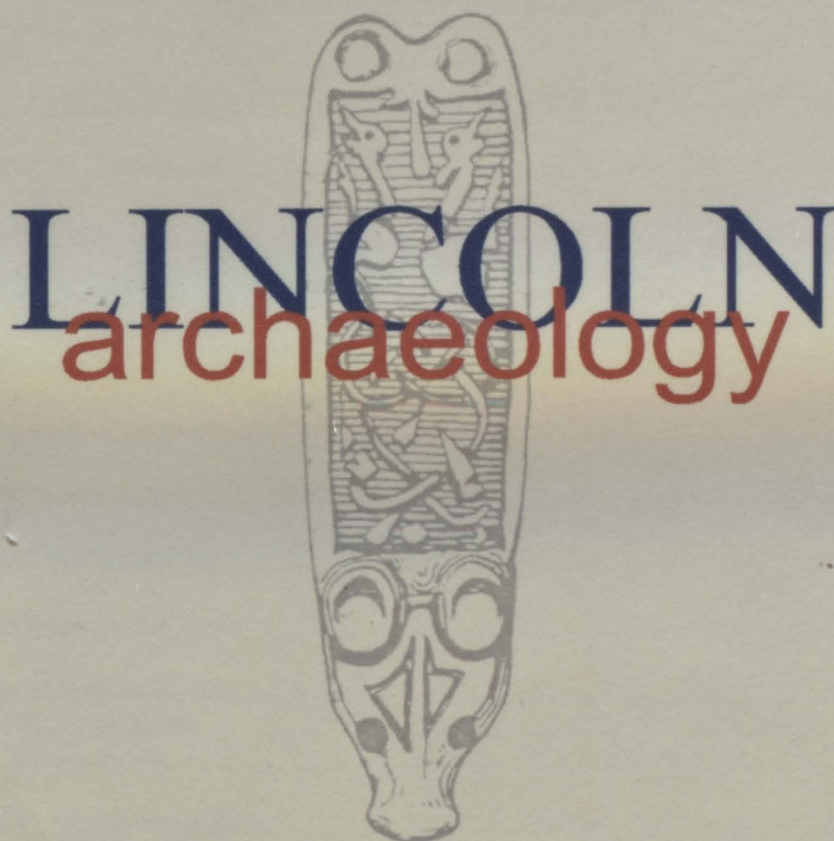


M4/3

A Report to City of Lincoln Council

February 2004



Gas Mains Renewal, St. Martins Square, Lincoln

Archaeological Watching Brief

By K Wragg

Report No.: 523

LINCOLN
 **archaeology**



Gas Mains Renewal, St Martin's Square, Lincoln

Site Code: ON609

LCCM Accession No.: -

Planning Application No.: -

NGR: SK 9760/7150

Archaeological Watching Brief

Contents	Page
NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY.....	1
1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	2
2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	2
3.0 RESULTS.....	4
3.1 Area A - St Martin's Square.....	5
3.2 Area B - Corner of High Street and The Strait.....	5
4.0 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS & CONCLUSIONS.....	5
5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	6
6.0 SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	6
7.0 LHA NOTES/ARCHIVE DETAILS.....	7
7.1 LHA Note details.....	7
7.2 Archive details.....	7
APPENDIX A Archive deposition.....	8
APPENDIX B Colour Plates.....	9

List of illustrations

Fig. 1	Site location plan	Scale 1:10000 & 1:1250
Fig. 2	Plan of archaeological remains, Area A	Scale 1:20
Fig. 3	Plan of archaeological remains, Area B	Scale 1:20

Conservation
Services

15 MAR 2004

Highways & Planning
Directorate

GAS MAINS RENEWAL, S^t MARTIN'S SQUARE, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- This project encompasses work undertaken in two separate areas at the northern end of the High Street, Lincoln. Both excavations were prompted by urgently required repairs to the gas main network (see Fig. 1).
- In both cases, the excavations were of very limited extent, and as 'permitted works' lay beyond the normal protective regulatory framework for groundworks in archaeologically sensitive areas.
- However, following the chance discovery of buried masonry, the site was visited by the City Archaeologist, Mr M. J. Jones. As a result, the Lincoln City Council Department of Planning commissioned the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU) to carry out an archaeological watching brief on the remaining groundwork. The project was part funded under the terms of the 'Emergency Archaeological Service' element of the Service Level Agreement between CLAU and Lincoln City Council, with additional funds provided directly by the Department of Planning. Attendance was carried out on an intermittent basis on the 1st of October 2001.
- However, ultimately, the results of this watching brief provided little positive evidence for actual ancient occupation in the areas investigated. The notable exceptions to this were the section of limestone walling, revealed at the northern end of Area A, and the very large limestone block in the northernmost section of Area B.
- Unfortunately, both of these features were undated and are of unknown function. The sheer size of the limestone block found incorporated into the existing foundations of the public house adjacent to Area B, suggested that it was reused from a larger structure. It was suggested by the City Archaeologist that this may have originally formed part of a Roman structure, although obviously without any supporting dating evidence this remains speculation.
- In spite of the generally inconclusive results from this particular project, the evidence for archaeological occupation in the surrounding areas is indisputable. This suggests that any future developments in the immediate vicinity might encounter important archaeological remains, and consideration should therefore be given to mitigate the effects of any subsequent work.

GAS MAINS RENEWAL, ST MARTIN'S SQUARE, LINCOLN

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

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NOTE

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

2.1 Pre-Roman (1st century BC and earlier)

The first historical reference to Lincoln is in the Geography of Ptolemy, written early in the 2nd Century AD, which mentions *Lindum* as being one of two chief cities of a local tribe, the *Coritani*, now thought to have been called the *Corieltavi*. Evidence for early settlement in Lincoln has remained somewhat elusive. While excavations to the east of Brayford Pool in 1972 produced pottery identified as being of late Iron Age or early Roman date, the case for any substantial prehistoric settlement centred on the present city remains unproven, although traces of 1st Century BC activity have been identified. However, to the east of Lincoln, excavations and chance finds have indicated a rich Iron Age culture and several important objects, including the Witham Shield, were found in dredging operations along the river.

The Brayford Pool, a natural lake, existed immediately to the west of the Lincoln Gap by the time of the Roman conquest. The first syllable of the colloquial Roman name *Lindum* is derived from the Celtic word for lake, pool or marshy/watery place.

2.2 Romano-British Period (1st - 4th century AD)

On historical evidence, the Roman army may have reached Lincoln by c. AD50 but dating of the earliest Roman structures excavated within the city indicates a date of c. AD54-65. By c. AD96, Lincoln had the status of a *colonia*, a self-governing civic community which utilized the uphill site of the former Neronian fortress. In the late 1st or early 2nd century, a grid of streets was laid out on the ground to the south of the fortress with both timber and masonry buildings erected. At the end of the 2nd century the process of extending the *colonia* wall down to the river front was commenced.

Evidence for the remains of the *colonia* have been recorded in various excavations in the uphill area of Lincoln. Some elements of the internal *colonia* layout and the position of various buildings have been found. The site lies at the core of the Roman lower city (and subsequent medieval town), in close proximity to the main north-south route followed by the modern High Street. Extensive archaeological excavations, mainly during the 1970's and 80's have been carried out to the south-east of the site - along Flaxengate, Grantham Place and Swan Street. This work produced evidence for Roman occupation spanning the late 1st/early 2nd century to the late 4th century - the remains including timber and stone buildings as well as several phases of the Roman street system.

The greatest period of prosperity in Roman Britain appears to have been from the 2nd century until c. AD350. This period, which included a more intense occupation of the hinterland to serve the food needs of the city, is also associated with major Roman engineering projects such as extended road systems and canals.

As capital of the new province of *Flavia Caesariensis* (one of the four new sub-provinces of Britain) from c. AD300 the fortifications of Lindum were strengthened to protect it as a seat of government and as a key element in the Imperial communication and taxation systems.

2.3 Anglo Saxon and Anglo Scandinavian Period (5th - 11th centuries)

Abandonment of the Roman City seems to have started in the late 4th century with town life reduced to a small community between the 5th to late 9th centuries. Following the Viking take-over of Lindsey in AD874, Lincoln became a centre for a Viking army and, subsequently, a Viking town. Evidence for increasing urbanisation in the 10th and 11th centuries has emerged from all parts of the former Roman city with Lincoln forming one, and probably the most important, of the so-called 'Five Boroughs' of the present East Midlands.

In the late 10th century Lincoln was one of the leading mints after London. Coins found during excavation also suggests that much commercial exchange was taking place. This period also saw the beginnings of the creation of multiple parishes and their churches.

Excavation carried out at Hungate, Michaelgate, and the Flaxengate area indicated that re-occupation of the area in proximity to the site started in the late Anglo-Scandinavian period with the construction of road surfaces, and timber and stone buildings (Perring, 1981).

2.4 The Medieval Period (late 11th - 15th centuries)

At the time of the Norman conquest Lincoln was home to perhaps 6-7000 people and formed one of the largest settlements in the newly conquered kingdom. The origins of many modern place-names in both the city and surrounding area, recorded by the Domesday survey of 1086, indicate a broad spread of Anglo-Saxon and Danish settlement. The main post-conquest change to be noted archaeologically is the introduction of stone buildings, the most prominent being the Castle and the Cathedral.

The 12th and early 13th centuries were a period of great prosperity for the city with a significant volume of trade being conducted via the river Witham and Foss Dyke canal. During the medieval period the present S^t Martins Street, to the north of Area A, was at various times known as Poultry,

Sultry Hill and later Drapery (from a 13th-14th century cloth market between S^t Martins Street and Michaelgate), a name later revived in the 19th century.

Evidence from the sites on Flaxengate, Grantham Place and Swan Street, and from recent watching briefs carried out on the High Street between 1997 and 2002 (Jarvis, 1997; Wragg, 1998; Trimble, 2002) indicate continued occupation into the medieval period with the construction of stone houses between the 12th and 15th centuries.

The Cardinal's Hat (266-268 High Street), to the north-east of the site, is a notable survivor. It was originally built as an inn surrounding a courtyard in the late 15th century and, with the exception of the 20th century brick frontage, the majority of the building still dates to this time (Pevsner, 1989; Roberts, 1974).

On the western side of the High Street, Garmston House (No. 262-3), incorporates parts of a probable late 12th century house.

2.5 Post-Medieval (16th-18th centuries)

The late 14th to 17th centuries saw a period of decay in the city, partly due to the ravages of the Black Death, changes in traditional working practices, the loss of trade privileges to Boston, and the related poor state of the river Witham and Foss Dyke. The city declined in importance and the population shrank, many houses and churches were demolished and by the second quarter of the 16th century large areas of the city were in a ruinous state.

Further damage and destruction occurred during the Civil War, and this led to further downturn in trade with the city, a situation not reversed until 1671 when an act was passed for clearing and maintaining the navigation between the town of Boston and the river Trent which resulted in an increase in trade and a steady improvement in the city's prosperity.

2.6 19th century and later

The 19th century saw further development of the city and wider area resultant from the raising of the south bank of the Foss Dyke, related drainage works, the mid-century introduction of a railway service, and further expansion of industry.

The process of demolition and reconstruction continued into the 19th century; the majority of extant buildings in the area date to this period.

3.0 RESULTS

This project comprised two distinct parts. Firstly, a trench was excavated across part of the carriageway and footpath adjacent to the south-east corner of the 'garden of rest' in St. Martin's Square. A further smaller trench was then excavated at the south-east corner of the public house at the junction of High Street and The Strait. To avoid unnecessary confusion each element is dealt with separately, below.

The watching brief was undertaken in conjunction with the contractor's groundworks, and in general, all archaeological recording was carried out from the trench-side, with access only for the purpose of artefact recovery or investigation of features if required.

Each discrete archaeological deposit or feature was issued with a unique *context number* (e.g., context [100]), and described in detail on recording sheets, specifically in terms of its physical appearance and composition, and its interrelation with other contexts. Photographs were also taken, and plan and/or section drawings produced, as required.

3.1 Area A - S^t Martin's Square (see Figs. 1 & 2)

This trench was in two parts, forming a 'dog-leg', with a total length of 4.3m. The northern 'half' was contained within the footway and was c. 900mm wide, while the southern part (in the road) measured 700mm wide. In both cases, the depth was between 800mm and 900mm.

The earliest deposit revealed was a mixed dump of sandy, clayey silt, [103], containing occasional small flecks and pieces of limestone, brick/tile, bone and charcoal. This was present to the limit of excavation (L.O.E.).

In the northern part of the trench, [103] was cut by a section of limestone wall, [101], revealed at a depth of 300mm below the existing footway level. This comprised approximately five courses of roughly squared limestone blocks, heavily bonded/repared with hard light brown lime mortar. The orientation of this feature was unclear, but is most likely east-west, as no evidence for a continuation to the south could be seen.

The wall was then itself cut by a north-south oriented gas main trench, [107], which removed all trace of it in the central part of the trench. A similar (parallel) gas main trench, [105], was also present in the southern half of the excavated area. The upper fills of both of these service trenches were then sealed by the bedding deposits and surfaces, [100], for the modern road- and foot-ways.

Unfortunately, no dating evidence was forthcoming from this trench.

3.2 Area B - Corner of High Street and The Strait (see Figs. 1 & 3)

This trench measured 2m (E-W) x 900mm (N-S), and was situated almost entirely within the footway adjacent to the public house at the northern end of the High Street.

The earliest deposit was again [103], as described in the preceding section, which was cut by [104], the foundations for the public house itself. These comprised three to four courses of mixed limestone and brick, bonded with a lime mortar. Especially prominent was a single large limestone block, which measured approximately 1m in length. This seemed very unusual when compared with the remaining stonework, which consisted of blocks no more than 300mm in length. Although no moulding or tooling could be determined, it was the opinion of the City Archaeologist that this block might represent re-used material from a much earlier structure, possibly of Roman origin.

The foundations were then abutted by two modern gas main trenches. The first, [108], ran along The Strait, and the second, [106], was aligned parallel to the public house frontage.

The final deposit in this trench was the bedding and cobbles/paving for the existing footway, [102].

Again, no dating evidence was revealed.

4.0 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

The results of this watching brief have provided little positive evidence for actual ancient occupation in the areas investigated. The notable exceptions to this were the section of limestone walling, revealed at the northern end of Area A, and the very large limestone block in the northernmost section of Area B.

Unfortunately, both of these features were undated and are of unknown function. However, the sheer size of the limestone block found incorporated into the existing foundations of the public house adjacent to Area B, suggested that it was reused from a larger structure. It was suggested by the City Archaeologist that this may have originally formed part of a Roman structure, although obviously without any supporting dating evidence this remains speculation.

In spite of the generally inconclusive results from this particular project, the evidence for archaeological occupation in the surrounding areas is indisputable. This suggests that any future developments in the immediate vicinity might encounter important archaeological remains, and consideration should therefore be given to mitigate the effects of any subsequent work.

CLAU CODES: ON60

5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit would like to thank the following for their assistance during this project: City of Lincoln Council, City Hall, Lincoln, LN1 1DN for funding this project; all on-site staff of Murphy Civil Engineering Ltd. (main site contractor); and Mr M. J. Jones (City Archaeologist), Heritage Team, Department of Planning, Lincoln City Council, City Hall, Beaumont Fee, Lincoln, LN1 1DN

6.0 SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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7.0 LHA NOTE/ARCHIVE DETAILS

7.1 LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODES: ON609

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.: -

FIELD OFFICER: K. Wragg

NGR: SK 9760/7150

CIVIL PARISH: Lincoln

SMR No.:

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 01/10/01

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Archaeological Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: City of Lincoln Council, City Hall, Lincoln, LN1 1DN

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.: -

ACCESSION DATE: -

APPENDIX A - ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The archive consists of:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Site diary
1	Report
9	Context records
3	Scale drawings
1 set	Colour Print Photographs

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, will be undertaken as soon as possible following completion of this project.

APPENDIX B - COLOUR PLATES



Plate 1: General view of revealed masonry in south-facing section, Area B - looking north



Plate 2: General view of east-facing section, Area A - looking west

APPENDIX B - COLOUR PLATES (continued)



Plate 3: General overall view of northern end of Area A - looking north



CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE: ON609 PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:

CLIENT: Lincoln City Council

DESCRIPTION:

Site Location Plan

SCALE:

ARCHIVE NO:

DRAWN BY:

CHECKED:

DATE:

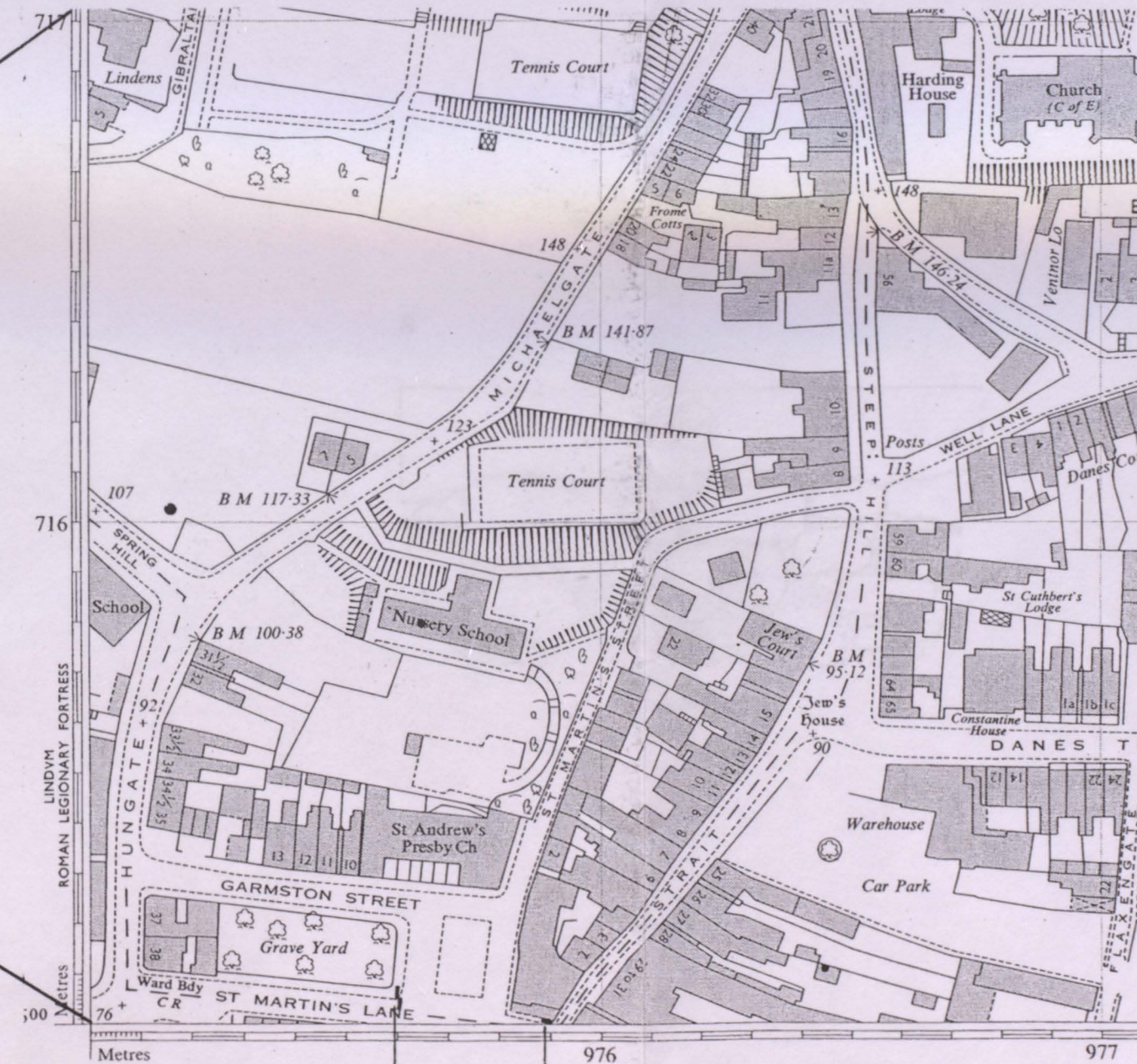
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1:10 000



© Crown copyright

1:1250



© Crown copyright

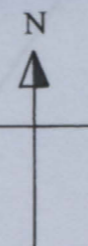
Area A

Area B

Fig.1

Grave Yard/Garden of Rest

St. Martin's Lane



CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE: ON609 PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:

CLIENT: Lincoln City Council

DESCRIPTION:
Plan of Archaeological Remains, Area A

SCALE: 1:20 ARCHIVE NO:

DRAWN BY: K.W. CHECKED: DATE: 01/10/01

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:

107

101

Gas pipe

101

Gas pipe

105

KEY

Section Location

Cut Feature

Mortar

Tile

East-Facing Section

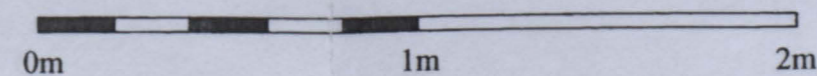
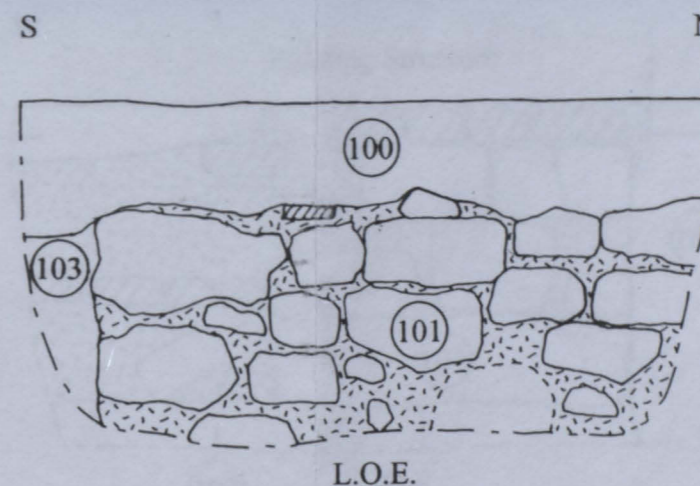
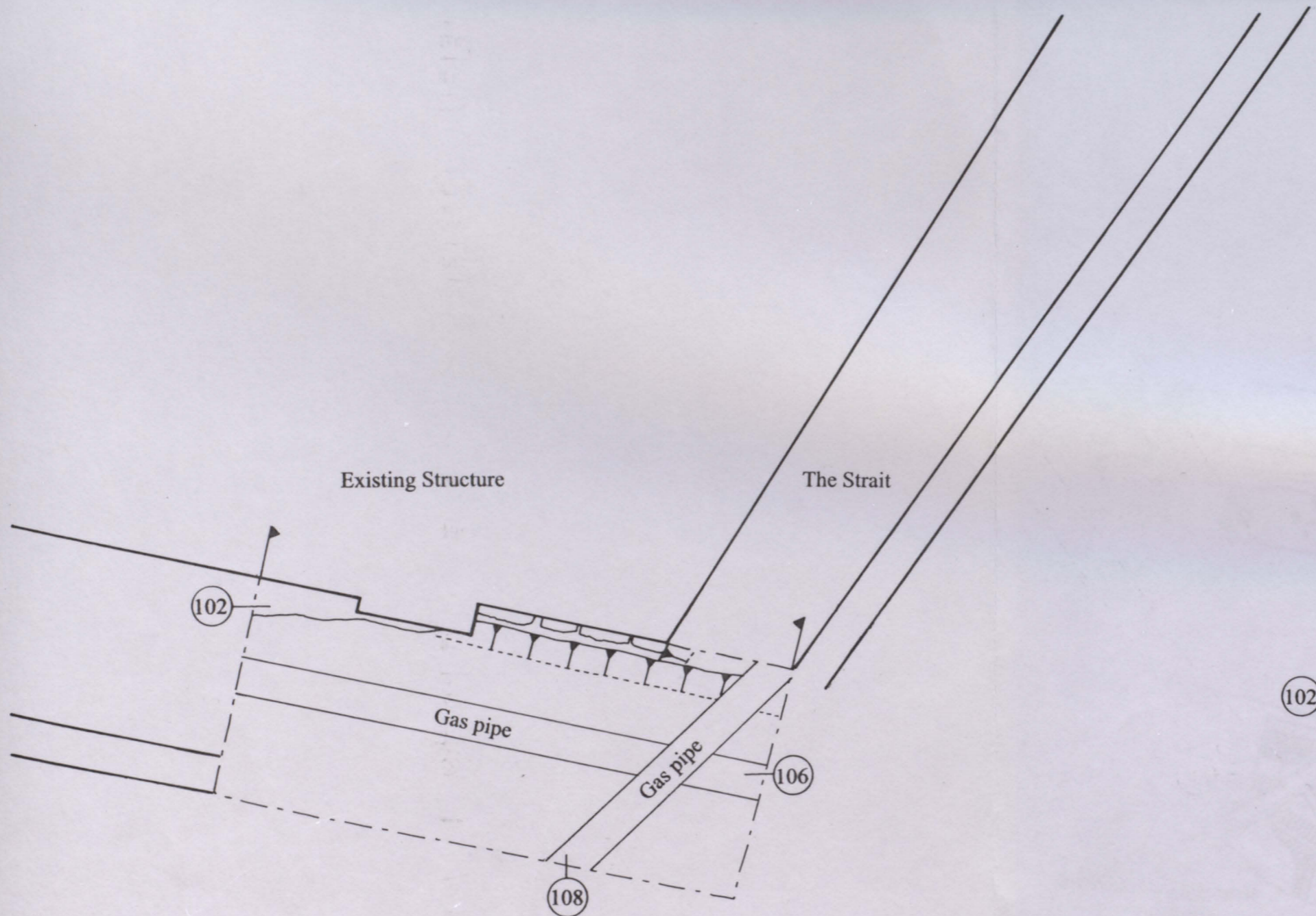
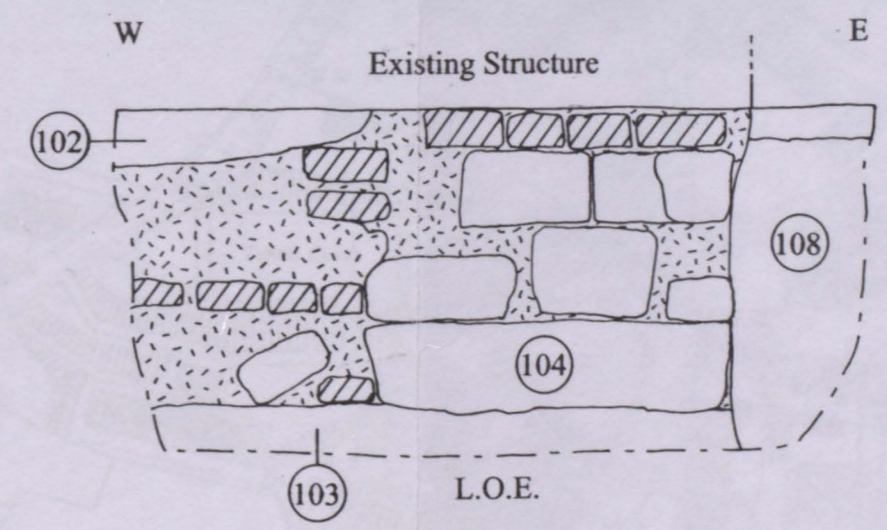


Fig.2


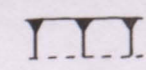
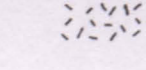
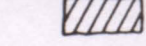
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SITE CODE: ON609	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT: Lincoln City Council		
DESCRIPTION: Plan of Archaeological Remains, Area B		
SCALE: 1:20	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY: K.W.	CHECKED:	DATE: 01/10/01
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:		



South-Facing Section



KEY

-  Section Location
-  Cut Feature
-  Mortar
-  Brick

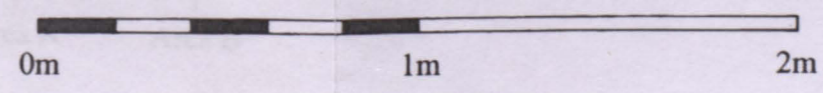


Fig.3