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**A REPORT TO  
LINCOLN CORN EXCHANGE & MARKETS (1991) LTD**

**August 2006**

**CORNHILL MARKET  
LINCOLN**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF**

**PREPARED BY  
MIKE JARVIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES**

**MJAS REPORT No.: 536**



# **CORNHILL MARKET LINCOLN**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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## CORNHILL MARKET LINCOLN

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

#### NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- *Between the 9th January and 19th May 2006, Mike Jarvis Archaeological Services undertook an archaeological watching brief on behalf of Lincoln Corn Exchange & Markets (1991) Ltd, at Cornhill Market, Lincoln, during groundwork associated with the construction of a canopy and the enclosure of existing outdoor market stalls.*
- *The watching brief has revealed that for the most part groundwork lay above the level of important archaeological deposits associated with the Roman and medieval occupation of the site.*
- *The watching brief revealed a series of extensive dump deposits associated with 20<sup>th</sup> century alterations to the existing market. An undated but probably 19<sup>th</sup> century stone and brick built foundation together with several concrete pier bases recorded to the south of the main market building are believed to be associated with a covered lean-to once present against the south side of the market and shown on the 1888 OS map of the area.*
- *Although the results of this watching brief have provided only limited information regarding the archaeological content of the site, an overall enhancement of knowledge of the area has been achieved with regard to the survival and extent of archaeological deposits. This information will be of value in future decision making in the management of the archaeological resource in this part of Lincoln.*



## **CORNHILL MARKET LINCOLN**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

#### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Between the 9th January and 19th May 2006, Mike Jarvis Archaeological Services (MJAS) undertook an archaeological watching brief on behalf of Lincoln Corn Exchange & Markets (1991) Ltd, during constructional alterations to the present market complex. Planning permission for the construction of a glass canopy and the enclosure of existing outdoor market stalls to form three shops was granted on 21 September 2005 (Planning Application No.: 2005/0382/F).

#### **2.0 SITE LOCATION AND BACKGROUND (Fig. 1)**

Cornhill Market lies to the south of Waterside South on the west side of Sincil Street. To its south and west are the Cornhill and the Exchange Arcade. The site of the new canopy lies in an open area (Stewarts Yard) situated between the main market building and the current covered market area (National Grid Reference: SK 97630 71067). The site for the enclosed stalls lies against the south wall of the main market building in a covered area with market stalls beneath (National Grid References: SK 97625 71036).

Archaeological evidence suggests that this area of Lincoln was probably utilised from the prehistoric period onwards. An archaeological watching brief undertaken in the basement of the Exchange Arcade (Jarvis 2002), revealed deposits that may indicate the presence of a prehistoric sand island sealed beneath Roman deposits dating to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century.

The site lies within the medieval suburb of Wigford and Sincil Street is named after Sincil Dyke that, until its diversion around c. 1500, joined the River Witham directly opposite the Waterside Centre. To the west of the site, investigations during the construction of the tourist information centre (Jarvis 1999) revealed evidence associated with the medieval church of St John The Evangelist (1145 – 1560). Here several burials were uncovered along with a buttressed stone structure believed to be the north wall of the church. Closer to the site a series of refuse pits were found in the basement of the Exchange Arcade during 2002 but the nature of associated occupation was unclear. Medieval pottery, a carved stone together with a human skull were found to the south of the Cornhill in 1973 and although the precise location of the find is unclear it is believed to have been close to the High Street.

The corn market was originally founded on the site in 1598 although the present-day market buildings date to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The 1888 Ordnance Survey Map of Lincoln shows Stewarts Yard (the location for the canopy) – then extending west to include the area of the now covered market. The New Market Hotel (demolished) lay on the south side of the yard at its junction with Sincil Street. The map also indicates that the site of the enclosed stalls was a covered area (possibly market stalls). A further covered outdoor market shed (the fish market) lay at its east end (OS 1:500 1888 Town Plan 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Sheet LXX.7.17).

#### **3.0 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY**

The aims of the watching brief were:

- To produce an archive record of deposits and remains generally within the constraints of the groundwork contractors' programme and working methods with due regard to current health and safety legislation.



- To produce a report on the archaeological importance of the discoveries.
- To produce a project archive from which the potential for further study and academic research could be assessed.
- To provide information for accession to the Historic Environment Record (HER).

The watching brief required observing all groundwork associated with the construction of the new canopy and enclosed shop units. Construction of the canopy required the excavation of six nominally square trenches (T1-5) and for the enclosure of the market stalls foundation trenches enclosing the area of the stalls and dividing them internally (see Fig 2).

The archaeological record was secured by means of trench-side notes, scale drawings and photographs.



*Plate I: General view of foundation [011] – looking west.*

#### **4.0 RESULTS and CONCLUSIONS (Fig. 2 & Pl. I)**

##### **Area A (canopy)**

##### **Trenches T1-6**

The earliest deposit recorded was [004] (Trench T5) an undated mid-brown sandy clay with frequent shell and charcoal flecks (5.24m OD). Above [004] lay [003/012] mid-dark brown clay soil with frequent modern building debris ([012] – recorded in Trench T6 was identical to [003] but contained no modern building debris although frequent shell flecks were present). Above [003/012] lay [002] pale-mid brown sandy soil similarly containing modern building debris. Sealing [002] was a layer of concrete that provided bedding for ground level paving slabs (east = 6.57m OD & west 6.31m OD).

No further features and deposits were recorded in this area of the site.



#### Area B (stalls)

Deposit [007], mid-brown sandy silt with shell and charcoal flecks together with occasional brick fragments (top – 5.64m OD) was the earliest deposit recorded in the area of the stalls. Cutting in to [007] approximately 2.25m to the south of the south wall to the main market was [011] an east-west stone and brick foundation (top - 5.49m OD) that consisted of two surviving courses of unhewn limestone fragments with a loose brick rubble core. Foundation [011] extended to the east and west beyond the boundaries of the site (28m+) and was c. 600mm wide. A series of five concrete pier bases (spaced at 3m intervals - collectively numbered [008]) lay along the southern section of the site cutting into [007]. The bases were sealed by [006] a dark grey silt soil containing modern brick building debris (top – 6.23m OD). This was cut in to by [009] ( a series of substantial concrete piers supporting the existing roof canopy) and overlain by [005] a hardcore sub-base layer and associated paving slabs that formed existing ground level (east = 5.99m OD & west 6.34m OD).

No further features or deposits were recorded in this area of the site.

In conclusion, this watching brief has revealed that for the most part groundwork lay above the level of important archaeological deposits associated with the Roman and medieval period. The east-west foundation recorded to the south of the main market building is believed be associated with the covered area present on the 1888 OS map, similarly, the concrete piers lying along the edge of the area probably held this structures roof supports.

Although the results of this watching brief have provided only limited information regarding the archaeological content of the site, an overall enhancement of knowledge of the area has been achieved with regard to the survival and extent of archaeological deposits. This information will be of value in future decision making in the management of the archaeological resource in this part of Lincoln.

## 5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MJAS would like to thank Lincoln Corn Exchange & Markets (1991) Ltd for funding the watching brief and post-fieldwork analysis. Thanks are also extended to Mr Peter Mcfarlane (Architect), the City Archaeologist (Mr Michael J Jones) and the Heritage Officer (Mr John Herridge) for their advice and guidance throughout the course of the watching brief.

Maps contained in this report are reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown Copyright. MJAS Licence No. 100042473.

## 6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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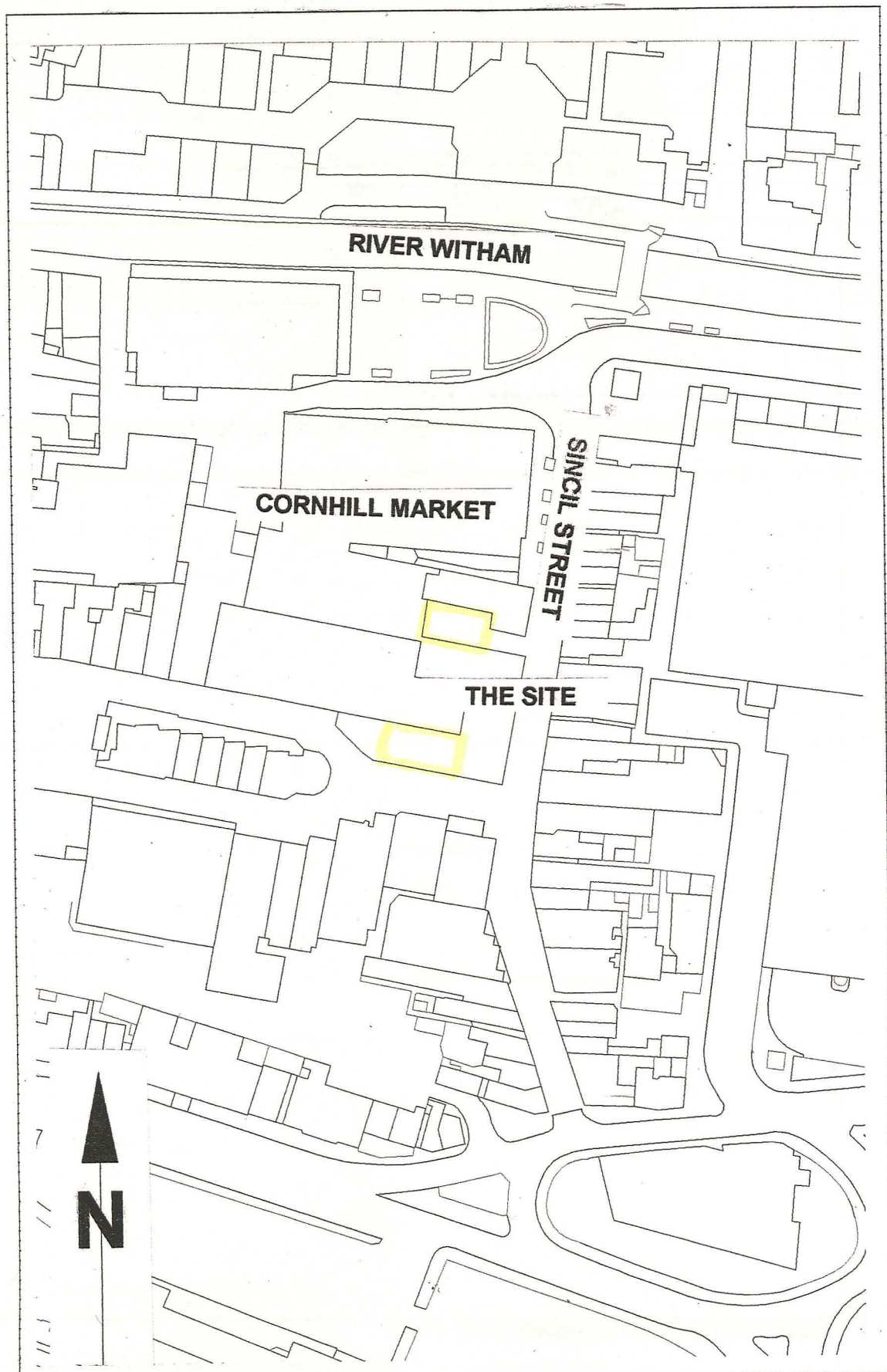


Fig. 1: Site location Map (1:1250).



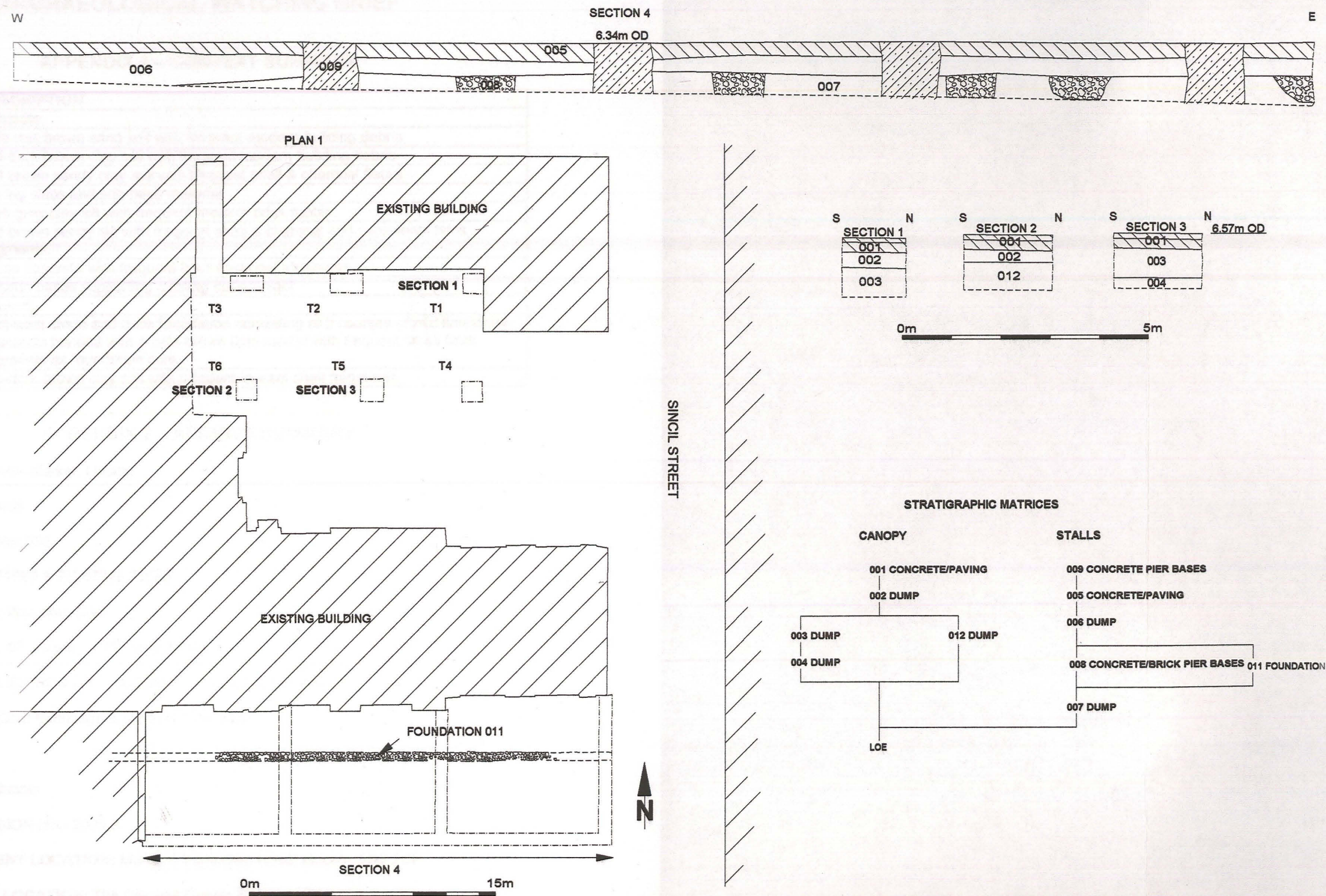


Fig. 2: Plan showing the location for the canopy and enclosed stalls also Plan 1, Sections 1 – 4 and stratigraphic matrices (not to scale)



## **CORNHILL MARKET LINCOLN**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

#### **APPENDIX 1 – CONTEXT SUMMARY**

<b>CONTEXT</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
001	Concrete.
002	Pale-mid brown sand soil with frequent modern building debris.
003	Mid-dark brown clay soil with frequent modern building debris.
004	Mid brown sandy clay soil with frequent shell & charcoal flecks.
005	Paving slabs and sub-base material.
006	Dark grey clay silt with frequent modern brick rubble.
007	Mid brown sandy silt with frequent shell & charcoal and occasional brick fragments.
008	Loose concrete with frequent brick fragment inclusions.
009	Column bases supporting existing canopy roof
010	Unused.
011	East-west stone and brick foundation consisting of 2 courses of mid limestone fragments bonded with a pale brown lime mortar with frequent small brick fragments as foundation core.
012	Mid-dark brown clay soil with frequent mussel shell fragments.

#### **APPENDIX 2 – ARCHIVE SUMMARY**

**SITE NAME:** Cornhill Market, Lincoln

**SITE CODE:** CMA06

**MJAS REPORT No:** 536

**NGR:** SK 97630 71067 & SK 97625 71036

**PROJECT TYPE:** Watching Brief

**PROJECT DATE:** 9<sup>th</sup> January – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2006

**PLANNING APPLICATION No.:** 2005/0382/F 21 September 2005

**CLIENT:** Lincoln Corn Exchange & Markets (1991) Ltd

**SMR No.:** N/A

**CIVIL PARISH:** Lincoln

**MUSEUM ACCESSION No.:** 2006.8

**ARCHIVE PRESENT LOCATION:** MJAS, 1 Torrington Road, Lincoln, LN2 2DP

**ARCHIVE FINAL LOCATION:** The City and County Museum, Friars Lane, Lincoln