ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT FOURFIELDS CHILDREN'S CENTRE, SUTTERTON, LINCOLNSHIRE (SFCC 07)

Work Undertaken For Mouchel Business Services

December 2007

Report Compiled by Thomas Bradley-Lovekin MA PIFA

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 155/07

Quality Control Sutterton Fourfields Children's Centre (SFCC07)

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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundwork's associated with the construction of a children's centre forming an extension to the existing Fourfields C of E School, Sutterton, Lincolnshire.

The site is archaeologically sensitive lying within an area of known significance. Roman artefacts have been found at the site itself and a Romano-British settlement with evidence of industrial activity, possibly associated with salt making, has been identified in close proximity.

In the event however only deposits of undated and recent origin were identified within the groundworks, although it is possible that earlier remains survive buried at a lower level.

No archaeological artefacts were recovered during the watching brief.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as "a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for nonarchaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed." (IFA 1999).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mouchel Business Services to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the development of a children's centre at Fourfields C of E School, Sutterton, Lincolnshire (Figs. 2 and 3). Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning permission (Application No.B/08/0553/07) submitted to Lincolnshire County Council. Permission was granted subject to a condition requiring the undertaking of an archaeological scheme of works during groundworks. The watching brief was undertaken between the 23rd of November and the 3rd of December 2007.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Sutterton is located approximately 9km southwest of Boston in the administrative area of Boston Borough, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The school is located in the southern part of the village, on the east side of Station Road and is centred on National Grid Reference TF 286 353 (Fig. 1). The site is on a very gentle slope down to the south at approximately 3m OD. Local soils are the Wisbech Association, mainly coarse silty calcareous soils developed on marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 361)

2.4 Archaeological Setting

The site lies within an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period.

Roman pottery and clay balls have previously been found during construction work at the school and a Romano-British settlement site with evidence of industrial probably activity. salt-making, was identified a short distance to the southwest, on the opposite side of Station Road. Large quantities of **Romano-British** pottery were recovered from ditches and pits that were filled with burnt materials. Cropmarks of a probable rectangular enclosure have been identified close to the school. Other cropmarks, which appear to define a double ditched trackway and further sub-rectangular enclosures, have been observed just the east to (Archaeological Project Services 1994: 1996).

Sutterton is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086, although ploughland and meadow in Dowdyke, now within Sutterton Parish, are referred to (Foster and Longley 1976). The now extinct settlement of Riche, to the north, is also recorded (Morris 1986).

Sutterton is first recorded in 1177, the place-name deriving from Old English and referring to 'the shoemakers village' (Cameron 1998).

The parish church of St Mary contains architectural features in the late Norman, early English and Decorated styles.

3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Foundation trenches for the children's centre were excavated by a mechanical excavator working under archaeological supervision. Trenches were then cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits excavated further to retrieve were artefactual material and to determine their function. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 2. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

The records were checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the

deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. **RESULTS**

Following post-excavation analysis two phases were identified;

Phase 1	Undated deposits
Phase 2	Recent deposits

The level of the lower horizon of the natural silty clays was not reached during the groundworks.

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

5.2 Undated deposits

A single deposit of soft greyish brown silty clay (003) varying to soft reddish brown silty clay (006) extended across the base of all the groundworks (Fig. 4 Sections 1 and 2). At least 0.54m deep this deposit was alluvial in nature although it had clearly been disturbed or re-deposited.

5.3 Recent deposits

Undated deposit (003=006) was sealed by a loose buff yellowish brown hardcore deposit (002=005) forming the bedding layer for the current tarmac yard surface (001=004).

6. **DISCUSSION**

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with the extension of the Fourfields C of E School, Sutterton, Lincolnshire, to provide a children's centre on the site.

Despite its archaeologically sensitive location, with Romano-British artefacts having previously been found on the site, only undated and recent deposits were recorded. However the level of natural strata was not reached by the groundworks and it is therefore possible that earlier remains survive, buried at a lower depth.

7. CONCLUSION

The watching brief revealed deposits of undated and recent origin, although it is possible that earlier finds survive buried at a lower level.

No archaeological finds were recovered during the watching brief.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of John Turner of Mouchel Business Services who commissioned both the watching brief and this report. The project was coordinated by Gary Taylor, who along with Tom Lane edited this report.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor Site Supervisor: Robert Garlant and Mary Nugent Photographic reproduction: Thomas Bradley-Lovekin Illustration: Thomas Bradley-Lovekin Post-excavation analysis: Thomas Bradley-Lovekin

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archaeological Project Services, 1994 Desk-top Assessment of the Archaeological Implications of Proposed Development of land next to the Cemetery, Station Road, Sutterton, Lincolnshire, unpublished APS report **29/94**. Archaeological Project Services, 1996 Archaeological Evaluation on land south of the Cemetery, Station Road, Sutterton, Lincolnshire, (SSR95), unpublished APS report **5/96**

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

- APS Archaeological Project Services
- DoE Department of the Environment
- IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists



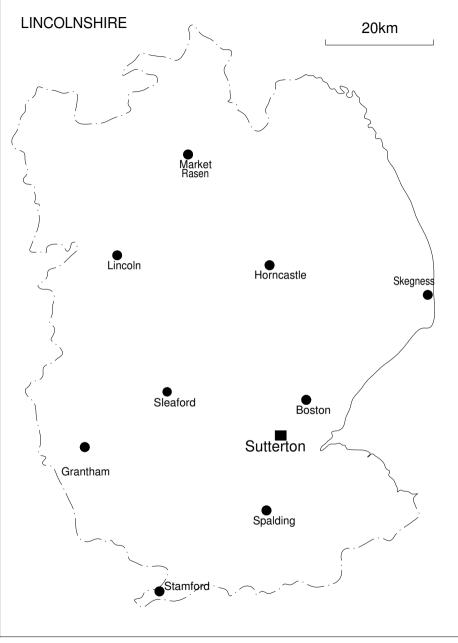


Figure 1 General Location Plan

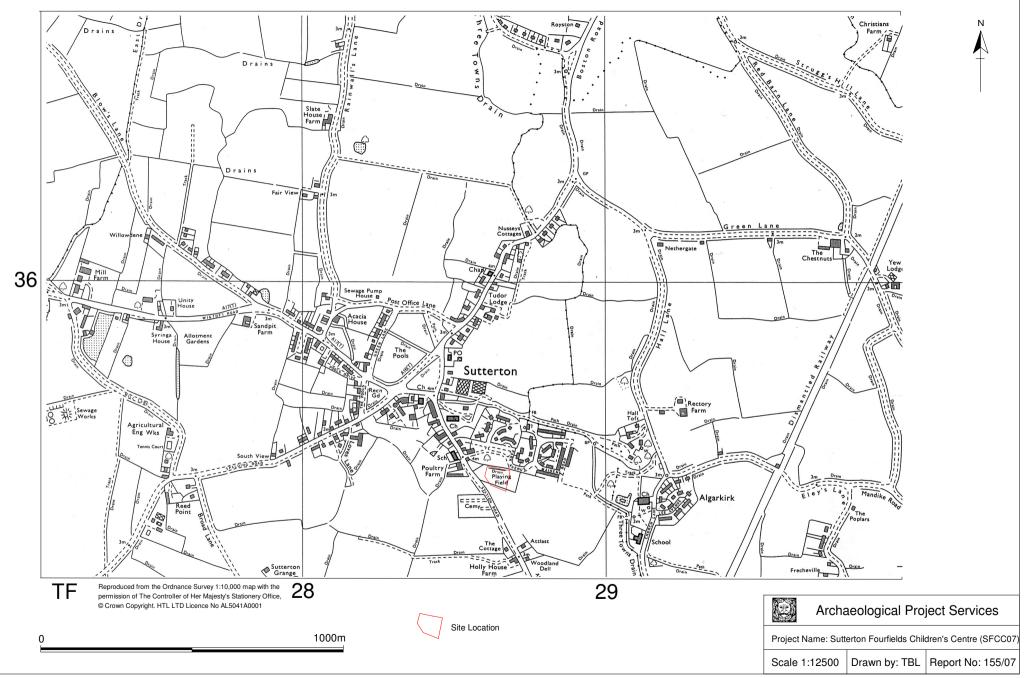


Figure 2 Site Location Map

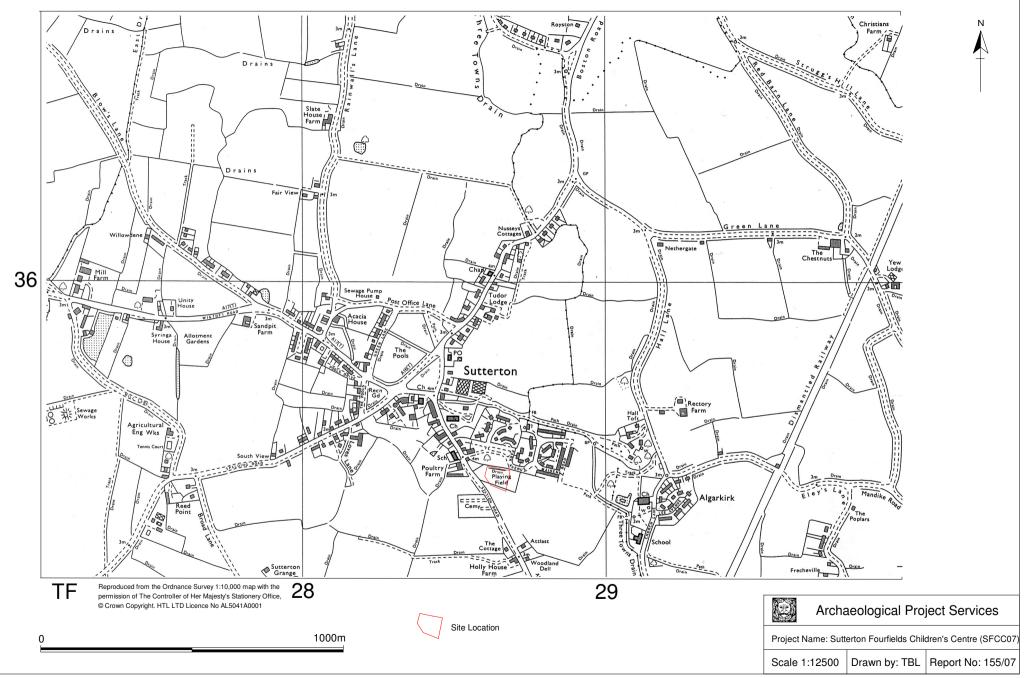


Figure 2 Site Location Map

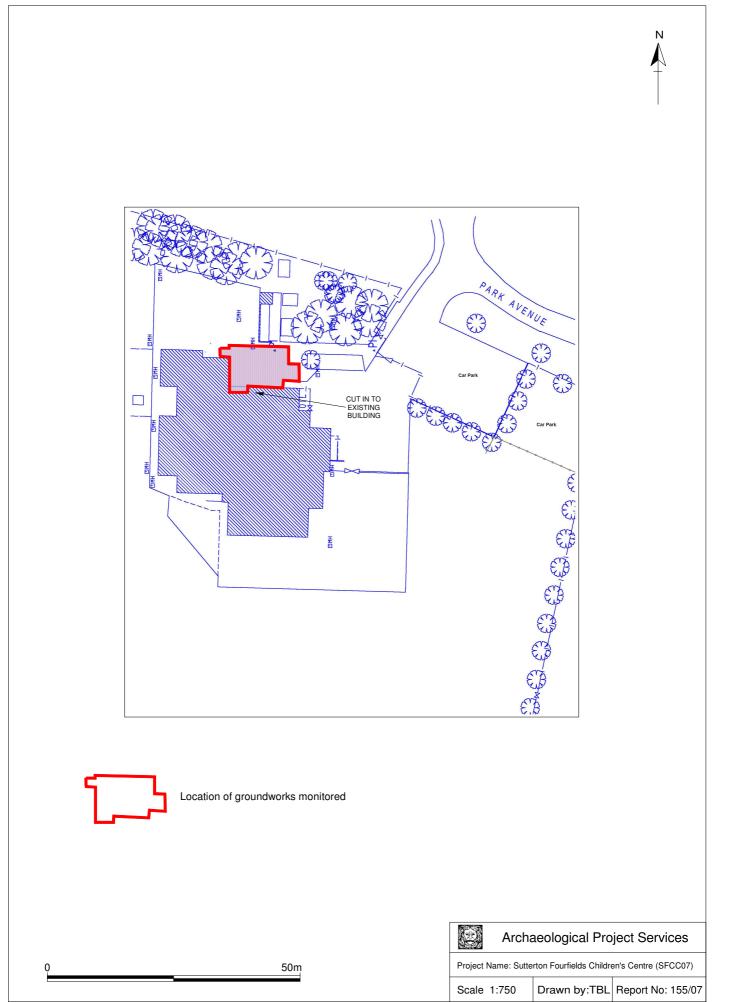


Figure 3 Plan of development showing location of groundworks monitored

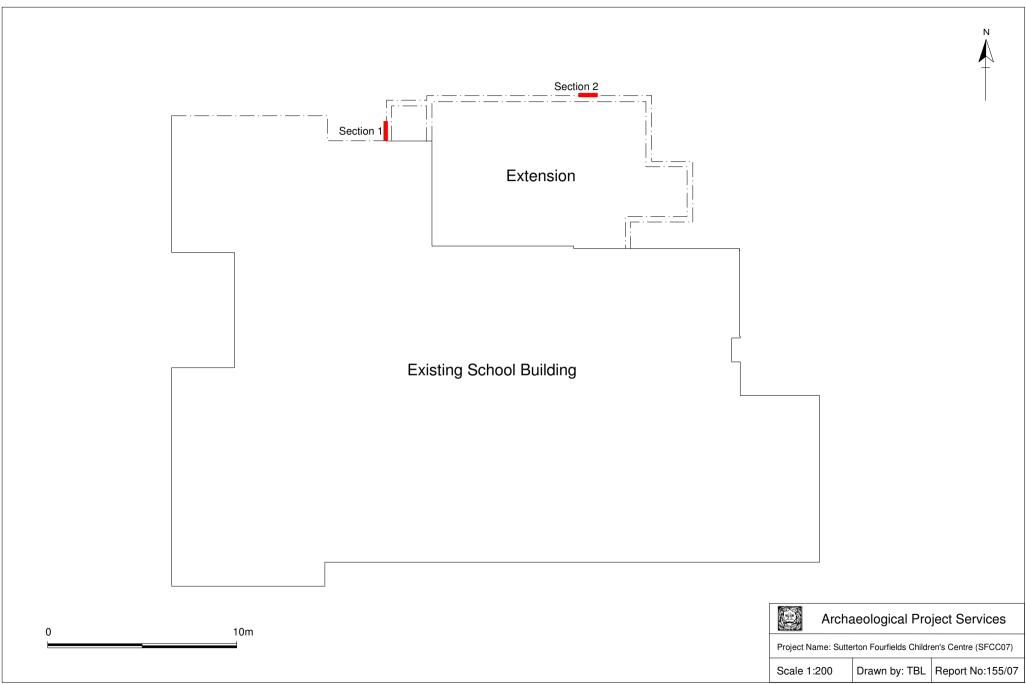


Figure 4 Plan of groundworks monitored showing section location

S N

Section 1

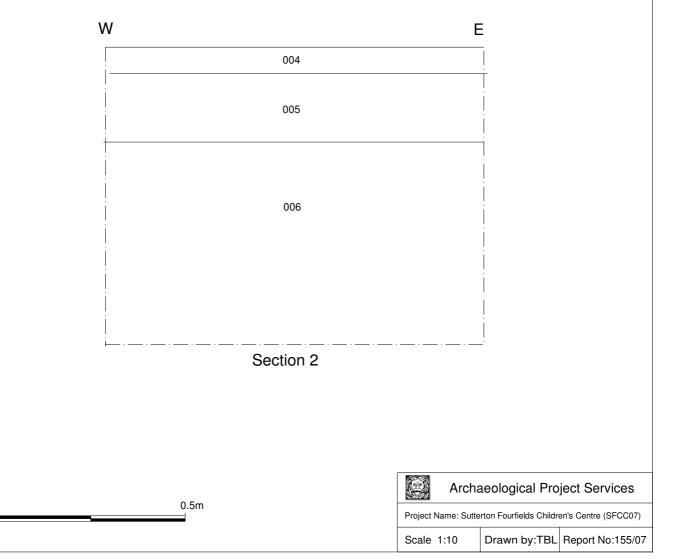


Figure 5 Sections 1 and 2

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Plate 1 East facing view across development area showing work in progress



Plate 2 South facing view Section 1



Plate 3 North facing view Section 2

Appendix 1 LAND AT FOURFIELDS C of E SCHOOL, STATION ROAD, SUTTERTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCHEME OF WORKS

PREPARED FOR HBS/MOUCHEL BUSINESS SERVICES

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

NOVEMBER 2007

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 A scheme of archaeological work is required during construction of extensions and alterations to Fourfields C of E School, Sutterton, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The site lies in an area of known archaeological significance. Roman artefacts have been found at the site itself and a Romano-British settlement with evidence of industrial activity, possibly salt-making, has been identified in close proximity.
- **1.3** The archaeological work will consist of monitoring during development works on the site and investigation of any remains revealed.
- 1.4 On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for an archaeological scheme of works during construction of extensions and alterations at Fourfields C of E School Children's Centre, Sutterton, Lincolnshire.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
 - 2.2.1 Overview.
 - 2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
 - 2.2.3 List of specialists.
 - 2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

3 SITE LOCATION

3.1 Sutterton is located approximately 9km southwest of Boston, in the administrative area of Boston Borough, Lincolnshire. The school is in the southern part side of the village and on the east side of Station Road, centred on National Grid Reference TF 286 353.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

4.1 A planning application (B/08/0553/07) was submitted to Lincolnshire County Council for

alterations and the construction of extensions to the Children's Centre, Fourfields C of E School, Sutterton. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the undertaking of an archaeological scheme of works during groundworks associated with the development.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The site is on fairly level ground at approximately 3m OD. Local soils are the Wisbech Association, mainly coarse silty calcareous soils developed on marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 361).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 The development site lies in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British periods.
- 6.2 Roman pottery and clay balls were found during construction at the school. Additionally, a Romano-British settlement site with evidence of industrial activity, probably salt-making, was identified a short distance to the southwest, on the opposite side of Station Road. Large quantities of Roman pottery were recovered from ditches and pits that also were filled with burnt materials. Cropmarks of a probable rectangular enclosure have been identified close to the school. Other cropmarks, which appear to define a double-ditched trackway and further sub-rectangular enclosures, have been observed just to the east (Archaeological Project Services 1994; 1996).
- 6.3 It is thought likely that the groundworks may disturb archaeological deposits from Roman date.

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the investigation will be:
 - 7.1.1 To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
 - 7.1.2 The objectives of the investigation will be to:
 - Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
 - Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
 - As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
 - Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8 SITE OPERATIONS

- 8.1 <u>General considerations</u>
 - 8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the investigation.
 - 8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the

Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIFA). Archaeological Project Services is IFA registered organisation no. 21.

8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

8.2 <u>Methodology</u>

- 8.2.1 The investigation will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement. Should it be necessary, development groundwork will be halted to permit full investigation and recording of exposed archaeological remains.
- 8.2.2 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
- 8.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 8.2.4 Throughout the investigation a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
 - the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trenches.
 - groups of features where their relationship is important
- 8.2.5 Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department and the police will be informed.

9 **POST-EXCAVATION**

- 9.1 <u>Stage 1</u>
 - 9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the investigation will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
 - 9.1.2 All finds recovered during the fieldwork will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.
- 9.2 <u>Stage 2</u>
 - 9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the

various phases of activity on the site.

- 9.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.
- 9.3 <u>Stage 3</u>
 - 9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the investigation will be prepared.
 - 9.3.2 This will consist of:
 - A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
 - A description of the archaeological setting of the investigation.
 - Description of the topography of the site.
 - Description of the methodologies used during the investigation.
 - A text describing the findings of the investigation.
 - A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the investigation findings.
 - Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
 - Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.
 - Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
 - Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
 - Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10 REPORT DEPOSITION

10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the Client; the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record; and to the Boston Borough Council Planning Archaeologist. The report will be supplied within 2 months of the completion of fieldwork, unless otherwise agreed.

11 ARCHIVE

11.1 The documentation and records generated during the investigation will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to The Collection, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives for long-term storage and curation.

12 PUBLICATION

12.1 Details of the investigation will be input to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCHEME OF WORKS AT FOURFIELDS C of E SCHOOL, SUTTERTON, LINCS.

Investigations (OASIS).

12.2 If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Section. Archaeological Project Services will endeavour to give the Historic Environment Section at least 2 weeks written notice of the commencement of the project.

14 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

- 14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 14.2 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator (*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* 1998, Sections 5.7 and 18).
- 14.3 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.
- 14.4 Any contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or post-excavation analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the archaeological curator and the client.

15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 15.1 The investigation will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.
- 15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of such investigations will undertake the work.
- 15.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one person-day) will require a post- excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half person-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about four days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

16.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCHEME OF WORKS AT FOURFIELDS C of E SCHOOL, SUTTERTON, LINCS.

particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	Body to be undertaking the work	
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln	
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust	
	Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist/M Wood, APS	
	Post-Roman - J Young, Independent Specialist/A Boyle, APS	
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist, or G Taylor, APS	
Animal Bones	J Kitch, APS	
Environmental Analysis	J Rackham/V Fryer, Independent Specialists	
Human Remains Analysis	J Kitch, APS	

17 INSURANCES

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

18 COPYRIGHT

- 18.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.
- 18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 18.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.
- 18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

19 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archaeological Project Services, 1994 Desk-top Assessment of the Archaeological Implications of Proposed Development of land next to the Cemetery, Station Road, Sutterton, Lincolnshire, unpublished APS report

Archaeological Project Services, 1996 Archaeological Evaluation on land south of the Cemetery, Station Road, Sutterton, Lincolnshire (SSR95), unpublished APS report

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales **13**

Specification: Version 2, 14-11-07

APPENDIX 2 Context Summary

Context	Description	Depth/ Height	Interpretation
001	Firm black tarmac	0.09m	Modern tarmac yard surface
002	Loose buff yellowish brown hardcore deposit	0.12m	Hardcore base level
003	Soft greyish brown silty clay	0.52m>	Alluvial deposit
004	Firm black tarmac	0.07m	Modern tarmac yard surface
005	Loose buff yellowish brown hardcore deposit	0.18m	Hardcore base level
006	Soft reddish brown silty clay	0.54m	Alluvial deposit

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Alluvium	Deposits laid down by water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea, and fresh water alluvium is laid down by rivers and in lakes.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, e.g. [004].
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological or geological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, etc. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Layer	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 6 Context records
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 1 Section record sheet
- 4 Daily record sheets
- 1 Sheet of scale drawings

All primary records are currently kept at:

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

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire Museums Services The Collection Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire Danes Terrace Lincoln LN2 1LP

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

SFCC07

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number: 2007.220

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright*, *Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.