



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Lincoln College, Monks Road, Lincoln
New Reception Area and Lift Tower**

Archaeological Evaluation

NGR: SK98057 71433

Site Code: LCLS05

LCNCC Accession No.: 2005.69

Planning Application no.: 2005/0151/F

**Report for
Thornton Firkin
on behalf of
Lincoln College**

**By
M. Jordan**

**LAS Report No. 831
June 2005**

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**Lincoln College, Monks Road, Lincoln
New Reception Area and Lift Tower
Archaeological Evaluation
NGR: SK97931 71435
Site Code: LCLS05
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Summary

An evaluation was undertaken comprising the excavation of two trenches located in the area of a new reception area and lift shaft at Lincoln College, Monks Road. The deposits in Trench 1 located in the area of the proposed reception included a possible clay surface with an associated limestone wall running north/south, and pottery dating from the 12th to 15th centuries. Development below a depth of 17.07m OD in the vicinity of Trench 1 will disturb these archaeological deposits. In Trench 2 modern pipes and disturbance had truncated archaeological deposits to the depth of the proposed lift shaft pit.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Thornton Firkin on behalf of Lincoln College in March 2005 to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the above site (Fig. 1). The work was carried out in accordance with a brief set by the city archaeologist dated February 28th 2005 and the general requirements set out in *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998). Work commenced 30th March 2005 and was completed 1st April 2005.

Site Location and Description

The site is located on the north side of the existing reception building for Lincoln College on the north side of Monks Road. The site is currently under tarmac (Fig. 1).

Planning Background

An application has been made for planning permission to construct a new reception building, to include a three-storey lift shaft and a vehicular cross-over lay-by fronting onto Monks Rd. The City planning authority has requested an archaeological evaluation prior to determination of the application.

Archaeological Background

Lincoln College is situated on the north side of Monks Road east of the Roman and medieval core of the city of Lincoln. It is located in the medieval suburb known as *Butwerk* and Monks Road had a Roman predecessor which led to the east gate of the lower Roman city. The areas on all sides of the city walls were heavily built up in the Roman period and, less so in the medieval period. However, the site lies within the precinct of the Dominican Friary founded in 1238 which extended from west of the old Art College building as far as Arboretum Avenue. Parts of the church and cloister and cemetery were found during building works for the College on Abbey Street, Monks Road and Cathedral Street, west of the current proposed development. Whilst this part of the precinct lies east of the church there

may be ancillary buildings such as stables, dovecote, brewery, kitchens etc present. Excavations by CLAU on Abbey Street found pottery wasters, suggesting that there is a kiln production site of late Saxon/medieval date close by. Further wasters were also found during the work by LAS to the west in Cathedral St. Roman masonry walls had been incorporated into the medieval buildings on these sites and it is possible that further evidence for Roman occupation may be present on this site. Monks Road was the main road east of the lower city and there is likely to have been suburban development along the road. Earlier medieval and Roman horizons were encountered at a depth of c.17m OD on Abbey St and Monks Rd.

Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the evaluation was to

- Provide information on the depth and quality, below the modern surface, of surviving archaeological deposits which would be affected by any proposed groundwork.
- Provide information which will allow for the assessment of the possible scale of development impact on any remains and other information which might influence development design so that such impact can be avoided or minimized.
- Provide information that will allow the local planning authority to reconcile development proposals with their policy of preserving archaeological remains.
- Provide site specific information which (if necessary) would allow for the design and integration of timing and funding of any further archaeological work (or mitigation strategy) which may be required in advance of, or during, any subsequent development programme.
- Produce a project archive for deposition with the city and County Museum.
- Provide information for accession to the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the Lincoln Urban Archaeological Database.

Method

Two trenches were positioned to investigate the areas of development at the front (Trench 1) and the rear (Trench 2) of Monks building, Lincoln College. The precise location of Trench 1, measuring 5m x 3m, was determined on site in agreement with the college authorities in order to minimize disruption to college activities. Trench 2 was positioned over the site of the lift pit and was to be 2.5m x 2.5m x 1.5-2m deep (Fig.2).

Archaeological recording was carried out by a team of experienced archaeologists. The trenches were machine excavated to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, using a toothless ditching bucket, after breaking out of any concrete, tarmac, hardcore. The trenches were hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan.

Trench 1 was cleaned and archaeological features on the surface drawn and photographed. Carefully selected cross-sections through the features were excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more

extensive investigations should these prove to be necessary.

Trench 2 was to be fully hand-excavated to the required depth for the construction of the lift shaft. However the presence of a drainage/sewage pipe running across the trench prevented the work taking place. A smaller area incorporating the southwest part of the lift shaft was excavated. After removal of the pipes the trench was excavated to the required depth.

A full written (single context) and photographic record was made of the site, and included site plans at a scale of 1:50 or 1:20, as appropriate, and section drawings at 1:10. A plan of each trench was made with section drawings of at least one side. In addition, further plans and sections were made of individual features, or groups of features, as appropriate. Finds, which were located in archaeological features, will be identified accordingly and a context numbering system for archaeological remains was in operation. LAS operates a standard context recording system, developed by its staff over the past 20 years based on MOLAS and CAS models.

A full photographic record was made during the progress of the excavation to cover each feature together with general site views. The numbers referred to in the text and on accompanying drawings are context numbers assigned during the recording of the site. Context numbers were assigned in blocks, prefixed by the trench number (i.e. Trench 1 was numbered from **100** onwards, Trench 2 from **200** etc).

A bench mark of 17.6m was located on Monks Road between the college and Abbey Street.

Results

Trench 1 (Figs 3, 4; Pls 1, 3 and 4)

Trench 1 was positioned to evaluate the area of land that will be disturbed by the proposed extension at the front of the college, just north of Monks Road. Beneath the dark brown silty sand topsoil layer **100**, was a 1m thick layer of dumped modern deposits with frequent inclusions of rubble, brick and tarmac. This comprised the layers **131**, **129**, **125**, **124**, **101**. Beneath these was a mid orange brown sand with inclusions of brick and mortar, **132**. Beneath this was service trench **102**, which ran east/west and contained an electric cable. It was filled by **103**, a grey brown sandy silt with frequent inclusions of brick, rubble and limestone fragments, and contained one fragment of mid 12th to 15th century ridge tile. Beneath **132** was a dark brown grey sandy silt layer **105** which contained one fragment of 13th century ridge tile.

105 overlay layers **104** and **109** in the west half of the trench. **104** was a 0.05m to 0.10m thick grey brown clay layer present in the west half of the trench which could represent a former surface. **109** was a localised deposit of dark grey sandy silt located near the centre of the trench and which may be a variation of **107**. At the eastern end of the trench was **107**, a dark grey brown clay silt with frequent inclusions of limestone fragments, small pebbles and ceramic building material including 12th to 15th

century tile, one sherd of mid 15th to 16th century pottery and one sherd of Roman greyware. Cutting layer **107** was **126** the base of the cut for wall **108**. It had a shallow profile and contained **127**, a brown grey clay silt with frequent inclusions of mortar and the wall **108**, which ran north/south along the eastern edge of the trench (Pls. 4, 5). **127** contained one fragment of nibbed tile mid 12th to 13th century. Wall **108** was composed of limestone fragments in a cream mortar.

Features **118**, **113**, **116**, **112**, **120** and **119** were all circular in plan ranging from 0.10 to 0.20m in diameter with irregular V-shaped profiles and contained orange iron rich silty clays (Pl.6). Although they were seen cutting layers **104**, **106** and **107** it is likely they are modern as Victorian pottery was found in **113**. They may have intruded from a higher level, but this relationship was removed by machining of the upper layers. Six of these features formed an east/west line and may represent a former fence line or line of stakes.

Deposits **107**, **109** and **104** overlay **106** a 0.15m thick layer of dark grey clay silt with inclusions of limestone fragments. **106** overlay **110** a mid to dark brown clay silt with occasional inclusions of limestone fragments and snail shells which may represent a buried soil and contained one fragment of Roman tile. Boreholes carried out subsequent to the evaluation show the natural is present at a depth of 14.86m OD. **110** was the lowest deposit revealed in the evaluation and was present at a depth of 16.86m suggesting there are 2m of potential archaeological deposits beneath this layer and above the natural.

Trench 2 (Fig 5; Pls 2, 7 and 8)

Trench 2 was located in the car park at the rear of the college. The area of the proposed lift shaft had been heavily truncated to a depth of 1.8m by modern features including two service pipes. In the south face of the trench, south of the modern pipes a sequence of archaeological deposits was revealed. Beneath the modern car park surface **200**, was a yellow sand and gravel bedding **201** which overlay **202** a 0.20m thick tarmac deposit. This had been placed over **203** a brick surface which was probably the floor of the former cattlemarket constructed in 1847. This overlay **204** a 0.20m thick concrete bedding layer which sealed **205** a 0.20 to 0.25m thick layer of brown grey compact clay and which overlay **206** a 0.10m thick layer of dark brown clay silt. Beneath this was **207**, the lowest deposit seen in the excavation, it was 0.70m thick and was a mid to dark brown sandy clay silt, with inclusions of limestone fragments and snail shells, possibly representing a former garden soil as seen in Trench 1. A borehole revealed natural deposits at 2.20m beneath the present car park surface (15.86m OD).

Discussion

Trench 1

The upper layers represent modern landscaping of the area probably associated with the construction work of the 1990's. However the evaluation shows that beneath 1m of modern material are surviving archaeological deposits. These included the remains of a possible medieval wall **108**, and associated layers including a possible clay surface **104**. These features contained pottery dating from the 12th to 15th century and may therefore be associated with the Dominican Friary founded in 1238, as the site

lies within the boundaries of the monastic precinct.

Borehole results have shown that archaeological deposits survive from c.1m to 3.30m below ground level (17.07m OD to the natural at a depth of 14.86m O.D) suggesting there is 2.3m of potential archaeological deposits. This confirms the findings of the work to the west where medieval and Roman deposits were encountered at a depth of c.17m OD.

Trench 2

Only a small area of the lift shaft was undisturbed by modern service trenches. However, the sequence of deposits visible in the face of the trench were similar to that seen in Trench 1. The dark brown clay silt **207** which appears the same as layer **107** in Trench 1 and similarly a dark brown clay silt (**106** and **206**) overlay these deposits in both trenches. In such a small exposure it is impossible to say that the layers represent the same deposits but hint at similar land use at this time. The level of natural encountered in the boreholes in Trenches 1 and 2 indicates a gentle fall of 1m in 16m to the south in ground levels, (gradient of 6.25%) which is still apparent today, in spite of modern landscaping.

Conclusion

Construction of foundations at the front of the existing building in the vicinity of Trench 1 below a depth of 17.07m OD (1m below ground level) will impact upon surviving archaeological deposits. Excavation of the lift shaft has been completed and have demonstrated that no archaeological deposits were affected.

Matthew Jordan
Lindsey Archaeological Services
June 2005

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank the staff of Lincoln College, for their help. The pottery and ceramic building materials archive was by Jane Young. This report was edited and collated by Naomi Field.

Reference

Site Archive

Context sheets:40

Plans 1

Sections 7

Correspondence

Photographs LAS film no. 05/28 Negatives 7-35

Specialist reports Pottery and ceramic buildings materials archive by Jane Young

APPENDIX 1

Lincoln College, Monks Road, Lincoln
 New Reception Area and Lift Tower
 (LCLS 05)
 Context Summary

APPENDIX 1

Context	Context Type	Description	Area
100	Layer	Topsoil	1
101	Layer	Modern	1
102	Cut	Service Trench	1
103	Fill	Fill of 102	1
104	Layer	Clay surface	1
105	Layer	Dark brown grey sandy silt	1
106	Layer	Dark brown grey clay silt	1
107	Layer	Dark grey brown clay silt	1
108	Masonry	Wall	1
109	Layer	Dark grey clay silt	1
110	Layer	Mid to dark brown clay silt	1
111	Fill	Fill of 112	1
112	Cut	Posthole	1
113	Cut	Posthole	1
114	Fill	Fill of 113	1
115	Fill	Fill of 118	1
116	Cut	Posthole	1
117	Fill	Fill of 116	1
118	Cut	Stakehole	1
119	Layer		1
120	Cut	Stakehole	1
121	Fill	Fill of 120	1
122	Cut	Posthole	1
123	Fill	Fill of 122	1
124	Layer	Yellow orange clay	1
125	Layer	Grey brown silty sand	1
126	Cut	Foundation cut	1
127	Fill	Fill of 126	1
128	Layer	Tarmac	1
129	Layer	Brown silty clay	1
130	Unstratified	Unstratified finds	1
131	Layer	Grey brown silt	1
200	Layer	Modern surface	2
201	Layer	Yellow sand and gravel	2
202	Layer	Tarmac	2
203	Layer	Brick surface	2
204	Layer	Concrete	2
205	Layer	Brown grey clay	2
206	Layer	Brown clay silt	2
207	Layer	Mid to dark brown sandy clay silt	2

APPENDIX 2

Pottery Archive Lincoln College, Lift Shaft, Lincoln (LCLS05)

Jane Young and M.J. Darling

context	cname	sub fabric	full name	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	part	description	date
107	TOYII		Toynton Late Medieval ware	jug	1	1	37	handle	strap handle with slight central groove	mid 15th to mid 16th
107	R	greyware	Roman pottery	jar	1	1	8	BS		2nd to 3rd
130	LEMS		Lincolnshire Early Medieval Shelly	jar ?	1	1	7	BS		12th to early/mid 13th
130	LSW2/3		13th to 15th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	jug	1	1	6	BS	cu glaze	13th to mid 14th
130	NOTGL		Nottingham glazed ware Light Bodied	jug	1	1	8	BS	burnt;ext cu glaze int reduced & burnt	13th
130	LSW2		13th to 14th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	small jug	1	1	23	rim	sharp cuff rim;corrugated neck;abraded	mid to late 13th

APPENDIX 3

Tile Archive Lincoln College, Lift Shaft, Lincoln (LCLS05)

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	fabric	sub type	frags	weight	description	date
103	PNRDISC	Discarded peg, nib or ridge tile	1		1	19	flat roofer;flake	mid 12th to 15th
105	PNRDISC	Discarded peg, nib or ridge tile	1		1	52	flat roofer;white skin	13th
107	GPNR	Glazed peg, nib or ridge	7		1	57	flat roofer;corner;fe reduced glaze;abraded	mid 12th to mid 13th
107	PNRDISC	Discarded peg, nib or ridge tile	1		1	12	flat roofer	mid 12th to 15th
110	RTIL	Roman tile			1	54	tegula ?	Roman
111	PNRDISC	Discarded peg, nib or ridge tile	1		1	79	flat roofer;soot	mid 12th to 15th
127	NIBDISC	nibbed tile (discarded)	1	moulded	1	15		mid 12th to 13th
130	GPNR	Glazed peg, nib or ridge	7		2	75	flat roofer;same tile;mortar incl over breaks;reduced pocked glaze	mid 12th to mid 13th
130	PNRDISC	Discarded peg, nib or ridge tile	1		1	70	flat roofer	mid 12th to 15th
130	PNRDISC	Discarded peg, nib or ridge tile	vitrified		2	80	flat roofer;thick tile;same tile	mid 12th to 13th

THE FIGURES

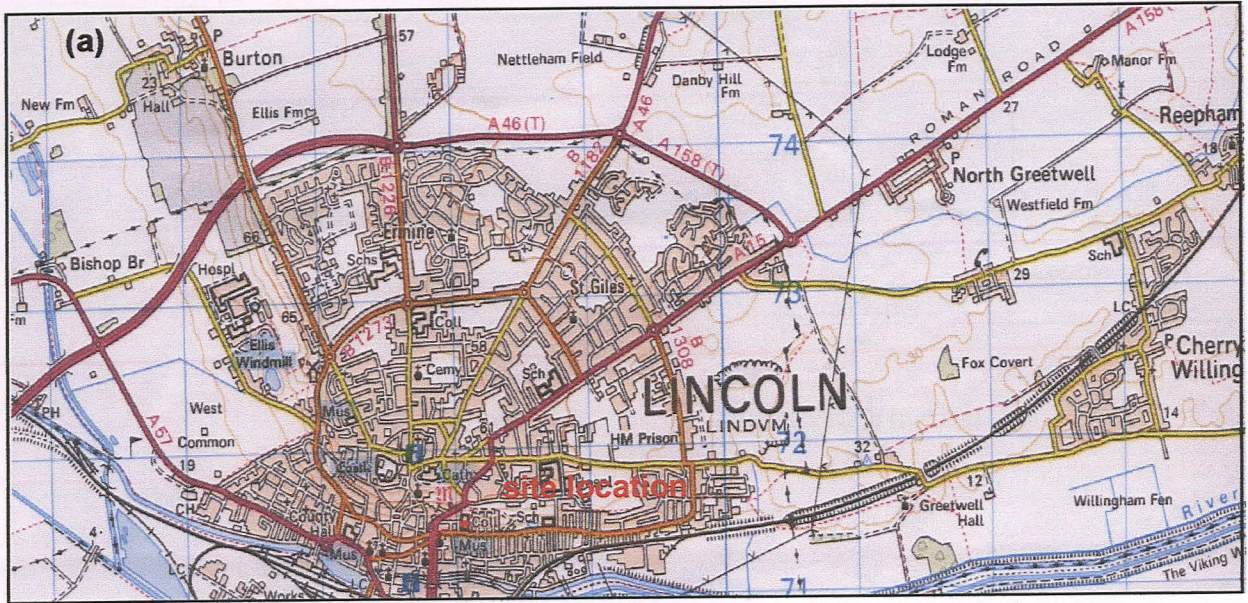


Fig. 1 Location of development site, Monks Road. Based on (a) 1:50 000 OS Map and (b) 1:1250 OS Map, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 10002165.

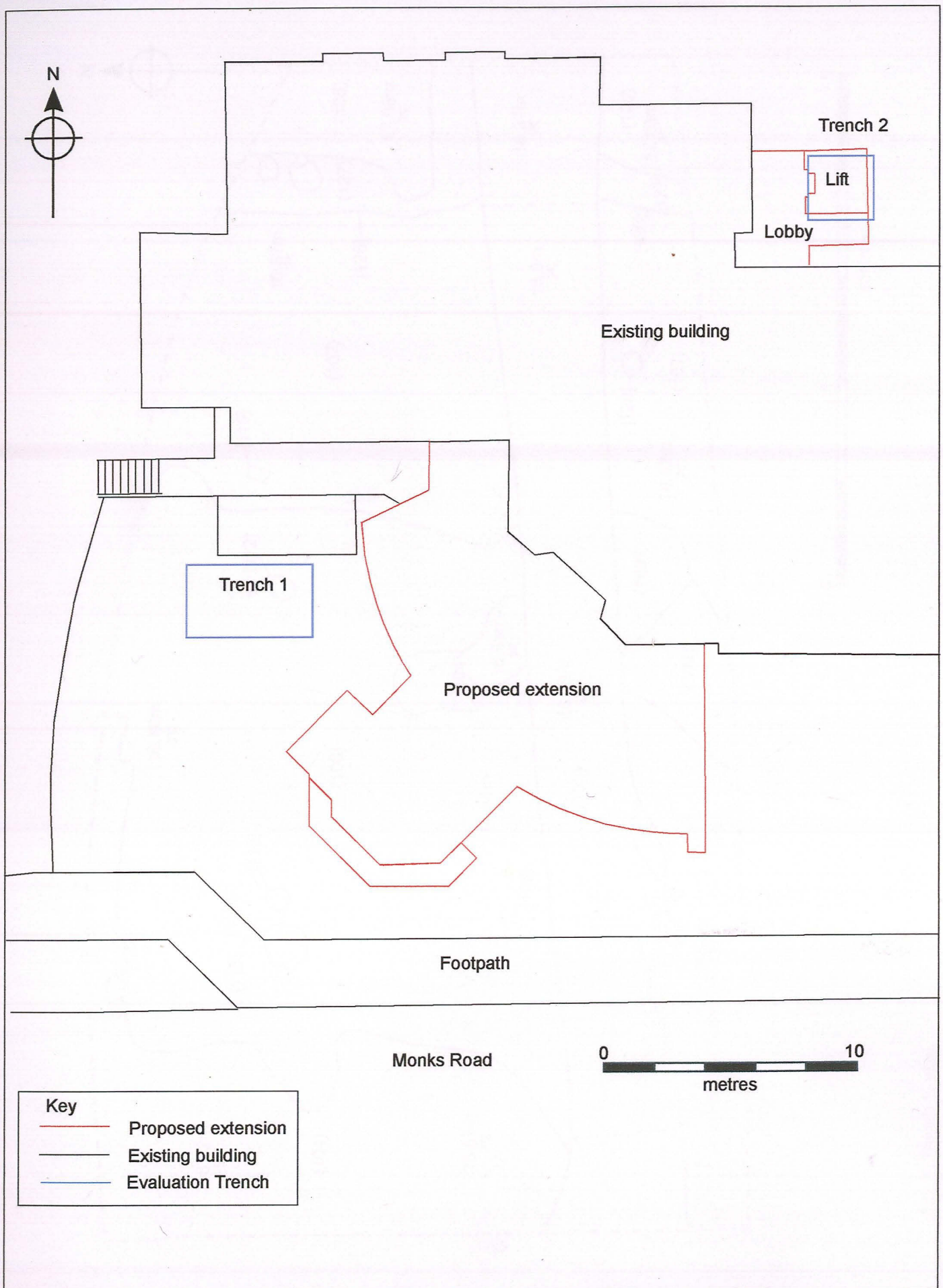


Fig. 2 Location of evaluation trenches in relation to proposed development (based on a plan supplied by the client).

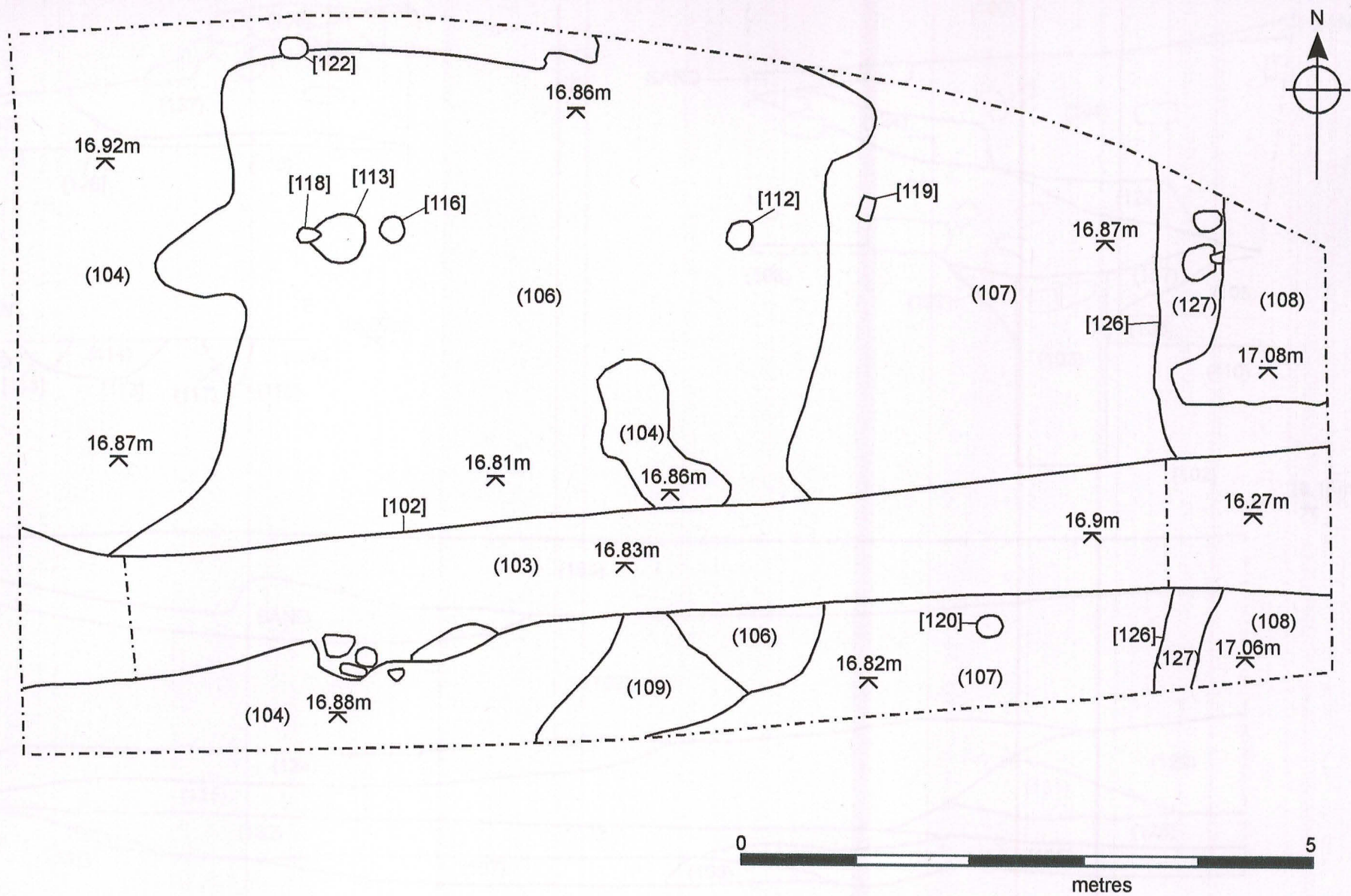


Fig. 3 Trench 1, plan.

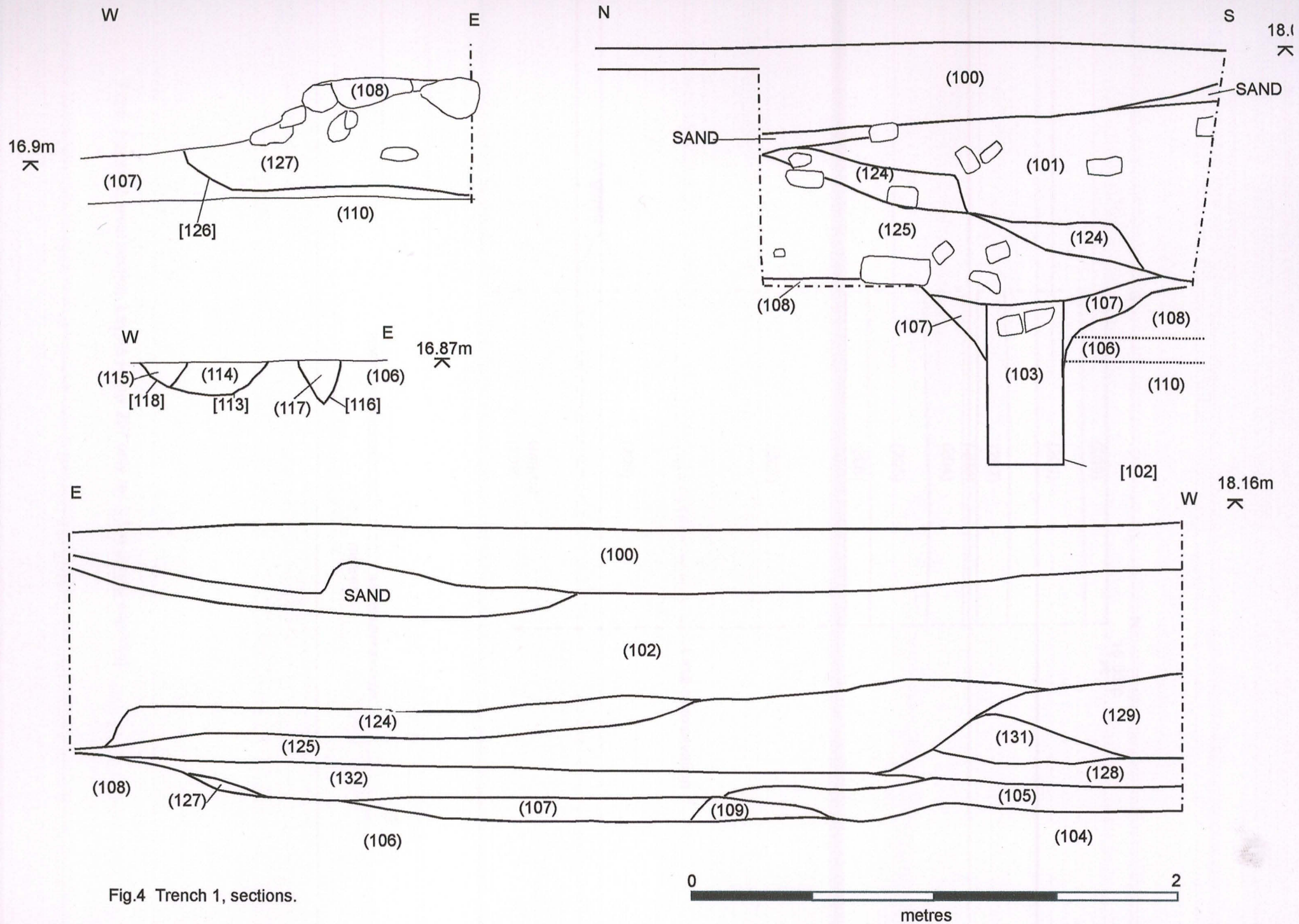


Fig.4 Trench 1, sections.

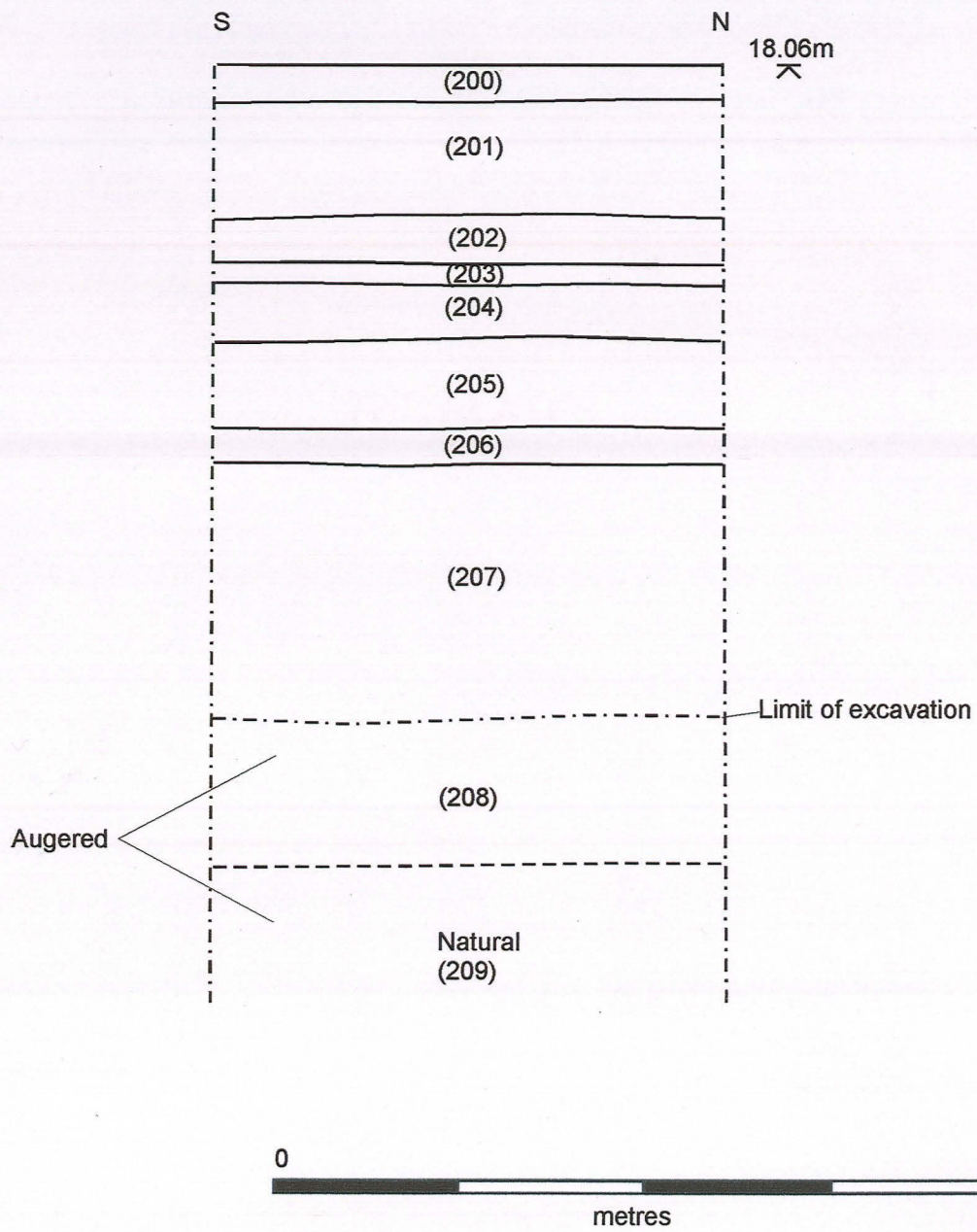


Fig.5 Trench 2, west section. Layers below 207 only recorded during augering.

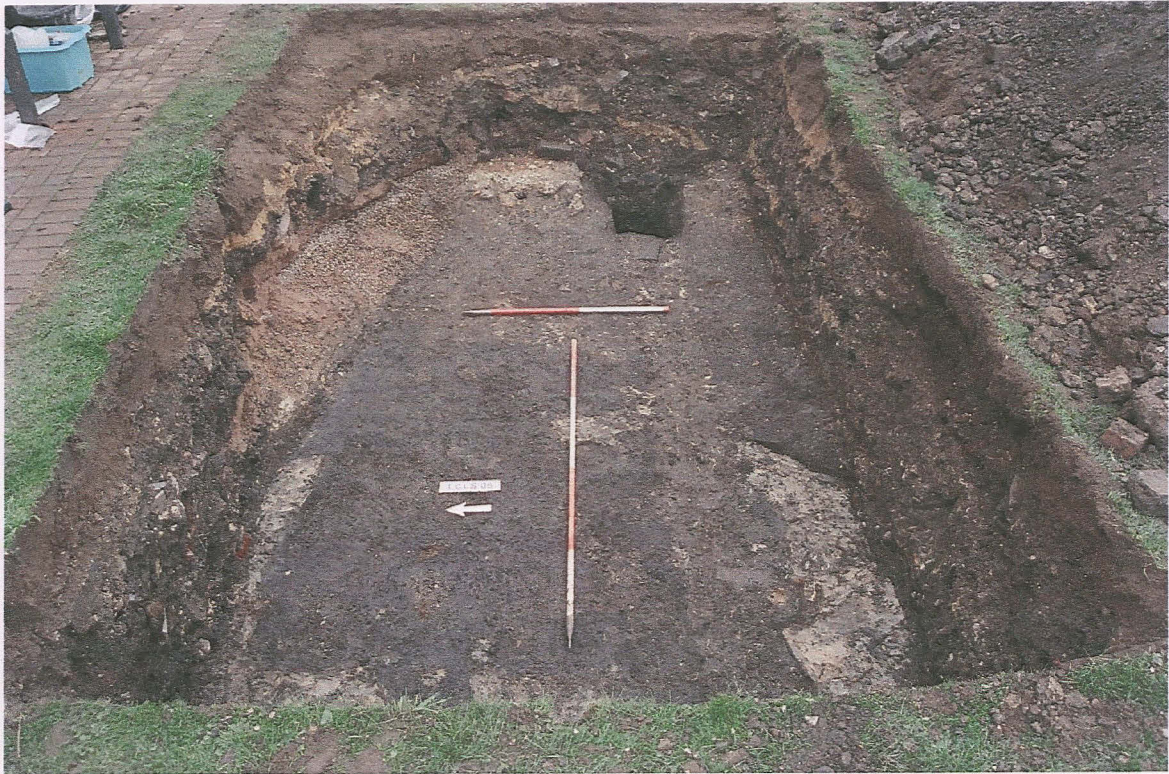
THE PLATES



Pl. 1 General view of Trench 1, looking northwest



Pl. 2 General view of Trench 2, looking southeast



Pl. 3 Trench 1, view looking east. Scales 1m and 2m.



Pl. 4 Trench 1, east section showing modern trench 102, limestone wall 108 and layer 107. Scales 1m and 2m.



Pl. 5 Section through remains of wall 108, looking north. Scale 0.50m



Pl. 6 View of stakeholes 113, 118 and 116, looking north. Scale 0.50m



Pl. 7 Trench 2: East section showing sequence of deposits and modern disturbance.



Pl. 8 Trench 2, west section, scale 2m.