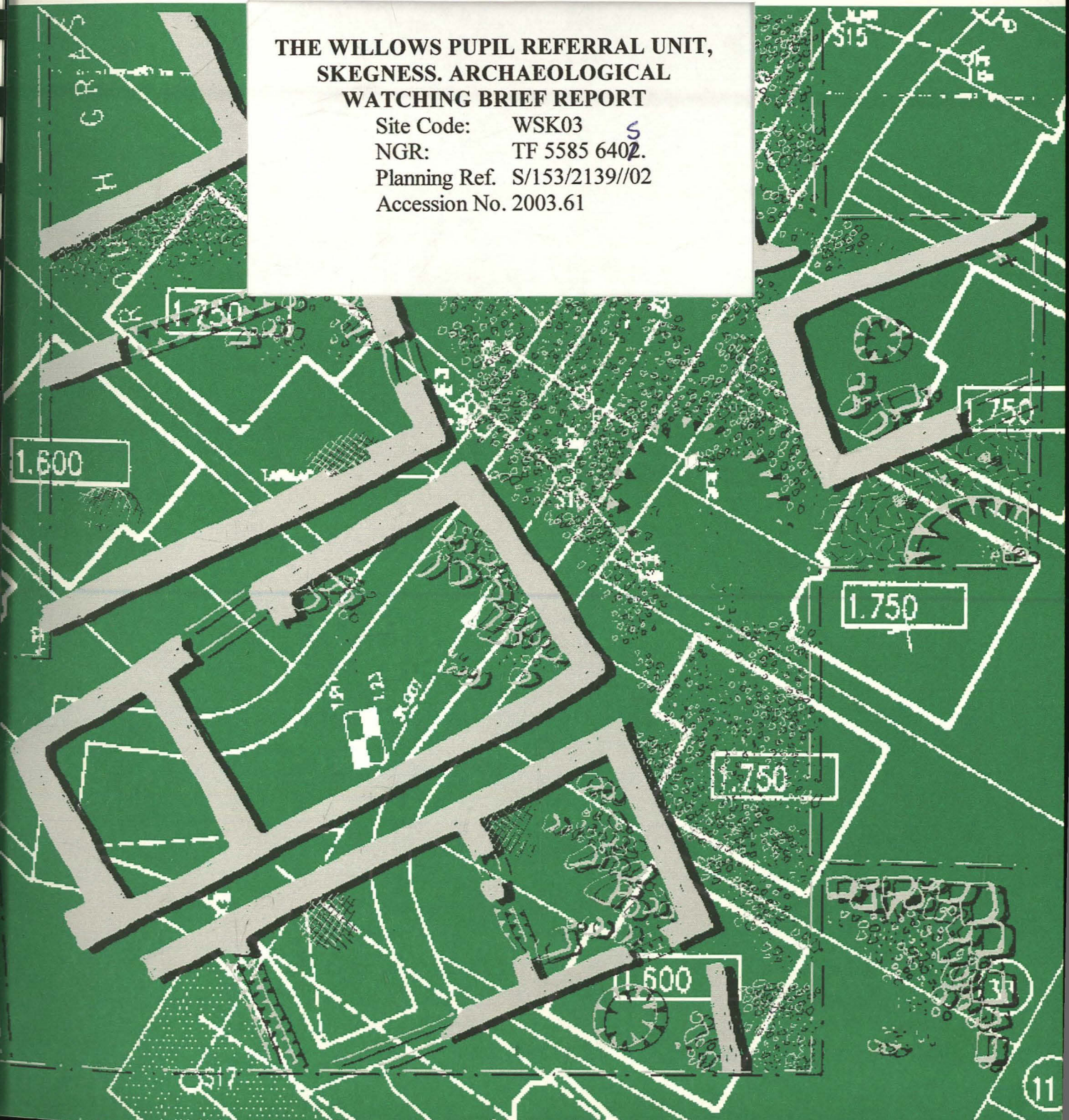


# PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY L I N C O L N

## THE WILLOWS PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT, SKEGNESS. ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

Site Code: WSK03 <sup>S</sup>  
NGR: TF 5585 640<sup>2</sup>.  
Planning Ref. S/153/2139//02  
Accession No. 2003.61





Event 414004  
Sources L18586 L18587  
Negative

Conservation  
Services

25 MAR 2003

Highways & Planning  
Directorate

**THE WILLOWS PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT,  
SKEGNESS. ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

Site Code: WSK03 <sup>S</sup>  
NGR: TF 5585 6402.  
Planning Ref. S/153/2139//02  
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MARCH 2003

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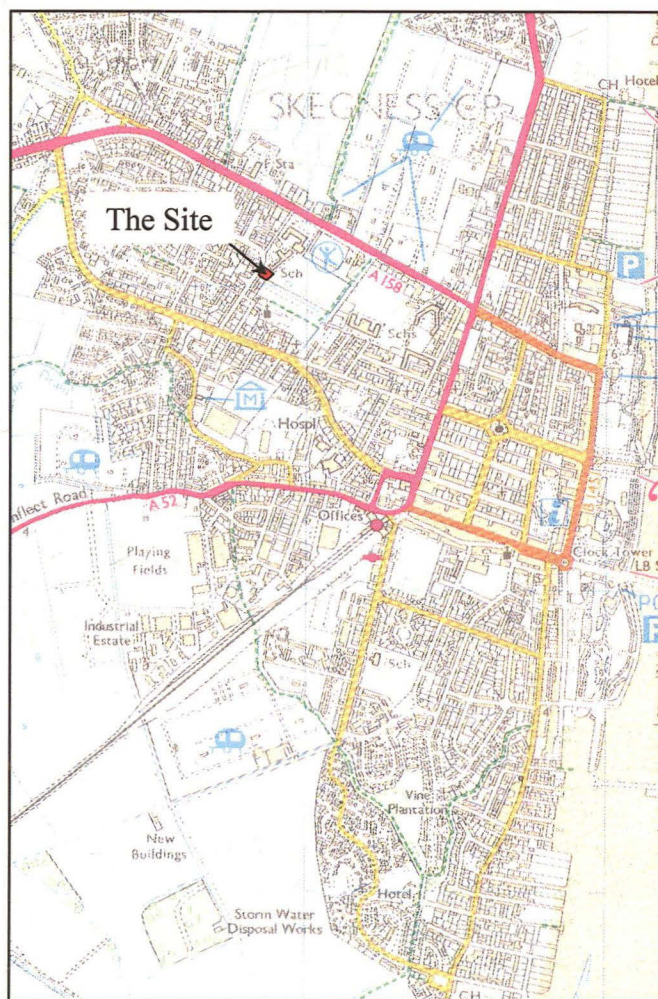
Fig. 1	Site location (1:25,000).
Fig. 2	Site plan.
Fig. 3	Plan of foundation trench.
Fig. 4	Representative section.

## Appendices

Appendix 1	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 The Willows Pupil Referral Unit, Church Road North, Skegness, Lincolnshire.
- Despite the location of the site (potentially within the historic core of the lost medieval village, 'Tric', which is listed in the Domesday Book of 1086), no archaeological features of any period were exposed during the course of the investigation.



**Fig. 1** : Site location showing outline of 'The Willows' plot in red.  
1:25,000

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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 The Willows Pupil Referral Unit, Skegness. 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

Skegness is in the administrative district of East Lindsey, approximately 4.5km south of Ingoldmells, c.6.6km east of Burgh le Marsh.

The site of development is within the existing school grounds at the north-west end of the town. The extension is rectangular, measuring approximately 9m x 3m in area. To its southeast is the existing Pupil Referral Unit, to the northeast is the Earl of Scarborough High School, and to the northwest lies Church Road North. A residential property is situated to the south of the referral unit.

The drift geology of the area consists of the Terrington Beds, salt marsh and tidal creek silts and clays; these deposits are over a solid geology of Ferriby Chalk with Red Chalk (BGS, 1996).

The National Grid Reference for the centre of the site is TF 5585 640<sup>S</sup>~~7~~, and the mean elevation is approximately 2.1m OD.

## 3.0 Planning background

Full planning consent was granted for the construction of a new block; situated to the northeast of existing buildings. The planning approval was granted subject to the satisfactory completion of an archaeological watching brief, the nature of which was defined in a document 'Specification For an Archaeological Recording Brief: The Willows Pupil Referral Unit, Church Road North, Skegness, Lincs. (Allen 2003).

The planning reference for this project is S/153/2139//02.

#### **4.0 Archaeological and historical background**

Skegness is a coastal town, lying at the southernmost edge of the Lincolnshire Marsh, at its junction with the Lincolnshire Fenland, and where sites of archaeological significance have been identified. A number of such sites are of Romano-British date, which have been identified by pottery scatters that occur on the coast in the vicinity of Skegness. A Roman Road extending eastwards from Lincoln has been traced as far as Burgh-le-Marsh, and this may have terminated in the vicinity of Skegness, (Whitwell, 1993).

The first historical reference to the settlement is *Scegnes*, from the Old Danish 'Skeggi' and 'nes' meaning Skeggi's headland (Cameron, 1998).

The site lies within an area of potential archaeological significance: approximately 100m to the north of St. Clement's, a village church of c.13<sup>th</sup> century date, now surrounded by modern housing. This should place it within the historic core of the lost medieval village. This lost village may equate to the settlement of 'Tric', a placename recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086, and thought to have lain within the Skegness area. Its inclusion in the Domesday Book would indicate a Late Saxon origin.

#### **5.0 Methodology**

Visits were made to the site on three occasions to observe excavations for foundation trenches; these visits were between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2003, and all were by the author.

All of the foundation trenches were continually monitored, and any archaeological features exposed were investigated to determine their shape and to recover datable artefactual remains. They were drawn in plan and section and recorded on pro-forma context record sheets. A photographic record was also maintained.

Following three days of monitoring, a small section of foundation trench had not been excavated. However, given that no features of any period had been exposed in the bulk of the foundation trenches, it was concluded that the area was archaeologically sterile, and the watching brief was terminated.

#### **6.0 Results**

Following the removal of an area of concrete paving and their bedding material, the uppermost soil horizon to be exposed was a silty modern topsoil (001). This was over a subsoil of mid to light brown silt (002), from which clinker and modern brick and tile was recovered.

Beneath these deposits, three separate layers of alluvium were exposed; (003), a slightly reddish brown deposit; overlying (004), a yellow-brown alluvial deposit; overlying (005), an orange-brown alluvial layer, the base of which was not traced (see fig. 4). Collectively, these deposits were all composed of clayey silt, with the frequency of clay increasing towards the lower levels. Context (005) contained



considerably more groundwater, and was flecked with iron pan formation. All of the deposits were of entirely natural origin: formed as a result of intermittent localised flooding.

## **7.0 Discussion and conclusions**

Despite the location of the site; within an area that is thought to have possibly lain within the historic core of the lost medieval village of 'Tric' (listed in the Domesday Book of 1086), no evidence for archaeological activity was observed during the course of this watching brief.

## **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.

## **10.0 References**

British Geological Survey, 1996. *Skegness. England and Wales Sheet 116. Solid and Drift Geology. 1:50000 Provisional Series.* Keyworth, Nottingham: British Geological Survey

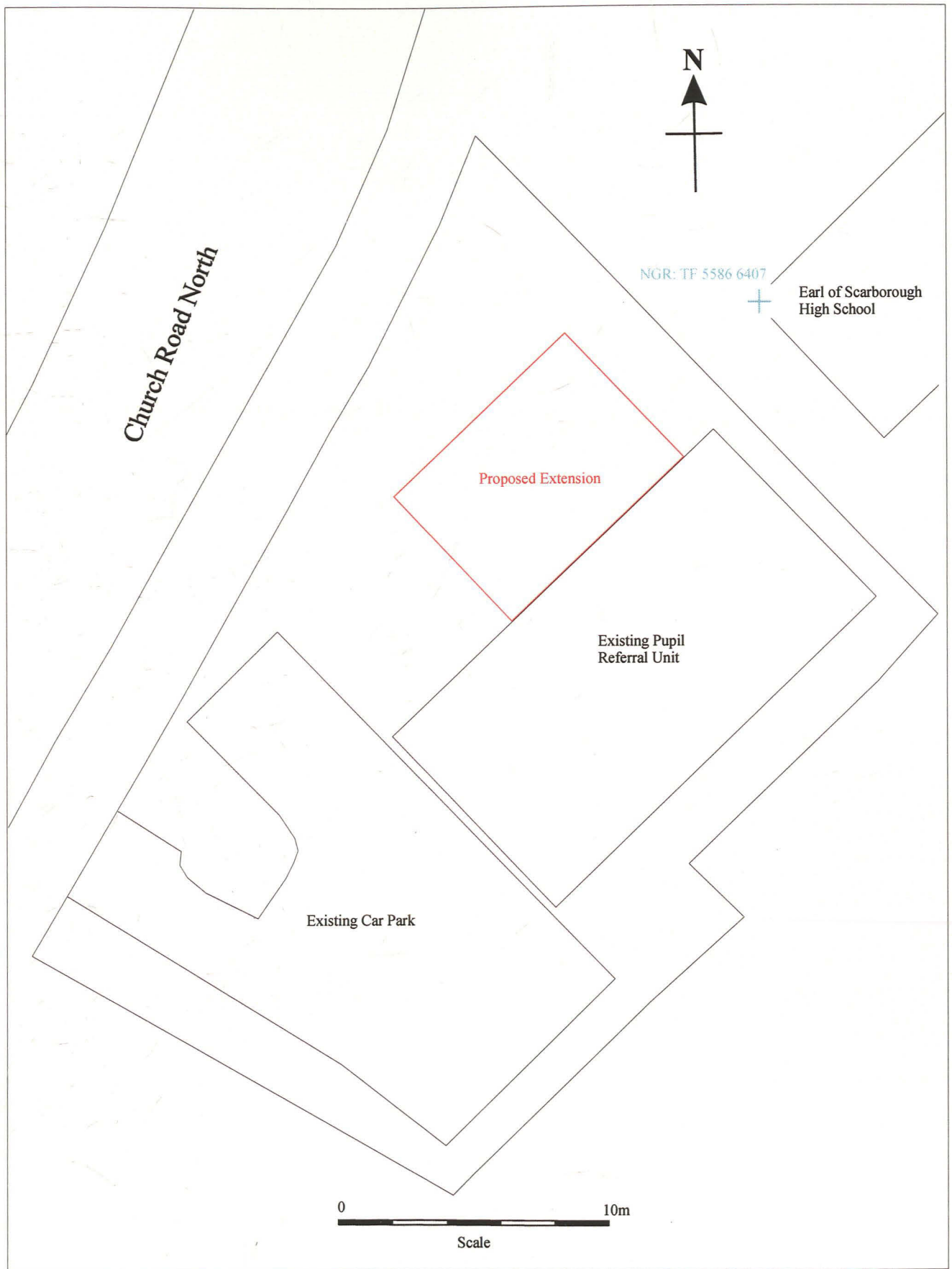
Cameron K., 1998, *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names.* English Place-Name Society, Nottingham.

Morgan P. & Thorne C., (eds.), 1986, *Domesday Book: vol. 31: Lincolnshire.* Phillimore & Co. Ltd, Chichester.

Whitwell J.B, 1992, *Roman Lincolnshire.* History of Lincolnshire Committee, Lincoln

## **11.0 Site archive**

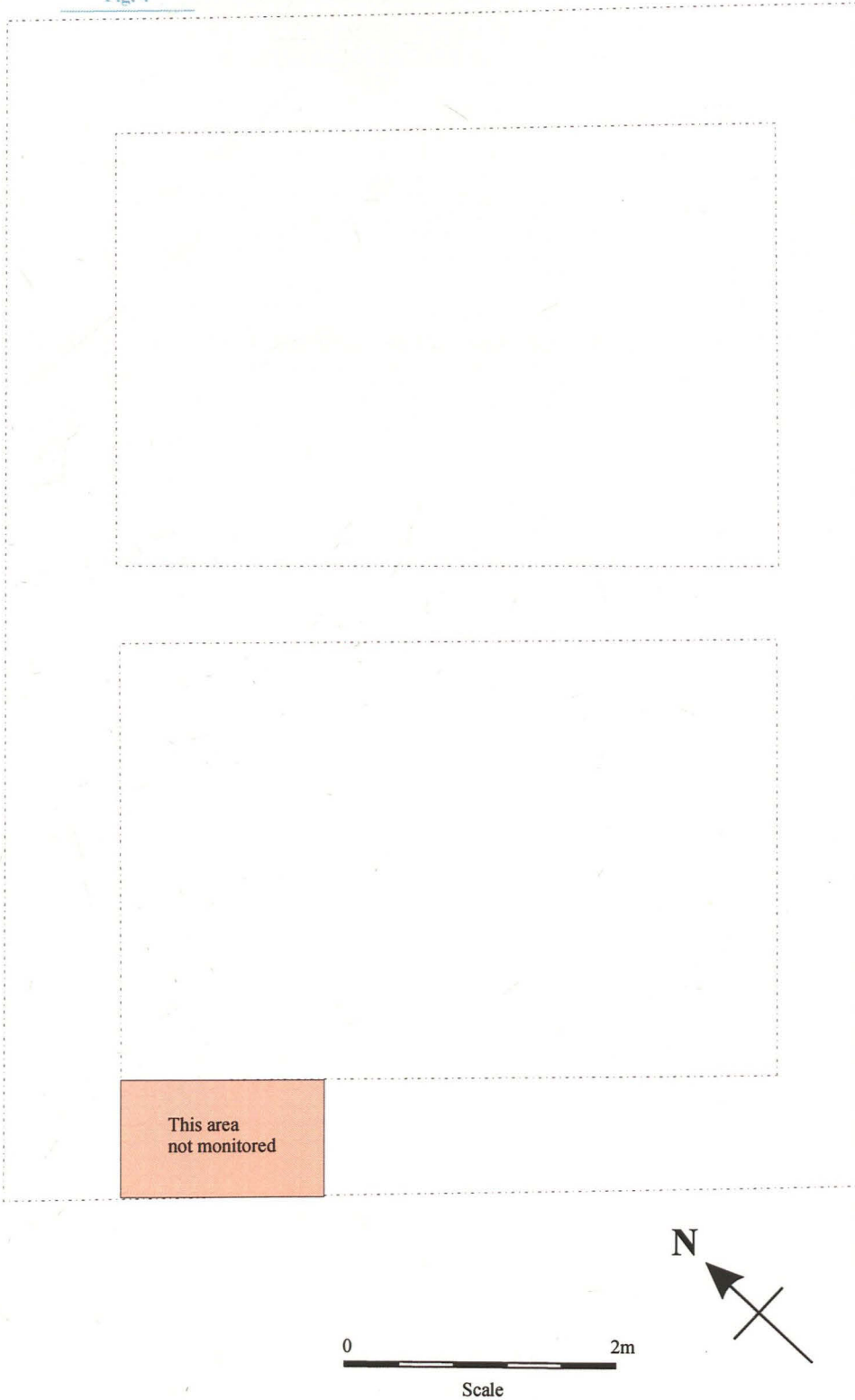
An archive, consisting of written, drawn and photographic elements, is in preparation and will be deposited at the Lincoln City and County museum within six months of the completion of this report. Access can be gained by quoting the L.C.C. Museum accession number 2003.61.



**Fig. 2 :** Site plan showing location of existing building and proposed extension, in red. 1:200

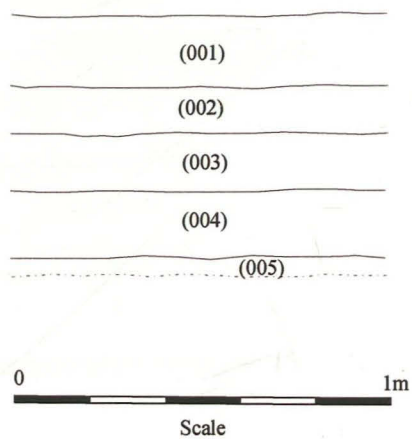


Fig. 4



Existing PRU building

**Fig. 3 :** Plan showing excavated foundation trench with location of section (in blue) and area not monitored (in red). 1:50



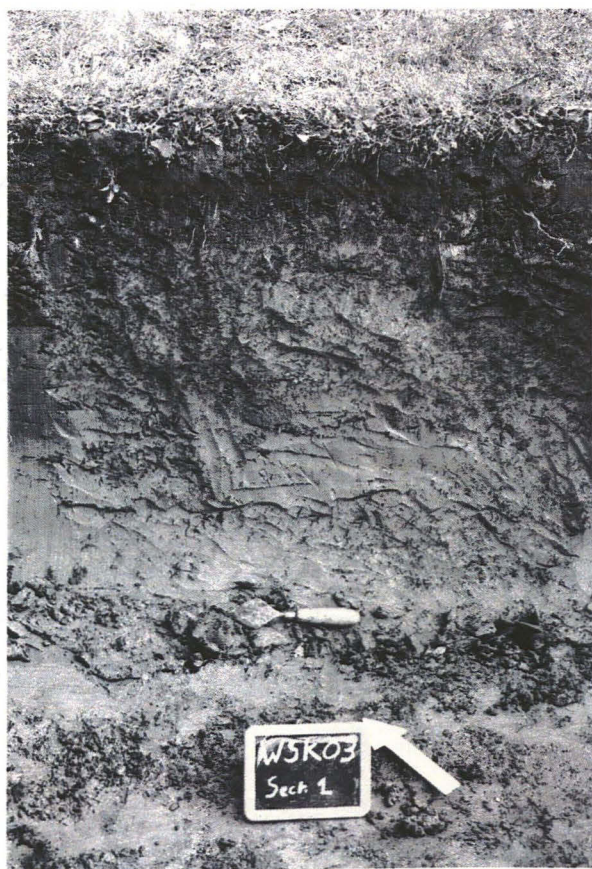
**Fig. 4 :** Southwest facing sample section. 1:20



Appendix 1. Plates



Pl. 1 : General shot of site during excavation of footings. Looking south.



Pl. 2 : Southwest facing sample section.

**Appendix 2. List of archaeological contexts**

CONTEXT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
001	Topsoil.
002	Modern subsoil.
003	Natural alluvial layer.
004	Natural alluvial layer.
005	Natural alluvial layer.