reproduction: Mark Peachey
Illustration: Mark Peachey
Post-excavation analysis: Mark Peachey

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

CifA, 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

GSGB 2014 Geology of Britain Viewer
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyofbritain/viewer.html>

Parker, N, 2015 *Archaeological Desk-based Assessment of land at Brumby Rose Cottage, Burringham Road, Burringham, North Lincolnshire*, Archaeological Project Services report **01/15**

WYG Environmental, 2014 *Environment Agency Burringham Emergency Flood Alleviation*

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

CifA Chartered Institute for
Archaeologists

OS Ordnance Survey



Figure 1 - General location plan

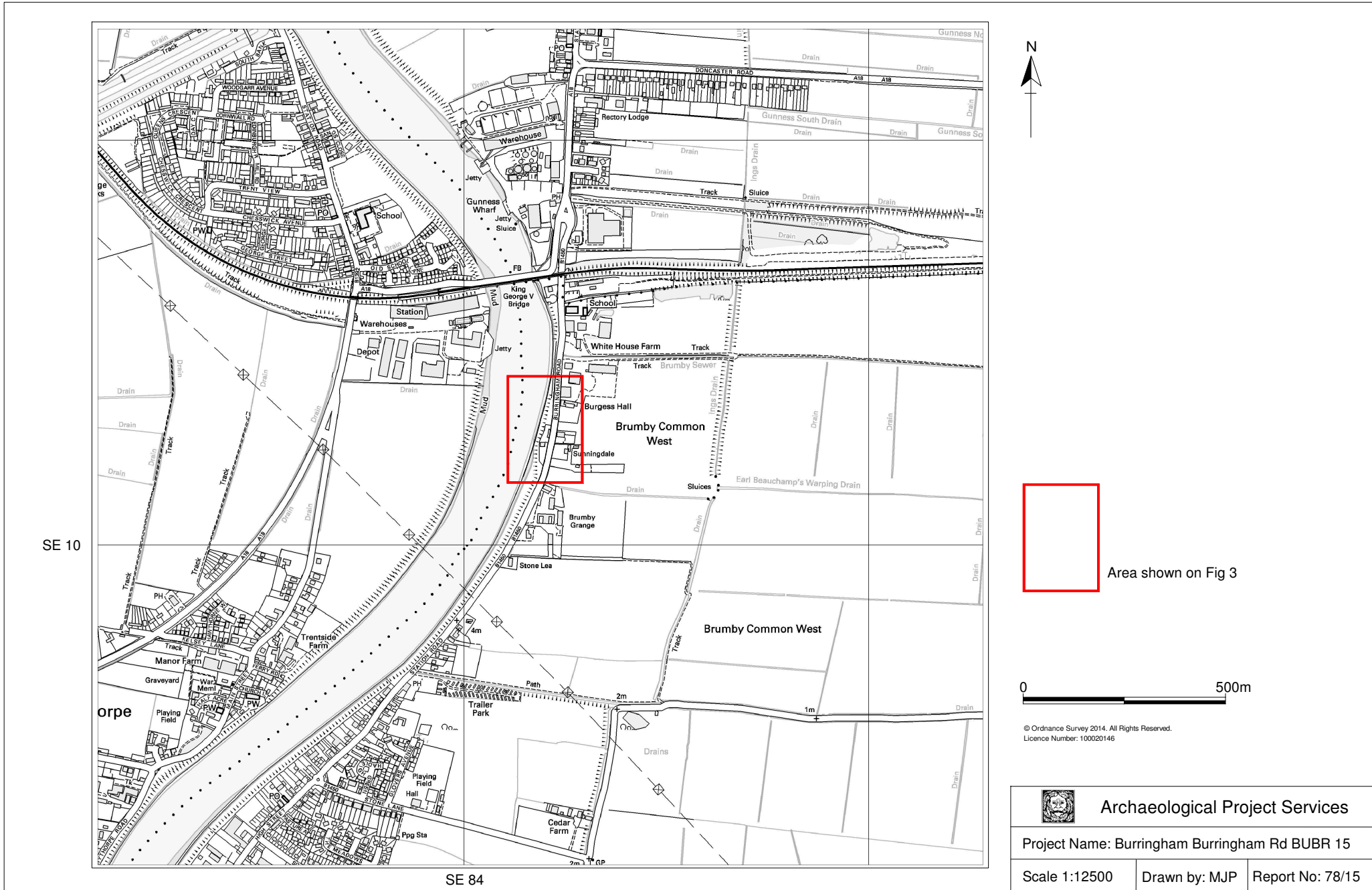


Figure 2. Site location plan

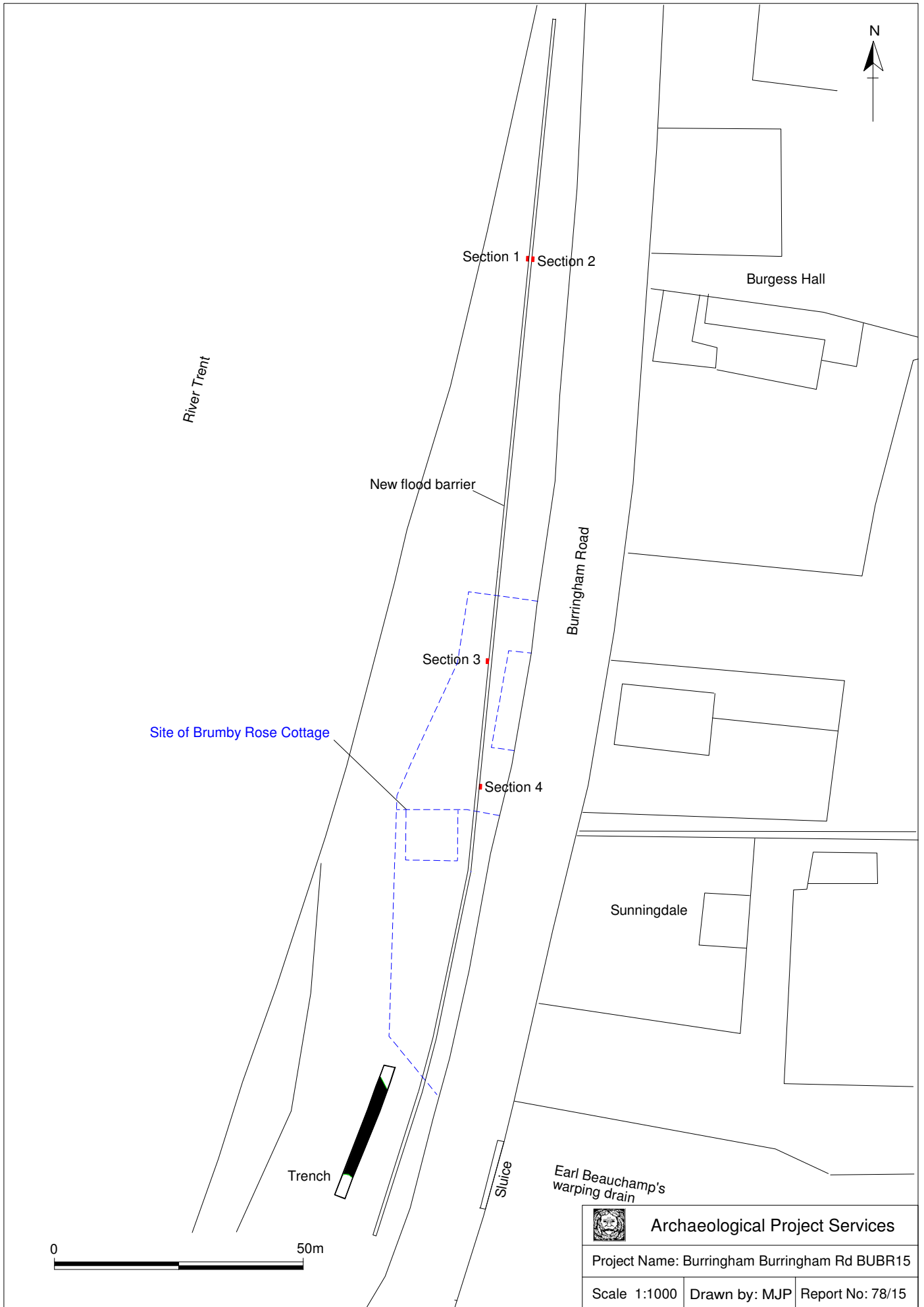


Figure 3. Trench location plan

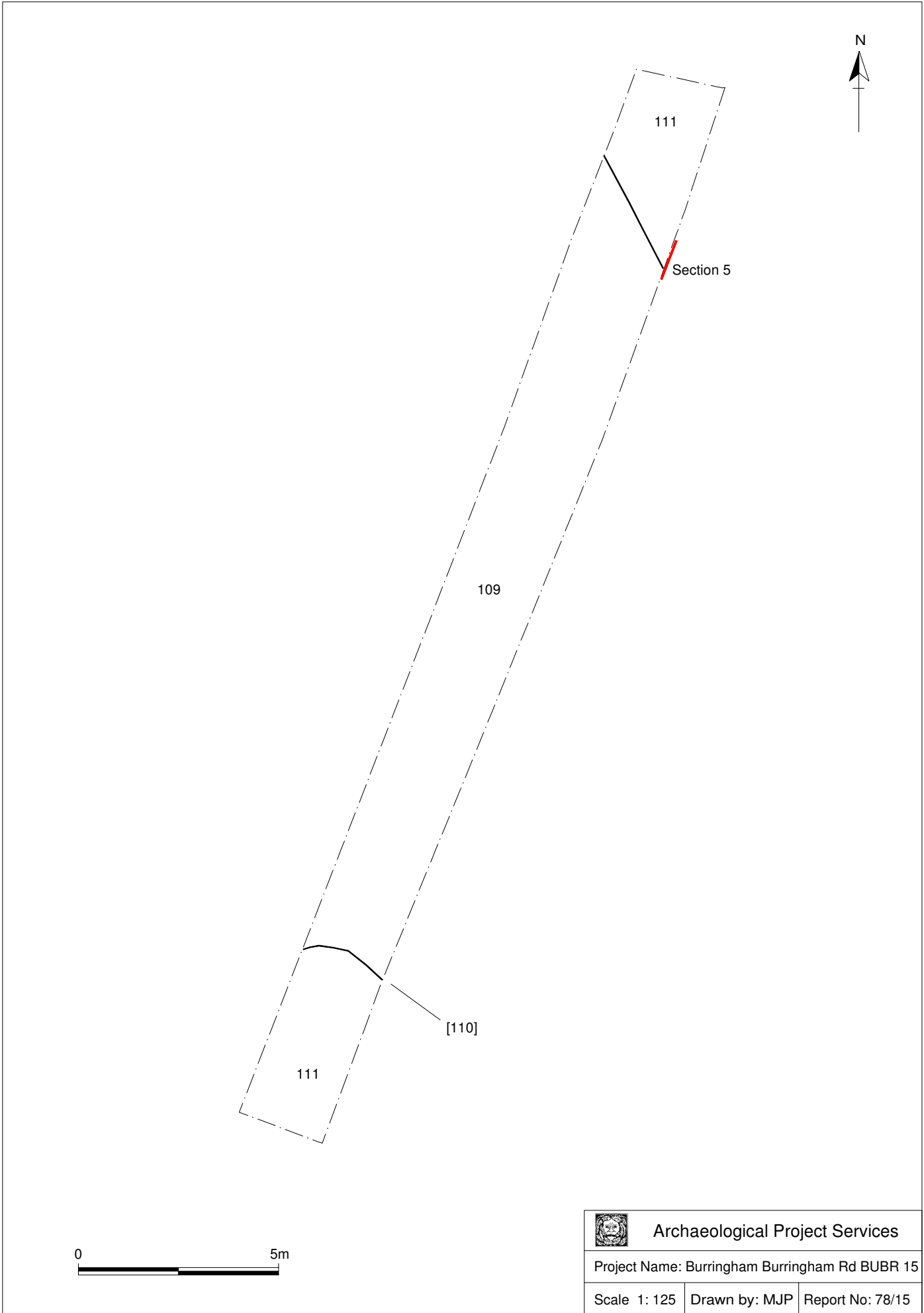
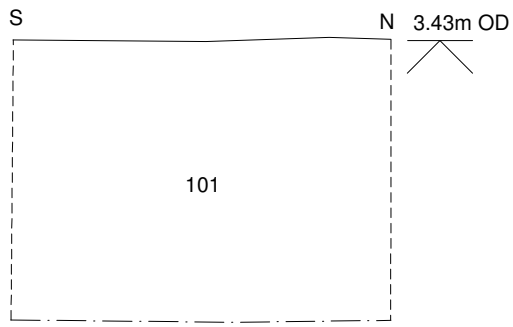
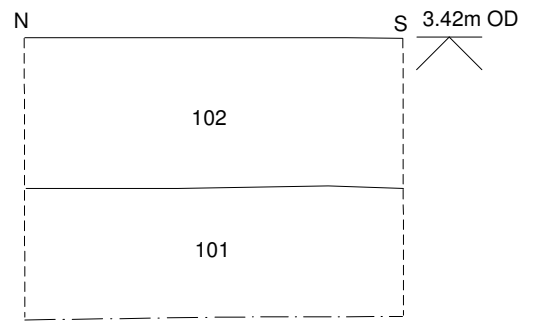


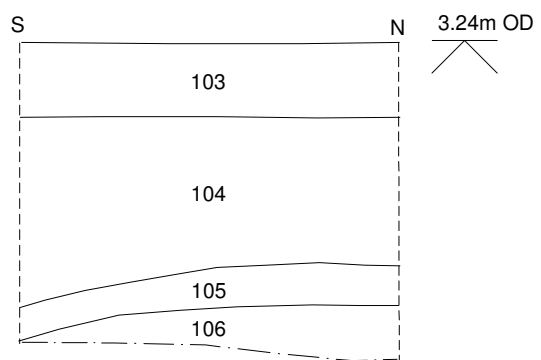
Figure 4. Trench plan



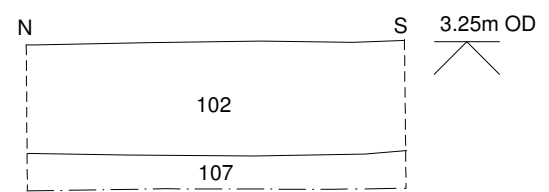
Section 1



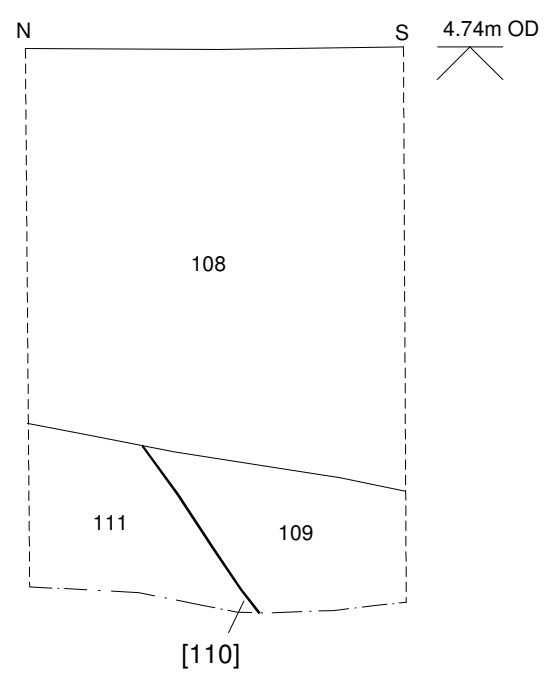
Section 2



Section 3



Section 4



Section 5




 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Burringham Burringham Rd BUBR15		
Scale 1:20	Drawn by: MJP	Report No: 78/15

Figure 5. Sections



Plate 1. Excavating the footing trench for the flood defence barrier looking north



Plate 2. Representative Section 3 through barrier trench looking west



Plate 3. Trench across the warping drain looking north



Plate 4. Section 5, showing edge of warping drain, looking east

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
101	Firm mid brown 30% clay 70% silt, , at least 0.75m thick	Alluvial silt from Trent
102	Crushed chalk/limestone, 0.4m thick	Contractor's track
103	Friable mid greyish brown 30% clay 70% silt, 0.2m thick	Turf line on bank
104	Friable mid yellowish brown 30% clay 70% silt, 0.5m thick	Flood defence bank material
105	Firm dark brown 30% clay 70% silt with rare charcoal, 0.1m thick	Possible turf line, buried topsoil
106	Firm mid yellow brown 30% clay 70% silt, 0.15m thick	Subsoil/bank material
107	Tarmac	Modern tarmac layer
108	Soft mottled mid brown/light grey silt, up to 1.18m thick	Redeposited alluvial silt
109	Soft mid to dark grey clayey silt with occasional medium (0.3m across) angular stones and twigs, at least 0.4m thick	Fill of [110]
110	East-west aligned linear cut, 20m wide, at least 2m long, 0.4m deep	Cut of Earl Beauchamp's warping drain
111	Soft mid to dark brown clayey silt, at least 0.5m thick	Alluvium

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

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). The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for North Lincolnshire. A total of three sherds from two vessels, weighing 46 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. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1 below. The pottery dates to the early modern and modern period.

Condition

There are two small fragments of pottery. The pieces are not abraded.

Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Form	Decoration	Part	Date	NoS	NoV	W(g)
106	PEARL	Pearlware	Flat	Blue transfer print - Willow Pattern	BS	19th	1	1	1
109	WHITE	Modern Whiteware	Plate	Back stamped "[Trade m]ark; ducal ware; made in England"	Profile	M20th	2	1	45
Total							3	2	46

Provenance

Pottery was recovered from subsoil or bank make up layer (106) and from fill (109) within linear feature [110].

Range

There are three pieces of pottery, all of which are dated to the 19th and 20th centuries. These items are most likely fragments of domestic rubbish.

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.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (2002). A total of four fragments of ceramic building material, weighing five 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 2 below.

Condition

The fragments are small and very abraded.

Results

Table 2, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Fabric	NoF	W(g)	Comment	Date
106	CBM	Unclassified Ceramic Building Material	Oxidised	4	5	Abraded; surfaceless flakes	Undated

Provenance

The ceramic building material came from subsoil or bank make up layer (106).

Range

There are four small undiagnostic and highly abraded ceramic fragments. They are highly fired and oxidised and most likely derive from items of ceramic building material.

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.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 3 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 3, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
106	19th	Based on a single sherd
109	M20th	

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
W (g)	Weight (grams)

REFERENCES

- ~ 2002, *Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material*, version 3.2 [internet]. Available at <<http://www.tegula.freemove.co.uk/acbmg/CBMGDE3.htm>>
- Slowikowski, A. M., Nenck, B., and Pearce, J., 2001, *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2
- Young, J., Vince, A.G. and Nailor, V., 2005, *A Corpus of Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln* (Oxford)

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Alluvium	Deposits laid down by water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea, and fresh water alluvium is laid down by rivers and in lakes.
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 interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> [004].
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological or geological 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.
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
Layer	A layer is an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
Norman	Architectural style current in the 11 th -12 th centuries. Also known as Romanesque.
Old English	The language used by the Saxon (<i>q.v.</i>) occupants of Britain.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Redeposited	An artefact that is redeposited is one that has been removed in the past from its original place of deposition. Redeposition can introduce earlier artefacts into later deposits, <i>ie.</i> medieval or post-medieval ditch or pit digging may have invaded Roman levels, bringing Roman artefacts to the surface. When the medieval/post-medieval features are infilled the Roman artefacts become incorporated with those deposits; these Roman artefacts are said to be redeposited. If the age differences within an assemblage are not great it is sometimes difficult to determine if an artefact is redeposited or residual (<i>q.v.</i>).

Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas.
Saxo-Norman	Pertaining to the period either side of the Norman Conquest of 1066, dating from about 1000-1100 AD.
Till	A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as boulder clay, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size.
Unstratified	Not related to definable layers (strata).

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

1	Context register sheet
11	Context record sheets
1	Section record sheet
4	Daily record sheets
1	Photographic record sheet
2	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Bag 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 ultimate destination of the project archive is:
North Lincolnshire Museum Service
Oswald Road
Scunthorpe
DN15 7BD

Accession Number:	BURAD
Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	BUBR 15
OASIS record number	archaeo11-220876

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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OASIS ID: archaeol1-220876

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Burringham Road, Burringham, North Lincolnshire
Short description of the project	Work on realignment of the River Trent flood defence banks revealed only alluvial and former flood bank deposits. A trench excavated across a 19th century warping drain outfill confirmed catographic evidence that the drain widened out towards the river and was still open in the mid 20th century.
Project dates	Start: 22-05-2015 End: 28-07-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	BUBR15 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	BURAD - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 12 - Verge
Monument type	WARPING DRAIN Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Environmental (unspecified schedule)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE BURREINGHAM Land at Burringham Road
Postcode	DN17 3LT
Study area	1565 Square metres
Site coordinates	SE 8420 1026 53.5819186399 -0.728031008898 53 34 54 N 000 43 40 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 3m Max: 3m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeological Project Services

Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator Gary Taylor

Project director/manager Gary Taylor

Project supervisor Andy Pascoe

Project supervisor Mark Peachey

Type of sponsor/funding body Environment Agency

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient North Lincolnshire Museum

Physical Archive ID BURAD

Physical Contents "Ceramics"

Digital Archive recipient North Lincolnshire Museum

Digital Archive ID BURAD

Digital Contents "Ceramics","Survey"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Survey","Text"

Paper Archive recipient North Lincolnshire Museum

Paper Archive ID BURAD

Paper Contents "Ceramics","Stratigraphic","Survey"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Correspondence","Map","Matrices","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

Entered by Mark Peachey (info@apsarchaeology.co.uk)

Entered on 18 August 2015