

GREESTONE CENTRE, LINCOLN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
REPORT

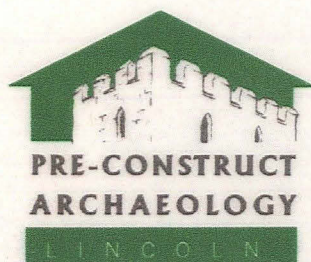
Site code	GCUL 03
NGR:	SK 97845 71613
LCCM Acc No:	2003.278

Report prepared for the University of Lincoln

by

R. D. Gardner

August 2003



Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)
Unit G
William Street Business Park
Saxilby
Lincoln
LN1 2LP
Tel. & Fax. 01522 703800

©Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)

Contents

	Summary	1
1.0	Introduction	2
2.0	Location and description	2
3.0	Planning background	3
4.0	Archaeological and historical background	3
5.0	Methodology	3
6.0	Results	4
	6.1 Trench 1	4
	6.2 Trenches 2, 3 and 4	4
7.0	Discussion and Conclusions	5
8.0	Effectiveness of methodology	5
9.0	Acknowledgements	5
10.0	References	5
11.0	Site archive	6

Illustrations

- Fig. 1: Location of site at scale 1:25000
Fig. 2: Location of site at scale 1:1000
Fig. 3: Trench location plan at scale 1:200
Fig. 4: Trench section drawings, scale 1:50

Appendices

- Appendix 1 Colour Plates
Appendix 2 Post-Roman pottery report by J. Young
Appendix 3 Tile report by J. Young
Appendix 4 Context Summary



Summary

- *An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks for a new studio/exhibition pavilion at the Greestone Centre, Lindum Road, Lincoln.*
- *The development site lies outside the walls of Roman Lincoln, in an area believed to have been occupied by its outer defences. It is believed to have been continuously inhabited since the Roman period.*
- *A number of archaeological deposits were observed, some of which could be dated to the 13th century.*

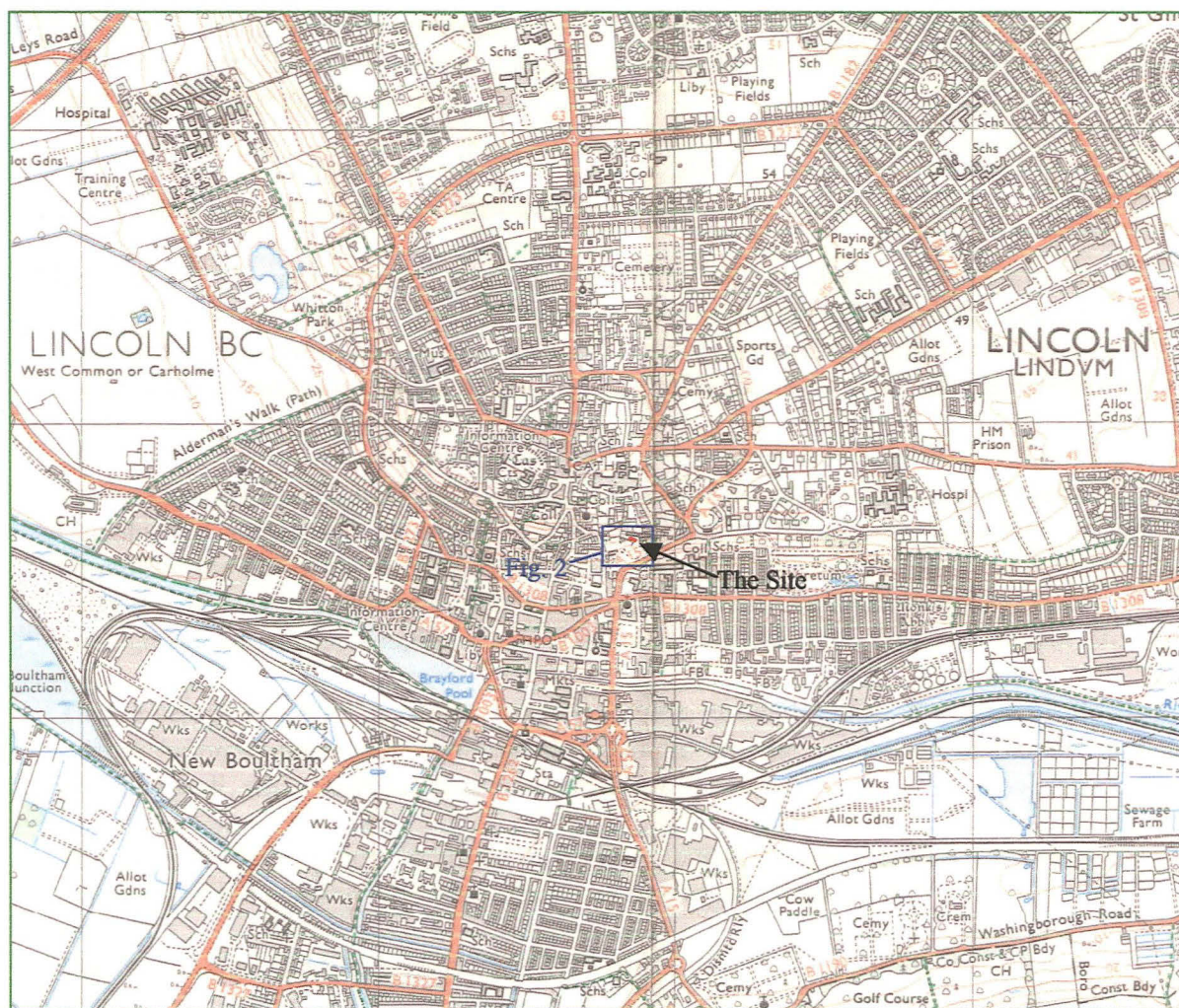


Fig. 1: Site location. Area highlighted in red is the development plot, the blue square is that seen in fig. 2. (Scale 1:25000; OS copyright ref AL 515 21 A0001)

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by the University of Lincoln to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks for a new studio/exhibition pavilion at the Greestone Centre, Lindum Road, Lincoln.

These works were undertaken to fulfil the objectives of a formal project brief issued by the City Archaeologist of Lincoln City Council, and a project specification prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). This approach is consistent with the recommendations of *Archaeology & Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (Department of the Environment, 1990), *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991), *Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (IFA, 1999), and the Lincolnshire County Council document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: a manual of archaeological practice* (LCC, 1998).

Copies of this report have been deposited with the commissioning body and the County Sites and Monuments Record for Lincolnshire. Reports will also be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, along with an ordered project archive for long term storage and curation.

2.0 Site location and description (Figs. 1 & 2)

Lincoln lies towards the west edge of the county of Lincolnshire, approximately 25 km north-east of Newark-on-Trent and 25km north-west of Sleaford. The site is located near the centre of Lincoln, north of Temple Gardens and north and east of the Usher Gallery grounds, south of the Bishop's Palace, and west of the Greestone Centre itself.

The uppermost geological strata in this part of Lincoln consist of Crossi Bed Lincolnshire Limestone overlying Lower Lincolnshire Limestone, with the surface horizon of the underlying Lower Estuarine Beds and Northampton Sand and Ironstone outcropping near the southern edge of the site (British Geological Survey, 1967). A geological fault running roughly NNW-SSE passes very close to the development site.

The development area occupies a level terrace, around which the ground slopes steeply (approximately 40°) from north to south. On the south side of the site is a retaining wall, with a vertical drop of some 2-3m.

The current development replaces temporary buildings on the site, involving the extension of the existing strip foundations on the original lines.

Central National Grid Reference SK 97845 71613.

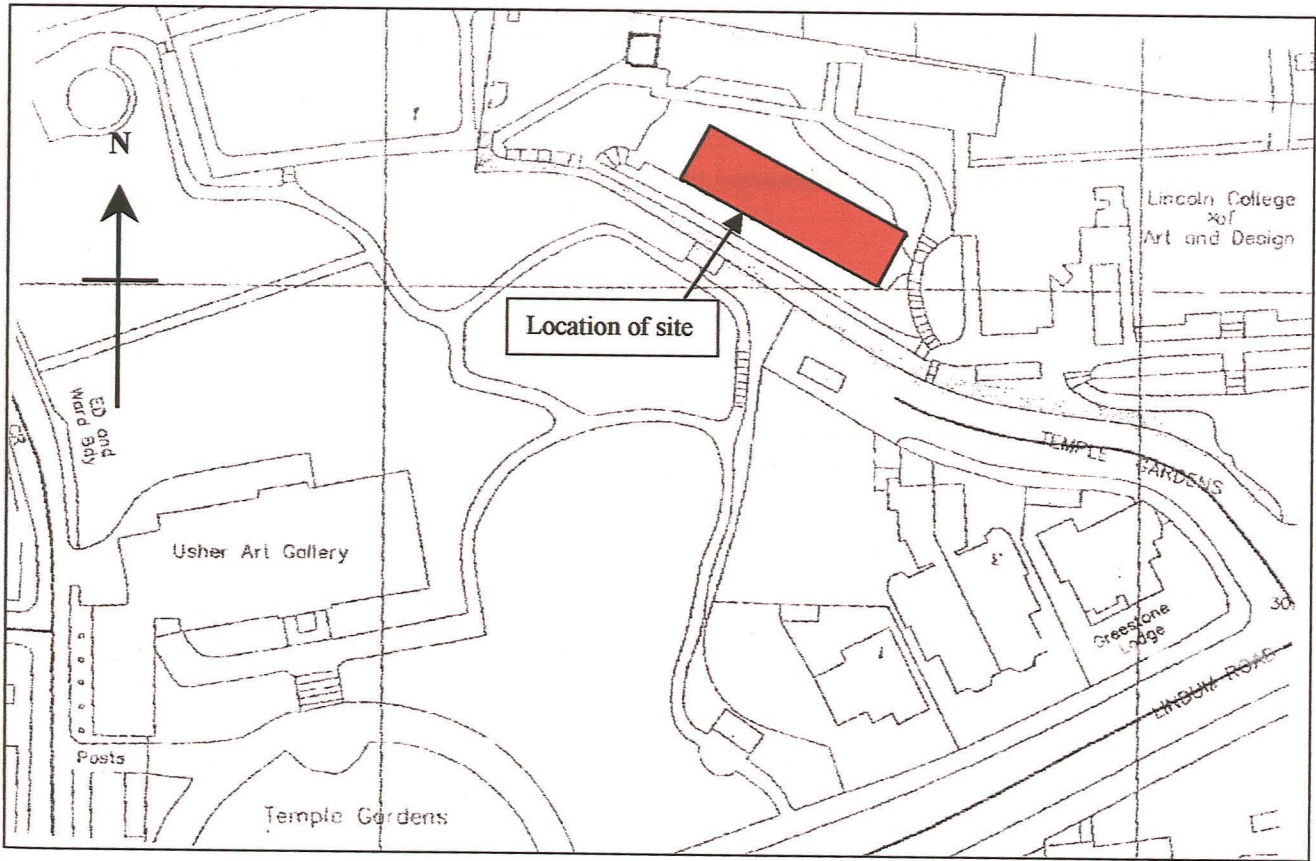


Fig. 2: Site location plan: the development area is shown in red. Scale 1:1000.

3.0 Planning background

Full planning consent has been granted for the erection of a new studio/exhibition pavilion (planning ref. 2003/0363/F). This permission was granted subject to the undertaking of an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

The draft Lincoln Archaeological Research Assessment contains records indicating that the site lies within an area of some archaeological sensitivity. There is little coherent evidence of prehistoric activity in the region now occupied by Lincoln city (Jones, 2002), but it does lie on the route of the Jurassic Way, a long-distance routeway which may have been in use from the Mesolithic or Neolithic periods, and is believed to have passed close to the development site.

Lincoln was a major administrative centre during the Roman occupation of Britain: the development site lies outside the Roman walls, but there may have been some settlement in this area, later forming part of the suburban development to the east of the walled town. The city defences may also have been close to the site – the line of the outer edge of the late Roman defensive ditch is believed to pass through it – as may cemetery areas, which were obliged by law to be sited outside the town walls.

Following the deterioration and eventual withdrawal of Roman imperial rule in the 5th century AD, the development site remained within the residential area of the town, still served by the former Roman road network, and continued to be inhabited through the medieval and into the modern period.

The Usher Art Gallery was built, and public parks and gardens laid out, in the 19th and 20th centuries. The older parts of the adjacent university buildings, which range from the Victorian period to the 1960s, were originally a girls' high school: the development site occupies the area of the school playground.

5.0 Methodology

Prior to the watching brief, the existing temporary building was demolished, leaving the raised concrete foundations in situ. The trenches for the extended foundations were dug with a mini-digger, and were approximately 0.5m wide and 3.0m deep. Four foundation trenches were excavated, three of which were some 3m long, and the most northerly being 11m (Fig. 3).

The trenches were too deep and narrow to be entered safely, and so hand cleaning and excavation of the sections was not permitted. The sections were closely observed from the surface and measured drawings made at 1:50 scale; dating evidence was retrieved, where possible, during excavation, from spoil deposited by the machine. Context information was recorded on the site drawings. A colour photographic record was maintained, selected prints from which have been reproduced in this report.

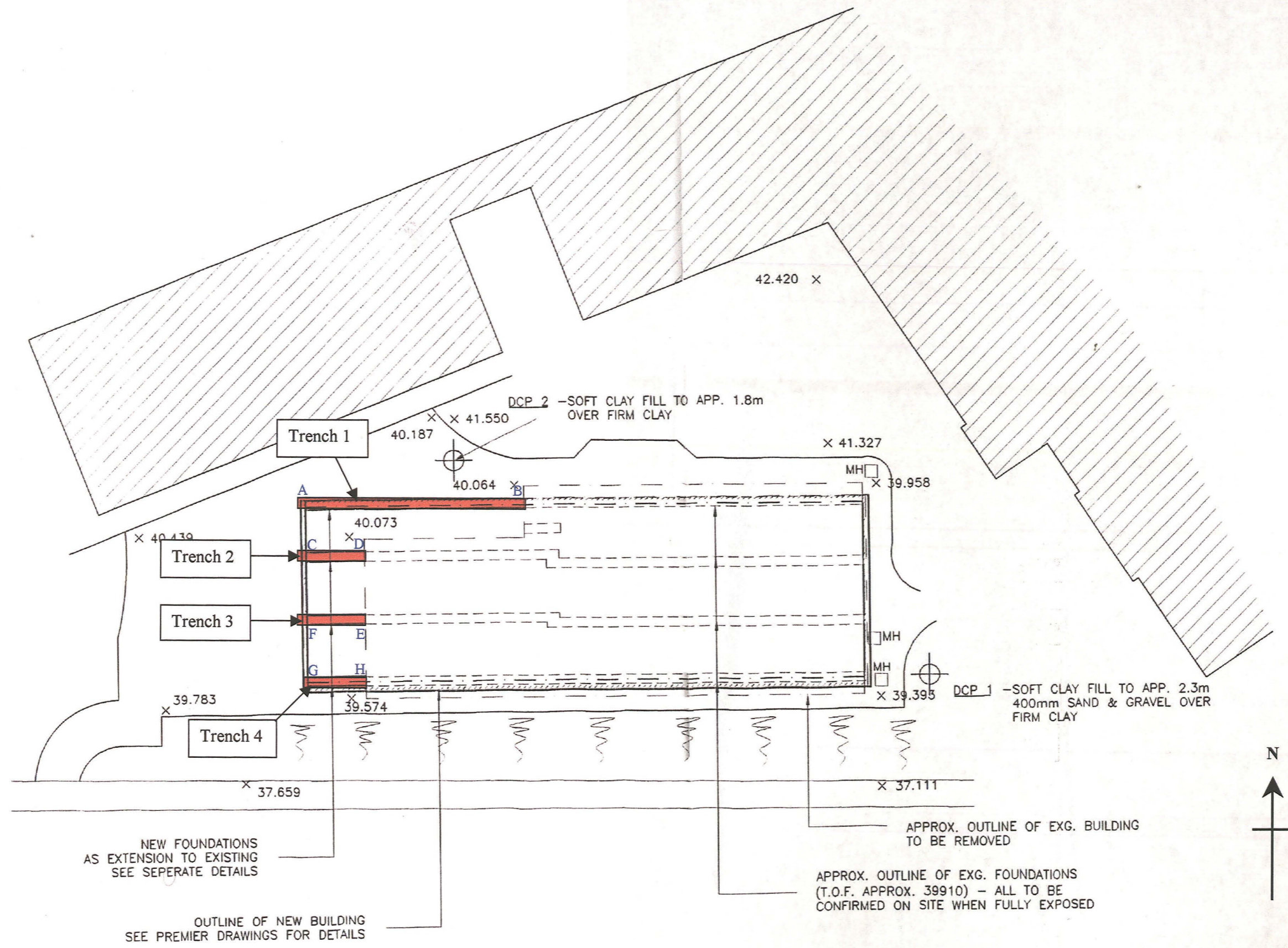


Fig. 3: extract from architect's plan, showing location of trenches in red. Scale 1:200.

The excavation and monitoring of the groundworks took place over two days; the watching brief was carried out by S.A. Savage.

6.0 Results (Fig. 4)

6.1 Trench 1

The modern tarmac and its bedding layer covered the asphalt surface of the school playground, which in turn covered a brick surface 002: the bricks are frogged, with 'LBC PHORPRES' stamped in the frog. The layers below this were disturbed by a modern sewer and inspection pit. Layer 006, at the west end of the trench, was a mid-brown slightly sandy clay containing charcoal flecks and fragments of limestone and brick or tile; layer 004, east of 006, was a very dark greyish-brown sandy clay containing domestic refuse – shell, bone, charcoal etc. 006 sealed a large cut, possibly a pit, containing redeposited natural 007 over a layer of concrete; it also sealed a cleaner redeposit, 008. Below 004 was a mid greenish-brown slightly sandy clay 005, containing limestone fragments. On the south side of both 004 and 005 was structure 003, a wall of undressed and uncoursed limestone blocks set in clay resembling 005.

The concrete-based pit is cut into natural 010, a mid orange-brown stiff clay with greyish-blue veins: the rest of the base of Trench 1 is occupied by a very large cut with fill 009, a mid greenish-brown plastic slightly sandy clay containing occasional charcoal flecks and limestone fragments. This cut extended below the base and beyond the south end of the trench, and so its width and depth are not known: fill 009 produced two sherds of Lincoln Glazed Ware dating to the 13th century.

6.2 Trenches 2, 3 and 4

The three shorter trenches were all sealed by the modern tarmac and bedding layer; the asphalt playground surface was also present in Trench 4. In Trenches 2 and 3, the first earth layer was 011, a dark brown friable sandy clay containing charcoal flecks, shell and animal bone. In Trench 2, 011 lay directly over natural clay 010; in Trench 3, it sealed layer 012, a mid- to dark greyish-brown clay containing occasional slate and brick fragments, which in turn overlay layer 013, a very dark greyish-brown humic clay suggesting a buried topsoil. 013 was also present in Trench 4, but at a greater depth. Here the tarmac and asphalt layers overlay dark greyish-brown clay 014, below which was a thin layer of redeposited natural, 015, over a very deep layer of very dark greyish-brown compact slightly sandy clay, 016. This layer contained charcoal, shell, animal bone, fragments of building material (including both modern roofing slate and a fragment of 13th-15th century tile) and a sherd of Lincoln Glazed Ware, again dating to the 13th century. It overlay layer 013, which in both trenches was directly above natural clay 010.

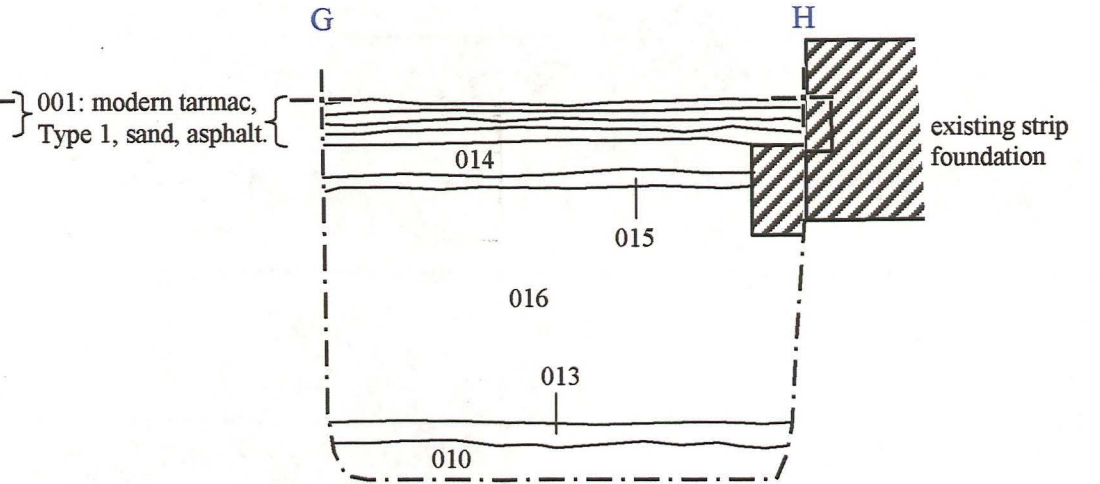
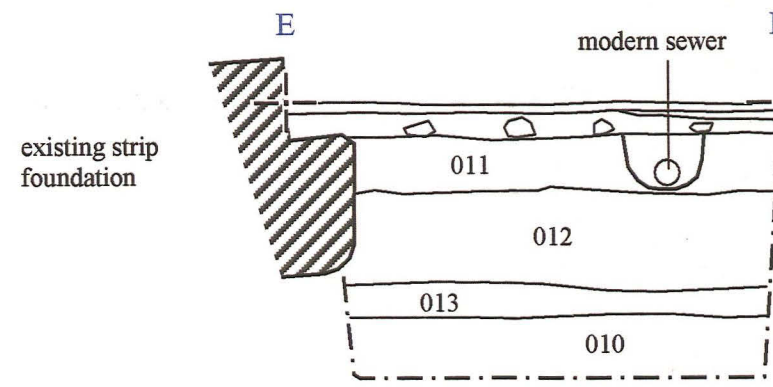
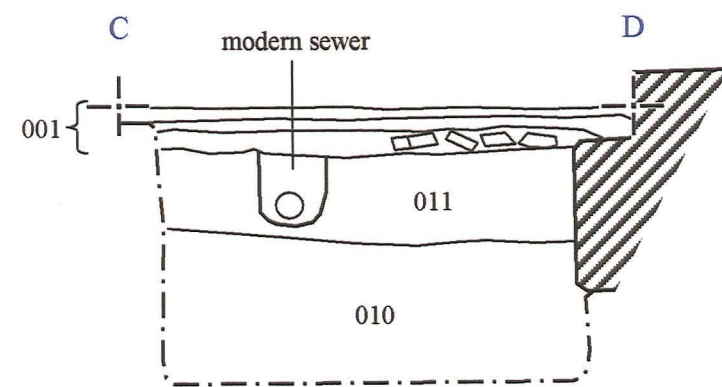
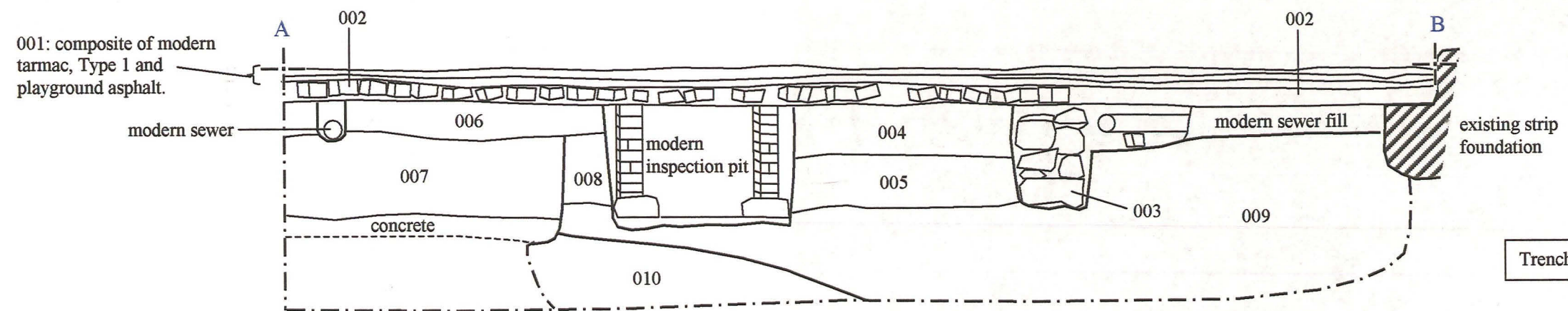


Fig. 4: Sections of Trenches 1-4 (see fig. 3 for location of individual sections). Scale 1:50.

7.0 Discussion and conclusion

Since fill 009 was deposited no earlier than the 13th century, it seems unlikely that the large cut feature which it fills can be associated with the Roman defences. However, the possibility cannot entirely be ruled out, as the base of the feature was not reached, and it is not impossible that 009 represents a final back-filling of a much earlier feature which had only partially been closed by natural processes after it went out of use.

Layers 004 and 005 cannot reliably be dated, but appeared to be contemporary with (not cut by) wall 003, and may represent a revetment behind it, or fills within a building foundation whose west side has been destroyed, possibly by construction of the inspection pit.

The relative depth of the natural clay 010 in trenches 2, 3 and 4 follows the slope of the surrounding land to the south, with buried topsoil 013 indicating original ground level where it survives. These three trenches contain a series of modern mass fills (the presence of modern brick rubble and slate in 016 indicate that the medieval pottery and tile is residual), probably representing terracing and levelling activity for the construction of the school and its playground in the 19th century.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology chosen raised some difficulties, as the deep, narrow foundation trenches could not be entered after excavation, and deposits near their bases could not easily be observed. However, the limited significance of the deposits exposed indicates that a more detailed level of archaeological intervention was not required.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank the University of Lincoln for this commission. Thanks are also due to John Martin-Hoyes Construction and to Paul Burnett of CLS Demolition for their assistance during the project.

10.0 References

British Geological Survey, 1967, *Lincoln. England and Wales Sheet 114. Solid and Drift Geology*. One inch series, Keyworth, Nottingham.

IFA, 1999, *Standard Guidance for Archaeological Excavations*. Birmingham, Institute of Field Archaeologists.

Jones, M.J., 2002, *Roman Lincoln – Conquest, Colony and Capital*, Tempus, Gloucestershire.

LCC, 1998, *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice*. Lincoln, Built Environment Section, Lincolnshire County Council.

11.0 Site archive

The documentary and physical archive for the site is currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). This will be deposited at Lincoln City and County Museum within six months. Access to the archive may be gained by quoting the global accession number 2003.278.

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Pl.1: General shot of site from south-west corner, looking east.



Pl. 2 (left): General shot of site from university buildings, looking west.

Pl 3 (right): General shot of trench 1, looking east.

Pl 4 (Below): Wall [003] seen in the north section of trench 1.



Pl 5 (right): General shot of trench 3, looking SE.



Appendix 2: Pottery Archive by Jane Young

context	cname	full name	form type	sherds	weight	part	description	date
016	LSW2	13th to 14th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	jug	1	23	BS		13th
009	LSW2	13th to 14th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	jug	1	61	handle with UHJ	bulging neck	early/mid to mid 13th
009	LSW2	13th to 14th century Lincoln Glazed Ware	jug	1	4	BS		13th

Appendix 3: Tile Archive by Jane Young

context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	description	date
016	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1	1	47	flat roofer	13th to 15th

Appendix 4: Context summary

Context	Description	Trench
001	Modern Tarmac over Type 1 chalk rubble, sand and asphalt	1-4
002	Brick surface	1
003	Limestone block wall	1
004	V dark greyish brown sandy clay	1
005	Greenish brown sandy clay	1
006	Mid brown sandy clay	1
007	Redeposited natural, occ. limestone inclusions	1
008	Redeposited natural, clean	1
009	Mid greenish brown sandy plastic clay – mass fill	1
010	Natural mid orange-brown blue/grey veined stiff clay	1-4
011	Dark brown friable sandy clay	2,3
012	Dark grey brown clay	3
013	V dark greyish brown humic clay	3,4
014	Dark grey brown clay	4
015	Redeposited natural, occ. limestone frags	4
016	V dark greyish brown sandy clay – mass fill	4