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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**3 Drury Lane, Lincoln
Archaeological Watching Brief**

NGR: SK 9745 7175 9757 7176
Planning Application 2001/0504/F
Site Code : LDL 02
LCNCC. Accn No.: 2002.229

**Report
for
Mr Sims**

**by
Naomi Field and Dave Marshall**

**LAS Report No. 605
September 2002**



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**3 Drury Lane, Lincoln
Archaeological Watching Brief**

NGR: TF 0655 8478

Site Code: LDL 02

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches at No.3 Drury Lane Lincoln. The remains of a brick barrel vaulted cellar were found, on a different alignment to the present building, which may have belonged to the theatre built on the site in 1732 or to a property built after its demolition and before the present cottages which date to c.1800. No evidence of the castle moat or any other archaeological remains were found.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mr J Simms to undertake an archaeological watching brief in accordance with and the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998) and the Heritage Team, Department of Planning, Lincoln City Council.

Site Location and Description

The site is situated below the south-east corner of the castle walls, at the east end of Drury Lane, a little to the south of Castle Square (Fig. 1). It is currently part of the back garden to the property occupying 3 Drury Lane (Fig. 2).

Planning Background

Planning permission was granted for the construction of a new kitchen extension, on the site of an earlier extension. The planning condition states that

“no development ,geotechnical investigation, site clearance or other enabling work shall take place on the site until details of the measures to be taken to evaluate, preserve and/or record the archaeological content of the site, which shall include a timescale for investigation have been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority. All archaeological work shall thereafter proceed in accordance with the approved programme.”

Archaeological Background

The development site is located just inside the defences of the upper Roman city and outside the south-east corner of the castle. It was thought possible that the extension would sit over the castle ditch fill and that groundworks would disturb the ditch. In addition, a lease from the Dean and Chapter to a Robert Lely dated 1773 records that a tenement measuring 8 yards from north-south and 22 yards from east to west was “now or lately made use of for a playhouse”. A theatre was built somewhere on the site in 1732 but its life was short, being replaced by a theatre on the site of the

present Theatre Royal in Clasketgate in 1764. The precise location of the theatre within the tenement boundaries is not known but may have fronted onto Drury Lane to include the area now occupied by No. 3. (The present size of the plot containing Nos 1-3 Drury Lane measures approximately 10.41m long x 9.9m deep. An area similar to the plot size described in 1773 would include the property currently known as Roman's Place together with Nos. 1-3, suggesting that the plot of land referred to in the 1773 lease was split into two or more parcels of land at an unknown date. It is not clear whether the theatre building was converted to cottages for Mr Lely or a predecessor, but the cottages, which now stand on the plot, are of a much later date than 1732, perhaps built c.1800.

Site Description

3 Drury Lane is the southernmost property in a terrace originally of three cottages on the west side of Drury Lane. The cottages were built using bricks measuring 230x108x70mm, but the ground floor level of all three cottages have been much disturbed by later alterations around the windows and doors. The cottages were originally only one storey in height and one room deep, but a second storey was added at an early stage, using bricks almost identical in size and colour to those used at ground floor level. A projecting string course, three bricks deep decorates the front elevation and is cut through by the first floor windows (Pl. 1). This odd position is explained if the north gable of the cottages is examined, where the string course coincides with the original eaves height of the terrace (Pl. 2). Also visible is the original roof pitch and the chimney. The rear elevation also shows signs of being extensively altered with larger blocked window openings and replaced by much smaller modern frames (Pl. 3). The ground floor elevation of Nos. 1 and 2 is masked by a modern brick extension. The rear elevation of No. 3 has been much altered at first floor level and at ground level where the former extension had been demolished, the original external wall was plastered and nothing of interest was visible. The present pantile roof is modern and there is a decorative dentil course at current eaves level. No. 4, to the south of the original terrace, was added after the raising of the cottages to two storeys, and is built over the top of the roof of No. 3.

Aims and Objectives

The aim of the watching brief was to record and archaeological remains disturbed by the groundworks phase of the development.

Method

A single storey pent-roofed extension to the property, used as a kitchen, had been demolished prior to the visit by the archaeologist. A foundation trench for the new extension, 2.8m in length and 0.6m deep and c.0.60m wide was dug by hand, subject to the requirements of the Lincoln City Council Buildings Inspector (Fig.3, Pl. 4)). The excavations were carried out on May 27th and 28th 2002 and were monitored by an experienced archaeologist. Archaeological features were excavated and drawn where appropriate. A full photographic record was made of the work in progress and of general site shots. Finds were located and allocated context numbers and identified accordingly.

Results (Fig. 3)

After the removal of the concrete floor surface of the demolished extension and the brick yard surface **103** it became clear that the site was very disturbed by modern drains. At the north end of the trench the brick barrel vault of a cellar was still intact. When broken through it was filled with brick rubble in a matrix of soil and ash, **107** (Pl. 5). The cellar was not excavated to its full depth but pottery retrieved from the fill dated from the 16th to the mid 19th centuries indicating the mixed origin of the fill. Probing with a ranging pole established that the cellar extended north for 0.90m beneath the extension to No. 2 and eastwards giving estimated internal dimensions of 2.28m x 1.44m. The thickness of the west wall was 0.15m. The cellar wall **106** was constructed of brick which measured 225 x 110 X 76mm and was cut through by the later brickwork of the inspection chamber for manhole **102** (Pls 6 and 8). An earlier ceramic drain **104** disturbed the north-west corner of the cellar vault and had been capped off with an unusual lid (Pl. 7).

Below the southern manhole **100** was a layer of black soil **101**, which contained charcoal and flecks of mortar (Pl. 4). Below **101** was a layer of brown clay **108** (Pl. 8), which produced four sherds of pottery two of which were mid 15th to mid 16th century and two 11-12th century in date (see Appendix 2). This indicates the disturbed nature of the deposit but further interpretation was not possible in such a small area. The base of the trench did not penetrate the base of layer **108**.

Conclusion

The potential for archaeological remains of the medieval castle ditch and/or the 18th century theatre being exposed was high but the area of the foundation trench had been heavily disturbed by a brick cellar and later drainage work. The cellar was not aligned to the present terrace of cottages and lay outside the original back walls of the terrace. It must have belonged to an earlier phase of building on the site. Whether this was part of the theatre cannot be proved but barrel vaulting would not be out of place in an 18th century building.

Naomi Field and Dave Marshall
Lindsey Archaeological Services
September 3rd 2002

Acknowledgements

Lindsey Archaeological Services is grateful to Mr Simms and his team for help on site. John Herridge (Lincoln City Council) kindly provided information about the history of the theatre. The watching brief was carried out by Naomi Field and the report plans were prepared by Dave Marshall and Mick McDaid.

Contents of Site Archive

Site plans and sections

3 pages of notes

correspondence

19 photographs LAS Film no 02/56 negs. 0-16, 22-23

THE APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

**3 Drury Lane Lincoln Site Code: LDL 02
Context Summary**

Context No.	Type	Description
100	WALL	Inspection chamber
101	FILL	Mixed soil with brick and mortar fragments
102	WALL	Inspection chamber
103	LAYER	Brick yard surface
104	FILL	Soil pipe
105	LAYER	Concrete repair to yard surface around inspection chamber
106	WALL	Cellar wall
107	FILL	Fill of cellar
108	FILL	Brown clay
109	LAYER	Concrete floor of old extension

Pottery Archive LDL02

Jane Young Lindsey Archaeological Services

context	cname	full name	form type	sherds	weight	decoration	part	description	date
104	ENGs	Unspecified English Stoneware	drain cap	1	978		near complete	knobbed lid	19th
107	DERBS	Derby Stoneware	side handled j	2	151		BS		mid 19th
107	SLIP	Unidentified slipware	large thrown b	1	29		BS		18th to 19th
107	TOYII	Toynton Late Medieval ware	jug	1	226	thumb pressed strip under rim	rim with handle		mid 15th to mid 16th
108	LFS	Lincolnshire Fine-shelled ware	?	2	5		BS	soot;int dep	11-12th
108	LMLOC	Late Medieval local fabrics	jug	1	5		BS	int & ext glaze	mid 15th to mid 16th
108	TOYII	Toynton Late Medieval ware	large jug	1	27	applied diamond roller stamped strips	BS		mid 15th to mid 16th

THE FIGURES

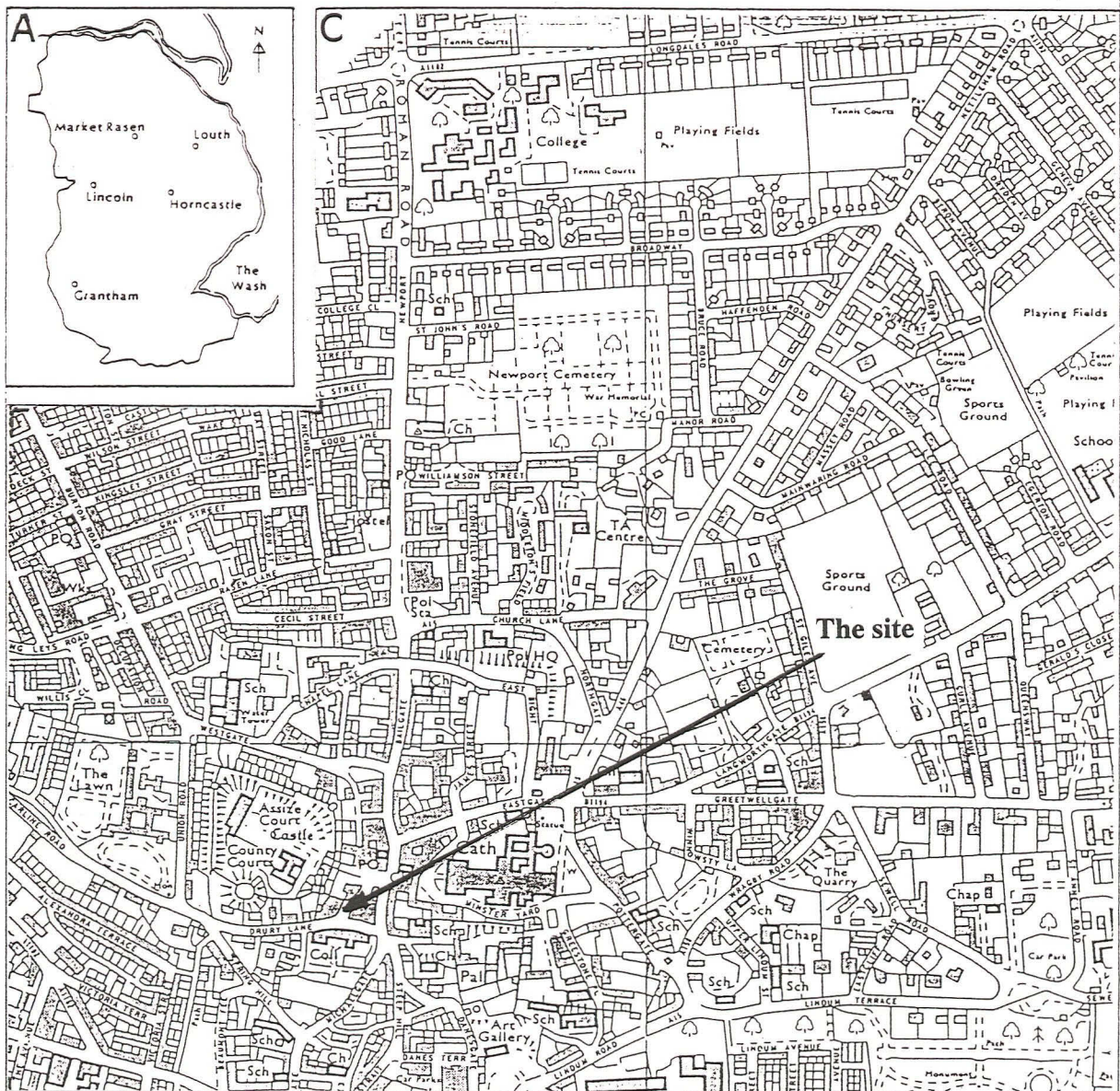
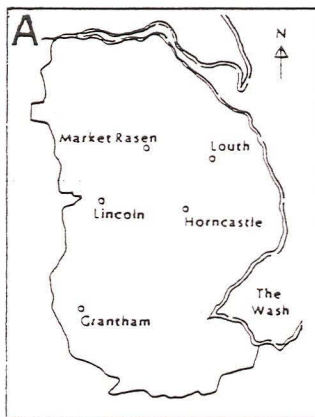
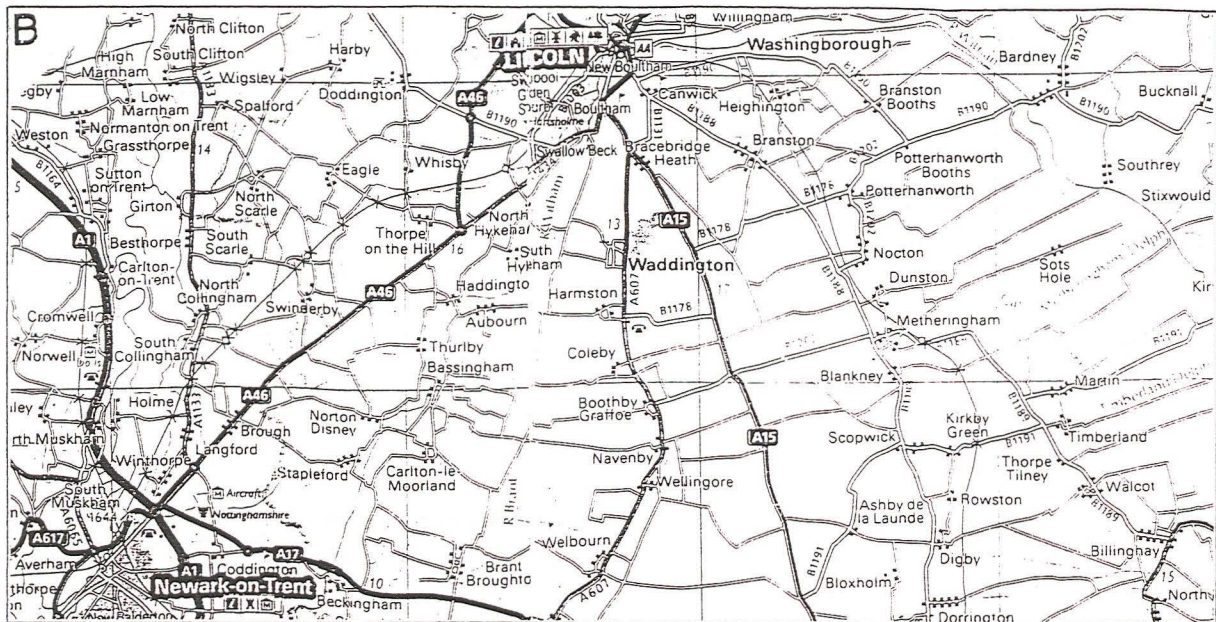


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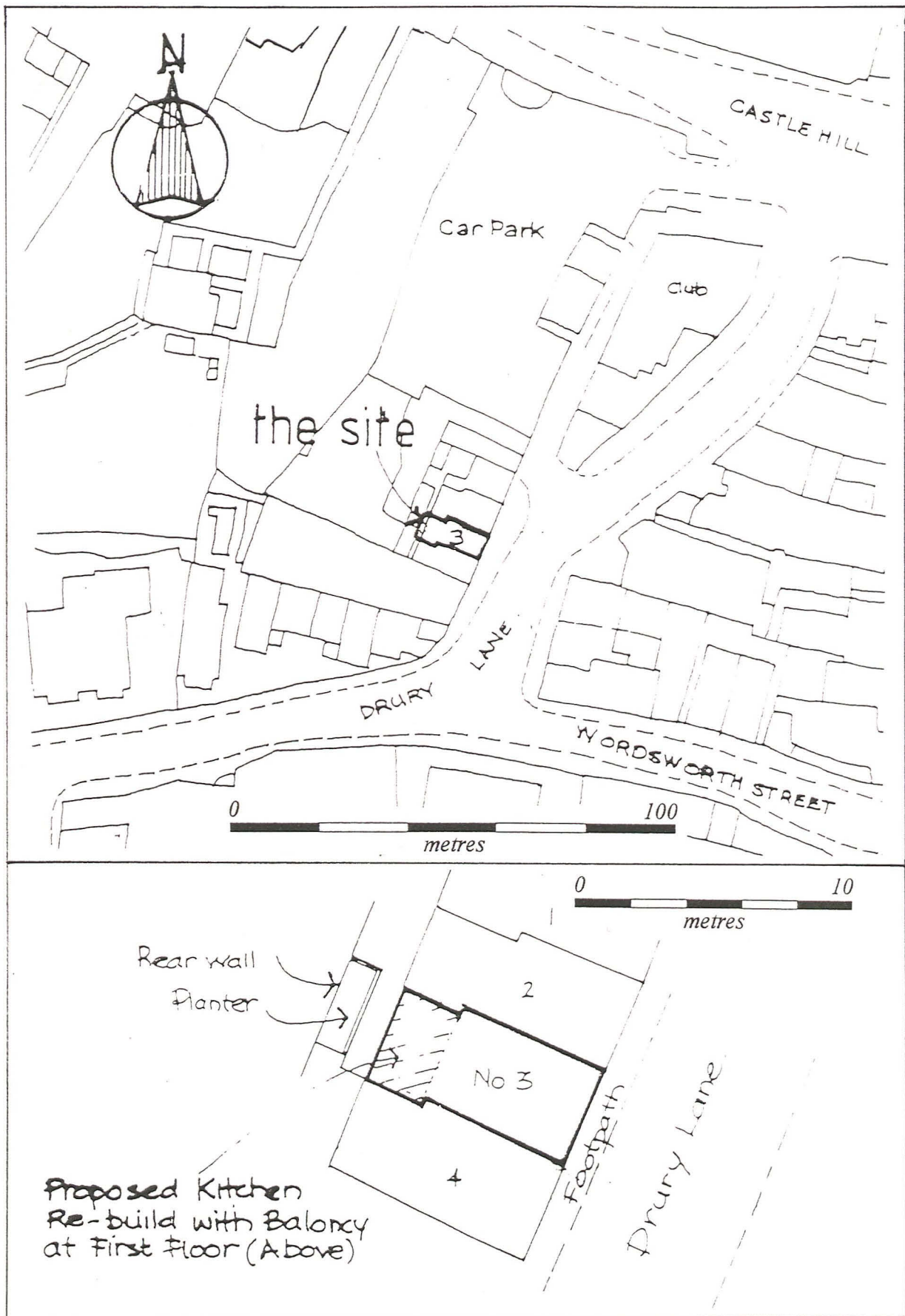
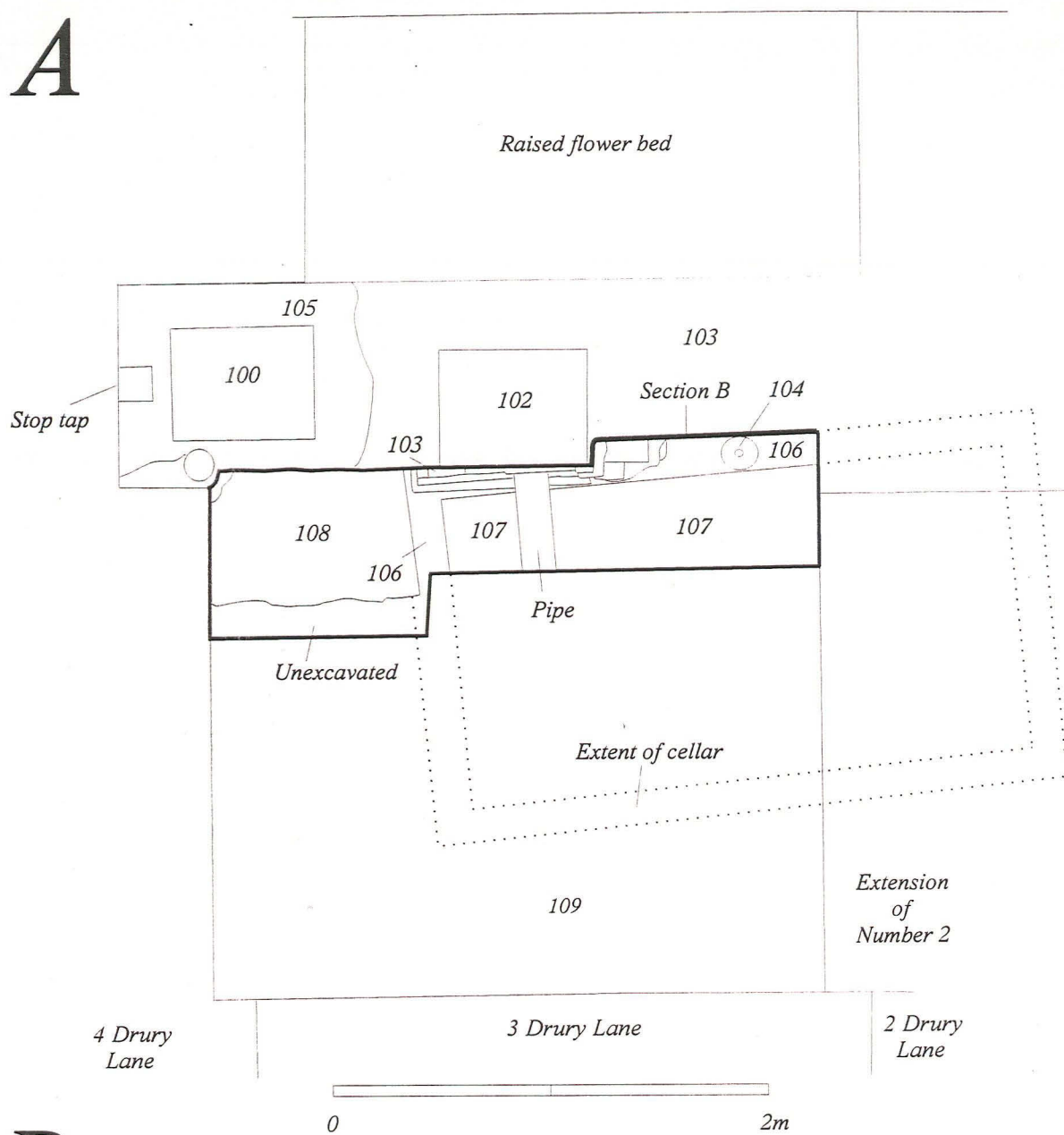


Fig. 2 A site location plan at 1:1250 scale supplied by the client
 B 3, Drury Lane at 1:200 scale supplied by the client

A



B

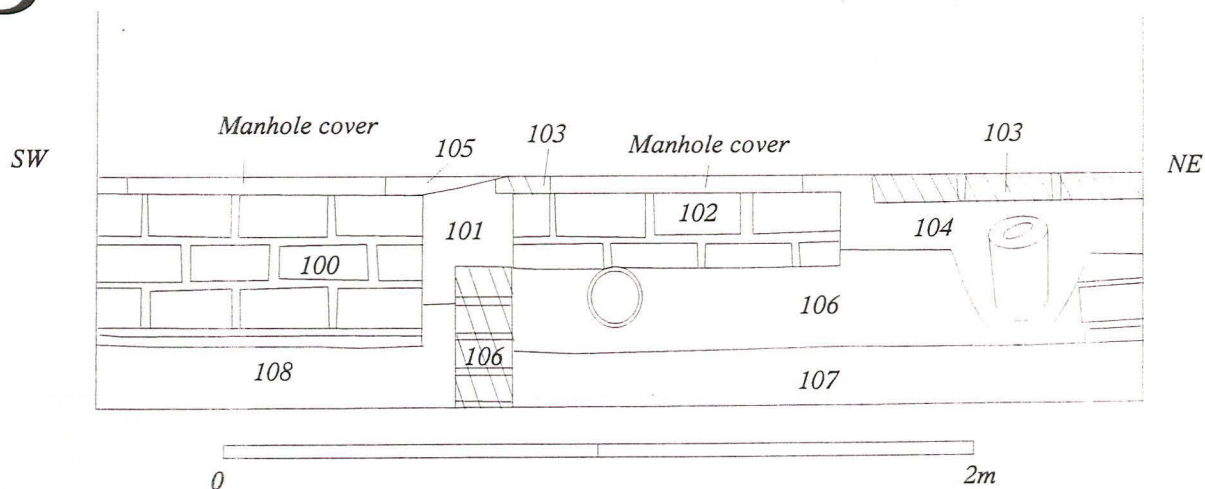


Fig. 3 A) Plan of trench.
B) Section of trench.

THE PLATES



Pl. 1 Drury Lane, front elevation of Nos. 1-3 showing string course marking original eaves height, with earlier roofline on gable end.

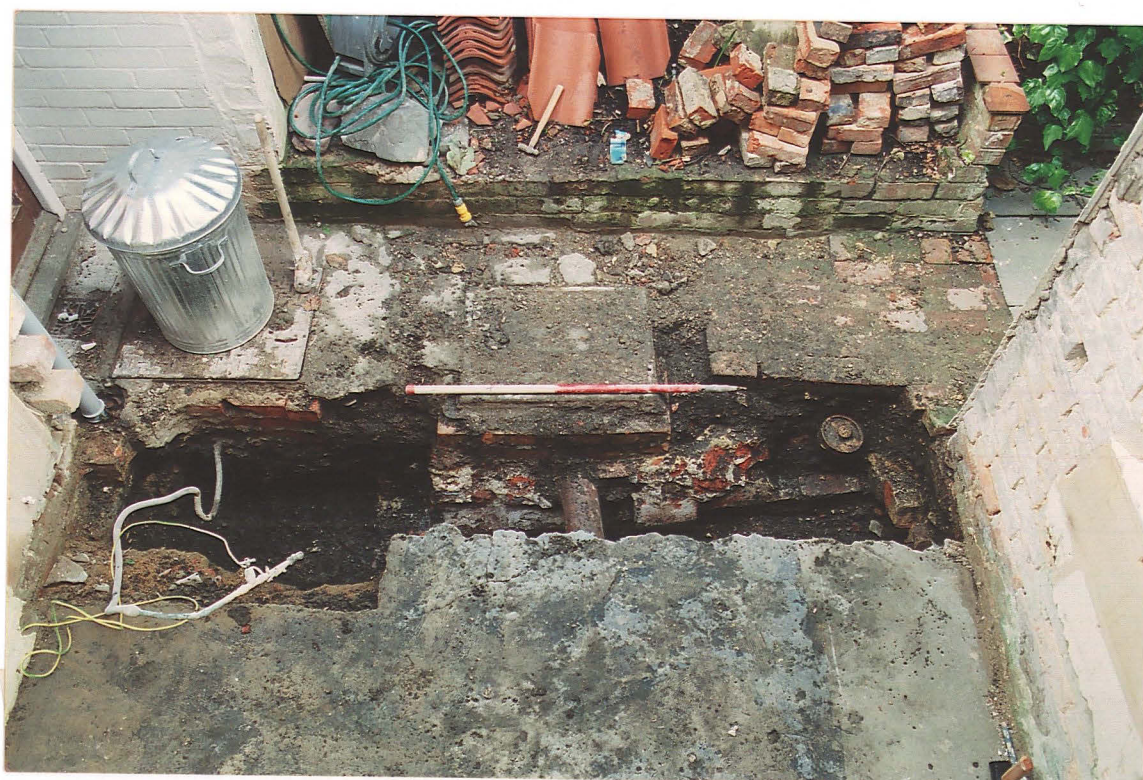
Pl. 2 Close-up view of north gable end showing earlier roofline and chimney.





Pl. 3 Rear elevation showing blocked windows above extension to Nos. 1 and 2.

Pl. 4 View of entire trench with cellar vault in foreground looking west.





Pl. 5 Cellar after vaulting has been removed, running beneath adjacent extension to No. 2 (top) with soil pipe and inspection chamber resting on cellar wall (left) looking NW.



Pl. 6 View looking NW showing showing south and west wall of cellar overlain by inspection chamber Scale 1m.



Pl. 7 Close-up of cellar vault showing earlier soil pipe 104 capped with an earthenware lid.



Pl. 8 Foundation trench looking south showing layer 109 (top) beyond the limit of the cellar wall. Scale 1m.