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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Barrowby CE Primary School, Lincs

Archaeological Watching Brief

NGR: SK 8780 3645

Site Code: BPSE 01

LCNCC Museum Accn. No.: 2001.293

Planning Application No.: S01/0744/06

Archaeological Watching Brief

**Report prepared for
Hyder Business Services Ltd
on behalf of
Lincolnshire County Council**

**by
G. Tann**

**LAS Report No. 555
January 2002**

negative

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Conservation
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Highways & Planning
Directorate

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Summary

Groundworks for the school extension identified part of a small pit and a shallow ditch. Neither produced dateable material, and both may have been garden features associated with the school.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by Hyder Business Services (on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council) in September 2001 to conduct a watching brief during the mechanical excavation of footings for a school extension at Barrowby Primary School (Figs. 1-3). A condition of Lincolnshire County Council's full planning permission required an archaeological watching brief, for which a project design prepared by LAS in August 2001 was approved.

Monitoring visits by G. Tann took place on September 21st and 24th 2001.

The Development Site

The site is located on the southern side of the school buildings, SW of the village centre, and east of the parish churchyard (Pl. 1). The works consisted of three small areas of extension to the south and north sides of an existing late-twentieth century school extension (Figs. 3 and 4).

Original part of school is Victorian and is believed to have been built circa 1852.

Archaeological Background

The settlement at Barrowby was in existence in 1086 when the Domesday Survey was produced. At the end of the Anglo-Saxon period, the village was the centre of an estate held by Robert Malet, with a church and a mill. The existing All Saints' Church contains Saxon carved stones, but the fabric is mostly of thirteenth century construction. The full extent and arrangement of Saxon and medieval settlement in Barrowby is not known, and the school site is in a prime site to produce further information. Roman and medieval remains have been reported from the village centre.

The Watching Brief

Method

Context numbers were assigned to features and their fills for recording purposes; these are used in this report (in bold) and are listed in Appendix 1.

Trenches around the southernmost extension were excavated first with a 0.6m wide, toothed, bucket, to depths of between 1.8m and 2m (Pl. 2). All recording was conducted from ground level for safety reasons, or within the upper part of partially excavated trenches; cleaning of the trench faces was not

practicable despite smearing which had occurred from the machine bucket. These recording conditions had an adverse effect on the ability to interpret the observations.

The Foundation Trenches (Fig. 4)

The eastern end wall trench cut through a 0.1m thick layer of tarmac (acting as a hard surface around the school building) and its 0.05m thick crushed stone bedding layer. Beneath these was a 0.1m thick dark brown loam layer **3** which was interpreted as a truncated mid-twentieth century topsoil. Immediately below the topsoil was an orange sandy clay **9** about 0.25m thick (which equated with a paler flaky clay **4** in the SE corner. Although this deposit was assumed to be a subsoil, a funnel-shaped anomaly linked this layer with a 0.08m thick band of orange sandy clay **11** through the 0.85m thick intervening grey clay deposit **5** (Fig. 5; Pl. 3). There were no indications that the vertical anomaly was produced by a land drain or any other archaeological feature, and it was judged to be of natural origin.

Within the southernmost wall trench it was possible to record the eastern edge of a steep-sided feature **6** (Fig. 6; Pl. 4). The flat base was 1m below the tarmac surface, and the feature appeared to terminate just beyond the northern side of the trench. It was filled with a dark orange/brown clay **7**, with a 0.05m thick lens of topsoil-like loam **8** at its very base, presumably the product of worm action at the interface with the much more solid grey clay **5**. The feature had been cut through the subsoil **4**, and its fill was overlain by the buried topsoil **3**. This was interpreted as the hole produced by removal of the root system of a tree, possibly when the earlier school extension was built.

At the SW corner of the existing building, the tarmac had been laid over a concrete school yard surface, which covered a laid surface of bricks (Pl. 5). The brick paving (possibly an access path) extended 2.3m to the west of the existing extension, beyond which was crushed stone as seen further to the east. Below the bricks was buried topsoil **3**, with its base 0.25m below the modern ground surface. This corner of the school building lies in a slight natural depression, with deposits rising towards the church site to the west.

The new foundation trenches at the NW corner of the existing building revealed the eastern side of a 0.4m deep, north-south aligned, feature **12** (Fig. 7; Pls. 6 and 7). Its dark brown clay loam fill **13** was cut by recent drains serving the school, and was immediately overlain by the crushed stone bedding for the tarmac surface. The feature was interpreted as a boundary or drainage ditch (possibly deeper beyond the trench face) or as a garden feature associated with the school prior to construction of the existing extension. There is a slight chance that it represents a former limit to the adjoining churchyard.

No finds or other features were identified from the groundworks.

Conclusion

Groundworks for the school extension revealed no features which are necessarily older than the existing school premises.

Acknowledgements

Site plans and access to the site were arranged through Hyder Business Services and Gelder Construction Ltd. LAS would also like to thank the Headteacher, caretaker and staff, and Lincolnshire County Council Built Environment Team, for their assistance during this watching brief.

Jane Frost prepared the illustrations and produced the report.

Geoff Tann
Lindsey Archaeological Services
9th January 2002

Archive Summary

correspondence

developer's site plans

field plan

field section drawings

inked section drawings

photographs: colour prints LAS film nos. 01/71/10-14 and 01/73/15-26 (including those used in this report)

Barrowby Primary School

Context Summary

(BPSE 01)

Context No.	Type	Relationships	Description
1	Layer	Layer 1	Layer 1 - 1st floor
2	Layer	Layer 2	Layer 2 - 2nd floor
3	Layer	Layer 3	Layer 3 - 3rd floor
4	Layer	Layer 4	Layer 4 - 4th floor
5	Layer	Layer 5	Layer 5 - 5th floor
6	Layer	Layer 6	Layer 6 - 6th floor
7	Layer	Layer 7	Layer 7 - 7th floor
8	Layer	Layer 8	Layer 8 - 8th floor
9	Layer	Layer 9	Layer 9 - 9th floor
10	Layer	Layer 10	Layer 10 - 10th floor
11	Layer	Layer 11	Layer 11 - 11th floor
12	Layer	Layer 12	Layer 12 - 12th floor
13	Layer	Layer 13	Layer 13 - 13th floor
14	Layer	Layer 14	Layer 14 - 14th floor
15	Layer	Layer 15	Layer 15 - 15th floor
16	Layer	Layer 16	Layer 16 - 16th floor
17	Layer	Layer 17	Layer 17 - 17th floor

Appendix 1

Barrowby Primary School
Context Summary
 (BPSE 01)

Context No.	Type	Relationships	Description
1	layer	above 2	tarmac yard surface, 0.1m thick
2	layer	below 1, above 3	crushed stone deposit, 0.2m thick
3	layer	below 2, above 7	buried dark brown topsoil, 0.07m thick
4	layer	cut by 6, above 5	yellow flaky clay layer, 0.18m thick. ?subsoil
5	layer	below 4, above 11	grey clay natural, 0.9m thick
6	cut	filled by 7, 8, cuts 4	irregular sided 0.65m deep feature, flat base, at least 1.5m wide. ?tree-hole
7	fill	below 3, above 8, fill of 6	dark orange/brown sandy clay fill
8	fill	below 8, fill of 6	topsoil lens 0.08m thick; ?worm action
9	fill	below 3, fill of 10	fill of funnel-shaped natural feature through 5 to 11
10	cut	filled by 9, cuts 5	natural funnel-shaped feature
11	layer	below 5, above 17	orange clay, natural band, 0.2m thick
12	cut	filled by 13, cuts 14	north-south aligned ditch, 0.4m deep, at least 0.6m wide
13	fill	below 2, fill of 12	dark brown clay loam with charcoal
14	layer	cut by 12, above 15	subsoil, as 4, 0.2m thick
15	layer	below 14, above 16	orange clay, natural band, 0.2m thick
16	layer	below 15	pale yellow clay natural
17	layer	below 11	grey clay natural



THE FIGURES

Fig. 1 Location of Barrowby IC based on the 1990 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 Landranger map Sheet 130. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO, L.A.S. Licence No. AL 10002163.

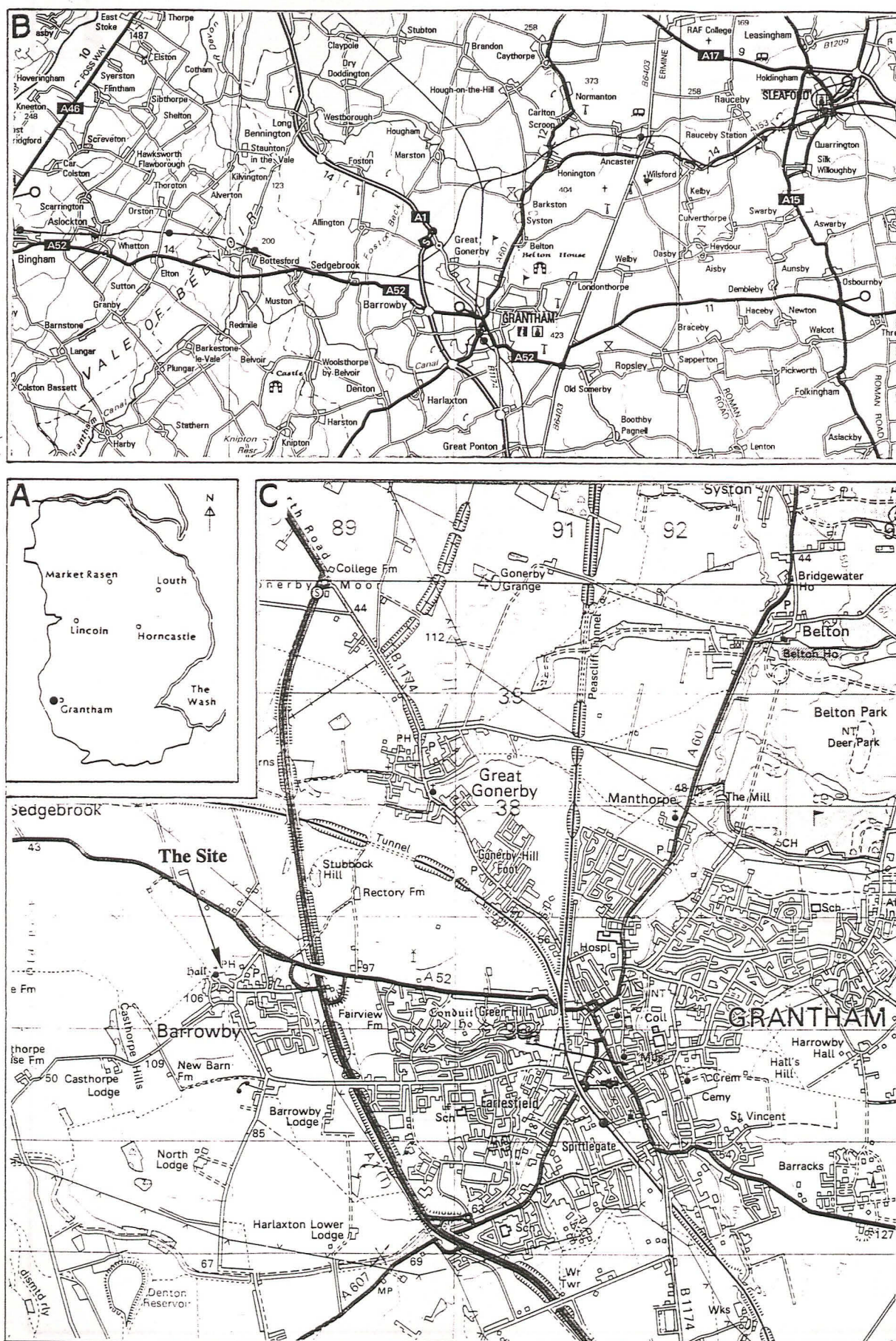


Fig. 1 Location of Barrowby (C based on the 1990 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 Landranger map Sheet 130. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 10002165).

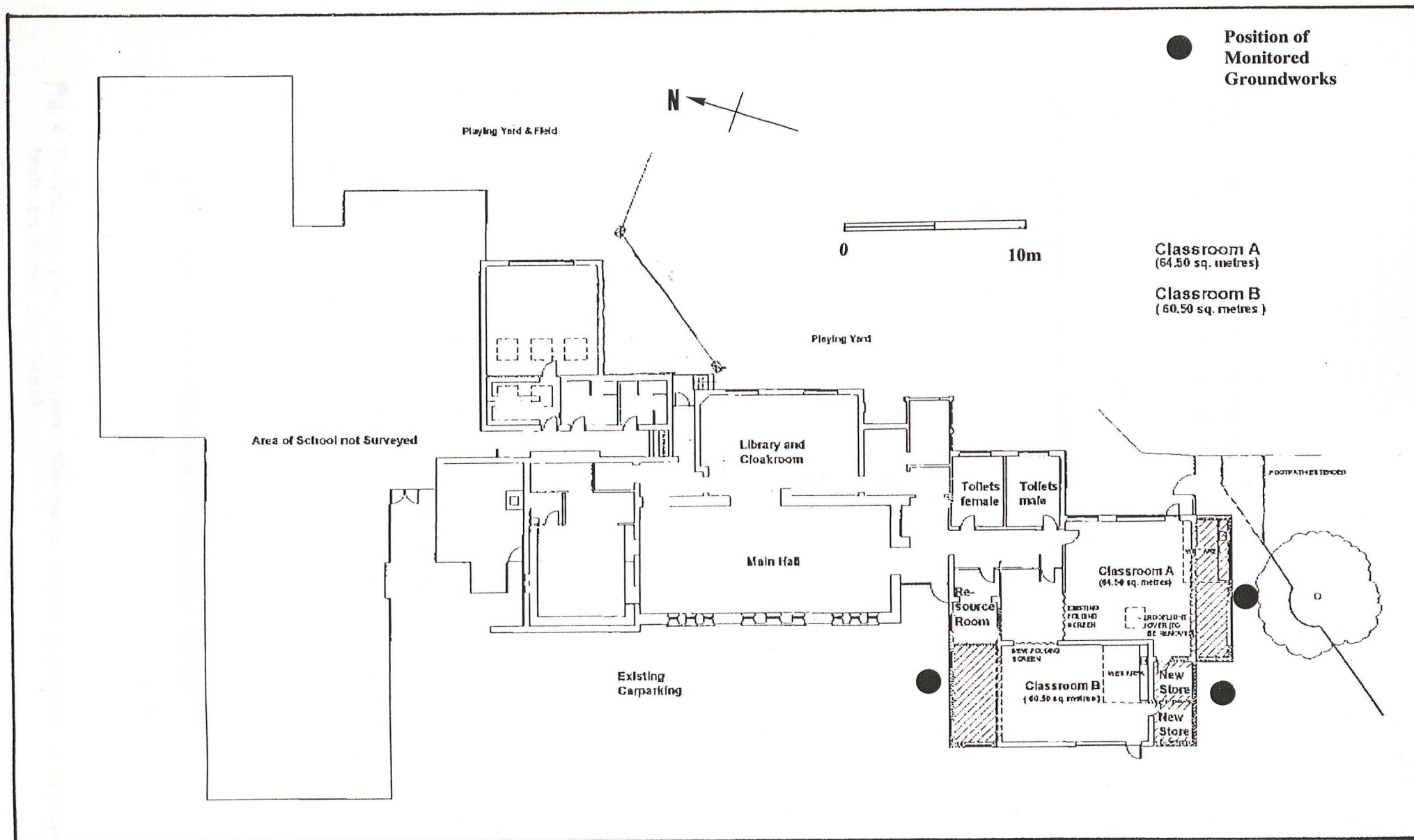


Fig. 3 Location of the extensions to Barrowby School (based on a plan supplied by the client).

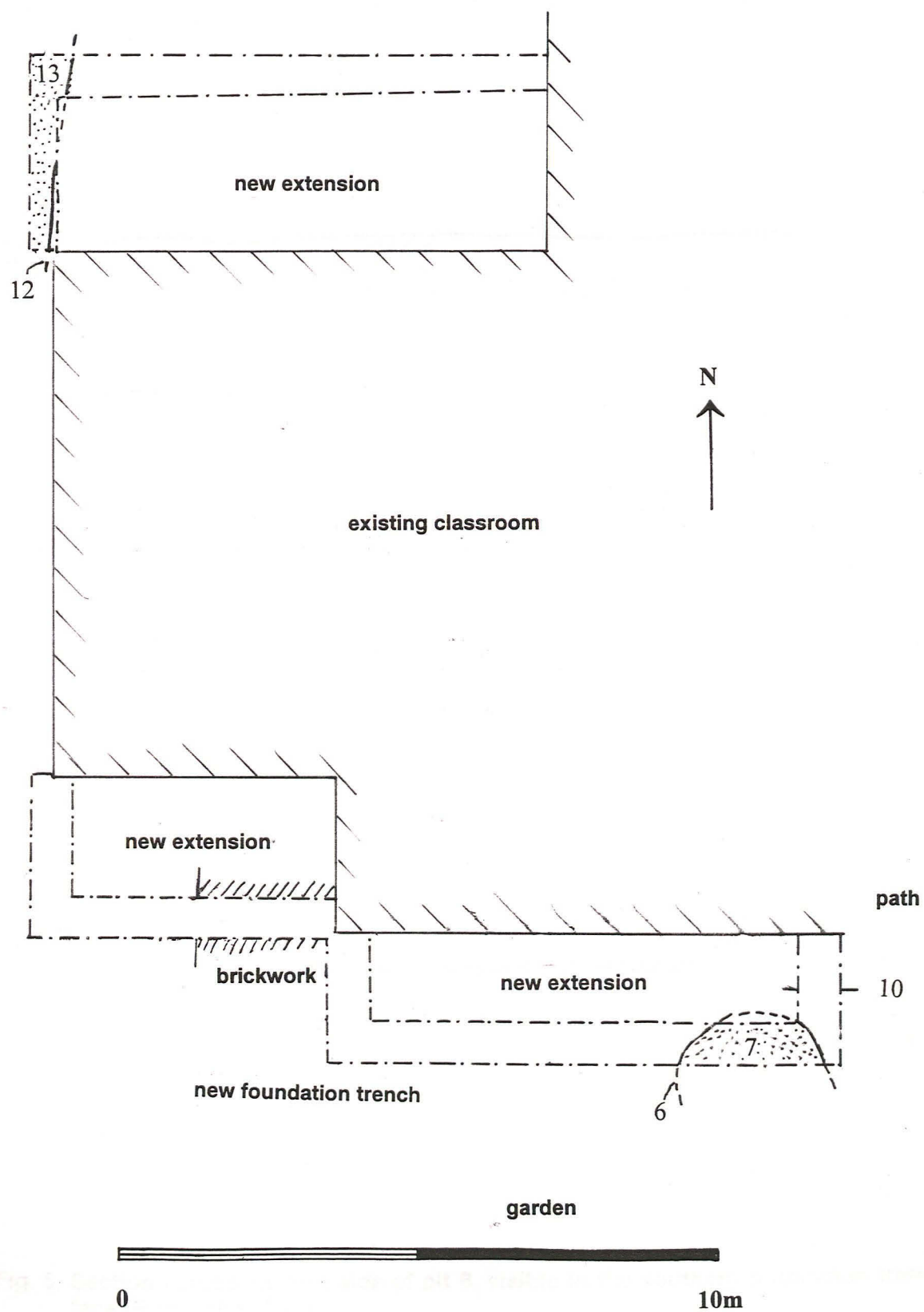


Fig. 4 Foundation plan of the new extensions, showing position of archaeological features (Frost, after Tann).

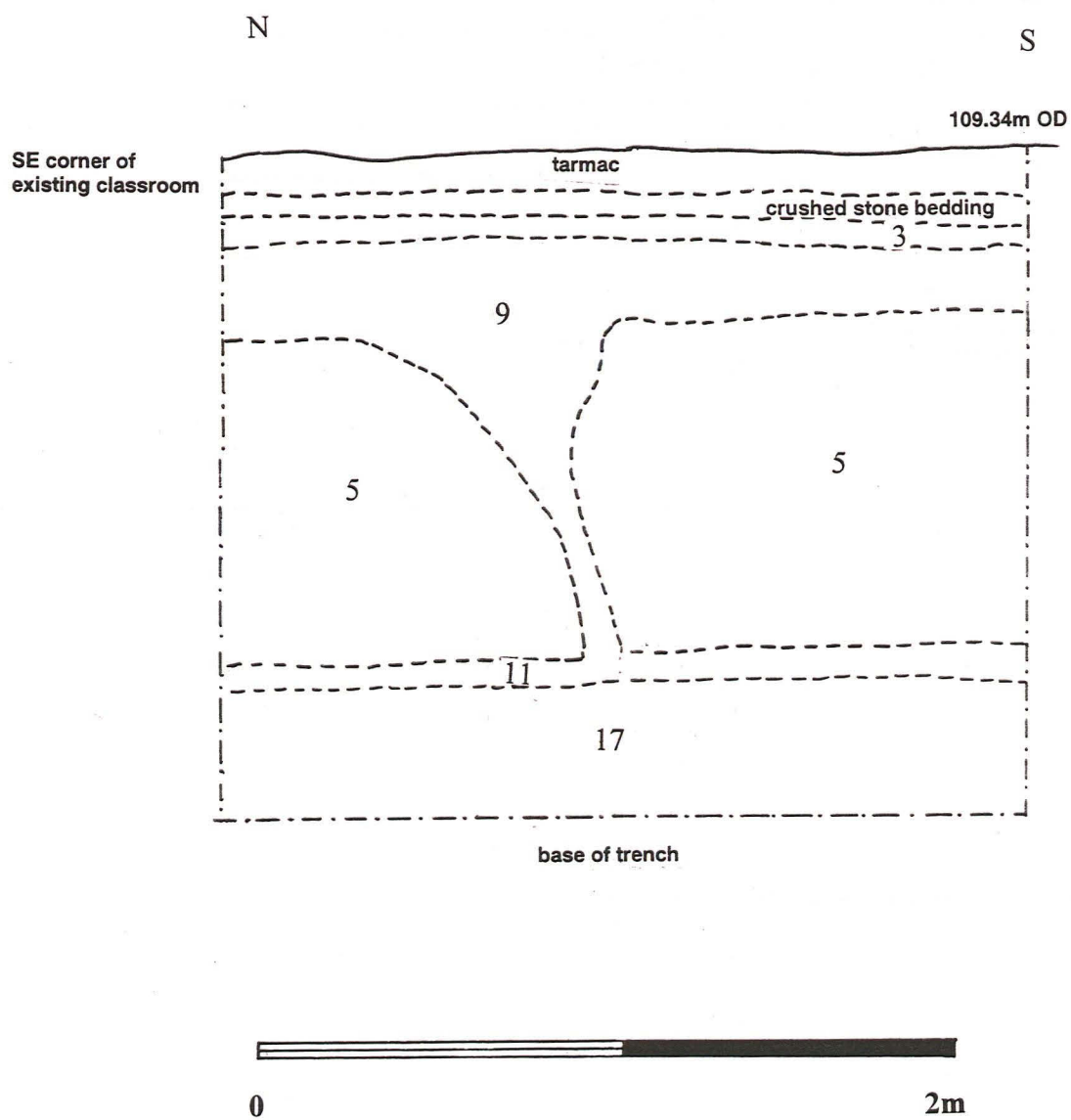


Fig. 5 Section across eastern side of pit 6, visible in the southern foundation trench face (Frost, after Tann).

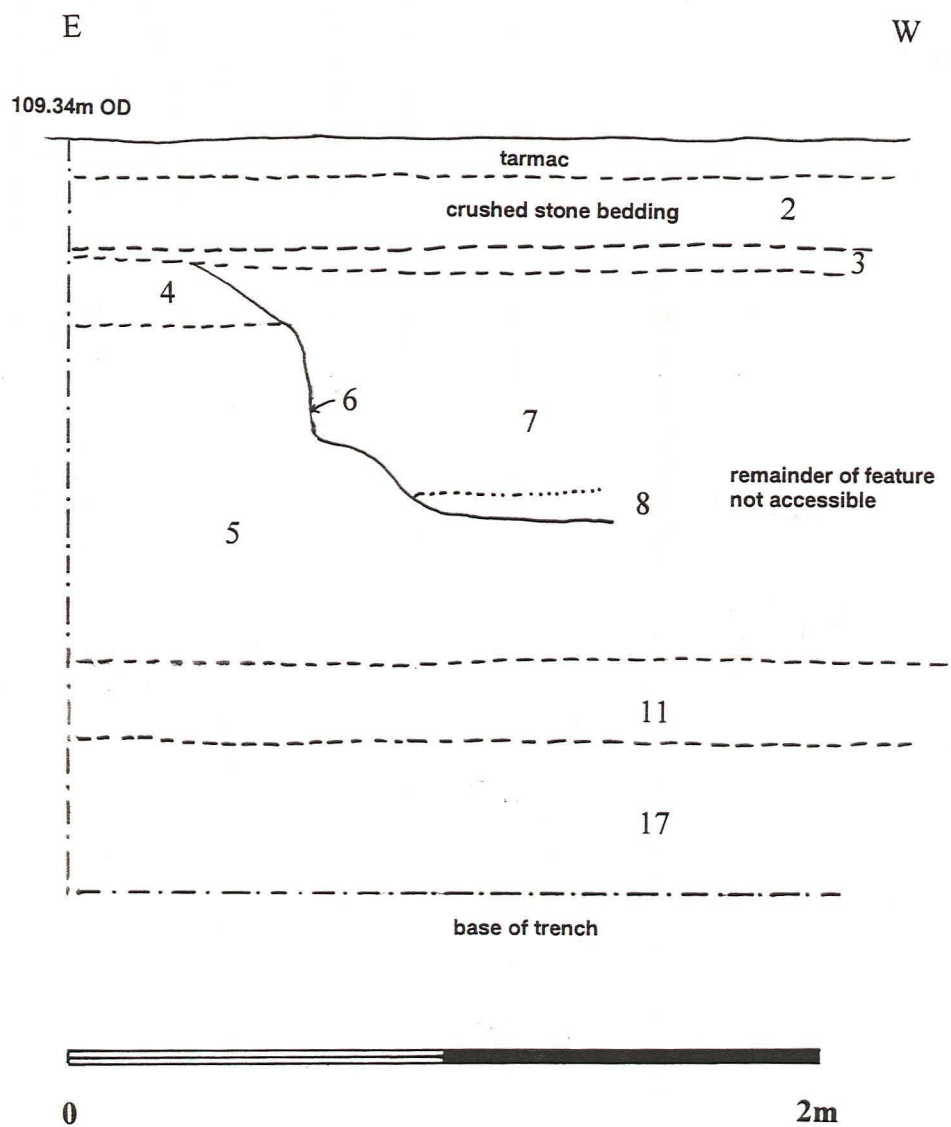


Fig. 6 Section across deposits visible in the SE foundation trench face, showing the 'funnel' of orange sandy clay 10 (Frost, after Tann).

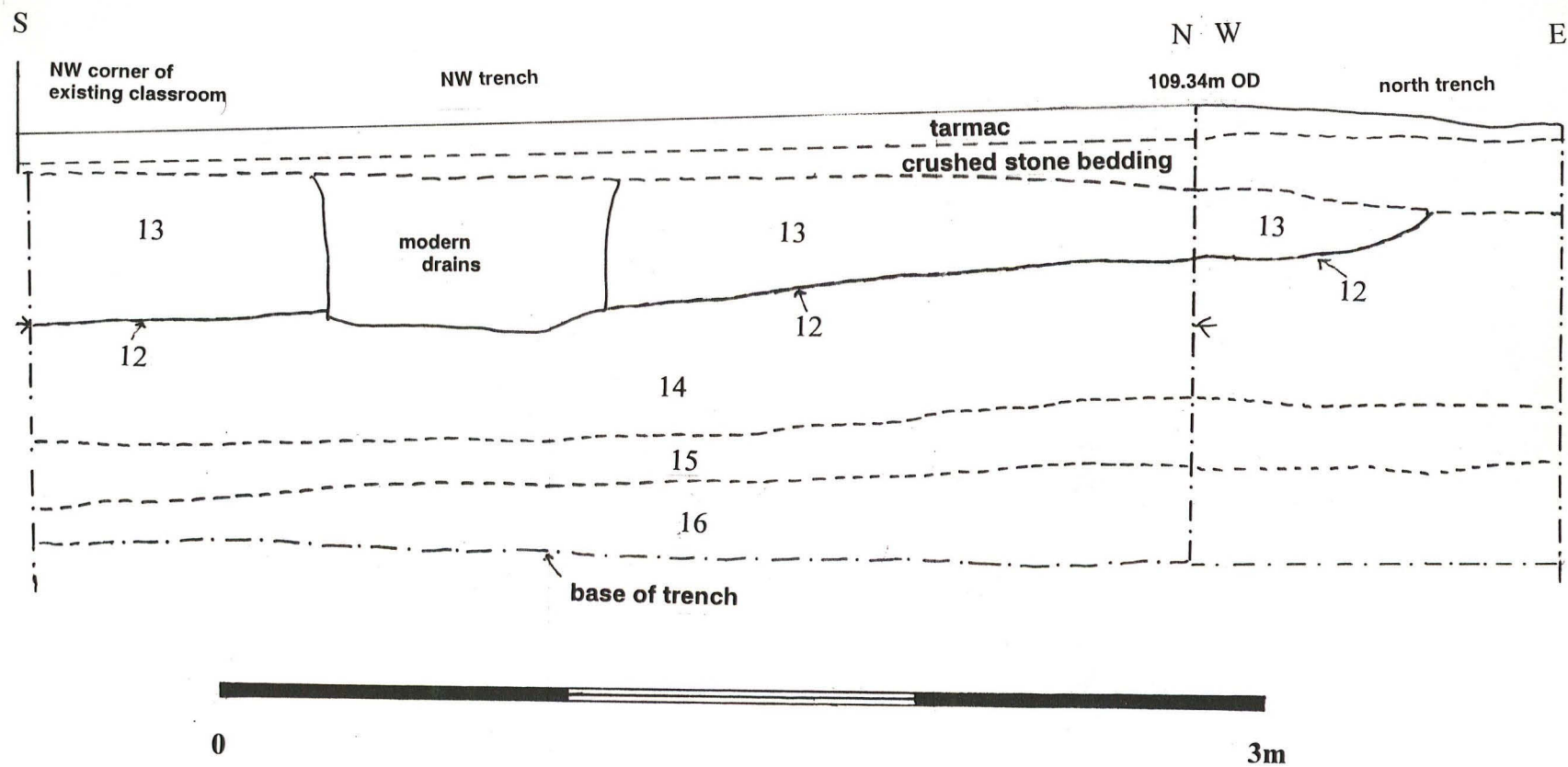


Fig. 7 Section along and across ditch 12, visible in the NW and north foundation trench faces (Frost, after Tann).

THE PLATES



Pl. 1 North elevation of All Saints' Church, Barrowby, looking SE across the churchyard to the area of the new school extensions.



Pl. 2 Groundworks for two extensions on the south side of the existing classroom building (looking NE).

Pl. 3 The orange sandy clay fill of 10, forming a funnel-shaped feature through the paler clay layer 5 (looking west).





Pl. 4 Dark fill of pit 6 (left foreground, behind staff) at the SE corner of the new extension (looking west). The pit is interpreted as the site of a removed tree.



Pl. 5 Brick surface between the tarmac yard and the topsoil layer, at the SW corner of the existing classroom (looking south).



Pl. 6 NW corner of the new extension, showing the dark fill of ditch 11 near the top of the trench face (looking north across the school car park).



Pl. 7 The tarmac surface and stone bedding sealed the dark fill of ditch 12 at the NW side of the new extension. The deposits are disturbed by a recent drain trench (looking SW).