

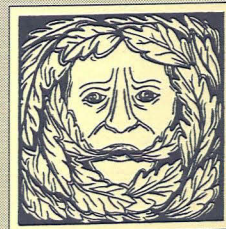
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT  
17-19 HIGH STREET,  
BOSTON,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(BHS96)**



**A P S**  
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT  
17-19 HIGH STREET,  
BOSTON,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(BHS96)**

Work Undertaken For  
Meldrum Lee & Gillatt

February 1996

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## 1. SUMMARY

*An evaluation was undertaken to determine the archaeological implications of proposed development at 17/19 High Street, Boston, Lincolnshire. The site investigation was designed to assess the potential effect of piling, the depth to potential archaeology and the possible presence of cellars.*

*Development at 17/19 High Street affects an area containing archaeological remains dating from the medieval period (AD 1066 - 1500) and later. Close by, though not accurately located, is the site of a Carmelite Friary, built in 1307. Two medieval half-timbered buildings survive just to the south and medieval pottery has been recovered from various sites close by. An earlier examination at the present investigation site revealed demolition rubble infilling cellars that went down to a total depth of 1.8m below pavement level. Below the cellar floors were undated deposits of alluvial soil.*

*The evaluation identified natural alluvium approximately 3.7m below the present ground surface. Above these silts were medieval deposits dating to the 13th/14th centuries. These medieval deposits contained large quantities of diverse, well preserved organic materials including wood, straw, cereal grains, leather and insects, as well as animal bones and mollusc shells. Therefore, these deposits probably constitute occupation debris or dumped rubbish. Wooden stakes, perhaps representing fences were revealed and a brick structure was also identified. Above these medieval remains, and responsible for removing later deposits, were relatively modern cellars approximately 2m deep and backfilled with demolition debris from the buildings that formerly stood on the site.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Background

Between 12th-16th February 1996, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken at 17/19 High Street, Boston, Lincolnshire. This evaluation was to determine the archaeological implications of proposed development at the site, as detailed in planning application number B06/0185/95. The investigation was commissioned by Meldrum Lee and Gillatt, and was carried out by Archaeological Project Services in accordance with a brief set by the Boston Community Archaeologist (Appendix 1).

### 2.2 Topography and Geology

Boston is situated 45km southeast of Lincoln and approximately 7km from the northwest coast of The Wash, among the fens of south Lincolnshire. Bisected by the River Witham, the town is located in Boston District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). Situated on the west bank of the Witham, High Street is aligned north to south and the site lies about 210m north of Haven Bridge (Fig. 2).

Lying at a height of *c.* 6m OD, the investigation area is located *c.* 230m south of the town centre defined by St. Botolph's parish church. Centred on National Grid Reference TF32734394, the proposed development site covers an area of *c.* 170 square metres (Fig. 3).

Local soils are the Tanvats Association typical alluvial gley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 319) and Wisbech Association calcareous alluvial gley soils developed in marine alluvium (*ibid.*, 361). Beneath this marine alluvium is glacial drift that was deposited in a geological basin between the Lincolnshire Wolds and the East Anglian Heights (Harden 1978, 5). These glacial deposits in turn overlie a solid geology of

Jurassic clays.

### 2.3 Archaeological Setting

High Street, Boston, is located in an area of archaeological activity dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods (Fig. 2). In the immediate vicinity of the development area, though of uncertain location and extent, is the site of a Carmelite Friary (B05/013). Although the Carmelites had an oratory in Boston by 1293, they acquired, and transferred to, a new site on this side of the river in 1307. The friary comprised a church and other buildings, together with a graveyard. The house was dissolved in about 1538 (Page 1988, 216-7). Recent archaeological investigations at Paddock Grove, 170m to the southwest, revealed reused worked masonry derived from the friary (Archaeological Project Services 1994, 1).

On West Street, a well or cistern was discovered during alterations to the cellar of the Axe and Cleaver public house. Pottery of 12th to 16th century date was recovered from this well (B05/067). Nearby are two half-timbered buildings. Both of these, at 25 and 35 High Street, are 15th century 'hall houses' (B05/074, B05/075 respectively).

Approximately 260m to the southwest of the development site human burials (B05/039) were discovered during roadworks on Liquorpond Street. Although undated, these bodies lie close to the site of a church or chapel.

Pottery has been recovered from development sites in the Lincoln Lane area, about 110m to the northwest of the present investigation area. Although mostly of post-medieval date, these finds have included a complete medieval baluster jug (B05/064).

An earlier investigation at the site revealed rubble filled cellars to a depth of 1.8m below present ground level. Beneath the cellar floors was a deposit interpreted as alluvium. Although undated, this material was considered to be comparable to similar deposits observed elsewhere in Boston and dated to the medieval period (Archaeological Project Services 1996, 3).

### 3. AIMS

The aims of the evaluation were to locate archaeological deposits and determine, if present, their extent, state of preservation, date, type, vulnerability, documentation and quality of setting. The purpose of this identification and assessment of deposits was to establish their significance, in order to facilitate recommendations for an appropriate strategy that could be integrated with the proposed development programme.

### 4. METHODS

Two trenches of *c.* 2 x 2m were opened by machine through the backfill of modern brick cellars. Selected deposits were then partially or fully excavated by hand and auger to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual material.

Trench 1 was opened to assess the survival of archaeological remains in an area where cellaring was presumed not to have occurred. Trench 2 was located to investigate the potential for the survival of remains around the periphery of the site, particularly those of medieval building foundations, to assess the impact of piling (Fig. 3).

Each archaeological deposit or feature within the trench was allocated a unique reference number with an individual



written description. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at scales of 1:10 and 1:20.

## 5. ANALYSIS

Records of the deposits and features recognised during the evaluation were examined (Appendix 2). Finds recovered from the deposits identified in the evaluation were examined and a period date was assigned where possible (Appendix 3). Phasing was assigned based on artefact dating and the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. A stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was created and phased. Three phases were identified:

- Phase 1 Natural deposits
- Phase 2 Medieval deposits
- Phase 3 Modern deposits

### 5.1 Phase 1 Natural deposits

Observed within Trench 1, and recovered through augering, the lowest deposit revealed was a layer of grey-green fine silty clay (027). This was encountered at a depth of 2.61m OD and persisted to the limit of excavation at 2.46m OD. It has been interpreted as marine alluvium. Overlying this deposit was a layer of fine blue-grey sandy silt (026) up to c. 0.6m thick. The uppermost surface of this occurs at 3.17m and forms the boundary between the natural deposits and archaeology within the area of Trench 1. Deposits of this nature were not observed within Trench 2.

### 5.2 Phase 2 Medieval deposits

A sequence of well-stratified and well-preserved archaeological deposits from the medieval period were recorded within both trenches. Although the dating

of the pottery suggests that the sequences are contemporary, it was not possible to provide a stratigraphic link between the archaeological deposits and so they will form the basis for two separate analyses.

**Trench One:** Directly above the latest natural deposit (026) was a fine, mid brown silt containing moderate, horizontally bedded straw fragments (025). Forming a maximum thickness of c. 0.3m, it has been suggested (J. Rackham *pers comm*) that this may represent a primary context, associated with human or animal occupation. Overlying this material was a fine, mid brown silty clay containing moderate charcoal flecks and occasional roots (024). Extending across the area of excavation (Fig. 4) this had a maximum thickness of c. 0.35m and dipped to the north and west.

Sealing 024 was a light grey, fine sandy silt containing moderate charcoal flecks (021). This has been interpreted as a layer of re-deposited natural alluvium (Fig. 6). Two sherds of Lincoln type ware pottery dating to the fourteenth century and two fragments of bone (cat and cattle) were recovered from this deposit. Cutting this layer was a stakehole (023) containing the lower portion of a crudely worked birch post (022). This post was oval in section and approximately 70mm by 100mm across. The base of the post had been cut flat with a single stroke and a single branch had been removed from the trunk. This timber had been driven down into earlier archaeological deposits at an angle of 15 degrees from vertical. Sealing the post, which had been roughly truncated c. 0.4m from its base, was a mid grey-brown, fine silty clay containing occasional shells and moderate straw inclusions (020). Interpreted as a dump deposit, this material, which had a maximum thickness of c. 0.1m, extended across the area of Trench 1 dipping from northeast to

southwest (Fig. 6). Sherds of Potterhanworth ware of 13th/14th century date, a single Lincoln ware jug handle and bone fragments of sheep and cattle were recovered from this deposit.

Overlying this material (020) were inter-banded light-brown, black-brown and green-brown fine silty clays that dipped from northeast to southwest (019). Containing frequent shells these deposits were interpreted as a sequence of dumps. Above these dumps was a light brown-green, fine silty clay containing occasional shell and well-preserved organic remains (018). The lower surface of this context followed the dip of the underlying strata (northeast to southwest) whilst the uppermost surface formed a horizontal layer at *c.* 4m OD (Fig. 6). The organic remains within this deposit may represent the accumulated residue of human or animal occupation. Finds recovered from the deposit comprised cattle bone, fishbone (cod family), several shells and two Lincoln ware potsherds, including a bridge spout from a jug (Fig. 8), dating to the 14th century.

Above 018 was a fine, black silty clay containing moderate shell fragments (017). With a maximum thickness of 0.17m and forming an irregular deposit dipping towards the southwest (Fig. 6), this contained moderately plentiful cattle, goat/sheep and fishbone (cod). Consequently, this is interpreted as a possible dump. Cutting into this deposit were three shallow, irregular subcircular cuts (010, 013, 016) to a maximum depth of 0.22m, forming a west-east alignment. Explained as postholes, these cuts contained light green-grey clays (009, 012) and light brown silty clays (015) that have been interpreted as post-packing deposits. Dating in the form of a single potsherd from the fourteenth century recovered from (009) provides a *terminus post quem* for

the insertion of a single birchwood post (008) into this deposit. Two other associated birch posts (011, 014) had survived *in situ* within (013) and (016) respectively. The bases of these posts had been shaped and worked prior to their insertion (Fig. 8).

These posts were subsequently truncated *c.* 0.25m from their bases. Above and around these cut off stakes was a black-brown, fine silty clay containing moderate shells (003). Observed as a very mixed series of lenses, this has been interpreted as a period of dumping. A single Lincoln ware potsherd dated to the 14th century, several cattle and some goat/sheep bone fragments and over thirty shell fragments (*c.* 70% of all those recovered) were retrieved from this deposit (Appendix 6).

Above 003 was a mid green-brown silty clay (005). Observations suggest that (005) had been significantly disturbed. It is likely that such disturbance was a direct result of the construction of the modern cellars within the area of the development (Fig. 6). No finds were recovered from this deposit.

**Trench Two:** The lowest recorded deposits occurred at a depth of *c.* 3m OD. Recovered through the augering of boreholes 4 and 5, these included dark grey-brown silts and clays (043, 045) containing occasional to moderate shell fragments and occasional organic remains. Overlying (043) within borehole 4 was a thin band, *c.* 0.1m thick, of mid green-brown sandy silt (042). This was sealed by a *c.* 0.15m thick light grey-blue, fine silty sand with frequent orange root staining (040). Borehole 5 produced a comparable sequence of well stratified alternate organic/silt deposits to a depth of *c.* 3.07m OD (Fig. 7). Directly overlying (045) to a maximum thickness of *c.* 0.38m

was a dark green-brown silty clay with frequent organic material and shell inclusions (044). This may represent alternate dumping and natural deposition. Soft, dark brown sandy silt (041) sealed 044 to a thickness of *c.* 100mm.

Sealing the sequence of deposits revealed by augering and excavated by hand was a friable, mid grey-brown sandy silt (039), with a maximum thickness of *c.* 0.32m, dipping to the west. Above (039) was a light grey-blue sandy silt (037) that formed a thin, *c.* 60mm thick, deposit containing possible industrial refuse. Overlying this was a friable, dark grey silt *c.* 0.18m thick (035). Containing several cattle and some sheep/goat bone fragments, Lincoln ware potsherds of 13th/14th century date and a small leather strap this (035) has been interpreted as a dump deposit (Fig. 5). Contemporary with, or prior to the deposition of (035) was the construction of a brick and mortar structure (031) orientated north-south and east-west; no cut could be determined. Forming the corner of an indeterminate structure, this was exposed for a total length of *c.* 1.7m (Figs. 5 and 7).

### 5.3 Phase 3 Modern Deposits

Comparable phase 3 deposits were observed within both trenches, but are discussed separately, below.

**Trench One:** A sequence of horizontally stratified sands and clays (006, 004; Fig. 6) preceded the construction of a brick cellar with a tiled floor of double thickness (007). This structure contained a significant quantity of loose brick and rubbish dating to the 19th and 20th centuries (002) that has been interpreted as the backfilled remains of the original superstructure. Sealing this sequence was a *c.* 0.3m thick layer of refuse (001) that provided the present surface of the area at *c.* 6.3m OD.

**Trench Two:** Cutting phase 2 deposit (035) was a linear west-east cut (038) *c.* 0.68m long, in alignment with the southernmost extent of (031). Loose, light brown sandy silt (033) had been deposited within this cut and had also overlapped to seal over (031). Context (038) has been interpreted as a robber cut, with (033) representing a backfill and levelling deposit (Figs. 5 and 7). Above this was a series of brown sandy silts or silty clays that contained brick and mortar fragments (029, 030, 032 and 034). These have been interpreted as levelling deposits laid down prior to the construction of brick cellars (028). Contained by the walls of (028) were various fragments of bricks and assorted superstructural debris (036). Interpreted as a backfill deposit, this provided the present ground surface at *c.* 6.3m OD (Fig. 7).

## 6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (phase 1) are represented by layers of grey-green and blue-grey silts (026, 027), considered to be natural alluvium.

Overlying these deposits in Trench 1 were a series of well-stratified archaeological layers (phase 2) that have been securely dated to the late 13th and early 14th centuries. It seems most likely that the sequence recorded within Trench 1 reflects a series of dump deposits (003, 005, 017, 019, 020, and 021) and occupation layers (018, 024, 025) contained by a series of small timber revetments or property boundaries. At least two phases of crudely worked, timber fencing or revetment (008, 011, 014 and 022) were recognised.

The sequence recorded within Trench 2 presented a quite distinctive picture in comparison with that of Trench 1. A much cleaner and lighter sequence of earlier

deposits (037, 039, 040 and 041) was revealed through augering, with layers rich in organic remains (043, 045, 042 and 044) inter-banded at variable intervals. This suggests occupation of a more regulated nature as the build up and preservation of organic material is being denied, or is simply not occurring, in a significant percentage of the earliest recorded deposits. These had been overlain by a dark brown clay silt (035) containing well preserved bone and organic materials that suggest the deposition of domestic refuse. Contemporary with, or earlier than, this deposit is the establishment of a brick and mortar wall that has possibly been robbed throughout the western extent (038). The interior of the structure was not investigated and the function could not be ascertained, but it is likely that this represents occupation along the front of the original medieval Bridge Street.

The small assemblage of pottery retrieved from the evaluation suggests the regional importation of pottery from kiln sites at Lincoln, Potterhanworth and Toynton All Saints.

Several species of animal and fish were represented by skeletal material retrieved from the area of proposed development. Cattle and cattle-sized bones dominated the assemblage with occasional fish (cod family) and sheep/goat bones also present. As such, the collection suggests that, during the medieval period, deposition of domestic refuse occurred within the areas of excavation.

## **7. ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

For assessment of significance the Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling ancient monuments has been used (DoE 1990, Annex 4; See Appendix 7).

### **Period**

Evidence of medieval urban occupation has been recorded from the evaluation area and its vicinity. These remains are characteristic of this period and type of site. However, the high standard of preservation of organic remains is unusual for this period.

### **Rarity**

Medieval domestic or industrial activity, as identified in the area of evaluation, is not uncommon, though may possess rare or unusual features. However, the standard of preservation of organic remains within the deposits is rare for all periods and very rare for the medieval period represented.

### **Documentation**

Documentation for the site is moderately good. Details of archaeological sites and finds in the Boston area are held in two repositories; the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments record, maintained by the Archaeology section of Lincolnshire County Council, and the parish files of the Boston Community Archaeologist. A watching brief has previously been carried out on the site (APS 1996). Several other archaeological investigations have been undertaken, and reported, in the vicinity of the site.

### **Group Value**

By virtue of the clustering of sites, findspots and standing structures of medieval date in this general area, the group value of the medieval evidence is moderately high.

### **Survival/Condition**

There has been significant post-medieval development of the land, in the form of

brick cellars beneath the main High Street buildings. Consequently, the uppermost 2m of archaeological deposits have been removed, destroying approximately two thirds of the archaeological sequence. The impact of cellar construction has also interfered with and disturbed *c.* 0.3m of the surviving sequence. However, beneath this level of disturbance, deposits dating from the 14th century and earlier and containing a wide variety of organic remains survive in excellent condition.

### **Fragility/Vulnerability**

Proposed development will impact the site into underlying strata within the areas of piling, therefore a percentage (less than 5%) of archaeological deposits present in the area are vulnerable to destruction.

### **Diversity**

Cellars of 19th century or later date had removed archaeological deposits down to 14th century levels. Consequently, period diversity is limited. Moreover, limited functional diversity is indicated by evidence for domestic settlement and refuse disposal.

### **Potential**

Sample excavation within the limited evaluation trenches revealed the presence of medieval urban domestic deposits. Consequently there is very high potential that archaeological deposits exist across the entire proposed development area. The nature of the recorded evidence would also indicate that there is high potential that medieval settlement remains exist in the vicinity. Organic preservation within the deposits is of the highest quality and assumes the survival of wood, leather, insects, pollen and vegetation deposited within the area of proposed development.

## **7.1 Site Importance**

In summary, the criteria for assessment have established that the medieval remains are locally and regionally important. As such, archaeological deposits present on site can be expected to augment the understanding of the origins and development of Boston within a local and regional framework. Furthermore, the extremely well preserved organic-rich deposits dating to the late 13th and early 14th centuries are rare on a national scale. Consequently, they can be expected to contribute not only to local and regional comprehension of ecological conditions and factors during the high medieval period but also to the national picture of urban environments at that time.

The remains also have wider implications for Boston generally. This derives from the evidence indicating that, in the town, well preserved archaeological deposits of medieval date survive intact beneath cellars up to 2m deep.

## **8. EFFECTIVENESS OF TECHNIQUES**

The strategy of using trial trenches to locate and evaluate archaeological deposits was, on the whole, effective. Positioning of the brick cellars, and aspects of site health and safety, imposed restrictions upon the overall size and quality of the excavation. Notwithstanding these constraints, extremely well preserved deposits of medieval date were recognised and investigated in both trenches.

## **9. CONCLUSIONS**

Archaeological investigations at 17/19 High street, Boston have revealed natural deposits at a depth of *c.* 2.6m OD within

the western extent of the site. Deposits of medieval date developed over these.

To the southwest of the site, within the limits of Trench 1, a sequence of possible occupation and dumping deposits dated by associated pottery to the late 13th and early 14th centuries were recorded. Attempts had been made to revet or fence specific parts of this area, possibly reflecting the definition of property boundaries. Survival of the organic material within this area was of the highest quality and selective analysis of samples from these deposits has provided evidence for the preservation of wood, leather, straw, insects and cereal grains.

To the north of the site, within the limits of trench 2, a sequence of occupation and dumping deposits had built up prior to the construction of a significant brick and mortar structure. The alignment of this feature may reflect the orientation of property towards the original medieval High Street, these layers have been dated by associated pottery to the late 13th and early 14th centuries.

The quality of deposits observed in both trenches was high; layers were clearly defined, well-stratified, well-preserved and contained a good assemblage of artefactual and environmental material.

## 10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to thank John Clark and David Cowling of Meldrum Lee and Gillatt who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Steve Haynes coordinated the work and Gary Taylor and Dave Start edited this report. Jim Bonnor, the Boston District Community Archaeologist provided information from the relevant parish files maintained by

Heritage Lincolnshire.

## 11. PERSONNEL

Project Manager: Steve Haynes  
Site Supervisor: Neil Herbert  
Site Assistant: Mike Garrett  
Illustration: Denise Buckley  
Post-excavation Analyst: Neil Herbert

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## 13. ABBREVIATIONS

Numbers prefixed with 'B' are the primary reference numbers used by the Boston District Community Archaeologist.

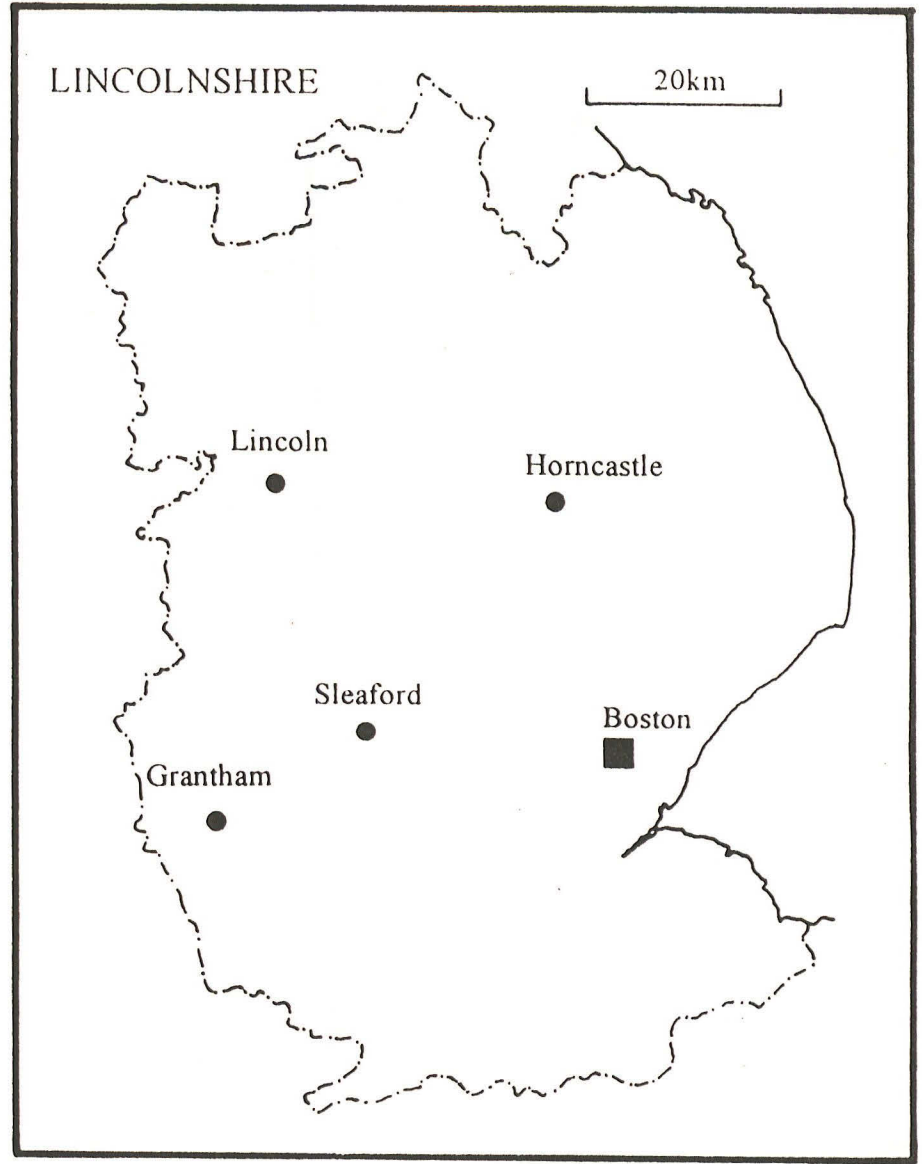
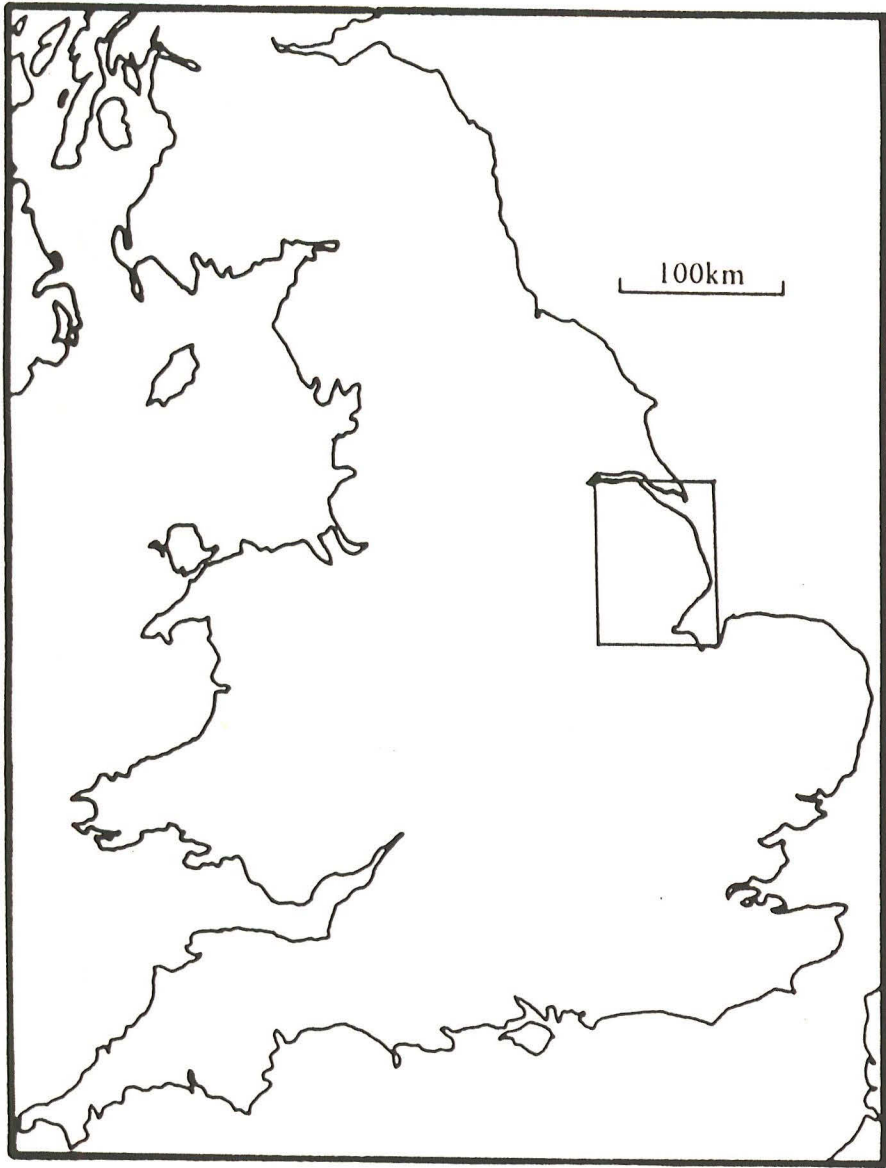
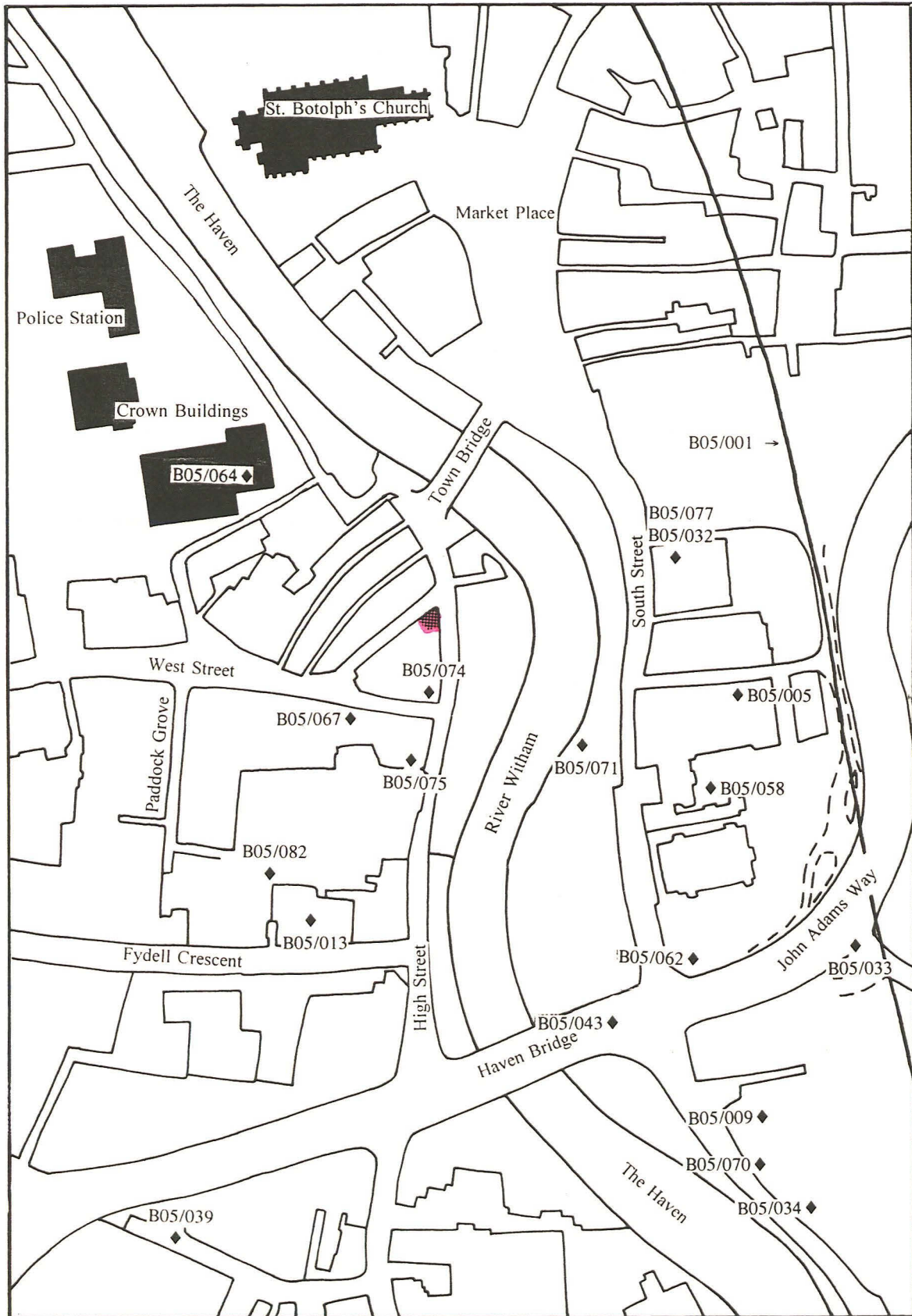


Fig. 1 General Location Plan

Fig. 2 Site Location Plan



Investigation Area



Fig. 3 Trench Location Plan

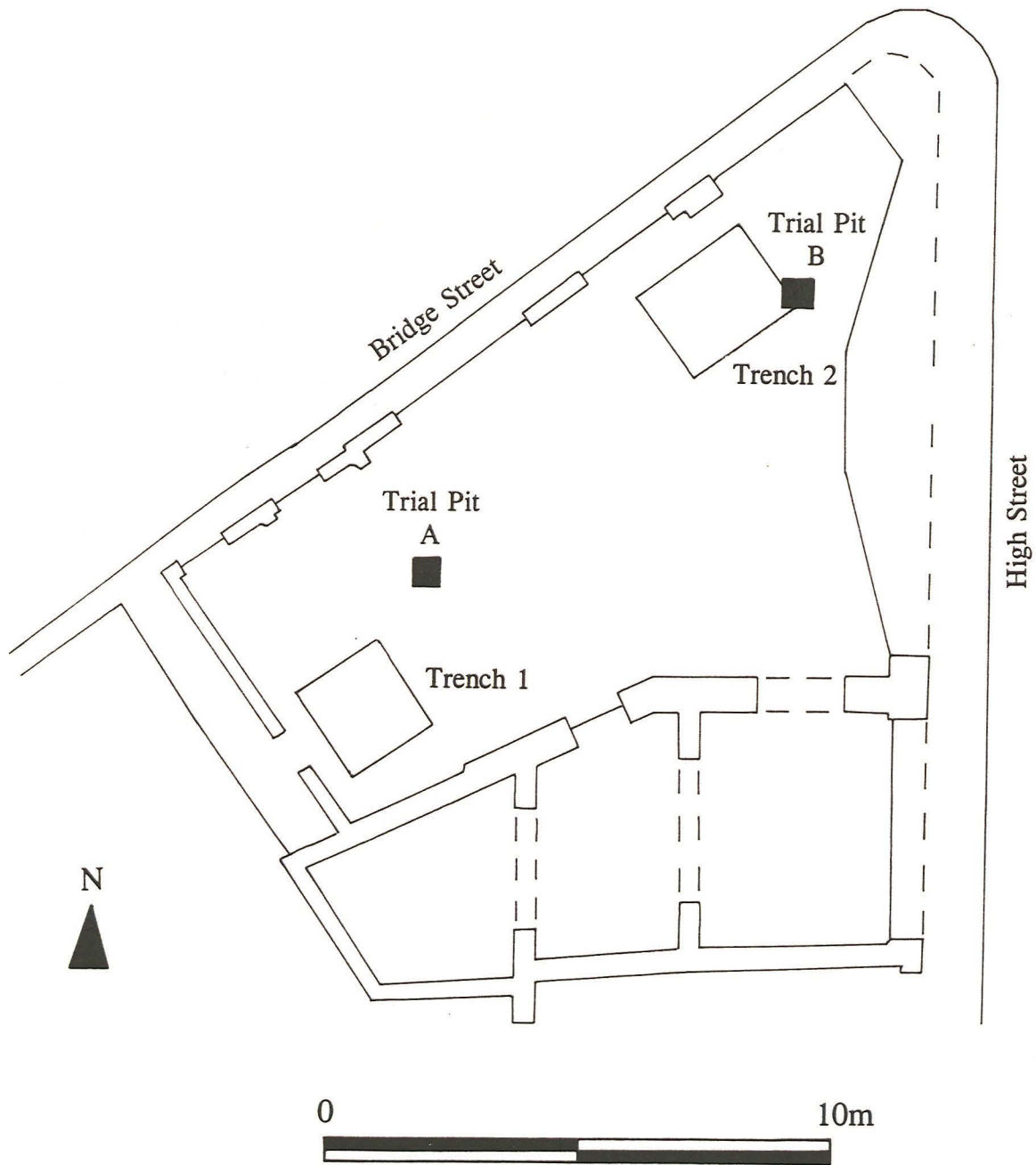
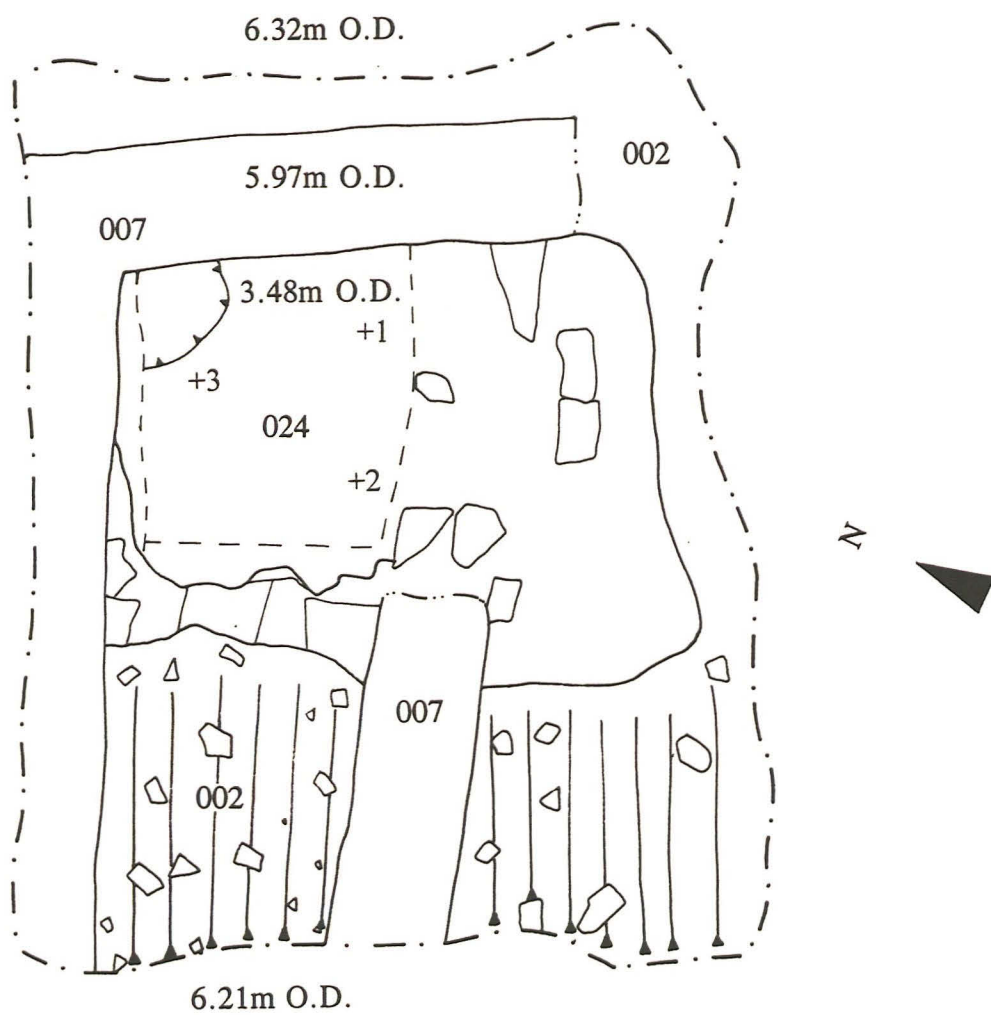
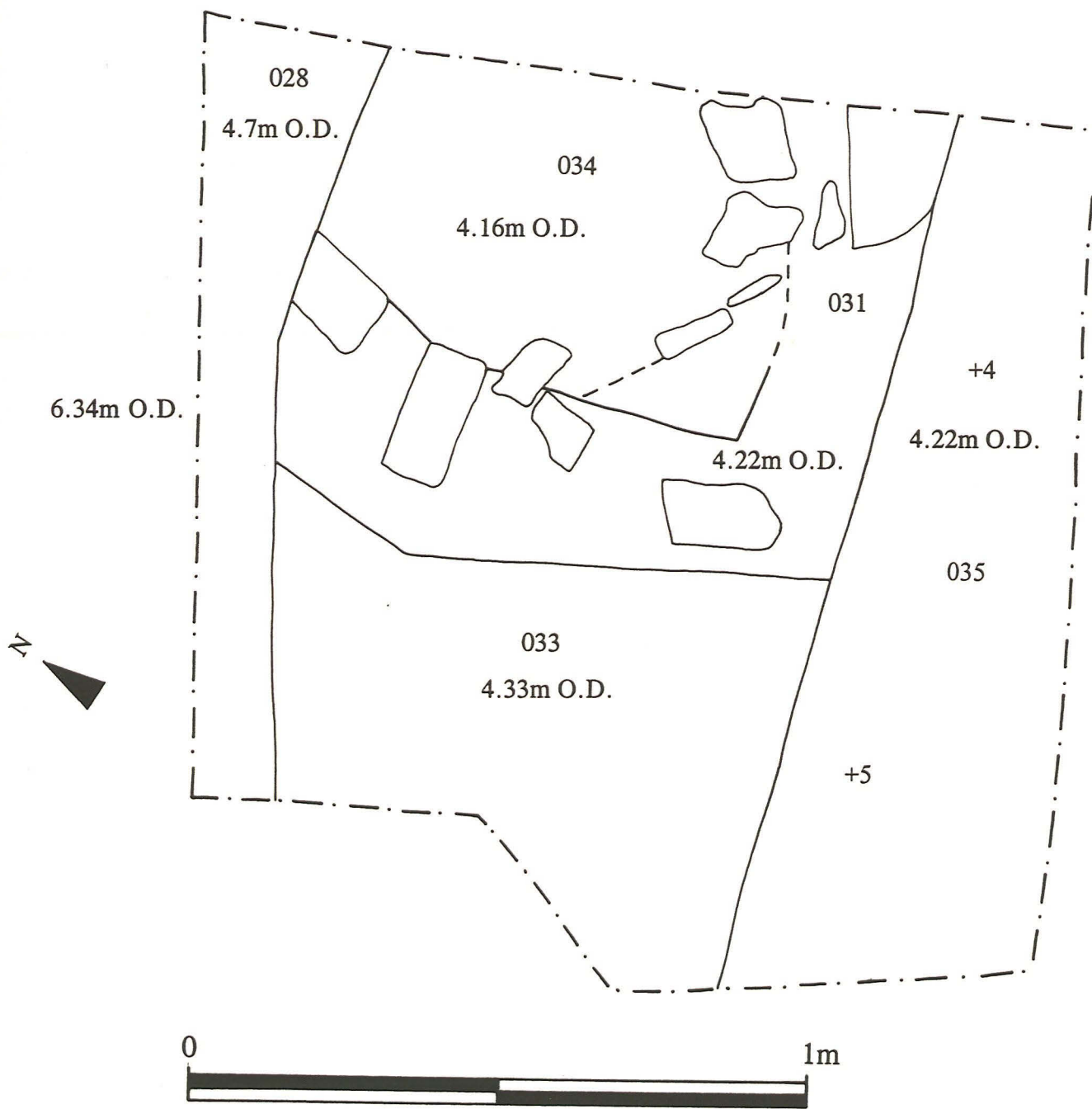


Fig. 4 Trench 1 - Post-Excavation Plan



+1 = BOREHOLES

Fig. 5 Trench 2 - Plan



+4 = BOREHOLES

Fig. 6 Trench 1 - Sections

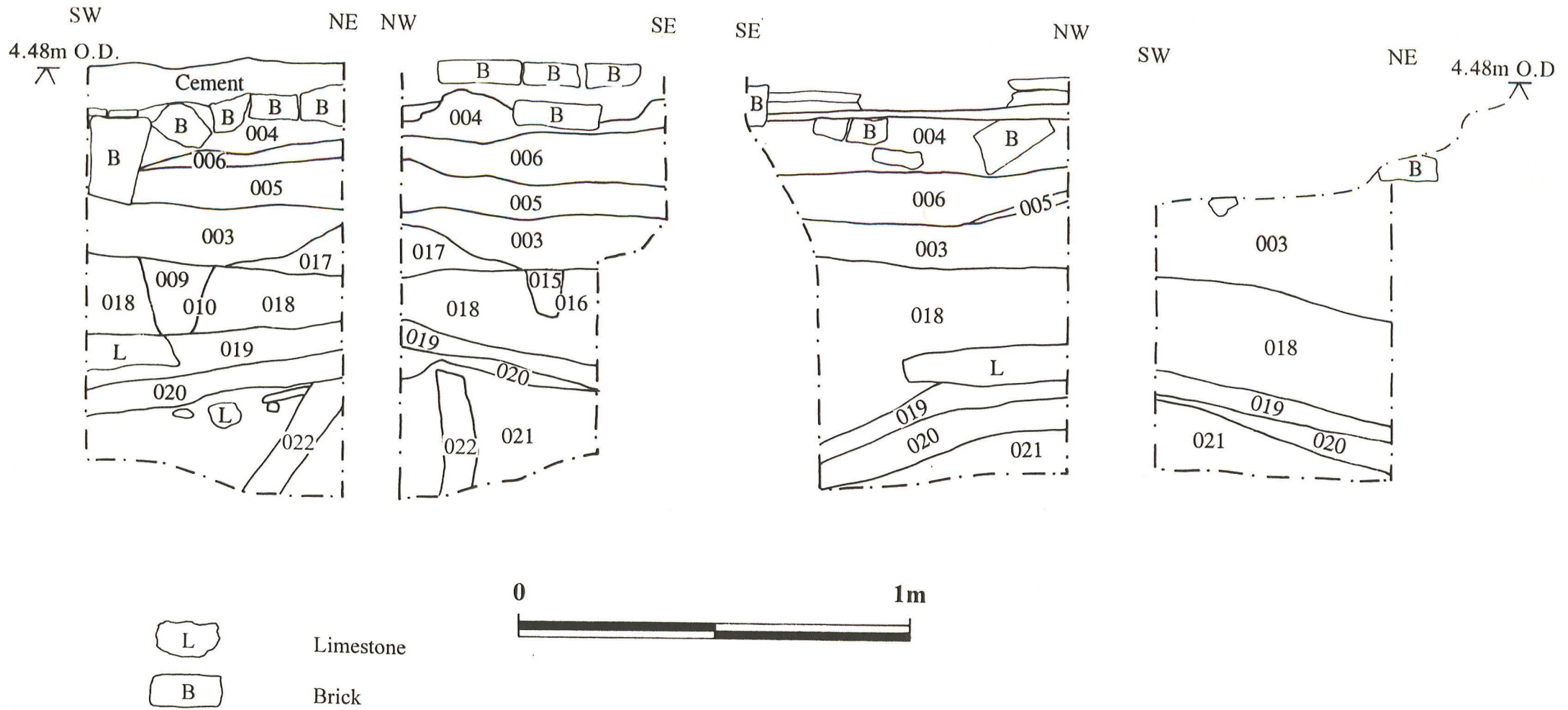


Fig. 7 Trench 2, southeast-facing section, and borehole

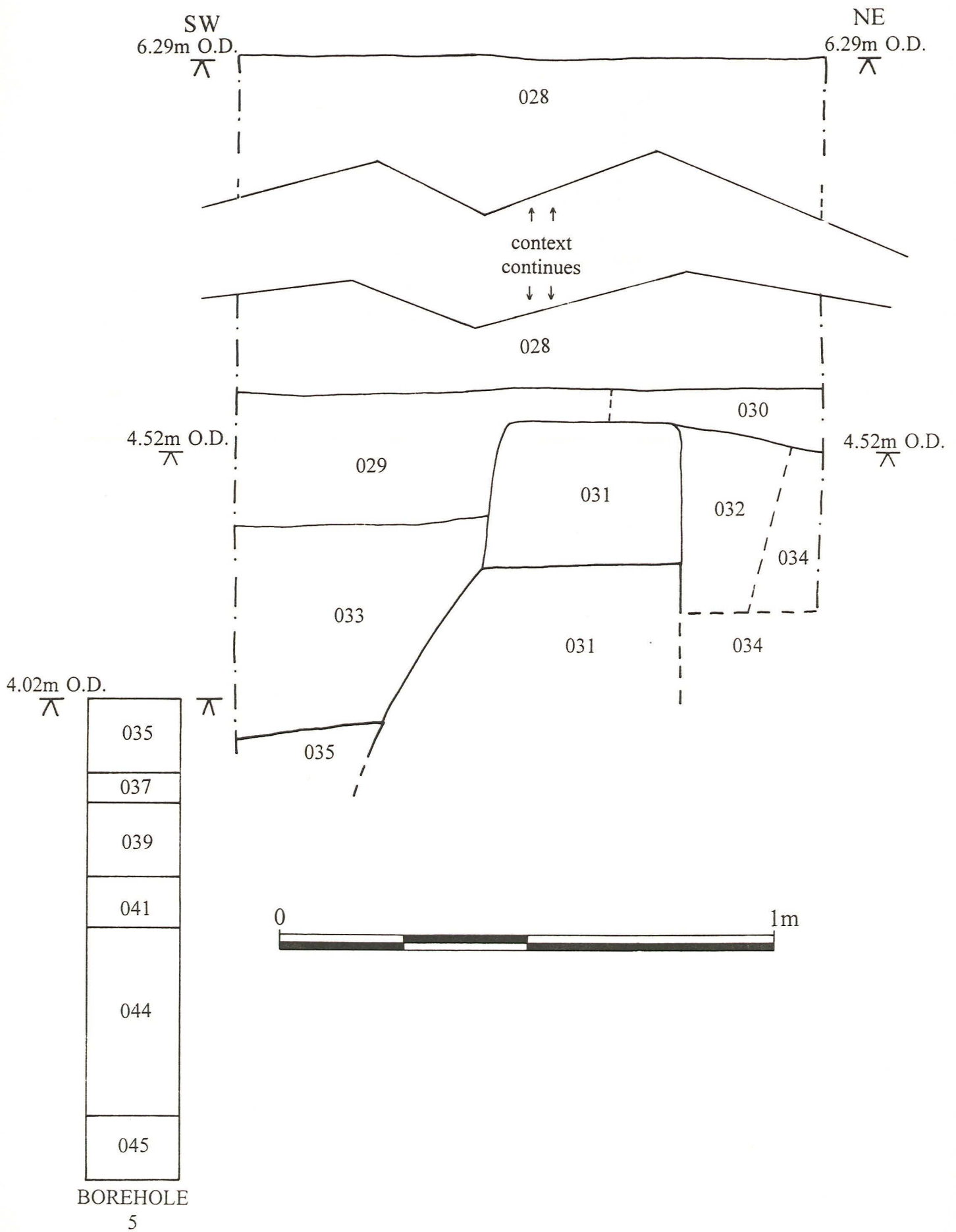
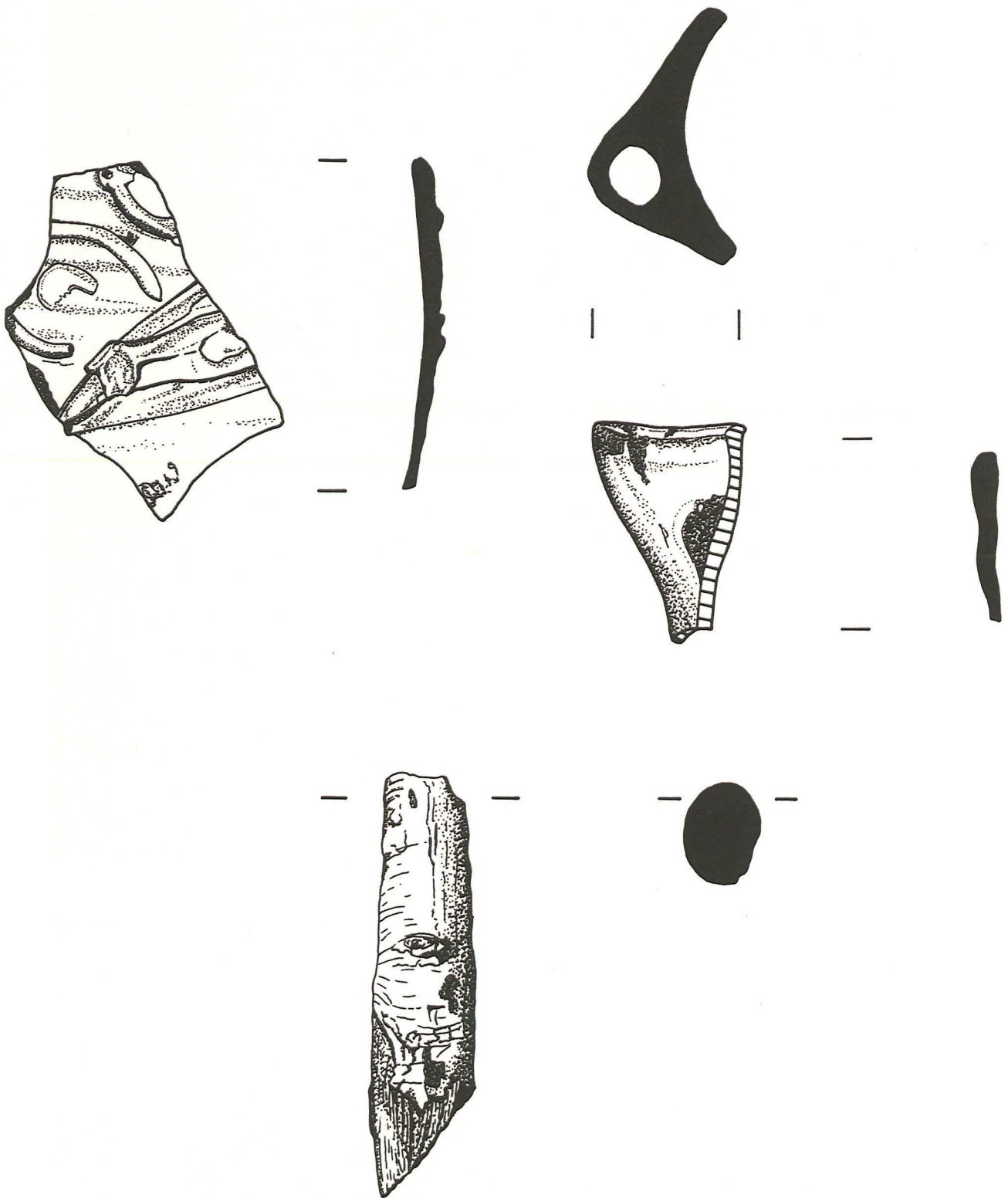


Fig. 8 Selected Finds



Top Left: Toynton All Saints Decorated Jug - Trench 2 (034). Top Right: ?Lincoln Ware Bridge Spouted Jug - Trench 1 (018). Scale 1:2 Bottom: Wooden Stake - Trench 1 (011). Scale 1:4

Plate 1 General View of Investigation Site (looking northeast towards High Street/Bridge Street junction)



Plate 2 Trench 1, medieval deposits below cellar floor



Scale: 1m



## **Appendix 1**

**Archaeological Field Evaluation Project Brief  
17/19 High Street, Boston, Lincs.**

set by the  
Community Archaeologist, Boston Borough Council

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION PROJECT BRIEF

## 17/19 HIGH STREET, BOSTON, LINCS.

### 1. Summary

1.1 This document is the brief for the archaeological field evaluation to be carried out at 17/19 High Street in Boston, Lincs on behalf of Meldrum Lee and Gillatt.

1.2 This brief should be used by archaeological contractors as the basis for the preparation of a detailed archaeological project specification. In response to this brief contractors will be expected to provide details of the proposed scheme of work, to include the anticipated working methods, timescales and staffing levels.

1.3 The detailed specifications will be submitted for approval by the Community Archaeologist of Boston Borough Council. The client will be free to choose between those specifications which are considered to adequately satisfy this brief.

### 2. Site Location and Description

2.1 Boston is situated in the south Lincolnshire Fens, approximately 45km southeast of Lincoln and 7km from the northwest coast of the Wash.

2.2 The site is situated at the junction of High Street and Bridge Street on the west side of the river Witham in Boston at national grid reference TF32734395. The site forms a triangular piece of land of an approximate area of 223 sq metres at roughly 6m above sea level.

2.3 At present the site comprises an area of waste ground where 17 High Street once stood and to the south stands the shell of no. 19. There is a considerable amount of building debris and other rubbish over the site.

2.4 The local soils consist of Tanvats Association typical alluvial gley soils and Wisbech Association calcareous alluvial gley soils developed on marine alluvium, overlying glacial drift.

### 3. Planning Background

3.1 An application was submitted to Boston Borough Council for the construction of retail premises and flats (B06/0185/95). Planning consent was given subject that an archaeological scheme of works including an evaluation and mitigation strategy be undertaken prior to development.

#### **4. Archaeological Background**

4.1 There is no known evidence of prehistoric activity from the surrounding area. Romano-British activity is limited to residual pottery sherds of grey ware and samian from the excavation of principally medieval sites in Wide Bargate and at the former General Hospital site at South End.

4.2 Boston came to prominence in the medieval period when it was one of the largest wool exporting centres in the country. The town was host to a community of foreign merchants and numerous religious orders who kept houses in Boston for the conducting of business. Four mendicant religious orders also had precincts in the town and settlement grew on both sides of the river. The west side was under the control of the de Croun family and the Earls of Tattershall until 1545 when it passed into the hands of the newly formed Corporation. From the mid 14th century Boston began to suffer a reversal of fortune and entered a steady decline which persisted until the late 18th century.

4.3 High Street was originally known as Goat (or Gowt) Street. Although the earliest reference is only from 1661 there are several medieval timber framed buildings along it which still survive, notably nos. 25 and 35. Bridge Street is a 'new' street opened up in the 19th century after the removal of a large inn, the White Hart which once stood on the site. According to Pishey Thompson when the road was built large quantities of stone foundations were uncovered. The White Hart is mentioned as early as 1564.

4.4 No archaeological trial trenches have been excavated on the West side of the river but stonework has been seen in the foundations at Paddock's Grove and a well at the Axe and Cleaver pub in West Street.

4.5 Observations of the excavation of test pits to establish ground conditions on the site were observed by Archaeological Project Services. Two test pits were excavated by machine and revealed rubble infill of cellars to a depth of 1.9m below ground level. Below the cellar floors grey silts were recognised which were interpreted as flood deposits. No dating evidence was retrieved but comparison with other sites within the town suggest that the deposits date to the 13th/14th century.

4.6 The potential of this site is to contain remains of medieval street frontage. Deposits in the centre of the site are presumed to have been truncated by cellaring at a depth of 1.9m. Comparison with archaeological work on the East side of the river suggest that archaeological deposits will survive to a depth of 3.0m. Survival of remains around the periphery of the site (i.e. the extent of the cellars) has not been established. Documentary sources suggest remains could include masonry walls and comparison with other sites suggests the potential for good preservation of organic materials.

#### **5. Requirement for work**

5.1 The purpose of the archaeological evaluation should be to gather sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits.

5.2 While a preliminary desk-top assessment is not required in this case this site should not be treated in isolation and reference should be made to relevant historical sources and previous archaeological work in the area when interpreting the results.

5.3 Any adjustments to the brief for the archaeological investigation should only be made after discussion with the Community Archaeologist of Boston Borough Council.

5.4 The investigation should be carried out by a recognised archaeological body in accordance with the code of conduct of The Institute of Field Archaeologists.

## 6. Stages of work and techniques

6.1 The evaluation shall consist of the excavation of 2 trial trenches. Trench 1 to be 2m x 2m and trench 2 to be 1m x 2m in the locations shown on the attached plan.

6.1.1 Trench 1 is to investigate the potential for the survival of remains around the periphery of the site and particularly of medieval building foundations and the potential impact of piling.

6.1.2 Trench 2 is to assess the survival of archaeological remains in areas where cellaring is presumed not to have occurred.

6.4 When preparing the specification account should be taken of the local geology, topography and land-use as it affects the feasibility of the various techniques.

6.5 The evaluation should also take into account environmental evidence and provide an assessment of the viability of such information should further archaeological work be carried out.

6.6 A visit to verify site conditions must be made during the preparation of the specification.

## 7. Methods

7.1 In consideration of methodology the following details should be given in the contractor's specification:

7.1.1 A projected timetable must be agreed for the various stages of work;

7.1.2 The staff structure and numbers must be detailed. This should include lists of specialists and their role in the project;

7.1.3 It is expected that all on site work will be carried out in a way that complies with the relevant Health and Safety legislation and that due consideration will be given to site security;

7.2 Excavation is a potentially destructive technique and the following factors should be borne in mind:

- 7.2.1 the use of an appropriate machine with a wide toothless ditching blade;
- 7.2.2 the supervision of all machine work by an archaeologist;
- 7.2.3 the machine should be used to remove topsoil down to the first archaeological horizon;
- 7.2.4 the most recent archaeological deposits are not necessarily the least important and this should be considered when determining the level to which machining will be carried out;
- 7.2.5 when archaeological features are revealed by machine these will be cleaned by hand;
- 7.2.6 a representative sample of every archaeological feature must be excavated by hand (although the depth of surviving deposits must be determined, it is not expected that every trench will be excavated to natural);
- 7.2.7 all excavation must be carried out with a view to avoiding features which may be worthy of preservation in situ;
- 7.2.8 any human remains encountered must be left in situ and only removed if absolutely necessary. The contractor must comply with all statutory consents and licences regarding the exhumation and interment of human remains. It will also be necessary to comply with all reasonable requests of interested parties as to the method of removal, reinterment or disposal of the remains or associated items. Attempts must be made at all times not to cause offence to any interested parties.
- 7.2.9 it is expected that an approved recording system will be used for all on-site and post fieldwork procedures.

7.3 It is anticipated that the trenches will be excavated to a suitable depth to establish the potential of the site as outlined in section 4.5 (approximately 2.0m). Auguring should be used to examine the strata below this level and establish the total depth of archaeological deposits.

## 8. Monitoring Arrangements

8.1 The Community Archaeologist for Boston Borough Council will monitor the project to ensure that fieldwork meets the specification. To facilitate this he should be contacted at least one week prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

## 9. Reporting Requirements

9.1 The final report should be a straight-forward account of the fieldwork carried out and should be produced within two months of the completion of the fieldwork phase. If this is not possible then the Boston Community Archaeologist must be consulted at the earliest possible opportunity. The report should include:

- 9.1.1 plans of the trench layout and features therein;
- 9.1.2 tables summarising features and artefacts together with a full description and brief interpretation;
- 9.1.3 plans of actual and potential deposits;
- 9.1.4 specialist reports for all categories of finds. Reports should include basic information on quality, quantity, date, activities suggested on the site and the potential of the finds should further work be carried out.
- 9.1.5 a consideration of the evidence within the wider landscape setting;
- 9.1.6 a consideration of the importance of the findings on a local, regional and national basis;
- 9.1.7 a critical review of the effectiveness of the methodology;
- 9.1.8 an assessment of the likely impact of the development on the archaeological remains.

9.2 A copy of the evaluation reports must be deposited with Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record, Boston Borough Council, the Boston Community Archaeologist and Meldrum, Lee and Gillatt.

## 10. Archive Deposition

10.1 Arrangements must be made with the landowner(s) and/or developers and an appropriate museum for the deposition of the object and paper archive. The archaeological contractor is advised to contact the museum at the earliest stage of the preparation of the specification.

10.2 If the receiving museum is to be City and County Museum, Lincoln then the archive should be produced in the form outlined in that museum's document 'Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives', see address below.

## 11. **Publication and Dissemination**

11.1 The deposition of a copy of the report with the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record will be deemed to put all information into the public domain, unless a special request is made for confidentiality. If material is to be held in confidence a timescale must be agreed with the Boston Community Archaeologist but is expected this will not exceed six months. Consideration must be given to a summary of the results being published in Lincolnshire History and Archaeology in due course.

## 12. **Additional Information**

12.1 This document attempts to define the best practice expected of an archaeological evaluation but cannot fully anticipate the conditions that will be encountered as work progresses. However, changes to the approved programme of evaluation work are only to be made with the prior written approval of the Boston Community Archaeologist.

### 12.2 Further contact addresses:

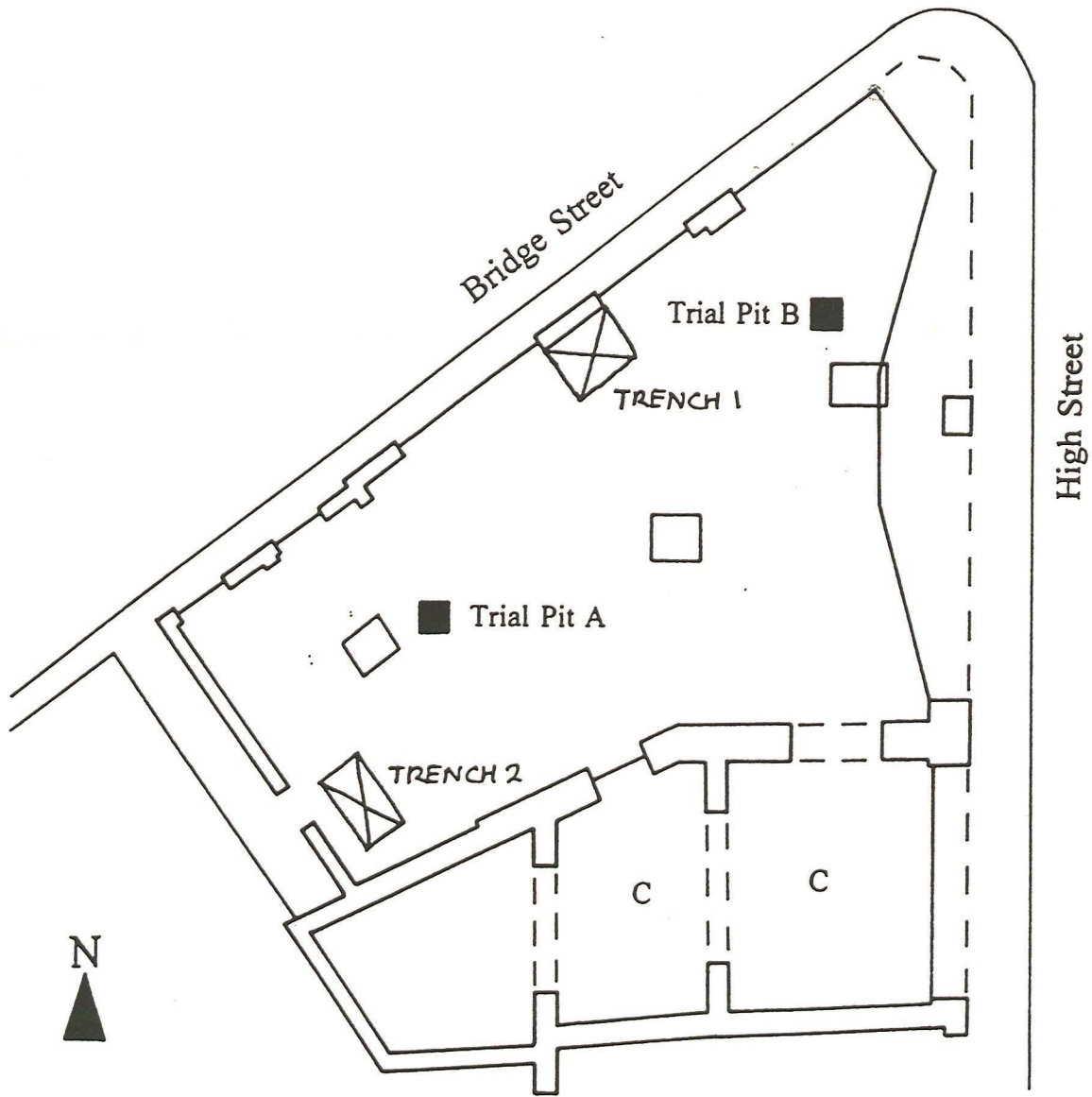
Mr D. Cowling  
Meldrum Lee and Gillatt  
49 High Street  
Boston  
Lincs. PE21 8SP

Mr J. Bonnor  
Boston Community Archaeologist  
Heritage Lincolnshire  
The Old School  
Cameron Street  
Heckington  
Lincs.  
NG34 9RW

Mr S. Catney  
Archaeological Officer  
Lincolnshire County Council  
12 Friars Lane  
Lincoln  
LN2 5AL

Mr T. Page  
City and County Museum  
12 Friars Lane  
Lincoln  
LN2 5AL

SITE PLAN  
17-19 HIGH ST



C = Known cellars



## APPENDIX 2

### Context Summary

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation
001	1	Loose brown rubble/brick with brown sandy silt	Demolition material
002	1	Grey-brown silty sand with frequent bricks, tile fragments and roots, <i>c.</i> 1.8m deep	Cellar back-fill
003	1	Black silty clay with mixed mollusc shells	Dumped deposits
004	1	Black silty sand	Make-up for cellar floor
005	1	Green-brown	Cellar floor
006	1	Yellow sandy clay	Make-up for cellar floor
007	1	Brick walls and tiled floor at 2m depth	Cellars
008	1	Timber post, fill of 009	Stake
009	1	Green-grey clay with moderate mussel shells, fill of 009	Posthole packing
010	1	Subrectangular cut, <i>c.</i> 0.4m across, <i>c.</i> 0.2m deep	Posthole
011	1	Timber post, fill of 013	Stake
012	1	Green-grey clay with moderate mussel shells, fill of 013	Posthole packing
013	1	Cut, same as 010	Stakehole
014	1	Timber post, fill of 016	Stake
015	1	Light brown silty clay, fill of 016	Decomposed wood around driven stake
016	1	Subcircular cut, <i>c.</i> 100mm across, <i>c.</i> 100mm deep	Stakehole
017	1	Black silty clay with moderate mussel and occasional oyster shells	?Dumped deposit
018	1	Brown-green silty clay, occasional mussels, oysters and organic remains	?Dumped deposit

019	1	Banded brown, black, green silty clay with frequent mollusc shells	Dump
020	1	Grey-brown silty clay with occasional mixed mollusc shells	Dump or occupation layer
021	1	Light grey with mid grey mottle, very fine sandy silt with moderate charcoal flecks	Dump or re-deposited natural
022	1	Timber post, fill of 023	Stake
023	1	Sub-circular cut, <i>c.</i> 100mm across, <i>c.</i> 380mm deep	Stakehole
024	1	Mid brown silty clay with moderate charcoal flecks and occasional roots	Occupation or dumped deposit
025	1	Mid brown silt with moderate straw inclusions	Occupation layer
026	1	Light blue-grey fine sandy silt	Natural deposit
027	1	Light grey-green clay	Natural deposit
028	2	Brick wall standing to a depth of <i>c.</i> 1.7m	Cellar wall
029	2	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent brick inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks	Levelling deposit
030	2	Yellow-brown sandy silt with occasional shell and occasional charcoal flecks	Construction deposit
031	2	Light red bricks with moderate grey-white mortar	Wall
032	2	Mid brown silty clay with moderate bricks and occasional mortar fragments	Construction deposit
033	2	Light brown with orange-brown mottle fine sandy silt, containing occasional small pebbles and brick fragments	Levelling deposit
034	2	Same as 032	Construction deposit
035	2	Dark grey with dark brown mottle clay silt, containing occasional small pebbles	Dumped deposit
036	2	Grey-brown silt with frequent bricks, tile fragments and roots <i>c.</i> 1.8m thick	Cellar backfill
037	2	Light blue-grey with light green-grey mottle sandy silt, containing occasional small pebbles	Dumped deposit
038	2	Linear cut, west-east, <i>c.</i> 0.7m long	Robber cut

039	2	Mid grey-brown fine sandy silt	Dumped deposit
040	2	Light grey-blue with orange mottle fine silty sand	?Re-deposited natural
041	2	Dark brown fine sandy silt	Dumped deposit or occupation layer
042	2	Mid green-brown clay silt	Dumped deposit or occupation layer
043	2	Dark brown clay silt	Dumped deposit or occupation layer
044	2	Dark green-brown silty clay	Dumped deposit or occupation layer
045	2	Dark grey-brown silty clay	Dumped deposit or occupation layer

### APPENDIX 3

The Finds  
by Hilary Healey

CONTEXT	TRENCH	DESCRIPTION	DATE
002	1	4 blue and white transfer printed pottery, including a pie dish	19th century
002	1	6 pieces stoneware, including 5 ink bottles and 1 ?pancheon	Lt 19th-20th century
002	1	1 piece ceramic drain pipe	
002	1	1 piece breeze block	20th century
003	1	1 piece pottery, ?Lincoln ware	c. 14th century
009	1	1 piece pottery, ?Lincoln ware	c. 14th century
018	1	2 pieces pottery, including a bridge spouted jug, ?Lincoln ware	c. 14th century
019	1	1 piece pottery, ?Lincoln ware; 1 piece of ceramic tile	c. 14th century
020	1	1 Lincoln ware jug handle; 1 piece of Potterhanworth ware pottery	13th/14th century
021	1	2 pieces Lincoln type ware pottery	c. 14th century
034	2	2 pieces Toynton All Saints ware pottery, both jugs, 1 fragment decorated; 1 piece of tile	13th century
035	2	2 pieces of probable Lincoln ware pottery, including 1 jug fragment decorated with scales	13th/14th century

The collection, though small, corresponds well with the general pattern of medieval pottery assemblages from Boston, which are usually dominated by Lincoln and Toynton All Saints wares, supplemented by Potterhanworth wares. As such, the assemblage would appear to be a general domestic group.

The clear demarcation and lack of contamination in the finds from the separate contexts show that the cellars have not caused any undue intrusion of late materials into the early deposits.

## Appendix 4

### Animal Bone Assessment by James Rackham

The animal bone from the site is extremely well preserved with minimal or no erosion or post-burial destruction. Almost all the bones are stained black as a result of being buried in highly organic sediments. There is some evidence of damage by dogs on three of the bones recovered during the evaluation. Of the thirty-three bones recovered thirteen were cattle, twelve cattle size, three sheep or goat, one sheep size, one cat, one cod, one gadid (cod family) and one unidentifiable fragment. The cattle bones include fragments from calves in their first year.

#### Key to Accompanying Table

BOS	Cattle
CSZ	Cattle size
OVCA	Sheep/goat
SSZ	Sheep size
COD	Cod
GAD	Cod family
FEL	Cat
UNI	Unidentified

## ARCHIVE CATALOGUE OF ANIMAL BONES FOR BOSTON HIGH STREET, BHS96

SITE	CON.	SPEC.	BONE	NO	SIDE	FUS	ZONES	TOOTH WEAR	COMMENTS
BHS96 003	OVCA	TIB	1	R	DO	567			DISTAL THIRD
BHS96 003	BOS	TRV	1	F					BASE OF SPINE
BHS96 003	BOS	PH3	1	R					COMPLETE
BHS96 003	BOS	ULN	1	L					MIDSHAFT FRAGMENT
BHS96 003	CSZ	LBF	1	F					SHAFT FRAG
BHS96 003	CSZ	RIB	1	F	PN				PROX SHAFT-EPI LOST-CUT AND CHOPPED
BHS96 003	UNI	SKL	1	F					INDET
BHS96 009	BOS	TIB	1	L					PROX ANT SHAFT FRAG - DOG CHEWED
BHS96 017	BOS	RAD	1	R	PF	12			PROX END- Bp-70.0 PROX SHAFT SAWN OFF
BHS96 017	BOS	SCP	1	R	DF	1235			GLENOID AND NECK-SLC-43.2 GLP56.0 LG-46.7
BHS96 017	BOS	MTT	1	F					POST PROX SHAFT-CHEWED-POROUS BONE SURFACE-JUV
BHS96 017	BOS	SKL	1	L		5			FRONTAL-POROUS-CALF-POST DOG CHEWED
BHS96 017	BOS	MAND	1	L		23	fgh6		ANT JAW-CALF
BHS96 017	OVCA	ULN	1	L		3			FRAG PROX ARTIC AND SHAFT
BHS96 017	CSZ	SKL	1	F					DORSAL FRAG
BHS96 017	CSZ	LBF	1	F					SHAFT FRAG
BHS96 017	CSZ	VER	1	F					LATERAL FRAG
BHS96 017	COD	DENT	1	R					LARGE FISH
BHS96 018	CSZ	LBF	1	F					SHAFT FRAG
BHS96 018	GAD	RIB	1	W					LARGE FISH
BHS96 020	CSZ	RIB	1	R					PROX SHAFT FRAG
BHS96 020	SSZ	RIB	1	F					SHAFT FRAG
BHS96 020	BOS	PAT	1	R					DAMAGED -PROBABLY CHOPPED
BHS96 020	CSZ	UNI	1	F					BURNT BONE-INDETERMINATE
BHS96 021	BOS	PH2	1	F	PF				SPLIT LATERAL FRAG-ERODED
BHS96 021	FEL	MT3	1	R	DN				PROX END AND SHAFT
BHS96 035	BOS	MAND	1	R		5			POST PART ASCENDING RAMUS-ADULT
BHS96 035	BOS	CAL	1	R	PN	2			PROX EPI LOST-ZONE 3 BROKEN OFF
BHS96 035	OVCA	MAND	1	R		4578			DORSAL HALF ASCENDING RAMUS-M3 ERUPTED BUT LOST
BHS96 035	CSZ	RIB	1	F					SHAFT FRAG- IN 4 PIECES
BHS96 035	CSZ	RIB	1	F					SHAFT FRAG
BHS96 035	CSZ	LBF	1	F					SHAFT FRAG
BHS96 035	CSZ	UNI	1	F					CHOPPED AND CUT-POSS SCAPULA FRAG

## THE ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY CONSULTANCY

Key to codes used in the cataloguing of animal bones

SPECIES	BONE	SIDE	FUSION
BOS cattle	SKL skull	W - whole	Records the fused/unfused condition of the epiphyses
CSZ cattle size	TEMP temporal	L - left side	P - proximal; D - distal; E - acetabulum;
SUS pig	FRNT frontal	R - right side	N - unfused; F - fused; A - anterior; C - caudal
OVCA sheep or goat	PET petrous	F - fragment	
OVI sheep	PAR parietal	TOOTH WEAR	- Codes are those used in Grant, A. 1982 <i>The use of tooth wear as a guide to the age of domestic animals</i> , in B.Wilson, C.Grigson and S.Payne (eds) <i>Ageing and sexing animal bones from Archaeological sites</i> , 91-108.
SSZ sheep size	OCIP occipital	Teeth are labelled as follows in the tooth wear column:	
EQU horse	ZYG zygomatic	h ldpm4/dupm4	f ldpm2/dupm2
CER red deer	MAND mandible	H lpm4/upm4	g ldpm3/dupm3
CAN dog	MAX maxilla	I lm1/um1	
MAN human	ATL atlas	J lm2/um2	
UKN unknown	AXI axis	K lm3/um3	
CHIK chicken	CEV cervical vertebra		
GOOS goose, dom	TRV thoracic vertebra		
LEP hare	LMV lumbar vertebra		
UNB indet bird	SAC sacrum		
MALL duck, dom.	CDV caudal vertebra	ZONES	- zones record the part of the bone present.
GULL gull sp.	SCP scapula	The key to each zone on each bone is on page 2	
	HUM humerus		
	RAD radius	MEASUREMENTS	- Any measurements are those listed in A.Von den Driesch (1976) <i>A Guide to the Measurement of Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites</i> , Peabody Museum Bulletin 1, Peabody Museum, Harvard, USA
	MTC metacarpus		
	MCL-4 metacarpus 1-4		
	INN innominate		
	ILM ilium		
	PUB pubis		
	ISH ischium		
	FEM femur		
	TIB tibia		
	AST astragalus		
	CAL calcaneum		
	MTT metatarsus		
	MT1-4 metatarsus 1-4		
	PH1 1st phalanx		
	PH2 2nd phalanx		
	PH3 3rd phalanx		
	LM1-LM3 Lower molar 1 - molar 3		
	UM1-UM3 upper molar 1 - molar 3		
	LPM1-LPM4 lower premolar 1-4		
	UPM1-UPM4 upper premolar 1-4		
	DLPM1-4 deciduous lower premolar 1-4		
	DUPM1-4 deciduous upper premolar 1-4		
	MNT mandibular tooth		
	MXT maxillary tooth		
	LBON long bone		
	UNI unidentified		
	STN sternum		
	INC incisor		
	TTH indet. tooth		
	CMP carpo-metacarpus		

ZONES - codes used to define zones on each bone

SKULL - 1. paraoccipital process	METACARPUS -	1. medial facet of proximal articulation, MC3
2. occipital condyle		2. lateral facet of proximal articulation, MC4
3. intercornual protuberance		3. medial distal condyle, MC3
4. external acoustic meatus		4. lateral distal condyle, MC4
5. frontal sinus		5. anterior distal groove and foramen
6. orbitale		6. medial or lateral distal condyle
7. entorbitale		
8. temporal articular facet	FIRST PHALANX	1. proximal epiphysis
9. facial tuber		2. distal articular facet
0. infraorbital foramen		
	INNOMINATE	1. tuber coxae
MANDIBLE		2. tuber sacrale + scar
1. Symphyseal surface		3. body of ilium with dorso-medial foramen
2. diastema		4. iliopubic eminence
3. lateral diastemal foramen		5. acetabular fossa
4. coronoid process		6. symphyseal branch of pubis
5. condylar process		7. body of ischium
6. angle		8. ischial tuberosity
7. anterior dorsal ascending ramus posterior M3		9. depression for medial tendon of rectus femoris
8. mandibular foramen		
	FEMUR	1. head
VERTEBRA		2. trochanter major
1. spine		3. trochanter minor
2. anterior epiphysis		4. supracondyloid fossa
3. posterior epiphysis		5. distal medial condyle
4. centrum		6. lateral distal condyle
5. neural arch		7. distal trochlea
		8. trochanter tertius
SCAPULA	TIBIA	1. proximal medial condyle
1. supraglenoid tubercle		2. proximal lateral condyle
2. glenoid cavity		3. intercondylar eminence
3. origin of the distal spine		4. proximal posterior nutrient foramen
4. tuber of spine		5. medial malleolus
5. posterior of neck with foramen		6. lateral aspect of distal articulation
6. cranial angle of blade		7. distal pre-epiphyseal portion of the diaphysis
7. caudal angle of blade		
HUMERUS 1. head	CALCANEUM	1. calcaneal tuber
2. greater tubercle		2. sustentaculum tali
3. lesser tubercle		3. processus anterior
4. intertuberal groove		
5. deltoid tuberosity	METATARSUS	1. medial facet of proximal articulation, MT3.
6. dorsal angle of olecranon fossa		2. lateral facet of proximal articulation, MT4
7. capitulum		3. medial distal condyle, MT3
8. trochlea		4. lateral distal condyle, MT4
		5. anterior distal groove and foramen
RADIUS		6. medial or lateral distal condyle
1. medial half of proximal epiphysis		
2. lateral half of proximal epiphysis		
3. posterior proximal ulna scar and foramen		
4. medial half of distal epiphysis		
5. lateral half of distal epiphysis		
6. distal shaft immediately above distal epiphysis		
ULNA		
1. olecranon tuberosity		
2. trochlear notch- semilunaris		
3. lateral coronoid process		
4. distal epiphysis		



## Appendix 5

### Environmental Assessment

By James Rackham

When the site was visited on the 14th February two small trenches had been excavated but in only trench one had the cellar floor been lifted and the deposits below revealed. In trench one approximately 0.60m of stratigraphy had been exposed below the cellar floor. This comprised of compacted, extremely organic sediments with mussel shells, fish bones and visible plant stems, possibly straw or hay. Silt concentrations varied in the deposits which underwent oxidation and changed colour soon after exposure. The lower sediments also included some silty clay. The quality of survival of organic remains is exceptional and indicates the rapid build up of organic material in a damp anoxic (anaerobic) environment where little breakdown through the normal processes of decomposition was possible. The nature of these sediments is such that objects made of leather, textile and other organic materials will survive in excellent condition as will wood or timber structures, and as the results of the sample assessment below indicate, environmental material is also in an exceptional state of preservation. In these type of burial conditions metal (including iron) and glass objects are also exceptionally well preserved.

These sediments appear similar to those well preserved stratified occupation and other deposits found on Anglo-Scandinavian or late Saxon sites such as Coppergate (York), Dublin and Bull Wharf (London), where wooden structures survived in exceptional condition with an associated build-up of organic occupation deposits. At High Street, Boston the amount exposed was so small that no estimate could be made of the extent of the deposit, although waterlain silts did occur within trench two. It is possible that the observed organic sediments of trench one constituted the infilling of a ditch or pit whose edges lay outside the area of excavation, but alternatively the occurrence of worked stakes, *in situ*, could indicate structural features on a contemporary ground surface and potentially of some extent.

### Soil samples

Two samples were selected for assessment. Samples from contexts (018) and (021) in trench one were sub-sampled and a 1 litre (approx. 1kg) sample removed from each. These sub-samples were soaked in hot water and washing soda for a few hours and then washed and soaked over a 250 micron mesh sieve. All the organic material was swilled over onto the sieve while the heavier material was retained in the bowl. This was subsequently rinsed, dried and then sorted for finds. The organic fraction was drained and a paraffin flotation carried out. The resultant flot was studied under the microscope and assessed for quantity and diversity of identifiable biological remains. The organic residue which did not float was scanned under a binocular microscope in order to define the character of this material.

### Context [018]

The residue of the sub-sample from (018) included shells of cockle and mussel in equal abundance with small examples of both occurring. Hazel nuts, small fragments of brick or tile (likely modern contaminants), occasional fish bones, small pieces of leather and wood were all identified. The paraffin flot contains numerous fragments of insect, particularly beetle

elytra, heads and thorax, insect wings and occasional puparia. Seeds are markedly less common in the flot. The organic residue while still containing fragments of insects and plant seeds is composed largely of plant stem material, possibly straw or hay. The assemblages are terrestrial with a diversity of species, and although there may be a number of species typically found in decomposing plant matter the relative absence of puparia suggests that little foul material or excrement was present. Without specific identification little further can be said.

### **Context [021]**

This sample contained a higher proportion of silty clay sediments and contains very little cockle and mussel shell. One or two tiny fragments of brick or tile were present (likely modern contaminants), two fragments of animal bone, occasional fish bone, one or two small pieces of roundwood and a small piece of cinder. Insect fragments were again common in the flot and seeds occurred with similar frequency to the sample from context (018). Carbonised cereal grains are also present. The remaining organic residue is very similar to that from (018) and appears to be composed largely of fragments of hay or straw.

There is sufficient identifiable insect and plant material in these samples to determine the character of the deposits and possibly identify whether they represent floor deposits, rubbish build-up, stable debris or dumps in a pit. No microscopic analysis for pollen, parasite eggs, diatoms or other microflora has been carried out. Considering the exceptional preservation these elements will survive well and provide crucial information, the latter particularly with reference to questions of salinity or possible tidal influences on the deposits, and evidence for parasite eggs may help identify or eliminate stable sweepings as an origin for the organic material.

### **Conclusions**

The exceptional preservation indicates rapid burial and little decomposition. Such deposits occur where material is accumulating rapidly such as on a floor, rubbish dump or in a pit and thereafter becoming sealed by further deposition. The visible stratigraphy was horizontal and may have built up within a large pit or across the floor of a structure or yard, the latter less likely since there appears to be little post-depositional disturbance of the deposits. The insect assemblages are likely to permit definition of whether the deposits built up within a structure or a pit on the basis of the frequency of fauna characteristic of indoor and outdoor habitats. The detailed analysis of the samples collected during the evaluation would considerably improve our understanding of the archaeological sequence.

The quality of the deposits indicates that they will contain finds and environmental data of 13th to 14th century date in an exceptional state of preservation, the latter in large quantities, and able to supply a resource for the comprehensive interpretation of archaeological deposits.

### **Further work**

Post-excavation analysis of the samples collected during the evaluation phase would permit a more accurate definition of the archaeological deposits revealed and make available data of some importance to future sites in the area.

## Appendix 6

The Molluscs from 17/19 High Street, Boston (BHS96)  
by Gary Taylor

The investigations, although small-scale, produced a relatively large group of mixed mollusc shells which were probably obtained from the Wash. Oyster and mussel, which occurred in almost equal numbers, dominated the assemblage, providing approximately 85% of the collection.

Context	Trench	Oyster	Mussel	Cockle	Comments
003	1	18; size range 43-79 x 40- 60mm	11; size range 35-46 x 19- 24mm, plus one 28 x 13mm	6; size range 22-27 x 26- 32mm	4 oyster shells fused together
009	1	2; size range 45-47mm x 50mm	8; size range 42-49 x 21- 23mm		
017	1		1; broken		
018	1			1; size 30 x 34mm	
020	1	1; size 61 x 61mm			
035	2	3; size range 61-71 x 56- 60mm			
TOTAL		24	20	7	

The mussel shells are remarkably uniform in size. Their length averages 42mm (general range 35-49mm) and width 22mm (general range 19-24mm), including a single very small example of 28 x 13mm from context 003. The low variance in the size range indicates that the mussels were obtained through a deliberate, selective, cropping pattern.

A wide range of sizes is represented by the oyster shells. Their length varies from 43-79mm (average 55mm) and width 40-61mm (average 50mm). This lack of correspondence is more representative of natural catches, rather than managed beds where size uniformity is characteristic. Moreover, four of the oyster shells were fused together, suggesting that they came from over-populated beds. Cumulatively, the evidence would therefore suggest that the oysters were purely natural, which would be somewhat unusual in the late medieval period, or, more probably, that the shell beds were poorly managed allowing a wide age range of oysters and cramped growth conditions (J. Rackham, *pers comm*).

## Appendix 7

### Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling Ancient Monuments - Extract from *Archaeology and Planning* DoE Planning Policy Guidance note 16, November 1990

The following criteria (which are not in any order of ranking), are used for assessing the national importance of an ancient monument and considering whether scheduling is appropriate. The criteria should not however be regarded as definitive; rather they are indicators which contribute to a wider judgement based on the individual circumstances of a case.

i *Period*: all types of monuments that characterise a category or period should be considered for preservation.

ii *Rarity*: there are some monument categories which in certain periods are so scarce that all surviving examples which retain some archaeological potential should be preserved. In general, however, a selection must be made which portrays the typical and commonplace as well as the rare. This process should take account of all aspects of the distribution of a particular class of monument, both in a national and regional context.

iii *Documentation*: the significance of a monument may be enhanced by the existence of records of previous investigation or, in the case of more recent monuments, by the supporting evidence of contemporary written records.

iv *Group value*: the value of a single monument (such as a field system) may be greatly enhanced by its association with related contemporary monuments (such as a settlement or cemetery) or with monuments of different periods. In some cases, it is preferable to protect the complete group of monuments, including associated and adjacent land, rather than to protect isolated monuments within the group.

v *Survival/Condition*: the survival of a monument's archaeological potential both above and below ground is a particularly important consideration and should be assessed in relation to its present condition and surviving features.

vi *Fragility/Vulnerability*: highly important archaeological evidence from some field monuments can be destroyed by a single ploughing or unsympathetic treatment; vulnerable monuments of this nature would particularly benefit from the statutory protection that scheduling confers. There are also existing standing structures of particular form or complexity whose value can again be severely reduced by neglect or careless treatment and which are similarly well suited by scheduled monument protection, even if these structures are already listed buildings.

vii *Diversity*: some monuments may be selected for scheduling because they possess a combination of high quality features, others because of a single important attribute.

viii *Potential*: on occasion, the nature of the evidence cannot be specified precisely but it may still be possible to document reasons anticipating its existence and importance and so to demonstrate the justification for scheduling. This is usually confined to sites rather than upstanding monuments.

## Appendix 8

### The Archive

The archive consists of:

- 45 . . Context Records
- 3 . . . Photographic Records
- 2 . . . Site Matrices
- 8 . . . Scale Drawings
- 1 . . . Box of Finds

Plus archive from preceding Watching Brief

- 11 . . Context Records
- 1 . . . Photographic Record
- 1 . . . Site Matrix
- 2 . . . Architects Drawings
- 1 . . . Borehole Report

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services  
The Old School  
Cameron Street  
Heckington  
Lincolnshire  
NG34 9RW

City and County Museum, Lincoln Accession Number 16.96  
Archaeological Project Services project code BHS96