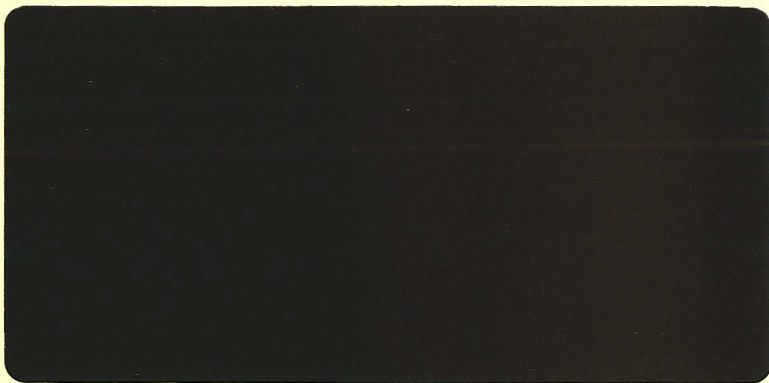


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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
OF LAND AT
STAMFORD HIGH SCHOOL
STAMFORD
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SHS 00)**



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
OF LAND AT
STAMFORD HIGH SCHOOL
STAMFORD
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SHS 00)**

Work Undertaken For
W.J. Hemmings & Partners

June 2000

Report Compiled by
Joanna Hambly

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of proposed development at the High School, Kettering Road, Stamford, Lincolnshire.

The proposed development is located on the site of the 13th century priory of St. Michael, founded c. 1155 to house forty nuns, some monks and a prior. During the 14th century, the nunnery expanded and gained possession of a nearby nunnery at Wothorpe. The priory was dissolved in 1536 and passed to the Cecil family.

When the current junior school buildings were constructed in the 1970s, part of the latrine to the nunnery buildings was exposed and subsequently scheduled as an ancient monument. Other investigations have identified part of a priory building and at least five burials. The current investigation is located on the edge of the school playing field to the east of the junior school.

The evaluation identified part of a medieval cemetery, probably associated with St. Michaels priory. An ironstone quarry that may date from before or during the early years of the establishment of the priory was also encountered. The pottery included Stamford ware and other local wares and dated generally from the 10th to 17th centuries. One piece of Early Saxon pottery was recovered and two worked flints of the Neolithic or Early Bronze Age period. These finds are residual, but comprise the only evidence found so far of activity of these periods in Stamford.

The evaluation established that archaeological deposits and material survived in a good state of preservation and occurred from 0.30m below the present ground surface. The nature of the archaeological remains found in this

investigation also indicate that the potential of further archaeological deposits within the area of proposed development is very high.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of an Archaeological Evaluation

Archaeological evaluation is defined as 'a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, and relative quality; and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.' (IFA 1997).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by W. J. Hemmings and Partners to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development at Stamford High School, Junior School, Kettering Road, Stamford, Lincolnshire. The development comprised the extension of the existing car park and parents dropping point, eastwards into land that currently forms part of the school playing field. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application S00/0025/69. The evaluation formed the second stage of an overall strategy of archaeological investigation, and was preceded by a geophysical survey (Brooks 2000).

2.3 Topography and Geology

Stamford is situated 63km south of Lincoln and 23km southwest of Spalding, in the administrative district of South Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig.1). The town lies on the banks of the River Welland, close to its confluence with the Gwash which provides the eastern boundary of the town.

The development site (Fig. 2) is located between Kettering Road and the railway cutting, south of the River Welland, at National Grid Reference TF 02818 06488, approximately 600m south of the town centre as defined by All Saints' parish church.

The site lies at approximately 29m OD on the western edge of a flat grassed playing field. Local soils are the Denchworth Association, wet clayey (pelostagnogley) soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 155) and Fladbury 1 Association pelo-alluvial gley soils, developed on clayey alluvial subsoils (*ibid.*, 194). Stamford sits in a narrow valley cut in the Lower Lincolnshire Limestone. Upper Lincolnshire Limestone and the overlying Great Oolite form the northern valley sides. In contrast, the southern part of the town, including the development area, is located on a solid geology of Northampton Sand and Lower Lincolnshire Limestone (Inferior Oolite). Remains of a river terrace and recent alluvium fill the valley bottom (Anderson 1982, 1).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Stamford is situated in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British through to the medieval periods. The Roman road, Ermine Street, crosses the River Welland to the west of the town and adjacent to the proposed development (Fig. 2). Other Romano-British remains comprise unrelated findspots.

By the end of the 9th century, Stamford was described as one of the five boroughs of the Danelaw. A reference to the visit of Edward the Elder in 918 indicates that the Danish *burh* lay to the north of the River Welland and also records that the King commanded a new borough to be built on the south side of the river (Mahaney 1982, 3).

The Domesday Book of 1086 refers to Stamford as a royal borough comprising six wards, five of these north of the river. At that time, the sixth ward, south of the river, was located in the County of Northamptonshire. A bridge spanned the river and in the wards to the north were over four hundred messuages, three and a half mills and a castle. In addition, four churches, were located in the northern part of the town (Foster and Langley 1976, 9 - 11).

Previously *Steanford* and *Stanford*, the major place-name Stamford, 'stony ford', derives from Old English *stan* and *ford* (Ekwall 1974, 436 - 7).

Numerous religious foundations were established during the medieval period. Of particular significance is the Benedictine Nunnery of St. Michael (Figure 3), as it is on this site that the development is located. The Nunnery was founded by William de Waterville, Abbot of Peterborough, about 1155 (English Heritage 1994). Originally the house was founded for 40 nuns with a prior and brethren, until 1323 when it became entirely a nunnery (Knowles and Hadcock 1953, 219).

Following the dissolution, St. Michael's Nunnery was acquired by the Cecil family of nearby Burghley House. It is not known whether a post-dissolution house was constructed at the site although Speed's map of Stamford, dating to 1600, depicts conventual buildings set within a defined outer precinct. Later maps of 1773, 1779

and 1839 all depict buildings on the site, some named as Nun's Farm (APS 1994).

Construction of the railway in 1846 revealed a number of features associated with the nunnery (RCHME 1977, 32). These included building foundations, carved stonework, a coffin lid and a quantity of human bones. Excavations of the site in 1973, prior to the construction of the present school buildings, revealed part of an elaborate rere-dorter (latrine) comprising a 4 bay arcade set in front of a channel which was supplied with water from a reservoir fed by rainwater from a roof (Mahany 1977, 10). The rere-dorter, and its associated features, are a Scheduled Ancient Monument, County No. 22607 (English Heritage 1996, 23) (Fig. 3).

Excavations carried out prior to the extension of the present junior school buildings (Fig. 3), revealed part of a priory building including a room with painted plaster walls and a mortar floor, roofed with slate and green glazed ridge tiles (Cope Faulkner 1999). Archaeological investigations on the north side of the railway cutting, (Fig.3) during an extension to the school boarding house (The Nuns), uncovered the remains of five skeletons and a corner of a limestone wall foundation (APS forthcoming).

3. AIMS

The aims of the archaeological evaluation, as outlined in the brief (Appendix 1), were to gather information to establish the presence or absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits. This would permit the Community Archaeologist for South Kesteven District Council, to formulate appropriate policies for the management of the archaeological resource present on the site.

4. METHODS

Excavation

Trial trenching was used to enable *in situ* determination of the extent, depth and nature of archaeological deposits. Three trenches were excavated to the northeast of the present school buildings (Fig. 3), covering a total area of 33m² (2.5% of the evaluation area). The size and location of the trenches was determined by the results of an archaeological geophysical survey (Fig. 3). Trenches 1 and 2 were positioned to investigate anomalies identified by the geophysical survey (Brookes 2000) and Trench 3 was positioned to evaluate a representative sample of the remaining area to be developed.

A mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket excavated each trench under archaeological supervision to the surface of undisturbed archaeological deposits. Subsequently, the sides of each trench and all deposits and features were cleaned by hand. Archaeological features were investigated as far as required to determine their date, form and function.

Recording was undertaken based on the single context approach developed by the Museum of London (MoLAS 1994) with minor unit modifications. Each deposit or feature was given a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written record sheet. All plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and all sections and elevations at a scale of 1:10. A photographic record was compiled using colour slide and monochrome formats. The precise location of the trenches within the site were established by an EDM survey.

Post-excavation

Following excavation, all records were checked and ordered to ensure that they constituted a complete Level II archive and

a stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was produced. Finds recovered from those deposits excavated were examined and a period date assigned where possible. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 3. Phasing was based on artefact dating and the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis, a total of four phases were identified:

- Phase 1: Natural Deposits
- Phase 2: Medieval Deposits
- Phase 3: Post-medieval deposits
- Phase 4: Recent Deposits

Phase 1 Natural Deposits

The earliest deposit encountered during the evaluation was a rust coloured laminated ironstone bedrock [028] and [034]. The rock occurred at 1.20m below the present ground surface (28.1m OD) in Trench 2 and at 0.80m below the present ground surface (28.8m OD) in Trench 1 (Figs 4 and 5). It was overlain by a layer of shattered ironstone brash in a clayey sand matrix [008], [027] and [044]. In Trench 3, the brash [008] comprised the earliest deposit, occurring at a depth of 0.65m below the present ground surface (Fig. 7). A natural outcrop of limestone [011] was encountered at the west end of Trench 1. Two further naturally deposited layers, [036] and [043], composed of firm, relatively homogenous sandy clay, occurred at the interface between the natural geology and the disturbed upper layers in Trench 1.

Phase 2 Medieval Deposits

Overlying the sterile natural deposits, in all trenches, was a layer of disturbed ironstone brash [012], [019] and [038]. The deposit

was composed of ironstone fragments in a compact orangey brown clayey sand, containing varying quantities of silt and gravel. The thickness of the layer ranged from 0.30m to 0.78m. A number of sherds of pottery, dated from the 10th to 15th centuries were recovered from layer [012] in Trench 1. Artefacts were not recovered from [019] and [038], but these layers were similar in nature and occurred stratigraphically in the same position as [012].

At the east end of Trench 1, the disturbed ironstone brash was cut by a linear feature [033], oriented northwest - southeast (Fig. 4). The feature measured 0.8m wide and 0.50m deep and was filled with a firm mottled greyish and reddish brown sandy silt [032] containing ironstone fragments. It was cut from a level of approximately 29m OD, 0.30m below the present ground surface. No artefacts were recovered from the feature, but stratigraphically, it is likely to be late medieval.

A large feature [018], probably a pit, cutting the disturbed ironstone brash, was encountered in the north eastern corner of Trench 2 (Fig. 5). The cut was only partially exposed, but appeared to be steep sided with a depth of over 1.10m. There was evidence of four separate fills. The first of these [025], was composed of a clean, firm, light yellowish brown fine sandy clay containing lumps of light bluish grey clay. This deposit was unlike any other encountered during the evaluation and either formed the primary fill of the feature or represented a lense of natural clay. Overlying this was a 0.30m thick layer of firm mid-orangey brown, clayey sand [017] containing a high percentage of ironstone fragments. A single sherd of Stamford Ware pottery dating from the 10th to the 12th century was recovered from this fill, which, in turn was overlain by a 0.45m thick firm mid-yellowish greyish brown sandy clayey silt [016] containing well

distributed pebbles and fragments of ironstone. A broken flint blade of probable Neolithic date was found in this deposit, though it is likely to be residual. The final fill of the feature was composed of firm, mid-orangey brown shattered ironstone in a clayey sand matrix [026].

The large pit in Trench 2 was covered by a 0.65m thick layer of subsoil, split distinctively into two horizons. The lower of these [015] contained a relatively higher percentage of silt. It consisted of a soft, mid-brownish yellowish grey sandy silt, containing gravel and small fragments of ironstone. A sherd of Bourne A ware dating from the 12th to 15th centuries was recovered from the deposit. The upper horizon [014] was composed of a loose, mid greyish brown sandy silt mixed with coarse gravel and ironstone fragments.

In Trench 3, the disturbed ironstone brash layer was heavily truncated by a series of at least five rectangular cuts (Fig.6). Two of these, [006] and [022] were investigated and identified as graves. The remaining three, [020], [039] and [024] were not investigated as their similarity to those positively identified was such that all were very likely to be cuts for graves.

Grave cut [006] was fully exposed. It measured 1.78m long and 0.53m wide and was orientated east-west. The cranium and left metatarsals of skeleton [005] were uncovered within the cut. The bone was in a good state of preservation. It is highly likely the burial is complete and undisturbed. Immediately to the northwest, the fibula and tibia of skeleton [031] within partially exposed grave cut [022], was uncovered. The bone was also in a good state of preservation and was not disturbed within the limits of excavation. No skeletons were removed during this investigation. The fills of all probable and definite graves [021],

[023], [040], [007] and [037] were composed of a soft mid-brown clayey silt containing moderate quantities of limestone fragments and gravel. A small piece of smelting slag and a sherd of Stamford Ware of the 10th to 12th century were recovered from deposit [023], the backfill of grave [022].

One other possible sub rectangular cut, [041] was recorded in Trench 3 (Fig. 6). It measured 0.40m wide and was filled with a loose, reddish brown clean clayey sand [042]. The shape and fill of the feature differed from the identified grave cuts and no datable material was recovered from it. Stratigraphically it belongs in this phase, but may have been cut from an earlier level than the other recorded grave cuts.

Examination of the sections (Fig. 7) showed that the graves were cut from a level of approximately 28.6m OD, or, 0.45m below the present ground surface, although they were not clearly recognizable in plan until a level of 28.2m OD.

Phase 3 Post-medieval Deposits

Overlying the grave cuts in Trench 3 was a 0.28m thick subsoil, composed of loose light brownish grey sandy silt [004], containing gravel and frequent fragments of limestone and ironstone. A mixed assemblage of artefacts including, 17th to 18th century green glazed pottery, one sherd of Early Saxon pottery, animal bone, a broken worked flint blade and a fine worked flint thumbnail scraper were recovered from the layer. The earlier finds are residual.

In Trench 1, a very similar layer of loose, mid-brownish grey sandy silt subsoil [010], containing frequently occurring fragments of ironstone and limestone, overlay the late medieval linear feature ([033] described above) and the disturbed ironstone brash [012].

In Trench 3, a former turf horizon [003], was buried by a 0.16m deep layer of re-deposited ironstone brash [002], that extended 2.3m into the area of excavation from north to south. Pottery recovered from the deposit was of the 17th to 18th centuries.

Phase 4 Recent Deposits

Cutting the subsoil in Trench 2, a drain [029], identified in the geophysical survey, was encountered. The feature was orientated east-west, and measured 0.8m wide and 0.2m deep (Fig.5). The fill comprised limestone rubble in a loose, white and grey gravelly silty matrix [030].

A layer of topsoil, between 0.12m and 0.24m thick [001], [009] and [013], completed the recorded sequence in all Trenches.

6. DISCUSSION

The laminated ironstone rock encountered in Trenches 1 and 2 represents an iron rich form of the Inferior Oolitic limestone upon which the site lies. A small outcrop of unmodified limestone bedrock occurred at the same level at the western end of Trench 1 (Plate 2). The overlying layer of shattered ironstone, present in all trenches and the earliest deposit encountered in Trench 3, formed as a result of natural degradation processes of the parent rock as well as root and worm action. Levels taken on the top of the undisturbed, natural deposits revealed that the underlying geology sloped gently down from a height of 28.80m OD in Trench 1 in the south, to 28.37m OD in Trench 3 in the north.

The very similar, but relatively siltier layer of shattered ironstone brash that overlay the natural geology may also be interpreted as a result of mainly natural soil processes. The presence of pottery of the 12th to 15th centuries within this layer in Trench 1,

indicates that activity was taking place on or very near the development area during this period. The finds were localised, confined to the western end of the trench, but no identifiable archaeological feature was observed. This may indicate a natural disturbance, for example, tree roots or animal burrowing that resulted in this particular concentration of finds.

Medieval activity was positively identified in Trenches 2 and 3 and the small ditch recorded crossing the eastern end of Trench 1 is stratigraphically likely to belong to this period.

The size and exposed form of the cut feature in Trench 2, suggests it represents a very large pit, possibly sub-circular in plan with a diameter, if projected, of at least 4m. The presence of four distinctive fills and the clarity of the interfaces between them indicate that the majority of the pit was deliberately back filled with local material derived from surrounding ironstone brash and subsoil (Plate 3). The probable primary fill [017], however, is likely to have formed as a result of weathering and natural collapsing of the loose brash sides. A single sherd of Stamford Ware, dated from the 10th to 12th centuries was recovered in fill [017], implying back filling had commenced, at the earliest, by that time. Pottery of the 12th to 14th century was found in the subsoil that formed over the disused pit. The large size of the pit and the lack of artefacts within it suggest it was dug to extract a natural material, probably ironstone.

Ironstone deposits occur in a band along southeastern Lincolnshire and into Northamptonshire (Taylor *pers. com.*) and its extraction is known from the Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods. Late Iron Age, Roman and Saxo-Norman iron smelting sites have been recorded in Stamford north of the River Welland (RCHME 1977). A small

piece of smelting slag in the backfill of grave [022] in Trench 3 shows that iron smelting was taking place in the vicinity of the area investigated. Furthermore, environmental analysis of demolition layers from a former archaeological investigation adjacent to the junior school buildings to the west (Cope-Faulkner 1999), identified hammerscale, also indicating metalworking in the vicinity. The dating evidence, found here, suggests that the pit, may represent quarrying activities, probably associated with metal working, taking place on the site prior to the establishment of the Nunnery in 1155, or during the earliest years of its foundation. However, the pit was cut from immediately below the subsoil, and it is possible that artefacts from later periods were not found within the limits of the excavated area. There is a possibility, therefore, that the pit could represent later medieval activity associated with the hammerscale, found in demolition layers on the adjacent site.

Trench 3 contained evidence of two definite and three more probable Christian inhumations, aligned east-west, cut from a level of approximately 28.6m OD. The density of the burials suggest that they were in a cemetery. No evidence of coffins, coffin fittings or grave markers were found during the investigation, but only very limited excavation was undertaken to confirm interpretation. Within the limits of the excavation there was no evidence of disturbance to the skeletons or intercutting of the graves. A low concentration of burials is more likely towards the outer limits of a cemetery. The lack of burial evidence in Trenches 2 and 1 also suggest the outer southern limit of the cemetery must lie within 20m south of Trench 3.

A single piece of Stamford ware found in the grave fill of cut [022] gives a date no earlier than the 10th to 12th centuries for the burial. The pottery recovered from the layer that

sealed the graves dates generally from the 10th to 17th centuries and so it can be inferred that the cemetery had ceased to be used by the 17th century. The range of material in the post-cemetery deposits, however, does indicate that long-lived activity from the Neolithic, Early Saxon, medieval period and post-medieval periods had been taking place on or in the vicinity of the development area. Evidence of prehistoric and early Saxon remains in Stamford are particularly rare (Appendix 3).

During the construction of the Stamford to Leicester railway in 1846 it was recorded that, amongst many other remains, a quantity of human bone and a coffin lid was found (RCHME 1977). The cutting for the railway lies approximately 10m north of Trench 3. Archaeological investigations during an extension to the Nuns boarding house (Fig. 3), approximately 65m north of the trench, on the other side of the cutting, also uncovered the remains of at least five skeletons in the foundation trenches of the new building (APS forthcoming). The combined evidence reveals the existence of a sizeable cemetery, undoubtedly associated with St. Michaels Nunnery, the limits of which stretch from the area of investigation in front of the junior school in the south to beyond the present school boarding house in the north.

The undated linear feature exposed at the eastern end of Trench 1 is likely to represent a small ditch orientated northwest - southeast. There was insufficient evidence to suggest a function for the feature or an association with other known archaeological remains.

Except for a recent soakaway drainage channel for the school playing field, picked up during the geophysical survey (Fig. 3) and confirmed during the excavation of Trench 2, no dating evidence later than the 19th century

was recovered from any of the upper deposits during the investigation. The thin layer of redeposited ironstone brash [002] that was present in Trench 3, possibly represents debris from the construction of the railway cutting in the mid-19th century. The found and potential archaeological remains in the development area, therefore, appear to be relatively undisturbed.

7. ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

For assessment of significance the *Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling of ancient monuments* has been used (DoE 1990, Annex 4; see Appendix 7).

Period:

Evidence from the Neolithic, Early Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods were encountered during the investigation. Unstratified prehistoric finds are typical indicators of the period. Medieval cemeteries associated with a religious establishment are typical of the period. Ironstone extraction is a locally common trait of the Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods.

Rarity:

Evidence of prehistoric activity in Stamford is extremely rare, previously confined to a single unlocated Bronze Age palstave. Evidence of Early Saxon occupation in Stamford is also very rare.

Medieval industrial remains are not scarce but may possess rare or unusual features. Likewise, medieval cemeteries are an expected feature of religious establishments, but are likely to contain a wealth of specific information about the local population and society.

Documentation:

Records of archaeological sites and finds in the Stamford area are held in the

Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments record and in the parish files of the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist.

Various synopses of the historical, architectural and religious background of Stamford have previously been produced (RCHME 1977, Hartley and Rogers 1974, Smith 1994).

Work specific to St. Michael's Nunnery has been carried out by Mahaney (1977). This report complements a previous report of investigations on the site (Cope-Faulkner 1999).

Group Value:

No group value can be conferred on the prehistoric and Early Saxon finds as they were unstratified.

The association of medieval quarrying and a medieval cemetery confers moderate group value on remains of this period uncovered in this investigation. The group value is significantly enhanced, however, by the sites location within a known medieval religious establishment part of which has scheduled monument status.

Survival /Condition:

With the exception of a modern shallow soakaway drain, the natural and archaeological deposits recorded showed no evidence of disturbance. The archaeological material, including bone, were also in very good condition. The medieval remains were shown to survive from a depth of between 0.30m and 0.50m below the present ground surface of the playing field.

Fragility/Vulnerability:

As the proposed development will impact the investigation area to a depth of at least to the level of the existing car park, i.e. 0.60m below the present ground surface, all archaeological deposits present are

vulnerable.

Diversity:

Moderate functional diversity is indicated by the use of the site for quarrying activities and for burial of the dead.

Finds from the Neolithic, Early Saxon, medieval and post medieval periods confer a high period diversity on the site, although the quantity of material recovered was low.

Potential:

There is very high potential for further burials within the area of proposed development. Features and finds associated with cemeteries, for example, a cemetery boundary ditch or wall, worked stone grave markers, coffins and coffin fittings are highly likely to be found within the development area.

The location of the site and the proximity of remains of conventual buildings found in previous investigations indicates there is a high potential of encountering further building remains in this area.

There is a moderate potential for further remains associated with quarrying and metal working activities and of finding evidence of prehistoric and Early Saxon occupation.

The potential of survival of contemporary plant remains is low, except by charring.

8. EFFECTIVENESS OF TECHNIQUES

The techniques employed during the archaeological evaluation were, on the whole, effective. The removal of the topsoil and non-archaeological deposits with a mechanical excavator allowed a rapid identification of archaeological features. Manual cleaning and limited excavation

established the level of survival of archaeological remains below the present ground surface and allowed interpretation and dating of the majority of features identified.

9. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological evaluation of land, currently part of the playing field in front of the main junior school building at Stamford High School, was undertaken because the proposed development lay within the area of the medieval priory of St. Michael.

The excavation revealed that human remains encountered in a previous archaeological investigation to the north, at The Nuns boarding house, and during excavations to build the railway in the 19th century, extend southwards at least as far as Trench 3 in the present development area, thereby, indicating the existence of a sizeable cemetery, probably associated with St. Michaels priory.

Quarrying for ironstone was also taking place on the site, either before the establishment of the priory or during its early years. A piece of smelting slag from this excavation and hammerscale found in a previous investigation immediately to the west of the area may indicate related iron working activities were being carried out on the site.

Unstratified worked flint artefacts of Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date were recovered from two of the three trenches. They comprise the only evidence of this period, so far found in Stamford. Although the finds were not associated with features, their presence indicates prehistoric occupation in the vicinity of the investigations. Likewise, Early Saxon remains in Stamford are extremely rare and the single sherd of Early Saxon pottery

recovered suggests there may be further remains from this period nearby.

Archaeological deposits in the investigated area were in a good state of preservation and survived from a depth of 0.3m below the present ground surface. The potential of encountering further archaeological remains, particularly those associated with the cemetery, within the area of proposed development is, therefore very high.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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11. PERSONNEL

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Mahaney, C., 1977 'St. Michael's Nunnery, Stamford' in *South Lincolnshire Archaeology I*

RCHME, 1977 *The Town of Stamford* A survey by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments

Smith, N., 1994 *The Story of Stamford*

13. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

RCHME Royal Commission on Historical Monuments for England

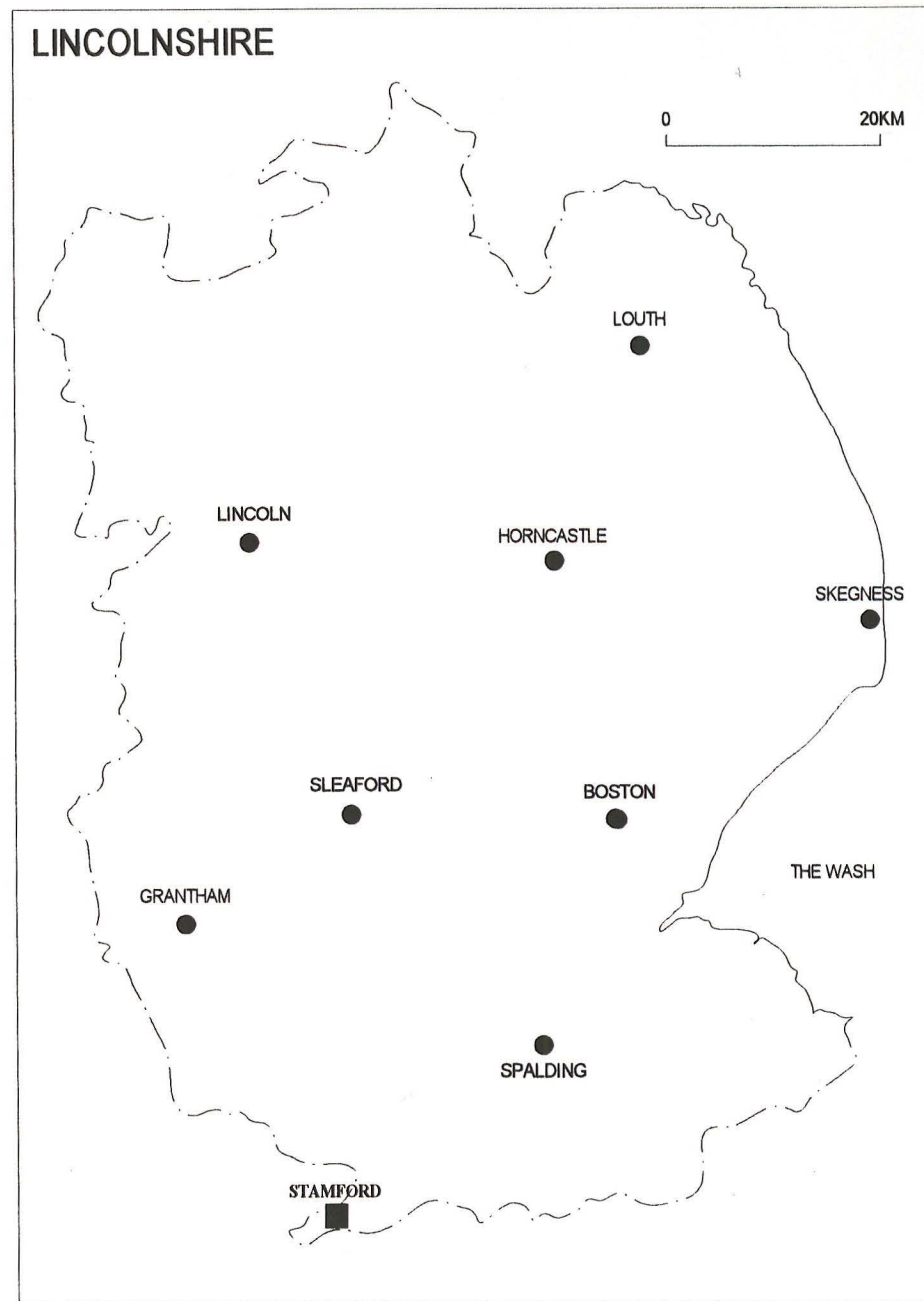


Figure 1 - General location map

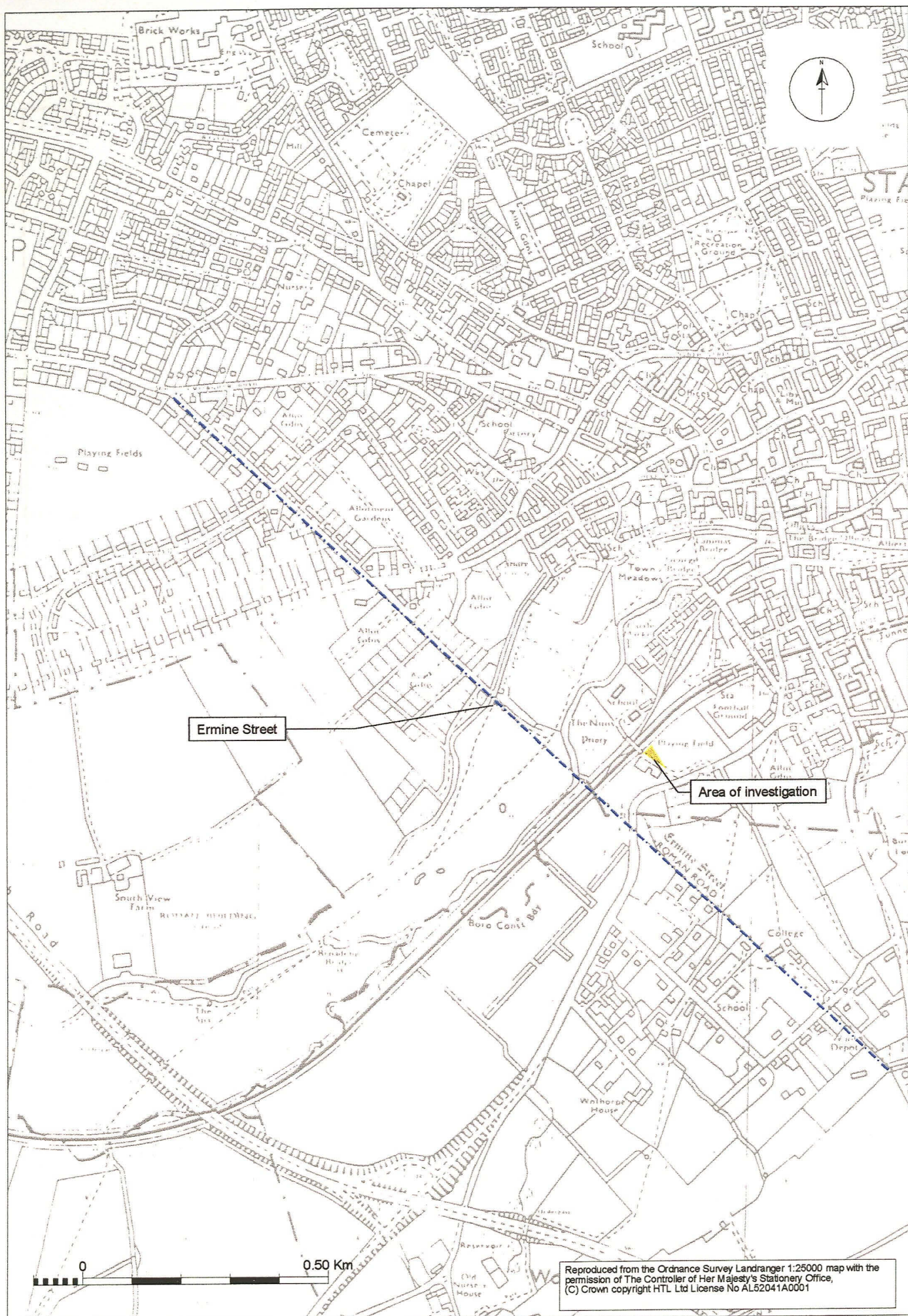


Figure 2 Site location plan

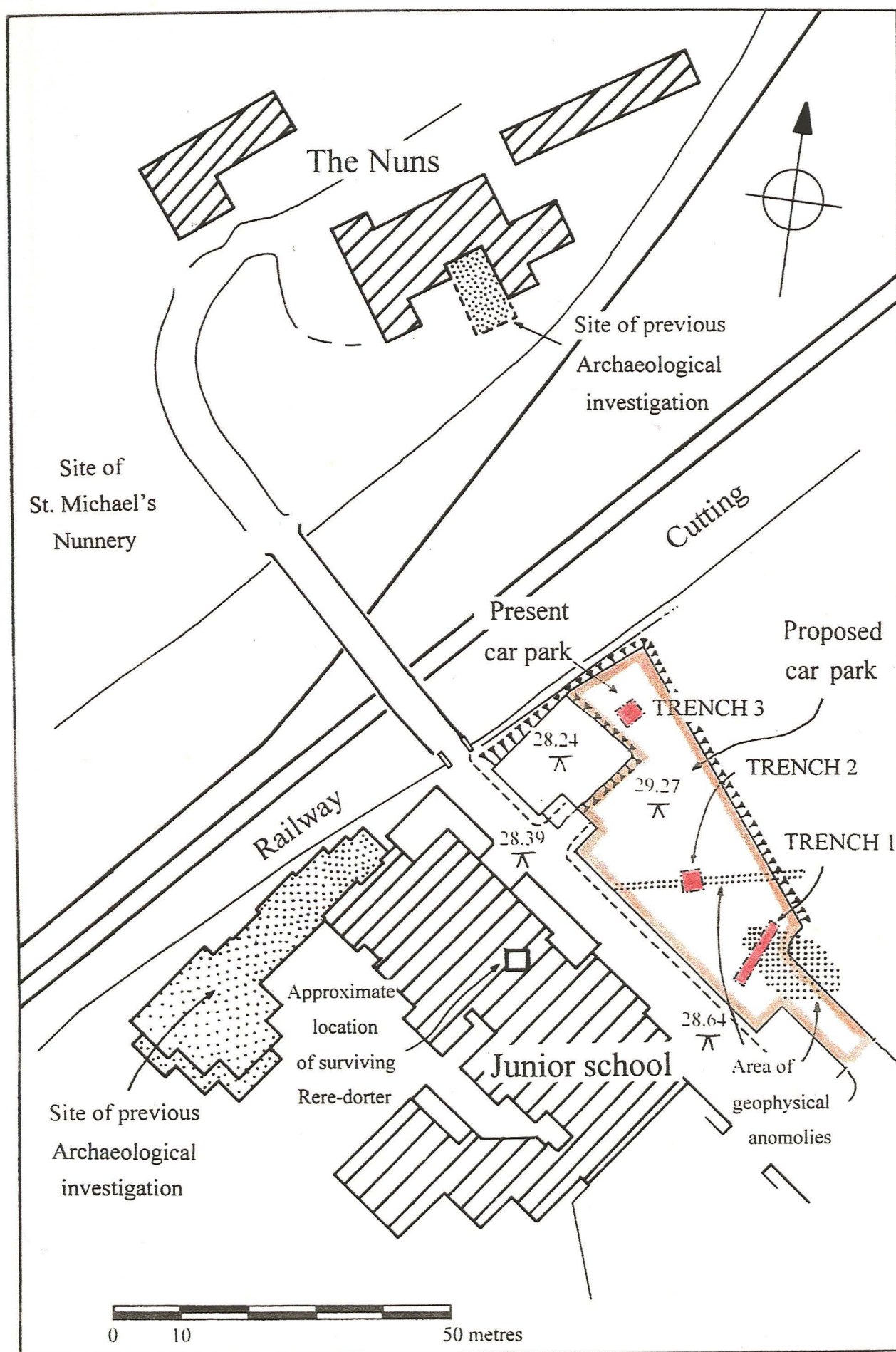


Figure 3. Trench Location and Archaeological Setting

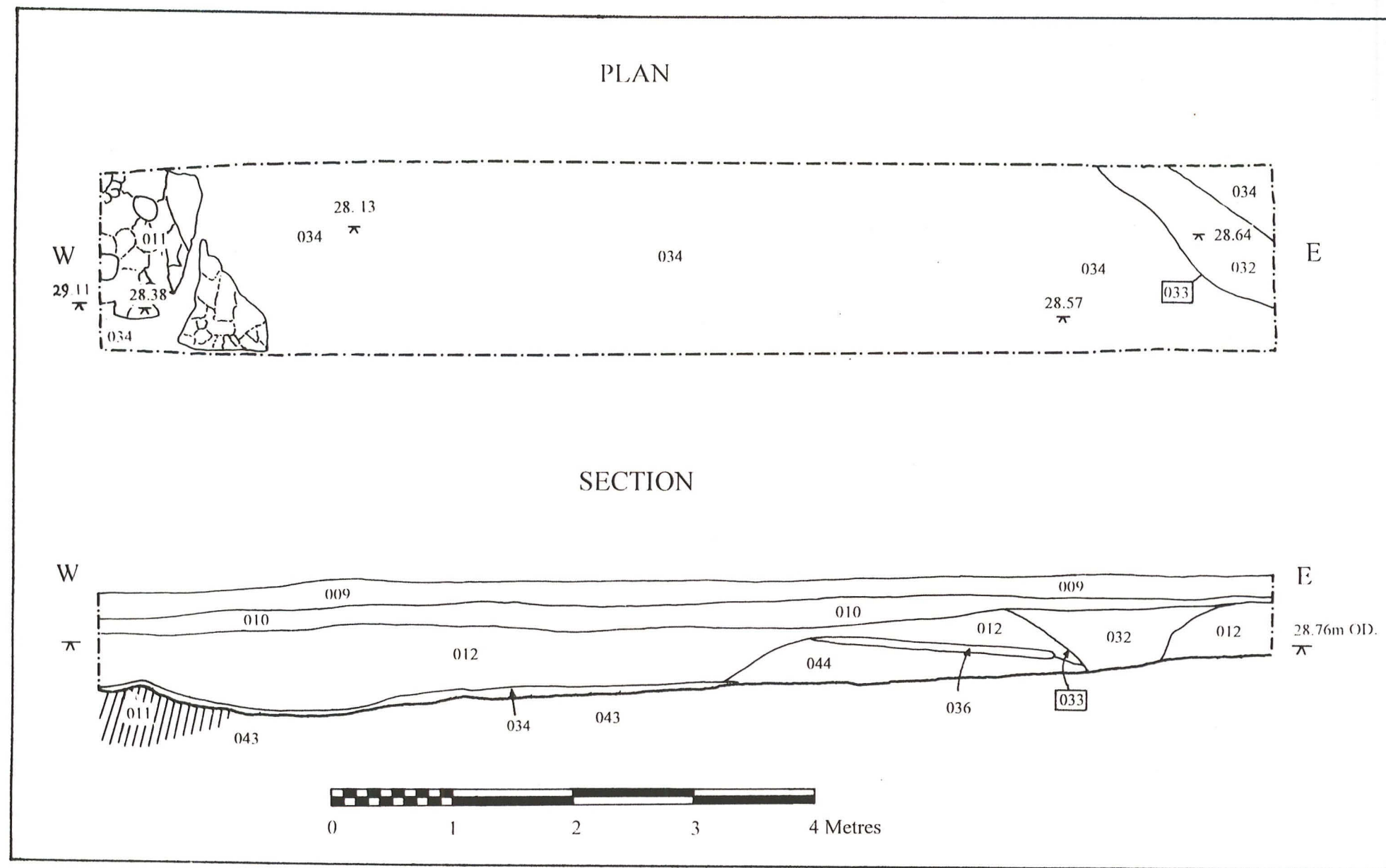


Figure 4. Trench 1, Plan and Section

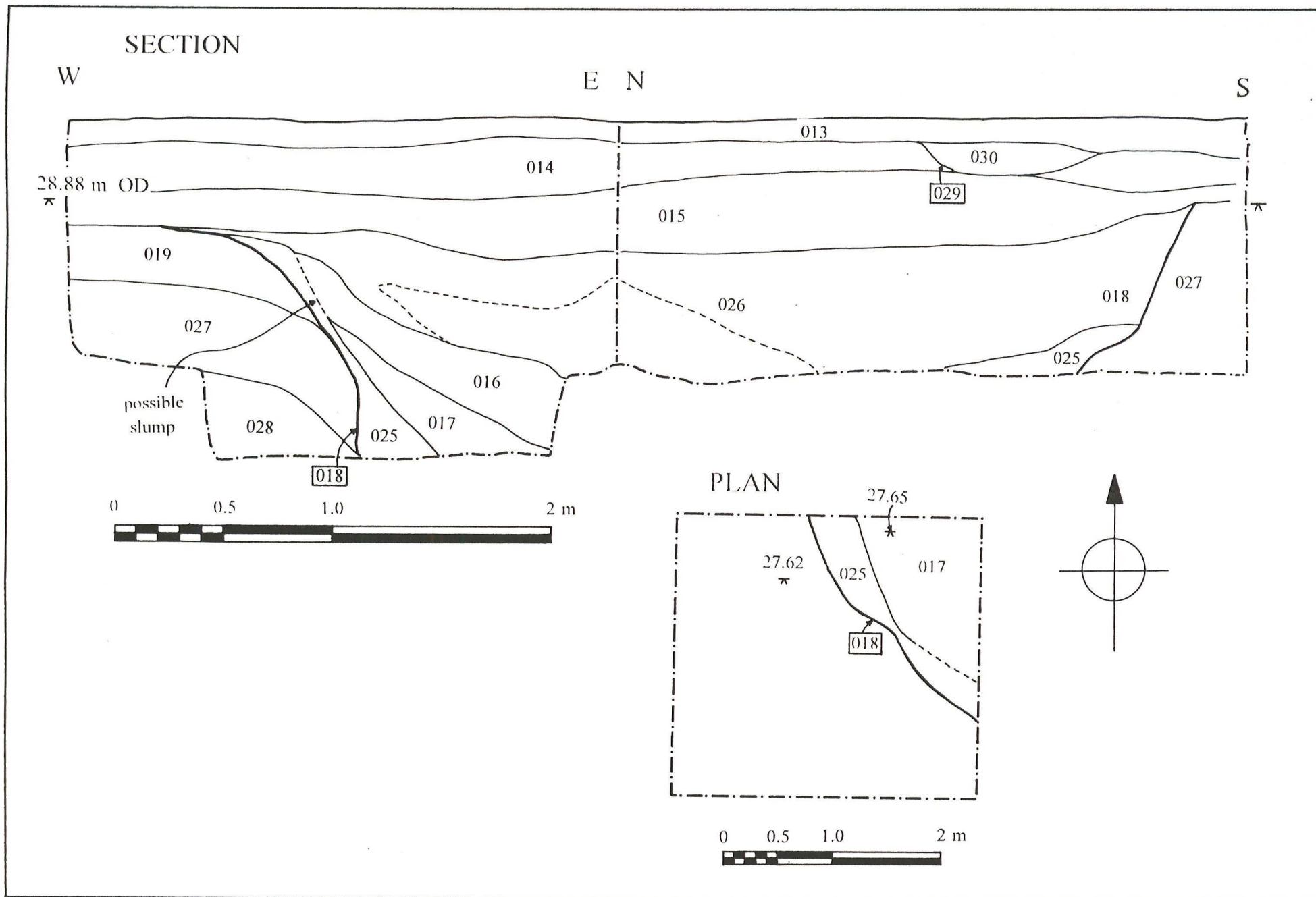


Figure 5. Trench 2, Plan and Section

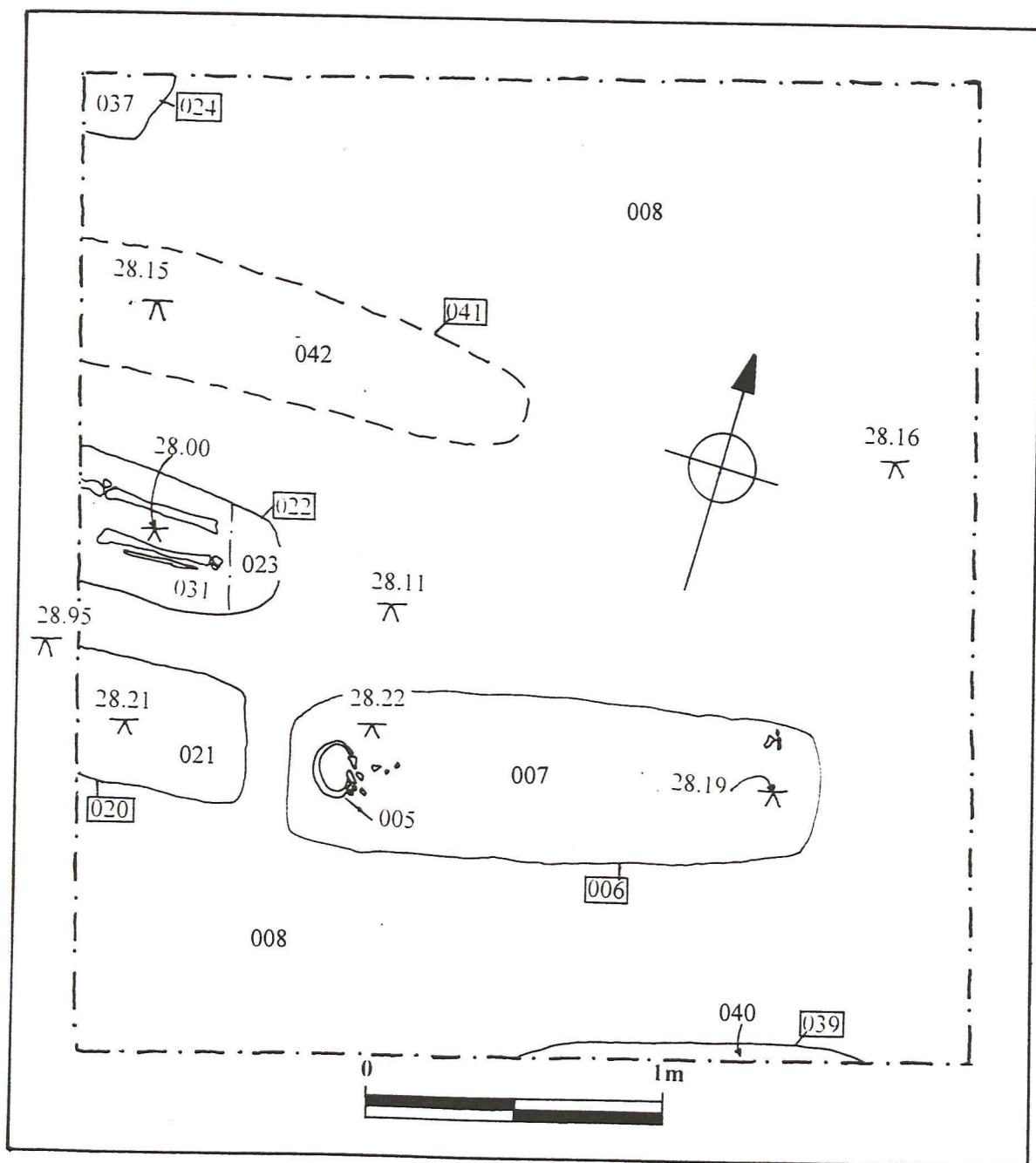


Figure 6. Trench 3, Plan



Plate 1 General view of site looking north towards railway cutting



Plate 2 Outcrop of limestone (011), looking west



◀ Plate 3 Quarry pit [018],
looking north



◀ Plate 4 Grave[006],
looking west

Plate 5 Grave [022], ➤
looking south



Appendix 1

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT BRIEF EVALUATION OF LAND AT STAMFORD HIGH SCHOOL, KETTERING ROAD CAR PARK PROPOSAL

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT BRIEF
EVALUATION OF LAND AT STAMFORD HIGH SCHOOL, KETTERING ROAD – CAR
PARK PROPOSAL**

1. SUMMARY.

1.1 This document sets out the brief for archaeological fieldwork, recording and publication to be carried out prior to the development of land at Stamford High School, Kettering Road, Stamford.

1.2 This brief should be used by archaeological contractors as the basis for the preparation of a detailed archaeological project specification. In response to this brief contractors will be expected to provide details of the proposed scheme of work, to include the anticipated working methods, timescales and staffing levels.

(The Community Archaeologist does not maintain a list of archaeological contractors, but names of local units can be found in the Yellow Pages, or from the Institute of Field Archaeologists. Tel: 0118 931 6446)

1.3 Detailed specifications should be submitted to the Community Archaeologist of South Kesteven District Council for approval. The client will then be free to choose between those specifications which have been approved.

1.4 This brief should be used in conjunction with the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (August 1997) in the preparation of the contractor's specification.

2. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION.

2.1 The site of the proposed development lies in the south west of Stamford, in the very south of South Kesteven district, Lincolnshire. The actual site itself is located at NGR:TF 02818 06488, please see location map. The site is currently in use as a playing field, and is flat and under grass. The north-western end of the area is covered by a tarmac car-park.

3. PLANNING BACKGROUND.

3.1 A full planning application has been made to South Kesteven District Council for: Construction of a car park (S00/0025/69). At the recommendation of the Community Archaeologist, the District Council have requested a pre-determination archaeological evaluation. The first stage of the evaluation has been completed, and consisted of a geophysical survey. A linear anomaly, and area of disturbance are interpreted as possible archaeology.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.

4.1 The proposed development is located in the area of the site of the 13th century Benedictine priory of St. Michael, founded c.1155 to house forty nuns, some monks and a prior. It was dissolved in 1536. When the current junior school was built, part of the latrine to the priory was exposed and subsequently scheduled as an Ancient Monument. Recent investigations at the junior school have identified further remains of the priory buildings in the form of an L-shaped wall. Painted plaster and a mortar floor suggest this was perhaps part of a cloister. Later deposits uncovered were associated with the demolition of the nunnery during the post-medieval period.

During construction of the railway in the 19th century, significant remains were uncovered including 'ancient foundations. . . broken mullions of windows and other carved stones, five stone coffins, a quantity of human bones, coloured glass' etc.

5. REQUIREMENT FOR WORK.

5.1 A scheme of trial-trenching has been requested to further investigate possible archaeological features identified by the geophysical survey.

5.2 The investigation should be carried out by a recognised archaeological body in accordance with the code of conduct of The Institute of Field Archaeologists.

5.3 The contractor's specification should be prepared according to requirements of this brief and the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook's section 'Standard Briefs for Archaeological Projects in Lincolnshire' (August 1997).

6. METHODS.

6.1 In consideration of methodology the following details should be given in the contractor's specification:

6.1.1 A projected timetable must be agreed for the various stages of work.

6.1.2. The staff structure and numbers must be detailed.

6.1.3. It is expected that all on site work will be carried out in a way that complies with the relevant Health and Safety Legislation and that due consideration will be given to site security.

6.1.4 The recovery and recording strategies to be used must be described in full. **It is expected that an approved single context recording system will be used for all on site and post fieldwork procedures.**

6.1.5 An estimate of time and resources allocated for post-excavation work and report production in the form of 'person hours'. This should include lists of specialists and their role in the project. **There should be no change to any of the specialists listed in the specification, unless previously discussed with the Community Archaeologist.**

6.2 Excavation is a potentially destructive technique and the specification should take the following factors into account:

6.2.1 The use of an appropriate machine with a wide, toothless ditching blade to remove topsoil down to the first archaeological horizon.

6.2.2. The supervision of all machine work by an archaeologist.

6.2.3. When archaeological features are revealed by machine these will be cleaned and excavated by hand and all archaeological deposits will be fully excavated and recorded.

6.2.4 If human remains are encountered the contractor must comply with all statutory consents and licences under the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981 or other Burial Acts regarding

their exhumation and interment. It will also be necessary to comply with all reasonable requests of interested parties as to the method of removal, reinterment or disposal of the remains or associated items. Attempt must be made at all times not to cause offence to any interested parties.

6.2.5 If discovered during excavation, finds of gold and silver must be archaeologically removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner immediately (within 14 days) in accordance with the procedures of the Treasure Act 1997 and Code of Practice. If removal of such finds is not possible on the same day then adequate security arrangements must be made.

6.2.6 Adequate recovery of finds and an adequate sampling programme to provide environmental evidence from all archaeological deposits should be ensured. A contingency sum to cover unexpected finds may be included with the tenders. However, this should only be activated after discussion with the Community Archaeologist and the client.

6.2.7 Trenches should be excavated in locations designed to retrieve the maximum information. Trenches should investigate the area of 'disturbance' identified by the geophysical survey, along with the linear anomaly. It would also be useful to place a trench to investigate the area already under tarmac, that was not able to be included in the first stage of this evaluation.

7. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS.

7.1 The Community Archaeologist of South Kesteven District Council will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project and will require at least 14 days notice prior to the commencement of the work. The Community Archaeologist should be kept informed of any unexpected discoveries and regularly updated on the project's progress. They should be allowed access to the site at their convenience and will comply with any health and safety requirements associated with the site.

8. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

8.1 The final report should be produced to the level outlined in The Management of Archaeological Projects, Appendix 3, English Heritage, 1991 and within a timescale agreed with the Community Archaeologist. The report should include:

8.1.1 Location plans of the areas which have been investigated and the position of any trenches.

8.1.2 Tables summarising features and artefacts together with a full description and brief interpretation.

8.1.3 specialist descriptions of artefacts and ecofacts.

8.1.4 section and plan drawing, with ground level, Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scales as appropriate.

8.1.5. A consideration of the importance of the findings on a local, regional and national basis.

8.1.6 A critical review of the effectiveness of the methodology.

8.2 Copies of the final report must be deposited with South Kesteven District Council, the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist, the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments and the developer.

9. ARCHIVE DEPOSITION.

9.1 After agreement with the land-owner(s), arrangements should be made for long term storage of all artefacts in the City and County Museum, Lincoln as outlined in that Museum's document 'Conditions for the acceptance of Project Archives'. The City and County Museum should be contacted at the earliest possible opportunity so that the full cost implications of the archive deposition can be taken into account.

9.2 A site archive should be produced and deposited with the artefacts as detailed in 9.1

10. PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION.

10.1 The deposition of a copy of the report with the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record and the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist will be deemed to put all the information into the public domain, unless a special request is made for confidentiality. If material is to be held in confidence a timescale must be agreed with the Community Archaeologist, but it is expected that this shall not exceed six months.

10.2 A summary of the findings of the investigation should be presented for publication to Lincolnshire History and Archaeology (Published by The Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology) within 12 months of the completion of the project.

11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

11.1 This document attempts to define the best practice expected of an archaeological investigation but cannot fully anticipate the conditions that will be encountered as work progresses. However, changes to the approved programme of excavation are only to be made with the prior written approval of the Community Archaeologist.

11.2 Further Contact Addresses.

Miss Jo Simpson
South Kesteven Community Archaeologist
Heritage Lincolnshire
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Lincolnshire
NG 34 9RW.

Archaeology Section
Highways and Planning Directorate
Lincolnshire County Council
3rd Floor
City Hall
Lincoln
LN1 1DN.

Mr. T. Page
City and County Museum
12 Friars Lane
Lincoln
LN2 5AL.

Brief set by Community Archaeologist March 2000.

Appendix 2

**SPECIFICATION
FOR THE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
OF LAND AT
STAMFORD HIGH SCHOOL
(Extensions and alterations to Junior School - Carpark)**

**PREPARED FOR
W. J. HEMMINGS & PARTNERS**

**BY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES
Institute of Field Archaeologists'
Registered Archaeological Organisation No. 21**

MARCH 2000

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1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *This document comprises a specification for the archaeological field evaluation on the site of a new carpark at Stamford High School, Kettering Road, Stamford.*
- 1.2 *Medieval St. Michael's Priory was located in the area of the site, with the priory toilet block (reredorter) being in the immediate vicinity. This priory latrine is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Archaeological evaluation at the site has recorded medieval remains, including substantial masonry and surviving floor levels. The proposed car park lies close to the area of the earlier evaluation.*
- 1.3 *A resistivity survey of the proposed car park has been undertaken which identified a linear feature and an area of disturbance. A programme of trial trenching is now required to investigate these anomalies.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the investigation. The report will consist of a text describing the nature of the archaeological deposits located and will be supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for the archaeological field evaluation of land at Stamford High School Junior School, Kettering Road, Stamford, Lincolnshire, national grid reference TF 02818 06488.
- 2.2 The document contains the following parts:
 - 2.2.1 Overview
 - 2.2.2 The archaeological and natural setting
 - 2.2.3 Stages of work and methodologies to be used
 - 2.2.4 List of specialists
 - 2.2.5 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 Stamford is located 63km south of Lincoln and 17km northwest of Peterborough in the southwest corner of Lincolnshire. The site is in the southwestern part of the town, south of the River Welland and about 600m south of the town centre as defined by All Saints' parish church. Kettering Road lies just to the south, with the rail track lies to the north of the site which is centred on national grid reference TF 02818 06488.
- 3.2 The area of the proposed car park is block of land approximately 75m long by 30m at its widest. Currently the site forms part of the school playing fields and is under grass with the exception of the northwestern end which lies below the level of the playing field, is covered by tarmac and in use as a car park.

4 **PLANNING BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 A full planning application (S00/0025/69) for construction of a car park has been submitted to South Kesteven District Council. The applicant was advised by the Planning Authority that an archaeological evaluation would be required prior to development. The first stage of the evaluation consisted of a geophysical survey which identified a linear anomaly and an area of disturbance interpreted as possible archaeological remains. A programme of trial trenching to investigate the anomalies is now required in accordance with the archaeological brief for works produced by the Community Archaeologist, South Kesteven District Council.

5 **SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 5.1 Located on the south bank of the River Welland, the site lies at approximately 25m OD on land that slopes down northward to the river. Soils at the site are Denchworth Association pelostagnogleys, with Fladbury 1 Association pelo- alluvial gleys immediately to the north (Hodge *et al.* 1984 155; 194). These soils are developed on clayey alluvial subsoils. Beneath this alluvium is a solid geology of Lower Lincolnshire Limestone.

6 **THE ARCHAEOLOGY**

- 6.1 The proposed development area is in the general location of St. Michael's Priory, a nunnery founded in 1155. The nunnery was set within an enclosure that also accommodated a cemetery. Part of the reredorter (toilet block) of the nunnery has been excavated and is preserved in an underground chamber beneath the entrance of the Junior School. This reredorter is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, County Number 22607.
- 6.2 The nunnery was dissolved in 1536, though ruins of the establishment seem to have been evident at least until 1779. Remains of the nunnery, including burials, were found during construction of the railway yard, north of the railtrack, in the mid 19th century.
- 6.3 Archaeological investigation by APS of the site of a proposed extension on the north side of the current school buildings revealed well-preserved medieval masonry and floor levels of one of the Priory buildings, perhaps part of a cloister, standing *c.* 0.5m high (Cope-Faulkner 1999). It is possible that such remains are also present to the east under the proposed site of the proposed car park.
- 6.4 A resistivity survey of the grass covered portion of the proposed car park area revealed two anomalies: a linear feature, aligned approximately east - west in the centre of the proposed area and an area of disturbance toward the southern end of the site. These anomalies may represent archaeological remains.

7 **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 7.1 The aim of the work will be to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curator to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site.
- 7.2 The objectives of the work will be to:

- 7.2.1 Establish the type of archaeological activity that may be present within the site.
- 7.2.2 Determine the likely extent of archaeological activity present within the site.
- 7.2.3 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features present within the site.
- 7.2.4 Determine the extent to which the surrounding archaeological features extend into the application area.
- 7.2.5 Establish the way in which the archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.
- 7.2.6 Determine the date and function of the archaeological features present on the site.

8 LIAISON WITH THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CURATOR

- 8.1 A trenching plan (Fig 1) has been proposed and agreed in principal with the archaeological curator. As work progresses it may be necessary, in response to site conditions, to amend or alter the size and/or location of the trenches in order to ensure that the scheme fulfills the requirements of the archaeological curator. Any such changes will be undertaken in consultation with the archaeological curator.

9 TRIAL TRENCHING

9.1 Reasoning for this technique

- 9.1.1 Trial trenching enables the *in situ* determination of the sequence, date, nature, depth, environmental potential and density of archaeological features present on the site.
- 9.1.2 The trial trenching will consist of the excavation of three trenches measuring 10m x 1.5 (Trench 1), 3m x 3m (Trench 2) and 3m x 3m (Trench 3) giving a total area of 33sq. metres, approximately 2% of the development area, the normal percentage for site evaluation. Trench 1 will be located over the anomaly to the south, but will be confined within the area of the proposed development, Trench 2 will be located over the linear anomaly and Trench 3 will be located on the grassed area to the east of the present car park.
- 9.1.3 Should the linear anomaly (Trench 2) be proved to not be of archaeological interest (eg presence of underground services), before or during excavation, then the trench will be moved, or enlarged, to avoid any services, or similar obstruction, in order to establish the nature of the archaeological deposits in the area.
- 9.1.3 It is thought likely that there may be a depth of deposits overlying archaeological remains in the area of the present playing field. Therefore the trench dimensions have been designed to permit the stepping-in of the trench sides, should archaeological deposits extend below 1.2m depth. In addition augering may be used to determine the depth of the sequence of deposits present.

9.2 General Considerations

- 9.2.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the evaluation.
- 9.2.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practice issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA). *Archaeological Project Services* is an IFA Registered Archaeological Organisation (No. 21).
- 9.2.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.
- 9.2.4 Excavation of the archaeological features exposed will only be undertaken as far as is required to determine their date, sequence, density and nature. Not all archaeological features exposed will be excavated. However, the evaluation will, as far as is reasonably practicable, determine the level of the natural deposits to ensure that the depth of the archaeological sequence present on the site is established.
- 9.2.5 Open trenches will be marked by hazard tape attached to road irons or similar poles. Subject to the consent of the archaeological curator, and following the appropriate recording, the trenches, particularly those of excessive depth, will be backfilled as soon as possible to minimise any health and safety risks.

9.3 Methodology

- 9.3.1 Removal of the topsoil and any other overburden will be undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. To ensure that the correct amount of material is removed and that no archaeological deposits are damaged, this work will be supervised by Archaeological Project Services. On completion of the removal of the overburden, the nature of the underlying deposits will be assessed by hand excavation before any further mechanical excavation that may be required. Thereafter, the trenches will be cleaned by hand to enable the identification and analysis of the archaeological features exposed.
- 9.3.2 Investigation of the features will be undertaken only as far as required to determine their date, form and function. The work will consist of half- or quarter-sectioning of features as required and, where appropriate, the removal of layers. Should features be located which may be worthy of preservation *in situ*, excavation will be limited to the absolute minimum, (*ie* the minimum disturbance) necessary to interpret the form, function and date of the features.
- 9.3.3 The archaeological features encountered will be recorded on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma context record sheets. The system used is the single context method by which individual archaeological units of stratigraphy are assigned a unique record number and are individually described and drawn.
- 9.3.4 Plans of features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10. Should individual features merit it, they will be drawn at a larger scale.

- 9.3.5 Throughout the duration of the trial trenching a photographic record consisting of black and white prints (reproduced as contact sheets) and colour slides will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
- 9.3.5.1 the site before the commencement of field operations.
 - 9.3.5.2 the site during work to show specific stages of work, and the layout of the archaeology within individual trenches.
 - 9.3.5.3 individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
 - 9.3.5.4 groups of features where their relationship is important.
 - 9.3.5.5 the site on completion of field work
- 9.3.6 Should human remains be encountered, they will be left *in situ* with excavation being limited to the identification and recording of such remains. If removal of the remains is necessary the appropriate Home Office licences will be obtained and the local environmental health department informed. If relevant, the coroner and the police will be notified.
- 9.3.7 Finds collected during the fieldwork will be bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered ready for later washing and analysis.
- 9.3.8 The spoil generated during the evaluation will be mounded along the edges of the trial trenches with the top soil being kept separate from the other material excavated for subsequent backfilling.
- 9.3.9 The precise location of the trenches within the site and the location of site recording grid will be established by an EDM survey.

10 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 If appropriate, during the evaluation specialist advice will be obtained from an environmental archaeologist. The specialist will visit the site and will prepare a report detailing the nature of the environmental material present on the site and its potential for additional analysis should further stages of archaeological work be required. The results of the specialist's assessment will be incorporated into the final report

11 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORT

11.1 Stage 1

- 11.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the trial trenching will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence constituting a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be

catalogued: the colour slides will be labelled and mounted on appropriate hangers and the black and white contact prints will be labelled, in both cases the labelling will refer to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.

- 11.1.2 All finds recovered during the trial trenching will be washed, marked, bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

11.2 Stage 2

- 11.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- 11.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

11.3 Stage 3

- 11.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the evaluation will be prepared. This will consist of:
 - 11.3.1.1 A non-technical summary of the findings of the evaluation.
 - 11.3.1.2 A description of the archaeological setting of the site.
 - 11.3.1.3 Description of the topography and geology of the evaluation area.
 - 11.3.1.4 Description of the methodologies used during the evaluation and discussion of their effectiveness in the light of the findings of the investigation.
 - 11.3.1.5 A text describing the findings of the evaluation.
 - 11.3.1.6 Plans of the trenches showing the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
 - 11.3.1.7 Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.
 - 11.3.1.8 Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed and their context within the surrounding landscape.
 - 11.3.1.9 Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
 - 11.3.1.10 Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features or groups of features.
 - 11.3.1.11 A consideration of the significance of the remains found, in local, regional, national and international terms, using recognised evaluation criteria.

12 **ARCHIVE**

- 12.1 The documentation, finds, photographs and other records and materials generated during the evaluation will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This sorting will be undertaken according to the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long term storage and curation.

13 **REPORT DEPOSITION**

- 13.1 Copies of the evaluation report will be sent to: the client, W. J. Hemmings and Partners; the Community Archaeologist, South Kesteven District Council; South Kesteven District Council Planning Department; and the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record.

14 **PUBLICATION**

- 14.1 A report of the findings of the evaluation will be published in Heritage Lincolnshire's annual report and an article of appropriate content will be submitted for inclusion in the journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*. Notes or articles describing the results of the investigation will also be submitted for publication in the appropriate national journals: *Medieval Archaeology* and *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for medieval and later remains, and *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date.

15 **CURATORIAL MONITORING**

- 15.1 Curatorial responsibility for the project lies with Community Archaeologist, South Kesteven District Council. As much written notice as possible, ideally at least seven days, will be given to the archaeological curator prior to the commencement of the project to enable them to make appropriate monitoring arrangements.

16 **VARIATIONS TO THE PROPOSED SCHEME OF WORKS**

- 16.1 Variations to the scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation from the archaeological curator.
- 16.2 Should the archaeological curator require any additional investigation beyond the scope of the brief for works, or this specification, then the cost and duration of those supplementary examinations will be negotiated between the client and the contractor.

17 **SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT**

- 17.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principal and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln.
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric: Dr D Knight, Trent and Peak Archaeological Trust Roman: B Precious, independent specialist Anglo-Saxon: J Young, independent specialist Medieval and later: H Healey, independent archaeologist with G Taylor, APS
Other Artefacts	J Cowgill, independent specialist; or G Taylor, APS
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, independent specialist
Animal Remains Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy; or P Cope-Faulkner, APS
Environmental Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Radiocarbon dating	Beta Analytic Inc., Florida, USA
Dendrochronology dating	University of Sheffield Dendrochronology Laboratory

18 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 18.1 Fieldwork is expected to be undertaken by 3 staff, a supervisor and 2 assistants, and to take four (5) days.
- 18.2 Post-excavation analysis and report production is expected to take 9 person-days within a notional programme of 6 days. A project officer or supervisor will undertake most of the analysis, with assistance from the finds supervisor and CAD illustrator. Two half-days of specialist time are allotted in the project budget.
- 18.3 **Contingency**
- 18.3.1 Contingencies have been specified in the budget. These include: environmental sampling/analysis of waterlogged remains; pump (not expected as no evidence of waterlogging previously identified in this area); Roman pottery (none expected); Anglo-Saxon pottery (not expected); Medieval pottery- large quantities (moderate amount expected and allowed for); faunal remains -large quantities (moderate amounts expected and allowed for); Conservation and/or Other unexpected remains or artefacts.
- 18.3.2 Other than the pump, the activation of any contingency requirement will be by the archaeological curator (South Kesteven Community Archaeologist), not Archaeological Project Services.

19 **INSURANCES**

- 19.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability insurance to £10,000,000. Additionally, the company maintains Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

20 **COPYRIGHT**

- 20.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.
- 20.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
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Specification: Version 2, 13/04/2000

Appendix 3

CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context Number	Trench Number	Description	Interpretation
001	3	Friable, dark grey, sandy silt. 0.10m thick	Modern topsoil
002	3	Loose, mid-brown, sandy silt containing ironstone and limestone, 0.16m thick	Re-deposited subsoil, possibly associated with 19 th century railway construction
003	3	Loose, dark grey, sandy silt, 0.24m thick	Buried topsoil
004	3	Loose, light brownish grey, sandy silt with frequent limestone and ironstone, 0.28m thick	Disturbed cemetery deposit
005	3	Skeleton	Skeleton
006	3	Rectangular cut, 1.78m long, 0.53m wide, orientated E-W	Grave cut for skeleton 005
007	3	Loose, mid-brown, clayey silt	Fill of grave cut 006
008	3	Loose, mid-reddish brown, ironstone fragments in a clayey sand matrix	Natural ironstone brash
009	1	Loose, dark grey, sandy silt, 0.20m thick	Topsoil
010	1	Loose, mid-brownish grey, ironstone fragments in a silty matrix. Contains limestone fragments, 0.24m thick	Disturbed subsoil
011	1	Limestone outcrop, 1.4m x 1.5m as seen	Natural limestone outcrop
012	1	Firm, mid brownish orange mottled with greyish brown, ironstone fragments in a sandy clay matrix. Max. 0.78m thick	Disturbed natural ironstone brash
013	2	Loose, dark grey, sandy silt, 0.12m thick	Topsoil
014	2	Loose, mid-greyish brown, coarse gravel and ironstone fragments in a sandy silt matrix, 0.3m thick	Disturbed subsoil
015	2	Soft, mid-brownish grey, sandy silt containing coarse gravel and ironstone fragments, 0.35m thick	Lower subsoil horizon
016	2	Firm, mid-yellowish greyish brown, sandy clayey silt containing pebbles and ironstone fragments, 0.45m thick	Fill of pit 018, very similar to subsoil
017	2	Firm, mid-orangey brown, clayey sand containing frequent ironstone fragments, 0.30m thick	Fill of pit 018
018	2	Large cut, shape unknown, radius 1.40m as seen, depth 1.10m as seen	Possible quarry pit or very large ditch

019	2	Firm, mid-yellowish brown, fine gravel and ironstone fragments in a silty matrix, 0.30m thick	Disturbed natural ironstone brash
020	3	Partially exposed rectangular cut, 0.5m wide, orientated E-W	Probable grave cut
021	3	Loose, mid-brown, clayey silt containing limestone and gravel	Fill of probable grave cut 020
022	3	Partially exposed rectangular cut, 0.62 wide	Grave cut containing skeleton 031
023	3	Loose, mid-brown, clayey silt containing limestone and gravel	Fill of grave cut 022
024	3	Partially exposed cut	Probable grave cut
025	2	Firm, light yellowish brown with lumps of light bluish grey, fine sandy clay, containing pebbles	Possible primary fill of pit 018
026	2	Firm, mid-orangey brown, shattered ironstone in a clayey sand matrix	Fill of pit 018
027	2	Firm, mid-brownish orange, ironstone fragments in a clayey sand matrix, 0.40m thick	Natural ironstone brash
028	2	Shattered and laminated ironstone	Natural ironstone bedrock
029	2	Linear cut, 0.8m wide, 0.2m deep, orientated E-W	Cut for modern drainage line
030	2	Loose, white and light grey, limestone rubble in a gravelly silty matrix	Fill of modern drain
031	3	Partially exposed skeleton	Skeleton
032	1	Firm, mid-greyish brown mottled with reddish brown, sandy silt containing shattered ironstone	Fill of linear cut 033
033	1	Linear cut, 0.8m wide, 0.3m deep (as seen), orientated NW-SE	Small ditch
034	1	Shattered and laminated ironstone	Natural ironstone bedrock
036	1	Firm, mid-brownish orange, clayey sand, 50mm thick	Lense of natural clayey sand
037	3	Loose, mid-brown clayey silt containing occasional limestone fragments	Possible fill of grave cut 024
038	3	Loose, reddish brown, clayey sand containing limestone and ironstone fragments and gravel, 0.3m thick	Disturbed ironstone brash
039	3	Partially exposed cut, 1.5m long, 0.30m deep, orientated E-W	Possible grave cut
040	3	Loose, mid-brown clayey silt containing occasional limestone and ironstone fragments	Fill of possible grave cut 039

041	3	Linear cut, 1.56m long, 0.45m wide, orientated E-W	Possible grave cut or natural feature
042	3	Loose, mottled reddish brown, clayey sand containing limestone and ironstone fragments	Fill of possible grave cut or natural feature 041
043	1	firm, mid-brownish orange, sandy clay containing concentrations of shattered ironstone	Natural deposits
044	1	Compacted, brownish orange, ironstone fragments in a clayey sand matrix	Natural shattered ironstone

Appendix 4

THE CERAMIC AND METAL FINDS *By Hilary Healey MPhil and Gary Taylor MA*

Provenance

The material was recovered from top soil layers (002, 009), backfill deposits (017, 023), and subsoil deposits.

Much of the pottery was made locally in Stamford, though there are pieces from Bourne, 14km to the northeast, and probably Northamptonshire and Leicestershire to the west.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

The majority of the small assemblage is medieval, probably 10th-14th century.

Table 1: The Finds

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DATE
002	1x red-painted earthenware, black-glazed, 17 th -18 th century 1x Cistercian-type ware, 17 th -18 th century 1x iron nail shaft	17 th -18 th century
004	2x Stamford ware, 10 th -12 th century 1x Bourne D ware, 16 th -17 th century 1x Northants.-type ware, ?Lyveden, 12 th -15 th century 1x Early Saxon ware, 5 th -7 th century 1x glazed roof tile, 13 th -14 th century 1x iron nail	16 th -17 th century
009	1x unglazed red earthenware/plant pot, ?19 th century 1x iron rectangular loop, post-medieval	?19 th century
012	1x Stamford ware, 10 th -12 th century 2x Bourne A/B ware, 12 th -14 th century 2x Northants.-type ware, ?Lyveden, 12 th -15 th century 1x ?Leicestershire-type ware/import, jug, 12 th -14 th century	12 th -15 th century
015	1x Bourne A ware, 12 th -14 th century	12 th -14 th century
017	1x Stamford ware, 10 th -12 th century	10 th -12 th century
023	1x Stamford ware, 10 th -12 th century 1x iron smelting slag	10 th -12 th century

Condition

All of the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. The assemblage should be archived by material class.

Documentation

A number of archaeological investigations have been undertaken in Stamford, including elsewhere at the High School and in the vicinity (Cope-Faulkner 1999). Details of archaeological sites and finds in the Stamford area are maintained in the files of the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist and Lincolnshire County archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

In general, the assemblage has moderate potential and reflects medieval and early post-medieval activity at the site. Although limited in quantity, the Early Saxon pottery is of moderate or greater significance due to the rarity of

such material in previous investigations at Stamford.

References

Cope-Faulkner, P., 1999 *An Archaeological Evaluation on land adjacent to Stamford High School, Kettering Road, Stamford, Lincolnshire (SKR 99)*, APS unpublished report

Appendix 5

THE FLINT ARTEFACTS

Tom Lane

The earliest flint artefacts are prehistoric tools of probable Neolithic date.

Context Number	Description	Date
004	Thumbnail scraper, steep angle of retouch, cortex on upper surface.	Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age
016	Broken flake, slight patina, 10mm wide by 21mm long.	Probably Neolithic

Although limited in quantity, the prehistoric flint tools are of moderate or greater significance due to the rarity of such material in previous investigations at Stamford. The evidence may indicate a prehistoric site in close proximity to the investigation area.

Appendix 6

THE BONE *James Rackham*

Provenance

The material was recovered from backfill deposit (023), subsoil deposits (004, 014) and skeleton (005).

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

Context Number	Description
004	Sub adult sheep jaw. 2x indeterminate cow-size. 1x sheep size scapula
005	Frontal adult human skull.
014	2x cow size long bones.
023	Cow distal radius, sub adult, butchered (chopped).

Condition

All of the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems.

Documentation

A number of archaeological investigations have been undertaken in Stamford, including elsewhere at the High School and in the vicinity (Cope-Faulkner 1999). Details of archaeological sites and finds in the Stamford area are maintained in the files of the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist and Lincolnshire County archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

In general, the small number of pieces in the assemblage gives it a low potential.

References

Cope-Faulkner, P., 1999 *An Archaeological Evaluation on land adjacent to Stamford High School, Kettering Road, Stamford, Lincolnshire (SKR 99)*, APS unpublished report

Appendix 7

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.

Appendix 8

GLOSSARY

Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
Geophysical Survey	Essentially non-invasive methods of examining below the ground surface by measuring deviations in the physical properties and characteristics of the earth. Techniques include magnetometry and resistivity survey.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500-2250 BC.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany

Appendix 9

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 4 daily record sheets
- 2 context register sheets
- 44 context sheets
- 1 photographic record sheet
- 1 section record sheet
- 2 levels sheets
- 4 1:10 scale section drawing
- 1 plan record sheet
- 3 1:20 plans
- Originals of figures 3,4,5,6,7
- 1 box of finds
- This document

The digital archive consists of:

- Copies of illustrations used in this report in Mapmaker 1.1 format
- Copies of illustrations used in this report in CAD format
- Copies of the photos used in this report in JPEG format
- Copies of this report in Word Perfect 5.1 format
- All digital archives are stored at APS.

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services,
The Old School,
Cameron Street,
Heckington,
Sleaford,
Lincolnshire,
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum
12 Friars Lane
Lincoln
LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

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