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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Land to the Rear of 49-51 High St, Lincoln
Archaeological Evaluation**

NGR: SK 97176 69982

Planning Application No.: 2005/0882/F

Site code: LRHS06

LCNCC Accn No.: 2006.127



Report

for

TMN Developments Ltd

By

N. Field and D. Young

LAS Report No. 925

June 2006

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Conservation
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16 JUN 2006

Highways & Planning
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Land to the Rear of 49-51 High St, Lincoln

Archaeological Evaluation

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Summary

A 2m x 2m evaluation trench to the rear of 49 – 51 High Street, Lincoln found evidence of a channel or ditch aligned east/west, containing pottery of 12th – 13th century date. Subsequent to the filling in of the channel it appears that the area formed part of a rear yard to properties fronting on to the High Street. The ground may have been levelled/cleared as there are no remains dating to the period between the 13th and 19th centuries. Foundation design for the building has yet to be finalised but will comprise a raft. Overall it is considered that the impact of the development on archaeological remains will be low.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services LLP was commissioned by Tim Naylor in accordance with the brief set by the Archaeological Officer of Lincoln City Council dated May 16th 2006 and the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998).

Site Location

The proposed development site is located to the rear (west) of 49-51 High Street and is on the north side of Robey Street (Figs 1 and 2) towards the south end of the medieval city. The land is currently an open yard with tarmac surface.

Planning Details

Full Planning Permission (Ref **2005/0882/F**) was granted for the "Erection of a two storey building to accommodate two flats", which was granted on 13 April 2006 with the following condition:

"No development, geotechnical investigation, site clearance or other enabling work shall take place on the site until details of the measures to be taken to evaluate, preserve and/or record the archaeological content of the site, which shall include a timescale for the investigation, have been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. All archaeological work shall thereafter proceed in accordance with the approved programme".

Archaeological Background

The site is located towards the south end of the medieval suburb of Wigford, south of the Roman city.

No 50 High Street was The Sportsmans Arms public house until 1910. It was substantially rebuilt prior to 1910 along with Nos. 49 and 51 High Street by W. Scorer Architects. Robey Street was constructed in 1901, resulting in the area behind 49-51 High St being located on its north side.

A watching brief at 47 High St in 2000 revealed modern demolition and disturbed deposits with no archaeological remains surviving (Clay 2000). In 2002 a watching brief to the rear of 49, 50 and 50a High Street during the construction of a rear extension identified wall foundations of medieval or post-medieval date, and a sequence of sandy deposits was tentatively suggested to be similar to Roman levels recorded elsewhere along the High Street. Natural sand was apparently encountered c1m below modern ground level (Jarvis 2002). The potential for the presence of further remains in the yard area was considered to be high.

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 (*The Collection*).
- Provide information for accession to the County Heritage and Environment Record (HER) and the Lincoln Urban Archaeological Database.

METHOD

A single trench measuring 2m square was opened in order to evaluate the small site (Fig. 3; Pl. 1). Archaeological recording was carried out by a team of two experienced archaeologists. The trench was machine excavated to the top of the first recognizable archaeological horizon using a toothless ditching bucket, after breaking out of any concrete, tarmac, hardcore. The trench was hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan.

A carefully selected cross-section through the feature was 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.

A full written (single context) and photographic record was made of the site, to include site plans and sections at a scale of 1:20 (Fig. 3). Finds located in archaeological features, were identified accordingly. A full photographic record was made during the progress of the excavation to cover each feature together with general site views.

Results

Removal of the 0.10m thick tarmac (**100**) revealed the remains of a Victorian brick wall belonging to an outside toilet, and a lead water pipe (**102**) next to a large trench (**110**) which contained a ceramic sewer pipe **103**. This ran along the east side of the trench, reducing the area available for investigation to a width of 1.2m (Pl. 2). These 19th century features cut through a compact stony layer (**101**) 0.05-0.10m thick, which contained a mixture of 18th and 19th century pottery together with medieval pottery and tile fragments. It was probably a previous yard surface, belonging to the Victorian buildings on the High Street frontage.

Layer **101** sealed a deposit of greyish-brown sandy silt, **106**, 0.60m thick, with flecks of limestone which contained 11-13th century pottery. This medieval horizon may have been a former garden soil. It overlay a thin compacted layer **126**, comprising a brown-grey silt/sand with small limestone fragments, 0.04m thick. Beneath **126** was a thin lens of mid-brown silty sand, **111**, overlying a darker greyish-brown sand silt, **112**, which contained 12-13th century pottery and tile fragments and was a maximum 0.28m thick. Two truncated lenses of sand (**114** and **115**, which contained a single 11-12th century pot sherd) lay below **112** as did **113**, thin layer of mixed orange-brown sand seen in the north section, which merged with a thick layer of orange sand, **119**, initially interpreted as natural (Pls 3,4). On further investigation this proved to be the upper fill of a channel probably aligned west-east that contained a sequence of alternating layers of grey silt and darker peaty silt deposits. (**118,124,117,121,120,122,123,125**) (Pls 5,6). A single sherd of mid 11-12th century pottery was retrieved from layer **120**. Neither the edges nor the base of this channel were located in the small evaluation trench, which was 1.90m deep (4.98m OD at the base of excavations).

Discussion

The small area evaluated made it difficult to interpret the remains encountered, especially as a sewer pipe which could not be removed, crossed the east side of the trench. The site appears to have been cleared as part of the 19th century development of the area as the 19th century yard surface **101** sits immediately on top of layer **106** apparently of 13th century date.

The possible yard surface **126** and soil layers **111** and **112** beneath **106** appear to be the earliest horizons associated with occupation of the area and also contain pottery and tile of 11-13th century date. The earlier deposits indicate successive episodes of flooding with greyish silty sand interleaved with peaty layers (drier phases which allowed time for

vegetation to accumulate) associated with 11-12th century pottery. The site is located some 220m east of the River Witham and it is possible that there was a drainage channel located on a boundary between two properties, which emptied into the river. 19th century maps of the city indicate that Robey Street (which was built in 1901) does indeed follow a major land division, which may well have had a drain along it.

This part of the site is located at the rear of 49-51 High Street. A watching brief in 2002 revealed the stone footings for a building to the east of the present evaluation trench which may have been of medieval date (Jarvis 2002). A layer very similar to layer **119** was seen during this watching brief and was interpreted as natural. In the circumstances this was a reasonable assumption to make, but highlights the difficulties associated with interpreting results from small-scale investigations. Even within the 2m square trench it was not possible to define the character and extent of the deposits encountered with absolute confidence. It was only by chance that additional cleaning in the evaluation trench established that it sealed other layers. It is likely therefore that the deposits identified as being of possible Roman date in 2002 are actually medieval and later.

Potential Impact of the Proposed Development on Archaeological Remains

The proposed foundation design for the new property has yet to be finalized but will probably comprise a raft. The depth of excavations along load-bearing walls will be a maximum of 600mm. Service trenches will be connected to existing services for the adjacent property and will be a maximum of 450mm deep.

The evaluation trench revealed evidence for a possible medieval channel or boundary ditch, perpendicular to the High Street, apparently of 11-12th century date or earlier. The proposed raft will probably penetrate the 13th century horizon, represented by layer **106**, where it has not been disturbed by modern intrusions, but not reach the earlier channel. The level of disturbance to archaeological deposits is considered to be low. The service trenches may reach earlier deposits, and possibly define the edges of the channel. Overall it is considered that the impact of the development on archaeological remains will be low.

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank Tim Naylor and Dale Garner for their assistance on site. The excavations were carried out by Doug Young and David Bower. The report was written by Doug Young and Naomi Field with illustrations by Doug Young.

Naomi Field and Doug Young
June 12th 2006

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Jarvis M 2002, *49, 50 and 51a High Street, Lincoln*, CLAU Report 495

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Padley, J S Plans of the City of Lincoln 1842, 1851 and 1868

Contents of the site archive

Context sheets

Site drawings (2)

Photographs LAS film no 06/51 digital photographs

Deposit model

surface	full name	period	edate	ldate	Level OD
SNB	Base of Saxo-Norman Deposit (c.1050-1150)	EMED	1050	1150	LOE 4.88m
SNT	Top of Saxo-Norman Deposit (c.1050-1150)	EMED	1050	1150	5.58m
EMEDB	Base of Early Medieval Deposit (c.1150-1250)	MED	1150	1250	5.58m
EMEDT	Top of Early Medieval Deposit (c.1150-1250)	MED	1150	1250	6.48-6.54m
HMEDT	Top of High Medieval Deposit (c.1250-1350)	MED	1250	1350	
HMEDB	Base of High Medieval Deposit (c.1250-1350)	MED	1250	1350	
LMEDT	Top of Late Medieval Deposit (c.1350-1550)	LMED	1350	1550	
LMEDB	Base of Late Medieval Deposit (c.1350-1550)	LMED	1350	1550	
PMEDB	Base of Post-Medieval Deposit (c.1550-1770)	PMED	1550	1770	
PMEDT	Top of Post-Medieval Deposit (c.1550-1770)	PMED	1550	1770	
EMODT	Top of Early Modern Deposit (c.1770-1840)	LPMED	1770	1840	
EMODB	Base of Early Modern Deposit (c.1770-1840)	LPMED	1770	1840	6.48-6.54m
MODT	Top of modern ground surface	MOD	2006	2006	6.68-6.78m

All deposits between the 13th and 18-19th century removed

APPENDIX 1

Context List

Land behind 49 / 51, High Street, Lincoln

Context	Type	Description
100	Layer	Modern tarmacadam
101	Layer	Bedding for 100
102	Wall	Lining for services
103	Wall	Foundation for external WC
104	Fill	Fill of drainage trench 105
105	Cut	Duplication of 110
106	Layer	Possible medieval horizon / garden soil
107	Fill	Fill of pit 110
108	Fill	Fill of pit 110
109	Fill	Fill of pit 110
110	Cut	Cut for pit
111	Layer	
112	Layer	
113	Fill	
114	Fill	
115	Fill	
116	Cut	EW ditch / channel
117	Fill	Fill of ditch / channel 116
118	Fill	Fill of ditch / channel 116
119	Fill	Fill of ditch / channel 116
120	Fill	Fill of ditch / channel 116
121	Fill	Fill of ditch / channel 116
122	Fill	Fill of ditch / channel 116
123	Fill	Fill of ditch / channel 116
124	Fill	Fill of ditch / channel 116
125	Fill	Fill of ditch / channel 116
126	Layer	Possible medieval yard surface
127	Layer	Fill of ditch / channel 116

APPENDIX 2

Pottery Archive for 49/51 High Street, Lincoln (LRHS06)

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	description	date
101	BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware	industrial fineware	small mug ?	1	1	4		rim		18th
101	TOYII	Toynton Late Medieval ware		jug	1	1	10	applied thumb pressed strip	BS		mid 15th to mid 16th
101	ENGS	Unspecified English Stoneware		large lid	1	1	99	decorated	rim		18th to 19th
101	POTT	Potterhanworth-type Ware		large jar	1	1	44		base	soot int & ext & edge	13th to 15th
101	LSW4	15th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	C	jug	1	1	14		BS	fresh condition	late 15th to mid 16th
101	LLSW	Late Lincoln Glazed ware		jug	1	1	11		BS	? ID or LSW4;fresh condition	late 14th to 15th
101	LSW2	13th to 14th century Lincoln Glazed Ware		jug	1	1	8		BS	fresh condition	13th
101	LSW2	13th to 14th century Lincoln Glazed Ware		jug	1	1	6	applied fe strip	BS	fresh condition	13th
101	LSW4	15th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	C	jug	1	1	16		BS	soot internal & edges;fresh condition	late 15th to mid 16th
106	LFS	Linclonshire Fine-shelled ware		small jar	2	1	29		BS	soot ext & part int	11th to 12th
106	LFS	Linclonshire Fine-shelled ware		small jar	2	1	20		BS	soot ext & part int	11th to 12th

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	description	date
112	LEMS	Lincolnshire Early Medieval Shelly		jar/bowl	1	1	1		BS	soot	mid 12th to early/mid 13th
112	LEMS	Lincolnshire Early Medieval Shelly		bowl	1	1	45		rim	everted rim;soot	mid 12th to early/mid 13th
112	LEMS	Lincolnshire Early Medieval Shelly		bowl	1	1	8		rim	everted rim;soot	mid 12th to early/mid 13th
112	ST	Stamford Ware	A/B	jar/pitcher	1	1	2		BS	glaze	mid 11th to mid 12th
112	LFS	Lincolnshire Fine-shelled ware		large bowl	1	1	22		base	soot	11th to 12th
112	LFS	Lincolnshire Fine-shelled ware		jar/bowl	1	1	6		base	soot	11th to 12th
112	LEMS	Lincolnshire Early Medieval Shelly		small jar	1	1	4		BS	soot int & ext	mid 12th to early/mid 13th
112	LFS	Lincolnshire Fine-shelled ware		jar	1	1	14		BS		11th to 12th
112	LFS	Lincolnshire Fine-shelled ware		small jar	1	1	5		BS		11th to 12th
115	LFS	Lincolnshire Fine-shelled ware		jar	1	1	9		BS	soot	11th to 12th
120	LFS	Lincolnshire Fine-shelled ware		small jar	3	1	68		BS	soot ext & part int	mid 11th to 12th

Tile Archive for 49/51 High Street, Lincoln (LRHS06)

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	fabric	sub type	frags	weight	description	date
101	PANTDISC	Pantile (discarded)			1	43		late 18th to 20th
101	GPNR	Glazed peg, nib or ridge	Fabric 7		1	49	flat roofer;soot on e	mid 12th to early/mid 13th
101	PNRDISC	Discarded peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 1		1	52	flat roofer;corner	mid 12th to 14th
101	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	poor Fabric 1		1	197	flat roofer	13th to 15th
101	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 1/7 + fe/shale;vit rified		1	204	flat roofer;blistered;	13th
101	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 1/7 + fe/shale		1	312	flat roofer;mortar	13th
101	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 1/7		1	85	flat roofer;tool mar	13th
101	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 1/7		1	144	flat roofer;corner	13th
101	PNRDISC	Discarded peg, nib or ridge tile	poor Fabric 1		1	108	flat roofer	mid 12th to 15th
101	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 7;light oxid		1	285	flat roofer;thck tile;	mid 12th to ealy/mid 13th
101	PNRDISC	Discarded peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 1/7		1	92	flat roofer	mid 12th to mid 13th
101	NIB	Nibbed tile	Fabric 1	2	1	154	flat roofer;flat roofer	mid 12th to mid 13th
101	NIB	Nibbed tile	Fabric 1	2	1	141	small nib	mid 12th to mid 13th
101	NIB	Nibbed tile	Fabric 7	1/2;semi vitrified	1	251	tool marks on edge	mid 12th to early/mid 13th
101	GPNR	Glazed peg, nib or ridge	Fabric 7		1	117	flat roofer;tool/wire	mid 12th to early/mid 13th
101	GPNR	Glazed peg, nib or ridge	Fabric 7;oxid		1	341	flat roofer;corner;th	mid 12th to early/mid 13th
101	GPNR	Glazed peg, nib or ridge	Fabric 7;semi vitrified		1	94	flat roofer;cracked	mid 12th to early/mid 13th
101	GPNR	Glazed peg, nib or ridge	Fabric 7;semi vitrified		1	162	flat roofer;stacking	mid 12th to early/mid 13th
101	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 7;oxid		1	135	thick tile;flat roofer	mid 12th to ealy/mid 13th

context	cname	full name	fabric	sub type	frags	weight	description	date
101	PNRDISC	Discarded peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 1		13	1057	flat roofer	mid 12th to 14th
101	PNRDISC	Discarded peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 1/7		1	193	flat roofer;corner	mid 12th to mid 13th
101	PNRDISC	Discarded peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 7		4	382	flat roofer	mid 12th to early/mid 13th
101	PNRDISC	Discarded peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 7;oxid		1	165	flat roofer;corner	mid 12th to early/mid 13th
101	PNRDISC	Discarded peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 7;oxid		1	27	flat roofer	mid 12th to early/mid 13th
101	RBRK	Roman brick			1	111		Roman
101	PNRDISC	Discarded peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 1		2	214	flat roofer;undersid	mid 12th to 14th
106	GRID	Glazed ridge tile (unidentified ware)	coarse fabric with comm fe		1	260	fe reduced glaze;ap	late 12th to mid 13th
106	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 7;oxid		1	160	flat roofer;thick wal	mid 12th to early/mid 13th
106	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Beverley ?		1	63	flat roofer;salt surfa	mid 12th to 14th
106	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 1		1	82	flat roofer;mortar	mid 12th to 14th
106	GPNR	Glazed peg, nib or ridge	Fabric 7		1	531	flat roofer;corner;cr	mid 12th to early/mid 13th
106	GPNR	Glazed peg, nib or ridge	semi vitrified		1	265	flat roofer;glassy ed	mid 12th to early/mid 13th
106	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 7		1	67	flat roofer;soot	mid 12th to early/mid 13th
112	NIB	Nibbed tile	LSWA	moulded	1	33		mid 12th to 13th
112	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 7		1	35	flat roofer	mid 12th to early/mid 13th
112	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 1/7;semi vitrified		1	47	flat roofer;glassy ed	13th
112	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 7;oxid		1	75	flat roofer;spalled	mid 12th to early/mid 13th
112	PNRDISC	Discarded peg, nib or ridge tile	Fabric 7		4	44	flat roofer;scraps	mid 12th to early/mid 13th

THE FIGURES

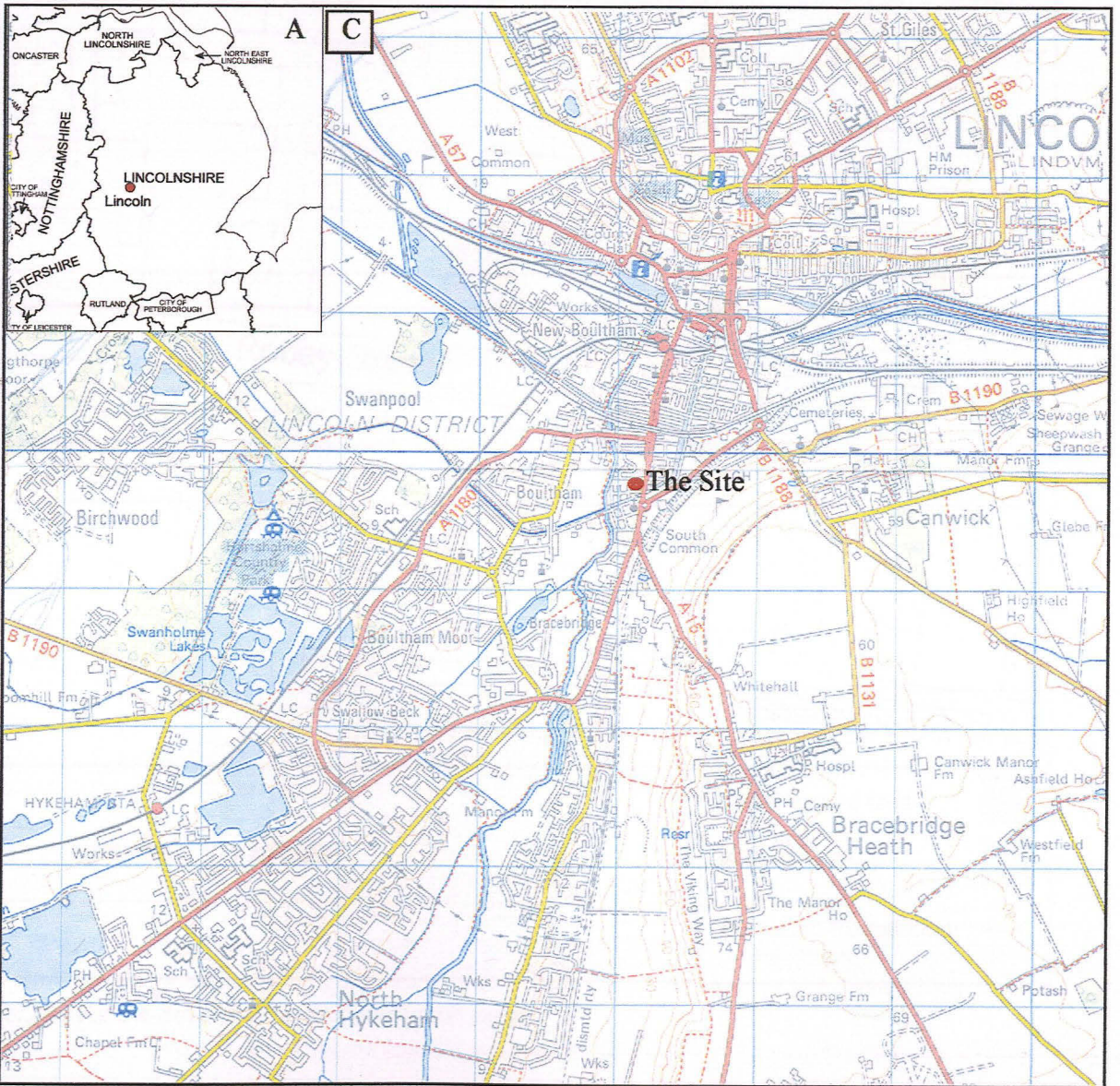
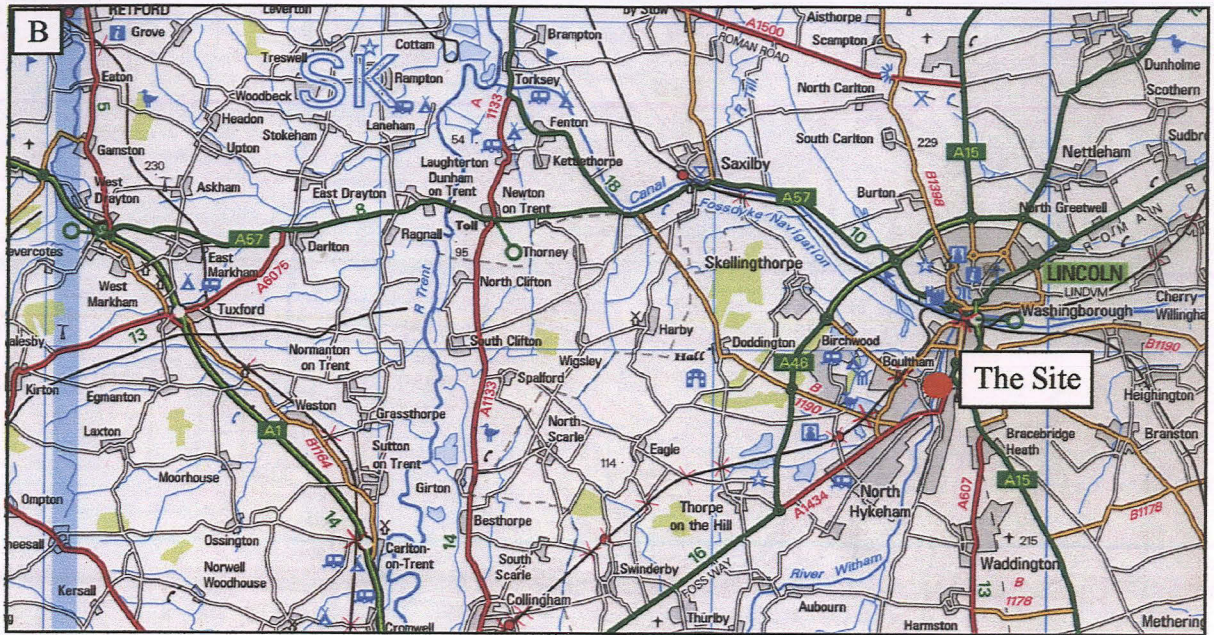


Fig.1 Location of the site at the rear of 49-51 High Street, Lincoln (inset C based on the Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 Landranger map Sheet 121. Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence no. AL 10002165).

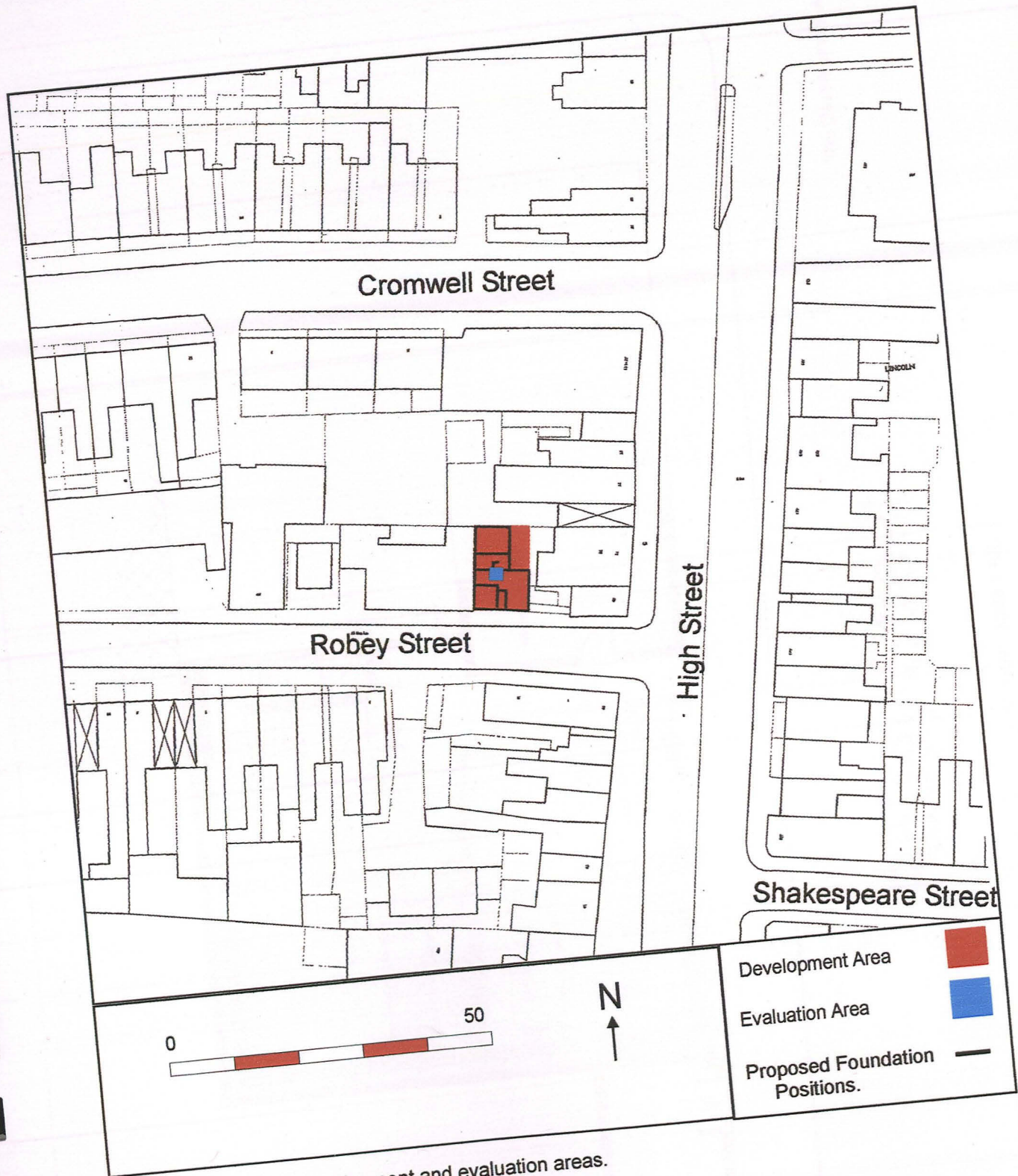
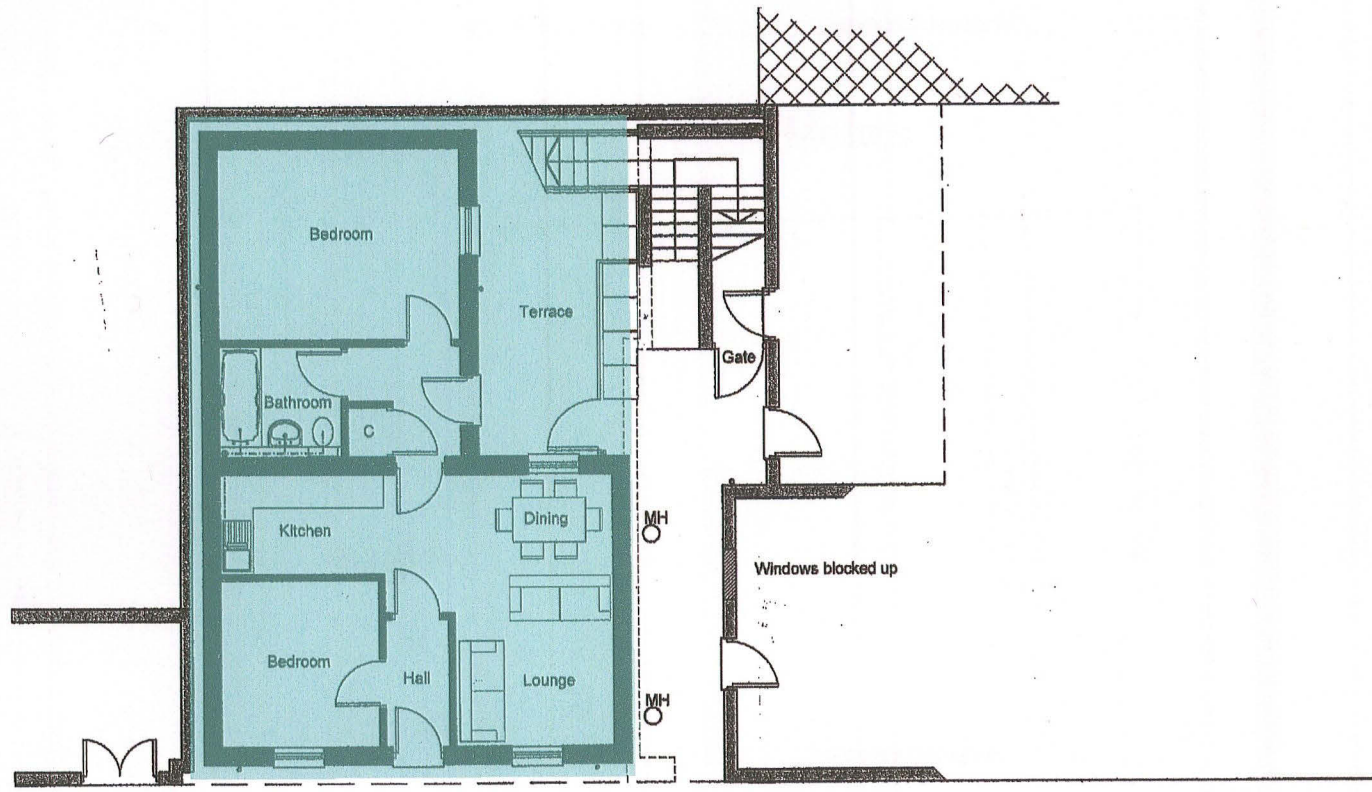


Fig. 2 Location of the development and evaluation areas.



Robey Street

High Street

The Development Area

Fig. 3 Detail of the development (taken from a drawing supplied by the client). Scale 1:100.

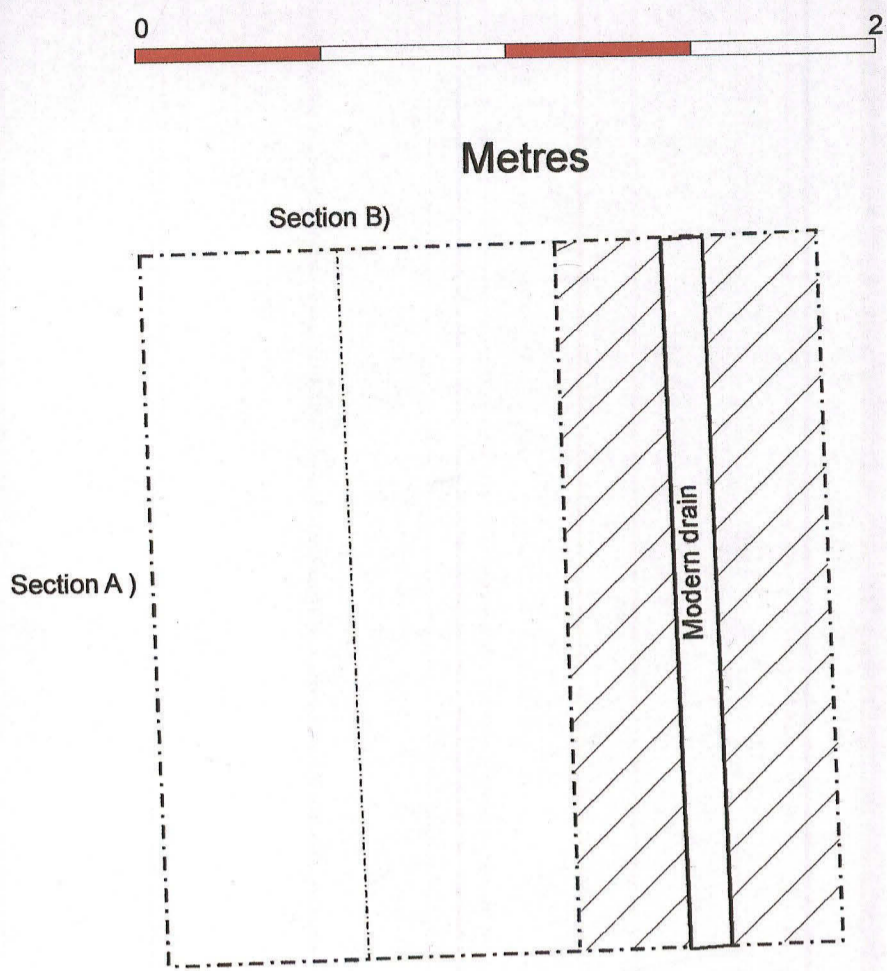


Fig. 4 General site plan with modern disturbance shown on the eastern side.

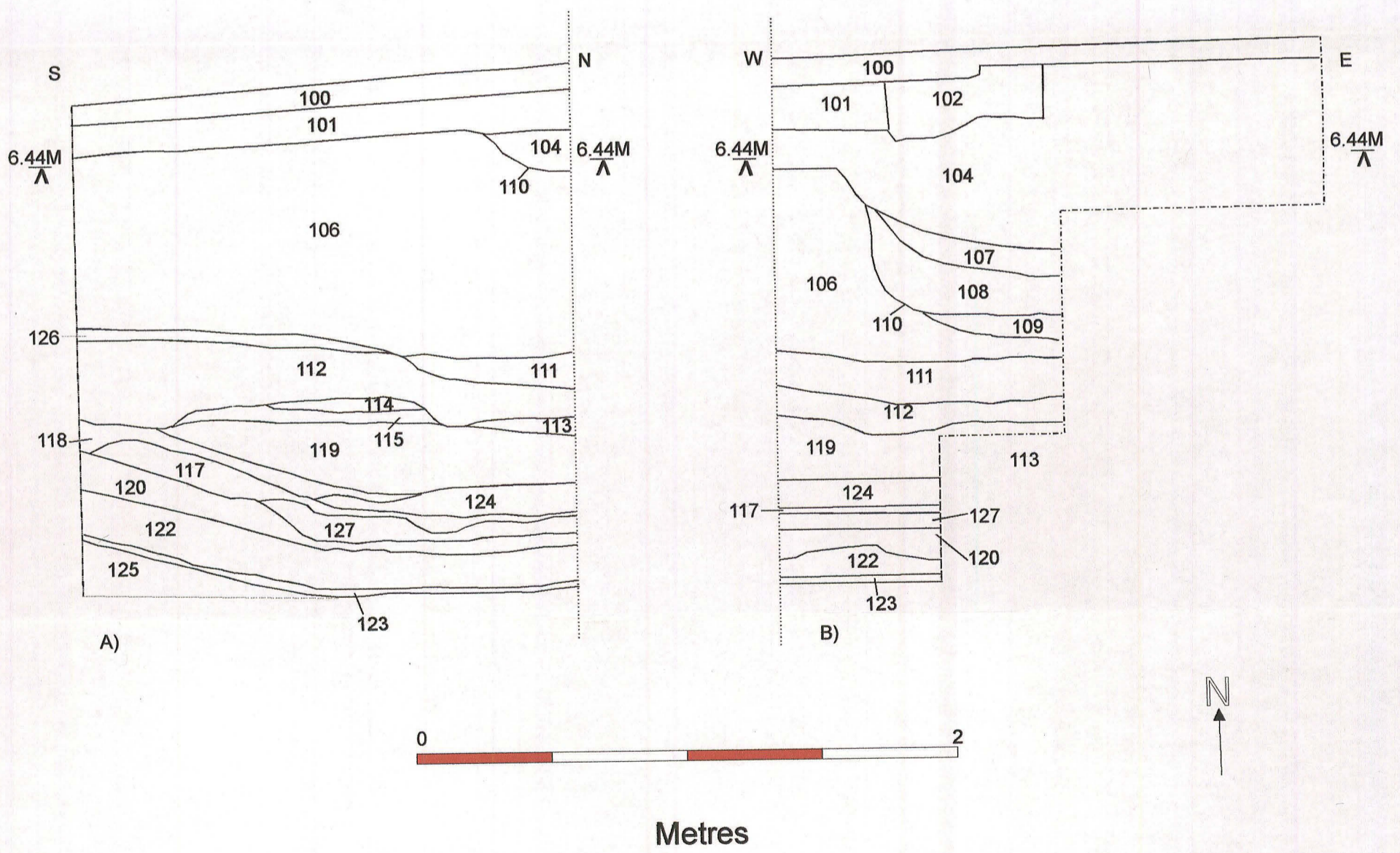


Fig. 5 West and north sections.

THE PLATES



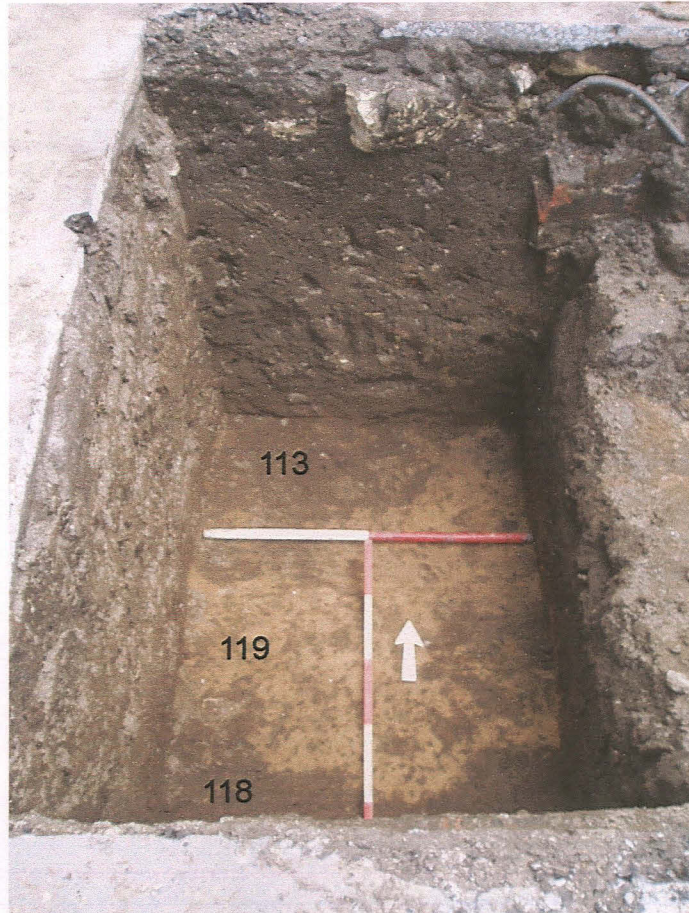
Pl. 1 General view of the site in the early machining stage. View from the south.



Pl. 2 The north section with modern disturbance and the N/S soil pipe to the east of the trench.
Scales 1m



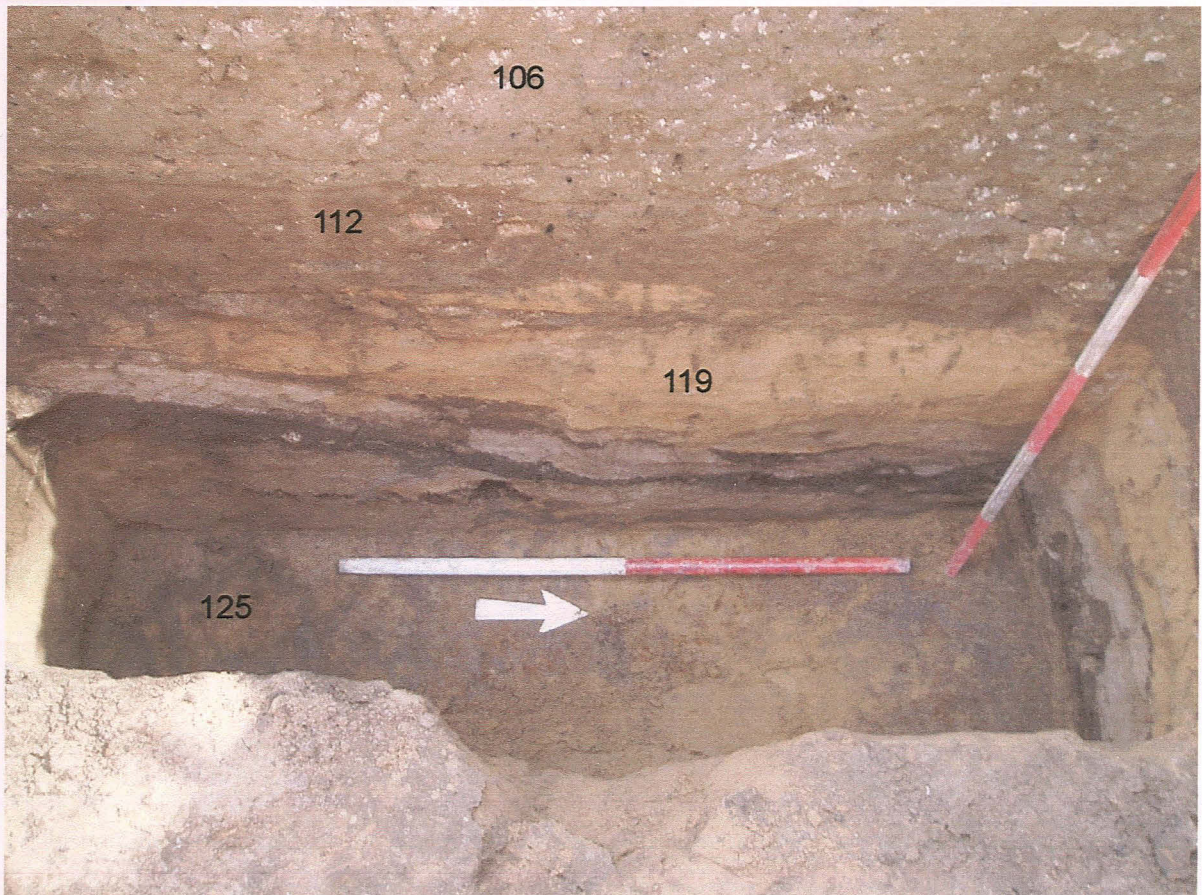
Pl. 3 Plan view of the layered fills of the channel / ditch. View from the eastern side. Scales 1m.



Pl. 4 Plan view of the channel / ditch fills from the south side. Scales 1m.



Pl. 5 The west section showing flood layer 119. Scales 1m.



Pl. 6 The lower west section with channel / ditch fills tipping from the south. Scales 1m.