



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Normanby by Spital Primary School, Lincs.

NGR: TF ~~0000 8790~~ 0007 8799

Planning Application: NAM/W69/-/00/CC

Site Code: NBSS 01

LCNCC Accn No.:2001.153

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report

for

Hyder Business Services

on behalf of

Lincolnshire County Council

by

Naomi Field

LAS Report No. 546

September 2001

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Conservation
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14 SEP 2001

Highways & Planning
Directorate

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Directorate

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S4608 L182143 Pmed Med

S4609 L182144 Roman

S4610 L182145 Pmed

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief at Normanby by Spital Primary School revealed a ditch and a second ditch, or possible pit, of unknown date close to the new extension. No archaeological features were seen during topsoil stripping of the car park area. Pottery recovered from the topsoil and subsoil was of Roman, Saxon, medieval and modern dates indicating the likely presence of a Roman settlement nearby. It is not clear whether there was Saxon occupation in this part of the village or if the pottery represents manuring associated with cultivation of the land.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Hyder Business Services on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Normanby by Spital County Primary School in accordance with a letter from Jim Bonnor (dated 28th March 2001) and with the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, 1998).

Site Location and Description

The narrow parish of Normanby by Spital is situated some 15km north of Lincoln and spans the dip slope of the limestone ridge which runs north-south to the east of Ermine Street (Figs. 1-2). Normanby County Primary School is situated on the west side of Main Street, 100m SW of the junction with Front Street and the parish church. It was built in 1878, with two small later extensions to the rear (Pl. 1).

Archaeological Background

Normanby by Spital is so named to distinguish itself from three other Normanbys in Lindsey (in Burton upon Stather and Stow parishes and Normanby le Wold) all of which are mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. There were three manors (estates) based in Normanby by Spital as well as a church and a priest. The principal street (Front Street) runs west-east, with settlement along the roads running north and south to other villages along the limestone ridge. The potential for Saxon and/or medieval settlement remains on the site of the school was thought to be high. In addition there is evidence for both prehistoric and Roman activity in the parish. In 1995, evaluation of land 100m south of the school, prior to housing development, identified a N-S aligned Iron Age ditch following the line of a possible watercourse. Roman pottery was also found during the evaluation (Field and McDaid 1995).

Planning Background

Planning permission was granted for the construction of an extension to the school and a new car park, subject to an archaeological watching brief being carried out during the groundworks phase of construction. The extension was constructed without the required archaeological monitoring, and a revised scheme of works was devised to permit archaeological inspection and recording during construction of the car park and the excavation of two trial pits to the east of the new extension. These pits were to be excavated to undisturbed natural deposits, or the base of the adjacent foundations, whichever was encountered first.

Objectives

The purpose of the Watching Brief was to record any archaeological deposits disturbed during remaining groundworks at the above site, and to recover information from two test pits beside the new extension.

METHOD

The watching brief was carried out on June 27th and 28th 2001. One experienced archaeologist was present on site to supervise topsoil stripping operations. Archaeological features were excavated, and drawn at a scale of 1:20. Finds located in archaeological features were identified accordingly and a context numbering system for archaeological remains was used. A full photographic record was made during the progress of the excavation to cover each feature together with general site views.

Results

Car Park

The area of the proposed car park was approximately 11.30m x 8.60m in extent and lay west of the new extension (Fig. 3). A temporary building had stood on this site and prior to demolition the ground to the south and east had already been reduced in height by 700mm and covered in limestone hardcore (Pl. 2). The ground was stripped using a JCB with a 1.60m wide toothless dyking bucket. The ground was cleared of topsoil and then scraped back to enable examination of the area for archaeological features.

The topsoil, **100**, was c.0.30m deep and comprised a grey/brown fine silty soil with occasional flecks of coal. Tree roots were present, especially towards the north end of the stripped area (Pl. 3). Pockets of late 19th /20th century pottery and bottles were present in the topsoil and a selection of material was retained for identification by Jane Young, who confirmed their late date. The topsoil overlay an ochre-yellow/brown subsoil of sandy silt **101** which extended over the whole area, but was only fully removed towards the eastern side of the car park area. Its maximum depth was 0.20m. Two pieces of Roman pottery and two pieces of late Saxon date were found in the subsoil but no associated features were seen.

Towards the east end of the area the natural yellow clay **102** was exposed (Pl. 4) and at the north-east corner of the car park, the lowest part of the stripped area, was very wet. The foundations of the extension to the east had also been very wet (Ian Elsey pers. comm.) and it may be that a former water course ran through this part of the site. This would explain the very silty character of the subsoil which appears to be water-derived/sorted.

Test Pit 1

This small trench was situated two metres north of the north-east corner of the new extension. It was adjacent to the northern site boundary and 25.60m west of the pavement on Main Road. It measured 1.70 x 1.20m x 0.80m deep (Fig. 4). Beneath the tarmac, **300**, and its makeup layer of crushed limestone **301**, was a topsoil layer **302**, 0.40m deep which contained a mixture of Roman, late Saxon and medieval pottery. Sealed beneath **302** and cutting through subsoil **303** was a large pit or ditch, **304**, whose western edge was visible but most of the feature lay beyond the limits of the test pit (Pl. 5). Its deepest recorded point within the test pit was 1.24m below ground level. It contained only two discernible fills, **306**, a mortary deposit with limestone pieces overlying **305**, the main fill of light brown silty clay (Pls 6, 7). The base of the feature was lined with small pieces of limestone, possibly tumble. There were no finds from the subsoil or the fill of the feature. The natural, **307**, was a sticky yellow clay.

Test Pit 2

Trench 2 was situated 1.70m south of the eastern entrance to the new extension. It was dug slightly skew to the wall in order to avoid disturbing the newly installed service pipes. It was 1.50 x 1.20m x 0.65m deep (Fig. 5). Beneath a thin layer of tarmac, **207**, was topsoil **200**, the same as **302** in Test Pit 1. It was 0.40m deep and contained five pieces of pottery and one fragment of tile, ranging in date from the 13-19th centuries. In the north-west corner of the test pit was a rectangular/square post-hole, **205**, part of which lay beyond the northern limits of the pit. It contained the remains of a square-sectioned post-pipe **207**. Although not absolutely clear, the post-hole was probably dug through the topsoil because its fill **206**, a dark brown soil, was identical to the topsoil and darker than subsoil **201** (Pls 8 and 9). Subsoil **201** was the same as **303** found in Test Pit 1.

Post-hole **205** cut through the edge of a shallow ditch or gully **203** (Pls 8-10). The gully had a u-shaped profile and was a minimum of 0.40m deep and 0.45m wide. It was filled with a mottled light brown-grey soil, similar in colour to the subsoil **201**, through which it had been dug. There were no finds from either the post-hole or the gully. The natural sticky yellow clay (**202**) was the same as found in Test Pit 1.

Discussion and Conclusion

The subsoil in Test Pit 2 (201) was the only deposit to appear to be exclusively Roman, but the dating relies on a single sherd and given the small area exposed cannot be considered reliable. The small quantity of Roman pottery from the site is consistent with the discovery of only seven pieces of Roman tile during evaluation to the south of the school in 1995 (Field and McDaid 1995). There may well be a Roman site in the vicinity but the material must be considered as background noise rather than an indication of occupation.

The car park area to the rear (west) of the school extension revealed no archaeological features, although the three sherds of Roman pottery and four Saxon/medieval sherds found, indicate the presence of archaeological remains in the vicinity. In contrast, the two test pits to the north and east of the extension, although very small, revealed archaeological features which makes it very probable that additional remains would have been seen in the foundations of the school extension had they been inspected. However, these features could not be dated, the only finds coming from the topsoil in this part of the site. The presence of a single, possible middle Saxon, pottery sherd and seven pre-Conquest sherds is of particular note. Without more extensive investigation and in the absence of direct dating evidence, however, it is impossible to tell whether the two features found in the test pits were Saxon or medieval in date. It is also not clear whether the presence of Saxon pottery in this part of the village is an indication of actual occupation in the near vicinity or just evidence of manuring activity associated with land cultivation.

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank Ian Elsey and the team from Gelder Construction Ltd and Jim the digger driver from Lincolnshire Civil Engineering Ltd for their co-operation and assistance on site. The watching brief was undertaken by the author. Report drawings were prepared by Mick McDaid and the report was collated and produced by Jane Frost.

Naomi Field
September 11th 2001

Reference

Field, N. and McDaid M. 1995 *Proposed Residential Development, Main Street, Normanby by Spital*. Archaeological Evaluation for Costall Allen Design. Unpublished LAS Report No. 153.1

THE APPENDICES

Normanby by Spital Primary School (NBSS 01)
Context Summary

Context No.	Type	Description	Pottery	Depth	Width
Car Park					
100	layer	topsoil, grey brown silty clay	1 Rom, 8 sax/med, 4 post med, 1 tile modern	0.30m	
101	layer	subsoil, yellow brown sandy silt	2 Rom, 2 sax	0.20m	
102	layer	natural, yellow sandy clay			
Test Pit 1					
300	layer	tarmac		0.04m	
301	layer	limestone and pebbles, hardcore		0.07m	
302	layer	topsoil, grey brown silty clay	1 Rom, 7 sax	0.40m	
303	layer	subsoil, light grey brown silty clay		0.20m	
304	cut	ditch or pit		0.58m	1.56m min.x 1.20m min.
305	fill	lower fill of 304, light grey brown silty clay			
306	fill	upper fill of 304, mortary deposit with limestone pieces			
307	layer	natural sticky yellow clay			
Test Pit 2					
200	layer	topsoil, grey brown silty clay	2 med, 3 post med, 1 tile post-med	0.40m	
201	layer	subsoil, light grey brown silty clay	1 Rom,	0.20m	
202	layer	natural sticky yellow clay			
203	cut	ditch or gully		0.38m	0.42m
204	fill	fill of 203, light beige/grey silty clay			
205	cut	post-hole			0.24 x 0.26m
206	fill	fill of 205			
207	void	post-pipe in posthole 205			0.10 x 0.10m
208	layer	tarmac		0.04m	
			30 pottery sherds, 2 tile fragments		

The Roman Pottery from Normanby by Spital School (NBSS01) for Lindsey Archaeological Services

B J Precious

The pottery has been recorded to the basic archive level according to the guidelines laid down by the Study Group for Roman Pottery using the computer codes and pottery recording system of the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, and sherd count and weight in grams as the measures. The site archive has been collated using Microsoft 95, excel 5.0 (NBSS01.XLS).

The Roman pottery

This site produced a very small group of Roman pottery consisting of 5 sherds weighing 96 gms. The pottery came from four contexts, three of which also produced post-Roman wares (100; 101; & 302). Context 201 appears to be exclusively Roman, but the dating relies on a single, relatively thin sherd of greyware, a closed form, probably a jar or beaker. The form and fabric is more indicative of 2nd to 3rd century rather than 3rd to 4th century ware. In contrast, the greywares from the remaining contexts are similar to 3rd to 4th century greywares from this area. Most are undiagnostic body sherds but the scored wavy-line decoration on a jar or bowl from Context 100 is generally noted on vessels post-dating the mid-3rd century.

The majority of the vessels appear to be either jars or bowls used for oven to table wares. None have evidence of sooting or burning. One vessel may be either a small jar or beaker (Context 201), and a small sherd from Context 101 is burnished on both the interior and exterior, indicating that it is either a bowl or dish form. Lastly, the thick, large sherd from Context 302 is more likely to be from a large jar or bowl and was probably used for storage purposes. As all the vessels are greywares the occupants of the site were more likely to be of very moderate status.

No further work is envisaged but the pottery should be retained for future landscape studies.

CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	DEC	NO VESS	DRAW	STATE	COMMENTS	JOIN	SHS	WT
201	GREY	JBK	B				BS THINNISH 2-3C FAB NOT 3-4C		1	6
201	ZZZ						GREY ONLY PROB 2C			
201	ZDATE						2-3C			
100	GREY	JB	B;SWL			A	BS		1	8
100	ZZZ						GREY ONLY			
100	ZDATE						M3-4C/POSTRO			
101	GREY	JB	B				BS		1	4
101	GREY	BD	B				BS BURNISH INT & EXT		1	1
101	ZZZ						V SMALL			
101	ZDATE						3C+/POSTRO			
302	GREY	JBL					BS THICK LGE SH		1	77
302	ZZZ						GREY ONLY			
302	ZDATE						3-4C/POSTRO			
							TOTALS		5	96

Archive Report on the Post-Roman Pottery from a Watching Brief at Normanby By Spital School, Normanby By Spital, Lincolnshire (NBSS01)

Jane Young

Lindsey Archaeological Services

Introduction and Methodology

A total of 25 sherds of post-Roman pottery were recovered from the site. The material ranges in date from the Saxo-Norman to the early modern period. The pottery was examined visually and where necessary using a x20 binocular microscopic, then recorded using locally and nationally agreed codenames on an Access database.

Condition

The material is in variable condition with most vessels being at least slightly abraded. None of the pottery is typical of primary deposition and small featureless body sherds mainly represent vessels. The shell inclusions in the late Saxon shell-tempered fabrics have been leached out, although those in the Saxo-Norman fabrics remain unaffected.

Overall Chronology and Source

The pottery is mainly of either Late Saxon or 18th century date (see Table 2). Nineteen different post-Roman pottery ware types were found on the site, the type and date range for each fabric is shown in Table 2.

Table 1: Pottery codenames and total quantities by sherd count

codename	full name	earliest date	latest date	sherds
BL	Black-glazed wares	1550	1750	2
CREA	Creamware	1770	1830	1
ENPO	English Porcelain	1700	1850	1
GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	1500	1650	1
HUM	Humberware	1250	1550	1
LFS	Lincolnshire Fine-shelled ware	970	1200	2
LFS/ELFS	Lincolnshire Fine-shelled or Early Fine-shelled	780	1200	1
LKT	Lincoln kiln-type shelly ware	850	1000	1
LMLOC	Late Medieval local fabrics	1350	1550	1
LSH	Lincoln shelly ware	850	1000	2
MEDLOC	Medieval local fabrics	1150	1450	2
MY	Midlands Yellow ware	1550	1650	1
NCBW	19th-century Buff ware	1800	1900	1
NOTS	Nottingham stoneware	1690	1900	1
R	Roman pottery	40	400	5
SLIP	Unidentified slipware	1650	1750	1

STSL	Staffordshire/Bristol slipware	1680	1800	1
TORK	Torksey ware	850	1100	3
TORKT	Torksey-type ware	850	1100	1
WHITE	Modern whiteware	1850	1900	1

One small and abraded sherd with a fine-shelled fabric may either be of late Middle Saxon date or belong to the period between the late 10th and late 12th centuries. Seven sherds are of pre-conquest Late Saxon date, the rim types of two vessels suggest that at least some of the material predates the mid 10th century. Pottery from both Lincoln and Torksey is present in the group. The presence of two Lincolnshire Fine-shelled vessels is difficult to interpret as this ware type spans the period between the late 10th and late 12th centuries. The sherds from this site are small and featureless and cannot be closely dated, however, the absence of any other 11th to 12th century ceramic material on the site may indicate that these vessels too are of pre-conquest date.

Only four sherds can be dated to the period between the 13th and early 16th centuries. One sherd is from an elaborately decorated 13th or 14th century jug, possibly produced fairly locally; the remaining sherds are undiagnostic.

A small group of post-medieval and early modern pottery dating to the 18th and 19th centuries was recovered from the site. The material is typical of coarseware and fineware types found in the area.

Table 2: Sherd counts by chronological period

Ceramic period	sherd total
Roman	5
Mid to late Saxon or Saxo-Norman (8 th to 9 th or 10 th to 12 th)	1
Late Saxon (late 9 th to mid 11 th)	7
Saxo-Norman (10 th to 12 th)	2
Medieval (13 th to 14 th)	2
Late medieval (14 th to early 16 th)	2
Post-medieval (17 th to 18 th)	7
Early modern (late 18 th to 19 th)	4
Total sherds	30

Summary and Recommendations

The material recovered represents a small mixed assemblage, mainly of Late Saxon and late post-medieval date.

No further work is needed on the group, although all of the material should be retained for further study.

Pottery Archive NBSS01

Jane Young

Lindsey Archaeological Services

context	cname	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	decoration	part	description	date
100	BL		cup	1	1		base		17th to 18th
100	BL		bowl ?	1	1		BS		18th to 19th
100	CREA		saucer	1	1		rim		
100	ENPO		?	1	1		base		
100	GRE		large jar	1	1		rim		18th
100	LSH		medium jar	1	1		rim	EVERB1 rim;soot;leached;mod quartz	
100	MY		ointment jar	1	1		rim	late	18th-19th?
100	NCBW		?	1	1		BS	flake	
100	NOTS		hollow	1	1		base		
100	R			1	1		BS		
100	STSL		press mould dish	1	1	trailed & combed	rim		
100	TORKT		?	1	1		BS	small frag;? ID poss H-M	
101	LFS/ELFS		?	1	1		BS	leached	
101	LSH		medium jar	1	1		rim	leached;soot;sharp EVERA rim	
101	R			2	1		BS		
200	HUM		jug	1	1		BS	purple glaze	

context	cname	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	decoration	part	description	date
200	MEDLOC	OX/R/OX;med sandy;hard	jug	1	1		BS	flake;fine-med subround quartz + larger rounded comm fe	
200	MEDLOC	R/OX;fine sandy;hard	jug	1	1	applied strips in motif	BS	mod fine quartz mod fe;thick reduced glaze	
200	SLIP		large press mould dish	1	1	trailed & combed	base	large fresh frag	
200	WHITE		?	1	1		BS		
302	LFS		?	1	1		BS	tiny frag;soot	
302	LFS		?	1	1		base	tiny frag	
302	LKT		jar	1	1		BS	leached	
302	LMLOC	OX/R/OX;med sandy;hard	jug	1	1		BS	thin olive glaze with cu specks	
302	R			1	1		BS		
302	R			1	1		BS		
302	TORK		jar	1	1		BS	soot	
302	TORK		jar	1	1		BS		
302	TORK		jar	1	1		BS		

Tile Archive NBSS01

*Jane young**Lindsey Archaeological Services*

context	cname	full name	frags	description	date
100	MISC	Unidentified types	1	brick/tile	modern
200	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1	hard very coarse fabric	med to post-med

THE FIGURES

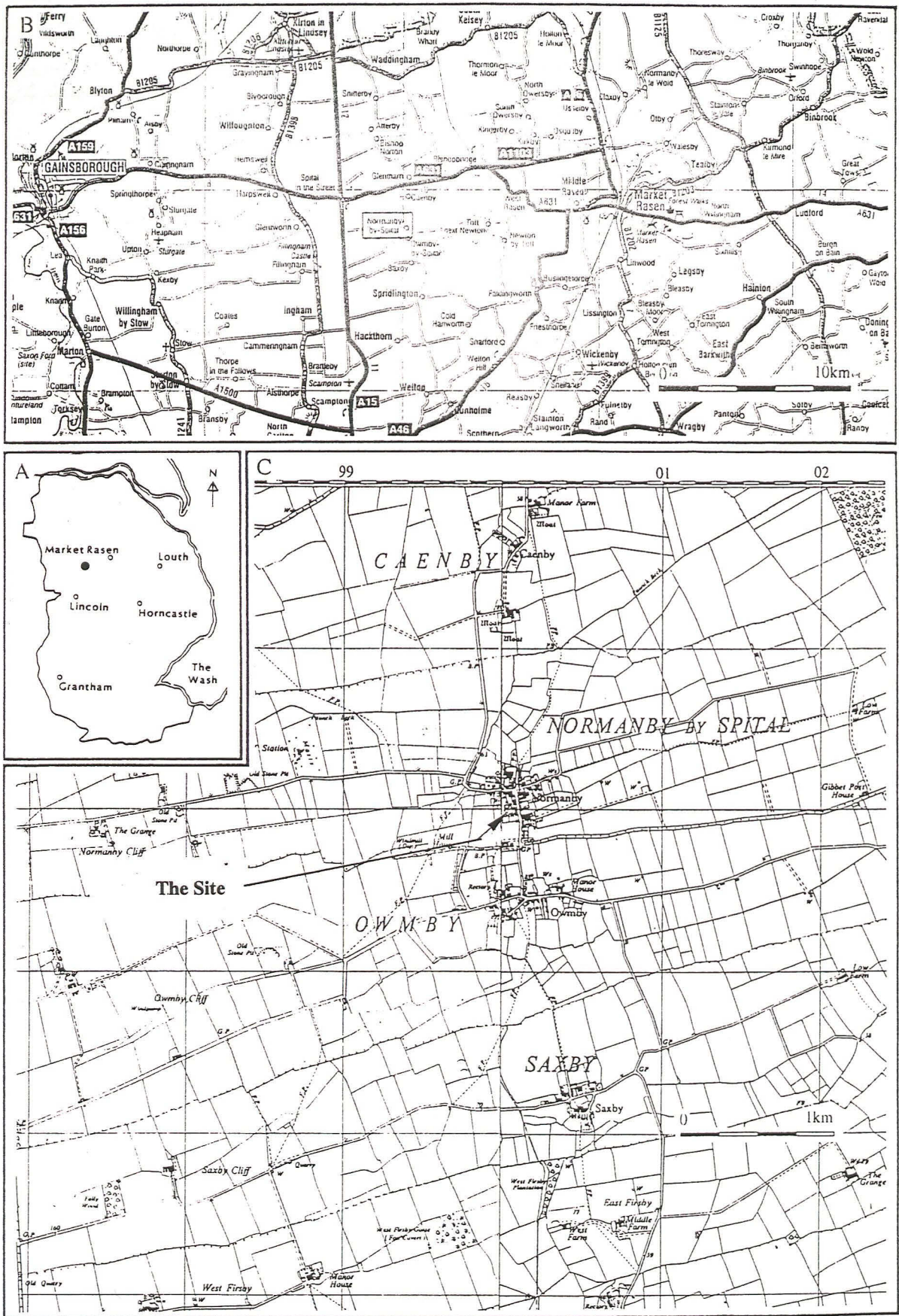


Fig. 1 Normanby by Spital, location (Inset c based on O.S. 1:25,000 Sheets TF08 and SK98 dated 1953 with the permission of the Controller of HMSO © Crown copyright. LAS licence No. AL 100002165.

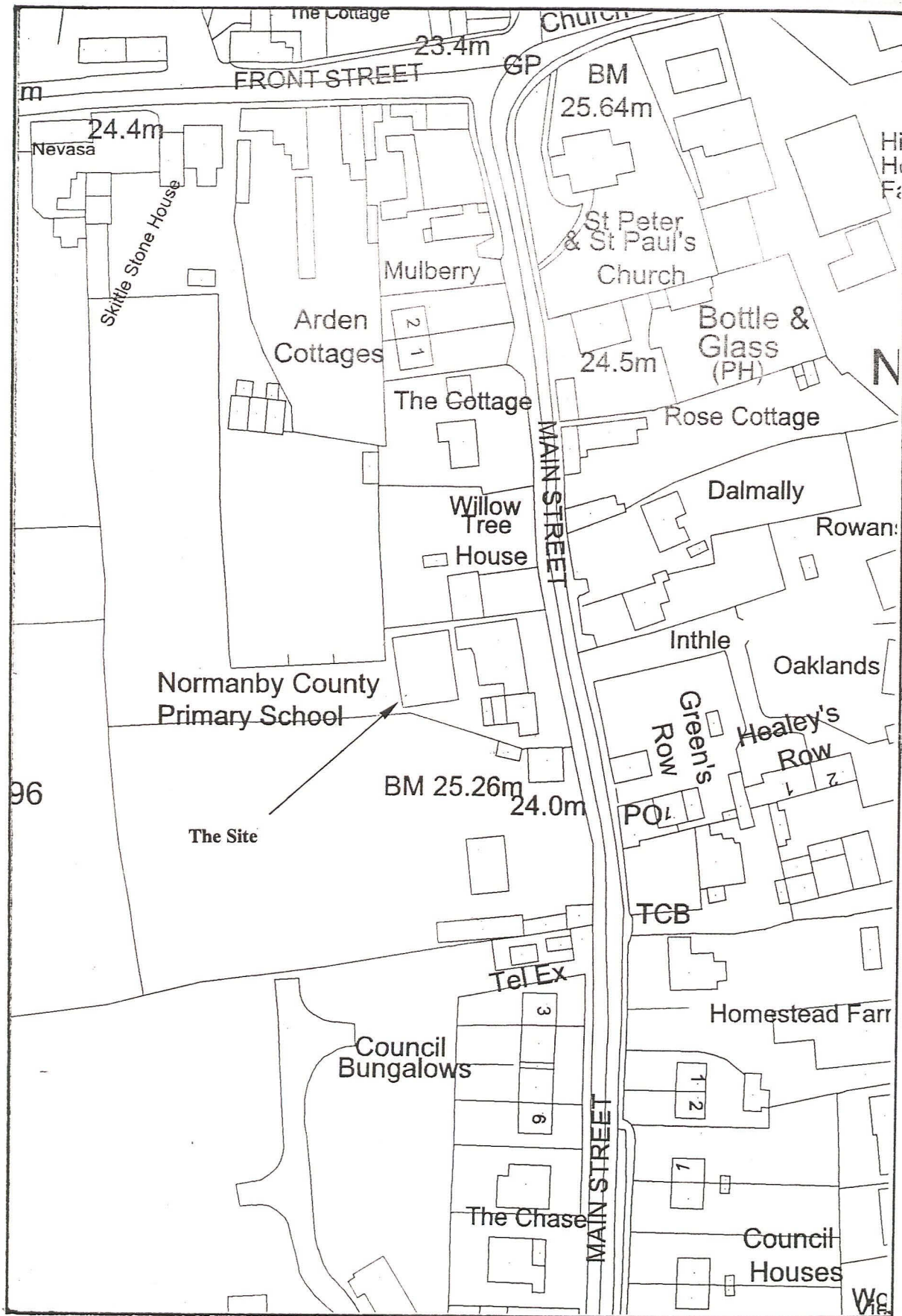


Fig. 2. Location of Normanby by Spital County Primary School, from plan supplied by Hyder business Services.

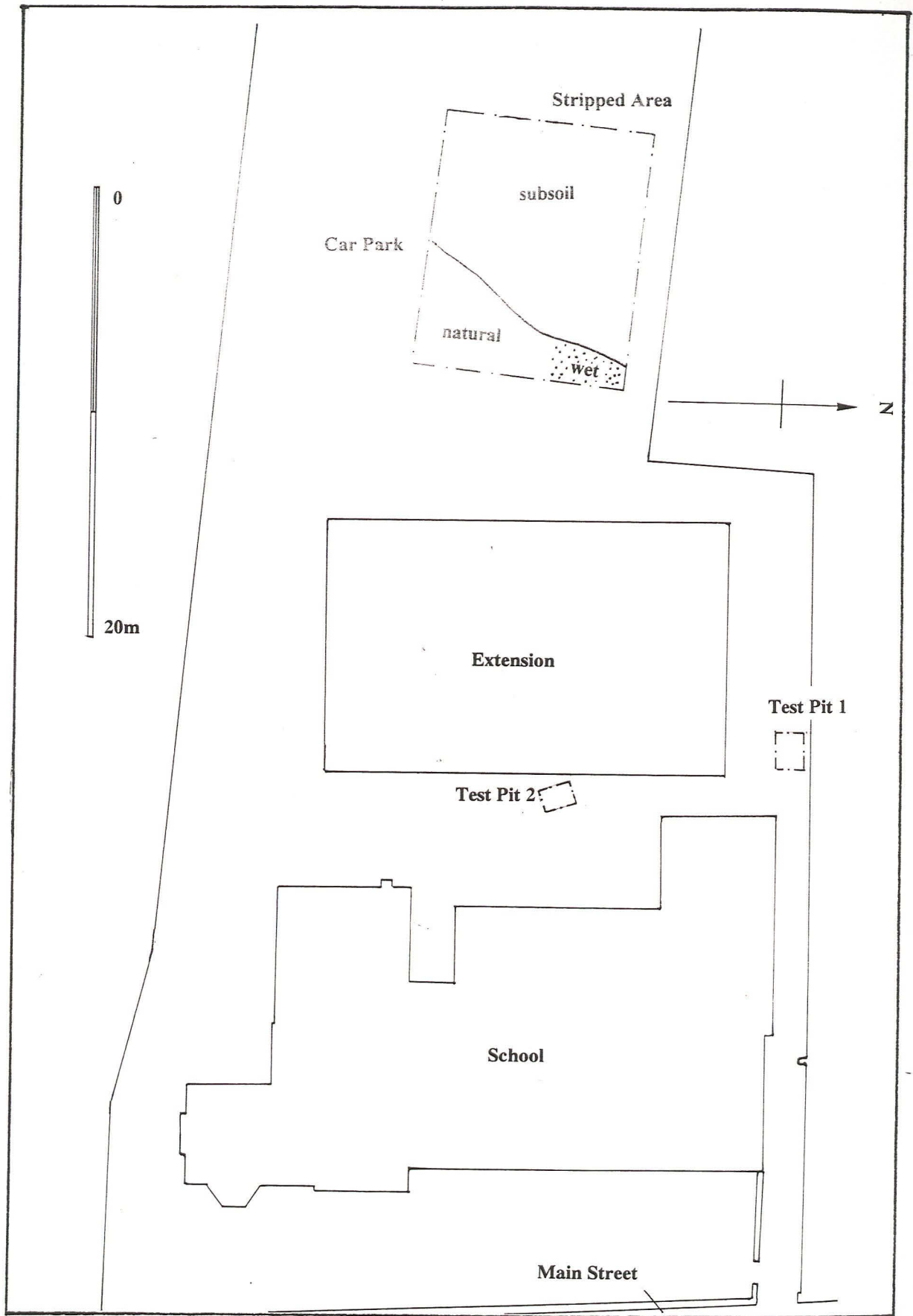


Fig. 3 Normanby by Spital County Primary School site plan showing monitored areas.

Boundary Wall

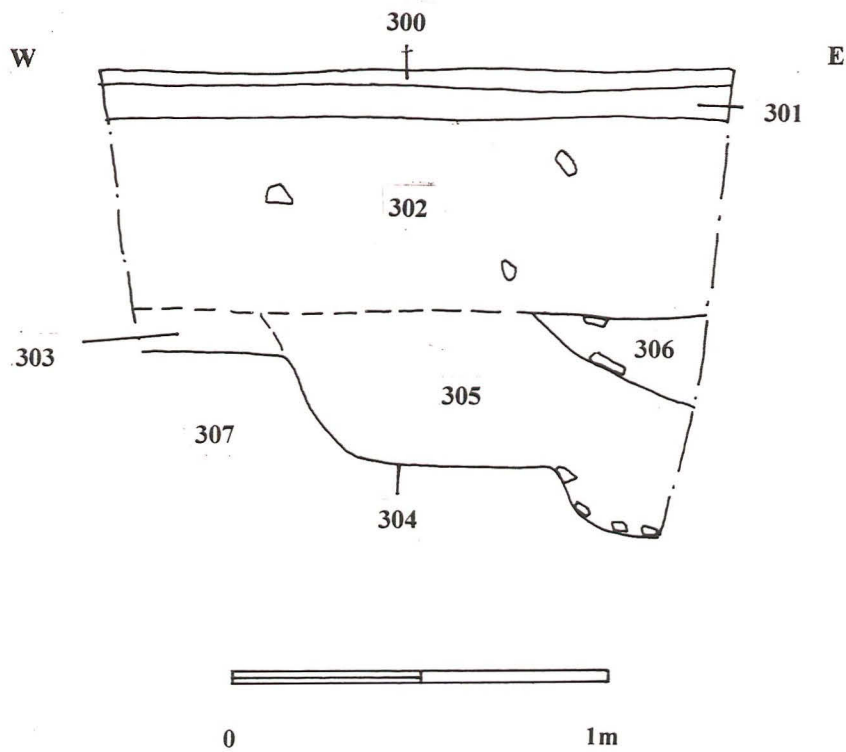
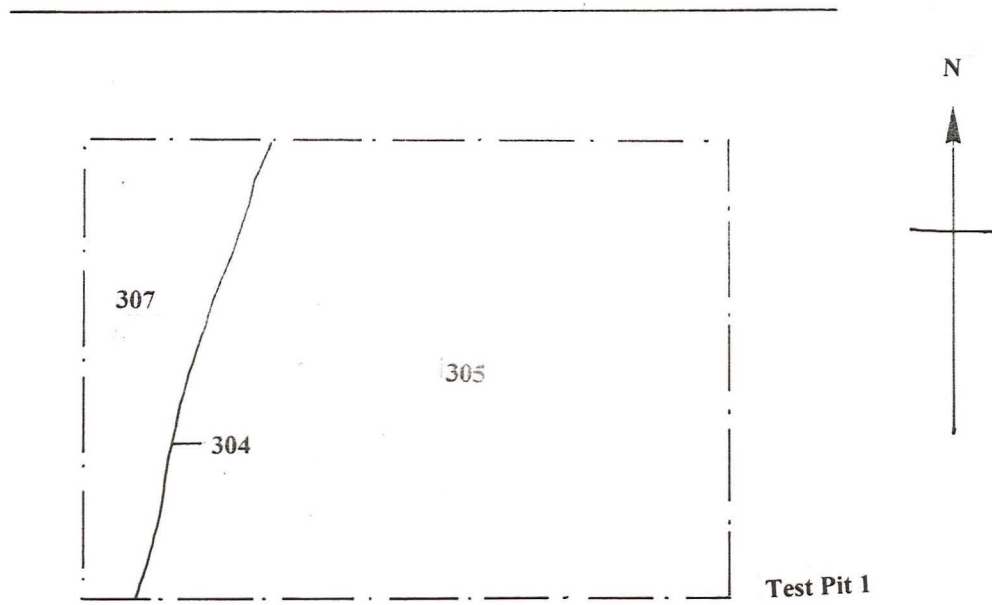


Fig. 4 Test pit 1 plan and north section.

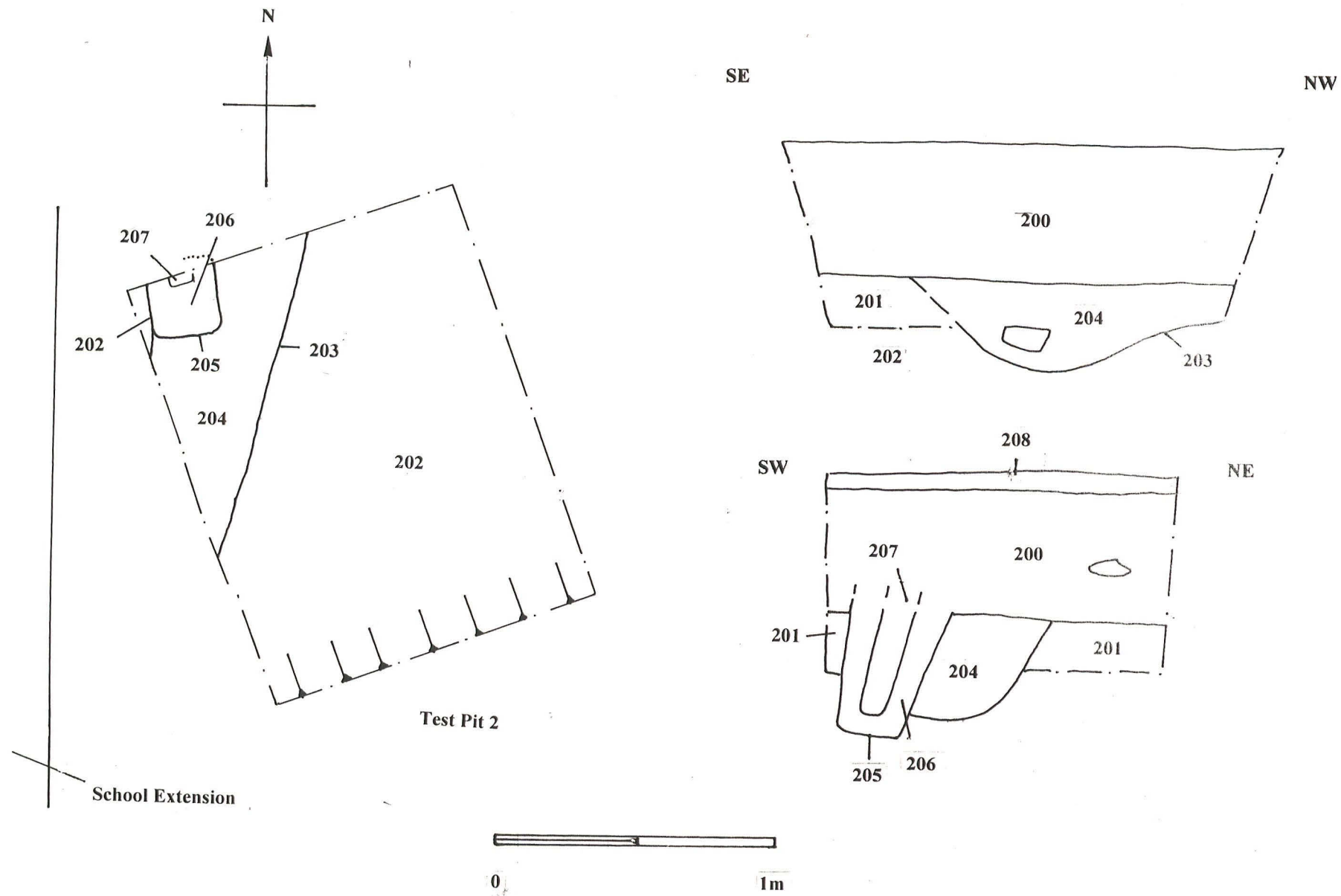


Fig. 5 Test pit 2 plan and north and west sections.

THE PLATES



PI. 1 Normanby by Spital County Primary School, street frontage looking east.

PI. 2 Proposed car park showing area after removal of temporary building and prior to reduction in height. Note foreground where ground has already been reduced to required level and stoned.





Pl. 3 Topsoil stripping in progress at west end of area.

Pl. 4 Topsoil stripping in progress at east end of area, with natural yellow clay visible in front of JCB.





Pl. 5 Test pit 1 looking west showing edge of large pit dug into the natural yellow clay. Scales 2m and 0.50m.

Pl. 6 Test pit 1 looking north showing large pit, dug into the natural yellow clay, with thin mortar layer in the top of its fill. Scales 2m and 0.50m.





Pl. 7 Test pit 1 looking north with section through the pit showing its profile. Scales 2m and 0.50m.

Pl. 8 Test pit 2 looking west showing gully crossing the north-west corner and a later post-hole cutting through the gully. Scales 2m and 0.50m.





Pl. 9 Test pit 2 looking north showing post-hole cutting the gully. Scales 0.50m and 0.20m.

Pl. 10 Test pit 2 looking north showing post-hole cutting the gully after removal of gully fill. Scales 0.50m and 0.20m.