



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Doughty's Mill Phase 4,  
Melville Street, Lincoln**

NGR: SK97809 71046

Site Code: LDMA 02

LCNCC Museum Accn No.: 2002.5

Planning Application: 99/089/F

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**Report**

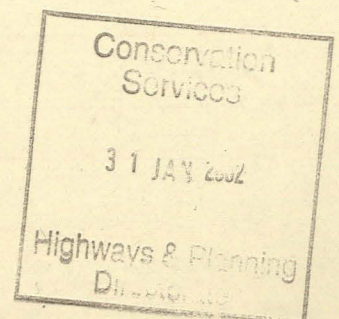
**for**

**Lindum Group Ltd**

**by**

**Mick McDaid**

**LAS Report No. 566  
January 2002**



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## **Doughty's Mill Phase 4, Melville St, Lincoln Archaeological Evaluation**

Site Code: LDMA 02  
LCNCC Museum Accn No.: 2002.5  
NGR: SK97809 71046  
Planning Application: 99/089/F

### **Summary**

*An evaluation comprising a single trench at the above site has established that there has been extensive disturbance as a result of building and service trenches during the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. An earlier limestone and brick wall was recorded in the south-west corner of the trench, 0.80m below the present ground level.*

### **Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by the Lindum Group Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the above site, in accordance with the general requirements of the Archaeology Section of Lincolnshire City Council, as set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (1998) and a brief set by the Department of Planning Lincoln City Council dated November 2001.

The excavation was carried out on 10th January 2002.

### **Site Description**

Melville Street is located east of Lincoln city centre and south-east of the lower Roman city walls. It runs north-south and is a continuation of Broadgate, south of Thorn Bridge and the river Witham. The proposed development site (Figs. 1 and 2, Pl.1) is located on the east side of Melville Street between the offices of Longhurst Housing Association, to the north, and 22 Melville St to the south. The land is currently open ground after the demolition of 16,18 and 20 Melville Street.

### **Planning Background**

The site lies within Conservation Area 1 *Cathedral and City Centre*. Planning permission was granted in April 1999 for the erection of a three-storey building to contain ground floor offices with 8 two-bedroom flats on the first and second floors. Permission was granted subject to conditions including Condition 3 which states that

*No development, geotechnical investigation, site clearance or other enabling work shall take place on the site until details of the measures to be taken to evaluate, preserve and/or record the archaeological content of the site, which shall include a timescale for the investigation, have been submitted to and approved by the local Planning Authority. All archaeological work shall thereafter proceed in accordance with the approved programme.*

### **Archaeological Background**

This area of the city was part of the suburb of Thorngate which developed from the 11th century and was closely associated with activities along the river (Hill 1948,159). It may have been located on an island south of the present river course. Until drainage of this area in the 16<sup>th</sup> century by the cutting of the Sincil Dyke, which flows to the south of the site the area was liable to frequent flooding. Thorngate Castle is thought to have been in the vicinity, but its location and that of the island have yet to be found.

Excavations in 1997, on the site of Doughty's Mill to the north-east, along Waterside South revealed evidence of dumping, up to 2m deep, representing 13<sup>th</sup> century land reclamation, which ties in with documentary evidence of 13<sup>th</sup> century occupation of the area (Hill 1948, 159). Part of a stone building, possibly a merchant's house was also recorded.

A hospital is marked on this site on Marrat's 19<sup>th</sup> century map of the city of 1817,. By the time of its revision in 1848, the hospital had been demolished. Doughty's Oil mill to the east was built in the 1840s and Melville Street was constructed at about the same time to provide a route from the city to Canwick.

The Longhurst Housing Association occupies a building built in the 1890s by Doughty Son and Richardson as the mill offices. The mill itself was converted to apartments in 1997-1999. The site was cleared of buildings in the last year and evidence for cellars along the present street frontage and along the northern site boundary was clearly visible at the time of the archaeological evaluation.

### **Aims and Objectives**

The purpose of the evaluation was to

- establish the presence or absence, quality and extent of archaeological remains and their location within the development area
- gather sufficient information to enable an assessment of the potential significance of any archaeological remains to be made and the impact which development will have upon them
- enable an informed decision to be made regarding the future treatment of any archaeological remains and consider any appropriate mitigatory measures either in advance of and/or during development
- provide information for accession to the County SMR and the Lincoln UAD.

### **The Excavation Trench (Figs. 4 and 5)**

The evaluation trench was located c.10m south of the Longhurst Housing Association building, c.2.5m from the site's eastern boundary. It was positioned back from the street frontage in order to avoid the known cellars. The trench was machine-excavated, under

archaeological supervision using a mini digger, with a toothed bucket to remove brick and concrete rubble before changing to a toothless ditching bucket (Pl.2). After removal of the upper deposits by machine the trench was hand-cleaned to reveal any features in plan.

Section 6.3 of the Brief required the excavation of a trench 3.5m x 1.5m in area, but there was brickwork at surface level in the western half of the trench, which was impossible to remove so the trench was extended to 4.50m in length. It was excavated to a depth of 1.2m (as specified in the Brief).

A full written (single context) and photographic record was made of the site, including a site plan at a scale of 1:20, and section drawing at 1:20. A full photographic record was made during the progress of the excavation, covering each feature together with general site shots.

A temporary bench mark was established on site, derived from a Bench Mark on the south-west corner of the former Royal British Legion Club (6.74m O.D.).

#### **Results (Fig.4)**

After demolition of the standing buildings the site had been levelled to form a temporary surface for car parking. This was recorded as a 0.23m thick layer of black ash, **100**. Beneath **100** was a demolition layer of brick and limestone rubble, **101**. It was 0.28m deep, and concentrated at the eastern end of the trench (Pl.4). At the west end of the trench a layer of bricks, **102**, forming a rough surface, was revealed below **100**. It ran beneath the brick rubble **101** to the east.

Below **102** at the west end of the trench was a slightly domed brick structure **115**, with a 0.48m diameter hole at its centre. Concrete bonding prevented the dimensions of the bricks, **116**, from being recorded but they were machine made and it is presumed that this feature is of 19<sup>th</sup> century date, possibly the brick capping for a well

East of the well, and beneath the rubble layer **102** was a disturbed area **117**, containing a copper water pipe, which was left *in situ*. Also below **102** was a rectangular or square brick-lined inspection chamber, **103**, with two drains running into it. It was filled with brick rubble **104**. The chamber had been dug through a mixed rubble deposit in a matrix of light brown mortar soil **108**, 0.26m in depth, which sealed a black ash deposit **105**, 0.12m thick. **105** may have been the upper fill of a service trench **106**, which lay west of **103** and ran beneath the copper water pipe. It contained a ceramic pipe at its base and was filled with dark grey clay silt containing mortar, ash and charcoal flecks.

Below **108**, east of the inspection chamber **104**, was a dark grey clay silt **109**, containing mortar and limestone fragments. It was 0.13m deep. It overlay a dark grey silt **112**, containing

limestone, mortar and brick fragments, all less than 0.02m in size which sealed the corner of a wall, **111**, comprising undressed limestone blocks up to 0.35m x 0.20m x 0.10m. Excavation which only exposed 0.50m of the wall, revealed five courses of the wall, one of which contained an up-ended brick (240mm long x 100mm wide). It is not clear whether it was a repair or part of the original wall construction, but the fact that it was not laid flat suggest the former interpretation. The wall continued below the eastern limit of excavation and the exposed part was probably the north-west corner of a building. Next to the wall and below the brick inspection chamber **103** was a grey silty deposit similar to **109**, containing mortar and limestone flecks. It was not possible to determine if the wall cut **113** or was butted by this deposit.

A mid green grey clay silt **114** lay beneath **113** and continued below the base of the excavated trench. It contained small stones, charcoal flecks and fragments of mortar.

### **Discussion**

The area available for investigation was limited by the extensive cellarge on site, which flanks the street frontage and the northern side of the site. 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century service trenches crossed the evaluation trench destroying most of the deposits to a depth of 0.80m. The brick well **115**, in the western part of the trench is presumed to be several metres in depth and may have completely removed all archaeological remains.

The only deposits within the trench which may pre-date the 19<sup>th</sup> century are the corner of a stone building at the west end of the trench (**111**) and associated layers **113** and **114**. **113** may be an old topsoil that predates the 19th century development of the site, although lack of finds means it is impossible to date. **114** also produced no finds.

### **Impact of the Development on the Archaeological Remains**

The new building will cover an area 15m x 15m and completely fill the gap between the buildings to the north and south. Site clearance will involve the removal of the loose fill in the cellars. The cellar walls and floors will be left in situ, except where holes are cut through the floors to enable piling to be inserted. The cellars will then be filled with compacted material. Ground beams between the piles will be 450mm wide and 650mm deep, but extending up to 1050mm below ground level, allowing for 450mm cover over the top of the beams. The evaluation has established that little if anything earlier than 19<sup>th</sup> century survives above a depth of 0.80m below the existing ground surface. It is possible that the ground beam excavations may penetrate undisturbed deposits, such as the wall **111** and layers **113** and **114**, found during the evaluation, in the small part of the site, which is not cellared. These are currently of unknown date but may be post-medieval.



### **Conclusion**

The evaluation has established that the site has undergone extensive disturbance as a result of building operations and associated service trenching, during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The impact of development is limited to the area of the pile caps and the ground beam construction outside the cellared area.

### **Acknowledgements**

Thanks to Mr Burr of Lindum Group Ltd and the machine driver. The author and Richard Pullen carried out all fieldwork. This report was edited by Naomi Field and produced and collated by Jane Frost.

Mick McDaid  
January 2002

### **Reference**

Hill, Sir Francis 1948 (reprinted 1990). *Medieval Lincoln*.

### **Archive List**

Site Plans 1

Sections 1

Levels 1 sheet

Context sheets 17

Correspondence + architects plan

Photographs

LAS Film No. 02/1 Negs. 1-8; 02/3, Negs. 17A-25A

No finds

## APPENDIX 1

### Melville Street, Lincoln (LDMA 02)

#### Context List

Context	Type	Description
100	Layer	Modern levelling material
101	Layer	Brick and concrete rubble, demolition layer below 100
102	Layer	Rubble below 101
103	Cut	Brick inspection chamber
104	Fill of 103	Brick rubble
105	Layer	Black ash above 107
106	Cut	Pipe trench
107	Fill of 106	Dark grey clay silt, mortar, ash, charcoal flecks
108	Layer	Mixed rubble in mortary sandy clay
109	Layer	Dark grey clay silt below 108
110	Wall cut	Foundation trench for 111
111	Wall	Limestone rubble wall
112	Layer	Dark grey clay silt sealing wall 111
113	Layer	Dark grey silty soil, charcoal, limestone and brick frags.
114	Layer	Mid greybrown clay silt, small stones, mortar and charcoal flecks, below 113
115	Cut	Well cut
116	Fill	Brick hardstanding around well with well dome in centre
117	Fill	Backfill along copper pipe trench

## THE FIGURES

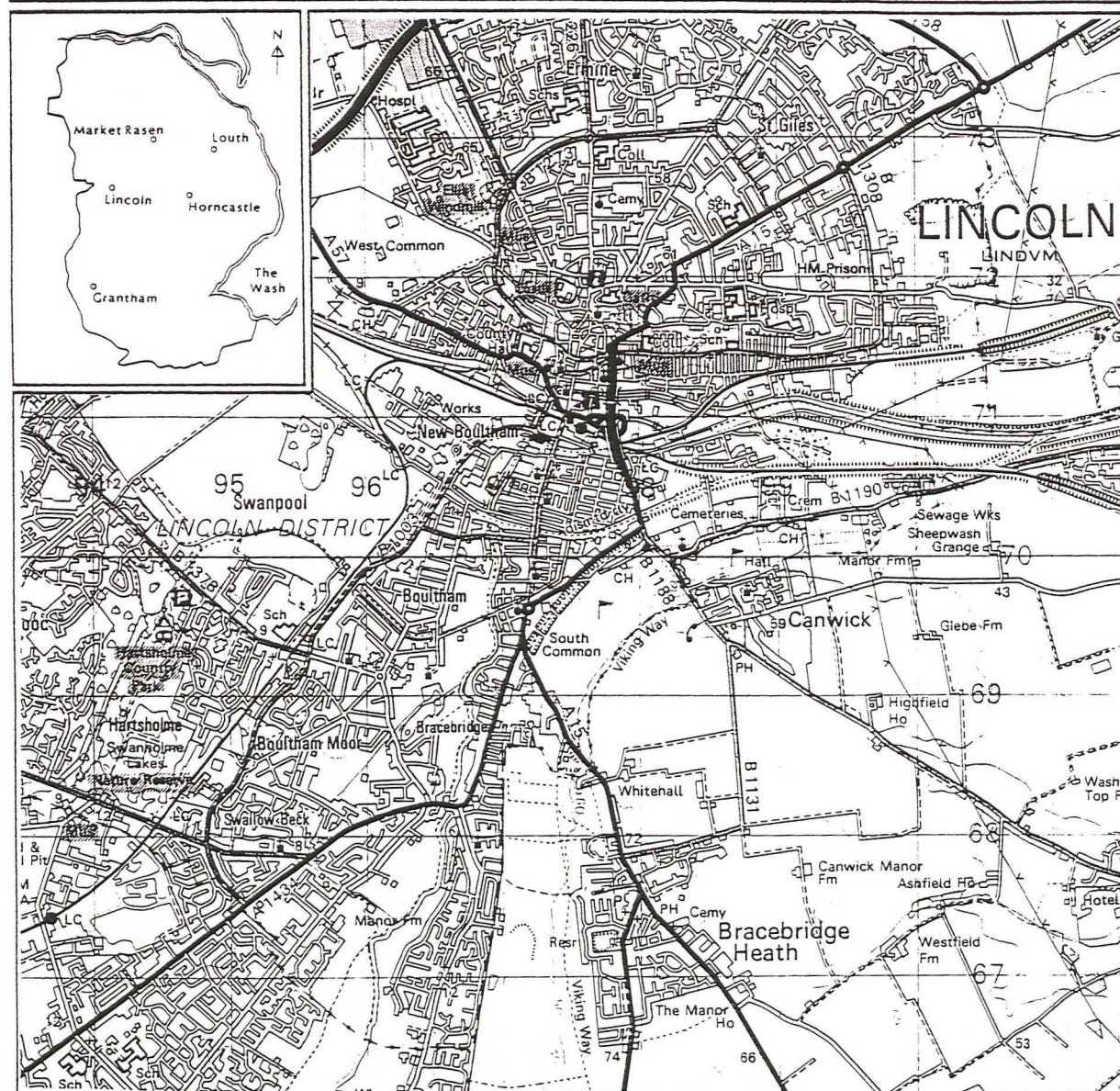
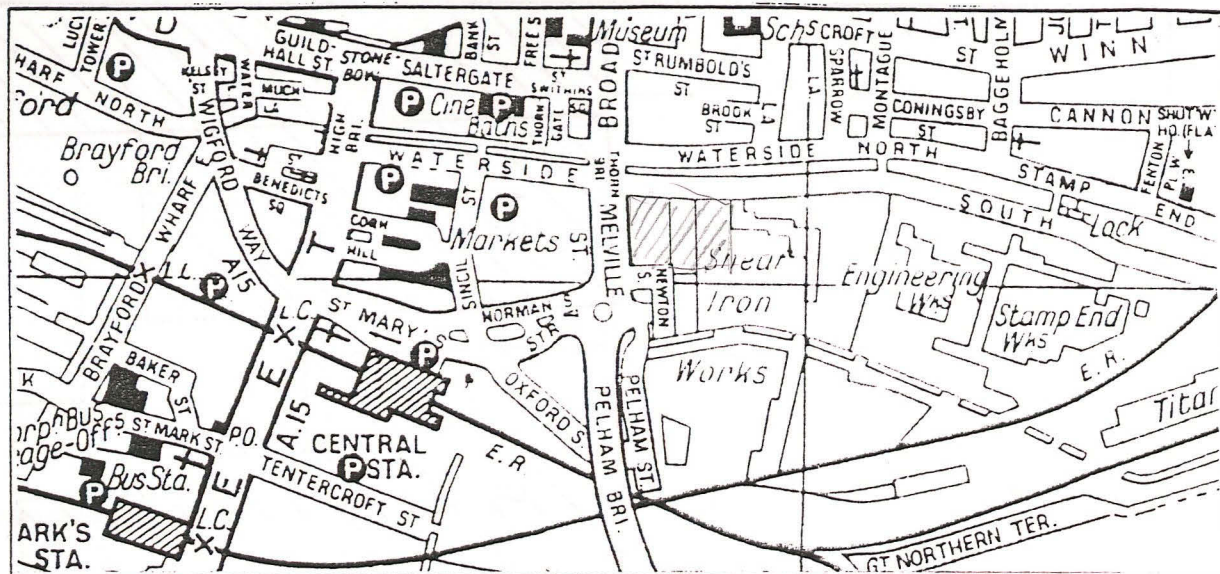


Fig. 1 Melville Street, Lincoln site location. (Insert C based on the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map. © Crown copyright. Reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO, LAS licence number AL 10002165).

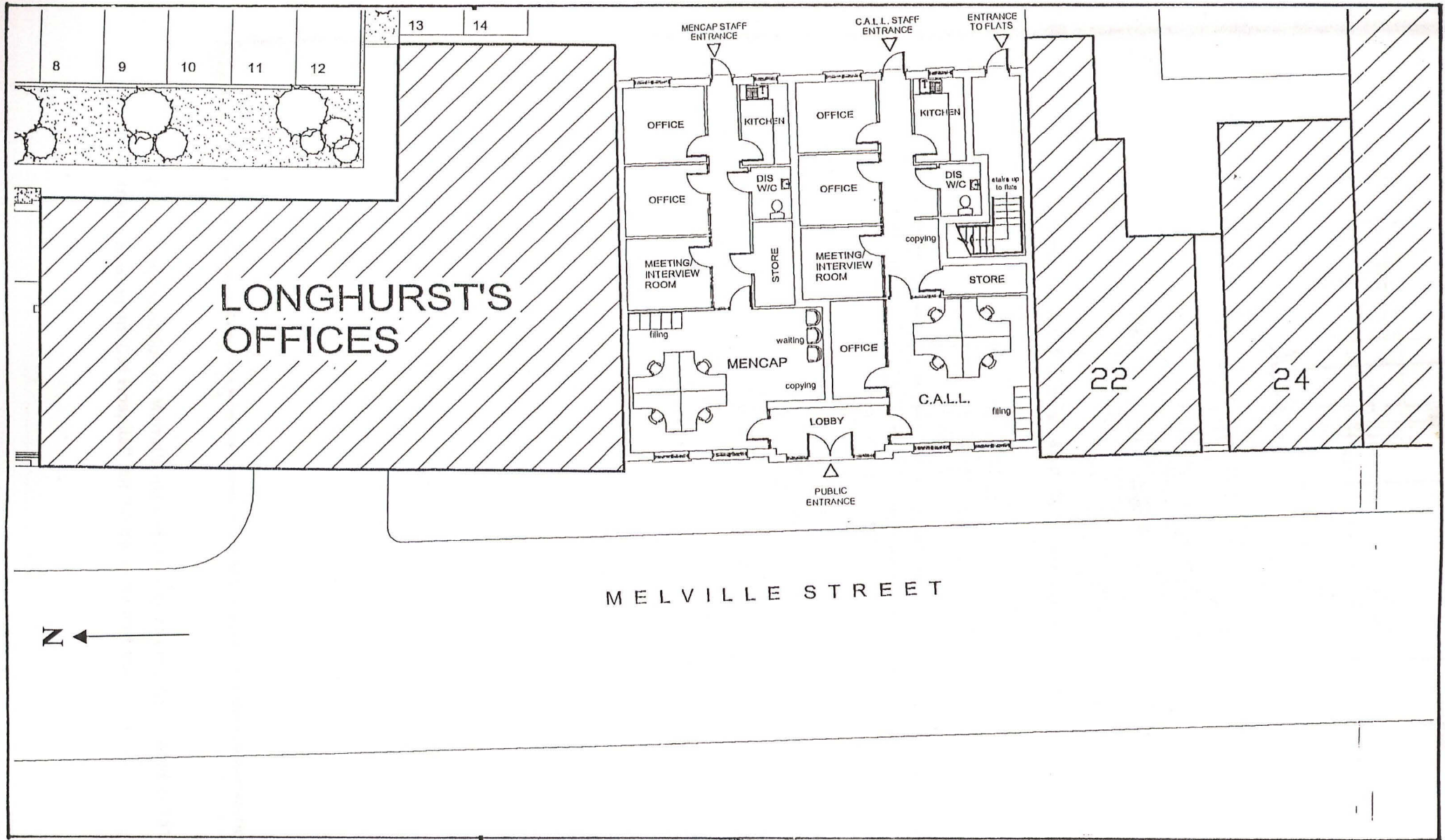


Fig. 2 Location of 16, 18 and 20 Melville Street. From a plan provided by the client

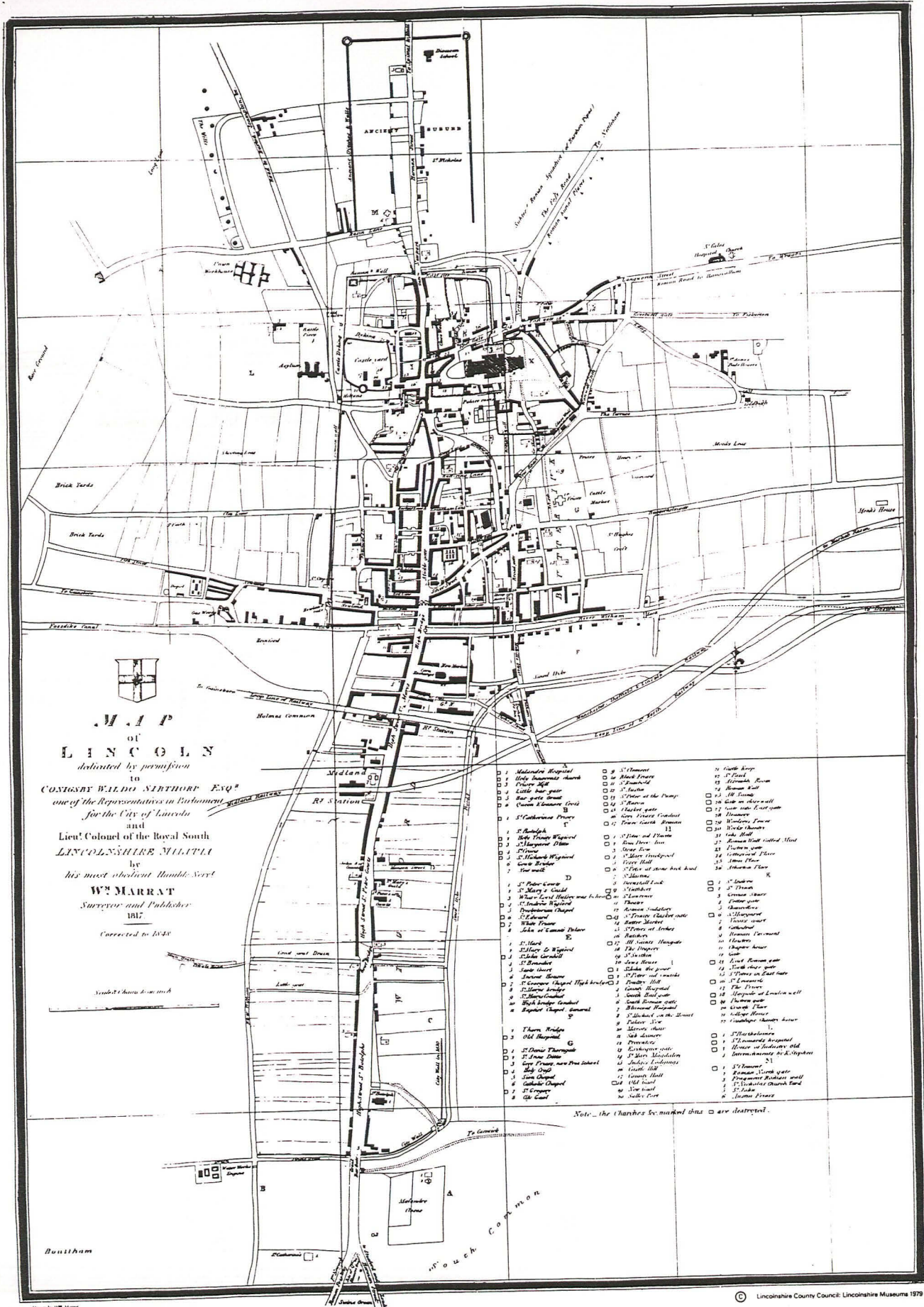
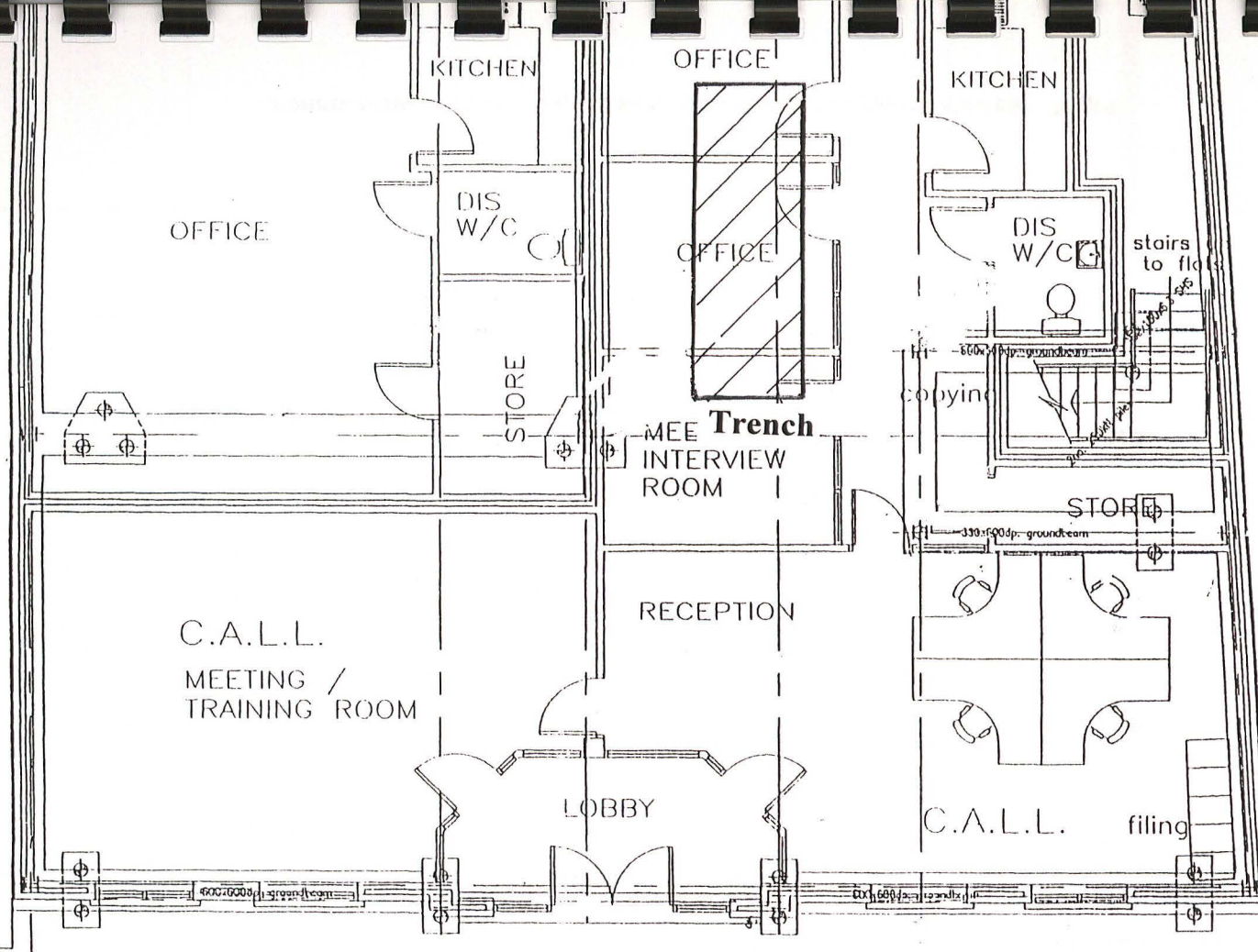


Fig. 3 Reproduction of Marrat's map of the city of Lincoln, printed in 1817, revised in 1848, showing an 'Old Hospital' on the development site.

Longhurst Housing Association



22

Melville Street

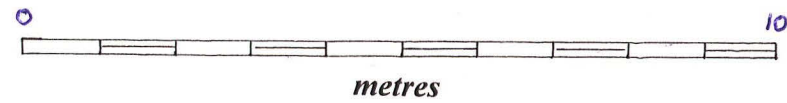


Fig.4 Location of the evaluation trench in relation to the proposed new building.

6.89m O.D.

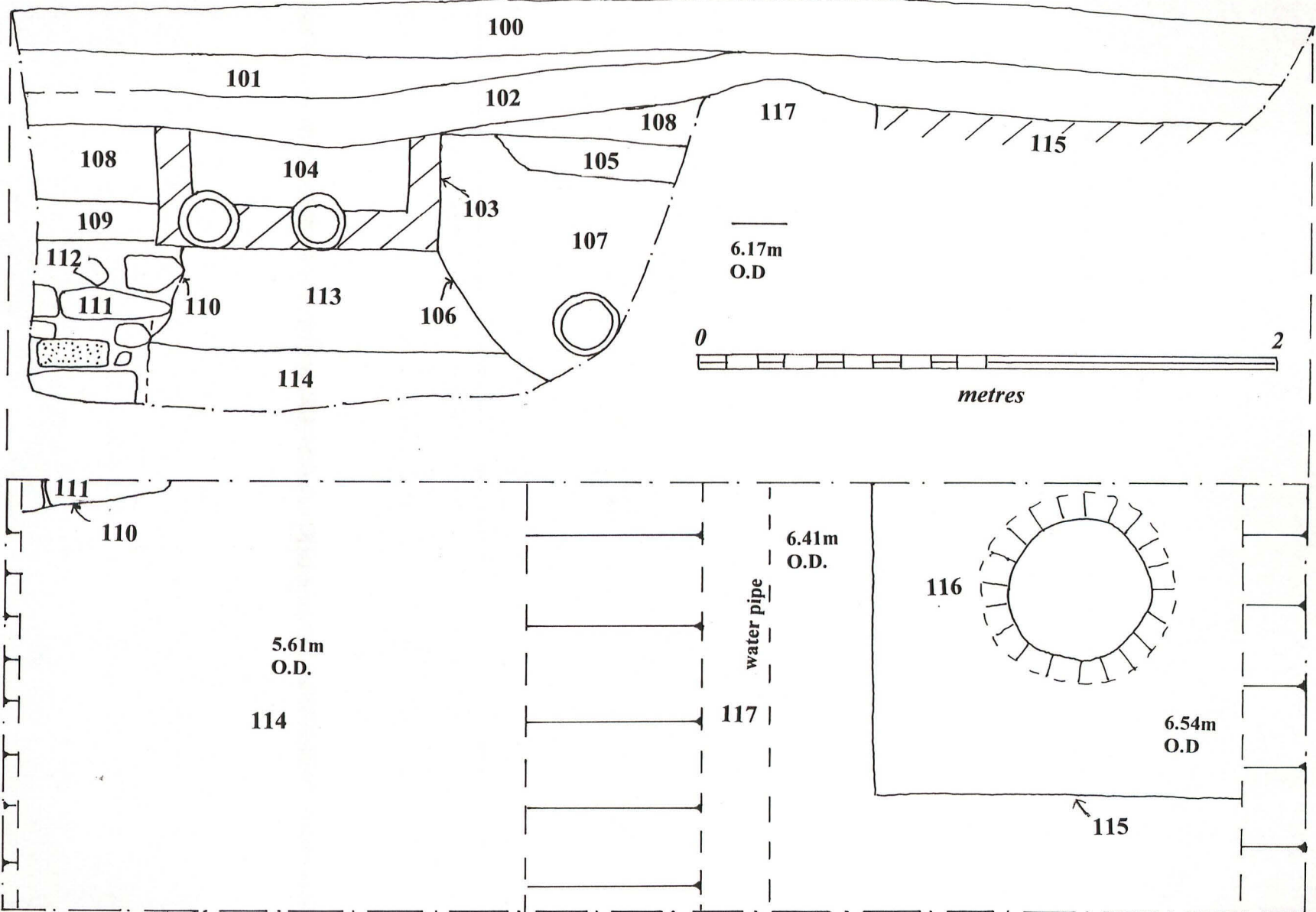


Fig. 5 Melville Street, Lincoln. Plan and section of the evaluation trench.



**THE PLATES**



PI. 1 Melville Street, Lincoln. General view of site. Looking south west.

PI. 2 Machine excavation of trench under archaeological supervision.





PI. 3 The evaluation trench after cleaning. Looking east. Scales 1m and 2m

PI. 4 South section of the trench. Vertical scale 1m, horizontal scale 2m.

