



Archaeological  
Report No.: 24

---

Site Code: NSH06  
LCCM Accession No.: 2006.176  
Planning Application No.: S/086/01390/04  
NGR: TF 26011/69681

**A Report to  
Mrs M. Rodwell**

April 2009

**New Kitchen Extension at  
9a North Street,  
Horncastle, Lincolnshire**

*By K Wragg*

Archaeological Watching Brief



# Lincs Archaeo-tech

## New Kitchen Extension at 9a North Street, Horncastle, Lincolnshire

*Site Code: NSH06*

*LCCM Accession No.: 2006.176*

*Planning Application No.: S/086/01390/04*

*NGR: TF 26011/69681*

### *Archaeological Watching Brief*

#### *Contents*

#### *Page*

Non-Technical Summary.....	1
1.0 Introduction.....	2
2.0 Planning Background.....	3
3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background.....	3
4.0 Methodology.....	4
5.0 Results.....	4
6.0 Discussion of Results and Conclusions.....	5
7.0 Acknowledgements.....	5
8.0 Selected References.....	5
9.0 Summary of Site Details.....	6

#### *Appendices*

#### *Page*

APPENDIX A	Archive Deposition.....	7
APPENDIX B	Colour Plates.....	8
APPENDIX C	Context Listing.....	10
APPENDIX D	Post-Roman pottery: Archive Listing by Jane Young, Ceramic Consultant	11

#### *List of illustrations*

Figure 1	Site Location Plan	Scale 1:25000 & 1:1250
Figure 2	Plan of Proposed Development	Scale 1:50
Figure 3	Plan of Excavated Area	Scale 1:20
Figure 4	East-facing Section 1	Scale 1:10

# New Kitchen Extension at 9a North Street, Horncastle, Lincolnshire

## Archaeological Watching Brief

### ***Non-Technical Summary***

---

- ❖ This site is situated close to the centre of the market town of Horncastle, Lincolnshire. It lies on the western side of North Street, the main north-south route through the town, within the Horncastle Conservation Area.
- ❖ Planning permission and listed building consent was sought for the construction of a new two-storey kitchen/utility extension immediately to the rear of one of a row of commercial properties fronting onto North Street. The development itself encompasses an area measuring 3.6m (N-S) x 3.5m (E-W), which is bounded on all sides by a variety of residential and commercial buildings, yards and gardens.
- ❖ Lincolnshire County Council Conservation Services (in their role as archaeological advisors to East Lindsey District Council (ELDC)) considered that while there was no record of any archaeological discoveries on the actual site itself, the development might still reveal evidence for earlier buildings and occupation. In particular, it was noted that the site lies within the bounds of the former medieval settlement at Horncastle, although, in view of the town's long history, occupation dating from the pre-historic and/or Roman periods might also be expected.
- ❖ Appropriate consents for the scheme were granted by ELDC, with a condition requiring that an archaeological watching brief be carried out during all stages of the development involving ground disturbance.
- ❖ Lincs Archaeo-tech was commissioned by the owner/developer, Mrs M. Rodwell, on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July 2006 to provide the required archaeological services, and attendance was undertaken on an intermittent basis between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2006.
- ❖ During the course of the groundworks, a series of buried deposits and features were uncovered and recorded in accordance with the aims and objectives established at the outset of the project.
- ❖ In spite of the site's apparent archaeological potential, however, the results ultimately provided no direct evidence for ancient occupation on the site itself, with all the deposits and features apparently of either undated, modern or natural (*i.e.*, geological) origin.
- ❖ A single piece of pottery recovered in the course of the works was dated to between the late 9<sup>th</sup> and mid 11<sup>th</sup> centuries, which is consistent with the site's position in the former medieval settlement, but unfortunately it was not stratified and therefore cannot be taken as conclusive evidence for activity during this period.

# New Kitchen Extension at 9a North Street, Horncastle, Lincolnshire

## Archaeological Watching Brief

### ***1.0 Introduction***

---

This site is situated close to the centre of the market town of Horncastle, Lincolnshire. It lies on the western side of North Street, the main north-south route through the town, within the Horncastle Conservation Area (see Figure 1).

Planning permission and listed building consent was sought for the construction of a new two-storey kitchen/utility extension immediately to the rear of one of a row of commercial properties fronting onto North Street. The development itself encompasses an area measuring 3.6m (N-S) x 3.5m (E-W), which is bounded on all sides by a variety of residential and commercial buildings, yards and gardens (see Figure 2).

Lincolnshire County Council Conservation Services (in their role as archaeological advisors to East Lindsey District Council (ELDC)) considered that while there was no record of any archaeological discoveries on the actual site itself, the development might still reveal evidence for earlier buildings and occupation. In particular, it was noted that the site lies within the bounds of the former medieval settlement at Horncastle, although, in view of the town's long history, occupation dating from the pre-historic and/or Roman periods might also be expected (see **3.0**, below).

Appropriate consents for the scheme were granted by ELDC, with a condition requiring that an archaeological watching brief be carried out during all stages of the development involving ground disturbance (see **2.0** and **4.0**, below).

Lincs Archaeo-tech (LAT) was commissioned by the owner/developer, Mrs M. Rodwell, on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July 2006 to provide the required archaeological services, and attendance was undertaken on an intermittent basis between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2006.

#### ***Notes:***

- 1) *This document is presented on the understanding that further data pertaining to this site may subsequently emerge, which may affect the conclusions drawn herein. Lincs Archaeo-tech, its employees, and/or principals cannot therefore be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising from use of any information contained in this report.*
- 2) *Lincs Archaeo-tech has adopted, and subscribes to, the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and its Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.*
- 3) *All maps and extracts are reproduced under Ordnance Survey Copyright Licence Number: 100043257 unless otherwise credited.*

## ***2.0 Planning Background***

---

Applications for planning permission and listed building consent for the scheme were submitted in August 2004. Appropriate consents were granted by East Lindsey District Council in September & November 2004, under application numbers S/086/01389/04 (listed buildings) and S/086/01390/04 (planning).

The planning consent included the following condition relating to archaeology:

*2) The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to any archaeologist recognised by the District Planning Authority, and shall allow them to observe the excavations and retrieve and record remains of archaeological interest which are disturbed. Fourteen days notice in writing shall be given to the Local Planning Authority prior to the commencement of the development.*

The reason for the condition was given as:

*In order to ensure that satisfactory arrangements are made for investigation, retrieval and recording of any possible archaeological remains on the site in accordance with Policy C6 of the East Lindsey Local Plan Alteration 1999.*

## ***3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background***

---

The local geology in the area of North Street comprises soils of the *Fladbury 2* Association - mottled stoneless clayey soils, some with sandy subsoils, developed in greyish and brownish river alluvium (Hodge *et al*, 1984).

These soils overlie a drift geology of recent alluvium and lower terrace deposits, which in turn overlie a solid geology of Middle Jurassic *Ancholme* group clays (BGS, 1995).

### **3.1 Historical background**

The town lies at a nominal elevation of 30m O.D. at the southern end of Caistor High Street, a prehistoric ridgeway, once a major route between the Wash and the Humber. In the pre-Roman period occupation appears to have been concentrated on a slightly raised gravel terrace to the south of the River Waring and to the east of the River Bain.

Roman Horncastle consisted of two elements: an unwalled southern settlement covering approximately 54 hectares (*c.* 135 acres) based upon the prehistoric focus already described; and a northern military walled enclosure of *c.* 2 hectares (5 acres), built in the late 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries at the junction of the Bain and Waring (in the area of the modern town centre to the west of the present site).

At the end of the Roman Period, occupation of the walled enclosure appears to have continued, with early Saxon and mid-late Saxon occupation in evidence. In contrast, the undefended southern part of the settlement appears to have been abandoned after the late 4<sup>th</sup> century.

Medieval occupation was again focussed in the area of the modern town, and it was not until the 19<sup>th</sup> century that expansion to the south recommenced (Field & Hurst, 1984)

The name Horncastle itself, means 'the Roman town on a horn-shaped piece of land', and derives from the Old English *horn* or *horна* (used to describe a projecting horn-shaped piece of land, especially one formed in a river bend) and *cæster*, 'a Roman town'. Horncastle is also identified as *Banno*, a Primitive Welsh or Celtic name meaning 'the strong spur'. Given that the OE word *horn* or *horна* has the same translation as the first element of the Celtic name, *banno*, it seems virtually certain that the name Horncastle must have been bestowed by people who knew the meaning of both words (Cameron, 1998).

### **3.2 Archaeological background**

Discussions with Dr Beryl Lott at Lincolnshire County Council Conservation Services confirmed that while there was no record of any archaeological discoveries on the site itself, evidence has been found for occupation dating from the pre-historic, Roman and medieval periods in the wider area surrounding the

development. In particular it was noted that the site lies within the former medieval settlement and less than 100m to the east of the Roman walled area.

## 4.0 Methodology

---

This scheme of investigation and recording was designed in accordance with the requirements of the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* issued by Lincolnshire County Council (LCC, 1998, with subsequent revisions & updating). This document refers to The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, produced in October 1994 (revised September 2001 and October 2008), which defines an archaeological watching brief as:

*A formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.*

Accordingly, this project was designed to:

- a) Produce an archive record of any surviving deposits, remains and artefacts exposed by the development groundwork within the constraints of the contractor's working methods, programme, and the particular development design;
- b) Produce a project archive for deposition with the appropriate museum (*The Collection, Lincoln*) together with a client report;
- c) Provide information for accession to the Lincolnshire County Historic Environment Record/Sites and Monuments Record (HER/SMR).

To achieve these objectives, an archaeologist from Lincs Archaeo-tech attended site to observe all enabling groundwork (e.g., removal of top-soil or other overburden and/or any general lowering of ground levels), foundation trenching, and excavation for services/drainage as required.

Each discrete archaeological deposit or feature thus revealed was issued with a unique context number (e.g., context [100]), and described in detail on *pro-forma* recording sheets, specifically in terms of its physical appearance, composition, and interrelation with other contexts. Any disturbed artefacts were recovered from site spoil heaps and, where present, from stratified deposits. Photographs were also taken, and plan and/or section drawings produced, as required.

## 5.0 Results

---

The groundworks for this project comprised a single 'L'-shaped foundation trench, which was approximately 600mm wide, and was hand-excavated to a maximum depth of 700mm. The stratigraphic sequence revealed was consistent across the site and comprised only three stratified deposits and one (modern) feature. Context descriptions, together with details of the pottery find recovered, are presented as **Appendices C** and **D**, below, while the stratigraphic sequence itself (from earliest (*i.e.*, oldest) to latest) was as follows (see also Figures 3 and 4):

The earliest visible deposit was a layer of moderately compacted, friable, mid orange/orange-brown fine-grained sand, [103], which probably represents the upper extent of the natural (*i.e.*, geological) strata. This material contained no obvious inclusions and was only just revealed at the limit of excavation (L.O.E.).

[103] was overlain by a layer of moderately compacted, friable, mid (very slightly red-orange) brown sandy silt, [102], which was up to 550mm thick and contained only infrequent small pebble inclusions.

The final deposit revealed by the excavation, [101], was then in evidence - a dump/levelling layer, up to 200mm thick, made up of moderately compacted mid-brown clayey silt mixed with up to 30% mid-light brown clayey silt with limestone flecks.

[101] was heavily truncated by a variety of modern intrusive features (including concrete surfaces, drains, services, etc.), the most prominent of which was [104], a modern brick-built rectilinear chamber (probably a cellar), which enclosed an area measuring approximately 2.5m+ (N-S) x 2m (E-W). The surviving remains of this structure comprised at least seven courses of machine-made red bricks laid to Flemish bond (alternating headers & stretchers in each course) and bonded with lime mortar. The upper course of bricks were present from just below the existing modern ground level.

A further context number, [100], was issued to identify any unstratified finds recovered during the course of the groundworks, which in this case comprised only a single piece of pottery thought to date from the late 9<sup>th</sup> to mid 11<sup>th</sup> centuries (see **Appendix D**, below).

## 6.0 Discussion of Results and Conclusions

---

During the course of the groundworks associated with this development, a series of buried deposits and features were uncovered and recorded in accordance with the aims and objectives established at the outset of the project (see **4.0**, above).

In spite of the site's apparent archaeological potential, however, the results ultimately provided no direct evidence for ancient occupation on the site itself, with all the deposits and features apparently of either undated, modern or natural (*i.e.*, geological) origin.

A single piece of pottery recovered in the course of the works provided a date of between the late 9<sup>th</sup> and mid 11<sup>th</sup> centuries, which is consistent with the site's position in the former medieval settlement, but unfortunately it was not stratified and therefore cannot be taken as conclusive evidence for activity during this period.

## 7.0 Acknowledgements

---

Lincs Archaeo-tech would like to thank Mrs M. Rodwell for funding this project, and for her support and assistance during the works.

Thanks are also due to: Dr Beryl Lott & Louise Jennings of the Historic Environment Team, Lincolnshire County Council; Roy & Nigel of Sutton's Contract Builders (groundworks contractor), for their assistance and co-operation during the groundworks; and to the staff of the Lincolnshire County HER/SMR.

## 8.0 Selected References

---

BGS, 1995, *Horncastle - Solid & Drift Geology (provisional edition)*, 1:50000 Geological Maps, E115, British Geological Survey

Cameron, K., 1998, *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-names*, English Place-Name Society

Field, F. N., and Hurst, H., 1984, *Roman Horncastle*, The Society for Lincolnshire History & Archaeology, Lincoln (reprinted from *Lincolnshire History & Archaeology* 18, 1983)

Hodge, C. A. H., Burton, R. G. O., Corbett, W. M., Evans, R., and Seale, R. S., 1984, *Soils and their use in eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales Bulletin No. 13, Lawes Agricultural Trust (Soil Survey of England and Wales), Harpenden

LCC, 1998, *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice*, Lincolnshire County Council, Lincoln

Mackney, D., Hodgson, J. M., Hollis, J. M., and Staines, S. J. (eds), 1983, *Soils of England and Wales 1:250,000 Soil Map Series: Sheet 4 - Eastern England*, Lawes Agricultural Trust (Soil Survey of England and Wales), Harpenden

## **9.0 Summary of Site Details**

---

**Site Code:** NSH06  
**Museum Accession Number:** 2006.176  
**Planning Application Numbers:** S/086/01389/04 (listed buildings) & S/086/01390/04 (planning)  
**Supervising Archaeologist:** K. Wragg  
**NGR:** TF 26011/69681  
**Civil Parish:** Horncastle  
**Date of Intervention:** 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> August 2006  
**Type of Intervention:** Archaeological Watching Brief  
**Undertaken for:** Mrs M. Rodwell, Odell House, 2 Linden Road, Horncastle, Lincolnshire,  
LN9 5EE

## *Appendix A*

---

### **Archive Deposition**

The archive comprises:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Site diary
5	Context records
4	Scale drawings
2 copies	Report (plus digital copy on CD)
1 set	Colour photographic prints and negatives
1 assemblage	Post-Roman pottery (as detailed in <i>Appendix D</i> , below)
Various	Miscellaneous supporting documentation

The primary archive material, as detailed above, is currently held by :

**Lincs Archaeo-tech,  
50 High Street,  
Martin,  
Lincolnshire,  
LN4 3QT**

It is intended that transfer to *The Collection* - the Museum of Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire - Danes Terrace, Lincoln, in accordance with current published requirements, under Museum Accession Number 2006.176, will be undertaken following completion of this project.

## *Appendix B*

---

### Colour Plates



**Plate 1:** General view of site - looking south-east



**Plate 2:** General view of north side of trench with brick wall remains, [104] - looking east

## Colour Plates (continued)



**Plate 3:** General view of completed foundation trench - looking south-east



**Plate 4:** General view of east-facing section - looking west

## *Appendix C*

---

### **Context Listing**

<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Description</b>
[100]	Unstratified finds - general site area
[101]	Dump/levelling layer - moderately compacted mid-brown clayey silt mixed with up to 30% mid-light brown clayey silt with limestone flecks; heavily truncated by modern concrete surfaces, drains, services, etc.; up to 200mm thick
[102]	Subsoil layer - moderately compacted, friable, mid (very slightly red-orange) brown sandy silt; contains only infrequent small pebble inclusions; up to 550mm thick
[103]	Possible natural ( <i>i.e.</i> , geological) sand layer - moderately compacted, friable, mid orange/orange-brown fine-grained sand; contains no obvious inclusions; only just revealed at the limit of excavation (L.O.E.)
[104]	Modern brick-built chamber (probable cellar?) - rectilinear structure enclosing an area measuring approximately 2.5m+ (N-S) x 2m (E-W); aligned slightly off the N-S axis towards W; seven courses of machine-made red bricks laid to Flemish bond (alternating headers & stretchers in each course) remain intact, bonded with lime mortar; uppermost course of bricks is present immediately beneath modern ground level

## *Appendix D*

---

### **Post-Roman pottery: Archive Listing**

*Jane Young, Ceramic Consultant*

#### **Post-Roman Pottery Archive**

Context number	Fabric	Form type	Sherds	Weight (g)	Part	Description	Date
[100]	HLKT	small jar	1	4	body sherd	soot marks; fabric could alternatively be WEMS; mainly shell inclusions in fabric but some greensand	late 9 <sup>th</sup> to mid 11 <sup>th</sup> ? century

#### Pottery glossary

*HLKT* Horncastle-type *LKT* ware (920-1010)

*LKT* Lincoln kiln-type shelly ware (850-1000)

*WEMS* Wheelthrown early medieval shell-tempered (1050-1220)

50 High Street, Martin  
Lincolnshire, LN4 3QT

Telephone & Fax: (01526) 378 020  
Mobile: (07914) 145 078  
E-mail: lincs.archaeotech@btinternet.com

**SITE CODE:**  
**NSH06**  
**CLIENT:**  
**Mrs M. Rodwell**  
**DESCRIPTION:**  
**Site location plan**

**SCALE:**  
**See individual plans**

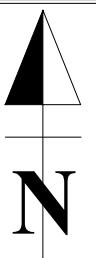
**DRAWN BY:**  
-

**DATE:**  
-

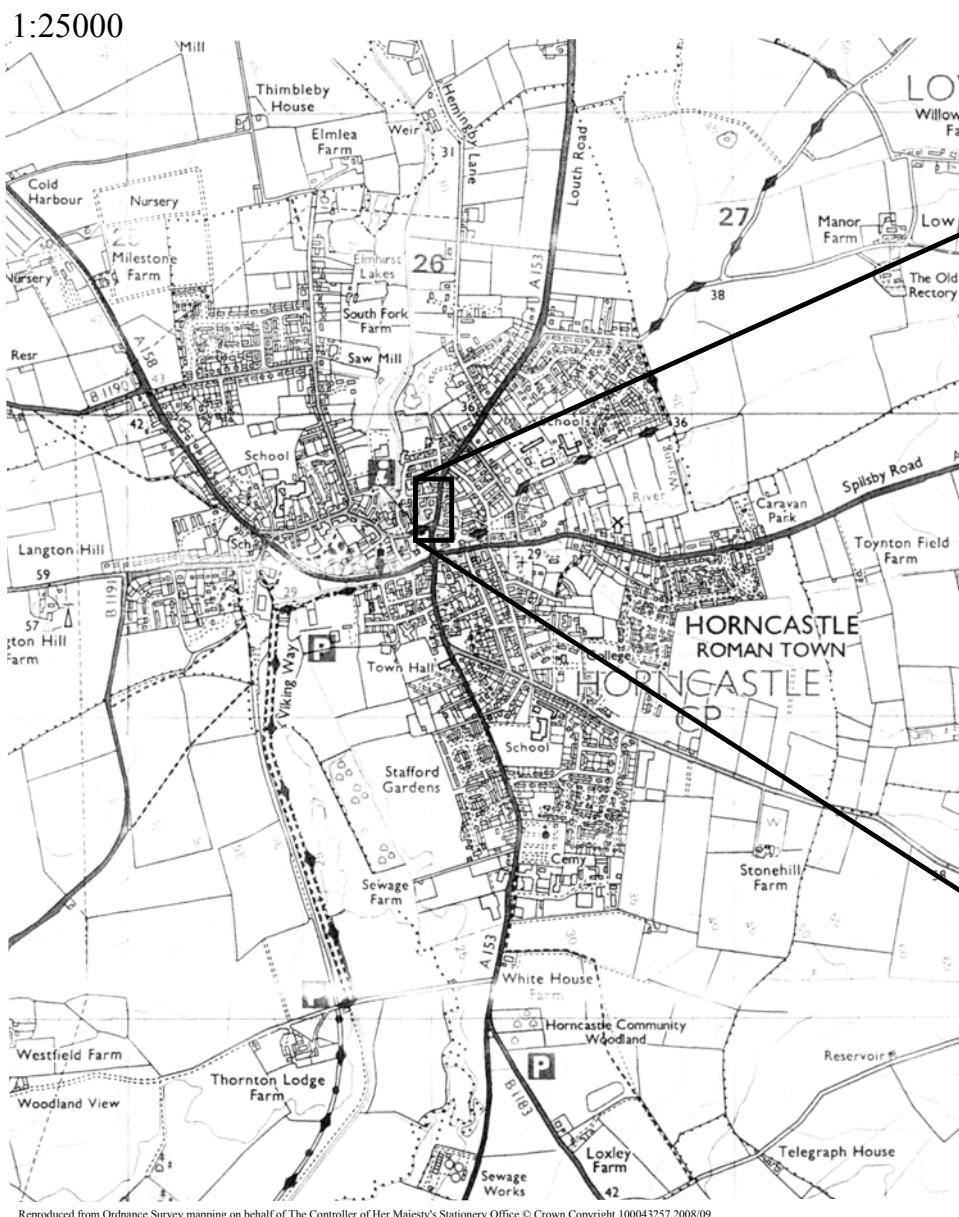
**ARCHIVE NO:**

**MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:**  
**2006.176**

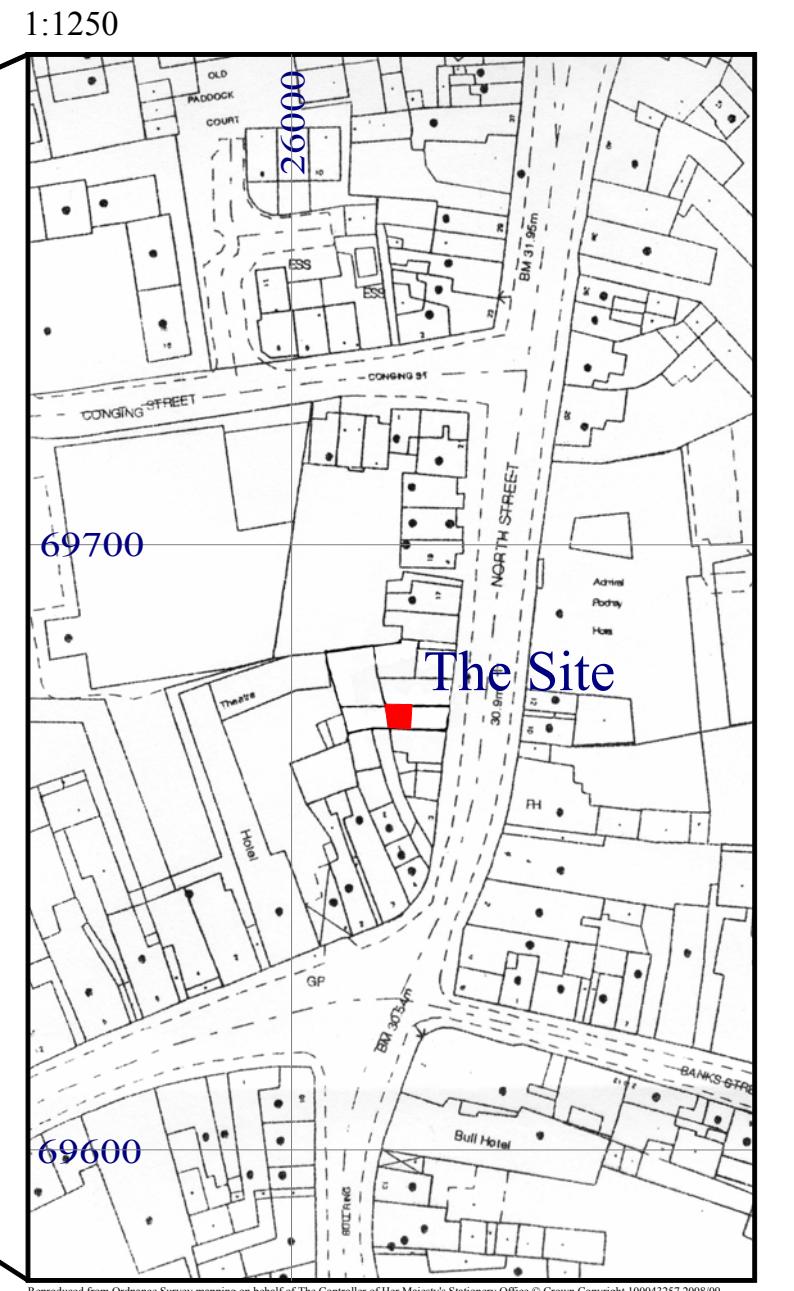
**KEY:**



**FIGURE NO:** **1**



0km 2.5km



0m 125m

50 High Street, Martin  
Lincolnshire, LN4 3QT

Telephone & Fax: (01526) 378 020  
Mobile: (07914) 145 078  
E-mail: lincs.archaeotech @btinternet.com

**SITE CODE:**  
**NSH06**  
**CLIENT:**  
**Mrs M. Rodwell**  
**DESCRIPTION:**  
**Plan of proposed development**

**SCALE:**  
**1:50**

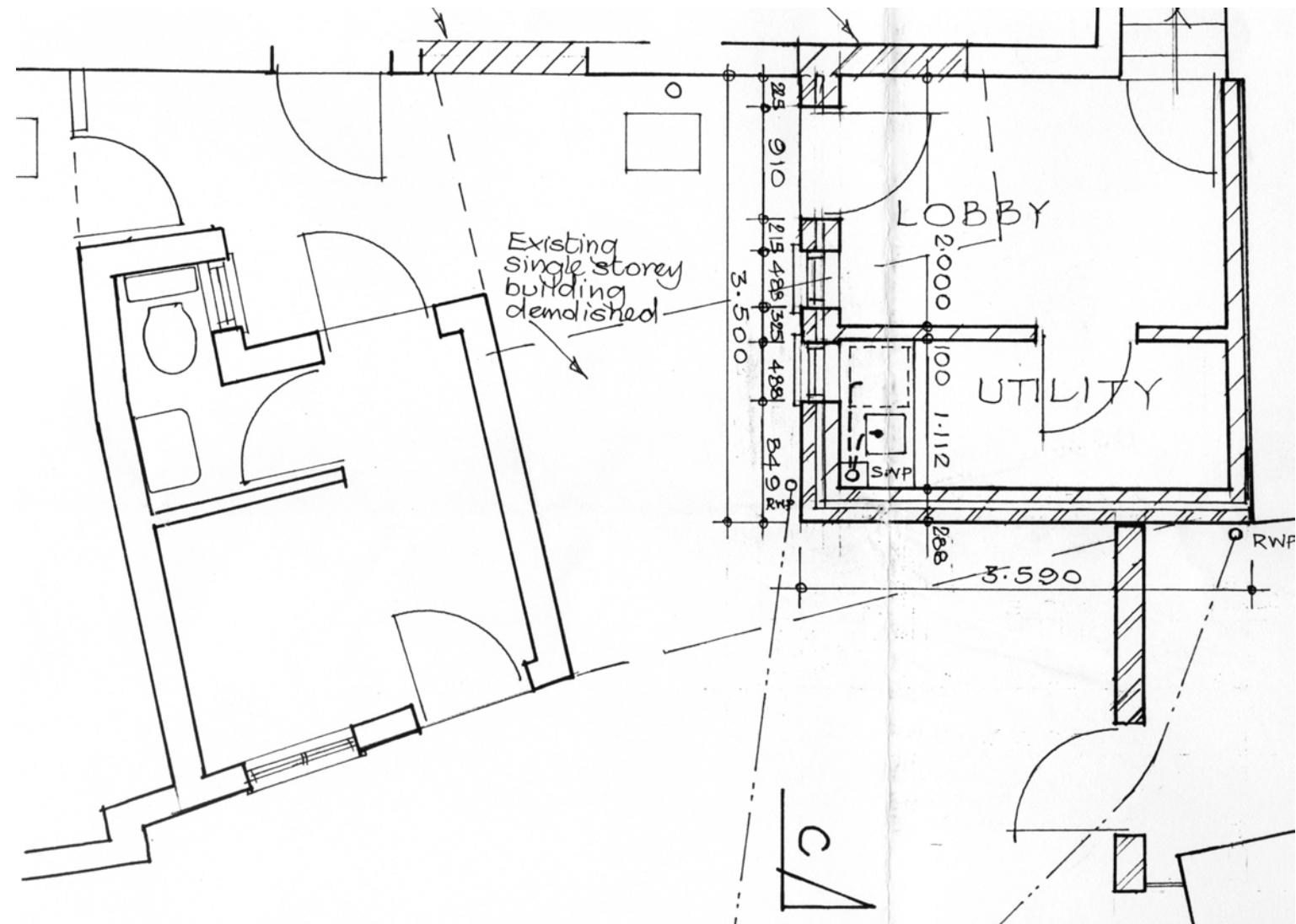
**DRAWN BY:**  
**-**

**DATE:**  
**-**

**ARCHIVE NO:**

**MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:**  
**2006.176**

**KEY:**



Based upon Scorer & Hawkins Architects Associated Drawing No.: 2049/02 revision B

0m 5m



**FIGURE NO:** **2**

50 High Street, Martin  
Lincolnshire, LN4 3QT

Telephone & Fax: (01526) 378 020  
Mobile: (07914) 145 078  
E-mail: lincs.archaeotech @btinternet.com

**SITE CODE:**  
**NSH06**  
**CLIENT:**  
**Mrs M. Rodwell**  
**DESCRIPTION:**  
**Plan of excavated area**

**SCALE:**  
**1:20**

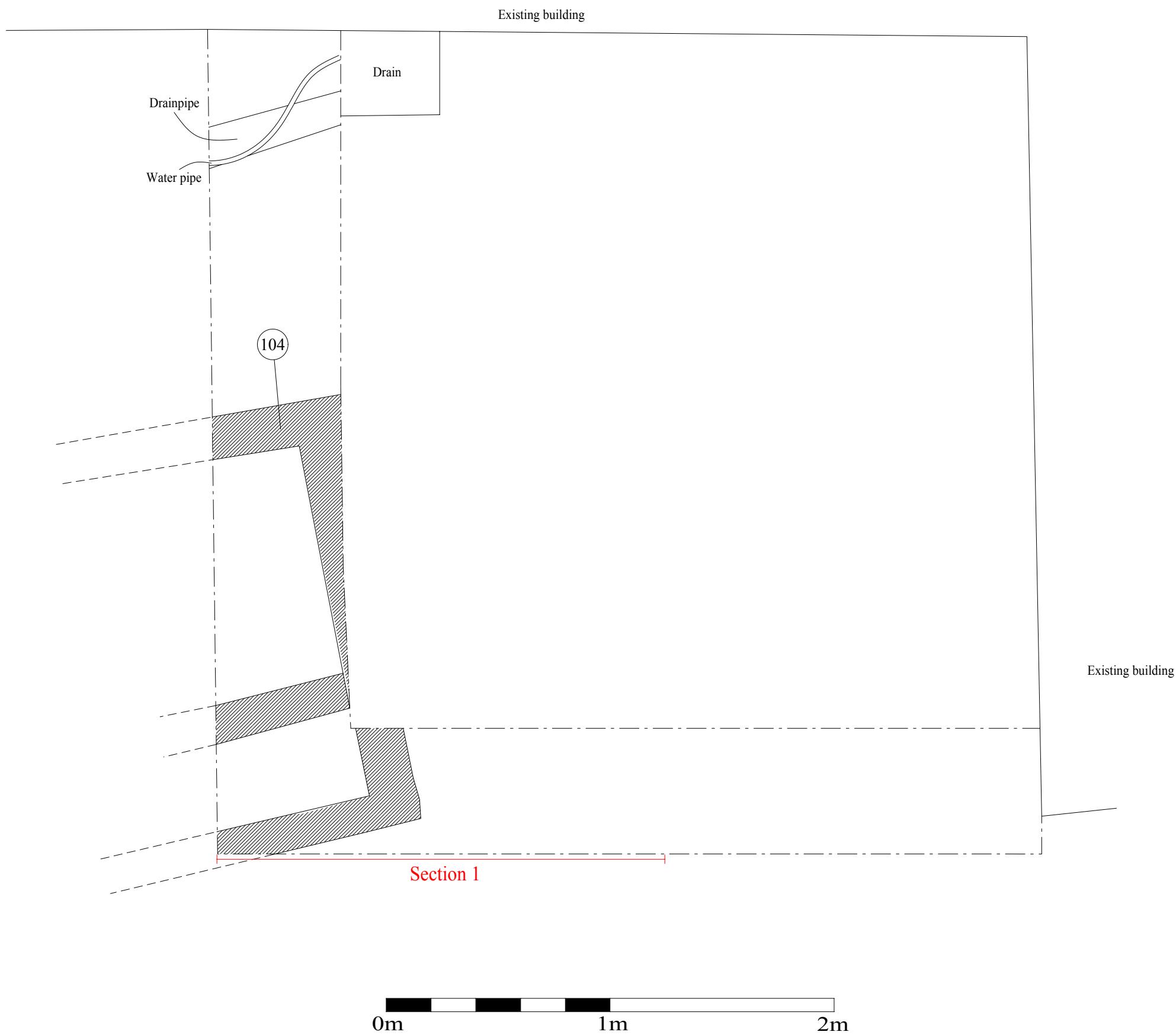
**DRAWN BY:**  
**KW**

**DATE:**  
**15th August 2006**

**ARCHIVE NO:**  
**2006.176**

**MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:**  
**2006.176**

**KEY:**  
 Limit of excavation  
 Brick wall  
Section 1 Section Drawing



50 High Street, Martin  
Lincolnshire, LN4 3QT

Telephone & Fax: (01526) 378 020  
Mobile: (07914) 145 078  
E-mail: lincs.archaeotech @btinternet.com

**SITE CODE:**  
**NSH06**  
**CLIENT:**  
**Mrs M. Rodwell**  
**DESCRIPTION:**  
**East-facing Section 1**

**SCALE:**  
**1:10**

**DRAWN BY:**  
**KW**

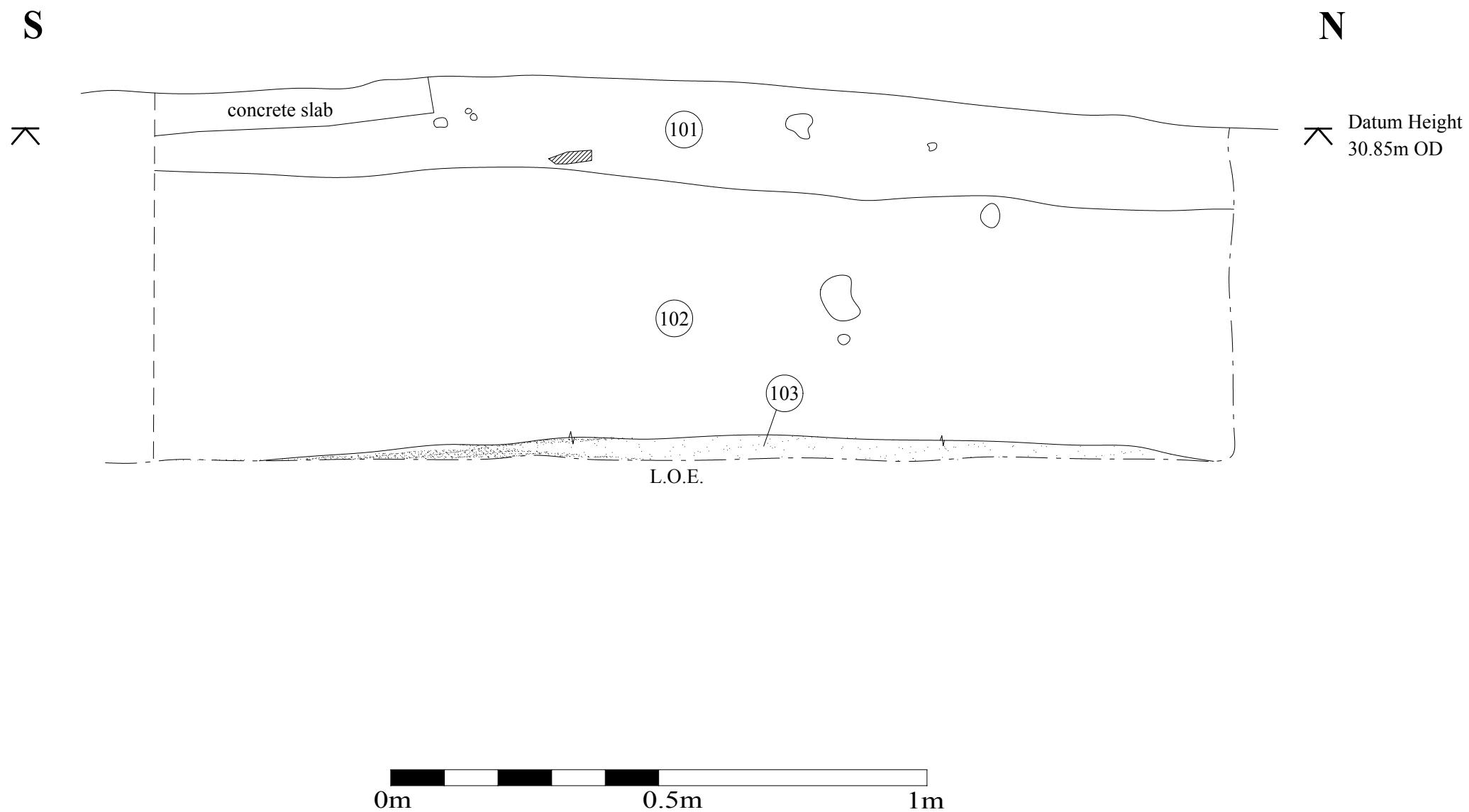
**DATE:**  
**15th August 2006**

**ARCHIVE NO:**

**MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:**  
**2006.176**

**KEY:**

- Limit of excavation
- ↗ Uncertain edge
- - Arbitrary edge
- Stone
- ▨ Brick or tile
- ▨ Sand
- (103) Context number





---

50 High Street, Martin, Lincolnshire, LN4 3QT

Telephone & Fax: (01526) 378 020  
Mobile: (07914) 145 078  
E-mail: [info@lincs-archaeotech.co.uk](mailto:info@lincs-archaeotech.co.uk)