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LI5084

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

28 HIGH STREET, WELBOURN
LINCOLNSHIRE



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

Site Code: HSW 94
CCM Accession Number 155.94

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COLIN PALMER-BROWN

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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY
66 SCHOOL LANE
SILK WILLOUGHBY
SLEAFORD
LINCOLNSHIRE
NG32 8PH

PHONE & FAX 0529 302874

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November, 1994

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1.0 Non-Technical Summary

A planning application was submitted to North Kesteven District Council to convert outbuildings into dwellings and construct new garages to the rear of 28 High Street, Welbourn. Permission was granted, subject to a condition requiring archaeological observation and recording during preliminary construction works (an archaeological watching brief).

An intermittent recording brief, conducted during ground clearance and trenching, identified archaeological deposits of moderate interest which indicated (or confirmed) that the immediate site environment was occupied during the medieval and subsequent periods. No structural remains were identified during field work, though evidence was recorded which suggests that there was a programme of deliberate ground-raising within the C13th.

2.0 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief took place in October 1994 on the site of a development to the rear of 28 High Street, Welbourn (Fig. 1). These works were commissioned by the Fisher Hollingsworth Partnership on behalf of Mr D. Evans and were centred on a project specification submitted to the Client and the Community Archaeologist for North Kesteven.

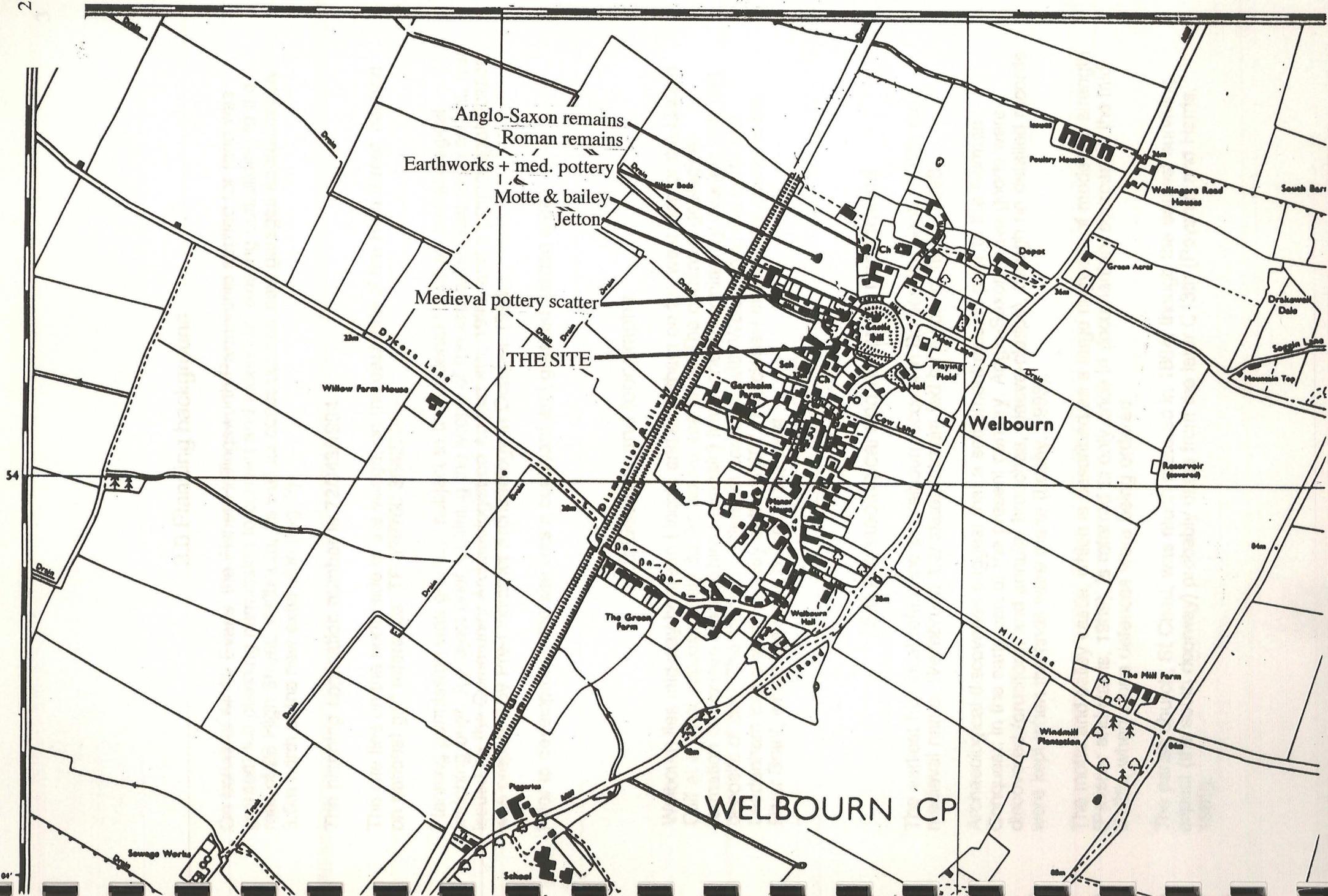
Material contained within the Sites and Monuments Record suggested that the archaeological potential of the site was moderately high, influenced largely by its proximity to Castle Hill, the surviving remnants of a motte and bailey.

Although important remains of almost every major period have been recorded in and around Welbourn, site-specific resources were not identified prior to the watching brief.

Remains discovered during the present development will be absorbed within the County Sites and Monuments Record and may influence future resource management decisions (within the planning process).

Fig. 1 Site location (with relevant entries from the Sites & Monuments Record)

2



There has been no systematic archaeological research undertaken within the village and parish, the majority of finds being chance discoveries. However, records of these finds, which are held by the City and County Museum, Lincoln, and by the late Lincolnshire, Hedlington, suggest that localised occupation took place during most of the major cultural periods.

3.0 Planning background

On behalf of Mr D. Evans, the Fisher Hollingsworth Partnership applied for (and was granted) full planning permission to convert and extend an existing outbuilding to the rear of 28 High Street, Welbourn, as well as construct four new garages approximately 3.0m north of the new extension (Fig. 2).

The planning application number is 72/343/1994.

The site lies on the north side of the village, on the east side of the High Street, centred on national grid reference TF 396750 354270.

SK 96750 34270

Planning permission was granted, subject to the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief. A project brief, outlining the scope of the archaeological requirement, was issued by the Community Archaeologist on August 4th, 1994, and a project specification was prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology in October 1994.

Prior to development, the site was a courtyard and grassed garden area.

4.0 Geology and topography

Welbourn lies mid-way between Lincoln and Grantham on the west side of the Lincoln Cliff at a point approximately 35.0m above sea level. The dominant geological formation comprises Lincolnshire (Jurassic) limestone, intermittently overlain with drift deposits of clay. The modern settlement connects with Welbourn to the north and Leadenham to the south by way of the A 607. The closest major water course is the River Brant, which lies some 3.5km to the west.

5.0 Archaeological and historical background

The earliest historical reference to Welbourn occurs in Domesday Book (1086); the medieval name, *Wellebrune*, translates 'stream fed by a spring' (Mills, 1993).

Archaeological discoveries suggest that a settlement existed prior to the Norman Conquest: in the early part of the present century, Anglo-Saxon grave goods were discovered (cruciform and annular brooches, sleeve-clasps), though no detailed records were kept when the finds were made (Leahy, 1993).

The motte and bailey castle, which is described as a large ringwork of moderate strength (Pevsner and Harris, 1989), is referred to only once in documentary sources; in the mid-C12th, when stone defences were being ordered.

The parish church, St Chad, was much restored in 1884, though the earliest surviving aspect (the south doorway) probably dates from the later C13th (Pevsner and Harris, 1989).

There has been no systematic archaeological research undertaken within the village and parish, the majority of finds being chance discoveries. However, records of these finds, which are held by the City and County Museum, Lincoln, and by Heritage Lincolnshire, Heckington, suggest that localised occupation took place during most of the major cultural periods.

The development site lies approximately 1.0km west of the Roman road, Ermine Street. Roman remains have been recorded as field scatters approximately 200m north of the development area, though the status of these remains is uncertain (Roman settlement evidence has been found within or close to many of the modern settlements sited along the limestone cliff edge, south of Lincoln, though the data has not been quantified by way of systematic field research).

6.0 Aims

The principal aims of the watching brief were to ensure that any archaeological features or artefactual remains exposed or retrieved during groundworks were recorded and interpreted to standards accepted by the Community Archaeologist for North Kesteven. A project Specification, based around these objectives, was jointly agreed between Pre-Construct Archaeology, the Community Archaeologist and the Client.

7.0 Methodology

As the Client expressed a willingness to undertake soil stripping and excavation in one basic operation, a continuous watching brief was maintained during ground clearance and trenching. Mechanical excavation was undertaken using a JCB with back actor, fitted with a 1.0m wide bucket and narrow trenching bucket.

Initially, an area measuring approximately 9.0m x 6.5m was marked-out to the rear of No. 28 High Street, where a new lounge and conservatory will be constructed. In this area, up to 1.3m of soil was to be excavated, bringing the ground surface to the same level as the courtyard, immediately to the north of the proposed extension.

It was requested that the Client first cut-away an east-west section, extending eastwards from the standing building so that the exposed section face could be examined in detail, the results of which would be used to determine further methods of soil removal. The exposed face, which measured approximately 3.8m in length, was straightened and meticulously cleaned. It was then photographed and drawn before being cut-back to recover datable finds.

Following an examination of the above section face (at which time it became clear that no structural or significant earth-cut features were present), the whole of the foundation footprint was removed to below the top of the natural sub-stratum. Into this, foundation trenches measuring approximately 50cm in depth were excavated to contain three brick walls associated with a new lounge area.

North of the principal house extension, no widespread ground reduction was necessary as a prerequisite to construction as, in this area (to be occupied by four garage plots), the level ground surface was already approximately 1.3m lower than the area designated for house extension. Instead, foundation trenches were marked-out and excavated to depths varying between 0.5 and 1.0m below the modern ground surface. The bases of

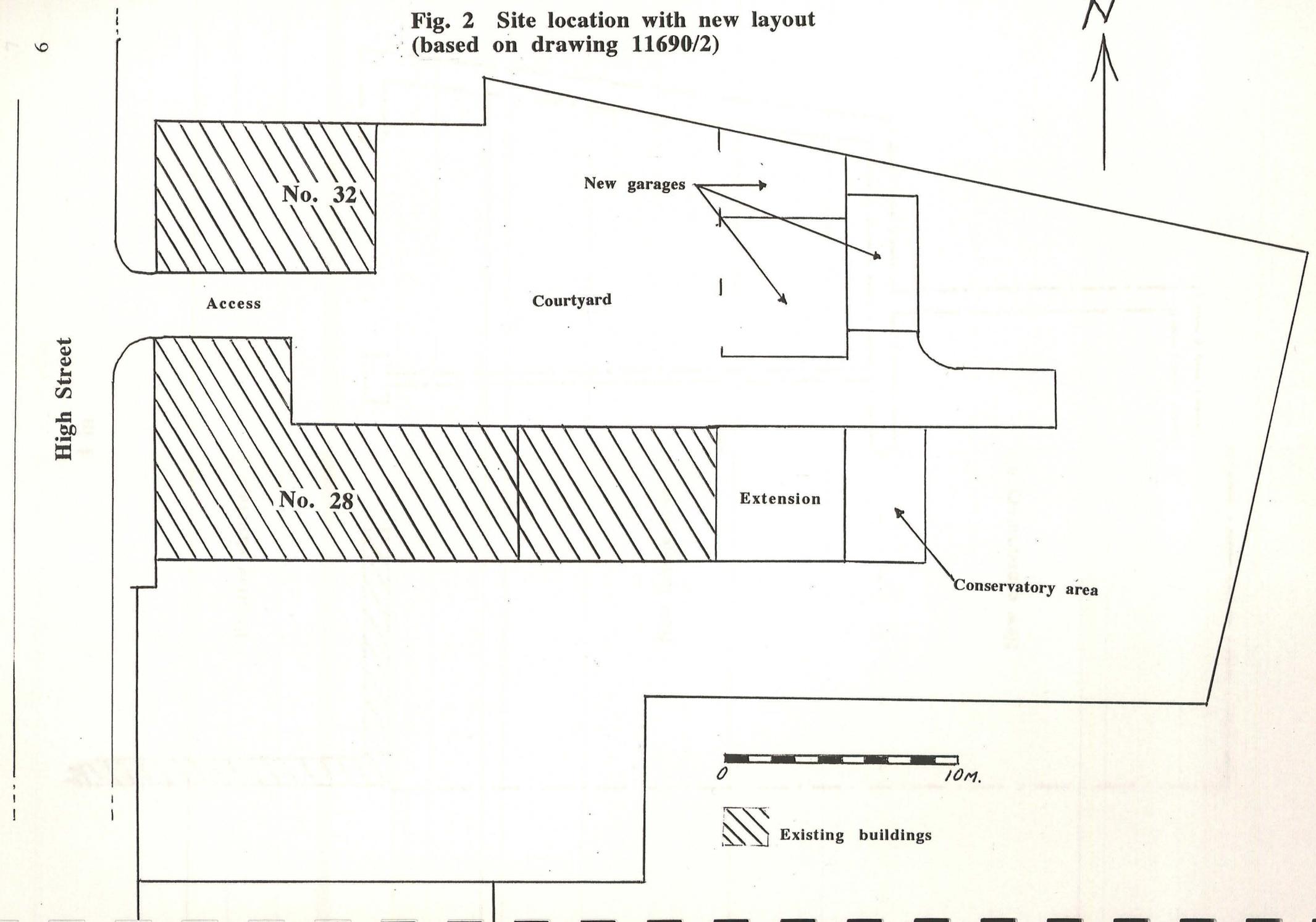
trenches were inspected for intrusive archaeological remains.

Artefacts from the site were collected and subsequently submitted for specialist appraisal. Colour photographs were taken (prints and slides) and context information was entered on standard pro-forma context sheets.

All recording and excavation was undertaken by the writer.



Fig. 2 Site location with new layout
(based on drawing 11690/2)



6

High Street

No. 32

Access

Courtyard

New garages

No. 28

Extension

Conservatory area

0 10M.

Existing buildings

Fig. 3 Location of areas excavated (to be used in conjunction with Fig. 2)

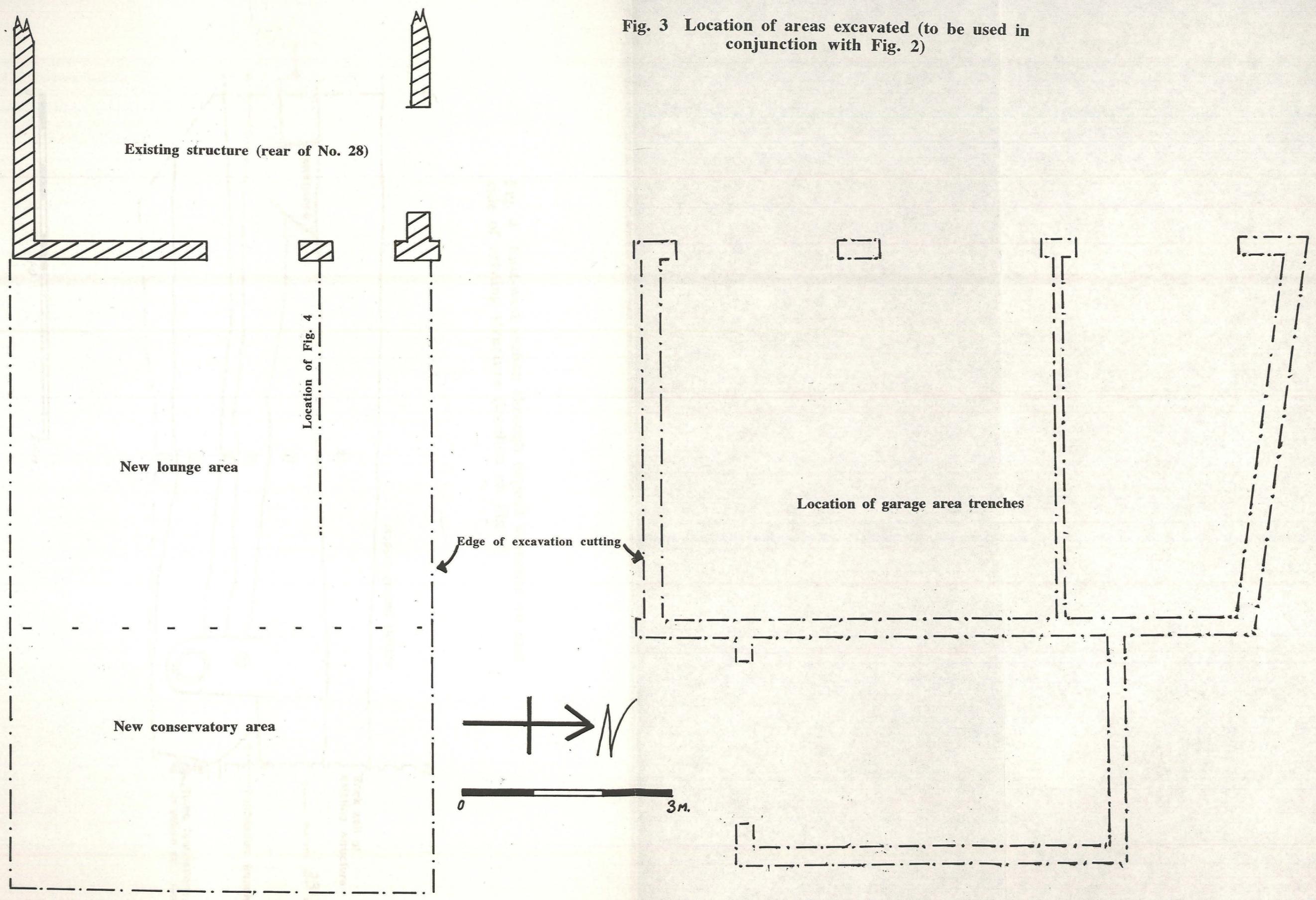
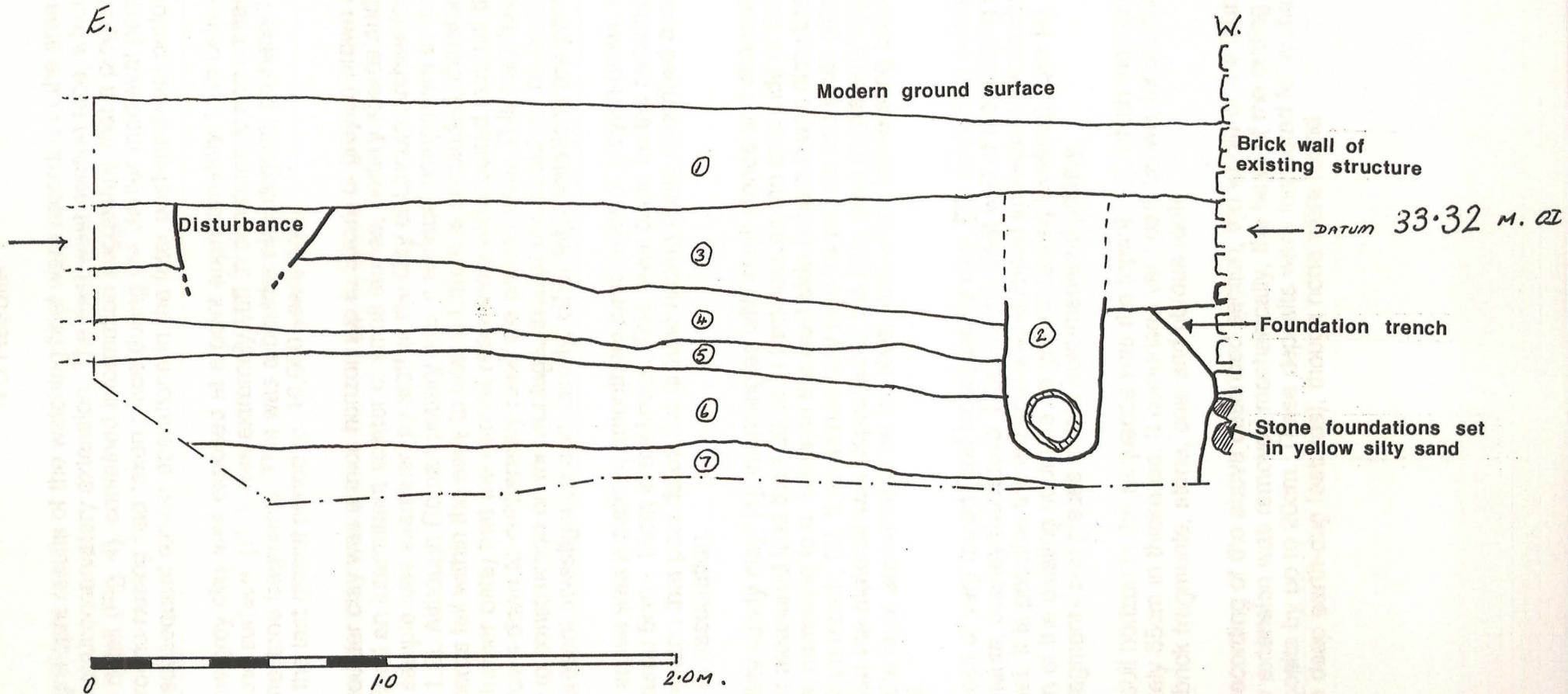


Fig. 4 East-west section through deposit sequence on east side of existing structure (location on Fig. 3)



8.0 Results

The most significant results of the watching brief were recorded in the area of the proposed house/conservatory extension. The east-west section face, which was examined in detail (Fig. 4), contained information suggesting that a programme of deliberate ground-raising had taken place during the earlier medieval period (which was followed by subsequent similar operations in the later post-medieval period).

Natural yellow/grey clay was exposed at a point approximately 1.2m below the modern (raised) ground surface, [7]. It was extremely stiff in consistency and contained a random scatter of limestone fragments. This was a boulder clay deposit, probably laid-down at the close of the last glacial period (c. 10,000 years ago).

Above the boulder clay was a thick horizon (up to 30cm) of greyish-brown sandy clay, [6], which contained an intermittent scatter of small stones, pottery sherds and animal bones. The pottery sample was examined by staff at the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (Appendix 11.6). Although Roman pottery was a residual component to the assemblage, the latest sherds fall within the early to later C13th. It is concluded, therefore (in the absence of further data) that the deposit represents redeposited material that was probably thrown-down to deliberately raise the ground level. This may have formed a prerequisite to construction on the frontage, though this could not be demonstrated during the present investigation and, clearly, other interpretations are possible.

Sealing the above was a distinct, smooth-textured layer of greyish-brown clay-silt, [5], which measured 6cm - 14cm in thickness. This layer could be the remains of a buried soil or turf horizon that post-dated the ground-raising dump described above. No finds were found in association.

A layer of dirty sandy clay, [4], intermingled with small stones and charcoal flecks sealed the above. It measured less than 20cm in thickness on the east side of the exposed section face, narrowing to c. 10cm on the west side (where it was disturbed by the cut of a modern drain trench, [2]). It contained clay pipe fragments and white glazed pottery, indicating that the material was deposited in the later post-medieval/Victorian period. The top of the layer appeared to be the level from which the existing building was constructed.

A thick deposit of very mixed (and loose) sandy clay, [3], containing occasional brick and stone fragments, overlay the above. It butted the west wall of the existing building, and its top was level. It is possible the material was dumped immediately following the construction of the existing structure (ie ground-raising/levelling). Like [4], it contained clay pipe fragments and pieces of late post-medieval pottery.

The latest soil horizon in the sequence was the topsoil, [1], which measured approximately 35cm in thickness. It comprised very dark brown, loose, humic loamy clay containing brick fragments, stone, coal and fibrous roots.

Following recording of the above described section, the whole of the foundation footprint for the new extension was removed mechanically, the base of the cutting truncating natural deposits by up to 20cm. These deposits were inspected for archaeological remains (ie deep earth-dug features), though none were found.

As the modern ground surface was lower in the courtyard area, there was no requirement to reduce the overall ground level, and foundation trenches for the four new garages were cut from the existing ground surface (which, one assumes, was reduced when the existing buildings were constructed). Trenches were cut to depths of between 0.5 and 1.0m below the modern ground surface. No archaeological deposits were exposed, except for a modern demolition/make-up horizon, seen in the northernmost trench just below the turf. No further archaeological monitoring was deemed appropriate.

9.0 Summary and conclusions

The watching brief has confirmed that occupation was taking place around the development site during the medieval period. The limited ceramic evidence derived during field investigations suggests that deliberate ground-raising was taking place on the site at some time during the C13th. It has been suggested that this was associated with structural development closer to the street frontage though, clearly, this is extremely hypothetical and could not be proved without further investigation.

The occurrence of residual Romano-British pottery is not totally surprising. Archaeological resources dating to within the Roman period have been recorded elsewhere in the parish, though the status of these remains has not been determined.

10.0 Acknowledgements

On behalf of Pre-Construct Archaeology, sincere thanks are expressed to the Fisher Hollingsworth Partnership, and to Derek Evans for commissioning the works. Thanks go also to Jane Young and Judy Wilkinson for finds assessment.

11.0 Appendices

11.1 List of contexts (classical)

Context	Classification
[1]	Trench
[2]	Locus 12 with ladder north-south drainage trench, post-hole (wing) structure

11.1 List of contexts

11.2 Colour photographs

11.3 Site Archive

11.4 References

11.5 Relevant entries extracted from the Sites and Monuments Record

11.6 Pottery archive record (City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit)

11.1 List of contexts (classification only)

Context	Classification
[1]	Topsoil
[2]	Loose fill within modern north-south drainage trench, parallel with existing structure
[3]	Thick horizon of mixed stiff clay, intermingled with topsoil-like material; contained fragments of brick, stone, post-medieval pottery and clay pipe fragments. Modern ground-raising dump.
[4]	Dirty mixed sandy clay layer. Post-medieval ground-raising dump
[5]	?Buried soil horizon.
[6]	Medieval (?C13th) ground-raising dump
[7]	Natural boulder clay horizon mixed with limestone brash

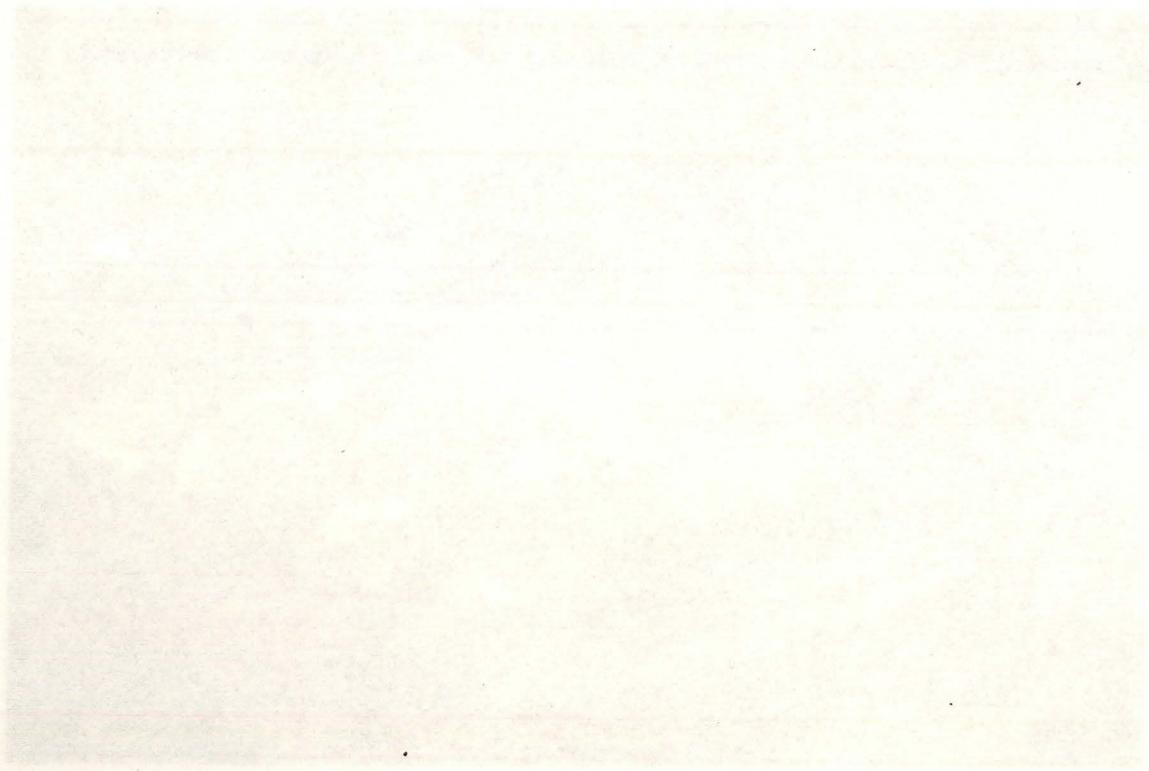


Figure 11.1.1. Cross-section of soil layers and construction after ground refutation.

Appendix 11.2 Colour photographs



Photo. 1 East-west section exposed in area of new lounge extension



Photo. 2 Area of new lounge and conservatory after ground reduction



Photo. 3 Excavation of foundation trenches (through natural clay)
in area of new lounge extension

11.3 Site Archives

The basic site archive comprises the following:

x7 Context sheets

x1 colour print film

x1 1: 200 site location plan

x1 1:50 site/trench location plan

x1 1:20 section drawing

x2 bags of finds (pottery)

Misc. notes and correspondence

Primary records are currently with Pre-Construct Archaeology, though the paper and physical archive will be deposited with the City and County Museum within 1 year of completion of this report, together with a more detailed archive list.

11.4 References

Leahy, K 1993 in Vince, A (Ed.) *Pre-Viking Lindsey*, 41

Mills, A D 1993, *English Place-Names*, 350

Pevsner N & Harris J, 1989 *The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire*, 284

11.5 Information derived from the Sites and Monuments Record held at the City and County Museum, Lincoln

CCM ref.	SGR	Description
B	SK 966544	Medieval pottery scatter (ploughed 1960).
G	SK 968545	Anglo-Saxon remains found at Welbourn, according to Baldwin Brown in "The Arts in Early England" Vol. V. No details given.
H	SK 968545	<i>OS Records</i> . Archaeology Review, Vol. III (Roman remains).
I	SK 973533	Romano-British pottery (C4th AD); burnt building remains
L	SK 97635305	Burial with bronze penannular brooch with coiled terminals
S	c. SK 9654	Undated foundations found at Welbourn Place
W	SK 96755435	German Jetton, late C16th
AD	SK 96695448	Medieval bank and ditch earthworks; scatter of C13th and C14th pottery
AE	SK 96805432	Medieval motte & bailey (remains). A fortified mansion; wide moat + 2 parallel trenches. Scheduled Ancient Monument (No. 116)
AF	c. SK 9654	<i>OS Records</i> . Hamlet of Sapperton in Welbourn Parish. Little Manor House said to have been at side of Lincoln to Grantham road.

Appendix 11.6 Pottery archive (by J. Young and J. Wilkinson, CLAU).

PHASE

SITE CODE HSW94 SITE 155.94. CONTEXT (6)

ROMAN		3	shell + quartz	EMED			LMED		
E SAX				NSP			LLSW		
M SAX				LOCC			LMLOC		
				LEMS			LMX		
L SAX				EMLOC			TB		
LKT		1	jar bs	LSWI			MP		
LSH				DST			BOU		
LSLS				EMX					
LG				EMHM					
LCGS							PM		
ELSW							GRE		
EST				MED			CIST		
LSLOC				LSW2	1	early rim jug	BL		
LSX				LSW3			PMLOC		
LKT		1	bowl bs.	LSWA			SLIP		
				POTT			TGE		
SN				MEDLOC			MY		
LFS				MEDX					
SNLS				LSW2	1	bs.			
TORK									
SNLOC									
ST									
SNX									
THET									
							LPM		
							LPMDISC		

SMALL FINDS	TILE	DRAWING	Earliest date	MH4
		1	Latest date	MH6
		2	Probable date	MH5
		3	COMMENTS	
BONE		4		

CLAU MEDIEVAL POTTERY DATING 5TH TO 19TH CENTURIES SEP 1994

HORIZONS	DATING	PERIOD
ASH1	5TH - ?L7TH	ANGLO-SAXON
ASH2	?L7TH - ?L7/E8TH	MIDDLE SAXON
ASH3	?E8TH - ?M8TH	
ASH4	?M8TH - ?L8TH	
ASH5	?E9TH - ?M9TH	
ASH6	?M9TH - ?L9TH	
ASH7	?L9TH	
ASH8	L9TH - E10TH	
ASH9	E/M10TH - M10TH	
ASH10	M10TH - L10TH	
ASH11	L10TH	
ASH12	E11TH - ?E/M11TH	SAXO-NORMAN
ASH13	?E/M11TH - M/L11TH	
ASH14	L11TH - E/M12TH	
MH1	?E/M12TH - M12TH	EARLY MEDIEVAL
MH2	M12TH - M/L12TH	
MH3	M/L12TH - E13TH	
MH4	E13TH - E/M13TH	
MH5	E/M13TH - ?L13TH	HIGH MEDIEVAL
MH6	?L13TH - ?M14TH	
MH7	?M14TH - ?L14TH	MEDIEVAL
MH8	?L14TH - ?E15TH	
MH9	?E15TH - M/L15	
MH10	M/L15TH - L15TH	
PMH1	E16TH-M16TH	EARLY POST-MEDIEVAL
PMH2	M16TH-M/L16TH	
PMH3	M/L16TH-E17TH	POST MEDIEVAL
PMH4	E17TH-M17TH	
PMH5	M17TH-M/L17TH	
PMH6	M/L17TH-L17TH	
PMH7	L17TH-E18TH	
PMH8	E18TH-M18TH	LATE POST-MEDIEVAL
PMH9	M18TH-L18TH	
PMH10	L18TH-E19TH	
EMH	L18TH-20TH	EARLY MODERN