



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Land to the North of Conging Street,
Horncastle, Lincs.**

Archaeological Watching Brief

NGR: TF 2599 6977

Site Code HCHA 01

LCNCC Museum Accn No. 2001.230

ELDC Planning Application: S/086/1090/00

**Report prepared
for
Bell and Shinn**

by

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LAS Report No. 593

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Contents

List of Figures

List of Plates

Summary 1

Introduction 1

The Development Site 1

Planning Background 1

Archaeological Background 1

Objectives 2

Method 2

Results 2

Discussion 4

Conclusion 4

Acknowledgements 5

References 5

Archive Summary 5

Appendix 1: Context Summary

Appendix 2: Medieval and Post - Medieval pottery archive (J.Young)

The Figures

The Plates

Figures

- Fig. 1 Location of site (C based on the 1:25,000 OS Map. Reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence number AL 100002165).
- Fig. 2 Development site showing layout of buildings between 1980 and 2000.
- Fig. 3 Part of the O.S. 1:500 survey of Horncastle, dated 1888 showing the development site with Paddock House at the northern end of the plot.
- Fig. 4 Development layout with features recorded during the watching brief. Based on drawing supplied by CAD Associates, 1:200 scale.

Plates

- Pl. 1 General view of site looking north (Plots 1-4 centre, Plots 5-7 right).
- Pl. 2 Plots 1 - 4. Looking south.
- Pl. 3 Plot 1, ditches 511 and 513. Looking north. Vertical scale 1m, horizontal scale 0.50m.
- Pl. 4 Plot 1, ditch 511 after excavation. Vertical scale 1m, horizontal scale 0.50m.
- Pl. 5 Plot 1, well 510.
- Pl. 6 Plots 3 and 4, cellar 505. Looking south east.
- Pl. 7 Plots 3 and 4, south wall foundations of Paddock House.
- Pl. 8 Plots 5 - 7, general view looking south east.
- Pl. 9 Plot 5, pipe trench 503, looking south east. Vertical scale 1m, horizontal scale 0.50m.
- Pl. 10 Footings 502 in east side of Plot 6. Vertical scale 1m, horizontal scale 0.50m.
- Pl. 11 Footings 502 seen in Plot 7. Looking south.
- Pl. 12 Plot 6/7, well 504 being backfilled.
- Pl. 13 Plots 8 - 10, general view looking south west.
- Pl. 14 Plot 10, topsoil deposit 500
- Pl. 15 Plot 7, re-used base of a stone trough, from topsoil.
- Pl. 16 Plot 7, re-used piece of worked stone, from topsoil.
- Pl. 17 Plots 11 - 14 fronting onto Conging Street, looking south east.
- Pl. 18 Service trench running through Plots 12 - 14.
- Pl. 19 Plots 11-14, looking north east, showing disturbed nature of deposits.

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Summary

Groundworks on land to the north of Conging Street exposed five east - west ditches, only one of which could be dated to the medieval period. Two wells and footings for buildings erected after 1880 were also revealed. No evidence for Anglo-Saxon or medieval occupation of the site was found.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by Bell and Shinn to conduct a watching brief during the mechanical excavation of footings for a housing development at Conging Street (Figs.1, 2, 4). A condition of Lincolnshire County Council's full planning permission required an archaeological watching brief, for which a project design prepared by LAS in August 2001 was approved.

Monitoring visits by N. Field, G. Tann and R. Pullen, took place September 3rd-6th, October 15th and December 17th 2001.

The Development Site

Horncastle is located on the south-west edge of the Lincolnshire wolds 23 miles east of Lincoln (Fig. 1). The proposed development site is located on the north side of Conging Street, to the north of Horncastle town centre. It extends north to Dovecot Alley. The site was formerly occupied by buildings and yard areas, with an area of hard standing on the Conging Street frontage used for car parking (Fig. 2).

Planning Background

Planning permission was granted for the erection of 14 residential units subject to an archaeological watching brief being carried out during the groundworks phase of construction.

Archaeological Background

The development site lies immediately to the NE of the Roman walls, perhaps within an area of extra-mural Anglo-Saxon occupation. Two skeletons have been found on the south side of Conging Street, one of which was accompanied by Anglo-Saxon brooches and beads, as well as post-hole structures of Anglo-Saxon and medieval date. It is suspected that a high-status medieval building was located in the close vicinity.

In September 2000 four archaeological evaluation trenches were excavated and archaeological remains, including a late Saxon ditch, a number of medieval ditches and the foundations of a Victorian house were discovered. Three new types of late Saxon pottery were identified in the small assemblage of material from the excavations. The foundations were part of the building shown on the OS 1:500 scale survey of the town as Paddock House and demolished in about 1980 (Fig. 3). Medieval features on the site, although plentiful, appeared to represent agricultural activity rather than evidence for occupation. It was recommended by the archaeology section of Lincolnshire County Council that a watching brief should be carried out during the development of the site.

Objectives

The purpose of the Watching Brief was to record any archaeological deposits disturbed during the groundworks phase of construction.

Method

Context numbers were assigned to features and their fills for recording purposes; these are used in this report (in bold) and are listed in Appendix 1.

Plots 1 - 7 at the north end of the site were excavated first, followed by plots 8 - 10, with plots 11 - 14 completed last (Pl. 1). Trenches were excavated with a 0.6m wide, toothed bucket, to depths of 0.80m - 1.45m. Whenever possible section faces were cleaned prior to recording.

Results (Fig. 4)

Plot 1 (Pl. 2)

An east - west gully, **511**, 0.70m wide, 0.15m deep, was noted in the west side of the plot, 1.90m from the north west corner (Pls. 3 and 4). Its fill, **512**, was a brown sand clay containing a few flints. A gully, **513**, of a similar width and alignment to **511**, and with a similar fill, was noted in the north western corner of the plot (Pl. 3). They were dug through the natural yellow sands and gravels **501**, revealed at a depth of 0.95m below modern ground surface. There were no finds from either of these features. The backfill of Trial Trench 4, excavated in September 2000, was observed in the trench forming the boundary between house plots 1 and 2. It is likely that gullies **511** and **513** are the same as those recorded as gullies **403** and **405** in the trial trench. A brick lined well, **510** (Pl. 5), 1.08m diameter, was noted 1m west of the backfilled trial trench in the north side of the cross wall trench.

Plot 2 (Pl. 2)

No archaeology was recorded in this plot.

Plot 3 (Pl. 2)

A rubble-filled cellar, **505** (Pl. 6), 6.2m x 2.4m in area, was observed in north east corner of this plot, continuing into plot 4. Sixteen courses of brick with a cream mortar bonding were visible. The cellar walls were 0.35m thick and lime whitewashed. The bricks measured 22.8cm x 11cm x 7.4cm.

Excavation of the single porch for plot 1 and the double porch for plots 2 and 3 cut through the brick foundations of the south wall of Paddock House, which was demolished in about 1980 by East Lindsey District Council when the site was converted into a depot (Pl. 7). This wall was probably also recorded in the trial trench 4 as wall **412**.

Plot 4 (Pl. 2)

A 0.30m thick layer of limestone rubble, **507**, was observed east of the cellar. Below **507** was a dark blue grey sand clay, **506**, 0.10m deep, containing polythene and **508**, a construction layer comprising mortar, chalk and brick fragments within a dark brown clay sand. It is assumed that this area was disturbed when Paddock House was demolished or the garage, which replaced it, was constructed

Plot 5 (Pl. 8)

A 0.50m thick layer of brown clay sand, **509** (Pl. 10), was noted extending across plots 5 -7 and sealing **501**. A brick inspection chamber was noted south of the foundation trench crossing Plot 5 from west to east. Ceramic pipes ran from its north side diagonally across the plot and were cut through by the north foundation trench. East of the inspection chamber was a 1.50m wide, 'U' shaped trench, **503**, 4.20m south of the north east corner of the plot. It contained a ceramic sewer pipe and was filled with a dark brown sand clay with coal ash and brick rubble (Pl. 9).

Brick foundations, **502** were observed in all three plots **5-7** running north-south close to the centre of the house plot, with perpendicular walls running eastwards in plots 6 and 7 (Pl. 10). Between five and ten courses of brickwork survived. All the bricks were handmade. These foundations belonged to a west-facing building, aligned north-south, which had already been demolished by the time of the OS survey in 1888.

Plot 6 (Pl. 8)

Brick foundations, **502**, running east from the front of the building were also noted within the plot (Pl.11). A brick lined well, **504**, 1.45m in diameter, was observed in the new porch area and continued into Plot 7 (Pl. 12).

Plot 7 (Pl. 8)

The area around plot 7 was heavily disturbed by modern services. Part of a large inspection pit was exposed in the south-east corner of this plot and the whole of the south foundation trench had previously been dug out in the past 20 years. More east -west brick footings relating to **502** were noted 5m from the south end of plot 7 and another possible north - south internal wall **502** was noted 1.10m east of the front wall (Fig.4).

Plot 8 (Pl. 13)

The topsoil in this area of the site appeared to be very deep on this site, possibly A Ditch, **515**, was noted in the western foundation trench. This ditch was probably the same one recorded as **325** during the evaluation, in Trial Trench 3 which ran along the west side of plot 8. A modern linear disturbance, **517**, was also noted along the south side of plot 8. Part of a trough (Pl. 15) and a piece of worked stone (Pl. 16) were recovered from the topsoil **500**.

Plots 9 and 10 (Pl. 13)

A brick floor **529**, 0.15m thick was recorded at the north end of the plot running into plot 8 to the west. It sealed a layer of brown sand loam **523**, 0.65m deep, which produced three sherds medieval pottery of 13th - 14th century date and covered an orange sand, **524**, above gravel **530**. Plot 9 contained two east west aligned ditches, **525** and **527**, both had a brown sandy loam fills, **526** and **528**. **525** was located just south of the brick floor and continued into plot 8, further south. At the south end of the plot ditch **527** ran eastwards into plot 10. Its fill **528** produced one sherd of 13-14th century pottery, the same date as the pottery found in **523**.

Plots 11 - 14 (Pl. 17)

No archaeological features were observed, but a substantial modern service trench (Pl. 18) was recorded running the entire length of plots 12 - 14, parallel with Conging Street. It had a width of 2.50m and a depth of c.1m. There was a distinct layer of modern make-up **600**, overlying a dark grey brown topsoil and subsoil **601**, sealing the natural mid orange brown sandy clay natural **602** (Pl. 19).

Discussion

The watching brief revealed a series of east - west gullies and ditches, **503**, **511**, **513**, **525** and **527**. Only one ditch, **527**, contained medieval pottery of 13-14th century date. They probably represent the subdivision of land within the medieval open fields. **523** was the only surviving area of undisturbed medieval ground surface.

The watching brief also established that the site had been disturbed by modern services along the Conging Street frontage and land drains. The foundations, **502**, observed in plots 5 - 7 belonged to a building or buildings pre-dating those standing in 2000 but not present on the O.S. map of 1880 (Fig.2). The bricks were hand made and it is possible that the building was 18th or even 17th century in date. The watching brief established that the north end of the site was heavily disturbed by cellars and 19th century building foundations. Cellar **505** and the foundations observed along the southern edge of plots 1-4 belonged to 'Paddock House', the building demolished in 1980 and replaced by a garage when the site became a depot for the local council.

Conclusion

The watching brief confirmed the location of Paddock House and revealed evidence for a hitherto unknown building of 17th or 18th century date. It identified the presence of five ditches/gullies of

probable medieval date ~~two~~^{one} of which contained 13-14th century pottery. Much of the site was heavily disturbed by 20th century service trenches. No further evidence for Anglo-Saxon occupation was found on the remainder of the site.

Acknowledgements

The watching brief was undertaken by Naomi Field, Geoff Tann and Richard Pullen. Site plans were provided by CAD Associates. LAS would also like to thank Mr Bell and Mr Shinn for their assistance during this watching brief. The report was collated and produced by Jane Frost.

Mick McDaid and Naomi Field
Lindsey Archaeological Services
June 27th 2002

References

Farr, S and Tann, G; 2000 *Land To The North Of Conging Street, Horncastle, Lincs. Archaeological Evaluation*. LAS report 481.

Archive Summary

correspondence

developer's site plans

field plans

notes

field section drawings

inked section drawings

photographs: colour prints LAS film nos. 01/ 85/ 12 -17, 01/ 89/ 1 -24, 01/ 101/ 20 - 24, 01/ 124/ 16 - 30 and 01/ 126/ 26 - 28

THE APPENDICES

Conging Street Horncastle Watching brief Context List.
Site Code: HCHA 01

Context	House Plot	Type	Description
500	All	Layer	Topsoil
501	All	Layer	Natural
502	3 to 5	Feature	Footings
503	5	Layer	Trench
504	6	Feature	Well
505	3 and 4	Feature	Cellar
506	4	Layer	Blue grey sand clay
507	4	Layer	Limestone Rubble
508	4	Layer	Construction layer
509	5	Layer	Brown clay sand
510	1	Feature	Well
511	1	Cut	Ditch
512	1	Fill	Fill of 511
513	1	Cut	Ditch
514	1	Fill	Fill of 513
515	8	Cut	Ditch
516	8	Fill	Fill of 515
517	8	Cut	Modern disturbance
518	8	Fill	Fill of 517
519			Not used
520			Not used
521			Not used
522			Not used
523	9	Layer	Brown sand loam
524	9	Layer	Orange sand
525	8	Cut	Ditch
526	8	Fill	Fill of 525
527	8	Cut	Ditch
528	8	Fill	Fill of 527
529	9	Layer	Brick floor
530	9	Layer	Gravel
600	11 to 14	Layer	Overburden
601	11 to 14	Layer	Subsoil
602	11 to 14	Layer	Natural

Pottery Archive HCHA01

Jane Young Lindsey Archaeological Services

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	decoratio	part	description	date
523	MEDLOC	Medieval local fabrics	OX/R/OX;fine-med sandy;hard	jug	1		BS	abundant quartz	13th to 14th
523	TOY	Toynton Medieval Ware		bowl	1		BS		13th to 14th
523	TOY	Toynton Medieval Ware		jug	1		rim		13th to 14th
528	MEDLOC	Medieval local fabrics	OX/R/OX;fine-med sandy;hard	jug	1		BS		13th to 14th
U/S	STMO	Staffordshire/Bristol mottled-glazed		small jar	1		rim		18th
U/S	PEARL	Pearlware		saucer	1	transferprint	rim		late 18th to early 19th
U/S	SIEG	Siegburg-type Ware		drinking jug	1		base	part ash glaze;large fragment with fresh breaks	14th to 15th

THE FIGURES

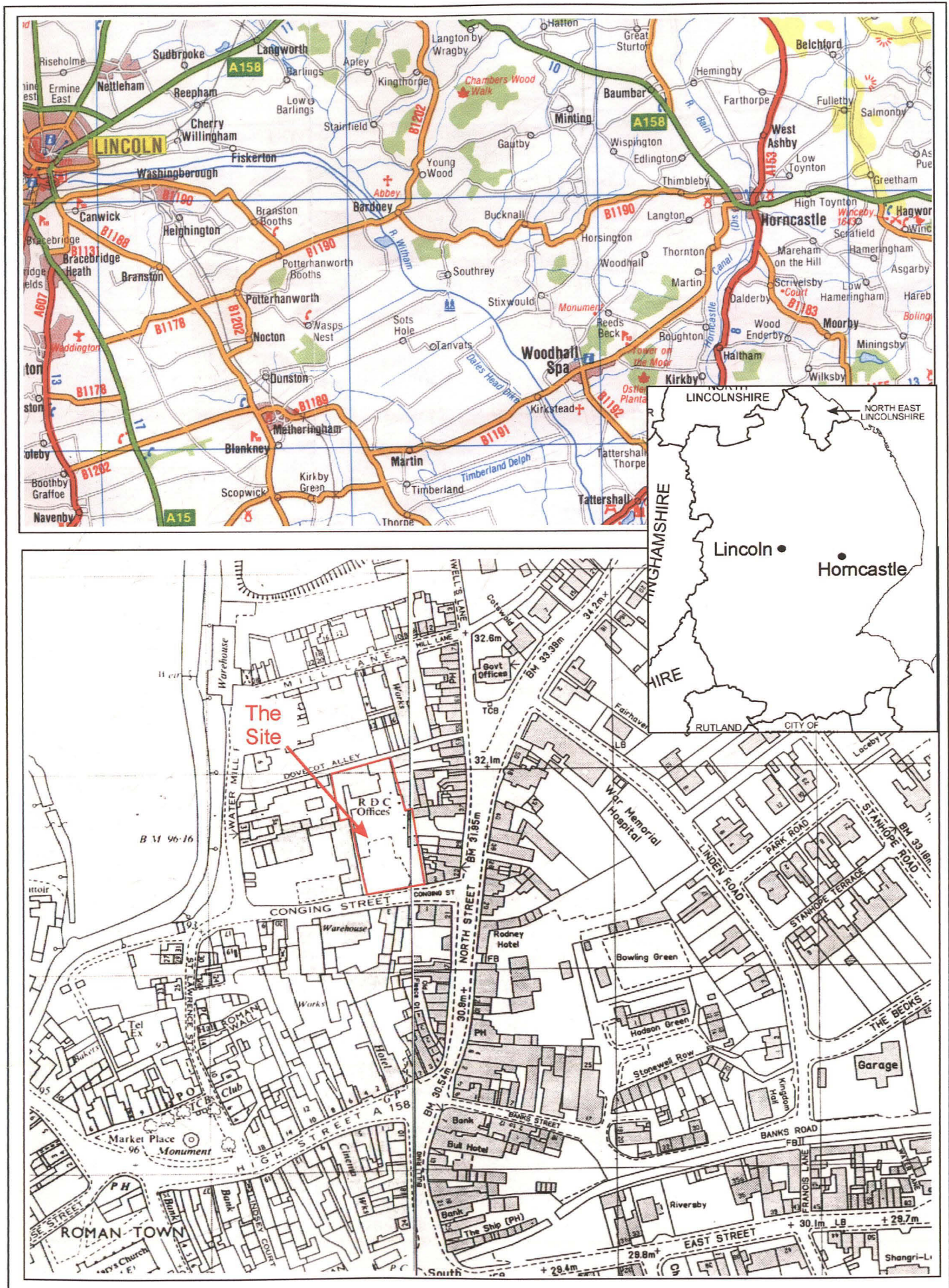


Fig. 1 Location of site, reproduced from the 1:25,000 OS Map. Reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS License number AL 10002165A.

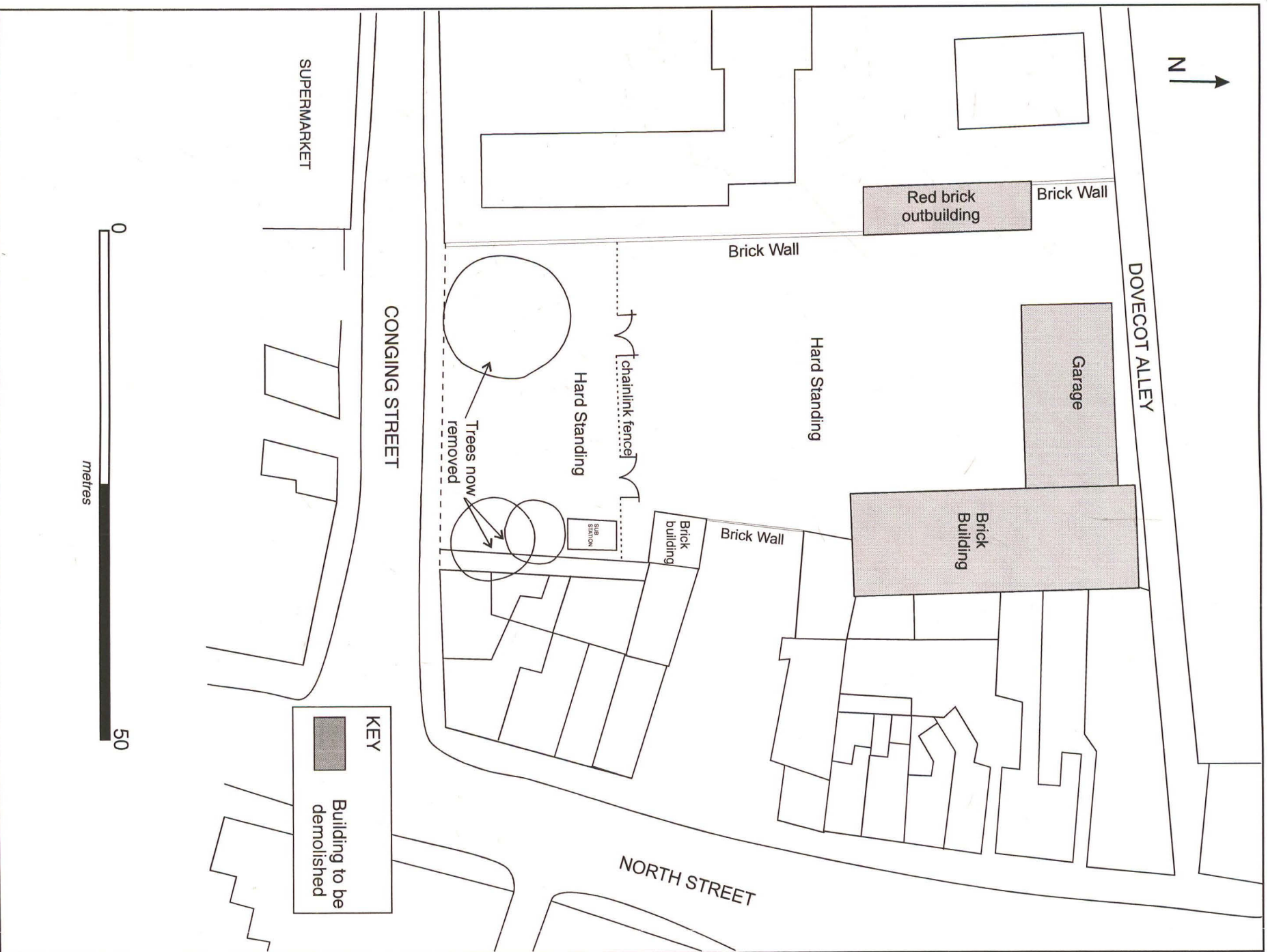


Fig. 2 Development site showing layout of buildings between 1980 and 2000

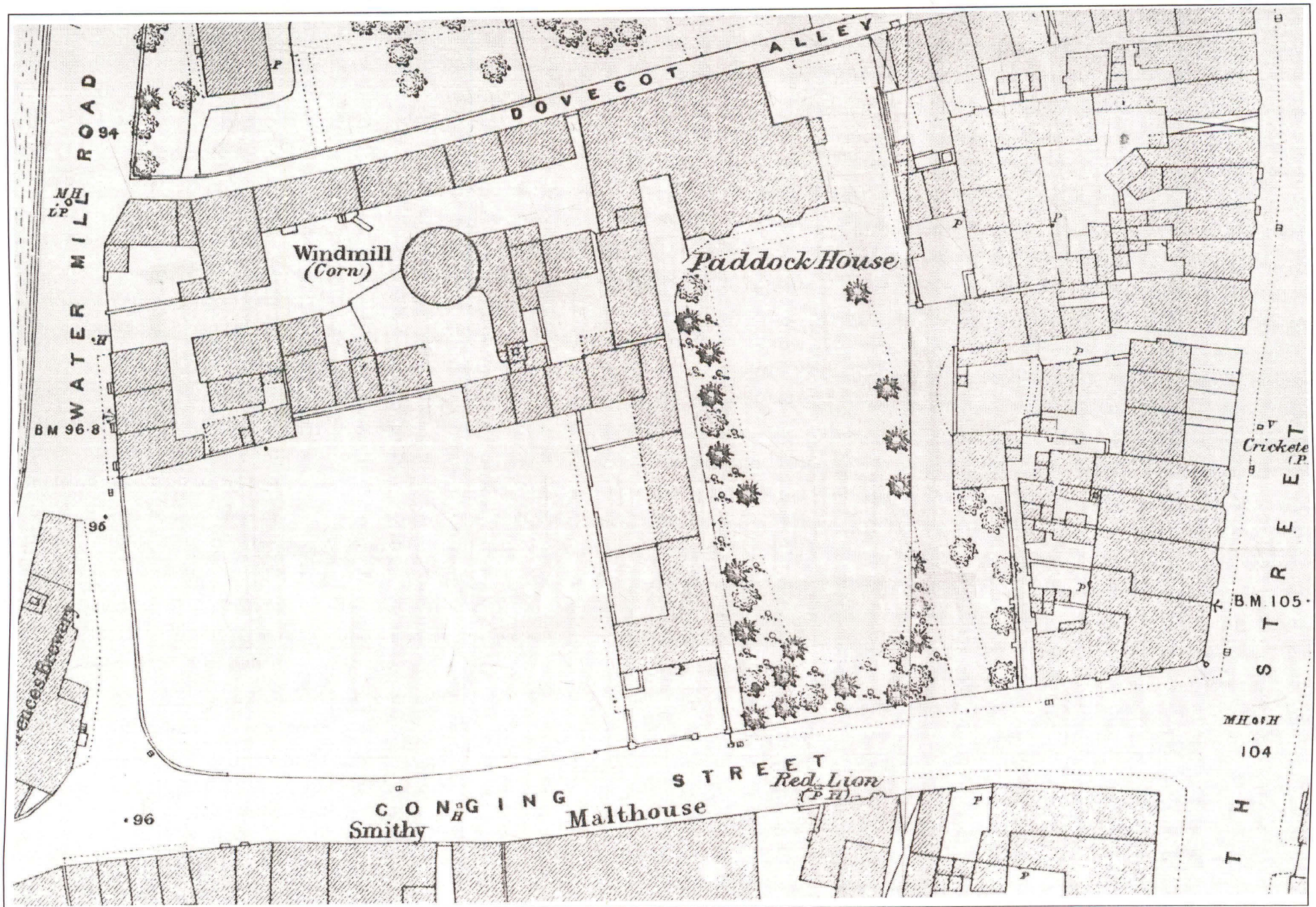


Fig. 3 Part of the O. S. 1:500 scale survey of Horncastle, dated 1888 showing the development site with Paddock House at the northern end of the plot.

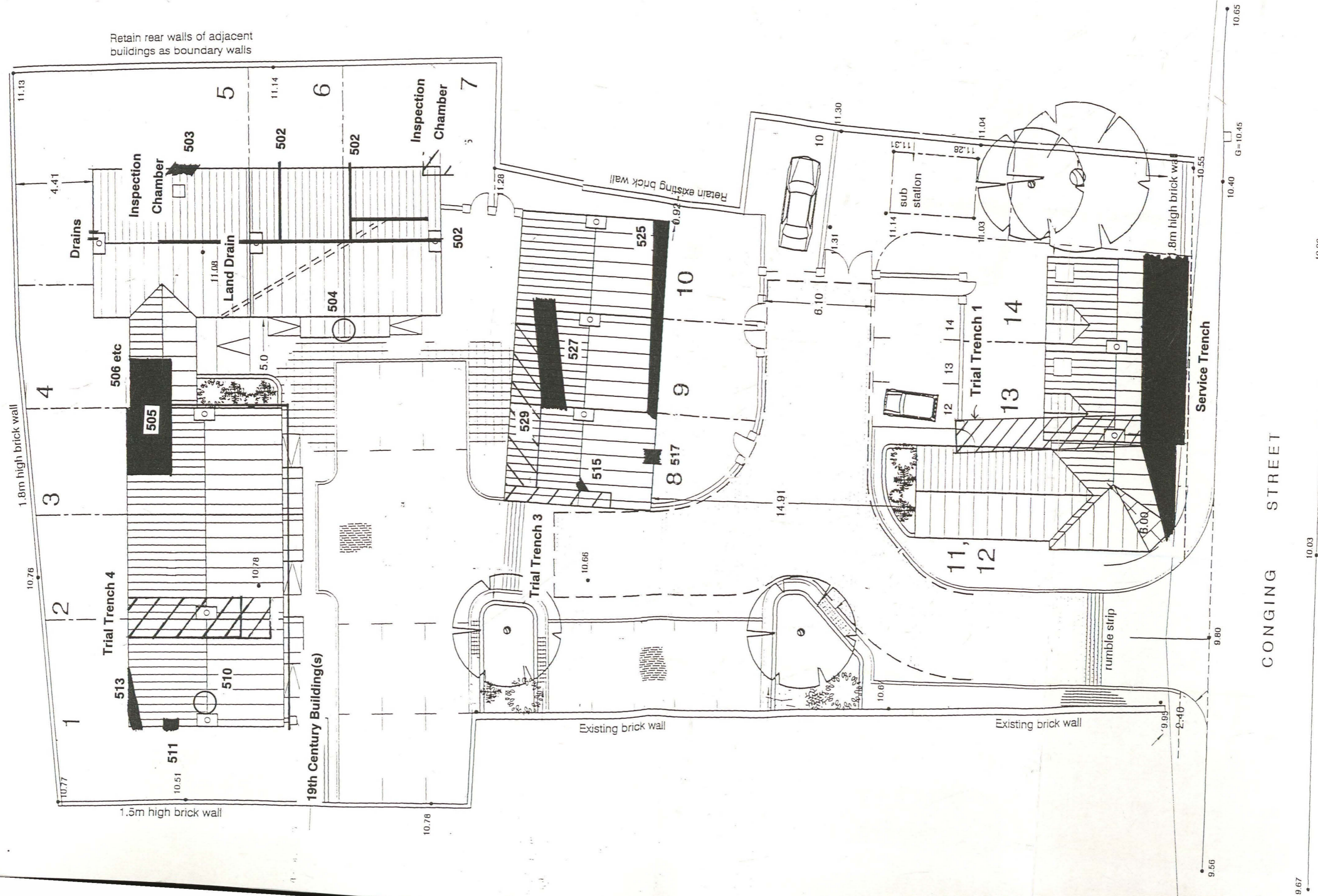


Fig. 4 Development layout with features recorded during the watching brief. Based on drawing supplied by CAD Associates, 1:200 scale.

THE PLATES



PI. 1 General view of site looking north (Plots 1-4 centre, Plots 5-7 right).

PI. 2 Plots 1 - 4. Looking south.





Pl. 3 Plot 1, ditches 511 and 513. Looking north. Vertical scale 1m, horizontal scale 0.50m.

Pl. 4 Plot 1, ditch 511 after excavation. Vertical scale 1m, horizontal scale 0.50m.





Pl. 5 Plot 1, well 510.

Pl. 6 Plots 3 and 4, cellar 505. Looking south east.





Pl. 7 Plots 3 and 4, south wall foundations of Paddock House.

Pl. 8 Plots 5 – 7, general view looking south east.





Pl. 9 Plot 5, pipe trench 503, looking south east. Vertical scale 1m, horizontal scale 0.50m.

Pl. 10 Footings 502 in east side of Plot 6. Vertical scale 1m, horizontal scale 0.50m.



Pl. 11 Footings 502 seen in Plot 7. Looking south.

Pl. 12 Plot 6/7, well 504 being backfilled.





Pl. 13 Plots 8 – 10, general view looking south west.



PI. 14 Plot 10, topsoil deposit 500

PI. 15 Plot 7, re-used base of a stone trough, from topsoil.





Pl. 16 Plot 7, re-used piece of worked stone, from topsoil.

Pl. 17 Plots 11 – 14 fronting onto Conging Street, looking south east.





Pl. 18 Service trench running through Plots 12 - 14.

Pl. 19 Plots 11-14, looking north east, showing disturbed nature of deposits.

