

**A watching brief at the former
St Botolph's Parish Hall,
1 Priory Street, Colchester, Essex**

September 2000

**on behalf of
Colchester Borough Council**

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Report

Colchester Archaeological Trust was asked to record human burials which had reportedly been found at this site (recently an antiques centre, previously the Parish Hall).

A rear extension (5.2m E-W x 3.2m N-S) is being built on the south face of the hall (Fig 1). This involved cutting footings trenches to variable depths, in between deeper pile supports. Generally, the trench was only 800mm deep. At two points where the trench had been cut to between 1.4m and 1.8m below slab level at the rear of the hall, human bones had been exposed (Fig 2). One consisted of a skull, apparently undisturbed, and two ribs and an arm bone which had clearly been thrown back into the hole by the builders on discovery (they were in loose soil and disarticulated)(Plate 1). The other, apparently undisturbed, consisted of a pair of thigh bones (Plate 2).

The burials were aligned E-W and are clearly associated with St Botolph's priory, which lies only a few metres south of here. By implication, they should not be later than the date of the Dissolution.

Finds

None.

Summary

Two human burials associated with St Botolph's piory were exposed by building work.



Plate 1 View of foundation trench showing human remains, view north.



Plate 2 View of foundation trench showing human remains, view north-east.

Howard Brooks, September 2000

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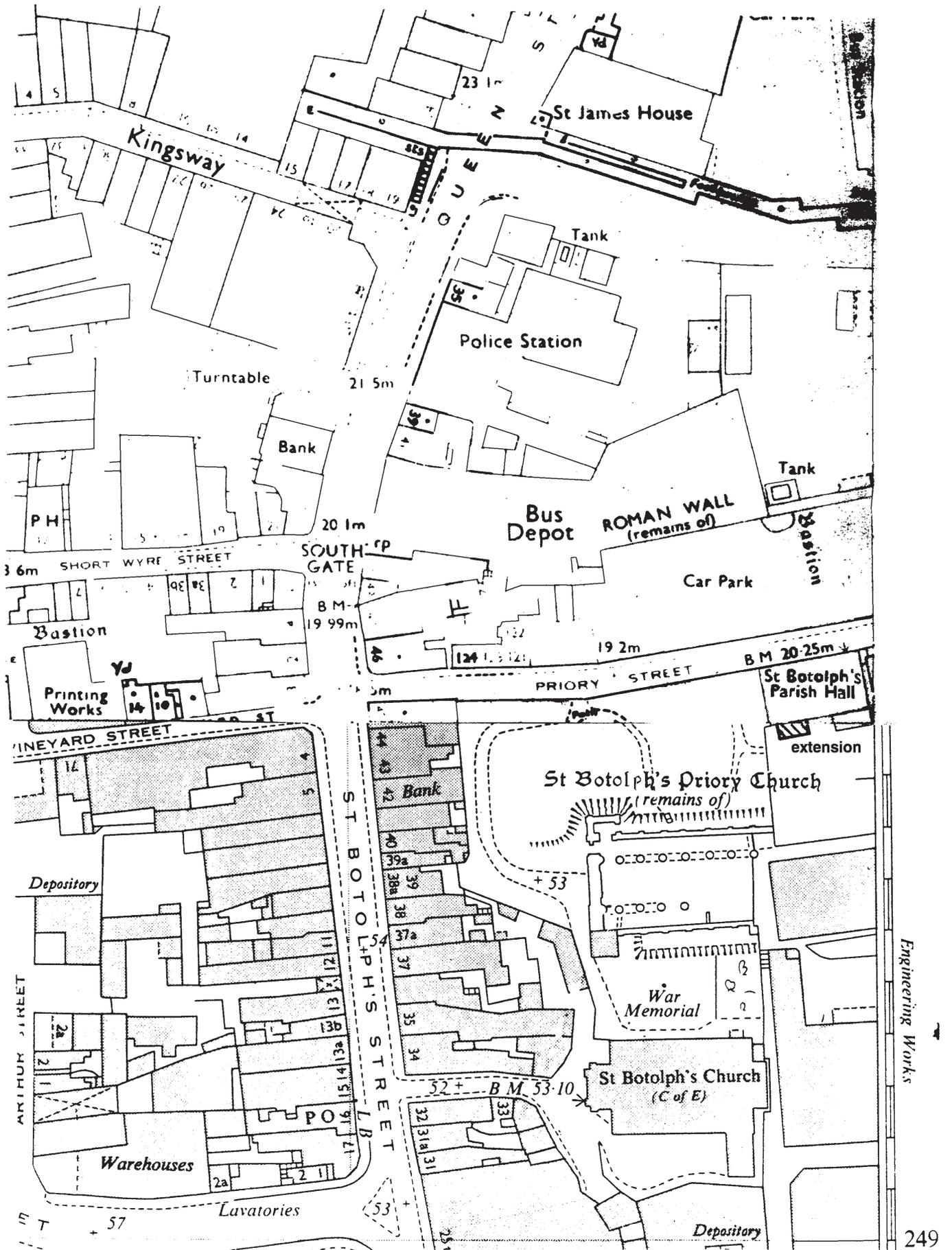


Fig 1: site location.

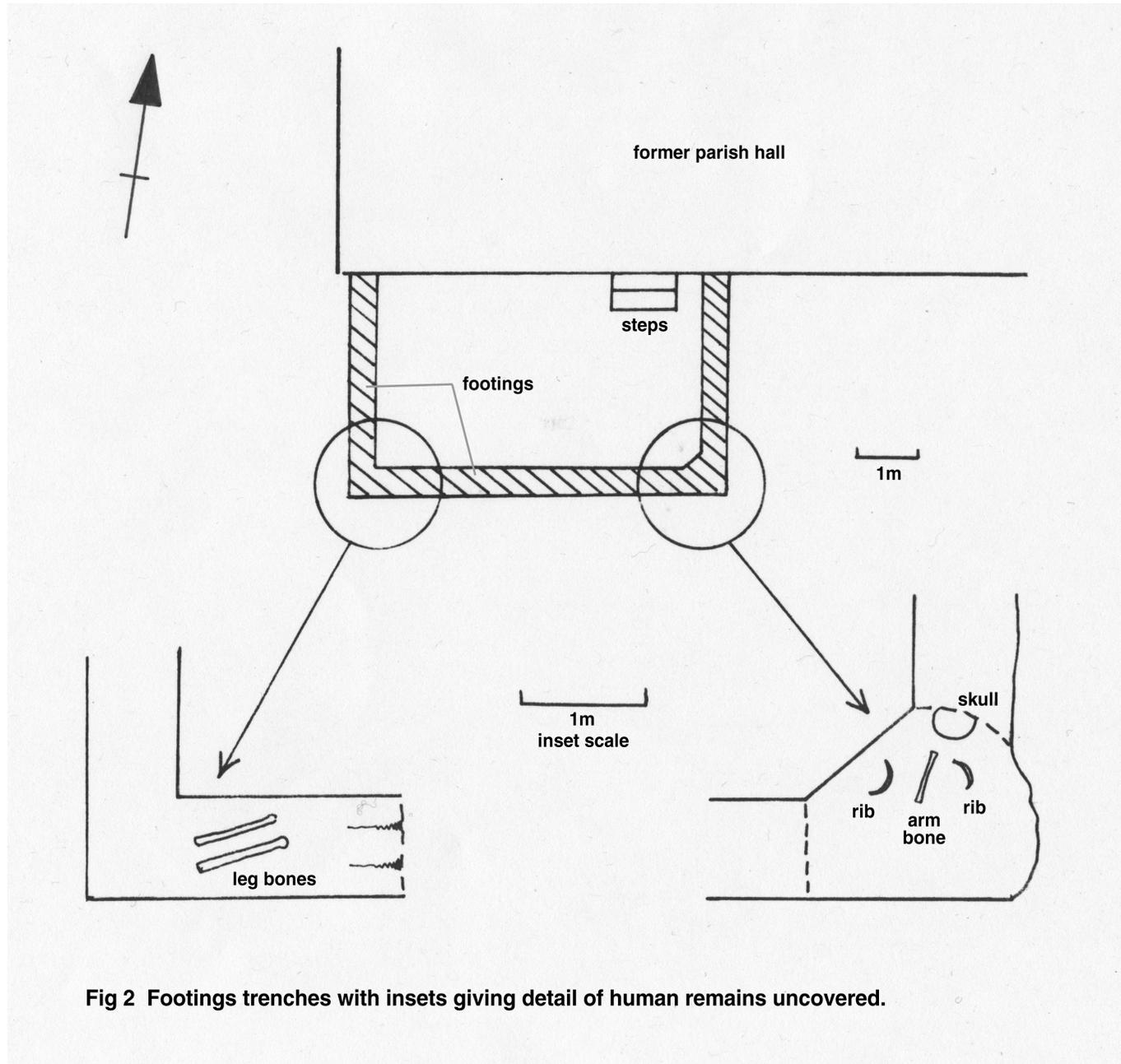


Fig 2 Footings trenches with insets giving detail of human remains uncovered.