

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING REPORT:**  
**LAND OFF LOW ROAD, SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE**

Planning Application: H16-0008-19  
NGR: TF 2580 2290  
AAL Site Code: SPLO 19  
Museum Accession Number: LCNCC: 2019.79  
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-390714



Report prepared for DWA Architects  
On behalf of Life Property Construction

By  
Allen Archaeology Limited  
Report Number AAL 2020043

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Allenarchaeology



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## Document Control

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*Cover image: General view of the site, looking east*

## **Executive Summary**

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by DWA Architects, on behalf of Life Property Construction to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land off Low Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire as a condition of planning consent for the erection of a care home.
- There is no prehistoric archaeology recorded in the area. Roman archaeology has been discovered 250m southeast of the site and Spalding is believed to have been a Royal Estate in the Saxon period, although the development site lies beyond the historic core of the town, which was further to the west and beyond the river. Archaeological investigations to the north of the site exposed medieval pottery scatters as well as ditches, pits and post holes. The site itself remained relatively undeveloped agricultural land until the former pub was built in the 1960s.
- The archaeological scheme of works involved the monitoring of the removal of the rubble and the grubbing out of the footings from the demolished public house that previously occupied the site, as well as the excavation of drain trenches and footings. The work identified no significant archaeology or finds during the groundworks on this site.

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by DWA Architects, on behalf of Life Property Construction to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks on land off Low Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire as a condition of planning consent for a care home.
- 1.2 The excavation, recording and reporting conformed to current national guidelines, as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*' (CIfA 2014) and Historic England document '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*' (HE 2015), the local guidelines in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (LCC 2016), and a specification written by this company (AAL 2019).
- 1.3 All documentation and records generated during the project will be converted into an appropriate format in accordance with guidelines set out in the LCC document '*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook*' (2016). The archive will be deposited with The Collection museum in Lincoln, where it will be stored under the museum accession code LCNCC 2019.79. The agreed date of deposition is June 2020.

## **2.0 Site Location and Description**

- 2.1 Spalding is located in the administrative district of South Holland District Council, approximately 56km south-southeast of central Lincoln. The site is located towards the east side of the town, immediately to the south of the junction of Low Road, Halmer Gate, Queens Road and Albert Street. The site was formerly occupied by a pub and car park and is centred on NGR TF 2580 2290 (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The bedrock geology of the area comprises Oxford Clay Formation mudstone, overlain by Tidal Flat deposits of clay and silt (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

## **3.0 Planning Background**

- 3.1 Planning permission has been granted for a 61 bed care home, on the site of the former 'The Birds' public house (Planning Application Reference H16-0008-19). The permission was granted subject to conditions, including the undertaking of a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording during all associated groundworks for the scheme.
- 3.2 The approach adopted was consistent with the recommendations of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), with the particular chapter of relevance being 'Section 16. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment' (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2018).

## 4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 There is no evidence for prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site. Roman activity has been recorded in three areas c.250m to the southeast. During the cutting of the Coronation Channel in 1951, pupils of Spalding Grammar School recorded occupation layers buried by c.1.5m of alluvial silts containing charcoal, animal bone, Roman pottery, slag and possible kiln furniture (LHER Reference 22366).
- 4.2 Spalding is believed to have been a Royal Estate in the Saxon period and the place-name, first mentioned in c.1074, is an Old English group-name, *Spaldingas*, meaning 'the people of the Spalde' (Mills 1997). The tribal name Spalde is recorded in the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> century tribute list called the Tribal Hidage (ibid.). At the time of the Domesday Book, the principal landowner was Ivo Tallboys, with smaller estates owned by Crowland Abbey and Guy of Craon. In total, Spalding was populated by 91 villagers and their dependents, and also included a market, fisheries and salt houses (Morgan and Thorn 1986). The current site lies well beyond the historic core of the town, which was further to the west, on the west side of the River Welland.
- 4.3 Archaeological investigations immediately to the north of the site exposed medieval pottery scatters and a buried soil, as well as boundary ditches, pits and post holes, indicating medieval to post-medieval settlement and agriculture. Pottery of 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century date was also recovered, in association with possible structural evidence for a timber building or buildings (LHER References 23777, 23793, 23794). Evidence for brick making during the post-medieval period was also recorded on the site (LHER Reference 23776).
- 4.4 Historic mapping indicates that the site remained as largely undeveloped agricultural land until the present buildings on the site were constructed in the 1960s.

## 5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 An experienced field archaeologist was present during groundworks for the scheme. They acted in accordance with the contents of this document and adhered to national and local guidelines regarding agreed best practice for archaeological monitoring and recording projects. The archaeological monitoring took place intermittently, as and when required, between 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2020. Monitored groundworks comprised removal of demolition material and grubbing out of footings for the former pub, excavation of a drainage run, and monitoring of foundations for the new building. Due to the shallow depth of most groundworks and the lack of finds, it was agreed in consultation with the Historic Environment Officer at Lincolnshire County Council that the monitoring could be terminated prior to completion of all groundworks.
- 5.2 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard AAL context recording sheets, with each deposit and feature allocated a unique three-digit identifier (context number), i.e. 100 and accorded a written description.
- 5.3 Sections were allocated an individual drawing number at 1:20 scale. A comprehensive record of all drawings was maintained, and the location of every section drawing plotted onto the site master plan and correctly referenced.
- 5.4 Digital photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy, and a selection of images has been included in this report.

## 6.0 Results

- 6.1 The most recent deposit on northern half of the monitored area was 100, a layer of concrete slabs 0.06m thick, associated with the former public house. This overlay 101, a mid-yellowish-brown silty sand with frequent sub-rounded limestone pieces, 0.56m thick, interpreted as a layer of material imported to build the former pub. Around the limit of the excavation, layer 101 was sealed by layer 103, a tarmac footpath that originally ran down the side of the public house. Beneath these layers was 102 the natural geology, a dark brownish grey silty clay (Plate 1).



*Plate 1: Representative section at the north end of site, looking west, scales 1.0m*



*Plate 2: View of the southern end of site looking west, showing imported soil 104 and buried topsoil 105*

- 6.2 In the southern part of the site, the most recent deposit was 104, a 0.4m thick layer of imported soil used to raise the height of the gardens toward the rear of the pub. This overlay 105, the former topsoil, which in turn overlay 106, a yellowish brown subsoil. Groundworks did not extend below this level (Plate 2).

## **7.0 Discussion and Conclusions**

- 7.1 The pub which had previously stood upon the site had been constructed on a raised plinth, created by importing material. Likewise, the southern part of the site had been raised by importing material to form the former gardens.
- 7.2 No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed, and as such the development has had no impact on the archaeological resource of the area.

## **8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology**

- 8.1 The watching brief methodology was suited to the nature and scale of this project and enabled a record to be made of the deposits present within the modern sequence on site.

## **9.0 Acknowledgements**

- 9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank DWA Architects, and their client Life Property Construction for this commission, and the groundworkers for their cooperation during the site works.

## **10.0 References**

AAL, 2019, *Specification for an Archaeological Scheme of Works: Land off Low Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire*, unpublished planning document

CIfA, 2014, *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

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Mills, A, 1997, *Oxford Dictionary of English Place Names 2<sup>nd</sup> ed* Oxford: Oxford University Press

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2018, *National Planning Policy Framework*. London: HMSO

Morgan P, and Thorn C., (eds), 1986, *Domesday Book: vol.31: Lincolnshire*, Chichester: Phillimore & Co. Ltd

**Appendix 1: Context Summary List**

| Context | Type  | Description                               | Thickness/<br>depth (m) | Interpretation   |
|---------|-------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| 100     | Layer | Hard, grey concrete                       | 0.06                    | Concrete slabs   |
| 101     | Layer | Loose, mid yellowish brown silty sand     | 0.56                    | Made ground      |
| 102     | Layer | Firm, dark brownish grey silty clay       | >1.20                   | Natural geology  |
| 103     | Layer | Hard, dark grey tarmac                    | 0.10                    | Tarmac surface   |
| 104     | Layer | Friable, dark brownish grey silty sand    | 0.40                    | Topsoil          |
| 105     | Layer | Firm, mid brownish grey silty sand        | 0.40                    | Imported topsoil |
| 106     | Layer | Compact, light yellowish brown silty clay | >0.10                   | Subsoil          |

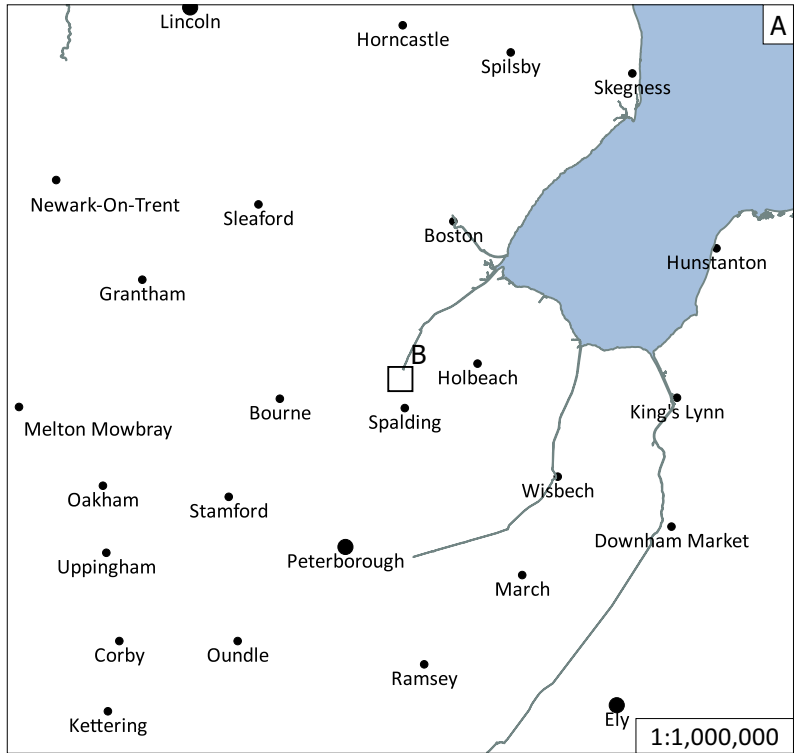
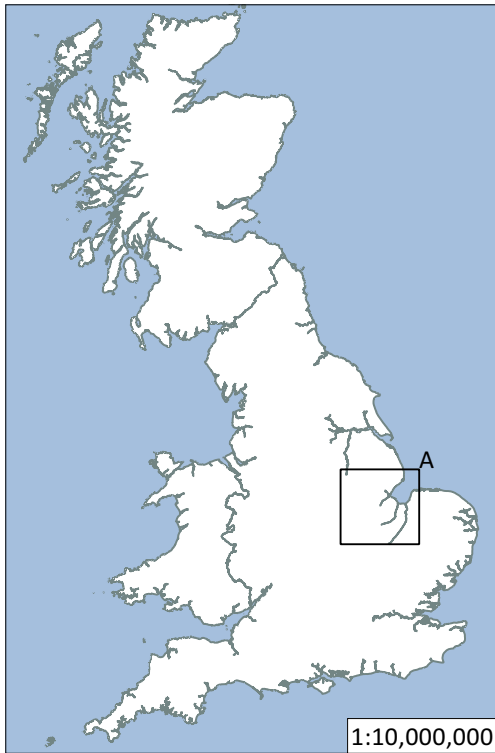
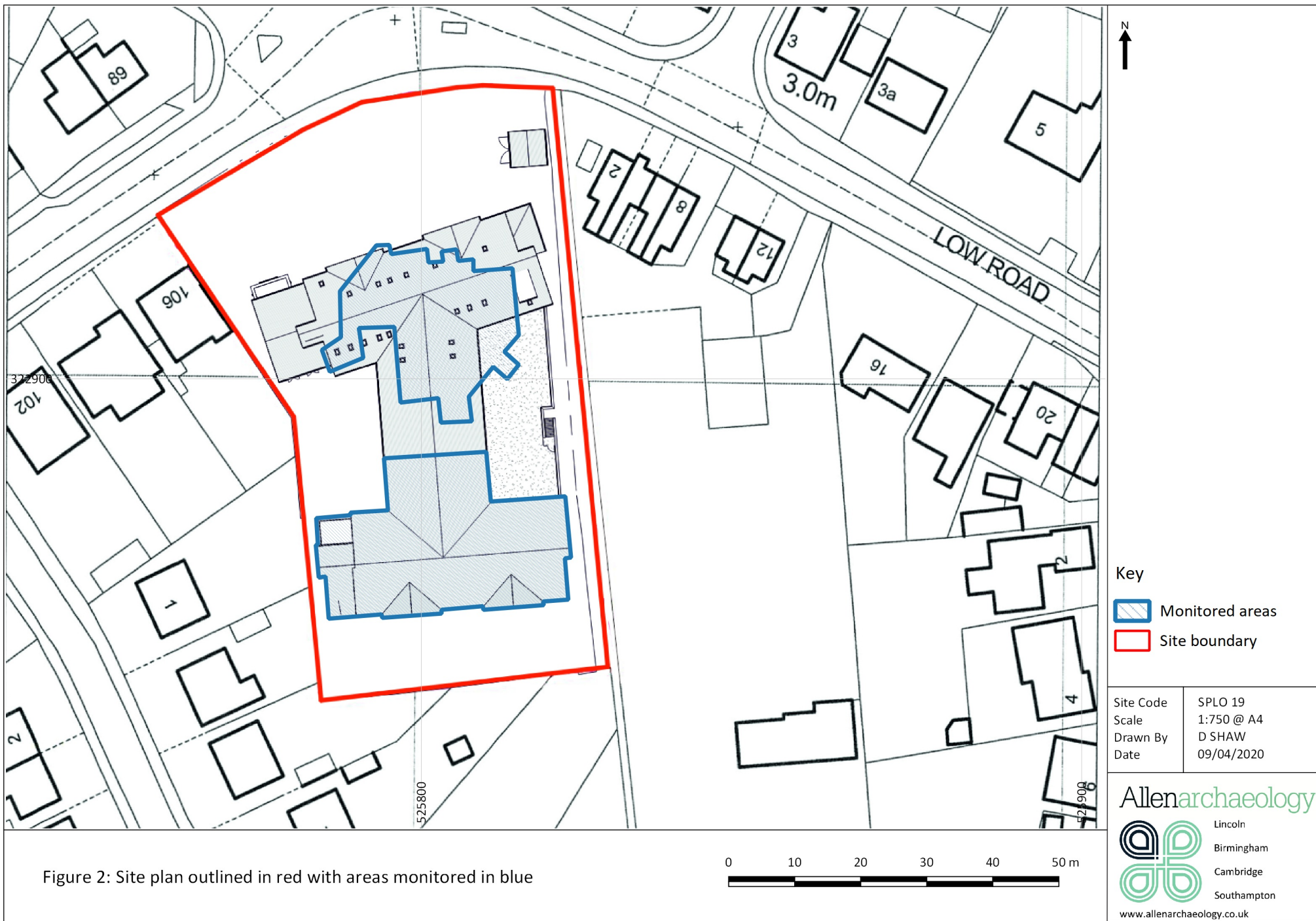


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red

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|           |                                              |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------|
| Site Code | SPLO 19                                      |
| Scale     | 1:10,000,000<br>1:1,000,000<br>1:25,000 @ A4 |
| Drawn by  | D Shaw                                       |
| Date      | 09/04/2020                                   |





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