

**NEW COLLEGE STAMFORD  
DRIFT ROAD  
STAMFORD  
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION**

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Produced for:  
Fusion Project Management

On behalf of:  
New College Stamford

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## **Preface**

*Every effort has been made in the preparation and submission of this document and all statements are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.*

*This report has been prepared by David Ingham with contributions from Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). It was edited by Joe Abrams (Project Manager). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).*

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## **Version History**

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.0	21 <sup>st</sup> July 2008	n/a

## **Structure of the Report**

Section 1 is an introduction to the project, the methodology for which is presented in Section 2. Section 3 comprises the results of the fieldwork and their significance for the proposed development. Section 4 is a bibliography.

## **Key Terms**

Throughout this project design the following terms or abbreviations are used:

LCC	Lincolnshire County Council
SKPA	South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist
Client	Fusion Project Management on behalf of New College Stamford
HER	Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record, Lincolnshire County Council
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
LPA	Local Planning Authority

## **Non-technical Summary**

*Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Fusion Project Management, on behalf of New College Stamford, to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation ahead of the submission of a planning application for re-development of the college. The development area contained a range of college buildings, car parks, a multi-use games area and a playing field.*

*The development area is situated near the north-eastern edge of the modern town of Stamford, north-east of its historic core, and is centred on (NGR) TF 0350 0770 (Fig. 1). It lies to the north of the River Welland on terraced ground that rises gradually towards the west and the north, at a height of c. 32–41m OD. The solid geology around Stamford comprises Inferior Oolite with pockets of Greater Oolite.*

*No known archaeological remains lie within the development area (Albion Archaeology 2007), which comprised open fields until the early part of the 20th century. However, the remains of three medieval friaries are located to the south of the site, while medieval and post-medieval kilns and scatters of medieval and Roman artefacts have been identified within the vicinity. Consequently, the playing field (and pockets of the remainder of the development area) had the potential to contain archaeological remains. As a result, the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist (SKPA) issued a brief (SKPA 2008) outlining the requirements of a trial trench evaluation within the area of the playing field, to determine whether any further archaeological work was required. The results of the trial trench evaluation are presented in this report.*

*No archaeological features were identified within the trial trenches. Terracing of the playing field (within which Trenches 1–6 were located) has had a severe negative impact on its potential to contain archaeological remains. The parts of the development area not sampled by trial trenching have also been subject to terracing and also to building construction. Therefore, it is reasonable to extrapolate that the development area as a whole retains negligible archaeological potential.*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

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### **1.1 Project Background**

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Fusion Project Management, on behalf of New College Stamford, to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation ahead of the submission of a planning application for re-development of the college. The proposed development area included a range of college buildings, car parks, and a playing field.

The initial stages of the programme comprised an archaeological desk-based assessment and a geophysical survey (Albion Archaeology 2007), which demonstrated that the playing field (and pockets of the remainder of the development area) had the potential to contain archaeological remains. These results were discussed with the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist (SKPA), who issued a brief (SKPA 2008) outlining the requirements of a trial trench evaluation within the area of the playing field, to determine whether any further archaeological work was required.

Albion Archaeology produced a Project Design (Albion Archaeology 2008) for the trial trench evaluation, the results of which are presented in this report.

### **1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology**

The development area is situated near the north-eastern edge of the modern town of Stamford, north-east of its historic core, and is centred on (NGR) TF 0350 0770 (Fig. 1). It lies to the north of the River Welland on terraced ground that rises gradually towards the west and the north, at a height of *c.* 32–41m OD. The solid geology around Stamford comprises Inferior Oolite with pockets of Greater Oolite.

### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

No known archaeological remains lie within the development area (Albion Archaeology 2007), which is situated to the north-east of the historic core of Stamford. Cartographic evidence shows that the development area comprised open fields until the early part of the 20th century. However, the remains of three medieval friaries are located to the south of the site, while medieval and post-medieval kilns and scatters of medieval and Roman artefacts have been identified within the vicinity.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

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The trial trenching took place on 15th – 16th July 2008. Six trenches were opened, covering a total area of 190m<sup>2</sup> (Fig. 1). The trench plan was agreed by the SKPA before trenching began.

The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, under close archaeological supervision. As no archaeological deposits were identified, overburden was removed down to the top of the undisturbed geological deposits. The spoil heaps were visually scanned for artefacts.

A photographic record was compiled of each trench. All deposits were recorded using a unique number sequence, commencing at 100 for Trench 1, 200 for Trench 2 *etc.* A full methodology is provided in the Project Design (Albion Archaeology 2008).

The project adhered throughout to the standards set out in the following documents:

- IFA *Code of Conduct  
Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field  
Evaluation*
- Albion Archaeology *Procedures Manual. Volume 1: Fieldwork* (2nd edn, 2001)
- English Heritage *The Management of Archaeological Projects* (2nd edn, 1991)
- SKPA *Brief for Archaeological Scheme of Evaluation and Recording (Trial Trenching)*, (2008)

Consent was sought from the SKPA before the trenches were backfilled.

### 3. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

#### 3.1 Results

No archaeological remains were identified within the trial trenches. Excavation of Trenches 1–5 revealed a layer of topsoil directly overlying a geological deposit of boulder clay. An intervening layer of subsoil, possibly colluvial in origin, was only present in Trench 6 (Fig. 2). Frequent modern artefacts (not retained) were observed in the topsoil; no pre-modern artefacts were identified.

Trench	Context	Description	Interpretation
1	100	Firm dark brownish grey silty clay, 0.25m thick	Topsoil
	101	Firm mottled orangey brown clay	Natural
2	200	Firm dark brownish grey silty clay, 0.4–0.5m thick	Topsoil
	201	Firm bluish grey to brownish orange clay	Natural
3	300	Firm dark brownish grey silty clay, 0.3m thick	Topsoil
	301	Firm mid brownish orange clay	Natural
4	400	Firm dark brownish grey silty clay, 0.4m thick	Topsoil
	401	Firm light grey chalky clay, patches of orange clay	Natural
5	500	Firm dark brownish grey silty clay, 0.25–0.3m thick	Topsoil
	501	Firm light grey chalky clay, patches of orange clay	Natural
6	600	Firm dark brownish grey silty clay, 0.3m thick	Topsoil
	601	Firm mid orangey brown silty clay, 0.2–0.3m thick	Subsoil
	602	Firm light yellowish orange silty clay	Natural

**Table 1:** Context summary

#### 3.2 Interpretation and Significance of Results

Trial trench evaluation of the playing field at New College Stamford has demonstrated that terracing of the site has had a severe negative impact on its archaeological potential. Despite differences in height of up to 1.8m between the levels of the terraces, no evidence was found of made ground, implying that the terraces were wholly cut into the land's natural slope.

The area of the playing field contains negligible archaeological potential. No archaeological features or evidence of pre-modern activity were identified, and any archaeological features that may once have existed in the area covered by Trenches 1–5 are likely to have been destroyed by terracing. The part of the development area not sampled by trial trenching has been similarly subject to terracing and also to building construction and it is, therefore, reasonable to extrapolate that the development area as a whole retains negligible archaeological potential.

#### 4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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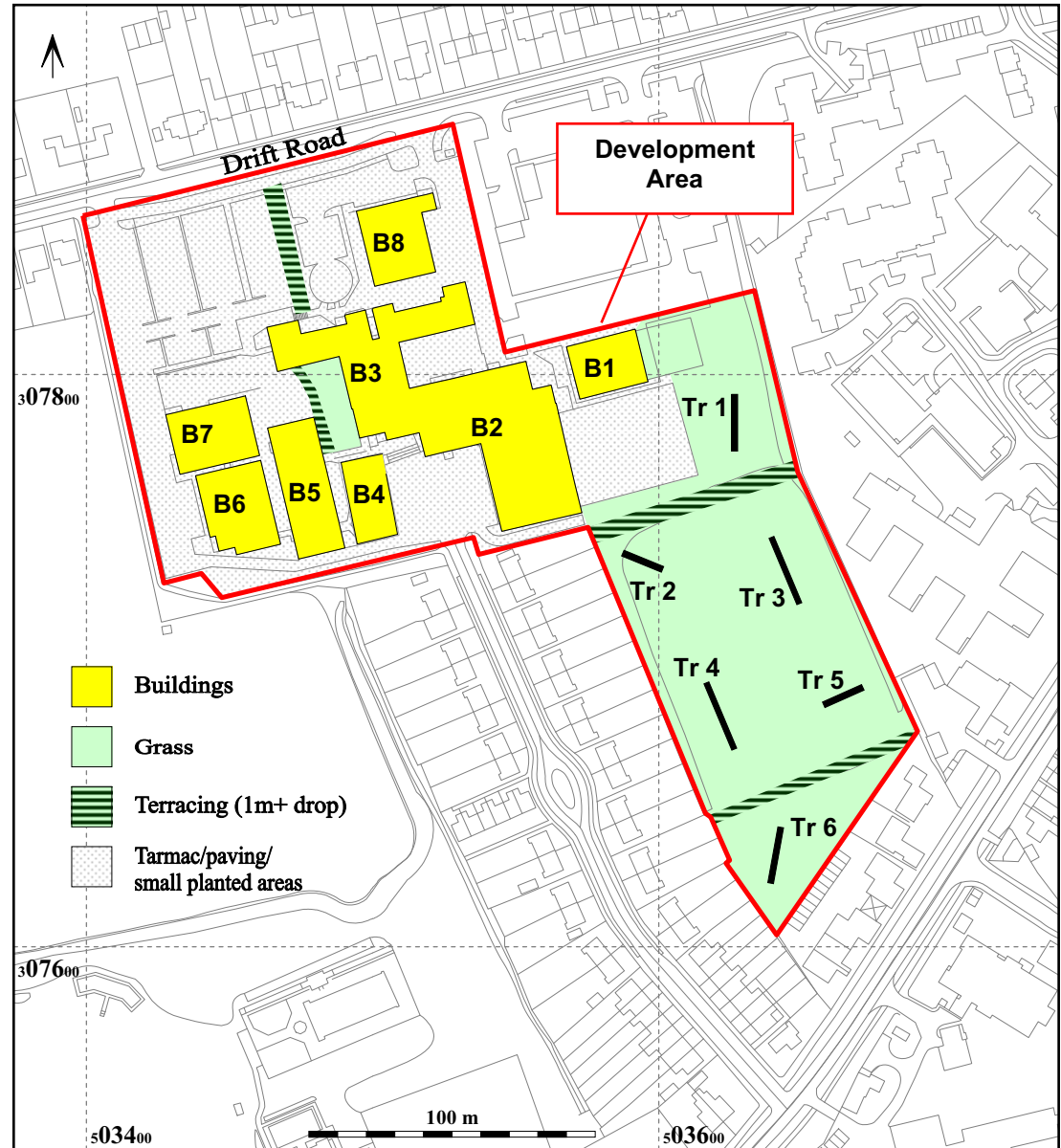
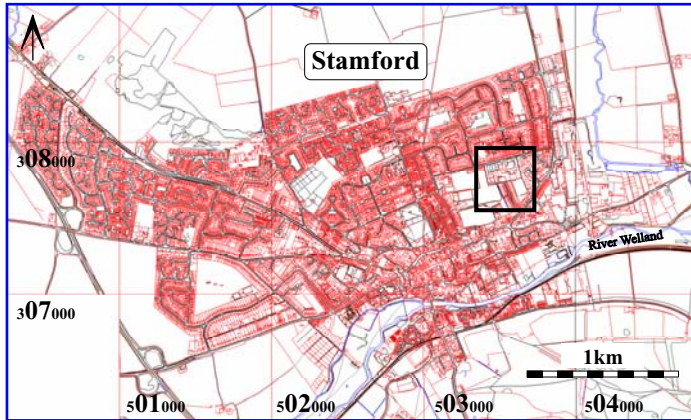
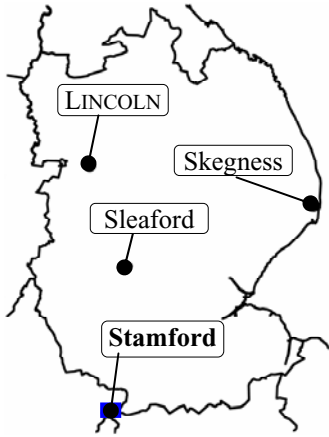
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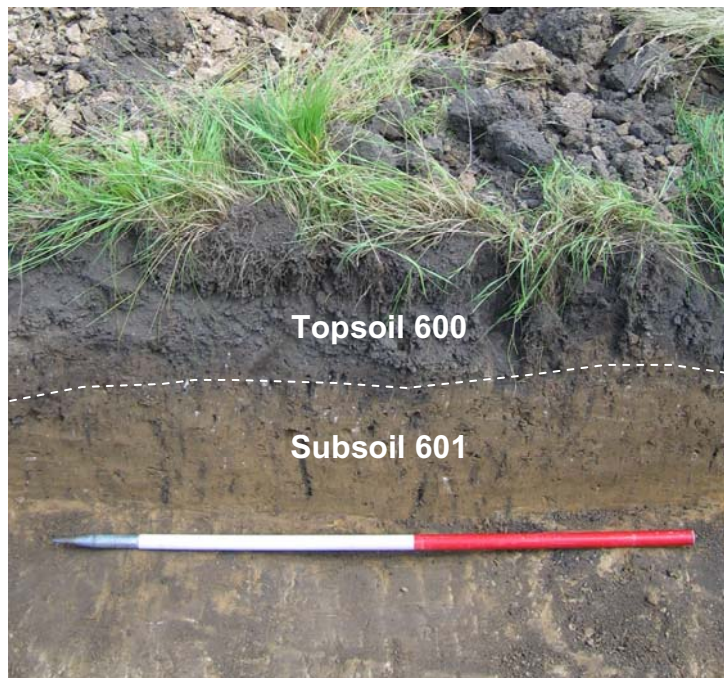


**Figure 1: Site location plan**

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Trench 3, looking north



Trench 6, baulk section. Scale 1m

**Figure 2:** Selected photographs

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**OASIS ID: albionar1-44957**

## Project details

Project name	New College, Stamford, Lincolnshire
Short description of the project	The proposed development area contained a range of college buildings, car parks, a multi-use games area and a playing field. It is situated near the north-eastern edge of the modern town of Stamford, north-east of its historic core. It lies to the north of the River Welland on terraced ground that rises gradually towards the west and the north. The solid geology around Stamford comprises Inferior Oolite with pockets of Greater Oolite. No known archaeological remains lie within the development area , which comprised open fields until the early part of the 20th century. However, the remains of three medieval friaries are located to the south of the site, while medieval and post-medieval kilns and scatters of medieval and Roman artefacts have been identified within the vicinity. Consequently, the development area had the potential to contain archaeological remains. As a result, the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist issued a brief outlining the requirements of a trial trench evaluation within the area of the playing field, to determine whether any further archaeological work was required. No archaeological features were identified within the trial trenches. Terracing of the playing field has had a severe negative impact on its potential to contain archaeological remains. The parts of the development area not sampled by trial trenching have also been subject to terracing and also to building construction. Therefore, it is reasonable to extrapolate that the development area as a whole retains negligible archaeological potential.
Project dates	Start: 15-07-2008 End: 01-08-2008
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	NC1308 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	NCS08 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	FEATURES None
Significant Finds	FEATURES None
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	Voluntary/self-interest



Position in the planning process Pre-application

### Project location

Country England  
 Site location LINCOLNSHIRE SOUTH KESTEVEN STAMFORD New College, Stamford, Lincolnshire  
 Postcode PE9 1XA  
 Study area 2.50 Hectares  
 Site coordinates TF 0350 0770 52.6567788982 -0.469675039963 52 39 24 N 000 28 10 W Point  
 Height OD Min: 32.00m Max: 41.00m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Albion Archaeology  
 Project brief originator Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)  
 Project design originator Albion Archaeology  
 Project director/manager Joe Abrams  
 Project supervisor David Ingham  
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer  
 Name of sponsor/funding body Stamford New College

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No  
 Digital Archive Exists? No  
 Paper Archive recipient Lincoln City and County Museum  
 Paper Contents 'Survey','other'  
 Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Correspondence','Microfilm','Miscellaneous Material','Plan','Photograph','Report','Survey ','Unpublished Text'

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
 Title New College Stamford, Drift Road, Stamford, Lincolnshire: Archaeological Field Evaluation  
 Author(s)/Editor (s) Ingham, D.

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