ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCHEME OF WORKS REPORT:

STAMFORD JUNIOR SCHOOL, KETTERING ROAD, STAMFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE

Planning Reference: S08/0857/69 NGR: TF 02774 06629 AAL Site Code: STAM 09 LCCM Accession Number: 2009.45 OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-69279



Report prepared for Integrated Design Consultants On behalf of Stamford Junior School

> By Allen Archaeology Limited Report Number 2009068

> > December 2009



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Document Control

Element	Name	Date		
Report prepared by:	Lavinia Green and Chris Clay	11/11/2009		
Report edited by:	Mark Allen	14/12/2009		
Report produced by:	AAL 2009	15/12/2009		

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Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Integrated Design Consultants on behalf of Stamford Junior School to undertake an archaeological strip, map and record at Stamford Junior School, Kettering Road in Stamford, Lincolnshire in advance of the construction of a new nursery building.
- The site lies in an area of some archaeological potential and interest, just beyond the historic core of the Anglo-Saxon and medieval town, although a single Saxon burial was found below the existing nursery. The Benedictine nunnery of St. Mary and St. Michael was founded in 1155, c.100m to the north of the site.
- A strip, map and record area, measuring 26m by 17m was undertaken within the area of the proposed new nursery building. The fieldwork identified a sequence of post-medieval to early modern pits and dumped deposits overlying the natural geology. Residual material was also recovered, in the form of two prehistoric flints, a sherd of Roman pottery and a sherd of medieval pottery.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (hereafter AAL) was commissioned by Integrated Design Consultants, on behalf of Stamford Junior School to carry out an archaeological strip, map and record scheme at Stamford Junior School, Kettering Road in Stamford, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The excavation, recording and reporting conforms to current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Archaeologists 'Standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluations' (IfA 1999, revised 2001 and 2008), the local guidelines set out in the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice (LCC 2009), and a specification prepared by this company (Clay 2009).
- 1.3 The archive will be submitted to The Collection in Lincoln, within six months of the completion of the report, where it will be stored under the museum accession number 2009.45.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The site is situated in the administrative district of South Kesteven and within the town of Stamford, approximately 18km west-north-west of central Peterborough and 63km south of the centre of Lincoln. The site is to the south of the historic core of Stamford, in the grounds of Stamford Junior School, and centres on NGR TF 02713 06566.
- 2.2 The site lies at approximately 25m OD on a solid geology of Lower Lincolnshire Limestone, with no overlying drift geology recorded (British Geological Survey 1984).

3.0 Planning Background

3.1 A planning application has been submitted to South Kesteven District Council for the demolition of an existing temporary nursery building and the erection of a single-storey new nursery at Stamford Junior School (Planning Application Reference S08/0857/69). The application was granted with conditions, including the undertaking of a strip, map and record programme of archaeological investigation on the site of the new nursery, and a watching brief during the demolition of the existing nursery. Following a decision to retain the existing nursery building however the watching brief was deemed unnecessary.

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 The site lies in an area of significant archaeological potential. There is limited evidence of prehistoric or Romano-British activity in the area, although small numbers of Roman pottery sherds have been recovered from the town (For example, Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (hereafter LHER) Reference 30750). A Roman fort did exist immediately to the north of Stamford, at Great Casterton, and this was superseded by a walled town that was occupied throughout the Roman period (Whitwell 1992). Great Casterton lies on the line of Ermine Street, which runs from London to York, and crosses the River Welland approximately 100m west of the site.
- 4.2 Stamford was an important Viking period settlement, being one of the documented 'Five Boroughs'; along with Lincoln, York, Derby and Leicester, representing the major settlements of the Viking controlled Danelaw during the 9th century (Sawyer 1998).
- 4.3 There is plentiful evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity in Stamford. Documentary evidence suggests that four years after the submission of the Viking settlement in 918 AD, a fortified burgh

was built on the south side of the river by Edward the Elder. A possible ditch recorded off Station Road, to the east of the site, may represent part of this defended enclosure (Sawyer 1998, LHER Reference 30644). Saxon period features have also been recorded in the centre of the town, including beam slots, pits and hearths (LHER References 30757 and 30758), and a pottery kiln of 9th century date from within the grounds of the former castle of Stamford (LHER Reference 30671). A Saxon burial was recorded below the existing nursery (Young 2008), and a single early Saxon sherd was recovered from the school grounds to the south of the site (LHER Reference 36105). There was also a mint operating in the town during the 10th century, and a Sunday market by at least the 12th century, and possibly earlier (Sawyer 1998).

- 4.4 Shortly after the Norman Conquest a motte and bailey castle was built in Stamford, on the north side of the river (LHER Reference 30667). The castle was in a poor state of repair by 1340 and was destroyed in the reign of Richard III (1483 5). The motte has been partially levelled and there is little else left of the castle above ground. The Domesday Book of 1086 suggests that at this time Stamford was a major settlement of more than 4000 inhabitants (Sawyer 1998).
- 4.5 Stamford continued to be a prosperous town in the Middle Ages, and was defended by a substantial stone curtain wall. The defended area of the town was to the north of the river, so the current site lies outside the circuit of the walls.
- 4.6 The site is located less than 100m to the north of the site of the Benedictine nunnery of St. Mary and St. Michael, founded in 1155. Several elements of this establishment have been identified, including associated burials and structural remains, largely identified beneath the railway line and the main school grounds to the south of the proposed development area (LHER Reference 30617). These remains are subject to Scheduled Ancient Monument status (SAM 22607).

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The agreed methodology was twofold, comprising a strip, map and sample in advance of the construction of the new nursery, and a watching brief during any below-ground works associated with the demolition of the existing nursery. The watching brief element was not required following a decision to retain the existing nursery building. The strip, map and sample methodology was applied to an area of approximately 26m by 17m within the area of the proposed new nursery. A team of two experienced field archaeologists carried out the fieldwork over a period of five working days, commencing on March 30th 2009.
- 5.2 The strip, map and sample area was agreed in advance with the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist, and was located on site using measuring tapes, measuring in from known boundaries. Topsoil, subsoil and underlying non-archaeological deposits were removed by mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket in spits no greater than 100mm in depth. The process was repeated until the first archaeologically significant or natural horizon was exposed or the maximum depth of the proposed groundworks was reached (400mm below existing ground level).
- 5.3 A full written record of the archaeological and natural deposits was made on standard AAL context recording sheets. Plans and sections were drawn to scale (1:20), with Ordnance Datum heights being displayed on each class of drawing. Colour photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy. All photographs incorporated scales, an identification board and directional arrow, and a selection of these images has been included in Appendix 1.
- 5.4 Each deposit, layer or cut was allocated a unique identifier (context number), and accorded a written description, a summary of these are included in Appendix 5. Three digit numbers within square brackets reflect cut features (e.g. pit [13]).

6.0 Results (Figures 3 and 4)

- 6.1 The uppermost deposit encountered was a topsoil up to 0.40m deep, comprising dark brownish grey silt with occasional limestone, modern rubble and glass fragments, 01. Two sherds of brown glazed pottery of mid 17th to 18th century date and a fragment of a glazed animal figurine of late 18th to 19th century date were recovered from this layer. At the south edge of the site the topsoil partially sealed a cement and gravel bedding layer for the adjacent car park, 03, below which was a thin lens of buried topsoil 08, and a dump of redeposited topsoil, 04.
- 6.2 A sequence of dumped deposits was recorded towards the east side of the site, cut by a number of modern services. Sealed below the topsoil 01, was a layer of mid orange/brown silty clay, 14, which contained a sherd of 19th to 20th century Buff ware. It sealed layer 24, a grey/brown clayey silt, and layer 15, a dark brown clayey silt, which contained six sherds of pottery. Five of these sherds were 18th to 20th century glazed earthenwares, with the sixth being a Roman greyware sherd from the 2nd century AD or later. A single flint flake of broadly prehistoric date was also recovered.
- 6.3 Layer 15 sealed a small, steep sided linear feature with a flat base, [17]. The feature was aligned north-east to south-west, although its full extent was undetermined as it was sealed by layer 015. It contained a single undated fill of mid brown silt, 12, that was very similar to the overlying layer 15.
- 6.4 Further to the north, layer 15 also sealed layer 25, a mid orange/brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks, recorded as layer 21 in the northern portion of the site. A single sherd of 18th century slipware was recovered from this layer.
- 6.5 At the north end of the site 21 was cut by a sub-square pit, [20] with shallow sloping sides, which extended beyond the northern limit of excavation. It contained 19, a mid brown clayey silt with occasional limestone and charcoal fragments. Within the fill was a single sherd of mid 17th to 18th century Brown-glazed earthenware, an iron bar, an iron nail and an iron bolt with two washers.
- 6.6 Two further intercutting features were recorded towards the south side of the site, cutting through layer 14. Pit [07] was slightly irregular in plan, and contained an undated primary fill of brown clayey silt, 06. This was sealed by a dark brown/grey clayey silt, 05, which contained a sherd of late 18th to early 19th century Nottingham stoneware and a sherd of 19th to 20th century earthenware pottery.
- 6.7 [07] cut through the east edge of a large irregular pit, [13], containing a sequence of dumped deposits, 09, 10 and 11. The primary fill, 11, contained a single sherd of a 19th to 20th century earthenware flower pot, and the secondary fill, 10, contained a further piece of 19th to 20th century flower pot, as well as a sherd of mid 17th to mid 18th century black glazed ware and a sherd of 13th to 14th century Stanion/Lyveden ware pottery. An irregular prehistoric flint waste flake was also recovered from this deposit, along with a small assemblage of metal objects, comprising six iron nails, an iron screw and an iron bolt.
- 6.8 To the north of pits [07] and [13], two distinct areas of in-situ burning were noted, numbers 22 and 23. Modern metal finds were recovered from these deposits, including screws, nails and copper wire.
- 6.9 The natural geology was exposed in the western half of the site, and along the eastern edge of the site, comprising 02, a limestone brash in a mid brown clayey sand matrix.
- 6.10 An auger sample was undertaken at the north side of the site, within pit [20]. The sequence showed the pit fill, 19 extended to a depth of 0.16m, sealing layer 21. The layer was found to be approximately 0.12m deep and sealed the natural limestone brash.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1 The earliest material recovered from the site comprised two residual flint flakes. Neither of the pieces was more closely dateable than broadly being of prehistoric date, and indicates only a limited degree of prehistoric activity in the vicinity.
- 7.2 A single pot sherd each of Romano-British and medieval date were recovered from the site, and are also considered to be residual. Despite the proximity of the former nunnery of St. Mary and St. Michael, there was no further evidence of medieval activity.
- 7.3 The remaining finds and features represented a number of dumps of material that produced pottery and metal objects of 18th to 20th century date. The 1889 Ordnance Survey map of the area shows buildings immediately adjacent to the railway line in the southern half of the site (Figure 5), and the dumps of material recorded during the current programme of works may be related to the railway line and these buildings.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

8.1 This scheme of archaeological investigation has enabled an appropriate sample of the impact area to be investigated and assessed in advance of the main groundworks for the development. The works have identified a number of post-medieval to early modern archaeological features and deposits of limited significance, mostly concentrated towards the east side of the site.

9.0 Acknowledgements

9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Integrated Design Consultants for this commission and Stamford Junior School for their co-operation during the fieldwork.

10.0 References

Clay, C., 2009, Specification for an archaeological scheme of works: Stamford Junior School, Kettering Road, Stamford, Lincolnshire, Allen Archaeological Associates, unpublished document

Sawyer, P., 1998, Anglo-Saxon Lincolnshire, History of Lincolnshire III, History of Lincolnshire Committee, Lincoln

Whitwell, J. B., 1992, *Roman Lincolnshire*. History of Lincolnshire Vol. II, History of Lincolnshire Committee for the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology

Young, J., 2008, South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist's Comments for Planning Application S08/0857/69

11.0 Site Archive

11.1 The documentary and physical archive is currently in the possession of AAL. It will be submitted to 'The Collection' in Lincoln within twelve months of the completion of the project, where it will be stored under the global accession number 2009.45.

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General view of the stripped area, looking north-west



Plate 2: Section through pit [20], at the north side of the site. Looking north-west



Plate 3: Section through pits [07] and [13], at the south side of the site. Looking south-east

Appendix 2: Worked Flint Assessment

By Hugo Lamdin-Whymark

An edge-damaged, and clearly residual, light brown flint flake with a light bluish-white surface cortication was recovered from context 15 and piece of irregular waste was recovered from context 10. These flints are not intrinsically datable, but provide some evidence for earlier prehistoric activity in the area of the excavation.

Appendix 3: Pottery Assessment

By Jane Young and Ian Rowlandson

A small group of mainly late post-medieval to early modern pottery, but also including one Roman and one medieval sherd, was recovered from the site. The assemblage contains similar material to that found on other sites in Stamford and the local area and both local and regional products are present in the group. There is nothing of especial note and the material may be retained by the school or discarded.

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	action	description	date
001	WHITE	Modern whiteware		figurine	1	1	26		base	retained by	honey coloured glaze; low fired; dog probably	late 18th to 19th
001	BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware	light orange coarse fabric	jar/bowl	2	1	29		base	retained by	red slip; int glaze; Staffs	mid 17th to 18th
005	NOTS	Nottingham Stoneware		hollow	1	1	1		BS	retained by		late 18th to early 19th
005	LERTH	Late earthenwares		flower pot	1	1	1		BS	retained by		19th to 20th
010	LERTH	Late earthenwares		flower pot	1	1	10		rim	retained by		19th to 20th
010	BL	Black-glazed wares	coarse purple fabric	jar	1	1	8		BS	retained by	int glaze; near vitrified	mid 17th to mid 18th
010	STANL Y	Stanion/ Lyveden	Fabric B	jug	1	1	6	applied fe strip	BS	retained by		13th to 14th
011	LERTH	Late earthenwares		flower pot	1	1	5		base	retained by		19th to 20th
014	NCBW	19th-century Buff		bowl/dish	2	1	5		rim & BS	retained by	cornish blue int glaze	19th to 20th
015	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware		very large bowl	2	1	19		rim	retained by	int glaze; fabric incl flint	18th to 19th
015	LERTH	Late earthenwares		flower pot	1	1	1		BS	retained by		19th to 20th
015	LERTH	Late earthenwares		flower pot	1	1	4		BS	retained by		19th to 20th
015	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware		bowl	1	1	5		BS	retained by	int glaze	18th to 19th
015	R	Roman pottery	Greyware	jar	1	1	1		BS	retained by	abraded; burnt; burnished line	2nd c+
015	LERTH	Late earthenwares		flower pot	1	1	3		BS	retained by		19th to 20th
019	BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware	fine red fabric	cup	1	1	1		BS	retained by	int & ext glaze	mid 17th to 18th
025	SLIP	Unidentified slipware	fine light orange fabric	large press- mould	1	1	25	trailed brown on yellow	BS	retained by	int white slip	18th

Appendix 4: Metal Finds Assessment

By Jane Cowgill

Introduction

A strip, map and record was undertaken by Allen Archaeology Limited at Stamford Junior School in advance of building works. The only archaeology encountered was post-medieval and modern pits, leveling layers and dumped deposits.

Methodology

The objects were visually examined and entered directly into the catalogue below.

Catalogue

Context 010.

6 assorted nails, 1 with head missing, 2 unused (round and panel nails). Lengths range from 40 - $60 \text{mm} \left(2^{5} /_{8} - 1^{1} /_{2}^{"}\right)$.

1 complete screw, length 51mm (2").

1 complete spout bolt, length 86mm $(3^3/8)$ ").

Context 015.

Iron rod, maximum dimensions 48 x 8 x 6mm.

Iron ring (thick washer?), diameter 24mm, central perforation 8mm.

Context 019.

Iron nail, square-sectioned shank, incomplete length 32mm, minerally-preserved wood on shank.

Iron bar, part of probable structural fitting, maximum dimensions 105 x 13 x 5mm.

Iron bolt with two washers, length 125mm (5").

Context 022.

2 complete identical clout nails, both clenched at 54mm from head, lengths 66mm ($2^{5}/8$ ").

1 complete screw, length 40mm $(1^{1}/2^{"})$.

Iron rod with round section, tapers towards both ends, length 50mm.

Context 023.

Crushed, corroded and distorted copper-alloy ring fitting, 48 x 42 x 22mm.

2 pieces of copper-alloy wire looped together, both composed of 7 twisted strands of wire.

Complete length c. 16cm.

White metal cap, with central perforation that was attached to an iron fitting, 3 additional perforations evenly spaced around the centre. Diameter $45 \text{mm} (1^3/4^{"})$, height $13 \text{mm}^{-1}/2^{"}$).

Fragment of distorted iron coil or spring, 25 x 18 x 9mm.

Panel nail, complete length 40mm $(1^{1}/2^{"})$.

Round nail, incomplete length 52mm.

Context 024.

White metal screw with looped head, length 36mm, shank diameter c.1.5mm.

Context 025.

Copper-alloy electrical contact? Maximum dimensions 36 x 5 x 3mm.

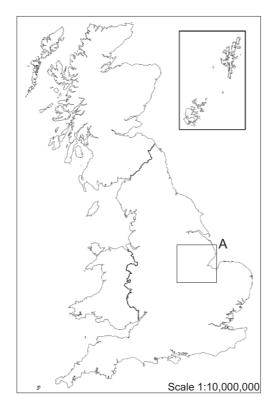
Discussion

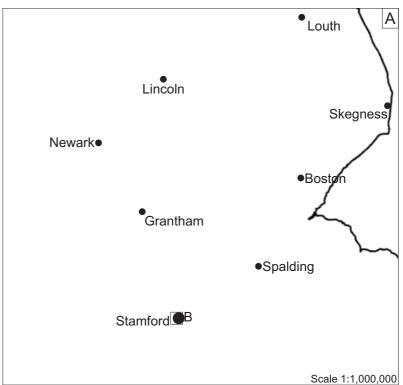
In the Post-Medieval period nails, screws and bolts would have been made in imperial measurements and these have been given, where appropriate, in brackets. The majority of the finds are associated with building work and are probably casual losses from an earlier construction phase that occurred on the site.

Note. 1 centimetre = 0.3937 inch. 1 inch = 3 grains of barley from the centre of the ear laid end to end. Baker, L. Mary, 1950, *Pears Cyclopaedia*, 60^{th} edition, 140-143.

Appendix 5: Context Summary List

Context No.	Туре	Description	Interpretation
01	Layer	Friable, dark brownish grey sandy silt, occasional limestone, modern building rubble.	Modern garden soil
02	Layer	Loose, mid brown clayey sand with frequent irregular sub-angular ironstone and limestone. Seals 018	Natural limestone brash
03	Layer	Compact, light grey cement and gravels, seals 04, 05, 08, 09. Sealed by 01	Levelling layer for adjacent car park partially sealed by topsoil
04	Layer	Friable, dark greyish brown, clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks, occasional irregular ironstone. Seals 05, sealed by 03	Dump of redeposited topsoil
05	Fill	Friable, dark brownish grey clayey silt with frequent charcoal flecks and fragments, occasional ironstone, occasional sub-rounded pebbles. Sealed by 03, 04 and 08	Secondary fill of [07]
06	Fill	Friable, mid brown, clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks and rare limestone. Sealed by 05	Primary fill of [07]
07	Cut	Slightly steep concave side (only the east-northeast side was visible), slightly rounded base. Contains 05, 06	Cut of pit
08	Layer	Friable, dark brownish grey, clayey silt with occasional limestones, seals 05, 06, 09	Lens of buried topsoil
09	Fill	Soft, mid orangey brown, silty clay with moderate ironstones, occasional limestone and rare charcoal flecks. Seals 10, sealed by 08	Tertiary fill of [13]
10	Fill	Friable, dark brownish grey clayey silt with occasional ironstone, occasional limestone, occasional charcoal flecks. Seals 11, sealed by 09	Secondary fill of [13]
11	Fill	Friable, mid brown, silty clay with occasional ironstones, occasional limestones and occasional charcoal flecks. Sealed by 10	Primary fill of [13]
12	Fill	Loose, mid brown, silt, sealed by 015	Backfill of gully [17]
13	Cut	Irregular in plan, with a steep slightly concave west-north-west side and irregular base. Contains 09, 10, 11	Cut of pit
14	Layer	Mid orange/brown silty clay. Seals 15	Dumped deposit
15	Layer	Soft, dark orangey brown, silt. Sealed by 14, seals 25	
16	Void	-	-
17	Cut	Steep sides with a flat base, aligned north-east to south-west. Contains 12	Cut of gully, possible former service trench
18	Layer	Orange/brown clayey sand. Sealed by 02.	Natural layer below limestone brash 02
19	Fill	Friable, mid brown, clayey silt with occasional limestone and ironstone and occasional charcoal fragments. Sealed by 01	Fill of pit [20]
20	Cut	Sub-square, shallow sloping sides and flat base. Contains 19, cuts 21, 25	Cut of pit
21	Layer	Loose, mid orangey brown, silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks, frequent limestone and ironstone. Same as 25. Sealed by 15, seals 02	Dumped deposit
22		Modern burnt area	
23	Deposit	Modern burnt area	
24	Layer	Dark brown clayey silt, frequent limestone. Seals 15	Dumped deposit
25	Layer	Loose, mid orangey brown, silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks, frequent limestone and ironstone. Same as 21. Sealed by 15, seals 02	Dumped deposit





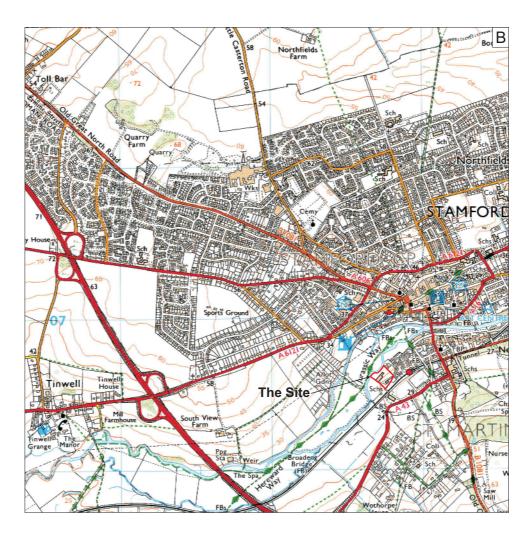


Figure 1: Site location at scale 1:25,000, with school grounds outlined in red © Crown copyright 2006. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100047330

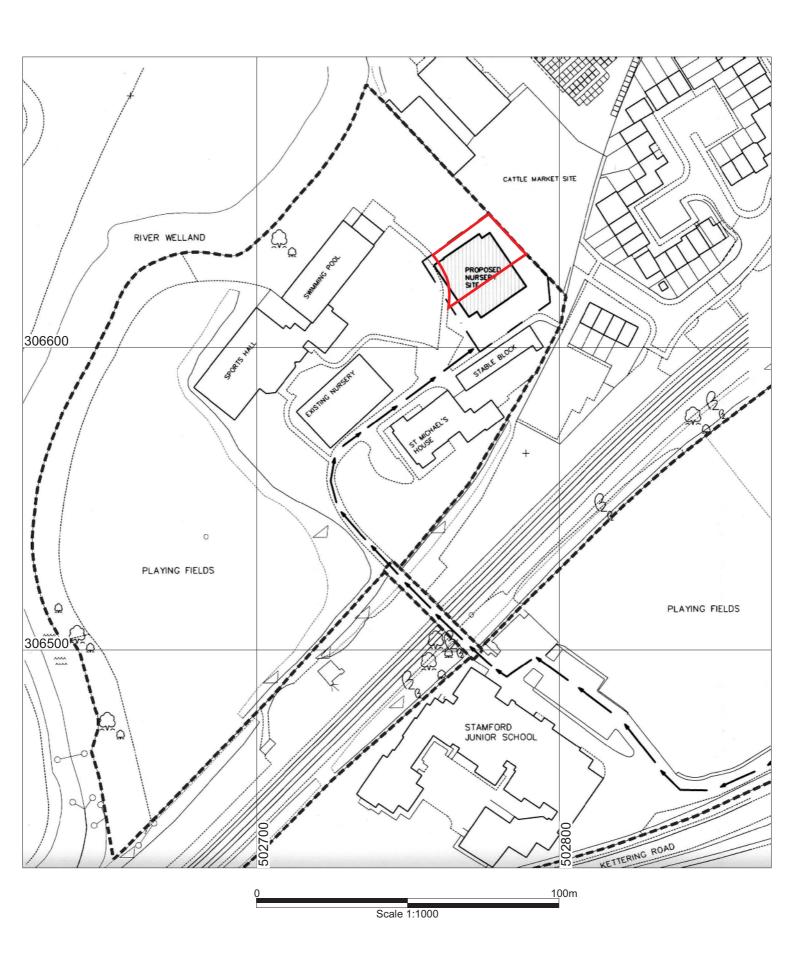


Figure 2: Site location at scale 1:1250, with the excavation area outlined in red



Figure 3: Plan of strip, map and record area at scale 1:100. Sections shown on Figure 4

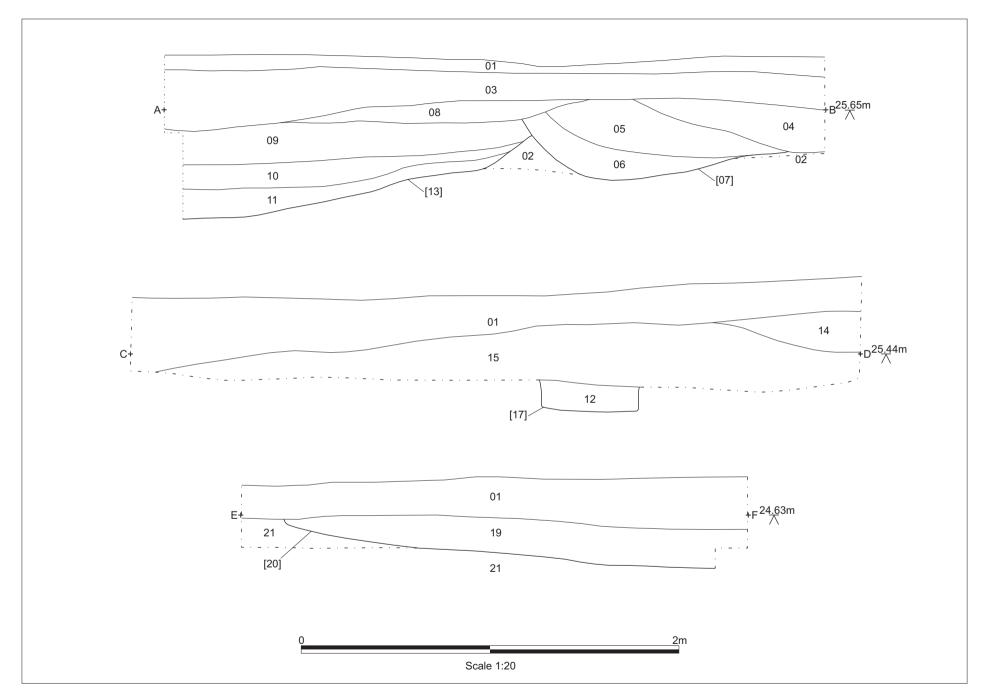


Figure 4: Sections at scale 1:20. Located on Figure 3

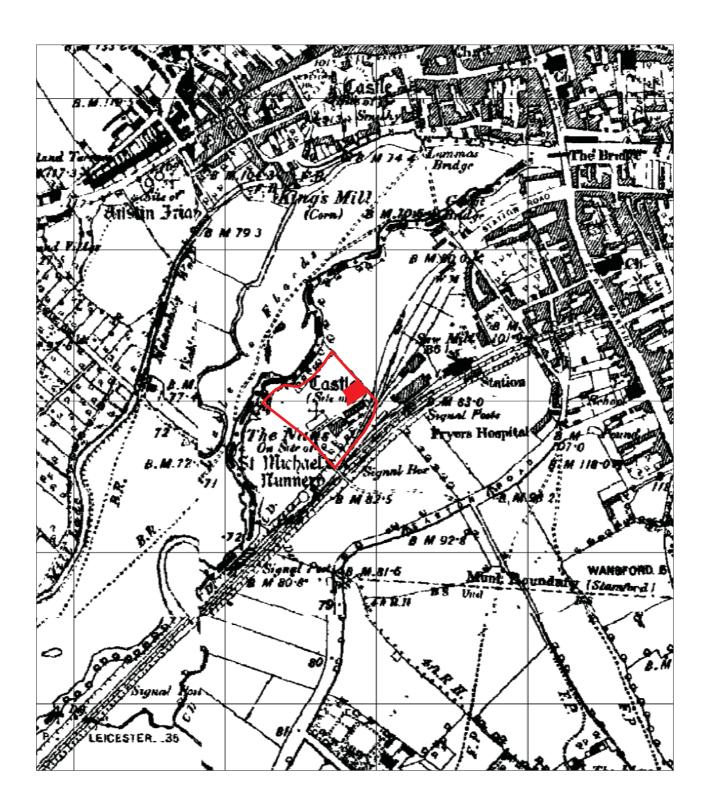


Figure 5: 1889 Ordnance Survey map of Stamford, with the school grounds outlined in red, and the strip, map and record area shown in solid red (scale 1:5000)