



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Cathedral Street, Lincoln
Archaeological Trial Trenching**

NGR: SK 97961 71579

Planning Application No: 2003/0269/ F

Site Code: LCSZ 03

LCNCC Accession No. :2003.288

Report

for

Lincoln College

LAS Report No: 692

November 2003

Conservation
Services

18 NOV 2003

Highways & Planning
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Summary

Trial trenching at Cathedral Street has established the ground at the north end of the proposed new building is disturbed by modern intrusions, for at least 1.20m below present ground level. Trench 2, to the south, contained a 13th century Christian burial 1.10m below the present ground level. This burial is probably associated with the Dominican Friary to the south east.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by the Lincoln College in July 2003 to carry out archaeological trial trenching at the above site (Figure 1). The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements of set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998) and a brief set by the Department of Planning Lincoln City Council dated July 2003. Work commenced and was completed 13/8/03.

Site Description (Figure 2)

The site is located to the east of the former Temple Street, now a car park, to the west of the Abbey Building, the south side of Cathedral Street and the north side of the Temple Building. At the time of the evaluation the site was used as car parking and a materials store.

Planning Background

Planning permission was part granted for the erection of two extensions, subject to an archaeological evaluation being conducted prior commencement of the building work.

Archaeological Background

The site lies within an area of known archaeological remains. A Roman kiln was found in 1936 on the site of extensions to the technical college. Archaeological work to the south east revealed a major claustral building of the Dominican Friary.

Although a school building extended across the northern part of the site (demolished in the 1960s) there was potential for undisturbed archaeological deposits across the southern part of the site.

Objectives

The purpose of the evaluation was to :

- Provide information which will allow for the assessment of the possible scale of development impact on any remains and other information which might influence development design so that such impact can be avoided or minimized.
- Provide information that will allow the local planning authority to reconcile development proposals with their policy of preserving archaeological remains.
- Provide site specific information which (if necessary) would allow for the design and integration of timing and funding of any further archaeological work (or mitigation strategy) which may be required in advance of, or during, any subsequent development programme.
- Produce a project archive for deposition with the city and County Museum.
- Provide information for accession to the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the Lincoln Urban Archaeological Database.

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.

A temporary bench mark was tied into a level established by Linpave, the building contractors for the site.

Results

Trench 1 (Figure 3, Pls. 1 – 4)

Trench 1 was positioned to evaluate the northern end of the proposed development area, c.13m to the west of the Abbey building. Tarmac, **1**, 0.02m deep, overlay concrete slabs, **2**, 0.08m deep, part of a former path, which sat upon orange sand bedding, **3**, 0.22m thick. Wall **6**, 0.60m high, 0.21m wide, was at the trench's northern limit. It was aligned east/west, was 7 courses deep and had two foundation courses, which were 0.38m wide. To the south of wall **6**, 1.19m away, was wall **5**, it too was orientated east/west, was 0.82m high and 0.21m wide.

0.40m to the south of 5 was wall 10. It was also a modern wall and had a height of over 0.60m. Breeze blocks and bricks, 9, filled the gap between walls 5 and 10.

Between the walls 5 and 6 was plastic dark grey clay silt 4, 0.72m deep. A cola can was noted at the base of this deposit. Below 5 and 6 was compact, laminated, dark grey silt 7, 0.10m deep. No finds were recovered to date this deposit. Similarly 8, brown sand with frequently occurring limestone and mortar, produced no finds. 8 was over 0.40m deep. The full depth of this layer could not be ascertained as the specified maximum depth of 1.50m had been reached.

Trench 2 (Figure 4, Pls. 5 – 6)

Trench 2 was located to the north of Temple building, within the access area to the Abbey and Temple Buildings. Tarmac, 21, here was 0.06m deep. It sealed a 0.23m thick layer of concreted conglomerate, 22. Below 22 was 0.30m of very compact grey laminated silt, 23, which sealed 0.20m deep, sticky, grey brown silt, 24, from which a fragment of clay pipe was retrieved. At the same level as 24, at the west end of the trench was a concrete outcrop, possibly a sealed drain, 31, which was north-east/south-west aligned. The material below 24 was devoid of finds so the mini-digger was used to excavate it. Unfortunately this material proved to contain a grave cut, 30, filled by 28, brown grey silt clay similar to the former medieval topsoil, 27, olive green brown clay silt, which it cut. The grave which was east/west aligned indicating a Christian burial, was 0.50m deep, 0.60m wide, and contained skeleton 29. The length of the grave could not be determined as it was removed by machine and also ran beyond the eastern limit of the trench. Skeleton 29 was photographed and then reburied, as agreed with the Heritage Information Officer who was standing in for the City Archaeologist. Extending the trench would have prolonged the backfilling, which would have prevented vehicular access for lorries expected later in the day. Two pieces of 13th century tile, one sherd of 12th century pottery and one sherd of Roman pottery were recovered from 28.

Also below 30 was a grey clay silt layer with limestone rubble inclusions, 25, 0.18m deep. It sealed a 0.07m deep deposit of cream coloured mortar with limestone inclusions, 26 as the earliest deposit.

Discussion and Conclusion

Trench 1 showed that little, if any, archaeology can be expected at the north end of the evaluation site, because of modern activity. However, groundworks for the proposed building extension may have an impact on surviving archaeology located to the north of the Temple Building, if the new building foundations have a depth greater than 1.10m below the present ground surface. This is the level at which the burial was encountered. Further burials within

this area should be expected as the burial is probably associated with the claustral building of the Dominican Friary to the south east.

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank John Herridge, Heritage Information Officer and the staff at Lincoln College. The pottery report was produced by Jane Young. Naomi Field edited and collated the report.

Mick McDaid
November 2003

References

Hill, F. 1990 *Medieval Lincoln* Paul Watkins Ltd

Site Archive

Plans

Sections

Levels

Photographs: LAS film number 03/84/20-36, 03/89/0-8.

Correspondence

APPENDIX 1

Lincoln College, Cathedral Street site, Lincoln (LCSZ 03)
Contex Summary

Context	Trench	Description	Length	Width	Depth
1	1	Tarmac	2m+	2m+	0.02m
2	1	Consrete slabs	2m+	2m+	0.08m
3	1	orange sand	2m+	1.40m+	0.22m
4	1	grey clay silt	2m+	1.19m	0.72m
5	1	Wall	2m+	0.21m	0.60m
6	1	Wall	2m+	0.21m	0.82m
7	1	grey clay silt	2m+	1.40m+	0.10m
8	1		2m+	2m+	0.40m+
9	1	ks and breeze blk	2m+	0.40m	1m+
10	1	Wall	2m+	0.21m	1m+
21	2	Tarmac	2m+	2m+	0.06m
22	2	Concrete	2m+	2m+	0.23m
23	2	Modern make-up	2m+	2m+	0.30m
24	2	Modern make-up	2m+	1.50m	0.20m
25	2	Rubble	2m+	0.80m	0.18m
26	2	Path?	2m+	0.80m	0.07m
27	2	Former Topsoil	2m+	2m+	0.50m+
28	2	Fill of 30	?	0.60m	0.50m
29	2	Skeleton	?	0.60m	0.50m
30	2	Grave	?	?	?
31	2	Concrete drain	2m+	0.50m	0.20m

APPENDIX 2

Pottery Archive LCSZ03

Jane Young

context	cname	sub fabric	full name	form type	sherds	weight	part	description	date
28	LSW1/2		12th-13th century Lincoln Glazed ware	small jug	1	4	BS	pocked glaze with cu specks	early to early/mid 13th
28	R	greyware	Roman pottery	jar	1	39	rim		Roman

APPENDIX 3

Tile Archive LCSZ03

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	fabric	sub type	frags	weight	description	date
28	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	OX/R/OX sandy with comm ca		1	100	not local; bedded on limestone/chalk + prominent fe onclusions	13th to 15th
28	NIB	nibbed tile	1	3A	1	120	left corner	13th

THE FIGURES



B

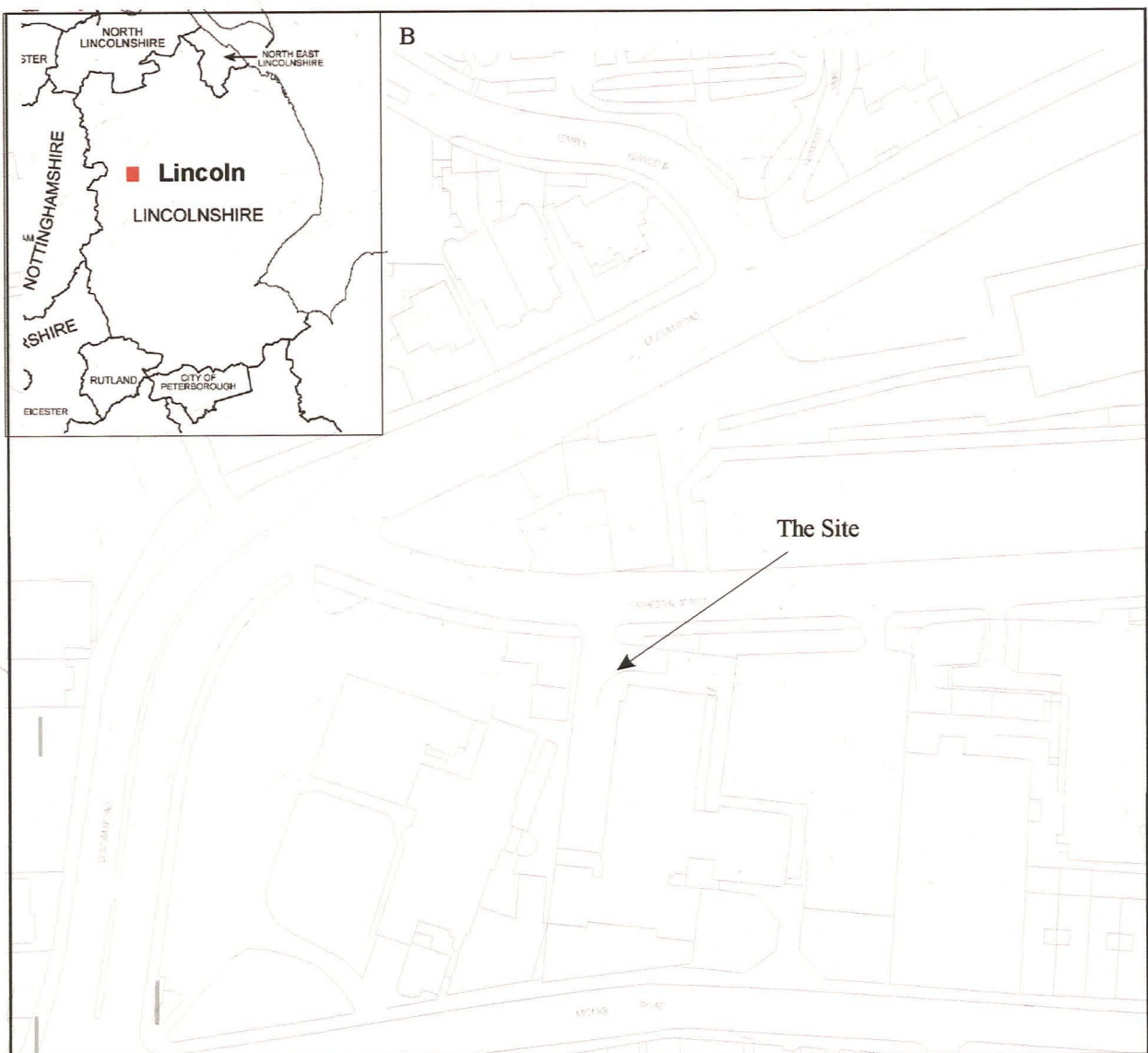


Fig. 1 Location of the development site, Cathedral Street. (A) 1:50,000 OS Map and (B) based on a 1:1250 map. Reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence number AL 100002165.

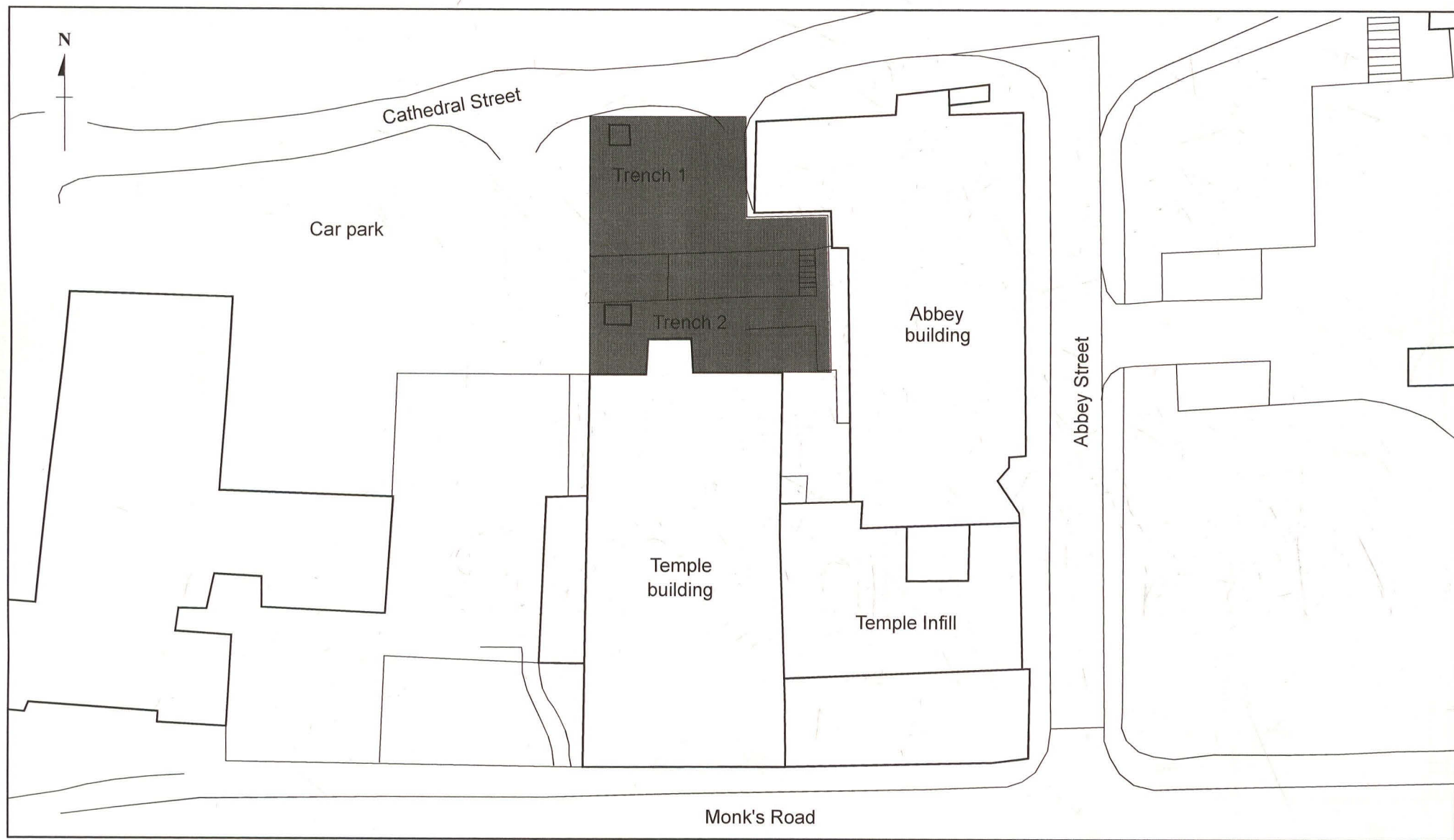


Fig. 2 Location of Trial Trenches

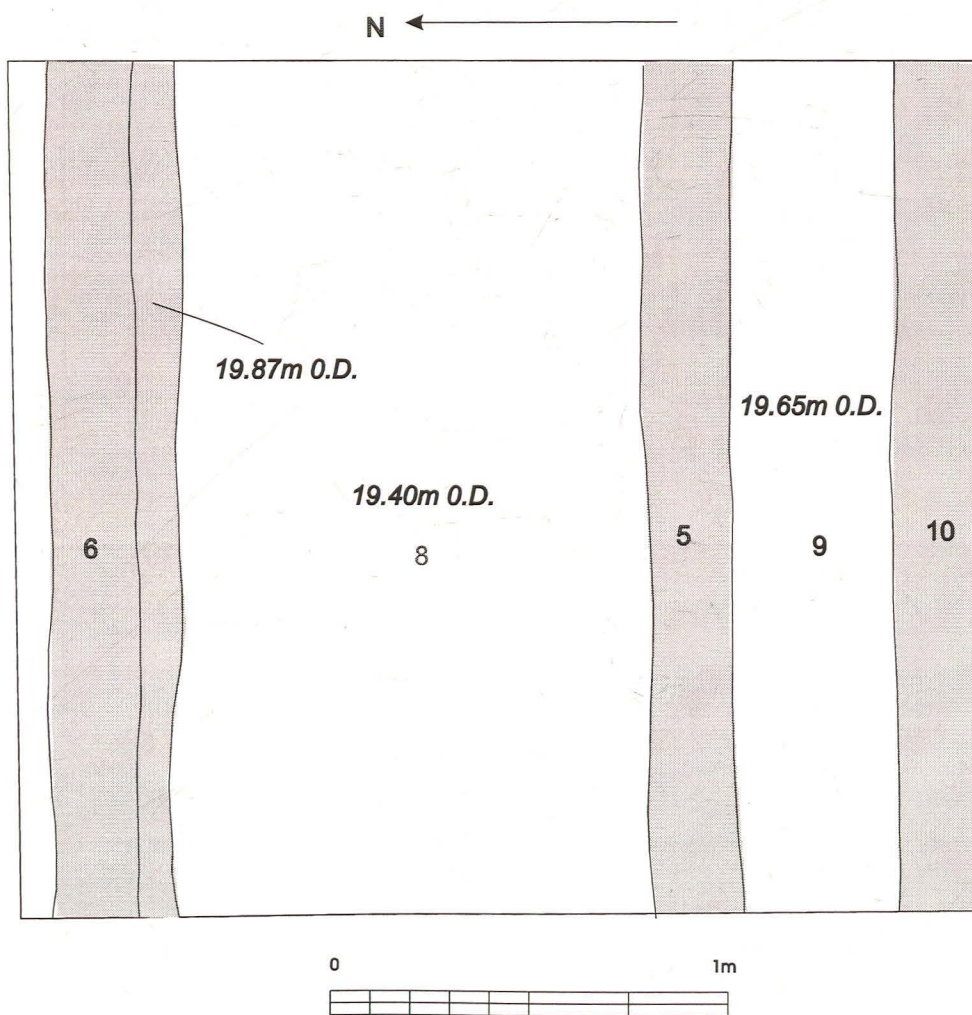
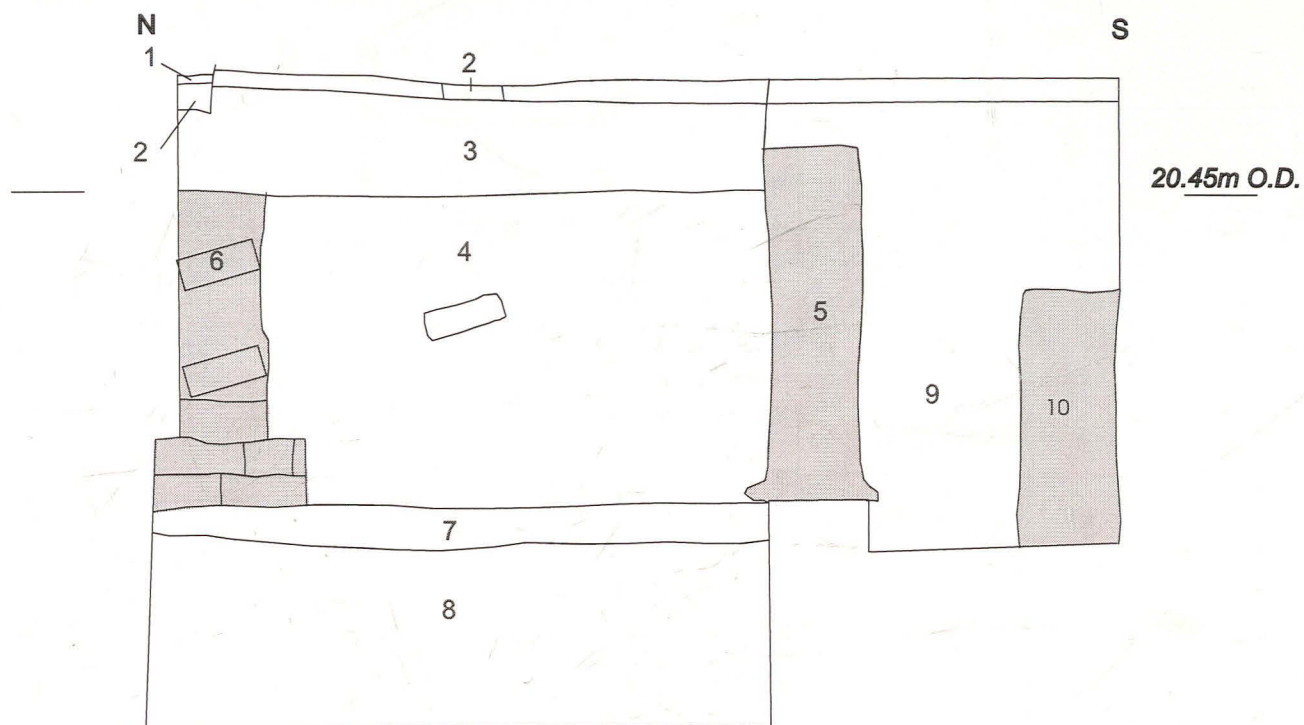


Fig. 3 Section and plan of Trench 1

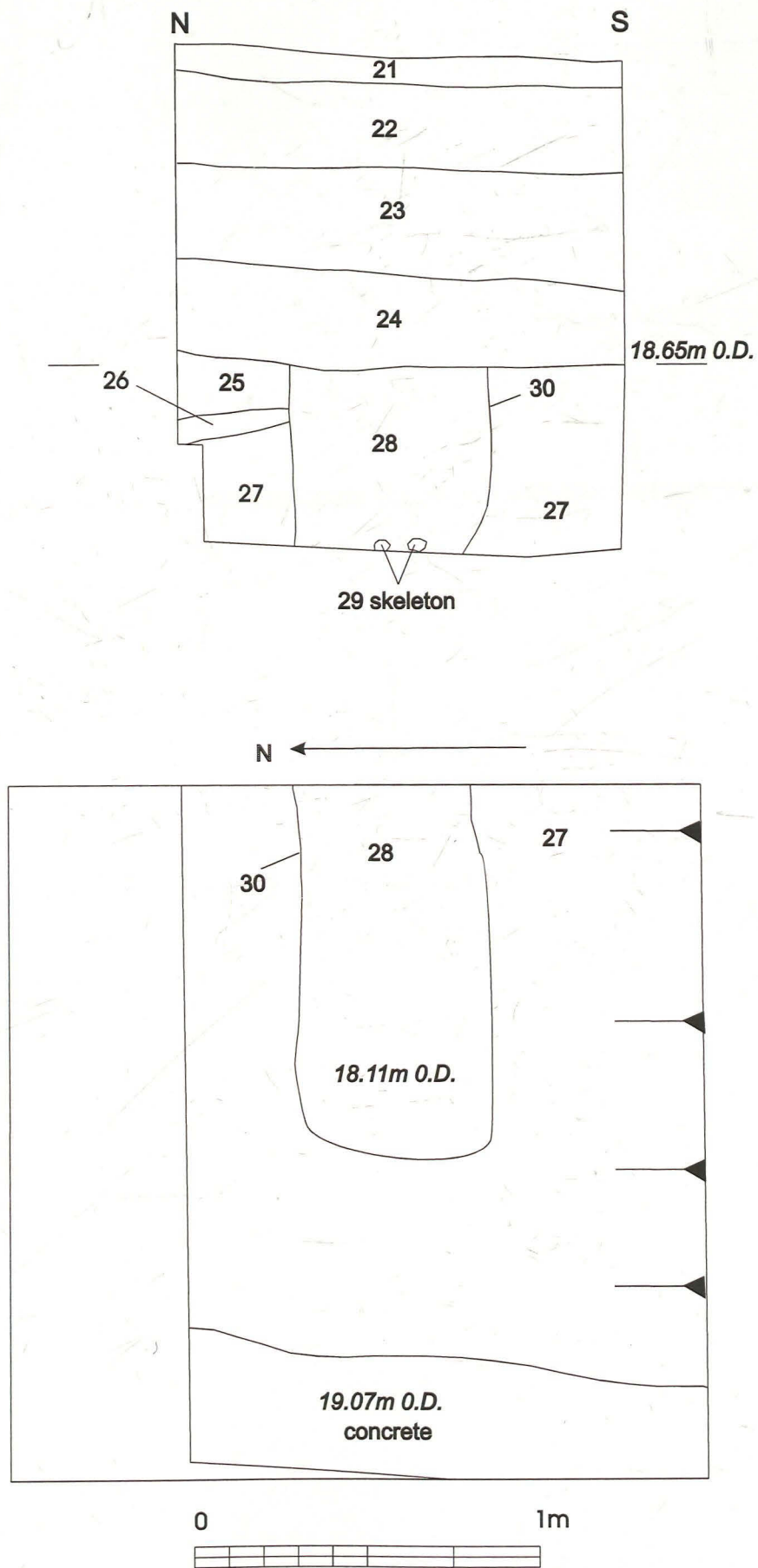


Fig. 4 Section and plan of Trench 2

THE PLATES



Pl.1 Location of Trench 1. Looking north-west.



Pl.2 Trench 1 post-excavation, looking north-east. Scales 1m.



Pl.3 Trench 1 west facing section. Scales 1m.



Pl.4 Trench 1, wall 5, looking north. Horizontal scale 0.50m, vertical scale 1m.



Pl.5 Location of Trench 2. Looking north-east.



Pl.6 Trench 2 west facing section. Scales 1m.