



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Rear of 80-81 Bailgate, Lincoln.

Archaeological Watching Brief

**NGR: SK 97659 71922
Site Code: LBTR 04
LCNCC Museum Accn Code: 2004.68
Planning ref.: 2003/0950/F and 2003/0952/LBC**

Report prepared for

Mr A. Butcher

by

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&

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Conservation
Services

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Rear of 80-81 Bailgate, Lincoln.

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Fig. 2 Position of 80-81 Bailgate site in relation to the current suggested plan of the upper Roman town (based on LARA and Fig. 7.3, Stocker ed. 2003) and OS 1:1250 map. Crown copyright © reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence number AL 100002165.

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the construction of an extension at the rear of 80-81 Bailgate, Lincoln (Thai 1 Restaurant). The excavations revealed three limestone wall sections. The earliest wall ran east-west following the northern boundary shared with the Lion and Snake P.H.. A second wall running north south butted the first and a third also ran north south. The shallow nature of the excavations prevented further investigation and conclusions as to the dating of the walls. No finds were retrieved from the earlier east west wall but finds associated with the east-west wall were medieval date.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by Mr A. Butcher to conduct an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the erection of a glass conservatory extension joined to the rear of 80-81 Bailgate (Thailand No.1 Restaurant). The watching brief was required by the local planning authority to fulfil a condition on the planning permission. Groundworks were monitored intermittently as required by Douglas Young from the 24th to the 27th February 2004 .

Site Location

The Site was located to the rear (east) of 80-81 Bailgate, currently the Thailand No.1 Restaurant (PI. 1). The property is located on the east side of Bailgate in the upper part of the city on the north side of a passage which separates it from 82-3 Bailgate (Fig. 1). The Lion and Snake public house (No. 79) lies immediately to the north. The conservatory was constructed in the garden to the rear onto a previous extension.

Planning Background

The Site lies wholly within Conservation Area No. 1 (Cathedral and City Centre) and the building is listed Grade II. Planning permission was granted for the construction of a conservatory subject to a condition requiring a watching brief during the groundworks phase of construction.

Archaeological Background

The site is located just east of the Upper Roman city walls in an area which was extensively quarried in the medieval period. In the pre-Roman period it was probably open ground. The site is within the area of the Roman military fortress and later *colonia* and lies near the forum and the probable junction of the *decumanus maximus* (east-west street) with the main north-south thoroughfare along Bailgate (Roman Ermine Street) (Fig. 2).

During the building of a previous extension to the building walls possibly of medieval date were observed below the north boundary wall.

The Watching Brief (Fig. 3)

Excavations were conducted by the building contractor with hand tools under the observation of the Douglas Young. The eastern foundation was 6m in length with the other two trenches 5m in length. The trenches were 0.5m deep with the northern foundation 0.60m wide and the other two trenches being slightly narrower. Context numbers were assigned by LAS for recording purposes, and these are used in bold in the text (Appendix 1).

Project Constraints

The small area of the development hindered the photographic record; general shots of the foundations could not be taken and an overall view of the foundations is limited to **PI. 2**. Excavation undertaken by the workmen in the north western corner of the site removed masonry prior to the arrival of the monitoring archaeologist but the walls were recorded in section and elevation. The restricted access to the site, through a narrow passageway, may have impeded the accuracy of the levels.

Results

After the removal of a small tree and the general clearing of the site trench excavation began. An area of concrete paving covered the ground 2.70m from the rear of the property and was 0.04m thick (**4**) was removed from the area of the foundations. Beneath **4** a layer of building sand bedding for the patio (**5**) was encountered. Beneath **4** and covering the rest of the trench area was a disturbed dark grey black garden soil with moderate amounts of charcoal and ash which contained pottery dating from the late 17th to 19th century with residual medieval tile (**2**).

Garden soil **2** sealed three walls. Wall **1** exposed in the southern foundation trench consisted of roughly finished limestone blocks bonded with soil (**Fig. 3 & PI. 3-4**). It was 0.7m wide with an off-set foundation on its east side giving a total width of 1m. The removal of the wall produced a roman brick and mid 14th to 16th century tile.

Wall **7** was exposed in elevation at the north of the north foundation trench. It was composed of fair faced limestone blocks with uneven coursing, bonded with a cream mortar. The wall ran from east to west on a slightly different angle to the foundation trench, disappearing into the section (**Fig. 4a & PI. 5-6**). A late phase of the Lion and Snake (79 Bailgate) was constructed above **7**, as was the back garden wall which formed the boundary between the two properties

Wall **6** butted against wall **7** and was recorded in section. It was also constructed in limestone with a rough rubble core and was bonded with a cream mortar (**Fig 4b & PI. 5-6**). Butting up against **6** a layer

of limestone fragments mixed with mortar was exposed 1.6m to the east of the wall (3) which was overlaid by 2. The rubble layer 3 contained fragments of tile dating from the late 12th to 15th century.

Walls 6 and 7 were truncated by a trench cut for a drain running parallel to the restaurant excavation 8 it contained 9, a similar fill to the garden soil 2 and the downspout. The elevation of wall 6 was also truncated by cut 10 probably as the result of the excavation of foundations for the extension to the Public House to the north.

The removal of the concrete paving (4) after the filling of the foundation trenches with concrete revealed the continuation of 6 running south (PI. 8). The internal flooring area of the development was not excavated beneath the top of the sand layer 5.

Discussion

The shallow depth of the excavations (c. 0.50m) prevented an estimation of the preserved height of wall 7. The area of wall 1 which was exposed probably represents a foundation due to the off-set to the east of the wall. Wall 6 may also represent a foundation construction due to the soil bonding.

The finds retrieved from the centre of the wall 1 suggest a construction date after the mid 14th to 16th century. The two north-south walls 1 and 6, are probably not the same wall because they are not exactly aligned and they are bonded with different material.

The relationship between walls 6 and 7, had been removed prior to monitoring, but it appears that 6 probably butted the earlier wall 7. As finds from the demolition material 3 can be dated to between the 13th and 15th centuries this places both 6 and 7 earlier than the 16th century at the latest. The dating of the walls must remain tentative due to the limited material retrieved.

The archaeological watching brief carried out during the construction of the previous extension to the rear of 80-81 Bailgate observed "possible medieval walls ... below the north boundary wall" (CLAU 1990, on30). Although the available records are not specific as to the alignment, nature and number of the walls it is presumed that one may have been the same as wall 7.

The dating of the walls is problematic as they were not fully exposed and may have been subjected to rebuilding. The site's location next to the route of Ermine Street, the forum of the *colonia* and the probable course of the *decumanus maximus* could suggest that wall 7 may preserve the alignment of a Roman building or boundary (Fig. 2). It is likely that the area had a large amount of standing Roman ruins during the early medieval period (for example the 'Mint Wall') (Vince 2003, 197) and it is possible that the alignment of the 7 may represent a reused masonry element in a medieval building but this cannot be confirmed due to the limited investigation.

Conclusion

Archaeological impact was limited by the shallow foundations for the new structure; three walls were encountered the rest of the area exposed a layer of disturbed post-medieval and modern garden soil.

Acknowledgements

The Watching Brief was conducted by Douglas Young; the report and illustrations were prepared by the Ian Rowlandson. LAS is grateful to Lucky and Pete Onn at the restaurant for their assistance and the cooperation of the site contractors. The report was edited, collated and produced by Naomi Field.

Ian Rowlandson and Doug Young
Lindsey Archaeological Services
April 13th 2004

References

- CLAU, 1990, *Lincoln's Buried Heritage: A guide to the Archive of the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit*, CLAU, Lincoln
- Stocker, D. ed. *et al*, 2003, *City by the Pool: Assessing the Archaeology of the City of Lincoln*, Oxbow, Oxford.
- Vince, A. 2003, Lincoln in the Early Medieval Era, between the 5th and 9th centuries, *in Stocker 2003*.

Archive Summary

Correspondence

Developer's plans

Field plans and section drawings (2 sheets)

Photographs including those used in the report LAS film Nos. 04/37 negatives 04-16

Site notes

Context register

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 1

**Rear of 80-81 Bailgate, Lincoln. Archaeological Watching Brief (LBTR 04)
Context Summary**

Context Number	Type	Description
1	Wall	N-S limestone wall with soil bonding with a fragment of tile and brick
2	Layer	Garden soil, disturbed dark grey black with moderate amounts of charcoal and ash
3	Layer	Demolition rubble. Limestone fragments mixed with mortar
4	Layer	Concrete slab paving
5	Layer	Sand bedding for 4.
6	Wall	N-S limestone wall with cream mortar bonding
7	Wall	E-W limestone wall with cream mortar bonding
8	Cut	Cut for foundations and downspout from previous extension
9	Fill	Fill of foundations for previous extension including built downspout. Garden soil , disturbed dark grey black with moderate amounts of charcoal and ash.
10		Cut into wall 7 during the construction of brick element of P.H. to the north

APPENDIX 2

Pottery Archive LBTR04

Jane Young

context	ename	full name	form type	sherds	weight	decoration	part	description	date
02	WHITE	Modern whiteware	large plate	1	28	enamelled overglaze incl gold red & blue;chinese style	rim	poss porcelain	late 18th to mid
02	BL	Black-glazed wares	large cup	1	38		base		late 17th to 18th
02	BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware	handled jar/cup	1	26		handle	Staffs	late 17th to 18th
02	ENGS	Unspecified English Stoneware	jar/vase	1	27	moulded dec;over glaze paint	BS	white fabric	late 18th to mid
02	ENGS	Unspecified English Stoneware	flagon	1	57		neck		late 18th to 19th
02	SLIP	Unidentified slipware	large press mould dish	1	85	shell rim edge;trailed brown & tan on yellow	rim	red fabric;Yorks ?	18th
02	BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware	jug	1	47		handle		17th to 18th

APPENDIX 3

Ceramic Building Material Archive LBTR04

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	fabric	sub type	frags	weight	description	date
01	NIB	nibbed tile	1	4c	1	156	right corner;finger pressings;mortar over break	mid 14th to 16th
01	RBRK	Roman brick			1	544	mortar;48mm thick	Roman
02	PNRDISC	Discarded peg, nib or ridge tile	1		1	183	flat roofer;mortar over breaks	13th to 15th
02	PNRDISC	Discarded peg, nib or ridge tile	1		1	135	flat roofer;mortar	13th to 15th
03	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1		1	353	flat roofer;lath/stacking marks;thick mortar	13th to 15th
03	PNRDISC	Discarded peg, nib or ridge tile	LSWA		1	72	flat roofer;mortar over breaks	late 12th to 15th

THE FIGURES

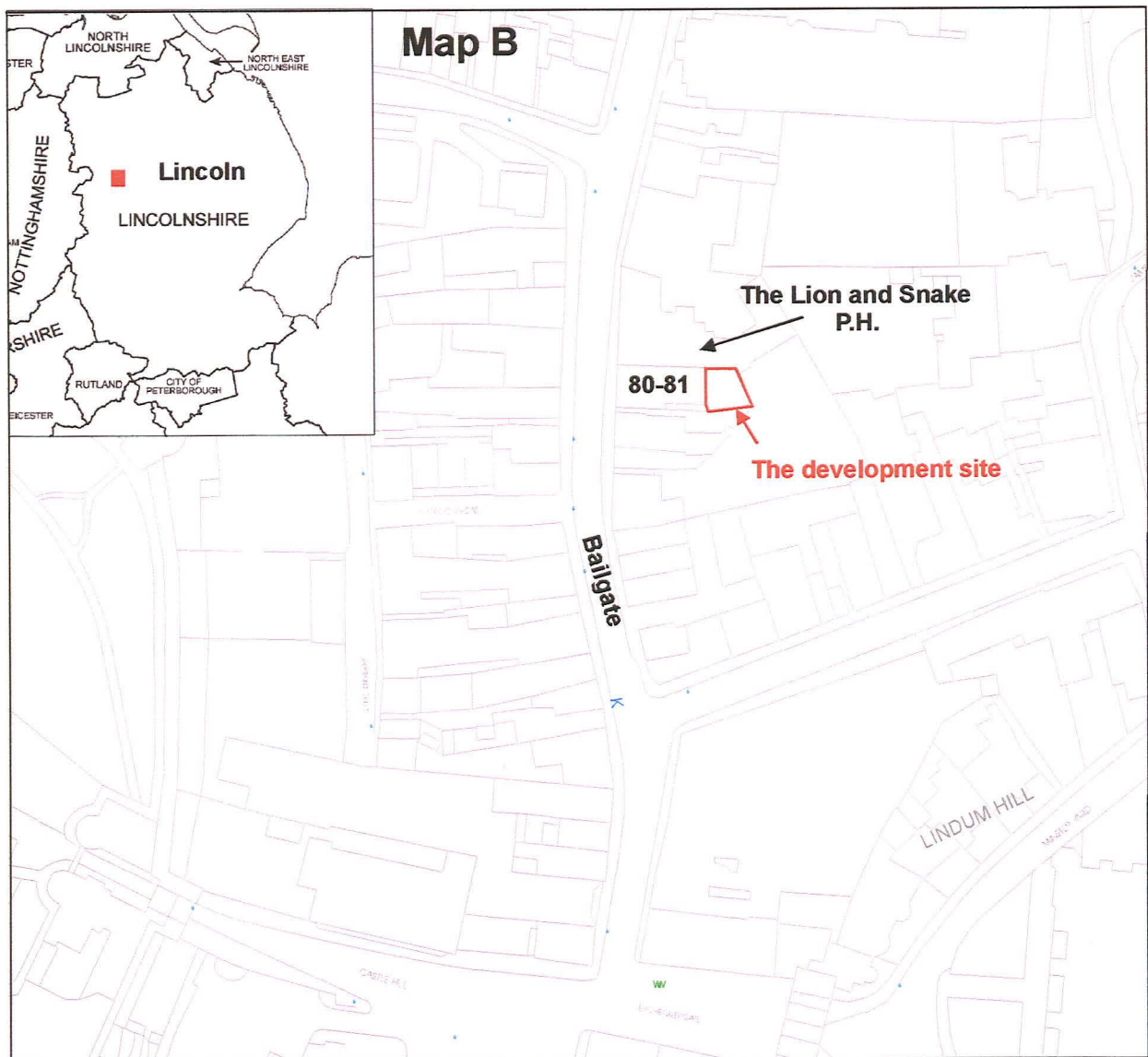
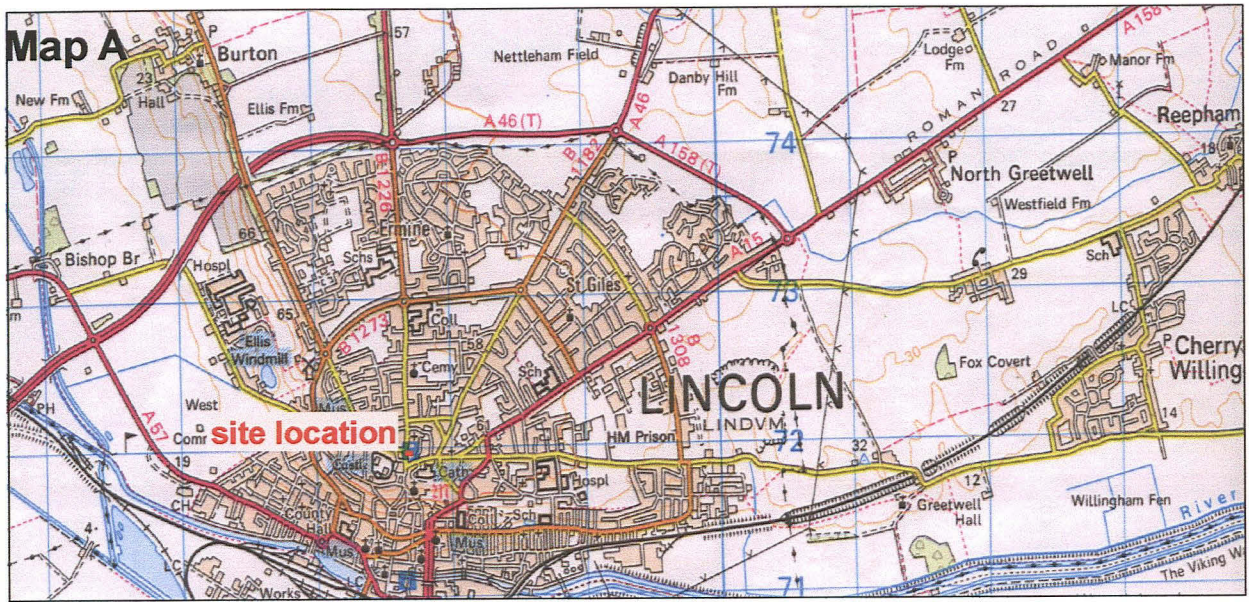


Fig. 1 Location of the development site, The rear of 80-81 Bailgate, Lincoln. (A) 1:50,000 OS Map (B) based on a 1:1250 map. Crown copyright, © reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence number AL 10002165.

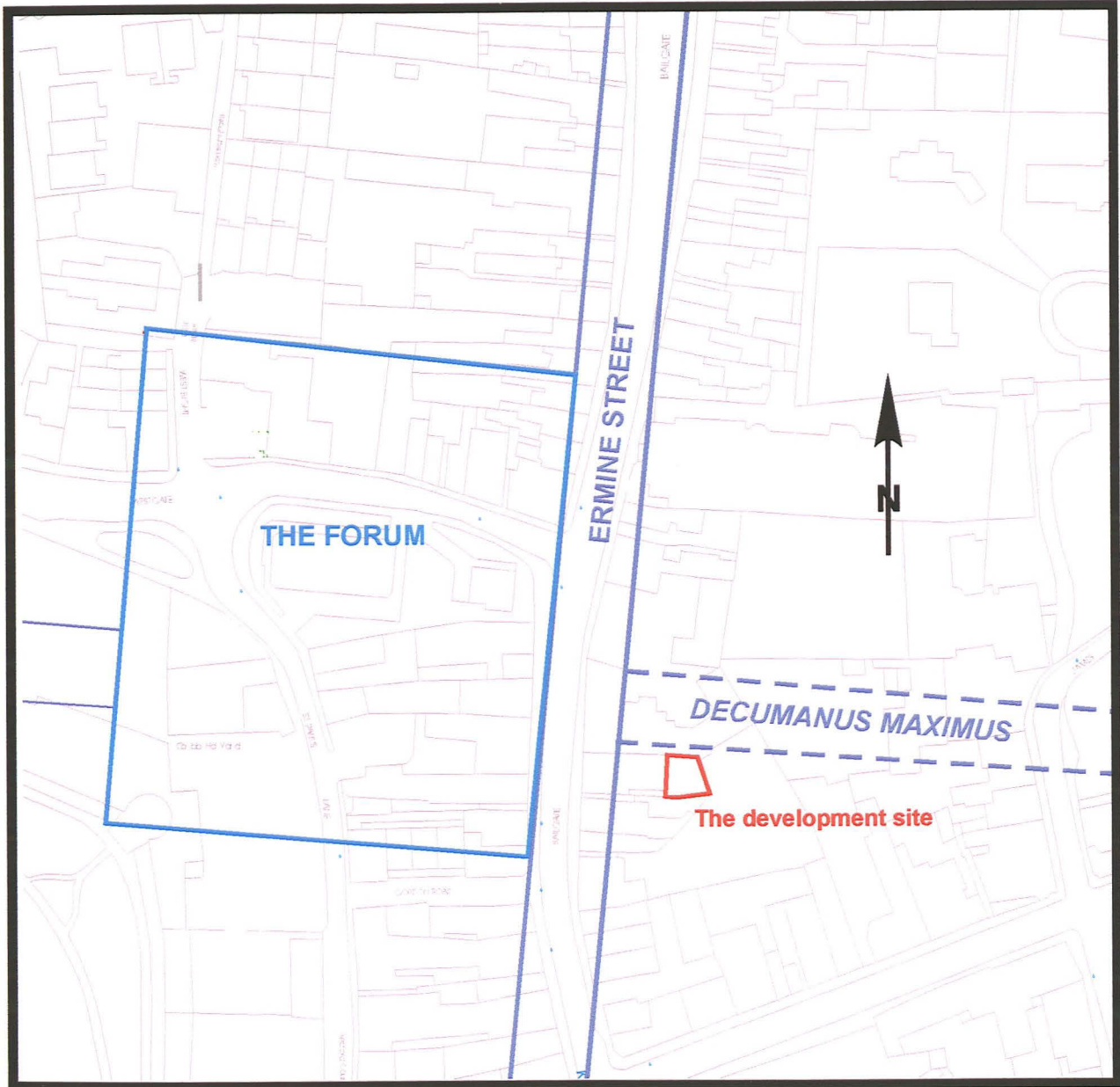


Fig. 2 Position of 80-81 Bailgate site in relation to the current suggested plan of the upper Roman town (based on LARA and Fig. 7.3 Stocker ed. 2003 and OS 1:1250 map. Crown copyright, © reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence number AL 100002165).

The Lion & The Snake

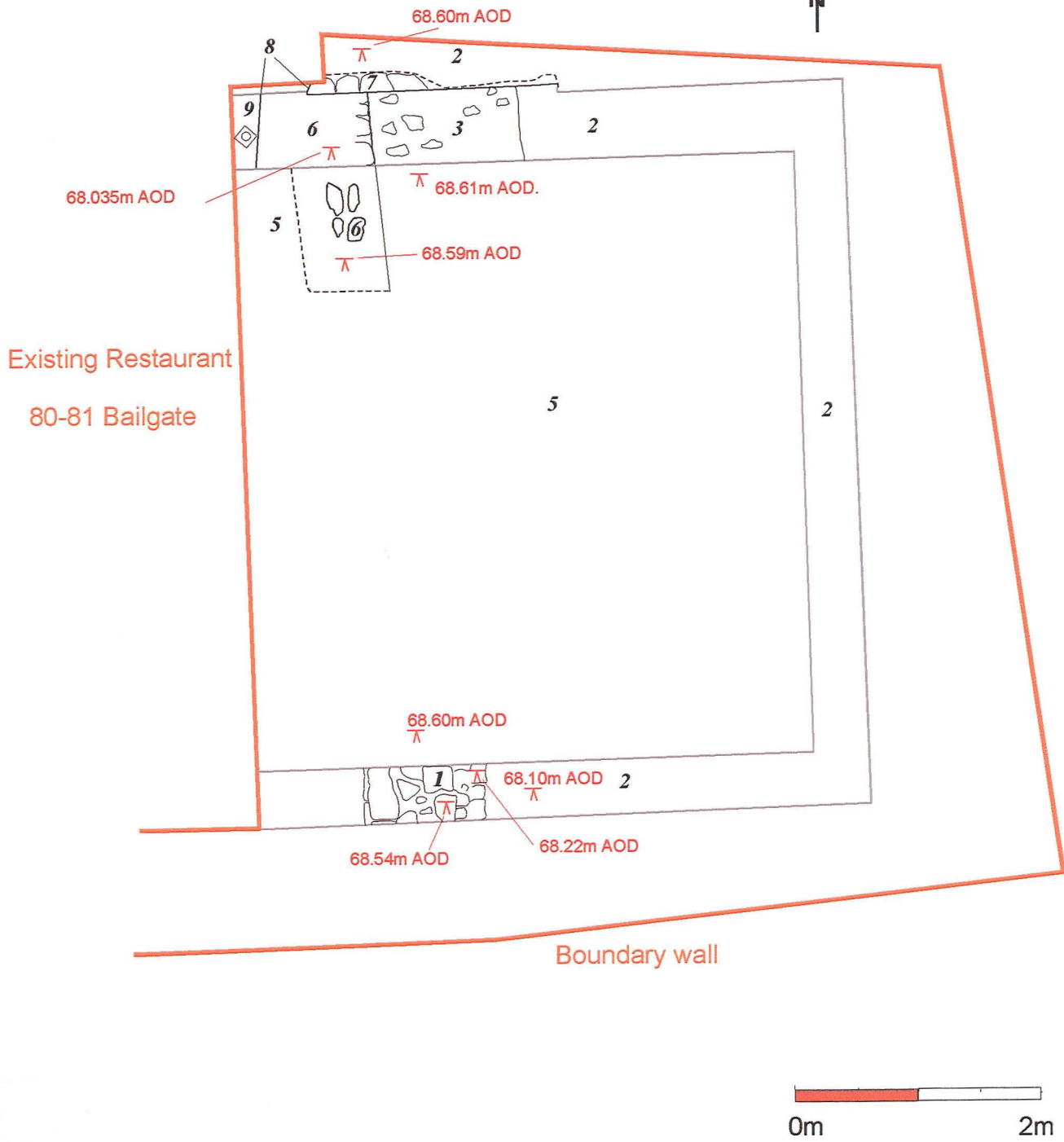


Fig. 3 Plan of excavations.

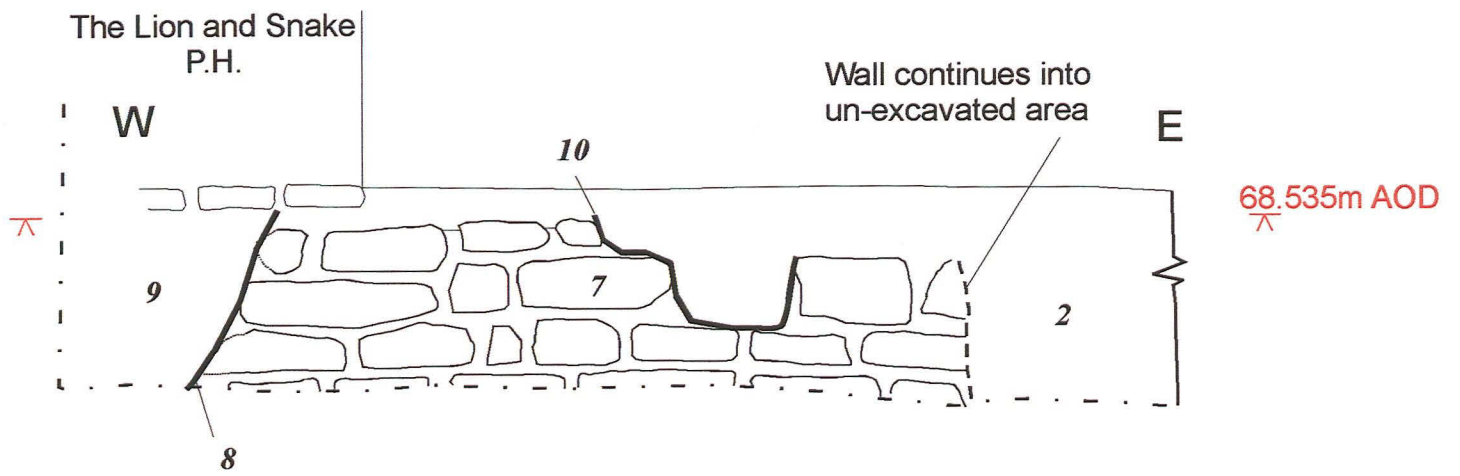


Fig. 4a Elevation of wall 7.

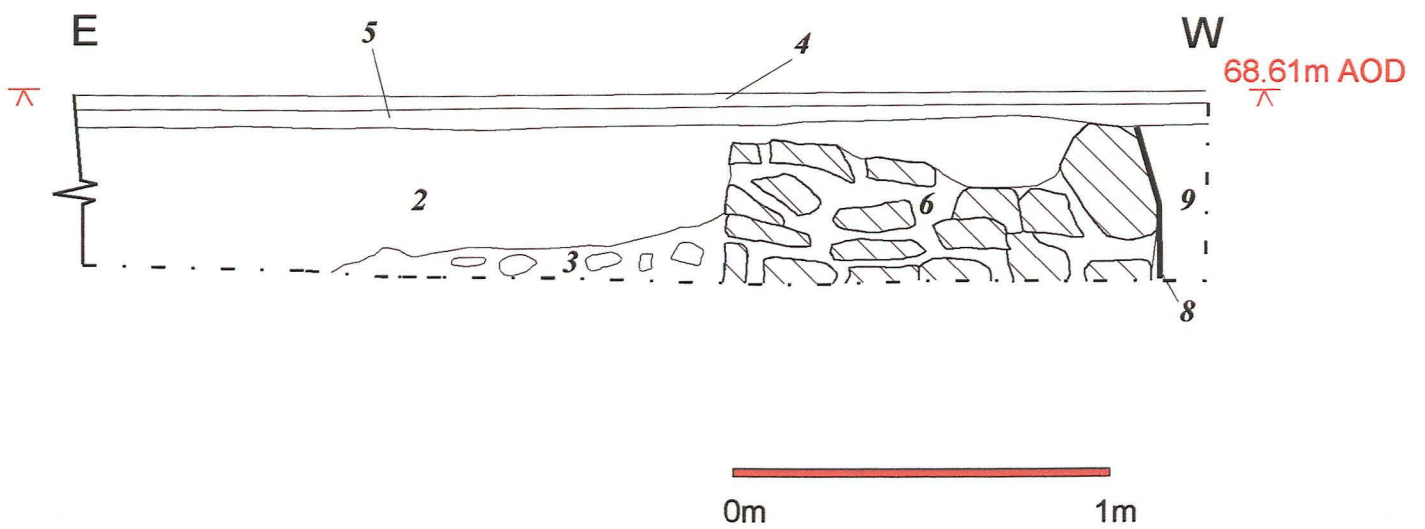


Fig 4b Section of wall 6.

THE PLATES



Pl. 1 Façade of Thailand No1 restaurant 80-81 Bailgate (looking south west).



Pl. 2 Rear of 80-81 Bailgate looking north towards the wall of the Lion and Snake Public House.



Pl. 3 Wall 1, looking west. Scales 1m and 0.5m.

Pl. 4 Wall 1, looking north. Scales 1m and 0.5m.





Pl. 5 Walls 6 and 7, looking west. Scales 1m and 0.5m.

Pl. 6 Wall 7, looking north. Scales 1m and 0.5m.





Pl. 7 Wall 6 in section, looking south. Scale 0.5m.



Pl. 8 Wall 3 exposed after the removal of the concrete paving (4) covered by sand bedding (5), looking north. Scales 1m and 0.5m.