

A

Report to

David Glew

on behalf of

The Dean & Chapter of Lincoln Cathedral

June 1995

Prepared by

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THE CLOSE WALL, D'ISNEY PLACE HOTEL, EASTGATE, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE INVESTIGATION

By K Wragg

95/0

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 178

THE CLOSE WALL, D'ISNEY PLACE HOTEL, LINCOLN

Archaeological Site Investigation

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE INVESTIGATION

Non-Technical Summary

The earliest information revealed by this project relates to the construction of the original 14th century Close Wall, with foundation levels and construction/working levels revealed in both TT2 and TT3. The 14th century ground level could not be positively identified, owing to depth restrictions, except possibly in TT3.

This initial phase of activity was then followed by the construction of an offset wall, revealed in TT3, possibly forming a high level platform in the angle between the north face of the Close Wall and the east face of the "D'Isney" tower, together with further additions/amendments to the structure of the Wall. The platform's function is uncertain, but it may have been either for strengthening or for access.

There were subsequent dumps against the north face of the wall, possibly following a change in use from a purely defensive structure, or possibly indicating the beginning of a period of disuse for the wall, with subsequent erosion/robbing of the upper elements of the presumably derelict wall.

Following this period of disuse some effort then seems to have been made to return the site to something approaching its former appearance, with levelling in advance of the rebuilding and refacing of the wall and tower. On the basis of existing evidence, this activity may have commenced in the 16th century. The results of this operation produced the remains now surviving above ground in the areas under consideration in this report.

The final, and on-going, activity on the site is connected with the landscaping and general ground build-up involved in the establishment of the gardens for the adjoining properties.

Owing to the limited nature of the archaeological works undertaken for this project, and given that the primary objectives for the ground intervention were designed to provide engineering answers rather than purely archaeological data, little new information about the Close Wall has been revealed, apart from that about the scale and quality of its foundations. Considering the detailed nature of the existing historical and documentary evidence, new information was in any case not expected.

While the survival condition of the original monument has been identified in isolated locations, and the foundation/construction levels established, further work would be needed to fully understand the purpose of the later additions to the wall and east face of the D'Isney tower. This would possibly involve a re-assessment and re-appraisal of the structural aspects and phases of build of the existing elements of the Wall, taking into account the additional information provided by this project and that to come from further survey over the next year or so.

THE CLOSE WALL, D'ISNEY PLACE HOTEL, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE INVESTIGATION

1.0 Introduction

During March 1995 the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU) was commissioned by David Glew: Architect & Surveyor, on behalf of the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln Cathedral, to carry out an archaeological site investigation prior to works designed to consolidate and repair the fabric of the Close Wall.

The original proposal (Phase I) was to excavate four trenches by hand, at selected locations along the length of the Close Wall between the so-called "D'Isney" and "Winnowsty" towers (in the grounds of the D'Isney Place Hotel, and on the south side of Winnowsty Lane respectively), in order to reveal the extent, and condition, of the wall foundations and fabric. The towers themselves are Scheduled Ancient Monuments, but the adjoining wall is neither Scheduled nor Listed. The works were undertaken at the request of the Consulting Engineer (Mr K.Dyke) to allow decisions to be made regarding the design and extent of support and repair work required in this area.

Ultimately only three trial trenches were excavated, since the requisite information was forthcoming without the time-consuming removal of a concrete surface in the proposed location of Trial Trench 1.

Two of the trenches (TT2 and TT3) were located adjacent to the north face of the Close Wall between the two towers, and each measured approximately 3.0m (N-S) \times 1.0m (E-W) \times 1.2m (Deep). The third trial trench was situated on the west side of the D'Isney tower, and measured approximately 2.5m (N-S) \times 1.5m (E-W) \times 1.0m (Deep).

In order to further aid the design of suitable support work, we were subsequently asked by the Consulting Engineer to extend the scope of TT2 and TT3 to establish more of the condition of the original wall remains (Phase II). To this end both trenches were excavated a further 1.0m below the Phase I trench depths, following the installation of suitable temporary shoring, and composite sections and elevations representing both the phase I and II results are presented in this report.

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

2.1 Historical Background

In 1285 the Dean and Chapter complained that they could not pass from their houses to their church without being attacked, and the King gave them licence to enclose the precinct of their church with a wall, 12ft high, in suitable places. There appears to have been a delay in building, as this grant was confirmed in 1315 and other grants followed, including one to enclose a lane leading from Eastgate to Pottergate "towards the south". In 1316, licence to crenellate the wall was granted and in 1318, the chapter was allowed to raise the wall above 12 feet and build turrets. Work on the wall was completed in 1327 (all refs: Hill, 1948).

2.2 Archaeological Background

In 1992 the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU) was commissioned by the Dean and Chapter to undertake stone-by-stone recording work of elements of the Cathedral Close Wall (including the section of wall and adjoining interval towers under consideration in this report), and the report detailing the works (Hall, 1992), is used as the basis for the following account.

The Close Wall was built over a period of years, but there are no obvious changes of build. Phases of repair, however, are more numerous, but also more difficult to tie together.

At some point, the wall between the two towers was narrowed by 1.30m, requiring a complete rebuilding of the north face in much smaller, rougher, stone than previously used, while on the south face a massive refacing took place. This involved more than half the area and was undertaken this time in brick, with a similar refacing west of the D'Isney tower. Both the tile (on the rampart walkways) and the brick suggest an early to mid 16th century date. It is possible, however, that the tile could have been reused, and the brick belongs to a slightly later date. Whether this narrowing was the result of a deliberate policy or, more likely, of stone robbing and gradual erosion, is not clear. Later, part of the brick facing on the south elevation of the connecting wall was replaced with new brick, dating to the 18th or early 19th century.

Modern repairs using sawn stone (indicating repairs made from the mid 19th century onwards) are relatively minor, usually involving only one or two stones. Some are very obvious, using even a different type of limestone, while others have already weathered so much that it is difficult to distinguish between old and new stone.

3.0 Results

3.1 Trial Trench 2 (TT2 - see Figs.2, 6 & 7)

The earliest archaeological feature revealed in this trench appeared just above the limit of excavation (LOE) at approximately 60.90m OD, and comprised at least two courses of stepped foundations [144], oriented E-W and bonded with a coarse yellow mortar.

The foundations were overlain by a thin layer (c.30mm-90mm) of small, irregularly shaped limestone pieces mixed with yellow mortar [143] which formed a bedding deposit for the construction of the main section of the Close Wall [106].

The remains of the original Wall preserved in this trench consisted of three courses of substantial limestone blocks on average 500mm x 300mm in size forming the north face, with several courses of wall core remaining above this (the upper elements of the wall face having been robbed away). Both wall face and core were bonded with a yellow sandy mortar, and all stones appear heavily weathered. The upper parts of the original wall appeared at a height c.62.00m OD with the top of the remaining core surviving to a height of approximately 62.50m OD, and the face of the original wall was situated approximately 1.10m from the face of the present wall.

Towards the northern end of the trench a sequence of dumping layers was present, sealing the face of wall [106]. The earliest of these layers was [145], a mid grey-brown clayey earth containing occasional small pieces of limestone and tile, which was not fully excavated (as it appeared at LOE) and was in turn sealed by [136], a mixed layer of limestone pieces and mortar, approximately 250mm thick which seemed to form a deposit created during the initial construction works.

[136] was overlain by [135], a light grey/yellow-brown mix of clay and mortar containing small limestone pieces, approximately 150mm thick which was then sealed by a further limestone and mortar construction deposit [133], very similar to layer [136] (above).

Lying above this latter deposit were two layers ([132] and [131]) of yellow/grey-brown earth mixed with varying proportions of limestone, brick/tile and charcoal pieces and flecks, which were then subsequently overlain by possible surface of small-medium sized limestone pieces, mixed with mortar,

degraded limestone and light grey earth. This layer [130] was very well compacted and would appear to represent either a further construction deposit, or, less likely, the remains of some form of surface or path.

[130] was sealed by a 300mm thick layer of grey-brown friable earth containing limestone fragments, tile pieces, patches of charcoal and occasional small pieces of coal, [129], which was cut in the north-east corner of the trench by a shallow (c.200mm deep) part circular feature [147]. This was in turn filled by [146], a dump of well compacted mid yellow-brown sandy earth mixed with frequent inclusions of mortar, limestone chips and pieces, and very occasional small fragments of tile.

Fill [146], was overlain by a dump of dark greybrown earth, [109], containing occasional small limestone pieces, which was in turn overlain by a rubble dump [108], and a further dump deposit, [107], which comprised a mid grey-brown earth, containing limestone pieces, mortar flecks, bone, pottery and tile fragments.

Towards the south end of the trench, adjacent to the upstanding wall, a phase of rebuilding was recorded, with wall/core remains [106] being overlain by a c.50mm thick layer of mid brown sandy clay [127], which formed a levelling layer for the construction of the present wall [118].

Both the present wall and the aforementioned dump layer [107] were both overlain by a layer of mid grey-brown sandy earth [102], which was up to 500mm thick and present throughout the trench.

At the north end of the trial trench, layer [102] was sealed by a layer of crushed limestone pieces, [101], possibly forming a recent garden pathway. It was itself overlain by the layer of dark grey-brown slightly sandy earth [100], which represented the topsoil for this area of the garden (this layer was only recorded in section as previous work in 1992 to expose the wall face had removed the topsoil from the areas of both TT2 and TT3).

3.2 Trial Trench 3 (TT3 - see Figs.4, 8-10)

The results of this trench are broadly similar to those for TT2 (see above), with the remains of the original Close Wall and its stepped foundations revealed at LOE, with the subsequent construction deposits and dumping layers also present. In this trench, however, the remains of a further section of offset wall were recorded, possibly linking with a wall stub visible on

the east face of the D'Isney tower, and possibly forming part of some kind of platform/wall widening in the right angle between wall and tower.

The earliest archaeological deposit recorded within TT3 comprised a layer of mid grey-brown sandy, slightly clayey earth [140], containing amounts of limestone and shell pieces and flecks. This layer was at least 200mm thick to LOE, and was cut into by the construction of the stepped foundations for the original Close Wall, [142], which comprised at least one course of roughly worked limestone blocks with no obvious bonding.

Lying directly atop the foundations were the remains of the original north face of the Close Wall ([117] identical to [106], TT2), which in this case was made up of three courses of substantial limestone blocks, and a further element of roughly made core. Again, as in TT2, the wall and core were partially bonded with yellow-brown sandy mortar, with the upper level of the wall remains surviving at a height of c.62.00m OD.

To the north of the wall face a similar stratigraphic progression to that seen in TT2 was recorded, with a layer of limestone and mortar construction debris [139] present, sealing part of the face of the wall. This layer was then cut by the insertion of a section of roughly made wall oriented approximately NW-SE and abutting the face of the main E-W Close Wall. This section of wall, [141], comprised 7-8 courses of roughly worked limestone blocks, bonded with coarse yellow-brown sandy mortar and sticky brown clay, at an angle of approximately 30 degrees to the face of the main wall, and was sealed by [138], a layer of mid-light grey-brown sandy slightly clayey earth, containing up to 50% small limestone pieces together with mortar flecks.

[138] was then overlain by a layer of limestone and mortar [134], apparently forming a construction deposit for the offset element of the wall, which was a maximum of 200mm thick.

This latter deposit was in turn sealed a layer of brown earth [126] containing limestone inclusions, similar in appearance to layer [109] in TT2, which was approximately 500mm thick and present throughout the northern end of the trench.

Towards the southern end of the trench the remains of the original Close Wall ([106]/[117]) were sealed by a layer of mid brown sandy earth [137] containing limestone pieces and occasional charcoal flecks. This

layer was possibly part of the fill of a robber trench (not visible) later re-used as bedding for the rebuilt wall [118], as seen in TT2, which in TT3 was sealed by a dump of brown sandy earth containing limestone pieces [125].

Both dump deposit [125] and the aforementioned layer [126], were then sealed by [105], a dark brown slightly sandy earth, containing inclusions of limestone and brick/tile fragments, which was itself overlain by [124] at the southern end of the trench, and [104] to the north.

The former deposit was a mid brown sandy earth, containing frequent slate, brick/tile and limestone inclusions, while the latter was a limestone and mortar surface identical to the possible garden path [101] seen in TT2.

Both deposits were then sealed by the garden topsoil layer [100]/[103] as recorded in TT2.

3.3 Trial Trench 4 (TT4 - see Figs.5, 11-13)

This particular trench produced sufficient information from the initial phase of work to preclude the need for further excavation. The stratigraphy comprised at least two phases of building associated with the D'Isney tower, a later brick wall abutting the stone fabric of the tower, and several phases of dumping, as detailed below.

The earliest feature revealed was the original, albeit badly weathered, face of the D'Isney tower [111]. A layer of mid brown sandy earth containing frequent limestone inclusions and tile fragments, [116] had been dumped against the face, and appeared to be present throughout this trial trench.

This deposit was then sealed by [115], a c.100mm thick mixed layer of mid-light yellow-brown sandy mortar and earth, again containing amounts of limestone and tile fragments, which was in turn cut, at the extreme southern edge of T.T.4, by a further limestone feature, [112], oriented E-W. This comprised two courses of roughly worked limestone blocks with no obvious bonding, lying at LOE perpendicular to the west face of the tower and possibly forming the remains of a buttress. Small deposits of mixed yellow-brown sandy earth, mortar and limestone fragments ([119]), and mid yellow-brown sandy earth containing only very occasional mortar, charcoal and brick/tile flecks ([120]) were then present sealing the upper surface of [112].

Both [119] and [120] were then overlain by [122], a mid brown sandy earth containing occasional small pieces of limestone, charcoal, shell and brick/tile flecks.

This latter layer appeared to form a levelling deposit for a section of relatively late foundations [110], comprising two courses of squared limestone blocks (including some pieces of re-used moulded masonry), bonded with mid-light yellow sandy mortar. These foundations formed the support for an area of re-facing and re-building, [128], which was present on the west face of the tower.

The late foundations [110], and the associated rebuilding [128], both abutted the original wall face and were sealed by a layer of mid grey-brown slightly clayey, sandy earth containing occasional small pieces of limestone, brick/tile, charcoal, pebbles and plant remains [114]. [114] itself was then overlain towards the southern end of the trench by [121], a dump of well-moderate compaction orange-brown sandy clay and gravel, and cut into at the northern end of the trench by a late brick wall, [123], which formed the boundary between the D'Isney place hotel and no.25 Eastgate and abutted the D'Isney tower from the north.

The present garden topsoil [113], a mid brown clayey, sandy earth containing occasional small inclusions of limestone and gravel, was then recorded throughout the trench sealing both dump [121] and brick wall [123].

4.0 Discussion of Results and Conclusions

Based on the results detailed above the following stratigraphic sequence of events can be put forward (from earliest to latest):

- The construction of the original 14th century Close Wall, with foundation levels and construction/working levels revealed in both TT2 and TT3 (the pre-construction ground level was not reached, except possibly in TT3);
- 2) The construction of the offset wall revealed in TT3 possibly forming a high level platform in the angle between the north face of the Close Wall and the east face of the "D'Isney" tower, used for access?, together with further additions/amendments to the structure of the Wall;
- 3) Subsequent phases of dumping against the north face of the wall, possibly following a change in use from a purely defensive structure;
- Erosion/robbing of the upper elements of the presumably derelict wall;
- 5) Levelling of the site in advance of the rebuilding and refacing of the wall and tower, possibly beginning in the 16th century;
- 6) Landscaping and general ground build-up primarily connected with the establishment of the gardens for the adjoining properties.

Owing to the limited nature of the archaeological works undertaken for this project, and given that the primary objectives for the ground intervention were designed to provide engineering answers rather than purely archaeological data, limited new archaeological information about the Close Wall has been revealed, although considering the detail of the existing historical and documentary evidence this was not necessarily expected at the outset. The work did however demonstrate the solidity and survival of the original Close Wall structure in this area, such that it can be used as a stable foundation for repairs to the upper courses of the wall.

From the archaeological point of view while the survival condition of the original monument has been identified in isolated locations, and the foundation/construction levels established, further work would be needed to fully understand the purpose of the later additions to the wall and east face of the D'Isney tower. This would possibly involve a reassessment and re-appraisal of the structural aspects and phases of build of the existing elements of the Wall in view of the additional information provided by this project.

5.0 Acknowledgements

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit would like to thank the following for their assistance during this project: Mr & Mrs D.Payne (owners), and staff of the D'Isney Place Hotel; Mr & Mrs P.Scorer, 25 Eastgate; David Glew: Architect and Surveyor; Mr K.Dyke, Peter Cole Consultants Ltd (Consulting Engineer).

6.0 References

Hall, J L 1992 The Close Wall, Phase I. Survey of standing monument, CLAU archaeological report 24, City Lincoln Archaeol Unit, Lincoln

Hill, J W F 1948 *Medieval Lincoln* (reprinted 1965), Cambridge Univ Press, London

APPENDIX A

APPENDIX A

Archive Deposition

The archive consists of:

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

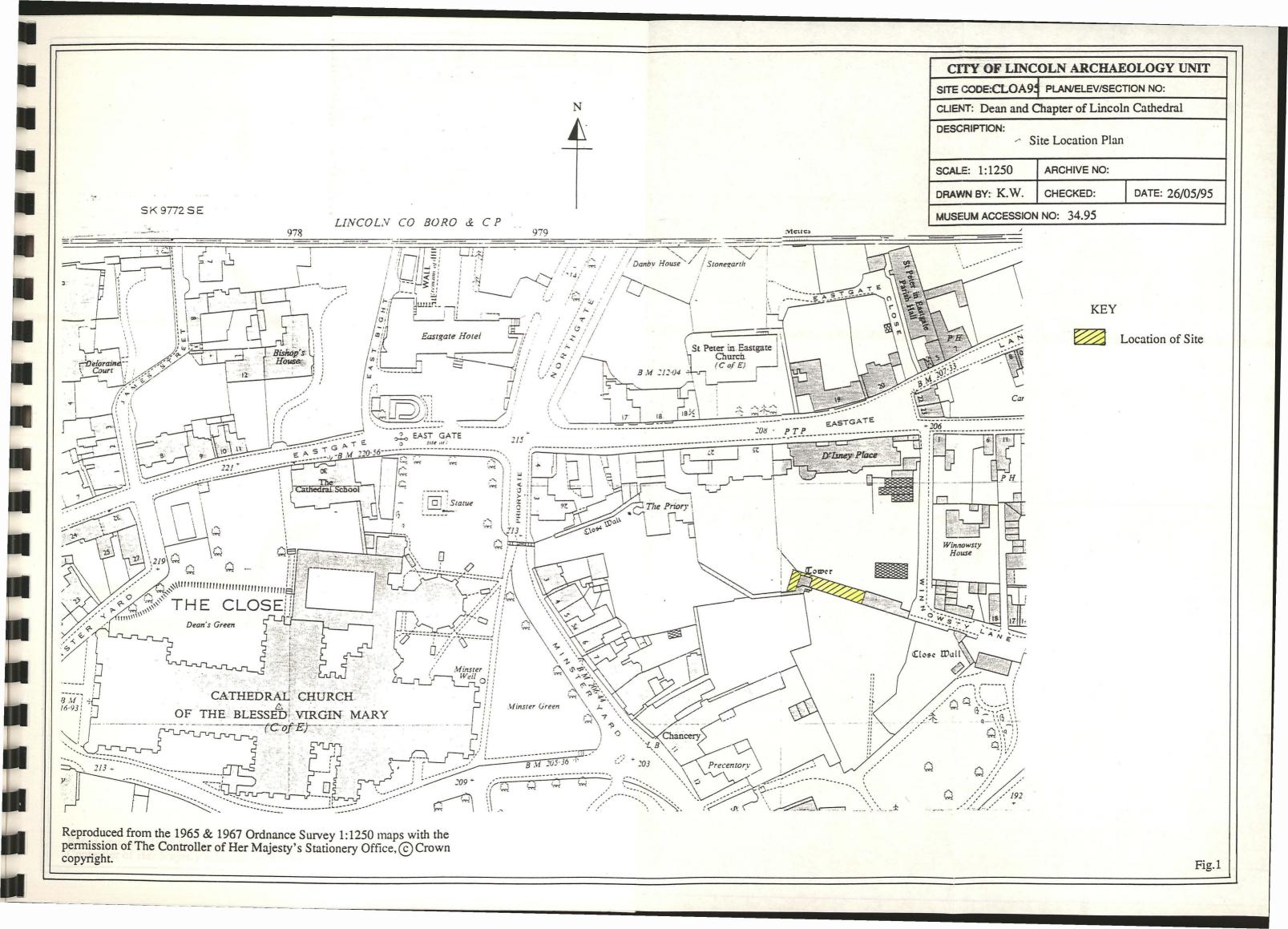
The primary archive material, as detailed above, is currently held by:
The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit,
Charlotte House,
The Lawn,
Union Road,
Lincoln,
Lincolnshire,
LN1 3BL.

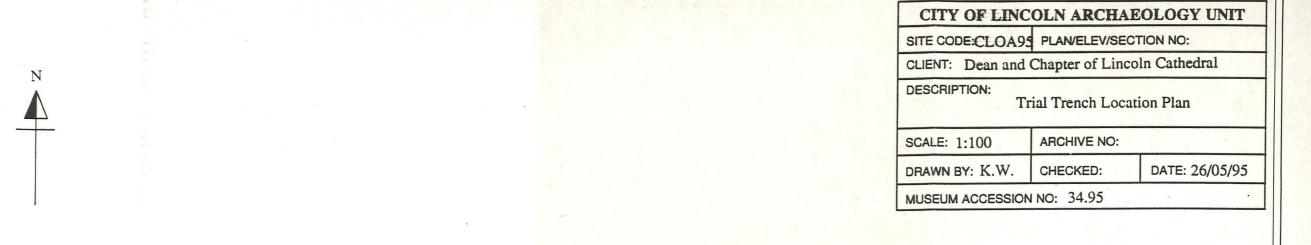
It is intended that transfer to the City and County Museum, Friars Lane, Lincoln, in accordance with current published requirements, under Museum Accession Number 34.95, will be undertaken within approximately six months of completion of this project.

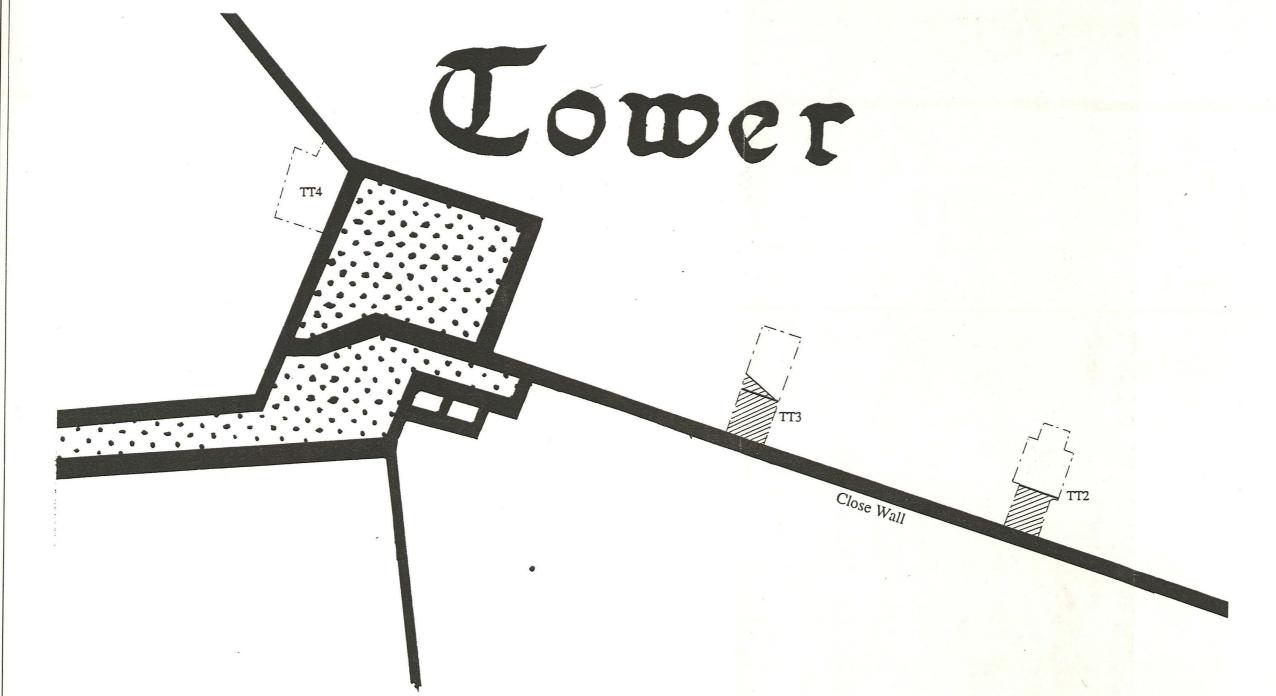
APPENDIX B

APPENDIX B - TABLE SUMMARISING FEATURES BY TRENCH

	Trench No.	Context no.	Description	Interpretation
-				The second secon
	TT2	[118]	LIMESTONE WALL	16TH CENTURY REBUILT CLOSE WALL
	TT2	[147]	PART CIRCULAR CUT FEATURE	POSSIBLE PIT
	TT2	[106]	LIMESTONE WALL	ORIGINAL 14TH CENTURY CLOSE WALL
	TT2	[144]	LIMESTONE FOUNDATIONS	FOUNDATIONS FOR ORIGINAL WALL
	TT3	[118]	LIMESTONE WALL	16TH CENTURY REBUILT CLOSE WALL
	TT3	[141]	LIMESTONE WALL	OFFSET WALL
	TT3	[117]	LIMESTONE WALL	ORIGINAL 14TH CENTURY CLOSE WALL
	TT3	[142]	LIMESTONE FOUNDATIONS	FOUNDATIONS FOR ORIGINAL WALL
	TT4	[123]	BRICK WALL	BOUNDARY WALL
	TT4	[128]	LIMESTONE FEATURE	REFACING/REPAIR (16TH CENTURY?)
	TT4	[110]	LIMESTONE FOUNDATIONS	FOUNDATIONS FOR REPAIR
	TT4	[112]	LIMESTONE FEATURE	POSSIBLE BUTTRESS?
	TT4	[111]	LIMESTONE WALL	14TH CENTURY TOWER WEST WALL





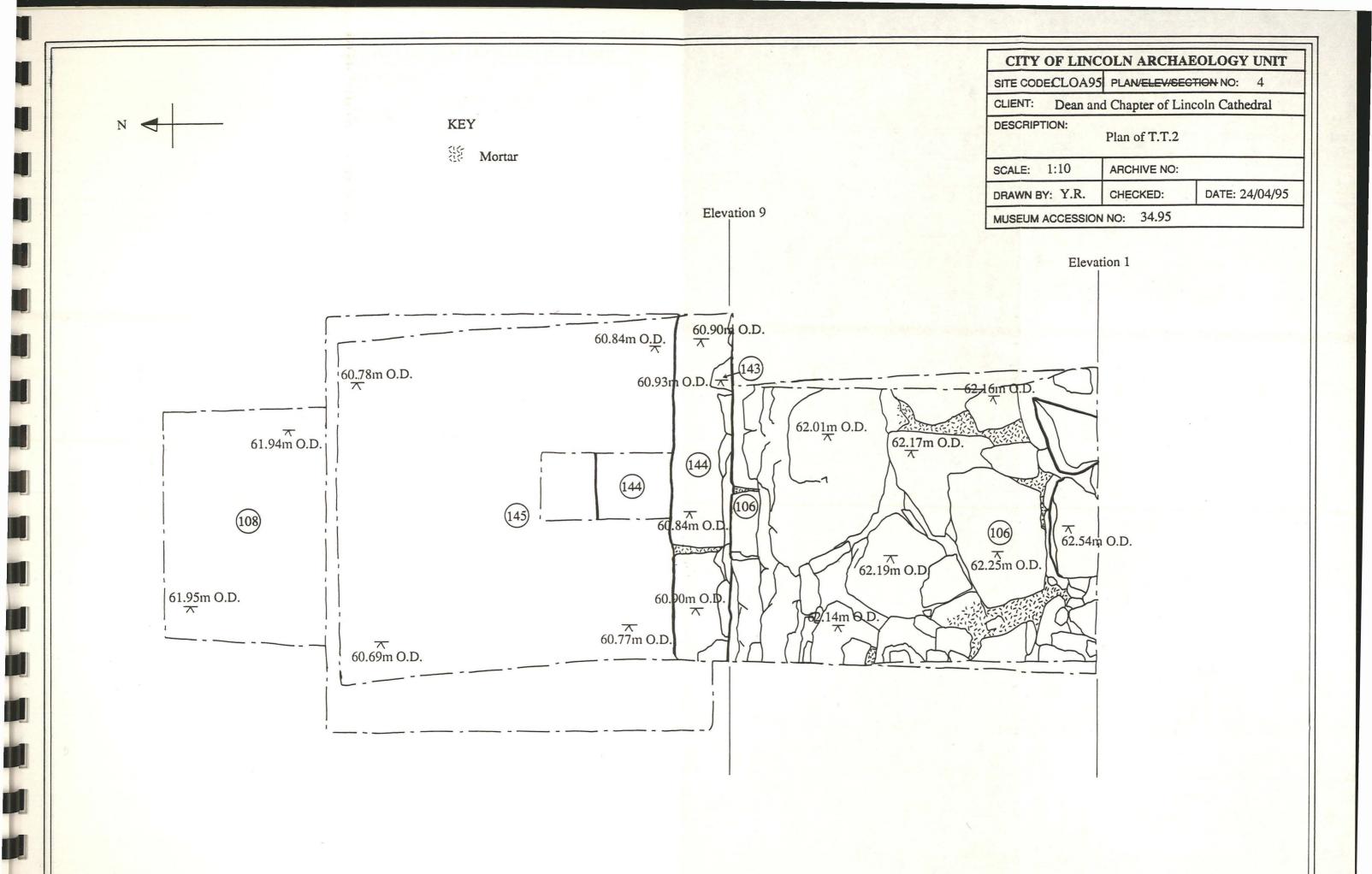


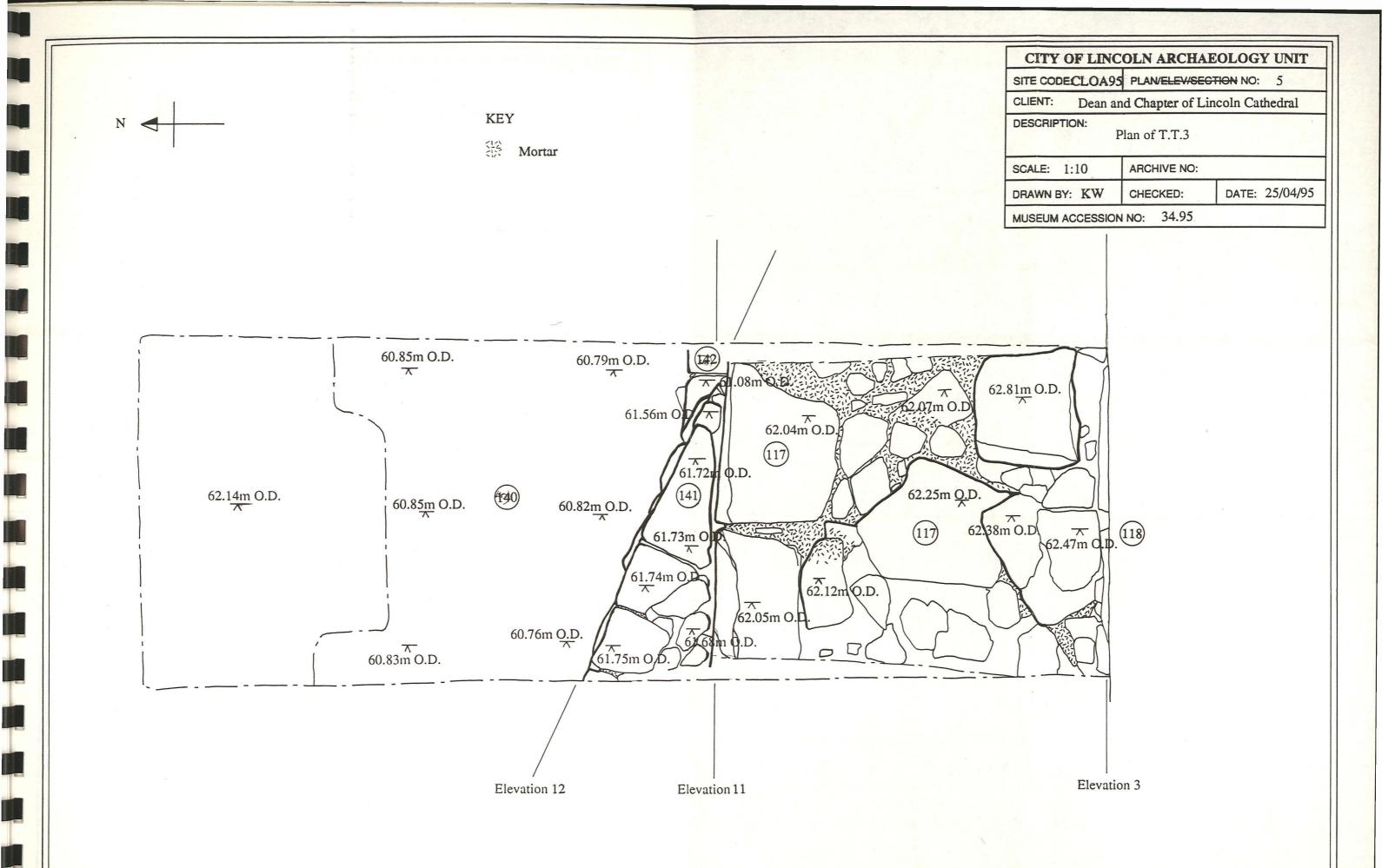
Based upon the 1965 Ordnance Survey 1:1250 maps with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright.

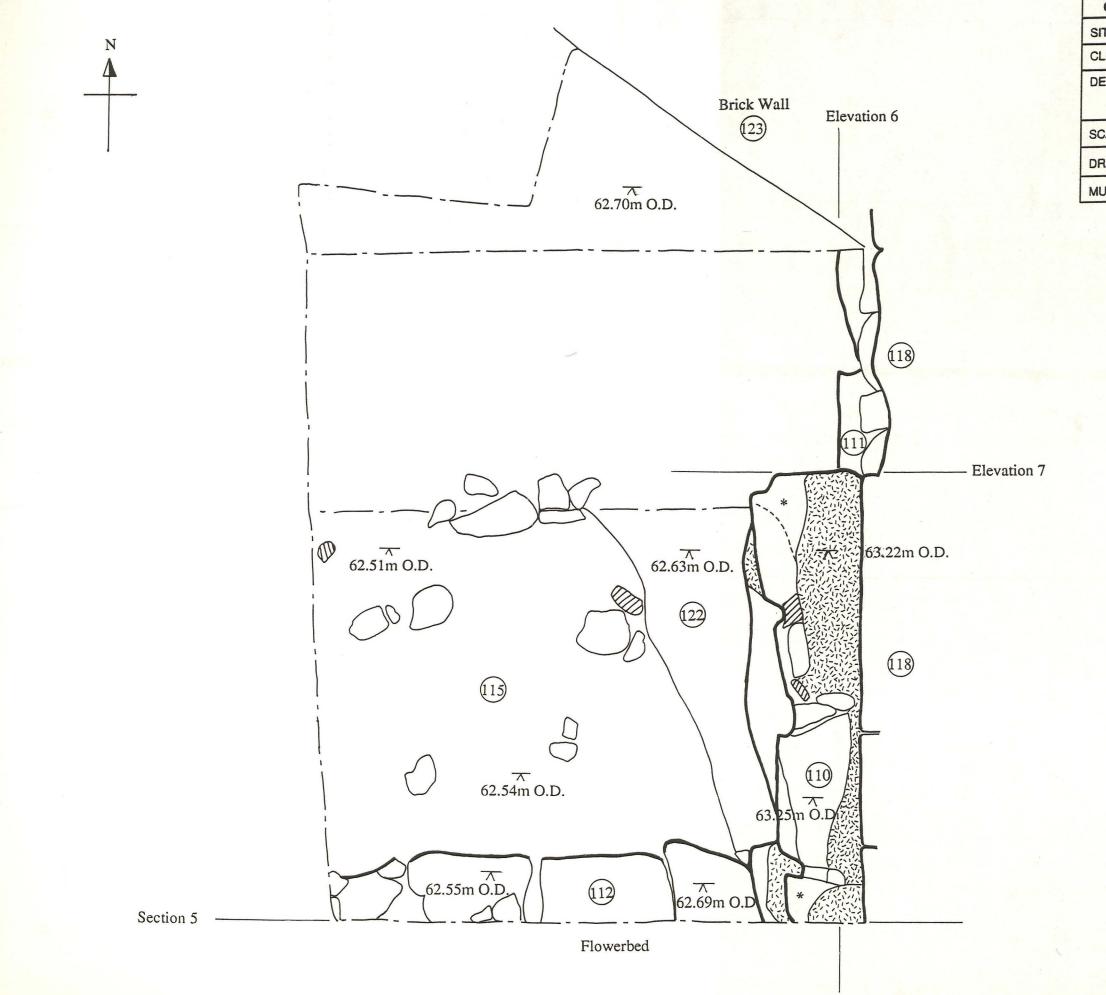
KEY

___ L.O.E.

Wall







CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE CLOA95 PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO: 3

CLIENT: Dean and Chapter of Lincoln Cathedral

DESCRIPTION:

Plan of T.T.4

SCALE: 1:10 ARCHIVE NO:

DRAWN BY: K.W. CHECKED: DATE: 17/03/95

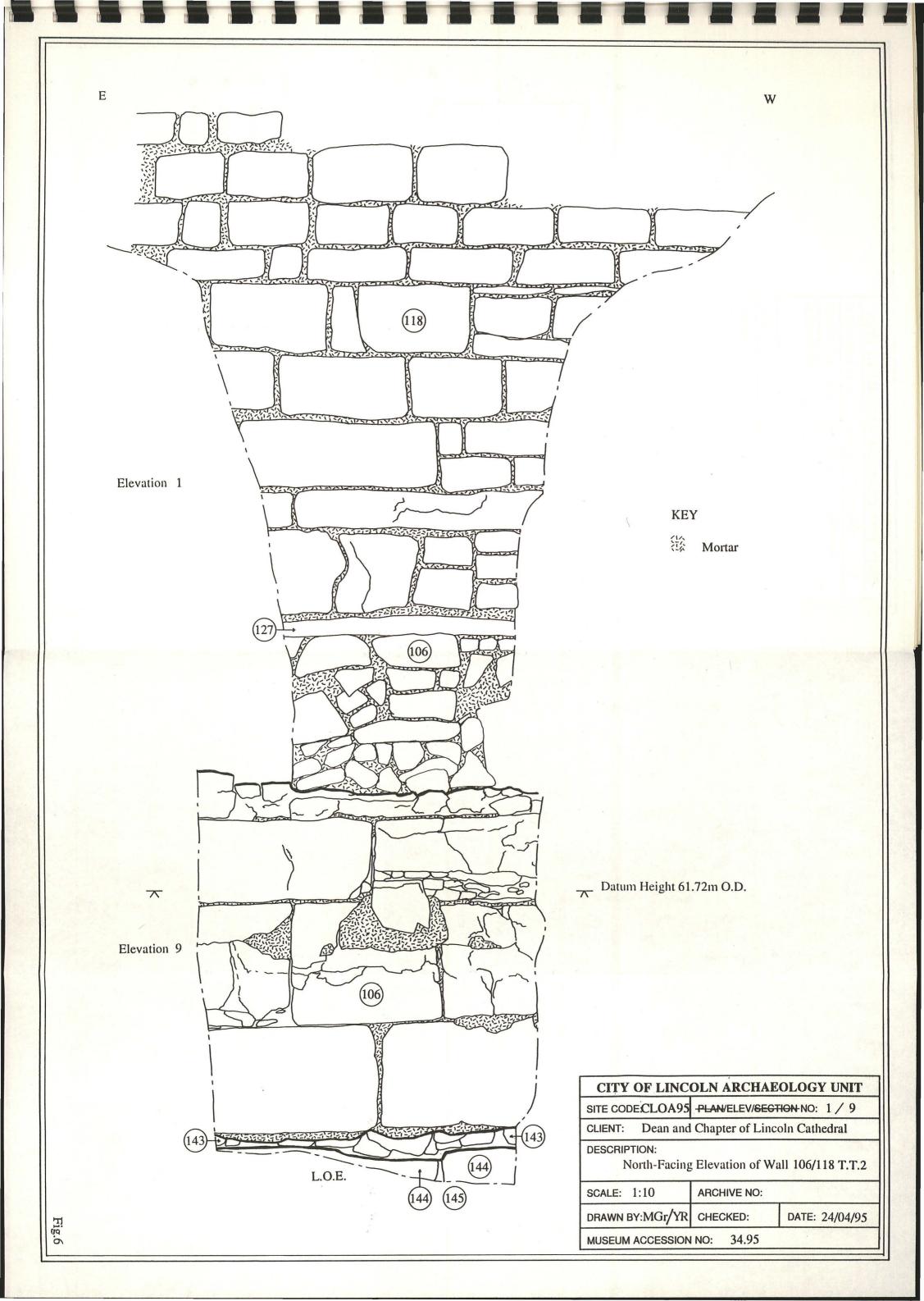
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 34.95

KEY

Tile

Mortar

Re-used Mouldings



CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE:CLOA95 PLANVELEWSECTION NO: 2 / 10

CLIENT: Dean and Chapter of Lincoln Cathedral

DESCRIPTION:

East-Facing Section T.T.2

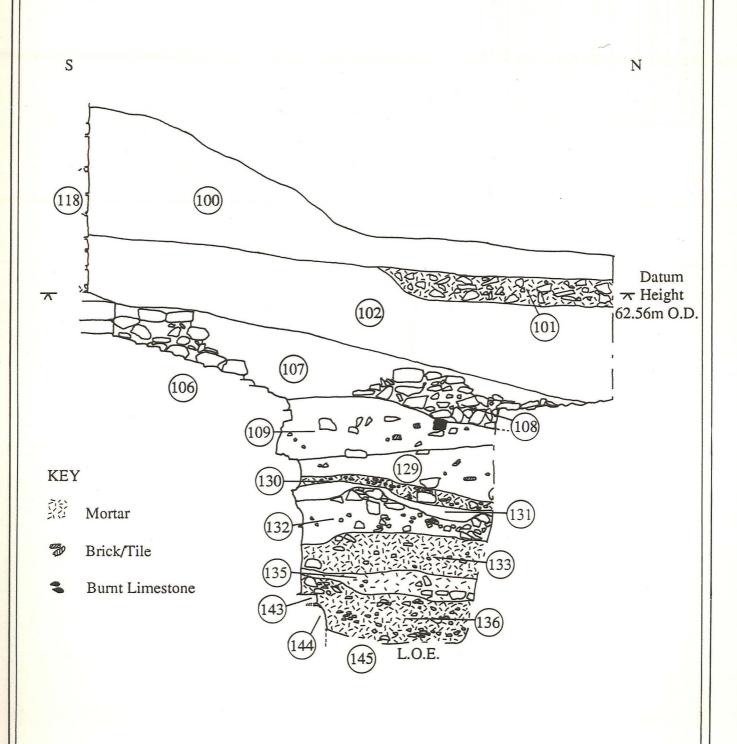
SCALE: 1:20 ARCHIVE NO:

DRAWN BY: Y.R.

CHECKED:

DATE: 24/04/95

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 34.95



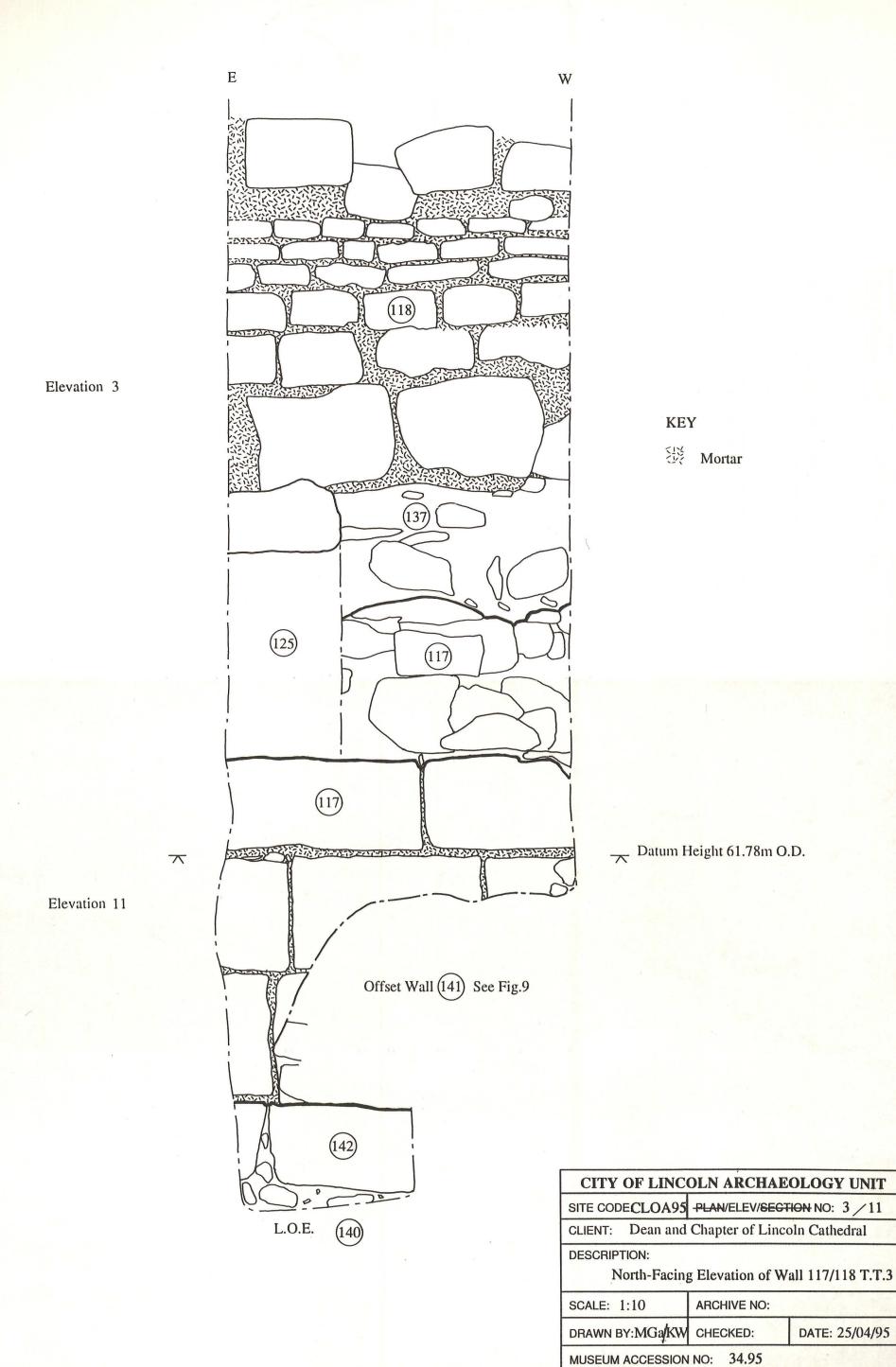


Fig. 8

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE:CLOA95 PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO: 12

CLIENT: Dean and Chapter of Lincoln Cathedral

DESCRIPTION:

N.E.Facing Elevation of "Offset" Wall [141], TT3

SCALE: 1:10 ARCHIVE NO:

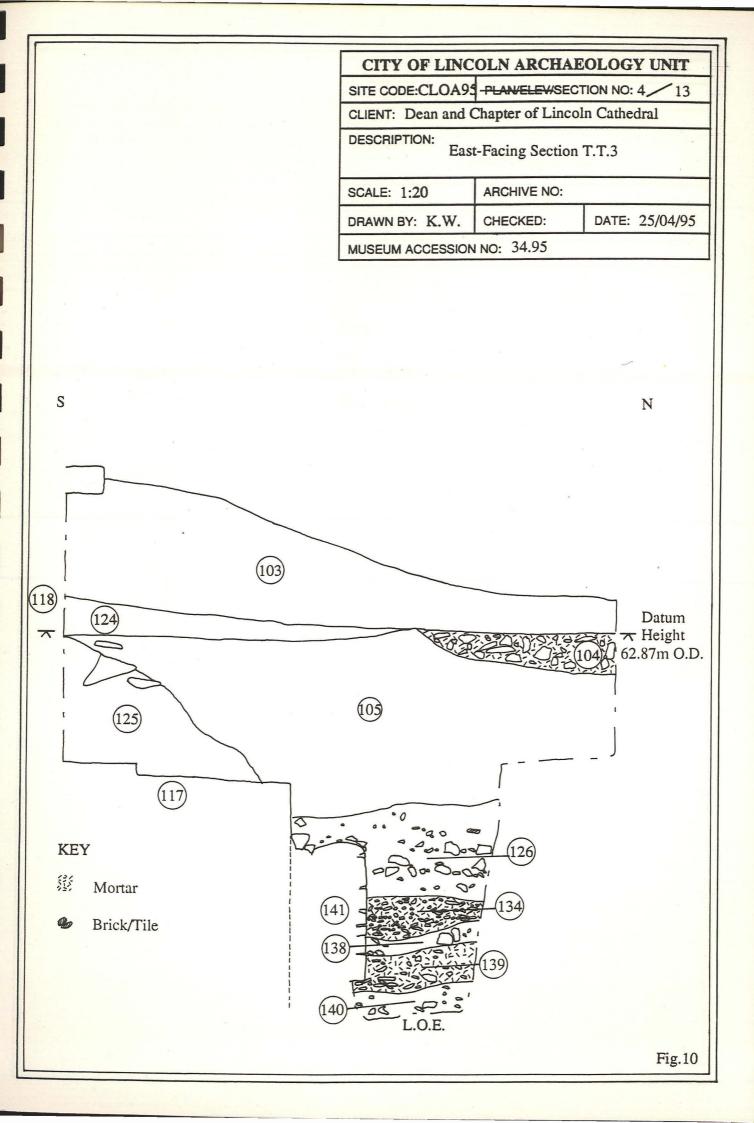
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MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 34.95

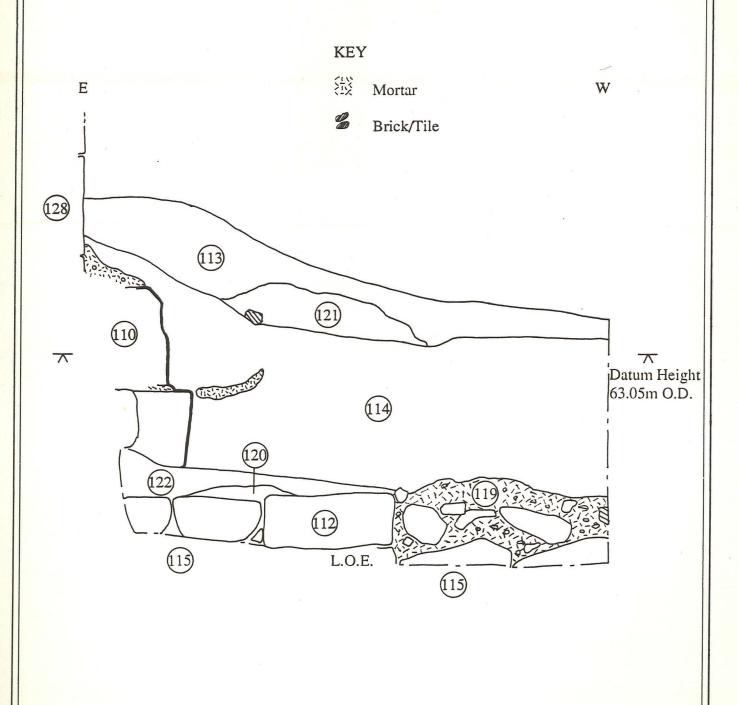
KEY

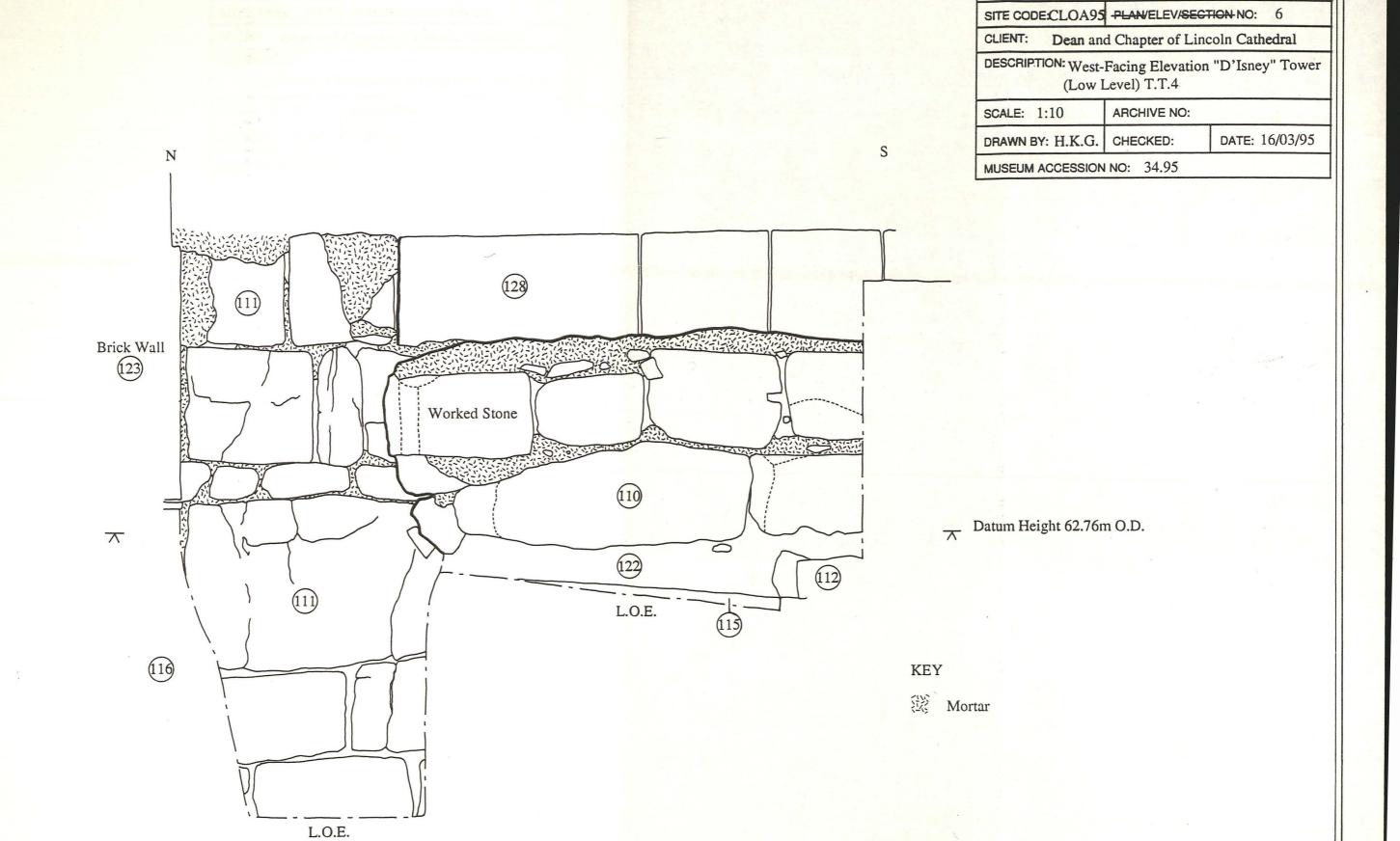
經 Mortar

Clay



CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT SITE CODE:CLOA95 PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO: 5 CLIENT: Dean and Chapter of Lincoln Cathedral DESCRIPTION: North-Facing Section T.T.4 SCALE: 1:10 ARCHIVE NO: DRAWN BY: H.K.G. CHECKED: DATE: 16/03/95 MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 34.95





CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE:CLOA95 -PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:

CLIENT: Dean and Chapter of Lincoln Cathedral

DESCRIPTION:

North-Facing Elevation of Foundations 110 T.T.4

SCALE: 1:10 ARCHIVE NO:

DRAWN BY: K.W. CHECKED: DATE: 17/03/95

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 34.95

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