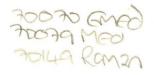


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# A Report to Bix and Waddison Ltd

# September 1993

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# NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COLLEGE (PROPOSED STUDENT ACCOMMODATION)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

By L Donel

**CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 55** 

# NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE TECHNICAL COLLEGE (PROPOSED STUDENT ACCOMMODATION)

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

## Contents

Background to Site
The Evaluation 1
(i) Objectives and Methodology
(ii) The Results
Discussion2
Conclusions and Recommendations
Bibliography

# List of Illustrations

Fig	1 -	Proposed	Develo	nment	Area
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- Fig. 2 Plan of Evaluation Trenches
- Fig. 3 TP1 North-South section
- Fig. 4 TP1 East-West section
- Fig. 5 TP2 North-South section
- Fig. 6 TP3 West-East section
- Fig. 7 TP4 North-South section
- Fig. 8 TP5 South-North section

# NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE TECHNICAL COLLEGE (PROPOSED STUDENT ACCOMMODATION)

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

## Introduction

As a response to proposals by North Lincs. Technical college to develop land to the north of Cathedral Street for student accommodation, the C.L.A.U. was asked by Bix and Waddison Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the area. This was carried out in conjunction with a Geotechnical investigation on Thursday 26th August 1993.

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. The Unit, its Members and employees cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the Unit's Article of Association, the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists and *The Management of Archaeology Projects* (English Heritage, 1991)

## Background to Site

The site lies between Cathedral Street to the south and Lindum Road to the north at what was the northern boundary of the medieval suburb of Butwerk. The land slopes moderately gently from north to south although parts of the slope have been landscaped more steeply. The site has previously been developed for housing, work shops and pathways (Fig.1). As much of the hill up to the Cathedral has been shown to have been terrraced it was thought possible that evidence of early terracing as well as early activity might be preserved above the natural clays in the area to be investigated.

Roman burials have been identified to the south of the site in a designated scheduled area (County Monument 269). It is possible that this area also includes part of the graveyard and remains of the medieval church of St. Clement. Burials were also identified to the south and east of Cathedral Street during earlier redevelopment at North Lincs College.

In 1936 workmen excavating the foundation trenches for the extension to the Technical College at Cathedral Street approx. 100 m to the east of the current site to be developed, uncovered quantities of Roman pottery. An excavation, carried out by F.T.Baker, then Curator of the City and County Museum, revealed the site of a Roman pottery kiln with the pots still in situ ready to

be fired. The kiln, dated to the 2nd century AD is unique to Great Britain. (Baker 1937).

During the 13th century, land was held to the south and east of the site under discussion, by Dominican Black Friars. It is possible that a north south lane, which ran between Friars Lane and Greestone Stairs and acted as the western limit of their property may lie close to or cross the development area. Prior to the construction of Lindum Road in 1785, an earlier road linking Clasketgate and Pottergate probably also lay across part of the development area.

## The Evaluation

Objectives and methodology

This evaluation was carried out by means of 5 trenches excavated for the purpose of geotechnical investigation under the supervision of Bix and Waddison Ltd. Results were recorded by a team from the C.L.A.U. (site records are held in the C.L.A.U. archive under project ref: TC93). The evaluation was designed to;

- identify the depth, nature and condition of survival of any archaeological remains in the area of proposed development.
- 2. assess the importance of any remains encountered.
- 3. assess the probable impact of development on surviving remains.
- assess the need for further archaeological excavation or recording prior to, or during the construction phase, and recommend an appropriate course of action.

Five trial trenches were mechanically excavated in the locations shown in Fig.2. Trenches were positioned in such a way as to be mutually beneficial to both the geotechnical and archaeological investigations. Each trench was approximately 2.0m long x 0.75m wide with depths between 2.8m and 3.0m.

Detailed recording of the stratigraphic sequence of deposits and archaeological features was undertaken by both graphic and photographic means, and artefactual material was collected for analysis and dating.

## The results

Trial Trench 1

Located off Cathedral street in the access drive to no.29, this trench was excavated north-south on a steep slope. The earliest and lowest deposit uncovered was a layer of light brown/orange sandy clay (108) with bone and pot concentrated at the top of the deposit. It is possble that this is disturbed or redeposited natural material. This was overlain by a loose clayey mid brown earth which also contained pot and some

limestone fragments (107). Sealing this was a layer of dark clayey soil (106) with a large percentage of pot sherds which was sealed by a similar clayey soil with pockets of light orange clay and charcoal (104) which had no material associated with it. It is possible that the material seen in (104) and (106) represents the same layer which had undergone a long and varied period of deposition. (106) was sealed by a stone wall (105) only represented in the north facing section of the trench. The wall consistd of three to four courses of limestone blocks aligned eat-west bonded by a rough grey mortar. There was no indication of either a foundation or a robbing trench associated with the wall. (106) was also sealed by a layer of med. compact dark brown clayey soil with tile and stone inclusions (103). This layer was then sealed by clay and modern brick (102) which was in turn overlain by (101) make-up material for the tarmac drive (100) (Figs.3 and 4).

#### Trial Trench 2

This trench was cut into the back garden of no. 28 in order to determine whether the garden had been landscaped at a higher level than the rest of the area or whether it reflected the true nature of the slope of the land. It was discovered that there was a buildup of garden soil material to a depth of 1.2m which contained modern tile and glass (Figs.2 and 5).

#### Trial Trench 3

This east-west trench was placed 2.64m to the east of the edge of the existing buildings and 1m to the south of the bicycle shed abutting the retaining wall at Lindum road (Fig.2).

The lowest and earliest deposit investigated in this trench was a light yellow/orange clay mixed with ironstone (112) which lay approx 2.6m to 2.8m below the present ground surface. There was little material associated with this layer. Sealing it, however, was a loose light brown sandy earth (111) which contained a high concentration of pottery sherds, burnt stone and charcoal and a piece of human bone. This lay at a level between 1.4m and 2.6m below the present ground surface. Sealing this was a loose light yellow brown sandy soil containing limestone fragments (110). This was overlain by topsoil (109) (Fig.6).

## Trial Trench 4

This trench lay north-south at right angles to the eastern edge of Trial Trench 3 (Fig.2).

A light yellow sandy clay with large limestone blocks (116) was identified at the limit of the excavation (L.O.E.). This was overlain by a loose light brown

sandy earth (115) lying approx. 2.2m to 2.6m below the present ground surface, which appears to be the same layer as (111) seen in Trial Trench 3. (115) also had a high percentage of pottery present. Sealing (115) was (114) a layer of loose dk grey sandy soil with tile and organic (root) inclusions. This was sealed by topsoil (113) (Fig.7).

#### Trial Trench 5

The fifth and last trench lay north-south on a patch of grass lying between the concrete pathway and the steps at the south-east corner of the site (Fig.2).

The lowest layer examined was a light yellow clay (120) which lay between 3m and 2.2m below the present ground surface. This was sealed by (119) a light yellow/dark brown sandy clayey earth. (119) was overlain by (118), a loose mid brown sandy earth with pot and tile inclusions which was in turn sealed by turf (117) (Fig.8).

## Discussion

Archaeological deposits were in evidence in four of the five trial trenches. There appeared to be a gap between modern material which extended from the ground surface to c. 1.2m deep and the layers with large concentrations of pottery which lay between 1.4m and 3.0m below the surface. Only in Trial Trench 5 was a recognizable natural clay reached. The other trenches tended to exhibit a sand/clay mix which was still disturbed by archaeological material and intrusive ironstone fragments.

The earlier layers represented in trenches 1,3,4 and 5 produced pottery associated with burnt clay,stone and charcoal residues; normally indicative of kiln material.

Much of the pottery recovered, represented by a number of sherds from medium sized jars, was identified as Late Saxon shell tempered ware. This form of pottery indicates a date after the Early/Mid 10th century (Young 1993).

There is within a high proportion of the sherds signs of waste material. This could be from either underfiring or more commonly overfiring. The presence of soot patches and variable colouring indicate a clamp firing (Young 1993). Similar evidence of the type of firing was found during excavation at Silver Street in 1973 (Young 1987), although the type of shell tempered ware (LKT) differed from that found at Cathedral Street (LSH). However, sherds of this type of pottery (LSH) were also found at Silver St. and in other locations in the city but there has been no direct evidence, until the present work at Cathedral Street, that the Late Saxon Shelly wares were actually produced in the city.

Because there is evidence now indicating local production of this material, the question must also be asked as to the location of the kilns, their number and whether there were any other associated workshops in the area that might have formed a production centre.

The trial trenches produced evidence of a wide distrubution of this pottery over the development area. However, it did not produce any evidence for structures that might indicate kilns or workshops. The kilns, themselves, may have been of very simple construction and could be closely associated with the pottery spreads. However, the localised nature of evaluation trenches and the fact that there are buildings on most of the development area imposed some limitation on the investigation. It is impossible to say what destruction may have been caused by the construction of the houses and the plasterers workshop, however, the depth of archaeological deposits recorded in the trial trenches suggests that earlier deposits might be preserved below their foundations.

## Conclusions and Recommendations

A recent draft report of the survey of Medieval Ceramic Studies in England, has outlined the importance attached to the creation of a solid foundation and framework for local ceramic studies, centrered on the investigation of production centres, their technology, production sites and workshops as the area of greatest need.

Sherds of this Lincoln Late Saxon Shelly Ware have been found at Nottingham, York, Leicester and Beverly suggesting a wide distribution of this material and a substantial industry. The importance of both the pottery and any evidence for its production cannot, therefore, be overstated.

Although the geotechnical trial pits did not reveal evidence of kiln structures the possibility of survival within the development area cannot be entirely discounted.

In the same vein, the remains of a late medieval or post medieval stone wall, revealed in Trial Trench 1 indicates that the possibility of the survival of other structural remains must be seriously considered.

It should also be noted that the presence of human bone in deposit (111), although not directly associated with any other burial evidence, may indicate that the Roman and later medieval burial ground, directly to the south, may encroach into the development area.

The piling arrangement indicated by Rolton Consulting Engineers letter of 3rd September 1993 and preliminary sketches No F1 to F5 is more intensive than originally outlined, but the generally shallow depth of ground beams should ensure that area

disturbance and deep destruction of archaeological deposits is kept to a minimum.

In view of archaeological potential detailed above and considering the preliminary nature of the foundation design, the uncertainty regarding enabling work and the unpredictabilty of survival of archaeological remains over some areas of the site we recommend that all development groundwork be carried out under archaeological supervision as part of an INTENSIVE WATCHING BRIEF.

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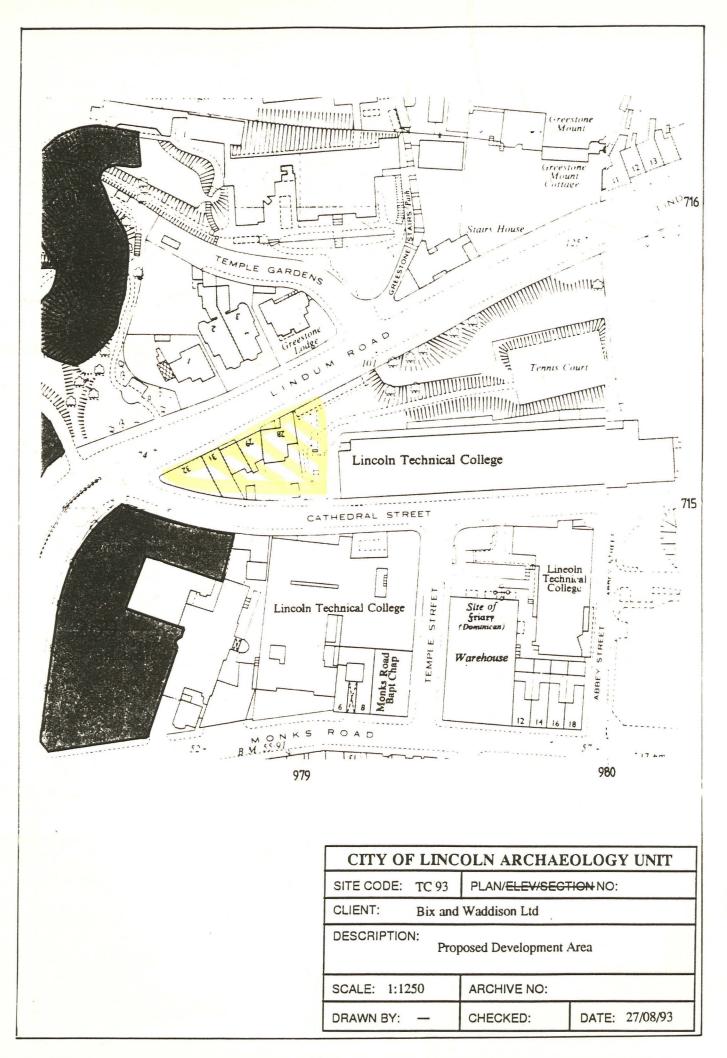
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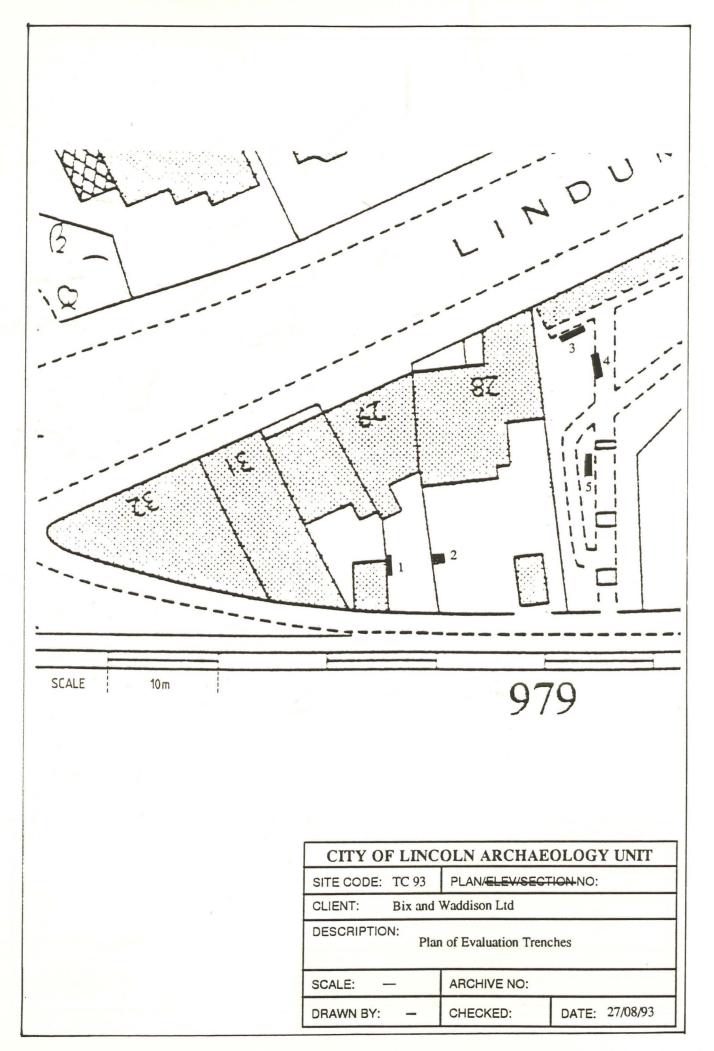
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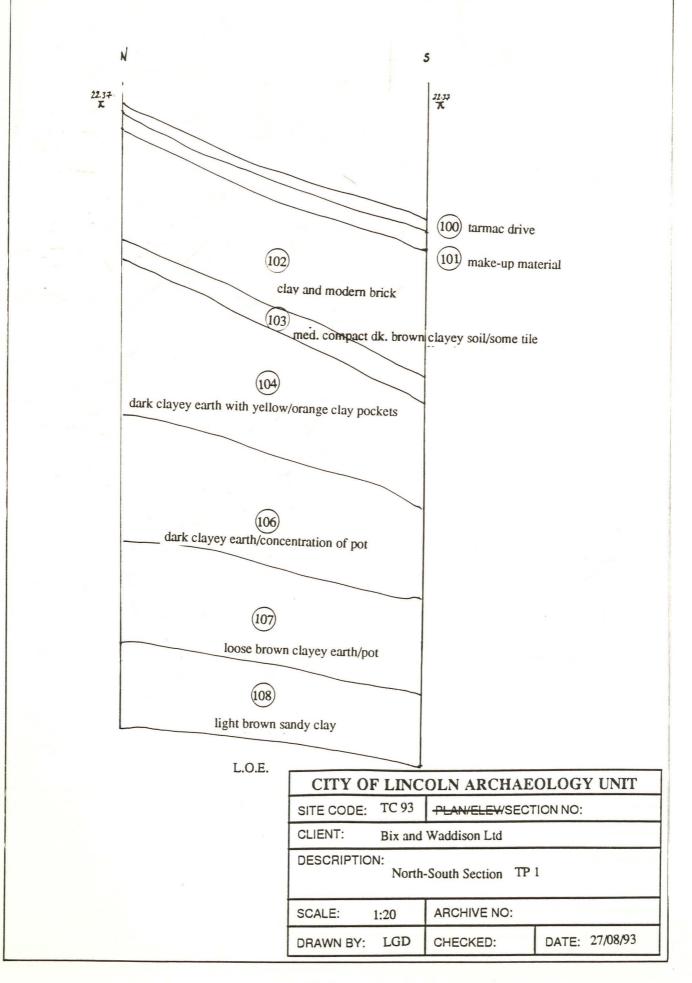
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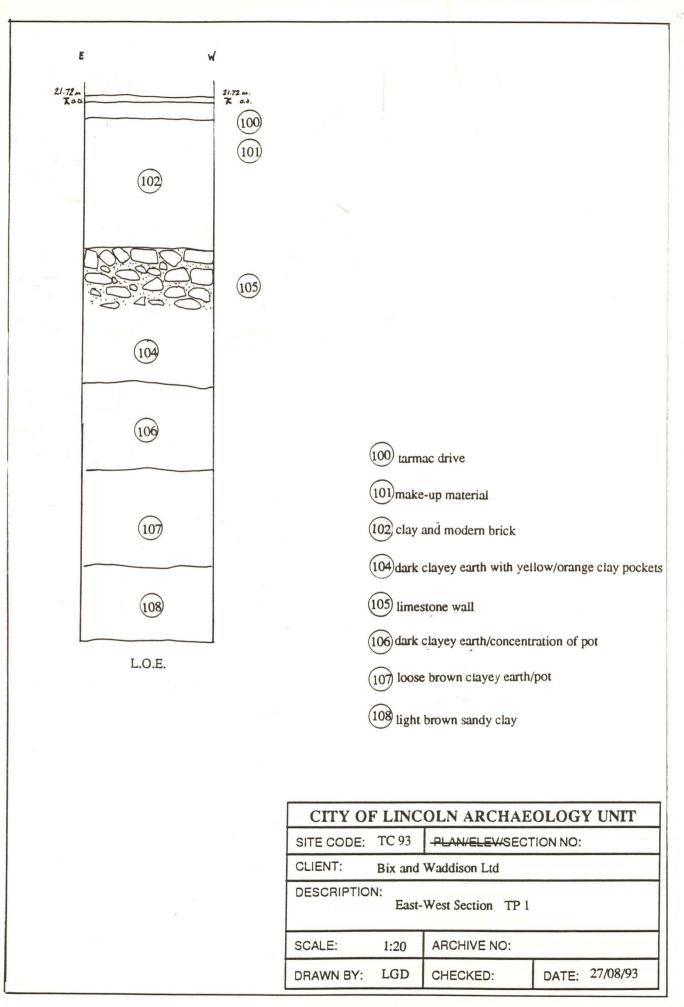
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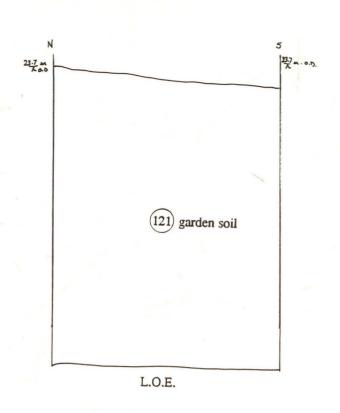
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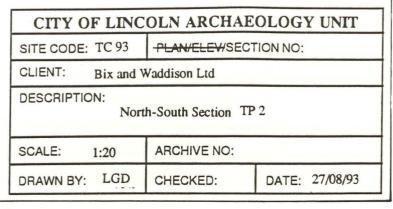


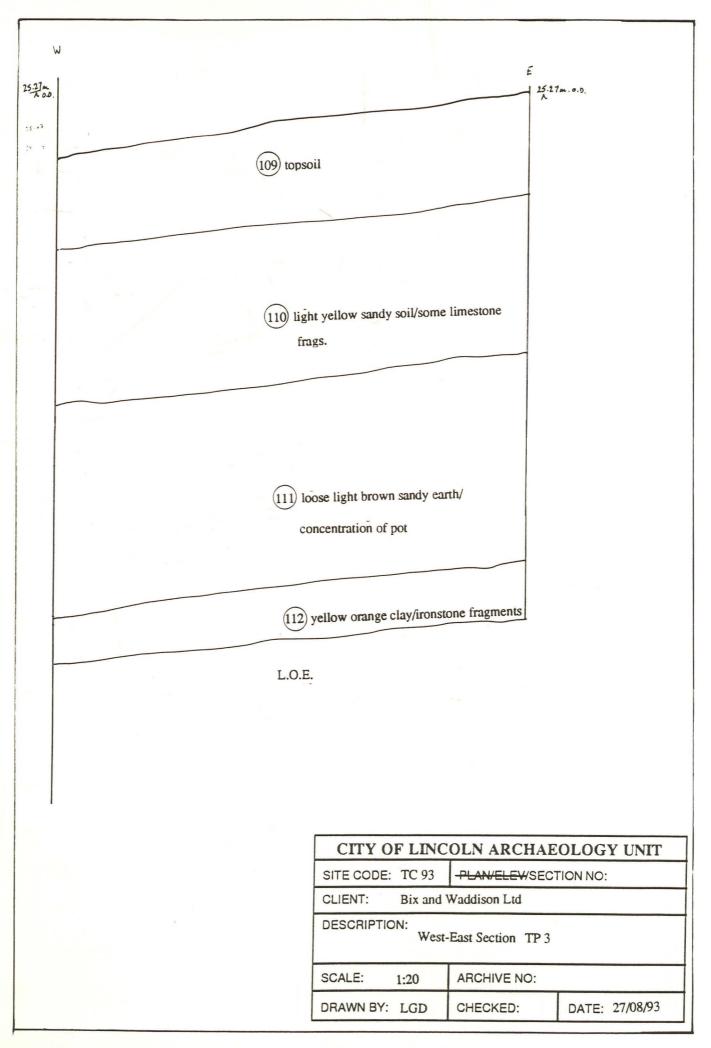


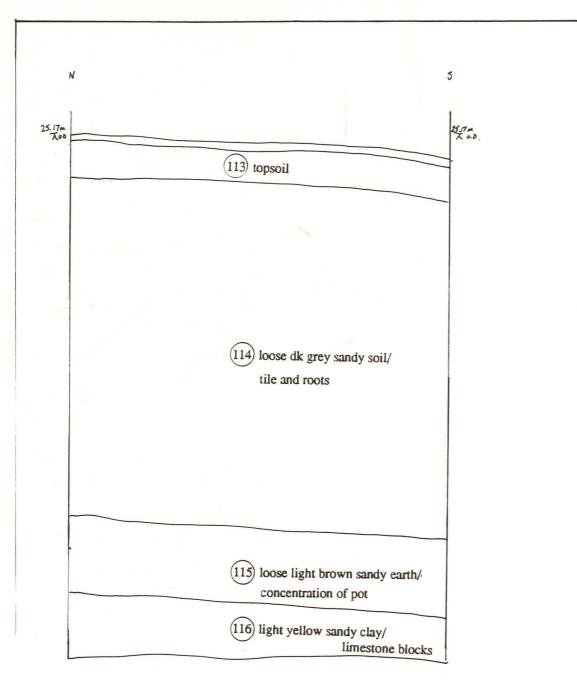






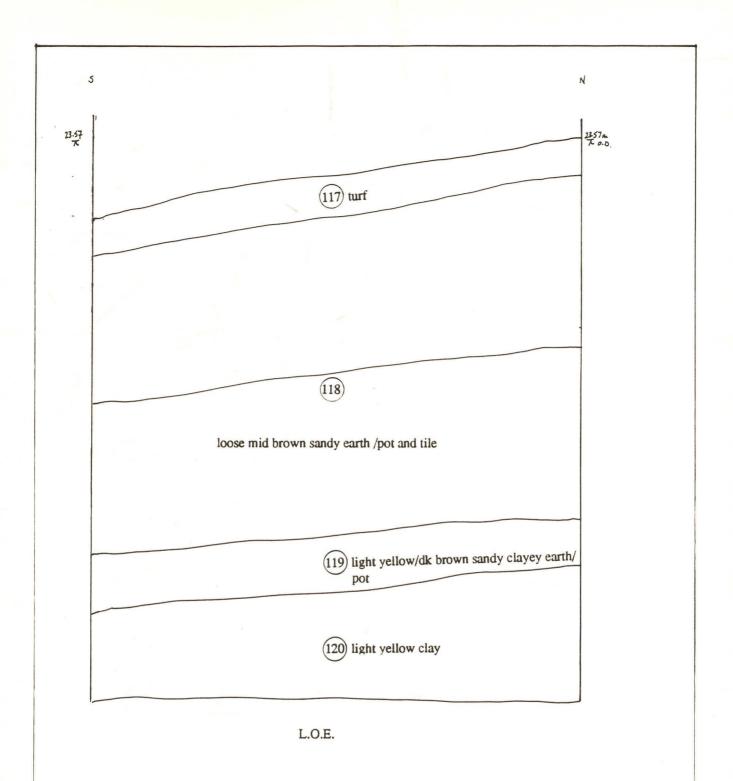






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CLIENT: Bix and Waddison Ltd					
DESCRIPTION: North-South Section TP 4					
SCALE:	1:20	ARCHIVE NO:			
DRAWN BY:	LGD	CHECKED:	DATE: 27/08/93		



CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT					
SITE CODE: TC 93 PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:					
CLIENT: Bix and Waddison Ltd					
DESCRIPTION: South-North Section TP 5					
SCALE: 1:20	ARCHIVE NO:				
DRAWN BY: LGD	CHECKED:	DATE: 27/08/93			

Fig.8