



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Junction of Station Street and Sheep Market,  
Spalding  
Archaeological Evaluation  
NGR: TF 24660 22673  
Planning Application No: H16/0805/03  
Site Code: SSRS 03  
LCNCC Accession No. : 2003.323**

**Report**

**for**

**Brown & Co.**

Conservation  
Services

14 OCT 2003

Highways & Planning  
Directorate

**LAS Report No: 701**

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Pl. 2. General view of the excavations showing silt deposit 107 with paler silts 109 in the corner. Note bricks of foundation 106 in opposite corner of excavation. Looking north-west. Scale 2m.

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Pl. 4 South west corner of excavations after machine excavation showing sequence of silt deposits. Scales 2m and 0.50m.

## **Junction of Station Street and Sheep Market, Spalding**

### **Archaeological Evaluation**

NGR: TF 24660 22673

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#### **Summary**

*Archaeological evaluation at the junction of Station Street and Sheep Market has revealed medieval horizons located about 0.50m below existing ground level comprising a sequence of dipping silt deposits, two of which contained pottery, brick and tile of 13-15<sup>th</sup> century date and the foundations of a medieval wall, possibly 15<sup>th</sup> century in date, crossing the site north-south at 0.90m below existing ground level. There is little of the site left to investigate and it is unlikely that much by way of further features would be revealed during any development of the site.*

#### **Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Brown & Co. to undertake an archaeological evaluation in accordance with the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, 1998) and the requirements of the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council, as stated in a letter from J. Bonnor.

#### **Site Description**

The proposed development site is located at the junction of Station St and Sheep Market in the centre of Spalding, on the west bank of the river (Fig. 1). The site is currently a small municipal garden backed by advertising hoardings, with an old air-raid shelter occupying the western part of the site.

#### **Planning Background**

An application for the construction of a three-storey building containing shops and residential flats has been made. An archaeological evaluation of the site has been requested prior to determination of the application.

#### **Archaeological Background**

The town of Spalding straddles the River Welland, which flows north through the fenlands of South Lincolnshire. Spalding is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 when two manors (estates) are recorded, with further land held by the monks of Crowland Abbey. There was already a market in existence at that date, and fisheries and salt-pans are recorded. The proposed development site lies within the precinct of the medieval priory and at the edge of the medieval core of the town, which is thought to have been defined by Market Place,

Westlode Street, and the River Welland. The potential for finding medieval occupation on the site was considered to be high.

### **Objectives**

In general terms the purpose of the evaluation was to

- establish the presence or absence, quality and extent of archaeological remains 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**

Archaeological recording was carried out by a team of up to 2 experienced archaeologists, including a Site Director. A full written (single context) and photographic record was made of the site, including site plans at a scale of 1:20, and section drawings at 1:20. A full photographic record was made during the progress of the excavation to cover each feature together with general site views. LAS operates a standard context recording system, developed by its staff over the past 20 years based on MOLAS and CAS models. The proposed size of the evaluation trench was intended to be 5m x 3m, but limited access meant there was insufficient space to open up a trench of this size (when allowing for the spoil heap and the JCB) so the north end of the trench was reduced to 1.50m in width.

### **Results (Fig. 2, Pls. 1 – 4)**

The site was formerly a flower bed and an area of loose sharp sand which overlay a layer of tarmac resting on crushed brick makeup layer. A brick wall crossed the site in a NW-SE direction. All these deposits were assigned the context **100**. Below this modern material which was 0.28m, was a dark brown silt layer, **101**, 0.20m thick on the west side of the site deepening to 0.50m on the east side of the trench. It contained brick fragments and charcoal and was interpreted as a former (post medieval) topsoil. **101** sealed an earlier soil horizon of brown grey silt, **102** which also extended over the whole area of the trench and dipped steeply from west to east, being 0.20m thick on the west side of the site but more than 0.60m to the east, where it extended below the base of the trench. Finds from this layer included five brick fragments, three fragments of glazed roof tile and two unglazed roof tile fragments as well as a handle and two body sherds from pottery vessels. The pottery is of 13-15<sup>th</sup> century date and the roof tile and brick fragments, while less closely datable, are consistent with the date for the pottery. Twelve fragments of animal bone, predominantly cattle, were also retrieved from this layer.

Beneath **102** were a series of silt layers in the western part of the trench, all dipping downwards from west to east. **103**, was a pale yellow brown silt, up to 0.20m deep which overlay **107**, a pale brownish grey silt. **107** contained one base sherd and two body sherds of Bourne ware pottery of 14-15<sup>th</sup> century date together with three tiny brick fragments and one unglazed tile fragment, whose dates are consistent with that of the pottery. Below **107** was **109** a blue-grey sandy silt laminated with orange panning. This sealed a patch of dark brown silt, **108**, with mottled panning at the base of the trench. Two cockle shells and three fragments of burnt bone were found in **108**. Beneath **108** was **110** an orange silty sand, seen only in the south west corner of the trench, and assumed to be natural. The panning indicates that these layers have been subject to fluctuating water levels.

In the northern half of the trench, apparently beneath **102** and sitting in it, was a wall foundation **106**, aligned north/south which extended northwards beyond the northern limit of the trench but fizzled out to the south. It was a minimum of 1.4m long and 0.35m wide and two courses survived comprising limestone pieces, up to 0.34m x 0.20m in size, at its south end and bricks at the north end. One of the complete bricks was retained for further examination. It was 250mm x 120mm x 55mm in size, hand-made with grass impressions on the base and sides, sustained when the brick was stacked to dry. The adhering mortar contained substantial quantities of crushed shell tempering. There was no visible cut for the foundation trench, which suggests that layer **102** was in fact a series of silt layers that could not be distinguished by eye.

### **Discussion**

Evaluation of the site has revealed an almost completely dismantled medieval wall of probable 14-15<sup>th</sup> century date, overlying a series of silt deposits dipping sharply towards the east. Finds from these silts were also of medieval date, but it is not clear if they were on the edge of a very large ditch, palaeochannel, or just following a natural drop in the topography. Whether the wall was associated with the medieval priory or the other medieval buildings cannot be ascertained because of the small size of the site.

### **Conclusion**

The small size of the site limited the available area for investigation and the resulting interpretation of the archaeology. Medieval horizons were located about 0.50m below existing ground level. While part of a possible medieval wall was revealed at 0.90m below existing ground level, and appears to extend northwards toward Station Street there is little of the site left to investigate it is unlikely that much by way of further features would be revealed during any development of the site.

### **Acknowledgements**

LAS would like to thank Andrew Butt of Brown & Co. and Jane Young for identifying the medieval pottery. The site team was Richard Pullen and Pat Daniel. Mark Williams prepared the illustrations and Naomi Field edited and collated the report.

Mick McDaid

September 30<sup>th</sup> 2003

### **Contents of Site Archive**

10 context sheets

1 sheet of drawings containing 1 plan, 2 sections

Photographs LAS film no. 03/107 negs. 17-35

1 box of finds including pottery, brick and animal bone

**APPENDIX 1**



**Station Street and Sheep Market,  
Spalding Lincolnshire (SSRS 03)****Appendix 1****Context Summary**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>
100	Layer	Modern demolition and build-up deposits
101	Layer	Dark grey/brown friable silt
102	Layer	Mid grey/brown friable silt
103	Layer	Light yellow/brown silt, redeposited natural?
104	Layer	Light brown/grey friable silt, same as 107
105	Layer	Light brown/grey friable silt, same as 107
106	Structure	Brick and limestone mortared wall fragment
107	Layer	Light brown/grey friable silt
108	Layer	Dark brown soft friable silt
109	Layer	Blue and dark orange panning layer
110	Layer	Mid orange sandy silt, possible natural geology

**APPENDIX 2**

**Station Street and Sheep Market,  
Spalding Lincolnshire (SSRS 03)**

**Appendix 2**

**Finds Summary**

Context	No. of Frags	Description
102	5	Brick fragments
	3	Glazed roofing tile
	2	Unglazed roofing tile
	1	13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> century jug handle frag. Bourne?
	2	13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> century body sherds. Bourne?
	12	Animal bone (Cattle and sheep)
106	1	Brick and adhering mortar
107	2	Brick fragments
	1	Pottery sherd
	1	Unglazed tile frag
	1	Brick frag
	1	Bone fragment (Cattle)
	1	Late Med base sherd.
	1	14 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> century body sherd. Bourne or Ely
108	2	Cockles
	4	Frag of burnt bone

**THE FIGURES**

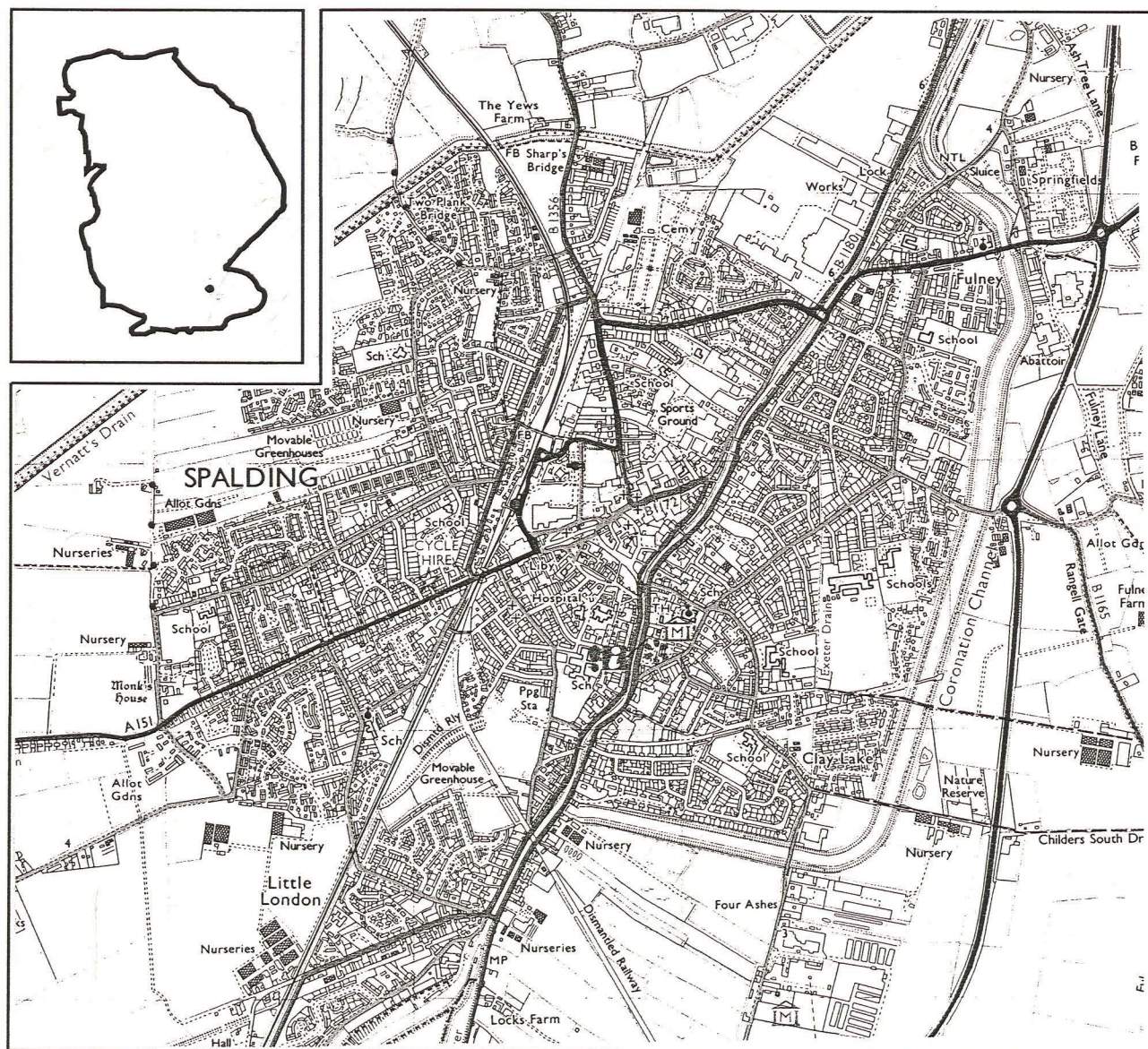
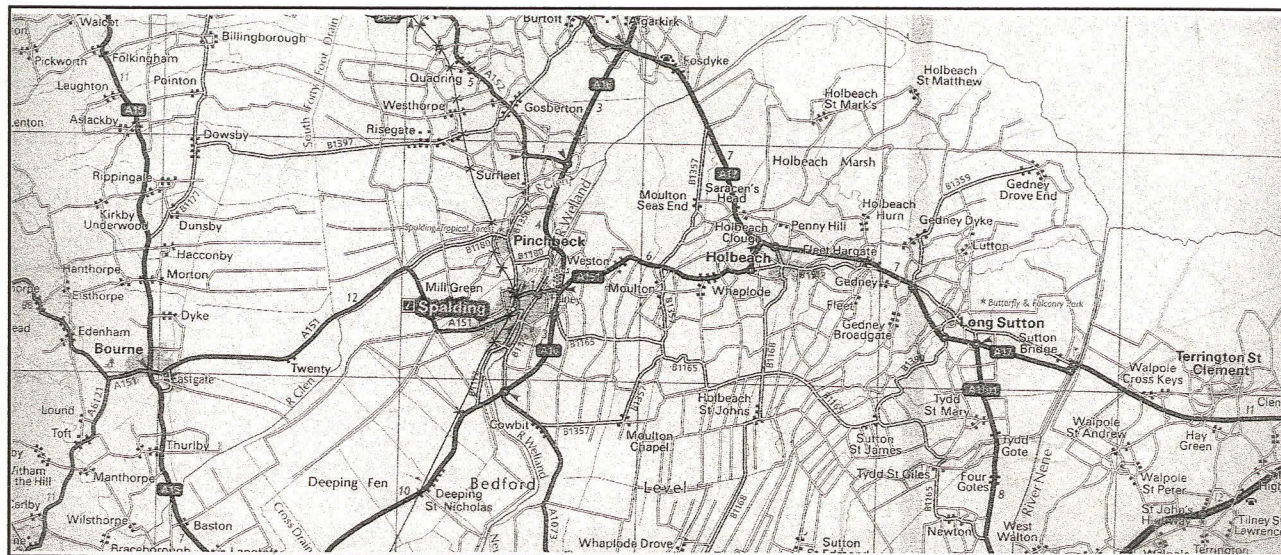


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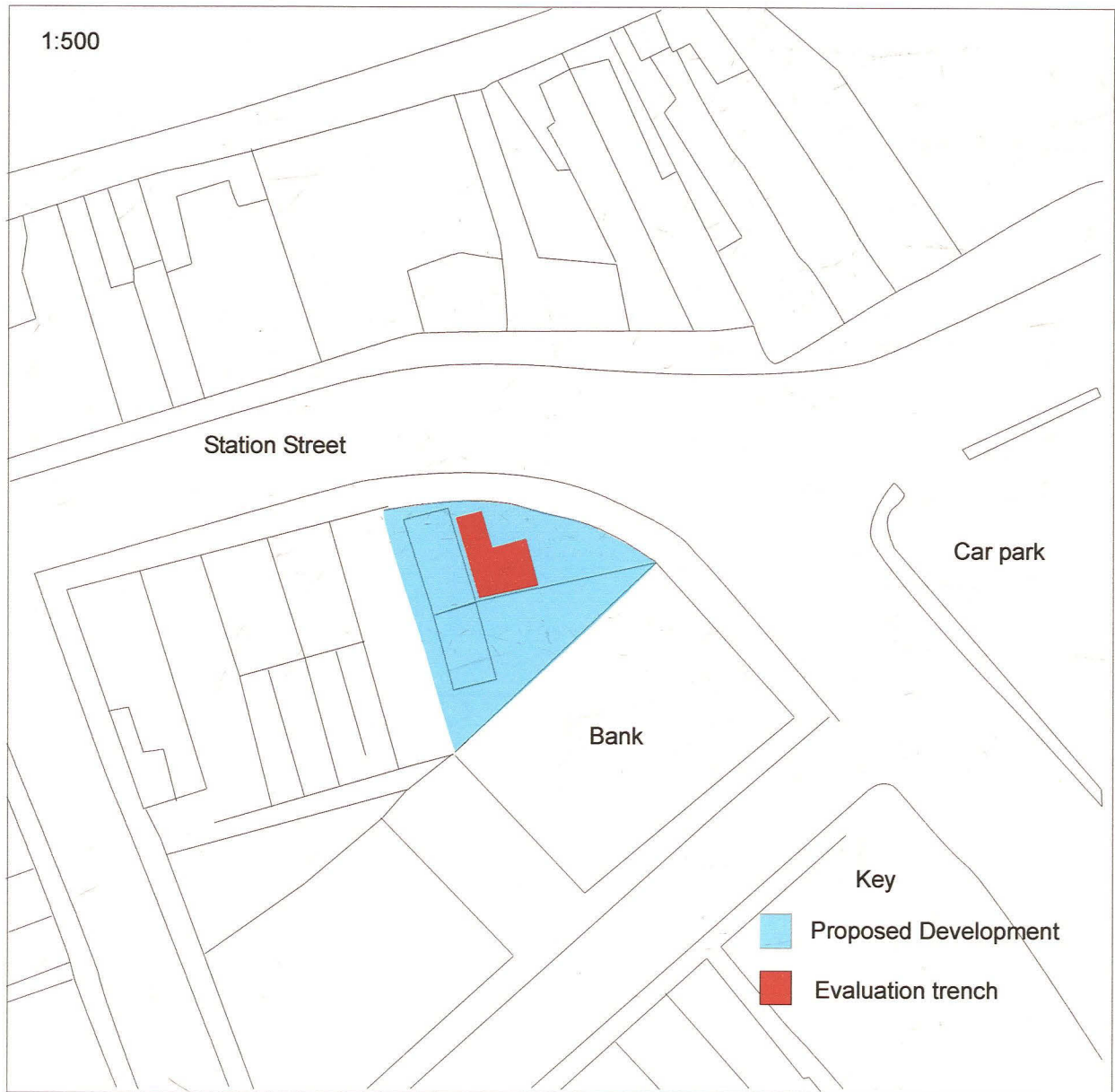


Fig. 2 Spalding, junction of Station Street and Sheep Market. Location of the evaluation trench.

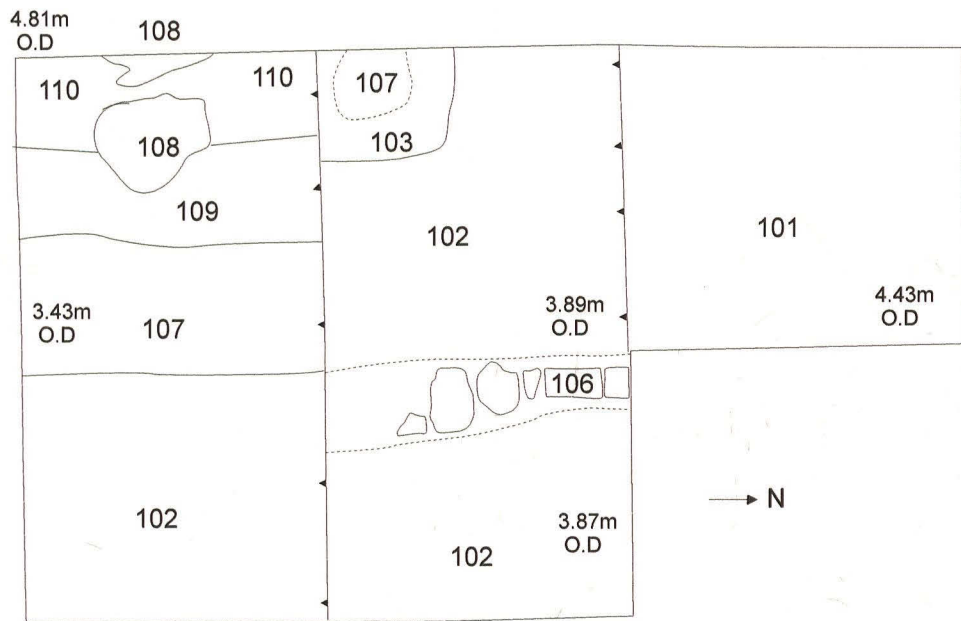
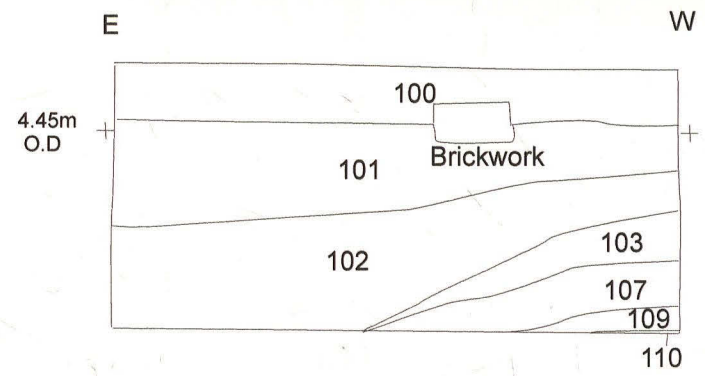
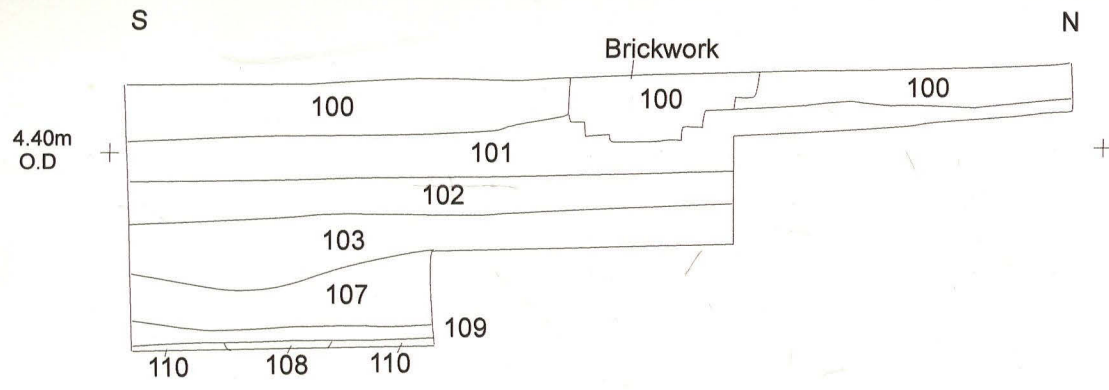


Fig. 3 Plan and section of the trench.

**THE PLATES**





Pl. 1 Location of the evaluation trench. Looking south-west.



PL.2 General view of the excavations showing silt deposit 107 with paler silts 109 in the corner. Note brick foundation 106 in the opposite corner of the excavation.



Pl.3 Wall foundation 106. Looking south-west. Scale 2m.

Pl. 4 South west corner of excavations after machine excavation showing of sequences of silt deposits. Scales 2m and 0.50m.

