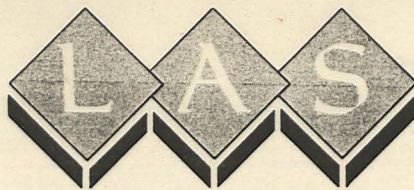


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GAINSBOROUGH WATERMAINS RELAY
GLADSTONE ST, MORLEY ST, COBDEN ST,
BRIGHT ST & LORD ST.
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
(Order No.E9 62156 NTHN)

SK 8125 9003

LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES
FRANCIS HOUSE SILVER BIRCH PARK GREAT NORTHERN TERRACE LINCOLN LN5 8LG

EVENT 412218 418551
SOURCE 413437 411888

PRNs 51469 54153
55528 55530

All Saints
Church

WANCETT

AUG

Old Hall

ROPER

WATER



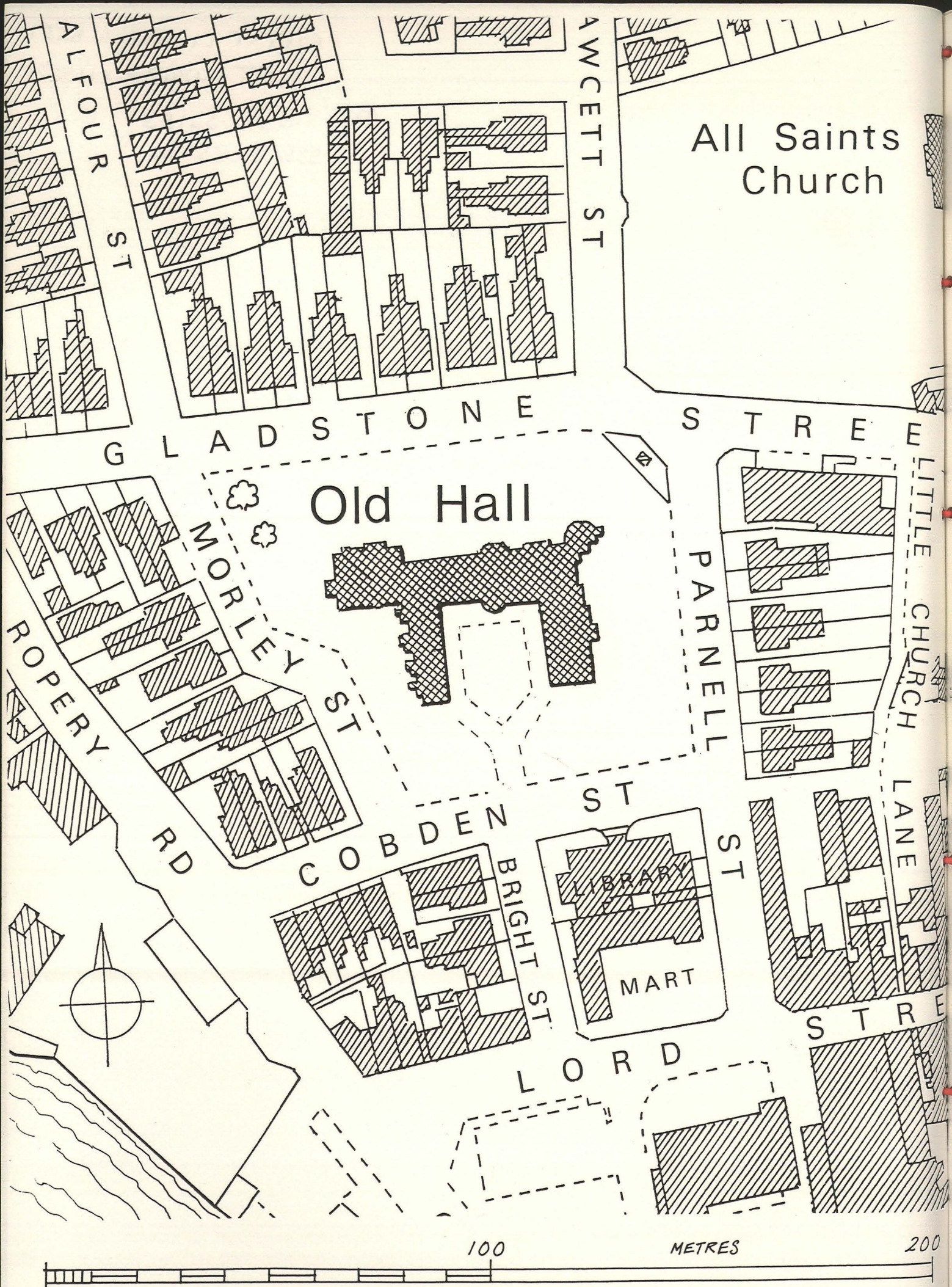


Fig.1 Streets around Gainsborough Old Hall

GAINSBOROUGH WATERMAINS RELAY
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Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services undertook an archaeological watching brief during trenching for the installation of a water main along Morley St, Cobden St and Bright St, terminating under Lord St (Fig.1); reference MOR92 (Morley St). Work commenced on September 16th and was completed on September 29th 1992. This was a continuation of trenching in Gladstone St (GLA92), during which recording was undertaken between June 30th and July 8th 1992. The main purpose of both watching briefs was to record any features considered to be of historic relevance to Gainsborough Old Hall.

The route subjected to archaeological recording is shown in Fig. 2. Trench AW-1, which crossed the conjectural route of the medieval moat, was completed and reinstated before L.A.S. was notified. AW-5, entailing a road-crossing and termination at stop-valves was also not recorded. Major sewer installation AW-9, although not part of this brief and involving different contractors was visited on July 1st 1992 to establish types and depths of strata for comparison with that beneath Gladstone St and elsewhere. A brief description is given at the end of this report.

Gainsborough Old Hall: Archaeological background, previous survey and research.

Archaeological excavation and building analysis were carried out in advance of West Range repairs in 1982, with further excavation of the south courtyard in 1984. Although some recording was made of the internal garderobe pits, no excavations were made externally and presence of drain outlets to the west was never proved. Pairs of arches exist in garderobe pits on the north of the Hall, one for manual clearance of solids and one for the drainage of liquids via a culvert to the moat or river. It has been suggested by various authorities that the moat enclosed the Hall to the north, south and east; the west boundary being formed by the river. The routes of the moat, drains and any early perimeter walls have never been established.

From 1984 to 1990 survey and recording briefs showed a pattern of repair and subsidence in buildings around the Hall, assumed to be the result of moat-fill settlement. Fig. 3 depicts a conjectural route based on the areas of subsidence and their approximate direction (indicated by arrows), the large depression in the south-west corner of the churchyard and the southern limit of the 1984 courtyard excavation (garderobe pits marked 'G'). It can be seen that if the conjectured moat route is correct, the west garderobes are within twenty metres of an outlet. The north garderobes however are fifty metres from the north and east sides

of the moat. Their inverts are at least 3.30mOD and would have necessitated considerable disturbance for their construction, but their length and direction is unknown.

The Old Hall construction trenches cut through a distinctive layer of red clay (18), which was used as bonding material for the west range footings. Other strata include a blue-grey clay (40), occasionally interleaved with the red. These layers have so far been seen only in the immediate proximity of the Old Hall, most of the surrounding area having been subject to considerable disturbance by truncation, e.g., lowering of Lord St by at least 80cm in the early 1800's. Most of the buildings previously occupying the area west of Bright St and Morley St were demolished by c.1895, when the present ones were built, including those north of Gladstone St.

Fig. 4 shows the present surface levels O.D. Fig. 5 shows the few spot heights available from the O.S.map of 1888 (levels in brackets are the modern ones for comparison). The degree of surface truncation varies from c.35cm at the north end of Morley St, to c.100cm at Cobden St. The difference reduces to only c.40cm at Lord St, but this is assumed to be additional to the alleged 80cm or more removed prior to 1888. Note the curving boundaries to the north-west, suggesting part of the moat; also the kink in Little Church Lane, a possible indication of the south-east angle.

Fig. 6 shows the earlier survey of 1851 by Denzil Ibbetson, a railway engineer. This is the earliest reliable map available and comparison with the 1888 map reveals the demolition and rebuilding evident in the areas north and south of Crows Garth (the western part of modern Cobden St).

Fig.7 shows the 1851 map superimposed on the 1970's O.S.map, contours are interpolations from the 1888 O.S.map. The highest point (in 1888) was that now occupied by the Guildhall (lower right). The kink in Morley St is shown to be a partial retention of the north-east boundary of the old Raff Yard. This was originally a high brick wall forming the south-west side of access (Ropery Lane) to the cobbled yard on the west of the West Range. The north-east side of this access was formed by a high brick wall around the small cluster of buildings attached to the west end of the kitchen. Most of the buildings shown in 1851 are not earlier than 18th century; the sketch map of 1748 shows only one short row (or two houses?) aligned east-west, just east of the Mart Yard and in fact could almost be interpreted as forming the north side of Lord St, i.e., in the vicinity of the Hickman Arms. If the map can be trusted as to the general disposition of buildings, it suggests that in 1748 none existed to the west of the Old Hall and that those shown on the 1851 map are not earlier than mid-18th century. A map of c.1690, although obscure in detail, shows no apparent structures in this area and if any previously existed they were demolished by this date.

Fig. 8 shows the ground profiles north-south and east west across the general area covered by the moat, Old Hall and Mart Yard. The vertical scale is exaggerated to 10 times the horizontal. The Parnell St profile shows a sudden fall from house No.s 2 to 8 (No.s 4 and 6 are subsiding towards each other, see Fig.3). The Morley St profile shows a small but noticeable fall between No.s 3 and 7 (P8,9,10). The north-south profile from Gladstone St through the Old Hall and along Bright St shows a fall immediately north of Cobden St.

Given the discrepancy between 19th century and modern levels it is uncertain as to what extent these profiles are due to 19th century landscaping or to subsequent subsidence of earlier ditch or moat fills. The street profile levels were taken at points on the road surface relating to reference points along the pipe-route and do not, therefore, show the true extent of subsidence beneath the buildings indicated.

Features recorded in the pipe trench

Fig. 9 shows the pipe route superimposed on the 1888 map with occurrences of brick features found in the pipe trench. Although the 1888 double-line conventions are obviously walls, so too are some of the single-lines, as proved by late 19th century photographic evidence. Much of the initial interpretation of the below-ground evidence for brick walls depends largely on the correct matching of these with those shown on the maps and, by a process of elimination, identifying and dating the earliest ones.

Gladstone Street

The curving boundaries to the north-west of the Hall are shown as wooden fences where visible on late 19th century photographs, therefore discovery of walls built between c.1870 and 1894 was not anticipated. Brick contexts 1,4 and 101 approximate to boundary lines or junctions depicted in 1851 and 1888, although there is no proof that these were walls which survived into the 19th century.

101 (Figs.10 & 11) was not positively identified as a wall as it was barely visible in the trench bottom beneath a layer of lime mortar (the width and depth of the trench here did not allow detailed examination). It is provisionally interpreted as a pre-18th century wall or culvert associated with the Old Hall; as the moat position here is not proven it is not known whether the walls are to the south or north of it, or above it. One brick sample was retrieved by the machine bucket; dimensions were: 253 x 123 x 52mm.

The trench section in this area shows nothing which might explain the cause of the subsidence between No.s 16 and 18 Gladstone St.(P1)Below brick rubble 23 (c.1894) were layers 97,very dark clayey silt; 98,dark (greenish) clayey silt; 99,mixed pale to dark green-brown,which varied in depth and was no longer visible above the trench bottom opposite No.s 14/16 Gladstone St.

Context 100 was the footings of a substantial brick wall originally 3 or 4 metres in height which ran south and east from what is now the junction of Gladstone St and Fawcett St. To the south it terminated at the Old Hall tower garderobes; its eastern line sub-divided garden areas until 1845 when it became the south boundary of a gift of land to be used as an extension to the graveyard. The footings were first recorded during excavation of a gas trench in 1990. A small part of its eastern side was seen in the water-pipe trench, but there was much disturbance and rubble. Its minimum thickness was 60cm; the standing wall was probably c.36cm-48cm wide. Sample brick dimensions were 240 x 120 x 50mm.

Judging from 19th century photos and engravings the wall appeared to run eastward for a considerable distance and might have formed part of the boundary of a vicarage situated near the site of Gainsborough House in the 17th century. If the conjectured route of the moat is correct, most of these boundary walls, if of 16th to 17th century date would indicate an early filling-in of the moat or at least a large part of it.

Morley Street

The recording in Morley St started from the stop-valve at the junction of Gladstone St and Morley St. (Fig.12). Context 1 was a disturbed brick feature of unestablished alignment (but possibly north-east to south-west). The disturbance 68 above this contained mid to late 19th century material. Sample brick dimensions were 235 x 115 x 58mm. The brick displayed a very rough and shallow frog in the form of a diagonal recessed band.

The area between 1 and the next brick feature 4, to the south was disturbed, and contained brick rubble, pottery and tile, all later than 17th century.

Brick wall footing 4 (P3) was aligned south-east to north-west, nine courses being visible above the trench bottom. The wide disturbance to either side appeared to be of the construction trench. Sample brick dimensions were: 240 x 120 x 55mm. A retrieved brick displayed a crude, shallow, full-length diagonal 'finger'-frog (often finger width, of rounded profile and tapering at each end as if made by the sweep of a finger). This wall is not identifiable as belonging to an alignment on the 1888 map (Fig.9) but may be that indicated on the earlier boundaries of 1851 (Fig 13).

South of 4 were various late features cutting a clean greenish clay 71 similar to 99 seen in Gladstone St. Opposite No.15 Morley St was a thin layer of pale brown clay 73, sealing a thick fill 72 of mixed material apparently derived from 71 and a very dark layer 74 just visible in the trench bottom and possibly descending southward, containing shell and brick fragments. The northern edge (81) to this feature is ill-defined, but may represent the north edge of an oblique moat section (see Figs. 15,16).

Context 5, which cut 73 and 72, was c.2m wide, consisting of brick rubble sealed by a thick lens of lime mortar and limestone fragments, which was in turn, sealed by dark brown and green mixed fill 75, containing occasional brick fragments. 75 predated 1894, as it is sealed by the brick rubble 23. Context 75 continued to mid-point of No.9 Morley St (P8, right), at which point the trench bottom was wet. From here to the boundary of No.7 was a thin convex lens (topped with a black film of burnt material) of light brown clay 77, probably a re-depositing of 73. Dark green silty layer 75 was visible as far as No.5 gateway, from which point southward it was sealed by a mixed brown layer 10 which descended to the north-west (P4 south-west side of trench).

Near the south side of No.5 Morley St (P9, second from left), 10 sealed a black layer 9 descending northwards (P5 lower right; P6; P7). The most southerly point at which 9 was visible was c.3.30m south of the north boundary of No.3 Morley St (P9, centre), where its edge 82 was partially obscured by an earlier gas trench 87.

9 was visible immediately beneath brick rubble 23, suggesting that before 23 was deposited 9 had been considerably truncated; the difference between the 1888 and 1992 levels indicating a possible 60cm-80cm. 9 sealed layer 11, a mixture of red and green-grey clay derived from red clay 18 and grey clay 40.

Opposite the car-port of No.1 Morley St (P10), was a brick well 12 (Fig.12; P11). This was c.1.50m diameter and of a double skin of specially moulded, curved, orange-red bricks which were laid dry in stretcher bond. Sample brick dimensions were: outer arc 232; inner arc 190; width 118; depth 68-70mm. They displayed a straight, tapering 'finger'-frog c.8mm wide and c.2mm deep.

The fill of mixed soil and debris contained pottery from 18th and 19th century and 19th century glass. The top had been capped with a lime concretion, after which the fill had sunk, leaving a cavity beneath the capping. The capping appeared to replace, or be a substitute for, brick-rubble 23.

The brick type and the apparent absence of buildings here before c.1750, suggests a date of c.1750-1840. The 1851 map shows a small open yard among the Raff Yard east buildings (Fig.14) This is the approximate position of the well in the superimposed trench route and a likely location for the well in its original surroundings.

Immediately north of the well was a shallow 'trough'-like brick structure 13 (P12), which may have been associated with the well. The base bricks were dark red and bonded in a chocolate-coloured mortar; those to each side were orange-red, but with similar mortar adhering.

The well cut into mixed red and grey layer 14 (similar to 11), derived from natural layers 18 and 40. From this point southward each side of the pipe trench showed different layers. The west

side was of mostly brown soil and greenish clay 19, with very faint indications of layer or slip lines descending northwards.

At a point just north of the porch to No.1 Morley St (P14), was a steep cut 66 (P13), indicating a south edge to the large feature containing the layers described above. This is conjectured to be the south edge or south-west angle of the moat. Fig. 16 shows the pipe trench in isometric with the relevant layers transferred from the opposite side of the trench where necessary for clarity. The approximate direction of subsidence in No.s 3,5,7 and 9 Morley St (built c.1894 onwards) is indicated by arrows.

P16 shows the reinstated trench route at the south end of Morley St (the only part of the route which did not run along the kerb-side), and its junction with the Cobden St trench.

Cobden Street

Fig. 17 shows the trench route from Morley St, along and across Cobden St, along Bright St to Lord St. Natural red clay 18 (containing various natural seams of grey clay 40 and pockets of sand was evident southwards from cut 66 (P15) opposite 1 Morley St, to a point opposite the Library boiler room in Bright St. There were no obvious disturbances along Cobden St. At the points where there should have been evidence of footings for the north-south buildings to the south of the West range of the Old Hall (Fig.14), only a 90cm width of 3cm thick flat stones (P17 from north) were seen immediately below brick rubble 23. These may have been the lowermost surviving west footings for the single-storey buildings demolished c.1894.

Cobden St crossing

The trench crossed Cobden St opposite the centre of the Old Hall driveway. (P18: view west from Old Hall drive entrance; P22 view north). Under the north half of the road, forming part of rubble 23, were numerous curved fragments 32, of a composite material (P19). The convex surface was dark red, as if burnt. Among them were two 'architectural' blocks 30 & 31, constructed from a similar material (P20). 30 was retrieved (P21 foreground right) and found to be a post or jamb displaying a cavetto reveal and an outer angle chamfer and stop. Most of the surface appeared burnt, varying in colour from red to purple and partly vitrified. It is possible that they are a type of Coade Stone (manufactured by a casting process in the 1770's and in use into the early 19th century).

Bright Street

Opposite No.1 Bright St, red clay 18 inter-leaved with grey clay 40 (P23; P24; P25 view south), the latter continuing south above 18; north of this point 40 was below 18. Opposite the north side of No.7 Lord St, more inter-leaving of 18 and 40 occurred, giving way to thick pockets of sand over grey clay 40.

At c.6.50m north of Lord St kerb were brick footings 50 (P26,27,28), c.50-55cm wide and aligned approximately east-west.

The bricks were bowed and uneven with a rough sunken margin and no frog. White lime mortar adhered. Sample dimensions were 225 x 105 x 53mm. These are probably 17th-18th century in date. Almost level with the base of the footings and apparently post-dating them was a layer of burnt debris 51 (P26, 27), sealed by red-brown clay layer 49, the bottom being c.70cm below road surface and whose thickness varied across the pipe trench from c.5 to 20cm, possibly indicating that it was of a shallow pit form. It continued south for 3.10m where it thinned to c.3cm and was cut by a service trench containing 4" ducts 53 & 54 (P29 right). The layer continued south of this for a further 40cm where it abruptly dropped into a small shallow gully 60cm wide whose bottom was at 85cm below the surface. The layer formed a thin lining to the sides and base, the south side rising vertically to within 50cm of the surface. The fill 55 (P29) was of a brown, sandy soil with no finds evident. The gully was cut through natural sand and into the top of grey clay 40. The burnt materials and finds in layer 51 did not extend into the gully.

The contents of 51 appeared to consist mainly of various burnt materials, including: charcoal, ash, clinker, ?coal, vitrified substances, small burnt stones and eleven fragments of ?pipe-clay in distorted sheet form. The bulk of retrieved finds consisted of 567 fragments of clay pipe (including 506 stem fragments totalling c.17 metres; 23 bowl fragments; 4 complete bowls; 6 half-complete bowls). The decorative types represented were: heraldic (lion & ?) (top-hatted man & ?); shell & pellets; fluted/ribbed; plain; glazed. Dating of these is pending, but expected to be c.mid - late 19th century. Thirty-six pot-sherds included ?mid 19th century Doulton-ware.

The 1851 map (Fig.14) shows a building west of the Mart south entrance. It may have housed some minor industrial process, or simply a privy (It is uncertain if this building was part of the King William IV public house or had some use associated with the Mart Yard). The building was demolished by 1888 (see Fig.9).

57 was an east-west brick footing (P30) c.36cm wide whose vertical-sided construction trench (60cm wide) bottom was 55cm below the surface. A corresponding cut 56 was seen on the west of the trench, but with an inclined north edge and of 70cm width (P31). The trench west section here showed natural sand over grey clay over red clay; the east section, however showed only sand to a depth of 1.2m. Both sections south of this point showed mostly sand, although interleaving and undulating layers of 18 & 40 were just visible at a depth of 1.20m.

62 was a trench or ditch visible in both sections (P34, west section), but on the east side it was connected to pit 63. 62 north edge was 5.30m north of Lord St. south kerb. Its bottom was 90cm below the surface and the brown soil fill contained a ?late 17th century pipe bowl and corroded metal fragments. 63 contained animal bone, charcoal and corroded metal fragments.

Lord St.

The thin tarmac surface of Lord St covered a (previously) intact surface of (granite?) setts 60 (P32,33), (20 x 8 x 12 cm deep) laid at 45 degrees to the road alignment. The setts 58 (35 x 16 x 15cm deep) beneath the north pavement were aligned with the latter. They were bedded on a lime concretion containing large pebbles (P34 upper).

The pipe-trench terminated at a stop-valve chamber in the south lane of Lord St.

P35 shows the building at the south-west corner of Bright St (No.7 Lord St). The 1888 map (Fig 9) shows this shortly before the adjoining north-south block (housing the William IV pub), the northern end of which (at least) was timber-framed and may have formed part of the Old Hall ranges. If so, then No.7 was added to their south end, possibly from the 1700's. The adjacent Hickman's Arms to the west, demolished and infilled, was said to be of 17th century date. The building abutting the east wall of No.7 (shown as broken line) if assumed to be represented by footings 50 and 57, and not earlier than 18th century, occupied an area which marked a change in alignment of the buildings forming the south side of the Mart Yard. The meandering north edge of this row suggests they might have been either timber-framed, or perpetuating the alignment of the latter. There is no real symmetry apparent in the individual outlines of these buildings which might indicate the position of a gate-house to the Hall other than the four buildings on the east side of the Mart Yard south gate (the outlines differ between the maps of 1851, Fig 14, and 1888. P36 shows the junction of Bright St and Lord St (the Mart south entrance in 1851), the later small Mart, the library beyond (E20th century) and the Old Hall south court (left background).

The type of brick graph used (Fig.18) is based on a general trend of brick dimension ratios from c.AD1400- 1900, the earlier ones indicated by a high angle, the later ones by a lower angle. A reasonably accurate dating can sometimes be achieved but by using a far greater sampling than was possible in this particular case. The graph does not allow for re-used bricks, unusual proportions or special shapes (although well-bricks 12 indicate 18th-19th century which may be correct). Sample 50 indicates a 17th century date, which is possible but not certain. I01 appears contemporary with 100, indicating a 16th century date

Lord St./Little Church Lane

The deep sewer trench (Fig.2) AW-9 revealed a 'tunnel' 102, cut into natural sand and formed by walls of half-brick thickness, minimum height of 1.50m, width not determined; capped by stone slabs the edges of which were visible at a depth of c.1.00m below the surface. The slab south edges were visible near the north kerb of Lord St for a few metres west of Little Church Lane entrance, where a north-south return wall at 90 degrees inferred that the tunnel changed direction and ran beneath the latter.

A brick sample measured 225 x 107 x 70mm, with full-length central 'finger'-frog. The quality and size suggests an 18th-19th century date. There are 19th and 20th century accounts of mysterious tunnels in the town, some later stories perhaps referring to that type described above. It has been suggested that they are flood tunnels but as yet there is no supporting evidence. Other stories may refer to the several Old Hall garderobe outlets which, if un-blocked, would be large enough to crawl along. The pipe trench, although relatively shallow, revealed no disturbances which might be associated with such features.

After processing, finds will be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

Acknowledgements

The writer extends thanks to the employees of P.Burke PLC: Allan, Garry, Peter and Malcolm for their co-operation and especially Colin (JCB operator), who provided invaluable assistance with the retrieval of finds.

M.V.Clark, January 1993.

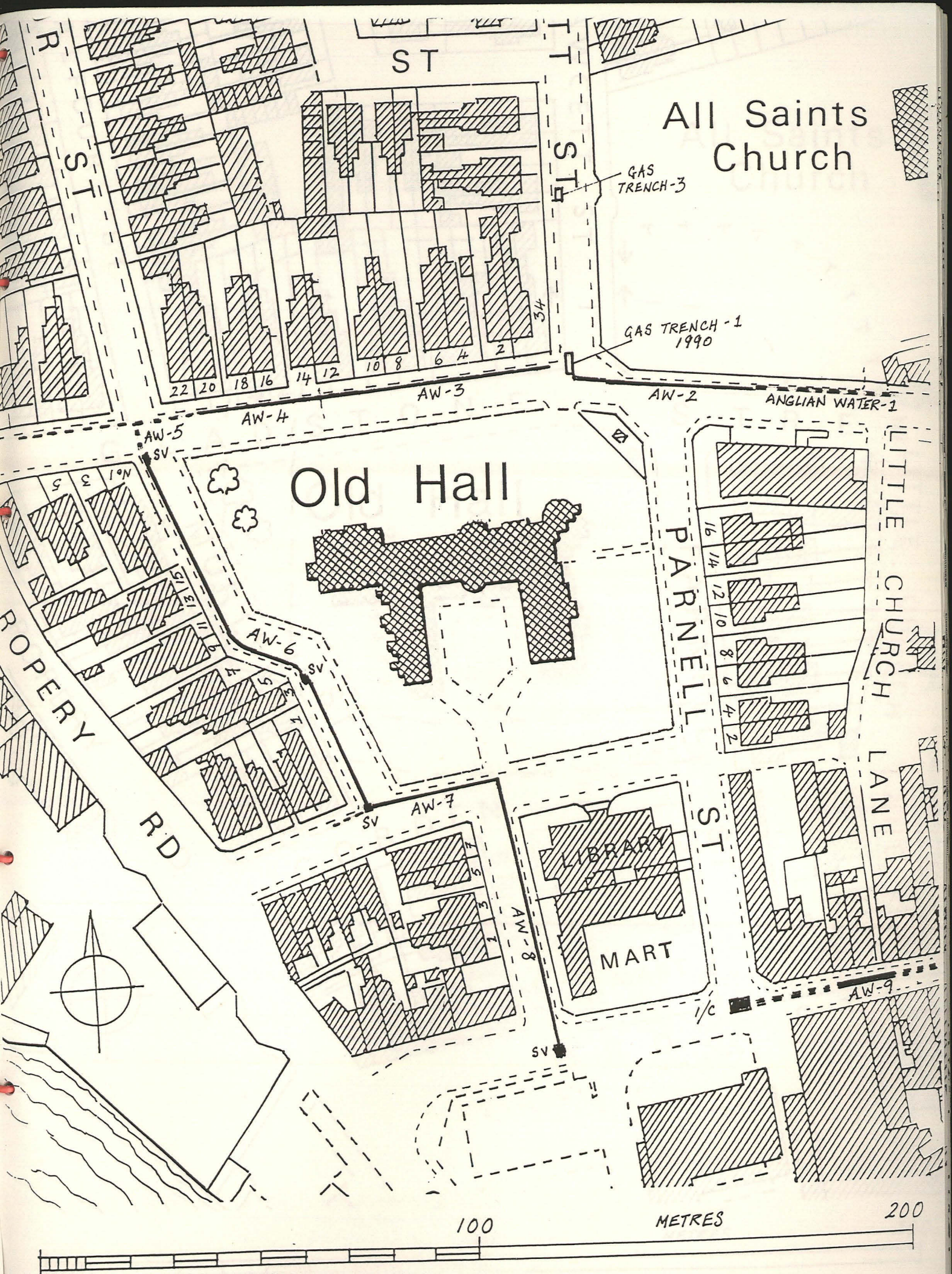


Fig.2 Anglian Water pipe-trench route

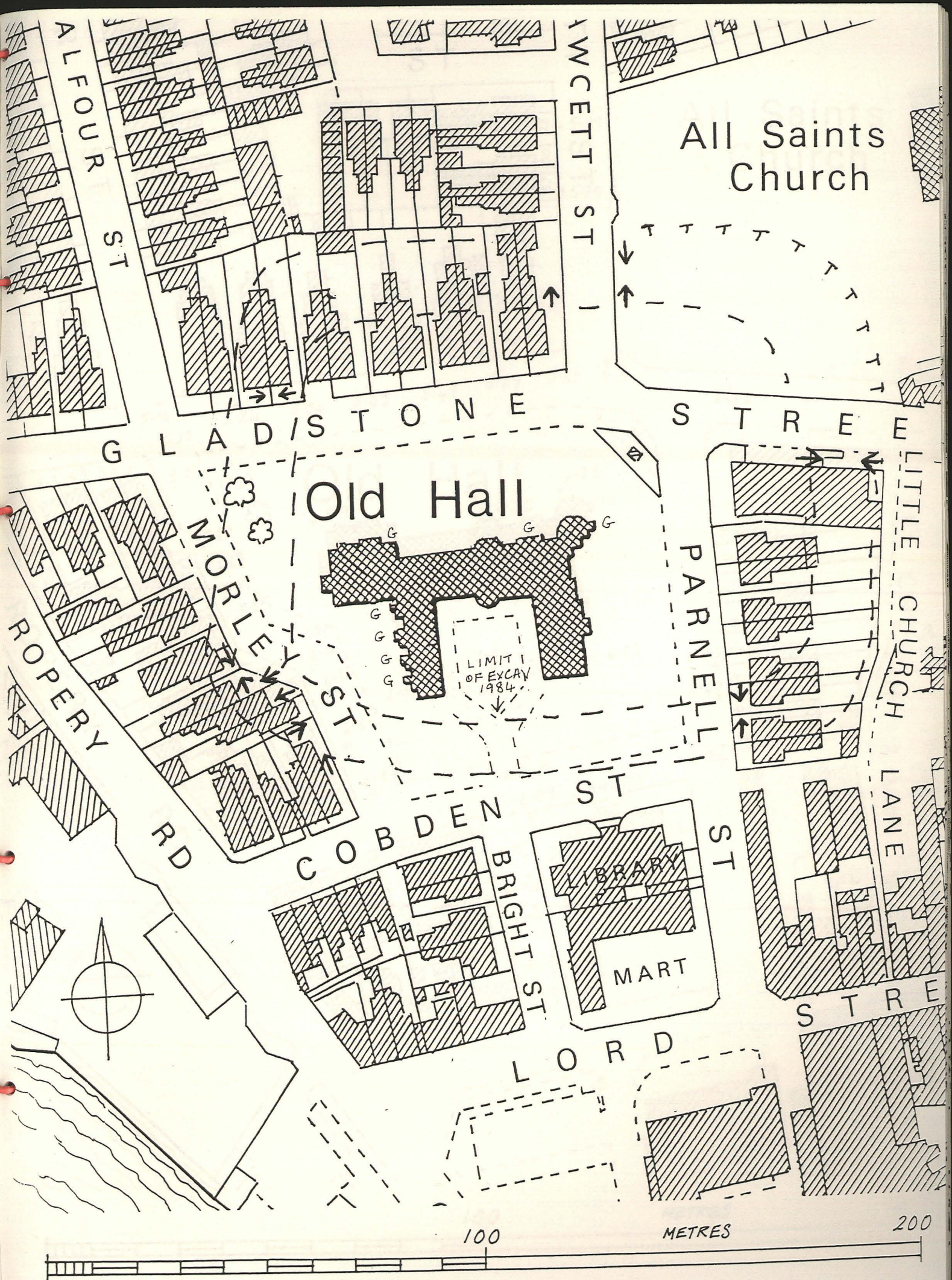


Fig.3 Conjectural location of moat, based on areas of subsidence.

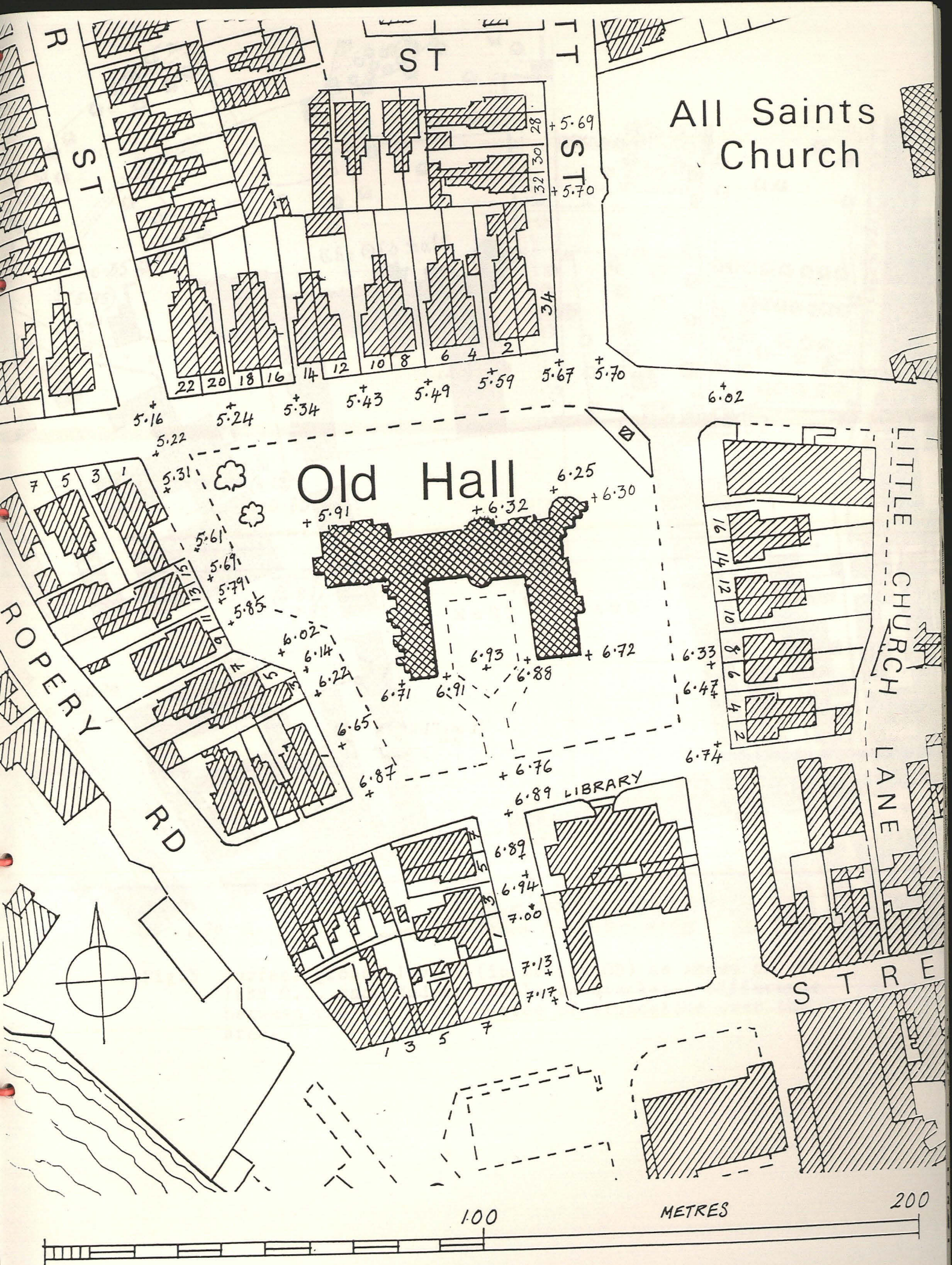


Fig.4 Modern surface ground levels (in metres OD)

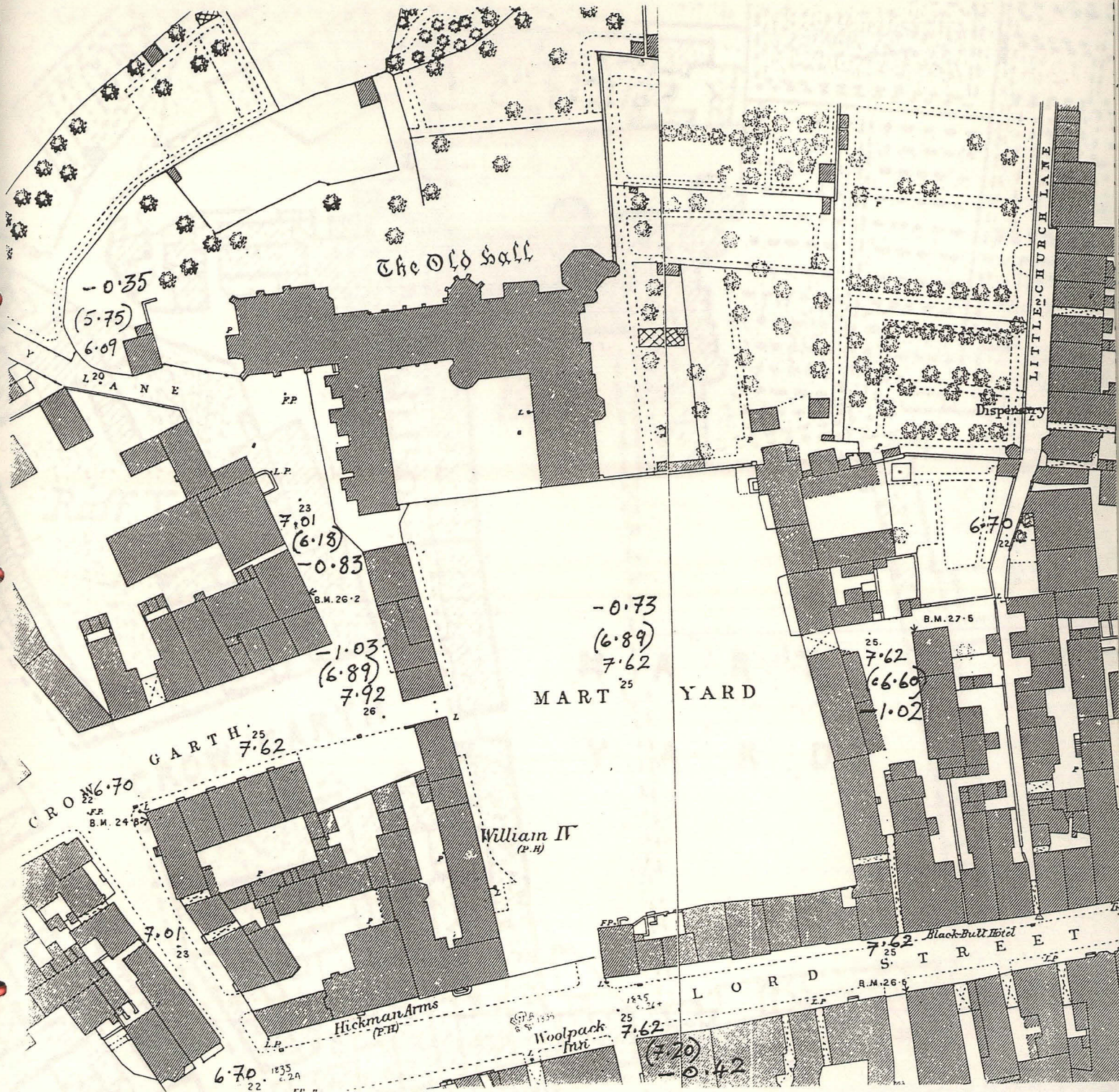


Fig.5 Surface ground levels (in metres OD) as shown on the 1888 O.S. map. Modern levels in brackets. Difference between the two shows degree of truncation over the area.

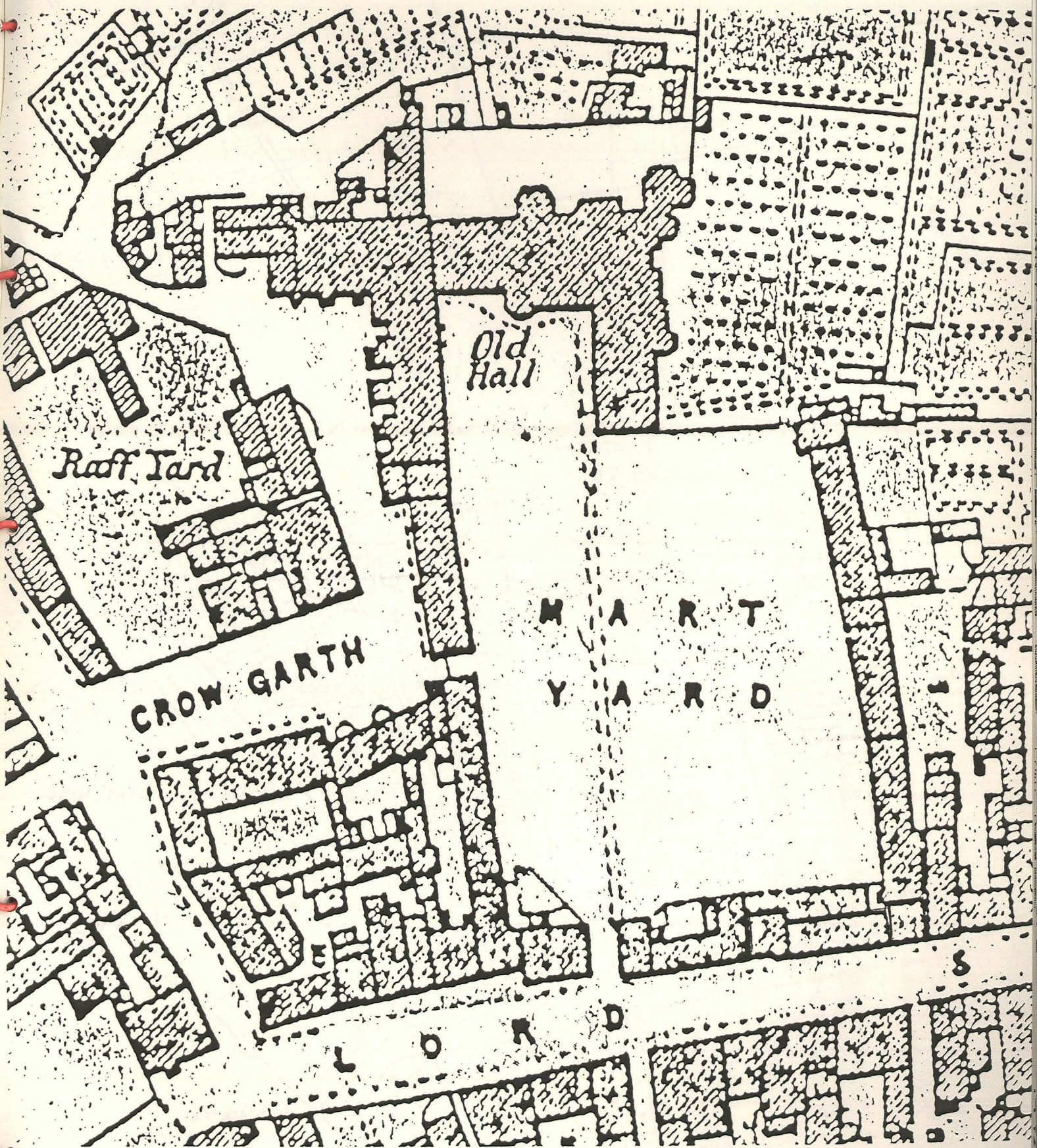


Fig.6 Part of 1851 map of Gainsborough by Denzil J.H.Ibbetson

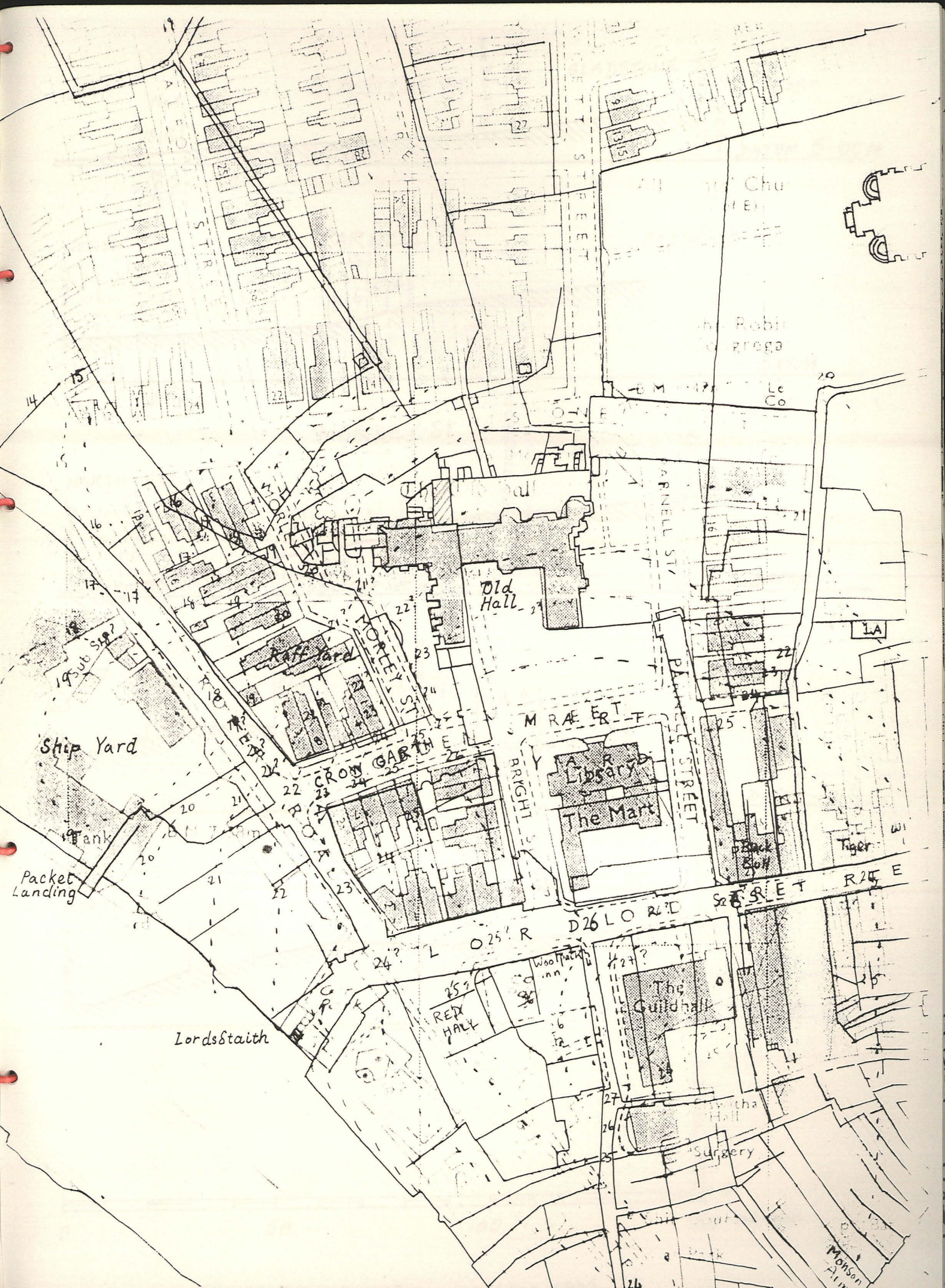


Fig.7 1851 map superimposed on 1970s map. Contours (in feet) interpolated from 1888 map

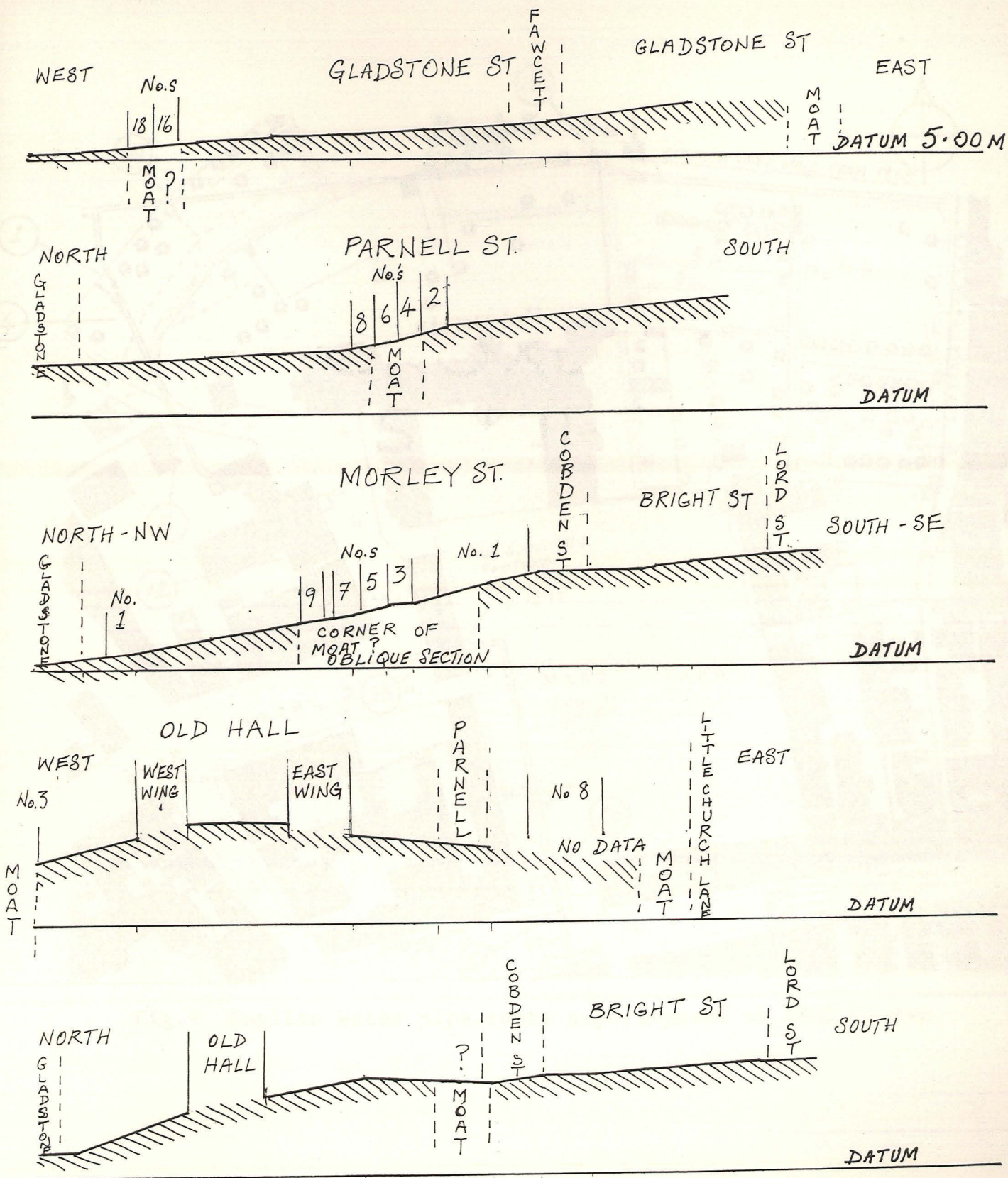


Fig.8 Ground surface profiles 1992

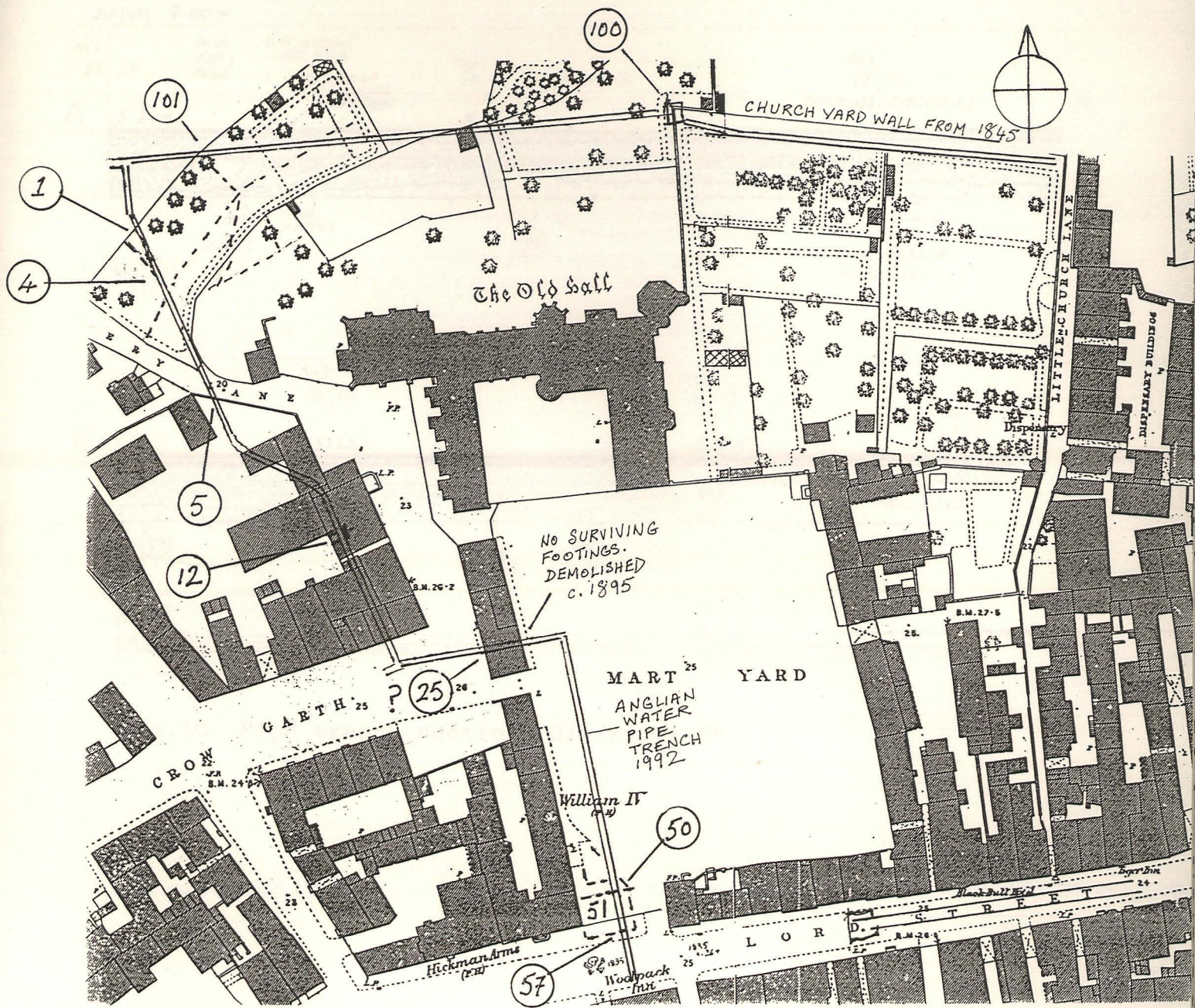


Fig.9 Anglian Water pipe route superimposed on 1888 OS map

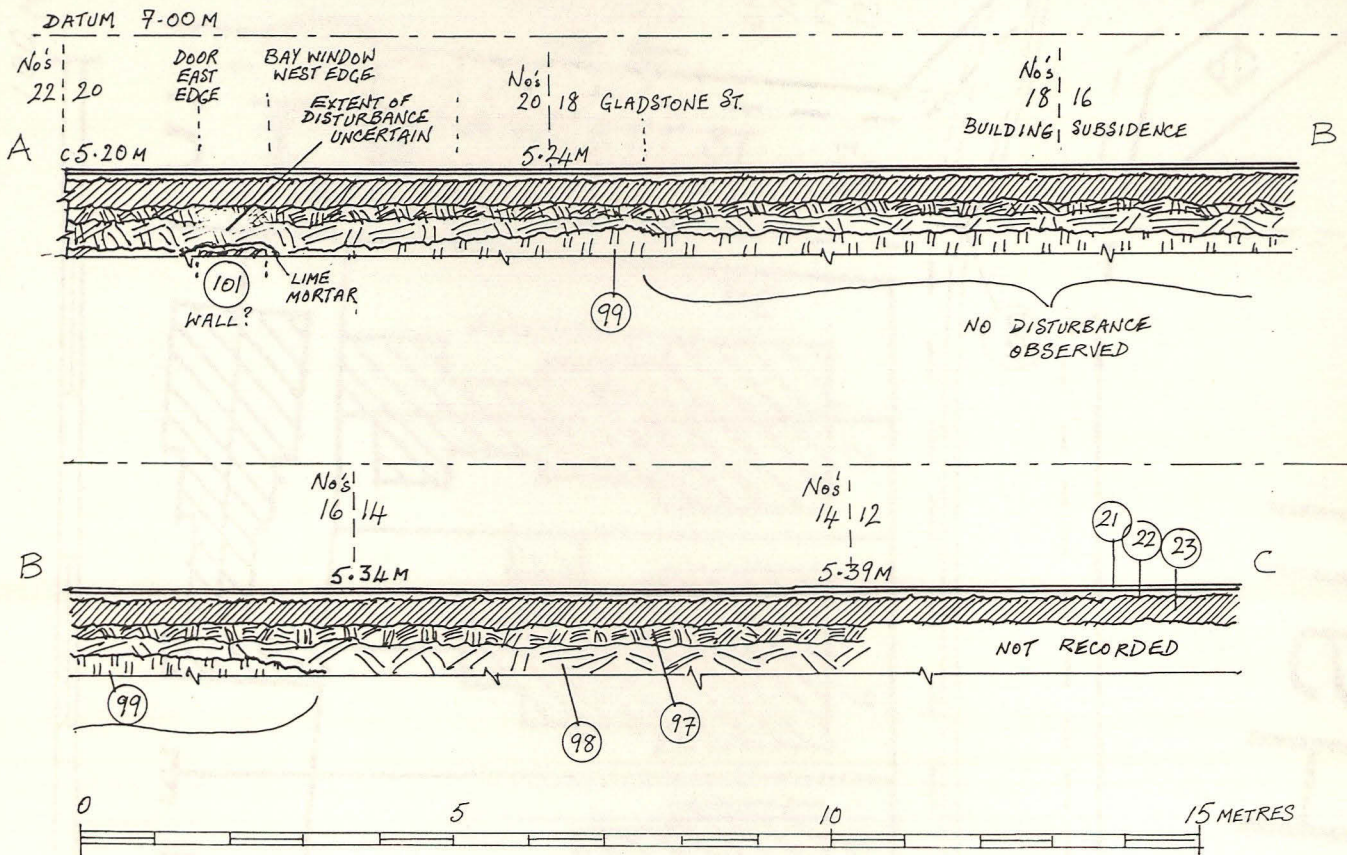


Fig.10 Pipe trench section, Gladstone St

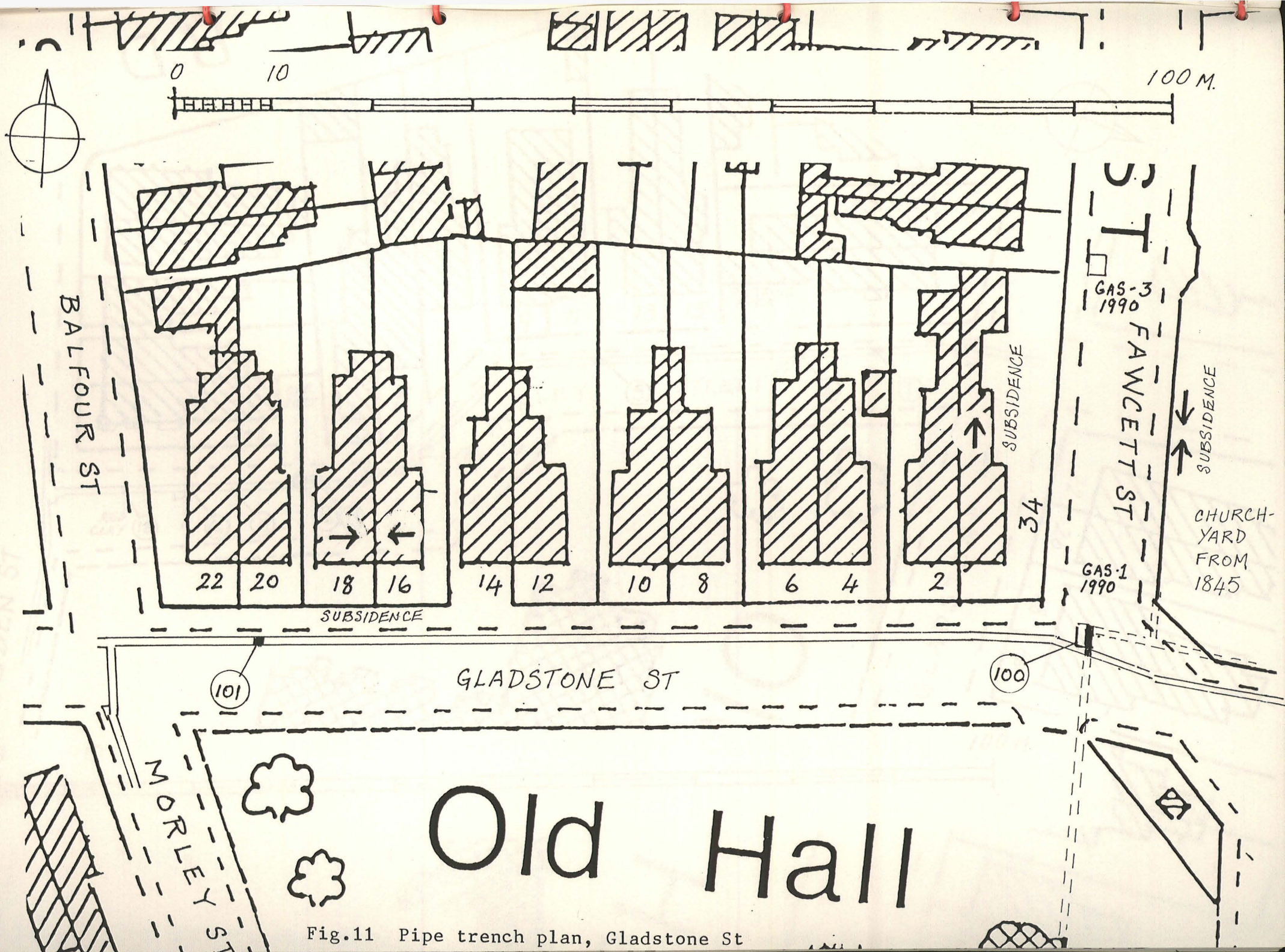


Fig.11 Pipe trench plan, Gladstone St

R.D

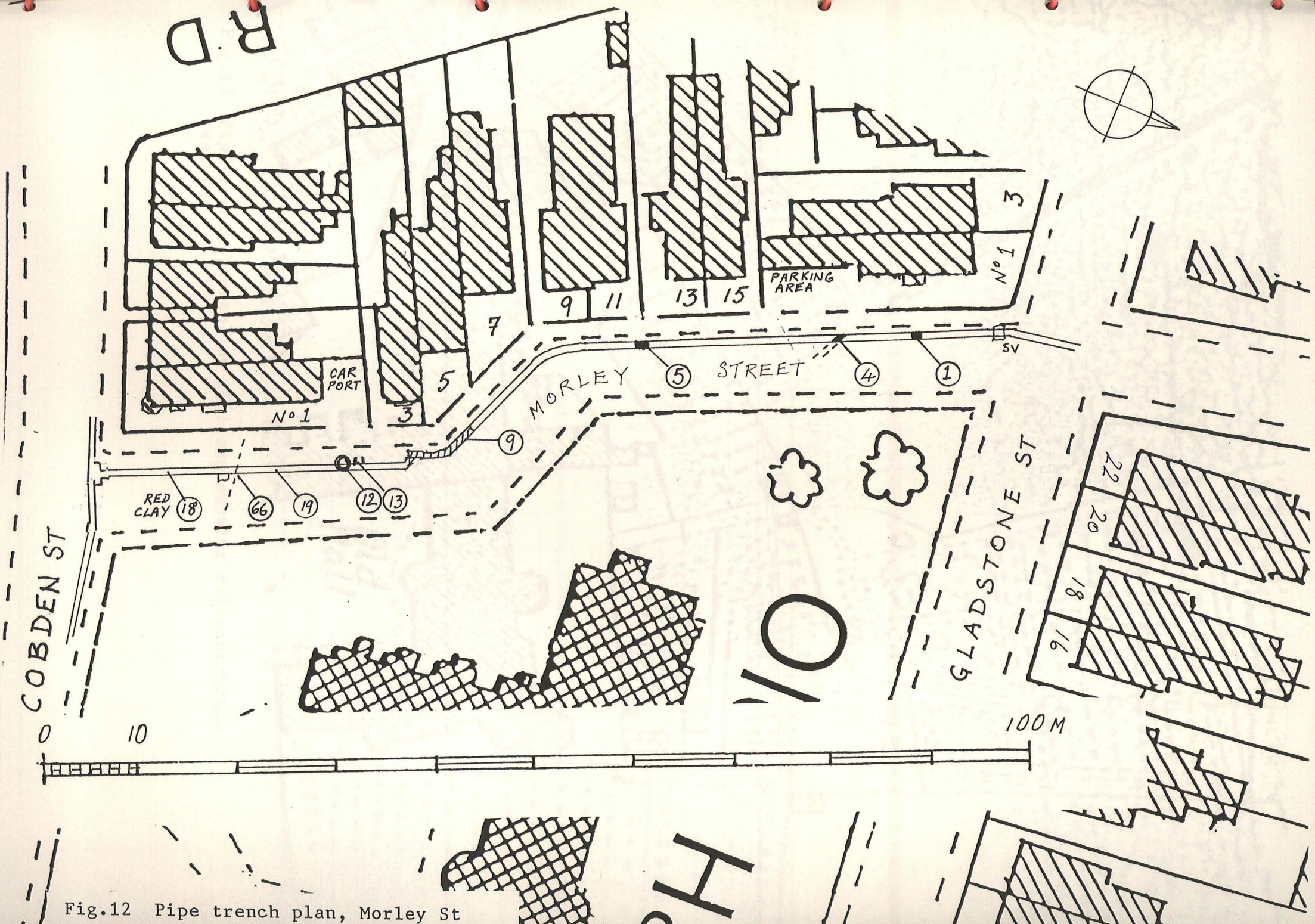
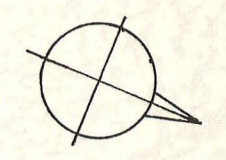


Fig.12 Pipe trench plan, Morley St



Fig.13 Pipe trench (north) on 1851 map showing relevant brick features

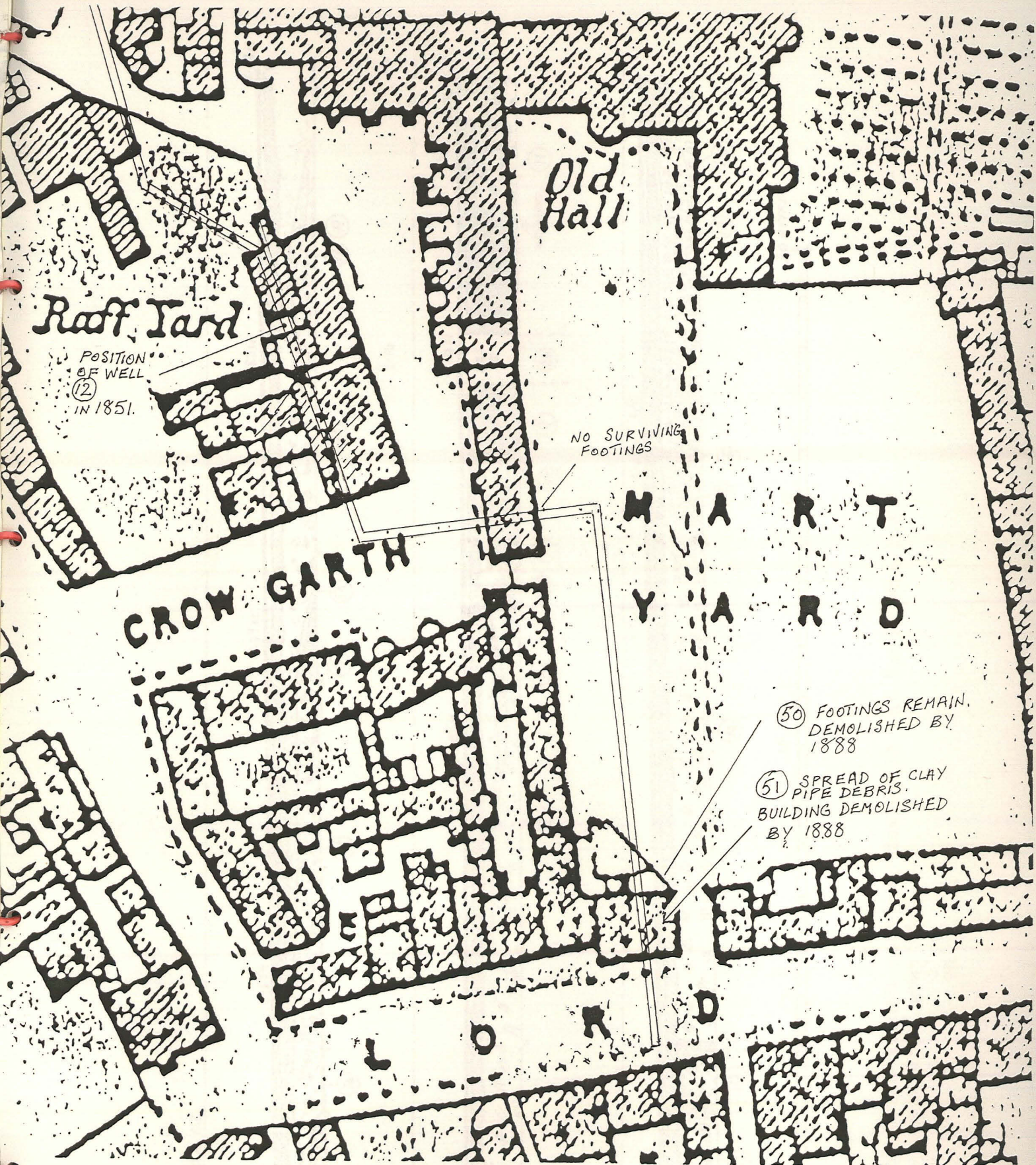


Fig.14 Pipe trench (south) on 1851 map showing relevant brick features

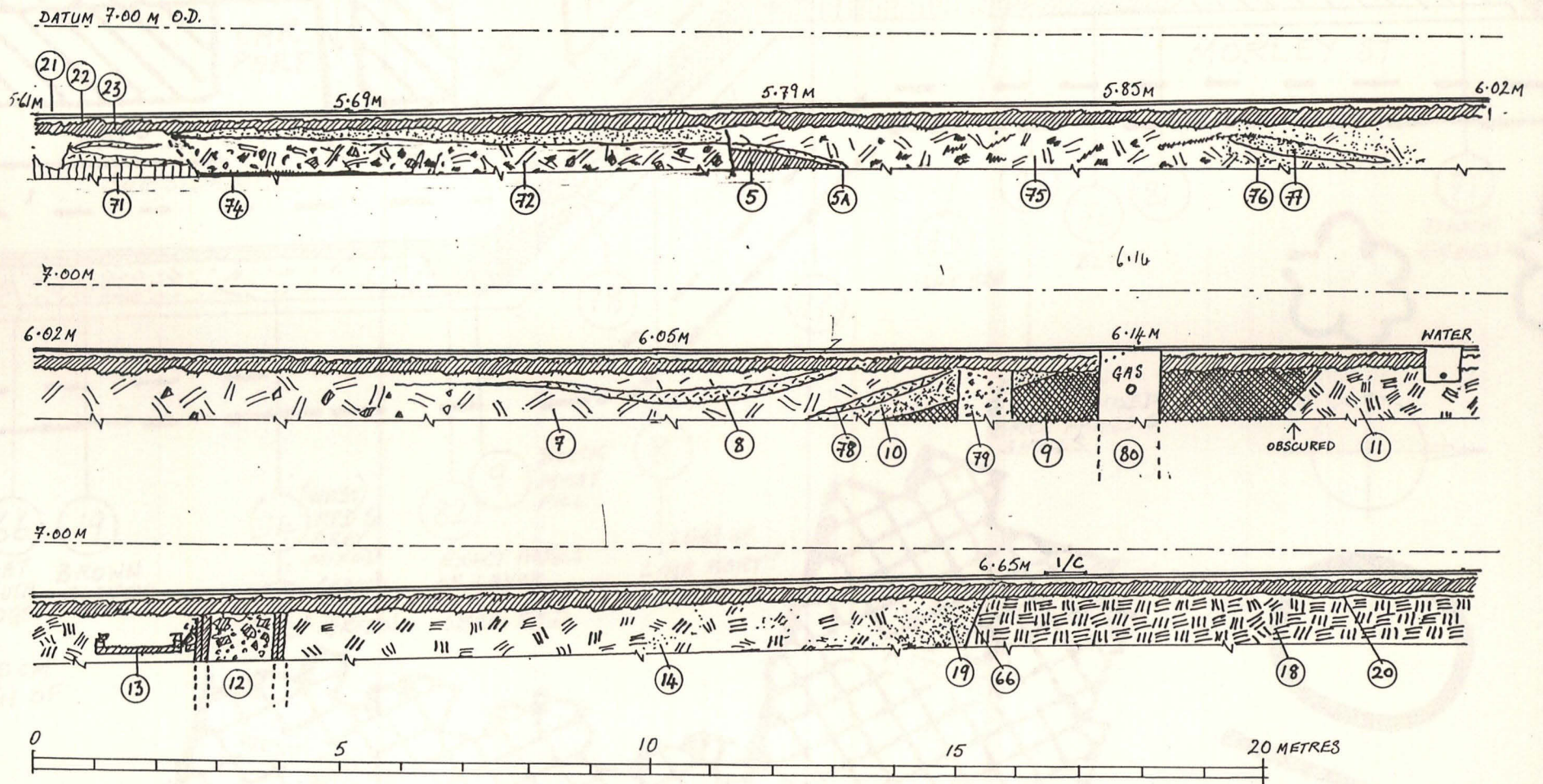


Fig.15 Pipe trench section, Morley St (at bend) showing possible moat fill

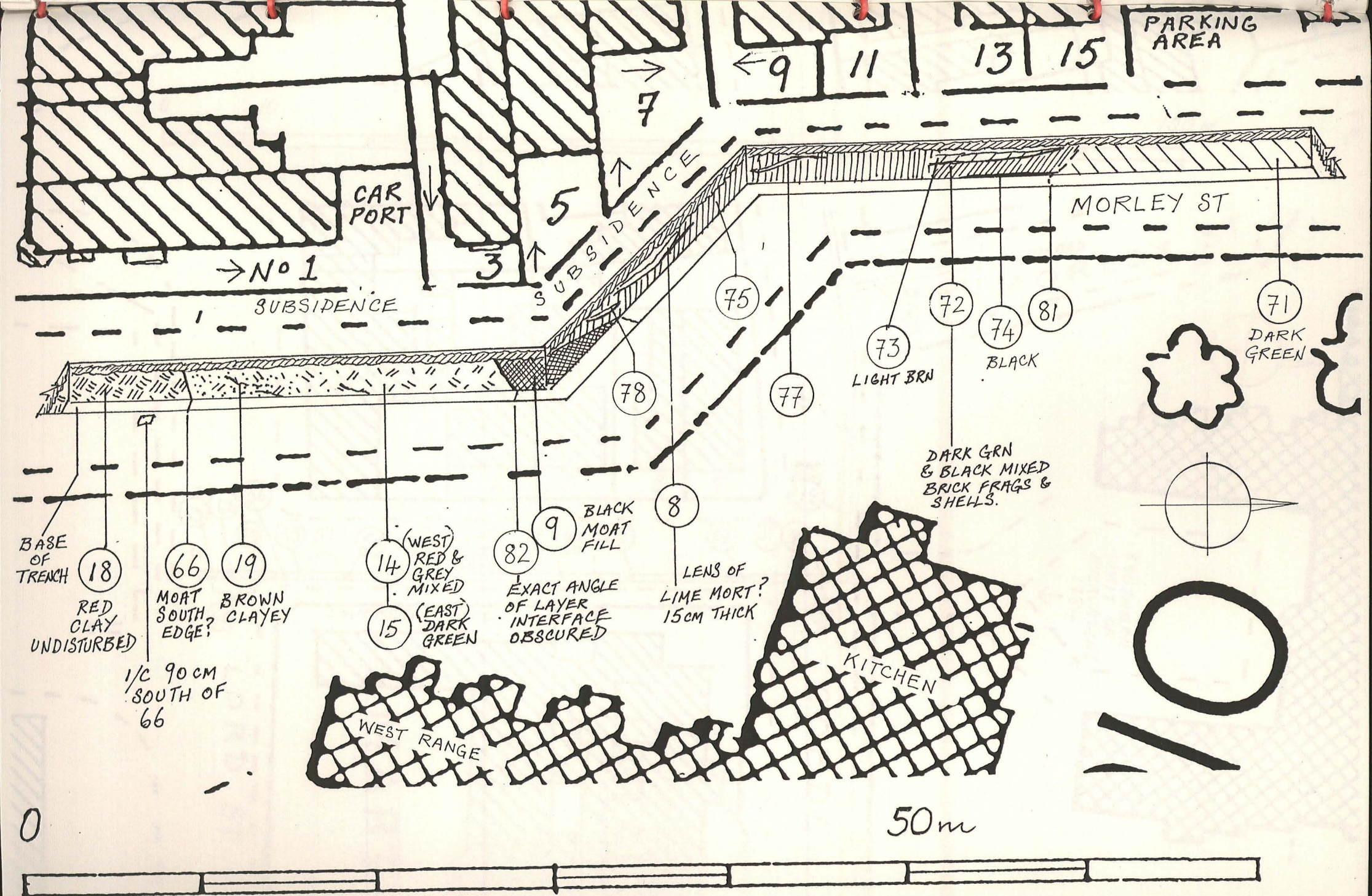


Fig.16 Pipe trench section, Morley St (at bend) isometric view of main fill

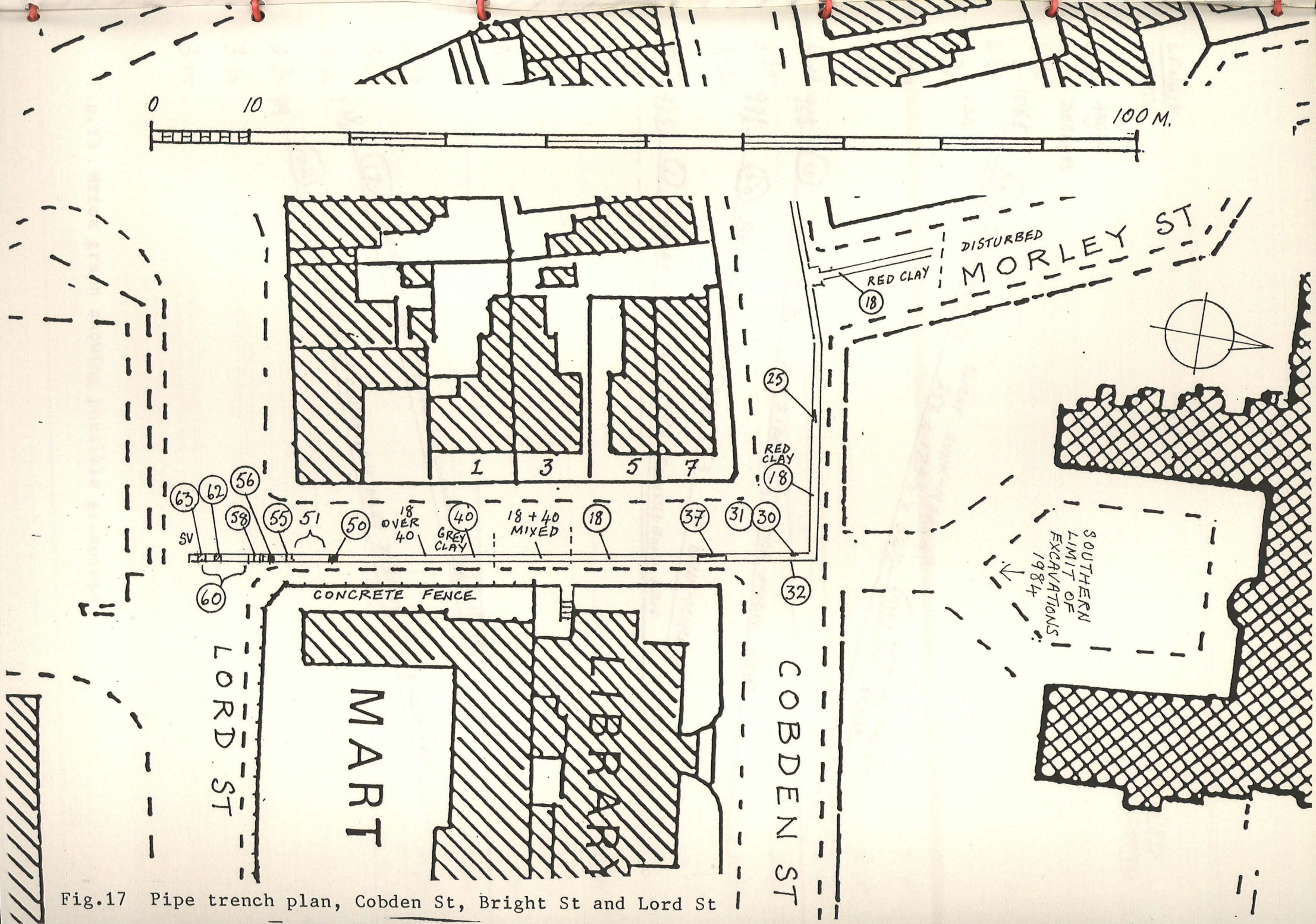


Fig.17 Pipe trench plan, Cobden St, Bright St and Lord St

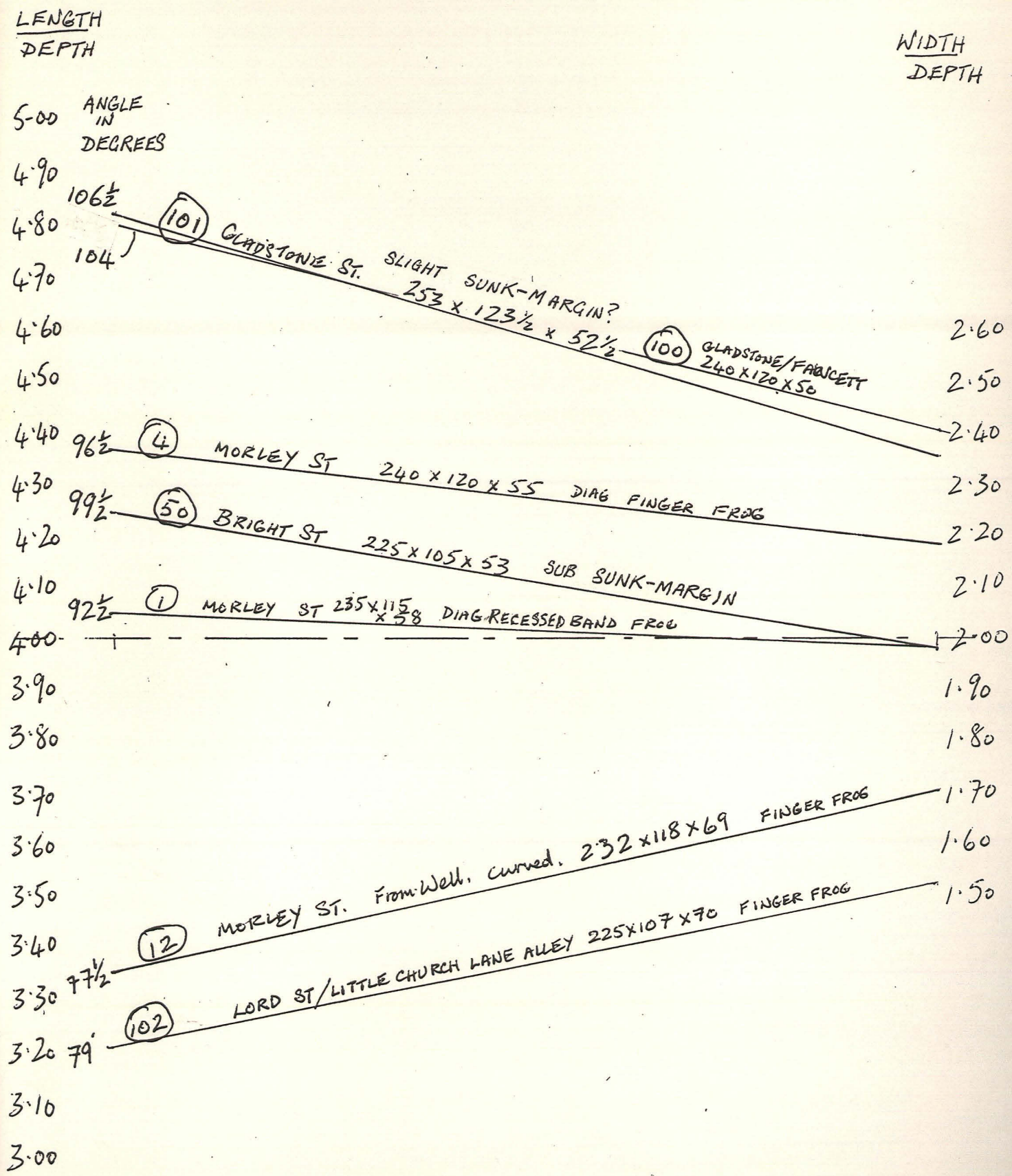


Fig.18 Brick graph showing possible groupings