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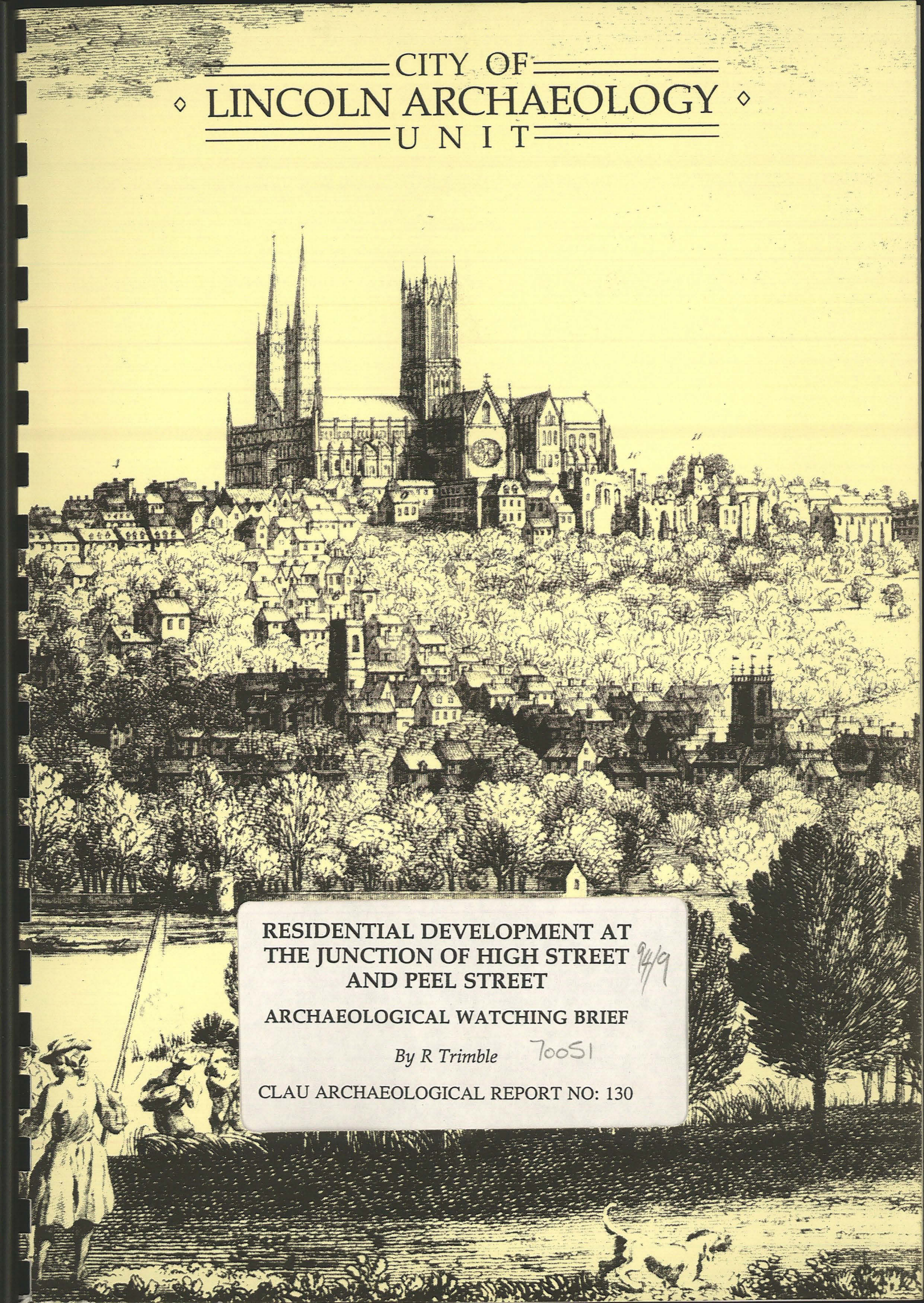
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT  
THE JUNCTION OF HIGH STREET  
AND PEEL STREET

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

By R Trimble

94/9  
70051

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 130



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A

Report to

*D'Arcy International Ltd*

*Junction of High Street and Peel Street, Lincoln*

*Archaeological Watching Brief*

October 1994

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Prepared by

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*9/4/9*

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## Junction at High Street and Peel Street, Lincoln

### Archaeological Watching Brief

#### Contents

#### Page

Introduction .....	1
Archaeological Background .....	1
Results .....	1
Conclusions.....	3
Acknowledgements .....	3
Archive Deposition.....	3

#### List of Illustrations

- Fig.1 Site location plan - scale 1:10000
- Fig.2 Site location plan - scale 1:1250
- Fig.3 Plan of trench layout - scale 1:100
- Fig.4 Sections 1, 2, 3, and 4 - scale 1:40

# RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT THE JUNCTION OF HIGH STREET AND PEEL STREET

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CLAU Project Code HSC94 R Trimble

### *Introduction*

In response to an archaeological condition of planning consent, CLAU was commissioned by D'Arcy International Ltd. to carry out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for a residential development at the junction of High street and Peel street, Lincoln (SK 9722 7015, Figs. 1 and 2).

The new building extends over an area of approximately 25m E-W by 18m N-S and is founded upon 800-900mm wide reinforced concrete beams bearing directly upon piles where necessary (Fig 3). The groundbeam trenches were typically excavated to a width of double that of the groundbeams and a depth of approximately 1m below the present ground level. Observation and recording was carried out during the period 10.09.94 - 23.09.94. A record was secured through trench side descriptions of the stratigraphic sequence together with sketch sections and colour transparencies.

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. The Unit, its Members and employees 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 Unit's Article of Association, the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists and The Management of Archaeology Projects (English Heritage, 1991).

### *Background*

The archaeological significance of the site derives from its location within the medieval suburb of Wigford and its proximity to the postulated

line of the Roman Fosse Way (probably close to that of the present day High Street) and attendant suburban roadside development. The John Speed map of 1610 shows Little Gowts drain (now culverted) flowing from the Witham and following the approximate line of the southern boundary of the site before linking with Great Gowts drain to the east of the High Street. More recently, most of the site was overlain by the embankment for the railway line known as the Lincoln avoiding line (constructed in 1882) which crossed the site from east to west. The foundations of an abutment for the adjacent bridge over High Street were expected to have resulted in the severe truncation of any archaeological deposits within the eastern portion of the site.

### *Results*

All earlier deposits had been destroyed in the area directly below the bridge abutment ( Fig.3 indicates the extent of the abutment slab). Preservation throughout the southern part of the site (Fig.3) was also poor with evidence of extensive modern disturbance possibly resulting from revetment of the railway embankment to the north. A brick wall following the approximate line of Peel Street with a slight northerly divergence was noted in the base of the southernmost groundbeam trench. Information provided by the site contractors indicated that underlying limestone foundations had been encountered during piling at a depth of over 1m.

Relatively undisturbed archaeological deposits were present in the area immediately to the north of the abutment slab and throughout the north western part of the site. These will be referred to as areas 1 and 2.

#### Area 1

The earliest deposit recorded in section 1 (Fig.4) was 104, a lightly compacted, very dark grey soil with a sandy silt texture containing flecks of light grey sandy silt and charcoal flecks. This deposit almost certainly corresponds with layer 116 in section 2 (Fig.4) which was described as a moderately compacted, mid greyish brown fine silty sand containing ash and charcoal lenses and patches of yellow sand. These deposits were very distinctive relative to the overlying material and appear to represent a distinct phase of activity.

A steep sided cut (108), filled by 106, a light yellowish brown sandy silt containing occasional limestone frags with typical dimensions of 0.15 x 0.15m, and 107, a loose mid greyish brown silty sand containing occasional limestone fragments, truncates 104 and has been interpreted as a probable robber trench. Inspection of the trench base revealed a 0.5m wide E-W orientated limestone wall aligning with 108 with a 1.8m discontinuity immediately to the east of section 1 indicating possible robbing.

A stone floor (102) consisting of roughly squared limestone blocks resting upon a bedding layer of friable mid brown sandy silt containing occasional limestone flecks, appears to have been related to the former wall represented by 108. The floor (102) was sealed by 101, a friable light brown silty sand containing frequent limestone flecks and fragments together tile fragments. To the north, 108 cuts through 109/111 (interpreted as the same deposit), a loose silty sand containing limestone fragments and flecks and occasional sherds of pottery which been dated to the late 14th-early 17th century. A poorly defined cut (113, section 2) containing a large number of irregular limestone pieces cut 111.

Layers 100, 114, and 115 were all demonstrated to be modern in date. Cut 129 represents the northern limit of the railway bridge abutment. Further modern truncation (118 in section 2) to the east probably related to earlier buildings fronting onto High Street.

#### Area 2

Area 2 encompassed an area of approximately 15m E-W by 12m N-S. Two representative sections were drawn (Fig.4). Deposits 125 and 123 both extended below the limit of excavation and were overlain by 124. Deposit 125 was a loosely compacted light-mid brown sandy soil containing pockets of what appeared to be redeposited natural sand. Situated to the northern end of the trench, 123 was a moderately compacted mid brown sandy soil containing frequent charcoal fragments and flecks. Deposit 121 to the north almost certainly represents a continuation of the same material.

Deposit 123/121 was sealed by 126, a band of light yellowish brown clay containing no obvious inclusions. A steep side feature (128) containing a reddish brown sandy soil cut 126 and was itself overlain by 120, a dark brown sandy soil which extended the length of the section. Disturbed material (127) redeposited during the present groundworks then extended up to ground level.

Similar clay layers to 126 were evident in the two E-W trenches immediately to the north of section 3. In section 4 these are recorded as 132, a soft light yellowish brown clay containing light to mid grey mottles, and 138, a soft light to mid grey clay containing patches and lenses of light yellowish brown clay similar to 132. Well defined upper extensions to these deposits, observable in section 4 and in other trench sections could either indicate the clay lining of timber/ wattle walls above the level of a clay floor, or the lining of sunken features designed to contain liquids for an industrial process. Given the extent of the clay surface and its presence throughout the area, the former interpretation would appear to be the more appropriate and a metalled surface consisting of small roughly squared blocks of limestone (142) immediately to the south of 138 and at the same level suggests the presence of a related courtyard.

Underlying 132, was a loose dark grey sandy soil containing frequent charcoal flecks (136). Deposit 141 to the south was a loose mid greyish brown sandy soil containing moderate limestone flecks there were no datable finds from these earlier deposits. The metalled surface (142) was overlain by a loose mid greyish brown sandy soil containing limestone flecks (140) which in turn overlay 139, a loose mid - dark grey sandy soil contained within the clay feature 138. Whether a relationship existed between 132 and 138 could not be ascertained with any degree of certainty. Clay feature 132 was postdated first by

137, a loose mid brown sandy soil and then by 133, a loose friable mid brown sandy soil. Contained within the upper levels of 130, was 130, a mix sandy soil and mortar flecks.

Abutting the northern side of 132, deposit 134, a loose, light brown to midbrown sandy soil overlay both 135, a loose dark grey sandy soil and 136. Deposit 134 was itself overlain by a dark greyish brown sandy soil (131). A loose mid-to dark-grey sandy soil extended throughout the upper levels of the section apart from the southern extremity where a light brown sandy/clayey soil was recorded.

There were no datable artefacts recovered from this part of the site, but the shallow depth of possible medieval deposits on other parts of the site suggests that a medieval to early post medieval date is most likely for the earlier deposits within the recorded sequence, including the clay surface/feature.

Fragments of a 13th-14th century drip pan were recovered from a section to the south of the sections described above, at approximately 0.25m above the base of the trench.

### **Conclusions**

The watching brief demonstrated the survival of archaeological remains, often at shallow depth, beyond the immediate area of the railway bridge abutment. Evidence for possible medieval or early post medieval structures was recovered to the north east and to the north west of the development area and a valuable contribution towards the understanding of the depth and character of deposits in this part of the city has been made.

### **Acknowledgements**

Thanks are due to Mr Bob Timmins and other site staff for the co-operation received during the project and for the provision of relevant site plans upon which drawings in this report are based.

### **Archive deposition**

The archive consists of:

No.	Description
1	Site Diary
1	Report
47	Context Records
1	1:50 scale sketched section drawing
3	1:20 scale sketched section drawings
36	Colour slides

The primary archive material as detailed above, is currently held by:

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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**Junction at High Street and Peel Street, Lincoln**

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Page

Introduction .....	1
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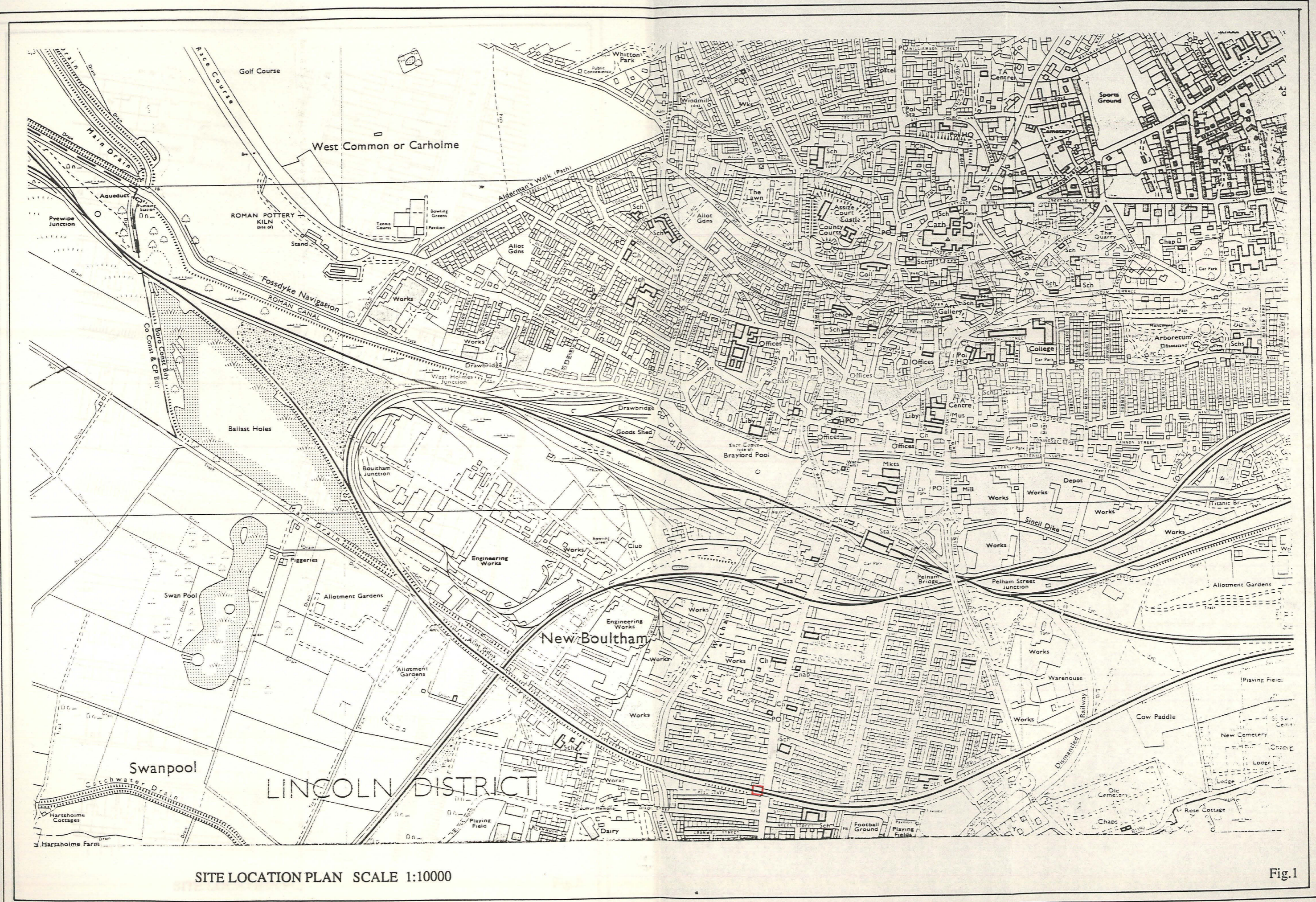
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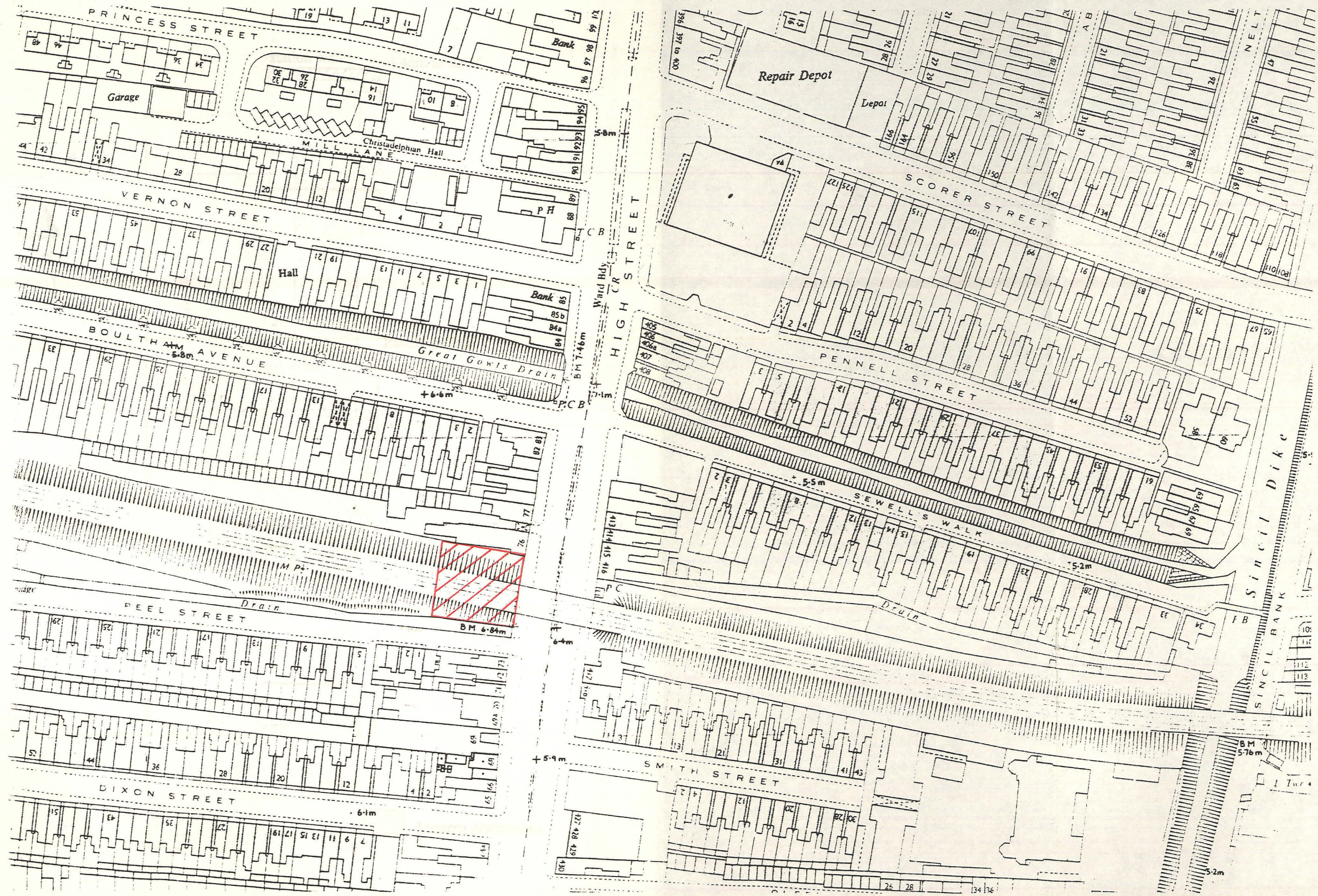
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SITE LOCATION PLAN SCALE 1:10000

Fig.1



SITE LOCATION PLAN SCALE 1:1250

Fig.2

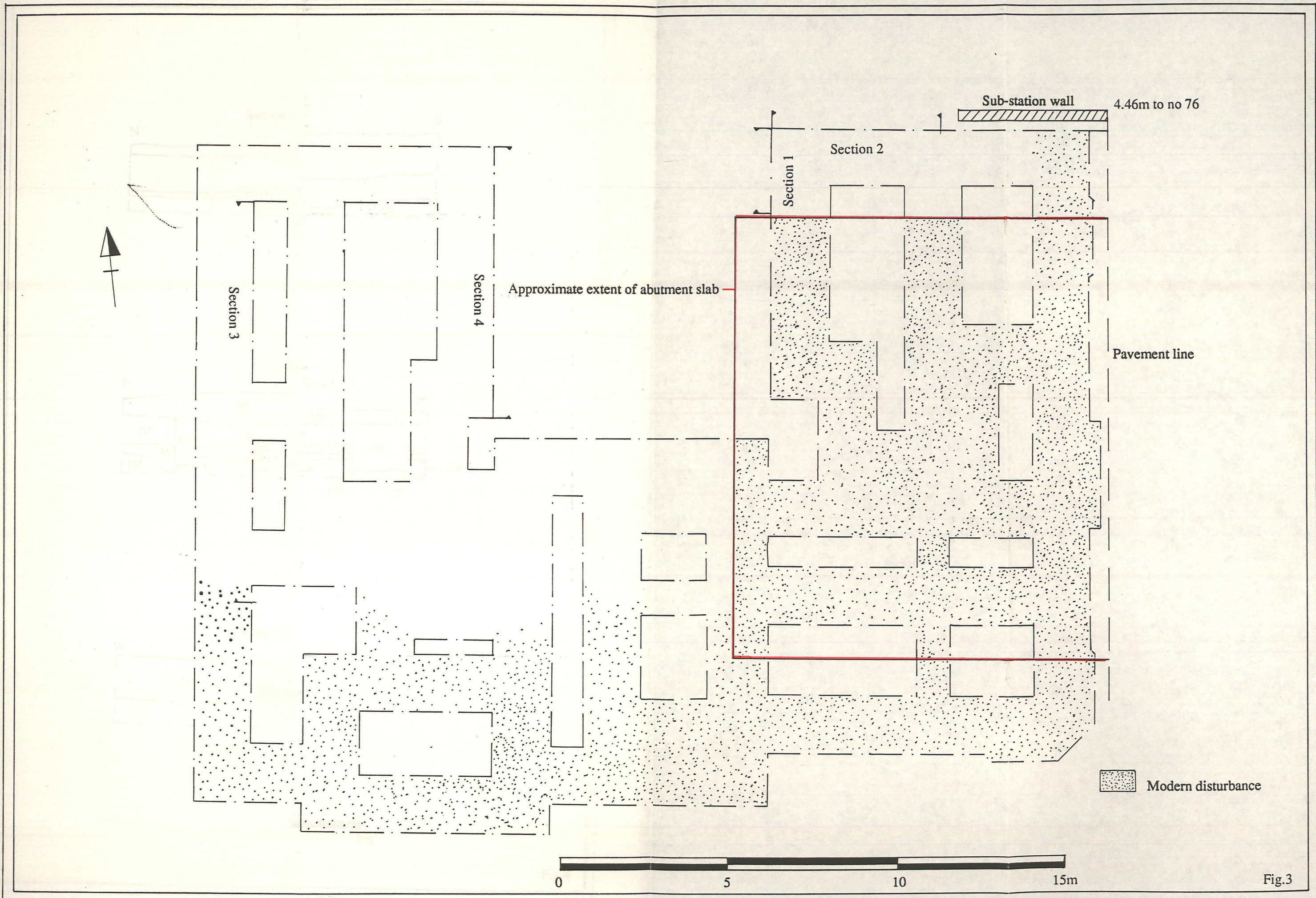
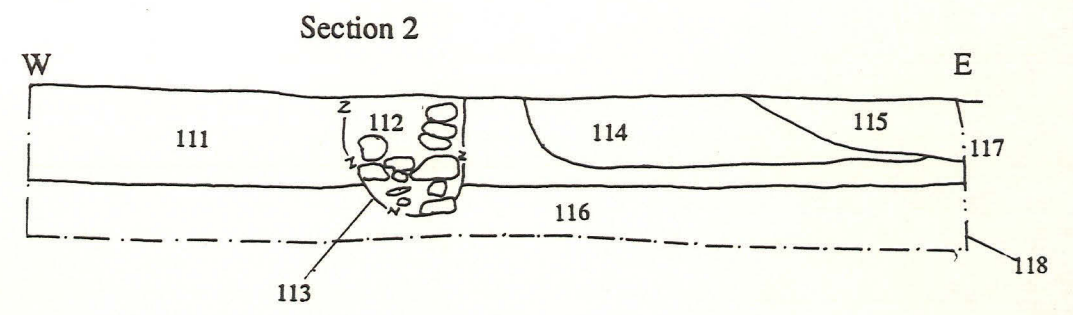
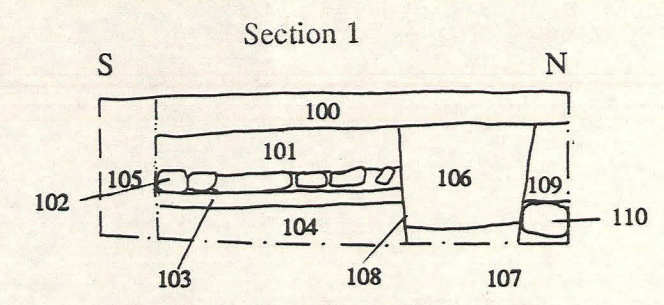
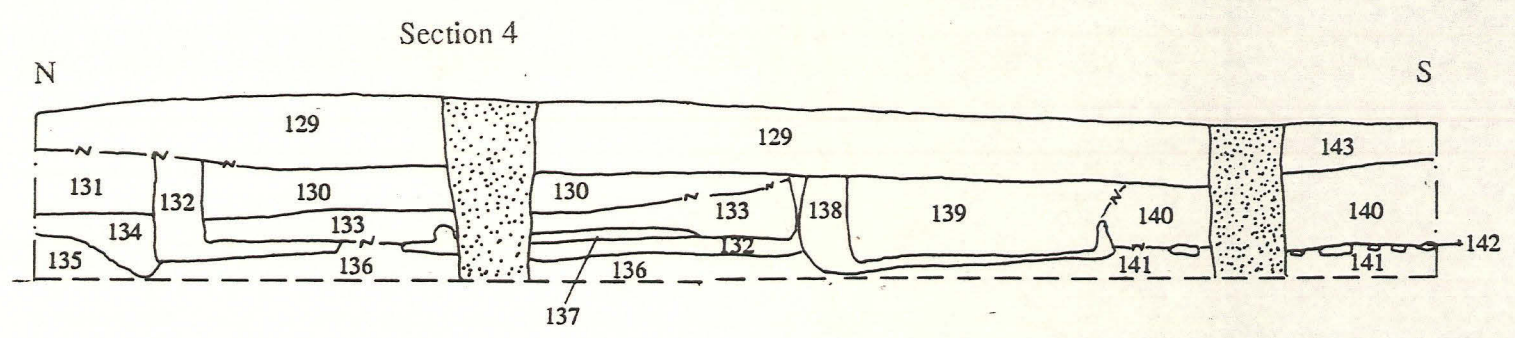
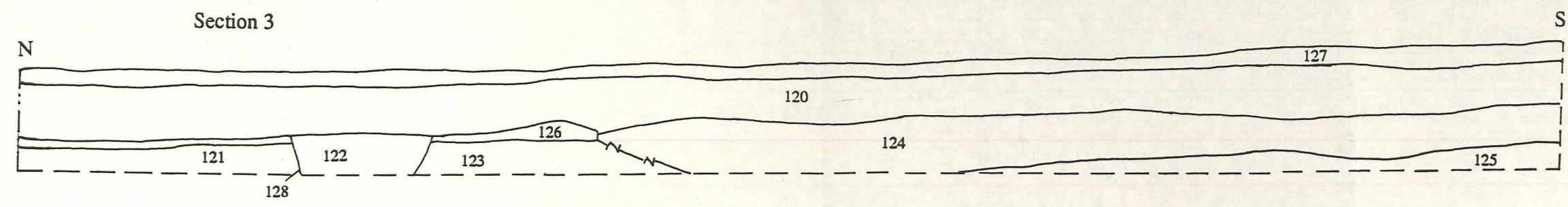

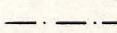
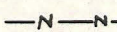
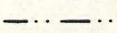



Fig.3



-  Truncated by piles
-  Limit of excavation
-  Uncertain boundary
-  Truncation of deposits
-  Extent of recording

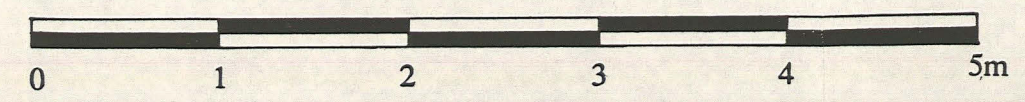


Fig.4