

**DESK-TOP ASSESSMENT OF THE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF
LAND NEXT TO
THE CEMETERY,
STATION ROAD,
SUTTERTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

Work Undertaken For
Land and Buildings Consultancy

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A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

LINCOLNSH
COUNTY OF
10 OCT
CITY AND
MUNICIPAL

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1. SUMMARY

A desk-top assessment was undertaken to determine the archaeological implications of proposed development of land next to the cemetery, Station Road, Sutterton, Lincolnshire. Several archaeological sites and findspots are located in the vicinity of the proposed development area. Evidence for prehistoric activity in the vicinity is lacking. However, this apparent paucity of early exploitation is possibly due to burial of the evidence by alluvium, rather than genuine absence.

A Romano-British occupation site, evident as a scatter of artefacts, is located immediately east of the proposed development area, with a second a little further to the northeast. An adjacent trackway and enclosures may be related to the Roman sites, though these cropmark features are undated and could equally be associated with nearby medieval remains.

Located southeast of the village centre, numerous medieval and later sites surround the proposed development area. It seems probable that much of the investigation site was part of larger fields during the medieval and post-medieval periods. However, medieval artefacts have been found just to the east of the investigation area and may relate to the aforementioned cropmarks recorded on aerial photographs. Additionally, a moderate quantity of fragmentary medieval pottery was recognised in the northeast corner of the proposed development during the site visit. Both concentrations probably define the locations of medieval habitation sites.

In the seventeenth century, a park was created out of the agricultural land to the east of the proposed development area. By the early 19th century two gate lodges had been built to flank the entrance to this park. Additionally, by 1828 a building was

located immediately outside the southeast corner of the proposed development site.

Assessed as locally important, the adjacent Romano-British site may extend into the area of proposed development. Of similar significance is the medieval site indicated by the concentration of pottery in the investigation area. The whole of the proposed development site has ground conditions appropriate for geophysical survey.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services were commissioned by Land and Buildings Consultancy to undertake a desk-top assessment of the area south of the cemetery, Station Road, Sutterton, Lincolnshire. This was to determine the archaeological implications of proposed development of the site, as detailed in planning application B18/0206/94. This archaeological assessment was undertaken in accordance with a brief set by the Community Archaeologist for Boston Borough Council.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Sutterton is situated 8km southwest of Boston, in the civil parish of Sutterton, Boston District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The town is located 8km from the southwest corner of The Wash, and between the Rivers Welland, to the south, and Witham, which lies to the north.

Located at a height of c. 3m OD, the investigation area is situated on the west side of Station Road and south of the cemetery, half a kilometre southeast of the centre of Sutterton village. Centred on National Grid Reference TF285352, the

proposed development site covers approximately 3.7 hectares (Fig. 2).

Two soil regimes occur on the proposed development site. Pepperthorpe/Tanvats Association typical alluvial gley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 319) occur on the west side of the area. These soils, usually found near areas settled in the Anglo-Saxon period, probably represent early reclaimed land (Robson 1990, 30). On the east side of the site are Wisbech Association calcareous alluvial gley soils. Both soil types are developed in marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 361). Beneath this marine alluvium is glacial drift that was deposited in a geological basin between the Lincolnshire Wolds and the East Anglian Heights (Harden 1978, 5). These glacial deposits in turn overlie a solid geology of Jurassic clays.

3. AIMS

The aims of the desk-top assessment were to locate and, if present, evaluate any archaeological sites in the vicinity of the proposed development area. Such location and assessment of significance would permit the formulation of an appropriate response to integrate the needs of the archaeology with the proposed development programme.

4. METHODS

Compilation of the archaeological and historical data relevant to the area of the proposed development site involved examination of all appropriate primary and secondary sources available. These have included:

- historical documents, held in Lincolnshire Archives
- enclosure, tithe, parish and other

maps and plans, held in Lincolnshire Archives

- recent and old Ordnance Survey maps
- the County Sites and Monuments Record
- the files of the Boston District Community Archaeologist
- aerial photographs
- archaeological books and journals

Information obtained in the literature and cartographic examination was supplemented by a visit to the proposed construction site. This reconnaissance investigated the present land use and condition; the presence, or otherwise, of dumped materials; and the appropriateness for geophysical survey. Results of the archival and field examinations were committed to scale plans of the area.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Historical data

Sutterton is not mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. However, the same survey recorded ploughland and meadow in Dowdyke, which is in Sutterton (Foster and Longley 1976, 60). Also mentioned in Domesday was the extinct village of Riche, believed to have been partly included in Sutterton. Ploughland and meadow constituted the record for this lost settlement (*ibid.*, lxii; 70). The place-name Riche may derive from the Old English *ric*, meaning 'stream, ditch'. Dowdyke may be 'ditch of the doves', though it is more probable that the first element is the personal name *Duve*. In 1200, Sutterton received its first mention when it was referred to as 'Suterton'. This place-name means 'the shoemaker's homestead/village', from Old English *sutere* or Old Scandinavian *sutari*, and Old English *tun* (Ekwall 1974, 386; 149; 454).

On the southeast side of Sutterton is Algarkirk Park. Originally belonging to Algarkirk Hall, this park was probably created in the 17th century by the Beridge family who were local squire-parsons from the 17th to 19th century (Healey 1990).

5.2 Cartographic Data

Station Road is situated on the south side of Sutterton town. Appropriate maps for the vicinity were examined.

Dating from 1828, Bryant's *Map of the County of Lincoln* indicates that the vicinity of the investigation site was mostly open ground with only a single building depicted on the west side of Station Road. This structure is probably identifiable with the present Holly House Farm, located immediately outside the southeast corner of the proposed development area. Additionally, the land east of the investigation site, stretching towards Algarkirk village, was shaded as parkland.

Beetham's 1838 survey of Sutterton, copied by Lighton in 1876, details the parcelling pattern of the parish. The proximity of the site is recorded as one large field, with a single building beyond the southeast corner of the proposed development area. Additionally, the map reveals that the western boundary of the site is part of a single continuous line that extends approximately three-quarters of a kilometre to the south (Fig. 4).

Dating from 1888, the first edition one-inch Ordnance Survey map records the division of the area by two east-west boundaries. A cemetery had been established north of the northern divide and a small triangular compound had been created at the southeast corner of the area to accommodate two buildings and a pump.

The six-inch Ordnance Survey map of

1906 largely duplicates the earlier one-inch plan. However, by this date, the most southerly of the two east-west field subdividing lines had been removed. Later Ordnance Survey maps, up to the 1981 publication, record essentially the same arrangement though, by 1956, the cemetery had doubled in area to achieve its present size. Additionally, although Algarkirk Park was still shown as such in 1956, by 1977 it was no longer depicted as parkland.

5.3 Aerial Photograph Data

Aerial photographs held in the files of the Boston District Community Archaeologist were examined for evidence of archaeological remains.

An undated aerial photograph (reference code: PF EAV) records the general agricultural nature of the area. Fields are shown crossing the former Algarkirk Park, thereby indicating that the photograph post-dates the last map record of the park made in 1956 (see above).

Approximately 300m east of the proposed development site, in the former Algarkirk Park, several faint, light, cropmarks are evident on the photograph. Two of these cropmarks are closely spaced and parallel, perhaps describing the edges of a trackway. A little to the east of the northern end of this 'track' is a small rectangular cropmark. Two larger, subrectangular cropmarks occur on the north side of, and to the west of, the trackway. Further to the west, a linear ditch defines the former park boundary. Occurring on either side of the removed boundary line is a series of repetitive, parallel linear earthworks, interpreted as ridge and furrow. No cropmarks or earthworks are evident in the area of proposed development.

A vertical aerial photograph in the possession of Miss Hilary Healey was also

examined. Taken by the RAF in 1946, the photograph records Algarkirk Park as parkland. At that time the western boundary ditch of the park survived as a conspicuous earthwork. Immediately to the east of this ditch was an area of north-south aligned ridge and furrow ploughmarks. However, within the area of proposed development no cropmarks or earthworks were evident.

There are no aerial photographs of the Sutterton area in the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record.

5.4 Archaeological Data

Records of archaeological sites and finds held in the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record and the files of the Boston District Community Archaeologist were consulted. Other, secondary, sources were also examined. Details of archaeological and historical remains falling within half a kilometre of the proposed development area are collated here and committed to Figs. 2 and 3.

County Sites and Monuments Record	Description	Grid Ref.	Boston Community Archaeologist's Files
10025	Shrunken medieval village; Scheduled Ancient Monument 326	TF29103530	B01/002
12503	Church of SS Peter and Paul, Early English and Decorated; restored 1850-4. Listed Grade I	TF291353	B01/001
12508	Deserted Medieval Village, ridge and furrow ploughmarks	TF291354	B01/002
12509	Deserted Medieval Village	TF291353	B01/002
12511	Church of St Mary, Norman details, Transitional to Perpendicular; rebuilt 1787. Listed Grade I	TF285356	B18/013
12512	Roman pottery and clay ball(s)	TF28693525	B18/004
13071	Medieval pottery; silver Elizabethan coin (16th century)	TF28713525	B18/003
12509	Icehouse	TF25093529	B01/003
	Algarkirk Park	TF288353	B01/005
	Watching Brief, no archaeology observed	TF29163528	B01/014

County Sites and Monuments Record	Description	Grid Ref.	Boston Community Archaeologist's Files
13456	Evaluation excavation, evidence for ridge and furrow ploughing of possible medieval date	TF291351	B01/015
✓	Watching Brief, shallow foundation trenches; no archaeology observed	TF28483569	B18/017
13909	Romano-British pottery and clay balls in spoil from foundation trenches	TF28623538	B18/018
13498 13497	Sutterton Grange, pilgrim's ampulla; buckles; pottery, Medieval to Georgian	TF278351	B18/019
13496	Reports of coin of Cunobelin and Romano-British pottery; identifications dubious	TF278351	B18/020

Observation of a water pipeline approximately 1.3km to the north of the proposed development site recorded a shell layer at close to 3m depth. Containing cockle, mussel and oyster, this deposit was considered to represent a brackish water environment, probably an estuary. Alluvial sands and silts sealed these estuarine deposits (notes in files of the Boston District Community Archaeologist).

Mee asserts a church at Sutterton in the Saxon period (1952, 373); however, no supporting evidence has been found for this reference.

In 1538, mention is made of the site of the manor of Dow Dyke Hall in Sutterton, together with a windmill (Hodgett 1975, 48); however, it is probable that the mill was adjacent to Dowdyke Hall and, therefore, about 1km south of the present investigation area.

Opposite the Recreation Ground, c. 450m northwest of the proposed development area, is a thatched, timber-framed cottage (Healey 1990; newspaper cuttings in files of Boston District Community Archaeologist). This building, originally late 17th century date but altered in the 20th century, is listed Grade II (DoE 1988, 36).

On the east side of Station Road, approximately 200m north of the investigation site, is the Georgian House, a typical fenland farmhouse of early 18th century date. Altered in the 20th century, the house has associated outbuildings of the 18th century. Both the house and outbuildings are listed Grade II. Approximately 150m north of the proposed development site is the survivor of a pair of circular gate lodges that flanked the entrance to Algarkirk Park. Of uncertain date (Healey indicates 1770s; DoE notes early 19th century), the building is listed

Grade II (DoE 1988, 38; Healey 1990).

Located *c.* 500m east of the investigation site, on Church Lane in Algarkirk Parish, is the former schoolmasters' house and school, now cottages and Village Hall. Designed by the eminent architect Sir George Gilbert Scott and built in 1856, the group is listed Grade II (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 95).

In the southeast corner of the cemetery, immediately outside the investigation site, is a World War II pillbox. Built about 1940, this formed part of the second line of coastal defence (Healey 1990).

5.5 Site Reconnaissance

In late September 1994, a visit was made to the proposed development site. Visibility was good, the area serving as agricultural land that was being ploughed at the time of the reconnaissance.

The eastern half of the south boundary of the site was provided by a mixed hedge. Three separate counts of the shrub and tree types growing in the hedge each recorded four species per 30m length, not including the rapid coloniser, elder. This would suggest that the hedge is approximately 400 years old.

A cursory walk-over of the eastern half of the proposed development area was undertaken in order to assess the presence of occupation material. In general, few artefacts of any date were observed. However, a moderate quantity of medieval pottery and tile was observed as a localised concentration towards the northeast corner of the site. In addition, a copper alloy buckle of probable 17th century date (*cf* Reed 1988, Fig. 27, no. 25), was recovered from close to Station Road (Fig. 3).

It was considered that conditions across the

entire area were probably appropriate for magnetometry and resistivity survey.

6. DISCUSSION

Prehistoric activity has not been identified in the area around Sutterton, though this may be due to masking of the evidence by alluvium, rather than a genuine absence of prehistoric exploitation (Tom Lane, pers comm). Evidence of (undated) marine transgressions has been recovered about 1km north of the present investigation area.

Similarly, alluviation may be responsible for the apparently limited Romano-British presence thus far identified. A Romano-British site may be located 500m west of the investigation area, though there is some doubt over the veracity of the records of discoveries made at this location. However, of greater significance are the concentrations of Roman artefacts from two locations immediately east and northeast of the proposed development area. Perhaps representing small farms, these findspots are recorded as some 170m apart. Such proximity is not unusual for small Romano-British sites in the fenland (Tom Lane, pers comm). Moreover, the two separate findspots may signify two distinct sites of different date within the Romano-British period (which lasted *c.* 350 years).

Significantly greater evidence for use of the area in the medieval and post-medieval periods is provided by sites, findspots and structures. The present investigation area lies at the southern edge of the modern village which is dominated by the Norman church of St Mary. Perhaps surprisingly, this church is not mentioned in Domesday. Medieval pottery has been recovered immediately east of the proposed development area, on the opposite side of Station Road. Additionally, during the site

visit, a localised concentration of medieval ceramics was observed in the northeastern part of the investigation area. These probably relate to the prior locations of medieval habitation sites.

East of the proposed development site is the shrunken medieval settlement of Algarkirk, focussed on the 12th/13th century church of SS Peter and Paul. West of the church are a trackway and possible rectangular enclosures, evident as cropmarks. Located in Sutterton Parish, these remains are of uncertain relation to the Algarkirk deserted village.

Earthworks of ridge and furrow ploughing of possible medieval date were recorded approximately 100m northeast of the proposed development site. Survival of these earthworks was probably partially due to the creation of Algarkirk Park in the 17th century. Located virtually immediately east of the investigation area, this park was provided with gate lodges in the late 18th - early 19th century.

Hedgerow dating would suggest that the south boundary of the land parcel that encompasses the investigation site was created at about the end of the 16th century.

During the Georgian period, farmhouses were built in the general vicinity. Situated approximately 200m to the north of the investigation area, the eponymous Georgian House was constructed in the early 18th century. Holly House Farm, located immediately outside the southeast corner of the site, is undated but was extant by 1828 when it appeared on Bryant's map of the county.

Cartographic evidence records gradual subdivision of the area from the mid-19th century onwards. Smaller units have successively been created out of the

original large field mapped in 1838, to form the present parcelling pattern. Moreover, the great, extended length of the western limit of the site suggests that the boundary may have demarcated pre-enclosure blocks of the medieval open field system.

Due to the low-lying nature of the terrain, buried environmental remains may survive by virtue of waterlogging. Ground conditions that are probably suitable for geophysical survey exist across the entire site.

7. ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

For assessment of significance the *Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling ancient monuments* has been used (DoE 1990, Annex 4; see Appendix 1).

Period:

Evidence of Romano-British occupation has been recovered in the vicinity of the proposed development. Possibly representing a small farm or similar habitation site, such remains are typical of rural exploitation during the Romano-British period.

Failed and shrunken settlements are a characteristic of the medieval period in Britain and often form a feature of the landscape, either as earthworks or as artefact scatters.

Rarity:

Remains of small, rural Romano-British settlements, as located next to the proposed development area, are not in themselves uncommon, though they may possess rare characteristics. Similarly, abandoned habitation sites or shrunken settlement of medieval date, as identified in the area of investigation, is not scarce but may incorporate unusual features.

Documentation:

Records of archaeological sites and finds made in the Sutterton area are kept in the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record and the files of the Boston Borough Community Archaeologist. A collation and consideration of information for the north side of the village has previously been produced. However, the present report provides the first synopsis and synthesis of the historical and archaeological evidence for the area of proposed development.

Group value:

By virtue of the clustering of sites and findspots of medieval date in this general area, the group value of the medieval settlement evidence is moderately high. Similarly, association with other sites of contemporary date in the vicinity confers moderate group value on the Romano-British settlement remains. This evidence of multi-period exploitation of the landscape enhances the group value still further.

Survival/Condition:

No known post-medieval development has occurred on the site, consequently buried deposits have suffered negligible impact from construction. However, it is probable that agricultural use of the area will have caused some degradation of archaeological remains of medieval and later date. No previous archaeological intervention has been made into the site to assess the level of deposit survival.

Fragility/Vulnerability:

As the proposed development will impact the investigation area, possibly into natural strata, any and all archaeological deposits present on the site are extremely vulnerable.

Diversity:

Moderate period diversity is indicated by

the general settlement activity of Roman and medieval date, represented by the artefact scatters. Higher status non-settlement activity of the post-medieval period, defined by the site of Algarkirk Park, enhances the period and functional diversity of the area.

Potential:

Potential is moderate that Romano-British settlement, as identified immediately to the east, extends into the investigation site. High potential exists for medieval settlement occurring in the area of proposed development, as is evidenced by a scatter of artefacts in the northeast corner of the site.

Due to the low-lying nature of the area, there is moderate potential that palaeoenvironmental material survives at depth.

7.1 Site Importance

In summary, the criteria for assessment have established that both the Romano-British settlement evidence and the medieval remains are locally important. As such, archaeological deposits present on site can be expected to augment the understanding of the origins and development of Sutterton.

8. CONCLUSIONS

The concentrations of archaeological finds and observations represent occupation and use of this area of Sutterton in the past.

Prehistoric activity is unknown in the area, though burial by alluvium may be responsible for this lack of evidence, rather than any real absence of early exploitation.

Artefacts suggest that two Romano-British settlements are located immediately east

and northeast of the proposed development area. However, the extents of these sites are unknown and it is possible that the settlement immediately to the east (SMR12512) may extend into the investigation area. Moreover, in close proximity to this latter site are cropmarks of an undated trackway and possible rectangular enclosures. If related to the artefact scatters, these could indicate that the Romano-British settlement is much more extensive than presently known.

Although located on the southern edge of the village, the investigation site is situated in an area of numerous discoveries and sites of medieval and later date.

Cartographic evidence would suggest that the investigation site was part of a large medieval open field and, moreover, ridge and furrow ploughmarks are recorded just to the east. Hedgerow dating further indicates that the land parcel encompassing the site was created at about the end of the 16th century.

Quantities of artefacts have previously been reported from immediately to the east. Furthermore, a localised group of pottery and tile fragments was recognised on the site visit. Both concentrations probably indicate the locations of lost medieval occupation sites, perhaps farmhouses or cottages. In addition, as noted above, the trackway and rectangular enclosures evident as cropmarks are undated. Consequently, their possible association with the medieval occupation site on the east side of Station Road (SMR13071), or the Algarkirk shrunken medieval settlement further east, cannot be discounted.

The area opposite the proposed development site was emparked in the 17th century, which action was responsible for the survival of the medieval agricultural earthworks. In the late 18th/early 19th

century a pair of gate lodges were built to flank the entrance to the park.

By 1828 a building, probably a farmhouse, was located immediately beyond the southeast corner of the investigation site. Subsequently, the area saw gradual subdivision to create the present land parcelling pattern. Ground conditions appropriate for geophysical examination exist across the whole of the proposed development area.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to thank Mr C Swindin of Land and Buildings Consultancy who commissioned the assessment. Access for the site visit was kindly permitted by the tenant farmer, Mr Payne. The work was coordinated by Steve Haynes and this report was edited by Dave Start. Denise Buckley produced the illustrations. Tom Lane provided information on alluviation and the nature of Roman settlement in the area. Hilary Healey kindly provided copies of early maps and an aerial photograph of the area. Jim Bonnor, the Community Archaeologist for Boston Borough Council permitted examination of the relevant files. Access to the County Sites and Monuments Record was provided by Mark Bennet and Julia Wise of the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council.

10. REFERENCES

All of the following sources were consulted in the data-gathering exercise. However, as some references duplicated information available in others, not all of them have been specifically referred to in the text.

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

Numbers prefixed by 'B' are the reference codes used by the Community Archaeologist for Boston Borough Council.

'DoE' refers to publications by the Department of the Environment.

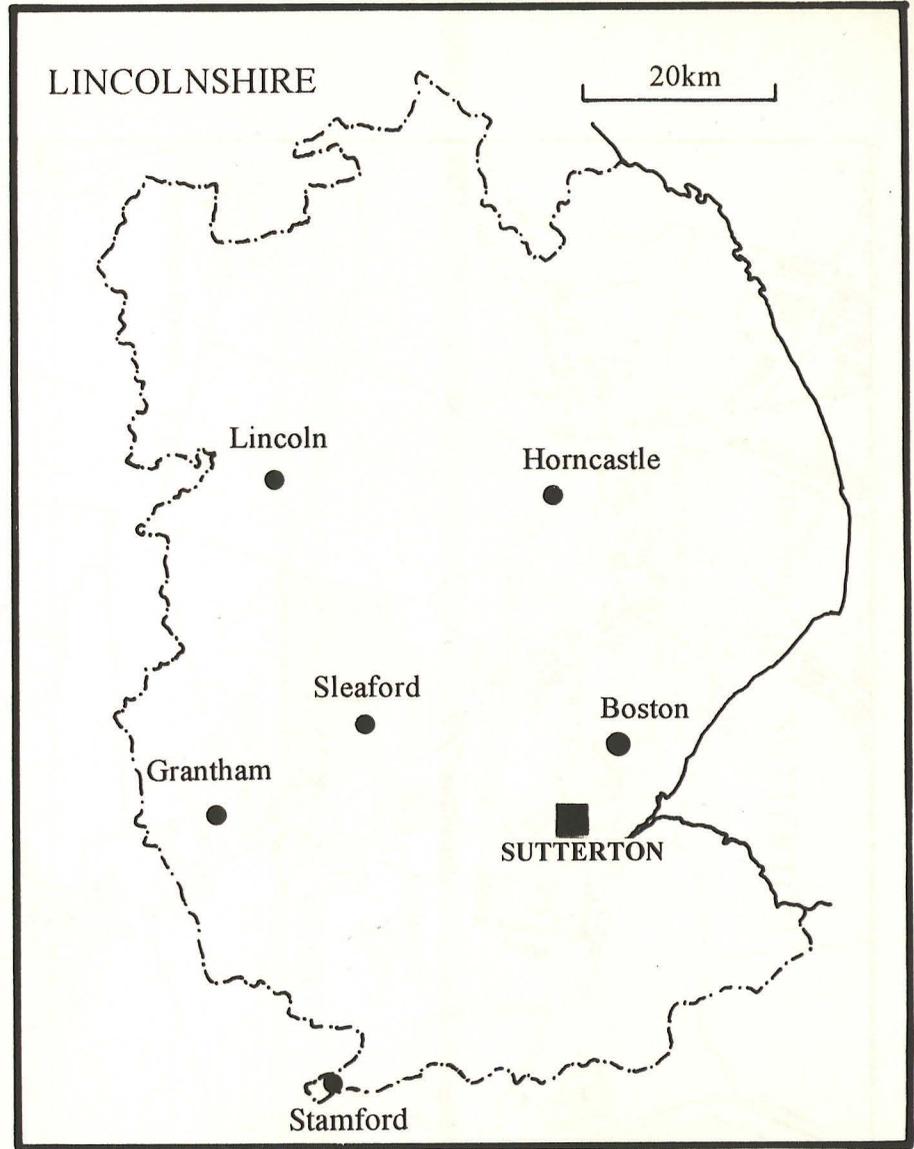
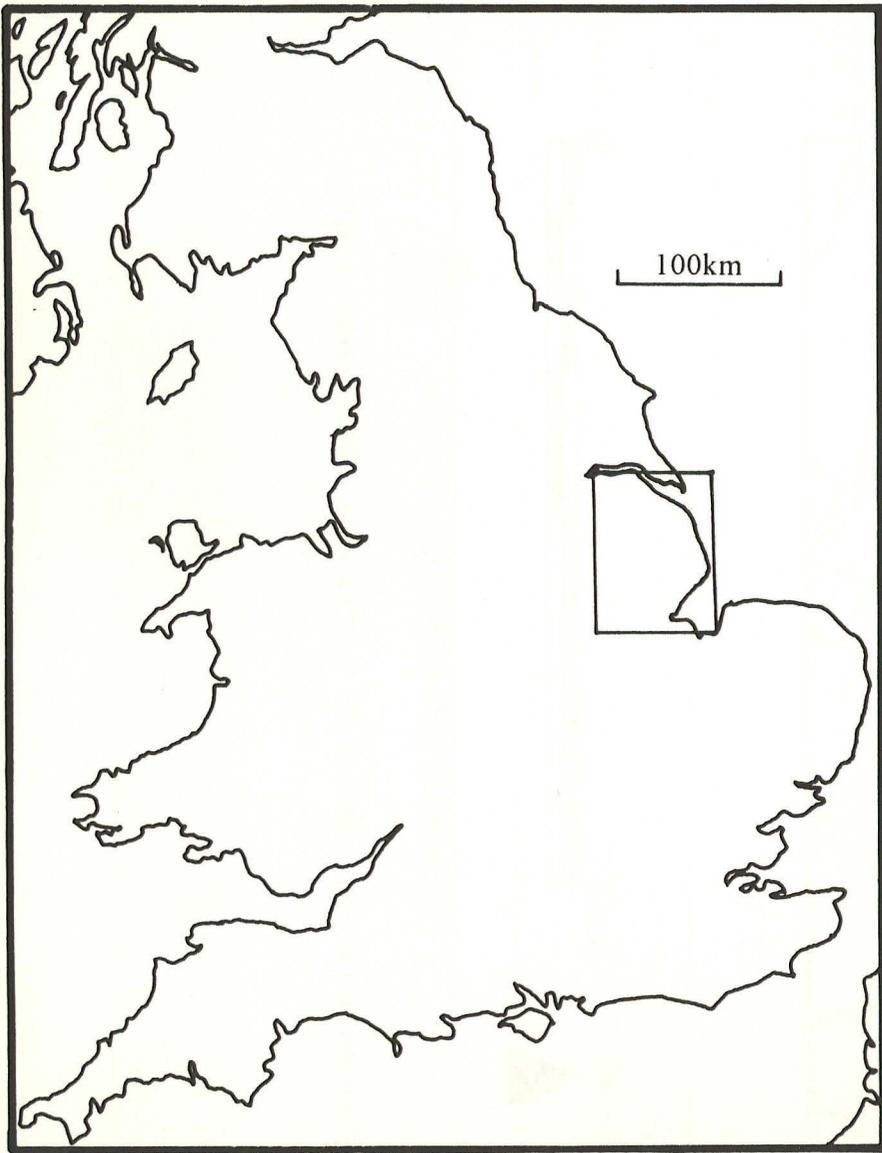
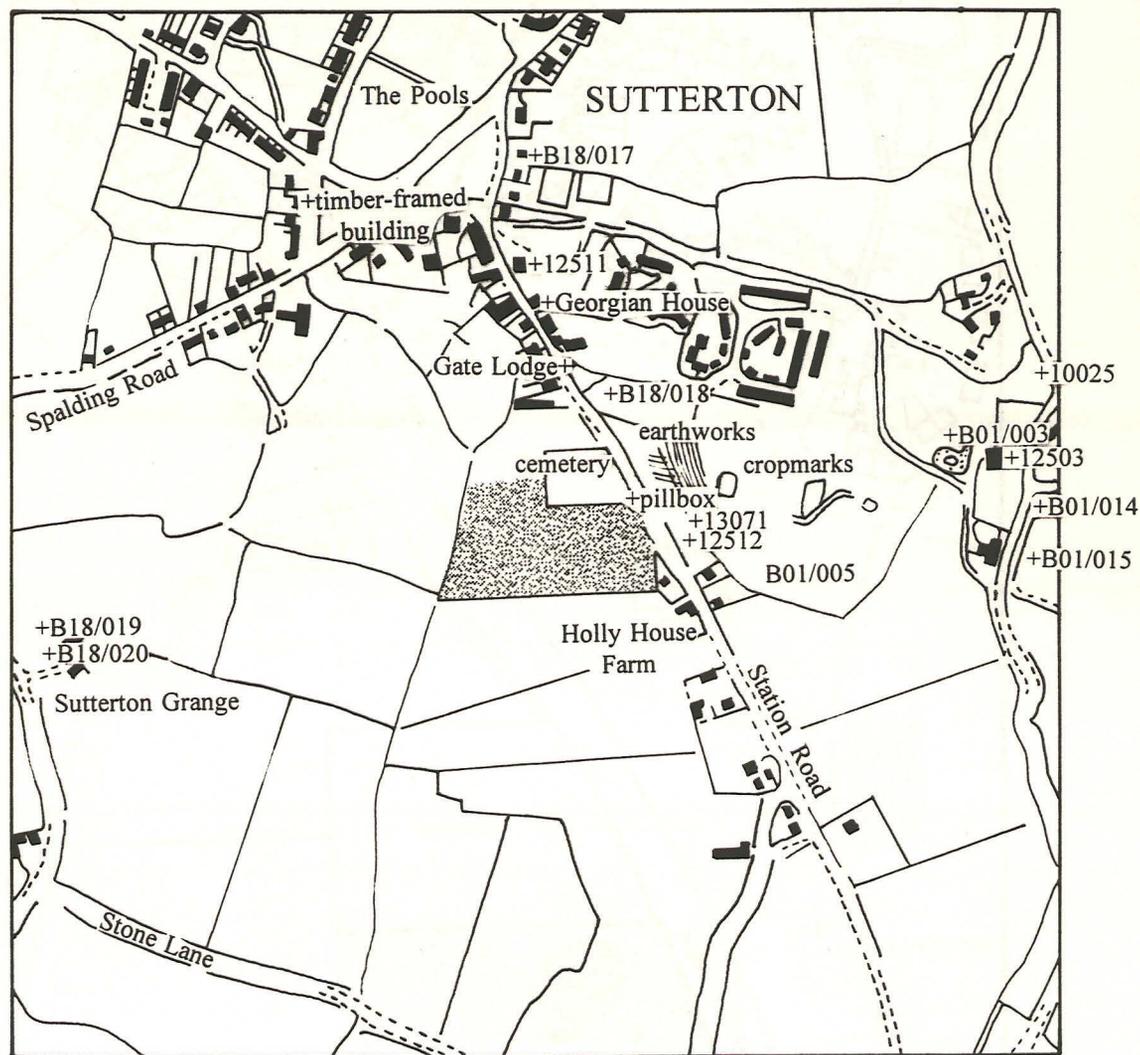


Fig. 1 General Location Plan

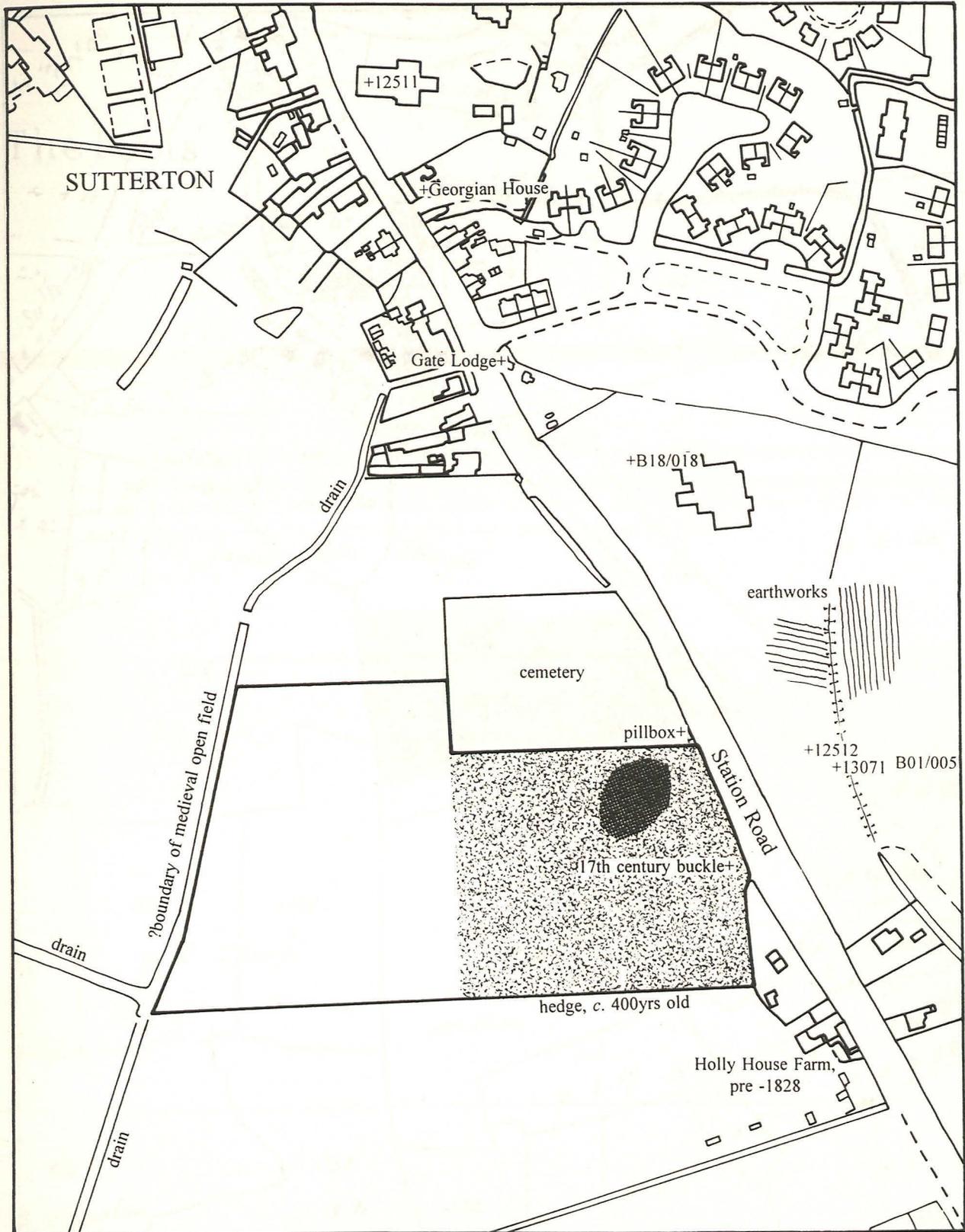
Fig. 2 Site Location Plan



AREA OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

NOTE: CROPMARKS NOT ACCURATELY TRANSCRIBED (SKETCH PLAN ONLY)

Fig. 3 Immediate Vicinity of Site, with Archaeological Detail



0 200m

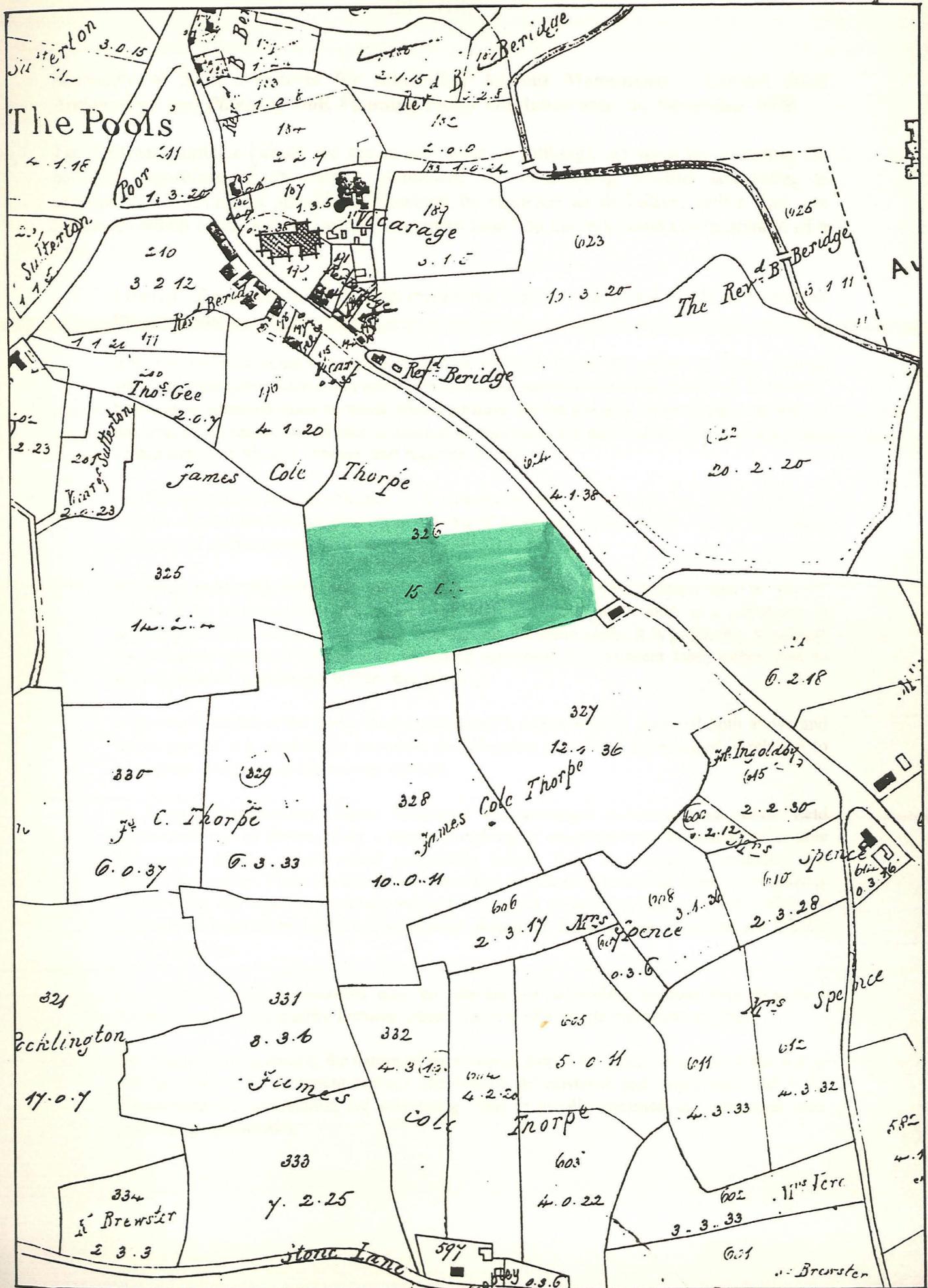


AREA OF EXAMINATION



Concentration of Medieval Ceramics

Fig. 4 Extract of Lighton's 1876 Map of Sutterton, Covering Area of Proposed Development



APPENDIX 1

Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling Ancient Monuments - Extract from *Archaeology and Planning DoE Planning Policy Guidance note 16, November 1990*

The following criteria (which are not in any order of ranking), are used for assessing the national importance of an ancient monument and considering whether scheduling is appropriate. The criteria should not however be regarded as definitive; rather they are indicators which contribute to a wider judgement based on the individual circumstances of a case.

i *Period*: all types of monuments that characterise a category or period should be considered for preservation.

ii *Rarity*: there are some monument categories which in certain periods are so scarce that all surviving examples which retain some archaeological potential should be preserved. In general, however, a selection must be made which portrays the typical and commonplace as well as the rare. This process should take account of all aspects of the distribution of a particular class of monument, both in a national and regional context.

iii *Documentation*: the significance of a monument may be enhanced by the existence of records of previous investigation or, in the case of more recent monuments, by the supporting evidence of contemporary written records.

iv *Group value*: the value of a single monument (such as a field system) may be greatly enhanced by its association with related contemporary monuments (such as a settlement or cemetery) or with monuments of different periods. In some cases, it is preferable to protect the complete group of monuments, including associated and adjacent land, rather than to protect isolated monuments within the group.

v *Survival/Condition*: the survival of a monument's archaeological potential both above and below ground is a particularly important consideration and should be assessed in relation to its present condition and surviving features.

vi *Fragility/Vulnerability*: highly important archaeological evidence from some field monuments can be destroyed by a single ploughing or unsympathetic treatment; vulnerable monuments of this nature would particularly benefit from the statutory protection that scheduling confers. There are also existing standing structures of particular form or complexity whose value can again be severely reduced by neglect or careless treatment and which are similarly well suited by scheduled monument protection, even if these structures are already listed buildings.

vii *Diversity*: some monuments may be selected for scheduling because they possess a combination of high quality features, others because of a single important attribute.

viii *Potential*: on occasion, the nature of the evidence cannot be specified precisely but it may still be possible to document reasons anticipating its existence and importance and so to demonstrate the justification for scheduling. This is usually confined to sites rather than upstanding monuments.