



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Lincoln College, Monks Road, Lincoln
Archaeological Trial Trench**

NGR: SK 97931 71435

Planning Application No: 2003/0546/ F

Site Code: LCMR 03

LCNCC Accession Number:2003.312

Report

for

Lincoln College

LAS Report No: 709

November 2003

Conservation
Services

18 NOV 2003

Highways & Planning
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Summary

Excavation of a trial trench at Monks Road has revealed medieval stone walls, one east/west and two north/south aligned, approximately 0.50m below the present ground level (17.01m O.D.). It is probable that these walls belong to the Dominican Friary, also recorded to the east of the site. Any groundworks greater than 0.50m deep will impact on significant medieval archaeological remains.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by the Lincoln College in September 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 August 2003. Work commenced 17/09/03 and was completed 18/09/03.

Site Description (Figure 2)

The site is located on the east side of the front entrance garden of the Gibney Building, on the west side of the temple building, on the south side of the east extension to the Gibney Building and the north side of Monks Road. The site is currently open courtyard and landscaping.

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.

The Gibney Building to the west is a Listed Building Grade II. 1941-1/12/264. The temple building to the east is the former 1887 Rainforth's Implement Works, Industrial Monument 5021 in the Lincoln UAD.

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. L.A.S. operates a standard context recording system, developed by its staff over the past 20 years based on MOLAS and CAS models.

All levels were tied into an ordinance datum height established by the college's building contractors (18.08m O.D.).

Results

Trench 1 (Figure 3, Pls. 1 – 4)

Trench 1 was positioned to evaluate the area of land to be disturbed by the proposed development, immediately west of the Temple Building. The trench was positioned over a surviving area of topsoil rather than through the path area of the site still used by the college and likely to be disturbed by modern activity. Modern topsoil, **1000**, 0.10m deep, overlay a 0.20m deep subsoil, **1001**, which in turn sealed a modern levelling deposit which had brick, mortar, plaster, tile and oyster shell within it, **1002**, 0.60m deep, which butted against concrete.

Below the modern deposits was a 0.70m wide, vertical sided, east/west aligned, robber trench, **1003** (Pl. 2), which ran the length of the trench. It was filled with **1004**, a mixed orange

sand mortar containing limestone and tile inclusions of 14 – 15th century date. Little remained of robbed wall foundations, **1005** (Pl. 3), other than a, c.1m long, stretch of limestone pieces, up to 0.34m in length. Two limestone blocks, **1009** (Pl. 3), 0.50m long, roughly faced, were the possible wall remains. The depth of the wall footings and robber trench and the width of the wall could not be ascertained within the narrow confines of the trench. The wall cut into a loose dark grey brown silt, **1010** (Pl. 2), probably a former topsoil whose finds dated from the late 13th century to early/mid 14th century.

A possible north/south return wall, **1007** (Pl. 4), was noted to the west of **1005**. Only one course of wall **1007** foundation's survived. The limestone pieces comprising the 0.60m wide footings were up to 0.25m in length. The walls may be contemporary because the height of the footings are approximately the same (16.77m O.D.). The northern 1.70m of wall **1007**, was robbed, **1011**.

c.2m, east of **1007** was a north/south aligned stepped wall foundation, **1006** (Pl. 2). It was 0.60m wide, with two surviving course of stones up to 0.34m in size. The lower course of foundation stones was offset by 0.10m on the east side of **1006**. Tile from the wall construction was 12th – 13th century in date. The height of the lower course of footings, 16.92m O.D., suggests that **1005** was not built the same time as **1005** and **1007**. Wall **1006** was sealed by a grey brown silt demolition layer, **1008** (Pl. 2), which contained tile and mortar fragments of late 14th to mid 15th century date.

Discussion and Conclusion

The modern topsoil and subsoil layer are part of the recent landscaping of the college whilst the modern, probably Victorian, levelling deposit was created after the demolition of a house and chapel which once stood where the proposed new building is to be placed.

The evaluation trench has shown that substantial 13th century medieval wall foundations, probably associated with the claustral buildings of the Dominican Friary, still survive at a depth of c.0.50m below the existing topsoil surface level. By the 14th century robbing of the Friary walls for stone appears to have been widespread. There is difficulty with interpretation of the walls due to the relatively small area exposed.

Any groundworks deeper than 0.50m (17.01m O.D.) below the existing ground level will have an impact on significant medieval remains. Excavations on Abbey Street to the east established that archaeological remains survived to a depth of up to 4m below existing ground levels and there may be roman deposits present beneath the medieval remains, as on that site.

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank and the staff at Lincoln College. The site was excavated by Will Mumford and Doug Young. 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

Plan

Section

Levels

Context sheets

Correspondence

Photographs: LAS film number 03/113/ 4-12, 03/114/ 21-25.

APPENDIX 1

Lincoln College, Monks Road, Lincoln (LCMR 03)

Context List

Context	Trench	Description	Length	Width	Depth
1000	1	Topsoil	5m+	2.20m+	0.10m
1001	1	Subsoil	5m+	2.20m+	0.20m
1002	1	Modern levelling	5m+	2.20m+	0.60m
1003	1	Robber trench	5m+	0.70m	unknown
1004	1	Fill of 1003	5m+	0.70m	unknown
1005	1	Wall foundation	1m+	0.34m+	0.10m
1006	1	Wall foundation	1.40m+	0.70m	0.25m
1007	1	Wall foundation	1.40m+	0.60m	unknown
1008	1	Demolition layer	2m+	1m	0.15m
1009	1	Wall	2m+	unknown	0.20m
1010	1	Former topsoil	5m+	1.40m+	unknown
1011	1	Robber trench	1.30m+	0.60m	unknown
1012	1	Fill of 1011	1.30m+	0.60m	unknown

APPENDIX 2

Pottery Archive LCMR03

Jane Young

context	cname	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	description
1004	LSWA	small jar	1	1	24		base	untrimmed;soot
1004	LSW3	jug	3	1	31		BS	
1004	LSW3	jug	1	1	42		base	
1004	LSW3	jug	1	1	74	thumbbed base	base	
1004	LSW3	jug	1	1	84		handle with LHJ	rod handle
1004	LSW2/3	small jug	1	1	6		BS	
1008	LLSW	jar ?	1	1	12		BS	int brown glaze
1008	LLSW	jug	2	1	88		BS	
1008	LSW3	jug	1	1	28		BS	part burnt glaze
1008	LSWA	jug	1	1	62	all round basal thumbing	base	
1008	LSW3	jug	1	1	11		rim	

context	cname	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	description
1008	LSW3	jug	1	1	139		handle	rod handle
1008	LSW3	jug	1	1	14		rim	
1010	LSW2/3	small jug	1	1	60		handle with LHJ	rod handle
1010	LSWA	small jar	1	1	3		BS	soot
1010	LSW2	jug	1	1	10	applied complex strip & pellet	BS	

Pottery Glossary

cname	full name	earliest date	latest date
LLSW	Late Lincoln Glazed ware	1350	1500
LSW2	13th to 14th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	1200	1320
LSW2/3	13th to 15th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	1200	1450
LSW3	14th to 15th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	1280	1450
LSWA	Lincoln Glazed ware Fabric A	1100	1500

APPENDIX 3

Ceramic Building Material Archive LCMR03

Jane Young

context	cname	fabric	sub type	frags	veight	decoration	description	date
1000	PNR	7		2	45		mortar,medieval flat roofer	12th to early/mid 13th
1000	GPNR	7		1	103		mortar,medieval flat roofer	12th to early/mid 13th
1000	PNR	vittrified		1	18		medieval flat roofer	
1000	PNR	7		1	225		medieval flat roofer,soot on broken edge	12th to early/mid 13th
1000	PNR	7		1	193		medieval flat roofer	12th to early/mid 13th
1000	GPNR	7		2	52		same tile;mortar,medieval flat roofer	12th to early/mid 13th
1000	NIB	1	3C	1	181		right corner	
1000	NIB	1	3	1	132		right corner	
1004	GPNR	7		1	96		medieval flat roofer,mortar over breaks	12th to early/mid 13th
1004	GPNR	7		1	81		medieval flat roofer,corner,mortar	12th to early/mid 13th
1004	GRID	7		1	79			
1004	PNR	7		1	74		medieval flat roofer,mortar over breaks;corner	12th to early/mid 13th
1004	PNR	7		1	47		medieval flat roofer	12th to early/mid 13th
1004	GNIB	7 + common limestone	square moulded	1	128		right corner;single spot of glaze	
1004	NIB	poor LSWA	4D/E	1	138		right corner	
1004	GNIB	1	4D/E	1	128		right corner	
1004	GNIB	semi vitrified	moulded	4	112		same tile;waster?;mortar	
1004	GNIB	7	4D/E ?	1	136		left corner;semi vitrified;single glaze spot	
1006	NIB	7	1/2	1	95		left corner	
1006	PNR	1		1	84		corner,medieval flat roofer,mortar over broken edges	

context	cname	fabric	sub type	frags	weight	decoration	description	date
1006	PNR	7		1	169		corner;medieval flat roofer;mortar over broken edges	12th to early/mid 13th
1008	NIB	1	4D/E	1	332		left corner;mortar over breaks;finger pressings	
1008	NIB	1	4D/E	1	109		left corner	
1008	NIB	1	4D/E	1	109		left corner;finger pressings	
1008	GRID	7		1	95	applied pressed strip		
1008	RFURN	poor Fabric 1		1	141		tiny spot of glaze;vent edges	
1008	PNR	7		2	104		medieval flat roofer	12th to early/mid 13th
1010	NIB	poor Fabric 1	4D/E	1	66			
1010	NIB	7	3A	1	425		left corner;finger marks;white surface skin;mortar	

Ceramic Building Material Glossary

cname	full name
GNIB	Glazed nibbed tile
GPNR	Glazed peg, nib or ridge
GRID	Glazed ridge tile (unidentified ware)
NIB	nibbed tile
PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile
RFURN	Roof furniture

APPENDIX 4

Dating Archive LCMR03

Jane Young

context	date	earliest horizon	latest horizon	comments
1000	13th to 14th	MH4	MH6	date on tile only
1004	14th to early 15th	MH7	MH8	
1006	12th to 13th	MH2	MH5	date on tile only
1008	late 14th to mid 15th	MH8	MH9	
1010	late 13th to early/mid 14th	MH5	MH6	

THE FIGURES

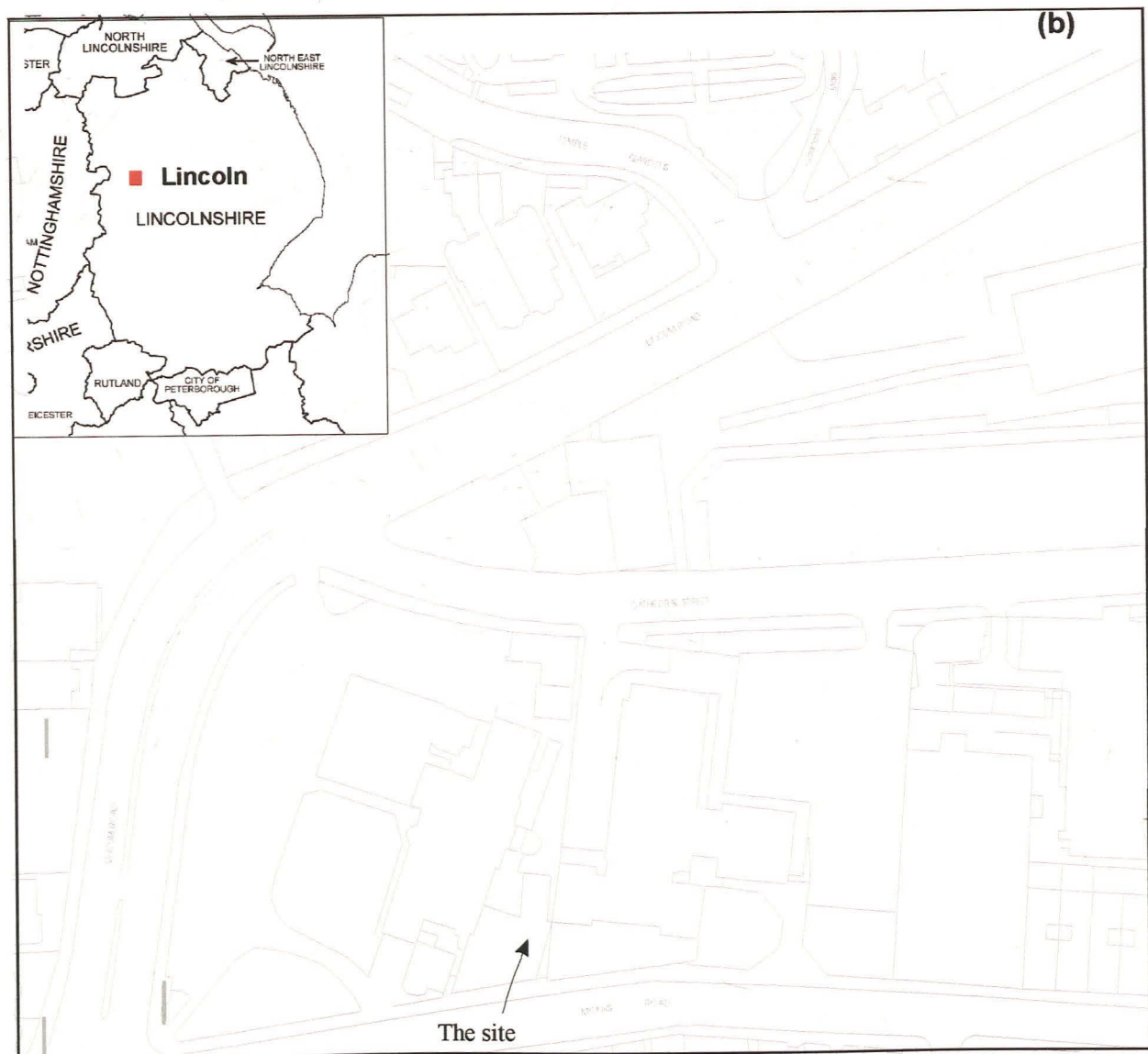
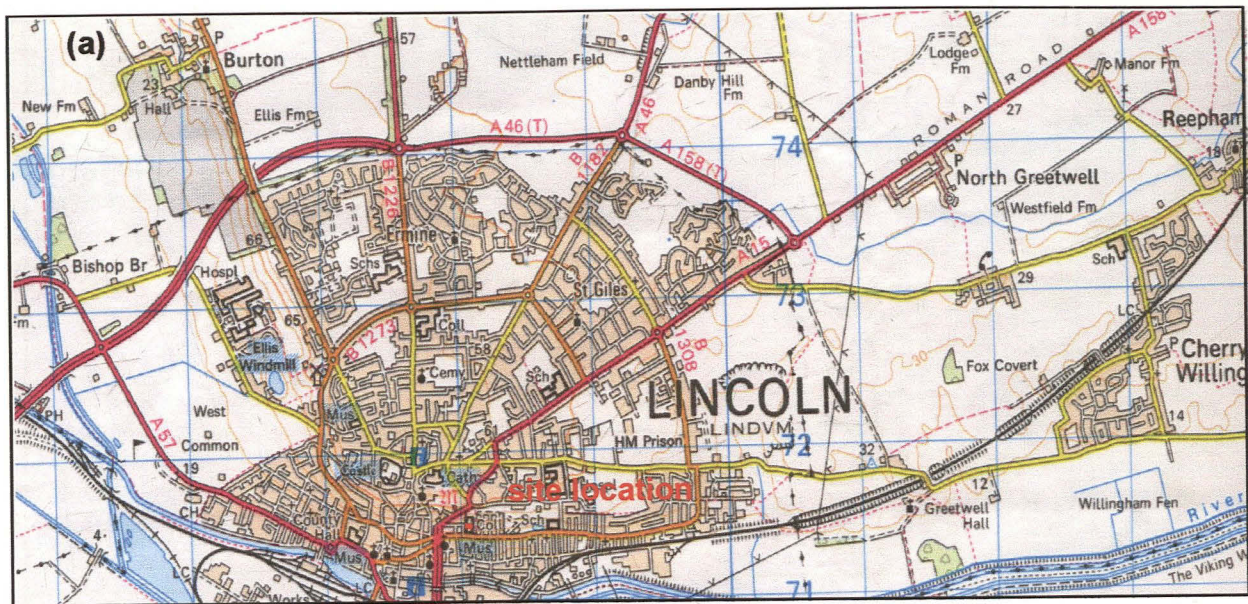


Fig. 1 Location of development site, Monks Road. Based on (a) 1:50 000 OS Map and (b) 1:12500 OS Map, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO.
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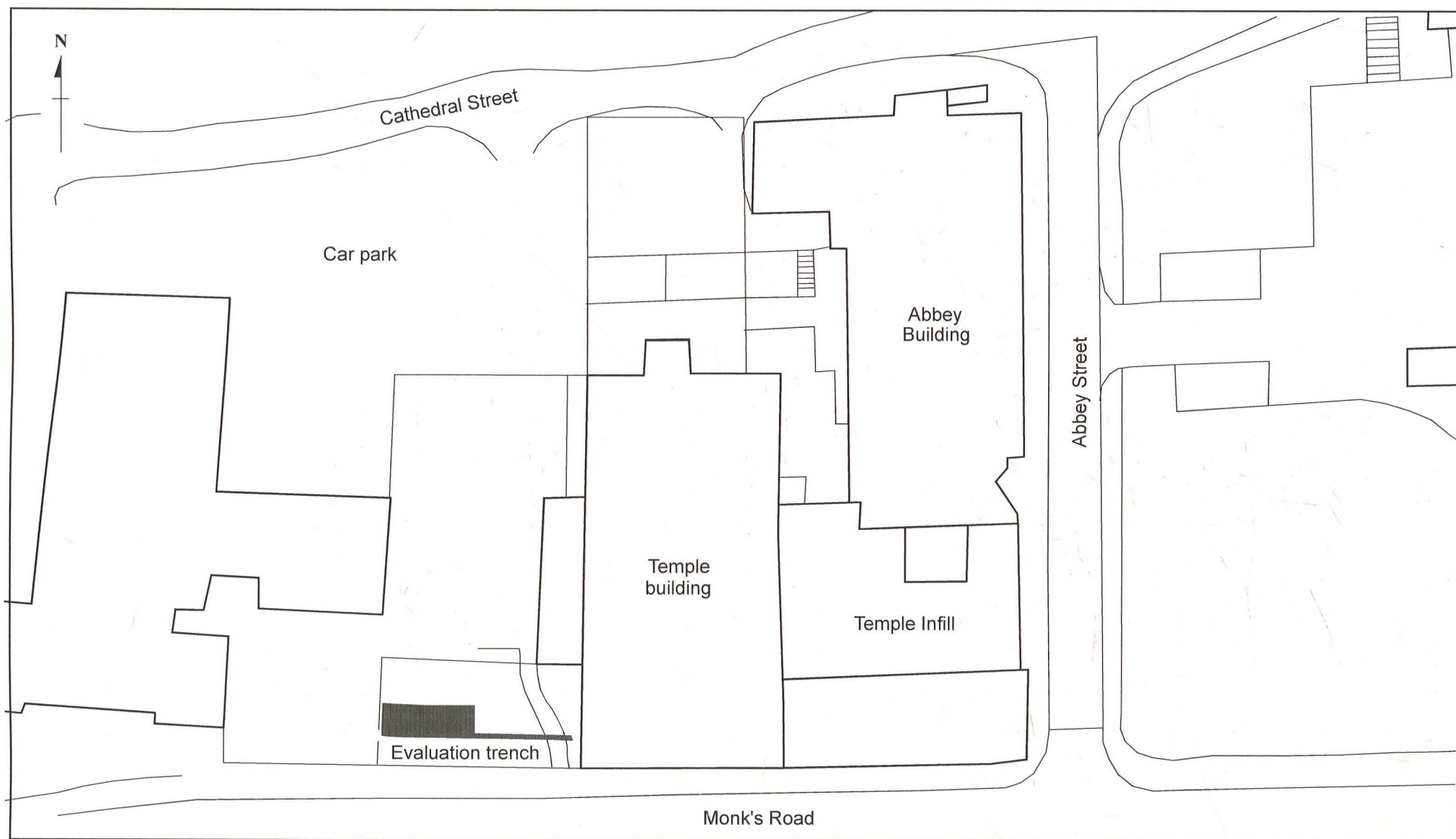


Fig. 2 Location of the evaluation trench.

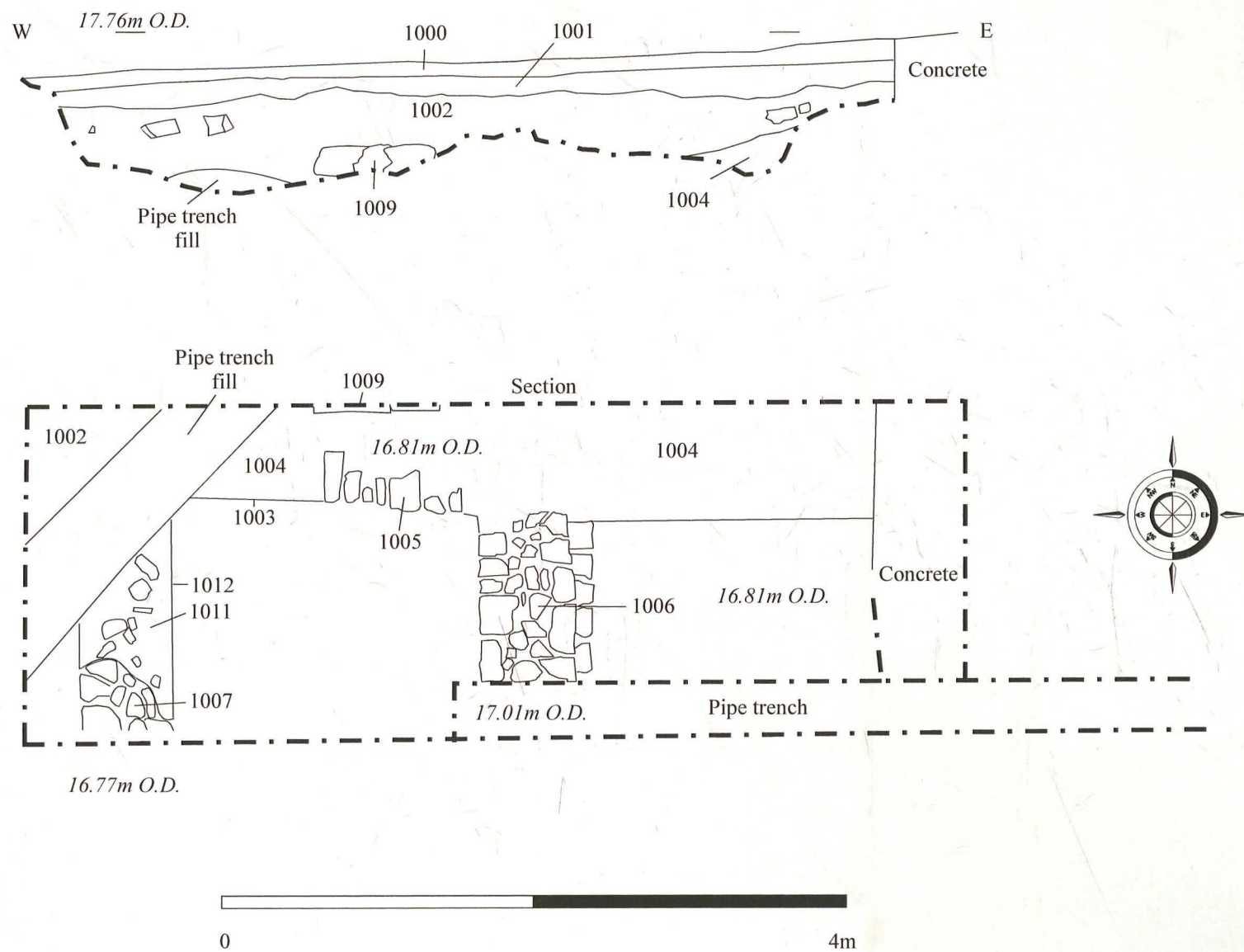


Fig. 3 Plan and section of the trench.

THE PLATES



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



Pl.2 The trench, post-excavation, looking west. Scales 1m and 2m.



P1.3 Wall 1009 and foundation 1005. Horizontal scale 2m, vertical scale 1m.



P1.4 Wall foundation 1007, from above. Scale 1m.