



Relocation of NFU Mutual Offices, Camel Gate, Spalding, Lincolnshire

NGR: TF 2620 2419

Written Scheme of Investigation Archaeological, Supervision, Investigation, Recording

Client: Triton Property Fund

Local Planning Authority: South Holland District Council

Planning Reference: H16-0290-19

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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of reporting and appropriateness of recommendations. This report is based on information available at the time of writing, from the sources cited. It does not preclude the potential for future discoveries to be made, or for other unidentified sources of information to exist that alter the potential for archaeological impact. Any opinions expressed within this document reflect the honest opinion of Prospect Archaeology. However, the final decision on the need for further work rests with the relevant planning authority.

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Triton Property Fund has appointed Prospect Archaeology Ltd to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological observation and recording during the construction of new offices to the west of Camel Gate, Spalding. Lincs.

1.2 Site Location and Description

- 1.2.1 The site is a roughly triangular piece of ground of approximately 0.3 ha currently bounded by Roman Bank to the west and Camelgate to the east. To the south is further hardstanding and carparking.

1.3 Geology and Topography

- 1.3.1 The site is located at approximately 4m aOD and is bounded to the east by Camel Gate. A short distance west of this road is the Coronation Channel, which was opened in 1953 to divert the river Welland, which was prone to flooding the town, around the outskirts of Spalding (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spalding,Lincolnshire>). The Site is located on Oxford Clay Formation – Mudstone overlain by tidal flat deposits of clay and silt(<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

2.0 Planning Background

- 2.1.1 Planning permission was granted by South Holland District Council for the relocation of the existing National Farmers Union Mutual Offices (Class B1a) on the east side of Camel Gate to a site on the west side of the same road but farther north. The site is currently occupied by office buildings and car parking. Permission was granted subject to a number of conditions including Conditions 3-5 relating to archaeological recording at the site:

3. No development shall take place until a written scheme of archaeological investigation has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. This scheme should include the following and should be in accordance with the archaeological brief supplied by the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment advisor on behalf of the Local Planning Authority:

1. An assessment of significance and proposed mitigation strategy (i.e. preservation by record, preservation in situ or a mix of these elements).

2.A methodology and timetable of site investigation and recording

3. Provision for site analysis

4. Provision for publication and dissemination of analysis and records

5. Provision for archive deposition

6. Nomination of a competent person/organisation to undertake the work

7. The scheme to be in accordance with the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook. The archaeological site work shall only be undertaken in accordance with the approved written scheme.

Reason: To ensure the preparation and implementation of an appropriate scheme of archaeological mitigation in accordance with national guidance contained in Section 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework, 2019. This issue is integral to the development and therefore full details need to be finalised prior to the commencement of works. This Condition is imposed in accordance with Policy 29 of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan, 2019.

4. The applicant shall notify the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Department in writing of the intention to commence at least fourteen days before the start of archaeological work required in connection with Condition 3 above in order to facilitate adequate monitoring arrangements.

Reason: To ensure satisfactory archaeological investigation and retrieval of archaeological finds in accordance with national guidance contained in Section 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework, 2019. This Condition is imposed in accordance with Policy 29 of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan, 2019.

5. A copy of the final report required in connection with Condition 3 above shall be submitted within three months of the work being carried out to the Local Planning Authority and the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record. The material and paper archive required as part of the written scheme of investigation shall be deposited with an appropriate archive in accordance with guidelines published in The Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook. Reason: To ensure satisfactory arrangements are made for the recording of possible archaeological remains in accordance with national guidance contained in Section 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework, 2019. This Condition is imposed in accordance with Policy 29 of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan, 20.

3.0 Archaeological Background

Prehistoric

- 3.1.1 There are no known sites from this period in the vicinity. Previous archaeological investigations carried out on the Springfield Gardens site have established that this area would have been part of a landscape of intertidal mudflats and saltmarsh until the Saxon

period when the sea retreated eastwards, and the land began to be reclaimed (LAS 2005 Appendix 5, 51) and no remains of this period are expected.

Romano-British

- 3.1.2 There are several Roman sites in the area including ditches (Monument 23781); and a grave (Monument 23972). The Spalding area is known for saltmaking in the Roman and later periods. To the south of Holbeach Road (south-east of the current Site) was a possible Roman salt works, which included 3rd to 4th century Roman pottery and fragments of burnt clay, thought to be briquetage (Monument 25745), as well as pottery (Monuments 22377 and 23065).
- 3.1.3 An archaeological evaluation (Event 1011) east of Springfield Gardens identified Roman features, including a watercourse or ditch containing one sherd of early 2nd century pottery and a probable pond which contained 1st-2nd century domestic waste (Monument 23651). However, the evidence from the LAS excavation of 2005 on parts of the current Site suggest that the potential for remains of this period is low.

Sub-Roman – Medieval

- 3.1.4 In the Saxon period this part of the Fens was occupied by a tribe named the *Spaldas*, who paid tribute to the Kingdom of Mercia (Gifford and Partners 1999, 8; Hall and Coles 1994, 131). The town name then comes from the Old English, meaning descendants of or members of the tribe of the *Spaldas* (Ekwall 1960, 432-3).
- 3.1.5 Spalding is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086, with two manors (estates) recorded, and further land held by Crowland Abbey. The larger manor, held by Ivo Tailbois in 1086, and is recorded as having six fisheries and two salthouses. The smaller manor, held by Guy of Craon had two salthouses. (<http://opendomesday.org/place/TF2422/spalding/>).
- 3.1.6 Previous work on the Springfield Gardens Site has indicated that a probable roddon aligned SE/NW, is located to the south-west of the site (LAS 2005, 4-5 and LAS 2005 Appendix 5, 50; Rackham 1986, 379). The environmental record suggests that for a short time in the early to middle Saxon period, the landscape east of the roddon (e.g. the proposed development site) was saltmarsh pasture (LAS 2005 Appendix 5, 51). However, the area regressed to intertidal mudflats of the Welland estuary. The sea began to retreat eastwards during the Saxon period and land reclamation started in the late Saxon period. The results from the LAS 2005 excavation indicate that the area to the south east of the site was used as a water meadow from the late Saxon period onwards, and there was possible occupation to the south and west of this (LAS 2005, 14-15 and LAS 2005 Appendix 5, 50).

3.1.7 There is evidence of Saxo-Norman and 12th century habitation in the vicinity of the current NFU Mutual building along the Holbeach Road in the form of trackways, ditches and domestic waste. date was uncovered in LAS Area 2, flanked by drainage ditches containing domestic waste, and some evidence for reclaimed land to the northeast of this. By the late 12th/13th century there were several pits containing domestic waste as well as evidence for crop processing. This suggests that this area was peripheral to the settlement, which may have expanded to the west by this time (LAS 2005, 16). The settlement appears to have gone out of use in this area in the 13th/14th century and there is some evidence for a shift in settlement to the west, a hundred or so metres south of the current site. However, this too fell out of use in the 14th century, after which the area appears to have been solely for agricultural use (LAS 2005, 17-18).

3.1.8 Salt production was one of the key reasons for Spalding's prosperity, and medieval salt works are recorded to the west (Monuments 23828 and 23829) and to the north (Monuments 23591 and 23592). The prosperity of the settlement also depended on the management of the Fenland through drainage to prevent flooding, and the management of the waterways to allow for their use for transportation. A change in sea-level in the 13th century prompted the construction of various banks and ditches to cope with tidal surges (Page 1906, 118-124; Gifford and Partners 1999, 9). One such feature, likely to date to this period though named Roman Bank, lies to the west of the Site (Fig 6).

3.1.9 Roman Bank is possibly the line of a medieval sea defence.

Post-medieval – Modern

3.1.10 Water management was a continual problem for Spalding with neglected drainage causing flooding and destruction of property and crops. The Dissolution of the Monasteries in the 16th century therefore exacerbated the problem as the religious houses had previously held responsibility for the drainage and management of the waterways. Trade dropped as a result of the watercourses being unnavigable; the Welland was reported as being less than half a foot deep in 1618 (Page 1906, 105-118; Gifford and Partners 1999, 10).

3.1.11 In 1626, Charles I commissioned a Dutch engineer Cornelius Vermuyden to undertake drainage and reclamation on the Lincolnshire Fens. This decade of work was continued in the following centuries, facilitating a large area of reclamation across the region (Gifford and Partners 1999, 11).

3.1.12 In the post-medieval period Fulney was a hamlet comprising the hall, a corn mill (Monument 25796) and a few houses. There had been a chapel on the south side of Holbeach Road in the medieval period (Monument 22382), but by the mid-nineteenth century there was only a congregational chapel, until the Church of St Paul was built in 1877-80 (Minnis 2008, 1).

- 3.1.13 The Coronation Channel was opened in 1953 to divert the river Welland around Spalding (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spalding,_Lincolnshire). The channel runs to the west of Camel Gate on an approximate north/south route.
- 3.1.14 Historic mapping shows that there was a small building in the northern corner of the site from at least the late 19th century and then further development in the later 20th century.
- 3.1.15 The site, therefore, has a negligible potential for remains of the prehistoric period and given the suggestion from previous work that the site is not on a roddon there is also a low potential for Roman and Saxon period remains. The presence of a possible sea bank gives a moderate potential for the remains of a medieval period and a moderate to high potential for post-medieval activity. Later development, including current buildings, will have degraded this potential.

4.0 Aims and Objectives

- 4.1.1 The purpose of the programme of observation and recording will be to record any archaeological deposits disturbed during groundworks at the above site and to provide results for accession to the Lincolnshire HER. The aims will be

- To identify all features and artefacts exposed
- To determine the form and function of archaeological features encountered
- To recover dating evidence from the archaeological features
- To establish the sequence of archaeological deposits encountered
- To retrieve environmental evidence relating to environment and economy of the site
- To interpret the archaeological remains encountered in the context of the known archaeology of the site and the surrounding area

5.0 Scope of Work

- 5.1.1 A programme of monitoring and recording will be carried out during groundworks operations after demolition of the existing buildings on the site. This will comprise the removal of tarmac and hardcore. Foundation trenches and service trenches will also be monitored but not any piling works. If it is clear that the ground is already disturbed the planning archaeologist will be consulted with a view to curtailing the work.

6.0 Fieldwork Methodology

- 6.1.1 All works will be conducted in accordance with the ClfA's Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (2014) and Code of Conduct (2014) and the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (2016).

- 6.1.2 A suitably qualified archaeologist will be in attendance during all groundwork associated with the development. Should any archaeological remains be present these will be appropriately investigated and recorded in order that their date and character may be determined.
- 6.1.3 Any archaeological features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Archaeological features will be excavated by hand in order to achieve the objectives listed in Section 4 above. Sections excavated through linear features will be at least 1.0m wide, pits and postholes will be half-sectioned.
- 6.1.4 Artefacts and ecofacts will be collected by hand and retained, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from site, in line with procedures outlined in First Aid for Finds (UKIC 1998). Unstratified animal bones and modern material will not be collected.

Recording Systems

- 6.1.5 A full written (single context) and photographic record will be made of the site, to include site plans at a scale of 1:50 or 1:20, as appropriate, and section drawings at 1:10. Area plans of the excavation area will be made, and further plans and sections will be made of individual features, or groups of features, as appropriate. The OD height will be included in all sections and spot heights will be included on plans.
- 6.1.6 A full photographic record of the project and of each feature will be maintained with colour digital shots. Photographs using black and white film (silver halide) will be taken for archive purposes in addition to the digital record. Photographs illustrating the relationships between groups of features and general progress will also be taken. All context, drawing and photographic registers will be cross-referenced.

Finds

- 6.1.7 All finds will be retained for examination by the specialists concerned. Bulk finds, such as most categories of pottery and animal bone will be recorded by context. Special artefacts will be precisely located with three-dimensional co-ordinates.

Environmental Remains

- 6.1.8 Animal bone will be hand collected from all excavated features. An appropriate level of environmental samples will be taken from deposits that can be securely dated and/or placed in the site's stratigraphic sequence. Sampling should focus on deposits that have the potential to assist with the research objectives. Samples should be no less than 40 litres (where possible). If samples are required from discrete features that are not proposed for 100% excavation they will be taken from the unexcavated 50%. Sampling of stake-holes or small features will require the excavation of 100% of the feature.

- 6.1.9 Samples may include bulk samples (30-40 litres), radiocarbon samples, pollen samples (5mls) and column or monolith samples. Pollen and monolith samples will only be collected where suitable conditions are encountered. Samples will be taken in accordance with the recommendations in the English Heritage *Environmental Guidelines (2011) Environmental Archaeology. A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*. 2nd edition (<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/environmental-archaeology-2nd/environmental-archaeology-2nd.pdf>). The Historic England Regional Scientific Advisor should be consulted and his/her comments on the proposed sampling strategy sought if appropriate.

Industrial Remains

- 6.1.10 Where there is evidence for industrial activity, large technological residues e.g. Slag will be collected by hand. All environmental samples will be screened for micro-slugs (hammer-scale and spherical droplets) or separately collected, if appropriate, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Archaeometallurgy in Archaeological Projects* published by English Heritage/Historical Metallurgy Society 2001.

Scientific Dating

- 6.1.11 Subject to suitability of material provision will be made for the recovery of samples suitable for scientific dating (e.g. radiocarbon/AMS dating, archaeomagnetic and dendrochronological dating).

Conservation

- 6.1.12 Provision will be made for basic conservation of finds requiring stabilisation (eg metal, glass, organic remains) including X-rays for archival purposes, in accordance with the UK Institute of Conservators' Guidelines. Artefacts will then be distributed to the appropriate specialist for identification and recording.
- 6.1.13 Any discard policy relating to finds will be in line with the recommendations of the specialists, which will normally apply to finds from unstratified contexts or those of 20th century and later date.

Human Remains

- 6.1.14 If human remains are encountered, a licence will be obtained from the Ministry of Justice as required under the 1857 and the 1981 Burials Acts, and the current requirements of the will be adhered to. Where a licence is issued, all human skeletal remains will be properly removed in accordance with the terms of that licence.
- 6.1.15 The treatment of human remains will be in accordance with the requirements of Civil Law and all relevant ClfA and English Heritage guidance including English Heritage *Guidance for Best*

Practice for Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England (2005) and English Heritage *Human Bones from Archaeological Sites: Guidelines for Producing Assessment Documents and Analytical Reports* (2004).

Treasure

- 6.1.16 The possibility of encountering items of treasure, as defined in the 1996 Treasure Act, is noted and provision will be made for informing the necessary authorities, and providing appropriate security measures, should the need arise.

7.0 Post-excavation

- 7.1.1 All records will be compiled during fieldwork into a comprehensive and fully cross-referenced site archive. All records and materials will be compiled in a structured archive in accordance with the guidelines of Appendix 3 in the English Heritage procedural document, *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (1991).
- 7.1.2 All finds will be cleaned, catalogued and prepared for storage prior to review by suitably qualified specialists. Specialist reports will be incorporated into the main report and the findings integrated with the main site narrative.

8.0 Reporting

- 8.1.1 The report will include
- a non-technical summary of the results of the work
 - location and trench plans showing the position of archaeological remains with at least one section showing the sequence of deposits. Additional plans and/or section drawings of specific features will be included as appropriate. Section drawing should include heights OD; plans should include OD spot heights for all principal strata and features;
 - a descriptive account of the recording methods used and the results, together with an assessment of their archaeological importance, their possible relationship to relevant known features adjacent to the Development Site and estimated reliability of the results
 - specialists' reports on all categories of artefacts recovered (except modern items). Full archive lists will accompany the specialists' finds reports.
 - Specialists' reports on environmental samples taken (if taken)
 - a complete context list with short description
 - a photographic record of selected general views and key features
 - References
 - Index to and location of Site Archive
 - OASIS summary sheet

9.0 Site Archive

- 9.1.1 On completion of the report, the archive will be prepared in accordance with the general specifications outlined in *Management of Archaeological Projects* (MAP2, English Heritage 1991, 5.4; Appendix 3); *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (Walker 1990; UKIC) and *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission), ‘*Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*’ (Archaeological Archives Forum 2007).
- 9.1.2 Arrangements for the long-term storage and deposition of all artefacts, together with the paper archive, will be agreed with the landowner and Lincolnshire HER before the commencement of fieldwork.
- 9.1.3 Ultimately the ordered and checked archive, along with artefacts, ecofacts and relevant documents will be deposited with an appropriate museum or repository. This excludes finds that are subject to the Treasure Act 1996 (and later amendments), the deposition of which will be determined separately, should the need arise.
- 9.1.4 It is proposed that the site paper archive and any archaeological finds should be deposited at The Collection, Lincoln, after completion of the site analysis and subject to agreement with the landowner. Deposition will follow the conditions laid down by The Collection, Lincoln in its document Conditions for the Acceptance of Archaeological Project Archives and will comply with their current requirements. A site accession code must be obtained prior to commencement of work on site.

10.0 Dissemination

- 10.1.1 A digital version of the report will be supplied to the client for submission to the local planning authority. A digital copy will be sent to the Lincolnshire HER. Paper copies can be supplied at a rate of £15 per copy. The deposition of a copy of the report at the Lincolnshire HER will be deemed to put all information in the public domain, unless a request is made for confidentiality. If material is to be held in confidence a timescale must be agreed with Lincolnshire HER. In normal circumstances the agreed term does not usually exceed six months.
- 10.1.2 On completion of the report and archive an electronic data submission form will be completed for the Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigationS (OASIS), to enable information about the site to be accessible to the wider archaeological community and the public.

11.0 Copyright

- 11.1.1 Contractors shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports or other project documents, including all data, text and graphics, (in accordance with ClfA guidelines) under the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides a licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification. The Museum will be given a licence to make all reasonable professional use of this material, granted that the relevant copyright is acknowledged.

12.0 Health and Safety

- 12.1.1 All site work will be carried out in accordance with the relevant current Health and Safety legislation. A copy of the contractor's Health and Safety Document should be supplied to the client along with copies of relevant insurance policies and RAMS documentation prior to commencement of work on site.

13.0 Insurance

- 13.1.1 PA and its sub-contractors are fully covered by Employers and Public Liability and Professional Indemnity insurances, copies of which are available for inspection on request.

14.0 Proposed Team

- 14.1.1 Project Management and liaison between Client, contracting archaeology company and local planning authority will be the responsibility of Naomi Field MClfA Prospect Archaeology.
- 14.1.2 A contractor will be appointed on the basis of this specification. Fieldwork will be undertaken by suitably qualified staff. The contractor will need to demonstrate suitability by submitting CVs of staff and specialists to be involved in the project. Details of the successful contractor and their staff will be made available to Historic Environment Team, Lincolnshire County Council. A suitable timetable for the fieldwork and production of the post-excavation assessment report will also be required and communicated with Historic Environment Team, Lincolnshire County Council.

15.0 Monitoring

- 15.1.1 Staff from the Historic Environment Team, Lincolnshire County Council, will monitor the project on behalf of the planning authority and will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project. (S)he will be informed of the proposed start date and will be kept informed of progress throughout the field and post-excavation work. A member of Prospect Archaeology staff will monitor the excavation and post-excavation work on behalf of the client. Site monitoring visits will be co-ordinated by Prospect Archaeology.

16.0 References

Gifford and Partners 1999 *A Report on an archaeological desk-based assessment of Springfields, Nr Spalding, Lincolnshire*

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) 2005 *Springfield Outlet Shopping and Festival Garden, Spalding, Lincs. Archaeological Excavation*

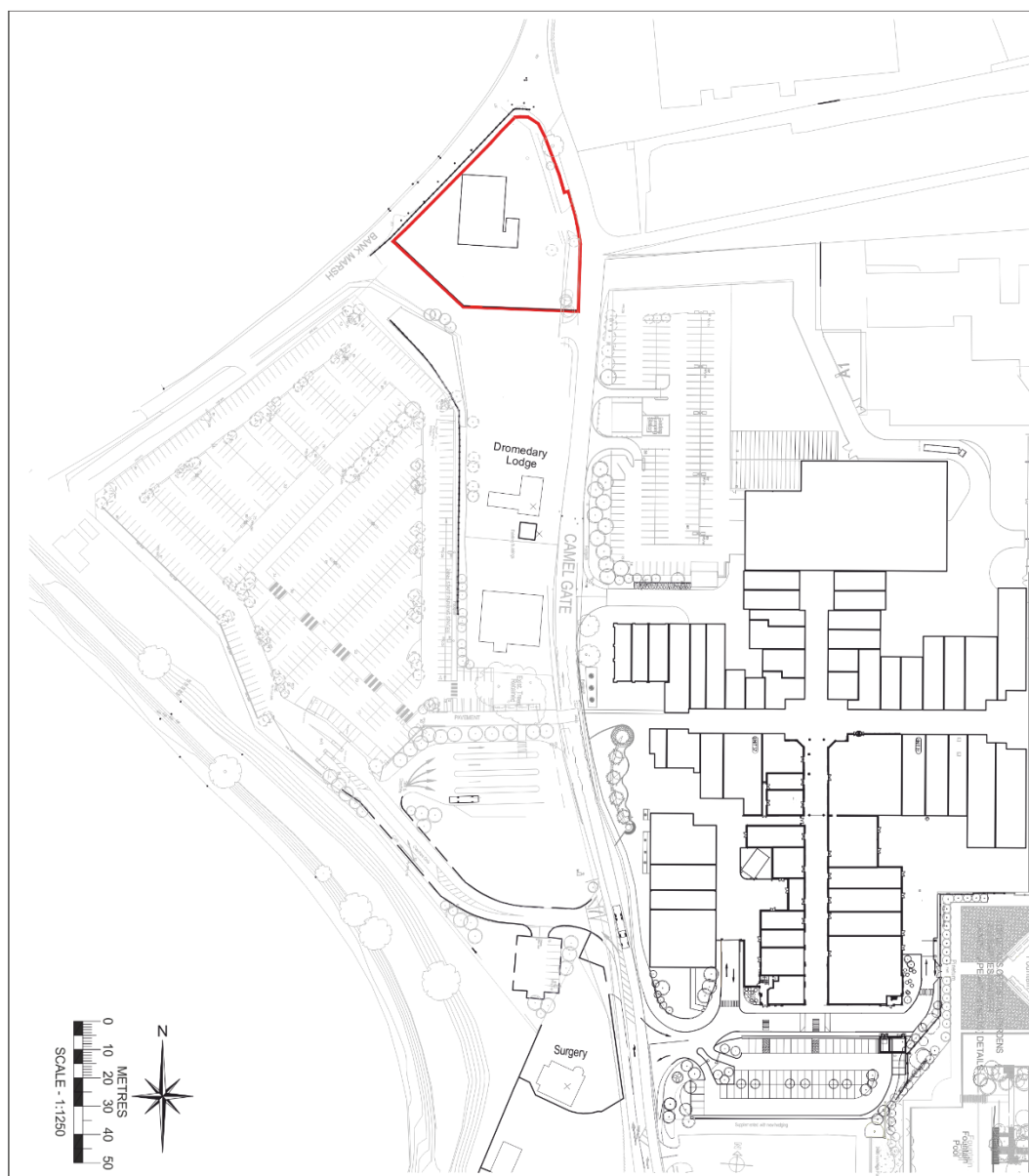


FIGURE 1 SITE LOCATION

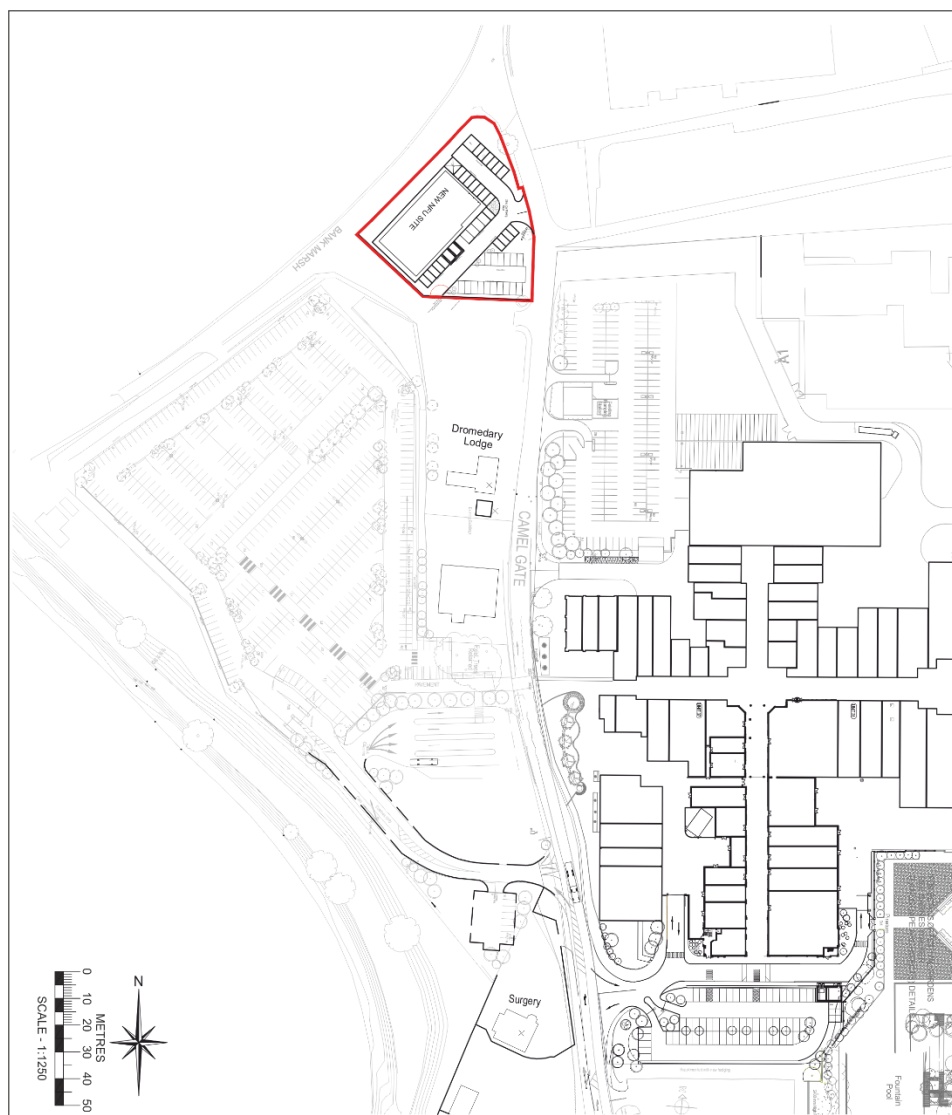


Figure 2 Proposed Site Layout



FIGURE 3 NFU SITE IN RELATION TO PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS