



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Church End Farm, Stow, Lincs
Archaeological Watching Brief**

NGR: SK 882 820
Planning Application M03/P/0693 99/P/0722
Site Code: STCE 04
LCNCC Museum Accn N^o. :2004.46

Report for

Mr. Joyce

by

Mike Garrett

Conservation
Services

29 APR 2004

Highways & Planning
Directorate

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Fig. 1 Location of the site within Stow, based on the 1975 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560, Sheet SK 88. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO, LAS Licence No. AL 100002165.

Fig. 2 Plan of Church End Farm, showing the position of the new development (Garrett).

Fig. 3 Plan of footings, showing location of Section 1 and features 6 and 8 (Garrett).

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Pl. 2 General view of the footings, looking east towards St Mary's Church in the background.

Pl. 3 Section 1 on northern edge of the site.

Pl. 4 General view of the footings in the north west corner of the site.

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief carried out during the excavation of foundation trenches for an extension to farm buildings found no archaeological remains. The ground had probably been truncated during construction of the previous buildings which formerly stood on the site.

Introduction

In December 2003 Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mr Joyce to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks on a building extension at Church End Farm, Stow, Lincolnshire (Figs 2 & 3) The work was carried out in accordance with the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, August 1998) and the planning condition set by West Lindsey District Council.

Site Location and Description

Stow lies approximately 10km north east of Lincoln. The site itself lies within the historic core of the village, 100m west of the parish church and north-west of the former market place, now infilled with houses. Church End Farm

Planning Background

Planning consent was granted for demolition of existing buildings and the construction of an extension to the existing one, subject to an archaeological watching brief being carried out.

Archaeological Background

Church End Farm lies within the remains of a moated site of unknown date to the west of the parish church. A measured survey of the site has been undertaken and it is possible that the site is pre-conquest in date and almost certainly pre-12th century.

The present St Mary's Church was built by Leofric Earl of Mercia in the early 11th century on the site of an earlier church. Little archaeological work has been carried in the village of Stow and any information regarding the development of the secular aspects of the village will be valuable.

Objectives

The purpose of the archaeological works was to record any archaeological deposits disturbed by the groundworks.

Method

All below ground works associated with the site were monitored by a qualified archaeologist. A full photographic record was made during the progress of the groundworks. The watching brief was carried out on December 3rd, 4th and 7th.

Results

Topsoil 1 covered the excavation area (0.25m thick). The bricks and other rubble within it, suggested that it had once formed a base layer of a farm yard. In the north west corner of the farmyard, in the "new house" area, there was no topsoil evident; only the hardcore with a thin grass surface in places.

Layer 2 was below this and consisted of mixes of orange yellow and grey clay (0.4m thick). The next layer down was 3; very clean, orange silt sand (0.1m thick). The lowest layer was 4; an orange yellow clay, grey in places (0.6m thick).

The four layers noted above were found across the entire site.

Two separate circular features 6 and 8 (Fig. 3); were exposed by the groundworks. The fill of 6 contained dark grey silt clay and very modern brick and tile fragments (5). Fill 7 in feature 8 was almost identical to 5. They appeared to be created by the demolition process associated with the previous building. No other features were present in the trenches and no finds were kept.

Conclusion

If there were any archaeological remains associated with the medieval moated site they must have been removed when the site was landscaped for the construction of the previous buildings. Since only modern demolition debris was apparent in the new footings, it must be concluded that the new building has caused no damage to archaeological remains.

Acknowledgements

LAS is grateful to Mr Joyce for his co-operation and interest shown in this project as well as for his on-site assistance. The archaeological watching brief was carried out by Doug Young.

Mike Garrett BA (Hons.)

27th March 2004

Contents of Site Archive

Context sheets 8

Site notes 2 A4 pages

Sketch plan and section

Architect's site layout plan supplied by the client

LAS photographs including those used in report Film no. 03/160 negs 18-32

Correspondence

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 1

Church End Farm, Stow, Lincs. (STCE 04)

Context Summary

Context	Type	Description
1	Layer	Very dark grey brown sand silt. Moderate inclusions of brick, tile, tarmac and limestone rubble. Overburden and topsoil. 0.25m thick
2	Layer	Mixes of Orange yellow and grey clay. Very clean. Slightly silty. Natural. 0.4m thick
3	Fill	Very clean, orange silt sand natural. 0.1m thick
4	Cut	Orange yellow clay (grey in places). 0.6m thick
5	Fill	Dark grey silt clay. Modern brick and tile fragments. Fill of 6
6	Cut	Circular-shaped feature. 0.3m diameter
7	Fill	Dark grey silt clay. Modern brick and tile fragments. Fill of 8
8	Cut	Circular-shaped feature. 0.35m diameter

THE FIGURES

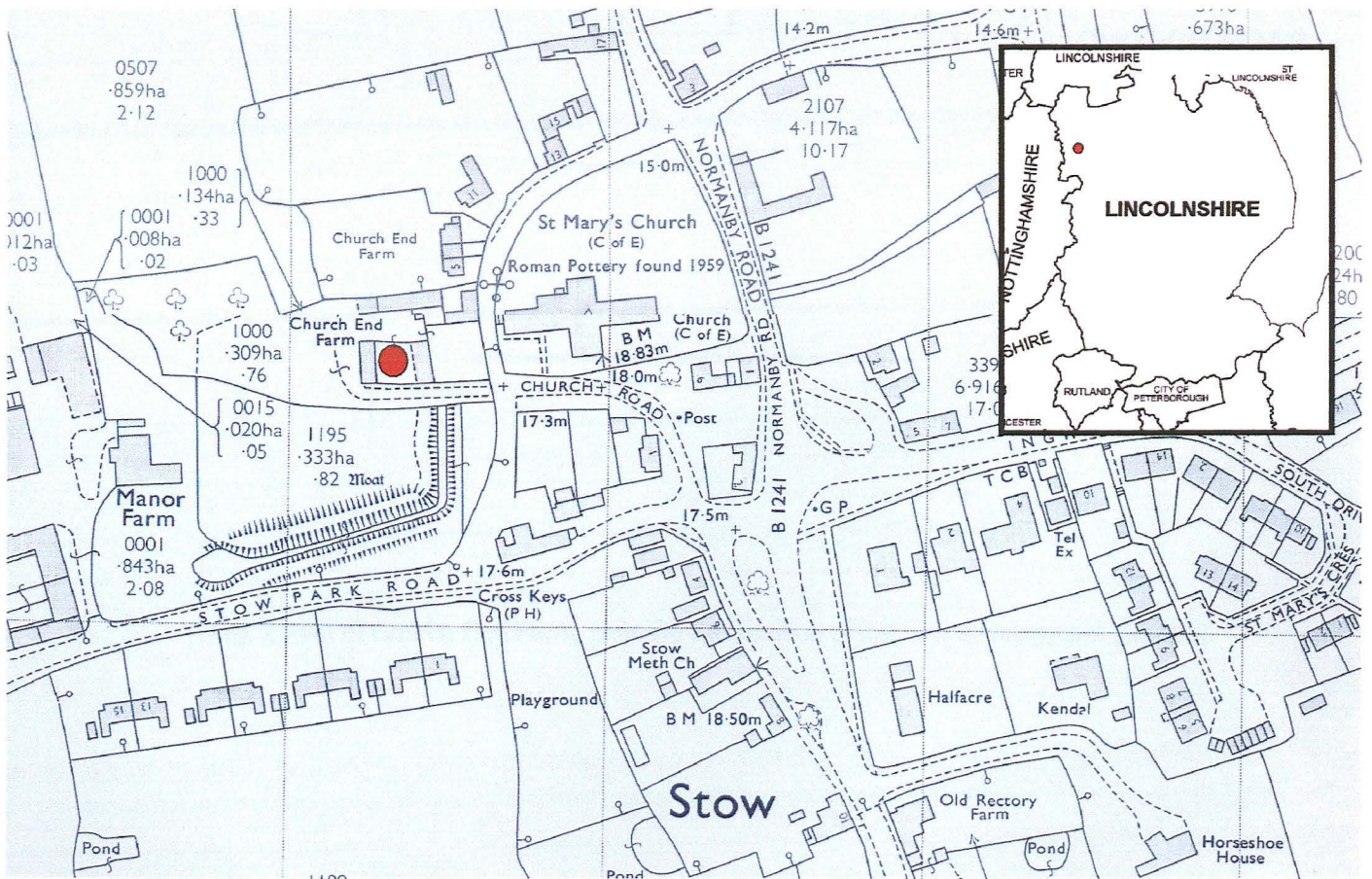
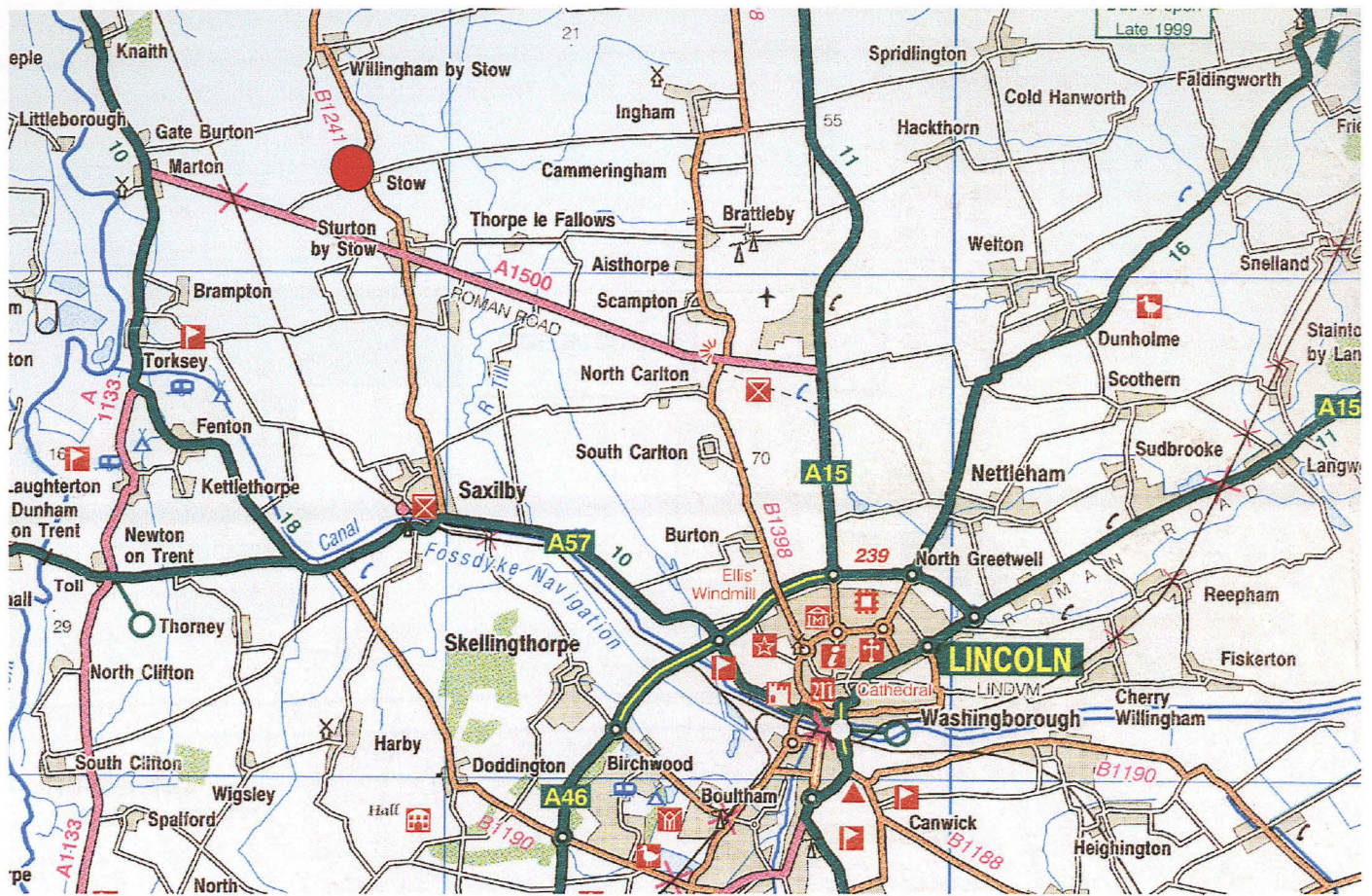


Fig.1 Location of the site within Stow, based on the 1975 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 map, Plan SK 8881-8981.© Crown copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO, LAS Licence No. AL 10002165).

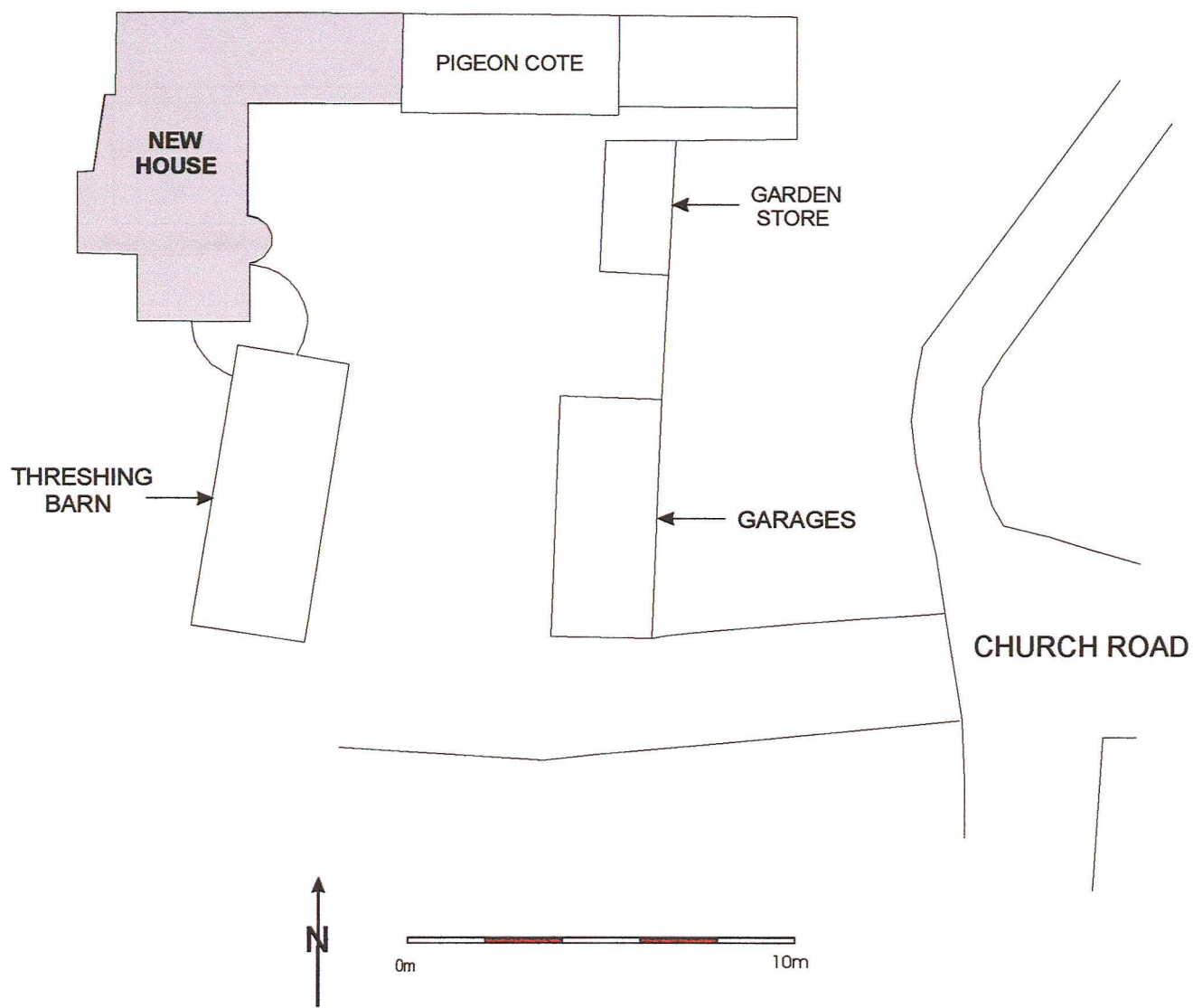


Fig. 2 Plan of Church End Farm, showing the position of the new development (Garrett)

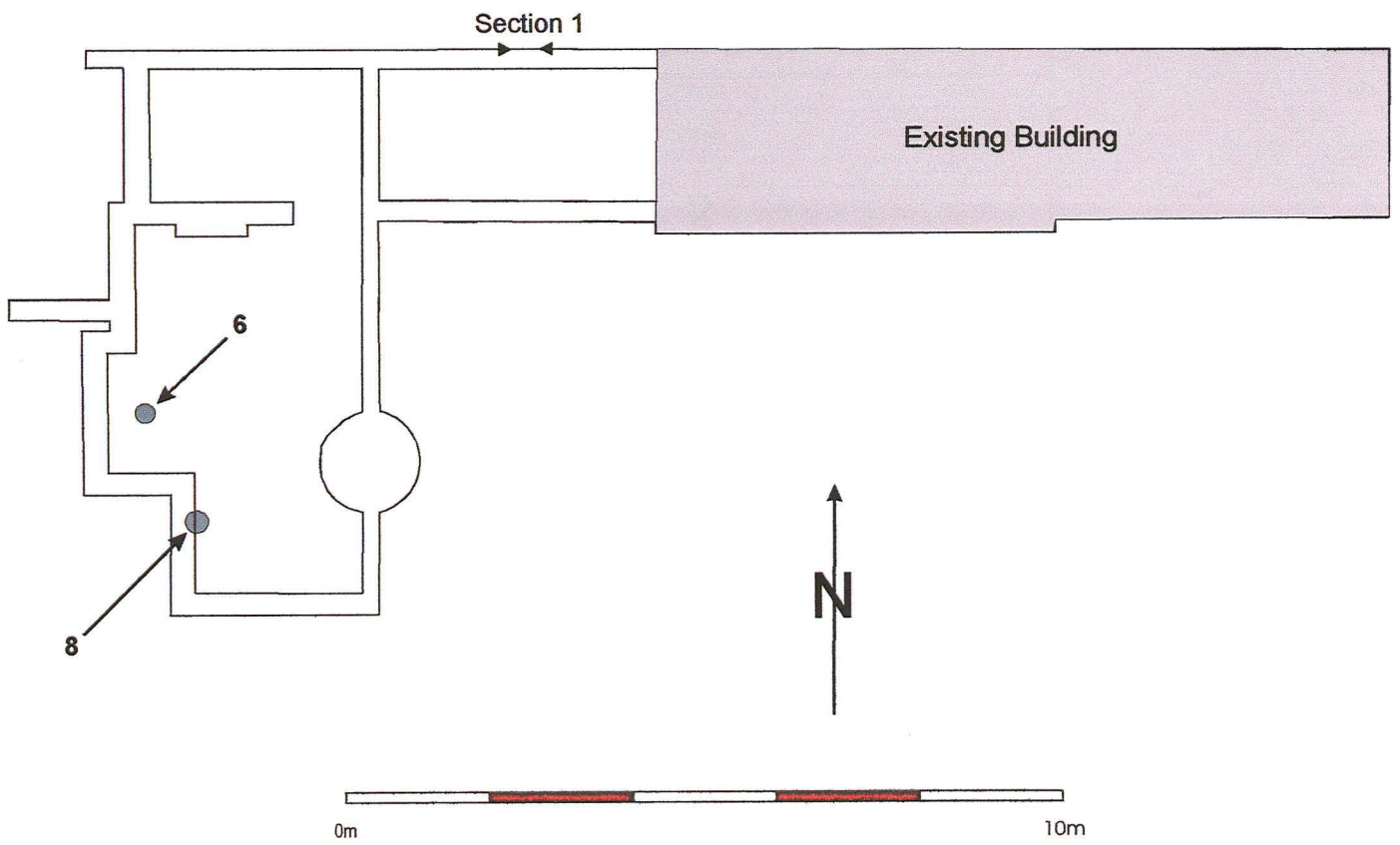


Fig. 3 Plan of footings, showing location of Section 1 and features 6 and 8 (Garrett)

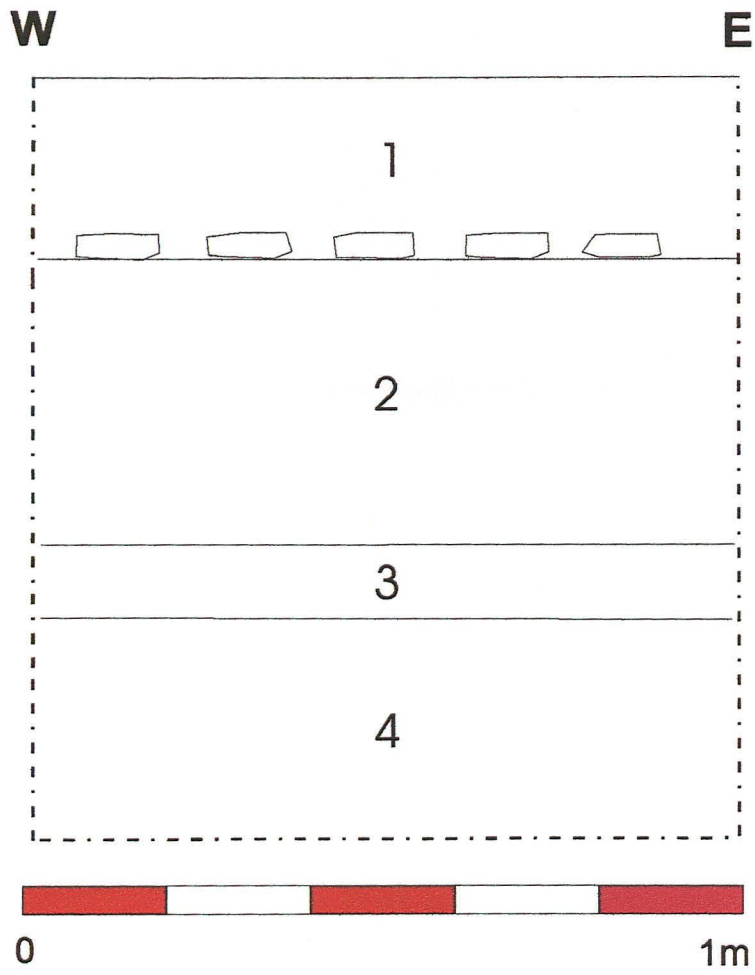


Fig. 4 Section 1, showing general sequence of deposits observed on the site. (Garrett)

THE PLATES



PI. 1 Topsoil stripping, ahead of footings excavation, photographed from the western site edge



PI. 2 General view of the footings, looking east towards St Mary Church in the background.



PI. 3 Section 1 on northern edge of the site. Scale 2m



PI. 4 General view of the footings in the north west corner of the site looking east. Scale 2m