



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**21 Priory Rd, Spalding, Lincs.
Archaeological Evaluation
Site Code: SPR 01
NGR: TF 2464 2237
LCNCC Museum Accn no.: 2001. 147**

Report for

Mr M. Pepper

by

M. McDaid

heritage

**LAS Report No. 539
July 2001**

Conservation
Services

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Highways & Planning
Directorate

EVENT 42405

SOURCES L17041 L17042

23708	L182070	MED
23709	L182071	MED
23710	L182072	MED

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21 Priory Road, Spalding, Lincs.
Proposal for Archaeological Evaluation
Site Code: SPR 01
LCNCC Museum Accession No. 2001. 147
NGR: TF 2464 2237
Holland District Council Planning Application: H16/1220/00

Summary

The hand excavated evaluation trench revealed a post medieval layer beneath the topsoil which overlay a flood deposit, devoid of finds. Below the flood deposit was the natural clay. There is no evidence of archaeological activity in the area, developmental impact will be minimal.

Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Lindsey Archaeological Services, for Mr M. Pepper, from 26/6/01 to 27/6/ 01, in accordance with the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, 1998) and the requirements of the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council, as discussed verbally on 30th May 2001.

Site Location and Description

The proposed development site (Figs. 1 and 2, Pl.1) is located to the east of Priory Road. It is enclosed by a hedge to the north west, with only pedestrian access at the north east. The site is flanked by houses. The site is overgrown grass. An air-raid shelter (Pls. 2 and 3) is also present on the site.

Planning Background

An application for renewal of planning consent for a single dwelling is pending, subject to an archaeological evaluation. The results of the evaluation will allow a decision to be made on the foundation design of any building.

Archaeological Background

The town of Spalding straddles the River Welland, which flows north through the fenlands of South Lincolnshire. Spalding is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 when two manors (estates) are recorded with further land held by the monks of Crowland Abbey. Spalding Priory, founded in 1052, was a dependency of the Benedictine Abbey at Crowland. The proposed development site is believed to lie within the grounds of Spalding Priory, although the precise location is unknown, but current street names (Abbey Street, Abbey Yard and Priory Road) suggest its approximate location. Human remains have been found at Bridge Street, north east of Vine Street, possible evidence of a burial ground associated with the Abbey.

Archaeological work north east of Priory Road, at Vine Street, revealed medieval cobbled surface, 12th – 13th century in date and several earlier, 11th – 12th century rubbish pits. Test pits east of the

present public toilets/ car park exposed demolition rubble at a depth of 0.60m, but no medieval deposits were found. The area is believed to be outside the Abbey precinct.

Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the evaluation was to

- establish the presence or absence, quality and extent of archaeological remains within the development area
- gather sufficient information to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of any archaeological remains to be made and the impact which development will have upon them
- enable an informed decision to be made regarding the future treatment of any archaeological remains and consider any appropriate mitigatory measures either in advance of and/or during development

METHOD

Recording Systems

LAS operates a standard context recording system, developed by its staff over the past 20 years based on MOLAS and CAS models. A full written (single context) and photographic record was made of the site, the site plan was at a scale of 1:20 and section drawings at 1:10. The O.D. height will be included in all sections and spot heights on plans.

A full photographic record, in 35mm colour print format, was made during the progress of the evaluation, covering principal features together with a general site shot.

Evaluation Trench

A single trench, measuring 2m x 2m, was positioned to avoid existing services. It was excavated by hand (PI.4) and then hand-cleaned. Stratigraphic relationships were recorded. A temporary bench mark was established on the site (15.15m O.D.). Please note that site north is actually north west.

Results (Figs. 3 and 4, Pls. 5 and 6)

The topsoil, **101**, had an average depth of 0.40m. Finds from this humic black silt sand included one sherd of pottery from a 16th – 17th century stoneware jug, a sherd of medieval pottery from a jar or bowl, two fragments of brick, four piece of modern tile and one fragment of animal bone. Removal of topsoil **101** revealed a layer of mid brown silt sand, **102**, up to 0.40m thick. This deposit contained fragments of limestone up to 0.15m in size, Subsoil **102** produced one sherd of 18th century black glaze ware, a piece of tile and brick, both 18th – 20th century in date and three pieces of animal bone. Beneath **102** was flood deposit, **103**, a light grey brown sand which contained iron panning and a lens of clay and very light brown sand at the interface with **102**. Layer **103** was excavated to investigate the possibility of archaeological deposits being sealed beneath. However, this deposit could not be fully excavated due to safety restrictions (the trench had a depth of 1.20m). It had a depth greater

than 0.40m in places. A grey blue clay, **104**, was exposed in the south corner of the trench, reflecting the natural gradient of the deposits, which are higher at the south end, sloping to the north.

Discussion

Archaeological work close to the site had revealed an archaeological horizon approximately 0.90m below the surface. The evaluation trench exposed a flood horizon at approximately 0.80m below the existing ground level.. This horizon was devoid of finds which suggest that during the medieval period the land would have been on the periphery of habitable land due to its close proximity to the river. It is not possible to say if this land is associated with the Priory.

Conclusion

Results of the evaluation suggest that little of archaeological interest is present on the site, therefore the impact of development will be minimal.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Mr Pepper and South Holland District Council for their assistance. All fieldwork was carried out by the author and Mark Williams. The pottery and tile was identified by Jane Young. This report was edited by Naomi Field and produced and collated by Jane Frost.

Mick McDaid

July 2001

References

- Allen, M; 2000 *Archaeological Evaluation Report: Land Off Vine Street, Spalding, Lincolnshire*. Pre Construct Archaeology developer report.
- Palmer – Brown, C; 2000 *Archaeological Impact Assessment: Land Off Vine Street/ Bedford Place, Spalding, Lincolnshire*. Pre Construct Archaeology developer report.

Archive List

Plans

Sections

Levels

Correspondence

Photographs: LAS Film No. 01/48/21 - 35

SPR 01 Context List

Context	Type	Depth	Description
101	Layer	0.40m	Topsoil
102	Layer	0.40m	Subsoil
103	Layer	0.40m +	Flood deposit
104	Layer	-	Natural clay

Pottery Archive SPR01

Jane Young

Lindsey Archaeological Services

context	cname	full name	form type	part	sherds	description	date
101	BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics A, B and C	jar/bowl	base	1	soot;int glaze	13th to 14th
101	FREC	Frechen stoneware	large jug	BS	1		16th to 17th
102	BL	Black-glazed wares	large jar ?	BS	1		18th

Tile Archive SPR01

*Jane Young**Lindsey Archaeological Services*

context	cname	full name	frags	weight	description	date
101	BRK	brick	2	22		19th to 20th
101	MODTIL	Modern tile	4	73		19th to 20th
102	BRK	brick	1	192	handmade;soft very fine powdery fabric	post-med
102	PANT	Pantile	1	36		18th to 20th

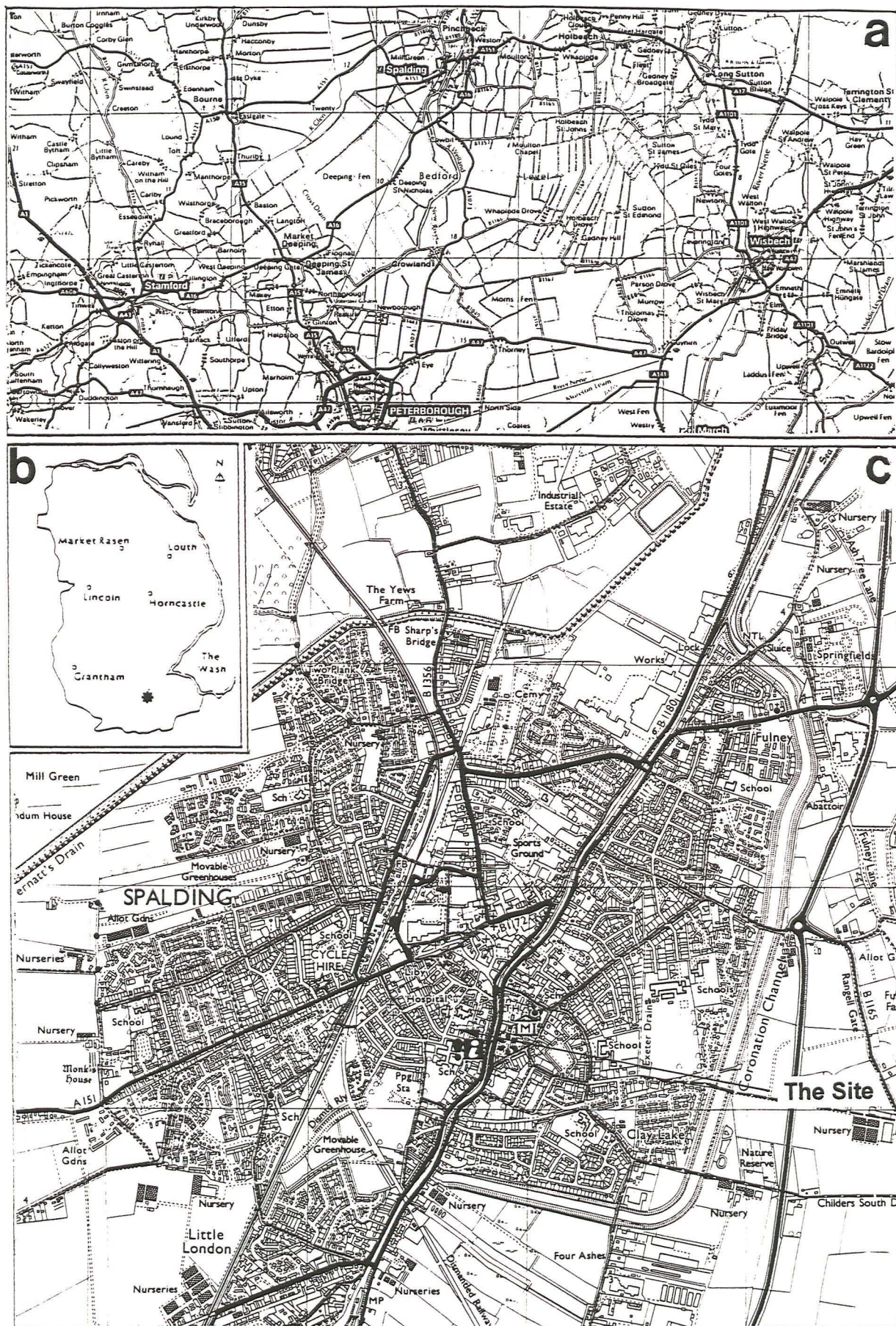


Fig. 1 Spalding site location. (Insert C based on the 1999 Ordnance Survey 1:25 000 Explorer map, Sheet 249. © Crown Copyright. Reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO, LAS licence number AL 100002165)

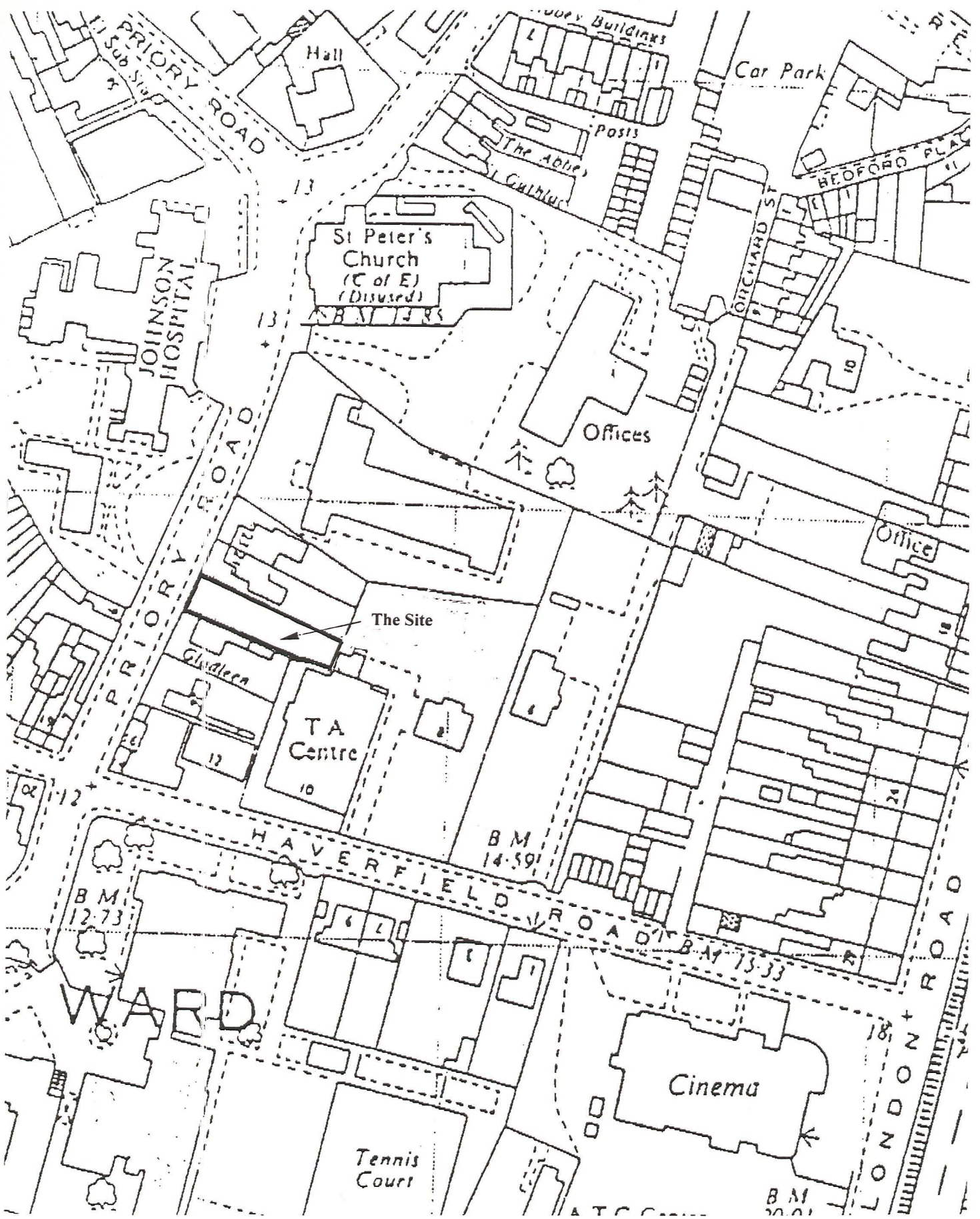


Fig. 2 Location of the site.

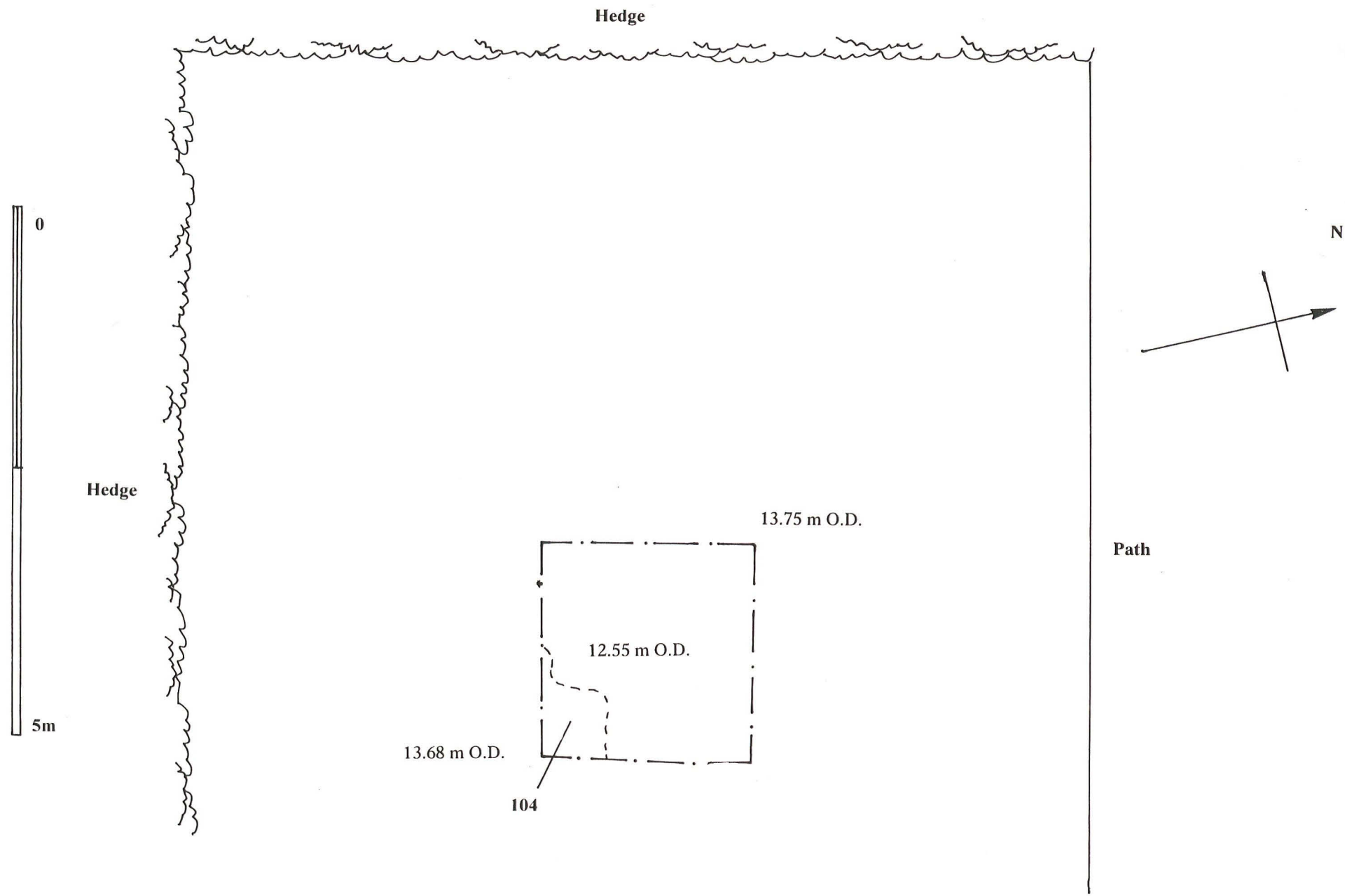


Fig. 3 Location of the evaluation trench.

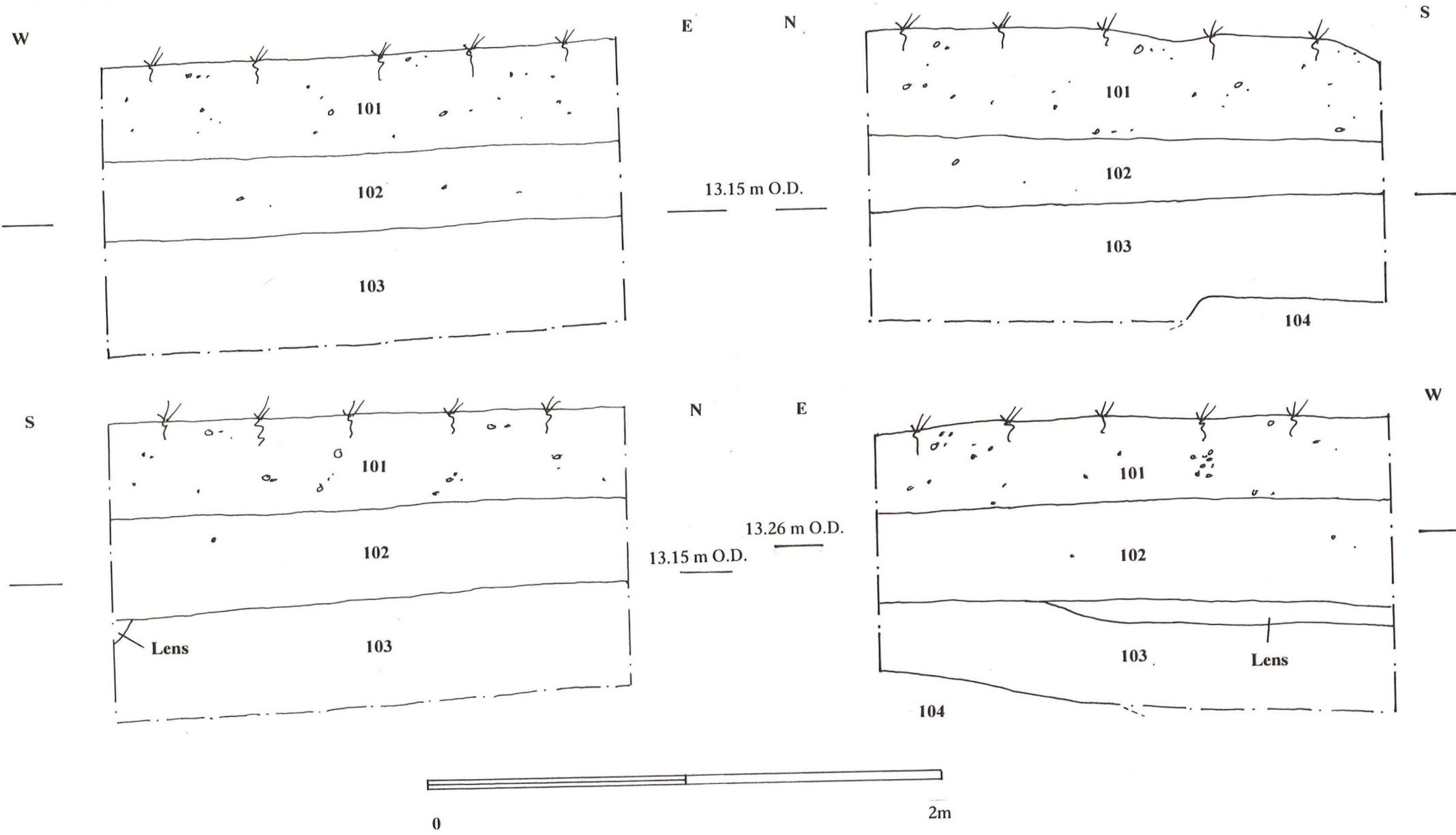


Fig. 4 The evaluation trench sections



Pl. 1 General view of site. Looking south east.



PI. 2 The air-raid shelter entrance. Vertical scale 2m, horizontal scale 1m.

PI. 3 Back of the air - raid shelter. Vertical scale 2m, horizontal scale 1m.





Pl. 4 Hand excavation of the evaluation trench.

Pl. 5 Trench Stratigraphy. Arrow points north west. Vertical scale 1m, horizontal scale 2m.





PI. 6 Trench Stratigraphy. Arrow points south east. Vertical scale 1m, horizontal scale 2m.