M4/3

51/52 GEORGE STREET, GRANTHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE. ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

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NGR: SK 9160 3580
Planning Ref. S02/0565/35
Accession No. 2002.457

Report prepared for Beemac Construction Ltd

by

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EVENT LI4591 SOURCE LI9190 LI9191 PRN 36511 EARLY MEDIEVAL PRN 36512 POST MEDIEVAL

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Summary

- *A program of archaeological observation and recording took place during excavation of foundation pits at 51/52 George Street, Grantham.*

- *For the most part, they exposed 18th or 19th century made ground or cellaring. A 19th century well exposed in Pit 13 had been backfilled with architectural fragments dated to the late medieval or early post-medieval period, and in Pit 20 a Victorian robber trench had removed a limestone wall of uncertain date.*

- *Two deposits of Anglo-Saxon material were recorded approximately 1.3m below existing ground level, both dated between the 5th to 8th century. They contained evidence for domestic waste disposal and cloth production.*

Fig. 1 : Plan showing site location. 1:25,000

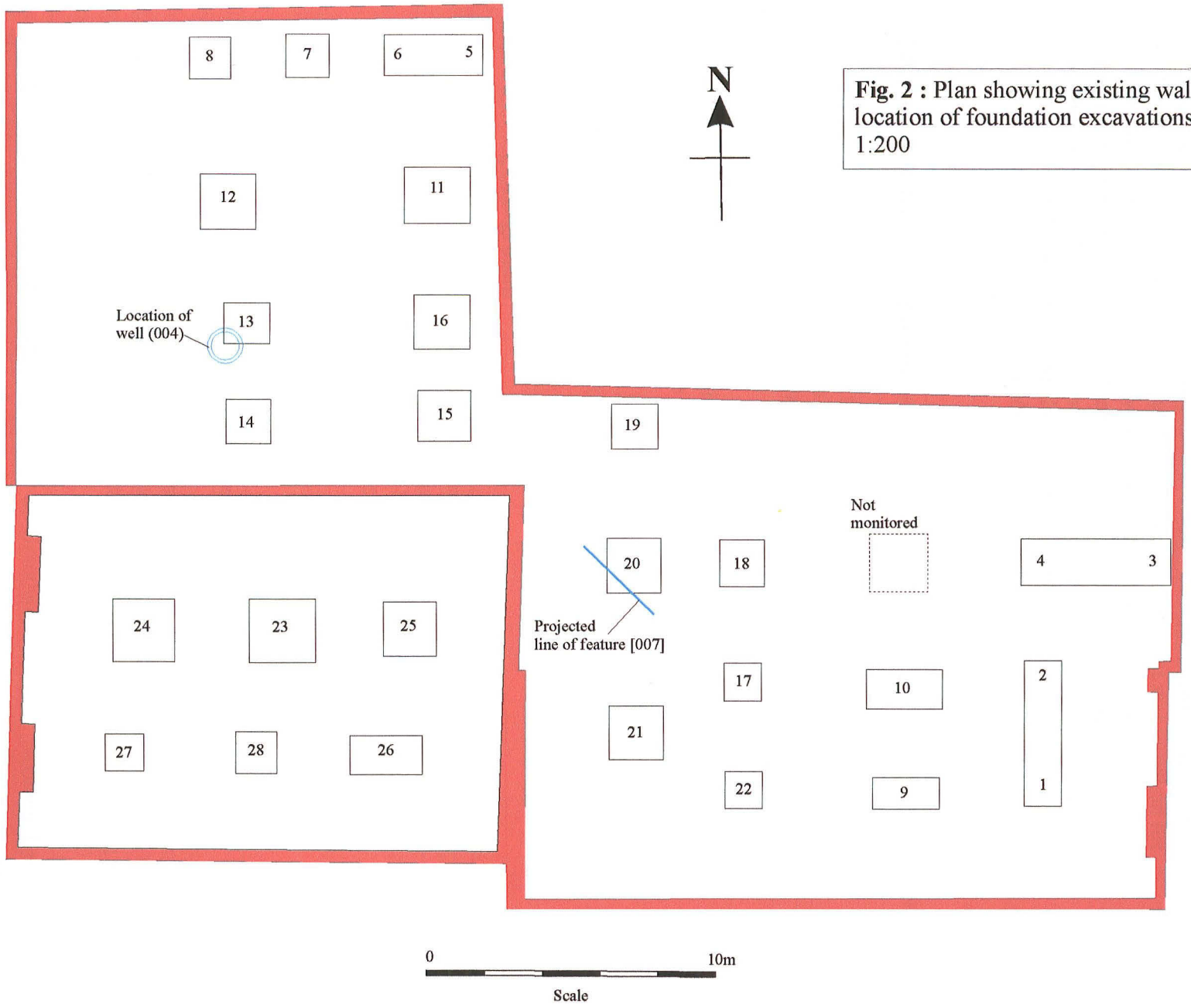

Fig. 2 : Plan showing existing walls and location of foundation excavations.
1:200

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by Beemac Construction Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during conversion and extension to 51/52 George Street, Grantham, Lincolnshire. This work was commissioned to fulfil the objectives of an agreed archaeological mitigation strategy that was based on the recommendations of the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist. This approach complies with the requirements of *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16*, Dept. of Environment (1990); *Management of Archaeological Projects*, EH (1991); *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations*, IFA (1999) and the LCC document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice*, 1998.

2.0 Site location and description

The site lies a little to the east of the town centre on ground that slopes down towards the River Witham some 200m further east. The local solid geology is Middle Lias grey sandy clay and micaceous clay over drift deposits of Older River sand and gravel (BGS 1972).

To the west, north and east it is adjoined by office and domestic buildings and outbuildings, to the south by George Street.

The National Grid Reference for the centre of the site is SK 9160 3580. Street level outside the site is approximately 60m OD.

3.0 Planning background

Full planning permission was granted for the conversion and extension of a property at 51/52 George Street, Grantham, Lincolnshire. Permission was granted subject to the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief on all intrusive groundworks. This report represents the final stage of that process.

The planning reference for this development is SO2/0565/35.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

The earliest archaeological activity in the area dates from the Middle Palaeolithic; in the form of a single hand axe. There is more widespread evidence relating to the Mesolithic period, where some six sites have been identified by fieldwalking at Barrowby, to the north west (May, 1976).

At Little Gonerby on the northern outskirts of Grantham two Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age ceramic vessels and a stone axe were discovered in 1875. These vessels were associated with a cremation burial in the larger of the two and two inhumations, possibly reflecting successive phases of burial in a ploughed-out barrow, (*ibid*).

Numerous flint and pottery scatters along the Witham valley and the higher ground overlooking it represent a palimpsest of prehistoric activity (*ibid*). At gorse Lane to the south of Grantham Iron Age activity in the form of two D-shaped enclosures and associated cut features was located in advance of redevelopment, (Brett, 2002).

Romano-British activity in the vicinity focuses around Saltersford, less than 1km to the southeast. Here, the prosperity of a settlement was based upon control of a ford where the Salt Way crosses the Witham. An associated large coin assemblage shows the site to have been occupied from the 1st to 5th centuries AD.

There are several villas in the area, such as those at Great Ponton, Denton and Stoke Rochford (Whitwell, 1992).

The center of activity shifted northwards in the post-Roman era, and by the end of the Anglo-Saxon period Grantham was an established community (Pevsner & Harris, 1989). A single inhumation, with an associated spearhead and part of a bronze buckle is known from a site at Flowers Brewery off London Road, approximately 350m west of the development site, where late Anglo-Saxon and early medieval settlement and industrial activity is also known. The establishment of a mint indicates the town's importance by the end of the 10th century (Sawyer, 1998), and at the time of the Domesday survey, it was the center of a substantial royal manor (Morgan & Thorne, 1996).

Place-name evidence (Castlegate adjoins George Street at its western end) and the road layout suggest that the site was situated towards the edge of the Anglo-Saxon town.

5.0 Methodology

Seven visits were made to the site in order to observe the excavation of foundation pits; these were on the 21st and 29th of October, the 4th and 13th of November 2002, and the 11th, 12th and 13th of August 2003. These visits were by Tom McCarthy and the author.

On each visit, pits previously excavated by the contractors were cleaned and examined, and relevant sections were recorded using scale drawings, photographs and pro-forma context sheets. Where it was safe to do so, layers and features exposed were partly excavated to recover dating and other evidence. Due to difficulties with safe access, Pits 1-6, 10, 16-17, 27-28 could only be examined from the surface. Pits 7, 9, 21-25 were either shuttered on all sides or merely built in existing cellars, therefore no archaeological observation could be carried out.

6.0 Results (see figs 2-5).

Possible archaeological remains were exposed in four of the pits examined. Furthermore cellars of probable 19th century date were encountered in pits1, 9, 21, 22, 23, 24 & 25. Where the floors of these cellars were exposed, they were at approximately 3.0m below existing ground level.

Pit 1. Loose brick rubble was the only material observed; interpreted as backfilling of a disused cellar. A quarry tile floor, presumably of this purported cellar was observed at *circa* 3m below existing floor level.

Pit 2. This contained a layer of brick rubble over a layer of mid brown soil in which occasional fragments of brick or tile were observed. Both of these deposits were interpreted as made ground. Below this material, reddish sand natural was observed.

Pits 3&4. A similar sequence of deposits to those seen in Pit 2.

Pits 5&6. These pits exhibited a similar sequence to that seen in 3&4, namely a layer of brick rubble over a made ground deposit. Below this was a *c.* 1m thick layer of dark grey material, which appeared from surface inspection to be archaeological. Unfortunately, this layer could not be closely examined and no dateable find were recovered from it.

Pit 7. Fully shuttered.

Pit 8. (see fig. 3). The first deposit encountered was a modern rubble layer, interpreted as made ground. The presence of concrete within this material suggests a relatively modern date; possibly contemporary with the existing 20th century building. Below this was layer 001, a mixed deposit comprising coarse sand, which may have been degraded mortar, containing fragments of brick and other rubble. This too was interpreted as made ground, possibly of Victorian date. Exposed in the base of the hole was 002, a mid-yellow natural sand.

Pit 9. Fully shuttered.

Pit 10. Safe access to this pity was not possible, although examination from the surface revealed a series of brick rubble and other made ground deposits similar to those seen in Pit 2.

Pits 11&12. (see fig. 3). A similar sequence was observed in each of the pits. Context 001, comprising modern made ground, sealed 003, mid to dark brownish grey sand. Occasional inclusions of mortar and brick fragments were noted as part of this material in Pit 12. This deposit was interpreted as made ground, similar to layer 026, seen elsewhere on the site and dated to the 18th century. This in turn sealed 002, the yellow sandy natural.

Pit 13. (see fig. 4). Following removal of the slab, part of a circular brick lined structure was exposed, interpreted as a well. This proved impossible to fully record, as it collapsed as the hole was excavated. The brick lining comprised a single skin of bricks in stretcher bond, built directly against the face of the cut. It was approximately 1.2m in diameter and 2.4m deep. It had been abandoned and backfilled with building rubble, from which a single worked timber (see plate 2) and a sherd of late 18th to 20th century pottery were recovered. A selection of worked stone from this deposit was retained for study (see Appendix 7). They comprised un-weathered fragments probably from internal features; the absence of mortar may suggest they represent discards from the original build.

Generally, the profiles are of a common type with a potentially wide date range, possibly as late the 15th or 16th centuries. An ecclesiastical, civic, or moderately high status origin is probable. The cut, wall and back filling were all recorded as context 004. The well was cut through the purported made ground, layer 003 mentioned above which in turn overlay natural 002.

Pit 14. (see fig. 3). This exhibited similar stratigraphy to that seen in Pit 13: below a concrete slab was a layer of made ground 003, over sandy natural 002.

Pit 15. (see fig. 5). This too showed a similar sequence of deposits to those seen in Pits 11&12: 001 over 003, which in turn sealed 002.

Pits 16&17. These pits were unsafe, with extremely unstable edges. No observation was possible.

Pit 18. (see fig. 5). Below layers 001 and 003, which were seen in many of the pits on the site, a layer of archaeological material was observed: 005 was compact brownish grey sand from which animal bone and a fragment of Charnwood ware dated to the 5th to 8th centuries were recovered. It was not possible to determine whether this was a plaggen soil or more likely, the fill of a pit, the edges of which did not fall within this portion of the site. Below it was the sand natural 002.

Pit 19. (see fig. 5). The first material exposed in this pit was the modern make-up layer 001. Below this was 011, friable yellowish-brown sand containing occasional charcoal and mortar flecks. This deposit was similar to the underlying natural, and probably represents re-working of that material by anthropogenic or other agencies. The presence of root channels below this deposit into the natural 002 further suggests that this may represents a former ground surface.

Pit 20. (see fig. 5). Once the modern concrete slab had been removed, a cut feature running northwest - southeast was observed. This took the form of a well-defined steep edge, [007], breaking sharply to a flat base. The fill 006 was dark greyish brown sandy silt containing frequent lumps of mortar, limestone pieces and occasional pockets of clay. This feature represents the line of a former wall; [007] being a robber trench, formed when the foundation of this putative foundation was removed for re-use. The fill 006 represents waste material dumped into the now empty void.

The above had cut into layer 003, mid to dark brownish grey sand in which occasional brick and mortar fragments were observed. This material is interpreted as made ground, possibly deposited in advance of construction. Below it was 010, mid brown sand containing occasional mortar fragments. This too was interpreted as a made ground deposit formed in a similar manner.

Beneath 010 was a further cut feature, [009]. This had a sharp break of slope forming a steep side which then broke gradually to a flat base. It was only present in the southern section, indicating that it was a pit rather than a linear feature. The fill 008 was loose mid to dark brown sand with frequent charcoal flecks. Also present within this material were fragments of animal bone, a piece of fired clay, occasional flint gravel and lumps of mixed clay and gravel. Two Anglo-Saxon artefacts were recovered, a bone pin-beater used in cloth production (see Appendix 3, plate 6 and fig. 8) and a single sherd of 5th to 8th century Charnwood pottery. This deposit appears to be a dump of waste material, given the presence of pottery and bone probably of domestic origin.

The above feature had cut into the natural sand 002, which appeared darker in this location. This may be because of the charcoal rich feature cut into it.

Pits 21&22. These were merely freestanding formwork in an empty cellar and thus did not intrude into archaeological strata.

Pit 23&24. Three sides of these pits were obscured by shuttering, with the southern sides comprising brick walls, presumably portions of Victorian cellars.

Pit 25. This was fully shuttered, so archaeological observation was not possible.

Pit 26. Once the modern slab had been removed, the first deposit exposed was 026, a layer of brown silty sand containing gravel and tile fragments. Pottery from this material appears to date it to the 18th century. It was interpreted as a make-up layer similar to 003 seen elsewhere on the site. When this deposit was removed, a sub-circular cut feature, [014], was exposed in the southeastern corner. This had a sharp break of slope forming concave sides and base. The fill 015 was greyish brown silty sand containing occasional animal bone, flint gravel and pebbles. Two very small fragments of mid 11th to early 12th century Stamford Ware, a sherd of 16th to 18th century Midlands Yellow ware and a sherd of 18th to 19th century black glazed ware were recovered from this deposit. The small size and anomalous date of the earlier sherds tends to suggest they were residual; this material appears to date from the 18th century. The feature was cut into a layer of natural orange-yellow sand, equivalent to layer 002 recorded elsewhere on the site.

Pit 27. Below a modern concrete slab the first archaeological deposit was a mid brown silty sand containing limestone rubble and tile fragments; this was interpreted as a made ground layer, from which 18th to 20th century pottery, along with a small residual sherd of 17th to 18th century tin glazed ware were recovered. This in turn sealed natural sand 017.

Pit 28. the uppermost material encountered was a thick deposit of modern made ground, below which was 026, also a make-up layer; tentatively dated to the 18th century.

7.0 Discussion and conclusions

For many of the foundation pits excavated, a relatively simple sequence of homogeneous layers was interpreted as made-up ground. One of these layers, 026, was dated from ceramic evidence to the 18th century - the similar composition and levels of the others tends to suggest a similar post-medieval origin.

A well of probable 19th century date was located towards the west of the site. Worked stone fragments recovered from its backfill have been tentatively dated to the late medieval or early post-medieval periods. These fragments are from an ecclesiastical or moderately high status secular building, presumably located at or near the site. This building was probably demolished during the re-building of the town, which commenced in the 18th century, (Pevsner & Harris, 1989).

Other post-medieval activity was recorded in the form of cellars. Some of these had been backfilled with loose brick rubble, presumably from the demolition of associated buildings. The cellaring appeared to be confined to the locations of Pits 23-25, located to the rear of the western building and Pits 1, 9, 21 & 22, located in the eastern part of the site and fronting directly onto George Street. Where the floor of these cellars was observed, it appeared to be at approximately 3m below existing ground level, and will have truncated all but the deepest of archaeological deposits.

Cut into one of these purported made ground layers (and observed in Pit 20) was a robber trench. From its fill it appeared to represent a former limestone wall. While the trench was cut from the top of a layer (003), believed to be post-medieval, this only represents the date of the robbing event, and layer 003 could easily have originally sealed the construction level of the wall (with the later robber trench having removed that relationship). Robbed walls such as this are notoriously difficult to date; however the presence of waste limestone in the fill may indicate construction before the widespread use of brick.

Two deposits of much earlier date were also exposed; in Pit 18, a layer of domestic waste material 005 was recorded. It was not possible to determine whether this was an occupation layer or the fill of a large cut feature, the edges of which did not fall within this part of the site. This material was clearly domestic waste; a single 5th to 8th century Charnwood ware sherd, which exhibited internal sooty deposits, dated it. For pottery of this date this is usually taken as evidence of either cooking, the food in question having burnt, or of the pots used as a lamp, with the burnt material being the remains of tallow fuel, (J Young, pers. comm.).

A further feature containing Charnwood pottery of the same date was revealed in Pit 20; it comprised a small flat-based pit containing a fill of domestic refuse, from which a bone pin-beater was recovered. Tools of this kind are also known as thread-pickers and "are supposed to have been used with a warp-weighted loom in order to tap down the weft at regular intervals to ensure that the finished cloth has no gaps between the weft threads" (Vince, Appendix 3). The potsherd from this material also exhibited a sooty residue, although as the soil fill was charcoal-rich it may have formed post-deposition.

Together these deposits are evidence for early to mid Anglo-Saxon activity taking place very close to the site, at approximately 1.3m below existing ground level. This was in part domestic, as represented by broken pottery and animal bone, but there was also industrial activity in the form of cloth production.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology employed allowed a record to be made of the sections of those pits that were safe to enter; those that could not be accessed were recorded from the surface by sketching and photography. This methodology resulted in minimal disruption to the primary scheme.

9.0 Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Beemac Construction Ltd for commissioning this work and the site foreman, Graham Makinson for invaluable assistance on site.

10.0 References

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11.0 Site archive

An archive consisting of written, drawn, photographic and object elements is in preparation and will be deposited at the Lincoln City and County museum within six months of the completion of this report.

Access can be gained to it by quoting the L.C.C. Museum accession number 2002.457.

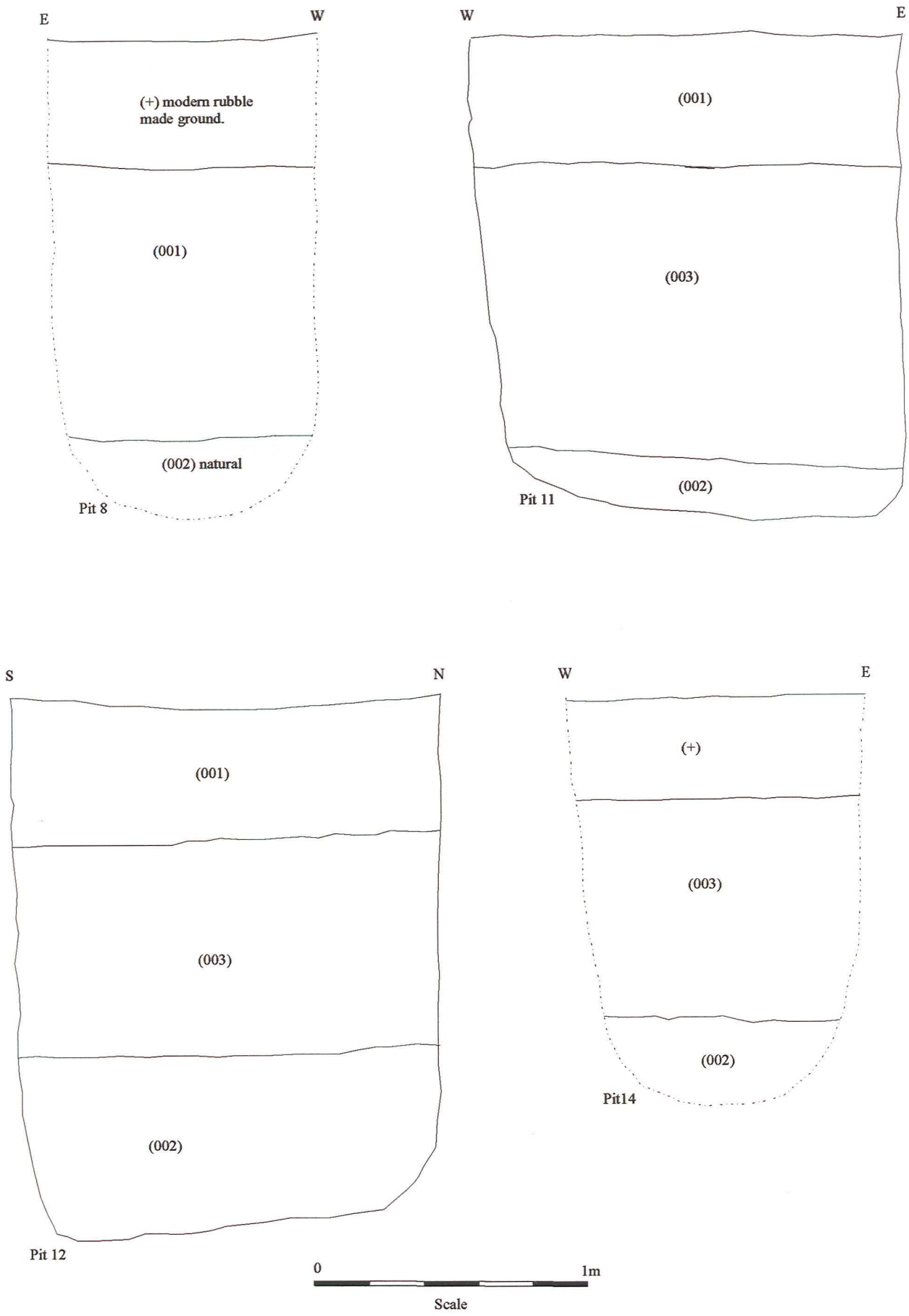
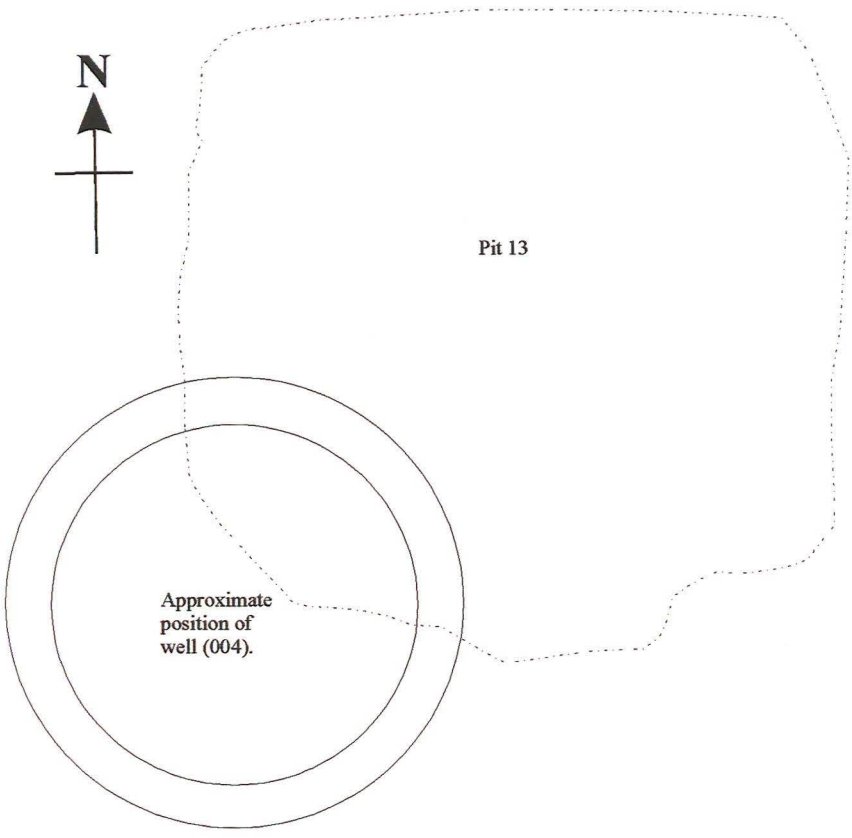


Fig. 3 : Sections from Pits 8,11, 12 & 14. All at 1:20.



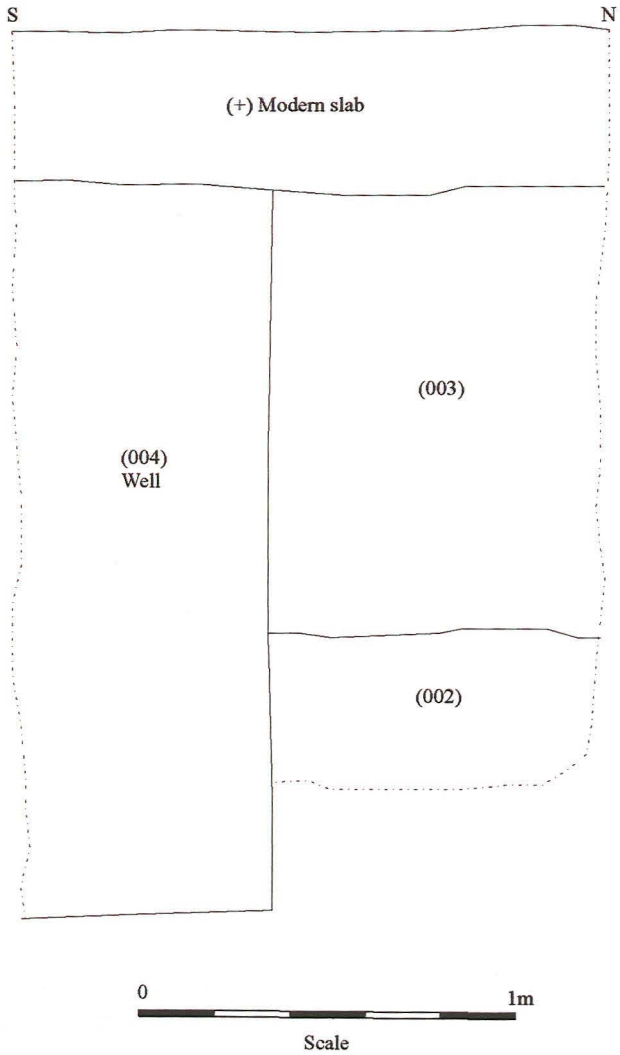


Fig. 4 : Plan and section from Pit 13. Shows well (004) cut through earlier made ground (003). Both at 1:20.

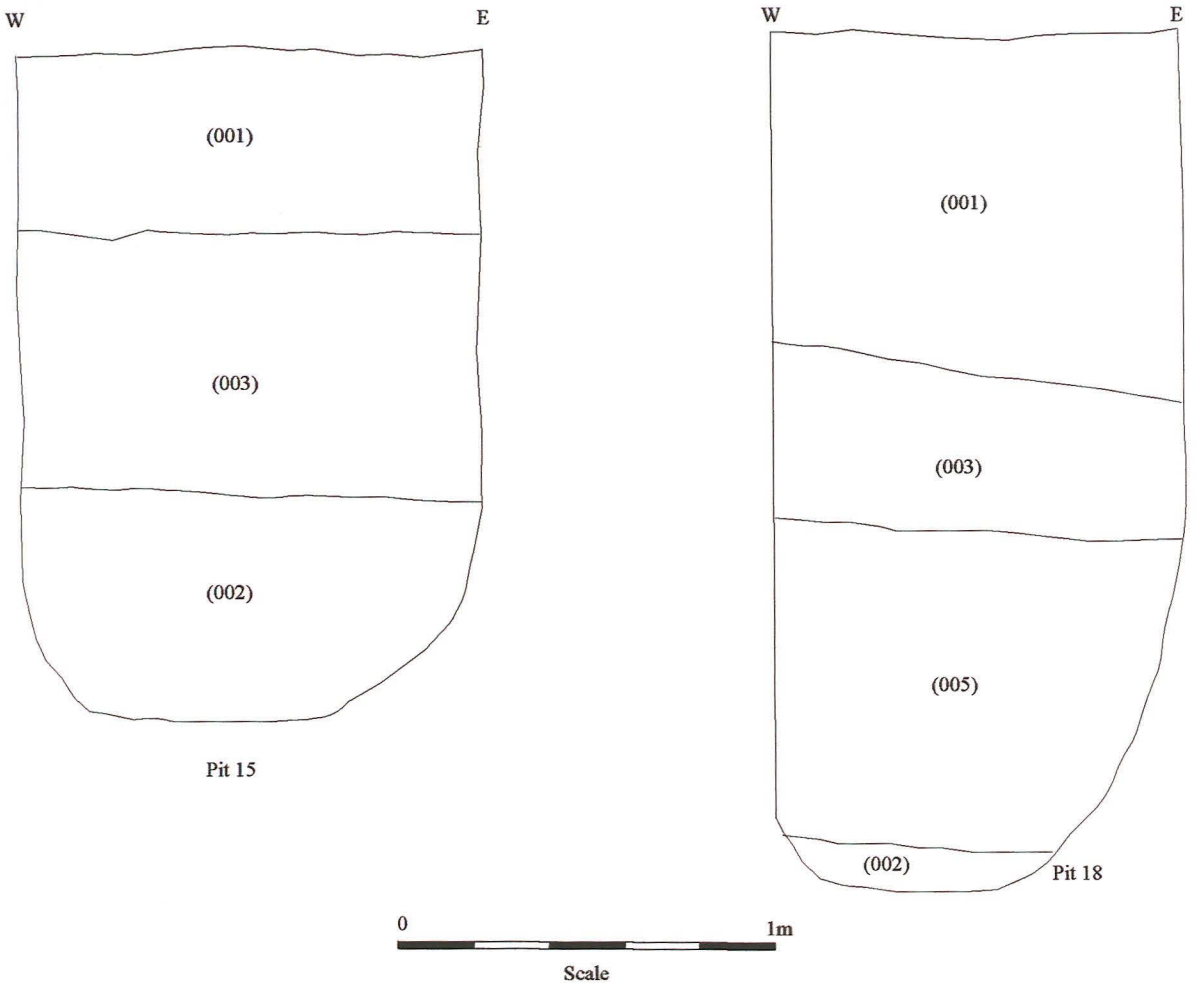


Fig. 5 : Sections from Pits 15, 18, 19 & 20. All at 1:20.

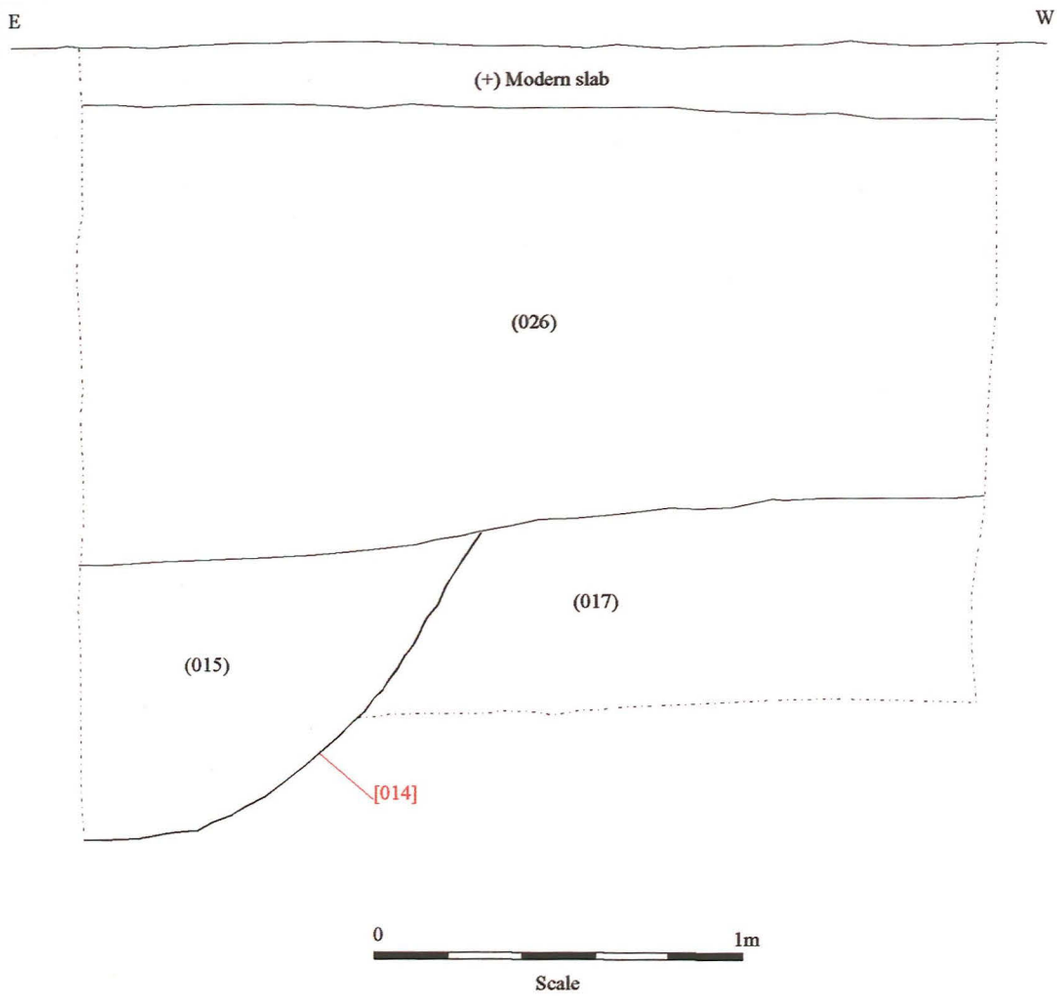


Fig. 6 : Section from Pit 26.
1:20

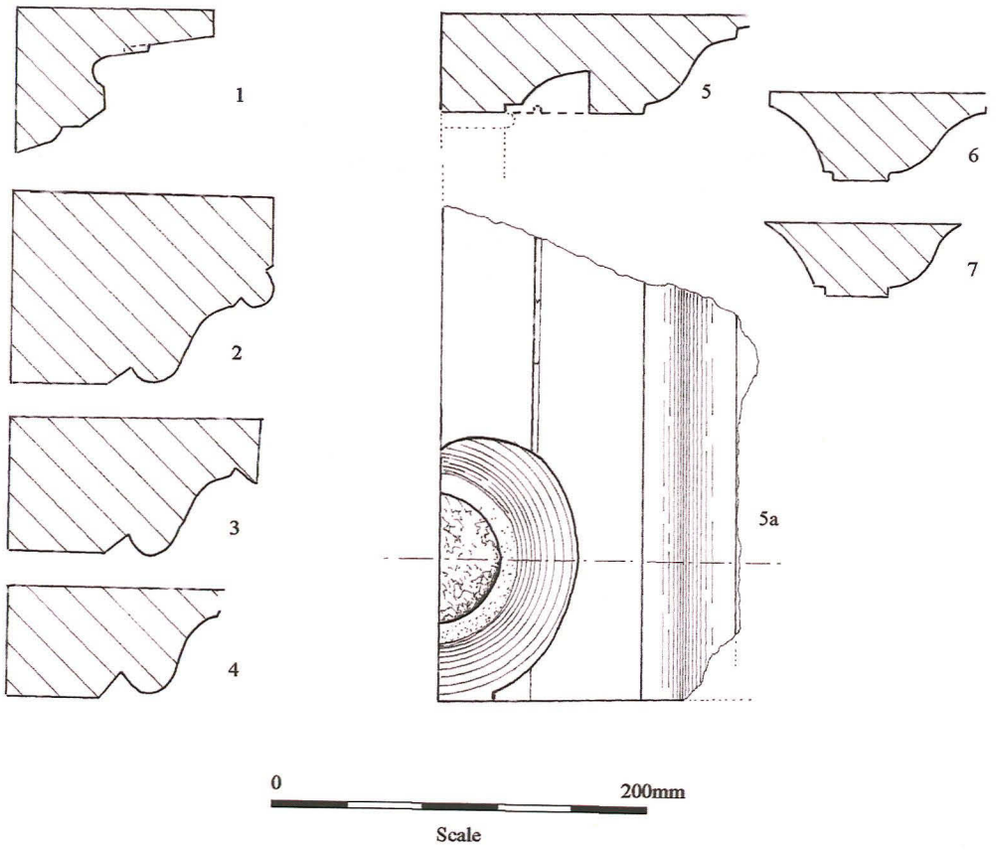


Fig. 7: Mouldings recovered from backfilled well (004).
1:4

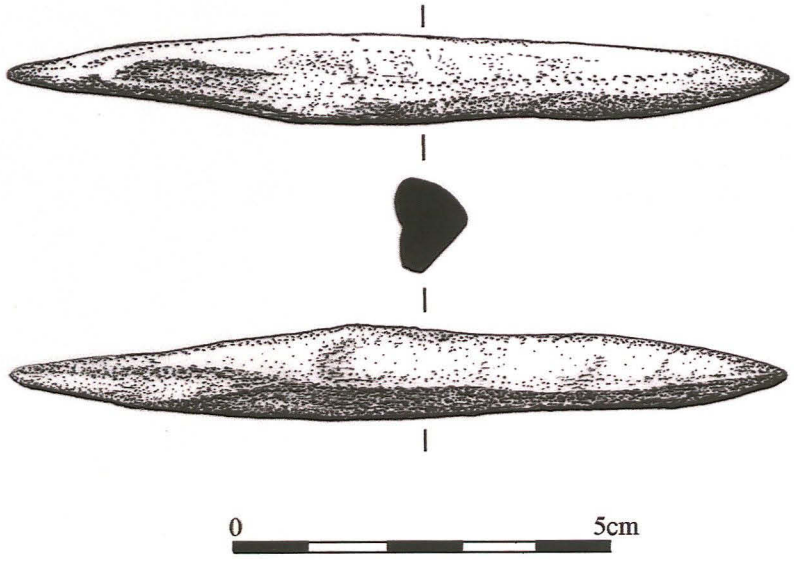


Fig. 8: Anglo-Saxon pin-beater recovered from pit fill (008). Scale 1:1.

Appendix 1. Colour plates

PL. 1 Brick lined well (004) from Pit 13. A number of architectural fragments were recovered from the backfill. Looking SW.

PL. 2 Timber recovered from back fill of well (004).

PL. 3 Pit 14. Below the modern slab was a layer of made ground then sandy natural. A shuttered Pit is visible in the background
Looking N.

PL. 4 Pit 18. The dark material in the base is layer (005).
Looking N.

PL. 5 Pit 20. A robbed out wall and an Anglo-Saxon rubbish pit were observed in this section.
Looking SW.

PL. 6 Anglo-Saxon pin-beater recovered from a cut feature in Pit 20.

Appendix 2. Summary of individual pits.

PIT NUMBER	DEPTH	DESCRIPTION
1	0-3m	Brick-rubble, probably cellar back-fill. Quarry tile floor at 3m below existing floor level.
2	0-1.2m	Brick rubble, appeared to be made up ground.
	1.2-1.8m	Mid brown soil, occasional brick inclusions.
	1.8-3m	Red sand, natural.
3&4	0-1.5m	Brick rubble, made up ground.
	1.5-3.0m	Mid brown soil, occasional brick inclusions. Made ground.
	3.0m+	Red sandy natural.
5&6	0-0.6m	Brick rubble, made ground.
	0.6-1.1m	Light greyish brown material with frequent brick fragments.
	1.2-2.1m	Dark greyish brown layer, possible archaeological deposits.
	2.1-2.6m	Mid yellow sand, natural.
7	0-3m	Shuttered on all sides. No observation possible.
8	0-0.5m	Brick rubble, made ground.
	0.5-1.5m	(001) Mottled coarse sand (possibly mortar), frequent brick fragments and other rubble.
	1.5-1.8m	(002) Mid yellow sand, natural.
9	0-2.5m	Shuttered, no observation possible.
10	0-2.5m	Safe access impossible, no observation made.
11	0-0.5m	(001) Modern concrete and brick, made ground.
	0.5-1.6m	(003) Brownish grey sand, no inclusions.
	1.6-1.8m	(002) Mid yellow sand, natural.
12	0-0.5m	(001) Modern concrete and brick, made ground.
	0.5-1.2m	(003) Brownish grey sand, mortar and brick fragments.
	1.3-2.0m	(002) Mid yellow sand, natural.
13	0-0.4m	(+) Concrete slab.
	0.4-1.2m	(003) Brownish grey sand, made ground. Cut by [004].
	1.2-2.0m	(002) Mid yellow sand, natural.
14	0-0.35m	(+) Concrete slab.
	0.35-1.2m	(003) Brownish grey sand, made ground.
	1.2-1.5m	(002) Mid yellow sand, natural.
15	0-0.5m	(001) Modern concrete and brick, made ground.
	0.5-1.2m	(003) Brownish grey sand, made ground.
	1.2-1.8m	(002) Mid yellow sand, natural.
16	0-2.5m	Pit unsafe, no observation possible.
17	0-2.6m	Pit unsafe, no observation possible.
18	0-1.0m	(001) Modern concrete and brick, made ground.
	1.0-1.35m	(003) Brownish grey sand, made ground.
	1.35-2.2m	(005) Brownish grey sand, frequent cultural material.
	2.2-2.3m	(002) Mid yellow sand, natural.

PIT NUMBER	DEPTH	DESCRIPTION
19	0-0.9m	(001) Modern concrete and brick, made ground.
	0.9-1.2m	(011) Yellowish brown sand, disturbed natural.
	1.2-1.8m	(002) Mid yellow sand, natural.
20	0-0.45m	(003) Brownish grey sand, made ground. Cut by [006].
	0.45-1.3m	(010) Mid brown sand w/mortar flecks. Poss. made ground.
	1.3-2.4m	(002) Mid yellow sand, natural. Cut by [009].
21	N/A	Wooden formwork only, not observed.
22	N/A	Wooden formwork only, not observed.
23	0-2.3m	Shuttered on 3 sides, Victorian cellar wall (012) to south.
24	0-2.3m	Shuttered on 3 sides, Victorian cellar wall (012) to south.
25	0-2.6m	Fully shuttered. No observation possible.
26	0-0.2m	(+) Concrete slab.
	0.2-1.25m	(026) Brown silty sand, frequent rubble. Made ground.
	1.25-1.8m	(017) Orange-yellow sand. Natural. Cut by [014].
27	0-0.2m	(+) Concrete slab.
	0.2-1.25m	(026) Brown silty sand, frequent rubble. Made ground
	1.25-1.8m	(017) Orange-yellow sand. Natural.
28	0-1.4m	(001) modern building rubble, made ground.
	1.4-2.3m	(026) Brown silty sand, frequent rubble. Made ground.

Appendix 3. Small finds report.

Two objects from a watching brief carried out at 51/51 George Street, Grantham, by Pre-Construct Archaeology Lincoln, site code GSGR02, were submitted for identification and assessment.

Description

Bone or Ivory

Context 8. A complete bone or ivory double-pointed tool. The object has a square-sectioned shaft but has been worked to points at both ends. The whole surface of the tool is polished from use.

Tools of this kind are known as pin-beaters or thread-pickers and are supposed to have been used with a warp-weighted loom in order to tap down the weft at regular intervals to ensure that the finished cloth has no gaps between the weft threads.

In southern England there are examples of these pin-beaters from late Anglo-Saxon contexts (Pritchard, 1984) but in the Danelaw they are rare or absent in Anglo-Scandinavian levels, suggesting that a new form of weaving technology was introduced in the late 9th century, presumably by Viking incomers. This tool, therefore, is likely to be of early to mid Anglo-Saxon date, i.e. later 5th to mid 9th centuries.

N.B. This artefact was subsequently examined by Mark Ward of Network Archaeology, who identified it as being made of bone, (M ward, pers comm.).

Glass

Context 26. A single fragment of dark green bottle glass, from the neck of a tall, free-blown wine bottle. Such bottles first appeared in the mid 18th century and from the middle of the 19th century onwards were increasingly replaced by mould-blown bottles.

Assessment

The pin-beater from context 8 should be illustrated for publication. The identify of the material it is made from should be established by submission to a specialist. Most examples are made from the wall of a long bone from a species such as cattle or horse but this piece, to my non-specialist eye, seems to be too thick for such an origin.

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Appendix 4. Pottery Archive

context	cname	sub fabric	full name	form type	sherds	weight	decoration	part	description	date
04	ENGS		Unspecified English Stoneware	flagon ?	1	338		base		late 18th to 20th
05	CHARN		Charnwood ware	small vessel	1	36		BS	partial internal soot;large fresh fragment	5th to 8th
08	CHARN	+ rounded quartz & fe	Charnwood ware	bowl ?	1	32		rim	soot;large fresh fragment	5th to 8th
15	ST	A	Stamford Ware	jar/pitcher	1	2		BS	glaze ?	mid 11th to early 12th
15	ST	A/G	Stamford Ware	?	1	4		base	unglaze;soot	mid 11th to early 12th
15	MY		Midlands Yellow ware	bowl ?	1	11		BS		16th to 18th
15	BL		Black-glazed wares	large bowl	1	57		BS		18th to 19th
26	TGW		Tin-glazed ware	dish ?	1	6	blue chinoiserie	base		late 17th to 18th
26	LERTH		Late earthenwares	garden pot	1	25		rim		18th to 20th
26	BL		Black-glazed wares	large bowl	1	91		rim		18th to 20th

Pottery Glossary

cname	full name
BL	Black-glazed wares
CHARN	Charnwood ware
ENGS	Unspecified English Stoneware
LERTH	Late earthenwares
LMLOC	Late Medieval local fabrics
MY	Midlands Yellow ware
ST	Stamford Ware
TGW	Tin-glazed ware
TOY	Toynton Medieval Ware

Appendix 5. Tile Archive GSGR02

context	cname	full name	frags	weight	description	date
08	FIRED CLAY	fired clay	1	1		-
26	PANT	Pantile	1	147	oxidised fabric with clay pellets & chalk/limestone inclusions;rectangular moulded lug	18th to 20th
26	PANT	Pantile	1	18	light oxidised fabric with fe inclusions	18th to 20th
26	PANT	Pantile	1	170	part of moulded lug;oxidised fabric with chalk/limestone inclusions	18th to 20th
26	PANT	Pantile	1	213	light oxidised fabric with chalk/limestone inclusions	18th to 20th

Jane Young

Appendix 6. Context summary

CONTEXT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
001	Mixed deposit, sand or degraded mortar, CBM frags. Made ground.
002	Mid yellow medium sand, same as 017. Natural.
003	Brown-grey medium sand, some mortar and CBM frags. Levelling/made ground
004	Brick built well. Cut and fill. Frequent medieval architectural fragments. Late 18th to 20th C. pottery.
005	Friable brownish grey sand. Frequent cultural material. Either fill of large pit (edges outside trench) or possibly plaggen soil. Single sherd of 5th to 8th C. pottery recovered.
006	FO [007]. Dark greyish brown sandy silt, frequent limestone rubble and mortar fragments. Back fill after robbing.
007	Robber trench. Appears to be course of former wall running NW-SE.
008	FO[009]. Loose mid to dark brown medium sand. Frequent charcoal and other cultural material. Dump of domestic waste. Single sherd of 5th to 8th C. pottery and bone pin beater recovered.
009	Rubbish pit.
010	Mid brown medium sand. Possibly made ground or construction trample from dumping of overlying layer 003.
011	Friable yellow-brown sand. Disturbed natural. Rooting into underlying layer. Possibly ground surface.
012	Masonry. Victorian cellar wall.
013	Disturbed natural sand. Possible activity horizon.
014	Rubbish pit.
015	FO[014]. Mid grey-brown silty sand. Frequent gravel, moderate cultural material. Dump of domestic waste. Pottery dates this deposit to 18th C.
017	Orange-yellow sand, same as 003. Natural.
026	Mid brown silty sand. Frequent limestone and CBM. Made ground, similar to 003. 18th to 20th C. pottery recovered.

Appendix 7. Worked stone from backfilled well (004).

The profiles of the architectural fragments are shown in fig. 7. The types are arranged into three main groups: 1, 2-4 & 5-7.

Since tooling on most of the surfaces is fine (1-2mm intervals) and uni-directional, identification of bed surfaces is difficult therefore orientation is arbitrary. None of the components displayed any detectable curvature appropriate to voussoirs. Neither was there evidence of mason's marks, or leaded joints. Little or no mortar remained. All quoted dimensions are in mm and approximate for areas of damage.

Fragment 1: 105 x 78mm; length remaining 315mm (both ends missing).
Faceted round flanked by flattened round and a hollow stopped to a rebated tapered nosing. The rebate diverges from the horizontal, reducing from 30 to 20mm width over the surviving length; if the nosing was vertical and flush to the wall this might be part of a shallow apex with a horizontal oversailed moulding. Although the faceted profile appeared from the 14th century, the overall effect suggests a much later date.

Fragment 2: 140 x 104mm, profile intact; length remaining 210mm (one end missing).
Ogee and revealed round.

Fragment 3: 135 x 72mm; profile intact; length remaining 250mm (one end missing).
Ogee and reveled? large round, the latter ending abruptly at an acute angle at the return which is rough-boasted and therefore a joint surface which mates the continuation of moulding to an adjacent block.

Fragment 4: 115 (incomplete) x 60mm; length remaining 195mm (both ends missing).
Ogee to within 15mm of the edge; missing profile possibly similar to 3.

2,3 & 4 appear contemporary and are from the same, or similar, suite of mouldings. The profiles are of a common type from the 14th to 16th centuries.

Fragment 5: 160mm (upper profile incomplete); length remaining 265mm (one end missing). Ogee (if as depicted, actually cyma recta or reverse ogee) terminating at the upper outer edge in a 10mm high projecting? flat or ?bead. This profile appears contemporary with 6 & 7.

Fragment 5 (with assumed soffit plane at base) shows a section through 5a (plan of the inverted soffit) at the centre of the upper mating surface for an ?engaged half-shaft. The upper part of a concave profiled bell-capital springs from the inner vertical edge of a semi-circular recess. The latter is 140mm in total width, being open (with a small chamfered reveal) to the proximal edge of the block, the far side returning to the wall-plane in a tight radius.

The concave profile is smooth-dressed and therefore assumed to be in a finished state as opposed to a rough-hewn or cut-back core intended to be clad with a moulded casing, often seen in 18th and 19th century in-situ repair. This latter is emphasised due to the presence of an apparent ?saw-cut channel 2 or 3mm wide, the depth varying in rough stages of c. 1mm. 2mm & 3mm., suggesting saw-teeth drag. Runnels, sprues and key-channels provided for in-situ repairs using lead or liquid putty, mainly on shafts, are usually short and wide. The channel seen here has no such function (since the capital recess is open to the near-side edge) unless it provides a bedding key to the adjacent (underlying) block. The channel, as with most of the surfaces, is clean with no evidence of mortar. The joint surface for the shaft of 82mm diameter, however, is eroded or damaged. It has an additional rebated circumference (giving a total diameter of 90mm) intended for the projecting lip of the shaft. A torus moulding to the upper shaft joint is conjectured.

It is uncertain whether this formed part of a blind arcade, screen, or internal tomb decoration. It is also possible that it is an isolated angle shaft.

Fragment 6: 130 (incomplete) x 50mm (intact projection); remaining length 240mm (both ends missing).

Asymmetrical, with a wide fillet (the outer surface) flanked on right by an ogee and rebated ?nosing to left by a hollow and flat nosing.

Fragment 7: 100mm (near intact x 40; remaining length 215mm (both ends missing).
As 6, but ogee and hollow feather to acute upper (or inner) edges with no nosing or flats. Possibly a composite or infill piece; contemporary with 5 & 6.

Conclusions
The fine finish and good surface condition of the assemblage (2 displays moderate damage and ?weathering) suggests that the mouldings are from internal features. The ?absence of mortar presents the possibility of their being discards from the original build. Generally, the profiles are of a common type and lacking in diagnostic value since they have a potentially wide date range and may be as late as the 15th or 16th centuries. An ecclesiastical, civic, or moderately high status origin is probable.

M.V.Clark.

Appendix 8. Faunal remains report

Introduction
Faunal remains were recovered by hand during the course of an archaeological watching brief on the construction of a conversion and extension to 51/52 George Street, Grantham (GSGR02). The bones were from a total of four contexts. Preservation was generally good although fragmentation was heavy making the total number of identifiable fragments low.

Methodology
Recording
The material was recorded, where possible, by noting the species, element, preservation, fragmentation, age and sex.

The mammal bones were recorded following a modified version of the methods described by Albarella & Davis (1994) and Davis (1992). This system considers a selected suite of anatomical elements as 'countable' (diagnostic zones); it does NOT include every bone fragment that is identifiable.

However, in light of the small amount of material, further modifications were made to the recording system. This allowed for recording both long bone epiphyses and the inclusion of elements not normally counted.

The skeletal elements considered are all teeth (mandibular and maxillary); the skull (zygomaticus); scapula (glenoid articulation/cavity); proximal and distal humerus; proximal and distal radius; proximal ulna; carpals 2-3; distal metacarpal; pelvis (ischial part of the acetabulum); proximal and distal femur, proximal and distal tibia, all tarsals including calcaneum (sustentaculum) and astragalus (lateral part); distal metatarsal; proximal phalanges 1-3. At least 50% of the specified area has to be present for a fragment to be 'countable'.

Additional elements that were of particular interest, such as unusual species, pathological or neonatal/very young specimens, were recorded as 'non-countable'.

Quantity and general size of ribs and vertebrae were noted, as too was the presence of any cut marks, gnawing or other forms of modification.

Species Identification
No comparative collection was required for the identification of the bone.

Taxonomic identification
Species distinction of horse (*Equus caballus*) and donkey (*E.asinus*) could not be made because the morphological criteria (e.g. Baxter (1998).

Ageing
Insufficient characteristics and material was present to facilitate any ageing criteria.

Measurements
Due to the fragmented condition of the assemblage, no measurements were taken, as recommended by von den Driesch (1976).

Sexing
No elements required for determining sex were present.

Taphonomy

Preservation
The condition of the bone was good: abrasion appeared minimal and any degradation due to pH value of the burial environment was very slight. This is surprising as the contextual information implies relatively sandy soils where an acidic environment would not favour bone survival.

Fragmentation
This obviously summarizes both pre- and post-depositional taphonomic processes, such as butchery, gnawing and mechanical destruction within the burial environment respectively.

Fragmentation is often gauged by determining the proportion of material that consisted of isolated maxillary and mandibular teeth. However, insufficient material was available. Frequently fragmentation was observed but the burial environment was not noted as being particularly abrasive. Butchery and gnawing was recorded from only one context, 08.

RESULTS

Context	Species	Element
05	Pig	Right astragalus
08	Equus sp.	4th tarsal
15	Cow	Left distal radius
15	Pig	Mandibular canine

Context 05
This context was very fragmented, with five long bone fragments, three large ribs of horse / cow size, and one vertebrae. Only one element, a right pig astragalus, was identified.

Context 08
Context 08 contained the most fragmented samples from the assemblage. Only one element, an Equus sp. 4th tarsal, was positively identified.
No positive differentiation between equids could be made. In all likelihood, the equid remains denote horse (*E.caballus*) because donkey (*E.asinus*) is exceptionally rare in British assemblages from any period (Baxter 1998: 5).
Eight fragments belonged to long bone elements with indications of burning, chop marks and canid gnawing. Only one fragment was identified to element, a scapula with evidence of cut marks.

Context 15
Two elements were retrieved from this context; a left cow distal radius and a pig mandibular canine.

Context 26
Only a single well preserved rib was retrieved from this context. The dorsal articulation is not fully fused and is difficult to identify to species although its size suggests that is from a pig or sheep/goat.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

No economic conclusions can be gleaned from this assemblage due to its fragmentation and few countable elements. Nevertheless, a palimpsest of activity is discerned by the animals kept on or near to the site, namely horse, cow and pig. Furthermore, it is probably correct to assume that much of this material is the product of kitchen waste.
As much as preservation conditions appear to favour bone survival, very few elements identifiable to smaller less robust animals can be identified. The burial environment is likely to be acidic due to the sandy soils and may explain why only larger elements survive. However, burial environments can be selective in the content and nature of their deposition, and it is noted that some of the deposits contain moderate amounts of limestone, e.g. context 26, that may favour the preservation of bone.
The movement of joints of meat where the elements have been taken to the site from elsewhere should not be discounted, and may add to the explanation why certain species are not clearly represented.
As stated above, this is a small assemblage which prevents classic zooarchaeological heuristic devices from exploring fully the site formation processes and husbandry patterns.
The material should be retained as part of the site archive but should not be considered as of great importance.

ARCHIVE

Pre-Construct Archaeology is currently housing the studied material.

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