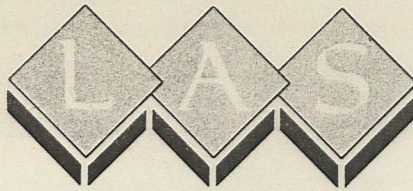


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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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**GAINSBOROUGH OLD HALL
Paths Renewal
Archaeological Watching Brief (Ref:GOH P-93).
(Order no. RS/21354)**

July 1993

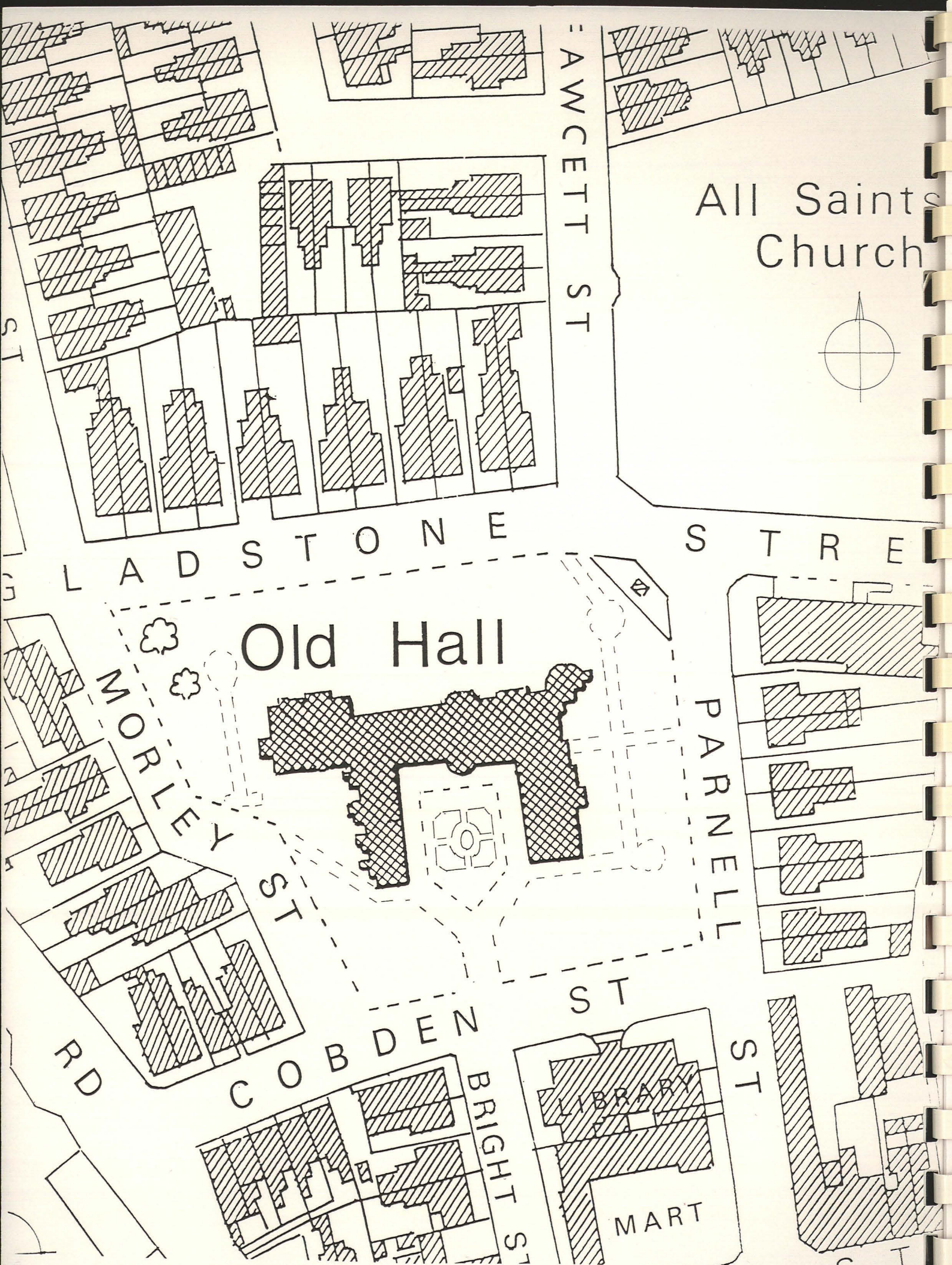


Fig. 1 Old Hall environs. Based upon the Ordnance Survey's 1:2500 map with permission of the Controller of HMSO Crown copyright. M.Clark

GAINSBOROUGH OLD HALL
Paths Renewal
Archaeological Watching Brief (Ref:GOH P-93).
(Order no. RS/21354)

Introduction

A watching brief was undertaken by Lindsey Archaeological Services during renewal and enlargement of the paths around the Old Hall in February 1993, on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council.

On 17/2/93, The Old Hall reception staff informed L.A.S. that path renewal operations had commenced on 15/2/93. The Inspector for English Heritage, Mr.M.Southrell, requested L.A.S. to visit the site on 18/2/93 to establish the nature, extent and duration of work.

The report is accompanied by an album of photographs reference to which is given in the text by the prefix P.

Description

On arrival the following observations were made:

- (1) The existing north-south path and terminal to the west of the Hall had been removed and the void was being filled with imported topsoil (Fig.4 Area Z)P1.
- (2) The east-west path at the south end of the West Range (Fig.3 Area E) and the north-west to south-east continuation from the south-west angle of the West Range to the Morley St entrance (Fig.3, Area K) had been removed, excavated to about 200mm and filled with 150mm sub-base of crushed limestone (MOT type 1) P2 & 3.
- (3) The proposed increased path widths had been marked out and the turf removed in preparation for the excavation of kerb trenches. P4-10.

The work was being carried out by Linkways under the direction of Mr. R. Hancock. The site foreman-ganger Mr. S. Hancock provided a general description of works in progress with reference to the work-sheet specifications under Job No.42033000.

It should be noted that paths excavated over their total width were in Areas C, E, K, Y and Z (C and Y being widened). Those requiring kerb trenches only were in Areas G, H, J, L, M and N. Areas A, B and D were widened by simply excavating an extra-wide kerb-trench of up to c.1.15M at D west; c.0.50m at A east and west; and varying from c.0.50m to c.2.00m at the semi-circular north kerb of B.

Generally, the level of new base material is from 50mm to 125mm higher than the old path surfaces including provision of new

camber. The watching brief was carried out only over the main machine-excavated trenches and did not include Areas M and N (Fig.4, P44) which, it is assumed required narrow, manually-excavated kerb trenches of shallow depth as at Areas J and L. The top-dressing of tarmac was to be added during the summer months.

Topsoil stripping to a depth of c.350mm at the angle of the Great Hall and the East Range was exposed and truncated archaeological features (Fig.3, Area-D/Y)P11.. The work was halted to allow inspection by Mr. M. Southrell. Subsequent discussion with the contracting manager resulted in an amendment to the specifications to the effect that the depth of top-stripping be reduced by c.100mm (from the ramp in Fig.7,P12). It was agreed to postpone top-stripping and base-filling work in Area-D/Y until an archaeological record was made of those features already exposed.

Background

In 1982, the North Lincolnshire Archaeological Unit carried out a survey and excavation in the timber-framed West Range in advance of repairs and alterations. In 1984 there were further excavations in the western half of the South Courtyard (Clark 1991, Field 1991). Since 1984 numerous pre-repair excavations, surveys and watching briefs have been undertaken by Lindsey Archaeological Services, the most recent being a watching brief commissioned by Anglian Water on the installation of water mains in Gladstone Street, Morley Street, Cobden Street (trench route visible in P51), Bright Street and Lord Street (Clark 1993). This work provided vital information on the sub strata surrounding the Hall, the (yet unproven) route of the moat and the question of possible further Hall ranges to the south. The route of the moat was provisionally plotted using data from the watching briefs, surface levels and a survey of subsidence in buildings around the Hall, e.g. 4 & 6 Parnell St, (P38,background right). From this it seemed likely that the moat crossed the south side of the Hall just south of the East and West Ranges.

Comparison of the 1886 and 1992 surface levels seemed to indicate that ground surfaces had been severely truncated to varying degrees at some time between these dates (certainly during the provision of new streets from 1891 onwards and in the Mart Yard, November 1892). The 1984 excavation showed the apparent absence of c.14th to 18th century layers at the south end of the courtyard. The results of documentary research suggested that considerable damage may also have been caused by levelling and gardening operations within the grounds during and after World War II.

Exposure of large areas, even to a depth of 10 or 20cm is, therefore, potentially damaging where perhaps only fragmentary evidence of earlier archaeological horizons may survive.

Exposed features at angle of Great Hall and East Range
(Fig.3, Area D/Y; Fig.6; Fig 7)

Certain features were previously known to exist in this area from their depiction in old engravings. The stub of brickwork 12 (P18-20) may be either the remains of a stair support giving access into an inserted door into the main newel stair, or the west support for a lean-to porch illustrated by Nattes in 1790 and Patrick in c.1820. Access to this brickwork was obstructed by drains and slabs, therefore no detailed excavation or recording was attempted other than retrieval of three sherds of pottery (found in a soil layer sealing 12) dating to c.17th-18th century.

The line of bricks 14 (P13-15) was not examined below the machined ground-level, but is probably too far to the east to be associated with the porch existing in 1790.

Pits 6 (the upper fill of which contained 18th-19th century pottery, animal bone and oyster shell), 7 and 13 appeared to contain similar types of dark, ashy fill and may have been contemporary. P16-17. Pit 13 was butted by the north wall of culvert 3 and may have been cut by it. P16.

The construction trench 28 for the corridor wall brick underbuild (of c.1880), P14-15, contained a fill, 8, of mixed clay and mortar and gypsum fragments. Two fragments of window glass were retrieved. At the south edge of the trench was a band of red clay 19. It was not clear if this was undisturbed clay 18 or re-deposit of clean upcast from the construction trench. No further excavation was conducted here as the machined level was already five brick courses below the existing ground level at this point.

East Range west elevation: north and south doorways
(Fig.3 Area D;)

Area D was machined to a depth of c300mm; the threshold areas to the doorways to a slightly shallower depth (Fig.8). The northern threshold P27 produced one complete but fragmented roof-tile P28 half of which was left in situ at a level which produced 19th century pottery. Above this level was a make-up layer of soil containing mortar and brick fragments upon which was laid one course of bricks (re-used from the curtain-wall?). Above the bricks were laid the stone slab step and threshold.

At the southern doorway P29 the section showed a similar fill, over which were two courses of bricks (samples measuring 220 x 105 x 58mm and 235 x 115 x 60mm) which formed a base for the stone slab step and threshold. To the west of the threshold area, immediately below the existing tarmac path, was a surface made of dry-laid bricks (sample dimensions: 230 x 110 x 78mm, orange-red to yellow with a shallow upper and lower frog). This had the appearance of being simply a neatly laid base for the tarmac rather than a finished surface.

Main Newel Stair foundation

In advance of the top-stripping, Area Y (Fig.3), adjacent to the stair and Great Hall, was checked for any protruding structures which might have been prone to damage by the digger bucket. The early brick porch and Great Hall buttress footings (Fig.6) were below the proposed depth of excavation, but the nature of the footings to the Main Stair was not known. A small excavation was made P21,22 to expose the buried wall-face on the south-west side. This revealed the brick face of the c.1880 under-build, which continued vertically for a depth of several courses below the proposed depth of the top-stripping. The construction trench fill contained 18th-19th century pottery.

West Range, east path, Area-C Figs.3 & 6; P5.

The flagstones over this area were partly re-laid after the 1982 excavations (Fig. 2), but removed before 1984 for further drainage installation which was not monitored archaeologically. Both drainage and re-paving were responsible for the damage to the West Range external newel stair footing, the surviving fragments of which were recorded (and removed) during the 1984 excavations. It is believed that additional provision of drains and gas-mains has taken place subsequent to 1984, but no details are known.

Beneath the flagstones were various beddings of sand and weak mortar, P5, with various disturbances from recent drainage trenches in mixed clay and soils, P24. No specific archaeological layers or features were identified. The contractors retrieved numerous 19th century pottery sherds mostly from the area immediately adjacent to, and running the length of, the West Range east wall, where a 19th century trench had been backfilled almost entirely with discarded pottery and glass, creating a form of French drain (partially recorded in 1982).

The Moat

A series of auger samples were taken along the line of the excavated kerb trenches between the East and West Range gables and the Cobden St entrance (Fig.6). P32-36. The red and grey clay visible in the trench bottom (contexts 18 and 40 respectively) although appearing mixed and discontinuous at the excavated surface, proved to be undisturbed at a short depth below the modern ground surface (note small pile of auger-upcast red clay 18 in trench centre, P35). This was the case in sample locations A, B, C and D. At A, sampling continued to a depth of 1.95m to ensure that the clay was natural and not simply re-deposited; no contamination by other materials was found in any of the above auger-holes. Other checks were made in the opposite (west) kerb trench (auger holes F and G), but only substantial layers of red or grey clay were found here also: grey clay occurred at 0.50m and natural sand at 0.90m in

sample F; natural red clay 18 occurred within a short depth in G.

Auger sample position 'E', in the east boundary hedge-border, was the nearest convenient point opposite the apparent subsidence centre between Nos. 4 and 6 Parnell St. This encountered about a metre depth of dark, mixed deposits containing occasional brick fragments, below which lay red clay 18. No north or south check was made on this line, but except for a probed area adjacent to the excavated garden wall in Area H (which may have been within the wall's foundation trench), this was the deepest area of disturbance.

On this latest evidence, it is unlikely that the moat ran between the gable ends and the north side of Cobden St.

Curtain Wall(Fig.5,6)

In 1866 the Rev. Trollope described the grounds of the Old Hall, the relevant excerpt being as follows:

"Formerly, a low arcaded wall joined the two gables, serving to carry a flat roof above. During the fair, temporary shops were opened in the arcade, although the principal entrance to the mansion passed through it, and from the roof the family could have a view of the humours of the scene below, a door in the eastern gable having given access to this leaded terrace".

Trollope's source of information is not known, but an engraving of 1748 (Fig. 9) appears to depict a Mart Yard perimeter comprising cloister-like structures which could, in fact, be the 'arcade'. The northern block of these and the south ends of the Hall East and West Ranges are partly erased by a fold in the map; any points of contact between the two, therefore, can only be known from descriptions.

The north-south row of buildings on the west side (known to have been of at least two storeys, with several east doors, probably timber-framed originally and of at least 17th century in date) is depicted in the same ?'arcade' style. The plan is very stylistic and (it is suspected) displaying artistic licence to the full.

Trollope's 'arcaded wall' refers to the span between the West and East Range south gables (no mention being made of the other sides to the Mart Yard), traditionally termed the 'curtain-wall'. Its foundations were found in 1984 to be mostly of brick although some stone occurred, notably at the supposed west jamb of the central gateway, where a large block of moulded stone had been re-used. The wall was clearly much later than the West Range south-east newel stair, over whose footings it had been constructed (Fig.6).

The east half of the courtyard was not examined archaeologically until the work described here when a small

area of brick footing was seen at the south-west angle of the East Range (Fig. 6), extending south of the east-west line of the gable (and possibly belonging to it rather than the curtain wall, as the limited trench depth did not permit positive identification of two distinct elements of construction P30). There was, however, a faint spread of mortar and debris slightly to the south of the assumed line of the curtain wall P31. The south face of the curtain-wall is assumed to have been in line with the south face of the brick gable, and may have been of the same build.

The (?first-floor) door in the East Range south gable end described by Trollope implies direct access to a roof supported to the south, presumably on piers or timber posts. The 1984 excavations did not extend far enough southward or eastward to reveal any such remains.

A photograph of the south front in circa 1870/1880's (Ref GOH P.A2) shows a ?door-sized blocking in the west side of the south gable; this would have been at the end of the first-floor west corridor. The door either had an independent external landing area, or the 'flat roof' extended across part of the gable end (it was not possible to check for end supports in path area E as this had already been filled with aggregate). A sketch of c.1820 by Patrick (Fig. 10) shows a window in this position which matched others depicted in the gable, although it has been proved that the sketch is generally unreliable in regard to proportion and fine detail.

The path and kerb excavation of c.1.20m width at the south-west angle of the East Range was the only opportunity at this time to record the remains of the Curtain-Wall and its relationship to the gable brickwork. It is almost certain, however, that this area is obscured or disturbed by the west support-wall of the 1880's.

Immediately north of the angle, adjacent to the flower border (exact location unknown) in Area D (south), the contractors found a cast bronze object. This resembled the bow of a brooch, having decoration approximating to a face. Overall dimensions were 55mm between extremities (tapering in thickness to flat terminals (one an incomplete fixture point?) by c.35mm wide, with 'D'-shaped section body of up to 12mm thickness. Linear length was c.107mm. A 12th-century date has been suggested by K. Leahy of Scunthorpe Museum.

Garden Wall.

The continuation of a ?contemporary wall in the same line, east of the East Range gable wall, may have served only to separate the garden from the Mart Yard and was at least 2m in height. This shows clearly on the O.S. map of c.1886 (Fig.5) and on a late 19th century photograph; it is of brick, possibly in Old English Bond and capped with ?mortar. Its junction with the

south gable is not visible, although its depiction on the O.S. map suggests that it simply butted. P42.

The kerb trench excavation in areas G and H (Fig.3,6,11) P38-43 shows the wall to have been 35-37cm thick (the same thickness as the East Range polygonal window-bay wall, measured at the upper air-vents) and possibly with half-brick projecting pilaster buttresses P40,41 at intervals on the north (garden) side. The 1886 O.S. map (Fig.5) shows a gateway at c.7m east of the East Range; this, and the lean-to structure immediately east of the gateway, on the north side of the wall, can be seen on late 19th century photographs. The lean-to had a narrow ?pantile roof at a height of c.40cm below the top of the garden wall. This structure would have been just to the north of the excavation for the new circular path terminal (Fig.3, H).

The wall itself originally continued eastwards beyond the present eastern boundary of the grounds, being butted (as late as c.1886), on its south side, by a north-south row of buildings which formed the east boundary of the Mart Yard on the approximate line of modern Parnell St (Fig.5).

Areas J,L

The manually-excavated kerb-trenches in these areas, although shallow, were examined but no features were observed. P43,44. The kerb-trenching in Areas M and N (P44) had not yet commenced.

P44-51 show the stage in the path renewal operations at which the writer decided to terminate the watching brief.

Discussion

The above account gives as full a description as possible of the archaeological remains encountered, but there was insufficient time available to allow for full cleaning and recording. The results show how even shallow ground disturbance affects the archaeological context of the Hall. Future groundworks around the Hall require careful archaeological monitoring if further remains are not to be destroyed without record.

Michael Clark
July 1993

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Stamford Mercury, 1835, 1867, 1891, 1892, 1896, 1898.

3. Trench for ... Area D. Excavated 1991
4. Unidentified (UID) feature, ... sub-triangular. UNEX
5. UID feature, ... pit? dark sandy fill, sub-triangular. UNEX
6. Corroded iron pipe with fill in south corridor wall
cabinet (in brick) 1840, fill of clay, fine mortar. Area D?
7. Drain duct sealed in concrete. Area D/Y.
8. Drain (for concrete capping) trench. Area D/Y.
9. Slabs beneath sink steps in Hall south corridor. Part of
north surface of 19th cent.
10. Part of brickwork (excavated by ... for ...
Area D. Part of ...
19th cent. ...
11. ...
12. UID feature, ... pit? dark sandy fill, sub-rectangular cut by
19
13. Line of brickwork east-west. Too far east for association
with known porch? Area D.
14. Metal Pipe, disused, terminates at gas tap? Area D/Y
15. Rusty metal pipe, same diameter as 4, gas, to south of
gas-tap 17. Area D/Y.
16. Gas-tap (Area D).
18. Natural red clay (context No. retained from previous
watching brief).

CONTEXT LIST

1. Dark topsoil as generally stripped by machine (at north-east corner of courtyard; this includes lower layer also) Area D/Y.
2. Fill of brick culvert
3. North wall (south not found), half-brick thick, of brick culvert, runs east- west, turns through porch and under Hall screen-passage and out beneath north Door.(1984 context No.=563) Internal: c.44X44cm. External: c67cm wide. Area D/Y.
4. Recent (1984-1993?) gas pipe, yellow, north-south. West edge of flower border west of East Range. Connects to north of gas-tap 17.
5. Trench for 4 Area D.Unexcavated (UNEX).
6. Unidentified (UID) feature, - pit? dark ashy fill, sub-rectangular. UNEX
7. UID feature, - pit? dark ashy fill, sub-triangular. UNEX
8. Construction trench and fill for south corridor wall rebuild (in brick) c1880, Fill of clay, lime mortar Area D.
9. Drain duct sealed in concrete. Area D/Y.
10. Drain (or concrete capping) trench Area D/Y.
11. Slabs beneath slab steps to Hall south corridor. Part of north surface of courtyard.
12. Stub of brickwork (?damaged by trench for drain 9) beneath slabs to west of south-east door to corridor, Area Y. Indeterminate form, projecting south into excavated area. Could be (a) west footings of lean-to porch depicted in 1790 or, (b) part of steps to inserted stair door.
13. UID feature, - pit? dark ashy fill, sub-rectangular Cut by 3?
14. Line of brickwork east-west. Too far east for association with known porch? Area D.
15. Metal Pipe, disused, terminates at gas tap? Area D/Y
16. Rusty metal pipe, same diameter as 4, gas, to south of gas-tap 17, Area D/Y.
17. Gas-tap (Area D).
18. Natural red clay (context No. retained from previous watching brief).

19. Thin vertical lining of red clay to construction trench 8
Not known if this is 18 in-situ (ie edge of trench) or
redeposited spoil. Not examined in detail.

20. East-west garden wall from south-east angle of East Range.
Exposed only in area J/H 35-37cm thick.

21. Pilaster-buttress to North side of garden wall 20 Area
J/H.

22. Upper slab step to Hall corridor Seals:

23. Slabs - part of courtyard surface. Sealed by bricks 24.
Remainder of slabs covering north courtyard (removed).

24. One course bricks supporting slab step 22, Seals slabs 11.

25. South-east/north-west feature (or edge of layer?) seen in
kerb trench width (50cm) only c25cm width Appeared to be
sealed by 26 to the south. Relationship to 24 unknown.

26. Sandy clay, ? mixed. ? Seals or butts 25

27. Soil layer beneath 11 and sealing 12.

40. Natural pale green-grey/blue clay (context No. re-used
from previous watching brief)

28. From 1. As 19
29. From 1. Location of test pit to examine wall state
footings. (Area 1).
30. From 1. Stair footing. (Area 1)
31. From 1. Top stripping. (Area 1)
32. From 1. Top stripping, E of W. Range. (Area 1)
33. From 1. Area trench (staff marks) 35-37cm thick
slab.
34. From 1. As 33
35. From 1. Threshold, W. Range. (Area 1)
36. From 1. Roof tile step beneath W threshold. (Area 1)
37. From 1. Threshold, E. Range.
38. From 1. Area 1. W. Range, footings and mortar spread.
39. From 1. As 38
40. From 1. Kerb trench, Area 1, north.
41. From 1. As 39
42. From 1. Kerb trench, Area 1, west.
43. From 1. Kerb trench, Area 1, west.
44. From 1. Kerb trench, Area 1, east, shows 24, 25 and 26.
45. From 1. As 35
46. From 1. Path terminal, Area 1/H. (4 x 4 x 40cm
background right)
47. From 1. As 46, showing garden wall footing.
48. From 1. As 39 with buttress
49. From 1. As 40
50. From 1. As 41, staff marks junction with E. Range
51. From 1. Path terminal H and path J.

PHOTOGRAPHS

(See separate album)

1. From S. Grounds west of West Range; path removed and void backfilled (Area Z)
2. From SE. W. Range, S gable, path bedding (Area E,K)
3. From S. W. Range gable showing ground rise
4. From W. S grounds, path marked and turf removed (Area B)
5. From N. E of W. Range, slabs removed, path marked and turf removed (Area C)
6. From W. S of Gt Hall and Stair, path marked and turf removed (Area Y)
7. From E. As 6
8. From S. Paths marked and turf removed (Area B)
9. From S. As 8 (Area B and D)
10. From NE. Paths marked and turf removed (Area A and B)
11. From SE. Features exposed at NE angle of the courtyard (Area D/Y)
12. From E. As 11 and machine ramp (Area Y)
13. From W. As 12
14. From S. Corridor wall exposed to 9 courses below plinth. N-S culvert in right foreground. (Area D/Y)
15. From W. Area D/Y)
16. From E. Culvert N wall cutting pit 13. (Area D/Y)
17. From N. Culvert, pit 13, pit 6. (Area D/Y)
18. From S. Junction of main stair and door
19. From S. ?Porch remains, 12. (Area Y)
20. From S. As 19
21. From W. location of test pit to examine main stair footings. (Area Y).
22. From SW. Stair footing. (Area Y)
23. From SW. Top stripping. (Area Y)
24. From E. Top stripping, E of W. Range,. (Area C)
25. From S. Kerb trench (Staff marks spread of 18/19th C pottery)
26. From N. As 25
27. From W. N threshold, E. Range. (Area D)
28. From W. roof tile from beneath N threshold (Area D)
29. From W. S threshold, E. Range.
30. From W. SW angle of E. Range, footings and mortar spread.
31. From W. As 30
32. From NE. Kerb trench, Area B, north.
33. From W. As 32
34. From N. Kerb trench, Area B, west.
35. From N. Kerb trench, Area A, west.
36. From S. Kerb trench, Area B, east, shows 24,25 and 26.
37. From N. As 36
38. From W. Path terminal, Area G/H. (4 & 6 Parnell St, background Right)
39. From E. As 38, showing garden wall footing.
40. From E. As 39 with buttress
41. From E. As 40
42. From E. As 41, staff marks junction with E. Range
43. From S. Path terminal H and path J.

PHOTOGRAPHS continued

44. From N. Path terminal M and path L (tower in R background)
45. From S. Finished kerb, Area B, west.
46. From N. Kerb and bedding, Area C
47. From S. Kerb and bedding, Area C/Y)
48. From E. Kerb and bedding, Area C/Y)
49. From S. Kerb and bedding, Area D/B)
50. From N. S. courtyard area.
51. From S. S front of Hall (1992 water pipe trench crossing Cobden St in foreground)

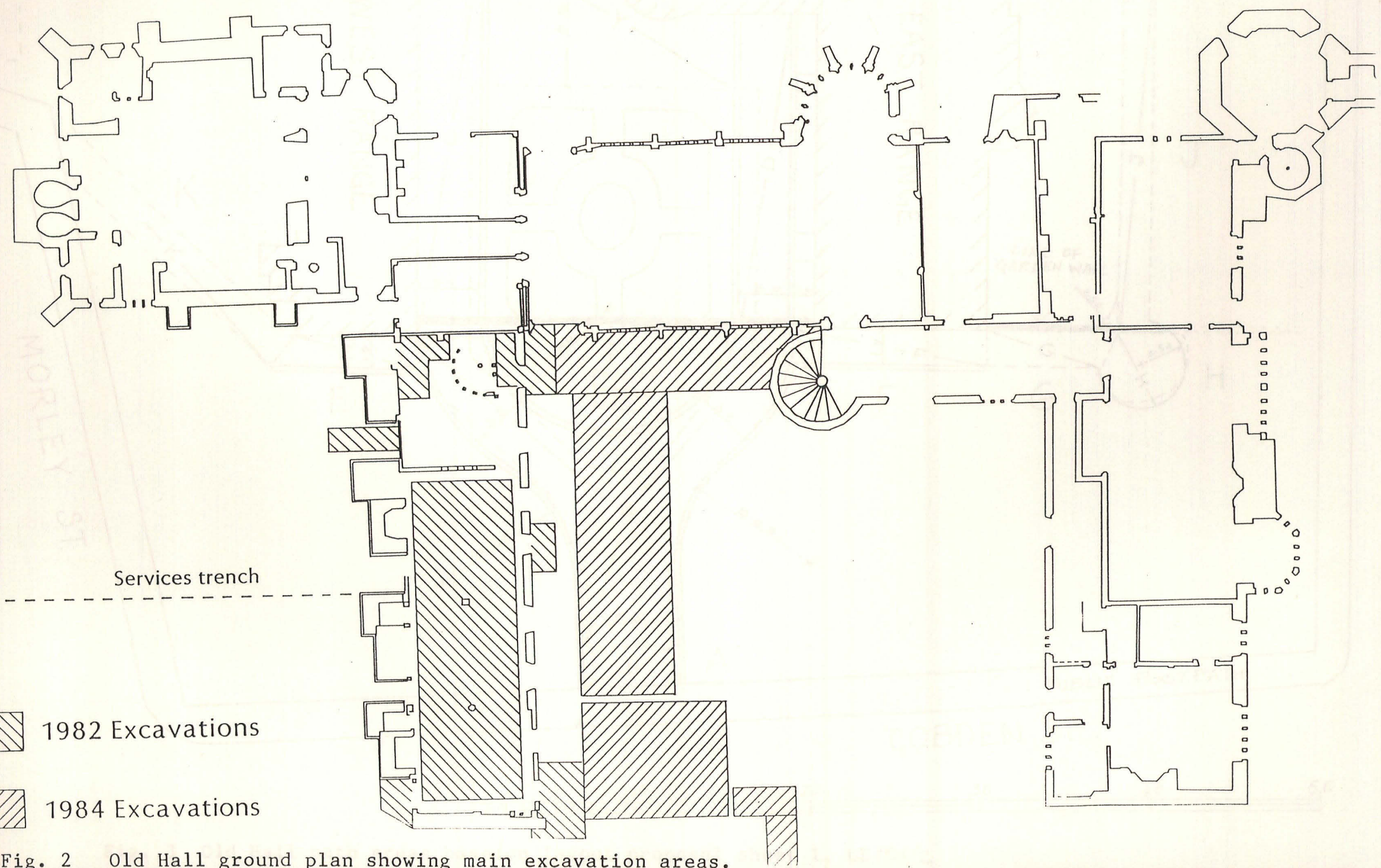
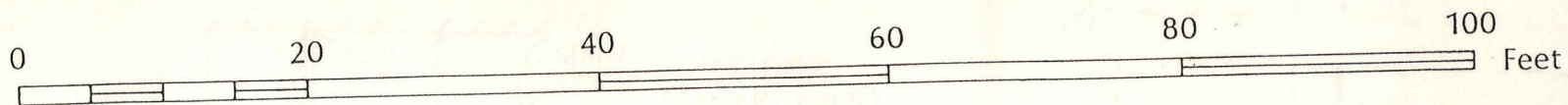


Fig. 2 Old Hallground plan showing main excavation areas.

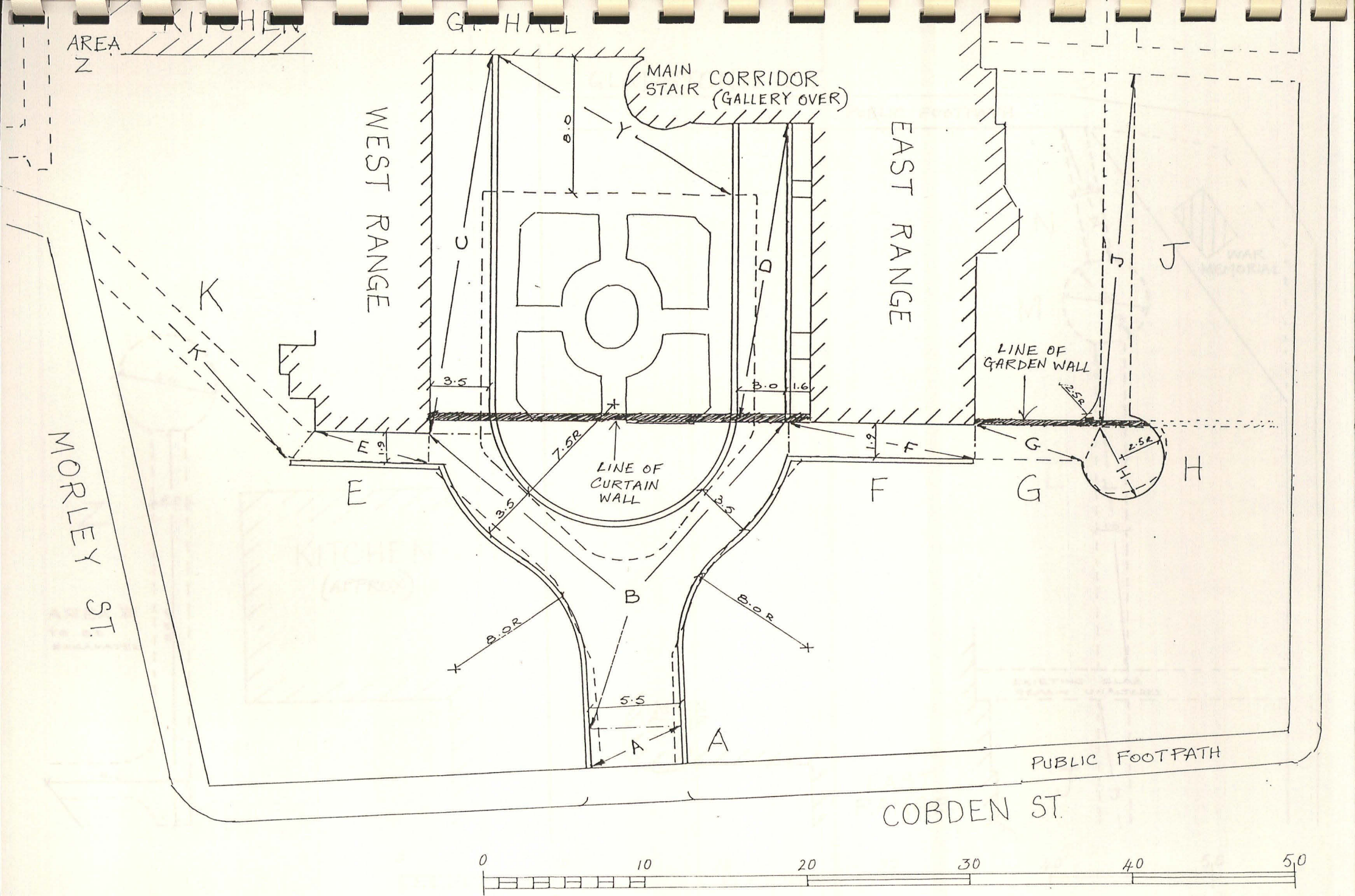
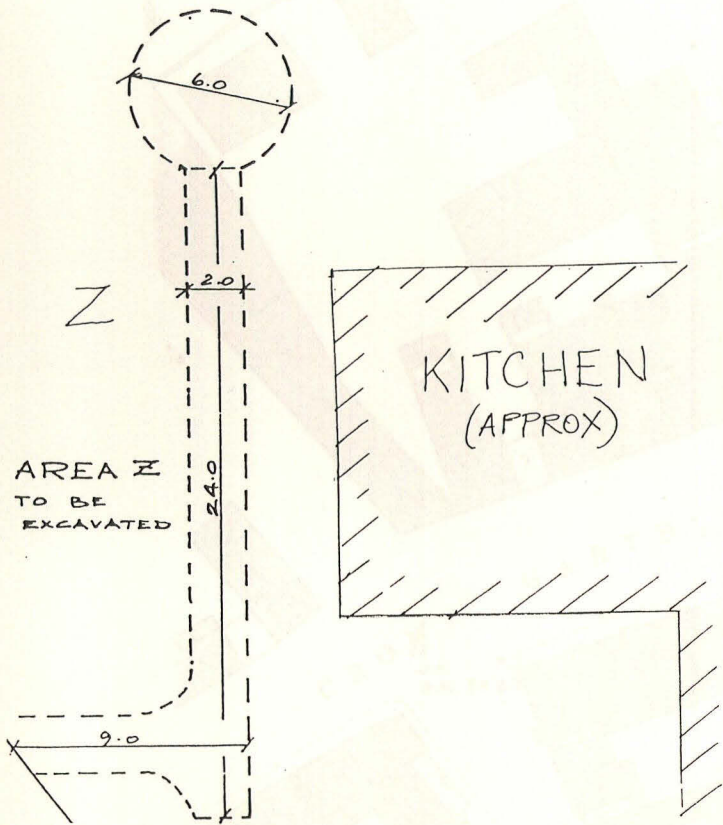


Fig. 3 Old Hall path areas based on layout proposal sheet 1, LE101/2

GLADSTONE ST.

PUBLIC FOOTPATH



MAIN
STAIR

EAST
RANGE

EXISTING SLAB
REMAIN UNALTERED

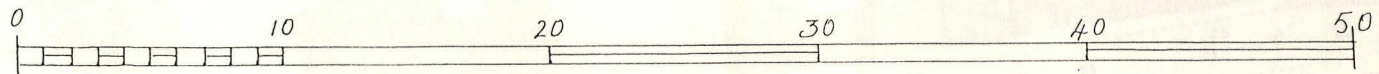
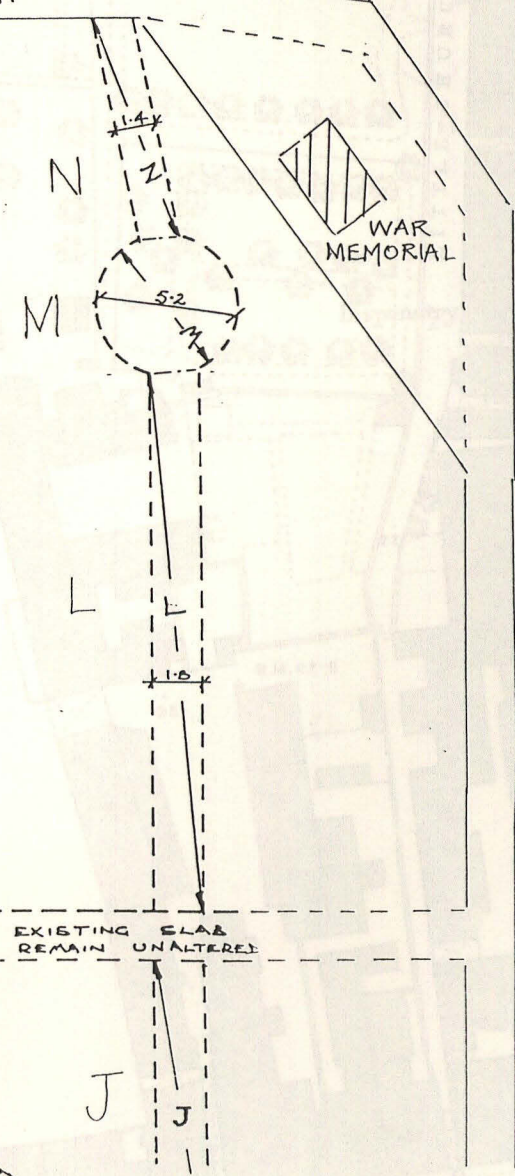
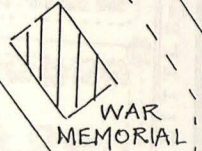


Fig. 4 Old Hall path areas based on layout proposal sheet 1, LE 10/3

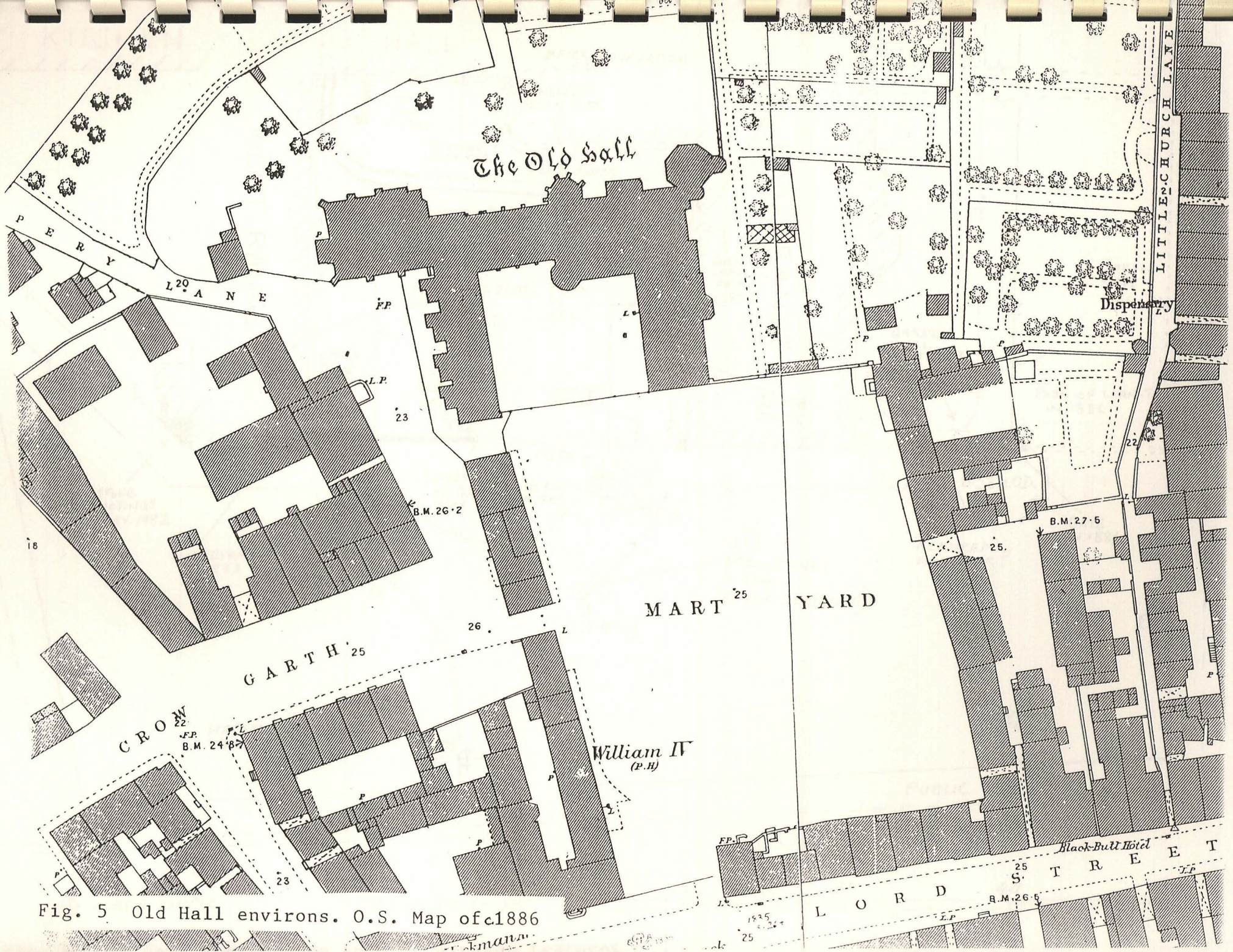


Fig. 5 Old Hall environs. O.S. Map of c1886

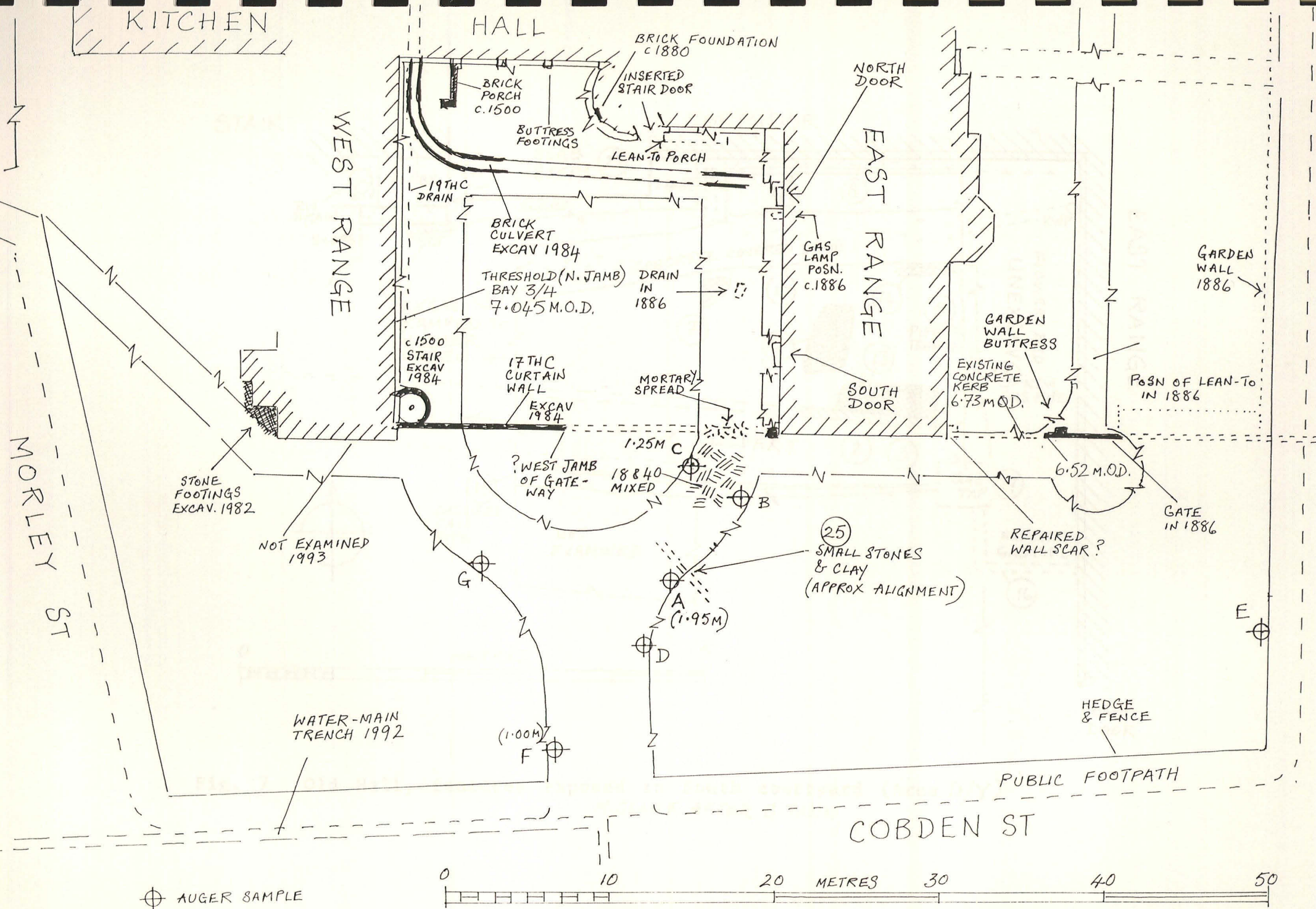


Fig. 6 Old Hall and grounds showing exposed features.

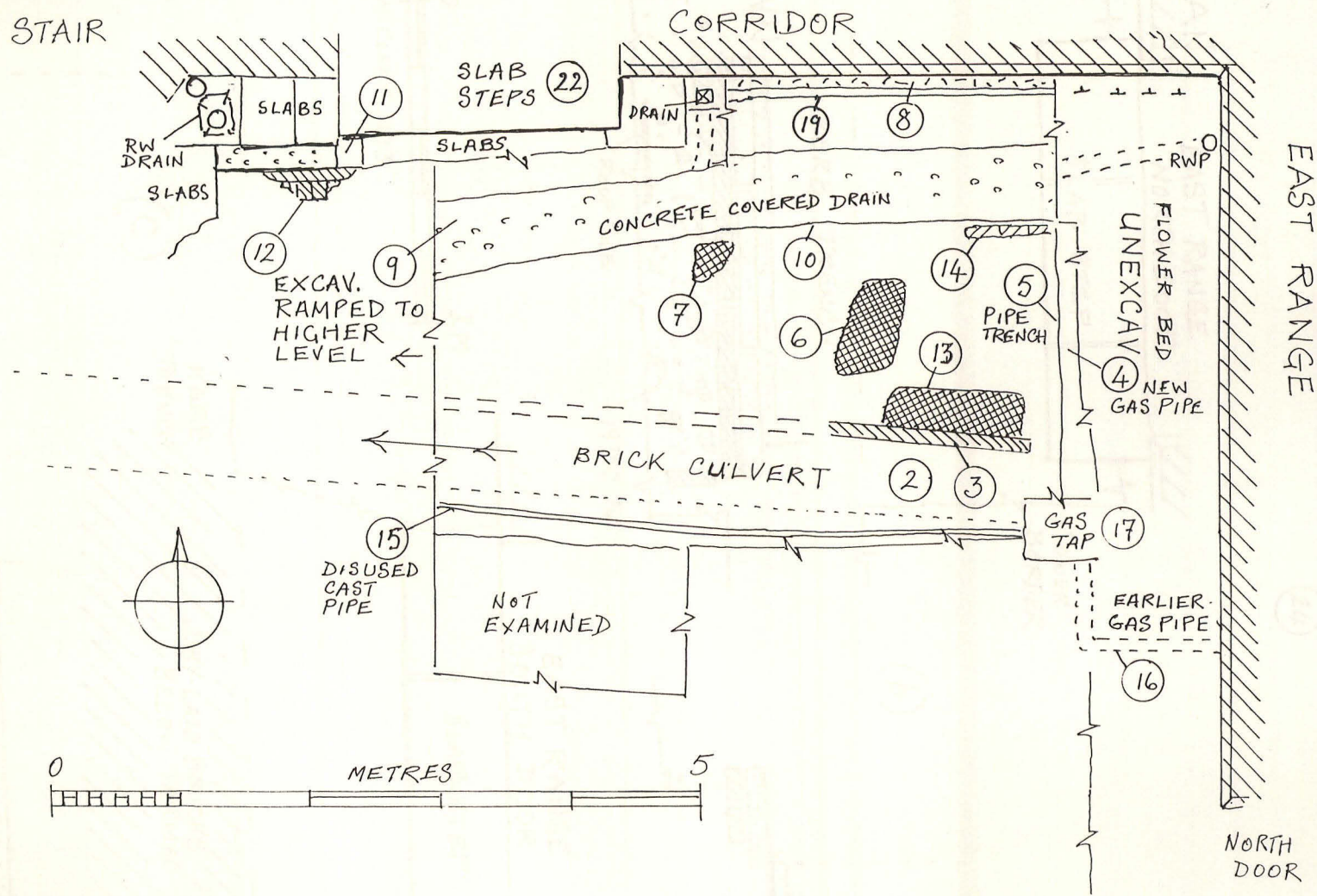


Fig. 7 Old Hall, features exposed in South courtyard (Area D/Y)
 M. CLARK AFTER G. TANN

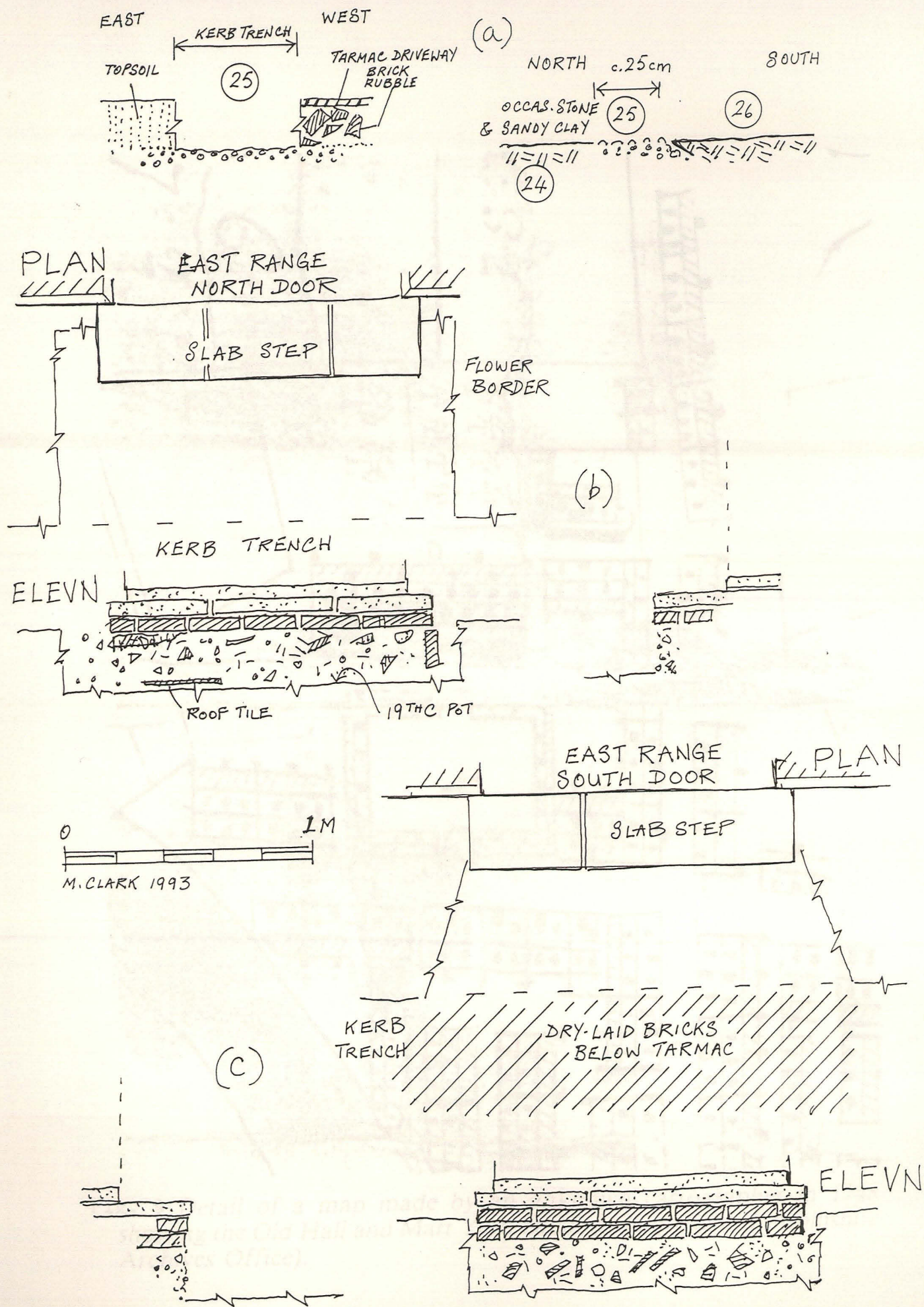


Fig. 8 a) Layers exposed in east kerb trench, Area B
 b) East Range west side, northern threshold Area D
 c) East Range west side, southern threshold Area D

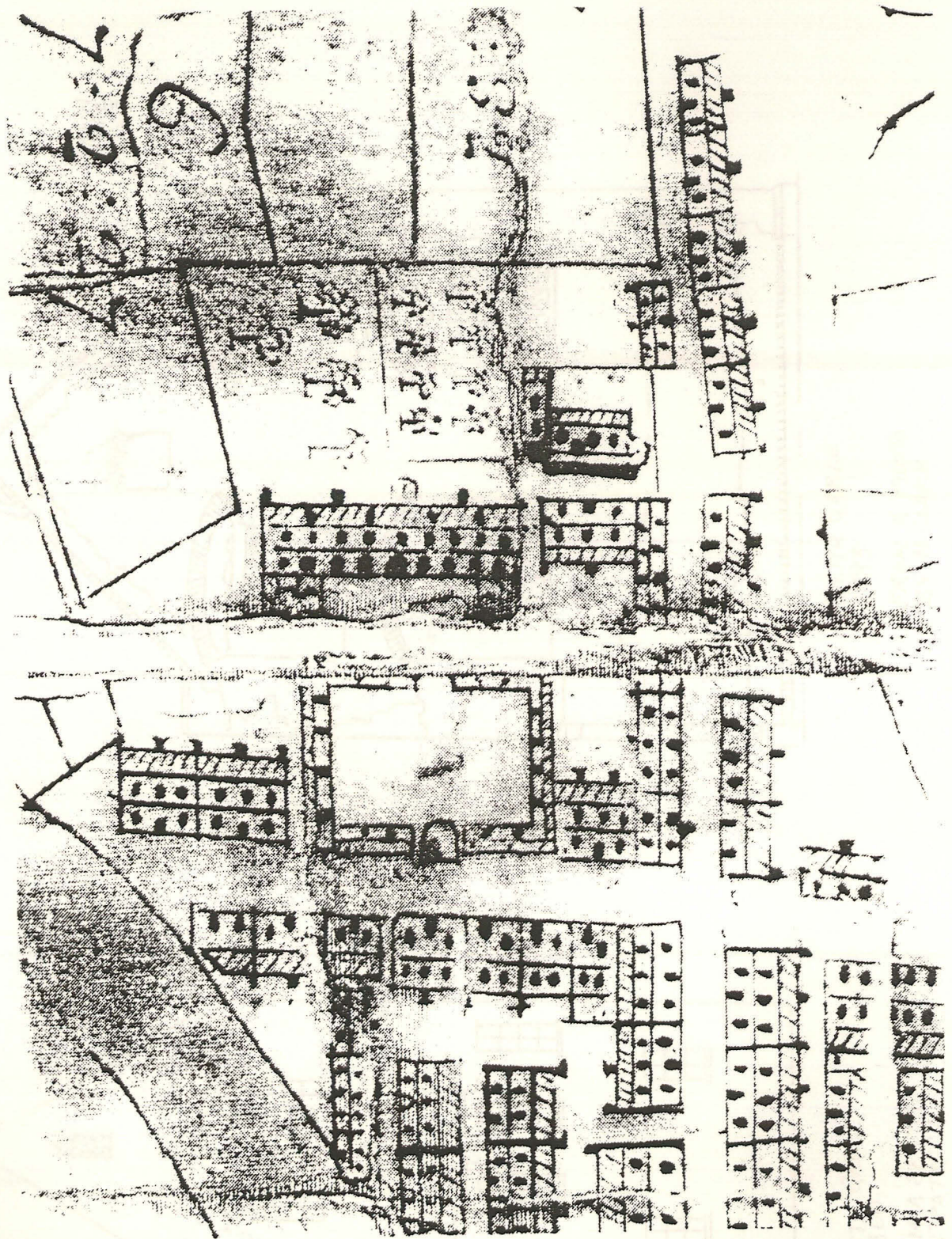
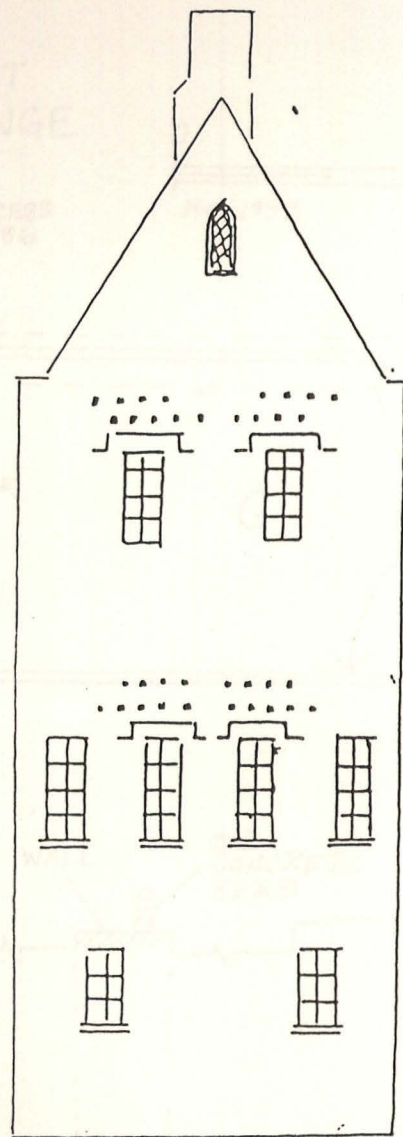
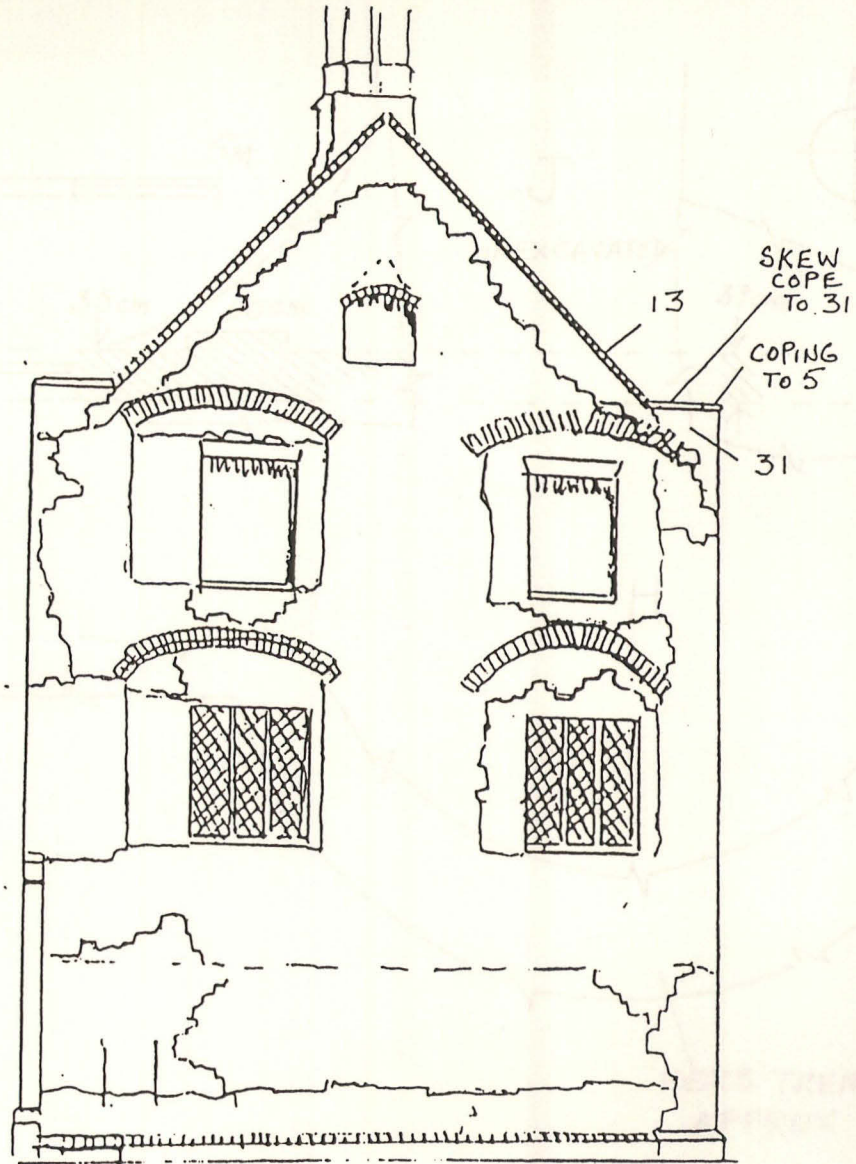


Fig. 9 Detail of a map made by an unknown cartographer in 1748 showing the Old Hall and Mart Yard buildings (copyright: Lincolnshire Archives Office).



SOUTH GABLE
c. 1800

FROM A SKETCH
BY J. PATRICK



SOUTH GABLE
1983

FROM A PHOTO
BY M. CLARK

Fig. 10 East Range south gable in c.1800 and 1983

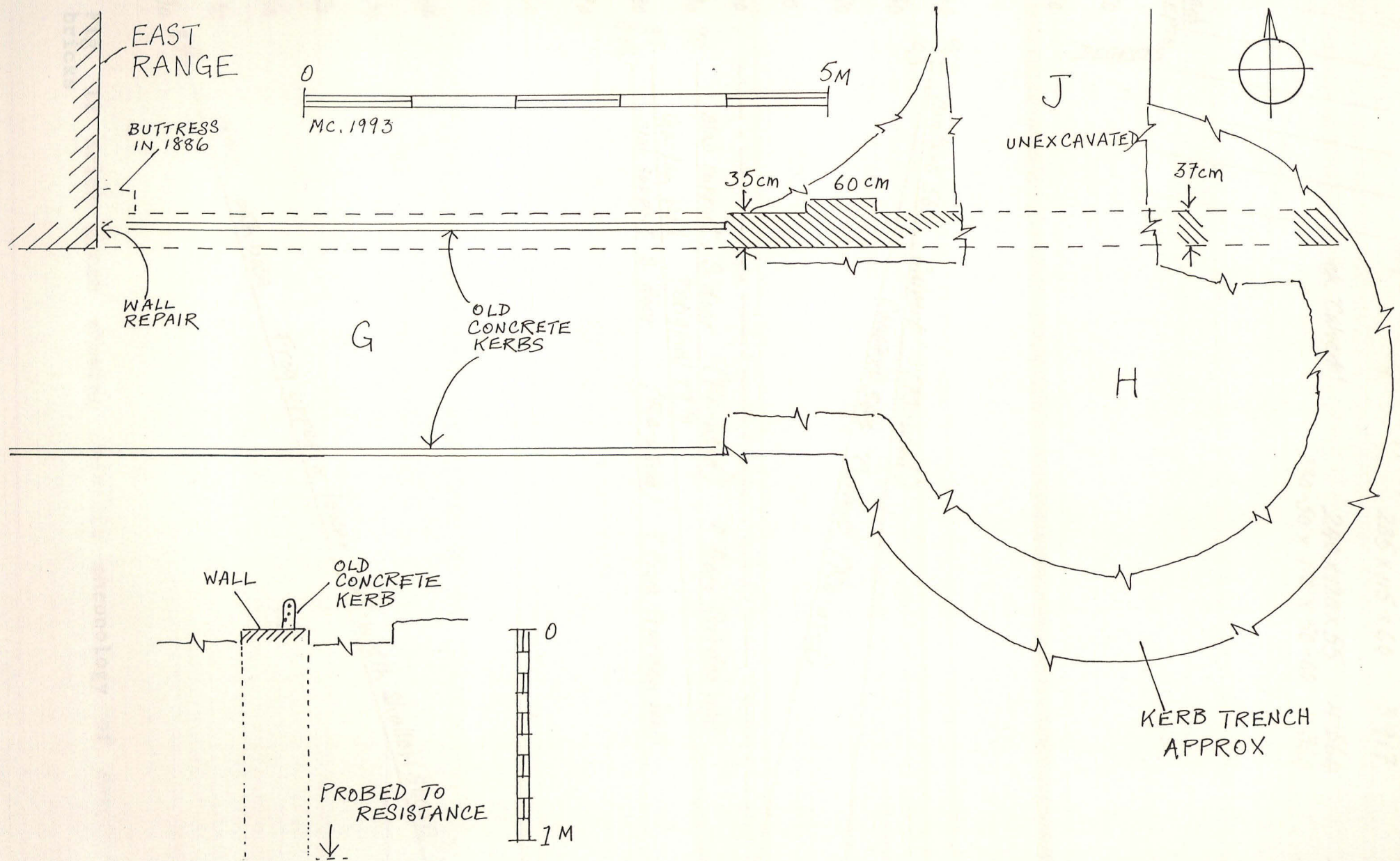


Fig. 11 Garden wall fragment east of East Range (Areas G & H)

EW Garden Wall E. of E. Range	230 x 115 x 60	L/D	3.833	W/D	1.917
East Range, west side of S. door, path base	230 x 110 x 78		2.949		1.410
East Range, west side, S. door slab support	220 x 105 x 58		3.793		1.810
"	"		235 x 115 x 60	3.917	1.917
Context 563 (1984) Brick 'Culvert'			240 x 120 x 55	4.364	2.182
"	"		230-50 x 110 x 50-60	4.364	2.000

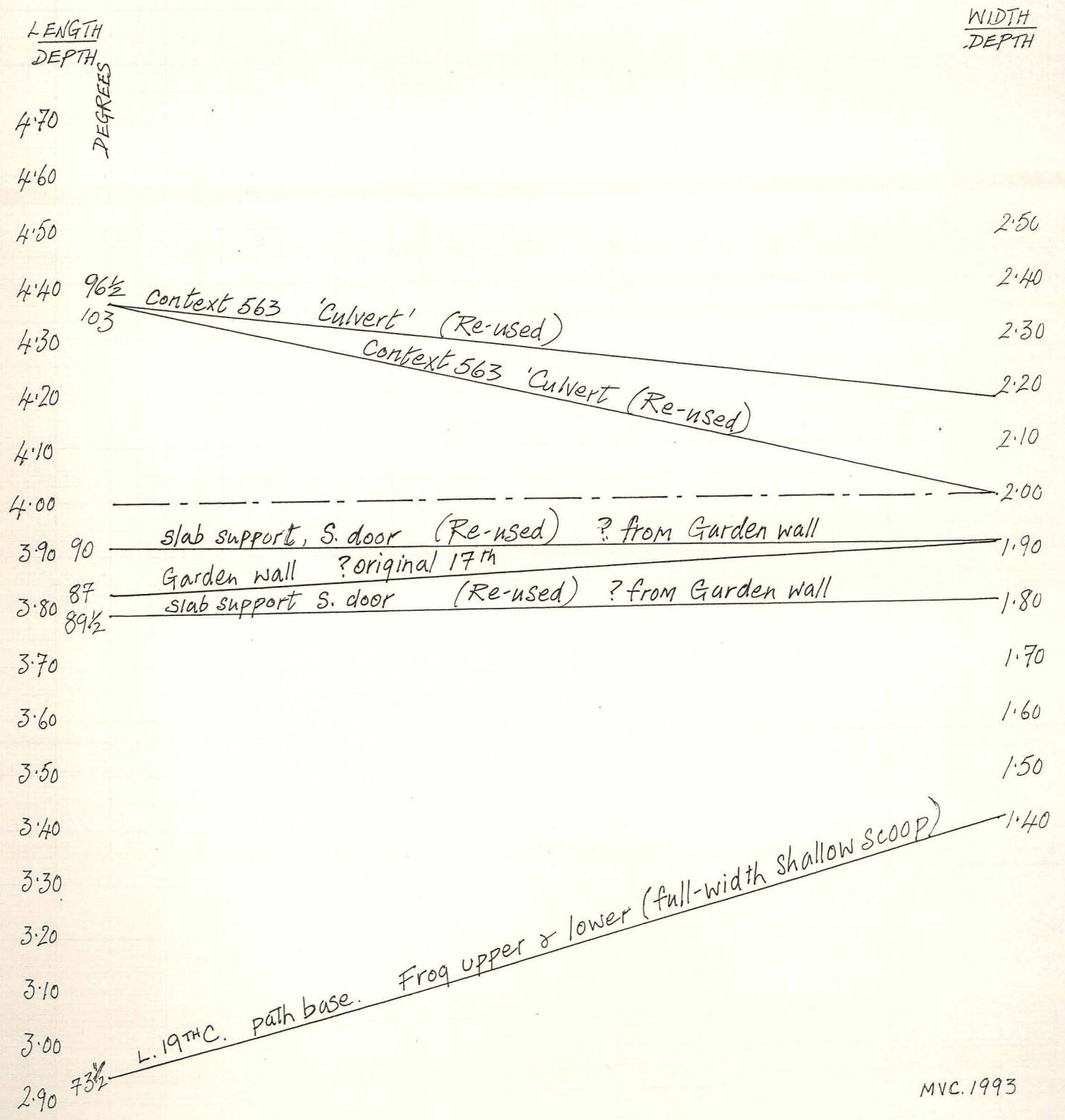


Fig. 12 Brick graph showing possible chronology of sample bricks