

CITY OF
◇ LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY ◇
U N I T



THE NEW WEST STAND AT LINCOLN
CITY FOOTBALL CLUB, SINCIL BANK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

70050

By R Trimble

94/9

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 129

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Lincoln City Football Club, Sincil Bank, Lincoln

Archaeological Watching Brief

A

Report to

Linpave Construction Ltd

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October 1994

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Archaeological

Prepared by

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit

Charlotte House

The Lawn

Union Road

Lincoln

LN1 3BL

Tel: Lincoln (0522) 545326

Fax: Lincoln (0522) 548089

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THE NEW WEST STAND AT LINCOLN CITY FOOTBALL CLUB, SINCIL BANK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

CLAU Code CFC94 Museum Acc. No. 136.94

Introduction

In response to an archaeological condition of planning consent, CLAU was commissioned by Linpave Construction Ltd to carry out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks relating to the construction of a new west stand on the site of the former west terrace at Sincil Bank the ground of Lincoln City Football Club (SK 9748/7004, Fig.1). Attendance was confined to the period 15 September-17 October 1994, during excavations for the foundations of the new stand (piles bearing 450-600mm groundbeams).

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 site lies immediately to the east of the Sincil Dyke on land formerly known as the Bargate Closes, prior to development during the mid 19th century (Hill 1948, 353). The origins of Sincil Dyke are unclear but it was certainly in existence by the mid 11th century and construction during the Roman period, to protect the Roman suburban occupation along the Ermine Street/ Fosse Way and adjacent land from the effects of flooding, would appear to be a strong possibility (Hill 12-13).

Methodology

Measured sketch sections showing any archaeological features and their relationship to the natural stratigraphy were drawn with reference to the contractor's trench bases at a scale of 1:20. This information was supplemented by individual context descriptions and records of the heights of natural deposits at selected points across the entire area together with a photographic record which includes all archaeological features and any significant natural horizons.

The Results

Observation during the initial ground reduction (to a level of 4.475m OD), prior to piling, revealed loose dark grey sand (100) containing frequent cinder ash (a modern deposit) overlying very mixed light brown, pale orange and mid grey sands and silts (101, top height approximately 5.12m OD) and friable, mid brown silty sand (102), containing occasional limestone fragments and occasional animal bone.

Area 1 (Figs. 2 and 3)

The earliest deposit (Fig.4 section 1) encountered in Area 1 was yellowish brown sand (115) which was overlain by a shallow brown-dark brown sand (114). A loose yellow sand (113) sealed 114. Two parallel ditches running north-south (111 and 112) appeared to be cut from the the upper surface of 113. The easternmost ditch (112) had gradually sloping sides extending to a point below the lower limit of excavation. The westernmost ditch was only partially exposed. The fills of the two ditches (mid grey sandy silts) were indistinguishable in colour and composition and were thought to have been derived from a natural process of silting. A friable mid-greyish brown sandy silt which was considered to be alluvial in origin, extended over the ditches and the adjacent sands.

Area 2 (Figs 2 and 3)

Mid-dark brown, light brown, and reddish orange sands (Fig.4 section 2) comprised the earliest deposits recorded within area 2. These were sealed by a loose light-mid grey/ pale yellow sand (122). Ditches 121 and 119, corresponding to 112 and 111 respectively, were cut from this level and were sealed below alluvium 117 and finally ash and klinker redeposited during the current groundworks (116).

Area 3 (Figs 2 and 3)

A sequence of natural deposits (Fig.4, section 3) consisting of orangy-brown, dark brown and light brown sand (130), loose mid greyish brown sand (129), loose light-mid grey/pale yellow sand, and mid grey sandy clayey silt (alluvium?) was recorded in Area 3.

Area 4 (Figs.2 and 3)

The northern edge of a probable pit was present in the west facing section of the trench (Fig.4, sections 4 and 6) and the easterly extent of the same feature was recorded following excavation of the adjoining east-west groundbeam trench. The edges of the feature were evident in plan within both trenches, projecting approximately 0.2m forward of the sections. As a result of exploratory hand excavation from the base of the machine trench, the full depth of the feature in both trenches was determined. Overall, the cut was steep sided with a rounded break of slope to an apparently flattish base. The primary fill (139) of friable moderately compact, mid grey sandy silt containing occasional small fragments and flecks of stone was overlain by moderately compact mid grey, strong brown and orange sand (138). This was in turn overlain by light-mid grey/ pale yellow sand (133), mid greyish brown silty sand (132), and light yellowish brown sand (131). Deposits 136, 135 and 134 correspond with 124/125, 122 and 123 respectively.

Area 5 (Figs.2 and 3)

Only the easternmost ditch (recorded as 148) was present in area 4 (Fig.4). It was cut through the primary sands, and displayed a v shaped profile coming to a rounded base. Alluvium (141) and possible medieval/ post medieval ploughsoil (142) sealed the ditch.

Discussion

Based upon the stratigraphic evidence as outlined above, a sequence of seven distinct chronological phases has been identified. From earliest to latest these are;

- 1) Terrace sands with an upper surface ranging between 4.05m OD and 4.3m OD in height extending throughout the area. Comparable deposits have been noted to the west of the Sincil Dyke at 4.6m OD.
- 2) A buried soil represented by contexts 114 and 129 occurred within extensive patches throughout the area. Contiguous dark brown sands occurring in frequent large but irregular patches within the underlying sands (ie. 124), almost certainly represent root disturbance from contemporary vegetation.
- 3) A 0.2m thick deposit of loose, light grey sand (122, 128) with an upper horizon of approximately 4.3 to 4.5m OD overlay the buried landsurface and can be compared with a similarly "leached, whitish grey" sand previously recorded at 4.8m to the west of Sincil Dyke.
- 4) The north-south ditches and pit 146 were, it appears, cut from the upper level of the above deposit. This occurred at a time of relative dryness, prior to the onset of alluviation.
- 5) Vestiges of this alluvium (127, 117, 123, 108) were evident in several areas, sealing the ditches and the contemporary land surface.
- 6) A substantial depth of alluvium has almost certainly been incorporated into a medieval and/or post medieval ploughsoil (102) whose upper horizon occurred at a height of 4.87m OD.
- 7) The remaining stratigraphy consists of redeposited sands and silts consistent with reclamation of the area prior to 19th/20th century development, and of deposits associated with the construction of the former terrace.

Conclusion

Precise dating of the recorded deposits is not possible given the absence of datable and associated artefacts. However, a prehistoric or early Roman date for the archaeological features may be suggested on the basis of their incidence in a relatively dry environment, and their relationship to the submerged land surface. The remains of Iron Age settlement have been recorded to the east of the Brayford Pool at 181-183 High Street and the topography of the valley would almost certainly have favoured prehistoric settlement, particularly along the

banks of the Witham and in the vicinity of Brayford Pool (May in Darling and Jones, 1988, 50-57). There is also some evidence for an early Roman fortress in the general area (Jones in Webster 1988, 145-147).

Irrespective of the date of the features mentioned above, the watching brief has succeeded in recovering important information relating to the early environment and the character of the natural deposits in this part of the city. This information will eventually be incorporated into a deposit model within the Lincoln Urban Archaeological Database to assist in future decisions concerning the management of archaeological resource.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to the staff of Linpave Construction Ltd. for excellent co-operation during on site recording, and for the provision of site plans upon which the drawings in this report are based.

References

- Hill, Sir F, 1948 *Medieval Lincoln*. Cambridge
- Darling, M J and Jones, M J, 1988 Early settlement at Lincoln, *Britannia*, Vol. XIX, 1988, 1-56
- Jones, M J, 1988 'Lincoln' in Webster, G (ed.), *Fortress Into City. The Consolidation of Roman Britain, First Century AD*. Batsford

Archive Deposition

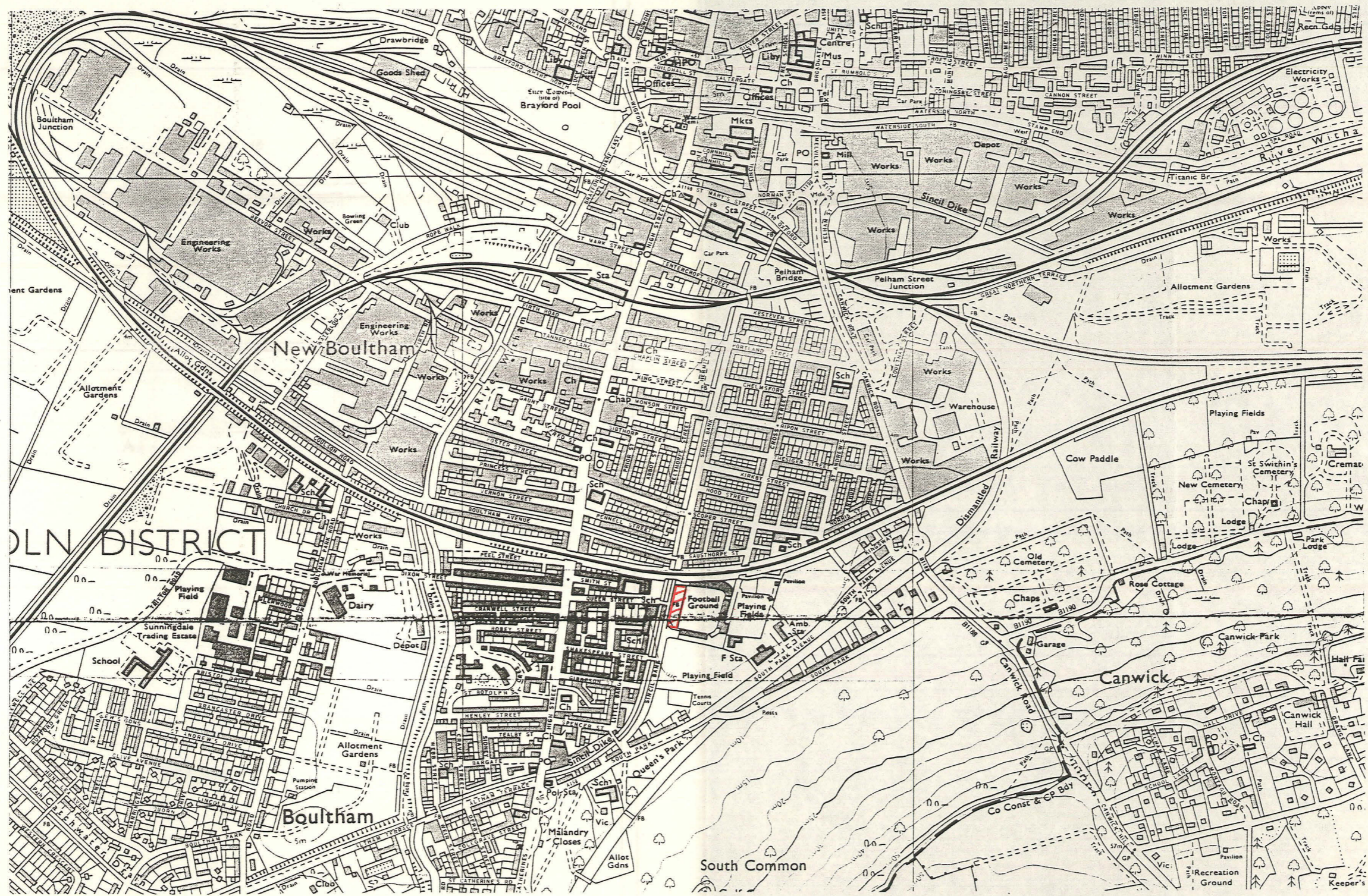
The archive consists of:

No.	Description
1	Site Diary
1	Report
49	Context Records
6	1:20 sketch section drawings
1	1:20 scale plan
1	Set of colour transparencies

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

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, Charlotte House, The Lawn, Union Road, Lincoln, LN1 3BL.

It is intended that transfer to the City and County Museum, Friars Lane, Lincoln, in accordance with current published requirements, under Museum Accession Number 136.94, will be undertaken within approximately six months of completion of this report.



LOCATION PLAN SCALE 1:10000

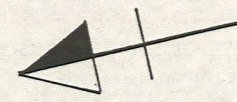
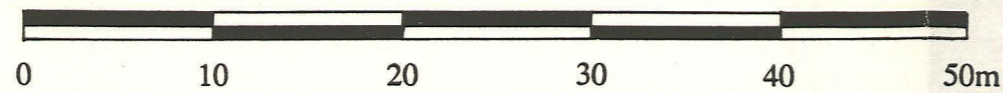
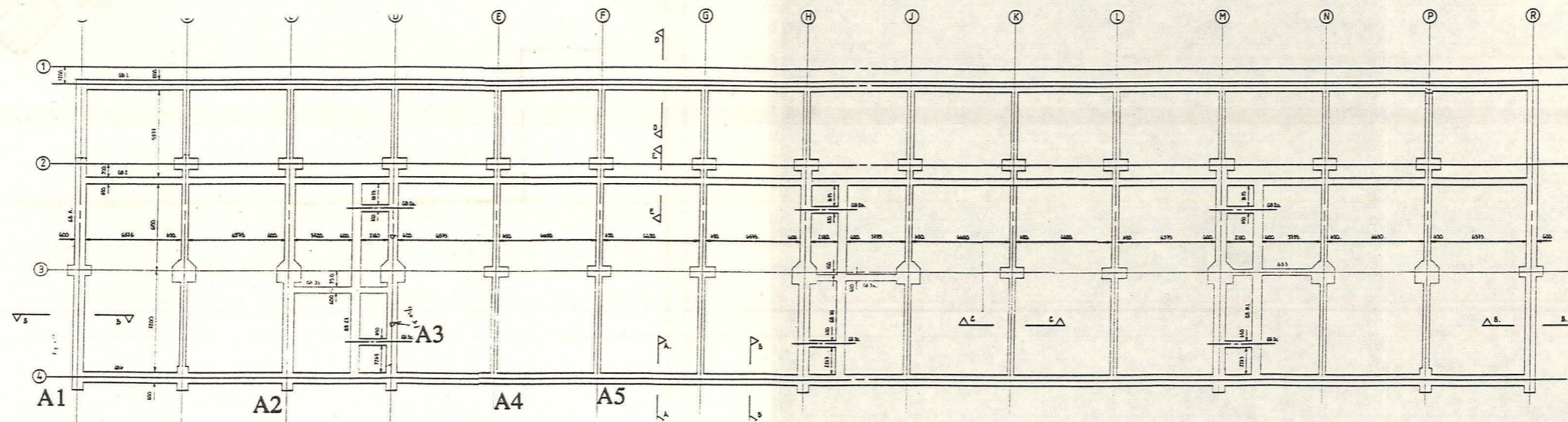


Fig.2

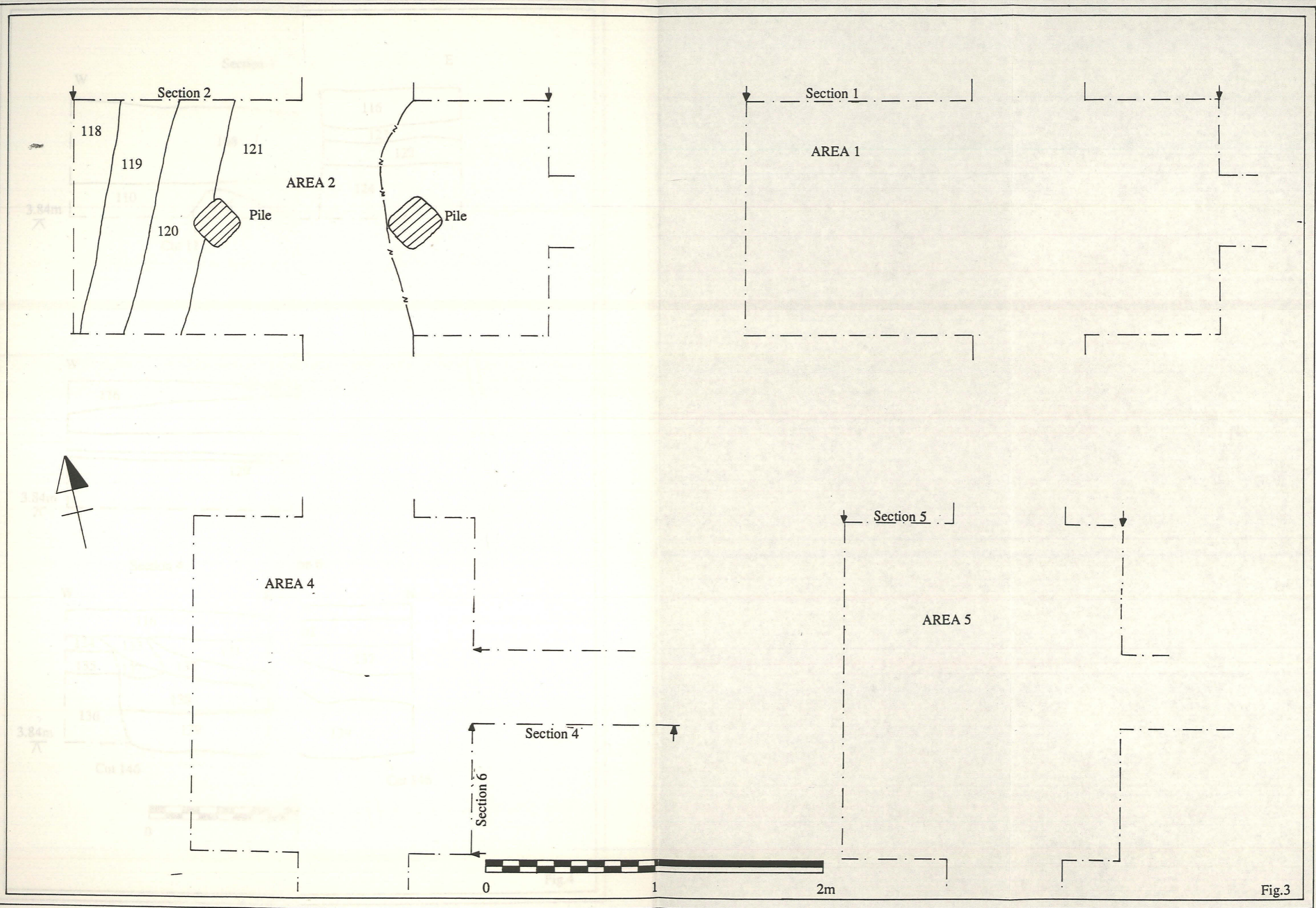


Fig.3

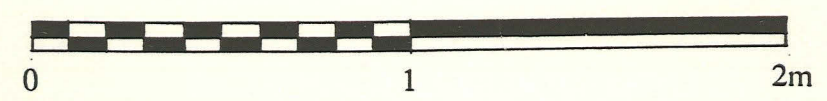
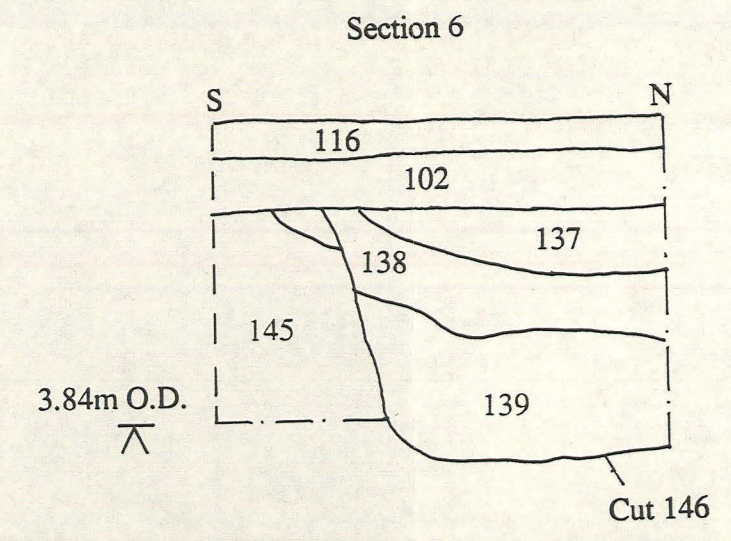
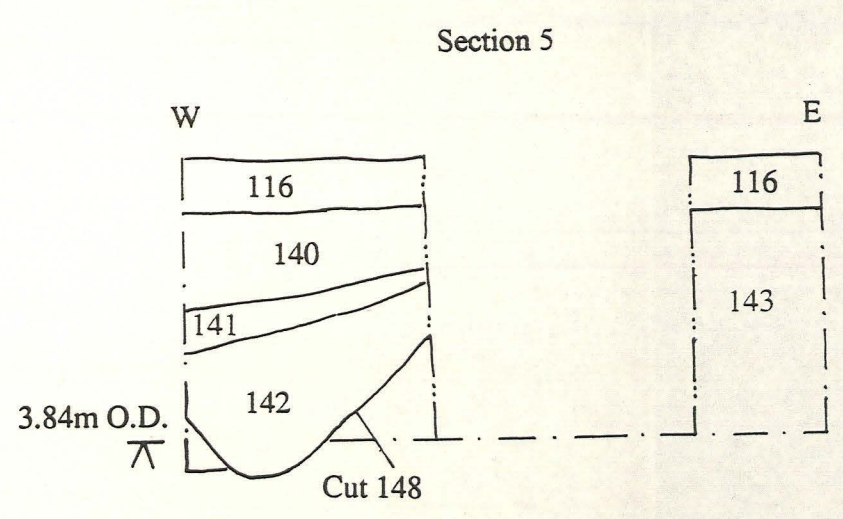
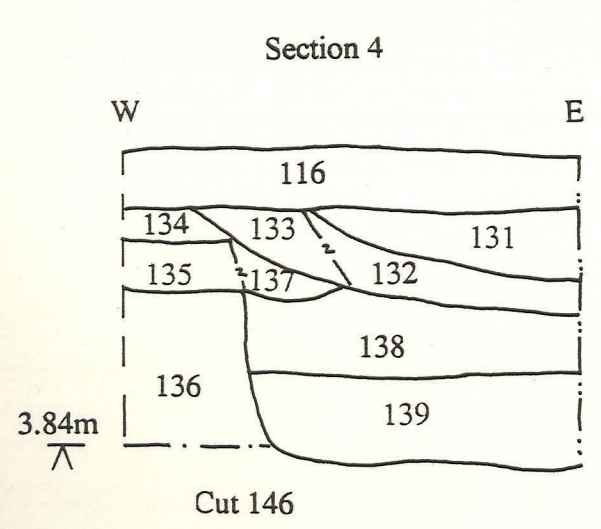
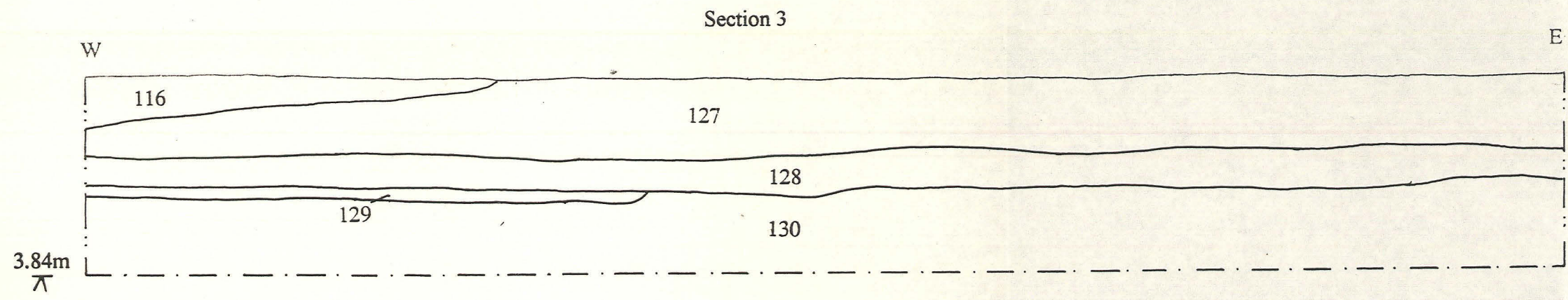
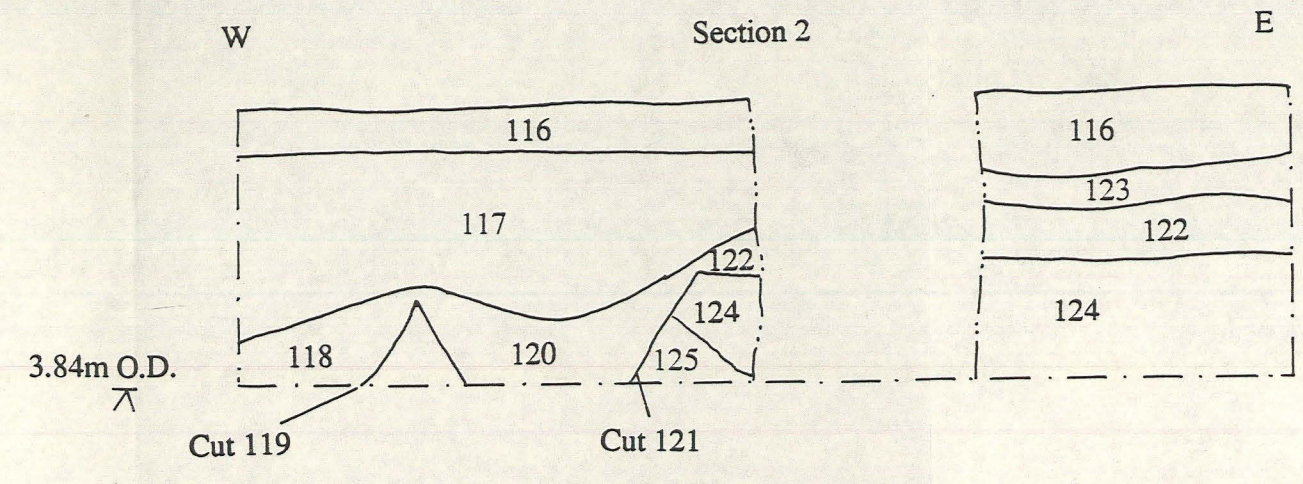
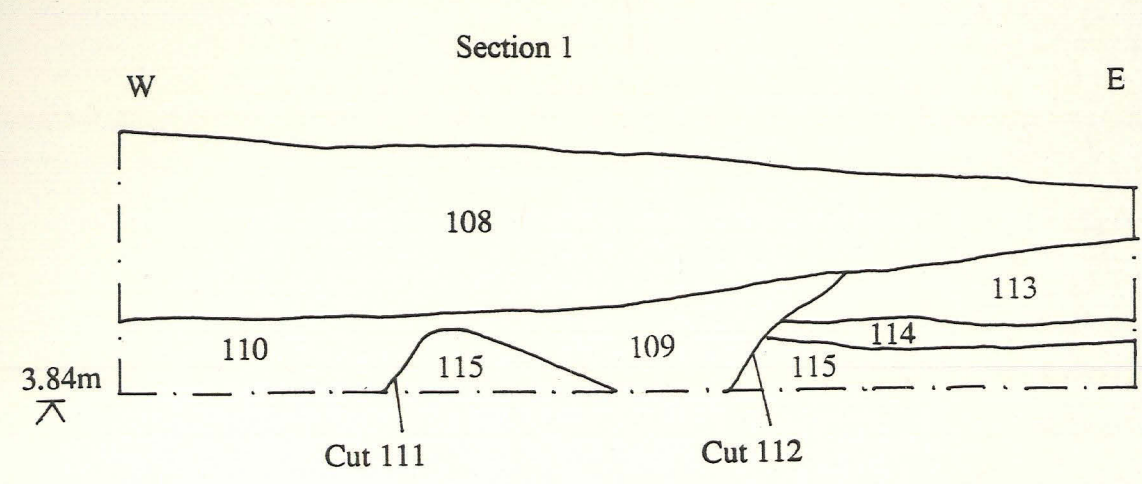


Fig.4