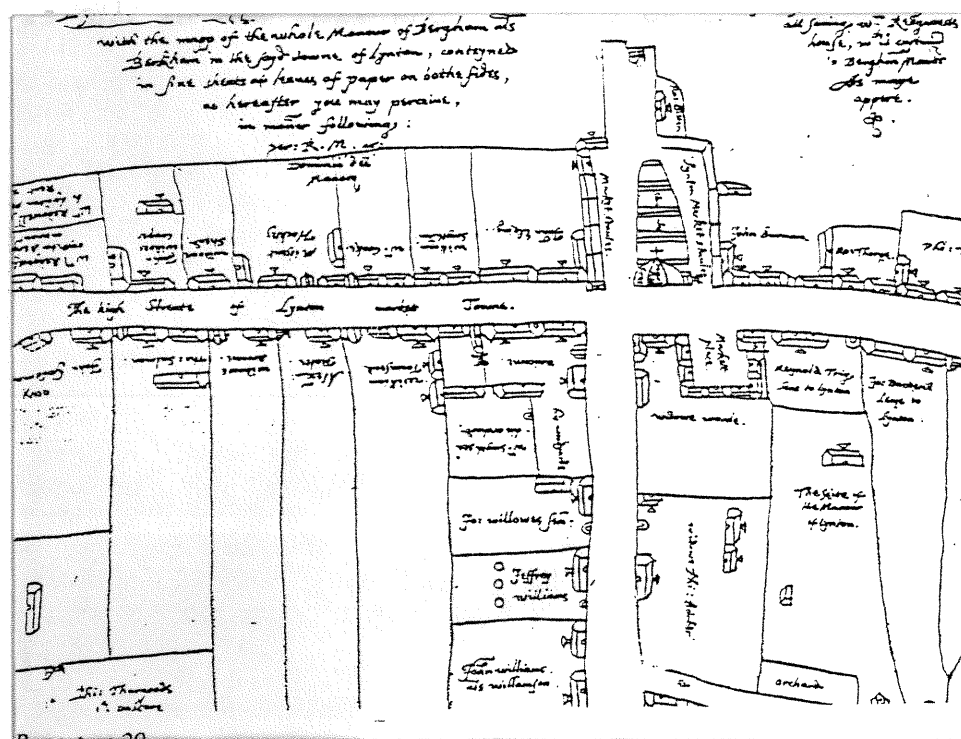


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Market Lane
Linton 1991



Cambridgeshire
County Council
Rural Strategy

An Archaeological Watching Brief July 1991

Archaeology Section
Property Department
Room 303, Shire Hall
Castle Hill
Cambridge CB3 0AP
Tel. (0223) 317312

London towne Mappe: 20th May 1660. 26. 42. Eix: R.S.

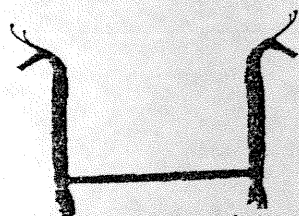
with the map of the whole Maner of Bergham & Berkham in the joynt towne of Lynton, contained
in five sheets of paper on both sides,
as hereafter you may perceave,
in manner following:

See: L. M. at
Common's Hall
Mans.
John Smith
Northgate
The Thatch
orchard
Jeffrey Williams
Joan Williams
all williamson
The Threshing
of the Plow
of Lynton.
For Thomas
Lange to
Lynton.
his 27. 4. 1660.
orchard
williamson
Jeffrey Williams
Joan Williams
all williamson
The Threshing
of the Plow
of Lynton.
For Thomas
Lange to
Lynton.
his 27. 4. 1660.
orchard
williamson
Jeffrey Williams
Joan Williams
all williamson

The high Street of Lynton under Towne.

This side are both in London file,
all facing wth Ryegate
house, w^{ch} is cut
to Bergham street
As mayor
apptd.
S.

Report no 29



Cambridgeshire
archaeology

ABSTRACT

A watching brief of Market Lane, Linton, was undertaken in July 1991 by the Archaeological Section of Cambridgeshire County Council in order to assess the potential remains of Medieval and Post-Medieval remains relating to the former market held on the site.

Eleven trenches were opened by the contractors, each roughly 0.4m x 2m and 0.6 - 0.9m deep and sections were fully recorded and described.

Trenches 1 - 5 showed remains of building foundations, largely undateable due to the lack of finds in situ and previous wide-spread disturbance. Trenches 6 - 11 showed recent disturbance cut into natural subsoil.

Comparison with documentary sources show that the foundations revealed are probably those of structures shown on an 1823 Pre-Inclosure map of Linton. No evidence was found of Medieval occupation.

Full information on the watching brief can be found in Report No. 29 and in the full archive held by the Archaeology Section.

LINTON MARKET PLACE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF 1991

INTRODUCTION

The Archaeological Section of Cambridgeshire County Council was commissioned in June 1991 by British Gas (Eastern) to monitor the laying of a gas mains running along the length of Market Lane, Linton, Cambridgeshire. The mains ran from the west end of the Lane at The Retreat (No.7) east towards No.1 Market Lane and beyond into the High Street to join the gas mains running approximately north - south along High Street. The method of pipe-laying involved the hand digging by the contractors of trenches about 2m x 0.35m to a depth of around 0.6 - 0.8m along the south side of the lane. The ground between the trenches was then moled at this depth in order to feed through the mains pipe. A watching brief was maintained during the digging of the trenches, the results of which are reported below.

BACKGROUND

Preliminary documentary research suggested that the site of Market Lane lay on the Medieval and Post-Medieval site of the town's market, and there was therefore the strong possibility of below surface survival of shops and stalls as well as associated features. To this end, desk-top research and a watching brief of the trenches was undertaken in order to establish the potential survival, condition and date of any archaeological features.

TOPOGRAPHY

The market town of Linton lies 11 miles south-east of Cambridge on the A604 to Colchester. The town straddles two chalk ridges through which the River Granta has cut its course through the alluvium and gravels. The site of Market Lane lies at around 40m O.D and about 200m south of the river on a chalk ridge rising from the river corridor (Fig. 1).

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The village of Linton is first mentioned in documentary sources in 1008 when the present village was distinguished as Great and Little Linton with the river forming the boundary between the two settlements. In 1086 Great Linton is recorded as having 21 peasants and 6 servi, Little Linton as having 10 peasants and 4 servi. By around 1279 Great Linton had increased in size to 80 peasants and Little Linton to 20, and by 1560 the now combined villages of Linton supported 92 households. A century later

there were 180 houses with a population of around 457. Throughout the early nineteenth century the population of Linton steadily increased. In 1801 the population was around 1157 and by 1851 the village was at its height functioning as a busy market town serving the surrounding villages and having a notable trade in leather goods.

By the last quarter of the nineteenth century Linton was in decline due in part to better communications with the larger market towns in the county, accentuated by migration to the bigger towns with better employment opportunities. As a result, the population in 1931 had fallen to 1316 although the development of post-war Linton and the town's regeneration has meant a steady increase once again in population and in the town's prosperity.

Late Medieval Linton would have had larger houses, workshops and stalls along the High Street with poorer dwellings along the lanes running off High Street; today many seventeenth and eighteenth houses with timber framing and plaster pargetting still exist. According to documentary sources there was no building away from the High Street until after Enclosure in around 1839. The village maintained this layout well into the twentieth century when new housing estates have been built on the slopes to the north-east of the village.

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE FOR MARKET LANE

Much documentary research on the Market Place and its environs has been collated by Mr G. Collard of the Linton and District Historical Society, and much information is accessible in the Victoria County History Vol. 6 for Cambridgeshire.

The market has always been an important focal point and the fortune of Linton has been very closely tied to it.

The first reference to the market is a charter granted to William de Say (Lord of Great and Little Linton) in 1246 granting the right to hold a market in Green Lane. The market moved to the area around Market Lane in around 1281 and it was held there each week on a Tuesday until the eighteenth century. Records of 1279 show rents for shops and stalls ranging from 2 pence to 4 shillings. At this time the market was probably covered with market shops and stalls in two rows with passages inbetween. In 1528 a cross was erected at the junction of the present Market Lane and High Street.

Details of the Market Lane area are shown on two maps surveyed in 1600, one being commissioned for the Millicent family (Lords of Barham) and one for the Paris family who were Lords of Linton. The Millicent map (Fig.2) shows the area around the present Market Lane in great detail; the market is surrounded by shops on either side with market stalls in the centre of the Market Place orientated north - south. The market cross is shown as standing at the junction of the market and High Street. The Millicent map

shows the back of the market area as being enclosed although the Paris map (Fig.3) shows a lane leading off to the west. Rentals of 1633 show 41 shops and 10 stalls with 16 of the shops being in named rows such as Butchers Row and Woollen-Drapers Row. Many stalls were rented by leather workers; leather craft seemed to be the main trade and craft associated with Linton well into the nineteenth century. There was also a large Lamb Fair held in the town although this was not held, so far as the records tell us, in the Market Lane area. By 1685 however the market had declined to 23 shops: by 1715 only 12 shops are mentioned in the Rentals. At some time during the sixteenth century the Griffin Inn was built over the northern part of the Market area and this building survived in various guises until the 1850's. All that remains now is the yard area of the Inn near the present day No. 33 - 35 High Street. By the eighteenth century the Market was declining quite rapidly and even with changing the market days the market formally ceased trading in 1864. By this time the market area seems already to have been built over, as shown in the Pre-Inclosure map of 1823, and the present day frontage of the Lane on both north and south sides seem to have been firmly established. This is confirmed on the OS First Edition 6" maps of 1885.

Very little of present day Market Lane reflects its historical associations. The north side of Market Lane is recorded as being near Butchers Row and this Row was still in existence until fairly recently and may now be seen as the yard behind No.29A - 33 High Street opening onto Market Lane. The eastern end of Market Lane today has modern brick houses and garages with only No.12 and No.14 Market Lane being representative of earlier buildings on the north side of the Lane shown on the 1823 Pre-Inclosure map and OS First Edition. On the south side of the Lane, No.5 is a plastered and thatched cottage shown on the 1823 map, and Shepherds Hall was built in 1921. The Lane has changed quite substantially both in its shape and size, and many buildings shown in the First Edition have been demolished or substantially altered.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

An initial reconnaissance of the area of Market Lane showed that the Lane had been badly disturbed by previous trenching for modern services and that the likelihood of finding undisturbed deposits was therefore reduced. It remained to see how far the archaeology had been disturbed, and when trenching began it became obvious that much damage had been done by previous work. This made the dating and interpretation of any features difficult.

The site records are lodged with Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Unit, Shire Hall, Cambridge and form the archive for the assessment. This consists of full descriptions of all contexts and finds, section drawings at 1:20 and photos of the site in general and of specific sections as well as background and research data relating to the project.

Eleven trenches and two boreholes were opened in total and their location is shown on Fig 4. Of these, trenches 1 - 4 had some archaeological evidence whilst trenches 5 - 11 were very badly disturbed and showed little sign of features not of recent origins. Boreholes 1 and 2 were opened only to c. 0.2m in depth and revealed only tarmac in section.

Trench 1 was quite badly disturbed in upper levels but a clearly defined trench cut with a dark brown/black ashy loam with charcoal was observed. Unfortunately the finds that came from this fill were very recent late nineteenth and twentieth century pottery, bone and 1 iron nail: one residual piece of Tudor Green Glaze was also found in this layer. No firm date can be put on this disturbed feature. Pieces of concrete, modern brick and services were also exposed.

Trench 2 was situated in front of cottage No. 5 and below the tarmac disturbance there was a layer (3) of brick, sand and mortar, the brick being very soft, ochre-brown in colour and sandy. This was cut into a brownish-red sand matrix (4) which featured in most of the trenches and was taken as being natural.

Trench 3 (Fig 5) outside Shepherds Hall was fairly badly disturbed by modern services and below the tarmac disturbance there was evidence for a foundation trench (5) which had red and yellow hard fired bricks set into a sand and mortar matrix (5.1) below which was brown clay loam (8). Cut (7) in this trench also showed brick exposed end-on and set into a whitish-grey sand and mortar layer (7.1). Both (5) and (7) had been truncated by the modern cut of (3) so the relationship between (5) and (7) could not be established. Unfortunately no firm dating evidence was found.

Trench 4 at the east corner of Shepherds Hall again showed evidence of some sort of foundation cut (7) with red bricks lying end-on within a reddish brown sandy loam matrix with a high concentration of mortar. The relationship between this layer and the very mixed loose deposit of (5.1) was very difficult to establish and tentatively cut (5) could truncate cut (7). No finds in situ were found although the workmen digging the trench found some bone, probably that of horse. Both cuts (5) and (7) were dug into natural.

Trench 5 was very disturbed by modern services as was the only cut showing in Trench 6. Trenches 7 - 11 showed no evidence for having any disturbed features of archaeological significance, and the only finds were from Trench 8 where 1 vertebra came from the probable backfill of a pipe trench with another piece of bone not in situ.

INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

Comparisons between 1823 Pre-Inclosure map and the locations of the trenches mentioned above have to some extent illuminated what was found. Fig 6 shows the superimposing of information from this map onto a modern OS map at 1:1000. It can be seen that features found in the trenches correspond quite well to the positions of cottages marked on the Pre-Inclosure map. It could be suggested that cottages demolished when Shepherds Hall was built were found in Trench 2 (3), Trench 3 (5) and possibly (7), and Trench 4 (7). It is probable that these trenches have found evidence of buildings that were still standing and recorded in the early nineteenth century (as in the 1823 map) and probably much earlier. The softish brick in fill (3) of Trench 2 could suggest the presence of foundations older than those above although it is difficult to establish a date given that the brick may well be residual or later backfill. It is interesting to note that cottage foundations from the trenches, and those such as No.5, No.12 and No.14 marked on the 1823 map, pre-date the closure of the market and it is possible they may have been involved in some way with the functions of the market.

Given the size of the trenches and the disturbed nature of the site however, it is very difficult to establish a firm date for the foundations recorded. This could be achieved by a more extensive examination of the area, but this lies beyond the scope of the current brief. The relationship between the structures standing in 1823/1885 maps and earlier buildings on the site of Market Lane is therefore difficult to ascertain.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

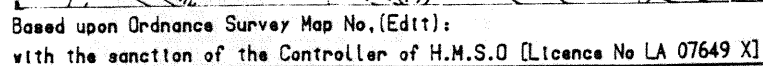
We would like to thank British Gas and their contractors ALHCO for their co-operation. Thanks also to Garth Collard of the Linton and District Historical Society for his help on the documentary sources. Many thanks also to Cambs. Record Office for all their help.

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Stevens RL (1980): Early Nineteenth Century Housing in Linton
Linton Dist. Hist. Soc.(1990): Glimpses into Linton's Past
Linton Parish Council (1982): Linton: Story of a Market Town
Victoria County History: Cambridgeshire Vol. 6 pp 81 - 91

SOURCES

Millicent Map 1600
Paris Map 1600
Pre-Inclosure Map of 1823 (Cams. Record Off. 152/P14)
Enclosure Map of c.1840 (Cams. Record Off. Q/RDC53)
OS First Edition 1885



**Cambridgeshire
County Council**

Department of Property
Archaeology Section

LINML 1991

Location of Market Lane

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PREPARED BY:	DATE:
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SCALE: 1:2500

PLAN NO. **Fig 1**

per: R. M. ar: 8

Dominic de la Mairie

W. Williams

W. Cook

W. Williams

Shops

Bak

Street of Lyon market Towne.

Market place.

widow's ward.

Reynold's Trig
Leads to Lynton

For Doctor
Leads to Lynton

widow's field

The site of the Manor
of Lynton.

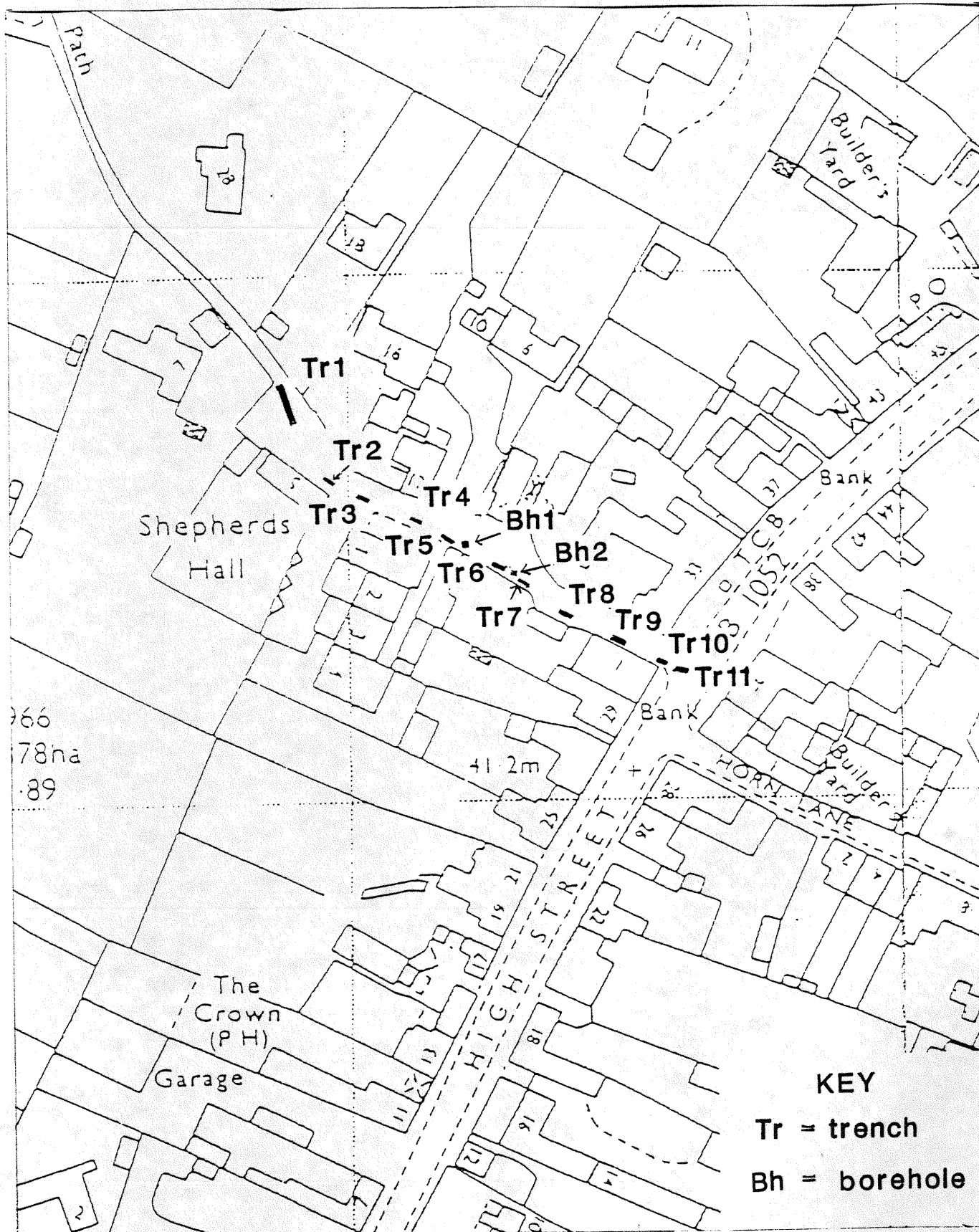
orchard

Walt.

garden

Re: Barbours
in Reminder.

Fig 2



Based upon Ordnance Survey Map No. (Edit):
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Trench and Borehole Location

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PREPARED BY: DATE:

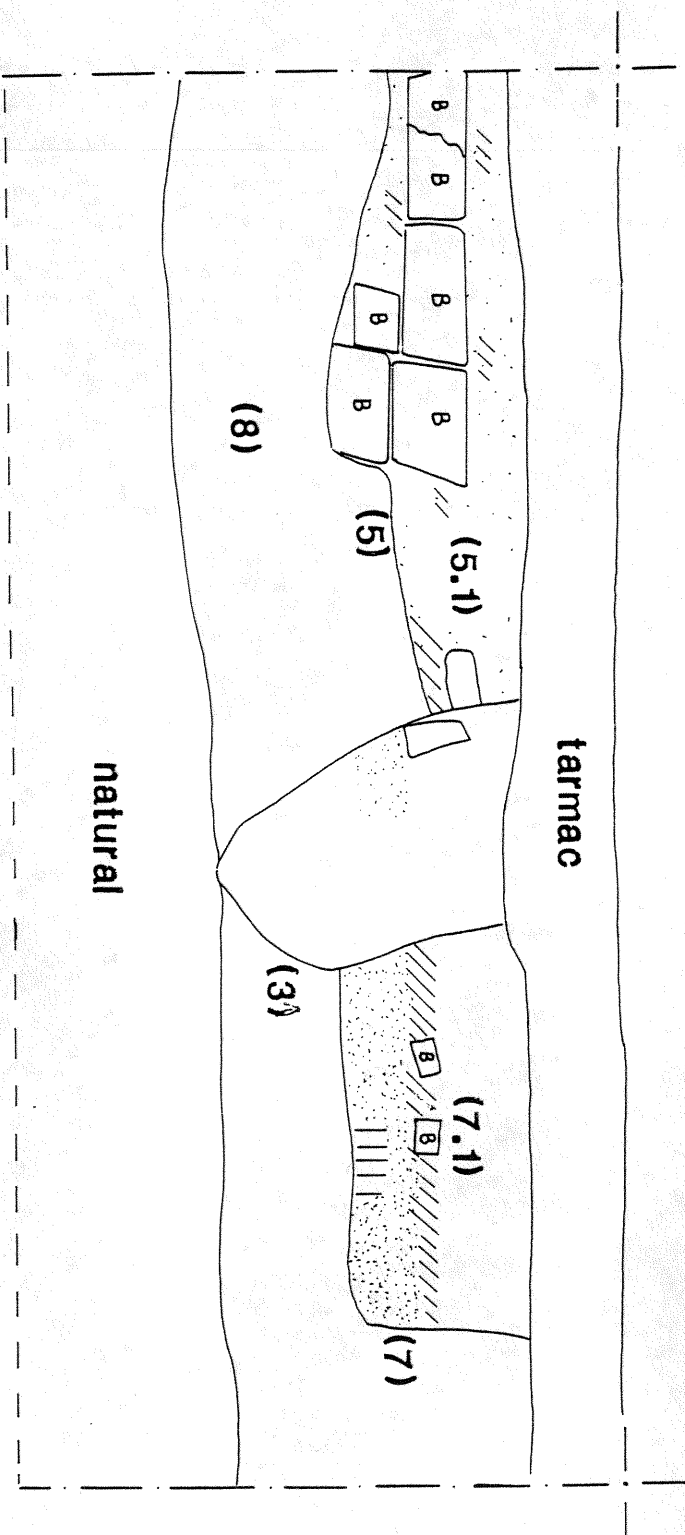
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PLAN NO: Fig 4

SE

North facing

NW



sand
 clay
 mortar
 brick
 B



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Section of Trench 3

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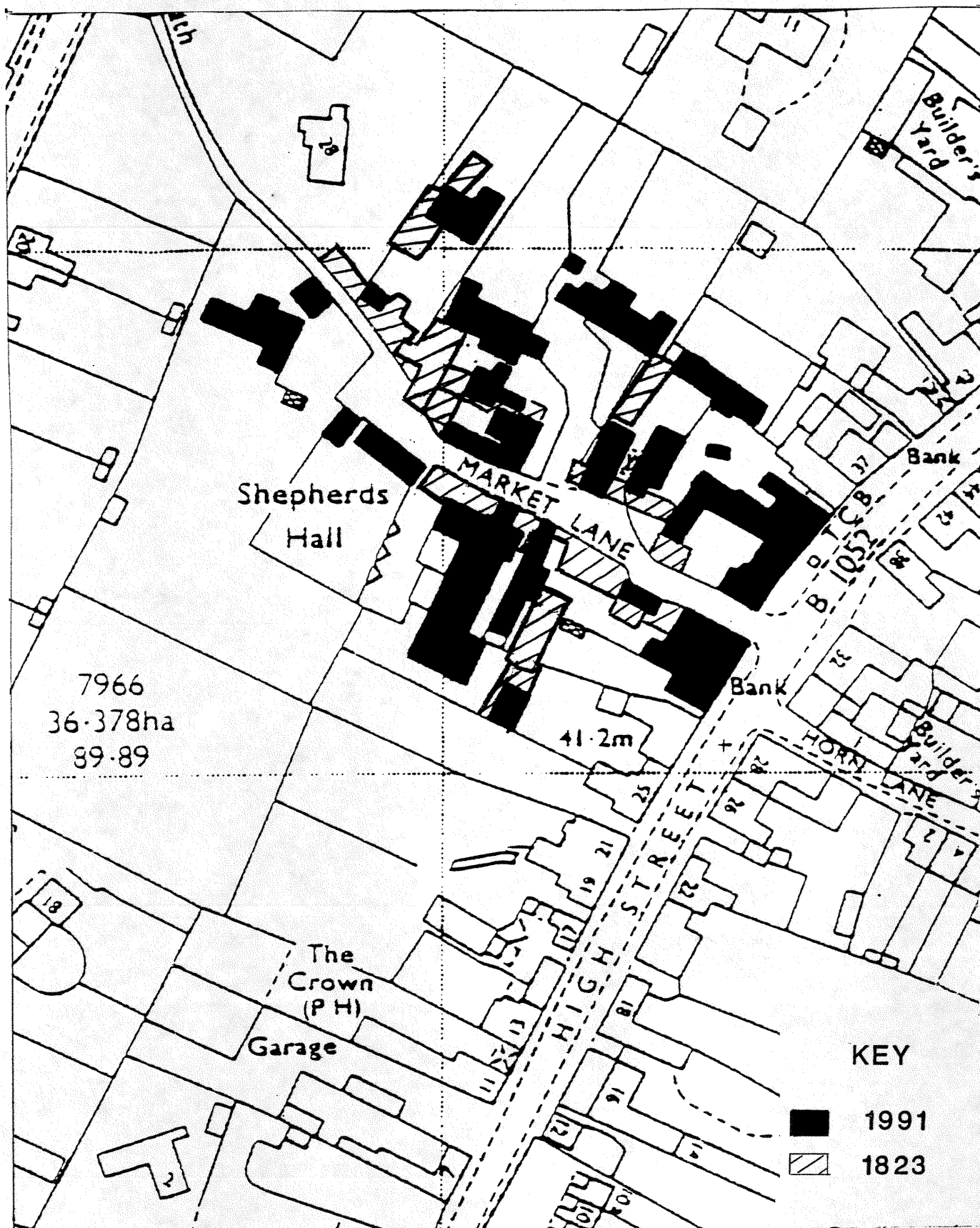
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Fig 5



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LINML 1991 Extent of Previous Buildings

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PLAN NO: Flg 6