MS/12

NEW RECTORY, LAND OFF HALMERGATE, SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

Site Code: HGSP03
NGR: TF 2510 2247
Planning Ref. H16/0644/02
Accession No. 2004.160

Report prepared for Cooper Architectural Design

by

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Hi Jim,

Re. Halmergate coffin lid/stone fragments

Have spoken with my partner, Kate Bertenshaw who is an architectural stone conservator with Cliveden Conservation Ltd, who specialise in this sort of thing, (please feel free to call, tel. 01628 604721). She has a couple of thoughts that may be of use.

The 2 processes that will damage the objects are frost and plant growth (most likely moss). Preventative measures may include:

- To protect from frost, simply a shed of barn where the temperature remains above zero is all that is required. It may also be useful to raise the object of the floor; this will protect against ground frost, prevent the build-up of moisture and facilitate further moving.

- In order to prevent plant growth, the object needs to be kept dry, and preferably in a dark environment. Raising it from the ground will also prevent a build up of moisture under the object.

As to moving the objects, which will probably be both inconveniently large and heavy, she recons that a grabber lorry and sling is the best option. However from what I can remember of the site, access for heavy plant may well be a problem. Failing this it seems that a sort of all terrain trolley or pallet truck is pretty freely available from hire shops, it will probably be possible for a few strong persons to manhandle them using an 'A' frame (also available at hire shops) onto such a thing and drag them out by hand. Clivedon will of course be happy to tender for any work that is required.

Hope this is of help, apologies if this is already all under control.

Best wishes,

Alex Brett

EL JB/LJ

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Dear Jim,

4-3-05

Please (at last) find attached copy of the Hathergate, Spalding, report (HK/0644/02). No further environmental analysis because J.R. could not re-locate the samples from evaluation. Hopefully this is the end of the matter, this scheme has been nothing short of a nightmare!

Regards, Chris.

With Compliments

P.S. Please find attached letter from Alex Brett re. warped stone (long-term needs of).

Contents

Illustrations

Appendices

Summary

- *An archaeological scheme of works was implemented during and following groundworks associated with the construction of a new rectory on land at Halmergate, Spalding, Lincolnshire.*

- *Only two archaeological features were exposed; a section of a 15th or 16th century refuse pit and a feature of 19th century date, possibly also a refuse pit, which had disturbed earlier medieval material.*

- *An examination of worked stone fragments found on the site concluded that a number of them probably originated as parts of the former Benedictine priory established in Spalding by the abbey at Crowland. A number of these would benefit from removal to a frost-free environment, while one in particular, a well preserved 13th century tomb stone, requires storage in a museum or other controlled environment.*

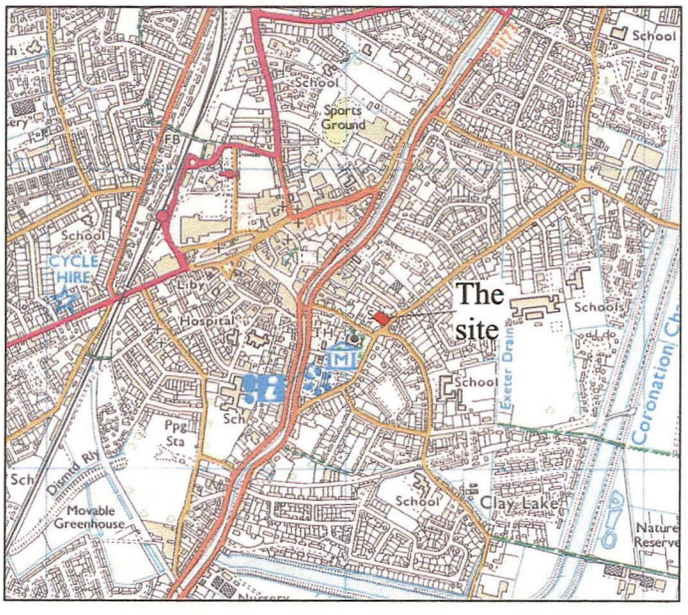

Fig. 1: Site location, (in red).
1:25,000

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by Stephen Roberts Associates, acting on behalf of their client, the Lincoln Diocesan Trust and Board of Finance Ltd, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks for a new rectory on land at Halmergate, Spalding, Lincolnshire. These works were undertaken at the request of South Holland District Council, and conform to a project specification prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). This approach is consistent with the recommendations of *Archaeology & Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (Department of the Environment, 1990), *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991), *Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (IFA, 1999) and the LCC document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice*, 1998.

2.0 Site location and description

Spalding is in the administrative district of South Holland, approximately 22km south-west of Boston, 25km north-east of Peterborough. The development site is within the traditional core of the town, immediately north-east of the Parish Church of St Mary and St Nicholas.

The site is an sub-rectangular unit, 56m southwest-northeast and 45m northwest-southeast: within this area, the footprint of the new building is approximately 30x20m, located at the northern edge. The local solid geology is characterised by Oxford Clay overlain by the Terrington Beds, salt marsh and tidal creek deposits laid down after c. 500 BC.

The National Grid Reference for the centre of the site is TF 2510 2247, and street level outside is approximately 4m OD.

3.0 Planning background

Full planning permission was granted for the construction of a new rectory building with associated garage (planning ref. H16/0644/02). This permission was granted subject to the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief during all associated groundworks, as well as the preparation of specialist reports relating to a number of ornamental stone fragments which currently occupy the existing rectory garden.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

The prehistoric coastline was considerably further inland than at present, and the area of Spalding was a frequently submerged island, uninhabitable for long periods. A prehistoric stone axe and a stone axe-hammer appear in the Sites and Monuments Record for the parish (reference numbers 22367 and 22368), and pre-Roman salt workings have been found in the area (Simmons, 1993).

Salt production continued during the Roman period, and the Wash creeks may have been used for river traffic and fishing; settlement increased greatly in the 2nd century AD, probably due to a widespread drainage and administration programme (Hallam, 1970). A number of Romano-British coins and pottery scatters are recorded in the SMR within Spalding itself, as are a statue, probably of Venus (SMR ref. 22372), a ragstone female bust (23610), and a bronze figurine of a horse (22394).

By the Saxon period, falling sea levels had rendered Spalding a coastal settlement rather than an island, although the 'coastline' in this area still varied greatly with the tide and the season. The Fenland Survey records 6th century and later Saxon pottery in the west of the parish (Sawyer, 1998), and Spalding may have become a Royal Estate Centre in the 7th or 8th century AD. The name itself is ascribed to the *Spalda*, one of the local tribes listed in the 7th/8th century *Tribal Hidage*.

Saxon and medieval development in the Spalding area was strongly influenced by monasticism. Crowland abbey received numerous land grants in the 9th century AD (Sawyer, 1998) and, with the nobles Ivo Tallboys and Guy de Craon, is listed as a major landowner in *Domesday Book*, which refers to a market, fisheries and salt-houses in the town (Morgan and Thorne, 1986).

The abbey established a Benedictine priory at Spalding: the charter granting land for its foundation is dated 1051, but it may not have been built until after the Norman Conquest (Sumner, 1988). The priory is well documented, but archaeologically, little survives. Ivo Tallboys was made 'Lord of Spalding and all Holland' in 1073, and subsequently built a castle in the town: its earthworks were said to be visible at Coney Garth, c. 400m north of the development site, in 1746, but are no longer extant.

The medieval port town was directly northeast of the priory, between the River Welland and the Westlode: wool and woad (then a popular dyestuff) were exported via the Welland, and prestige goods such as wine (for Crowland) imported. The Westlode was primarily a drain, and may have originally been part of the Roman drainage system, but was also used to transport goods inland to Bourne, and local agricultural produce to Spalding.

Both the town and the district were radically altered by the massive enclosure and drainage projects carried out in the Fens in the 18th and 19th centuries: large areas of previously unexploited wetland came under cultivation, and much of the produce was exported via Spalding, a prosperous port whose population doubled in the first half of the 19th century. Steam-powered pumping engines made the Welland obsolete in 1824 (Gooch, 1940): it was filled in, and New Road and Westlode Street now follow its course.

In 2001, a single archaeological trial trench was investigated at 3 Albion Street, approximately 700m northeast of the current site. No archaeological deposits were encountered (JSAC, 2001).

A trial excavation carried out on the current site by PCA in May 2003 located a series of cut features; interpreted as drainage ditches and rubbish pits dated from the 14th/15th to the 18th/19th centuries (Brett & Allen 2003).

5.0 Methodology

The watching brief methodology required the monitoring of machine cut footing trenches for the house and its adjacent garage. These groundworks were carried out using a back-hoe 180° wheeled excavator employing a 600mm toothed bucket.

All of the foundation trenching was continually monitored by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). Where archaeological features were exposed, these were investigated to determine their shape and to recover datable materials. They were also drawn in plan and section and recorded on pro-forma context record sheets. A photographic record was also maintained.

The watching brief was carried out over a period of 7 days; from the 18th to the 26th of November 2003 by Jim Rylatt, Katie Cook and Mark Allen.

P.C.A. commissioned Mr M Clarke (independent worked stone specialist) to undertake a survey of the worked stone fragments found at the site. The results of this study are incorporated into the text, with the study itself attached as Appendix 1.

6.0 Results

6.1 The watching brief (see figs. 2-5)

The uppermost material exposed across the site was a ubiquitous garden soil 001, comprising silty loam containing modern brick fragments. A wide linear feature [009] was identified where it cut into this layer (filled with context) 006. This was evaluation Trench 1 from the preceding phase of archaeological intervention.

Beneath the garden soil, context 002 was a light brownish grey silt subsoil with occasional inclusions of charcoal, oyster shell, CBM (ceramic building material) and limestone rubble. A fragment of animal bone, pottery and nib tile (not retained) was recovered from this deposit. The pottery was from a range of cultural periods, dating between the 15th to 19th centuries.

To the northwest of the garage plot, the subsoil sealed a shallow 'U' shaped pit, [007], which contained a fill of brownish grey sandy silt with occasional cockle shells and fragments of CBM, (not saved), context 008. This feature equates to [102] recorded during the evaluation; described then as a possible refuse pit.

The above pit had cut into layer 003; a deposit of pale brownish silt with occasional fired clay, charcoal and oyster shell that thickened towards the west. A large quantity of animal bone and two sherds of pottery from a 13th or 14th century jug-like vessel were recovered from this material. Below it was layer 004, comprising pale brownish grey silt with very occasional charcoal flecks.

A further layer was recorded in the base of the garage plot sections; layer 005, a blue-grey silty clay, (becoming more clayey to the southwest), from which three fragments of animal bone were recovered.

To the west side of the house plot, a second cut feature, [012] was exposed, sealed by 003 and cutting into layer 004. It was sub-triangular in shape with uneven edges, steeper to the south west and north east. Its fill, 013, was dark brownish grey clayey silt with occasional limestone fragments. A number of animal bones, one displaying evidence of butchery, were recovered, as well as four pottery sherds dated between the 13th to 19th centuries.

A single modern post hole [010] was observed; the location of which is not shown.

6.2 Results from the stonework recording and analysis (see figs. 6-11)

Fifty-nine fragments of worked stone were recorded at the site. None of these fragments had been recovered by controlled excavation, but were scattered over the development site in various locations. In considering the vulnerability of these, the Senior Built Environment Officer of Lincolnshire County Council recommended that a proper record of them should be made by a recognised specialist, to include recommendations for future storage.

The worked stones at the site derive from 18 objects, including a large number of fragments of medieval date. One of these is a large Laver/Drinking fountain that may have originated at the Priory. A well-preserved 13th century coffin lid was also recorded. It is a conclusion of the worked stone report that this latter item is in need of specific future attention.

It is of interest that Arthur Mee (Mee, 1970) records elements of the former priory at a number of locations close to the site, and a former church warden attests to a quantity of worked stone from the Priory being acquired by the church in the late 19th century. This would suggest that, in former times, architectural fragments were widespread.

Later repairs and additions to the church have been taking place since the mid 19th century; however, if the coffin lid was acquired in the Victorian period, it seems likely that, due to its excellent preservation, it has previously been under cover.

For a fuller discussion on the worked stone, refer to Appendix 1.

7.0 Discussion and conclusions

Once top and subsoils had been removed, only two archaeological features were exposed. The feature recorded in the garage plot as [007] was recorded as [102] during the evaluation phase of work; it contained 15th and 16th century pottery, predominantly Bourne Ware. The presence of the pottery, as well as shell and charcoal, suggests that this material was domestic waste.

To the west of the house plot, a second cut feature was recorded; containing pottery sherds spanning several centuries. While this feature clearly contained some domestic waste, the wide date range for the finds suggests 19th century activity had disturbed earlier material. The unusual shape of the feature, in both plan and section, may indicate that it was only partially detected and represents the lower fill of a much larger cut that extended to the northeast.

The three alluvial layers, (003/004/005) appeared initially to be silts and clays that were deposited in a marsh or fen environment. Finds recovered from two of them, including pottery and large quantities of animal bone, were interpreted as dumped domestic waste. Therefore it seams probable that, while this material may have formed naturally, it also incorporated domestic refuse.

In his report on the architectural and other worked stone fragments, M Clarke has identified a series of important objects. These included a number of fragments of medieval building stone. Of particular note are pieces that may have originated in the former Benedictine priory, including a possible piscina and what may be elements of a vaulted undercroft (fragments 2-6). A well preserved coffin lid was also recoded, probably originating in the burial ground of the original building on the site of the present church, the Chapel of the Blessed Thomas the Martyr.

The report concludes that the current environment is a suitable one for the majority of the fragments, although a number would benefit from greater protection. Both the piscine (item 2) and the springers (items 3-5) are vulnerable to frost damage, as is the window or arch head (item 6), though of lower priority as it is already damaged. It is suggested that the piscina, one of the springers and possibly the window or arch head should be removed to a frost-free environment to prevent further deterioration.

The coffin lid (item 7) is extremely rare. Similar objects (older than 300 years) sometimes survive but are usually illegible. Given item 7's excellent state of preservation and its shallow, and thus fragile, design, it is recommended that it be removed to a museum or other suitable stable environment to prevent deterioration.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology employed allowed a full inspection to be made of the sections of all of foundation trenches that were excavated by the contractor, with minimal disruption to the primary scheme. It has also allowed the proper recording of architectural fragments at the site, with recommendations for future storage attached.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Stephen Roberts Associates for this commission; also, thanks are expressed to the groundworkers for their co-operation during the fieldwork, and to the specialists who examined the finds: Jennifer Kitch, Jane Young and Mick Clarke.

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 2004.160.

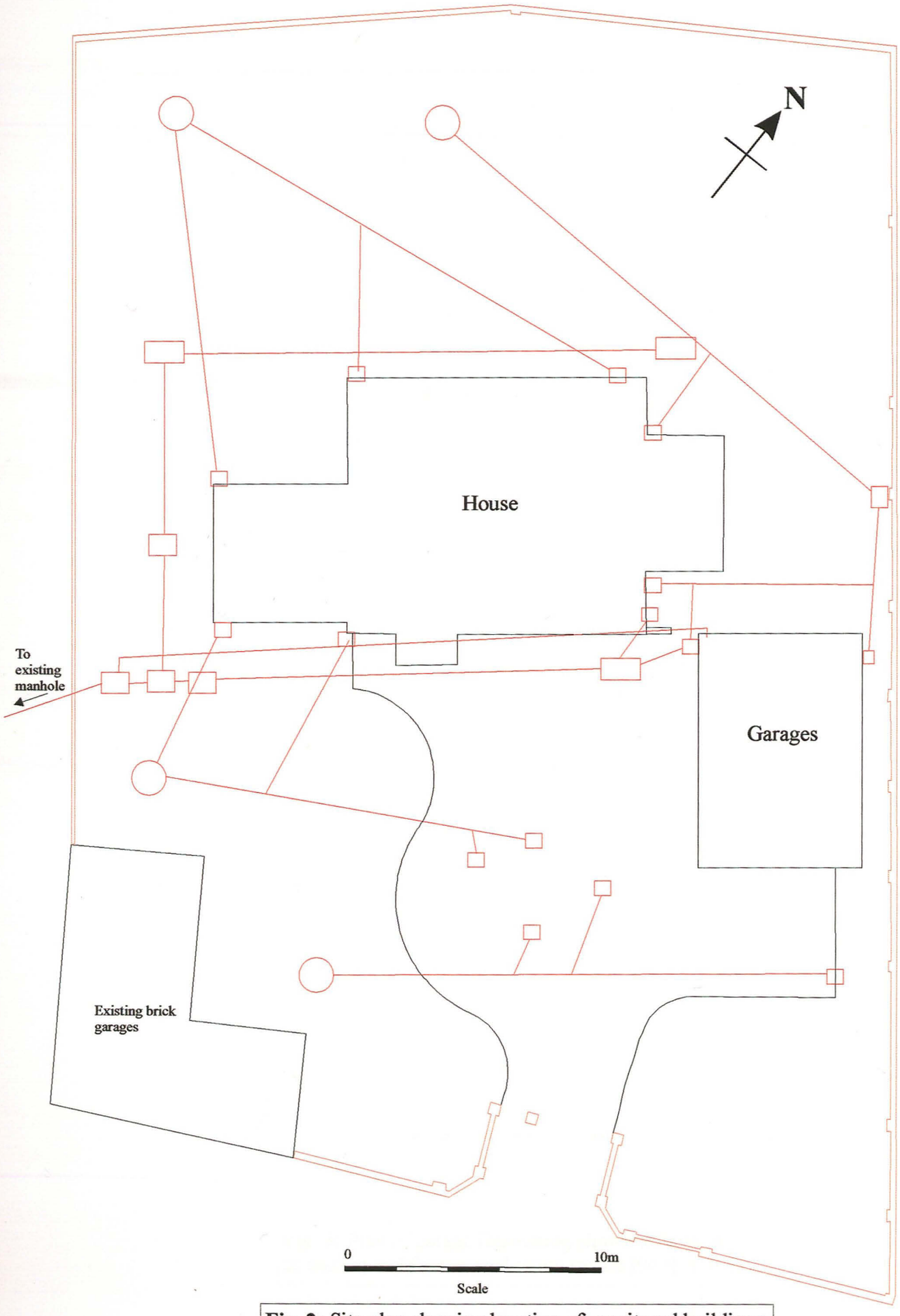


Fig. 2: Site plan showing location of monitored buildings. Unmonitored drainage shown in red. 1:200

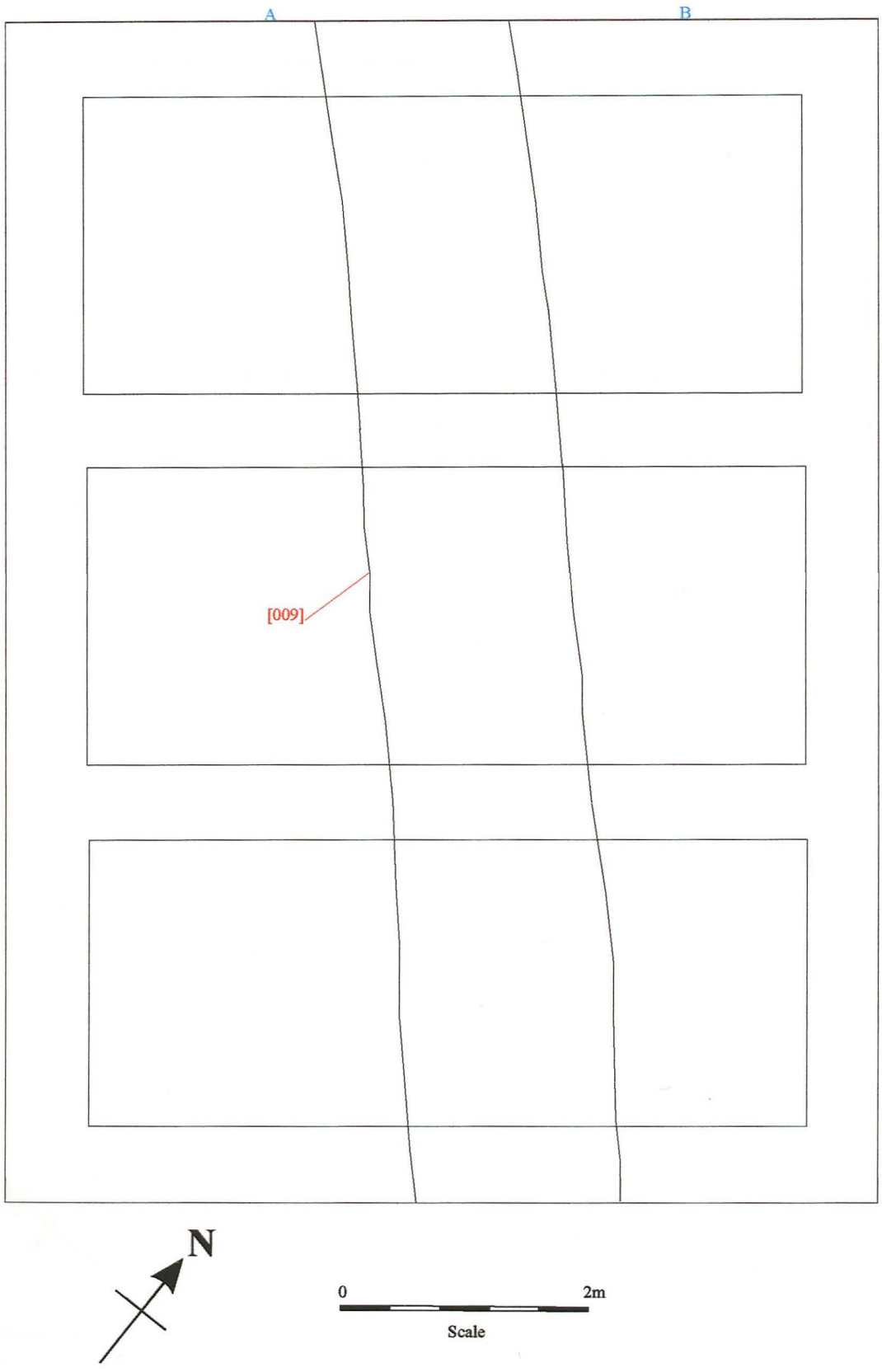


Fig. 3: Plan of garage foundation showing location of section and former evaluation trench [009]. 1:50

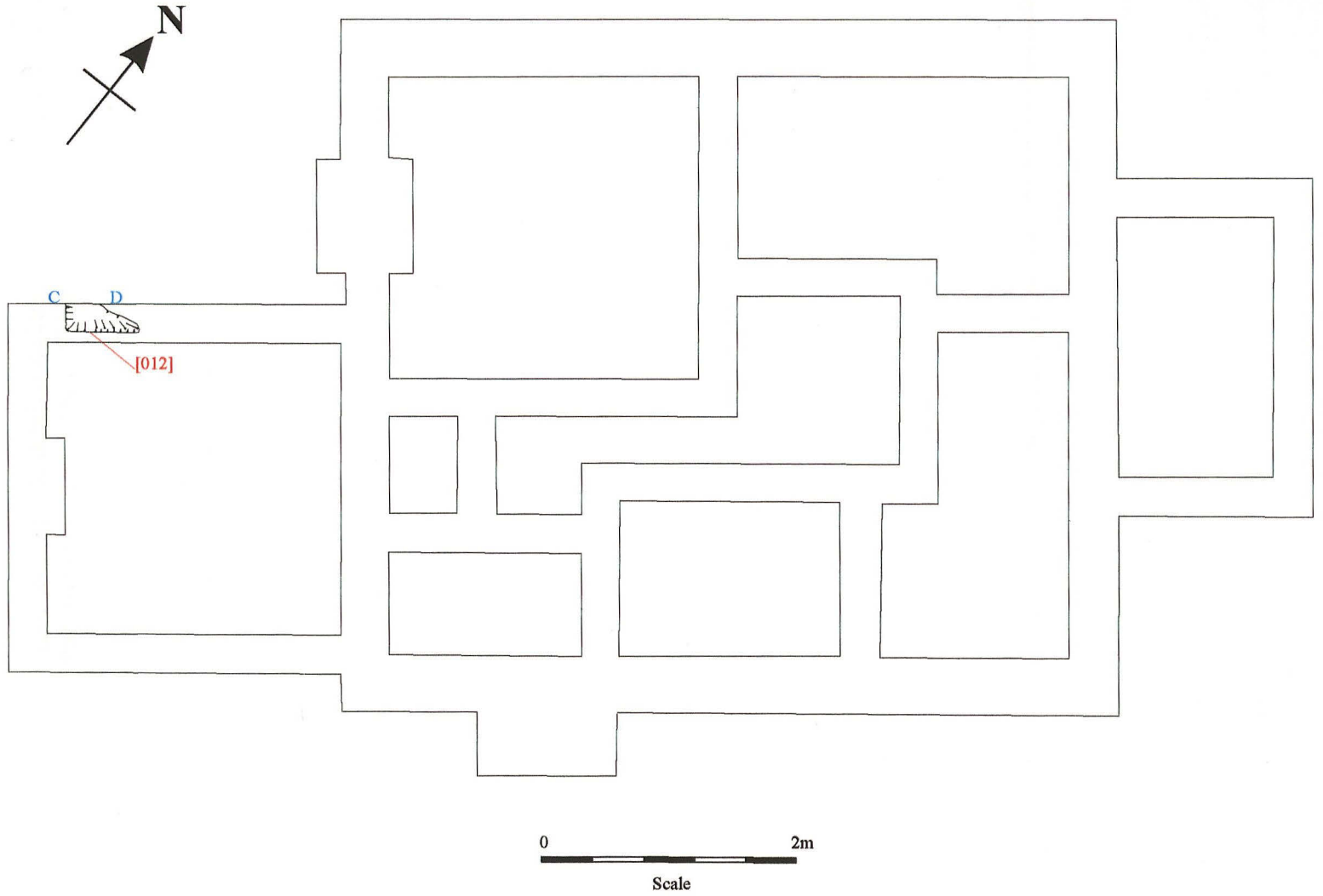


Fig. 4: Plan of house footings, showing location of feature [012] and section. 1:50

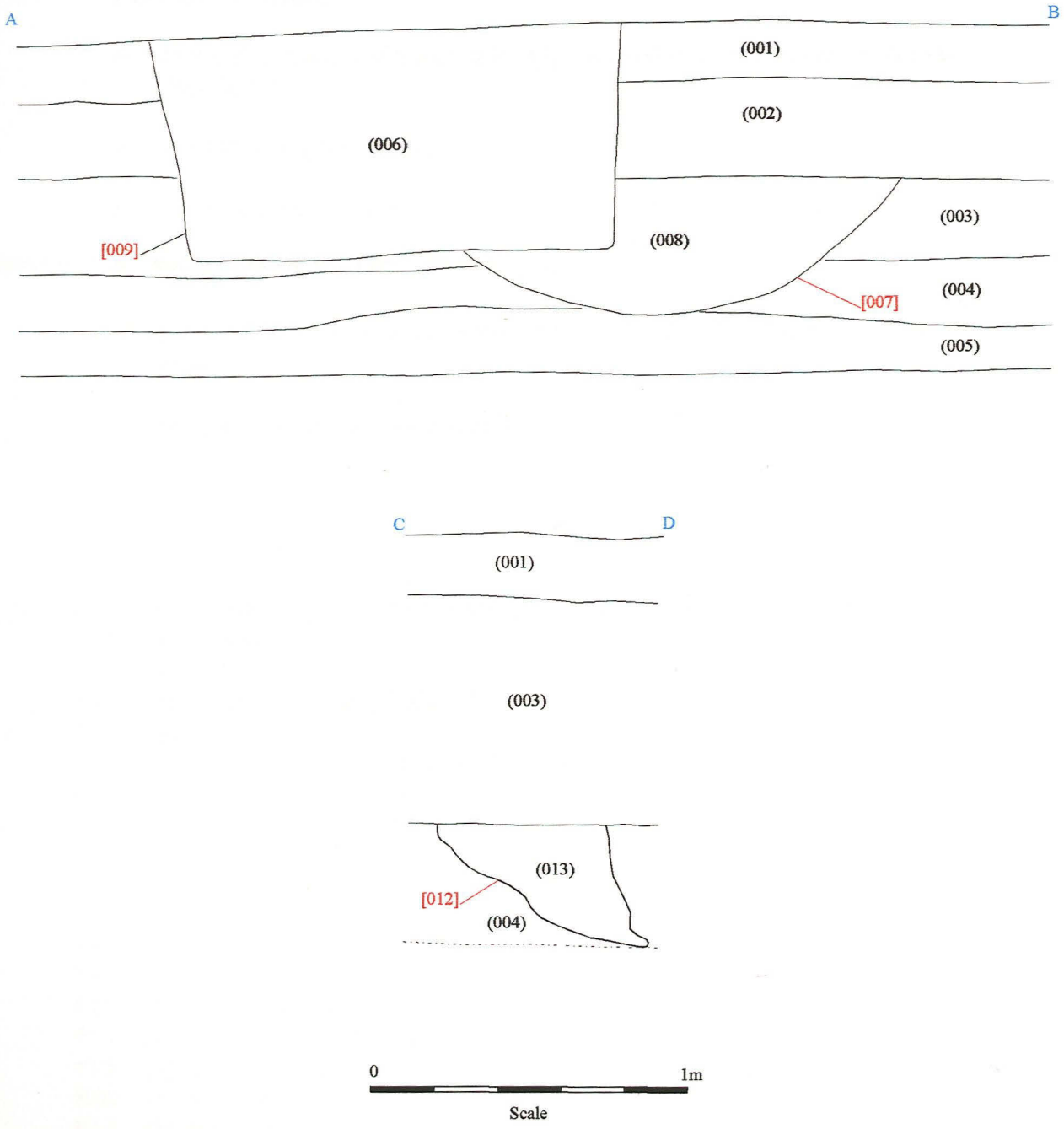


Fig. 5: Sections from garage and house foundations. Both at 1:20

Appendix 1. Stonework recording and analysis report

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF PLATES

P28. **(11)**: oblique view.
P29. **(11)**: side view.
P30. **(12)**: front elevation.
P31. **(12)**: side elevation.
P32. **(13)**: front elevation.
P33. **(13)**: end bed showing mason's mark.
P34. **(14)**: view of front.
P35. **(15)**: oblique view.
P36. **(16)**: front view.
P37. **(17)**: base,showing centre scribing.
P38. **(17)**: plan view of top.

Site Location

The vicarage is on the north side of Church St at the junction with the south end of Halmergate. The property extends northward, the north end of the garden and a portion extending east on to Halmergate for access being fenced off east-west to provide land for the new vicarage (built 2004). A quantity of early C19 stonework, some C19 gravestone fragments, a ?plinth, and an ?Early English capital (mounted on the west boundary wall) still remain within the southern part of the original property.
The stonework assemblage in the northern part now lies within the New Vicarage garden against the original west boundary wall.
This stonework was observed on site during an archaeological evaluation by PCA. (site code HGSP03) prior to groundworks for the new building. None of the stones was from the excavation.

Examination & Assessment

In Nov. 03 the masonry was sorted, rough sketched, and photographed using temporary reference numbers. There were c.44 blocks and fragments plus a reassembled portion of a spire containing c15 items; a total of c.59 items.
Many of these were covered in frozen soil, moss and undergrowth. The contractors offered to re-stack everything after surfacing was completed.

Recording

In Sept.04 the large items had been repositioned and stacked. Item 2 was emptied of soil and all accessible items cleaned. Where possible others were retrieved from the undergrowth (although many smaller (mostly fragmentary non-diagnostic) items were unaccounted for) and an area around the spire was pruned and cleared. A total of 17 items (all of limestone except **9** & **10**) were selected for detailed recording and photographed. Photo scales used were 100, 50, and 25cm. Items **1** & **2** required additional use of a survey staff.
P1 shows stonework location; Spire (**1**) to right. New vicarage south-west angle in right foreground.

Description of masonry (all dimensions in cm. except where indicated otherwise).

1. (Fig.6;P2-7).Upper part of spire containing 7 courses of 2 blocks per course; 33cm width top;73cm at base; vertical height 168cm; total ht c.225cm. Of octagonal section, presenting a total of 56 facets (8 per course). Alternate facets are wide: (16cm at top course C1; 31cm at base course C7) and narrow: (13cm at C1; 29cm at C7).

   The top 2 courses C1 & C2 are smooth and flat-faced, C3 has a hint of a raised vertical leading down to C4, where each of the 8 angles become a prominent roll moulding flanked by wide quirks and an indistinct protruding chamfered lobe design top and bottom, and framing a near-circular sunken panel opening to courses above and below in a baluster effect. A concavity between the angles (Fig.6,1) increases from C3 to C4. The stubs of broken crockets are at each angle, their tops flush with the top of C7. Four crudely-shaped radiused rectangular sockets (function unknown) appear to be cut into the centre of alternate panels. Numerous rectangular and square holes,assumed to be for a repair with cramps and tie bars (or lightning conductor) occur in courses C1,C2,C4,C6,C7. The position of these, however is governed by the accuracy of the rotational reassembly order. Course C1, for example has incorrectly-positioned narrow facets above wide ones (this anomaly has been corrected in Fig.6, assuming a logical and regular arrangement of vertical joint positions; there are still two alternative positions for each course).
   The only example found of the panel motif is Mkt Deeping Rectory hall window (lower lights are a shouldered arch pattern) given as c.1350.
   C3 is apparently featureless with only a faint concavity and may have been laid contemporary with C1 & C2. These two courses display a date: 1636 (C1) and at least eight sets of initials, which are interpreted as: FJ; JB; WS; HV; T(or J)O; JR; JV; H-(?).
   The capping and the finial may be C17.

   According to the Church guidebook, the top ten feet of the spire was replaced in 1954. The fresh stonework is evident in P7 together with the slight concavity of the upper alternating wide and narrow facets, and the absence of crockets above the seventh course from the cap, seem to prove this as the origin. Though not seen in detail, the tower angle pinnacles appear to show continuous crockets. Although Pevsner dates the tower to late C13, and originally detached, he places a Perpendicular date on the spire. The large two-tier crockets suggest early–mid C15.

2. Laver/Drinking fountain. Fig.7; P8-11.
   164 x 81 x 28cm ht. Semi-circular in plan, c.9cm thick at rim; 12cm deep at the dished basin centre; thickness of basin at centre 16cm. There are six stages of mouldings externally. At the rim (much eroded) two rolls almost as one with faint waist between; large roll with a small roll above and below; a very slight hollow reducing in diameter to a medium roll at base. At the sides the mouldings terminate at a vertical flat chamfer 28cm from the rear wall.
   The interior flat rear centre of the basin extends 18cm forward in a semicircle, and contains a central 10cm diam. drain aperture (P11). A small spoon-shaped depression falls from the basin floor into this. The drain falls vertically 7cm where

it opens to a 22cm diam rough-hewn aperture; a 12cm diam. recess, as if for a flange or seal, is at the junction of the two. The drain housing survives to 1cm above the basin floor, and is assumed to have been at least to rim height. The right-hand side of the basin rear wall survives for a length of 35cm, the whole centre portion absent from a height of 6cm above basin floor centre. This may originally have been raised above rim level to support a spout or water inlet.

The basin was probably mounted against , or slightly recessed into,a wall and supported on a plinth. This item is too large for use as a church piscina, although a monastic origin is possible.

The mouldings are simple and used throughout different periods from the late C12 onward.

3,**4**,**5**. Three massive springer blocks (Fig.8; P12-18).

(NB: photos are inverted to depict items and reference numbers in their correct positions)

All are of similar design and shape; the face mouldings are arranged approximately on the diagonal

of a square, thus being almost triangular in plan.

3: width (top) 118cm; (base) 68cm; face to rear (top) 63cm; (base) 40cm; ht 58cm.

4: width (base 77cm; face to rear (base) 37cm.

5: width (top) 107cm; (base) 70cm; face to rear (base) 37cm.

The design has a compressed shouldered arch appearance based on a pointed trefoil-head arch but with

cusps rounded and from which point flanking uprights continue through the sides of the central pointed and slightly ogee head. The whole arch is compressed at the narrow base width,and expanded at the wider top. It is similarly wrapped around the lateral convex moulding.

Most of the arch's outline is formed by the following mouldings: central fillet (much eroded but recon-

structed in Fig.8) on a roll, flanked by flats returning to wide hollows. The upper arch has the same order of mouldings, but the hollow and its return edge forms a pointed trefoil arch (with flanking sunken cusps) within the main arch. The outer side of the arch start from the base and continue upwards beyond the shoulders and are, on their outer edge, immediately adjacent to the outer flat reveals of the block.

Since the base angle of springing is less than 90deg. and close to the wall line, it is possible these are supported on engaged shafts or corbels for a low undercroft vaulting. ?C13-14.

6 (Fig 9; P19-21)

Window/Arch head with ?vault rib springers. Between arch beds 96cm, thickness 59cm, ht 48cm.

(based onfront elevation).

Front elevation with wave moulding surmounted by a hollow chamfer and flat return to a wave moulding, both interupted at the centre by a horizontally-projecting terminal (?or rib springer) It comprises, from the soffit (which rises at 30 deg. from the horizontal), a roll and fillet, flanking flats and flat returns to the ?ceiling via hollow chamfers. At the top it is level with the (conjectured) ceiling.

The soffit view shows the flower between the terminal and the apex. Its slightly triangular outline almost suggests an eroded ballflower (see **12**) but the other mouldings suggest a later date. To either side, at the projecting angles of the upper

mouldings, are damaged areas which may have been similar flowers springing from the filleted rolls. The latter seat on the wave moulding at the edge of the arch reveal. The area between the reveal and the upper tier is a deeply recessed panel in which is a narrow rectangular trench (the profile of the cavity is shown in the section).
The upper bed of the block bears traces of what may be a masons's mark, the deeper lines resembling an 'M'. At the block centre is a pair of apertures, the outer ends undercut to accommodate keys and wedges for hoisting (two types shown).
The projected angles of the upper 'seats' or bearing surfaces is difficult to interpret. They may simply represent a short continuation of the upper mouldings to ceiling level.
There is no evidence for tracery or glazing unless it was on an adjacent moulding stage; this block only represents a thickness of, at most, 45cm. Otherwise this may be part of an open arch. The rear elevation has not been examined. The mouldings suggest a date range of late C14 – mid C15.

7A & 7B are not part of the assemblage, but are included for comparison due to their proximity, similarity in design and date, and potential origin. A third tapered and moulded lid is not included here as it appears to show a sculpted figure. These three, mounted on the west wall of the churchyard, were noted in that position by Arthur Mee in 1947 [*The King's England: Lincolnshire,* Hodder & Stoughton 1949]. Also noted were an 'old stone coffin from the priory' in the 'west end' of the church and a 'tapering coffin lid' in the North Transept [neither of these have been seen by this writer].

7. (Fig.10; P22 & 23)
Coped stone coffin lid; 117 x (head) 63; (foot) 52cm; thickness (head centre) 115mm. (at edge) 85mm.
Asymmetrical: top left angle c.90deg.; top right angle c.86deg. The reverse not examined in detail, but is partly rough-hewn and/or possibly damaged. Otherwise intact upper ?half-lid
A border at left, right, and top, is defined by shallow groove 25mm from the edge varying from 'U' to 'V'-section. A fainter line (P23) runs along at least one outer side at a similar distance from the top edge.
The face design is in shallow relief, the background having been chiselled away mostly in a diagonal direction. Tooling clearly visible; small area surface damage right centre, otherwise in fine condition .
At the head is a circular cross *alisee patee*, 40cm diam., over a vertical centre shaft 35mm wide which passes through the centre of an 'X' in the form of an inverted (upper) and an upright (lower) omega with outward-turned scroll terminals. The side borders and centre shaft run to the foot of the slab, the return edge of which is smooth dressed. This, and the short slab length, imply that the lid was constructed in two parts with a flush join, the missing slab having a conjectured length of ?70 – 80cm.
C12 – 13. Probably not later than c.1270.

7A (Fig.10 centre; P24)
Coped stone coffin lid on churchyard west wall, east side [no scale: drawn from photograph; head profile approximate]. Damaged and incomplete at foot; face weathered and indistinct.
Asymmetrical: top left angle c.90deg. top right angle c.87deg. Face design in shallow relief.

At the head a Greek cross *fleuree;* central shaft under passing through similar a design to 7, but with more pronounce inward curves; the out-turned terminal scroll being closer together giving the appearance of two archery bows back to back and with an arrow-head protruding from each side.
Foot missing from lower scrolls downward.
C12 – 13. Probably not later than c.1270.

7B (Fig 10 right; P25)
Flat stone coffin lid on churchyard west wall, east side [no scale: drawn from photograph; head profile approximate]. Face weathered and indistinct. Damaged at foot. ?Intact.
Slight symmetrical taper; top angles c.?89deg. ?Flat edge at head and foot; hollow chamfers to sides.
At the head a Greek cross *bottonee treflee;* central shaft under. Remainder of design indistinct.
C12 – 13.

8 [not drawn] P26.
Unidentified. ?Medieval.

9 [not drawn or photographed] visible behind **10** in P27.
Grave slab. Plain on exposed face (reverse not seen). Blue-grey, c.5cm thick. Some surface & edge damage and weathering.
?C18-19.

10 [not drawn] P27
? ironstone block 87 x 26 x 18cm. Rough-dressed with diagonal and herring-bone tooling overall.
Damaged end. ?Wall block ?Lintel.
Date not known.

11 (Fig. 11; P28 & 29).
Y-shaped springer to diverging arches. Ht 32; base width 20. c.15cm projection from wall-line. C.20cm+ for wall bond (damaged, eroded and incomplete). Voussoir seats c.15 x 15cm.
Filleted (or keeled) rolls flanking hollows and small central roll to face. Hollow and small roll to reveals.
Part of ?blind arcade. ?C13.

12 (Fig. 11; P30 & 31).
Capital to window shaft or arcade, flanked by arch reveals. Damage to both arches and rear of block. Incomplete. Width 42; surviving depth 42; ht 25cm.
Inverted triangular border to face of capital (central design eroded) (P30). Single ballflower on pyramid stop to sides (P31). Recessed cusp in hollow of arch reveal implying adjacent (?trefoil) head opening.
Late C13 – mid C14.

13 (Fig.11; P32 & 33).
Window mullion block; damaged but complete. Ht 40; width 11; depth 16cm.
Hollow chamfers to 3cm wide nosing. Vertical glazing channel 3cm from rear. Square aperture for horizontal glazing bar 5cm above base of block. Centre scribe and c,4 x 4cm mason's mark: 'X' to corner of upper bed.
Date uncertain. ?Late Medieval.

14 (Fig.11; P34).
?Door head label; 55 x 24 x c.10cm.
Narrow, flat rebate to outer border; rising wave/ogee profile to flat; hollow chamfer rising to projecting lip bordering sunken plain panel. ?Lower edge (dressed) at 17deg. to horizontal; no curvature discernible. Damage to both ends. Incomplete. If this surmounts a pediment or flattened arch there is little depth for wall bonding.
Date uncertain. ?After C14.

15 (Fig.11; P35).
Unidentified. Rough surface; weathered. 56 x 30 x ht25cm.
Radiused ends. Flat chamfer obliquely placed near one end.
Date not known.

16 (Fig.11; P36).
Part of ?cross shaft; base width 14; depth 8; ht 26cm. Damaged and eroded. Incomplete.
Date not known.

17 (Fig.11' P37 & 38).
Severe damage overall. Total extent and shape uncertain.
Part of ?capping. Base (P37) shows ?centre scribes intersecting at 30deg. and other marks.
?Domed upper surface. Fragmental area of dressed surface to the side shows slightly concave profile sweeping outwards to the base, of which, no edges survive. Diameter of the top of this moulding based on the centre scribing is c.40cm. Total diam. not known. There are no visible fixing keys.
Date not known.

18 [not drawn or photographed]. Found by contractors during machine excavating in the proximity of the tree in the east access driveway. Exceptionally good condition; some machine scars.
Capping, hemispherical; constructed in two equal halves with vertical join at diametrical axis. At the base are two pairs of square-section connecting keys for cramps. Radiating palm design (similar profile to the capping on **1**) with alternating radiating sunken flats. Not measured, but approximately 40cm diam. and ht 17cm. Lack of patina or weathering suggests this item has had minimal exposure.
Date uncertain; in late classical style ?C17-18 but possibly later.

Discussion

Information was received from Mr. Bernard Tyrell [per.comm.], ex-churchwarden, that in the 1880's, a quantity of stonework was acquired by Canon Moore (who commissioned the church restoration by Sir Gilbert Scott in 1865-67) which included some stonework from the old priory gateway at the entrance to The Crescent. These were apparently shown in photographs of c.1850 as being still in situ. It was also believed that stonework at Decoy Farm (demolished for a new development) included a capital or springer block,but it was later stated by a family descendant that any stones lying around would have been broken up for rubble. A publication of c.2000, *Aspects of Spalding* [not seen] show photographs of other springers in situ.

In Mee's *Lincolnshire* other supposed Priory remnants were mentioned: 'a stone turret projecting in Hole-in-the-Wall Passage'. In Priory Road, a block of dwellings 'of old brick with stone buttresses and doorways,thought to be a dormitory'. At the corner of Sheep Market (east of the market place 'a small stone building which may have been a [?cell] of the Priory' and 'in the 1940's a cafe with a modern square room built above the original vaulted octagon; known locally as Priors Oven'. West of town by the road to Bourne, 'Monk's House may have been a Grange of the Priory'. Fulney Farm House 'retaining a vaulted chamber, probably part of the Priory dairy'. 'Wykeham Chapel, built by Prior Hatfield in the early 14th century, now ruined'. In Church St; 'Sir John Gamlyn's Almshouses rebuilt 1844, having sone doorways, windows and oriels'. 'Aycoughee Hall.,linked to the church by a church walk; home of Maurice Johnson who founded the Gentlemens Society in 1710, and a founder member of the Society of Antiquaries in 1717'.
Mee's description of features in the church mostly coincide with those in the Church Guide except for the additional information on the coffin lids (mentioned under Item 7, **7A & 7B**).

Canon T. Barker was of the opinion that one of the grave slabs came from the excavations for the building of a new vestry in 1998 [pers. comm. Sept 2004]. An archaeological watching brief on the above work was carried out by Lindsey Archaeological Services between 24th July and 5th August 1998 [LAS Report No.321] and Oct.1998 [Report No.328]; Site Code: SPC98. At least 35 burials were disturbed. A masonry-lined stone-capped vault containing a lead-lined coffin was uncovered. This necessitated modifications to the intended design of the new footings (this implies that the burial was left in situ) It was relatively late in date and the limestone capping was plain; also damaged. This description fits neither the late intact slab **9** nor the early coffin lid **7**. [confirmation of the above by Ian Rowlandson of LAS; per.comm.]. The report also informs that the graveyard was closed to burials in 1853. In 1966 when the west access road and the Church Hall were built, gravestones in the affected area were 'subject to re-ordering and selective removal'. Also, the original building on the site of the church, called the Chapel of the Blessed Thomas the Martyr, and built after 1170, stood in a 'great cemetery'. Therefore, there is evidence of on-site burials pre-dating the 1284 church. Burials dating from at least the period 1200-1270 could therefore have been uncovered during any of the later repairs and additions from 1865 to 1966. The three lids, mounted on the churchyard wall and displaying severe weathering, had probably been there long before 1947. Item **7** is well-preserved and cannot have been exposed to the weather for many years. It seems likely that, if acquired in the C19, it has previously been under cover.

There are a few items which may have been brought from elsewhere, but without research into the sites supposedly related to the Priory (or with the church building phases), it is impossible to be certain of their origin. Items **2**,**3**,**4**, **5**,and possibly **6**, could be from one of the sites already mentioned in this connection.
Some of the smaller items in the assemblage and not recorded are gravestone fragments. The earliest example noted is dated 1717, the latest early C19. This is further evidence that a large portion of the stonework is simply overflow from churchyard incursions.

Recommendations

The vicarage garden is an appropriate and convenient environment for general architectural fragments which might otherwise be consigned to the skip or the builders yard, particularly in cases where there is no suitable long-term option in the absence of adequate museum storage. However, having cleaned several items of soil and moss and then finding that a further cleaning was necessary after less than a year; it is not difficult to predict the potential damage over a much longer period. For example, the basin rim of item **2** is particularly prone to frost damage when filled with soil. At least one example out of **3**,**4**, & **5** ought to be protected from the weather by whatever means possible. Item **6**, though of interest, is of lower priority since it is already damaged.
The function of gravestones dictates that they are ultimately disposed of by the weather or churchyard maintenance, the proof being the rarity of legible examples of even C17. Given the condition, early date and the vulnerability of the shallow design of the coffin lid (Item **7**), an attempt should be made to ensure its survival by removal to a museum facility, or at least temporary storage.

M.V.Clark, December 2004.

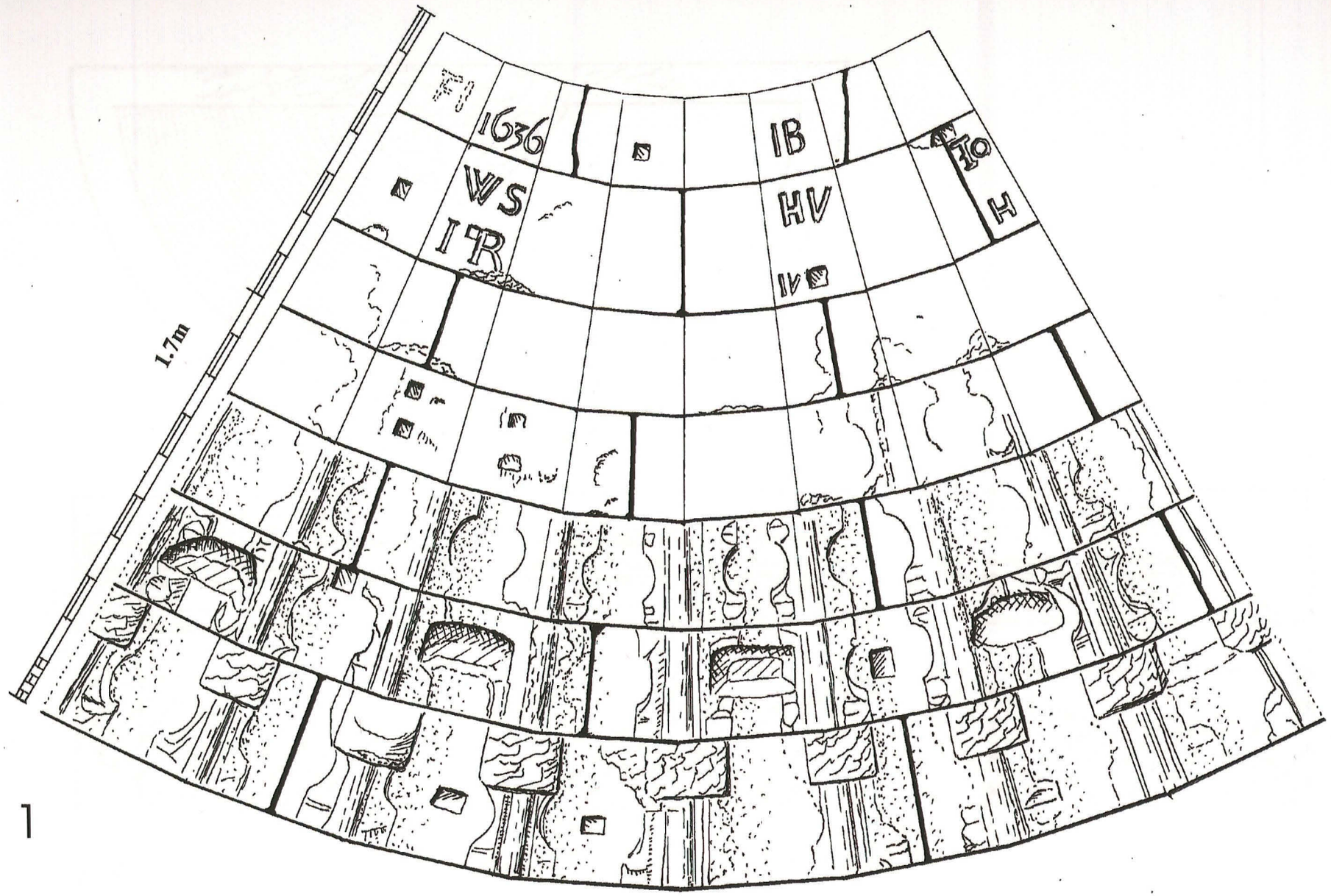


Fig. 6: 'Opened' elevation of spire courses (1) from St Mary & St Nicholas Church

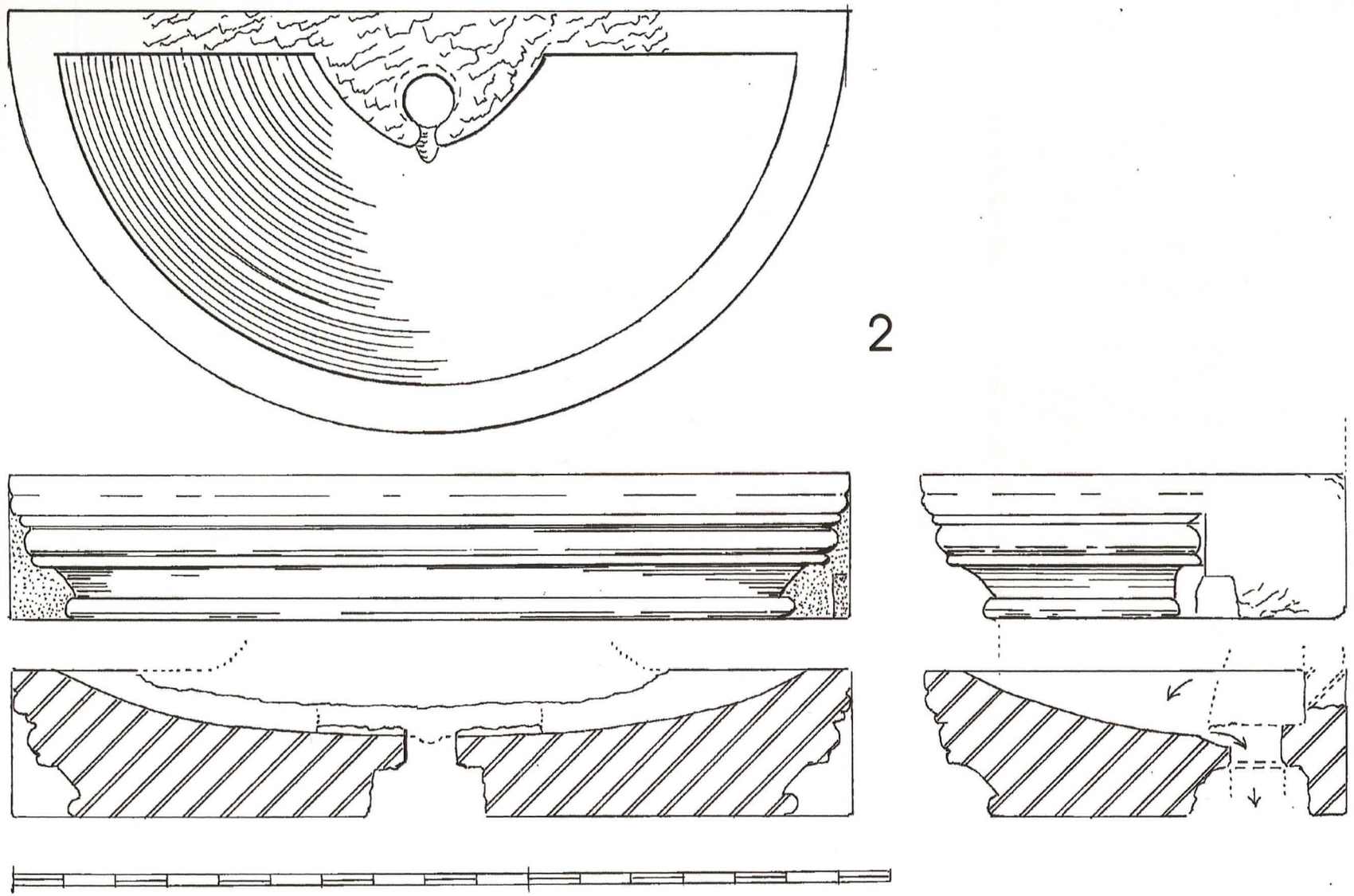
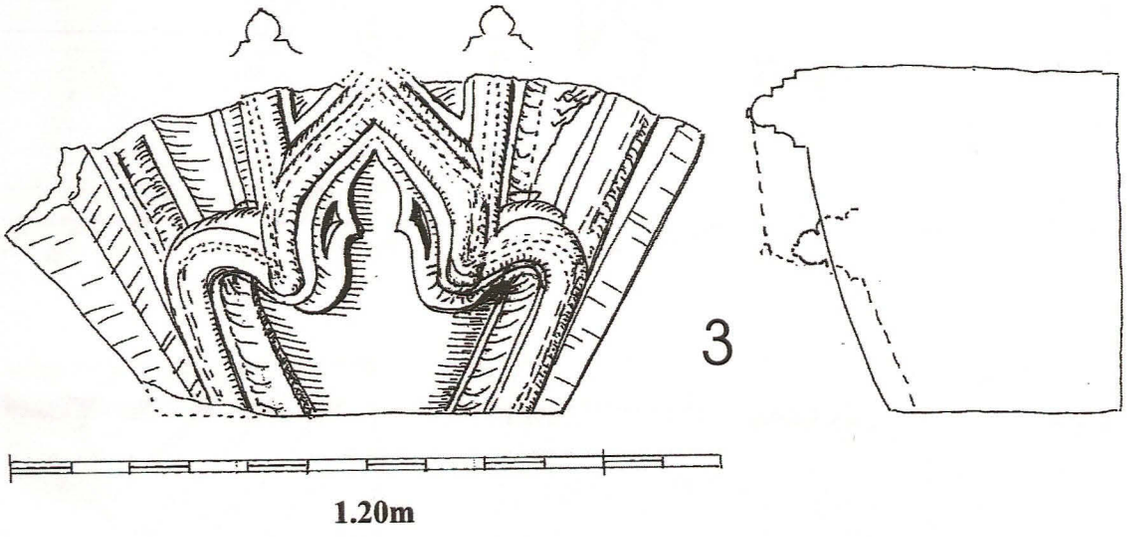


Fig. 7: Laver/drinking fountain (2)



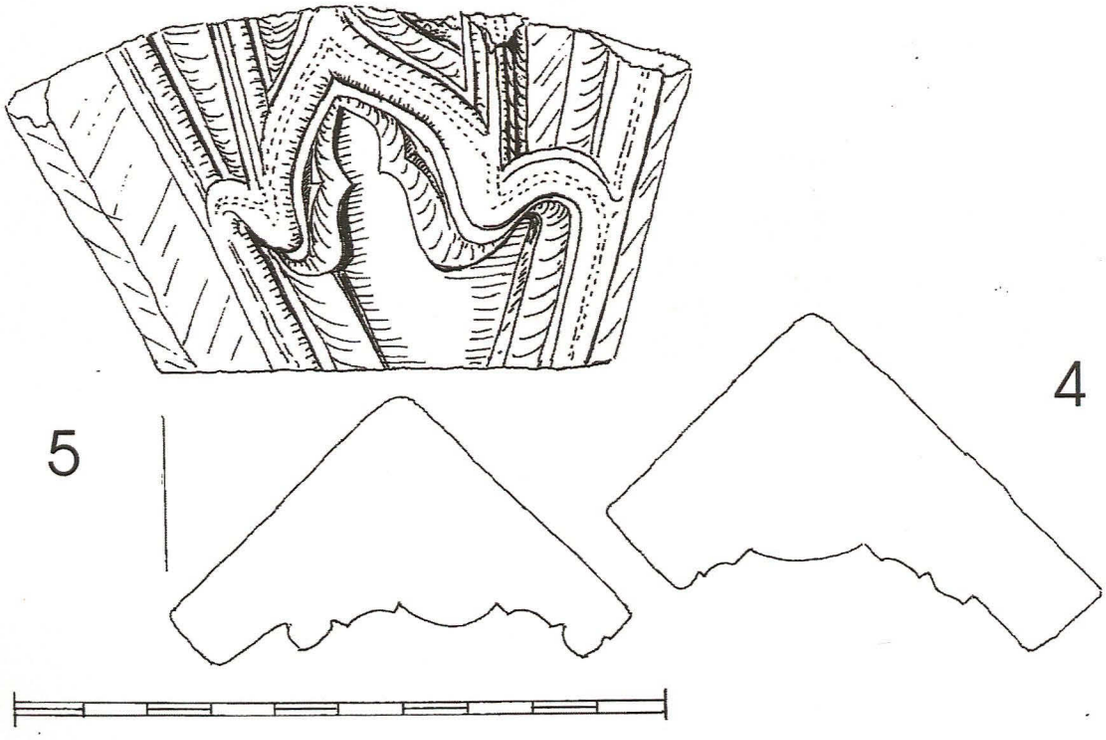


Fig. 8: Vault springers (3; 4 bed profile only; & 5) from corbelled or engaged shafts.

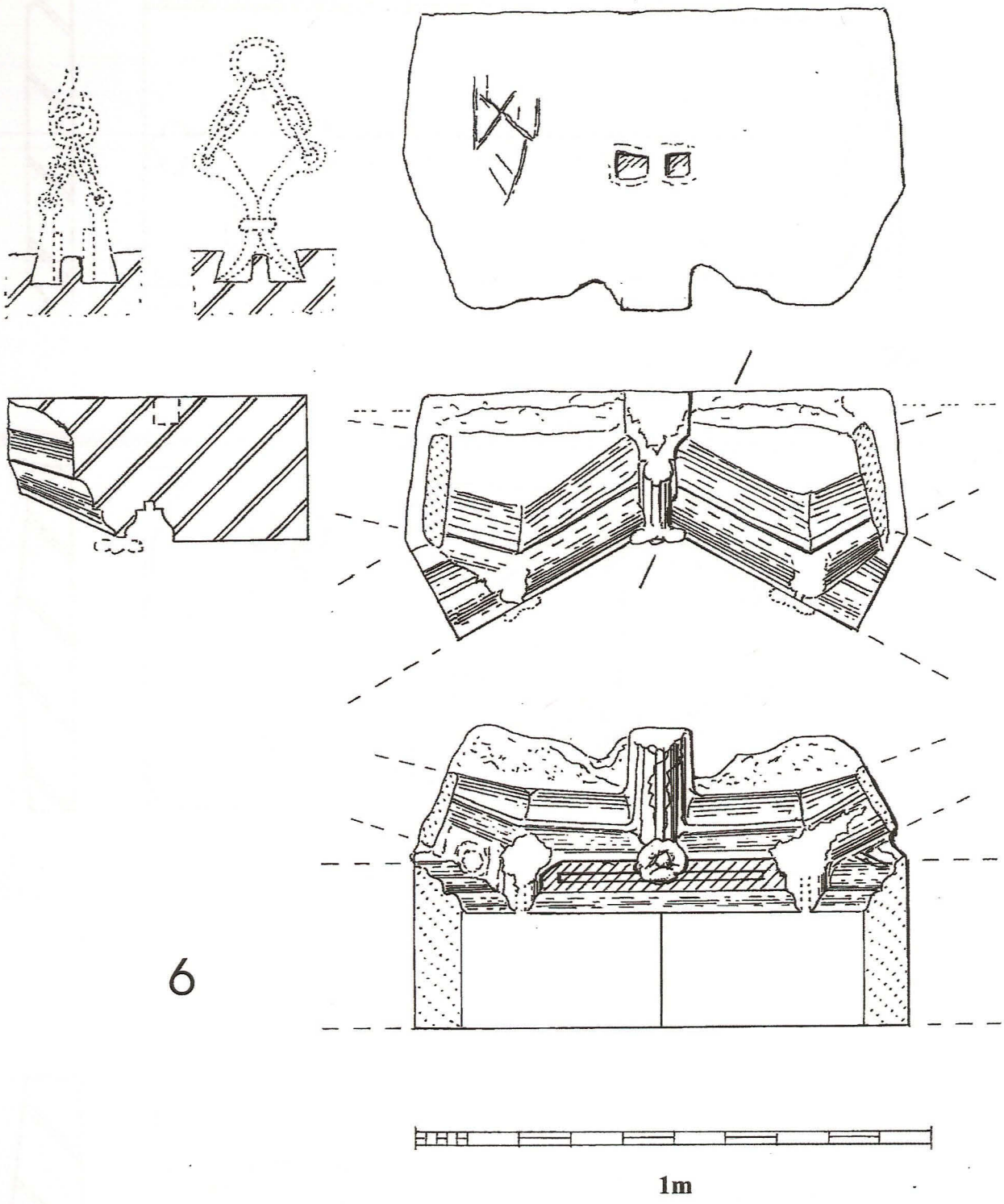


Fig. 9: Window/Arch head (6) with rib seats. Hoisting keys & mason's mark (top); elevation & section (centre); soffit view (bottom).

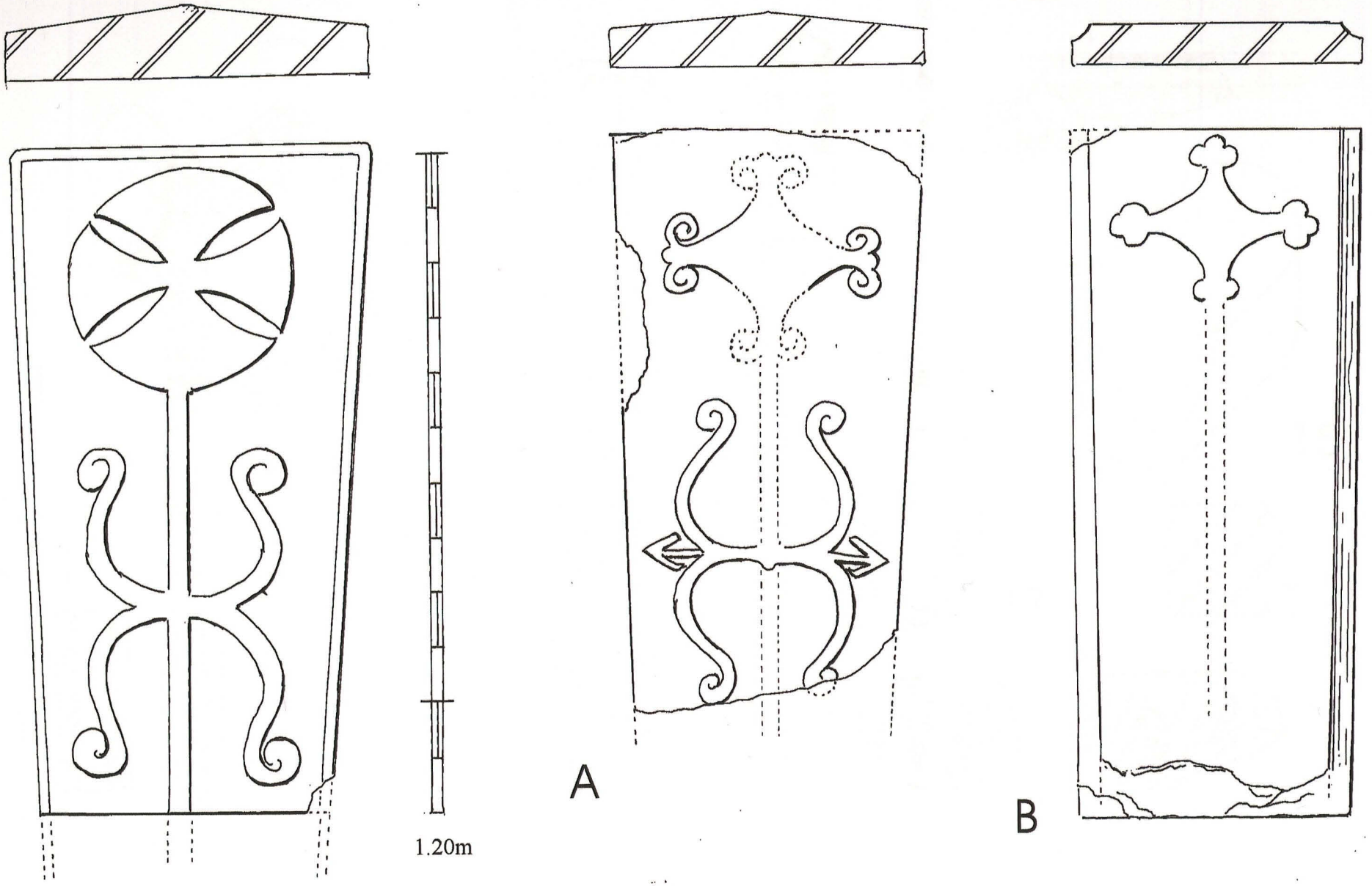


Fig. 10: Stone coffin lids. (7) from vicarage; (A) & (B) from churchyard west wall.

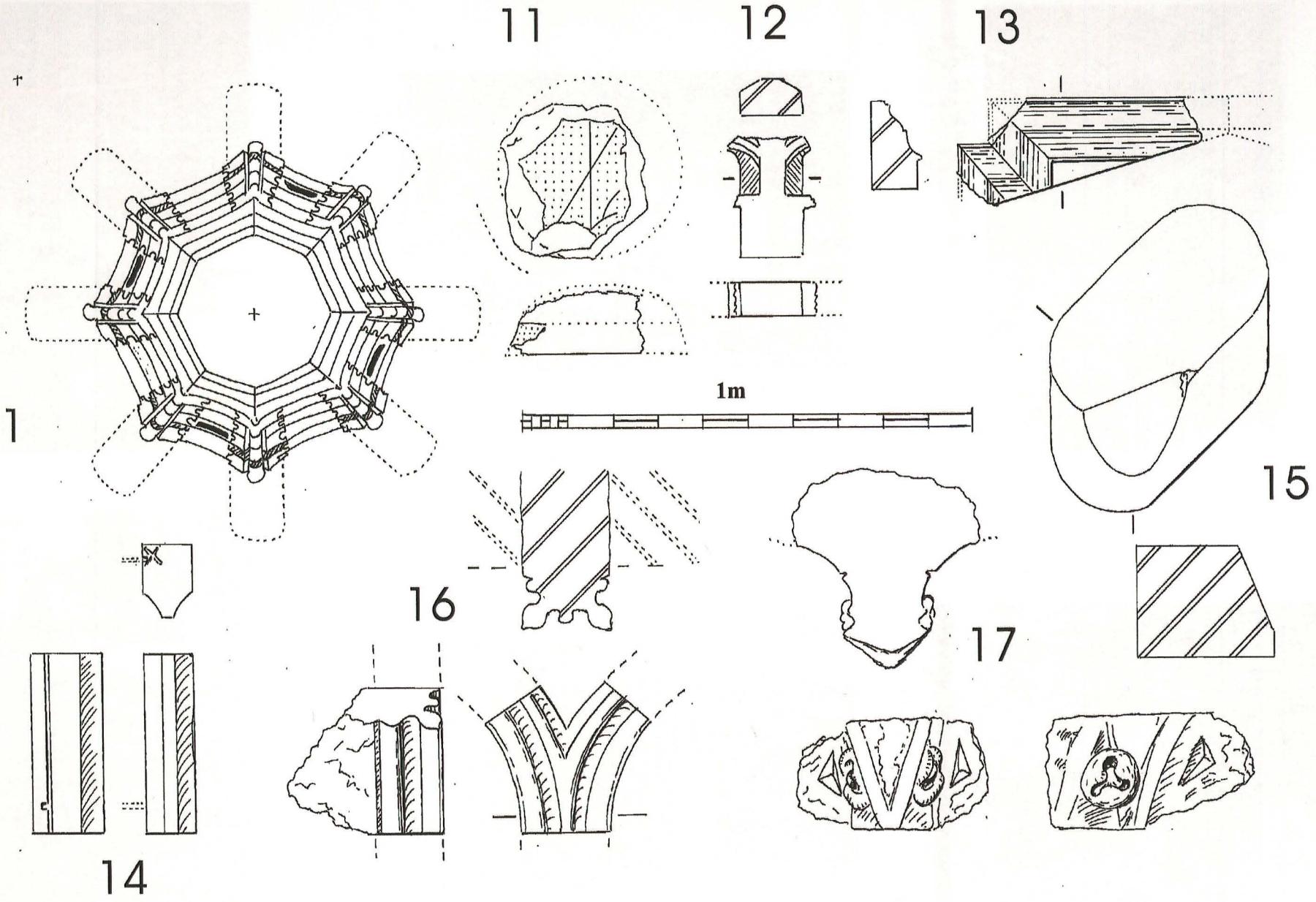
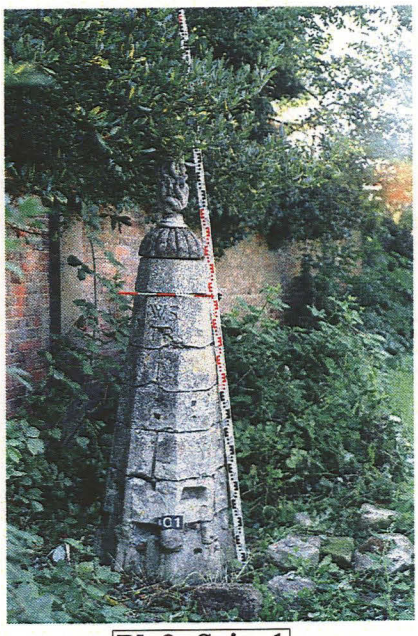


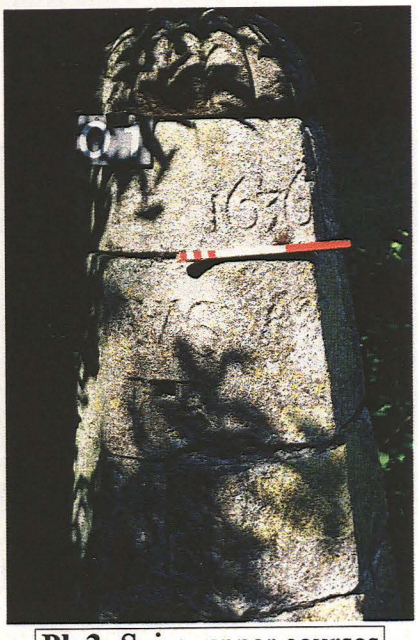
Fig. 11: Plan of spire courses (1). Miscellaneous stonework (11-17).

Appendix 1; Colour plates

Pl. 1: New vicarage garden, reassembled spire, 1 to right.



Pl. 2: Spire 1

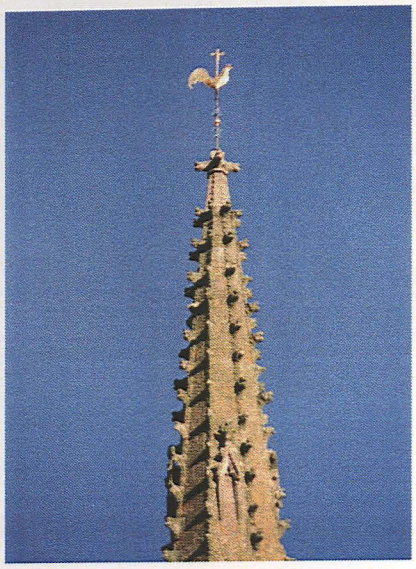


Pl. 3: Spire, upper courses C1, C2, C3

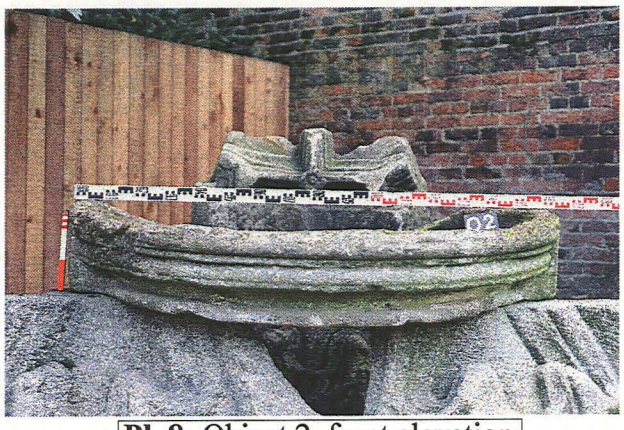
Pl. 4: Spire, C1, C2

Pl. 5: Spire, courses C6, C7; remains of crockets

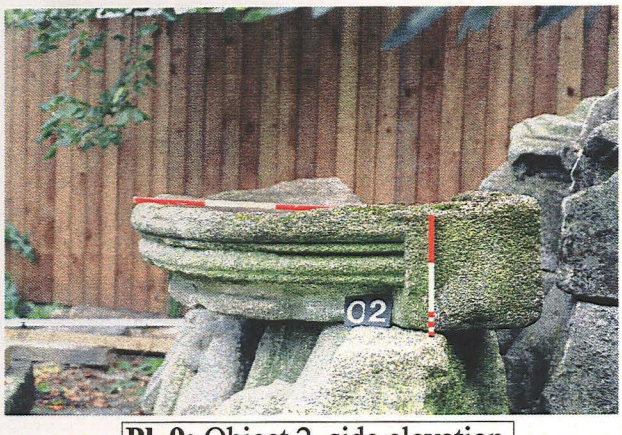
Pl. 6: Spire, courses C5, C6, C7



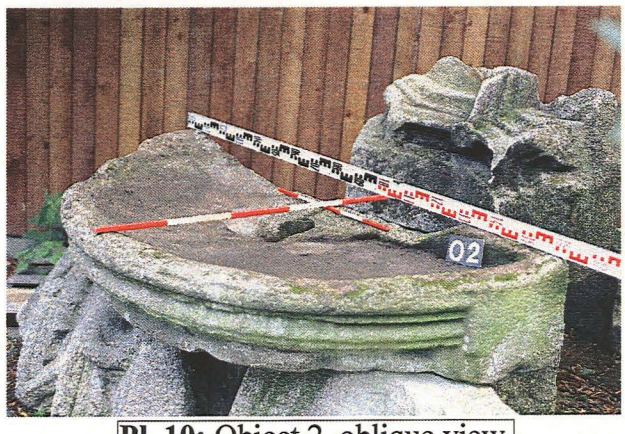
Pl. 7: St Mary & St Nicholas Church, replaced upper spire courses



Pl. 8: Object 2, front elevation.



Pl. 9: Object 2, side elevation.

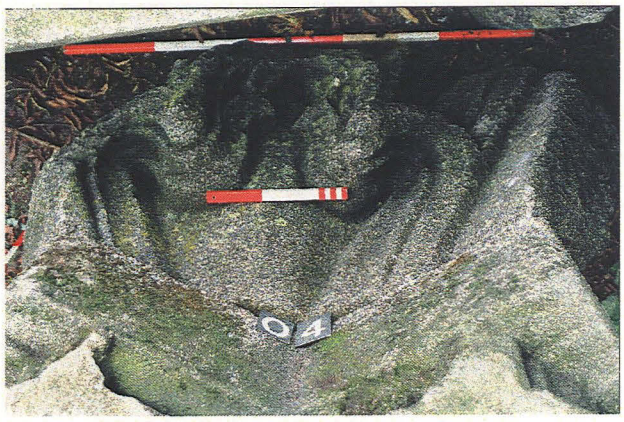


Pl. 10: Object 2, oblique view.

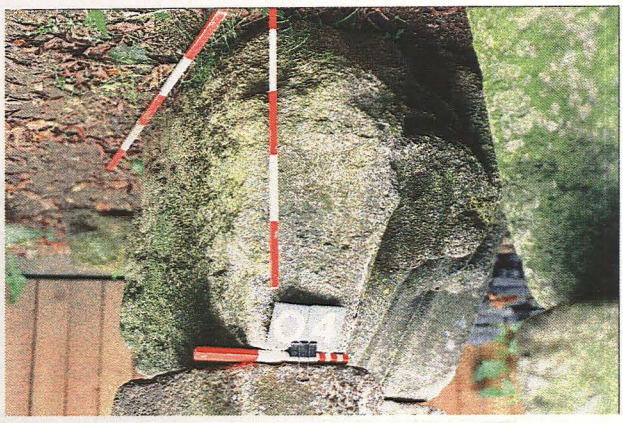
Pl. 11: Object 2, plan view showing drain

Pl. 12: Object 3, front elevation

Pl. 13: Object 3, side elevation



Pl. 14: Object 4, front elevation, from below



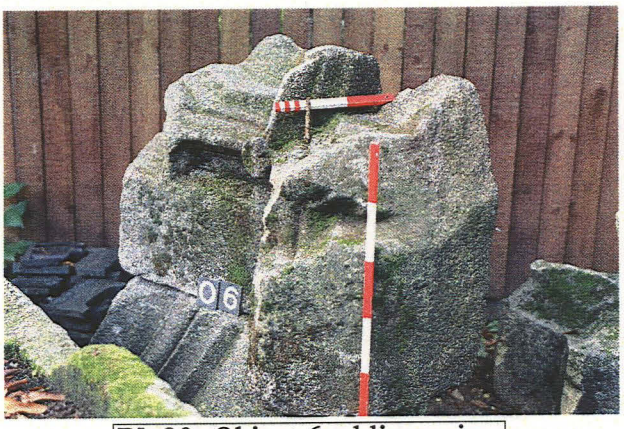
Pl. 15: Object 4, side elevation

Pl. 16: Object 4, from rear

Pl. 17: Object 5, front elevation

Pl. 18: Object 5, side elevation

Pl. 19: Object 6, soffit view



Pl. 20: Object 6, oblique view

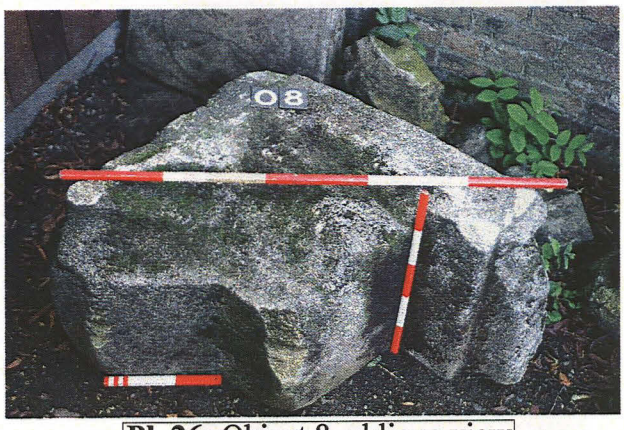
Pl. 21: Object 6, upper bed showing hoisting keys

Pl. 22: Object 7, plan view

Pl. 23: Object 7, oblique view of upper edge

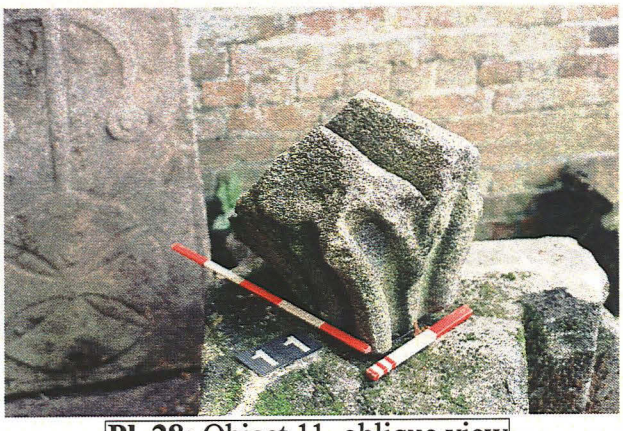
Pl. 24: Object 7a, churchyard wall

Pl. 25: Object 7b, churchyard wall



Pl. 26: Object 8, oblique view

Pl. 27: Object 10, lintel (object 9, slab, in background)



Pl. 28: Object 11, oblique view

Pl. 29: Object 11, side view

Pl. 30: Object 12, front elevation

Pl. 31: Object 12, side elevation

Pl. 32: Object 13, front elevation

Pl. 33: Object 13, end bed showing masons mark

Pl. 34: Object 14, view of front

Pl. 35: Object 15, oblique view

Pl. 36: Object 16, front view

Pl. 37: Object 17, base showing centre scribing

Pl. 38: Object 17, plan view of top

Appendix 2. Context summary

CONTEXT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
001	Garden soil
002	Subsoil
003	Alluvium
004	Alluvium
005	Alluvium
006	FO [009]. Evaluation trench back filling
007	Pit. Probable refuse pit, same as [102] recorded during evaluation.
008	FO [007].
009	Cut, evaluation trench 1.
010	Cut, modern post hole.
011	FO [010], includes machine made brick and timber.
012	Pit, 19th century or later refuse pit.
013	FO [012], includes mixed multi-period refuse

Appendix 3. Post Roman pottery archive

Jane Young

contex	cname	sub fabric	full name	form type	sherds	vessels	weigh	decoration	part	description	date
002	LERTH		Late earthenwares	cbm/large vessel	1	1	6		rim		18th to 19th
002	BOU		Bourne D ware	small jug	1	1	9		rim	white slip;very sandy fabric;? ID	mid 15th to 16th
002	BL		Black-glazed wares	small hollow vessel	1	1	4		BS		mid 17th to 18th
002	MY		Midlands Yellow ware	chamber pot/posset pot	1	1	78		base		16th to 17th
003	MEDLOC	OX/R/OX;fine sandy;hrd	Medieval local fabrics	jug ?	2	1	26		BS	abundant fine sand mod fe;thin walled;well thrown;no glaze	13th to 14th
013	ELY		Ely-type ware	jug	1	1	10		BS	? ID;pocked reduced green glaze	13th to 15th
013	STSL		Staffordshire/Bristol slipware	press mould dish	1	1	34	trailed wavy dec;notched rim	rim		18th
013	PEARL		Pearlware	small vase ?	1	1	12	transfer print	rim	chinese scene	late 18th to mid 19th
013	SWSG		Staffordshire White Saltglazed stoneware	small sauceboat	1	1	58	moulded	part profile	nice example	mid 18th

Appendix 4. Animal bone report

By Jennifer Kitch

Introduction

A total of 16 refitted fragments of animal bone (212g) were recovered by hand during watching brief work undertaken by PreConstruct Archaeology (Lincoln).
The entire assemblage was recovered from four contexts, two of which were alluvium layers.

Methodology

Identification of the bone was undertaken at PreConstruct Archaeology (Lincoln) with access to the reference collection and published guides. All of the animal remains were counted and weighed and, where possible, were identified to species, element, side and zone (Serjeantson 1996). Also, fusion data, butchery marks (Binford 1981), gnawing, burning and pathological changes were noted where present. Ribs and vertebrae were only recorded to species when they were substantially complete and could be accurately identified. Undiagnostic bones were recorded as micro (rodent size), small (rabbit size), medium (sheep size) or large (cattle size). The separation of sheep and goat bones was done using the criteria of Boessneck (1969) and Prummel and Frisch (1986). Where distinctions could not be made, the bone was recorded as sheep/goat (S/G).

The condition of the bone was graded using the criteria stipulated by Lyman (1996): grade 0 being the best preserved bone and grade 5 indicating that the bone had suffered such structural and attritional damage as to make it unrecognisable.

The quantification of species was carried out using the total fragment count, in which the total number of fragments of bone and teeth was calculated for each taxon. Where fresh breaks were noted, fragments were refitted and counted as one.

Tooth eruption and wear stages were measured using a combination of Halstead (1985), Grant (1982) and Levine (1982), and fusion data was analysed according to Silver (1969). Measurements of adult, that is fully fused, bones were taken according to the methods of von den Driesch (1976), with asterisked (*) measurements indicating bones that were reconstructed or had slight abrasion of the surface.

Results

Condition

The condition of the bone is good. The majority of the assemblage falls within grades 1 and 2 of the Lyman criteria (1996).

Given the relatively good condition of the bone it was possible to make measurements and identify butchery and gnawing marks.

Butchery

A total of 2 fragments of bone were observed to display butchery marks. A fragment of large mammal sized rib from 18th century pit [012], and a large mammal sized scapula fragment from the subsoil (002). The butchery marks are consistent with disarticulation.

Burning
No evidence of burning was noted within the assemblage.

Gnawing
A single fragment of large mammal sized cervical vertebra from the alluvium layer (003) displayed carnivore tooth puncture marks, suggesting that the remains were left open to scavengers prior to or after the disposal process.

Species Representation
Table 1 summarises the identified taxa within the assemblage.

Table 1. Summary of Identified Taxa

Taxon	Alluvium	Subsoil	18th Century Pit	Grand Total
Cattle	2			2
Sheep/Goat	1			1
Sheep	1			1
Pig			1	1
Domestic Fowl			1	1
Rabbit			1	1
Large Mammal Size	4	1	1	6
Medium Mammal Size	2		1	3
Grand Total	10	1	5	16

The assemblage is too small to give a true representation of husbandry practices. Cattle and sheep/goat, 1 fragment positively identified as sheep, are the most prominent species within the assemblage. Followed by solitary fragments of pig, domestic fowl and rabbit.

Discussion

The assemblage is limited providing limited information save the presence of the species. The butchery evidence indicates the disarticulation of large sized mammals, probably cattle, for meat production.

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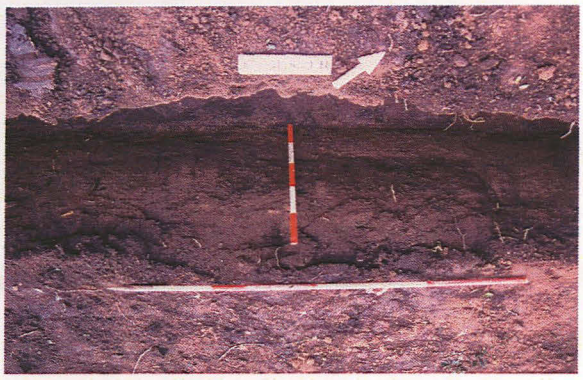
Identified Animal Bone from HGSP 03

Ctxt No.	Taxon	Element	Side	Z1	Z2	Z3	Z4	Z5	Z6	Z7	Z8	Prox	Dist	Path	Butch	Brnt	Gnw	Fresh Break	Asso'd	Measured	Tooth Wear	Surface	Lyman Grade	No.	(g)	Notes
2	Large	Scapula	L	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	X	X	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	2	1	13	Chopped through the blade proximally and distally
3	Cattle	Mt	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	F	X	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	X	2	1	53	
3	Large	Cervical	B	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	F	X	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	X	2	1	31	Possible carnivore gnawing on the body
3	Cattle	Radius	R	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	F	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	2	1	19	
3	Sheep	Horncore	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	1	1	6	
3	Medium	Scapula	R	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	2	1	1	
3	S/G	Radius	R	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	F	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	2	1	5	
5	Large	Rib	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	3	2	8	
5	Large	Vertebra	B	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	V	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	3	1	14	
5	Medium	Scapula	R	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	X	3	1	8	
13	Large	Rib	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	1	1	33	Chopped and snapped through at the neck of the rib
13	Rabbit	Humerus	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	F	F	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	X	1	1	1	
13	Pig	Mc II	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	F	U	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	1	1	5	
13	D.Fowl	Humerus	L	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	X	F	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	A	3	1	3	Surface intermittently pitted and abraded
13	Medium	Mandible	L	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	X	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	X	2	1	12	

Appendix 5. Colour plates from watching brief



Pl. 39: Section from garage plot showing former evaluation trench and cut feature [107].
Looking NW

Pl. 40: Photograph from house plot showing pit [012] in base of footing.
Looking SW