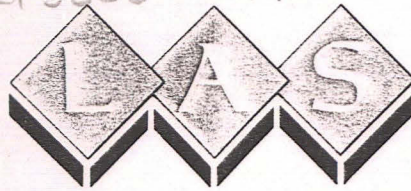


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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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

**74A Winn Street, Lincoln
Archaeological Watching Brief**

NGR: SK 9897 7133
Planning Appl. LE26/0514/96
Site Code: LWS 97
LCNCC Museum Accn No. 7.97

Report for

Quality Homes (Lincoln) Ltd

March 1997

Lincolnshire County Council
Am...
LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
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19.3.07

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Summary

Excavation of footings for three single bedroom dwellings at land behind 74A Winn Street, exposed two limestone walls of unknown date, both situated at the NW end of the site. Their differing alignments suggests that they were not contemporary. The east wall had been robbed. No other archaeology was noted. Lack of archaeological features at the western side of the site may imply that the grounds of the Priory of St Mary Magdalene did not extend as far east as the monitored site.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Quality Homes (Lincoln) Ltd, in November 1996, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the digging of foundation trenches for three single bedroom dwellings at the rear of 74A Winn Street (Fig. 1 and 3), in accordance with the requirements of Condition 2 of the Planning Permission granted by the City of Lincoln Department of Planning.

The purpose of the watching brief was to record any archaeological deposits disturbed during groundworks at the site.

Archaeological Background

The site of the proposed development lies adjacent to the boundary of the Priory of St Mary Magdalene (Monk's Abbey), Scheduled Ancient Monument no. 24, NGR SK 98907130. The Priory was a Cell of the great Benedictine Abbey of St Mary in York, which had begun to acquire land in Lincoln soon after the Conquest. The Cell itself was founded in c.1110-1118 and situated in St Mary's estate to the east of the city, covering land between the River Witham and the top of the hill to the north. The Cell appears to have had an uneventful career, being a minor house manned by two or three monks under a Prior, all of whom were sent from York. By the early 15th century it was said that no monks had resided there for ten years and that the property was let to laymen. The Cell was dissolved, along with St Mary's in York, in 1539, passing rapidly into lay hands (Stocker 1984).

Method

An Ordnance Survey bench mark (8.67m) located on the corner of Spa Street/Monk's Pathway was used to establish a temporary bench mark (10.45m OD) within the site.

Prior to excavation of the foundations the concrete slab from the previous structure on the site was removed together with other building debris, to allow

clear and safe access. A further 0.10m - 0.30m of soil was later removed from the whole area because snow had made ground conditions very wet and the heavy machinery had churned up the ground.

The foundation trenches for the three dwellings were excavated using a JCB with a 0.70m toothed bucket, to a depth of c.1.10m or down to the natural orange yellow sand. The water table was reached at 9.29m OD.

Monitoring of the trenches took place during excavation. Trench sides were inspected for archaeological features if none were observed during digging. Features noted were assigned context numbers for recording purposes, which are referred to in the text and illustrations (see Appendix 1 for context list). A photographic record, plan and section was also made of each feature.

The Foundation Trenches (Fig. 4A and B)

A 0.80m wide wall, **3** (Pl.2), was observed at the NW corner of the site. It lay immediately below **1**, the rubble remains mixed with brown and grey clay silt, which was up to 0.20m deep in places. The wall survived to a height of 0.50m and comprised two courses of limestone blocks, aligned NW-SE, up to 0.80m x 0.70m x 0.20m in size. Some blocks were faced, mostly those on the south face of the wall. The stones were bonded with a cream coloured sandy mortar with small limestone fragments. The wall is presumed to have fitted perfectly into its foundation trench, **4**, as no such trench was noted. No finds were retrieved from the wall to enable dating.

0.80m east of wall **3** was another, more substantial limestone wall **10**, of similar size blocks to those in **3** and bonded with a cream mortar bonding (Pl.3, Fig. 4C). It was 1.10m wide and aligned NNE-SSW. As this wall did not form a right angle to **3** it may not have been contemporary. Root disturbance was noted, accounting for fragments of wood seen in deposit **9**, a brown grey clay silt which infilled areas where stone was absent. The wall sat upon a blue grey clay base with limestone inclusions, **11**, 0.30m deep, 2m wide, which infilled the base of the wall's foundation trench, **14**.

A 1.60m wide x 0.50m deep robber trench **8** (Pl.3), was recorded c.0.40m east of the wall edge of **10**. The mid-grey brown clay silt fill, **7**, produced no dating evidence, nor did brown grey clay silt **17**. **8** also cut layer **2** (Pl.3), a brown clay silt with charcoal and limestone inclusions, 0.50m deep in places. Deposit **2** (Pl.4) appeared to butt both walls, suggesting it is the remains of a later topsoil. This deposit, like all the other deposits encountered on the site, yielded no finds.

Directly below **2** lay **12**, 0.10m thick, which was more grey in colour than **2**, with no charcoal inclusions (Pl.3). This layer was only observed at the northernmost end of the site.

Layer **13** (Pl.3), a dirty mid grey clay silt, was sealed by **12** and cut by **14**. This layer is probably the same as **5** (Pl.4), which is the earliest soil horizon

encountered on site, being 9.78m OD at its highest point at the north end of the site, dipping south-westwards where it was recorded at 9.49m OD. Below 5/13 was the natural orange yellow sand, 6.

All the archaeological layers were cut by a very large modern pipe trench 15 (Pl.5), which measured c.3.30m in width and had a maximum depth of 1.20m. This feature, aligned north-south, ran the length of the site and was situated 3.30m from the site's western boundary wall which meant that approximately half the monitored area was disturbed by its presence. The trench contained a 0.40m diameter concrete water pipe and was filled with sticky buff clay and brown and grey silt clays, all assigned a single context 16 because they were clearly modern.

Discussion

The watching brief attempted to establish whether the grounds of the Priory of St Mary Magdalene extended into the development site. This proved difficult because of extensive ground disturbance, caused partly by the bad weather and partly from the presence of the large pipe trench which ran north-south through the middle of the site. A letter in the Lincolnshire SMR dated 20/7/85 refers to a spa stream running approximately between the existing east boundary of the Abbey and a path to the east, (where a footpath now exists). It states that in about 1928/9 the water supply was piped to the river. The 1907 second edition OS map (Fig. 2) shows a spring between the Abbey and the path, with the site of a fish pond to the NE, which presumably was also drained to make the area suitable for development. It is possible that the recorded pipe trench (15) was that referred to in this letter.

The west wall foundation trench closest to the boundary with Monk's Abbey, was devoid of archaeological features and contained only two layers which produced no pottery, suggesting this area of land had been little used, possibly due to being too close to the spring and fish pond area.

In the absence of any pottery or other datable finds from the site it is impossible to say whether the walls recorded at the north end were associated with the Priory.

M. McDaid
March 18th 1997

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank Mr C. Bray for his help and assistance, Tony Gilliatt the JCB driver, Paul Lane and Neil Bray the site hands Sarah Grundy and Mark Bennet at Lincolnshire SMR. The author would also like to thank Naomi Field and Geoff Tann for their comments and guidance and Jane Frost for collating the report.

Reference

Stocker, D. 1984, 'Recent work at Monk's Abbey, Lincoln' *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology* 19, 103-105.

APPENDIX 2

Contents of Site Archive

2 scale plans
1 sketch plan
1 section, scale 1:20
16 Context sheets
1 Sheet of levels
Notes
Developer's plan

Photographs
Film No. 97/1 negatives 11 - 24
Film No. 97/2 negatives 00 - 19

Correspondence

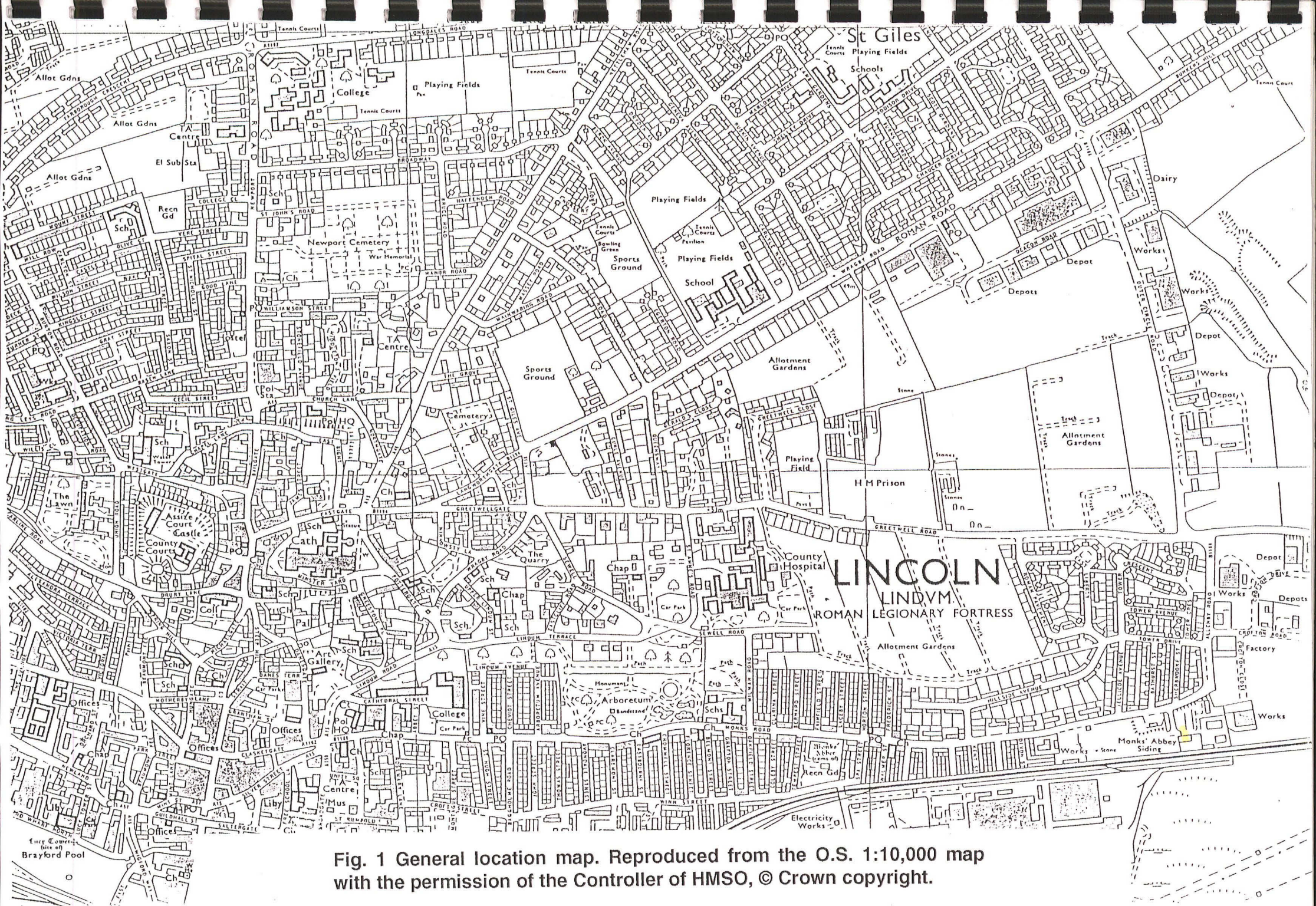


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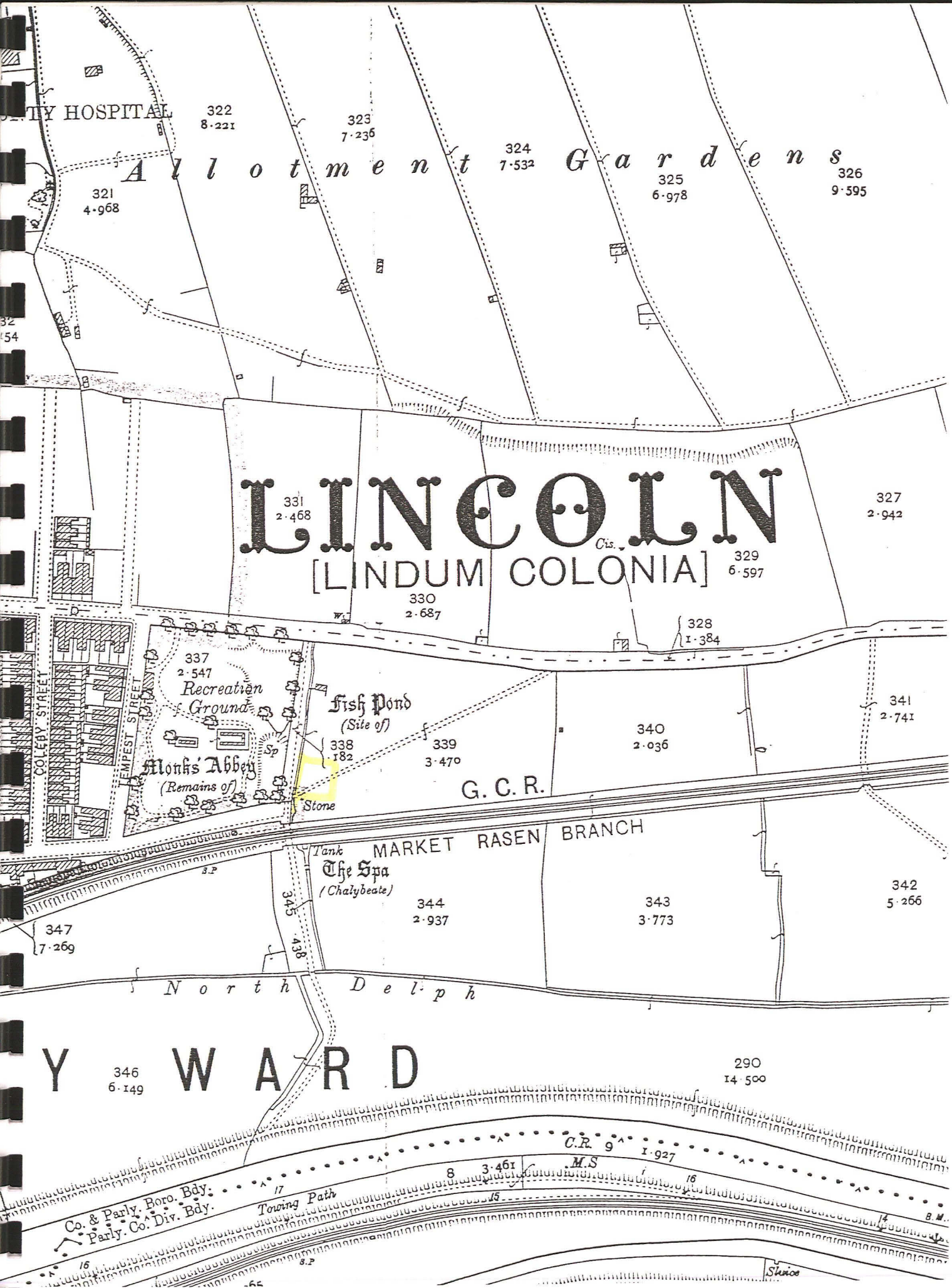


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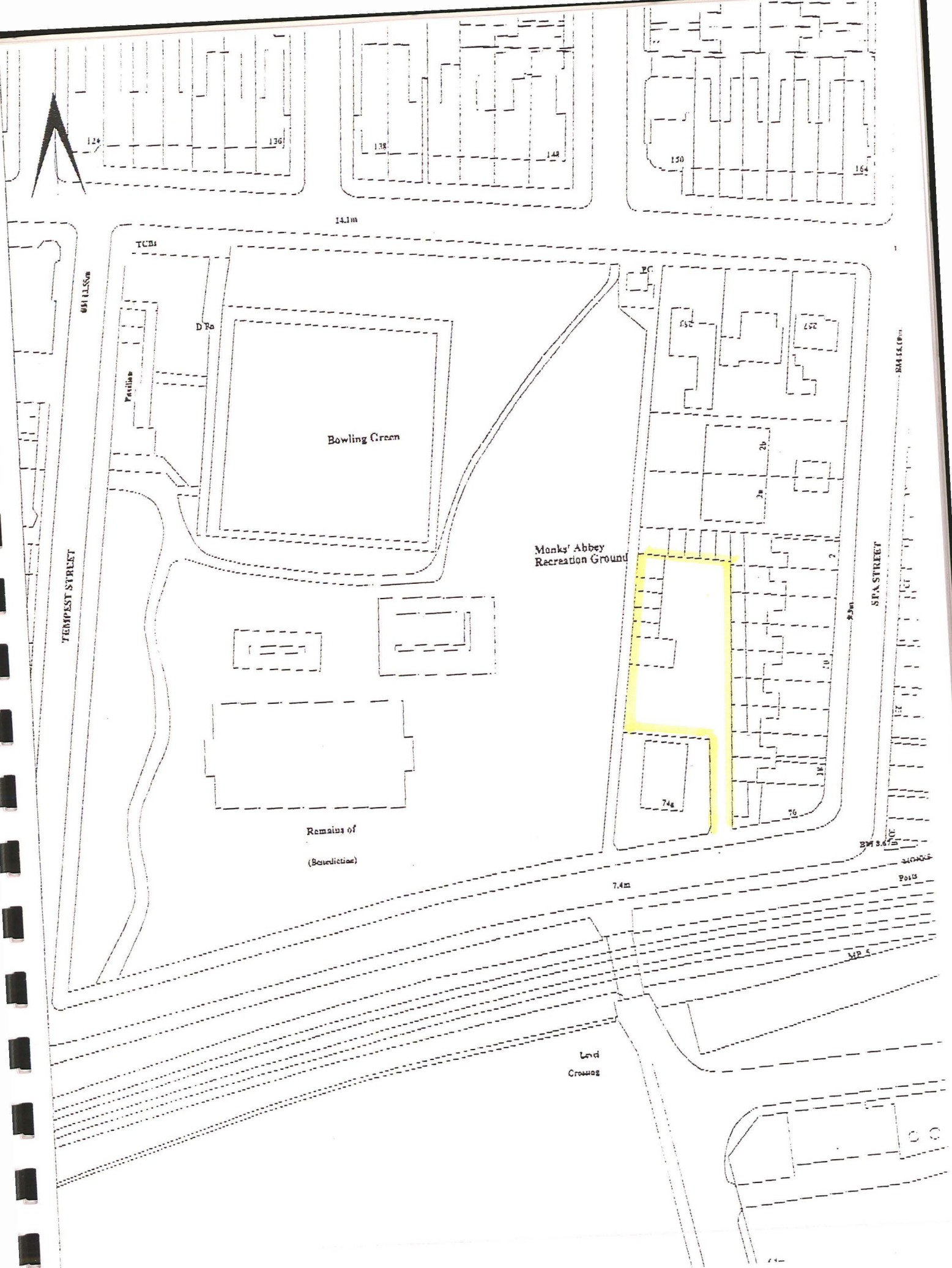


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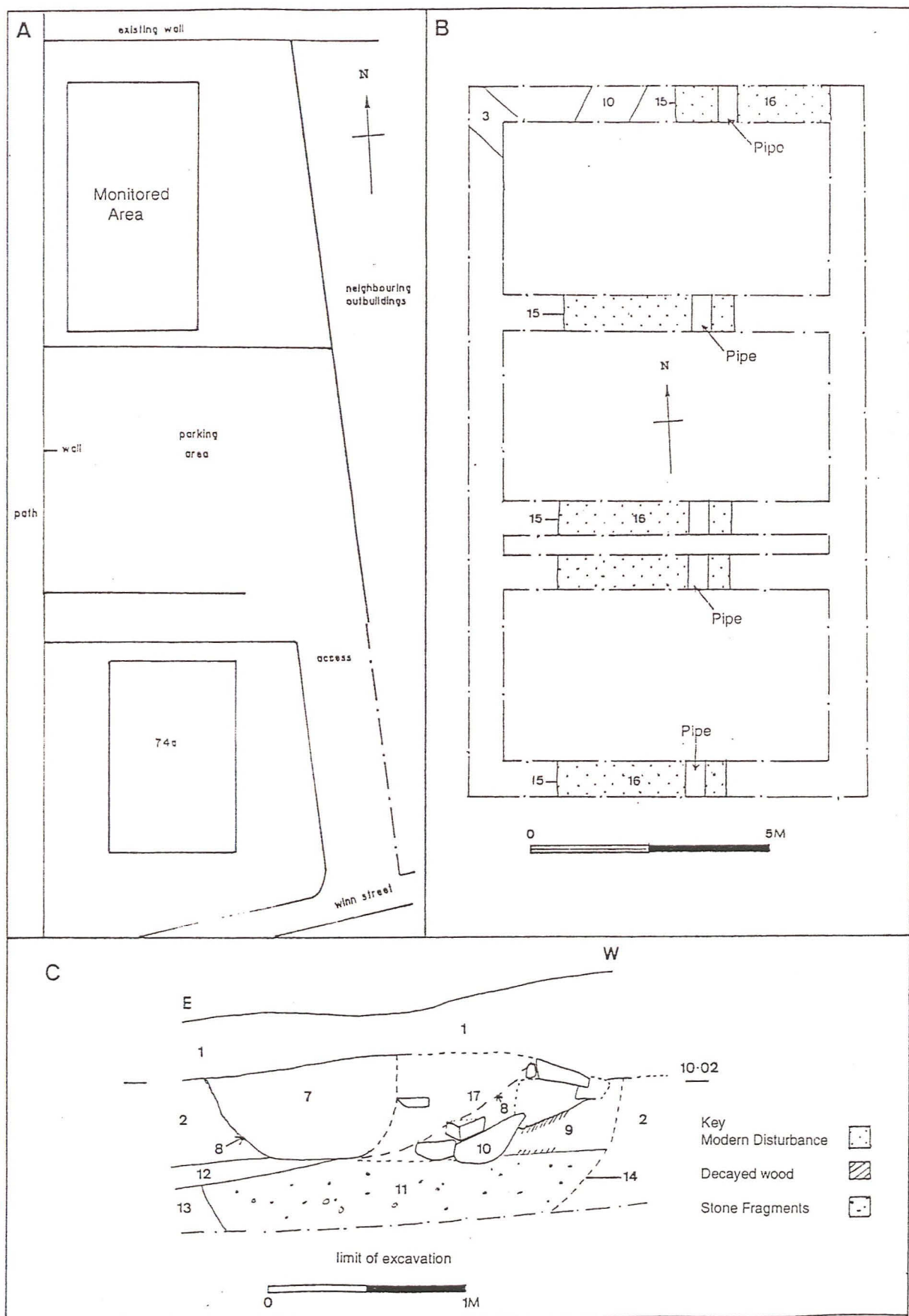
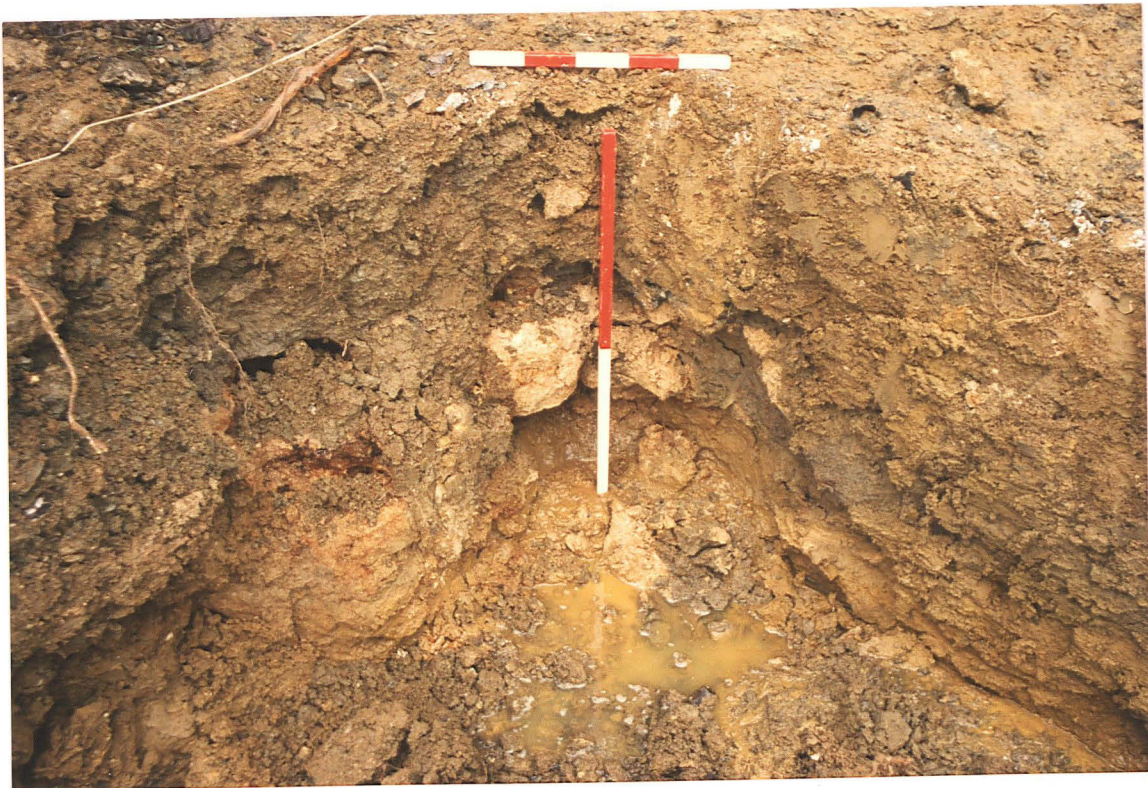


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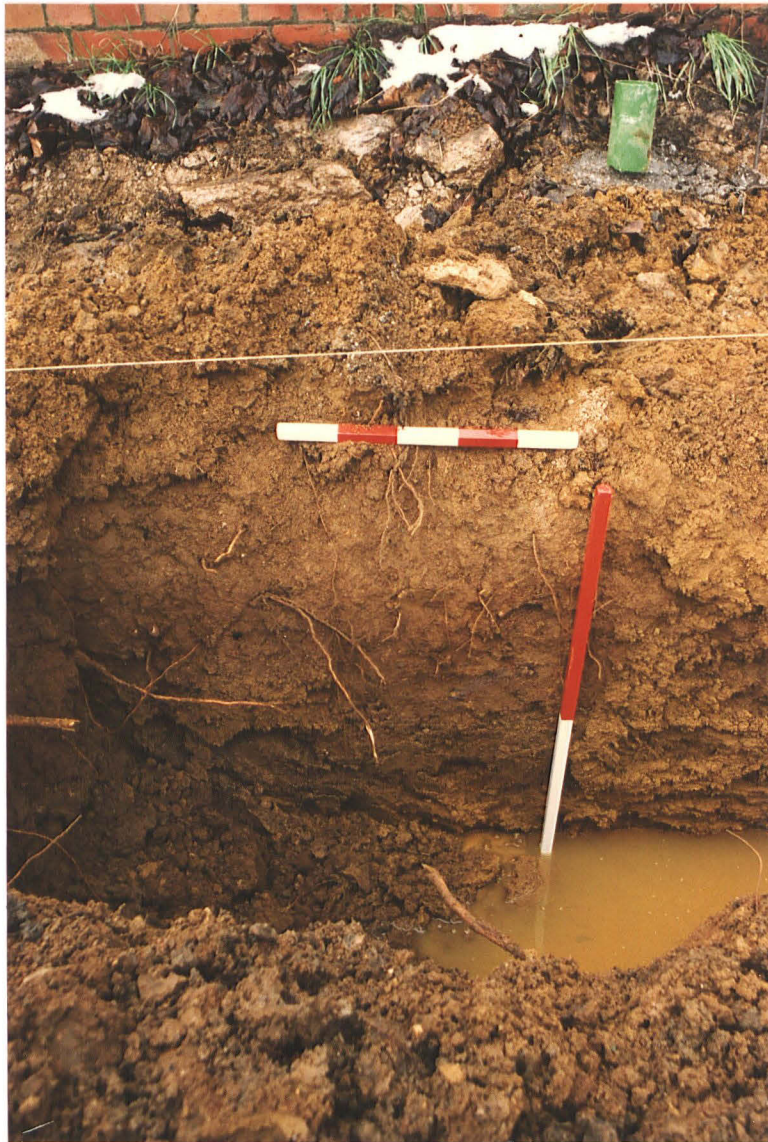




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