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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT
35 PADDOCK GROVE,
BOSTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

Work Undertaken For
Mrs V. C. Hall

November 1994



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

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1 General View of Site, showing masonry fragments in section

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1.1 Topography and Geology

Location is situated 25km southeast of London and approximately 7km from the southern coast of The Wash, among the low-lying landscape characterised by the River Witham. The area is located in the parish of St. Andrew's, Lincolnshire, UK.

Figure 1 shows the location of the site within the parish of St. Andrew's, Lincolnshire, UK. The site is situated in the parish of St. Andrew's, Lincolnshire, UK.

Figure 2 shows the location of the site within the parish of St. Andrew's, Lincolnshire, UK. The site is situated in the parish of St. Andrew's, Lincolnshire, UK.

Figure 3 shows the location of the site within the parish of St. Andrew's, Lincolnshire, UK. The site is situated in the parish of St. Andrew's, Lincolnshire, UK.

Figure 4 shows the location of the site within the parish of St. Andrew's, Lincolnshire, UK. The site is situated in the parish of St. Andrew's, Lincolnshire, UK.

Figure 5 shows the location of the site within the parish of St. Andrew's, Lincolnshire, UK. The site is situated in the parish of St. Andrew's, Lincolnshire, UK.

1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of garages at 35 Paddock Grove, Boston, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation for the foundations.

Development at Paddock Grove affects an area containing archaeological remains dating from the medieval period (1066 - 1500 AD) and later. Close by, though not exactly located, is the site of a Carmelite Friary, built in 1307. Two medieval half-timbered buildings survive within 100m to the northeast. Medieval pottery has been recovered from an old well 75m to the northeast and from building sites 200m to the north.

A deposit of masonry, almost certainly derived from the nearby Carmelite Friary, was observed. These ashlar blocks were reused as foundations for relatively recent buildings. Modern topsoil provided the present ground surface.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

On 24th and 25th October 1994, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of garages at 35 Paddock Grove, Boston, Lincolnshire. Approval for the proposed development was sought through the submission of planning application number B06/0289/94. Permission was granted subject to a standard negative condition for archaeological works. The archaeological work was commissioned by Mrs V. C. Hall, and was carried out by Archaeological Project Services in accordance with a brief set by the Boston District Community Archaeologist.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Boston is situated 45km southeast of Lincoln and approximately 7km from the northwest coast of The Wash, among the fens of south Lincolnshire. Bisected by the River Witham, the town is located in Boston District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). Situated on the west bank of the Witham, Paddock Grove lies between West Street and Fydell Crescent about 150m northwest of Haven Bridge (Fig. 2).

Lying at a height of c. 13m OD, the development site is located 350m south of the town centre defined by St. Botolph's parish church. Centred on National Grid Reference TF326438, the development site covers approximately one fifth of a hectare (Fig. 3).

Local soils are the Tanvats Association typical alluvial gley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 319) and Wisbech Association calcareous alluvial gley soils developed in marine alluvium (*ibid.*, 361). Beneath this marine alluvium is glacial drift that was deposited in a geological basin between the Lincolnshire Wolds and the East Anglian Heights (Harden 1978, 5). These glacial deposits in turn overlie a solid geology of Jurassic clays.

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Paddock Grove is located in an area of archaeological activity dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods (Fig. 2). In the immediately vicinity of the development area, though of uncertain location and extent, is the site of a Carmelite Friary (B05/013). Although the Carmelites had an oratory in Boston by 1293, they acquired, and transferred to, a new site on this, west, side of the river in 1307. At the same time the friars received permission to erect a church and other buildings. Later, in 1350, the friars were

given land to extend their house and graveyard. The house was dissolved in about 1538 (Page 1988, 216-7).

At the Axe and Cleaver on West Street, a well or cistern was discovered during alterations to the public house cellar. Pottery of 12th to 16th century date was recovered from this well (B05/067). Nearby are two half-timbered buildings. Both of these, at 25 and 35 High Street, are 15th century 'hall houses' (B05/074, B05/075 respectively).

Approximately 200m to the south of the development site, human burials (B05/039) were discovered during roadworks on Liquorpond Street. Although undated, these bodies lie close to the site of an old church or chapel.

Pottery has been recovered from development sites in the Lincoln Lane area, about 200m to the north of the present investigation area. Although mostly of post-medieval date, these finds have included a complete medieval baluster jug (B05/064).

3. AIMS

The aims of the watching brief were to locate and record archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Trenches were excavated to a depth of about 80cm using a mechanical excavator. The sides of the trenches were then cleaned and examined to identify any archaeological features. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed within the trench was allocated a unique reference number with an individual

written description. Natural geological deposits were also recorded. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at a scale of 1:20. Locations of drawn sections appear in Figure 4.

5. RESULTS

Records of the deposits and features identified during the watching brief were examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. Two phases were identified:

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Modern deposits

5.1 Phase 1 Natural deposits

A layer of brown sandy clay (10) was observed on the south side of the area. This material is considered to have been deposited naturally.

5.2 Phase 2 Modern deposits

At the southeast corner of the site, an east-west linear feature (11) was observed cutting the natural deposits (Fig. 5). Filling the lower part of this feature was a mixed silty clay (3) that contained brick, tile, mortar, pottery fragments and ash. Above this material was a deposit of ashlar blocks (2). In consequence, these related contexts are interpreted as a foundation trench and bedding deposits (Fig. 6). All of these masonry fragments (Plates 1 and 2) were dressed and apparently derived from a medieval ecclesiastical structure. Ten of the pieces were individually recorded.

Overlying these natural deposits, and also observed on the north side of the development area, were layers of brown silty clay (6, 9). These contained brick and

pottery fragments and are believed to be make-up layers. Cutting into these deposits on the north side of the site was a steep-sided feature (13), approximately 0.8m wide and over 0.3m deep. This contained bricks and rubble (12). Although only recorded in section, this is interpreted as a pit for the disposal of demolition or construction debris. Sealing the pit was a 0.5m thick layer of brick and mortar fragments (5), considered to be a make-up layer.

A dark brown clayey silt (1, 4, 8) covered much of the development area. This modern topsoil provided the present ground surface of the site. At the southeast side of the development area this topsoil was cut into by a vertical-sided, 0.1m deep feature (14). Possessing a flat, level base and filled with crushed brick (7), this is interpreted as a foundation bed for a shed located immediately adjacent (Fig. 7).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural silt deposits (Phase 1) across the site represent soil build up over many years and probably have an alluvial origin.

Cutting into this alluvium was a large foundation trench, probably for tenements constructed in the Victorian period (Phase 2). However, within this trench, and probably serving as footings for the tenement buildings, were reused blocks of medieval ecclesiastical masonry (Plates 1 and 2). These almost certainly derived from the Carmelite Friary, known to have been located in the proximity from the early 14th century.

Make-up deposits, perhaps incorporating redeposited subsoil, occurred across the development site. These materials perhaps prepared the area for construction, represented by a rubble-filled pit. Further

ground raising layers, utilising brick hardcore, were also recognised. Topsoil constituted the present ground surface. A foundation bed for a shed was located at the southeastern side of the development area.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations at 35 Paddock Grove, Boston revealed a sequence of natural to modern deposits. A quantity of large, dressed masonry blocks, reused as tenement footings, were recorded. This ashlar almost certainly originates from the early 14th century house of the Carmelite Friars, known to have been located in the vicinity. Moreover, these blocks are unlikely to have been transported far. This would tend to imply that friary buildings were located immediately proximate to, and south of, the development site.

Further modern construction activities were represented by make-up layers, a pit containing brick debris and a hardcore base for a shed.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project services wish to thank Mrs V. C. Hall who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Steve Haynes coordinated the work and Dave Start edited this report. Jim Bonnor, the Boston District Community Archaeologist provided information from the relevant parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Manager: Steve Haynes
Site Assistants: Nichola Bunting, Rene

Mouraille

Illustration: Denise Buckley

Post-excavation Analyst: Gary Taylor

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Harden, G, 1978 *Medieval Boston and its Archaeological Implications*

Hodge, C.A.H. Burton, R.G.O. Corbett, W.M. Evans, R. and Seale, R.S., 1984 *Soils and their Use in Eastern England, Soil Survey of England and Wales Bulletin No. 13* (Harpenden)

Page, W., 1988 *A History of Lincolnshire II*, The Victoria History of the Counties of England (Folkestone)

11. ABBREVIATIONS

Numbers prefixed with 'B' are the primary reference numbers used by the Boston District Community Archaeologist.

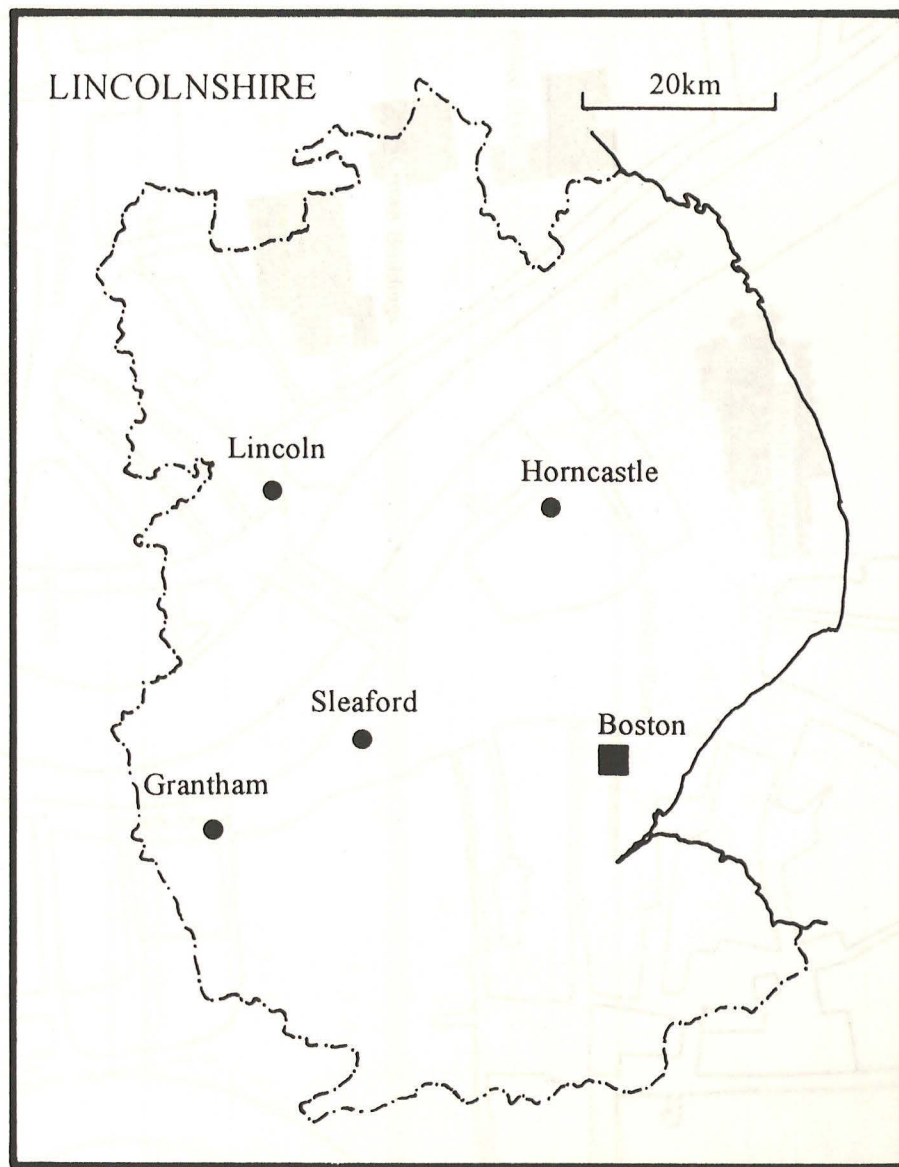
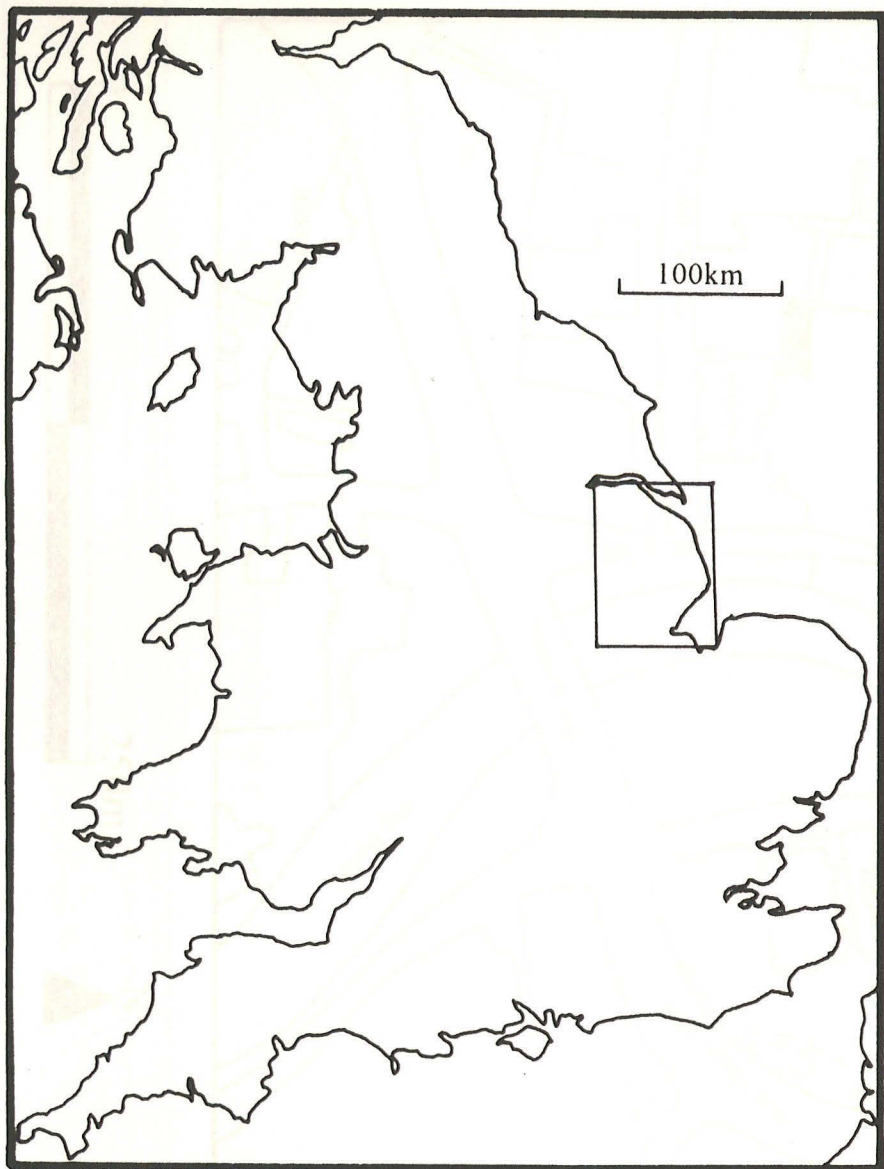
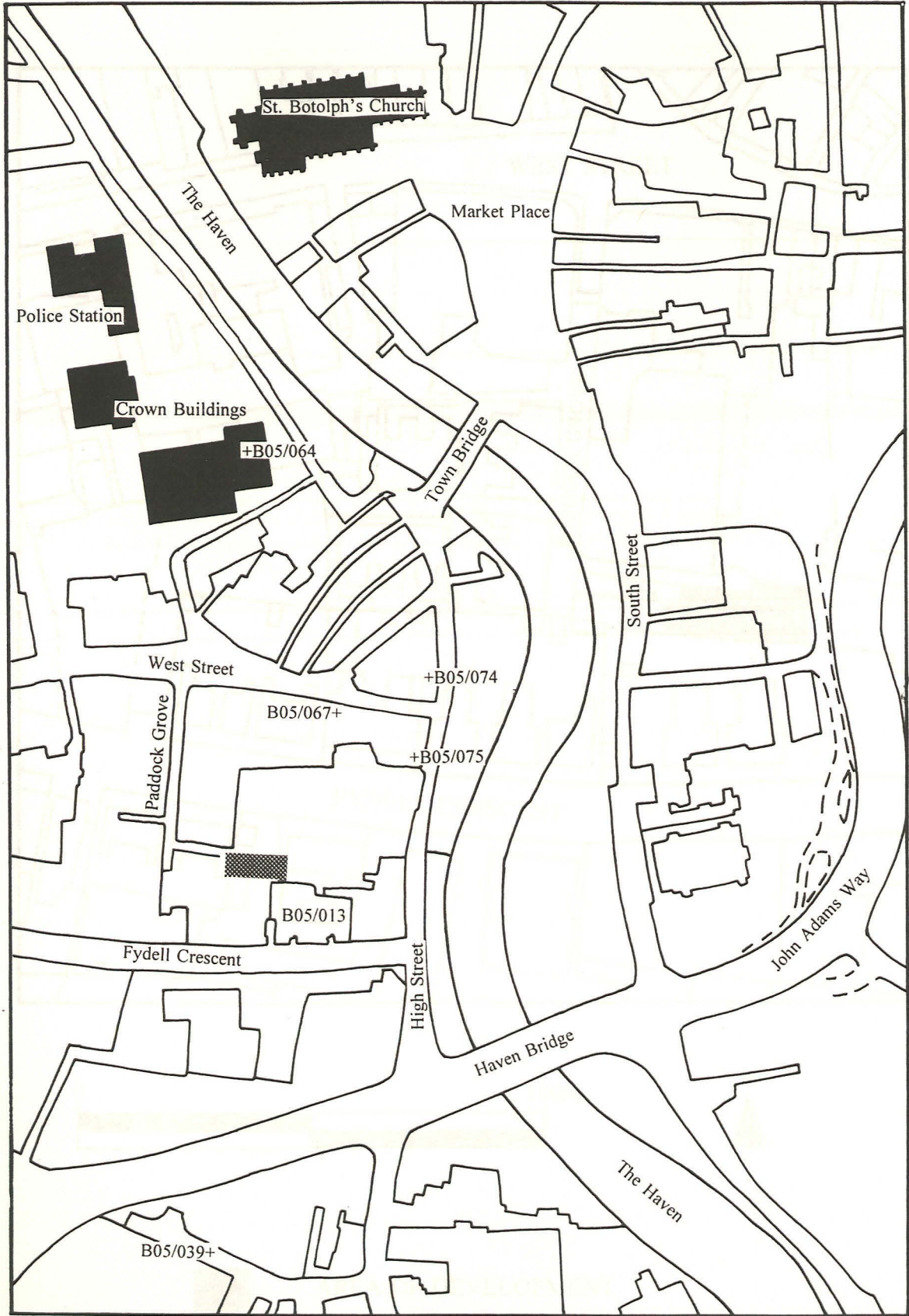


Fig. 1 General Location Plan

Fig. 2 Site Location Plan



AREA OF DEVELOPMENT

Fig. 4 Development Area,
showing location of recorded plans and ...
Fig. 3 Location of Development Site

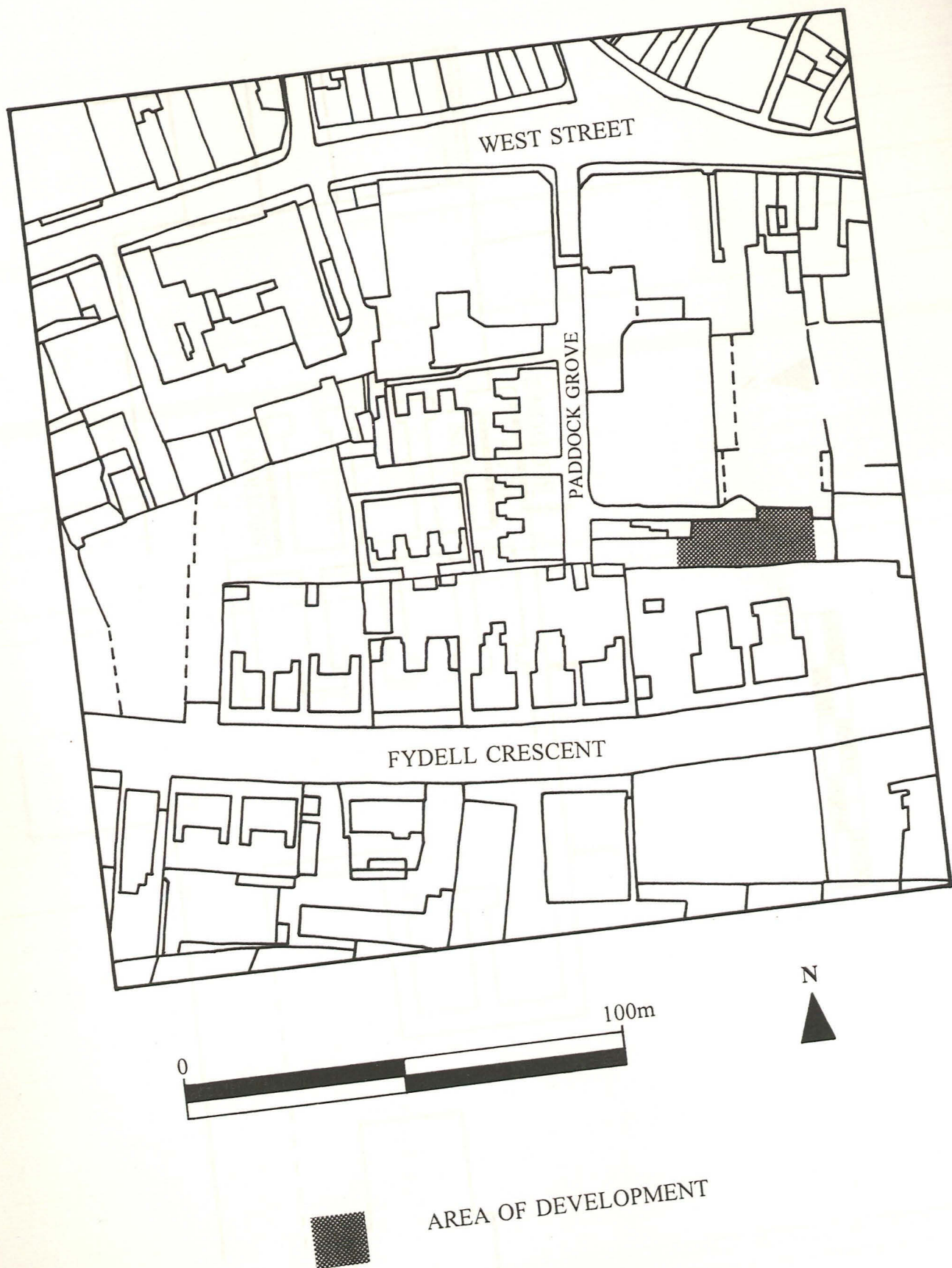


Fig. 4 Development Area, showing location of recorded plans and sections

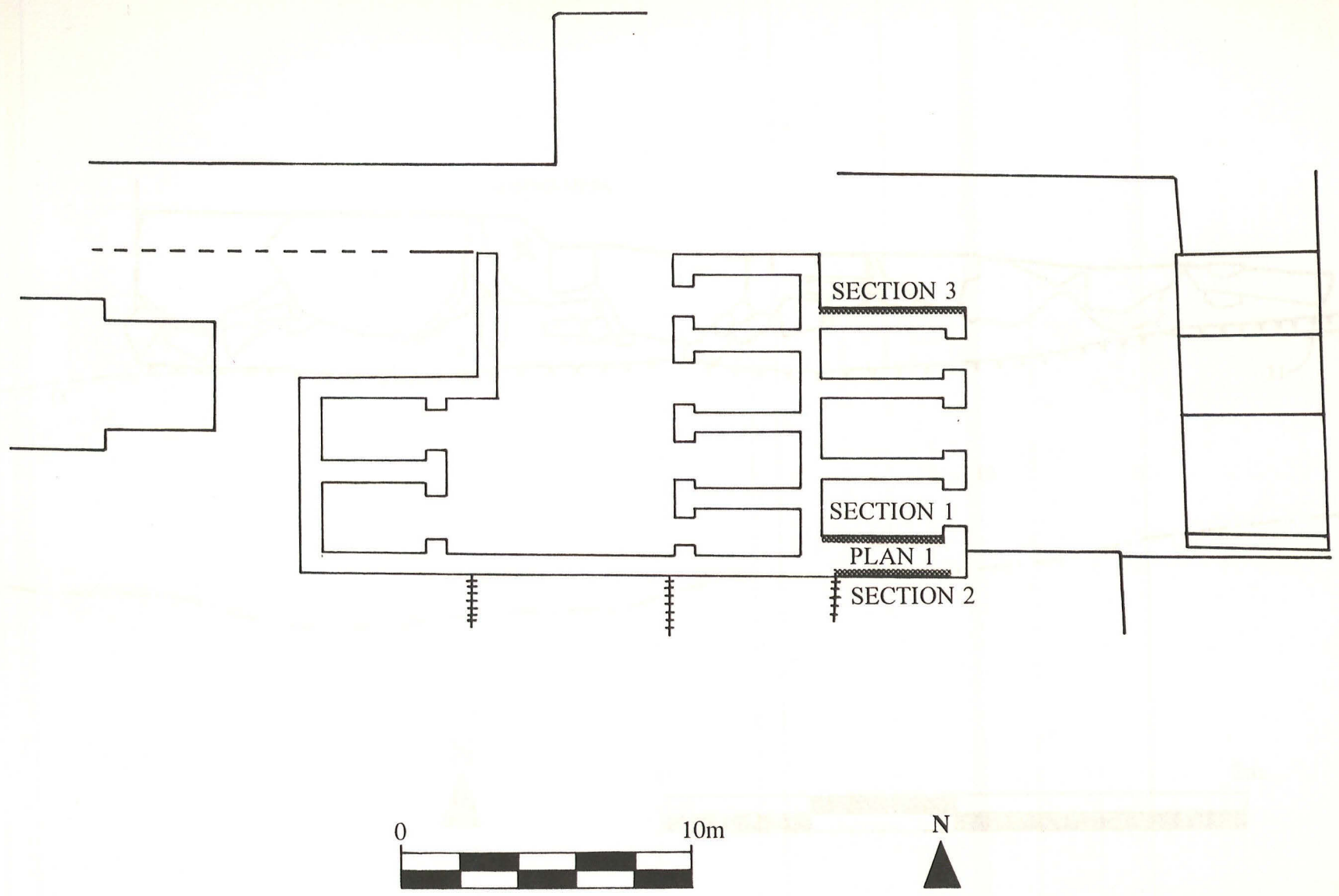


Fig. 5 Plan of Southeast Corner of Development area,
showing reused ecclesiastical masonry

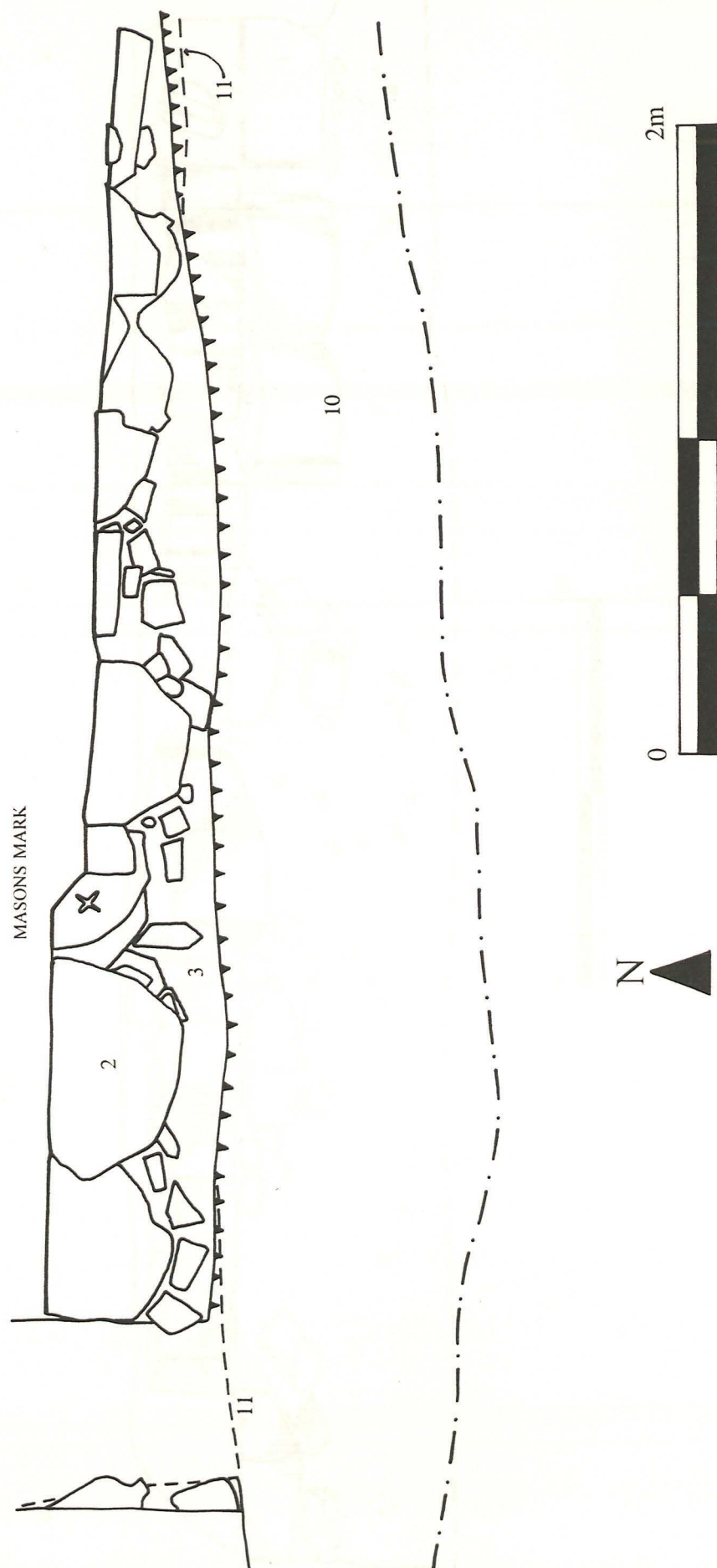


Fig. 6 Section 1,
showing reused ecclesiastical masonry

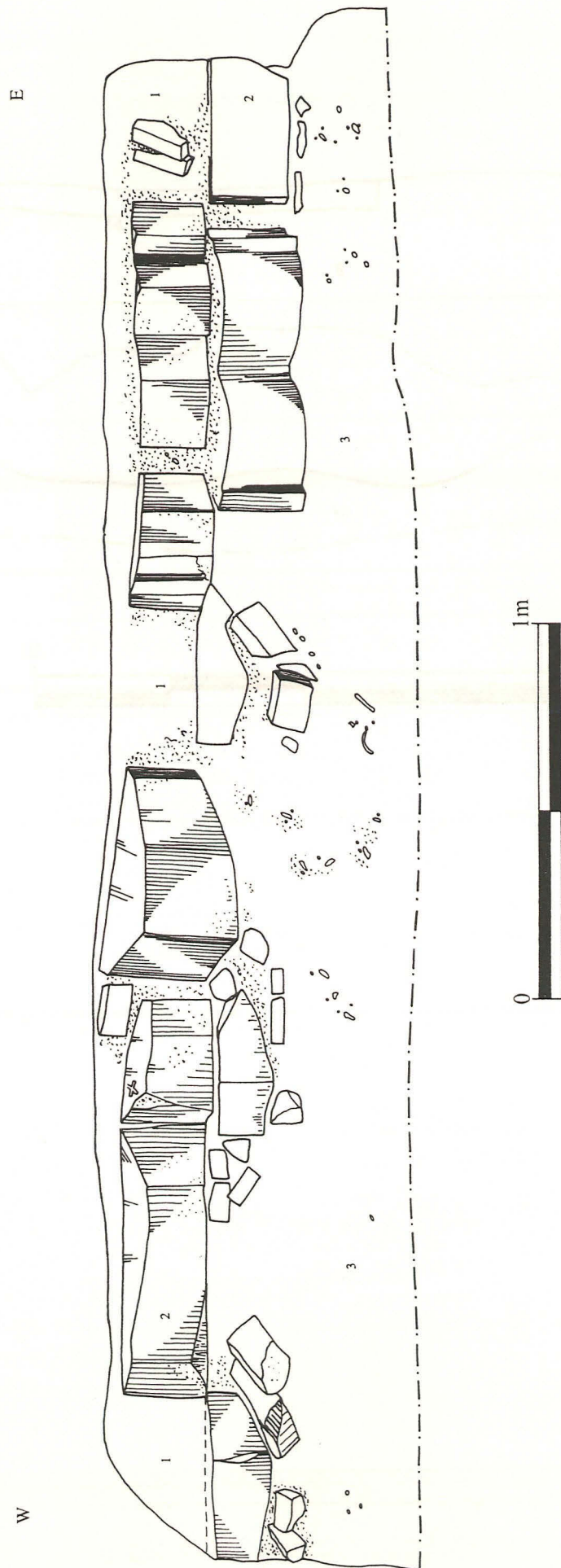


Fig. 7 Section 2

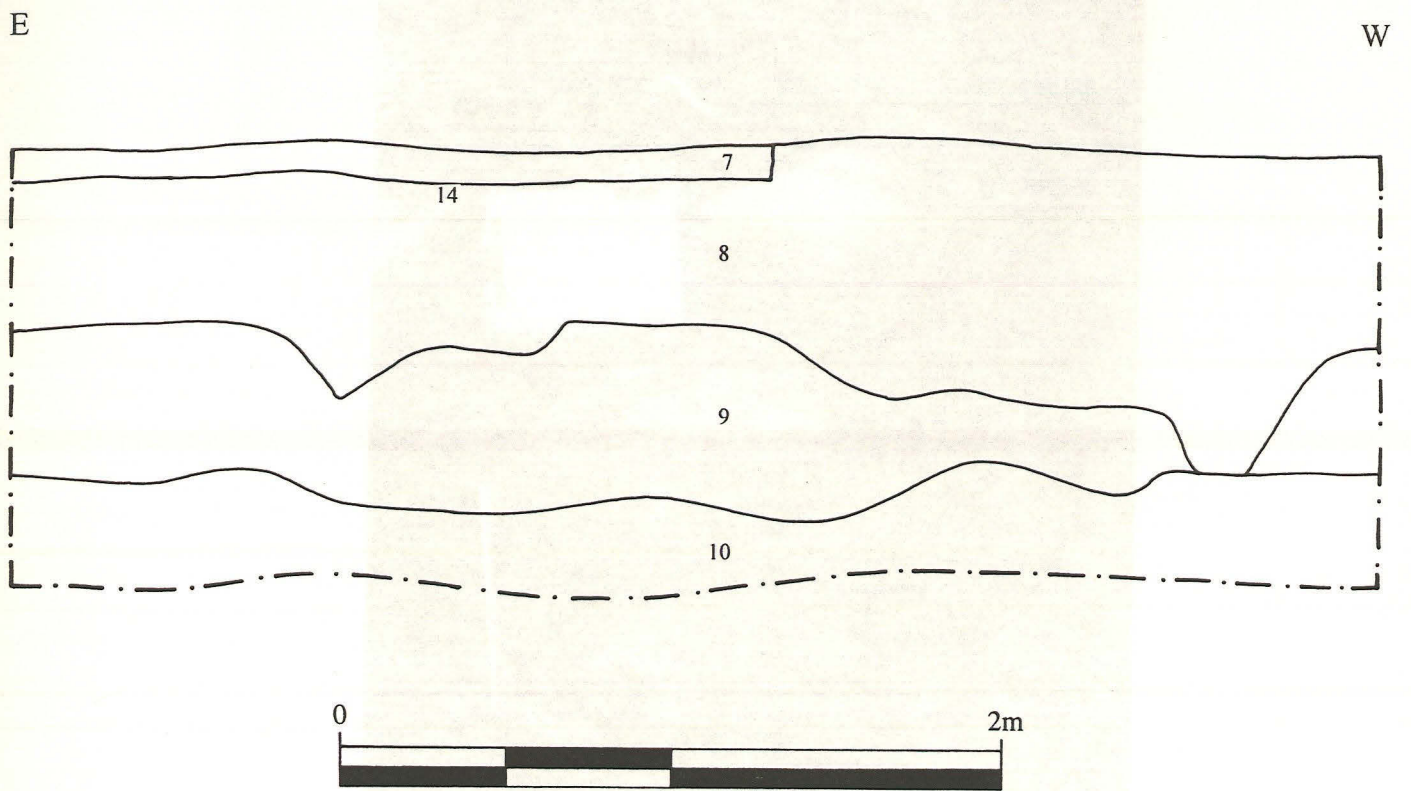
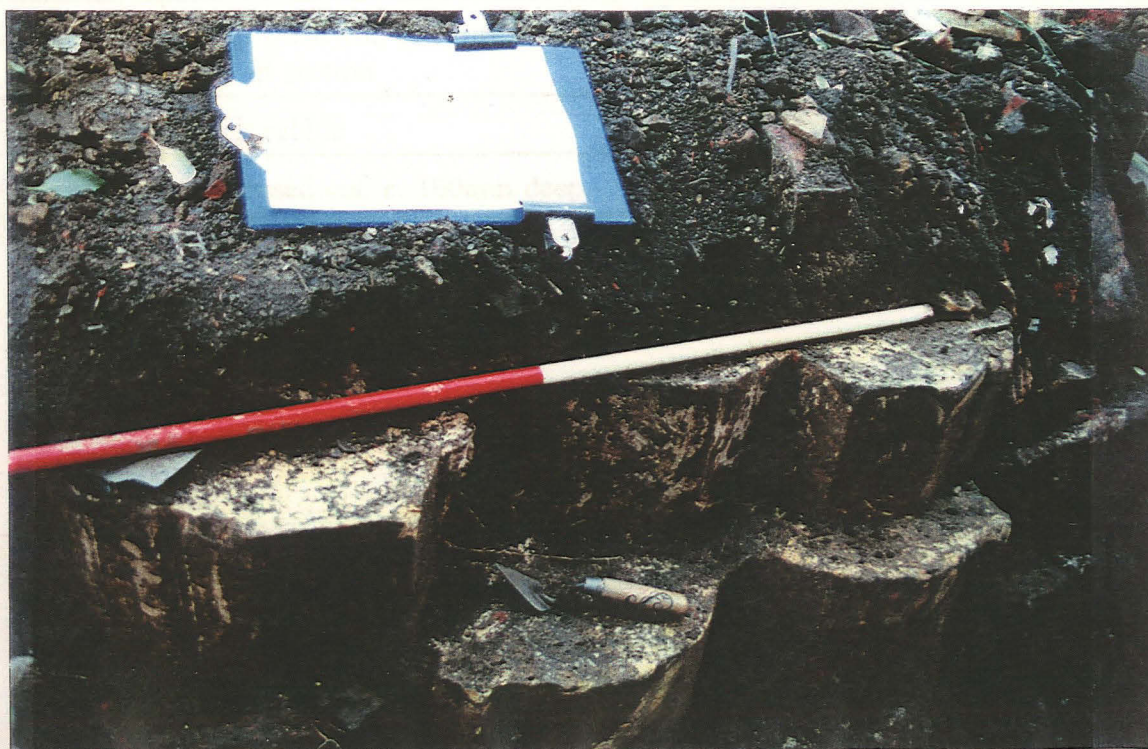


Plate 1 General View of Site, showing masonry fragments in section



Plate 2 Detail of Masonry Fragments



APPENDIX 1

Context Summary

Context No.	Description	Interpretation
1	Dark brown clayey silt with brick, tile, mortar and pottery inclusions	Topsoil
2	Ashlar blocks, filling cut 11	Foundation layer
3	Light brown silty clay with brick, tile, mortar, ash, pottery inclusions	Fill of cut 11, foundation trench fill
4	Dark brown silty clay with pebbles, brick, glass, pot inclusions	Topsoil
5	Brown brick fragments and stones	Make-up layer
6	Green-brown clayey silt with brick and pottery inclusions	Make-up layer
7	Crushed brick fragments	Foundation layer
8	Dark brown silty sand with brick, mortar, pebbles, bone inclusions	Topsoil
9	Brown clay silt with brick, sandstone and shell inclusions	Make-up layer
10	Brown sandy clay	Natural
11	Linear E-W cut, dimensions unknown	Foundation trench
12	Steep-sided cut, c. 0.9m wide, only seen in section	Pit
13	Brick rubble	Fill of 12
14	Flat-based cut, c. 100mm deep	Foundation trench

APPENDIX 2

The Archive

The archive consists of:

- 14 Context records
- 2 Photographic records
- 4 Scale drawings
- 1 Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

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

City and County Museum, Lincoln Accession Number: 170.94

Archaeological Project Services project code: BPG94