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# STAGE ONE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT

LAND NORTH OF ALFORD ROAD
SUTTON ON SEA
MABLETHORPE
LINCOLNSHIRE

Site Code: SOS 97

Accession Number: 231.97

National Grid Reference (NGR) TF 5165 8170

AOC (Archaeology) Ltd

on behalf of:

Willsons

for:

Mr. J.E.C. Brown

November 1997



Limited Control oil

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#### 1 SUMMARY

The assessment and evaluation conducted by AOC (Archaeology) Ltd. was commissioned by Willsons Chartered Surveyors on behalf of their client Mr. J. E. C. Brown for the site of a proposed residential development in Sutton on Sea. The site was assessed at Stage 1 by a combination of methods; an initial desk-top study followed by the non-intrusive techniques of geophysical survey and field walking. Stage 1 indicated that medieval features appeared to survive on the site and that there was the possibility of evidence for earlier activity being present. It is recommended that further evaluation is undertaken at a later stage.

#### 2 INTRODUCTION

#### 2.1 Site Location

Sutton on Sea is located on the east coast of Lincolnshire, directly south of the resort of Mablethorpe and centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TF 5165 8170 (Fig. 1). The site considered by this report is situated north of Alford Road (A111) on the western limits of Sutton on Sea with the line of the former railway as its western edge. The site occupies an irregularly shaped piece of land within three fields of which the north western field is under plough while the remaining two are pasture.

## 2.2 Proposed Development

A planning application for residential development comprising 31 dwellings on the site has been submitted.

#### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

## 3.1 Introduction

Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) has been consulted for archaeological information on the area covered by the proposed development site and its vicinity, within Sutton on Sea. Other publications which provided valuable secondary sources are listed in the Bibliography. Unfortunately the Victoria County History volume for Lincolnshire is not very comprehensive and was therefore not used as an historical source.

#### 3.2 Geology

The Drift geology in this location consists of several metres of Terrington Beds in the form of salt marsh and tidal creek deposits mainly consisting of silt and clay, also known as marine alluvium, which are the result of successive flooding. These overlie the solid geology of Chalk (Flamborough, Burnham and Welton Chalks). According to May, 1976, the actual coastline in the first millennium BC probably lay about 10 miles east of its present position but has been continuously eroded. Trunks of trees that stood in a forest of this period are still visible at very low tides.

The nature of the geology provided ideal conditions for salt production and the proximity of Sutton on Sea to the coast had the geographical advantage of good communications.

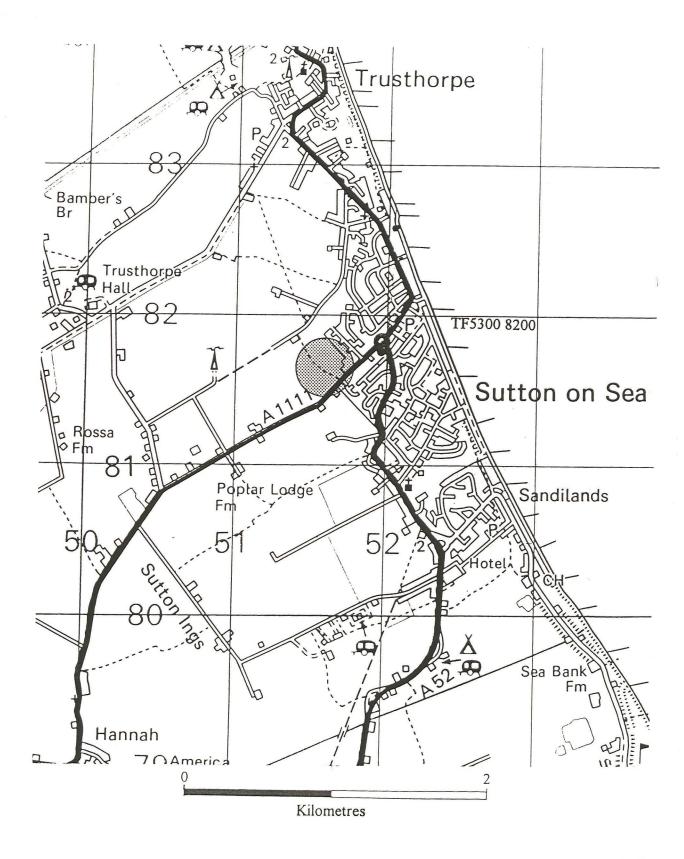


Figure 1: Site Location

#### 3.3 Prehistoric

No prehistoric finds are known from the parish, although flints have been found in other parts of Lincolnshire including along the coast. Roman sites in Lincolnshire have been found to represent a continuity of settlement from the Iron Age, for example at Ancaster (Whitwell 1992), and this may be the case for Sutton on Sea. A saltern of Bronze Age or Iron Age date was found at Anglia Water's Tetney Sewage Treatment Works (LAS, 1993) and Sutton on Sea is an ideal location for similar industry. The paucity of known prehistoric sites may be due to the less durable nature of material remains from this period apart from flints rather than the distribution of settlements.

#### 3.4 Roman

Lincolnshire was part of the territory of the *civitas* of Coritani in the Roman period. A Roman road, Barton Street, ran along the eastern edge of the Wolds from Barton on Humber to Alford, perhaps continuing as far south as Burgh le Marsh. The Ordnance Survey Map of Roman Britain shows a site of minor settlement at Mablethorpe and others are known along the coast including Sutton on Sea. Occupation of the area during the Roman period is attested by Romano British pottery found well to the east of the development site and a brooch retrieved from the beach to the north. The findspot of the brooch is an example of coastal erosion by the sea resulting in the loss of some of the Roman land surface. The finds do not indicate the nature of activity but their infrequency suggests that Sutton on Sea was not a major settlement in the Roman period and no finds of this date are reported close to the site under consideration.

Inspection of the aerial photographs did not reveal any features of an obviously Roman type but Roman activity is thought to have predated the inundation of the Marsh area and has therefore been obscured by alluvial deposits.

#### 3.5 Medieval

#### **Documentary Sources**

There are several sources for medieval activity in Sutton on Sea some of which specifically concern the site under consideration.

The Domesday Book is organised by landholders within Counties and usually further subdivided into administrative units (Morris 1986). The County of Lincolnshire was primarily divided into the three districts of Lindsey, Kesteven and Holland, of which Lindsey was further divided into three Ridings. These districts were subdivided into Wapentakes which consisted of several hundreds (distinct form the 'Hundreds' in most other English counties). Sutton on Sea played a subordinate part within this administrative system being a parish in the hundred of Huttoft which fell within the Wapentake of Calcewath (Fig. 2) in the south Riding of the District of Lindsey. There are entries for Sutton on Sea under various spellings (Sudtune, Sudtone and Sutune) in the Domesday Book (Fig. 3) which can be translated as South Town, a name given by the Germanic tribes of the 6th century although the origins of the settlement are probably earlier (Sizer, 1991). These entries indicate that land in Sutton on Sea was held by a number of landlords including (in sequence in Fig. 3) the Archbishop of York, Count Alan, Earl Hugh, Eudo Jon of Spirewic and Svartbrandt and other thanes. However it is not possible to identify exactly which areas of land they owned. The Domesday survey also records three major areas of woodland one of which stood on clays to the southeast of Louth and extended to the edge of the Wolds. In general therefore Lincolnshire was not heavily wooded but the occupants of Sutton on Sea

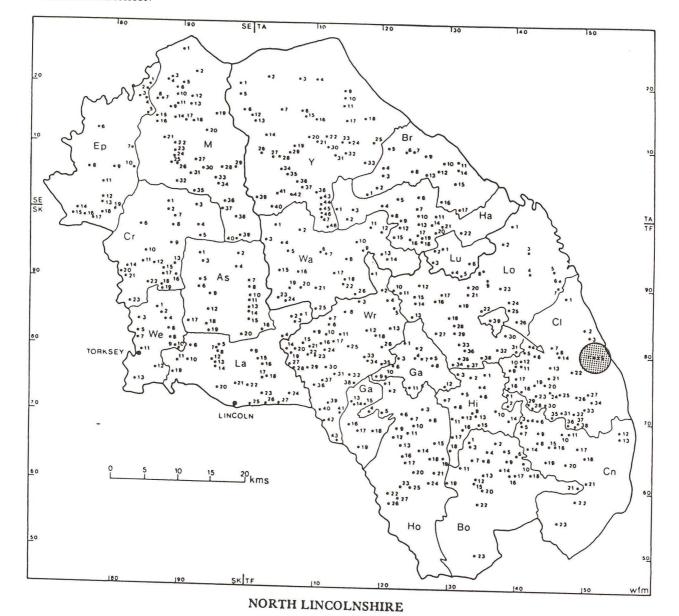


Figure 2: The parish of Sutton (le Marsh) within the Wapentake of Calcewath (after Morris)

In Sudtune 7 Dreuistorp 7 Herdetorp. ē inland huj m. dimid car tre ad gld. Tra ad.1. carucā. Ibi.vi. uitt hnīt dim car. 7 xl. ac pti.

S In Suptone. 1. bou træ ad gld. Ibi. 11. uilt hnt. xx. acs pti. Soca in Cobreuorde.

In Hotot 7 Toruluesbi 7 Sutune 7 Druistorp 7 Billesbi 7 Marchesbi. Soca. xvIII. caruc træ ad gld. Tra ad xx. car. Ibi. LXIX. soch . 7 xfx. uilt. 7 xxIII. bord. hut xvI. car. 7 septingent 7 qt xx. acs pti.

- Τα. VII. boū. Ibi ht Chetelbern . 1. car. 7 1111 . foch . 7 vi. uilt 7 vi. bord . cū. 1. car. 7 l. ac pti. Tra. vii. bord . cū. 1. car. 7 l. ac pti. Tra. I. bou 7 dim . Soca in Hotoft . Ibi Chetelbern ht. 1111 . foch cū dim car. 7 1111 . acræ prati. Valct . v . fot.

In surron (le Marsh), TRUSTHORPE and ADDLETHORPE there is inland of this manor; ½ carucate of land taxable. Land for 1 plough.
6 villagers have ½ plough.
Meadow, 40 acres.

HUTTOFT hundred
97 S. In SUTTON (le Marsh) 1 bovate of land taxable.
2 villagers have
meadow, 20 acres.
A jurisdiction of Cumberworth.

- In HUTTOFT, THURLBY, SUTTON (le Marsh), TRUSTHORPE, BILSBY and MARKBY, a jurisdiction, 18 carucates of land taxable. Land for 20 ploughs.

  69 Freemen, 19 villagers and 23 smallholders have 16 ploughs and meadow, 780 acres.
- 14 s. In surron (le Marsh) 5 bovates of land and the fourth part of 1 bovate taxable. Land for 7 oxen. A jurisdiction of Burgh (le Marsh).
  4 Freemen, 2 villagers and 2 smallholders have 6 oxen in a plough and meadow, 80 acres.
- 13 M. In surron (le Marsh) Siric had 5½ bovates of land taxable. Land for 7 oxen. Ketilbjorn has 1 plough.

  4 Freemen, 6 villagers and 6 smallholders with 1 plough.

  Meadow, 50 acres.

  Value before 1066 and now, 40s.
- 14 S. There also Siward [had] 1 bovate of land taxable. Land for 1½ oxen. A jurisdiction of Huttoft. Ketilbjorn has 4 Freemen with ½ plough.

  Meadow, 4 acres.

  Value 5s.

Figure 3: Extracts from the Domesday Book concerning Sutton (le Marsh)

may have had access to this woodland in the medieval period and a similar situation probably existed in the Roman period, probably as a survival of the first millennium BC forests.

Aerial photographs provide the main source of evidence for extensive medieval farming and settlement in Sutton on Sea. The aerial photographs directly relevant to the site are from a series of sorties flown in April and November 1947 (see Bibliography). These show linear earthworks on and around the site (Fig. 4 and 5) orientated northwest-southeast and east-west which are crossed by another linear on a slightly different alignment which is clearly the former railway. These have been identified as surviving 'ridge and furrow' which is a well-known phenomenon produced by medieval ploughing. Complex rectilinear earthworks are visible along either side of the railway but are clearer on the west side of the track. These earthworks are probably associated with the field systems and could be interpreted as medieval house platforms and enclosures for small paddocks. Also to the west of the former railway is a well-defined northwest-southeast linear at the junction of two sets of ridge and furrow running perpendicular to one another. This may have been a 'holloway' (disused track) but the footpath crossing the site is situated to the east of this feature (Fig. 9) either indicating a change in the right of way or that the diagonal feature is not a holloway.

The population expansion in the 11th and 12th centuries, due to a number of factors which shall not be discussed here, resulted in the cultivation of marginal land which had not previously been exploited due to its poor fertility, drainage or isolated location. For these reasons, when the population contracted in the 13th century and this land was no longer needed, it may never have been subsequently cultivated thus preserving medieval earthworks (Platts, 1985).

Remains of another possible settlement and salt-boiling site were photographed further east on the foreshore and wattle hurdles from the vicinity were dendro-dated as Saxon. Salt-processing occurred in the medieval and post-medieval period in Lincolnshire and surviving remains include salt mounds. Other evidence for Medieval activity in the parish is from place names suggesting a manor and a hall to the south of the site - *Manor Farm* and *Hall Farm* - and a coin of 1363-9 found near Hall Farm. Further details are available form the SMR.

#### Previous Archaeological Work

A survey of the earthworks in Cade's Field on Huttoft Road (A52) to the south of Alford Road identified them as ridge and furrow but there was no evidence for settlement there (LAS, 1992). The marine alluvium was 2m thick in this area and charcoal flecks thought to be of a Roman date were found below it.

The Sutton on Sea Rising Main runs for part of its length along the west side of the former railway forming the boundary to the development site. Lindsey Archaeological Services monitored construction works for the pipeline in 1993 which included fieldwalking the stripped easement and watching part of the pipe-trench construction. Field-walking along the whole of the pipeline recovered finds dating from the prehistoric to late medieval period. Pits and ditches generally aligned southwest-northeast were observed in the field north of Alford Road and some were excavated (Fig. 6) which correspond to many of the features plotted from aerial photographs (Fig. 5). Ditch 29 on Fig. 6 seems to be at the intersection of two rectilinear features while ditch 26 corresponds to the corner of the more southern of these. The rectangular enclosure that Ditches 26 and 29 are part of measures approximately 40m by 25m and most of the internal area seems to have been levelled by more recent activity such as the railway or pipeline. Ditches 23 and 24 lie where ridge and furrow meet another rectilinear feature, but Ditch 24 contained modern finds. The east side of this enclose must lie under the line of the former

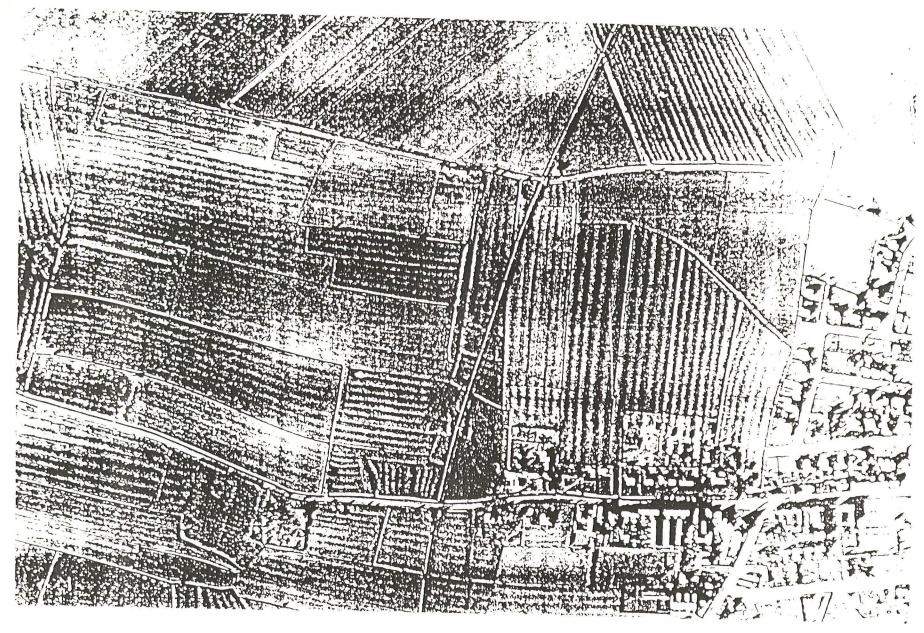


Figure 4: Copy of Aerial Photograph taken above the Site

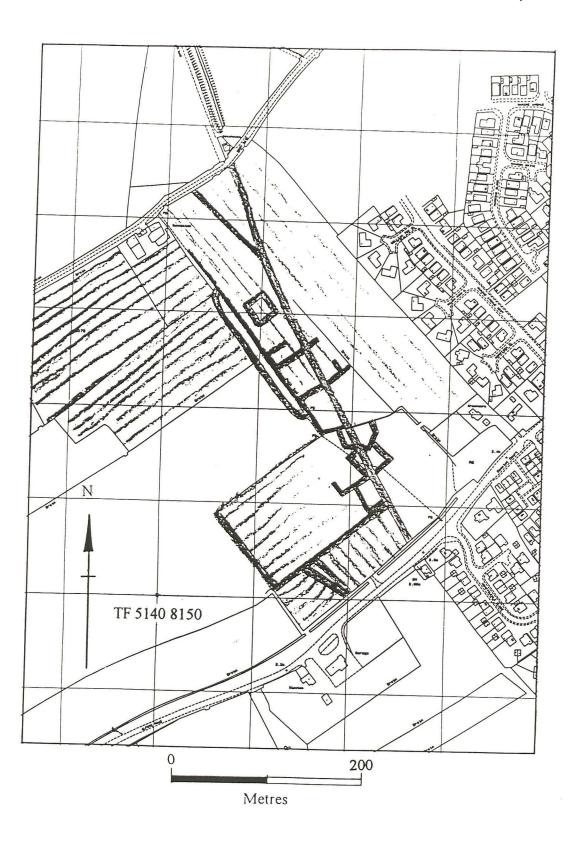


Figure 5: Plot of Features Visible on the Aerial Photographs

railway. Ditches 20 and 30 or 31 seem to be part of parallel linear features. Ditch 20 (Fig. 7) was 2.8m wide and 0.95m deep. LAS found more features than were visible from the aerial photographs showing the potential density of archaeology to the east of the former railway. Of these Ditch 11 is illustrated (Fig. 8) as being quite substantial with a width of 3m and a depth of 0.8m, yet is not apparent on the aerial photographs. Ditches 8, 9 and 11 were dated to between the 15th and 18th centuries. Many of these ditches served the purpose of division and drainage.

Conditions encountered during archaeological works indicate the potential impact of the weather on future excavations. Rain made the clay muddy and obscured some detail as well as making the ground awkward to work. Standing water was a problem and damaged land drains contributed to it.

Lindsey Archaeological Services full report should be consulted for further details (see Bibliography).

#### 3.6 Post Medieval

Sutton on Sea was later known as *Sutton le Marsh* which reflects its geographical location. In the 16th and 17th centuries there was a salt-making industry in Sutton. The 1775 map of Samuel Dashwood's estate in Sutton on Sea was unavailable for inspection at the Lincoln Archives Office but was unlikely to have included the area of the site. However the fields to be developed can be identified on the Tithe Map of 1839 numbered 26, 27, 28 and 29 and have only been slightly modified over the past two centuries. Three of these fields are described as pasture and were known as *High Gate Close, Burnt Hills* and *Ming in the Greens* respectively. Consultation with the place name expert Professor Ken Cameron found *Burnt Hills* to be a common field name which could indicate stubble burning or perhaps be a reference to the earthworks seen on the aerial photographs. *Ming* is listed in the Oxford English Dictionary as a dialect word known from 1856 meaning *a mixture* so that land *lying in ming* had a number of different owners which may have been applicable to the pasture *Ming in the Greens*. The plot of land in the southeastern part of the site close to Alford Road [29] was developed and in 1839 this area was listed as a farmyard with pigs and poultry. The area of the site is not included on the Enclosure Award Map of 1840.

In the 19th century Sutton on Sea expanded as a resort. Tramway number 11 of the Alford and Sutton Tramway mapped in 1879 ran along Alford Road at the southern end of the site. In 1879 the area was surveyed for the Sutton and Willoughby Railway which was opened in 1886 and led to the demise of the tramway. The line was closed completely in October 1970, and whilst the embankment of the railway no longer survives as a major earthwork along the western edge of the site, it is possible it may still cover earlier remains.

Buildings are still present on the 1:2500 2nd edition O.S. map of 1906 (plot 54 on Fig.9) in the position of plot 29 on the 1839 Tithe Map. Plot 46 on the 1906 map corresponds to plot 28 on the 1839 map and similarly, 51 and 52 correspond to 26, and 53 and 74 correspond to 27. On the 2nd edition 6 inch the landuse appears unchanged (Fig. 10). The 1:10 000 (Fig. 11) illustrates additional buildings to the east of those already mentioned. The southern buildings close to Alford Road no longer appear on the most recent edition (Fig.12) of the O.S. map although the areas to the south and east outside the limit of the site have been intensively developed.

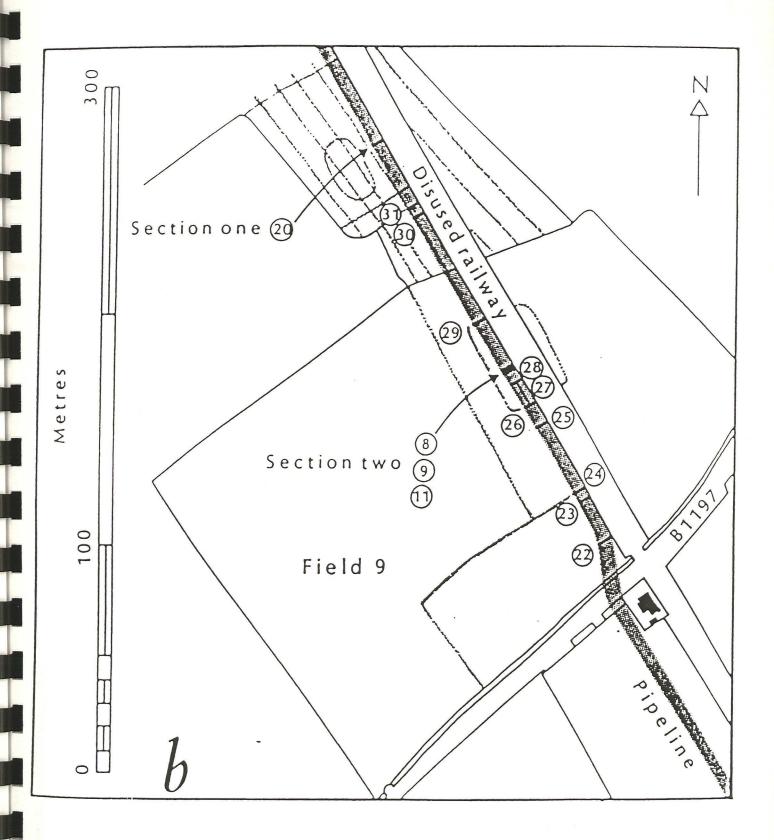


Figure 6 Features investigated by **C**A.S in 1993. Illustration by D.Taylor with permission of **C**.A.S

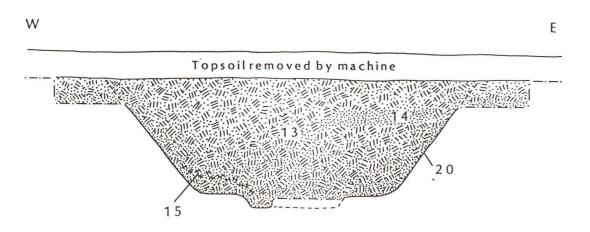


Figure 7 Field 10. Ditch 20 Investigated by £ A.S 1n 1993 Illustration by D.Taylor with permission of £ A.S

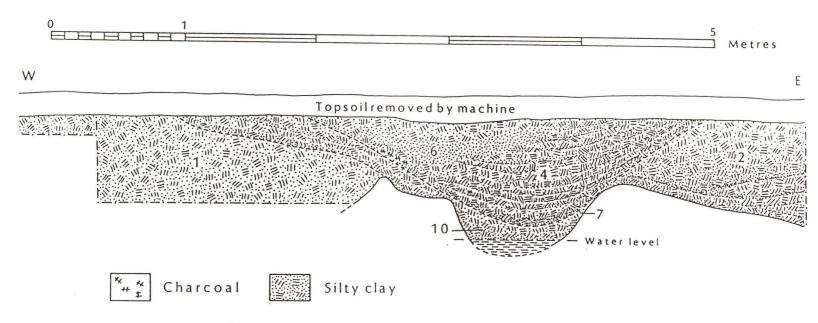


Figure 8 Field 9. Ditch 11 Investigated by £A.S 1n 1993 Illustration by D.Taylor with permission of £A.S

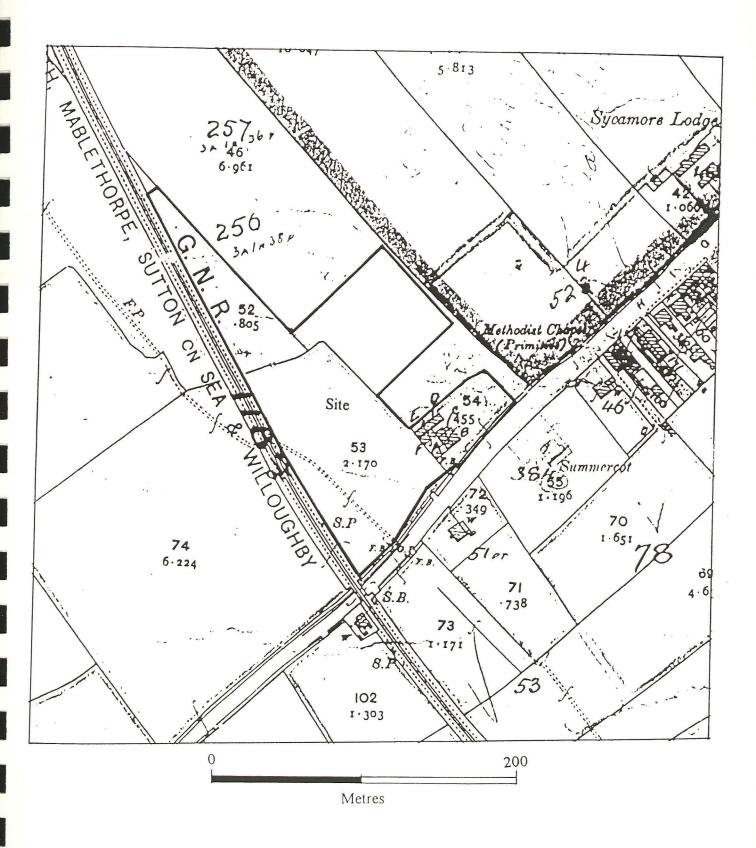


Figure 9: 1:2500 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1906.

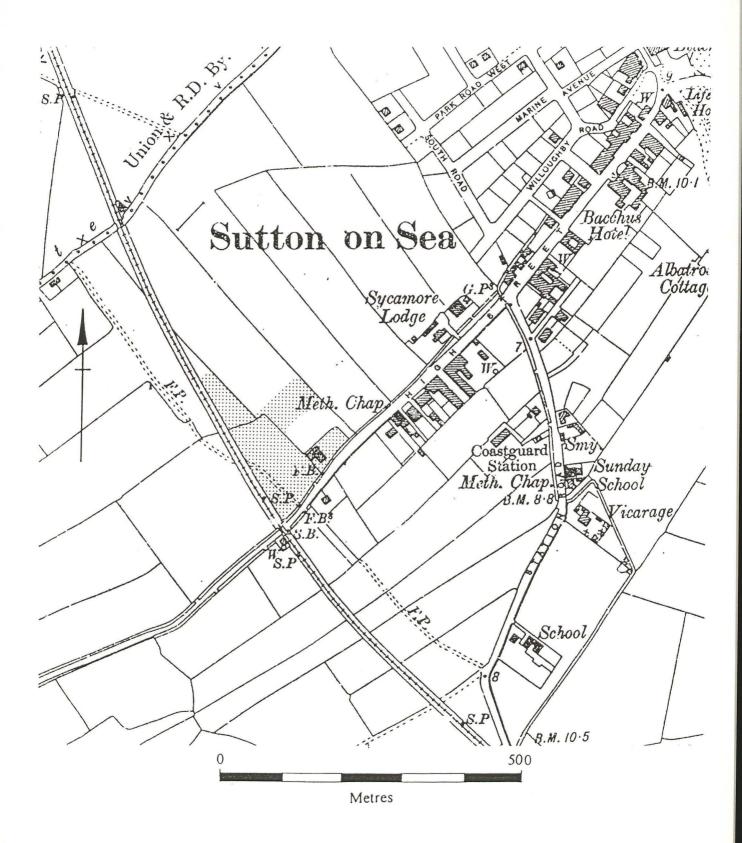


Figure 10: 2nd ed. 6" map



Figure 11: 1:10 000 Ordnance Survey Map. (No Date).

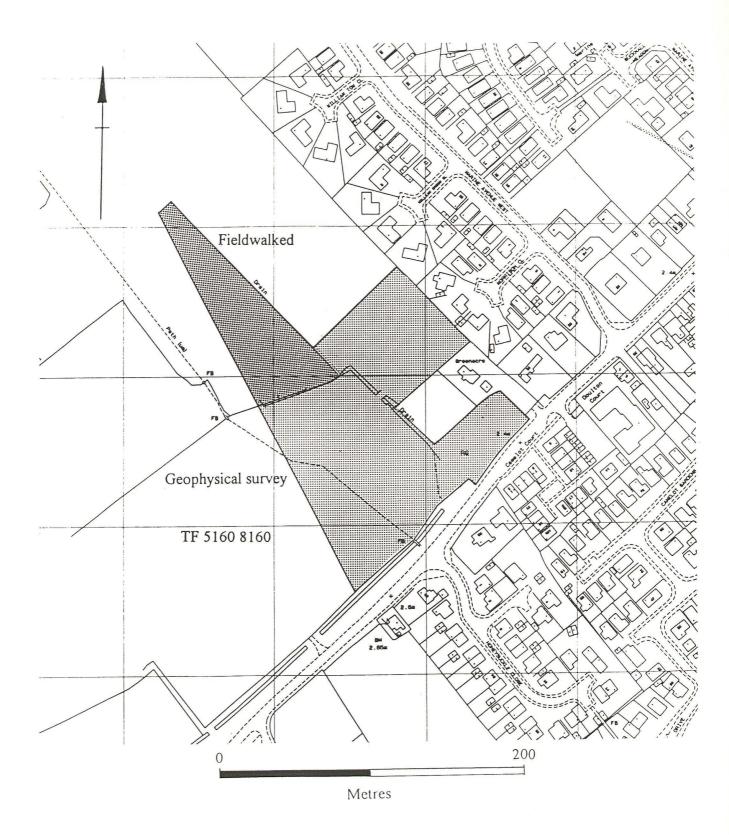


Figure 12: Location of Fieldwalking and Geophysical Survey Areas.

#### 4 STRATEGY

## 4.1 Research Design

A scheme of investigation for the site was designed by AOC (Archaeology) Ltd. and approved by Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section with the agreement of the applicant. This involved two stages, the first of which included a detailed desk-top assessment combined with non-intrusive field evaluation in the form of geophysical survey of the pasture and field walking of the area under plough.

The second stage will be intrusive field evaluation by trenching. The area of the proposed development site is c.1.8ha although the foundations from the recent farmyard and buildings cover a part of this. Allowance for up to 270m of trenches at 1.6m width has been made. This amounts to a 2% sample of the total area.

## 4.2 Site Inspection

The site occupies an irregularly shaped piece of land within three fields of which the northwestern field is under plough while the remaining two are pasture. The southeastern arm of the site has until recently been occupied by farm buildings, following the demolition of which tarmac and occasional concrete slabs have been left in situ. The presence of modern masonry meant that non-intrusive survey was not possible here. In addition at least one gas service runs through the site and is orientated north-south.

Access to the site is currently via a layby and a field gate. A public footpath runs across the south-western part of the site and is orientated northwest-southeast.

The eastern edge of the site is well defined by drainage ditches but the earthworks of the former railway embankment which the western edge of the site follows did not survive. It will be necessary to mark the western limit of the site before further work commences.

At ground level the earthworks were invisible despite the benefit of a low sun which would have produced shadows. However differencies in crop colour were apparent although the indistinctness of these made mapping of these changes impossible.

## 4.3 Fieldwalking

### 4.3.1 Methodology

The northern part of the site was fieldwalked (Fig. 12). This survey was conducted using transects 10m apart with collection units of 20m along the transects.

Due to the size and orientation of the area surveyed, the survey grid was not aligned to the O.S. grid, but northwest - southeast along the long axis of the area. Six transects were walked (lines A to F), the longest being line A at approximately 160m on the north-east side, and the shortest being line F at approximately 12m on the south-west side. Each line was subdivided into 20m collection units, and numbered 1 to 9 from the southeast corner of the area, with the unit numbers parallel across the short axis of the area.

All finds were collected during fieldwalking with the exception of all larger, obviously modern, brick and field drain fragments.

#### 4.3.2 Results

The fieldwalking produced a relatively sparse assemblage of Ceramic Building Material and pot sherds. Analysis of the spatial distribution showed a slight concentration of material in the south-east corner of the area. Finds in the north and northwestern areas were sparse and fairly irregularly distributed. The south-western corner of the area produced no finds at all. (Fig. 13).

## 4.3.3 Finds (See appendix A)

Of the 19 sherds of pottery collected, 8 proved to be clearly post medieval in date. The remaining 11 sherds varied from early to late medieval and were fairly typical of the material found locally. The Ceramic Building Material appeared to be primarily post-medieval in date with field drain and frogged brick being present which has not sent for further analysis at this time.

#### 4.3.4 Conditions

Conditions during the fieldwalking survey were generally excellent. The area had been recently ploughed and harrowed and had been left to weather for approximately one week. Visibility was good, with the weather conditions being dry, clear and overcast. Sunny spells later in the day did cast some shadow, but overall the conditions were ideal and did not adversely affect the survey.

## 4.4 Summary of the Geophysical Survey Results (See attached report)

A geophysical survey was carried out by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford. Detailed gradiometry was undertaken across the area with similar magnetic responses throughout which can be attributed to the presence of alluvial deposits. There was a large area of magnetic disturbance on the west edge of the site caused by the presence of the old railway line and the Anglian Water pipeline easement. No anomalies of archaeological interest were found in the area, although the presence of both the marine alluvium and the modern disturbances will have inhibited the detection of any features.

#### 5 CONCLUSIONS

Aerial photography and the LAS 1993 report provide firm evidence for medieval features on the western edge of site along with extensive medieval field systems across the north part of the application area. Fieldwalking by AOC Archaeology produced some diagnostic pottery of a medieval date to support this interpretation. Whilst the geophysical survey did not produce any evidence of archaeological features, it is acknowledged that this is due to complicating factors. The presence of features on aerial photographs allied to their known existence from the previous work on the pipeline and the apparent slight changes in level of the land surface and crop growth along the west part of the site confirms that medieval remains must exist in the proposal area. It is possible that some of these features have been damaged or destroyed by laying of services and the construction of the railway. From the archaeological investigative work carried out during the laying of the Anglian Water pipeline it would appear that only infilled negative features survive on this site.

There is little evidence to suggest that prehistoric or Roman remains are likely to be encountered during development due to the depth of alluvium covering them.

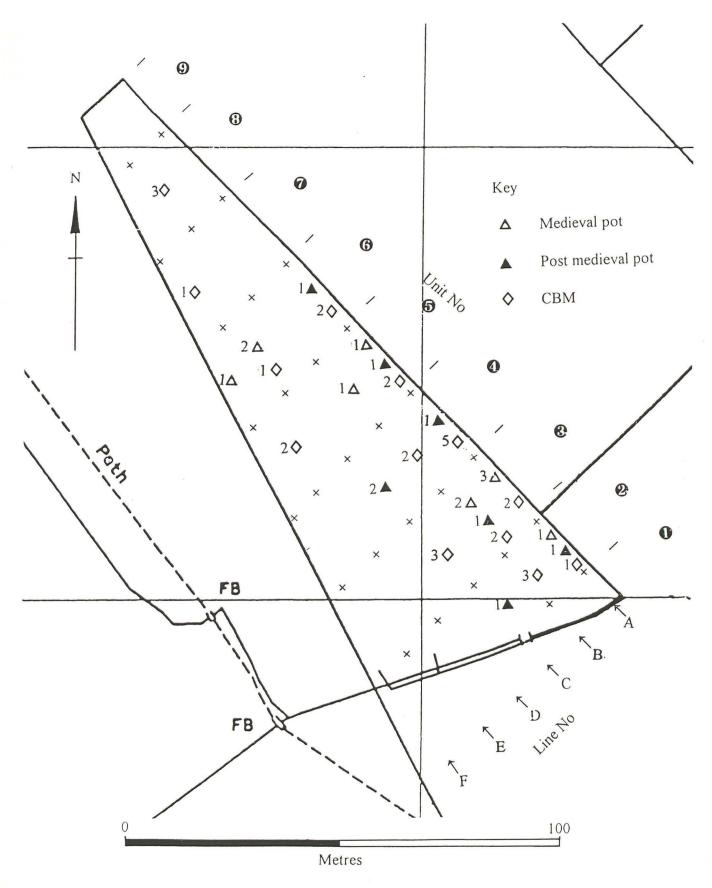


Figure 13: Fieldwalked Area, Showing Spatial Distribution of Recovered Finds.

While it is accepted that archaeological remains do exist on this site it is suggested that due to the fact that only infilled ditches have been located in the below ground work undertaken to date that their significance is only of local importance and as such should not preclude development on this site. It is recognised that further archaeological investigations should be undertaken on the application site to make an accurate record of the surviving remains. The extent of this further work should be dictated by the extent of the archaeological remains and the impact of the proposed development. At this stage of the development proposal the extent of the impact is unknown as a layout of development and the type of associated intrusive works have not been finalised and will only be done so at a time when an application for full planning consent is submitted.

The type of intrusive works for housing and associated roads and services used on this site will not penetrate through the depth of marine alluvium on this site unless pile foundations are to be used for the housing. Therefore the need to evaluate the site at the level below the alluvium to confirm the presence/absence of Roman or prehistoric remains will only be necessary if piled foundations are to be used. Due to this reason and that further archaeological works associated with the recording of the medieval remains should be a reflection of the impact of the design layout, it is recommended that an evaluation to assess the extent of the remains and the impact on them from the development should be undertaken when an application for full planning is being considered by the local planning authority.

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Sortie No.

		2011111				
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Frame No.

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## APPENDIX A

#### FINDS REPORT

Pottery Report, Jane Young.

The assemblage contains typical material to be expected locally from the 12th to the 20th centuries. The condition of some sherds preclude their positive identification as either medieval or late medieval Toynton production. See Table 1 for assemblage summary.

Table 1.

Line/Unit	Ware	Sherds	Form	Comments
No				
A/2	LPM	1	?	Plain Bone China; 19th-20th Century
A/2	TB	1	Jug/Jar	Worn Body Sherd or TOY;14th-16th
A/3	DUTR	1	Cooking Vessel	Small Fragment; 14th-16th century
A/3	<b>MEDLOC</b>	1	Jug	Olive Glaze; 13th-14th century
A/3	<b>MEDLOC</b>	1	Jug/Pitcher	Worn; 13th-15th century
A/4	BL	1	Bowl	18th-19th century
A/5	<b>MEDLOC</b>	1	?	Worn; 13-15th century
A/5	TB	1	Bowl	Body Sherd;16-17th century
A/6	LPM	1	Bowl?	Blue/Brown Line Decorated; 19th century
B/3	LERTH	1	Bowl/	No Glaze; 19th-20th century
			Garden Pot	
B/3	<b>MEDLOC</b>	1	Jar/ Pipkin	Base, no Glaze; 13th-14th century
B/3	<b>MEDLOC</b>	1	Jug	Worn, Body Sherd; 13th-14th century
B/5	TB	1	Bowl	Sloping Rim, TOY?; 14th-16th century
C/2	LPM	1	Bowl	Black Transfer Decoration; 19th century
C/4	LPM	1	Flat	Plain White China; 19th-20th century
C/4	SLIP	1	Flat	Orange Fabric, White Slip, no Decoration;
0/4				18th-19th century
C/6	MEDLOC	1	Jug?	Interior White Deposit, no Glaze; 13th-
0/4				15th century
C/6	TB	1	Jug	Grooved Oval Handle?, TOY?; 14th-16th
				century
D/6	TB	1	Jug/Cistern	Body Sherd; 15th-17th century

#### Table 2

Explanation of Pottery Ware Typology (as used in Table 1).

Ware Code

Description

LPM

Early Modern or Modern

TB

Toynton or Bolingbroke-Type Ware

DUTR

Low Countries Red Earthenwares

MEDLOC

Medieval Local Fabrics

BL

Blackware

LERTH SLIP Late Earthenwares Slipware (General)

TOY

Toynton Ware; Kiln 1 (Roses)

( Medieval Pottery Codes as used by the City of Lincolnshire Archaeology Unit )