

97/18



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Former Dunns Site,
Gedney Road, Long Sutton**

**NGR: TF 42952325
Planning Application No H11/0953/97**

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

On behalf of

Carter Commercial Developments Ltd.

October 1997

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Summary

Long Sutton was a large medieval village which expanded in the late 18th/early 19th centuries. There is no evidence of prehistoric and little evidence of Roman material in the area. The present site lies north-west of the parish church and the Market Place, the probable focus of the medieval settlement. The proposed development site is situated on the site of an 18th century brewery; this and subsequent building work will probably have resulted in substantial below ground disturbance, reducing the archaeological potential of the site.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Carter Commercial Developments Ltd. to undertake a desk based assessment to consider the archaeological implications of development at the above site.

Planning Background

The site is currently the subject of a planning application to South Holland District Council (Planning Application H11/0953/97) to build a foodstore close to the west side of the site with associated parking facilities (Fig. 5).

Method

In order to ensure that all possible archaeological constraints were identified and assessed, records from the parish were examined at Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and sites plotted on a 1:10,000 map. Early maps were examined at the Lincolnshire Archives Office. General background was obtained from both the Archives Office and the SMR.

Site Location and Description (Figs. 1 and 2)

The proposed development site lies west of the Market Place on the north-east side of Market Street. It is located on the site of the former Dunns seed merchant which, in turn, was built on the site of the Phoenix House brewery.

The area is now cleared and all that remains are building foundations the tarmac and concrete yard surfaces (Pls. 1 and 2). Drains and tanks are also in evidence, indicating below-ground disturbance of unknown extent (Pls. 3 and 4). Trees screen the site from residential buildings on three sides and, on the fourth, from Market Street. In the south-east corner of the site, a detached house, Phoenix House, stands unoccupied (Pls. 5 and 6).

Archaeological Background

There is no evidence of prehistoric material from the area, any material would be deeply buried and it is unlikely that development would impact on these deposits. This is due to the change in the position of the coastline which was accompanied by marine inundation from the late Bronze Age onwards and subsequent marine regression.

Two Roman coins have been found near the centre of the village. No other material of Roman date has been recovered from the immediate area.

The first known reference to Long Sutton is in the Domesday survey of 1086 which records that the area was in 'the Kings Manor of Tydd St Mary' (Foster and Longley 1924).

The present church was built in the thirteenth century replacing a wooden church built in 1120. It lies south east of the development site on the other side of the Market Place and although the name Long Sutton suggests a linear development, there is no evidence to suggest that the medieval settlement extended as far as the proposed development site. One findspot of late medieval pottery was recorded in the Market Place (PRN 23046). A second was located approximately 800m to the south west (PRN 22324).

Land reclamation in the area is first recorded in the year 1111 when Picot gave Tithes of land in Sutton to Spalding Priory and 50 years later this is known as *Pigotus Neueland*. It has been suggested that the 'Roman Bank', a north-south embanked sea defence located to the east of the village, was in fact constructed in the century before Domesday (Wills 1971).

It seems that Lutton to the north was the most important village in the vicinity for much the settlement's history. In the 18/19th century Long Sutton became the more important settlement growing into what Wright called a small town (Wright 1970). It is certainly the case that most of the SMR entries are of post-medieval and later finds and sites.

Two post-medieval windmills are recorded in the area situated along the Roman Bank (PRN 22473 and 22392). The proposed development lies on the site of a brewery which was in existence by 1826. It is described as having a four-storeyed building with various ancillary buildings to the rear. A brewery is recorded on the site on Bryant's map of Lincolnshire dated to 1848. By 1879 Spenser Ashlin Skelton had taken it over as the Phoenix or Steam Brewery. The location and layout of the brewery is depicted on the second edition O.S map surveyed in 1886 (Fig. 4). Once the largest brewery in Sutton, the machinery and fittings were auctioned in 1890 for 1/20th the previous worth of the site.

Phoenix House, the unoccupied building in the south-east corner of the proposed development, has been deemed unsuitable for listing by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport because of its highly altered state.

However, this is the last surviving part of the Phoenix brewery complex and, as such, may be considered to be of local historical interest.

Discussion

There is little evidence to suggest that there will be prehistoric and Roman material preserved on the site. The depth of overburden in this area of the fens is difficult to predict but is likely to be considerable.

The focus of the medieval settlement was probably to the south-east around the Market Place and parish church. The 'long' component of the place-name was likely to have been a descriptive term indicating linear development, Gedney Road was an important route between Lincoln and Norfolk but there is no evidence to suggest that the medieval settlement extended this far along the road. It is possible that construction of the brewery may have been the first development on the site.

Conclusion

The proposed development lies within an area with no recorded prehistoric or Roman material and it probably lay beyond the limit of the medieval settlement of Long Sutton. The potential for prehistoric, Roman and medieval remains must therefore be considered low. Development of the area probably took place for the first time in the 18th/19th century with the construction of the brewery. All buildings on the site, except Phoenix House, have been demolished. Foundations from these buildings and below-ground features such as drains and cellarage associated with the brewery could reduce further any potential for the survival of earlier archaeological remains.

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank Littman & Robeson for providing the site plans; also the staff at Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record and Lincolnshire Archive Office for their help. Jane Frost collated and produced the report.

Mark Williams
Lindsey Archaeological Services
6th October 1997

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Appendix 1: Long Sutton: Gazetteer of Site and Findspots

Ptn	NGR	Description
23556	TF 42200 23400	WWII Pill Box
23047	TF 43610 24280	Post medieval pottery
23046	TF 43000 22900	Medieval pottery
23045	TF 43000 22900	Post medieval pottery
22473	TF 43820 22920	Post medieval windmill
22392	TF 43610 24280	Post medieval windmill
22326	TF 43220 22870	St Mary's Church
22325	TF 43020 22810	Two Roman Coins
22324	TF 42300 22500	Medieval pottery
22308	TF 43180 22860	Medieval cross
22170	TF 42520 22550	Post medieval Alms houses
20294	TF 42950 23300	Post medieval brewery
20492	TF 42320 22900	Medieval settlement of Long Sutton
20232	TF 36800 24400	Dismantled Railway



Fig 1: Gedney Road Long Sutton. Site location. (Reproduced from the 1:25,000 O.S map with the permission of the controller of HMSO, Crown copyright. Licence No. AL50424A.)

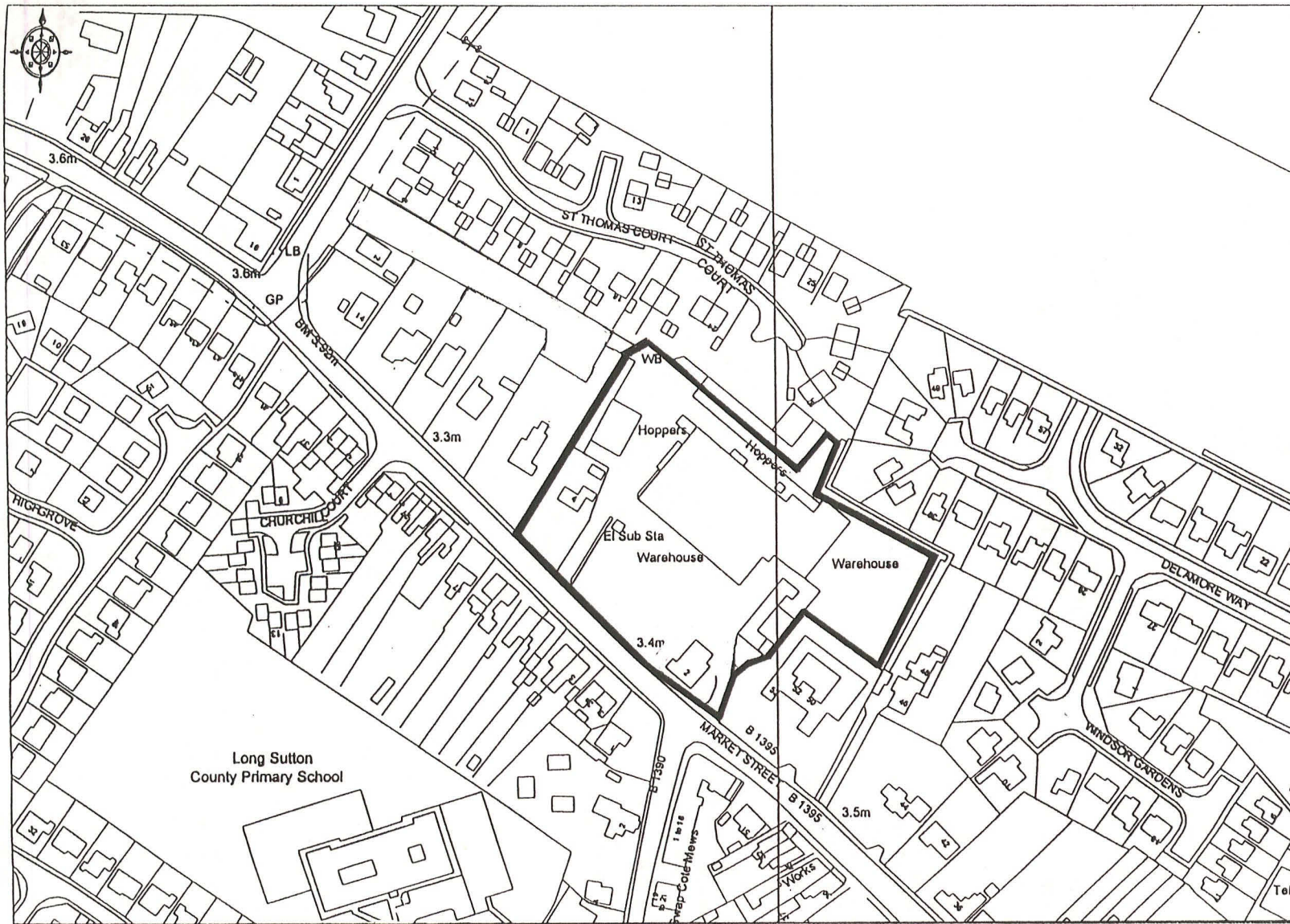


Fig 2: Location of site (based upon digital survey data supplied by Littman & Robeson)



Fig 4: Long Sutton (Enlarged from O.S map, 1:2,500, 1905 second edition)

DATE:	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
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REVISIONS:-	
REV. DATE:	DESCRIPTION:

CLIENT:-
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT
FOR:-
CARTER COMMERCIAL
DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED

PROJECT:-
PROPOSED FOODSTORE
DEVELOPMENT AT
GEDNEY ROAD, LONG SUTTON

TITLE:-
PROPOSED SITE LAYOUT PLAN

STANLEY BRAGG
ARCHITECTS
Stanley Bragg Partnership Limited
100, GEDNEY ROAD, LONG SUTTON, LEAMINGDON, LEAMINGTON SPA, CV34 4DP
Telephone: +44 (0)1203 571371 Fax: +44 (0)1203 575277
E-mail: +44 (0)1203 271666 concrete@stanleybragg.com

DATE:	SCALE:	DRAWN:	PJ
21/08/97	1:500	CHOKER:	PJ

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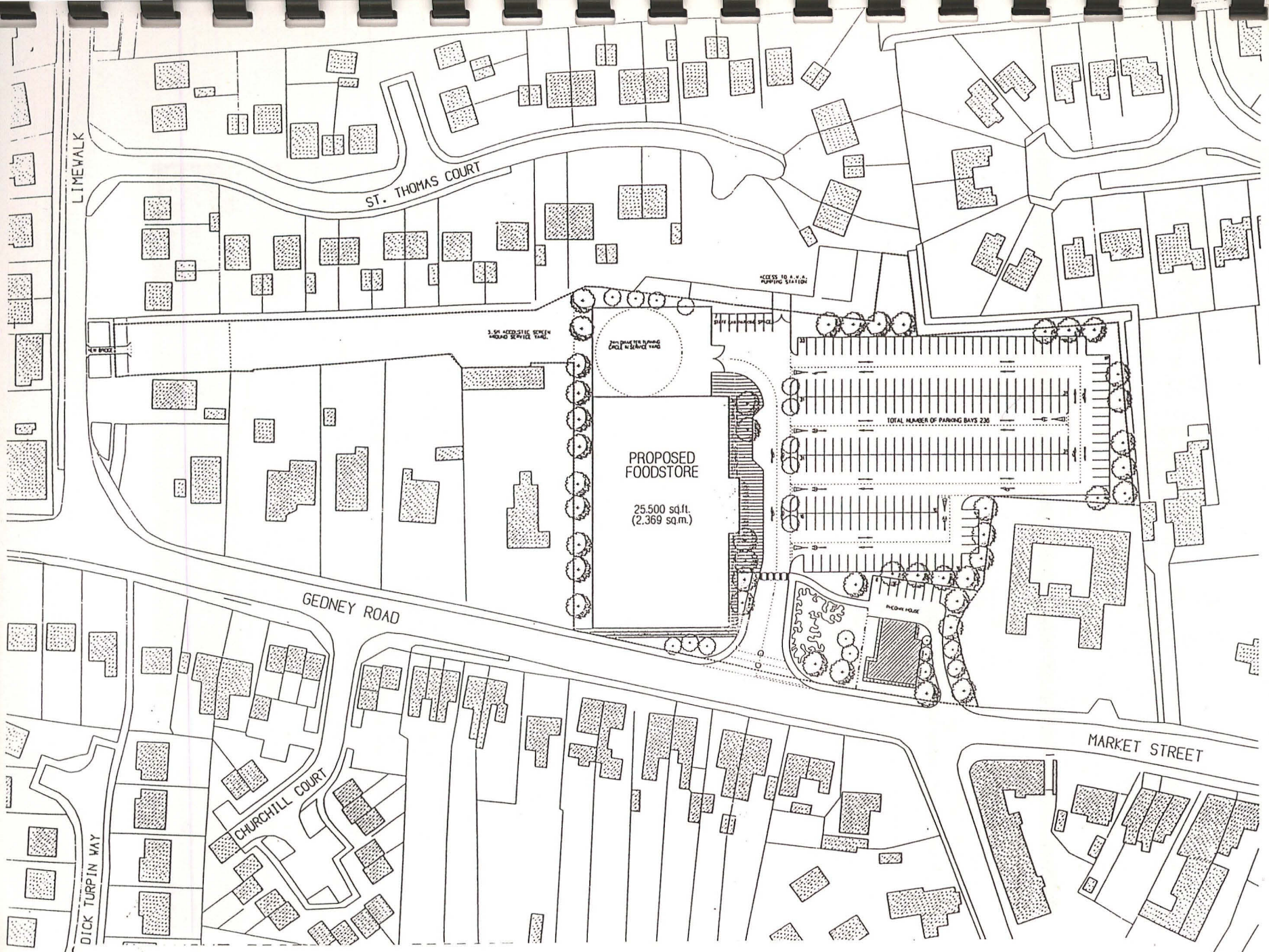


Fig 5: Gedney Road, Long Sutton. Site layout proposals



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Pl. 2 Concreted area at western part of the site.





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