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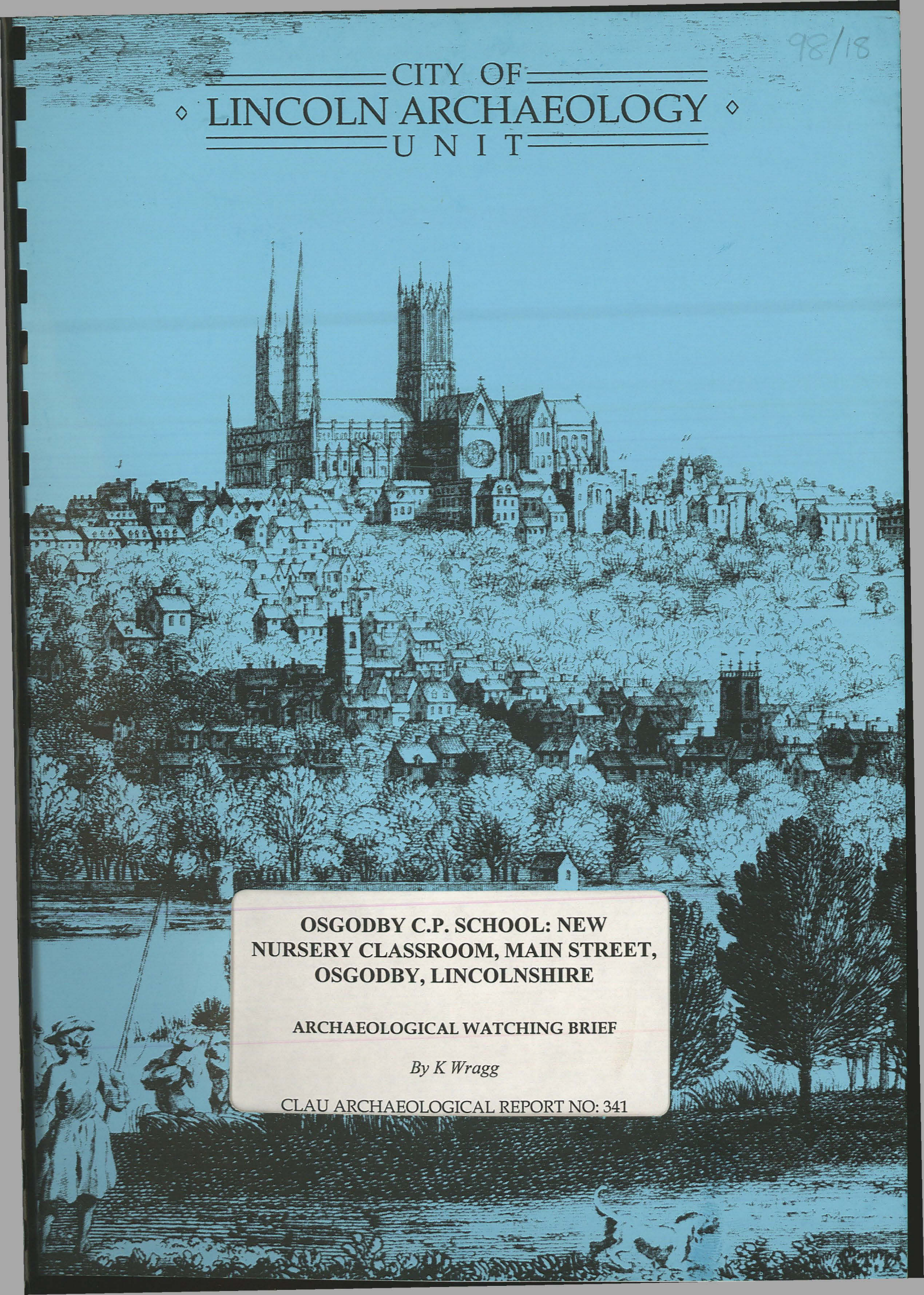
CITY OF
◇ LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY ◇
UNIT

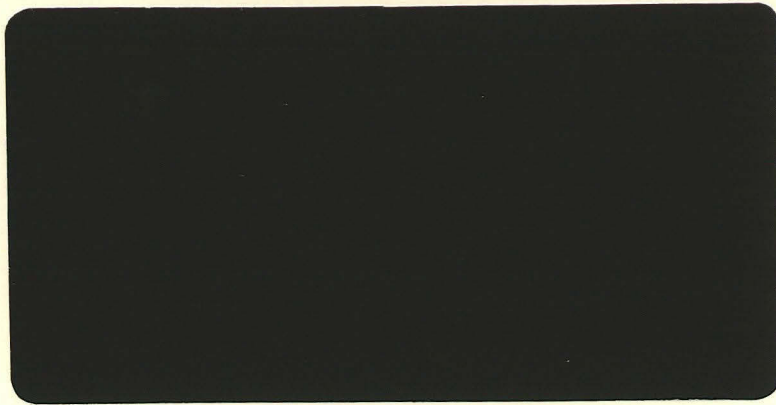
**OSGODBY C.P. SCHOOL: NEW
NURSERY CLASSROOM, MAIN STREET,
OSGODBY, LINCOLNSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

By K Wragg

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 341





29. OCT 98
ack 29/10/98
accepted 2/11/98

Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section

GRANT L13703
SOURCES L18365 L18366
54991 L183550 undated

**OSGODBY C.P. SCHOOL:
NEW NURSERY CLASSROOM,
Report to
Osgodby OK Playgroup & Toddlers Project**

LINCOLNSHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief

October 1998

Prepared by

*The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit
Charlotte House
The Lawn
Union Road
Lincoln
LN1 3BL*

Tel: Lincoln (01522) 545326

Fax: Lincoln (01522) 548089

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Site Code: OPS98

LCCM Accession No.: 100.98

NGR: TF 0755/9260

Planning Application No.: 97/P/0048

**OSGODBY C.P. SCHOOL: NEW
NURSERY CLASSROOM, MAIN STREET,
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MAIN STREET, OSGODBY,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

Archaeological Watching Brief

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**OSGODBY C.P.
SCHOOL: NEW
NURSERY CLASSROOM,
MAIN STREET,
OSGODBY,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF**

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This project was prompted by plans to improve the school facilities in the village of Osgodby, which lies approximately 5km northwest of Market Rasen, in the Lincolnshire district of West Lindsey.

The development involved the construction of a new nursery school block, on an area of former playing field, immediately to the east of the existing school buildings.

In view of the proximity to sites/findspots of known archaeological importance, it was decided by Lincolnshire County Council, following consultation with their Archaeology Section, that the groundworks on the site should be monitored archaeologically.

Accordingly, in April 1998, the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit was commissioned by *Osgodby OK Playgroup & Toddlers* project to carry out an intermittent watching brief on the site, in order to comply with an archaeological condition of planning consent. Observation was carried out on the site between the 16th of April and the 1st of June 1998.

Notwithstanding the potential of the site as related above, the results from this watching brief have proved to be largely inconclusive.

While it is apparent that preserved archaeological features are present across the site, it has not been possible to determine the period, or periods, of occupation and activity represented by these features, nor their function.

The general lack of finds/artefacts however suggests that the cuts were associated with 'field' features (boundaries, drains, etc.) rather than structures and/or occupation.

It may, however, be the case that evidence for more intensive occupation was originally present, but was destroyed by the effect of cultivation during wartime use as Allotments.

**OSGODBY C.P.
SCHOOL: NEW
NURSERY CLASSROOM,
MAIN STREET,
OSGODBY,
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This project was prompted by plans to improve the school facilities in the village of Osgodby, which lies approximately 5km northwest of Market Rasen, in the Lincolnshire district of West Lindsey.

The development involved the construction of a new nursery school block, on an area of former playing field, immediately to the east of the existing school buildings.

The site itself is situated in the middle of the settlement, lying to the south of Main Street, and measures approximately 40m square (see Figs.1 & 2).

In view of the proximity to sites/findspots of known archaeological importance (see 2.0, below), it was decided by Lincolnshire County Council, following consultation with their Archaeology Section, that the groundworks on the site should be monitored archaeologically.

Accordingly, in April 1998, the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit was commissioned by *Osgodby OK Playgroup & Toddlers* project, to carry out an intermittent watching brief on the site, in order to comply with an archaeological condition of planning consent. Observation was carried out on the site between the 16th of April and the 1st of June 1998.

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. The Unit, its members and employees cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the terms of

the Unit's Articles of Association, the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and *The Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage, 1991).

**2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The area surrounding Osgodby contains evidence for human occupation dating from the prehistoric period through to the present day.

A number of important Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age finds have been discovered in the parish, including two flaked flint daggers now in the City & County Museum at Lincoln.

During the Roman period, the site lay between the major Roman road running north from Lincoln (*Ermine Street*, now the A15), and the Roman settlements at Market Rasen, Caistor, and further to the east, Louth. Evidence for a Roman roadside settlement has been revealed approximately 1.5km to the south-west of the village (Whitwell, 1992, 75).

Approximately 1.5km to the west of the site, in the grounds of Kingerby Hall, limited excavation during 1993/4 also uncovered remains apparently associated with a 2nd to 3rd century Roman settlement. Two burials were revealed, together with a number of cut features probably representing field/property boundaries and drainage ditches. It is likely that this site lay on the edge of either a Roman rural settlement, or part of a villa estate or farmstead (Wragg, 1995).

Anglo-Saxon inhumation sites, appearing to date to the 6th or 7th centuries, are also common in the area, with high status burials being found to the west, at Caenby in 1850, and twenty-three burials revealed in 1990, at Walesby (on the Wold edge to the east). Metalwork finds of this period have also been produced through metal detecting in the area of Market Rasen, again suggesting the presence of further inhumation sites.

At Kingerby Hall, there was also evidence of re-occupation from the mid-late Anglo-Saxon and early medieval periods, before the site was landscaped during the 12th century. The surviving earthworks at Kingerby mark the

remains of a village, probably dating from this later period (Wragg, 1995).

The *Brief for archaeological observation and recording*, produced by the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, comments on the site as follows: 'Osgodby was the site of a medieval and Anglo-Saxon settlement and a number of finds have been discovered in the vicinity'.

During the actual watching brief, discussion with local inhabitants (most notably Mr Dennis Davis, the voluntary acting clerk of works for the project) revealed that the site had been used during the Second World War as *Dig for Victory* allotments, and as such had been subjected to concerted and relatively intensive cultivation over a number of years.

3.0 RESULTS

Groundworks comprised a limited phase of site stripping, service trenches, and a network of machine-excavated linear foundation trenches, enclosing an area approximately 10m (N-S) x 13m (E-W).

The foundation trenches themselves were on average 700mm wide, and excavated (following consultation with the West Lindsey District Council Building Control Officer) to depths of between 900mm and 1m.

The initial phase of site-stripping work involved the removal of the turf deposit within the footprint of the new building to a depth of c.100-150mm. No obvious finds or features were revealed by this work.

Several features and deposits were, however, revealed by the main trenching for the foundations. The stratigraphic sequence was as follows:

The earliest deposit was [104], a well compacted, variegated light grey/mid orange-brown clay. This deposit was only just revealed at the limit of excavation (L.O.E.), and did not appear to contain any obvious inclusions.

[104] was overlain by [102], a moderately compacted, friable mid orange-brown/light yellow-brown mottled sand. [102] was up to 300mm thick and contained very occasional small pockets of gravel. Both [102] and [104] would appear to be of natural (i.e., geological) origin.

A series of four linear features was then revealed, cutting into layer [102]. Of these, two were oriented east-west ([103] & [105]), with the remaining two following a north-south alignment ([106] & [107]) (see Figs.3 & 4).

The two east-west cut features were located in the easternmost foundation trench, and were both very similar in appearance. Each had steep sides and measured approximately 500mm wide, and was at least 200mm deep. No continuation beyond the eastern foundation line, however, could be determined, and unfortunately no dating evidence was forthcoming from either feature.

The latter was also true of the two north-south oriented cuts, [106] & [107].

The first of these was situated approximately along the centre-line of the building, and was seen to continue across the whole building footprint. [107] lay further to the west, but was only revealed in one of the foundation trenches.

In profile, both of these cuts featured sides sloping at approximately 60 degrees to the horizontal, with maximum widths of 400mm and 1m respectively. Both were of similar depths to the east-west oriented features mentioned above.

All of the aforementioned cut features were then sealed/filled by [101], the topsoil/subsoil deposit present across the whole site. This layer was up to 800mm thick and comprised a moderate-loose compaction, friable mid brown sandy silt. This layer contained only very infrequent small pieces of pottery and roof tile/brick, and generally appeared very well 'sorted', probably as a result of ploughing and cultivation during the Second World War.

Layer [101] was then overlain by [100], a 100mm thick layer of mid brown-grey sandy silt bearing a layer of turf at its upper boundary, and merging with [101] below. This deposit formed the surface for the whole development site.

The final element of the groundworks involved the excavation of three trenches, for electricity, watermains and drainage respectively.

Of these, the first was approximately 1m deep and located parallel to the eastern boundary of the site; the second followed the eastern and northern sides of the new building, and then continued north towards the main road (again c. 1m deep); while the drainage trenches ran close to, and parallel with, the northern and western sides of the building, ultimately to connect to an existing soakaway to the west.

The stratigraphy recorded during this aspect of the work basically mirrored that seen during the foundation trenching, but with no sign of further archaeological finds or features.

4.0 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

Notwithstanding the potential of the site, as related above, the results from this watching brief have proved to be largely inconclusive.

While it is apparent that preserved archaeological features are present across the site, it has not been possible to determine the period, or periods, of occupation and activity represented by these features, nor their function.

The general lack of finds/artefacts however suggests that the cuts were associated with 'field' features (boundaries, drains etc.) rather than structures and/or occupation.

It may, however, be the case that evidence for more intensive occupation was originally present, but was destroyed by the effect of cultivation during wartime use as Allotments.

5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit would like to thank the following for their assistance during this project: Osgodby OK Playgroup & Toddlers, for funding this project; Ms Jane Coulson, Mr Dennis Davis & Mrs Angela Davis; Mr John Turner, Financial & Resources Directorate, Property Division, Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln, LN1 1ZA; Messrs S.Catney & J.Bonner, Archaeological Officers, Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, Highways & Planning Directorate, 4th Floor, City Hall, Lincoln, LN1 1DN; Mr Peter Chesman (Site Manager) and on-site staff of T.G.Sowerby Developments Ltd., South Park Industrial Estate, Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire (main contractor)

6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Everson, P L, Taylor, C C & Dunn, C J (eds) 1991 *Change and Continuity. Rural settlement in north-west Lincolnshire*, RCHM(E)

Whitwell, J B 1992 *Roman Lincolnshire - Revised Edition*, History of Lincolnshire 2, Lincolnshire Local Hist Soc, Lincoln

Pevsner, N, Harris, J & Antram, N (eds) 1989 *Lincolnshire, The Buildings of England*, Penguin Books, London

Wragg, K 1995 *Kingerby Hall, Kingerby, Lincolnshire*, CLAU Archaeological Report 154, City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, Lincoln

7.0 LHA NOTE/ARCHIVE DETAILS

7.1 LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODE: OPS98

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.: 97/P/0048

FIELD OFFICER: K.Wragg

NGR: TF 0755/9260

CIVIL PARISH: Osgodby

SMR No.: n/a

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 16/04/98 - 01/06/98

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Osgodby OK Playgroup & Toddlers, c/o Mrs Angela Davis, Osgodby House, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire, LN8 3PA

7.2 ARCHIVE DETAILS

PRESENT LOCATION: City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, Charlotte House, The Lawn, Union Road, Lincoln, LN1 3BL.

FINAL LOCATION: The City and County Museum, Friars Lane, Lincoln.

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: 100.98

ACCESSION DATE: -

APPENDIX A - ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The archive consists of:

No.	Description
1	Site diary
1	Report
8	Context records
2	Site Plan drawings
1	Site Section drawing
1 set	Colour slides
1	Stratigraphic matrix

The primary archive material, as detailed above, is currently held by :

**The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit,
Charlotte House,
The Lawn,
Union Road,
Lincoln,
Lincolnshire,
LN1 3BL.**

It is intended that transfer to the City and County Museum, Friars Lane, Lincoln, in accordance with current published requirements, under Museum Accession Number 100.98, will be undertaken following completion of this project.

APPENDIX B - COLOUR PLATES



Plate 1: General view of site, following stripping & foundation trenching - looking south-west

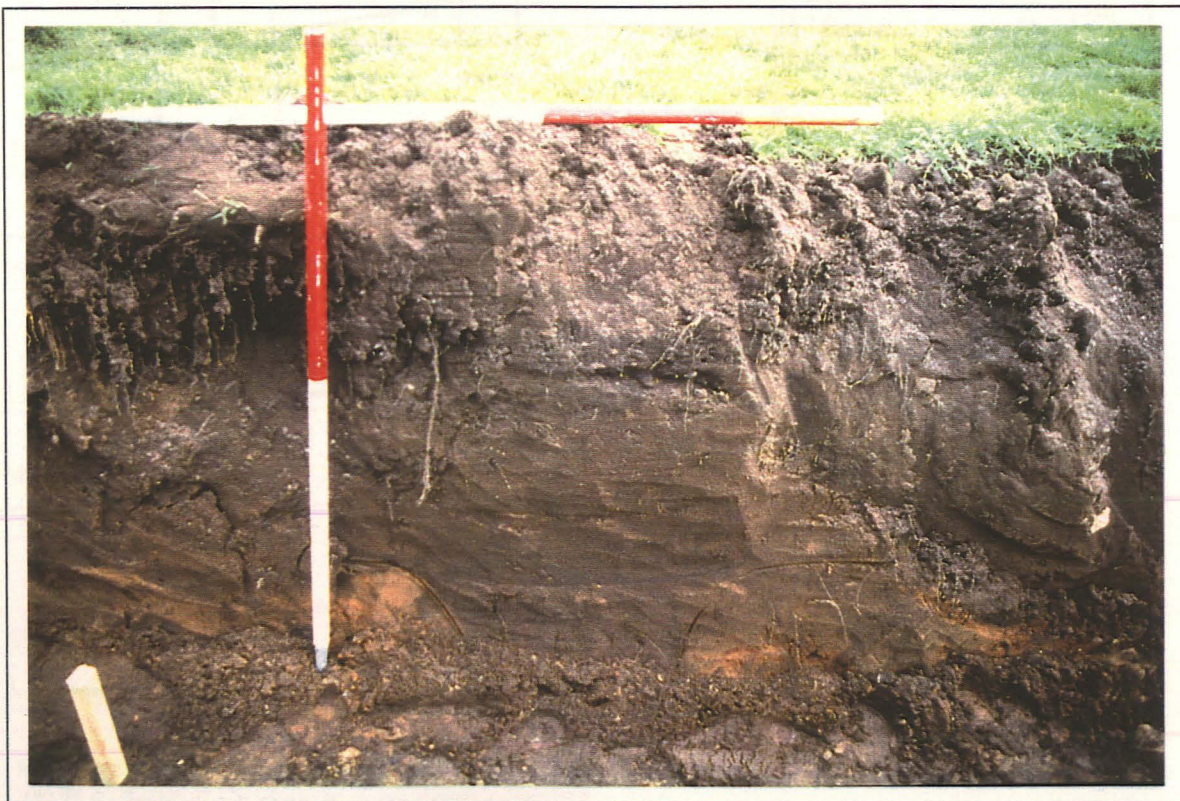
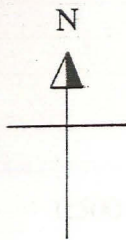


Plate 2: View of west-facing trench section, showing cut feature [103] - looking east

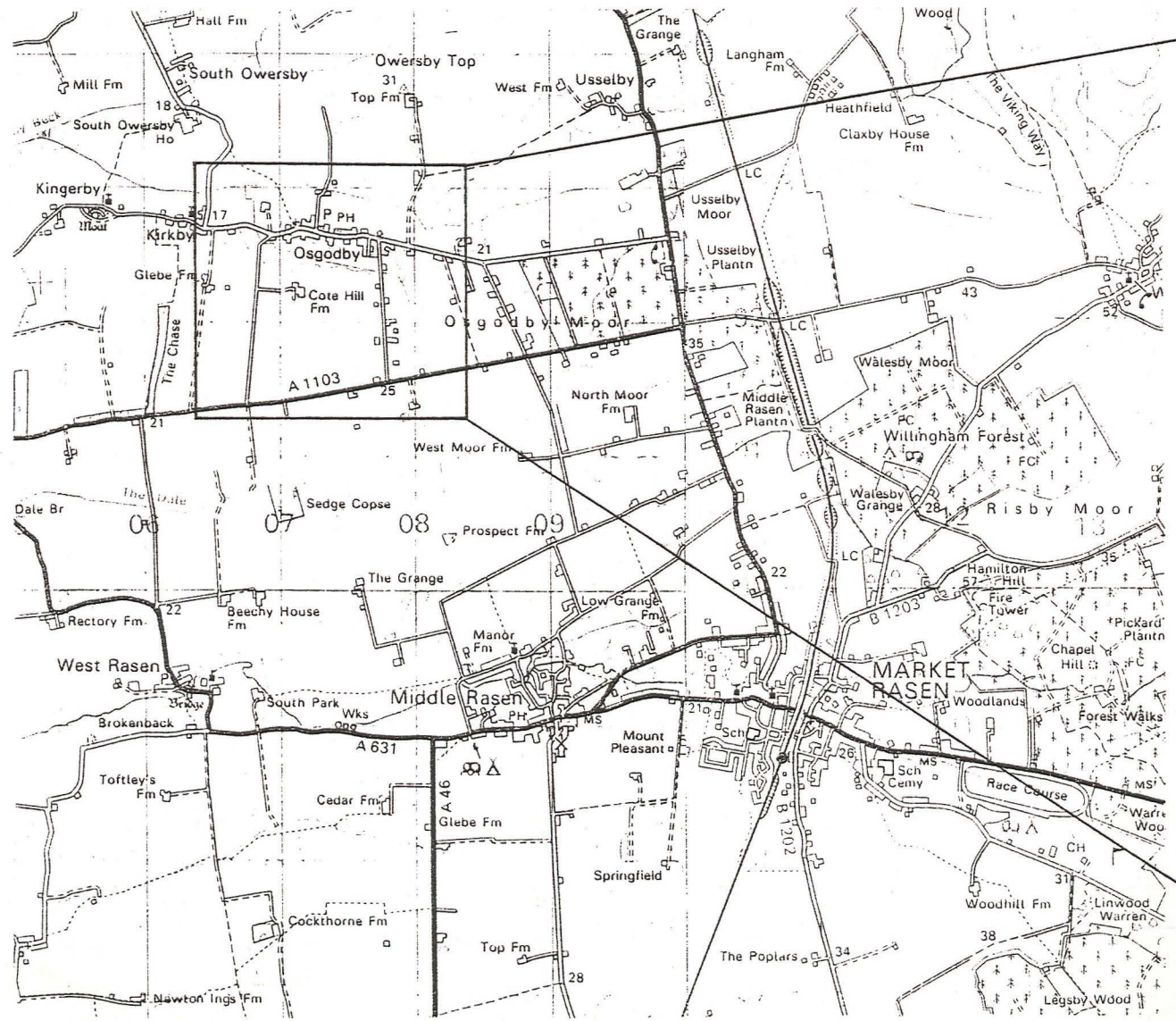


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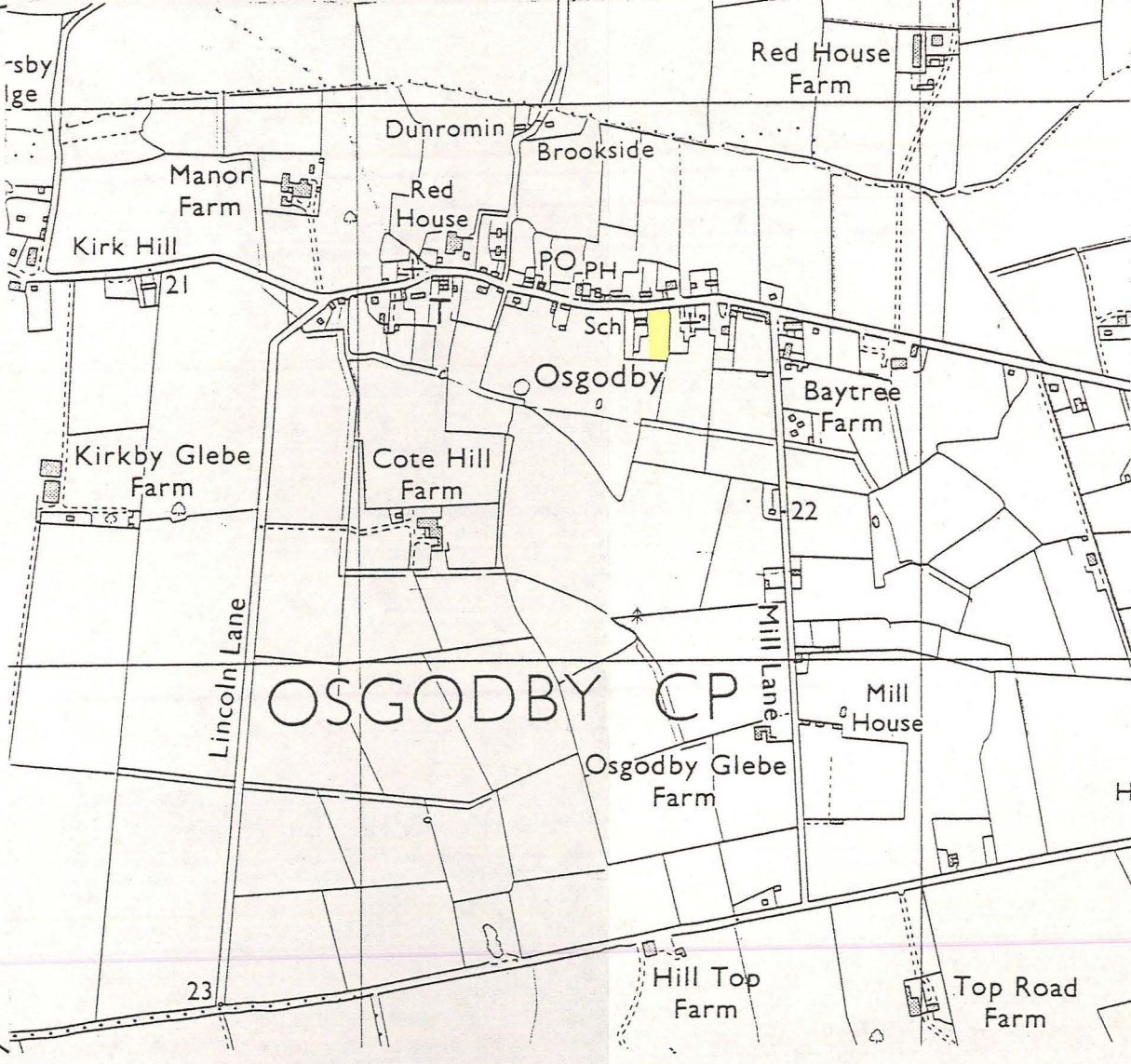
Location of Site

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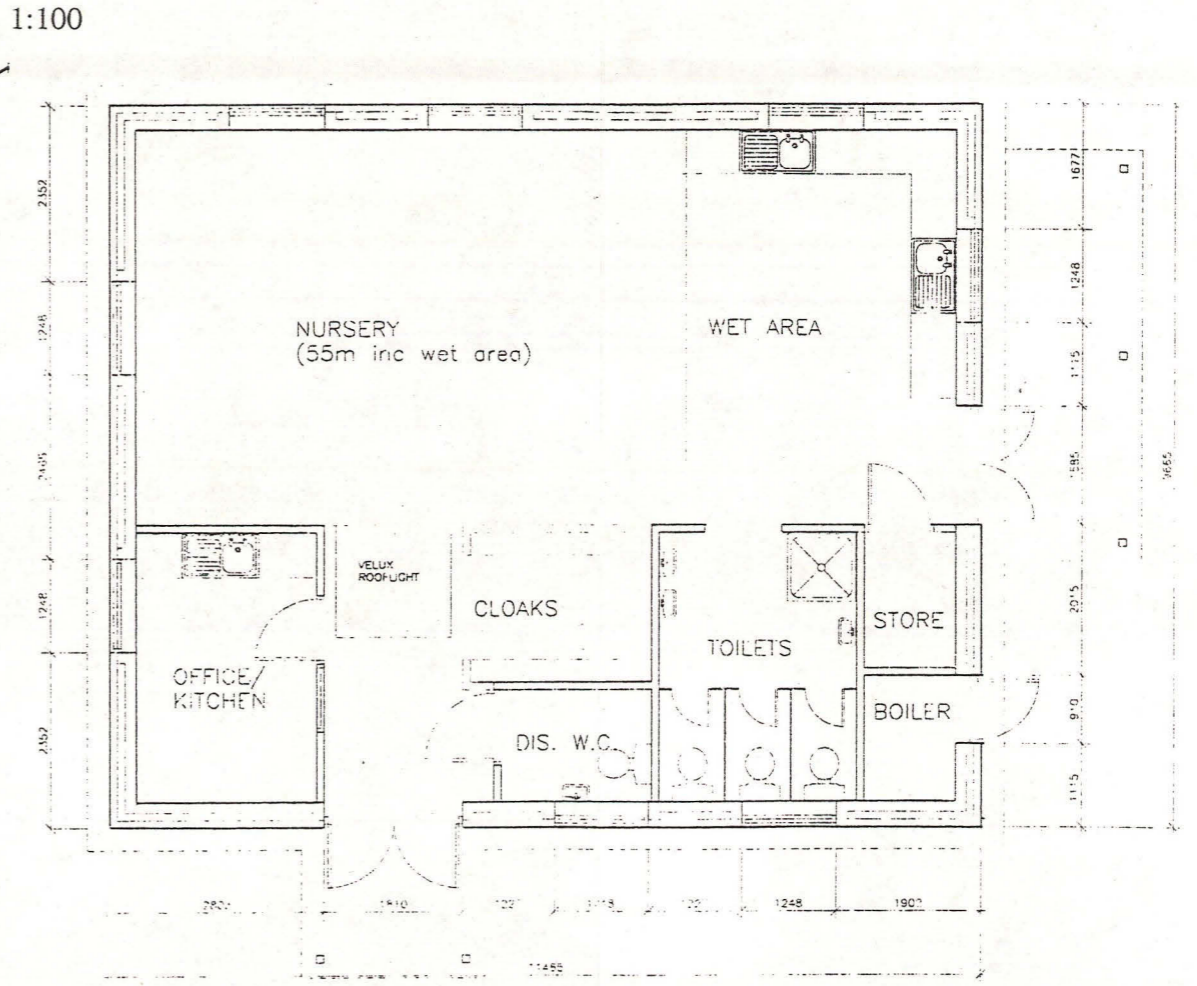
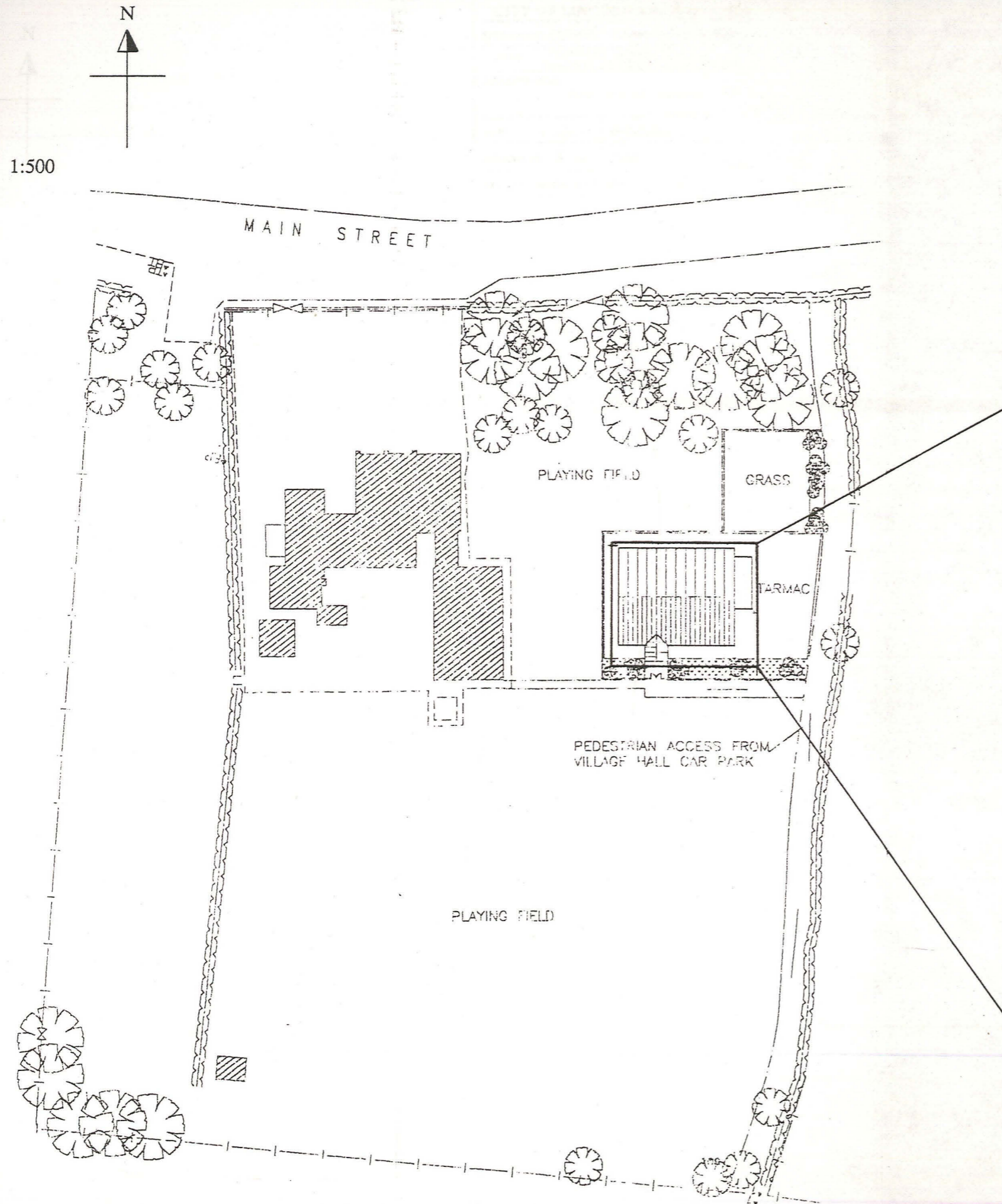


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Based upon the 1986 Ordnance Survey 1:25 000 Pathfinder 730 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright.

Fig.1

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
SITE CODE: OPS98	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT: Lincolnshire County Council/Osgodby OK Playgroup and Toddlers		
DESCRIPTION: Plan of Proposed Development		
SCALE:	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY:	CHECKED:	DATE:
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 100.98		



Based upon Lincolnshire County Council's drawing no. ZYZ93/1 Rev A

Fig.2



CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
SITE CODE: OPS98	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT: Lincolnshire County Council/ Osgodby OK Playgroup and Toddlers		
DESCRIPTION: Plan of Archaeological Features		
SCALE: 1:100	ARCHIVE NO:	
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MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 100.98		

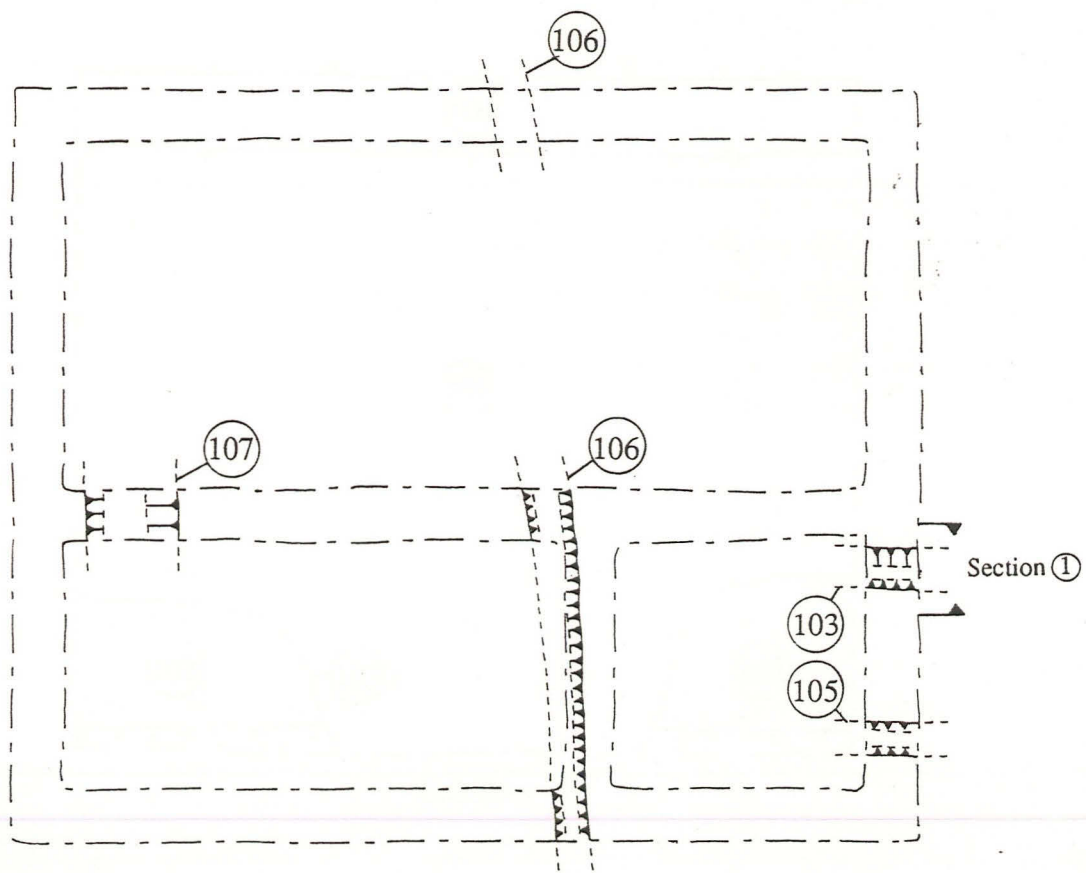




Fig.3

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE: OPS98	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT: Lincolnshire County Council/ Osgodby OK Playgroup and Toddlers		
DESCRIPTION: West-Facing Section ①		
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KEY

 Sand

 Clay

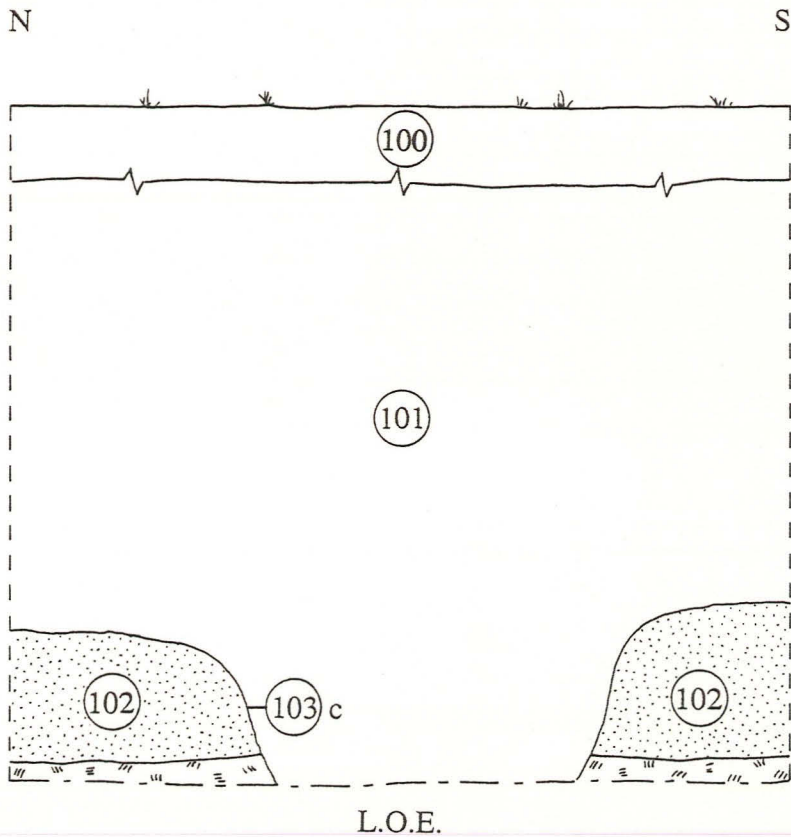


Fig.4