
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON
LAND AT HOME FARM
LITTLEWORTH DROVE
DEEPING ST NICHOLAS
LINCOLNSHIRE
(DNLD21)**

Work Undertaken For
Ashwood Homes

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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SERVICES**



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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken on land at Home Farm, Littleworth Drove, Deeping St Nicholas, Lincolnshire. This was in advance of proposed residential development of the site.

The area is archaeologically sensitive, lying close to Iron Age and Romano-British salt-making activity and settlement activity.

The trenching evaluation revealed features in five of the 21 trenches excavated across the site. These comprised ditches and pits and one curved ditch, which was possibly a drainage ditch for a hayrick. Finds comprised a small amount of animal bone, and post-medieval and later CBM and pottery. The features are likely to be associated with post-medieval agricultural use of this land.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Ashwood Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Home Farm, Littleworth Drove, Deeping St Nicholas which was required as a condition of a planning application (H03-0161-17) for the erection of up to 120 dwellings, a village hall and ancillary buildings. The archaeological evaluation was carried out between 23rd August and 1st September 2021 in accordance with a written scheme of investigation prepared by Archaeological Project Services (APS 2021) and approved by the Planning Archaeologist for South Holland District Council.

2.2 Location, Topography and Geology

Deeping St Nicholas is a village and civil parish in the South Holland District of Lincolnshire lying 7km northeast of Market Deeping and 7km southwest of Spalding. The site lies some 480m southwest of the parish church of St Nicholas on the south side of Littleworth Drove at National Grid Reference TF 21484 15725.

Local soils are of the Wallasea association, typically pelo-alluvial gley soils (Robson 1990, 26). These soils are developed upon a drift geology of younger marine alluvium which in turn seal a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (BGS 1992).

The site is on generally level ground within the fenland of south Lincolnshire. Heights are in the region of 3m AOD.

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Approximately 450m north of the site, salt-making activity dating to the late Iron Age has been identified and handmade pottery, briquetage and bone fragments recovered (Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record MLI23258). Salt production and settlement continued here into the Romano-British period with further evidence of pottery and bone of this date present (LHER MLI23231). A series of straight droves and ditches with variously sized enclosures have also been identified here as crop marks (LHER MLI22075). Further enclosures have been identified a little to the north of this at Caulton Farm (LHER MLI 22074) and at Willow Farm approximately 1km to the north (LHER MLI22064).

Deeping St Nicholas is a relatively new village probably created around the 19th century drainage of the fens. The Grade II

Listed Church of St Nicholas (List Entry 1359260) was built in 1845 by Charles Kirk of Sleaford.

Some 400m to the west of the site two post-medieval boundary ditches were recorded (LHER MLI25590). Some handmade brick was recovered during trial trenching (PCAS 2019). Immediately to the north of the site on land at the former Plough Inn, four trial trenches were excavated, but no archaeological features were revealed (Hall 2019).

The Ordnance Survey map for 1887 shows Deeping St Nicholas as comprising a number of farms spaced out along Littleworth Drove. The fields on either side follow a northwest-southeast alignment, most of which are bounded by drainage ditches.

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 may be present within the site.
- Determine the likely extent of archaeological activity present within the site.
- Determine the date and function of the archaeological features present on the site.
- Determine the state of preservation of the archaeological features present on the site.

- Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features present within the site.
- Determine the extent to which the surrounding archaeological features extend into the application area.
- Establish the way in which the archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

4. METHODS

Twenty evaluation trenches (Fig. 3) measuring 30m long, and one of 35m, all by 1.8m wide, were opened to the top of archaeological deposits or the surface of the underlying natural geology, as appropriate. A tall maize crop was cleared from the locations of Trenches 2-11 and 13-21 prior to excavation. A further planned trench, west of the others, was not excavated as it lay within a chicken run that was still in use.

Removal of topsoil and other overburden was undertaken by a mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. 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 and plans were drawn at scales of 1:10 and 1:20 respectively. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to

standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

The location of the excavated trenches was plotted with a survey grade differential GPS.

5. RESULTS

The results of the archaeological evaluation are discussed in trench order. Archaeological contexts are described below. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Trench 1 (Figures 4-5; Plates 2-5)

The earliest deposit in this trench was natural alluvium (1003) a friable yellowish brown silty sand with occasional small angular stones. Three features were identified cutting deposit (1003).

Towards the north end of the trench was a northeast-southwest aligned ditch [1006]. It had moderately steep sides and a flat base and was 2.3m wide and 0.35m deep. Its lower fill (1005), was a 0.24m thick compact light orangey grey sandy silt with occasional small rounded stones. This was overlain by fill (1004), a 0.11m thick friable dark grey silt.

Approximately 4m to the south of [1006] was east-west aligned ditch [1009], with moderately steep sides and a flat base. It was 1.75m wide and 0.29m deep. Lower fill (1008) was a 0.17m thick compact light orangey grey sandy clay with occasional small rounded stones. Over this was fill (1007) a 0.12m thick friable dark greyish reddish brown silty clay with occasional small rounded stones.

Some 3.5m to the south of [1009] was a curved feature [1012], aligned northeast-south as exposed in the trench. This was

interpreted as a possible hayrick, the ditch providing drainage. Ditch [1012] was 1.25m wide and 0.28m deep and had near vertical sides and a flat base. It had a lower fill (1011) comprising a 0.18m thick compact mid brown sandy clay, and an upper fill (1010) of compact mottled orangey brown sandy clay, which was 0.22m thick.

These features were sealed by subsoil (1001) a 0.22m thick compact dark mottled grey silty clay with occasional small sand patches. Overlying this was topsoil (1001) a 0.4m thick friable dark grey silty clay with occasional small angular stones.

Trench 2

The earliest deposit in this trench was natural alluvium (2001), a firm light yellow clayey silt. This was at least 0.5m thick but continued beyond the limit of excavation (LOE). Cut into this was a northwest-southeast aligned field drain [2004], which was filled with a loose dark grey silt (2005). Sealing this was subsoil (2002) a 0.1m thick friable light grey brown clayey silt. Over this was topsoil (2003), a 0.2m thick friable dark grey silty clay.

Trench 3 (Plates 6-7)

The natural in the base of this trench was (3004), a firm light grey brown silty clay, which was at least 0.5m thick but continued beyond the LOE. Over this was a 0.6m thick layer of natural alluvium (3003), which comprised a firm light reddish brown clayey silt. This was sealed by subsoil (3002) a 0.2m thick layer of friable light grey brown clayey silt. Over this was topsoil (3001) a 0.1m thick layer of friable dark grey silty clay.

Trench 4

The earliest deposit in this trench was natural (4004), a firm light bluish grey clay. This was at least 0.2m thick but continued beyond the LOE. Over this was natural alluvium (4003), a 0.3m thick deposit of firm light reddish brown clayey silt. Sealing this was subsoil (4002), which comprised a 0.1m thick deposit of friable light grey brown clayey silt. Overlying (4002) was topsoil (4001) a 0.2m thick layer of friable dark grey silty clay.

Trench 5 (Plate 8)

The natural in the base of this trench was a firm light bluish grey clay (5004). This was at least 0.3m thick but continued beyond the LOE. Over this was natural alluvium (5003) a 0.4m thick layer of firm light reddish brown clayey silt. Overlying (5003) was subsoil (5002), a 0.1m thick deposit of friable light grey brown clayey silt. This was sealed by topsoil (5001) a 0.1m thick layer of friable dark grey silty clay.

Trench 6 (Figure 5; Plate 9)

The natural in the base of this trench was (6006), a firm dark brown clayey silt, which was at least 0.15m thick but continued beyond the LOE. Over this was natural alluvium (6002), a 0.5m thick layer of firm light reddish brown clayey silt, which was cut by a northeast-southwest aligned ditch [6003]. It was 2.62m wide, 0.45m deep and had concave sides and a rounded base. Its lower fill (6004) was a 0.2m thick soft dark grey silt, and its upper fill (6005) was a 0.25m thick deposit of firm mid brownish grey silt. Fill (6005) was sealed by topsoil (6001) a 0.45m thick layer of friable dark grey silty clay.

Trench 7

The natural in the base of this trench was a friable mid reddish grey laminated sand (7002). It was at least 0.57m thick but continued beyond the LOE. Over this was topsoil (7001), a 0.49m thick layer of friable dark greyish brown silt.

Trench 8

The earliest deposit in this trench was (8003), a soft light greyish brown sand. This was at least 0.34m thick but continued beyond the LOE. Over this was subsoil (8002) a 0.34m thick layer of friable mid reddish brown silt. Sealing (8002) was topsoil (8001), a 0.42m thick layer of friable dark greyish brown silt.

Trench 9

The natural alluvium in the base of this trench was a friable mid reddish brown silt (9002), which was at least 0.38m thick and continued beyond the LOE. Over this was topsoil (9001), a 0.4m thick deposit of friable mid brown silt.

Trench 10

The earliest deposit recorded in this trench was (10003), a friable mid greyish red laminated silt. This was 0.21m thick and continued beyond the LOE. Over (10003) was subsoil (10002) a 0.22m thick deposit of friable mid reddish brown sandy silt. Sealing this was topsoil (10001), a 0.3m thick layer of friable dark greyish brown silt.

Trench 11

The natural in this trench was (11002) a friable mid reddish brown laminated sandy silt. It was 0.29m thick as seen, but continued beyond the LOE. Over (11002) was topsoil (11001), a 0.34m thick layer of friable mid brown silt.

Trench 12

The natural in this trench was a light orangey brown sand (12002), which was at least 0.12m thick but continued beyond the LOE. This was overlain by topsoil (12001), which was a 0.4m thick friable dark greyish brown clayey silt.

Trench 13

Natural alluvium (13002) was recorded in the base of this trench, which measured 0.25m thick as seen and extended beyond the LOE. This was a friable mid reddish brown laminated silt and lay beneath topsoil (13001), a 0.33m thick layer of friable mid greyish brown silt.

Trench 14 (Figures 4 and 5; Plates 10-11)

The earliest layer recorded in this trench was natural (14003), a soft orangey yellow sandy silt, which was 0.1m thick as seen but continued beyond the LOE. Cut into this was a northwest-southeast aligned ditch [14004] with fairly steep sides and a flat base, which was 2m wide and 0.4m deep. Its lower fill (14005) was a 0.2m thick friable mid grey clayey silt mottled with reddish brown. Over this was fill (14006), a 0.2m thick deposit of friable mid brownish grey silt, which contained one piece of post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM) (not retained). This was sealed by subsoil (14002), a 0.4m thick layer of friable mid brown clayey silt. Over (14002) was topsoil (14001), a 0.3m thick layer of friable dark greyish brown clayey silt.

Trench 15

Natural alluvium (15002) was recorded in the base of this trench. It comprised a friable light greyish red laminated silt, which was at least 0.19m thick but continued beyond the LOE. Over this was topsoil (15001), a 0.34m thick layer of

friable mid greyish brown silt.

Trench 16 (Figures 4 and 5; Plate 12)

The natural in the base of this trench was a light orangey brown sand (16003), which was 0.13m thick as seen but continued beyond the LOE. Cut into this was a northwest-southeast aligned ditch [16005], which was 1.8m wide and 0.36m deep. It had concave sides and a flat base and was filled with (16004), a firm dark grey brown clayey silt. Over this was subsoil (16002), a 0.17m thick layer of friable mid brown clayey silt. Subsoil (16002) was sealed by topsoil (16001) a 0.32m thick layer of friable dark greyish brown clayey silt.

Trench 17

In the base of this trench was natural alluvium (17002) a firm light reddish greyish brown silt, which was at least 0.16m thick but continued beyond the LOE. Over this was topsoil (17001) a 0.32m thick layer of friable mid greyish brown silt.

Trench 18 (Plate 13)

The natural in the base of this trench was a soft light greyish red sandy silt (18002), which was at least 0.28m thick but continued beyond the LOE. Overlying this was topsoil (18001) a 0.34m thick layer of friable mid greyish brown silt.

Trench 19

In the base of this trench was natural (19002), a firm light reddish brown silt, which was 0.26m thick as seen, but continued beyond the LOE. Over this was topsoil (19001), a 0.38m thick layer of friable mid greyish brown silt.

Trench 20 (Plate 14)

Natural alluvium (20002) which comprised

a firm light yellow clayey silt was recorded in the base of this trench. It was at least 0.2m thick and continued beyond the LOE. Over this was topsoil (20001), a 0.34m thick layer of friable mid greyish brown silt.

Trench 21 (Figures 4 and 5; Plate 15-19)

The natural in the base of this trench (21002), was a light brown silt which was at least 0.3m thick and continued beyond the LOE. Four features were present in this trench, cut into natural (21002).

Northeast-southwest aligned ditch [21010] had fairly steep sides and a flat base. It was 2.56m wide and 0.8m deep and had two fills: (21011) and (21012). Lower fill (21011) was a 0.16m thick deposit of soft mid grey slightly humic silt, which included patches of redeposited natural. Upper fill (21012) was a 0.7m thick deposit of firm dark brown silt with frequent patches of redeposited natural. Finds in (21012) comprised a piece of late post-medieval CBM and a fragment of animal bone (not kept).

Pit [21003] was sub-rectangular in plan and had fairly steep sides and a flattish base. It measured 1.6m by 0.95m and was 0.4m deep. Its lowest fill was (21004) a loose mottled dark brown and mid greyish yellow sandy silt which was 90mm thick. Over this was (21005) a 0.13m thick deposit of firm dark brown sandy silt. Included in (21005) were three pieces of late post-medieval CBM (not kept). Sealing this was (21006) a friable mid greyish brown silt which was 0.28m thick.

Pit [21013] was an irregular feature with steep sides and an irregular base. It was at least 5m by 2m and 1.4m deep. It was filled by (21014), a 0.22m thick deposit of soft dark brown clayey silt with frequent sand lenses. Over this was fill (21015) a 0.3m thick deposit of firm dark brown silt,

which included finds comprising a flake of late post-medieval CBM, and a sherd of early modern pottery (not kept). The top fill in pit [21013] was (21016), a 0.5m thick deposit of friable mid brown sandy silt.

Northeast-southwest ditch [21007] had steep sides and a rounded base, and was 2m wide and 0.4m deep. Its lower fill (21008) was a 0.2m thick deposit of friable light grey silt. Over this was (21009) a 0.25m thick deposit of friable dark brown silt.

The features were sealed by topsoil (21001) a 0.4m thick deposit of dark brown silt.

6. DISCUSSION

The evaluation revealed archaeological features in Trenches 1, 6, 14, 16 and 21.

At the north extent of the site was [6003], a northeast-southwest aligned ditch in Trench 6. Approximately centrally located in the site was Trench 14, within which one northeast-southwest aligned ditch [14004] was recorded, which included a fragment of post-medieval CBM. South of this was northwest-southeast aligned ditch [16005] in Trench 16. South again in Trench 21 were two ditches [21010] and [21007] both aligned approximately northeast-southwest. A fragment of late post-medieval CBM was recovered from ditch [21010]. It is possible that one of these was the same ditch as that recorded in Trench 14, c. 85m to the northeast. At the south extent of the site two ditches were recorded in Trench 1, ditch [1006] was aligned northeast-southwest and ditch [1009] was aligned west-east.

A possible hayrick [1012] was recorded in Trench 1. This comprised a ditch curving from the northeast towards the south,

which may have been part of a drainage ditch around the hayrick area.

Two pits were recorded in Trench 21: [21013] and [21003], both of which contained late post-medieval CBM, and a sherd of early modern pottery was also retrieved from (21015) in pit [21013].

The ditches generally followed the alignment of the field system, evident on the current map (Figure 2), and are likely to be associated with the agricultural use of this land. Several of the ditches remain undated, however where archaeological finds were made, they were all post-medieval or later in date and there was nothing to suggest activity pre-dating this.

7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken on land at Home Farm, Littleworth Drove, Deeping St Nicholas, Lincolnshire. Evidence for Iron Age and Romano-British salt production and settlement has been recorded in the surrounding area.

The evaluation revealed archaeological features in five of the 21 excavated trenches: Trenches 1, 6, 14, 16 and 21.

Ditch [14004], aligned northeast-southwest, was recorded in Trench 14 in the approximate centre of the site. This included a fragment of post-medieval CBM.

Two ditches [21010] and [21007] were recorded in Trench 21 in the southern part of the site. Both were aligned approximately northeast-southwest, and a fragment of late post-medieval CBM was recovered from ditch [21010]. It is possible that one of these was a continuation of ditch [14004] recorded c. 85m to the northeast in Trench 14.

Two pits were also recorded in Trench 21: [21013] and [21003], both of which contained late post-medieval CBM, and a sherd of early modern pottery was also retrieved from (21015) in pit [21013].

Undated ditches were recorded in Trench 6, [6003], at the north extent of the site, and in Trench 16, [16005], in the approximate central area of the site. There were two undated ditches, [1006] and [1009], in Trench 1 at the south extent of the site. There was also an undated possible drainage ditch for a hayrick [1012] in this trench.

Whilst several of the ditches remain undated, the finds retrieved from the site were all post-medieval or later in date and there was nothing to suggest activity pre-dating this. The dating evidence and alignment of the ditches, which is consistent with the current layout of fields, indicates that these features are likely to be the result of the post-medieval agricultural use of this land.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Ashwood Homes who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Paul Cope-Faulkner who also edited this report.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Site Team: Mark Peachey, Jonathon Smith, Peter Tovizi, Asa Beeby, Ryan Godbold, Sasha Godson
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Photographic reproduction: Mark Peachey
CAD Illustration: Mark Peachey
Post-excavation Analysis: Mark Peachey

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Archiving: Denise Buckley and Maria
Leroi

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

AOD Above Ordnance Datum

CBM Ceramic Building Material

LHER Lincolnshire Historic Environment
Record

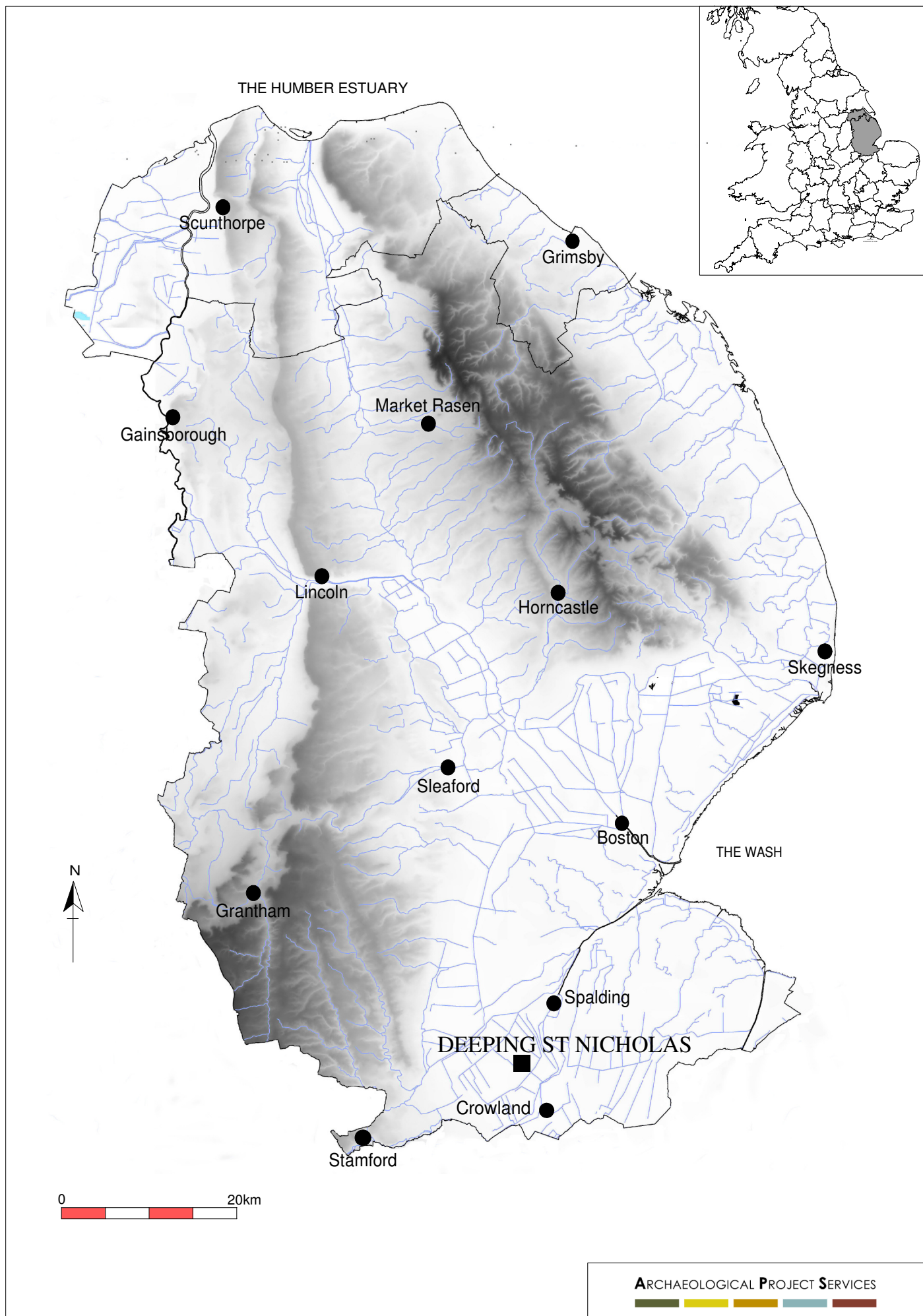


Figure 1 - General location plan

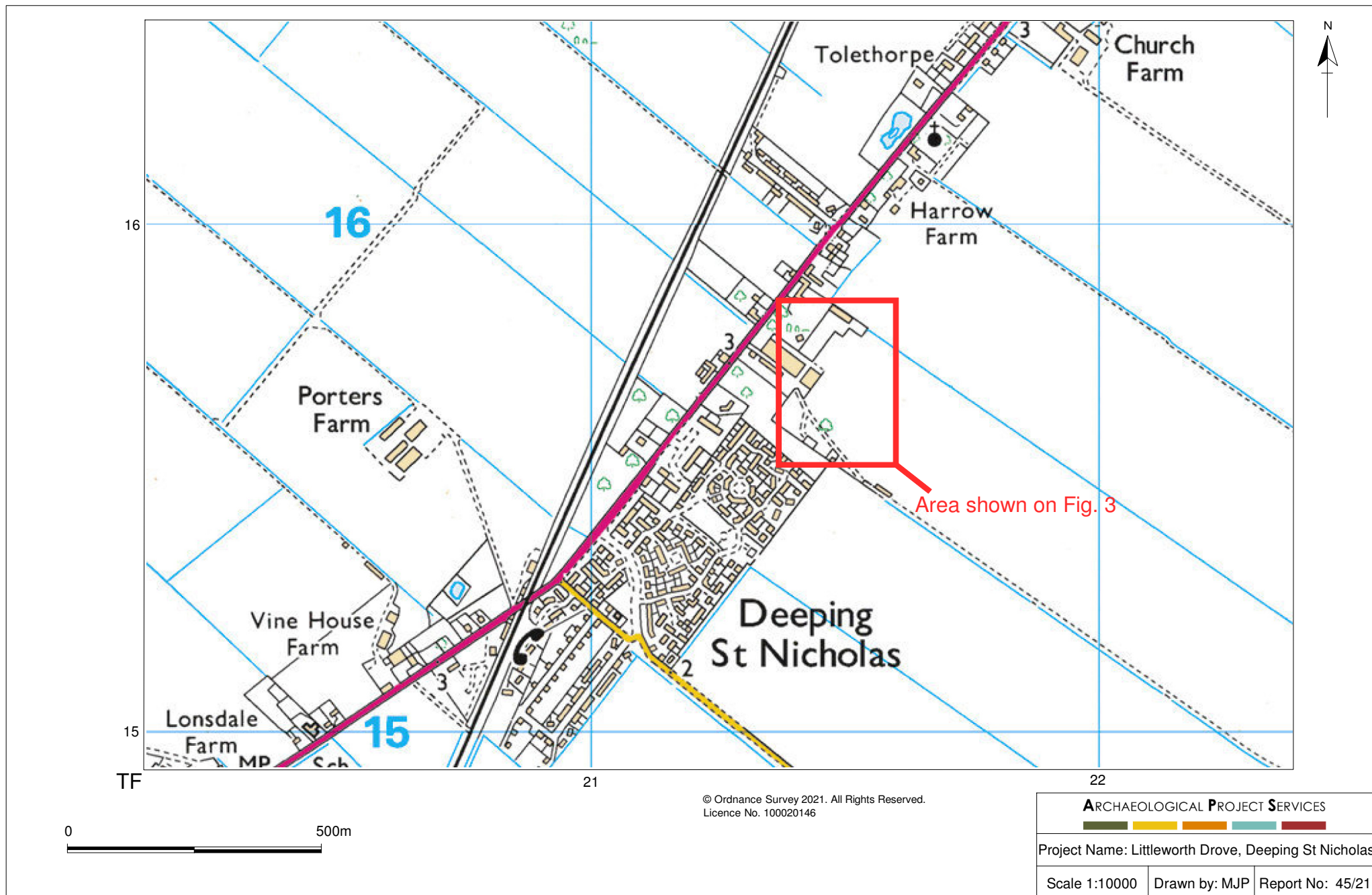


Figure 2. Site location plan

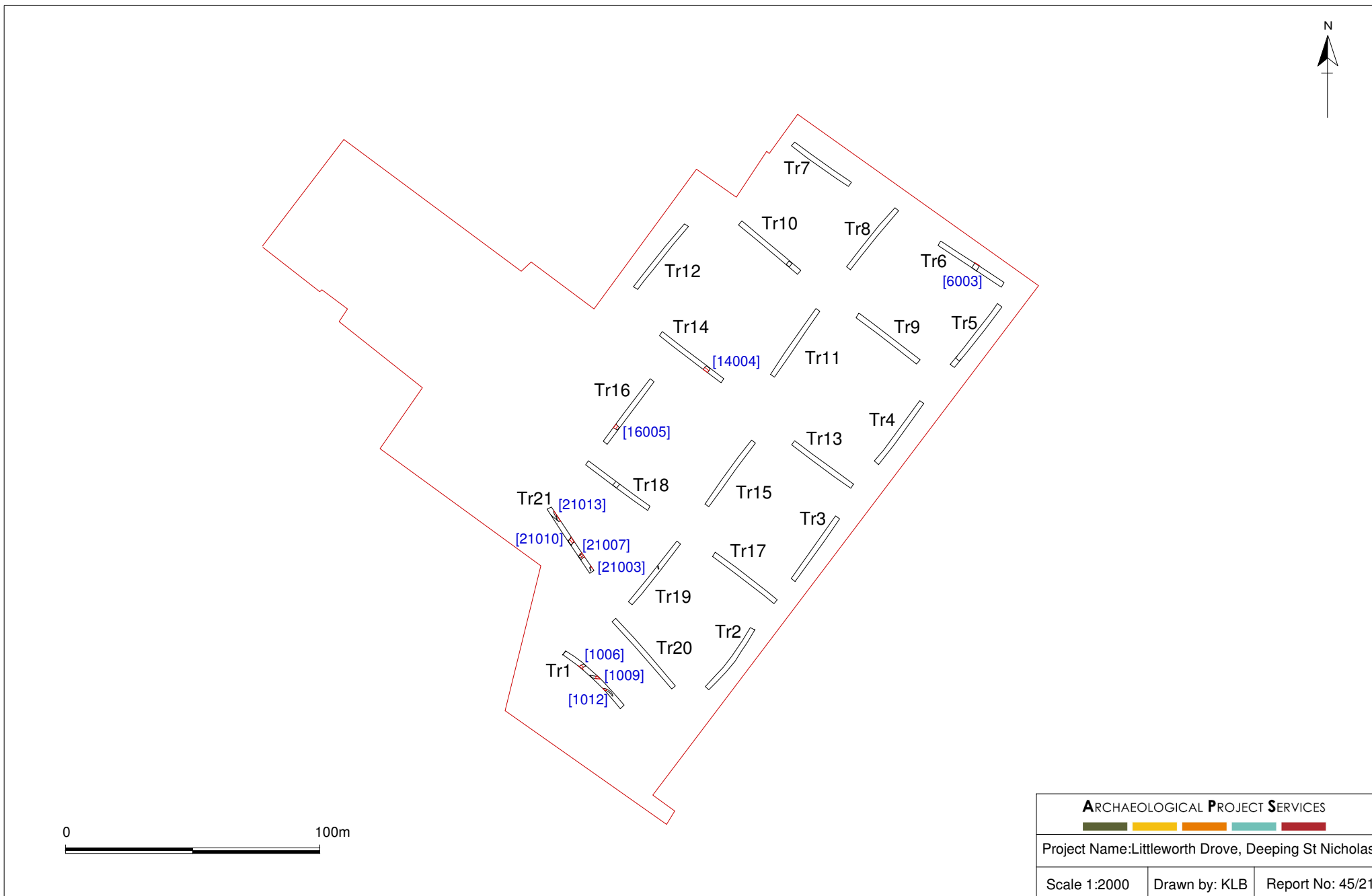


Figure 3 Trench plan

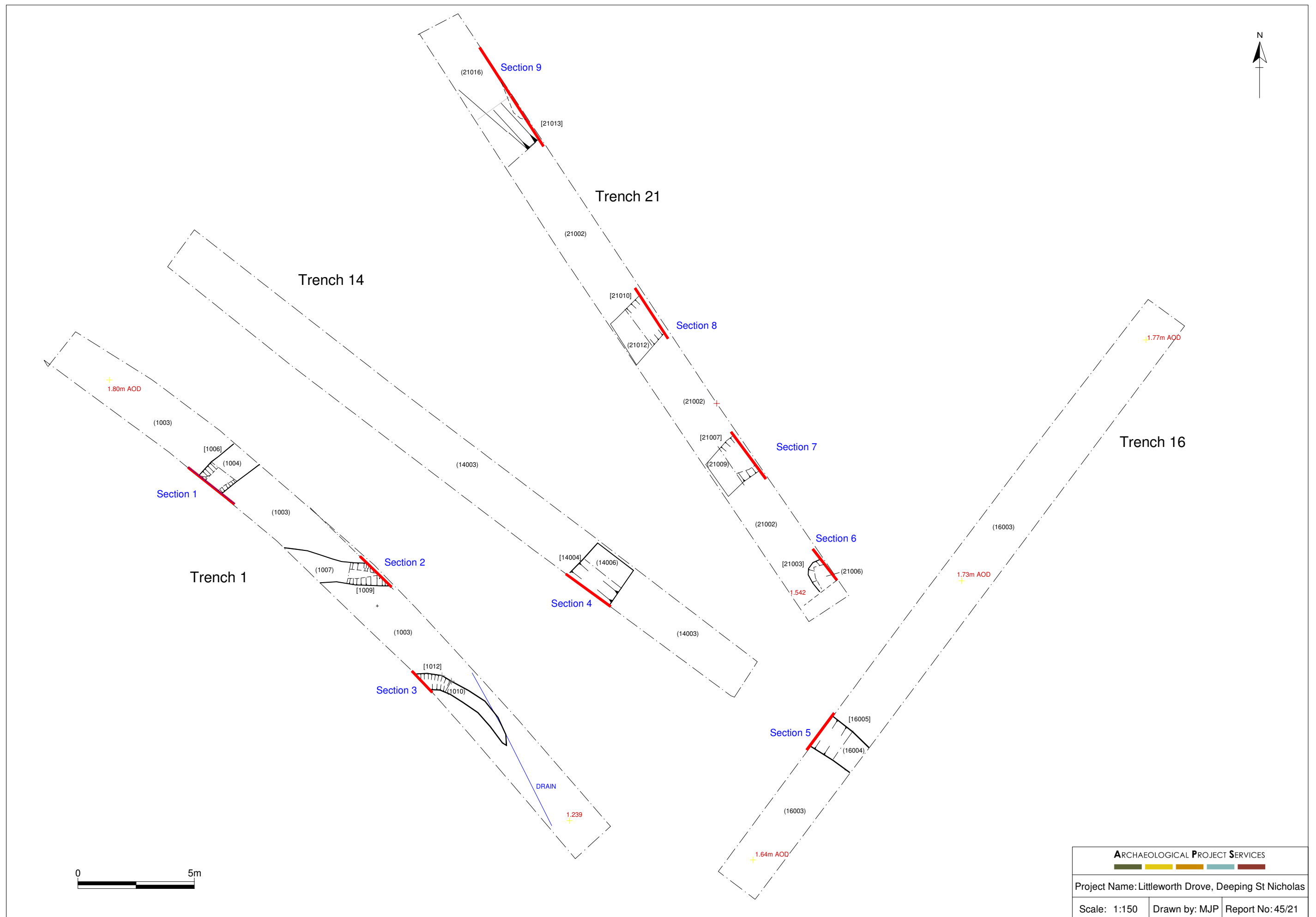


Figure 4. Plans of Trenches 1, 14, 16 and 21

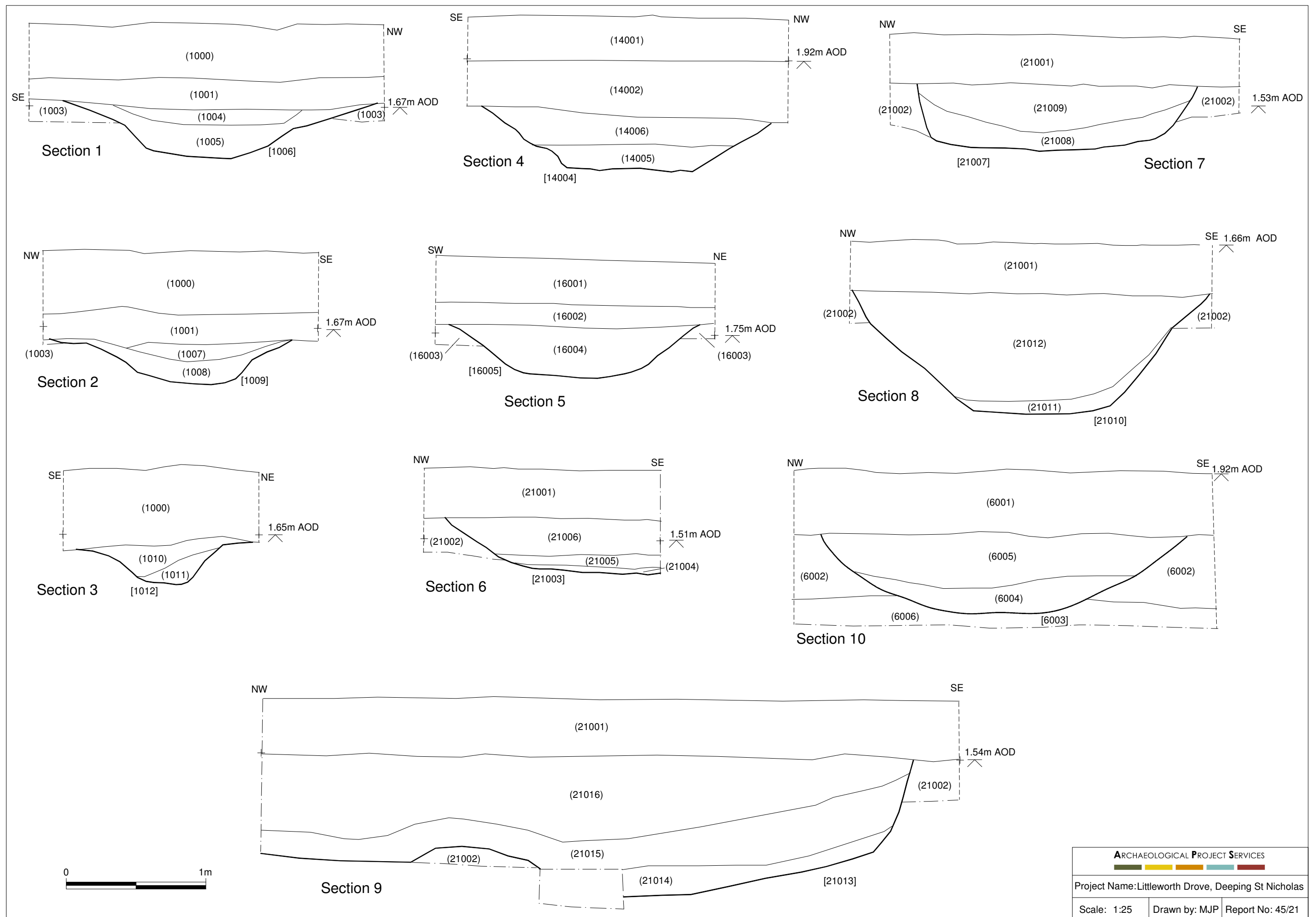


Figure 5 Sections 1-10



Plate 1. Pre-machining view of area of Trench 1, looking northwest



Plate 2. Trench 1, looking southeast



Plate 3. Trench 1, Ditch [1006], Section 1, looking southwest



Plate 4. Trench 1, Ditch [1009], Section 2, looking northeast



Plate 5. Trench 1, Ditch [1012], Section 3, looking southwest



Plate 6. Trench 3, looking northeast



Plate 7. Trench 3,
representative section, looking
southeast



Plate 8. Trench 5, looking northeast



Plate 9. Trench 6, Ditch [6003], Section 10, looking north



Plate 10. Trench 14, looking northwest



Plate 11. Trench 14, Ditch [14004], Section 4, looking southwest



Plate 12. Trench 16, Ditch [16005], Section 5, looking northwest



Plate 13. Trench 18 representative section, looking northeast



Plate 14. Trench 20, looking northeast



Plate 15. Trench 21, looking northwest



Plate 16. Trench 21, Ditch [21010], Section 8, looking northeast



Plate 17. Trench 21, Pit [21003], Section 6, looking northeast



Plate 18. Trench 21, Pit [21013], Section 9, looking north



Plate 19. Trench 21, Ditch [21007], Section 7, looking northeast

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context no.	Trench	Description	Interpretation
1000	1	Friable dark grey silty clay with occasional small angular stones, 0.4m thick	Topsoil
1001	1	Compact dark mottled grey silty clay with occasional small sand patches, 0.22m thick	Subsoil
1003	1	Friable yellowish brown silty sand with occasional small angular stones (0.62m below surface)	Natural alluvium
1004	1	Friable dark grey silty silt, 0.11m thick	Upper fill of [1006]
1005	1	Compact light orangey grey sandy silt with occasional small rounded stones, 0.24m thick	Lower fill of [1006]
1006	1	East-west aligned linear cut with moderately steep sides and a flat base, at least 1.8m long, 2.3m wide, 0.35m deep	Ditch
1007	1	Friable dark greyish- reddish brown silty clay with occasional small rounded stones, 0.12m thick	Upper fill of [1009]
1008	1	Compact light orangey-grey sandy clay with occasional small rounded stones, 0.17m thick	Lower fill of [1009]
1009	1	East-west aligned linear cut with moderately steep sides and a flat base, at least 2m long, 1.75m wide, 0.29m deep	Ditch
1010	1	Compact mottled orangey-brown sandy clay, 0.22m thick	Upper fill of [1012]
1011	1	Compact mid brown sandy clay, 0.18m thick	Lower fill of [1012]
1012	1	NE curving to south linear cut with near vertical sides and a flat base, at least 2m long, 1.25m wide, 0.28m deep	Ditch, possible haystack drainage often seen in fens
2001	2	Firm light yellow clayey silt, at least 0.5m thick	Natural alluvium
2002	2	Friable light grey-brown clayey silt, 0.1m thick	Subsoil
2003	2	Friable dark grey silty clay, 0.2m thick	Topsoil
2004	2	NW-SE aligned linear cut	Land drain
2005	2	Loose dark grey silt	Fill of [2004]
3001	3	Friable dark grey silty clay, 0.1m thick	Topsoil
3002	3	Friable light grey-brown clayey silt, 0.2m thick	Subsoil
3003	3	Firm light reddish brown clayey silt, 0.6m thick	Natural alluvium
3004	3	Firm light grey brown silty clay, at least 0.5m thick	Natural
4001	4	Friable dark grey silty clay, 0.2m thick	Topsoil
4002	4	Friable light grey-brown clayey silt, 0.1m thick	Subsoil
4003	4	Firm light reddish brown clayey silt, 0.3m thick	Natural alluvium
4004	4	Firm light bluish grey clay, at least 0.2m thick	Natural
5001	5	Friable dark grey silty clay, 0.1m thick	Topsoil
5002	5	Friable light grey-brown clayey silt, 0.1m thick	Subsoil
5003	5	Firm light reddish brown clayey silt, 0.4m thick	Natural alluvium
5004	5	Firm light bluish grey clay, at least 0.3m thick	Natural
6001	6	Friable dark grey silty clay, 0.45m thick	Topsoil
6002	6	Firm light reddish brown clayey silt, 0.5m thick	Natural alluvium
6003	6	NE-SW aligned linear cut with concave sides and rounded base, at least 1.8m long, 2m wide, 0.45m deep	Ditch
6004	6	Soft dark grey silt, 0.2m thick	Lower fill of [6003]
6005	6	Firm mid brownish grey silt, 0.25m thick	Upper fill of [6003]
6006	6	Firm dark brown clayey silt, at least 0.15m thick	Natural
7001	7	Friable dark greyish brown silt, 0.49m thick	Topsoil

7002	7	Friable mid reddish grey laminated sand, at least 0.57m thick	Natural
8001	8	Friable dark greyish brown silt, 0.42m thick	Topsoil
8002	8	Friable mid reddish brown silt, 0.34m thick	Subsoil
8003	8	Soft light greyish brown sand, at least 0.34m thick	Natural
9001	9	Friable mid brown silt, 0.4m thick	Topsoil
9002	9	Friable mid reddish brown silt, 0.38m thick	Natural alluvium
10001	10	Friable dark greyish brown silt, 0.3m thick	Topsoil
10002	10	Friable mid reddish brown sandy silt, 0.22m thick	Subsoil
10003	10	Friable mid greyish red laminated silts, at least 0.21m thick	Natural
11001	11	Friable mid brown silt, 0.34m thick	Topsoil
11002	11	Friable mid reddish brown laminated sandy silt, at least 0.29m thick	Natural
12001	12	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.4m thick	Topsoil
12002	12	Light orangey brown sand, at least 0.12m thick	Natural
13001	13	Friable mid greyish brown silt, 0.33m thick	Topsoil
13002	13	Friable mid reddish brown laminated silts, at least 0.25m thick	Natural alluvium
14001	14	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.3m thick	Topsoil
14002	14	Friable mid brown clayey silt, 0.4m thick	Subsoil
14003	14	Soft orangey-yellow sandy silt, at least 0.1m thick	Natural
14004	14	NW-SE aligned linear cut with 45°sides and flat base, at least 1.8m long, 2m wide, 0.4m deep	Cut of ditch
14005	14	Friable mid grey, with reddish brown mottles, clayey silt, 0.2m thick	Lower fill of [14004]
14006	14	Friable mid brownish grey silt, 0.2m thick	Upper fill of [14004]
15001	15	Friable mid greyish brown silt, 0.34m thick	Topsoil
15002	15	Friable light greyish red laminated silts, at least 0.19m thick	Natural alluvium
16001	16	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.32m thick	Topsoil
16002	16	Friable mid brown clayey silt, 0.17m thick	Subsoil
16003	16	Light orangey brown sand, at least 0.13m thick	Natural
16004	16	Firm dark grey brown clayey silt, 0.36m thick	Fill of [16005]
16005	16	East-west aligned linear cut with concave sides and flat base, at least 1.8m long, 1.8m wide, 0.36m deep	Ditch
17001	17	Friable mid greyish brown silt, 0.32m thick	Topsoil
17002	17	Firm light reddish-greyish brown silt, at least 0.16m thick	Natural alluvium
18001	18	Friable mid greyish brown silt, 0.34m thick	Topsoil
18002	18	Soft light greyish red sandy silt, at least 0.28m thick	Natural
19001	19	Friable mid greyish brown silt, 0.38m thick	Topsoil
19002	19	Firm light reddish brown silt, at least 0.26m thick	Natural
20001	20	Friable mid greyish brown silt, 0.34m thick	Topsoil
20002	20	Firm light yellow clayey silt, at least 0.2m thick	Natural alluvium
21001	21	Dark brown silt, 0.4m thick	Topsoil
21002	21	Light brown silt, at least 0.3m thick	Natural
21003	21	Sub-rectangular cut with shallow convex sides and rounded base. At least 1.6m by 0.95m in plan, 0.4m deep	Pit
21004	21	Loose mottled dark brown and mid greyish yellow sandy silt, 90mm thick	Lower fill of [21003]
21005	21	Firm dark brown sandy silt, 0.13m thick	Fill of [21003]
21006	21	Friable mid greyish brown silt, 0.28m thick	Upper fill of [21003]
21007	21	NE-SW aligned linear cut with steep sides and rounded base, at least 1.8m long, 2m wide, 0.4m deep	Ditch
21008	21	Friable light grey silt, 0.2m thick	Lower fill of [21007]

21009	21	Friable dark brown silt, 0.25m thick	Upper fill of [21007]
21010	21	North-south aligned linear cut with moderately sloping sides and a flat base, at least 1.8m long, 1.75m wide, 0.8m deep	Ditch
21011	21	Soft mid grey slightly humic silt, with patches of redeposited natural, 0.16m thick	Lower fill of [21010]
21012	21	Firm dark brown silt with frequent patches of redeposited natural, 0.7m thick	Main fill of [21010]
21013	21	Irregular, possibly sub-rectangular cut with steep, straight sides and an irregular base, at least 5m by 2m in plan, 1.4m deep	Pit
21014	21	Soft dark brown clayey silt with frequent sand lenses, 0.22m thick	Lower fill of [21013]
21015	21	Firm dark brown silt. 0.3m thick	Fill of [21013]
21016	21	Friable mid brown sandy silt, 0.5m thick	Upper fill of [21013]

Appendix 2

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.
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, and subsequent home production, 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
Old English	The language used by the Saxon (<i>q.v.</i>) occupants of Britain.
Palaeochannel	A remnant of an inactive river or stream that has been filled by younger sediment.
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.

Saltern	Saltmaking site where salt is obtained from sea water through evaporation.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas. Divided into Early (AD 410-660), Middle (AD 660-900) and Late Saxon (AD 900-1066).
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.
Victorian	Pertaining to the period of Queen Victoria's reign, dating from 1837-1901.

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

21	Trench Record sheets
2	Context register sheets
34	Context record sheets
1	Section record sheet
1	Plan record sheet
7	Daily record sheets
3	Photographic record sheets
11	Sheets of scale drawings

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 Collection
Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire
Danes Terrace
Lincoln
LN2 1LP

Accession Number: LCNCC:2021.130

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: DNLD 21

OASIS record number archaeo11-432506

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: archaeol1-432506

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation on land at Home Farm, Littleworth Drove, Deeping St Nicholas, Lincolnshire
Short description of the project	An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken on land at Home Farm, Littleworth Drove, Deeping St Nicholas, Lincolnshire. This was in advance of proposed residential development of the site. The area is archaeologically sensitive, lying close to Iron Age and Romano-British salt-making activity and settlement activity. The trenching evaluation revealed features in five of the 21 trenches excavated across the site. These comprised ditches and pits and one curved ditch, which was possibly a drainage ditch for a hayrick. Finds comprised a small amount of animal bone, and post-medieval and later CBM and pottery. The features are likely to be associated with post-medieval agricultural use of this land.
Project dates	Start: 23-08-2021 End: 01-09-2021
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	DNLD21 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	DITCHES Post Medieval
Monument type	PITS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE SOUTH HOLLAND DEEPING ST NICHOLAS Land at Home Farm, Littleworth Drove, Deeping St Nicholas
Study area	3.8 Hectares
Site coordinates	TF 215 157 52.724928405989 -0.200709682303 52 43 29 N 000 12 02 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 Archaeological Project Services

Project director/manager Paul Cope-Faulkner

Project supervisor Mark Peachey

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient The Collection

Digital Archive ID LCNCC:2021.130

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media available "GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Text"

Paper Archive recipient The Collection

Paper Archive ID LCNCC:2021.130

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

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