



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

The Grange, Rear of Nos. 45 - 51, Cross o' Cliff Hill, Lincoln

NGR: ~~SK 96917 71372~~ SK 97471 68566
Site Code: ~~LWRC 04~~ TGL 04
LCNCC Museum Accn No.: ~~2004 109~~ 2004 149
Planning Application: 2004/0043/F
96

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report prepared for Lindum Homes

by M. Garratt and G. Tann

LAS Report No. 839

June 2005

25 WEST PARADE · LINCOLN · LN1 1NW

TELEPHONE 01522 544554 · FACSIMILE 01522 522211 · EMAIL las@linarch.co.uk

Lindsey Archaeological Services LLP Registered in England and Wales No. OC304247
Registered address 25 West Parade · Lincoln · LN1 1NW

VAT Registration No. 819 8029 41

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modern.

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The Grange, Rear of Nos. 45 - 51 Cross o' Cliff Hill, Lincoln

Archaeological Watching Brief

NGR: SK 97471 68566

Site Code: TGL 04

LCNCC Museum Accn No.: 2004.149

Planning Application: 2004/0096/F

Summary

A watching brief at a development site on Cross o' Cliff Hill recorded deep backfilled pits excavated into the clay hillside. The backfill contained post-medieval brick waste and clay. Topsoil stripping for the access road exposed brick foundations from a building which seems to have remained standing into the twentieth century. All the features are thought to be associated with the Cross o' Cliff Hill Brickworks, of which part of the chimney and building foundations remain. Small mounds between the trees on the overgrown site are suspected to be spoil heaps or rubble from demolition of minor structures. Considerable amounts of brick rubble and brick dust had been spread across the site at an unknown date.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned in September 2004 by Lindum Homes to conduct an archaeological watching brief during contractors' site investigations and groundworks on a redevelopment site at the rear of Nos. 45-51 Cross o' Cliff Hill, Lincoln. The watching brief was required by City of Lincoln Council to fulfil a condition on the planning permission.

Site Location

The site is located on the west side of Cross o' Cliff Hill, to the south of the City of Lincoln. It occupies land formerly occupied by Field House.

Planning Background

Planning permission was granted for residential development of the site, comprising the erection of three large detached houses with garages, and construction of a private driveway.

Condition 8 of the planning consent 2004/0096/F stated that

"No development groundwork shall commence on site until advance written notice (minimum 14 days) of the date of commencement of works on site and the confirmation of appointment of a competent archaeological body to conduct a 'watching brief' has been given to both the Local Planning Authority and the nominated archaeology body. Provision shall then be made for the nominated archaeology body to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the course of all groundwork associated with the development (including any geotechnical investigation of strata, any site clearance or other enabling work and the excavation of foundation and services trenches). Access shall be afforded at all reasonable times to the nominated archaeological body."

Archaeological and Historical Background

The development site is thought to lie about 110m west of the Roman road Ermine Street, but the road's position has not been confirmed. It was possible that Roman and/or medieval remains would be disturbed during groundworks on the site. This part of the hillside has been casually quarried for limestone and clay since at least the medieval period.

The brief for this project stressed the importance of any surviving remains associated with the Cross O' Cliff Brickworks, dating from c.1872-1901, and a slaughterhouse operated in the premises for a short period afterwards. A building on the site was called Field House.

Despite demolition rubble and dense vegetation, the site of the brickworks was surveyed by the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology's Industrial Archaeology Committee in 1992, after which the walls of the remaining buildings were lowered by County Council contractors for safety reasons (CoCARG 1998).

The Watching Brief

The purpose of the Watching Brief was to record any archaeological deposits disturbed during groundworks at the above site, and to provide results for accession to the County SMR and the Lincoln UAD. The watching brief was conducted by M. Garratt on July 8th and 9th 2004, and January 5th-7th 2005, with a visit by G. Tann on July 8th 2004. Context numbers were assigned by LAS for recording purposes, and are shown in bold (Appendix 1).

Geotechnical Trial Pits

Seven geotechnical trial pits TP1-7 were opened by machine (although TP3 was abandoned at an early stage). These were all excavated through a 0.15m thick topsoil layer **10**, beneath which was a layer of grey/brown silty clay **11**, varying in thickness between 0.15m to 0.25m. Small fragments of brick were present within this layer. This material was described as a subsoil, but may have been a levelling deposit.

In TP2, the grey/brown clay layer **21** sealed a 1.2m wide ditch **26**, aligned north-west/south-east. The 0.42m deep feature had been backfilled with a mixed clay fill **24** which incorporated frequent brick fragments. Near the base of the ditch was a clay land drain **25**, on a different angle to the ditch.

Beneath the grey/brown clay was a 0.2m thick layer containing crushed brick dust and small brick fragments, presumably brickyard waste. This was very different in appearance from the thicker underlying clay layer, but the inclusion of similar brick fragments indicated that it had derived from a similar source.

The depth of the deposits containing brick fragments varied, but the high proportion of apparently clean clay made it difficult to determine when undisturbed clay deposits had been reached. This was

sometimes indicated by seams of grey shaley clay within the yellow clay, or by sandier material, but large quantities of redeposited natural would have presented a similar appearance.

Using the presence of visible brick waste as an indicator, disturbed material was found to a depth of about 1.4m below the present ground surface. Although some terracing of the hillside may have occurred, it is more probable that extensive clay pits had been excavated on the hillside and then backfilled with unwanted clay, sand and brick waste.

Access Road

Topsoil stripping for the access road was monitored. The 0.4m thick topsoil layer **102** covered a 0.12m thick band of brickworks waste **103**, comprising mostly dense brick dust, but also rubble spread from demolished brick and concrete buildings (Pl. 6). This was above a 0.6m thick layer of yellow/brown sandy clay **104**, which covered a 0.08m thick brown loam with brick and charcoal flecks **105**. The yellow/brown sandy clay **106** below this also contained some brick fragments. The sequence suggested that topsoil had been stripped in the past, prior to spreading of waste material. All the material seen may have been redeposited, possibly as fill (although no pit edges were seen).

Close to House Plot 1, the 0.25m wide, brick foundations **100** of a small building were revealed (Pl. 7). The building had been 4m wide and at least 4m long. It was interpreted as of nineteenth or twentieth century construction. A building is not shown close to this position on the 1887 or 1904 Ordnance Survey surveys, but is marked on the map revised between 1904 and 1953 (OS 1889; OS 1907; OS 1953).

Development Groundworks

Dense vegetation covered most of the development site when the geotechnical trial pits were excavated. The contractors were engaged in clearing the site prior to any further groundworks for the development, and the monitoring archaeologist was advised that there would be a delay before further trenching was arranged.

A visit was made to discuss monitoring of the piling operation, but it was decided not to watch this as no information would be revealed. No notification of subsequent groundworks was received by LAS, and construction of the development has taken place without further archaeological monitoring.

Conclusion

As expected, there was evidence of extensive post-medieval disturbance on the site, related to clay extraction pits and disposal of brickworks waste. The watching brief recorded part of the foundations of a single demolished brick building, but no earlier remains were seen.

Acknowledgements

LAS is grateful for the co-operation received from Lindum Homes. A copy of the 1992 survey of the main brickworks building, produced by the Industrial Archaeology Committee of the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology, was supplied by Stewart Squires. Further information was supplied by John Herridge (Heritage Information Officer, City of Lincoln Council). The pottery was identified by Jane Young. Illustrations were prepared by Sophie Claxton, and the report was collated and produced by Naomi Field.

Mike Garratt and Geoff Tann
Lindsey Archaeological Services
17th June 2005

References

- CoCRAG (nd, after 1998) *Cross O'Cliff Hill: the green gateway to Lincoln*. Leaflet produced by Cross O'Cliff Area Residents' Group.
- OS 1889 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 map, Sheet Lincs. LXX 15. Surveyed 1887.
- OS 1907 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 map, Sheet Lincs. LXX 15. Surveyed 1887, revised 1904.
- OS 1953 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map, Sheet SK 96. Revised 1904-30, with further revisions 1938-53.

Archive Summary

Correspondence

Field sketch plans and notes

Contractors' plans

Context Sheets

Photographs: colour prints, LAS film nos. 04/92/29-37; 04/93/1-9; digital 05/66/1-10

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 1

Context Summary (TGL 04)

Context No.	Area	Type	Relationships	Description	Finds
10	Tr1	layer	above 11	dark brown clay loam topsoil	
11	Tr1	layer	below 10, above 12	dark yellow/brown clay with brick and stone inclusions	
12	Tr1	fill	below 11, above 13	yellow/brown clay with brick fragments	
13	Tr1	natural?	below 12	yellow clay with grey clay banding	
20	Tr2	layer	above 21	dark brown clay loam topsoil	
21	Tr2	layer	below 20, above 24	dark yellow brown clay with brick and stone inclusions	
22	Tr2	layer	below 26, above 27	layer of fine red brick dust	
23	Tr2	?natural	below 22	yellow clay with grey clay banding	
24	Tr2	fill	below 21, above 25, fill of 26	brick fragments and yellow/brown clay	
25	Tr2	fill	below 24, fill of 26	clay land drain	
26	Tr2	cut	filled by 24, 25; below 25, cuts 22	ditch	
27	Tr2	layer	below 22, above 23	red brick dust and yellow clay	
40	Tr4	layer	above 41	dark brown clay loam topsoil	
41	Tr4	layer	below 40, above 42	dark yellow brown clay with brick and stone inclusions	
42	Tr4	fill	below 41, above 43	yellow/brown sand with occasional brick fragments	
43	Tr4	?natural	below 42	yellow clay with grey clay banding	
50	Tr5	layer	above 51	dark brown clay loam topsoil	
51	Tr5	layer	below 50, above 52	dark yellow brown clay with brick and stone inclusions	
52	Tr5	fill	below 51, above 53	layer of fine red brick dust	
53	Tr5	layer	below 52, above 54	compacted yellow sand, with occasional brick fragments	
54	Tr5	?natural	below 53	yellow clay with grey clay banding	
60	Tr6	layer	above 61	dark brown clay loam topsoil	

61	Tr6	layer	below 60, above 62	dark yellow brown clay with brick and stone inclusions
62	Tr6	layer	below 61, above 63	mixed dark yellow brown clay with brick and stone inclusions
63	Tr6	layer	below 62, above 64	layer of fine red brick dust
64	Tr6	layer	below 63	dark yellow brown clay with brick and stone inclusions
70	Tr7	layer	above 71	dark brown clay loam topsoil
71	Tr7	layer	below 70	dark yellow brown clay with brick and stone inclusions
100	Access Road/Plot 1	wall foundation	below 103, fill of 101	brick wall foundation of building
101	Access Road/Plot 1	wall construction trench	filled by 100, cuts 104	wall construction trench
102	Access Road/Plot 1	layer	above 103	modern topsoil
103	Access Road/Plot 1	layer	above 104 and 100, below 102	brick and concrete rubble, brick dust
104	Access Road/Plot 1	layer	above 105, below 103	yellow/brown sandy clay
105	Access Road/Plot 1	layer	above 106, below 104	brown loam, charcoal, brick fragments
106	Access Road/Plot 1	layer	below 105	yellow/brown clay with brick fragments

THE FIGURES

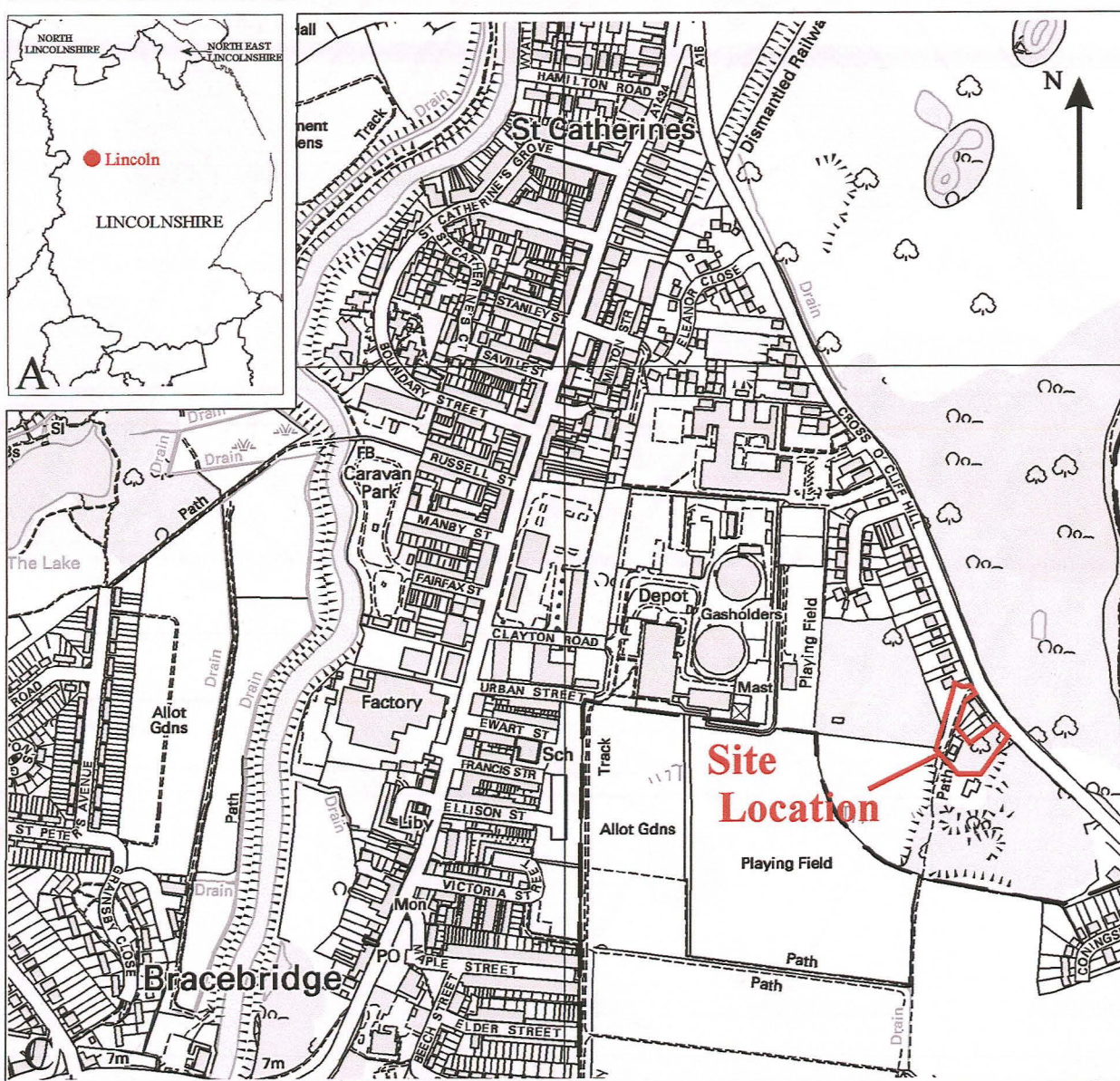
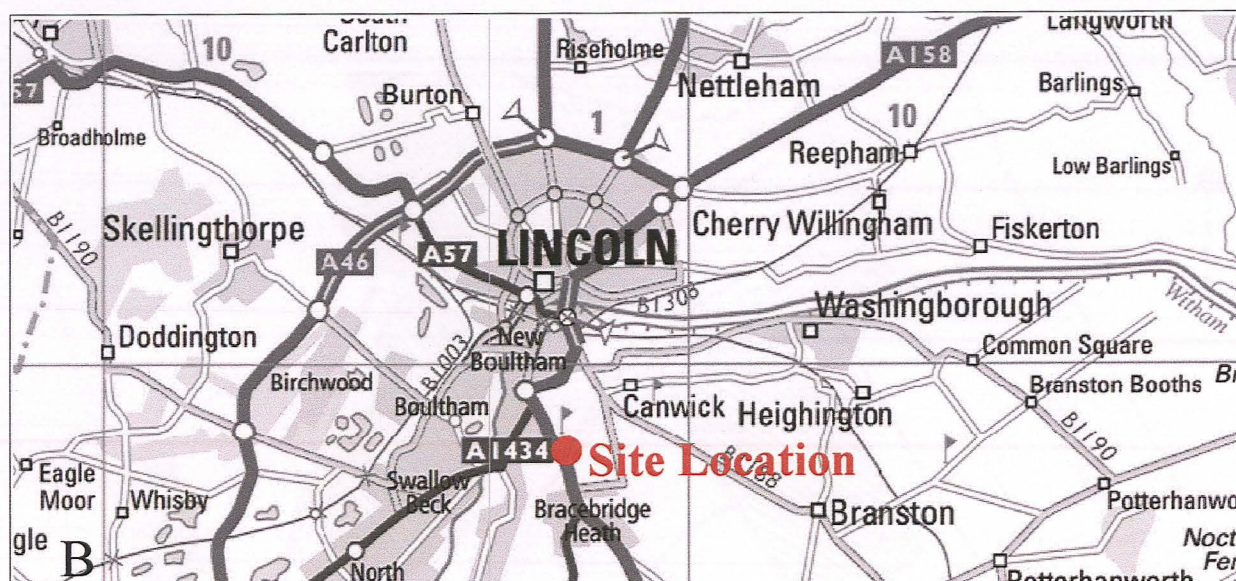


Fig. 1 Location of Cross o' Cliff Hill (C based on the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 digital map SK96NE. © Crown Copyright, reproduced at reduced scale with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. ND 17438).

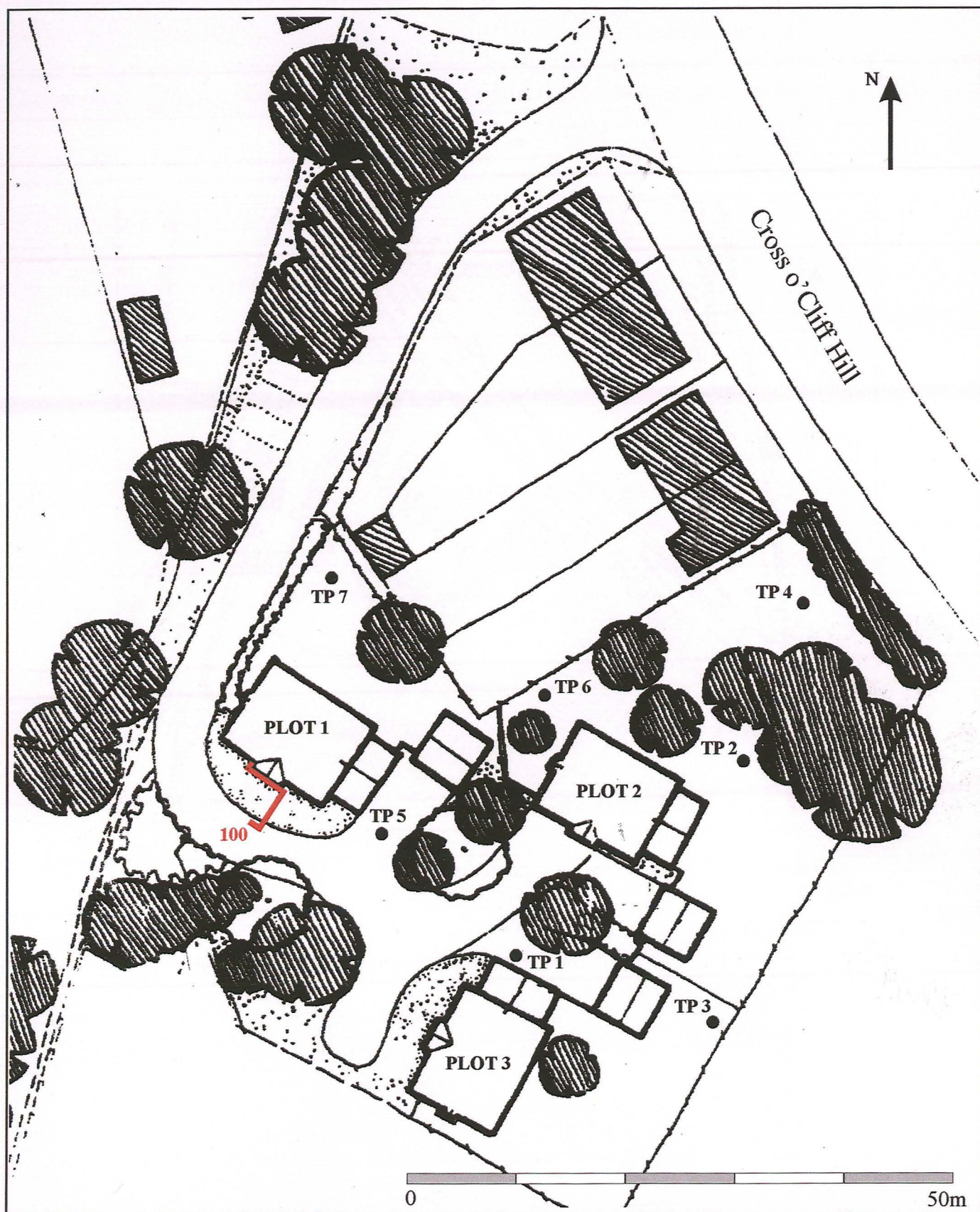


Fig. 2 Location of the development site, showing the positions of wall foundation 100 and the monitored trial pits (based on a plan extract supplied by the client. Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165.)

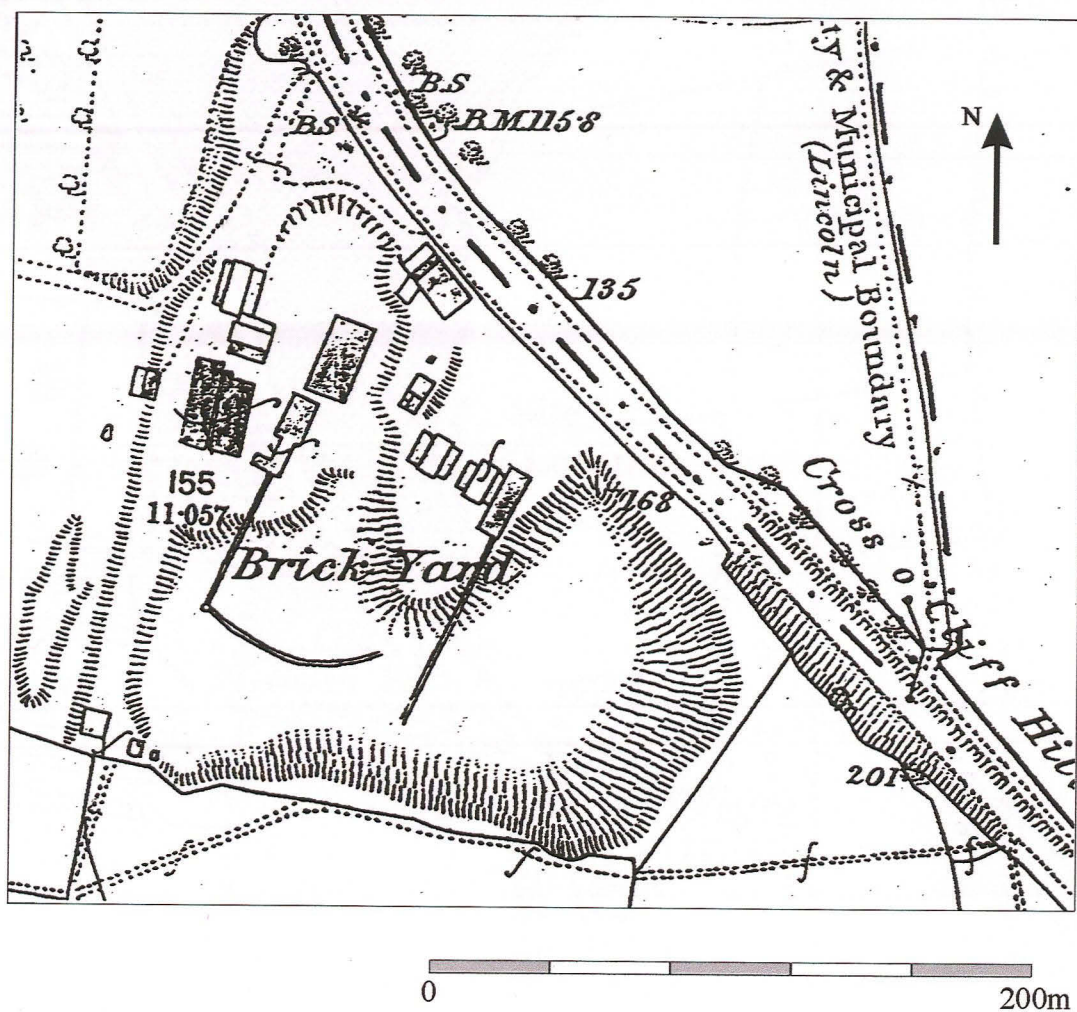


Fig. 3 The Cross O'Cliff Brickworks in 1887 (based on the 1889 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 Sheet Lincs LXX 15).



Fig. 4 The site, as shown on the 1953 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey map, Sheet SK 96. Reproduced at enlarged scale.

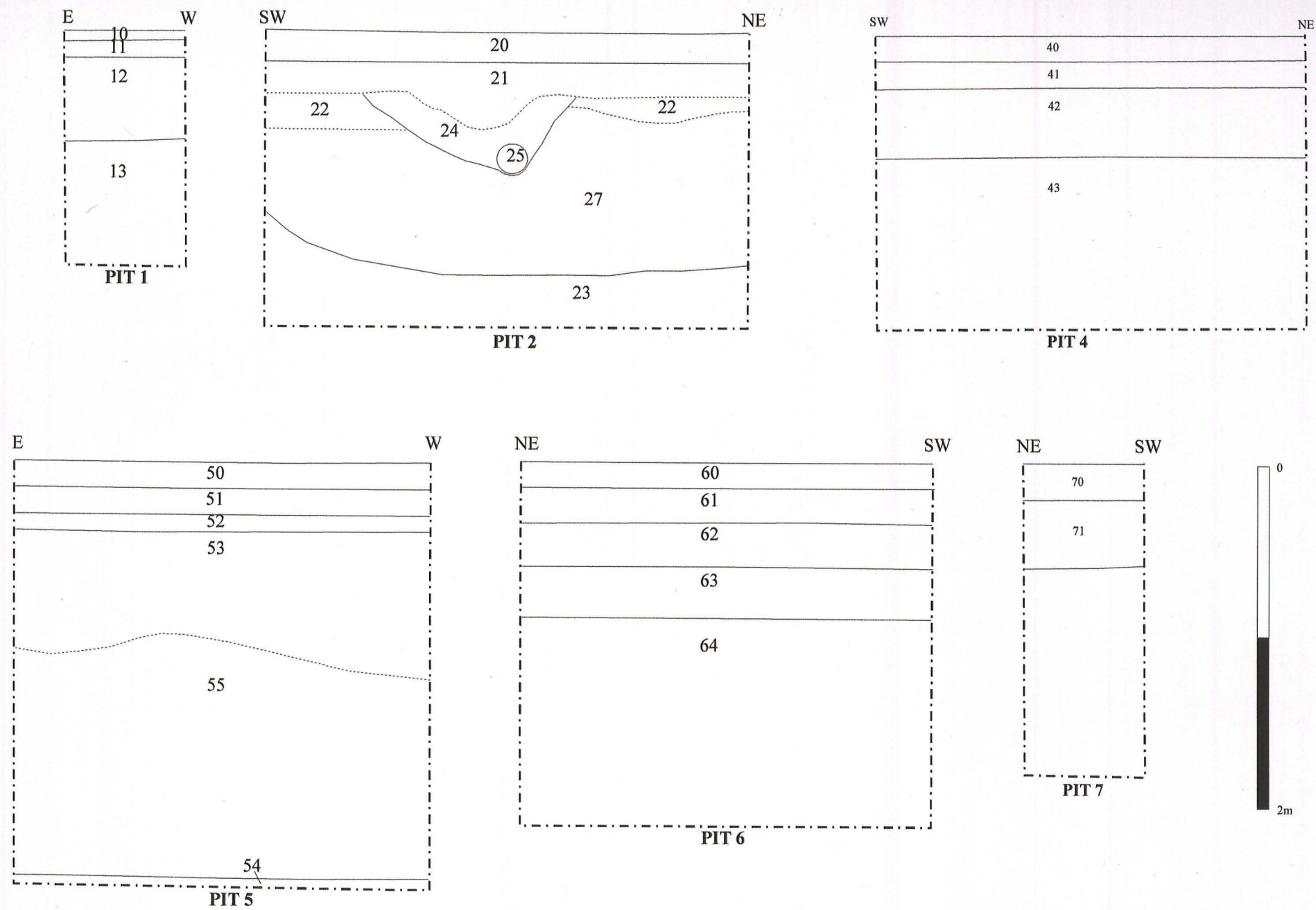


Fig. 5 Deposits seen in the trial pits (Claxton, after Garratt).

THE PLATES



PI. 1 Trial Pit 1 (looking south-east).



PI. 2 Trial Pit 2 (looking north-west).



Pl. 3 Trial Pit 4 (looking north-west).



Pl. 4 Trial Pit 5 (looking south).



Pl. 5 Trial Pit 6 (looking east).



Pl. 6 Topsoil stripping for House Plot 3, showing a spread of brick dust 103. Looking south towards the brickworks chimney.



Pl. 7 Remains of brick wall foundation **100**, revealed during topsoil stripping for the access road and House Plot 1 (looking west).