



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Greestone Centre, Lindum Road, Lincoln
Archaeological Evaluation**

NGR: SK ~~9738271626~~ 97855 71630

Site Code: LGCE 05

LCNCC Accn N^o. : 2005.142

Planning Application: 2005/0230/FSO3/1609/12

Report

for

Peter Cole Consultants

on behalf of

University of Lincoln

by

Richard Pullen MA PIFA

LAS Report No. 847

July 2005

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation comprising four trenches was undertaken in the grounds of the Greestone Centre, Lindum Road, Lincoln. Trenches 1 and 2 were located against the south side of the Close Wall with Trenches 3 and 4 placed further to the south in open ground between the existing buildings. The substantial foundations of the Close Wall were exposed in Trench 2, however in Trench 1 the wall had no such foundations and had been underpinned with modern brick and general building rubble. Pottery and building material dating from the early Roman to the post-medieval periods was recovered from the modern levelling layers in Trenches 2, 3 and 4. No archaeological features were noted at any point during the excavations for any of the four trenches. The impact of the development on the archaeological deposits is considered to be minimal.

Introduction

This report has been prepared for Peter Cole Consultants on behalf of the University of Lincoln in accordance with a brief set by the City Archaeologist dated May 17th 2005 and the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998).

Site Location and Description

The site lies at c.40.00m A.O.D. and is located on the south side of the Close Wall on the west side of the main Greestone Centre Building and east of the Temple Gardens. The northern part of the site is occupied by the remains of the 'stilted' hut which was destroyed by fire in 2004, whose brick foundations remain *in situ*.

Planning Background

An application for planning permission to construct a new timber-clad teaching pavilion with new access facilities and link with the existing pavilion and Greestone House has been applied for. However, the City planning authority has requested an archaeological evaluation prior to determination of the application.

Archaeological Background

The site is located immediately south of the Roman upper city defences and within the lower city. It is not clear what effect terracing has had on archaeological remains in this part of the city but a series of evaluations and watching briefs in the vicinity suggests that any archaeological deposits may exist at a

considerable depth below the present ground levels.

Greestone Stairs runs south from the Cathedral precinct to Lindum Hill. Originally known as Grecian Stairs, its relative chronology is unclear, but it was definitely in existence by the 11th century (Jones, Stocker and Vince 2003, 221).

The Close Wall encloses the Lincoln Cathedral Precinct and Bishops Palace. The wall was started in 1280 in order to protect the upper ecclesiastical part of the city and by the mid 14th century much of the wall was over 4.00m high with turrets and at least ten impressive gatehouses (Jones, Stocker and Vince 2003, 179 and 182-3). The wall has been subject to alteration and repair over the years resulting in many different building styles being used within it.

The site lies at the northern summit of a rolling grass hillside, most of which makes up the Temple Gardens. The gardens were created by local solicitor Joseph Moore between 1824 and 1864. Within the gardens lies a Victorian Temple folly with a statue of Niobe on the roof. The temple is in the Grecian style and was modelled on the Choragic Monument of Thrasyllus (Website 1).

The churches of St. Andrews and Holy Trinity once occupied part of the Temple Gardens, but all trace of both of these churches is now gone.

The Lincoln College of Art and Design lies immediately to the east of the site. The building was originally constructed as a school in 1893 and is a typically ostentatious Victorian erection with moulded red brick scrollwork, numerous arches and impressive entrances. The school was enlarged in 1911 when the western phase of the building was constructed in a similar style and adjoining the earlier phase.

The Temple Gardens and a large 19th century mansion at number 7 Lindum Road were acquired by the Lincoln-born jeweller James Ward Usher in c.1920. The house was demolished to make way for the Usher Art Gallery, but the Temple Folly and the majority of the gardens were spared, the folly is now a listed building. The Usher Gallery lies c.70.00m to the west of the site and was built between 1921- 1926 as a purpose-built gallery to house the collection bequeathed to the City of Lincoln by James Usher. The impressive neo-classical building was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield R.A. and was formally opened by HRH Prince of Wales in 1927 (Website 1).

Abutting the Close Wall at the rear of the site is a brick structure thought to be the remains of a heated orangery wall. The structure is 0.40m wide and built from yellow fire bricks. The wall would have been heated by a coal fire at its eastern end allowing exotic plants such as oranges and peaches to be grown in the adjoining south facing greenhouse (website 2). The orangery is as yet undated, first appearing on Padleys 1842 map of Lincoln. The structure would have probably been part of Vicars Court to the north. The Orangery must have fallen into disuse by 1911 when the next phase of school

building was constructed, blocking access to the walls fire room and leaving the orangery as a standard unheated greenhouse.

Much of the site was occupied by a stilted wooden teaching block that was destroyed by fire in 2004. Brick foundations relating to this phase of usage still remain.

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

Four trenches were excavated as agreed with the City Archaeologist in discussion with the client (Fig. 3). The trenches were excavated by a mini-digger equipped with a 1.60m wide toothless dyking bucket. Following machining, the trenches were hand cleaned. Trenches 1 and 2 were positioned perpendicular to the Close Wall. Provisionally the requirement was that these should measure 2m x 5m but this was not physically possible because of existing modern brick walls and other obstacles. Excavation was to end at either the base of the Close Wall or at the first identifiable archaeological horizon (Pl. 1).

Trench 3 was placed in a flower bed to the north of the existing art block and to the east of Trenches 1 and 2. The area was cleared of shrubbery prior to commencement of excavation. As with Trench 1 it was not possible to excavate this trench to the full 5.00m length requested, nor to a width of 2.00m because of limited space for storage of spoil. Spoil was stored on the path above the trench on polythene sheeting. Trench 3 was machine excavated to the first recognisable archaeological horizon.

Trench 4 was aligned north-south following the slope of landscaped ground adjacent to the steps (Pl. 3). A large service trench runs north-south through this area, limiting the size and depth of any investigations. The steep slope also limited the depth of excavations for health and safety reasons. It

was anticipated that most of the ground forming the slope was the product of recent landscaping. Excavation was taken to the first recognisable archaeological horizon.

Access to the site required the permission of the Usher Gallery for access through the Temple Gardens, mainly along concrete paths, except for the grass slope next to the Temple folly. Access from this side was necessary for Trenches 1-3, with access for Trench 4 from Lindum Road past the front of the college buildings. Machining was monitored by LAS project officer Richard Pullen MA PIFA. The excavation was directed by Richard Pullen and carried out by LAS Assistant Field Officers Russell Priest BA MA and Sophie Claxton BSc. Work began on the 29th June 2005 and was completed six days later on the 6th July 2005. A full drawn and photographic record was maintained during the work.

Results

Trench 1

Trench 1 was 4.00m long x 1.60m wide and was positioned running north-south with its northern end abutting the southern face of the Close Wall. The upper layers consisted of modern levelling and demolition material **108** (Fig. 4). This material was associated with the remains of walls **103**, **109** and **113**. All of these structures were constructed of common red 'house' brick in stretcher bond pattern with occasional header rows. Wall **113** ran the entire length of the western baulk and rested on a c.0.15m thick concrete raft **110**. The northern baulk of the trench consisted of the foundations for the close wall. At this point substantial dressed stone foundations were expected, as have been observed during other works along the wall. Instead (directly below the surface) the dressed stone blocks of the wall gave way to red brick **101** and rubble underpinning **102** (Fig. 4 and Pl. 4). A ceramic 'horseshoe' land-drain **112** was noted in the southern baulk of the trench. The drain did not extend any further into the trench and may be part of the demolition backfill that makes up layer **108** (Pl. 7). The final deposit noted in the trench was a light grey clay that represents the natural geology **107**. The clay that appeared at the interface between it and the modern demolition layer **108** was darker due to leeching from the upper layers and was separately contexted as **106** (Pl. 6). Layer **107** was intentionally overcut by c.0.20m to ensure that this layer was undisturbed natural and not re-deposited. Exploratory hand augering undertaken by Kevin Dyke from Peter Cole Consultants concluded that clay layer **107** continues uninterrupted for at least a further 2.00m.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was 4.00m in length x 1.60m wide and was positioned 6.00m to the east of Trench 1 in the same orientation. The foundations of the Close Wall **201** that were absent in Trench 1 were *in situ* in Trench 2 (Fig. 5 and Pl. 8). They consisted of four courses of large dressed limestone blocks c. 0.50m x c.0.30m to a depth of 1.10m. Four additional courses, consisting of rough undressed c.0.20 x c.0.15m stones, were noted at the base of the wall (Pl. 8). The total depth of the foundations for the Close Wall at this point was 1.65m below the present ground surface. No construction cut was noted for the wall with post medieval terracing layers **200**, **209** and **210** butting the stonework to a depth

greater than 1.60m. Pottery and brick/tile dating from the late Roman to the post medieval period were recovered from the terracing layers, their mixed dates further demonstrating the disturbed nature of the deposit. Modern brick wall fragments **203** and **206** were observed cutting tip layers **200** and **209**.

A sondage was excavated in the base of Trench 2 in order to locate the base of the Close Wall foundations and also to attempt to discover if the natural geology was present below tip layer **210**. However, no changes in stratigraphy were noted and exploratory hand augering undertaken by Kevin Dyke from Peter Cole Consultants concluded that layer **210** appears to continue uninterrupted for at least a further 2.00m without change.

Abutting the Close Wall at the rear of the site adjacent to the northern end of Trench 2 is a brick wall recently identified as the remains of an orangery (Pl. 18 and 19). The orangery wall is 0.40m wide and built from yellow fire bricks and would have been heated. The footings for the wall consist of three courses of common red house brick **208**, with a visible construction cut **212**, the foundations cut layers **200** and **209**. Slight movement between the orangery wall and the Close Wall has created a thin crack showing that the orangery wall is keyed into the Close Wall to a depth of c.0.06m.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was 4.00m x 1.60m and was positioned running northwest-southeast in a shrubbery c. 16.00m to the southeast of Trench 2. Deposits in Trench 3 comprised topsoil **300** overlying various layers of terracing and levelling material dropping off down the hillside to the south (Fig. 6). The upper layers **301**, **302** and **303** all contained modern rubble fragments and were disturbed by root action. Beneath **303** a clay grey clay layer **304** was noted (Pl. 13). Excavation ceased at a depth of 1.30m because of health and safety concerns regarding the stability of the upper demolition layers (Pl. 13). However, a 0.35m deep sondage was hand excavated through layer **304** in the base of the trench in order to determine its depth (Pl. 14). This revealed two further layers **305** and **306** which were both mid to light grey sandy clay, **306** being slightly darker than **305**. Three re-deposited sherds of early Roman pottery were recovered from layer **303** dating to the Flavian-Trajanic period (c.AD 70-120).

Trench 4

Trench 4 ran northwest-southeast and was 3.50m in length x 1.60m wide. The positioning of the trench was made difficult by its location to the south of Trench 3 on a steep grassed slope with known services running through it. Trench 4 contained just three contexts, **400**, **401** and **402**, all of which were modern rubble filled levelling layers (Fig. 7 and Pl.15). Layer **402** contained a modern ceramic sewer pipe **403** that had no cut or packing material and must have been installed at the same time as layer **402** was created (Pl. 16). Four sherds of early Roman pottery were recovered from **402** dating to around AD 70-120 or the Flavian-Trajanic period. Due to the presence of the active sewage pipe the finished trench had a final maximum depth of just 0.92m from the top of the slope. A 0.30m deep sondage was hand excavated in the southernmost corner of the trench in order to determine the depth of layer **304** (Pl. 14). This extra work failed to reveal any changes in the stratigraphy.

Discussion

Comparatively little dating evidence was recovered and no archaeological features were noted during the evaluation at the Greestone Centre, Lindum Road, Lincoln. This relative lack of archaeological material is not unexpected. The terracing layers that abut the Close Wall overlie a very steep slope and the area would have been subject to many disturbances such as removal and replacement during building work or landslides and subsequent landscaping or terracing. The lack of any construction cut for the Close Wall and the mixed nature of the dating evidence attests to this. However, the reason for the marked difference between the Close Wall foundations found in Trenches 1 and 2 is less clear. An exploratory machine dug test pit was excavated 1.10m to the east of the northern baulk of Trench 1 and the point where the two foundation types change was exposed (Pl. 12). The most likely explanation for the difference in material and construction methods is that the foundations noted in Trench 1 are relatively recent replacements constructed after a collapse or repair of the main wall. A second striking difference between Trenches 1 and 2 is the presence of apparently natural boulder clay in Trench 1. This could indicate that the clay in Trench 1 is not the natural geology and has instead been imported to consolidate the wall after repair or that the natural clay in Trench 2 is much deeper because some of it has been removed, perhaps, during building, landslides or for industrial processes such as pottery production. A simpler and, perhaps, the most likely explanation is that the natural geology of the area simply falls away, not only to the south, but also to the east, coincidentally at some point between Trenches 1 and 2. The augering undertaken in Trenches 1 and 2 and the stratigraphy uncovered in Trench 3 shows that the built-up terracing layers are 2.50m lower in Trench 3 to the south-east of Trenches 1 and 2.

The Roman pottery and building material found in three of the four evaluation trenches included cooking wares, a sherd from a flagon and a fragment from an imported Gaulish mortarium. However, the material found near to the Close Wall in Trench 2 is late to post Roman and that recovered from Trenches 3 and 4 is much earlier from the Flavian-Trajanic period (c.AD 70-120). Unfortunately, the contexts from which the early colonial Roman pottery was recovered also contained modern material, indicating that the early pottery could have been imported from elsewhere with levelling material during recent landscaping or could be re-deposited from earlier, deep lying deposits disturbed during modern works on the site.

The medieval pottery and building materials recovered during the evaluation dated from the 12th to the 15th centuries with a single fragment of late 10th to early/mid 11th century Saxo-Norman Lincoln sandy ware being recovered from **209** in Trench 2. Unfortunately, as with the Roman pottery, later post-medieval material was also recovered from the same contexts as the medieval wares.

Trench 4 confirmed that the entire bank next to the steps is part of the recent landscaping contemporary with the construction of the art block to the west.

Conclusion

The proposed rebuilding of the hut north of the art block would require a reduction of the ground level across the site by 1.00m followed by the excavation of foundation trenches. The final depth of the developers foundation trenches is unknown at the present time, being dependent on the findings of the archaeological evaluation. However, the evaluation and subsequent augering indicates that the post-medieval terracing layers appear to continue uninterrupted for over 3.00m across most of the site. The natural clay identified in Trench 1 was found at a depth of 0.40m. Therefore, it is thought unlikely that the development will impact upon the archaeological record and any undisturbed archaeological deposits that may lie below this level are likely to be preserved *in situ*.

Acknowledgements

LAS is grateful to Kevin Dyke from Peter Cole Consultants, Gary McGinty from the University of Lincoln and Roger Scott from Lindum Plant Hire for their full and continued help and co-operation throughout the evaluation. The work was carried out on site by Richard Pullen, Sophie Claxton and Russell Priest. The illustrations were produced by the author, Sophie Claxton and Russell Priest, some from drawings supplied by the client. The report was edited by Naomi Field.

Richard Pullen M.A. PIFA
Lindsey Archaeological Services
27th July 2005

References

Jones, Stocker and Vince 2003. *City by the Pool*, Oxbow, Oxford.

Website 1, http://www.lincoln.gov.uk/news_det.

Accessed 16/7/05

Website 2, <http://www.tatton park.org.uk/attractions-gardens-extra.htm>

Accessed 25/7/05

Contents of Site Archive

Correspondence

Developer's site plan

Site notes

38 context sheets and associated registers

Four sheets of 1:20 scale drawings: 14 sections and 4 plans

Photographs: colour prints, LAS film nos. 05/51, 05/53 and 05/60

APPENDIX 1

Appendix 1

Greestone Centre, Lincoln (LGCE 05) Context Summary

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Trench
100	Structure	The Close Wall	1
101	Structure	Brick underpinning of close wall	1
102	Structure	Rubble/underpinning of close wall	1
103	Structure	Brick wall	1
104	Cut	Construction cut for wall fragment 103	1
105	Fill	Friable dark grey brown silt fill of 104	1
106	Layer	Firm light grey/orange clay. Degraded natural	1
107	Layer	Firm light grey clay. Natural geology	1
108	Layer	Loose rubble and dark grey clay. Levelling layer	1
109	Structure	Brick wall	1
110	Structure	Concrete foundations for 109	1
111	Cut	Construction cut for foundations 110	1
112	Structure	Horse-shoe land drain. Possible back-fill material	1
113	Structure	Brick wall	1
200	Layer	Friable dark grey silt and rubble. Modern Build up.	2
201	Structure	The Close wall	2
202	Cut	Construction cut for wall fragment 203	2
203	Fill	Brick wall	2
204	Cut	Modern linear cut on surface	2
205	Fill	Loose dark grey silt, roofing slate and rubble. Fill of 204	2
206	Structure	Brick Wall	2
207	Cut	Construction cut for wall fragment 206	2
208	Structure	Brick Wall	2
209	Fill	Friable mid to light brown silt clay. Tip/terracing layer	2
210	Layer	Friable mid grey/brown silty clay. Tip/terracing layer	2
211	Layer	Friable mid brown silt clay. Tip/terracing layer	2
212	Cut	Cut for wall fragment 208	2
300	Layer	Friable dark grey silt topsoil	3
301	Layer	Friable dark grey silt/rubble. Levelling layer	3
302	Layer	Very firm mid yellow grey clay. Levelling layer	3
303	Layer	Very firm mid orange/brown silty clay/rubble/roots. Levelling layer	3
304	Layer	Very firm light yellow/grey clay. Levelling/terracing layer	3
305	Layer	Friable light to mid yellow/grey clay. Levelling/terracing layer	3

306	Layer	Friable light orange/grey clay. Levelling/terracing layer. Natural geology?	3
400	Layer	Very firm dark grey silt topsoil	4
401	Layer	Very firm dark grey silt/rubble/glass. Levelling layer	4
402	Layer	Very firm mid brown/grey clay. Levelling layer	4
403	Pipe	Active sewage pipe	4

APPENDIX 2

Context	Fabric	Form	Dec	Novess	Dwg No.	Alter	Comments	Join	Shs	Wt
209	Grey	J					BASE CF SPOOL		1	14
209	ZDATE						L3-4/POSTRO			
209	ZZZ						W POSTRO			
303	MONG	MHK					RIM;G238		1	67
303	ZDATE						70-100			
303	ZZZ						G238 ONLY			
402	GREY	L				SOOT	RIM GIRTH;FE ENCRUST		1	9
402	CR	F?					BS GREY INT		1	4
402	ZDATE						FLTR			
402	ZZZ						65-120			

APPENDIX 3

Pottery Archive LGCE05

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	description	date
200	LSW3	14th to 15th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	jug	1	1	60		handle wi	thumbbed UHJ;rod handle	14th
209	LSW2/3	13th to 15th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	jug	1	1	7		rim	cu glaze	13th to 14th
209	SNLS	Saxo-Norman Lincoln Sandy Ware	small jar	1	1	25		base	fabric includes ca	late 10th to early/mid 11th
209	LSW2/3	13th to 15th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	small jug	2	1	22	thumbbed basal angle	base	internal deposit;external charcoal sooting on base	13th to mid 14th
209	LSW2	13th to 14th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	jug	1	1	23		handle	strap handle	13th
209	LSW3	14th to 15th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	jug	1	1	19		rim	slightly cuffed;cu glaze	14th
209	LERTH	Late earthenwares	garden pot	1	1	30		rim		late 18th to 20th

Ceramic Building Material Archive LGCE05

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	fabric	sub type	frags	weight	description	date
209	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge	7		1	29	flat roofer;mortar	mid 12th to 13th
209	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge	7		1	30	flat roofer;mortar	mid 12th to 13th
209	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge	1/7		1	65	flat roofer;mortar	13th
209	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge	1		1	52	flat roofer	13th to 15th
209	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge	7		3	256	same tile;flat roofer	mid 12th to 13th
209	NIB	nibbed tile	poor 1	moulded	1	45		13th
209	TEG	Tegula			1	302	very thick;flange;high fired	Roman
209	TEG	Tegula			1	189	very thick	Roman
210	RTIL	Roman tile			1	9	very thick TEG or thin brick	Roman
402	BRK	Brick			1	34		19th to 20th ?

THE FIGURES

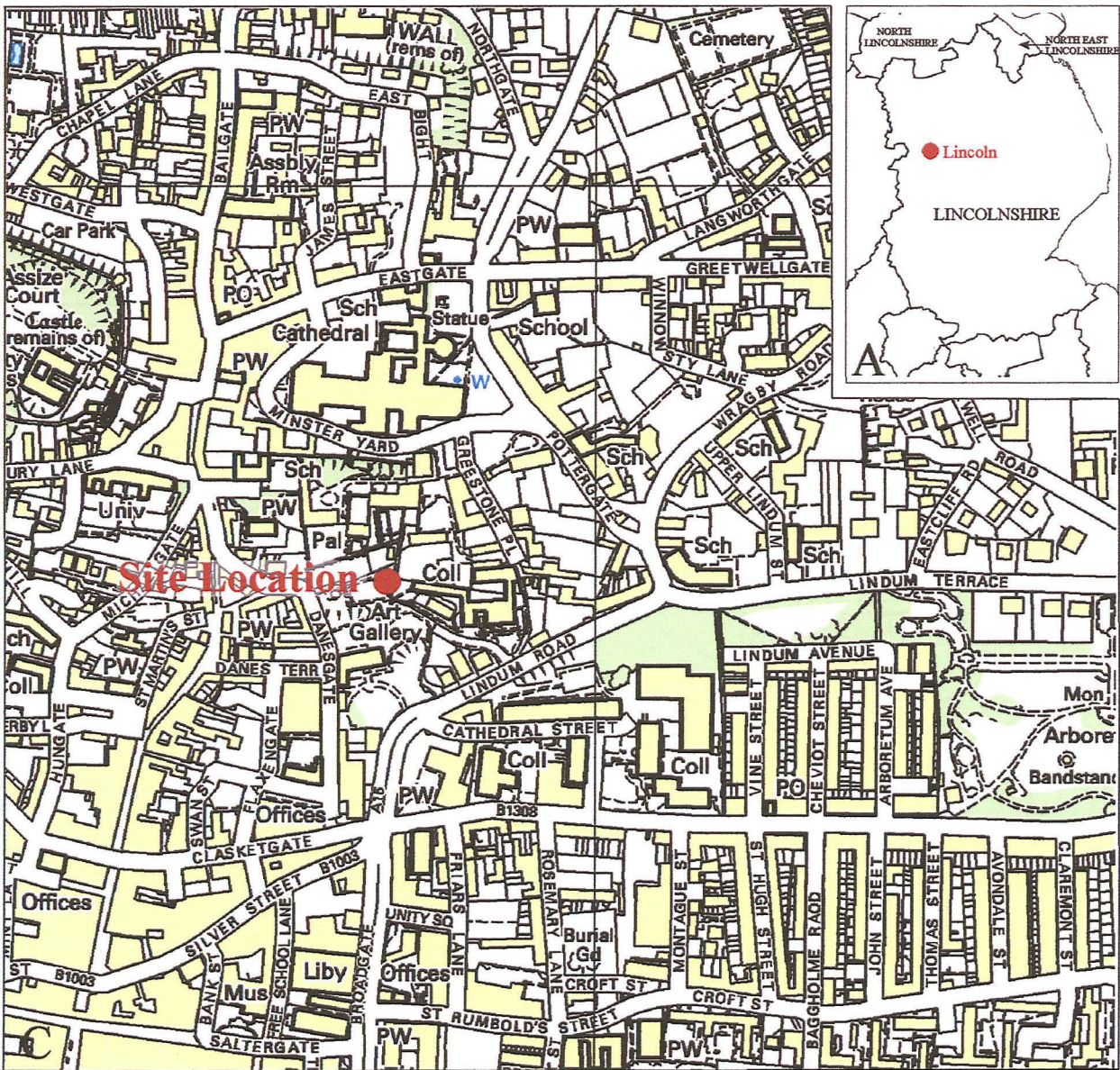


Fig. 1 Location of the Lincoln University Greestone site (C based on the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 digital map SK97. © Crown Copyright, reproduced at enlarged scale with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. 100002165).

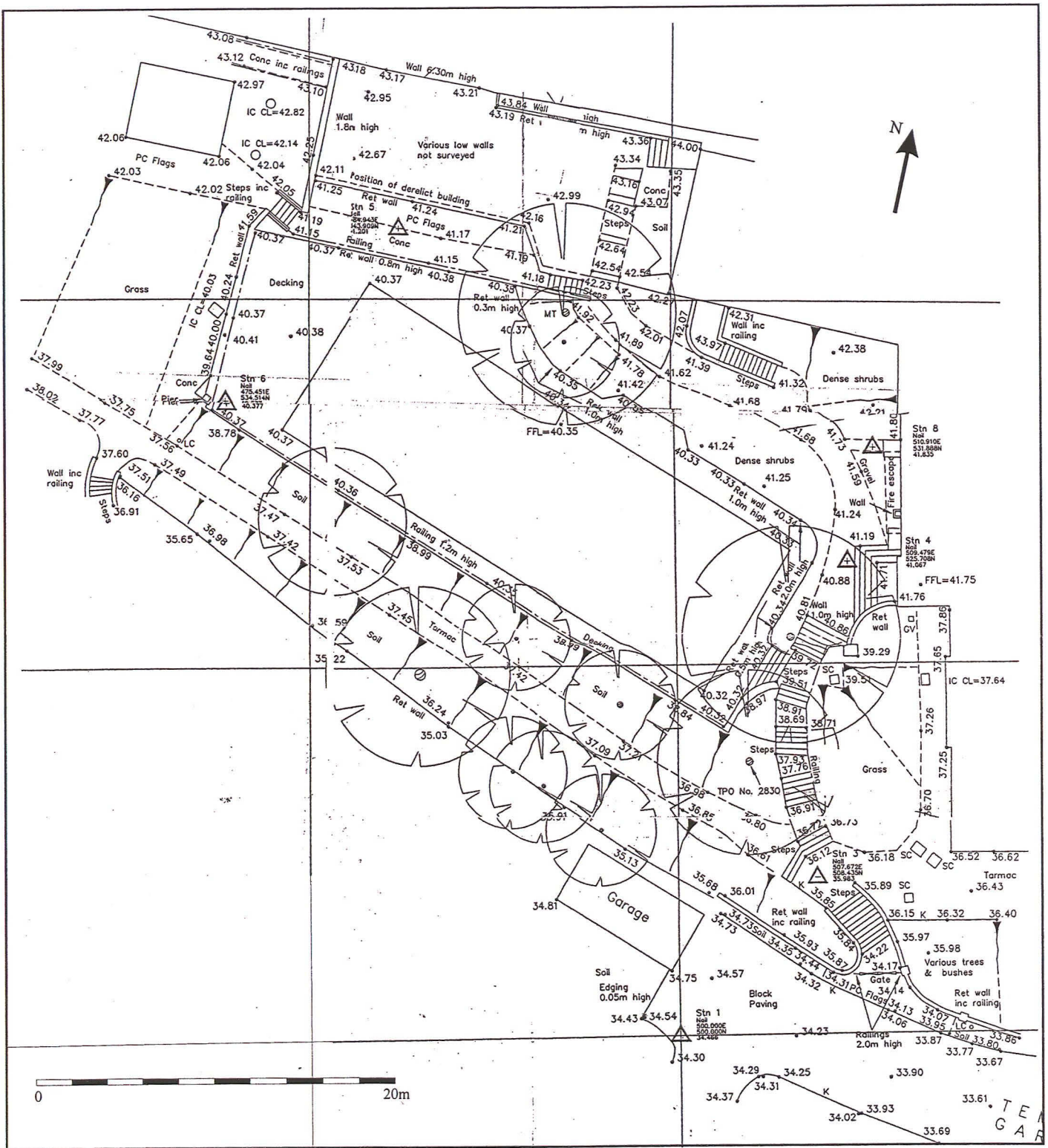


Fig. 2 Clients plan of the site

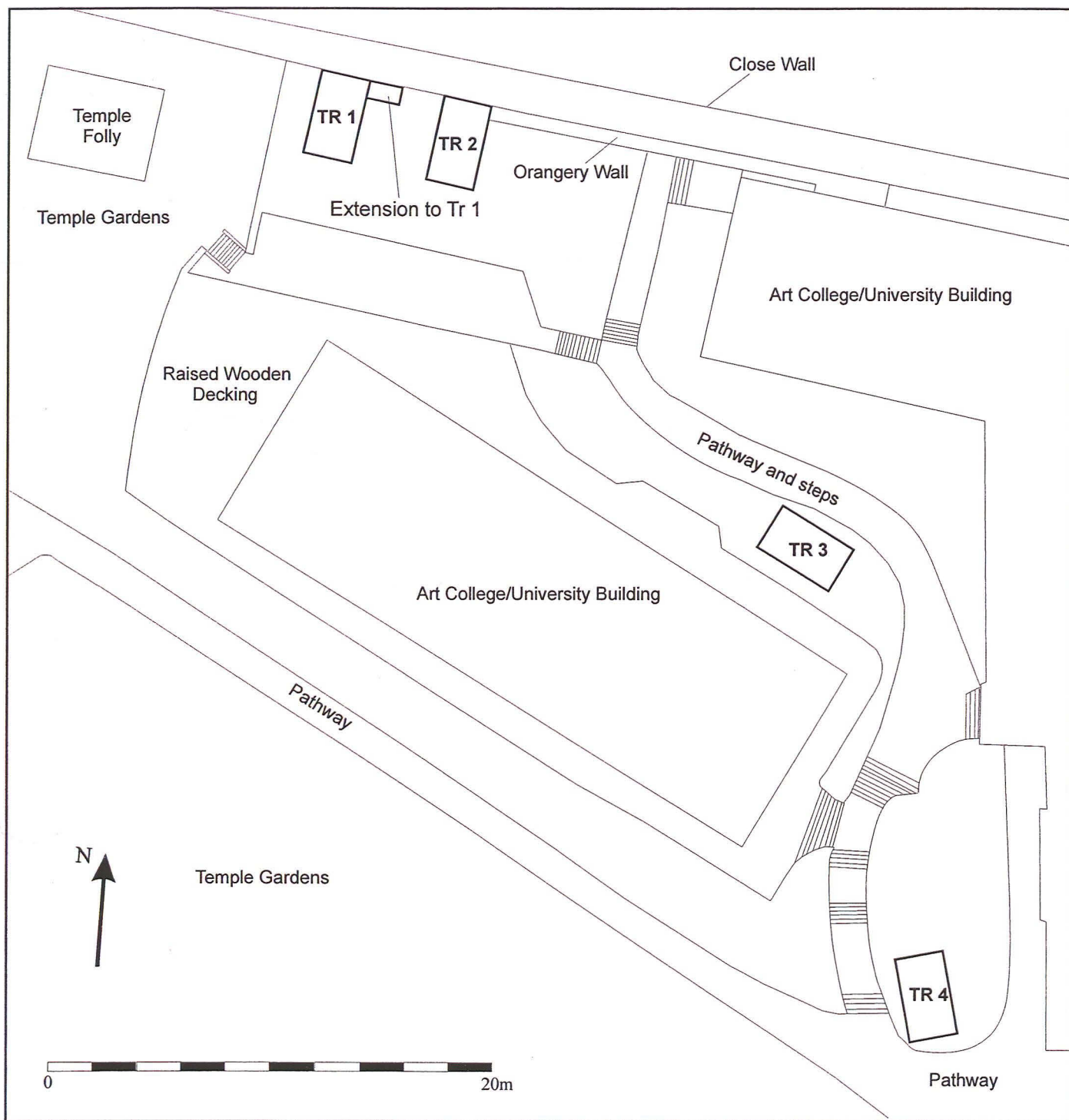


Fig. 3 Site plan showing the evaluation trenches

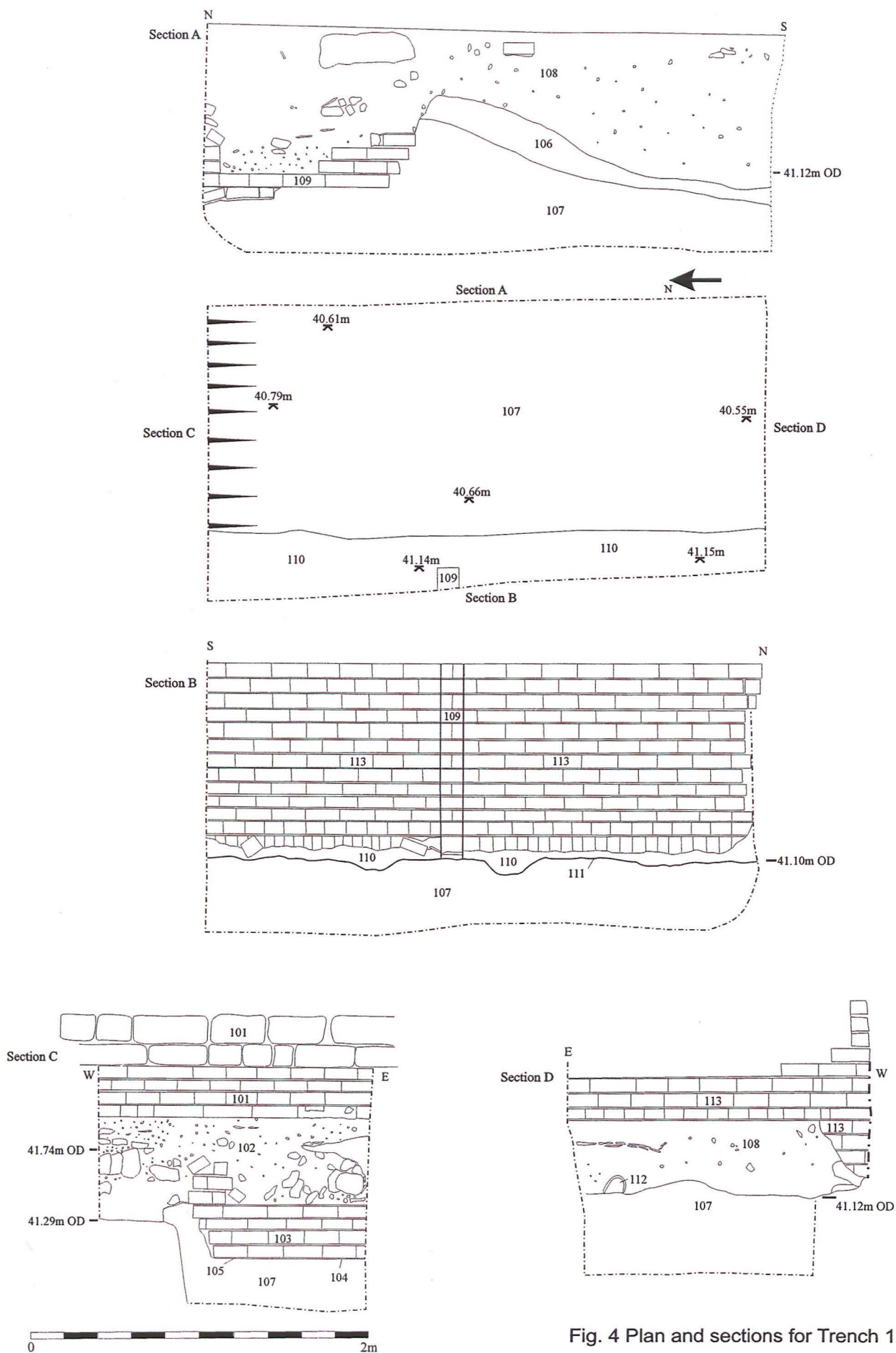


Fig. 4 Plan and sections for Trench 1

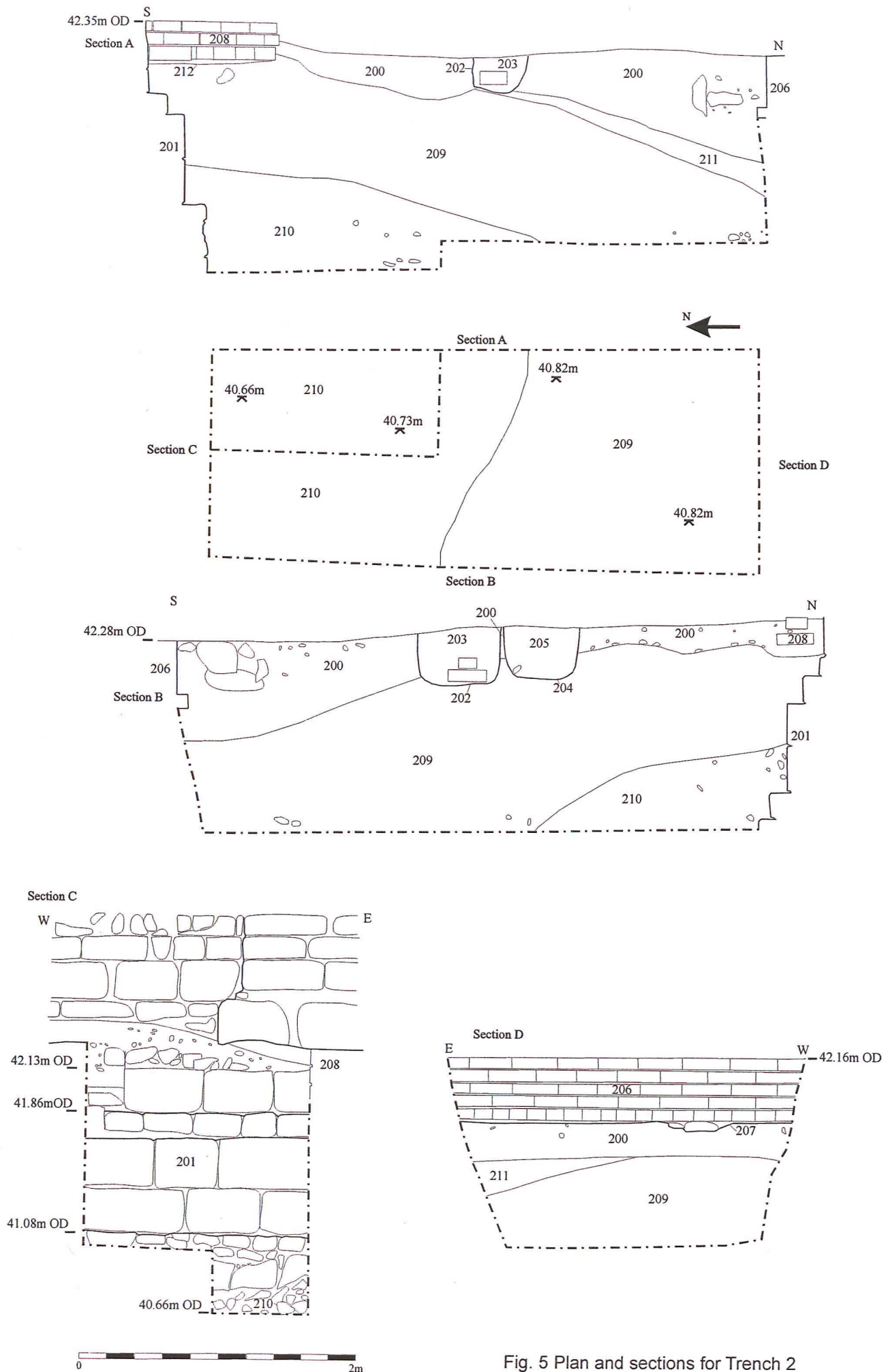


Fig. 5 Plan and sections for Trench 2

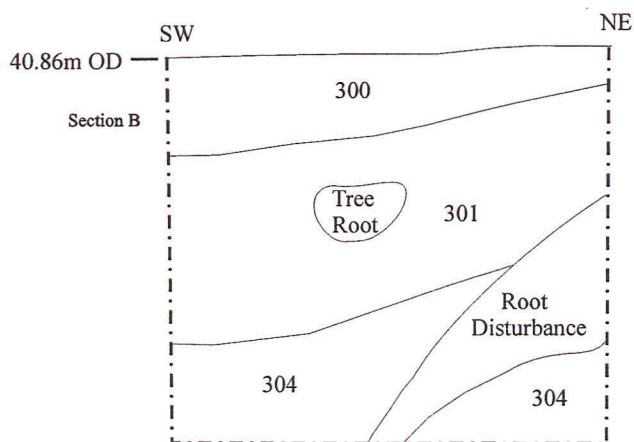
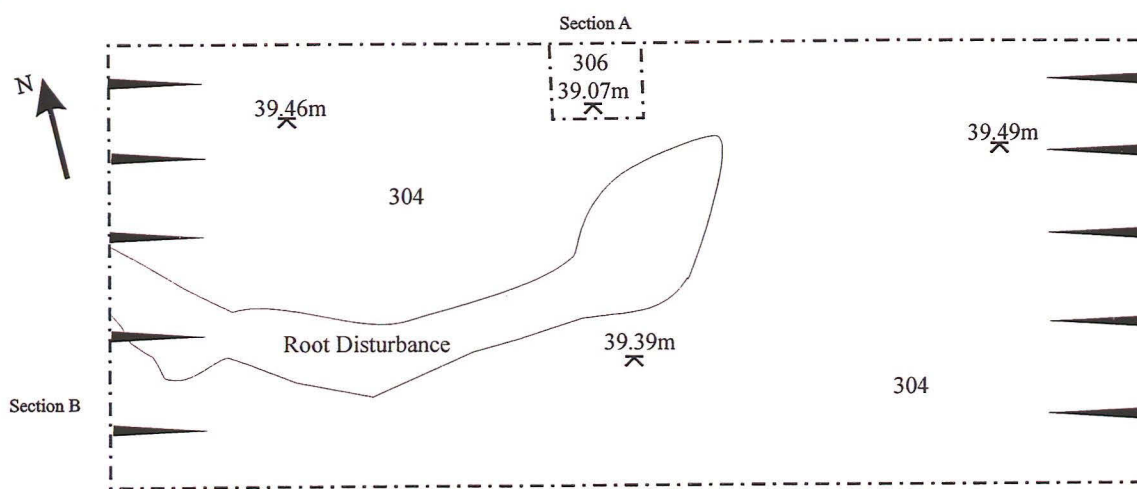
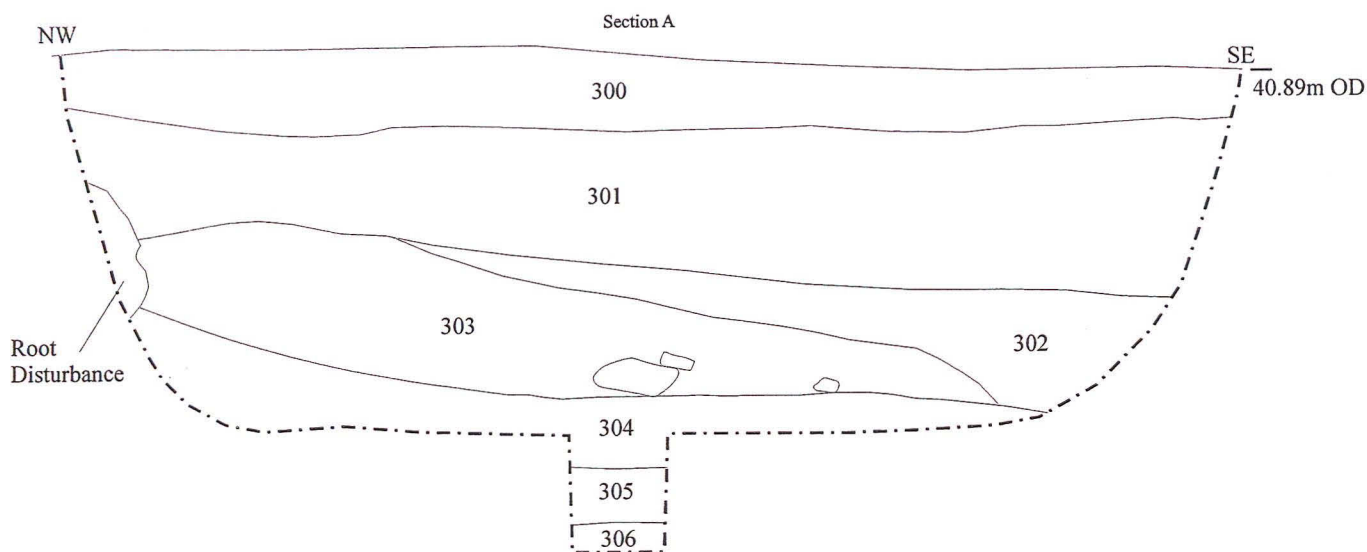


Fig. 6 Plan and sections for Trench 3

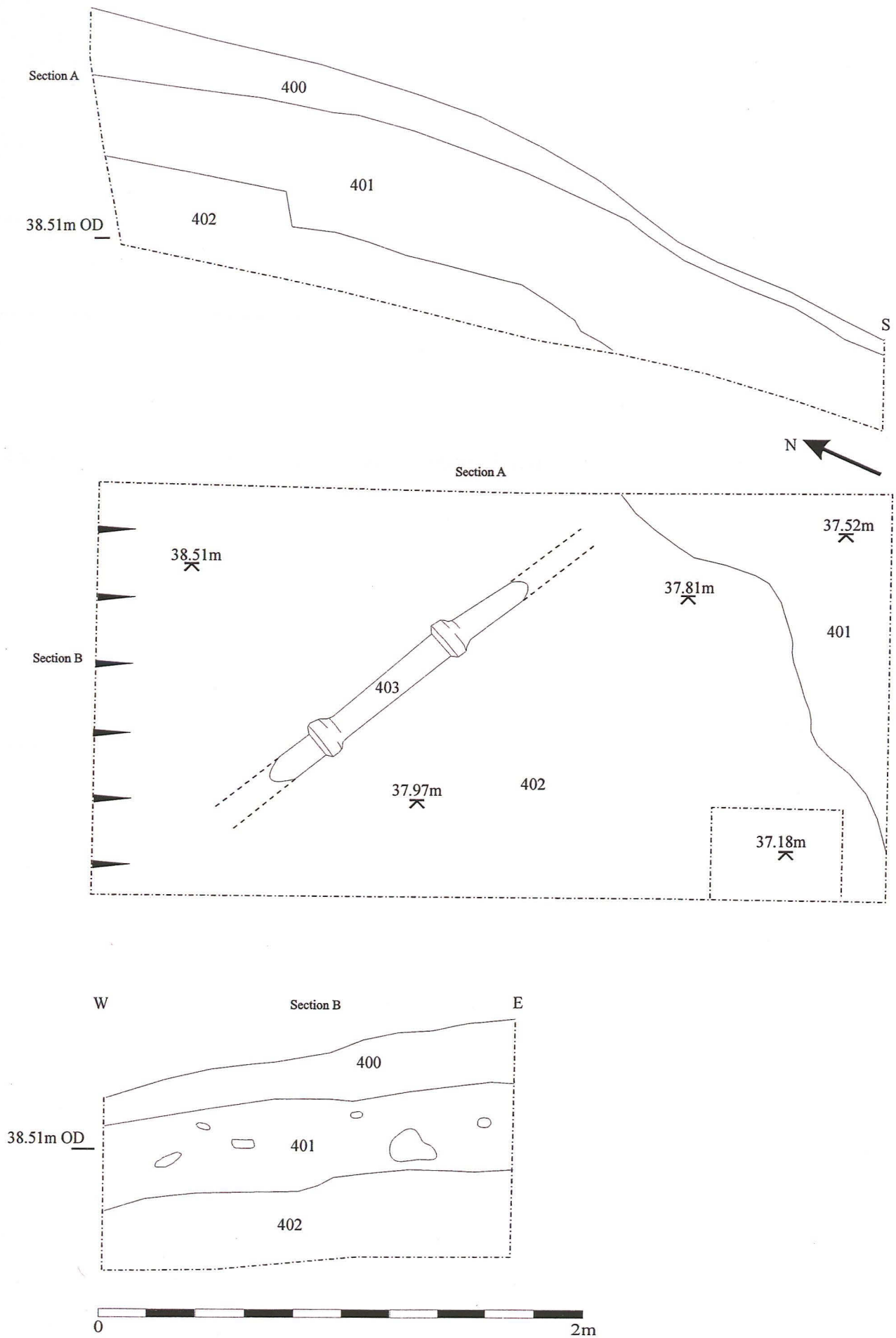


Fig. 7 Plan and sections for Trench 4

THE PLATES



Pl. 1 The site of Trenches 1 and 2 prior to excavation



Pl. 2 The site of Trench 3 prior to excavation



Pl. 3 The site of Trench 4 prior to excavation



Pl. 4 The northern face of Trench 1 showing modern underpinning. Scales 1.00m



Pl. 5 The western section of trench 1 showing modern brick wall and foundations with natural clay beneath. Scales 1m



Pl. 6 Modern wall and tip layers overlying natural boulder clay in the eastern section of Trench 1. Scales 1.00m



Pl. 7 The south section of Trench 1 showing modern layers overlying natural clay. Scales 1m



Pl. 8 The northern section of Trench 2 showing the foundations of the Close Wall. Scales 0.20m, 0.30m and 1m



Pl. 9 The eastern section of Trench 2 showing the tip-lines running south down the hillside and the foundations for the orangery. Scales 1m and 2m



Pl. 10 The western section of Trench 2 showing the tip-lines running south down the hillside. Scales 1m and 2m



Pl. 11 The south face of Trench 2 showing modern wall overlying tip-lines. Scales 1m and 2m



Pl. 12 Looking north-west along Trench 3 showing the clay base and tree root disturbance. 1m and 2m



Pl. 13 The north-eastern section of Trench 3 showing garden make-up overlying clay. Scales 1m and 2m



Pl. 14 The sondage in Trench 3 showing lower silty clay layers. Scales 0.20m and 0.30m



Pl.15 Looking north-west along Trench 4. Scales 1m and 2m



Pl. 16 A view of the north-eastern section and base of Trench 4. Scale 2m



Pl. 17 The sondage excavated in the southern corner of trench 4 showing the continuation of 402. Scale 0.50m and 0.30m



Pl. 18 Extension to Trench 1 showing the junction of the intact Close Wall foundations (right) with the robbed area to area to the left and modern brick underpinning above



Pl. 19 Looking east towards the art college showing the close wall and surviving rear wall of the orangery



Pl. 20 The view between the north wall of the art college and the orangery wall showing the probable chimney for the fire room at the eastern end