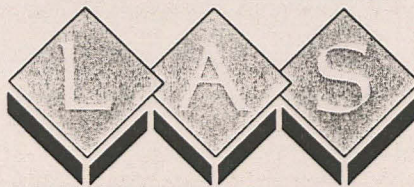


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# LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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FRANCIS HOUSE SILVER BIRCH PARK GREAT NORTHERN TERRACE LINCOLN LN5 8LG

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**37 Bailgate Lincoln  
Conversion of Outbuilding  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Site Code: LBG 96

LNCC Museum Accn No. 157.96

SK 97634 72052

for

**Robin Bradley Building Design  
on behalf of Mrs C. Lloyd**

**December 1996**



Lincoln County Council  
Administration

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6.1.97.

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# 37 Bailgate Lincoln

## Conversion of Outbuilding

### Archaeological Watching Brief

#### **Summary**

*A watching brief was carried out during alterations to outbuildings for domestic use. It established that no medieval or Roman horizons were disturbed. However, the stone foundations beneath the north wall of the outbuildings may be the remnant of an older, possibly medieval, land boundary, similar to that forming the south boundary wall of the garden.*

#### **Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Robin Bradley to undertake an archaeological watching brief on behalf of Mrs Christine Lloyd at 37 Bailgate, Lincoln. The work was carried out on November 4th and 5th during removal of existing floor surfaces and excavation ~~to the~~ for the installation of a concrete ground sill, hardcore, damp-proof membrane and new concrete floor.

#### **Archaeological Background**

37 Bailgate, also known as the Old Barley Mow, is located on the west side of Bailgate and lies within the medieval part of Lincoln known as The Bail close to the northern entrance, Newport Arch (Pl. 1). The boundaries of the Bail were formed by the Roman walls of the upper town or Upper Colonia. To the east lie the remains of the bath house complex, recorded in the 19th century, and to the south lay the Roman forum (Figs. 1 and 2).

#### **Method**

The existing concrete floors were removed by the builders. All archaeological features were recorded and photographed and a general description of the standing building was also made. Deposits were allocated context numbers for the purpose of recording. These are referred to in the text, figures and context list (Appendix 1).

#### **Setting**

The remains of an east-west limestone wall forms the south boundary to the west garden. This is of dressed blocks and mostly overbuilt in brick by neighbouring properties. To the east (running through the next property), it steps up a few metres, displaying occasional butt-joints and possibly re-laid large quoin-sized blocks, but some positioned as if *in situ*. All of this also is incorporated in and overbuilt by brick properties of mostly 19th century date (Pl. 2).

The west boundary is formed by a fence running from the south wall (which continues westward) to meet the north wall (1). This is also of limestone blocks and rubble, varying from c.450-500mm thick and up to c.800mm in height above garden level (Pl. 3). It continues westward for a few metres where it meets a north-south brick wall, beyond which nothing is visible above



ground. Near the north-west angle of the garden a few large medieval architectural fragments of unknown origin have been incorporated in the much-reduced and repaired wall remains (Pl. 4). They include two possible shaft or pier blocks of up to 350mm diameter; a jamb/newel block with shaft c.240mm diameter; and a sill/drip mould. The visible parts of the wall are much re-pointed over an earlier matrix of discoloured lime mortar.

The brick overbuilds of varying heights use (and re-use) various types and sizes of brick. Further east, parts of the wall have been totally replaced by brick. A few metres west of the west outbuilding the wall has been rebuilt to a height of over 2 m (Pl. 5). From this point eastward the wall served as the northern wall to the outbuilding west bay until it partially collapsed in April 1996, being subsequently demolished and the roof left supported by props. That to the east bay still remained mostly as an inner skin (2).

The present owner bought the property in 1979 and states that at the time there was a low-walled stone pig-sty adjoining the west wall of the outbuilding. The outbuilding roof was 'lower and nearly flat and covered with corrugated iron sheeting'. The numerous improvements and repairs carried out during the 1980's include the re-build and raising of the outbuilding west gable (3) and the re-build of the south wall of the outbuilding and kitchen (4), re-using the original bricks; laying a concrete floor in the west bay, drainage, and the fitting of a coupled-rafter roof using salvaged timber, and a covering of pantiles. A quantity of late 19th century bottle glass had been retrieved from the wall (2) during clearance of the collapsed portion.

### **The Outbuilding (Fig. 2)**

The lowest few courses of the west wall (3) appear to have been left *in situ*, sample brick dimensions are 225 x 1110 x 57-60mm, of dark red, variously sooted or whitewashed. All mid and lower courses of (3) and (4) are matching in type. The upper external skin of (3) is mostly of large pale orange bricks, 235 x 116-118 x 85mm, with a single narrow, shallow 'finger' frog on the straw-impressed face. The reverse face is even but rough-textured.

The partition wall (6), dividing the west and east bays, was of the same brick type and size as re-used brick in (3) and (4) and in a slightly varying 'garden-wall' bond of between three and five stretcher courses to one header course in half-bricks. Two sample dimensions were 235 x 112 x 52mm and 216 x 108 x 57mm; both without frogs; the former type having been found in late 18th century contexts elsewhere. This, with minor differences, is the size and bond of the main building elevations to and above the street access passage, although the first-storey courses of the latter are in a slightly larger brick size.

The partition contained three full length timbers each occupying the equivalent of a complete brick course length (3.77m), width (110mm), and height up to 80mm. These were spaced evenly, between eaves height and floor level (Pl. 6). The timber at eaves level acted as a tie beam, a half lap at each end was dovetailed into the eaves plate and fixed with two large iron



nails driven at 45°. The north eaves wall-plate appeared to be original and contemporary with the cross-tie.

Above the tie the wall contained two types of bricks, - (A) of similar size to those in the west upper gable (3) with the same 'worm' frogs (a full-length narrow, shallow gutter, tapered at each end with minute cross-ridges throughout) and (B) also with the same frog, measuring 233 x 112 x 62mm. The clasped purlins, the thin collars and some of the rafters appeared to be of some age. Fixing throughout was by nailing and no assembly marks or evidence of previous use were found.

### ***West Bay***

A concrete floor (17) was installed 1980's in several panels separated by thin timber levelling and expansion strips. Overall height was as the contemporary threshold at 68.98m OD. The floor sealed a contemporary drainage duct bedded in sand at the south west corner.

Removal of the concrete and bedding sand revealed an accumulated thin layer of dark sandy soil (18) a few 19th and 20th century sherds were found, also a plastic/celluloid eye-patch adjacent to a slightly disturbed area near the centre of the west wall.

Removal of (18) exposed an undulating floor of dark red bricks (19) sample sizes: (A) 230 x 110 x 72-75mm and (B) to east side, 225 x 110 x 57-60mm; both without frogs. They were laid tight in a general matrix of dark sandy soil and of no set pattern, but in distinct areas, each with its own alignment except those containing quantities of half-bricks. The floor was sunk almost to a 'gutter' profile, north-south, near the west wall.

The larger brick sizes suggests a late 19th century date; the thinner bricks being of similar proportions to those in the surviving walls, also those re-used in walls (3) and (4). The undulating level indicated a long period of use.

An east-west aligned gap in the bricks was occupied by a decorative sandstone fire-place lintel (20A), complete but cracked, having a sunken panel of radiused ends, flanked by incised roundels each in the form of a torus with a flush centre boss (Pl.7). Paint adhering was light brown over green-brown over a pinkish-grey. A matching shorter jamb (20B), having the sunken panel but no roundels was found by the contractors (find position and alignment not known). To the rear ends were short channels for fixing irons, a quantity of lime mortar adhered to the rear face. The date range might possibly extend from late 18th - mid 19th century; its original location probably from within the property.

A degree of disturbance to the bricks to each side of 20A and its almost precise central alignment suggested that, though narrow, it may have been inserted for use as a partition base rather than simply an inclusion or a repair to the brick floor, in which case its deposition would be relatively late and almost certainly 20th century.



Beneath the bricks was an undulating layer of black soil (21), some coal dust/ash and occasional coal lumps evident, with numerous lenses, of varying thickness and colour, but frequently green-brown clay with chalk/lime lumps and flecks (Pl. 8). A few protruding small square stakes, damp but intact, were probably driven in from the surface of the brick floor (19) for levelling the trimmer strips and concrete.

Projecting from and butting the west wall, symmetrically placed, were the remains of two brick jamb or plinth bases (22). They were of two courses, white/cream lime mortar still adhering to the upper surface. Each was c.220mm wide; they projected c.450mm from the wall and were c.700mm apart. These were the remains of supports to either a sink, or a raised fire grate for heating a boiler of the wash-house type commonly used for animal feed or laundry, or a privy seat, although unless a bucket type, there was no trace of an infilled wall arch to a cess pit. (22) was non-structural and probably added to the original gable wall shortly after the latter was built (Pl. 9).

A post-hole (23) measuring 330mm east-west x 250mm north-south, and c.250mm deep, cut through surface 21 (Pl. 10). It was not established whether it was sealed by or cut through the brick floor (19), but it respected the lowest visible courses of wall (2), although it is not known if these courses were the originals or part of ?rebuild (2). It contained the rotted stump of a timber of rectangular cross-section, c100 x 50mm; held upright by a few stones and a brick fragment, the latter of dark red with small uneven sunk and lipped margins. The fill was loose dark grey soil with occasional small chalky fragments. A fragment of a porcelain handle was retrieved from the bottom of the fill. Although no other post remains were observed during the removal by the contractors of layer (21) and below, (23) may have been part of a system of temporary supports related to the rebuilt wall (2) and of late 19th century date.

### ***East Bay***

In the east bay was a concrete floor (16) rising from the south entrance (68.94m OD) to the north wall (2) (c69.25m OD). The south part (16A) appeared to be a modern sealing of an excavation to install a modern sink waste pipe (1980's?).

The northern area (16B) was probably an earlier 20th century floor. The sloping surface could only be for drainage, although the east bay is small if considered as a possible animal stall. No fittings survived to suggest this purpose. However, the previous existence of a pig sty adjacent to the west bay proves the presence of animals on the site in the present century. The east bay adaptation for animals therefore, is likely.

Removal of the northern area of concrete revealed a floor or surface of worn pebbles and stones (14), up to 250mm long and 100mm wide, widely spaced and bedded in a brown sandy clay (Pls. 11 and 12). The south area, more



disturbed, was composed of bricks (15), half bricks and fragments, being a separately surfaced area or repair of (14). The underlying layer was a redeposited mixture of clay and small stones.

The partition wall (6) was demolished and removal of the rubble exposed a course of projecting brick footings (68.77m OD) up to 230mm wide and in the same brick as (6). Original footings (8) to rebuild wall (3) and the double course of footings (9) to east wall (5) were all in the same type of brick and appeared contemporary.

Below the footings was a single course of limestone slabs and blocks (10) (68.70m OD) up to 450mm wide, c300mm long and where removed, up to 120mm deep bonded in clay and lime mortar (PL. 13). These were contemporary with wall (6).

Layer (24), removed from both bays and possibly the level from which the wall construction trenches were cut, was a dry, stiff brownish clay with some darker soil mixed, and occasional stones, pebbles, frequent chalk flecks and soft ?limestone/chalk lumps. The layer, of at least 150mm thickness was not bottomed, but may have sealed a darker layer or surface partly visible beneath the stone footings (10). The upper few centimetres of (24) merged indistinctly with a sealing layer of compact clay and ?lime (12) which appeared to be confined to the east bay, at the eastern side of which it became a dense concentrated mass of ?chalk and ?lime up to 20mm thick. At the east gable wall (5) it was disturbed and mixed with darker material as if cut through by the gable footing construction trench.

Sealed beneath (12) was an alignment of edge-bedded limestone slabs and blocks in the form of a 'kerb' (11). This ran from near the south-east door jamb to the east bay about 300mm west of wall (5); to a point c700mm west of wall (5) at the north end, and ending some 500mm short of wall (2), with no evidence of having extended to it (Pl. 14). North of this end the layer or lens was dark and similar to layer (21) in the west bay. The layer to the east of the 'kerb' was probed, but no evidence of any solid bed (eg for a gutter) was found. The underlying layer to each side of the 'kerb' appeared to be (24). It is possible that the 'kerb' was only to a pre-outbuilding garden area. The requisite depth for the new floor base had already been reached, precluding further investigation.

### **Discussion**

The large quantity of 19th century finds throughout the layers (despite a degree of contamination for those lowermost), a very small quantity of finds attributable to the 18th century and one or two of possibly 17th century origin, represent activity immediately prior to, but mostly during the use of, the existing outbuilding. The possible, but indistinct foundation trench to (5), the main house annexe, could not be clearly defined as cutting layer (12), and the latter may well have been a local spread of construction mortar rather than a deliberate floor surface.



The glass found in both the standing and previously demolished length of wall (2) proved that the above ground portion, at least, had been either rebuilt, or added to the external north-west angle of main annexe (5) whose brickwork had been pointed at the interface. If a pre-existing wall had been partially demolished to make way for the north wall of the house, a distance of at least 5m beyond seems excessive, unless the wall was in a very poor state of repair. Its below-ground width is unknown, but if of only c.450-500mm (in common with the remainder of the north wall boundary to the west) its antiquity is uncertain. The potential importance of the foundations of this wall can only be stated in reference to the surviving (medieval?) boundary (and house?) remains to the south, and the apparently medieval house fronting Bailgate and butting the north side of No 37. The stone remains have been extended in brick to two storeys, which incorporate re-set door arch lintels apparently contemporary with the original structure, the latter possibly of ?12th century date if not a late salvage of the adjacent Roman wall debris.

Wall length (1) and (2) themselves are an obvious re-use of stone incorporating blocks and detail fragments which could derive from any architectural category if placed in a 12th century context. One fragment retrieved from (2) by the contractors, is a corner or edge portion of a slab or block, minimum thickness 85mm, displaying a V-section outline decoration (Fig. 3). The carved face has a lime mortar adhering and the surface is partly reduced and eroded, some of it possibly by exposure before re-use. The one surviving edge surface has widely spaced bolster marks each of c.3-5mm width, at 45° to the adjacent surface plane. The groove is not very different to those used as bonding keys in newels or mullions, but in this case no channel or sinking for an iron rod is present. This may be a floriate cross such as those found on 13th century monumental or grave slabs or as found on pre-conquest capitals. The design is too fragmentary for positive identification, but indicates the potential for the retrieval of re-used fabric from relatively late levels.

The limited excavation showed that although there are, in the garden soil, substantial quantities of pottery covering the period of Romano-British to modern; pre-18th century layers within the area examined were little disturbed, there being no finds of medieval date either *in situ* or redeposited.

#### **Acknowledgements**

The writer is grateful to the owner, Mrs Christine Lloyd, for information on the building and previous finds. Also to the contractors, Keith Lidgett of Bardney (Graham Lidgett, Ian Cheetham and David Grayson) for their assistance.

Mick Clark  
December 20th 1996



**Context list LBG 96.**

- 1 North boundary wall up to West end of West outbuildings; up to 0.80m remaining above garden level, c.0.50m wide.
- 2 North boundary wall of limestone blocks, North wall to East and West bay of West outbuilding. That to West bay already demolished.
- 3 Brick wall; rebuilt West gable wall to West bay.
- 4 Brick wall; South wall of West and East bay and kitchen; rebuilt.
- 5 West wall of kitchen. Brick. Forms East wall of East bay.
- 6 Partition wall dividing East bay and West bay. Half brick thickness in stretcher bond with occasional header courses (in half bricks). Timber laced, one as tiebeam.
- 7 Not used.
- 8 Brick footings (original) under rebuilt 3.
- 9 Brick footings to West wall of kitchen.
- 10 Limestone footings to partition wall 6. ?one course c.450mm width.
- 11 North - South 'kerb' of edge - laid limestone slabs and blocks, East bay.
- 12 Layer: compact clay and ?lime merging to dense mass of ?chalk and lime up to 20mm thick.
- 13 Not used.
- 14 Cobbled surface in East bay. Worn pebbles and stone up to c.250mm x 100mm widely spaced, bedded in brown sandy clay.
- 15 Brick floor, mixed, disturbed, - repair of 14.
- 16A Concrete floor, West bay.
- 16B Northern area of 16A.
- 17 Concrete floor, including threshold. West bay only.
- 18 Layer: dark sandy silt.
- 19 Brick floor, West bay only.
- 20A and B ?Sandstone fireplace surround re-used in floor. West bay.

- 21 Layer: black soil, coal dust. Numerous lenses of varying thickness and colour, including green brown clay with chalk/lime lumps and flecks.
- 22 Brick footings to ?supports, butting and perpendicular to centre of West wall. Two courses.
- 23 Post-hole, butting North wall in West bay. 330mm x 250mm x 250mm deep. Contained remains of timber post 100mm x 50mm.
- 24 Layer: dry, stiff, brownish clay; some dark soil mixed in; with occasional stones, pebbles, frequent chalk flecks and soft ?chalk lumps.



## Appendix 2

### Site Archive List

2 pages (double sided) of survey notes and sketches

24 context descriptions

context list

Brickgraph

Drawing of an architectural fragment

Draft report

correspondence

photographs :

Film no. 96/65 neg. 21 -35

Film no. 96/74 neg. 0 - 15



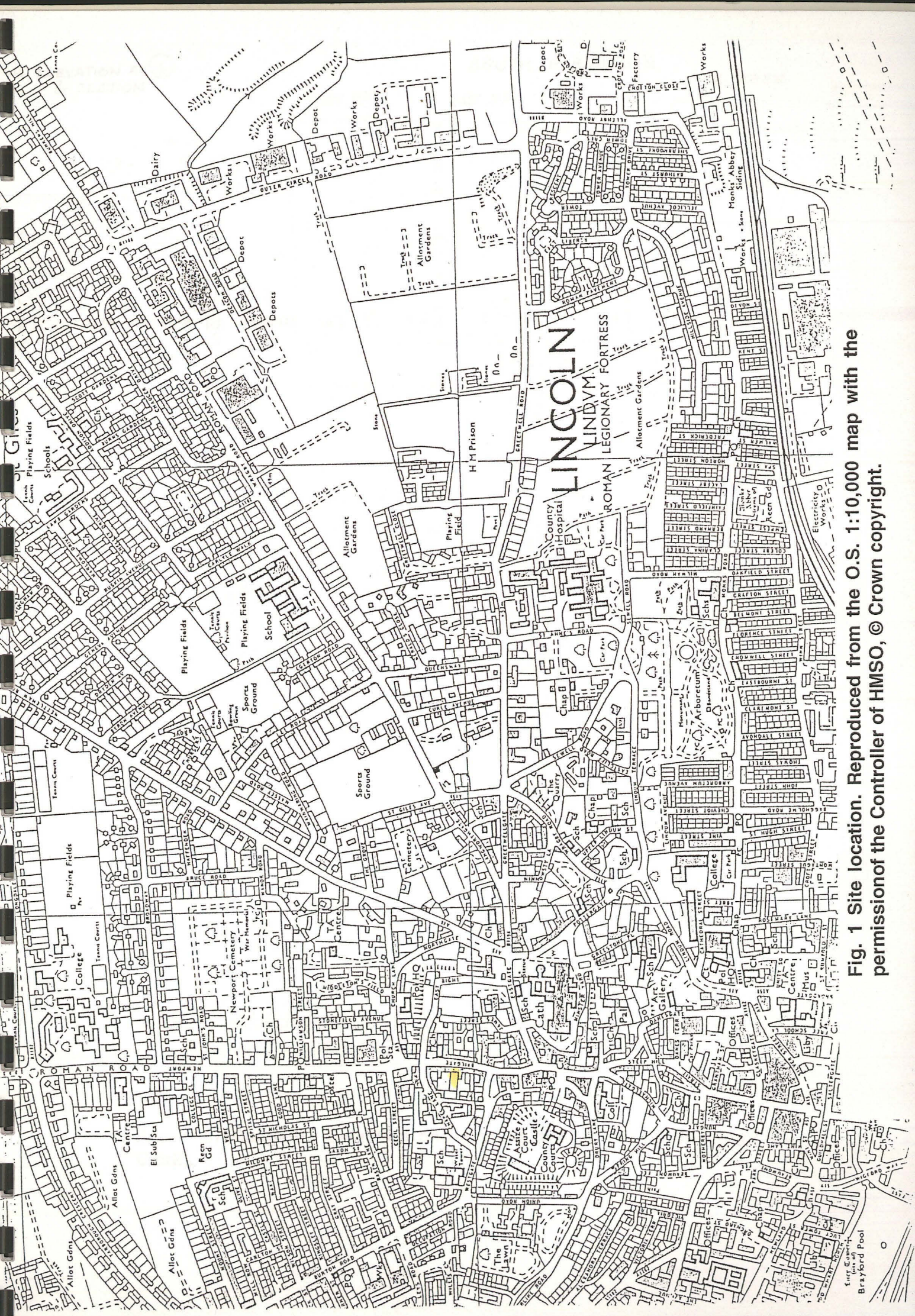


Fig. 1 Site location. Reproduced from the O.S. 1:10,000 map with the permission of the Controller of HMSO, © Crown copyright.

Source: Ordnance Survey  
Brayford Pool



W. ELEVATION AT ⑥  
& SECTION

SOUTH ELEVATION

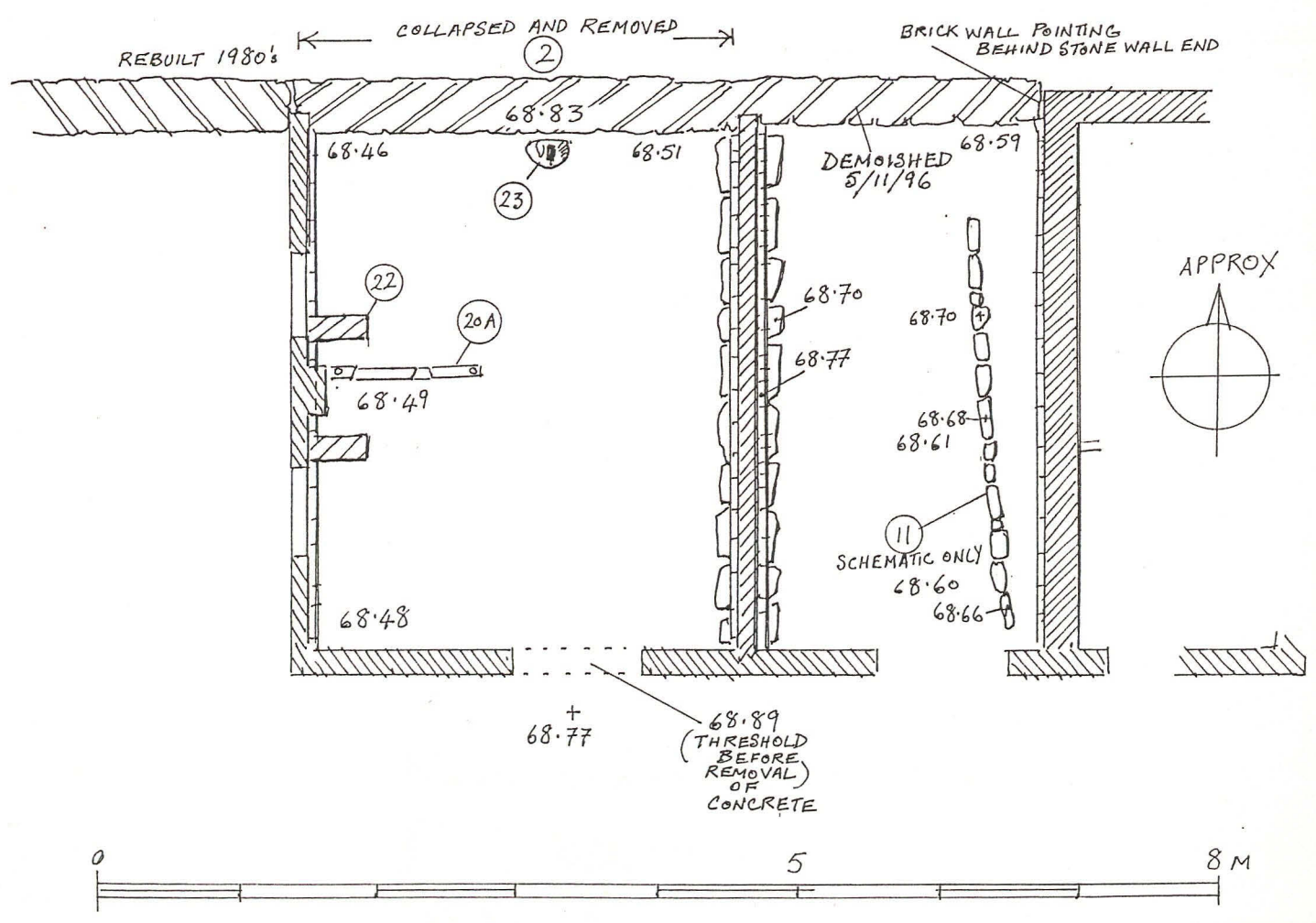
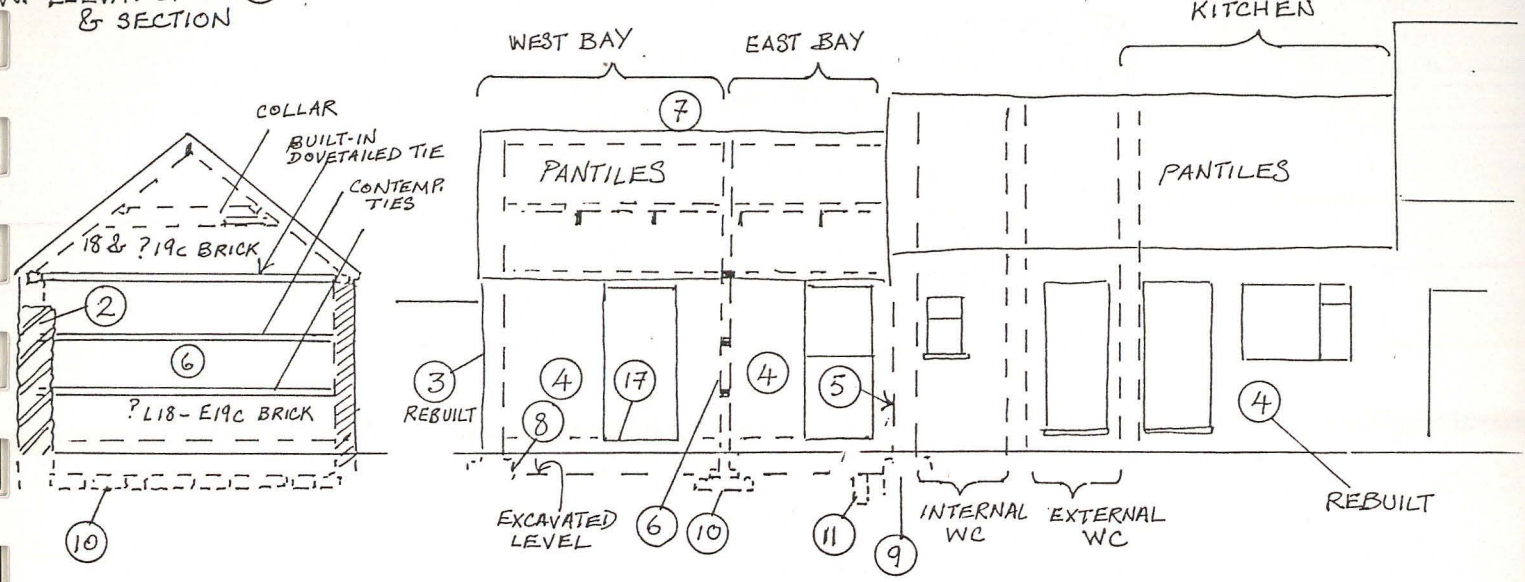


Fig. 2 37 Bailgate. Elevation and ground plan of the outbuildings (M. Clark).



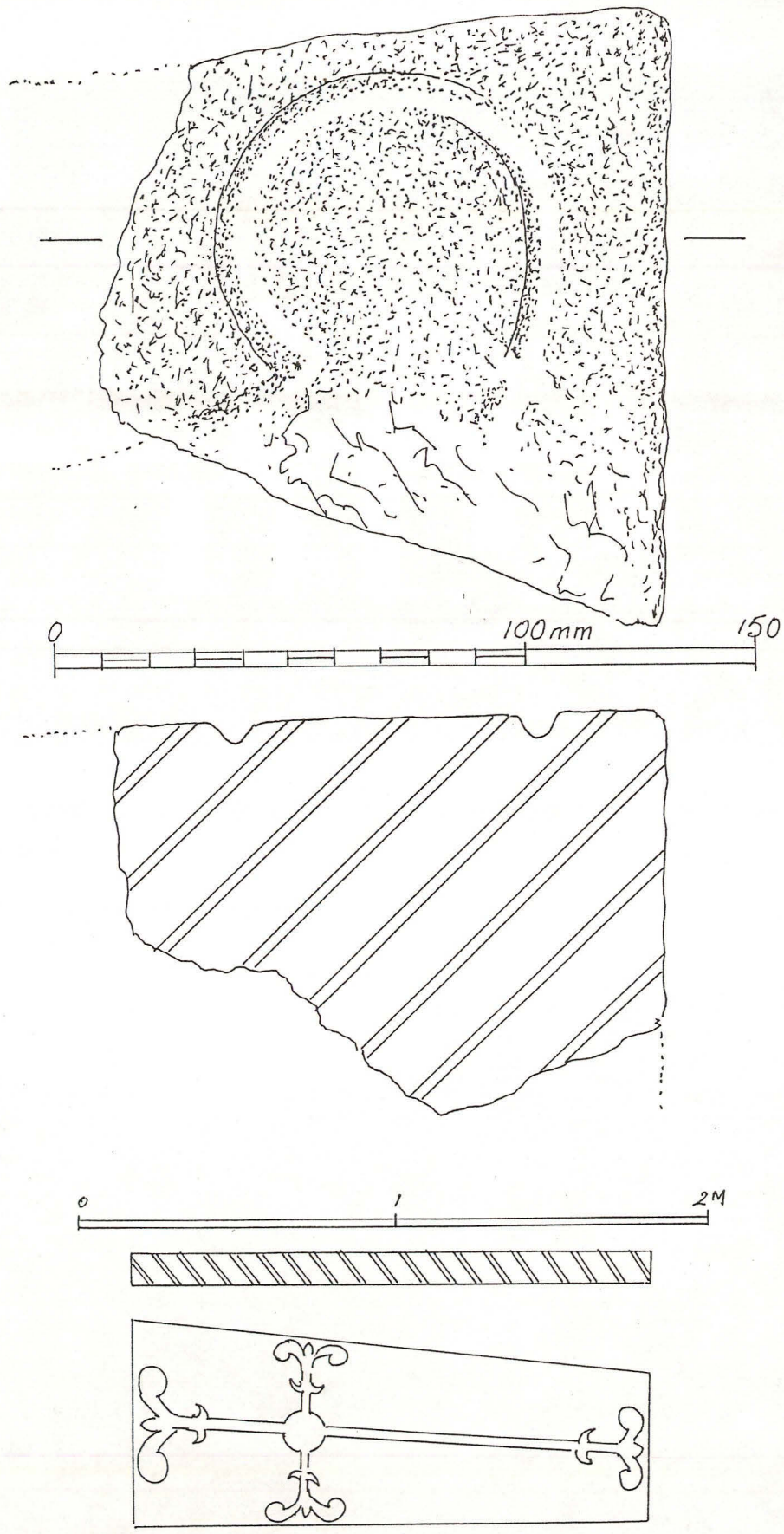


Fig. 3 Fragment of 13th century grave slab found reused in wall 2, with suggested reconstruction of complete slab (M. Clark).





Pl. 1 East frontage of 37 Bailgate, note stone doorways on adjacent property to right

Pl. 2 Garden south wall looking east.







Pl. 3 Garden north wall, 1, looking west.

Pl. 4 Architectural fragments in the garden north wall.







PI. 5 General view of outbuildings showing different roof heights.

PI. 6 Partition wall, 6, elevation in west bay.







Pl. 7 Fireplace lintel, 20A, in bedding sand, west bay.

Pl. 8 West bay after cleaning. Brick supports, 22, to left.







Pl. 9 Close-up view of brick supports, 22, for fireplace or copper boiler.

Pl. 10 Post-hole, 23, with post butting north wall of west bay.







Pl. 11 General view of east bay and partition wall.

Pl. 12 East bay, cobbled surface, 14.







Pl. 13 Stone slab, 10, foundation beneath partition wall.



Pl. 14 East bay, stone kerb, 11, along north wall.