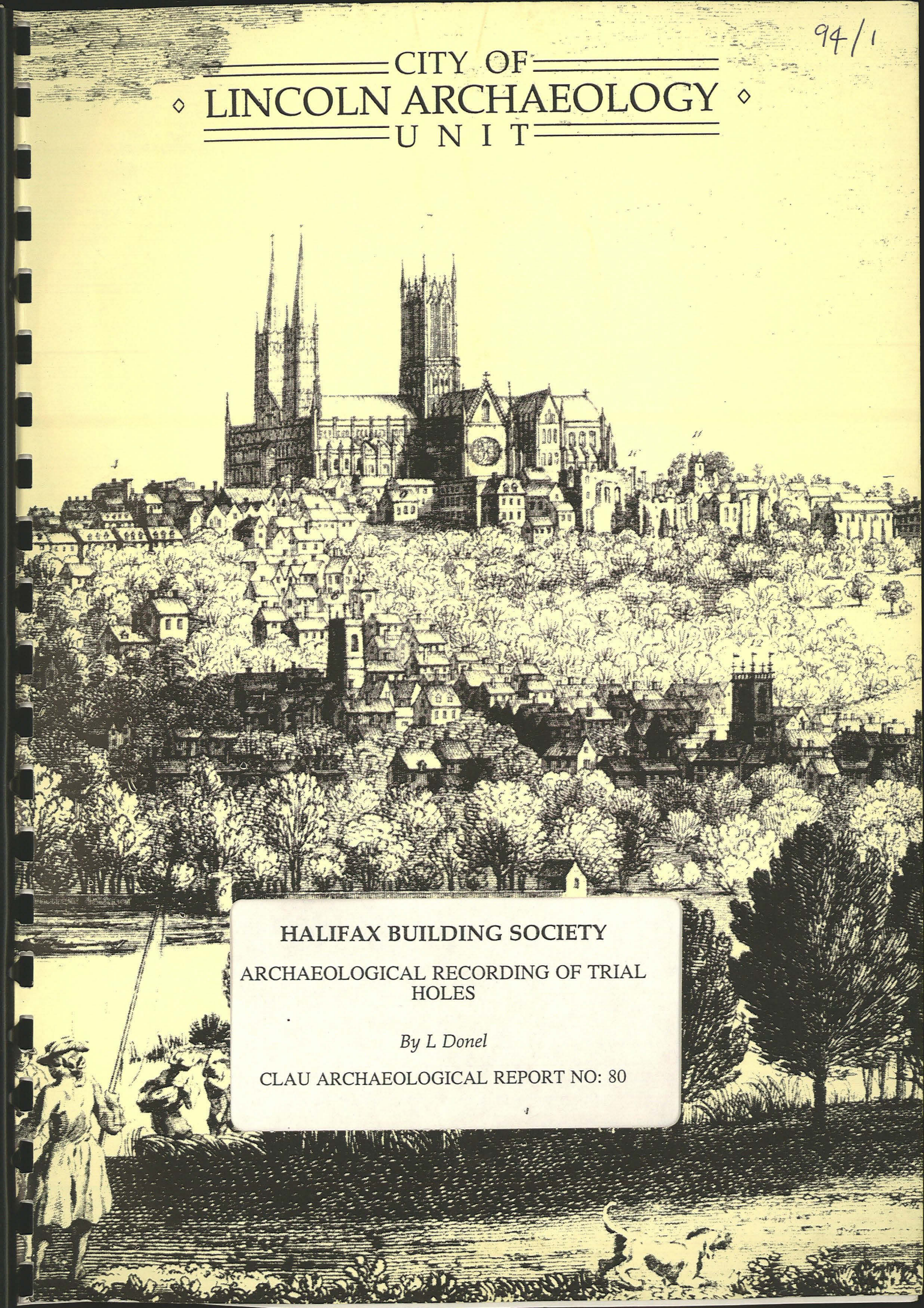


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CITY OF
◇ LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY ◇
U N I T

HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING OF TRIAL
HOLES
By L Donel
CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 80



ELI 524. 6926

SLI 5157 1536

70071 - Undated

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70183 - Med.

A

Report to

Purcell Miller Tritton & Partners

On

Behalf of

The Halifax Building Society

January 1994

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**HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING OF TRIAL
HOLES**

By L Donel

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 80

HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING OF TRIAL PITS

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Fig. 1 - Trench location plan

Fig. 2 - Trial Pit 1 north-south section

Fig. 3 - Trial Pit 2 north-south section

HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING OF TRIAL HOLES

Introduction

Prior to the construction of a proposed extension to the rear of the Halifax Building Society, 18 Cornhill, Lincoln (Planning Application Nos.LF31/0574/93), the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit was commissioned to carry out an archaeological evaluation in conjunction with excavation of geotechnical trial trenches.

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. The Unit, its Members and employees cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the Unit's Article of Association, the *Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists* and *The Management of Archaeology Projects* (English Heritage, 1991)

Located approximately 120m south of the river Witham and 45m east of the High Street (the Roman Ermine Street) the site lies in an area known to contain extensive remains of both Roman and Medieval occupation. It is thought that the 12th-16th century church of St. John lies probably to the north west of the site. Archaeological deposits in this locality have been recorded to depths of more than 2m below the present ground surface. The building lies on the site of the former City Hotel Public House and next to the former Cornhill Public House (now the site of the Alliance Building Society). The pub history was reflected in some of the material found in one of the trial trenches.

A watching brief was carried out in August 1990 to the west, at the rear of the Alliance Building Society which revealed two early, possibly medieval, walls and other deposits dated to the late medieval and post medieval periods (see Appendix 4).

Archaeological Evaluation

Objectives and Methodology

The evaluation was carried out by means of trenches excavated for the purpose of archaeological and geotechnical investigation, under the direction of members of the CLAU and the client's representative (site records are held in the C.L.A.U. archive under code CHA93). The archaeological evaluation was designed to;

1. identify the depth, nature and condition of survival of any archaeological remains in the area of proposed development.
2. assess the importance of any remains encountered.
3. assess the probable impact of development on surviving remains in terms of proposed foundation design and recommend modifications to same which would enhance the preservation of remains in situ.

Following consultation with the client it was decided that two trial trenches would be excavated in the locations shown in Fig.1. Trenches were positioned in such a way as to benefit both the client and the archaeological investigations, the excavation being carried out by mechanical and hand techniques. Trench 1 measured 2m x 1.5m x 3m deep and Trench 2, 2m x 1.5 x 3m.

Detailed recording of the stratigraphic sequence of deposits and archaeological features was undertaken by both graphic and photographic means. Artefactual material was collected for identification and dating of the recorded deposits.

Archaeological Results

Trial Pit 1 (Fig. 2)

The lowest layer recorded was a loose/medium compact light brown/cream natural sand (115) lying at c2.8m below the surface. This was overlain by (114) a medium compact dark grey sandy clay. (114) is probably redeposited natural material. Sealing (114) was a layer of medium compact dark grey/black clayey earth (113). In the north-western corner of the trench a stone feature (118), possibly a wall, was recorded. It lay at an angle across the north-west corner and consisted of four courses of irregularly laid limestone blocks. No mortar was visible. It was not clear as to whether (118) lay in (113) or whether it cut (113). Sealing (118) and (113) was (105) a medium compact light brown clay. Some darker clay banding was visible in this deposit. (105) was cut by a shallow pit (103) which was full of clay pipe and china fragments. It was sealed by (104) a medium compact dark brown/black earth with brick, large limestones, metal, pot, clay pipes and tile present in the deposit. The brick and stone appeared to be demolition debris. (104) was overlain by (101), crushed limestone make-up material for tarmac surface (100).

Trial Pit 2 (Fig. 3)

Natural sand was reached at c 2.9m below the tarmac surface. The deposit consisted of a medium-compact grey sand(112) with no inclusions. This was sealed by (111) a medium-compact dark-grey clay. Lying above (111) was a layer of medium-compact light-grey/brown sandy earth (110). This was in turn sealed by two features (108, three to four flat limestone slabs lying on a north-south alignment on the east side of the trench and (117) a shallow pit lying at the south-east corner of the trench. (117) was filled by a light brown sandy earth (109). (109) and (108) were sealed by (107) a medium compact dark grey/brown sandy earth. (107) was subsequently sealed by (106) a loose light brown sandy earth. (106) was overlain by (102) a loose dark brown sandy earth which in turn was sealed by the make-up for tarmac surface (100).

Discussion

Trial Pit 1 produced a large amount of modern pot, clay pipes, metal rubbish in the top metre of material. There did appear to be a rough stone structure or the remains of a demolished stone feature in this upper material. However, as there was a large amount of stone rubble used as make-up below the tarmac surface, there was not enough evidence to conclude whether the feature was a wall or not. However, the earlier stone feature running at an angle in the trial pit appears to link with the stone walls, to the west, identified in 1990. It is possible that it represents a property boundary. The lower levels of material from both the trial pits provided minimal artefactual evidence of medieval and Roman activity. It would probably be more likely that this area was used as gardens to the rear of properties rather than reflecting any major occupation. The more intense activity would probably be represented to the north where the buildings would have fronted onto Cornhill.

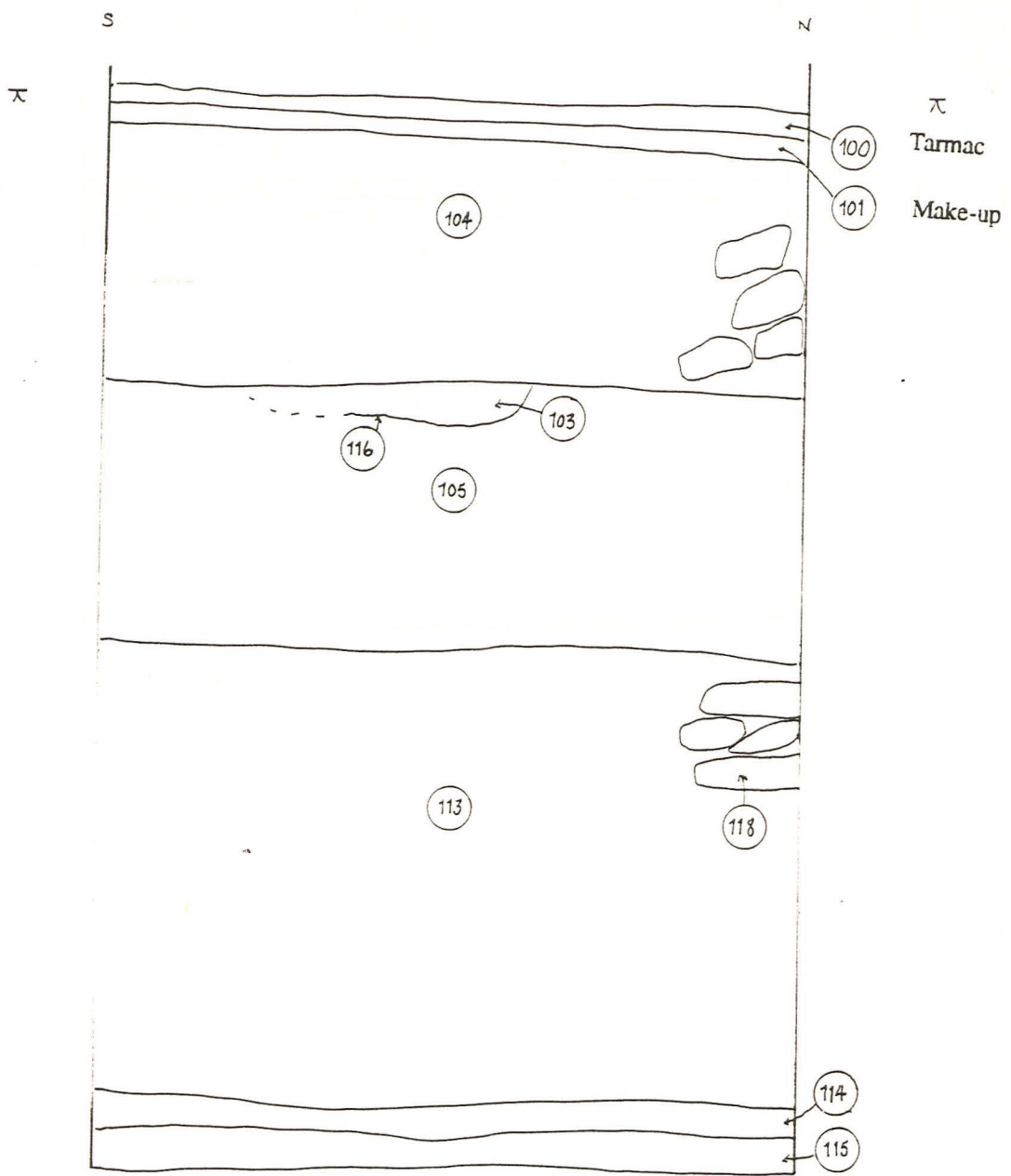
Conclusions and Recommendations

Notwithstanding this probable marginal use of the rear of the properties, the presence of the wall in Trial Pit 1 and the stone feature in Trial Pit 2 do indicate the survival of archaeological material from Roman and later periods which should be considered prior to and during the construction phase, as it is important that archaeological information from this part of the city not be lost without a record having been made.



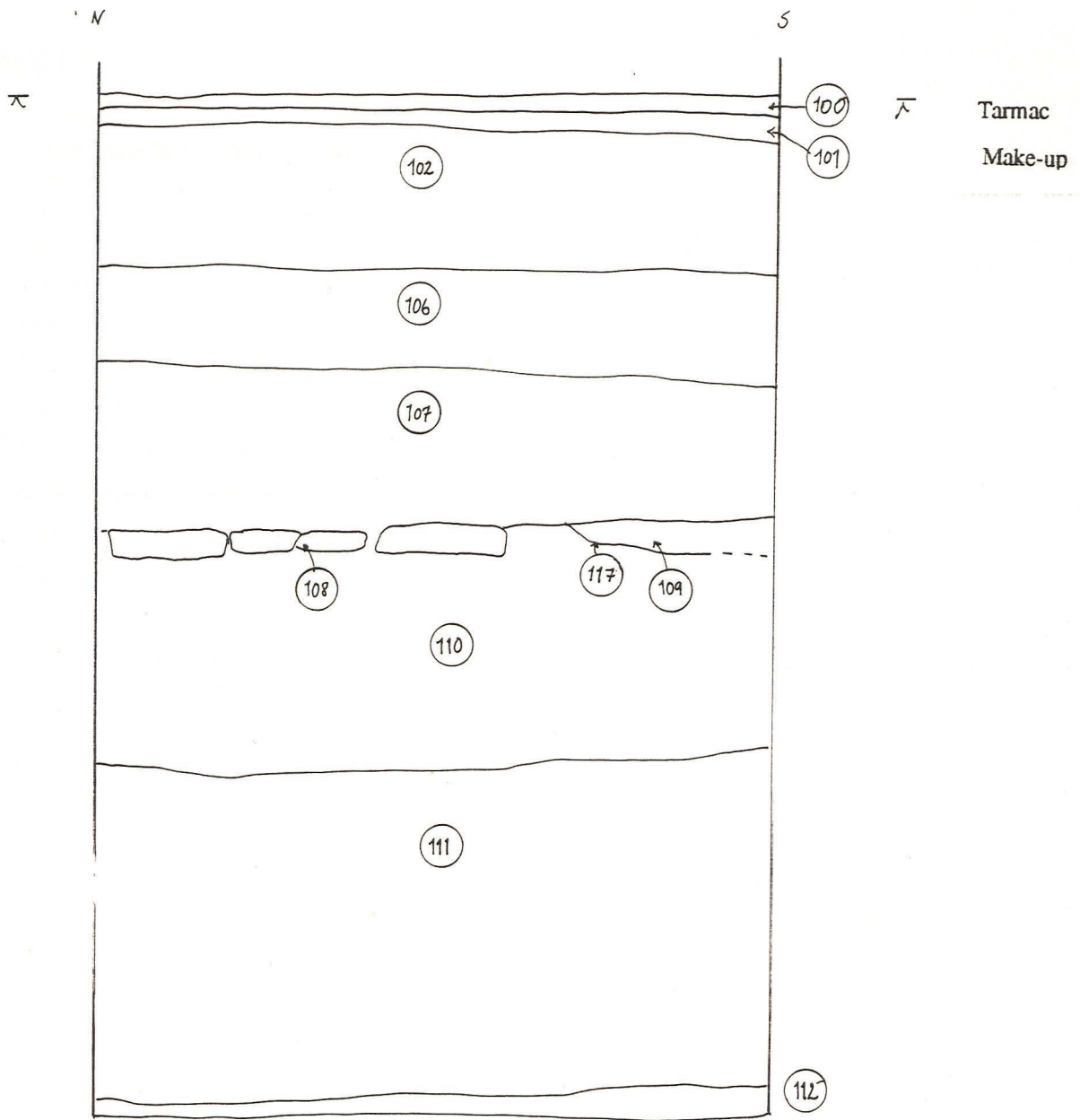
CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
SITE CODE: CHA93	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT:	Halifax Building Society	
DESCRIPTION:	Location plan of site Trench location plan	
SCALE:	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY:	CHECKED:	DATE: 10/12/93
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:	71.93	

Fig.1



CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT			
SITE CODE: CHA93		PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT: Halifax Building Society			
DESCRIPTION:		South - north section	
TP1			
SCALE:	1:20	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY:	LGD	CHECKED:	DATE: 10/12/93
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:		71.93	

Fig.2



CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
SITE CODE: CHA93	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT:	Halifax Building Society	
DESCRIPTION:	North - south section	
	TP2	
SCALE: 1:20	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY: LGD	CHECKED:	DATE: 10/12/93
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:	71.93	

Fig.3

APPENDIX 1

List of Contexts and their Description

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Trench</i>
100	Tarmac	1,2
101	Make-up	1,2
102	Loose dk. brown sandy earth	2
103	Loose lt. brown sandy earth	1
104	Med. compact dk. brown earth	1
105	Med. compact lt. brown earth	1
106	Loose lt. brown sandy earth	2
107	Med. compact dk. grey sandy earth	2
108	Flat laid stones	2
109	Loose mid brown sandy clay	2
110	Med compact lt grey/brown sandy earth	2
111	Med compact dk grey clay	2
112	Med compact dk grey natural sand	2
113	Med compact black clayey earth	1
114	Med compact dk grey sandy clay	1
115	Lt brown natural sand	1
116	Pit cut for 103	1
117	Pit cut for 109	2
118	Stone feature	1

APPENDIX 2

71.93

CHA93

HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY, 18 CORNHILL

FINDS ASSESSMENT

1. Introduction

The excavation of two small trial trenches produced a minimal quantity of finds, almost certainly all of modern date. There are only two registered finds, as listed below, and a small group of clay pipes; all were recovered from Trial Pit 1, context (103).

Registered Finds

Iron	1
Composite wood and iron	1

2. Archive

The finds were recorded using the standard CLAU finds cards or recording forms and all data has been entered onto the computer using the CLAU thesaurus of finds and bulk material codes. All ironwork has been X-rayed.

3. The Finds

The clay pipes are mostly stem fragments, many of which are stained or have slag concretions adhering. Ten bowls were also recovered, all of which bear common types of mid-19th century moulded decoration. Two of these are marked with local manufacturers names: William Bannister, c 1815-67, and Edward Lilburn the younger, c 1828-72; the mould used for the latter pipe was very worn. This whole group of pipes dates to some time in the middle of the century, c 1840's-1860's.

The iron fragment <1> is undatable but appears to be 'layered', with the remains of a modern non-ferrous alloy sheet on one surface, while the composite wooden tool handle <2> with iron tang in situ would be consistent with a mid-19th century date. (The wood appears to have been preserved by the extreme dryness of the surrounding soil, presumably leading to anaerobic conditions, although the surface is heavily flaking.)

4. Recommendations

No further work is required on any of this material; neither the registered finds nor the clay pipe stems appear to merit retention. The clay pipe bowls, however, might prove useful to any future study of mid-19th century local manufacturers and their moulds.

5. Registered Finds, listed by finds number

-,103,1,IRON,-,MOD;X2 SHEET + NON-FERROUS
-,103,2,IRON,TOOL,MOD;CF WOOD HAND

6. Bulk Materials list

103,CTPS,40,MOD;19
103,CTPB,10,MOD;M19;1840-1867;LOC MARKS LILBURN BANNISTER

7. Storage List

1 small (half-standard) box of metalwork
1 small (half-standard) box of clay pipes - (incorporate with pot?)

JEM

20/01/94

APPENDIX 3

Archive List Mus. Acc. No.- 71.93

Site Notebook

Context Sheets

Colour transparencies

Plan of site showing evaluation trenches

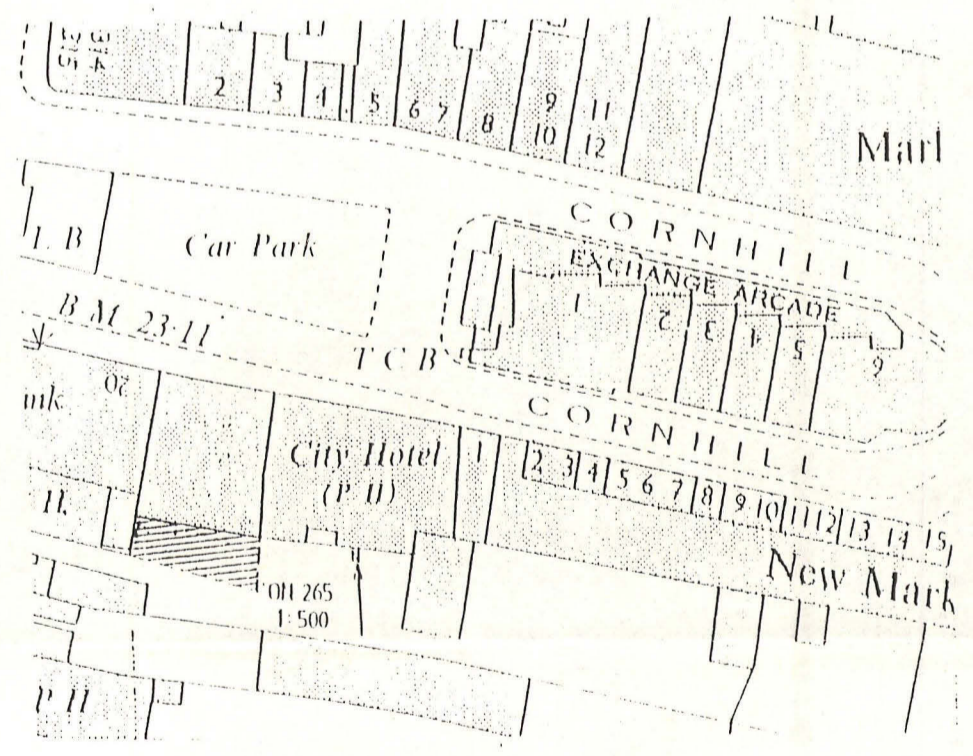
Trench sections

Evaluation report

APPENDIX 4

Location (Street etc)	Grid Reference	Informed by, & the date	Dates	Observation number
ALLIANCE & LEICESTER CORNHILL (BACK)	(1:500) SK 9715E 9752/7102	MR. GREENWOOD 29/8/90	29/8/90 -	265
Purpose of Excav'		Dimensions		
EXTENSION AT BACK OF ALLIANCE AND LEICESTER BLDG. CORNHILL NEW STREET		H-S 5.00m L-W 12.00m DEPTH VARIOUS (SEE PLAN) 0.40m - 0.20m		
Details & Conclusions		Filled in by:		
<p>A RECTANGULAR NETWORK OF FOUNDATION TRENCHES MEASURING H-S 5.00m, E-W 12.00m DEPTH 0.40m - 0.20m. CONTAINING A REINFORCED CONCRETE WALL MADE UP OF REINFORCED SQUARE BLOCKS, APPROX DIMENSIONS 0.25m x 0.15m x 0.6m. FOUNDATION WALL SPACED 0.6m, WITH THE INTER-SPACE MADE UP OF IRREGULAR SHAPED PIECES OF 1/2 BRICKS OF VARIOUS SIZES FROM 0.10m x 0.10m x 0.05m TO 0.25m x 0.20m x 0.10m. ONLY THE SOUTHERN FACE IS EXPOSED, WITH NOISE TOWARDS THE NORTH. 2x WALLS WERE MEASURED E-W 10m, N-S 0.25m ALONG 0.20m. WALL WAS SEEN TO CONTINUE FOR A DISTANCE TOWARDS THE WEST THROUGH PLANTED BY MACHINE, AND REMAINS WERE SEEN IN THE E-FACING SECTION (ABOUT 5 COURSES) HEIGHT 0.50m. APPROX 5.0m FROM NORTH ENDING SECTION OF WALL. FROM TO NORTH OF MAIN PART, THE EXPOSED WALLS COULDN'T BE SEEN FROM SOUTH END. H-S APPROX 0.40m FROM THE WALL (NO FURTHER REMAINS WERE SEEN IN THIS SECTION). WALL IS BUILT WITH BRICKS (SOME WITH REINFORCED CONCRETE) AND IS CONTAINED BY THE FOUNDATIONS. NO OTHER FOUNDATIONS WERE SEEN TO BE CONTINUED TOWARDS THE EAST TO DEFINITE FOUNDATION. FOR A CONTINUATION OF THE WALL WAS SEEN; HOWEVER, ATTACHED TO THE WALL AND IN SOME PARTS THE REST OF THE WALL. A PART OF THE FOUNDATION WAS SEEN IN SECTION (SEE PLAN). THE WALL IS BUILT WITH BRICKS (SOME WITH REINFORCED CONCRETE) AND IS CONTAINED BY THE FOUNDATIONS. NO OTHER FOUNDATIONS WERE SEEN TO BE CONTINUED TOWARDS THE EAST TO DEFINITE FOUNDATION.</p>		Filled in by: <i>Sam, Frank</i>		
Further Observations	Sketch plans Overleaf:			

265

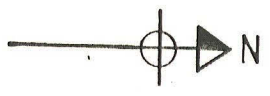


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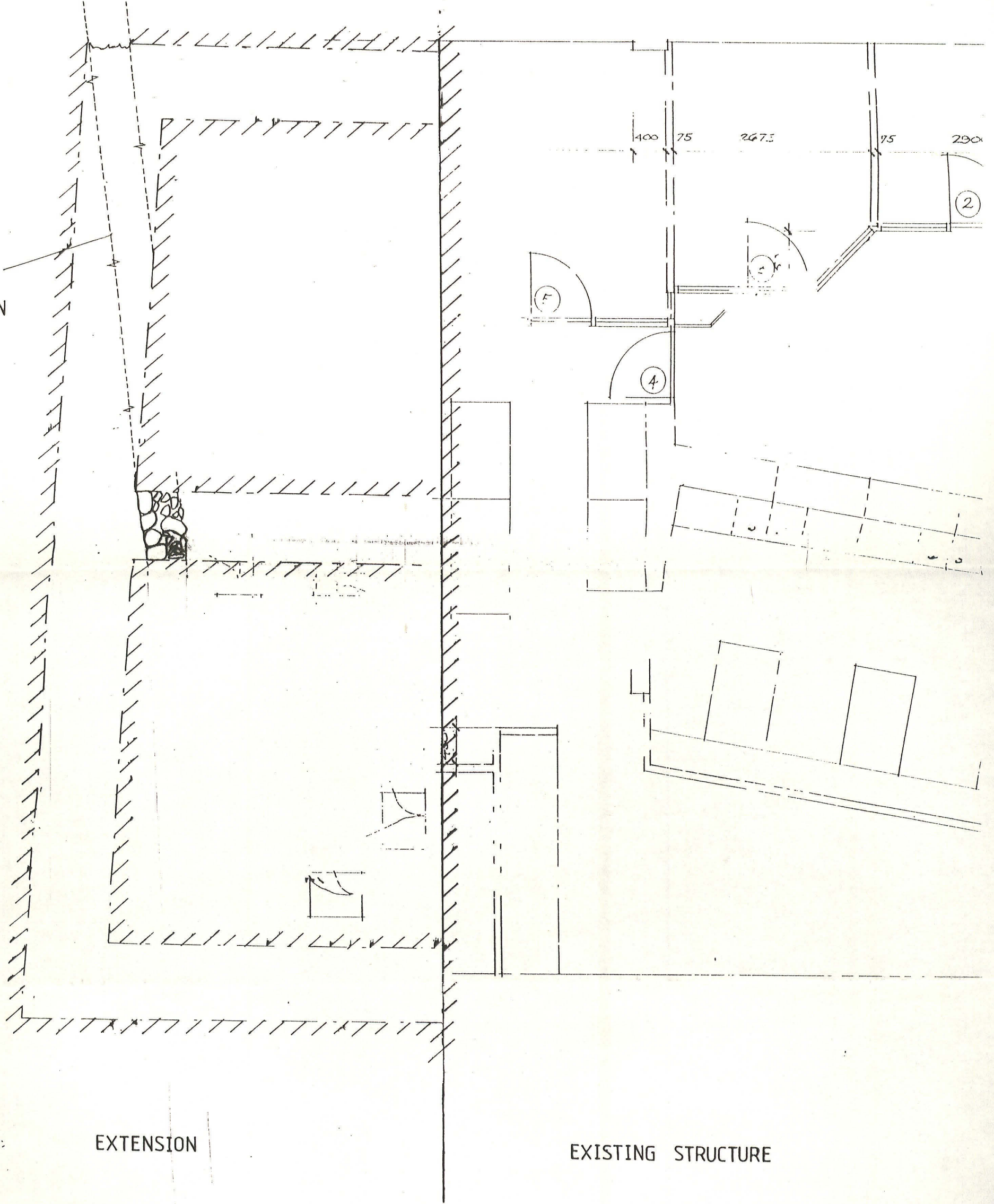
ON 265

SCALE : 1:50

GROUND PLAN



REMAINS OF
WALL SEEN IN
THIS AREA
BUT NOT
RECORDED



EXTENSION

EXISTING STRUCTURE