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**BUILDING RECORDING AT
BOLINGBROKE CASTLE,
OLD BOLINGBROKE,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(OBC00)**



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
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26 JUL 2002

Highways & Planning
Directorate

**BUILDING RECORDING AT
BOLINGBROKE CASTLE,
OLD BOLINGBROKE,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(OBC00)**

**Work Undertaken For
English Heritage**

July 2002

Report Compiled by
Gary Taylor BA MA

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. 136/02

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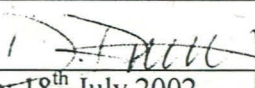
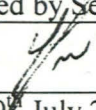
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1. SUMMARY

A programme of building recording was undertaken at Bolingbroke Castle, Old Bolingbroke, Lincolnshire. Built about 1220, Bolingbroke Castle is first referred to in 1232 and is a nationally important scheduled ancient monument (SM 22623). Building recording was carried out on a vandalized window in the south tower of the castle.

Elevations and the reveals of the vandalized eastern lancet window were recorded and measured drawings were made of stones recovered from the fallen archway.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of Archaeological Building Recording

Building recording is defined as:

"... a program of work intended to establish the character, history, dating, form and archaeological development of a specified building, structure, or complex and its setting, including its buried components, on land or under water. (IFA 1996).

2.2 Background

Archaeological Project Services (APS) was commissioned by English Heritage to undertake a programme of building recording at Bolingbroke Castle, Old Bolingbroke, Lincolnshire. This recording followed vandalism of an archway at the castle and was intended to provide a record of the area of the arch and the fallen masonry in order that reconstruction can take place. The building recording was carried out on 17th March 2000.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Old Bolingbroke is located 18km west of Skegness and 27km south of Louth in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The castle is in the centre of the village, on the east side of Hagnaby Road and south of Back Lane at national grid reference TF 349 650 (Fig. 2).

The recorded section of the castle is part of the curtain wall within the south tower (Fig. 3).

Old Bolingbroke lies at the base of the Lincolnshire Wolds. The castle lies on a gentle slope down to the south at c. 30m OD. Local soils are Wickham 2 Association fine loamy over typical stagnogleys, developed in thin loamy drift that covers Jurassic and Cretaceous clay shales (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 351).

2.4 Archaeological and Historical Setting

Bolingbroke Castle was built about 1220 by Randolph de Blundevill, Earl of Chester and Lincoln. The earliest references to the castle occur in the Close Rolls of 1232 and 1243. These record that on the death of Randolph the castle at Bolingbroke and various lands in Lincolnshire were given to his sister, Hawise, and upon her death were handed to the crown.

From de Blundevill, the castle came to the de Lacy family and thence to John of Gaunt who became the first Duke of Lancaster. John of Gaunt's son, Henry Bolingbroke, the future Henry IV, was born at the castle in 1366.

It is recorded that extensive rebuilding took place in the mid 15th century on one of the southern towers of the castle, probably the octagonal southwest tower.

Subsequently, the castle became increasingly dilapidated and by 1600 four of the towers were derelict and collapsing and the main domestic buildings had disappeared, with only the gatehouse and one tower remaining in use.

On the outbreak of the Civil War in 1642 the castle became a Royalist stronghold. However, in late 1643 Royalist forces were routed at the nearby battle of Winceby and deserted the castle. For the remainder of the Civil War the castle stayed in the hands of the Parliamentarians and was subsequently pulled down to prevent its use as a rallying point for Royalist resurgence. The castle was described as 'demolished' in 1650, though a map of 1718 shows tall fragments of three southern towers (Thompson 1992).

The surveyed section of the castle is part of the south tower, also known as the Kitchen Tower because excavations revealed parts of the ovens and drains of the castle kitchens adjacent (Thompson 1974, fig 10).

The castle, which is constructed of the local Spilsby sandstone, is a scheduled ancient monument (SM 22623) and was placed in the guardianship of the Ministry of Works in 1949.

3. AIMS

The aim of the work was to provide a drawn record of the area of vandalized window in order that repair might be facilitated.

4. METHODS

Elevations of both internal and external faces alongside the vandalized window were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Additionally, the two reveals on either side of the window were also drawn at a scale 1:10. Fallen masonry was recovered and

was also drawn to scale and compared with photographs of the arch when it was extant. Recording of the building was undertaken with reference to Royal Commission guidelines, but not to any defined level, as the survey was not for analytical purposes (RCHME 1996).

5. RESULTS

Located in the south tower, the vandalized lancet window is in the curtain wall of the castle and forms the eastern window of the tower (Fig 4). The vandalized arch was at the courtyard edge, with the window interior and reveals located within the tower and the window looked out across the courtyard of the castle. Both interior and exterior elevations were recorded (Figs. 5 and 6), together with both reveals (Fig. 7). The western reveal is splayed. A schematic plan, showing the window from above was also drawn (Fig. 5).

Photographs previously taken by English Heritage show the area of the archway prior to it being vandalized. These photographs were also consulted (Plates 1-3). Comparison of the scale drawings of the dislodged stones with these photographs permitted the approximate positions of the displaced masonry to be illustrated (Figs. 5 and 6).

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Dr Glyn Coppack of English Heritage, who commissioned this work. Thanks are also due to David Rodger of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire for providing information and assisting with access to the site.

7. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Site Supervisor: Mark Dymond

Site Assistant: Steve Thomson
Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Illustration: David Hopkins, Mark
Dymond
Reporting: Gary Taylor

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hodge, C.A.H., Burton R.G.O., Corbett, W.M., Evans, R. and Seale, R.S., 1984 *Soils and their Use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales **13**

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Thompson, M.W., 1974 'Old Bolingbroke Castle', Report of the Summer Meeting of the Royal Archaeological Institute at Lincoln in 1974, *Archaeological Journal* **131**

Thompson, M.W., 1992 'A History of Bolingbroke Castle', in The Churchwardens and Parochial Church Council of Old Bolingbroke, *A Short Guide to The Royal Village of Old Bolingbroke, Castle and Church*

9. ABBREVIATIONS

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists
OD Ordnance Datum (height above sea level)
RCHME Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England

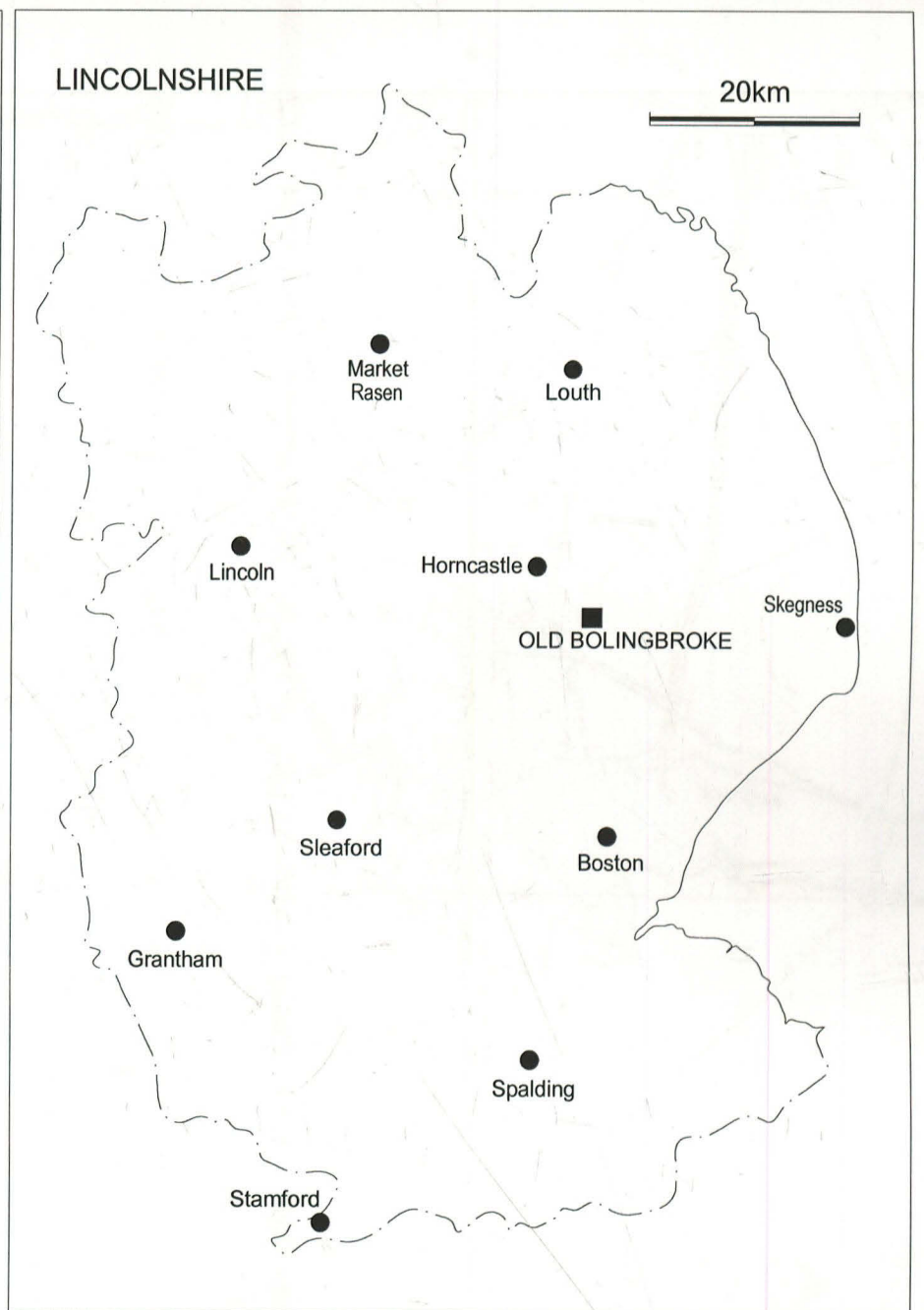
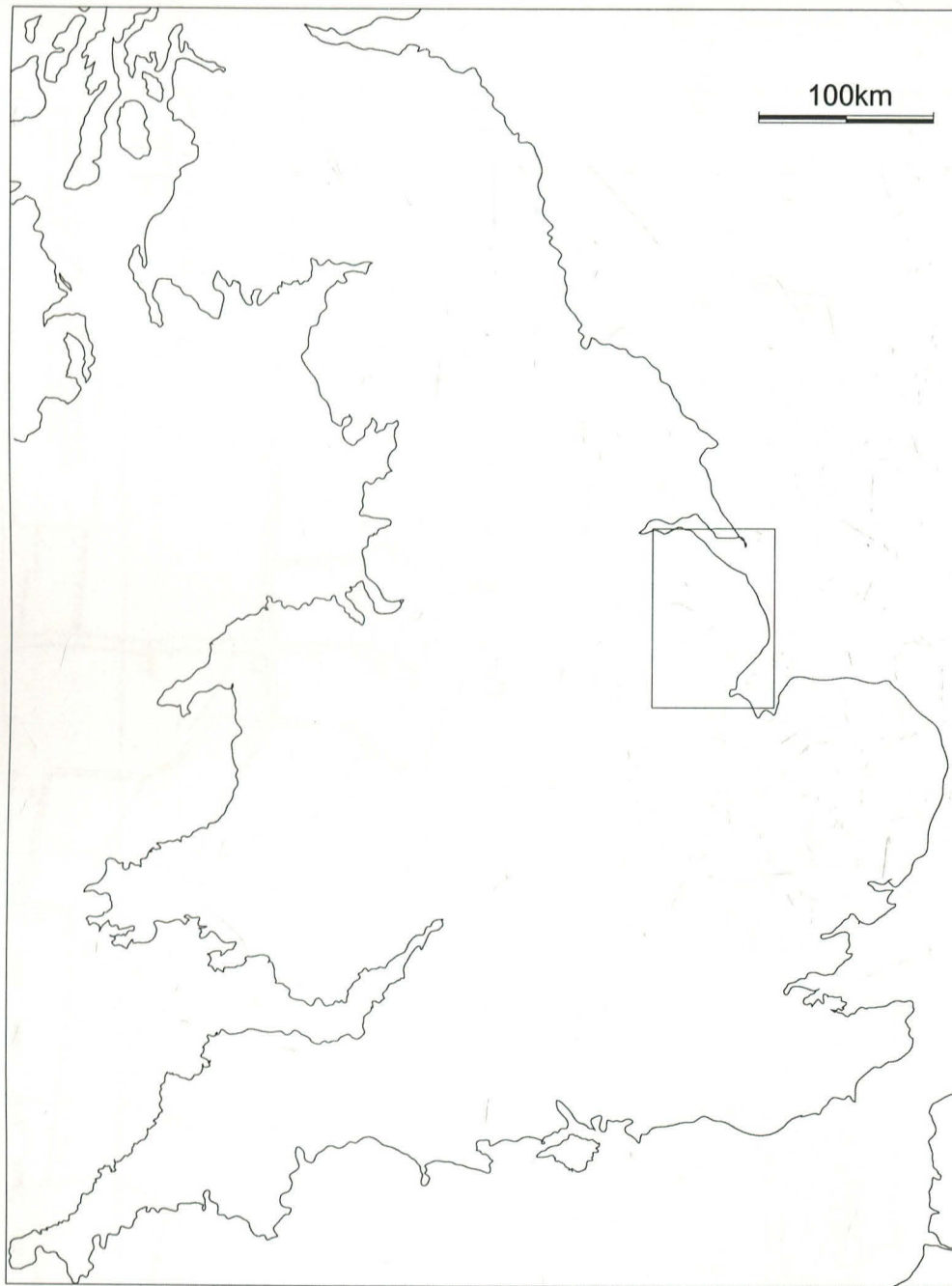


Figure 1: General Location Plan

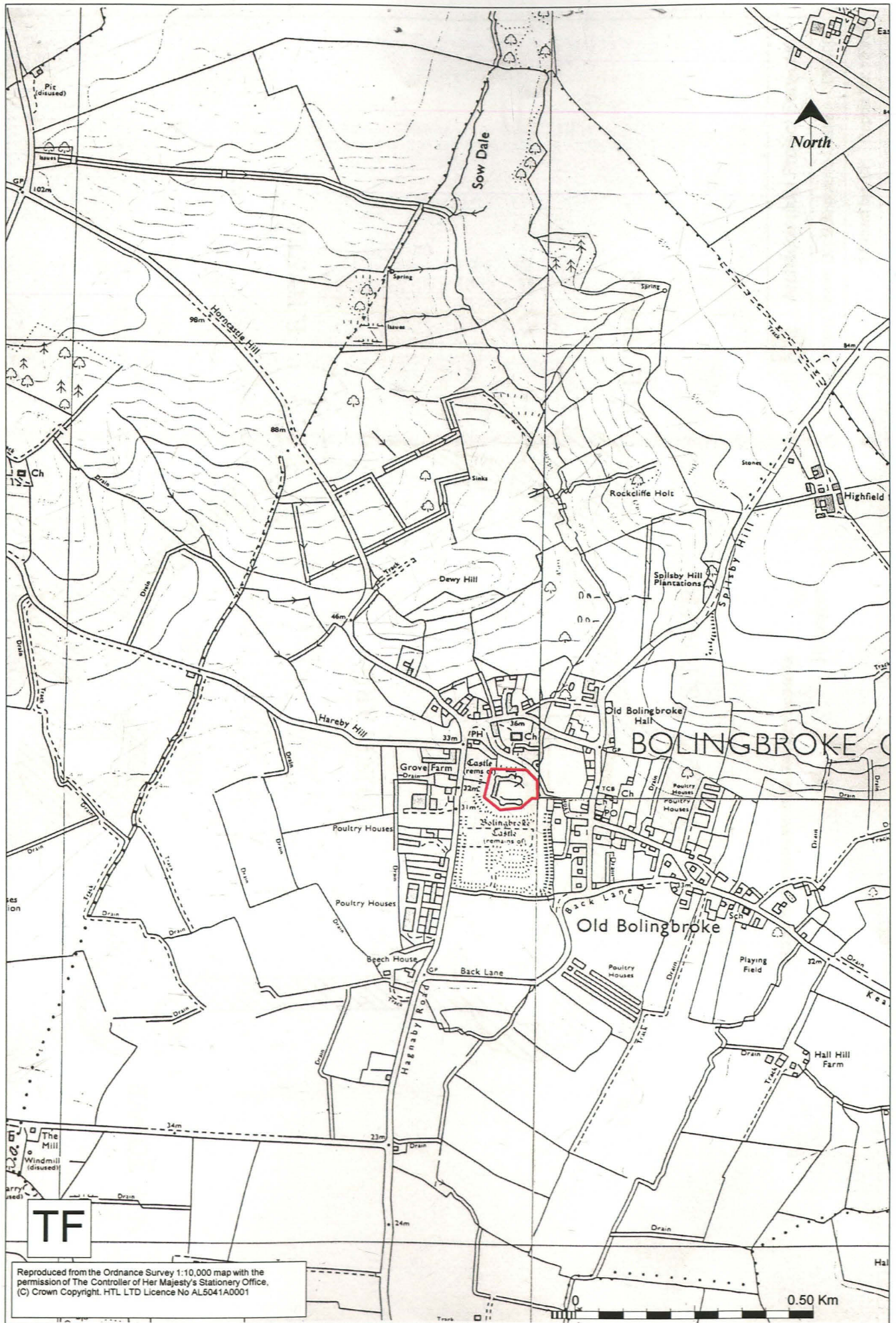


Figure 2 Site location plan

N.W. TOWER

GATE HOUSE

E. TOWER

COURTYARD

Area of Figure 4

S.W. TOWER

S. E. TOWER

S. TOWER



0 30 metres



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Figure 3 Plan of Bolingbroke Castle. showing location of South Tower

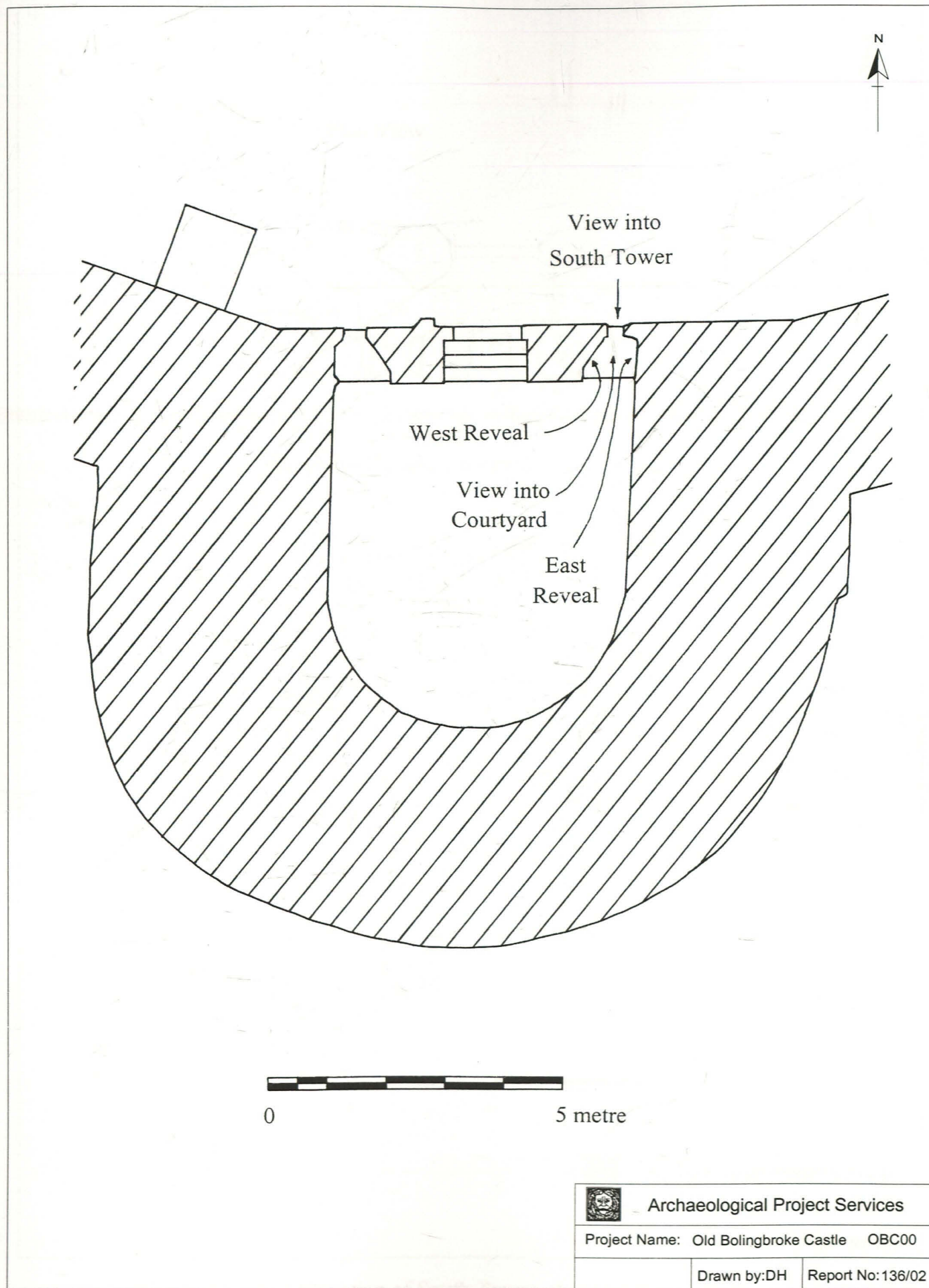


Figure 4 Detailed Plan of South Tower, showing locations of recorded elevations

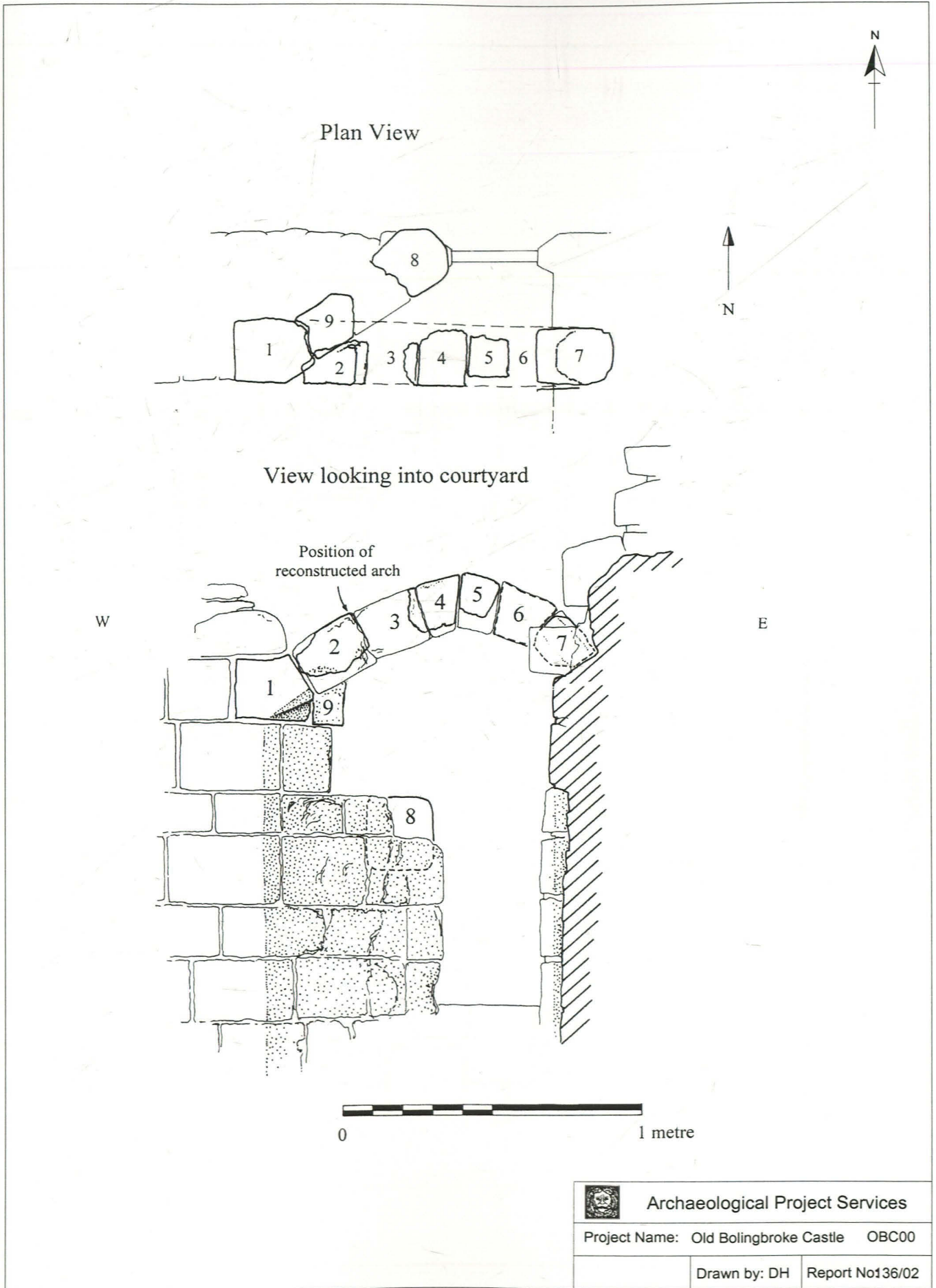


Figure 5 Internal Elevation of South Tower, showing approximate original positions of displaced stones, and schematic plan of window

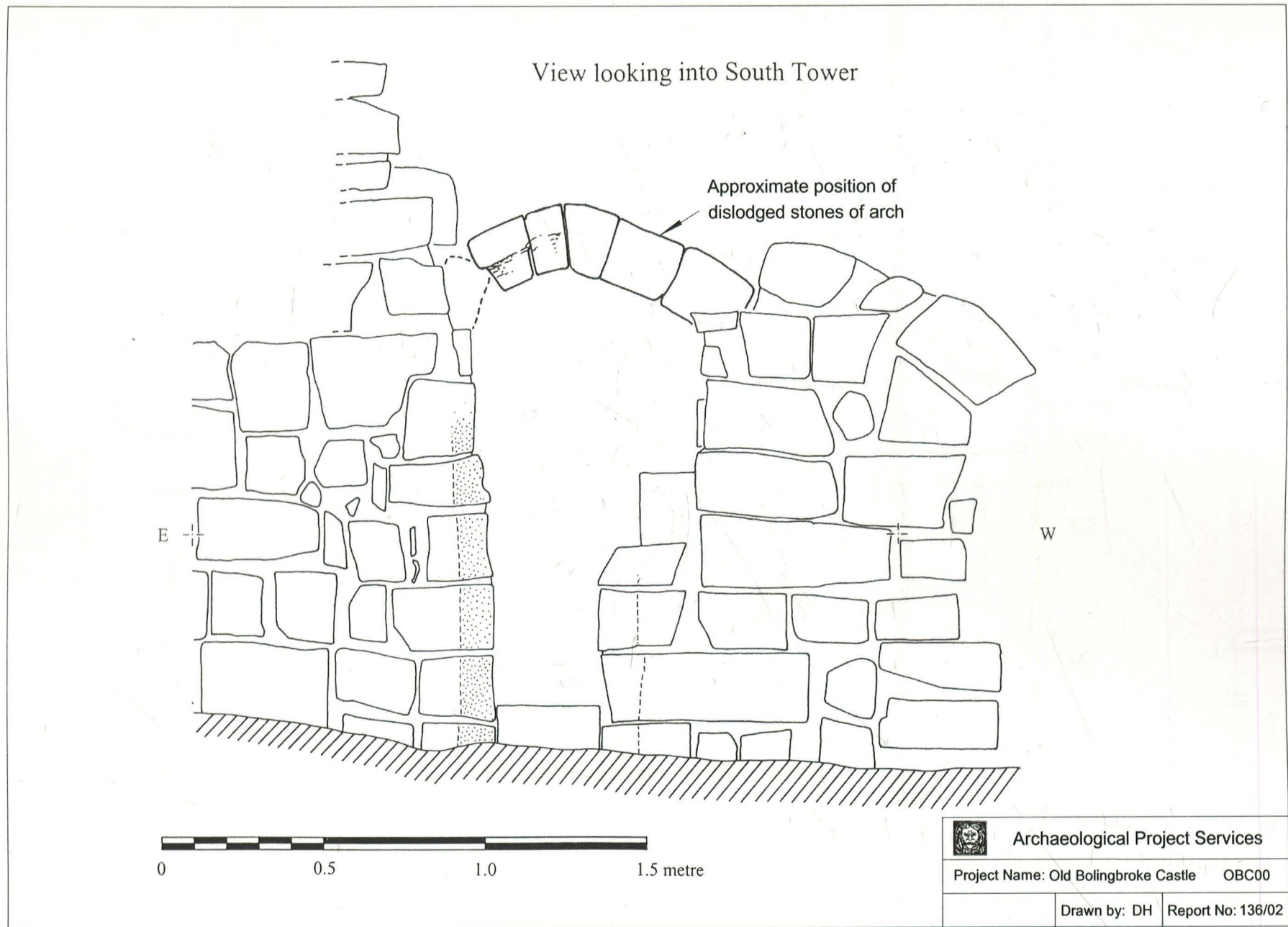
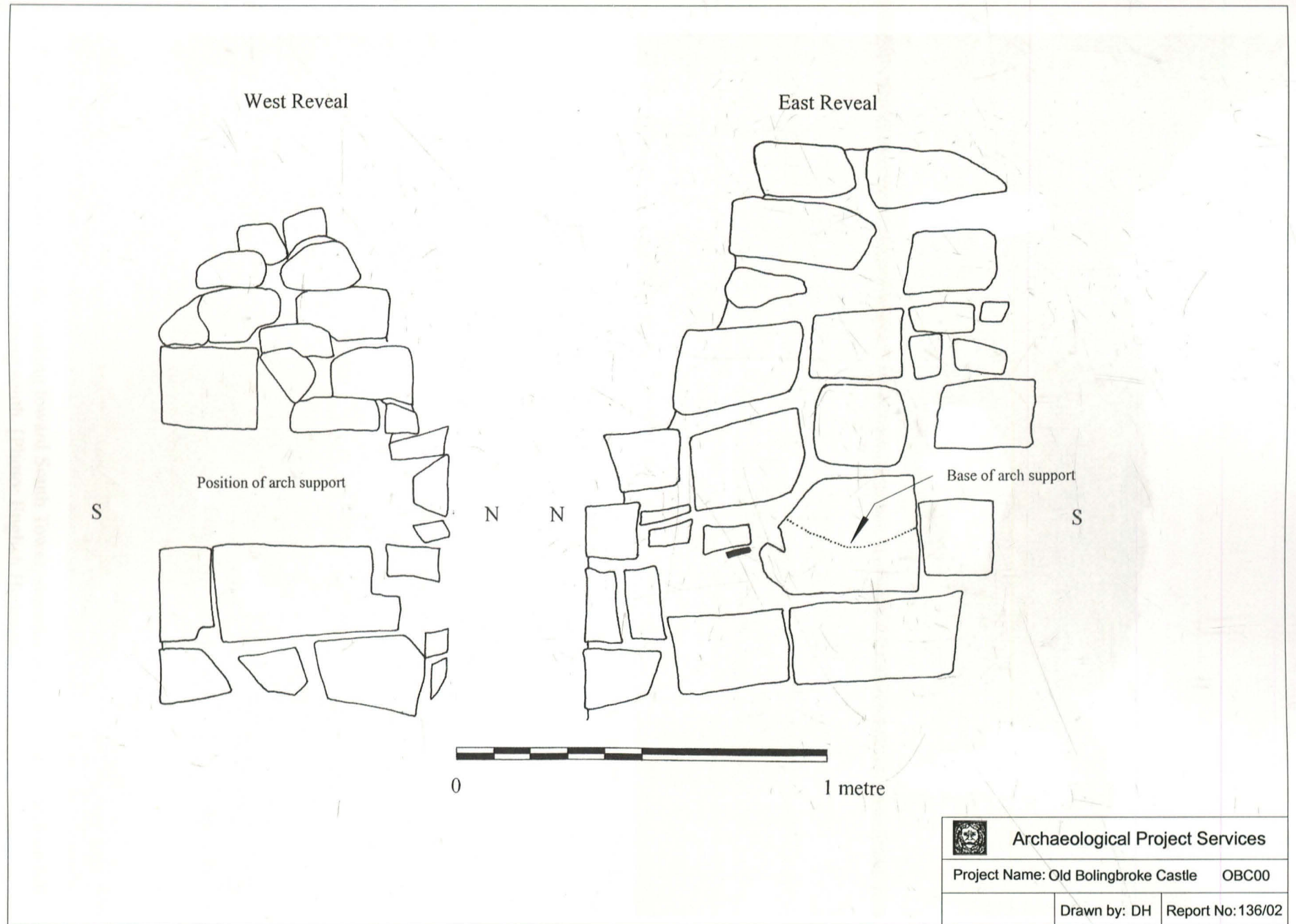


Figure 6 Elevation of Curtain Wall, exterior of South Tower, showing approximate original positions of displaced stones and where dislodged masonry was located




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Figure 7 Elevation of Window Reveals. showing where dislodged stones were located



Plate 1 Interior of South Tower, showing extant window arch on right. Looking north. [Photo: English Heritage]



Plate 2 Curtain wall of castle, looking toward South Tower, showing extant window arch on left. Looking south. [Photo: English Heritage]

Plate 3 Interior of South Tower, east wall, showing window reveal and extant arch on left. Looking east. [Photo: English Heritage]



Appendix 1

GLOSSARY

- Curtain wall** Part of a straight wall constructed between two projecting structures, such as bastions or buttresses.
- Lancet** Tall, narrow window-aperture with a pointed arched head.
- Reveal** Vertical side of an aperture (window, door).

Appendix 2

The Archive

The archive consists of:

- 4 Drawing sheets
- 1 Daily record sheet
- 1 Elevation record sheet

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: 2002.327

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: OBC00

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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