
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND
RECORDING AT
THE WILLOUGHBY SCHOOL,
BOURNE,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BNWS 11)**

**Work Undertaken For
Newman Moore Limited**

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Report Compiled by
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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1. SUMMARY

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at the Willoughby School, South Road, Bourne, Lincolnshire. The investigations were carried out prior to the construction of a new extension to the school.

Bourne was a minor settlement during the Romano-British period (AD 42-410). Located on the Roman thoroughfare, King Street, the settlement probably grew from a rest-house or changing station to a small town, enhanced by its position in the national road network and local watercourses. By the 3rd century, it was producing its own pottery. During the medieval period (AD 1066-1540), the site lay within the open fields of the town, adjacent to the small hamlet of Austerby. An excavation, undertaken immediately adjacent to the site, revealed extensive Romano-British features including a road and cemetery. Prehistoric features were also revealed.

The watching brief revealed a sequence of natural, undated, post-medieval and modern deposits. Three ditches were recorded which remain undated due to a lack of artefactual material. Although undated, the alignment of the ditches accords well with ditches previously examined that were dated to the 3rd century. Post-medieval subsoil overlay the ditches and was in turn sealed by deposits associated with the current school buildings.

Finds retrieved during the investigation include a single medieval sherd with a small number of animal bones.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Newman Moore Limited

to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with a new extension to existing school buildings at the Willoughby School, South Road, Bourne, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application S11/0542. The watching brief was carried out on the 21st and 22nd July 2011.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Bourne is located 24km southeast of Grantham and 15km northeast of Stamford in the administrative district of South Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The Willoughby School is situated 560m south of the centre of Bourne as defined by the parish church of SS Peter and Paul at National Grid Reference TF 0990 1945 (Fig. 2). Situated on the western side of South Road, the site lies at a height of c. 10m OD on land that slopes gently down to the north, towards the Bourne Eau, and eastwards to the Fens of south Lincolnshire.

Soils at the site are of the Aswarby Association, typically gleyic brown calcareous earths (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 99). Argillic gley soils of the Curdrige Association occur immediately south of the site (*ibid.*, 153). These soils overlie a solid geology of Jurassic Kellaways Sands with Kellaways Clays to the north and south, although undifferentiated glacial drift deposits occur to the east (Booth 1983, 43).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Bourne lies along the Roman thoroughfare King Street which ran parallel to Ermine Street from the south to Bourne before dividing into two routes, one to Ancaster and another to Sleaford, north of the town. King Street is believed to be 1st century AD in date as quarry pits of this date for excavating ballast for the road were

recorded at Sapperton Roman town (Oetgen 1986, 10).

King Street can be traced in Lincolnshire from West Deeping, continuing north to Baston (where it joins the modern A15) just south of Kate's Bridge. King Street diverges from the modern road for just over 1km, rejoining it at Thurlby and following the modern road until Elsea Park Wood where once again it diverges and all visible traces are lost (Margary 1973, 233). However, excavation to the south of Bourne (200m southwest of the site) revealed the metalled surface and roadside ditches of King Street (JSAC 1997, 7). This places King Street approximately 100m to the west of the site.

With an established connection to Roman towns to the north and south, it is possible that a *mutatio* (changing station) or *mansio* (rest-house) was established at Bourne (Birkbeck 1970, 3). This perhaps developed into a more important centre especially considering the convergence of both the Bourne Eau, Car Dyke and Bourne-Morton canal a little to the east of the town (Simmons and Cope-Faulkner 2004, 90).

Excavation at South Fields, 300m northwest of the site, revealed Romano-British occupation that was entirely urban in character and perhaps sited on the edge of the settlement (McDaid 1999, 19). Adjacent to this site, further evidence for settlement was found during evaluation of land along Wherry's Lane. Here, settlement features were concentrated on the eastern part of the area, closest to the presumed line of King Street, and were dated to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD (Glover 2008, 10).

An excavation undertaken 500m to the south at Elsea Park revealed late 2nd century enclosures and buildings lying principally on the west side of King Street (Walker 2007, 29). This area of Roman Bourne was in decline by the later 3rd and

4th century (*ibid.*).

By the late third century AD, Bourne was the centre of local pottery production. Only a single kiln has been excavated to date, with evidence for a further 2 kilns noted (Swan 1984, microfiche 3.436). The kilns were located at Bourne Grammar School immediately north of the site. Excavation at South Fields identified clay extraction pits of 2nd century date (McDaid 1999, 19) which may push back the beginning of pottery production in the town.

Bourne is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Brune*, the name is derived from the Old Norse *brunnr* meaning a spring or stream (Cameron 1998, 18). The site lies close to a former hamlet of Bourne known as Austerby which is first mentioned in the Pipe Rolls of 1167 and derives its name from the Old Norse *austarr* and *by* and means the 'easterly farm' (*ibid.* 7). This would suggest that Austerby was founded in the 9th or 10th centuries (Roffe nd).

At the time of Domesday, the principal manor was held by Oger the Breton, with the remaining manors held by Ivo Taillebois, Alfred of Lincoln, Robert of Stafford and Suen and contained a church with a priest, several mills, 30 fisheries, 43 acres of meadow, 60 acres of underwood along with extensive woodland for pannage (Foster and Longley 1976, 14/86; 42/1, 2, 3, 7; 59/7; 67/9).

During the medieval period, the site lay within the open fields of Bourne. The field is referred to as South Field and ridge and furrow of the field system has been recorded by Hayes and Lane (1992, Fig. 83). The medieval town centre underwent remodelling, probably during the 12th century when the castle and market were established, causing the King Street thoroughfare to lose importance. South Road is a post-medieval thoroughfare and is recorded as cutting through the ridge and furrow (*ibid.* 140).

Excavations at South Fields identified a quantity of 13th century pottery wasters (kiln rejects) of a fabric type not previously recorded in the town and it is assumed that kilns producing this material lay in close proximity (McDaid 1999, 19). This is distant from the known medieval kilns which centred on the Eastgate and Cherry Holt Lane areas of the town (McCarthy and Brookes 1988, 259).

Prior to this work, an excavation was undertaken to the immediate west of the site. This revealed features of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date as well as enclosure ditches, a road, a well and postholes of Romano-British date. Additionally, a 3rd century cemetery was also located, aligned parallel to the road (Cope-Faulkner 2011, 16).

3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Prior to the excavation of foundation trenches, the footprint of the new building was stripped of overburden. Foundation trenches were then excavated by machine to depths of up to 1.2m below the current ground level. Following excavation the sides of the trenches were then cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were excavated further to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their function. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a

scale of 1:20. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

Following excavation the records were checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

The earliest deposit encountered at the base of the foundation trenches was a layer of orange sand and gravel (025) that measured in excess of 0.16m thick. This was sealed beneath a natural layer of yellowish brown clay (024) that was 0.42m thick.

Cut into the natural in the eastern trench was an east-west aligned ditch (023). This was over 0.65m wide and over 0.44m deep (Fig. 4, Section 1) and contained a fill of reddish brown clayey silt (022). This ditch had then been re-cut (021) to a width of 1m and was filled with greenish grey clayey silt (020).

Located to the south and lying parallel to this ditch was a further ditch (019). This measured 0.8m wide by 0.22m deep and contained a fill of greenish grey clayey silt (018).

Perhaps representing the eastern continuation of one of these ditches was ditch (035) that was wider than 1m and 0.2m deep (Fig. 4, Section 3). This contained a fill of greenish grey clayey silt (034).

Sealing the ditches was an extensive subsoil deposit comprising greenish brown clayey silt (008 and 009) and greenish grey

clayey silt (029 and 030). Some subsoil had been discoloured to a bluish grey colour (033). The subsoil measured up to 0.54m thick. Finds retrieved from (029) include a single sherd of Ely ware, dating to the 12th – 14th century, and 2 fragments of animal bone.

Cutting the subsoil was an east-west aligned feature (007) that measured over 3.5m long, 2.84m wide by 0.46m deep (Fig. 4, Section 1). Two fills were recorded, both comprising grey clayey silt (006 and 017).

Truncating feature (007) was a construction cut associated with the building of the school (016) which had been backfilled with grey clayey silt with modern debris (015).

Topsoil was only recorded in the southwest corner of the foundation trenches and was identified as a 0.2m thick layer of brownish grey clayey silt (026).

A number of service trenches were also recorded and include a drainage trench (014), water pipe trenches (028 and 032), a service trench (005) and a soakaway (003).

Sealing the service trenches was a dumped deposit of greyish brown clayey silt with modern debris (001) which provided levelling for concrete slabs (012). A path of concrete (010) with its make-up layer (011) was also identified.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits of sand, gravel and clay are likely to be derived from drift deposits of 1st terrace gravels, which outcrop to the east of the site.

Three ditches, one of which had been re-cut, were the earliest features recorded during this work. Although they remain undated, they are sealed beneath subsoil deposits which indicate that they are of

some antiquity. Furthermore, they continue the alignment of ditches recorded during the excavation to the west where they were dated to the 3rd century and may have been part of a track leading eastwards.

In all, there is little evidence of Romano-British activity in this area. This may indicate that the north-south Roman road may define the eastern limit of occupation, although the pottery kilns also lie east of the same road.

A subsoil layer was recorded across the site and suggests that the area had been under an agricultural regime in the past. Previous investigations had dated this subsoil to the post-medieval period. Finds were only retrieved from the subsoil and comprised 12th – 14th century pot and two animal bone fragments.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at the Willoughby School, Bourne, as the site lay in an area of known remains of prehistoric and Romano-British date.

However, no remains could securely be dated to the Romano-British period, although a number of undated ditches appear to continue the line of previously examined 3rd century features. An extensive subsoil was also recorded as were a number of features associated with the school.

Finds include a single sherd of medieval pottery and a small number of animal bones.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr M Newman of Newman Moore Limited for

commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Jenny Young, the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist, kindly allowed examination of the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
 Site Supervisor: Chris Moulis
 Finds processing: Denise Buckley
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

JSAC John Samuels Archaeological
Consultants

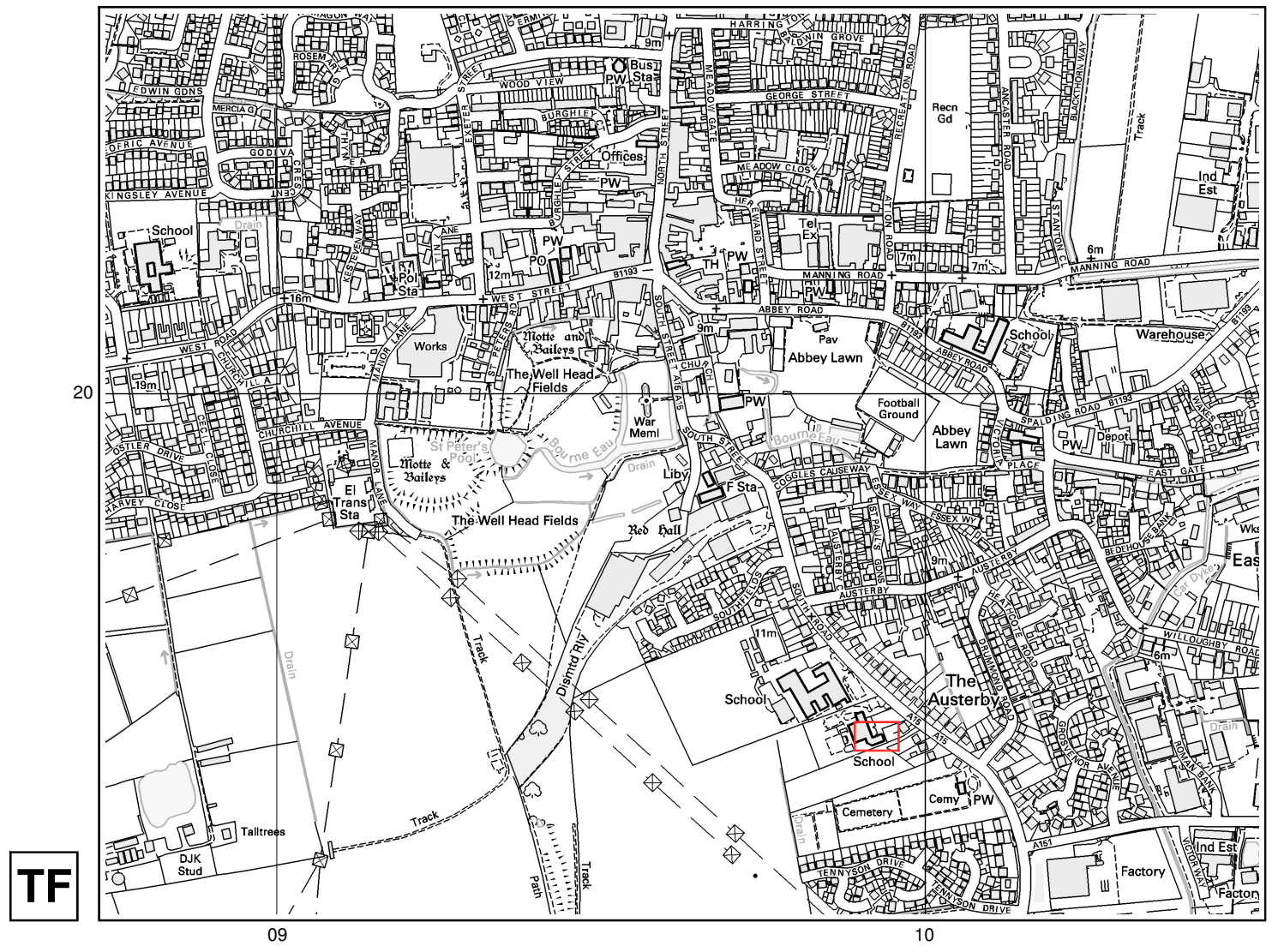
LAS Lindsey Archaeological Services

NA Northamptonshire Archaeology

RCHM Royal Commission on Historical
Monuments (England)

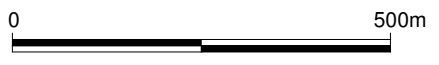


Figure 1 - General location plan



TF

Area detailed in Figure 3



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 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Willoughby School, Bourne BWSS04		
Scale 1:10000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 86/11

Figure 2 - Site location plan

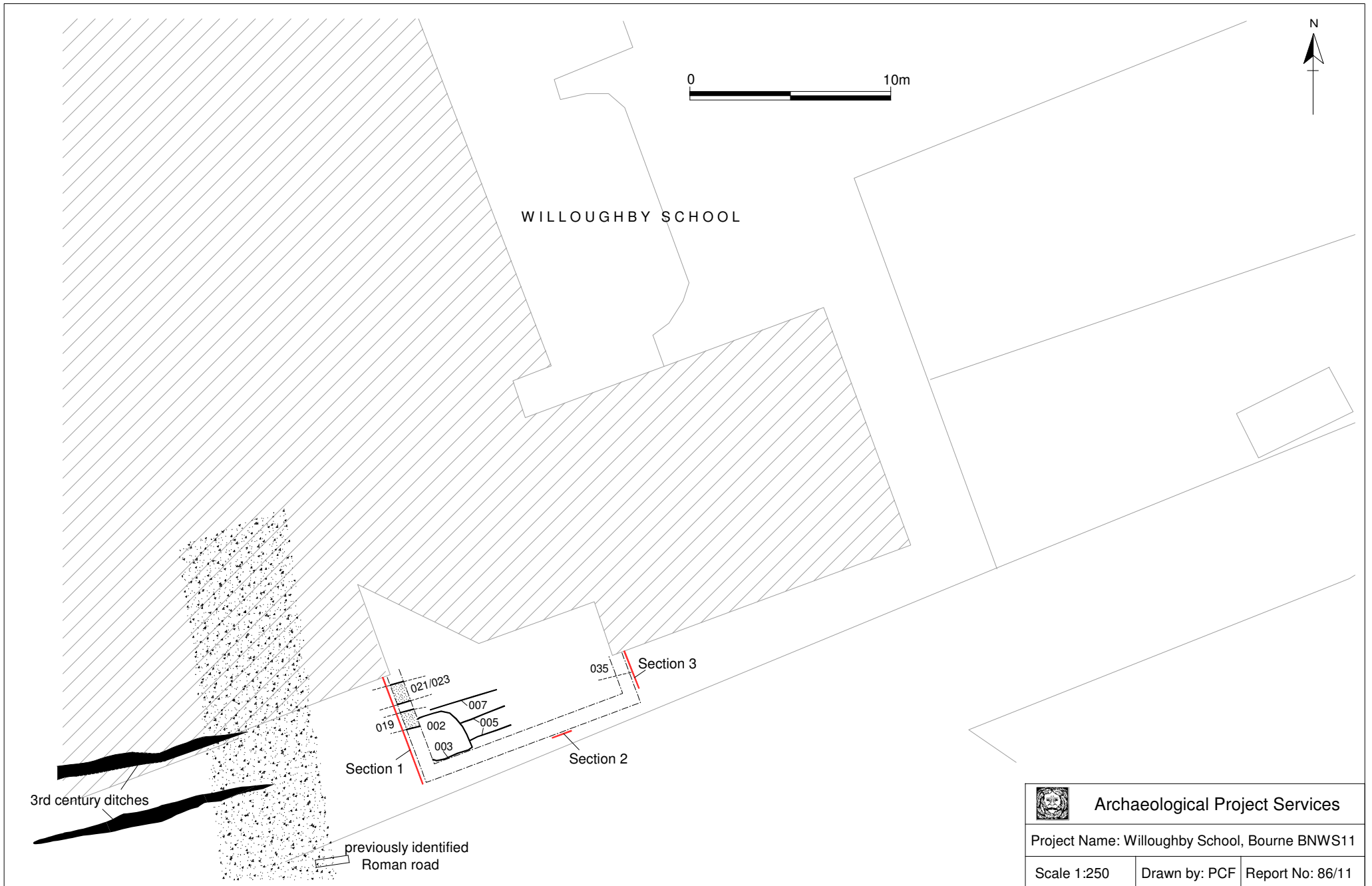

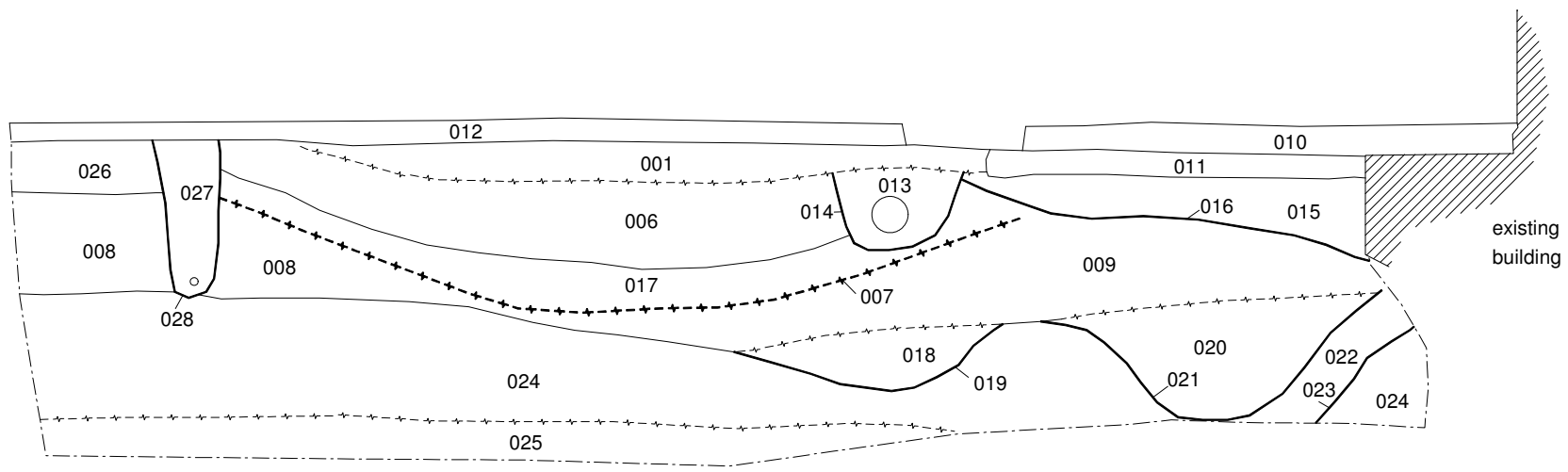
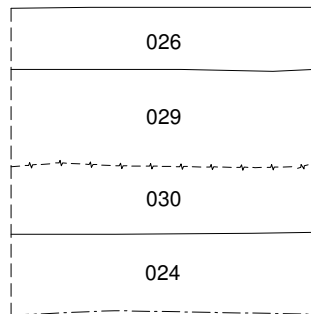


Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing section locations

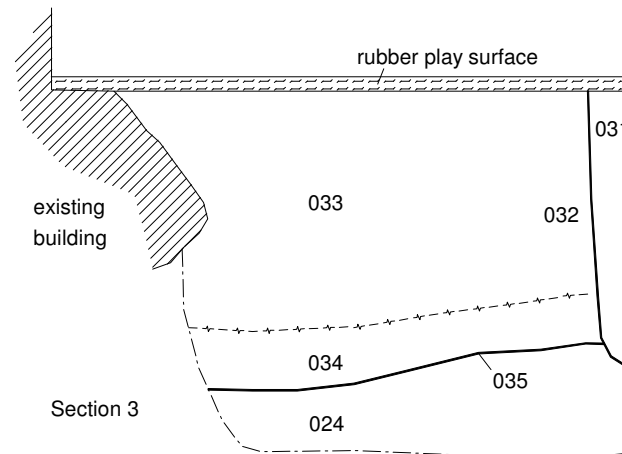
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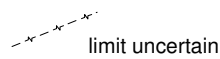
Section 1



Section 2



Section 3




 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Willoughby School, Bourne BNWS11		
Scale 1:20	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 86/11

Figure 4 - Sections 1 to 3



Plate 1 – General view of the development area, looking northwest



Plate 2 – Section 1, looking southwest



Plate 3 – Section 2, looking southeast



Plate 4 – Section 3, looking northeast

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Soft mid greyish brown clayey silt with frequent modern debris, 0.14m thick	Dumped deposit
002	Broken concrete slabs	Fill of (003)
003	Sub-rectangular feature, >2.1m long by >2.1m wide, vertical sides, not fully excavated	Soakaway
004	Firm mixed dark brownish grey and light yellowish brown silty clay	Fill of (005)
005	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, >2.24m long by 1m wide, not excavated	Service trench
006	Firm dark grey clayey silt	Fill of (007)
007	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, >3.52m long by 2.84m wide by 0.46m deep, gradual sides and rounded base	Indeterminate feature
008	Firm mid greenish brown clayey silt, 0.34m thick	Subsoil
009	Firm mid greenish brown clayey silt, 0.36m thick	Subsoil
010	Indurated concrete, 100mm thick	Path
011	Compacted limestone fragments	Make-up for (010)
012	Concrete slabs	Shed base
013	Loose pea gravel with plastic pipe	Fill of (014)
014	Linear feature, aligned east-west, 0.46m wide by 0.28m deep, vertical sides and flat base	Drainage trench
015	Soft dark grey clayey silt with frequent modern debris	Fill of (016)
016	Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, 1.42m wide by 0.24m deep, gradual sides and flat base	Construction cut
017	Firm mid to dark grey clayey silt	Fill of (007)
018	Firm mid greenish grey clayey silt	Fill of (019)
019	Linear feature, aligned east-west, 0.8m wide by 0.22m deep, gradual sides and rounded base	Ditch
020	Firm mid greenish grey clayey silt	Fill of (021)
021	Linear feature, aligned east-west, 1m wide by 0.44m deep, steep sides and rounded base	Ditch, re-cut of (023)
022	Firm mid reddish brown clayey silt	Fill of (023)
023	Linear feature, aligned east-west, 0.65m wide by 0.44m deep, steep sides, not full excavated	Ditch
024	Firm and stiff light yellowish brown clay, 0.42m thick	Natural deposit
025	Firm mid orange silty gravel, >0.16m thick	Natural deposit
026	Firm dark brownish grey clayey silt, 0.2m thick	Topsoil
027	Firm dark greyish brown clayey silt with plastic pipe	Fill of (028)
028	Linear feature, aligned east-west	Pipe trench
029	Firm mid greenish grey clayey silt, 0.3m thick	Subsoil
030	Firm mid greenish grey clayey silt, 0.22m thick	Subsoil
031	Firm dark brownish grey clayey silt with plastic pipe	Fill of (032)
032	Linear feature, aligned east-west	Pipe trench
033	Firm dark bluish grey clayey silt, 0.8m thick	?subsoil
034	Firm mid greenish grey clayey silt	Fill of (035)
035	Linear feature, aligned east-west, 1m wide by 0.2m deep, gradual sides and rounded base	Ditch

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Anne Boyle

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. A single sherd weighing 7g was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database.

Condition

The sherd was fairly worn.

Results

(029) A single sherd weighing 7g of Ely ware, dating from the late 12th to 14th century

Provenance

The pot was collected from a subsoil deposit.

Potential

As a single sherd, it has limited potential though should be retained as part of the site archive.

FAUNAL REMAINS

By Paul Cope-Faulkner

Introduction

A total of 2 (10g) fragments of animal bone were recovered from a subsoil (029).

Condition

The overall condition of the remains was good to moderate, averaging at grades 2-3 on the Lyman Criteria (1996).

Results

Table 1, *Fragments Identified to Taxa*

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	W (g)	Comments
029	Large mammal	skull		2	10	

Summary

As a small assemblage, the animal bone is of limited potential. It should be retained as part of the site archive.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 2 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 2, *Spot dates*

Cxt	Date	Comments
029	12-14 th century	Date on single worn sherd

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Slowikowski, A. M., Nenk, B., and Pearce, J., 2001, *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Dumped deposits	These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground surface.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
Layer	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1 st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

35	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
2	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Stratigraphic matrix
2	Daily Record Sheets
1	Bag of finds

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

The Collection
Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire
Danes Terrace
Lincoln
LN2 1LP

Accession Number: LCNCC: 2011.49

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: BNWS 11

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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