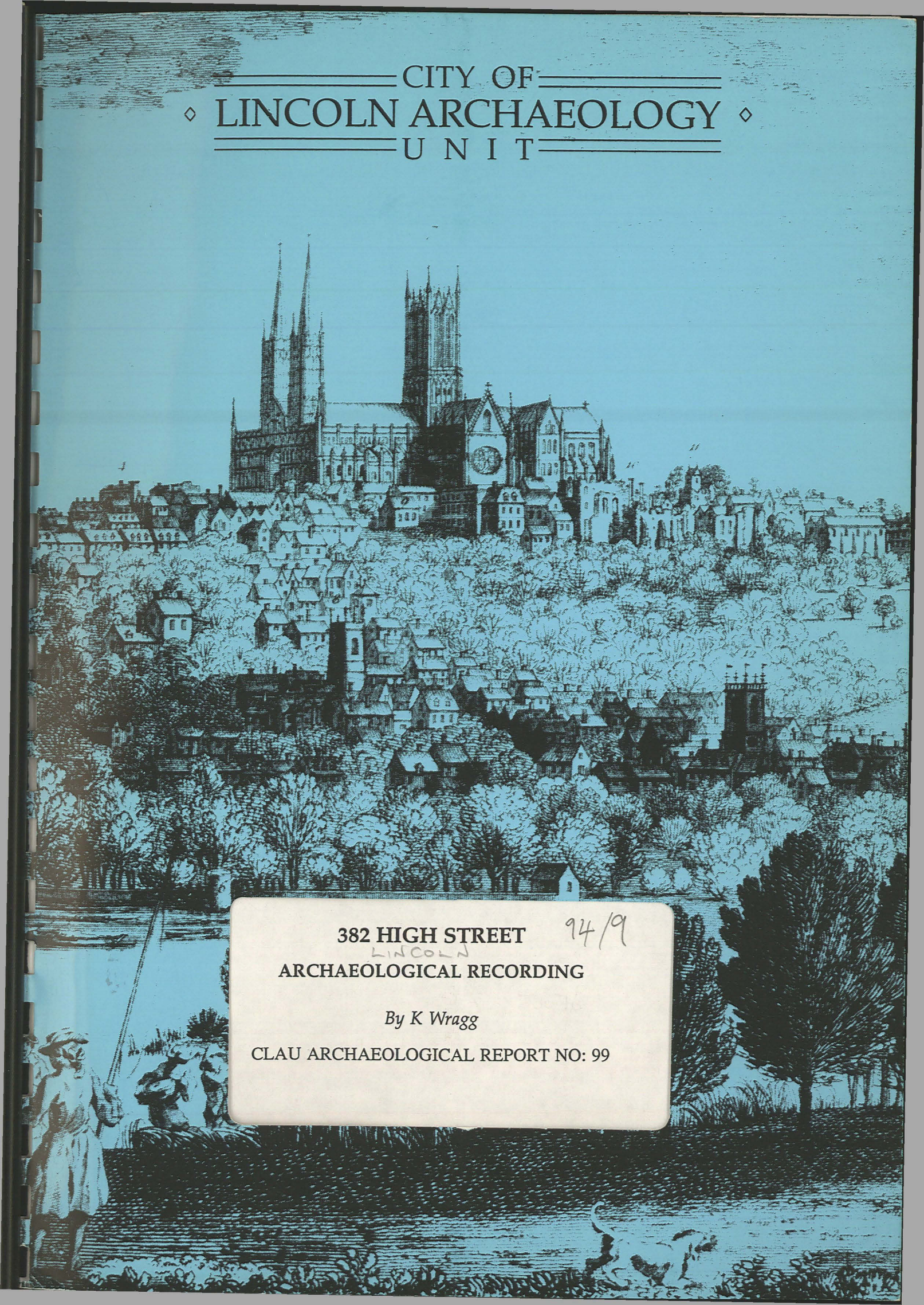


CITY OF
◇ LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY ◇
U N I T

382 HIGH STREET 94/9
LINCOLN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

By K Wragg

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 99



ELI 6812

SLI 1785 1445

70018 - Roman

A

Report to

Renfrew, Moore & Reet (Electricians), Lincoln

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT ARCHIVE REPORT

Archaeological Recording - 382 High Street

NOV 1994 THE CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

September 1994

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382 HIGH STREET

LINCOLN

94/9

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

By K Wragg

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 99

Level (10) was present in the area of the site and was found in the area of the site.

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT ARCHIVE REPORT

Archaeological recording - 382 High Street

NGR: SK 9B 704 FIELD OFFICER: K. WRAGG CLAU CODE : ON481

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO. 66.93 PLANNING APPLICATION NO. LF36/0470/93

1. Introduction

In response to an archaeological condition of planning permission, the owner/ developers Renfrew, Moore and Reet (electrical contractors), commissioned CLAU to monitor excavation of foundation trenches to the rear of the above premises, in order to secure a record of any archaeological remains revealed by such groundwork.

The groundwork commenced on the 25th October 1993, and involved hand excavation of an "L"-shaped foundation trench measuring approximately 3.0m (N-S) x 3.5m (E-W). It had been intended that the finished depth of the trenches would be approximately 1.2m, but, as is often the case with projects of this nature, following inspection by the Building Inspector it was decided that further excavation was necessary to provide a suitable base for the foundations. Ultimately excavation continued to a depth of between 1.4m and 1.5m before a suitable stable surface was reached. This surface was, however, possibly part of a Roman road, or perhaps a yard surface as shown on Figs.1 & 3. It is interesting to note that had excavation been halted at the original proposed depth, very little of archaeological interest would have been revealed.

Background

The site lies in an area of considerable archaeological importance, with remains from the Roman, medieval and later periods all well preserved along the line of the High Street. Of particular relevance to this project were the discoveries found during excavation at the St.Mary's Guildhall (immediately to the south of the site), which included the remains of the two major Roman roads that converged on the city from the south, the Fosse Way and Ermine Street, together with parts of Roman "strip buildings" (possibly traders' houses) enclosed by the roads. This occupation was overlain by 10th - 12th century dumping activity, possibly to be associated with adjacent structures, and the subsequent construction of the Guildhall, thought to have taken place in the 1150s - 1160s. Evidence for substantial medieval development and redevelopment is also to be seen within the remaining buildings and in the surrounding areas.

2. Results

The earliest deposit recorded was [109], a layer of moderately compacted mid grey-brown sandy earth containing frequent small flecks of limestone and charcoal. This was only visible at the Limit Of Excavation (L.O.E.), and was overlain by [106], a surface made up of irregularly shaped, roughly flat pieces of limestone. This surface was basically horizontal (appearing at a depth of approximately 1.30m below the existing modern ground surface), with no obvious signs of bonding, and was most evident in the south east corner of the excavated area, seeming to disappear towards the northern end of the trench. Overlying [106] was a c.100mm thick layer of moderately compacted mid grey-brown sandy earth (with a slight green tint) [105], containing very occasional small flecks of limestone. A small amount of pottery fragments was also recovered from this deposit, dating from the Roman period.

Layer [105] was present across the entire site, and was cut to the west by [108], a seemingly linear feature

oriented roughly N-S. This feature could not be investigated owing to depth restrictions, and therefore neither the full extent nor the profile could be established. The fill of [108] was a mid-dark brown moderately compacted (friable) fine grained earth, [107], containing occasional small pieces of limestone and sandstone, flecks of shell and very small isolated traces of charcoal/burning. The top of this fill appeared at L.O.E., approximately 1.30m below the modern ground level.

The layer overlying [107], was present over most of the trench, disappearing approximately 500mm - 800mm from the northern extreme of the excavated area. Consisting of a moderately compacted, friable light yellow/ orange-brown sand containing occasional small pieces of limestone and bone, and flecks of dark grey-brown sand, this layer, [104], was approximately 200mm thick, and was subsequently overlain by [103].

Layer [103] was a 200mm-300mm thick layer of moderately compacted mid (dull) orange-brown sand containing occasional small pieces of charcoal, together with very occasional small flecks of limestone and pieces of bone. This was sealed by [102], a mid brown sandy earth containing very occasional small flecks of limestone and brick/tile, which was between 400mm and 700mm thick.

Towards the northern end of the trench, layer [102] was cut by [111], a large feature seen only in the east facing section (see Fig.4). This appeared to be a large pit approximately 900mm deep and measuring 1.40m N-S at the widest point, with sides at between 45 and 60 degrees to the horizontal turning to form a rounded base. As this feature was only seen in section, the overall extent or its shape in plan are not known. Cut [111] was filled by [110], a moderately compacted mid-dark, very slightly grey-brown earth containing very occasional small flecks of limestone and frequent pieces of animal bone, which was in turn sealed by the shallow concrete foundations [112], for the existing building.

The foundations comprised a layer of well compacted limestone hardcore and sand/cement mortar, and occurred at a depth of approximately 350mm below the present yard surface, extending 500mm south of the upstanding building. The projecting elements of the foundations [112] were overlain by the layer of rubble fill/hardcore [101], which formed the base for the present concrete yard surface [100].

3. Conclusions

Notwithstanding the small scale of the excavation involved in this project, several interesting features were revealed. From the dating evidence it would appear that the surface [106] originated from the Roman period, and its alignment suggests that it is possibly part of one of the two major roads known to be present in this area (most likely the more easterly road Ermine Street). However, given that little was revealed to indicate the full extent of this surface, it is also possible that the remains might be part of a yard or side street associated with either the roads or adjacent structures.

The documentary and photographic archive created by this project will be transferred in due course to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. Summary data will also be accessioned to the County Sites and Monument Record.

K. Wragg

September 1994

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT
 SITE CODE: ON 481 PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:
 CLIENT: RENFREW, MOORE AND REET, LINCOLN
 DESCRIPTION: SITE LOCATION PLAN
 SCALE: 1:500 ARCHIVE NO:
 DRAWN BY: - CHECKED: DATE: -
 MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: -

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
SITE CODE: ON 481	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT: RENFREW, MOORE AND REET, LINCOLN		
DESCRIPTION: SITE LOCATION PLAN		
SCALE: 1:500	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY: -	CHECKED:	DATE: -
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: -		

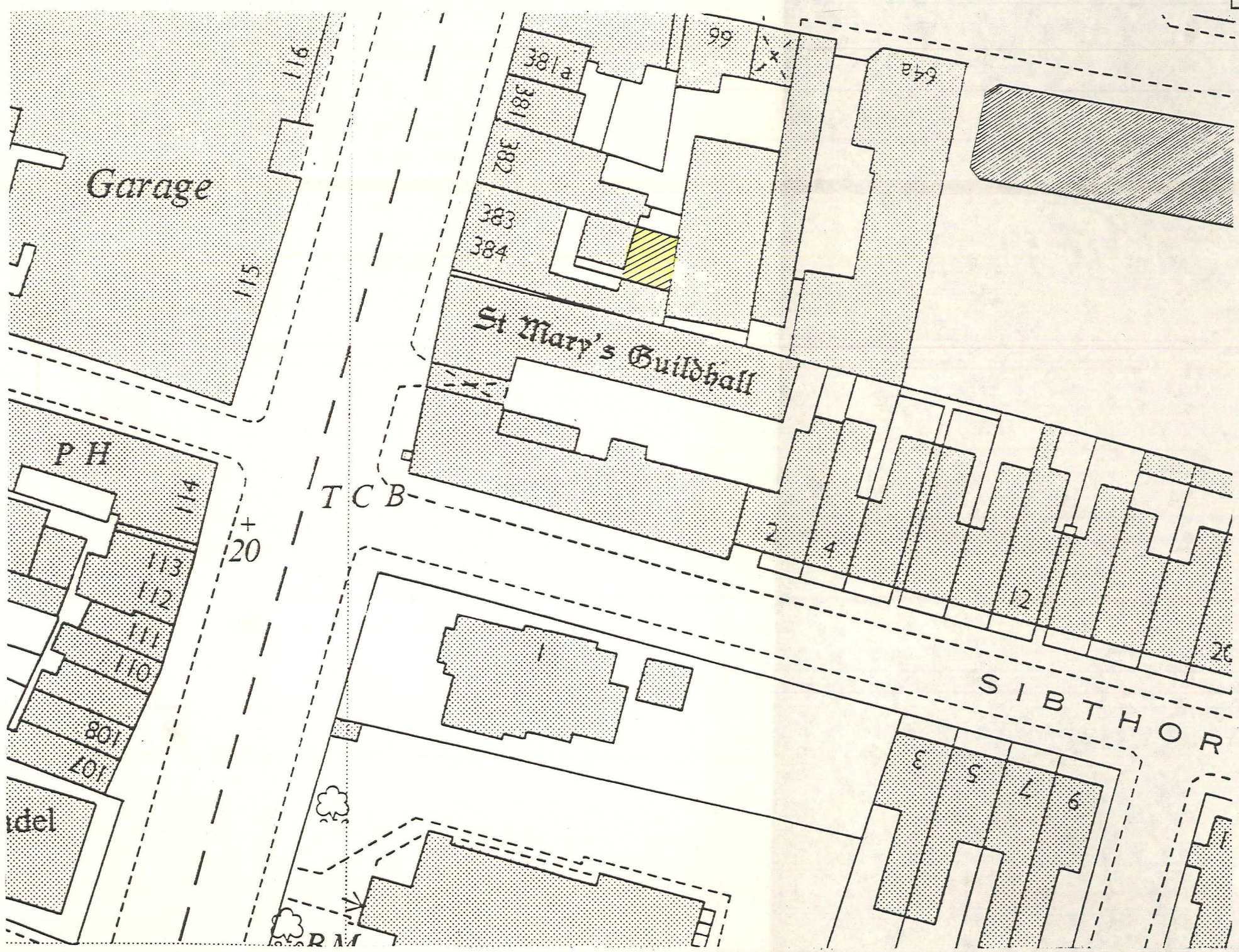


Fig.1

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT
 SCOPE: ON 481 | PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO: 3
 CLIENT: Renfrew, Moore and Reet, Lincoln
 DESCRIPTION: North facing section, south-east corner of site
 SCALE: 1:20 | ARCHIVE NO:
 DRAWN BY: K.W. | CHECKED: | DATE: 26/10/93

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT
 SITE CODE: ON 481 | PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO: 3
 CLIENT: Renfrew, Moore and Reet, Lincoln.
 DESCRIPTION: Plan of surface 106, and cut feature 107 / 108
 SCALE: 1:20 | ARCHIVE NO:
 DRAWN BY: K.W. | CHECKED: | DATE: 26/10/93



Fig.2

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE: ON 481 PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:

CLIENT: Renfrew, Moore and Reet, Lincoln.

DESCRIPTION: East facing section, northern area of trench

SCALE: 1:10

ARCHIVE NO:

DRAWN BY: K.W.

CHECKED:

DATE: 26/10/93

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE: ON 481 PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO: 1

CLIENT: Renfrew, Moore and Reet, Lincoln.

DESCRIPTION: North facing section, south-east corner of site.

SCALE: 1:10

ARCHIVE NO:

DRAWN BY: K.W.

CHECKED:

DATE: 26/10/93

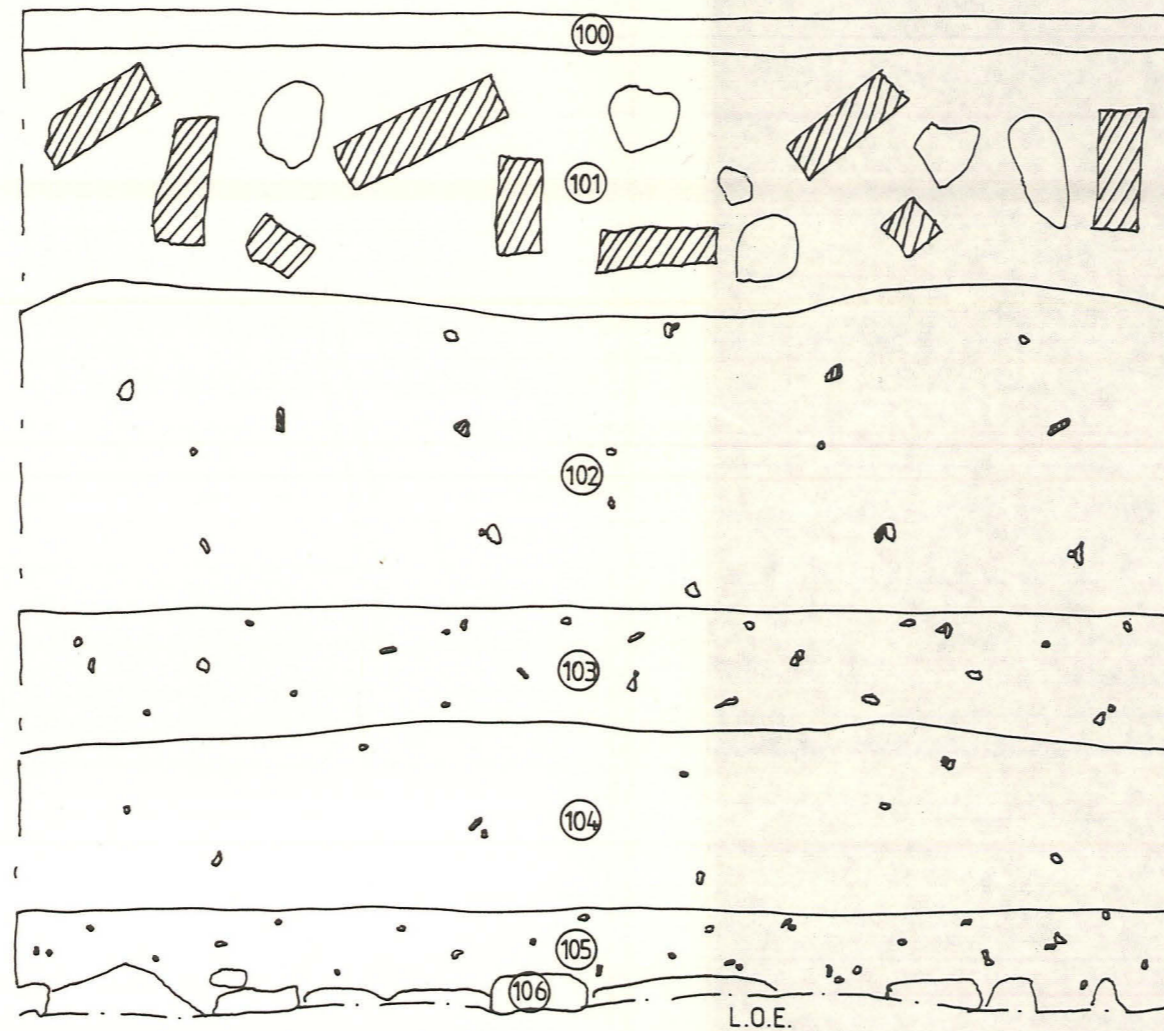


Fig.3

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
SITE CODE: ON481	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO: 2	
CLIENT: Renfrew, Moore and Reef, Lincoln.		
DESCRIPTION: East facing section, northern area of trench		
SCALE: 1:10	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY: K.W	CHECKED:	DATE: 28/10/93

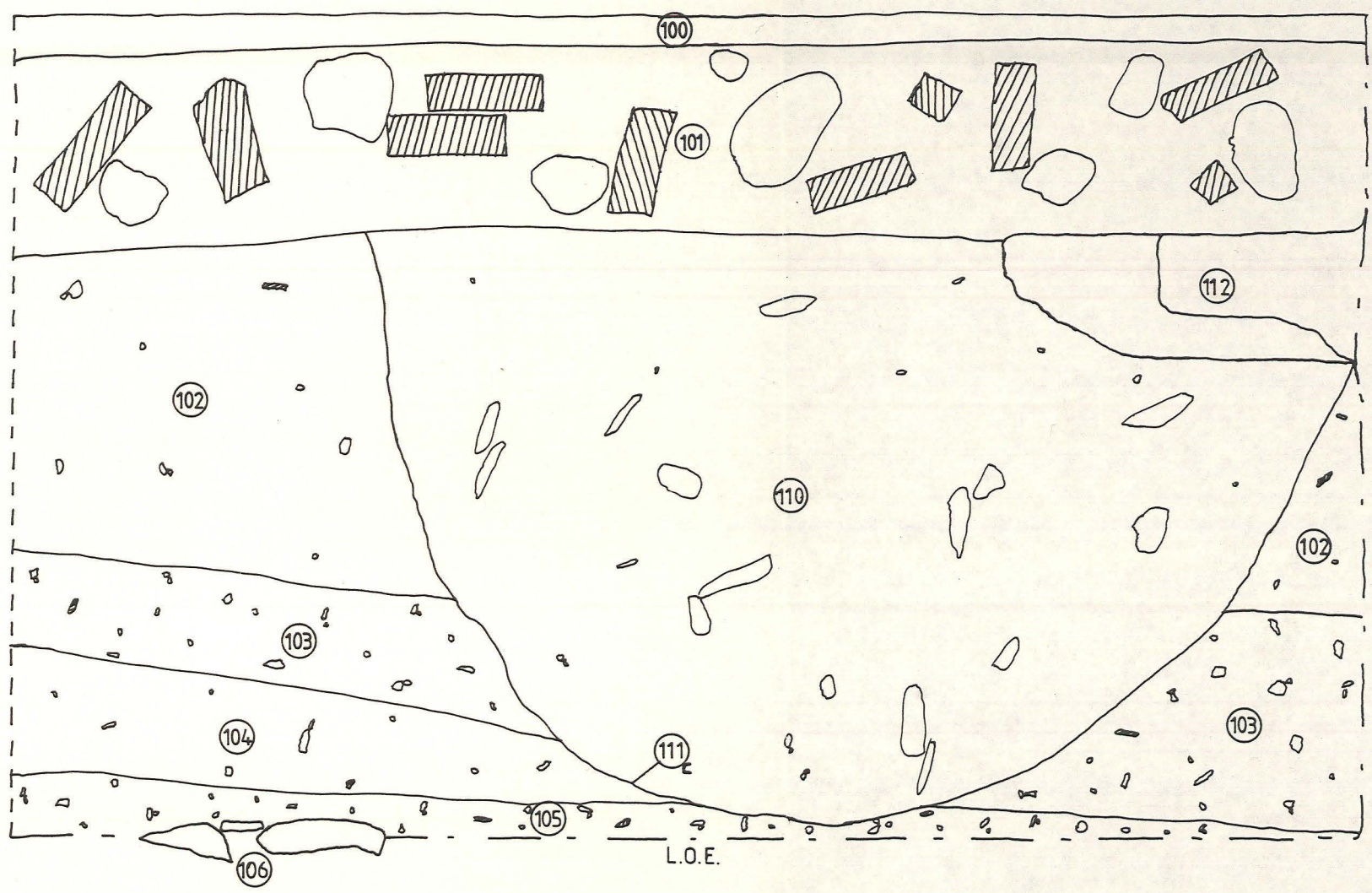


Fig.4