



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**The Glassmill, Brayford Wharf, Lincoln
Archaeological Watching Brief**

LCNCC Accn No.: 2005.38

Site Code: LBWG 05

NGR: SK 9723 7123

Planning Application: 2004/0274/F

Report

for

Lindum Construction Ltd

by

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**LAS Report No. 832
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Services

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Highways & Planning
Directorate

EVENT: L16127

INTERVENTION: L1 10165
EXCAVATION: L1 10166

negative

The Glassmill, Lincoln.
Archaeological watching brief

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during piling operations at the Glassmill, Brayford Wharf, Lincoln. The development site was c.47.00m x 40.00m in size with a maximum pile depth of c.5.00m. The textural and colour changes in the upcast spoil noted on the surface around each pile suggest possible infilled water courses running diagonally north-east by south-west across the site. No archaeological finds or material were noted within the development area.

Introduction

In January 2005, Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Lindum Construction Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the Glassmill in Lincoln 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

The development site is located on the north side of the Brayford Pool, west of Lincoln city centre. The site lies at the junction of Lucy Tower Street and Brayford Wharf North, and was most recently been used as premises for Lincolnshire County Council's Libraries Services.

Planning Background

Planning permission has been granted for redevelopment of the site comprising a restaurant and other facilities. Condition 3 of the permission required an archaeological watching brief during the course of all groundworks.

Archaeological Background

The site lies immediately outside the western medieval defences of the City of Lincoln, adjacent to the Brayford Pool and has a high potential for preserved timbers from early wharfage.

The northern limit of the Pool, prior to medieval reclamation, has not been securely established this side of the defences, but it was thought that a ridge of sand recorded to the west might extend across the northern end of the site, with evidence for prehistoric occupation.

A Roman cemetery, known from finds on the site of Viking House further west was thought to extend onto the site. Land in the block south of Newland may have been used as a marketplace between the fourteenth to sixteenth centuries.

The study area appears to have been subject to modern development from the mid 19th century onwards with buildings first appearing on Padleys 1868 map of Lincoln.

The development site was stripped of 19th century buildings in 1956 when a new car show room was erected. The show room was built for BMC cars and designed by local architect Sam Scorer. Scorer pioneered the use of concrete hyperbolic paraboloid roof structures. The roof of the former car showroom now has listed building status and has been retained within the new development. When the showroom went out of use the building was converted and taken over by Lincoln Library services.

Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the Watching Brief was to record any archaeological deposits disturbed during the piling operations at the above site and to provide results for accession to the County HER and the Lincoln UAD.

Method

The development site was c.47.00m x 40.00m in size with a maximum pile depth of c.5.00m. The majority of the piling undertaken on the site was drilled. Drilled or augered piles can be useful from an archaeological point of view as they result in up-cast spoil that can potentially contain archaeological material or indicate soil changes below the surface. The subterranean stratigraphy of much of the site could be extrapolated from the upcast spoil from the piling operation. The watching brief was undertaken by LAS field archaeologists Mike Garrett and Doug Young. The work took 4 days and was completed on the 4th March 2005. A photographic record was maintained during the work.

Results

The textural and colour changes in the upcast spoil noted on the surface around the piles suggest that below the concrete surface **01** a maximum of 3.00m of modern rubble and demolition material appears. These modern layers are all very similar and are contexted as **02, 03, 05, 12** and **17** (Appendix 1). The modern demolition layers overlay various naturally deposited silts and sand layers **04, 08, 06** and **08** (Figs 3, 4 and 5). The extrapolated profiles particularly in sections E-F and G-H and the texture of the upcast material suggest the possibility of infilled watercourses running diagonally north-east by south-west across the site towards the Brayford Pool, appearing mainly as contexts **04, 06** and **08**. Beneath possible riverine deposit **08** a layer of waterlogged dark grey/brown peat **10** was noted (Appendix 1).

Discussion

There was no open-cut excavation and no archaeological finds were noted within the development area. The upcast material observed during the piling operations appears to suggest waterlogged deposits and possible infilled water courses running diagonally north-east by south-west across the

site towards the Brayford Pool. However, this interpretation remains conjectural due to the imprecise nature of the collection of the information from the upcast piling spoil.

Conclusion

Although no archaeological finds were noted within the development area the results from the piling operations do indicate that any future open excavations on site at a depth below the modern demolition material would almost certainly encounter waterlogged deposits which due to the naturally anaerobic conditions would have a high potential of containing well preserved archaeological material and environmental deposits.

Richard Pullen M.A. PIFA
Lindsey Archaeological Services
3rd June 2005

Acknowledgements

Lindsey Archaeological Services is grateful for the full co-operation given by the contractors and individuals who assisted in the completion of the works at the Glassmill, Brayford Wharf, Lincoln. The illustrations were prepared by the author.

Contents of Site Archive

Colour Photographs from LAS film N^o.05/13
1 sheet of drawings (six 1:100 sections)
Site notes
Correspondence

APPENDIX 1

**The Glassmill, Brayford Wharf, Lincoln (LBWG 05)
Context Summary**

Appendix 1

Context	Type	Description
01	Layer	Concrete
02	Layer	Mid brown silt and demolition material (similar to 13)
03	Layer	Dark grey brown waterlogged sand silt
04	Layer	Mid grey waterlogged silty sand
05	Layer	Modern demolition material (similar to 12)
06	Layer	Mid grey waterlogged silt sand
07	Deposit	Gravel
08	Layer	Grey green waterlogged silt sand
09	Layer	Mid grey silt sand and demolition material
10	Layer	Dark brown grey peat
11	Building	Bonded red brick building foundations
12	Layer	Modern demolition material (similar to 05)
13	Layer	Mid brown silt and demolition material (similar to 02)

THE FIGURES

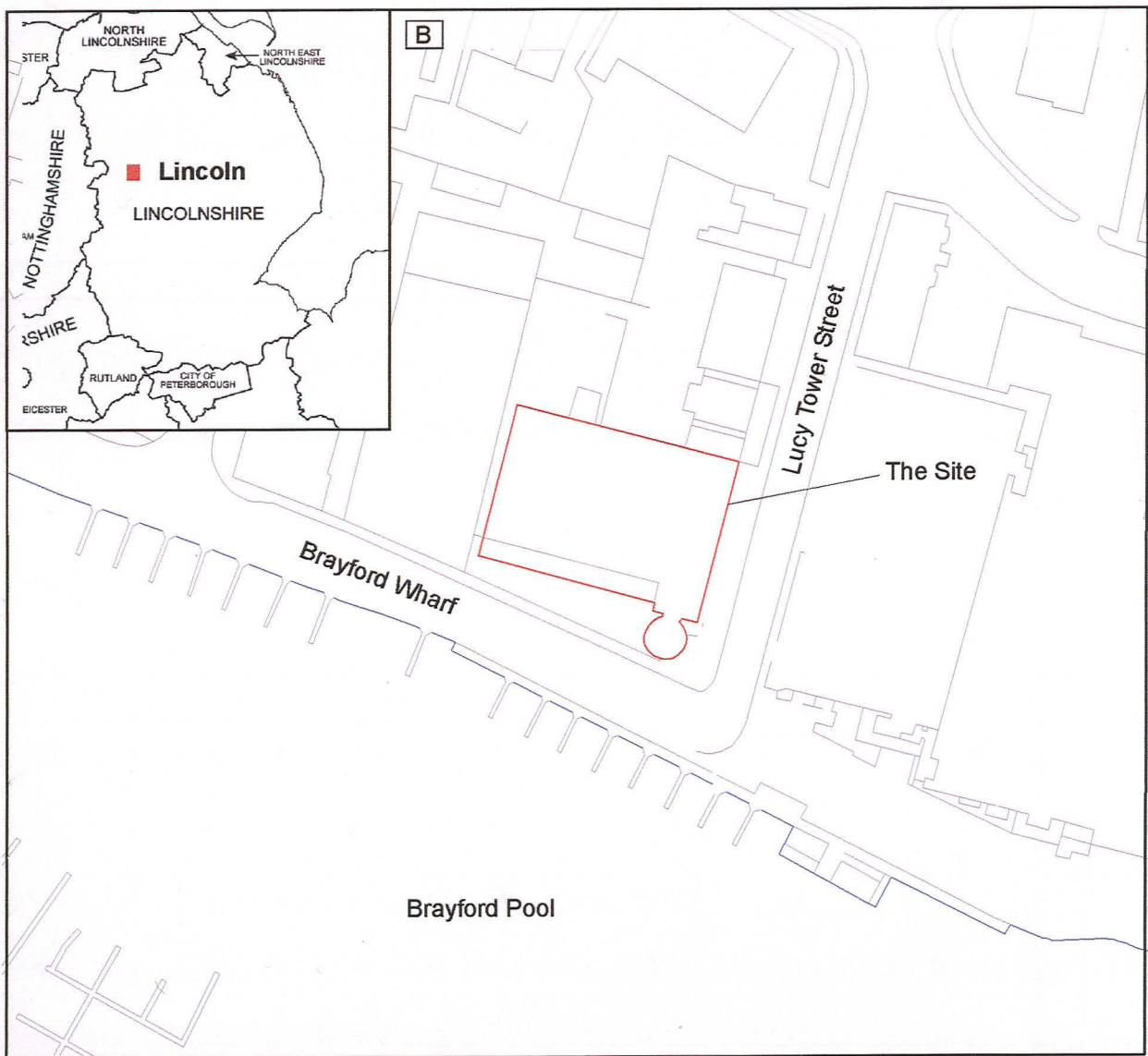
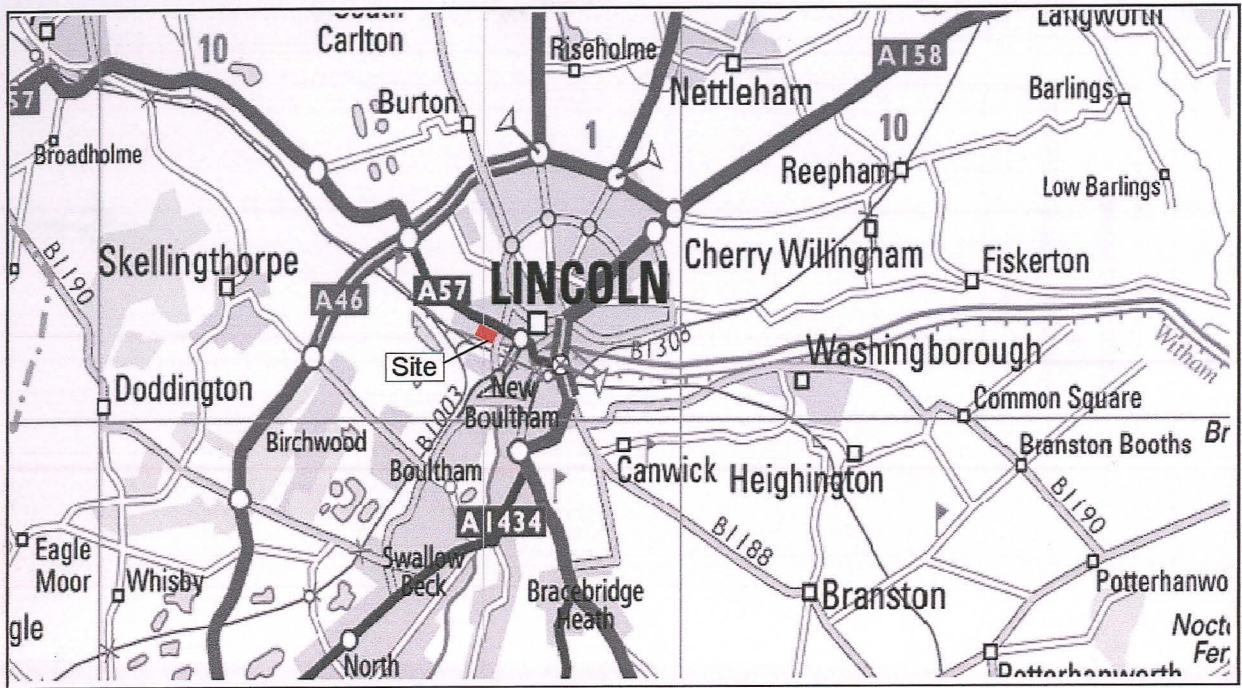


Fig. 1 Location of the Glassmill, Lincoln. Based on (a) 1:50 000 OS Map and (b) 1:1250 OS Map, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 10002165.

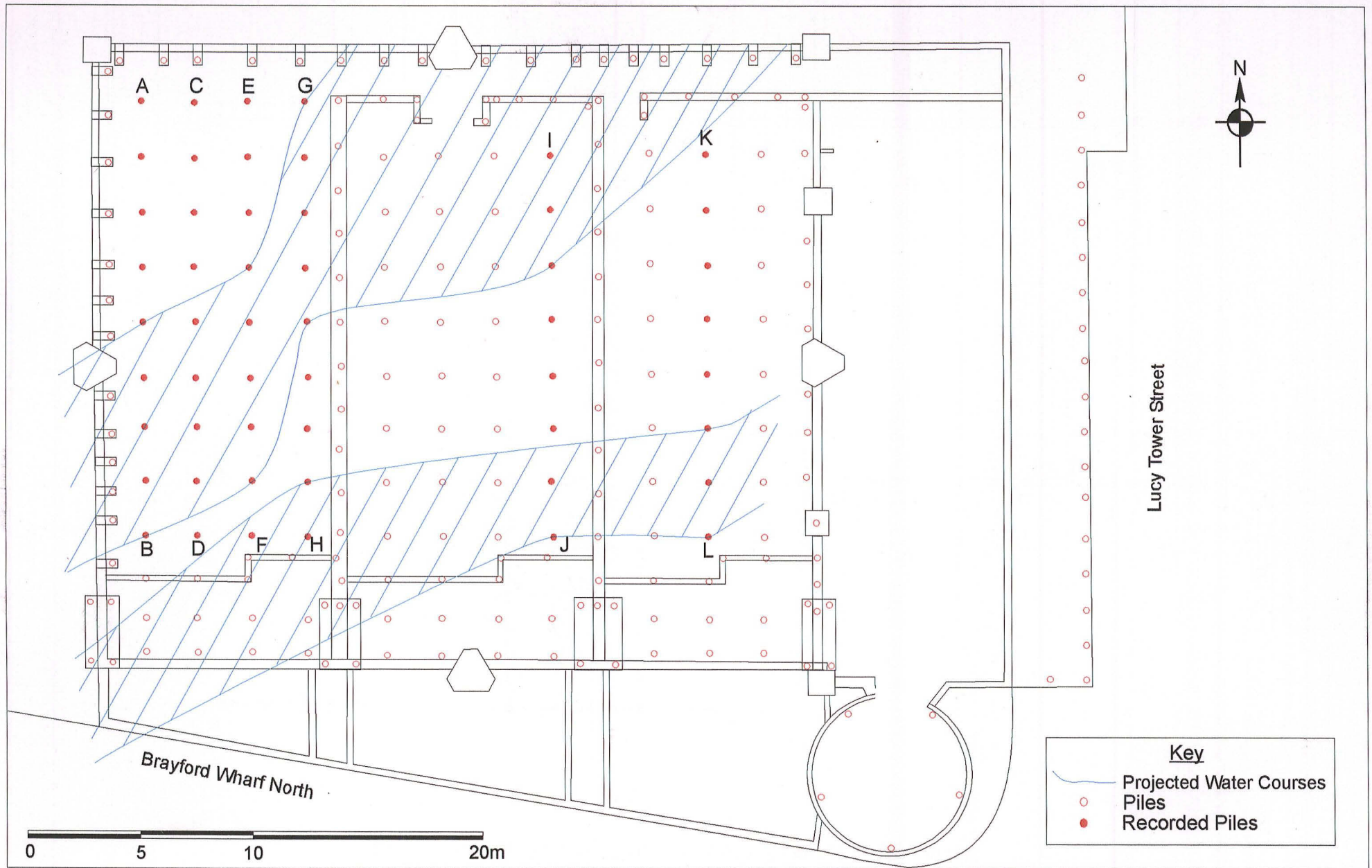


Fig. 2 Plan of the development showing the projected water courses and the piling locations. Those highlighted in red were archaeologically recorded (taken from a plan supplied by the developer)

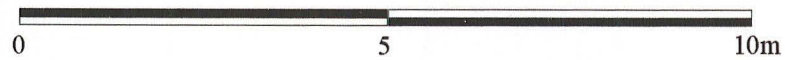
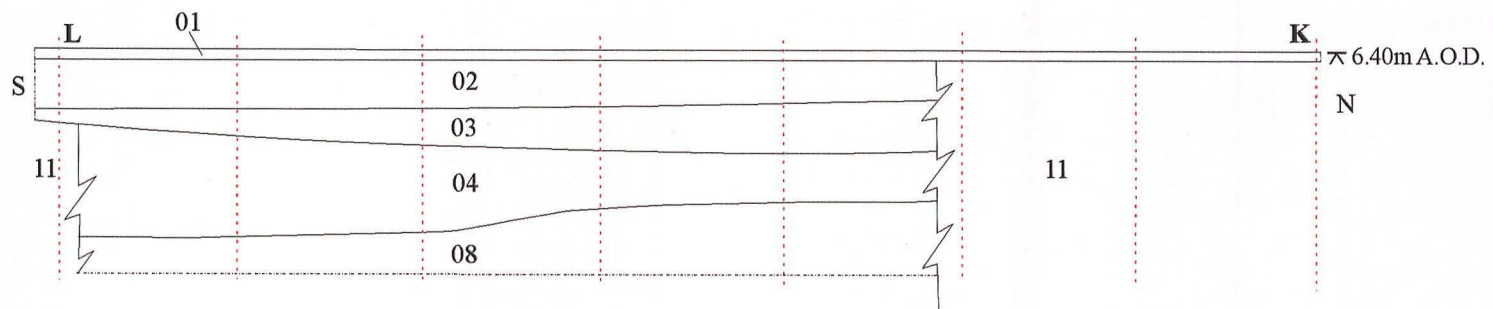
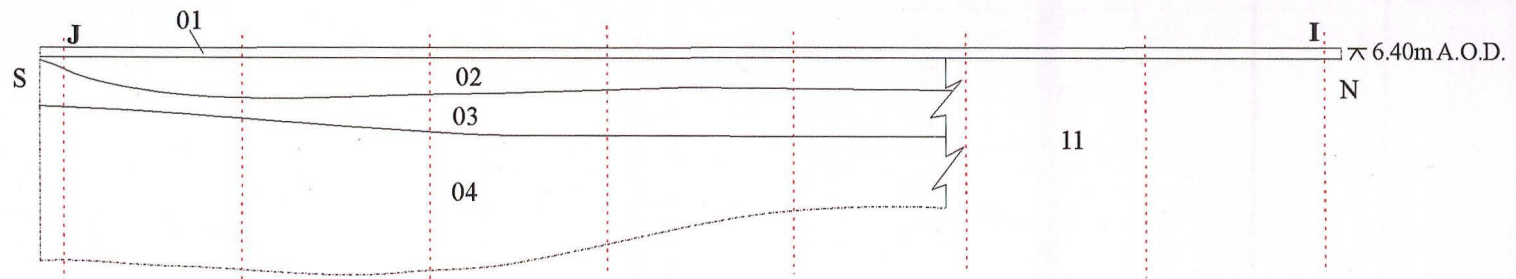


Fig 5. Projected sections I-J and K-L showing location of piles in red.

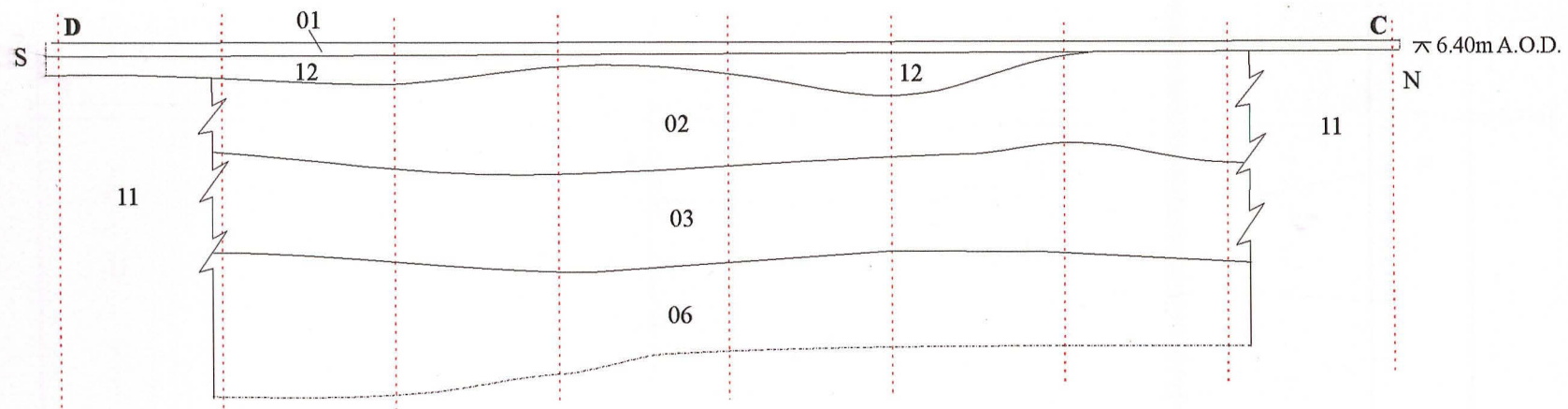
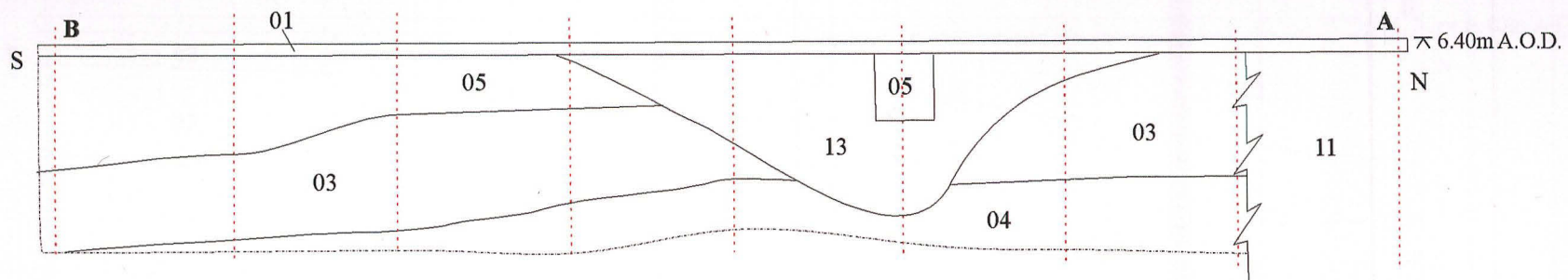


Fig 3. Projected sections A-B and C-D showing location of piles in red

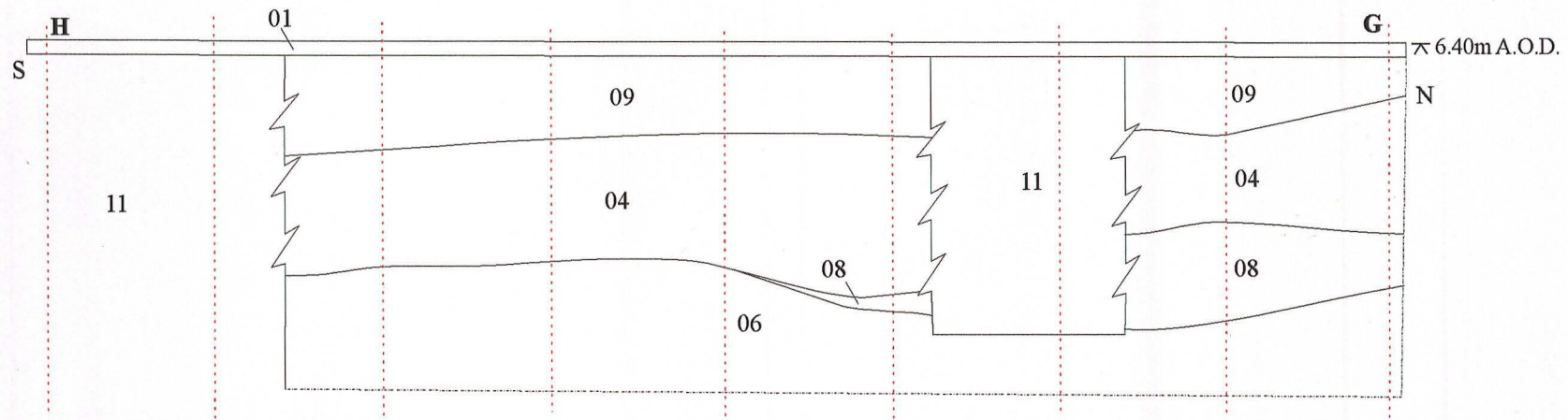
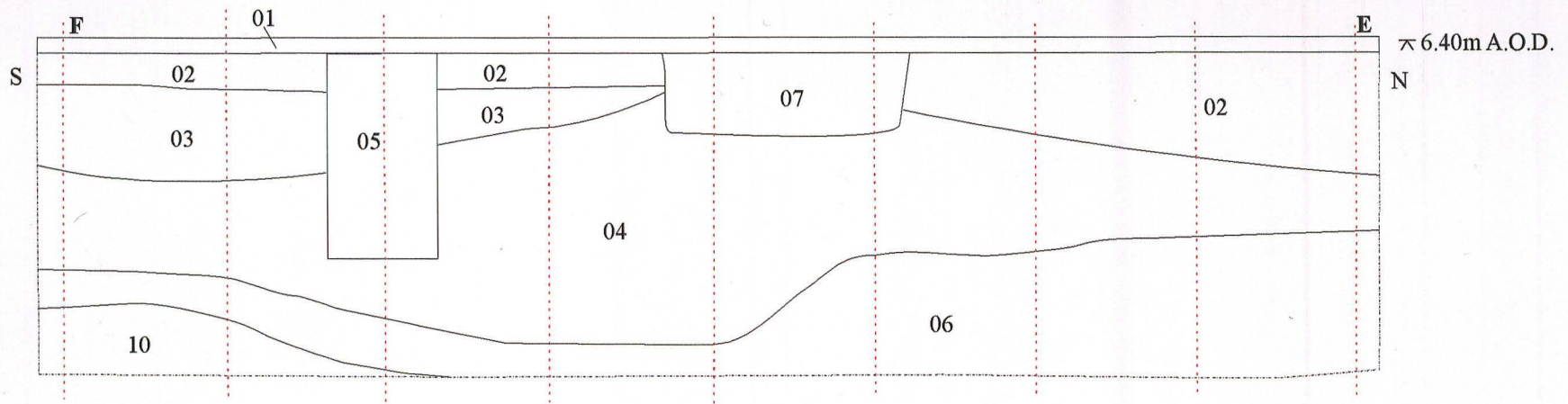


Fig 4. Projected sections E-F and G-H showing location of piles in red

THE PLATES



Pl. 1 Exterior view of the development prior to piling operations



Pl. 2 Looking north at the interior of the development with the Brayford Pool to the south



PL. 3 The piling rig in operation



Pl. 4 Looking north along row E-F