

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT  
AND GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY:**

**ST CLEMENTS COLLEGE,  
SKEGNESS, LINCOLNSHIRE**

NGR: TF 5600 6408

Report prepared for Langwith Builders Ltd.

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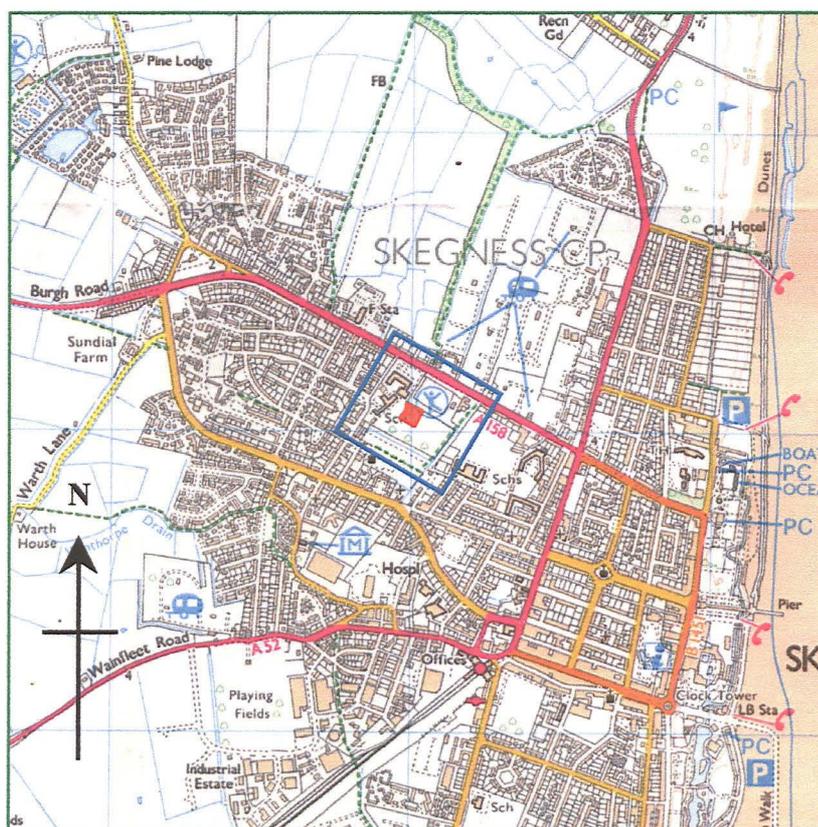
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**Table 1:** Summary of survey parameters



## Summary

- Fluxgate gradiometer and resistivity surveys were undertaken on the playing field of St Clements College, Skegness, Lincolnshire, in conjunction with an archaeological desk-based assessment of the area.
- The College is close to St. Clement's Church, and is believed to lie within the footprint of a medieval settlement focus, but no significant archaeological sites or remains have been found to date in the vicinity.
- The proposed development area appears to lie within an exclusively agricultural area: no significant remains have been identified by geophysical survey, and it is concluded that the archaeological potential of the site is low. The desk-based assessment has identified the potential for deeply buried archaeological remains within the general locality (beyond the reach of geophysical survey).



**Fig 1:** General site location plan, at scale 1:25 000. The development site is shown in red, and the area shown in figure 2 outlined in blue.

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## **1.0 Introduction**

Langworth Builders Ltd commissioned Pre-Construct Geophysics to undertake geophysical surveys, in conjunction with an archaeological desk-based assessment (carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)), on land for a proposed new Vocational Block for St Clements School, Skegness, Lincolnshire.

## **2.0 Location and description (Figs. 1-2)**

The town of Skegness lies on the east-facing Lincolnshire coast, to the north of the Wash; it is within the administrative district of East Lindsey, approximately 22km northeast of Boston. The proposed development site is on the landward side of the town, roughly 0.5km northwest of the centre and 200m north-east of the medieval church of St Clements. It lies some distance outside the known 19<sup>th</sup> century village, and was not absorbed into the new town, centred on the late Victorian planned resort, until the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The survey area covered c.0.5ha of land located on the playing field of St Clements College, Skegness (Fig. 2). The site is flat and is approximately 2.1m O.D.

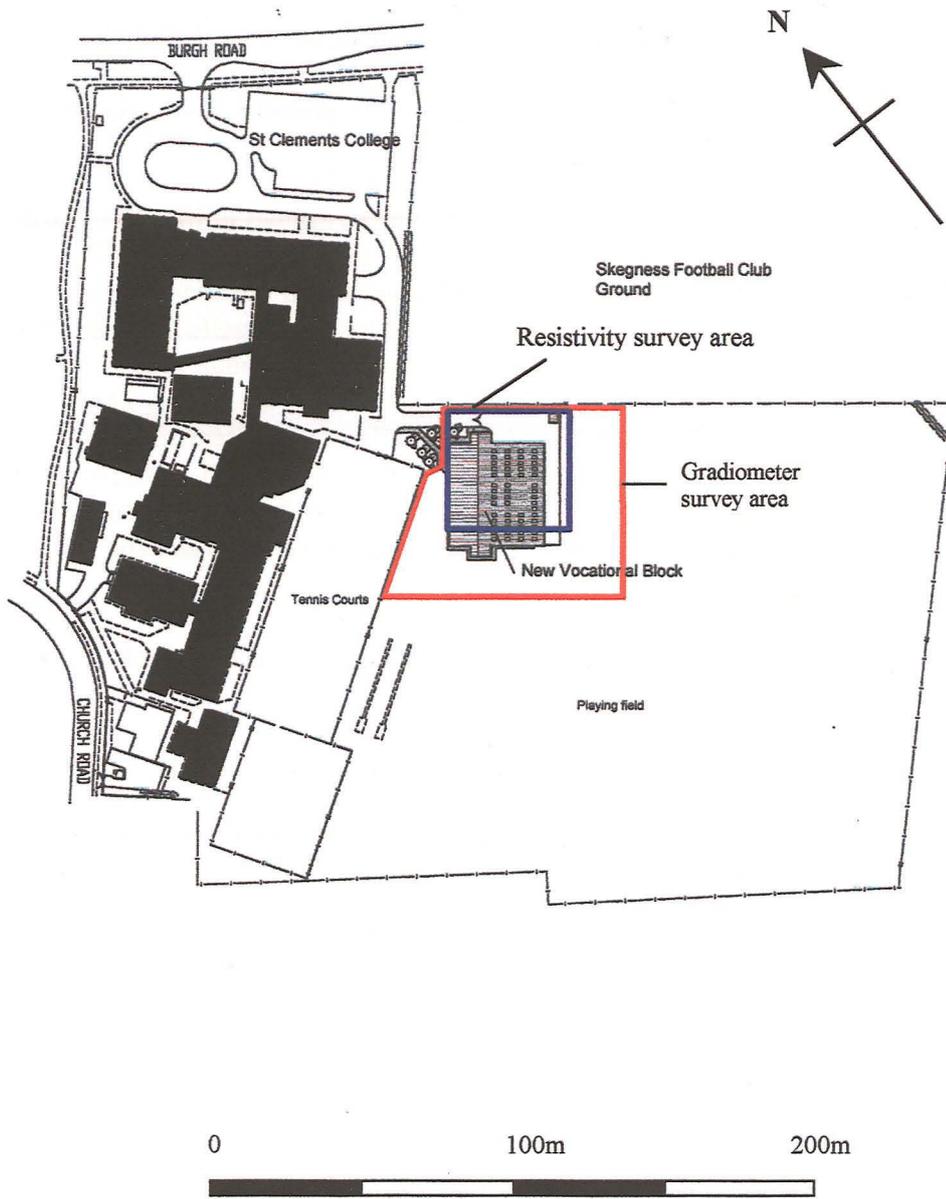
The underlying geology of the area comprises the Terrington Beds younger salt marsh and tidal creek deposits, mainly silts and clays; these deposits overlie solid Cretaceous Ferriby Chalk with Red Chalk. A line of Older Storm Beach Deposits (sand and gravel) runs in a southwest to northeast curve to the edge of the town, marking an earlier position of the coastline: its line is continued by a sea bank (the so-called 'Roman Bank') which enters the town running from west to east, and then turns to run from south to north through the town and continues up the coast to Ingoldmells: the main road linking Wainfleet St. Mary, Skegness and Ingoldmells runs along the course of both the naturally formed and the artificially constructed bank. The British Geological Survey interprets the sea bank as being 'of uncertain age, probably partly medieval', indicating that the natural storm beach deposit probably represents the boundary between permanently dry land and seasonally inundated salt-marsh during the medieval period (B.G.S 1996).

Central National Grid Reference: TF 5600 6408.

## **3.0 Objectives and methods**

The purpose of this report is to establish the presence/absence and assess the significance of archaeological remains which may be vulnerable to construction works associated with the proposed development, and, if necessary, to suggest further methods by which the site may be evaluated in advance of such works, or by which the works can be mitigated to minimise the impact to any surviving archaeological remains.

The archaeological desk-based element of this report is based on information derived from a variety of sources: -



**Fig. 2:** Location plan of the development site, at scale 1:2500. Plan by permission of Langwith Builders Ltd

The County Historic Environment Record (formerly the Sites and Monuments Record)

Records held by the Lindsey Archives Office

Records held by the Local Studies Library, Lincoln

A site visit by P. Masters

#### **4.0 Planning background**

The site is currently under consideration for the proposed new Vocational Block for St Clement's College by Lincolnshire County Council. However, prior to these works being undertaken, the commissioning body requested the undertaking of an archaeological desk-based assessment and geophysical survey. This assessment will provide information that will assist the definition of the archaeological potential of the site, without the use of intrusive fieldwork. The approach is consistent with the recommendations of *Archaeology and Planning Policy Guidance Note 16*, 1990, which advises early consultation with regard to archaeological matters.

#### **5.0 Archaeological and historical background (Fig. 3)**

The area known before the inception of modern drainage programmes as the Outer Marsh is believed to have been exposed by retreating sea levels in the early 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC, with the coastline then being formed by a series of low banks extending from Spurn Head to Norfolk (Brooks, 1990): consequently, remains pre-dating the late Bronze Age are likely to be scarce in this area. The Historic Environment Record in Lincoln holds no records of Stone Age sites within the study area, and only two individual artefacts, a perforated stone hammer and a polished stone axe, are listed as having been found within it (HER refs. 41698 and 41700). (Flint arrowheads are known to have been found on the foreshore before 1935, but are not accurately located, and if brought by long shore drift rather than having eroded out of the beach material, they could be kilometres from the position where they were originally deposited.) Some traces of Bronze Age activity, chiefly in the form of salt-making sites, have been recorded along the Lincolnshire coast, but none are known from the area of Skegness.

The Iron Age coastline in this area was extensively used for salt production: sites containing briquetage – the remnants of the fired clay evaporating pans and other furniture required for the production of salt from sea water – have been recorded in concentration in the parishes of Ingoldmells, Addlethorpe, Orby, Hogsthorpe, Winthorpe, Skegness and Chapel St. Leonards (Brooks, 1990). The density of salt-making material in these parishes reflects the intensity of fieldwork carried out in the area: without further extensive fieldwork along the rest of the Lincolnshire coastline, it cannot be ascertained whether a band of saltern sites extends along part or all of this coastline, or whether the Skegness area is a regional centre of salt production. Iron Age and Romano-British salterns appear to have been sited at the limit of seasonal flooding, allowing easy collection of sea water while maintaining reasonable access

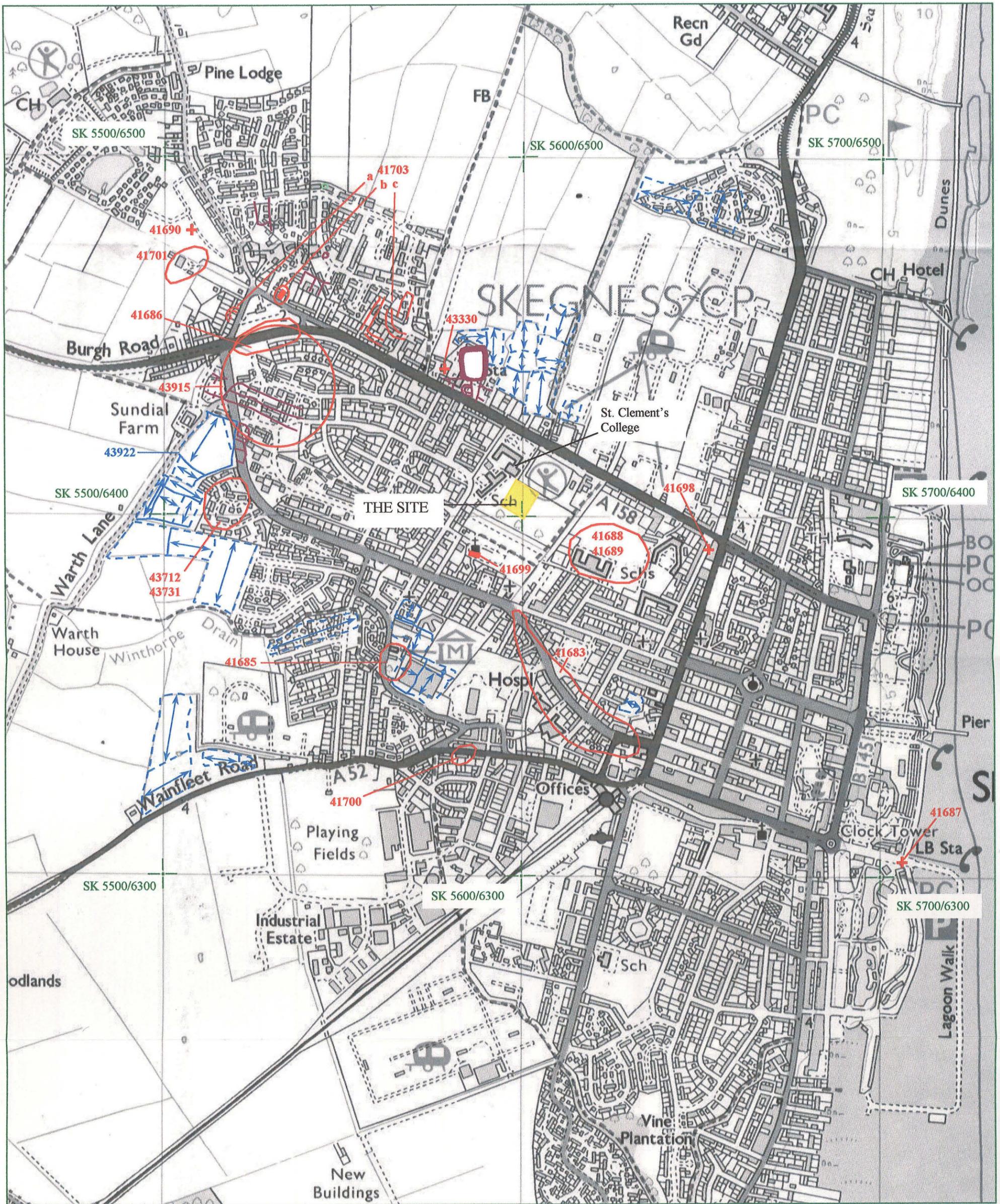


Fig. 3: Map at scale 1:10 000, showing information held by the Historic Environment Record within approximately 1km of the development site, including the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments' earthworks survey data. Areas of ridge-and-furrow are shown in blue (the direction of the strips is denoted by arrows), other earthworks recorded by the RCHM in purple, and sites, monuments and findspots in red; the development area is coloured yellow.

on foot (Tann, 2004), and both sites listed by the Historic Environment Record as producing briquetage lie close together on the northwestern edge of the study area, a kilometre inland from the present development site. One of these sites consisted of 'hand-bricks' – the short columns of squeezed clay used to support evaporating pans over a fire – found in a clay pit in 1967 (HER ref. 41690), while the other produced both briquetage and Iron Age pottery (HER ref. 41701). The Lindsey Coastal Survey, carried out in 1989-90, found no deposits of archaeological significance on the present shoreline of Skegness (Brooks, 1990), although the HER records earlier, unlocated finds of 'hand-bricks' and Roman pottery there (unlisted).

Although the area of this study contains relatively little archaeological evidence for a major Roman presence, it has been suggested that the coastline in this area may have been the site of a Saxon Shore fort, filling a major gap between the known coastal forts of Brancaster in Norfolk and Brough in East Yorkshire, and possibly associated with a ferry across the Wash. Land in the medieval parish of Ingoldmells, part of which was later subsumed into Skegness, contained the place-name 'Chesterland' or 'Casterland', a term deriving from the Latin *castra*, a fort or military camp, and routinely indicating the presence of a fortified Roman site: this name ceases to appear after AD 1422 (Whitwell, 1992). The Tudor scholar and courtier John Leland visited Skegness on one of the journeys he undertook in the service of King Henry VIII between 1533 and 1545, and recorded that it used to be *'a large harbour town ... there was once a harbour, a walled town and a castle there. The old town was completely overwhelmed and eroded by the sea, though part of a church survived until recently, and at low water there may still be seen substantial evidence of the former buildings. The new Skegness which has replaced the old is a poor affair.'* Extensive coastal erosion appears to have taken place along a considerable stretch of coastline, as Leland also records the 'ruin' of the harbour of Wainfleet, some 5 miles to the south, and an unsubstantiated rumour that Friskney, some 2 miles further, also once had a harbour (Chandler, 1993). The disappearance of a church is corroborated by a Lincoln diocesan record of 1526, which notes that *'this church and a large part of the parish was submerged last year and so remains at present'*: it has been suggested that the destroyed 'walled town and castle' may have referred to Roman fortifications (Whitwell, 1992). If the recorded discoveries of Iron Age briquetage-producing sites in Skegness do represent the reach of the highest tides at their time of use, it is unclear how they relate to a potential Roman fort more than 2km seaward, unless this distance represents the continuing retreat of the sea throughout this period. A single sherd of Roman grey ware found near the sea front, on the eastern edge of the study area (HER ref. 41687), may or may not be of relevance here.

The sea-bank along which the main road through Skegness now runs is traditionally known as 'Roman Bank', but a Roman date for this structure is unlikely, as pottery from the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD has been found to the east – the seaward side – of it, indicating that it could not have been contiguous with the Roman shoreline. Sewer trenches dug through the bank in 1937 also produced Roman pottery on its west side, but no dating evidence of any kind was found within or below it (Tann, 2004). The local historian Winston Kime dismisses the supposed Roman origin of the sea-bank as a myth created by the 17<sup>th</sup> century antiquarian Dugdale and his 18<sup>th</sup> century counterpart Stukeley, and interprets it as being medieval (Kime, 1986), while the British Geological Survey map of the area again lists it as being at least partly

medieval (B.G. S. 1996); Stukeley also ascribed nearby Wainfleet a spurious Roman connection, which persisted throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century local histories.

Coastal subsidence at the end of the first millennium AD resulted in the erosion of the banks which had formerly sheltered the Lincolnshire coast, and the eventual inundation of the Iron Age and Romano-British littoral sites (Brooks, 1990): saltern sites of this period are now found buried beneath up to 3m of flood silts, usually during the cutting of drains, although some have been exposed on the beach by erosion (Tann, 2004). No evidence of salt manufacture has been found from any period between the late Roman and the 11<sup>th</sup> century AD, and those saltern sites which appear in the early medieval period are not in the same areas as their predecessors (Brooks, 1990).

The Domesday Survey of AD 1086 has no listing for a settlement named 'Skegness', but a district or settlement in Candleshoe wapentake referred to as '*Tric*' is believed to have been sited in this area. C. W. Foster's survey of lost Lincolnshire villages lists *Tric* as '*an extinct village, the name of which is not found after 1086. It seems to be represented by Skegness in subsequent records.*' (Foster and Longley, 1924.) Norman *Tric* was not a manor as such, but a group of outlying holdings, or sokeland, of other manors: there was half a carucate of land, with 60 acres of meadow and a single peasant household, attached to Count Alan's manor of Drayton; 2 bovates, again with '*1 man with 1 ox in a plough*', and 30 acres of meadow, attached to Eudo fitz Spirewic's manor of Burgh le Marsh. An area of land here was also within the jurisdiction of Robert Despenser ('the Bursar'), attached to his manor of Ingoldmells, but this was assessed jointly with his other sokeland in Partney, Great Steeping and Burgh le Marsh, and so it cannot be determined how much of this sokeland (2½ carucates and 30 acres of meadow in total), or how many of its seven households, may have pertained to *Tric* (Martin and Williams, 1992). A carucate of land was a measure considered to be the amount which a standard eight-ox team could plough in a year's work, and so varied according to how hard the land was to plough, but is usually estimated at roughly 120 acres, while a bovate was one-eighth of that amount: by the standards of Domesday Book estates, these have unusually small areas of ploughland, with very low populations. However, there is no mention of fisheries, salt-making, or of taxes paid in kind with a catch of eels, all of which are common for estuarine, coastal or marshland holdings, implying that *Tric* may have comprised dry but marginal coastal land, on which animals could be grazed, but little could be grown.

While the later and less detailed Lindsey Survey, compiled for King Henry I during the period AD 1115-18, does not mention either the vanished *Tric* or its successor Skegness by name, it lists five landholdings in Candleshoe wapentake for which no place-name is given (Foster and Longley, 1924). One of these is held by 'Hugh son of Eudo', and so may be connected to Eudo fitz Spirewic's sokeland listed in Domesday Book, although if so, Hugh had been increasing his father's holdings assiduously, as the estate is now assessed at 4 carucates and 5 bovates – not improbable if the land were being reclaimed rather than purchased.

The place-name Skegness first appears in records in the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, although it is of Danish origin, derived from the Old Danish personal name *Skeggi* and the Old Danish word *nes*, a piece of land jutting out into the sea, giving 'Skeggi's headland' (Cameron, 1998). A charter of King Richard I dating from AD

1199 confirms the possessions of Revesby Abbey in Skegness (Dutton, 1922), but the author could find no further information about these possessions: it seems likely that pasture land was involved, as Revesby Abbey was one of the highest exporters of wool among the pastoral religious houses, and it is possible that, as on other monastic possessions in the marsh area, such as the three Wainfleet parishes, a chapel was built here (Owen, 1971).

St Clement's Church is described by Nikolaus Pevsner as 'clearly a village church', although there are no other buildings in the area pre-dating the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Most of the church fabric is very late medieval, with 18<sup>th</sup> century alterations, but the tower dates from approximately the 13<sup>th</sup> century (Pevsner and Harris 1989). St. Clement's was superseded by St. Matthew's, designed as an integral part of Lord Scarbrough's planned resort, when it became clear that the old parish church was too far away to serve the new town (Kime, 1986). The possible area of the medieval village is suggested by the position of the known ridge-and-furrow earthworks to the north, west and south of the development site, and by finds of medieval pottery to east and west of it (HER refs. 41686 and 41688).

The sand hills along the medieval coastline, referred to until recently as the *meles* (a word for sand hills or dunes of Old Norse origin which also forms part of the place-name Ingoldmells), were used for pasture, but their significance as a sea defence was also recognised. In 1325, the district court at Ingoldmells fined William Elrikes four cows after he '*mowed the brambles outside the sea bank, which is the defence of the whole community of Skegness*', an activity which endangered the village by destabilising the dunes (Kime, 1986). In 1377, the parson of Skegness church took a lease on the pastures and herbage of the *meles*, but the lease reserved to the lord of the manor the warrens (while allowing the parson reasonable right to snare the rabbits) and, significantly, the thorns growing there, while in 1404 and 1411 miscreants were again brought before the court charged with cutting and carrying off the thorns in the *meles* without the lord's leave, (Dutton, 1922). The risks of farming in this marginal area were not only from incursion by the sea, which caused violent but short-lived flooding, but from heavy rain exacerbating tidal pressure in rivers and drains, overwhelming the capacity of the outfalls. These freshwater floods could be more destructive than breaches in the sea defences, because fields could remain under water for a considerable time (Hall and Coles, 1994). However, saltmarsh provided excellent grazing, due to the fertilizing effect of silt-carrying inundations (*ibid.*), and the rise in the Lincolnshire wool trade repaid the risk: in 1636, the Skegness grazing supported 1,200 sheep, as well as cattle and horses (Kime, 1986).

The presence of a medieval harbour at Skegness is shown by two cases brought before the Ingoldmells court in 1430, when Robert Brightsance of Barton was charged with damaging the harbour by throwing ballast overboard, and William Coke of York with breaking and knocking over the beacons at the harbour entrance (Willson, 1938).

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth I (1558-1603), only 14 families are recorded as resident in Skegness (Dutton, 1922). During this period, the sea defence known as 'Roman Bank' was built: in 1574, a levy was raised on local towns and villages to pay for the works, with Skegness paying 1s 4d and Burgh, Bratof, Firsby, Irby, Gunby and Great Steeping paying 8d each (Kime, 1986).

Skegness began to be developed as a seaside resort in 1875 by the 9<sup>th</sup> Earl of Scarborough, the main landowner at the time, who had the town planned and laid out with pleasure gardens, a pier, a cricket ground and a sea-front (Willson, 1938). The transformation of a small and unprofitable coastal village into a popular resort was facilitated by the opening of a railway link to Skegness in 1873: the record for visitors coming by rail was set on August Bank Holiday of 1882, when more than 20 000 trippers arrived in one day (Kime, 1986). In 1861, the population of Skegness was still only 322: by 1911, it had increased more than ten times over, to 3775 (Dutton, 1922).

In 1997-98, an extensive programme of repair works was carried out along the sea defences in the area of Lagoon Walk, approximately 1.5km southeast of the present development site. An archaeological watching brief accompanied these works, but observed only relatively modern beach deposits, with finds which could not be regarded as stratified due to the tidal disturbance, flooding and running sand which the works had to contend with. Some fragments of briquetage were retrieved during the watching brief, most of which were water-worn, but one may have been of local origin (Albone, 1997). The author concluded that the coastline in this area was accreting, and earlier deposits would only be found inland (Albone, 1998).

A geophysical survey, followed by an archaeological field evaluation, was carried out in 1998, on an area of land on the west side of Lincoln Road, some 750m to the west of the current development site. The geophysical survey appeared to corroborate aerial photographic information held by the County Historic Environment Record (then the SMR) indicating that the area had previously been occupied by crofts associated with a farmstead. Several linear and rectilinear features were apparent, but none could be confidently identified, and it was possible that the survey had encountered only ploughed-out ridge-and-furrow earthworks or even later field drainage excavations (CLAU, 1998 – HER ref. 43712). The results of the evaluation were also inconclusive, exposing two linear features, one of which was associated with pottery that could not be dated more specifically than to a period between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries AD (Schofield, 1998 – HER ref. 43731).

Further work adjacent to Lincoln Road was carried out in 2001, with a topographical survey in an area which has subsequently been developed, directly west of the evaluation above. The survey recorded an extensive area of ridge-and-furrow earthworks, caused by the strip cultivation of medieval open fields, comprising five differently aligned groups of parallel strips (furlongs) divided by unploughed access tracks up to 20m wide (CLAU, 2001 – HER ref. 43922). Similar areas of ridge-and-furrow (shown in blue in fig. 3) have been recorded in other areas to the north, south and west of the current development site, reinforcing the theory that it lies within the footprint of the medieval village.

An archaeological watching brief was carried out in 2003 on an extension to The Willows Pupil Referral Unit, some 150m southwest of the present development site. Foundation trenches were excavated within an area approximately 9m x 7m, close to the eastern side of Church Road North: only natural alluvial deposits were exposed (Brett, 2003).

## 6.0 Geophysical Survey

### Methodology

The survey methodology was based on the guidelines set out in the English Heritage document '*Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation*' (David, 1995).

**6.1 Resistivity survey** measures the electrical resistance of the earth's soil moisture content. A twin probe configuration is normally used, which involves the pairing of electrodes (one current and one potential), with one pair remaining in a fixed position (remote probes), whilst the mobile probes measure resistivity variations across survey grids. Resistance is measured in ohms, and this method is generally effective to a depth of 1m.

Features such as wall foundations are usually identified as high resistance anomalies, as well as rubble spreads, made surfaces (yards and paths) and metalled roads and trackways. In contrast, low resistance values are normally associated with water-retentive features such as large pits, ditches, drains and gullies.

The resistivity survey was carried out using a Geoscan RM15 Resistance Meter with a twin probe configuration in mobile probe spacing of 0.5m. The zigzag traverse method of survey was used, with 1m wide traverses across 20m x 20m grids.

The resistivity survey data was processed using *Geoplot* version 3.0. It was processed using high and low pass filters to reduce anomalies caused by variation in geology and depth of topsoil, resulting in a smoother graphical appearance.

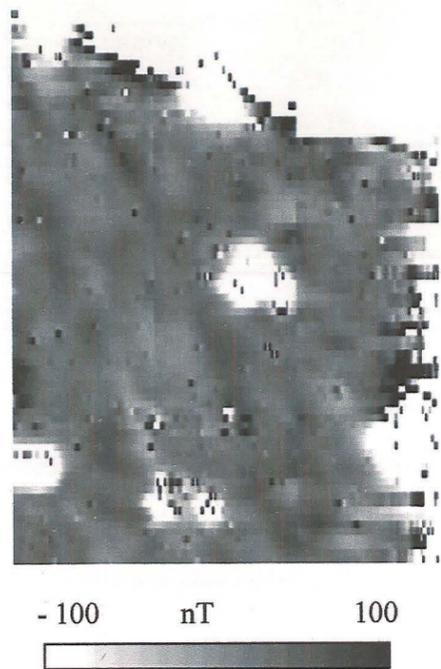
**6.2 Gradiometry** is a non-intrusive scientific prospecting technique that is used to determine the presence/absence of some classes of sub-surface archaeological features (e.g. pits, ditches, kilns, and occasionally stone walls). By scanning the soil surface, geophysicists identify areas of varying magnetic susceptibility and can interpret such variation by presenting data in various graphical formats and identifying images that share morphological affinities with diagnostic archaeological remains.

The use of gradiometry is used to establish the presence/absence of buried magnetic anomalies, which may reflect sub-surface archaeological features, and therefore form a basis for a subsequent scheme of archaeological trenching, if required.

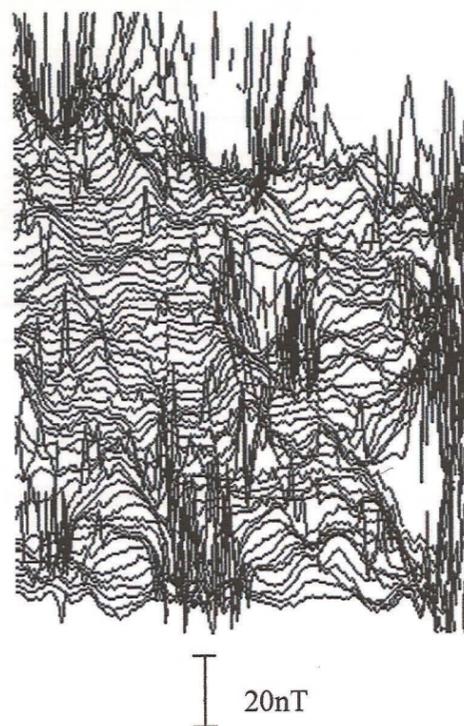
The area survey was conducted using a *Bartington Dual 601* fluxgate gradiometer set to take four readings per metre (a sample interval of 0.25m). The zigzag traverse method of survey was used, with 1m wide traverses across 30m x 30m grids. The sensitivity of the machine was set to detect magnetic variation in the order of 0.1 nanoTesla.

Data from the survey was processed using *Archeosurveyor* (v.1.2.5.0). It was clipped to reduce the distorting effect of extremely high or low readings caused by discrete pieces of ferrous metal. The results are plotted as greyscale and trace images.

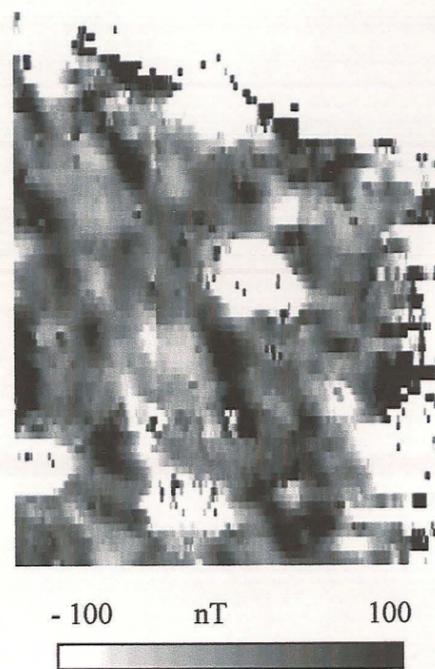
GRADIOMETER SURVEY



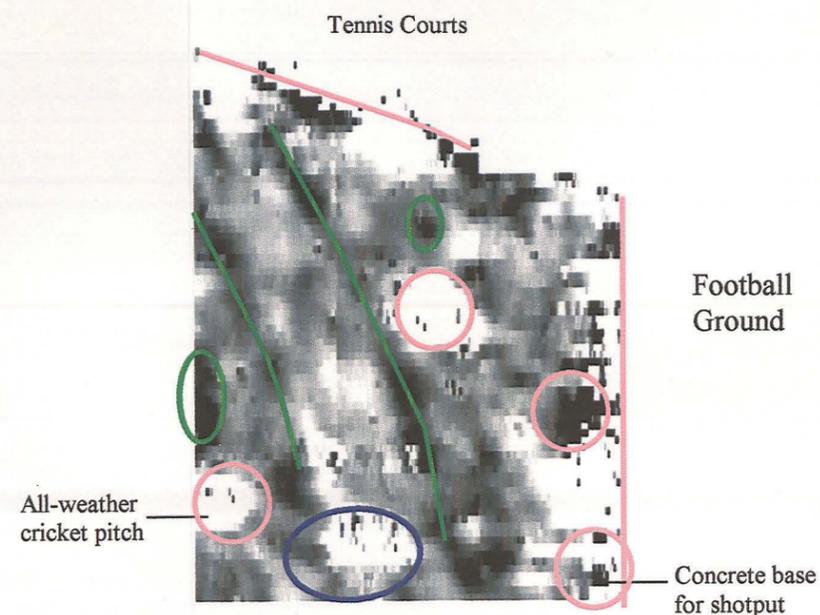
RAW DATA



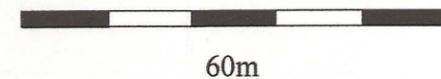
TRACE PLOT OF UNCLIPPED DATA



GREYSCALE IMAGE OF ENHANCED DATA



INTERPRETIVE PLAN



RESISTIVITY SURVEY

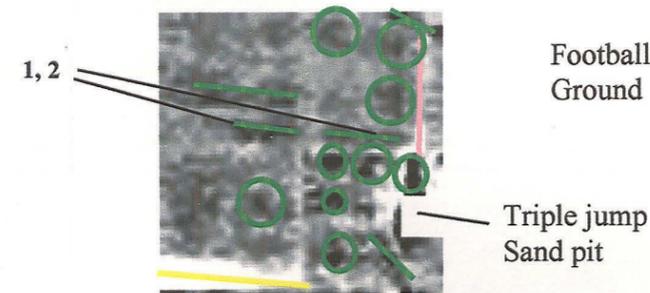
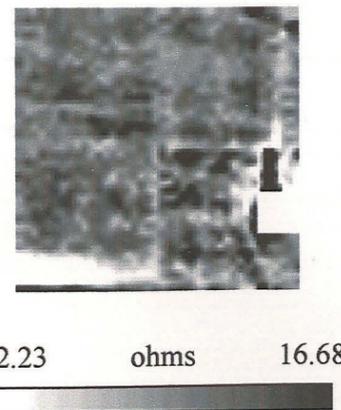
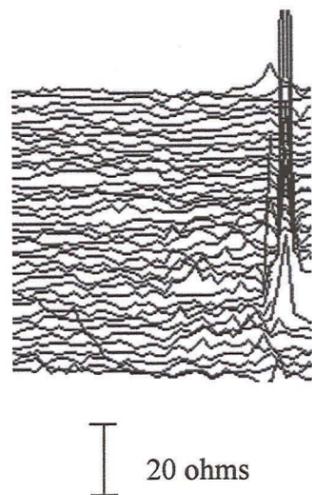
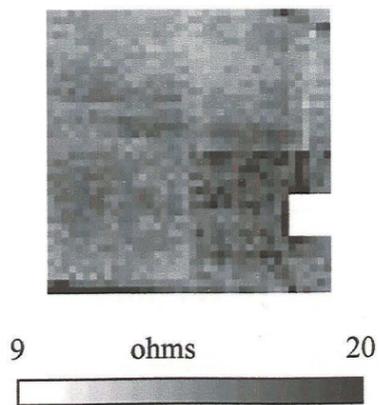


Fig 4: Gradiometer and Resistivity surveys - Greyscale and trace plots of raw and enhanced data with interpretive plan, scale - 1:1000

Instrument	Bartington Dual Grad 601 gradiometer Geoscan RM15 Resistance Meter with twin probe array
Grid size	20m x 20m
Sample interval	0.25m/1m
Traverse interval	1.0m
Traverse method	Zigzag
Sensitivity	0.1nT, Ohms
Processing software	Geoplot (v. 3.0), ArcheoSurveyor 1.2.6.0
Weather conditions	Occasional showers
Area Surveyed	c.0.5ha/0.16ha
Date of Survey	19/5/05
Survey Personnel	Peter Masters

**Table 1: Summary of survey parameters**

### 6.3 Results

#### 6.4 Gradiometer Survey (Figs. 2 and 4)

An area of 0.5ha was surveyed, incorporating the ground plan of the proposed new Vocational Block.

A number of curvilinear and discrete anomalies probably represent natural features, for example, palaeochannels or discrete deposits of peaty soils/ferrous rich minerals (Fig. 4: gradiometer interpretive plot - green lines/circles).

A number of dipolar anomalies (circled pink) appear to reflect modern features/activity, such as an all weather cricket pitch, litter (metal cans etc) and other modern materials (particularly in the vicinity of the sand pit). Boundary fences are also apparent as strong magnetic anomalies (pink lines).

A slightly sunken linear earthwork aligned approximately north to south probably indicates traces of a former dyke, which is depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 (Fig. 7). On the greyscale images, this feature resolves as a strong dipolar anomaly (circled blue), which suggests that the backfill contains ferrous materials (e.g. rubble).

It should be noted that thick deposits of alluvium have the potential to mask the magnetic response of deeply buried archaeological remains (where present).

#### 6.5 Resistivity Survey (Figs. 2 and 4)

The survey grid was directly positioned over the footprint of the proposed Vocational Block. A total of 0.16ha was surveyed.

A linear low resistance anomaly (pink line) corresponds to the clay track for the triple jump. The track is c. 500-600mm below the current level of the playing field surface.

A number of high resistance anomalies (examples circled in green/green lines) probably indicate topographical variations (the playing field is slightly undulated) or areas of compaction that relate to the construction and/or use of the playing field. For example, the area surrounding the sand pit and linear anomalies 1 and 2 correspond to zones of visible compaction/recent disturbance.

A low resistant northeast to southwest-aligned linear anomaly (yellow line) possibly denotes a ditch-like feature, such as a drain.

## **7.0 Site-specific archaeological search/investigation results**

### **7.1 Documentary information (Figs. 2, 3, 5, 6,7)**

Given that the area of investigation is largely built-up, and that a swift compilation of this report was required, no cover search was made at the National Monuments Record for aerial photographs; the Lincoln Historic Environment Record holds no photographs relevant to this study.

The earliest map featuring the development area available at the Lindsey Archive Office is a plan dating from 1831, showing the layout of a proposed drainage scheme (Fig. 5). The majority of the parishes in the Lincolnshire Marsh were enclosed late, in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but much of Skegness parish was enclosed privately by the estate owner before 1740 (Kime, 1986): the drainage plan shows the area broken up into individually owned fields, leaving only fragments of the commonly worked open fields visible as ridge-and-furrow earthworks, preserved in those fields which were never ploughed again, but utilised as pasture up to the present day (Fig. 3). In 1831, Skegness was still a sparsely populated village, extending along the causeway known as the 'Roman Bank', with a few outlying buildings: the church was almost completely isolated. The current development site lies within fields with very regular boundaries, probably recent enclosures.

The Lindsey Archive Office holds no enclosure map for Skegness parish – since it was largely enclosed before enclosure was compelled by Act of Parliament, it is possible that no such map was ever made – but the tithe award map for the parish, dating from 1849, is extant (Fig. 6). The layout of the village has changed very little in the intervening 18 years, except for the appearance of a strip of small properties along the west side of Roman Bank, numbered 107 to 111 in the tithe award: all of these are listed as 'Garden', and each of the listed tenants also had a 'Cottage with Garden' elsewhere. Fields 112 and 113 are the glebe land of the Rector of Skegness, the larger field being used as arable land, the smaller as pasture. Field 114 is named as 'Pump Close' – an indication of recently enclosed land – the landowner is 'Holden's Charity', and it is pasture. The fields numbered 115 to 120 are all Lord Scarbrough's land, William Odling being the tenant: field 115 is listed as arable, field 118 as meadow, and the others as pasture. The development site lies across the boundary of field 119, 'Hovel Five Acres', and field 120, 'Church Five Acres': the field boundary, probably a ditch, runs north-east to south-west across the site.

The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 shows the core of Lord Scarbrough's designer resort in position, with wide, tree-lined avenues, a new church, a sea-front

parade and a pier (Fig. 7). A grid of new roads has been laid out to the west and northwest, approaching the old church, but no houses have yet been built along them. Development is clearly intended to encroach on the fields among which the development area is situated, but these were currently much as they were fifty years before: some of the fields have been further divided, but the outlines of the original boundaries remain.

The development area was not subsumed into the growing town until the 1930s: according to a directory of Skegness printed for the years 1928 to 1930, the south side of Burgh Road was then occupied by only 11 buildings, ending with Sundial Farm, which still lies on the western edge of the town (Fig. 3). Apart from the farm and one garage, all the buildings listed were private houses (Dutton's Directory, 1928).

## 7.2 The County Historic Environment Record (Fig. 3)

A search was carried out at the Lincolnshire HER for findspots, known archaeological sites, and buildings of historical significance within approximately 1km of the development area. The results of this search are tabulated below.

HER No.	Description	NGR
41683	Area containing post-medieval pottery, discovered in the town centre	SK 5610 6350
41685	Area containing post-medieval pottery, discovered to the west of the town centre	SK 5550 6360
41686	Medieval pottery scatter: quantities of medieval pottery, discovered in 1959 on the western edge of the town	SK 5520 6450
41687	Sherd of Roman grey ware, discovered in 1970 near the sea front	SK 570 630
41688	Area containing medieval pottery, between the development site and the town centre	SK 5620 6390
41689	Post-medieval pottery found in the same area as 41688	SK 5620 6390
41690	'Hand-bricks' (briquetage) found in clay pit, 1967	SK 551 648
41698	Findspot: a perforated stone hammer	SK 5654 6390
41699	St. Clement's Church: late medieval with 13 <sup>th</sup> century tower.	SK 5586 6489
41700	Findspot: a polished stone axe	SK 5600 6330

41701	Iron Age pottery and briquetage, found 1934, now in Lincoln Museum	SK 551 647
41703	Aerial photographic evidence, 3 sites under this number: <b>a</b> – circular feature; <b>b</b> – possible long barrow; <b>c</b> – circular feature	SK 5570 6450
43113	Possible site observed on aerial photograph	SK 5530 6460
43330	Water tower, built 1892 to replace an earlier tower whose location is not known	SK 5577 6437
43712	Undated features found during archaeological works adjacent to Lincoln Road	SK 55155 64047
43731	Medieval linear feature found during archaeological works adjacent to Lincoln Road	SK 55195 64065
43915	Possible post-medieval pit found during archaeological works adjacent to Burgh Road	SK 5523 6443
43922	Ridge-and-furrow earthworks	SK 5505 6409

### 7.3 Site visit

Peter Masters carried out a site visit on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2005. The college playing field is surrounded on its north, south and east sides by a 2m high steel fence, whilst to the west is the present St Clements College (built in the 1950s) and adjacent tennis courts. The playing field is relatively flat with some low undulations and incorporates recreational facilities such as shotput concrete circle, long jump and grass athletics track. A slight depression running northeast to south-west is visible, indicating the position of the filled-in dyke marking an earlier field boundary. To the north of the proposed development area is Skegness Football Ground, to the east Skegness Grammar School and to the south St Clements Church and churchyard. These are surrounded by 20<sup>th</sup> century housing estates.

### 8.0 Assessment of archaeological potential

The development site lies in the area between two known Iron Age salt-making sites to the west and the hypothetical lost Roman fort to the east, indicating that it was submerged for much of the prehistoric period, but may have been gradually exposed during the late Iron Age; becoming dry enough for permanent building at the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium AD. The site lies roughly 1km seaward of the known salterns, and it is possible that further salt-making sites may be found in the area, as manufacturing followed the retreating high-tide mark towards the east.

There are no archaeological indications of any activity having taken place in this area between the Romano-British period and the 11<sup>th</sup> century AD, although the presence of Anglo-Saxon and Viking-derived place-names indicate that activity did continue, and that the land was dry enough for the establishment of settlements: the absence of fisheries and salt-pans in the records of the Domesday Book tends to confirm that Skegness did not then have a significant wetland component.

The development site is close to the medieval church, and surviving or recorded areas of ridge-and-furrow earthworks surround it on all sides but the seaward, while spreads of medieval pottery are recorded both to east and west, implying that the medieval village of Skegness is most likely to have been sited in this area. However, the geophysical survey identified no structural remains, suggesting that the development site probably lay within village fields, and that any earthworks of agricultural origin have been destroyed: this area is shown as pasture land on the 1849 tithe award map, which would have preserved medieval earthworks, but surface features will not have survived the levelling works associated with the laying out of the playing field.

## **9.0 Impact on archaeological resources**

The potential damage to the archaeological resources caused by the proposed development is likely to be low. If saltern sites do exist in the area, they will be covered by a considerable accumulation of marine-deposited silts, and disturbed only by very deep groundworks: a fieldwalking survey carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) in the nearby Orby Marsh located saltern material adjacent to the deepest drains, from which it had been dredged, and concluded that the saltern sites themselves lay at least 2.4m below modern ground level (Rylatt, 2003). Medieval activity in the development area seems to have been restricted to agricultural practices: relics of these practices, such as ridge-and-furrow and associated earthworks such as headlands, may have survived into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but were destroyed on the surface by the construction of the college and its grounds. Sub-surface traces may remain, but if so, these are too slight to have been identified by geophysical survey, apart from one field boundary ditch shown on 19<sup>th</sup> century maps.

## **10.0 Conclusions**

Both the geophysical and desk-based surveys have not identified any clear evidence relating to significant archaeological activity within the proposed development area.

The majority of geophysical anomalies appear to reflect either natural features (e.g. peat deposits and palaeochannels) or modern activity associated with the use of the site as a playing field (e.g. landscaping and sports facilities).

The site has probably been agricultural land from the early Middle Ages until the 20<sup>th</sup> century. There is a slight possibility that remains associated with earlier land use, specifically pre-Roman salt production or activity relating to Roman military occupation, may survive beneath marine deposits; beyond the effective reach of the geophysical survey.

The general conclusion is that the archaeological potential of the proposed development area is low.

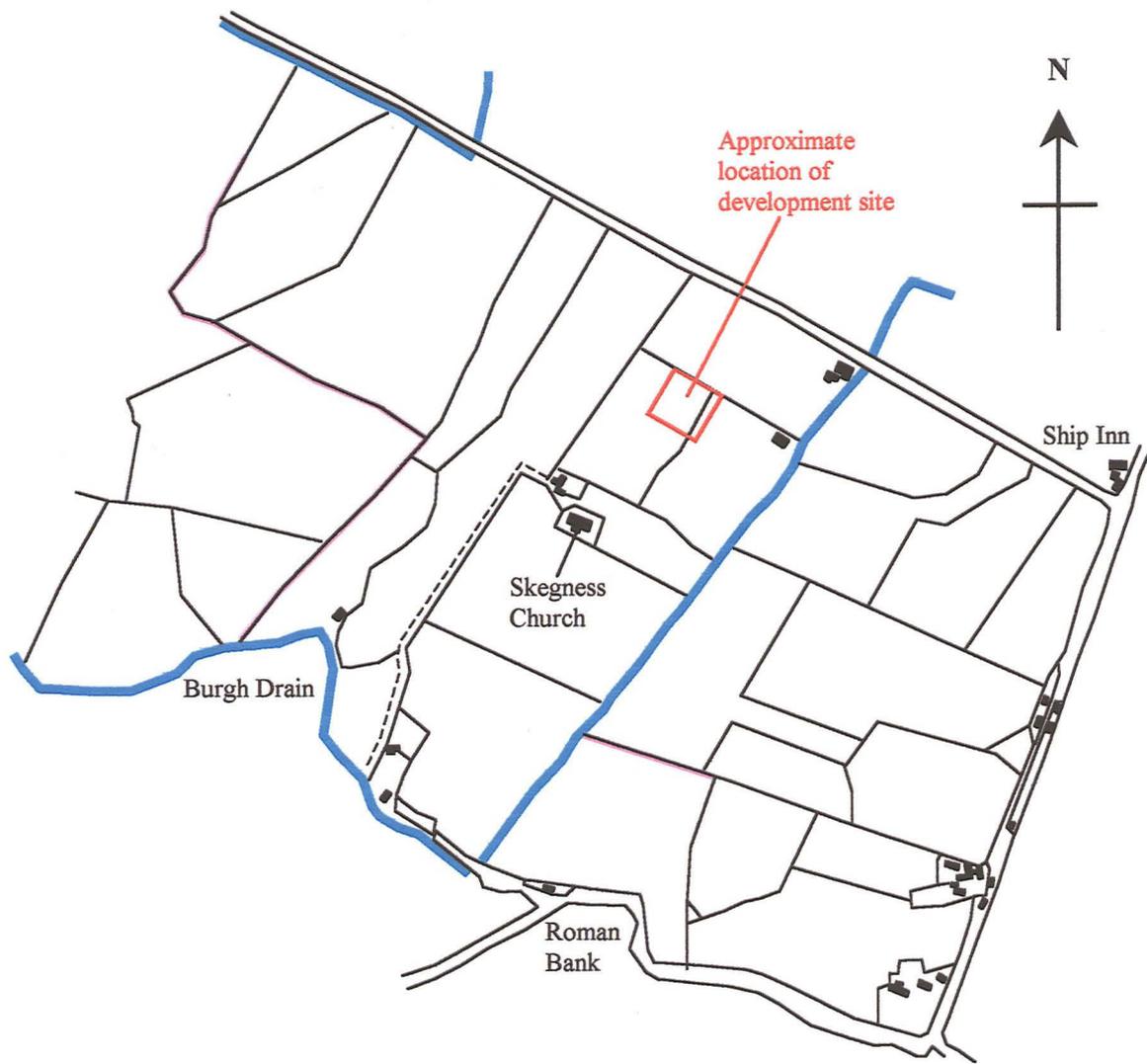
## 11.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Geophysics would like to thank Langwith Builders Ltd for this commission.

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**Fig. 5:** Extract from a plan of 1831, at the original scale of 12 chains to the inch, showing a proposed programme of drainage from Skegness and 5 other parishes into a new cut emptying into Wainfleet Haven. The approximate location of the present development site is outlined in red; original map text is shown in black. The map does not identify the pink lines, but they probably represent the course of the intended drainage works.



**Fig. 6:** Extract from the Skegness tithe award map of 1849, at the original scale of 6 chains to the inch. Following the original map, ecclesiastical buildings are shown in pink; original map text is shown in black, and the probable location of the development site is outlined in red.

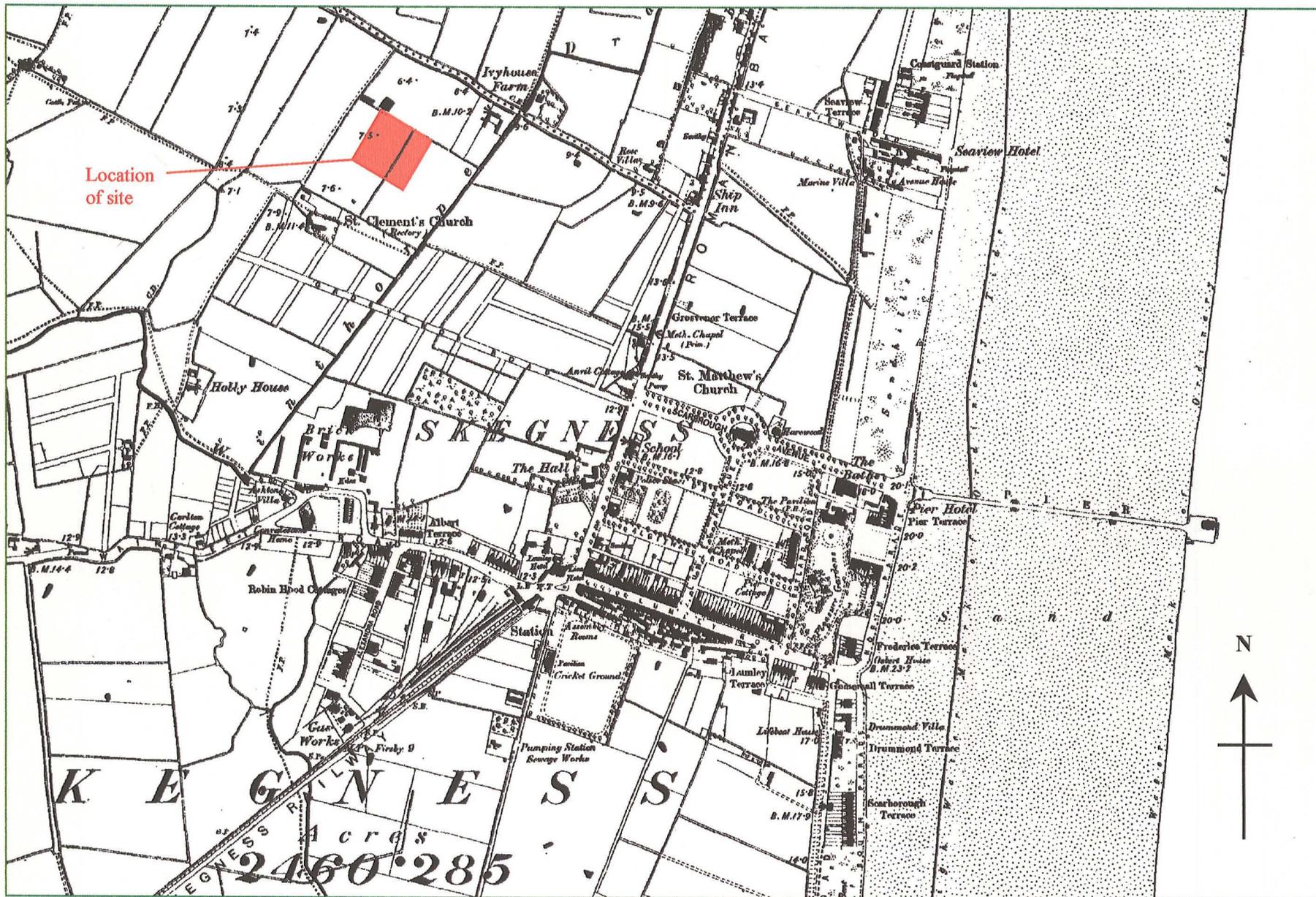


Fig. 7: Extract from the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889, re-scaled to approximately 1:10 000. The approximate location of the development site is shown in red. (O.S. copyright licence no. AL 515 21 A0001)