

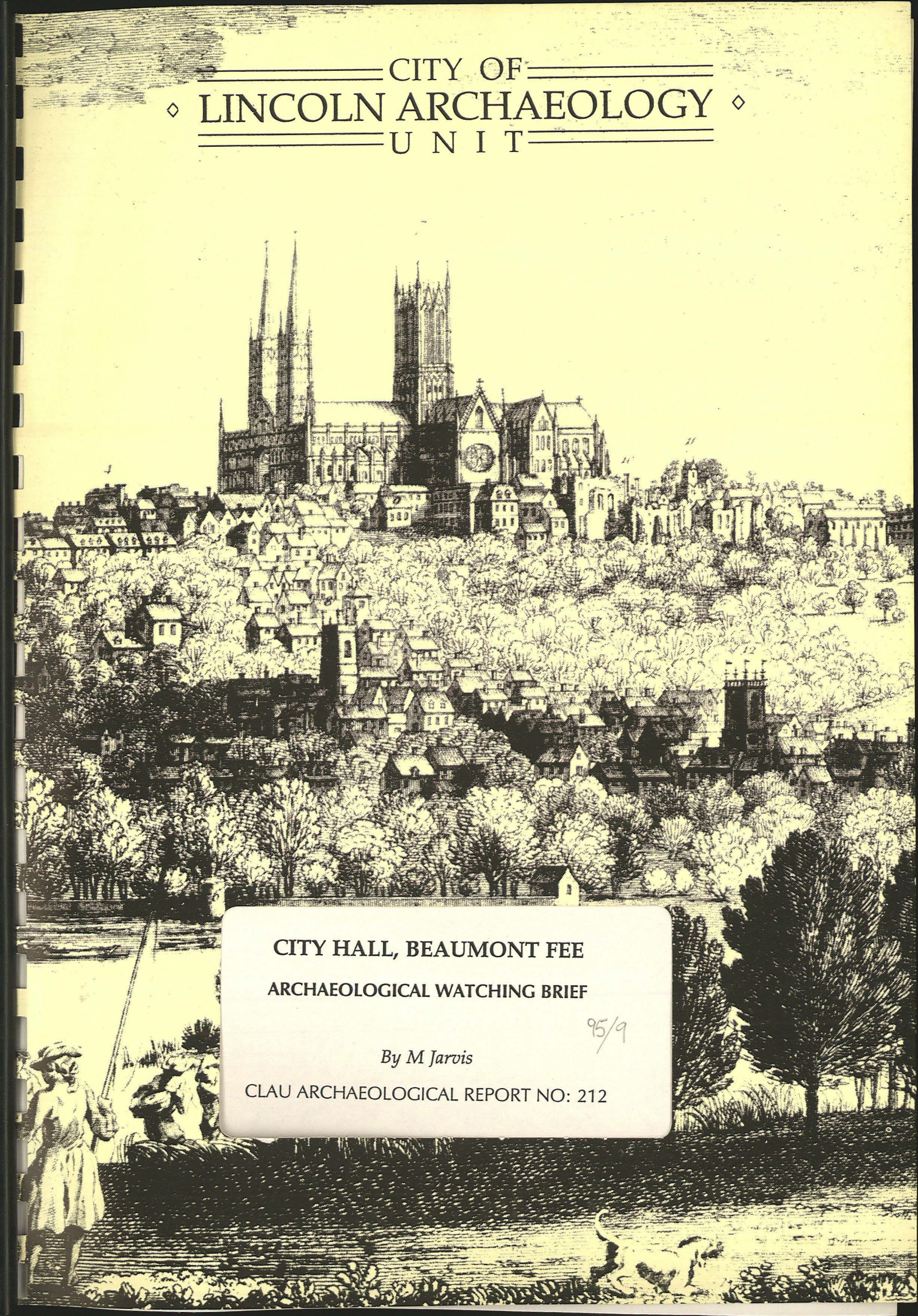
CITY OF  
◇ LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY ◇  
UNIT

CITY HALL, BEAUMONT FEE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

*By M Jarvis*

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 212

95/9





A  
Report to  
*Lincoln City Council*

September 1995

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# CITY HALL BEAUMONT FEE, LINCOLN

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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# CITY HALL, BEAUMONT FEE, LINCOLN

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

### 1. Introduction

This document has been prepared by the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU) for Lincoln City Council (LCC). The CLAU was commissioned to monitor groundworks during the construction of a wheelchair access ramp to the first floor reception area at City Hall, Beaumont Fee, Lincoln (National Grid Reference SK 9732 7142), as a condition of Scheduled Monuments Consent (SMC). The construction of the ramp formed part of an ongoing scheme to improve public/disabled access to Council buildings.

### 2. Site Location (Fig. 1)

The access ramp (the site) is located on the east side of City Hall and constitutes the primary access to the first floor reception area.

#### 2.1 Topography and Geology

The site lies at the base of a Jurassic Limestone scarp, known as the Lincoln Edge. The 1:50000 scale geological map for the area (sheet 114) shows the site to lie on Middle Lias clay and shale.

#### 2.2 Archaeological Background

The site lies in an area of high archaeological importance.

Excavations in 1968-72 uncovered and identified large sections of the Roman City Wall and the Lower West Gate (County Ancient Monument No. 187). The access ramp is located slightly to the east of the wall, above the buried, inner rampart bank.

Post-Roman occupation of the area was primarily of a domestic nature. Rubbish pits thought to be associated with properties fronting on to Beaumont Fee in the 11th century have been recorded, and a series of medieval buildings and associated rubbish pits were recorded during excavations in 1972 north of the Lower West Gate.



### 3. Aims and Methodology (Fig. 2)

The aims of the archaeological watching brief were to record any archaeological deposits which might have been disturbed during the excavation of foundation trenches associated with the construction of the access ramp. These trenches were nominally 900mm deep and 450mm wide and extended east from the base of the steps leading up to the reception area for c.16m.

All archaeological work was carried out in compliance with the appropriate conditions of Scheduled Monument Consent (Ref No. HSD9/2/100 8pt2).

Excavation of the foundation trenches was undertaken by mini-mechanical excavator. A toothless bucket was used during the foundation trench excavation in order to minimise damage to archaeological deposits.

Spoil generated during the excavations was retained on site, and was periodically examined for artefacts.

The archaeological record was obtained through a combination of trench side observations, scale drawings (where health and safety permitted) and by photographic recording.

Archaeological observations of the ground-works were dictated by the contractor's programme of work. After ground-work had commenced and areas most likely to reveal archaeological deposits observed, a policy of intermittent archaeological monitoring was adopted.

### 4. Analysis (Fig. 3)

The earliest deposits recorded in the two foundation trenches were a series of shallow, horizontal, levelling deposits [004, 005, 006]. These deposits varied in their composition from a dark brown clay soil containing frequent inclusions of limestone, concrete and steel rod [006], to [004] a band of clean limestone hardcore.

A large cut [007] was observed at the far west end of the foundation trenches. Only the eastern half of the cuts profile was recorded within the confines of the foundation trench. This cut lay at the base of and extended beneath steps rising up to the first floor reception area.

A large fragment of bonded masonry was recorded lying on the east side of cut [007], in the north section of foundation trench two. Cleaning of this masonry fragment revealed it to have been bonded by an apparently modern concrete mortar. A deposit of limestone hardcore [002], sealed this masonry fragment and infilled cut [007].

Sealing this hardcore and in part deposit [005] was a narrow skim of concrete, which had been used as a base for paving slabs, forming a paved standing area at the base of the steps into the Council offices. The paving was removed by hand prior to the excavation of the foundation trenches.

No further features were recorded during the observations.

## 6. Conclusions

From the observations made during the watching brief it can be assumed that deposits relating to pre-modern land use are not evident above the level of the foundation disturbance. Those deposits recorded were all recent in date and likely to be contemporary with the construction of the Council building (c.1972).

## 7. Acknowledgements

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit would like to thank Lincoln City Council for funding the watching brief and its post-fieldwork analysis. Thanks are also extended to those LCC employees undertaking the work, for their full co-operation throughout the duration of the archaeological monitoring.

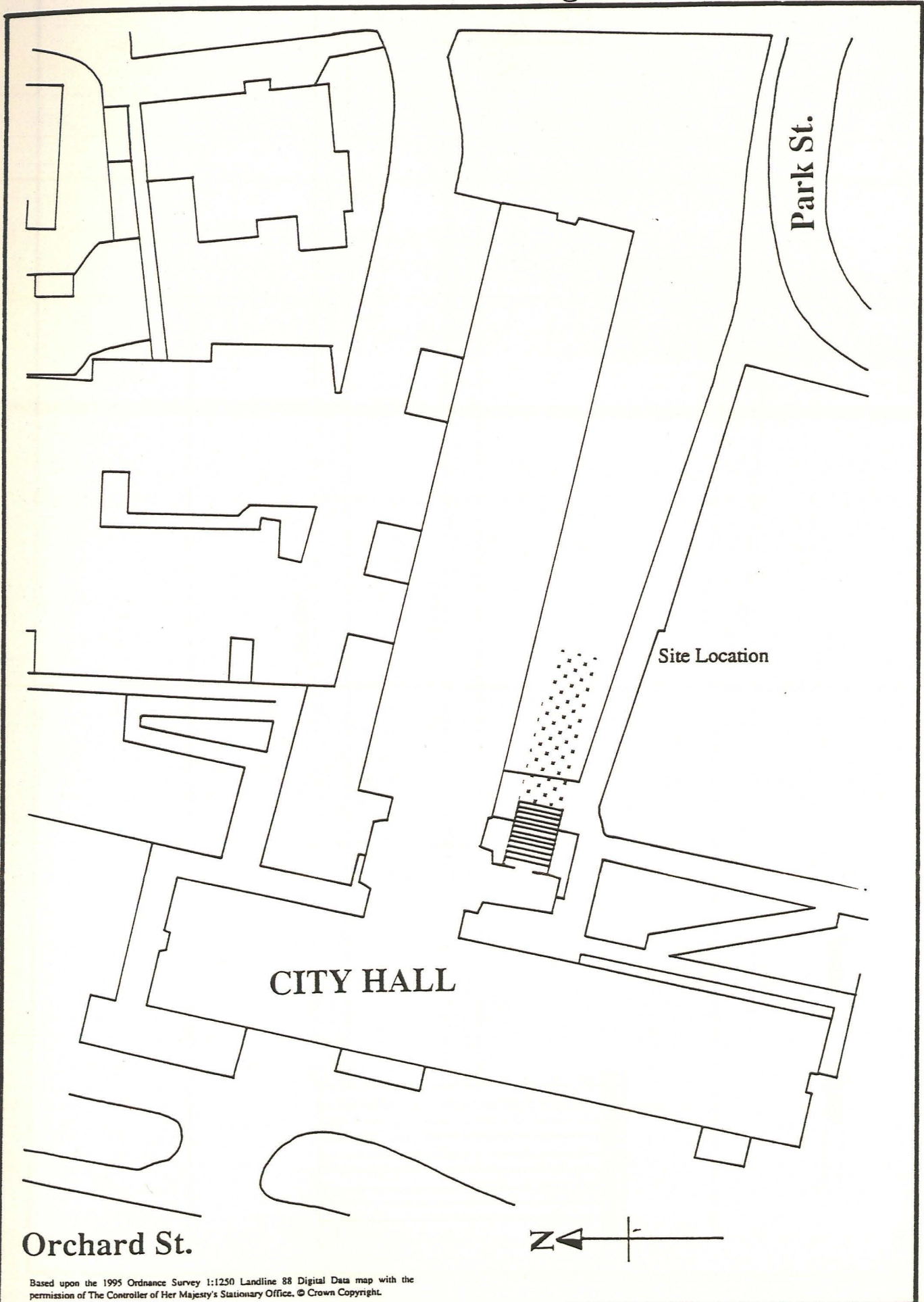
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Donel, L 1993 *Lower West Gate, City Hall. Recording of remains of Roman wall prior to conservation and backfilling*, CLAU archaeological report 67, City Lincoln Archaeol Unit, Lincoln, [LAM BIB154]

Jones, M J 1990 Lincoln's Roman defences: The Lower City, in Jones, Michael J (ed) *Lincoln Archaeology 1989-1990*, Annu Rep City Lincoln Archaeol Unit 2, 23-4, City Lincoln Archaeol Unit, Lincoln, [LAM BIB294 ]



Fig. 1: Site Location Plan



Based upon the 1995 Ordnance Survey 1:1250 Landline 88 Digital Data map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. © Crown Copyright.



Fig. 2: Foundation Trench Location Plan

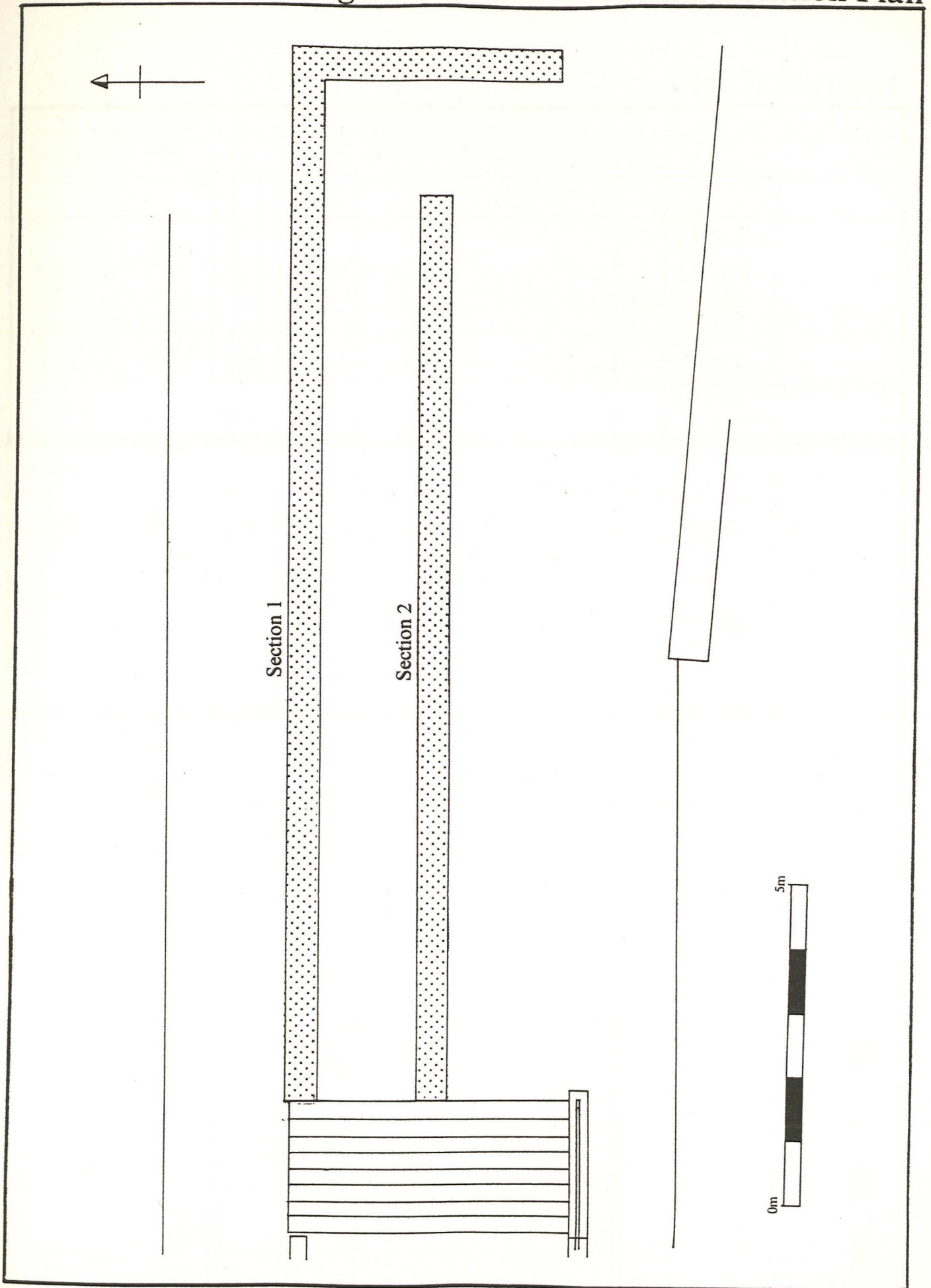




Fig. 3: Sections

