

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT:
FREISTON CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

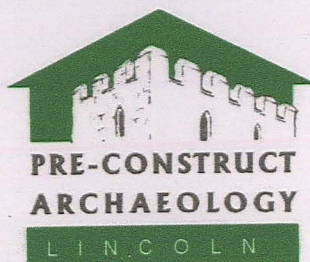
Site Code: CRFB 06
NGR: TF 377 438

PCA 07 225 – 01 Rev A

Report prepared for HBS-Property

by

Linda Hamilton
January 2007



Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)
Unit G
William Street Business Park
Saxilby
Lincoln
LN1 2LP
Tel. & Fax. 01522 703800
e-mail colin.pca@virgin.net
©Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)

acknowledged receipt

Conservation
Services

07 MAR 2007

Highways & Planning
Directorate

7/3/07
adNull

Contents

Summary	1
1.0 Introduction	2
2.0 Site location and description	2
3.0 Planning background	2
4.0 Archaeological and historical background	2-3
5.0 Methodology	3
6.0 Results	3
7.0 Discussion and conclusion	3
8.0 Effectiveness of methodology	4
9.0 References	4
10.0 Acknowledgement	4
11.0 Site archive	4

Illustrations

Fig 1: General location map at scale 1:25 000

Fig 2: Site location map at scale 1:100

Fig 3: West section at scale 1:10

Fig 4: North section at scale 1:10

List of colour plates

Plate 1: Rear of Freiston Centre showing development area

Plate 2: General shot of foundation trench for retaining wall of temporary building

Plate 3: West section

Plate 4: North section

Summary

- An archaeological watching brief was undertaken prior to the erection of a temporary building on land to the rear of the Freiston Centre for Environmental Education, Church Road, Freiston.
- The development is situated to the north west of an area of moderate archaeological potential, where a 12th century church has been constructed on the site of an earlier priory.
- No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were revealed during these works

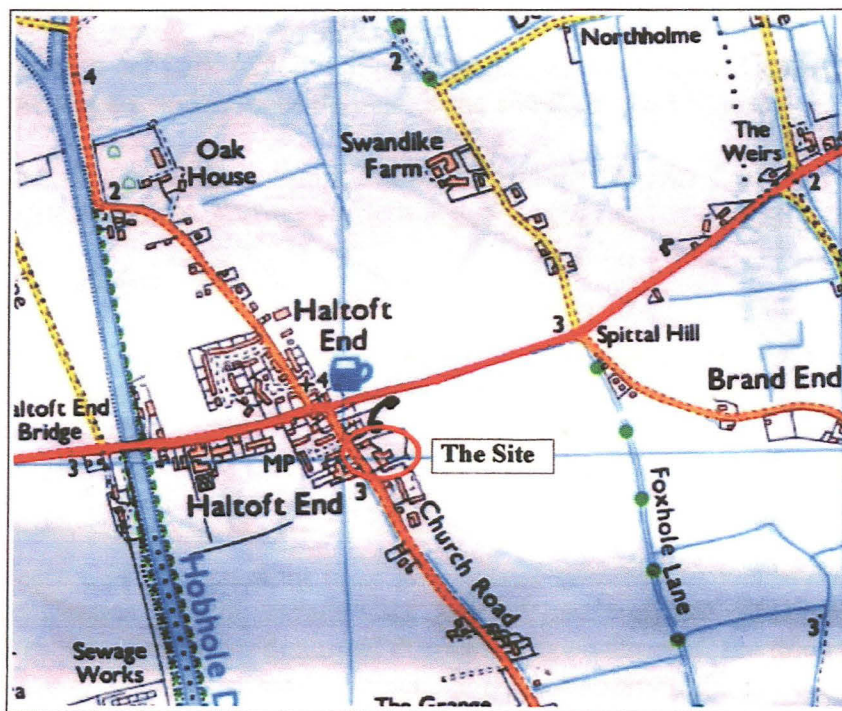


Fig 1: General location map at scale 1:12 500
(o.s. copyright licence no.AL 515 21 A0001)

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by HBS-Property to carry out an archaeological watching brief at Freiston Centre for Environmental Education, Church Road, Freiston, Lincolnshire.

These works were undertaken by Simon Savage, Will Munford and Mike Daley between the 4th April, and the 5th May 2006, to fulfil the objectives of a formal specification prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) and approved by Lincolnshire County Council. This approach is consistent with the recommendations of *Archaeology & Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (Department of the Environment, 1990), *Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (IFA, 1999) and the Lincolnshire County Council document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: a manual of archaeological practice* (LCC, 1998).

2.0 Site location and description

The site lies to the north west of the village of Freiston and to the east of Church Road. It is situated approximately 3.50m above sea level and centred on NGR TF 377 438

The development area is located to the rear of the Centre within the grounds of what was once a large 19th century house. Access is gained from Church Road via large iron gates to a car park which is located north and west of the Centre. At the north, south and east a wooden fence delineates the site from open fields.

The underlying geology is comprised of the younger marine deposits of alluvium silt and clay known as the Terrington Beds sequence (British Geological Survey 1995).

3.0 Planning background

Full planning permission (planning ref; B/05/0775) was granted for the erection of a temporary building on land to the rear of the Freiston Centre for Environmental Education, Church Road, Freiston. This was subject to the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief being carried out in accordance with a specification approved by Lincolnshire County Council.

The objective of the watching brief was, where possible, to identify and record the presence/absence, nature, extent, and date of any archaeological deposits and or features or human remains disturbed during the excavation of the drainage works and a foundation trench for a retaining wall, for the temporary building.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

Although the name Freiston is derived from the viking 'village of the Frisians' (Cameron 1998), the earliest evidence of occupation derives from the Domesday Survey of 1086 where there are '12 carucates of land to the geld' (Domesday 1086).

The village church of St James dates from the 12th century and was constructed on the site of a priory founded in 1114. The present church is about a quarter of its original size and was re-modelled in the 15th century in the perpendicular style.

Immediately south of the church, a new priory was erected in the 17th century, Freiston Hall. Incorporated into its fabric are the remains of the medieval priory.

Freiston Centre for Environmental Education was built about 1800 and re-modelled in 1920. It was established as a field centre in 1972 to promote education in the sciences, for example, geography, geology, biology and environmental studies.

5.0 Methodology

The methodology included monitoring of the removal by hand of all topsoil and the hand digging of all deposits.

Plan and section surfaces were cleaned and examined to determine the presence/absence of archaeological deposits and to understand the stratigraphic sequence of the site.

Sample sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10/ context information was recorded on standard watching brief sheets and a colour photographic record was maintained, examples of which are appended to this report.

The spoil was monitored for artefactual evidence

6.0 Results

The earliest deposit encountered at a depth of 0.45m below the modern ground surface, was a layer of mid brown soft silty sand subsoil (102). Sealing this to a depth of 0.35m was a levelling layer of mid brown silty clay (100). This contained several lenses of clay, ceramic building material and frequent small stones (Figs 3 & 4). Several sherds of brown glazed earthen ware pottery, typologically attributable to the 19th century, were also recovered from this layer, (these were not retained).

Overlying this to a depth of 0.10m was a layer of dark grey brown topsoil (101) (Fig 4:). This formed the modern ground surface.

7.0 Discussion and conclusion

The stratigraphic sequence of the site suggests that the 19th century building was constructed on farm land, represented by subsoil layer (102). The site was subsequently levelled, evidenced by layer (100) which contained 19th century pottery and ceramic building material of a similar date.

Despite the development area being situated northwest of the site of a medieval priory, nothing of archaeological interest was observed during the excavations.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

The methodology chosen was appropriate to the development. It allowed a rapid appraisal of the archaeological potential of the site, which was deemed to be moderately high.

9.0 References

British Geological Survey, 1995, *Boston, England and Wales, Sheet 128 Solid and Drift Edition*

Cameron K., 1998, *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place Names*, The English Placename Society.

Federation of Womens' Institute, 1990, *The Lincolnshire Village Book*, Countryside Books, Newbury.

Pevsner N. 1964, *The Buildings of England, Lincolnshire*, Butler and Tanner Ltd.

Williams Dr. A, & Martin Prof. G.H. (eds.) 2005, *Domesday Book, A Complete Translation*, Penguin Classics.

10.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank HBS-Property for this commission. Thanks also go to the ground workers for their assistance.

11.0 The site archive

The primary records for the site are currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). The paper and photographic element of this report will be deposited with Lincoln City and County Museum within six months.

Archive 2007.155

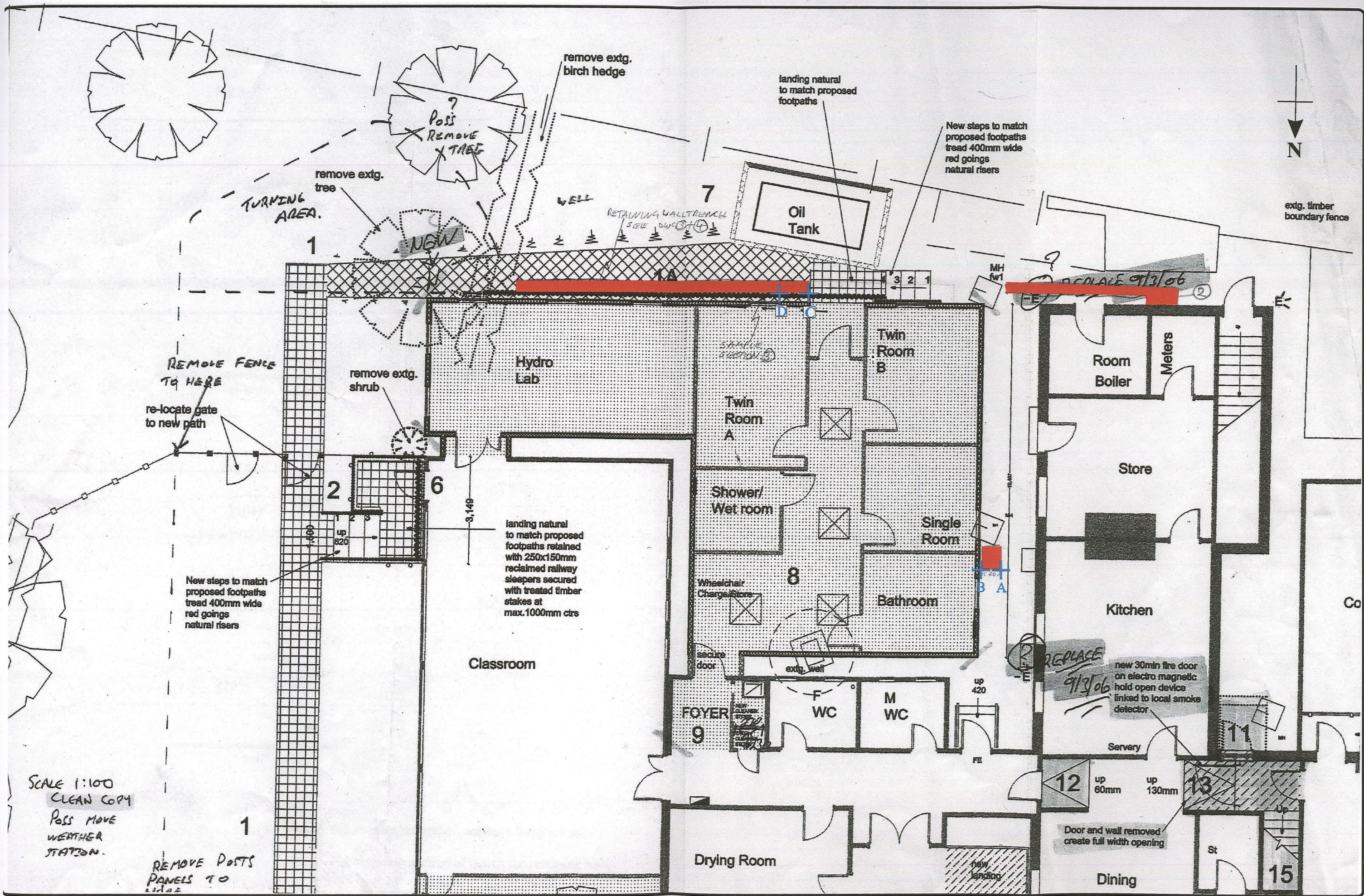


Fig 2: Plan of site showing location of trenches

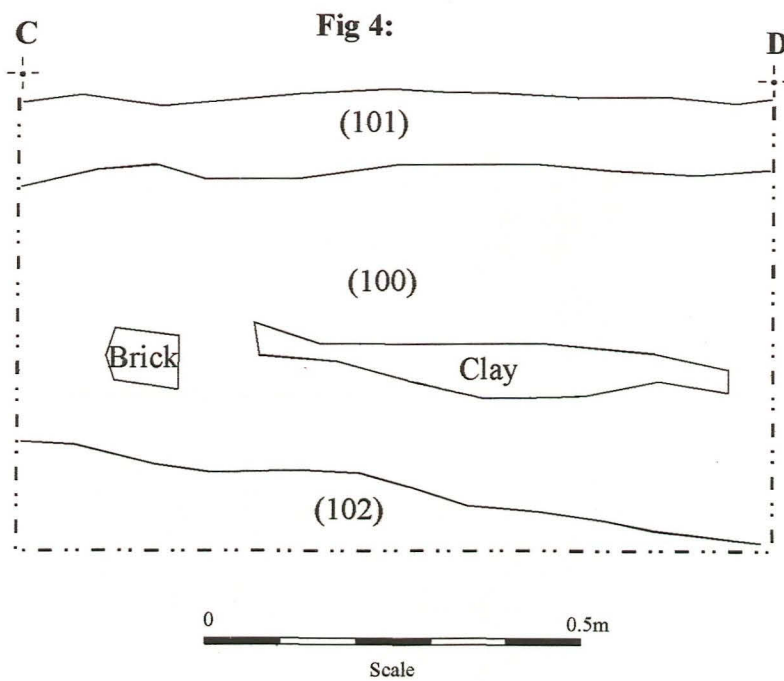
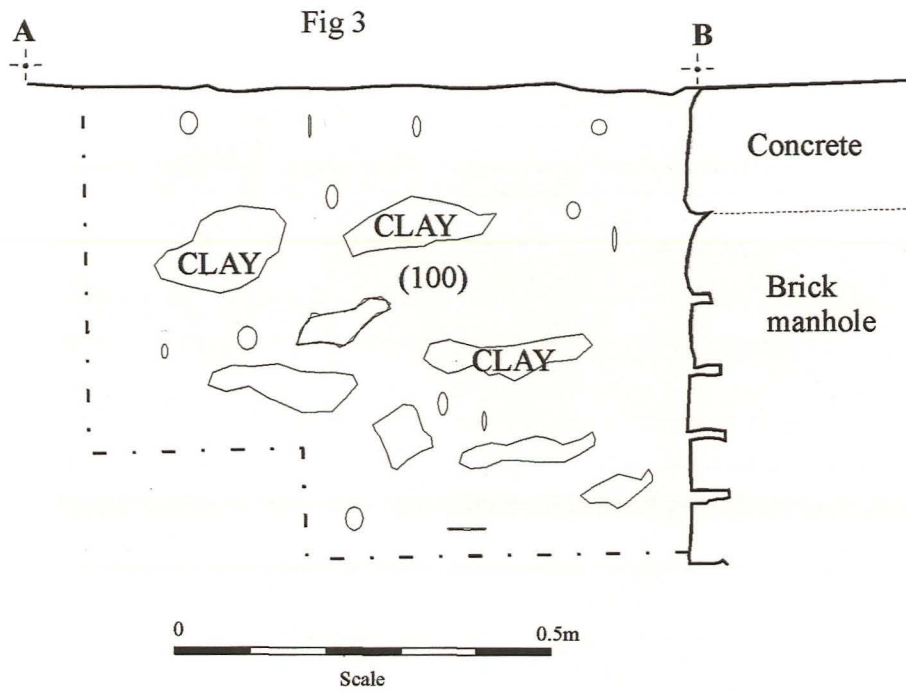


Fig 3: West section of sondage for drainage

Fig 4: North section of trench for retaining wall

Appendix 1: Colour plates



Plate 1: Rear of Freiston Centre showing development area



Plate 2: General view of foundation trench for retaining wall of temporary building



Plate 3: West section of sondage for drainage

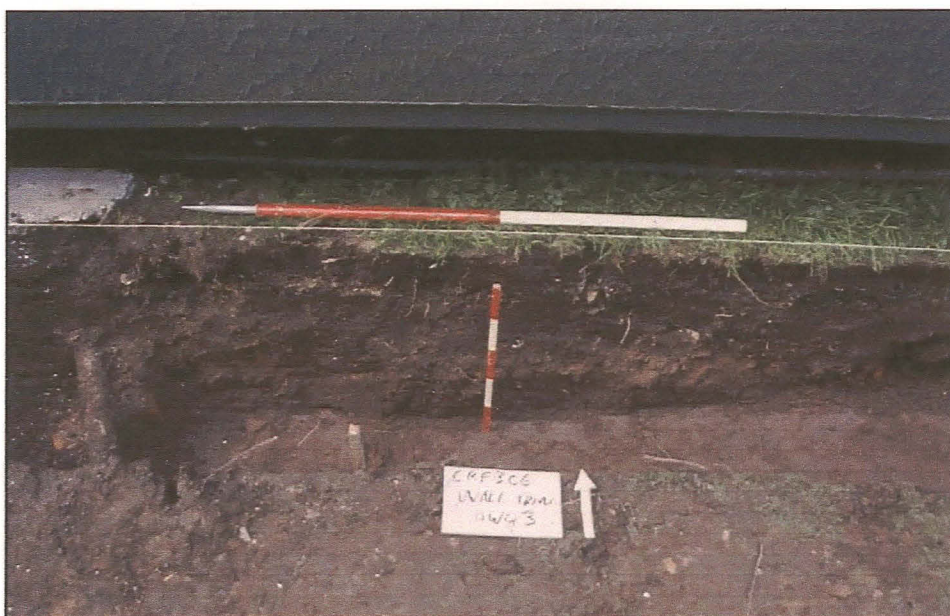


Plate 4: North section of trench for retaining wall

Appendix 2: List of archaeological contexts

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
100	Layer	Mid brown silty clay with lenses of clay, CBM, small stones
101	Layer	Dark grey brown topsoil
102	Layer	Mid brown soft silty sand subsoil