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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**15 Greetwell Lane  
Nettleham  
Archaeological Evaluation  
NGR: TF 005 751<sup>o</sup>  
Site Code: NGWL 07  
LNCCC Museum Accn Code: 2007.63  
Planning Application No.: n/a**

**Report**

**for**

**Mr T. Schjerve**

**by**

**M. McDaid**

**LAS Report No. 973  
April 2007**

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**15, Greetwell Lane, Nettleham**  
**Archaeological Evaluation**  
NGR: TF 005 751  
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**Summary**

*Evaluation trenching has established the presence of a north-east/south-west aligned ditch, possibly the continuation of the Bishop's Palace western boundary ditch, with a southern terminal. The ditch terminates to allow entrance to the palace. The southern limit of the entrance was defined by a group of postholes, c.3m to the south of the ditch. A sherd of Ipswich ware was recovered from subsoil horizon present only at the north end of the site. This is an unusual find in Lincolnshire so far inland.*

*Archaeology was encountered at 0.60m below the present ground level (31.29m OD), at the south end of the site. The slope of the site suggests that archaeology to the south of the evaluation trench may be even shallower.*

**Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mr T. Schjerve in March 2006, to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 15, Greetwell Lane, Nettleham. The work was carried out in accordance with the guidance from *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16), Department of the Environment, 1990; *Management of Archaeological Projects*, English Heritage (1991); *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Studies*, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*, Institute for Field Archaeologists (1993 revised 1999). Work commenced March 13<sup>th</sup> 2007 and was completed on March 14<sup>th</sup> 2007.

**Site Location and Description**

Nettleham is a large village located some 5km north of Lincoln (Fig. 1). The proposed development site is located on the east side of Greetwell Lane near the centre of the old village. The rear, eastern boundary, of the property backs on to the site of the medieval Bishop's Palace (Fig. 2, Pl. 7).

**Planning Background**

The archaeological evaluation work is a pre-planning enquiry.

**Archaeological Background**

At the time of the Domesday survey in 1086 Nettleham was a royal estate which was granted to the Bishop of Lincoln. The Bishop's Palace became an administrative and residential centre and extensive earthworks still survive. It is protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The proposed development site lies south-west of the main complex but opposite the western entrance to the site. This is an area of both Roman and Saxon occupation and there was thought to be potential for remains of these dates on the proposed development site.

### Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the evaluation was to

- establish the date, quality and extent of archaeological remains and their location within the development area
- gather sufficient information to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of any archaeological remains to be made and the impact which development will have upon them
- enable an informed decision to be made regarding the future treatment of any archaeological remains and consider any appropriate mitigatory measures either in advance of and/or during development

### Method

Two 10m x 2m trenches placed at right angles to one another, in accordance with the requirements of the Historic Environment Team Leader, Beryl Lott, were positioned at the back of the property, within an orchard (Fig. 2, Pl. 1). The trench was opened and backfilled using a mini-digger equipped with a flat bladed bucket.

The trench was machine excavated to the first archaeological horizon (Pl. 1). Subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand and all features were cleaned and recorded by single context, scale drawing and photographic record. Carefully selected cross-sections through the features were excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded. Context numbers are used in bold in the report text. A temporary bench mark (31.56m OD) was established on site, taken from a spot height (32.61m OD) located opposite 15, Greetwell Lane.

### Results (Fig. 3, Pls. 2 - 6)

The topsoil, **001**, heavily disturbed by root activity, had a maximum depth of 0.68m. Below **001**, and seen only in the northern arm of the trench, was orange brown clay silt subsoil, **002**, up to 0.47m deep (Pl. 3). The northern arm of the trench was located at the base of the site's natural slope, south to north and west to east, so **002** could be an accumulation of hill wash. Layer **002**, which also suffered from root penetration, produced two sherds of Saxon pottery. The sherd of Ipswich ware is particularly rare and associated with high status, prestigious, habitation. Animal bone from this context was generally cattle sized with sheep/goat bone also present. One of the cattle sized bones was from an animal less than three years old.

Beneath **002**, was ditch, **004**, c.1m wide and orientated north-north-east/south-south-west, (Pls. 4 and 5). This ditch, which may have been terminated at its southern extent, was vertical sided and had brown sand silt fill, **005** which was a maximum of 0.65m deep. Three pieces of cattle sized and sheep/goat sized animal bone were recovered from **005**. A c.3m long segment of the ditch was re-cut, **013** (Pl. 4). This re-cut contained grey clay silt, **012**.

Approximately 3m to the south of ditch **004** was a group of post pits, **006**, **008** and **010** (Pl. 6). Their dimensions varied from 0.60m to over 0.84m in length, 0.40m to over 0.50m in width and 0.17m to 0.20m deep. All were filled with grey brown clay silt, **007**, **009** and **011**. Six fragments of animal bone were recovered from the post pits. Post pit **006** also contained a fragment of Roman tile.

Natural was a mixture of limestone fragments within a decayed limestone matrix, orange brown clay silt and limestone brash, **003**.

### **Discussion**

Ditch **004** appears to be part of the Bishop's Palace's western boundary (Fig. 2). The c.3m gap between **004** and the post pit group, **006**, **008** and **010**, defined an entrance to the palace grounds. As the earthworks within the palace continue further west of this entrance it seems likely that the palace's western boundary will continue south of the evaluation trench.

The lack of archaeology to the west of ditch **004** confirms the interpretation that this area lays outside the Palace grounds, possibly in open fields.

The two sherds of Saxon pottery from the subsoil, along with nine sherds found during the 1959 excavations to the north of the site, suggest that there was a high status habitation close by prior to the construction of the Bishop's Palace. This might have been associated with the royal Saxon estate.

### **Conclusion**

Evaluation trenching has established the presence of features probably associated with the Bishop's Palace. The shallowest remains were 0.60m below the present ground surface (31.29m OD), at the south end of the evaluation trench. Any ground works below this level will disturb archaeological remains. Careful foundation design should minimise the impact on the archaeological resource.

### **Acknowledgements**

Lindsey Archaeological Services would like to thank Mr and Mrs Schjerve for their help and co-operation on site and Jane Young for the pottery and tile reports. Fieldwork was carried out by Mick McDaid and Karen Rosser. This report was collated and edited by Naomi Field.

Mick McDaid

April 2007

### **References**

Russell, V, and Moorhouse, S; 1971 'Excavation at the Bishop's Palace at Nettleham, 1959' *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology* 6, p19 – 28.

**Contents of the Site Archive**

Context Sheets: 13

Plans: 1

Sections: 4

Pottery archive report.

Tile archive report.

Bone archive report.

Correspondence.

Photographs; colour prints, LAS film no. 07/34/ 1 – 25, 07/35/ 3 – 12 and 07/37/ 1 – 14

**APPENDIX 1**



NGWL 07  
Evaluation Context Summary

Appendix 1

Context	Trench	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth
001	1	Layer	Modern topsoil	10m+	10m+	0.50m
002	1	Layer	Subsoil	10m+	2m+	0.47m
003	1	Layer	Natural	10m+	10m+	unknown
004	1	Cut	Ditch	c.6m	c.1m	0.20m
005	1	Fill	Fill of 004	c.6m	c.1m	0.20m
006	1	Cut	Posthole	0.70m	0.48m+	0.20m
007	1	Fill	Fill of 006	0.70m	0.48m+	0.20m
008	1	Cut	Posthole	0.84m+	0.50m+	0.20m
009	1	Fill	Fill of 008	0.84m+	0.50m+	0.20m
010	1	Cut	Posthole	0.60m	0.40m	0.17m
011	1	Fill	Fill of 010	0.60m	0.40m	0.17m
012	1	Fill	Fill of 013	c.3m	c.1m	0.20m
013	1	Cut	Ditch segment	c.3m	c.1m	0.20m

**APPENDIX 2**

# Pottery Archive NGWL07

Jane Young

Two small sherds of Middle Saxon date were recovered from this site. The Maxey-type ware rim could date as early as the mid/late 8th century but is much more likely to be of post-late 8th century date. The presence of an Ipswich ware vessel away from the coastal area may suggest that the sherds originate from higher status or monastic occupation.

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	weight	part	description	date
002	MAX	Northern Maxey-type ware	B	medium jar	1	13	rim	hollow slightly everted rim;soot;probably lugged	mid/late 8th to mid 9th
002	IPS	Ipswich-type ware	smooth	small jar/pitcher	1	7	neck		mid 8th to mid 9th

**APPENDIX 3**

# Tile Archive NGWL07

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	description	date
007	RTIL	Roman tile	red-brown sandy	1	105	coarse sandy fabric with moderate fe;probably a Tegula	Roman

APPENDIX 4

## The Animal Bones from 15 Greetwell Lane, Nettleham (NGWL07) Archive List

by Jane Richardson

23/04/2007

- 1.1 In total, 14 animal bone fragments were recovered during the archaeological investigations (Table 1). The condition of the bone fragments was typically good with most fragments displaying solid, unaltered surfaces. Two fragments showed evidence of carnivore damage (02) and two cattle bones displayed clear evidence of butchery (07 and 09).
- 1.2 The bone assemblage derived from five deposits, the largest deposit (02) containing five fragments. The bones were identified as cattle or cattle-sized fragments (79%), or sheep/goat or sheep-sized fragments (21%). No sub-adult bones (with epiphyses not yet fused) were noted, but a cattle mandible with a deciduous fourth premolar indicates the presence of an animal under three years old at death. Post-hole 06 (fill 07) contained three articulating bones from a cattle's lower leg, all of which showed pathological changes indicative of spavin. This proliferation of new bone is associated with traction and hard work (Baker and Brothwell 1980, 117-118).

Table 1. Animal bone fragments by context

Context	Species	Element	Details	Quantity
02	Cattle	Mandible	dP4 wear stage K	1
02	Cattle	Metacarpal	Fused, gnawed	1
02	Cattle	Metacarpal	Gnawed	1
02	Cattle-sized mammal	Vertebra		2
05	Cattle	Mandible	M3 wear stage J	1
05	Sheep/goat	Radius	Proximal fused	1
05	Sheep/goat	Pelvis	Fused	1
07	Cattle	Navicular cuboid	Articulates, pathological (spavin), cut	1
07	Cattle	Tarsal	Articulates, pathological (spavin)	1
07	Cattle	Metatarsal	Fused, articulates, pathological (spavin)	1
07	Cattle-sized mammal	Rib		1
09	Cattle	Atlas	Cut	1
11	Sheep-sized mammal	Skull		1
<b>Total</b>				<b>14</b>

### **Bibliography**

Baker, J. and Brothwell, D., 1980. *Animal Diseases in Archaeology* (Academic Press: London)

APPENDIX 5



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**OASIS ID: lindseya1-26777**

## Project details

Project name	Nettleham, 15 Greetwell Lane, Lincs
Short description of the project	Evaluation in advance of proposed development, comprising 2 trenches identified a ditch which may be the western boundary of the adjacent Bishop's Palace belonging to the Bishops of Lincoln, an SAM. A terminal to the ditch marks a possible entrance to the site. It was associated with 3 postholes. A single fragment of a Roman tegula was found in a posthole and two pieces of Middle Saxon pottery were found in the subsoil. One piece was Ipswich ware, an unusual find so far inland in Lincolnshire, usually indicative of a high status site.
Project dates	Start: 13-03-2007 End: 14-03-2007
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	NGWL07 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	2007.63 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	POST-HOLE Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Landowner pre-sale planning application (outline)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

## Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE WEST LINDSEY NETTLEHAM 15 Greetwell Lane
Postcode	LN2 2XX
Study area	400.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 005 751 53.2630815221 -0.493097487065 53 15 47 N 000 29 35 W Point

Height OD           Min: 30.05m Max: 30.63m

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation       LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Project brief originator     Contractor (design and execute)

Project design originator    Naomi Field

Project director/manager    M. MCDAID

Project supervisor          Gavin Glover

Type of sponsor/funding body   Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body   Mr T Scherve

#### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient    LCNCC

Physical Archive ID          NGWL 07

Physical Contents           'Animal Bones','Ceramics'

Digital Archive recipient     Lindsey Archaeological Services

Digital Archive ID          NGWL 07

Digital Contents           'Animal Bones','Ceramics'

Digital Media available      'Database','Text'

Paper Archive recipient      LCNCC

Paper Archive ID          NGWL 07

Paper Contents           'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Stratigraphic'

Paper Media available      'Plan','Report','Section','Context sheet','Correspondence','Drawing','Matrices','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph'

Entered by                Naomi Field (naomi@linarch.co.uk)

Entered on                8 May 2007

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**THE FIGURES**

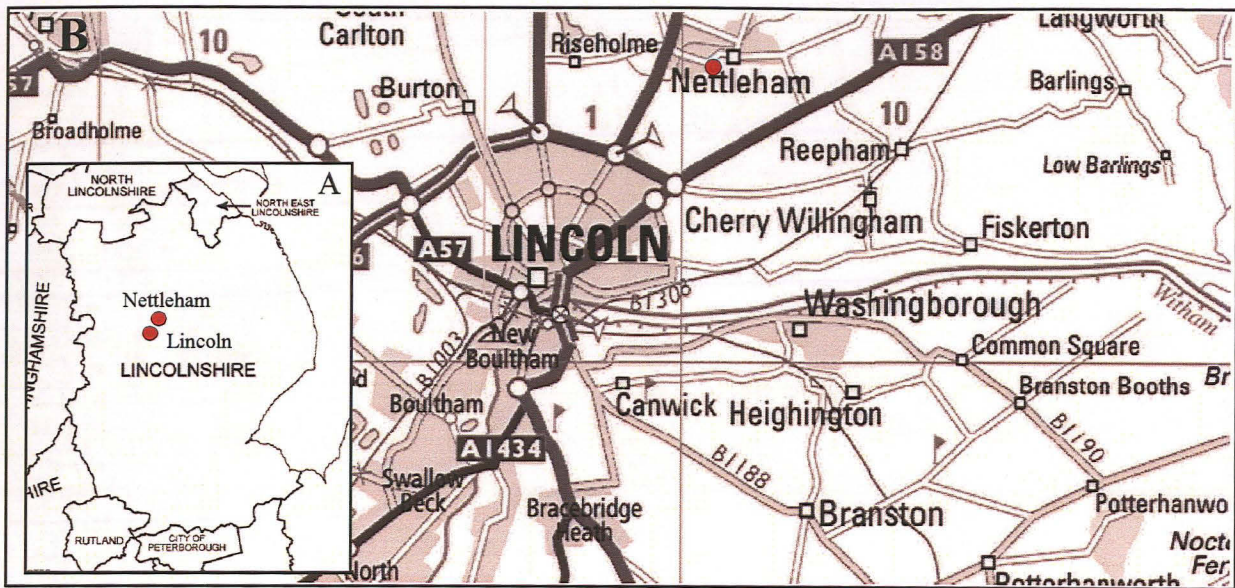


Fig.1 Location of Nettleham (C based on the Ordnance Survey 1975 OS 1:10,000 map, Sheet TF 07 NW. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence no. AL 10002165.

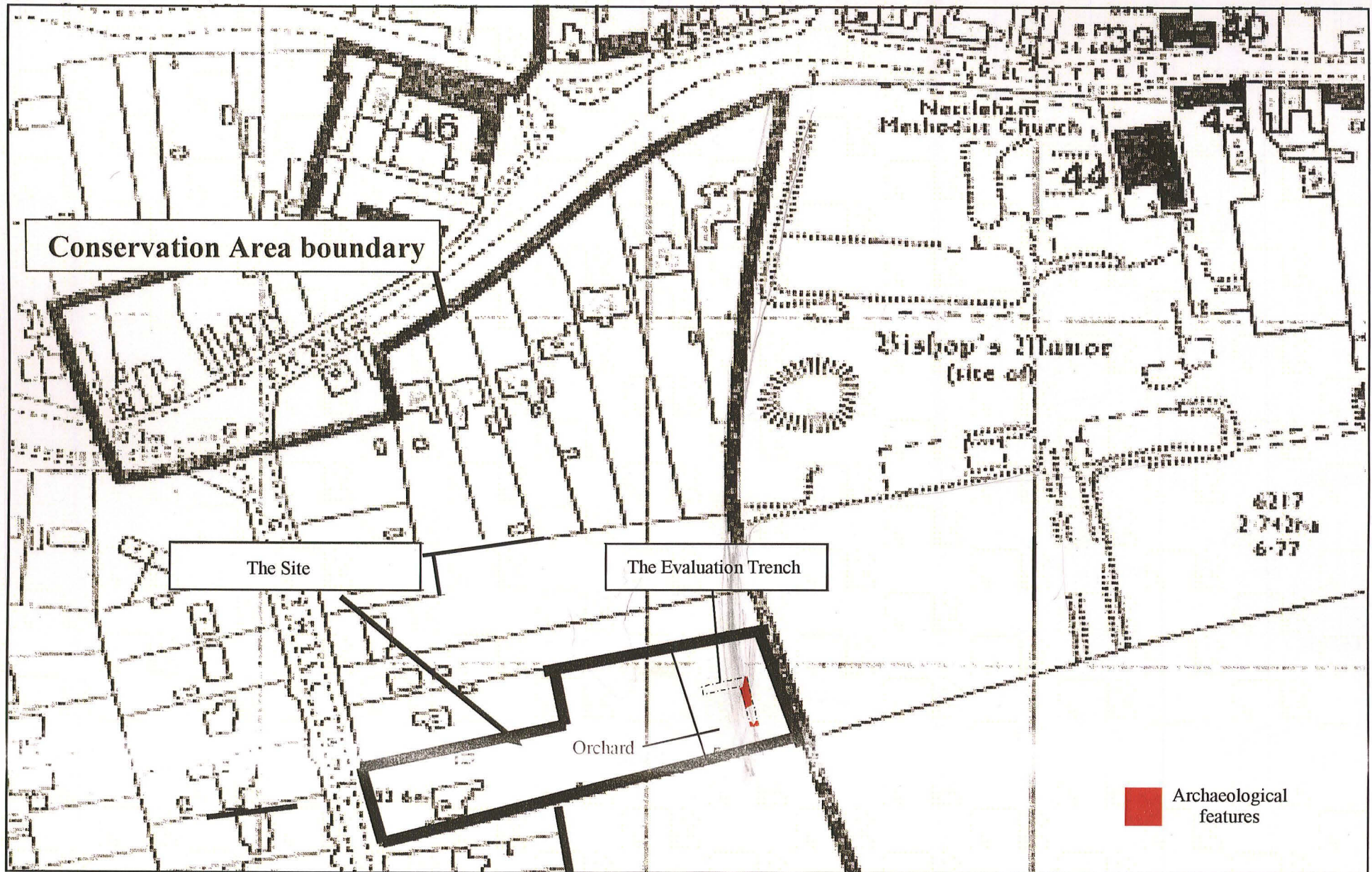


Fig. 2 Location of the development site and evaluation trench.

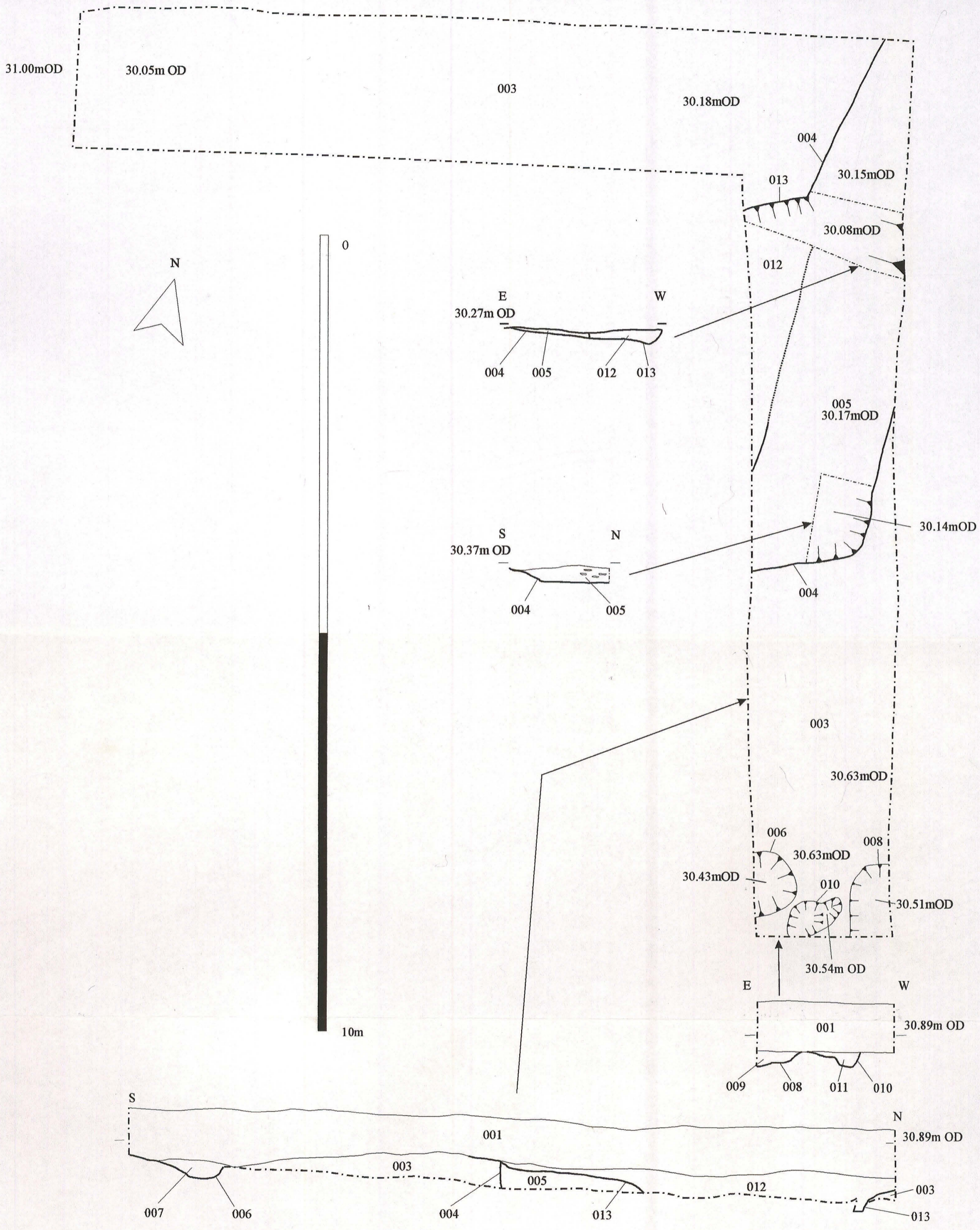


Fig. 3. Trench plan and sections.

THE PLATES



PI.1 General view of the site looking east.



PI.2 Northern end of Trench 1, after cleaning, looking east. Scales 1m.





Pl.3 Deposit sequence in the south facing section of Trench 1, showing layer 102. Horizontal scale 1m, vertical scale 0.50m.



Pl.4 Southern end of Trench 1, pre-excitation, looking north. Scales 1m.



PI.5 North facing section of ditches 004 and 013. Horizontal scale 1m, vertical scale 0.30m.



PI.6 Post pits 006, 008 and 010 post-excavation, looking south. Horizontal scale 1m, vertical scales 0.10m and 0.20m.



PI.7 The Bishop's Palace earthworks to the east of the site.