

M5/21

**PROPOSED RETAIL DEVELOPMENT
HORNCastle ROAD
BOSTON
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION REPORT**

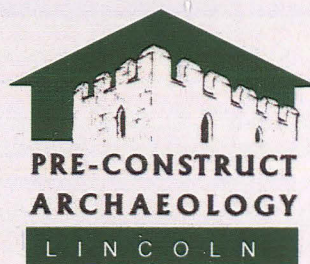
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NGR: TF 3305 4461
Planning Ref. B/04/0016
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Report prepared for Hawkstone Properties

by

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May 2005



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Support Services

With compliments

Jenny young informed us that you may not have a copy of two of our old reports;

Please find enclosed a copy of 'Proposed Retail Development Horncastle Road, Boston' and 'Land off Horncastle Road, Boston'.

Kind Regards

Laura



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Summary

- A program of archaeological evaluation was carried out on a 0.6ha portion of car park at Horncastle Road, Boston, Lincolnshire.
- The trial excavation exposed a number of early modern brick and stone structures, including walls and floors. Examination of the first edition Ordnance Survey map shows the Bout Green Brewery on the site, and these structures would seem to be part of that complex. The buildings were demolished in the late Victorian period, and suggest redevelopment of the site at this time.
- Towards the north of the site a series of made ground and occupation layers dated to the 15th to 16th century or earlier were recorded; interpreted as former ground surfaces and a made ground deposits. A number of post holes were cut during this time, although they do not appear to be building components; rather parts of a fence or similar external feature.
- The archaeological potential of this site is considered to be moderate to low.

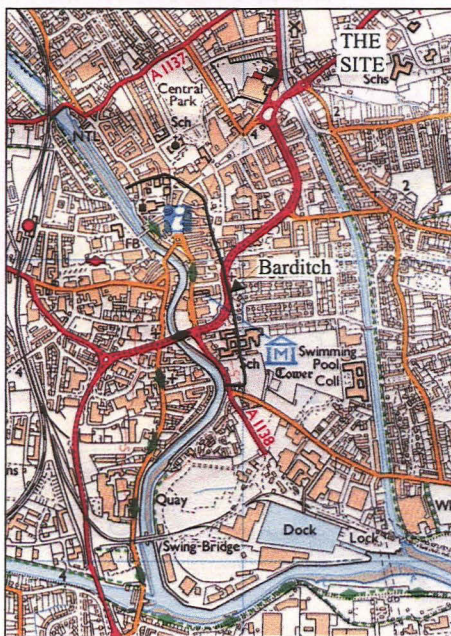


Fig. 1: Site location plan, also showing line of the Barditch (after Owen, 1984). 1:25,000
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1.0 Introduction

Hawkstone Properties commissioned Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) to undertake a programme of archaeological field evaluation to fulfil the requirements of Boston Borough Council in advance of redevelopment of land adjacent to Horncastle Road, Boston. The works comply with the recommendations of *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16*, Dept. of Environment (1990); *Management of Archaeological Projects*, EH (1991); *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*, IFA (1999) and the LCC document '*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice*', 1998.

The evaluation took place between 25th and 28th April 2005, and this report documents the results of the investigation. It incorporates a series of assessments by specialist researchers who studied the archaeological materials recovered during the fieldwork.

2.0 Site location and description

Boston is situated in the south Lincolnshire Fens, approximately 45km south-east of Lincoln. The site is just north of the town centre, and lies within a block of land defined by Hartley Street to the north, Horncastle Road to the east, Wide Bargate to the south and Tawney Street to the west (figs. 1 and 2).

The area of investigation (hereafter 'the site') comprises a rectangular unit of approximately 0.6 hectares. Prior to this scheme, the land had been in use as car parking for the adjoining former Asda supermarket. The site is predominantly level and its mean elevation is approximately 3m OD.

The underlying drift geology of the area comprises Barroway Drove Beds, a series of marine saltmarsh alluvial deposits, under which is the Ancholme Group of primarily mudstones.

The National Grid Reference for the centre of the site is TF 3305 4461.

3.0 Planning background

As part of a planning application for the extension and construction of retail units, Boston Borough Council requested the undertaking of an archaeological field evaluation; to assess the overall archaeological potential of the site, the potential threat that development of the area may have and, if necessary, to inform the production of a mitigation strategy to safeguard the interests of buried archaeological remains.

The planning reference for this project is B/04/0016.

The ensuing works fulfil the requirements of a formal archaeological project brief issued by the Boston Planning Archaeologist, who advises Borough Council.

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

Findspots of Romano-British date have been made throughout Boston, although these are generally to the south of the proposed development area. Anglo-Saxon material has been found in the Boston area, although not in the immediate vicinity of the site. Two *grubenhauser* (sunken feature buildings) were exposed during a watching brief at St. Nicholas School, approximately 1.5km south of the site, which were taken to be indicative of seasonal occupation (Palmer-Brown, 1996). A more permanent settlement of 9th/10th century date was investigated at Whitehouse Lane, Fishtoft, 3.5km south-east of the current site. This may have been abandoned after destruction by fire in the mid 10th century (Palmer-Brown, 1997).

Boston appears to have emerged as a port and planned town under Alan Rufus, Earl of Richmond, soon after the Norman Conquest (Owen, 1984). The 12th century saw the construction of the Barditch, a defensive earthwork, possibly initiated as a result of the anarchy of Stephen I's reign, which enclosed the town on the east side of the river (*ibid.*).

By the later 12th century, the town had expanded beyond the limits of the Barditch, and continued to prosper from its extensive trade networks throughout the medieval period. Between 1279 and 1289, the port was the richest in the country, and the custom duties paid in Boston exceeded those of London by a third (Pevsner & Harris, 1989). The town's wealth expanded further during the 14th century, largely due to the transference of the Wool Staple from Lincoln in 1297 (Wright, 1994).

Excavations at South Square, approximately 1km south of the current site, shed some light on this period of the town's history: several phases of activity were investigated, beginning with 12th/13th century timber buildings fronting the Witham. The 13th and 14th centuries saw a complex sequence of structures being built in the area, probably used as workshops and dwellings. The artefactual and environmental evidence indicated that the excavations were in the heart of the medieval port, yielding imported pottery from as far afield as Damascus, and seeds of imported grapes and figs. A series of alluvial deposits indicated intermittent flooding of the area, possibly related to financial decline leading to neglect of drainage measures (Palmer-Brown, 1998).

The town was the site of a number of friaries: Dominican, Augustinian, Carmelite, and Franciscan. The 13th century Franciscan establishment is believed to have been close to the Grammar School grounds immediately to the north-east of that site (Rylatt, 2002). Road works on Rowley Road uncovered human remains, and archaeological investigations within the school grounds exposed 15 skeletons of 13th/14th century date. The presence of women and children among the skeletons suggested that the graveyard was not that of the friary church, but of an associated infirmary (Palmer-Brown, 1996a; Schofield, 1998).

Further evidence of the friary was exposed at the Haven Cinema site in 2000, approximately 1km south of the site. Excavations exposed a floor sealed by 13th century occupation horizons, overlain by another floor and subsequent demolition deposits (Johnson, 2000).

Boston entered a period of decline in the mid to late 14th century. This decline was only reversed in the later 18th century, when a comprehensive program of drainage of the surrounding fens was initiated. This brought large areas of land into agricultural production, the produce of which was shipped via Boston, leading to a recovery in the town's fortunes.

Pre-Construct Archaeology has carried out a number of interventions on land immediately to the east of the proposed development area. A program of evaluation, excavation and watching brief was carried out in 1994/5 in advance of the construction of the current petrol filling station. It exposed a series of building remains and other features relating to occupation in the 14th and 15th centuries, with further refuse disposal pits in use until the 17th century, and a single, earlier 12th century pit, (Palmer-Brown, 1994 a & b, 1995).

5.0 Methodology

The purpose of an archaeological evaluation is to gather and collate information for planning purposes: to assess the archaeological potential of a site and provide a basis for mitigating against the effects of development, if and as appropriate. This approach is consistent with the guidelines set out in *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (1990).

Two trenches were investigated to examine a representative proportion of the overall site - location indicated on fig. 2.

As the modern and 19th century overburden was being removed by machine in Trench 1, two brick structures were exposed at approximately 1.2m below existing ground level, and it was decided to halt machine excavation at that point. During machine excavation of Trench 2, three high voltage cables were exposed. It was therefore decided to excavate a small sondage between these to examine the underlying stratigraphy.

The author and a team of experienced field archaeologists undertook the evaluation over a period of four days, between the 25th and 28th April 2005.

For each trench, a 'rubber duck' wheeled excavator fitted with a hydraulic breaker was used to remove the tarmac car park surface, with a toothed bucket then employed to remove hardcore and rubble. A smooth blade was used to excavate all underlying deposits in spits not exceeding 20cm in depth. The process was repeated until the first archaeologically significant or natural horizon was exposed. All further excavation was by hand.

Where archaeological remains were exposed, features and deposits were sample excavated manually, and context information was recorded on standard Context Record Sheets. Archaeological deposits were drawn to scale in plan and section. Contexts were photographed, and some prints are reproduced in this report (Appendix 1). Archaeological finds were recovered (e.g. pottery sherds), and these were washed and processed at the offices of PCA, prior to submission for detailed specialist appraisal.

The site was fenced at all times to prevent unauthorized access, and trenches were made-good following completion of the works.

6.0 Results

6.1 Trench 1 (see figs. 3 and 4)

The uppermost material removed was context 001, comprising modern tarmac and its hardcore, as well as a layer of brick demolition rubble. In total, this deposit was some 1.3m thick.

The above sealed a series of brick building remains and associated floor surfaces. The easternmost building was represented by a brick wall, [006] constructed of stretcher laid bricks bonded with fine light yellow mortar. A lacing course of slate had been included to serve as a damp-proof course. The west (probably external) face was rendered with a thin skim of lime mortar. To the immediate east of this wall was a floor [003] constructed of fine sandstone flags, the edges of which showed chisel marks and the upper surface of which were worn smooth.

Towards the west of the trench, a second wall [007] was exposed; constructed in English bond, cemented with a light brown mortar. Its eastern face (probably external) was lightly rendered with lime mortar. Directly west of and abutting the wall was a brick floor, [005], made from a seemingly random selection of stretcher, half and quarter-brick closers. Many of these bricks were over-fired and vitrified, and all were misshapen. The floor was bonded with light brown slightly sandy mortar with occasional unburnt limestone inclusions. The upper section of each joint contained coal residue. This derived from overlying layer 008, suggesting that coal was stored here at some time. A junction within the floor was noted, taking a right angle from wall 007, and seemingly dividing the floor into two separate builds. No corresponding division was apparent in the fabric of the wall.

Overlying floor 005 was a layer of coal dust and clinker, (008). This was interpreted as the remnants from a stock of coal, suggesting that this area was used as a coal bunker. Pottery dated to the 19th century was recovered from this material, along with a droplet of molten glass.

Between the two sets of building remains was a larger area floored with greenish sandstone flags, similar to those in the building to the east. These flagstones were well laid, with minimal spaces between them and no visible bonding material. This surface sloped down towards the east, where a cast iron grate was set into it, presumably to remove surface water.

Following abandonment and partial demolition of the buildings, the depression between walls [006] and [007] was filled with a homogenous dump of mid brown sand and gravel (002). This material was used as a ground levelling deposit to even-out the area after demolition was completed. A large number of iron barrel hoops were observed within this context, suggesting perhaps that the building was either using or producing goods transported in such containers.

No excavation took place beneath the stone floor 004, which was approximately 1.6m below the modern ground surface.

6.2 Trench 2 (see figs. 5 and 6)

During the initial machining of Trench 2, three armoured electricity cables were encountered; it was therefore considered impractical and unsafe to excavate the entire footprint to the desired archaeological level, and a smaller sondage was investigated within the wider trench cut.

The uppermost deposit, context 021, comprised the modern car park surface, its hardcore bedding layer and underlying brick-rich demolition rubble, dating from the 19th century and later periods. This was the same deposit as context 001 in Trench 1.

Visible in section beneath the above was a post hole [029]; its fill 028 was dark greyish brown slightly sandy silt containing brick rubble and 18th/19th century pottery.

Sealed beneath layer 021 was a mixed 'dirty' mid grey silt containing charcoal flecks, crushed ceramic building material (CBM), oyster shell, fragmentary animal bone (not retained) and occasional limestone rubble, layer 030. The upper surface of this material was probably formed during the 19th century development that included the formation of layer 021. Two sherds of late 15th to 16th century pottery were recovered from this context. Its mixed nature and varied inclusions suggest that it was a former occupation surface.

A single post hole, [027] was observed in plan and section cutting into layer 030. It was sub-rectangular in plan, and vertical to the east, suggesting that the post was positioned against this side of the hole. The fill, 026 comprised greyish brown silt containing occasional fine gravel and with pockets of light greyish blue clay; probably derived from underlying layer 032.

Following the removal of context 030, a layer of mid orange brown silt with occasional grey mottling and fine gravel inclusions was exposed 031. This was a relatively 'clean' horizon of redeposited natural soil, dumped perhaps for the purpose of ground improvement - to raise, stabilise or level the surface.

Two further post holes were recorded cutting into this deposit: [023] was ovoid in plan, with steep sides and a flat base. Its fill, 022 was mid greyish brown silt containing occasional coal and shell fragments. To the north was [025]; a sub-rectangular feature with steep sides and flat base. It was filled with 024, dark bluish grey clayey silt with occasional very fine gravel inclusions. A single hand-made nail was recovered from this context.

Layer 031 sealed a further layer, 032, of blue-grey silt, with frequent light yellow pockets, incorporating frequent charcoal flecks and occasional small mortar fragments. Two small burnt-residue fragments were recovered from this material. This layer was probably an occupation surface.

The earliest deposit examined in this trench was exposed in a small hand-excavated slot in the south-east corner of the sondage. Context 033 comprised mid orange-brown clayey silt with fine light grey laminations and no inclusions. It was an alluvial deposit, possibly of natural origin.

7.0 Discussion and conclusions

The archaeological remains in Trench 1 comprise a series of stone and brick floors and walls; each wall of which shared the same north to south alignment. Flagstones forming two of these floors were cut from similar stone. It is likely that these remains represent two buildings, one at each end of the trench, with a recessed external yard situated between. They appeared to represent a single phase of 19th century archaeological activity.

A number of deposits were associated with building remains in Trench 1; towards the west of the trench, floor surface [005] was covered with a layer of coal dust, suggesting that this room had been used to store coal. The deposit that had been used to level the site contained frequent iron barrel hoops: examination of the first edition Ordnance Survey map (see fig. 7) shows the former Bout Green Brewery on the site, and it is likely that these buildings were part of that complex.

The central part of this range was at a depth 1.6m below existing ground level (approximately 1.8m AOD). Therefore, there would appear to be no possibility of important archaeological remains surviving in Trench 1 above this depth.

The upper deposit within Trench 2, context 021, was a layer containing 19th and 20th century material. The surface of the underlying deposit, context 030, exhibited a truncation at approximately 1.15m below existing ground level (approximately 1.98m AOD). A post hole cut through this contained one sherd of 18th/19th century pottery.

Context 030 was interpreted as an occupation surface, dated to the late 15th to 16th century. It seems possible that this context was formed by a re-working of an underlying deposit 031 that had been dumped as a ground improvement measure. A number of post holes were associated with this late medieval/early post-medieval horizon.

More substantial late medieval/early post-medieval remains were recorded during earlier phases of work carried out to the east of the current site (Palmer-Brown, 1994 a&b, 1995). These investigations produced evidence for a post built structure with a series of beaten earth floors and associated hearth-like structures. Behind the building (to the west) a series of contemporary pits filled with domestic refuse were located. The complex seems to have been in use during the 14th and 15th centuries, superseded by a fence-line in the 17th century.

The current project has exposed a number of late medieval/early post-medieval surfaces, including occupation and small-scale ground raising deposits dated to the 14th to 15th centuries. These were associated with a small number of what appeared to be post holes. No evidence of occupation was found in the vicinity to suggest that these formed discrete structures; rather they are more likely to represent elements of former fence posts in yards to the rear of the buildings recorded earlier and to the east.

The archaeology investigated during the earlier (eastern) phase of works was recorded at between 0.6 and 0.75m below existing ground level, considerably shallower than the remains described here. This may be because an increased depth of 19th century and later material has been deposited. Alternatively, it may be that 19th century activity has truncated the archaeological horizon toward the west. Unfortunately, it is not possible to compare absolute (OD) heights, as those recorded during the earlier works are unreliable.

The most significant archaeological deposits in Trench 2 were recorded at between 1.58 and 1.98m OD. In Trench 1, the 19th century floor levels (at 1.80m OD) will have largely truncated such material. However, some may remain at depth.

There will be no significant developmental impact on archaeological remains to an average depth of 1.6m OD. The effect on remains below this level will depend on the nature and extent of the final foundation design.

It is understood that provisional details provide for piled foundations comprised of 750no on a 3m x 3.5m grid. Each pile equates to 0.625m² with a total proposed developmental floor area of 5, 888m²; the total impact from piling is thus below 1% of the total impact area.

Assuming that ground beams, pile caps and services can be kept above the 1.6m OD level, it is concluded that the current foundation design will have a negligible impact on any significant archaeological remains that survive at depth within the application area.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology employed has fulfilled the brief issued by Boston Borough Council. A series of relatively late structures was encountered in Trench 1; at depth from the modern ground surface (1.6m). In Trench 2, a series of electricity cables prevented all but a reduced sondage from being investigated within the target area to the archaeological horizon. However this was sufficient to establish that late medieval/early post-medieval deposits survive in this area, also at depth from the modern ground surface.

9.0 Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Hawkstone Properties for commissioning this investigation. Thanks are also due to the excavation team, Aaron Chapman and Dan Ferguson.

10.0 References

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11.0 Site Archive

The site archive for this project is in preparation and will be deposited at The Collection (physical) and the Lincolnshire Archives Office (documentary) within six months. Access to the archive may be granted by quoting the global accession number 2005.88.

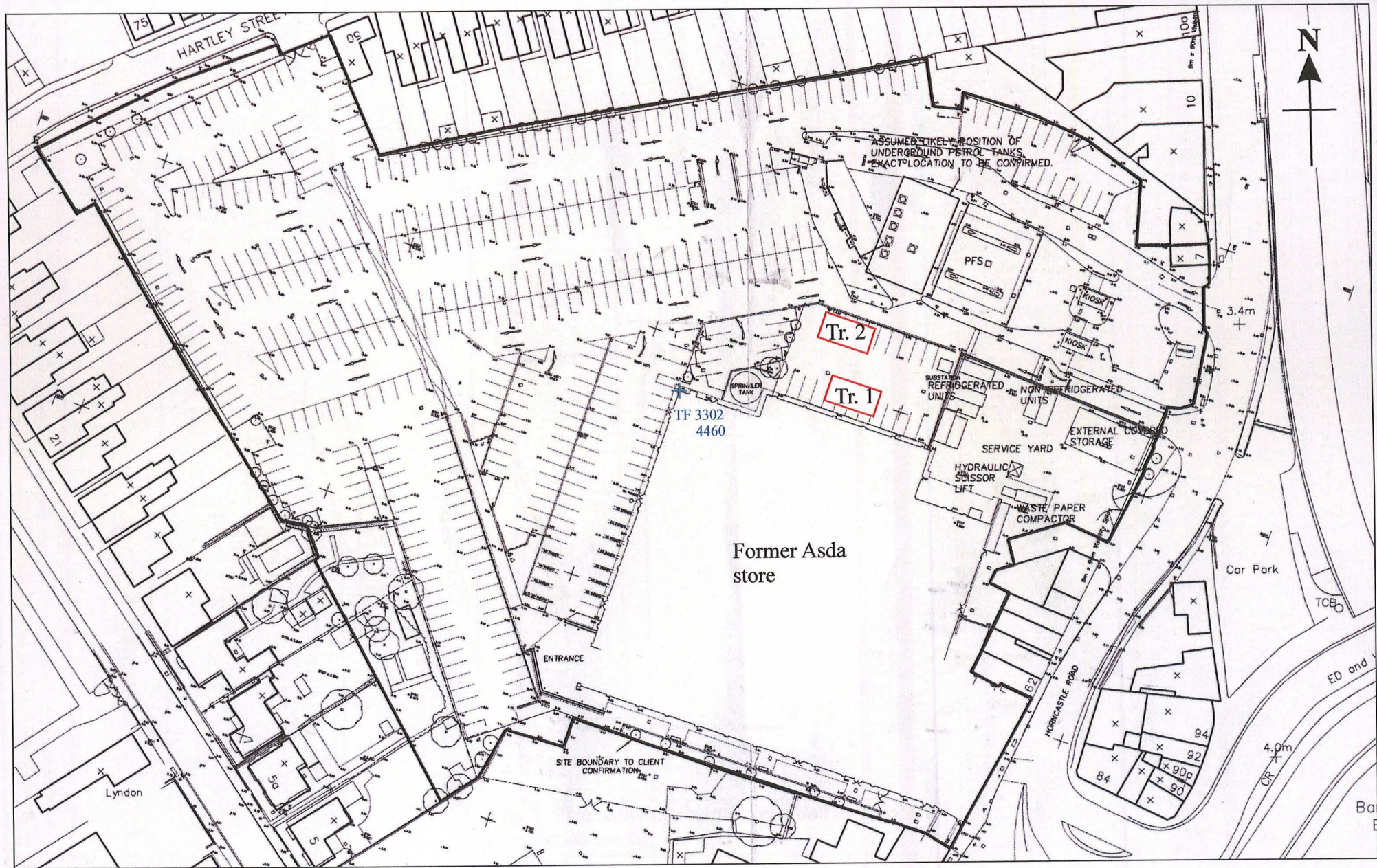


Fig. 2: Site plan showing existing buildings and trench locations. 1:1000
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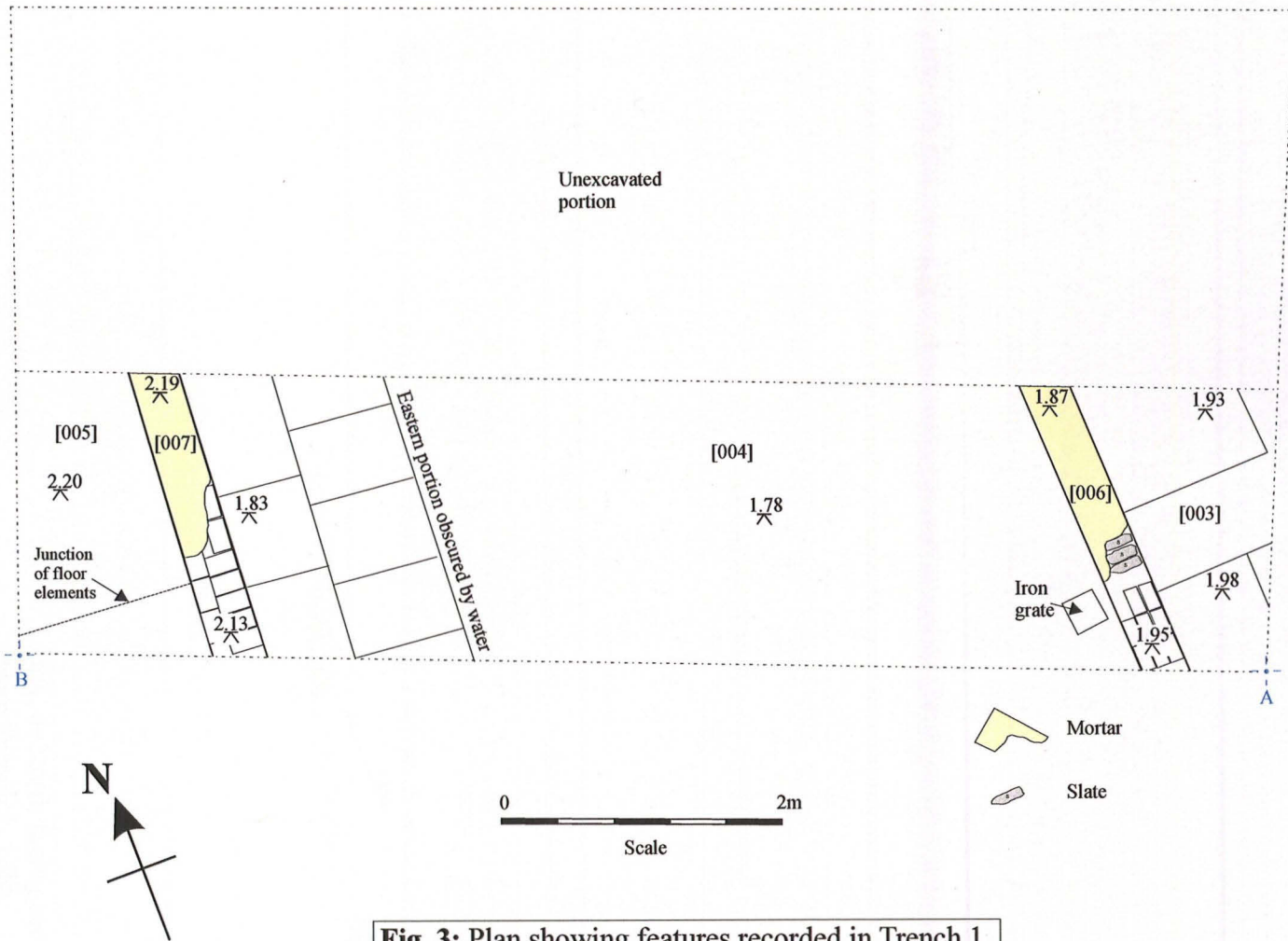


Fig. 3: Plan showing features recorded in Trench 1. (for section see fig. 4). 1:50

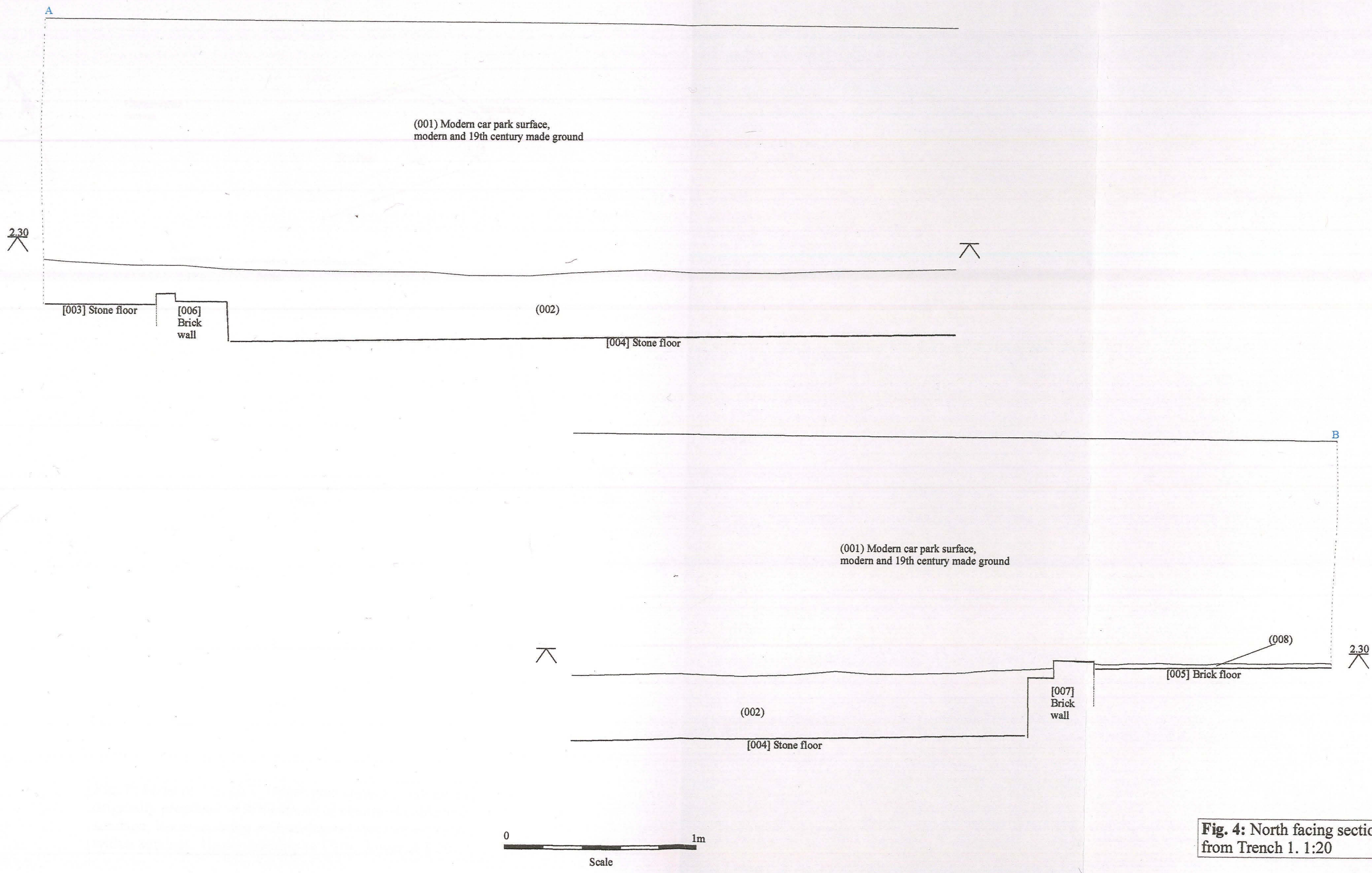


Fig. 4: North facing section from Trench 1. 1:20

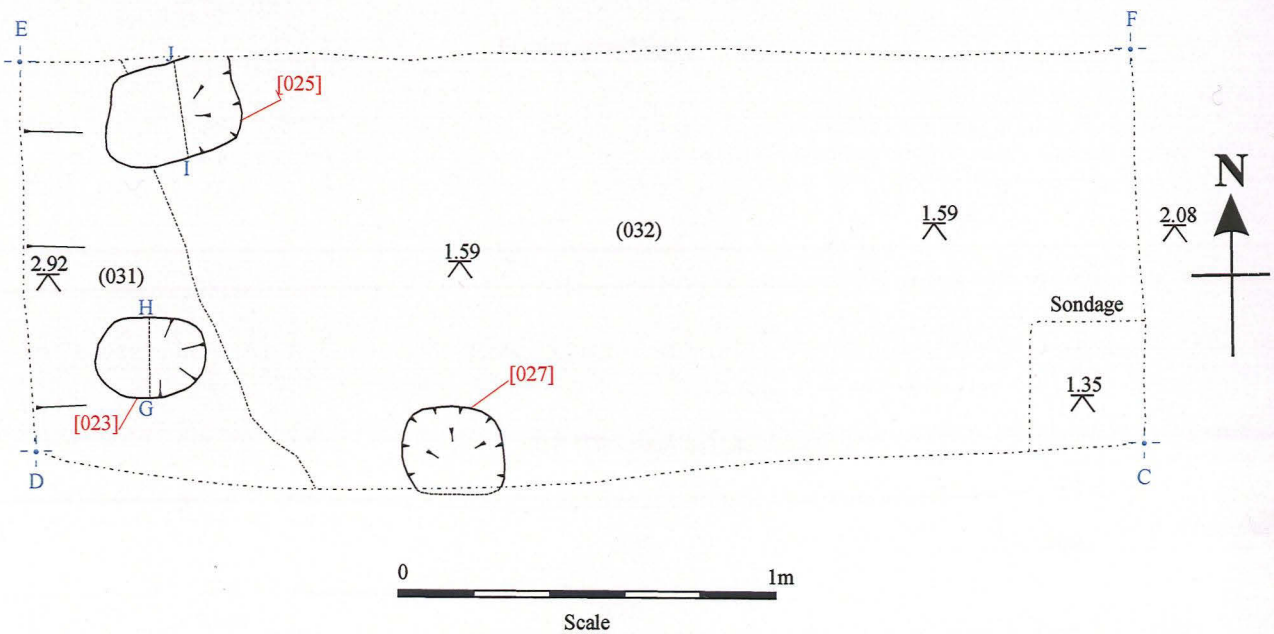
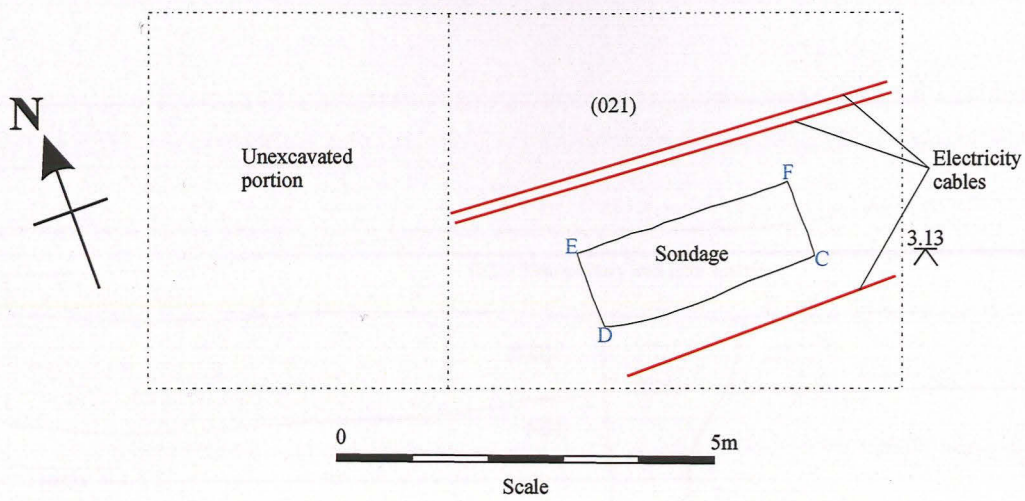
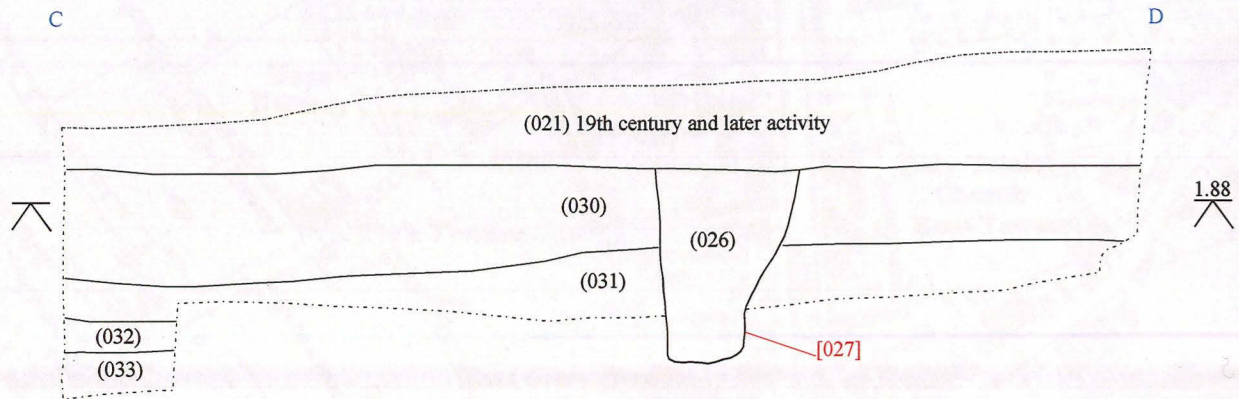


Fig. 5: Plans of Trench 2. Upper plan showing outline as originally proposed with locations of electrical cable and sondage, lower showing archaeological features exposed within sondage. Upper drawing at 1:100, lower at 1:20.

Existing ground level



Existing ground level

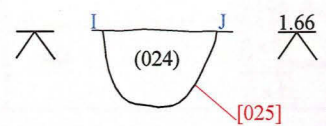
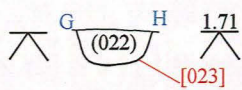
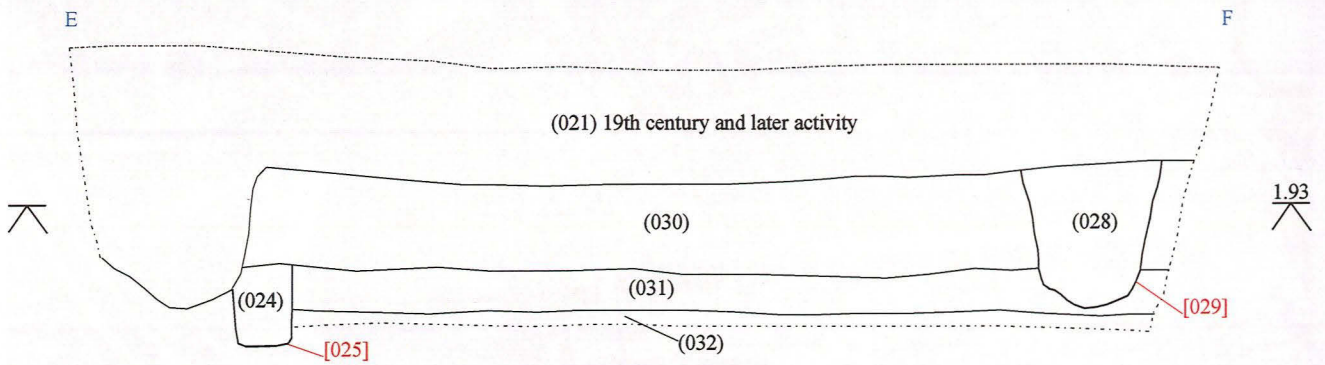


Fig. 6: Sections from Trench 2.
All at 1:20



Fig. 7: Excerpt from 1890-91 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. Site location is shown in red. Not to scale. O.S. Copyright licence no. A1 515 21 A0001

Appendix 1. Colour plates



Pl. 1: Trench 1 post excavation.
Looking SW



Pl. 2: Sandstone slab floor [003]
and wall [006]. Note slate lacing
course.
Looking W



Pl. 3: Brick floor [005] and wall
[007]. Coal-rich layer (008) is
visible in section.
Looking S



Pl. 4: West end of sondage, Trench 2. Shows post holes [023] and [025]. Looking W.



Pl. 5: North facing section from Trench 2 sondage. Note post hole [027] visible in section. Looking S.



Pl. 6: South facing section from Trench 2 sondage. Looking N.



Pl. 7: Working shot, cleaning base of Trench 2 sondage, (Dan Ferguson). Looking NW

Appendix 2. Context summary

CONTEXT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
001	Made ground, hard core and tarmac surface. Vic or later. Same as 021
002	Ground levelling deposit, into partially demolished building. Vic.
003	Flagstone floor.
004	Flagstone floor
005	Brick floor
006	Brick wall
007	Brick wall
008	Coal-rich waste.

CONTEXT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION.
021	Made ground, hard core and tarmac surface. Vic or later. Same as 001
022	FO [023]
023	Square post hole
024	FO [025]
025	Round post hole
026	FO [027]
027	Square post hole
028	FO [029]
029	Post hole, Victorian
030	Occupation/ground surface. ?????/ pot recovered
031	Dumped redeposited natural. Ground stabilising/raising deposit
032	Occupation/ground surface
033	Natural. Laminated alluvial silt

Appendix 3. Finds report

M Allen

A small assemblage of material was recovered from archaeological deposits during an archaeological evaluation on Horncastle Road in Boston, Lincolnshire (Table 1).

The material was recovered from two trenches that had been placed to evaluate the site prior to development.

Context No.	Weight (g)	No of fragments	Magnetic?	Description and Identification
008	<1g	1	N	Black glass rivulet
032	<1g	1	Y	Very small unidentifiable piece
032	<1g	1	N	Very small fragment of cinder

Table 1: Summary of material by context.

Conclusions

The black glass rivulet from Trench 1 (Context 008) is probably from a melted vessel and does not therefore indicate glass production on site. Glass production would produce large quantities of waste (R. Hall *pers comm*). The glass fragment was recovered from a coal-rich deposit. If this was interpreted as waste from a nearby domestic hearth it is possible the rivulet came from a glass vessel that had been placed too close to the fire, causing partial melting. The lack of evidence from the evaluation however makes it impossible to say this with any degree of confidence.

The material from Trench 2 is not evidence for metalworking (or any other industrial activity) in the vicinity.

Assessment of potential

This assemblage is not of particular interest and it is therefore recommended that it is not kept for future study.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Rachael Hall of Archaeological Project Services for her comments regarding glass production.

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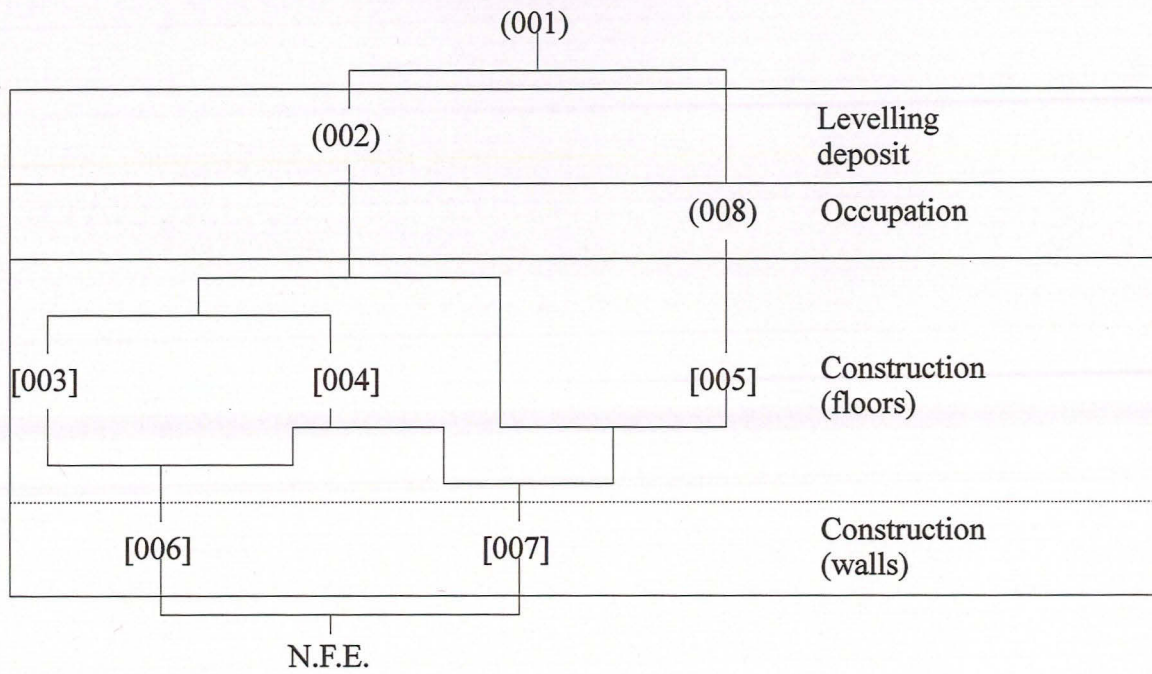
Appendix 4. Pottery archive

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	part	description	date
008	WHITE	Modern whiteware	hollow	1	1	3	BS	yellow crackled glaze; could be discarded	19th
008	ENGS	Unspecified English Stoneware	large flagon/ jar	6	1	124	BS	could be discarded	19th
028	CREA	Creamware	small jar	1	1	3	base		mid/late 18th to 19th
030	RGRE	Reduced glazed red earthenware	small bowl?.	1	1	24	base	thick internal glaze; ext soot	late 15th to 16th
030	RGRE	Reduced glazed red earthenware	small bowl?	1	1	7	base	thick internal glaze; ext soot	late 15th to 16th

Appendix 5. Stratigraphic matrices

Trench 1



Trench 2

