



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**St. Peter at Gowt's School, High Street, Lincoln
Archaeological Watching Brief**

**NGR: SK97293 70261
Site Code: LSP 03
LCNCC Museum Accn Code: 2003.313
Planning ref.: Permitted Development**

**Report prepared for
Hyder Business Services**

by

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Conservation
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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during August 2003 after workmen building an extension to the south of St. Peter at Gowt's School found human bone. Brief investigation of the site found no articulated human remains and it is believed that any burials on the site were disturbed during the original construction of the main school building

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by Hyder Business Services (HBS) to conduct an archaeological watching brief (dated August 13th 2003) during groundworks for the erection of an extension at St Peter-at-Gowts School, High Street (Figs. 1 & 2).

Site Location

The site is located on the east side of the Lincoln High St, north of Pennell Street and south of the main school building. HBS constructed an extension on the south side of the existing school in an area of the site which was previously part of the playground.

Planning Background

The works relate to development classed by Lincolnshire County Council as Permitted Development. The Site lies immediately to the east of Conservation Area 5 – Gowts Bridge.

Archaeological Background

In the Roman period there was an early cemetery centred on the area around Monson Street. It is possible that Roman buildings fronted the High Street which is aligned roughly along the route of the Roman Ermine Street.

The northern boundary of the medieval church and cemetery of St Michael in Wigford is thought to have lain c. 5m south of the present site. Little is known about this church which was pulled down by order of the Common Council in 1535 but nine inhumations were found during the laying of water mains in Pennell Street in 1992, and between 130-140 during sewage pipe replacement in 1996.

The Watching Brief

The purpose of the Archaeological Attendance and Recording was to:

- record any archaeological deposits disturbed during groundworks at the above site enabling their preservation by record
- produce a project archive for deposition with the City and County Museum.
- provide information for accession to the County Sites and Monument Record (SMR) and the Lincoln Urban Archaeological Database (UAD)

The watching brief was conducted by Richard Pullen and consisted of alterations to a set of double doors on the south side of the main school building and entailed the excavation of a hole 12.00m in length, 1.90m in width and 0.60m in depth.

Project Constraints

The project was prompted by site workmen notifying the city council that their excavations had unearthed bones. Visitation of the site was made after the excavation of the groundworks and their subsequent backfilling with hardcore material by the on-site contractors. This impeded the full monitoring of the site. A sondage was excavated to investigate the area that the bones had been found by the archaeologist present, under the supervision of John Herridge, Lincoln Heritage Information Officer.

Results

Twelve bones found were taken to the council offices for identification. It was agreed that one of the bones was a broken adolescent human femur, the other eleven were animal. The sondage was excavated in the corner of the excavated trench 1.5m in length by 0.5m wide to a total depth of 0.8m below the original ground level without encountering any articulated remains. A single lower rib fragment was retrieved. Photographs were taken of the bones replaced in their original locations and the excavation back filled with the bones left in-situ.

Discussion

In 1997, excavations immediately to the south of the school playground in Pennel Street, conducted by the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, unearthed a large assemblage of articulated Medieval human remains from a graveyard that previously occupied the site. Therefore, the human bone fragments located in the current works are not unexpected, and probably represent remains disturbed by the original works to build the school. The bones observed may suggest that the cemetery extended further north than originally suspected.

Conclusion

The nature of the monitoring prevented a full assessment of the archaeological deposits which may have been present although it is assumed that the human bone came from a disturbed grave associated with the cemetery to the south of Pennell Street.

Acknowledgements

LAS is grateful for the monitoring and assistance of John Herridge. The report was edited by Naomi Field.

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Lindsey Archaeological Services
May 4th 2004

Archive Summary

Correspondence

Field notes and plan

Photographs including those used in the report LAS film- 03/95 negatives 01-06

THE FIGURES

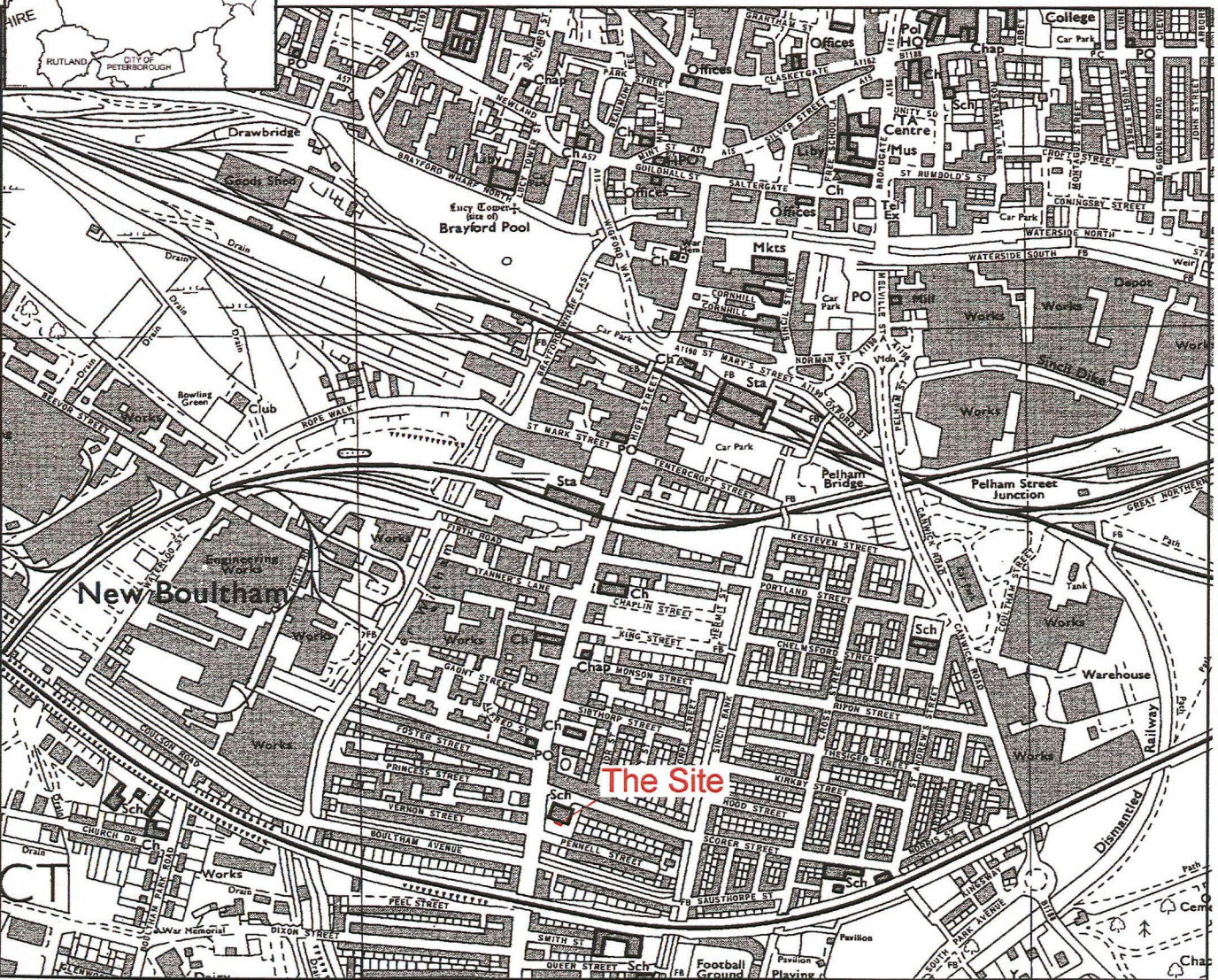
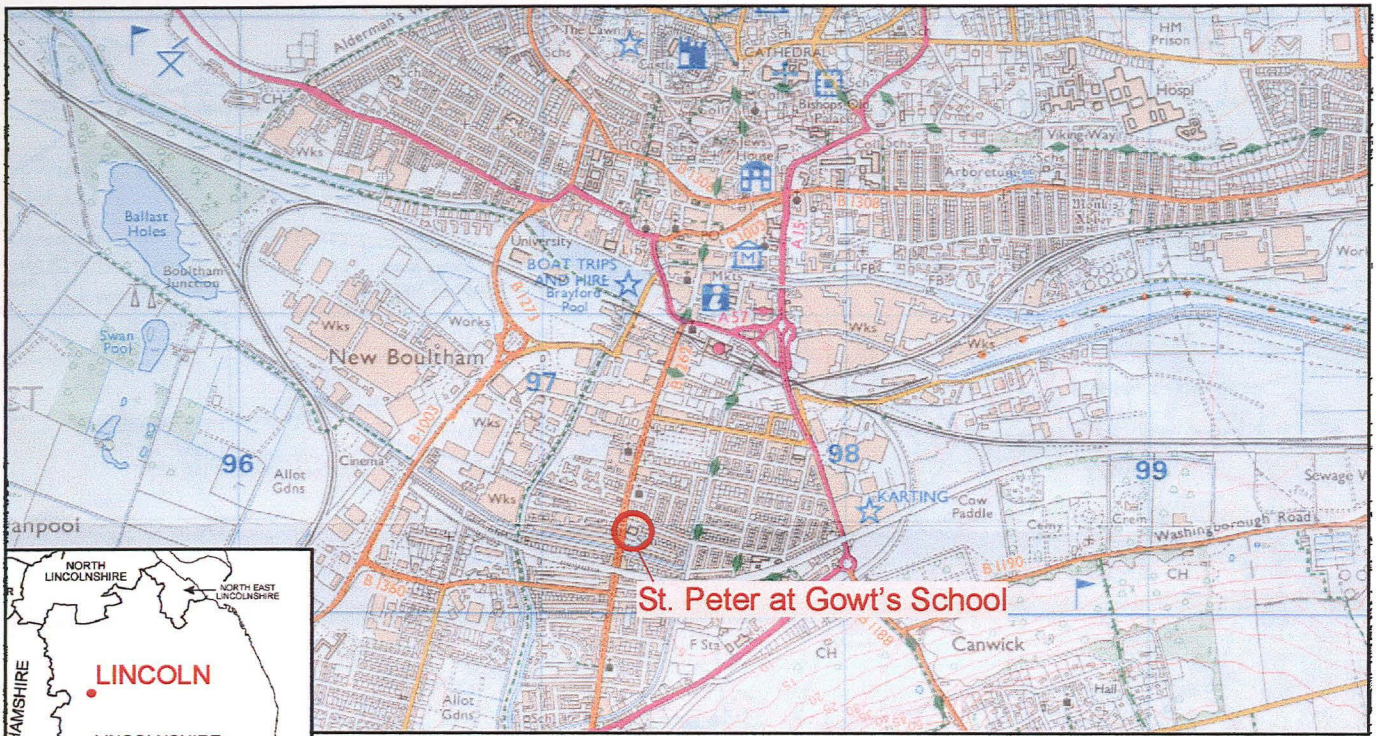


Fig. 1 Location of the St. Peter at Gowt's School site (B based on the 2000 1:25000 Ordnance Survey Explorer map Sheet 272. C based on the 1974 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 SK 97 SE sheet. Crown © copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No.AL 10002165).

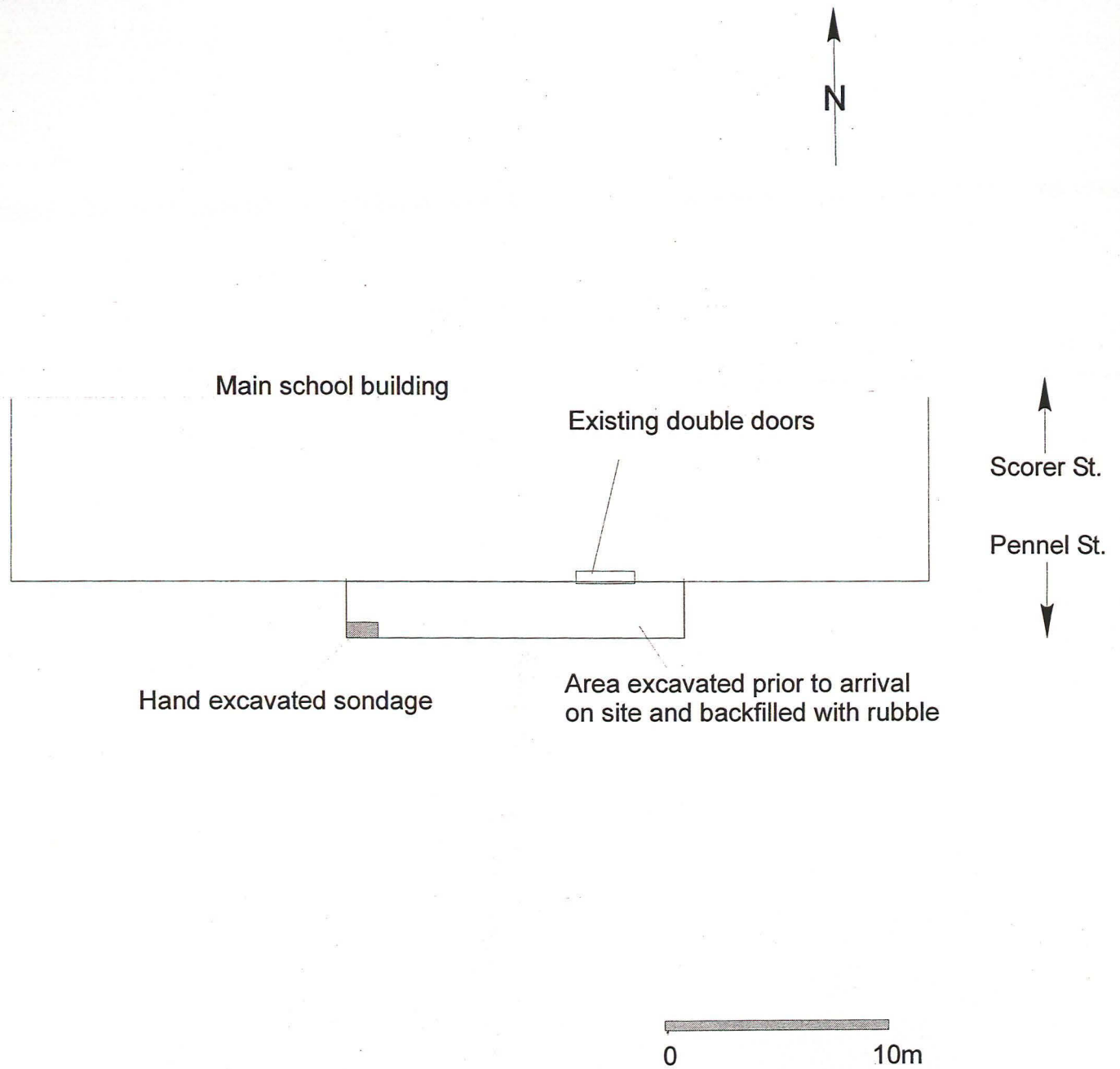


Fig. 2 Plan of the southern wall of St. Peter at Gowt's School showing the excavated area.

THE PLATES



Pl. 1 (left) View of area backfilled with rubble prior to arrival on site, sondage excavated in bottom right of foundation trench, looking east.

Pl. 2 (below) Sondage excavated into the area where the femur was found, facing south. Scale 1m.

