

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

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF REPORT;  
SCAMBLESBY PRIMARY SCHOOL,  
SCAMBLESBY, LINCOLNSHIRE**

NGR: TF 2761 7877  
SITE CODE: SCPS02  
LCNCC ACC. NO: 2002.355





Conservation  
Services

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Highways & Planning  
Directorate

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Report prepared for  
Hyder Business Services  
by Chris Clay  
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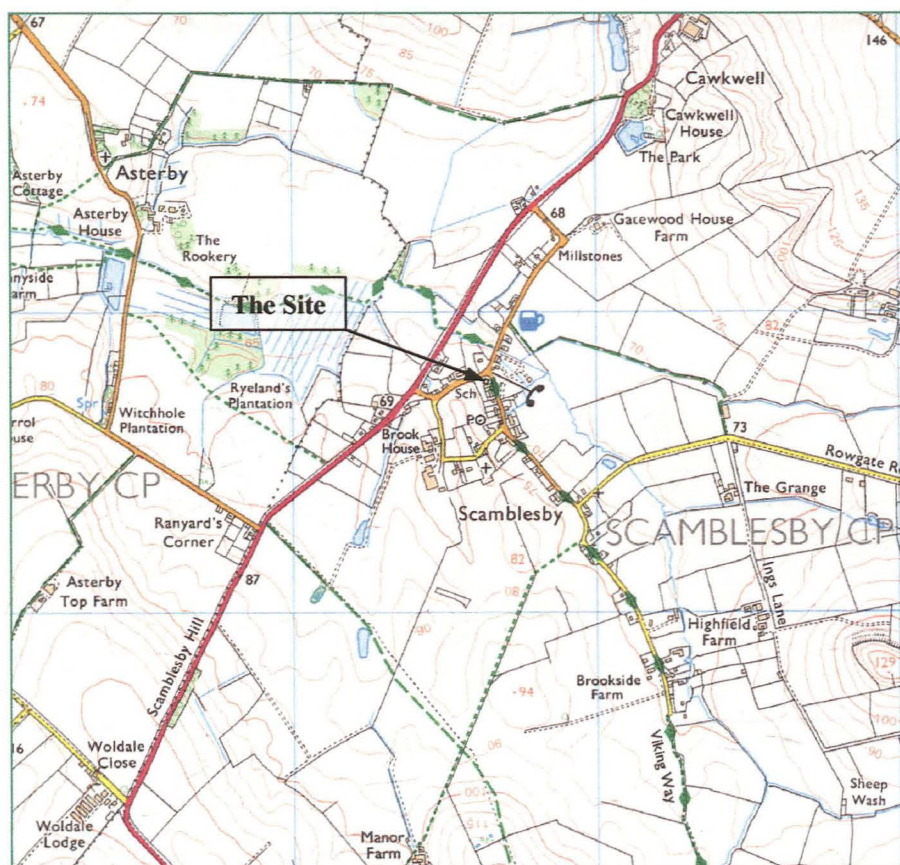
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### Summary

- An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks for a classroom block at Scamblesby Primary School, Scamblesby, Lincolnshire.
- The village appears in the Domesday Book, and is believed to have originated in the Anglo-Saxon period. The site is close to the traditional medieval core.
- A single pit was exposed, possibly used for the disposal of a diseased animal.



**Fig.1: Site Location. (Scale 1:25000)**  
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## 1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by Hyder Business Services to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks for a new classroom block at Scamblesby Primary School, Scamblesby, Lincolnshire.

These works were undertaken to fulfil the objectives of a formal project brief issued by the Assistant Built Environment Officer, and a project specification prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). This approach is consistent with the recommendations of *Archaeology & Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (Department of the Environment, 1990), *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991), *Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (IFA, 1994), and the Lincolnshire County Council document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: a manual of archaeological practice* (LCC, 1998).

Copies of this report have been deposited with the commissioning body and the County Sites and Monuments Record for Lincolnshire. Reports will also be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, along with an ordered project archive for long-term storage and curation.

## 2.0 Site location and description

Scamblesby is in the administrative district of East Lindsey, approximately 9km north of Horncastle, towards the southern end of the Lincolnshire Wolds. The school is close to the centre of the village, in the angle created by the junction of Old Main Road and South Street. The development comprises two new classrooms, a staffroom and library, and ancillary store rooms, in one block attached to the west side of the existing school buildings (fig. 2).

The topography of the development area is flat, with a tarmac car park and playground area on the north side of the site and an area of low grass to the south.

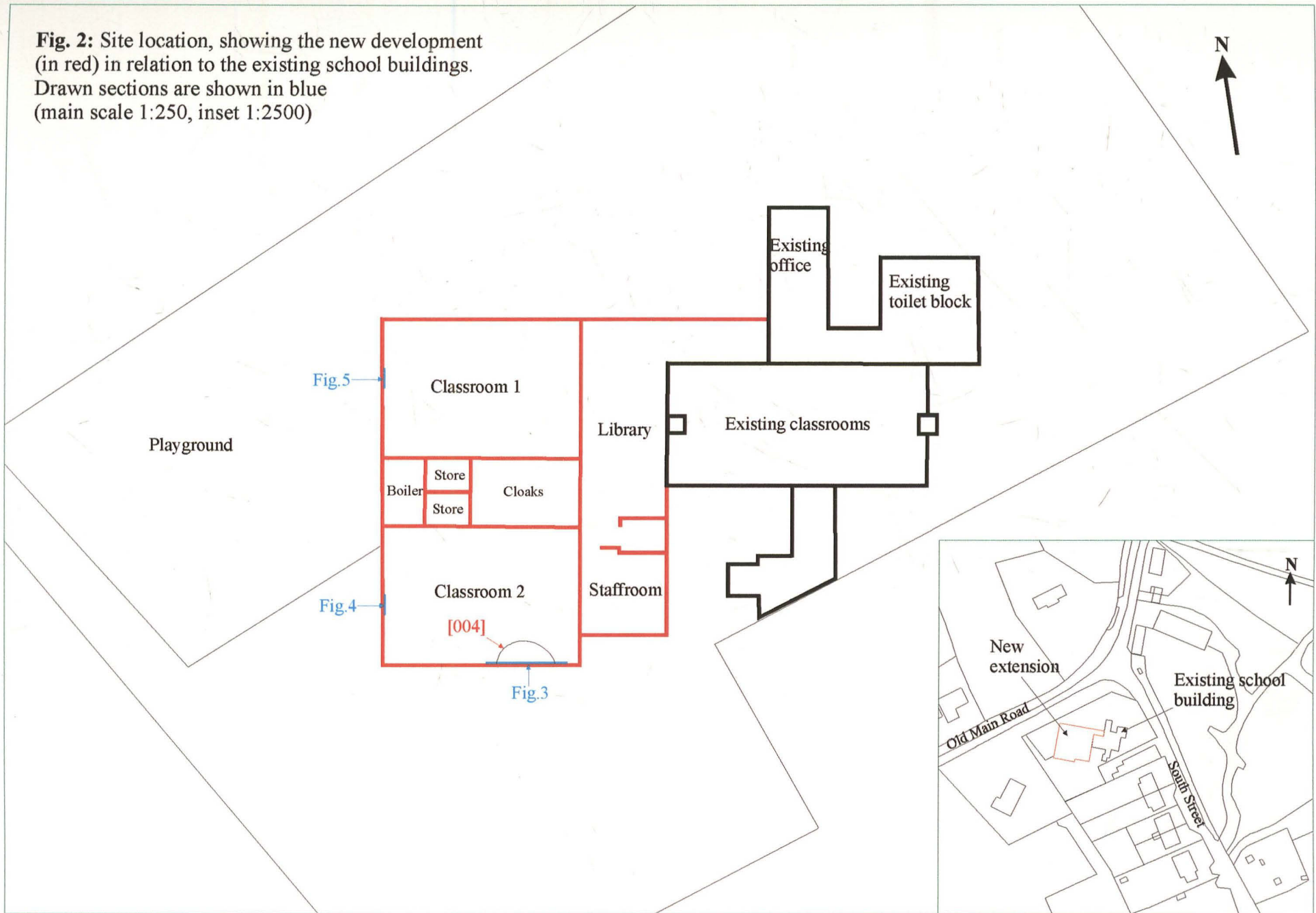
The local geology consists of Lower Cretaceous Spilsby Sandstone formation (British Geological Survey, 1999).

Central National Grid Reference TF 2761 7877

## 3.0 Planning background

Planning permission was granted to construct two classrooms and associated buildings (planning ref. N/149/2009/01/3). This permission was granted subject to the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief on all associated groundworks.

**Fig. 2:** Site location, showing the new development (in red) in relation to the existing school buildings. Drawn sections are shown in blue (main scale 1:250, inset 1:2500)





#### 4.0 Archaeological and historical background

There is no evidence of any immediate settlement activity in the prehistoric or Romano-British periods. However, Scamblesby lies close to a major Roman road, running from Lincoln towards the coast via Burgh-le-Marsh. Another possible road runs north-east from near Sleaford, through Tattershall, to Scamblesby, and over the Wolds, possibly to the coast (Whitwell, 1992). Excavations in Scamblesby parish identified field systems of Romano-British date (C. Palmer-Brown, *pers.comm.*).

The place name evidence suggests an origin in the Viking period, as Scamblesby is derived from Old Norse/Danish elements, meaning 'Skammel's farmstead' (Cameron, 1998). There was definitely some form of settlement at Scamblesby during the Anglo-Saxon period, as it appears in the Domesday Book, under the ownership of Ivo Tallboys (Morgan & Thorn, 1986).

The parish church was extensively rebuilt in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, although some 13<sup>th</sup> century elements survive (Mee, 1970).

#### 5.0 Methodology

Initial groundworks were carried out using a JCB, fitted with a 1.5m wide smooth blade. This was used to strip the footprint of the development, and foundation trenches were subsequently excavated using a 0.8m wide toothed bucket.

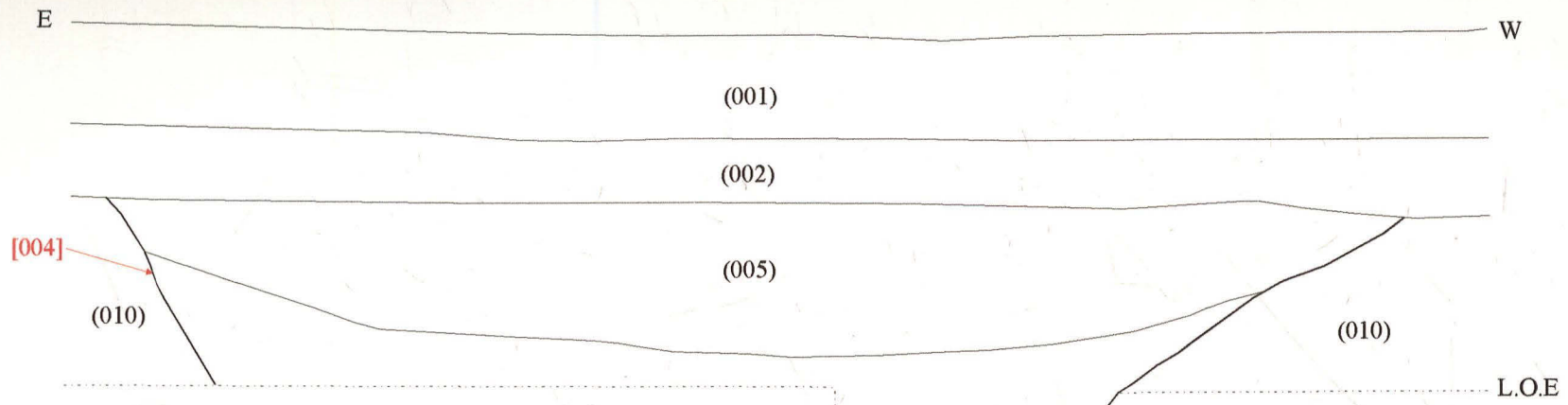
All plan and section surfaces were examined and intermittently cleaned, to examine the stratigraphic sequence. Where necessary, limited excavation by hand was carried out to establish the profile, orientation, date and function of exposed archaeological features. These features were accurately plotted on a site plan and section drawings were made at a scale of 1:20. Context information was recorded on standard watching brief record sheets. A colour photographic record was maintained, selected prints from which have been reproduced in this report.

The fieldwork was carried out over three days, from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2002, and was monitored at all times by Simon Bray.

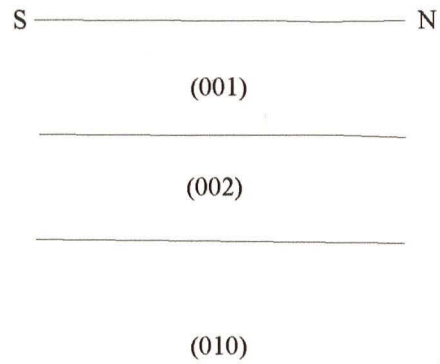
#### 6.0 Results (figs. 3-5)

The uppermost deposit on the southern part of the site was a 0.3m deep topsoil, (001). To the north, this was replaced by the tarmac car park surface, (008), and an underlying rubble hardcore, (009). Both (001) and (009) sealed a subsoil of orange/brown sandy silt, (002) (figs. 4, 5). Beneath this, at the southern edge of the stripped footprint, a sub-circular feature was exposed, [004]. A slot excavated through this feature, revealed steep sides and a flat base, with a total depth of 1.5m. At the base of the feature was a charcoal rich deposit 0.1m deep, (007). The base of the feature was discoloured, suggesting that (007) was formed by in situ burning. It was sealed by (006), a compact layer of greyish white limestone chunks, 0.5m deep. This in turn was overlain by two very similar deposits of mid brown sandy silt, containing flecks of limestone and brick/tile fragments, (003) and (005) (fig. 3).

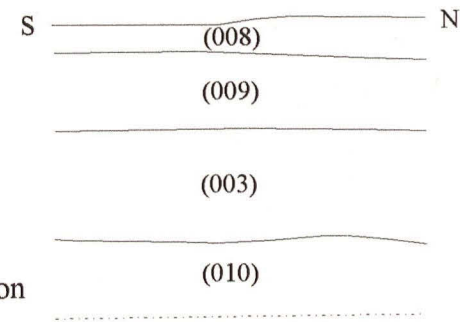
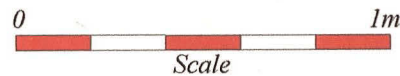




**Fig. 3:** Section through pit [004] (scale 1:20)



**Fig. 4:** Sample section (scale 1:20)



**Fig. 5:** Sample section (scale 1:20)

Across the stripped area, the natural geology was exposed. This deposit (010) was an orange/yellow clayey sand, which extended beyond the limit of excavation.

## **7.0 Discussion and conclusion**

A single undated feature was exposed during this watching brief. The pit, [004] appeared to have been subject to in situ burning, which scorched the edges of the feature and formed the charcoal rich deposit (007). This was then sealed by a dump of limestone, (006). It is possible that this represents the disposal of a diseased animal, which was burnt in the pit and sealed with lime. This phase of activity remains undated. The method of sealing the remains of diseased animals was widespread until recent times. The negativity of the results also suggest that this area was beyond the core of the earliest (Anglo-Saxon) settlement activity in the area.

## **8.0 Effectiveness of methodology**

The watching brief methodology was appropriate to this development. It allowed a rapid assessment of the archaeological potential of the site (minimal), without significantly affecting the requirements of the development programme.

## **9.0 Acknowledgements**

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Hyder Business Services for this commission. Thanks also go to the site staff from Raingear Ltd. for their co-operation during the watching brief.



## 10.0 References

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- Mee A., 1970, *The King's England*, Hodder & Stoughton, London
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## 11.0 Site archive

The documentary archive for the site is currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeology. This will be deposited at Lincoln City and County Museum within six months. Access to the archive may be gained by quoting the global accession number 2002.355.

**APPENDIX 1: Colour plates**



**Pl. 1:** View of the development area, looking north



**Pl. 2:** Pit [004], looking south



**Pl. 3:** Stratigraphic sequence, west edge of development area, looking west



**APPENDIX 2: List of archaeological contexts**

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
001	Layer	Grey/brown sandy silt topsoil
002	Layer	Orange/brown sandy silt subsoil
003	Fill	Mid brown sandy silt, tertiary fill of [004]
004	Cut	Pit cut
005	Fill	Mid brown sandy silt, final fill of [004]
006	Fill	Limestone dump, secondary fill of [004]
007	Fill	Charcoal rich primary fill of [004]
008	Layer	Tarmac surface of car park
009	Layer	Rubble hardcore for car park
010	Layer	Orange/yellow clayey sand natural