

**PRE-CONSTRUCT
ARCHAEOLOGY
L I N C O L N**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
REPORT
POTTERHANWORTH
PRIMARY SCHOOL,
POTTERHANWORTH,
LINCOLNSHIRE.**

NGR: TF 0554 6622
ACC. No. 2001.413
Site Code: POTT 01
Planning Ref: N/40/090/01



Event L12709

Source L17355

L17356

Mon L160811

60811 Med

MO L182505

62031

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Report Prepared for
Hyder Business Services
by Jim Rylatt

December 2001

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Summary

- *A programme of archaeological trial excavation was undertaken within the grounds of Potterhanworth Primary School, Potterhanworth, Lincolnshire, prior to the construction of an easterly extension to the existing school building.*
- *Two trenches were opened, one of which was found to contain a series of medieval and post medieval boundary features. Associated with one of these ditches was a rough metalled surface thought to represent the eastern edge of a medieval yard.*
- *The second trench was found to contain a series of 19th and 20th century dump deposits. Additionally, a rectangular pit lined by corrugated iron sheeting was exposed. This is thought to represent the remains of an Anderson Shelter provided for the school children during the Second World War.*

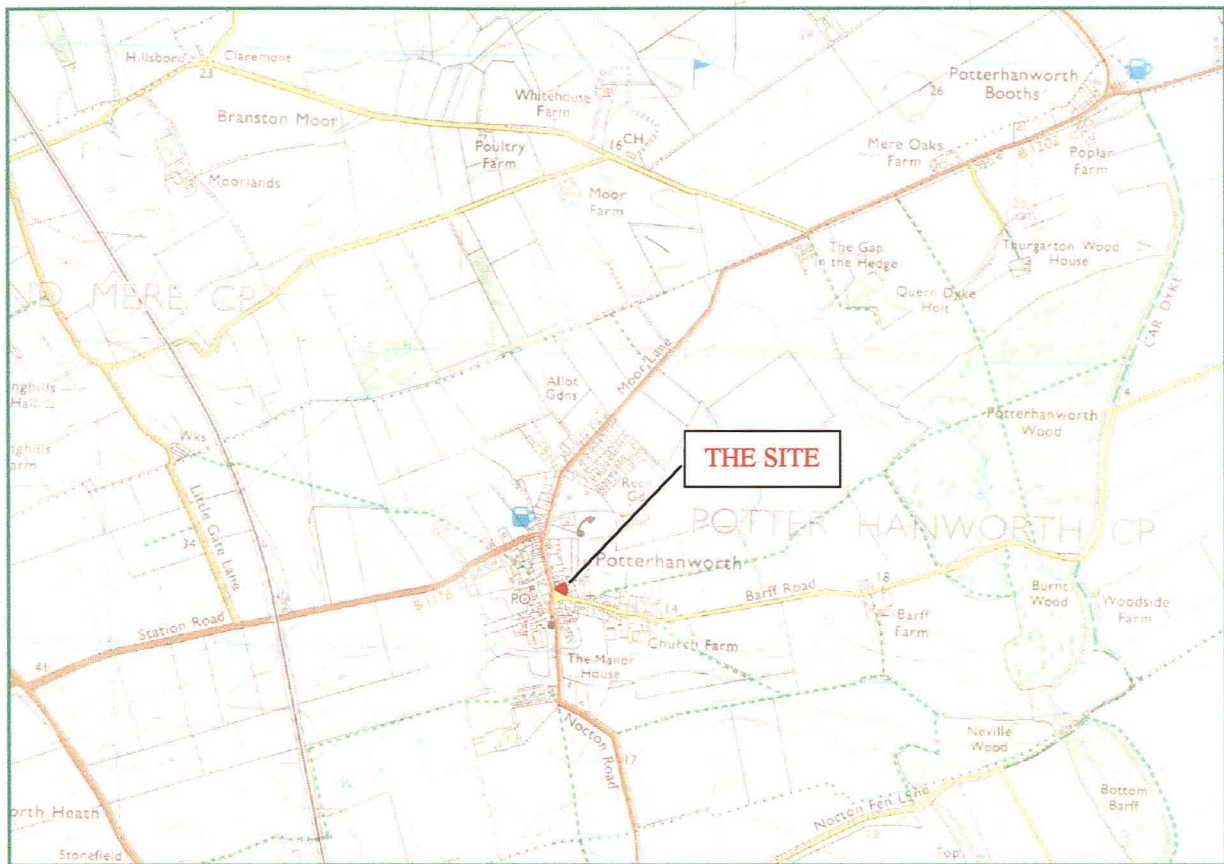


Figure 1: Site location at a scale of 1: 25,000.
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1.0 Introduction

Hyder Business Services commissioned Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) to undertake a programme of trial excavation within the grounds of Potterhanworth Primary School, Potterhanworth, Lincolnshire, in order to determine the archaeological potential of the site prior to the construction of an easterly extension to the existing school building.

This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation and also incorporates a series of assessments by specialist researchers who studied the archaeological materials recovered during the excavation. The text follows current national guidelines produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 1994) and local guidelines set out in the Lincolnshire County Council publication *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice* (LCC, 1998).

2.0 Location and description

Potterhanworth lies within the administrative district of North Kesteven, and is situated approximately 8km south-east of Lincoln and c. 21km north of Sleaford. The Primary School is located at the centre of the village on the eastern side of Main Road, adjacent to the Village Green and c. 150m north of the church (fig. 1). The main school building, an 'L'-shaped stone structure, is situated at the north-west corner of the school yard. To the north of this lies a square temporary building and a sub-rectangular brick outbuilding. Two rectangular mobile classrooms are currently situated at the north-eastern and south-eastern corners of the playground. The whole complex extends to c. 1390m² and is encircled by fencing and a short section of wall.

The proposed extension will adjoin the north-eastern edge of the existing stone school building and will extend c. 25m to the north-eastern corner of the site. It will have three connecting components, which together will enclose c. 245m² of ground.

The village of Potterhanworth overlies the south-western corner of an extensive deposit of 'older river sand and gravel', a Quaternary drift deposit (I.G.S., 1973). The underlying glacial till is exposed at the edge of this deposit, c. 250m to the south of the school. The till covers the uppermost formations of the solid geology, which consist of cornbrash and Blisworth clay, both deposited during the Jurassic period.

Central National Grid Reference: TF 0554 6622.

3.0 Planning background

Hyder Business Services has applied to Lincolnshire County Council for planning permission to construct an extension to the Primary School at Potterhanworth (planning ref. N/49/990/01; LCC - N49/0990/01). That authority has granted permission for the development, subject to the implementation of a programme of investigation to determine the archaeological potential of the site. This procedure would inform the decision making process by determining the potential threat the development poses to any archaeological deposits encountered, thereby enabling the formulation of a mitigation strategy.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

The village of Potterhanworth lies 1.75km to the west of the Witham Fen, a wetland basin that contains a significant number of important archaeological deposits resulting from sustained human activity throughout the prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval periods.

A large number of prestige items, including stone axes and metalwork, have been recovered from the River Witham and its surrounding fen. These items appear to represent the residues of ritual practices undertaken at watery contexts, possibly in a form analogous to the events surrounding the disposal of Excalibur in Arthurian legend (*q.v.* Bradley, 1990). Three Bronze Age spearheads were recovered from Potterhanworth Fen in the 19th century, while a Bronze Age looped palstave was found at Potterhanworth Booths in the 1960s (Davey, 1973). While it is difficult to ascertain the exact find spots of these items, it appears likely that they were found in close proximity to Branston Causeway (the B1190), which runs across the Witham Fen between Bardney and Potterhanworth Booths (Stocker & Everson, forthcoming). There are 12th and 13th century documentary references to this causeway, which relate to its use by the brethren of Bardney Abbey. However, its location and orientation suggest that it is significantly older than this. When Gilbert of Ghent re-founded the monastic house in 1087, a site at the northern end of the 'island' of Bardney was selected for its construction. The causeway is not orientated toward this area, but heads toward the highest ground on the eastern side of the river where the modern village of Bardney now stands. This is thought to be the site of the 7th – 9th century Mercian abbey (Stocker, 1993). However, the recovery of Late Bronze Age weapons raises the possibility that the causeway has an even earlier origin.

The Car Dyke runs along the western edge of the Witham Valley and is thought to be a Roman canal or drain. The proximity of this navigation to the village increases the probability that there will be areas of Romano-British occupation and activity in the immediate area. Indeed, some Romano-British pottery was recovered from the grounds of the Primary School during the construction of the existing buildings

The etymology of the place-name suggests that the origin of the modern settlement lies in the later Anglo-Saxon period. The village appears as *Haneworde* in the *Domesday Book*, a word utilising an Old English personal name, *Hana*, and a contemporary

suffix, *worth*, meaning 'Hana's enclosure' (Cameron, 1998). The prefix 'Potter' is later and refers to the medieval pottery industry centred upon this settlement.

The *Domesday Book* indicates that Walter d'Aincourt had the jurisdiction over much of the land in the parish (Morgan & Thorn, 1986). This included 12 carucates of land held by 'Halfdan and his brothers', land for six ploughs, and 150 acres of both meadow and woodland pasture. A church and priest was also referred to in the 11th century survey. While the present church of St Andrew does not contain any fabric of this date, it is likely that it overlies the site of the Saxon or Saxo-Norman precursor mentioned in AD 1086, and thus indicates the general location of the *Domesday* settlement. Most of the present church was built in 1856 to a design by R.C. Hussey, only the lower two stages of the 14th century tower surviving this rebuilding (Pevsner & Harris, 1989).

Potterhanworth's position at the junction of sandy and clayey drift deposits provided an ideal source of raw materials for pottery production. The date at which the pottery industry was founded in the village has not been definitively established, but sherds of Potterhanworth ware have been recovered from early 13th century deposits in Lincoln (J. young, *pers. comm.*). There appears to have been large-scale production throughout the 14th century, with the industry declining at the end of the 15th or beginning of the 16th century. This rural industry was characterised by coarse sandy, shelly fabrics, which were presumably utilised for utilitarian purposes. However, a few sherds of a finer glazed fabric have been recovered that may also have been manufactured in the village.

In 1595 a Dr Richard Smith purchased the Manor of Potterhanworth. He was a wealthy physician who had practiced in London prior to retiring to Welton, c. 14km to the north of the village (Anon, 2000). He died in 1602 and bequeathed the entire manor, including about 1600 acres of land, to enable the foundation of a school on Steep Hill in Lincoln. This was called Christ's Hospital and was modelled on a school of the same name in London (White, 1856). The initial foundation provided maintenance and education for 12 boys, 3 from Potterhanworth, 3 from Welton and 6 from Lincoln, who were provided with a uniform that led to the establishment also being referred to as Blue Coat School. The Christ's Hospital Endowment was a very lucrative property, particularly after 600 acres of land that lay in the Witham Fen were enclosed and drained around the beginning of the 19th century. The Blue Coat School still exists and continues to own a large proportion of the parish.

The Reverend Arthur Anson was appointed as rector in 1847, and instigated the rebuilding of the church during 1856. Prior to this he had already been responsible for the construction of a new rectory and the village school, "a neat stone building, lately erected by subscription and grants" (White, 1856: 366). Additionally, Reverend Anson personally funded the construction of the School House situated between the church and the school.

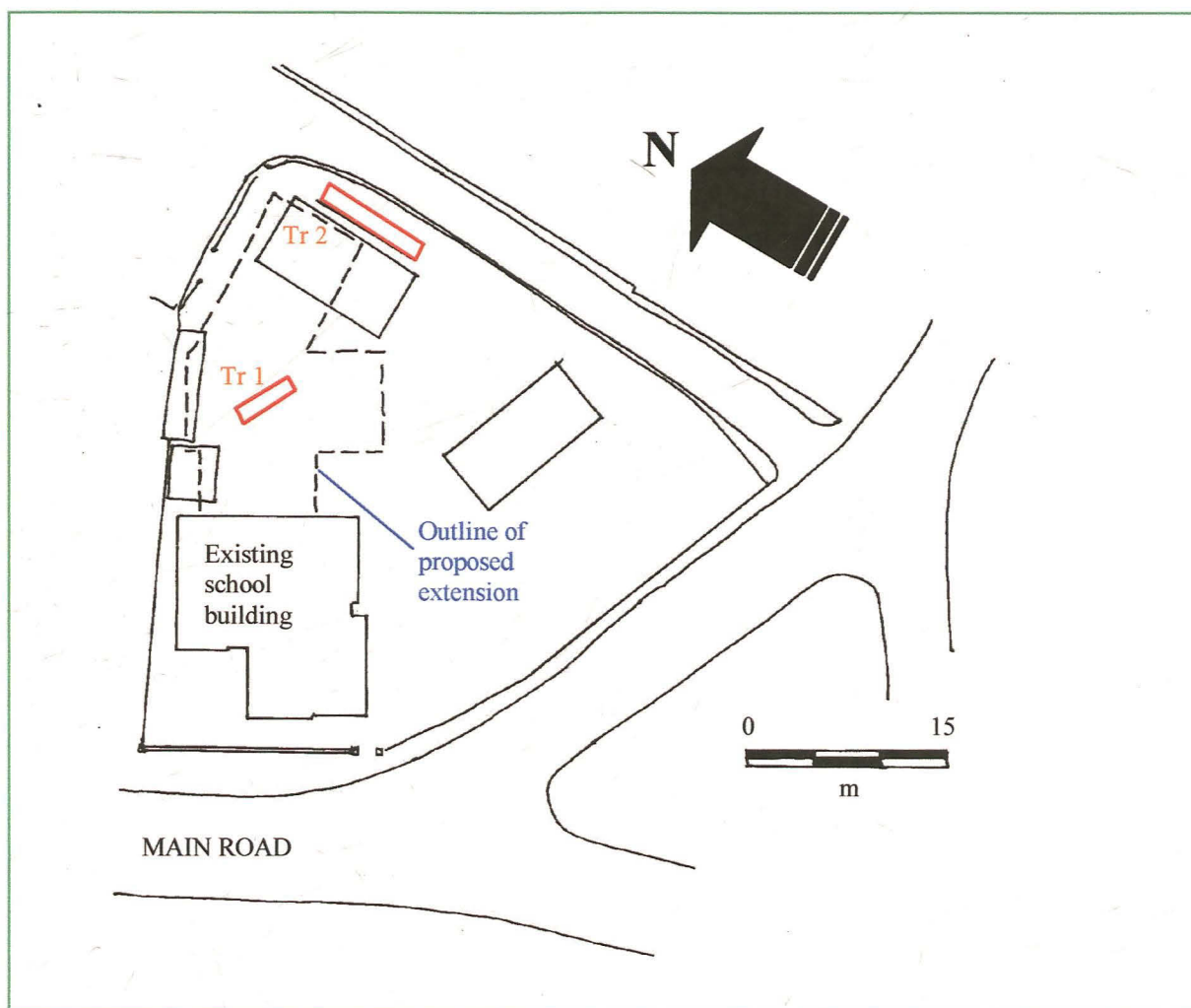


Figure 2: Location of the two evaluation trenches opened at Potterhanworth Primary School.

5.0 Methodology

Two trenches were opened within the schoolyard (fig. 2). Trench 1 was 4m long and lay at the centre of the footprint of the planned extension, roughly equidistant from the existing stone school building and the mobile classroom at the north-east corner of the site. The second trench was 8m long and lay parallel and immediately to the east of the eastern end of the proposed new wing.

Following the removal of the modern yard surface, a mini-digger fitted with a toothless ditching blade was used to remove the uppermost deposits in spits not exceeding 0.1m in depth. The removal of these deposits was monitored constantly to ensure the identification of any archaeological features exposed by this process.

Cleaning of the trenches indicated that many of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were clearly of relatively recent origin. However, features were sample excavated by hand where dating evidence was not immediately apparent. These investigations resulted in the production of written descriptions of all deposits and features. In addition, complementary scale drawings were made in both plan and section. A photographic record (colour prints) of exposed features was maintained. Selective prints have been reproduced in this report, with the remainder forming part of the project archive.

A team of two experienced field archaeologists carried out the excavation over a period of two days, on the 15th and 16th November 2001.

Artefactual materials recovered from the site were cleaned and processed prior to their submission to researchers specialising in the examination of archaeological materials. The results of these investigations have been included as independent appendices to this report, and the general conclusions of these accounts have been integrated into the main text.

6.0 Results

Trench 1

(See fig. 3)

This trench was situated 7m to the north-east of the stone school building, within an area currently utilised as part of the main school yard. It was aligned from east-south-east to west-north-west and was 4m long by 1.6m wide.

Removal of the present tarmac schoolyard, (100)a, exposed an earlier concrete surface, (100)b, c. 0.12m deep. At the centre of the trench a thin lens of yellow gravelly sand, (101), lay immediately beneath the concrete slab. This appeared to be a localised make up layer deposited to fill a slight depression prior to laying of concrete yard surface. The underlying deposit extended across the whole trench and was a loose dark greyish-brown layer of coarse sand and ash, (102), up to 0.18m in depth. Careful cleaning of this layer revealed a series of faint laminations that appeared to indicate that it was composed of a number of successive deposits or weathered surfaces. It is

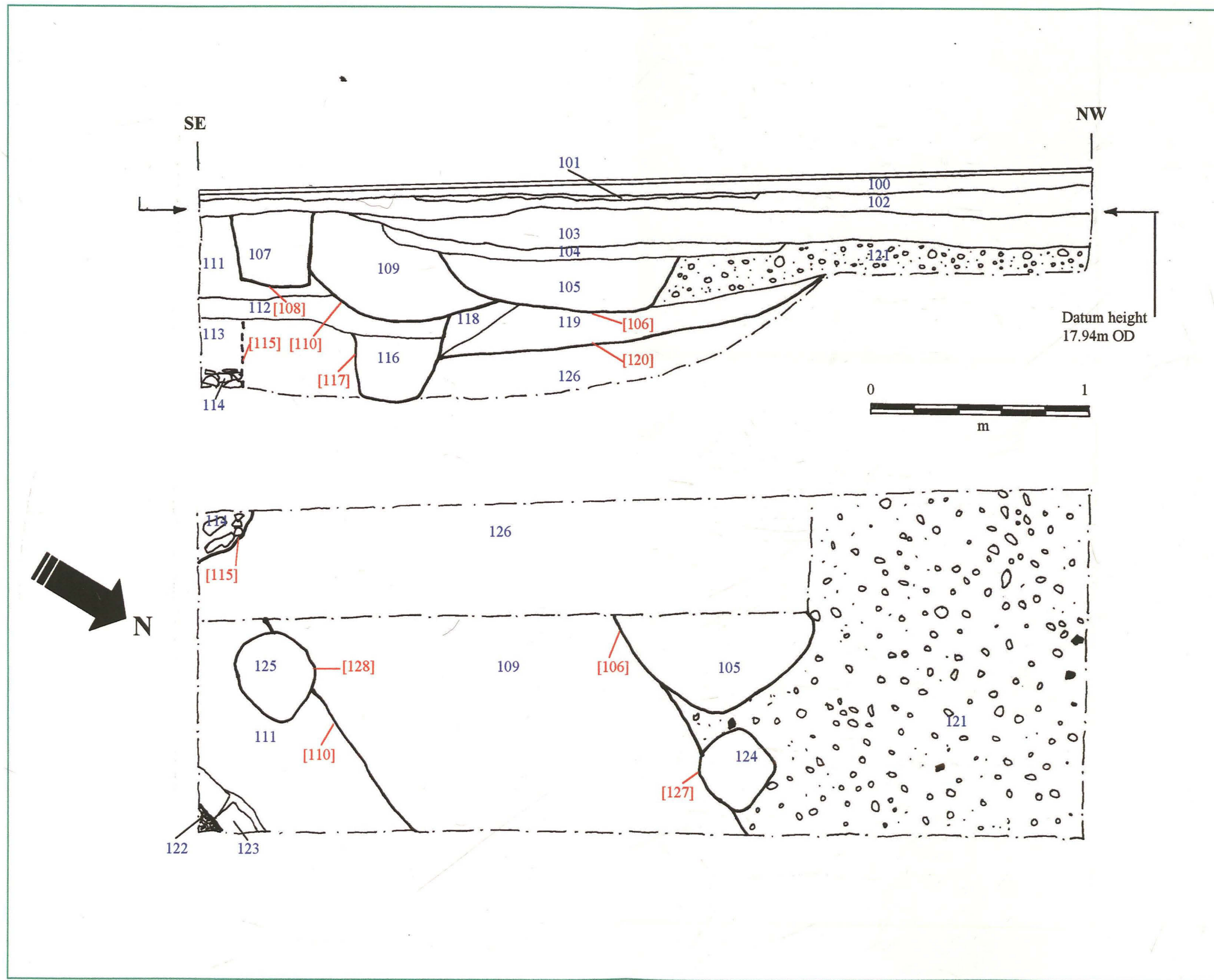


Figure 3: North-east facing section and plan of Trench 1.

therefore likely that (102) represents a series of playground surfaces that were periodically augmented. Beneath (102) lay an homogenous layer of orangey-yellow medium to coarse sand, (103), c. 0.36m deep, within which was a significant quantity of grit and small gravel. This deposit did not appear to be contaminated by silts or artefactual material, suggesting that it had not formed an exposed surface. It appears more likely that (103) was a substantial dump deposit used to level the schoolyard and act as a solid base for the initial ashy surface, (102). This receives some support from the observation that (103) did not extend the full length of the trench. The underlying deposits rose at its south-eastern end, and together with (103) formed a level surface onto which (102) was deposited. It is therefore suggested that (103) and the lowest element of (102) were laid down at approximately the same time as the school was constructed (c. 1850?) to form the first yard.

The western end of (103) sealed a localised deposit of brick fragments and lime mortar, (104). This may have been a deposit resulting from the demolition of a structure situated immediately to the west of the trench. The identifiable brick fragments did not appear to be handmade, suggesting that the bricks had been manufactured during the 19th century. This indicates that there would have been a relatively short period of time between the manufacture of the bricks and putative building, and its demolition prior to the creation of the school and schoolyard. It is therefore also possible that the rubble was imported onto the site as hardcore used to consolidate particularly soft areas of the schoolyard. The latter theory is supported by the observation that (104) has a very similar spatial distribution to (101), both being deposited over a series of earlier ditches (see below).

A small section of wall was exposed at the south-east corner of the trench. Although only the foundations survived, the remains of this wall were evidently the product two distinct phases of activity. The later phase was represented by a single course of machine-made bricks, which were bonded by lime mortar, (122), suggesting that it was constructed in the 19th or early 20th centuries. The remains of (122) were sealed beneath (101) and were aligned from north to south. The bricks of (122) had been laid directly upon the remains of the earlier wall, (123), which was constructed from unbonded, roughly shaped limestone blocks laid from north-north-west to south-south-east. Excavation of this wall was limited to exposing the two uppermost surviving courses. Failure to uncover a construction trench during this process suggests that the base of this feature may lie rather deeper. As noted above, the deposits beneath (102)/(103) were up to 0.4m closer to the modern ground surface at this end of the trench and it appears likely that they had built up against the western face of the wall. There was a direct relationship between wall (123) and an homogenous layer of mid greenish-grey sandy silt, (111), noted to be c. 0.7m deep at the south-west corner.

The north-east facing section of Trench 1 indicated that (111) had been cut through by two features. The later feature was a pit, [108], c. 0.35m wide by 0.33m deep, with near vertical sides and a flat base, which contained a greenish-grey sandy silt, (107). This pit had also cut through the fill of a north-south orientated ditch, [110], which had a 'U'-shaped profile, c. 1.5m wide by 0.45m deep. The fill, (109), was a mid to dark grey sandy silt within which were frequent rounded quartzite pebbles, charcoal flecks and two sherds of pottery produced between the 13th and mid-16th centuries. The pebbles probably derived from deposit (121), which was either cut by or ran up to the

western edge of the ditch. The large quantity of quartzite pebbles and flint gravel within (121) were set in a matrix of greenish-grey clayey sandy silt. The stones were very unevenly distributed, but appeared to form a rough yard surface that had eventually attained a depth of c. 0.3m through periodic augmentation and the accumulation of detritus. The latter included a number of sherds of pottery, including a piece of green glazed Humberware pottery of the 14th – 16th centuries and 12 sherds of Potterhanworth-type wares of the 13th to 15th centuries. Two of these locally produced fragments appear to have been damaged in firing, raising the possibility that there is a nearby centre of production.

The junction between yard surface (121) and ditch fill (109) had been disturbed by the creation of two later features, a pit [106] and a posthole [127]. Pit [106] was sub-oval, being c. 1.1m wide by more than 1.2m long, and 0.2m deep. It was filled by a dark grey sandy silt, (105), within which was a significant quantity of pebbles, charcoal and a sherd of 13th to 14th century coarse sandy pottery. Posthole [127] had a diameter of 0.32m, the upper fill being redeposited natural yellow clay (124). Another posthole, [128], cut through the eastern edge of ditch [110].

The north-south boundary delineated by ditch [110] and wall (122)/(123) seems to have been a remarkably persistent division, as these features appear to have redefined a division created by an earlier ditch, [120]. This feature was relatively wide and quite shallow, being more than 1.8m across but only 0.2m deep. It was largely filled by a yellow to greenish-grey silty clay, (119), which contained a number of lenses of yellow clay that probably resulted from the weathering of the natural, (126), exposed at its edges. A small deposit of dark grey sandy silt, (118), overlay (119) at the eastern edge of the feature. However, most of (118) had been removed by the creation of another posthole, [117], 0.37m diameter by 0.3m deep. The fill, (116), was a mixed deposit of pale grey to grey-green silty clay, which encircled a reddish-brown silty deposit at the centre of the feature that probably represented decayed wood. A second posthole, [115], situated at the south-west corner of the trench, had been cut from the same horizon, as the fills of both [115] and [117] were sealed by a yellowish to greenish-grey silty clay, (112). Posthole [115] had a diameter exceeding 0.2m and was 0.3m deep. It contained two fills, the upper, (113), being redeposited natural clay, while the lower, (114), was composed of tabular limestone rubble that surrounded a void. It seems likely that the rubble was post-packing, with the void being formed by the decay of a timber post.

Trench 2

(See fig. 4)

This trench ran parallel to, and 0.5m from the eastern wall of the mobile classroom situated at the north-eastern corner of the schoolyard. It was aligned approximately from north to south and was 8m long by 1.6m wide.

The stratigraphic sequence in this part of the schoolyard differed noticeably from the area to the west that was exposed in Trench 1. The tarmac yard surface, (200), did not conceal an earlier concrete yard, but was laid directly upon a layer of pale greyish-yellow crushed limestone hardcore, (201), c. 0.06m thick. Beneath (201) lay a deposit

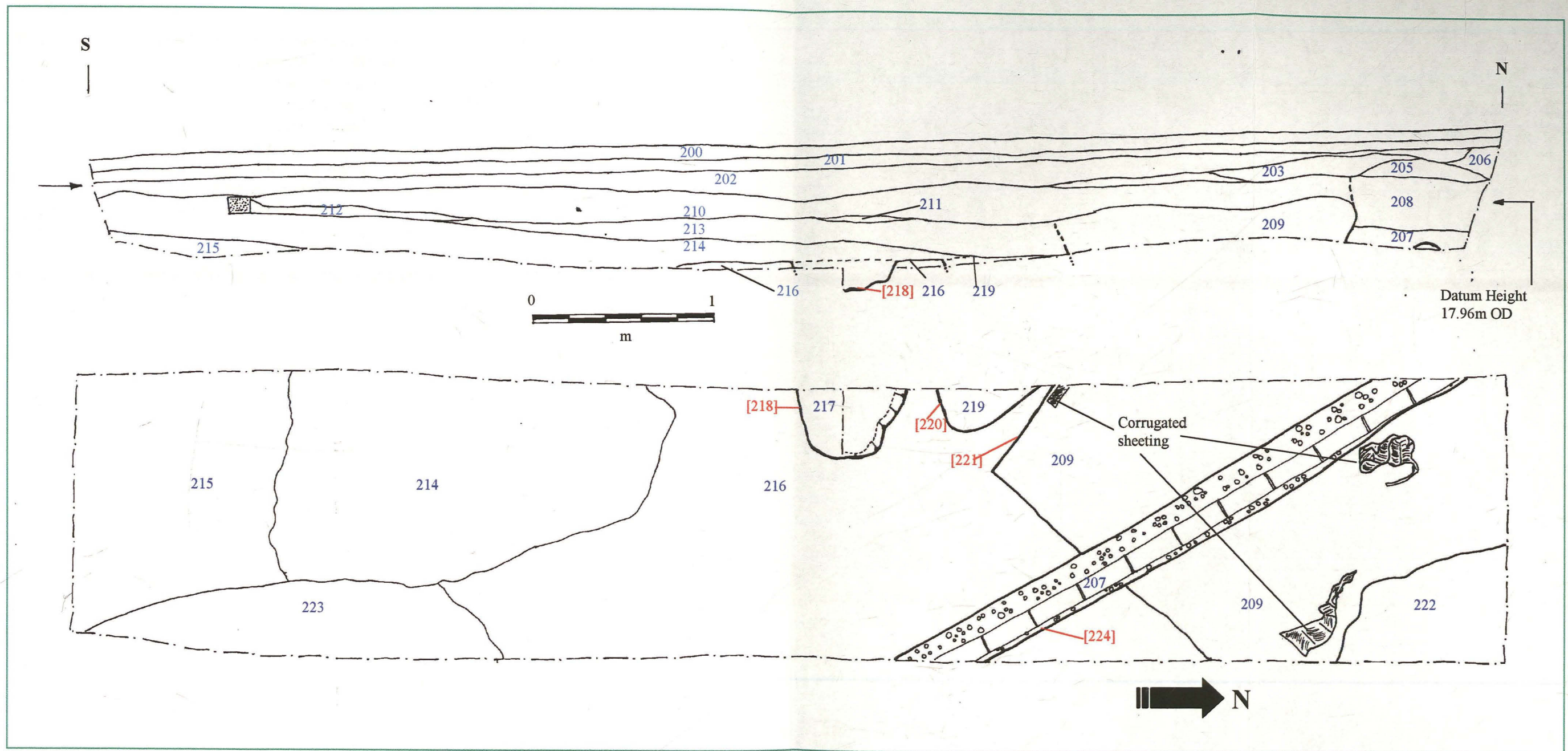


Figure 4: East facing section and plan of Trench 2, note the remains of the Anderson shelter, (209), at the northern end of the trench.

of dark brownish-grey slightly sandy silt, (202), of variable thickness, which extended the full length of the trench.

Removal of (202) revealed that the deposits in the northern third of the Trench 2 were slightly later in date than those observed to the south. A number of small, localised deposits, (203)-(206), lay immediate beneath (202) and probably represented piecemeal attempts to level the ground surface. These partially sealed a mid to dark grey-brown slightly sandy silt, (210), that extended to within 1m of the southern end of the trench. This deposit contained frequent coarse inclusions, including coal fragments, quartzite pebbles and a red foil milk bottle top. Deposit (210) had been removed at the northern end of the trench and was replaced by a dark brownish-grey sandy silt, (208), containing frequent small coal fragments. This was found to be the upper fill of a north-west to south-east aligned pipe trench, [224]. The lower fill, (207), was composed of quartzite pebbles and flint gravel that surrounded a ceramic pipe of 0.12m diameter, laid in uncemented sections. The pipe trench had been cut through a mid to dark grey-brown sandy silt, (209), that contained coal fragments. Cleaning revealed that (209) was contained within a sub-rectangular cut, [221], c. 2.4m wide by more than 2.1m long and c. 0.2m deep, the long axis of which was orientated from north-west to south-east. Rusty corrugated iron sheeting was exposed along the eastern and western edges of (209) and seemed to represent the *in-situ* remains of a partially sunken temporary structure. The dimensions and form of [221] and the corrugated structure suggested that this was the site of an Anderson Shelter that had provided school children with a safe haven during the Second World War. Its location at the far edge of the schoolyard may be explained by a need to separate it from the school building, and the absence of the concrete slab ((100)^b in Trench 1), which would have considerably eased its construction. It is therefore suggested that all of the deposits exposed at the northern end of Trench 2 result from 20th century activity.

Two small, localised deposits were sealed beneath (210) in the southern two-thirds of the trench. At the centre of the trench a lens of pale blue-grey clay, yellow clay and sandy silt lay in a slight depression in surface of the underlying deposit, (213), while the southern end of (210) lay over loose, sub-angular limestone rubble, (212). A single machine made brick defined the southern edge of both (210) and (212), raising the possibility that the latter deposit was a roughly metalled path edged by a line of unmortared bricks.

Two relatively homogenous deposits, both up to 0.2m in depth, were sealed beneath (211) and (212). The upper layer, (213), was a mid to dark brownish-grey slightly sandy silt, while the other was a mid grey-brown sandy silt, (214), containing limestone and quartzite pebbles, brick fragments and coal throughout. Pottery, including brown glazed earthenware, and clay pipe was observed and recovered during the machine removal of these layers, suggesting that they are 19th or 20th century deposits.

The base of (214) had been deposited directly onto natural brownish yellow to pale greyish-yellow mottled silty sands, (216). This suggests that earlier deposits had been removed at some point during the last two centuries. The form of two small features exposed against the east facing section supported this observation. Each appeared to be part of a pit, [218] being c. 0.60m wide and [220] c. 0.55m wide. The fill of [218], a mid grey-brown sandy silt with rusty mottles, (217), was sample excavated. This

indicated that feature had a bowl-shaped profile, but was only 0.2m deep, implying that it had been severely truncated. A single sherd of 13th to 15th century Potterhanworth-type pottery was recovered from (217). This appeared to have been derived from a vessel that had broken during firing.

7.0 Interpretation and discussion

The most striking result of the evaluation was the gross difference between the deposits exposed in Trench 1 and Trench 2, despite the fact that they were only separated by an interval of c. 13m. While Trench 1 contained a series of features that were probably medieval in date, deposits of 19th and 20th century material dominated the other. This variation is probably best explained through reference to the ditches and walls exposed along eastern half of Trench 1.

The stratigraphic sequence in Trench 1 indicated that there was a remarkably persistent boundary running from north to south at this point. Originating in the medieval period as ditch [120], it was succeeded by ditch [110], itself supplemented or replaced by wall (123). A brick wall, (122), replaced the latter in the 19th or 20th centuries. The line of this boundary is still followed by the main wall of a small stone seating area, which lies immediately to the north of Trench 1. This small garden feature was created by rebuilding a section of derelict boundary (C. Smith, *pers. comm.*). Moreover, this boundary can be traced northwards beyond the schoolyard, as it still divides the grounds of the village hall from the rear of the properties fronting onto Main Road (the latter include Rose Marie and Haven House). These observations were corroborated by one of the visitors to the school, who stated that they remembered when the schoolyard had been divided into two parts along the line of this boundary. The western half had belonged to the school, presumably since the time of its construction. It is thus likely that this plot had been church property in the early 19th century, as the establishment was referred to as the 'Church School' shortly after its construction (White, 1856). The land to the east was owned by the Christ's Hospital Endowment and had evidently been part of the Manor of Potterhanworth at the beginning of the 17th century.

Most of medieval features in Trench 1 appear to relate to the formation and maintenance of this boundary. This is self-evident for the walls and ditches, but the juxtaposition of the postholes, either immediately above or beneath successive ditches, suggest that these features are more likely to represent fence posts or other boundary structures rather than buildings. However, it is acknowledged that this interpretation is based upon the examination of a very small area, and as such must remain a tentative suggestion.

Yard surface (121) provided indications that there are further medieval deposits in the area to the west of the trench and that these are more likely to be related to occupation or other activity in the immediate vicinity. Prior to the commencement of the evaluation it had been suggested that features relating to the production of pottery may have been exposed. Although pottery produced in Potterhanworth was recovered from several features and deposits, including the surface of yard (121), it was in small quantities. Consequently, it does not provide direct evidence for pottery production on

the site, as such locally produced wares are likely to have been the predominant type utilised in the domestic sphere. However, a small number of the sherds did exhibit abnormalities consistent with damage during production, which suggests that there are kilns somewhere in the vicinity (Appendix 13.2).

Yard surface (121) is the uppermost deposit that can be ascribed a medieval date with a high degree of certainty. The sherds of Potterhanworth pottery recovered from it are likely to have been produced during the 13th or 14th century. However, a sherd of Humberware also came from this horizon; while the latter may have been produced during the 14th century, it seems more likely that it was manufactured in the 15th century, thereby providing a tentative date for the use of the surface. (121) is sealed beneath a series of modern yard surfaces and its upper edge lies slightly less than 0.5m below modern ground surface. In contrast the evidence from Trench 2 suggests that almost all the medieval and post-medieval deposits have been removed from the eastern half of the site. The reason for this truncation remains unresolved. Large quantities of sediment must have been carted away, which must have left a significant void. This hole appears to have been filled relatively rapidly by a series of 19th and 20th century dump deposits.

8.0 Conclusions

The archaeological evaluation has indicated that *in-situ* remains of medieval activity are likely to be present beneath the western half of the footprint of the proposed extension to Potterhanworth Primary School. These deposits lie within 0.5m of the modern ground surface, which raises the possibility that they may be disturbed during groundworks associated with the new building. However, it is possible that the extent of this disturbance may be limited by the use of a sympathetic foundation design, such as a raft or mini piles.

The evidence obtained from Trench 2 suggests that the archaeological potential of the eastern half of the site is likely to be very limited. Conversely, it is possible that the area over which the earlier deposits have been truncated is of a limited extent, but this could only be verified through the observation of groundworks or further intrusive investigation.

9.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The two trenches opened at Potterhanworth Primary School contained archaeological deposits of a contrasting nature. While Trench 1 contained a series of medieval and post-medieval features, Trench 2 suggested the eastern part of the site had been severely disturbed at some point during the last two centuries. The recovery of artefactual material and the morphological attributes of the features examined in Trenches 1 and 2 provide a basis for anticipating the nature of any further deposits that may be encountered during the proposed development. It is therefore concluded that the evaluation achieved its primary objective by satisfactorily determining the nature, date, distribution and depth of sub-surface archaeological deposits in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development.

10.0 Site archive

The site archive for this project is in preparation and will be deposited at the Lincoln City and County Museum (physical) and the Lincolnshire Archives Office (documentary) within six months. Access to the archive may be granted by quoting the global accession number 2001.413.

11.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Hyder Business Services for commissioning this programme of archaeological investigation, and special thanks are extended to Matthew Whitehead for his help throughout. Thanks are also extended to Carol Smith and her staff for the assistance and information provided during the fieldwork, and to Jane Young who supplied further background information.

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Appendix 13.1: Colour photographs



Plate 1: General view of Trench 1 during the removal of the playground surface, looking north.

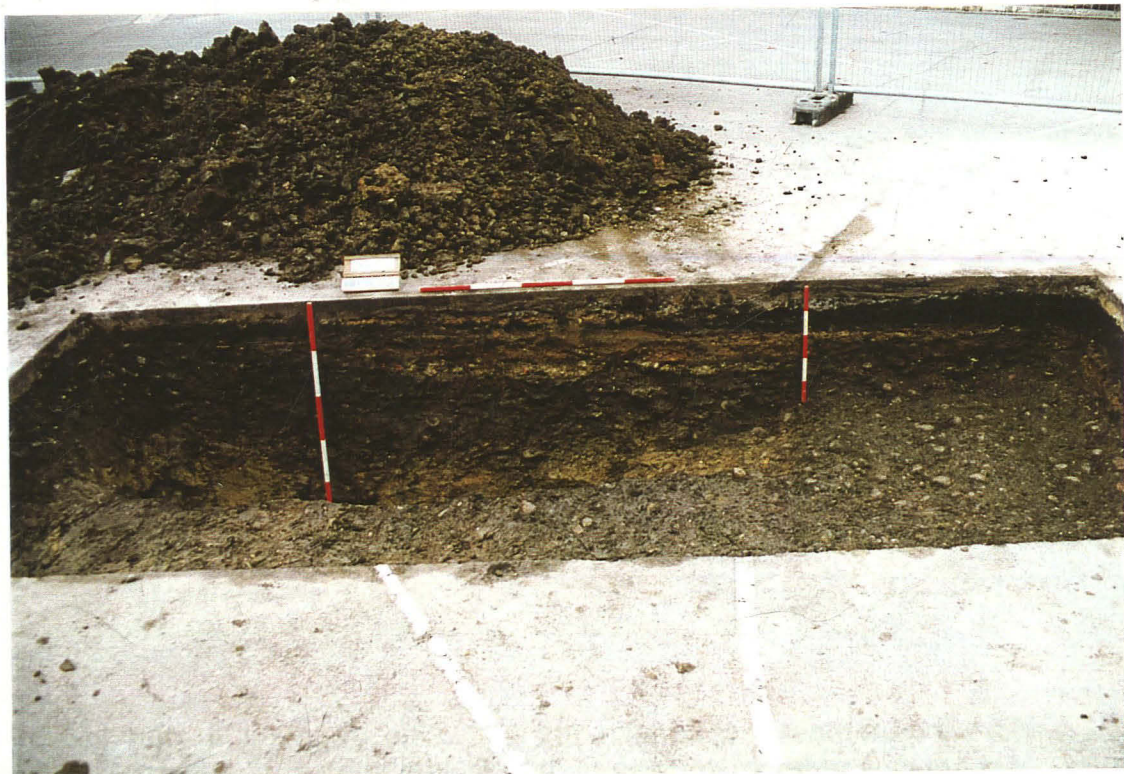


Plate 2: North-east facing section of Trench 1, with the cobbles of the late medieval surface (121) visible in the right hand half of the trench, looking south-west.

Archive Report on the Pottery from an Evaluation at Potterhanworth Primary School, Potterhanworth, Lincolnshire (POTT01)

Jane Young

Lindsey Archaeological Services

Introduction

A small group of 33 sherds of pottery representing 28 vessels was recovered from the site. The material ranges in date from the early medieval to the early modern period. A further group of about 50 unstratified sherds recovered by the school was also examined, but with the exception of two vessels, not recorded in detail. The pottery was examined both visually and using a x20 magnification, then recorded on an Access database using locally and nationally agreed codenames.

Condition

The pottery recovered was in variable condition with most sherds showing a fair degree of abrasion. The fabric of the shell-tempered vessels from the site shows slight signs of leaching, probably owing to the decomposition of the shell due to the over firing of many of the sherds. Few of the Potterhanworth ware sherds are identifiable as direct wasters, although several vessels suggest bad firing techniques. One sand-tempered sherd (MEDLOC) recovered by the school can also be identified as a possible waster.

Overall Chronology and Source

Only six different pottery ware types were found on the site, the type and general date range for these fabrics are shown in Table 1. A limited range of vessel types was recovered including examples of jars, jugs and a bowl.

Table 1: Pottery codenames and date range with total quantities by sherd and vessel count

codename	full name	earliest date	latest date	sherds	vessels
HUM	Humberware	1250	1550	3	3
LEMS	Lincolnshire Early Medieval Shelly	1130	1230	1	1
LERTH	Late earthenwares	1750	2000	1	1
MEDLOC	Medieval local fabrics	1150	1450	1	1
MEDX	Non Local Medieval Fabrics	1150	1450	1	1
POTT	Potterhanworth-type Ware	1230	1500	26	22

With the exception of seven vessels, all of the material recovered from the site is Potterhanworth ware. The competence of manufacture, together with the few diagnostic rim types and sherd colour suggests that the majority of the Potterhanworth vessels date to the 13th or 14th centuries. Pottery was first

discovered on the site in 1855 when the school was built, further finds of mis-fired shell-tempered pottery in the vicinity and deposits of kiln waste at Barff Road in 1996 confirm that production must have taken place nearby. Only four vessels can be identified as direct production waste although several other vessels appear to have been over fired outside the normal range for the ware. Two sand-tempered jugs that may also represent local production were also recovered (one from the school collection). These are coarse sand-tempered vessels with a 'splashed' glaze over a white slip.

Three Humberware jugs were found on the site, all are likely to be of 15th or early 16th century date. A coarse sand-tempered jug (MEDX) from context 105 may also be a product of the Humber area. A single early modern vessel, a garden pot was recovered with unstratified material.

Summary and Recommendations

This is a small assemblage of post-Roman pottery dating mainly to the medieval period. Pottery production is thought to have taken place in the immediate vicinity and the pottery found on this site might be associated with that production.

The assemblage should be kept for future study, especially as part of any type series or characterisation of Lincolnshire fabrics. The two sand-tempered jugs are of great importance in establishing if glazed vessels were also produced at Potterhanworth and should a larger collection become available these should be scientifically examined.

Pottery Archive POTT01

Jane Young

Lindsey Archaeological Services

context	cname	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	decoration	part	description	date
105	MEDX	OX/R/OX;coarse sandy with fe;hard	jug	1	1		base	comm coarse SR quartz fine background mod-comm fe occ calcitic;reduced green glaze bleeding to brown	13th to 14th
109	HUM		large jug/jar	1	1	pressed rim	rim		15th to 16th
109	POTT		?	1	1		base		13th to 15th
121	HUM		jug	1	1		BS		14th to 16th
121	MEDLOC	oxid;coarse sandy;hard	jug	1	1		BS	soot;slip but no ext glaze glaze spots int;SR-round quartz (.3-.6) occ fe occ rounded limestone;abraded;LAS type series	13th
121	POTT		?	1	1		base	very sandy	13th to 15th
121	POTT		?	1	1		BS	soot	13th to 15th
121	POTT		?	7	7		various		13th to 15th
121	POTT		bowl ?	1	1	cordons	rim		13th to 15th
121	POTT		large vessel	1	1		base	broken in kiln;very sandy fabric	13th to 15th
121	POTT		large vessel	1	1		base	slightly kicked base;broken in kiln ? As completely oxid edges	13th to 15th
217	POTT		?	1	1		base	broken in firing ?	13th to 15th
U/S from school	MEDLOC	OX/R/OX;med-coarse sandy;hard	jug	2	1		BS	splashed glaze over slip;blown in kiln;LAS type series;SR-round quartz occ shell	13th

context	cname	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	decoration	part	description	date
U/S from school	POTT		large jar	1	1		BS	sparse shell abundant med SR quartz;LAS type series	13th to 15th
U/S Trench 8	HUM		jug	1	1		BS		15th to 16th
U/S Trench 8	LEMS		?	1	1		base	? Or odd fine shelled POTT	12th to early/mid 13th
U/S Trench 8	LERTH		flowerpot	1	1		BS		19th to 20th
U/S Trench 8	POTT		?	3	1		base		13th to 15th
U/S Trench 8	POTT		?	2	1		base		13th to 15th
U/S Trench 8	POTT		large jar	1	1		BS	broken during firing;low sand content	13th to 15th
U/S Trench 8	POTT		jar	1	1		BS		13th to 15th
U/S Trench 8	POTT		jar	2	1		rim	odd hollow everted rim early ?	13th to 15th
U/S Trench 8	POTT		jar	2	1		rim		13th to 15th
U/S Trench 8	POTT		?	1	1		base	slightly kicked out	13th to 15th

Tile Archive POTT01

Jane Young

Lindsey Archaeological Services

context	cname	full name	frags	weight	description	date
U/S Trench 8	FIREDCLAY	fired clay	3	122	possibly from kiln floor or structure	
U/S Trench 8	MODTILDISC	Modern tile (discarded)	1	311	floor tile	19th to 20th
U/S Trench 8	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1	19	thick ? Roofer;oxidised	med to early modern

POTTERHANWORTH, LINCOLNSHIRE (POTT01)

The mammal bone

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Thursday 6th December '01

Potterhanworth produced one mammal bone fragment, which was moderately well preserved. The fragment was not especially diagnostic, but is probably a sheep/goat tibia (left mid-shaft). The texture of the bone indicates that it was likely to have been an adult animal. It is fairly gracile, so the possibility that it may be roe deer cannot be entirely dispelled.

Appendix 13.4 List of Archaeological Contexts

Trench 1

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Description</i>
100	Deposit	Schoolyard surface – a: present tarmac surface, c. 0.03m deep; b: concrete slab.
101	Deposit	Yellow gravelly sand, possible localised make up layer filling slight depression prior to laying of concrete yard surface, sealed by (100)
102	Deposit	Dark greyish-brown mixed coarse sand and ashy deposit, faint laminations of c. 0.01m depth visible within this deposit. Probable yard surfaces, sealed by (101)
103	Deposit	Orangey-yellow medium – coarse sand, with frequent grit and small gravel, sealed by (102)
104	Deposit	Localised deposit of brick fragments and lime mortar, possible demolition layer or make up for probable school yard (103), sealed by (103)
105	Fill	Dark grey sandy silt, moderate to frequent flint gravel, quartzite pebbles and charcoal throughout, sealed by (104), contained by [106]
106	Cut	Pit – c. 1.1m wide, >1.2m long, by 0.2m deep, with steeply sloping sides and flat base, cuts (109) and (121), contains (105)
107	Fill	Greenish-grey sandy silt, moderate white flecks, flint gravel and quartzite pebbles throughout, sealed by (102), contained by [108]
108	Cut	Pit – c. 0.35m wide by 0.33m deep, with near vertical sides and flat base, cuts (109) and (111), contains (107)
109	Fill	Mid to dark grey sandy silt, with frequent rounded quartzite pebbles and moderate charcoal throughout, cut by [106] and [108], contained by [110]
110	Cut	Ditch – north-south aligned linear feature, c. 1.9m wide by 0.45m deep, with 'U'-shaped profile, cuts (112) and (118), contains (109)
111	Deposit	Mid greenish-grey sandy silt, cut by [110] and [108]
112	Deposit	Yellowish to greenish-grey silty clay, with frequent rounded quartzite pebbles, sealed by (111)
113	Fill	Yellow clay, redeposited natural forming the upper fill of posthole [115], sealed by (112)
114	Fill	Lower fill of posthole [115], tabular limestone rubble (post-packing) surrounding a void (post-pipe), sealed by (113)
115	Cut	Posthole – >0.2m diameter, by 0.3m deep, with vertical sides and flat base, cuts (126), contains (113) and (114)
116	Fill	Mixed deposit of pale grey to grey-green silty clay, with yellow clay mottles. A reddish-brown silty deposit at the centre probably represents decayed wood, sealed by (112), contained by [117]
117	Cut	Posthole – 0.37m diameter, by 0.3m deep, with near vertical sides and flat base, cuts (118) and (126), contains (116)
118	Deposit	Dark grey sandy silt, cut by [117]
119	Fill	Yellow to greenish-grey silty clay, containing yellow clay lenses and occasional quartzite pebbles, sealed by (118)
120	Cut	Possible ditch - >1.8m wide by 0.2m deep, possible precursor to [110]
121	Deposit	Probable yard surface – uneven distributed stony layer, quartzite pebbles with some flint gravel, set in a matrix of greenish-grey clayey sandy silt, cut by [106] and [127]
122	Structure	Brick wall – one course of bricks surviving; appear to be 19 th century machine-made bricks. Aligned from north to south, sealed by (101)
123	Structure	Limestone wall – two courses of rubble blocks visible, not bonded. Aligned from north-north-west to south-south-east, sealed by (122),

		possible medieval soil (111) appears to butt up against the western face of the wall
124	Fill	Yellow clay, redeposited natural forming the upper fill of posthole [127], sealed by (104)
125	Fill	Dark grey sandy silt forming the upper fill of posthole [128], sealed by (104)
126	Layer	Natural - yellow clay, containing occasional quartzite pebbles
127	Cut	Posthole - c. 0.32m diameter, cuts (109) and (121), contains (124)
128	Cut	Probable posthole - c. 0.36m diameter, cuts (109), contains (125)

Trench 2

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Description</i>
200	Deposit	Tarmac yard surface
201	Deposit	Pale greyish-yellow crushed limestone hardcore, sealed by (200)
202	Deposit	Dark brownish-grey slightly sandy silt, sealed by (201)
203	Deposit	Mid yellowish-brown sandy silt, sealed by (202)
204	Deposit	Lens of pale greyish-yellow crushed limestone, sealed by (203)
205	Deposit	Sub-angular, tabular limestone rubble, sealed by (203) and (206)
206	Deposit	Dark grey-brown sandy silt, with tarmac inclusions, sealed by (202)
207	Fill	Quartzite pebbles and flint gravel surrounding ceramic pipeline, fill of [224]
208	Deposit	Dark brownish-grey sandy silt containing frequent small coal fragments, sealed by (204) and (205)
209	Fill	Mid to dark grey-brown sandy silt containing moderate coal fragments. Rusty corrugated iron sheeting was exposed along the eastern and western edges of this deposit. Latter possibly the remains of an Anderson Shelter. Fill of [221], cut by [224]
210	Deposit	Mid to dark grey-brown slightly sandy silt, moderate to frequent limestone and quartzite pebbles throughout, cut by [224]
211	Deposit	Lens of pale blue-grey clay, yellow clay and sandy silt, situated in slight depression in surface of (213), which may have resulted from compaction of fill of [218], sealed by (210)
212	Deposit	Lens of sub-angular limestone rubble, with a brick at its southern edge, sealed by (210)
213	Deposit	Mid to dark brownish-grey slightly sandy silt, sealed by (211) and (212)
214	Deposit	Mid grey-brown sandy silt, moderate limestone and quartzite pebbles, brick fragments and coal throughout, sealed by (213)
215	Deposit	Mid grey-brown clayey silt, with frequent gravel inclusions and lumps of pinkish brown clay, sealed by (214)
216	Layer	Natural - brownish yellow to pale greyish-yellow mottled silty sand, cut by [218], [220] and [221]
217	Fill	Mid grey-brown sandy silt, with rusty mottles and medieval pottery, fill of [218], sealed by (214)
218	Cut	Probable pit, c. 0.60m wide by at least 0.20m deep
219	Fill	Pale to mid grey-brown sandy silt, with rusty mottles, fill of [220], sealed by (214)
220	Cut	Probable pit, c. 0.55m wide
221	Cut	Sub-rectangular feature, c. 2.4m wide by >2.1m long and c. 0.2m deep, with near vertical sides. Long axis orientated approximately north-west to south-east. Probably excavated to contain the base of an Anderson Shelter. Cuts (216) and (222), contains (209)
222	Layer	Yellowish-brown silty clay containing moderate quantity of limestone rubble, possibly natural, cut by [221]
223	Deposit	Pale blue-grey slightly silty clay, with frequent quartzite pebbles, sealed by (215)
224	Cut	North - south orientated linear gully, c. 0.3m wide by >3.25m long containing ceramic drain, cuts (209)