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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

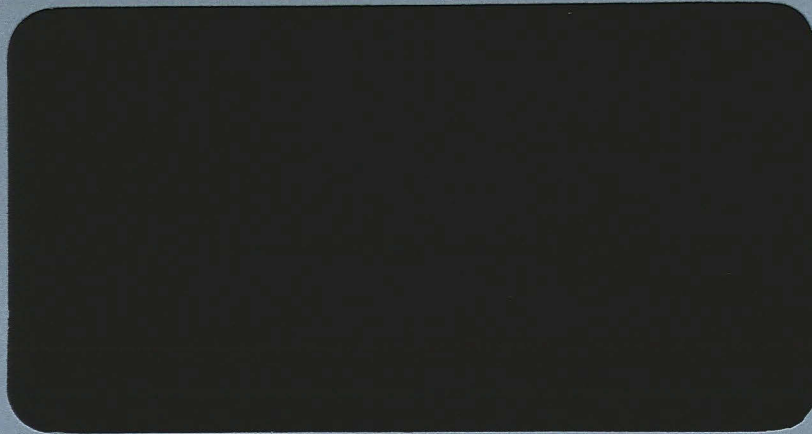
320 HIGH STREET, LINCOLN

Site Code: RHS 97
LCNCC Acc No. 96.97

Lincolnshire County Co.
Archaeology Section

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Site Code: RHS 97
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Report prepared for D Perkins (Chartered Engineer) by RL Schofield
May 1997

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1.0 Non-technical summary

In compliance with a planning condition issued by Lincoln City Council, D. Perkins, Chartered Engineer, commissioned Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) to undertake a standard archaeological watching brief during the construction of an extension to the rear of 320 High St, Lincoln.

Monitoring of a trench excavated to accommodate a raft foundation exposed a series of Medieval and/or early post-medieval hearths and an oven, with possible associated floors. Earlier features were also exposed, but were poorly understood

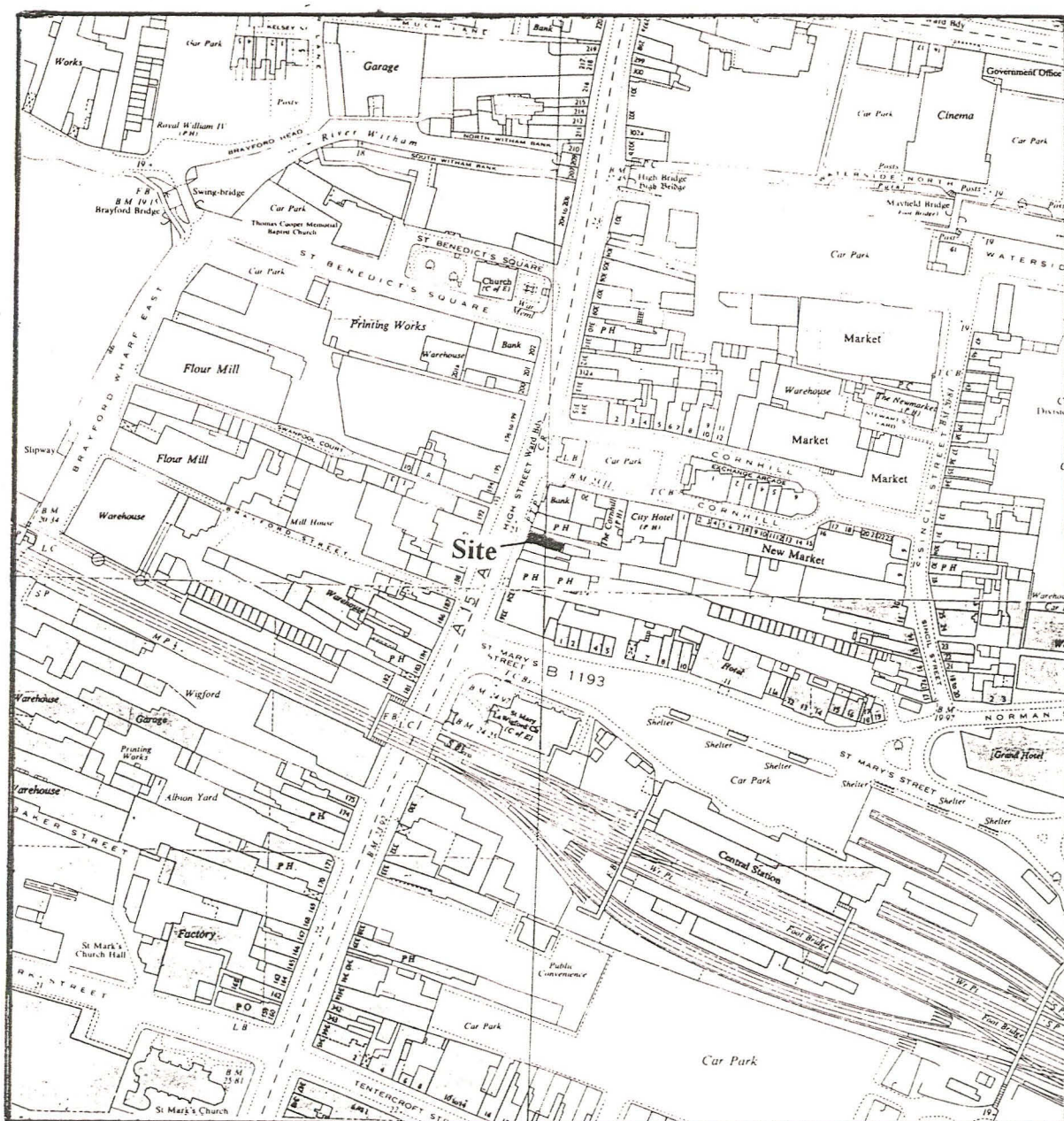


Fig. 1: Site Location taken from 1:2500
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2.0 Introduction

In November 1995 an application was submitted to Lincoln City Council (on behalf of Radleys Butchers) to erect a two story pitched roof extension to the rear of 320 High St, Lincoln. This involved lowering the ground level at the back of the building to create a level floor through to the High St.

This report details the archaeological work undertaken by PCA. Copies will be deposited at the County Sites and Monuments Record, with the Lincoln City Archaeology Officer and the City and County Museum, Lincoln. A summary on the results of the brief will be submitted also to the editor of the county archaeological journal, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*, for inclusion in a future edition. An ordered archive of both paper and object elements is in preparation and will be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, within six months of project completion.

The watching brief was undertaken by the writer.

3.0 Purpose and methods

The Department of the Environments introduction of Planning Policy Guidance Note 16, *Archaeology and Planning*, in 1990, made archaeology a 'material consideration' within the planning process for the first time.

"DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS WHICH ARE LIKELY TO ADVERSELY AFFECT A SITE OF POTENTIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST WILL NORMALLY BE SUBJECT TO A CONDITION OF PLANNING PERMISSION ALLOWING A WATCHING BRIEF TO BE MAINTAINED DURING DEVELOPMENT"

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Officer recommended that an archaeological scheme of works should be implemented during this development.

Archaeological monitoring comprised the following elements:

- (i) Observation and recording of overburden stripping and inspection of subsoil for archaeological features.
- (ii) Collection/recording of unstratified and stratified artefacts.
- (iii) Observation and recording during foundation trenching, followed by inspection of section and plan surfaces for archaeological features.

Recording was undertaken using standard watching brief record sheets, supplemented with scale drawing and colour photography. Features and deposits were plotted on a 1:50 location plan supplied by the developer.

Section faces were battered to approximately 60° due to the proximity of surrounding buildings; these were corrected when drawn.

Following the completion of fieldwork, the county Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) was consulted (Appendix 10.1).

4.0 Location and description

Lincoln is situated in a natural gap in the north-south limestone ridge at a point where the Witham cuts towards the Wash. The site at 320 High St occupies a central location in the lower city approximately 210m south of the south gate of the Roman *colonia* (and its successor, the medieval Stonebow), 135m south of High Bridge. The High St is over the line of Roman Ermine Street and is approximately 1 km north of its junction with the Fosse Way.

The site lies on alluvial deposits close to the River Witham, 180m east of the Brayford Pool. The central National Grid reference is SK 97500 71021

5.0 Archaeological and historic background

There is little evidence of prehistoric activity in the centre of Lincoln, though deposits of this date are usually beneath succeeding archaeological phases. Some sites in the lower city have produced Iron Age pottery and possible contemporary features (Holmes Grainwarehouse, 181-2 High Street, Lincoln).

The name Lindvm is first mentioned in Ptolemy's Geography as an area populated by the Catyeuchlani (the Corieltavi, a tribal group which occupied the East Midlands during the closing phases of the Iron Age). Lindum is a British name meaning settlement by a lake. The Holmes Grainwarehouse site may represent part of this settlement.

Lincoln played a significant roll in Britain during the Roman period; with a Neronian Legionary Fortress situated at the top of the hill, and the second century walled Roman Colonia which extended as far south as Saltergate. Outside this area a large suburb developed, with a linear commercial ribbon development extending down both sides of Ermine Street, well beyond the present St Marks Station Complex.

During the Medieval period the site was situated in the suburb of Wigford: whether Wigford translates to one of the Anglo-Saxon "WIC's" is uncertain. Medieval churches are numerous in the area with the nearest being St John the Evangelist; sited on the present 195 High St, 10m north on the west side of the High St. The fabric of the church was sold in 1552.

North of St John's lies St Benedicts Church, which is mentioned in a writ of Henry 1st dated 1100-7 A.D. There still remains some 13th century remains in the fabric of the present building.

St Mary Le Wigford is 60m south of the site on the same side of Ermine Street. It was built between 1258-79 A.D.

Given the high density of medieval churches, it can be assumed that the medieval population was substantial.

Work carried out in 1994 by L. Donel (C.L.A.U. Report N° 80) involved the monitoring of two trenches, 26m and 40m in length, approximately due east of the present site. Donel's interpretation was that the trenches were situated in the gardens behind a medieval linear development on Ermine Street.

6.0 Results

The site was inspected during excavations for the raft on the 23rd and 24th of April 1997. The cutting was made using a Kobota excavator with a toothed bucket, and soil was manually barrowed to a skip on the High St.

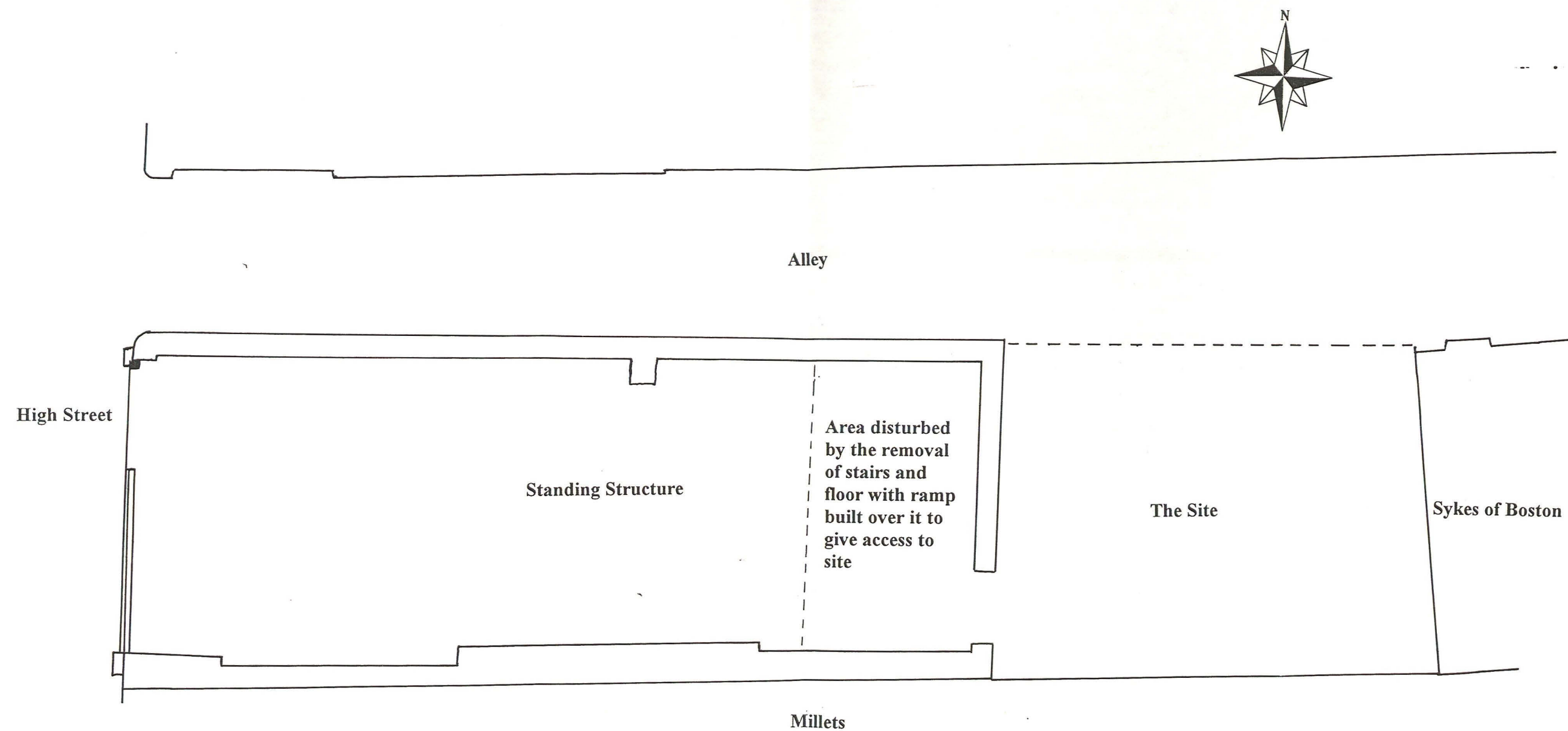


Fig. 2: Plan of existing building on the site
Scale 1:50

On arrival the site had been cleared, and a series of brick footings remained. These were quickly plotted in advance of digging (Fig 3). Where the south wall had been removed, it could be seen that the present Millets wall had been built against this structure (see plate 2). Digging commenced in the south-east corner of the plot, and most of the eastern half was removed on the first day, with the remainder removed the following day.

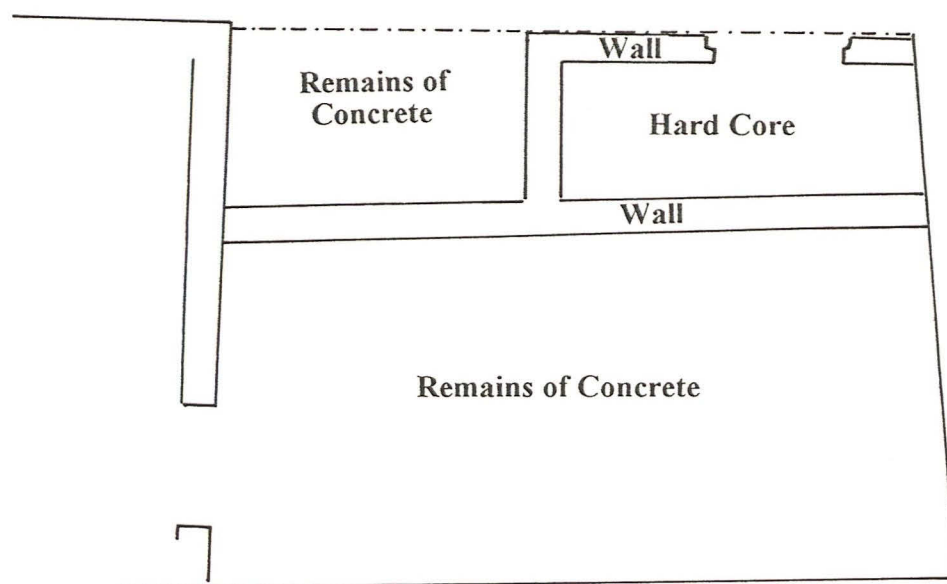


Fig. 3: Brick wall remains, exposed on arrival to site (scale 1:50)

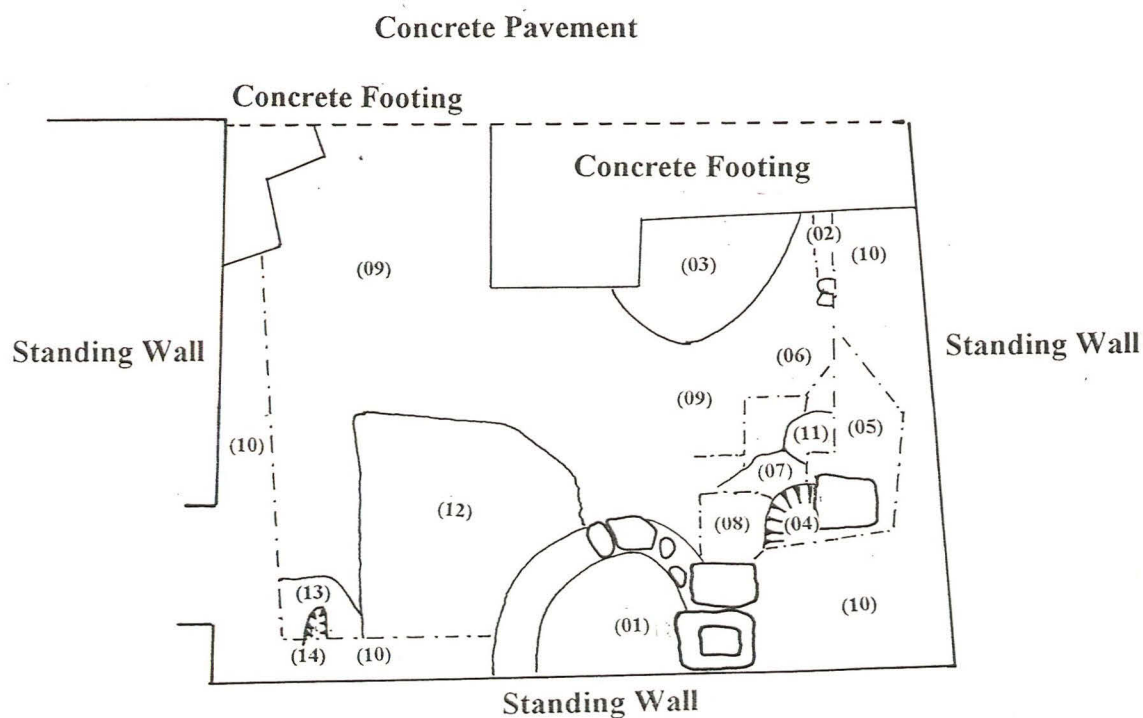


Fig. 4: Plan of deposits and remains in base of excavation (scale 1:50)

The archaeology, which was beneath modern disturbance, consisted of the following sequence:-

Context	Description
(10)	A thick layer of light grey-brown soil with 60% brick/tile and limestone rubble. This may have represented more than one destruction layer, but no clear boundaries were defined. Worked stone fragments from this context included part of a window mullion, a stone finial, and a fragmentary stone chimney. The deposit sealed (01) and (05). It contained pottery of C18th date.
(01)	A limestone and lime mortar oven base with its east side standing to a height of 0.3m. The centre of the base was heavily oxidised although it had been cleaned out prior to destruction. The structure appeared to relate to floor remains (08) and (05). Finds retrieved from this context were laid on the oven base and probably indicate its destruction rather than its use. The pottery suggests destruction between the mid-C15th and the mid-C16th.
(04)	A small pit in floor (05) part sealed by a limestone slab flush with the floor (a repair to the floor over the pit?). Pottery suggests a date range between the mid-C16th and the mid-C17th
(05)	Remains of a mortar floor with ash rake-out layers sealing it - see fig 5; (08) on the edge of (01) would appear to be part of (05), (05) seals (06)
(08)	Small part of mortar floor; part of (05). (08) is cut by pit (04) which is part sealed by a limestone slab which sits in (05) as a floor repair over the pit
(11)	small pit which cuts (06) and (07) and is sealed by (05); containing many fragments of York stone roofing tile. A single pottery sherd suggests a possible date between the late C11th and the early C13th
(06)	Remains of an earlier mortar floor, comprising a mortar layer and ash rake-out type deposits sealing it, (07); would appear to be part of (06),
(07)	Small area of mortar floor; part of (06)
(02)	Tiled hearth base in the north-west corner of the trench floor and fine ash rake-out material associated with it in the east section
(12)	Pit seen in section and plan which is cut by (01); filled with an ashy soil containing large lumps of charcoal, it is sealed by (10) and cuts hearth base (13). One sherd of C13th pottery was recovered
(14)	A small slot running north south in the south-west corner of the site; filled with a dark ashy soil which in appearance may relate to (12); sealed by (10) and cuts (13)

(13) Fired clay area burnt *in situ*, a small hearth on the surface of deposit (09) cut by (12) and (14)

(03) Pit only seen in the base of trench which showed burning *in situ* on its edge; may have been another oven (due to time was not properly investigated); sealed by (02), cut into (09). One sherd of pottery was recovered, dating to the C11th or C12th

(09) Lowest context; a dark earth type deposit which lined the base of the trench. One sherd of pottery recovered; C12th or C13th

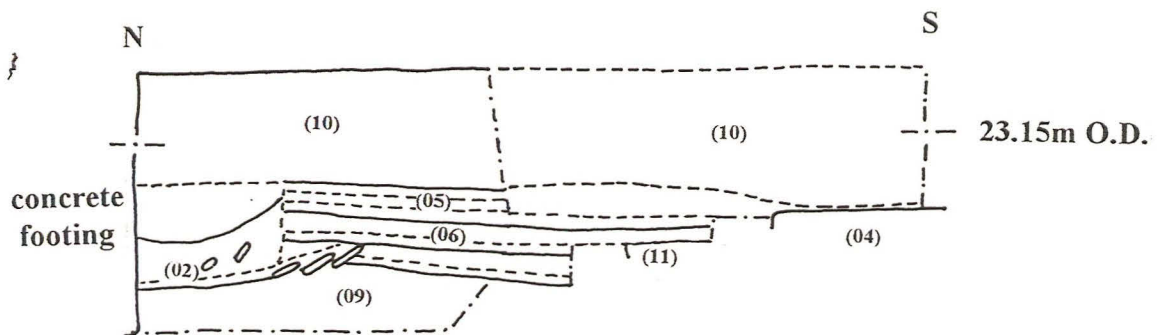


Fig. 5: East section of the site

Scale 1:20

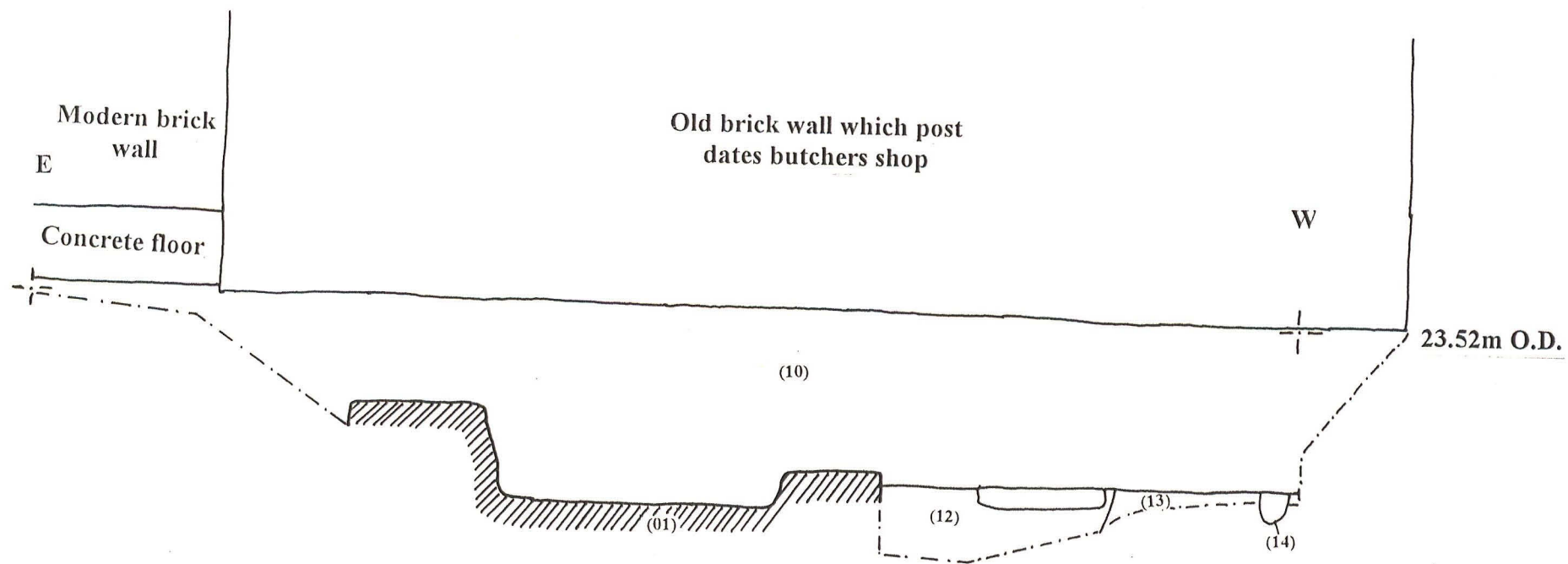


Fig. 6: South section of the site

Scale 1:20

7.0 Interpretation and discussion

No definitive interpretation is possible, given the limited size and scope of the area investigated. However, at least three phases of ovens/hearths with associated floors were exposed, which should relate to the medieval/early post-medieval linear development on Ermine Street. As no walls were defined it is difficult to say exactly where within any building the trench actually was.

The brief has demonstrated that complex and significant areas of archaeological remains can survive *in situ* beneath the present buildings occupying the urban centre around the site. Undisturbed remains lie close to the current ground surface and are therefore vulnerable to further development below approximately 23 m. OD.

8.0 Acknowledgements

The writer would like to thank Mr D Perkins for the commission, and the staff of the County Sites and Monuments Record for their help and assistance.

9.0 References

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10.0 Appendices

Appendix 1: Post-Roman pottery archive by J Young

POST-ROMAN POTTERY ARCHIVE: RHS97 WARE TYPES BY CONTEXT

Context	Ware	Sherds	Form	Comments
01	LMLOC	1	JAR/JUG	FABRIC B;GLZE;
01	THETT	1	PITCHER	FABRIC C;RIM & WIDE STRAP HANDLE
01	TOYII	1	JAR/JUG	GLZE
03	LFS	1	JAR	BS
03	VITR	1	CRUCIBLE	THICK GLASSY SLAG
04	BL	1	?	MP TYPE;16/17TH
04	LFS	1	JAR	BS
04	LSW3	1	?	BASE;SOOT
04	TOYII	1	JUG/CISTERN	BS;THU STRIP
09	EST	1	PITCHER	INT & EXT GLZE 10/E11
09	LFS	1	JAR	BS
09	LSW1/2	1	JAR/PIP	UNGLZE
10	LSW1	1	JUG/PIT	BS
10	LSW3	1	JUG	BS
10	WS	1	?	BASE
11	R	1	-	-
11	ST	1	JAR/PIT	GLZE;L11/12
12	LFS	1	?	BS
12	LSW2	1	JUG	BS;CU GLZE;UNDERFIRED

POST-ROMAN POTTERY ARCHIVE: RHS97 HORIZON DATING

Context	Earliest horizon	Latest horizon	Probable horizon	Date range
01	MH10	PMH3	-	mid 15th to mid 16th
03	ASH11	MH10	ASH11-MH3	11th or 12th
04	PMH2	PMH4	-	mid 16th to mid 17th
09	MH1	MH6	-	12th or 13th
10	PMH8	PMH9	-	18th
11	ASH14	MH4	-	late 11th to early 13th
12	MH4	MH6	-	13th

A small assemblage was recovered of pottery that is typical of material found in the city between the Roman and the early modern period. Interesting occurrences include a vitrified crucible of unknown date and a Thetford-type ware pitcher.



Plate 1

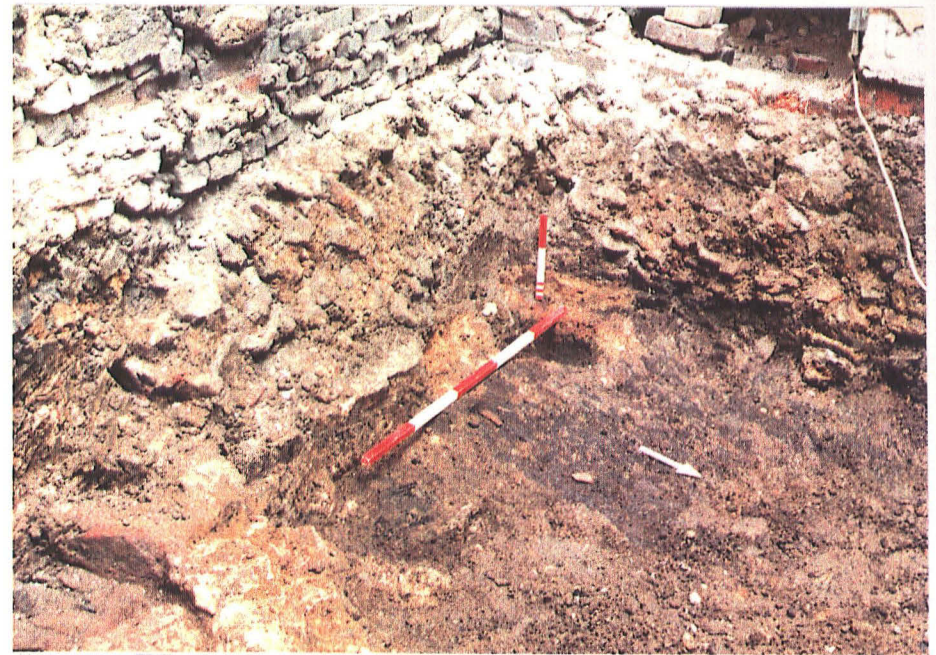


Plate 2



Plate 3

Colour plate 1: Shot from the west showing features at the east end of the trench

Colour plate 2: Shot from the north/east showing Hearth (13)

Colour 3: Shot of worked stone fragments recovered from (10)

Appendix 2: Colour photographs