

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

**EXTENSION TO STICKNEY PRIMARY  
SCHOOL,  
STICKNEY, LINCOLNSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING  
BRIEF REPORT**

Site code	STPS 01
NGR:	TF 34277 56961
LCCM Acc No:	2001.462





Event L12761

Source L17400  
L17401

Negative

Apologies given for 'lost' photos. *JH.*

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Report prepared for Hyder Business Services  
by C. Palmer-Brown

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)  
61, High Street  
Newton on Trent  
Lincoln  
LN1 2JP  
Tel. & Fax. 01777 228155

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### *Summary*

- *A standard archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Stickney CE Primary School during the groundworks for a classroom extension*
- *The recording brief was required as a condition of planning due to the known proximity of archaeological remains; believed to be of medieval and/or Saxon date*
- *No significant archaeological deposits or features of any period were exposed during the course of this investigation, which was undertaken over a period of one day*

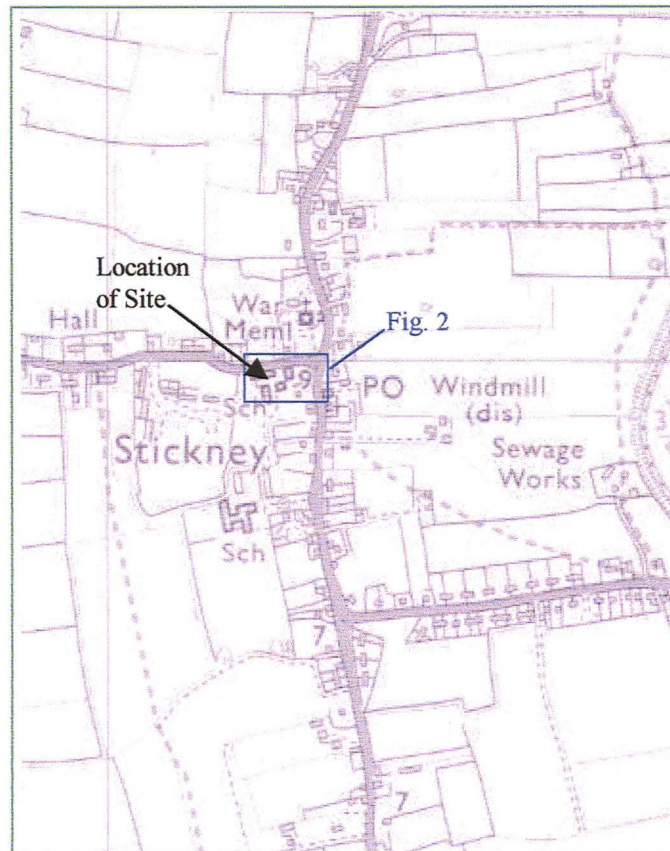


Figure 1: General site location at scale 1:12,500  
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## 1.0 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out for Hyder Business Services at Stickney CE Primary School. This work was commissioned to fulfil a planning requirement associated with an extension to the west side of an existing building range (fig. 2).

The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with current national guidelines (IFA, 1994), which have been adopted in the Lincolnshire County Council publication *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice* (LCC, 1998).

The archive for this project will be held at the Lincoln City and County Museum. Access can be granted with reference to the global accession number, 2001.462.

## 2.0 Location and description

Stickney is within the Lincolnshire fenland on the south side of the administrative district of East Lindsey, sandwiched between the West and East Catchwater Drains. It occupies a slightly raised 'island' at c. 3m ODN (the surrounding land lies at an elevation of between 0 and 1m ODN). The Primary School is towards the centre of the settlement, in the angle of Hall Lane and the A16 (T).

The site boundaries are defined to the north by an existing school building (for demolition), to the south by a grass play area, to the east by a modern, school building, and to the west by a tarmac play/parking area. There is little topographic variation, and the immediate landscape is predominantly flat. The central national grid reference is TF 34277 56961.

The footprint of the new building measures approximately 27.5m x 7m in area.

## 3.0 Planning background

Full planning permission was granted by Lincolnshire County Council to construct an extension on the west side of the existing school range. This extension will create additional classrooms and a library facility.

The planning permission was granted subject to the undertaking of an archaeological recording brief on all groundworks likely to expose or destroy archaeological remains, resulting in the production of an ordered archive and archaeological report.



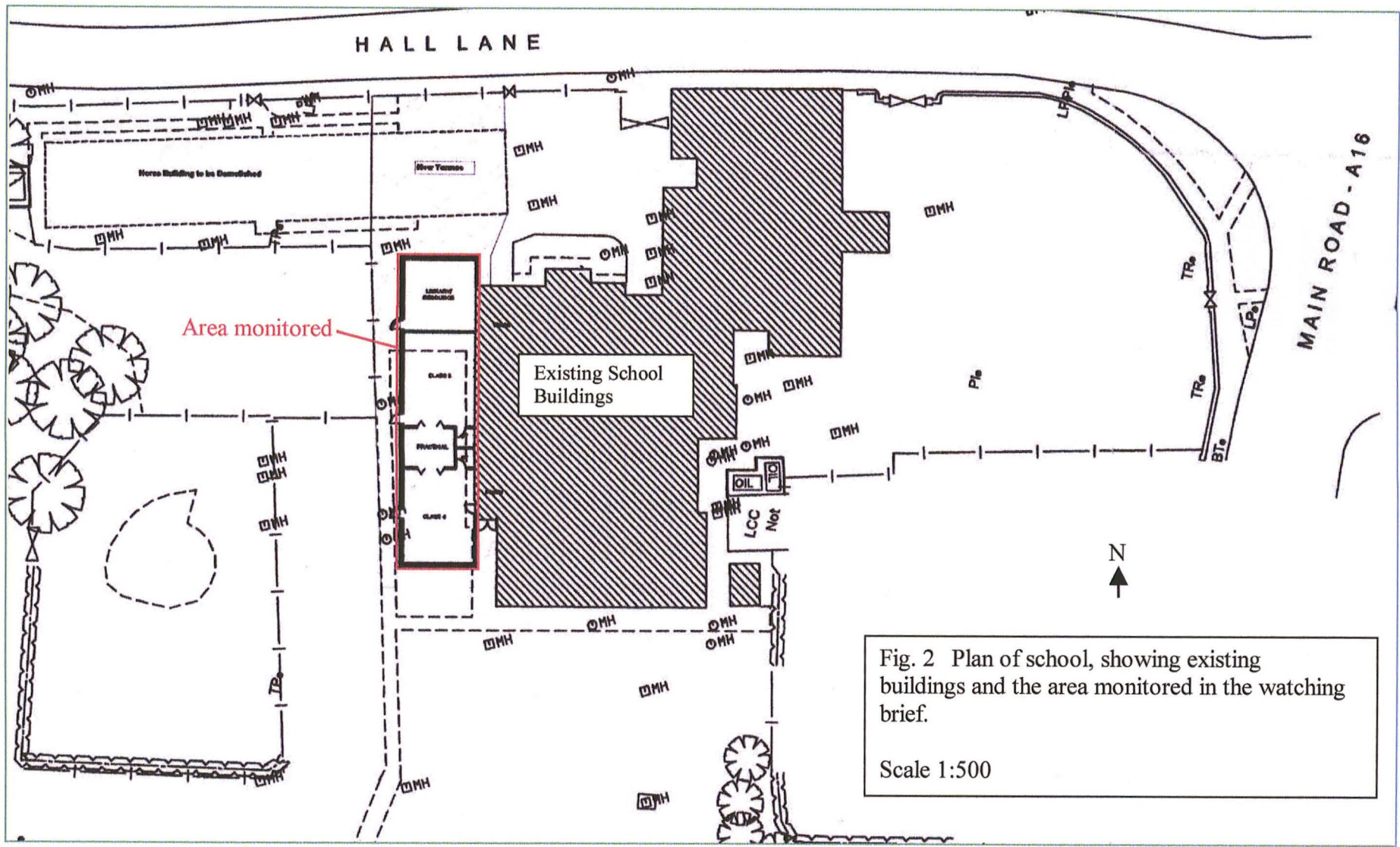


Fig. 2 Plan of school, showing existing buildings and the area monitored in the watching brief.  
Scale 1:500

#### 4.0 Archaeological and historical background

The place-name evidence suggests that Stickney should be taken with Stickford (Cameron 1998). Both settlements are situated on the elongated island that is situated between two streams, now catchment drains, and Stickford may be translated as 'the ford in the narrow island called *Sticca*; Stickney 'the island called *Sticca*. The ford itself appears to have carried a north-south line of communication, both in prehistoric and Roman times (*ibid*). The inclusion of Stickney within the Domesday Survey (Morgan & Thorne 1986) is clear indication that its origins lie in the Saxon period.

A watching brief carried out during the construction of the main school building identified 19th century demolition deposits overlying a series of undated features (Archaeological Project Services 1997). These included a cobbled surface. Although the features could not be dated, unprovenanced pottery of medieval and late Saxon date was recovered (SMR PRN Ref. 43708). This information was supplied by the Senior Built Environment Officer of Lincolnshire County Council.

#### 5.0 Methodology

Monitoring of the groundworks was carried out by the author on the 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2001.

When the site was examined, the footprint area had been completely excavated to 350mm – 500mm beneath existing ground level, and conditions were extremely wet. Over much of the footprint (excluding wall foundation lines), up to 400mm of limestone hardcore had been deposited, thereby obscuring most of the soil surface. The only areas where a record of the stratigraphy could be made were confined to the internal wall foundation lines and peripheral section faces.

The investigation has resulted in the production of written descriptions on standard watching brief context recording sheets and colour photographs. These records have been ordered in post-excitation and will form the basis of a long-term project archive.

#### 6.0 Results

No discrete archaeological features or significant deposits were identified within any of the section faces that were examined.

At the north end of the footprint, the north section face revealed the following stratigraphic sequence:

Modern tarmac surface (10cm)

/

Mixed limestone/pebble/brick hardcore (10cm – 15cm)

/

Dark brown silty clay, similar to topsoil deposit (30cm+).



At the south end of the footprint, the exposed sequence was slightly different:

Turf/grass

/

Brown soil mixed with pea gravel, occasional brick fragments (20cm)

/

Dark brown silty clay, similar to topsoil deposit (30cm+).

Several modern services were exposed within the foundation footprint: these were sewer/drainage pipes associated with the existing structure to the immediate east side of the new building footprint.

Slight localised topographical variation was recorded towards the south side of the footprint: a slight slope from east to west. This was believed to reflect landscaping of the ground surface following erection of the adjoining structure in recent times, and it would explain the occurrence of pea gravel within the topsoil on the south side of the footprint.

## **7.0 Discussion and conclusions**

The watching brief was entirely negative, with no archaeological features of significance being exposed within the area of investigation.

Although the result has been compromised by the fact that groundworks were undertaken in advance of archaeological recording, the soil profiles that were examined suggested that, if archaeological remains do exist at the site, then these must lie at depth from the modern ground surface. A thorough check of the spoilheap at the site appeared to confirm this: it revealed only white china, brick fragments and related late post-medieval/early modern debris.

## **8.0 Effectiveness of methodology**

The level of archaeological investigation was proportional to the scale of development being monitored, and it is variously concluded that this development has not impacted significantly on the archaeological resource which, in this area (and assuming that significant archaeological deposits do exist within this part of the site) is likely to lie at depth.

Clearly, it would have been desirable to have monitored the main footprint excavations in a controlled manner.

## **9.0 Acknowledgements**

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Hyder Business Services for this commission.

## 10.0 Bibliography

Cameron, K. 1998 *A dictionary of Lincolnshire place-names*. Nottingham English Place-Name Society.

IFA 1994 *Standard Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*. Birmingham, Institute for Field Archaeologists.

LCC, 1998 *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice*. Lincoln, Built Environment Section, Lincolnshire County Council.

Morgan, P & Thorne, C (Eds), 1986 *Domesday Book, Lincolnshire* (Phillimore)

## 11.0 Site archive

The site archive (documentary) for this project is in preparation and will be deposited at the Lincoln City and County Museum and the Lincolnshire Archives Office (documentary) within six months. Access may be granted by quoting the global accession number 2001.462.