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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Ellison Boulter's CE Primary School, Scothern**

**New Classrooms**

**NGR: TF 0353 7719**

**Site Code: SEBS 00**

**LCNCC Museum Accn No.: 2000.186**

**Planning Application No.: M00/P/0072**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Report prepared for  
CAD Associates  
on behalf of  
Lincolnshire County Council**

**by  
G. Tann**

**LAS Report No. 456**

**August 2000**

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## Contents

<b>List of Figures</b>	
<b>List of Plates</b>	
<b>Summary</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>The Development Site</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Archaeological Background</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>The Watching Brief</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Archive Summary</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Appendix 1: Tile Archive List</b>	
<b>Appendix 2: Context Summary</b>	
<b>The Figures</b>	
<b>The Plates</b>	

## List of Figures and Plates

### Figures

- Fig. 1** Location of Scothern (C based on the 1953 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map Sheet TF 07. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL50424A).
- Fig. 2** Location of Ellison Boulter's School, Scothern (based on a plan supplied by the client © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL50424A).
- Fig. 3** Position of the monitored groundworks, showing the alignment of furrow 3 (based on a plan supplied by the client, CAD Associates dwg no. 3215L/00/01. Copyright reserved).
- Fig. 4** Foundation plan of the new classroom block, showing position of archaeological features (based on a plan supplied by the client, CAD Associates dwg no. 3215L/00/01. Copyright reserved).

### Plates

- PI. 1** Willow trees marking the line of a watercourse NW of the new classroom area (looking NW).
- PI. 2** Soil deposits visible in the eastern foundation trench face. The grey material 2 is the fill of a medieval plough furrow 3 (scale divisions 0.2m).
- PI. 3** Position of the plough furrow 3, with the white staff marking its width. Note the water collecting in the furrow base. Looking south, scale divisions 0.2m.
- PI. 4** The octagonal internal trench, showing the dark soil filling pit or tree-hole 6 (extreme right). Looking NE to the existing school building.
- PI. 5** Water accumulating on the line of the drained watercourse, west of the new classroom foundations (looking east). The land slopes up to the east and south.

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## New Classrooms

### Archaeological Watching Brief

NGR: TF 0353 7719

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### Summary

Groundworks for the school extension identified evidence of medieval ridge and furrow extending to the edge of a small and apparently natural watercourse which survives beside the school. The ground either side of the stream had been poorly drained, and there was a soil horizon which was interpreted as colluvium from the higher ground to the south. Two fragments of tile and a small piece of brick were collected from a backfilled plough furrow.

### Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by CAD Associates (on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council) in May 2000 to conduct a watching brief during the mechanical excavation of footings and drainage trenches for a school extension at Sudbrooke Road, Scothern (Figs. 1 and 2). A condition of Lincolnshire County Council's full planning permission required an archaeological watching brief, for which a project design prepared by LAS in April 2000 was approved.

### The Development Site

The site is located on the western side of the school buildings, south of the village centre, and on the east side of Sudbrooke Road. The new classroom block covers an area 17m square and connects to the existing building via a glazed link (Fig. 3).

### Archaeological Background

Prehistoric artefacts have been reported from Scothern parish, but not from the vicinity of the school. In the past, a small number of Romano-British pottery sherds was collected from molehills in a pasture field about 120m to the SE of the school (SMR PRN No. 53124).

The settlement at Scothern was in existence in 1086 when the Domesday Survey was produced. The original parish extent may have been larger, and included Sudbrooke parish. At the end of the Anglo-Saxon period, the village was the centre of two manors, and its complex form is the result of development around the different focii. A distinct land block near the Manor House, in the core of the modern village, formed a grange held by Barlings Abbey after the late twelfth century (Everson, Taylor and Dunn 1991, 25,28). The full extent and arrangement of medieval settlement in Scothern is not known, and the school site might have produced further information.



## The Watching Brief

### Method

Context numbers were assigned to features and their fills for recording purposes; these are used in this report and are listed in Appendix 2.

The site of the new extension slopes down towards the NW, to a shallow watercourse partly flanked by willow trees (Pl. 1). The wet ground close to this watercourse had been consolidated with material and topsoil, spread after construction of the existing buildings. Some of this redeposited soil was removed before monitoring began.

The external foundation trenches were excavated with a toothed bucket through a 0.3m thick brown clay loam topsoil layer 1, which covered a light brown clay subsoil deposit 4 (Figs. 3 and 4). The topsoil produced a fragment of roof tile of post-medieval or later date.

South of the centre of the eastern foundation trench was an intervening deposit of grey clay 2, filling a feature which was aligned west-east (Pls. 2 and 3). The 4m wide feature 3 had sloping sides, and was over 0.3m deep in the centre. Two pieces of roof tile, and a fragment of brick were found in 2. The brick fragment may have been Roman (or post-medieval) and one piece of tile was medieval (Appendix 1). The fabrics are difficult to identify with certainty as they derive from an unknown kiln, and are unlike types from Lincoln. Feature 3 has been interpreted as a medieval plough furrow, which probably survived as an open earthwork under waterlogged conditions until construction of the school buildings in the twentieth century. One of the site workmen recalled the land being water meadow in the mid-twentieth century.

It was difficult to determine how much of the soil covering 2 was a naturally formed topsoil, and how much was soil introduced either by hillwash from the slope to the south, or by mechanical movement when the school site was cleared. The alignment of the furrow suggested that care had been taken to reduce soil loss by run-off, while still draining into the watercourse. The backfilled furrow continued to attract water from the surrounding land (Pl. 3).

Within the centre of the new building, an octagonal foundation trench was excavated to a depth of 0.8m from the stripped ground level. Wet weather had caused flooding of the site, and poor conditions for excavation of the trenches, which were not monitored but inspected afterwards. On the southern side, the black silt fill 5 of a 0.6m deep feature 6 was seen (Pl. 4). At first, this was thought to be a backfilled drainage ditch, but as no continuation was visible, it was reinterpreted as a pit or the backfilled hole from uprooting a tree. No other features were seen.

## **Conclusion**

There is a possibility that one fragment of Roman brick had reached this site in the medieval period as a result of hillwash from higher arable ground to the SE. There were no other indications of significant archaeological activity in the vicinity.

To the west of the school extension, a piped former ditch represents the original position of a small stream, draining the higher ground to the south (Pl. 5). The school occupies low-lying ground that was ploughed for a time in the medieval period, before becoming water meadow with relict ridge and furrow undulations. At a later date, possibly immediately before the school was built, the site was levelled. Further disturbance to the site has occurred since the main building was constructed.

## **Acknowledgements**

Site plans and access to the site were arranged through CAD Associates and Gelder Construction Ltd. LAS would also like to thank the Lincolnshire County Council Built Environment Team for their assistance during this watching brief.

Fieldwork for this project was conducted by the author, and the tile was identified by Jane Young. The report was collated and produced by Jane Frost.

Geoff Tann  
Lindsey Archaeological Services  
16th August 2000

## **References**

Everson, P.L., Taylor, C.C. and Dunn, C.J. 1991 *Change and Continuity: Rural Settlement in North-West Lincolnshire* RCHM(E); London.

## **Archive Summary**

archaeological finds: tile

specialist's archive list: tile

correspondence

developer's site plans (annotated)

photographs: colour prints LAS film nos. 00/54/0-7; 00/56/20-32



## APPENDIX 1

### Brick and Tile from Scothern School Archive List

Jane Young

Lindsey Archaeological Services

<b>context</b>	<b>cname</b>	<b>full name</b>	<b>frags</b>	<b>date</b>
1	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1	post-medieval to early modern
2	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1	not datable
2	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1	medieval
2	BRK	brick	1	Roman or post-medieval/early modern

## APPENDIX 2

### Context Summary

Context No.	Type	Relationships	Description
1	Layer	Over 4	Topsoil. 0.3m thick brown clay loam
2	Fill	Below 4, fill of 3	0.3m deep, 4m wide. Grey clay, with fragments of brick and tile
3	Linear feature	Filled by 2, cuts 7	4m wide, west-east aligned, but not seen in other trenches. 0.3m deep. Sloping sides, base not revealed. Plough furrow?
4	Layer	Below 1, over 2 and 5	Subsoil layer. Light brown clay. 0.15m thick
5	Fill	Below 4; fill of 6	Black silt, 0.6m thick. Other dimensions not known.
6	Cut	Filled by 5, cuts 7	0.6m deep. ?pit or backfilled tree-hole
7	Natural	Cut by 6	Mixed light brown/yellow sandy clay.

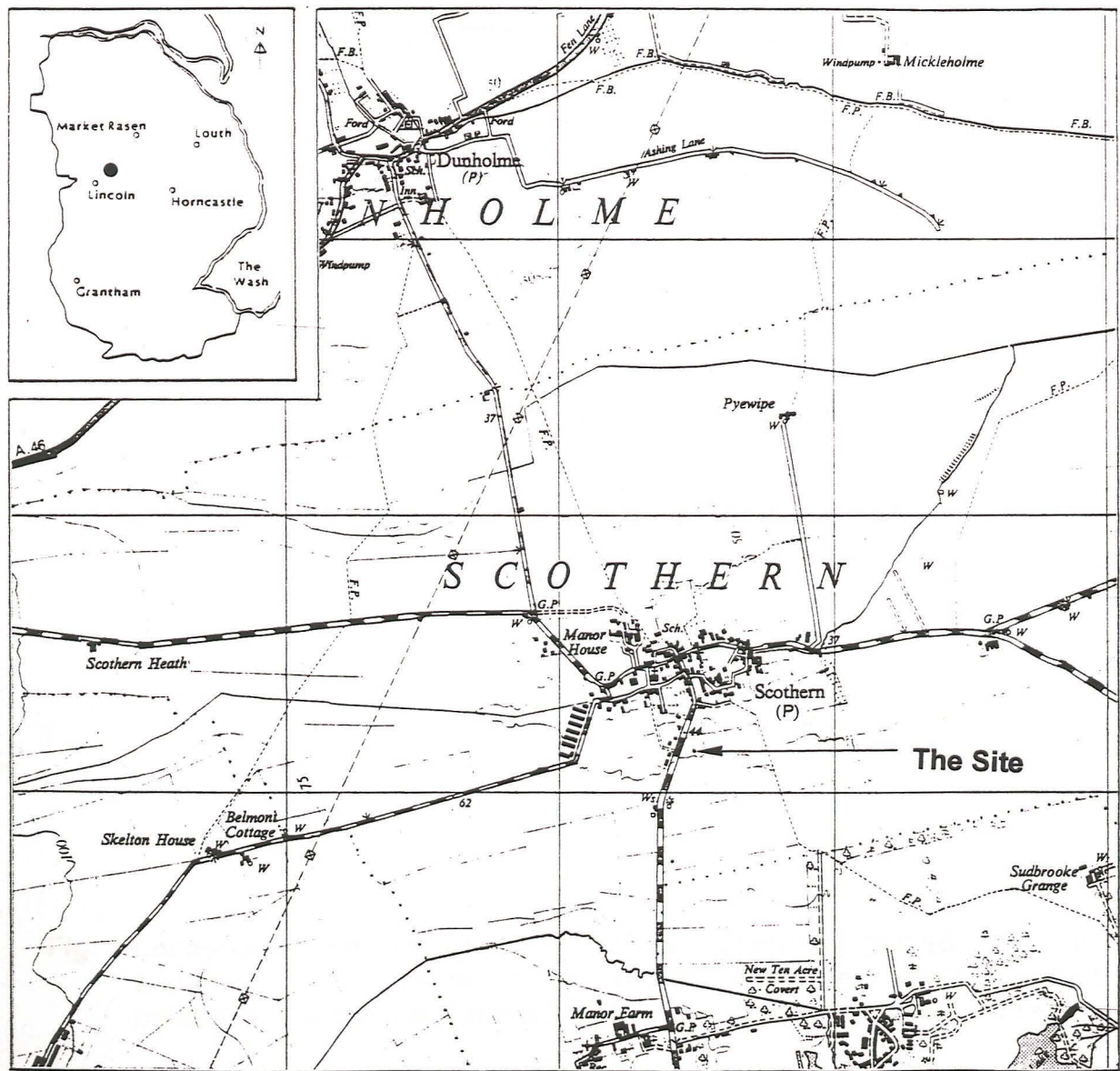
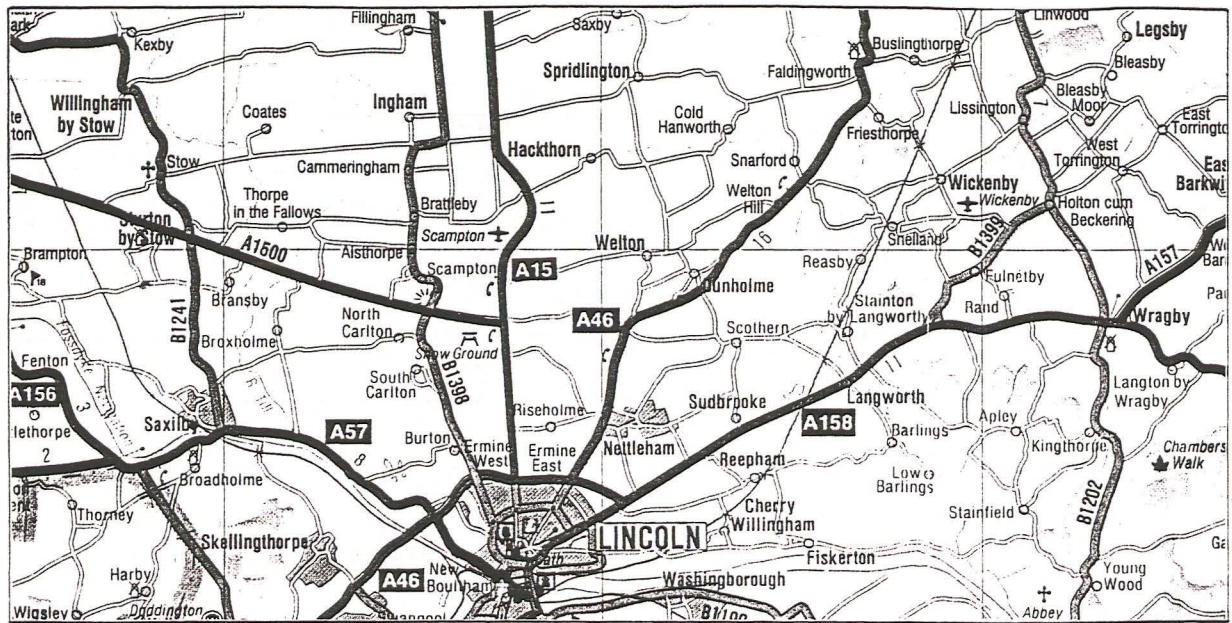
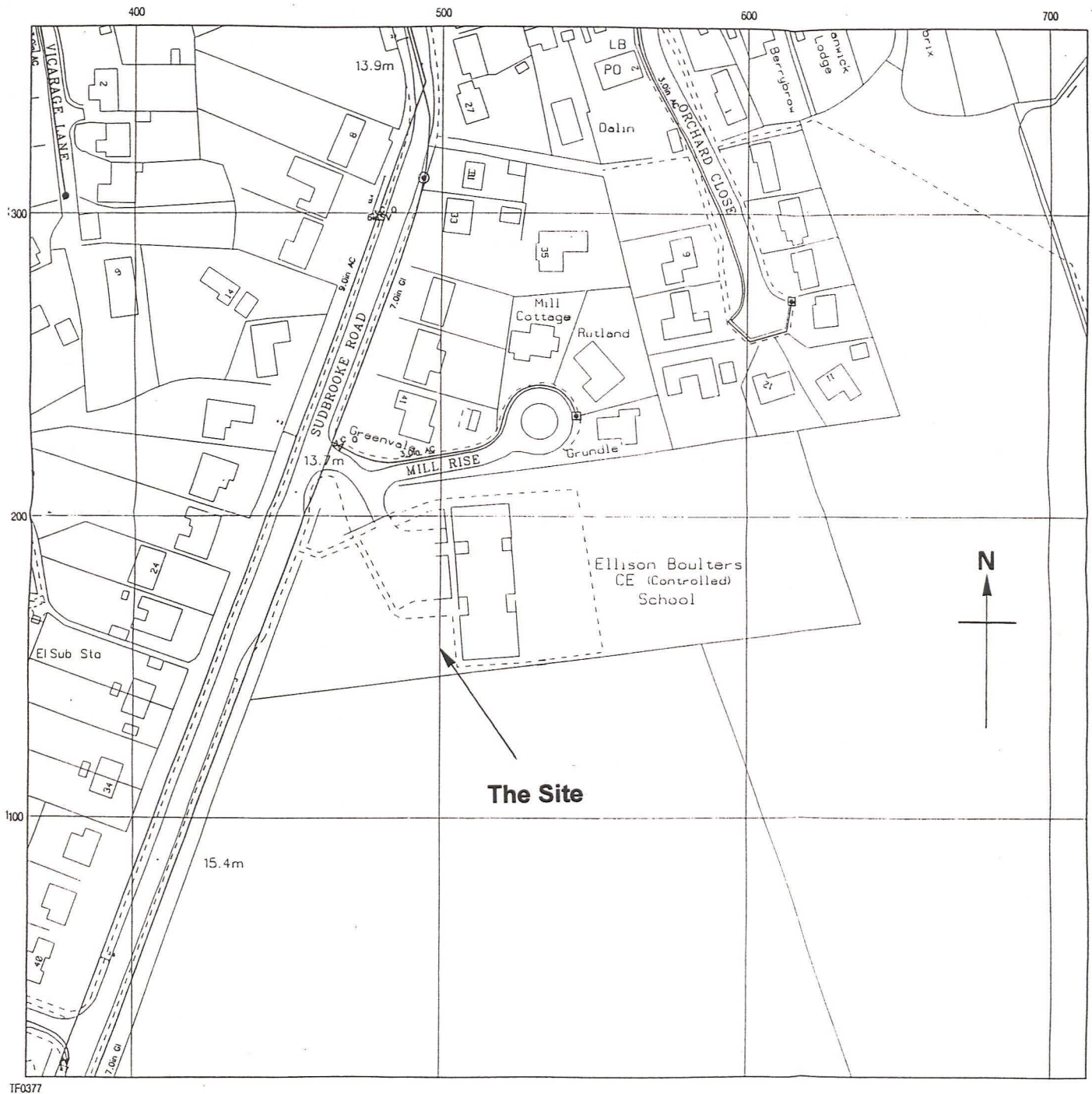


Fig. 1 Location of Scothern (C based on the 1953 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map Sheet TF 07. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL50424A).



65%  
Reduction



**Fig. 2 Location of Ellison Boulter's School, Scothern (based on a plan supplied by the client © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL50424A).**

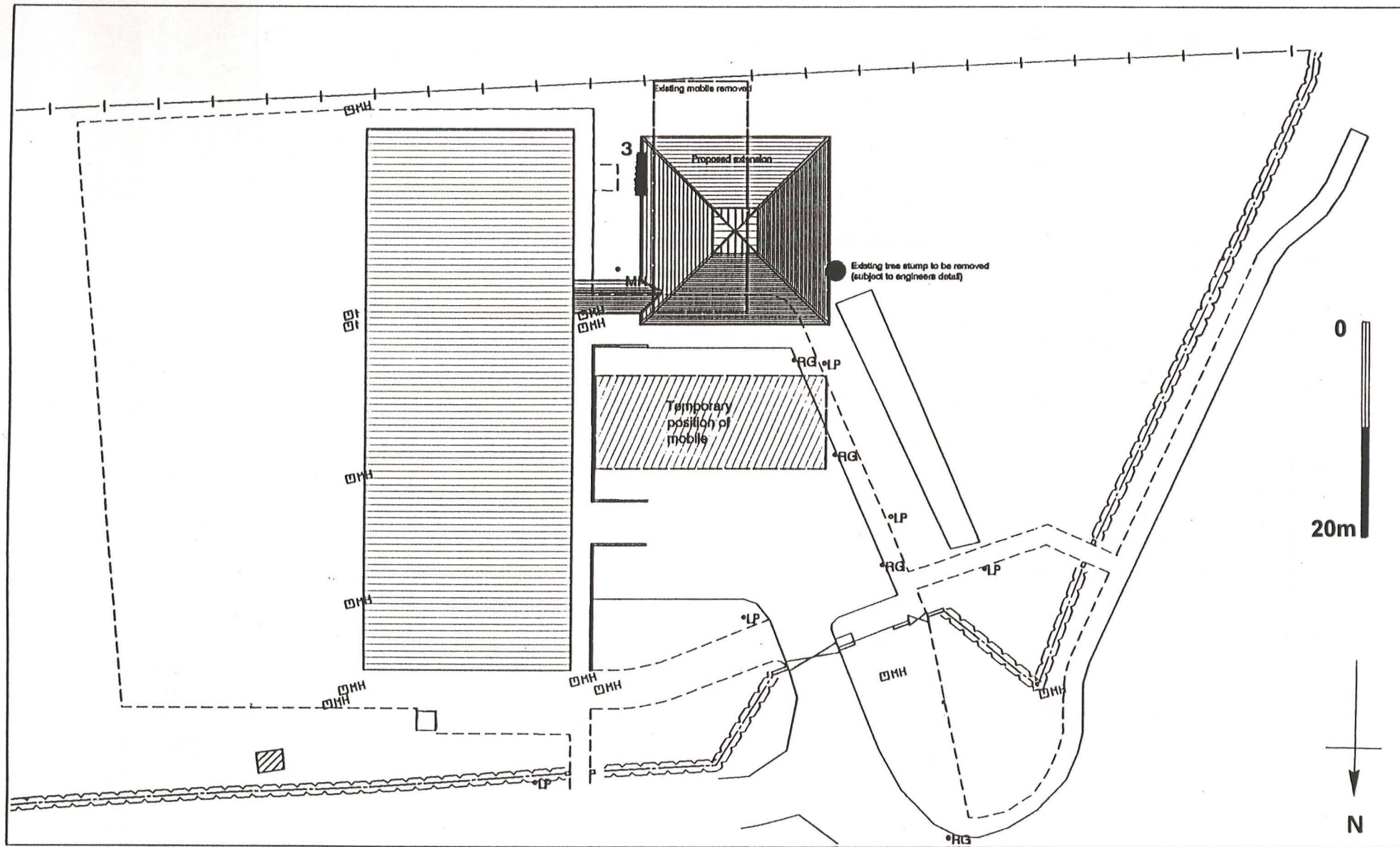


Fig. 3 Position of the monitored groundworks, showing the alignment of furrow 3 (based on a plan supplied by the client, CAD Associates dwg no. 3215L/00/01. Copyright reserved).





**Pl. 1 Willow trees marking the line of a watercourse NW of the new classroom area (looking NW).**

**Pl. 2 Soil deposits visible in the eastern foundation trench face. The grey material 2 is the fill of a medieval plough furrow 3 (scale divisions 0.2m).**







**Pl. 3** Position of the plough furrow 3, with the white staff marking its width. Note the water collecting in the furrow base. Looking south, scale divisions 0.2m.





Pl. 4 The octagonal internal trench, showing the dark soil filling pit or tree-hole 6 (extreme right). Looking NE to the existing school building.





**Pl. 5** Water accumulating on the line of the drained watercourse, west of the new classroom foundations (looking east). The land slopes up to the east and south.