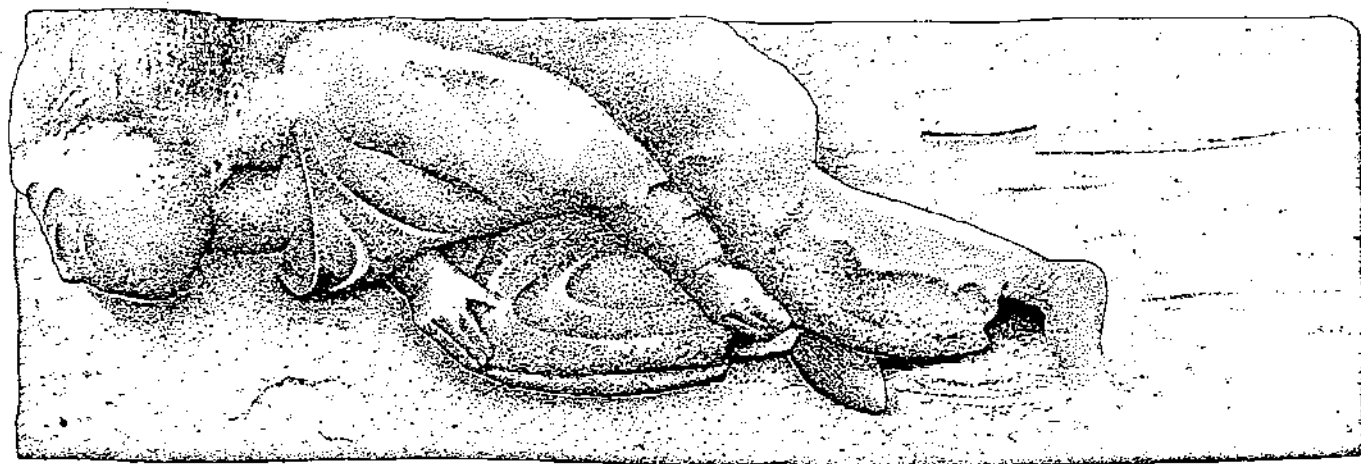


*Birmingham University
Field Archaeology Unit*

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL CLOSE
Archaeological Evaluation
(Stages 1–4)
1989–1990



SITE NARRATIVE

by Alex Jones

B.U.F.A.U.



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1.0: SUMMARY

This report describes the results of an integrated archaeological evaluation and building recording programme in the grounds of Number 19 The Close, Lichfield, Staffordshire (Figure 1). The investigations were conducted in four stages between October 1989 and May 1990.

A length of sandstone ashlar wall, exposed above ground level before excavation commenced, was defined as the south wall of a hitherto unsuspected medieval building (Structure 1), jutting out from the line of the defensive circuit encircling the close. On the east, Structure 1 extended to the Dam Street frontage of the Muniment Room. The west wall was located just inside the garden boundary of Number 19 The Close, and the north wall was not discovered.

The removal of post-medieval soils dumped over and against the wall exposed important original architectural features in the north elevation: a splayed window, garderobe chamber, and two doorways leading into an intra-mural passage with a garderobe chute. In the post-medieval period the interior of the building was razed to below floor level, and the south elevation was externally refaced. Small brick structures were constructed, over-riding the wall, and a formal garden was laid out.

2.0: INTRODUCTION

In October 1989 Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit was commissioned by the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield Cathedral to undertake the archaeological recording of a section of the presumed medieval close wall, and the excavation of two small trial trenches across its line (Stage 1) in the garden of Number 19 The Close, Lichfield, Staffordshire (centred on NGR. SK 116097)(Figure 1).

The archaeological evaluations were undertaken to provide information on possible archaeological constraints to the construction of a new Visitor Centre, prior to the submission of proposals for planning consent. Archaeologically, the purpose of the evaluation was to investigate the constructional sequence of the wall, its relationship with the deposits on either side, and to evaluate the quantity and quality of archaeological deposits in the area of the proposed development.

In Stage 1 a 2m-wide section was cut across the line of the wall, separated into two trenches; Trench I was dug for a length of 6m north of the wall, in the garden of Number 19 The Close; Trench II was excavated for 3.7m south of the wall in a densely overgrown area bordering an ornamental pool (formerly the Minster Pool).

Recognition of the standing wall as part of a major medieval building, after Stage 1, prompted further archaeological evaluation (Stages 2-4). Further investigation of the archaeological potential of the building was required to establish the implications of the new discovery for the proposed development. Further archaeological evaluation was targeted principally at the wall, to examine its architectural features and condition. It was also intended to define the extent of the building to which it belonged and the full sequence of deposits within the area affected by development and associated landscaping works. The first aim was achieved by trenching along both sides of the wall, to expose the wall and associated features to foundation level, and by the removal of overburden from the top of the wall itself (Trenches III and IV). This trenching involved the disturbance of post-medieval stratigraphy only. Trench I was extended by machine to a total length of 12m north of the wall

in an attempt to intercept the north wall of the medieval building, and provide a more detailed understanding of the sequence of activity represented here. A small sondage (Trench V) was dug inside the eastern garden boundary of Number 20 The Close, across the projected line of the wall, to determine its continuation (Figure 1).

In Trench I archaeological features and deposits were excavated systematically by hand. Topsoil in Trench I (extension) and Trench III was excavated by mini-digger. Recording was by means of pro-forma recording sheets, supplemented by photographs, plans and sections. Stonework above ground level, and exposed by trenching, was drawn, photographed and recorded.

This report presents a preliminary account of the results of excavation (Section 4.1) and building recording (Section 4.2), supplemented by a provisional, phased sequence of events, and discussion of the evidence (Section 5.0). Section 6.1 explains the recording system in use, and Section 6.2 lists the contents of the archive.

3.0: THE SITE AND ITS SETTING

The site is located south of Lichfield Cathedral, in the south-east angle of the Cathedral Close, on land which formerly sloped gently southwards towards a marshy area (Minster Pool). Natural sandstone bedrock shelves upwards towards the Close.

Archaeological excavations in the grounds of the Theological College to the west in 1976-1977 (Carver 1980-1981) revealed an historically informative sequence of events. Activity here commenced in the Neolithic, and resumed with Saxon burials contemporary with the first ecclesiastical settlement. In the 11th-12th centuries the Minster Pool bank was refurbished, and land was reclaimed in the early 12th century by the dumping of sand into the waterlogged area bounding the pool which was also at this time dammed to drive a mill. In the later medieval period the area formed the backyards of Canonical houses fronting onto the south of the (present) Cathedral Close. There was no clear evidence of a defensive wall here.

The Muniment Room, adjoining the 1989-90 excavations, was constructed originally in the late 17th-century as a stable and hayloft. The properties fronting the Close were constructed in the 18th century; cartographic evidence (Snape's Plan of Lichfield 1781) suggests the contemporary layout of formal gardens to the rear.

Excavations in 1987-1988 in the grounds of St Mary's House exposed a length of sandstone defensive wall aligned west-east, leading from the House, and to a medieval gate which partly underlies Dam Street.

The garden of Number 19 The Close is bounded to the south east (for convenience here referred to as south, following the liturgical orientation of the cathedral) by a heavily-overgrown, coursed ashlar wall (Structure 1, south wall), 6m long and 0.5m high, which appeared to end abruptly to the west. South of the wall, towards the Minster Pool, the ground level is 2m lower, and the south elevation of the wall is exposed to a height of approximately 2m. This wall, aligned approximately west-east, was initially interpreted as part of the defensive circuit enclosing the Cathedral Close. The south elevation was badly weathered, cracked, and bulged outwards; it was extensively shored before archaeological works commenced.

4.0: THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1: The excavation

The following provisional summary of archaeological events is based on the principles of archaeological stratigraphy, supported by spot dating. The fabric of the standing wall is discussed in section 4.2 below.

4.1.1: Trench I (Figure 1, Figure 8)

In Stage 1, a 2m-wide trench was hand excavated for a length of 6m, to a depth of 2.5m below modern ground level, perpendicular to the standing wall. The excavation of the earliest natural deposits was restricted to a 1m-wide sondage dug against the wall. The ground surface here had been raised by dumping and it was not possible to locate the bearing level of the wall

for reasons of safety: excavation ceased at 4.5m below the modern surface. In Stage 3, the trench was extended by machine (mini-digger) for a further 5m to the north, primarily to intercept the suspected north wall of Structure 1, but also to clarify the sequence of earlier deposits, by extending the sondage (now backfilled) to the north. In this extension, post-medieval deposits were removed by machine; medieval stratigraphy was systematically excavated by hand.

Natural sandstone bedrock was located at 2.4m below the modern surface (at 79.67m AOD) in a test pit at the north end of the trench, sealed by a natural, soft, orange clay. A borehole dug to the south confirms the suspected fall of natural sandstone to the south, away from the Cathedral Close.

The earliest evidence of human activity was a mottled, dirty, mid-brown clay silt (1119) overlying the natural clay, forming a shallow, gently sloping bank up to 0.4m deep, sealed by a charcoal-stained horizon (1116) containing a few waste flint flakes.

A two-stage episode of land reclamation was represented by up to 0.7m of sands dumped along the northern margin of the Minster Pool exposed in the north of the trench, and extensively scoured-out in the post-medieval period, sufficient remains of the sequence for it to be intelligible. The first stage comprised the dumping of a clean, buff-yellow, coarse sand (1115), 0.3m deep, over 1116, recorded for a length of 5m. The upper horizon of this deposit (1114) was disturbed. Later, a gentle, south-sloping bank was formed 4m to the south by the deposition of further sand (1133, 1132, 1131). A clean sand above (1129, 1130) was banded with lenses of organic silt, formed by the mixing of dumped material and slight alluvial intrusions at the edge of the Minster Pool. Deposits of the second stage contained pottery with a *terminus* in the 12th-14th century and a quantity of animal bone.

The foundation trench for the south wall of Structure 1 (F100) was excavated c. 3m south of the earlier bank, into a wedge of dark grey-black silt (1033) formed at the northern margin of the Minster Pool, and increasing in depth to the south. This homogeneous, water-lain silt was contacted 3.3m below the modern surface and

was exposed to a depth of 1m: it was equivalent to 2011 in Trench II. The lower 0.2m of this layer was below the water-table; a quantity of brushwood and leather shoe fragments were here preserved. Pottery from this layer has a *terminus* in the 13th-14th century. The silt was sampled for environmental evidence (Report in archive).

The bearing level of the wall was not established here, but F100 was probably cut to the level of the natural clay below. The wall trench was stepped in profile. Below offset level the rough stone foundations were inserted against the vertical side of the foundation trench (F100); above, the cut was 0.2m outside the face of the wall.

The construction deposits at the south end of the trench are historically very informative. During the initial phase of building, orange sands (1036/1128) and a trampled, dirty, buff-orange sand (1032) above, were deposited against the north face of the foundations. A thick, dark grey clay silt (1031) lapped against the wall during a lull in construction, and was drained by an irregularly cut ditch (F105), aligned parallel to the wall, containing a dark grey-black organic silt (1030/1125). Further construction debris was deposited above (1029, 1124, 1121), overlain by a brown silt clay (1028/1120), flecked with charcoal, thickening to a depth of 0.2m against the north face of the wall. A second drainage gully (F107) was dug against the face of the wall.

A mason's working floor, composed of greenish-white, compact, crushed sandstone (1027), sealed 1128/1020 and F107, and contained an increasing quantity of crushed sandstone fragments, towards the wall; it was artifact-free.

An end to construction here, and a possible levelling-up episode, were represented by a clean, soft, reddish-brown silt (1026), sealing 1027, overlain by a spread of charcoal-rich silt (1025), thickening towards the wall. This deposit, which may define the destruction of nearby temporary structures associated with construction, or represent internal floor levels within Structure 1, was sealed by further levelling (1024).

A shallow, flat, bottomed cut (F104) was dug to the north of the trench on a northeast-southwest alignment; but it was heavily truncated by later

disturbances. The fill was a sticky, black, organic silt (1022) which contained pottery with a *terminus* in the 13th-14th century. This is demonstrably the latest surviving medieval deposit.

There was no evidence of a north wall to Structure 1, or of any disturbance associated with a related robber trench in the extension to Trench I.

The initial medieval floor level was represented by the break between the foundations and coursed ashlar above, at the height of the original step to the garderobe chamber (F106). The upper levels of medieval stratigraphy and the medieval internal floor levels above had been scoured-out by later disturbance.

The next event was the construction of a drystone flight of steps (F102), perpendicular to the wall (Figure 12). The worn sandstone steps (1020) survived to a height of four treads, laid perpendicular to, and abutting the wall, leading down to the garderobe chamber. The re-flooring of the closet with red brick (1037) and reinstatement of the step (1041) were probably contemporary. A drystone retaining wall (F103) north of F102 was composed of re-used sandstone architectural fragments, including fragments of green sandstone window mullions (Figure 12).

Following construction of the steps and retaining wall (F102, F103), up to 2m of imported soils (1010, 1005, 1011, 1015) were deposited on the site, within which were visible tip lines containing post-medieval debris. The homogeneity, depth and extent of this dumping may suggest the infilling of cellarage constructed during an intermediate period (before F102) and not directly represented in the archaeological record. That there were post-medieval buildings in the garden of Number 19, adjacent to, and incorporating the south wall of Structure 1 is clear from Snape's plan of 1781.

Further dark brown soils (1109, 1110), were dumped to the north of the trench. The next event was the construction of a rectangular, mortared, semi-subterranean brick box (F101) 0.8m wide, enclosing the garderobe chamber doorway, and over-riding the steps (Figure 12). F101 was keyed into the wall (SE1006) below the hood moulding

(Figure 6). F101 may have been contemporary with a hardstanding to the north (1104) formed of creamy-white mortar, sealing the brick-lined drain F111.

A mixed demolition horizon (1004) overlay F101 and the contemporary dumped soils below. After further levelling-up, a gravelled garden path was laid out (1009, 1039, 1102, 1103). Cartographic evidence (O.S. 1st edition) indicates this was part of a path surrounding a fountain in a formal canonical garden.

4.1.2: Trench III (Figure 1)

Trench III (East) was hand-excavated along the north face of the standing wall, exposing its ashlar face to foundation level, between Trench I and the Muniment Room. Trench III (West) was dug by machine between Trench I and the western garden boundary to expose the north elevation to foundation level and to uncover the intra-mural passage. Excavation in both trenches was restricted to the removal of post-medieval deposits.

4.1.2.1: Trench III (East) (Figure 1, Figure 12)

The earliest deposit encountered was a build-up of brown silt soil (3003; equivalent to 1005 in Trench I), dumped against the wall and filling the lower part of the window embrasure (F301). This soil was overlain by a lens of grey-black gritty ash (3002) in the base of the window aperture. Above, a hearth, formed of horizontally-laid red bricks edged to the front and rear by red sandstone blocks (F300: 3001), was set within the blocked embrasure. The hearth was extensively disturbed by tree roots and the sandstone facing had collapsed outwards.

A sandstone-footed structure (F302: Structure 3), possibly contemporary with the hearth, was constructed abutting the north face of the wall to the east. The mortared sandstone footings (3005) were laid over 3003 to form the base of a right-angled brick door jamb (3004). Despite its limited survival, this structure may be interpreted as the lower level of a doorway inserted into the wall, formed by levelling-down the upper two surviving courses of medieval wall. The jamb was

constructed in alignment with the vertical, newly-exposed (rendered), face of the wall.

More recently, a foul drain (F312) was cut into 3003, perpendicular to the wall; its exit in the south face of the wall was later blocked (SE2011). The remainder of the structure was sealed by a modern garden soil mixed with concrete and other building debris (3000) and was extensively disturbed by tree roots and their removal in the area adjoining the Muniment Room.

Excavation ceased 1m west of the Muniment Room: there was no evidence of a cross wall joining the standing wall of Structure 1.

4.1.2.2: Trench III (West) (Figure 1, Figure 12)

Up to 1.5m of post-medieval soil and rubble were excavated to define the medieval builds within the intra-mural passage and to expose the north elevation. For a description of the fabric of the medieval wall and intra-mural passage, see section 4.2 below.

The heavily disturbed, slumped core of a possible north-south cross wall (F316) was encountered at the west end of the trench, sealed by a post-medieval build-up (3005) (Figure 1). A return wall to the west here is further indicated by the definition of a band of mortar-stained soil (3115: not excavated), possibly representing the fill of a robber trench: the north elevation above, was keyed to a west wall as evidenced by the projecting block (SE1016) (Figure 3, Figure 6).

The foundation trench for a mortared sandstone wall footing (F313: Structure 5) was cut into 3005, perpendicular to, and abutting, the south wall of Structure 1. The wall was formed of re-used red sandstone ashlar blocks (3117). There was no other evidence for this structure within the area of excavation.

Following the truncation of the intra-mural passage to the level of the medieval plinth, a long, narrow building (Structure 4) was constructed straddling the north and south walls of the intra-mural passage. The construction of Structure 4 may have been contemporary with the rebuild of the south face, which terminated in a vertical face just inside the passageway, and incorporated chamfered door surrounds from the former. This vertical face formed the east jamb

of a doorway leading into Structure 4 from the south. A single course of red sandstone footing (F315) was laid over the chamfered plinth to provide a base for a brick wall (F320: not illustrated) which was aligned along the south wall of the passage. A floor of horizontally-laid bricks (3112) was laid at the west end of the passage. Following the blocking of the east and west doorways with red sandstone architectural fragments (F321, F322: Figure 6, SE1012, SE1014), the inside faces of the passage above 3112 were rendered (3122). The re-use of the original medieval garderobe shaft in the late building phase is suggested by brick repairs to the upper internal faces (3125, 3126).

The demolition of Structure 4 is evidenced by an extensive spread of creamy-white mortar mixed with brick dust (3101, 3110): a similar deposit filled the base of the drain F319 (3132) and was encountered in Trench IV (4107). The garderobe shaft (F318) above the drain was backfilled with brick and stone rubble derived from the demolition of Structure 4 (3127).

Following the demolition episode, a sandstone garden drain (F314) was cut into the fill of the robber trench representing the western return of the wall (3115), perpendicular to the south wall of Structure 1, and truncating the west cross wall of the intra-mural passage (F317). The drain trench was overlain by a deep modern garden soil (3100).

4.1.3: Trench II, Trench IV and Trench V (Figure 1)

Trench II, which continued the line of Trench I, was dug for a length of 3.7m away from the south face of Structure 1, to a depth of c.2m: excavation of the lower, waterlogged levels was restricted to a trench 1m wide, to minimise the danger of collapse of the slumped wall.

The condition of the south face of the standing wall was investigated in two sondages (Trenches IV East and West), but excavation was limited by the proximity of two mature trees. A further sondage (Trench V), measuring 2m by 1m, was dug inside the eastern boundary of Number 20 The Close, to investigate the suspected westward continuation of the standing wall.

4.1.3.1: Trench II (Figure 9)

Natural, orange-red silt clay was contacted ca. 2.7m below the modern surface (at 77.31m AOD) sealing the sandstone bedrock at an unknown depth below. Above was a dark grey-black, fine, organic silt (2011: equivalent to 1033 in Trench I), c. 1m deep, deposited at the edge of the Minster Pool. Below the water-table (at 77.61m AOD), fragments of brushwood and medieval shoe leather were preserved. The water-table was unusually low as a result of deliberate draining of the pool and the preceding exceptionally dry summer. This layer contained medieval pottery with a terminus in the 13th-14th century. It was sampled for environmental evidence (Report in archive).

A vertical-sided foundation trench (F100: Structure 1, south wall) was cut through 2011 to the level of the natural clay beneath. The rough sandstone foundations were set against the edge of the trench.

Sealing 2011 was a localised lens of dark brown clay-silt flecked with charcoal (2017). Above was a sequence of soils and demolition debris tipped from north of the wall (2012, 2013, 2016), sealed by a thick deposit of brown silt clay (2010), overlain by further soils and demolition rubble (2009, 2007) containing pottery with a terminus in the 18th century.

These accumulations of debris were cut by a disused sewer trench (F201: 2015), aligned west-east, later re-instated to the north (F200), associated with a concrete-floored outbuilding which defined the southernmost extent of Trench II. A path (2001) above was cut to the south by a shallow garden bed (F202) and sealed by modern topsoil (2000).

4.1.3.2: Trench IV (East) (Figure 9)

Trench IV (East) was dug to a depth of 2.4m below the modern surface to reveal the full depth of the ashlar sandstone facing (Figure 2). The earliest deposit examined was a compact, grey silt, flecked with charcoal (4108: equivalent to 2012 and 3133). This was overlain by a tip of creamy-white mortar containing tile, brick and stone fragments (4107: equivalent to 3132), sealed by a deposit of crushed, red sandstone blocks

(4106), possibly deriving from the demolition of Structure 4. A broad band of dark-grey stone-free silt (4105) overlay 4106, and was capped by further demolition debris (4104). A dark grey silt clay (4103) above was overlain by a similar deposit of demolition rubble (4102), and sealed by a lens of gravel (4101), tipped from the direction of the wall, which was in turn sealed by the modern topsoil (4100).

4.1.3.3: Trench IV (West) (Not illustrated)

In Trench I (West), a dark grey clay soil (4001), was sealed by a dark brown modern topsoil (4000).

4.1.3.4: Trench V (Not illustrated)

In Trench V a mid-brown, stony clay soil (5001) flecked with creamy, white mortar and approximately 1m in depth, was sealed by the modern topsoil (5000). There was no evidence for a continuation of the medieval wall here.

4.2: Structure 1 South wall

4.2.1: North elevation (Figure 3, Figure 4A-4B, Figure 6, Figure 7)

4.2.1.1: The medieval wall.

The foundations were exposed in Trench I to a depth of 4.6m below the modern surface, but the bearing level of the wall was not determined; further excavation was curtailed by safety considerations. The lowest element exposed (at 77.82 m AOD) was a narrow offset formed of a single course of rectangular sandstone blocks (SE 1000), capped by 2.6m of red and green sandstone rubble foundations (SE1001, SE1017), set back 0.05m from SE1000 above (Figure 13). The top of this rubble marked the former floor level within the building.

The ashlar wall (SE 1002), above SE1001, was exposed for its entire length in Trench III. It survived to a height of 2.2m above the foundations for a length of 11m to the east: a further length of 6.5m to the west had been demolished to leave a maximum height of 0.7m standing after the removal of overburden.

Above SE1001, a coursed sandstone ashlar wall (SE1002) was constructed, above medieval internal floor level. The courses measured 0.3m in height, but, around AE101, varied to accommodate the dressing of the arched opening. Having been almost wholly below the modern ground level until excavated, the face is relatively well preserved, except for root damage which is most severe close to the Muniment Room. The badly disturbed rubble core (SE1029) was exposed by the removal of vegetation from the upper levels; it had slumped to the south, becoming detached from the inside face of this elevation.

A west wall was tentatively located by excavation inside the western garden boundary (Figure 1). This westward return was keyed into the south wall by a single, projecting bonding-stone on the south elevation, below the west jamb of AE104 (SE1016). The absence of similar keying in the foundations below (SE1017) may suggest a change in layout during construction; but only one course of ashlar survived here above SE1016. Two parallel cut marks (SE1022) denote the position of a wattle-and-daub partition 0.3m wide, sprung into the sandstone ashlar face (SE1002), 2m west of AE103.

An internally-splayed window embrasure (AE 100) west of the Muniment Room, measuring 1.8m across, survived to a height of 1.3m; it originally tapered to a narrow opening in the southern elevation. AE100 belongs to the same build as a blocked window of similar form located within the south wall of the Muniment Room. Two putlog or fixing holes were recorded, one in the north face of the surround (SE1005), a second inside the embrasure.

The main architectural element in the north elevation is an elaborate arched doorway (AE 101), 0.7m wide and 1.2m high. A weathered, round-headed stone hood-moulding (SE 1007) capped the rebated surround (SE1008) for the externally-opening door. Part of the lower hinge-crook mounting is visible in the (lower) western edge. A carved label-stop, 0.5m by 0.18m (AE102; SE1021; Figure 11), beneath SE1007 to the west, depicts a draped, horizontal, adult human figure – possibly clerical; the east label-stop had been removed by later disturbance (SE1006).

The doorway probably led into a small garderobe chamber within the fabric of the wall; alternatively this feature may be interpreted as a small postern gate (Figure 4B).

To the west, an intra-mural passage (AE105) was exposed, measuring 6m in length and 1.1m in width, entered via two chamfered doorways, 0.5m wide (AE103, AE104). The eastern doorway (AE 103) was rebated for an internally-opening door, and the rust scar of a hinge-crook was visible. The east wall of the passage was formed by a continuation of the east surround of AE103 to the south. The west chamfered doorway (AE104) was similar in form to its eastern counterpart, but the original chamfered step survived intact here. The line of its western edge was continued to the south (SE1015) to close-off AE105.

The irregular, sandstone-and-mortar core of the wall (SE1023, SE1024) was exposed in the passage, which was probably originally flagged. A rectangular, double garderobe-shaft (AE106), measuring a maximum of 1m by 0.6m, was exposed slightly off-centre in the passage. The northern wall of the shaft (SE1027) was extended above the top of the garderobe and may have formed the base for a presumed wooden partition of the shaft, to form a back-to-back garderobe, an arrangement also suggested by the identification of two entrances to the passageway. The tapering, rectangular garderobe shaft (SE1029) overhung an arched drain (AE107), 1m wide, perpendicular to the south wall. The vertical-sided drain, edged by sandstone ashlar blocks (SE1031, SE1032), was excavated to a depth of 1.5m, but its base was not reached.

4.2.1.2: Post-medieval activity (Figure 12).

Following the presumed collapse of the south face of the wall of Structure 1, it was re-faced, closing-off the window (AE100) and the garderobe (or postern gate: AE101). The original step of AE 101 was removed, and the ashlar course below (SE 1020) was hacked away to bed a course of horizontally-laid header bricks (SE1010) under a crude sandstone chamfered step (SE 1009). The garderobe chamber was re-floored with horizontally-laid red bricks (Figure

4B: SE1030). This remodelling was probably contemporary with the construction of the steps and retaining wall (F102, F103).

A length of the wall between AE 100 and the Muniment Room was cut-down, to accommodate a brick building (Structure 3), and the newly-exposed vertical face was rendered (SE1004: Figure 6).

A narrow building was constructed in the area of the intra-mural passage (Structure 4). The doorways of the intra-mural passage were blocked with mortared red sandstone architectural fragments (SE 1012 and SE 1014). The upper splay of the garderobe shaft (SE1025, SE1026) was patched with red bricks. A hard grey lime render was applied to the inside elevations of the intra-mural passage, and over the blocked doorways (SE1022).

A re-build above SE1002 (SE1003, SE1019) over AE101, using mostly the original materials, was probably contemporary: this stonework lay mainly above the modern garden level and was heavily weathered.

4.2.2: South elevation (Figure 2, Figure 5)

This elevation was drawn and recorded to ground level after shoring. The sequence and condition of the lower builds of the wall were defined and recorded in Trench II, and Trench IV: the latter was dug to investigate its possible westward continuation and condition. Excavation in Trench IV (East and West) was limited by the proximity of large mature trees, and the depth of modern overburden.

4.2.2.1: The medieval wall

The bearing level of the wall was found in Trench II at 2.8m below the modern ground level (Figure 9). The roughly-faced sandstone rubble foundations, 1.1m high, set in a buff-sandy mortar (SE 2000), rested on the natural clay beneath. The foundations were probably always below the medieval water-level of the Minster Pool. Above, an ashlar plinth (SE2001), 1m high, was set back 0.05m from the foundations. In Trench II, the plinth leant to the south at an angle of 50 degrees: the stonework in Trench IV was mostly

vertical, but the beginning of this dramatic lean was detected in Trench IV (East). The plinth was capped by a square course (SE2002, SE2017, SE2022), recorded in Trenches II and IV, and overlain by a chamfered plinth (AE200), mostly above the modern ground level to the east. The plinth was composed of two courses, seriously displaced in Trench II (SE2003), and heavily weathered in Trench IV (SE2018, SE2023). This was the uppermost surviving level of the medieval build in this elevation.

The Muniment Room was built over the north face of the south wall of Structure 1 in the 17th century. The mortared, sandstone core (SE 2004) of the medieval build is partly visible at modern ground level below the south wall of the Muniment Room. The chamfered, ashlar facing stones (SE 2014) belonged to the chamfered plinth (AE200), and are *ex situ*, separated from the core.

4.2.2.2: Post-medieval activity (Figure 4A, Figure 12)

The wall was rebuilt above the chamfered plinth using mostly the original green sandstone blocks. The rebuild (SE 2004) was irregularly coursed and incorporated scattered, short courses of tile and brick to level-up the stonework to the height of the surrounding courses. This rebuild contained chamfered door dressings probably derived from the contemporary levelling of the north elevation of the intra-mural passage.

A brick-and-stone quoin was inserted at the junction between the wall and the south west corner of the Muniment Room, to key the rebuild into this structure. A double course of ashlar blocks (SE 2005, SE 2006), bonded into the south facing elevation, was continued as a decorative band along the entire length of the south wall of the Muniment Room. Above SE 2006, a band of red bricks (SE 2007) was capped by further sandstone ashlar blocks (SE2008).

A patch of red bricks (SE 2015) was exposed in Trench IV (East) above the square course (SE 2022). This supported the rebuild (SE2004) which was terminated as a vertical face, slightly inside the intra-mural passage to frame the east side of a doorway leading into a narrow building

(Structure 4). This structure straddled the medieval wall in the area of the intra-mural passage, after the levelling-down of the north and south walls (AE105). A single course of rectangular, red sandstone blocks (SE2019) was laid over the upper course of the chamfered plinth (AE200). This provided a footing for a wall composed of a double thickness of bricks (SE2020).

More recently, the lower levels of the wall were patched with brick (SE2009-SE2012). This activity may be contemporary with the laying of a drain to the west of the Muniment Room (F312). A full examination of these repairs was inhibited by the structural instability of the surrounding areas.

5.0: PROVISIONAL PHASED SEQUENCE AND DISCUSSION

Following this initial appraisal of the results of Stages 1-4 of the evaluation, it is possible to define elements of six main periods of activity. These events may be interpreted within the model proposed by Carver (Carver 1980-1981). Further in-depth analysis of the records, and the input from specialists reports, will permit the refinement of this provisional sequence, which is defined as follows:

- Period 1: Prehistoric
- Period 2: Early medieval
- Period 3: Later medieval
- Period 4: ?17th century
- Period 5: Later post-medieval
- Period 6: Modern.

Period 1: Prehistoric

The exploitation of the area in the prehistoric period is hinted-at by the discovery of a charcoal-rich horizon (1116) containing a quantity of worked flint flakes immediately overlying natural clay. This evidence may parallel more extensive Neolithic activity to the west (Carver 1980-1981).

Period 2: Early medieval

The earliest definable activity was the repeated dumping of large quantities of sand (1115, 1114, 1133, 1132, 1131) into the northern edge of the Minster Pool. This land reclamation may be dated to the early 12th century by reference to historical and archaeological parallels (Carver 1980-1981). Rubbish was dumped over the wedge of water-lain silts accumulating at the edge of the Pool.

There was no evidence to document the long break between the Neolithic and the 12th century: limited excavation of the earlier levels (Trench I) suggests that pre-12th-century activity was focussed to the west of the site.

Period 3: Later medieval

A massive, sandstone ashlar building (Structure 1) was constructed in the ?14th-15th century, jutting out into the marshy area to the south. The south wall of this imposing structure was excavated and recorded during the evaluation. Structure 1 probably extended up to the modern frontage of Dam Street to the east, and the garden boundary between Numbers 19 and 20 The Close to the west. The northernmost limit of Structure 1 was probably beyond the investigated area, unless the wall was shallowly founded, or of timber or arcaded construction.

In the initial stage of construction, a foundation trench (F100) was cut through the waterlogged silts, to bed the rubble foundations directly on the natural clay below. Construction debris (1036/1126), spread to the north of the wall was overlain by silts during an interruption in construction, and a drainage ditch (F105) was dug. Later, intensive building activity was marked by the deposition of a mason's working floor (1027), probably associated with the construction of the upper (ashlar) levels of the wall. Ground level was raised, either by the dumping of debris within the building, or as a result of the general clearance of the site after construction ceased.

The sandstone structure was divided by a wattle-and-daub partition (SE 1022) keyed into, and perpendicular to the south wall. The excavation exposed a garderobe chamber and a double garderobe shaft within an intra-mural passage to the west. The length of the passage is

unusual, and may suggest a ground-floor layout determined by first-floor arrangements, possibly including a garderobe shaft immediately above on the upper floor. The provision of a number of toilets and the quality of the internal architectural features may hint at the use of Structure 1 as small, sub-divided lodgings for clerical visitors. This interpretation is not inconsistent with the location of Structure 1 close to the Cathedral itself.

Period 4: ?17th century

In the ?17th century the south elevation of the wall collapsed outwards, and was rebuilt above plinth level using the original materials. The rebuild extended up to the west of a doorway leading into a ?contemporary brick structure (Structure 4) straddling the intra-mural passage, after the levelling-down of the medieval walls.

Period 5: Later post-medieval

The upper levels of medieval stratigraphy, including floors, and a ?basement, were scoured out and replaced by up to 2m of imported soils, not later than the 18th century. Small, brick, garden outhouses were constructed over and against the medieval wall (Structures 2-5), and the splayed window was utilised as a hearth, indicating that a chimney was erected. A formal garden was laid out, incorporating gravelled paths. In Periods 4 and 5 a quantity of red sandstone architectural fragments (possibly derived from remodelling inside the Cathedral) was incorporated into contemporary structures.

Period 6: Modern

Disturbance in the modern period has been limited to the excavation of service trenches, mostly through post-medieval deposits. The line of the wall west of the doorway was obscured by the build-up of modern garden soils. Ground level south of the wall was built up by the accumulation of debris tipped over the wall.

Despite the limited extent of the evaluation, and the limited excavation of earlier deposits,

this exercise has demonstrated the preservation of an important archaeological resource. The discovery of the well-preserved remains of a major, hitherto unsuspected, medieval building is of considerable importance, and the display of the standing remains will add to the interest of the proposed new Visitor Centre.

6.0: PROJECT RECORDS AND INDEX TO ARCHIVE

6.1: Project records

Recording was by means of standard BUFAU printed pro-forma sheets, plans, sections and photographs (see Section 6.2 below). Contexts were recorded in a single numerical sequence in each trench, (starting at 1000, 2000, 3000, 4000 and 5000) Features (representing all manmade 'events' such as the construction of walls, doors, windows, ditches and drains) were recorded in a separate sequence in each trench (starting at F100, F200, and F300).

Each category of finds (e.g. nails) from a single context was allotted a find number in a unified, running sequence common to all trenches, commencing at 0001. Readily-datable finds, such as pottery were divided into medieval, post-medieval or modern ceramics, and numbered separately. Discarded finds were noted on the appropriate assemblage summary sheets.

Recording of the standing structure was by means of measured, stone-by-stone drawing of both elevations, (at a scale of 1:20), as revealed after excavation and the clearing of vegetation (Figure 2, Figure 3). Additional, overlay drawings were prepared to highlight Structural Elements (SE), representing each identifiable building activity, and Architectural Elements (AE), representing doors and windows (Figure 5, Figure 6). The wall was drawn in plan (Figure 4A, Figure 7). In each case the drawn record was supported by cross-referenced pro-forma recording sheets and photographs.

6.2: Index to archive

The research archive comprises:

NO. DESCRIPTION

- 1 Index to archive.
- 2 Context/ feature records arranged by trench.
- 3 Architectural and structural element recording forms.
- 4 Colour slides, colour prints, monochrome contact sheets and photographic index.
- 5 Site drawings and index.
- 6 Finds assemblage summaries and index.
- 7 Archaeobotanical assessment.
- 8 Stratification summaries.
- 9 Project reports.
- 10 Project correspondence.

The original drawings, photographs and records are held in archive, and will be deposited with the Staffordshire County Sites and Monuments Record. The finds will be deposited in Stoke on Trent City Museum.

7.0: REFERENCE

Carver, M. O. H. 1980-1981

'Excavations south of Lichfield Cathedral'
Trans. South Staffs. Arch. & Hist. Soc. Vol XXII pp 35-69.

8.0: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The project was sponsored by the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield Cathedral. Stages 1-2 of the fieldwork were supervised by the author. I am grateful to Ed Newton for supervising Stages 3 and 4. The field team comprised Laurence Jones, Lucie Dingwall, Quentin Hutchinson and Lynne Bevan. The project was monitored by Dr W.J Rodwell for the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield Cathedral, and by Iain Ferris for BUFAU: both advised throughout and read an earlier version of this report. I am grateful to Mr. R.A. Meeson, Archaeological Officer, Staffordshire County Council, and to John Yates and Paul Drury of English Heritage for assistance and advice. Sonia Hodges, Colette Paterson, Caroline Gait and Ed Newton drew the illustrations, and the report was produced at BUFAU by Liz Hooper.

Alex Jones
Birmingham University Field Archaeology
Unit
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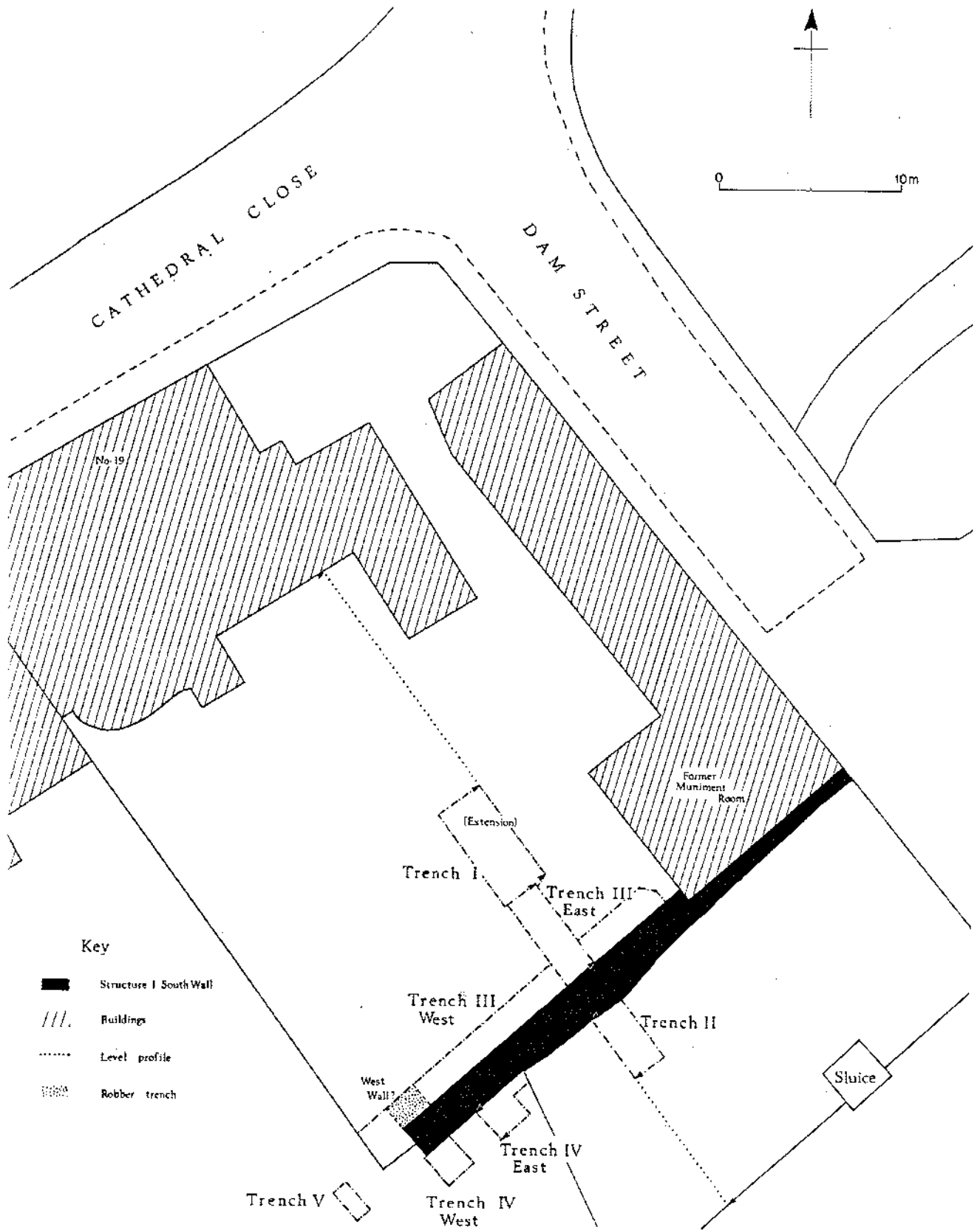
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LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL CLOSE 1989-90

Areas of Archaeological Excavation



Key





-  Structure I South Wall
-  Buildings
-  Level profile
-  Robber trench

Figure 1

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL CLOSE 1989-90
 Structure 1 South Wall South Elevation

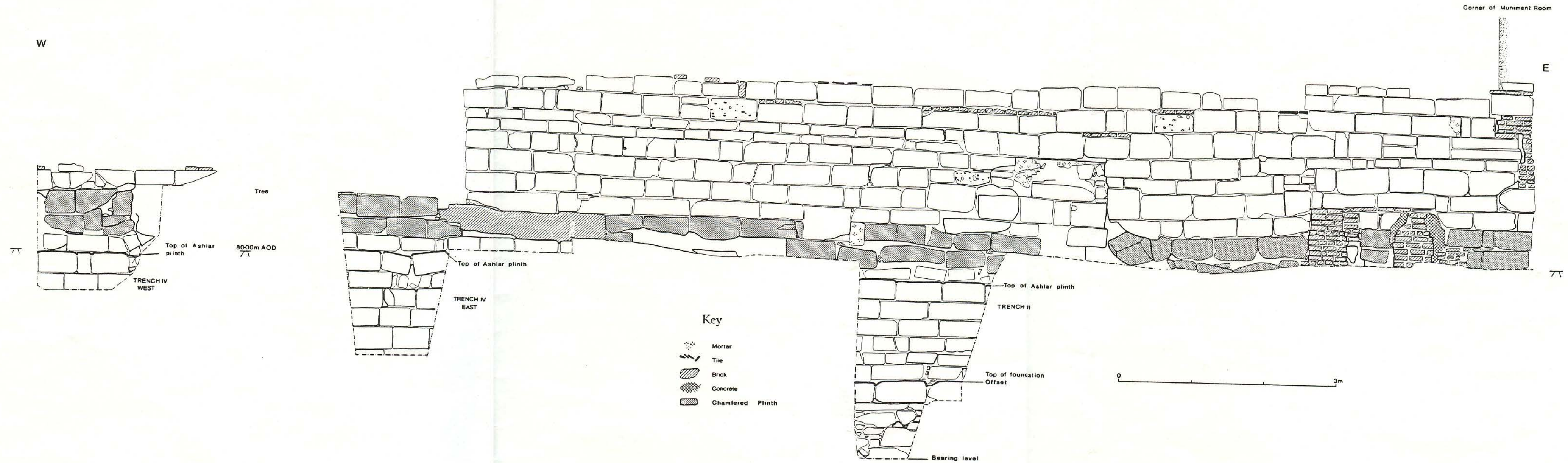


Figure 2

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL CLOSE 1989-90

Structure 1 South Wall North Elevation

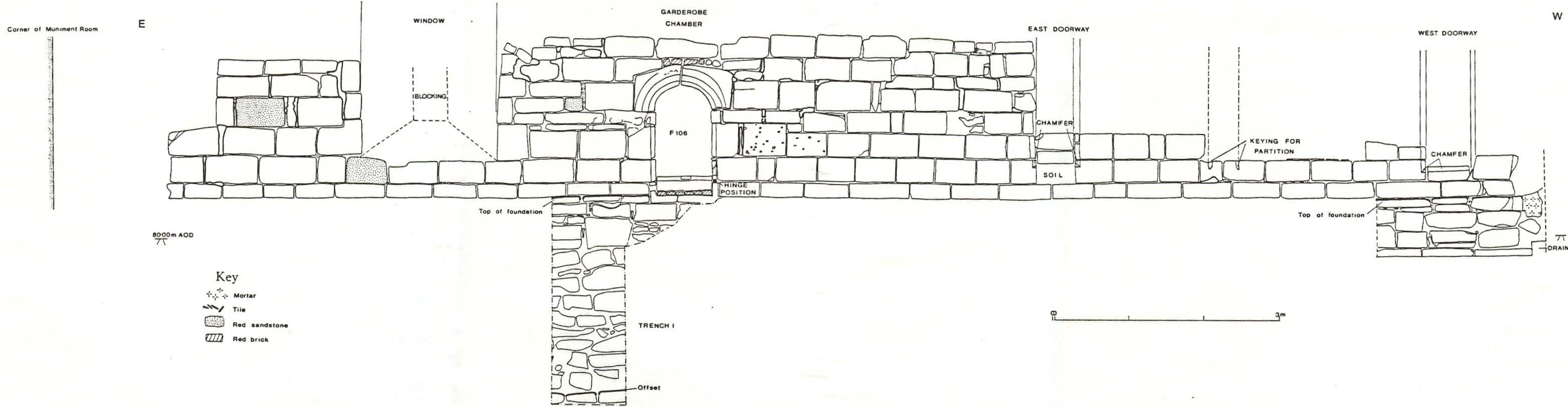
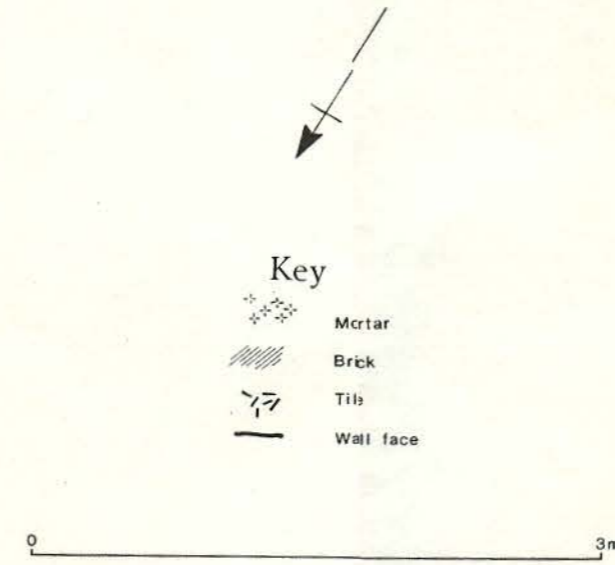
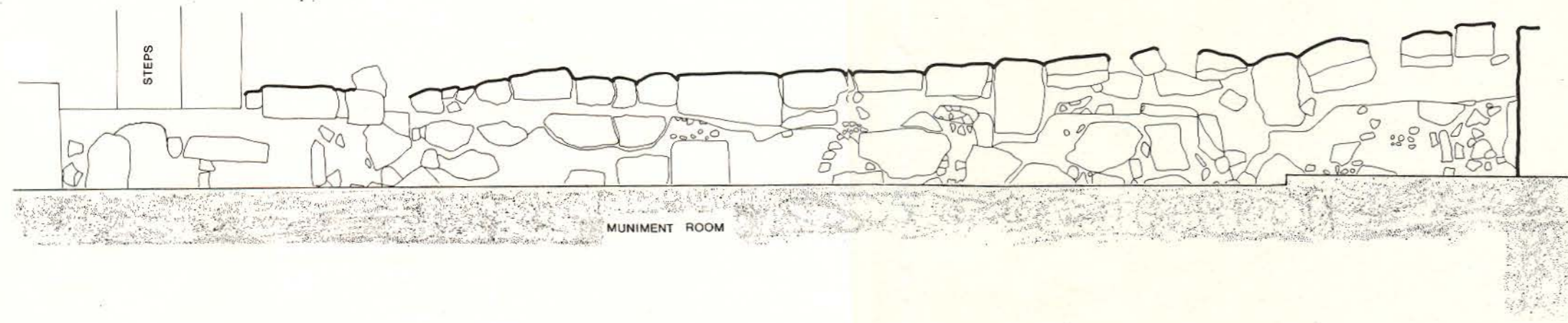


Figure 3

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL CLOSE 1989-90
 Structure 1 South Wall Plan



Plan of garderobe chamber

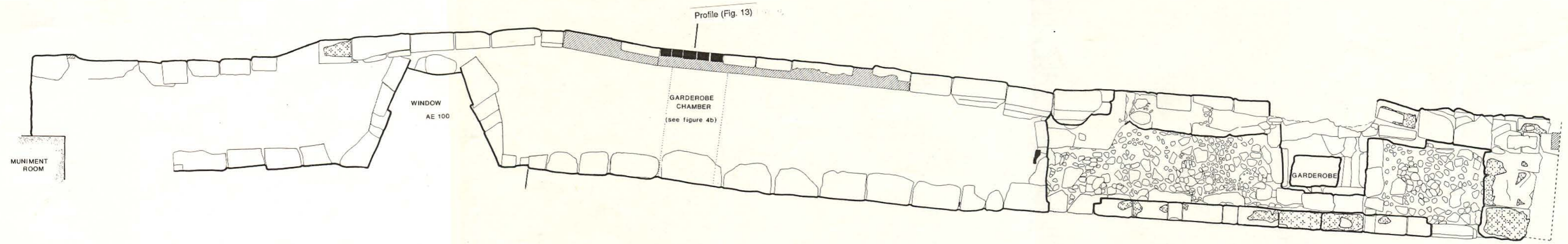
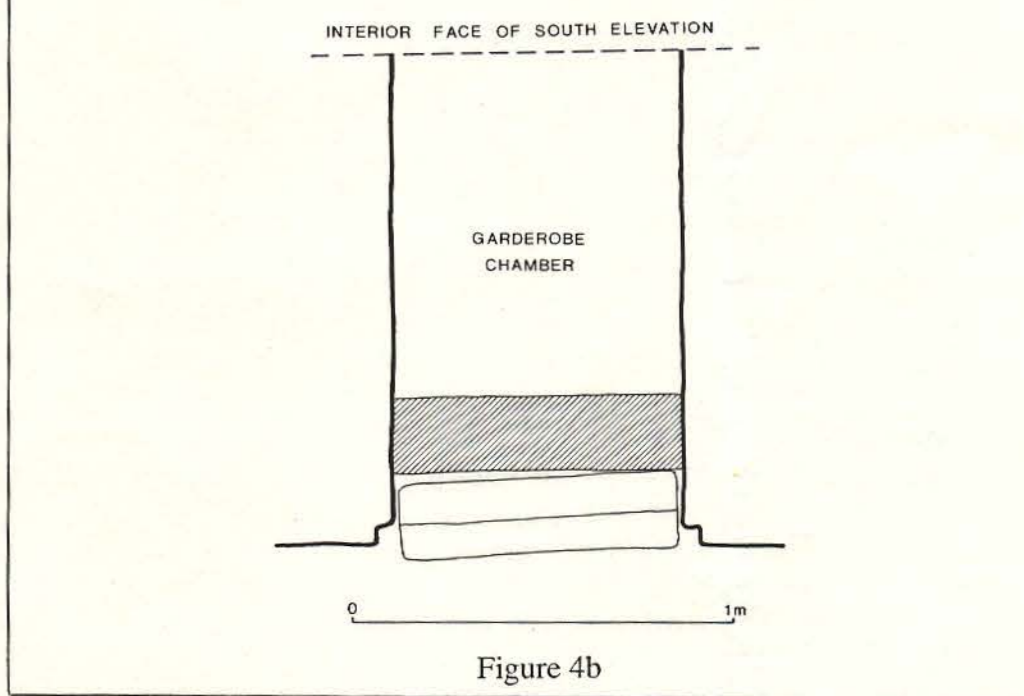


Figure 4a

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL CLOSE 1989-90
 Structure 1 South Wall South Elevation
 Building Elements

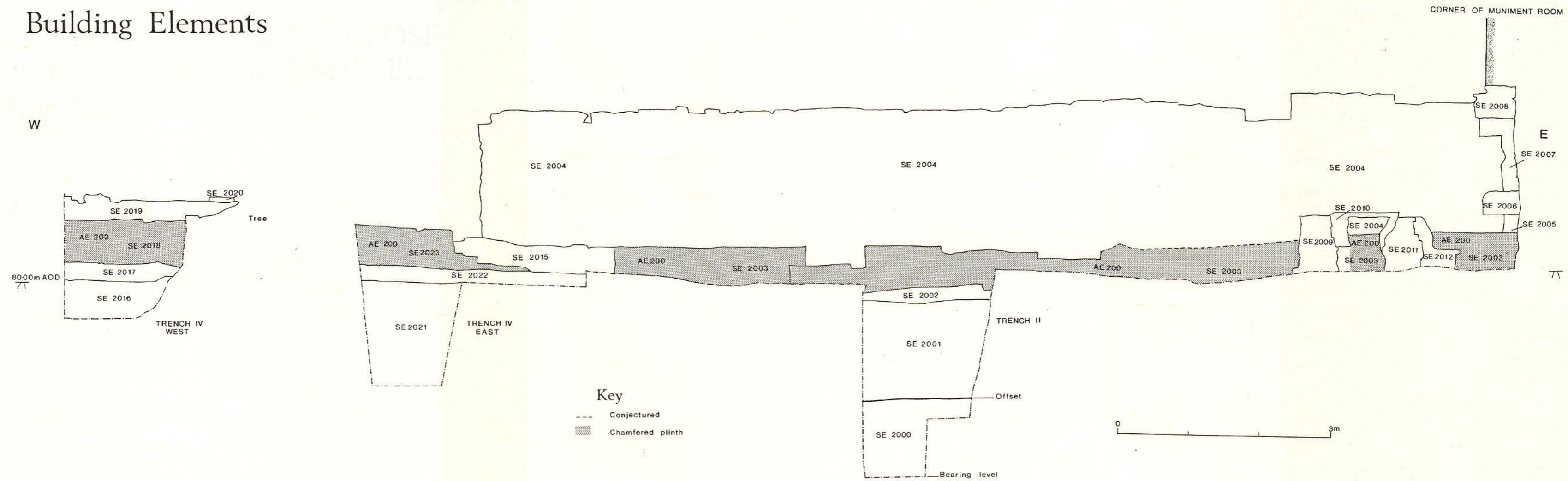


Figure 5

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL CLOSE 1989-90

Structure 1 South Wall North Elevation

Building Elements

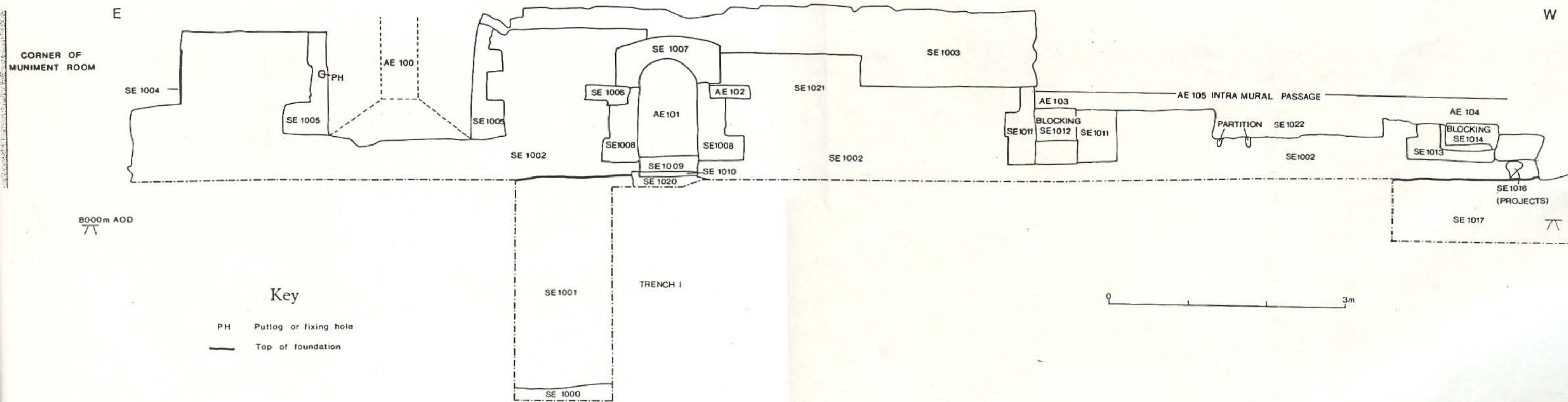


Figure 6

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL CLOSE 1989-90
 Structure 1 South Wall Plan
 Building Elements

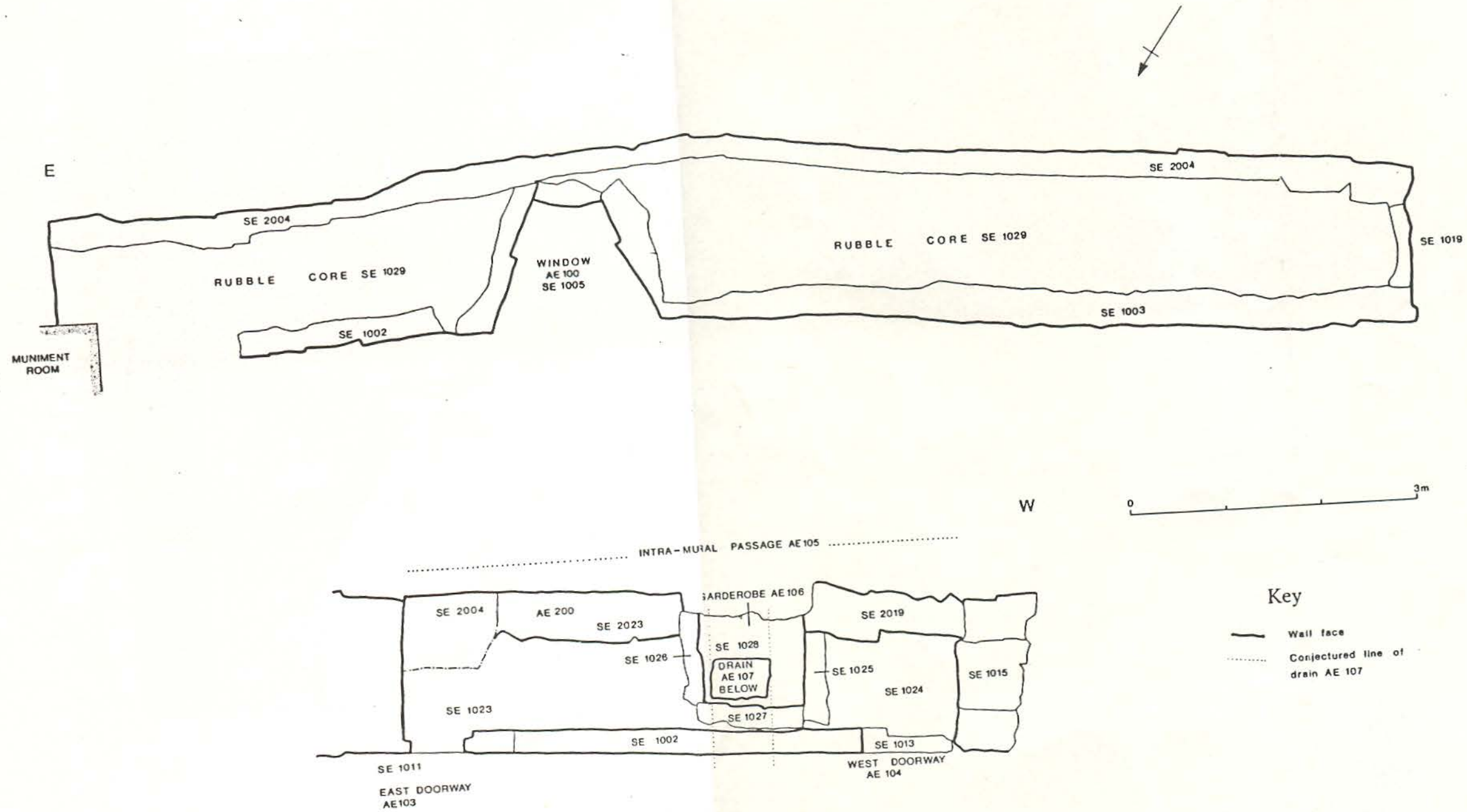


Figure 7

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL CLOSE 1989-90

Trench I West Facing Section

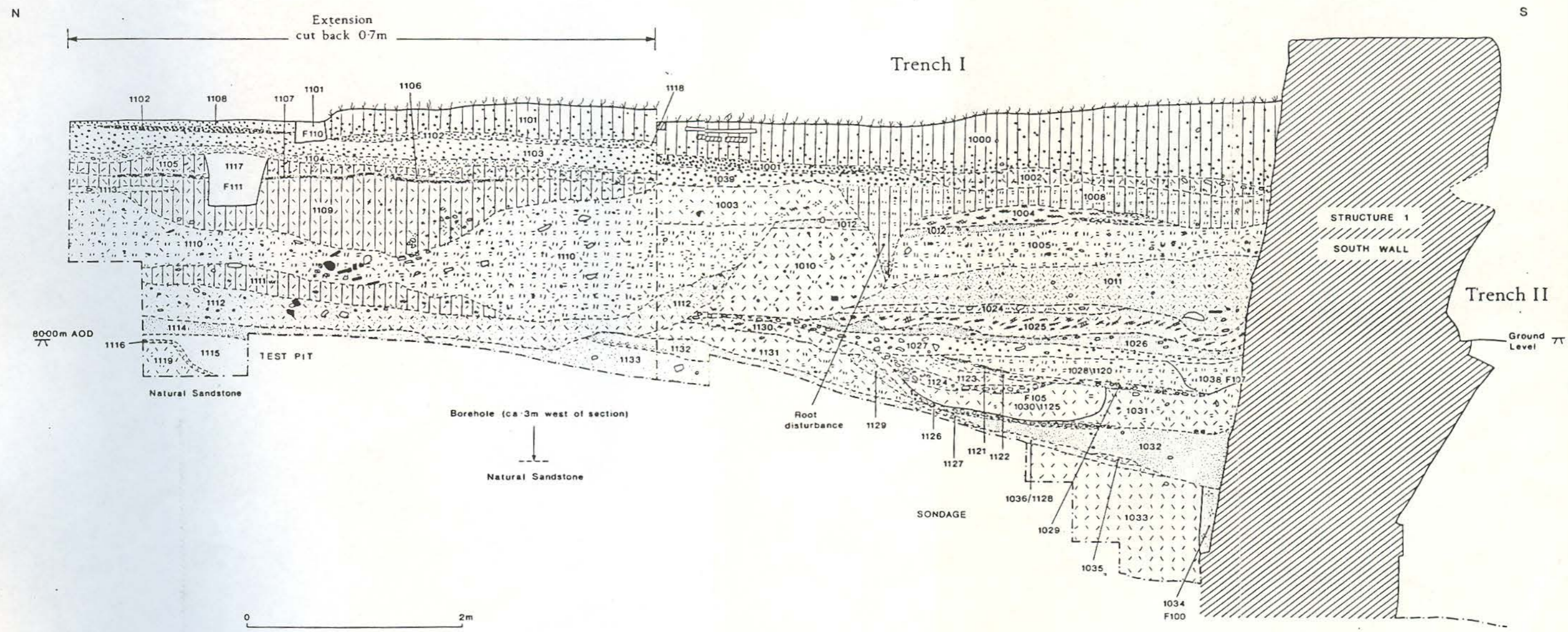


Figure 8

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL CLOSE 1989-90

Trenches II & IV East Facing Sections

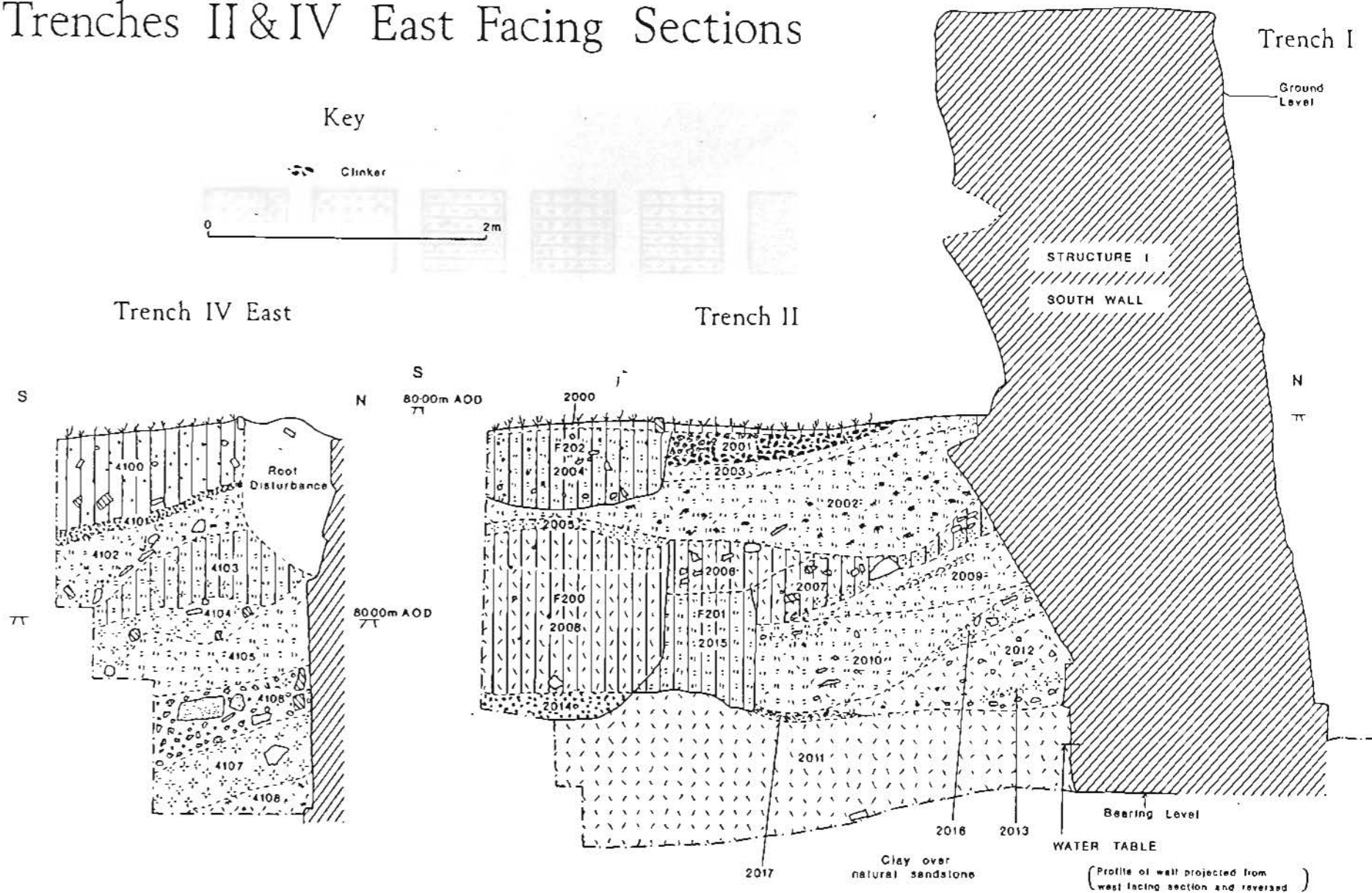


Figure 9

Key to Sections

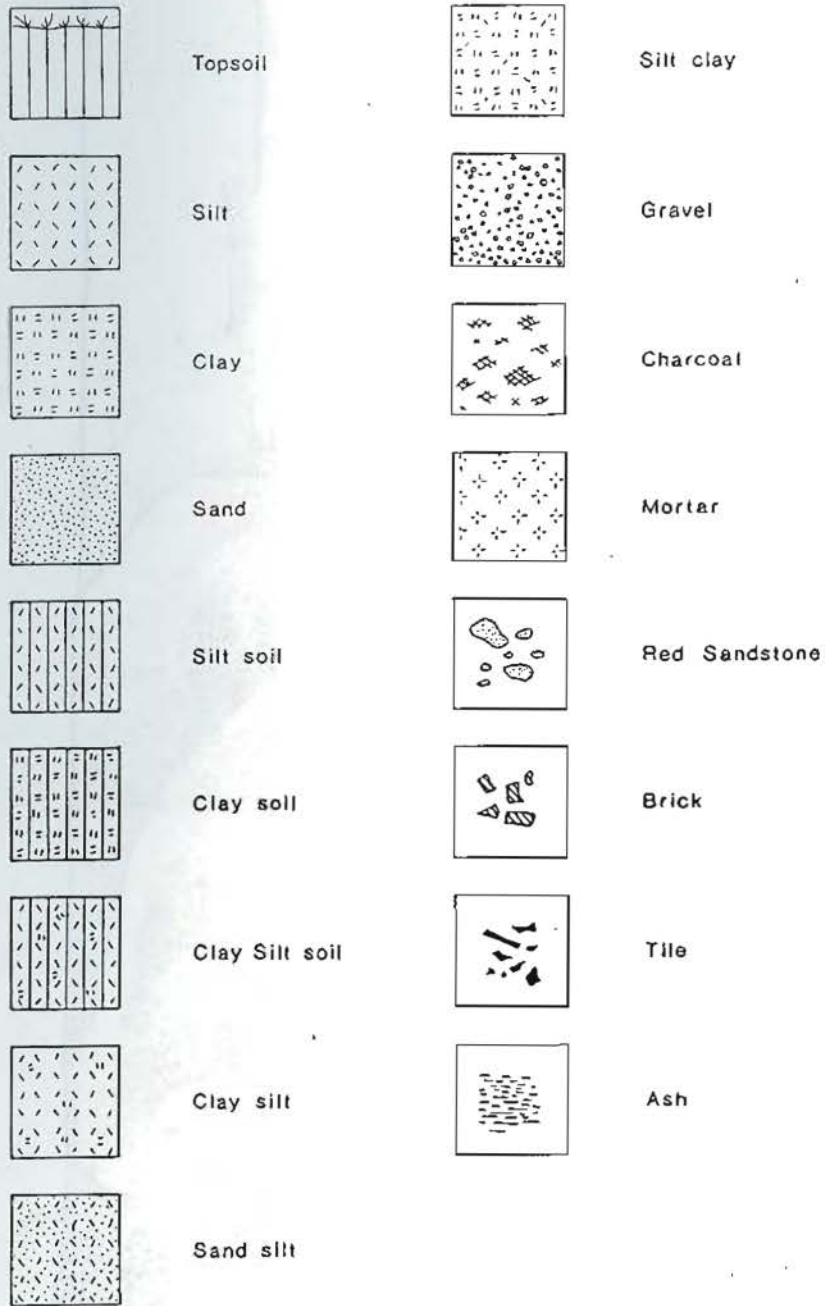
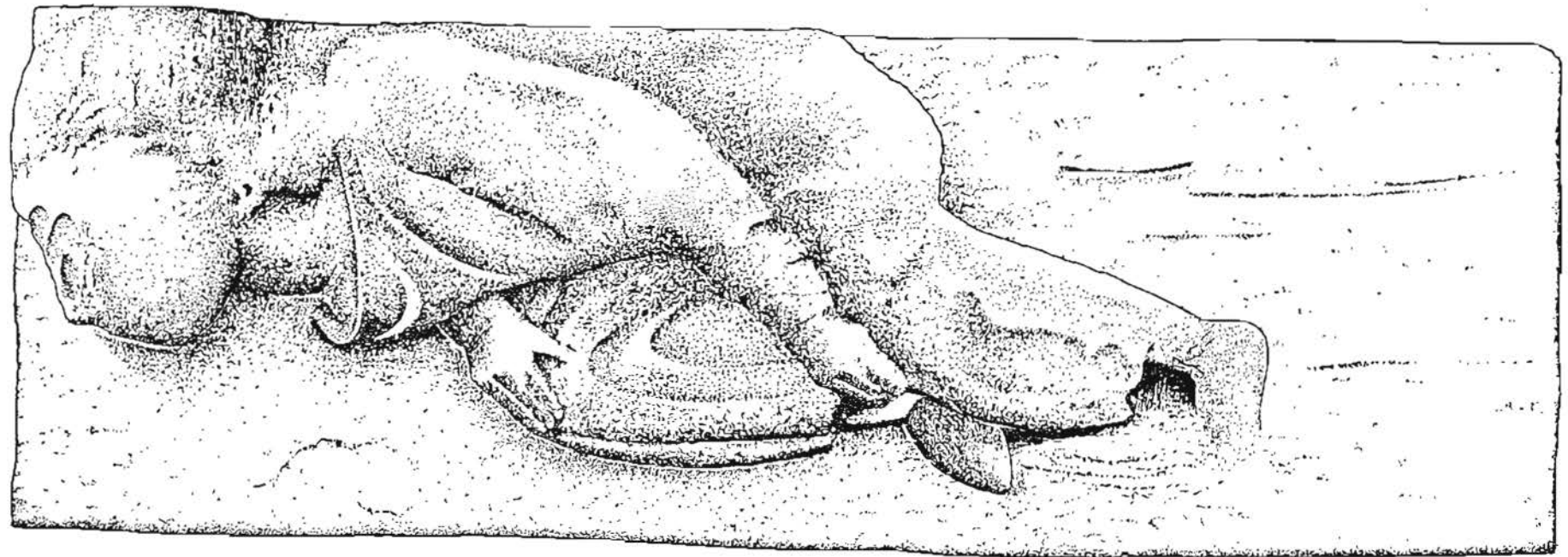


Figure 10

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL CLOSE 1989-90
Label-Stop AE102



0 10cms

Figure 11

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL CLOSE 1989-90

Main Features Periods 4-5

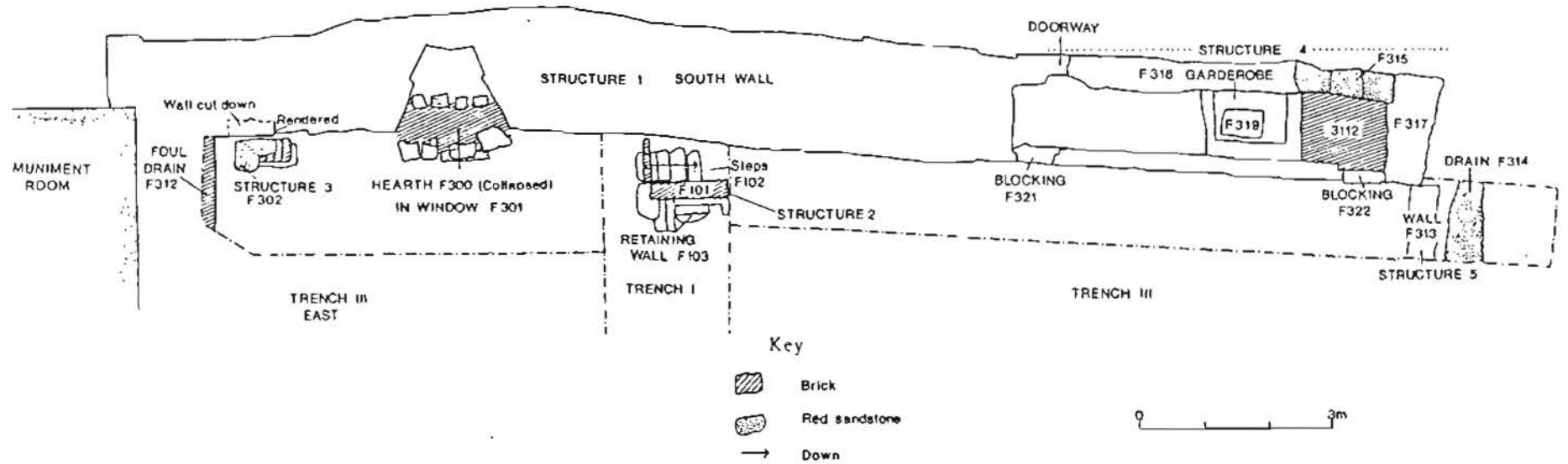
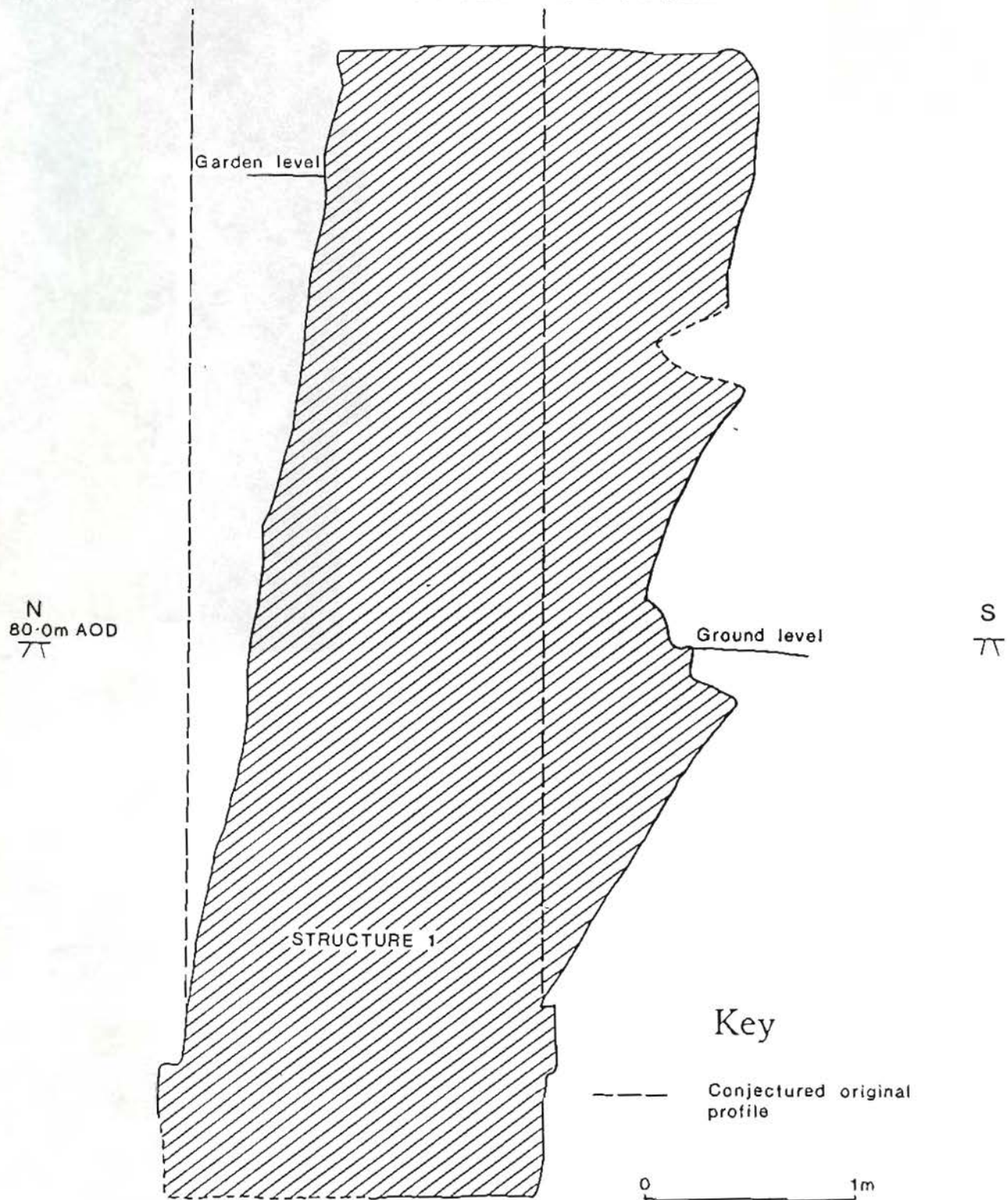


Figure 12

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL CLOSE 1989-90

Structure 1 South Wall Profile



(Profile of south elevation projected
from 2 metres west of north elevation and
reversed

Figure 13