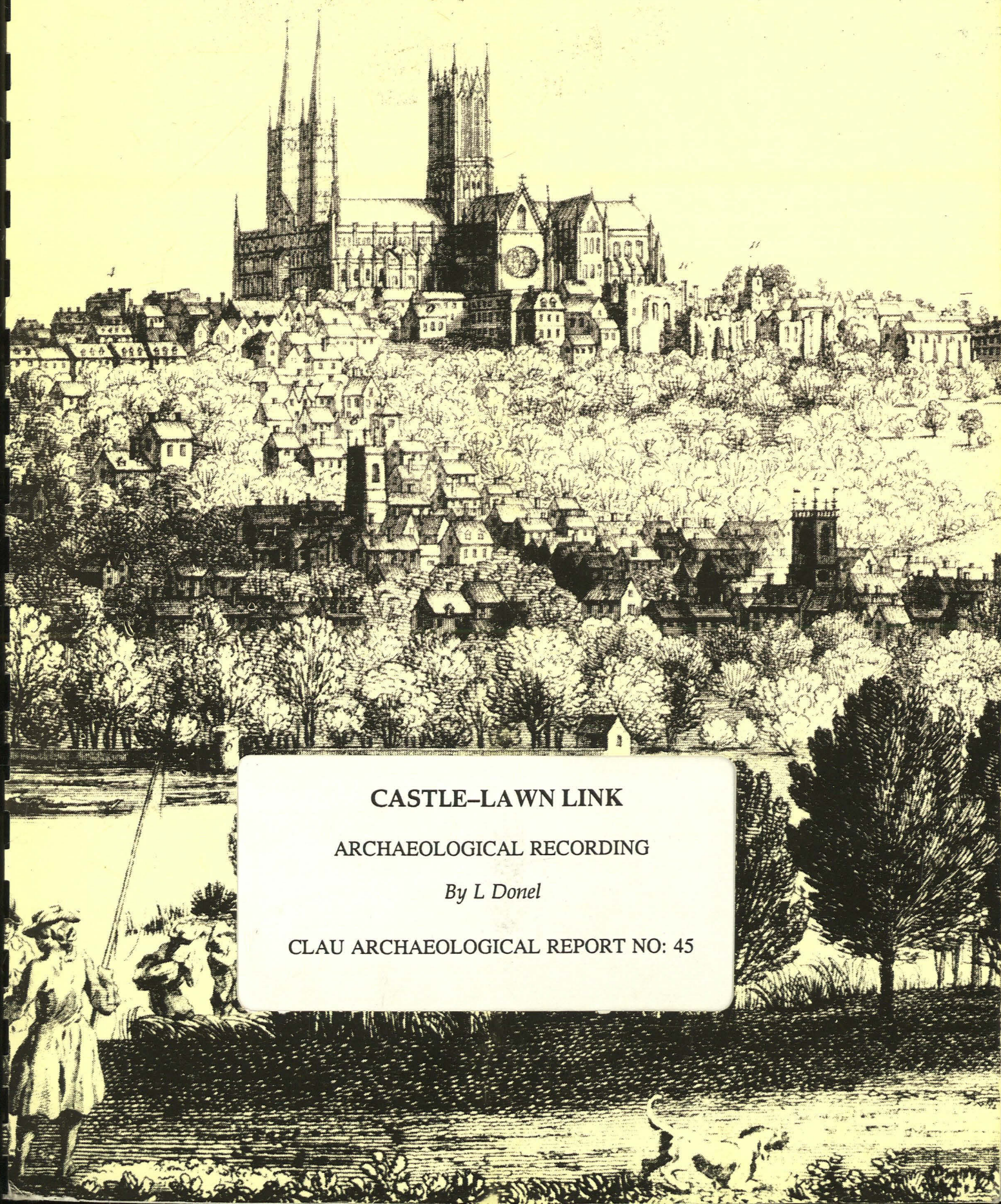


CITY OF
◇ LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY ◇
UNIT



CASTLE-LAWN LINK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

By L Donel

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 45

**A Report to
Allott & Lomax, Consulting Engineers, Manchester**

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29 June 1993

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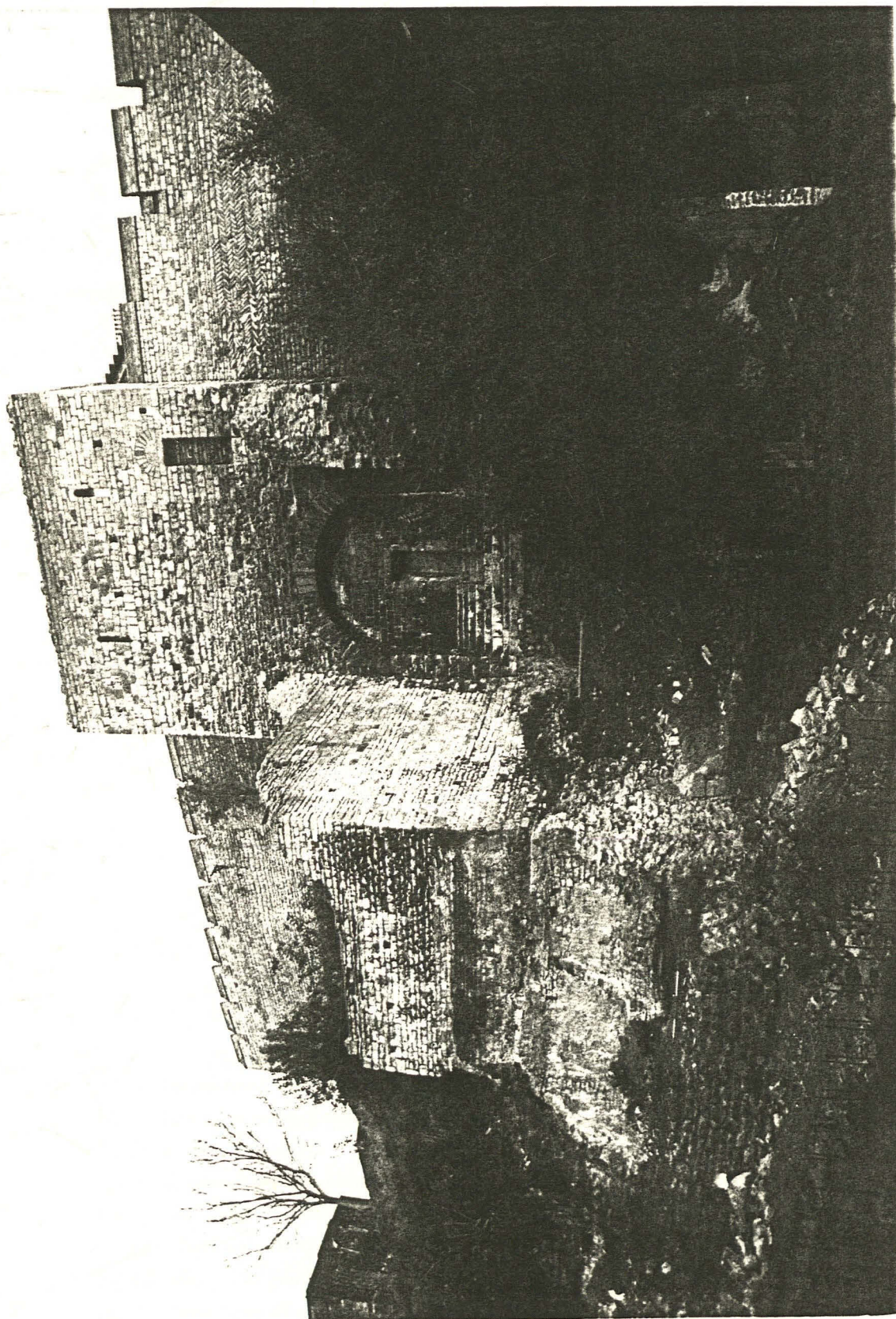


Fig.1

CASTLE - LAWN LINK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

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CASTLE - LAWN LINK ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

A. INTRODUCTION

Between September 1992 and February 1993 the Unit carried out an intermittent watching brief for Allott and Lomax, Consulting Engineers, Manchester on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council (Recreational Services) and Lincoln City Council on the groundworks associated with the Lawn Link and opening of the Castle West Gate. This involved the recording of all excavation and landscaping on both sides of the Gate as well as the West Gate blockage prior to, during and after its removal (Fig. 2). The work was undertaken to SMC requirements.

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 2 (English Heritage, 1991).

B. BACKGROUND HISTORY OF THE CASTLE

Built as a 'buffer' castle in 1068, the castle was besieged by Stephen in 1141. During the siege of 1216 it was extensively damaged. However, the castle, generally, was never under serious threat and probably because of this it was allowed to decay, until in 1327 it was deemed no longer defensible and was subsequently converted into a law court and prison. Although no longer a prison, it has remained a court to the present day.

It suffered again during the Civil War when, in 1644, its battlements were stormed and slighted. Since 1790 there has been extensive maintenance and repairs to all the walls, towers, and gates. Work at the West Gate has been geared to facilitate the opening of the gate and the creation of the Lawn Link.

C. PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION AT THE WEST GATE

(i) 1982-89 - West Gate (Fig 3)

Clearance of the vegetation on the outer scarp of the bank immediately north of the medieval gate uncovered the collapsed voussoirs of the Roman west

gate which had been exposed previously in 1955. These were subsequently backfilled. Trenches dug adjacent to part of the West Gate recovered evidence of several phases, the earliest of which was probably the original Norman timber and stone structure. There was some suggestion that the highly built up rampart north of the gate may have formed an early- or even pre-Norman defensive mound, although this could merely have resulted from the covering of the Roman gate tower in earth.

The interior of the blocked west gate of the Castle was excavated down to the level of the latest medieval road surface, in advance of the restoration work. Some earlier material was exposed in the base of intrusive features and in limited excavations in the area immediately to the east of the gateway. The interior city face of the Roman wall was exposed: the Castle gate foundations had cut into its line, so that truncated masonry of the Roman wall lay immediately below the medieval road surface inside the gate.

The earliest stone gate was a two storey structure, apparently barrel vaulted, probably constructed in the late 11th- 12th century. The roadway dipped sharply downwards to the south and east on entering the Castle (perhaps following the slope of the truncated Roman rampart bank). To the south lay a building with arrow-slit windows overlooking the carriageway. Various alterations were carried out either contemporary with or earlier than the early mid 13th century insertion of the portcullis and strengthening arch. The rear passage walls of the gateway were extended into the castle interior; the southern building was extended out on to the carriageway. At least two periods of passageway walls were found to the east of the gate.

The road level rose during the 12-14th centuries, so that the original downward slope was levelled out, possibly the result of numerous repairs and resurfacings as well as purposeful dumping. The southern building was buried to a depth of over 1.5m but a new building was added on its north side.

Pottery dating suggests that disuse of the gateway probably occurred in the mid 14th-early 15 century. Rubbish, rubble and silt built up over the latest road surface and a blocking wall was found spanning the narrowest point of the gate.

At some point in the 16-17th centuries, both ends of the gateway were blocked by new walls. The interior thus formed was used as a bronze foundry, partly for bell casting, during the 17th-18th century.

A photogrammetric survey was made of the whole standing structure including the walls uncovered during excavation (see Elliott and Stocker 1984; Stocker 1983; Guy 1987; Miles 1988; Otter 1989).

(ii) 1990 - Stabilisation Survey (Fig 3)

A watching brief was maintained during site stability investigations on the Castle banks, between 8 May 1990 and 10 June 1990, so that the effect of the works on the monument might be monitored, and information obtained which might assist the engineers. It was also hoped that the investigations might answer several questions about the history of the castle :-

1. the extent of preservation of Roman remains;
2. evidence for the postulated early timber castle;
3. constructional details about the Castle's later stone and earth fortifications;
4. subsequent alterations during the Castle's history;
5. dating evidence for the structural periods.

In the event, few of these problems were solved, but there was some useful information on the medieval fortifications, especially on the West Bank where it was shown that there had been more than one method of construction possibly because of the employment of different work gangs (see Donel 1992).

(iii) 1992 Trial Excavation

Prior to the commencement of any construction work English Heritage required that certain preliminary work be carried out in the area to the west of the external face of the West Gate. Two trial pits were excavated on 11-15th May 1992 by Geotechnical Services under the direction of Allott and Lomax, Consulting Engineers. The purpose was to examine the deposits uncovered directly at the West Gate, on the line of the proposed bridge. The Unit were present to record the excavation in order to comment on any archaeological implications.

Trial Pit 1

Located in the SE corner of the back garden at Castle Cottages, the trench measured 2m x 0.76 x 1.55m deep. Bounded by brick walls on the E and S sides, the top of the trench had been cut into by a service drain which ran the full length of the excavated area.

The lowest layer investigated was a medium compact yellow clay with limestone fragments. This appeared to have been cut for the construction of an EW limestone wall which lay in the Northern end of the trench. There was no dating material associated with either the wall or the clay. Sealing the wall was a mixed layer of sandy clayey earth with limestone fragments. This in turn was sealed by a band of dark grey sandy earth approximately 10cm to 15cm thick and covered by a mixed layer of brown clayey soil with limestone fragments. The layers appeared to have been laid flat. There was no evidence of either the medieval bank and ditch of the castle nor any evidence for medieval bridge foundations (Fig 4).

Trial Pit 2

Located to the North of Trial Pit 1, this pit measured 2m x .80 x 1.8 deep. There was only one major layer of material in this trench, a compact medium brown clay with limestone pieces. No dating evidence was recovered from it, and it was sealed by a layer of garden soil.

The lack of any real dating material and the size of the trial pits made the archaeological analysis of this geotechnical investigation difficult. It was impossible to determine whether the trial pits cut into the lower slope of the bank or actually cut the ditch itself, or merely cut later deposits. There was no indication of previous bridge structure(s), nor any evidence that natural had been reached as one might assume if the lower part of the Castle bank was excavated. Previous excavation in the grounds of the Lawn c.100m to the west, reached natural geological deposits at 63.12m OD showing it sloping west-east and north-south. The tops of the trial pits were over a metre below this. The actual depth of the trial pits was 1.8m below the present ground surface, excavation terminating at c.60.68m. O.D. (Fig 4).

Trial Pit 3

Following the decision to re-open the trench originally excavated in 1983 immediately outside the West Gate rather than excavating a new trial pit, the CLAU was asked to examine and comment on the stratigraphy exposed, with special reference to the material at the base of the trench.

The requirements were to:

1. re-examine and re-record the stratigraphy of the original trench
2. confirm the identification of the bottom of the original trench
3. determine whether the excavation had, as indicated by the excavator, cut into foundation material.

The area opened in 1992 was situated within the former trench directly adjacent to the corner of the gate and the north flanking wall on the outside of the West Gate. It measured 0.9m wide x 1.7m long x 0.7m deep. No archaeological material was removed; only backfill and accumulated modern debris.

The 1983 trench was originally cut from c. 2m above the foundation level. However, some erosion had taken place since the excavations. The north facing section showed a series of modern deposits, probably backfill, dated by pottery to the 18th and 19th centuries. There was no evidence to indicate that any of the present infill material was associated with the medieval gate itself (Fig 5).

The 1983 excavation had been cut approximately 0.40m into the foundations under the misconception

that the layer was natural limestone brash. This supposition was proved incorrect as the excavation moved westwards revealing a more substantial foundation approximately 2m to the W of the gate entrance. It was considered that the platform extended across the whole of the area. However, during the actual work to build the bridge in 1992/3 it was discovered that the 'foundation platform' was actually a layer of debris probably created when a great crack in the foundations below the West Gate was repaired. Although there was no associated dating evidence, this recent investigation showed that the north and south foundation walls which extend westwards from the gate are probably contemporary with the foundations at the entrance of the West Gate, and not of a different phase as originally postulated (Fig 6).

D. 1992-1993 THE WATCHING BRIEF

The main part of the watching brief centred on localised demolition and contractor's groundwork carried out in the area directly to the West of the gate and the North Tower. However, the full scope of observation and archaeological recording encompassed elements of the scheme in Union Road and The Lawn. It provided not only architectural information but also some useful stratigraphical material (Fig 7).

Results

(i) Lean-to

Abutting the west face of the 'North Tower' was a modern lean to structure that had been used as a workshop. The removal of the roof and interior fittings having been carried out by the contractors, the Unit was asked to assess the remaining skin of the structure and comment on the extent to which it should be preserved, either because it contained medieval fabric or because possible medieval remains were structurally dependent on it.

The north wall of the lean to had been constructed from a combination of limestone blocks and modern brick, the latter's use being primarily for repair work. There appear to be no major structural changes down to the lowest three to four courses of stone-work, where the wall appears to thicken slightly.

It is possible that this northern North-South wall of the lean-to was built on to an existing stone structure. The wall may have been built on to part of a stepped East/West footing (discussed below) which, originally, might have stood several courses higher and extended directly back to the North tower. Another possibility is that there was another chamber adjoining the tower on its west and that the lean-to wall was built on to an earlier wall of this chamber.

The east wall of the lean-to, which lies directly to

the west of the North Tower, shows three obvious building phases. The actual transition between the east and south walls of the lean-to does not show a right angle junction but is curving in plan on its internal face. It is possible that an existing wall was cut into and refaced in this curved manner at a later period. Approximately halfway down the wall it was discovered that the stone had been bonded to the west wall of the North Tower. This may have partly been an attempt to repair damage to the west wall of the tower which was observed when the lean to was partially dismantled (Fig 8).

Below the modern building phase were two possible phases of stone building. The higher appears to be constructed from medium to large sized limestone blocks bonded by a poor quality mortar. The lowest level, consisting of eight courses, appears to thicken out slightly from the courses above. Behind lay a substantial stone wall, possibly that of the North Tower.

An east-west stone and brick buttress had been built up to the East wall of the lean-to at a later date in order to strengthen the middle of this structure. It is possible, as the buttress lies directly below the repaired area of the North Tower, that this was a weak area of the lean-to. Because of the above, it was decided to retain parts of the later lean-to in order to create a more stable structure until further work could be carried out at the North Tower.

(ii) Stepped Footings

North South stepped footings were discovered to the West of the southern standing walls of the North Tower. The clean, clear-edged nature of the eight courses of limestone footings c. 3m West of the North Tower may indicate that they were never open to the elements but were covered by an earth (and possibly turf) layer. There was no evidence of erosion on any of the stone. The footings seemed to have been constructed in stages as there were very definite divisions between blocks of masonry from north to south. Originally the footings may have extended back to the West wall of the North Tower. However, they had been badly disturbed by later activity (Fig 9).

(iii) Possible Causeway

The south wall of the lean-to appears to have been constructed using an original medieval wall (possibly Norman) heightened with stone and brick probably in fairly recent (19th/20th century?) times. This Norman wall, c1.8m. thick, appeared to continue westwards past the later constructed north-south stepped footings which abut the wall's well preserved North face and across the castle ditch. The wall had been disturbed to

the south showing a straight edged cutting back of the facing stones leaving exposed core. The wall, itself, appeared to be offset to the south of the later constructed North Tower. It is possible that the wall formed part of an east-west causeway which ran across the Castle ditch. No evidence survived of a parallel wall to the south (Fig 10).

(iv) Excavation for new bridge foundation

The walls revealed during the watching brief all appeared to be lying on redeposited limestone brash. Below this was natural bedrock. A North-South cut line was discovered lying c.4m to the South-West of the North Tower which may indicate the line of the Medieval ditch and/or quarrying activity. No evidence for a medieval bridge structure was found during the watching brief (Fig 10).

(v) Union Road

Archaeological observation was carried out on ground work to create calming areas for traffic at both the North and South ends of Union Road. This involved the laying of stone sets to raise localised sections of roadway which cause traffic to slow down as they cross them. The depth of the excavation was too shallow to reveal anything of interest as the sets were placed into trenches which cut modern makeup material for the existing road.

(vi) The Lawn

A watching brief was carried out during the excavation of trenches for a new boundary wall and pedestrian access to the Lawn from the West Gate link. There was no evidence in the relatively shallow trenches for any archaeological activity. No dating material was recovered.

E. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Lawn Link Project provided an opportunity to investigate and record localised elements in the outer area of the West Gate. It has enabled us to re-examine and expand upon the results of some aspects of earlier archaeological investigations, so that we might re-assess the West Gate in the light of new information.

The discovery of the North-South stepped footings and the east-west wall which extended towards Union Road from the North side of the gateway, have posed various questions about the appearance of the Castle, the use of the West Gate and the method of crossing the defensive ditch during its early history.

The stepped footings have added a further dimension to the North Tower. Questions arise over

how the tower, a later addition, would relate to the entrance and whether the structure we now see had a western extension in the shape of an extra chamber or chambers and how it might subsequently be defended and used as part of the defensive structure.

Although the East-West wall is, in part, paralleled by an East-West wall to the South, the lack of further evidence from the southern side of the gateway means that a full reconstruction of the means of approach to the gate is not possible at present.

A causeway, by its sheer nature - solid and permanent - would in today's terms appear to be more advantageous to an attacker rather than a defender. If the threat was less than we perceive, it may have formed an acceptable and defensible proposition during the early life of the Castle. If a causeway was used in conjunction with a short segment of bridge, residual evidence for such a bridge and its modest supports were probably destroyed by later and more recent development along Union Road.

Although we are now in the position of having information from a number of deep investigations on both sides of the West Gate, over the past ten years, no comprehensive study of previous results has been undertaken. Instead the sites are still regarded as single units. It now becomes imperative that an examination of all the material from previous investigation be carried out in the light of this new work and brought together into one cohesive picture of the development of the West Gate and its associated area.

F. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We should like to thank the following: Allott and Lomax, Consulting Engineers; Linpave; Lincolnshire County Council (Recreational Services); Lincoln City Council; the staff of Lincoln Castle; Unit staff involved in work on site and subsequently on the analysis of finds etc.

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APPENDIX A

LINCOLN CASTLE: BLOCKAGE REMOVAL

In compliance with SMC requirements, the CLAU at the request of Lincolnshire County Council, undertook to record the removal of the blockage in the West Gate of Lincoln Castle. A drawn and photographic record was produced before, during and after the removal of the blocking wall (Figs.11,12,13).

The blocking wall was half excavated so that a section could be recorded through it to ascertain whether there were any earlier attempts to block the gate other than the visible one. There was no indication of an earlier phase or phases of blockage in the material removed.

The wall itself was one metre thick. It was constructed of limestone blocks the two faces and stone rubble as the core. There was no evidence of the use of brick or tile in the core material which might have given an indication of a date. The only object was a dated stone '1838' which had been placed near the top of the archway on the West face.

It is possible that any earlier blockage may have consisted only of keeping the gateway closed or there may have been an earlier stone blocking wall that was removed and replaced by the present one. It is also possible that the '1838' stone was used as a repair in an earlier blocking wall. Investigation into early prints of the West Gate has proved inconclusive.

APPENDIX B

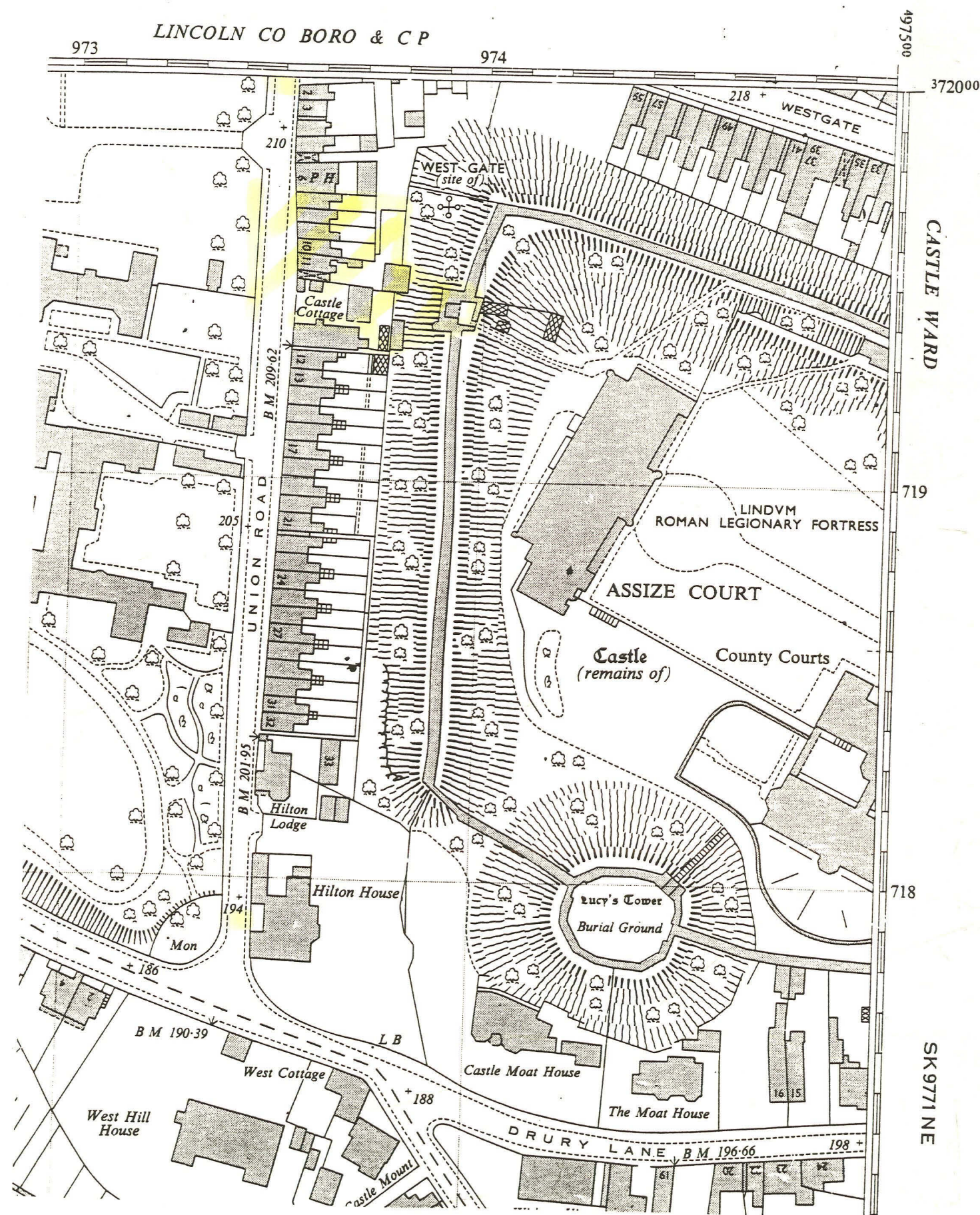
LINCOLN CASTLE: FLOODLIGHTING WATCHING BRIEF

In order to fulfil SMC requirements, the CLAU was asked by Lincolnshire County Council and Lincoln City Council to undertake a watching brief during the installation of floodlighting on the West bank of Lincoln Castle from 23rd March 1993 to 25th March 1993.

Originally plans were drawn up for lighting on both sides of the West Gate at the top of the bank, however, in effect only those on the North side were installed (see Lincoln City Planning Dept drawing no.L586/17).

There were no significant finds as the excavated cable trenches were only 300mm deep at their maximum. The material through which these trenches were cut consisted of modern overburden. No earlier archaeological deposits were uncovered.

A photographic record was made and has been lodged with the Lawn Link material in the CLAU archive.



CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
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Fig.2

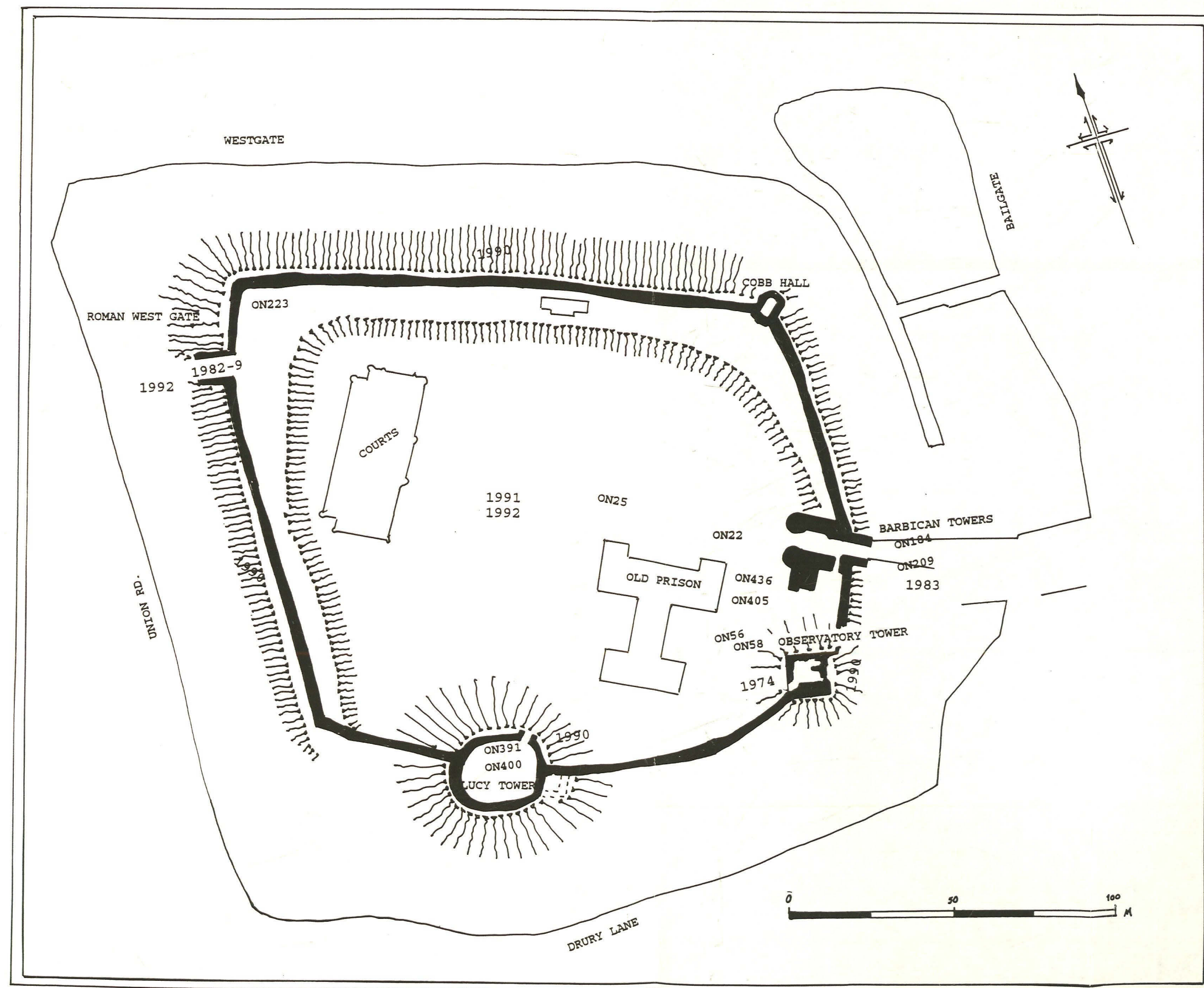
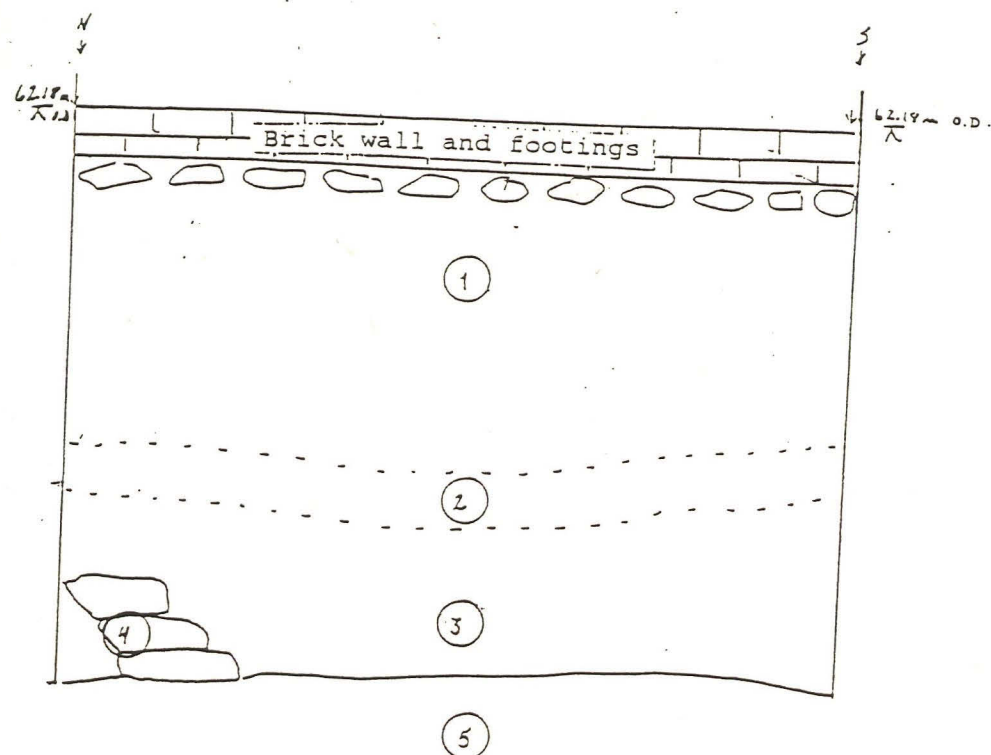
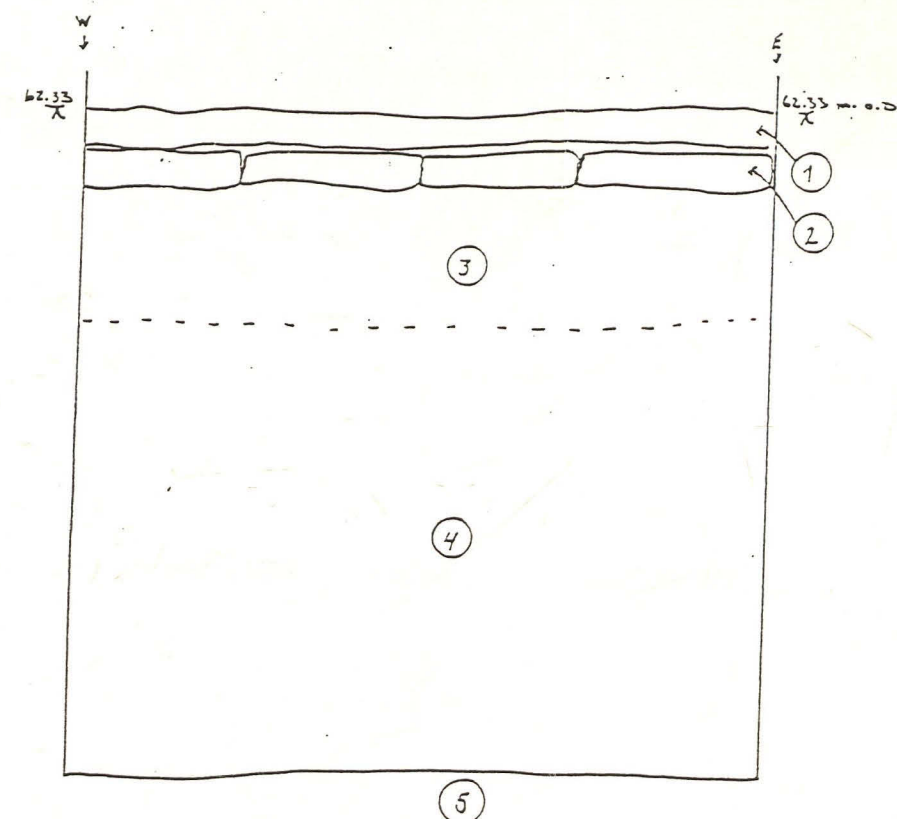


Fig.3



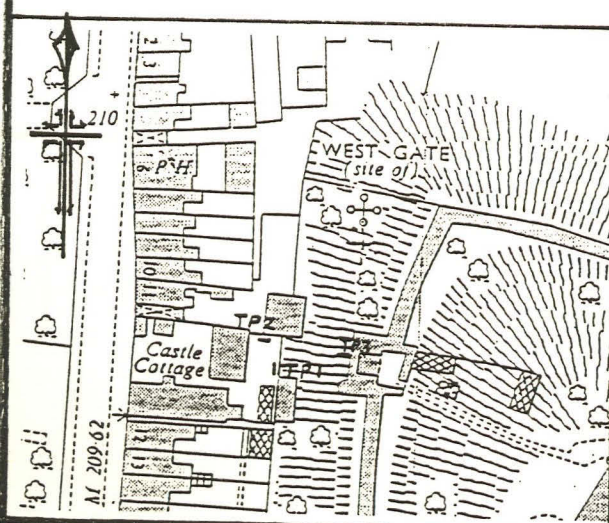
TP1

1. Light brown sandy clay - occasional limestone fragments
2. Dark grey brown sandy silty clay
3. Yellow brown clay - occasional limestone fragments
4. Possible wall
5. L.O.E. - yellow clay with limestone fragments.



TP2

1. Turf
2. Concrete
3. Compact dark orange clay - limestone fragments
4. Compact orange clay - limestone fragments
5. L.O.E.



CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
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DESCRIPTION: TRIAL PIT 1 / TRIAL PIT 2		
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Fig.4

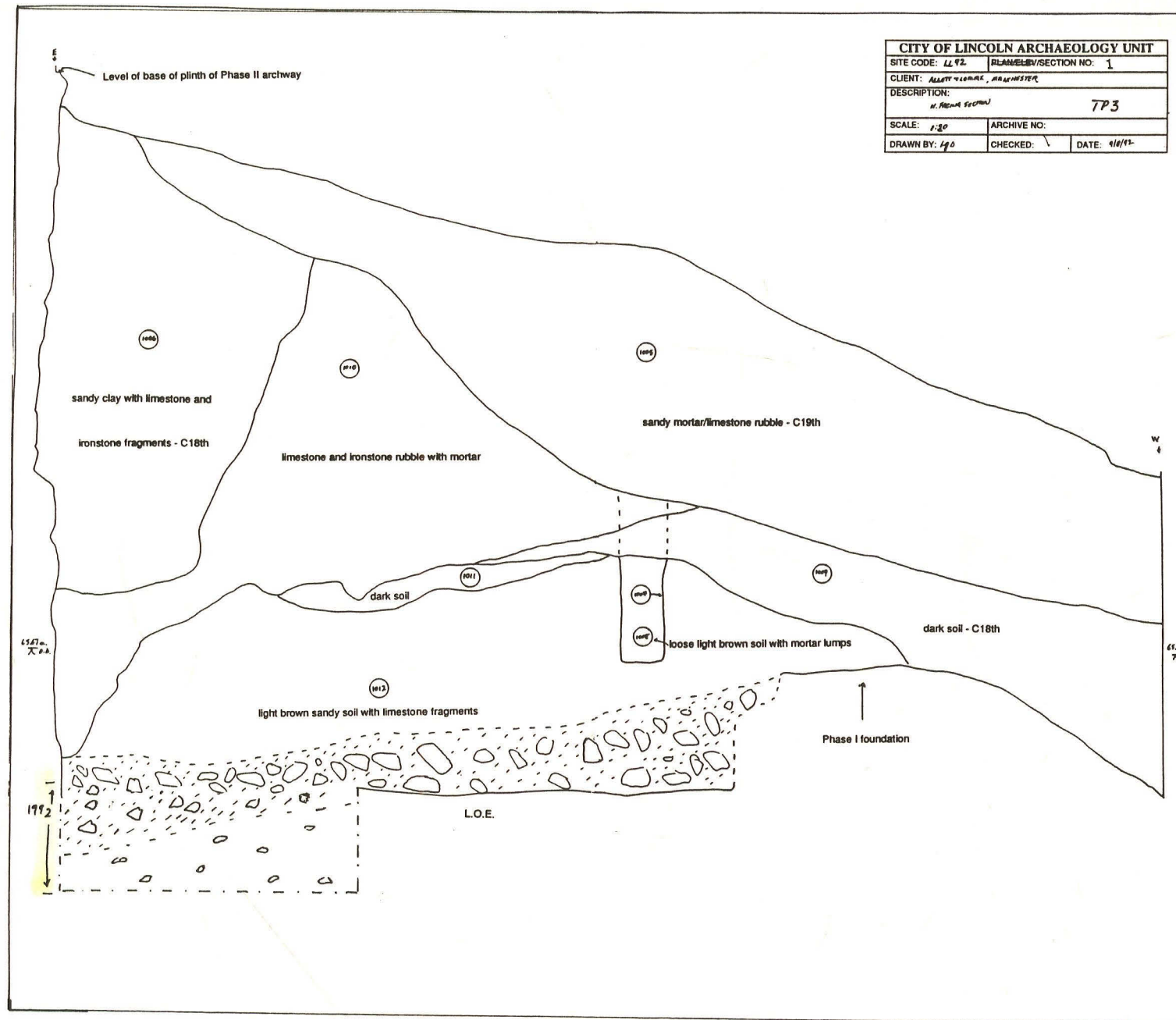


Fig.5

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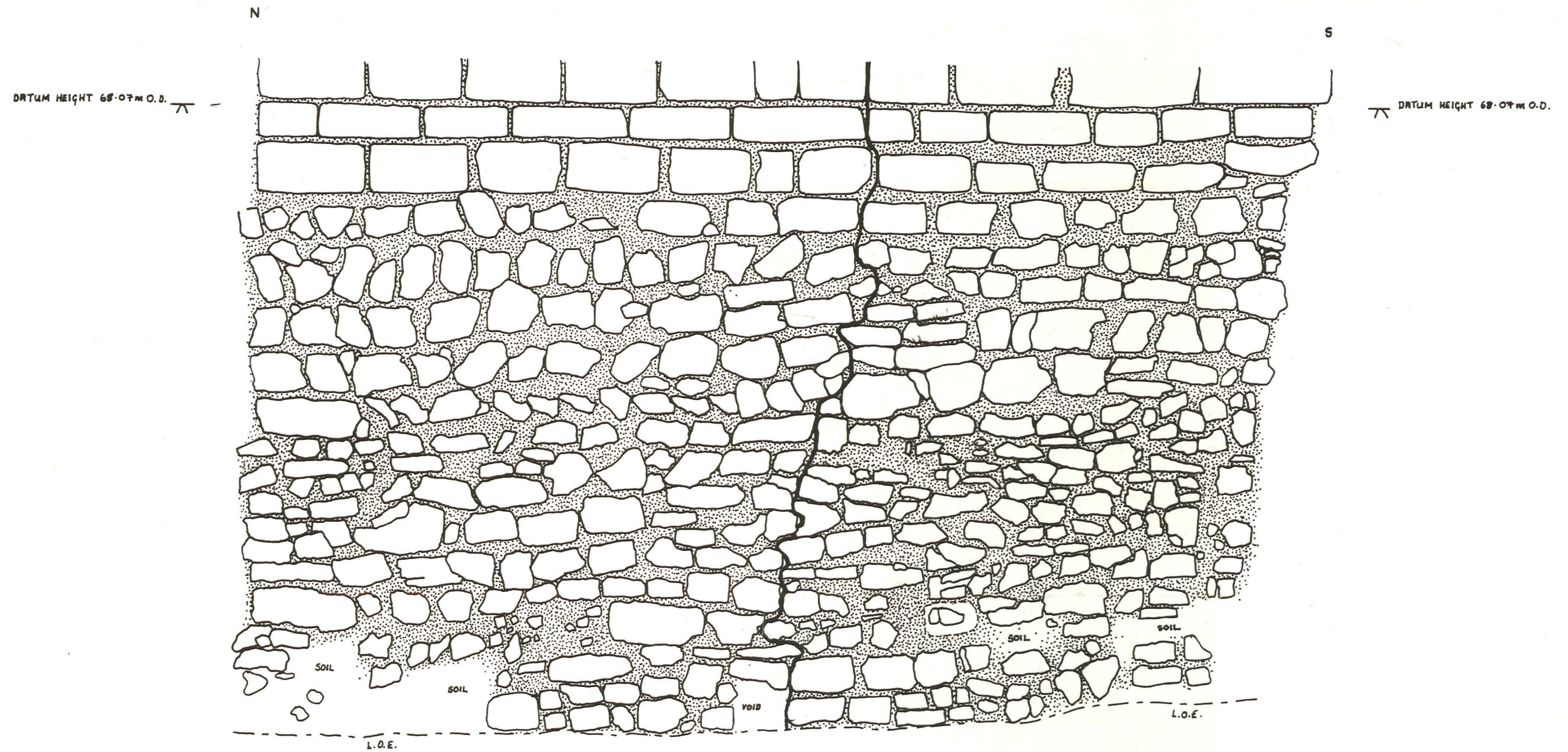


Fig.6

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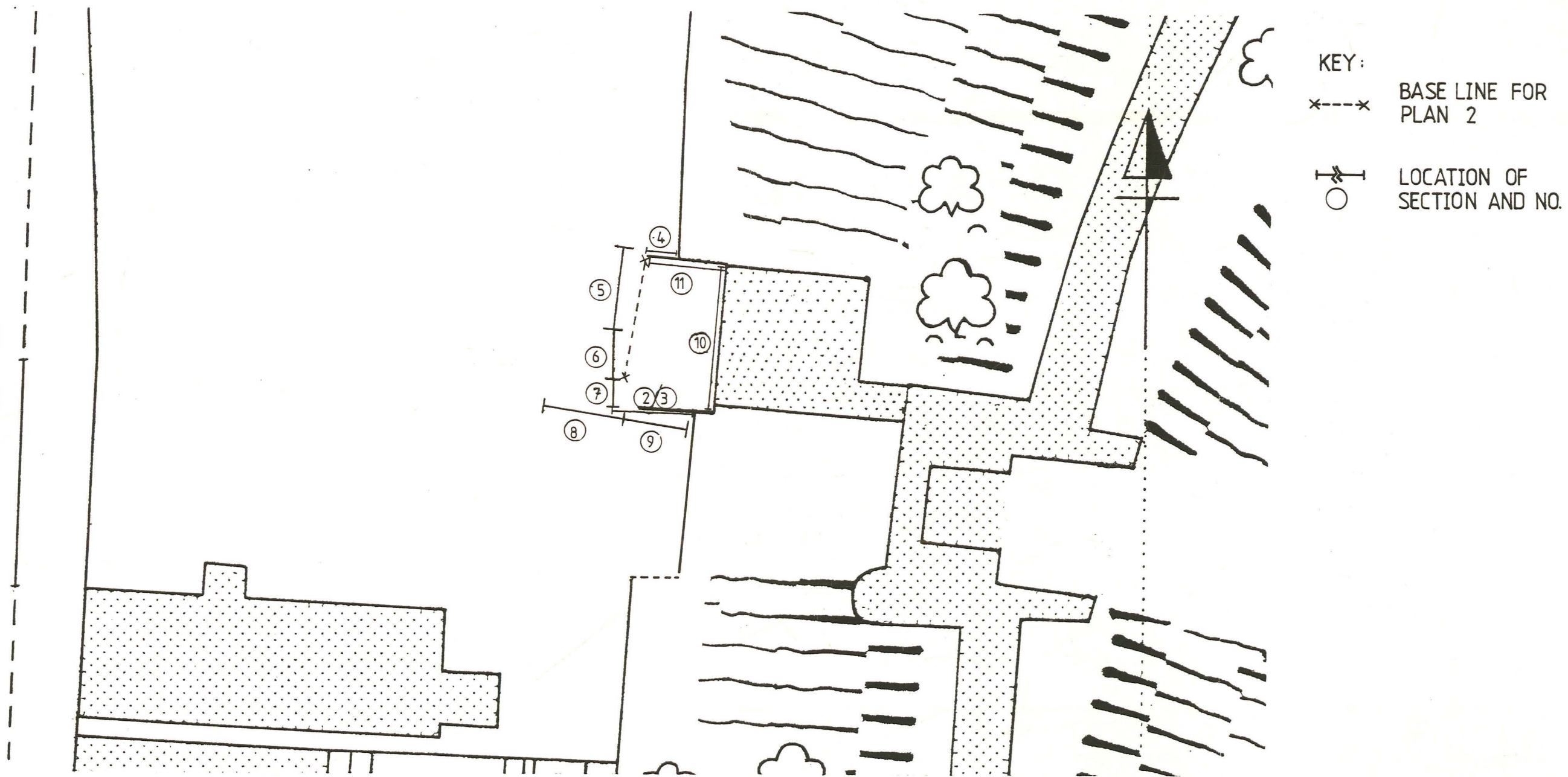


Fig.7

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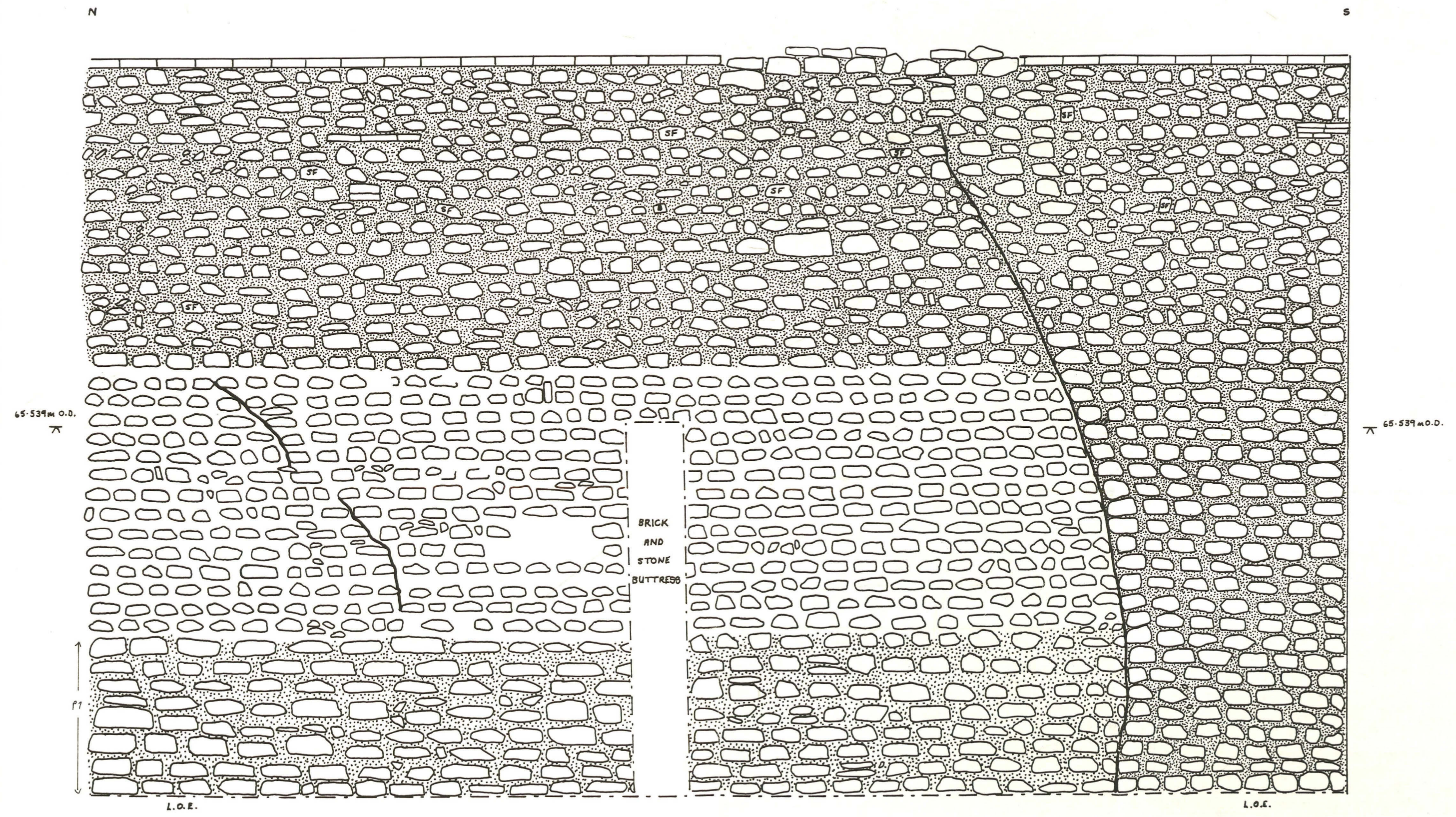
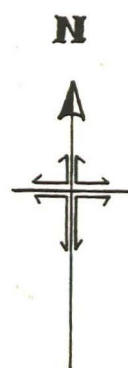


Fig.8



CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
SITE CODE: LL92	PLAN/ ELEV /SECTION NO: 3	
CLIENT: ALLOTT & LOMAX AND Lincs COUNTY COUNCIL RECREATIONAL SERVICES		
DESCRIPTION: GROUND PLAN OF NORTH TOWER AND LEAN-TO FROM STOCKER 1983 WITH 1992 ADDITIONS		
SCALE: SEE BELOW	ARCHIVE NO:	
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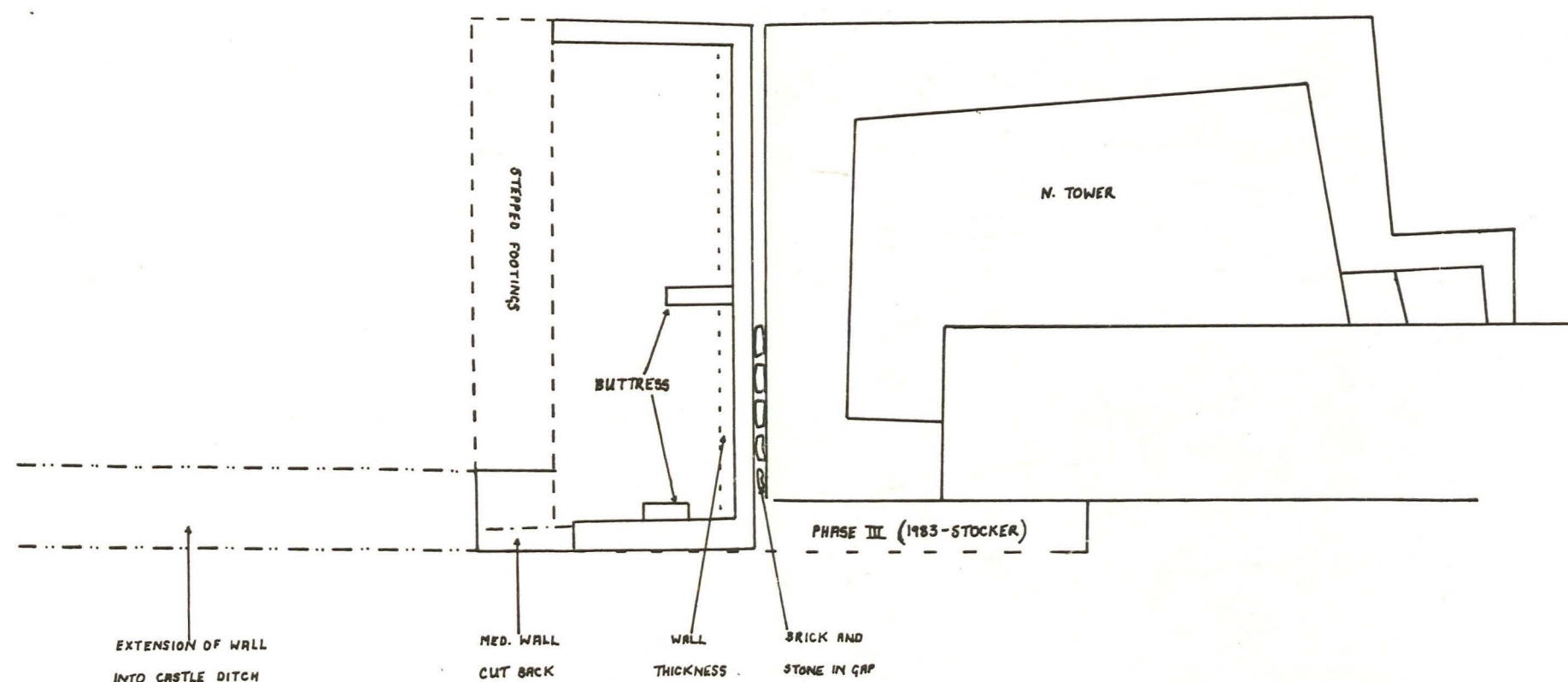


Fig.8a

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
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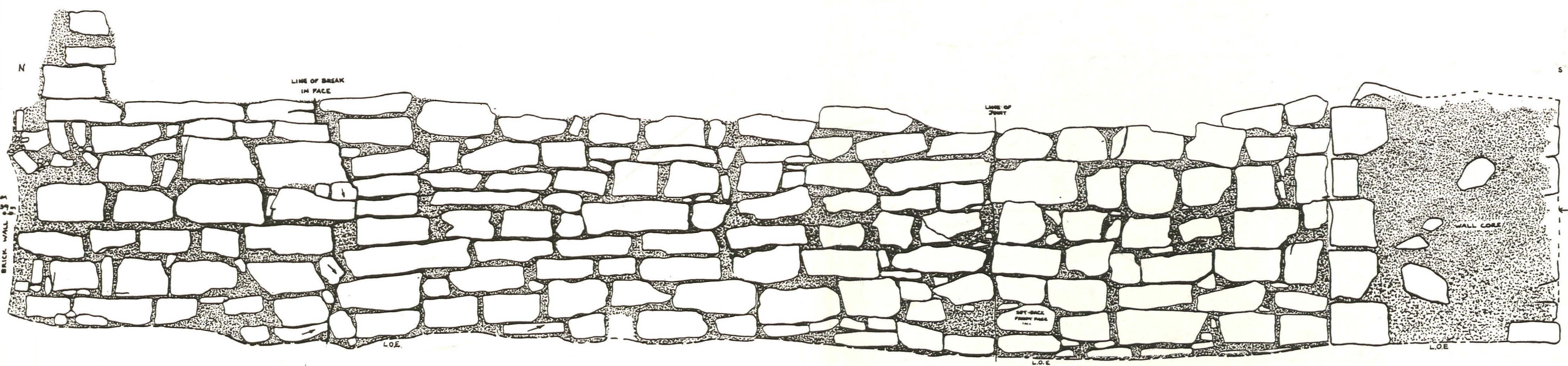
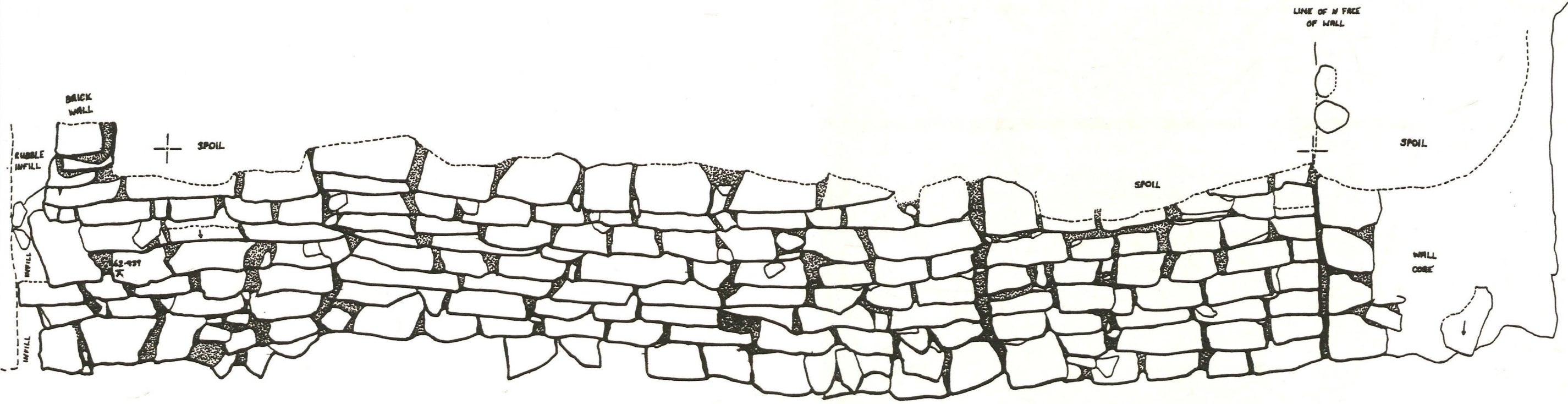
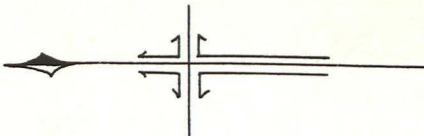


Fig.9

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
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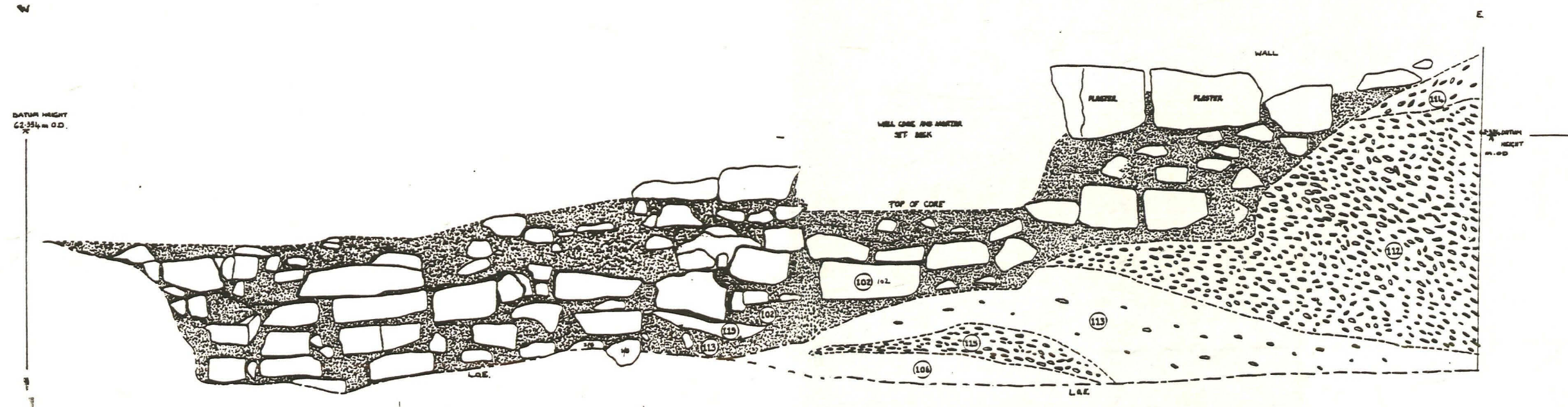


Fig.10



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SITE CODE: CWGR92	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO: 2	
CLIENT: RECREATIONAL SERVICES: Lincs		
DESCRIPTION:		COUNTY COUNCIL
EAST FACING SIDE: CASTLE WEST GATE		
SCALE:	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY: Y.R.	CHECKED:	DATE: 02/10/92

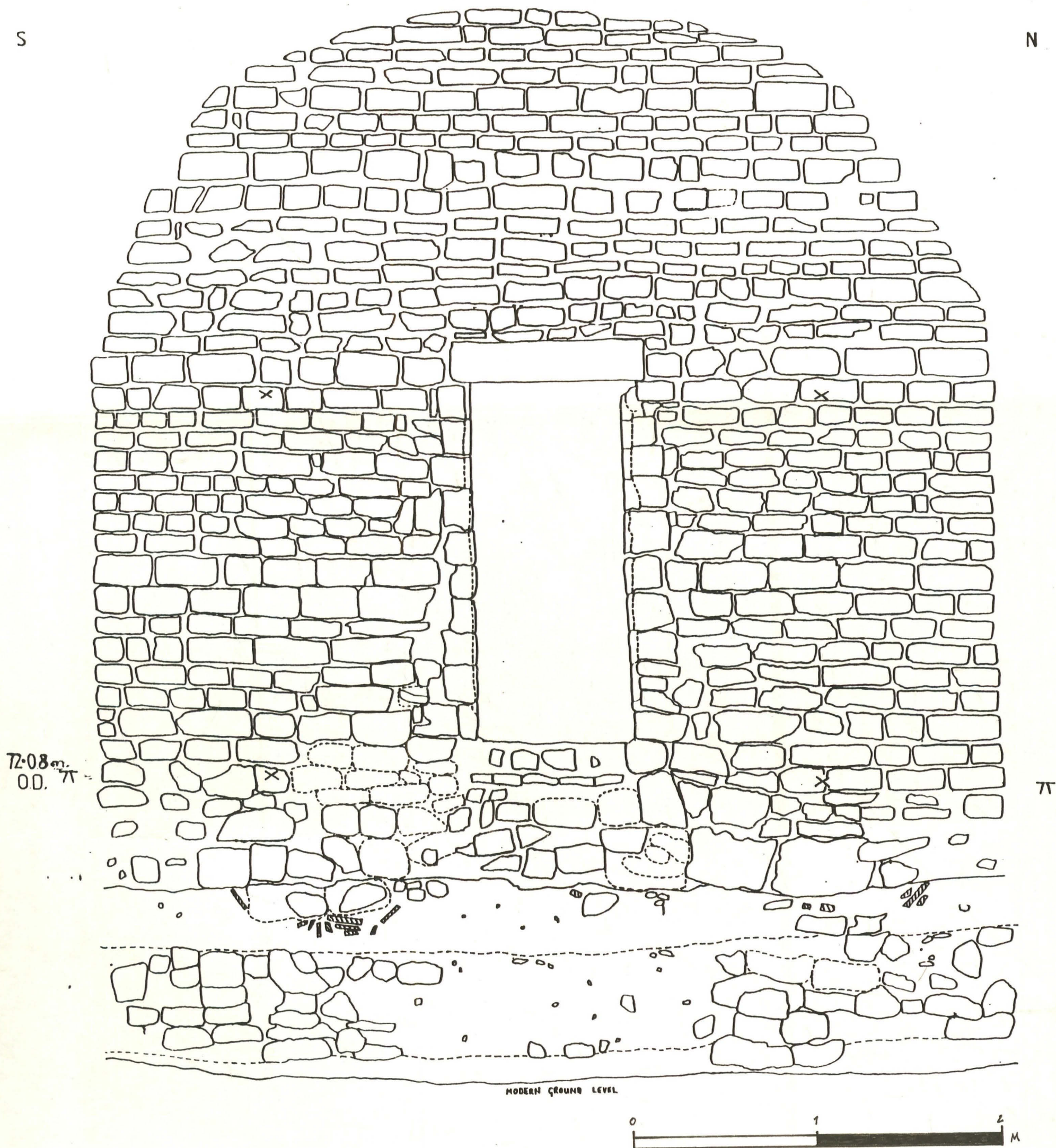


Fig.11

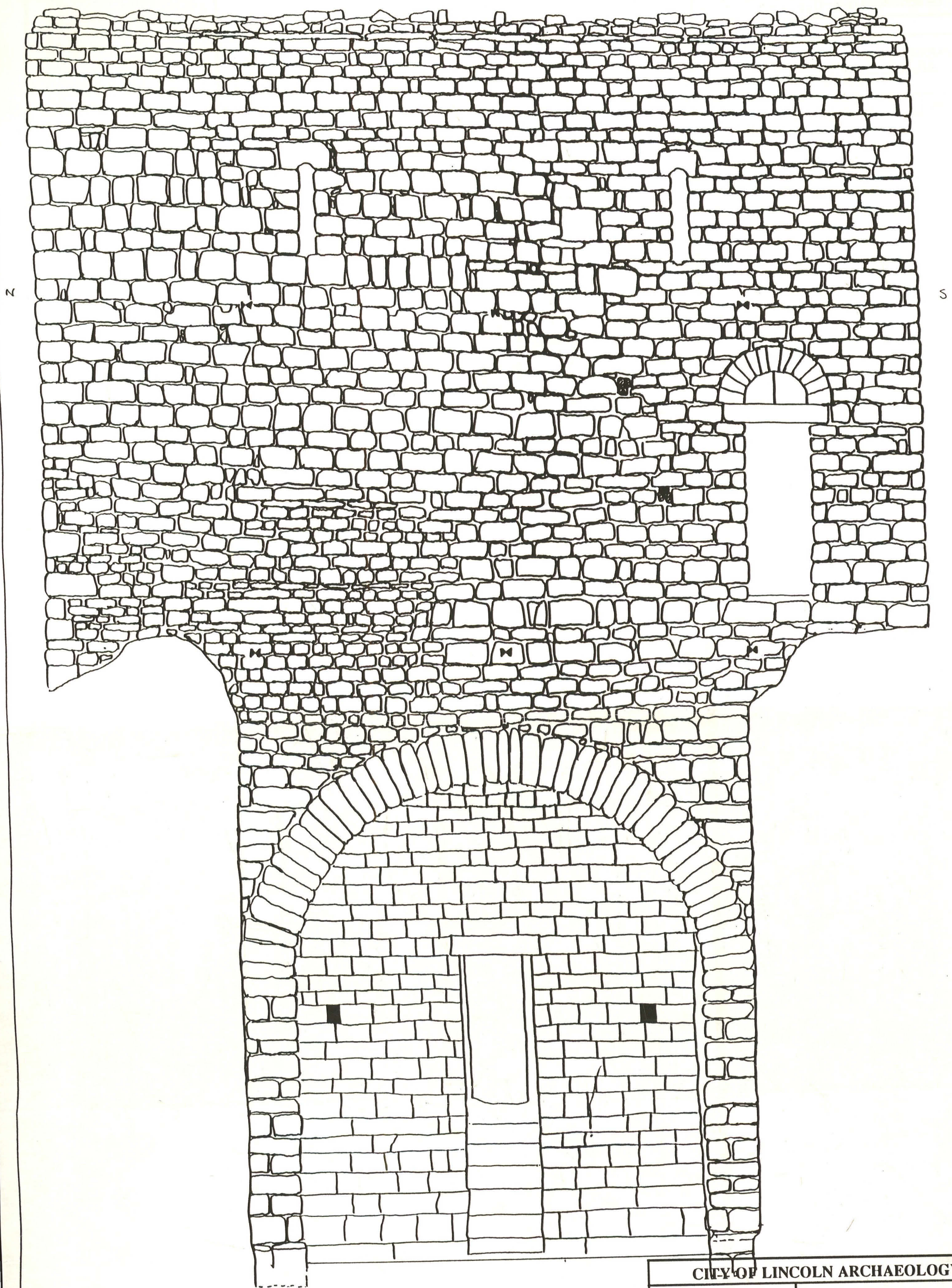


Fig.12

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
SITE CODE: LL92	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO: 1	
CLIENT:	ALLOTT AND LOMAX	
DESCRIPTION:	CASTLE WEST GATE	
SCALE:	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY: JEH	CHECKED:	DATE: 09/07/92

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
SITE CODE: CWGA 92	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO: 1	
CLIENT:		
DESCRIPTION:		
WEST	GATE	SECTION WALL BLOCKAGE LINCOLN CASTLE
SCALE: 1 / 20		ARCHIVE NO:
DRAWN BY: A. B		CHECKED: DATE: 8/JAN/93

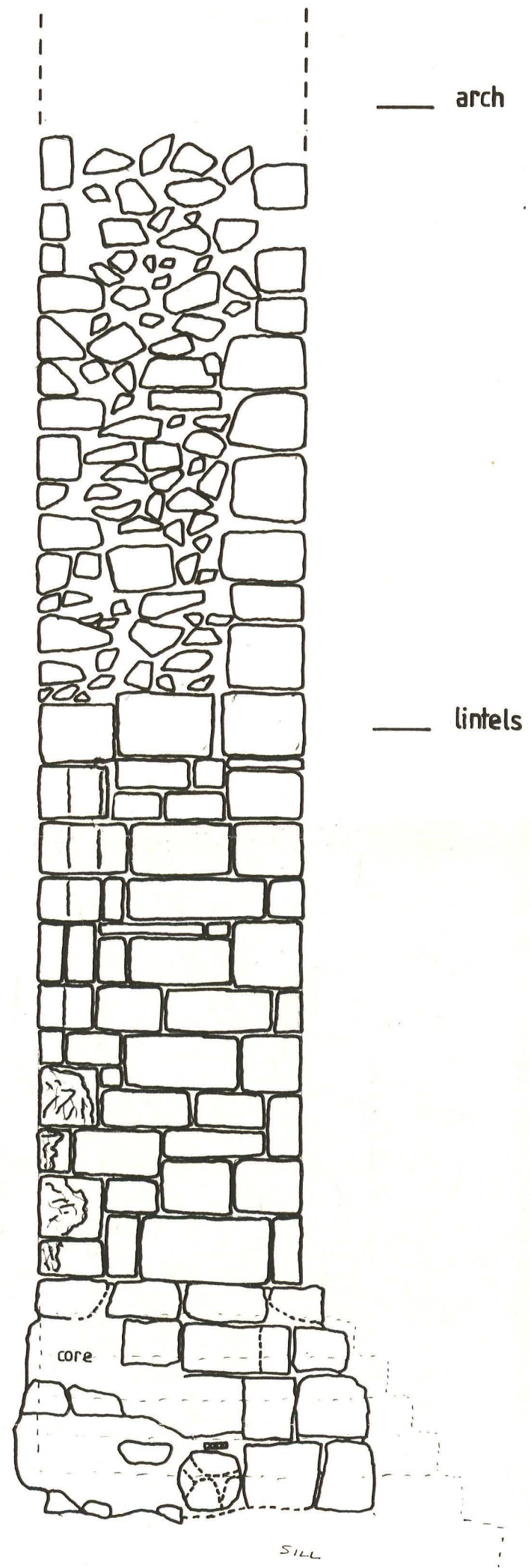


Fig.13