

ELI 514

SLI 5123 1487

54256 - Roman  
54257 - Early Med  
54258 - Post Med.

97/14

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**AT**

**CAISTOR GRAMMAR SCHOOL,  
CHURCH STREET,  
CAISTOR,  
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**Site Code CGS 97**

**Accession Number 195.97**

**National Grid Reference (NGR) TA 1155 0131**

**AOC (Archaeology) Ltd**

*on behalf of:*

*Britcon Ltd*

**August 1997**

Lincolnshire County Council  
Archaeology/Excavation

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## **1) SUMMARY**

*An archaeological watching brief was conducted by AOC (Archaeology) Ltd on behalf of Britcon Ltd to monitor the machine stripping of an area 627m<sup>2</sup> for a hard play area in the grounds of Caistor Grammar School in Lincolnshire. No archaeological features were encountered, although residual finds from the site indicate previously disturbed archaeological remains within the area.*

## **2) INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1 Site Location (Fig. 1)**

The site is situated in Caistor, Lincolnshire and lies at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TA 1155 0131. The proposed development lies in the grounds of Caistor Grammar School. The school building, the Lindsey Block, overlooks the site on the western side, whilst on the eastern side a succession of terraced levels rise up towards the main school entrance.

### **2.2 Planning Background**

Archaeological remains exist in the area. The depth of groundworks has the potential to disturb archaeological remains and as such the Archaeological Officer for Lincolnshire County Council has recommended that the groundworks be subject to an archaeological watching brief.

### **2.3 Archaeological Background**

The site has potential to contain remains of Roman (although lying outside of the walled limits of the town), Saxon and medieval date. The fact that the site has been terraced means that later deposits may have been removed and that the limited ground reduction for this site may expose early remains.

## **3) INVESTIGATION OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1 To make a record of significant remains revealed during the course of the groundworks associated with the construction of the hard play area.
- 3.2 To determine whether any extra-mural deposits of Roman date are present.
- 3.3 To establish whether remains of the Saxon and medieval site town are present and the types of activity that were undertaken on this at those times.

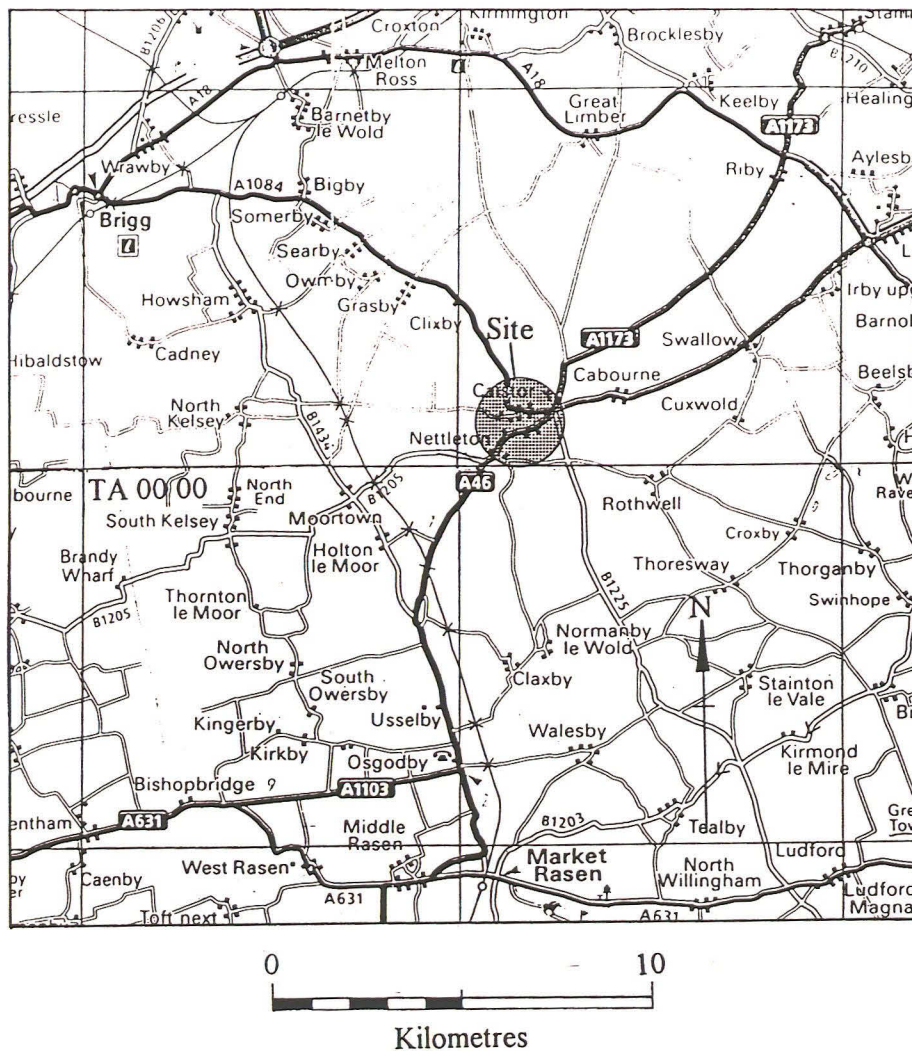


Figure 1: Site location

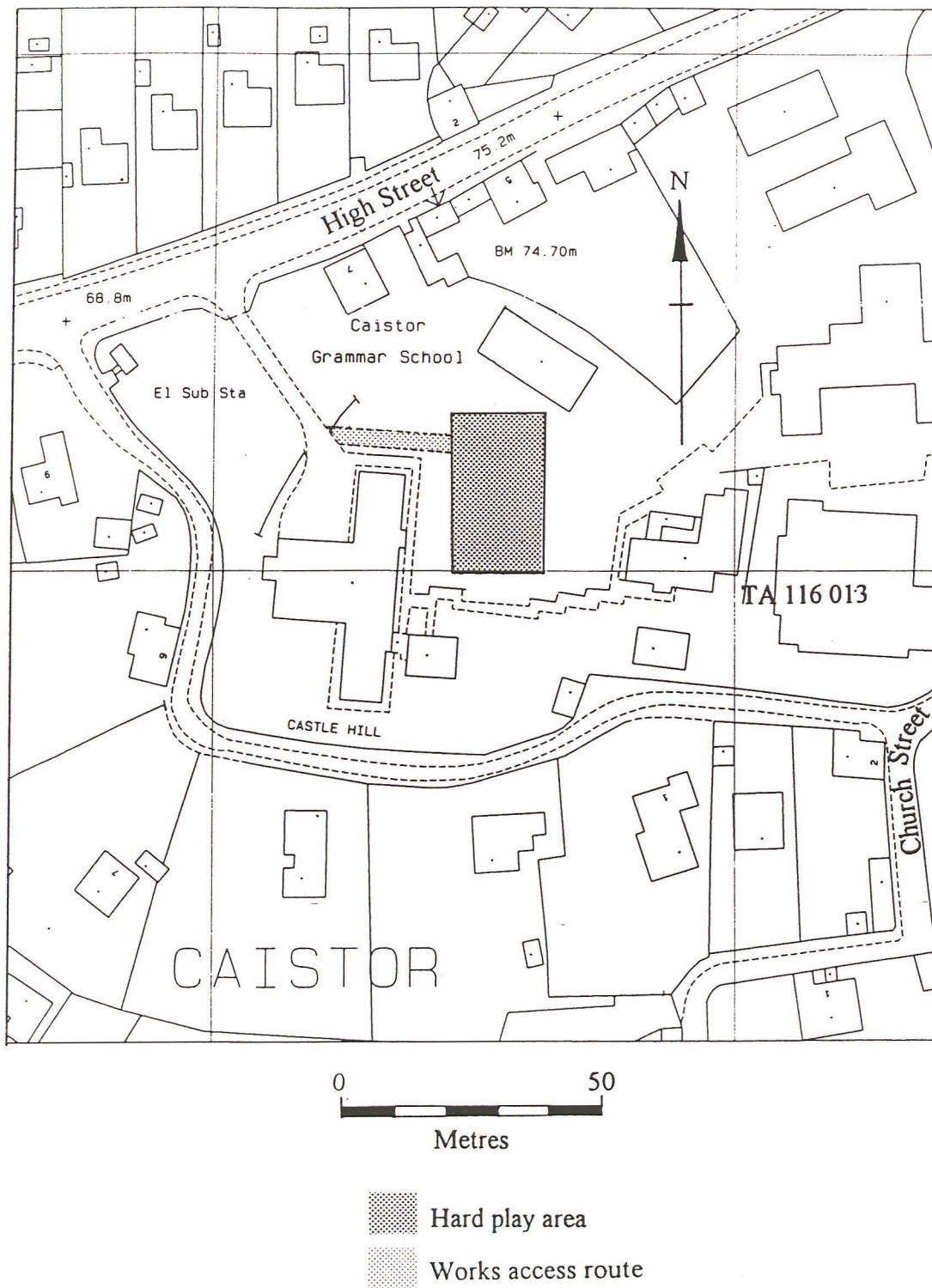


Figure 2: Location of monitored area.



## 4) STRATEGY

### 4.1 Research Design

A scheme of investigation was designed in agreement with the Archaeological Officer for Lincolnshire County Council. This involved monitoring the machine stripping of the area which was 19m wide (east-west) and 33m long (north-south), to an overall level of c. 10.10m OD (figure 2). Any archaeological features or other remains i.e. concentrations of artefacts, would be recorded by written, drawn and photographic record. All features would be sample excavated.

Provision was made for post-excavation analysis and reports to Level 3 as outlined in English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects* (1991).

The work was carried out to the standard specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994) and was monitored by Mr. Jim Bonner, Assistant Archaeological Officer for Lincolnshire County Council.

### 4.2 Methodology

The area was stripped using a 20 tonne 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.20m toothless grading bucket to a depth of c. 10.10m OD in spits of approximately 0.30m. Some areas of the final machined surface were hand cleaned to check for cut archaeological features. A sample of all artefactual material was collected. An access track was stripped to the north east corner of the area and this was also monitored.

Standard AOC (Archaeology) Ltd. techniques were used throughout involving the completion of an appropriate drawn and written record for the deposits encountered. A photographic record was also made, using colour slide film.

## 5) RESULTS

### 5.1) Archaeology present.

The initial stripping of the access track (approximately 20m long and 3.5m wide) in the north east corner of site revealed nothing as only approximately 0.07m of the topsoil and the turf were removed.

Two contexts were recorded in the main area. The lowest deposit (002) was a mid yellowish brown sand with occasional clay patches and sub rounded gravel, at a level of 10.14m OD. Only a 10m by 5.5m area of this deposit was exposed in the south east corner of the site, which revealed no cut archaeological features. This was the natural on site. Overlying this was a friable mid-brown silt with occasional limestone inclusions (001) with a maximum depth of 0.90m in the south east corner. This context was a mixed topsoil, subsoil and turf layer. This deposit was only totally machine excavated in the south east corner of the site, over the remaining area the contractors' required level only partially removed this deposit. No cut features were apparent in this deposit.

## 5.2 Finds

A sample of finds was collected from (001). These were very mixed, with pot sherds ranging from Roman and early Saxon to 18th and 19th century and Ceramic Building Material ranging from Roman to 19/20th century, right up to a 1960 two shilling coin. (see appendix B). The lack of abrasion on both the pottery and the CBM may suggest a local origin for these finds.

## 6) DISCUSSION

During the course of the watching brief no archaeological features were identified. It seems very likely that the monitored area was very disturbed during the construction of the terracing on the east side of site during the middle of this century. This would explain both the lack of cut archaeological features and the very mixed nature of the finds in context (001).

No cut features were visible in the area of exposed natural (002) in the south east corner of the site. Although it is perfectly possible that such features may exist elsewhere on the site (this view is supported by some of the finds recovered), as the majority of the area was not machined below the base of topsoil, any potential surviving archaeology was not exposed and therefore not under threat from this development.

## 7) BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC (Archaeology) Ltd. (1997): *Caistor Grammar School, Church Street, Caistor  
Archaeological Watching Brief.  
Written Scheme of Investigation.*

Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994): *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological  
Watching Briefs.*

English Heritage (1991): *Management of Archaeological Projects*

## APPENDIX A

List of recorded contexts.

Context	Type	Length	Width	Depth/Thickness	Finds
001	Deposit	33m	19m	0.90m	CBM, Pot, Coin.
002	Deposit	10m	5m	-	-



## APPENDIX B

### Finds Reports

#### Ceramic Building Material Naomi Crowley

##### Introduction

The sample collected from the watching brief produced 6 fragments of ceramic building material, all from the topsoil, context 001. This was examined using a binocular microscope (x20), quantified by context, form and fabric.

##### Summary of materials

Context 001 produced 1 fragment of modern (19/20th century) pantile and 5 fragments of Roman tile. This is summarised in table 1 below. The Roman tile can be divided into 2 fabrics. Fabric 1 is a sandy fabric containing frequent quartz, occasional shell and iron oxide inclusions. Fabric 2 is less sandy with moderate quartz, occasional silty streaks and iron oxide inclusions. Three pieces of brick and one piece of imbrex roof tile occurs in Fabric 1. The brick fragments have mortar on surfaces and none of the pieces are abraded, suggesting that they are from a building close by. One fragment of combed flue tile occurs in Fabric 2. This has combed keying and sooted internal surfaces indicating that the building from which it came had a hypocaust system.

Table 1: Building Material

Context	Fabric	Form	Weight (g)	No of Fragments	Comments
001	1	Brick	2550	3	Signature marks on surface.
001	1	Imbrex	1020	1	-
001	2	Flue	200	1	Combed keying and sooted internal surface.
001	Modern	Pantile	140	1	-



Pottery Lucy Whittingham / Barbara Precious / Jane Young

A total of six sherds were collected from context 001. Four sherds were 18th to 20th century and consisted of one Transfer Printed Ware sherd, two English Porcelain sherds and one flowerpot sherd. One sherd of early Saxon Green Sand Ware ( fabric type ESGS ) was collected, dating from the 5th to 7th century. The final sherd was a Roman Miscellaneous Grey Ware bowl fragment from the mid 3rd to 4th century. Neither the Roman nor the Saxon sherd were very abraded.

Coin Darryl Palmer

One 1960 two shilling coin was collected from context 001.