



318

**37 Tanner Row
York**

Archaeological Excavation of the Lift Pit

NGR SE 5987 5161

**MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd
October 1999**

**37 Tanner Row
York**

Archaeological Excavation of the Lift Pit

Contents	Page
Figure List	2
Introduction	3
Historical and Archaeological Background	3
Excavation Methods	4
Excavation Results	4
Conclusions	5
Bibliography	5
Appendices	
1. Context Listing	6
2. Finds Catalogue	6

Figure List	Page
1. Site Location. Scale 1:1250.	7
2. Archaeological Sites in the Micklegate/Tanner Row Area. Scale 1:2500.	8
3. South Facing Section of Lift Pit.	9

37 Tanner Row York

Archaeological Excavation of the Lift Pit

Introduction

An archaeological excavation was undertaken on the installation of a lift pit in the Grade II Listed Building at 37 Tanner Row York (NGR SE 5987 5161 : Fig. 1).

Work was undertaken on the lift pit between Thursday 1st April 1999 and Friday 16th April 1999.

Work was funded by Fairoak Wood Ltd and Simpson (York) Ltd.

All maps within this report have been produced from the Ordnance Survey with permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 50453A.

Archaeological and Historical Background

The development site is located within the area of archaeological interest, with known sites dating from Roman to Medieval times.

Roman Sites

The modern street of Tanner Row is located within the Roman *colonia*. The main Roman road leading from Tadcaster (*Calcaria*) to the River Ouse crossing lies either underneath or immediately to the rear of 37 Tanner Row. The site is also 250m east of the Roman cemetery located underneath York railway station, and a Roman Bath complex lay approximately 80m north-west of the development. In the close vicinity of Tanner Row and Toft Green are the remains of several Roman buildings, including a house with at least five rooms and three mosaics, including the *Four Seasons mosaic*, discovered in the nineteenth century (NGR 5977 5160 : OS 1988a). Two known temple sites are located 125m to the west and 100m to the south-west of the excavation area.

At 45-55 Tanner Row a previous archaeological evaluation showed Roman deposits within 1m of the present ground surface (YORYM 1997.3). An archaeological excavation at 24-30 Tanner Row (General Accident site) located a sequence of metalled and timber structures dating to the 2nd and 3rd centuries in 1983. At 27 Tanner Row excavations in 1971 revealed the Roman Road to *Calcaria*, and three phases of building of a similar date range to 24-30 Tanner Row.

Anglian Finds

Three spot finds have been located within 125m radius of the development site, including a single cross head of an eighth century date.

Medieval Sites

Tanner Row lies within the south west area of the medieval city. The street frontage, of medieval in date, is known to survive along Tanner Row and Toft Green (OS 1998b).

Immediately to the north-west of Tanner Row is the site of a Dominican Friary.

Excavation Methods

The excavation area was located in the basement of 37 Tanner Row, at the rear of the building (Fig. 1). The lift pit was hand excavated. The York stone flag floor and associated overburden was removed by the contractors under archaeological supervision. The archaeological deposits were hand excavated by archaeologists. All deposits were recorded using proforma context record sheets and drawn at a scale of 1:20 for plans and 1:10 for sections. Monochrome print and colour print and slide photographs were taken where necessary.

Excavation Results

An area measuring 1.80m² and 1.2m deep was excavated.

A natural glacio-fluvial deposit (context 113) was encountered at a height of 10.63m AOD (Fig. 3).

Roman Features

A compact deposit made up of clay, cobbles, gravel and occasional limestone fragments was located across the width of the lift pit (context 112 : 11.36m AOD : Fig. 3). This deposit can be interpreted as make-up for a Roman Road. The upper surface had been truncated by later features. Two fragments of animal bone were recovered from the road make-up.

Undated Feature

Feature 111 cut into the Roman Road deposit (Fig. 3). The date and function of context 111 are unknown. It was filled by an homogeneous compact deposit of silty clay with occasional cobbles, limestone flecks and small pebbles (context 110), with no associated finds. This feature was truncated by the foundation trench cut (context 109) for wall 107.

Post-medieval Features

A brick wall and foundation trench (contexts 107-109) was located below the cellar floor, possibly dating to the 17th-18th centuries from the type of brick used. This wall was on a similar north-south alignment as the present cellar wall.

Modern Features

Two modern cellar walls (context 102 and 114) and cellar floor deposits (contexts 100 - 106), dated to the mid 19th century construction of the present building at 37 Tanner Row, truncated all earlier deposits and completed the archaeological sequence (Fig. 3).

Conclusions

The discovery of the Roman Road in the cellar of 37 Tanner Row was not altogether unexpected, and the alignment has now been confirmed. However the small size of the lift pit means that the extent of the road cannot be ascertained as the edges were not defined. The undated pit cut into the Roman Road was most likely to be post Roman in date, but without dating evidence this cannot be proved with any certainty.

Bibliography

- OS 1988a Ordnance Survey Historical Map and Guide. Roman and Anglian York
- OS 1988b Ordnance Survey Historical Map and Guide. Viking and Medieval York.

APPENDIX 1

Context Listing

100	Deposit: cellar floor, York stone flags
101	Deposit: brick floor
102	Deposit: modern brick wall
103	Deposit: silty clay, 10YR3/1. Foundation trench fill.
104	Cut for foundation trench. Filled by 102 and 103.
105	Deposit: clay sand, 10YR3/1. Floor make-up
106	Deposit: sand, 10YR3/6.
107	Deposit: brick wall.
108	Deposit: clay silt, 10YR3/4. Foundation trench fill
109	Cut for foundation trench. Filled by 107 and 108.
110	Deposit: silty clay, 10YR3/4. Cut feature fill
111	Cut for undated feature
112	Deposit: compact clay, 10YR3/4. Possible Roman Road
113	Deposit: natural compact clay, 10YR4/4.
114	Deposit: 19th century wall
115	Cut for 19th century wall

APPENDIX 2

Finds Catalogue

Context	Description	Weight
112	Animal Bone - 2 fragments	0.05 kg

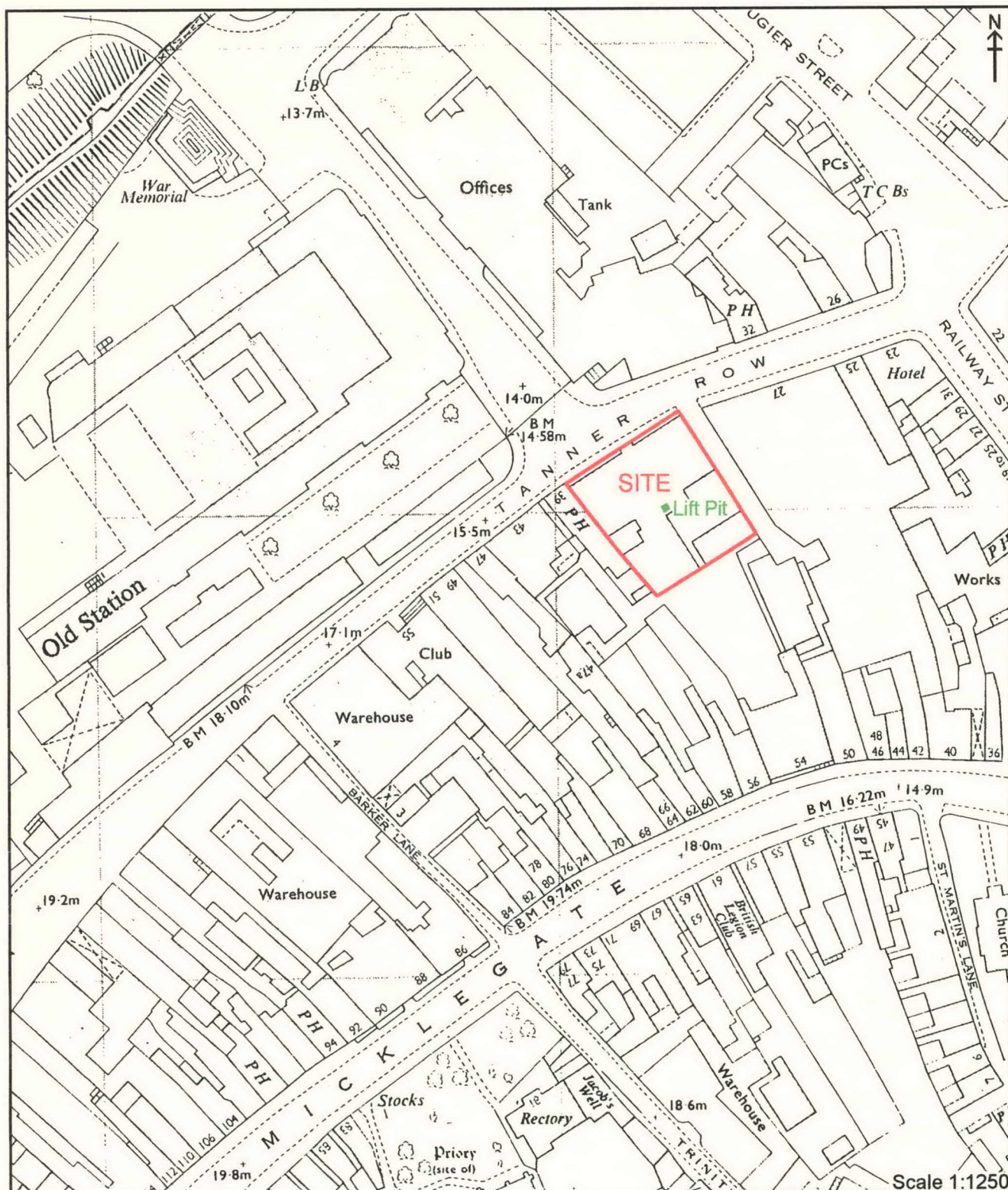


Figure 1. Site Location.

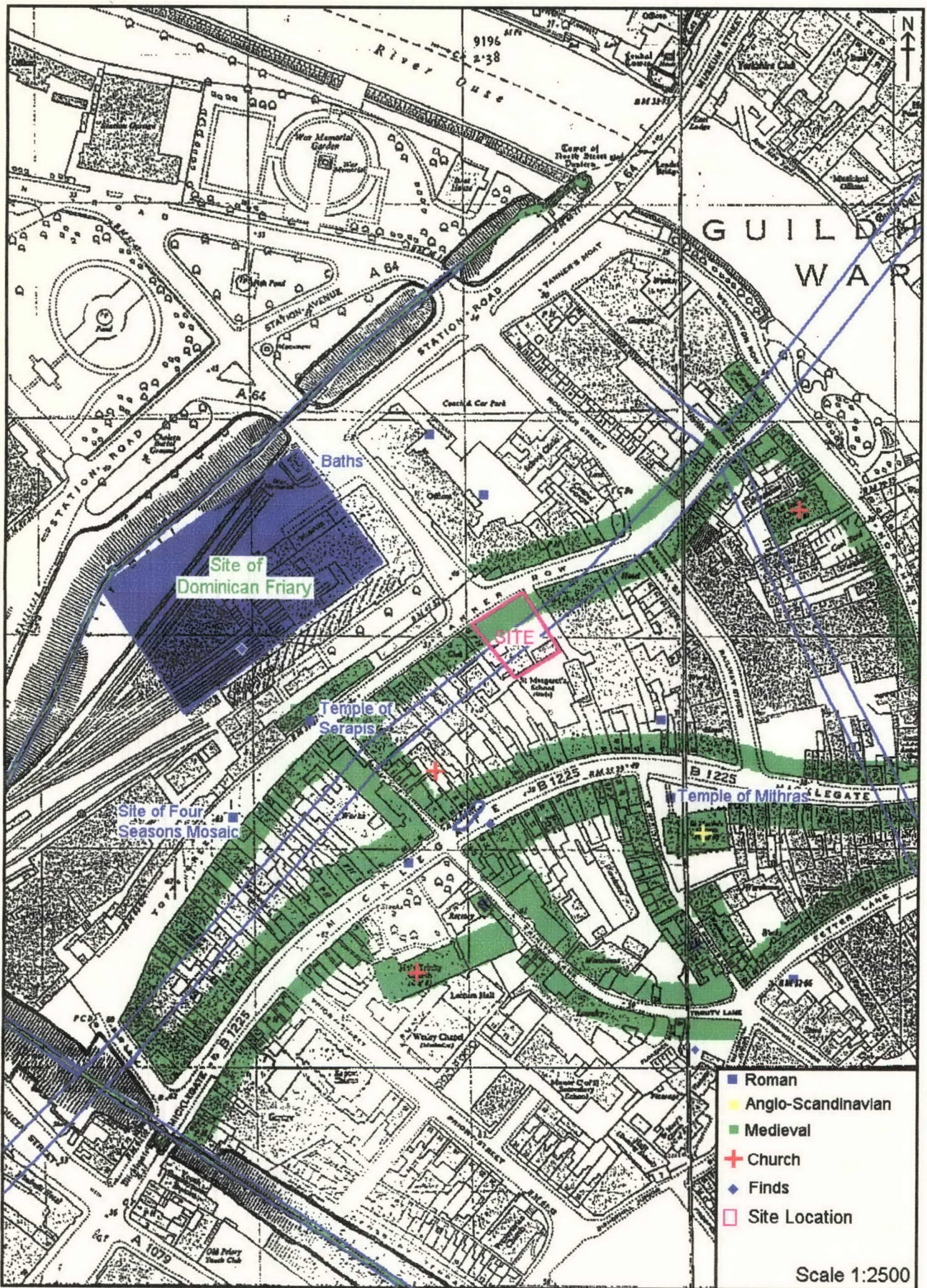


Figure 2. Archaeological Sites in the Micklegate/Tanner Row Area.

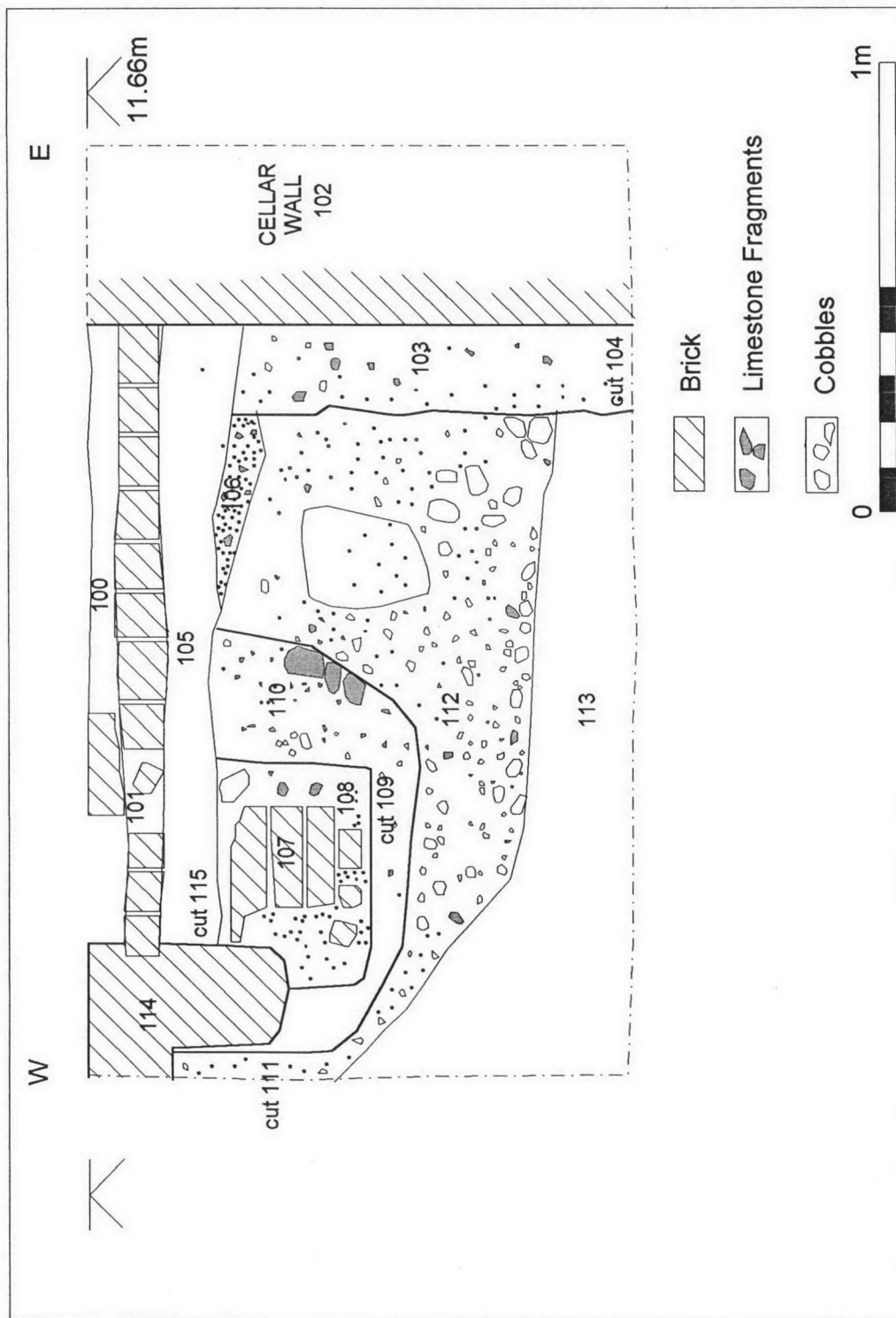


Figure 3. South facing section of Lift Pit.