

**ELLIS' MILL, MILL ROAD,
LINCOLN, LINCOLNSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

Site code	ELML 06
NGR:	SK 970 722
LCCM Acc No:	2006.147
Planning refs.	N/A

Report prepared for HBS Ltd.

by

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July 2006



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*acknowledged receipt of report 21/7/06
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Highways & Planning
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Summary

- *An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the groundworks for the construction of a proposed new car park and paved area on land adjacent to Ellis' Windmill, Mill Road, Lincoln.*
- *No significant archaeological features were exposed during the watching brief. The remains of three foundations, one of roughly faced limestone fragments and two of brick were recorded. These probably represent the remnants of ancillary buildings associated with the windmill complex. A subsoil deposit was also observed, which contained limestone fragments and brick rubble and probably post-dated the construction of the windmill in 1798. A further ash deposit recorded adjacent to the base of the windmill was probably associated with the fire that occurred at the site in the mid 20th century.*

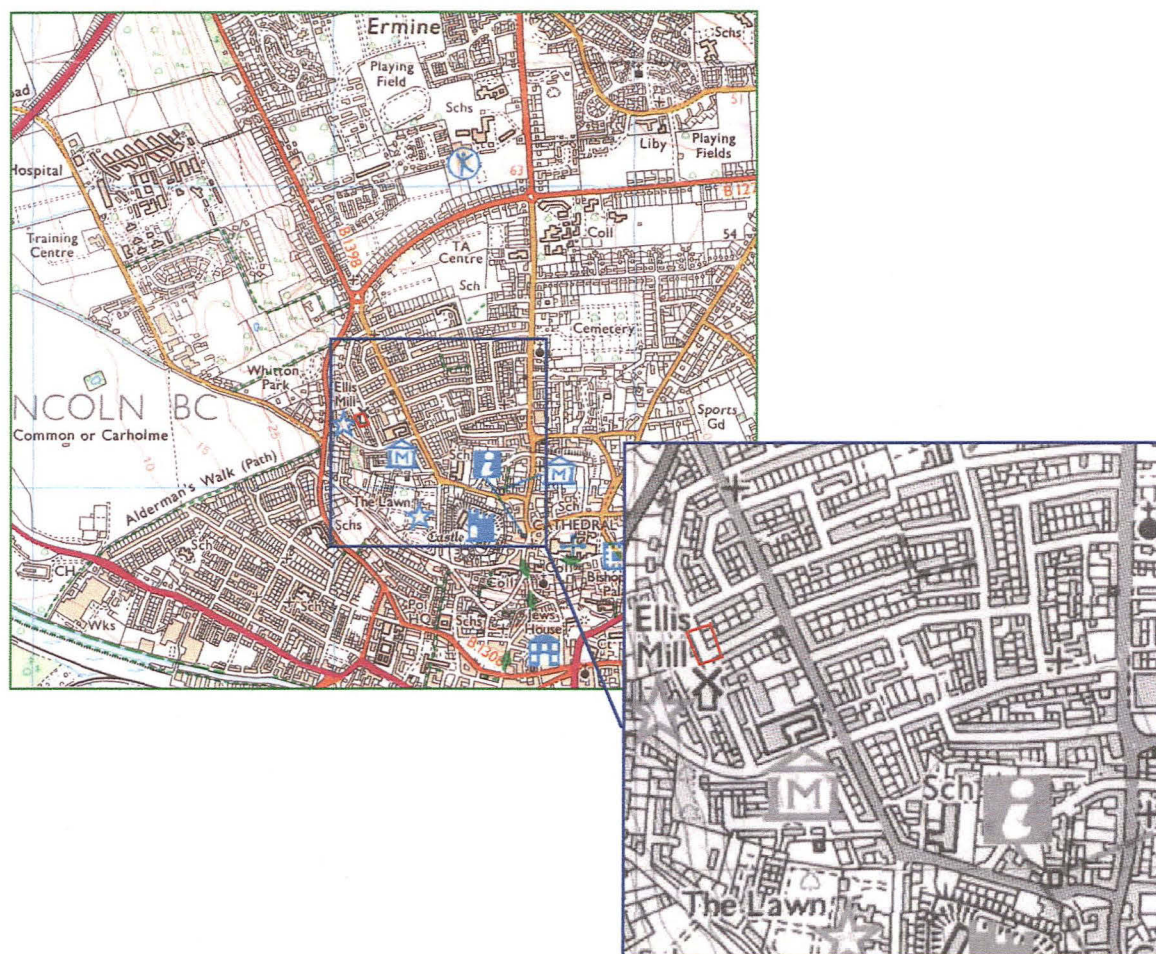


Figure 1: General location plan at scale 1:25,000 with an enlarged extract at scale 1:10,000. The site of Ellis' Windmill is marked in red and is shown in more detail on Fig. 2. (O.S. copyright licence no. AL 515 21 A0001)

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by HBS Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks for the construction of a new car park and paved area on land adjacent to Ellis' Mill, Mill Road, Lincoln.

This work was undertaken on a voluntary basis on behalf of the clients and so did not constitute a planning requirement of the Lincoln City Archaeologist. However, the archaeological monitoring was undertaken according to the recommendations of '*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice*' (LCC, 1998), *Archaeology & Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (Department of the Environment, 1990), *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991) and *Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (IFA, 1999).

Copies of this report will be deposited with the client and with the Lincoln City Archaeologist (in association with the County Sites and Monuments Record). Reports will also be deposited at Lincoln City and County Museum, along with an ordered project archive for long-term storage and curation.

2.0 Site location and description (Fig. 1)

The site lies on the western frontage of Mill Road, which in turn is situated on the north-western outskirts of the City of Lincoln. The site is located to the immediate east of and at the base of the approximately north-south orientated Lincolnshire Wolds limestone escarpment, known colloquially as The Cliff.

The site is situated within a small enclosure with adjacent residential properties to the north and south, a steel security fence to the west and an open entrance to Mill Road on the east (Fig. 2, plates 1-2).

The local soils are of the Wickham 2 Association; typically fine loamy and silty soils over clayey soils that have developed on deposits of glacial drift and the underlying solid geology of Upper Lias clays and shales of the Lower Jurassic (Hodge *et al* 1984, British Geological Survey, 1973).

NGR: SK 973 722.

3.0 Planning Background

As planning permission was not required for this development, the archaeological watching brief was not a requirement of a planning condition and was undertaken on a voluntary basis on behalf of the clients.

Planning reference: N/A

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

The brick tower of Ellis' Windmill has stood on this site since 1798 and was once one of a line of nine such windmills that extended along the length of The Cliff (Fig. 4). Besides the brick tower the Windmill also includes an ogee cap, fantail and four sails (Pevsner and Harris 1990). This windmill is the sole survivor the nine former aforementioned windmills and was worked until the 1940s by the then miller, Frank Ellis, from which the Windmill takes its name. Following its disuse, the mechanical workings of the Windmill were subsequently removed and the building became increasingly derelict with time. During this period the windmill building also caught fire, which destroyed all the remaining woodwork. However, in 1977 the Lincoln Civic Trust acquired the mill and restored it to full working condition by 1980. In 1995 the Windmill was acquired by the County Council.

5.0 Methodology

The watching brief was carried out on the 28th and the 31st of March 2006. On the 28th of March, an area of block paving at the eastern entrance to the site and a gravel path on the southern side of the site had been removed prior to arrival. This was followed by the archaeological monitoring of the stripping of topsoil around the base of the windmill to a depth of approximately 200mm to facilitate the construction of the new paved area.

On the 31st of March a further monitored topsoil strip was carried out to a depth of approximately 150mm in the northern area of the site and within the area assigned for the new car park.

Where necessary, surfaces were hand cleaned for examination and recording, and deposits and structures observed were recorded on standard context recording sheets. Plans were compiled of the exposed structures and deposits at a scale of 1:50 (Fig. 3). A complementary colour photographic slide record was also maintained, extracts from which are reproduced in Appendix 1.

The watching brief was completed on the 31st of March 2006 and was carried out by Simon Savage and Chris Clay.

6.0 Results (Fig. 3, Plates 2-6)

The natural deposit 007 comprising a mid brown sandy clay, was partially exposed during the topsoil strip around the base of the windmill. Overlying this was the subsoil deposit 003, a mid yellow brown silty clay. This deposit was observed during the topsoil strip around the windmill and during the strip for the new car park area.

Overlying the subsoil deposit 003 in the area around the base of the windmill was the deposit 004. This was an area of dark grey black ash that was concentrated on the southern side of the foundation [006]. Cut into the subsoil deposit 003, the foundation [006] was only partially exposed and consisted of several very roughly faced west-east orientated limestone fragments. To the south-east of the foundation [006], a brick

foundation [005] was recorded. This short length of wall foundation (1.5m in extent) consisted of a single course of rounded frogged bricks that were aligned parallel to Mill Road to the east.

Cut into the subsoil deposit 003 and situated within the area of the strip for the proposed car park was a second brick foundation [008]. This comprised a rectangular shaped brick built structure that was adjacent to the northern boundary of the site. The structure consisted of a single course of modern frogged bricks and was 5m in length and 3.3m in width. It was evident that this foundation had been built upon an earlier brick structure. Perhaps the earlier version of this structure is featured on Figure 5 as a small rectangular shaped building situated to the northeast of the Windmill.

7.0 Discussion and conclusions

The watching brief revealed a sequence of man made and natural deposits comprising a modern topsoil, natural, and a post medieval subsoil that contained occasional brick rubble and limestone fragments and which post-dated the construction of the Windmill in 1798. The subsoil deposit yielded one fragment of animal bone and one sherd of 17th-18th century pottery (Appendix 2).

The series of three foundations cut into the subsoil consisted of one limestone and two brick footings. The limestone foundation was only partially exposed within the subsoil deposit and the brick footing was similarly partially exposed during the topsoil strip around the base of the windmill. The second brick footing [008] comprised a rectangular shaped structure that adjoined the northern site boundary. All of these structures post-dated the construction of the Windmill in 1798 and were probably ancillary buildings associated with the Windmill complex. This is confirmed by the fact that the structure [008] is featured on the enclosure map that comprises Figure 4 in this report.

The ash deposit may be very recent in origin and perhaps was associated with the fire that post-dated the final use of the mill in the 1940s.

A modern gravel path was also recorded in the southern area of the site.

No evidence of other archaeological activity pre-dating the construction of the Windmill in 1798 was observed during the watching brief.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology chosen adequately demonstrated the absence of significant archaeological remains in the development area, while providing sufficient time to record the deposits observed: a more detailed level of archaeological intervention would not have been necessary.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank HBS Limited for this commission. Thanks are also due to J & S Plant Limited (contractors) for their co-operation during the watching brief.

10.0 References

British Geological Survey, 1973, *Lincoln: England and Wales Sheet 114, Solid and Drift Geology, 1:50 000 Provisional Series*. BGS, Keyworth.

Brooke, B, (nd), *A Guide to Ellis' Windmill, Lincoln*.

Hodge, C., Burton, R., Corbett, W., Evans, R., & Seale, R., 1984, *Soils and their Use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales Bulletin No. 13.

Pevsner N. and Harris J., 1990, *The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire*. Butler & Tanner Ltd, Frome & London.

11.0 Site archive

The documentary archive for the site is currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). The paper and object archive will be deposited at Lincoln City and County Museum within six months. Access to the archive may be gained by quoting the global accession number, 2006.147.

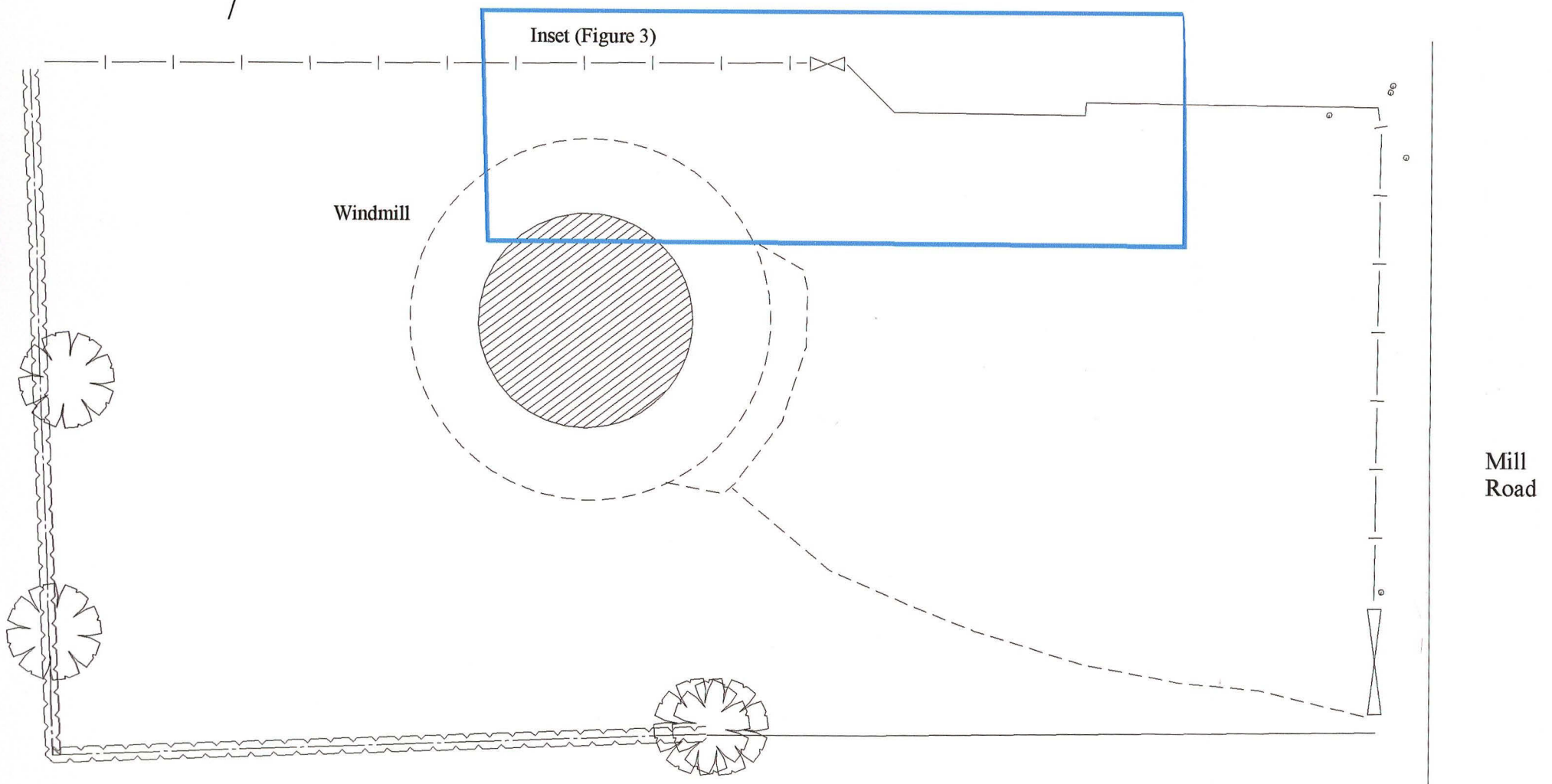


Fig. 2: Plan of Development Site, not to scale

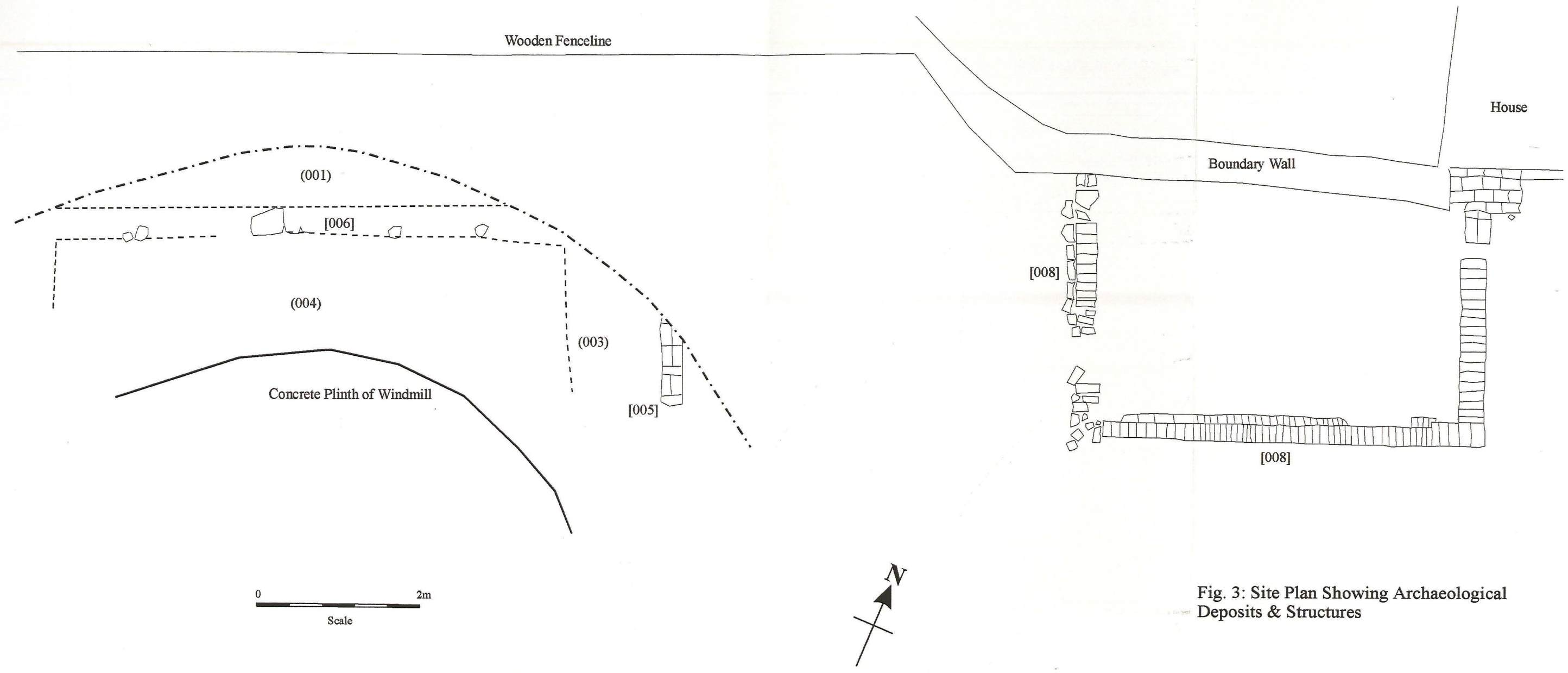


Fig. 3: Site Plan Showing Archaeological Deposits & Structures

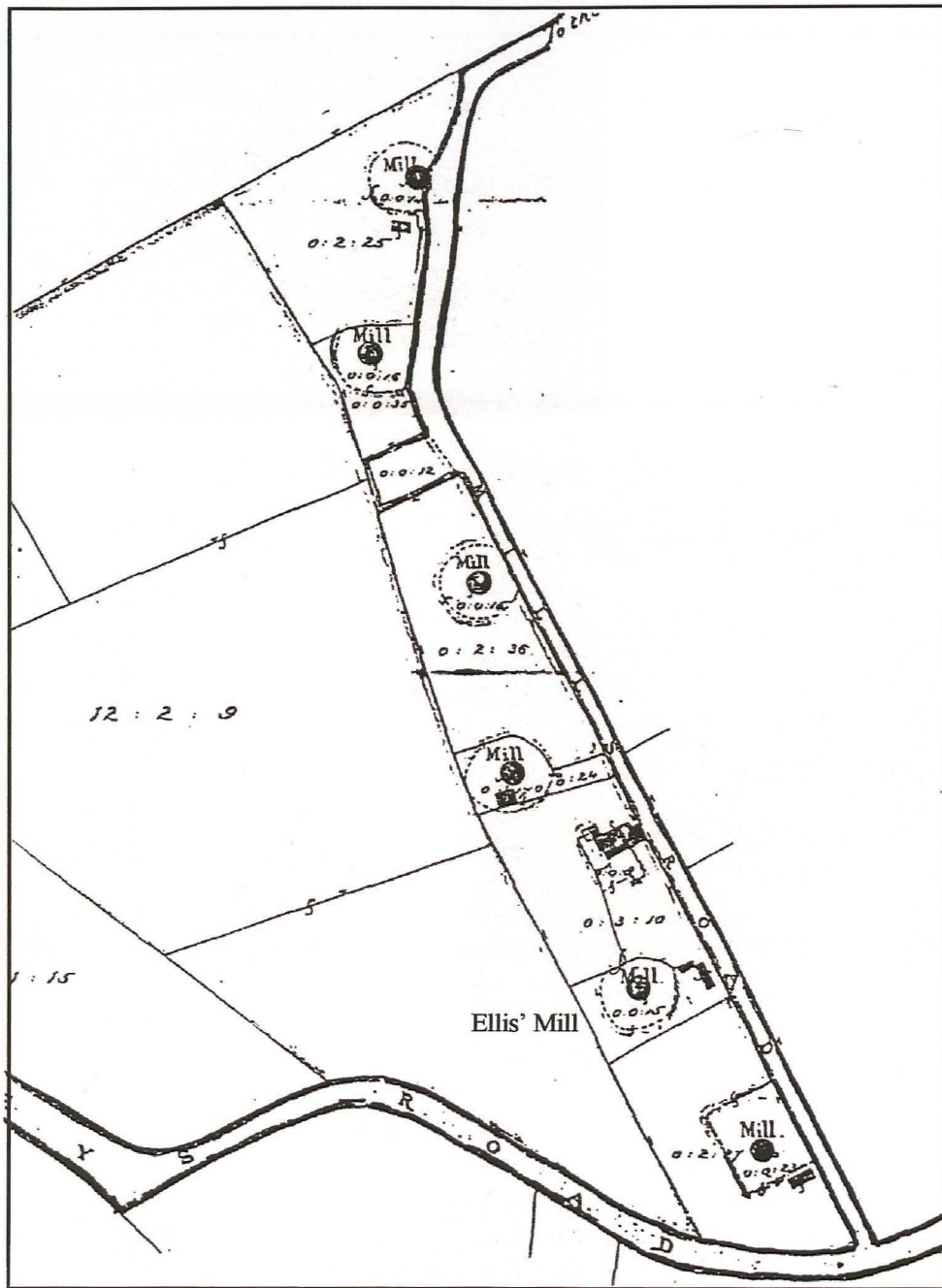


Fig. 4: Extract from enclosure award map showing the location of Ellis' Windmill in relation to the nine windmills on The Cliff

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: View of windmill, looking northwest



Plate 2: View of windmill, looking west



Plate 3: Stripped area, south of windmill



Plate 4: Stripped area, north of windmill



Plate 5: Brick foundation [008], looking east



Plate 6: Brick foundation [008], looking north

Appendix 2

Pottery Archive ELML06

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	form type	sherds	weight	decoration	part	description	date
03	STSL	Staffordshire/Bristol slipware	press mould dish	1	13	brown trailed on yellow	BS	slightly abraded	late 17th to 18th

Appendix 3 Context list

- 001 Mid yellow brown slightly silty clay, modern topsoil., 0.20m in depth.
- 002 Gravel path around windmill, 1.4m in width & 0.08m in depth.
- 003 Mid brown slightly silty clay subsoil with occasional charcoal flecking & mortar lumps (up to 15mm), platy stone and limestone fragments and brick rubble; below 002 and 001; up to 0.10m in depth (as exposed).
- 004 Dark grey black ash deposit within a sandy silt matrix with a moderate density of small angular & rounded stones & occasional cinders, 6.2m in length & 2.25m in width. Depth not ascertained.
- 005 Brick foundation to NE of windmill, 1.5m in length consisting of a single course of rounded frogged bricks.
- 006 Limestone foundation on N side of windmill consisting of occasional exposed and very roughly faced fragments, 6.25m in length & 0.35m in width. Not bottomed.
- 007 Mid brown sandy clay with occasional angular limestone fragments, natural deposit.
- 008 Brick built foundation adjacent to the northern boundary of the site, 5m in length and 3.3m in width.