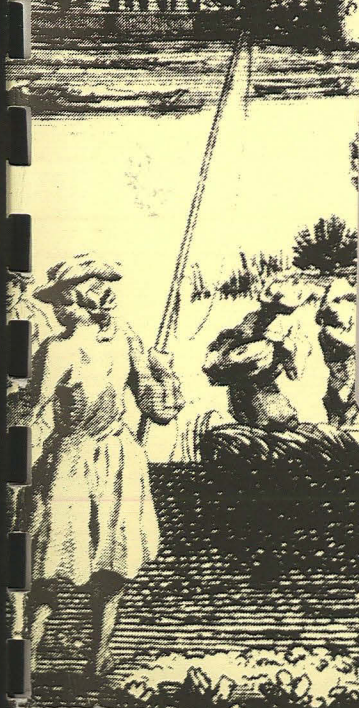


CITY OF  
◇ LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY ◇  
U N I T



**PROPOSED STUDENT  
ACCOMMODATION, DE MONTFORT  
UNIVERSITY, RISEHOLME, LINCS**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**  
*By K Wragg & R Trimble*  
CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 151





PROPOSED STUDENT ACCOMMODATION, DE  
MONTFORT UNIVERSITY, RISEHOLME,  
LINCOLNSHIRE

A

Report to

*De Montfort University, Lincoln*

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

February 1995

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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# PROPOSED STUDENT ACCOMMODATION, DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY, RISEHOLME, LINCOLNSHIRE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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**PROPOSED STUDENT  
ACCOMMODATION, DE  
MONTFORT UNIVERSITY,  
RISEHOLME,  
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

*Non-Technical Summary*

The parish of Riseholm shows considerable evidence for a long history of human occupation dating from the Neolithic and Bronze-Age periods, revealed by finds of flints scrapers in the area, through to the present day.

The former Roman road, Ermine Street, and a known Roman burial mound, are within c.600m of the proposed development area, and substantial Medieval earthworks are located on the south side of the present Hall, comprising the remains of the 12th century Riseholm village and a later monastic sheep grange. There is some evidence that the village originally extended across the stream, now Nettleham Beck, on to the site of the Hall and the ornamental lake, and it was for this reason that an archaeological investigation was considered necessary.

The results of the investigations did however indicate that in the immediate area of the proposed development little or no evidence for human occupation survives.

The stratigraphic sequence identified consisted of a relict ploughsoil overlying the natural (i.e., geological) tabular limestone. Several possible post-hole features, cut into the limestone, were investigated but found to be a result of natural erosion. Above the buried ploughsoil level the modern topsoil and occasional disturbance caused by the insertion of services to the former temporary blocks was noted in all trenches.

The archaeological potential of the immediate area of the proposed building is considered to be either negligible or non-existent. This negative assessment might, however, not be valid for areas affected by trenches for services, particularly to the south of the evaluation area (i.e. closer to the existing church and its graveyard).



# PROPOSED STUDENT ACCOMMODATION, DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY, RISEHOLME, LINCOLNSHIRE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

### *1.0 Introduction*

In response to an archaeological condition of planning consent, the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (C.L.A.U.) was commissioned by De Montfort University, Lincoln, to carry out an archaeological evaluation prior to the construction of residential accommodation within the grounds of the School of Agriculture and Horticulture at Riseholme Hall.

The proposed development area is located approximately 5km north of the centre of Lincoln and currently forms part of the landscaped grounds of the College. The site of the medieval church, thought to be a possible early focus of the village, lies c.50m to the south, and it was remains of this early medieval settlement that represented the primary academic objective of the investigations.

Following consultation with, and in accordance with a brief produced by, the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council, it was decided to proceed with a programme of limited archaeological trial trenching, with the option of subsequent geophysical survey if warranted by the results of the ground intervention.

The investigation initially comprised four machine excavated trenches, each measuring approximately 10m x 2m, situated to give a representative sample of the area to be affected by the proposed structure (see Fig.4). In all cases the trenches were excavated until the natural (i.e., geological) limestone was reached. Following the discovery of several possible post-hole features in Trench 1, it was decided to excavate a 2m x 2m northward extension at the eastern end of the trench (see Fig.5). This was to allow investigation of any possible pattern or alignment, and to provide the opportunity for a more accurate interpretation of these features.

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. The Unit, its members and employees 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 terms of the Unit's Articles of Association, the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and The Management of Archaeological Projects 2 (English Heritage, 1991).



## 2.0 Historical and Archaeological Background

The site lies immediately north of Lincoln (SK 9830/7572 - see Fig.1), at a height of approximately 40m O.D.. The underlying geology is Jurassic limestone.

### 2.1 Archaeological background

The parish of Riseholme shows evidence of a long history of human occupation dating from the Neolithic and Bronze-Age periods, revealed by finds of flints scrapers in the area, through to the present day.

The former Roman road, Ermine Street, lies approximately 600m to the west of the present Hall, and a known Roman burial mound, proved by excavation to cover a cremation of the period 80-100 A.D (Thompson 1954), is located c.500m north of the proposed development area (see Fig.1).

Substantial medieval earthworks survive on the south side of the present Hall, comprising the remains of the 12th century Riseholme village and a later monastic sheep grange (see Fig.3). The earthworks are in good condition but are partially obscured (especially to the north) by spoil produced during construction of the ornamental lake in the 18th century. There is some evidence that the village originally extended across the stream, now Nettleham Beck, on to the site of the Hall and the ornamental lake.

A full understanding of the site of Riseholme village is impossible because of the loss of features to the north of the stream, either destroyed or buried during the construction of the lake and the Hall in the 18th century. The medieval church lay north of the stream, to the west of the existing 19th century church, as shown on a map of 1601. Also at this time an east-west way ran along the south side of the church and connected with the main "hygheway through the town" which ran N-S. At least two farms together with the village closes (from enclosure - see below) also survived in this area.

It has been proposed on the basis of this evidence that the early focus for the village was originally to the north of the stream where a church existed at the beginning of the 12th century. The village then appears to have expanded to the south of the

stream, with a second focus similar to that to the north being established. Development on the south side of the stream was then followed by the laying out of a (neat) rectangular village plan (by Hugh Bardolf - see below). Limited excavation to the south of the stream in 1954-5 showed the remains of one two-roomed stone house dating from the 13th century and seemingly abandoned during the mid 14th century, with some evidence for an earlier 12th century wooden structure beneath.

### 2.2 Historical evidence

The Domesday Book records five "holdings" (i.e., parcels of land held by a tenant), which had reduced to three by the beginning of the 12th century. By 1166 one holding was tenanted by Hugh Bardolf I (father of the King's Justicar Hugh Bardolf II), who granted considerable land in the parish to the abbeys of Kirkstead and Barlings (in 1166 and 1168 respectively), which became the basis of extensive sheep farms. These were enlarged further in the 13th and 14th centuries by grants from Edmund Foliot, who succeeded to the manor.

Monastic interests were removed during the Dissolution (1536-40) and in the mid 16th century the St.Paul family of Snarford acquired the former monastic buildings, and in 1610 purchased the lay manor, so consolidating the parish into single ownership. The final abandonment of the village was probably as a result of under-exploitation by the St.Paul family following the removal of monastic interests. At the start of the 17th century all of the "glebe" fields (church land) were common land, but by the 1791 the whole parish was enclosed (as a result of the Enclosure Act when common land became private through enclosure).

In 1721 the estate passed to the Chaplin family who created the present hall, its parkland and the ornamental lake. In 1839 it was bought by the Bishop of Lincoln as a residence, and the Hall was extended and a new church built (see Fig.2).



### 3.0 Results

#### Trial Trench 1 (see Figs.5 & 6).

A number of cuts containing identical fills of reddish brown slightly clayey sandy silt occurred within the easternmost 3.5m length of Trench 1 and within an adjacent 2m x 2m northward extension to the trench, cutting into the natural limestone [128]. Out of a total of nine cut features (context numbers [114], [116], [118], [120], [122], [124], [126], [136] and [138]), eight were either fully or partially excavated. Of these, three ([118], [120] and [136]) displayed steep sided profiles together with fairly regular sub-circular or oval plan shapes (plan dimensions varied between 310mm x 230mm and 420mm x 240mm with depths ranging between 320mm and 380mm). Two shallower examples ([126] and [138]) displayed more rounded profiles. The remaining features were irregular in plan with shallow hollows linking otherwise separate voids.

An average 480mm depth of clayey ploughsoil, [113], extended over the above features and was in turn overlain by a 130mm (max.) depth of topsoil [112]. Several modern features, including cuts for concrete foundations (for the recently removed Portakabins) and linear cuts for services (including water and electricity), were then seen cutting into the topsoil and subsoil.

#### Trial Trench 2 (see Fig.7).

An irregularly shaped shallow hollow, [108], with dimensions of 1.0m E-W x 400mm N-S (extending beyond limit of excavation to south) x 300mm deep occurred within the base of the trench, cutting into the natural limestone [111]. It was filled by an orange-brown sandy clay [107], and appeared to be geological in origin. A 250mm-600mm thick ploughsoil [106] identical to that recorded in trench 1 ([113]), then extended throughout Trench 2, and this was itself sealed by a 200mm thick layer of topsoil [105]. Several modern features, including service trenches and concrete foundations, were again present, as seen in T.T.1 (see Appendix C).

#### Trial Trenches 3 and 4 (see Figs.8 & 9).

Trenches 3 and 4 contained no evidence of archaeological activity. In both trenches the turf/topsoil horizon [100] overlay a deposit of sand, clay and small limestone pieces [103], which varied in thickness from 100mm and 250mm. This material in turn sealed undisturbed limestone brash [104].



#### **4.0 Discussion of Results and Conclusions**

Based upon the results as outlined above the following stratigraphic sequence can be proposed:

- 1) Undisturbed limestone occurring throughout the area of the evaluation at heights of between 41.02m O.D. and 40.56m O.D.
- 2) Randomly distributed and irregular voids within the limestone in the area of Trench 1. There was no evidence of artefactual material contained in the fills of these voids and no evidence of the packing or decayed timbers which might indicate the post holes of a timber structure. It is considered therefore, that these features represent "solution holes", a result of the natural percolation of water into fissures within the limestone brash. However, tree root action cannot be discounted. The shallow hollow recorded in Trench 2 probably has a similar natural origin.
- 3) A relict ploughsoil is present in Trenches 1 and 2 but only partially so in Trenches 3 and 4. This contrast may be due to later landscaping of the area to the north, probably during the 18th century.
- 4) Modern topsoil and occasional disturbance caused by the insertion of services to the former temporary blocks was noted in all trenches.

The archaeological potential of the immediate area of the proposed building is considered to be either negligible or non-existent. This assessment might not be valid for areas affected by trenches for services, particularly to the south of the evaluation area (i.e. closer to the existing church and its graveyard).

#### **5.0 Acknowledgements**

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit would like to thank the following for their assistance during this project: Mr D.H.Barratt, Head of School, De Montfort University; Mr P.B.Roe, A E Thornton-Firkin & Partners; Mr K.Allen, Costall Allen Design; Mr P.Dawson (Estate Manager); and Mr I.K.George of the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section.



## APPENDIX A

### *Bibliography*

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*Change and Continuity. Rural settlement in north-west Lincolnshire*, RCHM(E)
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- Thompson, F H 1960 The Deserted Medieval Village of Riseholme, near Lincoln *Medieval Archaeol* **IV**, 95-108
- Vince, Alan (ed) 1993 *Pre-Viking Lindsey*, Lincoln Archaeol Stud **1**, City Lincoln Archaeol Unit, Lincoln, [LAM BIB496 ]



## APPENDIX B

### *Archive Deposition*

The archive consists of:

No.	Description
1	Site diary
1	Report
43	Context records
11	Scale drawings
1 set	Photographic records - Colour slides
1	Stratigraphic matrix

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 1.95, will be undertaken within approximately six months of completion of this project.



APPENDIX C - TABLE SUMMARISING FEATURES BY TRENCH

Trial Trench No.	Context no.	Description	Interpretation
TT1	[114]	IRREGULAR CUT	NATURAL - "Solution hole"
TT1	[116]	IRREGULAR CUT	NATURAL - "Solution hole"
TT1	[118]	SMALL OVAL CUT	NATURAL - "Solution hole"
TT1	[120]	SMALL OVAL CUT	NATURAL - "Solution hole"
TT1	[122]	IRREGULAR CUT	NATURAL - "Solution hole"
TT1	[124]	IRREGULAR CUT	NATURAL - "Solution hole"
TT1	[126]	IRREGULAR CUT	NATURAL - "Solution hole"
TT1	[129]	LINEAR CUT	MODERN SERVICE TRENCH
TT1	[133]	LINEAR CUT	MODERN SERVICE TRENCH
TT1	[135]	SQUARE CUT	FOUNDATION FOR MODERN STRUCTURE
TT1	[136]	SMALL OVAL CUT	NATURAL - "Solution hole"
TT1	[138]	SMALL OVAL CUT	NATURAL - "Solution hole"
TT2	[108]	IRREGULAR CUT	NATURAL - Possible "Solution hole"
TT2	[110]	LINEAR CUT	MODERN SERVICE TRENCH
TT2	[141]	SQUARE CUT	FOUNDATION FOR MODERN STRUCTURE
TT3/4	[102]	LINEAR CUT	MODERN SERVICE TRENCH



<b>CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT</b>		
SITE CODE: RCA95	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT: De Montfort University, Lincoln		
DESCRIPTION: Site Location Plan		
SCALE: 1:10 000	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY: -	CHECKED:	DATE: -
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 1.95		

- KEY**
- ① Line of Ermine Street
  - ② Location of Roman Burial Mound
  - ③ Location of Site

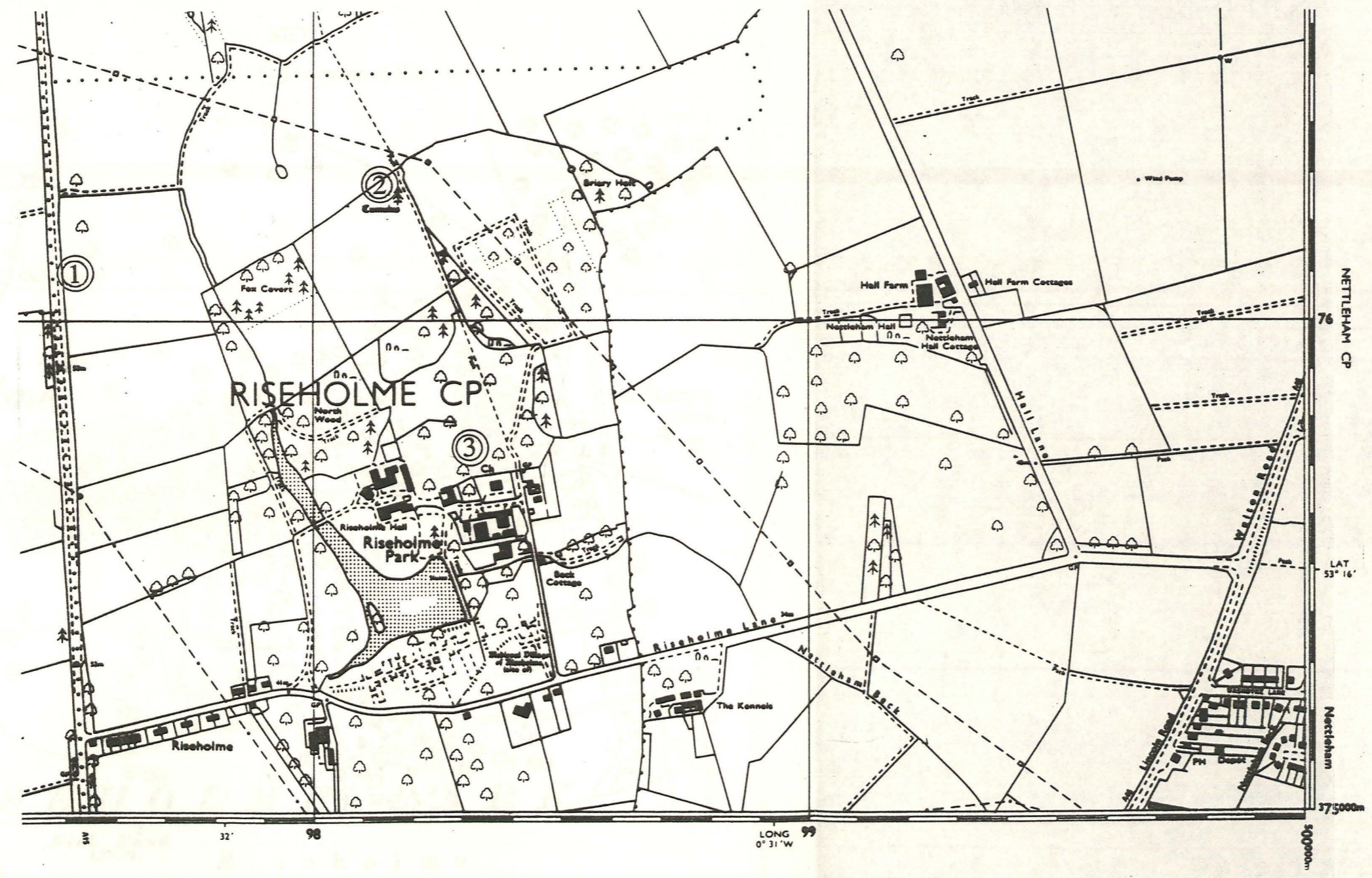


Fig.1



**CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT**

SITE CODE: RCA95

PLANELEV/SECTION NO:

CLIENT: De Montfort University, Lincoln

DESCRIPTION:

Plan of Riseholme Hall (1906)

SCALE: N.T.S.

ARCHIVE NO:

DRAWN BY: -

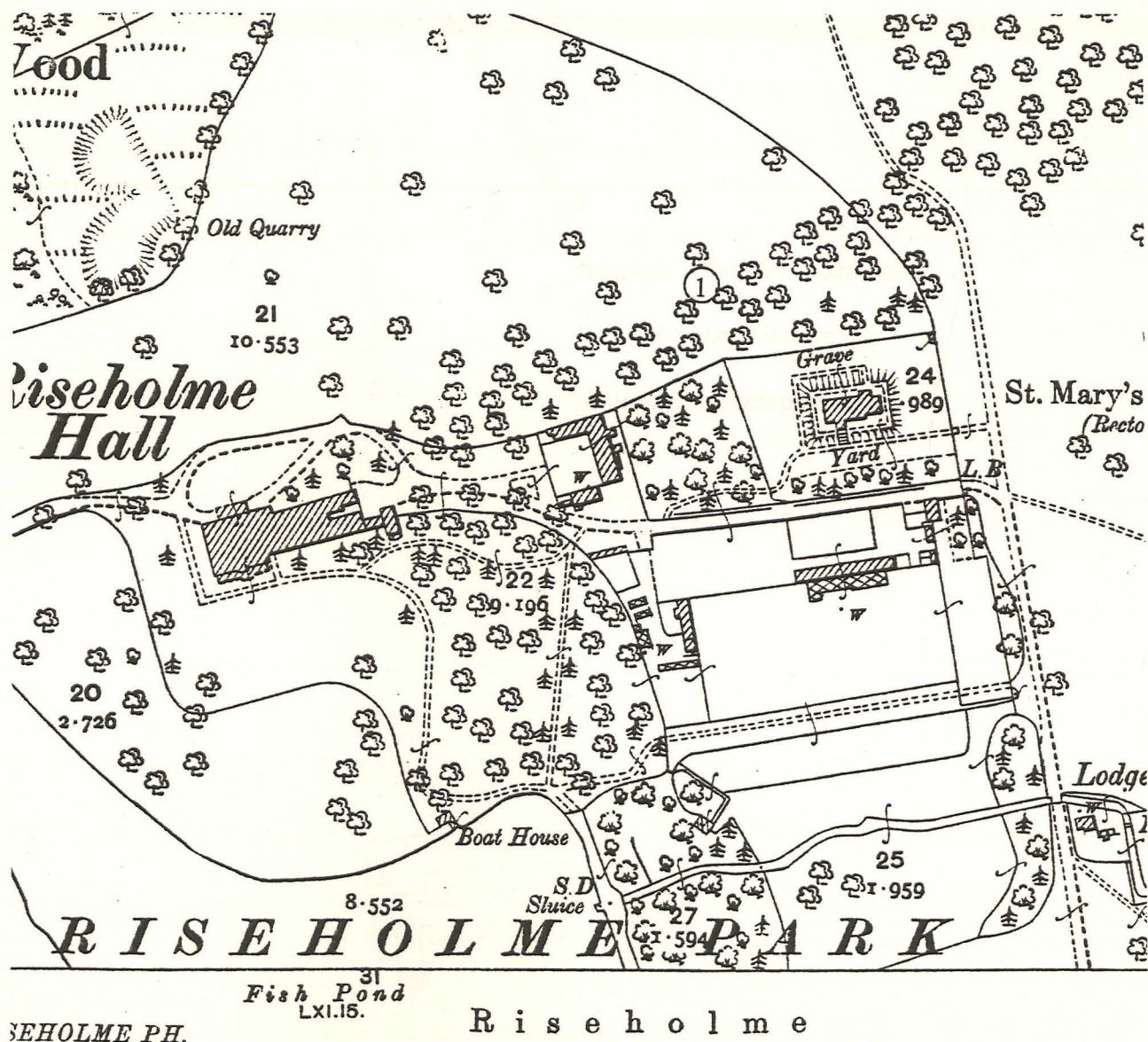
CHECKED:

DATE: -

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 1.95

**KEY**

① Location of Site



RISEHOLME PH.

Fish Pond  
LXI.15.

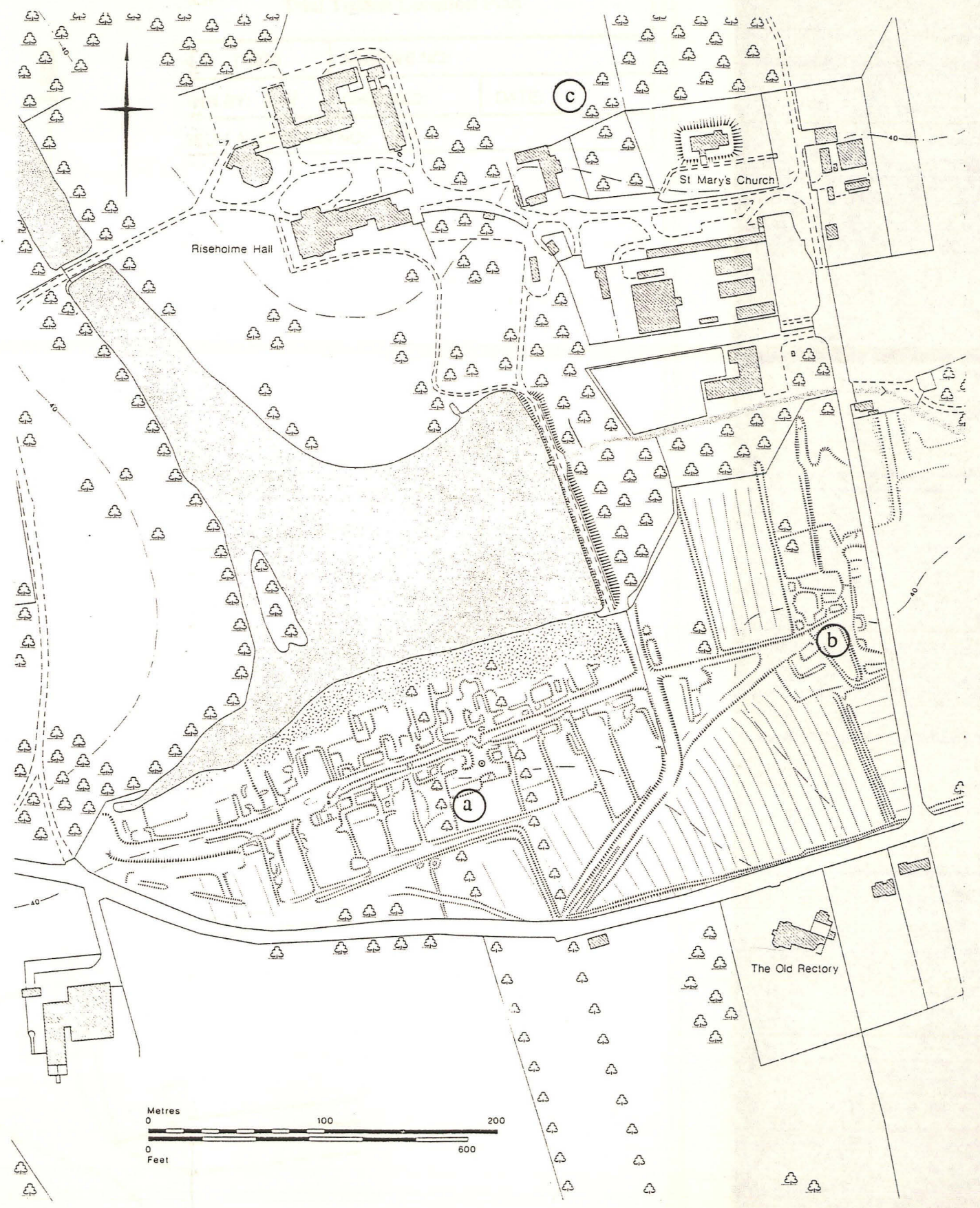
Riseholme

Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, 1906.

Fig.2



<b>CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT</b>		
SITE CODE: RCA95	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT: De Montfort University, Lincoln		
DESCRIPTION: Plan Showing Historic Landscape Around Riseholme Hall		
SCALE: N.T.S.	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY: -	CHECKED:	DATE: -
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 1.95		





- KEY**
- a Medieval Village of Riseholme
  - b Monastic Sheep Grange
  - c Location of Development Site

Fig.3



CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
SITE CODE: RCA95	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT: De Montfort University, Lincoln		
DESCRIPTION: Trial Trench Location Plan		
SCALE: 1:500	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY: KW	CHECKED:	DATE:
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 1.95		

KEY

-  Proposed Accommodation Block
-  Location of trial trench

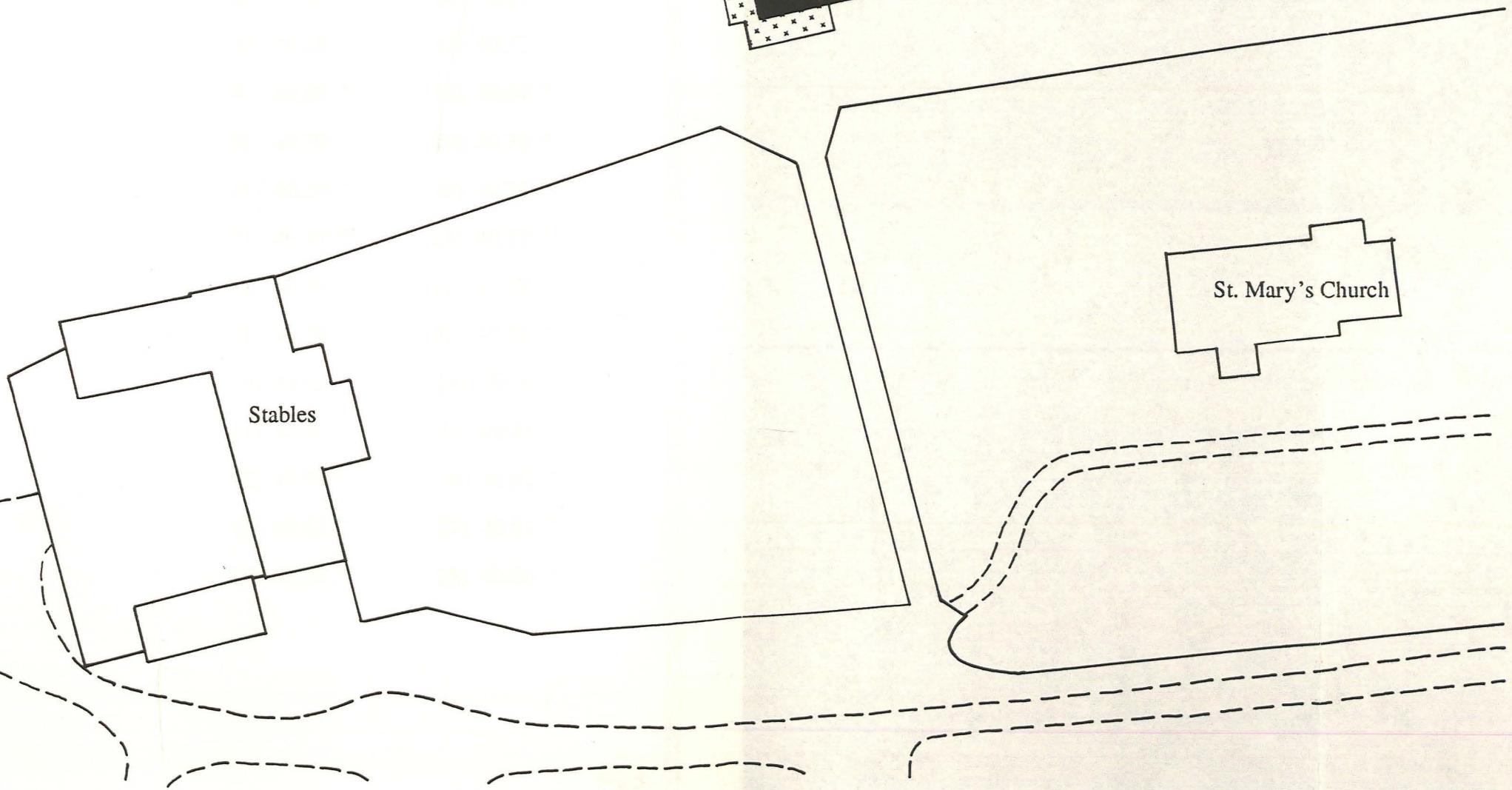
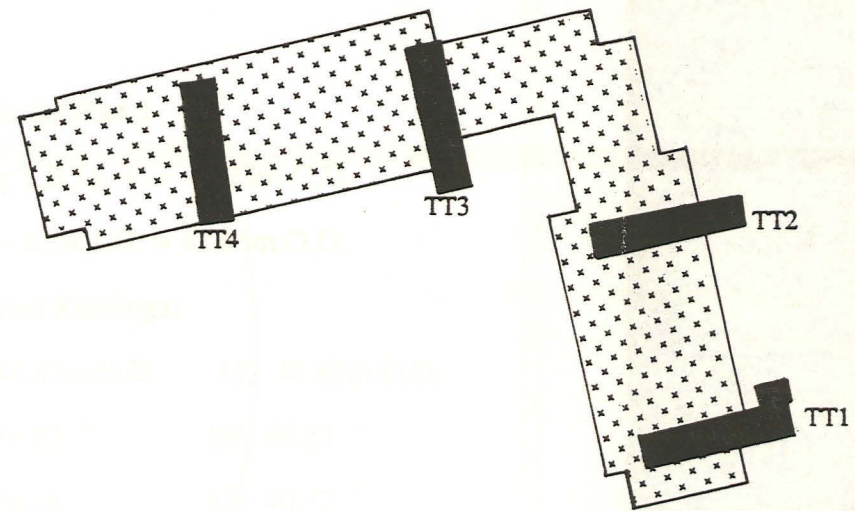
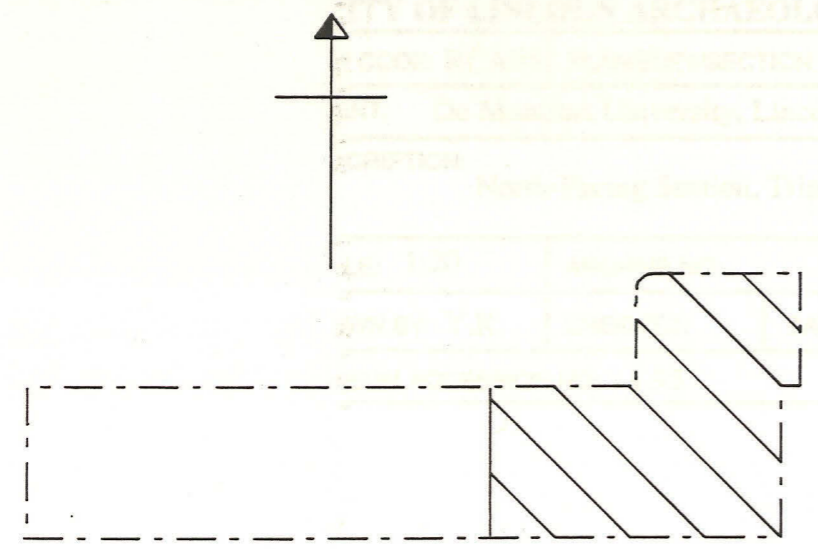


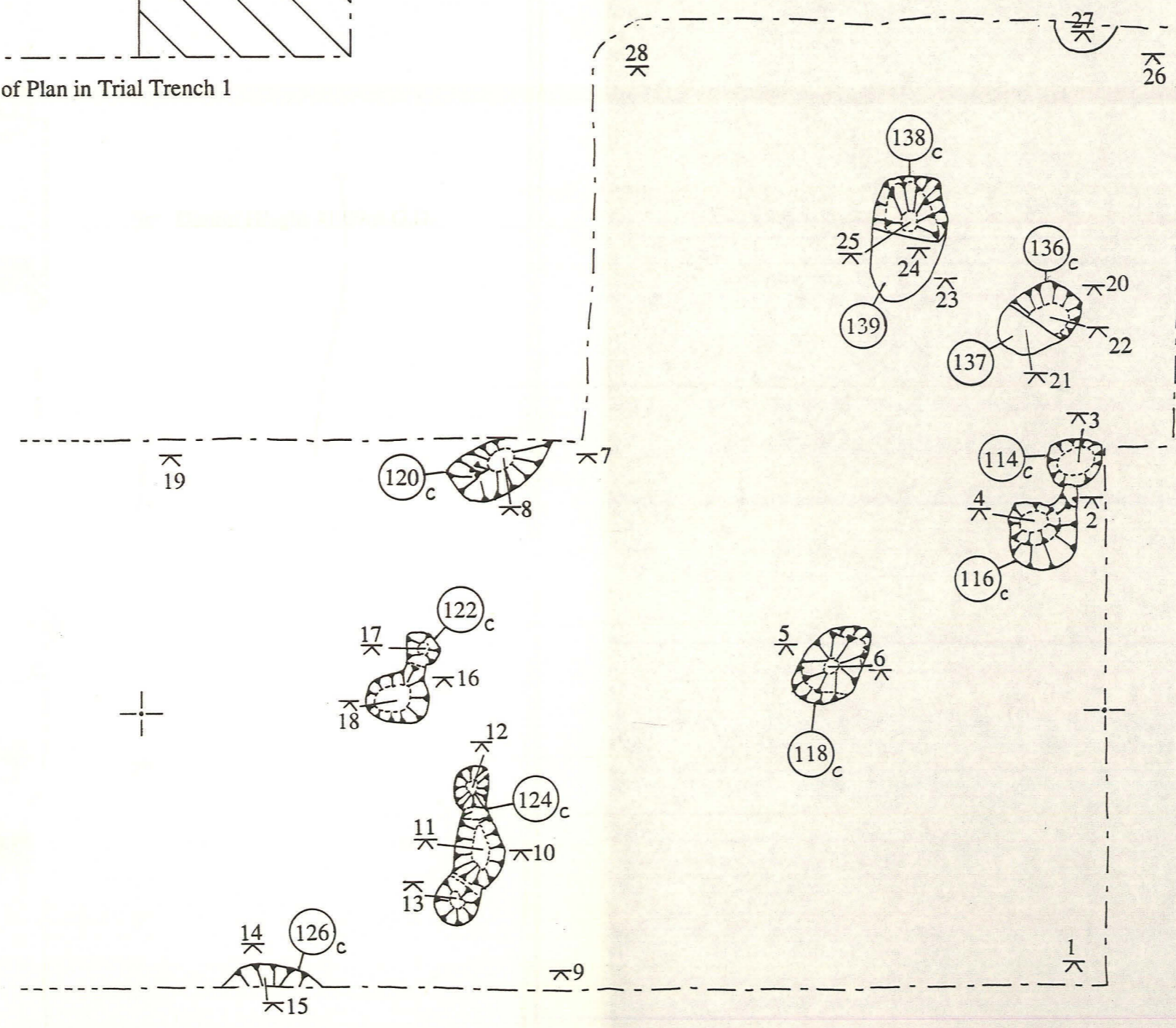
Fig.4



CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
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CLIENT: De Montfort University, Lincoln		
DESCRIPTION: East End of Trial Trench 1		
SCALE: 1:20	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY: R.T./Y.R.	CHECKED:	DATE: 12-13/01/95
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 1.95		



Location of Plan in Trial Trench 1



Levels for Plan 1

Using T.B.M. 1 = 41.26m O.D.

B.S. = 1.29, I.H. = 42.55m O.D.

Reduced Readings:

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1) 40.87m O.D. | 15) 40.65m O.D. |
| 2) 40.82 "     | 16) 40.81 "     |
| 3) 40.68 "     | 17) 40.73 "     |
| 4) 40.67 "     | 18) 40.64 "     |
| 5) 40.79 "     | 19) 40.76 "     |
| 6) 40.50 "     | 20) 40.75 "     |
| 7) 40.89 "     | 21) 40.77 "     |
| 8) 40.49 "     | 22) 40.62 "     |
| 9) 40.78 "     | 23) 40.74 "     |
| 10) 40.82 "    | 24) 40.74 "     |
| 11) 40.61 "    | 25) 40.41 "     |
| 12) 40.53 "    | 26) 40.82 "     |
| 13) 40.62 "    | 27) 40.84 "     |
| 14) 40.74 "    | 28) 40.80 "     |

Fig.5



CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT  
 FORM RCAPS PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO: 2  
 De Montfort University, Lincoln  
 SECTION  
 North-Facing Section, Trial Trench 1  
 E: 130 ARCHIVE NO:  
 DRAWN BY: Y.R. CHECKED: DATE: 13/01/95  
 MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 1.95

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
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CLIENT: De Montfort University, Lincoln		
DESCRIPTION: North-Facing Section, Trial Trench 1		
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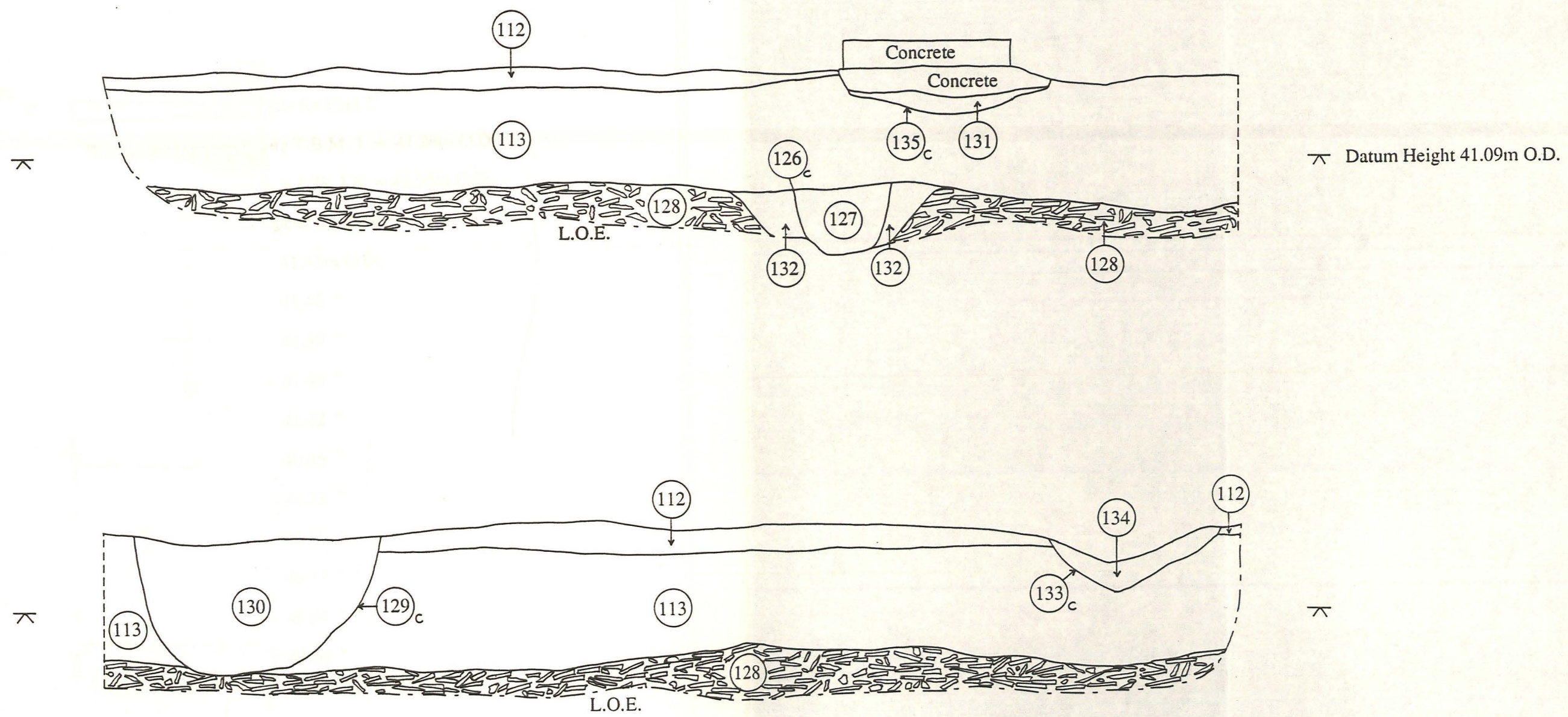
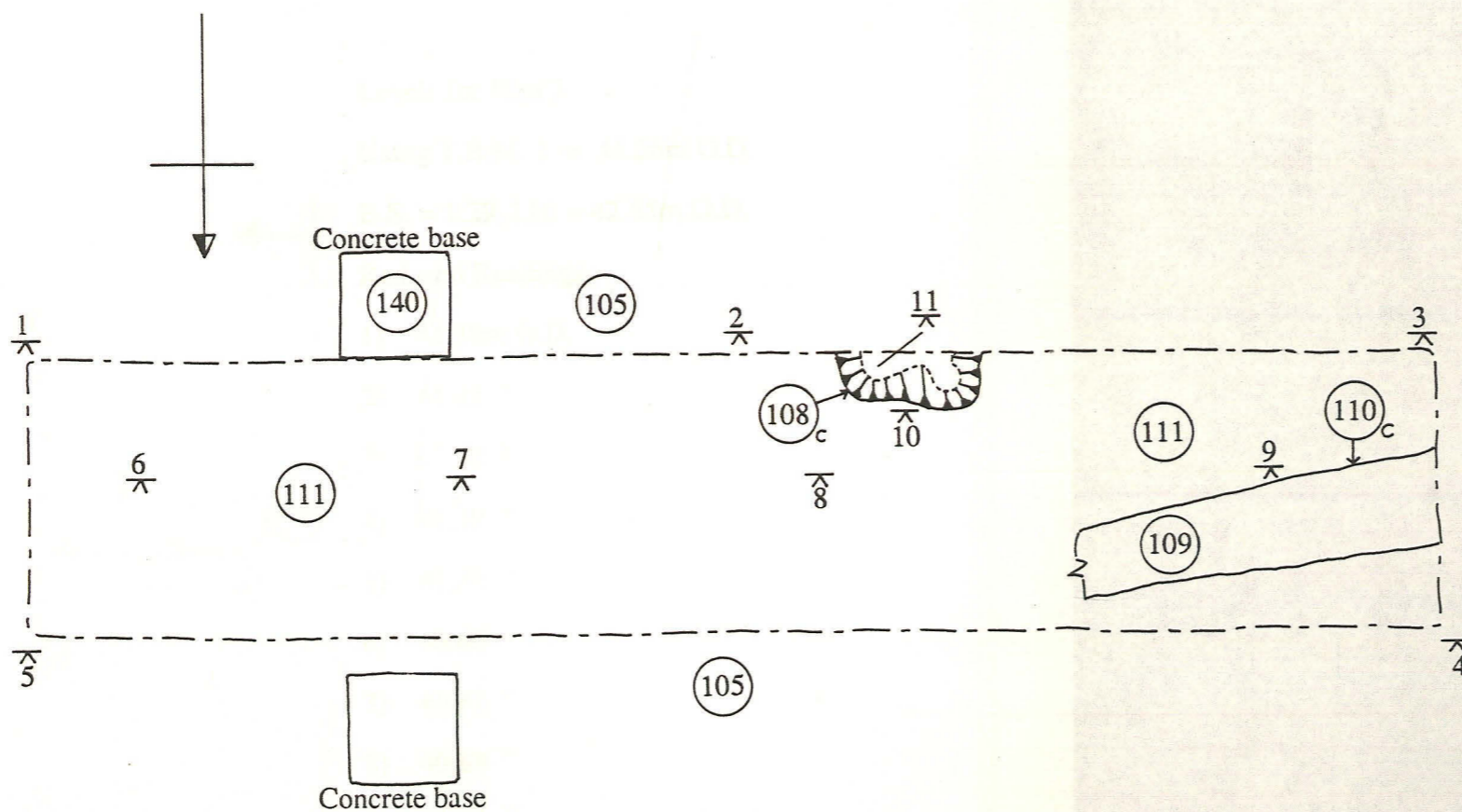
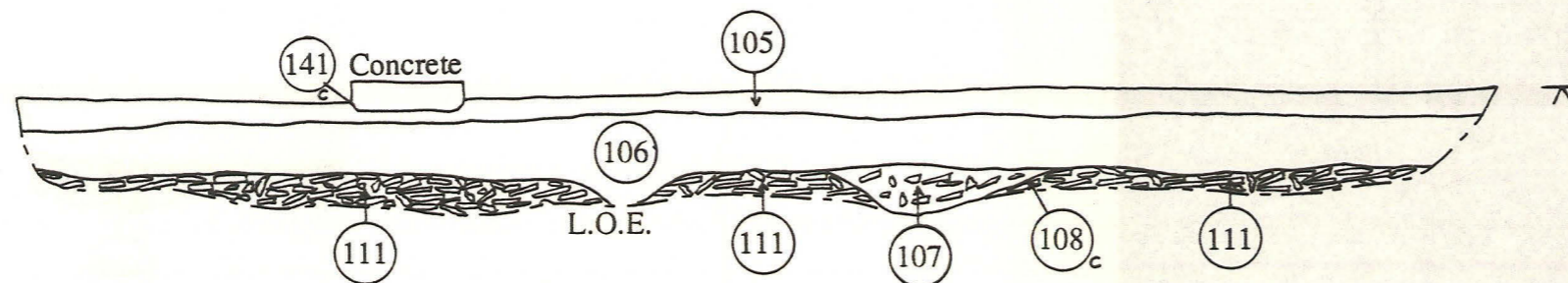


Fig.6



Datum Height  
41.39m O.D.



Levels for Plan 2

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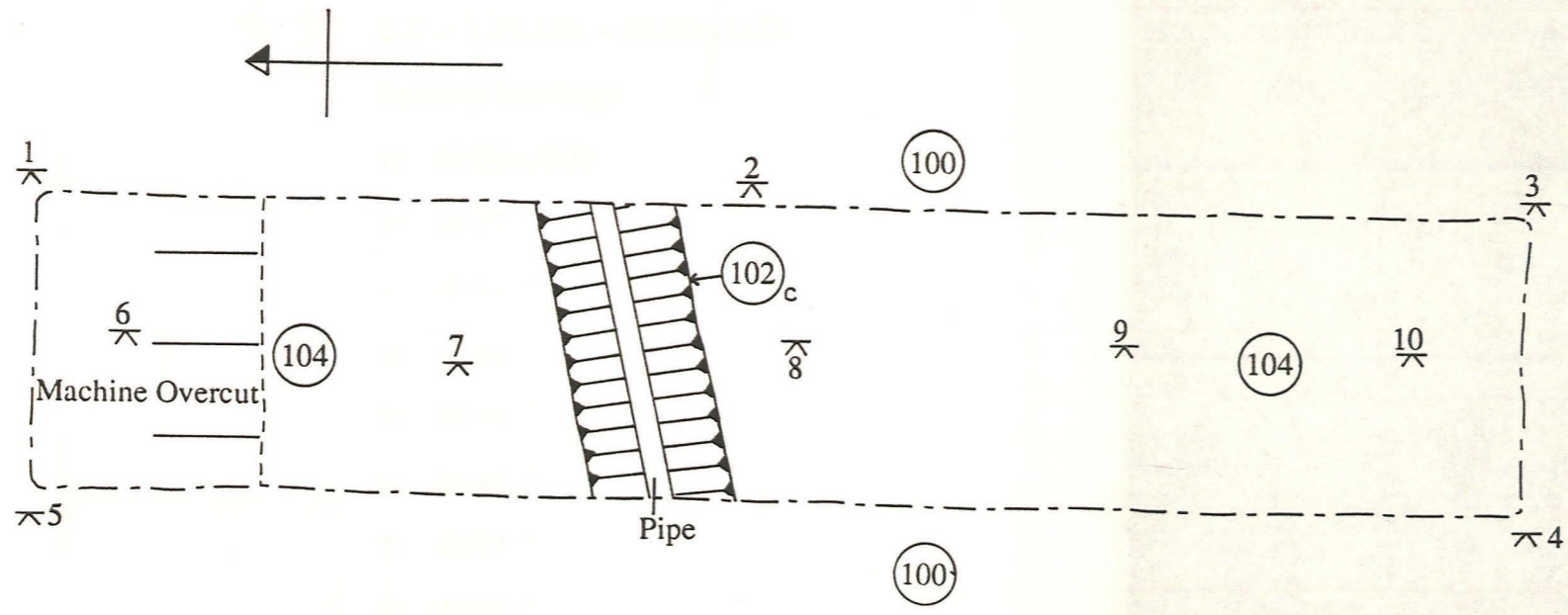
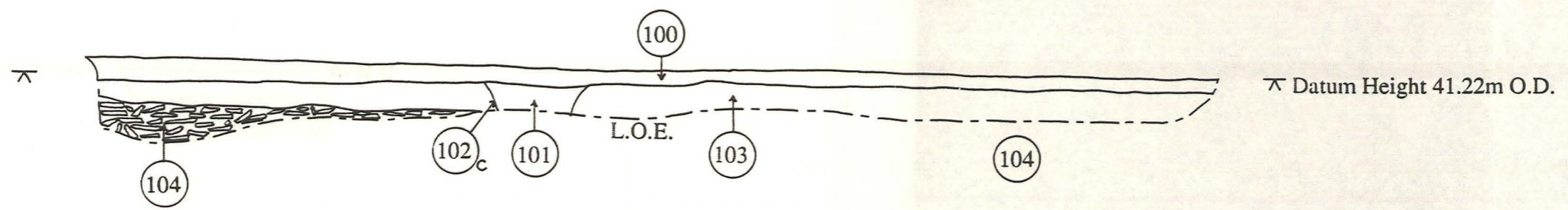
B.S. = 1.29, I.H. = 42.55m O.D.

Reduced Readings:

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- 4) 41.44 "
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- 6) 40.86 "
- 7) 40.73 "
- 8) 40.85 "
- 9) 40.77 "
- 10) 40.84 "
- 11) 40.64 "



CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
SITE CODE: RCA95	PLANE/ELEV/SECTION NO: 3	
CLIENT: De Montfort University, Lincoln		
DESCRIPTION: Plan and West-Facing Section, Trial Trench 3		
SCALE: 1:50	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY: K.W.	CHECKED:	DATE: 12/01/95
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 1.95		



Levels for Plan 3  
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 B.S. = 1.29, I.H. = 42.55m O.D.

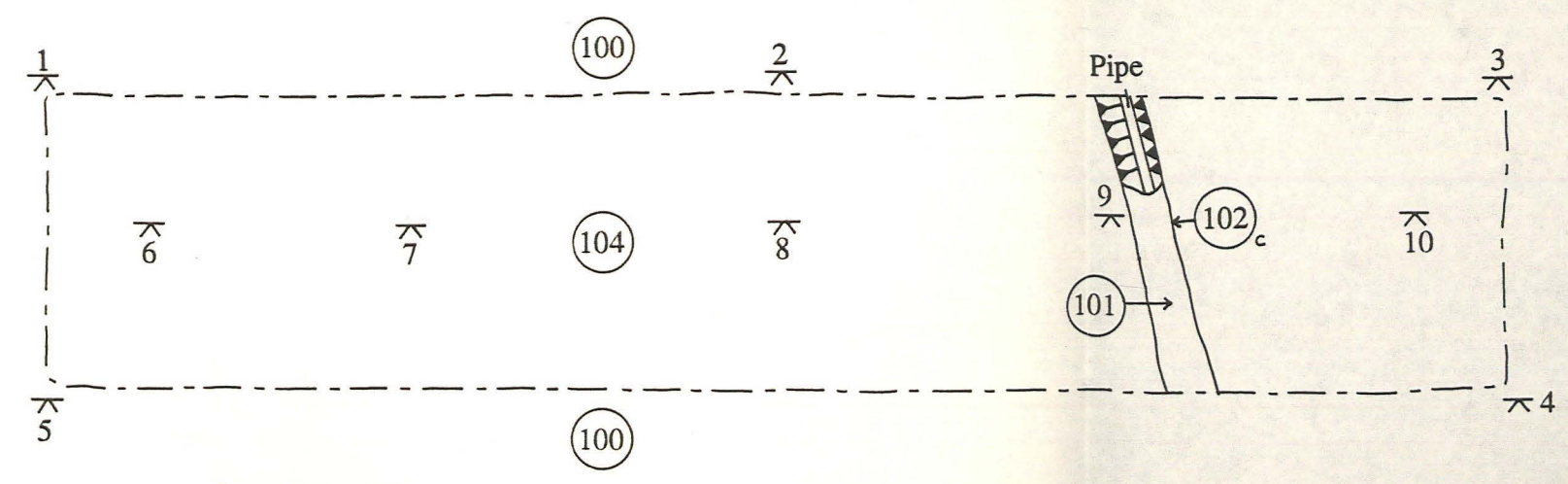
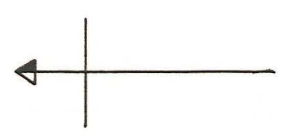
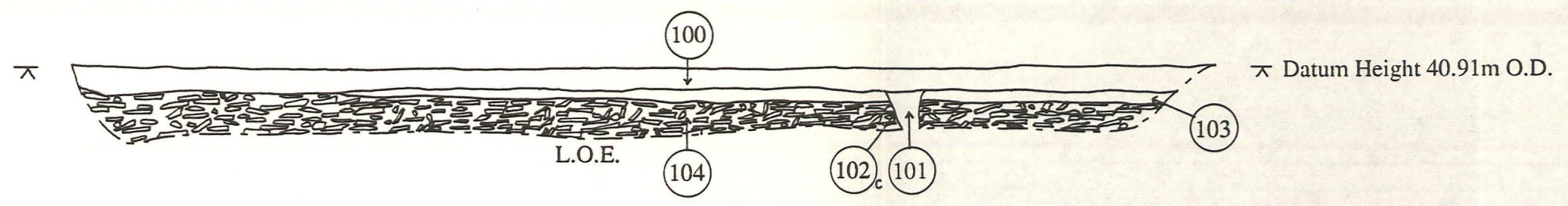
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- 5) 41.33 "
- 6) 40.60 "
- 7) 40.87 "
- 8) 40.84 "
- 9) 40.83 "
- 10) 40.83 "

Fig.8



<b>CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT</b>		
SITE CODE: RCA95	PLANE/ELEV/SECTION NO: 4	
CLIENT: De Montfort University, Lincoln		
DESCRIPTION: Plan and West-Facing Section, Trial Trench 4		
SCALE: 1:50	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY: K.W.	CHECKED:	DATE: 12/01/95
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 1.95		



**Levels for Plan 4**

Using T.B.M. 1 = 41.26m O.D.

B.S. = 1.29, I.H. = 42.55m O.D.

**Reduced Readings:**

- 1) 40.96m O.D.
- 2) 40.97 "
- 3) 40.91 "
- 4) 40.80 "
- 5) 40.90 "
- 6) 40.35 "
- 7) 40.37 "
- 8) 40.40 "
- 9) 40.40 "
- 10) 40.41 "

Fig.9