

LINDSEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



M8110

**Horncastle Library, Wharf Road, Horncastle,
Lincs.**

**Archaeological Observation and Recording
(Watching Brief)**

NGR: TF 296 695

Site Code: HLBT 08

LCNCC Accession No.: 2008.133

Report for

Mouchel Business Services

(On behalf of Lincolnshire County Council)

By

Ruben Lopez Catalan

LAS Report No. 1079

September 2008



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Contents

List of Figures	ii
List of Plates	ii
Summary	1
Introduction	1
Site Location	1
Planning Background	1
Archaeological Background	1
Aims and Objectives	2
Method	2
Results	2
Discussion	3
Conclusion	3
Acknowledgements	3
References	3
Contents of the Site Archive	3
Appendix 1: Context Summary	
Appendix 2: OASIS Summary	
The Figures	
The Plates	

Lincolnshire
County Council

06 OCT 2008

Planning &
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CRM Transaction No.	

The Figures

Fig. 1 Horncastle. General location. Inset above based on the 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey map. Crown copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence no. AL 100002165.

Fig. 2 Detailed location. Inset above based on the digital 1:1 Ordnance Survey map. Crown copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence no. AL 100002165.

Fig. 3 Trench location plan. (based on Mouchel business services dwg. LC/E2002/MW1 June 2008 supplied by the client).

The Plates

Pl. 1 Horncastle Library, general view showing location of optics cable trench.

Pl. 2 General view of the trench looking north.

Pl. 3 Composite view showing trench section, looking west.

Pl. 4 North end of trench, showing stair foundation 6 looking north. 1 x 0.5m scale.

Pl. 5 Detail of Library foundation 7. Note structural crack and investigative slot to establish base of foundations, looking north.

Pl. 6 Detail of drain 4, looking north. .Scale 0.50m.

Pl. 7 Brick foundation 1, looking north. Scale 0.50m

Horncastle Library, Wharf Road, Horncastle, Lincs.
Archaeological Observation and Recording
(Watching Brief)
NGR: SK TF 296 695
Site Code: HLBT 08
LCNCC Accession: 2008.133

Summary

Groundworks for a fibre optics cable on the south side of Horncastle Library were monitored by LAS. Only modern deposits were present in the trench and no archaeological horizons were observed.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mouchel Business Services on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council in August 2008 to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the Horncastle Library, Wharf Road, Horncastle, Lincolnshire. The work was carried out in accordance with the archaeological brief dated 13th August 2008, and the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, 1998). Work commenced and was completed on the 20 August 2008.

Site Location

The modern town of Horncastle is located at a confluence of the Rivers Bain and Waring at the southern tip of the Lincolnshire wolds (Fig. 1). The library is situated to the south-east of the market place, north of Wharf Road (Fig. 2, Pls 1-2). The fibre-optics cable trench was excavated near the SW corner of the building (Fig. 3).

Planning Background

A service trench was excavated for the installation of a fibre-optic cable. The work falls outside the requirements of PPG16 and was carried out using the British Telecom Best Practice Scheme.

Archaeological Background

The late third-fourth century Roman defences at Horncastle lie north of a large undefended settlement which originated at a much earlier date, possibly during the first century AD. Together with the Roman walls at Caistor, they are unlike any other urban or military defences in England. Their unusual character is recognised in that sections of the wall are protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, which, by definition, indicates that they are considered to be of national importance.

Excavations carried out in 1968, in advance of building the new Public Library, located part of the south wall of the Roman defences. The wall, which was at least 4m wide, comprised an ashlar block facing with a rubble core. At this point along the circuit it survived to a maximum height of 1.5m above ground level. The internal facing blocks survived but the external face had been robbed and there was evidence of damage by water, presumed to have been caused by regular flooding of the River Waring.

The library was built over the Roman wall, part of which is displayed inside the building, close to the south-east corner of the defences. The fibre optics trench position was to the south of the Roman wall outside the defended area, on the river's edge.

Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the Archaeological Scheme of Works was to identify and record any archaeological deposits disturbed during groundworks at the site.

Method

The trench was hand excavated by the contractors under archaeological supervision. A full written (single context) and photographic record was made of the site. The trench base and one side were hand cleaned to reveal features in plan and section to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded.

Results

The service trench cut through a concrete surface which overlay an earlier tarmac surface which rested on a 0.12m thick bed of sandy layer with limestone and modern brick fragments, **2** (Pl. 3). These layers abutted the stairs which provided rear access to the library, at the north end of the trench (Pl. 3). The stair rail is supported on a brick wall set in a concrete foundation, **6** (Pls 3 and 4). The stair foundation, 0.40m wide, cut through an E-W orientated drain, **4**, 0.73m wide on its south side (Pl. 5). The base of the drain was not exposed in the trench. The north side of the stair foundation cut through a dark brown layer, **7**, that comprised sand, pebbles and concrete fragments, which was interpreted as fill of the construction for the library south wall (Pl. 6). The steps themselves also sit on this deposit.

In the central part of the trench the sand layer **2** sealed an E-W orientated brick foundation, **1** which was 0.30m wide and extended below the base of the trench (Pl. 7). It comprised regular coursed red bricks, measuring 220 x 110mm x 60mm. The foundation continued beyond the eastern limits of the trench only. The bricks were bonded in cement and therefore of recent date. The brickwork foundation, **1**, and the modern drain **4** through two layers, **3** and **5** which were recorded south of **4**. **3** comprised, a dark greyish brown compact sandy clay material with modern fragments of brick, concrete and gravels. Beneath **3** was a light-greyish compact sandy clay, with tarmac inclusions **5**. Both layers were interpreted as a modern make up.

Discussion

The trench revealed the existing library foundations and a sequence of modern make up layers related to the library external access area. The wall foundation and drain both cut through a sequence of modern make up layers. No evidence of any medieval or Roman deposits was encountered.

Conclusion

The groundworks for installation of the fibre-optics cable did not impact upon any archaeological remains.

Acknowledgements

LAS is grateful to the Horncastle Library staff, Charles Pickwell (Pickwell Paving site supervisor) and Katie Stammers (Mouchel Business Services) for their full and continued help and co-operation throughout the watching brief. The work was carried out on site by Ruben Lopez Catalan. The illustrations were produced by the author. The report was edited by Naomi Field.

Ruben Lopez Catalan
September 26th 2008

References

Field N. and Hurst H., 1983, 'Roman Horncastle', *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology* 18.

Contents of the Site Archive

Correspondence

Developer's site plan

Site notes

7 context sheets and associated registers

Photographs: LAS digital film no. 08/94 , 39 images

APPENDIX 1

Context	Type	Context Summary	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth
1	Brickwork	E-W Brickwork foundation, regular coursed bricks 0.22x0.11x0.06m bonded with white	Modern footing	0.5m	0.3m	
2	Layer	Yellowish, sandy, loose. Limestone frag.. Abundant, red brick frag. present, natural flint rare.	Modern leveling.			0.12m
3	Layer	Dark greish brown, sandy clay, compact. Lime lumps abundant, gravel, cement, brick present.	Modern make up			0.06m
4	Brickwork	E-W Brickwork foundation, regular coursed bricks bonded with white-greyish cement.	Modern drain	0.5m	0.73	
5	Layer	Light-greyish, sandy clay, compact. Abundant lime lumps and tarmac frag.	Modern make up	2.9m	0.4m	0.25m
6	Brickwork	Cement footing and brick stairs.	Stairs and footing.		0.40	
7	Layer	Dark brown, sandy, pebbles and cement present.	Possible backfill.	0.22m	0.22m	0.20m

APPENDIX 2

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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Printable version

OASIS ID: lindseya1-48943

Project details

Project name	Horncastle Library
Short description of the project	Groundworks for a fibre optics cable on the south side of Horncastle Library were monitored by LAS. Only modern deposits were present in the trench and no archaeological horizons were observed.
Project dates	Start: 20-08-2008 End: 20-08-2008
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	HLBT 08 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	2008.133 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	voluntary best practice

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE EAST LINDSEY HORNCastle Horncastle Library
Study area	25.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 296 695 53.2064456686 -0.05929167373620 53 12 23 N 000 03 33 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 30.00m Max: 30.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES
Project brief originator	Contractor (design and execute)
Project design originator	Naomi Field

Project director/manager Naomi Field
 Project supervisor Ruben Lopez Catalan
 Type of sponsor/funding body County Council
 Name of sponsor/funding body Lincolnshire County Council

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient Lindsey Archaeological Services
 Digital Archive ID HLBT 08
 Digital Contents 'none'
 Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets','Text'
 Paper Archive recipient LCNCC
 Paper Archive ID 2008.133
 Paper Contents 'none'
 Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Correspondence','Matrices','Photograph','Plan','Report'

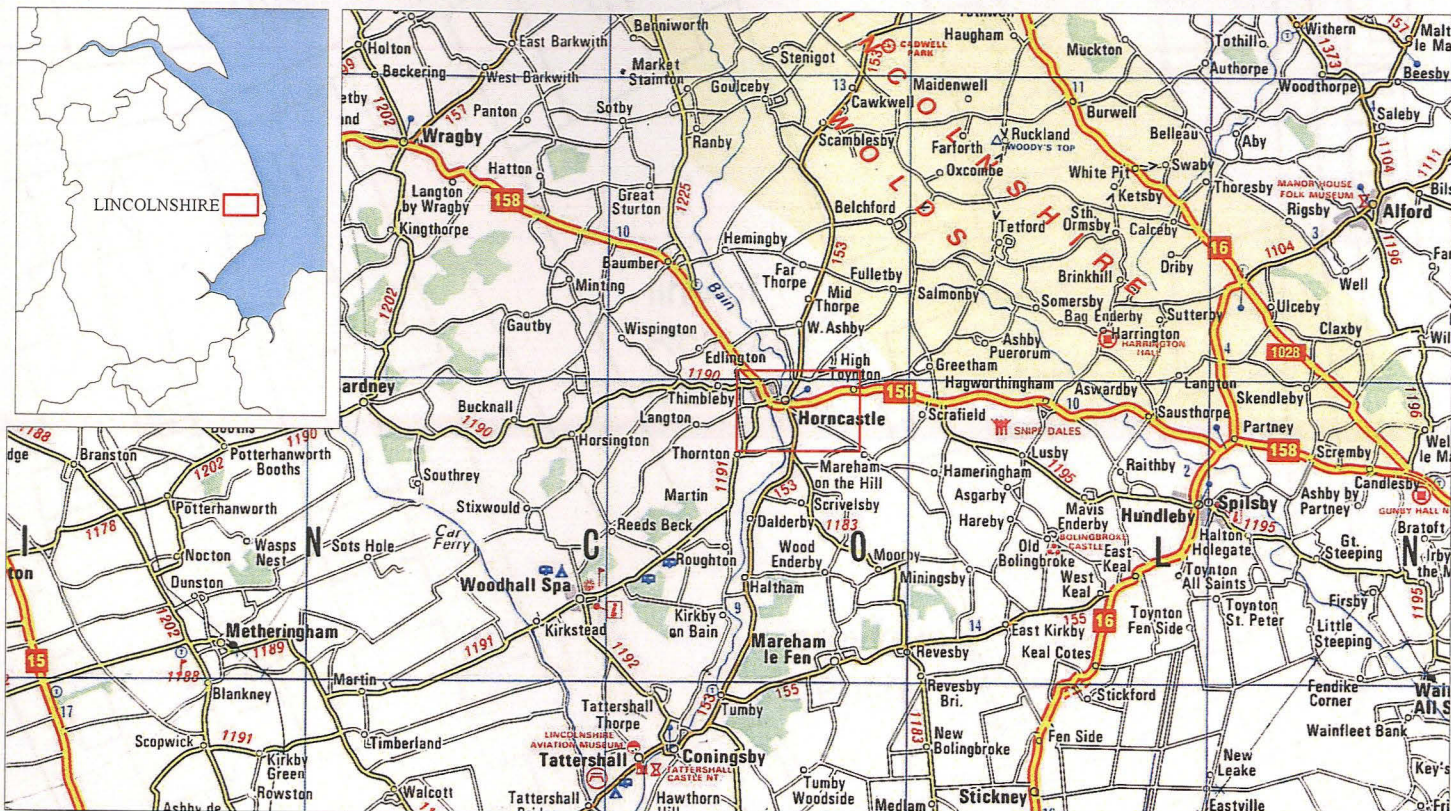
Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Honcastle Library, Wharf Road, Horncastle
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Lopez Catalan R.
 Other bibliographic details LAS REport 1079
 Date 2008
 Issuer or publisher LAS
 Place of issue or publication Lincoln
 Description A4 comb bound 3pp + 1 appendix + 3 figs + 7 plates
 Entered by Naomi Field (naomi@linarch.co.uk)
 Entered on 26 September 2008

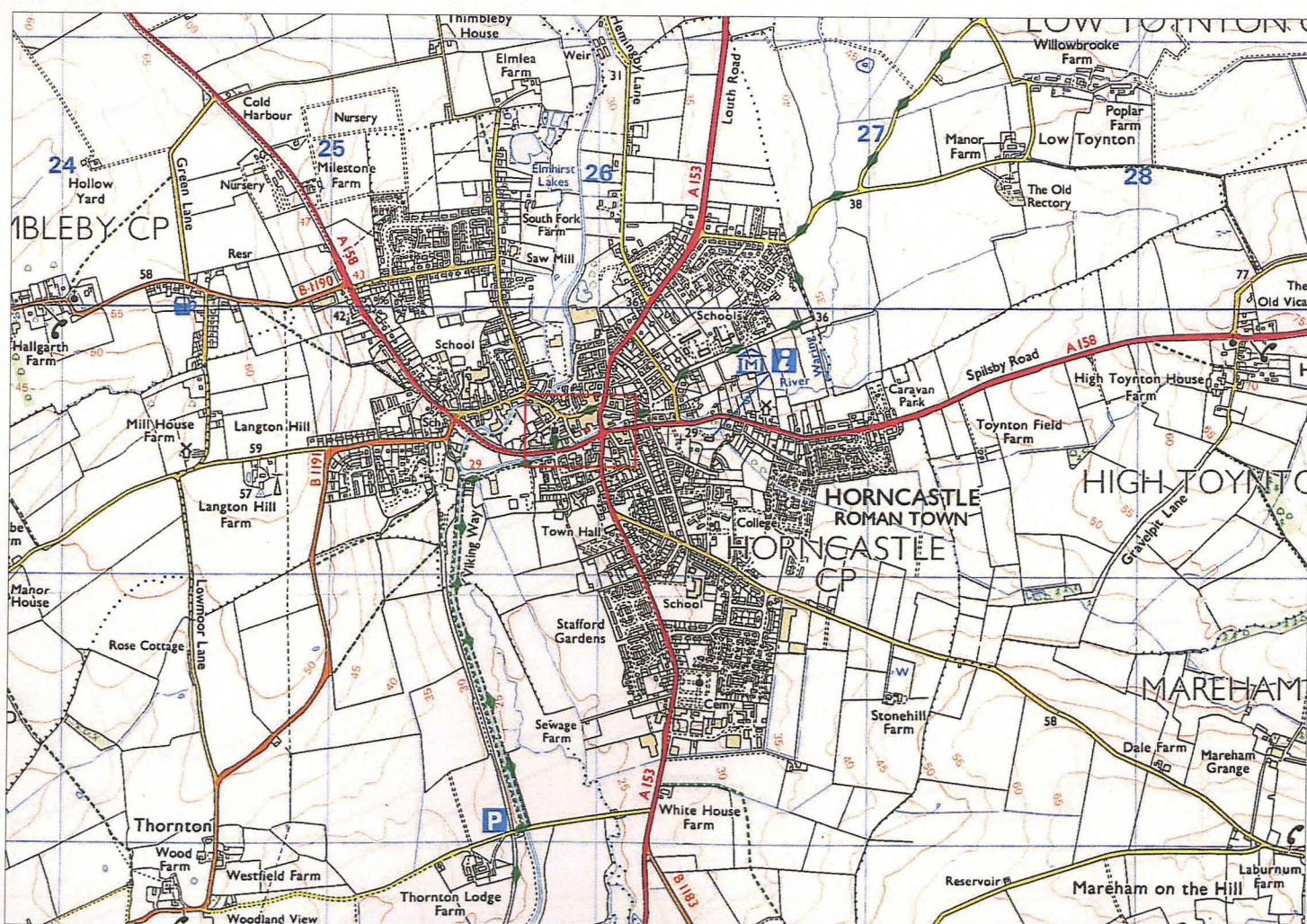
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THE FIGURES





Scale 1:25000.



Scale 1:25000.

Fig.1 General location. Inset above based on the 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey map. Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence no. AL 10002165.

	PROJECT NAME: Homcastle Library and CAP.	SITE CODE: HLBT 08	DRAWN BY: Ruben Lopez Catalan	
	PROJECT TYPE: Archaeological Watching brief.	ACC. NO: 2008.132		
		SCALE: Various.		

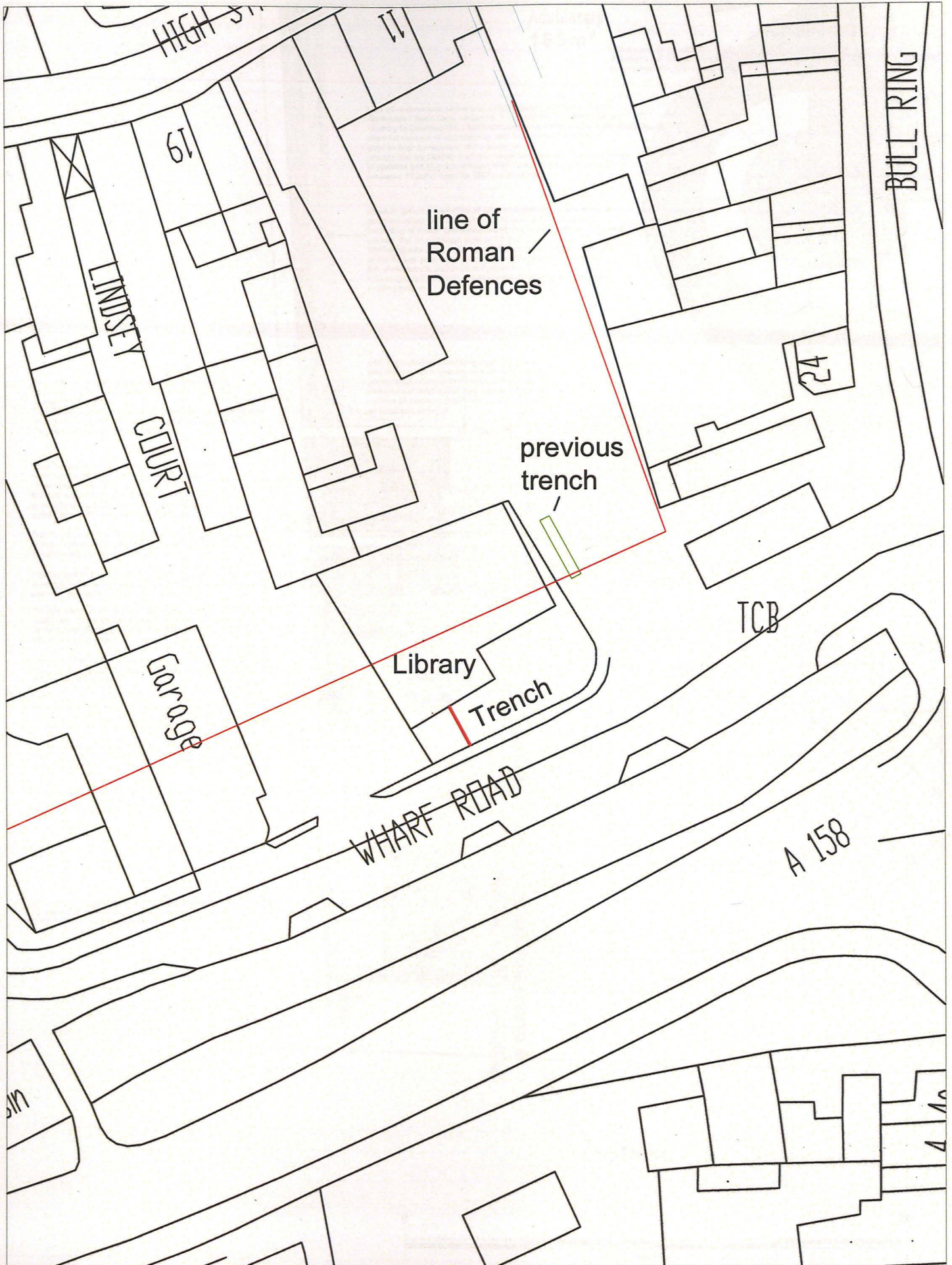




Fig.2 Detailed location. Inset above based on the digital 1:1 Ordnance Survey map. Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence no. AL 100002165.

	PROJECT NAME: Homcastle Library and CAP.	SITE CODE: HLBT 08	DRAWN BY: Ruben Lopez Catalan	
	PROJECT TYPE: Archaeological Watching brief	ACC. NO: 2008.132	DATE: 12/09/08	
		SCALE: 1: 500		

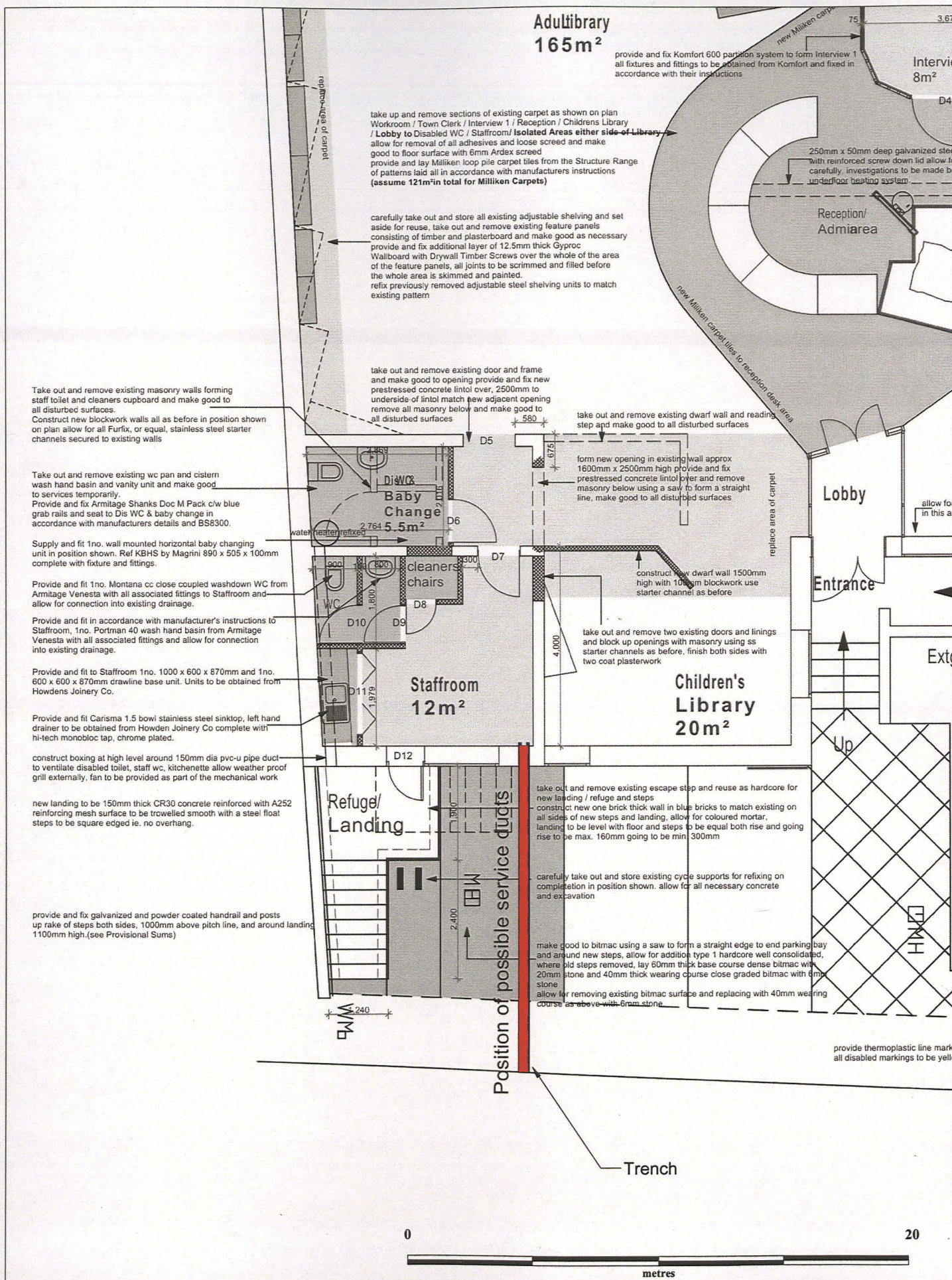


Fig.3 Trench location plan. (based on MOUCHEL business services dwg LC/E2002/MW1 June 2008 supplied by the client)



PROJECT NAME: Homcastle Library and CAP.
PROJECT TYPE: Archaeological Watching brief.

SITE CODE: HLBT 08
ACC. NO: 2008.132
SCALE: 1: 200

DRAWN BY: Ruben Lopez Catalan
DATE: 12/09/08



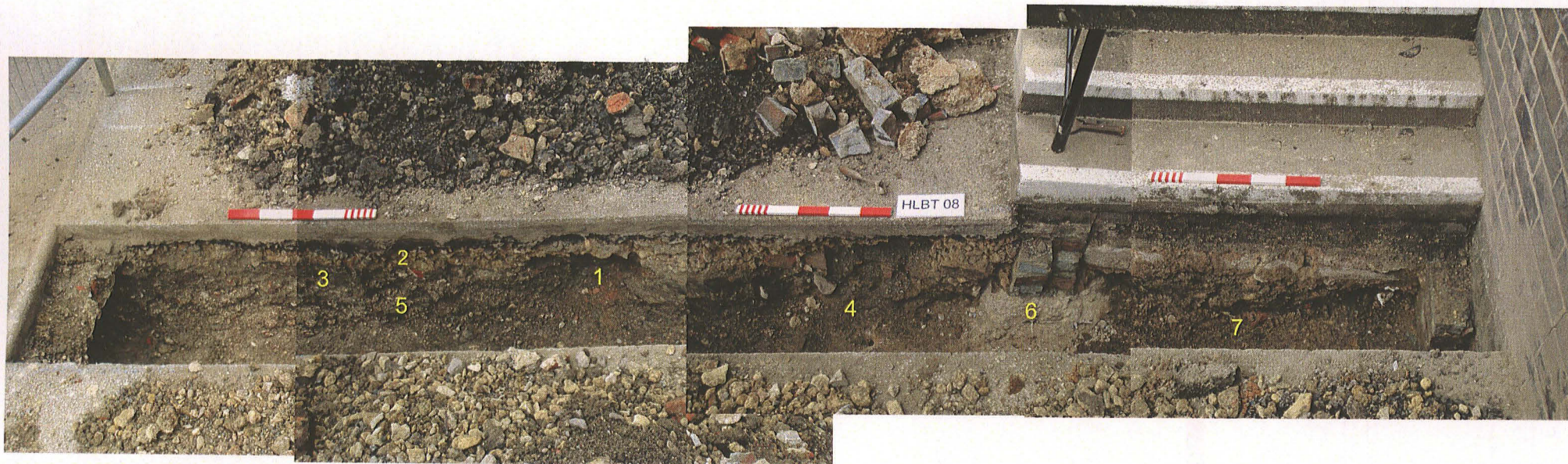
THE PLATES



Pl. 1 Horncastle Library, showing position of optics cable trench



Pl. 2 General view of trench looking north. 1 x 0.5m scale.



Pl. 3 Composite view showing trench section, looking west. not to scale.



Pl. 4 North end of trench, showing stair foundation 6 looking north. 1 x 0.5m scale.



Pl. 5 Detail of Library foundation 7. Note structural crack and investigative slot to establish base of foundations, looking north.



Pl. 6 Detail of drain 4 , looking north. .Scale 0.50m.



Pl. 7 Brick foundation 1, looking north. 0.5 x 1m scale.