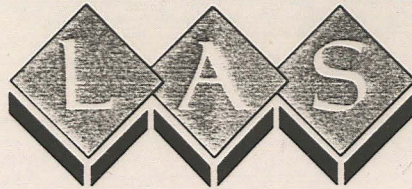


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# LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

FRANCIS HOUSE SILVER BIRCH PARK GREAT NORTHERN TERRACE LINCOLN LN5 8LG

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**9 NEW STREET LOUTH**

**NGR TF 3283 8470 TF 3283 8740**

**Museum accession no. 57.95**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**for**

**SIMONS DESIGN**

**May 1995**

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The 1889 O.S. survey shows a narrow alleyway running along the western side of the site fronting onto New Street (Fig. 3). This alleyway was redeveloped after the Second World War with the construction of public lavatories which were demolished in early 1990.

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**9 NEW STREET LOUTH**  
**Archaeological Evaluation**  
**NGR TF 3283 8470**

(Planning Application N/105/1833/94)

**SUMMARY**

*Two trial trenches were excavated on the site of the former public toilets in New Street. The area lies close to the centre of the medieval town and it was hoped that evidence for medieval occupation would be found. The routes of several sewer pipes currently in use has left little of the area available for archaeological investigation and excavation established that modern disturbance to deposits extended below 1m in depth on parts of the site. A possible yard surface was found in Trench 2 with associated finds of pottery dating from the 16th-18th centuries. Pottery of a similar date was also found in the lower levels of Trench 1 and it is possible that islands of undisturbed archaeological deposits survive which might be observed if extensive stripping of the area is undertaken during development of the site.*

**INTRODUCTION**

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Simons Design to undertake an archaeological evaluation in April 1995 on the east side of New Street, formerly the site of public toilets (TF 3283 8470). The area was the subject of a planning application for further development of the Market Hall (application number N/105/1833/94). The following report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Brief set by the Archaeology Section of Lincolnshire County Council dated March 1995.

The purpose of the evaluation was to

- establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains and their location within the development area
- determine the quality and extent of any remains
- determine the level of further archaeological recording required prior to development

**SITE DESCRIPTION**

The proposed development site lies on the north side of the Cornmarket at the back of medieval burgage plots which originally fronted onto Eastgate and Cornmarket (Figs. 1 and 2). A kink in New Street where no. 7 meets the entrance to the new market hall (opposite the proposed development) probably marks the point where the rear boundaries between the plots of Cornmarket and Eastgate met. The building of New Street in c.1790, however, and subsequent alterations, have destroyed the medieval layout of the plots.

The 1889 O.S. survey shows buildings occupying the western half of the site fronting onto New Street (Fig. 3). This same area was redeveloped after the Second World War with the construction of public toilets which were demolished in early 1990.



## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

Louth is a large market town on the eastern edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds; its archaeology and origins are currently poorly understood. The name Louth is thought to derive from the Old English word *lud* meaning 'loud', which may refer to the river of the same name which runs through the town.

The earliest recorded human activity in Louth consists of a few Neolithic flints found during the excavations of a medieval building at Mount St. Mary in 1970 and a barbed and tanged flint arrowhead found in the school field at Monk's Dyke. Roman finds in Louth are minimal and appear to originate from outside the town centre.

The origins of the town itself are not known but on present evidence appear to be post-Roman in date. It was an important settlement by the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086, and a monastic community is said to have been founded in the 8th century, but its location is unknown. It is assumed that the oldest part of the town lies close to the parish church and the market place (Cornmarket) but there has been little previous archaeological investigation in the town. The best evidence comes from the layout of the narrow medieval properties (burgage plots) recorded on early maps which is largely intact today (Figs. 1 and 3).

Medieval Louth was a centre famed for the trade of wool and wine. During this wealthy period a number of important buildings were sited in the vicinity of the Cornmarket (formerly Butcher Market) and the Market Place including the Bedehouse of the Holy Trinity Guild, the Moot Hall and possibly St John's Chapel.

It was hoped that the evaluation trenches would locate the former burgage plot boundaries and provide dating evidence for the development of this part of the town.

## **EXCAVATION**

Plans (drawn up in 1989) supplied by Simons Design identified four inspection chambers, associated with the sewer system, within the development site. Prior to commencement of excavations a search of live services was made and the following utilities were consulted: Yorkshire Electricity, British Gas, Anglian Water Services Ltd and British Telecommunications. It was confirmed that no additional services were present on the site.

Choice of trench location was restricted by the presence of the known sewers. A fifth inspection chamber was located to the south of the demolished toilets, serving the new extension to Poppins Cafe on the Cornmarket, built after the 1989 survey. Examination of the ducts in the inspection chambers suggested the likely run of the sewers (Fig. 5) and the trenches were positioned to avoid current sewers and also the toilet block which contained numerous pipes (Fig. 4).

Entry to the site from Eastgate was very narrow and inaccessible by machine so the trenches were excavated manually with the aid of a pneumatic drill. The drill was required to penetrate a layer of concrete (0.20m thick) and compact layer of limestone aggregate beneath it which had been used to create a firm surface over much of the site for car parking (Pl. 1, 2).



### Trench 1

Trench 1 was 5m x 2m in size and located east of the demolished public toilets. It was positioned to avoid the line of the sewer pipe still in use (Pls.7-10).

Modern levelling layers composed of thick concrete and very compact limestone aggregate bedding to a depth of 0.3m were removed using a pneumatic drill. The time involved in removing these deposits resulted in the necessary reduction of the trench size. The original 5m x 2m trench was divided into two areas, each 5m x 1m in size (Fig. 6; Pl. 7). Excavation continued only on the east side of the trench to a depth of approximately one metre. The east side of the trench was chosen due to its increased distance from the original toilet building and therefore its likelihood in containing undisturbed archaeological layers.

Beneath the limestone bedding was a layer which contained modern brick rubble **102**. The continuing excavation yielded a further concrete layer **109** and an inspection chamber **113** (marked C on Fig. 4). On the west side of the inspection chamber, the concrete **109** overlaid clay pipes which ran from the toilets to the inspection chamber and proved their connection (Pl. 8). Chamber **113** was filled with tarmac **114** (Pls. 8,9).

In the SE corner of the trench another modern, clay pipe **118** was located at a depth of 0.80m below the surface (Fig. 7a). This pipe is connected to a new building (Poppins Restaurant) via manhole B (Fig. 4). Manhole B collects water from another Manhole A linked by a further clay pipe (0.20 m diam.) at a depth of 0.70m.

Manhole C is also linked to Manhole D by a further clay pipe which runs via the inspection chamber. In the NW corner of the trench another salt glazed clay pipe was possibly joined to this drainage system but is now out of use (Pl. 10).

Between the two sewer pipes was a small pit **112** filled with orange-brown silty clay **104**. This was dug through a layer **105**, the lowest recorded deposit in the trench (Fig. 7a). There were four pieces of pottery from this layer which were dated to the 16th-17th centuries in date. Two sherds were from vessels made at the Toynton and Bolingbroke kilns at the south end of the Lincolnshire Wolds.

The working area of the trench was limited by the presence of the concrete and the inspection chamber but it was still possible to fulfil our aim to excavate to a depth of just over 1 metre. The layer at the base of the trench **105** appeared to be an archaeological horizon dating to the 16-17th century or later. It may have been truncated by later features but its surviving uppermost level was at 94.30m O.D.

### Trench 2

This consisted of a small trench, (1m square), situated NW of Trench 1 and adjacent to the wall of the toilet building, (Fig. 8; Pl. 11). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.70 - 0.75 m. Tarmac sealed the area as in Trench 1. Beneath it lay a layer of pebbles (**122**) and a layer of crushed mortar, **123**, possible earlier yard surfaces. The toilet wall **131** formed the southern limit of the trench. Half of the trench was disturbed by two service trenches (**128** and **136**), running roughly



parallel to the toilet wall. The latest of these was a water pipe leading to the toilet. It was contained within trench **128**, which cut through all layers except the tarmac. Sewer pipe **129** lying across the trench in NE/SW direction was contained within trench **136** and may have predated the toilet but as in the case of the pipes in Trench 1 may have been reused. This trench was apparently sealed by the mortar layer **123** but this part of the trench was very disturbed. In the remaining half of the trench a sequence of layers was recorded (Fig. 9). There were no finds in any of the deposits above layer **125**, which was a dark grey silty deposit containing pottery and animal bone. Although two sherds of medieval splashed glazed fabric were found there were 15 sherds of 17th-early 18th century date. So all material above this layer must have been deposited in the 18th century or later. Twelve pieces of animal bone were found, the majority of which were cattle species.

Beneath **125** was a moderately compact, blackened, cobbled surface of limestone pieces and water worn pebbles (Pl. 12). This may be the remains of a yard surface. Two sherds of pottery which were dated to the 16-18th centuries and a scrap of leather were retrieved from amongst the cobbles. The cobbles directly overlay a black, silty clay layer **127**. This smelled strongly of coal tar or diesel. A sample of material was taken for identification but the area was not further excavated.

## THE FINDS

Finds were only recovered from contexts **105**, **125** and **126**. These three contexts contained pottery sherds, animal bones, leather, shell, bottle glass, a clay tobacco pipe stem and a few tile and brick pieces. The pottery was examined by Jane Young of the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit. The earliest pottery represented was part of a rim from a medieval green glazed jug and body sherds of a bowl or jug. However, these finds came from the same deposits as pottery of a much later date.

## DISCUSSION

The area available for investigation was limited by the presence of sewers currently in use. The eastern half of the site was not examined because of potential disturbance to sewers currently in use. Information supplied by Simons Design (Mr Lawrence pers. comm.) indicated that there was a sewer running parallel to the Market Hall west wall. A 1989 ground survey identified an inspection cover (F on Fig. 4) which was not located and it is possible that it was covered in concrete in the same way as covers C and D. It appeared to be in a different location to cover A whose chamber only had a duct running west to cover B.

A major part of the site has been disturbed by the construction of the public toilet and its associated drains and Trench 1 showed that ground disturbance associated with the construction of the toilets and its associated drains extended up to a depth of 1 metre.

Only a small area north of the toilets was available for examination because of disturbance from service trenches associated with the construction of the toilets. However, the remains of a possible yard surface were found at a depth of 0.70m (94.11m O.D.) in Trench 2. It is considered unlikely that much of this surface survives intact and the high level of modern disturbance on the site suggests that



any archaeological remains may only survive as small islands within a generally disturbed area even at a depth of 1 metre.

Adnan Baysal and Naomi Field  
May 1995

#### REFERENCES

Field, N., 1978 *Louth : The Hidden Town* N. Lincs. Arch. Unit.

Field, N. & Clark, M., 1989 *Louth, Market Hall Project Archaeological Building Survey* Lindsey Archaeological Services. Report for Simons Construction

Merrony, M. C. & Moth, E., 1989 *Market Hall Project, Louth Archaeological Evaluation*, Trust for Linc. Arch. Report for Simons Construction.

## APPENDIX 1 CONTEXT LIST

No.	Type	Description
TRENCH 1		
100	layer	concrete surface
101	layer	limestone aggregate below 100
102	layer	brick rubble below 101
103	fill	fill of 112
104	fill	lower fill of 112
105	layer	dark grey clay below 112
106	fill	fill of pipe trench 108
107	layer	clay layer below 121
108	cut	sewer pipe trench
109	fill	concrete capping of sewer pipes
110	fill	backfill of trench 108
111	pipe	sewer pipe in cut 116
112	cut	pit or trench cut (W-E)
113	wall	brick inspection chamber
114	fill	tarmac over 113
115	layer	mortar over 114
116	cut	pipe trench (N end of trench)
117	fill	fill of 116
118	fill	fill of pipe trench 120
119	pipe	pipe in trench 120
120	cut	pipe trench (S end of trench)
121	layer	sandy deposit below 101
TRENCH 2		
122	layer	sandy deposit below 100
123	layer	mortar layer below 122
124	layer	clay layer below 134
125	layer	dark clay layer below 124
126	layer	cobbles below 125
127	layer	cobbles below 126
128	cut	water pipe trench cut
129	pipe	broken water pipe in cut 136
130	fill	fill of 132
131	wall	toilet north wall
132	cut	trench cut
133	fill	fill of trench 128
134	layer	sandy layer below 123
135	layer	clay layer cut by 132
136	cut	pipe trench cut
137	layer	fill of trench 136



**APPENDIX 2**  
**Contents of the Site Archive**

**Context sheets** 37

**Site plans** 1:100 ground plan  
Trench 1 (1:20)  
Trench 2 (1:20)

**Section Drawings** Trench 1 3 drawings (1:20)  
Trench 2 2 drawings(1:20)

**Plans supplied by Simons Design (Photocopies)**

Plan of toilet block (undated but c. 1948) Scale 1"=4'  
Part of ground survey undertaken in 1989  
Proposed development of Market Hall (Scale 1: 200)

**Photographs** Film no. 95/11 negatives 0-21 inclusive

**Finds**

***Pottery***

105 4 pieces  
125 17 pieces  
126 2 pieces  
+ (spoilheap) 4 pieces

***Animal Bone***

105 1 piece  
125 12 pieces

***Clay tobacco pipes***

125 1 stem

***Roof tile***

125 9 pieces

***Brick***

125 8 pieces

***Oyster shell***

125 1  
126 2

***Bottle glass***

105 1 piece  
125 2 pieces

***Leather***

126 1 scrap



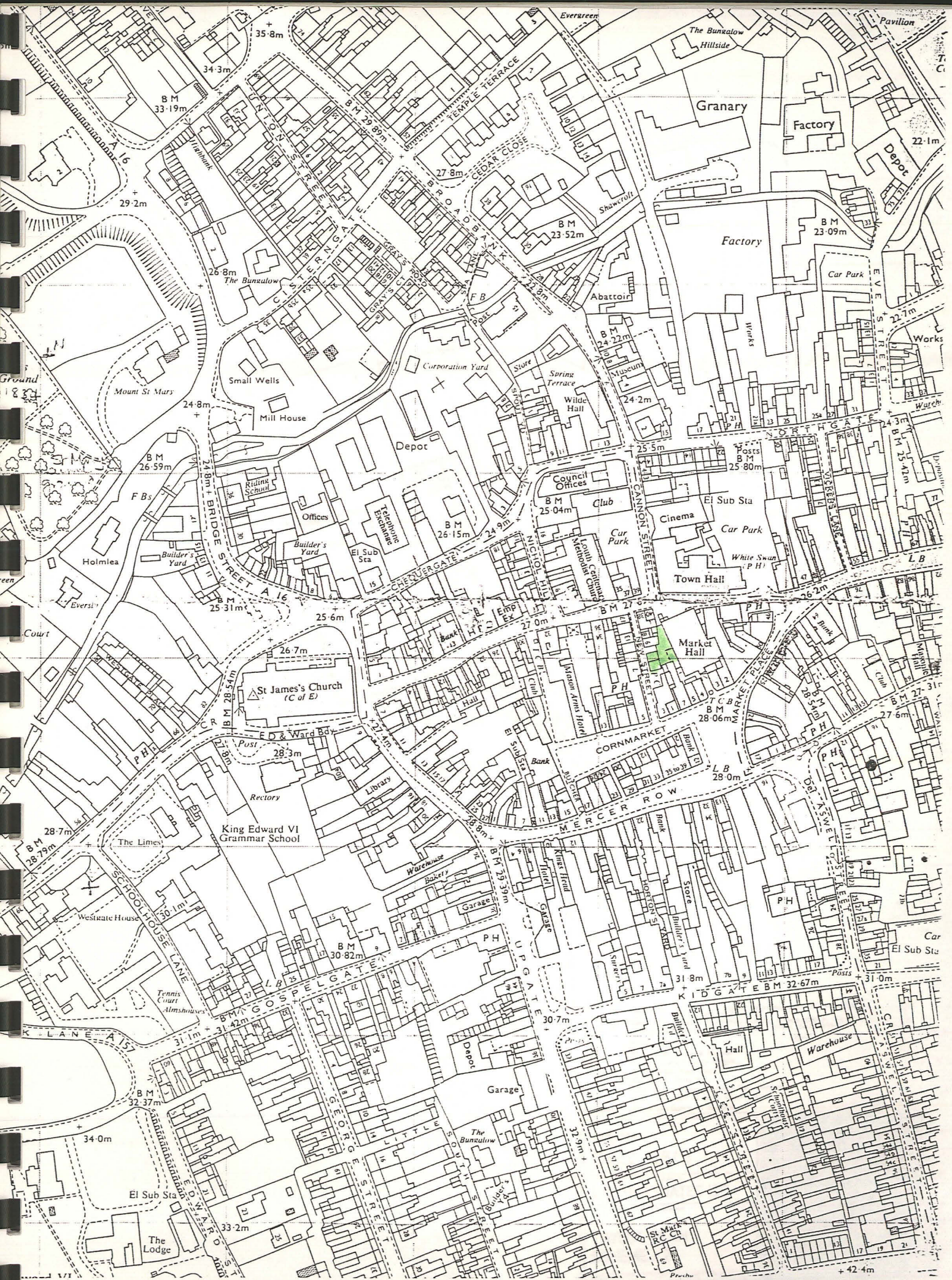
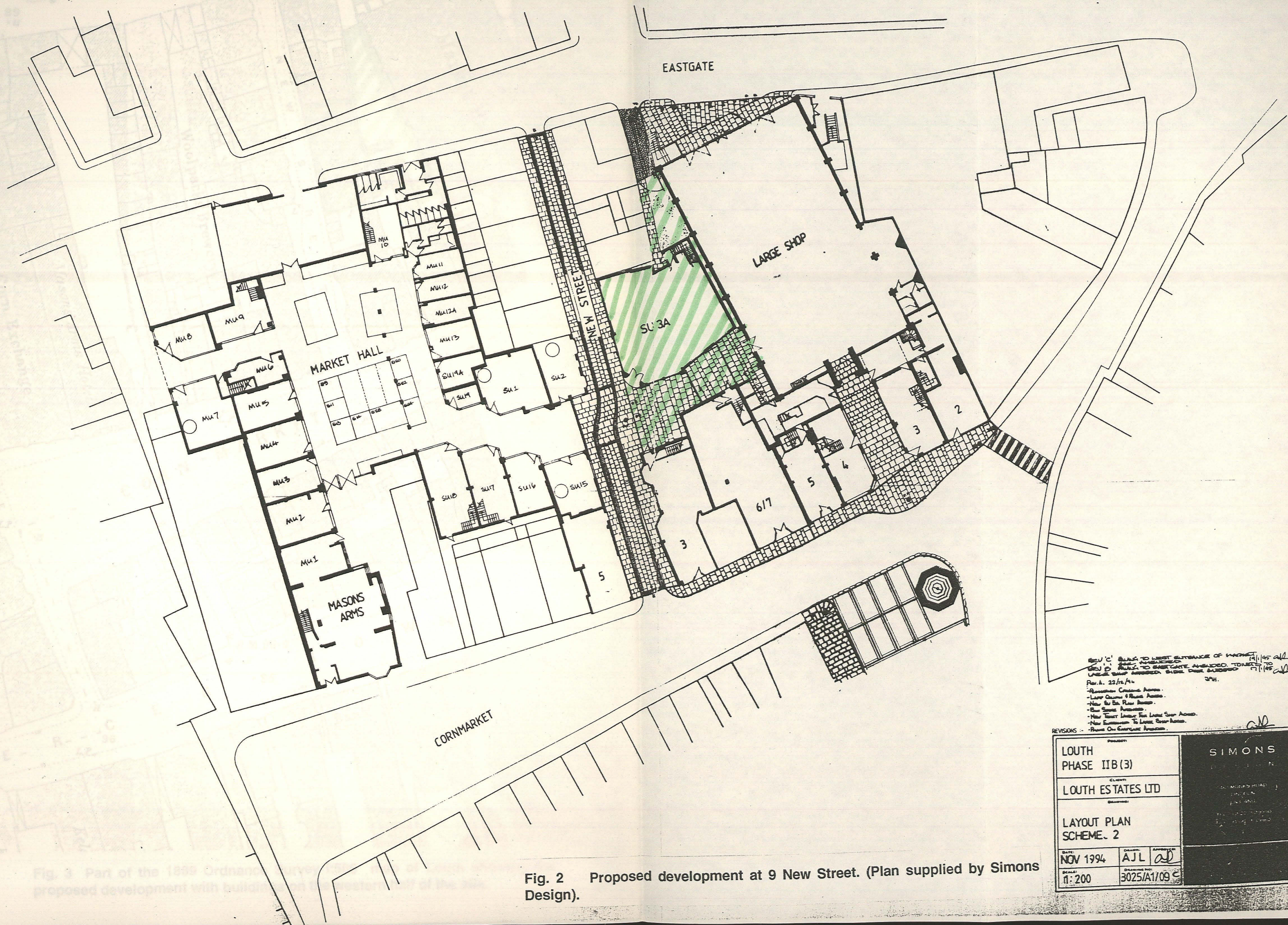


Fig. 1 Louth town centre. Reproduced from the 1976 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map with the permission of the Controller of HMSO, Crown copyright (Licence no. AL50424A).





REV. 'C' - SHED TO LEAST ENTRANCE OF MARKET  
 REV. 'D' - SHED TO EASTGATE AVOIDED JOINED TO  
 UNIT SHED ADDED SIDE DIST. SUGGESTED  
 Rev. A. 22/10/94 JPH.  
 -Revised Carving Access  
 -Lamp Glass & Road Access  
 -New 40 Ea. Row Access  
 -New Stone Access  
 -New Trestle Lanes For Large Shop Access  
 -New Extension To Large Shop Access  
 -Remove Old Carriage Access

PROJECT		SIMONS
LOUTH PHASE IIB (3)		
CLIENT LOUTH ESTATES LTD		
DRAWING		
LAYOUT PLAN SCHEME. 2		
DATE NOV 1994	DRAWN BY AJL	APPROVED BY <i>[Signature]</i>
SCALE 1:200	DRAWING NO. 3025/A1/09	

Fig. 2 Proposed development at 9 New Street. (Plan supplied by Simons Design).

Fig. 3 Part of the 1889 Ordnance Survey map showing the proposed development with buildings marked by dashed lines.



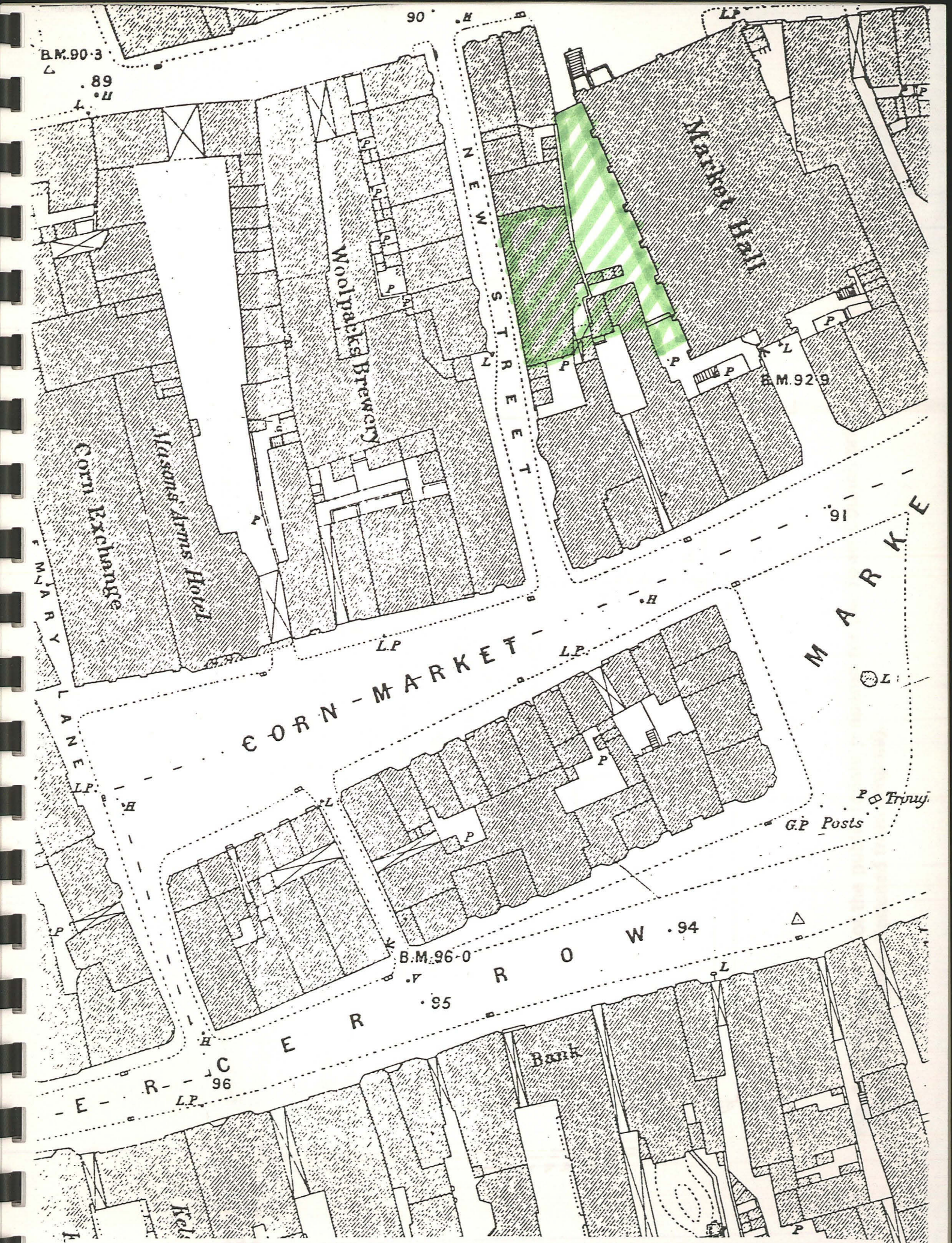


Fig. 3 Part of the 1889 Ordnance Survey 1:500 map of Louth showing the proposed development with buildings on the western half of the site.



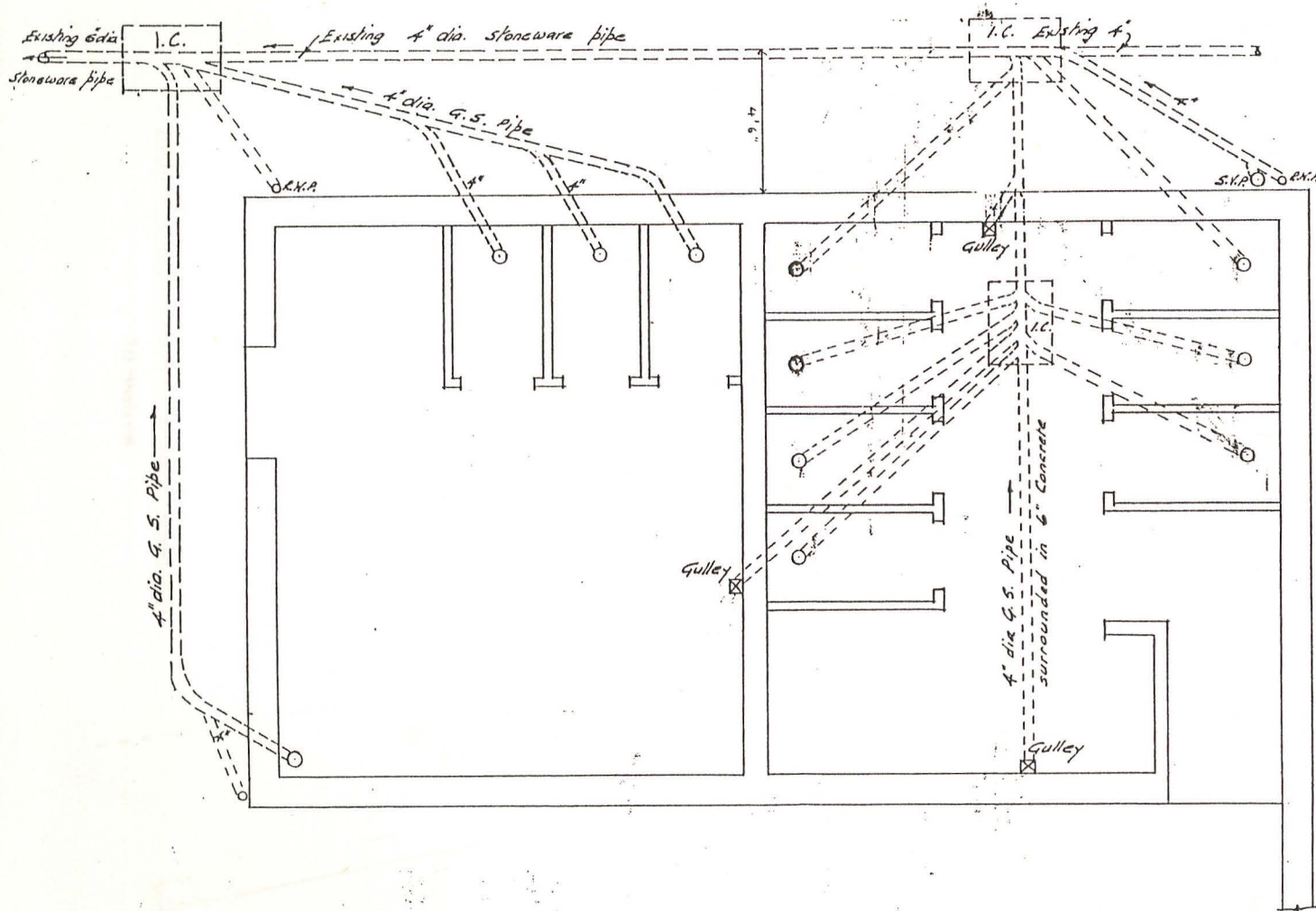


Fig. 4 Drainage plan of the public toilets prepared for the Town Council prior to their construction (reduced from original).

J.C. Barber, M.I. Mun. E.  
 Engineer & Surveyor,  
 Town Hall, Louth.

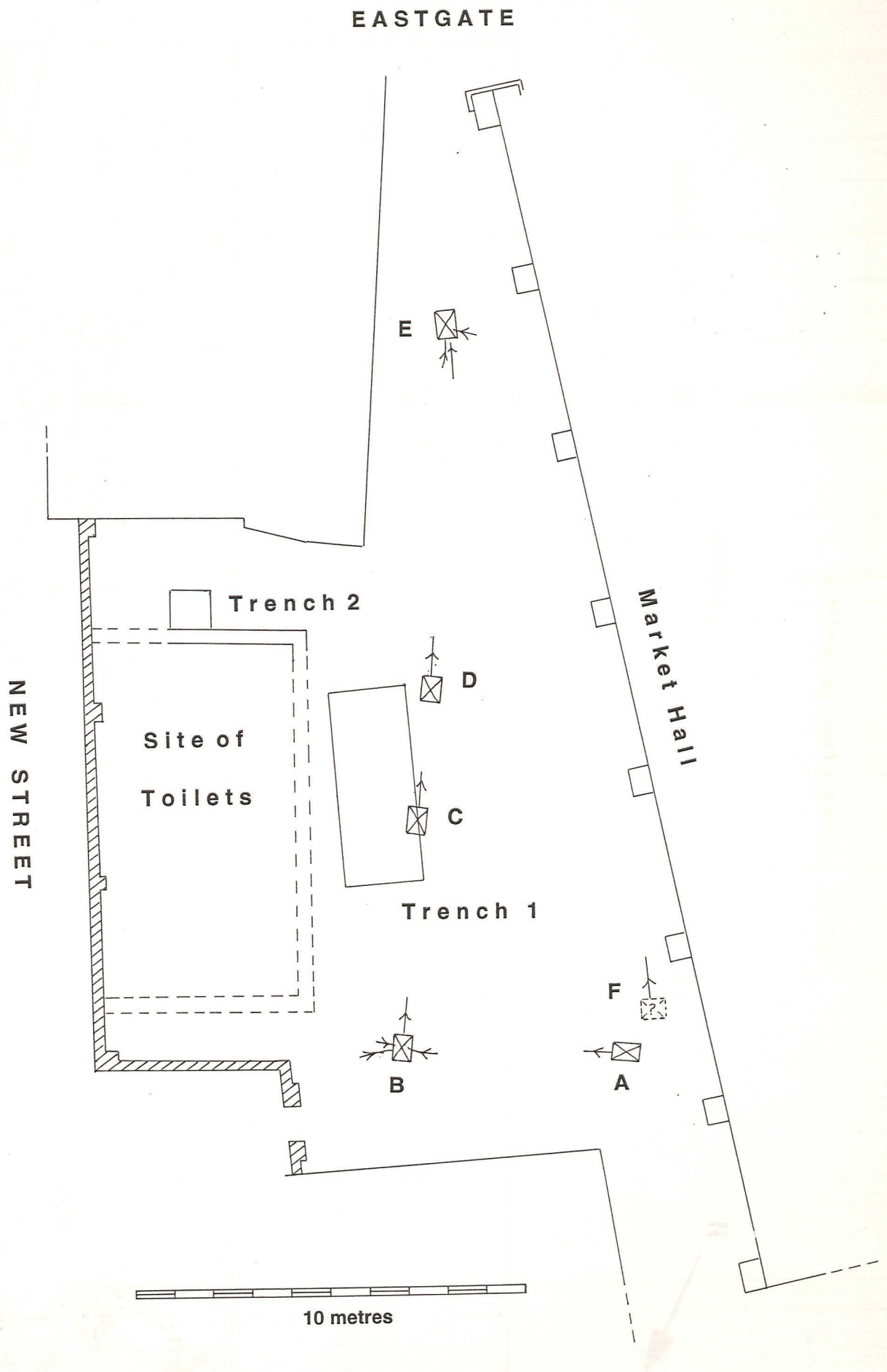
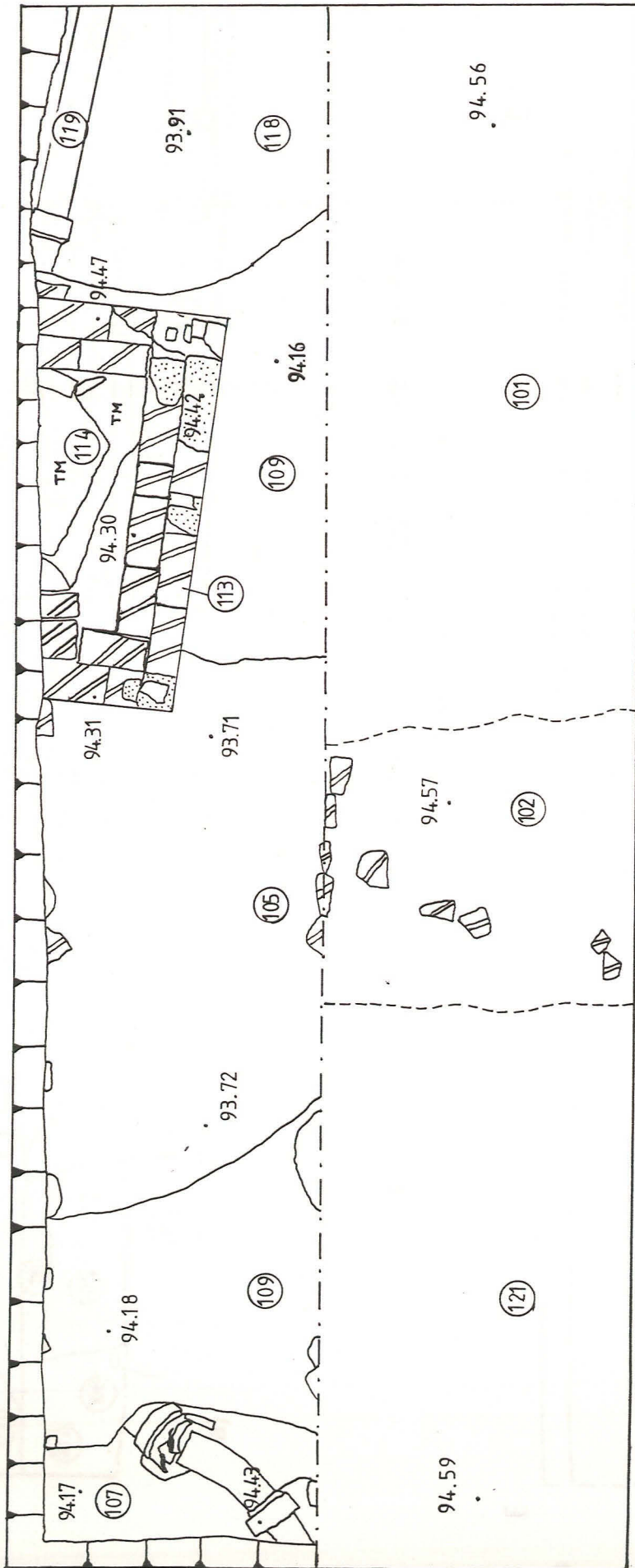


Fig. 5 Location of Trenches 1 and 2 and position of inspection chambers (M. Clark and N. Field)





3 metres

Fig. 6 Trench 1 plan (A. Baysal).

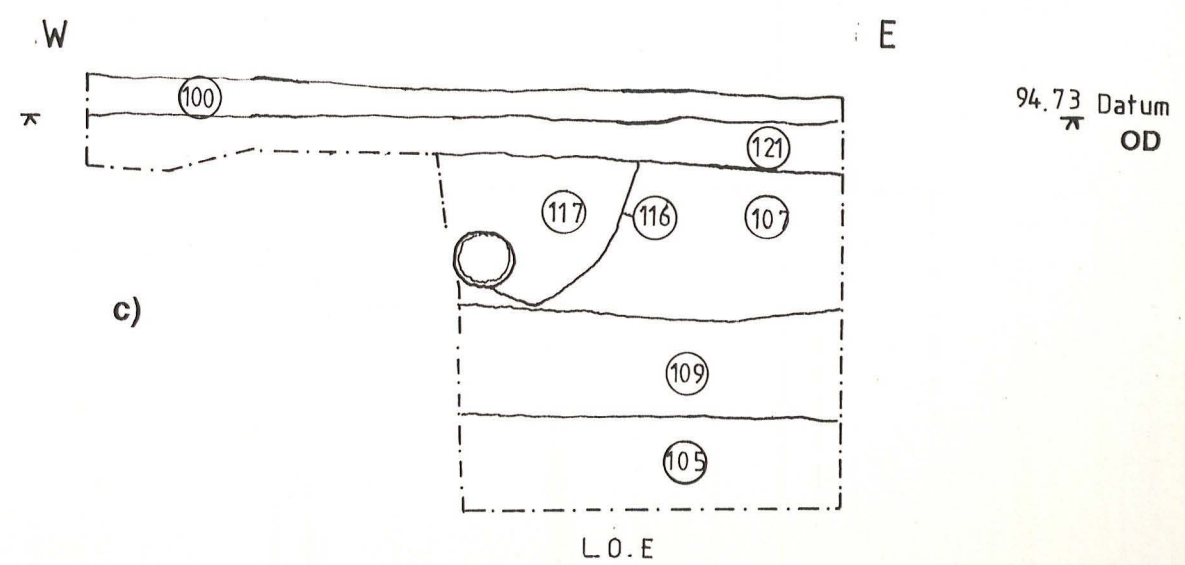
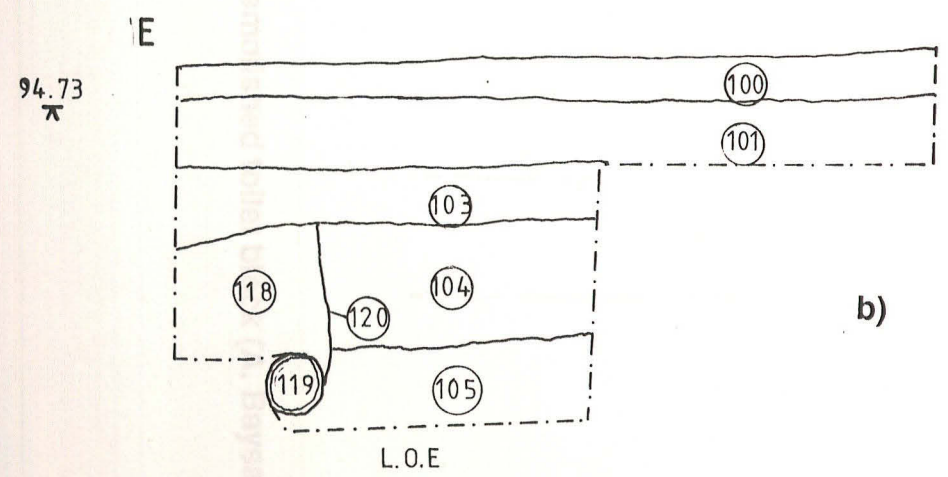
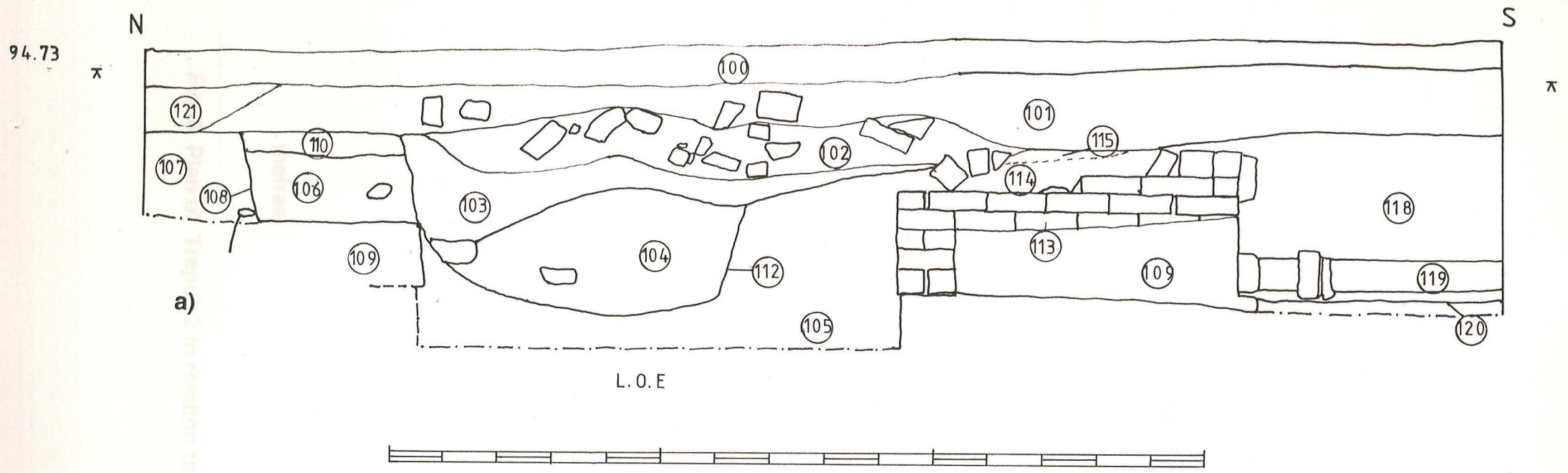


Fig. 7 a) East section of Trench 1 b) South section of Trench 1 c) North section of Trench 1 (A. Baysal).



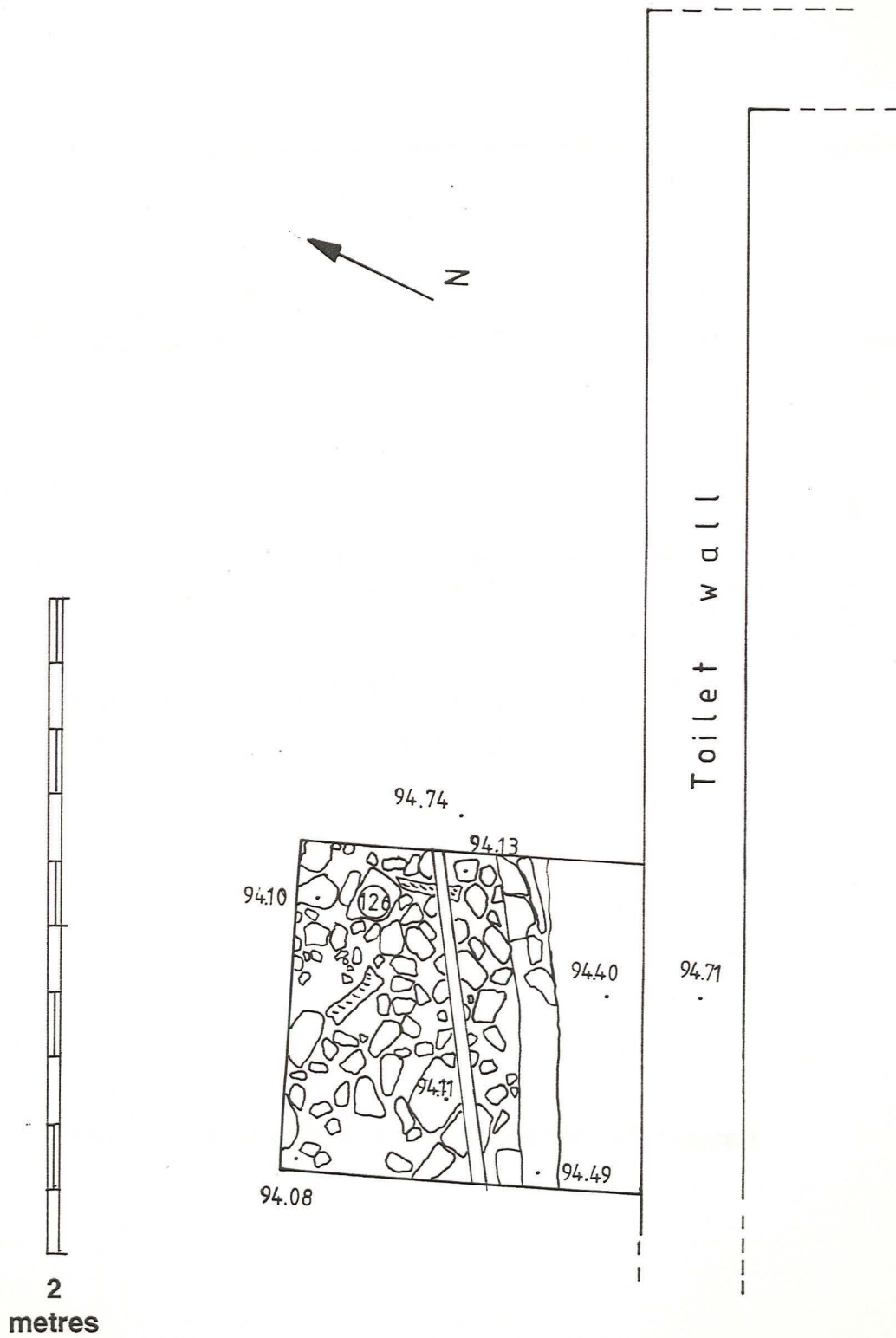


Fig. 8 Plan of Trench 2 in relation to the demolished toilet block (A. Baysal).

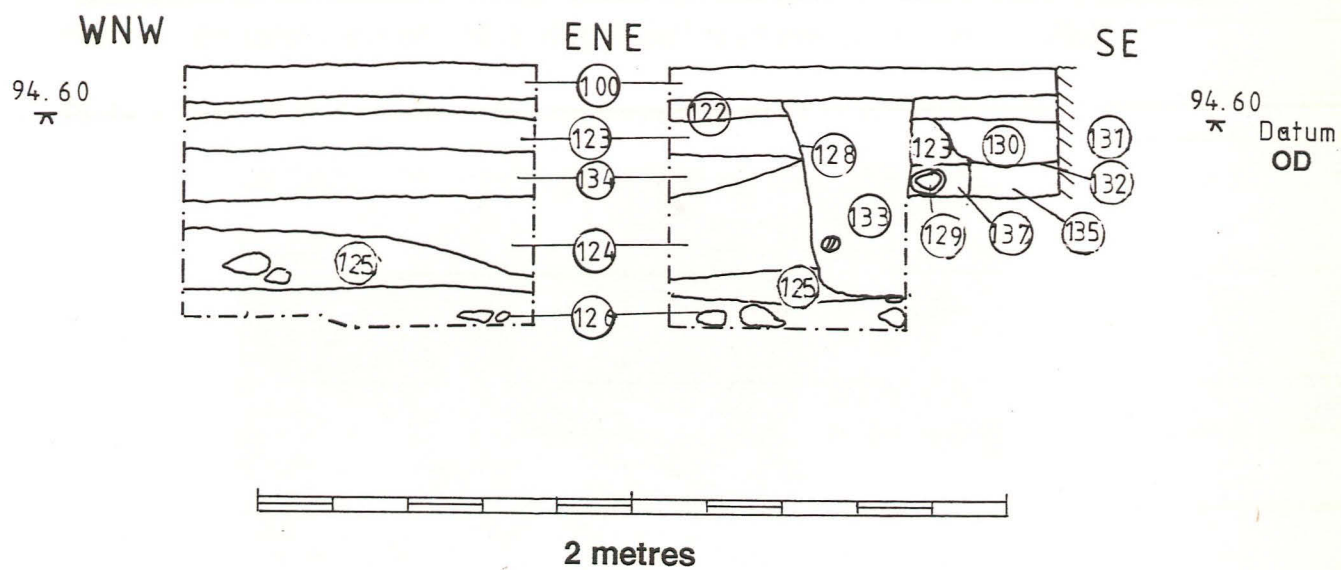


Fig. 9 Trench 2 North and East sections (A. Baysal).





**Plate 1. General view of site during removal of concrete (view north).**

**Plate 2. South end of site showing raised level of concreted area.**







Plate 3. Location of inspection chamber *B* looking north towards Trench 1.



Plate 4. Inspection chamber *B* showing the ducts leading to ICs *A* and *C* (view north)





Plate 5. Location of inspection chamber *E* looking south towards Trench 1.



Plate 6. Inspection chamber *E* showing the ducts leading to IC *D* and inlet duct top left from the Market Hall.





**Plate 7. Trench 1. Excavation of brick rubble layer after removal of concrete.**



**Plate 8. Trench 1. Inspection chamber C with concreted pipes leading from toilets, view south (Scale 2m)**





Plate 9. Trench 1. General view showing inspection chamber and second series of concreted pipes at north end of trench (Scale 2m).

Plate 10. Trench 1. Concreted pipes at north end of trench leading to inspection chamber *D* (unexcavated) (Large scale 1.5m).







**Plate 11. Trench 2 in foreground showing its location in relation to the demolished toilet block with Trench 1 in the background. (Scales 1m and 2m)**

**Plate 12. Trench 2 showing cobbled surface, view east. (Scale 1m).**

