

**NEW TEACHING BLOCK, ROCHFORD
CAMPUS**

BOSTON COLLEGE, LINCOLNSHIRE

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Museum Project Code: BOTC11

Network Project Code: BSR14

NGR: 533200 343500

Museum Accession Number: LCNCC: 2011.17

Prepared by

NETWORK ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

For

Prospect Archaeology Ltd/ Naomi Field Archaeological Consultancy

On behalf of

Boston College

Report Number: 573

February 2011

**Naomi Field
Archaeological
Consultancy**



prospect archaeology



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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

An evaluation comprising two machine-excavated trial trenches was undertaken by Network Archaeology on the 9th and 10th February 2011 on the proposed site of a new teaching block at Rochford Campus, Boston College.

The results show that the area evaluated is made up predominantly of modern made ground. A thick layer of alluvium was observed in the base of each trench, and no archaeological remains were observed. The potential archaeological impact of any development on the site is considered to be minimal.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of the report

This report presents the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation conducted within a proposed development area for a new teaching block at Rochford Campus, Boston College, Boston, Lincolnshire (Figure 1). This report assesses the nature, extent and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the development area, and the potential impact the development would have on any such remains.

1.2 Commissioning bodies

This report was commissioned by Prospect Archaeology Ltd/ Naomi Field Archaeological Consultancy on behalf of Boston College. The archaeological contractor was Network Archaeology Ltd.

1.3 Proposed development area

1.3.1 Location

The proposed development area lies to the south-east of Boston town centre, north of Skirbeck Road, west of the Maud Foster Drain, and in the grounds of Rochford Campus, Boston College.

1.3.2 Geology, topography, soils and land use

The underlying geology comprises superficial saltmarsh deposits of clay and silt (Barroway Drove Beds) overlying mudstone bedrock (Amphill Clay Formation) (BGS 1995).

The proposed development area is situated on a slightly raised grassy island surrounded by college buildings to the south and east, playing fields to the north and a car park to the west (Figure 2). It lies at a height of approximately 3.5m OD.

1.4 Legislation, regulations and guidance

Planning Permission under application number B/10/0416 for the construction of a new teaching block was granted on the 18th January 2011, with conditions including:

“No development shall take place within the application site boundary until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority. Reason: In order to ensure that satisfactory arrangements are made for the investigation, retrieval and recording of any possible archaeological remains on the site and to accord with Interim Plan Policy E6 and the objectives of Planning Policy Guidance 5- Planning for the Historic Environment” (Boston Borough Council 2011).

A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by Prospect Archaeology detailing the procedures for fulfilment of this condition. This was supplied to the Heritage Trust for Lincoln, as Boston Borough Council’s archaeological advisor, for approval prior to the commencement of work (Prospect Archaeology 2011).

1.5 Archaeological and historical background

Prehistoric and Roman finds have been recovered from the area, however these are generally limited to higher ground and seem to suggest seasonal occupation over a permanent presence (Prospect Archaeology 2011: 4).

The earliest written record relating to Boston occurs in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle at AD 654 where reference is made to Botolph beginning work on the minster at '*Icanhoe*' (Ekwall 1991). It is not mentioned by name several centuries later in the Domesday Book (1086), although the settlement of Skirbeck is, most likely on account of its commanding position at the head of the Haven.

Boston developed into a major wool trading port during the medieval period and was considered part of the Hanseatic League, enabling extensive trade with much of northern Europe. An excavation and watching brief adjacent to the proposed development site at the college identified two medieval ditches, one of which was 13-14th century in date, and two post-medieval ditches (McDaid 2004)

Hussey Tower, the remains of the fifteenth century red-brick manorial home Hussey Hall, is located 200m north-west of the site, suggesting the area would have been a wealthy suburb of the town.

By the end of the medieval period the wool export trade had dropped off and the Haven silted up causing Boston's wealth to decline.

The development site existed as fields by the 19th century, located within the gardens of Hussey House. By the 1960s Hussey House had been demolished and was replaced with a timber yard.

Boston College was established in 1964.

1.6 Aims

The aims and objectives of the archaeological works, as set out in the WSI (Prospect Archaeology 2011: 4), were to:

- Evaluate a reasonable percentage of the site and determine the presence or absence, extent, condition, depth, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains within the development area;
- Investigate remains to characterise their extent, form, date and significance;
- Enable the implementation of an appropriate mitigation strategy to ensure preservation by record.

2 FIELDWORK PROCEDURES

2.1 Quality standards

All archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' standard and guidance documents (IfA 2008a, 2008b, 2009, 2010) and those set out in the Lincolnshire Archaeology Handbook (Lincolnshire County Council 2010).

The standards represented by the Registered Organisation (RO) scheme operated by the IfA were adhered to throughout. Network Archaeology Limited is a RO with the IfA.

2.2 Evaluation trenches

Two evaluation trenches (one 20m x 1.6m, the other 10m x 1.6m) were required to be excavated within the footprint of the proposed new teaching block.

2.2.1 Survey

The trenches were located by using a Leica GPS900 with reference to proposed development plans. A height above Ordnance Datum (AOD) was established on a temporary benchmark from which all subsequent levels were taken.

2.2.2 Mechanical-excavation

The evaluation trenches were excavated down to the top of the first archaeological horizon by a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket. All excavation was undertaken under the supervision of the lead archaeologist.

2.2.3 Hand-excavation, recording and sampling

The bases of both trenches, and at least one section of each trench, were cleaned by the archaeological team using appropriate hand tools.

A full written, drawn and photographic record was maintained on site, including standardised context descriptions on pro forma record sheets, sections and plans drawn at scales of 1:10 or 1:20, and both colour and monochrome photographs.

2.3 Project codes and number allocations

The trial trench evaluation has been given the internal Network Archaeology project code BSR14. In addition, a Lincolnshire museum project code (BOTC11) and a museum accession number (LCNCC: 2011.17) have been issued by The Collection, Lincoln, the proposed body for the deposition of the site archive. All documents relating to the site archive for this project have been referenced, where appropriate, with these two museum codes.

Each trench was allocated a unique number along with a block of context numbers.

2.4 Assessment of archives, finds and soil samples

Following completion of the evaluation, the stratigraphic information gathered was assessed as to its potential and significance.

No finds or soil samples were collected. Those identified during the evaluation were deemed to have been of such modern provenance as to not necessitate retention.

3 RESULTS

No significant archaeological remains were identified during the excavation of the trial trenches.

3.1 Trench 1

(Figure 3a and b; Plates 2, 3 and 5)

Trench 1 was oriented north-east-to-south-west, was 20m long and lay parallel to, and within, the footprint of the north-western edge of the proposed new teaching block.

The uppermost deposit, 100, a brown silt, is thought to be made ground, and was 0.6m thick. There was no evidence of topsoil formation here and it was apparent that grass had been seeded on top of this material in the near past. Below this silt, a 0.4m thick layer of compact broken concrete and stone, 101, was spread across the length of the trench. Occasional modern crushed red brick inclusions were observed within 101, suggesting a phase of demolition, and this context is also considered to be a made ground. Beneath it was a thin layer of firm dark clayey silt with crushed modern red brick fragments, 103, interpreted as a levelling layer. Below, the earliest deposit was grey silty clay deposit 102. A sondage was excavated at the south-western end of the trench and this established that 102 continued to a depth of at least 1.8m below modern ground level. No further archaeological deposits were observed in Trench 1 other than a modern disturbance at the north-eastern end of the trench.

3.2 Trench 2

(Figure 3c and d; Plates 4 and 6)

The north-western end of Trench 2 was located roughly 2m south-west of Trench 1, and extended 10m to the south-east.

The depositional sequence in Trench 2 was similar to that found in Trench 1. A layer of made ground, brown clay silt with frequent modern inclusions, 200, made up the uppermost 0.72m of the trench below the turf. This was followed by compact laminations of limestone and brick fragments, 201, believed to represent an earlier made ground layer. Just at the north-western end of the trench, 201 overlay a 1.1m wide and 0.1m thick dark grey, rooty, organic-rich clay deposit, 202. There were no indications that this organic context had been deposited deliberately, and it is considered a natural material. The deepest deposit encountered was 203, a firm grey clay, interpreted as alluvium. No further archaeological deposits were observed in Trench 2.

4 DISCUSSION

The evaluation trial trenches both exhibited the same stratigraphic sequences throughout: layers of modern made ground overlying an archaeologically sterile layer of silty clay. This latter deposit has been interpreted as alluvium, and likely sits upon organic marsh deposits.

The made ground is believed to date from the mid-twentieth century when the site was used as a timber yard, later becoming part of the college grounds. Layers 101 and 201 probably represent a demolition and levelling phase probably associated with the timber yard, while 100 and 200 appear to be an attempt to raise and landscape the college grounds.

It should be noted that although no archaeological features were observed in the top of the alluvium, the impact of the timber yard workings could have destroyed any ephemeral archaeology that might have once existed.

5 CONCLUSION

The results of the trial trench evaluation show that the area of the proposed new teaching block is made up predominantly of modern made ground. A thick layer of alluvium was observed in the bases of both trenches and no archaeological remains were observed.

6 ARCHIVE

The documentary archive comprises:

- A copy of the WSI for the evaluation
- A copy of this evaluation report
- Site records, as detailed in the table below:

Table 6.1: Quantification of the site archive

Item	Count
Trench register	2
Context index	1
Context sheets	8
Drawing registers	1
Drawing sheets	3
Photographic registers	3
Black and white photographs	11
Colour slide photographs	11
Digital colour photographs	27

On completion of the reporting stages of the project, the archive will be prepared for long-term storage, to a standard from which post-excavation assessment could proceed and in a format agreed in advance with the relevant local depository. This will be in accordance with guidelines prepared by the UK Institute of Conservation (Walker 1990) and the Museums & Galleries Commission (MGC 1992). The project archive will be managed in accordance with current guidelines.

The recipient museum is The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln, LN2 1LP, telephone: 01522 550961, who have assigned this project the accession code LCNCC: 2011.17.

The recipient museum will receive the document archive, and with the permission of the landowners, any finds generated from the archaeological works.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Network Archaeology Ltd would like to thank the following for their contribution to the project:

Nansi Rosenberg	Consultant	Prospect Archaeology Ltd
Naomi Field	Consultant	Naomi Field Archaeological Consultancy
Jenny Young	Senior Historic Environment Officer	Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire
Chris Taylor	Director	Network Archaeology Limited
Mike Wood	Project Manager	Network Archaeology Limited
Gavin Glover	Senior Project Officer	Network Archaeology Limited
Chris Casswell	Senior Project Supervisor	Network Archaeology Limited
Jacqueline Churchill	Senior Illustrator	Network Archaeology Limited

8 REFERENCES

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Appendix A

Context Summary

Context	Trench	Type	Dimensions	Description	Interpretation
100	1	Layer	0.6m thick	Soft mid brown silt	Made ground
101	1	Layer	0.4m thick	Compact broken concrete and stone	Made ground
102	1	Layer	Unexcavated	Firm grey silty clay	Alluvium
103	1	Layer	0.15m thick	Firm dark clayey silt	Levelling layer
200	2	Layer	0.72m thick	Mid brown clayey silt	Made ground
201	2	Layer	0.4m thick	Compact laminations of limestone and brick fragments	Made ground
202	2	Layer	0.1m thick	Dark grey organic-rich clay	Organic layer
203	2	Layer	Unexcavated	Firm grey clay	Alluvium

Appendix B

Photographic Register

Image	Trench	Contexts	Description
1	-	-	Pre-excavation shot, looking south-west
2	-	-	Pre-excavation shot, looking south
3	-	-	Pre-excavation shot, looking south-east
4	-	-	Pre-excavation shot, looking south-west
5	-	-	Pre-excavation shot, looking south-west
6	1	-	Working shot of excavation of Trench 1
7	1	-	Working shot of excavation of Trench 1
8	1	-	Working shot of excavation of Trench 1
9	1	102	Trench 1 looking north-east. 1m and 2m scales
10	1	102	Trench 1 looking north-east. 1m and 2m scales
11	1	102	Trench 1 looking north-east. 1m and 2m scales
12	1	100, 101, 102, 103	Trench 1 north-west facing representative section. 1m scale
13	1	100, 101, 102, 103	Trench 1 north-west facing representative section. 1m scale
14	2	-	Working shot of excavation of Trench 2
15	2	-	Working shot of excavation of Trench 2
16	2	-	Working shot of excavation of Trench 2
17	2	-	Working shot of excavation of Trench 2
18	2	202, 203	Trench 2 looking south-east. 1m and 2m scales
19	2	202, 203	Trench 2 looking south-east. 1m and 2m scales
20	1	102	Trench 1 looking north-east. 1m and 2m scales
21	1	102	Trench 1 looking north-east. 1m and 2m scales
22	1	102	Trench 1 looking north-east. 1m and 2m scales
23	2	200, 201, 203	Trench 2 south-west facing representative section. 1m scale
24	2	200, 201, 203	Trench 2 south-west facing representative section. 1m scale
25	-	-	Proposed development site after backfilling
26	-	-	Proposed development site after backfilling
27	-	-	Proposed development site after backfilling

Appendix C

OASIS Summary

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

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OASIS ID: networka2-94399

Project details

Project name	New Teaching Block, Rochford Campus, Boston College
Short description of the project	An evaluation comprising two machine-excavated trial trenches was undertaken by Network Archaeology on the 9th and 10th February 2011 on the proposed site of a new teaching block at Rochford Campus, Boston College. The results show that the area evaluated is made up predominantly of modern made ground. A thick layer of alluvium was observed in the bases of both trenches and no archaeological remains were observed. The potential impact of any development on the site is considered to be minimal.
Project dates	Start: 09-02-2011 End: 10-02-2011
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	LCNCC: 2011.17 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Development type	College
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG15
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE BOSTON BOSTON Rochford Campus, Boston College
Postcode	PE21 6JF
Study area	800.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TF 33200 43500 52.9719531034 -0.016193934994 52 58 19 N 000 00 58 W
Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 2.47m Max: 2.61m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Network Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Consultant
Project design originator	Prospect Archaeology
Project director/manager	Chris Taylor
Project supervisor	Gavin Glover
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record
Paper Archive ID	2011.17
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'

Entered by Chris Casswell (chrisc@netarch.co.uk)

Entered on 24 February 2011

OASIS:

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Plates

- Plate 1: Proposed development site prior to evaluation. Looking east.
Plate 2: Working shot of excavation of Trench 1.
Plate 3: Trench 1 looking north-east. 1m and 2m scales.
Plate 4: Trench 2 looking south-east. 1m and 2m scales.
Plate 5: Trench 1 north-west facing representative section. 1m scale.
Plate 6: Trench 2 south-west facing representative section. 1m scale.
Plate 7: Proposed development site after backfilling.



Plate 1: Proposed development site prior to evaluation. Looking east.



Plate 2: Working shot of excavation of Trench 1.



Plate 3: Trench 1 looking north-east. 1m and 2m scales.



Plate 4: Trench 2 looking south-east. 1m and 2m scales.



Plate 5: Trench 1 north-west facing representative section. 1m scale.



Plate 6: Trench 2 south-west facing representative section. 1m scale.



Plate 7: Proposed development site after backfilling.

Figures

