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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**36 East St, Crowland, Lincs
Archaeological Evaluation**

NGR: TF ~~239 102~~ 240 103

Site Code: CESX 03

LCNCC Museum Accession No.: 2003.23

Planning Application : HO2/0810/02

CROXLEY
heritage

Report

for

Trevor Clay

Chartered Architect

on behalf of

Mr P. Leo

Conservation
Services
19 MAR 2003
Highways & Planning
Directorate

**LAS Report No. 650
March 2003**

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SITE EVENT LI4165

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36 East St, Crowland, Lincs
Archaeological Evaluation
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Summary

A single trench was excavated in the drive at 36, East Street which revealed medieval deposits at a depth of . Two pits, possibly for industrial purposes were present at a depth of 0.80m below the driveway and contained pottery of 15-16th century date. Degraded peat was also present in the trench at a depth of 1.25m.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by Trevor Clay Chartered Architect on behalf of Mr P. Leo, in accordance with the specification stated in a letter by the County Archaeologist dated September 24nd 2002, to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the above site, Complying with the guidance from *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16), Department of the Environment, 1990; *Management of Archaeological Projects*, English Heritage (1991); *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Studies, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*, Institute for Field Archaeologists (1993, revised 1999). The evaluation was carried out on 21/01/03.

Site Description and Topography

Crowland is situated on the border between Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire. 36 East Street is located west of the medieval Abbey and close to the core of the medieval settlement. It lies on the north side of East Street, immediately east of the Library. The site is currently occupied by a bungalow, with driveway access west of the building.

Planning Background

An outline planning application has been made to South Holland District Council for residential development comprising four cottages and detached garages.

Archaeological and Historical Background

The village is sat upon a gravel peninsula which extends into the peat and silt fens at a level between 3m - 5m OD. Alluvial deposits surround the peninsula. The modern settlement developed around the medieval abbey but there is evidence for prehistoric activity in the area with potential for waterlogged remains.

The medieval abbey is believed to have been founded on the site of a Saxon monastery, which formed the focus for the medieval settlement. Medieval pottery has been recorded from several sites in the village. At land off Trinity Court/West Street there were 1200mm of

archaeological deposits dating from the 16th-19th centuries.

Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the evaluation was to

- establish the date, quality and extent of archaeological remains and their location within the development area
- gather sufficient information to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of any archaeological remains to be made and the impact which development will have upon them
- establish the date and extent of any habitation on the site
- obtain environmental samples which will provide information on the conditions prevailing in the past
- enable an informed decision to be made regarding the future treatment of any archaeological remains and consider any appropriate mitigatory measures either in advance of and/or during development

Method

The excavation of a single trench, measuring 3m x 3m, located in the driveway west of 36 East Street, using a JCB, was undertaken on January 21st 2003. It was positioned in accordance with the requirements of the Senior Built Environment Officer Lincolnshire County Council. All concrete and modern hard surfaces were removed using a toothed bucket. A toothless dyking bucket was used to remove remaining soil to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced archaeologist.

The trench were hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and carefully selected cross-sections through the features were excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations should these prove to be necessary.

Recording Systems

LAS operates a standard context recording system, developed by its staff over the past 20 years based on MOLAS and CAS models. A full written (single context) and photographic record was made of the site, include site plans at a scale of 1:20 and section drawings at 1:10. A plan of the trench was made with section drawings of one side. Archaeological features were assigned context numbers by LAS for recording purposes. These context numbers are referred to in the following report text and illustrations (see Appendix 1 for full descriptions).

A full photographic record, in colour print, in 35mm format, was made during the progress of

the evaluation, covering principal features together with general site views.

All levels taken on the site were tied to a spot height on East Street (4.2m O.D.).

Results

The driveway was covered in a layer of tarmac, **1**, which had a depth of 0.07m. This was bedded on a hardcore layer, **2**, 0.24m thick. The driveway had a later drain inserted into it (Fig. 3, section B) which crossed the full length of the trench from north to south. A construction trench for a garden wall, **3**, projected 0.30m along the west side of the trench, sealed by tarmac **1**. It had limestone chippings in its upper foundation fill, **4**, and concrete in its base, **5**. Beneath **2** was a layer of grey silt **20** which overlay a layer of crushed brick rubble, **25**, associated with a rainwater pipe which crossed the full width of the trench from west-east. This trench cut into another grey silt layer **21** which overlay the earliest recorded consolidating deposit **19**, comprising limestone and brick fragments. **19** overlay a further grey silt layer **24** which sealed two rectangular pits **6** and **11**. They both had near vertical sides and flat bases and were clay-lined. They cut through a mottled green grey sandy clay, **10**, which became progressively brown towards the base of the layer. This layer contained four brick fragments, a piece of glazed roof tile and a stone floor tile, of 15-17th century date (Appendix 2).

Pit **6** was in the north-west corner of the trench where its south-east corner was recorded. Sealing the base of the clay lining **9** was a thin lens of dark brown/black silt **8** 0.04m thick. Two sherds of Bourne type D ware pottery were found in layer **8**. The upper fill consisted of grey silt clays, **7** which produced brick, tile and 9 sherds of pottery, seven of which were from jugs/jars manufactured at Bourne type D with single pieces from a Tudor Green fineware cup and a Cistercian-type cup. All date to the 15-16th centuries (see Appendix 2). 28 fragments of animal bone were also found in this deposit, four of which were sheep and two were chicken and one wild bird. The remaining 21 pieces were from cattle, seven of which had butchering marks. Beneath pit **6** was an oval posthole, **15**, which contained a mid to dark grey silt clay, **16**.

Pit **11** was 0.40m south of pit **6** and aligned precisely with it. Its clay lining **14** was sealed at the base with a thin layer of blue clay **13**. The upper fill of the second pit, **12**, was identical to that of the first and contained two sherds of Bourne type D ware pottery of 15-16th century date, and four animal bone fragments including a butchered cattle femur.

Natural was a cream clay sand, **17**, which sealed a layer of degraded peat, **22**. Beneath the peat was a grey sand, **23**.

Environmental samples were taken from deposits **7,8,10, 12, 16** and **22** in order to establish the function of the pits and to determine the level of survival of organic remains (Appendix 3).

The pit fills 7 and 12 smelt strongly of urine and it was thought that the pits may have been used for tanning. Unfortunately, there was no indication in the samples, such as the presence of animal hair to support this theory. The peaty deposit 22 below the pits was badly degraded and appears to have dried out in the past although it was wet when excavated. This resulted in disappointing levels of survival for botanical remains with only charcoal being present in all the samples, together with roots of probable recent origin.

Discussion

The small size of the trial trench has led to results which are difficult to interpret. The lack of buildings was not unexpected given the distance from the street frontage. However, the presence of the two pits which are likely to be contemporary indicates some industrial activity on the site. Unfortunately, it was not possible to confirm that this activity may have been tanning because of the poor survival of organic remains. The pottery assemblage from the two pits cannot be more closely dated than mid-15-mid 16th centuries. It is of note that a site so close to the abbey and the centre of the settlement appears to lack any evidence for later activity. It is not clear from such a small trench whether this is because the area in general was in decline or if the trench fortuitously missed archaeological activity. However, the absence of any other pottery perhaps suggests that the former interpretation is more likely.

Conclusion

Although limited in area the evaluation has shown that archaeological remains are present on the site, but at some depth from the present ground surface. The late medieval pits were recorded at a depth of c.0.80m below existing ground surface and it should be possible to limit the impact of development on these deposits by careful design of the foundations.

Acknowledgements

The author and LAS would like to thank Trevor Clay Chartered Architect for his assistance during the excavation, Phil Hall the JCB driver and Jane Young for the medieval and post-medieval pottery report. Illustrations were by Mark Williams. The evaluation was carried out by Dave Marshall and Mick McDaid. The report was collated by Jane Frost.

Mick McDaid and Naomi Field
Lindsey Archaeological Services
March 11th 2003

Contents of Site Archive

Site plans and sections 1 sheet, 3 drawings

Context register and sheets 25

Environmental register 6 samples

Correspondence

Photographs. LAS Film and Negative Nos:03/04/22-35

APPENDIX 1

Crowland, 36 East Street (CESX 03)
Context Summary

Context	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth
1	Layer	Tarmac and concrete driveway	3m+	3m+	0.07m
2	Layer	hardcore bedding below 1	3m+	3m+	0.24m
3	Cut	Garden wall foundation	3m+		0.28m
4	Fill	Fill of 3 - stone chips	3m+		0.20m
5	Fill	Fill of 3, below 4	3m+		0.08m
6	Cut	Pit	1.50m+	1.30m+	0.50m
7	Fill	Fill of 6 - grey silt clay	1.50m+	1.30m+	0.37m
8	Fill	Black silt, fill of 6, below 7	1.50m+	1.30m+	0.04m
9	Fill	Clay lining, fill of 6, below 8	1.50m+	1.30m+	0.08m
10	Layer	Grey silt	3m+	3m+	0.35m
11	Cut	pit	1.50m+	1m +	0.30m
12	Fill	Upper fill of 11- grey silt clay	1.50m+	1m +	0.30m
13	Fill	Blue clay, fill of 11 below 12	1.50m+	1m +	0.02m
14	Fill	Clay lining, fill of 11, below 13	1.50m+	1m +	0.03m
15	Cut	Posthole	0.30m+	0.30m	0.11m
16	Fill	Dark grey silt, fill of 15	0.30m+	0.30m	0.11m
17	Layer	Cream clayey sand, below 15, natural	3m+	3m+	limit of excavation
18	Layer	black silt	0.50m	1.30m+	0.04m
19	Layer	Brick and stone rubble, below 21	3m+	3m+	0.18m
20	Layer	Grey silt, below 2			0.30m
21	Layer	Light grey silt, below 20			0.32m
22	Layer	Black clay, below 10, natural	3m+	3m+	0.34m
23	Layer	Grey sand below 22, natural	3m+	3m+	limit of excavation
24	Layer	Grey silt, below 19			0.28m
25	Layer	rubble and modern rainwaterpipe			0.08m-0.22m

APPENDIX 2

Pottery Archive CESX03

context	cname	sub fabric	full name	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	part	description	date
07	BOU		Bourne D ware	?	1	1	2	BS	flake	15th to 16th
07	BOU		Bourne D ware	jug/jar	1	1	6	BS		15th to 16th
07	BOU		Bourne D ware	jug/jar	1	1	10	BS		15th to 16th
07	BOU		Bourne D ware	jug/jar	1	1	14	BS		15th to 16th
07	BOU		Bourne D ware	jug/jar	1	1	32	BS		15th to 16th
07	BOU		Bourne D ware	jug/jar	2	1	32	BS		15th to 16th
07	BOU		Bourne D ware	jug/jar	1	1	40	BS	fabric includes comm calcitic inclusions	15th to 16th
07	LMF	Tudor Green	Late Medieval Finewares	cup	1	1	9	base		mid 15th to mid 16th
07	CIST		Cistercian-type ware	cup	1	1	15	BS		mid 15th to 16th
08	BOU		Bourne D ware	jug	1	1	7	rim	fabric includes common calcitic inclusions	15th to 16th
08	BOU		Bourne D ware	jug/jar	1	1	45	BS	thin-walled;fabric includes common calcitic inclusions	15th to 16th
12	BOU		Bourne D ware	jug/jar	1	1	18	base	soot	
12	BOU		Bourne D ware	jug	1	1	18	UHJ		15th to 16th

Building Material Archive CESX03

Jane Young Lindsey Archaeological Services

context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	description	date
07	BRK	Brick	fine soft silty fabric	2	16	handmade ?	post-medieval
07	BRK	Brick	hard fine fabric	1	162	handmade	post-medieval
07	BRK	Brick	hard fine fabric	1	292	handmade;corner	post-medieval
07	GPNR	Glazed peg, nib or ridge	Bourne D	1	69	slip	15th to 17th
07	STILE	Stone tile		1	308	flat roof tile;corner;peg hole -	
10	GPNR	Glazed peg, nib or ridge	Lincoln ??	1	37	mortar;reduced glaze	
10	BRK	Brick	hard fine fabric	1	189	fine grass marks;? Slipped;fabric similar to Bourne D	post-medieval
10	BRK	Brick	soft fine fabric	1	70	handmade	post-medieval
10	BRK	Brick	soft fine fabric	1	16	handmade	post-medieval
10	STILE	Stone tile		1	349	floor ? Tile;soot over all unbroken surfaces	-
12	GRID	Glazed ridge tile	Bourne B/C	1	100	pierced;internal soot	medieval
12	BRK	Brick	fine soft silty fabric	3	32	abraded	post-medieval

Dating Archive CESX03

context	date	comments
07	late 15th to mid 16th	
08	15th to 16th	
10	15th to 17th	building material only
12	15th to 16th	

APPENDIX 3

36 East Street

Crowland

Lincolnshire

Botanical Assessment

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1. Introduction
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 As part of archaeological investigations at 36 East Street, Crowland by Lindsey Archaeological Services, Archaeological Services WYAS were commissioned to undertake the assessment of selected soil samples. Six deposits were assessed in order to provide some indication of the survival/recovery of biological material and any activities that may have occurred in the area.

2. Method

- 2.1 Sub-samples of 250ml of soil were subjected to a system of wash-over. The floating remains (the flot) were collected in a 300 μ m sieve and the heavy fraction (the retent) was collected in a 1mm mesh. Given the possibility of waterlogged remains, the flots were stored in alcohol. These were scanned using a binocular microscope and the results are presented in Appendix I. Although waterlogged remains are typically collected as flot, the retents were also scanned using a binocular microscope, after which the inorganic residues were discarded.
- 2.2 Whilst held by Archaeological Services WYAS, the remaining unprocessed material and the flots are kept in appropriate conditions (i.e. cold storage at 4°C).

3. Results

- 3.1 The six deposits examined were described as dark brown slightly sandy clays (Context 8, 10 and 12), dark brown clays (Contexts 7 and 16) or dark brown peaty clays (Context 22). All were described as moist, although the deposits were recorded as waterlogged during the on-site archaeological investigations.
- 3.2 Evidence of waterlogged biological material from five of the flots was minimal. No seeds were noted, but rootlets (probably intrusive) and the occasional fly pupa and beetle fragment were noted. Context 22 was the exception, as it was rich in unstructured/undiagnostic plant material that may have represented peaty deposits, although unfortunately the biological remains were degraded. Given the paucity of biological material generally and the degraded nature of the remains from Context 22, it is likely that the deposits were seasonally waterlogged and or clay-rich rather than permanently waterlogged. Certainly the 'oily', malodorous deposits indicative of waterlogged material were not noted during sample processing. With the exception of Context 22, carbonised wood charcoal was recorded as occasional to abundant.
- 3.3 No evidence was found, such as animal hair, to support the identification of tanning pits.
- 3.4 No biological material was recovered from the retents.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 Given the paucity of biological remains from the deposits sub-sampled, no further analysis of these samples is recommended. In light of this, the remaining (unprocessed) material can also be discarded, although artefacts/ecofacts such as pottery fragments, animal bones and oyster shells are still included in the soil matrix.

Acknowledgements

Client

Lindsey Archaeological Services

Project Management

Jane Richardson PhD

Report

Jane Richardson

Laboratory work

Jason Dodds BSc

Appendix I. Results from the flot samples

Context number	Sample number	Flot volume	Seeds	Roots	Beetles	Fly pupae	Charcoal		Comments
							qty.	large frags.	
7	1	10ml		+++			++++	*	
8	2	5ml		++			+++		
10	6	2ml					++		
12	4	15ml		++			++++		
16	3	2ml			+	+	++		
22	5	50ml							Much amorphous plant material (degraded?)

Key : + = rare (1-5), ++ = occasional (6-10), +++ = common (11-50), ++++ = abundant (>50), * = sufficient charred material for AMS date

THE FIGURES



Fig.1 Location of Crowland and the development site (inset C based on the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map TF 21 SW. Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence no. AL 100002165.)

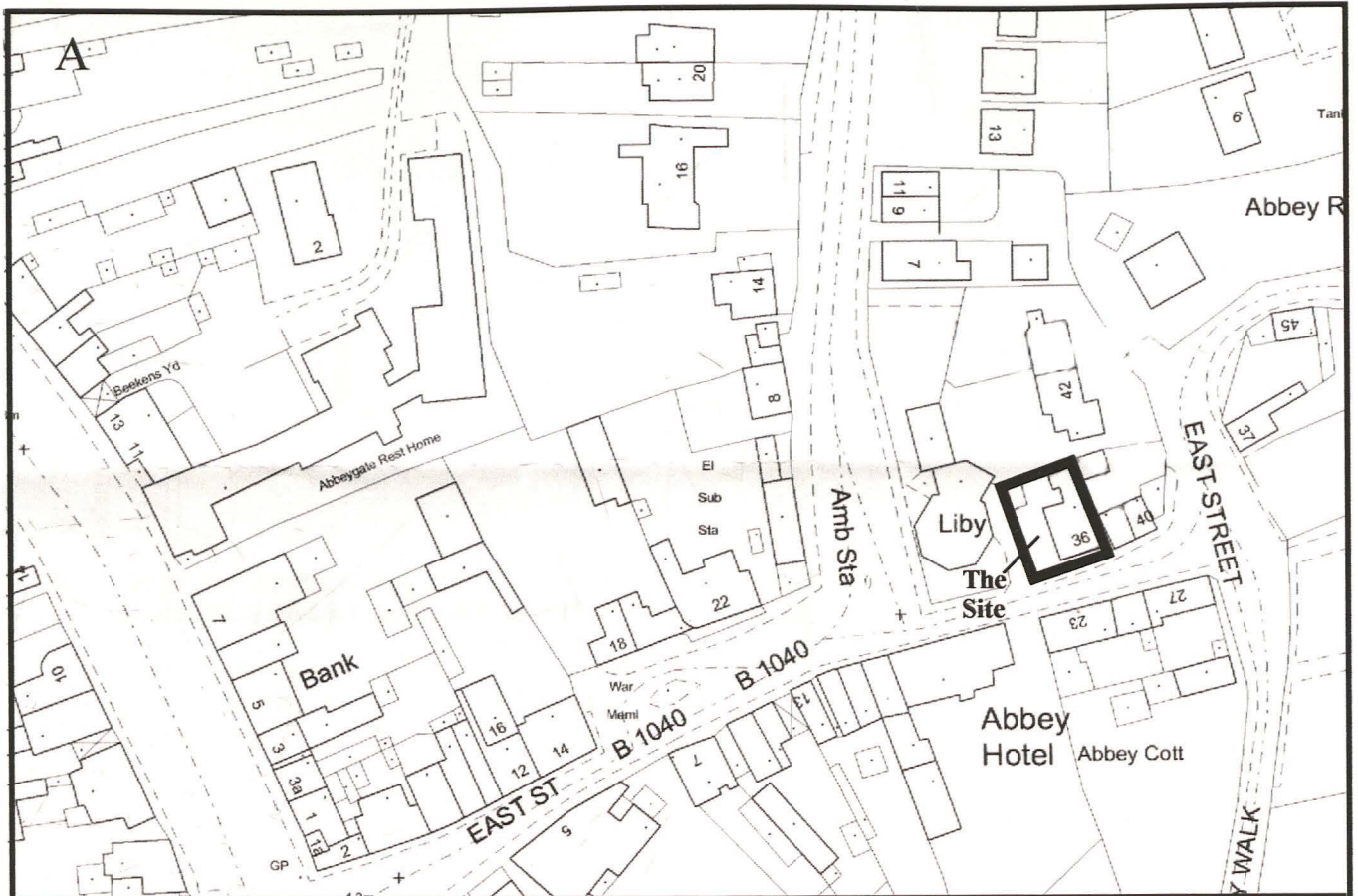


Fig. 2. A) Location of the development site.

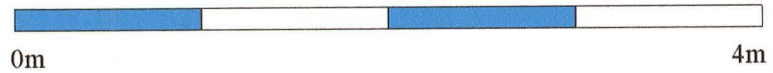
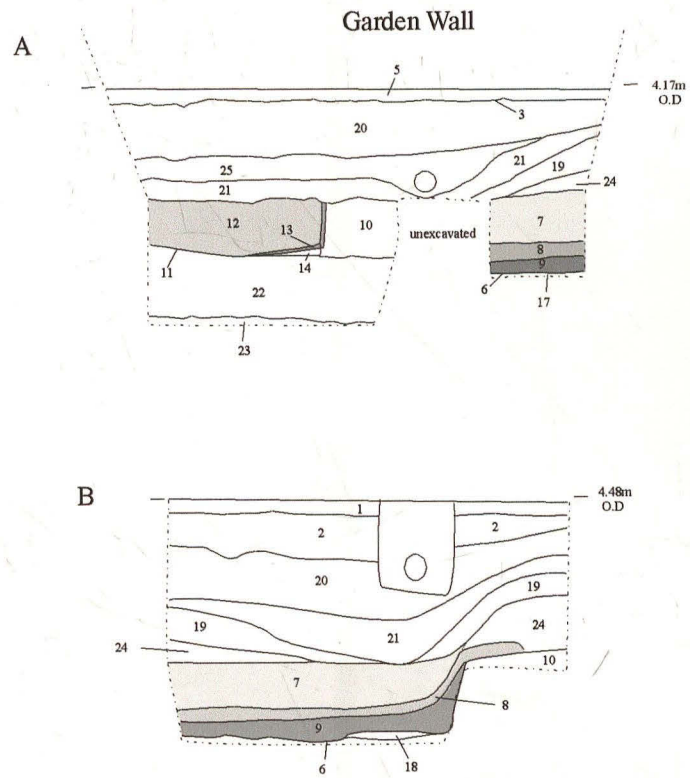
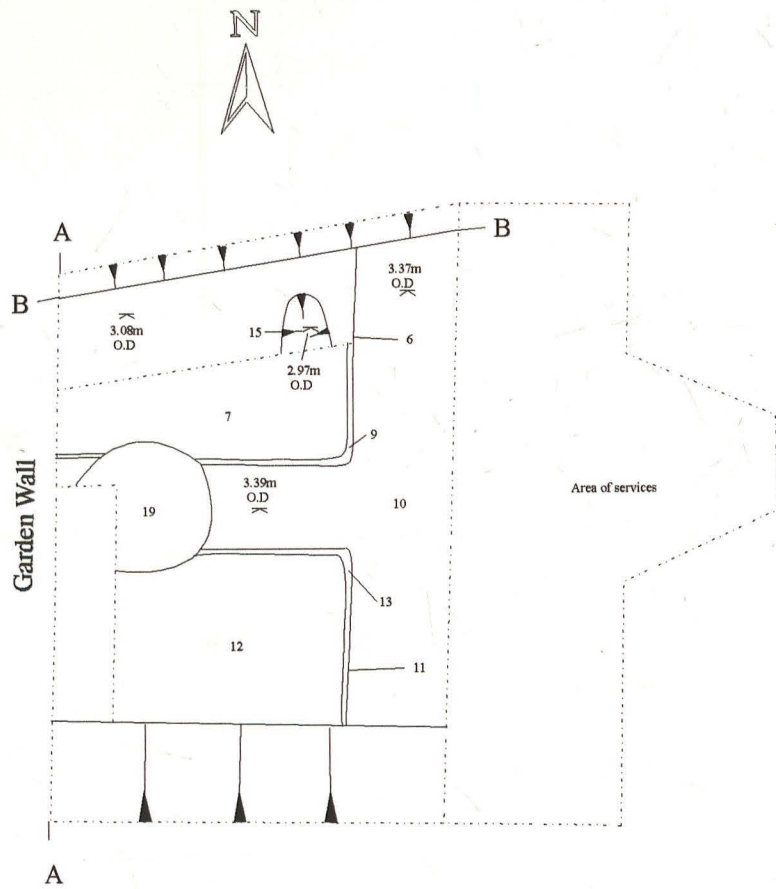


Fig. 3. Plan and sections of the trial trench.

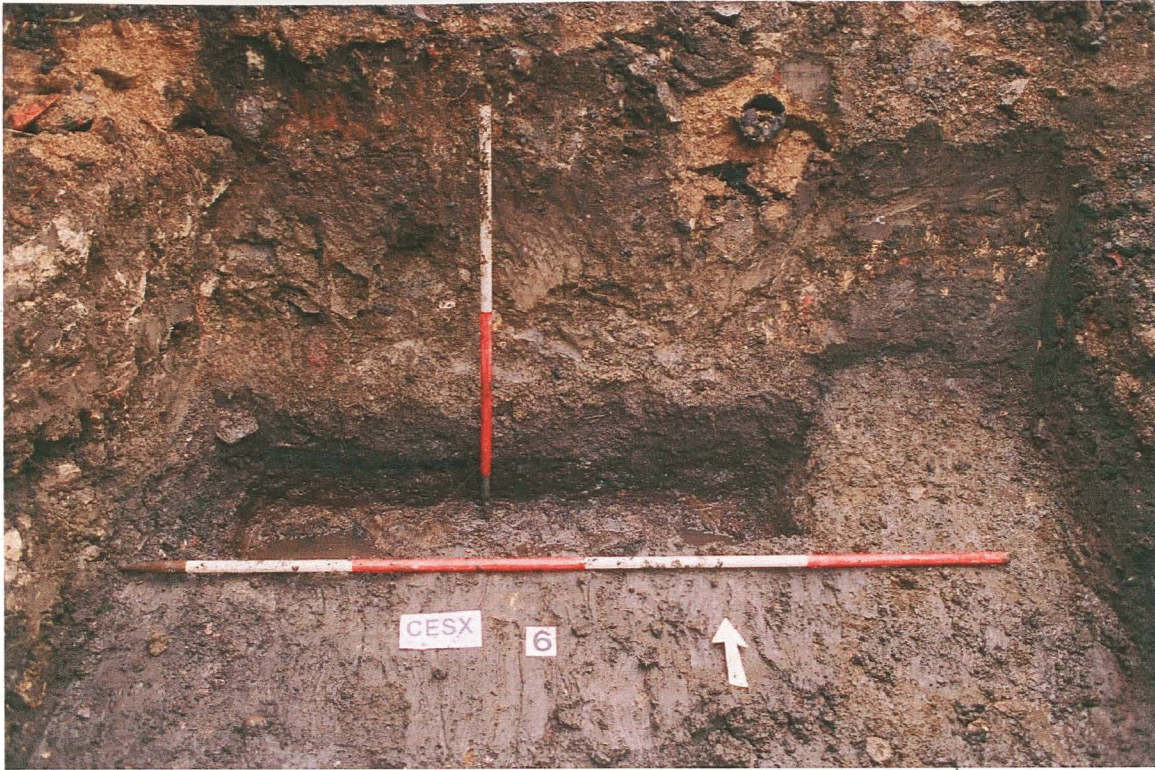
THE PLATES



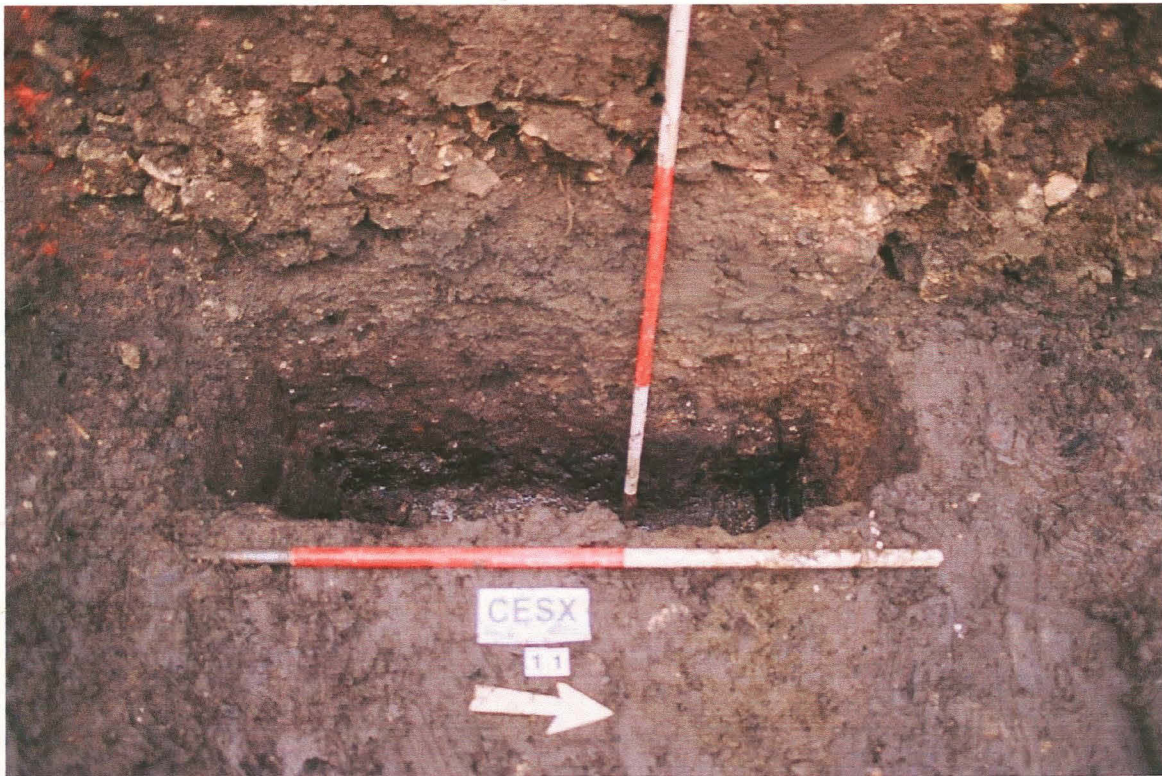
Pl. 1 General view of the site looking north west.



Pl. 2 The evaluation trench, pre-excitation, looking north. Scales 1m and 2m.



Pl.3. South facing section of tanning pit 6. Horizontal scale 2m, vertical scale 1m.



Pl.4. East facing section of tanning pit 11. Horizontal scale 1m, vertical scale 2m.



Pl.5. East facing section of trial trench. Horizontal scale 1m, vertical scale 2m.



Pl.6. South west facing elevation of house foundations. Vertical scale 0.02m.