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**A Report to Banks, Long & Co. Chartered Surveyors
on behalf of Eastfield Enterprises Limited**

February 2003



LINCOLN
archaeology

**Geotechnical Survey at the Former
Anchor Street Works, Anchor Street,
Lincoln**

Archaeological Watching Brief

By R Trimble

Report No. : 510

LINCOLN
archaeology

Event 413933
Sources 418549 418550

CLAU Report No. 510: Geotechnical Survey at the Former Anchor Street Works, Anchor Street,
Lincoln

Archaeological Watching Brief

70021 4183959 Roman
70316 4183962 Medieval

GEOTECHNICAL SURVEY AT THE FORMER ANCHOR STREET WORKS, ANCHOR STREET, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief, commissioned by Banks Long & Co. Chartered Surveyors on behalf of Eastfield Enterprises Ltd, and carried out by the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU) in conjunction with geotechnical investigations by Sherwood Technical Services Ltd at the former Anchor Street Works, Anchor Street, Lincoln, was completed during the period 29-30 October 2002.

The site, at NGR SK 9717 7058 (approximate centre), occupies low-lying ground east of the River Witham in the ancient southern suburb of Wigford.

The most significant find resulting from the watching brief comprised an assemblage of human bone associated with Romano-British pottery dated to the early 3rd century AD. This material, deriving from a test pit in the north-eastern part of the site, indicates the potential for a cemetery extending east towards the High Street and for an unknown distance to the west.

In general the survey indicated a potential for deep archaeological deposits (undated) of up to 3.2m along the eastern periphery of the site (nearest to the zone of long-standing occupation along the High Street) with a progressive reduction in depth to the west. The extent and depth of alluvial deposits associated with the River Witham were difficult to define but a probable palaeochannel was identified, parallel to and c. 30m east of the present day course of the river. Previous work further to the north has demonstrated the potential for prehistoric and/or early historic watercourses.



GEOTECHNICAL SURVEY AT THE FORMER ANCHOR STREET WORKS, ANCHOR STREET, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document presents the findings of an archaeological watching brief maintained by the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU) during geotechnical investigations by Sherwood Technical Services Ltd at the former Anchor Street Works, Anchor Street, Lincoln. The watching brief, commissioned by Banks Long & Co. Chartered Surveyors on behalf of Eastfield Enterprises Ltd, was completed during the period 29-30 October 2002.

The considerable depth of the test pits (up to 4m) and the rapid nature of the survey militated against detailed recording of deposits. The deposit and feature descriptions provided in this report are, therefore, indicative only and were intended as a guide to the production (by the City Archaeologist) of a more comprehensive scheme of archaeological assessment (trial trench evaluation now in progress).

The report includes spot dates for the Roman and post Roman pottery but the results of full analysis of this and other material will be incorporated into the forthcoming evaluation report.

2.0 SITE LOCATION (see Fig. 1)

The site, at NGR SK 9717 7058 (approximate centre), occupies low-lying ground forming part of the medieval southern suburb of Wigford. It is bounded by the River Witham to the west, properties fronting Gaunt Street and the High Street to the south and east respectively, and the Post Office/Tanners Lane to the north. Anchor Street leads to the site from the High Street to the east.

The superficial geology of the site, which lies within a glacial gap in the Jurassic ridge known as the 'Lincoln Edge', comprises terrace sands and gravels overlain to the west by varying depths of alluvium from the River Witham.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The results of previous excavations east of the modern High Street - at St Mary's Guildhall and Monson Street - indicate that the courses of two Roman roads, the Fosse Way and Ermine Street, merge in the vicinity of the junction between the modern High Street and Anchor Street approximately 50m east of the eastern site boundary (Steane 2001, fig 3.1). Antiquarian and more recent discoveries, including military tombstones, attest to the presence of an early Roman cemetery east of Ermine Street and the Fosse Way in the Monson Street area. Excavations in the area have indicated that the cemeteries were superseded by settlement later in the Romano-British period.

There has been no convincing evidence of occupation in the area in the early Anglo-Saxon period: reoccupation probably occurred during the Late Saxon/Scandinavian period with settlement continuing throughout the medieval period and up to the present day.

4.0 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

Aims

The aims of the archaeological recording were:

- A. to produce an archive record of deposits and remains generally within the constraints of the groundwork contractors' working methods and programme as related to the project design, with due regard to current Health and Safety legislation.
- B. to produce a report on the archaeological importance of the discoveries.
- C. to produce a project archive from which the potential for further study and academic research could be assessed.
- D. to provide information for accession to the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the Lincoln Urban Archaeological Database (UAD).

Methodology

Where ground conditions permitted, pits were excavated to a depth of c. 4m using a JCB excavator fitted with 600mm wide toothed bucket. Health and safety considerations prevented detailed recording but a broadly accurate record of the stratigraphic sequence was obtained by measurements taken from ground level. All context descriptions were made from the trench side and colour print photographs were taken where features of particular interest were clearly visible.

The accompanying location plan, based upon a drawing supplied by the geotechnical contractor, shows pits located to a c. 3m degree of accuracy. Deposit depths are referenced to existing ground level.

5.0 RESULTS (See Figs. 2 & 3)

Geological Deposits

The uppermost surface of terrace sand (004) was encountered at varying depths below existing ground level - c. 3.3/3.1 m in pits nearest to the High Street (nos. 4 and 7) and a fairly consistent c. 1.5m in a row of pits placed further to the west (nos. 1, 3 and 9).

Alluvial deposits were anticipated across the western part of the site. Evidence for this was on the whole inclusive but layers of sand interleaved with clay (043, 025, 051, 019 & 020) may be interpreted as alluvial in origin. Of particular interest was a large alluvium-filled (043) depression - possibly the western edge of a palaeochannel (extinct stream course) - located at the eastern end of Pit 10. The feature may have run parallel with the existing course of the River Witham.

Romano-British

A large number of human bones representing at least one disturbed inhumation, were recovered from spoil adjacent to Pit 8. The bone, which appeared to derive from layer 028 or 029, was associated with a substantial quantity of Romano-British pottery dated to the first quarter of the third century AD.

Light grey sand/silt deposits (006 and 008) encountered at the lower levels of Pits 4 and 7 on the east side of the site and a light grey sand (003) producing later 2nd/early 3rd century pottery in Pit 5 could also represent Romano-British levels. Yet further to the west, Pits 1, 3 and 9 all revealed light grey sands (035, 011/012 and 015) at c. 1.0 - 1.2m below ground level - directly above terrace sands. The material was undated but could represent a leached soil horizon and there is the potential for Roman or later occupation across its upper horizon.

Anglo-Saxon/medieval/post-medieval

There was no specific evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity on the site.

In Pit 5 medieval pottery (dated to the 13th century) was found in burnt material (032) c. 1.9m below existing ground level. The deposit (032) may have formed the fill of a feature truncating 003. In Pit 9, a

single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the fill (037) of a possible feature (probably a pit) at c. 1.5m below existing ground level.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The evidence for an inhumation (or inhumations?) of probable Romano-British (early 3rd century AD) date in Pit 8 is of particular interest. In an urban context burials of the period normally occur within extensive extramural cemeteries.

The majority of deposits encountered across the site were undated but the substantial depth of material (c. 3.2m) in pits on the eastern side of the site (Pits 4 and 7) almost certainly reflects more intensive occupation/activity along the Roman and medieval street frontage.

Although the project produced only limited information on the depth and extent of alluvial material relating to the River Witham, the discovery of a probable palaeochannel in Pit 10 represents a valuable addition to archaeological knowledge of the ancient environment. Previous work further to the north has indicated the potential for multiple stream courses prior to the onset of reclamation works in the Romano-British period. Furthermore, information on the heights of terrace sands could, if related to Ordnance Datum, significantly enhance understanding of the natural topography of the area (Steane 2001, 309).

Finds from the site, including the Roman and medieval pottery, are currently awaiting full specialist analysis. The results of this work will be incorporated into the forthcoming evaluation report.

7.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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CLAU would like to thank Tom Brett of Sherwood Technical Services Ltd for his cooperation and assistance during archaeological fieldwork.

Project Team

CLAU Specialists

Russell Trimble	Project Officer (Field/Post-excavation)
Graham Eyre-Morgan	Projects Manager
Yvonne Rose	Finds Supervisor

External specialists

Barbara Precious	Roman pottery
Jane Young	Post-Roman and later pottery (Lindsey Archaeological Services)
	Roman and later ceramic building material

8.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Steane, K 2001 *The Archaeology of Wigford and the Brayford Pool, Lincoln Archaeological Studies 2*,
Oxbow Books

NOTE

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. Lincoln City Council cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

**GEOTECHNICAL SURVEY AT THE FORMER
ANCHOR STREET WORKS, ANCHOR STREET,
LINCOLN**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

APPENDIX 1 – LHA NOTE, ARCHIVE DETAILS

LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODE: ANS02

CLAU REPORT No.: 510

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.: -

FIELD OFFICER: Russell Trimble

NGR: SK 9717 7058

CIVIL PARISH: Lincoln

SMR No.: -

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 29-30 October, 2002

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Archaeological Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Banks, Long & Co. Chartered Surveyors on behalf of Eastfield Enterprises Limited

ARCHIVE DETAILS

PRESENT LOCATION: City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, Charlotte House, The Lawn, Union Road, Lincoln, LN1 3BL

FINAL LOCATION: The City and County Museum, Friars Lane, Lincoln

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: 2002.468

ACCESSION DATE: -

GEOTECHNICAL SURVEY AT THE FORMER ANCHOR STREET WORKS, ANCHOR STREET, LINCOLN

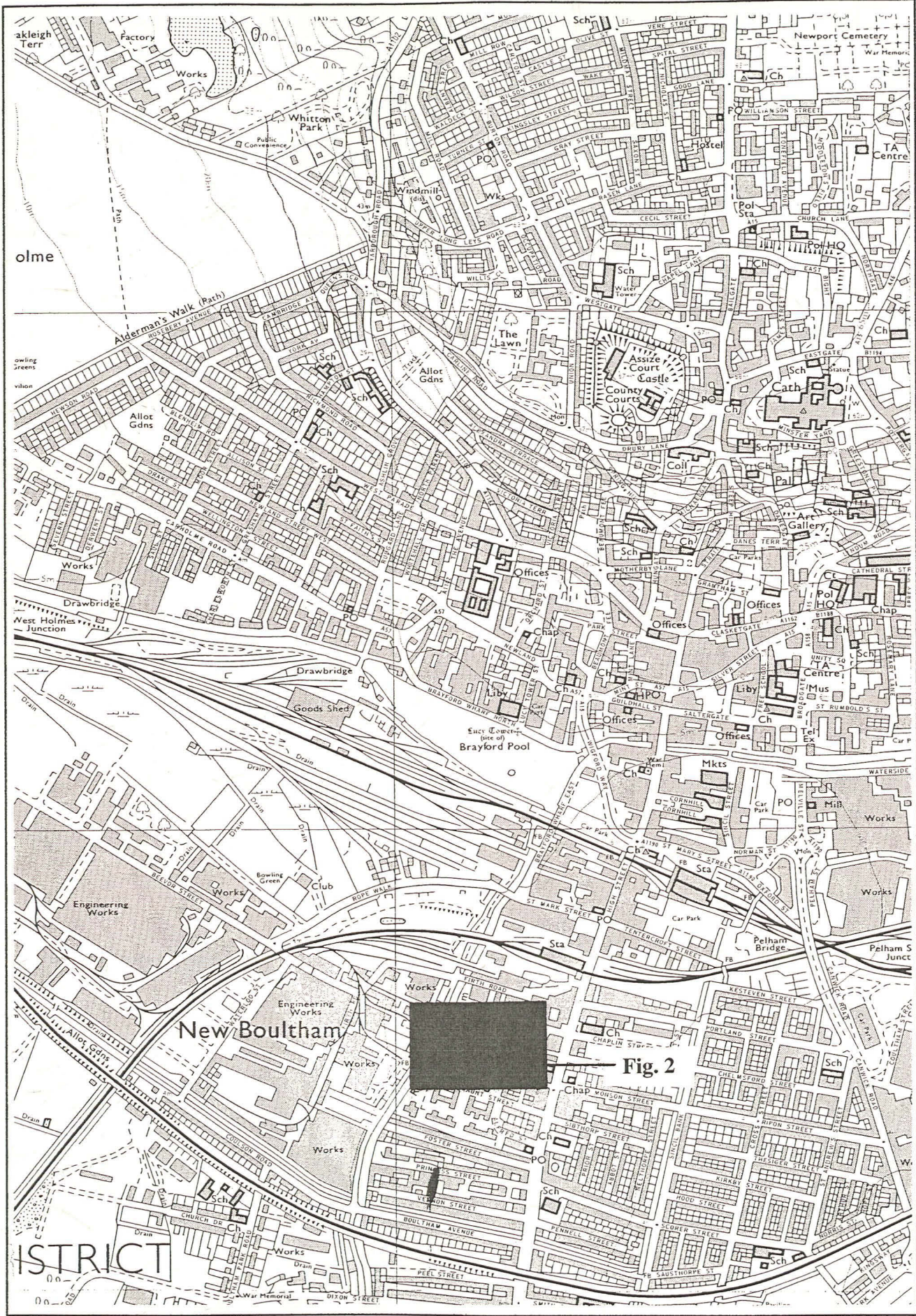
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

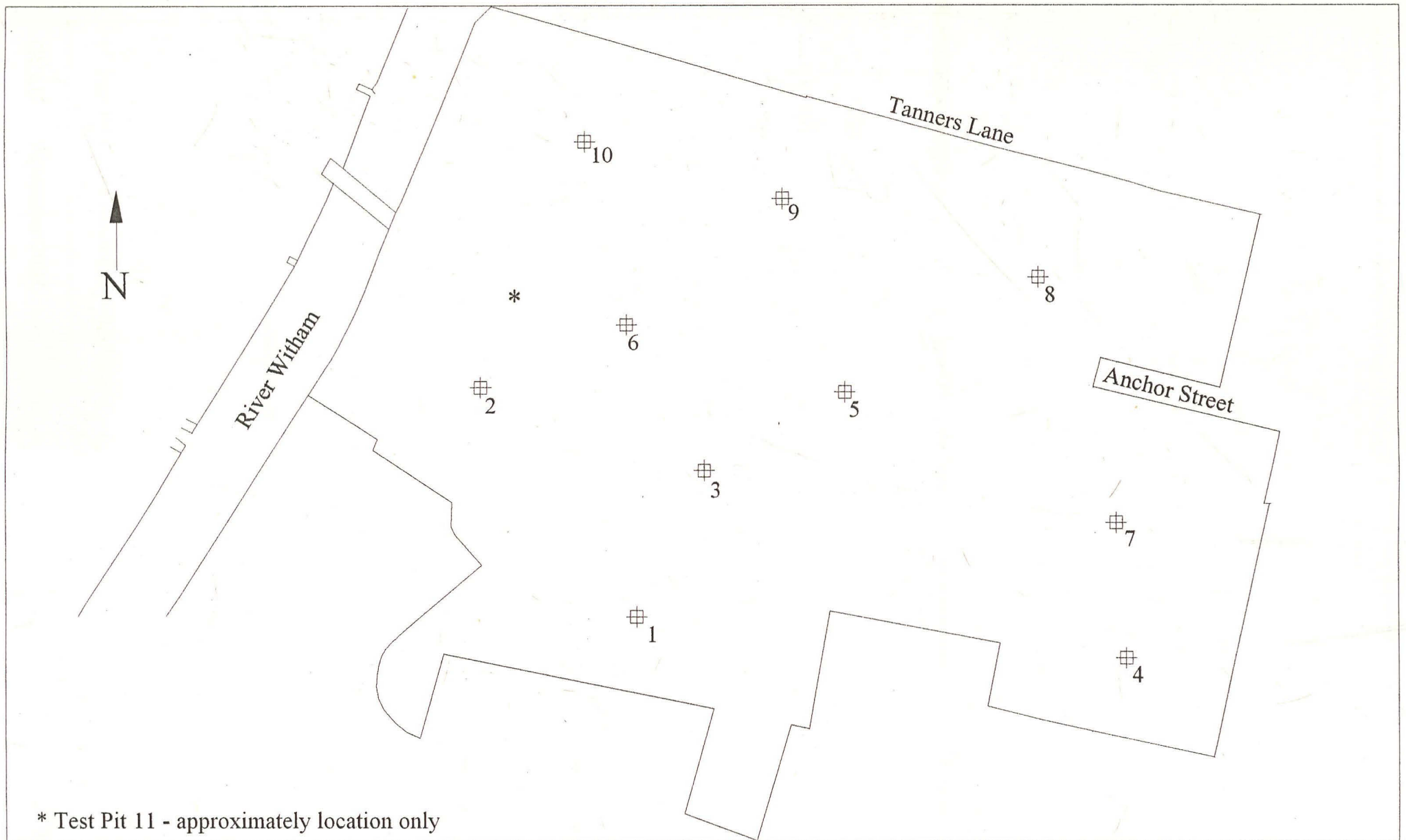
APPENDIX 2 – CONTEXT LIST

No.	Pit	Interpretation	Description
001	5	Modern demolition layer	Mixed stone and mortar over mixed topsoil and building rubble
002	5	Layer	Predominantly loose to moderately compact dark brown/grey sand/silt
003	5	Mixed archaeological horizons?	Predominantly mid grey sand/silt with charcoal rich patches. Very mixed material
004	5	Terrace sands	Fine orange sand
005	4	Layer	Mid brown sand/silt with frequent limestone fragments becoming mostly limestone at lower levels
006	4	Layer – ‘dark earth’ & Roman?	Fine dark grey/brown sand becoming light grey/green mottled at lower levels
007	7	Layer	Loose to mod compact dark grey/brown silt/sand with few inclusions
008	7	Layer	Mottled light grey sand/silt
009	3	Layer - modern	Mixed black/dark grey silt/sand
010	3	Layer	Mid brown sand/silt with few inclusions
011	3	Layer – buried soil?	Grey sand
012	3	Layer – buried soil?	Mixed yellowish and grey sand
013	3	Fill of modern rubbish pit?	Very mixed mid-dark grey silty sand with frequent 19 th or 20 th century plate etc.
014	1	Layer	Mid brown silt/sand
015	1	Layer	Light grey/yellowish brown sand/silt becoming lighter at lower levels
016	2	Layer – oil contaminated?	Mid-dark bluish grey clayey sand/silt
017	2	Modern well	Brick-lined, vaulted capping, c. 900mm below ground level, 2m deep from level of capping, c. 1m diameter. Located at E end of pit
018	2	Layer	mid brown sand/silt
019	2	Layer – alluvium?	Mottled light brown/orange/grey coarse light brown sand interspersed with darker grey sand/silt
020	2	Layer	Orange sand interspersed with light grey/orange soft clay
021	2	Layer – terrace sand?	Loose light reddish-brown sand
022	6	Layer – modern	Dark grey/black sand containing mortar lenses and brick
023	6	Layer	Mid grey sand/silt with occasional limestone fragments
024	6	Layer	Very light grey sand/silt with occasional mussel shells
025	6	Layer – alluvium?	Pale brown/orange sand interspersed with clay
026	6	Layer	Light reddish brown sands
027	8	Layer	Loose to moderately compact dark grey/brown silt/sand
028	8	Layer	Light grey sand/silt with few inclusions
029	8	Layer	Light brown sand/silt with orange-brown mottling
030	8	Skeleton & pottery	At least one individual, possibly more, retrieved from spoil. Actual find-spot not located owing to depth
031	5	Unstratified finds	Recovered from spoil

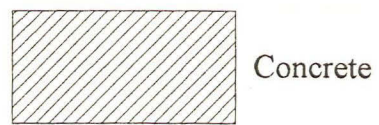
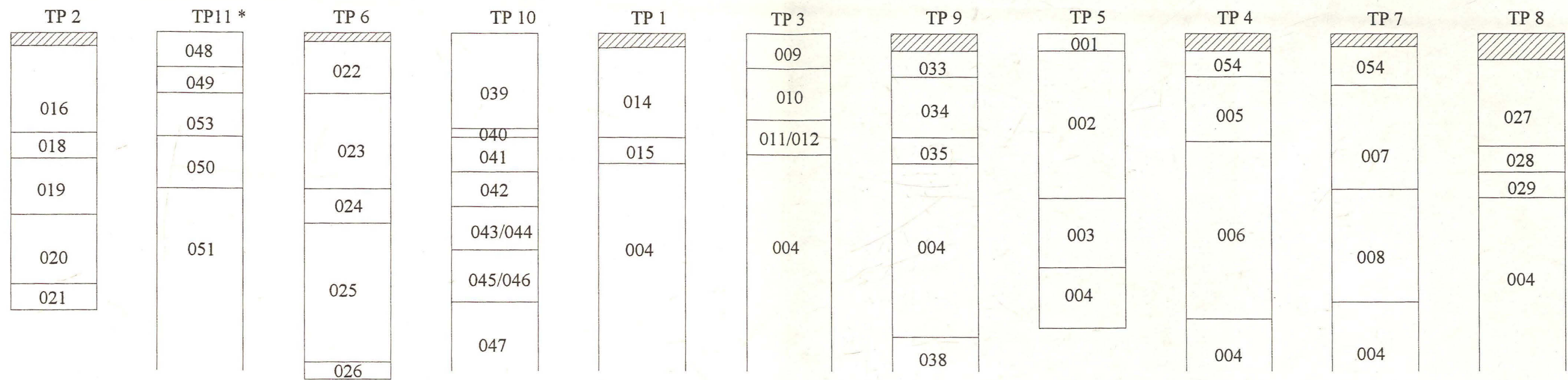
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032	5	Finds	Recovered from a deposit (fill?) of burnt material
033	9	Layer	Mixed modern deposits
034	9	Layer	Mid-grey/brown sand/silt
035	9	Layer	As 034 but becoming lighter/more sandy
036	9	Layer	= 004
037	9	Fill (of pit?)	mid grey sand/silt
038	9	Layer	= 026, 047
039	10	Layer	Mixed modern deposits
040	10	Layer	Cream/yellow sand/silt
041	10	Layer	Mid grey/brown sand silt containing occasional limestone
042	10	Layer	Mid-light grey sand/silt containing moderate limestone fragments to 100mm
043	10	Layer (filling palaeochannel)	Dark brown/grey sand/silt located at the NE end of the pit
044	10	Layer	More mixed material than 043 – light grey and yellowish sand/silt located at SW end of pit
045	10	Layer	Clays – more mixed than 046
046	10	Layer	Mid grey –blue clay and silt becoming orange-grey mixed sands and clay
047	10	Layer	Very loose reddish brown sands. Running due to water.
048	11	Layer – Modern	Dark grey topsoil over mortar
049	11	Layer	Very mixed light brown/light yellow brown sand/silt with frequent small limestone inclusions
050	11	Layer	Light grey sand/silt with frequent small limestone fragments
051	11	Layer	= 020
052	11	Finds	Unstratified from Pit 11
053	11	Layer	Loose to moderately compact mid greyish-brown sand/silt with very occasional small limestone
054	4,7	Layer	Mixed modern deposits





* Test Pit 11 - approximately location only



* Test Pit 11 not located on original plan (see Fig. 2)