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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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25 JUL 2002

Highways & Pl.
Directorat

**Land North of the Old Rectory
South Willingham, Lincs.
Archaeological Watching Brief**

**NGR: TF 1940 8340
Site Code: SWOR 01
LCNCC Museum Accn No.: 2001.291
ELDC Planning Application: W/64/0689/98**

received
N/164/0689/98

**Report prepared for
Jim Fairburn Ltd
on behalf of
Mr P. Ferguston**

**by
G. Tann**

**LAS Report No. 595
July 2002**

EVENT 43886

SOURCES 48483 48484 212877.

44533 483899 Post medieval

44534 483900 Late Saxon

44535 483901 Medieval

44536 483902 Undated

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Land to the North of the Old Rectory, South Willingham

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Summary

Foundations for a new building within the garden of The Old Rectory revealed ditches and other features of medieval and post-medieval date. These appeared to be at least two phases of minor drainage ditches or sub-divisions of a larger area, probably in open ground with small pits and post-holes with unknown functions. There was no evidence for any medieval habitation on the site area, but the new development may have been to the rear of dwellings fronting onto Barkwith Road and the lane to the church.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned in October 2001 by Jim Fairburn Ltd (on behalf of Mr P. Ferguston) to conduct an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for an office building, on land to the north of the Old Rectory, Barkwith Road, South Willingham (Figs. 1 and 2). The watching brief was required to satisfy a condition of the planning permission granted by East Lindsey District Council. The watching brief was conducted according to the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council, Archaeology Section, 1998).

Monitoring was conducted by Geoff Tann on 9th October 2001 during excavation of the foundation trenches. A further visit was expected, to examine drainage trenches, and LAS made repeated enquiries of the contractor as to when this would be taking place. In May 2002 LAS was told that groundworks had been completed.

Site Location and Description

The development site is located in the centre of the village of South Willingham, at the east end of Barkwith Road (Fig. 3). It lies immediately north of the Old Rectory, and previously formed part of a garden with an orchard.

Archaeological Background

At the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086, South Willingham was the centre of three manors (estates), two held by the Archbishop of York and one by the Bishop of Bayeux. The settlement is therefore of Saxon origin or earlier, and the potential for Saxon or medieval remains near the site is considered to be high.

The Watching Brief (Figs. 4-6)

Method

Monitoring began when the site had been stripped of turf and topsoil (Pl. 1). A photographic record was made of the features seen, and context numbers were assigned by LAS for recording purposes (Appendix 1). These context numbers are used in the text (in bold) and on the plan and sections.

Topsoil Removal

The dark brown loam topsoil **1** was usually about 0.28m thick, increasing slightly where settling of underlying fills had occurred over deep backfilled features. Apart from one twelfth-century sherd, all the finds were post-medieval. At the eastern end of the access, about 7m SW of the lane to the church, a NW-SE aligned brick foundation **56** was exposed, possibly representing a post-medieval boundary wall (although it was set back from the present lane).

Beneath the topsoil was a 0.3m thick layer of dark brown clay loam **39**, which probably represents an earlier cultivated soil. The base of this layer was uniform, but there was less certainty about the upper surface of the layer, and all finds were recorded as from the overlying topsoil. Underneath the cultivated soil, the contrasting colours of orange clay and white chalk allowed easy recognition of deeper excavated features (whose dark brown clay loam fills were obvious). Unfortunately, the homogeneity of the dark fills and layer **39** removed visible distinctions, and it proved impossible to establish the extent of the upper fill of features, or to determine the stratigraphic relationships between layers and features. It was rarely possible to tell if the modern topsoil directly covered backfilled pits and ditches (implying a post-medieval or modern date), or whether there was an intervening cultivated layer (which would suggest an earlier date). It may well be that the features with dark lower fills have all been excavated through **39** in the post-medieval or modern periods, and that their backfill incorporates redeposited soil from that layer.

Later Phase

The features with dark fills were mostly confined to the western, northern and SE parts of the foundation trenches of the new building. These positions lie close to the perimeter of the present garden area, and this could mean that they are associated with the existing layout of the Old Rectory garden. The absence of such features from the central zone hints at it having been a deliberately undisturbed area of ground, perhaps a lawn.

In the eastern corner of the garage trenches, a large feature **21** was identified (Fig. 4b; Pl. 2). This was at least 4m wide, but there was insufficient exposed to discover its shape or alignment. It is assumed that it was at the NW corner of a pit, but it could equally have been near the NW terminal of a large ditch. Its dark brown fill **22** contained a sherd of thirteenth/fourteenth century pottery.

A 0.55m wide feature **13**, 1.5m west of **21**, was interpreted as a ditch on a SE-NW alignment, but no further sign was seen in trenches 3.5m away (Fig. 4c; Pl. 3). This would suggest that it was a large

post-hole or small pit, deeper than the base of the new trench, but it was possibly connected with the post-medieval ceramic land drain in **31** (Fig. 4d). If this were the case, the 0.75m wide parallel cut **52**, about 9m NE of **13**, and 6m NE of **18**, may have been contemporary, and formed part of a land drainage system. Whatever the nature of that feature, it cannot have extended more than 3m further NW towards Barkwith Road.

A stone-lined well **30**, over 3.2m deep, was found at the northern corner of the new building, within a backfilled construction pit **50** about 2.4m wide (Pls. 4 and 5). The internal diameter of the shaft was about 0.6m, centred in the new trench. The well had been roughly capped, and buried below loose brick, flint lumps and stone rubble **51**; the rubble contained a discarded limestone architectural fragment, suspected to have been part of a medieval window (Pl. 6). The nearest known medieval building is St Martin's Church (100m to the SE). The contractors reported that there were supposed to be several wells within the grounds of the Old Rectory. The location of this one suggests that it could have served dwellings fronting onto the lane opposite Woodbine Cottage.

The well was not apparently associated with other features, but a 2m wide pit or ditch **29** was found 3m to its west (Fig. 5a; Pl. 7). The feature seemed to be NW-SE aligned, terminating in the south wall foundation trench for the new bedroom. Its fill **28** contained much of a twelfth-century jar, together with post-medieval sherds.

Towards the western side of the new building, a cluster of features with dark fills (**3**, **10**, **36**, and **54**) were recorded (Pls. 8 and 9). These were all 1m wide, with their bases over 0.35m below the base of the modern topsoil **1**; they may have formed a linked series of drainage ditches, although their alignments varied. The arrangement of the foundation trenches resulted in the features only being exposed in places, and no firm conclusions could be made regarding their shape or function.

At the southern corner of the Glasshouse foundation trenches was **6**, which may have been a post-hole or a narrow gully, 0.35m wide, and NW-SE aligned (Fig. 4a). It contained a single atlas vertebra of a cow; the small size suggests a medieval beast rather than a modern breed (R. Moore, pers. comm.). The width and alignment of **6** was similar to **13**, seen 10m to the east.

Earlier Phase

Other features seen in the trenches for the new building had orange sandy clay fills. These were all stratigraphically earlier than the features with dark fills, and were clearly earlier than cultivation soil **39**. On this basis, they have been treated as common to a phase considerably earlier than the features with dark fills. One explanation for the colour difference is that glaciation or natural weathering of the chalk may have resulted in an orange overburden, which became redeposited as the fill of features cut through it; remnants of that layer were then amalgamated with the natural topsoil as a result of later cultivation. A possible restricted fragment of the layer was recorded as **16**. The backfilled features seem to be mostly pits, although one NW-SE aligned, 1m wide, ditch **18** was present. Features **3** and

25 may have formed part of a drainage ditch (Fig. 5d). Pit 37 was 2m wide and over 4m long (aligned north-south). Insufficient survived of 42 to establish its shape, although it seems to have been over 1.5m wide and SW-NE aligned, and perhaps linked with 18. Virtually nothing of 46 was exposed, but it too could conceivably have formed part of a curving continuation of ditch 18.

Evidence for Reuse

There were some indications that features from the later phase had been intentionally or coincidentally excavated in almost the same position as similar features from the earlier phase of activity on this site.

The post-medieval land drain 31 was centrally placed within 18, as if this alignment had remained as a linear depression (Fig. 4d). Other later ditches on this alignment were found at approximately 5m either side of 18, and could have removed earlier fills. The eastern side of pit 42 was removed by the later pit 21.

Conclusion

The pottery assemblage from this site contains a fragment of late ninth/tenth century pottery, much of a twelfth-century jar and a sherd of a twelfth-century bowl, and one sherd of thirteenth/fourteenth century pottery. All the other dated finds are sixteenth century or later, with the late post-medieval period predominating. This is evidence of Anglo-Saxon, Norman and medieval activity in this vicinity, but this confirms the documentary sources.

There was no evidence for habitation remains on this site, despite its proximity to the settlement core. The well may have served dwellings to the east of the new building, fronting onto the lane beside Woodbine Cottage. During the monitoring, the contractors reported that several wells, possibly as many as six, were known to exist within the garden of the Old Rectory. This number of wells hints at removed dwellings, but as their locations are not plotted, the implications are uncertain.

The earliest identified remains on the development site were small ditches. These appear to have been for demarcation or drainage purposes, and are further indications that this was open or cultivated land. No medieval ridge and furrow was seen, but the possible subsoil layer would be evidence for cultivation. Later features were similarly indicative of open ground, but by that date it may have been garden associated with the rectory.

Acknowledgements

LAS is grateful to Jim Fairburn Ltd for the co-operation received on site. Help was also received from the Lincolnshire County Council Built Environment Team. Pottery was identified by Jane Young, and the animal bone was examined by Richard Moore. Illustrations for this report were prepared by Andy West, and the report was collated and produced by Jane Frost.

Geoff Tann
Lindsey Archaeological Services
15th July 2002

Archive Summary

Archaeological finds: pottery, animal bone, iron blade fragment

Developer's plans and annotated copies

Field section drawings

Inked section and plan drawings

Photographs: LAS colour print film nos. 01/100/0-36 (including those used in this report).

Correspondence

Appendix 1

**Context Summary:
South Willingham, Old Rectory
(SWOR 01)**

Context	Type	Relationships	Description	Finds	Date
1	layer		dark brown loam topsoil	pot x 7 (12th-19thC)	modern
2	layer	above 5	crushed chalk/limestone		
3	cut	filled by 4			
4	fill	upper fill of 3, below 1			
5	layer	below 2 and 11, above 1	brick rubble		post-medieval
6	cut	filled by 7, cuts 23; relationship with 9 unclear			
7	fill	below 1, fill of 6	dark brown clay loam	pot x 1 (late 9th-10thC), animal bone x 1	?post-med
8	layer	below/cut by all	natural chalk		
9	fill	fill of 10, below 1; relationship with 7 unclear	brown/dark brown clay loam		
10	cut	filled by 9, cuts 23 and 38			
11	layer	above 5	gravel		
12	fill	fill of 41; definition with 39 impossible	brown/dark brown clay loam		
13	cut	filled by 14, cuts 15			
14	fill	fill of 13, relationship with 39 unclear	brown/dark brown clay loam		
15	fill	fill of 42, cut by 20, 21 and 13; ?same as 16 and 23	orange sandy clay		
16	layer	cut by 21, over 8; ?same as 15 and 23	orange sandy clay		
17	fill	fill of 18, cut by 31	orange sandy clay loam		
18	cut	filled by 17, cuts 8			
19	fill	fill of 20, relationship with 39 unclear	dark brown clay loam		
20	cut	filled by 19, cuts 15			
21	cut	filled by 22, cuts 15 and 16			
22	fill	fill of 21, cut by 33	dark brown clay loam	pot x 1 (13th-14thC)	
23	fill	fill of 24, ?same as 15 and 16	orange sandy clay loam		
24	cut	filled by 23, cuts 8			
25	cut	filled by 26 and 35			
26	fill	fill of 25, below 39, cut by 6 and 10	orange sandy clay loam		
27	layer	below 1, above 39	mortar and 20thC roof tile frags.		modern
28	fill	fill of 29, below 43	brown loam	25 sherds (12th-19thC); fe blade	
29	cut	filled by 28 and 43, cuts 44, 45 and 8			

**Context Summary:
South Willingham, Old Rectory
(SWOR 01)**

30	structure	within 50, below 51, earlier than 57	well		
31	cut	filled by 32, cuts 17			
32	fill	fill of 31, below 1	light brown clay loam		
33	cut	filled by 34, cuts 39; ?cuts 22			modern
34	fill	fill of 33, below 1	black loam		modern
35	fill	fill of 36, below 1	dark brown/black clay loam with brick and concrete rubble		modern
36	cut	filled by 35, cuts 26			
37	cut	filled by 38, cuts 8			
38	fill	fill of 38, cut by 10	orange clay		
39	layer	below 1, above 23 and 26; no relationship with 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 19, 20, 40 or 41 as definition impossible	dark brown clay loam		
40	layer or fill	? Same as 7 or 39, definition impossible	dark brown clay loam		
41	cut	filled by 12, cuts 15; relationship with 39 unclear			
42	cut	filled by 15, cuts 8			
43	fill	fill of 29, above 28, below 1; ?same as 39	light brown stoney loam		
44	fill	fill of 46	orange clay; ?natural		
45	fill	fill of 47, cut by 29	ashy loam		
46	cut	filled by 44, cuts 8	?natural feature		
47	cut	filled by 45, cuts 8			
50	cut	filled by 57, contains 30, cuts 8	well construction cut		
51	fill	fill of 30, below 1	brick and stone rubble capping to well 30	brick (16th-18thC)	
52	cut	filled by 53, cuts 8; relationship with 39 not visible			
53	fill	fill of 52, below 1; relationship with 39 not known	dark brown clay loam		
54	cut	filled by 55, cuts 8; relationship with 39 not known			
55	fill	fill of 54, below 1; relationship with 39 not known	dark brown clay loam		
56	wall	below 1	brick wall foundation		
57	fill	fill of 50, later than 30	fill of well construction pit		

Appendix 2

Pottery Archive SWOR01

Jane Young Lindsey Archaeological Services

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	part	description	date
01	NOTS	Nottingham stoneware		?	1	1	1	BS		18-19th
01	NOTS	Nottingham stoneware		bowl	1	1	16	rim		18-19th
01	BL	Black-glazed wares		?	1	1	1	BS		18-19th
01	BL	Black-glazed wares		large bowl	1	1	22	BS	worn interior;local ?	18-19th
01	BL	Black-glazed wares		large vessel	1	1	14	BS	local ?	18-19th
01	BL	Black-glazed wares		jar ?	1	1	6	BS		17-18th
01	BL	Black-glazed wares		jar ?	1	1	3	BS		late 17th - 18th
01	WEMS	Wheelthrown Early Medieval Shell-tempered	E	bowl ?	1	1	12	base	soot	12th
07	LSLOC	Late Saxon Local Fabrics	A	jar	1	1	11	rim	soot;EVERA1 rim;echinoid spine;? Fabric ID	late 9th - 10th
22	LSW2/3	13th to 15th century Lincoln Glazed Ware		jug	1	1	5	BS		13-14th
28	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware		?	1	1	6	base		16-18th
28	LFS	Lincolnshire Fine-shelled ware		medium jar	20	1	167	rim & BS	thin EVERA rim;soot;very fresh condition	mid-late 12th
28	NOTS	Nottingham stoneware		?	1	1	3	base		18-19th
28	LHUM	Late Humber-type ware		jar	1	1	789	BS	heavy base;very chipped int glaze	17-18th
28	NOTS	Nottingham stoneware		bowl ?	1	1	46	base		18-19th
28	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware		jar ?	1	1	9	BS	int & ext glaze	16-18th

Brick Archive SWOR01

Jane Young *Lindsey Archaeological Services*

<u>context</u>	<u>cname</u>	<u>full name</u>	<u>frags</u>	<u>weight</u>	<u>description</u>	<u>date</u>
51	BRK	Brick	1	606	handmade;very sandy fabric poorly sorted incl large pebbles ? Flint;107x?x45mm;straw marked edges	16th to 18th

The Figures

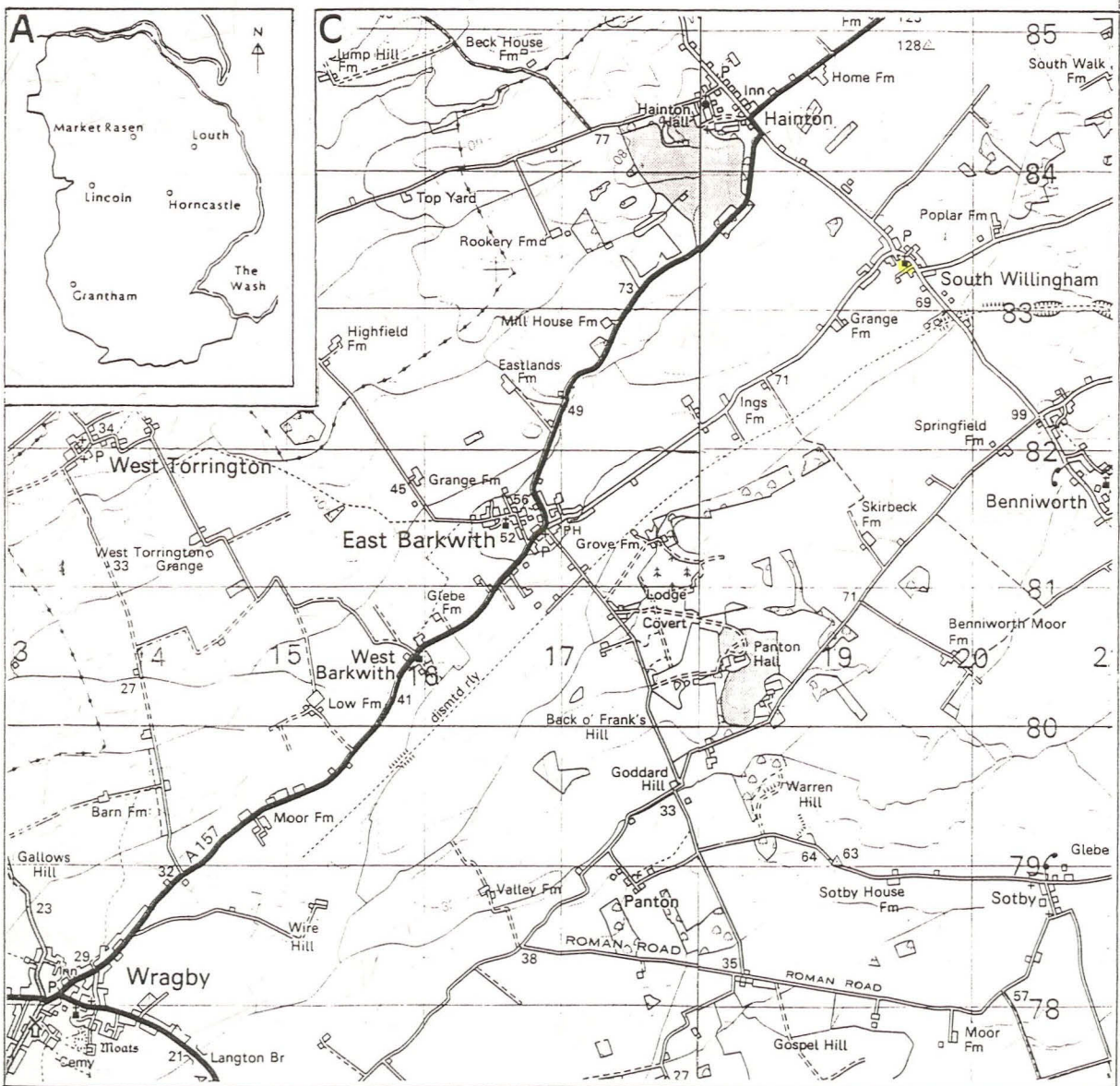
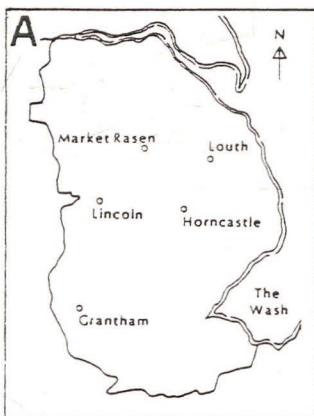
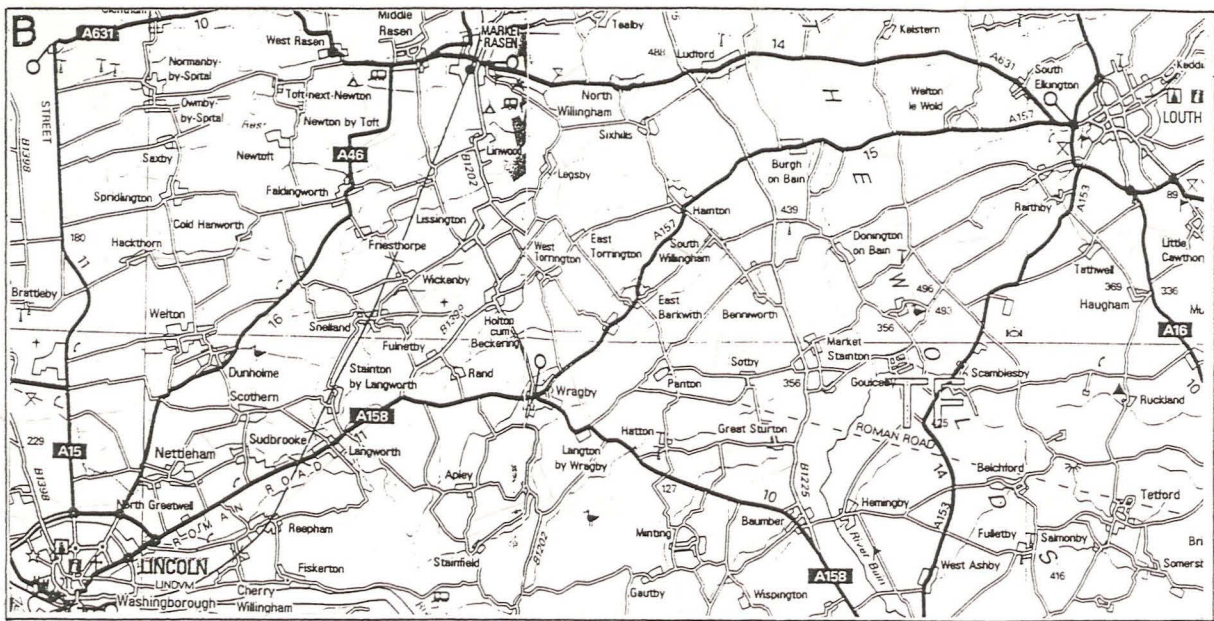


Fig. 1 Location of South Willingham. (C based on the Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 Landranger maps, Sheets 120 [1980] and 121 [1989]. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 10002165).

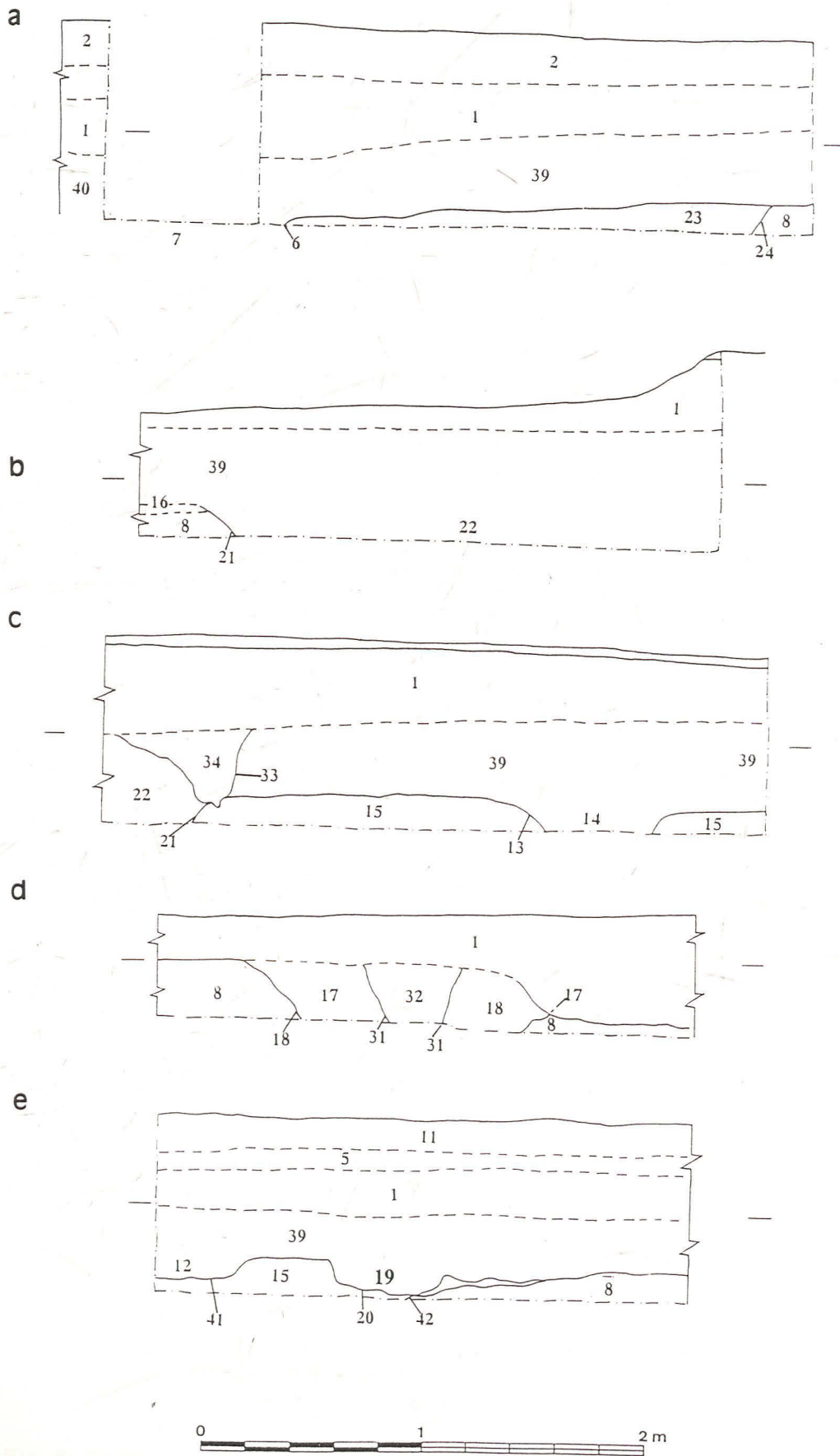


Fig. 4 Sections across archaeological features identified in the foundation trenches (West, after Tann).

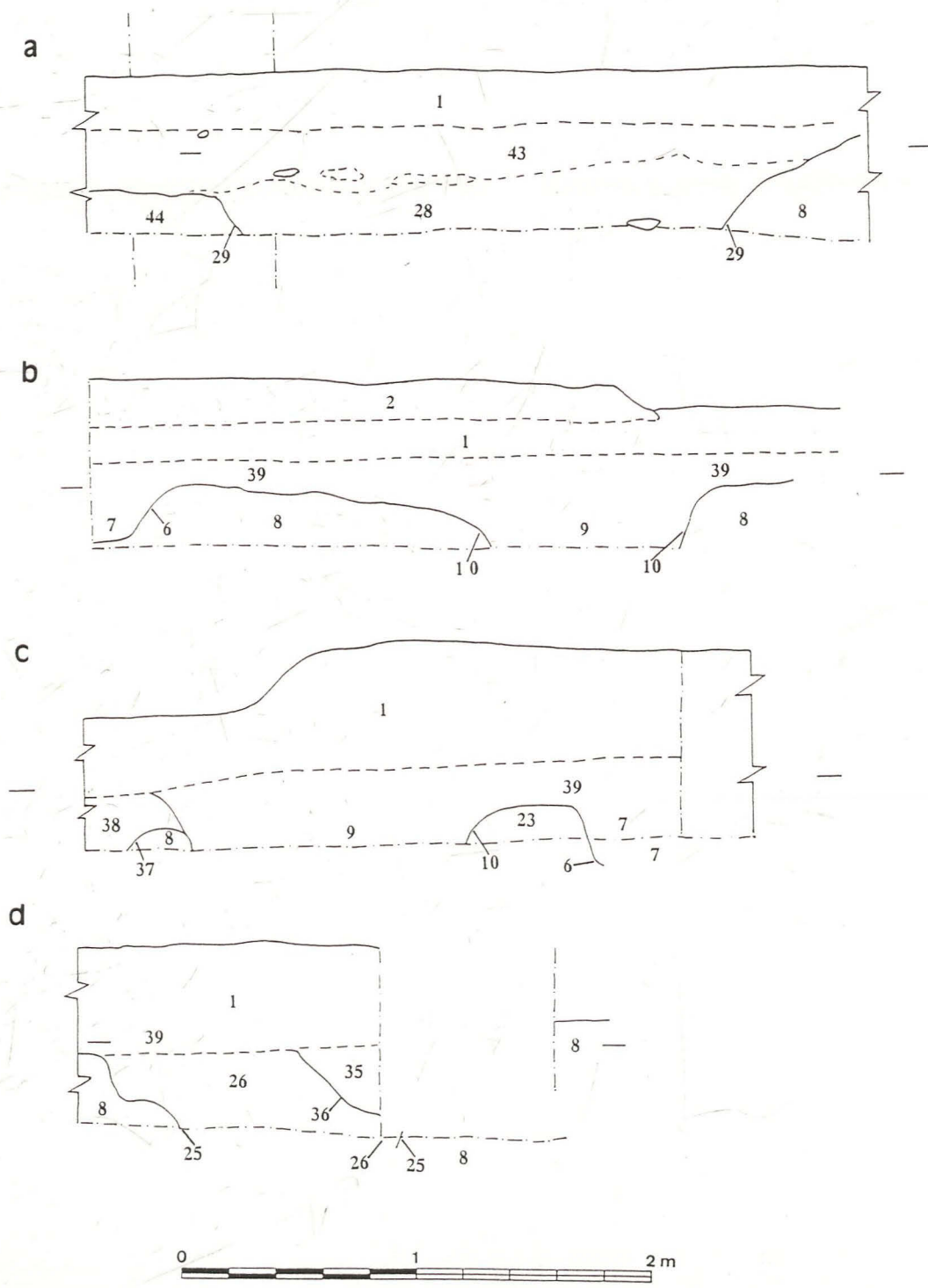


Fig. 5 Sections across archaeological features identified in the foundation trenches (West, after Tann).

The Plates



Pl. 1 Site of the new development, looking NW towards Barkwith Road.



Pl. 2 The orange clay 15 (lower right) has been cut by a modern post-hole (behind the 1m scale), and by a broad feature 21 with a light brown fill (extending beyond the SE corner of the garage foundation trench). Looking SE.

Pl. 3 Ditch 13, cutting orange clay 15 (right), near the SW corner of the garage (looking SE).





PI. 4 Stone rubble at the top of well 30 (looking NE).

PI. 5 Stone rubble side of well 30, with brick rubble above (looking north).

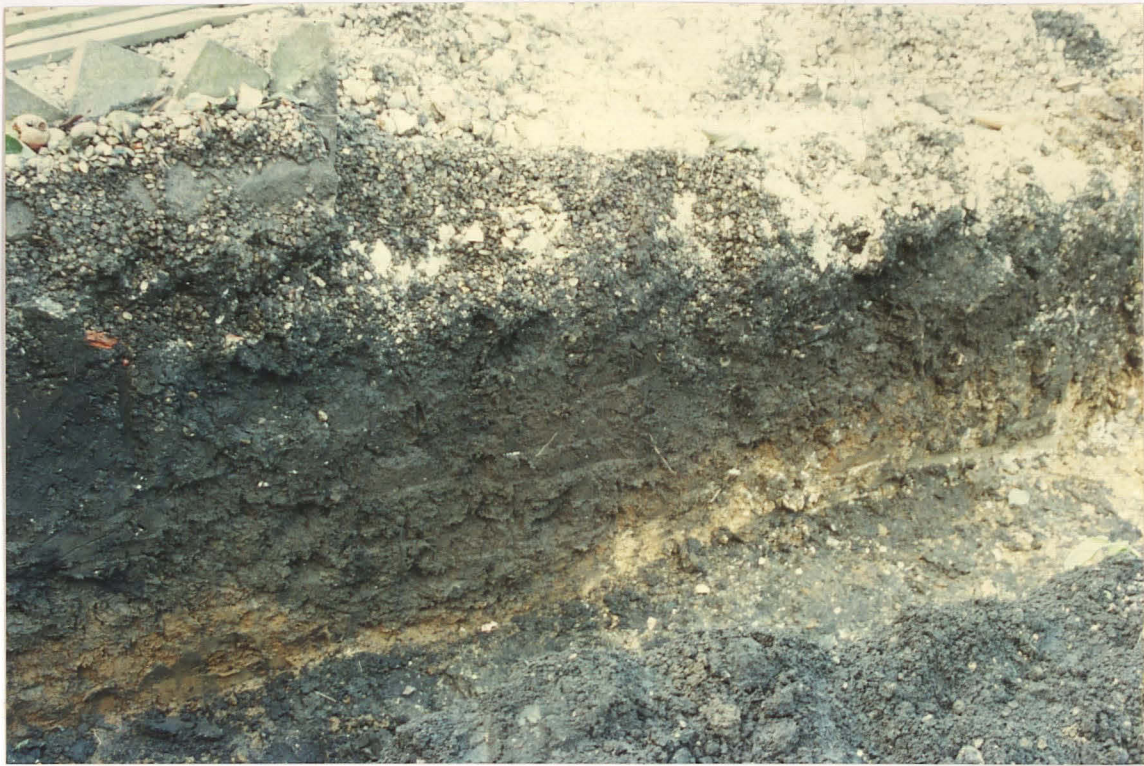




Pl. 6 Limestone architectural fragment (a piece of medieval window) reused in the stone rubble at the top of well 30. The stone may derive from the nearby church.

Pl. 7 Foundations for the bedroom, showing the orange clay fill of pit or ditch 29 (looking NE, with well 30 in the top left corner).





Pl. 8 Dark fill of ditch 3, overlain by the topsoil layer.

Pl. 9 Dark loam and rubble backfilling pit or ditch 36, with an earlier orange clay filled feature 25 below (looking NW).

