LAND NORTH OF BOURNE ROAD, SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE, PE11 1YS:

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

PCA Report Number: R18245

December 2025

Land North of Bourne Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE11 1YS:

An Archaeological Evaluation

Site Code:	**LBRS25**
Local Planning Authority:	**South Holland District Council**
Museum Accession Number:	LCNCC : 2025.222
Planning Application:	H16-1022-25
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An Archaeological Evaluation

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SUMMARY

This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation on land to the north of Bourne Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire PE11 1YS from the 1st to 8th December 2025. The archaeological work was commissioned by Racquet Space and was undertaken prior to the determination of the planning application H16-1022-25 for South Holland District Council. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the archaeological potential of the proposed development site.

Seven trenches 30 m in length were excavated revealing linear ditch features. The majority of the ditch fills contained no artefacts to date them, but it is highly likely that these are Romano British in date as one of the ditches followed the same alignment and appearance as ditch features that were found in evaluation trenches adjacent to Monks House Lane just to the north-east. Post-medieval boundary ditches were also identified corresponding with boundaries shown on 18-19th century maps.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL BACKGROUND

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land north of Bourne Road, Spalding, PE11 1YS (NGR TF 22440 22022, Figure 1 The Site lies c. 2.5km to the WSW of Spalding, and forms part of a larger agricultural field bound to the S by Bourne Road. The site is adjoined by further arable fields to the N, E and W, and covers an area of approximately 1.3 ha.

1.1.2 The investigation was carried out from the 1st to the 8th December 2025, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by PCA (November 2025), following consultation with the Historic Environment Officer at Lincolnshire County Council, archaeological advisor to South Holland District Council.

1.1.3 The aims of the project were to assess the extent, date and level of preservation of the archaeological remains on the site.

1.1.4 This report describes and interprets the results of the archaeological evaluation. It is intended to deposit the site archive with The Lincolnshire Archive Service.

1.2 PLANNING BACKGROUND

1.2.1 The evaluation was undertaken as part of the pre-determination process for planning permission (H16-1022-25) for construction of a padel & pickleball centre with associated parking.

1.2.2 All works will be undertaken in accordance with the following documents:

- This Written Scheme of Investigation
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England, 2015a)
- Lincolnshire County Council Archaeological Handbook (Lincolnshire County Council, 2019, revised 2024)
- Standard for Archaeological Field Evaluation (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2023a)
- Universal Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2023b)

1.2.3 The project was designed in accordance with the guidelines set out in Management of Research Proposals in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2015a) and The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations (CIfA 2020a). PCA is a Registered Organisation (No 23) with the Institute for Archaeologists and operates within the Institute's Code of Conduct (CIfA 2025).

2. GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1.1 The bedrock geology comprises Oxford Clay Formation – mudstone, with overlying superficial deposits of tidal flat deposits – clay and silt (https://www.bgs.ac.uk/mapviewers/geoindex-onshore/) (British Geological Survey 2025).

2.1.2 The Site lies on a flat surface at approximately 3m aOD, and the canalised course of Vernatt's Drain runs from NE to SW c. 700m N of the Site.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1.1 During the later prehistoric period the study area would have largely formed marshland with pockets of marginally higher ground (Lincolnshire County Council 2022). There is evidence for occupation around Spalding since at least the late Iron Age to Roman period, when falling sea levels and drainage of the land allowed for increased settlement and agriculture. Numerous salt-making sites and evidence for iron working of late Iron Age to Roman date have been uncovered in the area.

3.1.2 A recent archaeological evaluation to the immediate NE of the site (PCA Unpublished) identified a series of ditches containing 2nd to 4th century Roman pottery and briquetage. These findings were aligned with the results of earlier aerial photographic surveys which identified cropmarks covering a large area including those fields directly adjacent to the site (Phillips et al. 1970). A magnetometry survey of the proposed development site (Sumo 2025) has revealed a series of sinuous features and more regular boundaries which likely form a continuation of those features identified to the N and E. A watching brief to within 170m N of the site identified a possibly Roman dated field system, with ditches and gullies and finds included large quantities of Roman pottery, animal bone, burnt clay and slag.

3.1.3 A number of palaeochannels or brackish creeks have been identified during excavations c.750m NE of the site, close to which were two late Iron Age to Roman sites located to the east and north of the creek system. Archaeological investigations uncovered a large amount of briquetage, as well as pottery, animal bone and kiln waste. Late Iron Age and Roman settlement features have also been identified further to the SE. This site was located on a roddon (the raised remains of a silted-up water channel) (Lincolnshire County Council 2022), and therefore at a slightly higher elevation. Very recent evaluation trenching on the former nursery site immediately south of Wygate Park identified a further continuation of the Roman activity (Allen Archaeology 2025). Further evidence for Roman activity has been identified to the E, including a possible farmstead of a 1st to 2nd century date c. 930m to the SE

3.1.4 In the post-Roman period, the area reverted to wetland, and the Site was part of the

Deeping Fen. At the time of the Domesday Book in 1086, 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 included a market, fisheries, and salt houses (Morgan and Thorn 1986). No early medieval activity has been identified within the immediate study area.

3.1.5 Spalding Priory was founded as a cell of Crowland Abbey in 1052, and it had multiple granges including Monks House which was located on the eastern side of Bourne Road c.650m E of the site. The current house on the site of Monks House dates to the early 16th century. A medieval pottery scatter was uncovered north of Pennygate Drain c.500m N of the proposed development site, while cropmarks of a medieval or post-medieval date and thought to represent a field system and trackway are located c.400m NW of the site.

3.1.6 The area was subject to systematic drainage from the late 17th century, and cartographical evidence suggests that site has formed part of the established agricultural landscape since this time.

3.1.7 The Ordnance Survey (OS) of 1815 suggests the site and adjoining fields had been divided into regular square plots by this time, and that the road to the S (here labelled *West Lode*) may have been aligned slightly to the N of its current course. The 1887 edition of 25-inch OS map shows the site fell across two fields separated by a hedge, with drainage ditches to the N. No appreciable difference is depicted until the 1950 1:10000 OS map which shows the site as a tree nursery or orchard, with a rectangular structure at the southern end of the site, adjacent to the road.

3.2 Geophysical Survey

3.2.1 Sumo (2025) undertook a detailed magnetometer survey across the site and identified a ditch-like anomaly and a cluster of discrete responses of probable and possible archaeological interest (Figure 3). It is feasible that the features are associated with the Iron Age and Roman activity recorded in the vicinity. Former ridge and furrow are also visible, along with numerous responses of uncertain origin; these could be archaeological, agricultural or natural. An old field boundary is mapped, along with areas of natural magnetic variation and modern ferrous disturbance.

4. PROJECT AIMS AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

4.1 PROJECT AIMS

4.1.1 The archaeological investigations at the site were threat led, since the development had the potential to disturb or destroy significant sub-surface archaeological remains.

4.1.2 The principal aims of the investigation were to:

- To determine the presence / absence, date, depth etc of any archaeological features and/ or deposits within the development area
- To assess the remains in terms of local, regional and national context;
- To assess the likely scale of the development impact which will inform the requirement for and scope of further archaeological work;
- To record the nature, extent, date, character, quality, significance and state of preservation any archaeological remains affected by the investigation
- To assess where appropriate any ecofactual and palaeo-environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features from within the site

4.1.3 Additional aims of the project were:

- to compile a Site Archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and provide information for accession to the Lincolnshire HER
- to compile a report that contains an assessment of the nature and significance of all data derived from the investigation

4.2 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

4.2.1 The *Archaeology of the East Midlands, An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, Leicester Archaeology Monograph 13, ed. N Cooper (2006), along with the *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*, ed. D. Knight, B. Vyner & C. Allen (2012) will be referenced for specific research criteria.

5. METHODOLOGY

5.1 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

5.1.1 Fieldwork techniques and approaches were set out in a detailed WSI produced by PCA (2025) prior to the investigation. The fieldwork and post-excavation work were conducted in accordance with the relevant CIfA standard and guidance documents (CIfA 2023a & b).

5.1.2 Seven trenches, each measuring 30 m long and 1.8 m wide, were excavated during the works (Figure 2). The trenches were set out using a Geomax GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.

5.1.3 A supervising archaeologist monitored the removal of all non-archaeological overburden to the level of the first archaeological horizon. The overburden was removed using a 360° excavator with a flat bladed ditching bucket. Deposits were reduced in spits until the top of the first significant archaeological horizon was uncovered. Exposed deposits/layers were then cleaned using hand tools to define archaeological features and deposits.

5.1.4 A Geomax GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction was used to map all

observed remains and set out baselines for planning. As such, there was no requirement for an overall site grid.

5.1.5 A shallow, machine dug sondage was excavated through the deposits into which any archaeological features were cut to determine the presence of masking deposits that may have overlaid further archaeological features. This was undertaken separately from a series of Geoarchaeological test pits (see below).

5.1.6 Once the archaeological horizon was reached, investigation of archaeological remains was undertaken by hand. Archaeological features and deposits were identified, excavated and recorded in both plan and section where appropriate by trained archaeologists using appropriate hand tools. Investigations were conducted in accordance with the methods set out in PCA's site manual (PCA 2009). Written descriptions of deposits, features and fills were compiled on PCA pro-forma record sheets, while any recovered archaeological finds were bagged and labelled per context for post-excavation analysis.

5.1.7 The overall sampling strategy was proportionate to the apparent interest of the archaeology.

5.1.8 All relationships between features and deposits were investigated and recorded.

5.1.9 Discrete, non-burial features were half sectioned (50% excavated) where safe to do so. Deep features such as pits were excavated to their full depth or were stopped at 1.2m below surface level. In this instance, no additional Health and Safety procedures were required.

5.1.10 For all linear features (e.g. ditches, gullies, paths and tracks), investigative slots were at least 1m in length.

5.1.11 All structural remains, including beam slots, post-holes and floor surfaces/floor makeup surfaces demonstrated to be part of a building's construction require (100%) excavation. However, no structural remains of this type were identified.

5.1.12 A full digital photographic record documenting all the features identified was compiled using SLR cameras.

5.1.13 Deposits were assessed for their palaeo-environmental potential in accordance with *Environmental Archaeology; A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from*

Sampling and Recovery to Post-Excavation (second edition) (English Heritage 2011).

Geoarchaeological assessment.

5.1.14 Following completion of excavation and recording of exposed features, a geoarchaeological assessment of the underlying strata was undertaken by PCA's in-house Geoarchaeologist, Duncan Field. Five machine excavated test pits were dug to approximately 2.5m below modern ground surface and analysed with reference to Historic England's guidelines on both Geoarchaeology (2015b) and Environmental Archaeology (Campbell *et al.* 2011). This is presented in Appendix 3

5.2 POST-FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

5.2.1 Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers Guide* (HE 2015a) was used as the framework for post-excavation work.

5.2.2 Following the fieldwork phase, site records were collated and checked. Contexts were grouped and phasing was assigned based on stratigraphic relationships. A written summary of the archaeological sequence was then compiled and is described in Section 4.

5.2.3 Two sherds of post-medieval pottery, four fragment of post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM) and six fragments of animal bone were recovered from the excavation, these will be retained if specialist analysis determines them to be of interest for future study, otherwise they will be discarded.

5.2.4 No other categories of organic or inorganic artefactual material were represented.

5.2.5 The complete Site Archive will be packaged for long-term storage and curation. In preparing the site archive for deposition, all relevant standards and guidelines documents referenced in the Archaeological Archives Forum guidelines document (Brown 2011), the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) document (Walker 1990), and the relevant CIfA publication (CIfA 2020) will be adhered to.

6. RESULTS

6.1.1 During the investigation, unique 'context numbers' were assigned to each distinguishable depositional event and are indicated in the following text as, for example, [6] for cuts and (7) for deposits/ fills. The archaeological sequence is described by placing stratigraphic sequences within broad phases, assigned on a site-wide basis. The results of the evaluation will inform the mitigation strategy for the Site, if required.

6.2 NATURAL DEPOSITS

6.2.1 The substrata across the site (2) consisted of a mid-orange, brown sand-silt with occasional banding of firm mid grey-brown clays, and brown and mid grey-brown mottling. This is part of the tidal flat deposits composed of sandy silts and silty sands associated with the area prior to Medieval and Post-Medieval drainage.

6.3 ADDITIONAL DEPOSITS

6.3.1 All seven trenches consisted of an upper, modern ploughsoil of dark grey-brown silt-clay an average of 0.34m in thickness. This directly overlay the substrate deposit (2) in all trenches apart from Trench 2 where a subsoil (3) of mid grey silt-clay, 0.16 m in thickness was present.

6.4 TRENCH RESULTS

6.4.1 All the evaluation trenches (Trench 1-7) contained archaeological features (**Figure 2**); these are discussed below and sections of all excavated features are shown in Figure 4.

6.5 TRENCH 1

6.5.1 Trench 1 was aligned north-west to south-east with an average depth of 0.7 m. Two small pits or postholes were located in the south-eastern end of the trench (Plate 1, Plate 8):

6.5.2 Pit or Posthole [17] was located in the southern corner of Trench 1 and extended beyond the trench edges. It was circular in plan with a maximum diameter of 0.35m, had moderately sloping sides to a concave base 0.17m in depth, and contained a single fill (18) of light red-brown silt-clay. Feature [17] was truncated to the north-east by larger pit/ posthole [15], which was circular in plan, with a diameter of 0.7m, steeply sloping sides to a generally flat base 0.21m in depth and contained a single fill (16) of light yellow-brown silt-sand. No finds were recovered from either feature.

6.6 TRENCH 2

6.6.1 Trench 2 was aligned north-east to south-west with an average depth of 0.6m (Plate 2). Four linear features were present in the trench (Figure 2).

6.6.2 A north-west to south-east ditch feature [68], was located in the north-eastern end of the trench and was 2.53m in exposed length. Cut [68] was 2.3m in width with moderately steep sides, and flat base with a depth of 0.47m (Figure 4, Plate 9). The lower fill (69) was firm mid blue-grey silt with a thickness of 0.15 m suggestive of a primary slumping from the south-western side of the ditch. This was sealed by a main fill (70) of mid orange-grey clay-silt, with frequent banding / laminations of light/pale brownish white silt throughout, and 0.37m in thickness. This was overlain by a tertiary fill (71), of firm, mid grey silt-clay with frequent orange clay mottling, 0.15m in thickness.

This was overlain by a thin horizon of dark brown to black silt-clay (72) 0.02m in thickness. No artefacts were found in any of the fills.

6.6.3 A second linear [61] was present in the south-western end of Trench 2. Aligned roughly north-east to south-west and 3.5m in exposed length, [61] was 1.62m in width with moderately sloping sides to a concave base 0.39m in depth (Figure 4, Plate 10). The lower fill was a light bluish grey clay (62), 0.13m thick and overlaid by a secondary fill (63) of mid grey-brown silt-clay with occasional mottling of orange and light brown silt 0.13 m thick. The upper fill (64) was a light blue-grey clay-silt with mottling of light/pale brown and orange clay 0.19m in thickness. No artefacts were found in any of the ditch fills.

6.6.4 Two north to south aligned, shallow, parallel ditches were located centrally within Trench 2. An irregular terminus [42] was 3.38m in exposed length, continuing beyond the north-western limit of excavation. Feature [42] had parallel sides and rounded southern terminus in plan, 0.8m in maximum width, with convex sides, heavily affected by rooting, to a concave base 0.3m in depth. A primary slump of mid grey-brown silt clay (43) 0.07m in thickness was located on the eastern side of the ditch, overlain by a fill of mid red-brown silt sand (44) 0.15m thick. An upper fill of light grey-brown silt (45) was 0.16m in thickness. No artefacts were found in any of the fills.

6.6.5 Shallow ditch [51] was 4.3m in exposed length, was 0.9m in width, had moderately sloping sides to a concave base 0.25m in depth. Cut [51] clearly truncated the upper fills of ditch [61]. A lower fill of light grey-brown silt-clay (52) was 0.12m in thickness and was overlain by an upper fill (53) of brown silt-sand 0.18m thick. A single fragment of post-medieval brick was present within fill (52). It is likely that [51] continued into Trench 3 as [65].

6.7 TRENCH 3

6.7.1 Trench 3 was aligned north-west to south-east with an average depth of 0.85m. Two north to south aligned, parallel shallow linear ditches were located within the north of the trench (Plate 3, Figure 2):

6.7.2 Ditch [65] was 9.65m in exposed length and 0.7m in width, with moderately steeply sloping sides to a concave base 0.24m in depth. A primary fill (66) of light grey-brown silt-clay 0.13m in thickness was located on the eastern side of the ditch and was overlain by a secondary fill of dark grey-brown silt-sand (67). No artefacts were found in any of the fills, and it is likely that [65] was a continuation of ditch [51] located in Trench 2.

6.7.3 Ditch [73] was 5.3m in exposed length and appeared to terminate as it extended beyond the south-western limit of excavation. It was 0.85m in width with moderately steeply sloping sides to a flat base 0.22m in depth and contained a single fill (74) of dark grey-brown clay-silt with occasional to frequent pockets of redeposited natural. No artefacts were present within (74). It is likely that ditch [73] was associated with ditch [42] in Trench 2.

6.8 TRENCH 4

6.8.1 Trench 4 was aligned north-east to south-west with an average depth of 0.7m. Three linear features were present in the trench (Plate 4, Figure 2).

6.8.2 In the south-west of the trench was a partially exposed north-west to south-east aligned ditch [56]. This was 1.85m in exposed length and 1.91m in exposed width, extending beyond the south-western limit of excavation. Ditch [56] had moderately steeply sloping sides to a flat base 0.97m in depth. A primary slumping deposit (57) of orange-grey silt-sand 0.1m in thickness was present on the eastern side of the ditch, overlain by the main fill (58) of mid orange-grey silt-clay 0.49m thick. Two tertiary fills were present overlying (58); (59) was mid grey-brown clay-silt 0.11m in thickness and overlaid by (60), a dark grey-brown clay-silt. No finds were present in the fills. It is likely that [56] continued into Trench 5 to the south as [40].

6.8.3 A shallow, irregular feature, interpreted as the south-eastern terminus of a north-west to south-east aligned ditch, was present in the north-eastern end of the trench [54]. 2.73m in exposed length, [54] appeared to terminate immediately beyond the south-eastern LOE. It was 3.5m in width, with wide, gradually sloping sides to a concave base 0.25m in depth and contained a single fill (55) of mid brown-yellow clay without any finds. It is likely that [54] was the south-eastern terminus of ditch [68] within Trench 2.

6.8.4 A north-west to south-east aligned ditch [75] was located centrally within Trench 4; 2.2m in exposed length and 1.6m in width, with moderate to gradually sloping sides to a flat base 0.47m in depth. Two primary slumps of light grey-blue clay-sand were present; (77) on the south-western side was 0.07m in thickness and (78) on the north-eastern side was 0.04m thick. These were overlain by a deposit of mid grey-blue silt-clay mottled with infrequent flecks of silt clay and very infrequent small pebbles (79), 0.24m in thickness. An upper fill (80) of light brown-grey sandy-clay with frequent light blue and grey chunks of clay throughout, was 0.28m in thick and was interpreted on site as deliberate backfilling. No finds were recovered from the fills.

6.9 TRENCH 5

6.9.1 Trench 5 was aligned east to west with an average depth of 0.7m. Three linear features were present in the trench (Plate 5, Figure 2). A ditch and ceramic field drain were located within the western end of the trench.

6.9.2 Ditch [40] was north-east to south-west aligned, 2.15m in exposed length and 4.15m in exposed width, extending beyond the western LOE. [40] had moderately steeply sloping north-western side and a gradually sloping south-eastern side, leading to a flat base 1.03m in depth. Primary slumping fill was present on the north-western side, as mid orange-grey clay-sand (46), 0.21m in thickness, and on the south-east side as (47), a light orange-brown silt-sand 0.1m in thickness. These were overlain by a secondary slumping or infilling episode (48), of mid orange-grey silt-clay, appearing to have originated from the south-eastern side of the ditch and a maximum thickness of 0.35m. (48) was overlain by a main fill of mid blue-orange silt-clay (49), 0.21m in thickness and an upper fill of mid grey-orange silt clay (50), 0.13m in thickness. No finds were recovered from these fills.

6.9.3 Truncating the upper fills of ditch [40] was a roughly north-west to south-east aligned cut for a ceramic field drain; [41] was 2.4m in exposed length, 1.61m in width with gradual sloping concave sides and flat base 0.25m in depth. A 'D' shaped ceramic land drain was located on the base of the cut and backfilled by (75) orange-brown clay silt. No finds were present within (75).

6.10 TRENCH 6

6.10.1 Trench 6 was aligned north to south with an average depth of 0.7m. Three linear features were present in the trench (Plate 6, Figure 2).

6.10.2 Within the northern end of the trench was a north-east to south-west aligned ditch [4]. Due to the angle of the ditch within the trench, this was excavated with two offset interventions to expose a near complete profile of the feature. [4] was 3.23m in exposed length, 2.87m in maximum width, with a moderate to gradually sloping south-eastern side and steeper north-western side sloping to a concave base 0.8m in maximum depth. A primary fill (5) of mid grey-brown clay-silt with occasional orange clay mottling was 0.52m in maximum thickness. This was overlain by a secondary fill of mid blue-grey silt-clay (6) 0.16m in thickness which was sealed by a deposit of dark brown-black silt-clay (7) 0.15m thick. A thin tertiary fill (8) of mid grey silt clay 0.11m in thickness was present overlying (7) within the north-western side of the feature. No finds were recovered from these fills and it is probable that [4] continued south-westerly and was excavated in Trench 7 as [31].

6.10.3 An east-west aligned ditch [19] was identified within the southern end of Trench 6: 2.17m in exposed length and 5.2m in width, [19] had moderately sloping sides to a wide, flat base 0.97m in depth. A thin primary fill of [20] was a maximum of 0.05m thick and contained frequent mineralised rooting fragments overlain by slumping fills; (21) on the southern side comprised of green-blue silt sand 0.15m thick, and (22) on the northern side, which comprised of mid brown peaty-silt 0.25m in thickness. A central deposit of small angular limestone fragments within a matrix of blue-grey clay (23) 0.23m thick was overlain by several rapid infilling episodes: (24) was a thin lens of light grey-blue silt-clay 0.05m thick, (25) was mid brown peat 0.2m in thickness, (26) was a thin lens of mid brown-grey silt-clay, 0.05m thick and (27) was mid grey-blue silt-sand 0.25m thick. These were sealed by a thick deposit of brown peaty silt (28), 0.4m in thickness, containing two sherds of post-medieval pottery, one fragment of post-medieval building material and a single animal bone. An upper fill (29) of light brown peaty silt 0.3m thick. A tertiary fill of a thin lens light grey-blue clay 0.05m in thickness (30) was present centrally within the ditch (Plate 11, Figure 4).

6.10.4 Within the northern part of Trench 6, almost completely outside of the western limit of excavation was a north to south aligned linear feature, with dark grey fill. Whilst impossible to excavate, the alignment of this feature clearly truncated the upper fills of ditch [4] and is likely associated with north-south aligned shallow ditches ([42], [51], [65], [73]) in Trenches 2 & 3.]

6.11 TRENCH 7

6.11.1 Trench 7 was aligned north-west to south-east with an average depth of 1.11m. Two linear features were present in the trench (Plate 7, Figure 2).

6.11.2 Within the north-western end of the trench was a north-east to south-west aligned ditch [9]. This was 2.6m in exposed length and 1.32m in exposed width, extending beyond the north-western LOE; the south-eastern side was gradually sloping and no base was reached, with a maximum excavated depth of 0.43m. A primary slumping of light grey to white silt (10) 0.01m in thickness was overlain by a lens of dark grey-black clay-silt (11), 0.05m in thickness, which was sealed by a thin deposit of mid grey clay-silt with occasional light white-grey mottle/banding (12), 0.11m thick. A lens of dark grey clay-silt (13) 0.08m in thickness was overlain by an upper fill (14) of mid red-brown clay-silt 0.23m in thickness. No finds were retrieved from the fills of [9].

6.11.3 Located 2.9m south-east of [9] was a north-east to south-west aligned ditch [31], 2.48m in exposed length and 4.55m in width, with gradual sides on the top of the south-eastern side becoming moderately steeply sloping to a wide concave base 0.88m in depth. A deposit of mid brown-grey sand-clay (32), 0.2m thick was localised on the south-eastern side of the ditch and may be indicative of bank erosion on that side; it contained five animal bones. A secondary fill of (33) light blue-grey silt-clay formed along both sides and base of the ditch, 0.24m in thickness. It appeared to represent accumulative silting, and was overlain by (34), a 0.1m thick deposit of dark brown to black peat-silt covering both sides and base of the ditch and likely representing organic development within a partially silted and waterlogged ditch (sample ‹1›). This organic deposit was overlaid by a thin deposit of light brown-yellow silt (35) 0.07m thick, and a more substantial deposit of light brown-grey silt-clay (36) 0.16m in thickness. Following a thin horizon of light brown-yellow silt sand (37) 0.05m thick, were two likely tertiary fills of light grey-brown silt-clay (38), 0.2m in thickness and (39), a 0.13m thick deposit of light brown peaty silt.

7. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

7.1 Geoarchaeological Survey

7.1.1 The geoarchaeological survey of the site (Appendix 5) recorded a sequence of underlying deposits, consisting of silty sands and sandy silts, with very little other than fairly minor variations in colour and grain size to differentiate them, and was entirely consistent with that previously recorded at the Monks House Lane investigation immediately to the north-east of the current evaluation (PCA, *forthcoming*).

7.1.2 No evidence of paleochannels, organic deposits or raised ground horizons were identified within the test pits.

7.2 Linear ditch features

7.2.1 With the exception of ditch [19] within Trench 6 and ditch [51] in Trench 2, all the features excavated during the evaluation were devoid of datable material culture.

7.2.2 The alignment and general morphology of the identified features suggested two broad phases of activity within the site:

7.2.3 Phase 1: Undated (Possibly Roman).

7.2.4 The majority of the ditches within the evaluation (Figure 3) were on a north-west to south-east or south-west to north-east alignment. This corresponds with the general axes of 2nd to 4th century ditches within sites off Monks House Lane to the north and north-east of the current site encountered during evaluation works (PCA 2026 *in prep*) and it is more than likely these ditches are part of the same system: Ditch [31]/ [4] appears to be a substantial boundary, and ditch [9] seemed to run parallel to it on the north-western side and shares similarities of profile and fills (in particular the dark 'peaty' deposits of contexts (11) and (34)) suggesting a degree of contemporality. Similarly, ditches [40] and [56] were of similar dimensions suggesting a corresponding north-west to south-east boundary.

7.2.5 Less robust, yet still cleanly cut linear features followed the same axes; [68] likely terminated as [54], whilst both [76] and [61] formed perpendicular ditches associated with it.

Phase 2: Post-Medieval

7.2.6 Two main features/ groups of features could be dated directly or through association to the post-medieval period: [41], within trench 5 contained a D shaped ceramic land drain, common throughout the mid to late 19th centuries.

7.2.7 In the south of the site, the large, east-west aligned ditch [19] within Trench 6 was shown on the geophysical survey as continuing across the site. This alignment is shown on the 1815 first edition Ordnance Survey as representing the northern edge of an earlier road (noted as West Lode) and is not present on the 1880-1900s OS Six-inch map, although a continuation of the ditch is present in fields to the east of the evaluation area indicating a mid-19th century date for the final backfilling of the ditch.

7.2.8 The other features dated to the post-medieval period were a group of north to south aligned shallow ditches ([51]/ [65], [42], [73]) which appear to correspond in alignment with the former field boundary shown on the 19th century Ordnance survey maps as a hedgerow boundary (ie no ditch), the high degree of rooting and frequent heterogeneity of the fills would support this.

7.3 CONCLUSION

7.3.1 The main aim of the evaluation was to inform the Local Planning Authority, as advised by South Holland District Council's archaeological advisor, and the client regarding the extent, depth and nature of archaeological deposits within the location of the proposed development.

7.3.2 In summary, archaeological features were present in all of the trenches, and with the exception of post-medieval boundaries, drains and agricultural features, the majority were undated by artefacts. However, these linear features are highly likely to relate to those seen in the trench evaluation conducted on land off Monks House Lane immediately to the north and east of the site (PCA forthcoming 2026) and are therefore probably also Romano-British in date.

8. PERSONNEL

The evaluation was managed by Rebecca Nichols, and the fieldwork was supervised by Adam Slater, both of PCA Newark. This report was written by Adam Slater of PCA Newark. Figures accompanying this report were prepared by Malgorzata Malecka

Of PCA's CAD department.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Racquet Space for commissioning the work.

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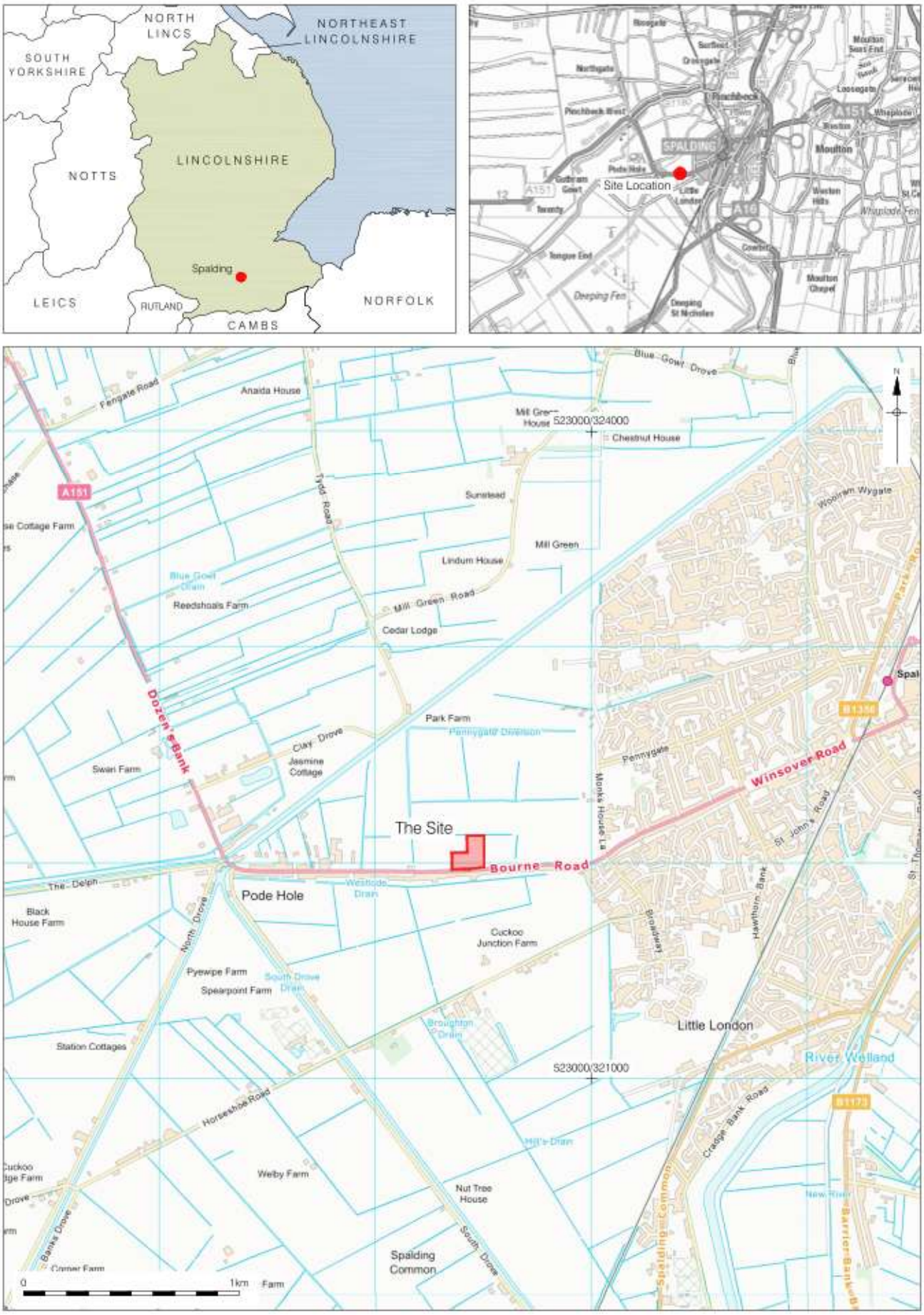
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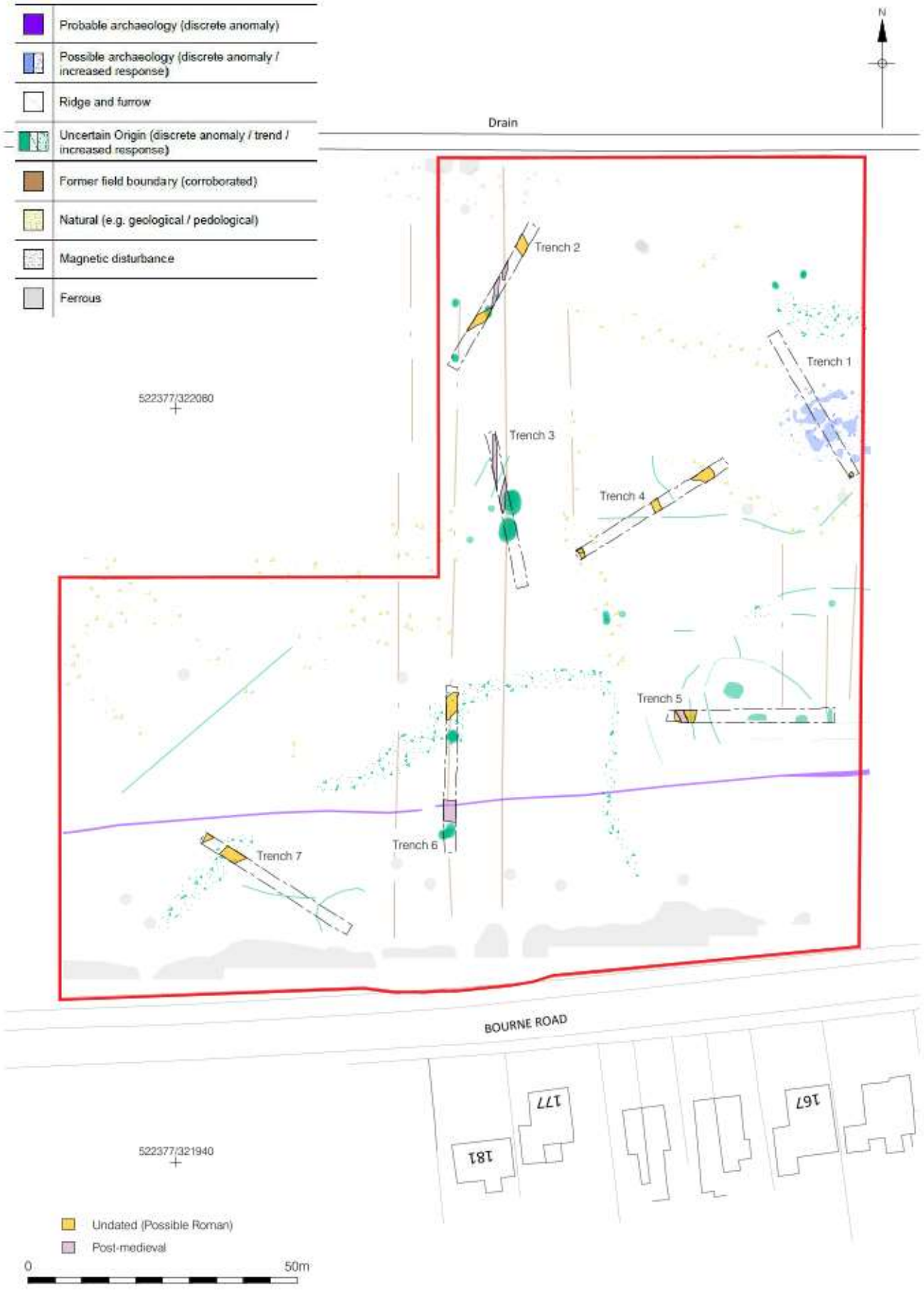
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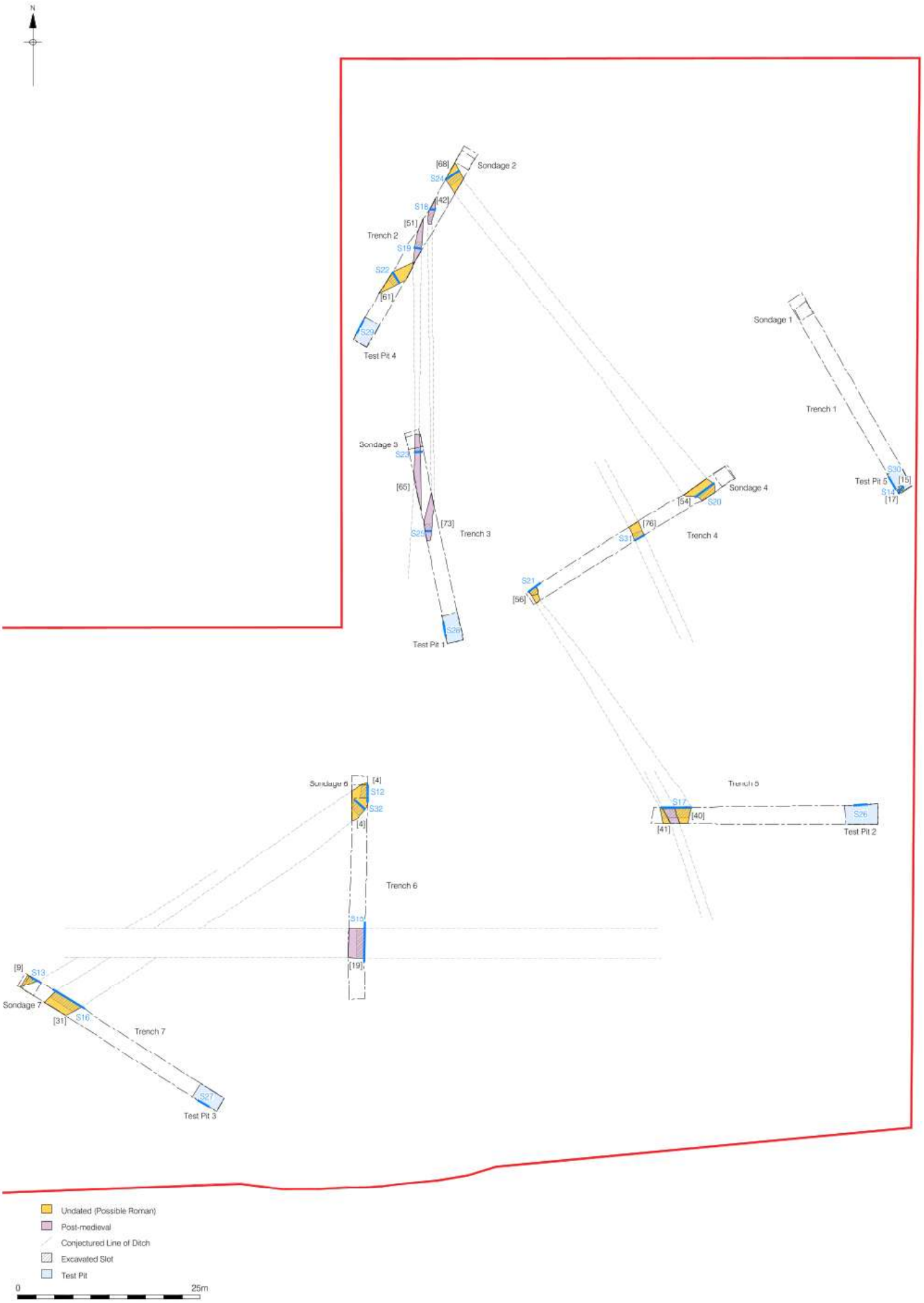
Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2025
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Figure 1
Site Location
1:2,000,000, 1:250,000, 1:25,000 at A4



Basemap reproduced from a drawing by SUMO
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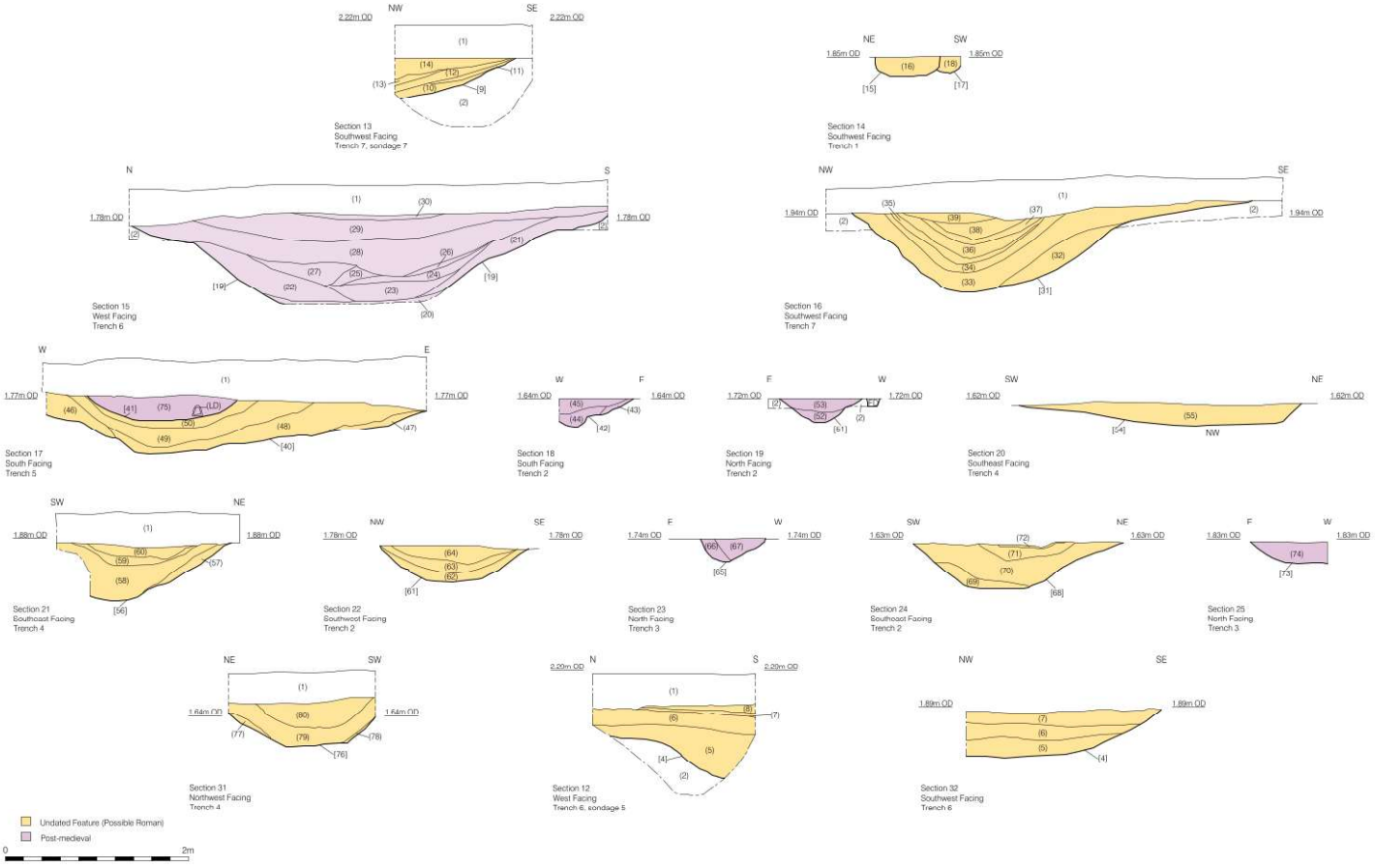
Figure 2
Detailed Site Plan Overlain on the Geophysical Survey
1:1,000 at A4



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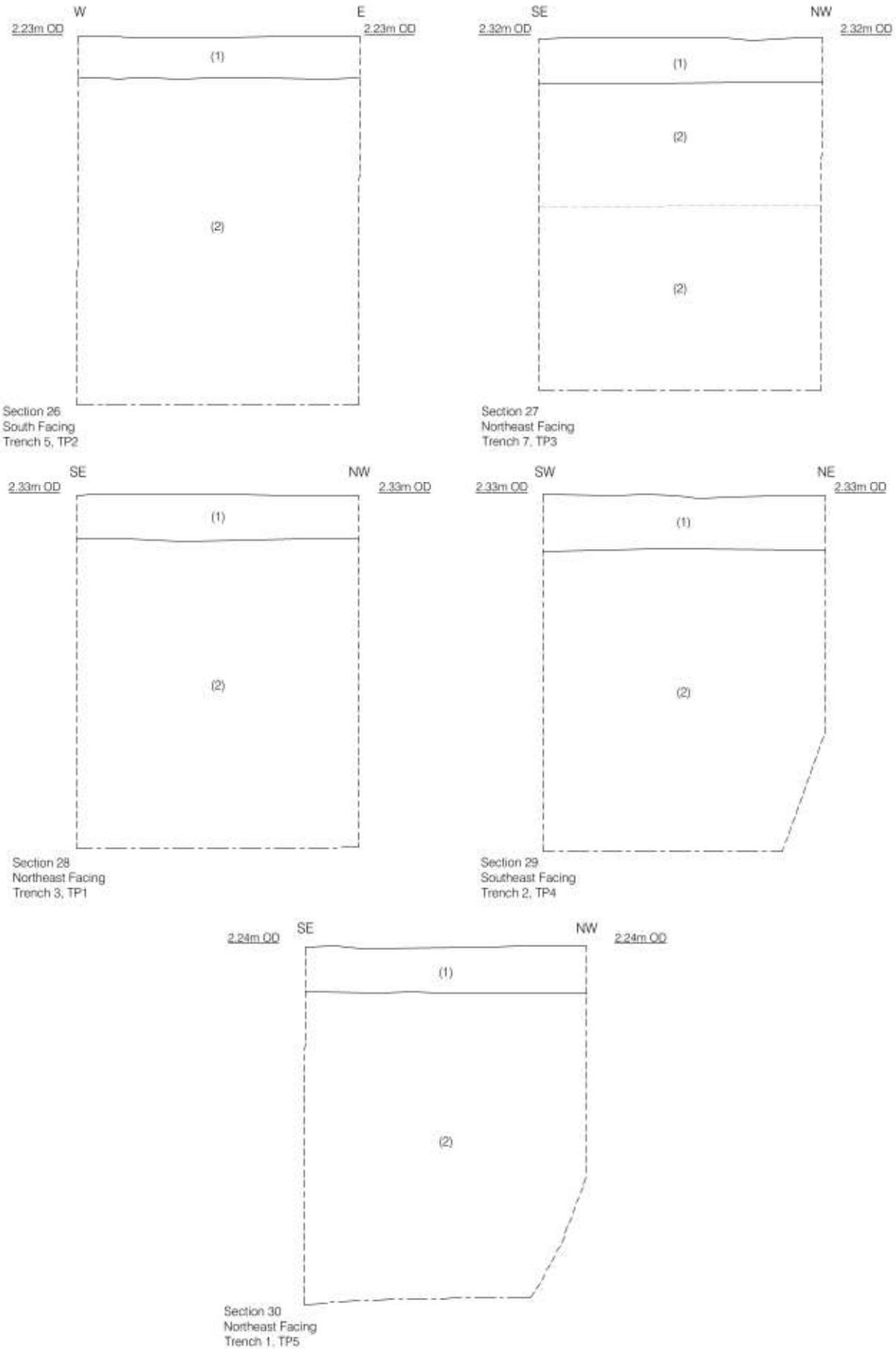
Figure 3
Site Plan with Postulated Extensions of Ditch Alignments
1:500 at A3

P:\PROJECT DATA\Out of London\Lincolnshire\Land north of Bourne Road, Spalding\CAD\EVAL\Fig 04_Sections.dwg



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Figure 4
Sections
1:40 at A3



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Figure 5
Geo-Archaeological Test Pit Sections
1:40 at A4

Appendix 1: Site Photographs



Plate 1: Trench 1, view facing south-east, machine dug sondage in foreground. Scale 1 x 2 m, 1 x 1 m



Plate 2: Trench 2, view facing south-west, machine dug sondage in foreground. Scale 1 x 2 m, 1 x 1 m



Plate 3: Trench 3,, view facing north-west. Scale 1 x 2 m, 1 x 1 m



Plate 4, Trench 4, view facing south-west, machine dug sondage in foreground. Scale 1 x 2 m, 1 x 1 m



Plate 5: Trench 5, view facing east. Scale 1 x 2 m, 1 x 1 m



Plate 6: Trench 6, view facing north. Scale 1 x 2 m, 1 x 1 m



Plate 7: Trench 4, view facing south-east, machine dug sondage in foreground. Scale 1 x 2 m, 1 x 1 m



Plate 8: Pits [15] & [17] within SE end of Trench 1 View facing south. Scale 0.5 m



Plate 9: Ditch [68] Trench 2, ditch [68], view facing north-west Scale 2 m



Plate 10: Ditch [61] Trench 2, view facing north-east Scale 1 m



Plate 11: Ditch [19] Trench 6, view facing east. Scale 2 m



Plate 12: Ditch [31] Trench 2, view facing east. Scale 2 m

Appendix 2: Context List

Context	Type	Category	Trench	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description (soil colour and texture/ cut description)
1	Layer	Topsoil	All	+	Max 0.34	Dark Grey-Brown Silt Clay .
2	Layer	Natural	All	+	+	Underlying sand and silt substrate: Mid Orange -Brown Silt and sand.
3	Layer	Subsoil	2	+	0.16	Mid grey silt-clay.
4	Cut	Ditch	6	2.15	0.8	NE-SW aligned moderate sides to concave base
5	Fill	Ditch	6	1.69	0.52	Firm mid grey-brown clay-silt
6	Fill	Ditch	6	1.9	0.19	Mid blue-grey silt-clay
7	Fill	Ditch	6	2.15	0.15	Mid brown to black silt-clay
8	Fill	Ditch	6	1.23	0.11	Firm, mid grey silt-clay
9	Cut	Ditch	7	1.32	0.43	E-W aligned, gradual sides to concave base
10	Fill	Ditch	7	0.97	0.1	Friable light grey to white silt
11	Fill	Ditch	7	0.97	0.05	Firm dark grey to black clay-silt
12	Fill	Ditch	7	1.3	0.11	Mid grey clay-silt
13	Fill	Ditch	7	0.55	0.08	Dark Grey clay-silt
14	Fill	Ditch	7	1.25	0.23	Mid red-brown clay-silt
15	Cut	Pit	1	0.7	0.21	Circular, steep sides to flat base
16	Fill	Pit	1	0.7	0.21	Light yellow-brown silt-sand
17	Cut	Pit	1	0.35	0.17	Circular, moderate sloping sides to concave base
18	Fill	Pit	1	0.22	0.17	Light red-brown silt clay
19	Cut	Ditch	6	5.2	0.97	E-W aligned moderate sides to flat base
20	Fill	Ditch	6	2.3	0.05	Firm, light green-blue clay
21	Fill	Ditch	6	2.1	0.15	Loose, mid brown peat-silt
22	Fill	Ditch	6	1.8	0.25	Light green-blue silt sand
23	Fill	Ditch	6	1.6	0.2	Angular limestone fragments within matrix of light blue silt clay
24	Fill	Ditch	6	1.65	0.05	Light grey-blue silt-clay

Context	Type	Category	Trench	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description (soil colour and texture/ cut description)
25	Fill	Ditch	6	0.5	0.2	Mid brown peat-silt
26	Fill	Ditch	6	0.9	0.05	Mid brown-grey silt-clay
27	Fill	Ditch	6	1.2	0.25	Mid grey-blue silt sand
28	Fill	Ditch	6	4.55	0.4	Mid brown peat-silt
29	Fill	Ditch	6	4.5	0.3	Light brown peat-silt
30	Fill	Ditch	6	1.65	0.05	Light grey-blue clay
31	Cut	Ditch	7	4.55	0.88	NE-SW aligned moderate sides to concave base
32	Fill	Ditch	7	1.3	0.2	Mid brown-grey sand-clay
33	Fill	Ditch	7	4.4	0.24	Light blue-grey silt-clay
34	Fill	Ditch	7	1.95	0.1	Dark brown to black silt-peat
35	Fill	Ditch	7	1.6	0.07	Light brown-yellow silt
36	Fill	Ditch	7	1.62	0.16	Mid brown-grey silt clay
37	Fill	Ditch	7	1.3	0.05	Light brown-yellow silt-sand
38	Fill	Ditch	7	1.04	0.2	Light grey-brown silt clay
39	Fill	Ditch	7	0.98	0.13	Light brown peat-silt
40	Cut	Ditch	5	4.15	1.03	N-S aligned gradual sides to flat base
41	Cut	Field drain	5	1.61	0.25	N-S aligned gradual sides to flat base
42	Cut	Ditch	2	0.8	0.3	N-S aligned convex sides to flat base
43	Fill	Ditch	2	0.35	0.07	Mid grey-brown silt-clay
44	Fill	Ditch	2	0.5	0.15	Mid red-brown silt-sand
45	Fill	Ditch	2	0.75	0.16	Light grey-brown silt
46	Fill	Ditch	5	0.75	0.21	Mid orange-grey clay-sand
47	Fill	Ditch	5	1.05	0.1	Light orange-brown silt-sand
48	Fill	Ditch	5	3.5	0.35	Mid orange-grey silt-clay
49	Fill	Ditch	5	2.7	0.21	Mid blue-orange silt-clay
50	Fill	Ditch	5	1.87	0.13	Mid grey-orange silt-clay
51	Cut	Ditch	2	0.9	0.25	N-S aligned moderate sloping sides to concave base

52	Fill	Ditch	2	0.55	0.12	Light grey-brown silt-clay
Context	**Type**	**Category**	**Trench**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description (soil colour and texture/ cut description)**
53	Fill	Ditch	2	0.9	0.18	Mid brown silt sand
54	Cut	Ditch	4	3.5	0.25	N-S aligned gradual sloping sides to concave base
55	Fill	Ditch	4	3.5	0.25	Mid brown-yellow silt-clay
56	Cut	Ditch	4	1.91	0.97	N-S aligned moderately sloping sides to flat base
57	Fill	Ditch	4	0.95	0.1	Light orange-grey silt-sand
58	Fill	Ditch	4	1.95	0.49	Mid orange-grey silt-clay
59	Fill	Ditch	4	1.37	0.11	Mid grey-brown clay-silt
60	Fill	Ditch	4	1.05	0.13	Dark grey-brown clay-silt
61	Cut	Ditch	2	1.62	0.39	NE-SW aligned moderate sloping sides to concave base
62	Fill	Ditch	2	1.62	0.11	Mid blue-grey clay
63	Fill	Ditch	2	1.47	0.13	Mid grey-brown silt-clay
64	Fill	Ditch	2	1.38	0.19	Light blue-grey clay-silt
65	Cut	Ditch	3	0.7	0.24	N-S aligned moderate sloping sides to flat base
66	Fill	Ditch	3	0.13	0.2	Light grey-brown silt-clay
67	Fill	Ditch	3	0.55	0.23	Dark grey-brown silt-sand
68	Cut	Ditch	2	2.3	0.47	NW-SE moderate
69	Fill	Ditch	2	1.03	0.15	Firm, mid grey-blue silt-clay
70	Fill	Ditch	2	2.3	0.37	Mid orange-grey clay-silt
71	Fill	Ditch	2	1.04	0.15	Mid grey silt-clay
72	Fill	Ditch	2	0.73	0.02	Dark brown to black clay-silt
73	Cut	Ditch	3	0.85	0.22	N-S aligned, moderate sides to flat base
74	Fill	Ditch	3	0.85	0.22	Dark grey-brown clay-silt
75	Fill	Ditch	5	1.61	0.26	Dark orange-brown clay-silt
76	Cut	Ditch	4	1.6	0.47	NW-SE aligned, moderate sides to flat base
77	Fill	Ditch	4	0.23	0.07	Light grey-blue clay-sand
78	Fill	Ditch	4	0.07	0.04	Light grey-blue clay-sand

79	Fill	Ditch	**4**	1.21	0.24	**Mid grey-blue silt-sand**
80	Fill	Ditch	4	1.27	0.28	**Dark brown-grey sand-clay**

Appendix 3: Finds Reports

The Post Roman Pottery

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

The material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook* (2016, 2024 revision). The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005). A total of two sherds from two vessels, weighing 10 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed. Sherds were then counted and weighed. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to a Microsoft Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1 below. The pottery dates to the 18th-19th centuries.

Condition

There are two small sherds, one is chipped or spalled but not obviously burnt.

Results

Table 1 below shows a catalogue of the material.

Table 1, catalogue of the post Roman pottery

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Form	Part	Comment	Date	NoS	NoV	W(g)
6	28	ENGS	English stoneware	Jar or bowl	BS		18th-19th	1	1	8
6	28	CREA	Creamware	Flat?	BS	Spalled/chipped	Late 18th-Mid 19th	1	1	2
							Total	**2**	**2**	**10**

Provenance

The pottery was recovered from (28), within ditch [19] in Trench 6.

Range

There are two small sherds of 18th to 19th century date, including a fragment of stoneware (ENGS) and a piece of creamware (CREA). The sherds are common domestic pottery types of the period and are likely domestic waste.

Recommendations

No further work is recommended. The pottery is not worthy of retention and can be discarded.

Abbreviations

Cxt	Context
Fe	Ferruginous inclusions
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
Tr	Trench
W(g)	Weight (grams)

References

~2016 (2024 revision), *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* [internet]. Available at: https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/2204/archaeology-handbook-pdfa

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The Ceramic Building Material

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

The material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (2002) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's Archaeology Handbook (2016, 2024 revision), using the codes and system devised for the City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit (unpublished). A four fragments weighing 287 grams was recorded.

Methodology

The material was weighed and then examined visually. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 1 below. Firing condition (oxidation/reduction) and principal inclusions are recorded in the archive table (Table 1), with quartz sand size recorded as fine, medium or coarse.

Condition

The ceramic building material is in a highly fragmented and abraded state.

Provenance

The material was recovered from ditch fills (28) in cut [19] within Trench 6 and (52) in [51] within Trench 2.

Results

Table 1 below shows a full archive catalogue list of the material.

Table 1, the ceramic building material

Tr	Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Fabric	Description	Date	NoF	W(g)
6	28	CBM	Misc. ceramic building material	Oxidised; fine; Ca; mica	Surfaceless flakes	Roman or post-Roman	2	17
6	28	CBM	Misc. ceramic building material	Oxidised; fine; Ca; mica	Abraded; soft - could be FCLAY object or CBM; one area of flat surfacing	Undated	1	7
2	52	BRK	Misc. brick	Oxidised; fine; Ca	Abraded; Fenland fabric; 48mm thick; no bonding material	16th-19th	1	263
						Total	**4**	**287**

Range

Ditch [19] in Trench 6 produced three undiagnostic fragments of ceramic building material (CBM). Two pieces are highly fired and formed in an oxidised calcareous "Fenland-type" fabric typical of post-medieval brick in south Lincolnshire, however, this identification is uncertain.

Ditch [51] produced a large and abraded fragment from a handmade brick in a Fenland-type fabric. The item is certainly of post-medieval date.

Potential

There is no potential for further work. The items are not worthy of retention and can be discarded.

References

~ 2002, *Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material, version 3.3* [internet]. Available *at*: https://bleatings.blogspot.com/2024/03/ceramic-building-material-minimum.html

~2016 (2024 revision), *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* [internet]. Available at: https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/2204/archaeology-handbook-pdfa

Abbreviations

Cxt	Context
Misc.	Miscellaneous
NoF	Number of fragments
W(g)	Weight (grams)

Animal Bone

Kevin Rielly and Karen Deighton,

Introduction

A total of 7 trial trenches were excavated within a field abutting Bourne Road, some 2.5km west of Spalding, in turn some 15km north of Peterborough. The excavations provided a selection of cut features, some clearly post-medieval in date, while others remain undated. A small number of bones

were hand collected from the two southernmost trenches (those closest to Bourne Road) within the study area i.e. Trenches 6 and 7.

Methodology

The bone was recorded to species/taxonomic category where possible and to size class in the case of unidentifiable bones such as ribs, fragments of longbone shaft and the majority of vertebra fragments. Recording follows the established techniques whereby details of the element, species, bone portion, state of fusion, wear of the dentition, anatomical measurements and taphonomic including natural and anthropogenic modifications to the bone were registered. A concerted effort was undertaken to refit as many bones as possible, noting the actual number of fragments prior to refitting.

Description of faunal assemblage

The site provided a total of just 8 animal bones, reducing to 3 following refitting. These comprise a sheep/goat radius from the fill (28) of ditch [19] within Trench 6; and then the greater part of a cattle-size lumbar vertebra (made up of 6 fragments) as well as part of a cattle-size rib from the fill (32) of ditch [31] Trench 7. The sheep radius is clearly from a rather large individual, most likely representing one of the improved breeds. Notably this feature has been dated to the 19th century. Ditch [19] and its various fills remain undated. All of these bones are in good condition, the radius exhibiting severe dog gnawing.

Conclusion and recommendations for further work

This is a rather minor collection taken from a site with clearly little artefactual evidence. Positive aspects include the apparent concentration of bones in the southern part of the site, the good preservation of this assemblage, as well as the corroboratory size and dating evidence regarding the single identifiable bone (a sheep radius), which can be regarded as a major point in terms of estimating the likelihood or otherwise of redeposition. However, the rather small and sparse nature of this assemblage strongly suggests that any further excavation is unlikely to provide a meaningful collection.

Appendix 4: Paleoenvironmental Samples

by Stacey Adams (York Archaeology)

Introduction

A forty-litre bulk environmental sample was taken from ditch [31] during archaeological investigations at LBRS25 for the recovery of environmental remains such as plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, faunal remains and Mollusca, as well as to assist finds recovery and provide evidence for phasing the feature. The following report by York Archaeology assesses the potential of the charred plant macrofossils to inform on the economy and local environment of the site.

Methodology

The forty-litre bulk environmental sample was processed by flotation at York Archaeology, in its entirety, using a 500µm mesh for the heavy residue and a 250µm mesh for the retention of the flot before being air dried. The residues were passed through 8, 4 and 2mm sieves and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains, of which, none were present. The flot was scanned, in its entirety, under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and its contents recorded (Table 1). Nomenclature follows Stace (1997). Charcoal was not present in sufficient quantities (>3g from the >4mm fraction of the heavy residue) to be submitted for identification.

Results

The heavy residue of the sample from ditch [31] was barren and contained no ecofacts or artefacts. The flot predominately consisted of uncharred material - roots and uncharred seeds of celery-leaved buttercup (*Ranunculus sceleratus*) and fat hen (*Chenopodium album*). Worm capsules were frequent accompanied by fly pupae and land snail shells.

Charred material was infrequent within the flot and consisted of several charcoal fragments, too small to be submitted for identification, and a small number of charred straw fragments.

Discussion and Interpretation

The sample from ditch [31] was largely barren indicating the ditch was not utilised beyond its construction capacity. The small quantity of charred straw fragments and charcoal indicate that burning activity was likely taking place within the vicinity of the feature with straw and wood both used as fuel. The low frequency of burnt material suggests the material was windblown rather than the deliberate deposition of burnt waste. The abundant frequent seeds of celery-leaved buttercup and fat hen suggest the modern environment within the vicinity of the deposit consisted of standing water or seasonally waterlogged land on organic-rich soil.

Potential and Further Work

The sample has no material suitable to be submitted for scientific dating and no dateable finds were present within the heavy residue. No further work is recommended on the flot due to the paucity of remains and it has been fully recorded during assessment.

References

Stace, C. 1997. *New Flora of the British Isles* (2nd ed). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Table 1: Flot contents from the bulk environmental sample from ditch [31] at LBRS25.
Quantification: * = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-150, **** = 151-250, ***** = >250.

Sample Number	Context	Context/ Deposit Type and Parent Context	Sample Volume (L)	Flot Weight (g)	Flot Volume (ml)	Uncharred (%)	Seeds Uncharred	Modern Roots	Charcoal 2-4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Charred Straw Fragments	Worm Capsules	Fly Pupae	Land Snail Shells
<1>	(34)	Ditch [31]	40	17	50	99	*Ranunculus sceleratus* **** *Chenopodium album* *	*****	*	**	*	***	*	**

Appendix 5: Geoarchaeological evaluation summary

By Duncan Field

Introduction

This report details the results of a geoarchaeological evaluation undertaken at Bourne Road, Spalding Lincolnshire on the 15th of December 2025.

The goals of this geoarchaeological evaluation were to assess the site's subsurface stratigraphy for:

- Deposits of particular palaeoenvironmental interest (e.g. peat layers)
- Archaeological layers buried below the level of the standard evaluation trenches (1.2m below ground level)
- Noteworthy variations in deposit type

Methodology

Fieldwork methodology and site background

The fieldwork methodology followed that of the adjacent site of Monks House Lane (Field, 2025), which was developed in collaboration with Lincolnshire Historic Environment Officer Ruben Lopez and with reference to Historic England's guidelines on both Geoarchaeology (2015) and Environmental Archaeology (Campbell *et al.* 2011).

Five pits were distributed as evenly as possible across the site. The aim being to provide the best possible coverage of the sub-surface stratigraphy. All test pits were located within the footprint of trenches, avoiding any archaeological features and located using a GPS.

Test pit	Location
1	Eastern end of Trench 5
2	Southeastern end of Trench 7
3	Southern end of Trench 4
4	Southern end of Trench 2
5	Southern end of Trench 1

Table 1: Test pit locations

Test pits were excavated to the maximum depth achievable given the stability of the test pit sides - between 2.3m and 2.6m below ground level (BGL) in all excavations. Rapid backfilling was required in each instance due to the instability of the test pit sides, which resulted in the collapse of the test pit sides below depths of ~2m.

In all interventions the underlying deposits were described, with the depths of stratigraphic boundaries and any internal variation noted. Colour was noted with reference to a Munsell colour chart. A representative section was photographed and drawn. All test pits were immediate backfilled after recording.

This work followed on from a similar geoarchaeological evaluation at Monks House Lane, Spalding by the author in May of 2025, located in adjacent fields to the northeast and east (Field, 2025). While no geotechnical assessment has been undertaken at Bourne Road itself extensive ground investigation work has been undertaken at the aforementioned Monks House Lane site by GeoDyne Geotechnical and Environmental Consultants Ltd (2025). This work entailed the excavation of 28 standard trial pits (TP) excavated to between 2 and 3.2m BGL as well as 7 soakaway test pits (SA), excavated to between 1 and 1.4m BGL and 6 window sampling boreholes (WS), put down to depths of between 2m and 5m BGL).

This ground investigation found the sub-surface stratigraphy to be almost entirely homogenous, consisting of tidal flat deposits composed of sandy silts and silty sands which fined upwards. “Rare organic staining" was noted in TP6 (located in the southeast of the site at depths of between 2 to 2.5m BGL) and TP16 (located just south of the centre of the site between 1.9 to 2.7m BGL). Rare wood inclusions were noted in SA6 (0.4 to 1.1m BGL). No other organic components were noted across GeoDyne’s 41 interventions.

The Monks House Lane geoarchaeological assessment involved the excavation of a further twelve test pits to between 2 and 2.5m BGL. The results of this assessment were entirely consistent with that of the ground investigation work, identifying a sequence of sandy silts which coarsened with depth into silty sands, gleying at ~2m BGL, a depth which correlated with the water table.

Results

Across the five test pits the sequence was found to be entirely consistent with that described at Monks House Lane. In all instances the sequence consisted of silty sands and sandy silts, with very little other than fairly minor variations in colour and grain size to differentiate them. Broadly the sequence could be characterised as "fining upwards" with a subtle increase in the sand component noted with depth.

In terms of variation in colour the upper parts of the sequence were an orangish brown (generally between 10YR 5/3 and 7.5YR 4/4) and below ~2m BGL (the depth at which the water table is encountered) the deposits exhibited gleying (generally close to 10YR 5/1). These variations in colour are the result of variations in the oxidation of the deposits, with deposits below the water table being subject to anoxic conditions. This change in colour does not represent any variation in the mode of deposition.

No evidence of palaeochannels were identified within the test pits, however it's worth noting that this fieldwork methodology does not lend itself to the identification of subtle channel cuts within argillaceous deposits. This is because the depth of the deposits means that sections are inaccessible and cannot be cleaned and examined closely. This is further compounded by the instability of the test pits at Bourne Road, which meant sections rapidly collapsed below a depth of ~2m.

Beyond the aforementioned subtle grading of the deposits (which were broadly observed to fine upwards) no other sedimentary structures were observed in section in any of the test pits.

Due to the homogeneity of the deposits and the absence of organic deposits no bulk, column or OSL samples were taken during the geoarchaeological component of fieldwork.

Discussion and Recommendations

The findings of this geoarchaeological evaluation are entirely consistent with the substantial programme of ground investigation works and geoarchaeological evaluation at the adjacent site of Monks House Lane (GeoDyne Ltd, 2025. Field, 2025).

The sub-surface stratigraphy of the site across the five test pits was almost entirely homogenous and did not demonstrate any evidence of either buried land surfaces, archaeological horizons or organic deposits. The sequence consisting entirely of homogenous sandy silts and silty sands.

When taking the ground investigation work into account a total of 56 interventions were excavated across both Bourne Road and Monks House Lane, failing to identify any noteworthy variations in deposit type.

Due to the lack of significant variation (despite the numerous interventions) across the two sites no deposit modelling work is recommended.

Due to the aforementioned absence of deposits considered to be of significant palaeoenvironmental potential no environmental samples were collected during the geoarchaeological evaluation, therefore no analytical work is recommended.

While the sequence was found to be homogenous and devoid of environmental macrofossils it still holds the potential for the preservation of microscopic palaeoenvironmental proxies (such as pollen, ostracods, diatoms etc). However, the preservation of these proxies cannot be guaranteed and whether they would be of any interpretative value is unclear.

As the sequence was devoid of macroscopic environmental matter radiocarbon dating is not feasible. Therefore, the recovery of cores in opaque sleeves for OSL dating would likely be necessary in order to date any sequence. In the absence of any dating evidence such a sequence would be of no interpretative value.

Bibliography

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Historic England. 2015 *Geoarchaeology: Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record*. Historic England: Swindon. https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/deposit-modelling-and-archaeology/

OASIS Summary for preconst1-539623

OASIS ID (UID)	preconst1-539623
Project Name	Evaluation at Land Off Bourne Road Spalding: an Archaeological Evaluation
Sitename	Land Off Bourne Road Spalding
Sitecode	LBRS25
Project Identifier(s)	lbrs25
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	H16-1022-25
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project Dates	01-Dec-2025 - 08-Dec-2025
Location	Land Off Bourne Road Spalding NGR : TF 22440 22022 LL : 52.78190054152998, -0.186090090511592 12 Fig : 522440,322022
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Lincolnshire Local Authority District : South Holland Parish : South Holland, unparished area
Project Methodology	Seven trenches, each measuring 30 m long and 1.8 m wide, were excavated during the works , Once the archaeological horizon was reached, investigation of archaeological remains was undertaken by hand. Archaeological features and deposits were identified, excavated and recorded in both plan and section where appropriate by trained archaeologists using appropriate hand tools. A shallow, machine dug sondage was excavated through the deposits into which any archaeological features were cut to determine the presence of masking deposits that may have overlaid further archaeological features. a geoarchaeological assessment of the underlying strata was undertaken by PCA's in house Geoarchaeologist, Duncan Field. Five machine excavated test pits were dug to approximately 2.5m below modern ground surface.
Project Results	In summary, archaeological features were present in all of the trenches, and with the exception of post-medieval boundaries, drains and agricultural features, the majority were undated by artefacts. However, these linear features are highly likely to relate to those seen in the trench evaluation conducted on land off Monks House Lane immediately to the north and east of the site and are therefore probably also Romano-British in date.
Keywords	Boundary Ditch - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Boundary Ditch - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Private individual
HER	Lincolnshire HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Rebecca Nichols
HER Identifiers	

Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Lincolnshire Archives;

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