

M2/34

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
ON LAND AT
BOURNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL,
BOURNE, LINCOLNSHIRE
(BGS02)
INTERIM REPORT**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

see M2/22 for
full report of the
evaluation

Source LI 8581

Conservation
Services

12 JUL 2002

Highways & Planning
Directorate

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
ON LAND AT
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BOURNE, LINCOLNSHIRE
(BGS02)
INTERIM REPORT**

Work Undertaken For
Hyder Business Services

Report Compiled by
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July 2002

Planning Application No: S/120/589/02
National Grid Reference: TF 0988 1953

A.P.S. Report No: 129/02



EVALUATION ON LAND AT BOURNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, BOURNE, LINCOLNSHIRE (BGS02) - INTERIM REPORT.

Introduction

Between the 2nd and 4th of July 2002, an evaluation was undertaken on land at Bourne Grammar School, South Road, Bourne, Lincolnshire (NGR TF 0988 1953, Figures 1 to 3).

The evaluation was requested by the Senior Built Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council in order to provide information to assist in the determination of planning application (S/120/589/02) for a classroom extension.

The evaluation comprised two trial trenches excavated under the supervision of an archaeologist. The trenches were then hand cleaned, and subject to standard recording techniques. Where archaeological features were identified, they were hand excavated.

Historical Background

Bourne is located in an area of known archaeological remains, the most significant dating from the Romano-British and medieval periods. Archaeological evidence suggests that during the Romano-British period Bourne was a small but important settlement. Roman finds and pottery kilns have been identified within the town. The Roman road, King Street, passes a short distance to the east of the site (Figure 2).

Bourne was a significant town in the medieval period with an Abbey and castle. The church of St Peter and St Paul, lying c400m east of the proposed development site, was part of the Augustinian Abbey founded in the 12th century. Pottery was manufactured at Bourne in the medieval and post-medieval periods and kilns relating to the industry have been found within Bourne.

In 1959 remains of a Roman pottery kiln were found in the south end of the town in the grounds of the Grammar School some 50m northeast of the area of the proposed extension. The structure of the kiln survived to c. 0.5m in height and large quantities of pottery were recovered, including bowls, jars and a possible candlestick. Although the industry may not have been on a large scale, it is probable that there were other kilns in the vicinity.

Results

A full list of contexts identified is given as appendix 1.

Initial results indicate four phases of archaeological activity:

Phase 1: Natural deposits.

Phase 2: Romano-British deposits.

Phase 3: Medieval deposits.

Phase 4: Post-medieval and later deposits.

Phase 1: Natural deposits.

In both trenches natural silty clay (103 & 208) was reached at depths of up to 1.0m below the present ground surface.

Phase 2: Romano-British deposits.

In Trench 2 a broad, irregular palaeochannel (206) was revealed, oriented approximately north-south. It contained two fills, the lower (205) was oxidised brown silty clay and contained iron pan, the upper (204) was grey silty clay and contained frequent manganese flecks. A single sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered from fill (204) (Figures 4 & 5).

Phase 3: Medieval deposits.

A layer of transformed grey silty clay subsoil (102 & 203) was revealed in both trenches, although it was truncated in Trench 2 by later deposits. Sherds of Romano-British and possibly medieval pottery were collected from this layer.

Phase 4: Post-medieval and later deposits.

At the southwest end of Trench 2 was an approximately north-south oriented irregular band of dark blue-grey clay (207), which was probably the result of disturbance by a tree root. Overlying (207) and subsoil (102 & 203) was a 0.50m thick layer of brown to dark grey clayey silt and building rubble (101 & 202) which was a levelling deposit associated with the construction of the current school buildings. Overlying (101 & 202) was up to 0.26m thick layer of brown silty sand and limestone fragments (100 & 201) which was identified as an imported topsoil.

Conclusions.

An evaluation was undertaken on land at Bourne Grammar School in order to provide information to assist in the determination of planning application (S/120/589/02).

The trial trenches revealed that the natural silty clay survives at depths of between 0.9 and 1.0m (approximately 9.90mOD) below ground level. Trench 1 did not reveal any archaeological features. In Trench 2 a paleochannel dated to the Romano-British period was identified. In both trenches a possible medieval subsoil and post-medieval disturbances were revealed.

Approximately ten sherds of pottery dating from the Romano-British and medieval periods were recovered, and a piece of recent metalwork.

A full, illustrated report will be produced following the analysis of the artefacts recovered from the site.

Appendix 1

Context Descriptions

Number	Section	Description	Interpretation
100	1	Friable, mid to light brown sandy silt and small pebbles, occasional flint fragments, up to 0.20m thick, supports turf.	Imported topsoil.
101	1	Compacted mid brown to dark grey clayey silt, with frequent limestone, brick tile and building debris, up to 0.45m thick.	Levelling deposit.
102	1	Firm, mid to light grey silty clay, with occasional small limestone fragments, up to 0.40m thick.	Subsoil.
103	1	Firm, golden yellow silty clay, more than 0.15m deep.	Natural alluvium.
201	2	Compacted, mid red-brown silty sand and gravel, with frequent limestone fragments, up to 0.26m thick, supports turf.	Imported topsoil.
202	2	Compacted, mixed mid brown to dark grey-brown silty clay, with frequent gravel, brick and tile fragments and building debris, up to 0.50m thick.	Levelling deposit.
203	2	Firm, mid grey-brown clayey silt, with occasional iron pan and blue-grey lenses, up to 0.25m thick.	Subsoil.
204	2	Firm, dark blue-grey silty clay, with frequent manganese flecks and moderate iron pan, up to 0.45m thick.	Fill of (206)
205	2	Firm, mid brown silty clay with frequent iron pan, up to 0.20m thick.	Fill of (206)
206	2	Linear cut, c. 3.00m wide and c. 0.50m deep, with irregular concave sloping sides and undulating base, oriented approximately north-south.	Palaeochannel.
207	2	Firm, dark blue grey silty clay with occasional patches of iron pan, c. 0.20m wide and c. 0.25m thick extending in an irregular band oriented north-south.	Root disturbance.
208	2	Firm, pale yellow-brown silty clay, with occasional flint pebbles, more than 0.10m thick.	Natural alluvium.

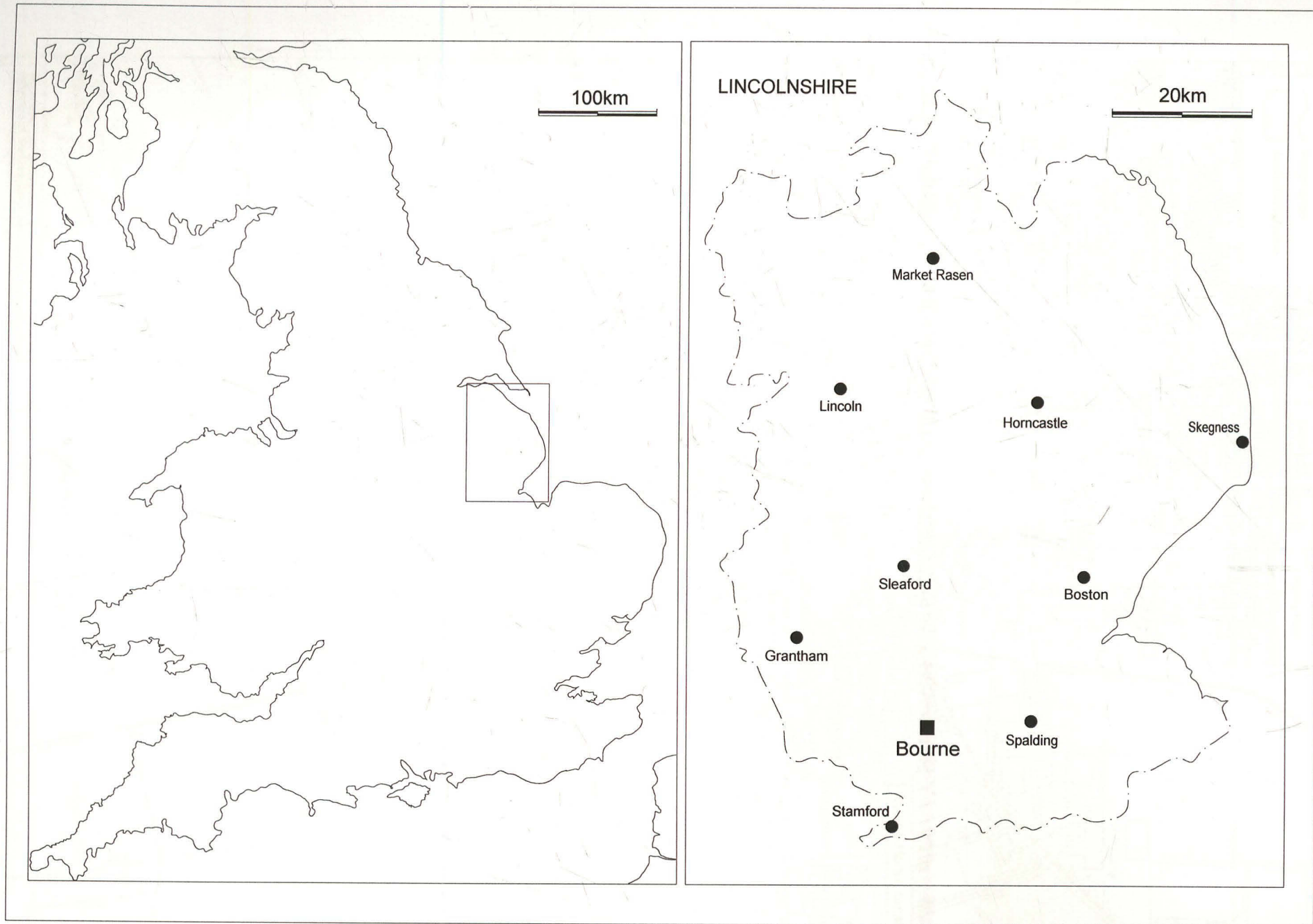


Figure 1: General Location Plan

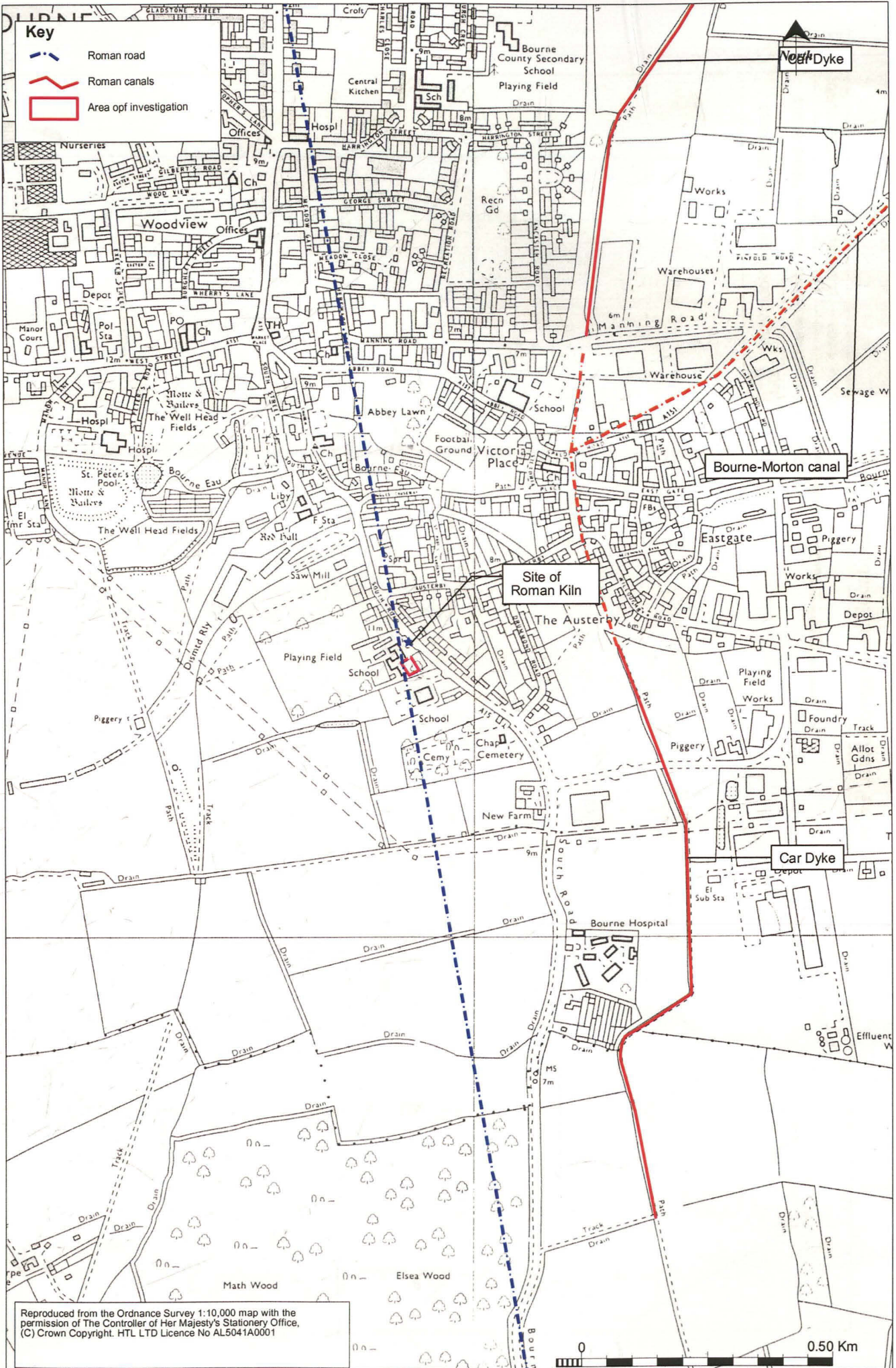


Figure 2 Location plan and archaeological setting

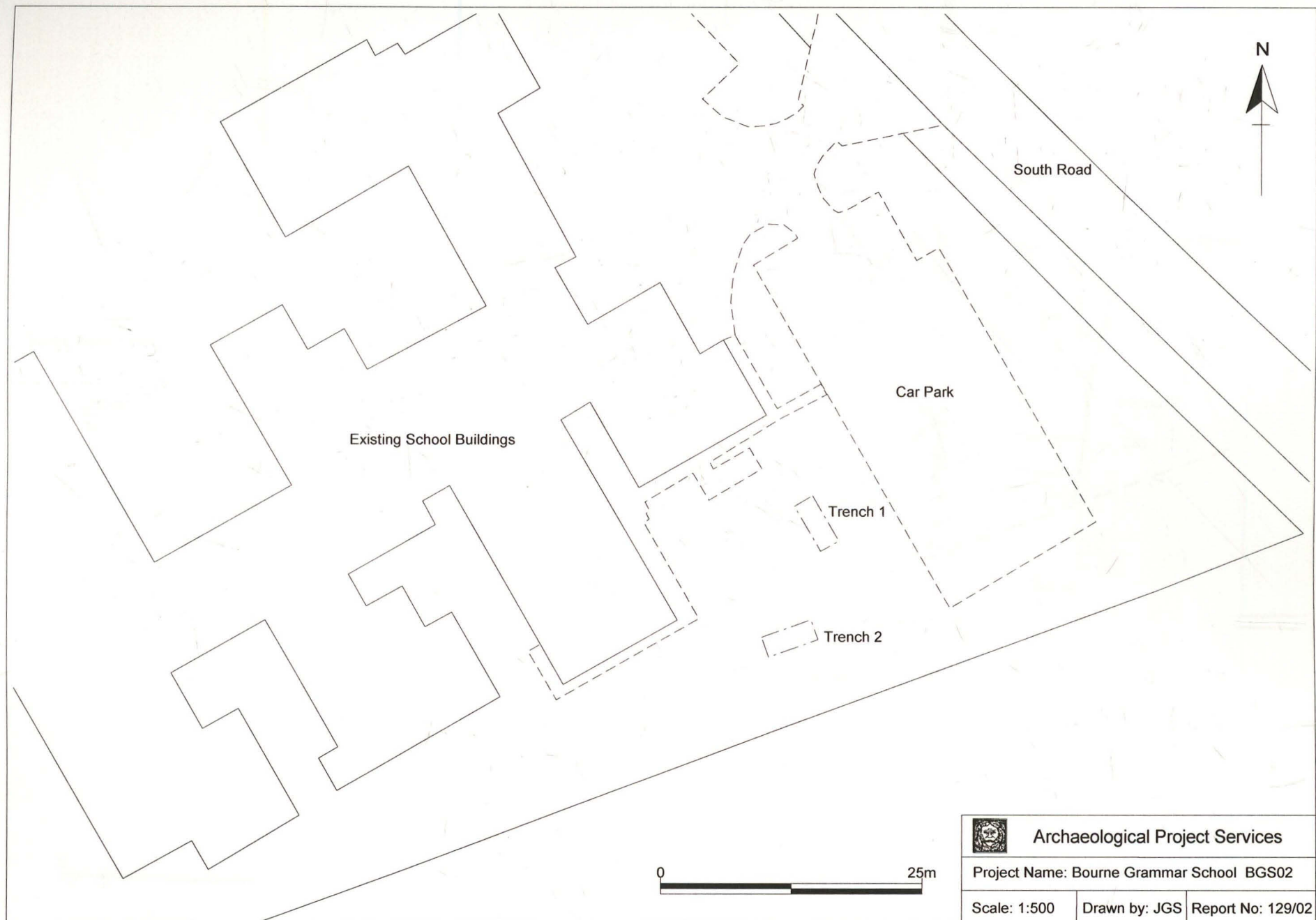
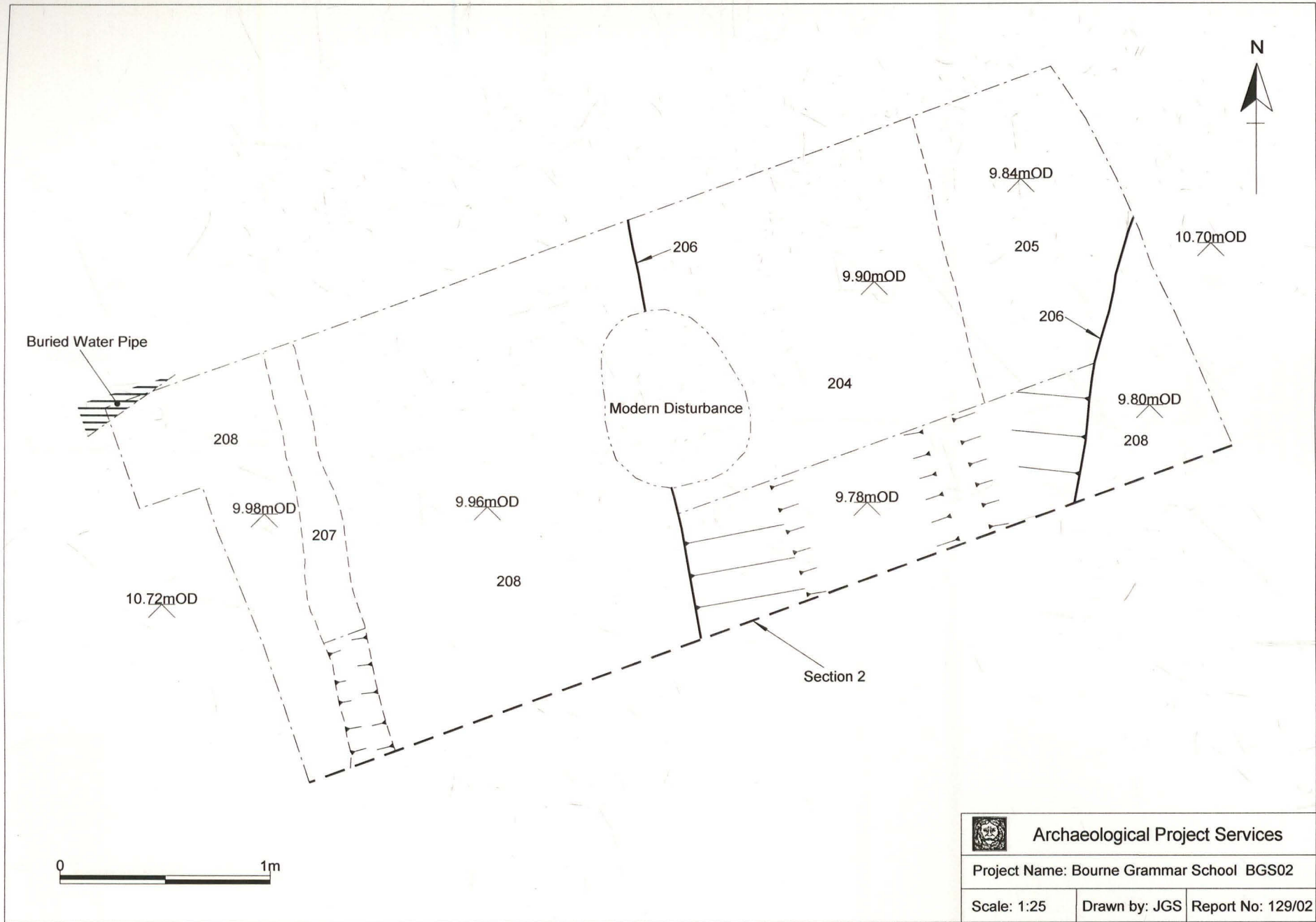


Figure 3 Plan showing trench locations.




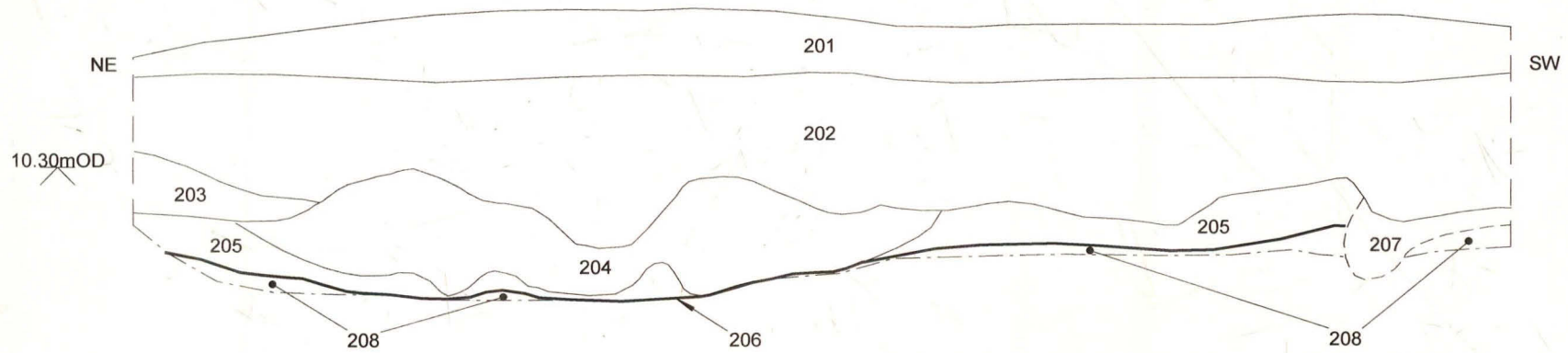
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Figure 4 Trench 2, plan 2.



Trench 2, Section 2 Northwest Facing




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Figure 5 Trench 2, section 2.