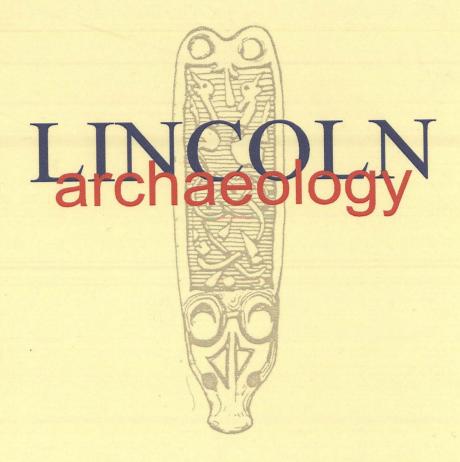
## A Report to De Montfort University

October 2000



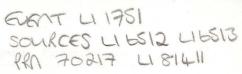
Greestone Centre, De Montfort University, Lindum Road, Lincoln: Landscaping & External Works

**Archaeological Evaluation** 

By K Wragg

Report No.: 444

LINCOLN Carchaeology





## Greestone Centre, De Montfort University, Lindum Road, Lincoln: Landscaping & External Works

Site Code: LRB00

LCCM Accession No.: 2000.211

Planning Application No.: 2000/0428/F & 2000/0429/LBC

NGR: SK 9790/7160

### Archaeological Evaluation

Contents	Page
NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY	1
1.0 INTRODUCTION	2
2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	2
3.0 RESULTS	3
3.1 Trial Pit 1	4
3.2 Trial Pit 2	4
3.3 Trial Pit 3	4
3.4 Trial Pit 4	5
4.0 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS & CONCLUSIONS	5
5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.	6
6.0 REFERENCES & SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY	6
7.0 LHA NOTE/ARCHIVE DETAILS	6
7.1 LHA Note Details.	6
7.2 Archive Details.	7
APPENDIX A - ARCHIVE DEPOSITION	8
APPENDIX B - COLOUR PLATES	9
APPENDIX C - LIST OF CONTEXTS	11
Illustrations	
Fig.1 Site location plan - scale 1:10000 & 1:1250	
Fig.2 Existing site layout plan (with T.P. locations) - scale 1:200	
Fig.3 Proposed site layout plan (with T.P. locations) - scale 1:200	
Fig.4 Proposed sections A-A & B-B - scale 1:100	
Fig.5 Proposed sections C-C & D-D - scale 1:100	
Fig.6 Plan & sections, T.P.1-T.P.4 - scale 1:20	

## GREESTONE CENTRE, DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY, LINDUM ROAD, LINCOLN: LANDSCAPING & EXTERNAL WORKS

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

#### NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This project was prompted by proposals to modify and refurbish car-parking and garden areas along the Lindum Road frontage of De Montfort University's Greestone Centre (formerly the Lincoln College of Art).

Plans for the site involved the removal of some existing retaining and garden terrace walls, construction of replacement structures, modifications to access road arrangements, and various new hard and soft landscaping.

In several areas, this work would necessitate appreciable reductions in the existing ground levels, with possible impact on any buried archaeological deposits.

In view of the known archaeological and historical importance of the site and surrounding area, it was decided by Lincoln City Council Department of Planning, that an archaeological evaluation should be carried out in advance of any planning consent for the scheme.

In order to comply with the requirements of the City Council, De Montfort University commissioned the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (C.L.A.U.) to provide the required archaeological services.

The evaluation strategy for the site made provision for the hand-excavation of four trial pits, in locations agreed with the City Archaeologist, Mr M. J. Jones. Archaeological attendance was carried out between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of September 2000.

In three of the locations investigated as part of this evaluation, the exposed deposits were all associated with modern usage of the site. This ranged from dump layers probably deposited during the construction of the existing structure, earlier hard landscaping features, and layers presently in use for car parking and garden borders.

The somewhat surprising exception to this was Trial Pit 4, which was actually a partially reexcavated engineer's geotechnical trial pit. The original engineer's logs for this trench indicated similar modern dumping deposits to those seen in the other three trenches, and the trial pit was only re-excavated to check these results.

In the event, however, the part of the trench selected for re-excavation revealed undisturbed ground. While the uppermost 400mm of the strata comprised modern deposits as seen in the preceding three trenches, four dump/occupation layers were then uncovered, each containing a number of late 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> century (*i.e.*, late-Saxon period) pottery sherds.

In addition to the pottery itself, the layers also produced some material identified as kiln furniture.

The presence of this material does not conclusively indicate that a late-Saxon kiln is present on the site; the discoveries were very limited in both nature and extent, and the deposits could belong to part of a 'waster' dump associated with a neighbouring kiln site (perhaps the late-Saxon kilns found on the Sessions House site to the south). The presence of a kiln on the site, however, should not be ruled out.

In any case, the presence of stratified late-Saxon/early medieval deposits indicates some form of surviving occupation at this location, perhaps on part of a terraced hill-slope. The relatively shallow depth to the top of these deposits also makes them vulnerable. Consideration should therefore be given to appropriate recording or mitigation strategies should the scheme proceed in its present form.

## GREESTONE CENTRE, DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY, LINDUM ROAD, LINCOLN: LANDSCAPING & EXTERNAL WORKS

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This project was prompted by proposals to modify and refurbish car-parking and garden areas along the Lindum Road frontage of De Montfort University's Greestone Centre (formerly the Lincoln College of Art) (see Fig. 1).

Plans for the site involved the removal of some existing retaining and garden terrace walls, construction of replacement structures, modifications to access road arrangements, and various new hard and soft landscaping (see Fig. 3).

In several areas, this work would necessitate appreciable reductions in the existing ground levels, with possible impact on any buried archaeological deposits (see Figs. 2-5).

In view of the known archaeological and historical importance of the site and surrounding area (see 2.0, below), it was decided by Lincoln City Council Department of Planning, that an archaeological evaluation should be carried out in advance of any planning consent for the scheme.

In order to comply with the requirements of the City Council, De Montfort University commissioned the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (C.L.A.U.) to provide the required archaeological services. Archaeological attendance was carried out between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of September 2000.

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. Lincoln City Council 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 Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and *The Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage, 1991).

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## 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Archaeological Brief for a Predetermination Evaluation at the Greestone Centre, De Montfort University, Lindum Road, Lincoln issued by Lincoln City Council on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August 2000, set out the following archaeological and historical background for the site:

The site is situated on land on the south side of the Greestone Centre. The building itself was designed by William Watkins and built in 1893, with additions in 1911, as Christ's Hospital Girls' School. It later became part of the Lincoln Art College, before its current function. The building is listed (Reference Grade II. 1941-1/9/199) and the site lies within Cathedral and City Centre Conservation Area No.1.

The site lies c. 60m east of the defensive ditch outside the colonia wall of the defences of the Lower Roman City. The ditch is visible in Temple Gardens and was called the Werk or Were Dyke in the post-medieval period.

Pieces of piping were found near Greestone Stairs in 1785 during construction of Lindum Road and in 1857 on the east side of Greestone Stairs while digging foundations for a house. The construction and materials of the pipeline were noted to be similar to those from the aqueduct at Nettleham Road, but the relationship between the two aqueducts, if any, has not been established. The exact line of this feature is unknown.

There have been finds of Roman cremation burials on the site itself and to the south towards Monks Road and the College complex, indicating a sizeable Roman cemetery. Several important finds of inscribed tombstones and moulded stone were made in the 19<sup>th</sup> century during the building of houses on the north side of Lindum Road.

In the medieval period, the site was part of the suburb of Butwerk ("abutting the Werk"), possibly occupied as early as the 9<sup>th</sup> century but certainly developed by the early 11<sup>th</sup> century. There is evidence that industrial and commercial activities took place in the suburb.

According to map evidence, the medieval church and possible cemetery of Holy Trinity, one of seven churches in Butwerk, were situated at the foot, and on the west side, of Greestone Stairs. The church was constructed c. 1150 and pulled down in the 1530's, its stone being used for road repair. The Ordnance Survey map of 1887 places it only a few metres to the south of the Greestone Centre. No archaeological evidence for the church has been found.

The Close Wall, running east-west c. 30m north of the site, and probably Greestone Stairs, was constructed beginning from the late 13th century.

Lindum Road (the New Road) was constructed in 1785 to replace Pottergate, a road which previously flanked the hillside north-eastwards from Clasket Gate to Potter Gate.

The road of Temple Gardens predates the school; it was laid out some time between 1868 and 1887.

The site appears as open ground on 19th century maps, but with footpaths crossing to the north and a raised circular area (viewing place?) on the site of the western end of the School shown on the 1887 OS map.

The junction of Lindum Road, Temple Gardens and Greestone Stairs was set back from Lindum Road (when the School was built?) to create a small open area.

Additional information relating to the archaeological background of the area surrounding the site was provided by work carried out by C.L.A.U. on the site of Sessions House in 1997. This site lays *c.* 120m to the south of the Greestone Centre, and produced evidence of multi-period deposits and features,

some of which may be of relevance to the current site.

Most significantly (in view of the results of the current project, see 3.0 & 4.0, below), stratified deposits dating to the late Saxon period were recorded. They were located in the area north of Sessions House and included the remains of a late 10<sup>th</sup> century pottery kiln.

Analysis of the associated pottery identified two different ware types possibly being produced in this kiln (shell tempered ware - LSH, and reduced quartz sand tempered ware - SNLS). The presence of both ware types suggests that the kiln may be an early experimental stage in the production of the latter pottery type and as such is of regional, and potentially national, importance.

In view of the 10th century pottery kiln material recorded during investigations at Cathedral Street (Donel, 1993), and the proximity of the site to Pottergate ("the street of the potters"), it is suggested that the Sessions House kiln possibly forms one element of an extensive production centre. This would probably also have included associated workshops and clay preparation areas, as well as other industrial or domestic buildings.

Further stratified deposits and pits provisionally dated to the late Saxon period were also recorded approximately 12m south of the kiln. These presumably lay to the rear of structures fronting on to the street of Pottergate (all refs. Hockley, J 1997).

#### 3.0 RESULTS

The evaluation strategy for the site made provision for the excavation of four trial pits, each expected to be c. 1m-1.2m square, and excavated to a maximum of 1.2m deep.

All trenches were hand excavated, in locations agreed with the City Archaeologist, Mr M. J. Jones.

All exposed sections were cleaned and examined for archaeological finds and/or features. Each discrete archaeological deposit was then issued with a unique *context number* (see *Appendix C*, below), and recorded by both graphic and photographic means.

The stratigraphic results from each trench are as follows:

#### 3.1 Trial Pit 1 (see Figs.2 & 6)

This trial pit (T.P.) was located towards the western side of the proposed development area, immediately to the south of the access roadway.

The trench itself measured approximately 1.2m square, and was excavated to a depth of 1.2m.

The deposits revealed in this trench were all of modern origin, with the majority associated with either the construction or usage of the present building.

The earliest deposit comprised [111], a well compacted mid grey/yellow-brown clay layer containing modern brick and bitumen inclusions. This layer was up to 600mm thick to the limit of excavation (L.O.E.), and probably represents redeposited natural clay displaced during the construction of the existing structure.

[111] was overlain by a series of three deposits, comprising (from earliest to latest): [110], a 450mm thick layer of mid grey-brown sandy, clayey silt; [109], a 100mm thick mixed light-mid yellow-brown clay and sandy silt; and [108], a 50mm-75mm thick mid-brown silty sand layer.

All of these deposits contained limestone and modern brick inclusions, and appeared to form 'tip' deposits behind the existing lower retaining /terrace wall.

At the northern side of the trench, [108] was cut by a 700mm deep modern E-W linear service trench [115], which was infilled with a mixed clay and silt deposit, [114], apparently containing an electricity cable beneath protective capping tiles.

This fill was then sealed beneath two layers of mid-brown clayey silt, [107] and [106], each containing modern brick, tarmac and limestone inclusions. The uppermost of these deposits, [106], formed the surface layer at this location.

Finds recovered from this trench ranged from Roman tile and a single sherd of Samian pottery (dated to between A.D. 120-150), through to modern brick/tile and pottery.

#### 3.2 Trial Pit 2 (see Figs.2 & 6)

Trial Pit 2 lay in the carriageway of the access road leading to the western wing of the Greestone Centre. It measured 1.1m (NE-SW) x 1.25m (NW-SE), and was excavated to 1.2m.

As with T.P.1, this trench revealed only deposits of modern or natural (*i.e.*, geological) origin, with no evidence for any buried archaeological features.

The earliest deposit was a well compacted mid-light yellow-brown clay, [123], which was 300mm thick to the L.O.E., and contained no obvious inclusions. In contrast to the redeposited clay encountered in T.P.1, this deposit appears to represent the undisturbed natural strata.

[123] was sealed beneath a 300mm thick layer of friable mid-grey clayey silt containing modern brick, slate and limestone inclusions. This deposit, [122], was then itself overlain by [121], a 500mm thick layer of well compacted mid-light yellow-brown clay, containing brick and stone inclusions.

The final layers revealed in this trench were then associated with the existing modern surface of the access road. This comprised a c. 50mm thick layer of tarmac founded on a c. 100mm layer of limestone hardcore, context [120].

No finds were recovered from this trench.

#### 3.3 Trial Pit 3 (see Figs.2 & 6)

Trial Pit 3 was located in the existing garden border close to the eastern end of the site. The trench was approximately 1m square, but as this area is not expected to be substantially disturbed it was only excavated to a depth of c. 500mm.

The deposits revealed in this trench were all of a modern date, and were primarily associated with an earlier phase of hard landscaping.

The earliest layer was [112], a mid grey-brown clayey silt with occasional small pockets of grey-brown clay. This contained frequent small pieces of limestone, brick, sandstone, and coal, and was at least 300mm thick to L.O.E.

In the southern half of the trench [112] was sealed by [113], a thin layer of modern rubble mixed with clayey silt, which then formed the bedding for a brick paved surface [103].

Along the western side of the trench, [112] was cut by a NE-SW oriented brick wall, [104]. Both [103] and [104] appeared to be part of earlier garden landscaping.

To the west of the brick wall, a buried soil deposit [105] was revealed, probably part of an earlier garden surface, while to the east it was overlain by a demolition/collapse deposit, [102].

All of these contexts ([102], [103] & [105]) were then sealed by the existing garden topsoil deposit, [101].

The majority of the finds recovered from this trench were of modern origin, although some late 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> century pottery was recovered from the topsoil layer [101].

#### 3.4 Trial Pit 4 (see Figs.2 & 6)

This trench was situated in the car park close to the main entrance. It was originally excavated as an engineer's geotechnical trial pit, and had been backfilled before the commencement of the archaeological evaluation.

The engineer's logs indicated that the stratigraphic sequence comprised modern construction and/or dumping deposits as seen in the previous three T.P.'s, but it was decided to re-excavate this trench to allow the deposits to be re-interpreted archaeologically.

In anticipation of re-excavating recently disturbed material, it was decided to only expose a single trench section to allow the stratigraphy to be re-assessed.

In the event however, the material revealed during the re-excavation appeared to be largely undisturbed, and also appeared to represent stratified archaeological deposits.

The various layers were also quite productive in terms of finds, with a quantity of pottery sherds (and some tile fragments) present in each deposit. The earliest deposit was revealed just above the L.O.E. (at a depth of c. 900mm below the existing ground level), and comprised a midlight grey-brown clay, [124]. This was well compacted and contained occasional small pieces of irregularly shaped limestone and a single sherd of late  $9^{th}$ - $10^{th}$  century pottery.

[124] was then sealed by three further layers, all producing late 9th-10th century pottery. These comprised (from earliest to latest): [119], a mid grey-brown silty clay layer which also contained a piece of kiln furniture, and tile dating from between the 13th and 15th centuries (although the latter might be intrusive material); [118], a mid-brown sandy clayey silt with more fragments of kiln furniture, together with shell and limestone flecks; and [117], a mid-light brown clayey silt containing limestone and charcoal flecks. The majority of the pottery recovered from these deposits (and from several other contexts across the site) appears to be kiln waste (i.e., pottery damaged during the firing process).

The latest of these layers, [117], was present c. 400mm below the existing ground level, and was overlain by [116], a very mixed mid greybrown sandy silt, containing large quantities of modern bricks and rubble. This dump deposit, [116], is probably contemporary with the construction of the existing building, and lay immediately beneath the tarmac surface [120], as recorded in T.P.3.

## 4.0 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

In three of the locations investigated as part of this evaluation, the exposed deposits were all associated with modern usage of the site. This ranged from dump layers probably deposited during the construction of the existing structure, earlier hard landscaping features, and layers presently in use for car parking and garden borders.

The somewhat surprising exception to this was Trial Pit 4, which was actually a partially reexcavated engineer's geotechnical trial pit. The original engineer's logs for this trench indicated similar modern dumping deposits to those seen in the other three trenches, and the trial pit was only re-excavated to check these results.

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In addition to the pottery itself, the layers also produced some material identified as kiln furniture.

The presence of this material does not conclusively indicate that a late-Saxon kiln is present on the site; the discoveries were very limited in both nature and extent, and the deposits could belong to part of a 'waster' dump associated with a neighbouring kiln site (perhaps the late-Saxon kilns found on the Sessions House site to the south). The presence of a kiln on the site, however, should not be ruled out.

In any case, the presence of stratified late-Saxon/early medieval deposits indicates some form of surviving occupation at this location, perhaps on part of a terraced hill-slope. The relatively shallow depth to the top of these deposits also makes them vulnerable. Consideration should therefore be given to appropriate recording or mitigation strategies should the scheme proceed in its present form.

The pottery recovered during this evaluation is currently undergoing specialist analysis. The subsequent pottery report, together with the Lincoln UAD summary data, will be appended to this document in due course.

#### 5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit would like to express its thanks to the following: De Montfort University, Estates Department, The Gateway, Leicester, LE1 9BH, for kindly funding this project; Ms Colleen M Thorneycroft (Estates Manager), Mr M. Housely & Mr Paul Ibbotson, of De Montfort University; Messrs P. Harness (Planning Officer) & M. J. Jones (City Archaeologist), of the Department of Planning, Lincoln City Council, City Hall, Beaumont Fee, Lincoln, LN1 1DN; Mr Paull Snowden & on-site operatives, Operational Services Division, Highways Department, Lincoln City Council,

Central Depot, Waterside South, Lincoln LN1 2DG.

## 6.0 REFERENCES & SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Donel, L.G. 1993 North Lincs College, proposed student accommodation - Archaeological Evaluation CLAU Archaeological Report 55

Donel, L.G. 1996 Sessions House, Lincoln - Archaeological & Historical Study CLAU Archaeological Report 284

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Jarvis, M 1997 The Sessions House, Lindum Road, Lincoln - Archaeological Evaluation CLAU Archaeological Report 302

Jarvis, M 1999 The Sessions House, Monks Road, Lincoln, Lincs. - Archaeological Watching Brief CLAU Archaeological Report 312

Lincoln City Council, Department of Planning, Heritage Team, 9<sup>th</sup> August 2000 Archaeological Brief for a Pre-determination Evaluation at the Greestone Centre, De Montfort University, Lindum Road, Lincoln

Trimble, R 1995 North Lincolnshire College (new student accommodation blocks) -Archaeological Watching Brief CLAU Archaeological Report 145

#### 7.0 LHA NOTE/ARCHIVE DETAILS

#### 7.1 LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODE: LRB00

PLANNING APPLICATION Nos.: 2000/0428/F & 2000/0429/LBC

FIELD OFFICER: K. Wragg

NGR: SK 9790/7160

CIVIL PARISH: Lincoln

SMR No.: n/a

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 07/09/00 - 12/09/00

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Evaluation

UNDERTAKEN FOR: De Montfort University, Estates Department, The Gateway, Leicester, LE1 9BH

#### 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.: 2000.211

ACCESSION DATE: -

# APPENDIX A - ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

#### The archive consists of:

No.	Description
1	Site diary
1	Report
26	Context records
6	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 2000.211, will be undertaken following completion of this project.

## APPENDIX B - COLOUR PLATES

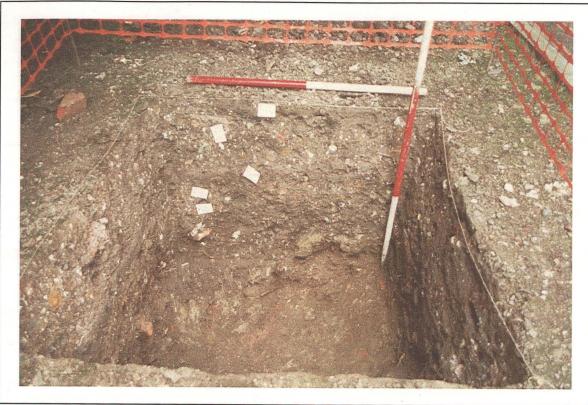


Plate 1: General view of east-facing section, T.P.1 - looking west



Plate 2: Overall view of south-east facing section, T.P.2 - looking north-west

## APPENDIX B - COLOUR PLATES (continued)



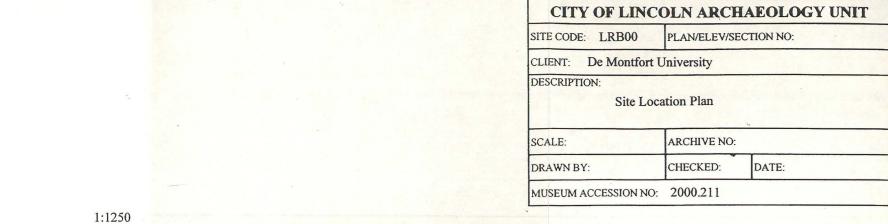
Plate 3: General view of earlier hard landscaping features, T.P.3 - looking north-east

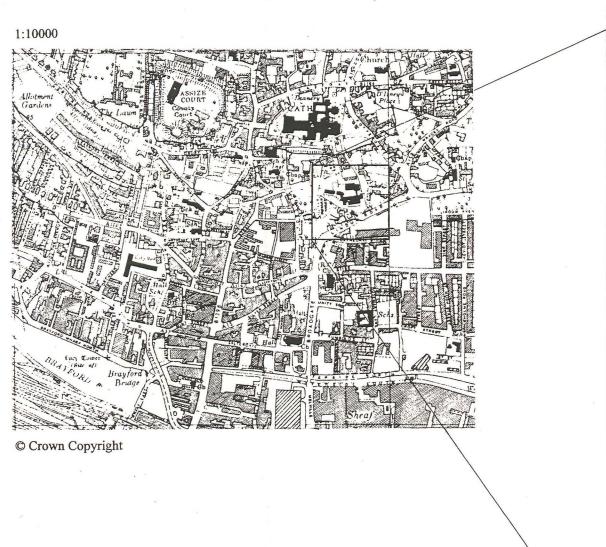


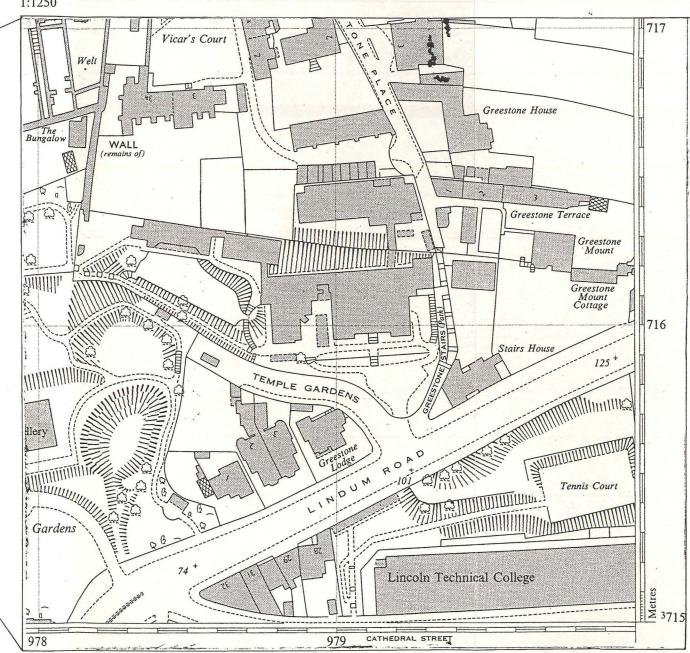
Plate 4: General view of south-west facing section, T.P.4 - looking north-east

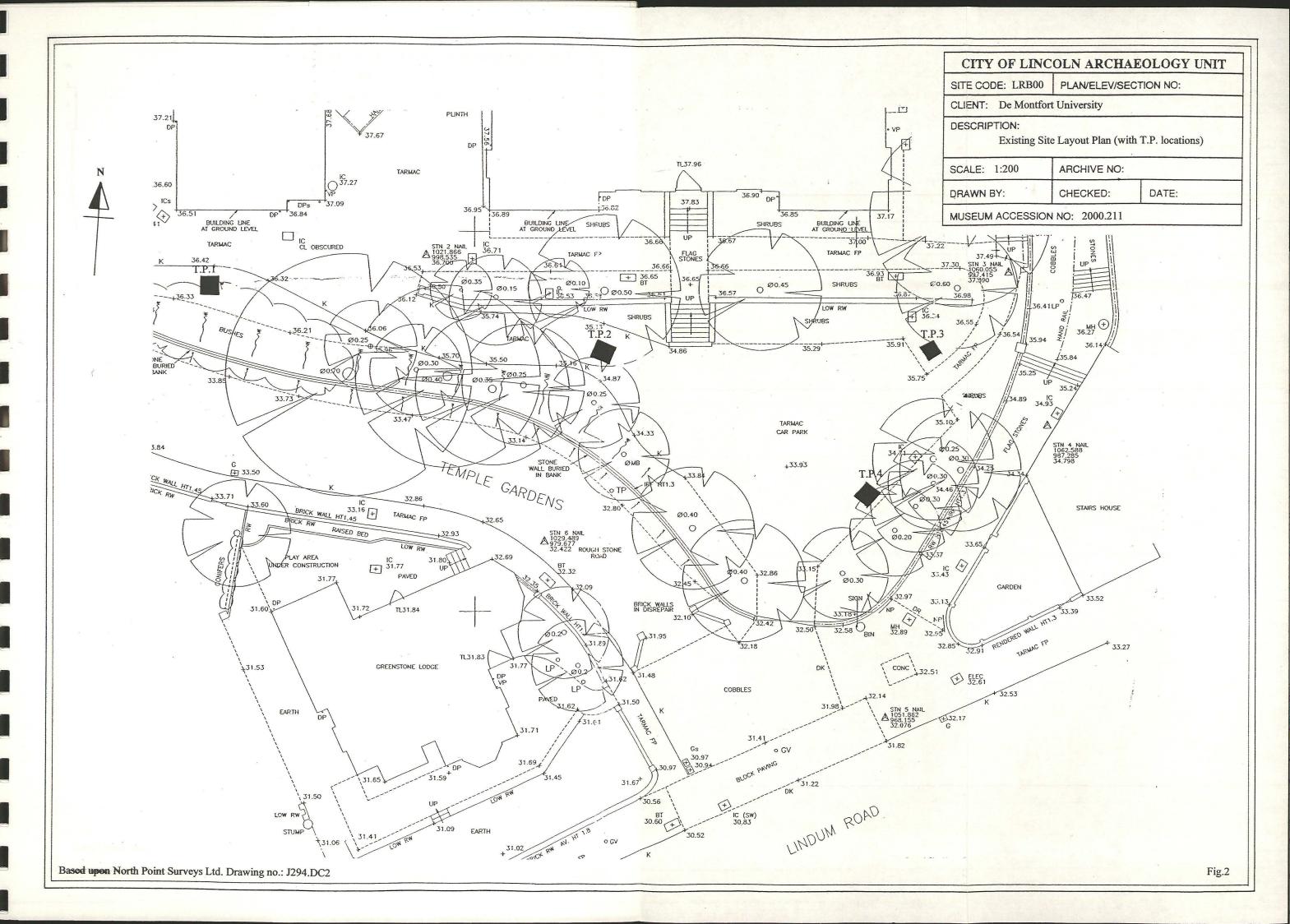
### APPENDIX C - LIST OF CONTEXTS

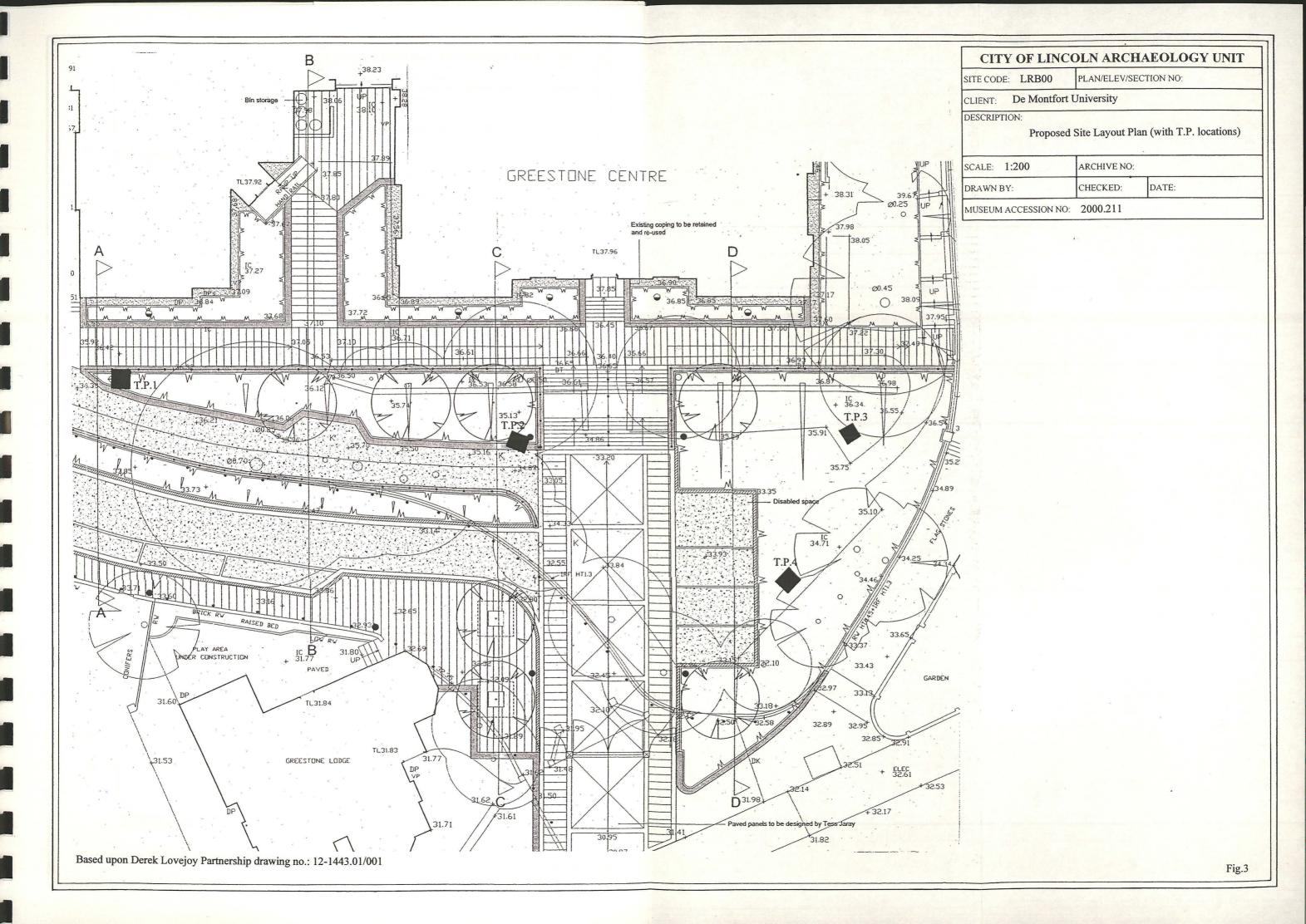
Context No.:	Trial Pit:	Description:
	,	
[100]	T.P.3	General unstratified finds
[101]	T.P.3	Topsoil layer
[102]	T.P.3	Dump/demolition deposit
[103]	T.P.3	Brick 'setts'/paving
[104]	T.P.3	Brick wall
[105]	T.P.3	Buried garden deposit
[106]	T.P.1	Topsoil layer
[107]	T.P.1	Mixed dump deposit
[108]	T.P.1	Silt dump layer
[109]	T.P.1	Mixed dump layer
[110]	T.P.1	Mixed dump layer
[111]	T.P.1	Redeposited clay dump layer
[112]	T.P.3	Mixed dump layer
[113]	T.P.3	Bedding for [103]
[114]	T.P.1	Fill of modern service trench (?electricity?)
[115]	T.P.1	Cut for modern service trench
[116]	T.P.4	Modern dump layer
[117]	T.P.4	Clay layer/fill
[118]	T.P.4	Mixed dump layer
[119]	T.P.4	Clay layer
[120]	T.P.'s 2 & 4	Modern tarmac & bedding
[121]	T.P.2	Clay dump deposit
[122]	T.P.2	Mixed dump deposit
[123]	T.P.2	?Natural? clay layer
[124]	T.P.4	?Natural? clay layer
[125]	T.P.4	Backfill & trench cut of previous engineering geotechnical trial pit

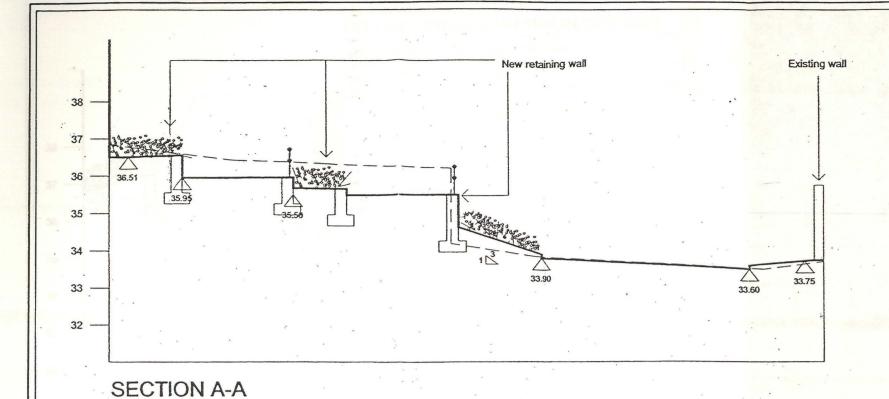












CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE: LRB00 PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:

CLIENT: De Montfort University

DESCRIPTION:
Proposed Sections A-A & B-B

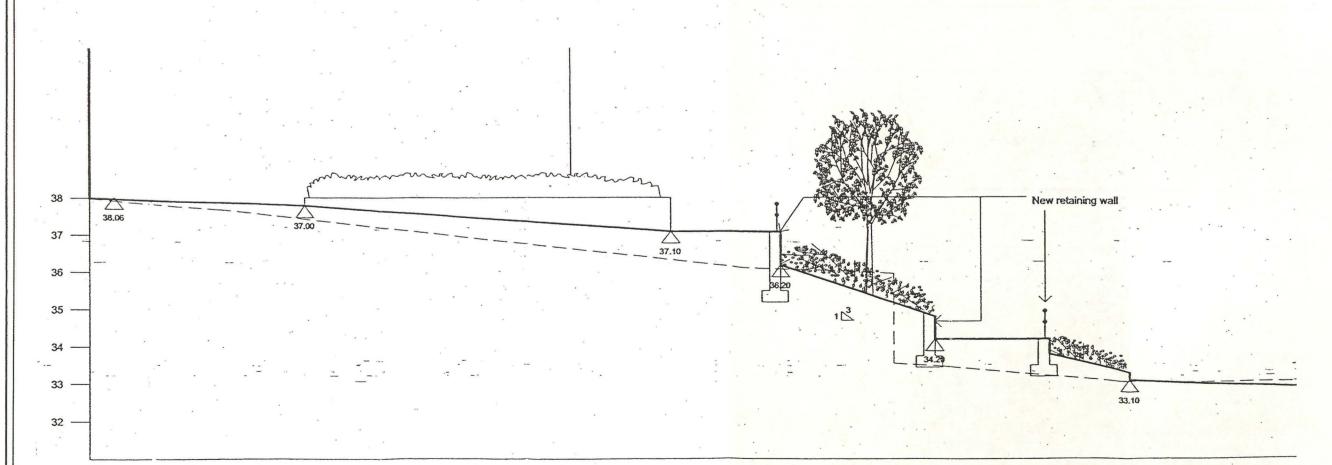
SCALE: 1:100 ARCHIVE NO:

DRAWN BY: CHECKED: DATE:

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 2000.211

KEY

\_\_\_\_ Existing Ground Level



SECTION B-B

Based upon Derek Lovejoy Partnership drawing no.: 12-1443.01.002

