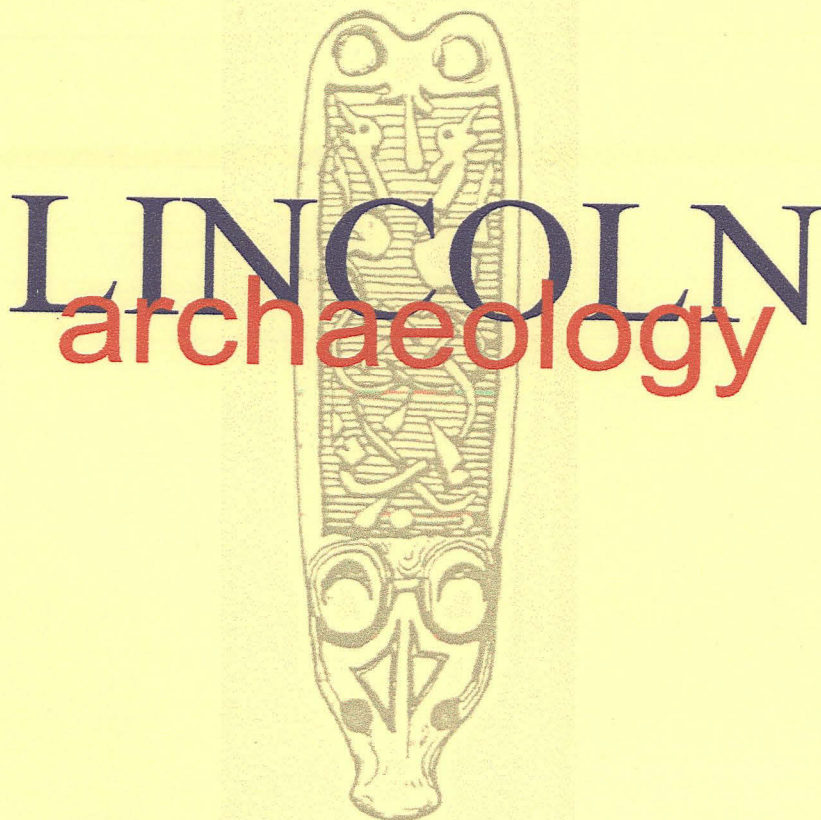


**A Report to Mr K. Walmsley**

**March 2000**



**Development at Driby St. Michael  
Driby, Lincolnshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

*By K Wragg*

Report No.: 409

**LINCOLN**  
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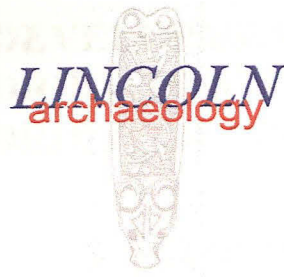
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# Development at Driby St. Michael, Driby, Lincolnshire

Site Code: DMD99  
LCCM Accession No.: 200.99  
Planning Application No.:  
NGR: TF 3885/7440

## Archaeological Watching Brief

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### *Illustrations*

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- Fig.2 Plan of proposed extension - scale 1:100
- Fig.3 Plan of excavated area - scale 1:50
- Fig.4 East-facing section 1 - scale 1:10

## **DEVELOPMENT AT DRIBY ST. MICHAEL, DRIBY, LINCOLNSHIRE**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

#### ***NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY***

Driby is a small hamlet comprising a scattering of farms and a former church (the subject of this watching brief), lying in a valley to the south-west of the A16 trunk road, approximately 6km from Alford.

The church itself is presently in private ownership, having been made redundant in 1974. The property has been extensively (and sympathetically) renovated and extended over the past 20 years, with the 2-storey wing at its western end the most obvious addition. The present development involved the construction of a new kitchen at the south-eastern corner of the original building, together with a connecting hall/entranceway.

The groundworks for the new octagonal building involved the removal of topsoil/turf and a tree, mechanical excavation of foundation trenches, and trenching for drains and services.

During previous development work on the site, burials had been encountered, and it was considered possible that further graves might be uncovered.

It was also possible that structural remains belonging to the earlier medieval/late Anglo-Saxon church thought to have occupied the site might be encountered.

Accordingly, in view of the nature of the site and the possibility of encountering earlier features, it was decided by East Lindsey District Council (in consultation with the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section) that an archaeological watching brief should be carried out during groundworks, and planning consent was conditioned accordingly.

In order to discharge this condition, the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit was commissioned

by Mr K. Walmsley (the owner) to carry out a scheme of archaeological recording.

Observation on the groundworks was carried out on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September 1999 and unearthed what appeared to be elements of the graveyard, possibly with some elements associated with the earlier medieval church. The limited excavation undertaken and the small number of finds recovered, however, does not allow a date for the burials to be determined.

Four possible graves were revealed, although they were only identified in outline (either in section or in plan). As any burials themselves were below the level of the building groundworks, no attempt was made to reveal the actual inhumations.

In addition to the possible graves, there was also what appeared to be part of a charnel pit. This feature produced the only stratified find from the investigation, a very small piece of *Torksey-type* pottery dating from the 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> century. In the absence of any other dating evidence from the pit, however, this can not be taken as a positive date for the charnel deposit, as it could have originated from an earlier deposit disturbed when the pit was dug.

All human remains were retained on site, and re-interred by the client at a nearby location within the grounds.



# DEVELOPMENT AT DRIBY ST. MICHAEL, DRIBY, LINCOLNSHIRE

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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 terms of the Unit's Articles of Association, the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and *The Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage, 1991).

### 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Little remains of an earlier settlement at Driby, other than earthworks to the north and the east of the church, the latter including the remains of a moated manor site.

The buildings currently occupying the site, including the church itself, date predominantly from the Victorian era or later, although Manor Farm has 17<sup>th</sup> century origins.

The former church of St. Michael was constructed in 1849-50 in an *Early English* style, and was made redundant in 1974 (all refs., Pevsner *et al* 1989). From the late 1970's to the present date, the building has been gradually converted and extended to form an impressive private dwelling.

The original structure has been extended to almost double its former size, primarily by the addition of an extensive two-storey octagonal range at its western end.

The area to the south of the church is known to have originally formed part of the graveyard (burials have been uncovered here during earlier works), and it is also possible that remains of an earlier medieval (or Anglo-Saxon) church may survive on the site.



### 3.0 RESULTS

Groundworks for this development involved:

- stripping of existing turf, and the removal of a tree;
- mechanical excavation of foundation trenches for the new octagonal extension and a linking corridor/entrance hall.

Connections to the existing services and drainage were also required, but it was not expected that this work would commence until late 2000 (or possibly even 2001), and therefore this work was not included in the watching brief.

The original plans for the new structure had indicated the use of strip foundations around its perimeter, but the somewhat complicated shape led the groundworks contractor to elect to excavate to depth across the whole 'footprint' (see Fig. 3)

Archaeological observation was carried out primarily from the trench side, but with individual features being cleaned and examined in more detail. Recording was carried out by both graphic and photographic means, with each deposit or feature identified with a unique *Context Number* (e.g., [100]). Finds were recovered from both direct cleaning and from the machine-excavated spoil heaps.

The earliest deposit revealed was a moderate to well compacted, mid brown, very slightly clayey, sandy silt [102]. This was present across the excavated area, from a depth of approximately 250mm below the existing ground level to the limit of excavation (L.O.E.). [102] contained moderately frequent small-medium sized chalk fragments, very occasional green/brown sandstone/limestone pieces, very small bone fragments and brick/tile flecks.

The upper surface of layer [102] (at c. 47.13m O.D.) was cut by four rectilinear features and a single, probably circular/part-circular, pit (see Fig. 3).

The rectilinear features were not excavated and were only identified by their fill deposits (contexts [103], [107], [108] and [109]), which contained a considerably higher density of

chalk fragments than the surrounding strata. Each of the three features that were fully revealed in plan were oriented E-W, measuring approximately 1.8m (E-W) x 0.5m (N-S). The one revealed in the trench section (fill [103]; cut [104]), was at least 300mm deep to L.O.E. (see Fig. 4).

As only the upper part of each feature was disturbed by the groundworks, it was decided not to excavate further, but given their dimensions and orientation it seems very likely that all four represent graves. Unfortunately, without further excavation it was not possible to either confirm this or to secure any dating evidence for these features.

The aforementioned pit feature was located to the south of the four possible graves, at the south-west 'corner' of the excavated area (see Fig. 3). It comprised a probably circular/part-circular cut [106], containing a fill ([105]) of two human skulls, the upper part of a right-hand femur, and a number of other small bones in a soil matrix identical to [103] *et al.* The edges of this feature were very indistinct, and it was also cut by the trench section, which means that the exact shape and size of the pit remain unknown. The extent of the human remains, however, indicates a size of at least 1.2m (NW-SE) x 0.4m (NE-SW).

The bones within the fill [105] were disarticulated and did not follow any particular alignment. The feature is therefore thought most likely to represent a charnel pit, containing bones displaced from other parts of the graveyard. A single, very small piece of pottery was recovered from the fill deposit, and has been dated to between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> centuries (see *Appendix D*, below). This would firmly associate this inhumation with the medieval or Anglo-Saxon predecessor of the present church, but in the absence of further dating evidence such a link remains unproven.

The final layer present across the excavated area sealed all of the features described above, and comprised a 250mm-300mm thick topsoil deposit [101]. This was a moderately compacted mid grey-brown sandy silt, containing occasional small pebble and stone inclusions together with occasional fragments of pottery and tile.

The majority of these finds were only recovered from the spoil heap and were therefore unstratified, context [100]. There



were two sherds of pottery and eight pieces of tile in the assemblage, dating from the Roman to the Post-medieval periods (see *Appendix D*, below).

#### **4.0 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS**

The remains unearthed during this project appear to represent elements of the graveyard, possibly with some elements associated with the earlier medieval church. The limited excavation undertaken and the small number of finds recovered, however, does not allow a date for the burials to be determined.

Four possible graves were revealed, although they were only identified in outline (either in section or in plan). As any burials themselves were below the level of the building groundworks, no attempt was made to reveal the actual inhumations.

In addition to the possible graves, there was also what appeared to be part of a charnel pit. This feature produced the only stratified find from the investigation, a very small piece of *Torksey-type* pottery dating from the 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> century. In the absence of any other dating evidence from this pit, however, this can not be taken as a positive date for the charnel deposit, as it could have originated from an earlier deposit disturbed when the pit was dug.

All human remains were retained on site, and re-interred by the client at a nearby location within the grounds.

#### **5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit would like to express its thanks to the following: Mr K. Walmsley, for kindly funding this project, and for his co-operation and assistance during the watching brief; Mr J. Bonnor, Archaeology Officer, Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, Highways & Planning Directorate, City Hall, Lincoln, LN1 1DN; Mr R. Oliver (Building Contractor), Partney, Spilsby, Lincolnshire

#### **6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Pevsner, N, Harris, J & Antram, N (eds) 1989 *Lincolnshire, The Buildings of England*, Penguin Books, London

#### **7.0 LHA NOTE/ARCHIVE DETAILS**

##### **7.1 LHA NOTE DETAILS**

CLAU CODE: DMD99

PLANNING APPLICATION No.:

FIELD OFFICER: K.Wragg

NGR: TF 3885/7440

CIVIL PARISH:

SMR No.: n/a

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 27/09/99

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Mr K. Walmsley,  
Driby St. Michael, Driby, Lincolnshire, LN13  
0BS

##### **7.2 ARCHIVE DETAILS**

PRESENT LOCATION: City of Lincoln  
Archaeology Unit, Charlotte House, The  
Lawn, Union Road, Lincoln, LN1 3BL.

FINAL LOCATION: The City and County  
Museum, Friars Lane, Lincoln.

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: 200.99

ACCESSION DATE: -

**APPENDIX A - ARCHIVE  
DEPOSITION**

The archive consists of:

No.	Description
1	Site diary
1	Report
10	Context records
4	Site drawings
1 set	Colour photographs
1	Stratigraphic Matrix

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

**The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit,  
Charlotte House,  
The Lawn,  
Union Road,  
Lincoln,  
Lincolnshire,  
LN1 3BL.**

It is intended that transfer to the City and County Museum, Friars Lane, Lincoln, in accordance with current published requirements, under Museum Accession Number 200.99, will be undertaken following completion of this project.



**APPENDIX B - COLOUR PLATES**



*Plate 1: General view of existing property, showing added wing on left - looking north-west*



*Plate 2: Overall view of groundworks in progress - looking south-west*



**APPENDIX B - COLOUR PLATES (continued)**



Plate 3: Possible grave cut [104] in east-facing section of foundation trench - looking west



Plate 4: Overhead view of upper contents of charnel pit [106] - looking north-east/overhead



**APPENDIX C - LIST OF CONTEXTS**

<b>Context No.:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
[100]	Unstratified finds
[101]	Topsoil - Moderately compacted, friable, mid grey-brown sandy silt with a thin coarse turf at the upper boundary. Contains only very occasional small pebble & stone inclusions, and occasional pot/tile fragments. Between 200mm & 300mm in thickness.
[102]	Subsoil - Moderate-well compacted, friable, mid brown very slightly clayey, sandy silt. Contains 10%-20% small-medium sized irregular shaped chalk fragments, occasional small pieces of tile & bone, and very occasional greenish ?sandstone/limestone? pieces. Present to L.O.E., up to 300mm thick.
[103]	Possible fill of grave cut - Deposit very similar to [102], but with c.75% chalk/stone inclusions. Present immediately below topsoil, and 300mm thick to L.O.E. Not fully excavated.
[104]	Possible E-W grave cut - Only just revealed within west side of trench. East end appears roughly square and extends c.300mm from section. Vertical sides shown in section. Not excavated.
[105]	Fill of possible charnel pit - Basically identical to [103], but containing 2 skulls, 1 femur (upper half RHS), and assorted small bones. Present immediately below topsoil, and 300mm-350mm thick to L.O.E.
[106]	Cut for possible charnel pit - No positive edges, but human remains extend approximately 1.2m (NW-SE) x c.400mm (NE-SW), continuing into section. Not fully excavated.
[107]	Possible fill of grave - Deposit identical to [103]. Not fully excavated.
[108]	Possible fill of grave - Deposit identical to [103]. Not fully excavated.
[109]	Possible fill of grave - Deposit identical to [103]. Not fully excavated.

## ***APPENDIX D - MEDIEVAL AND LATER POTTERY: ARCHIVE REPORT***

*By Claire D Angus, Lindsey Archaeological Services*

### ***Introduction***

A small quantity of pottery and tile was recovered during a watching brief at Driby St Michael; the material included medieval and post-medieval pottery and Roman and later tile. In agreement with Lincoln City and County Museum, much of the material was discarded once it had been quantified and recorded.

### ***Pottery***

A total of three sherds of pottery was recovered. Two of these were post-medieval in date. The third dated to the period between the ninth and eleventh century.

### ***Tile***

Eight fragments were recovered, representing a maximum of seven tiles. A single Roman tile, possibly a tegula, was recovered. The remaining material was medieval to post-medieval in date, and with the exception of one flat roof tile, the fabric types were all local. The material included single examples of nibbed, peg and pantile.

### ***Condition***

The majority of the material was in a fresh condition. One fragment of tile was very abraded.

### ***Statement of potential***

The majority of the material recovered was unstratified. As a result of this and the small size of the assemblage, it is not possible for a statement about the status and function of the site to be made.

### ***Storage and curation***

The pottery should be retained for future study. Much of the tile has been discarded, but the remaining fragments should be retained. No further work is necessary on this assemblage.



## APPENDIX D - MEDIEVAL AND LATER POTTERY: ARCHIVE REPORT (continued)

By Claire D Angus & Jane Young, Lindsey Archaeological Services

### Pottery archive

Context:	Ware:	Sherds:	Form:	Comments:
[100]	GRE	1	Small bowl	Glazed interior; ?external slip; 16 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> century
[100]	TB	1	?	Interior splashed glaze; Late 15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> century
[105]	TORKT	1	?	Tiny scrap; 9 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> century

#### Key to Ware codes:

GRE	Glazed red earthenwares
TB	Toynton or Bolingbroke-type ware
TORKT	Torksey-type ware

### Tile archive

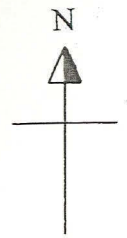
Context:	Form:	Count:	Weight(g):	Comments/Date:
[100]	NIB	1	154	Type 3 cut; mortar traces; well worn
[100]	RTILDISC	1	44	Vitrified; ?tegula; Roman
[100]	PNRDISC	2	55	Maximum 2 tiles; small fragments; Late medieval/Post-medieval
[100]	PNR	2	227	Single tile; flat; 1 corner; ?white slip - not local fabric; medieval/Post-medieval
[100]	PANTDISC	1	88	
[100]	PEG	1	69	1 peg hole (8mm diameter); vitrified


#### Key to Form codes:

NIB	Unglazed nib tile
PANTDISC	Discarded pantile
PEG	Unglazed peg tile
PNR	Unglazed undiagnostic post-Roman roofing tile
PNRDISC	Discarded unglazed undiagnostic post-Roman roofing tile
RTILDISC	Discarded undiagnostic Roman tile



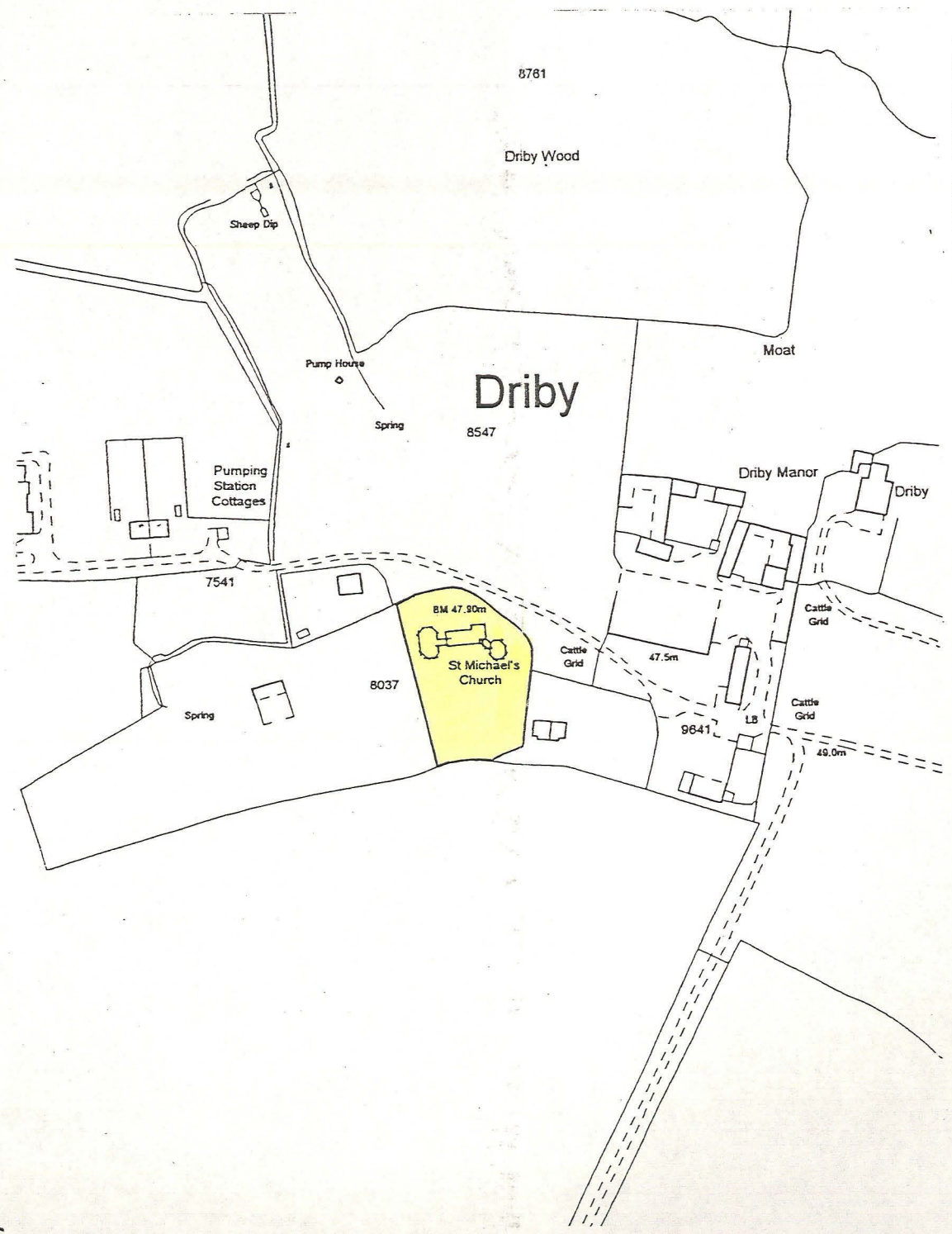
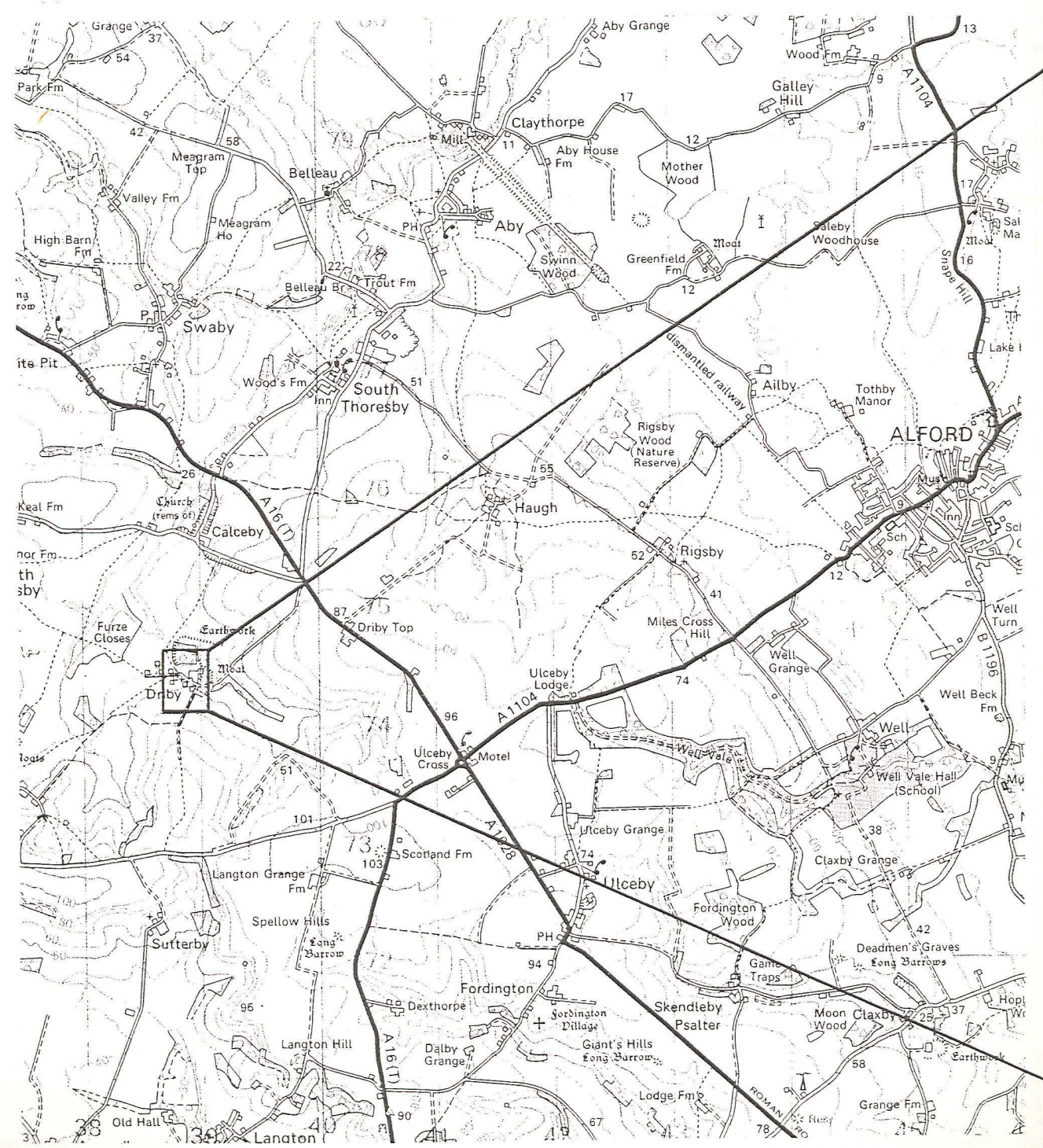
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CLIENT: Mr. K. Walmsley		
DESCRIPTION: Site Location Plan		
SCALE:	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY:	CHECKED:	DATE:
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KEY  
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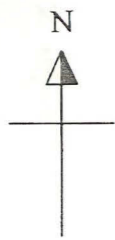


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Based upon Francis Johnson & Partners Architects drawing No. 1564/202/A.

Fig.1





KEY



Proposed Extension

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

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CLIENT: Mr. K. Walmsley

DESCRIPTION: Plan of Proposed Extension

SCALE: 1:100

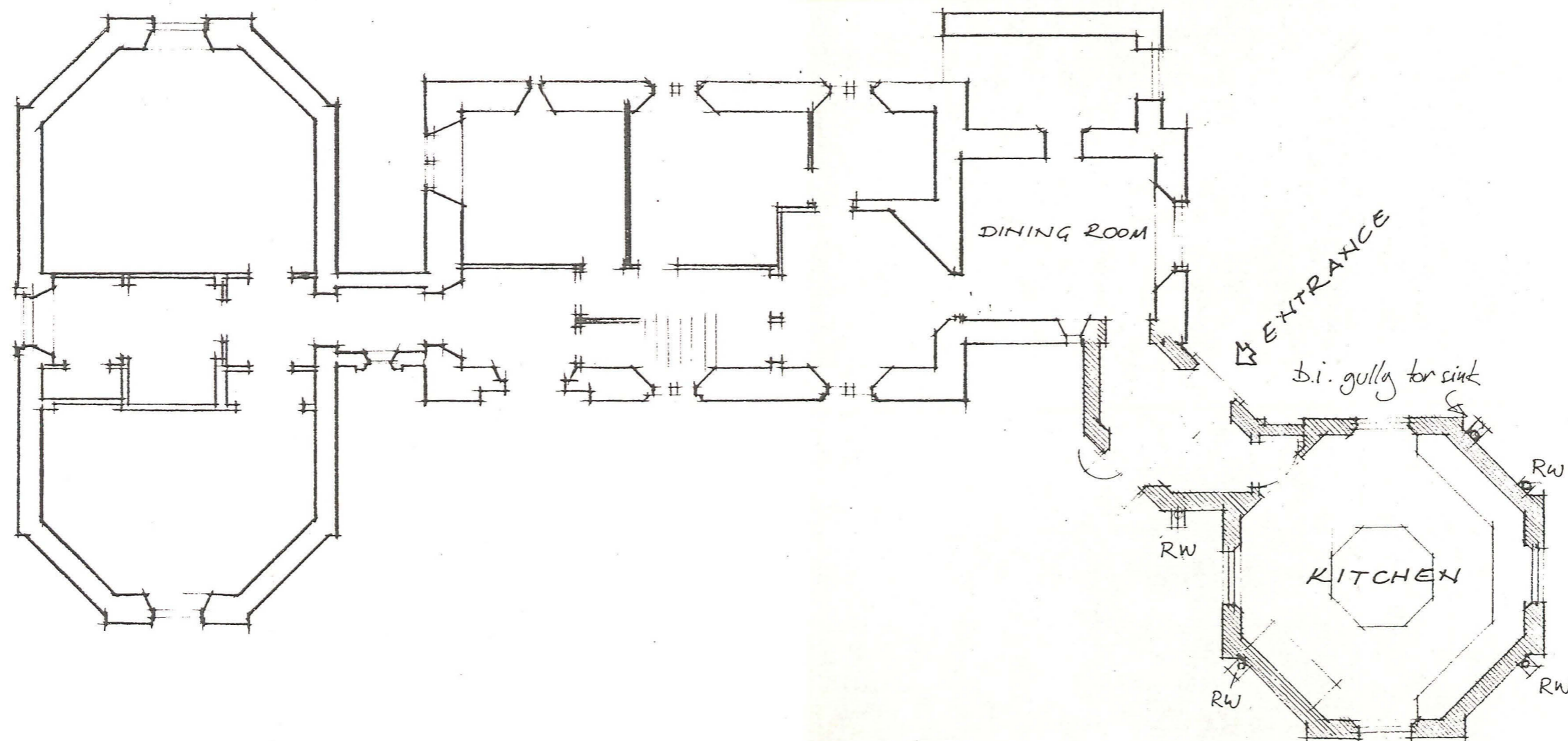
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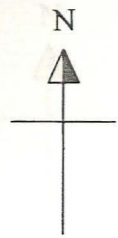
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Based upon Francis Johnson & Partners Architects drawing No. 1564/202/A.

Fig.2

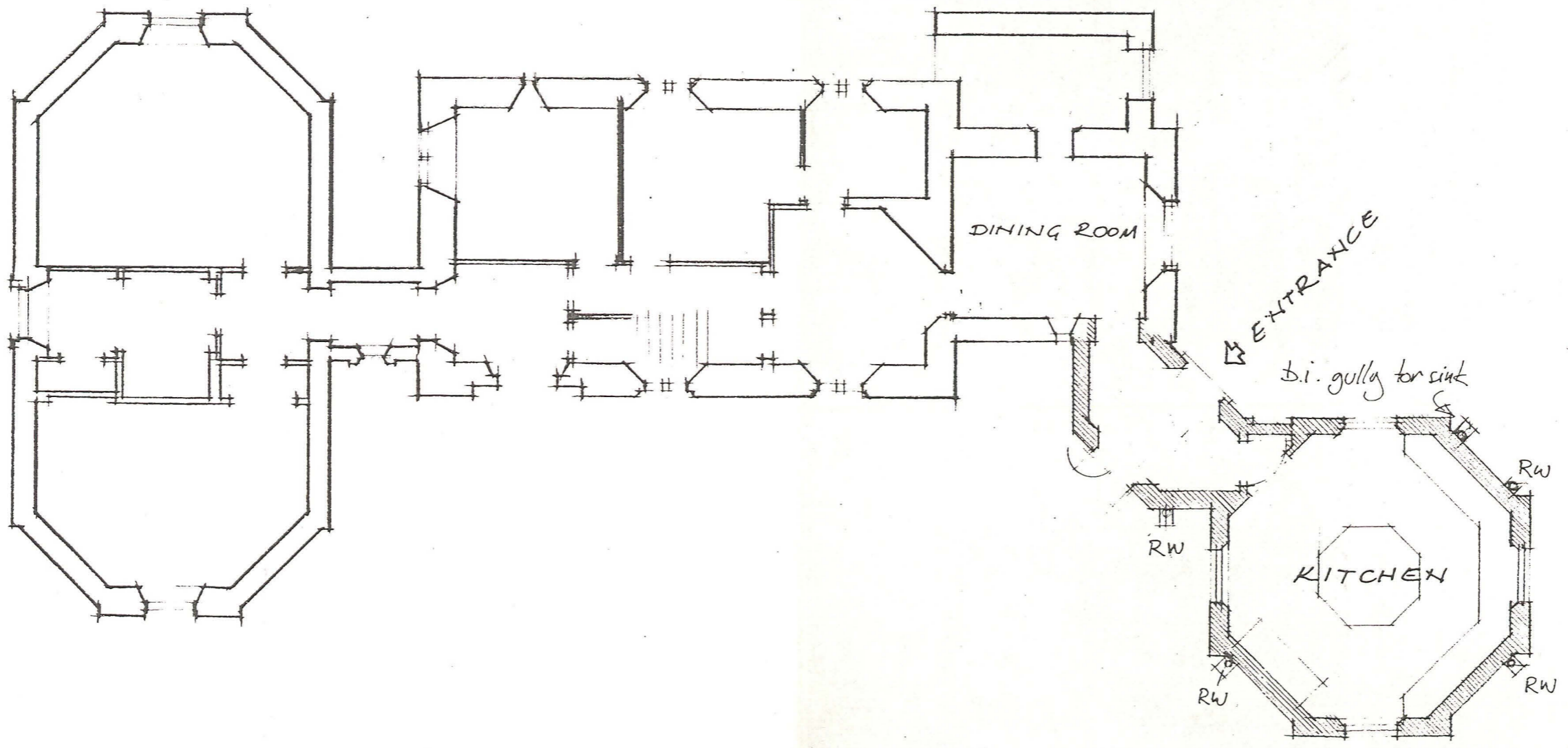




KEY

 Proposed Extension

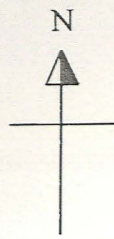
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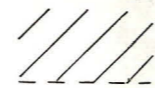
Based upon Francis Johnson & Partners Architects drawing No. 1564/202/A.


Fig.2





KEY

 Area of Modern Disturbance (Drains etc.)

 Probable Grave (Indistinct Edges)

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
SITE CODE: DMD99	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT: Mr. K. Walmsley		
DESCRIPTION:	Plan of Excavated Area	
SCALE: 1:50	ARCHIVE NO:	
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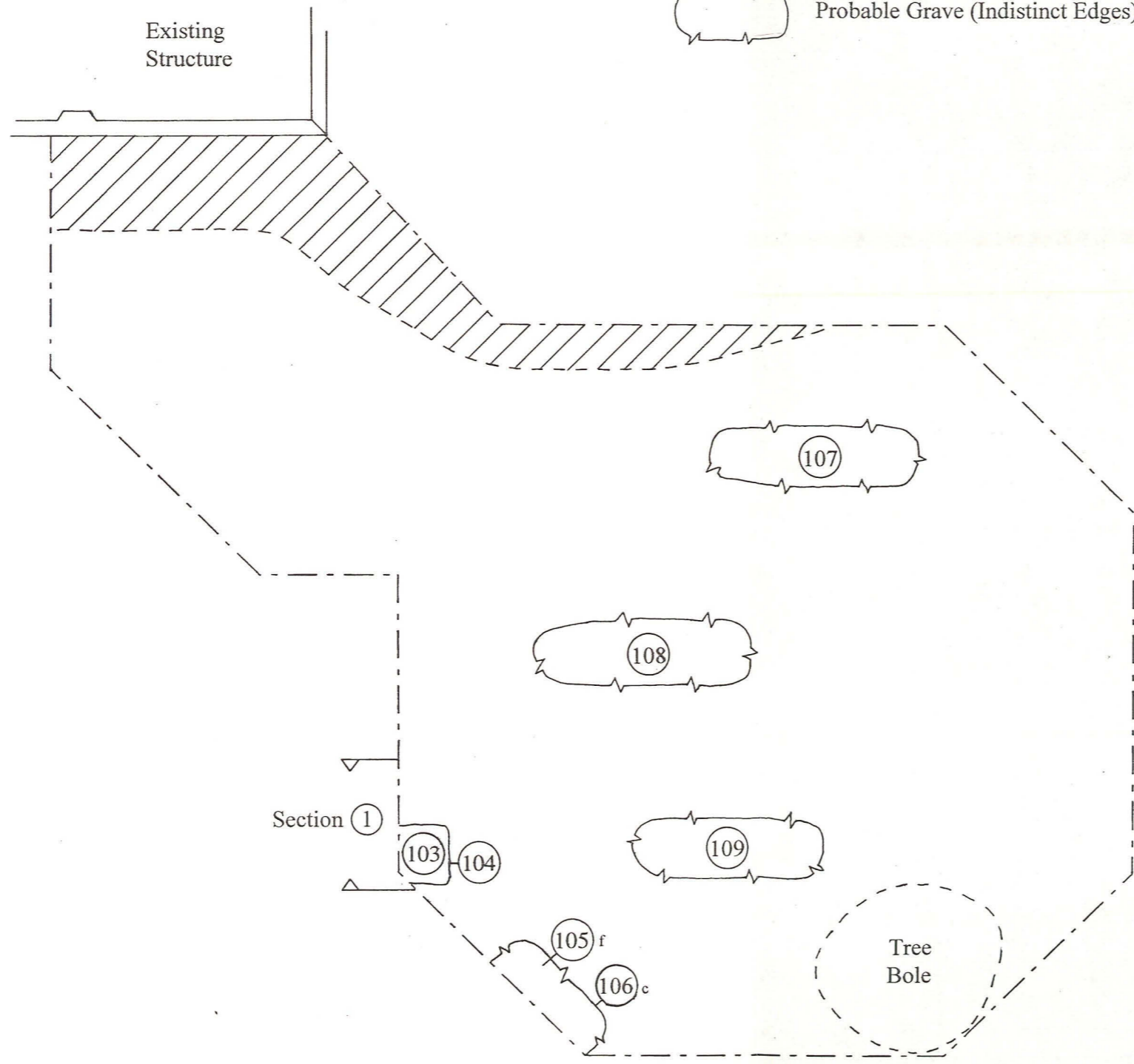


Fig.3

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
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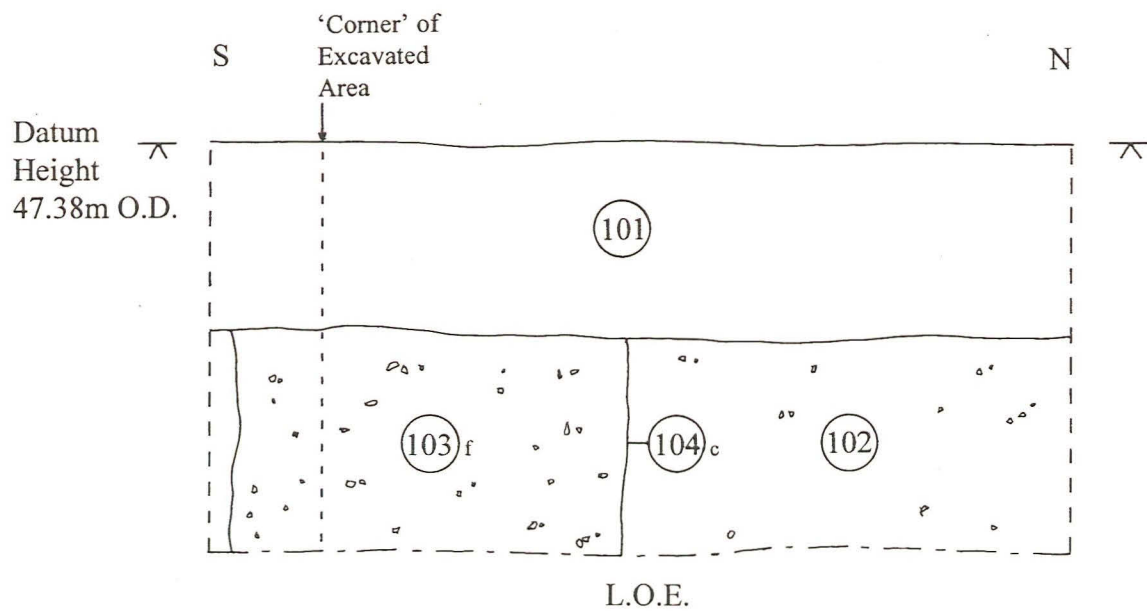


Fig.4