

**LAND NORTH OF MILL LANE, LEGBOURNE, EAST LINDSEY,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

NGR:	TF 36162 84119
Planning Ref.:	Pre-application
Archive acc. no.:	LCNCC 2016.22
Site code:	MLLE 16
PCAS job no.:	1627

Prepared for

Core Architects

by

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Contents

	Summary	1
1.0	Introduction	2
2.0	Location and Description	2
3.0	Geology and Topography	2
4.0	Planning Background	4
5.0	Archaeological and Historical Background	4
6.0	Methodology	5
7.0	Results	5
	7.1 Trenches containing archaeological remains	5
	7.2 Trenches containing no archaeological remains	6
8.0	Discussion and Conclusion	10
9.0	Acknowledgements	10
10.0	Effectiveness of Methodology	10
11.0	References	10

Appendix 1: Context Summary

Appendix 2: OASIS summary

Illustrations

Fig. 1: Location map at scale 1:25 000

Fig. 2: Plan of the trench layout as excavated at scale 1:1000

Fig. 3: Trench 6 plan (1:50) and sections (1:20).

Fig. 4: Representative sections (1:20) of archaeologically negative trenches.

Colour Plates

Plate 1: Trench 6 (looking west).

Plate 2: Ditch [605] (looking north).

Plate 3: Trench 5 (looking east).

Plate 4: Trench 4 (looking north).

Plate 5: Trench 1 (looking south).

Plate 6: Trench 2 (looking north-east).

Plate 7: Trench 3 (looking west).

Plate 8: Sondage in Trench 1 (looking west).

Plate 9: Sondage in Trench 10 (looking north-west).

Plate 10: Sondage in Trench 2 (looking north-west).

Summary

A trial trench archaeological evaluation was carried out on land north of Mill Lane, Legbourne, to inform a forthcoming planning application for residential development.

The site lies directly adjacent to the Scheduled remains of Legbourne Priory, a Cistercian nunnery occupied for the majority of the medieval period, which, following the Dissolution of the monasteries became part of the park of Legbourne Abbey, a post-medieval estate. It lies between the medieval villages of Legbourne and Little Cawthorpe, on the south bank of the Long River Eau. The earthworks of the priory and villages survive around the site, and aerial photography records the presence of a linear earthwork running N-S through the site itself, roughly corresponding with priory earthworks on the north side of the Long River Eau.

The site is currently in use as a trout farm, and is therefore occupied by several large ponds, surrounded by banks of imported material, at least some of which has resulted from dredging of the river.

Nine of the ten investigated trenches were archaeologically sterile, whilst the linear earthwork seen on aerial photographs, running N-S through the site, survives in the southern half of the site as a ditch sealed by approximately 2m of imported clay material.

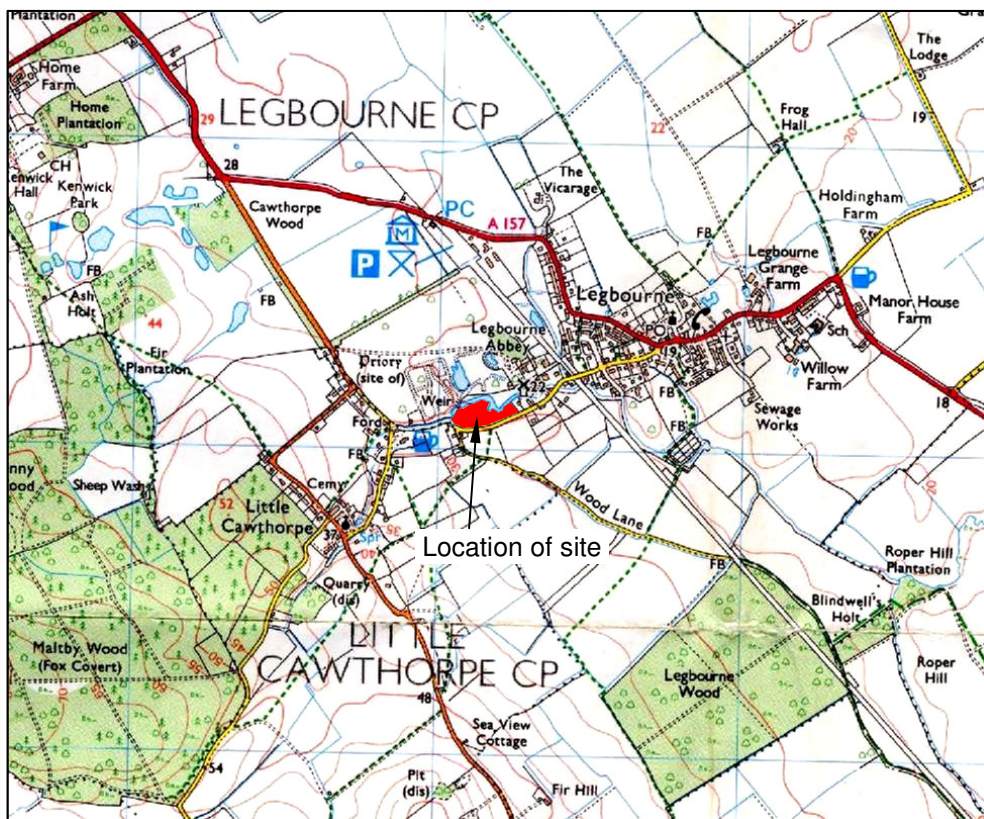


Figure 1: Location of the proposed development site at scale 1:25,000. The application area is marked in red. (OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278).

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) was commissioned by Core Architects to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land to the north of Mill Lane in the village of Legbourne, Lincolnshire. The results of this evaluation will inform the commissioning client and local planning authority and determine whether or not any mitigation measures are required in advance of or prior to development.

The archaeological evaluation follows current best practice and appropriate national guidance including:

- NPPF, National Planning Policy Framework, 2012;
- CIFA Code of Conduct (2014 as revised);
- CIFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (2014);
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE v1.1, English Heritage 2009)
- Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (Lincolnshire County Council, 2010).

2.0 Location and Description (Figs. 1 and 2)

The village of Legbourne is within the East Lindsey district of Lincolnshire, on the eastern edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds, approximately 4km south-east of Louth and 40km north-north-east of Lincoln. Legbourne lies on either side of the A157, a little south-east of its junction with the A16.

The site lies on the north side of Mill Road, which connects Legbourne with neighbouring Little Cawthorpe to the southwest. The site is currently Olsten Trout Farm and is occupied by production and growing ponds. The area of the site is approximately 11600m² or 2.9 acres, with two large irregular shaped ponds in its main western part, and a number of smaller rectangular ponds in the smaller eastern arm. Mill Lane forms the southern boundary, while to the north lies the Long River Eau.

The approximate central National Grid Reference of the site is TF 36162 84119.

3.0 Geology and Topography

Bedrock geology in Legbourne is recorded by the BGS as Carstone Formation sandstone, though slightly to the west of the site, this changes to Ferriby Chalk. The overlying drift geology is mapped as Devensian – Diamicton Till (till with deposits of outwash sand and gravel deposited by seasonal and post-glacial melt-waters), and an island of Glaciofluvial Deposits, Devensian - Sand and Gravel to the north (bgs.ac.uk).

Local soil types are recorded as fine loam over clay of the Beccles 1 Association to the north, with fine loamy soils of the Aswarby Association to the east and brashy calcareous fine loamy soils of the Elmton 1 Association to the south and west (SSEW 1983).

The site is on the gentle east facing slope of the Lincolnshire Edge within a predominantly agricultural landscape. It lies at an elevation of c. 24m OD on the south bank of the Long River Eau which is spring-fed from the west; however, modern activity such as dredging of the river and the construction of the trout ponds has led to the development of several c.1m high banks around the ponds and along the river's edge.

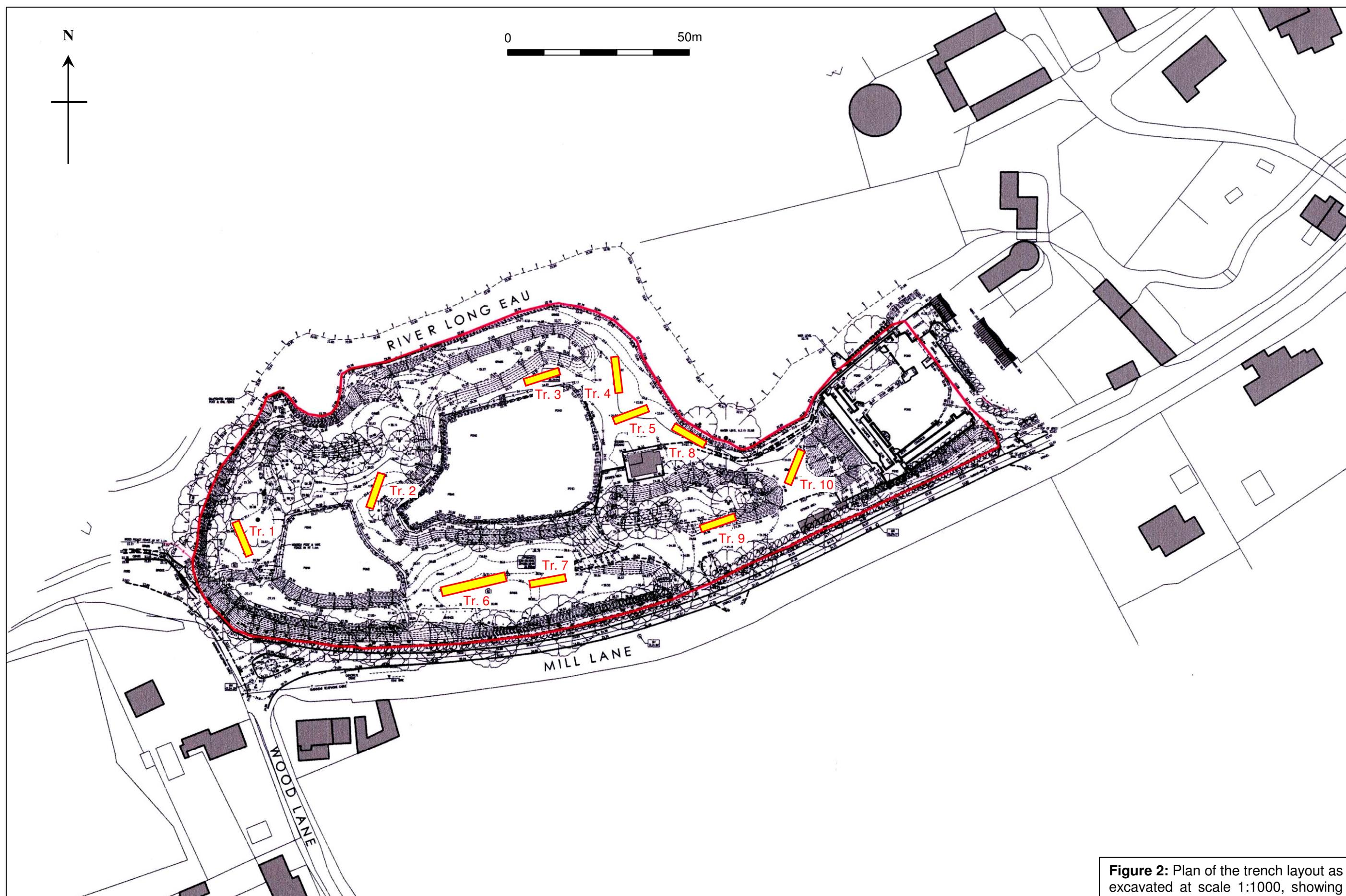


Figure 2: Plan of the trench layout as excavated at scale 1:1000, showing trench positions plotted on base mapping supplied by the client.

4.0 Planning Background

A planning application for residential development is currently being prepared for submission to East Lincolnshire District Council. At the time of writing, the details and proposed layout had not been finalised, but are anticipated to comprise eight new dwellings with associated access and services etc.

The Historic Environment Officer for East Lindsey District Council has advised that, in order to inform the forthcoming planning application, and to meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2012) a series of archaeological investigations are required; included trial trench evaluation, the results of which are presented in this document.

5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (HER) lists two Neolithic flint or stone axe heads recovered from Legbourne, although the exact location of these findspots is not known (LHER ref: 41841 & 41842). Further isolated findspots are recorded in the wider area, and a little over 2km southwest of the site a series of cropmarks identified on aerial photographs is thought to indicate the presence of prehistoric enclosures and boundaries (LHER ref: 45064).

Evidence of Roman activity is also limited. Romano-British pottery has been recovered from Legbourne Grange, over 2km northeast of the development site (LHER ref: 41836), and a single pit containing a small corpus of Roman pottery was identified during excavations for the Theddlethorpe to Hatton pipeline (LHER ref: 43350).

Despite the proximity of Louth, a locally important settlement in the Saxon period, home of a monastery and annual market by the eighth century and a pre-Conquest mint (Sawyer, 1998), there is limited archaeological evidence indicating any contemporary settlement in Legbourne at this time. A pit excavated on the Theddlethorpe to Hatton pipeline yielded sherds of middle Saxon pottery (LHER ref: 43349), and a late Saxon bead fragment and pottery of 5th – 9th century date was recovered during relatively recent investigations on the southern edge of Legbourne (Lane, 2014).

The site lies between the historic villages of Legbourne and Little Cawthorpe. The historic core of Legbourne is believed to lie in the midst of All Saints Church, c.700m east of the site (built c. 1380, and Grade I Listed, ref: 1063692). Earthworks of the shrunken village can be observed around the modern village to the east of the site, surrounded by the earthworks and cropmarks of the associated field systems (LHER ref: 46484). Little Cawthorpe is first documented in the mid 12th century, although the settlement is thought to date from the late Saxon period. The historic core of the settlement is thought to lie around Watery Lane, to the west of the site. Legbourne features in the Domesday Book, when it was populated by 39 freemen, 18 villagers and 30 smallholders; the land was divided between Earl Hugh and Roger of Poitou (Morgan & Thorne, 1986). The place name is of Old English origin, deriving from *Lecheburne*, meaning ‘the trickling stream’ (Cameron, 1998).

Legbourne developed in the medieval period. The Cistercian nunnery of Legbourne Priory was established 1150 and was situated to the immediate north of the site on the other side of the Long River Eau. The priory was dissolved as part of the Reformation in 1536, but earthworks interpreted as the inner and outer precincts, water control systems and field systems with ridge and furrow all survive on the site (Scheduled Ancient Monument no.22617). Following the dissolution of the nunnery the land was granted to Sir Thomas Heneage, who built what is now known as Legbourne Abbey, c.200m to the northeast of the site. The site itself was part of the parkland surrounding the post-medieval abbey, which would suggest it was part of the Cistercian Nunnery.

The current course of the Long River Eau appears to be artificial, and the presence of

Tower Mill (List entry ID: 1063695, b.1847) less than 80m east of the site would suggest the river was diverted, probably in the post-medieval period, as a mill leat. The natural course of the river may be projected to extend on an E-W alignment though the centre of the site.

A historic aerial photograph (<http://www.cambridgeairphotos.com/location/agr50/>) appears to show a linear earthwork on an approximate N-S alignment running through the centre of the site, which roughly corresponds with an earthwork on the north side of the Long River Eau, part of the medieval priory. This potential earthwork is no longer extant due to modern landscaping of the trout farm.

6.0 Methodology

The archaeological trenching was advised by the ELDC Planning Archaeologist to investigate the presence / absence and character of any archaeological deposits which may lie within the site which may be impacted by development groundworks. The results of the evaluation will therefore be used to inform the forthcoming planning application.

Ten trenches, nine measuring 10m x 2m and one measuring 16m x 2m, were excavated, where trench locations were selected to avoid the existing ponds but to sample the entire site.

The aims of the evaluation were to record the location, extent, date, character, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains. Trenches were opened using a 360° excavator fitted with a 1.6m toothless bucket. Machine excavation was halted at the first archaeological horizon, or at the surface of the natural solid geology where no archaeological deposits were present; excavation thereafter was by hand.

Evaluation trenches were drawn in plan at scales of 1:50 or 1:100 as appropriate. Where archaeological features were present, these were sample excavated and drawn in section at scales of 1:20 or 1:10. Where no features were encountered, a sample profile of the trench section face was drawn. The drawn record was supplemented by photography in colour slide and digital formats. Deposits were recorded on standard PCAS context record sheets and trench record sheets, and an excavation site diary was also maintained. Finds were stored in labelled bags prior to their removal to the offices of PCAS for initial processing. Washed and marked finds were dispatched to appropriate specialists for assessment and reporting.

The evaluation was conducted by Leigh Brocklehurst between March 18th and 23rd, 2016.

7.0 Results (Figs. 3 and 4)

A full context summary list appears as Appendix 1.

7.1 Trenches containing archaeological remains

7.1.1 Trench 6 (fig. 3)

Trench 6 measured 16m x 2m and was oriented east to west; it was positioned to investigate the linear earthwork identified on aerial photographs. This earthwork was exposed in the form of a ditched feature at the eastern end of the trench.

The natural clay substrate was encountered at approximately 2m below original ground level.

At the very eastern end of the trench, sealed beneath a dark buried soil (603), the western edge of a north-south orientated ditch-like feature, [605], was identified. Very little of this feature was exposed, with the c.2.0m excavated portion only revealing a fairly shallow slope, getting deeper at the eastern limit of excavation. The lower fill encountered, (606), consisted

of redeposited natural clay. Above this, the bulk fill was a dark brown silt clay, (607), from which no finds were recovered.

Above the buried soil, (603), a large bank had been constructed using imported clay material, approximately 1.9m in depth and covered by modern topsoil, (601).



Plate 1 (left): Trench 6 (looking west).

Plate 2 (above): Ditch [605] (looking north).

7.2 Trenches containing no archaeological remains (Fig. 4)

No remains of archaeological interest were exposed in Trenches 1 – 5 or 7 - 10. The majority exposed a stratigraphy of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural clay substrate. Trenches 4 and 5 were located in an area of a backfilled former bay of the river to the north of the site, and were excavated to a depth of 1.2m, without the natural substrate being encountered.



Plate 3: Trench 5 (looking east). Notice no natural has been exposed.



Plate 4: Trench 4 (looking north). As with Trench 5, no natural has been exposed.



Plate 5: Trench 1 (looking south).



Plate 6: Trench 2 (looking north-east).



Plate 7: Trench 3 (looking west).



Plate 8: Sondage in Trench 1 (looking west).



Plate 9 (left): Sondage in Trench 10 (looking north-west).

Plate 10 (above): Sondage in Trench 2 (looking north-west).

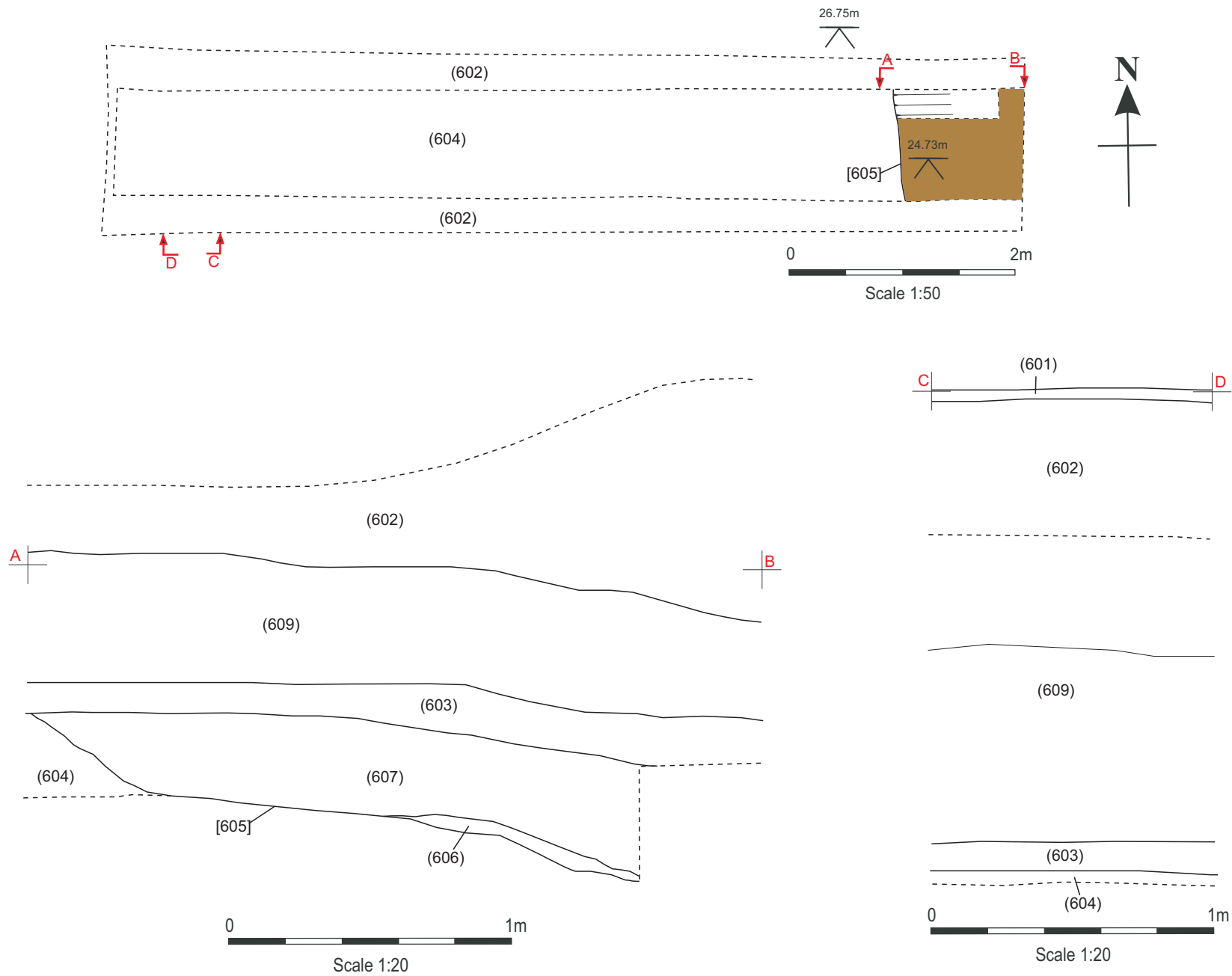


Figure 3: Trench 6 plan (1:50) and sections (1:20)

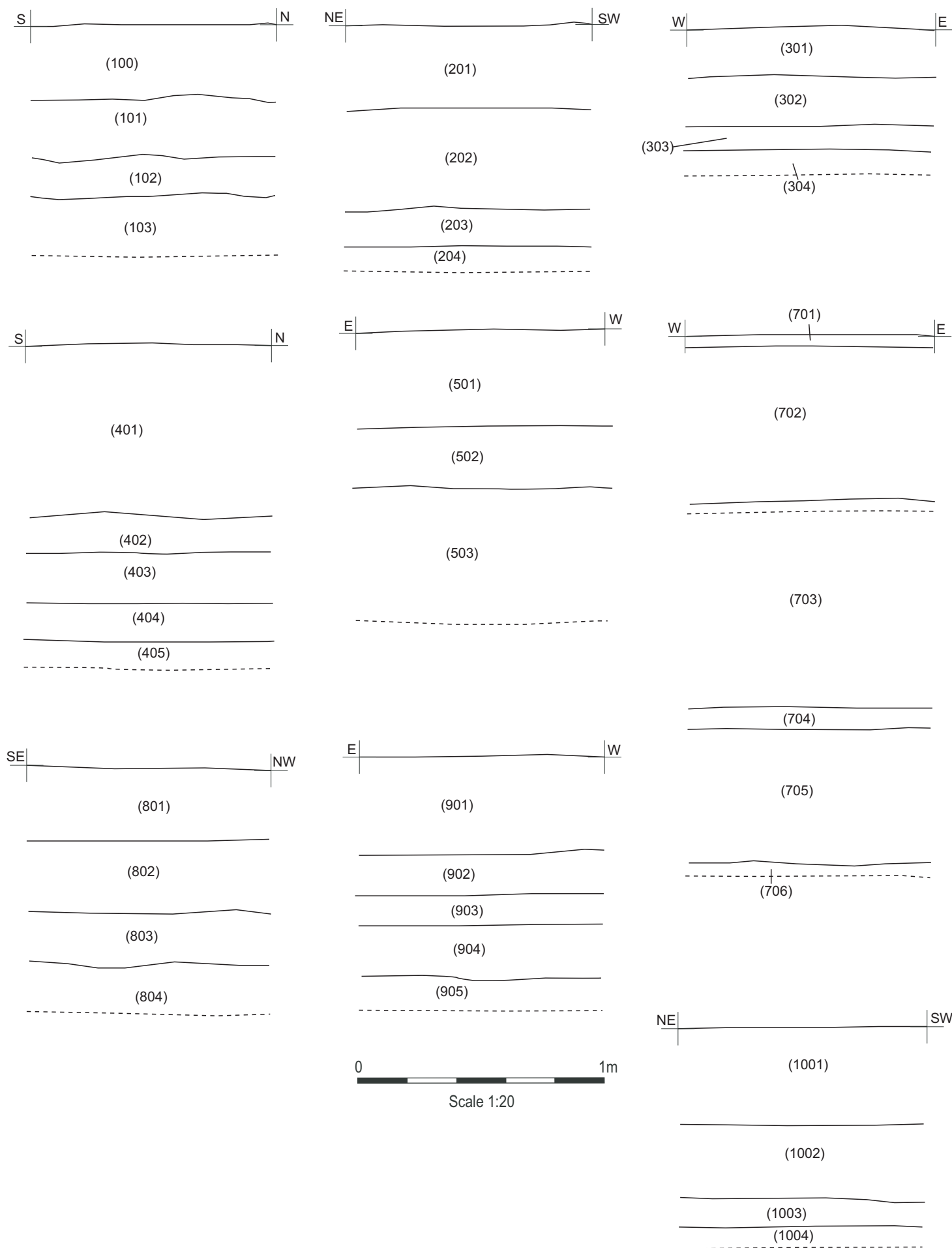


Figure 4: Representative sections (1:20) of archaeologically negative trenches.

8.0 Discussion and Conclusion

The archaeological evaluation exposed an extremely low number of archaeological remains – one feature, with nine of the trenches being archaeologically sterile.

The only archaeological facet identified was the ditch-like feature exposed within Trench 6. This ditch had previously been identified on aerial photography, running north-south through the entire site towards the earthworks of Legbourne Priory.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services would like to thank Core Architects for this commission.

10.0 Effectives of Methodology

Intrusive evaluation was an appropriate method for gathering information about the sites archaeological potential; investigating the survival of any archaeological remains beneath modern landscaping. The body of data produced by this evaluation will be able to inform the planning and development process.

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<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>
<http://list.historicengland.org.uk/mapsearch.aspx>
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>
<https://www.old-maps.co.uk>.

Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context no.	Type	Description	Finds/samples/dating
Trench 1			
100	Layer	Dark brownish-grey loose sandy silt topsoil with occasional small stones, 0.30m deep.	Modern
101	Layer	Light brownish-grey compact silty clay subsoil, 0.26m deep.	
102	Layer	Compact light greyish-brown clay, 0.14m deep, below subsoil 101: probable natural deposit or contact layer between subsoil and drift geology.	
103	Layer	Light brownish-orange compact natural clay with no inclusions.	Geological
Trench 2			
201	Layer	Compact light brown clay overburden, 0.36m deep: redeposited natural brought in during landscaping works.	Modern
202	Layer	Mid-brownish-grey friable to loose sandy silt, 0.40m deep: former topsoil below make-up layer 201.	Modern
203	Layer	Dark brownish-grey friable to loose silt subsoil, 0.20m deep, below layer 202.	
204	Layer	Compact natural clay, light orange-brown with patches of light blue.	Geological
Trench 3			
301	Layer	Dark brownish-grey friable to loose sandy silt topsoil, 0.20m deep.	Modern
302	Layer	Dark brownish-grey compact sandy silt subsoil, 0.20m deep.	
303	Layer	Compact dark brown clay below subsoil 302, 0.10m deep: probable natural deposit or contact layer between subsoil and drift geology.	
304	Layer	Compact light brownish-orange natural clay.	Geological
Trench 4			
401	Layer	Dark brownish-grey friable to loose sandy silt topsoil with no inclusions, 0.20m deep.	
402	Layer	Dark brown sandy silt clay. Firm, with small stones throughout. 0.2m deep.	
403	Layer	Similar to (402), however slightly lighter brown and a higher clay content. 0.24m deep.	
404	Layer	Dark brown clay. Very firm and compact. Some organic material mixed throughout. 0.18m deep.	
405	Layer	Dark grey clay. Firm and compact. Backfill material in former bay of river.	
Trench 5			
501	Layer	Dark brown grey sandy silt. Loose and friable topsoil. 0.4m deep.	
502	Layer	Dark brown silt clay subsoil. Firm but friable. Backfill material in former bay of river. 0.25m deep.	
503	Layer	Similar to (52), however darker in colour. Also backfill material in former bay of river.	
Trench 6			
601	Layer	Topsoil. Dark brown sandy silt. Loose and friable. 0.06m deep.	
602	Layer	Mid brown clay with some lighter yellow patches throughout. Very firm and compact. Re-deposited natural used to construct modern bank. 1.6m deep.	
603	Layer	Dark grey to black silt. Soft and friable. Buried soil between modern bank materials. 0.12m deep.	

Context no.	Type	Description	Finds/samples/dating
604	Layer	Natural substrate. Light blue clay. Firm and compact.	Geological
605	Cut	N-S orientated ditch, seen on aerial photography. Only western edge exposed. Shallow side, sloping towards the east. Base not exposed. Sealed by (603) and cut into (604). 2.2m wide and 0.6m deep.	
606	Fill	Primary fill of ditch [605]. Light blue silt clay. Very firm and compact. Interface with natural substrate. 0.8m wide and 0.2m deep.	
607	Fill	Upper fill of ditch [605]. Dark brown silt clay. Firm and compact. Clear of inclusions. 2.2m wide and 0.6m deep.	
608	-	Void	-
609	Layer	Made ground used to build up bank during landscaping works on trout farm. Dark grey brown clay. Firm and compact. Sealed by (602) and covers (603). 0.3m thick.	
Trench 7			
701	Layer	Topsoil. Same as (601). 0.08m deep.	
702	Layer	Bank material. Same as (602). 0.6m deep.	
703	Layer	Further bank material. Light to mid grey brown clay. Firm and compact. 0.8m deep.	
704	Layer	Thin band of mid grey clay. Firm and compact. 0.1m deep.	
705	Layer	Dark grey silt clay. Firm but friable. Possible buried soil beneath bank material. 0.6m deep.	
706	Layer	Natural substrate. Same as (604).	Geological
Trench 8			
801	Layer	Topsoil. Mid brown silt clay. Firm but friable. 0.3m deep.	
802	Layer	Dark brown grey silt. Friable, with some small stones throughout. 0.3m deep.	
803	Layer	Natural interface. Mid brown silt clay. Firm and compact. 0.2m deep.	
804	Layer	Natural substrate. Light yellow brown clay. Firm and compact.	Geological
Trench 9			
901	Layer	Mixture of modern hardcore and waste within a dark grey brown silty. Very loose and friable. 0.4m deep.	
902	Layer	Dark brown silt clay. Possible buried topsoil. Firm but friable. 0.2m deep.	
903	Layer	Similar to (902), however it was dark grey in colour. 0.15m deep.	
904	Layer	Compact layer of crushed brick. Dump/waste deposit. 0.2m deep.	
905	Layer	Natural substrate. Same as (804).	Geological
Trench 10			
1001	Layer	Topsoil. Dark grey brown silt. Loose and friable. 0.4m deep.	
1002	Layer	Subsoil. Dark brown silt clay. Firm but friable. 0.3m deep.	
1003	Layer	Natural interface. Light yellow brown silt clay. Firm and compact. 0.1m deep.	
1004	Layer	Natural substrate. Same as (804).	Geological

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OASIS ID: preconst3-243237

Project details

Project name	Evaluation on land north of Mill Lane, Legbourne, Lincolnshire
Short description of the project	A trial trench archaeological evaluation was carried out on land north of Mill Lane, Legbourne, to inform a forthcoming planning application for residential development. The site lies directly adjacent to the Scheduled remains of Legbourne Priory, a Cistercian nunnery occupied for the majority of the medieval period, which, following the Dissolution of the monasteries became part of the park of Legbourne Abbey, a post-medieval estate. It lies between the medieval villages of Legbourne and Little Cawthorpe, on the south bank of the Long River Eau. The earthworks of the priory and villages survive around the site, and aerial photography records the presence of a linear earthwork running N-S through the site itself, roughly corresponding with priory earthworks on the north side of the Long River Eau. The site is currently in use as a trout farm, and is therefore occupied by several large ponds, surrounded by banks of imported material, at least some of which has resulted from dredging of the river. Nine of the ten investigated trenches were archaeologically sterile, whilst the linear earthwork seen on aerial photographs, running N-S through the site, survives in the southern half of the site as a ditch sealed by approximately 2m of imported clay material.
Project dates	Start: 18-03-2016 End: 23-03-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	MLLE 16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

**Project
location**

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE EAST LINDSEY LEGBOURNE Land north of Mill Lane
Postcode	LN11 8LT
Study area	11600 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 36162 84119 53.33613977426 0.045166099899 53 20 10 N 000 02 42 E Point

**Project
creators**

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
Project brief originator	Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd.
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Entered on	14 April 2016

OASIS:

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