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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

CASTERBY, CAISTOR GRAMMAR SCHOOL
Church Street, Caistor:
NGR: TA 1664 0132

Archaeological Excavation and Recording

SITE CODE: **CSC 97**
LCNCC MUSEUM ACCN. NO: **12.97**

(PLANNING APPLICATION NO: 96/P/0637)

Report prepared for
TAYLOR PEARSON CONSTRUCTION LTD

October 1997

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CONTENTS

Lists of Figures and Plates

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Summary | 1 |
| Introduction | 1 |
| The Site | 1 |
| Method | 1 |
| Results | 2 |
| Discussion | 3 |
| Conclusion | 4 |
| Acknowledgements | 4 |
| References | 4 |
| Archive Summary | 4 |

Appendix 1: Context List

Appendix 2: Report on the Roman pottery: M. Darling

Appendix 3: Post-Roman pottery archive: J. Young

CONTENTS

Lists of Figures and Plates

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Summary | 1 |
| Introduction | 1 |
| The Site | 1 |
| Method | 1 |
| Results | 2 |
| Discussion | 3 |
| Conclusion | 4 |
| Acknowledgements | 4 |
| References | 4 |
| Archive Summary | 4 |

Appendix 1: Context List

Appendix 2: Report on the Roman pottery: M. Darling

Appendix 3: Report on the Post-Roman pottery: J. Young

Figures

Fig. 1 Location of Caistor and development site. (Insert C based on the 1953 O.S 1:25000 map, with permission of the controller of HMSO, © Crown copyright. LAS licence No: AL 50424A).

Fig. 2 Insert A; Development site (based on the O.S 1:1250 map, with permission of the controller of HMSO, © Crown copyright. LAS licence No: AL 50424A). Insert B; Position of new foundation trench in relation to the existing building (based on plan provided by developer).

Fig. 3 Plan and East section of foundation trench.

Fig. 4 Plan and West section of foundation trench.

Plates

Pl. 1 Casterby. Showing demolished west gable. View NNE.

Pl. 2 Initial cleaning of the foundation trench. Looking SE.

Pl. 3 Scaffolding hole 6, after excavation. View ESE. Vertical scale 0.25m, horizontal scale 1m.

Pl. 4 Foundation trench with scaffolding hole 6 and wall 3. Looking NE. Vertical scale 0.25m, horizontal scales 0.50m and 1m.

Pl. 5 Wall 3 and deposits 2 and 4. Note foundation offset. View ESE. Scales 0.50m and 1m.

Pl. 6 Section through wall 3. Vertical scale above 10, layer 2 to the left, 4 to the right. View WNW. Horizontal scale 1m, vertical scale 0.50m.

Pl. 7 Posthole 19 (left of scale), from above. Scale 0.25m.

Pl. 8 Wall 13 looking SSE. Horizontal scale 1m, vertical scale 0.50m.

Pl. 9 Section through foundation trench 16. Scale 0.25m. View WNW.

Pl. 10 Base of the foundation trench revealing layer 17. Scales 1m. Looking NE.

Casterby, Caistor Grammar School
Church Street, Caistor
NGR: TA 1664 0132
(WLDC Planning Application No: **96/P/0637**)
Site Code: **CSC 97**
LCNCC Museum Accn. No: 12.97
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING WORK

Summary

Excavation of the foundation trench for the new west gable at Casterby revealed an east-west aligned wall which produced one sherd of pottery dating from the 12th-13th century. Beneath the medieval soil horizon, which the wall sat upon, was a NNW-SSE wall which contained Roman pottery. A layer, possibly the remains of the Roman ground surface, was the last deposit excavated.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by Taylor Pearson Construction Ltd, to undertake archaeological recording work at Casterby, Caistor Grammar School which lies close to the centre of Caistor (Fig. 1), in accordance with the brief set by the Archaeology Section of Lincolnshire County Council, dated October 1996.

The brief required that the foundation trench for the new west gable of Casterby, which was demolished due to subsidence, had to be archaeologically excavated and recorded.

Caistor is situated at around 85-95m O.D. on the western edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds, a chalk scarp rising in places to over 150m. The town sits on a spur of land projecting from the lower part of the escarpment, overlooking the Clay Vale to the west. The solid geology is predominately Cretaceous Chalk but outcrops of Tealby Clay and Limestone, Carstone and Spilsby Sandstone and deposits of wind blown sand are also present.

An evaluation carried out in 1992 and later watching briefs in 1993 and 1994, west of the present site, established the presence of Anglo-Saxon and Roman remains.

The Site

Casterby is a Victorian house situated in the grounds of Caistor Grammar School, west of St Peter and St Paul's Church (Fig. 2). Until recently it has been used as accommodation for boarders at the school.

Method

The west gable of the building was found to be unsafe because of subsidence and it was decided to rebuild the wall 3m to the east, inside the footprint of the existing building. A trench, c.4.30m long x 0.60m wide, was excavated by hand as required by the archaeological brief. The trench ran from Casterby's

NW wall which was constructed at a point 1.10m west of the adjoining buildings SW corner, to the extended SW corner of the south wall, 1.35m west of the original corner of the building (Pls. 1 and 2).

The specified depth of footing in the brief was 600mm below the ground surface. However, it became clear that the ground at this level was not suitable to support a wall foundation so the excavation was deepened to 1m on the instructions of the site agent. A further 0.40m was then removed after inspection by the structural engineer, in order to reach the top of the natural sand.

An Ordnance Survey Bench Mark (86.25m O.D) located on the NW corner of St Peter and Paul's church tower was used to establish a Temporary Bench Mark (85.15m O.D) within the grounds of Casterby building.

All archaeological features were recorded and photographed. Deposits were allocated context numbers for recording purposes, these are referred to in the text, figures and context list (Appendix 1).

Results (Figs. 3 and 4)

Site workmen removed the loose mortar and rubble, **1**, which lay beneath the floorboards, leaving a cavity of 0.12m-0.14. Initial cleaning along the length of the foundation trench for the new wall (Pl. 2). revealed that the brick wall foundations of the existing building barely penetrated the ground. The north wall sits upon a single course of headers which protrude 0.10m from the wall. The south extended wall lies on one course of stretchers which projects 0.05m from the wall. The shallow depth of the footings and the action of tree roots may account for the subsidence experienced by the building.

Below deposit **1** was a thin layer, up to 0.10m, of dark brown loam, **20** (Pl. 3), which appears to be a levelling layer for the floor, as it was contained within the brick wall foundations.

Posthole **6** (Pl. 3), situated 1.10m north of the south wall foundation, may have cut **20**; unfortunately the relationship was not noted at the time of excavation. This feature had a recorded diameter of 0.60m, its steep sides became vertical for the last 0.15m of its 0.50m depth. A perfect circle was defined by its vertical edge, whilst its base was flat. The shape and size of the posthole suggests that it may have housed a scaffolding pole, possibly associated with the construction of the original building. Its fill, a mid brown sandy loam, **5**, contained brick fragments and a nail.

Layer **2** (Pl. 4) was cut by scaffolding hole **6**. Brick and chalk inclusions were noted in the light brown loam that comprised **2**. Shell and charcoal flecks were also present. A crucible fragment was also found, rescued from the south end of **2**. One piece of medieval glass and a mixture of Roman and medieval pottery sherds were also found. Layer **2** butted an east - west aligned wall, **3** (Pls. 4, 5 and 6), some 0.30m from the north wall footings. North of wall **3**, equivalent to **2**, was a dark brown loam **4** (Pls. 5 and 6).

Wall 3 consisted of a 0.55m wide upper course of ironstone and chalk fragments up to 0.10m in size. Both faces of the wall, rough and uneven, survived. Below the one remaining course of stone were two foundation courses (Pls. 5 and 6), the upper course being 84.65m O.D. These were 0.63m wide and consisted of the same rubble make up as wall 3. The foundation courses were of a fairly even base (7) and sat upon a less stony fill 21 (Pl. 6), which was a light brown loam mix identical in composition to that of 2. The similarity between the two deposits resulted in finds from 21 been contaminated with those from 2. Foundation trench fill 10 (Pl. 6), a light pink brown loam with small pieces of chalk 0.10m deep, lay beneath 21. It infilled east - west orientated foundation trench 12 (Pl. 6) which had vertical sides and a flat base. One sherd of medieval pottery was found within wall 3.

A 0.20m diameter posthole 19 (Pl. 7), infilled by a mid brown loam sand 18, which produced two pieces of bone but no pottery, was overlain by a layer of fine dark brown loam, 9/11 (Pl. 6), with occasional charcoal flecks and chalk inclusions (of considerably less density than that of 2).

73 pieces of animal bone were obtained from 9, and Roman pottery sherds. Layer 9 was cut by foundation trench 12 and was noted to be generally deeper on the east side of the trench (0.40m average depth compared to 0.15m on the west side). The marked difference was due to 9 sealing a NNW-SSE aligned wall (13) which did not extend into the east section.

Wall 13 (Pl. 8) consisted of large limestone blocks, up to 0.65m in size, in a dark brown loam 15 (Pl.8), not dissimilar to 9/11. Unlike the medieval wall 3 this wall was 50% soil, indicating some robbing of stone may have occurred. Approximately three courses of the wall survived, resulting in the wall now having a remaining height of 0.60m. Pottery gathered from 15 was dated to the Roman period. A small investigative section into the foundation fill (Pl. 9) revealed the foundation trench (16) to be at least 0.24m lower than the base of the wall.

A 0.20m layer of mid brown sand loam 14 was cut by 16. Two sherds of pottery were retrieved for dating. The sherds were identified as being roman in date.

Layer 14 sealed a deposit of mixed yellow and light brown sand, 17 (Pl. 10), which marked the required depth the foundation trench, 83.40m O.D.

Discussion

The sequence of deposits recorded in the foundation trench stretches from the Roman period to the present day. The original Roman ground surface may have been at the level of layer 14, but finds were too sparse to positively identify this early horizon. A hitherto unknown wall was revealed.

Conclusion

Excavation established medieval deposits are close to the surface and vulnerable to destruction, not just from major ground development but also by superficial ground disturbances. It has also demonstrated the potential for the preservation of Roman deposits not only at this site but elsewhere in Caistor.

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank Mr Bettany and Neil Gilbert (Contracts Manager, Taylor Pearson Construction) for providing site accommodation during the excavation. The author would also like to thank Naomi Field for her guidance and helpful comments. The report was produced and collated by Jane Frost.

Mick McDaid
October 7th 1997

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unpublished LAS report.

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Archaeological Evaluation LAS unpublished report.

Archive Summary

Site plans: 3

Field section drawings: 2

Context sheets: 19

Photographs

Developer's plans

Correspondence

Archaeological finds: pottery

Appendix 1

Caisotr Grammar School, Casterby. CSC 97 Context List

| CONTEXT | TYPE | RELATIONSHIP | DESCRIPTION |
|---------|-------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | LAYER | ABOVE 4 | CONSTRUCTION OF MODERN BUILDING |
| 2 | LAYER | ABOVE 9 | LIGHT BROWN SAND LOAM |
| 3 | FILL | ABOVE 7 | WALL |
| 4 | LAYER | ABOVE 2 | DARK BROWN SAND LOAM |
| 5 | FILL | ABOVE 6 | FILL OF 6 |
| 6 | CUT | ABOVE 2 | POST PIT |
| 7 | CUT | ABOVE 2 | BASE OF WALL |
| 8 | FILL | ABOVE 10 | FILL OF 12 |
| 9 | LAYER | ABOVE 13 | DARK BROWN SAND LOAM |
| 10 | FILL? | ABOVE 12 | FILL OF 12 |
| 11 | LAYER | SAME AS 9 | SEE 9 |
| 12 | CUT | ABOVE 9 | FOUNDATION TRENCH |
| 13 | FILL | ABOVE 15 | WALL |
| 14 | LAYER | ABOVE 17 | MID BROWN SAND LOAM |
| 15 | FILL | ABOVE 16 | WALL MATRIX/ FOUNDATION FILL |
| 16 | CUT | ABOVE 14 | FOUNDATION TRENCH |
| 17 | LAYER | BELOW 14 | NATURAL |
| 18 | FILL | ABOVE 19 | FILL OF 19 |
| 19 | CUT | ABOVE 15 | POSTHOLE |

Report on the Roman Pottery

Margaret J Darling

QUANTITY AND CONDITION

The Roman pottery amounted to 49 sherds, 1.402kg. Condition was generally fresh, although the occasional abraded sherd occurred. The pottery came from six contexts (and unstratified), only two of which contained exclusively Roman pottery, contexts 11 and 14. The quantities and Roman dates are in table 1.

Table 1 Quantities and dates

| Context | Sherds | grams | Date |
|---------|--------|-------|--------|
| + | 1 | 98 | ML4 |
| 2 | 9 | 153 | ML4 |
| 4 | 4 | 41 | 4 PROB |
| 9 | 24 | 468 | L4 |
| 11 | 2 | 23 | 4 |
| 14 | 4 | 521 | ML4 |
| 15 | 5 | 98 | 4 PROB |
| | 49 | 1402 | |

The fabrics represented are:

Table 2 Fabrics

| Expansion | Code | Sherds | % | grams | % |
|-------------------|-------|--------|------|-------|------|
| Calcite/shell | CASH | 2 | 4.1 | 65 | 4.6 |
| Grey | GREY | 31 | 63.3 | 825 | 58.8 |
| Huntcliff | HUNT? | 1 | 2. | 24 | 1.7 |
| Swanpool mortaria | MOSP | 2 | 4.1 | 121 | 8.6 |
| Oxidized | OX | 4 | 8.2 | 22 | 1.5 |
| Shell-gritted | SHEL | 7 | 14.3 | 88 | 6.3 |
| Swanpool oxidized | SPOX? | 2 | 4.1 | 257 | 18.3 |
| | | 49 | | 1402 | |

DISCUSSION

The pottery all belonged to the later Roman period, and all could date exclusively to the 4th century. The jars in shell and calcite-gritted fabrics included a rim from a Huntcliff type jar (2), dating from the mid 4th century onwards, a lid-seated and a late double-lid-seated jar (the latter unusually in an oxidized fabric; both from 4), and there was also a bodysherd from a shell-gritted bowl (with minimal shell inclusions, from 15). The grey fabrics included a lid-seated jar (9), and a flange from a bead-and-flange bowl (2); jar bases with string marks occurred, and decoration included the late comb-wavy-line type, and notching (9). The oxidized sherds were indeterminate except for a bead-and-flange bowl, with rim type as the late colour-coated types, which seems likely to be from the Lincoln Swanpool kilns (14). Two mortaria occurred, one a classic Swanpool vessels with the usual white-slip (+), while the other was a less common oxidized mortarium (bodysherd only, from 2) with burnished surfaces. The mortarium

The pottery is similar to that from CBL96, although it was of more conclusively 4th century date. The mortarium from (+) ought to be drawn for record and future use. The trade with late kilns in Lincoln is a continuing and important feature. More pottery is needed from Caistor to put this in context.

Database:

Dates for individual contexts are entered as a pseudo fabric 'ZDATE'.

| Cxt | Fab | Fm | Dec | V | Details | Shs | grams |
|-----|-------|-------|--------------|---|--------------------------------------|-----|-------|
| 2 | MOSP? | M | - | - | BS;OXID BURNISH SURFS;FE TG | 1 | 23 |
| 2 | GREY | BFB? | - | - | FLANGE ONLY;BURNISH ?BURNT | 1 | 16 |
| 2 | GREY | CLSD | - | - | STRING BASE | 1 | 51 |
| 2 | GREY | - | - | - | BS BURNISH CURV.MULTI-LINE DEC | 1 | 15 |
| 2 | GREY | - | - | - | BSS | 4 | 24 |
| 2 | HUNT? | JHUNT | - | - | RIM FRAG;INT.GROOVE;FAB CHECK? | 1 | 24 |
| 2 | ZDATE | - | - | - | ML4 | - | - |
| 4 | GREY | - | BL | - | BS;TRACE BL | 1 | 22 |
| 4 | GREY | - | - | - | ABR. BS | 1 | 3 |
| 4 | SHEL | - | - | - | BASE FR & BS;?WHEEL | 2 | 16 |
| 4 | ZDATE | - | - | - | 4? | - | - |
| 9 | CASH | JLS | - | - | RIM | 1 | 46 |
| 9 | SHEL | JDLS | - | - | RIM ONLY;OXID FAB | 1 | 21 |
| 9 | SHEL | - | - | - | BS & BASE FR | 2 | 14 |
| 9 | GREY | JLS | - | - | RIM SMOOTHED SURFS;DKGRY SURFS | 1 | 25 |
| 9 | GREY | CLSD | - | - | STRING BASE | 1 | 142 |
| 9 | GREY | BD | - | - | BASE | 1 | 80 |
| 9 | GREY | BD? | - | - | BASE | 1 | 34 |
| 9 | GREY | - | NOTC; BWL | - | BS | 1 | 16 |
| 9 | GREY | - | - | - | BSS | 11 | 68 |
| 9 | OX | CLSD | - | - | BS ?SLIP EXT;RB | 1 | 4 |
| 9 | OX | - | - | - | BSS;GRY FAB;LTBN SURF;POOR COND | 2 | 14 |
| 9 | OX? | - | - | - | FLAKE RB;?FLOWER POT | 1 | 4 |
| 9 | ZDATE | - | - | - | L4 | - | - |
| 11 | SHEL | CLSD | - | - | WHEEL BS | 1 | 16 |
| 11 | GREY | CLSD | COWL | - | BS COWL BELOW GROOVES | 1 | 7 |
| 11 | ZDATE | - | - | - | 4 | - | - |
| 14 | GREY | JL? | - | - | BS X LGE JAR | 1 | 243 |
| 14 | GREY | - | - | - | BS | 1 | 21 |
| 14 | SPOX? | BFB | - | 1 | RIM/WALL;BURNT RIM;AS CC TYPE | 2 | 257 |
| 14 | ZDATE | - | - | - | ML4 | - | - |
| 15 | SHEL | B | - | - | BS;BURNISH SURFS;MINIMAL SHELL | 1 | 21 |
| 15 | CASH | J | - | - | BS SOOTED;CALC ONLY? | 1 | 19 |
| 15 | GREY | BTR? | - | - | RIM FRAG ONLY | 1 | 6 |
| 15 | GREY | - | - | - | BSS | 2 | 52 |
| 15 | ZDATE | - | - | - | 4 PROB | - | - |
| + | MOSP | MBF | - | - | RIM/WALL;FE TG;GROOVE FLANGE EDGE | 1 | 98 |

Post-Roman Pottery Archive
J. Young

| Context | Ware | Sherds | Form | Comments |
|---------|--------|--------|-----------|---|
| U/S | R | 1 | - | - |
| 2 | BEVO | 1 | JUG | TYPE I;? ID |
| 2 | BEVO | 1 | JUG | TYPE I;? ID;BASE;INT DEP |
| 2 | EMX | 1 | JUG | FABRIC A;?ID;SPL GLZE |
| 2 | EMX | 1 | JUG | FABRIC C;?ID;SPL GLZE |
| 2 | HUM | 1 | JUG | LHJ |
| 2 | HUMB | 1 | JUG | BS;NECK CORDON;COULD BE BEVO? |
| 2 | LEMS | 1 | ? | BS |
| 2 | LEMS | 1 | ? | BS |
| 2 | LFS | 1 | ? | BASE |
| 2 | MEDLOC | 1 | ? | NO GLZE |
| 2 | MISC | 1 | ? | GREYWARE;UNGLZE |
| 2 | R | 9 | - | - |
| 2 | TOY | 1 | JUG | BS |
| 2 | UNGS | 1 | JAR;SMALL | DRAW;FLAT TOP RIM; PROB SN;BUFF/GREY FABRIC; 11/12TH;SOOT |
| 2 | UNGS | 1 | JAR;SMALL | NECK;PROB SN; BUFF/GREY FABRIC;11/12TH |
| 2 | VITR | 1 | CUPEL? | THICK GLASSY WASTE;RIM |
| 3 | MEDLOC | 1 | - | GLZE;MISSING SURF;12/13TH |
| 4 | BEVO | 1 | JUG | BS;COMB DEC |
| 4 | EMX | 3 | JUG | THU HANDLE;SPL GLZE;?YORKSPL |
| 4 | NSP | 1 | JUG | BS |
| 4 | R | 4 | - | - |
| 5 | TB | 1 | JUG | OR TOY |
| 9 | DST | 1 | JUG | RIM |
| 9 | REDCH | 1 | JAR? | BASE |
| 9 | R | 2 | - | - |
| 9 | R | 22 | - | - |
| 10 | TORKT | 1 | JAR | OVER/HIGH FIRED;RIM |
| 11 | R | 2 | - | - |
| 14 | R | 4 | - | - |
| 15 | CHARN | 1 | - | CARB INT DEPOSIT |
| 15 | R | 5 | - | - |

POST-ROMAN POTTERY ARCHIVE: CSC97 HORIZON DATING

| Context | Earliest horizon | Latest horizon | Probable horizon | Date range |
|---------|------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2 | MH8 OR MH1 | PMH3 OR MH4 | - | 12th or late/post med? INTRUSIVE LMED |
| 3 | MH1 | MH6 | - | 12/13th |
| 4 | MH1 | MH4 | - | 12th |
| 5 | MH6 OR MH10 | MH8 OR PMH7 | - | 14th or late/post med |
| 9 | MH1 | MH4 | - | 12th |
| 10 | ASH9 | ASH13 | - | late 9th to mid/late 11th |
| 11 | R | R | - | Roman |
| 14 | R | R | - | Roman |
| 15 | R | R | - | Roman |

Glossary of Fabric and Dating Codes

| | |
|--------|--|
| R | Roman |
| Bevo | Beverley Orange ware: early 12th-late 14th |
| Charn | Charnwood Forest Type fabrics: 5th - early 8th centuries |
| Dst | Developed Stamford ware: early 12th - mid 13th centuries |
| Emx | Early medieval, non-local fabrics: early 12th - mid 13th centuries |
| Hum | Humber ware: mid 14th/late 16th centuries |
| Humb | Humber Basin glazed fabrics: early 12th - late 15th centuries |
| Lems | Local early medieval shelly ware: early 12th - mid 13th centuries |
| Lfs | Lincoln fine-shelled ware: late 10th - early 13th centuries |
| Medloc | medieval local fabrics: early 13th - late 15th centuries |
| Misc | undated wares |
| Nsp | Nottingham splashed glaze ware: early 12th - mid 13th centuries |
| Redch | Reduced chalky wares: 11th - 13th centuries |
| TB | Toynton All Saints/ Bolingbroke kilns: mid 15th/mid 18th centuries |
| Torkt | Torksey Type ware: late 9th - late 11th centuries |
| Toy | Toynton All Saints ware, Kiln 1 (Roses); early 13th-mid 14th century |
| Ungs | Unglazed greensand fabric: late 10th century - late 14th century |
| Vitr | unidentified vitrified sherds |

| | |
|--------|--|
| R | Roman |
| ASH 9 | late Saxon; early-mid 10th century |
| ASH 13 | late Saxon; 11th century |
| MH 1 | early medieval; early-mid 12th century |
| MH 4 | early medieval; early-mid 13th century |
| MH 6 | medieval; late 13th-mid 14th century |
| MH 8 | medieval: late 14th century - early 15th century |
| MH 10 | late medieval; mid-late 15th century |

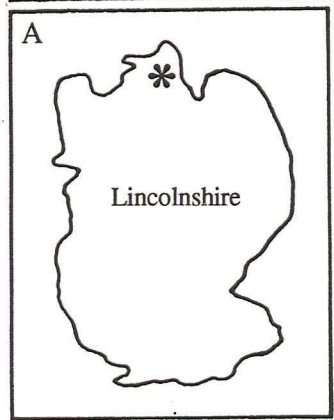
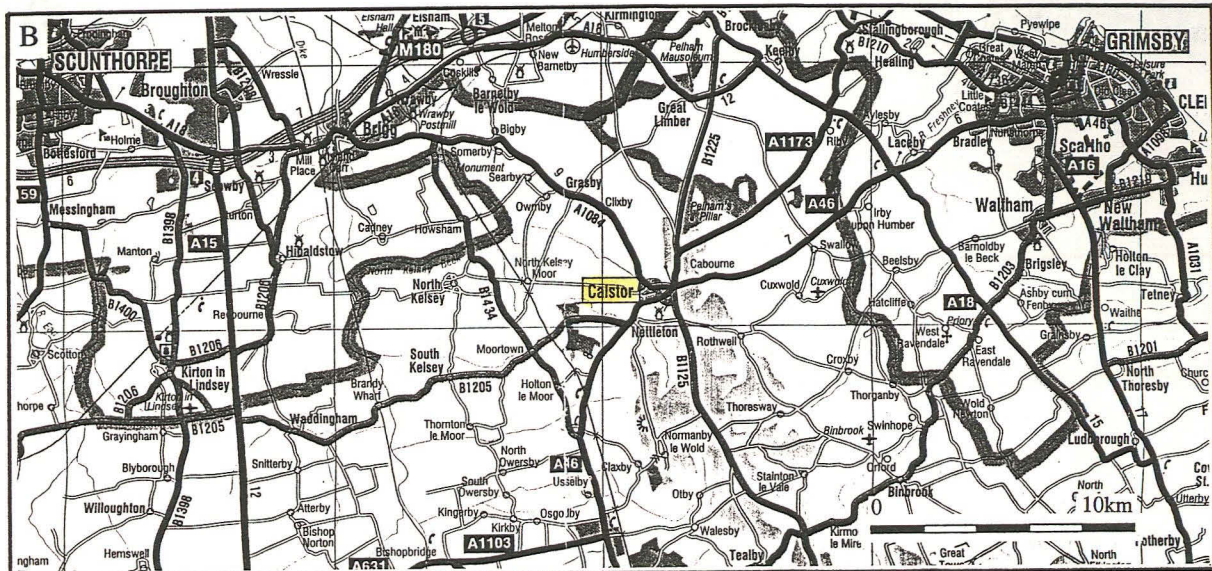


Fig 1 : Location of Caistor and proposed development area.
 (Inset C based on O.S 1:25000, Crown Copyright 1953.
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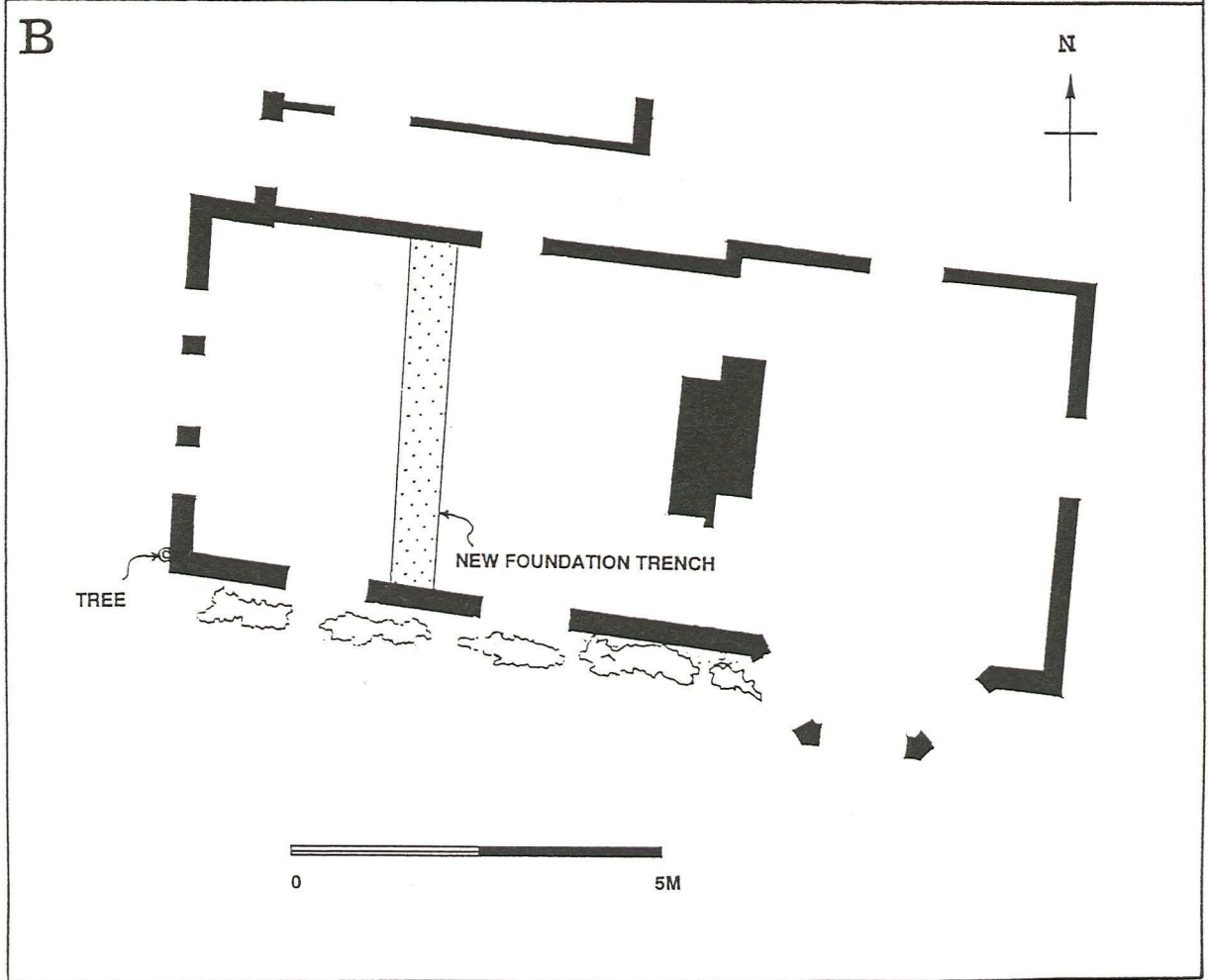
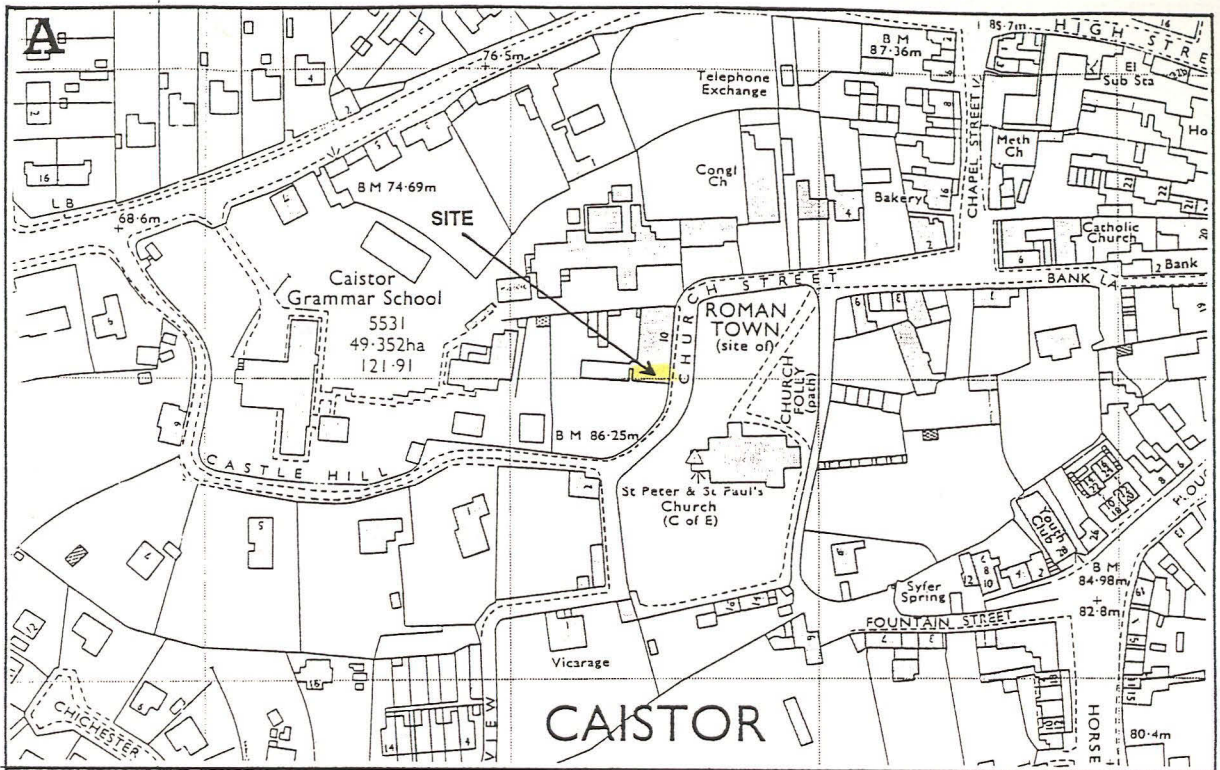


Fig. 2 Insert A; Development site. (Based on the O.S 1:1250 map, with permission of the controller of HMSO, © Crown copyright. LAS licence No: AL 50424A). Insert B; Position of new foundation trench in relation to the existing building (Based on plan provided by developer).

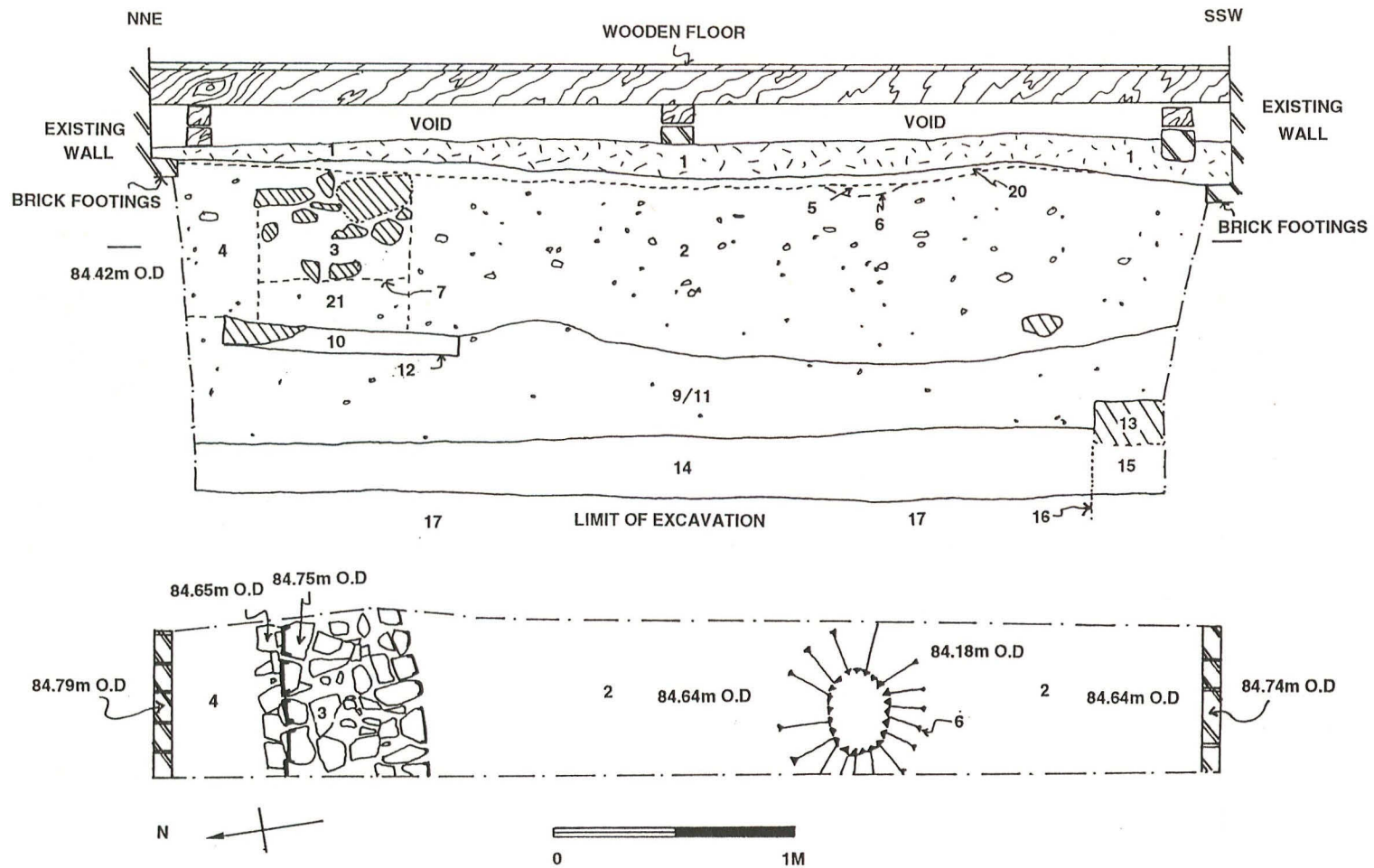


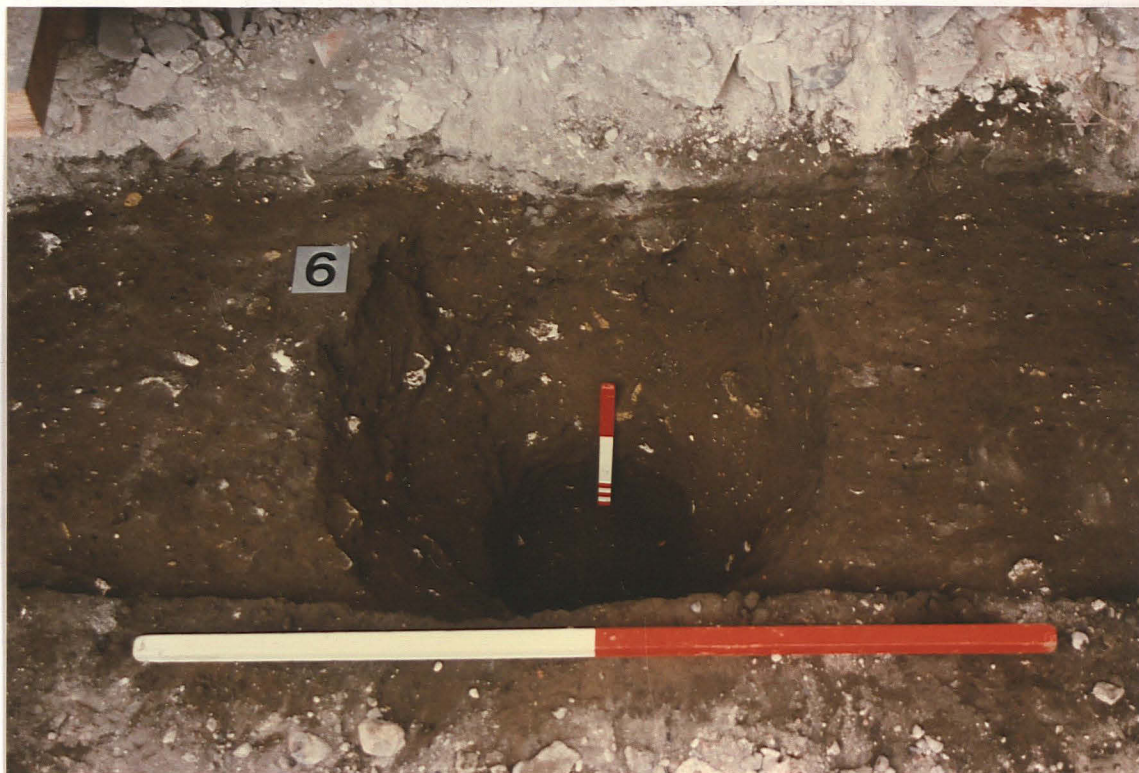
Fig. 3 Plan and East section of foundation trench.



Pl. 1 Casterby. Showing demolished west gable. View NNE.

Pl. 2 Initial cleaning of the foundation trench. Looking SE.





Pl. 3 Scaffolding hole 6, after excavation. View ESE. Vertical scale 0.25m, horizontal scale 1m.

Pl. 4 Foundation trench with scaffolding hole 6 and wall 3. Looking NE. Vertical scale 0.25m, horizontal scales 0.50m and 1m.





Pl. 5 Wall 3 and deposits 2 and 4. Note foundation off set. View ESE. Scales 0.50m and 1m.

Pl. 6 Section through wall 3. Vertical scale above 10, layer 2 to the left, 4 to the right. View WNW. Horizontal scale 1m, vertical scale 0.50m.





Pl. 7 Posthole 19 (left of scale), from above. Scale 0.25m.



Pl. 8 Wall 13 looking SSE. Horizontal scale 1m, vertical scale 0.50m.



Pl. 9 Section through foundation trench 16. Scale 0.25m. View WNW.

Pl.10 Base of the foundation trench revealing layer 17. Scales 1m. Looking NE.

