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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
FOR A DEVELOPMENT AT
THE CORN EXCHANGE CLUB,
CRAYTHORNE LANE,
BOSTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

Work Undertaken For
the Corn Exchange Club

November 1994



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

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The excavation of the site was carried out in 1984, 1985 and 1986. The site is situated on the eastern side of the town. The site is a small hill, and is a good example of a hill-top site. The site is situated on the eastern side of the town. The site is a small hill, and is a good example of a hill-top site. The site is situated on the eastern side of the town. The site is a small hill, and is a good example of a hill-top site.

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2. THE SITE

2.1 Background

In the 1980s, the site was excavated. The site is situated on the eastern side of the town. The site is a small hill, and is a good example of a hill-top site. The site is situated on the eastern side of the town. The site is a small hill, and is a good example of a hill-top site.

excavation with a brief set by the British Community Archaeologist.

2.2 Topography and Geology

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of an extension to the Corn Exchange Club, Craythorne Lane, Boston. The watching brief monitored the excavations for the foundations.

Development at Craythorne Lane affects an area containing archaeological remains dating from the medieval period (1066-1500 AD). The site is located within the medieval core of Boston. The town grew from a small hamlet to a prosperous trading centre, becoming a centre for native and foreign merchants. Several monastic orders founded houses around the town and one such establishment is located nearby. Due to a change in the economic climate in the 14th century Boston declined in importance, although the town was still an important regional centre.

Two medieval stone walls were recorded sealed by post-medieval demolition debris. A 19th century building had been erected on the site. Modern deposits were represented by services and foundations to nearby buildings.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

On the 13th October 1994, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of an extension to the rear of an existing building at the Corn Exchange Club, Craythorne Lane, Boston, Lincolnshire (NGR TF 3284 4402). Craythorne Lane is located to the southeast of the Market Place, in the civil parish of Boston (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by the Corn Exchange Club, and was carried out by Archaeological Project Services in

accordance with a brief set by the Boston Community Archaeologist.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Development is centred on land between Craythorne Lane and Sibsey Lane which is situated approximately 250m southeast of Boston town centre (Fig. 2). Although, as an urban setting, the area has not been mapped by the soil survey, nearby records suggest that local soils are likely to be Tanvats association, stoneless, silty, silty over clayey and clayey soils or Wisbech association, silts over clayey (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 319). However, the proximity of the River Witham may suggest more alluvial deposits. Local topography is relatively flat and lies about 3m above sea level.

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Craythorne Lane lies in an area of dense archaeological activity with evidence mainly from the medieval period. Although there is evidence for prehistoric and Romano-British activity within the Boston area, none so far has been found in the vicinity. It has been suggested that any remains of this period may well be buried under alluvial deposits and thus not appear in the archaeological record (Harden, 1978).

Medieval activity is highlighted in Boston. Although not mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086, it would appear that Boston was a small hamlet associated with the village of Skirbeck. By 1200AD the town had grown and the building of the barditch (B05/001), a defensive ditch, was completed. Boston's importance as a port grew and the town became a major trading centre, attracting many foreign merchants. Monastic orders were also attracted to the town. 65m to the south, was centred the Dominican Friary (B05/032), of which the

Blackfriars Arts centre (B05/005) is visible today. Located 20m west of the development is Shodfriars Hall (B05/004) a restored 15th century building. Finds of medieval pottery have also been discovered c. 40m to the north (B05/060) and c. 60m to the west (B05/061).

3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief was to identify surviving archaeological deposits and, if present, record them in detail to enable their date, function and origin to be determined.

4. METHODS

Trenches for the foundations were excavated by machine to various depths as required by the development. The sides of the trenches were cleaned by hand. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed was allocated a unique reference number with an individual written description. Natural geological deposits were also recorded. A photographic record was compiled and selected sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20.

5. RESULTS

Records of the deposits and features identified during the watching brief were examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. Four phases were identified:

Phase 1 Medieval deposits

Phase 2 Post-medieval deposits

Phase 3 19th century deposits

Phase 4 Modern deposits

Phase 1 Medieval deposits

Two stone walls were identified during the examination. Constructed largely of limestone, these walls (21 and 22) would appear to form part of a structure. A piece of pottery of medieval date was retrieved from the mortar bonding the wall.

Phase 2 Post-Medieval deposits

Deposits of this phase appear to represent demolition debris, probably from the structure formed by walls 021 and 022. These deposits (015 and 016) constitute a greyish brown sandy silt with frequent flecks of mortar and building material and overlay walls 021 and 022. Truncation of these two walls is represented by 025. A piece of pot recovered from 015 is post-medieval in date and an import from Holland,

Phase 3 19th century deposits

A brick structure (19) was identified set into a linear cut (20), measuring 0.30m wide and 0.10m deep. Overlying 19 was a pinkish ash deposit (11). In consequence, the brick structure has been tentatively identified as a hearth or fireplace.

Two walls (12 and 13) were observed in association with this hearth. Wall 12 was brick built and aligned north to south and set into a linear foundation cut (014). Wall 013, was also built of brick and aligned north to south in a linear cut (26).

A layer of dark brown sandy silt (10) appears to be associated with wall 012 and a deposit of light grey fine sand and ash (17) is associated with the hearth structure 019. These are interpreted as a make up layer for a brick surface (008, 009 and 023). Immediately overlying floor 009 a

thin layer of cinders was recorded (007).

Phase 4 Modern deposits

A layer of dark brown sandy silt (003) overlying floor 008 has been interpreted as a demolition layer. A similar deposit above 007 has also been interpreted as a demolition layer (004).

At the eastern side of the area a service trench containing a cable was recorded (005 and 006).

A horizontal surface was cut (002) at the north end of the site to facilitate a concrete foundation (001) for the present building.

6. DISCUSSION

Remnants of two stone walls, representing a building, of medieval date identify the earliest activity recorded on the site (Phase 1).

Demolition of this structure is represented by a ground levelling cut and mixed deposits of demolition debris (Phase 2).

Subsequently a brick structure was built on the site (Phase 3) probably in the 19th century. Remnants of this structure consisted of associated brick floors, walls and a fireplace. The outlines of this building can still be seen on buildings to the east and west of the investigation area.

Recent deposits (Phase 4) are associated with present buildings to the north of the site and services provided for them.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations at the Corn Exchange Club, Craythorne Lane, Boston, established that medieval deposits in the

form of a stone built structure occur within 0.60m of the present ground surface. Post-medieval deposits overlie this and represent demolition of the stone built structure. A 19th century house built on the site was encountered within 0.4m of the present ground surface. Modern deposits are associated with recent buildings to the north.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to thank Les Rayfield of the Corn Exchange Club for funding the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Steve Haynes coordinated the work and Dave Start edited this report. Hilary Healey commented on the pottery. Jim Bonnor, the Boston District Community Archaeologist provided information from the relevant parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Manager: Steve Haynes
 Site Assistants: Chris Moulis
 Illustration: Chris Moulis
 Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hodge, C.A.H., Burton, R.G.O., Corbett, W.M., Evans, R. and Seale, R.S., 1984 *Soils and their Use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13

11. ABBREVIATIONS

Numbers prefixed with B are the primary reference numbers used by the Boston District Community Archaeologist.

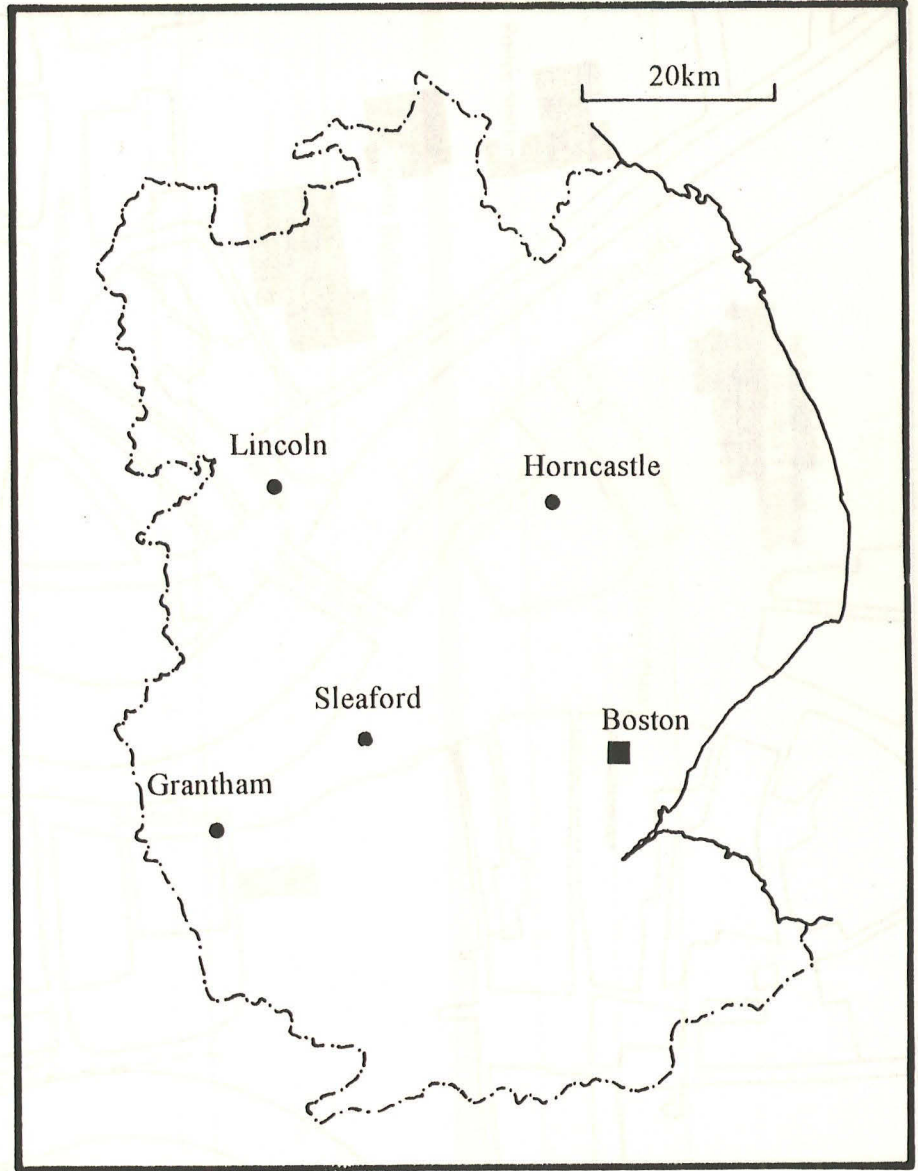
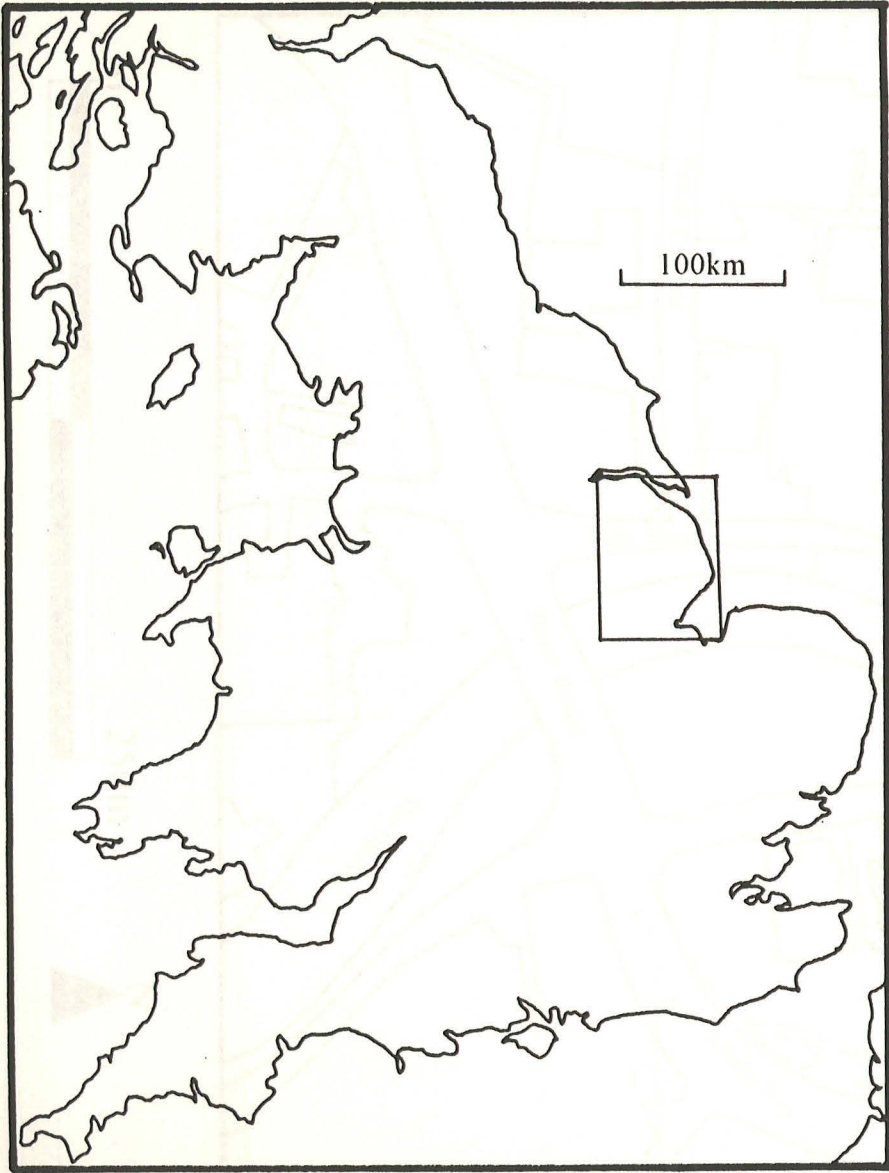
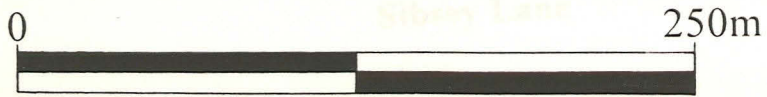
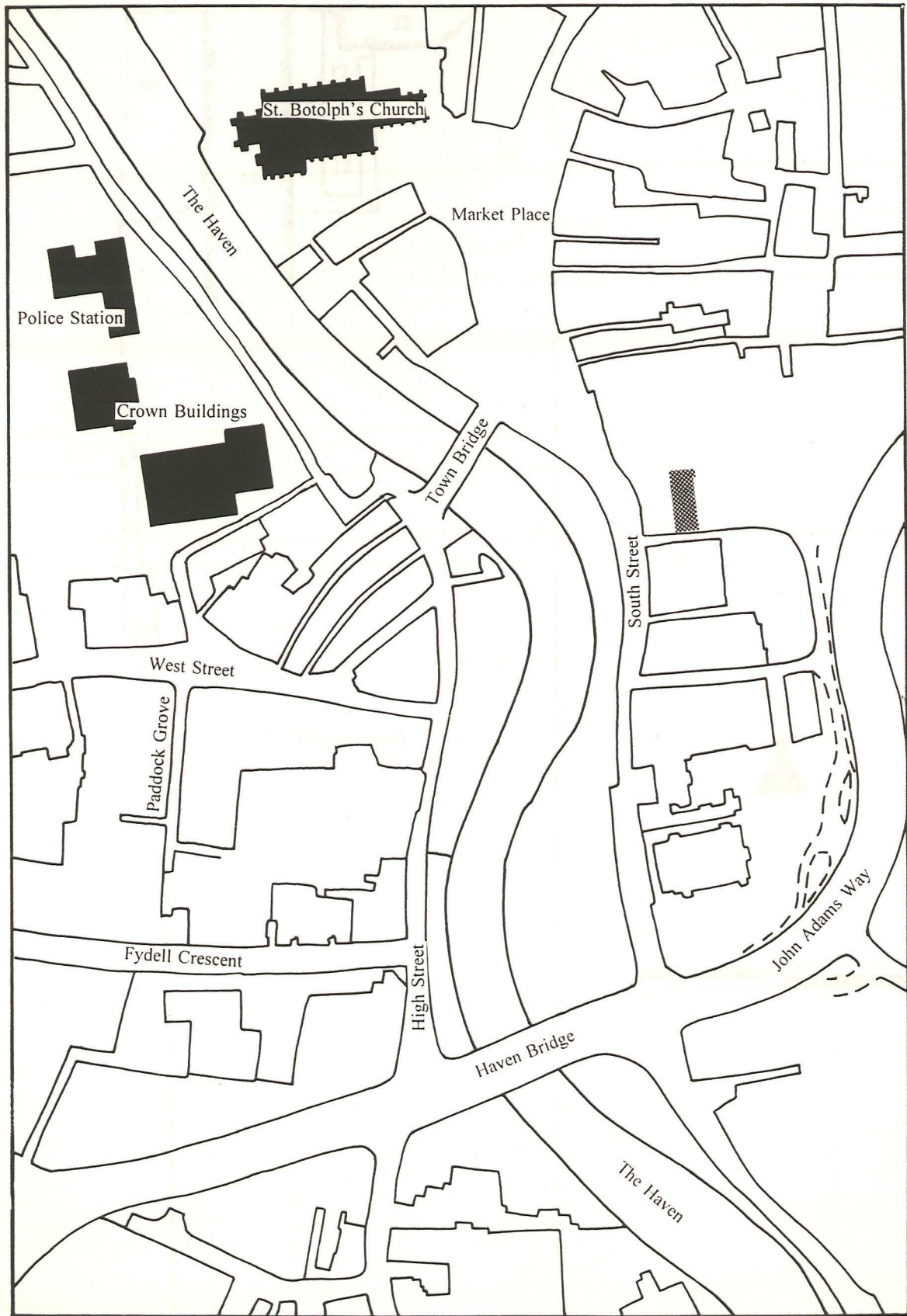


Fig. 1 GENERAL LOCATION PLAN

Fig. 2 Site Location Plan




 AREA OF DEVELOPMENT

Fig. 3 Plan of Archaeological Features

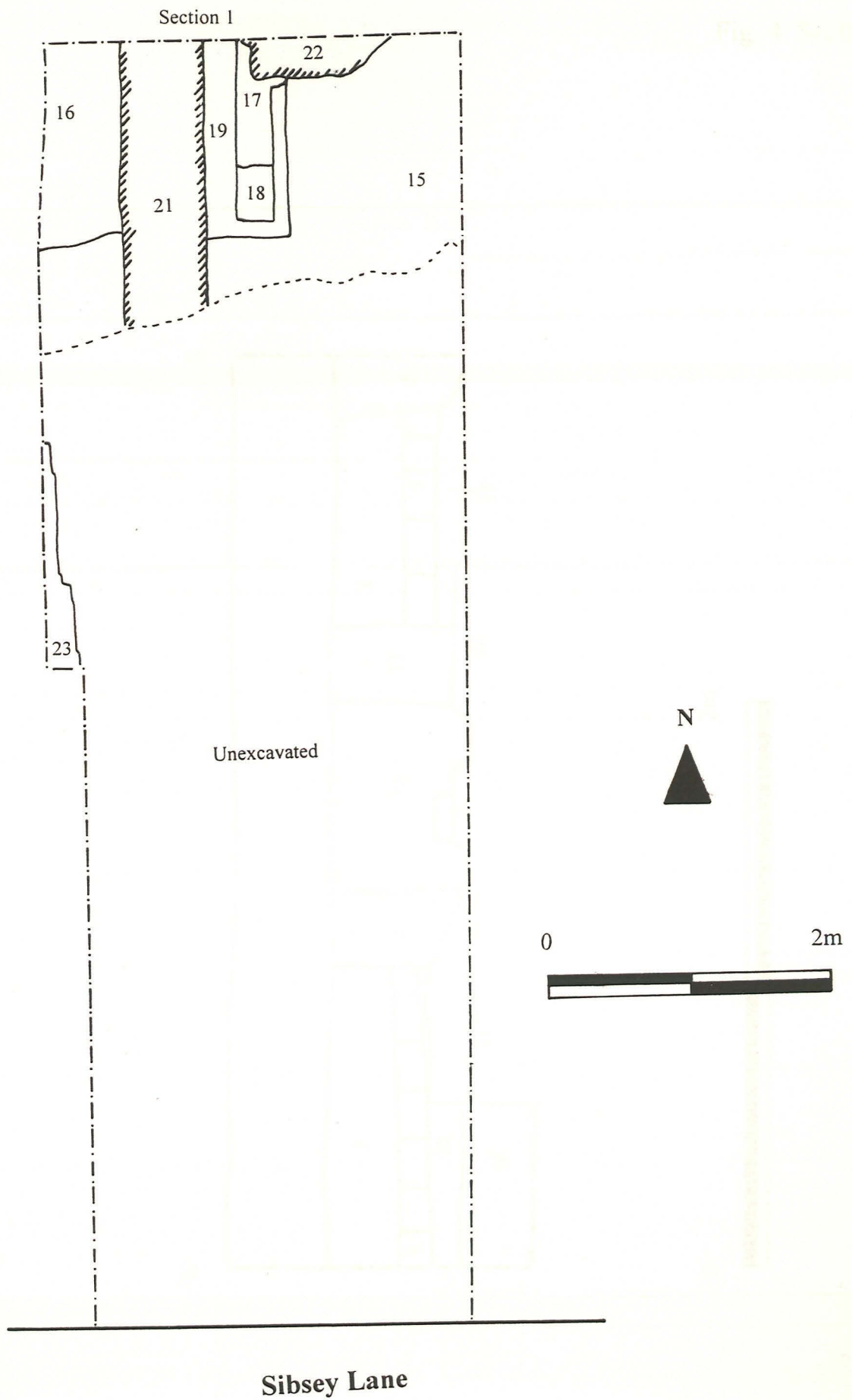
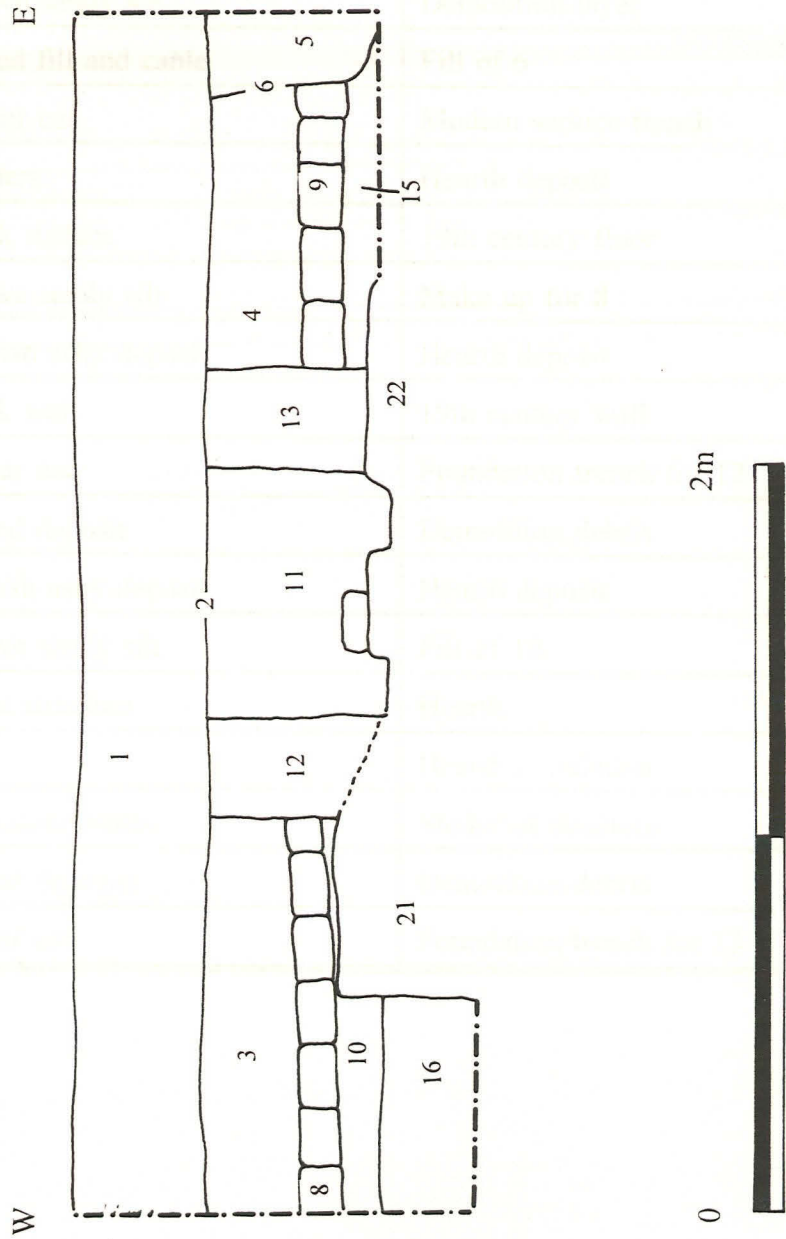


Fig. 4 Section 1



APPENDIX 1
Context Summary

Context number	Description	Interpretation
1	Concrete	Foundation for recent building
2	Truncated Surface	Cut for 1
3, 4	Brown sandy silt	Demolition layer
5	Mixed fill and cable	Fill of 6
6	Linear cut	Modern service trench
7	Cinders	Hearth deposit
8, 9, 23	Brick surface	19th century floor
10	Brown sandy silt	Make up for 8
11	Pinkish ashy deposit	Hearth deposit
12, 13	Brick wall	19th century wall
14	Linear cut	Foundation trench for 12
15, 16	Mixed deposit	Demolition debris
17	Pinkish ashy deposit	Hearth deposit
18	Brown sandy silt	Fill of 19
19	Brick structure	Hearth
20	Cut	Hearth foundation
21,22	Limestone walls	Medieval structure
24, 25	Mixed deposits	Demolition debris
26	Linear cut	Foundation trench for 13

APPENDIX 2

The Archive

The archive consists of:

- 26 Context records
 - 1 Photographic record
 - 2 Scale drawings
 - 1 Stratigraphic matrix
 - 1 Bag of finds

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

City and County Museum, Lincoln Accession Number: 159:94
Archaeological Project Services project code BCE94