

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT:
TRIAL TRENCHING AT THE FORMER CASTLE SPORTS COMPLEX, ALBION STREET, SPALDING,
LINCOLNSHIRE

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Cover image: Working shot at Trench 18, looking northeast

Executive Summary

- Willmott Dixon commissioned Allen Archaeology Limited (AAL) to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at the former Castle Sports Complex, Albion Street, Spalding, Lincolnshire, prior to submission of a planning application for refurbishment and extension of the existing leisure centre.
- Prehistoric and Roman activity is known within the vicinity of the site. Spalding was a royal estate in the Anglo-Saxon period and was recorded in the Domesday Survey. It is possible that the site of Spalding Castle lay on or near to the southwestern part of the site. A geophysical survey carried out prior to the trial trenching identified few potential archaeological features.
- The trial trenching entailed excavation of 27no trenches, 25no. 25 x 1.8m long trenches and 2no. 15 x 1.8m long trenches. The trenching targeted anomalies noted during the geophysical survey. A small amount of residual Roman material was recovered from the site. Trench 11 exposed two parallel and probably contemporary ditches, one of which was dated to the medieval period by a sherd of pottery, and Trench 14 contained a late medieval boundary feature, also containing a small assemblage of medieval pottery, and corresponding with historic mapping and a geophysical anomaly.
- The trial trenching has identified a limited archaeological potential for the proposed development area.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Willmott Dixon commissioned Allen Archaeology Limited (AAL) to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at the former Castle Sports Complex, Albion Street, Spalding, Lincolnshire, prior to submission of a planning application for refurbishment and extension of the existing leisure centre.
- 1.2 The works were carried out in accordance with current national guidelines, as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard for archaeological field evaluations*' (ClfA 2023a) and '*Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation*' (ClfA 2023b), the Historic England document '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*' (Historic England 2015), the Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) '*Lincolnshire Archaeology Handbook*' (LCC 2024), as well as a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by this company (AAL 2024).
- 1.3 The documentation and records generated by the investigation will be assembled in accordance with the national guidelines in '*Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*' (AAF 2011) and the local guidelines in '*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook*' (LCC 2024). The archive will be deposited with Lincoln Museum, where it will be stored under the museum accession code LCNCC:2024.106. The agreed date of deposition is February 2025.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The proposed development site is in Spalding, Lincolnshire, in the administrative district of South Holland. It is situated c.24.8km north-northeast of Peterborough and c.22.1km south-southwest of Boston. The site is approximately 5.28 hectares and presently occupied by a leisure centre site with associated buildings, sports pitches, and car parks (Figure 1). The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) TF 24991 23123 and is c.7m above Ordnance Datum.
- 2.2 The bedrock geology comprises mudstone of the Oxford Clay Formation, with superficial geology of Tidal Flat deposits of clay and silt recorded (BGS 2024).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 A planning application is yet to be submitted for refurbishment and extension of the existing leisure centre. Following completion of an archaeological desk-based assessment (AAL 2023), and after consultation with the advising Historic Environment Officer, a programme of geophysical survey and trial trenching was advised. The geophysical survey has been completed (AAL 2024), and informed programme of trenching reported on in this document.
- 3.2 The approach adopted is 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 & Local Government 2023)

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 A desk-based assessment has previously been compiled for this site (AAL 2023), the results of which are summarised below.
- 4.2 Other than a single Mesolithic flint, there is no evidence for prehistoric activity in the study area. It is likely that early activity is sealed beneath subsequent marine transgressions.
- 4.3 Roman activity is represented by several find spots of Roman material as well as several pits and ditches recorded in the immediate vicinity of the site.
- 4.4 Spalding was a royal estate in the Anglo-Saxon period and was a populous settlement at the time of the Domesday Survey. It remained an important market centre in the medieval period but the current site is believed to be peripheral to the medieval settlement in an area subject to frequent flooding. It is possible that the site of Spalding Castle lay on or near to the southwestern part of the site, but there has been no physical evidence recovered.
- 4.5 The later town extended beyond its medieval core into the eastern part of the site, with development particularly along Albion Street.
- 4.6 The geophysical survey of the site (AAL 2024) revealed little of archaeological interest, with significant amounts of magnetic noise present in the results. A number of former field boundaries were present as well as potential geological variation.

5.0 Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 The purpose of the trial trenching evaluation 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.
- 5.2 Evidence was gathered to establish the presence/absence, nature, date, depth, quality of survival and importance of any archaeological deposits to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of the archaeological remains, and to assess the impact of the development upon the archaeology.

6.0 Methodology

- 6.1 A programme of trial trenching was undertaken equivalent to approximately 3% of the total development area (excluding buildings to be retained), with the works comprising 25 no. 25m x 1.8m trenches and 2 no. 15m x 1.8m trenches, as set out on the attached plan (Figure 2). As a result of the presence of services, Trenches 13, 19 and 24 had to be moved from the planned locations. Asbestos was observed in Trenches 26 and 27 and resulted in these trenches not being fully investigated.
- 6.2 In each trench, topsoil, subsoil and underlying non-archaeological deposits were removed by mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket in spits no greater than 10cm in thickness. The process was repeated until the first archaeologically significant or natural horizon was exposed. Machine excavated sondages were excavated at the ends of Trenches 1, 6, 9, 13, 17, 23 and 24 to confirm the full stratigraphic sequence and identity any deeply buried former land surfaces, where present. All further excavation was by hand.

- 6.3 The fieldwork was undertaken by a team of three archaeologists, led by project supervisor Jo Lathan, over eight days, between 30th September 2024 and 10th October 2024.
- 6.4 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard Allen Archaeology Limited context recording sheets. Archaeological deposits were drawn to scale, in plan and section (at scale 1:20), with Ordnance Datum heights displayed on each class of drawing. Survey data was gathered using a survey grade GPS.
- 6.5 Digital photograph formed an integral part of the recording strategy, using a DSLR camera with 12MP sensors. Photographs incorporate scales, an identification board and directional arrow, where appropriate.
- 6.6 All finds of all classes were collected. Finds collected during the fieldwork were bagged and labelled with the appropriate deposit context number. All finds were processed (cleaned, marked, and labelled as appropriate) at the offices of Allen Archaeology limited. These were then submitted for specialist assessment as to their potential and significance for further analysis and study to the following persons:

Alice Beasley	Later prehistoric and Romano-British pottery
Paul Blinkhorn	Post-Roman pottery and ceramic building materials
Bryn Leadbetter	Animal bone
Bryn Leadbetter	Environmental remains

- 6.7 A full description of the finds is given within the specialist reports presented in Appendix 1, with relevant information integrated into the stratigraphic narrative provide below.

7.0 Results

- 7.1 The programme of works comprised 25no. 25m x 1.8m trenches and 2no. 15m x 1.8m trenches (Figure 2).
- 7.2 The natural geology comprised clay and silt tidal flat deposits (BGS 2024). Towards the northwest the natural geology was overlaid by a made ground, forming the BMX track, and measuring 0.18–0.93m thick (Trenches 1–5, 8 and 13; *Plate 1*); two pieces of Romano-British ceramic building material (CBM) were recovered from the made ground in Trench 8, but no archaeological features were identified. Throughout the remainder of the site the natural geology was also overlaid by made ground associated with landscaping and subsoil, together measuring 0.11–0.55m thick (Trenches 6, 7, 9–11, 14–21, and 22–25; *Plate 2*). The only exception was at the northeast corner of proposed development, nearest the school buildings, where part of a tarmac surface was also recorded, measuring 0.20m (Trench 12).
- 7.3 Archaeological features were recorded only in Trenches 11 and 14, both cut into the natural geology with the upper surface of the features exposed at 0.77–0.85m below ground level (bgl). A description of the features in each trench is provided below. A context summary with additional descriptive information is provided in Appendix 2.



Plate 1: Stratigraphy within the BMX track, Trench 1, looking northwest, scale 1m



Plate 2: Stratigraphy within the athletics track, Trench 6, looking southeast, scale 2m

Trench 11 (Figure 3)

7.4 Two northeast-southwest aligned ditches, [1103] and [1105], were revealed in Trench 11. Both ditches were c.1m wide and c.0.55m deep and had moderately steep concave sides, concave bases, and loose mid greyish brown silty sand fills. Ditch [1103] was devoid of artefactual material (Plate 3). Ditch [1105] produced a sherd of late 10th to late 12th-century pottery, and an environmental sample <1> dominated by uncharred plant material and from which numerous terrestrial snail shells were recovered (Plate 4).



Plate 3: Ditch [1103], looking east, scales 1m and 0.50m



Plate 4: Ditch [1105], looking west, scales 1m and 0.50m

Trench 14 (Figure 4)

7.5 An east-west aligned possible ditch [1403], corresponding with an area of magnetic noise identified on the geophysical survey, was identified in Trench 14. It measured over 1.80m wide and 0.22m deep, had shallow concave sides and a slightly concave base, and contained a loose mid orange-grey-brown silty sand. It produced six sherds of medieval pottery, in five different fabrics, producing dates between late-10th to early-17th centuries, alongside a probable residual sherd of Roman greyware. A cattle mandible, alongside five other fragments of animal bone, and fragments of oyster and garden snail, were also recovered.



Plate 5: Ditch [1403], looking west, scales 1m and 0.50m

8.0 Discussion and Conclusion

- 8.1 The trial trenching exposed little of interest. The earliest activity was represented by two residual fragments of Roman ceramic building material from a modern landscaping layer in Trench 8, and a sherd of Roman pottery from the ditch in Trench 14, which is unsurprising given the presence of Roman activity recorded immediately to the west of the site. Two parallel, and probably contemporary ditches were exposed in Trench 11, one of which was dated to the medieval period by a single sherd of pottery. These features were not recorded on the geophysical survey (AAL 2024), but the results were hampered by modern services and magnetic noise. It is possible the features represent drainage ditches flanking a former hedge boundary. A possible ditch was also recorded in Trench 14, which contained an assemblage of pottery ranging in date from Roman to late medieval. The feature corresponds with a linear area of magnetic noise recorded in the geophysical survey. A historic map of uncertain, 19th century date shows a probable boundary on this alignment, which by the time of the 1889 Ordnance Survey map stopped immediately adjacent to the trench to join a boundary running north-northeast to south-southwest (AAL 2023). Dating evidence suggests this boundary originated in the medieval period.
- 8.2 Several other geophysical anomalies, which corresponded with boundaries shown on historic maps were not apparent as archaeological features, it is possible these had been truncated by later landscaping, or were only ever hedge boundaries.

9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 9.1 The trial trenching methodology was appropriate for the nature and extent of the proposed development and has identified a limited archaeological potential.

10.0 Acknowledgements

- 10.1 AAL would like to thank Willmott Dixon for this commission.

11.0 References

AAF, 2011, *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum

AAL, 2023, *Archaeological desk-based assessment: Former Castle Sports Complex, Albion Street, Spalding, Lincolnshire*, Allen Archaeology Ltd, Report Number AAL 2023155

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Appendix 1: Finds

Roman Pottery

By Alice Beasley

Introduction

A single residual Roman greyware base sherd weighing 14g was recovered during trial trench excavation. It is moderately abraded and shows wear on the underside of the base.

Methodology

The assemblage was examined with a fresh break under x20 magnification using a Brunel BM1 long arm stereomicroscope. The context, sherd count, weight (g), the diameters (cm) and equivalents for rims and bases were recorded for all suitable sherds in accordance with The Standards set out in Barclay et.al (2016). The code system developed by the City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit (Darling and Precious 2014) and expanded by I Rowlandson (2023) to include North Lincolnshire fabrics has been used for the archive. The results have been entered into Microsoft excel and a tabulated version has been provided with this document. Following the archive requirements for Lincolnshire the sherds have been bagged by fabric within each context.

Discussion

The recovered sherd cannot provide a date more narrow than Roman as it does not have any further distinguishing features. It is likely to originally have been part of a bowl or jar. No further work is suggested for this assemblage.

References

Barclay, A, Knight, D, Booth, P, Evans, J, Brown, D, & Wood, I. (2016), *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology*, Historic England.

Darling, M J, & Precious, B J, (2014) *A Corpus of Roman pottery from Lincoln*, Lincoln Archaeological Studies 6, Oxford: Oxbow Books.

Rowlandson, I (2023) Chapter 4 Iron Age and Romano British pottery and organic residue analysis, in A Tuck, Wessex Archaeology Monograph 41, *The Archaeology of the Hornsea Project One Offshore Windfarm Cable Route: Agriculture, Settlement, Moats and Saltworking in the Lincolnshire Marshes*. Wessex Archaeology Ltd.

Post-Roman Pottery and CBM

By Paul Blinkhorn

Post-Roman Pottery

The pottery assemblage comprised six sherds with a total weight of 75g. It was all medieval and was recorded using the coding system of the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit type-series (Young and Vince 2005) as follows:

BOUA:	Bourne 'A' Ware , 13 th - 14 th century. 1 sherds, 3g.
BOU:	Bourne 'D' Ware , 1450-1637, 1 sherd, 27g.
DST:	Developed Stamford Ware , mid 12 th – early 13 th century. 2 sherds, 36g.
LIM:	Oolite-tempered Ware , late 10 th – late 12 th century. 1 sherds, 3g.
LMF:	Late Medieval Fineware , 1450-1550. 1 sherd, 6g

The pottery all occurred in fill 1404 apart from the fragment of LIM which came from context 1106. The sherd of LMF is in Late Medieval Oxidized Ware which was produced at a number of manufactories in Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire (eg. Johnston 1997), but is not in the Lincolnshire type-series under that name. The sherds are all somewhat abraded apart from the two late medieval examples. The fragment of BOU is from a jug with a thick exterior white slip covered in a copper-speckled glaze, a typical earlier product of the tradition.

CBM

Two fragments of Romano-British fired clay building material with a total weight of 377g occurred in context 803. They are both fragments of brick or tile, but none of their original dimensions survived. They are both in a fine, sandy fabric with rare fine red iron and calcareous material. Their poor condition suggests it is entirely possible that they are residual.

Bibliography

Johnston, G, 1997 The Excavation of two Late Medieval Kilns with Associated Buildings at Glapthorn, near Oundle, Northamptonshire *Medieval Ceramics* 21, 13-42

Young, J, and Vince, A, with Naylor, V, 2005 *A Corpus of Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln* Lincoln Archaeological Studies 7

Animal Bone & Shell

By Bryn Leadbetter

Six specimens of animal bone and three of shell were presented for assessment having been recovered from the above site.

Methodology

Animal bone identification was aided by published guides (Hillson 1996, Schmid 1972) and recording followed guidelines established by Baker and Worley (2019). Specimens were counted and where possible identified to bone element and species or recorded otherwise as belonging to a large mammal (LM), medium-sized mammal (MM) or as indeterminate (Indet) if not identifiable at all. Any butchery marks and evidence of gnawing, burning and pathologies were also recorded. The ageing and sexing of the specimens was not attempted at this stage.

Results

Context	NISP			Total	Note
	Cattle	LM	MM		
1404	2	-	-	2	prx phalx, mandible
1404	-	2	-	2	long-bone fragments
1404	-	-	2	2	long-bone fragments
Total	2	2	2	6	-

Table 1: Summary quantification of animal bone

Discussion

The cattle mandible belonged to a young animal and had teeth in eruption and in cavity, whilst the phalanx of an older individual displayed a small amount of abnormal bone growth to the proximal, resulting perhaps from its use in traction. All the specimens were well weathered, with no signs of burning, butchery, or gnawing (Table 1). The shell comprised two fragments of oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) and one of common garden snail (*Cornu aspersum*). The paucity of material in this assemblage leaves no room for any worthwhile interpretation, so no further study of the remains is required.

References

Baker, P., Worley, F., 2019, *Animal Bones and Archaeology, Recovery to Archive*. Historic England.

Hillson, S., 1996, *Mammal Bones and Teeth: An Introductory Guide to Methods of Identification*. London: Institute of Archaeology, University College London

Schmid, E., 1972, *Atlas of Animal Bones: For Prehistorians, Archaeologists and Quaternary Geologists*. London: Elsevier

Environmental Remains

By Bryn Leadbetter

One whole-earth environmental sample was presented for assessment following excavations at the above site. The sample was processed by floatation using a 300-micron mesh for the recovery of any lighter environmental evidence (the float), and a 1000-micron mesh for capturing the heavier fraction (the residue). The float was then air dried and scanned under a microscope, and the residue hand sorted with use of 2mm and 5mm sieves.

Results

Sample No.	1
Context No.	1106
Type/Feature	fill of gully 1105
Sample volume (ltrs)	35
Flot volume (ml)	20
Wild/plant seeds	xxx
Root/vegetation litter	moderate
Mollusc shell	>200
Residue finds	pot

Key: ltr: litres, ml: millilitres, x <5 specimens, xx <10, xxx <30, xxxx <50, xxxxx >50

Table 2: Summary quantification of environmental remains

Discussion

The sample was dominated by over 200 mixed-species terrestrial snail shells. Also present was a small volume of, probably modern, fine rootlets and wild plant seeds, the latter most notably including *Chenopodium sp.* (goosefoot). A few specks of a vitrified coal-like material were also recorded. Snail shells can inform on localised environmental conditions, but alone would add little here to any understanding of the feature from which the sample was collected. Given the paucity of wider evidence and thus the limited knowledge to be gained, no further study of this sample is required.

Appendix 2: Context Summary List

Trench 1

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
100	Layer	Very dark greyish brown, silt, modern inclusions			0.31	Topsoil
101	Layer	Dark greyish brown, sandy silt, modern Inclusions			0.30	Made ground
102	Fill	Mid orange brown, sandy silt			0.10	Natural geology
103	Cut	Light blue, silty clay, waterlogged			0.29	Natural geology
104	Cut	Mottled orange brown and blue grey, silt			>1	Natural geology

Trench 2

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
200	Layer	Very dark greyish brown, silt, modern inclusions			0.30	Topsoil
201	Layer	Dark greyish brown, sandy silt, modern Inclusions			0.44	Made ground
202	Layer	Mid orange brown, silt			>0.26	Natural geology

Trench 3

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
300	Layer	Very dark greyish brown, silt, modern inclusions			0.22	Topsoil
301	Layer	Dark greyish brown, sandy silt, modern Inclusions			0.54	Made ground
302	Layer	Mid orange brown, sandy silt			>0.29	Natural geology

Trench 4

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
400	Layer	Very dark greyish brown, silt, modern inclusions			0.40	Topsoil
401	Layer	Light greyish yellow, gravelly stone			0.18	Made ground
402	Layer	Dark greyish brown, sandy silt, modern Inclusions			0.44	Made ground
403	Layer	Mid orange brown, sandy silt			>0.22	Natural geology

Trench 5

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
500	Layer	Very dark greyish brown, silt, modern inclusions			0.38	Topsoil
501	Layer	Dark greyish brown, sandy silt, modern Inclusions			0.73	Made ground
502	Layer	Dark greyish brown, sandy silt, modern Inclusions			0.20	Made ground
503	Layer	Mid orange brown, sandy silt			>0.03	Natural geology

Trench 6

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
600	Layer	Very dark greyish brown, silt, modern inclusions			0.36	Topsoil
601	Layer	Light pinkish brown, sandy silt			0.20	Subsoil
602	Layer	Light blue grey silty clay, waterlogged			>0.02	Natural geology

Trench 7

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
700	Layer	Very dark greyish brown, silt, modern inclusions			0.37	Topsoil
701	Layer	Light pinkish brown, sandy silt			0.41	Subsoil
702	Layer	Light blue grey silty clay, waterlogged			0.16	Natural geology
703	Layer	Light brownish pink, clayey silt			0.30	Subsoil

Trench 8

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
800	Layer	Very dark greyish brown, silt, modern inclusions			0.35	Topsoil
801	Layer	Light greyish yellow, gravelly stone			0.20	Made ground
802	Layer	Dark greyish brown, sandy silt, modern Inclusions			0.50	Made ground
803	Layer	Mid orange brown, sandy silt			>0.02	Made ground

Trench 9

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
900	Layer	Loose, dark greyish black, silt			0.30	Topsoil
902	Layer	Loose, light greyish brown, silt			0.28	Natural geology
900	Layer	Loose, light yellowish brown, sand			>0.58	Natural geology

Trench 10

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
1000	Layer	Loose, dark greyish black, silt			0.33	Topsoil
1001	Layer	Loose, light greyish brown, silt			0.06	Natural geology
1002	Layer	Loose, mid greyish brown, silt, modern inclusions			0.28	Made ground

Trench 11

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
1100	Layer	Loose, dark greyish black, silt			0.30	Topsoil
1101	Layer	Light pinkish brown, sandy silt			0.55	Subsoil
1102	Layer	Light blue grey silty clay, waterlogged			>0.15	Natural geology
1103	Cut	NE-SW, linear, moderately steep concave sides, concave base		0.94	0.53	Gully
1104	Fill	Loose, mid greyish brown, silty sand			0.53	Natural silting of gully
1105	Cut	NE-SW, linear, moderately steep concave sides, concave base		1.03	0.60	Gully
1106	Fill	Loose, mid greyish brown, silty sand			0.60	Natural silting of gully

Trench 12

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
1200	Layer	Loose, dark grey, silt			0.30	Topsoil
1201	Layer	Tarmac and hardcore			0.20	Made ground
1202	Layer	Loose, mottled yellow and orange brown, silt			0.40	Natural geology
1203	Layer	Blue grey silty clay			0.30	Natural geology
1204	Layer	Mottled grey and light red brown, sand			>0.80	Natural geology

Trench 13

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
1300	Layer	Loose, black, silt, modern inclusions			0.25	Topsoil
1301	Layer	Loose, mid greyish brown, silt, modern Inclusions			0.55	Made ground
1302	Layer	Loose, light greyish brown, silt			>0.20	Natural geology

Trench 14

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
1400	Layer	Loose, black, silt, modern inclusions			0.44	Topsoil
1401	Layer	Loose, mid greyish brown, silt, modern Inclusions			0.33	Made ground

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
1402	Layer	Loose, mid greyish brown, silt			>0.03	Natural geology
1403	Cut	E-W, linear, shallow concave sides, concave base		2.81	0.22	Ditch
1404	Fill	Loose, mid orange grey brown, silty sand			0.22	Natural silting of ditch

Trench 15

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
1500	Layer	Loose, black, silt, modern inclusions			0.38	Topsoil
1501	Layer	Loose, mid greyish brown, silt			>0.17	Natural geology

Trench 16

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
1600	Layer	Loose, black, silt, modern inclusions			0.24	Topsoil
1601	Layer	Loose, black, silt, modern Inclusions			0.37	Made ground
1602	Layer	Loose, yellow brown, silt			>0.04	Natural geology

Trench 17

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
1700	Layer	Loose, grey black, silt			0.34	Topsoil
1701	Layer	Loose, light orange brown, silt			0.18	Natural geology
1702	Layer	Friable, dark, grey blue, silty clay, waterlogged			0.18	Natural geology
1703	Layer	Loose, light yellow brown, sand			>0.01	Natural geology

Trench 18

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
1800	Layer	Loose, black, silt			0.30	Topsoil
1801	Layer	Friable, mid grey brown, silty clay			>0.37	Natural geology
1802	Layer	Loose, black, silt, modern Inclusions			0.11	Made ground

Trench 19

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
1900	Layer	Loose, black, silt			0.31	Topsoil
1901	Layer	Loose, grey brown, silt, modern Inclusions			0.27	Made ground
1902	Layer	Loose, light greyish brown, silt			>0.14	Natural geology

Trench 20

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
2000	Layer	Loose, black, silt			0.22	Topsoil
2001	Layer	Loose, mid grey brown, silt			0.24	Subsoil
2002	Layer	Loose, light greyish brown, silt			>0.13	Natural geology

Trench 21

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
2100	Layer	Loose, black, silt			0.24	Topsoil
2101	Layer	Loose, black, silt, modern Inclusions			0.21	Made ground
2102	Layer	Loose, light greyish brown, silt			>0.11	Natural geology

Trench 22

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
2200	Layer	Loose, black, silt			0.21	Topsoil
2201	Layer	Loose, dark grey brown, silt, modern Inclusions			0.30	Made ground
2202	Layer	Loose, light greyish brown, silt			>0.05	Natural geology

Trench 23

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
2300	Layer	Loose, black, silt			0.29	Topsoil
2301	Layer	Loose, mid grey brown, silt, modern Inclusions			0.33	Made ground
2302	Layer	Loose, light greyish brown, silt			0.06	Natural geology
2303	Layer	Loose, light yellow brown, sand			>0.72	Natural geology

Trench 24

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
2400	Layer	Loose, black, silt			0.32	Topsoil
2401	Layer	Loose, dark grey brown, silt, modern Inclusions			0.26	Made ground
2402	Layer	Loose, light greyish brown, silt			0.20	Natural geology
2403	Layer	Loose, light greyish brown, silt			>0.04	Natural geology

Trench 25

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
2500	Layer	Loose, black, silt			0.36	Topsoil

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
2501	Layer	Loose, dark grey brown, silt, modern Inclusions			0.41	Made ground
2502	Layer	Loose, light greyish brown, silt			>0.16	Natural geology

Trench 26

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
2600	Layer	Loose, black, silt, asbestos inclusions			0.30	Topsoil

Trench 27

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
2700	Layer	Loose, black, silt, asbestos inclusions			0.30	Topsoil
2701	Layer	Loose, mid orange brown, silt			>0.15	Made ground

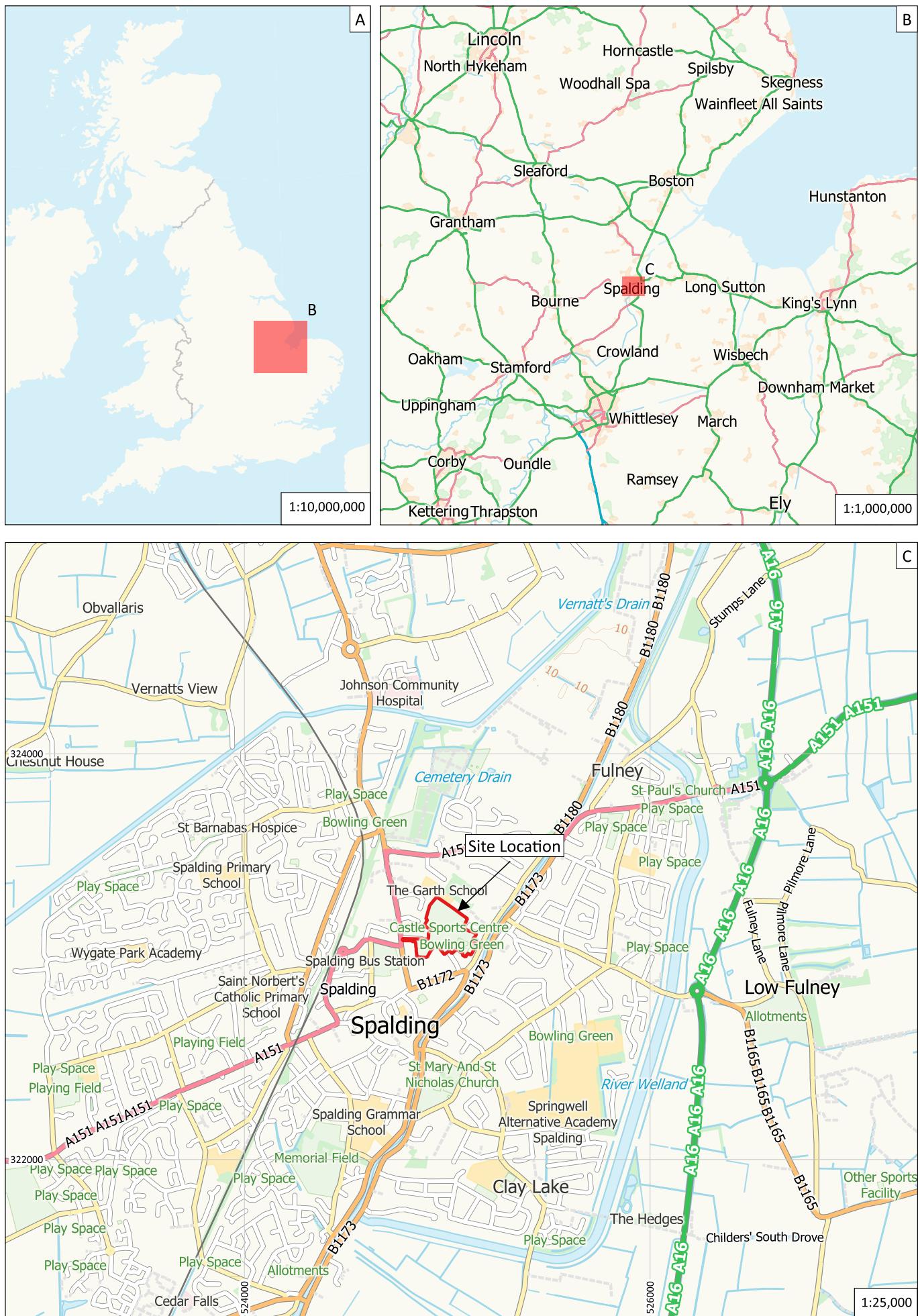


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red

Castle Sports Complex,
Albion Street, Spalding
Site Code: SPAS 24





Figure 2: Trench location plan overlaid on geophysical greyscale

Castle Sports Complex,
Albion Street
Site Code: SPAS 24

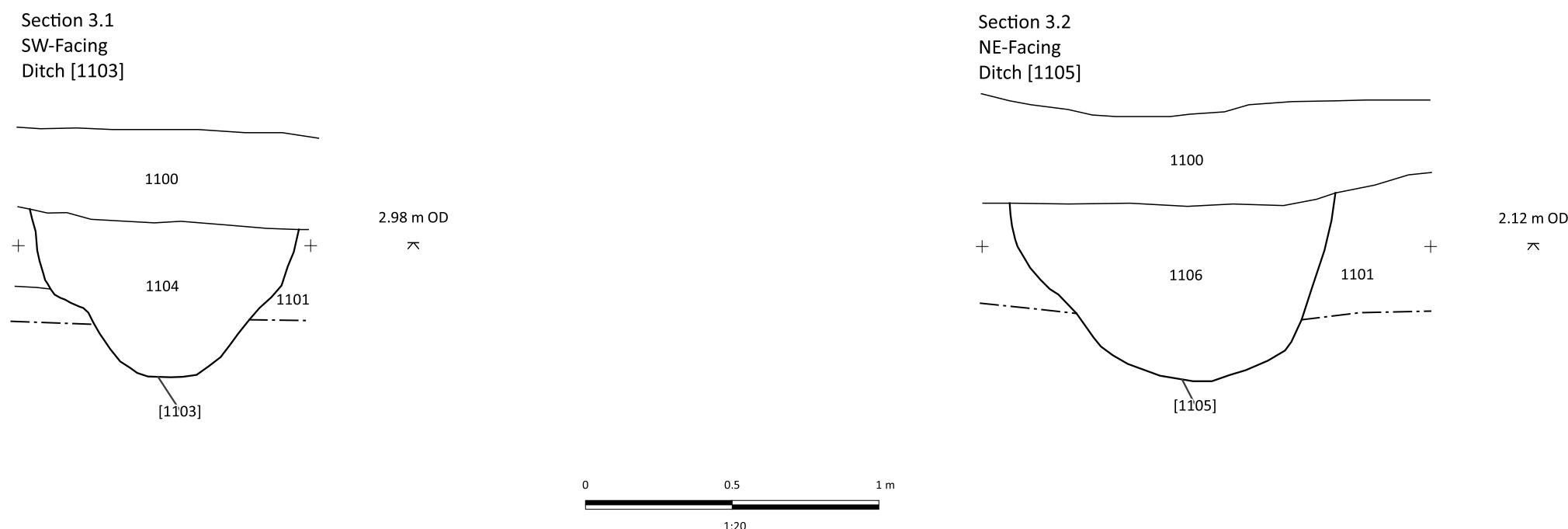
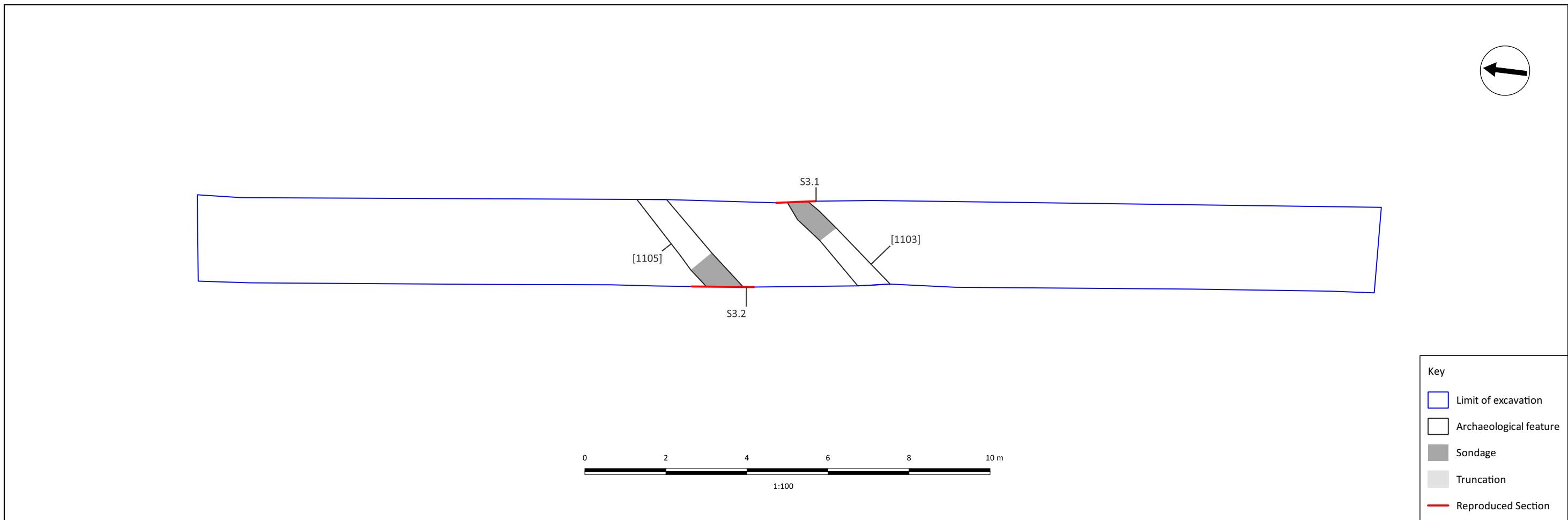


Figure 3: Plan and sections of Trench 11

Castle Sports Complex,
Albion Street
Site Code: SPAS 24

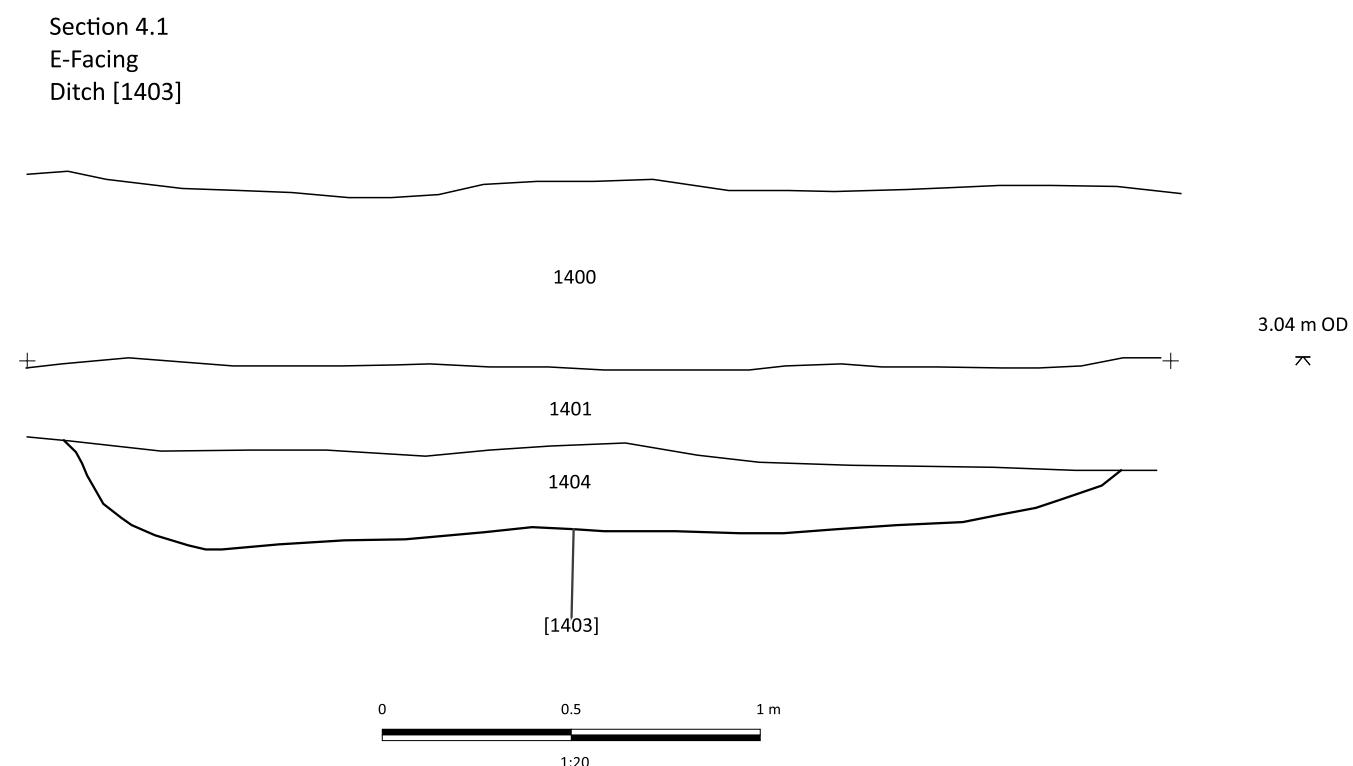
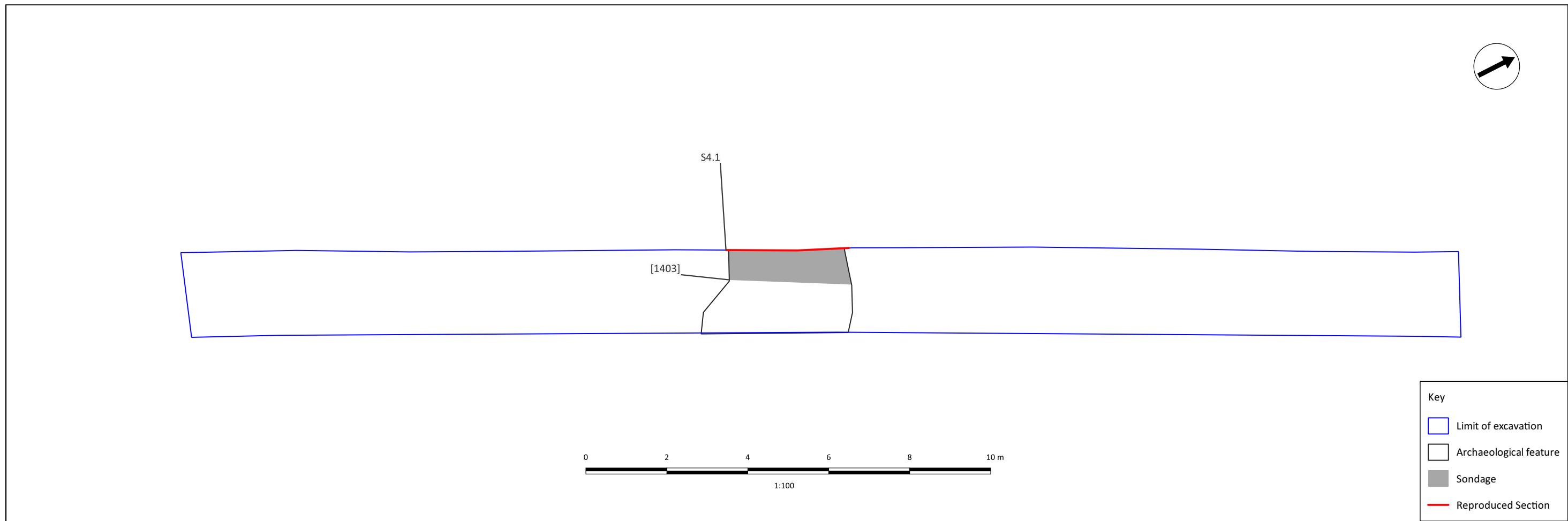


Figure 4: Plan and section of Trench 14

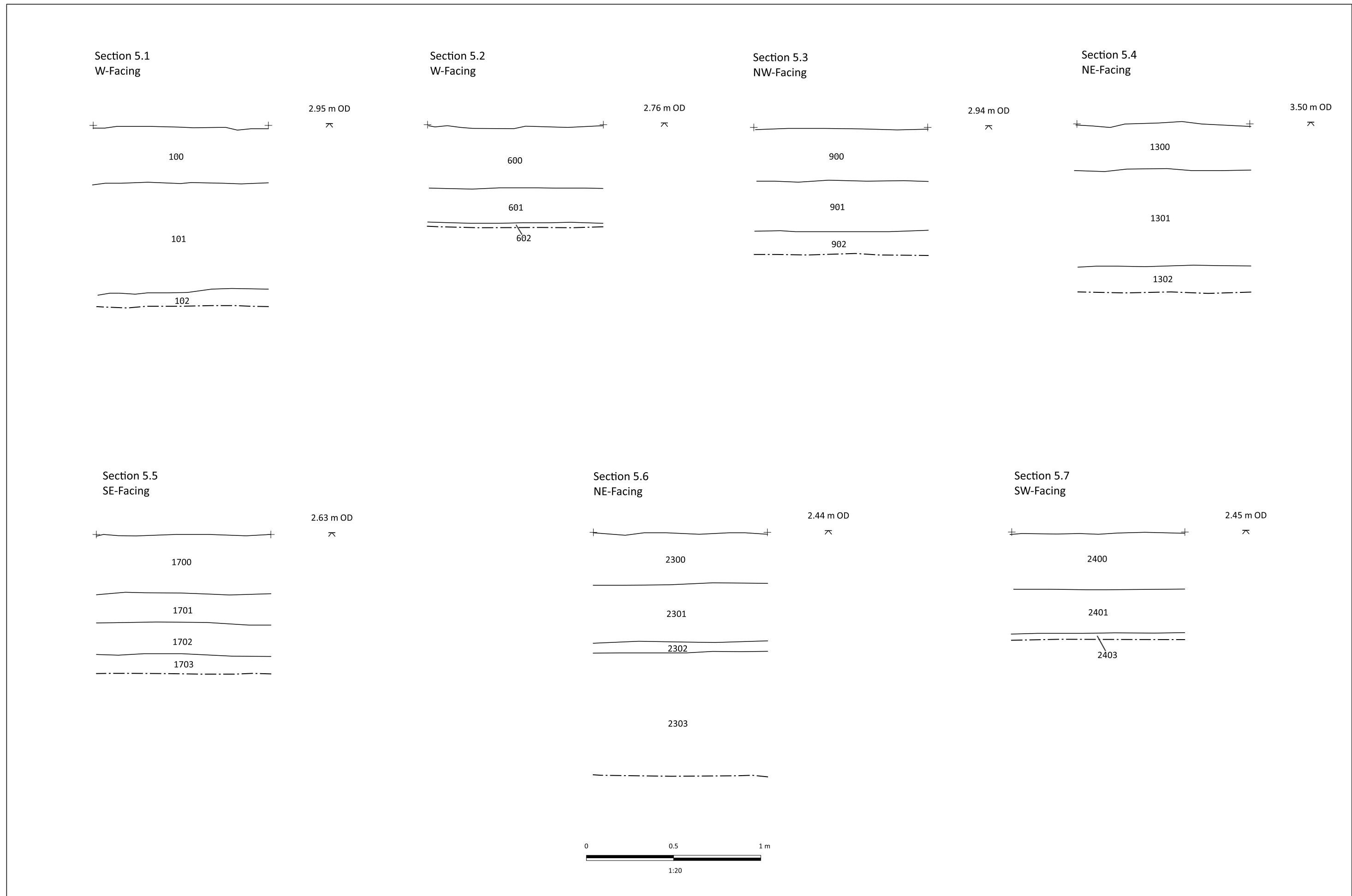


Figure 5: Sections from sondages in Trenches 1, 6, 9, 13, 17, 23 and 24

OASIS Summary for allenarc1-529208

OASIS ID (UID)	allenarc1-529208
Project Name	Evaluation at Former Castle Sports Complex, Albion Street, Spalding, Lincolnshire
Sitename	Former Castle Sports Complex, Albion Street, Spalding, Lincolnshire
Sitecode	SPAS 24
Project Identifier(s)	SPAS 24
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	n/a
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	Allen Archaeology Limited
Project Dates	30-Sep-2024 - 10-Oct-2024
Location	Former Castle Sports Complex, Albion Street, Spalding, Lincolnshire NGR : TF 24990 23120 LL : 52.791182093398504, -0.147885013030586 12 Fig : 524990,323120
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Lincolnshire Local Authority District : South Holland Parish : South Holland, unparished area
Project Methodology	The trial trenching methodology entailed the excavation of 27no trenches, 25no. 25 x 1.8m long trenches and 2no. 15 x 1.8m long trenches, located across a former BMX track (Area 1), in the middle of an athletics track (Area 2), within sports pitches (Area 3) and an open area (Area 4). The geophysical survey (AAL 2024) informed the positioning of trenches, but the presence of services meant that Trenches 13, 19 and 24 had to be moved. Asbestos in Trenches 26 and 27 resulted in these trenches not being investigated in full. At the request of the Historic Environment Officer sondages were placed at the ends of Trenches 1, 6, 9, 13 ,17, 23 and 24 and excavated up to c.2m below ground level to determine if deeper archaeological horizons were present but masked by silts.
Project Results	2 trenches contained archaeology; Trench 11 in Area 2 had 2 ditches one of which was dated to the medieval period, and Trench 14, also in Area 2, that contained a late medieval ditch. The evaluation findings would suggest that the site had undergone little development, possibly due to the susceptibility of the area to flooding.
Keywords	Ditch - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Rubbish Pit - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Private or public corporation Willmott Dixon
HER	Lincolnshire HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Chris Clay
HER Identifiers	
Archives	



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