



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

L I N C O L N

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY
AND WATCHING BRIEF REPORT
LAUGHTON ENDOWED CE (A) PRIMARY SCHOOL
LAUGHTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.

NGR: SK 8488 9728
Site Code: LEPS 01
LCNCC Acc. No. 2001.171



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Report Prepared for
Hyder Business Services.
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January 2002

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Summary

- *A photographic survey and archaeological watching brief took place at Laughton Endowed Primary School, Laughton, Lincolnshire, during the groundworks associated with the redevelopment of existing school buildings.*
- *The School House is a Grade II Listed Building, situated within the core of the traditional settlement. There existed a possibility, therefore, that important archaeological remains of late Saxon and/or medieval date could be disturbed or destroyed.*
- *Evidence for earlier (post-medieval) structures were exposed adjacent to the listed building. These almost certainly represent earlier elements of the school.*
- *The groundworks that were monitored within the playground area truncated a post-medieval soil, identified as a former topsoil.*

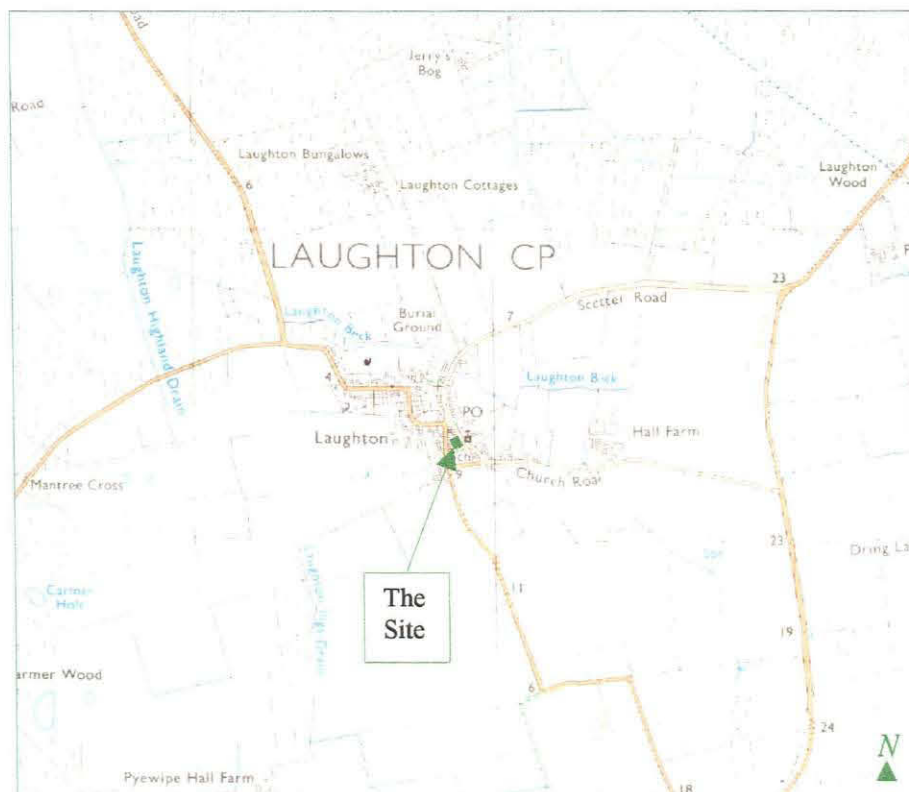


Figure 1: Area of investigation at 1: 25,000
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1.0 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief and photographic survey was carried out for Hyder Business Services at Laughton Endowed Primary School, Laughton, Lincolnshire (fig. 1). The work was commissioned to fulfil a planning requirement associated with the modification of a listed building, removal of a second structure, and construction of a building complex (fig. 2). Several other (modern) buildings were demolished outside of this brief, that were not monitored. These included a toilet/kitchen/store and reading room block, a nursery unit and a cloakroom/toilet block. A second phase of works associated with the north half of the school is not covered by this brief.

The fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the procedures set out in the Lincolnshire County Council publication *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice* (LCC, 1998): national guidelines produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists were also adhered to (IFA, 1994). Both documents were central to the structure and content of this report.

The archive for this report will be held at the Lincoln City and County Museum.

2.0 Location and description

Laughton is within the administrative district of West Lindsey, approximately 7km north-east of Gainsborough, 3.5km east of the River Trent.

The redevelopment site is situated on the east side of the village, fronting Church Road to the east. West of the School House was the school playground.

Prior to development, the site incorporated the Grade II Listed School House and a rectangular school classroom along the road frontage, with a tarmac playground to the rear. The ground surface lies at approximately 7m OD, and is relatively level throughout the development area.

The geology of the area comprises post-glacial wind blown sands.

Central National Grid Reference: SK 8488 9728.

3.0 Planning background

Lincolnshire County Council granted full planning consent, subject to the undertaking of a photographic survey and archaeological watching brief on all works involving ground disturbance and/or modification to the School House (Ref. W56/0712/00). A complex of buildings were to be added to the rear of the listed building, with some modification of the existing School House.

The watching brief was required due to the possibility that the development would expose settlement remains of late Saxon and/or medieval date.

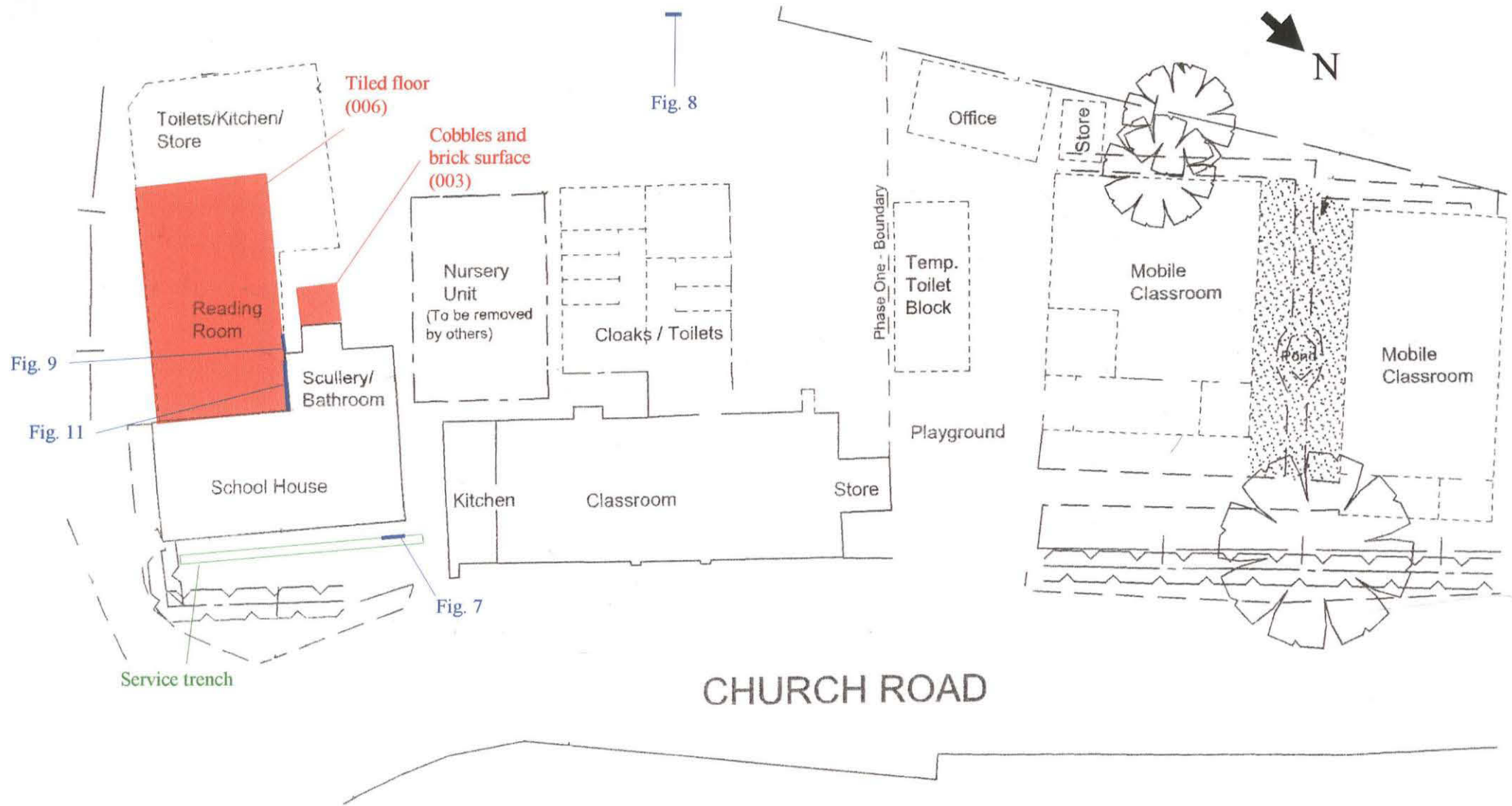


Figure 2: Composite plan of buildings (includes buildings to be demolished, ie Reading Room, Nursery Unit, Cloaks/toilets and toilets/kitchen/store), with location of figures, exposed tiled floor (006) and cobbles and brick surface (003). At scale 1:200.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

Evidence of use of the area in prehistoric times is poorly understood, although a series of prehistoric artefacts have been recovered from various locations within the parish.

Romano-British occupation is reflected by the site of an important villa, approximately 500m to the north-north-east. A scatter of Roman pottery is also recorded 200m south-west of the School.

The present settlement probably emerged in the late Saxon period. Laughton is listed in the Domesday Book of 1086 as *Loctone*, from the Old English meaning 'the enclosure, farmstead that can be locked'. An earlier reference (from Anglo Saxon wills), dated 1066 – 1068, mentions an earlier form of the village name as *æt Lohtune* (Cameron 1998). The village was in the wapentake of Corri~~gh~~ham, with the two principal landowners recorded in the Domesday Survey as: Roger of Poitou and Guy of Craon. (Morgan and Thorn 1986).

The school is situated opposite the west end of the parish church. All Saints was partially rebuilt in the 19th century, although 12th/13th century Decorated and Perpendicular elements survive (Pevsner and Harris 1989).

A previous evaluation by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) on a development less than 350m to the north-west exposed a number of post-medieval boundary ditches, a pit and a pond (Albone 1998). A watching brief in the same year by PCA recorded a number of features that were mainly undated. A cluster of post-medieval iron-working slag from the watching brief may tentatively attribute to a smithing area (Albone 1998).

5.0 Photographic survey methodology

Mark Allen, Alex Brett, Chris Clay and Colin Palmer-Brown carried out the photographic survey, on separate occasions in July and October 2001. This consisted of the systematic photographic recording of the interiors and exteriors of the two buildings. Several of these prints are reproduced in the report. Descriptive records were also taken to aid interpretation.

5.1 Watching brief methodology

Coupled with the above was the archaeological monitoring of all ground excavations. Foundations were excavated in spits not exceeding 0.2m in depth, by a JCB using a back-actor fitted with a 0.6m wide toothed bucket. The removal of these deposits was monitored constantly to ensure that any archaeological features exposed by this process were identified.

The archaeological fieldwork entailed the cleaning by hand of all exposed surfaces within the service trenches and building footing trenches, followed by a thorough inspection. All archaeological deposits identified by this process were subjected to limited excavation, in order to assess their nature, dimensions, and to attempt to

recover datable materials. The topsoil and subsoil stripping allowed for more detailed excavation and recording work to be carried out. These investigations resulted in the production of written descriptions of each layer upon standard watching brief context recording sheets. Colour photographs and scale drawings, in both plan and section, compliment these accounts.

6.0 Photographic survey results

The photographic survey comprised an extensive cover of the School House, accompanied with detailed measurements and written records. A classroom to the immediate north of the listed building was also the subject of the survey.

Grade II listed School House (Figs. 3 and 4)

The east (frontage) elevation was constructed with imperial brick: typically 230 x 105 x 62mm. The front door is central, with two downstairs and two symmetrically arranged upstairs windows (plate 1).

The north (gable) is made from handmade bricks (215mm long and 56mm thick). The chimney was a later addition, built of modern common bricks. There are two windows on the upper floor.

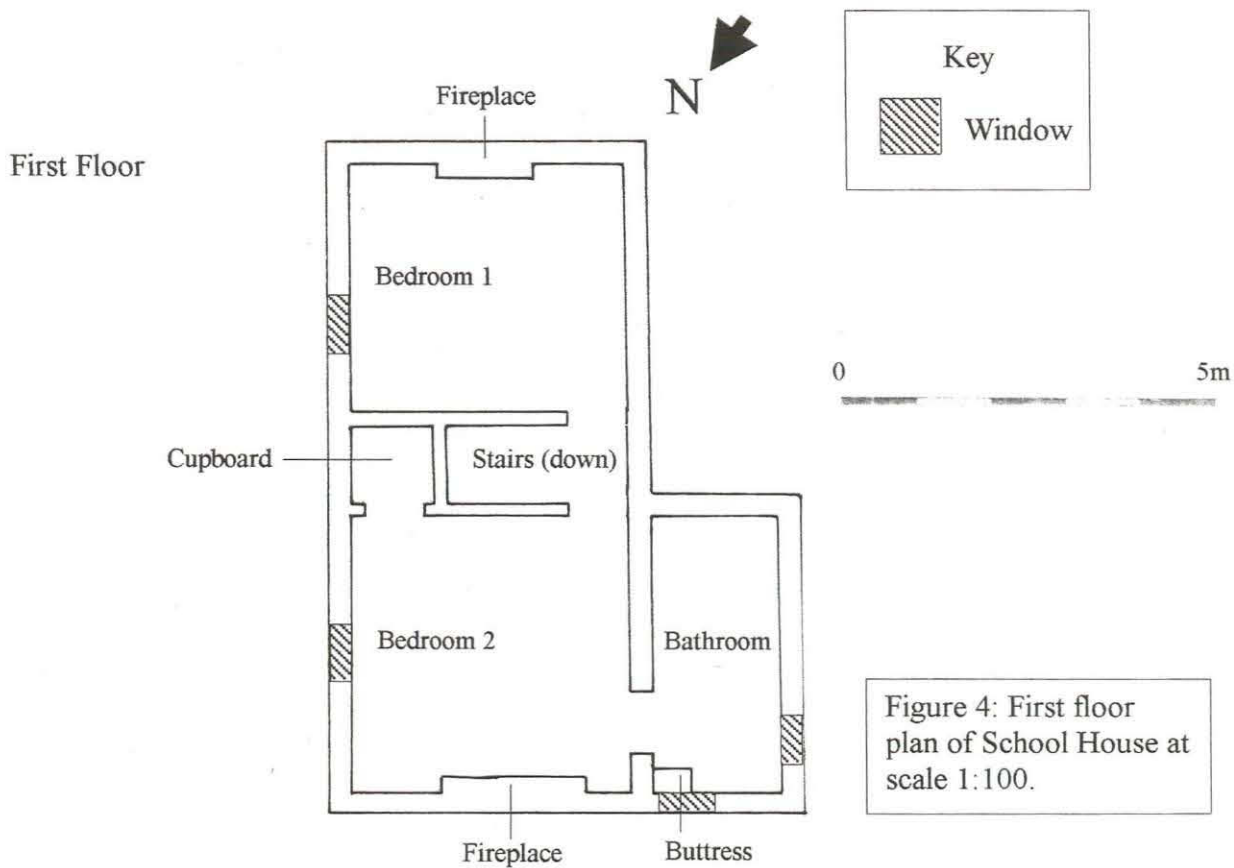
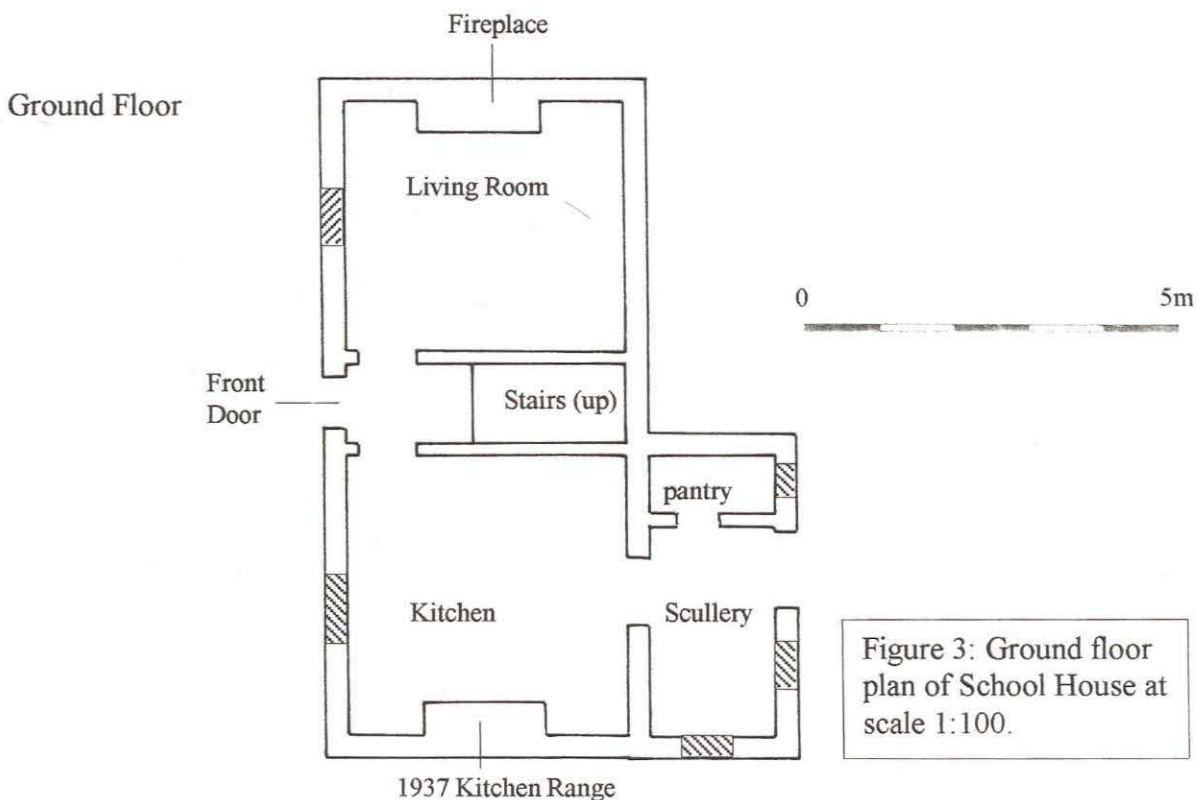
To the rear of the building (western elevation), several phases of construction were noted, reflecting repairs, rebuilds and additions (plate 2). The ground floor was built of possibly pre – 19th century handmade bricks. These were superseded on the upper floor by later imperial bricks (typically 220 x 107 x 72mm). A long, rectangular window (bathroom) on the upper floor is thought to be associated with documented 1939 works. The two windows on the ground floor are at different levels. The smaller, to the right of the door, is c. 0.8m above the modern ground surface. It seems likely this window is of a similar date to a floor surface found beneath the present one (see (015) in the watching brief results below). The larger window to the left of the door seems to be contemporary with the present ground surface. There was evidence of a possible former timber porch over the back door, probably dating to the 1939 extension.

The south (gable) end contains no windows, and its chimney is of modern construction (commons bricks). The wall is made from handmade bricks, with a repair comprising modern commons towards the base (plate 3).

Internally, the front door leads to a wooden staircase, which gives access to the first floor. There are rooms to the left and right.

At ground level, the living room to the left measures 3.7m x 3.3m, with a fireplace along the south-east wall (plate 4). The fireplace, with original decorated tiles, seems to be of early 20th century date. The floor comprises tongue and groove boarding, and the walls, at the time of the brief, were covered with sheets of asbestos. The beam ceiling is not original, and comprises a number of small beams (0.065m wide and

0.07m deep) crossed by a larger beam measuring 0.16m wide and over 0.18m deep. A single window in the north-east wall provides a view of Church Road.



Opposite the living room was the kitchen (3.7m x 3.7m) (plate 5). A pattern of ceiling beams comparable to those in the living room was present, although this is where any similarities ended. The floor was of quarry tile construction, (each tile 0.185m x 0.185m x 0.045m) and the underside of each tile bore the makers name 'Cocking & Sons'. Removal of the floor exposed a sand-levelling layer. Wooden cupboards of 20th century date had been added to the recesses on either side of the chimney in the north-west wall. The original fireplace was removed in 1937 and replaced with a solid-fuel kitchen range, with built-in fireplace (for heating and cooking). An under-stairs cupboard in the south-east wall had plaster walls and identical quarry tiles.

A doorway in the south-west wall led to the scullery (2.75m x 1.7m) (plate 6). The floor of the scullery was made of small quarry tiles (0.15m x 0.15m), at a level approximately 0.22m lower than the kitchen floor. A window looked out onto the playground. A doorway in the south-east wall led to a walk-in pantry.

At the top of the stairs doors lead to rooms to the south-east (bedroom 1) and north-west (bedroom 2).

Bedroom 1 measures 3.7m by 3.3m, with asbestos sheets covering the walls (plate 7). The floor is concrete and the ceiling is plastered. A fireplace in the south-east wall may be early 20th century in date. The single window provided an unrestricted view of the parish church across the road.

The second bedroom is 3.7m by 3.5m, again with concrete floor and plaster ceiling (plate 8). The cast iron fireplace seemed identical to that in bedroom 1, suggesting a similar date. One of the two windows falls within the recess formed by the chimneybreast. The other recess has been sealed to form a cupboard. A walk-in cupboard in the east corner of the room has plastered walls and ceiling, with a trapdoor leading to the roof space. A door in the south-west wall leads to the bathroom.

The bathroom floor is approximately 0.4m lower than the rest of the first floor level (access is via a single step) (plate 9). The wooden floor is of tongue and groove construction; the walls and ceiling plaster over brick. A small buttress slightly overlapping a window in the north-west wall may be an original feature, pre-dating this extension to the School House. Although the fixtures and fittings have been removed, copper piping in the east corner revealed the location of the boiler. This room was added as part of the 1939 extension.

During the repair of the School House, the roof tiles were removed, allowing access to the timbers (Plate 10). The roof was of simple build, as befits a rural School House where only a limited span is required. It is a double pitch, single frame coupled rafter roof, with clasped purlins. There are no principal rafters.

The construction was based on wall plates resting on the top of the walls, held in place by a series of on-bed bricks laid at right angles to the wall, overhanging to the outside by half their length. This not only provided a secure slot in which to seat the timber but also produced a decorative ridge of overhanging brick at the top of the wall under the eaves.

The wall plate on the east side comprised three separate timbers. They were all of a similar cross-section, averaging about 150mm wide and 100mm deep. The southernmost was 0.50m in length and appeared to be unused, as it did not show any redundant joints. It was fastened to the timber to the north by an 'edge halved scarf' joint, secured with a large round headed (18mm diameter) iron nail. The southern timber rested over the northern.

The central timber also appeared to be fresh. It was 2.10m in length, and slightly 's' shaped. This curvature was a reflection of original tree shape (by not cutting the timbers absolutely straight, there was presumably less waste). It was joined to its northern neighbour with a 'through splayed scarf' joint with the northernmost below. This joint was secured with two large round-headed iron nails similar to the one above.

The northernmost timber was the largest, at 6.3m long. This was the most interesting, as it showed clear signs of re-use. There were a large number of redundant joints visible, as well as peg holes. For the most part these were simple recesses cut into the eastern face, to give clearance to other timbers. Some more complex joints existed, including, at the southern end, a 'dovetailed lap joint' with a peg hole 30mm in diameter. A second peg hole of the same size, 200mm away, was probably part of the same earlier structure. There is also a very unusual joint in roughly the centre of the timber. It seems clear from the regularly-spaced and angled nature of the joints in this timber that its previous use was as part of a roof.

The rafters were of 'common rafter' type, most of which appear to be part of the original roof build (reflected by accurate fittings into mortises cut into the wall plate). Replacements could be identified from the fact that the tennons on their lower ends were too small for the mortises. They also showed much less evidence of decay (which was principally dry-rot, although there were some wood-worm tunnels).

One of the rafters had a mortis cut into its northern side, indicating that this was also a re-used timber.

The joists rested directly on the wall plate, and were secured with modern-looking square headed iron nails. They comprised unidentified softwood, in very good condition, and were clearly quite modern. These supported a plaster and lathe ceiling, also made of softwood in good condition. Given that the joists are clearly modern, the ceiling must be likewise.

Carpenter's marks were apparent on several of the roof timbers, and these are reproduced below (Fig. 5). These presumably date to the 1871 construction date for the School House.

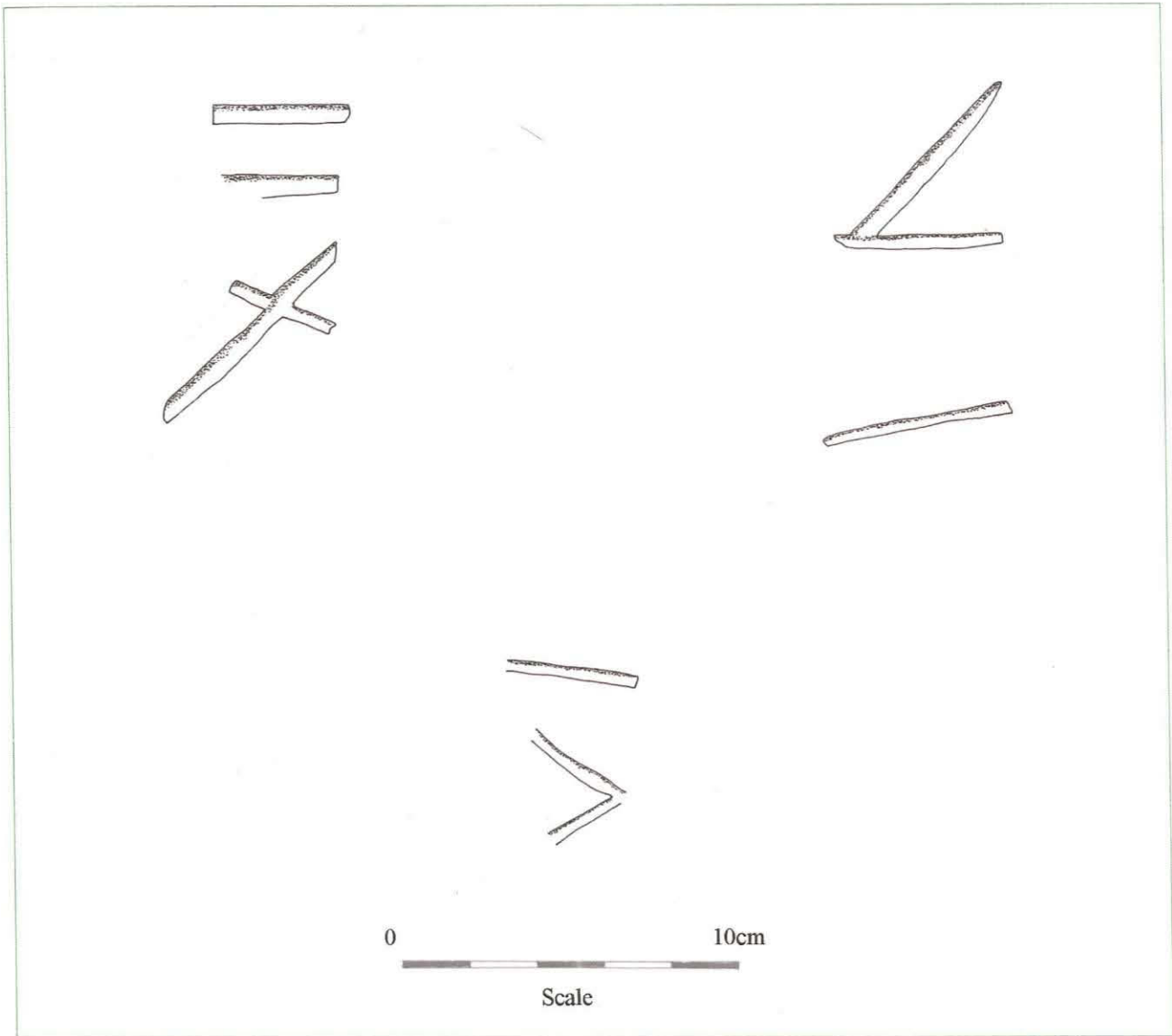


Figure 5: Three carpenters marks found on original beams within the roof of the schoolhouse. At scale 1:2.

Classroom (Figure 6)

The classroom (probably dating to the 1821 phase of rebuilding) was 16m long (external) and 5.5m wide (plate 11). The main element of this Victorian building was a long rectangular room, partitioned into two by a wooden screen (removed before monitoring took place). The floor comprised modern linoleum tiles that had been glued onto a concrete surface. The walls had been plastered, with wooden slats added up to 1m from the ground.

The ceiling had been replaced in modern times with plasterboard on wooden slats. Removal of this exposed a series of A-frame wooden beams.

The windows were of two different forms. Along the north-east wall (facing the church) windows were decorative, with intersecting ribwork in the upper part of the window comprising a mullion branching into two to form a Y-shape. Known as Y-tracery, this form is typical of the 1300's (Pevsner & Harris 1989). Obviously, the windows are not 14th century; rather, this is an attempt by the Victorian builders to assimilate the style of the Church across the road. The windows in the south-west wall were rectangular. These were probably added in 1934 (See 7.0 below).

At the north-west end of the building a walk-in cupboard measured 1.5m by 1.3m. The doorway to this was arched. According to documentary evidence (See 7.0 below) the cupboard was originally an entrance into the building, signifying separate entrances for boys and girls. A later addition to the south-east end of the building saw a cloakroom added, whilst in the 1950's, an existing toilet block was extended (See below).

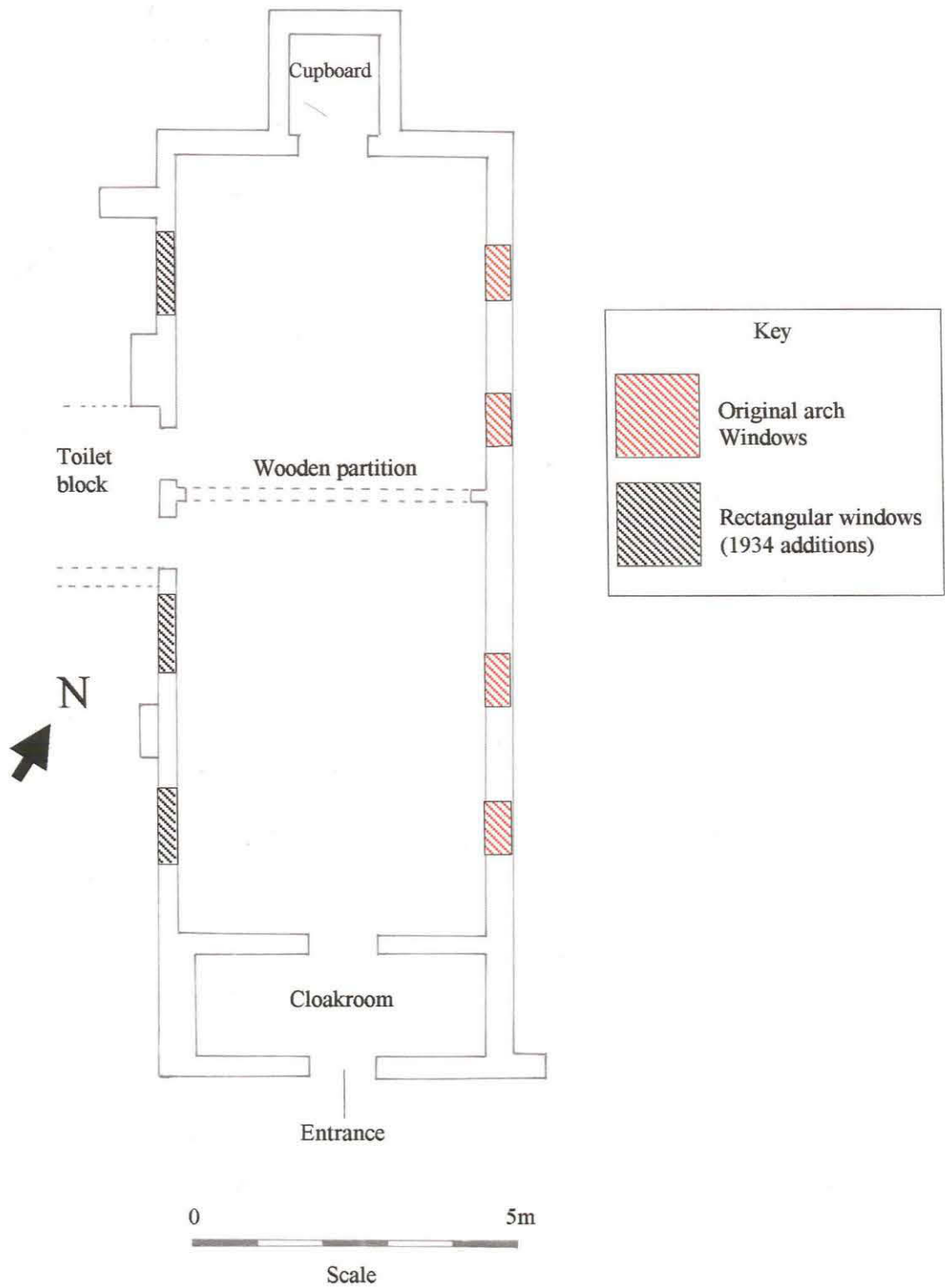


Figure 6: Plan of classroom, at scale 1:100.

6.1 Watching brief results

A service trench was monitored between Church Road and the School House (figure 7 below). This revealed a 0.25m deep topsoil horizon (001) sealing a construction deposit (002), comprising brown silt sand with numerous pieces of small – large limestone and occasional brick fragments. This may be contemporaneous with the construction of the School House (in 1871).

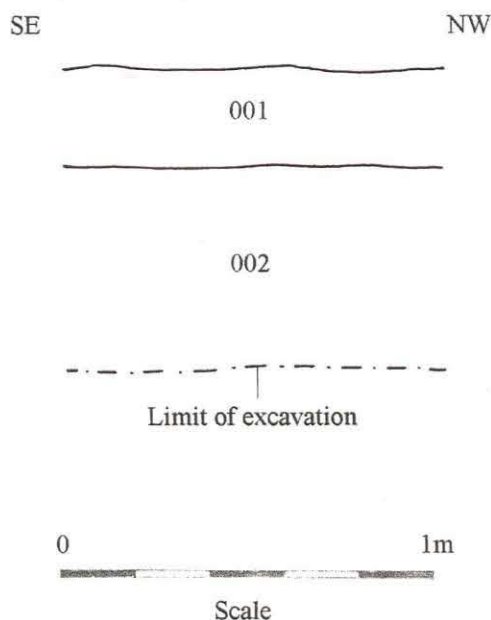


Figure 7: SW-facing representative section of service trench north-east of the School House, at scale 1:20.

The footings for the new buildings to the rear of the School House were monitored over several days (figure 8 below, plates 12 and 13). Beneath the tarmac playground surface (007) was grey sand with numerous brick fragments and pieces of window glass, (008). This was interpreted as demolition of 19th century school buildings to form the playground. It sealed dark grey, slightly silty, sand with some charcoal flecking, (009). Pottery (not retained) from this possible buried ground surface was of early modern date (willow pattern). Below (009) was (010), brown silty sand with some charcoal flecks, believed also to be former topsoil, probably associated with the 19th century/ earlier school remains. It sealed natural blown sand (011), possibly post-glacial in date (See 2.0 Location and description above).

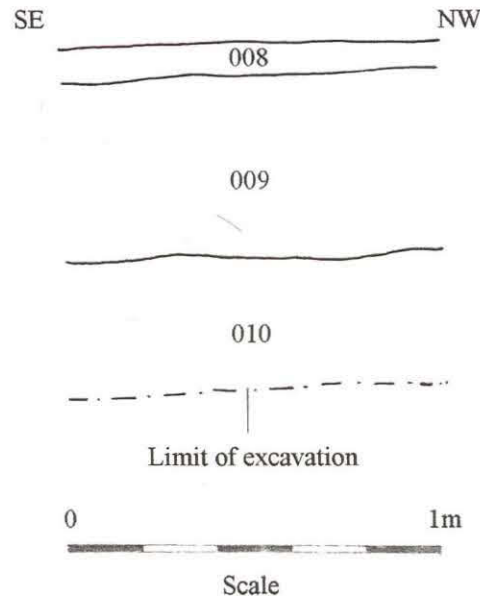


Figure 8: SW-facing representative section of school footings in playground area (west of the School House), at scale 1:20.

Adjacent to the School House, removal of the reading room floor revealed an earlier tiled floor (006) (figure 2; plate 14). The tiles were a uniform 160 x 155 x 50mm, with the company name 'Cowling' impressed into the underside of the tiles running around the edge of the room. These were similar to tiles found within the School House (similar date?). This surface was protected by a layer of plastic sheeting, beneath a layer of reclaimed bricks, and then more plastic sheeting prior to the reading room floor being constructed. This indicates a structure associated with the tiled floor was demolished immediately prior to the construction of the reading room. The early brick south-west wing ran perpendicular to the School House and measured some 8m long and 5m wide. The foundations for this structure comprised several limestone courses (005), with the 0.31m wide walls built using handmade bricks measuring 235 x 120 x 75mm (figure 9). This is probably an early (perhaps original) east – west 'wing' of the 1871 School House, and is depicted on the 1901 first edition OS map (Figure 10). The presence of an in-filled doorway on the first floor of the School House suggests the south-west wing comprised two storeys. The reading room was built using the foundations for the earlier structure.

Removal of a concrete surface butting the rear entrance to the School House revealed an area of cobbles and a brick surface (003), with a shattered flag within the doorway (plate 15). This surface butts against the rear door, suggesting they were contemporary (part of extension built in 1939).

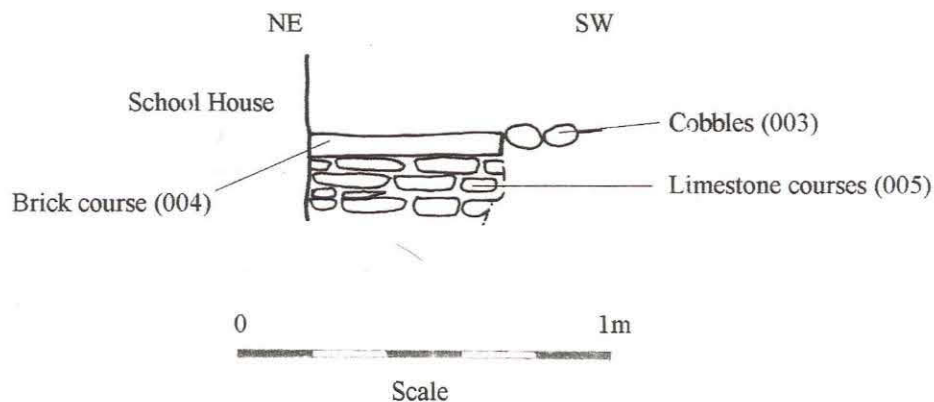


Figure 9: NW-facing section through reading room foundations at south corner of scullery (see Figure 2 for location), at scale 1:20.

A side wall of the scullery/bathroom of the School House was removed, as it faced imminent collapse. This proved an opportune moment to examine deposits pre-dating the modern surface of the building (figure 11; plate 16). The scullery concrete floor (013) lay immediately above a modern industrial levelling layer, (014), comprising 0.4m thick black sand with large quantities of cinder, charcoal and coal. Willow pattern pottery was noted but not retained. This had been deposited over an earlier brick surface (015). The handmade bricks measured 235 x 1125 x 47.5mm and appeared to be within the scullery confines, suggesting an earlier surface for this building existed, perhaps a cellar? A yellow sand levelling layer (016) beneath the brick surface lay above brown clay sand with brick and limestone fragments (017), identified as a demolition layer pre-dating the 1871 School House. A layer of brown silty sand (018), identified as a possible former topsoil, pre-dated (017).

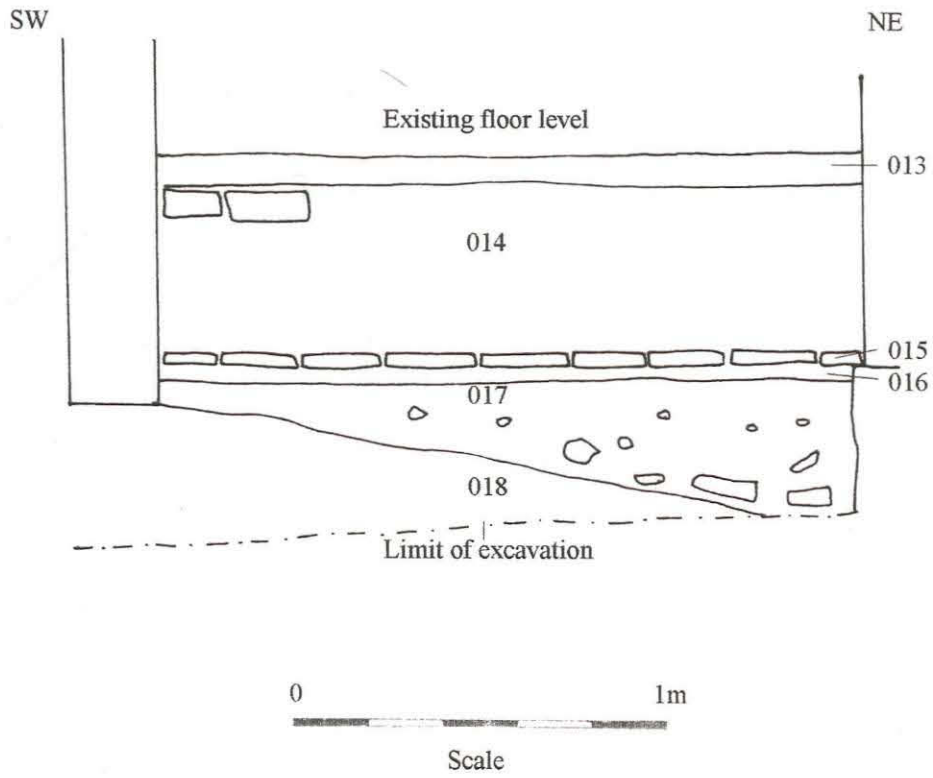


Figure 11: SE-facing section through scullery foundations (see Figure 2 for location), at scale 1:20.

7.0 Documentary evidence

Comprehensive school records provide an insight into all aspects of school life from the 19th century onwards. For the purpose of this report, descriptions of architectural modifications have proved most useful. Below is an abridged narrative of the more pertinent points.

An unsourced manuscript dated to 1837 provides a detailed description of the parish, partly focusing on the school. It explains that William Dalyson was left the mansion house by his cousin, Roger Dalyson, in May 1566 on the order that he was to set up a grammar school at Laughton. The document goes on to say that the school was rebuilt in 1821 at a cost of £87, of which the Marchioness of Hertford paid £40.

A Church School Survey of unknown date (though certainly post-1945) provides a list of previous modifications to the school fabric, and also indicates the school was built by Lady Gordon in 1841. In 1871 the schoolteacher's dwelling house was constructed. There is no mention of further works at the school until 1934 when three new windows were added, probably on the west side of the Victorian classroom. In 1937 a kitchen range (still in existence at the time of the survey) was added to the School House, and two years later, an extension to the rear of the building was added, providing a third bedroom (the bathroom). By 1941 central heating, in the form of two large and two small radiators, was added to the classroom.

A letter dated 27th June 1995; from the Diocese of Lincoln Board of Education to the Department of Education, states there was an extension to the school toilets in the 1950's.

More recently, the Laughton History Group have produced a booklet on the village (2000) that includes a written piece on the conditions at school as experienced by a Mr. Frank Coates as a child (born 1893). It reads "*The school was one large room (the Victorian classroom) with a combustion stove in the centre and separate entrances at either end for boys and girls. The age range was 5 – 14 years. The lavatories were earth closets, but this school was the first in the area to have water lavatories. The playground was divided into two by a high brick wall. For a number of years the school was in danger of closure but now it is flourishing with a new wooden classroom and the necessity for another similar room. In the old days we took our sandwiches or pasties in bags on our backs, most children now stay to canteen dinners*".

In 1971 the reading room extension to the rear of the schoolhouse was built (Millward pers. comm.).

The above documents appear to give conflicting dates for the construction of various elements of the school. Although it has previously been believed the school was rebuilt in 1841 (see post-1945 document above), a manuscript dated 1837 references its construction in 1821. This proves that the school was built pre-1841, and makes 1821 the most likely date for this event. Which components of the school were built at this time remains unclear, as the School House was built in 1871. It is possible the classroom pre-dates the School House, although the brickwork would suggest otherwise. A possible explanation for this anomaly is that the School House was built

with salvaged bricks from an earlier structure. The extension to the rear of the School House was certainly built in 1939, when a third bedroom was added.

8.0 Discussion and conclusions

Both the photographic survey and watching brief have shown the School House to have a complex architectural history. Roger Dalyson donated the manor of Laughton in his Will in 1566 to his cousin William Dalyson, on the condition it was converted to a grammar school for the local populace. Unfortunately, none of these original elements survive today, and no written records were forthcoming to provide an insight into the layout of the buildings at the school.

In 1821 the school was rebuilt, suggesting it had fallen into disrepair. The lack of stone-built structures within the present school is perhaps an indication that any upstanding remains of the original school were removed prior to or during the 1821 rebuild. It does remain a possibility, however, that the earliest structure was itself built using early hand made bricks.

Due to conflicting documentary evidence, it is difficult to ascertain the chronological history of the school's evolution from the 1821 rebuild onwards. The classroom perhaps was original, using 'new' bricks in its construction. This was followed some 50 years later by the School House (1871). The School House appears older than the classroom in appearance, although historical records imply otherwise. There is a good possibility that the School House builders used recycled bricks, providing an earlier 'feel' to the structure. This building may have been built on the foundations of an earlier structure, as suggested by the presence of limestone foundations to the rear of the property.

A tiled floor exposed beneath the Reading Room floor was most likely associated with the initial construction of the School House in 1871, as the tiles were similar to those forming the floor in the living room. What is certain is the tiled floor was in existence by the beginning of the 20th century when the first edition Ordnance Survey map was published. This part of the original schoolhouse was almost certainly of two-storey construction. Exactly 100 years later the reading room was built on the foundations of this south-west wing of the School House.

The School House roof is part of the original 1871 build, although the plaster and lathe ceiling was of fairly modern construction.

The belowground deposits comprised a construction layer on the road frontage (associated with building the schoolhouse) and a former post-medieval topsoil below the playground. These deposits overlay post-glacial windblown sands.

9.0 Effectiveness of methodology

It is concluded the methodology for the photographic survey and watching brief was appropriate to the development. Information was obtained that gave a clearer understanding of the chronological history of the school.

10.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Hyder Business Services for this commission. Tony Higgins is also thanked for his support on site. The author is also grateful to the School Secretary, Diane Millward, for her help and access to records of the school's history.

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12.0 Site archive

The site archive (documentary and physical) for this project is in preparation and will be deposited at the Lincoln City and County Museum and the Lincolnshire Archives Office (documentary) within six months. Access to the archive may be granted by quoting the global accession number 2001.171.

APPENDIX I: Colour Plates



Pl. 1 School House frontage, facing onto Church Road: Looking S.



Pl. 2 Rear entrance to School House, prior to demolition of reading room. Looking E.



Pl. 3 Gable end of School House, prior to demolition of reading room. Looking N.



Pl. 4 School House living room, looking S. Note floor tiles removed prior to photo survey.



Pl. 5 School House kitchen with 1937 solid-fuel aga, looking NW. Tile floor has been removed, leaving sand levelling visible.



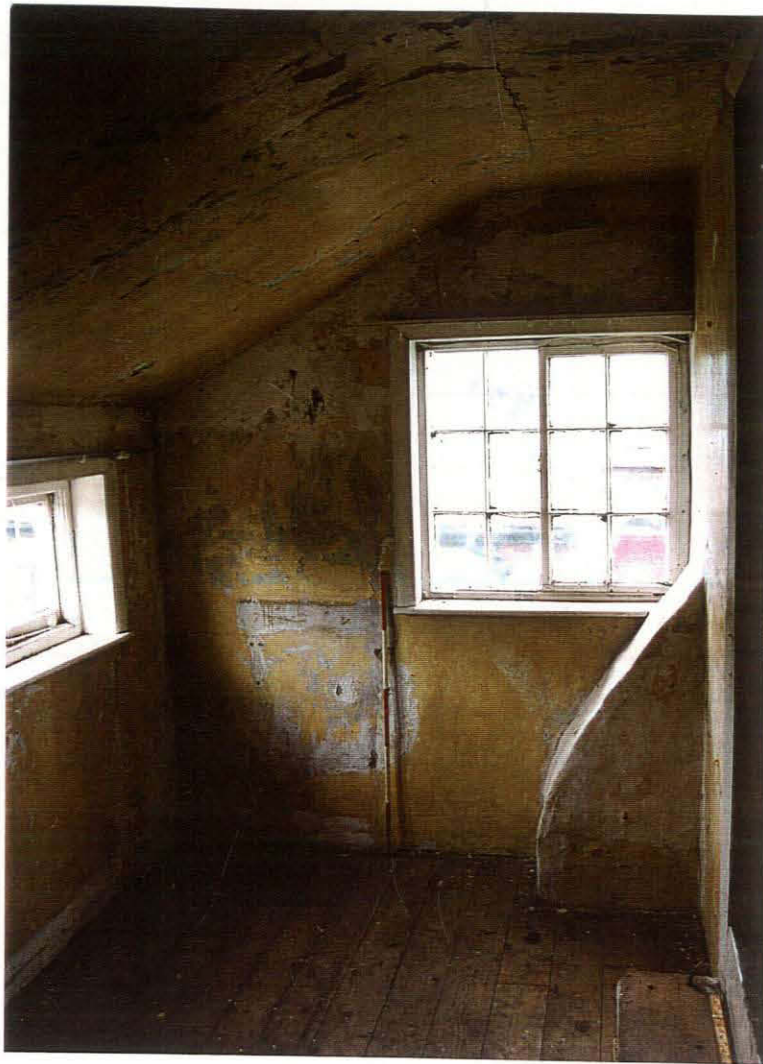
Pl. 6 School House scullery, looking W.



Pl. 7 School House bedroom 1, looking SE.



Pl. 8 School House bedroom 2, looking N.



Pl. 9 School House bathroom, looking NW.



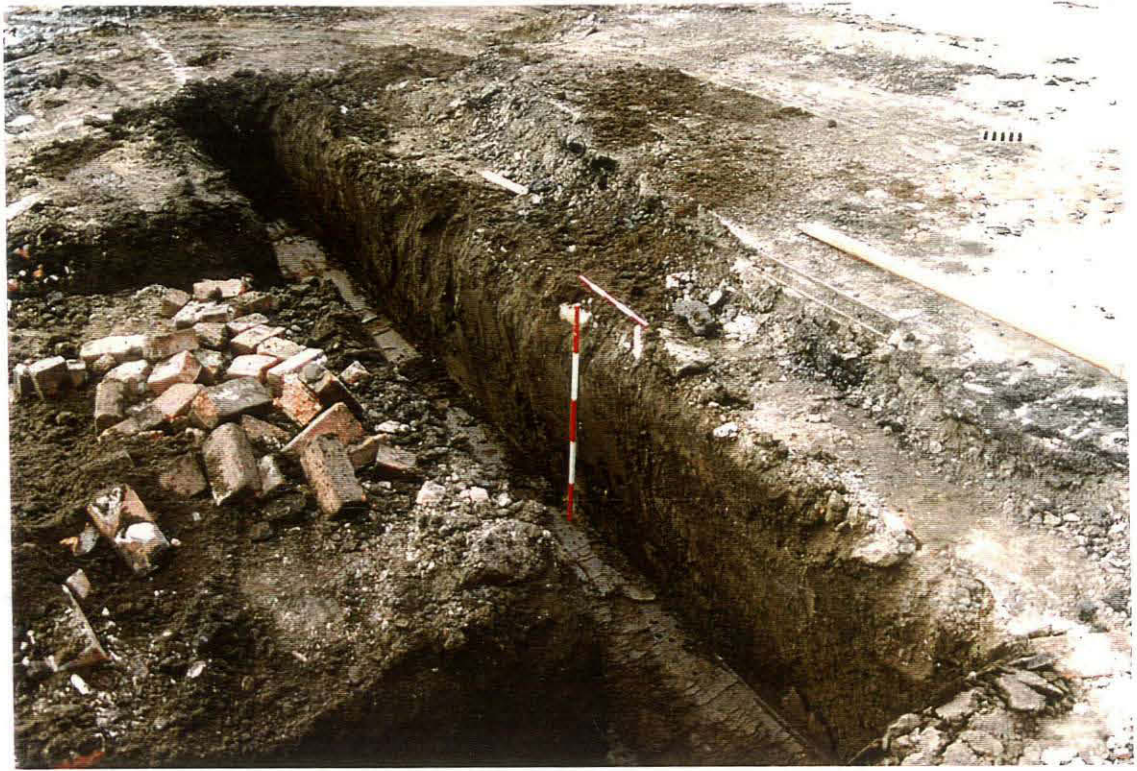
Pl. 10 Roof timbers exposed after removal of the School House roof tiles, looking E.



Pl. 11 Internal view of Victorian classroom, looking NW.



Pl. 12 View of groundworks in playground, looking E. School House (right), Victorian classroom (left), and church tower (background) are visible.



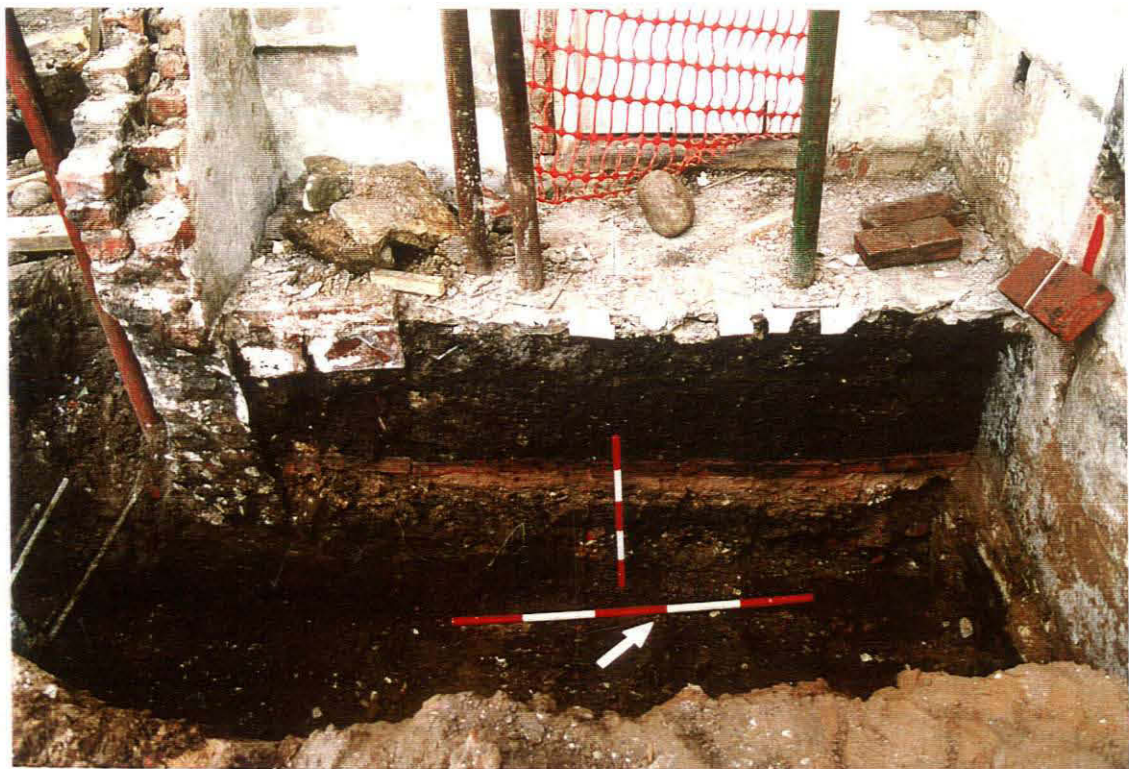
Pl. 13 NE-facing section through footings for new building. Looking S.



Pl. 14 Tiled floor (006) after exposure and cleaning, looking NE. Reading room has now been demolished.



Pl. 15 Brick and cobble surface (003) adjacent to rear door of School House, looking ENE.



Pl. 16 SE-facing section through footings after removal of scullery wall, looking NW.

APPENDIX 2: List of Archaeological Contexts

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Description</i>
001	layer	topsoil
002	layer	construction deposit
003	surface	cobbled surface
004	wall	brick wall
005	foundations	limestone foundations for (004)
006	surface	tiled floor
007	surface	tarmac playground
008	layer	demolition deposit
009	layer	topsoil
010	layer	former topsoil
011	layer	natural sand
012	layer	levelling layer
013	surface	concrete floor
014	layer	demolition deposit
015	surface	brick floor
016	layer	levelling layer
017	layer	destruction deposit
018	layer	former topsoil
019	layer	levelling layer
020	cut	stone-built feature
021	surface	brick floor

