

**An archaeological  
watching brief at Mill  
Street, Stone,  
Staffordshire**

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit  
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**An archaeological watching brief  
at Mill Street, Stone,  
Staffordshire**

NGR SJ 9025 3396

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## **An archaeological watching brief at Mill Street, Stone, Staffordshire**

### **1.0 Summary**

*Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit carried out an archaeological watching brief on behalf of Starsearch Developments in May 2000, during groundworks for the extension and renovation of an existing building at the corner of Mill Street and Christchurch Way, Stone, Staffordshire (NGR SJ 9025 3396). Although the site is in the historic core of Stone, no archaeological features or deposits were identified. The groundworks were not of sufficient depth to disturb any potential archaeological features or deposits.*

### **2.0 Introduction**

This report describes the results of a watching brief carried out in May 2000, during groundworks prior to the extension and renovation of an existing building at the corner of Mill Street and Christchurch Way, Stone, Staffordshire. Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit was commissioned to carry out the watching brief on behalf of Starsearch Developments.

Planning approval for the development was granted by Stafford Borough Council in March 2000 (ref no. 38572), on condition a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording work was carried out. The development may have affected features and deposits of archaeological significance. The watching brief follows *Watching Brief Programme Standard Conditions* (Stafford Borough Council 2000) and conforms to the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (IFA 1999).

### **3.0 The Site**

The site is located at the corner of Mill Street and Christchurch Way, (NGR SJ 9025 3396, Figs. 1 and 2) within the historic core of the settlement and Borough of Stone, Staffordshire.

### **4.0 Aims and Objectives**

The aims and objectives of the archaeological watching brief were to identify and record any archaeological features or deposits located during the building contractors groundworks.

## **5.0 Method**

Wall foundation trenches following the footprint of the extension to the existing building, and associated service trenches (Fig.3), were dug by building contractors using a mini mechanical excavator. These trenches were 0.80-1.40m wide and 0.40-1.00m deep. Any archaeological features or deposits encountered were to be recorded on pro-forma record cards supplemented by scale plans, section drawings and photographs, where appropriate.

## **6.0 Results**

Some of the wall foundation trenches had been excavated and partially backfilled, in places, prior to the commencement of the watching brief. This made inspection difficult, but enough of the trenches was visible to ascertain the general stratigraphy. All the trenches excavated within the footprint of the extension contained a layer of modern brick demolition rubble, up to 0.50m deep. Below this was a layer of dark brown loamy garden soil at least 0.50m deep.

In the service trenches excavated outside the footprint of the extension, a layer of dark brown loamy garden soil containing sherds of modern pottery, disturbed by dumps of brick rubble, was encountered, at least 0.40m deep. No archaeological features or deposits were identified and no finds, other than sherds of modern pottery, were recovered.

## **7.0 Discussion**

No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the watching brief. Groundworks on the site were not of sufficient depth to disturb any potential archaeological features or deposits.

## **8.0 Acknowledgements**

The watching brief was undertaken by Laurence Jones, Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit. The project was managed by Simon Buteux for BUFAU. Illustrations were prepared by Nigel Dodds and the report was edited by Simon Buteux.

## **9.0 References**

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1999 *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs*. IFA.

Stafford Borough Council, 2000 *Watching Brief Programme Standard Conditions*. SBC Development Department

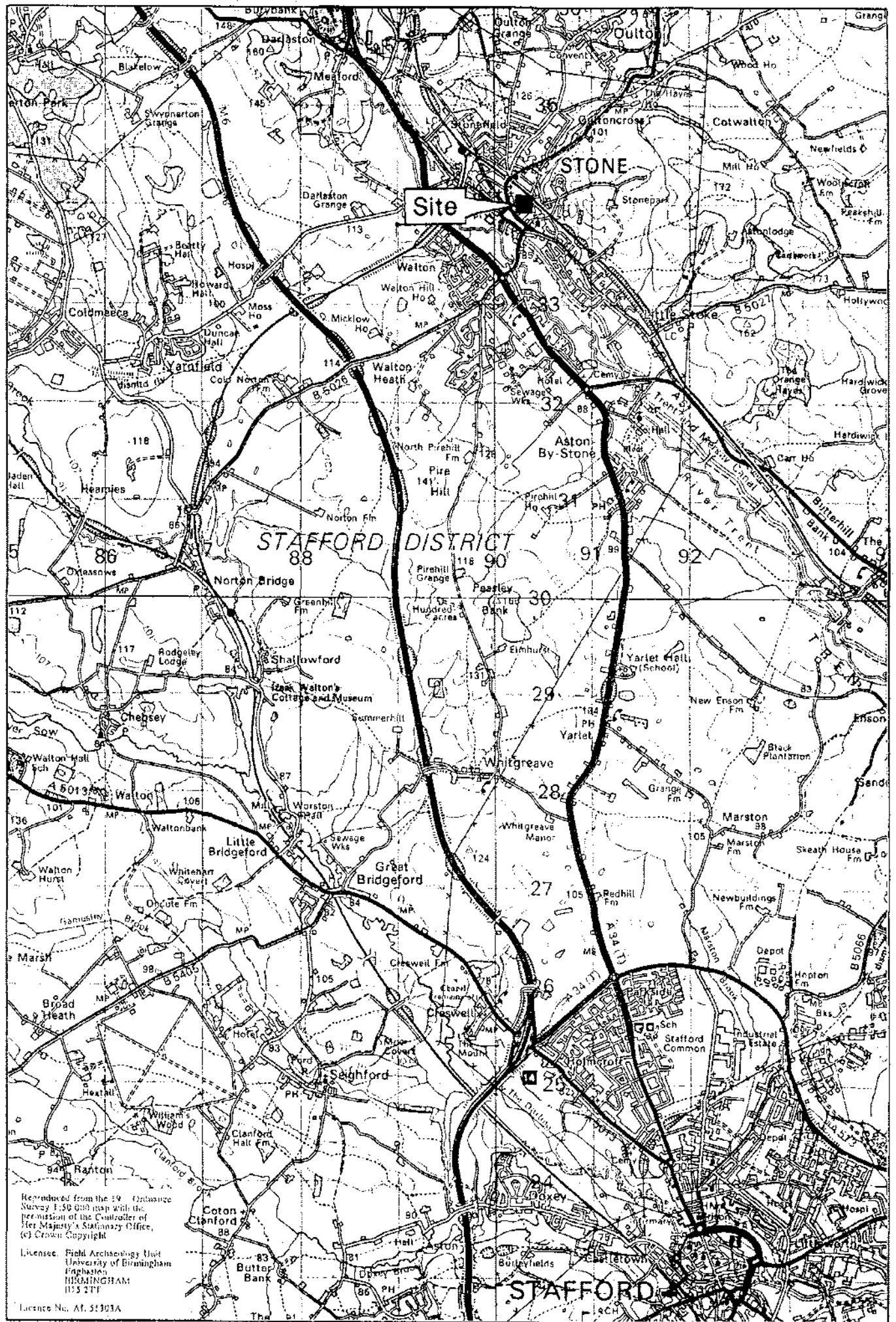


Fig. 1

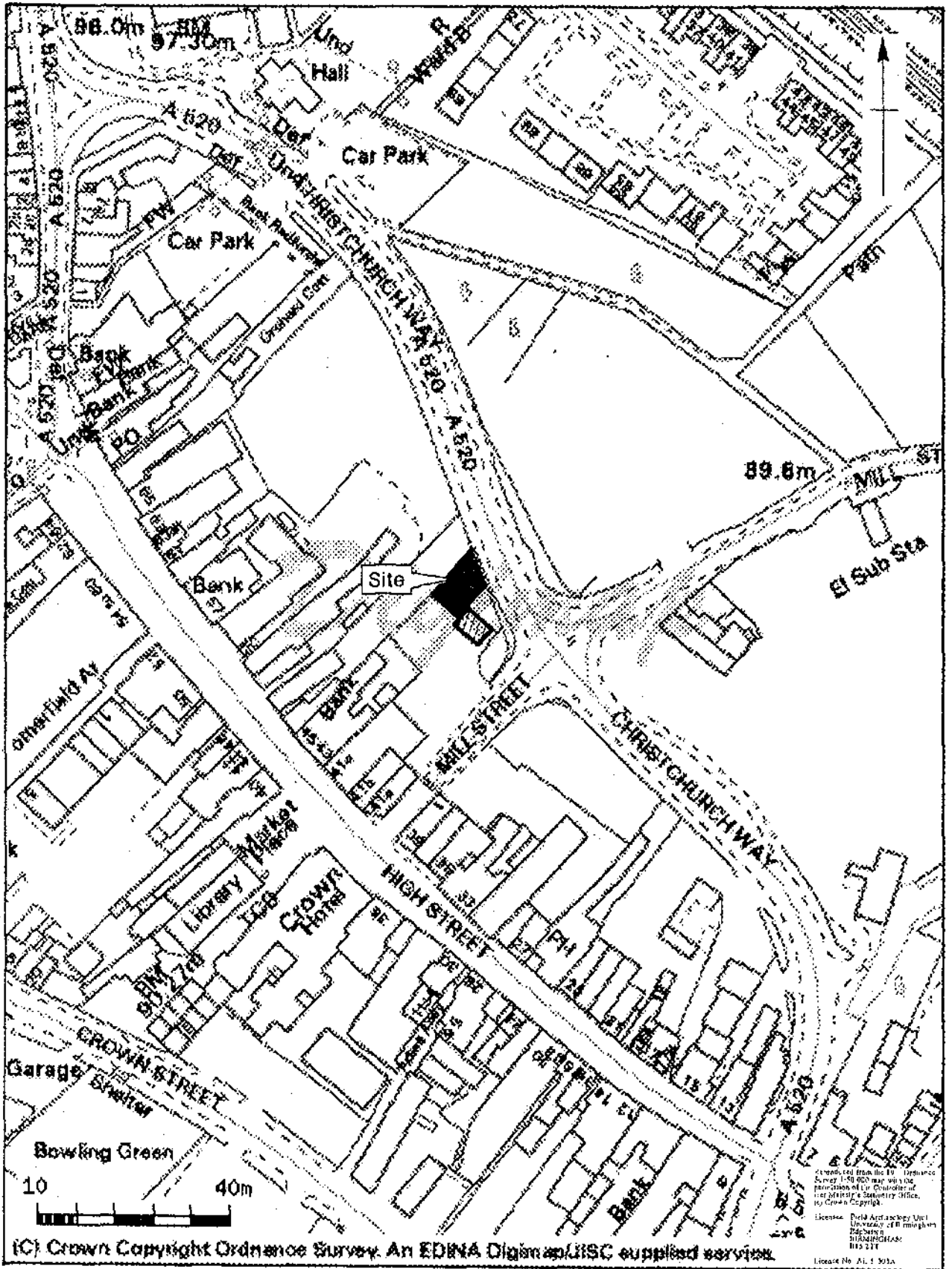


Fig 2

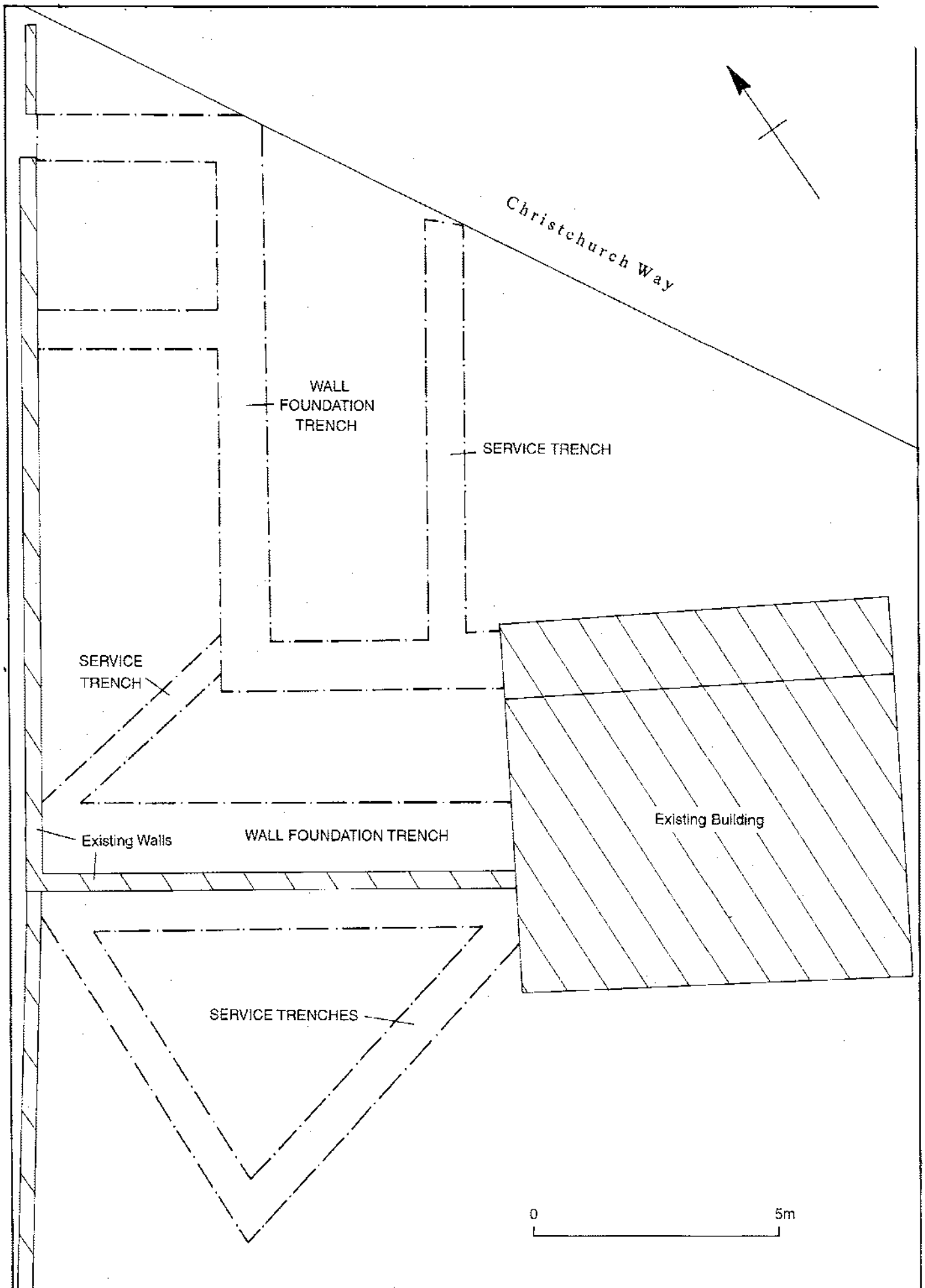


Fig.3