

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY L I N C O L N

ROBERT MANNING SCHOOL, BOURNE. ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

Site Code: RMB02
NGR: TF 1011 2072. TF1012
Planning Ref. DC/612/0003
Accession No. 2002.535



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Services

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
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Report prepared for Hyder Business Services Ltd.
by
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Contents

	Summary	
1.0	Introduction	1
2.0	Site location and description	1
3.0	Planning background	1
4.0	Archaeological and historical background	2
5.0	Methodology	3
6.0	Results	3
7.0	Discussion and conclusions	3
8.0	Effectiveness of methodology	3
9.0	Acknowledgements	4
10.0	References	4
11.0	Site archive	4

Illustrations

Fig. 1	Site location (1:25,000).
Fig. 2	Location of proposed new building.
Fig. 3	Close up of new building footprint showing foundation trenches.
Fig. 4	Representative section.

Appendices

Appendix 1	Colour plates
Appendix 2	List of archaeological contexts

Summary

- A program of archaeological observation and recording took place during initial groundworks for the construction of a new block at Robert Manning School, Bourne.
- No archaeological features were recorded during the course of this watching brief, but this may in part be due to truncation during the construction of the car park that formerly occupied the site.

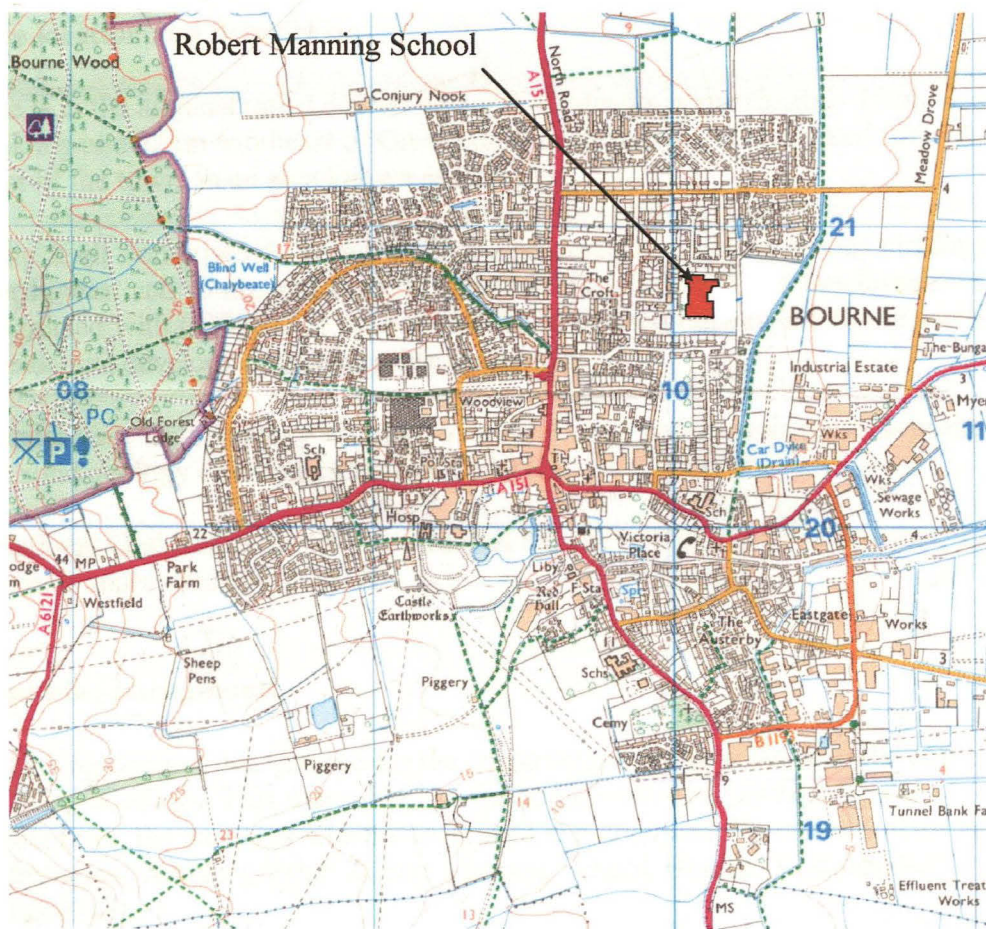


Fig. 1 : Site location. Existing school building shown in red. For location of proposed new building foundations see fig. 2.

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1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by Hyder Business Services Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a new block at Robert Manning School, Bourne. This work was undertaken to fulfil the objectives of an agreed archaeological mitigation strategy that was based on the recommendations of The Senior Built Environment Officer of Lincolnshire County Council. This approach complies with the requirements of *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16*, Dept. of Environment (1990); *Management of Archaeological Projects*, EH (1991); *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations*, IFA (1994) and the LCC document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice*, 1998.

2.0 Site location and description

Bourne is in the administrative district of South Kesteven, approximately 15km west of Spalding and 22km southeast of Grantham. The development is situated towards the east of the town, in an area known as Eastgate.

The site itself comprises an area of 578m², bordered by existing school buildings to the north, west and south, and a grass playing field to the east. This was formerly a car park surfaced with tarmac. The school itself has a disused railway line to the southeast and residential development to the other three sides.

The underlying drift geology consists of glacial sand and gravel; these deposits are over a solid geology of Oxford Clay (BGS, 1971).

The National Grid Reference for the centre of the site is TF 1011 2072 and the elevation is approximately 7.5m OD.

TF 1012 2076

3.0 Planning background

Full planning consent was granted for the construction of a new block to the east of the existing buildings. This was subject to the completion of an archaeological watching brief, the nature of which was defined in a document 'Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief: Robert Manning School, Bourne, Lincolnshire' (Allen 2002).

The planning reference for this project is DC/612/0003.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

A limited quantity of prehistoric artefactual material has been recovered in the vicinity of the site, including a Middle Bronze Age dagger (S.M.R. ref TF12 SW I) and a barbed and tanged arrow head (S.M.R. ref TF12 SW G).

There is evidence for Romano-British occupation at Bourne: numerous scatters of pottery, tile and coins are recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record, and it has been suggested that pottery, tesserae, coins and other material recovered from the southwest edge of the town represent a villa site. A 3rd/4th century pottery kiln is known from the vicinity.

Bourne is located on the Roman road King Street that runs southwards to Water Newton and northwards to Sleaford. It is also served by the Car Dyke, a catchment drain / canal that is situated approximately 150m from this site. This linked the Nene at Peterborough with the Witham at Lincoln, (Whitwell, 1992). The proximity of these two important transport links would have contributed towards the prosperity of Bourne during the Roman period.

Anglo-Saxon Bourne is less well understood. It was certainly occupied in this period, as it was the stronghold of the Saxon Lord Morcar who died at Threkingham in 870 fighting the Danish. Bourne was also the birthplace of Hereward the Wake, who fought against the invading Normans in 1066.

The town is listed in the *Domesday* Book as *Brune*, probably from the Old Norse *brunnr* meaning a spring or stream, (Cameron, 1998). The Normans built a castle in the town in the 11th century that still survives as an earthwork, (Scheduled Ancient Monument No.95). The castle was the seat of the Wake family, yet the Domesday Book records the land here being shared between Ivo Tallboys, Alfred of Lincoln, Odger the Bretton, Robert of Stamford and Kolgrimr, (Morgan & Thorne, 1986).

In 1138 an Augustinian abbey was founded in Bourne. Although largely destroyed during the Dissolution under Henry VIII, parts of it survive in the fabric of the church of St Peter and St Paul, (Pevsner, 1989).

The town thrived in the early medieval period, largely prospering from the wool trade. The amalgamation of surrounding titles and estates, however, was to erode the importance of Bourne castle, and the town was in decline by the late 14th century (Rogers, 1985).

Bourne was the centre of a major medieval pottery industry, which traded wares throughout Lincolnshire and beyond. Archaeological investigations have revealed an industry based around Eastgate, approximately 700m to the south of the current site, (eg. Herbert 1996 & 1998, Hardwick 2000).

Recent work by P.C.A. at the school itself revealed a series of ditches; interpreted as agricultural land divisions, as well as possible traces of ridge and furrow, (Hardwick, 2000).

5.0 Methodology

Visits were made to the site on six occasions in to observe excavations of the foundation trenches; these were between the 9th and the 16th of December 2002, and all visits were by Alex Brett.

All of the foundation trenching was continually monitored by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). Any archaeological features exposed were investigated to determine their shape and to recover datable finds. They were also drawn in plan and section and recorded on pro-forma context record sheets. A photographic record was also maintained.

6.0 Results

The uppermost material removed from the site was the tarmac surface of a former car park. Beneath this was a layer of limestone chippings, between 0.15 and 0.25m thick, which formed the bedding for this surface and levelled the site.

Below this limestone layer was a deposit of yellowish brown sandy clay, (001), that was interpreted as a natural alluvial deposit. As no topsoil was observed over this material, it seems likely that the base of the limestone layer was over a truncation horizon.

Beneath the above was a deposit of very mixed sand and gravel, (002), interpreted as a natural glacial deposit.

The interface between (001) and (002) appeared to undulate slightly. This could represent evidence of ridge and furrow; similar to that recorded during earlier work at the site, (Hardwick, 2000). Unfortunately, foundation trenches were filled in small sections, and it was not possible to examine a complete section to verify this.

Three areas of modern truncation were observed in the western part of the site, one of which to the north was a machine-excavated trench, [004]; the other two were irregular depressions. These features contained significant quantities of tarmac in their fills.

7.0 Discussion and conclusions

No archaeological features were observed during the course of this watching brief. This could possibly reflect truncation during construction of the former car park.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology employed allowed a full inspection to be made of the sections of all of the foundation trenches, with minimal disruption to the primary scheme.

9.0 Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank Hyder Business Services Ltd for commissioning this investigation. Thanks are also due to Chris Clay for providing the bulk of Section 4.0 of this report.

10.0 References

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11.0 Site archive

An archive, consisting of written, drawn and photographic elements, is in preparation and will be deposited at the Lincoln City and County museum within six months of the completion of this report. Access can be gained by quoting the L.C.C. Museum accession number 2002.535.

N.G.R. 1014 2082



Fig. 2 : Plan showing outline of existing school buildings and location of proposed new buildings. 1:1,000

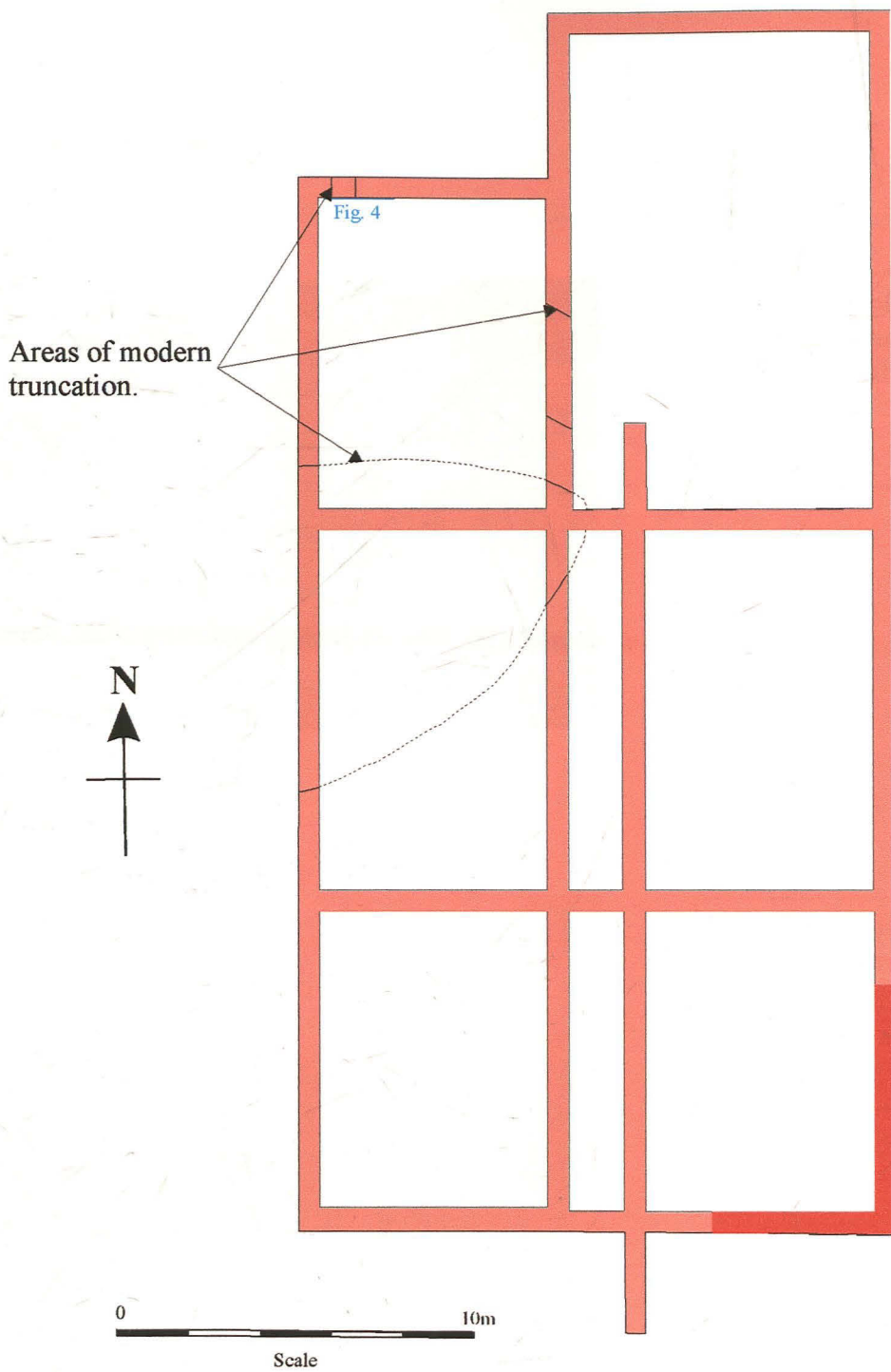


Fig. 3 : Layout of foundation trenches, showing area to the southeast that was not monitored. Also shown are 3 areas truncated by modern activity. 1:200

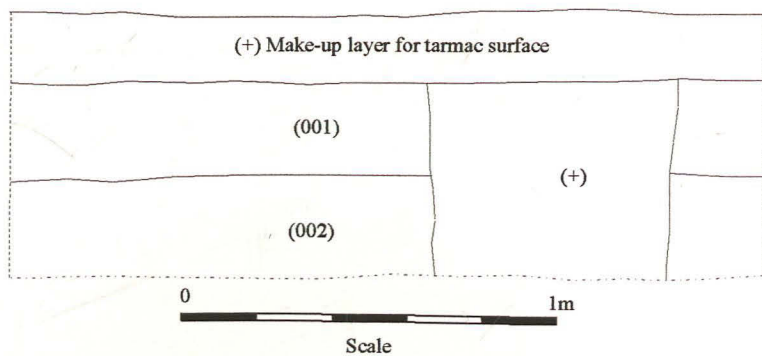


Fig. 4 : North facing section showing modern truncation and the 2 natural layers that were observed on the site. 1:20.

Appendix 1. Colour plates



Pl. 1 : View of site before excavation started.
Looking southwest.



Pl. 2 : North facing section showing modern feature [004].



Pl. 3 : North facing section showing make-up layer for existing car park..

Appendix 2. Context summary.

CONTEXT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
001	Alluvial sandy clay, natural material.
002	Alluvial mixed sand and gravel, natural material.
003	Fill of [004], re-deposited (001) and (002).
[004]	Vertical sided ditch/trench. Probable pipe trench.