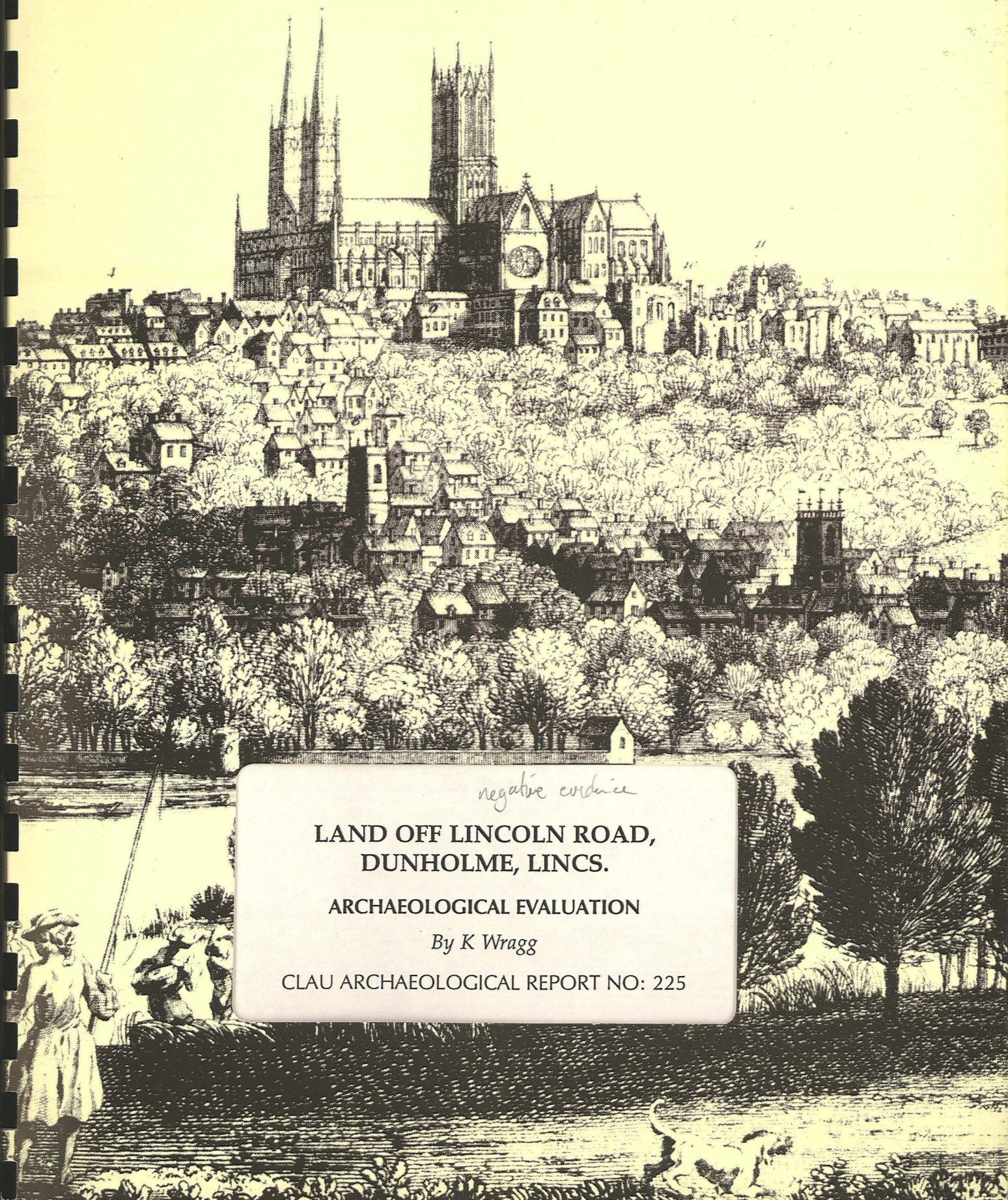


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◇ LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY ◇
U N I T



negative evidence

LAND OFF LINCOLN ROAD,
DUNHOLME, LINCS.

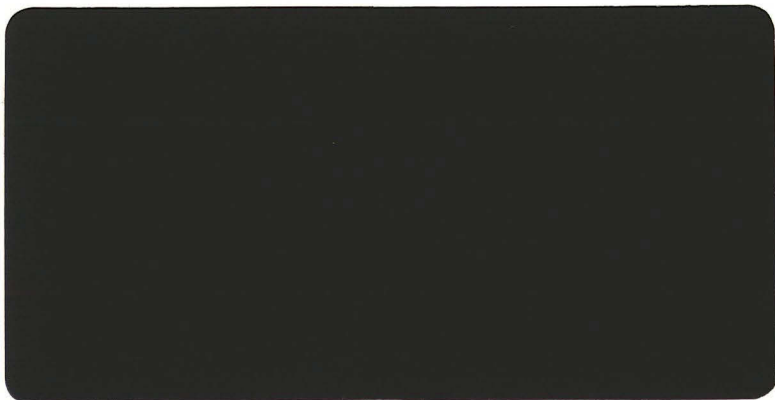
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

By K Wragg

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 225

Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section
10, High Lane
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22.2.96



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Report to

Allen Homes (East Midlands) Ltd

February 1996

Prepared by

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negative evidence

**LAND OFF LINCOLN ROAD,
DUNHOLME, LINCS.**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

By K Wragg

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 225

LAND OFF LINCOLN ROAD, DUNHOLME

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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LAND OFF LINCOLN ROAD, DUNHOLME

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Non-technical Summary

Archaeological finds of all periods have been recovered from various locations within the parish of Dunholme including a Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead, Roman and medieval artefacts, the site of a medieval watermill, and a substantial medieval building which may have been a grange or manor house. The site itself shows evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation, and would appear to have been on the periphery of the medieval settlement. It was thought that features of earlier periods might also survive beneath the medieval remains (all refs. Lincolnshire County Council Brief). Ultimately, however, the results from this evaluation have proved to be largely negative, with only the evidence for ridge and furrow to indicate any form of occupation or activity on the site. Ten of the eighteen trial trenches showed only the natural ground conditions prevailing on the site, comprising a yellow-brown sandy clay overlain by orange-brown sand, which was in turn sealed by the mid grey-brown sandy topsoil and turf layers forming the present surface of the field. The remaining eight trenches showed a similar stratigraphic sequence, but with the addition of various modern cut features (primarily field-drains) beneath the turf layer. No evidence was seen (with the exception of the extant ridge and furrow) of any archaeological deposits predating the 20th century.

LAND OFF LINCOLN ROAD, DUNHOLME

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

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This site lies on the southern edge of the village of Dunholme, approximately 10km to the north-east of Lincoln, and comprises a parcel of land, around 2 hectares in area, divided into three parts by established hawthorn hedging and presently under rough pasture. The geology of the area consists of oolitic limestone.

Current proposals for the site include the construction of approximately 70 dwellings, together with landscaping, access roads and new services, etc. The prospective developer of the site, Allen Homes, is currently undertaking pre-planning discussions with the District Council, and resolution of the archaeological potential of the site is required at the earliest opportunity.

In accordance with a brief set by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council, the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit was commissioned to carry out a programme of evaluation (involving excavation of a series of trial trenches to the latest surviving archaeological deposits, or top of natural deposits as appropriate) on the site between the 11th and 15th December 1995.

A total of 18 trial trenches, each measuring 15m x 1.5m, were machine-excavated at various locations across the site, in all cases reaching depths of between 400mm and 500mm (ultimately to the surface of the natural sand and/or clay deposits, owing to the absence of any archaeological features). The trenches were located in such a way as to avoid the proposed foundation locations (to prevent any future complications with ground stability, etc.), while still providing an even coverage of the development area.

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 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A settlement at Dunholme is mentioned in the Domesday Book, written in the late 11th century (Foster et al, 1924), and it is thought that the core of the present village represents the shrunken remains of a larger settlement once centred on a village green or market place (Everson et al, 1991). The style of the present church of St.Chad is

essentially Early English (1190-1250), though with later Decorated (1290-1350) detailing around the north aisle, and on some of the windows (Pevsner et al, 1989).

Notwithstanding the above, however, documentary references are limited, and the majority of the historical evidence is derived from finds recovered in the vicinity, and recorded in the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record.

Archaeological finds of all periods have been recovered from various locations within the parish of Dunholme including a Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead, Roman and medieval artefacts, the site of a medieval watermill, and a substantial medieval building which may have been a grange or manor house.

The main area of the site (i.e. to the north of the dividing hedgerow) shows evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation running along the E-W axis of the field (resulting in a total "land" length of c.180m, a ridge-ridge dimension of 8.4m on average, and an average total depth of 260mm), and it would appear that the site was originally on the periphery of the medieval settlement. It was thought that features of earlier periods might also survive beneath the medieval remains (all refs. LCC. Brief, 1995).

3.0 RESULTS

In general the natural ground conditions prevailing on the site comprised a yellow-brown sandy clay, [102], overlain by orange-brown sand [101], which was in turn sealed by the mid grey-brown sandy topsoil [100], and turf layer [127], which formed the present surface of the field. This sequence was present, at least in part (some of the trenches did not reveal the underlying clay layer [102]), in every trench excavated.

Of the total of eighteen trial trenches investigated, only eight revealed any additional deposits/features other than the natural stratigraphy described above, and almost without exception these related to what appeared to be a relatively recent scheme of land drainage. The stratigraphy recorded in these eight trenches can be summarised as follows (see also Fig.3):

Trial Trench 1 - The earliest deposit revealed in this trench was clay [102], which was in turn sealed by the sand layer [101].

Towards the south-eastern end of the trench, a moderately compacted, slightly red-brown sandy earth [103], containing no obvious inclusions, was seen to seal [101]. [103] was then overlain by the topsoil layer [100], which was present throughout the entire trench. Again at the south-eastern end of the excavated area, the topsoil layer was then cut by a linear land-drain trench (oriented approximately E-W) filled with a moderate-well compacted mid-light yellow-brown slightly sandy clay, containing no inclusions, [104]. This fill was then sealed by the turf layer present across the field, [127].

Trial Trench 7 - The expected sequence of clay [102], sand [101] and topsoil [100] also featured in this trench, with the addition of a dump/levelling deposit, [123], occurring at the south-eastern end, and series of land-drains at the north-western end. The latter feature comprised a linear cut oriented approximately N-S, containing a clay land-drain [118], and filled with mixed light grey/yellow-brown clay [119]/[122]. This

fill was then re-cut by a NE-SW oriented trench containing a further clay land-drain [121], and its associated mixed grey/yellow-brown clay and orange-brown sand fill [120].

The dump/levelling deposit [123] comprised a mixed clay almost identical to that seen in the fills of the land-drains, and, as this material does not appear to be "native" to this field, is probably contemporary with them (i.e. modern). The precise purpose of the clay infill is not known, but it would appear to have been used to level the final furrow, adjacent to the dividing hedge-line, perhaps to provide more stable and convenient vehicle access around the perimeter of the field. All features were then sealed by turf layer [127].

Trial Trench 10 - No sign of the underlying clay layer [102] was revealed in this trench, but sand [101] and topsoil [100] were present as before. Features were limited to two linear land-drain trenches, and a small pit, cutting into topsoil and sealed by turf [127].

The drainage trenches were located at opposite ends of the excavated area and comprised a single NE-SW cut, filled with mid yellow-brown clay [113], to the south-east, and a similarly oriented cut, this time with a primary fill of grey-brown sandy earth [112], and secondary fill of yellow-brown clay [111] at the north-west.

The latter deposit was then cut by a small circular pit [110], at the north-eastern end, which was filled with mid grey-brown sandy earth [109], containing modern machine-made red bricks.

Trial Trench 12 - This trench exhibited the usual stratigraphic sequence of clay [102], sand [101] and topsoil [100] as before, with only two linear drainage cuts recorded between topsoil and turf [127].

The first was situated at the centre of the trench and was oriented NE-SW, while the second ran E-W and lay approximately 1.5m to the north of the first. Both trenches were filled with similar mid yellow-brown clay ([106] and [107] respectively), as seen in all drain trenches across the site.

Trial Trench 13 - Sand layer [101] and topsoil deposit [100] again featured in this trial trench (clay [102] was not, however, revealed), together with one linear drain trench (oriented approximately E-W) present below the turf [127], at the south-eastern end.

The land-drain trench closely resembled that seen in TT10 (see above), containing a mid grey-brown sandy earth primary fill [124], and a yellow-brown clay secondary fill, [125].

Trial Trench 14 - One linear land-drain trench, oriented NE-SW, was revealed, running virtually the whole length of the trial trench. Filled the yellow-brown clay ([126]) as before, this feature was sealed by the turf layer [127], and was cut through topsoil [100] and sand layer [101].

Trial Trench 15 - Only two linear drain trenches were revealed lying between the turf [127], and cutting into topsoil [100] (which in turn sealed sand [101]). Both trenches were oriented NE-SW, with the easternmost comprising a single yellow-brown clay fill [116]. The drainage trench at the north-west end had multiple fills, as per TT10/13, including mid yellow-brown clay [114], mixed mid brown/yellow-brown sandy clay [115], and light yellow-brown clay [117].

Trial Trench 17 - This trench showed the usual sequence of sand [101], sealed by topsoil [100] as recorded previously, with one linear land-drain trench cut into the topsoil, beneath turf [127]. The fill of the drainage trench [108] was largely identical to that seen elsewhere, i.e., a mid yellow-brown clay, although in this instance, the fill was mixed with mid brown sandy earth and light blue-grey clay.

In addition to the stratigraphic record, seven pieces of pottery and tile were also secured from the trial trenching, although without exception they were located in the topsoil, and could therefore have been disturbed by agricultural activity, or even imported onto the site (during for instance manure spreading etc.). Initial spot-dating suggests a date of mid 16th century to mid 17th century for the bulk of the pottery, with the exception of one sherd which is possibly Roman.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

The results from this evaluation have proved to be largely negative, with only the evidence for ridge and furrow to indicate any form of occupation or activity on the site. Ten of the eighteen trial trenches showed only the natural ground conditions prevailing on the site, sealed by the sandy topsoil and turf layers forming the present surface of the field. The remaining eight trenches showed a similar stratigraphic sequence, but with the addition of various modern cut features (primarily field-drains) beneath the turf layer. No evidence was seen (with the exception of the extant ridge and furrow) of any archaeological features predating the 20th century.

5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit would like to thank the following for their assistance during this project: Mr C.Stevenson (Managing Director, Allen Homes (East Midlands) Limited); Mr I.K.George (Assistant Archaeological Officer, Lincolnshire County Council).

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LCC Archaeology Section, November 1995 *Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation at Lincoln Road, Dunholme*

K.Wragg

February 1996

APPENDIX A - ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The archive consists of:

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

The primary archive material, as detailed above, is currently held by :

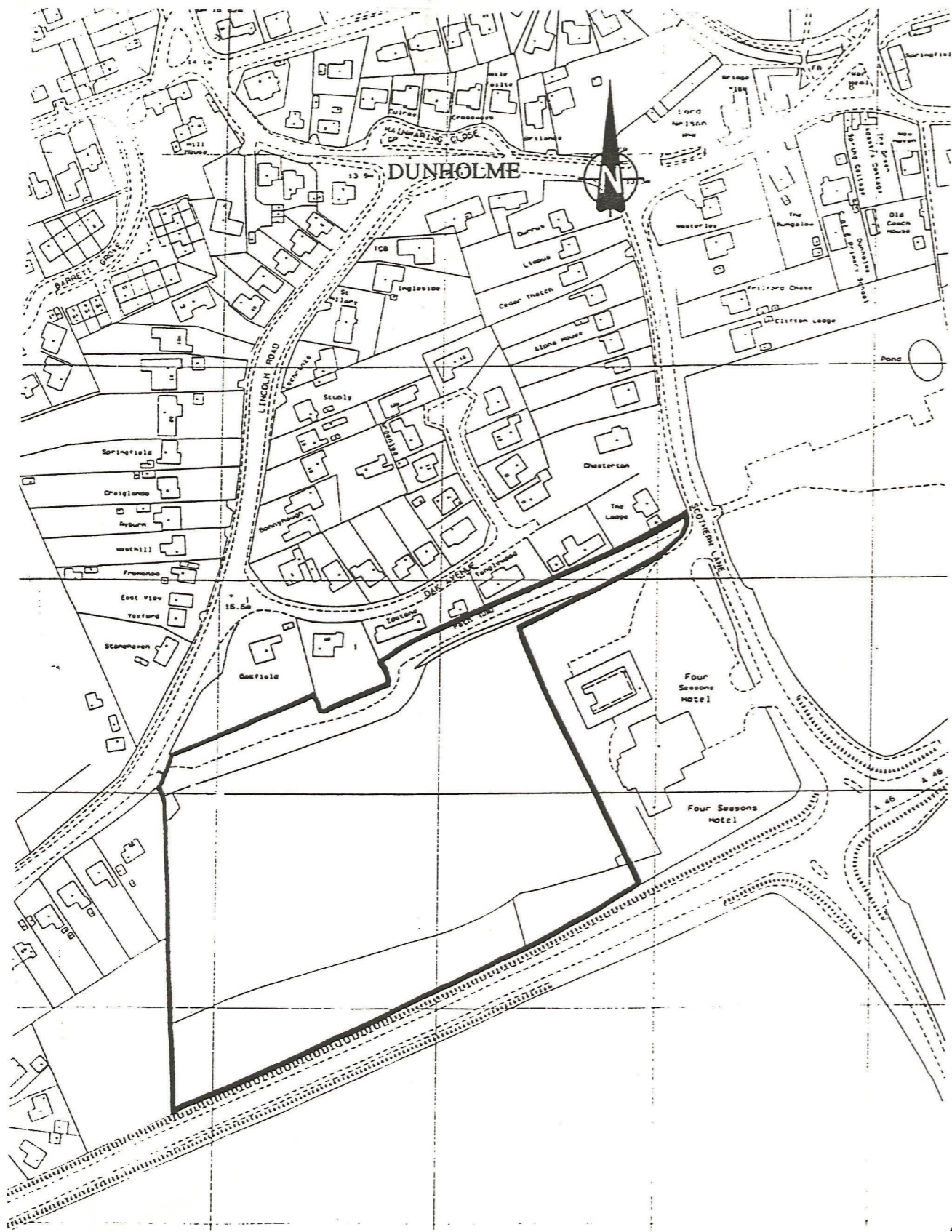
The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit
Charlotte House
The Lawn
Union Road
Lincoln
Lincolnshire
LN1 3BL.

It is intended that transfer to the City and County Museum, Friars Lane, Lincoln, in accordance with current published requirements, under Museum Accession Number 201.95, will be undertaken following completion of this project.

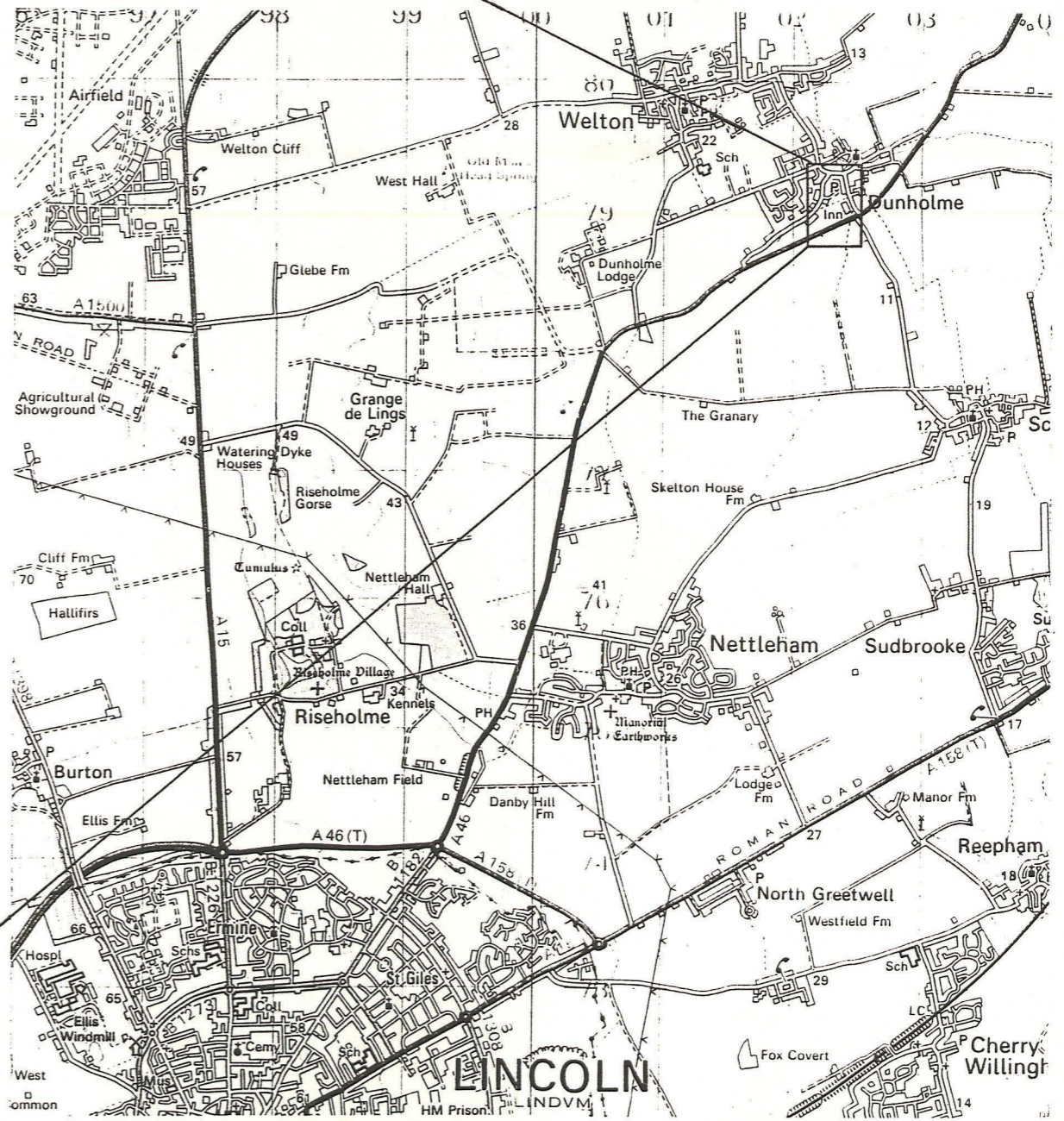
APPENDIX B - TABLE SUMMARISING FEATURES

Context no.	Description	Interpretation
[104]	Yellow-brown Clay	Fill of land-drain trench
[106]	Yellow-brown Clay	Fill of land-drain trench
[107]	Yellow-brown Clay	Fill of land-drain trench
[108]	Mixed Clays & Earth	Fill of land-drain trench
[109]	Brick & Earth Fill	Fill of small pit
[110]	Circular Cut Feature	Small Pit
[111]	Yellow-brown Clay	Fill of land-drain trench
[112]	Grey-brown Sandy Earth	Fill of land-drain trench
[113]	Yellow-brown Clay	Fill of land-drain trench
[114]	Yellow-brown Clay	Fill of land-drain trench
[115]	Mixed Sandy Earth	Fill of land-drain trench
[116]	Yellow-brown Clay	Fill of land-drain trench
[117]	Yellow-brown Clay	Fill of land-drain trench
[118]	4" Diameter Clay Pipe	Land-drain
[119]	Mixed Sandy Clay	Fill of land-drain trench
[120]	Mixed Sandy Clay	Fill of land-drain trench
[121]	4" Diameter Clay Pipe	Land-drain
[122]	Mixed Sandy Clay	Fill of land-drain trench
[123]	Yellow-brown Clay	Infill along field boundary
[124]	Mixed Sandy Earth	Fill of land-drain trench
[125]	Yellow-brown Clay	Fill of land-drain trench
[126]	Mixed Sandy Earth	Fill of land-drain trench

1:2500



CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
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CLIENT: Allen Homes (East Midlands) Limited		
DESCRIPTION: Site Location Plan		
SCALE:	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY:	CHECKED:	DATE: 19/01/96
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 201.95		

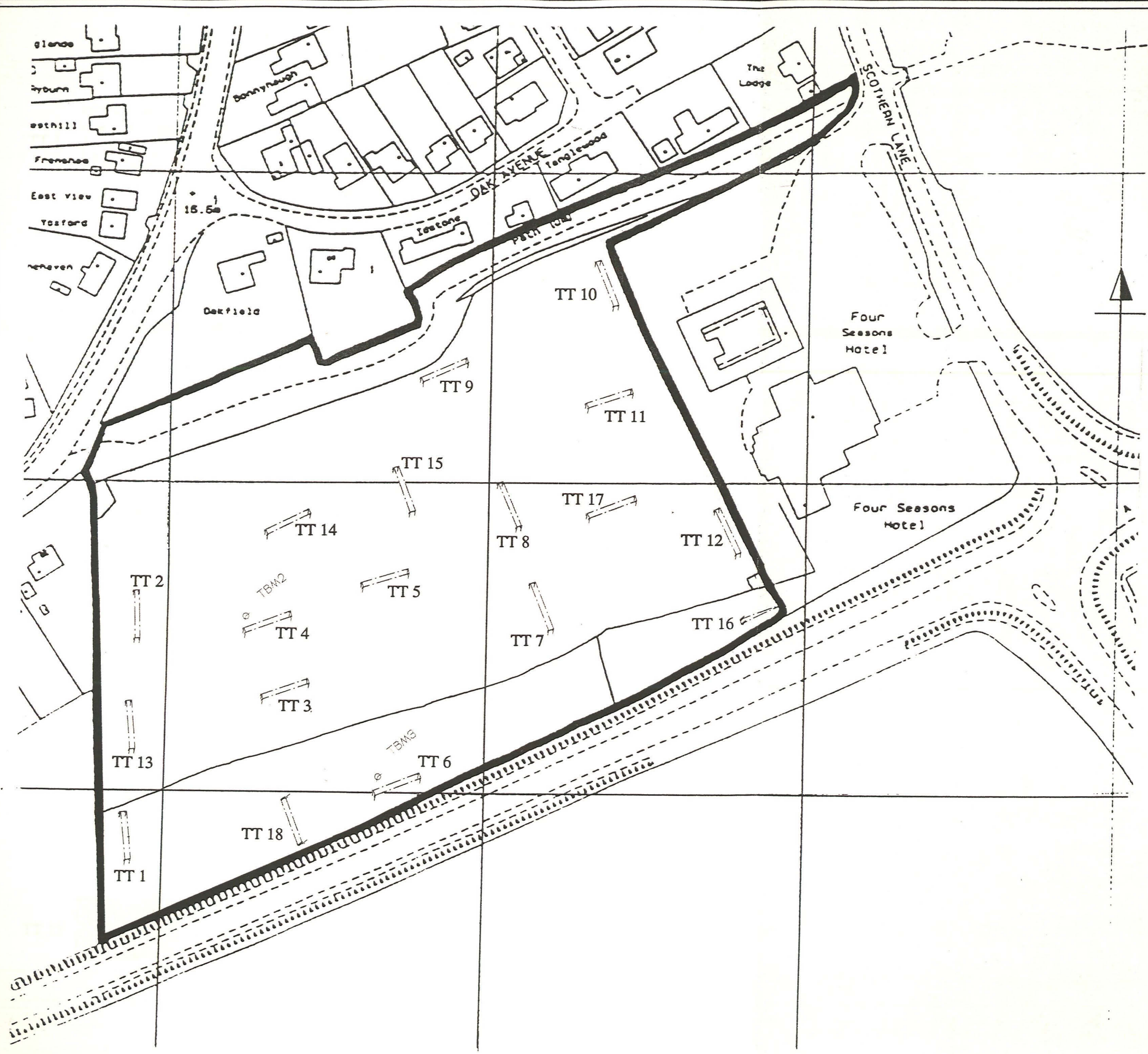


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Fig.1

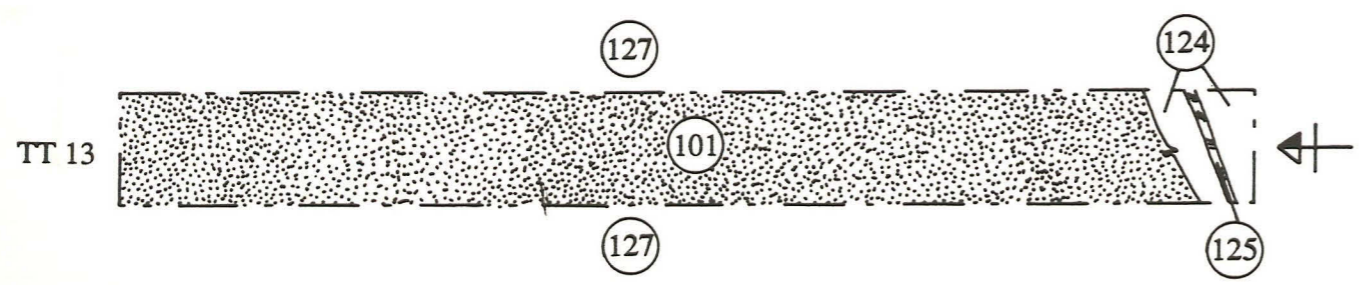
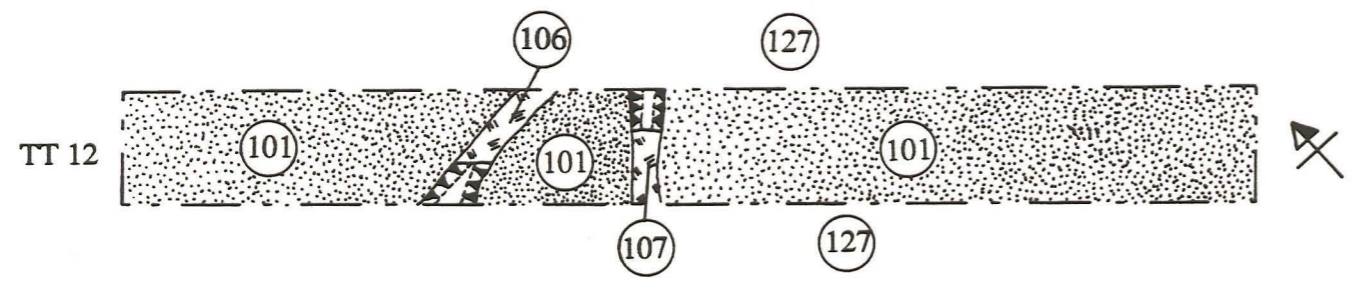
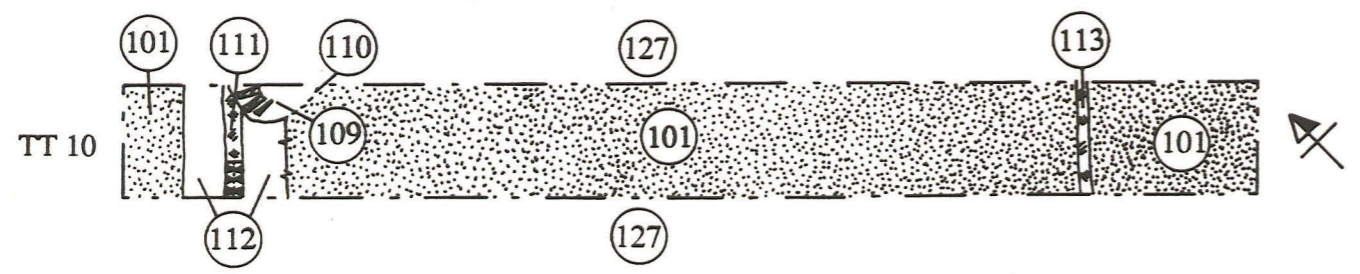
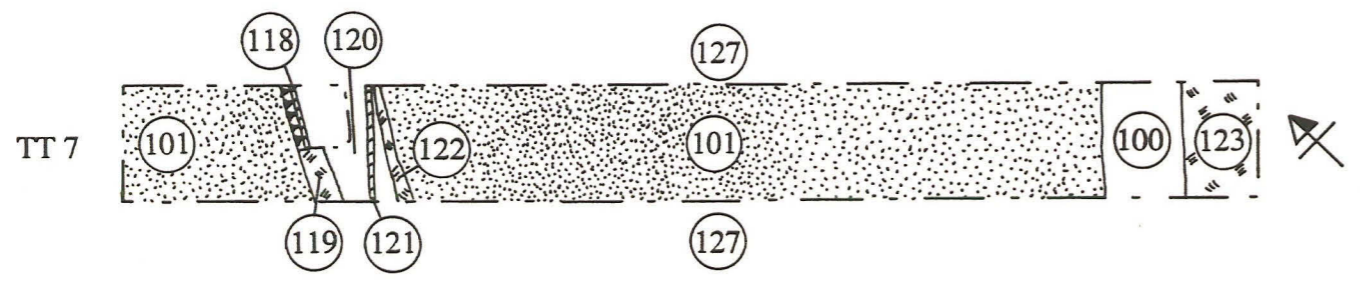
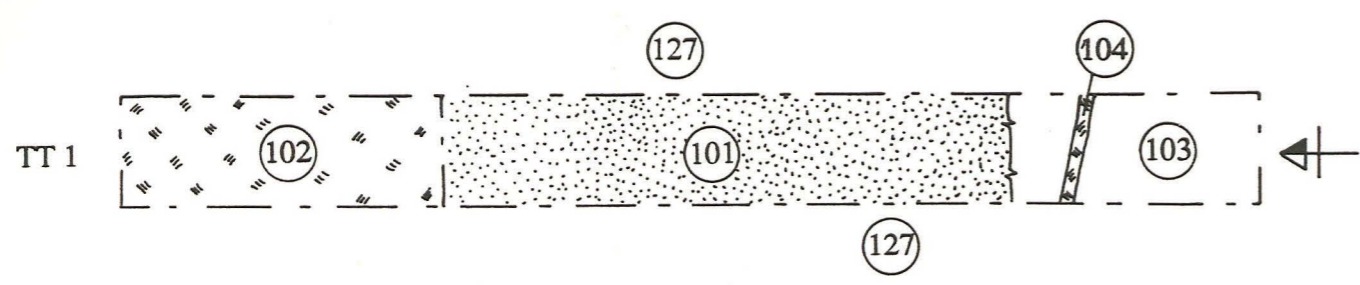
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DESCRIPTION: Trench Location Plan		
SCALE: 1:1250	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY: CLAU	CHECKED:	DATE: 19/01/96
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 201.95		



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Fig.2

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
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CLIENT: Allen Homes (East Midlands) Limited		
DESCRIPTION: Trench Plans, TT 1/7/10/12-15/17		
SCALE: 1:100	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY: KW	CHECKED:	DATE: 15/12/95
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 201.95		



- KEY**
- Sand
 - Clay
 - Clay Pipe/Brick
 - Uncertain Edge

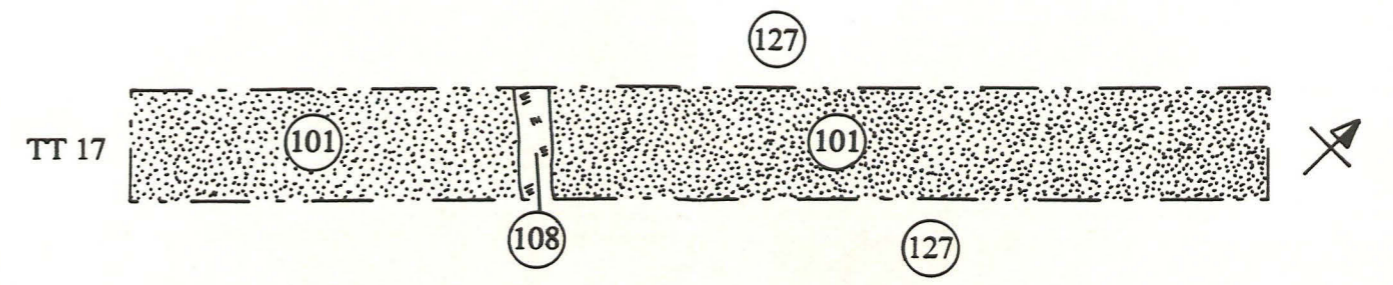
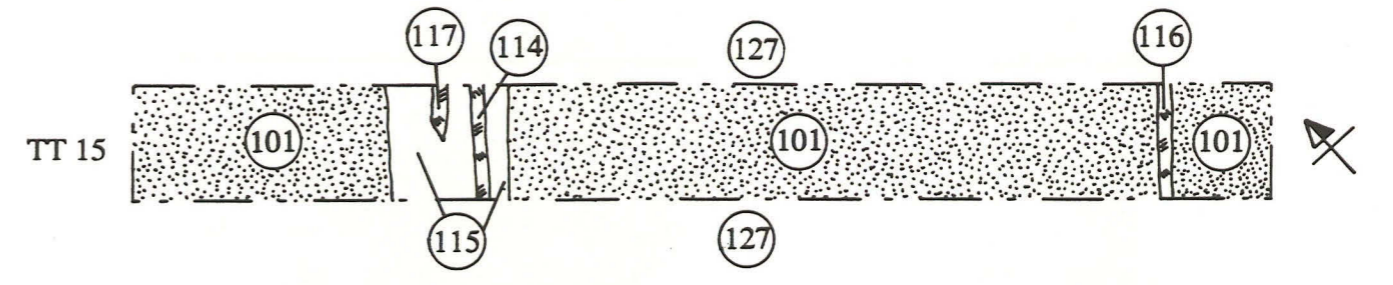
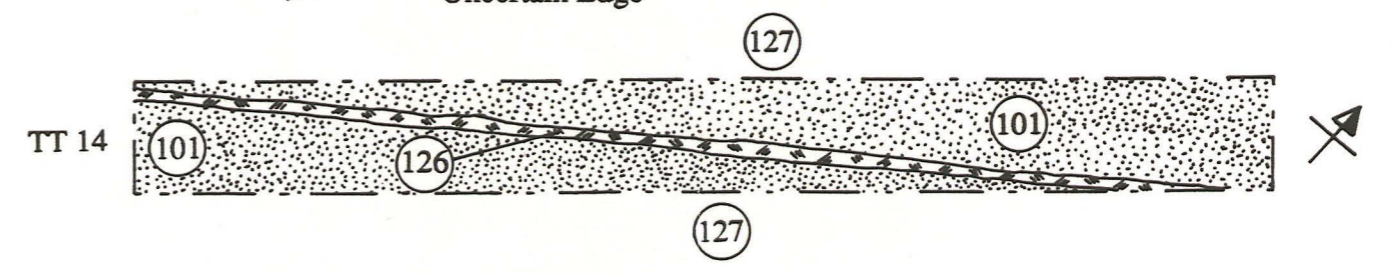





Fig.3

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
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CLIENT: Allen Homes (East Midlands) Limited		
DESCRIPTION: S.W.Facing Section, TT 1		
SCALE: 1:20	ARCHIVE NO:	
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MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 201.95		

KEY

-  Sand
-  Clay
-  Uncertain Edge

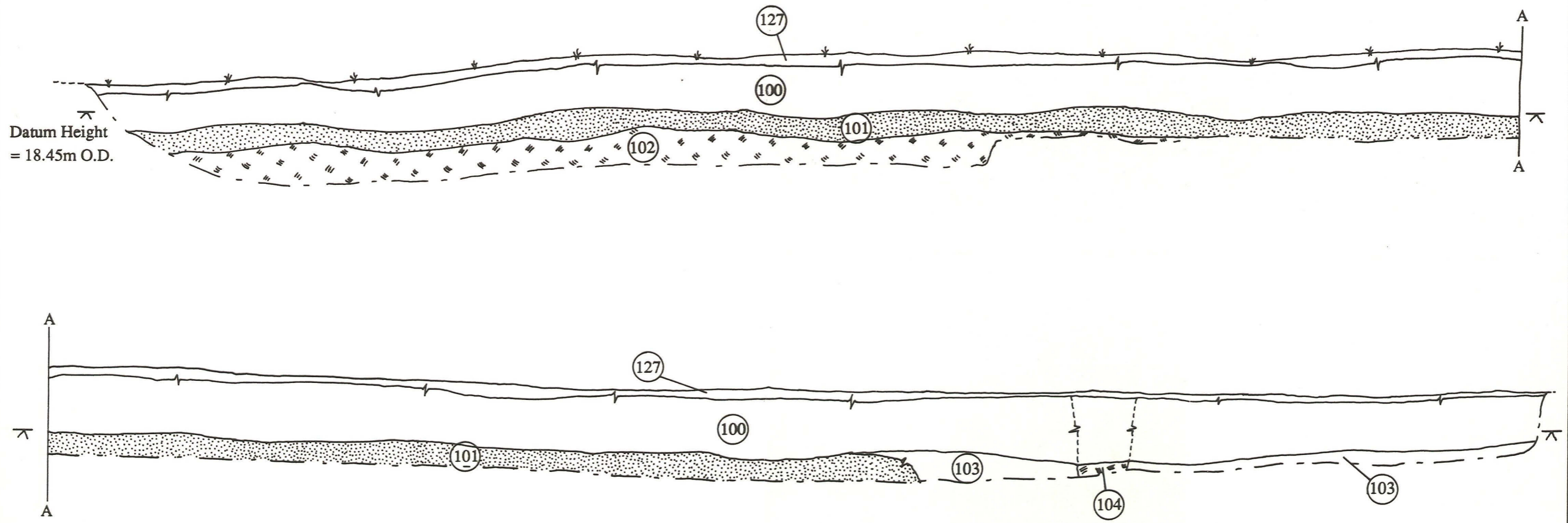





Fig.4

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
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DESCRIPTION: N.E.Facing Section, TT 2		
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KEY

 Sand

 Clay

 Uncertain Edge

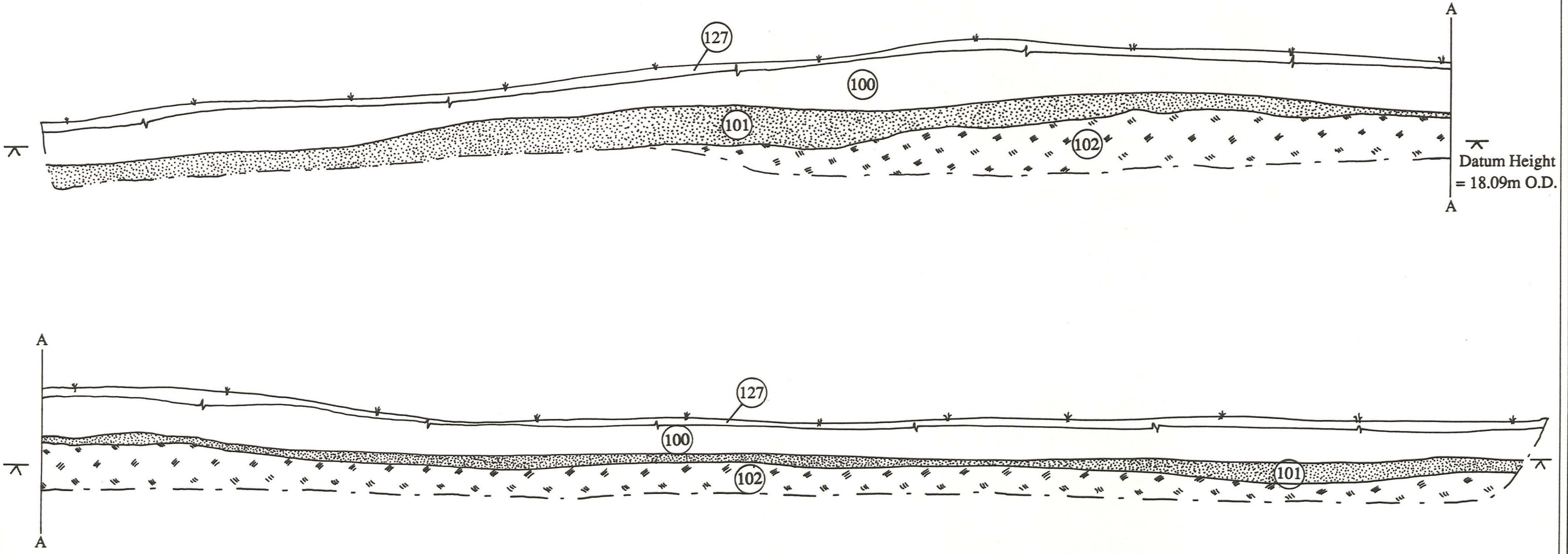





Fig.5

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
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SCALE: 1:20	ARCHIVE NO:	
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MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 201.95		

- KEY
-  Clay Pipe
 -  Sand
 -  Clay

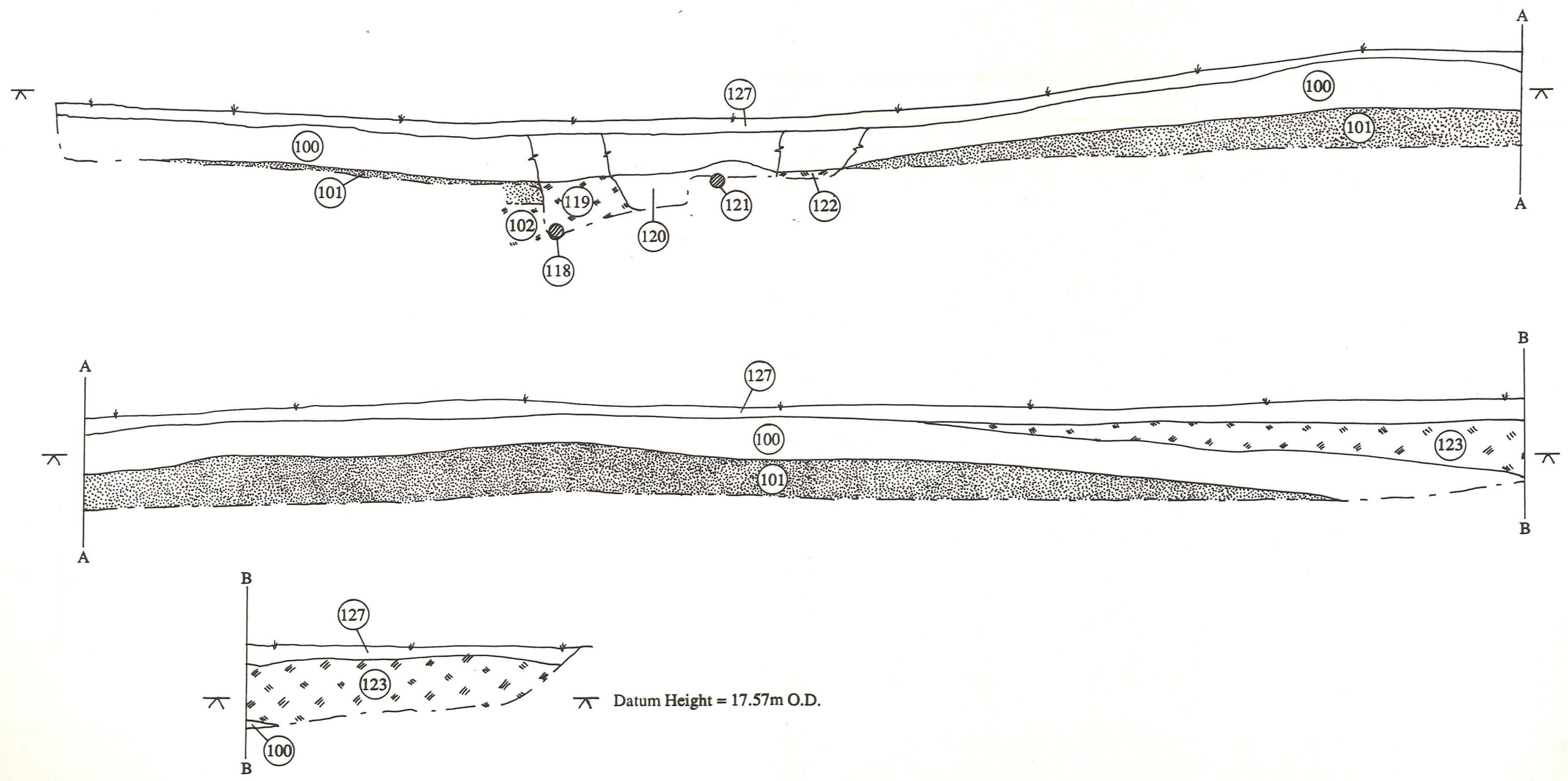





Fig.6

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
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DESCRIPTION: S.W.Facing Section, TT 15		
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- KEY**
-  Sand
 -  Clay
 -  Uncertain Edge

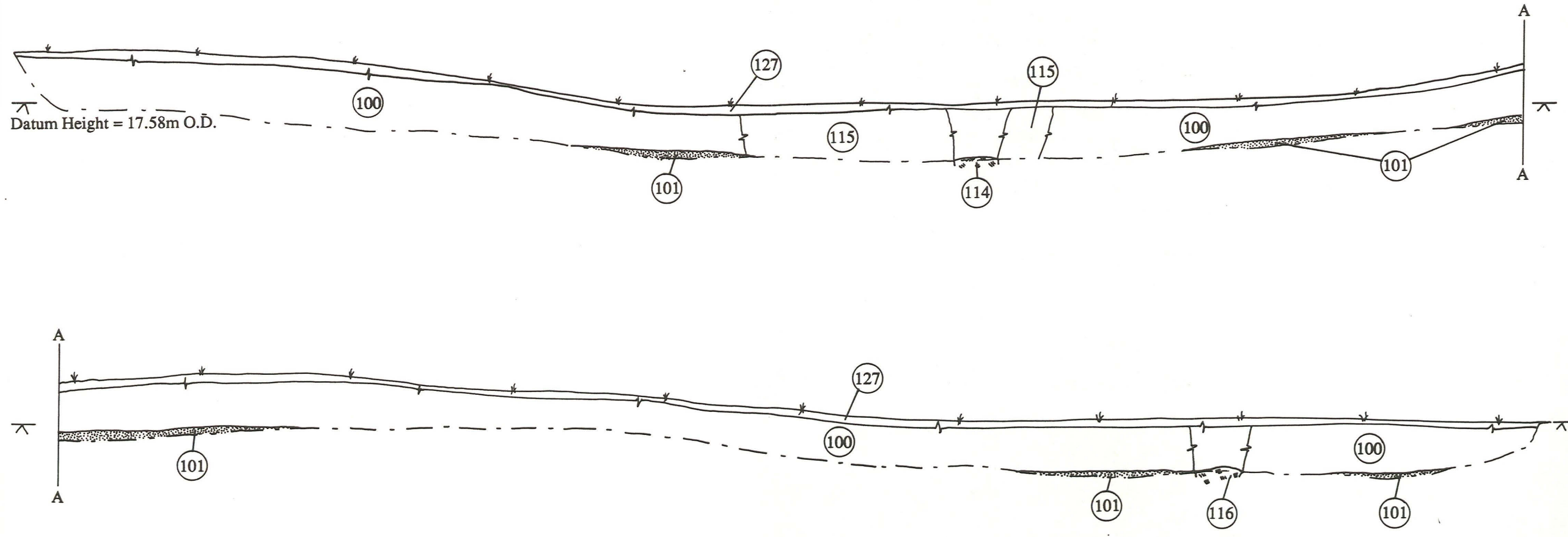


Fig.7