

St Nicholas CE Primary School,
Wood Farm Road, Boston,
Lincolnshire

Ro 13455

by
Heritage Lincolnshire
on behalf of
Land and Building Consultancy

TF 33930 43623

ELI 6937

SLI 5295

REPORT

Between the 21st and 22nd June
the construction of a new
Road, Boston (Lincs) TF 341
The Watching Brief was
carried out

Archaeological Watching brief
at
St Nicholas CE Primary School,
Wood Farm Road, Boston,
Lincolnshire
by
Heritage Lincolnshire
on behalf of
Land and Building Consultancy

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June 1992

SUMMARY

Between the 25th-26th June 1992 Heritage Lincolnshire undertook a watching brief during the construction of a new classroom at St Nicholas C.E. Primary School, Wood Farm Road, Boston (NGR: TF 340 435).

The watching brief located two infilled ditches containing Roman pottery dating to the 2nd century AD.

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INTRODUCTION

Between the 25th-26th June 1992, Heritage Lincolnshire undertook an archaeological watching brief on behalf of the Land and Building Consultancy at St. Nicholas C.E. Primary School, Wood Farm Road, Boston, Lincolnshire. (National Grid Reference TF 340 435). The work was undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches prior to the erection of a new classroom.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING

During the construction of the primary school in 1962, a scatter of Romano-British pottery dating from the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD was found. The pottery was recovered both from the surface of the site and the area of the entrance of the school. An almost complete grey ware cheese-wring was found in a garden belonging to the school.

METHODOLOGY

The purpose of the watching brief was to establish, if possible, the depth, nature, degree of survival and extent of archaeological deposits uncovered during the excavation of foundation trenches. In particular, the work was undertaken to locate features associated with Roman occupation, evidence of which was located during the construction of the school.

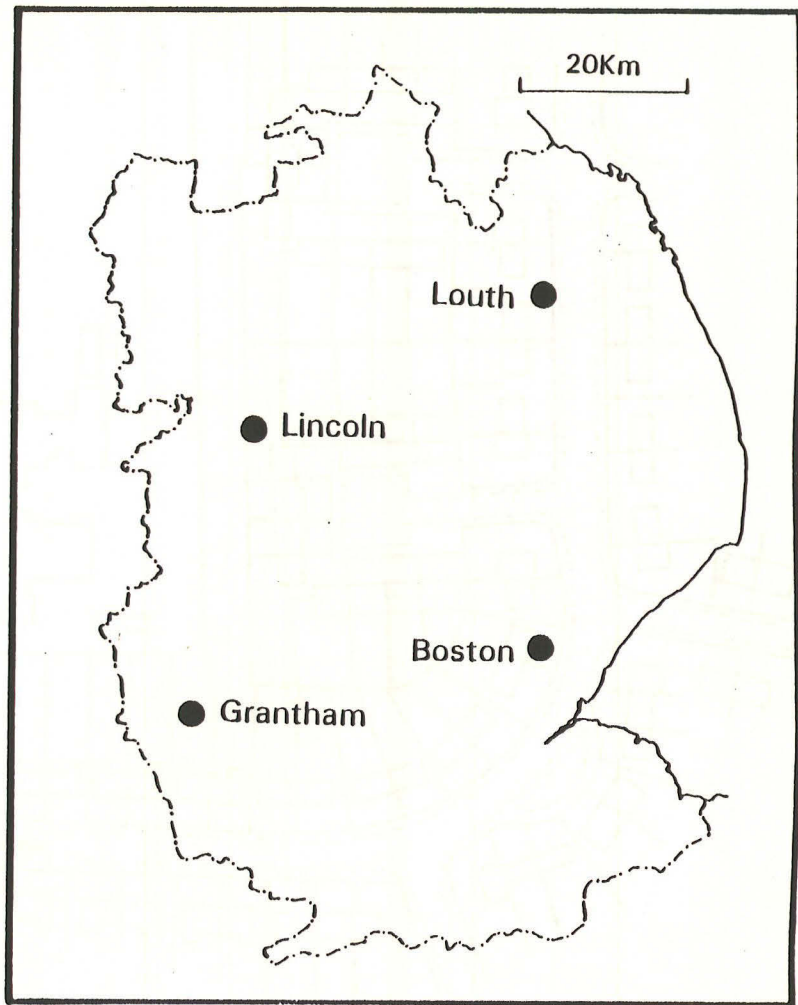
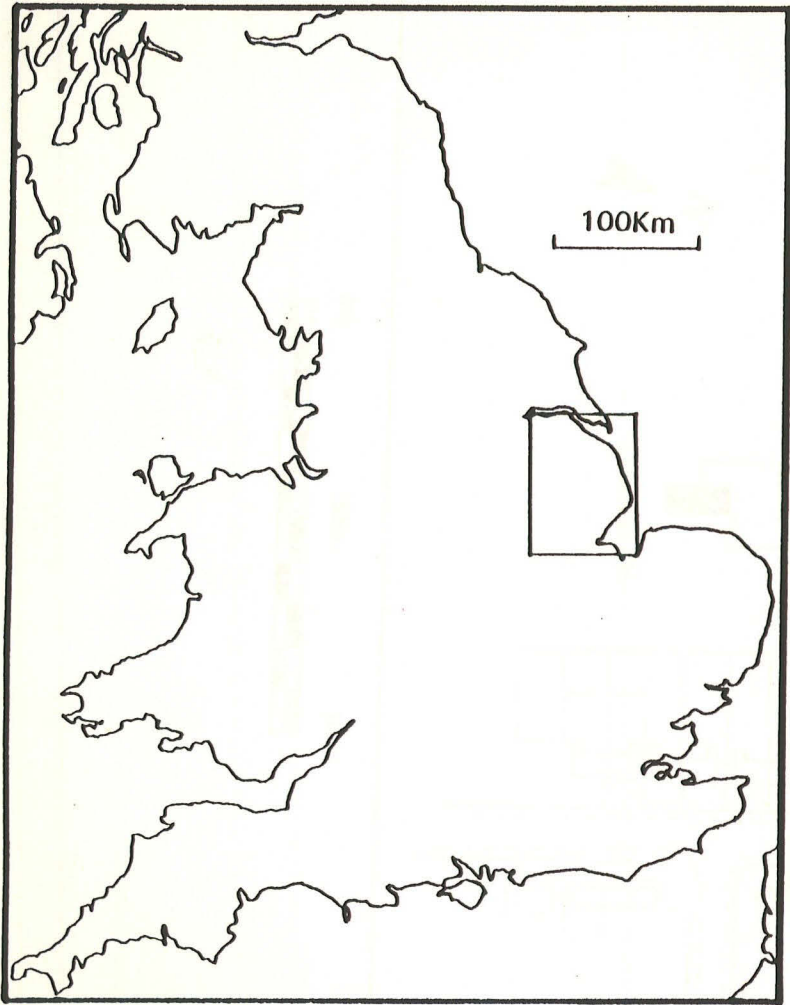
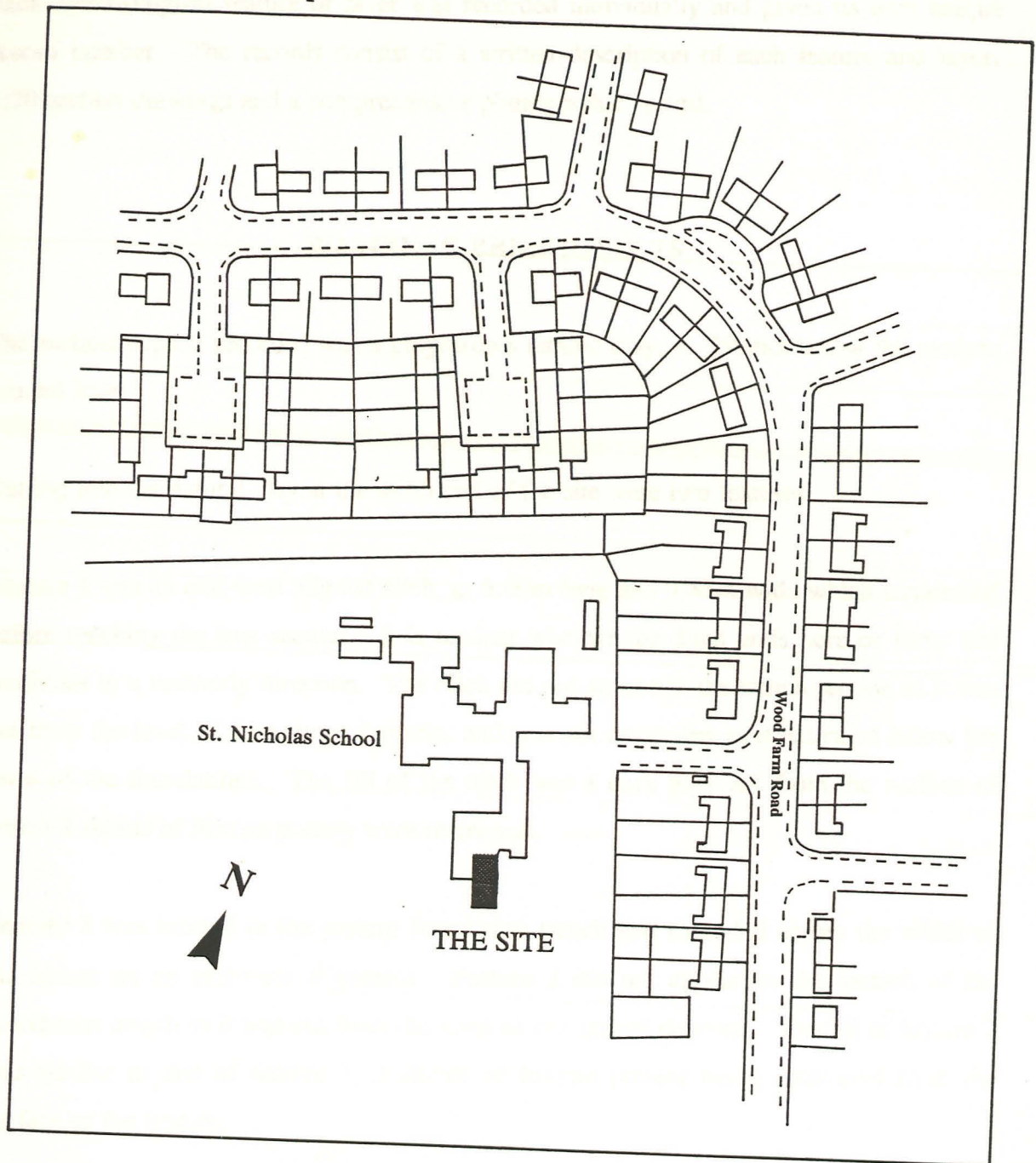


Fig. 1 General location

Fig. 2 Site location plan



Each archaeological feature or layer was recorded individually and given its own unique record number. The records consist of a written description of each feature and layer, 1:20 section drawings and a comprehensive photographic record.

WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

The earliest deposit recorded was a grey/brown natural clay, c. 550mm below the modern ground level.

Cutting into the natural clay at the north end of the site were two features:

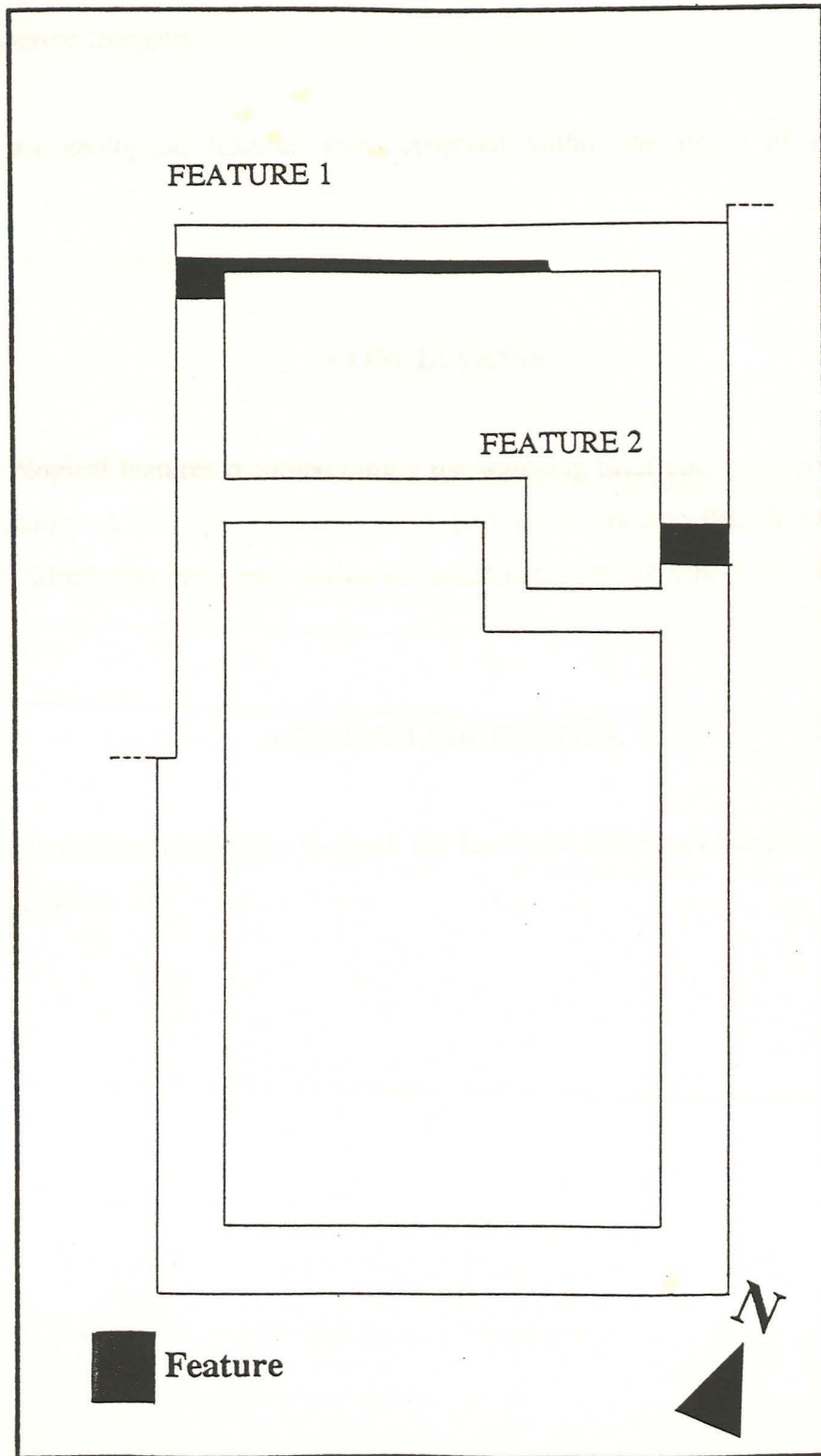
Feature 1 was an east-west aligned ditch, c. 5.00m long and 0.55m wide which terminated before reaching the east section. It is unclear whether the ditch ends here or turns and continues in a southerly direction. The ditch did not appear in the trench section as it was cut from the level of the natural deposits, and was not excavated as it extended below the level of the foundations. The fill of the ditch was a dark grey silt from the surface of which 8 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered.

Feature 2 was located in the eastern foundation trench and extended across the width of the trench on an east-west alignment. Feature 2 did not appear in the section of the foundation trench as it was cut from the level of the natural deposits. The fill of feature 2 was similar to that of feature 1, 2 sherds of Roman pottery being recovered from the surface of the feature.

It is possible that both of these features are parts of the same contemporary ditch which formed a 'dog-leg' under the northern part of the new classroom.

Features 1 and 2 were sealed by a deposit of mid-brown/reddish sand/silt which was covered by a thin (100mm) deposit of topsoil. Cut into the topsoil, and present at the

Fig. 3 Feature location plan



northern end of the site, was a layer of building debris forming the hard-core surface of a modern concrete footpath.

No other archaeological features were observed within the limits of the foundation trenches.

CONCLUSIONS

The archaeological features recorded during the watching brief contained pottery dating to the 2nd century A.D., and probably form part of a Romano-British occupation site, evidence of which was recovered during the construction of the school in 1962.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Heritage Lincolnshire would like to thank the Land and Building Consultancy for funding the watching brief.