ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON LAND AT BARRIER BANK, SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE (SPBB 13)

Work Undertaken For
Moran RAC on behalf of
Ashley King Developments Limited

October 2013

Report Compiled by
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological trenching evaluation was undertaken on land at Barrier Bank, Spalding, Lincolnshire as the area was archaeologically sensitive.

Cropmarks plotted from aerial photographs in areas adjacent to the site are likely to date from later prehistory through to the post-medieval period (AD 1540-1900). Archaeological remains of Roman (AD 43-410) and medieval (AD 1066-1540) date are known from the wider area.

No evidence of prehistoric, Roman or medieval activity was revealed. Rather, evidence of post-medieval agriculture, in the form of dylings, was identified. These flat-bottomed ditches had been finally infilled during the 19th century as evidenced by early maps of the period.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of an Evaluation

An archaeological evaluation is defined as *a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, quality and preservation, and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate* (IfA 2008).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Moran RAC on behalf of Ashley King Developments Limited to undertake an archaeological trenching evaluation on land at Barrier Bank, Spalding, Lincolnshire in support of a proposed planning application for commercial development. This followed an earlier desk-based assessment (Cope-Faulkner 2013). The work was carried out between the 13th and 19th September 2013.

2.3 Topography and Geology

The proposed development site is located 2.8km southeast of the centre of Spalding (Fig 1), as defined by the Market Place, at National Grid Reference TF 2440 1979. The site lies astride the B1173 and adjacent to the A16 at Barrier Bank (Fig. 2).

Local soils are of the Wisbech Series, typically coarse silty calcareous alluvial gley soil (Robson 1990). These soils are developed on a drift geology of younger overlying older marine alluvium which, in turn, seals a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (BGS 1992).

The site lies on generally level ground at a height of c.3m OD with stepped areas along its western edge adjacent to Barrier Bank. The proposed development area encompasses some 24.28 hectares, divided into 4 hectare and 20 hectare plots.

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Cropmarks identified to the south of the site were examined by trial trenching and watching briefs in 1993. This did not produce any artefacts with which to date the complex. However, pollen analysis suggested a prehistoric, probably Iron Age, date for the enclosures (Field and Tann 1993).

Two Romano-British sites are recorded on the Heritage Environment Record (HER). To the east of the site, an ash-filled pit

with Romano-British pottery was recorded during dyke cleaning. A series of cropmarks to the north of the site were also assigned to this period. Though no dating evidence is known, the form of the cropmarks suggest a Romano-British date (Cope-Faulkner 2013).

Spalding is first mentioned in the 7th century. The name is derived from the Old English group name *Spaldingas*, meaning the 'people of the *Spalde*'. *Spalde* is the name of a tribe recorded in the 7th century tribute list known as the Tribal Hideage (Cameron 1998, 114).

The Domesday Survey of *c*. 1086 records that Spalding was held principally by Ivo Taillebois with land also held by Crowland Abbey and Guy of Craon (Foster and Longley 1976). The survey also records the existence of a market, six fisheries, salt-pans and a wood of alders.

During the early medieval period, the site lay within the fen. To the north of the site, Burr Lane follows the course of the Old Fendyke which marks the southern limit of fen reclamation from Spalding, and preserved in the nearby hamlet of Fen End. This is first referenced in 1214-29 and is possibly a 12th century construction (Hallam 1965, 19). The site had probably been reclaimed from the fen by the end of the 12th century, when the New Fendyke was constructed from Cowbit to the east (*ibid*. 24).

Investigations undertaken along the route of the new A16 identified a medieval ditch, adjacent to which was a medieval salt-making site. The latter was unusual for its date (Peachey *et al.* 2011). Two medieval sites recorded in the HER lie to the north of the site. They include the findspot of a lead seal matrix and a series of dylings, represented by earthwork remnants. However, dylings continued in use into the post-medieval period (Cope-Faulkner 2013).

Barrier Bank was created soon after 1665 when the Adventurers of Deeping Fen obtained an act to embank and preserve the River Welland (Wheeler 1896, 107). In subsequent acts in the time of George III, the South Holland Commissioners were required to raise the bank to 'such height as they should deem sufficient to protect the lands of South Holland from inundation' (*ibid*. 108).

The road along the top of the Barrier Bank was also invested in the Adventurers who were allowed to levy tolls from 1722, effectively creating Lincolnshire's first turnpike road. A toll bar was located in Cowbit, to be no nearer to Spalding than Handkerchief Hall, from which the money raised went for maintenance of the drainage of that area (Wright 1982, 42).

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 might be present within the site, to determine its likely extent, the date and function of the archaeological features present on the site, their state of preservation, spatial arrangement and the extent to which surrounding archaeological features extended into the application area, and to establish the way in which any archaeological features identified fitted into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

4. METHODS

Twelve trenches, each measuring 50m long by 1.6m wide, were excavated by mechanical excavator (Fig. 3).

Removal of topsoil and other overburden was undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket. 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 were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at 1:20. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

The location of the trenches was surveyed using a Thales Global Positioning System (GPS).

Following excavation, the records were also checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced.

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.

AREA 1 (Fig. 3)

This is an arbitrary division of the site, defined by the line of the B1173, a newly built road spurring off the realigned A1073 which now forms a continuation of the A16.

Trenches in Area 1 were randomly distributed, apart from numbers 8, 9 and 10 towards the northeast corner of the area. These three trenches were positioned to determine if deposits associated with the enclosure identified as a cropmark on aerial photographs of adjacent field to the north extended into the area of proposed development.

Trench 1
This east-west aligned trench was the southernmost within Area 1. Natural deposits comprised a mottled yellow/ orange sandy silt (100) overlain by a 0.3m thick mid brown silty clay (101) topsoil. No archaeological remains were recorded.

Trench 2 (Plate 3)
This southeast-northwest aligned trench was located 80m north of Trench 2. Towards the northwest end of the trench a single west northwest to east southeast linear ditch [207] was identified. The full width of the feature was not revealed, but if projected the ditch would have measured 2.8m wide. In section, the ditch was at least 1.1m deep though the full depth was not determined (Fig 4 Section, 2b). Clayey silts formed the primary (206) and secondary fills (205) of the feature, followed by deposits with a high peat content (204). The tertiary fill comprised a 0.5m thick, firm mid yellowish brown silt (203).

This ditch matches a position of a dyling visible on recent aerial photographs.

Trench 3
Trench 3 was located approximately 110m north of Trench 2, almost at the centre of Area 1, and oriented south southwest to north northeast. Two linear features, both of which matched the position of two dylings identified on aerial photographs, were recorded in this trench. The linear features were identified in the southern

part of the trench, both three metres wide, parallel, east southeast to west northwest aligned and just under four metres apart.

Natural deposits were represented by a yellow sandy silt with orange mottles (300) and the topsoil by a 0.4m thick, mid greyish brown clayey silt (301).

Trench 4 (Plate 4)
Located 95 metres to the east of Trench 3 and oriented south southeast to north northwest, this trench was archaeologically negative apart from a single linear feature recorded towards the northern end. This was east-west aligned with a projected width of 4.4m. Natural deposits comprised firm, mid yellow sandy silt which was overlain by a 0.4m thick friable mid greyish brown sandy silt topsoil.

Trench 5
Two parallel linear features were recorded towards the west end of this east-west aligned trench located towards the eastern boundary of Area 1. The two features were 6m apart and measured 3.2m (western ditch) and 4.7m wide (eastern ditch).

Trench 6 (Plate 6)
Natural deposits in this east-west aligned trench located at the northeast corner of Area 1 comprised firm, mid yellowish brown clayey silt.

Natural was cut by four parallel linear features, aligned east southeast-west northwest, spaced at 13m intervals. Two of these were located at the either end of the trench and their width was not established. However, the two fully exposed within the trench measured 3 metres and 2.5 metres wide respectively.

A section excavated across feature [608] exposed a steep sided, flat based and 0.75m deep ditch cut (Fig. 4, Section 6). Primary (607) and secondary fills (606) of the ditch comprised clayey silts which were followed by a 0.2m thick, friable dark brown peaty silt (605). The uppermost fills comprised a 0.2m thick, firm mid yellowish brown slightly clayey silt (604) and a 0.38m thick, firm yellowish brown slightly clayey silt (603), which extended beyond the limits of the feature.

Topsoil was represented by a friable mid greyish brown clayey silt containing occasional fragments of ceramic building material.

Trench 7
Mid yellowish brown silt (700), up to 0.36m thick, formed the natural deposit in this north northeast-south southwest aligned trench. Two parallel linear features were identified, one at the northern limit of excavation and one 12m from the southern end of the trench. Both were south southeast to north northwest aligned, with the southernmost having a projected width of three metres and the northernmost extending beyond the limits of the trench.

Topsoil was represented by friable greyish brown clayey silt (701).

Trench 8
Natural deposits comprised firm, mid yellowish brown silt (800) and the topsoil was represented by a 0.3m thick, friable greyish brown clayey silt (801). No archaeological deposits were present in the trench.

Trench 9
Located 75m southwest of Trench 8, this east-west aligned trench contained a single 4m wide linear ditch, aligned east southeast to west northwest, and which formed part of the dyling system.

Natural deposits were represented by a

firm, mid yellowish brown silt (900) and the topsoil by a friable greyish brown silt (901).

Trench 10
This trench was located at the northwest extent of Area 1 and was aligned north northwest-south southeast. Natural deposits were represented by firm mottled yellow/orange silt (1000) which was truncated by three east southeast to west northwest aligned linear features, two located at the north end of the trench and one 18.5m to the south. The two at the north end of the trench were closely spaced, just 1.7m apart and both 2.2m wide. The larger linear measured 5.5m wide.

Topsoil comprised a 0.38m thick friable greyish brown silty clay.

AREA 2 (Fig. 3)

Trenches in Area 2 were positioned to investigate deposits which may be associated with medieval or post-medieval occupation which was identified as possibly surviving in the area by the Desk Based Assessment carried out in advance of the trial trenching.

Trench 11
Trench 11 was located in the southern corner of Area 2 and was aligned south southeast to north northwest. A firm orange brown silt formed the natural in the trench, overlain by up to 0.3m of dark grey brown mixed sandy silt with lenses of mid orangey yellow sand which is thought to represent made ground.

No other archaeological deposits were identified.

Trench 12
Trench 12, to the north, was aligned south southeast-north northwest. Natural deposits comprised a firm orange brown silt. The natural had been cut by a south southwest to north northeast aligned, 3 metre wide feature, representing an extension of the dyling system recorded in Area 1, although on a different alignment.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits across the site comprised silts or clayey silts and represent deposition within a salt marsh intertidal zone dissected by sinuous creek systems. The creeks associated with these environments generate side levees of silt and the sinuous ridges surviving in the modern landscape are known as roddons. It is common to find archaeological remains on the crests of roddons as early communities had identified these elevated areas as suitable for occupation.

However, no archaeological remains earlier than the post-medieval period were identified during the investigation. These features, generally rows of parallel ditches, are suggestive of dyling ditches, parallel cuts between 10m and 25m apart. Dylings are first recorded in the 14th century and appear to be used for pasturing sheep, by creating higher land in between the ditches (Hallam 1965, 152). Early maps of Spalding indicate that many dylings were being infilled throughout the 19th century to make larger fields.

7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological trenching evaluation was undertaken on land at Barrier Bank, Spalding, as the site lay close to areas of known cropmarks and where remains of Roman and medieval date have previously been discovered.

However, no prehistoric or Roman remains were encountered during the evaluation. Instead evidence for post-medieval agricultural activity was revealed in the form of dylings, parallel arrangements of ditches used to enclose small fields. No other remains were encountered an no artefacts were retrieved during the work.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Moran RAC on behalf of Ashley King Developments Limited for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Dale Trimble who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Elizabeth Bates kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

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Site Team: Steve Thomson, Bob Garlant
Surveying: Neil Jefferson
Photographic reproduction: Neil Jefferson
CAD Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Mark Peachey, Neil Jefferson
Post-excavation Analyst: Mark Peachey

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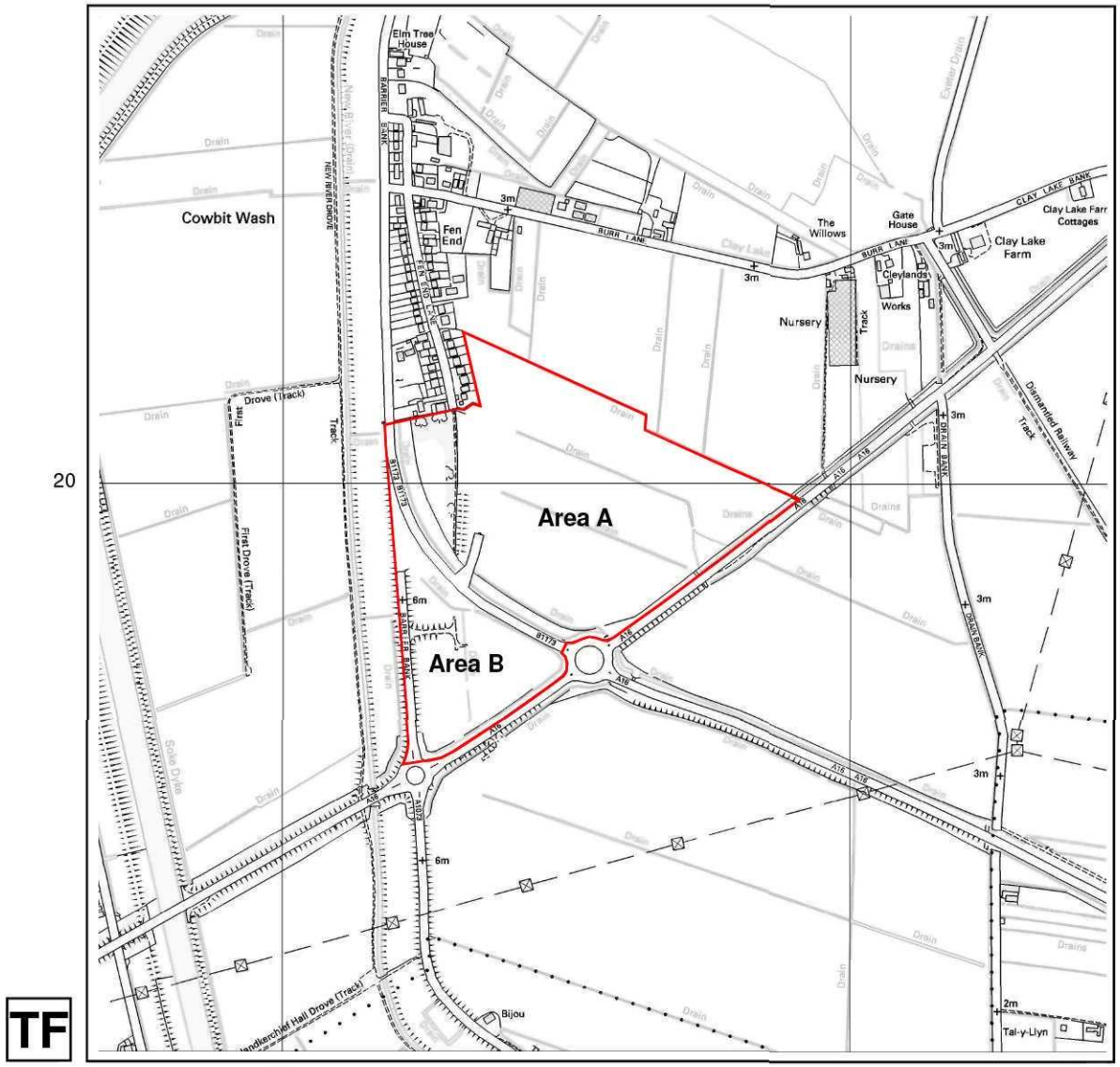
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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS	Archaeological Project Services
BGS	British Geological Survey
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
OD	Ordnance Datum



Figure 1 - General Location Plan



The proposed development site

Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Spalding Barrier Bank SPBB 13		
Scale 1:12500	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 114/13

Figure 2. Site Location Plan

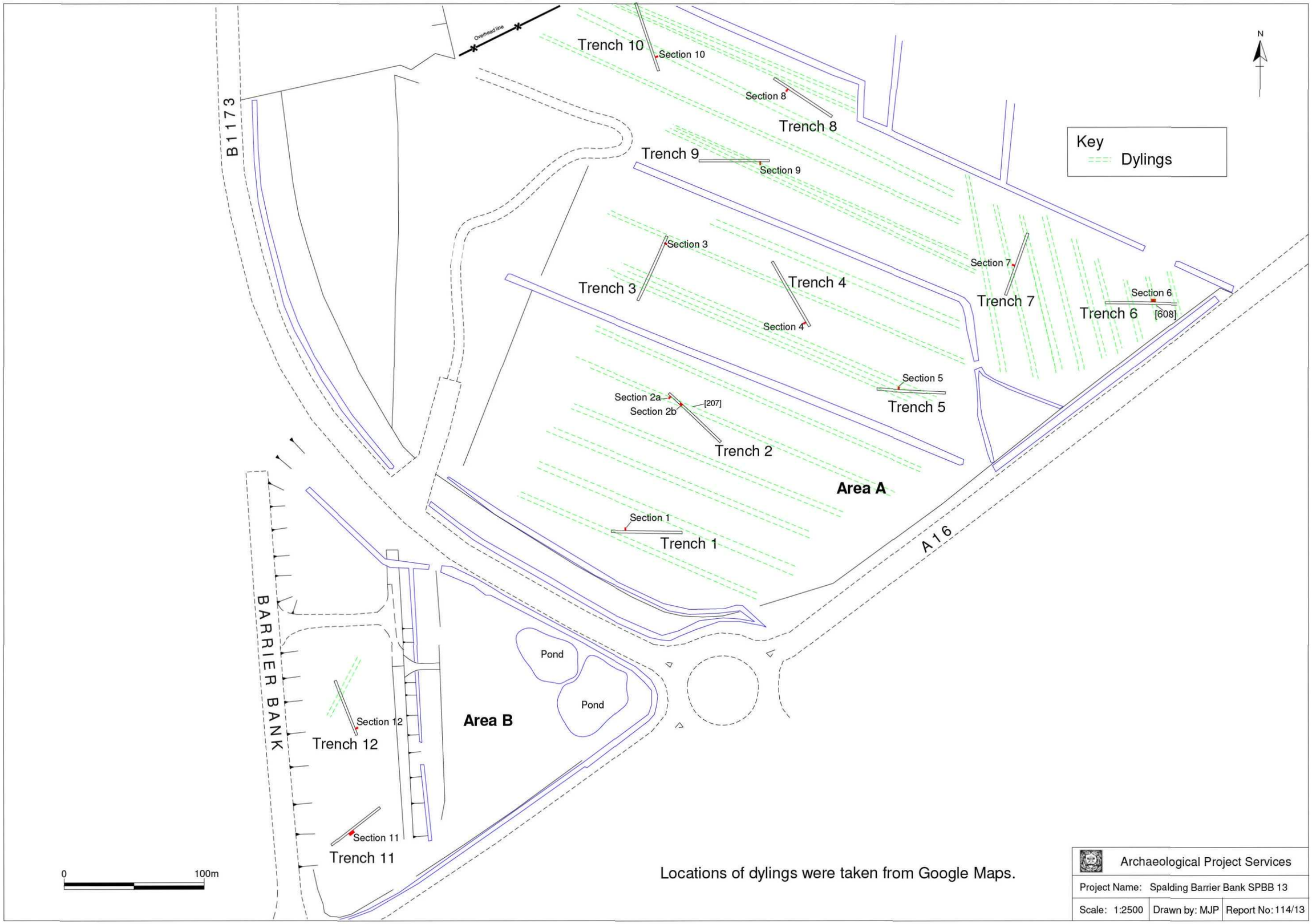


Figure 3. Trench Location Plan

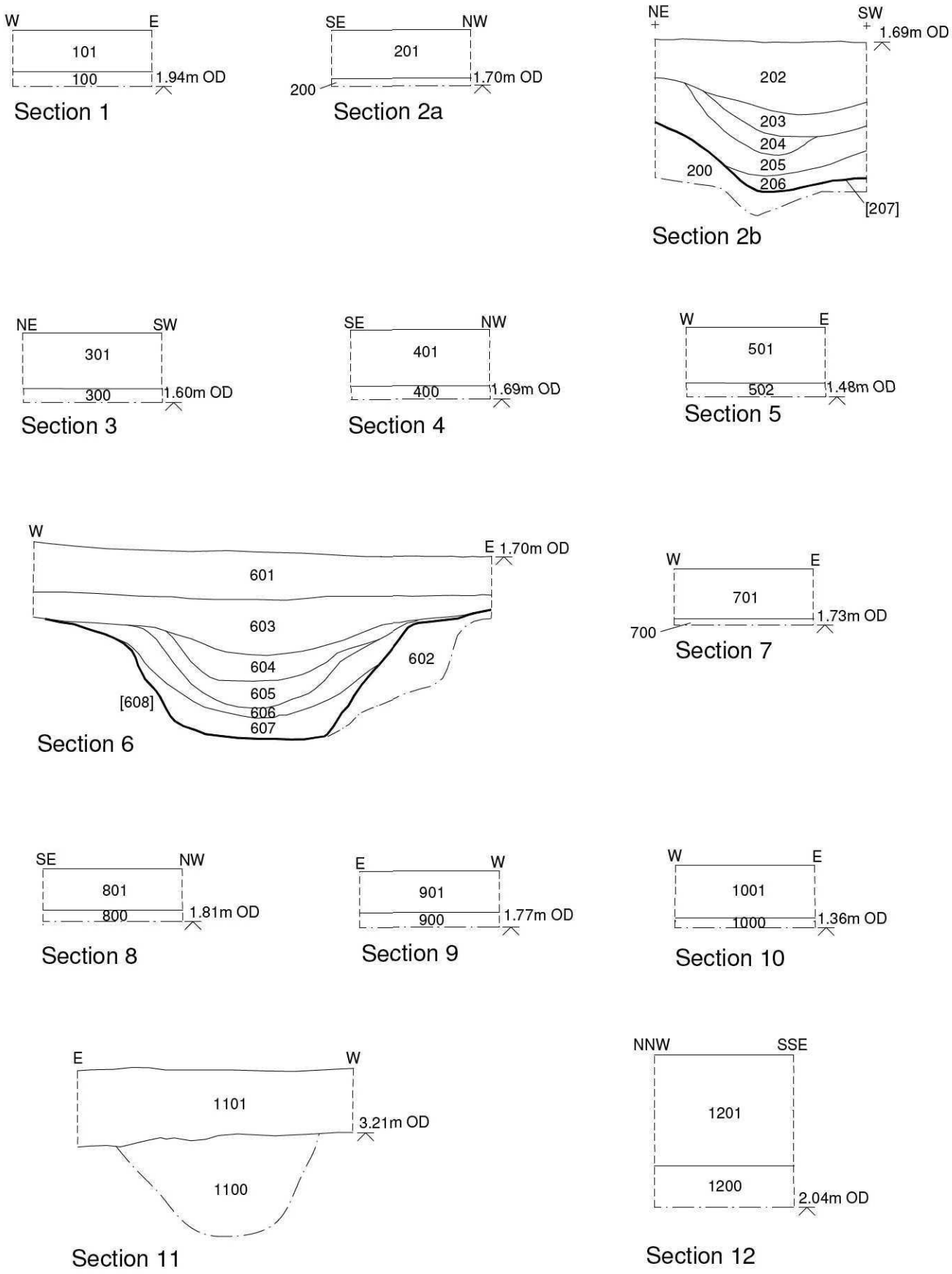


Figure 4. Sections



Plate 1: General shot, northern area



Plate 2: General shot, southern area



Plate 3: Trench 2 general shot



Plate 4: Trench 4 general shot



Plate 5: Trench 8 general shot



Plate 6: Trench 6, section 6

Appendix 1

CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation	Date
100	1	Mottled yellow/orange sandy silt	Natural	
101	1	Mid greyish brown silty clay, 0.3m thick	Topsoil	
200	2	Mid yellowish orange with patches of mid brown sandy silt	Natural	
201	2	Mid brownish grey clayey silt, 0.35m thick	Topsoil	
202	2	Firm mid yellowish brown silt, 0.5m thick	Upper fill of [207]	Modern
203	2	Soft mottled greyish brown, with orange lenses, clayey silt, 0.17m thick	Fill of [207]	
204	2	Soft darkish brown peaty silt with occasional snail shell frags, 0.14m thick	Fill of [207]	
205	2	Soft mid greyish brown clayey silt, 0.4m thick	Fill of [207]	
206	2	Soft mottled grey and orange clayey silt, 0.13m thick	Primary fill of [207]	
207	2	NE-SW aligned ditch 1.53m wide and at least 1.1m deep	Cut of ditch-dyling	
300	3	Mid yellow with orange mottles, sandy silt	Natural	
301	3	Mid greyish brown clayey silt, 0.4m thick	Topsoil	
400	4	Firm mid yellow with orange mottles, sandy silt	Natural	
401	4	Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt, 0.4m thick	Topsoil	
501	5	Friable greyish brown clayey silt with occasional CBM fragments, 0.4m thick	Topsoil	
502	5	Friable yellowish brown silt	Natural	
601	6	Friable mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional CBM	Topsoil	
602	6	Firm mid yellowish brown clayey silt	Natural	
603	6	Firm yellowish brown slightly clayey silt, 0.38m thick, possible redeposited natural	Layer	
604	6	Firm mid yellowish brown slightly clayey silt, 0.2m thick	Upper fill of [608]	
605	6	Friable dark brown peaty silt, 0.2m thick	Fill of [608]	
606	6	Soft grey and buff clayey silt, 0.09m thick	Fill of [008]	

607	6	Soft yellowish brown clayey silt, 0.16m thick	Primary fill of [608]	
608	6	N-S aligned linear cut with steep sides and flat base, 3.1m wide, 0.75m deep	Cut of ditch-dyling	
700	7	Mid yellowish brown silt, 0.36m thick	Natural	
701	7	Friable greyish brown clayey silt	Topsoil	
800	8	Firm mid yellowish brown silt	Natural	
801	8	Friable greyish brown clayey silt, 0.3m thick	Topsoil	
900	9	Firm mid yellowish brown silt	Natural	
901	9	Friable greyish brown clayey silt	Topsoil	
1000	10	Firm mottled yellow/orange silt	Natural	
1001	10	Friable greyish brown silty clay, 0.38m thick	Topsoil	
1100	11	Firm orangey brown silt	Natural	
1101	11	Dark grey brown mixed sandy silt with lenses of mid orangey yellow sand, 0.3m thick	Made ground	
1200	12	Firm orangey brown silt	Natural	
1201	12	Firm dark brown clayey silt with occasional CBM and charcoal flecks	Made ground	

Appendix 2

GLOSSARY

Alluvium	A deposit (usually clay, silts or sands) laid down in water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea and freshwater alluvium by streams, rivers or within 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 interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, *e.g.*(004).
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, *etc*. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Dylings	Medieval strips (selions) that are generally broader than ridge and furrow and separated by wide flat bottomed ditches, typical in areas prone to flooding where the upcast from the ditch raises the ground level of the ridge.
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) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Layer	A layer is a term to describe 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.
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.
Roman	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.
Selion	The basic unit of cultivation and tenancy within the open field system. They measured approximately 7m wide and 200m long.

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

5	Daily record sheets
14	Context records
2	Sheet of scale drawings
2	Photographic record sheet
1	Section record sheet
12	Trench and context record sheets

All primary records 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:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum
The Collection
Danes Terrace
Lincoln
LN2 1LP

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Museum Accession Number:	LCNCC: 2013.154
Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	SPBB13
OASIS Record No:	archaeol1-160878

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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