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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
OF A TEST PIT AT
PETTICOAT LANE,
BOSTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BPL02)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

Event 47885
Source 47555
47556

negative

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
OF A TEST PIT AT
PETTICOAT LANE,
BOSTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BPL02)**

Work Undertaken For
Oldrid and Co. Ltd

Report Compiled By
Gary Taylor BA, MA

February 2002

Planning Application No: B/99/0488
National Grid Reference: TF 3285 4418
City and County Museum Accession No:2000.16

A.P.S. Report No: **38/02**



1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on a test pit prior to redevelopment of Oldrid's store, Petticoat Lane, Boston, Lincolnshire. A previous auger hole had suggested a deep void was situated at this position. However, the test pit monitoring determined that there was no void at this location. It is possible that, due to being wet and lacking cohesion, the deposits had not been recovered during the earlier auger sampling, which suggested the presence of a void.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as 'a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons within a specified area, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed' (IFA 1997).

2.2 Background

Located in the town core, approximately 100m east of the parish church of St Botolph, the site lies to the rear of Oldrid's store on Petticoat Lane at national grid reference TF 3285 4418 (Fig. 1) and stands at approximately 5m OD on a slight rise above the generally flat terrain.

The site is the subject of planning permission (application number B/99/0488) for the construction of an extension to a store. As the area is archaeologically sensitive, located in the historic core of the town and crossed by the Barditch, the medieval boundary of the settlement, conditions have been applied to mitigate the development impact on the archaeological remains in the area. Archaeological investigations have identified medieval and post-medieval remains at the site (Archaeological Project Services 2000). Additionally, an auger survey across the area recorded a possible void at one location near to the Barditch. This possible void was recorded in the auger as occurring between 1.20m and approximately 3m below current ground level (Archaeological Project Services 2002; Norwest Holst 2002). It was necessary, for both engineering and archaeological reasons, to determine the extent of this possible void. In consequence, a test pit was excavated to establish the nature and size of the possible void. Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Oldrid and Co. Ltd to carry out the archaeological monitoring of this test pit and the investigation was undertaken on the 18th February 2002.

A mechanical excavator with a toothed bucket excavated a test pit over the site of the previous auger hole (Figure 2). Mechanical excavation terminated at approximately 1.45m below current ground level, that is, about 0.25m below the level at which the previous auger sample had identified the void.

Following excavation the trench base was examined and a section of the test pit cleaned by trowel and archaeologically recorded. The position of the test pit was planned by tape survey to fixed points recorded on maps of the area.

3. RESULTS

The following sequence of deposits was recorded and is represented in the section drawing of the test pit (Fig. 3).

Contexts	Depths	Description	Interpretation
100	0-0.1m	Tarmac	Carpark surface
101	0.1-c. 0.65m	Compact pale yellow limestone pieces	Hardcore base for carpark surface
102	c. 0.65m- 0.98m	Machine-made frogged bricks, bonded with mortar; flat level base to deposit, uneven upper surface	Brick structure, wall remains or floor
103	0.98m- 1.43m	Dark grey-brown silty clay with abundant mortar and brick/tile fragments and moderate charcoal pieces	Dumped deposit, possible garden soil or similar
104	1.43m-	Mixed light brown, greeny brown and dark grey-brown clay and clayey silt with occasional charcoal pieces	Dumped deposit

The investigation established that there was no void at the location. Groundwater was seen to be rising up through the freshly exposed auger hole and it seems likely that the deposits were wet and perhaps lacking coherence, with the result that they had not been retrieved by the auger.

Deposits (100) and (101) constituted the surface and base for the current carpark. Deposit (102) is a wall or surface of brick and is composed of machine-made frogged brick and is thus no earlier than the mid-late 19th century. Deposit (103) is likely to be dumped, perhaps a made-up garden soil. It is very even in consistency and hence likely to have been repeatedly disturbed in the past, as would occur with gardening. No artefacts were recovered from this layer but a nearby exposure of a very similar (possibly the same) deposit contained 19th century pottery. Deposit (104) is probably also dumped but is mixed, with evident variants in its composition, and may be the fill of a feature such as a pit. No dating evidence was retrieved from this deposit.

4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr M. Isaac of Oldrid and Co. Ltd who commissioned this investigation. Thanks are also due to Mr N. Chamberlain of Lindum Construction Ltd. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Tom Lane.

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Supervisor: Gary Taylor
Illustration: Sue Unsworth

Post-excavation Analyst: Gary Taylor

5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archaeological Project Services, 2000 *Archaeological Evaluation of land adjacent to Petticoat Lane and Mitre Lane, Boston, Lincolnshire (BSBA00)*, APS Report No. **25/00**

Archaeological Project Services, 2002 *Archaeological Monitoring of Auger Holes at Petticoat Lane, Boston, Lincolnshire (BPL02)*, APS Report No. **25/02**

IFA, 1997 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Norwest Holst, 2002 *Window Sampling Log* (preliminary report)

Abbreviations

APS Archaeological Project Services

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

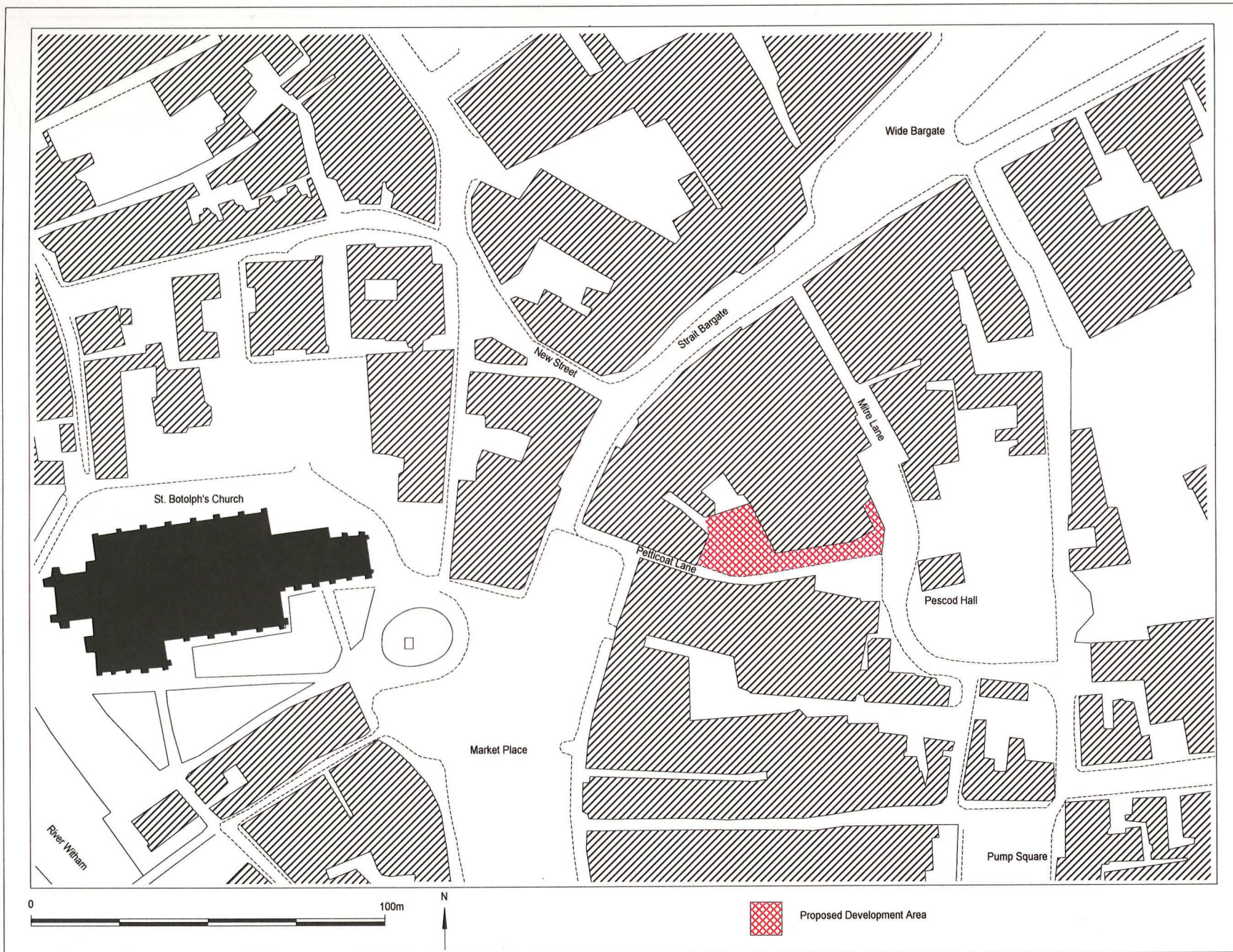


Figure 1 - Site location plan

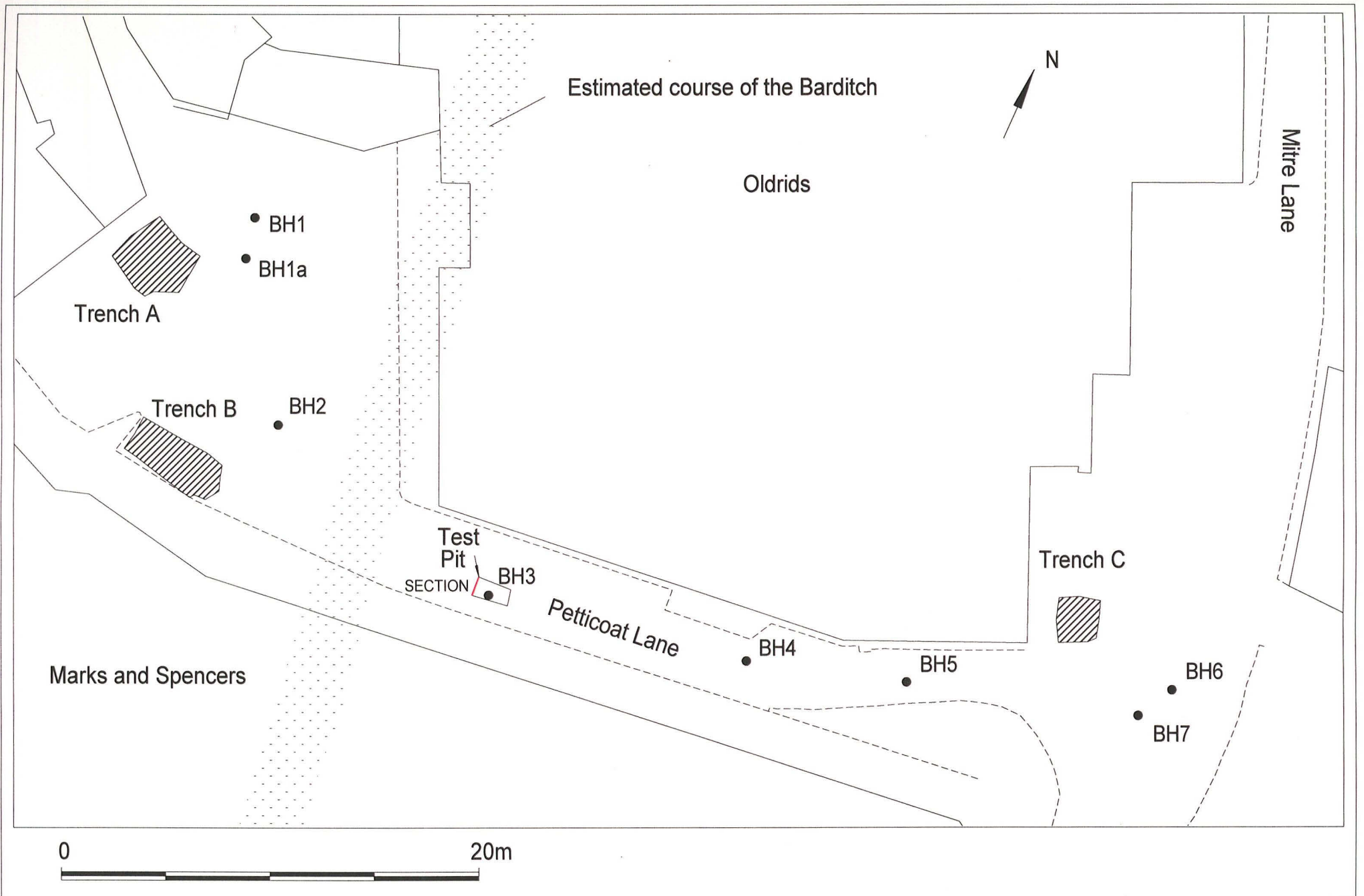


Figure 2 - Plan of development area showing auger holes and test pit

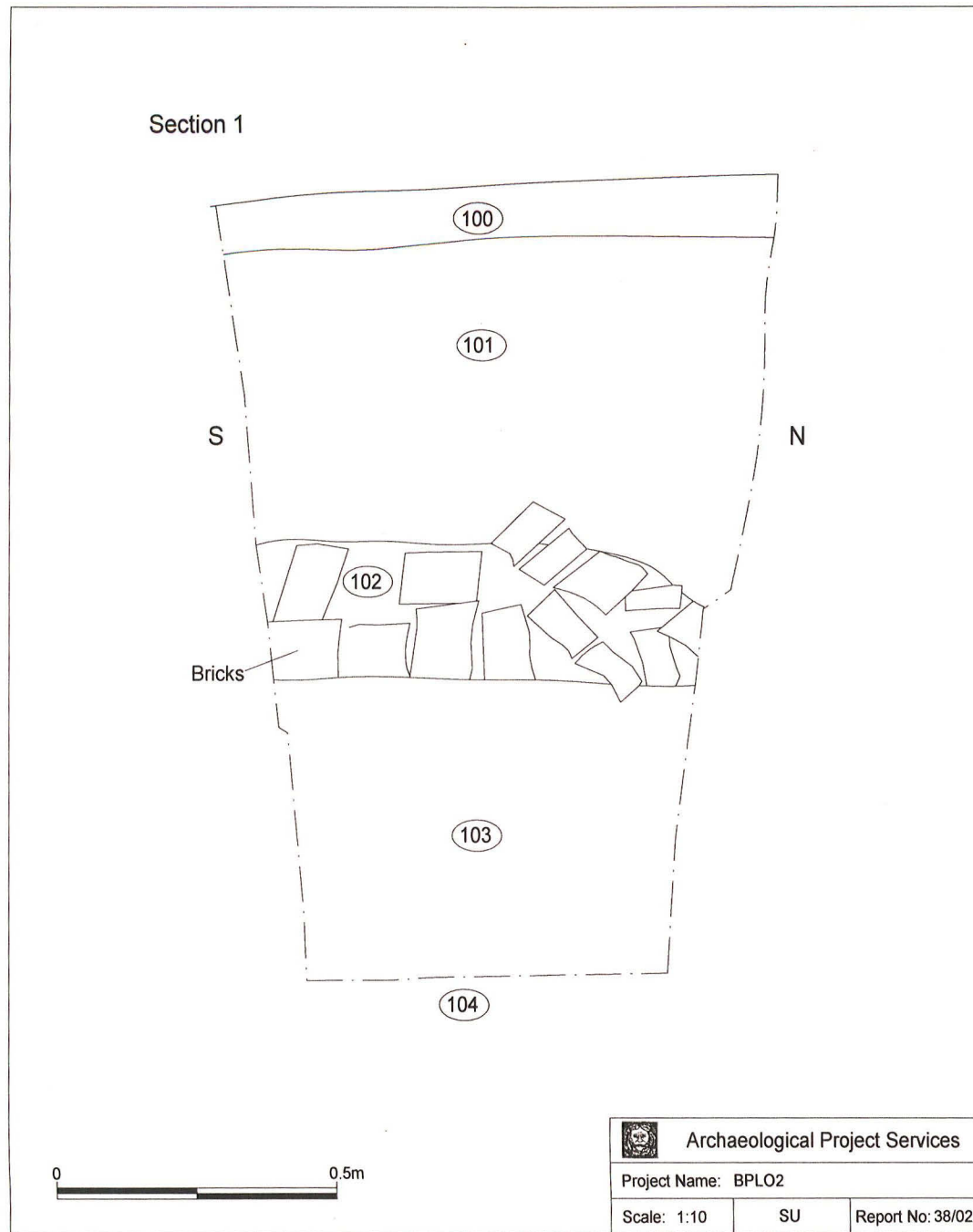


Figure 3 Section of Test pit

Appendix 1

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

5	Context sheets
1	Day recording sheets
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Location Plan
1	Drawing sheet
2	Copies of report

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum
12 Friars Lane
Lincoln
LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number: 2000.16

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: BPL02

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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