



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

13 St Catherine's Road, Lincoln

House Extension

NGR: SK 96999 64386

Site Code: LSTC 01

LCNCC Museum Accn No.: 2001.88

Planning Application No.: 2000/0166/F

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report prepared for

Mr M. Morgan

by

M. McDaid

LAS Report No. 538

June 2001

Conservation
Services

- 6 JUL 2001

Highways & Planning
Directorate

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Summary

Groundworks for the house extension identified a 0.30m deep medieval layer, 13th – 17th century in date which lay beneath c.1m depth of topsoil and made up ground, of post medieval date. Sealed by the medieval deposit were grey silt sands which produced tile dated to the 13th – 15th century. These deposits would have been waterlogged and reflect the flooded environment close to the River Witham.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by Mr and Mrs M. Morgan in October 2000 to conduct a watching brief during the mechanical excavation of footings for a house extension at 13 St Catherine's Road, Lincoln (Fig. 1). Work did not commence until 25th April 2001. The watching brief was required by City of Lincoln Planning Department to fulfil a condition of full planning.

Scope of Work

A two storey extension and porch was being built onto the rear of the property at no. 13, extending c.4.5m away from the existing building, (Fig. 2).

Aims and Objectives

The main aims of the watching brief were to

- Record and interpret any archaeological deposits disturbed during groundworks at the above site.
- Provide results for accession to the County Sites and Monument Record (SMR) and Lincoln Urban Archaeological Database (UAD).

The Development Site

The site is bounded on the north by St Catherine's Rd, on the east by no 14 and on the west by a private access and on the south by 18 Hamilton Rd. The extension is in the gardens of no. 13. It is close to the east bank of the River Witham and is situated on the river gravels.

Archaeological Background

The site is in the St Catherine's area of Lincoln where the medieval priory and later Elizabethan house were located. The Priory, incorporating St Sepulchre's Hospital, was

founded by Bishop Chesney in 1147 and occupied land south of Sincil Dyke to a point beyond the foot of Cross O'Cliff Rd. The precise location and layout of buildings is not known but human burials and building fragments have been recorded.

The Priory lands were granted to the Duke of Suffolk after the Dissolution who sold them to Vincent and Thomas Grantham in 1540. A substantial residence was then established. The artist Buck recorded a sketch of the residence. A 1779 map by Armstrong (Fig.3) records the residence as ruins.

The area has generally escaped archaeological study, tending to concentrate on the south side of South Park and the city centre.

The Watching Brief

Method

Approximately 2m of the western foundation trench was fully excavated by hand, to the base of deposit **3**, before being abandoned (Pl.1). A mini digger with a toothed bucket was used to dig the eastern trench (Pl.2). Width of the trench footings was 0.65m when excavated by machine, 0.50m when hand removed. All drain pipes in the eastern trench were removed (these were up to 0.50m deep and ran the length of the trench footing) whilst those in the western trench were left *in situ*.

Context numbers were assigned to features and their fills for recording purposes; these are used in this report and are listed in Appendix 1.

Results (Pls. 3 - 6)

The thick black, humic, loam topsoil layer, **1**, which had a maximum depth of 1.10m, produced modern brick and tile, which was not kept. The existing house foundations were noted to go to the base of the topsoil (Pl.3). The topsoil covered a light to mid brown silt sand deposit, **3**. This 0.30m deep layer produced one sherd of pottery and a glazed Flemish floor tile of 14th – 16th Century date as well as 85 animal bones, shell, 3 architectural fragments and 8 fragments of brick and tile. The tile and bone assemblage reflects around 30% of the total that could have been retrieved. Only seen in the northern end of the eastern trench was a 0.15m deep, orange brown clay, **6**, which projected c.2m into the construction trench. Beneath **6** was a grey silt sand, **4**. This deposit contained flecks of charcoal, occasional degraded limestone fragments and pieces of tile dating from the 13 – 15th century. A creamy grey brown silt sand, **5**, below **4**, produced a single piece of tile from 13 – 15th century. Seen only in the eastern trench, at the southernmost end, was a deposit of limestone **2**, (Pl.4). Due to heavy rain and trench depth the sides of the foundation trench collapsed before recording of the deposit depths at the south end could be made (Pl. 6). For health and safety reasons no further attempt was made to record the deposits in the eastern trench. Similarly excavation of the

southern foundation trench was abandoned after c.2m digging from the east end because of concern for the stability of the trench sides given the depth and weather.

Context List

Context	Depth	Description
1	c.1m	Topsoil
2	Not known	Limestone
3	0.30m	Medieval Deposit
4	0.80m	Medieval Deposit
5	Not known	Medieval Deposit
6	0.15m	Orange clay

A building inspector was called after the western footings reached a depth of c.2m. It was decided that a raft foundation would be opted for instead of the existing footings (which would need backfilling) as further excavation of the footings would be too costly. The depth of the proposed raft footings would not penetrate archaeological deposits because of the c.1m thick topsoil so archaeological monitoring was abandoned.

Discussion

The watching brief established the presence of archaeology 1m below the ground surface. The topsoil was undoubtedly made up ground as the ground level to the east of the house was approximately 1m lower (Pl.7). Layer 3, a late medieval deposit, immediately below the topsoil, would appear to be the result of domestic dumping, though it cannot be determined if this is associated with the Priory.

Due to the collapse of the foundation trench sides it was difficult to determine if limestone deposit 2 was *in situ* wall remains, wall demolition or limestone outcrop. If deposit 2 is an outcrop of limestone then deposits 4 and 5 may be within the cut of a pit, possibly dug to quarry the limestone. However, the close proximity to the water table would make quarrying very unlikely. It is more likely that deposits 4 and 5 were created from the flooding of the River Witham and the limestone is would have been part of a wall marking the limit of habitable land.

Conclusion

The watching brief has revealed that medieval archaeology survives below the level of the present topsoil. Ground conditions suggest that during the medieval period the land would have been on the periphery of habitable land due to its close proximity to the river.

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank Mr and Mrs Morgan for their assistance during this watching brief, Paul Priestly, Adam Mitchell and Matthew Warrener the builders for their co-operation.

Fieldwork for this project was conducted by the author, tile and Medieval pottery was identified by Jane Young, animal bone was identified by Jane Richardson. The report was collated and produced by Jane Frost.

Mick McDaid

Lindsey Archaeological Services

20th June 2001

References

Steane, K. (1990).; *From The Kings Highway To The Brayford*. Lincolnshire History and Archaeology 25, 54-55. Society For Lincolnshire History And Archaeology.

Archive Summary

Archaeological finds:

Specialist's archive list: Pottery, Tile and Bone

Correspondence

Sketch plan and sections

Photographs: colour prints LAS film no's. 01/28/3-24

Tile Archive LSTC01

Jane Young

Lindsey Archaeological Services

context	cname	fabric	sub type	frags	weight	description	date
003	BRK			1	230	handmade	15/16th to 17th
003	BRKDISC			3	135	handmade	15/16th to 17th
003	GFLOOR	Flemish ?		1	405	yellow glaze over slip;no nail holes most of tile;120mm square x 22mm thick	14th to 16th
003	NIB		type 7	1	230		14th to 16th
003	NIB		small type 1/2	1	155		12th to 13th
003	NIBDISC		moulded	1	70		12th to 13th
003	NIBDISC		type 7	1	110		14th to 16th
003	PNRDISC	local fabrics		1	305	corner	13th to 15th
003	PNRDISC	local fabrics		15	1730		13th to 15th
004	NIBDISC		type 7	1	355		14th to 16th
004	PNRDISC	local fabric		2	250		13th to 15th
004	PNRDISC	local fabric		1	285	corner	13th to 15th
005	PNRDISC	local fabric		1	160	corner	13th to 15th

Pottery Archive LSTC01

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	part	description	date
003	LMF	Late Medieval Finewares	St. Marks	cup	2	1	BS	apple green glaze with cu specks	late 14th to mid 16th

Animal Bone Report

by

Jane Richardson BSc, MSc, PhD

1. *Introduction*

- 1.1 A watching brief at 13 St Catherine's Rd, Lincoln by Lindsey Archaeological Services produced 85 animal bone fragments from a layer dating from the 15th to 16th centuries. Unfortunately as so few bones were retrieved, an assessment of domestic debris (such as food waste) or industrial debris (such as tanning or bone working) was extremely limited.

2. *Method*

- 2.1 As the total assemblage was small, all bone fragments were identified where possible to species, species group (such as sheep/goat) or a lower order category such as 'large-mammal'. Age data were considered and butchery marks were noted. A rapid assessment of bone condition was also made in terms of erosion, fragmentation and gnawing.

3. *Results*

- 3.1 The bone fragments recovered were in excellent condition with no evidence for eroded bone surfaces and only 3% showing signs of gnawing.
- 3.2 The animal bone assemblage consisted of only 85 bone fragments. Of these, cattle (and large mammal fragments) accounted for 85% of the assemblage, sheep(/goat) 8% and pig 7%.
- 3.3 All body parts (limb bones, axial skeleton and skull fragments) were present for cattle, and sheep/goat and pig were represented by both cranial and limb bone fragments. These probably represent domestic debris rather than industrial/craft waste which typically leaves a more limited range of body parts. In addition, butchery marks on cattle and sheep/goat bones indicated dismemberment, but also meat removal.
- 3.4 Age data were limited, but both sub-adult and adult cattle were indicated. These represent a cull of younger animals for their meat as well as the maintenance of older cattle as breeding stock, traction animals or for their milk yield. Only sub-adult pigs were identified and these would have provided prime meat, while the age data for sheep(/goat) suggest the majority of animals exceeded 42 months.

4.

Conclusions

4.1

Domestic debris from a 15th-16th century deposit revealed a predominance of cattle bones and the presence of all body parts. Sub-adult cattle were apparently utilised for their meat and the use of secondary products was tentatively identified. Pigs and sheep provided additional, but apparently secondary meat resources.

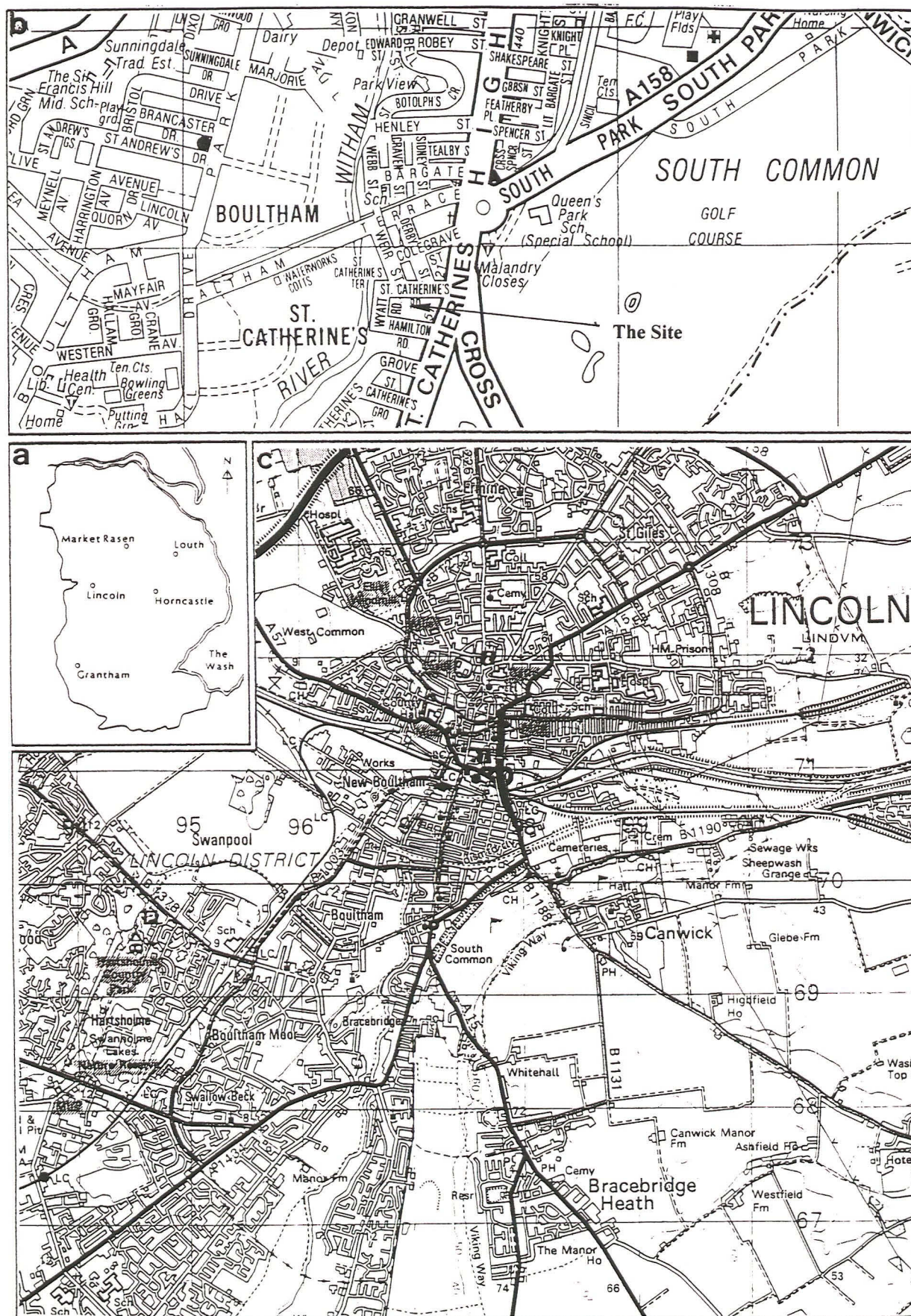
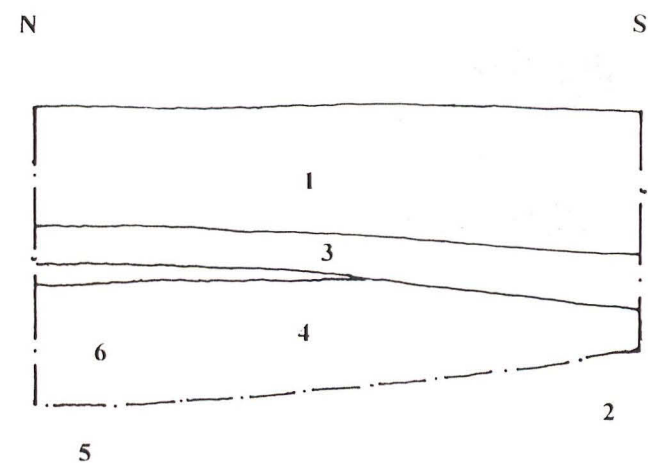
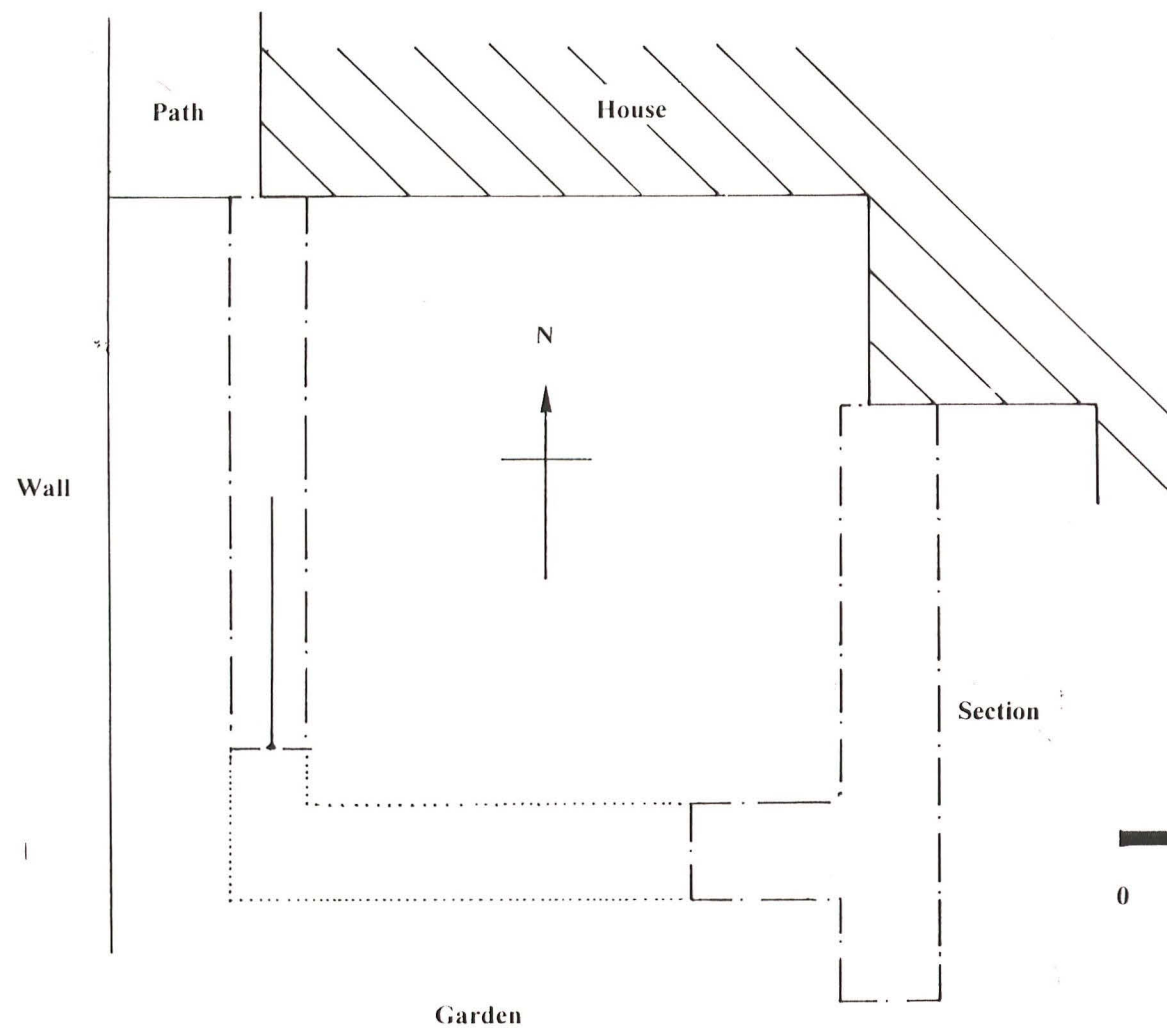


Fig. 1 Location of the site (Insert C based on the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL50424A).



——— Limit of Excavation
 Unexcavated Footings
 ——— Slope

Fig. 2 Location of house extension and sketch section of the eastern archaeological deposits.

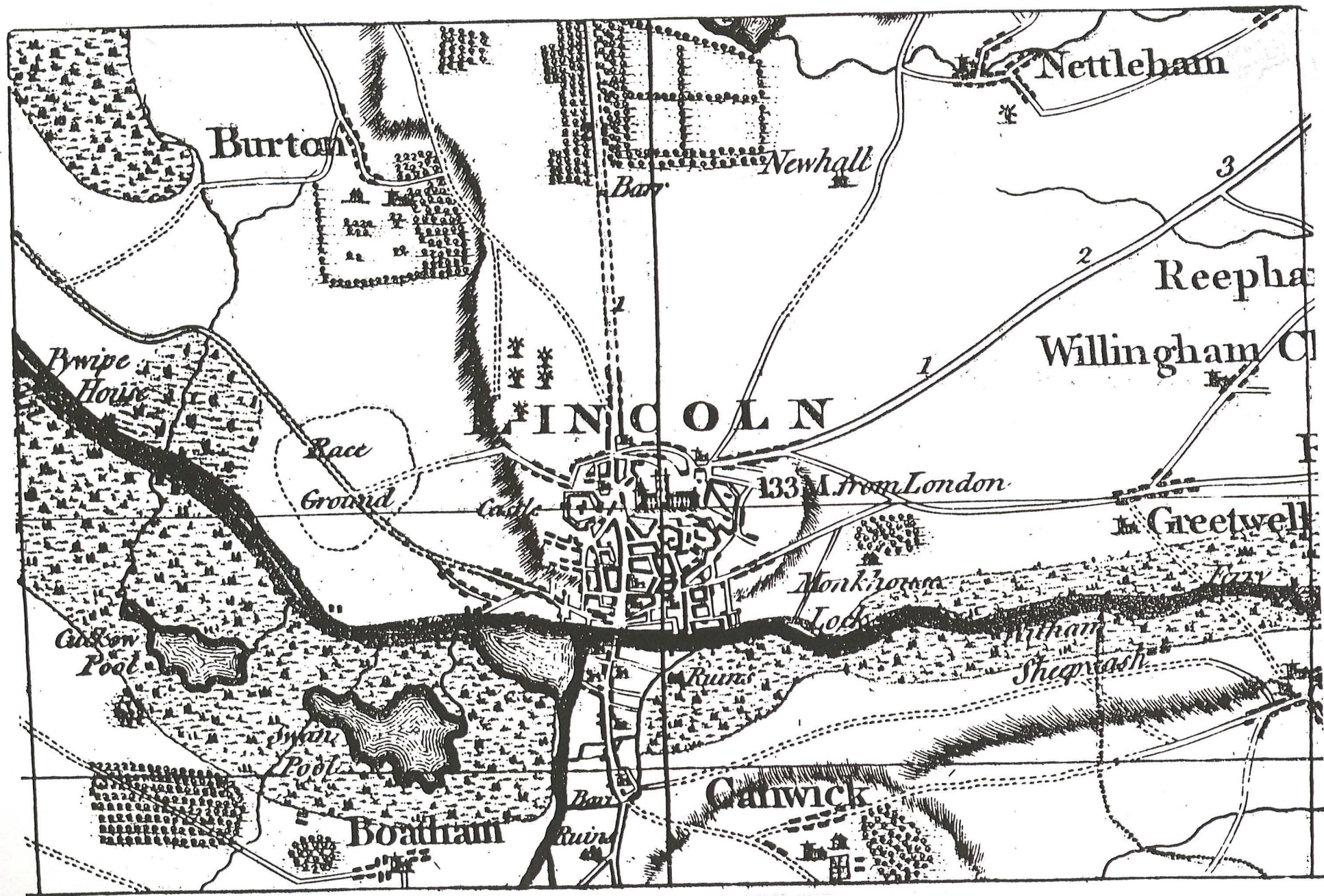


Fig. 3 Armstrong's map of 1779 showing ruins (bottom).



Pl. 1 Location of the house extension (metal pins mark corner points).

Pl. 2 Machine excavation of the extension footings.





Pl. 3 Depth of house footings mark the depth of made up ground.

Pl. 4 Stratigraphy seen in the north east corner of the site. Scale 1m.





Pl. 5 Stratigraphy in the south east corner of the site. Limestone 2 is in the base. Scale 1m.



Pl. 6 The collapsed sides of the house extension trench.



Pl. 7 Difference between the ground level at No.13 St Catherine's with houses to the east.