



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**YMCA Residential Centre, Croft Street, Lincoln
Archaeological Evaluation**

NGR: SK 97992 71247

Site Code: LYCS05

LCNCC Accession Number: 2005.103

Planning Application No.: 2004/0510/F

Report for

MacDonald Design Ltd.

on behalf of

Lincoln YMCA

By

R. Priest

LAS Report No. 825

May 2005

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EVENT LI 6076

INTERVENTION LI 10116
EXCAVATION LI 10117

YMCA Residential Centre, Croft St, Lincoln

negative

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Fig.1 Location of YMCA, Croft St, based on the Ordnance Survey a) 1: 50,000 and b) 1:1,250 maps. Crown copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence no. AL 100002165.

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Summary

Two evaluation trenches measuring 5x2m and 10x2m were machine-excavated to a depth of 1.20m and recorded by hand. The archaeological deposits found were recent in origin, and probably date to the earlier years of the nineteenth century. Therefore it is not expected that there will be a negative impact on any significant archaeology as the nineteenth and twentieth century deposits have disturbed earlier deposits to a depth of at least 1.20m.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by MacDonald Design Ltd. on behalf of Lincoln YMCA to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the above site (Fig. 1). The work was carried out in accordance with general requirements set out in *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998) and the brief set by Lincoln City Council dated February 2nd 2005. Work commenced on 9th May 2005 and was completed on 13th May 2005.

Site Location and Description

The development site is located on the north side of Croft St with Rosemary Lane to the west. It is currently occupied by 1-4 Croft St and 12 Rosemary Lane with associated car parking. There is access from the north of the site to the car park and from the west into the yard behind 12 Rosemary Lane

Planning Background

Planning permission has been granted for the construction of a four-storey building for community use subject to condition which states:

"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

The site is located east of the lower Roman city walls. Waterside installations of unknown extent were constructed east of the Wigford causeway in the Roman military era (c. AD60-90). Roman burials and kilns have been found in the Monks Road area, north of the proposed development.

In the medieval period the site lay within the suburb of Butwerk which was the earliest of the medieval suburbs in the city, developing in the early 10th century. It developed into a commercial and residential area with a market and fair (unlocated) which was centred on the streets now known as Rosemary Lane and Friars Lane. It was thought that evidence for medieval and earlier occupation might be found within the site, especially in areas fronting Rosemary Lane and Croft Street to the north of the site. The southern boundary of the site dates from a realignment of the street layout in the 1970s.

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 and 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 which may include future excavation.
- provide information for accession to the County HER and the Lincoln UAD.

Method

Two evaluation trenches measuring 10m x 2m and 5m x 2m, were excavated using a JCB with a toothless dyking bucket, to 1.20m. The brief specified that one 10m x 2m trench (Trench 2) be positioned to the west of the entrance to the car park in order to record the presence of any structures on the corner of Croft Street and the line of Sparrow Lane, a known medieval street. This was also the site of the Heneage Arms public house. Due to the continued requirement for access to the car park, an alternative location was agreed with the City Archaeologist. The trench was repositioned adjacent to the flowerbed on the southern edge of the site. Trench 1 was positioned where the brief specified, in the south west yard area. All machine excavation was monitored by an experienced archaeologist. Archaeological recording was carried out by a team of two experienced archaeologists. A full written and photographic record was made of the site, including site plans at a scale of 1:20, along with 1:10 sections.

Temporary bench marks at 8.64, 9.49 and 9.53m O.D. were established from a bench mark at 8.98m O.D. located on the north east corner of St Swithin's Church, Broadgate.

Results

Trench 1

Trench 1 measured 5m x 2m and was orientated east to west (see Fig. 1). It was located on the southern side of a yard, with nineteenth century domestic buildings and more modern construction on two sides (Pl. 1). The upper layer of tarmac was removed with a breaker, and the trench was excavated with a ditching bucket to a depth of 1m. 20-25cm of deposit was matted and shovelled out to take the trench to its maximum depth of 1.2m.

Beneath 2-3cm of tarmac **116** was a uniform layer of yellow hardcore **127** and more localised levelling deposits of silty gravel **119** and two further layers of hardcore **121**, **122**, seen in the south and east facing sections (Figs. 2 and 5). Below this were three clear layers of brick surface in the eastern side of the trench, **124**, **125** and **126**. **125** was in a matrix of dark ashy deposit with mixed brick fragments which continued for the length of the trench (Pls. 2, 3 and 4). Below these brick layers there was a mixed silty loam layer, **117**. Below this was a lighter, more clayey deposit, **128**, which still had modern pottery contained in it. Trench 1 also contained a wall running north to south. The bricks appeared to be very similar to the ones in the surrounding standing buildings, and were cemented together. There were some limestone flags abutting the wall, which seem to have been removed and replaced by a brick surface **125** and hardcore (Fig.3). The pottery found in **117** comes from a range of periods indicating that it has been disturbed. There was a jug handle dating from the mid 15th to mid 16th century, together with several sherds of post-medieval fine ware from the 17th and 18th centuries. There was also a fragment of transfer printed porcelain dated 1820-1830 (see Appendix 2).

Trench 2

Trench 2 measured 10m x 2m, orientated east to west (see Fig. 1). It was located in the lawn of the garden abutting the road so that access to the car park could be maintained (see Pls. 5 and 6). Below the turf and topsoil **100** was a lens of hardcore **105** and more mixed deposit **106** containing broken bricks and modern detritus. In the central portion of the trench **106** seems to be contemporary with **112**, a deposit full of mixed brick and north-south running land drains. In the south facing section (Fig. 7, Pl. 7) was a series of burnt deposits **108**, **109** and **110** occupying the bottom 30 to 40cm. The finds in the bottom layer, **110** range in date from the mid eighteenth to the mid twentieth century, with most of them centred on the mid-19th century (Pl. 8).

Discussion

The primary aim of the evaluation was to establish the presence or absence, quality and extent of archaeological remains and their location within the development area. The two evaluation trenches have only provided information about modern activity in the area.

There appears to be limited evidence for earlier activity on the site in the form of a few sherds of redeposited fifteenth to sixteenth century pottery in layers containing eighteenth and nineteenth

century pottery. These sherds could well have been redeposited during earthmoving in the last two centuries, so if any undisturbed earlier periods exist, they must be below this level.

The foundation design depends on the results of geotechnical investigations which have not yet been carried out. In the first instance these will comprise three boreholes up to 3m deep. It is not anticipated that alluvium will be encountered, but if it is provision has been made for deeper investigations. Results from the boreholes will be examined archaeologically.

Conclusion

There does not appear to be any significant archaeology within 1.20m of existing ground levels within the areas evaluated. It is highly likely that deposits earlier than the nineteenth century have either been disturbed or destroyed. Until the foundation design for the building has been finalised it is not clear if they will penetrate below this level. However, if piles are used this is unlikely. Service trenches may run deeper than 1.20m in places.

Russell Priest
Lindsey Archaeological Services
20/05/2005

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank MacDonald Design and Lincoln YMCA for their help. The pottery report was by Jane Young. Thanks are due to the hard working site team who assisted the author, namely: Richard Lee. The illustrations were produced by Sophie Claxton. This report was edited and collated by Naomi Field.

Reference

Jones, M.J., Stocker, D. & Vince, A., (eds.) 2003, *The City by the Pool: Assessing the Archaeology of Roman Lincoln*, *Lincoln Archaeological Studies 10*, Oxbow Books; Oxford.

Site Archive

29 Context sheets

2 Plans at 1:20

6 Sections at 1:10

Photographs: LAS film nos. 05/44/10-27.

Finds

Pottery report by Jane Young

APPENDIX 1

Context	Trench	Description
100	2	Layer
101	2	Deposit
102	2	Layer/Drain fill
103	2	Deposit
104	2	Deposit (Gravel/mortar)
105	2	Deposit/hardcore
106	2	Deposit
107	2	Deposit
108	2	Burnt deposit
109	2	Rusty burnt deposit
110	2	Layer
111	2	Deposit
112	2	Deposit
113	2	Deposit
114	2	Deposit
115	2	Cut (drain)
116	1	Tarmac
117	1	Yellow Hardcore
118	1	Dark soil/bricks
119	1	Brown loam/gravel
120	1	2nd tarmac
121	1	2nd yellow hardcore
122	1	3rd yellow hardcore
123	1	wall
124	1	brick surface 1
125	1	brick surface 2
126	1	brick surface 3
127	1	Mixed dark deposit
128	1	Lighter base deposit
129	1	Concrete slabs

APPENDIX 2

Pottery Archive YMCA, Croft Street, Lincoln (LYCS05)

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	description	date
110	WHITE	Modern whiteware		jug ?	1	1	16	sponged	BS	discarded	19th
110	TPW	Transfer printed ware		hollow	1	1	13		BS	discarded	19th to 20th
110	TPW	Transfer printed ware		large vessel	1	1	55		base	discarded;pearlware ?	early to mid 19th
110	NCBW	19th-century Buff ware		bowl	1	1	29	moulded decoration	BS	discarded	19th to 20th
110	BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware		large bowl	1	1	269		BS	discarded	mid 18th to early 20th
110	BL	Black-glazed wares		large vessel	1	1	60		base	discarded	mid 18th to 20th
117	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware		hollow	1	1	17		BS	fe bichrome	mid 16th to mid 17th
117	TOYII	Toynton Late Medieval ware		jug	1	1	50		handle	strap handle with deep central groove	mid 15th to mid 16th
117	RGRE	Reduced glazed red earthenware		?	1	1	28		base	internal deposit	17th to mid 18th
117	BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware	Staffs ?	hollow	1	1	5		BS		late 17th to 18th
117	BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware	Staffs ?	jug/jar	1	1	23		BS	hard red fabric	17th
117	PMF	Post-medieval fine whiteware		small vessel	2	1	24		base	cu bichrome	16th

context	ename	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	description	date
117	PEARL	Pearlware		small cup	1	1	10	pastoral scene in black	base	Newhall factory	1820-1830

THE FIGURES

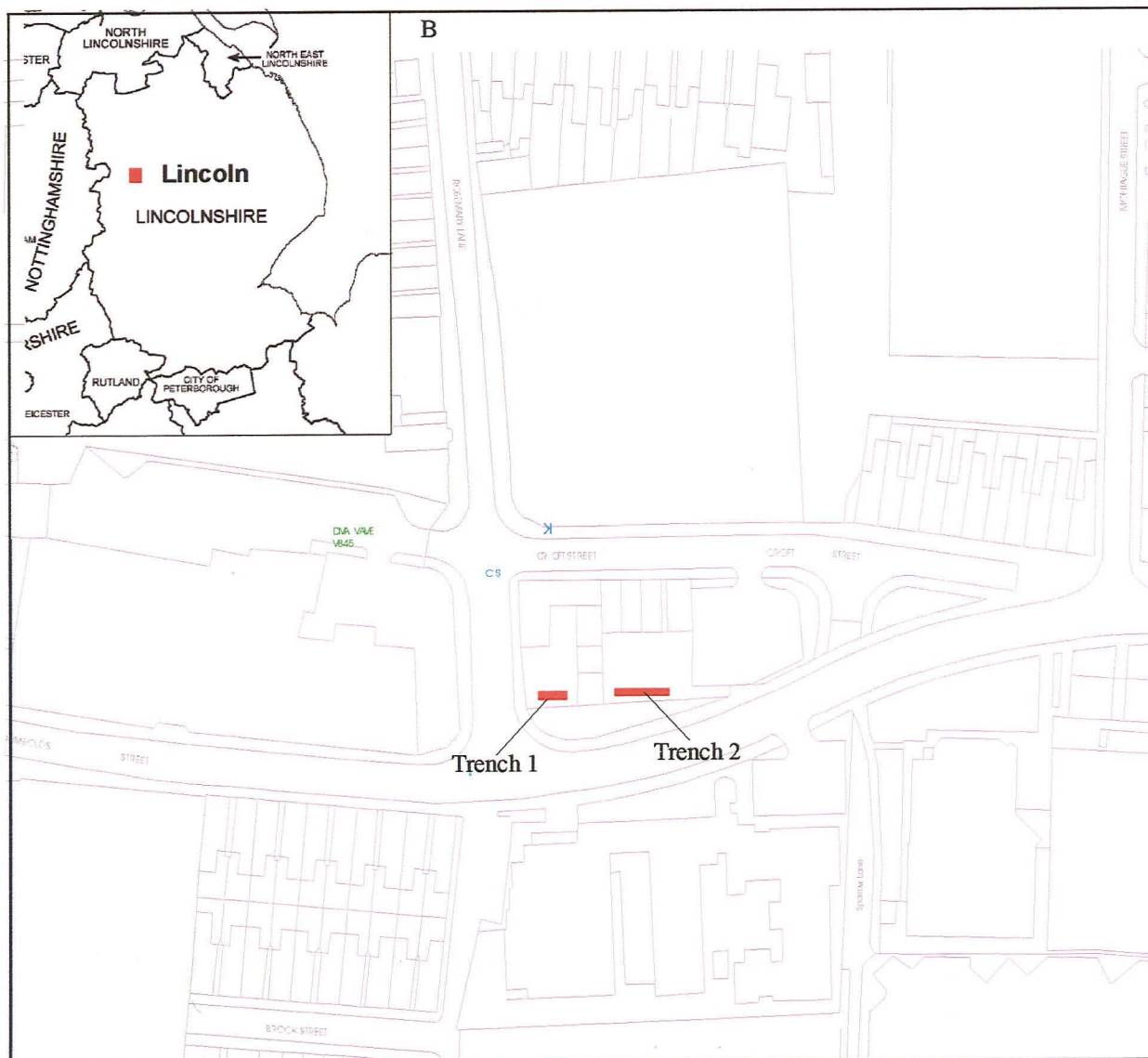
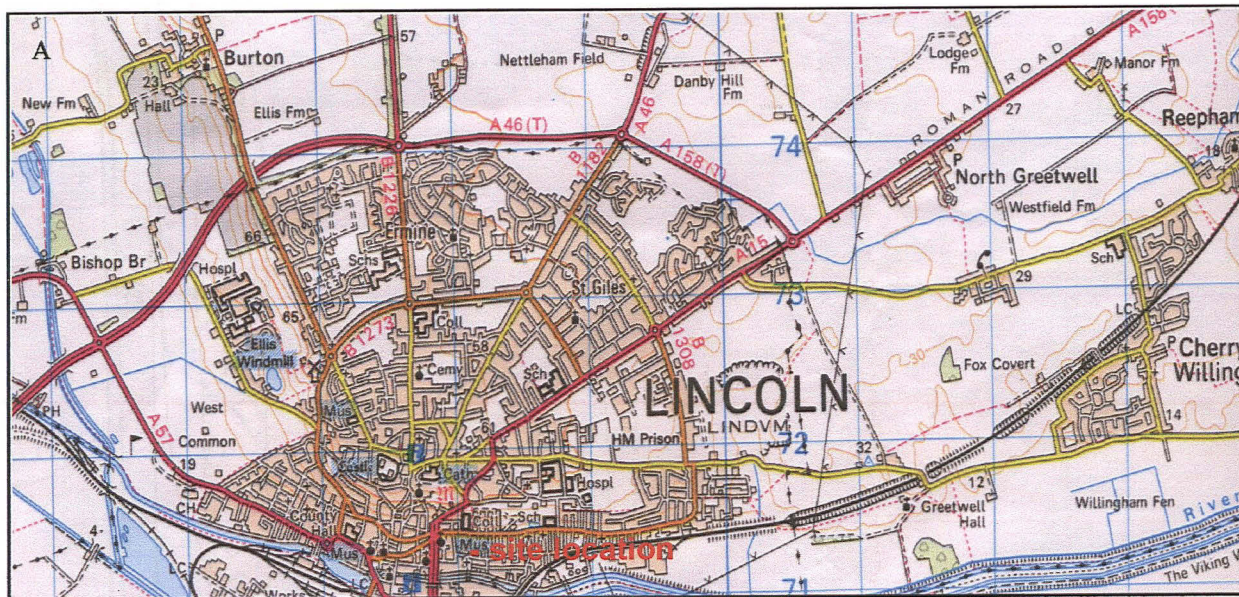


Fig. 1 Location of development site, Croft Street. Based on (a) 1:50 000 OS Map and (b) 1:1250 OS Map, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165.

W

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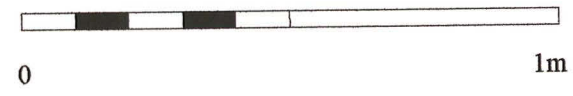
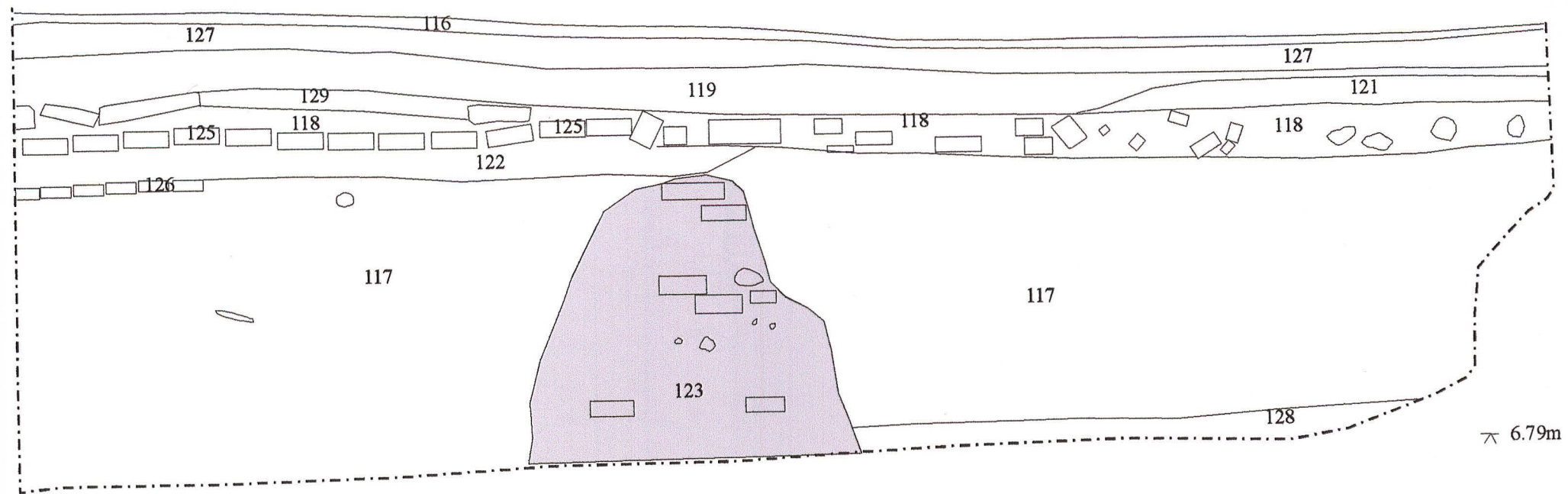


Fig. 2: South facing section of Trench 1

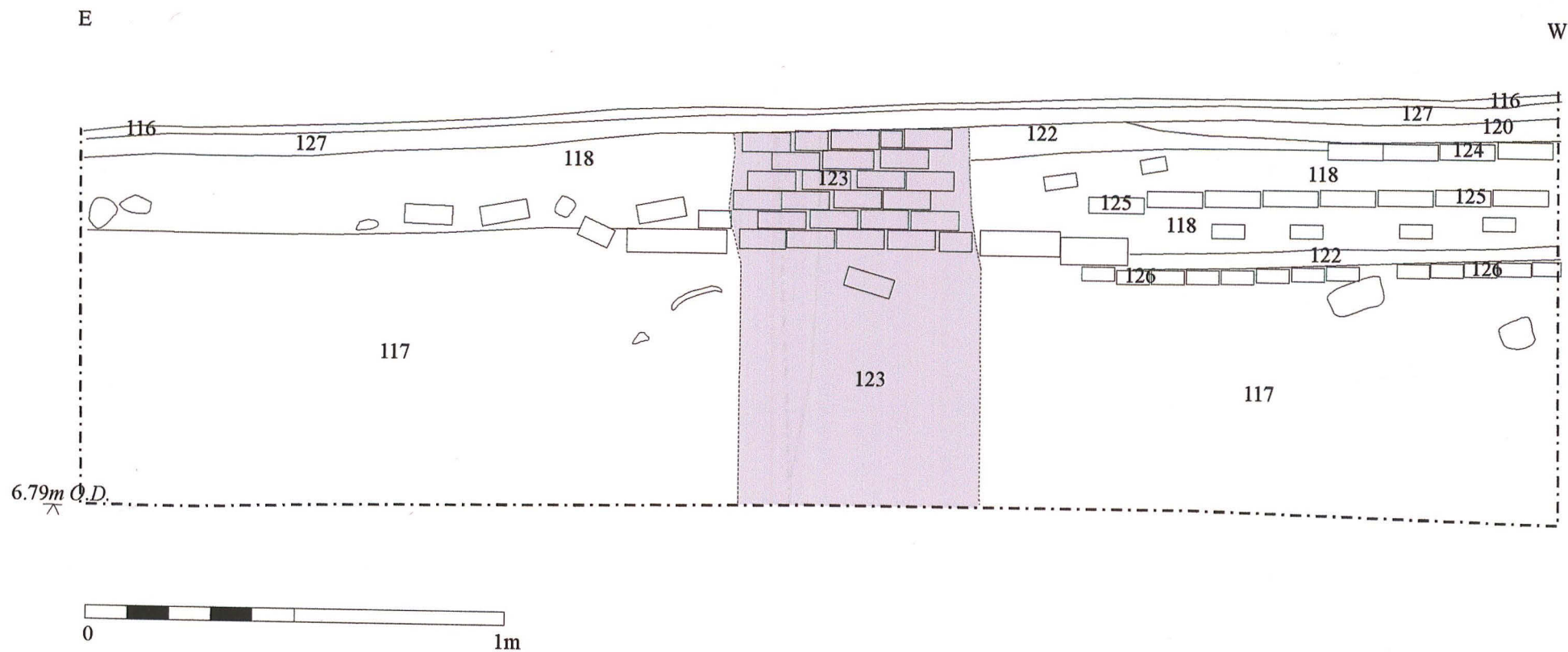


Fig. 3: North facing section of Trench 1

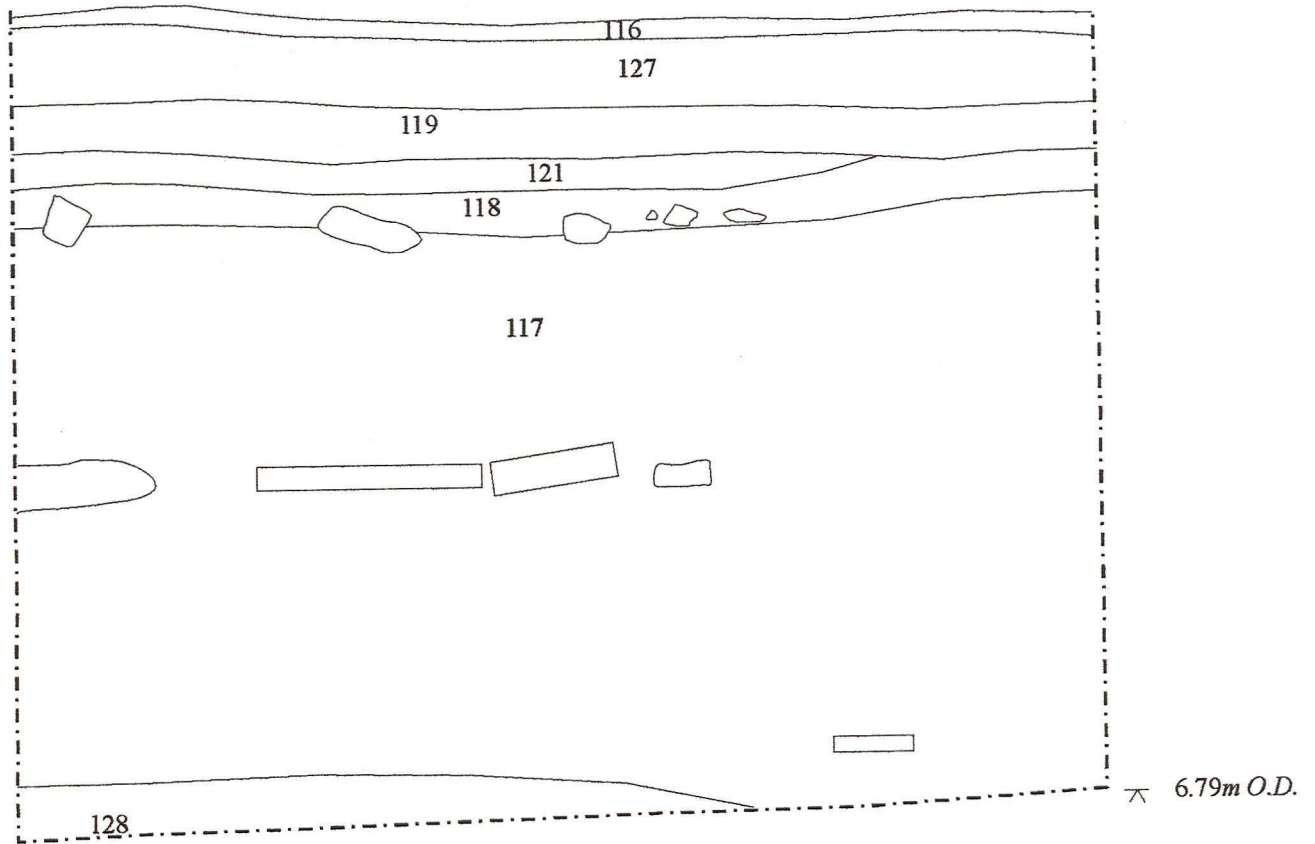


Fig. 4: West facing section of Trench 1. 1:10.

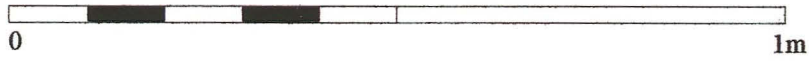
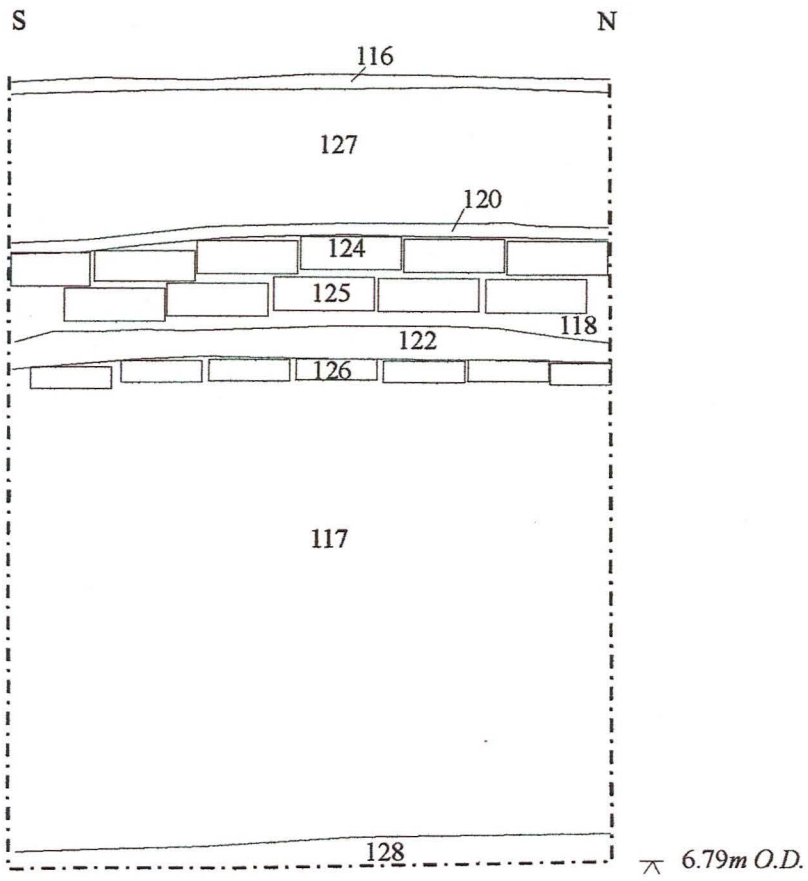


Fig. 5: East facing section of Trench 1.

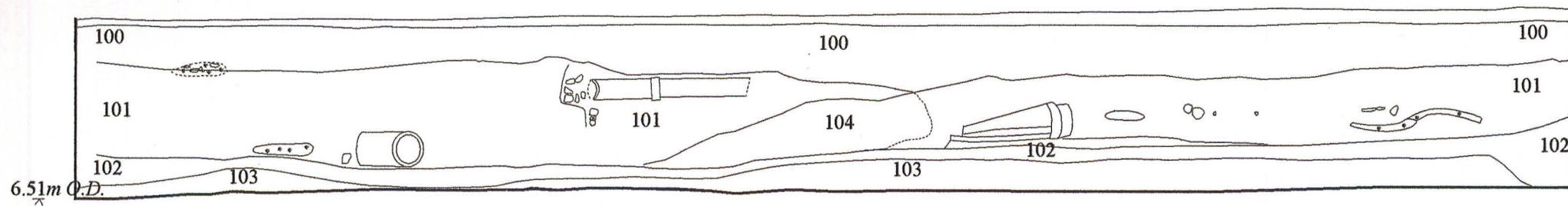


Fig. 6: North facing section of Trench 2

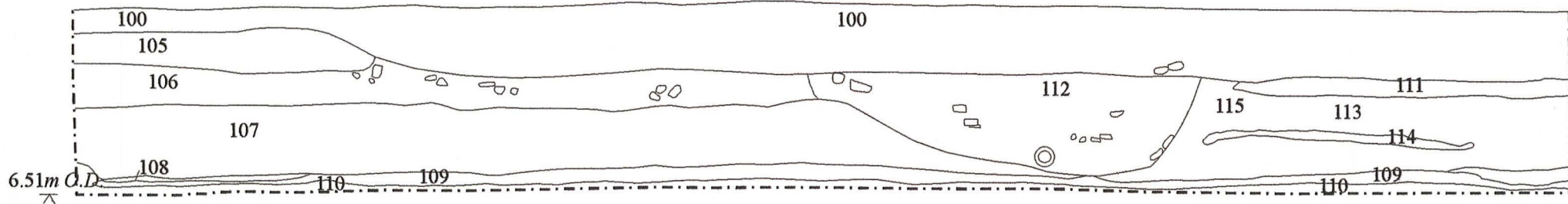
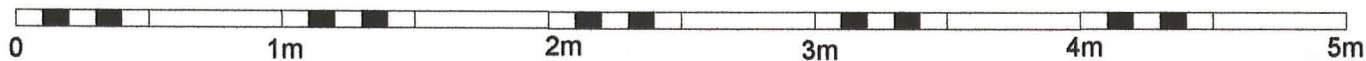
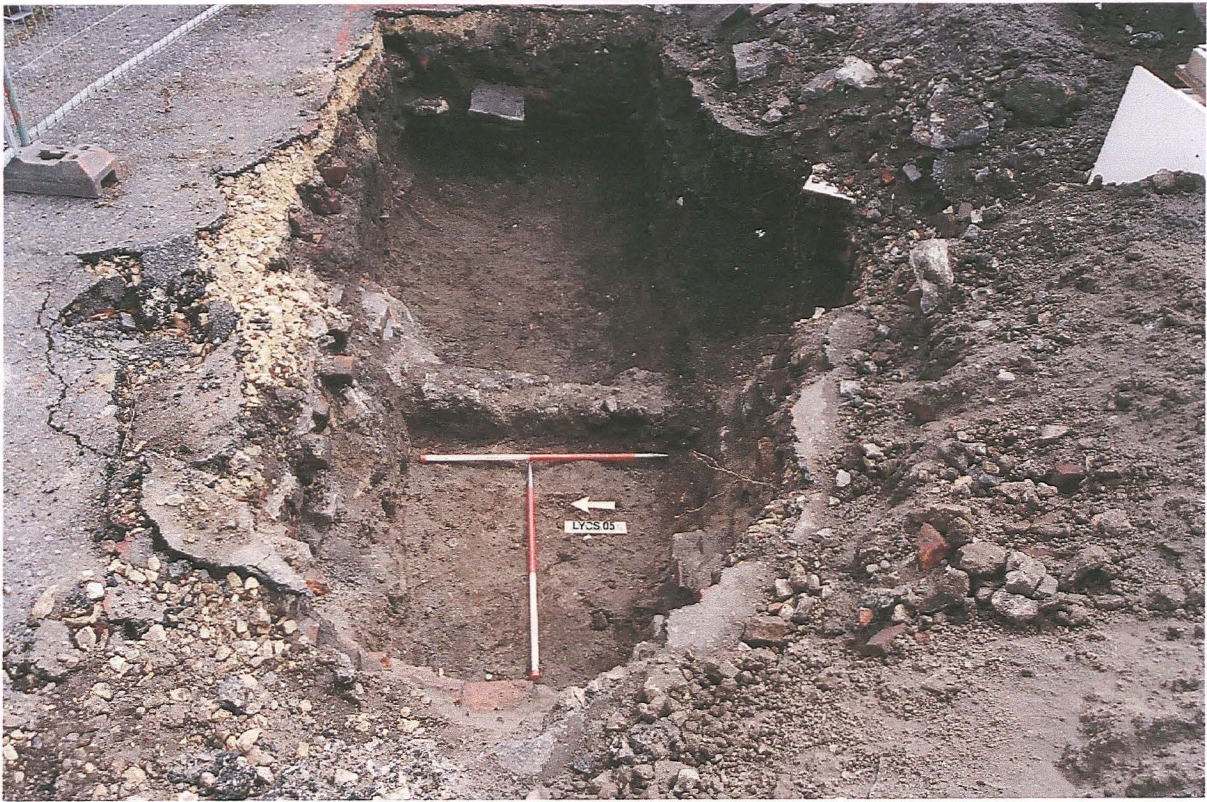


Fig. 7: North facing section of Trench 2

THE PLATES



Pl. 1: Trench 1 fully excavated, facing west. Scales 1m.



Pl. 2: East facing section, Trench 1. Scales 1m.



Pl. 3: Trench 1 under excavation, facing east.



Pl. 4: The north-south aligned wall, 123, in Trench 1, facing west. Scale 1m.



Pl. 5: General site shot showing Trench 2 in the garden, facing west.



Pl. 6: Trench 2 under excavation, facing south.



Pl. 7: Trench 2 fully excavated, facing west. Scales 1m.



Pl. 8: Trench 2 fully excavated, facing south east. Scales 1m.