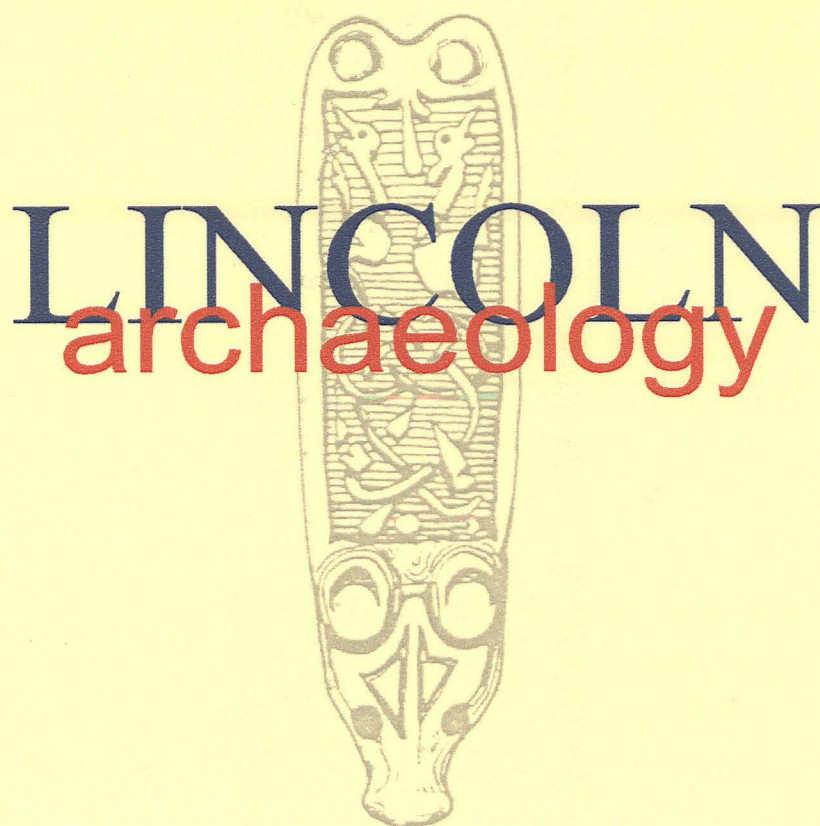


A Report to City of Lincoln Council

April 2004



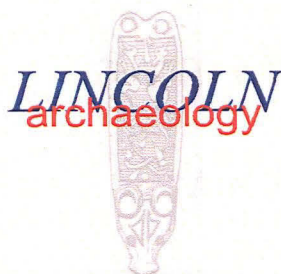
**3 and 4 Wordsworth Street,
Lincoln**

Archaeological Watching Brief

By K Wragg

Report No.: 522

LINCOLN
 **archaeology**



3 and 4 Wordsworth Street, Lincoln

Site Codes: WOS01 and ON594
LCCM Accession No.: 2001.184
Planning Application No.: -
NGR: SK 9758/7172

Archaeological Watching Brief

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3 AND 4 WORDSWORTH STREET, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- *This report presents the results of two separate archaeological watching briefs undertaken at properties on Wordsworth Street, Lincoln.*
- *While the two investigations were in close proximity to each other and dealt with the same physical monument, the works were separated by a period of almost three years.*
- *In both cases the development work was deemed to be 'internal modification' or 'landscaping' (respectively), and did not require formal planning consent. As a result, the detailed curatorial scrutiny that forms part of any planning application was not instigated. Therefore, no formal archaeological response could be formulated prior to the commencement of the groundworks, in spite of the sites' proximity to known areas of archaeological importance.*
- *With the discovery of archaeological remains at both sites, the City of Lincoln Council, Department of Planning commissioned the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU) to carry out archaeological watching briefs on the groundworks for the two schemes. The project was part funded under the terms of the 'Emergency Archaeological Service' element of the Service Level Agreement between CLAU and the City of Lincoln Council, with additional funds provided directly by the Department of Planning.*
- *Attendance on the internal works at 3 Wordsworth Street was undertaken on the 13th of October 1998, while the watching brief at 4 Wordsworth Street was carried out on an intermittent basis between the 23rd of July and the 9th of August 2001.*
- *The results of these two watching briefs have provided further evidence of the preservation of important archaeological remains at very shallow depths in this part of the city.*
- *On this occasion, the remains uncovered relate to the south wall of the upper Roman city. This substantial structure has, thus far, proved somewhat 'elusive', being previously only revealed at 26 Steep Hill.*
- *Perhaps of more importance than the precise nature of the remains themselves, however, is their very presence in the first place. The evidence of the survival of Roman structures at such levels will hopefully be used to inform the planning process in the event of future development in this area to ensure that adequate steps are taken to avoid the unnecessary destruction of such important, and distant, reminders of our collective past.*

3 AND 4 WORDSWORTH STREET, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of two separate archaeological watching briefs undertaken at properties on Wordsworth Street, Lincoln (see Fig. 1).

While the two investigations were in close proximity to each other and dealt with the same physical monument, the works were separated by a period of almost three years.

In both cases the development work was deemed to be 'internal modification' or 'landscaping' (respectively), and did not require formal planning consent. As a result, the detailed curatorial scrutiny that forms part of any planning application was not instigated. Therefore, no formal archaeological response could be formulated prior to the commencement of the groundworks, in spite of the sites' proximity to known areas of archaeological importance.

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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 *Corieltauvi*). 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 revealed. 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 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.

The site under consideration in this report lies directly on the projected line of the south wall of the Roman upper city. A section of masonry embedded in the wall of 26 Steep Hill, a short distance to the east of the site, is thought to represent a surviving part of the Roman south gate. In 1990, work inside this property permitted the recording of part of the internal face of the presumed drum tower of the gate, which had first been observed in 1956. The masonry comprised a 2.20m section of dressed limestone standing to a height of 800mm.

In 1986, work to install a new foul water drain uncovered the remains of a probable Roman sewer adjacent to 28 Steep Hill, with a possible continuation found at the junction of Steep Hill and Wordsworth Street. Two joining fragments of an amphora handle were also found during the course of this work.

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.

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 site lies to the south-east of the castle, just outside its defensive ditch. The present layout of streets in the upper part of the city was established during this period (although the present line of Drury Lane was established in 1863).

A notable survivor from this period is 46/47 Steep Hill, the so-called 'Norman House'. This is a Grade I listed building dating from c. 1180/1200 (Harris, 1993, and Johnson & Vince, 1992). It was originally (incorrectly) ascribed to Aaron the Jew, a famous Jewish financier in the 12th century. However, the building was probably built, and owned, by Jocus of York, another Jewish businessman who is mentioned in the Hundred Rolls and probably died in the massacre at York in 1190 (Johnson and Vince, 1992).

Prior to 1217, the building also appears to have been associated with William of Tillbrook, who initially gave the property to his wife, but then had to surrender it to the King in 1217.

The property was probably held subsequently by Peter of Legbourne who leased out parts of it in 1250.

By 1281 it had been transferred to William of Rowston, but after his death in 1300 the property ownership is not clear. There is no clear identification of ownership available from existing records from 1300 up to recent times (Johnson and Vince, 1992). At present the building is owned by Lincoln City Council.

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

The late 14th to 17th centuries saw a period of decay in the city. This was a national economic phenomenon due partly to the ravages of the Black Death, the migration of the cloth industry to the countryside and increased competition from goods produced on the continent. This situation for Lincoln was made worse by 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. While some localised re-development took place, large areas of the city had a semi-rural aspect, and further damage and destruction occurred during the Civil War in the mid 17th century.

The war and its aftermath 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. This was consolidated in the 18th century.

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.

3.0 RESULTS

Both of the watching briefs were undertaken in conjunction with contractors' 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 3 Wordsworth Street (ON594)

The works undertaken at this property were part of a scheme of internal renovation and refurbishment which included the removal of all the existing floors at ground-floor level and their renewal. During the course of this work, a section of limestone walling was revealed immediately beneath the flooring in the former kitchen, at the north-west corner of the property.

Subsequent inspection of the remains indicated a stratigraphic sequence as follows (from earliest to latest).

The earliest context was [100], the masonry itself. This comprised four large limestone (or possibly sandstone) blocks each measuring c. 1.1m x 600mm x 300mm (L x W x D). Three bore a chamfer/ogee moulding (top) and rough 'facing' along the southern edge. A small exploratory investigation at the face of the wall revealed a probable second course at c. 300mm depth, with some mid-light slightly pink-orange lime mortar bonding present between the courses.

At the base of this exploratory hole, a further context, [103], was revealed, apparently abutting the face of [100]. This comprised a moderately compacted mid-light brown sandy lime mortar. It could not be determined, however, whether this was the bedding for a later thickening of the original wall or simply the remains of debris deposited at the time of construction (see Fig. 3).

To the north of [100], an area of rough limestone rubble, loosely bonded (in isolated areas) with lime mortar, was present forming the remains of the wall core [101].

The final deposit revealed was [102], a layer of moderately compacted mid-dark grey-brown slightly clayey silt. This deposit contained c. 30% inclusions of irregularly-shaped limestone fragments, and sealed the wall to the south.

3.2 4 Wordsworth Street (WOS01)

Again, this investigation was prompted by the discovery of archaeological remains during the course of renovation and remodelling works.

In this case, the works took the form of 'garden modifications' which involved the removal of up to 1.5m of material to form a more gently sloped driveway.

As this work progressed, it became apparent that a section of masonry apparently relating to the south wall of the upper Roman city was preserved on the site, and measures were taken to ensure its preservation and recording.

The earliest archaeological context revealed was again the wall itself. This feature, [201], comprised a rough limestone rubble wall core, loosely bonded with lime mortar, standing to a height of c. 1.10m and present to the limit of excavation (see Figs. 2, 3 & 4). This core material appeared virtually identical to that identified previously as context [101], although in this case there was no evidence for any surviving facing stones.

The wall remains were then overlain by [202], a dump deposit of moderately compacted mid-dark grey-brown slightly clayey, sandy silt. This contained fragments of irregularly-shaped limestone, coal, concrete, brick and roof tile, together with mortar & charcoal flecks & pieces.

A further context, [200], was reserved for unstratified finds, although in the event this was not required.

4.0 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

The results of these two watching briefs have provided further evidence of the preservation of important archaeological remains at very shallow depths in this part of the city.

On this occasion, the remains uncovered relate to the south wall of the upper Roman city. This substantial structure has, thus far, proved somewhat 'elusive', being previously only revealed at 26 Steep Hill.

Perhaps of more importance than the precise nature of the remains themselves, however, is their very presence in the first place. The evidence of the survival of Roman structures at such levels will hopefully be used to inform the planning process in the event of future development in this area to ensure that adequate steps are taken to avoid the unnecessary destruction of such important, and distant, reminders of our collective past.

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; the owner of 3 Wordsworth Street, for access to their property; Messrs J. Birt, S. Bradbury, and all on-site staff of Hart Properties (Lincoln) Limited, Welbourn Farm, North End, Loveden (main site contractor); and, Messrs A. Ward (Chief Conservation & Design Officer) and M. J. Jones (City Archaeologist), Heritage Team, Department of Planning, Lincoln City Council, City Hall, Beaumont Fee, Lincoln, LN1 1DN

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7.0 LHA NOTE/ARCHIVE DETAILS

7.1 LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODE(S): ON594 and WOS01

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.: -

FIELD OFFICER: K. Wragg

NGR: SK 9758/7172

CIVIL PARISH: Lincoln

SMR No.:

DATE(S) OF INTERVENTION: 13/10/98; 23/07/01 - 09/08/01

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.: 2001.184

ACCESSION DATE: -

APPENDIX A - ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The archive consists of:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Site diary
1	Report
7	Context records
4	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, under Museum Accession Number 2001.184, will be undertaken following completion of this project.

APPENDIX B - COLOUR PLATES



Plate 1: General view of exposed wall core [101]/[201] in east-facing section 1, 4 Wordsworth Street - looking west



Plate 2: General view of remaining masonry [100], 3 Wordsworth Street - looking north

APPENDIX B - COLOUR PLATES (continued)



Plate 3: General view showing extent of remaining masonry [100], 3 Wordsworth Street - looking east

APPENDIX C - LIST OF CONTEXTS

<i>Context No.:</i>	<i>Area:</i>	<i>Description:</i>
[100]	ON594	Four large limestone (or possibly sandstone) blocks each measuring c. 1.1m x 600mm x 300mm (L x W x D). Three bear a chamfer/ogee moulding along the southern edge. Small exploratory investigation revealed a probable second course at c. 300mm depth. Some mid-light slightly pink-orange lime mortar bonding present between courses
[101]	ON594	Rough limestone rubble wall core, loosely bonded (in isolated areas) with lime mortar
[102]	ON594	Moderately compacted mid-dark grey-brown slightly clayey silt, containing c. 30% inclusions of irregularly-shaped limestone fragments
[103]	ON594	Moderately compacted mid-light brown sandy lime mortar
[200]	WOS01	Unstratified finds
[201]	WOS01	Rough limestone rubble wall core, loosely bonded with lime mortar, standing to a height of c. 1.10m to the limit of excavation - same as [101]
[202]	WOS01	Modern dump deposit overlying [201] - moderately compacted mid-dark grey-brown slightly clayey, sandy silt, containing fragments of irregularly-shaped limestone, coal, concrete, brick and roof tile, together with mortar & charcoal flecks & pieces

APPENDIX D - LINCOLN UAD DATA SUMMARY

Report

<i>Author</i>	K. Wragg
<i>Title</i>	3 and 4 Wordsworth Street, Lincoln
<i>Date of Issue</i>	March 2004
<i>Place of Issue</i>	Lincoln
<i>Series Name & Number</i>	CLAU Report 522
<i>Issuer/Publisher</i>	City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, Lincoln City Council

Data for the Recognition Events Database

<i>Site Name</i>	3 and 4 Wordsworth Street, Lincoln
<i>Sitecode(s)</i>	ON594 and WOS01
<i>Location</i>	3 and 4 Wordsworth Street, Lincoln
<i>Grid Reference - Site (nominal centre)</i>	SK 9758/7172
<i>Type of Archaeological Intervention</i>	Watching brief
<i>Start & End Dates of Intervention</i>	13 th October 1998; 23 rd July to 9 th August 2001
<i>Reporter</i>	K. Wragg
<i>Organisation</i>	City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit
<i>Location of Archive & Finds</i>	City & County Museum, Friars Lane, Lincoln
<i>Museum Accession Number</i>	2001.184

Data for the Monuments Database

<i>Monument Name</i>	Roman wall
<i>Date terminus post quem</i>	n/k
<i>Terminus ante quem</i>	n/k
<i>Monument Type</i>	Wall
<i>Grid Reference</i>	SK 9758/7172
<i>Brief Description</i>	Remains of wall core and four facing stones of south wall of upper Roman city

Data for the Deposit Model

<i>Grid Reference</i>	SK 9758/7172
<i>Surface Code</i>	LROMT
<i>Height</i>	62.92m OD



KEY

 Location of Site

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE: WOS01 PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:

CLIENT: Lincoln City Council

DESCRIPTION:

Site Location Plan

SCALE: ARCHIVE NO:

DRAWN BY: CHECKED: DATE:

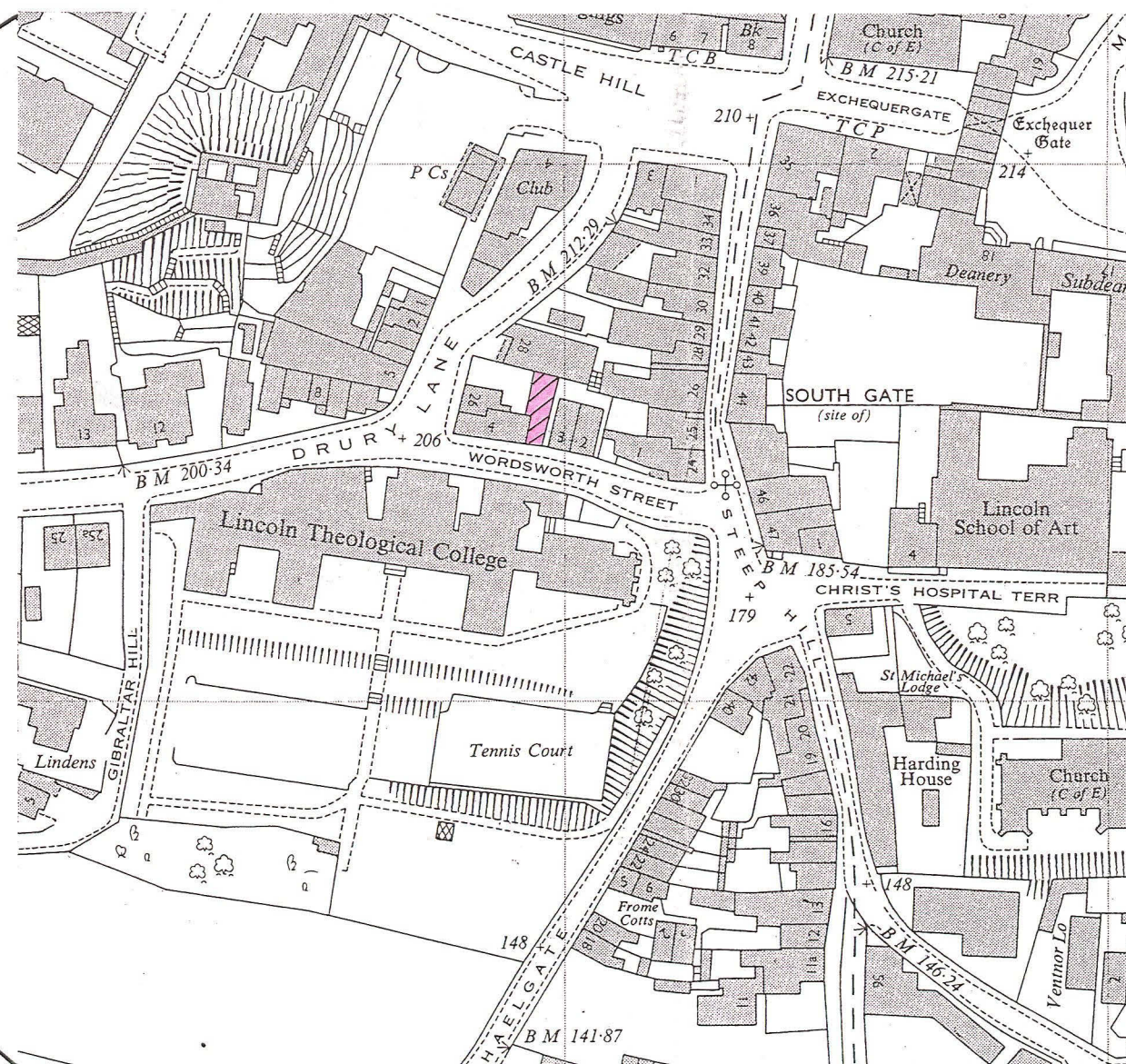
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 2001.184

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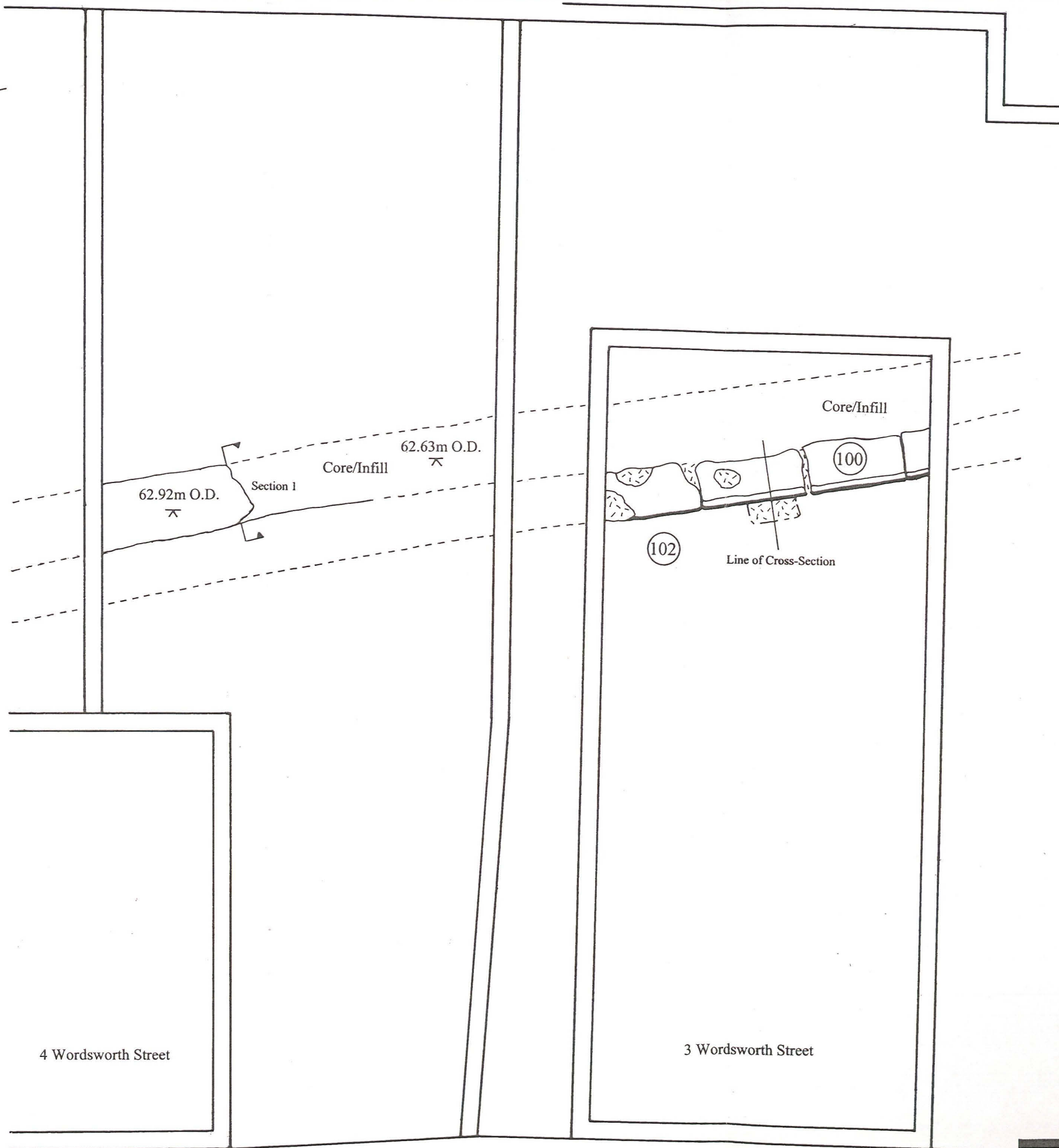
1:1250



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CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT			
SITE CODE: WOS01		PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT: Lincoln City Council			
DESCRIPTION: Plan of Development			
SCALE: 1:50		ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY:		CHECKED:	DATE:
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:		2001.184	



CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE: WOS01 PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:

CLIENT: Lincoln City Council

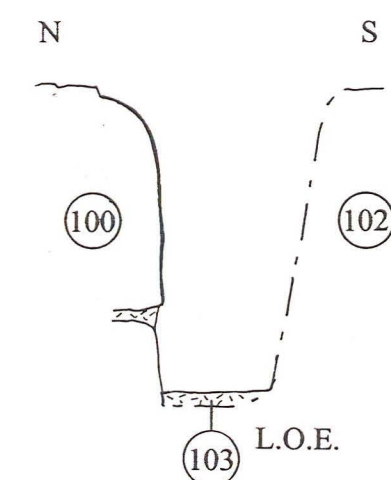
DESCRIPTION:
Plan of Archaeological Remains

SCALE: 1:50 ARCHIVE NO:

DRAWN BY: K.W. CHECKED: DATE:

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 2001.184

Cross-Section Through Wall 1:10



KEY

- Wall Face
- Conjectured Line of Wall/Core
- Mortar



Fig.3

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
SITE CODE: WOS01		PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:
CLIENT: Lincoln City Council		
DESCRIPTION: East-Facing Section 1 Through Wall Core		
SCALE: 1:10	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY: K.W.	CHECKED:	DATE:
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:		2001.184

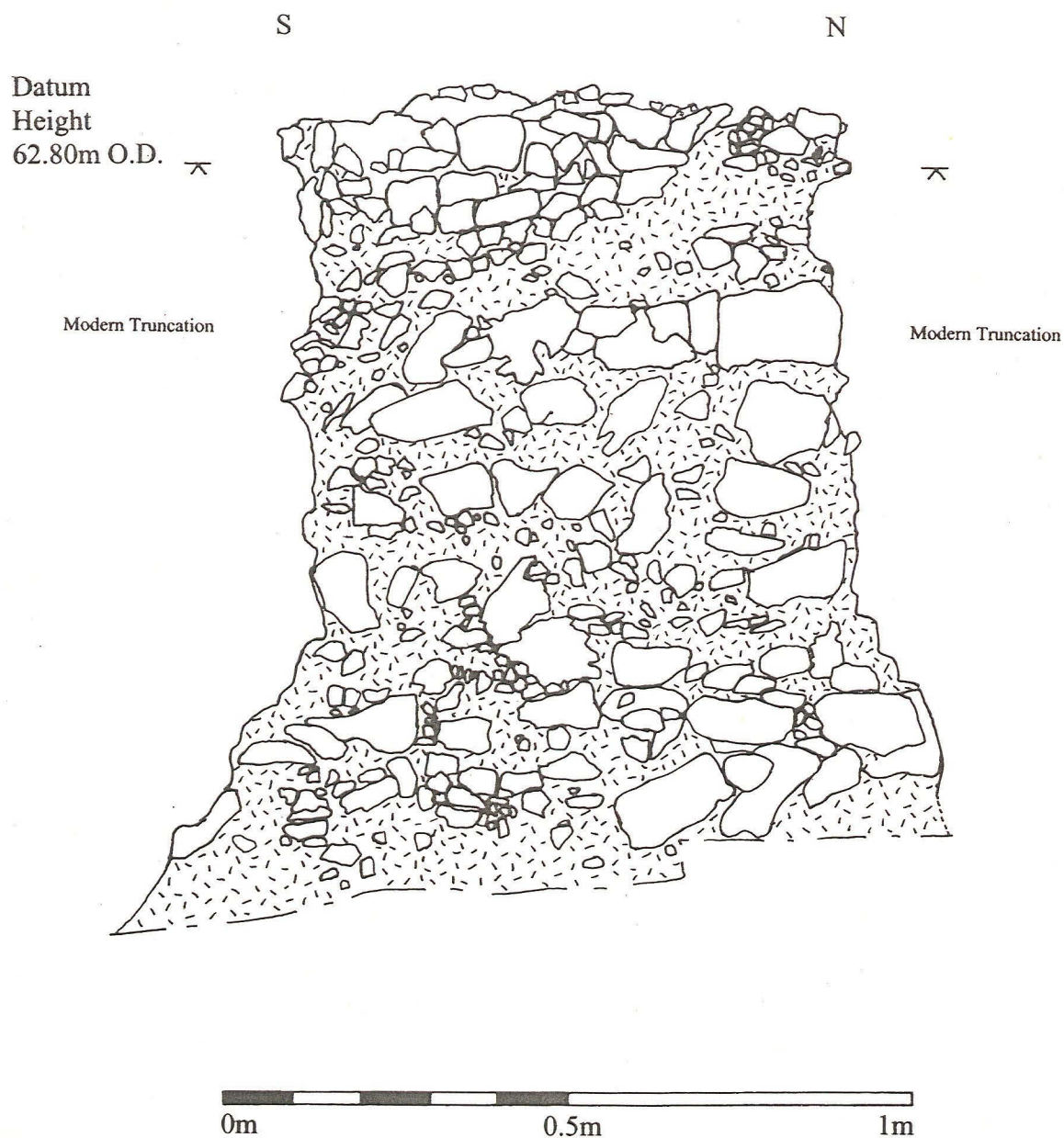


Fig.4