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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

CROXLEY
heritage

Central Secondary School, Grantham
Archaeological Evaluation

NGR: SK 9136 3705
Site Code: GCSS 00
LCNCC Museum Accn No.: 2000. 280
NGR: SK 9136 3705

Report for

Lincolnshire County Council

LAS Report No. 483

November 2000

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Central Secondary School, Grantham

Archaeological Evaluation

Site Code: GCSS 00

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Summary

Archaeological evaluation on the site of a suspected Anglo-Saxon cemetery produced no archaeological remains. The area was heavily disturbed by modern services there was no evidence of Anglo-Saxon burials on this site.

Introduction

Lincolnshire County Council commissioned Lindsey Archaeological Services to carry out archaeological investigations at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, 1998) and the Brief set by Lincolnshire County Council Conservation Services (dated October 17th 2000). Fieldwork took place on 13th and 14th of November 2000.

Site Location and Description

The proposed development site is located within the grounds of the Central Secondary School, Rushcliffe Road, The school is situated west of the A607 and north of Grantham town centre. The site is adjacent to an extant building and was under grass at the time of the evaluation.

Planning Background

An application has been made for the construction of a single storey SEN Unit. The application is to be determined by Lincolnshire County Council, after archaeological evaluation of the site.

Archaeological Background

Records held at the Lincolnshire SMR indicate that, during construction of the school in the late 1970s, finds of Anglo-Saxon date were made including two spearheads, a buckle, pottery and coloured stones of irregular shape (?beads). These finds suggest the possible presence of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery of fifth-sixth century date.

Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the evaluation was to establish whether further Anglo-Saxon burials are present within the proposed development area.

In general terms the purpose of the evaluation was to

- establish the presence or absence, quality and extent of archaeological remains and their location within the development area.

- gather sufficient information to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of any archaeological remains to be made and the impact which development will have upon them.
- enable an informed decision to be made regarding the future treatment of any archaeological remains and consider any appropriate mitigatory measures either in advance of and/or during development.

Method

The Brief required the excavation of two 10m x 1.8m trenches, but, due to the presence of extensive services below ground, the original location of the planned trenches had altered and the final locations are shown in Fig. 2. Each trench was machine excavated, using a JCB excavator with a toothless dyking bucket, to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon. All machine excavation was supervised by an archaeologist. The trenches were then hand-cleaned.

Results

The first trench was located perpendicular to the existing building and was excavated to a depth of between 0.70m and 0.90m onto a very clean orange sand. Excavation of a small area at one end of the trench by spade showed that this extended for at least another 0.30m with no change. The area available for excavation was restricted and the trench was excavated between paved walkways to the north-east, north-west and south-east with live electricity, gas and water services to the south-west. The finished trench was extended to 13m in length because a 1.5m area in the central part of the trench could not be excavated due to live drains running across it. To avoid confusion it was recorded as Trenches 1 and 2 with 1 being to the east of the drains and 2 being to the west. At the north-western limit of the trench were two more pipes, presumably live services, which prevented further investigation in that direction.

A further trench (Trench 4 on Fig. 2) was excavated towards the north-east end of the site but this was criss-crossed by a number of drains in the topsoil and subsoil, which made the trench impossible to excavate. A small, hand-excavated, pit revealed a similar stratigraphy to that found in Trenches 1 and 2 with subsoil overlying natural sand.

Trench 3 was excavated south-west of Trench 4. It was 10m in length and was excavated through 0.45m of topsoil (301), 0.20m of subsoil (302) onto orange clean natural sand (303) to a depth of 0.75m. A deeper machine cut in the south-west end of this trench revealed that the sand was at least 0.60m deep extending to 1.30m below the surface. A service trench was encountered at the north eastern end, which accounts for the slight dog leg in this trench. There was no evidence of any archaeological material in this trench.

Conclusion

There was no archaeological material found during the evaluation. The original artefacts were found to the rear of the school and it seems reasonable to assume that the cemetery did not extend to this part of the area.

Acknowledgement

LAS would like to thank the staff of Grantham Central Secondary School for their assistance on the site and also Jim Bonnor from Lincoln County Council Archaeology Section for his help and advice on site. Site work was carried out by the author with the help of Wendy Booth. Naomi Field edited this report.

Mark Williams
Lindsey Archaeological Services
November 29th 2000

Appendix 1: Context Summary GCSS 00

Context No	Trenches	Type	Description
101/201	1+2	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand
102/202	1+2	Subsoil	Orange brown silty sand
103/203	1+2	Natural	Mid orange sand
104/204	1+2	Building Debris	Modern brick and other building debris
301	3	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand
302	3	Subsoil	Orange brown silty sand
303	3	Natural	Mid orange brown sand

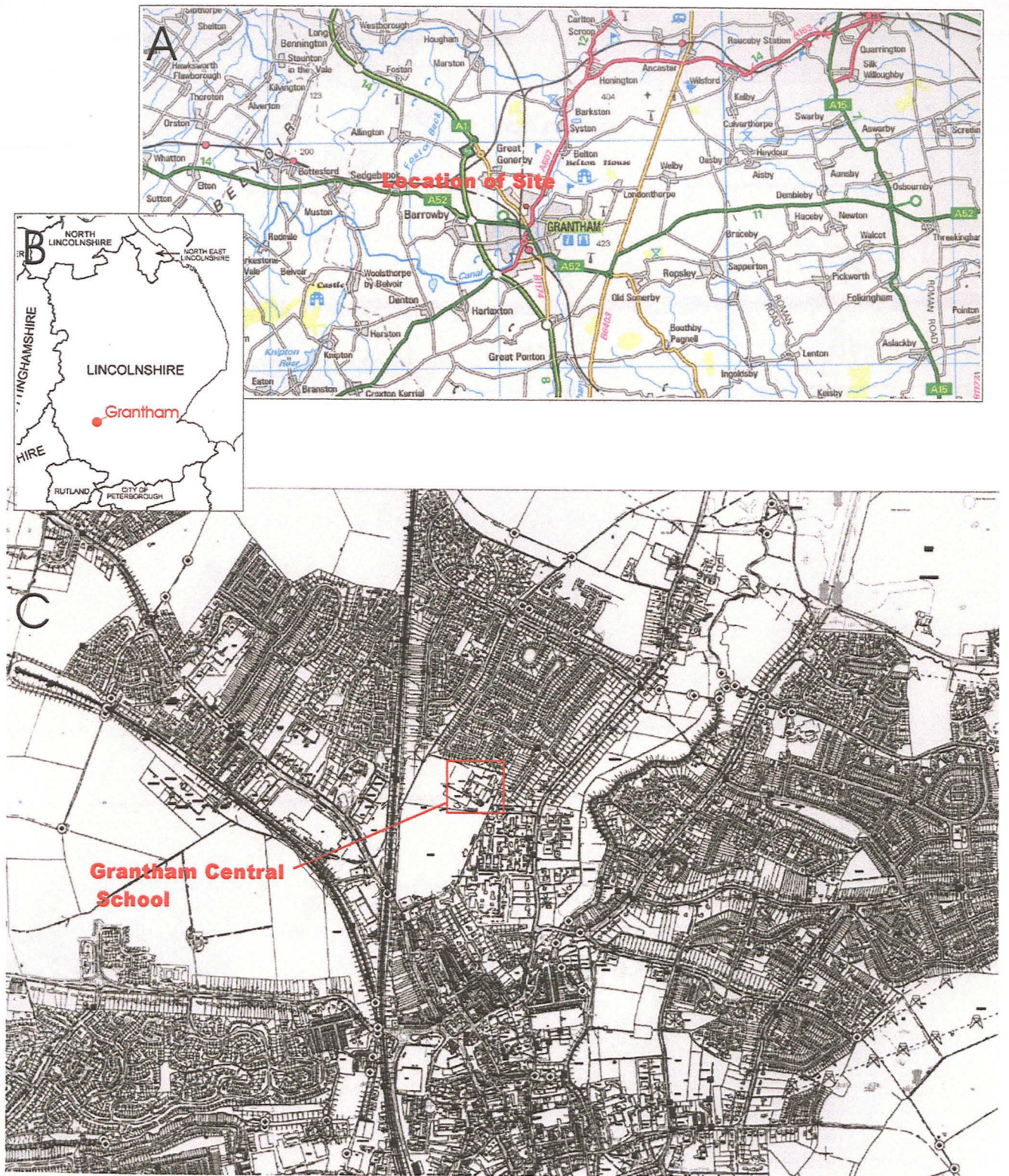


Fig. 1 Location of Grantham Secondary School, Inset C reproduced from a plan provided by Lincolnshire County Council

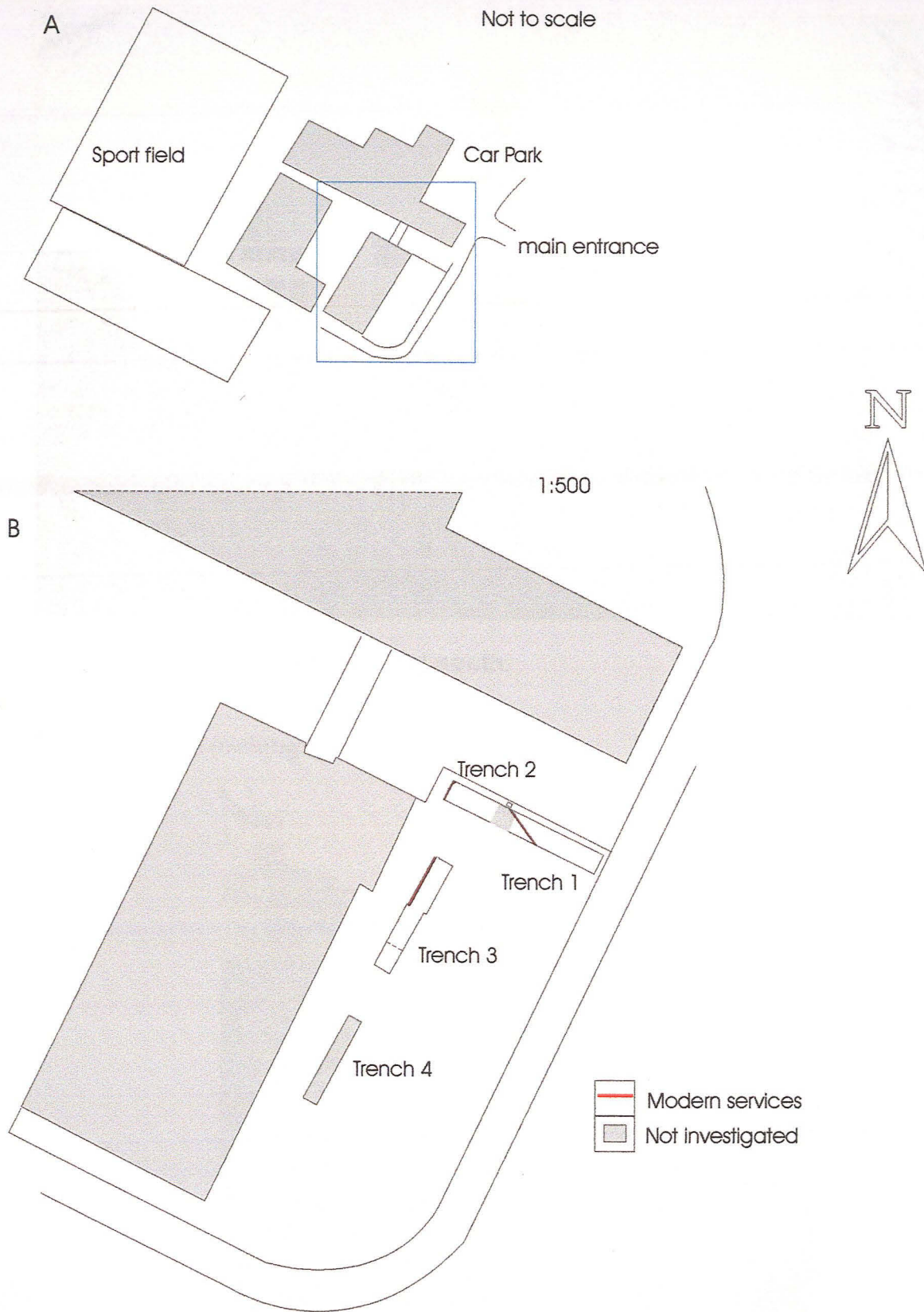


Fig. 2 A) Plan of Grantham Central Secondary School.
 B) Location of trenches



Pl. 1 General view of site looking south.

Pl. 2 Trench 1, looking north west.





PI. 3 Trench 2, looking north west.

PI. 4 Trench 3, looking north east.





Pl. 5 Concentration of service trenches below the surface, in Trench 4.