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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

36 East Street, Crowland, Lincs.

NGR: TF 239 102
Site Code: CESL 04
LCNCC Accn N°. : 2004.163
Planning Application: ~~H03/1226703~~
H02/0809/02

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report

for

Acrabuild Ltd

by

Richard Pullen MA PIFA

LAS Report No. 767

February 2005

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36 East Street, Crowland, Lincs. Watching Brief

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**36 East Street, Crowland, Lincs.
Archaeological Watching Brief**

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Planning Application: ~~HO3/1226/03~~ HO2/0809/02

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the machine excavation of foundation trenches for a single dwelling and garage at 36 East Street, Crowland, Lincs. Ground beams were excavated to a depth of only 0.45m from the present ground surface between the driven concrete piles which were 3.40m deep. The exposed shallow deposits consisted solely of disturbed 19th century demolition and build-up layers. A comparatively large assemblage of re-deposited pottery was recovered from these layers ranging in date from the 9th - 20th centuries. Of particular note was the discovery of high class table wares of 16th-17th century date and a single sherd of early Stamford ware. Two areas of re-used dressed sandstone blocks were noted in the ground beam trenches. It is probable that the stone is re-used material taken from the nearby demolished abbey.

In conclusion, with the exception of any unknown damage caused by piling, the surviving archaeological record lies preserved in situ beneath modern build-up layers at a depth below final formation level.

Introduction

In July 2004 Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by Acrabuild Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks prior to the construction of a new residential development at 36 East Street, Crowland, in accordance with the general requirements set out in the *Standard Brief for Archaeological Projects in Lincolnshire* (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, August 1998).

Site Location and Description

Crowland is situated on the border between Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire approximately 25km north east of Stamford. The village of Crowland is situated on a gravel peninsula which extends into the peat and silt fens at 3.00m to 5.00m A.O.D.

The study area is situated c.40.00m north-west of the remains of the medieval abbey and close to the known core of the medieval settlement (Pl. 2). It lies on the north side of East Street, immediately west of the public library. The site was formerly occupied by a bungalow built in the 1950s, but was cleared prior to the commencement of the watching brief.

Planning Background

South Holland District Council granted full planning permission, HO3/1226/03, for residential

of demolishing original building

development comprising a single dwelling and detached garage. A condition of the planning permission was that an archaeologist should monitor all below ground works during the development.

Archaeological Background

A monastic cell at Crowland was founded in 716AD by St Guthlac and refounded in the 10th century by Aethelbald, a claimant to the throne of the kingdom of Mercia. It is the only Abbey in Lincolnshire which was in existence at the time of the Norman Conquest. The abbey was finally dissolved at the time of the Dissolution of the monasteries from 1536 to 1540. Today only the nave of the abbey church and the north aisle remain and are protected as a scheduled ancient monument.

Medieval pottery has been recorded from several sites in and around Crowland. Previous archaeological excavations carried out on the study area in 2003 (LAS report 650) located two tanning pits sealed beneath modern deposits at a depth of c.0.80m below the ground surface. In addition to the pits, pottery dating from the mid 15th to the early 16th centuries was also recovered.

Aims and Objectives

The aims of the watching brief were to identify, characterise and record any surviving archaeological material that may have been disturbed by the groundworks phase of the development.

Method

Demolition of the bungalow and stripping of the first c.0.10m of the site was carried out in early June 2004. The piling operations started on the 9th August 2004 and were observed by LAS Project Officer Matt Jordan MA. However, due to fears over weak finished piles the piling operations undertaken on site were driven and not augered (PI. 3). Although driving of the piles is structurally preferable to augering it is a non-productive form of works from an archaeological point of view as it does not result in any up-cast spoil that could potentially contain archaeological material or indicate soil changes below the surface. Therefore the archaeological supervision of the piling operation was abandoned after the first day. The excavation of the building foundations began on the 16th August and took four days to complete. Excavation of the groundbeams was observed by LAS Project Officer Richard Pullen MA. The trenches were 0.50m wide and had an overall depth of 0.45m. Due to a slight rise along the northern boundary of the site the trench depth in the north-eastern corner was slightly deeper at c.0.60m below the present ground surface.

Results

The exposed deposits in the trenches reflected the shallow depth of the excavations as it consisted solely of disturbed 19th century build-up layers cut by redundant modern service pipes. The exposed layers were assigned a group context of 100. A comparatively large assemblage of pottery was recovered from 100 with a broad date range covering the 9th to the 20th century. An equally large amount of animal bone fragments, mainly domestic sheep and pig, were recovered during the watching brief. However, as animal bone taken from disturbed modern layers cannot be viably dated

the fragments were recorded and discarded.

Amongst the pottery recovered were several items of particular interest including a fragment of 9th to 10th century Stamford ware, sherds of 16th century Cistercian ware and a large basal fragment of a 16th century chafing dish (Pl. 12).

Two areas of re-used dressed limestone blocks were noted in the foundation trenches. The first formed the exposed foundation of the building immediately west of the study area at 38 East Street (Pl. 4). Two courses of dressed un-bonded blocks with an average size of c. 0.25m x 0.350m had been used as the foundation course for the 19th century cottage. Stonework, two courses in height, was identified running east-west for 2.90m along the northern boundary of the site at a depth of c.0.10m below the present ground surface. Modern brick fragments and bottle glass were noted within the matrix of this feature (Pl. 5).

Conclusion

The watching brief results confirm the findings of the evaluation undertaken in 2003 (LAS report 650) which concluded that the surviving archaeological record lies protected insitu beneath at least 0.80m of modern build-up layers **100**. The wide date range of the pottery found in **100** reinforces the interpretation that this redeposited material.

The dressed limestone blocks noted during the watching brief are likely to be reused stone taken from the demolished abbey c.40.00m to the east. As recently as the mid 1950s stone rubble from Crowland Abbey was being reused by building contractors, and many buildings in and around Crowland contain re-used dressed stone (pers. comm. Mr. Jackson, gardener at Crowland Abbey). A small pile of around twelve stone blocks were noted on the surface in the north-west corner of the site, presumably disturbed and used as a garden feature by the previous occupants of 36 East Street (Pl. 6).

With the exception of possible unknown localised damage caused by the piling operations the detrimental impact on the archaeological record of the site was nil due to the shallow nature of the ground beam trenches.

Acknowledgements

LAS is grateful to John Foster and the groundworkers from Acrabuild Ltd. The watching brief was conducted by Matt Jordan and Richard Pullen. The pottery was identified by Jane Young and the illustrations were produced by the author, some from drawings supplied by the client.

Richard Pullen M.A. PIFA
Lindsey Archaeological Services
18th February 2005

APPENDIX 1

Contents of Site Archive

Correspondence

Developer's site plan

Photographs: colour prints, LAS film nos. 04/96 and 04/107

Archaeological finds

Pottery Archive CESL04

Jane Young

This is a small mixed group of pottery, ranging in date from the Late Saxon to early modern period. Despite the material being recovered, from what appears to be a 19th or early 20th century makeup or levelling deposit, most of the group consists of mid 16th to mid 17th century pottery. This material appears to form a dispersed group, probably belonging to the early to early/mid 17th century. The pottery includes typical domestic vessels in Glazed Red Earthenwares (GRE) Bourne Fabric D (BOU) and Dutch Red Earthenware (DUTR) as well as high class table wares such as the non-local (PMX) chafing dish and the decorated Weser (WESER) dish. The highly decorated Cistercian ware (CIST) cup is possibly a 16th product of kilns at Ticknall, Derbyshire and is not a common find in the area. Only one sherd of pre-sixteenth century pottery was found; a fragment of a late 9th to 10th century Early Stamford ware (EST) glazed pitcher. Stamford ware tableware vessels are uncommon outside of urban contexts at this period and the presence of this vessel suggests occupation of this date somewhere in the area.

context	full name	cname	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	ref no	description	date
<i>100</i>												
	Black-glazed wares											
		BL		large bowl	1	1	97		rim			19th to early 20th
		BL	GRE	tall drinking vessel	1	1	215		base with		concave base;internal deposit	early to mid 17th
	Bourne D ware											
		BOU		small jug	1	1	13		BS		cu mottled glaze	mid 15th to 16th
		BOU		small jug	1	1	83		rim with		flat-topped slightly everted rim;strap handle	mid 15th to 16th
		BOU		small jug	1	1	22		rim		flat-topped rim	mid 15th to 16th

context	full name	cname	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	ref no	description	date
		BOU		bowl	2	1	48		rim & BS		small slightly everted rim	mid 15th to 16th
		BOU		jug	1	1	94	shoulder cordon	neck			mid 15th to 16th
		BOU		jug/jar	1	1	27		BS			mid 15th to 16th
		BOU		jug/jar	1	1	16		BS			mid 15th to 16th
		BOU		small jug/jar	1	1	5		BS			mid 15th to 16th
	Cistercian-type ware											
		CIST		cup	1	1	3	applied pellet & complex stamping	BS			16th
	Creamware											
		CREA		?	1	1	9		BS		discarded	19th
		CREA		jug	4	1	40		BS		discarded	19th
		CREA		saucer	1	1	3	brown transfer print	BS		discarded	19th
	Dutch Red Earthenware											
		DUTR		miniature jar	1	1	3		rim		int & ext glaze	15th to 16th
	Early Stamford ware											
		EST	D	pitcher	1	1	13	square rollerstamping on rim edge	rim		int & ext thick glaze;everted rim;	late 9th to 10th
	Frechen stoneware											
		FREC		drinking jug	1	1	25		base		cordons above foot	mid/late 16th to early 17th
	Glazed Red Earthenware											

context	full name	cname	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	ref no	description	date
		GRE		large jar	1	1	57	combed horiz & wavy dec	BS		int & ext glaze	mid 16th to 17th
		GRE		small bowl	1	1	41		rim		hollowed flat rim;ribbed ext	mid 16th to 17th
		GRE		bowl	1	1	167		profile	DR 2	part bichrome glaze;soot on upper ext & over rim edge	mid 16th to mid 17th
		GRE		large jar ?	1	1	186		base		rounded basal edge;reduced int glaze	mid 16th to 17th
		GRE		drinking vessel/small jar	1	1	7		BS		cu bichrome	mid 16th to mid 17th
		GRE		jar ?	1	1	36		base		rounded basal edge	mid 16th to 17th
		GRE		large bowl	1	1	114		rim		upright rim ext & int flange;soot	mid 16th to 17th
		GRE		?	1	1	16		base		int & ext glaze	mid 16th to 17th
		GRE		?	1	1	5		base		int glaze	mid 16th to 17th
		GRE		bowl	1	1	27		rim		abraded;soot on rim edge;flanged rim	mid 16th to 17th
		GRE		jar ?	1	1	40		base		rounded basal edge	mid 16th to 17th
		GRE		large bowl	1	1	53		base		int glaze	mid 16th to 17th
		GRE		large bowl	1	1	39		BS			mid 16th to 17th
		GRE		jar/pipkin	1	1	21	cordons	BS		cu bichrome	mid 16th to mid 17th
		GRE		bowl	1	1	13		BS			mid 16th to 17th
	Late earthenwares	LERTH		flowerpot	1	1	16		rim			18th to 20th

context	full name	cname	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	ref no	description	date
	Modern whiteware											
		WHITE		various	2	2	9		BS		discarded	19th
		WHITE		jar ?	1	1	8	slip-banded	BS		discarded	19th
		WHITE		cup	1	1	5		rim		discarded	19th
	Post-medieval Non-local fabrics											
		PMX		chafing dish	1	1	399		base	DR 1	pedestal base;inset bowl;light oxid fabric;cu mottled glaze;comm-abundant fine quartz occ white clay inclusions	16th to early 17th
	Toynton/Bolingbroke wares											
		TB		jug	1	1	41		handle		oval strap handle	mid 15th to 16th
		TB		large jug/jar	2	1	35		BS			mid 15th to 16th
	Transfer printed ware											
		TPW		chamber pot ?	2	1	305		base		discarded; marked LILY	19th
		TPW		bowl	1	1	58		rim		discarded	19th
		TPW		plate	1	1	8		rim		discarded	19th
		TPW		small cup	1	1	3		rim		discarded	19th
		TPW		large vanity bowl	12	1	1485		profile		discarded;marked LILY HN & A & U	19th
	Tudor Brown ware											
		TUDB		jug/jar	1	1	13		BS		part ext glaze;AVG ID	16th to 17th
	Unspecified English Stoneware											

context	full name	cname	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	ref no	description	date
		ENGS		small bottle	1	1	400		complete			19th to early 20th
	Weser ware	WESER		bowl	1	1	24	green & brown wavy band dec	rim		overhang rim	late 16th to early 17th

Ceramic Building Material Archive CESL04

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	date
100	BRKDISC	Brick (discarded)		1	29	18th to 20th
100	DRAINDISC	Drain (general) (discarded)	brown stoneware	1	186	19th to 20th
100	PANTDISC	Pantile (discarded)		2	14	18th to 20th
100	RIDDISC	Ridge tile (discarded)		1	66	19th to 20th

THE FIGURES

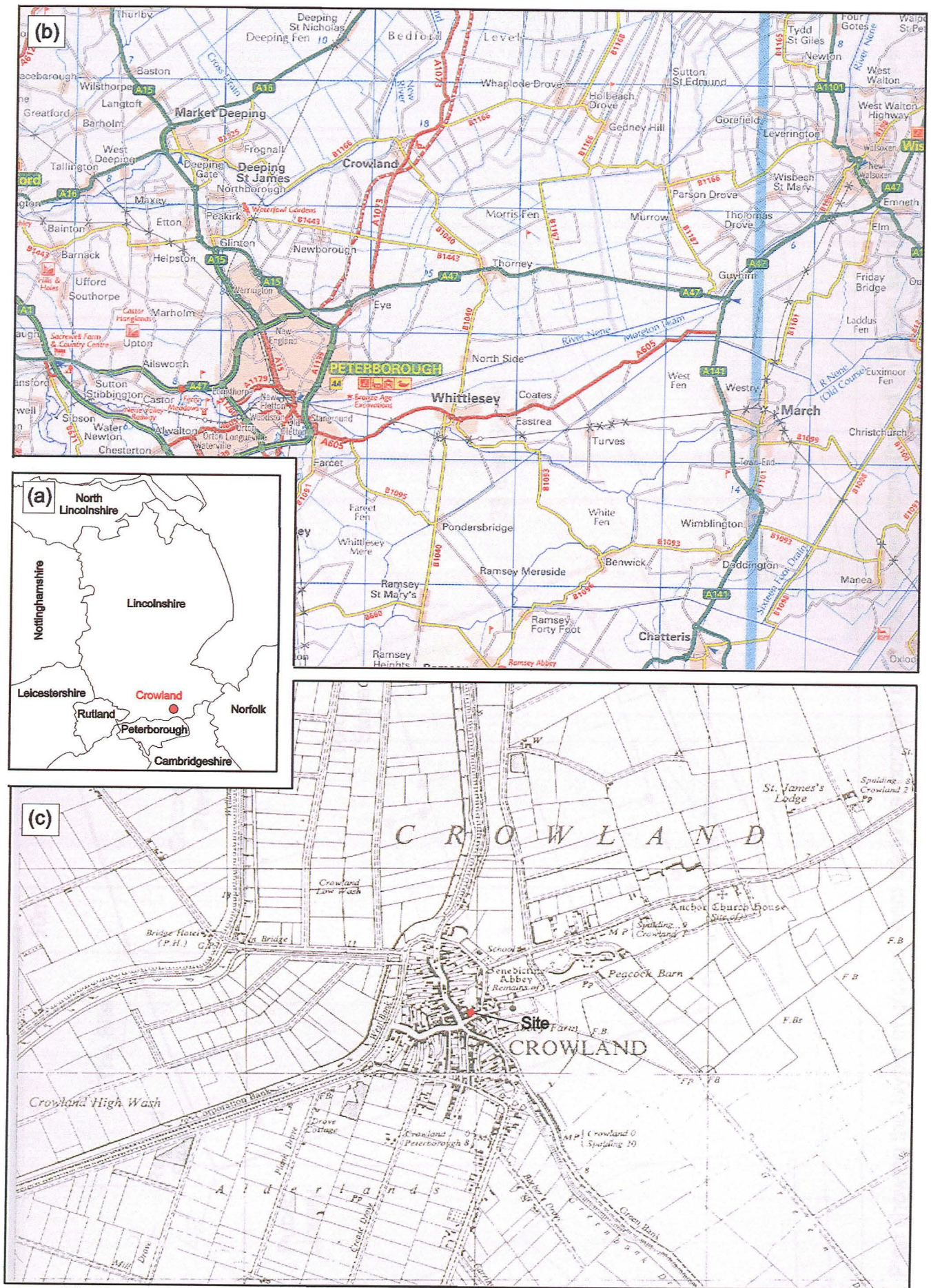


Fig.1 Location of Crowland © Crown copyright: c reproduced from the 1:50,000 Explorer Ordnance Survey map with the permission of the Controller of the HMSO.LAS Licence No: A110000265

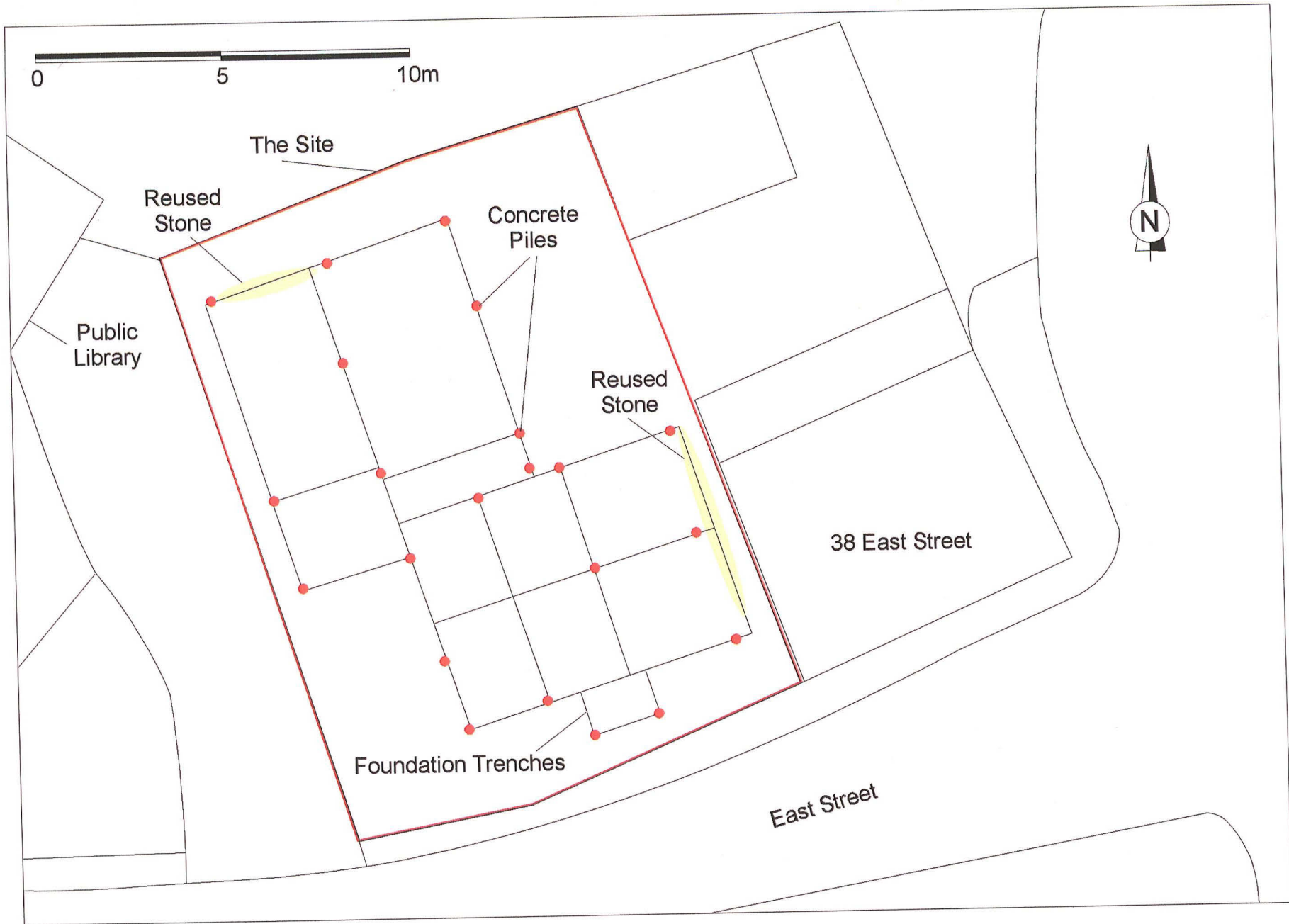


Fig 2. Plan showing the layout of ground beam trenches, concrete piles and re-used stone (based on a plan supplied by the developer)

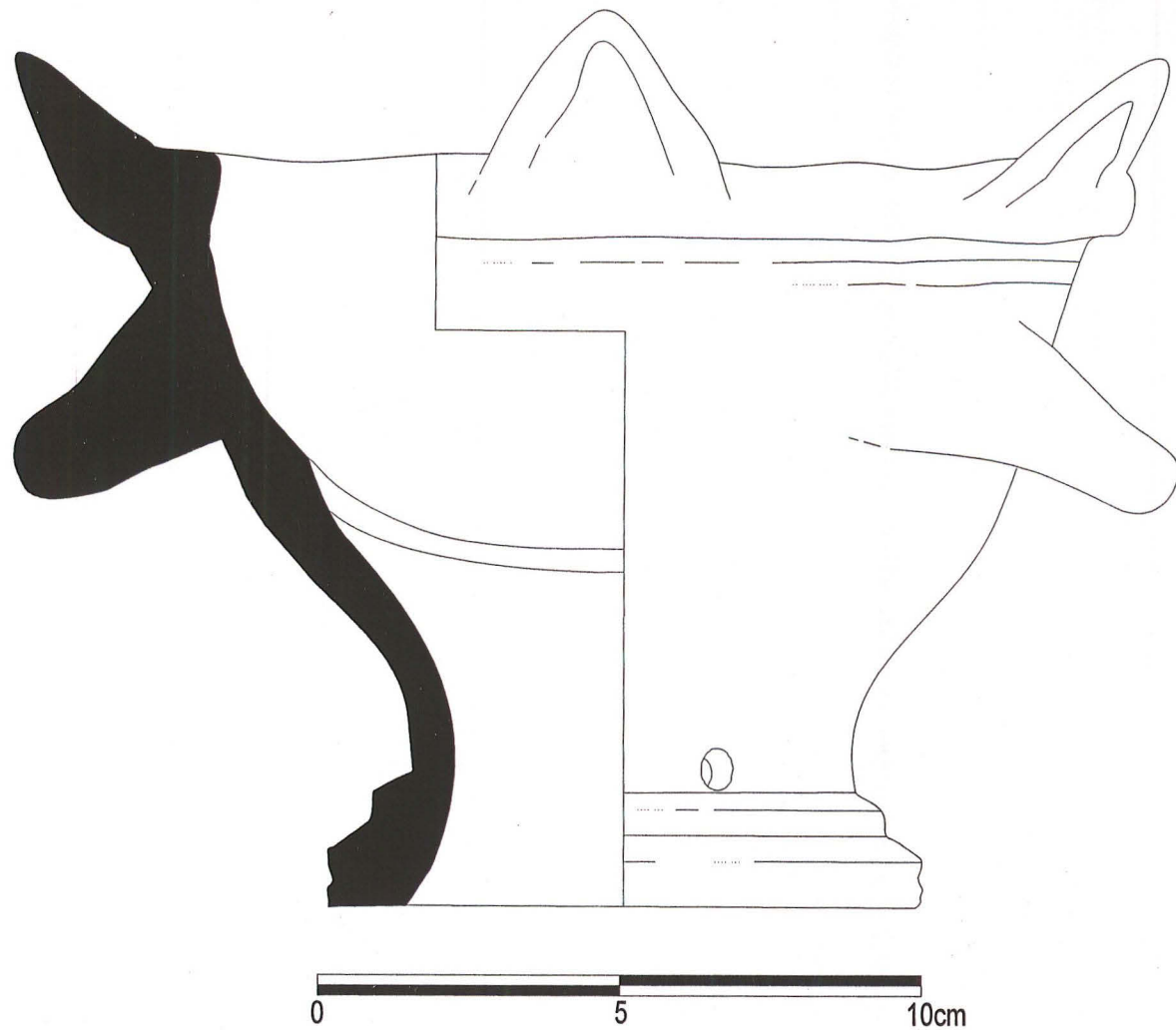


Fig 3. Reconstructive drawing of 16th-century chafing dish found at 36 East Street Crowland

THE PLATES



PI. 1 General view looking north showing the site prior to commencement of works



PI. 2 Looking west showing the close proximity of the site to Crowland Abbey



Pl. 3 The piling operation in progress



Pl. 4 Exposed foundations beneath 38 East Street showing reused limestone blocks



Pl. 5 Looking north at stone blocks uncovered to the rear of the site



Pl. 6 deposit of stone noted on site



Pl. 7 General view showing typical modern build-up on site and demonstrating the shallow nature of the foundation trenches



Pl. 8 The site after excavation and partial concreting



Pl. 9 Looking north-west across completed trenches



Pl. 10 A typical disturbed trench section



Pl. 11 Looking north-east at completed foundation trenches
with public library in the background



Pl. 12 Base of late 16th century chafing dish