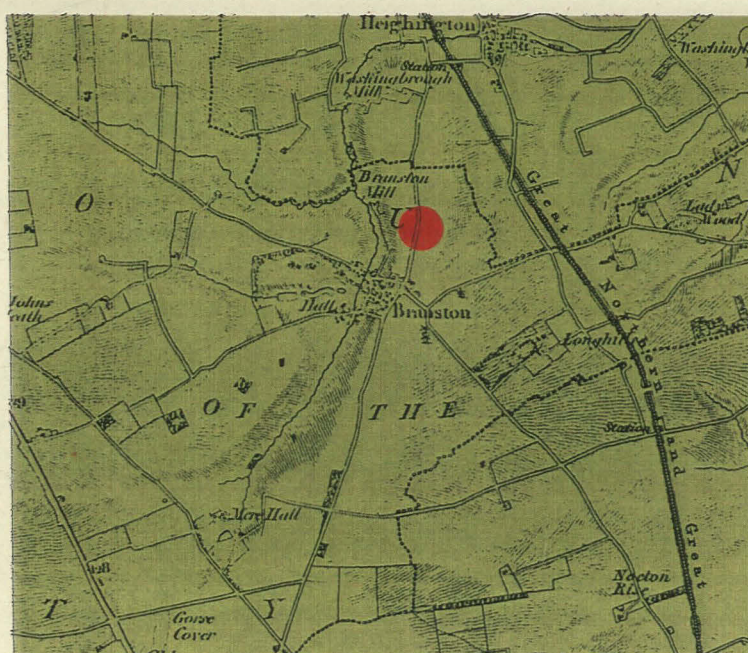


93/4

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
at
BRANSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE, LINCOLNSHIRE
for
LAND AND BUILDINGS CONSULTANCY LTD
November 1993



By
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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

BRANSTON TF 06 NW

SK Record No:- 13.1

SMA Record No:- TF 06 NW (Y)

13.2

(E)

13.3

(F) unlocated

13.20

(W)

13.21

(AF)

13.22

(S)

13.23

(A)

SMA Records not recorded by SK Records:-

(AD) - negative intervention!

(Q) Med. pottery found in 1972 TF 0087 6768

(AG) AIS - Med Church TF 0212 6730

(AB) (F) (S) (K) RLB building - villa? TF 005 669 - possibly considered too far from village?

unlocated Finds:- (AA) Silver penny of Ed I found in garden (in village?)

(AJ) LBA socketed axe from Branstor Heath

unlocated possible barrow site - Doc. refs.

Post Med bronze weight from 12 Silver Street

Med French Jeton from garden in Luby Lane

It would have been worth Pre-Construct Archaeology's
* time to consult the SMA! *

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Pre-Construct Archaeology were commissioned by Land and Buildings Consultancy Ltd to carry out an Archaeological Watching Brief at Branston Community College, Branston, Lincolnshire (National Grid Ref. TF 0252 6805). This was done to fulfil a planning requirement issued by the Community Archaeologist for North Kesteven: that ground disturbance be monitored and archaeological features, should they exist, be investigated and recorded. The development comprises an extension to the west side of an Administration Block. TF 02554 68004

No archaeological features were identified during field work, where it was noted that all topsoil and subsoil had been removed during construction of the existing buildings and external surfaces.

2.0 PLANNING BACKGROUND

A planning application was made by Branston Community College to extend its Administration Block, involving the erection of a single-storey building approximately 14.8m x 6.5m in area (Application No N/13/0691/93). The Community Archaeologist for North Kesteven, upon inspection of the relevant County Sites and Monuments Records, determined that the proposed development lay within an archaeologically sensitive zone and that an archaeological Watching Brief should be maintained during ground disturbance. Essentially, the Watching Brief would involve defining and recording archaeological features: artifacts, if present, would be used as a basis of dating the deposits and placing them within their wider cultural framework.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Branston lies approximately four miles south-east of Lincoln. Although a large village today, most of its growth has taken place within the last century. The parish church contains architectural details suggesting Saxon origins, the period from which the village, as we know it, developed. However, archaeology has demonstrated the presence of substantial amounts of earlier settlement evidence from within the parish.

A range of prehistoric artifacts have been collected from the surrounding environment: notably, a Neolithic stone axe south of Thackers Lane and a hoard of socketed Bronze Age axes from the Moor Lodge Hotel area on the south-east side of the village. These 'chance' discoveries are often without a firm

cultural context, though their presence indicates occupation during the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods

Like many villages close to Lincoln, Branston contains a good deal of settlement evidence dating to within the Romano-British period. Of particular note is an elaborate inscription, thought to be from a funerary monument, dedicated to a woman, Aurelia Concessa. Surface collections from around the find spot suggest that there were substantial buildings within the immediate environment, perhaps a villa complex.

Only two finds appear to have been made close to the new development. In 1958, an Anglo-Saxon spearhead was recorded in fields less than 50m north of the present school buildings and, approximately 200m west of the school lies the site of a 14th century bronze horse pendant.

Against this background, there existed a possibility that archaeological deposits of almost any period would be exposed during development at the Community College site.

No controlled archaeological excavations have taken place within Branston.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

The Watching Brief took place on November 2nd, 1993 and was maintained by one field team member. Deposits encountered within the development area were recorded on standard Pre-Construct Archaeology 'Context Sheets' and were supplemented with additional notes. Photographs (colour print and colour slide) were also taken during removal of the overburden.

5.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

Tarmac forming part of an existing car park/play area was broken using a pneumatic drill, whereupon the overburden was cleared by JCB. A toothless ditching bucket was then used and deposits were cleared to the top of a flat, level parent bedrock horizon. The stratigraphic 'sequence' comprised:

- [01] Modern tarmac, 10cm thick
- |
- [02] Modern hardcore/levelling; crushed limestone, typically 10cm in thickness
- |
- [03] Jurassic limestone bedrock totally devoid of archaeological or natural intrusions.

Very clearly, all of the topsoil and subsoil was removed when the existing school building and external surfaces were constructed. If archaeological deposits had survived on the site prior to construction of the existing structures, then they were never very deep.

The proposed depth of foundation trenches associated with the new development was approximately 90cm; this was reduced to 45cm when the proximity of solid bedrock became apparent. A close watch was maintained during excavation of the north wall trench, though further archaeological presence was deemed unnecessary.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

It would appear, from the area examined, that all topsoil and subsoil was removed when the Branston Community College was constructed. It is unlikely, therefore, that archaeological deposits will survive within the principal areas of development unless the parent bedrock was penetrated by 'earth-cut' features. These points may require careful consideration during future redevelopment on the site.

7.0 APPENDICES

7.1 RELEVANT ENTRIES IN THE SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD FOR NORTH KESTEVEN

No.	SMR No.	Description	Grid reference
1.	13.1	Medieval horse pendant, 14th century	TF 0234 6793
2.	13.2	Anglo-Saxon spearhead	TF 025 682
3.	13.3	Bronze Age socketed axes	TF 026 672
4.	13.20	Neolithic stone axe	TF 0203 6688
5.	13.21	Nuremburg token	TF 0202 6720
6.	13.22	Medieval coins	TF 015 677
7.	13.23	Arrowhead	TF 0126 6782

7.2 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The paper archive comprises the following elements:

- Site context sheets (x3)
- Colour prints
- Colour slides
- Site Report
- letters/correspondence
- Misc. notes

The Museum Accession Number is 58.93. This should be quoted by parties wishing to examine the site archive.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Mr David Linnell of Land and Building Consultancy Ltd for providing location maps and development details. Thanks are also due to R & SL North (Builders) for their cooperation during the Watching Brief and to the Community Archaeologist for North Kesteven, Nicola Nuttall, for access to the Sites and Monuments Record.

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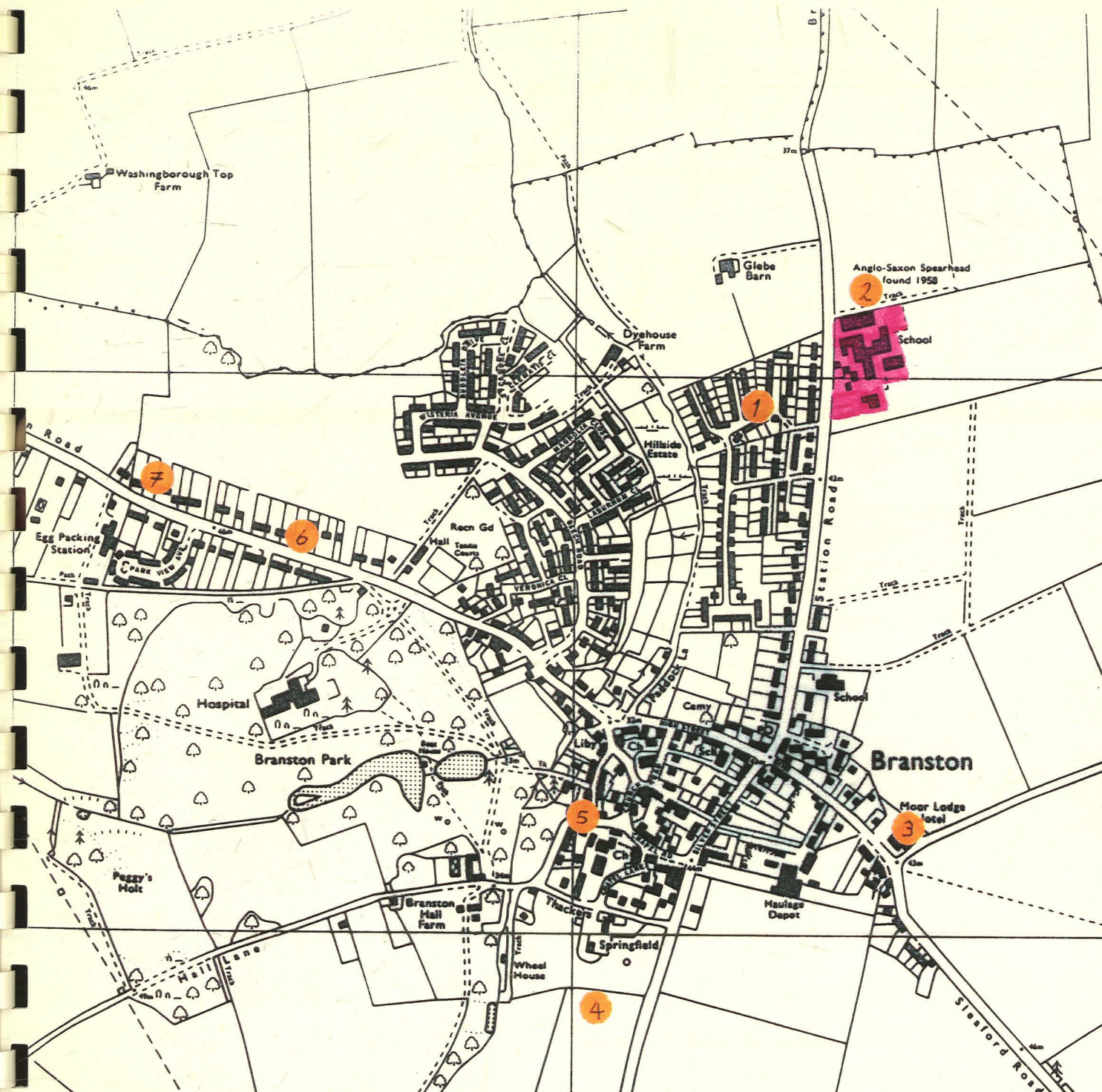


Fig 1: Find spots listed in the Sites and Monuments Record in relation to area of development

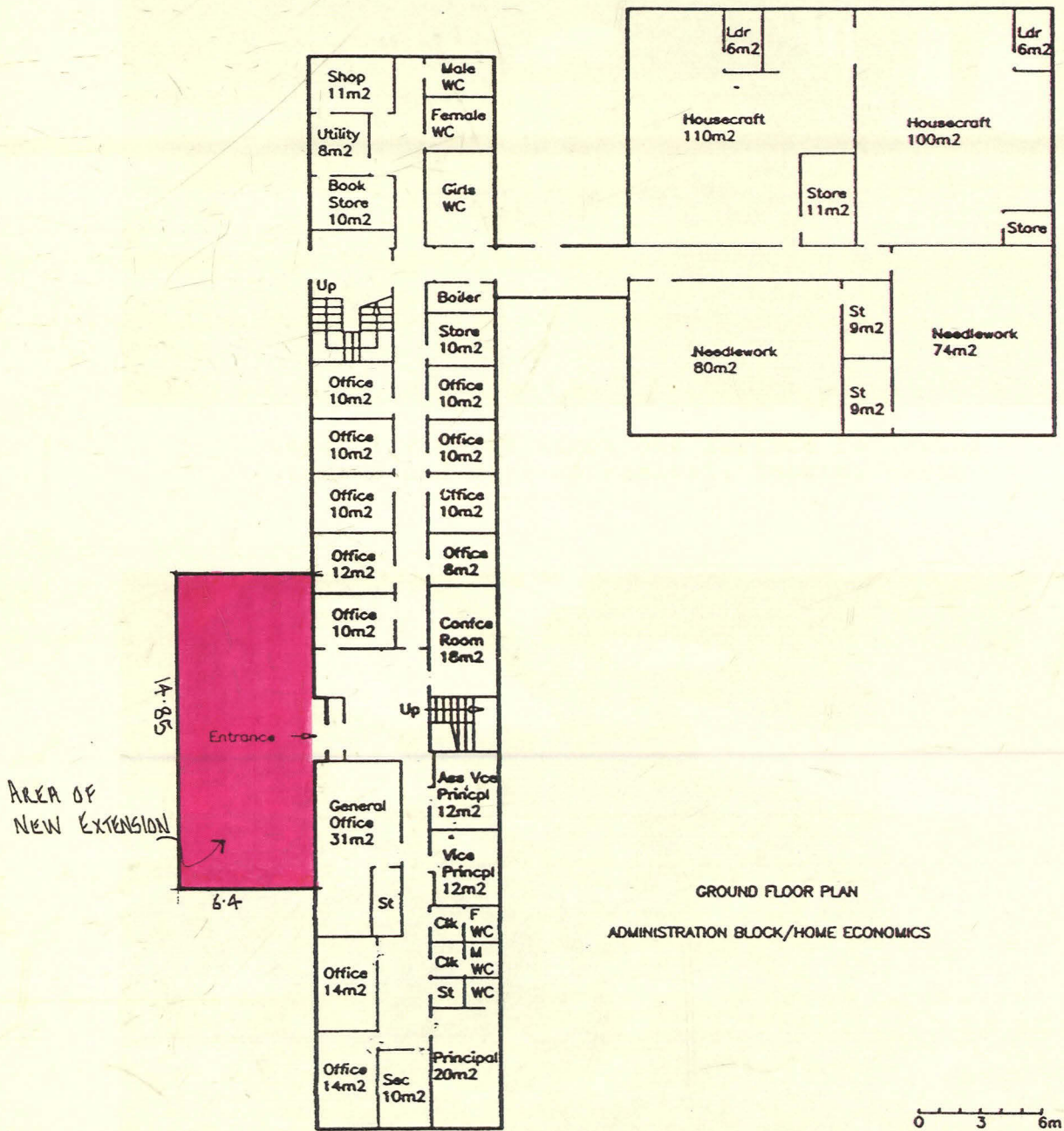


Fig 2: Location of new development in relation to existing Administration Block



General view of limestone surface following
tarmac and make-up removal; looking north



North wall construction trench during
excavation; looking north