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Louth: 9 Edward Street

An Archaeological Watching Brief

on behalf of

N. Loveley and Sons

August 1997

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**Louth: 9 Edward Street
Archaeological Watching Brief**

NGR:TF 32298711

32580 87140

Site Code: **LSR 97**

LCNCC Museum Accn. No **6.97**

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was conducted at 9 Edward Street, Louth during excavations for the rebuilding of the gable end of the structure. The excavation revealed the presence of a pond, which was known from 18th and 19th century maps as Goose Pool.

Site Location

Louth is located at the mouth of a small valley on the eastern edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds and straddles the river Lud. The drift geology is of glacial boulder clay.

Archaeological Background

Louth dates from the Anglo-Saxon period and is mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1066 as belonging to the Bishop of Lincoln. Although two sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery were recovered from land adjacent to the town hall in 1996 (Tann 1996) little else has been found. There has been very little archaeological investigation in the town.

Louth developed into one of the most important market centres in Lindsey (Field 1978) but the development site was probably external to the main focus of settlement. An examination of the 1776 and 1808 maps shows that the area of 9 Edward Street was located at the south-western edge of the settlement and was not developed at this time, although the road that would become Edward street was present on the map of 1776 (See figures 2 a and b). The mid 19th century date for the building on Edward street is consistent with the map evidence.

The name Gosepole is referred to as existing in the year 1229 in the Alvingham Cartulary, folio 132. This may refer to a pond or pool and the street name is present on the 1776 and 1808 maps.

The Watching Brief

The programme of works consisted of:

- 1) The demolishing of the old extension and the construction of a new extension.

2) The rebuilding of the gable end of the structure which had suffered from subsidence. This involved the re-excavation of the original trench to a greater depth.

The excavation and backfilling of the foundations for the extension had already taken place prior to the start of the watching brief. The watching brief consisted of the observation of groundworks for the rebuilding of the gable end of the structure.

Stratigraphy

Below the wall was a very disturbed deposit comprising a clayey soil with numerous brick and tile fragments. This deposit extended to 0.80m depth at the eastern end. This may represent a levelling material deposited in order to consolidate the ground for construction of the original building.

Below this deposit, at the eastern end of the trench, was a dark brown clayey soil with fragments of 18th century brick and tile. This deposit extended a further 0.80m to a total depth of 1.60m. Below this there was 400mm of grey brown clay with occasional chalk fragments, which overlay a grey brown silty clay.

At the western end the stratigraphy was similar, with 0.80m of disturbed material overlying a grey organic silt which had less of an organic component than that at the east end. This again overlay a grey brown clay at 1.50m.

The deposits below the surface levelling deposit are consistent with deposition within a body of slow moving water. It is likely that this is Goose Pool. Foundations excavated to the south east indicated that the pool was between 3 and 4m deep. As the deposits in the area of the watching brief are significantly shallower, it seems that the pool was at its deepest at the south west corner, becoming shallower to the north west.

Artefacts

From the disturbed uppermost layer, two sherds of undiagnostic pottery were retrieved. These are probable medieval or post medieval date. From the organic silt below there were seven sherds of undiagnostic pottery (medieval or post medieval date), two clay pipe fragments, one fragment of brick and two fragments of tile.

Conclusions

The watching brief appears to have located Goose Pool as referred to in medieval documents. (See figure 2 and 3). It has shown that there was no development in this area until after the infilling of Goose Pool which may have been as late as the 18th century.

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank N Loveley and Sons for their co-operation throughout this project and also Steve Catney the County Archaeological Officer for his advice.

References

Field, N (1978) *Louth: The Hidden Town*. North Lincolnshire Archaeological Unit

Tann, G. (1996) *Louth: Eastgate, Archaeological Monitoring of Office Development on the site of Meridian House and The Marquis of Granby Hotel*. Unpublished archive report

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Lindsey Archaeological Service
August 1997

Appendix 1

LES 97 (Accn. No 6.97)

The Finds List

Context	Description	Date
(1)	1 handle of a midland yellow ware vessel	17th
	1 rim shard of a Toynton/Bolingbroke pancheon	17th
(2)	1 rim shard of Toynton/Bolingbroke ware	18th
	1 shard of brown glaze	19th
	1 shard of brown stoneware (Nottm)	
	1 shard of stoneware	19th
	1 shard of glazed earthenware	19th
	2 sherds of base white ware	18th
	2 clay tobacco pipe stems and bowls	19th
	3 glass bottle fragments	18th
	1 pantile	18-19th
	2 pavours	18-19th
	1 fragment sheep metacarpal, distal end	
	1 fragment of deer phalanx, proximal end	
	1 fragment of cow/horse metapodial, proximal end	
	1 unidentifiable fragment	

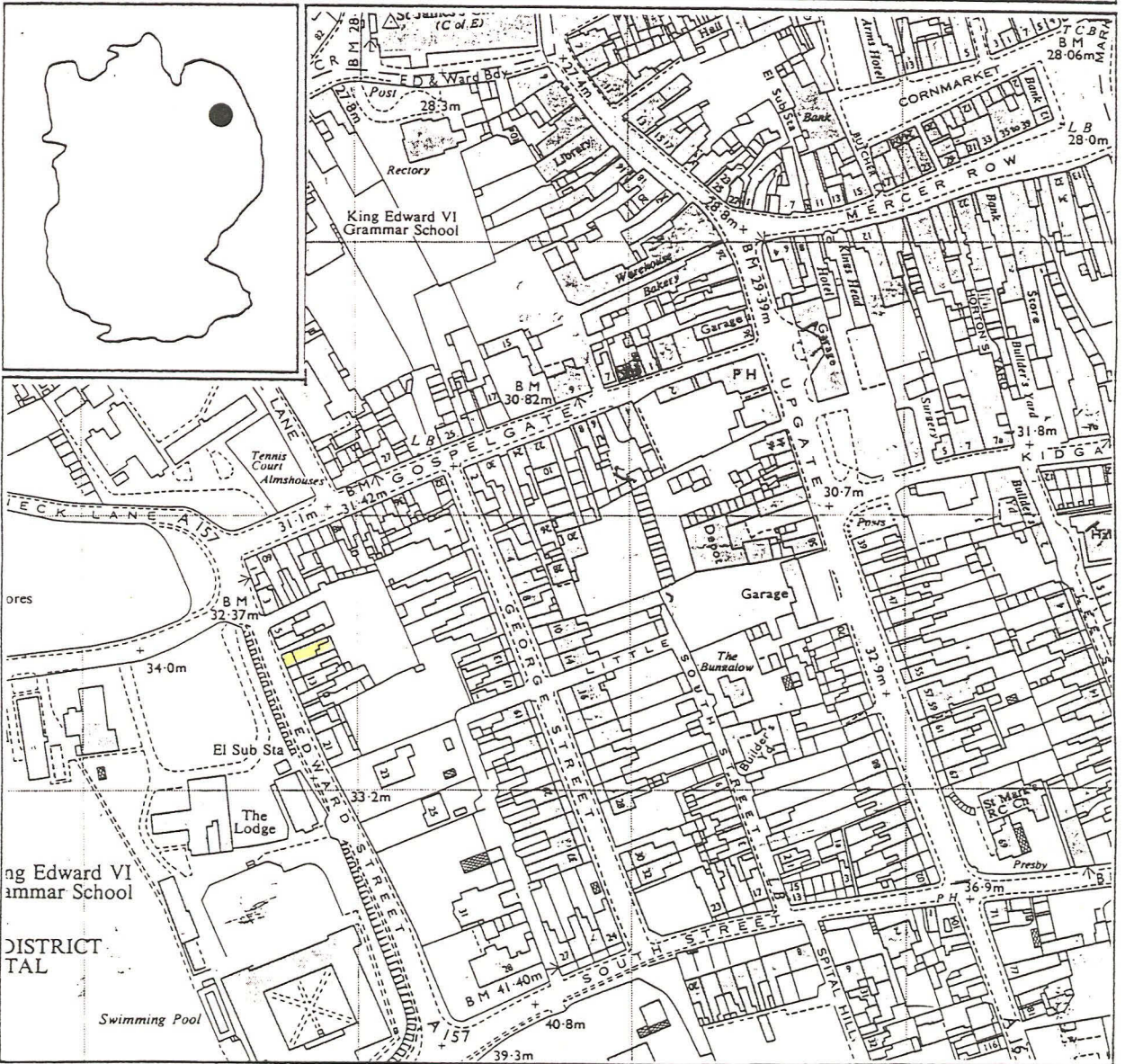
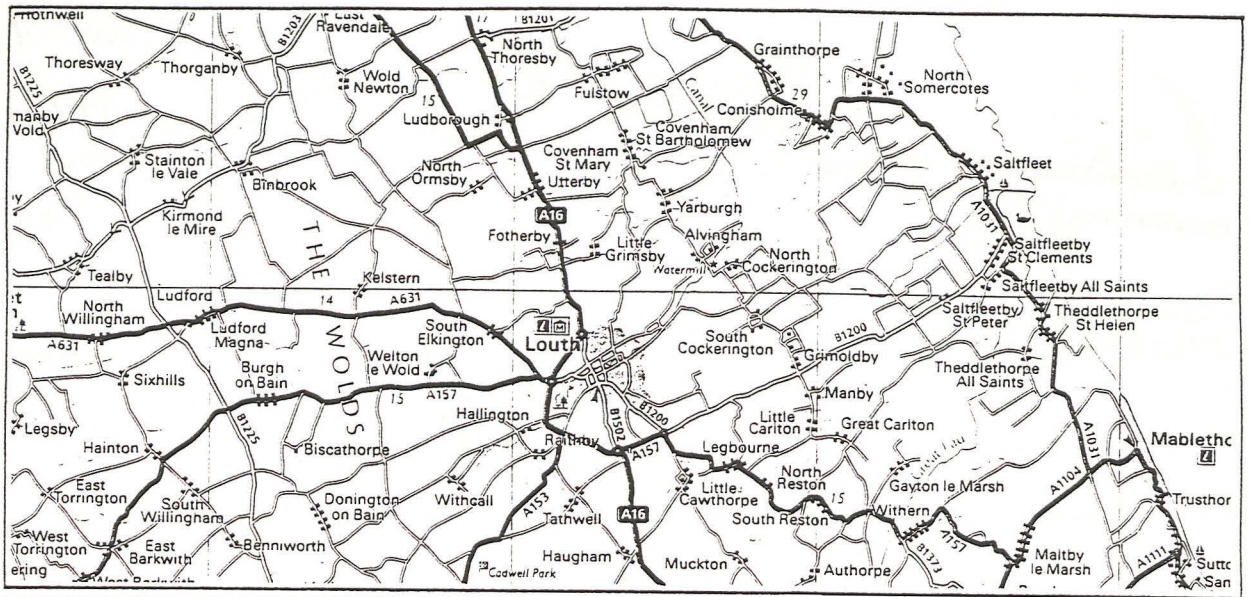


Fig 1: Location Of site (reproduced from OS, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 504434A

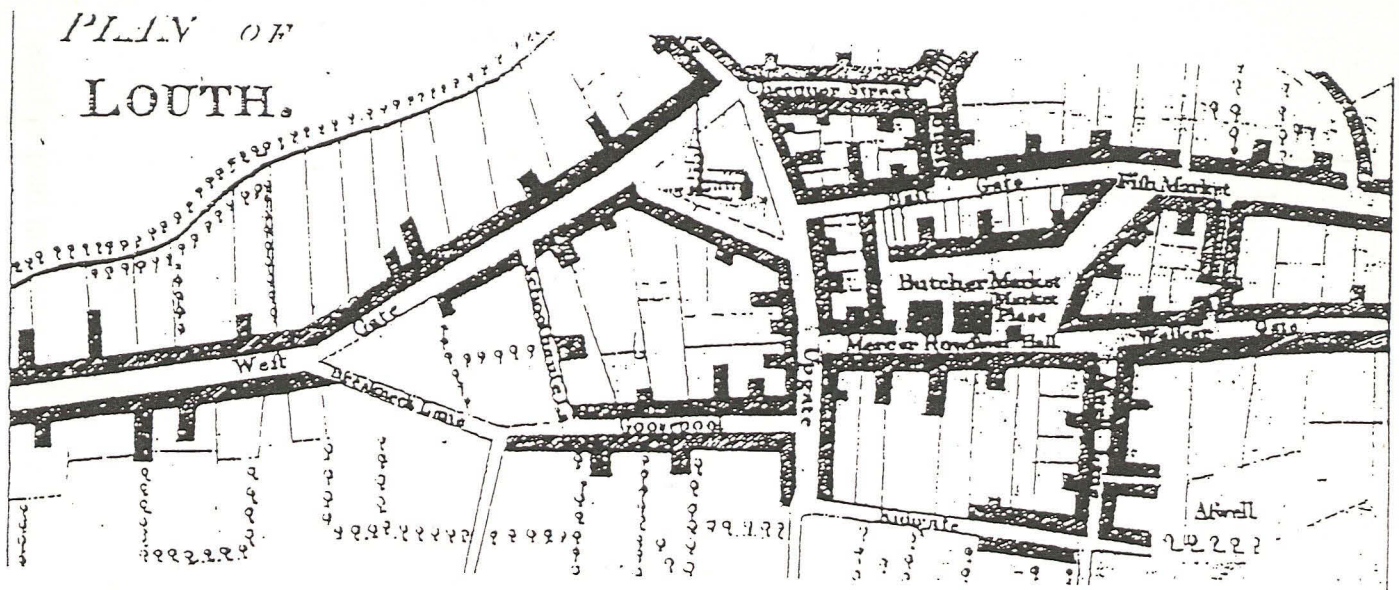


Fig 2: a) Detail from the 1808 map of Louth by T. Espin (reproduced by permission of the Local Studies Library, Educational and Cultural Services Directorate of Lincs. County Council).

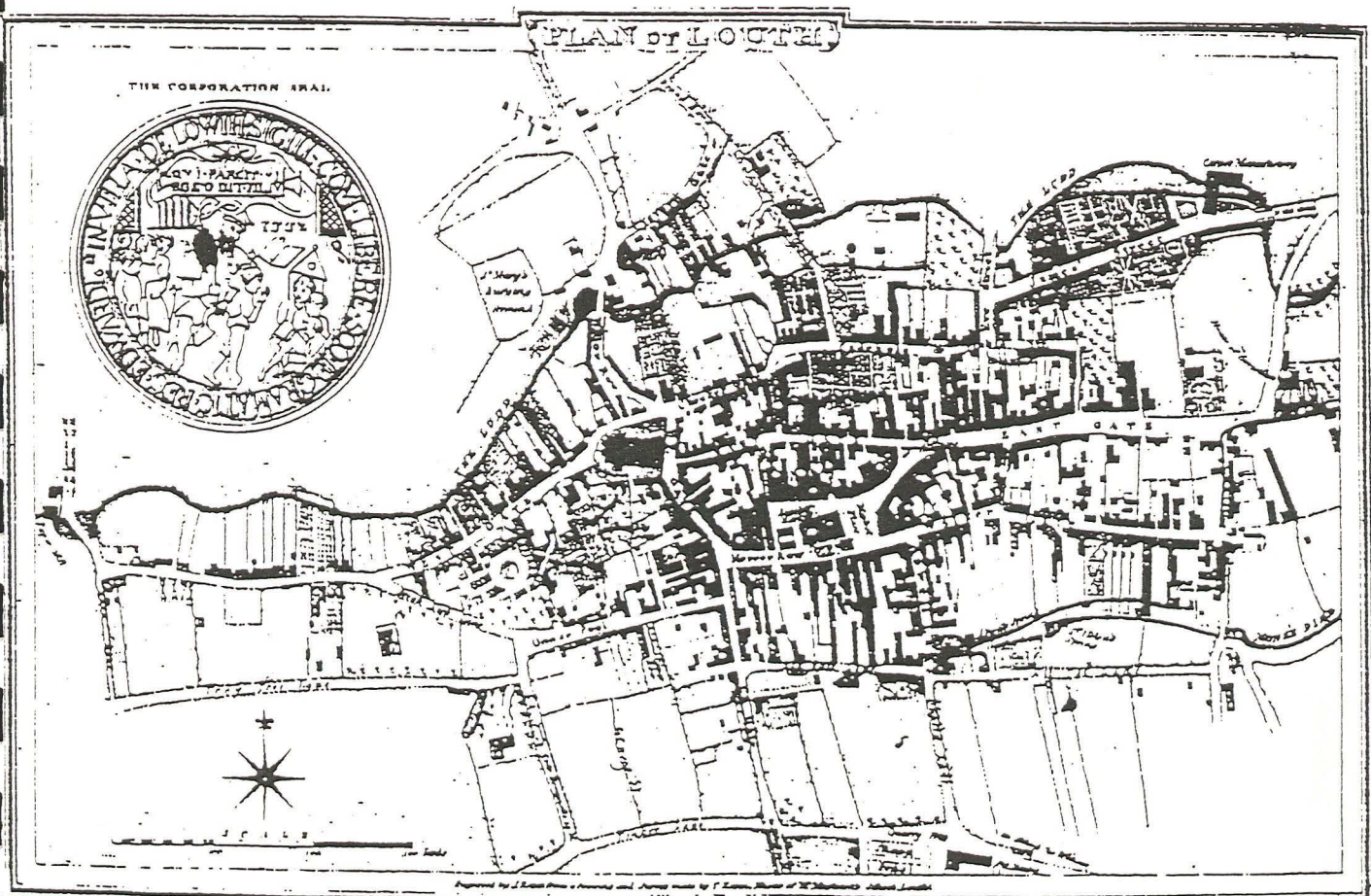
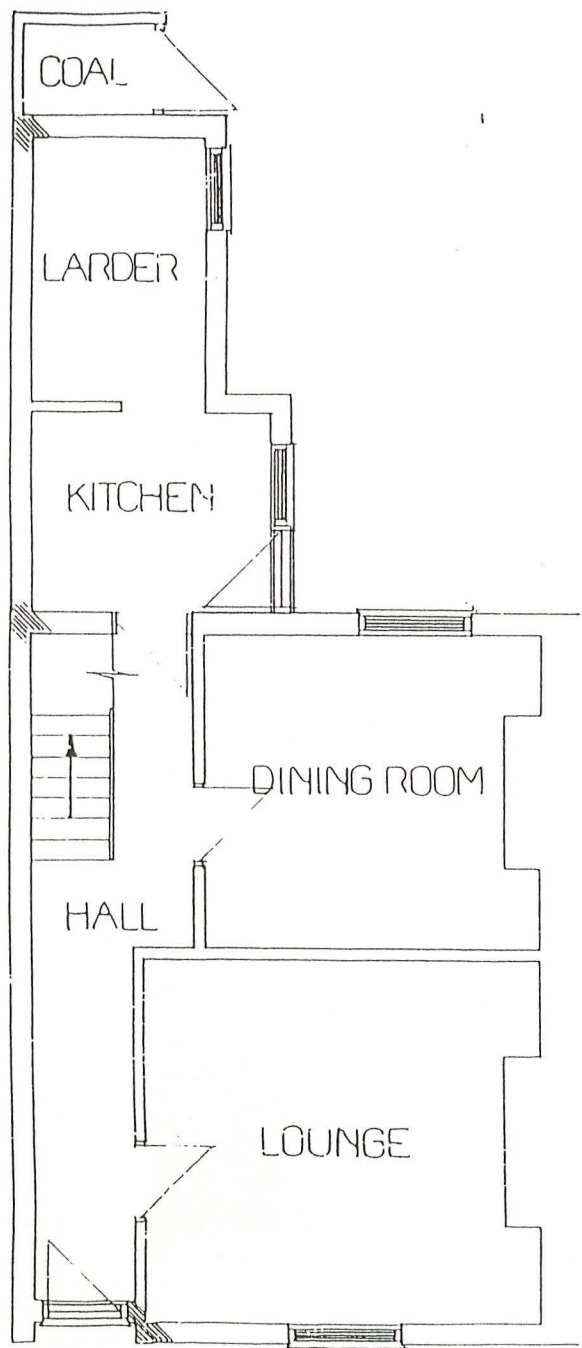


Fig 2: b) Detail from the 1776 map by Armstrong (reproduced by permission of the Local Studies Library, Education and Cultural Services Directorate of Lincs. County Council.)



Area of archaeological observation

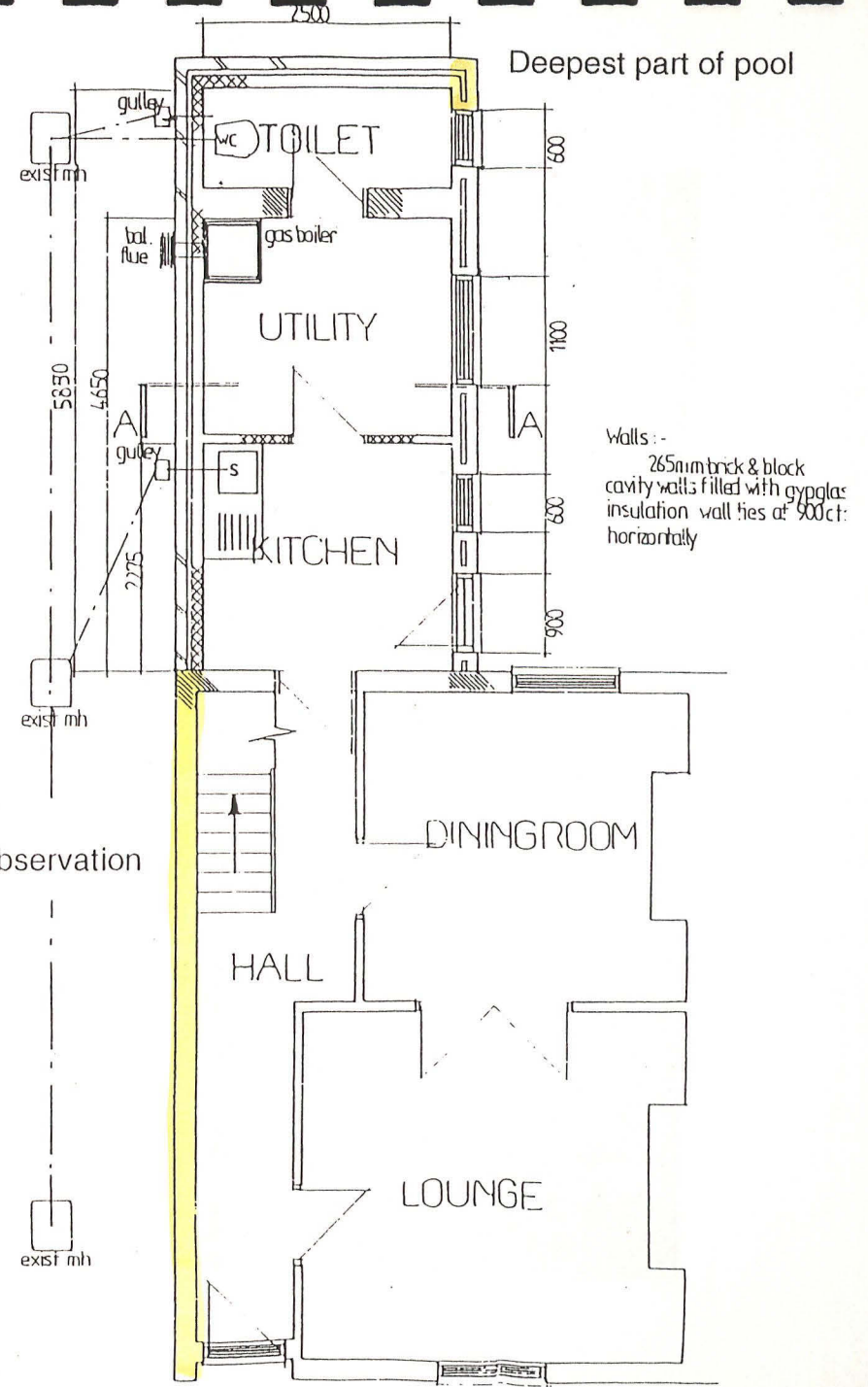


Fig 3: a) Ground plan prior to groundworks
 b) Design plan of ground works.



Plate 1: View from the street looking east



Plate 2: General shot of the excavation looking west



Plate 3: Representative sample of the stratigraphy (west end)



Plate 4: Representative sample of the stratigraphy (east end)