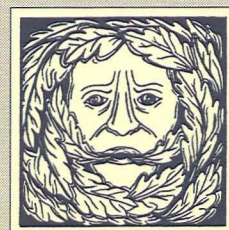


96/14

**DESK-TOP ASSESSMENT OF THE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF  
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ON LAND  
ADJACENT TO  
CHURCH ROAD, SKIRBECK,  
BOSTON,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(CRB96)**



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES

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ADJACENT TO  
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(CRB96)**

Work Undertaken For  
Land and Buildings Consultancy

March 1996

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## 1. SUMMARY

*A desk-top assessment was undertaken to determine the archaeological implications of proposed development on land adjacent to Church Road, Skirbeck, Boston, Lincolnshire. Several archaeological sites and findspots are located in the vicinity of the development. Evidence for prehistoric activity in the area is absent from the archaeological record.*

*Romano-British (A.D. 50-400) occupation of the region has been identified in the immediate vicinity of the site. A small settlement of this date was identified to the east, during the building of Woad Farm Primary School. Recent investigations at the school have uncovered features thought to be Roman in date.*

*Saxon (A.D. 650-850) activity is limited to two sunken floored buildings found immediately adjacent to the development area. These were associated with several ditches that may be contemporary.*

*These previous discoveries suggest that Romano-British remains may appear in the eastern part of the site. Furthermore, there is a high probability of Saxon activity located on the western section of the development area.*

*Medieval activity is scarce in the vicinity of the development area as the main centre of occupation moved to the south around the church of St Nicholas. Though Skirbeck does appear in the Domesday survey of A.D. 1086, the village gradually declined in favour of the town of Boston.*

*The earliest maps indicate that the investigation area has remained as open ground since at least 1828. Development has occurred in the vicinity, though none has impinged on the site.*

*Present ground conditions suggest fair preservation of any surviving archaeological deposits. A geophysical survey identified a number of anomalies that may be archaeological in origin.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services were commissioned by the Land and Buildings Consultancy to undertake a desk-top assessment and a geophysical survey of land to the east of Church Road, Skirbeck, Boston, Lincolnshire. This was in order to determine the archaeological implications of proposed development at the site, as detailed in planning application (B05/0314/92). The archaeological assessment was undertaken in accordance with a brief set by the Community Archaeologist for Boston District Council (Appendix 2).

### 2.2 Topography and Geology

Boston is situated 45km southeast of Lincoln and approximately 7km from the northwest coast of the Wash, among the fens of south Lincolnshire. Skirbeck is a suburb of Boston and lies 1km east of the town centre (Fig. 1).

The proposed development site is located c. 450m to the north of Skirbeck centre as defined by the parish church of St Nicholas (Fig. 2). Situated at a height of c. 2m OD on land to the east of Church Road (National Grid Reference TF33804360), the proposed development site covers approximately 3.5 hectares on fairly flat ground.

Local soils are the Tanvats Association typical alluvial gley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 319) and Wisbech Association

calcareous alluvial gley soils developed in marine alluvium (*ibid*, 361). Beneath this marine alluvium is glacial drift that was deposited in a geological basin between the Lincolnshire Wolds and the East Anglian Heights (Harden 1978). These glacial deposits in turn overlie a solid geology of Jurassic clays.

### 3. AIMS

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

### 4. METHODS

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

- historical documents, held in Lincolnshire Archives
- enclosure, tithe, parish and other maps and plans, held in Lincolnshire Archives
- recent and old Ordnance Survey maps
- the County Sites and Monuments Record
- the files of the Boston District Community Archaeologist
- aerial photographs
- archaeological books and journals
- place-name evidence

Information obtained from the literature and cartographic examination was

supplemented by a walk-over survey of the proposed development site. This walk-over survey investigated the present land-use and condition; the extent of hardstanding and other firm surfaces; the presence, or otherwise, of dumped materials; and the appropriateness for geophysical survey.

Following the walk-over survey a geophysical survey was commissioned to detect features below the surface.

Results of the archival and field examinations were committed to scale plans of the area.

## 5. RESULTS

### 5.1 Historical Data

Skirbeck is first referred to in the Domesday Survey of A.D. 1086. Referred to as 'schirebec' the name derived from the Old Scandinavian *skîri bekk* meaning bright brook (Ekwall 1974). The Domesday Book mentions that Skirbeck had two churches, two priests and 2 fisheries and belonged principally to Count Alan (Foster and Longley 1976). One of the churches, St Botolph's along with a mill, was given to St Mary's Abbey, York in 1089 and the present town of Boston grew up around it (Dover 1972).

Skirbeck may have declined due to the popularity of Boston. However, development continued in the west of the parish, close to Boston. There was an established hospital to the west that was handed to the Knights Hospitallers about 1230 (Page 1906). The endowment of the hospital included the manor of Skirbeck. An Augustinian friary is thought to have been established *c.* 650m west of Skirbeck about 1318. Following the dissolution in 1539 it appears that the friary was robbed of its stonework to maintain the sea walls

(*ibid*).

The manor of Skirbeck changed hands quite frequently. Various parts of Skirbeck were owned by the many Guilds of Boston. Other owners include the Earl of Sussex who sold the entire manor to the Corporation of Boston in 1595 who then sold it to the Hussey family approximately eight years later (Thompson 1856).

In 1568 the Maud Foster Drain was constructed and bisected the parish. This drain was later enlarged in 1631 and again c. 1810 (Wright 1986).

During the English Civil War (1642-1651), it is believed a defensive earthwork was constructed, connecting the River Witham to the Maud Foster Drain (Garner 1972). William Stukeley, the antiquarian, recorded this earthwork in the 18th century saying 'Boston was fortified in the time of the civil wars; remains of it between the Friery behind the workhouse and Skirbeck drain' However, later maps indicate that this defensive feature may have been levelled soon after (*ibid*).

During the 19th century, new development and industry appeared in Skirbeck. Near Mount Bridge, was constructed an eight sailed mill that became incorporated into an ironworks (Bagley 1986). Another mill was built to the west of the Maud Foster Drain. A woad producing farm was established northeast of the church and was to be the last that produced woad commercially in England, eventually closing in 1932 (*ibid*).

Population also expanded at this time. In 1801 there are 368 people recorded as living in the parish and by 1831 this had grown to 1255 (Thompson 1856).

Skirbeck was incorporated into the civil parish of Boston following the Third

Reform Act in 1885 (Olney 1993).

## 5.2 Cartographic Data

The area to be developed is situated to the north of Skirbeck. Appropriate maps of the vicinity were examined.

Dating from 1675, John Ogilby's itinerary of the road from London to Boston indicates the position of the village with a church (Molyneux and Wright 1974). Referred to as Scerbeck, no detail is shown.

Bryant's *Map of the County of Lincoln* (1828) portrays a north to south road, parallel to the Maud Foster Drain, that may be Church Road. No development is indicated along this thoroughfare. Skirbeck is shown as a small settlement with a windmill (Sail Mill Reef) close to the church. To the west of the Maud Foster Drain a sinuous dotted line indicates the parish boundary. Because of the sinuosity this may indicate the line of a former watercourse (Fig. 3).

John Wood's plan of Boston of 1829, shows the extreme western part of Skirbeck. The eight sailed mill is indicated and to the north of Mount Bridge is the site of a brickworks. The development site does not fall within the area portrayed by this map.

Dating from 1833, the enclosure award map, entitled *A plan of Skirbeck in the County of Lincoln*, shows that Skirbeck was a relatively small village (Fig. 4). The proposed development area is shown with similar boundaries to present. Church Road appears named for the first time. A further road, now Kingsway, also appears as Church Road. The western field boundaries are shown to meander on either side of the Maud Foster Drain and may indicate the

former watercourse through the village. Two dotted lines (Shown red on the original plan), parallel to the Maud Foster Drain may indicate the position of the upcast from excavating the drain as land boundaries stop at this point.

The first edition twenty-five inch Ordnance Survey map of 1887 depicts Skirbeck undergoing gradual development compared to earlier maps. Church Road is named and a row of buildings are shown from Fishtoft Road to the immediate southern boundary of the development area. The area of development is indicated as a large open area with a small rectangular building in the centre. Also in the same field is shown a triangulation point. To the southeast of the development site a farm complex, with the name Woad Farm, is shown. Later maps shows the development area as open playing fields for the nearby schools.

### **5.3 Aerial Photograph Data**

Aerial photographs, including those published or transcribed in secondary sources, were examined for evidence of archaeological remains.

An undated photograph in the parish files of the Boston Community Archaeologist shows the general area of the site (Code: B42). Taken from above, no features are apparent. The area appears to be in use as football pitches and grass has been eroded making interpretation difficult.

A series of three photographs taken by the University of Cambridge (Codes: RC/CC/240-242) are from a higher altitude and are also undated. Though not very clear a darker band is visible aligned NE-SW across the northwest corner of the site. This may represent a former water channel.

An uncoded photograph in the parish files

of the Boston Community Archaeologist shows the development site still in use as a playing field. Light and dark features are visible across the area, though none appears to be archaeological. The eastern part of the site shows slight shadows indicating the presence of land drains.

### **5.4 Archaeological Data**

Records of archaeological sites and finds held in the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record and the files of the Boston District Community Archaeologist were consulted. Other, secondary, sources were also examined. Details of archaeological and historical remains falling within half a kilometre of the proposed development area are collated here and committed to Fig. 8.



County Sites and Monuments Code	Description	Grid Reference	Boston Community Archaeology Code
12648	Romano-British pottery of 2nd to 3rd century date.	TF339437	B05/049
12648	Romano-British greyware cheese wring	TF340435	B05/050
	Watching Brief, Romano-British pottery and features	TF33944362	B05/051
	Watching Brief, undated boundary ditch	TF33854348	B05/068
	Watching Brief, nothing found	TF339343	B05/087
	Watching Brief, Anglo-Saxon sunken floored buildings and undated ditches	TF33694360	B05/094
	Excavation, Medieval tile kiln	TF33364395	B05/095
	Watching Brief, post-medieval? quarry pit	TF33524348	B05/109

Skirbeck is situated in an area of moderate archaeological activity. Earlier prehistoric activity has not been recognised within Skirbeck although finds do exist from Boston. It is likely that the area was typically salt marsh or submerged during the prehistoric period.

During the Romano-British period, a small settlement was possibly established to the north of the present village, adjacent to the development area on the east. The size and nature of this settlement has not so far been determined, but quantities of 2nd and 3rd century pottery were recovered during the building of Woad Farm School (Phillips 1970). A watching brief carried out during building work at the same

school revealed two ditches and 2nd century pottery (Heritage Lincolnshire 1992). This evidence may represent a settlement that took advantage of the River Witham levee. This would also explain finds of this date near Hussey Tower.

Saxon activity has been located adjacent to the development area (Palmer-Brown 1995). This took the form of two sunken floored buildings and six ditches that may be associated with the saxon settlement. Pottery recovered from these examinations suggests an 8th century date. Possibly representing a small occupation area, this probably utilised the higher ground as favoured by the Romano-British settlement.

Medieval activity is represented by the church of St Nicholas in the centre of Skirbeck village. Dating to the 13th century, this building may have replaced an earlier structure (DoE 1975). St John's church and hospital were also built within the parish. Located close to the Barditch, the encircling defensive ditch to Boston, the site of the graveyard is the only feature that survives to the present.

The Augustinian friary was another important feature of this area, though its exact location is unknown (Harden 1978). Other medieval activity includes the medieval tile kiln to the northwest of the parish (Mayes 1962). This kiln was probably located close to the Scire Beck for the availability of clay and water.

### 5.5 Walk-over Survey

In early January 1996, a walk-over survey of the proposed development site was undertaken. Visibility was good.

Spoilheaps were noticed alongside the recently built access road to the new resource centre. A line of trees exist aligned north to south in the centre of the proposed development. The remaining parts appear to be free from obstacles and have a grass covering. Two slight rises in height were apparent in the centre of the field and along the southern boundary. As the grass cover was quite high it was not possible to ascertain what these features may be. Dissecting the southern change in height was a worn path. Due to ground cover, no artefacts were observed.

Geophysical survey methods were deemed appropriate for the site. However, disturbance caused by spoilheaps, trees and the path may mask archaeological features.

### 5.6 Results of Geophysical Survey

A geophysical survey was undertaken using a fluxgate gradiometer and was carried out by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford during March 1996 (G.S.B. 1996).

Data obtained from this survey was initially displayed as a series of grey scale images. From these plots interpretations were made and summarised on Fig. 6.

The proposed development area was found to be subject to severe magnetic disturbance that consequently made recognition of archaeological features difficult. Furthermore, geological responses were apparent that also had the effect of masking the archaeological data.

However, two strong anomalies were identified as being of likely archaeological origin. Situated to the west of the site was a linear arrangement of anomalies (A) that may indicate the presence of a north to south aligned ditch.

Located in the southeast corner of the development area a small circular anomaly (B) may indicate the presence of a curvilinear ditch.

## 6. DISCUSSION

Evidence for prehistoric activity in the vicinity is non-existent, though this may be masked by later alluvial deposits.

Romano-British occupation has been recognised in the immediate vicinity, the nearest known site lying *c.* 200m to the east, centred on St Nicholas School. Represented by finds of pottery and ditches, the actual settlement is likely to be located very close to the school.

Saxon activity has also been recognised in

the immediate vicinity, adjacent to the development area to the northwest. This evidence, uncovered during recent construction work, included sunken floored buildings that were an integral part of Saxon settlement. Associated pottery uncovered is of 8th century date.

Evidence for the medieval use of the area is likely to be scarce as Skirbeck centre was c. 500m to the south. It may be possible that Skirbeck declined in favour of the new port of Boston at this time.

A 19th century building, shown on early Ordnance Survey maps, existed in the centre of the proposed development site. The nature of this building cannot be ascertained and it may represent a temporary structure.

A geophysical survey located the possibility of surviving archaeological features. However, the development area was subject to various magnetic disturbances.

At present, the site is largely open ground, and seems to have been so since the start of the 19th century. Recent buildings exist to the east and northwest of the site.

## 7. ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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

### **Period:**

The pattern of ditches, as identified at St Nicholas Primary School, is a characteristic of rural settlement from the Bronze Age to modern day.

Saxon settlement suggested by sunken

floored dwelling and ditches are a characteristic of this period.

### **Rarity:**

Romano-British rural habitation as represented by ditches and quantities of pottery is fairly commonplace, though individual settlements might have rare or unusual features. Moreover, due to topographical factors, Romano-British occupation at Skirbeck may possess particular regional characteristics

Saxon sunken building, representing possible habitation sites are quite rare nationally. No previous Saxon site has been identified in the vicinity of Boston, except for a site at Fishtoft, making this regionally scarce.

### **Documentation:**

Records of archaeological sites and finds made in the Skirbeck area are kept in the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record and the files of the Boston Community Archaeologist. Synopses of all the archaeological work carried out in the vicinity have previously been produced. A historical synthesis of Skirbeck appears in Thompson's *History of Boston* (1856). The present report provides the first site-specific consideration of the archaeological and historical aspects of the proposed development area.

### **Group value:**

By virtue of the conjunction of a Romano-British rural settlement with habitation of the 8th century, the area has a high group value in local and regional terms.

### **Survival/Condition:**

Limited invasive post-medieval development has occurred on the site, consequently buried deposits are likely to be well preserved.

**Fragility/Vulnerability:**

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

**Diversity:**

Low functional diversity is indicated by the possible rural nature of occupation in the vicinity.

Moderately high period diversity is provided by the localised grouping of Romano-British and Saxon settlement.

**Potential:**

Potential for Romano-British remains, associated with the Roman settlement to the east, spreading into the area, is considered moderately high.

Potential for the remains of Saxon date occupying the proposed development area is considered high.

## 7.1 Site Importance

Romano-British settlement has been identified in close proximity to the site. In itself this is not rare, though Romano-British is scarce in the locality and elements of the settlement may contain unusual features.

Saxon occupation, identified during a watching brief, is considered locally and regionally important. Only one other Saxon site is known in the vicinity, at Fishtoft.

It is considered unlikely that remains of medieval and later periods are represented on the proposed development area.

## 8. CONCLUSIONS

The concentrations of archaeological finds

and observations represent occupation and use of this area of Skirbeck in the past.

A Romano-British settlement has been identified to the east. No artefacts have been found that may suggest occupation of Skirbeck prior to this date.

A previous archaeological intervention to the northwest of the investigation area uncovered Saxon remains. The alignment of some features suggest possible continuation into the proposed development area.

No artefacts were recognised or recovered on the walk-over survey. A subsequent geophysical investigation identified some anomalies that may be archaeological in origin.

The development area appears to have had no previous development in the last 200 years. Therefore, damage of any archaeological deposits on the site, due to previous disturbance is unlikely.

## 9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to thank C.F. Scott who commissioned this assessment for the Land and Buildings Consultancy. The work was coordinated by Steve Haynes and this report was edited by Dave Start. Jim Bonnor, the Community Archaeologist for Boston Borough Council permitted examination of the relevant files. Access to the County Sites and Monuments Record was provided by Mark Bennet of the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council.

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All of the following sources were consulted in the data-gathering exercise.

However, as some references duplicated information available in others, not all of them have been specifically referred to in the text.

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## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

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

Department of the Environment publications are abbreviated to the initials 'DoE'.

Archaeological Project Services reports have been abbreviated to the initials 'A.P.S.'.

Pre-Construct Archaeology reports have been abbreviated to the initials 'P.C.A.'.

Geophysical Surveys of Bradford have been abbreviated to the initials G.S.B.

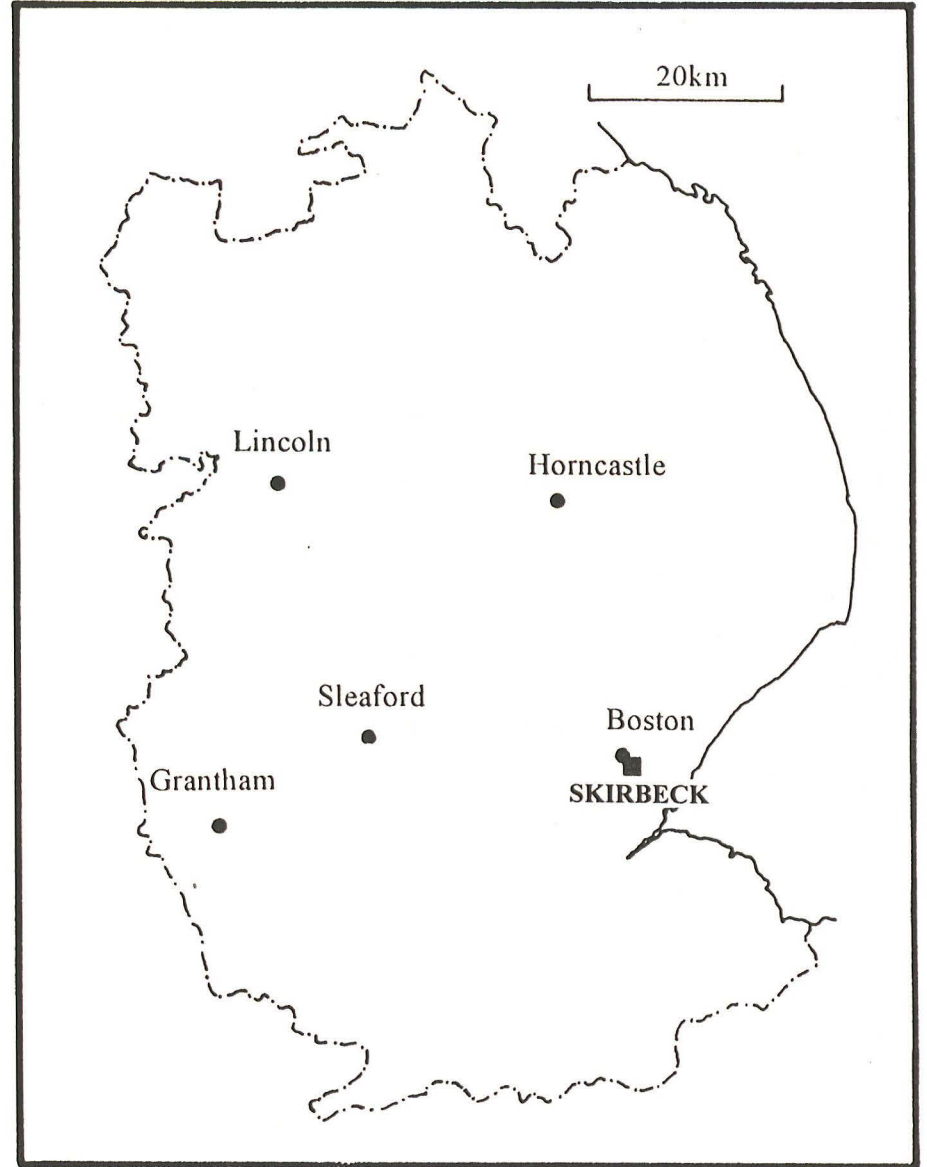
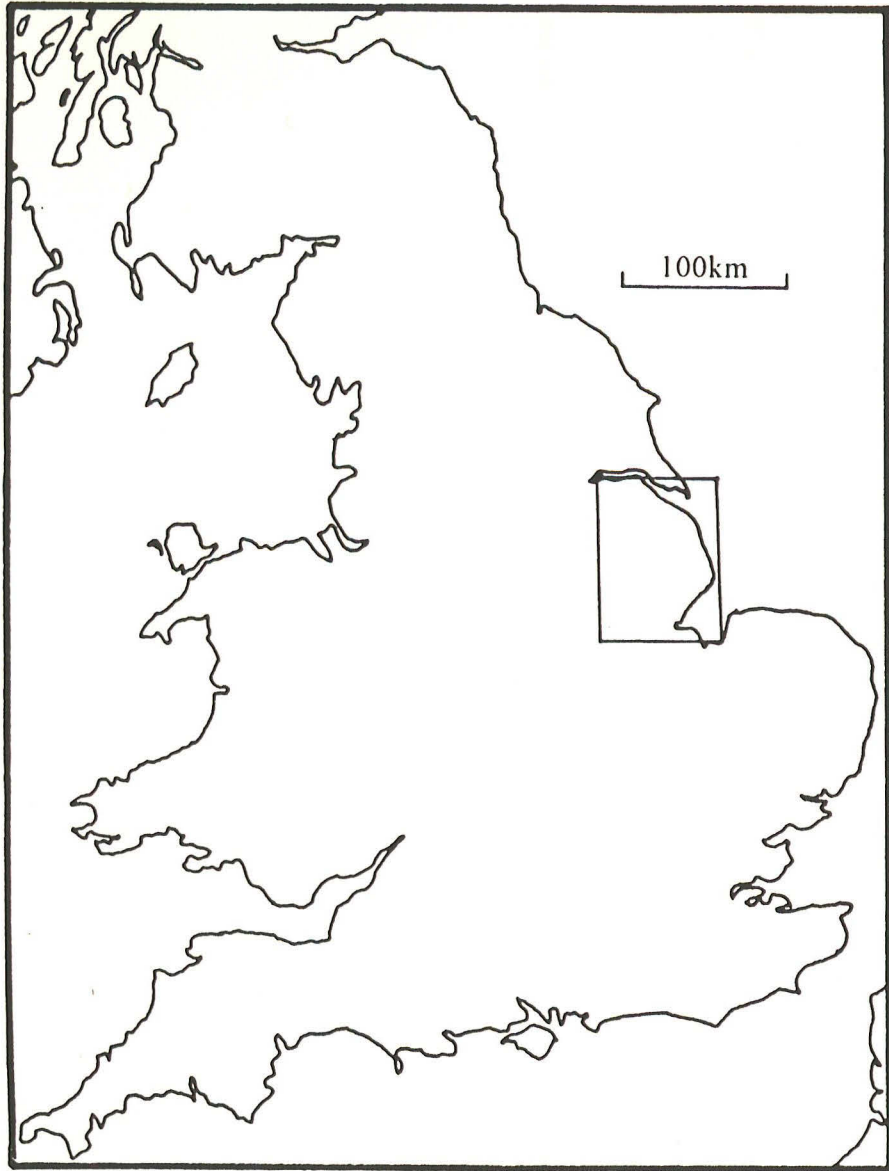
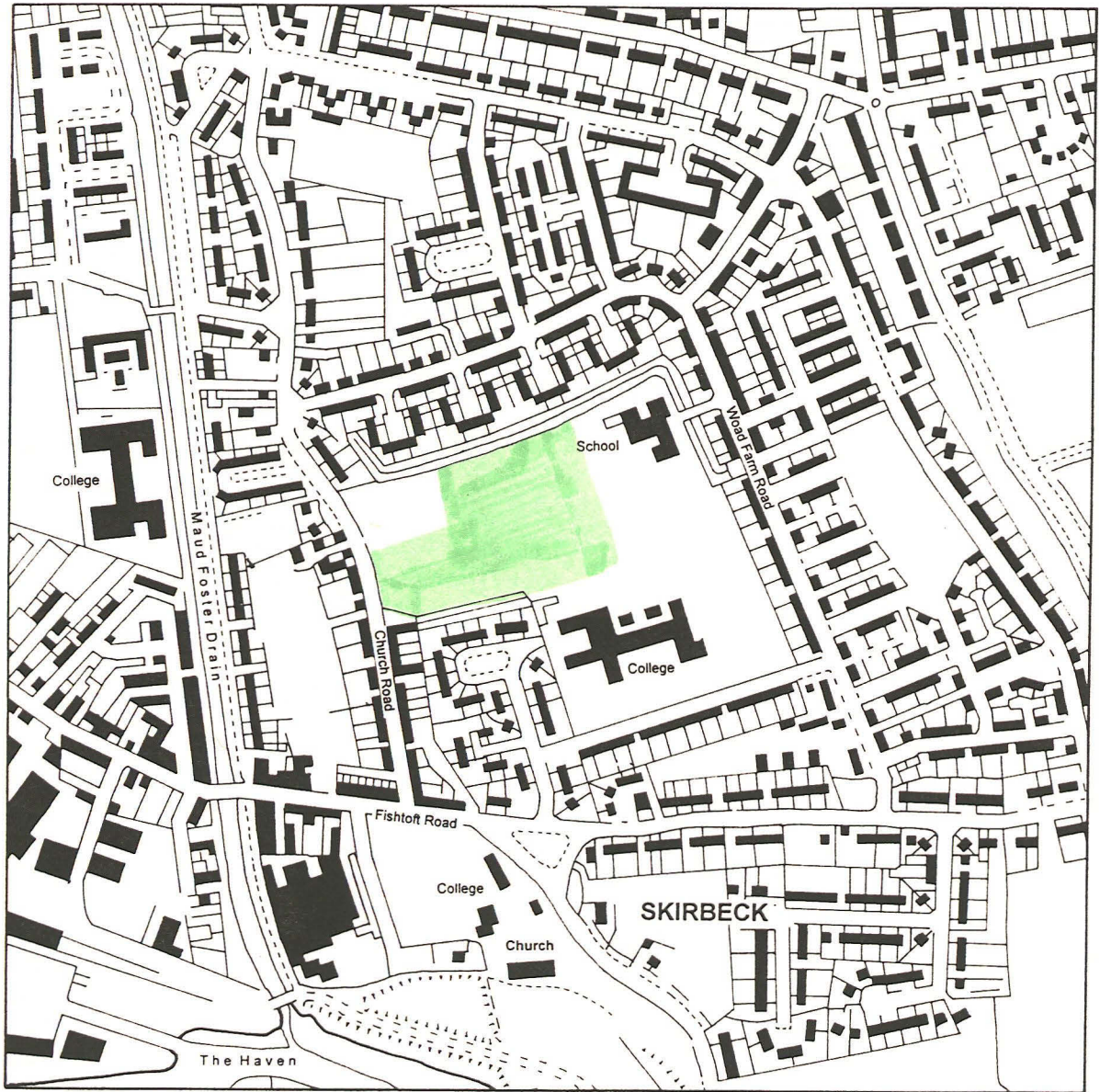


Fig. 1 General Location Plan

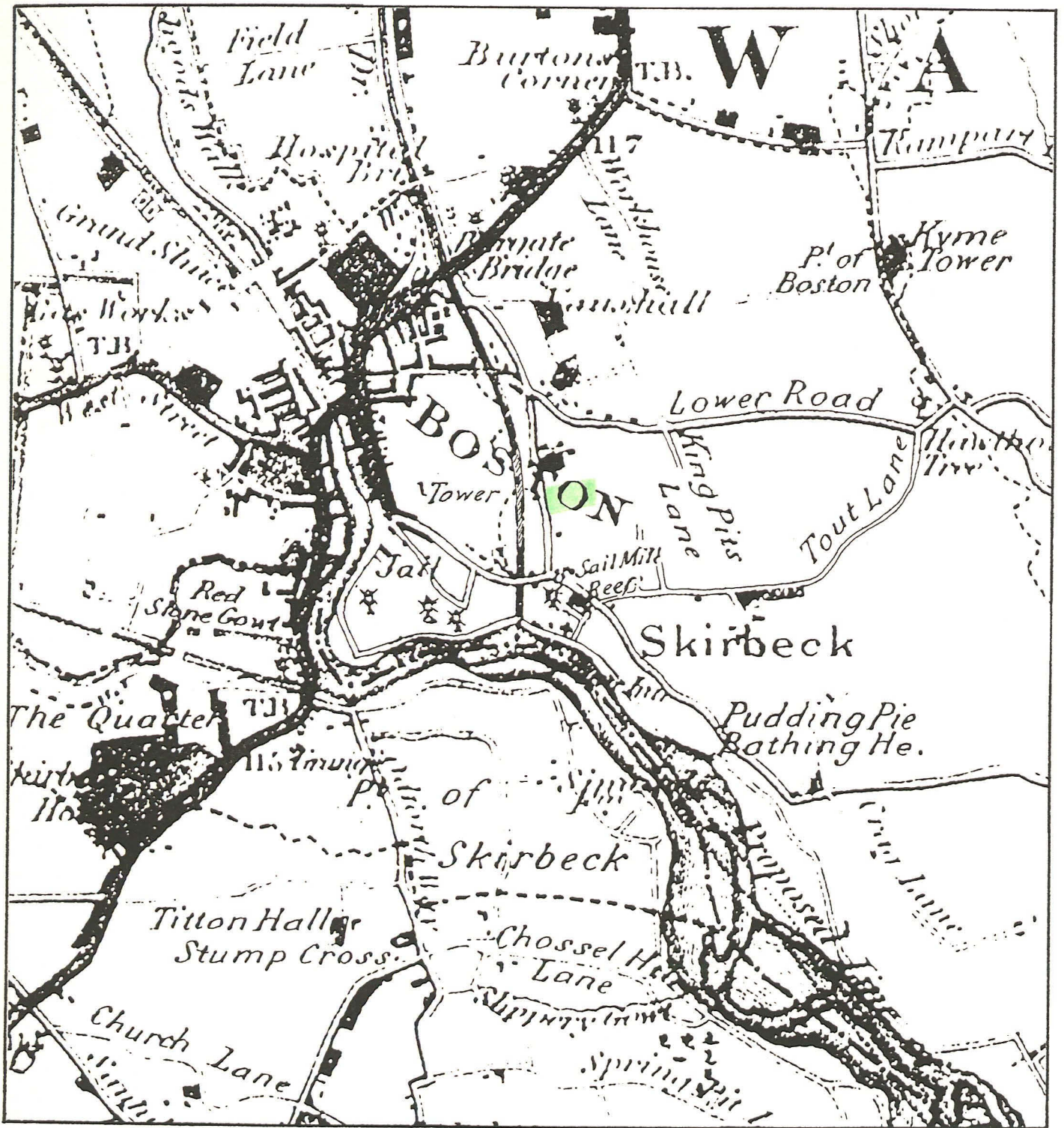
Fig. 2 Site Location Plan



Area of Proposed Development



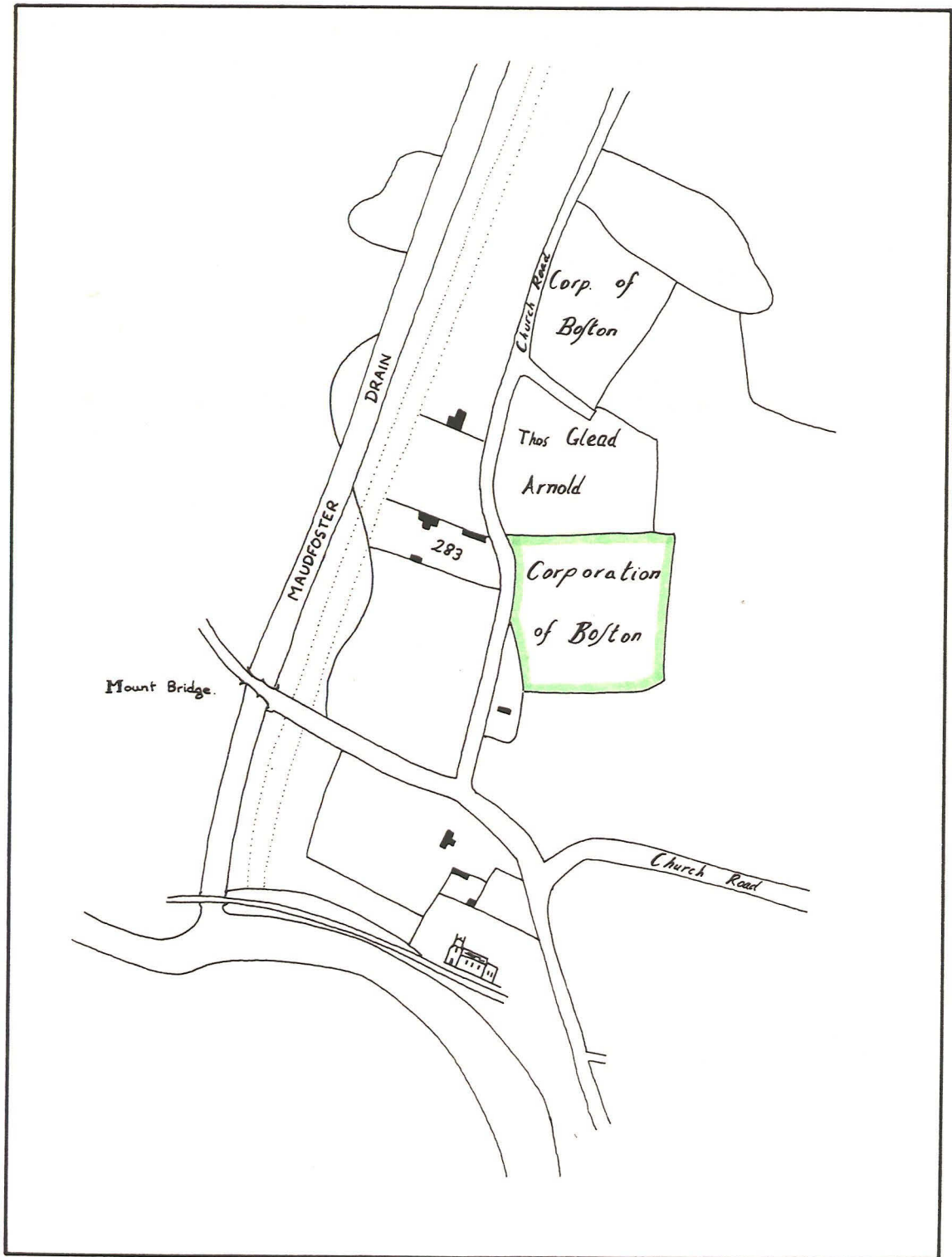
Fig. 3 Extract from 'Bryant's Map of the County of Lincoln', 1828



(No scale available)



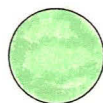
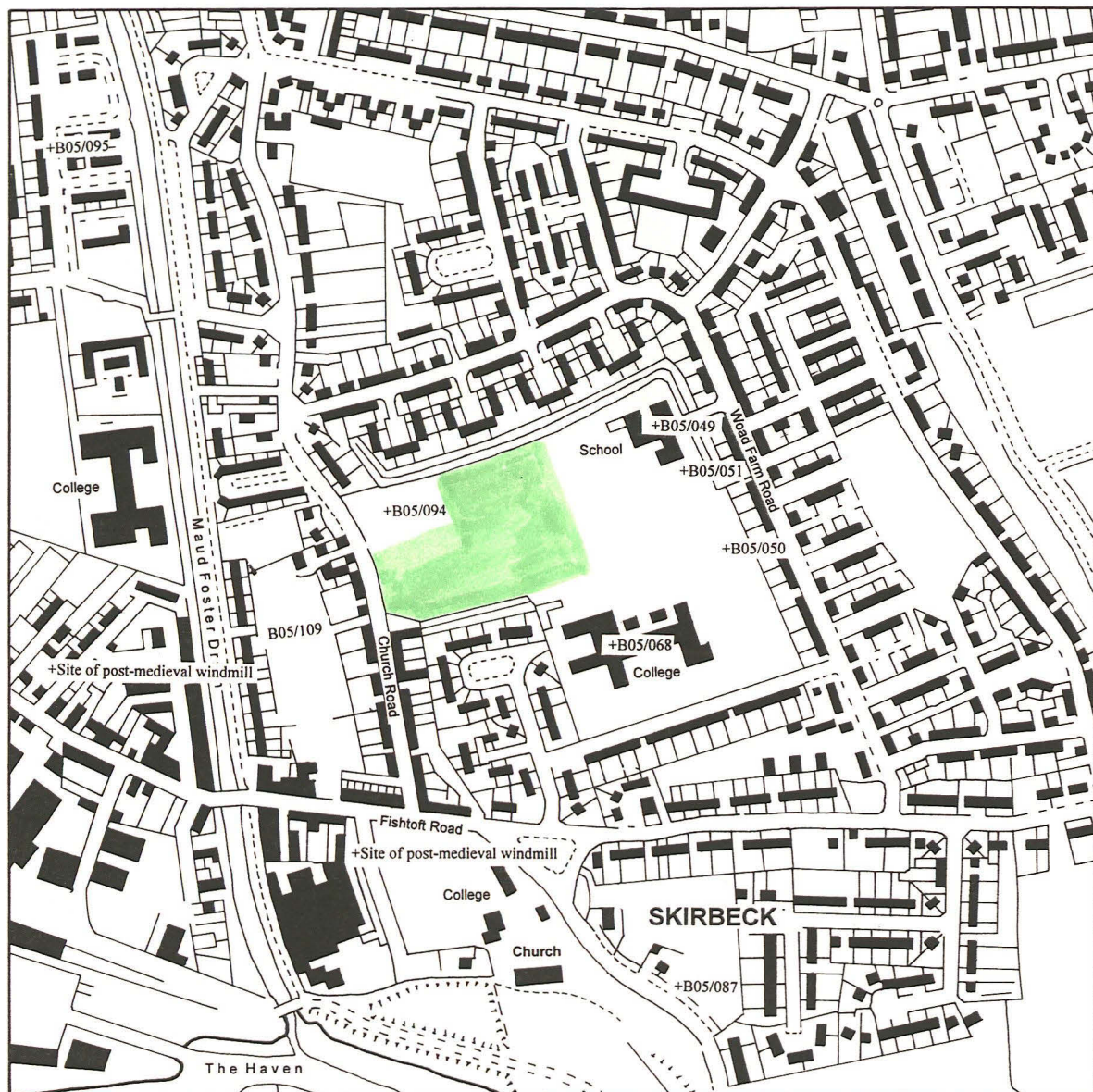
Fig. 4 Extract from 'Plan of Skirbeck in the County of Lincoln', 1833



(No Scale Available)



Fig. 5 Plan of known Archaeological sites in the vicinity



Area of Proposed Development

Fig. 6 Development Area with Geophysical Survey Results



- Known Archaeology
- Geophysical Anomalies, ?Archaeological
- Geophysical Anomalies, ?Geological

0 100m



Area of Proposed Development

## Appendix 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Appendix 2

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION PROJECT BRIEF

#### LAND OFF CHURCH ROAD, BOSTON

#### 1. Summary

- 1.1 This document is the brief for the archaeological evaluation to be carried out prior to the determination of planning permission for land off Church Road, Boston, Lincolnshire on behalf of Land and Buildings Consultancy.
- 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.
- 1.3 The detailed specifications will be submitted for approval by the Community Archaeologist of Boston Borough Council. The client will be free to choose between those specifications which are considered to adequately satisfy this brief.

#### 2. Site location and description

- 2.1 Boston is situated 45km southeast of Lincoln and approximately 7km from the northwest coast of the Wash among the Fens of south Lincolnshire.
- 2.2 The site is situated off Church Road in Boston which lies east of the Maud Foster Drain at National Grid Reference TF 33804360
- 2.3 The site is an open area of playing fields covering approximately 3.5 hectares.

#### 3. Planning Background

- 3.1 Part of this site has been the subject of a previous planning application from Lincolnshire County Council for outline permission for residential development (B05/0314/92). The archaeological evaluation is required before any decision can be made on any future applications regarding this area.

#### 4. Archaeological background

- 4.1 There have been no finds of prehistoric date made in the vicinity.
- 4.2 There were large quantities of Romano-British pottery found during the construction of St. Nicholas' Primary School and a watching brief conducted on the construction of a classroom extension also revealed Romano-British pottery in association with ditches. There have also been other casual finds of Romano-British material from the vicinity.
- 4.3 The site is almost a kilometre east of the centre of the town and thus it is extremely unlikely that any finds of medieval date will be made.
- 4.4 The potential of this site lies in the probability of Romano-British remains existing potentially undisturbed below the playing fields of the school. While from the density of pottery finds it looks likely that the main area of settlement is slightly to the east of the site in question, namely under the

school, remains could well extend into this area and provide an indication of the nature and date of the settlement.

## 5. Requirement for work

5.1 Prior to this scheme of development being undertaken a detailed desk-top assessment and a field-evaluation must be carried out. The desk top assessment phase must be completed prior to the evaluation. Any adjustments to the brief for the evaluation should only be made after discussion with the Community Archaeologist of Boston Borough Council. If any major archaeological discovery is made it is hoped that this will be accommodated within the scheme and preservation in situ be given due consideration.

5.2 The purpose of the archaeological evaluation should be to gather sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits.

## 6. Stages of work and techniques

6.1 The archaeological evaluation must be preceded by a fully detailed desk-top assessment. This will indicate the presence of any archaeological constraint hitherto unidentified. As this detailed desk-top assessment will be followed by a field investigation of the sites identified and an evaluation of the threat to their survival in situ, the project specification must be sufficiently flexible.

6.2 The desk-top assessment should include an assessment of the site within both the local and regional context. It should highlight any particular relevant research priorities which may be addressed by this project.

6.3 In order to ensure that all possible archaeological constraints are evaluated all secondary sources must be consulted as part of the desk-top assessment. Sources to be consulted should include:

6.3.1 Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record;

6.3.2 All Ordnance Survey maps;

6.3.3 Tithe, Enclosure Award and Parish Maps (where appropriate);

6.3.4 Historical documents, particularly those held in Lincolnshire Archives Office;

6.3.5 Archaeological books and journals;

6.3.6 Unpublished reports and archives (where appropriate), particularly those of the Boston Community Archaeologist;

6.3.7 Aerial photographs;

6.3.8 Any other sources deemed appropriate.

6.3.9 A visit to verify site conditions.

6.4 The specification will be expected to contain a reasoned discussion of field techniques selected. The rejection of a particular technique must be explained. Consideration should also be given to field-walking, site survey, geophysical survey and the observation of geotechnical test-pits (if appropriate) as well as the undertaking of archaeological test-pits as possible field evaluation techniques. When preparing the specification account should be taken of local geology, topography and land-use as it affects the feasibility of the various techniques.

6.5 It is appreciated that the nature and extent of trial trenching will depend upon the results of the

non-intrusive survey methods and is, therefore, difficult to quantify at this stage. Thus, for the purposes of the specification it should be presumed that 2% of the site will be sampled by trial trenching, although a smaller sample may actually be used.

6.6 The evaluation should also take into account environmental evidence and provide an assessment of the viability of such information should further archaeological work be carried out.

## 7. Methods

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

7.1.1 A projected timetable must be agreed for the various stages of work;

7.1.2 The staff structure and numbers must be detailed. This should include lists of specialists and their role in the project;

7.1.3 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;

7.1.4 The techniques applied in field survey, if undertaken, must be described in full. These should include the conventions applied in earthwork survey presentation, the spacing of transects and presentation of statistical data from field-walking and the plotting of aerial photographs.

7.2 Excavation is a potentially destructive technique and the specification should include a detailed reasoning behind the application of this technique. The following factors should be borne in mind:

7.2.1 the use of an appropriate machine with a wide toothless ditching blade;

7.2.2 the supervision of all machine work by an archaeologist;

7.2.3 the machine should be used to remove topsoil down to the first archaeological horizon;

7.2.4 the most recent archaeological deposits are not necessarily the least important and this should be considered when determining the level to which machining will be carried out;

7.2.5 when archaeological features are revealed by machine these will be cleaned by hand;

7.2.6 a representative sample of every archaeological feature must be excavated by hand (although the depth of surviving deposits must be determined, it is not expected that every trench will be excavated to natural);

7.2.7 all excavation must be carried out with a view to avoiding features which may be worthy of preservation in situ;

7.2.8 any human remains encountered must be left in situ and only removed if absolutely necessary. The contractor must comply with all statutory consents and licences regarding the exhumation and interment of human remains. 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. Attempts must be made at all times not to cause offence to any interested parties.

7.2.9 it is expected that an approved recording system will be used for all on-site and post fieldwork procedures.



## 8. Monitoring arrangements

- 8.1 The Community Archaeologist for Boston Borough Council will provide a monitoring programme to ensure that fieldwork meets the specification. To facilitate this he should be contacted at least one week prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

## 9. Reporting requirements

- 9.1 The final report must be produced in two stages. There must be a preliminary report of the desk-top assessment. This report must:

9.1.1 summarise all available information;

9.1.2 provide a comprehensive list of all sources consulted, along with an explanation if sources detailed in paragraph 6.3 above are not consulted;

9.1.3 outline all possible options for further work including recommendations for alterations to the original evaluation specification.

- 9.2 The second stage shall be an evaluation report which should be a straight-forward account of the fieldwork carried out and should be produced within two months of the completion of the fieldwork phase. If this is not possible then the Boston Community Archaeologist must be consulted at the earliest possible opportunity. The report should include:

9.2.1 plans of the trench layout and features therein;

9.2.2 tables summarising features and artefacts together with a full description and brief interpretation;

9.2.3 plans of actual and potential deposits;

9.2.4 a consideration of the evidence within the wider landscape setting;

9.2.5 a consideration of the importance of the findings on a local, regional and national basis;

9.2.6 a critical review of the effectiveness of the methodology;

9.2.7 recommendations for further work or aspects to be considered as part of the archaeological strategy to mitigate the impact of development to be adopted by the developer.

- 9.3 A copy of the desk-top assessment and evaluation reports must be deposited with Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record, the Boston Community Archaeologist and Land and Buildings Consultancy.

## 10. Archive deposition

- 10.1 Arrangements must be made with the landowner(s) and/or developers and an appropriate museum for the deposition of the object and paper archive. If the receiving museum is to be the City and County Museum, Lincoln then the archive should be produced in the form outlined in that museum's document 'Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives', see address below.

## 11. Publication and dissemination

- 11.1 The deposition of a copy of the report with the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record will be deemed to put all 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 Boston

Community Archaeologist but is expected this will not exceed six months. Consideration must be given to a summary of the results being published in Lincolnshire History and Archaeology in due course.

12. Additional information

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

Brief set by Community Archaeologist, Boston Borough Council, January 1995