

South Holland (Spalding Power Connection)



Archaeological Evaluation Report



March 2012

**Client: RSK Environmental
(on behalf of National Grid)**

OA East Report No: 1347
OASIS No: oxford3-120613
NGR: 550450 326350

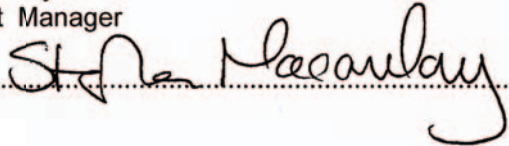
Archaeological Evaluation at South Holland (Spalding Power Connection)

By James Fairbairn

Editor: Stephen Macaulay BA MPhil MIFA

Illustrator: Stuart Ladd MA PIFA

Report Date: March 2012

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HER Event No:
Date of Works: February 2012
Client Name: RSK Environmental (on behalf of National Grid)
Client Ref: 13982
Planning Ref: N/a
Grid Ref: Lincolnshire (550450 326350)
Site Code: SPHC12
Finance Code: XLISHS12
Receiving Body: Lincoln Museum
Accession No: LCNCC:2011.518
Prepared by: James Fairbairn
Position: Supervisor
Date: March 2012
Checked by: Stephen Macaulay
Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: March 2012
Signed: 

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Oxford Archaeology East,

15 Trafalgar Way,
Bar Hill,
Cambridge,
CB23 8SQ

t: 01223 850500
f: 01223 850599
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast>

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents

Summary.....5

1 Introduction.....6

 1.1 Location and scope of work.....6

 1.2 Geology and topography.....6

 1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....6

 1.4 Acknowledgements.....7

2 Aims and Methodology.....8

 2.1 Aims.....8

 2.2 Methodology.....8

3 Results.....9

 3.1 Introduction9

 3.2 Trench1 (fig 2).....9

 3.3 Trench 12 (fig 2).....9

 3.4 Trench 13 (fig 2).....9

 3.5 Test pits (fig 2).....9

 3.6 Finds Summary.....9

4 Discussion and Conclusions.....10

 4.1 Discussion10

 4.2 Significance.....10

 4.3 Recommendations.....10

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory.....11

.....14

Appendix B. Bibliography15

Appendix C. OASIS Report Form16

List of Figures

- Fig. 1 Site location map
Fig. 2 Trench locations and section 1

List of Plates

- Plate. 1 Trench 1
Plate. 2 Trench 12
Plate. 3 Trench 13
Plate. 4 Test pit 10
Plate. 5 Plough scaring

Summary

On the 20th and 21st of February 2012 Oxford Archaeology East were commissioned by RSK environmental to evaluate three trial trenches and ten test pits in advance of the construction of a new electricity line at South Holland, Lincolnshire. All evaluation trenches and test pits were devoid of archaeological remains.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at South Holland (Spalding Power Connection) SK 550450 326350
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Brigitte Buss of RSK Environmental Ltd (ref:110461.01Rev00), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East.
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010). The results will enable decisions to be on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county store (Lincolnshire Museum) in due course. The project site code was SHPC12 and the County Museum Accession Number is LCNCC:2011.518.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The underlying geology of the area is Quaternary alluvial sand, silt overlying the mudstone, siltstone and silts of the Kellaware Formation.
- 1.2.2 The cable route was situated on open agricultural land between a ridge known locally as the Townlands on which the town of Spalding is situated to the southwest and the wash estuary. Approximately 1.7m west of the site the River Welland runs in southwest to northeast direction.
- 1.2.3 The land is predominately flat and lies at 4m AoD and has suffered from episodes of inundation. The area has been periodically drained since the Roman period. The most recent dating from the 17th or 18th century.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The proposed development is within a wider landscape of Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains, already recorded on the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record, however no recent investigations have occurred in the study area.
- 1.3.2 Prehistoric remains are almost completely absent due to the depositional history of the South Holland Fens, when prior to the Roman period large parts were inundated and part of an estuary. Remains of this period *may* be present, however at a greater depth, buried beneath alluvium.
- 1.3.3 Roman settlement evidence is well attested to the southwest around Whaplode St Catherine and Spalding. Former watercourses may preserve earlier archaeology and roddons (raised ground the result of silting of former river courses) often form the basis of later Roman settlement in the area.

- 1.3.4 The nearby village of Moulton, Weston and Whaplode all have medieval or earlier Saxon origins, whilst Spalding itself dates back to the 7th century AD, developing in the 11th century around the castle and becoming a substantial settlement and port, peaking in the 14th century. Silting saw the settlement decline in the later medieval and post-medieval periods, with a shift to Wisbech and then Kings Lynn in the east.
- 1.3.5 The river Welland itself is a significant geographical feature which has attracted historic activity along its course.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Brigitte Buss of RSK Environmental Ltd for commissioning the work, Stephen Macaulay for managing the project for OAE, Gavin Murphy of Electricity Alliance East for his assistance while we were on site. James Fairbairn directed the evaluation and was assisted by Jullian Newman.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required that three machine excavated trenches (2 x 30m & 1 x 20m) and ten machine excavated test pits (2m x 1.8m) were excavated on the route of a new high voltage electricity cable.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.2.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.5 Conditions on site were cold and dry.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Evaluation trenches and test pits were dug in a numbered order starting at the southern end of the cable route. Trenches are discussed in numerical order followed by test pits in numerical order

3.2 Trench1 (fig 2)

3.2.1 Trench 1 was located in the footprint of the cable sealing end compound at the southern most end of the cable route. The trench measured 30.0m in length and 1.8m in width and ran in a northwest-southeast orientation. A light brown silt subsoil (101) with an average depth of 0.30m overlay a very finely sorted water lain silt deposit (102) .This was sealed by a sandy silt plough soil (100) with an average depth of 0.50m. No archaeological features or finds were recorded in trench 1.

3.3 Trench 12 (fig 2)

3.3.1 Trench 12 was located in the footprint of the sealing end compound at the northern end of the cable route. It measured 30m in length and 1.8m in width. It was orientated south to north. Similarly to trench 1 the subsoil layer (101) consisted of a light brown silt with an average depth of 0.30m. This overlay an almost pure silt deposit (102). These layers were capped by a sandy silt plough soil (100) with an average depth of 0.50m. No archaeological features or finds were recorded in trench 12.

3.4 Trench 13 (fig 2)

3.4.1 Trench 13 was located in the footprint of the proposed replacement tower. It measured 20m in length and 1.80m in width. It was orientated northwest-southeast and was excavated to an average depth of 0.80m. A water lain silt deposit was overlain by a light brown silt subsoil with an average depth of 0.40m. This was capped by a light brown plough soil (100) with a depth of 0.40m. No archaeological features or finds were recorded in trench 13 although evidence of post medieval ploughing was recorded in the form of scaring (plate 5) . A machine dug sondage was located at the southern most end of trench 13 to determine the depth of the lower silt layer. At 1.8m the water lain silt deposit was identical to what was recorded at 0.8m and suggests that this layer has some considerable depth.

3.5 Test pits (fig 2)

3.5.1 Test pits **2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9** and **10**. were excavated on the line of the underground cable route starting at the southern and progressing in numbered order northwards . Each consisted of a water deposited silt (102) overlain by a light brown silty subsoil (101). This was capped by the silty sand plough soil (100). The depths of these layers were consistent throughout the test pits. With the subsoil layer having an average depth of 0.40m and the plough soil layer (100) having an average depth of 0.40m. No archaeological features or finds were recorded in any of the test pits.

3.6 Finds Summary

3.6.1 No archaeological finds were recovered from any of the trenches or test pits.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion

- 4.1.1 No archaeological features were recorded during the evaluation at South Holland, Spalding, although evidence of flood inundation could be seen in all of the trenches and test pits and given the relative depth and uniformity of this silt deposit it can be assumed that this will cover the entire area. Archaeology may survive below this layer but as seen in trench 13, the same silt deposit was still visible at a depth of 1.8m which is below the level of disturbance expected by the development works.

4.2 Significance

- 4.2.1 Although little has been added to what is known about the area of South Holland and the development area the archaeological evaluation has given a further insight into the silt and flood levels to the north-east of Spalding.

4.3 Recommendations

- 4.3.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
Trench 1 was devoid of archaeology. It consisted of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of silty sand.				Avg. depth (m)	0.44	
				Width (m)	2.10	
				Length (m)	37.70	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 12						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
Trench 12 was devoid of archaeology. It consisted of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of silty sand.				Avg. depth (m)	0.48	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	30	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 13						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench 13 was devoid of archaeology. It consisted of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of silty sand.				Avg. depth (m)	0.8	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	20	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil		
101	Layer	-	0.4	Subsoil		
102	Layer	-	-	Natural		
Test pit 2						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Test pit 2 was devoid of archaeology				Avg. depth (m)	0.75	
				Width (m)	1.8	

					Length (m)	2
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	1.8	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	1.8	0.4	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer				-	-

Test pit 3						
General description Test pit 3 was devoid of archaeology					Orientation	NE-SW
					Avg. depth (m)	0.7
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	2
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	1.8	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	1.8	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer				-	-

Test pit 4						
General description Test pit 4 was devoid of archaeology					Orientation	NE-SW
					Avg. depth (m)	0.7
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	2
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	1.8	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	1.8	0.4	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer				-	-

Test pit 5						
General description Test pit 5 was devoid of archaeology					Orientation	NE-SW
					Avg. depth (m)	0.8
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	2
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	1.8	0.4	Topsoil	-	-

101	Layer	1.8	0.4	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer				-	-

Test pit 6						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Test pit 6 was devoid of archaeology				Avg. depth (m)	0.5	
				Width (m)	1.8	
				Length (m)	2	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	1.8	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	1.8	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer					

Test pit 7						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Test pit 7 was devoid of archaeology				Avg. depth (m)	0.7	
				Width (m)	1.8	
				Length (m)	2	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	1.8	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	1.8	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer				-	-

Test pit 8						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Test pit 8 was devoid of archaeology				Avg. depth (m)	0.65	
				Width (m)	1.8	
				Length (m)	2	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	1.8	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	1.8	0.35	Subsoil	-	-
102	layer				-	-

Test pit 9						
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General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Test pit 9 was devoid of archaeology					Avg. depth (m)	0.75
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	2
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	1.8	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	1.8	0.35	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer				-	-

Test pit 10						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Test pit 10 was devoid of archaeology					Avg. depth (m)	0.8
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	2
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	1.8	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	1.8	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer				-	-

Test pit 11						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Test pit 11 was devoid of archaeology					Avg. depth (m)	0.7
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	2
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	1.8	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	1.8	0.3	Subsoil	-	
102	Layer				-	

APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Macaulay, S.P., 2011 Specification For Archaeological Investigation South Holland (Spalding) Power Connection.
- Buss, B., 2011 South Holland (Spalding) Power Connection Project Design for Archaeological Field Evaluation

APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxford3-120613		
Project Name	Evaluation at South Holland (Spalding Power Connection)		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	20-02-2012	Finish	21-02-2012
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	SHPC12	Planning App. No.	N/a
HER No.	N/a	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Pipelines/Cables

Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/> Grab-Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-Core	<input type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
<input type="checkbox"/> Augering	<input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Test Pits
<input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search	<input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography	

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
None	None	None	None
None	None	None	None
None	Select period...	None	None

Project Location

County	Lincolnshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	South Holland	Land to the north- east of Spalding.
Parish	Spalding	
HER	Lincoln	
Study Area	140sqm	National Grid Reference
		NGR 550450, 326350

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	RSK Environmental Ltd
Project Design Originator	OA East
Project Manager	Stephen Macaulay
Supervisor	James Fairbairn

Project Archives

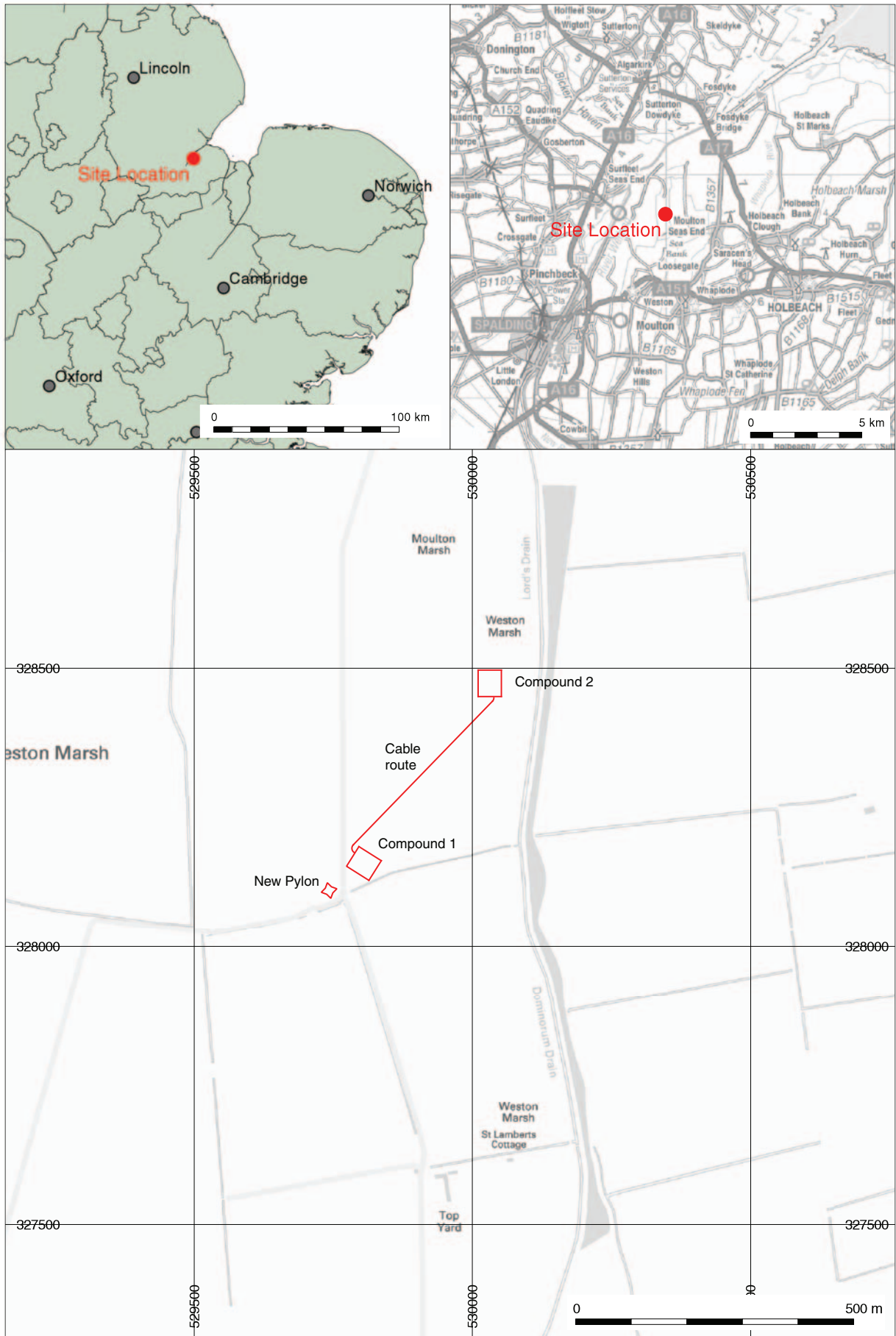
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Lincoln Museum	Lincoln Museum	Lincoln Museum
LCNCC:2011.518	LCNCC:2011.518	LCNCC:2011.518

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
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Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location

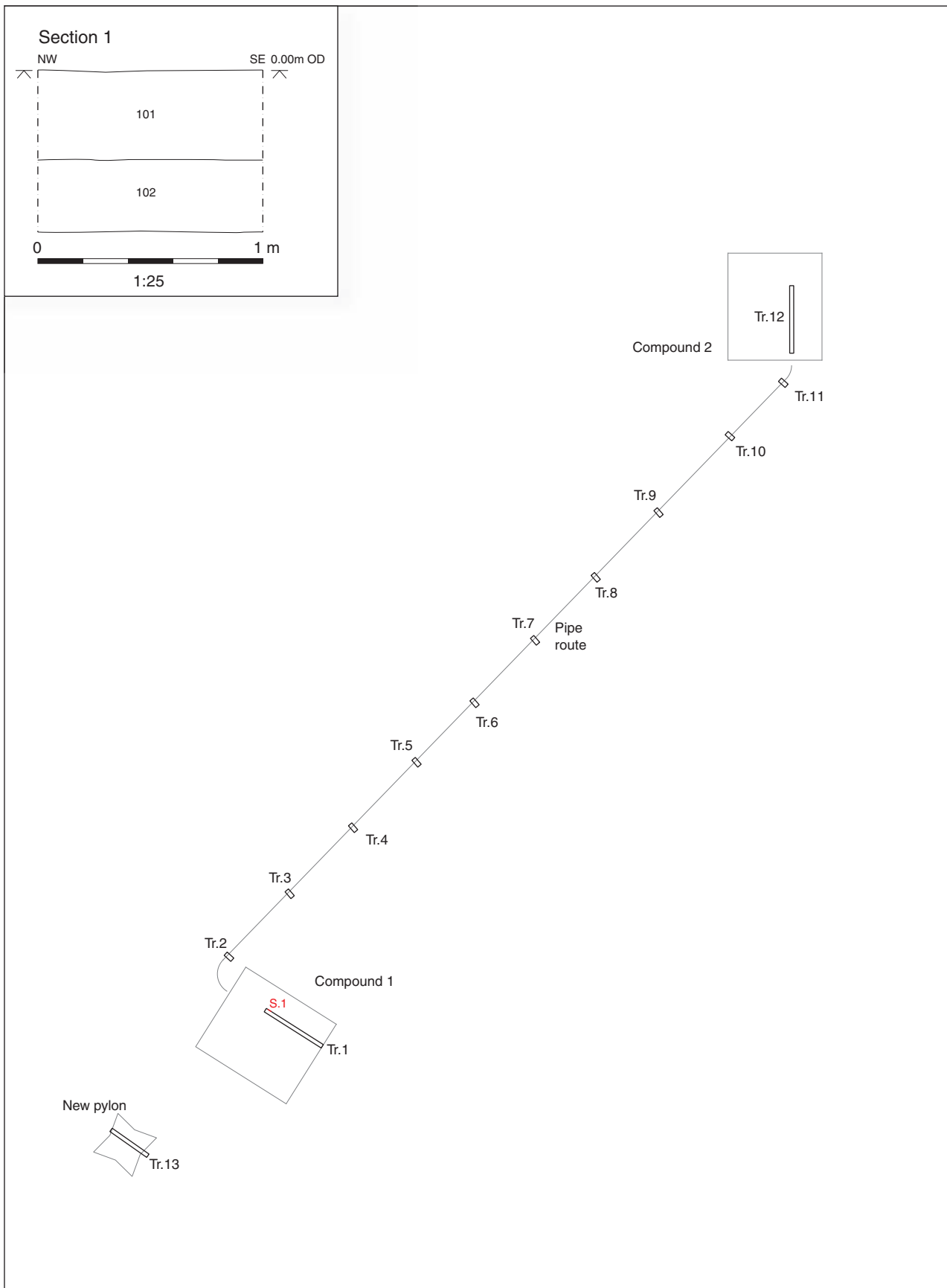


Figure 2: Trench plan and section



Plate 1: Trench 1



Plate 2: Trench 12



Plate 3: Trench 13

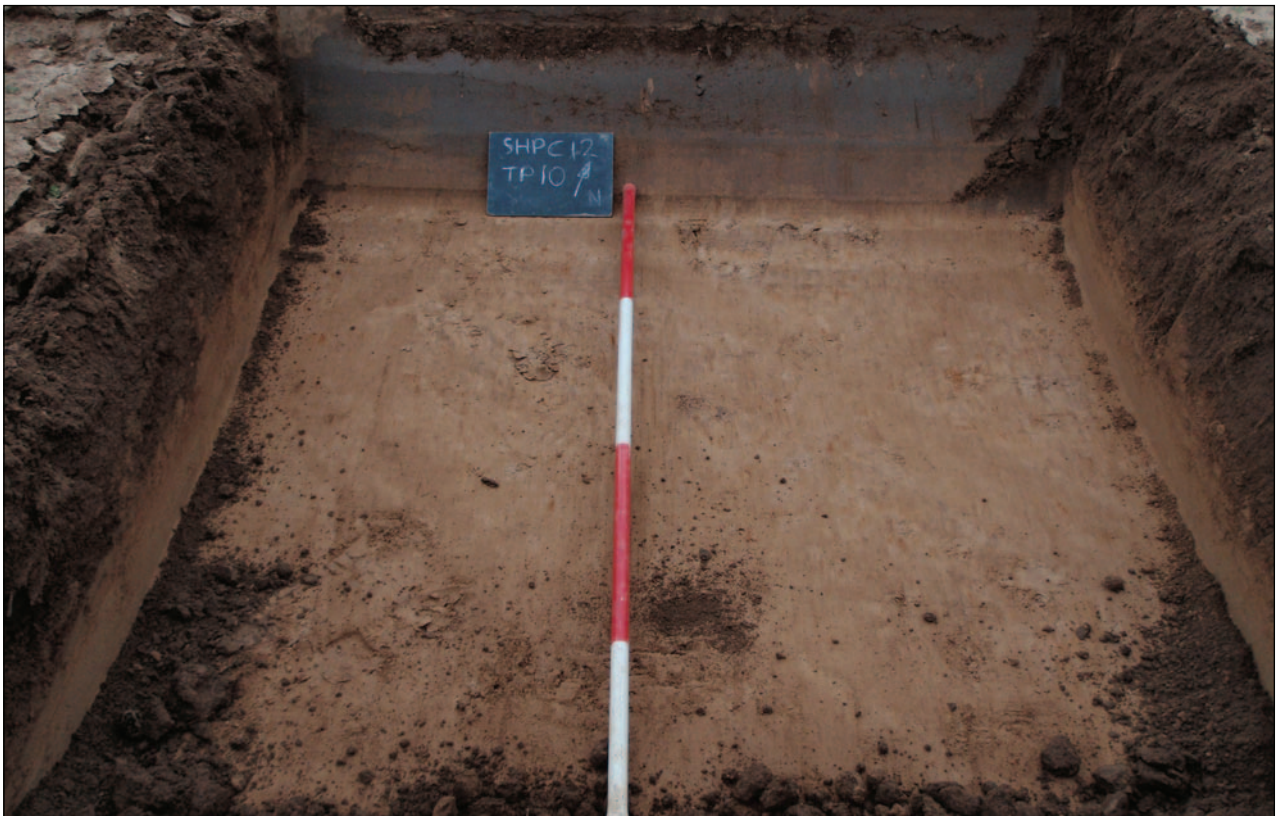


Plate 4: Test pit 10



Plate 5: Plough scaring



**Head Office/Registered Office/
OA South**

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: [oanorth@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oanorth@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
f: +44 (0) 1223 850599
e: [oaeast@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>



Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

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