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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**2 Cromwell View**

**Caistor, Lincs**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

Site Code: CCV 03

LCNCC Museum Accession No: 2003.122

NGR: TA 1162 0127

Planning Application: M00/P/0487

**Archaeological Evaluation**

for

**John Rowan Architectural Services**

**on behalf of**

**Mr & Mrs D. Shepherd**

**LAS Report: 653**

**April 2003**



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### **Summary**

*The hand excavated evaluation trench was stopped at a depth of c.1m below the existing ground level (82.51m O.D) at the request of the client, who had decided, based upon the deposits revealed in the evaluation trench, that a raft foundation, c.0.50m in depth, was the most appropriate form of footings for the proposed house extension. No archaeological remains were exposed at the depth of the proposed raft footings and, as such, the client will minimise the impact of development on the scheduled monument.*

### **Introduction**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Lindsey Archaeological Services, for John Rowan Architectural Services, on behalf of Mr and Mrs D. Shepherd, on 17/4/03, in accordance with the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, 1998) and discussed with the DCMS(English Heritage) Inspector of Ancient Monuments, as set out in their letter dated March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2001.

### **Site Location and Description** (Figs. 1 and 2, Pl.1)

Caistor is a small town situated in the Lincolnshire Wolds some 13km north of Market Rasen. The proposed development site is located on the south side of Cromwell View, immediately west of the church. The evaluation trench was placed within the grounds of Mr and Mrs Shepherd's house, west of the existing lean-to extension, south east of Caistor Grammar School, within the area of the Roman town (Scheduled Ancient Monument 148), within the Area of Archaeological Interest defined by West Lindsey District Council in 1989.

### **Scope of Work**

A single storey extension on the west side of the existing dwelling at 2 Cromwell View is proposed. An archaeological evaluation of the site was requested by the DCMS as a condition of Scheduled Monument Consent (para. 3.i). This will enable a mitigation strategy to be prepared to minimise the impact of development on the scheduled monument (para. 3.ii).

### **Archaeological Background**

Caistor was an important Roman town with a walled enclosure built in the late 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century on top of the hill. There was also an extensive Roman settlement to the west of the walled area. It appears to have retained its importance in the Anglo-Saxon period and is thought to have been the capital of the North Riding of Lindsey with an early minster church located inside the Roman

walls. It was a royal manor both before and after the Norman Conquest and in the medieval period was a thriving market town.

The site is located within the Roman walls. Excavations at Caistor Grammar School in 1992 and 2002 have revealed the footings of this wall. Saxon rubbish pits were found immediately beneath the modern ground surface, cut into the top of a possible Roman ditch flanking the retaining wall. In 1997 medieval features were seen in a trench at the grammar school on a site immediately north of Cromwell View.

### **Aims and Objectives**

In general terms the purpose of the evaluation will be to

- establish the presence or absence, 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
- 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**

#### ***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, the site plan was at a scale of 1:20 and section drawings at 1:20. The O.D. height will be included in all sections and spot heights on plans.

A full photographic record, in 35mm colour print format, was made during the progress of the evaluation, covering principal features together with a general site shot.

#### ***Evaluation Trench*** (Pls.1, Figs.2 and 3)

A single trench, measuring 3m x 1.5m, was positioned to evaluate the ground in the area of the proposed extension. It was excavated by hand and then hand-cleaned. Stratigraphic relationships were recorded. A temporary bench mark was established on the site from the bench mark on Caistor Youth Club (84.98m O.D.).

#### **Results** (Pls.2 - 5, Fig.3)

Topsoil, **1**, was 0.26m deep and sealed, **2**, the remains of a cottage floor comprising bricks 210mm x 105mm x 70mm which were aligned north west-south east. To the east was a patch of light brown mortar, **16**, a floor repair. To the south was an area of rubble, **3**, comprising brick



fragments, roof tile and mortar flecks, which was the demolition remains of the c18th-20th century cottage. A 0.30m thick former topsoil, **4**, was sealed by these deposits. Finds included a sherd of pottery from a 19th century buff ware jar. Below **4** was a 0.07m deep layer of brown silt, **6**. Below **6** was a mixed grey and brown ash deposit, containing pottery dated from the 14th - 20th century, **5**, was cut by 2 postholes, **7** and **9**. Both were filled by a brown silt, **8** and **10**. Layer **5** sealed a dump deposit, **11**, which was cut by a posthole, **12**, in the north east corner of the trench. Excavation of the posthole was stopped at the request of the architect and client who had come to a decision regarding foundation design. Partial excavation of the posthole revealed that **11** was 0.04m thick, below **11** was another ash layer, **14**, 0.10m deep, which in turn was above a yellow clay, **15**, at least 0.04m deep.

### **Discussion**

Floor surface **2** and **16** represent the remains of a row of cottages recorded as still standing on a map of 1959. Deposit **5**, below the former topsoil **4** would appear to be levelling for the topsoil, suggesting that **4**, which did not appear to have any ash as part of its make-up, may have been imported onto the site. All other layers, **11**, **14** and **15**, might be placed purely to raise the ground level above street height.

The evaluation did not establish the presence of archaeological remains at a depth of 82.31m O.D. Lack of load bearing ground for the proposed extension trench foundations prompted the architect and client to call a halt to the archaeological investigation as they agreed that the most suitable choice for the house extension footings was a raft design.

### **Conclusion**

*Inspection of the site by the architect led to the conclusion that a raft foundation is the most suitable design for the proposed footings of a house extension at 2, Cromwell View. The depth of the proposed raft foundation, 0.50m, will mean that no archaeological deposits will be disturbed during the digging of footings, and as such will minimise the impact of development on the scheduled monument.*

### **Acknowledgements**

Thanks to John Rowan of John Rowan Architectural Services and Mr and Mrs D. Shepherd for their assistance. All fieldwork was carried out by the author and Doug Young. This report was edited, produced and collated by Naomi Field.

Mick McDaid

May 2003

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## Archive List

Plan

Section

Levels

Correspondence

Photographs: LAS Film No. 03/52/0-16



## Appendicies



## CCV 03 Context List

Context	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth
1	Layer	Modern Topsoil	3m+	1.5m+	0.28m
2	Layer	Brick Floor	1.10m+	1.5m+	0.07m
3	Layer	Demolition Rubble	1.90m+	1.5m+	0.08m
4	Layer	Former Topsoil	3m+	1.5m+	0.28m
5	Layer	Ash Deposit	3m+	1.5m+	0.35m
6	Layer	Brown silt sand	3m+	1.5m+	0.07m
7	Cut	Posthole	0.20m	0.20m	unknown
8	Fill	Fill of 7	0.20m	0.20m	unknown
9	Cut	Posthole	0.20m	0.20m	unknown
10	Fill	Fill of 9	0.20m	0.20m	unknown
11	Layer	Brown silt sand	3m+	1.5m+	0.03m
12	Cut	Pit	0.46m	0.46m	unknown
13	Fill	Fill of 12	0.46m	0.46m	unknown
14	Layer	Ash Deposit	3m+	1.5m+	0.10m
15	Layer	Yellow Clay	3m+	1.5m+	0.04m+
16	Layer	Floor Repair	1.10m+	1.5m+	0.07m

# Pottery Archive CCV03

Jane Young    Lindsey Archaeological Services

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	weight	decoration	part	description	date
03	LERTH	Late earthenwares		plantpot	1	18		rim		18th to 20th
04	NCBW	19th-century Buff ware		jar	1	9		BS		19th to 20th
04	DST	Developed Stamford ware		bottle	1	5		BS	? ID or 18/19th	mid 12th to early 13th ?
04	WHITE	Modern whiteware		jar	1	8		rim		late 18th to 20th
04	LMLOC	Late Medieval local fabrics	OX/R/OX;fine sandy;hard	bowl	1	127		rim		15th to 16th
05	PORC	Porcelain		eggcup	1	23	odd gold specks	BS		18th to 20th
05	TOY	Toynton Medieval Ware		bowl	1	14		rim		14th to 15th
05	TOYII	Toynton Late Medieval ware		bunghole vessel	1	418	pressed strip under rim	rim with handles		mid 15th to mid 16th
05	CIST	Cistercian-type ware		cup	1	7		BS		late 15th to 16th



# Tile Archive CCV03

*Doug Young Lindsey Archaeological Services*

context	cname	full name	frags	weight	description	date
01	BRK	Brick	2	355	low fired soft silty fabric	17th to 18th
01	BRK	Brick	1	428	corner; 45mm thick; reduced core; handmade; worn; possibly used as flooring	17th to 20th
01	BRK	Brick	1	359	corner; 65mm thick; handmade	18th to 19th
01	BRK	Brick	1	183	handmade	18th to 19th
04	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1	20	mortared over broken edge	late medieval to early modern

## Figures



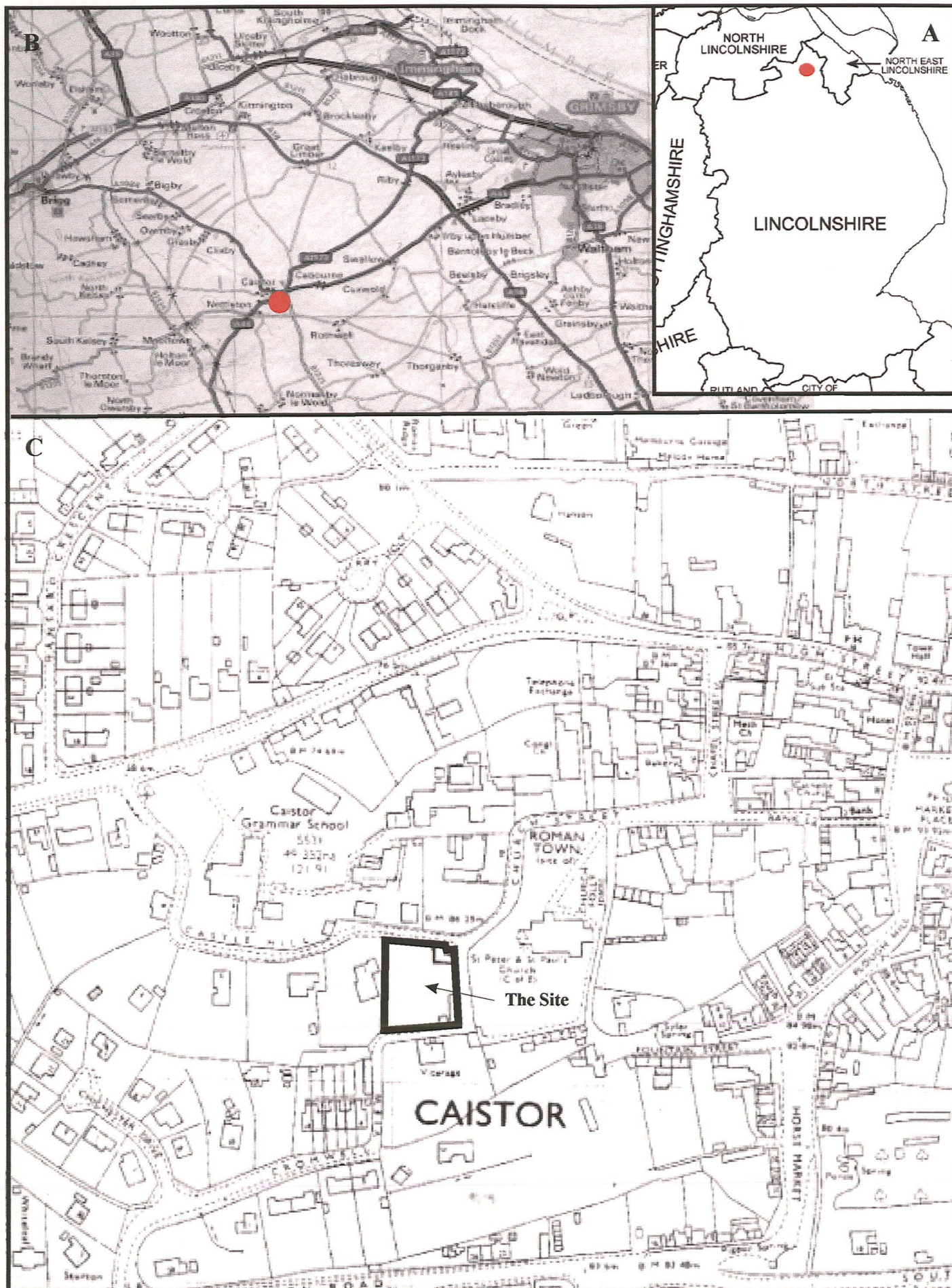


Fig. 1 Caistor site location. (Insert C based on the 1953 Ordnance Survey map. © Crown Copy. Reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO, LAS licence number AL 100002165)



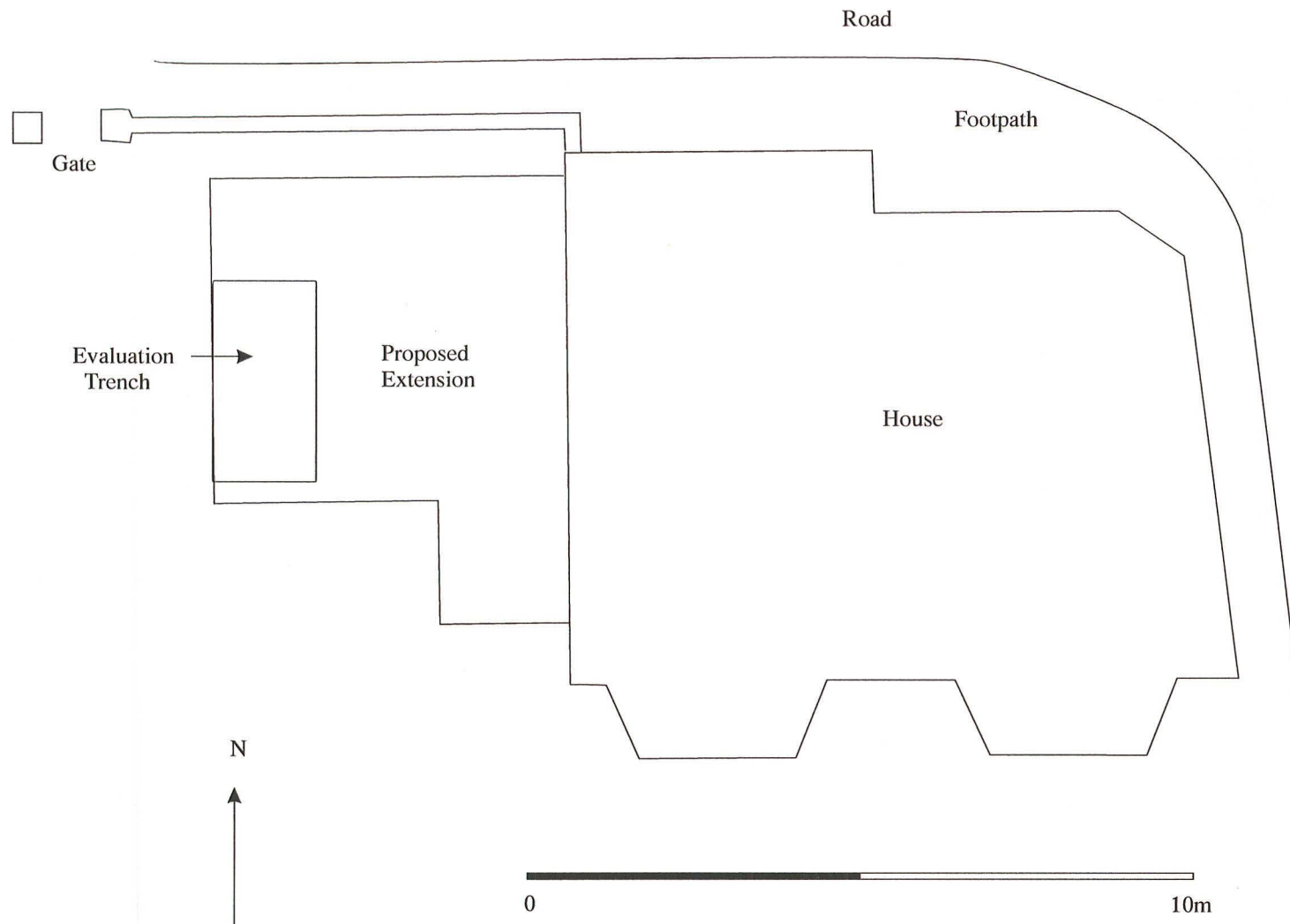


Fig. 2 Location of the evaluation trench. Based upon a plan provided by the client.



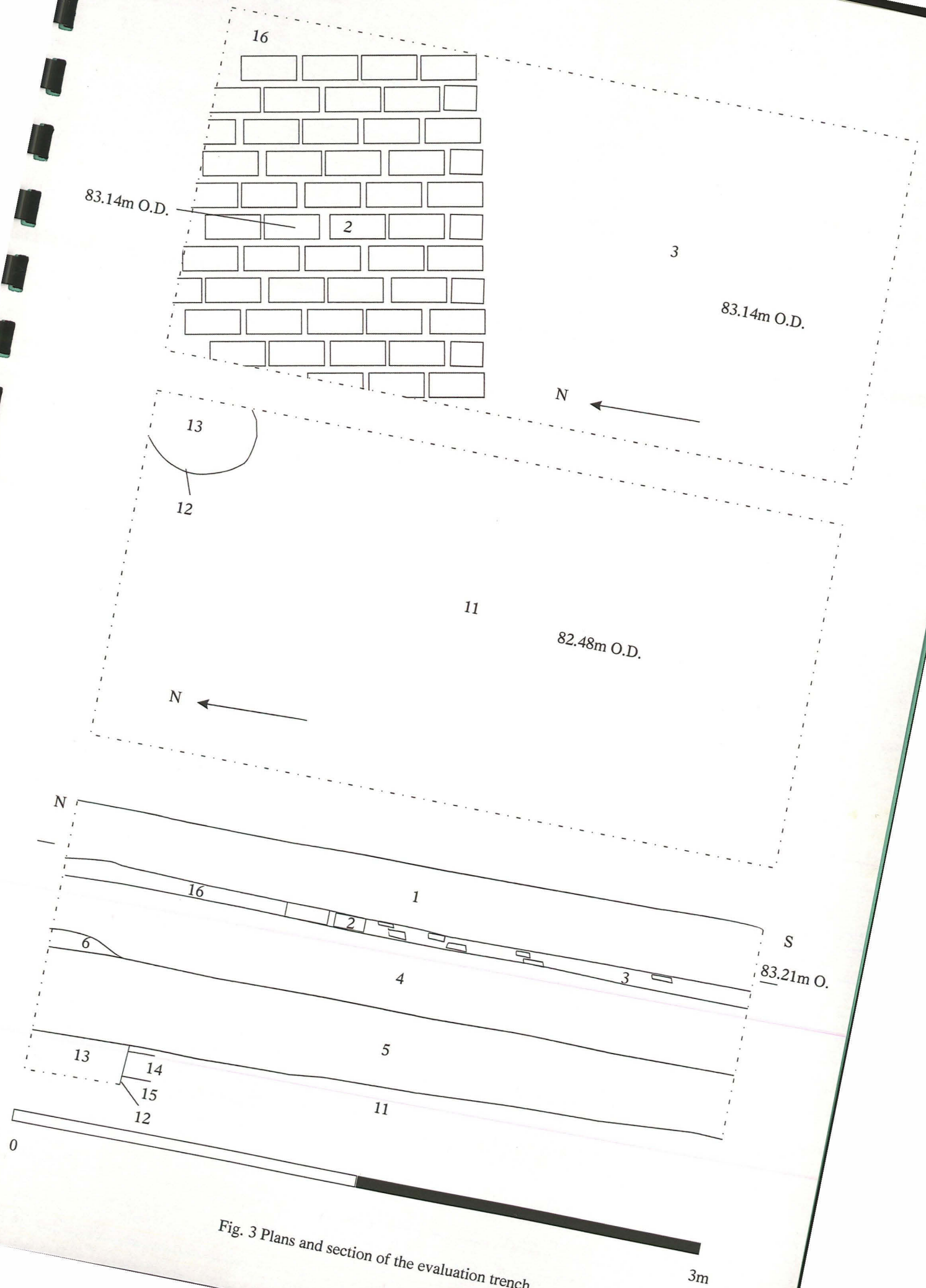


Fig. 3 Plans and section of the evaluation trench.

## Plates





Pl.1 Location of the evaluation trench. Looking north west



Pl.2 Floor 2 and rubble 3. Looking south.  
Scales 1m and 2m.



Pl.3 Ash deposit 5. Looking south.  
Scales 1m and 2m.





PI.4 Deposit 11. Looking south.  
Scales 1m and 2m.



PI.5 West facing main section of the evaluation trench.  
Vertical scale 1m, horizontal scale 2m.