ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT:

TRIAL TRENCHING ON LAND OFF SWINEMOOR LANE, BEVERLEY, EAST YORKSHIRE

Planning Application: DC/12/02584/STPLF
NGR: TA 0487 3986
AAL Site Code: BESL 13
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-145721

Report prepared for Planning Potential Limited
On behalf of Aldi Stores Limited

By
Allen Archaeology Limited
Report Number AAL 2013030

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Allenarchaeology

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Document Control

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Cover image: General view of the site, looking west northwest from the southeast corner of the site

Executive Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Planning Potential Limited on behalf of Aldi Stores Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land off Swinemoor Lane in Beverley, East Riding of Yorkshire.

- The site is situated in an area of significant archaeological interest, particularly with reference to the regionally important local medieval pottery, brick and tile industries, with evidence for Roman tile production also.

- The evaluation exposed a modern demolition horizon, sealing natural alluvial layers, which were heavily contaminated with diesel in the eastern half of the site. No deposits of archaeological significance were encountered during the works.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (hereafter AAL) was commissioned by Planning Potential Limited on behalf of Aldi Stores Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching as a condition of planning permission for the construction of a new foodstore on land off Swinemoor Lane in Beverley.

1.2 The excavating, recording and reporting conforms to current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluations*' (IfA 1999, revised 2001 and 2008), the English Heritage document '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment'* (English Heritage 2006) and a specification prepared by this company (AAL 2012a). All appropriate English Heritage guidance on archaeological practice was also followed (www.helm.org/server/show/nav.7740).

2.0 Site Location and Description

2.1 The development site is located on the eastern edge of the town of Beverley, to the east of Swinemoor Lane and west of the River Hull (Figure 1). The site was recently occupied by an industrial building that had been demolished prior to commencement of the evaluation. The site centres on NGR TA 0487 3986 and lies at approximately 4m above Ordnance Datum.

2.2 The bedrock geology comprises Flamborough Chalk, overlain by superficial deposits of glacial till (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html).

3.0 Planning Background

3.1 A planning application was submitted to East Riding of Yorkshire Council in May 2012 for the '*Erection of a Retail Food Store with associated car parking and landscaping following demolition of existing building*' (Reference DC/12/02584/STPLF). The application was granted in August 2012, subject to conditions, including for the undertaking of a programme of archaeological investigation and recording. As a first stage of investigation it was agreed with the Partnership Manager at Humber Archaeology Partnership that a programme of trial trenching should be undertaken to further characterise the archaeological resource, and to provide sufficient information to allow the planning authority to develop any appropriate strategies to mitigate the effects of the development upon the archaeological resource as a further stage of archaeological investigation.

3.2 The approach adopted is consistent with the recommendations of Chapter 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012).

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

4.1 The site is situated in an area of significant archaeological interest, particularly with reference to the regionally important local medieval pottery, brick and tile industries.

4.2 Roman activity in the area is represented by the discovery of a pit containing large quantities of Roman pottery and ceramic building material to the southwest of the site (Goodyear 2012).

4.3 The proposed development is beyond the settled area of the medieval town, but previous discoveries of kilns, quarry pits containing abundant pottery wasters and workshops nearby has indicated that this was a major industrial zone focussed on the production of pottery, bricks and tiles during the medieval period. For example, excavations at Albion House c.100m to the southwest have exposed a Beverley Ware 1 kiln operating in the 11th and 12th centuries (National Monuments Record (hereafter NMR) Reference 1222705). Three large quarry pits were recorded nearby almost entirely filled with pottery wasters of 12th century date (Goodyear 2012). Approximately 150m to the southeast a Beverley Ware 2 kiln of 12th to 14th century date has been identified, south of Grovehill Road (NMR Reference 1222681). An area of medieval tileries has been investigated c.650m to the southeast, where six 13th century tile kilns and a number of timber sheds have been excavated, with five further kilns identified by geophysical survey (Evans 1990).

5.0 Methodology

5.1 A programme of trial trenching had been agreed with the Partnership Manager at Humber Archaeology Partnership. The works comprised five trenches each measuring 20m long and 2m wide, as shown on Figure 2. The fieldwork was undertaken by a team of experienced field archaeologists during the week commencing Monday 18th March 2013.

5.2 The trenches were located on site using a Leica GS08 RTK NetRover GPS, allowing millimetre accurate real-time precision. In each trench, concrete and tarmac surfaces and underlying non-archaeological deposits were removed by mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket in spits no greater than 100mm in depth. The process was repeated until the first archaeologically significant or natural horizon was exposed.

5.3 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard AAL context recording sheets. Archaeological features and deposits were drawn to scale, in plan and section (at scales 1:50). Photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy. All photographs incorporated scales, with an identification board and directional arrow, and a selection of these images has been included in Appendix 1.

5.4 Each deposit, layer or cut was allocated a three digit unique identifier (context number), and accorded a written description, a summary of these are included in Appendix 2.

6.0 Results

6.1 Across the site there was a moderately loose brick/limestone hardcore layer, related to the recent clearing and demolition of the former building that occupied the site. This was labelled by trench as 100, 200, 300, 400 and 500.

6.2 In Trench 1 below 100, which was approximately 0.4m thick, was a compact greenish grey silty clay layer 101, c. 0.8m thick. This was heavily contaminated by diesel which had leaked from metal storage containers previously located in this area. Below 101 was a compact mid orange/brown natural silty clay 102.

6.3 In Trench 2 below 200, which was approximately 0.3m thick, was a compact greenish grey silty clay layer 201, c. 0.5m thick. As in Trench 1 this was very contaminated with diesel. Below 201 was the mid orange/brown natural silty clay 202.

6.4 Layer 300 was 0.5m thick in Trench 3 and sealed a compact mottled grey/blue/orange silty clay layer 301, c.0.4m thick. Below this was a compact mottled orange/red/brown silty clay layer 302, c. 0.3m thick. These two layers are likely the result of natural alluviation. Below 302 was the mid orange/brown natural silty clay 303.

6.5 In Trench 4 layer 400, was approximately 0.25m thick, and sealed two silty clay layers; 401, which was c. 0.25m thick and 402, measuring 0.4m thick, which were identical in colour and composition to layers 301 and 302 respectively. Below 402 was the mid orange/brown natural silty clay 403.

6.6 In Trench 5 below 500, which was approximately 0.2m thick, was a 0.3m thick fairly loose dark grey clayey silt layer 501, containing very frequent modern bricks and charcoal fragments, representing a modern spread of demolition material. Below this was a greenish grey silty clay layer 502, c. 0.4m thick, again exhibiting diesel contamination. Below 502 was the mid orange/brown natural silty clay 503.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusions

7.1 The evaluation revealed no archaeologically significant artefacts, features or deposits within the trial trenches. The development area was covered in a layer of limestone and brick rubble hardcore associated with the recent demolition of an industrial building, up to 0.5m in thickness. Throughout the site, this deposit sealed a sequence of alluvial layers, typical of the low lying landscape of the area, adjacent to both the River Hull to the east and Beverley Beck to the south. In the eastern part of the site, these deposits were heavily contaminated by diesel from former underground fuel tanks.

7.2 At the base of the sequence, was the natural glacial clay, encountered at depths of between 0.8m and 1.2m below the existing ground surface.

7.3 There was no evidence for activity associated with the medieval or Roman ceramic industries previously identified in the area. It is likely that there has been some truncation of deposits due to the recent land use, although the presence of alluvial layers across the site indicates that it may not have been suitable for sustained occupation during the Roman or medieval periods.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

8.1 The evaluation methodology was appropriate to the nature and extent of the proposed development. It has identified a negligible archaeological potential for the site, and suggests that the impact of the proposed development will be similarly negligible.

9.0 Acknowledgements

9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Planning Potential Limited for this commission and their client Aldi Stores Limited. Thanks also go to the groundworkers from CTM Management Limited for their cooperation during the fieldwork.

10.0 References

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Appendix 1: Colour Plates

Plate 1: General view of the development area, looking east-southeast from the northwest corner of the site

Plate 2: Trench 1, south facing section showing diesel contaminated layers. Scales are 2m and 1m

Plate 3: Trench 4, north-northwest facing section. Scale is 2m

Appendix 2: Context Summary List

Trench 1

Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
100	Layer	Moderately loose limestone rubble, bricks and brick fragments, charcoal fragments. Seals 101	Modern demolition layer
101	Layer	Compact green/grey silty clay with charcoal and limestone flecks and fragments. Seals 102, sealed by 100	Diesel contaminated alluvial layer
102	Layer	Well compacted, mid orange/brown silty clay with occasional small limestone fragments. Sealed by 101	Natural geology

Trench 2

Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
200	Layer	Moderately loose limestone rubble, bricks and brick fragments, charcoal fragments. Seals 201	Modern demolition layer
201	Layer	Compact green/grey silty clay with charcoal and limestone flecks and fragments. Seals 202, sealed by 200	Diesel contaminated alluvial layer
202	Layer	Compact, mid orange/brown silty clay with occasional small limestone fragments. Sealed by 201	Natural geology

Trench 3

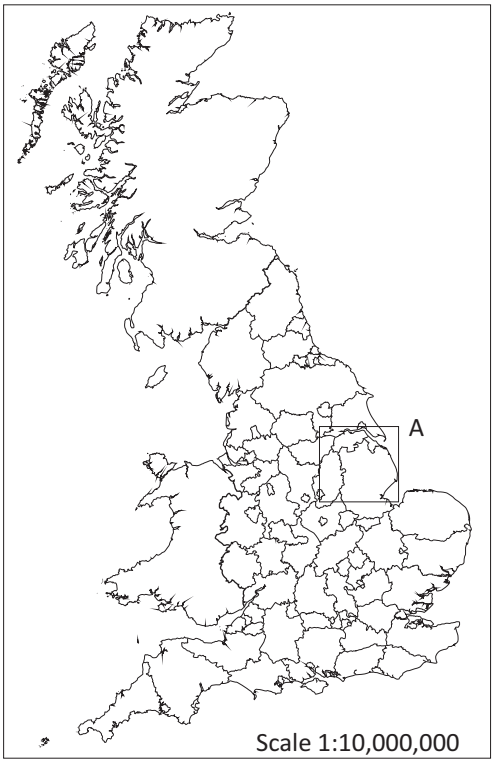
Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
300	Layer	Moderately loose limestone rubble, bricks and brick fragments, charcoal fragments. Seals 301	Modern demolition layer
301	Layer	Compact grey/blue/orange silty clay. Seals 302, sealed by 300	Natural alluvium
302	Layer	Compact orange/red/brown silty clay. Seals 303, sealed by 301	Natural alluvium
303	Layer	Compact, mid orange/brown silty clay with occasional small limestone fragments. Sealed by 302	Natural geology

Trench 4

Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
400	Layer	Moderately loose limestone rubble, bricks and brick fragments, charcoal fragments. Seals 401	Modern demolition layer
401	Layer	Compact grey/blue/orange silty clay. Seals 402, sealed by 400	Natural alluvium
402	Layer	Compact orange/red/brown silty clay. Seals 403, sealed by 401	Natural alluvium
403	Layer	Compact, mid orange/brown silty clay with occasional small limestone fragments. Sealed by 402	Natural geology

Trench 5

Context No.	Type	Description	Interpretation
500	Layer	Moderately loose limestone rubble, bricks and brick fragments, charcoal fragments. Seals 501	Modern demolition layer
501	Layer	Loose dark grey clayey silt with very frequent bricks and charcoal. Seals 502, sealed by 500	Modern demolition layer
502	Layer	Compact green/grey silty clay with charcoal and limestone flecks and fragments	Diesel contaminated alluvial layer
503	Layer	Compact, mid orange/brown silty clay with occasional small limestone fragments. Sealed by 502	Natural geology



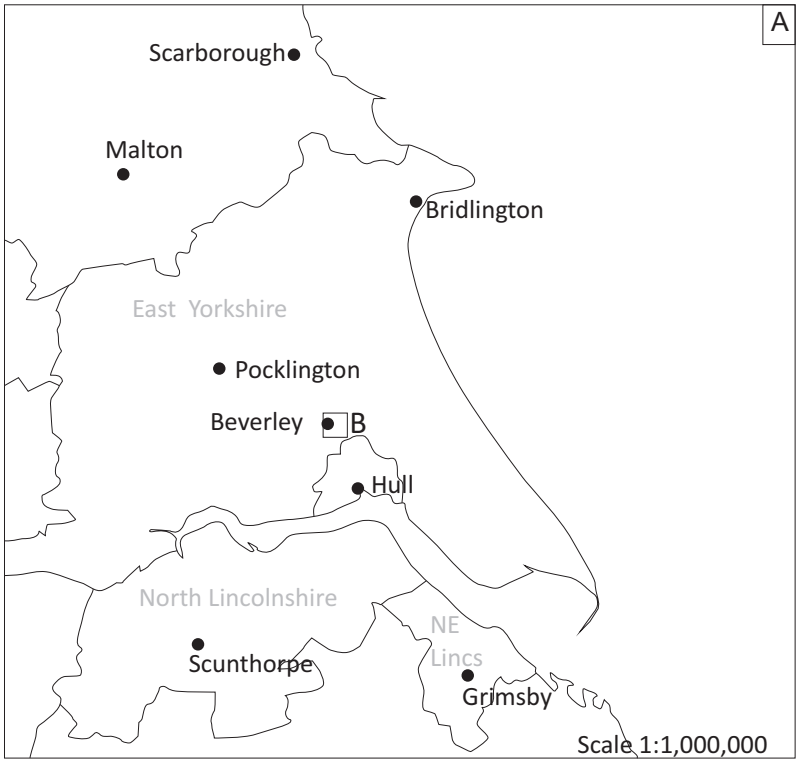


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red

Site Code	BESL 13
Scales	1:10,000,000 1:1,000,000 1:25,000 @ A4
Drawn by	R Eversheed
Date	05/04/13

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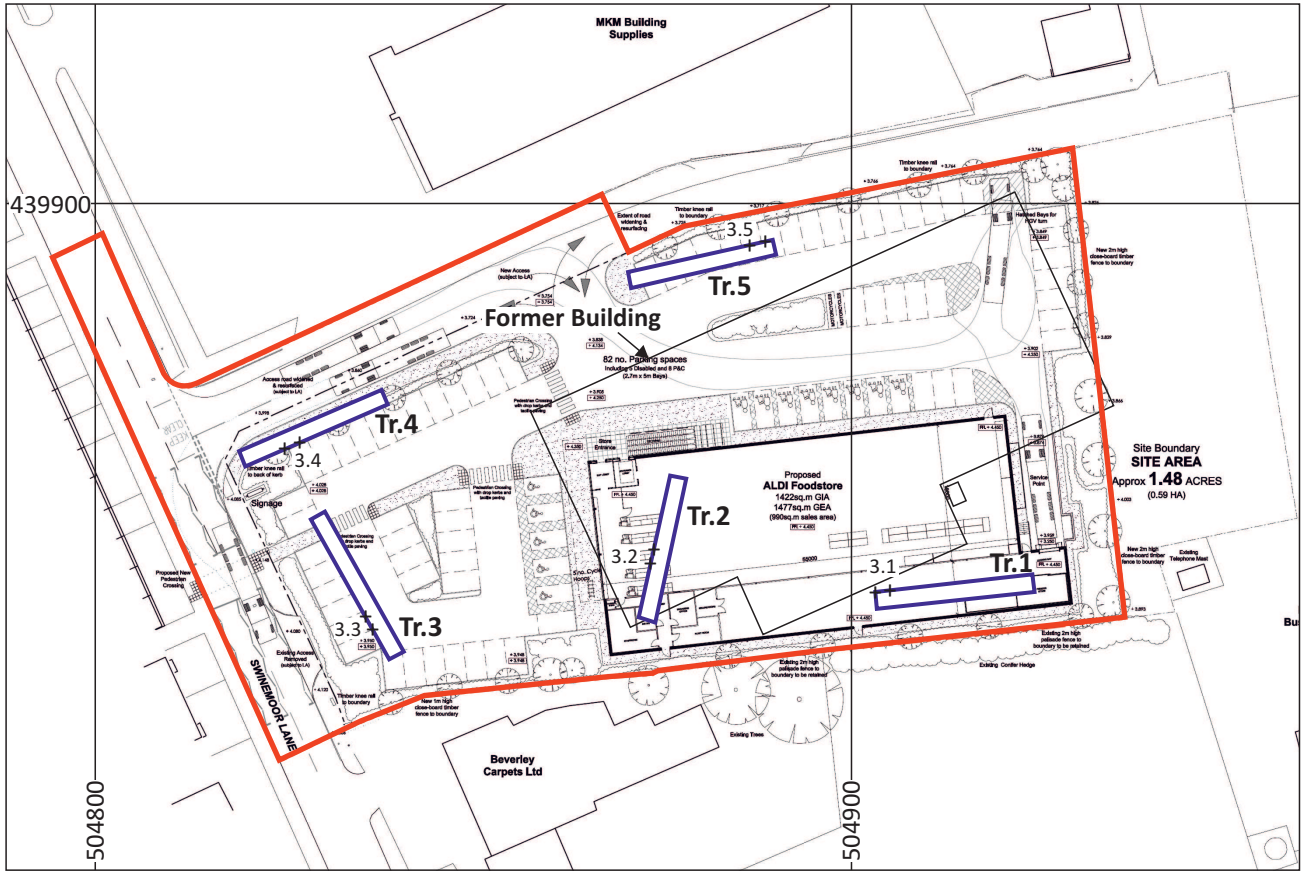

Figure 2: Site location outlined in red, with trenches in blue. Representative sections 3.1 - 3.5 shown on Figure 3

Site Code	BESL 13
Scale	1:1000 @A4
Drawn by	Robert Evershed
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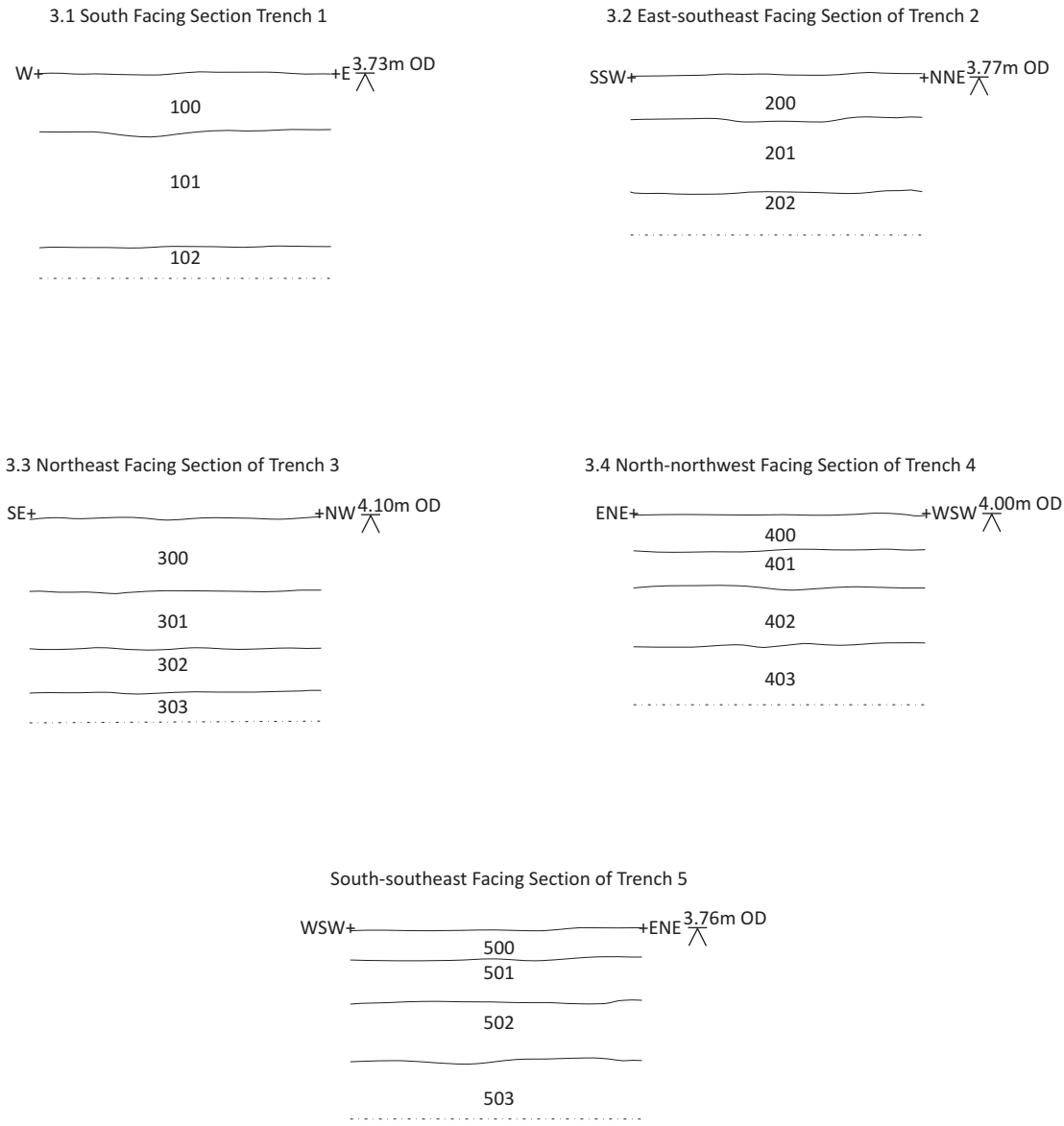

Site Code	BESL 13
Scale	1:50 @A4
Drawn by	Robert Evershed
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Figure 3: Representative sections, at scale 1:20. Located on Figure 2

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