

*BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY
FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT*

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at 10,
Frogge Street, Ickleton, Cambridgeshire
1997**

B.U.F.A.U.



Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
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**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
Hovells, 10 Frogge Street, Ickleton, Cambridgeshire 1997**

by
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1.0 Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at Hovells, 10 Frogge Street, Ickleton, Cambridgeshire, in August 1997, during groundworks which involved lowering of the floors of rooms fronting Frogge Street. The building dates to the sixteenth century with some seventeenth century alterations. Earth floors, of uncertain date, were recorded in three rooms, beneath existing brick floors. No other archaeological features were visible.

2.0 Introduction

This report describes the results of an archaeological watching brief, undertaken by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU) at Hovells, 10 Frogge Street, Ickleton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 494 437) in August 1997. The work was commissioned by CgMs Archaeology and Environmental Consultants on behalf of their client Mr. R. Herbert in advance of the installation of an underfloor heating system. The installation of the heating system involved the lifting of existing brick floors, lowering of the ground levels by approximately 0.15m and relaying of the floors in three rooms and a hall, fronting Frogge Street. The watching brief conforms to a written scheme of investigations prepared by BUFAU (Mould 1997) and a specification by CgMs (Hunter 1997) based on a brief by Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Section (Austin 1997). The watching brief follows the requirements of the Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs prepared by the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

3.0 Archaeological Background (Figures 1 and 2)

The site lies within the historic core of the village of Ickleton, approximately 150m from the twelfth century church. The present building, Hovells, dates from at least the early-sixteenth century, with seventeenth century alterations and additions. The building is 'L'-shaped and comprises a northwest-southeast aligned range with a cross wing at the northeast end, projecting to the southwest. An inspection of a small area of floor by the Senior Archaeology Officer (Development Control) of Cambridgeshire County Council identified the presence of an earth floor beneath the bricks and mortar bed. This potential for the survival of earlier floors, along with evidence of hearths and floor plans, could add to the understanding of the construction and development of the building, as well as the development of Ickleton as a whole.

4.0 Objectives

The aims of the watching brief were to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains exposed during groundworks, and to ensure that these were recorded and analysed to an acceptable standard.

5.0 Method

After the lifting of the existing brick floors the exposed surfaces were examined and hand cleaned, where necessary. Any identified possible archaeological deposits or features were cleaned and recorded in plan at an appropriate scale and photographed. A sample of any archaeological features identified was to be manually excavated (50% of discrete features, such as pits/hearths/post-holes, and 10% of linear features, such as wall foundations).

6.0 Results (Figure 3)

Room 1

Below the existing brick floor and mortar bed was an earth floor made of compacted light brown sandy silty clay, chalk and flint (1000), 0.10m deep. The floor had been repaired, with compacted chalk (1004), in one place. Abutting 1000 at the southeast end of the room was a deposit of brick and mortar fragments (1003), 0.15m deep, and two rectangular concrete pads associated with a recently removed brick fireplace. On either side of 1003 were two mortar surfaces (1001 and 1002), 1002 had tile and brick impressions on the upper surface. Beneath these deposits was a dark brown silty sand and mortar (1008), at least 0.05m deep. No finds were recovered.

Room 2 (corridor)

Under the existing brick floor and mortar bed was an earth floor made of compacted light brown sandy silty clay, chalk and flint (1005), 0.10m deep. Beneath this was a dark brown silty sand and mortar (1009), at least 0.05m deep. No finds were recovered.

Room 3

The room was divided from Room 2 by horizontal timber beams and uprights, belonging to a previous wall. Beneath the present brick floor and mortar bed was a layer of brown silty clay and chalk (1006), at least 0.15m deep. No earlier floor surfaces were exposed and no finds were recovered.

Room 4

Below the existing brick floor and mortar bed, the, 0.08m deep, earth floor (1005), recorded in Room 2, continued into the northwest part of the room. This part of the room would have originally been part of Room 2. The room was divided here by horizontal timber beams and uprights belonging to a previous wall, as in Room 3, and a single course of bricks. In the south west part of the room was a layer of brown silty clay and chalk (1007), at least 0.15m deep. No finds were recovered.

7.0 Discussion

Earth floors were revealed in Rooms 1, 2 and the northwest part of Room 4. Due to the absence of datable artifacts it is not possible to be certain if these floors are contemporary with the first phase of the building or if they are of a later date. No evidence of hearths, pits or post-holes was identified and no wall foundations or other

linear features were encountered during the watching brief. It is possible that such features may survive, sealed beneath 1008 and 1009 in Rooms 1 and 2.

8.0 Acknowledgments

The watching brief was carried out by Laurence Jones who also prepared the figures. The project was monitored by Iain Ferris. Thanks are due to Mr. R. Herbert.

9.0 References

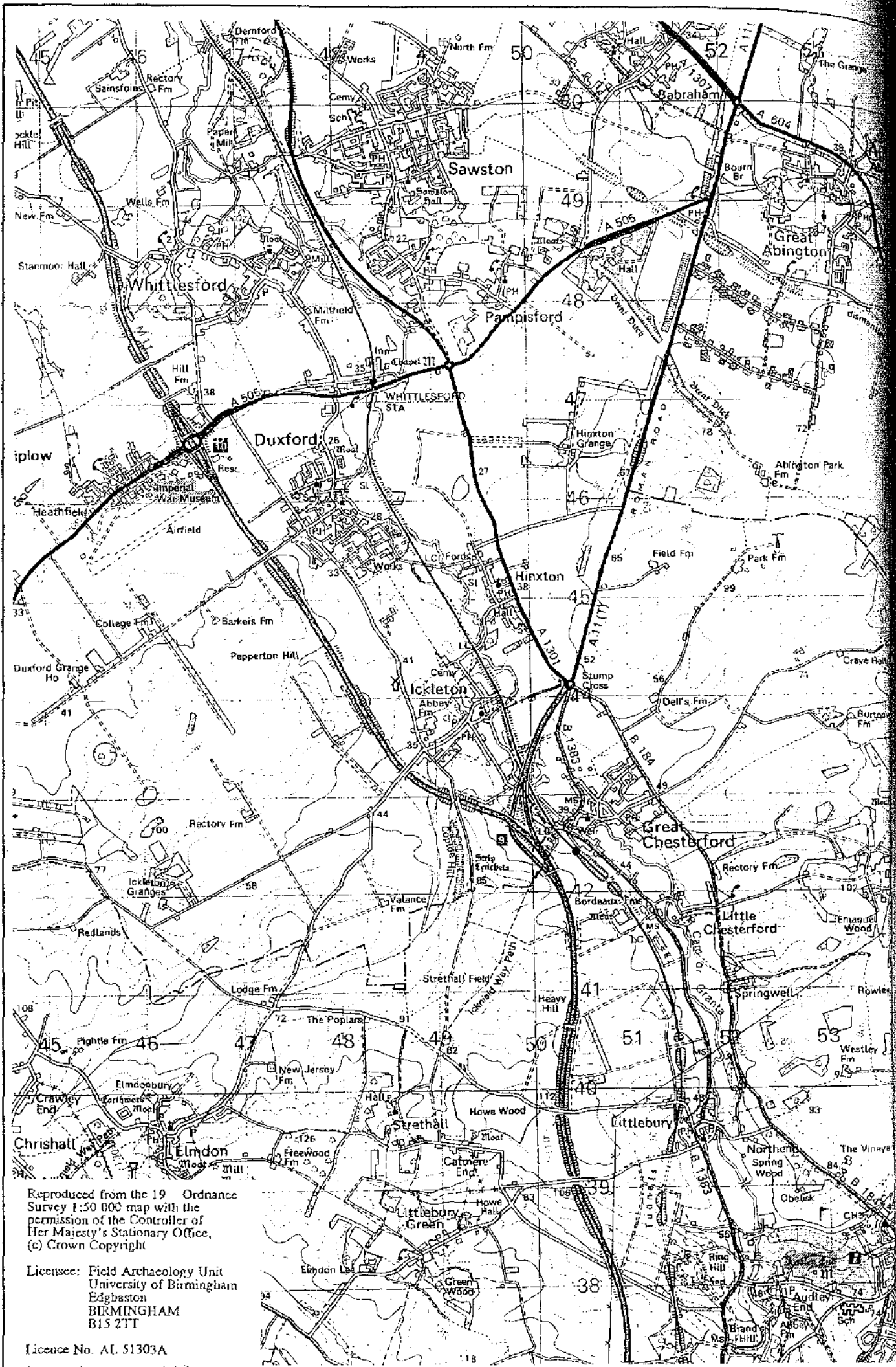
Austin, L. 1997 *Hovells, Ickleton. Brief for Basic Archaeological Investigations*. Archaeology Section, Cambridgeshire County Council.

Hunter, J. 1997 *Specifications for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Hovells, 10 Frogge Street, Ickleton, Cambridgeshire*. CgMs Archaeology and Environmental Consultants.

Mould, C. 1997 *Scheme of Investigations for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Hovells, 10 Frogge Street, Ickleton, Cambridgeshire*. BUFAU.

Figures

- 1: O.S 1:50 000 extract
- 2: Site Location
- 3: Plan of Rooms affected by development



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 Survey 1:50 000 map with the
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Fig.1

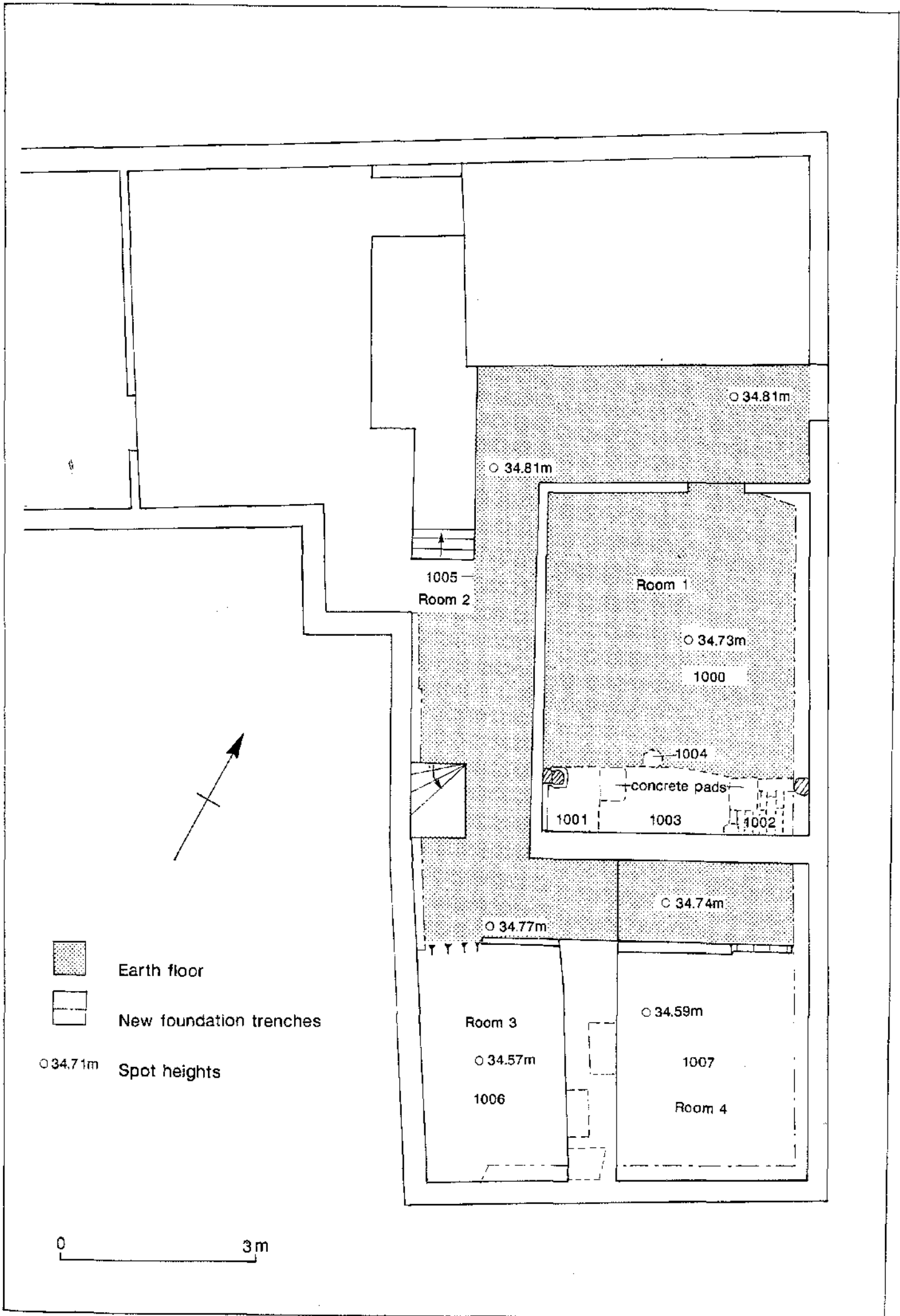


Fig 3