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CITY OF
◇ LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY ◇
UNIT



**CHURCH VIEW FARM COTTAGE,
FALDINGWORTH ROAD,
SPRIDLINGTON, LINCS**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

By K Wragg

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO:248



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**Report to
Mr M.Marris**

August 1996

Prepared by

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Archaeological Evaluation & Watching Brief

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CHURCH VIEW FARM COTTAGE, FALDINGWORTH ROAD, SPRIDLINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION & WATCHING BRIEF

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Proposals for this site involved the refurbishment and extension of an existing property, situated close to the eastern limit of the village (see Fig.1).

Excavation was required in two areas of the site, first around the base of the existing house walls, to allow foundation reinforcement work to be carried out, and second, to the rear (i.e., to the north) of the present house for the construction of a new single storey extension, designed to replace an existing (slightly smaller) extension.

In view of the proximity of surviving medieval earthworks to the north and west of the site (see Fig.2), together with the discovery of archaeological finds in areas surrounding the site (see 2.0, below), it was decided by West Lindsey District Council, that all groundworks on the site should be monitored archaeologically, in order to ensure that any extant archaeological remains or features would be recorded.

Accordingly, during March 1996 the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit was commissioned by Mr M.Marris to carry out first an evaluation, in conjunction with geotechnical investigation, and secondly a watching brief on the site, in order to comply with an archaeological condition of planning consent. Observations were carried out on the site between 20th March and 4th April 1996.

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

Situated 11km north of Lincoln, the parish of Spridlington, a strip covering 930 ha, spans the east facing dip slope of the Jurassic limestone ridge, from Ermine Street at 55m OD in the west, to about 12m OD in the east near the rivers Langworth and Ancholme. The village itself lies 4km east of Ermine Street at an elevation of c.20m OD.

The proposed development area was located near the centre of the village approximately 150m east of St Hilary's Church on the Faldingworth Road, with earthworks, which are believed to reflect the buried remains of medieval occupation and land-use, forming prominent features to the west and north-west of the site.

An interpretation of the overall pattern represented by the earthworks and the Enclosure Map has suggested that Spridlington might have had an east-west grid plan with the north-south road as its spine. However, it is not known if this results from gradual expansion or deliberate planning during the early medieval period or at the time the two parishes were united in the early 15th century.

As there is no record of previous archaeological excavation having been carried out on, or in immediate proximity to, the Site, the background evidence is derived totally from the examination of historical records and other documentary sources, records of casual finds held by the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), and the survey record and description of settlement remains contained within "Change and Continuity" published by the RCHM(E) (see 6.0, below).

This body of information has recorded human activity in the surrounding area dating from the Neolithic period to the recent past.

The earliest finds range from a Neolithic stone axe, two flint scrapers and other worked flints, to a possible barrow cemetery with at least 6

single ring-ditches recorded with a large double ring-ditch as their focus. Nearby are 3 or 4 ditched enclosures and other features including what might be a square barrow and at least one building.

While there is no record of Roman occupation or settlement in immediate proximity to the Site the evidence from the wider region demonstrates extensive land-use and local settlement during this period.

A carinated shield boss found in association with human remains beneath a garden wall at Spridlington House is thought to represent a burial from the early Saxon period.

The Domesday Book lists two manors in Sperlin(c)tone or Sprede(l)intone, which, together with other evidence, suggests that the present village was formed from the merger of two early medieval settlements. Two medieval churches are recorded, St Hilary being associated with the north manor and St Albinus with the south. The parishes were united in 1417 and the church of St Albinus, which was located south of St Hilary's church, was demolished.

While the possibility of pre-historic and/or Romano-British occupation or land-use cannot be entirely discounted the bulk of accumulated evidence suggests that the principal remains contained within the Site are probably associated with medieval settlement and the subsequent expansion and decline of the village during the later medieval period.

A more complete account of the historical and archaeological background to the site can be found in C.L.A.U. Archaeological Report 65, as detailed in 6.0, below.

3.0 RESULTS

Initial observation at the site was concentrated on three small trial pits, located immediately adjacent to the east and west facing elevations of the house (T.P.2 & 3 on the west facing wall, T.P.1 on the east - see Fig.3). The trial pits were hand-excavated to investigate the condition and extent of the existing house foundations, and to evaluate the likely archaeological implications of the groundworks.

Each of the trial pits to the west of the house measured approximately 2.0m (N-S) x 600mm (E-W), while the remaining pit to the east was

smaller, measuring 900mm (N-S) x 400mm (E-W).

All were excavated to depths of between 500mm and 800mm, and revealed only one deposit, a thick layer of topsoil [100].

[100] comprised a moderate-well compacted mid, slightly grey, brown clayey earth, containing only occasional small flecks and pieces of limestone, occasional pieces of brick (which appeared identical to that used in the standing structure of the house, and therefore probably date to the 18th or 19th centuries), occasional small roots, and a layer of turf at the upper boundary.

The topsoil deposit had obviously been cut into to allow the construction of the stepped brick foundations for the present house, but owing to the homogeneous nature of the soil, neither the exact position of the cut, nor any distinction between undisturbed ground and redeposited (i.e., backfill) material could be made.

Similarly, no sign of any archaeological features was seen in any of the trial pits investigated.

In spite of the generally negative results from the investigation close to the house, it was still considered possible that, in the less disturbed areas to the rear of the house (i.e. those areas that did not contain standing structures), archaeological features associated with the earthworks to the north and west might be revealed. It was therefore decided, by the Assistant Archaeological Officer, that a further watching brief should be carried out during the foundation trenching in this area.

The 750mm wide strip-foundation trench for the new rearward extension enclosed an area measuring c. 4.9m (N-S) x 11.5m (E-W), and was machine-excavated to a depth of 1.3m (see Figs.3 & 4). The foundations for the original extension at the rear of the property measured approximately 3.0m (N-S) x 8.0m (E-W), and were wholly contained within the new building "footprint".

The earliest deposit recorded in this area was a layer of moderately compacted mid-light yellow-orange/brown sandy clay, [103], containing only very occasional small stone/pebble inclusions. This deposit was seen throughout the trench, at a depth of 700mm-800mm below the existing ground level, and

was at least 500mm thick to the limit of excavation.

[103] appeared to be the natural (i.e. geological) deposit for the area, and was directly overlain by the topsoil deposit [100] (see above).

At the extreme north-west corner of the foundation trench, [100] was cut by the remains of a circular brick-built well, [104], the upper surviving course of which was approximately 500mm below existing G.L. (see fig.3). The well had been backfilled with redeposited topsoil, and this was then sealed by the remains of a rough yard surface, made up of a layer of small limestone pieces and gravel, which formed the surface deposit at the rear of the house.

4.0 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS & CONCLUSIONS

Notwithstanding the potential of the site, as related above, the results from this watching brief have proved to be largely negative, with no evidence of any archaeological finds or features predating the 19th or 20th centuries.

Based upon the results as outlined above the following stratigraphic sequence can be put forward (from earliest to latest):

- 1) Undisturbed sandy clay (assumed to be the natural or geological deposit for the area) present across the majority of the evaluated area;
- 2) Substantial clayey topsoil deposit, c.800mm thick, again present throughout the investigated areas;
- 3) A phase of construction, probably undertaken during the early-mid 19th century, comprising the existing house together with a separate wash-house (since demolished, but shown on the first series O.S. maps) to the rear. A well was also situated in this area, and was associated with this period of development;
- 4) Recent construction, in the form of a rearward extension and an associated rough stone and gravel yard.

The absence of preserved earlier remains on the site (which was unusual given its proximity to obvious earthworks) was probably largely a consequence of the continued occupation of the site during the last 200 years. It seems

likely that this has resulted in gradual erosion of the buried features caused by garden landscaping and previous building construction.

5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit would like to thank the following for their assistance during this project: Mr M.Marris, Church View Farm Cottage, Faldingworth Road, Spridlington, Lincolnshire; Mr I.George, Assistant Archaeological Officer, Lincolnshire County Council, 12 Friars Lane, Lincoln, LN2 5AL.

6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Everson, P L, Taylor, C C & Dunn, C J (eds) 1991 *Change and Continuity. Rural settlement in north-west Lincolnshire*, RCHM(E)

Hockley, J 1993 *Land adjacent to Church View Farm Cottage, Faldingworth Road, Spridlington, Lincs*, CLAU Archaeol Rep 65, City Lincoln Archaeol Unit, Lincoln

**7.0 LHA NOTE/ARCHIVE
DETAILS**

7.1 LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODE: SPRA96

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.:
W/98/796/95

FIELD OFFICER: K. Wragg

NGR: TF 0090 8450

CIVIL PARISH: Spridlington

SMR No.:

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 20/03/96 -
04/04/96

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Evaluation &
Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Mr M.Marris, Church
View Farm Cottage, Faldingworth Road,
Spridlington, Lincolnshire

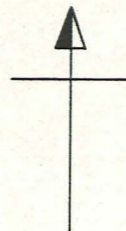
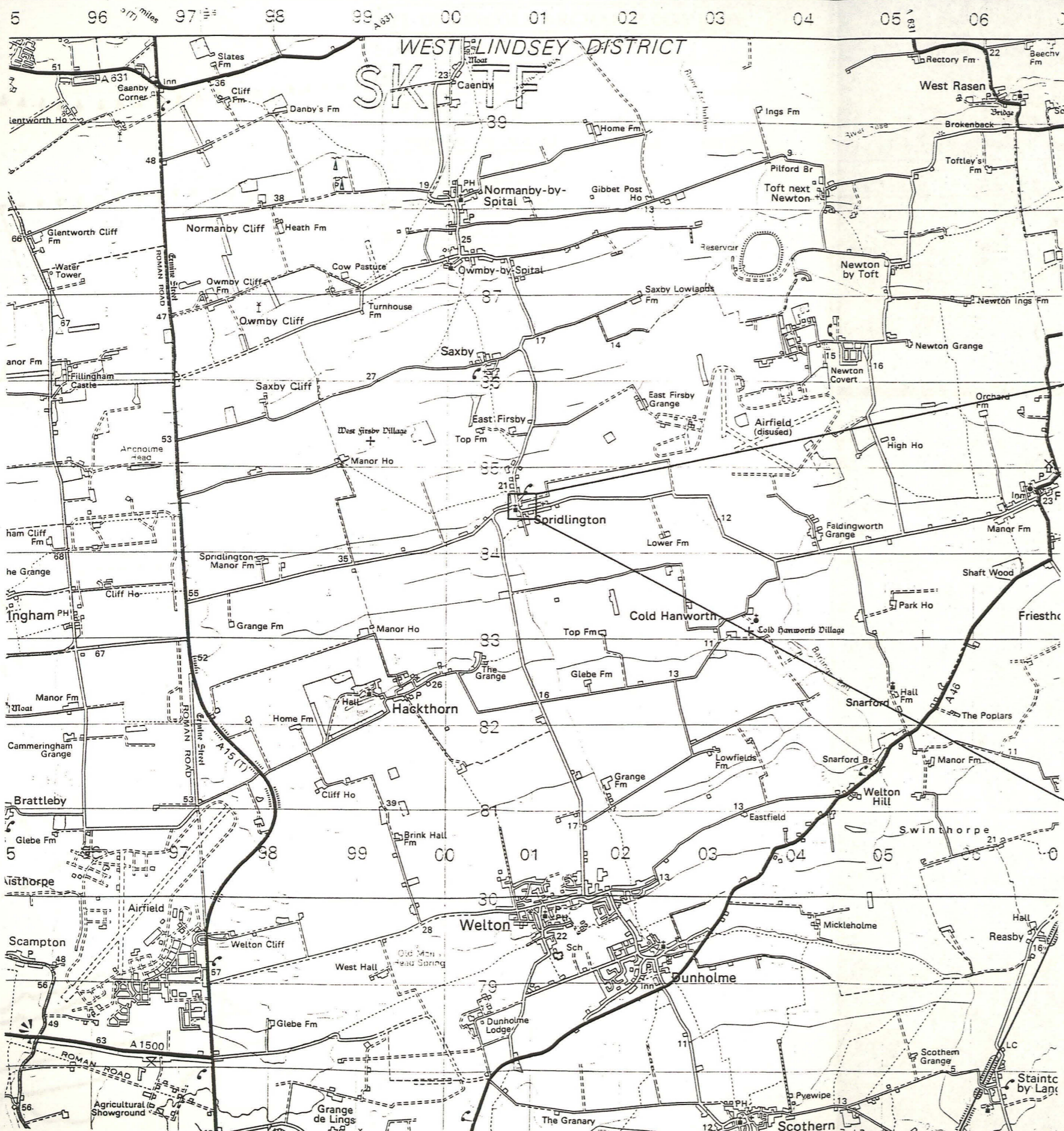
7.2 ARCHIVE DETAILS

PRESENT LOCATION: City of Lincoln
Archaeology Unit, Charlotte House, The
Lawn, Union Road, Lincoln, LN1 3BL.

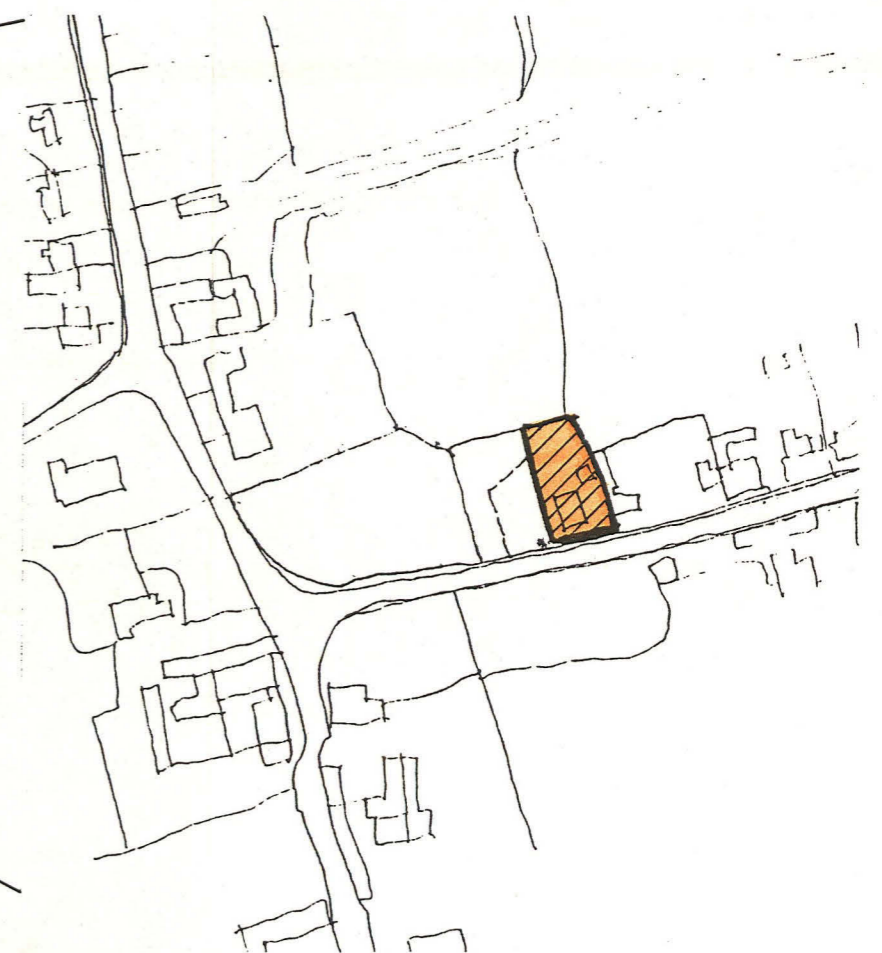
FINAL LOCATION: The City and County
Museum, Friars Lane, Lincoln.

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: 45.96

ACCESSION DATE: -



CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
SITE CODE: SPRA96	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT: Mr M. Marris	DESCRIPTION: Site Location Plan	
SCALE:	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY:	CHECKED:	DATE:
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 45.96		



Based upon architect's drawing

1:2500

KEY

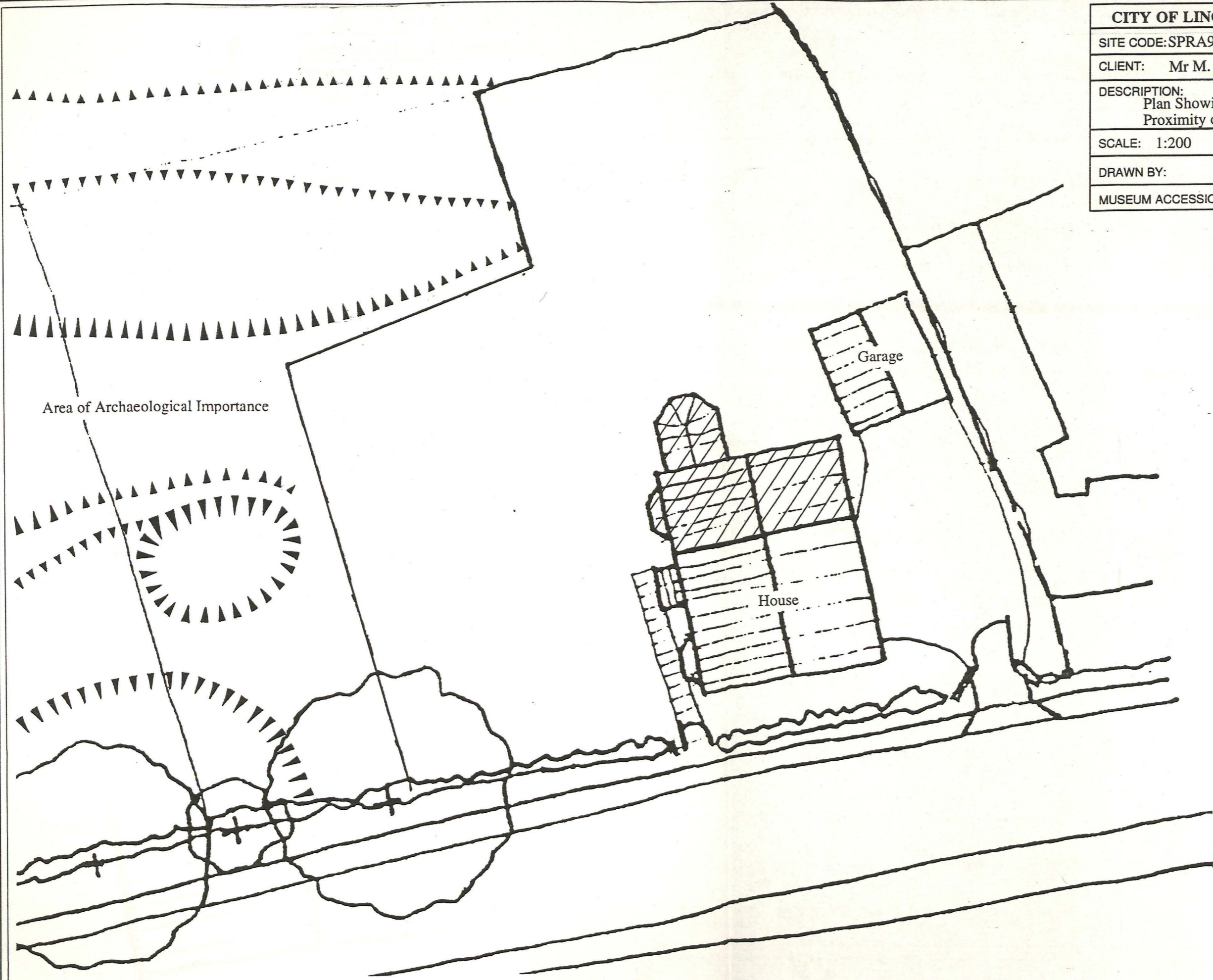


Location of Site

Reproduced from the 1992 Ordnance Survey 1:50 000 Landranger 121 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright.

Fig.1

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
SITE CODE: SPRA96	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT: Mr M. Marris		
DESCRIPTION: Plan Showing Proposed Development and Proximity of Area of Archaeological Importance		
SCALE: 1:200	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY:	CHECKED:	DATE:
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 45.96		



- KEY
- ▼▼▼▼ Earthworks
 - ▨ Proposed Extension

Based upon architect's drawing

Fig.2

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE: SPRA96 | PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:

CLIENT: Mr M. Marris

DESCRIPTION: Trench Location Plan
Showing Position of Sections

SCALE: 1:100

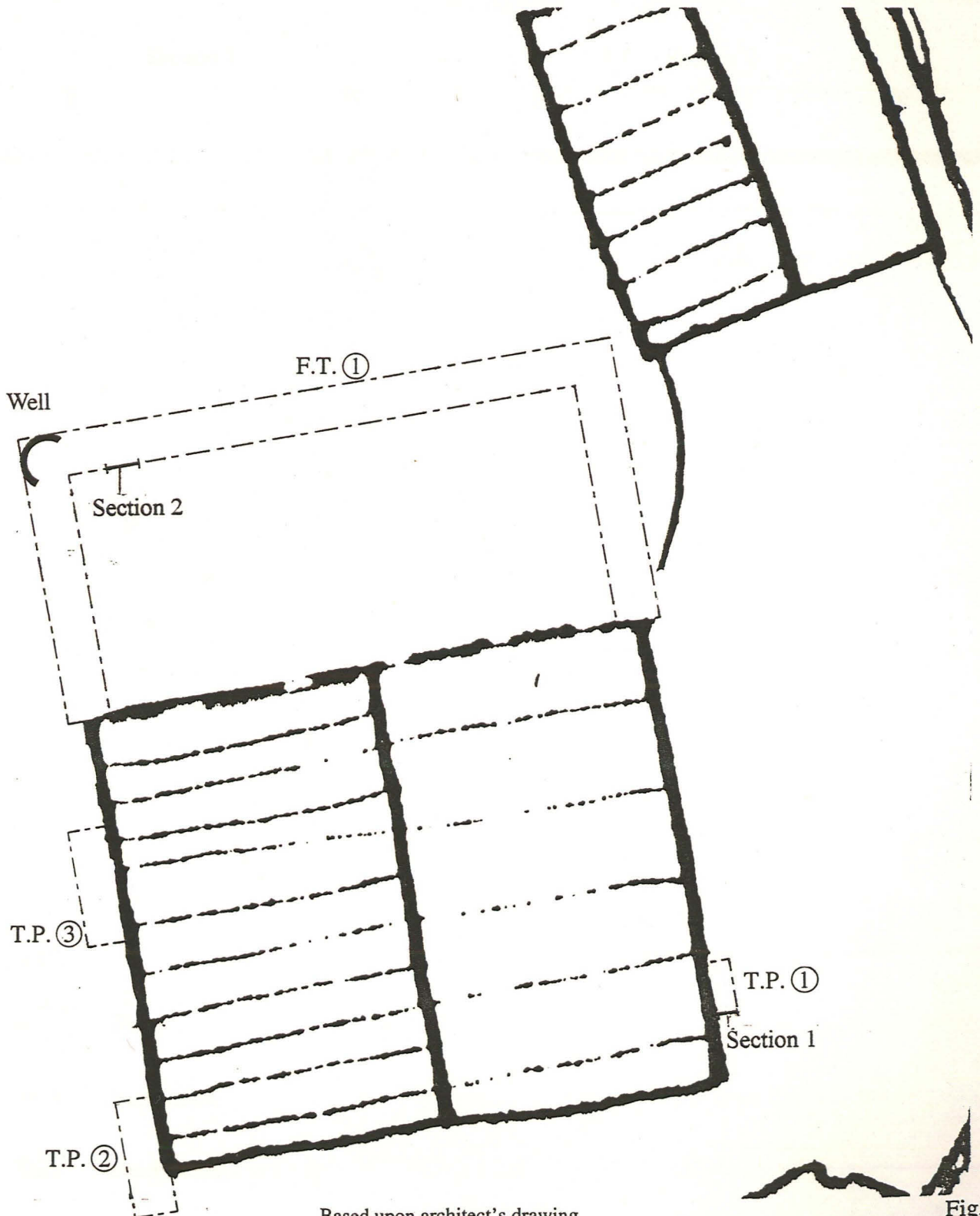
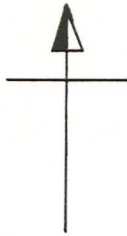
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DRAWN BY: K.W.

CHECKED:

DATE: 04/04/96

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 45.96



Based upon architect's drawing

Fig.3

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE: SPRA96 | PLANELEV/SECTION NO:

CLIENT: Mr M. Marris

DESCRIPTION: North-Facing Sections
Showing General Stratigraphy

SCALE: 1:10

ARCHIVE NO:

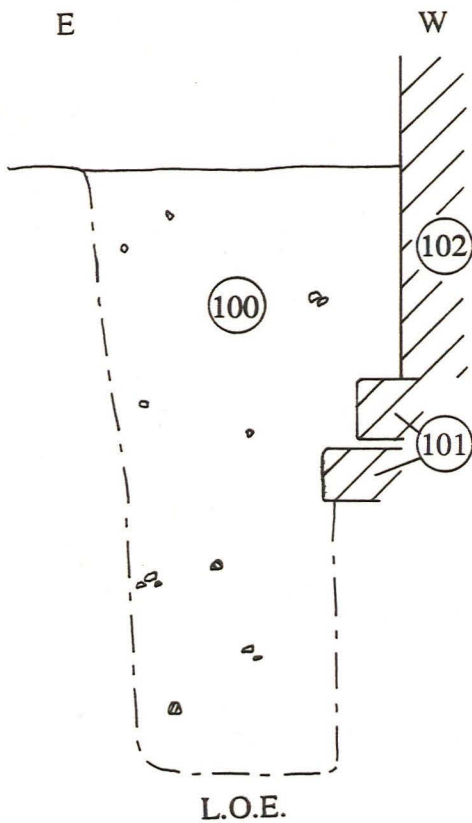
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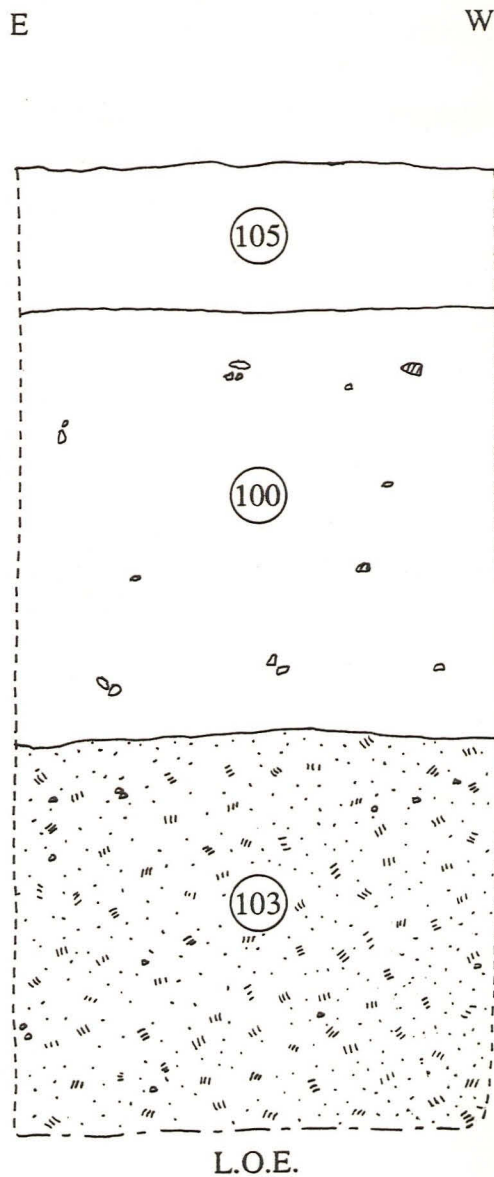
DATE: 04/04/96

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 45.96

Section 1



Section 2



KEY



Brick



Limestone



Sandy Clay

Fig.4