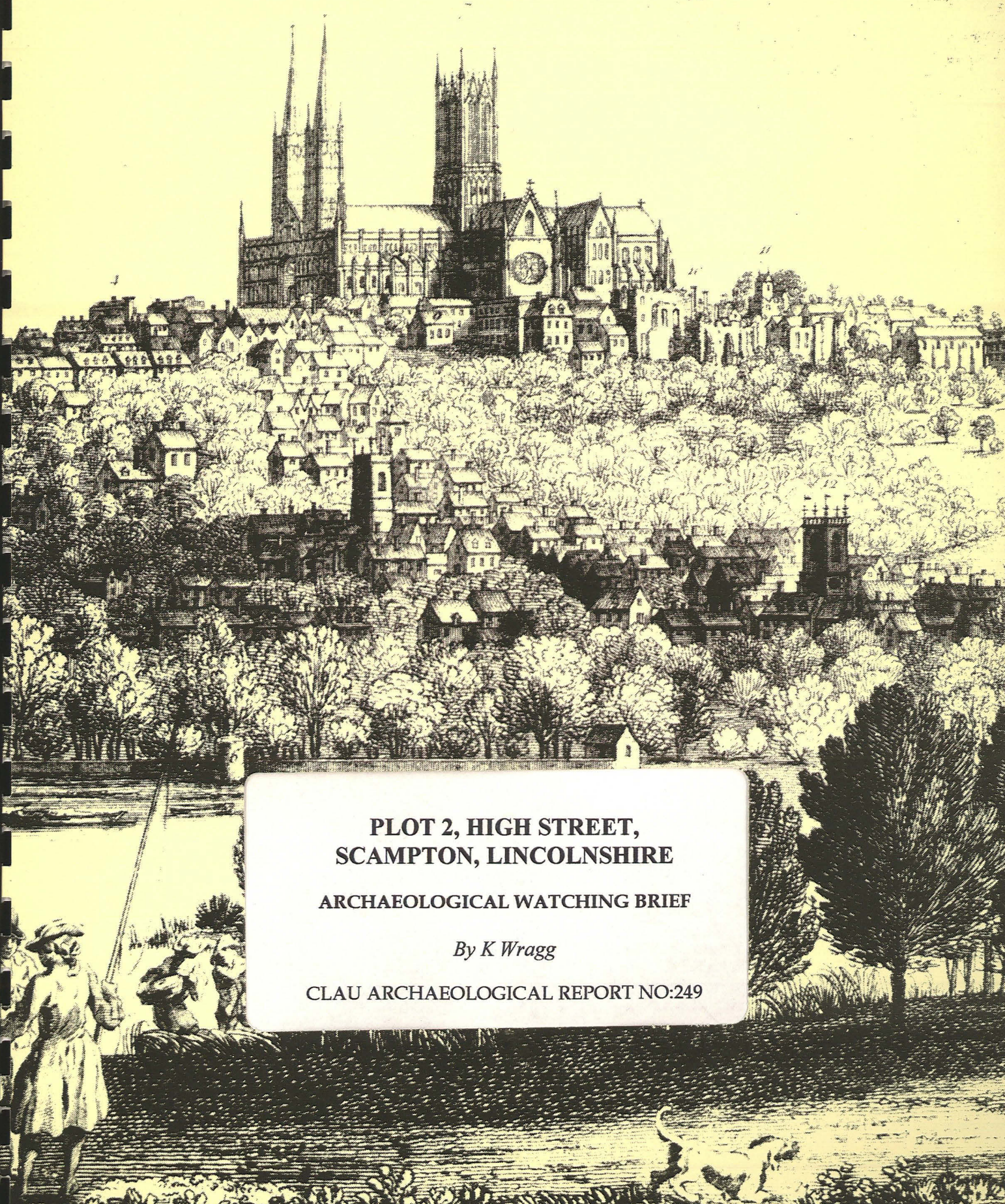


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CITY OF  
◇ LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY ◇  
U N I T



**PLOT 2, HIGH STREET,  
SCAMPTON, LINCOLNSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

*By K Wragg*

**CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO:249**

SLI 5269 1687 ELI 6780

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PEN 52845

**A**  
**Report to**  
***Mr C. Godley***

**August 1996**

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**Prepared by**

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## Archaeological Watching Brief

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### APPENDIX A - List of Contexts

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# **PLOT 2, HIGH STREET, SCAMPTON, LINCOLNSHIRE**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

### *NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY*

The area surrounding the village of Scampton contains numerous sites of known archaeological importance, ranging from Prehistoric and Roman roads (the routes of which can still be seen in the alignment of three modern roads), a Roman villa, medieval monastic estate, and a medieval manorial enclosure.

While the majority of these features now lay buried, later Post-medieval buildings and the remains of gardens (probably associated with the manor) have also been recorded, with some examples of the former still in use in the modern village.

It was hoped therefore, in view of the prominence of Scampton within the historic landscape, that the proposed groundworks associated with this development would offer opportunities to expand our understanding of the archaeology of the village.

In the event however, although archaeological features were positively identified, the results from this watching brief have proved to be largely inconclusive, with only very limited dating evidence being recovered. While it is apparent that extensive preserved archaeological remains, in the form of numerous cut features, are present across the site, it has not been possible to determine the period, or periods, of occupation and activity represented by these features, nor their function.

At the time of writing, it is understood that further archaeological work is planned in the immediate vicinity of the site, and it is to be hoped that additional evidence might be revealed by this work to allow the results revealed thus far to be better placed in their true historical context.

# PLOT 2, HIGH STREET, SCAMPTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This development is located in an area of former pasture lying immediately to the south of the High Street, c.300m to the south of the parish church of St.John the Baptist (see Fig.1). The main development area is subdivided into building plots, with two new houses already completed immediately to the north and west of the area under consideration in this report. Of the three plots developed thus far: no.1 (to the north of the site) was not investigated archaeologically; no.2 is the subject of the following report; and no.3 (at the western side of the development area) was investigated by means of an archaeological watching brief carried out by HTL during 1995 (see 2.0 below for brief details of results). Plot 2 measures approximately 43m (N-S) x 28m (E-W), and is situated in the south-east quadrant of the site.

In view of the results of the watching brief on the neighbouring plot, together with the general proximity of sites of known archaeological importance within a rich historic landscape, it was decided by West Lindsey District Council, following consultation with the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, that the groundworks on Plot 2 should be monitored archaeologically.

Accordingly, during April 1996, the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit was commissioned by Mr Carl Godley, the owner/developer, to carry out an intermittent watching brief on the site, in order to comply with an archaeological condition of planning consent. Observation was carried out on the site on 11<sup>th</sup> 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

The village of Scampton is located approximately 8km to the north of Lincoln at the base of the limestone escarpment, at a general height of 20m O.D.

The name Scampton appears to be derived from either *Scantone* or *Sanctone*. The former is a mixture of Celtic and Saxon words, possibly translated as "place away from the white chalk district" (c.f. C. *Can*, white), while the latter has its origins in the Celtic and Latin words for sacred, holy or sanctuary (c.f. L. *Sanctus* & C. *Sans*). This probably relates to a chapel dedicated to St.Pancras that was built at the site of a spring, close to the village (all refs. Gooch, 1945).

The chapel was probably located at the top of the limestone ridge, along the natural spring line, and it would have been in this location that the early settlement was most likely to have been situated. A Pre-historic trackway (the "Jurassic Way") followed the spring line, and during the Roman period this track, now known as "Middle Street", became the connecting road between the string of settlements which were established along the edge of the limestone. This sequence of development along the spring line, which would of course have supplied a ready supply of water, was later repeated during the Anglo-Saxon period, and many of these villages have continued in use until the present day.

Two other major Roman roads also pass very close to the village, Ermine Street to the east, and Tillbridge Lane to the south, and the lines of both roads are still recognisable in the modern routes, the A15(T) and A1500 (respectively). Ermine Street was the original route between Lincoln and the ferries at the Humber, and thence to York, while Tillbridge Lane also linked Ermine Street to the north, but via the somewhat easier River Trent

crossing at Littleborough (the Roman *Segelocum*). While the former was originally the most important route to the north, probably having its origins as a military supply road in the early years of the conquest, the latter appears to become the major trunk route to York and the north in later times, with Ermine Street relegated to the status of a secondary road.

In addition to the remains of the Roman road network preserved around Scampton, evidence of physical occupation during the Roman period was also revealed when a large villa was discovered in the late eighteenth century. The villa complex was situated to the north-east of the junction of Middle Street and Tillbridge Lane (see Fig.1), on a site overlooking the Trent Valley to the west, and consisted of a large group of buildings, including a bath-house, extending over an area two hundred feet square and arranged around two courtyards. The main entrance was in the middle of the west side, and a fine corridor mosaic, bearing a design of intersecting circles bordering geometric patterns was recorded (all refs. Whitwell, 1992).

Occupation has continued in and around Scampton village since Roman times, with evidence for a monastic estate (probably Post-Norman Conquest in date) and a medieval manorial enclosure (Everson *et al*, 1991).

The last manorial residence, Scampton Hall, was probably built in the early years of the 17<sup>th</sup> century for Sir John Bolle, but has since been demolished, and only part of the gateway to the hall remains in a field to the west of Scampton House Farm. The Post-medieval gardens probably associated with the manor have also been almost wholly destroyed by modern agriculture, although some architectural fragments survive (Pevsner, 1989; Everson *et al*, 1991).

The Old Rectory and two armorial tablets dedicated to the Bolles family in the chancel of the parish church also date from the 17<sup>th</sup> century (Pevsner, 1989).

More recently, two archaeological investigations have been carried out in the village, on sites to the north of the parish church, and (as mentioned in 1.0, above) on the adjacent Plot 3. Of these, the latter watching brief offers the best comparative evidence, but the former is also useful in

further reinforcing the position of Scampton in the "historic landscape". During this investigation, an earth bank (possibly part of the moated manor site), and the possible remains of a kiln were discovered, although unfortunately, very little dating evidence was revealed to help place the finds in their proper historical context.

The work carried out on the adjacent plot also revealed several archaeological features, including: gullies and a ditch overlain by a subsoil deposit; a later possible fence line, dry-stone wall, and a further ditch; and a possible buried ?garden/agricultural? soil layer, which lay immediately below the existing topsoil layer. Again, unfortunately, dating evidence was sparse, with only Post-medieval pottery fragments (c.18<sup>th</sup> century) recovered from the existing topsoil deposits.

### 3.0 RESULTS

Groundworks comprised a phase of site stripping & levelling work, limited service trenching, and a network of linear foundation trenches, enclosing an area c.10m (N-S) x 16m (E-W) (an additional area measuring c.6m square was excavated at the north-east corner of the main building footprint to provide foundations for a double garage). All trenches were machine excavated.

The trenches were on average 600mm wide, and excavated (following consultation with the West Lindsey District Council Building Control Officer) to depths of between 400mm and 800mm.

The initial phase of site-stripping work (which involved removal of the topsoil deposit to a depth of c.300mm) was largely unproductive, with subsequent re-importation of material onto site to allow the stripped area to be levelled in several locations, and a general weathering (the stripped area had been open for several days before the first archaeological visit) making identification of any archaeological remains in plan view virtually impossible.

Results were equally unforthcoming from the service trenching, largely due to its limited extent (basically this work centered on a narrow linear trench, c.20m in length, linking the localised services around the building

footprint with the main service connections at the north-eastern corner of the building plot)

Several features were, however, revealed by the main trenching for the house and garage foundations, appearing to represent several linear ditch features belonging to a number of different phases. Unfortunately, a general lack of finds, together with the homogeneous nature of the fill material, made differentiation between phases impossible.

The earliest deposit recorded was a natural mottled blue-grey/yellow-brown clay [105], revealed at a depth of c.300mm below the modern ground level, which appeared to be present across the entire site.

This layer was cut by a total of eight linear features ([103]; [106]; [107]; [109] - [113], see Fig.3 & Appendix A - List of Contexts), appearing to represent drainage and/or enclosure ditches. In general all the cut features were filled with a similar moderate-well compacted mixed mid orange-brown sandy clay deposit, containing frequent flint and limestone pieces.

Each of the possible ditch fills ([102]; [104]; [114]; [115]; [116]; [117]; [118] & [119]), lay beneath a mid orange-brown sandy subsoil layer, [101], which was in turn sealed by the existing topsoil deposit for the site, [100], a mixed mid grey-brown earth/light brown sand layer.

As mentioned above the general lack of stratified finds does not allow any of the features to be accurately dated, and without an indication of sequence, it is impossible to say whether any of the common alignments are significant (for instance cut features [109] and [111] appear to follow a parallel alignment, but without knowing if they are contemporary, no significance can be drawn from this).

#### **4.0 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS**

Notwithstanding the potential of the site, as related above, the results from this watching brief have proved to be largely inconclusive, with only very limited dating evidence being recovered. While it is apparent that extensive preserved archaeological features are present across the site, it has not been possible to determine the period, or periods, of occupation

and activity represented by these features, nor their function.

At the time of writing, it is understood that further archaeological work is planned in the immediate vicinity of the site, and it is to be hoped that additional evidence might be revealed by this work to allow the results revealed thus far to be better placed in their true historical context.

#### **5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit would like to thank the following for their assistance during this project: Mr & Mrs Carl Godley, 7 Aspen Court, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, DN21 1FG; 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)

Heritage Trust for Lincolnshire 1995, reports on archaeological evaluations at: i) Plot 3, High Street, Scampton; ii) Scampton House Farm, Scampton

Pevsner, N, Harris, J & Antram, N (eds) 1989 *Lincolnshire*, The Buildings of England, Penguin Books, London, [LAM wigvol;BIB750 ]

Whitwell, J B 1992 *Roman Lincolnshire - Revised Edition*, History of Lincolnshire 2, Lincolnshire Local Hist Soc, Lincoln, [LAM BIB530 ]

## **7.0 LHA NOTE/ARCHIVE DETAILS**

### **7.1 LHA NOTE DETAILS**

CLAU CODE: SCA96

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.: 96/P/0081

FIELD OFFICER: K. Wragg

NGR: SK 494900/379200

CIVIL PARISH: Scampton

SMR No.: n/a

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 11/04/96

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Mr Carl Godley, 7  
Aspen Court, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire,  
DN21 1FG

### **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.: 57.96

ACCESSION DATE: -



## PLOT 2, HIGH STREET, SCAMPTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

#### APPENDIX A - CONTEXTS LISTING

Context No.	Description
[100]	TOPSOIL LAYER - Loose-moderately compacted mid grey-brown, medium-fine grained sandy earth (sand is very obvious, showing up as light brown grains well mixed with earth), containing no obvious inclusions.
[101]	SUBSOIL LAYER - Moderate-well compacted mid orange-brown sandy soil, containing only v.v.occasional small pieces of flint, roots and 1 small piece of tile/pot.
[102]	SECONDARY FILL OF CUT [107] - Moderate-well compacted mixed mid orange-brown sandy clay, containing frequent flint and ?limestone? pieces, with no other obvious inclusions.
[103]	LINEAR CUT - Possible linear cut oriented NNE-SSW, c.400mm deep to L.O.E. Sides slope at approximately 45 degrees, breaking gently from the surface. Base not revealed. Filled by [114].
[104]	FILL OF CUT [106] - Identical to context [102].
[105]	NATURAL CLAY - Well compacted, plastic, mottled mid-light blue-grey/light yellow-brown clay, containing no obvious inclusions. At least 200mm thick to L.O.E., present across whole site.
[106]	LINEAR CUT - Linear cut with sides at approximately 45 degrees, breaking gently from the surface, base not seen. Oriented approx. ENE-WSW, width c.1.0m-1.2m, depth c.300mm to L.O.E. Filled by [104].
[107]	LINEAR CUT - Large linear cut oriented approx. E-W with gently sloping sides (@ c. 30 degrees to the north, 45 degrees to south) breaking gently from the surface. Sides turn to form a basically flat, level base. Dimensions: width 3.0m (max); depth c.400mm. Filled by [102]/[108].
[108]	PRIMARY FILL OF [107] - Moderate compaction (waterlogged) mid orange sand (becoming sandy clay @ interface with [105] below), no obvious inclusions, c.100mm thick.
[109]	LINEAR CUT - Linear cut oriented approx. NE-SW with sides sloping @ c.45 degrees, breaking gently from the surface. Sides turn to form a concave base. Dimensions: width 1.5m-2.0m (max); depth c.400mm. Filled by [115].

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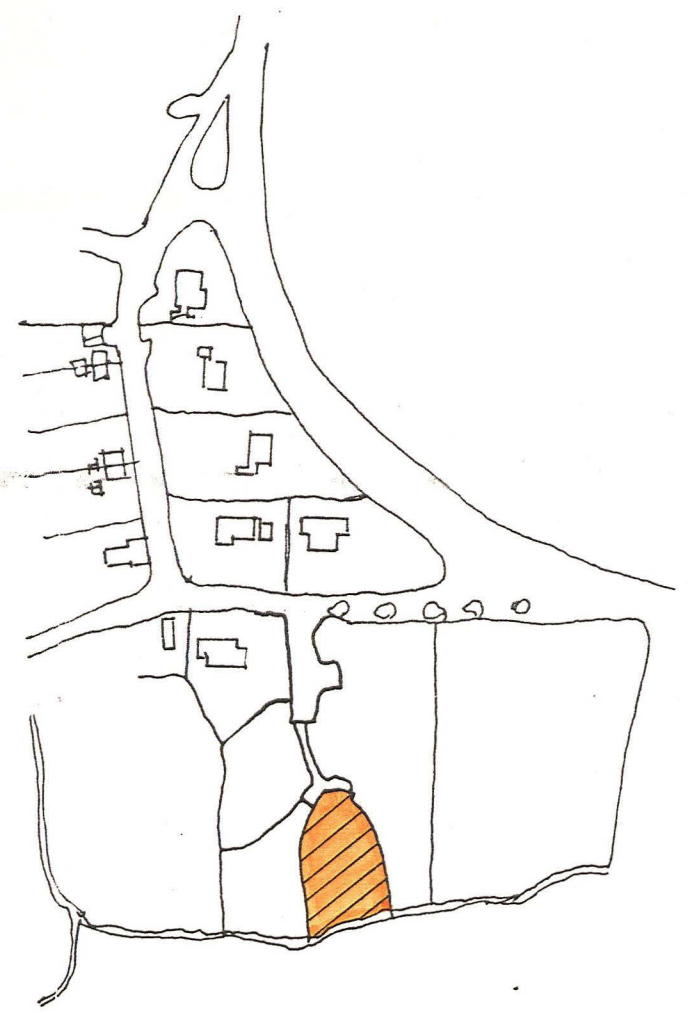
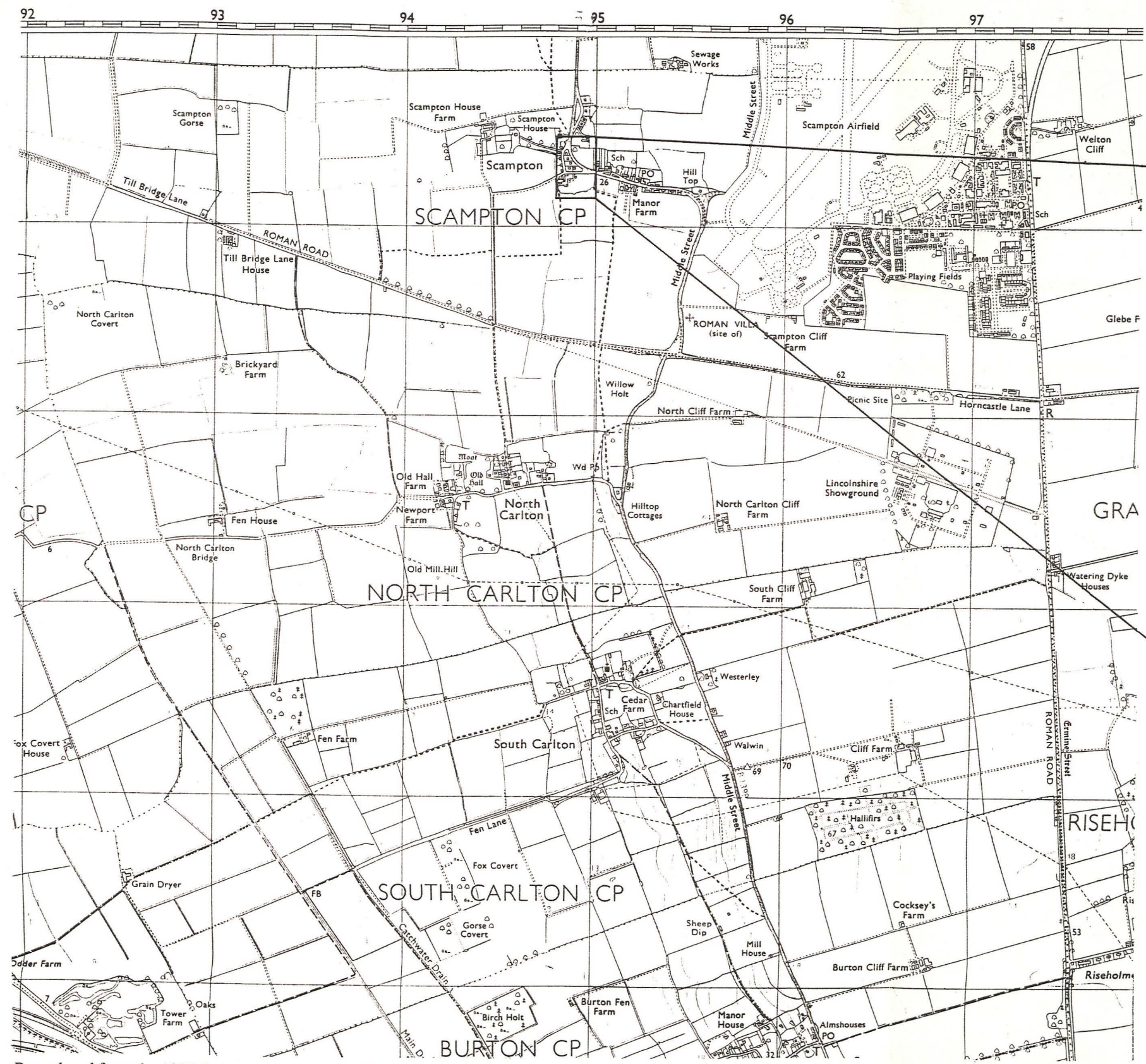
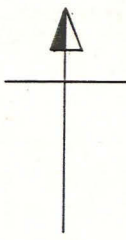
**APPENDIX A - CONTEXTS LISTING (continued)**

<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Description</b>
[110]	LINEAR CUT - Large linear cut oriented approx. E-W with gently sloping sides (@ c.45 degrees) breaking gently from the surface. Sides turn to form a basically flat, level base. Dimensions: width 3.0m (max); depth c.400mm. Filled by [116]. Possible continuation of cut [107].
[111]	LINEAR CUT - Linear cut oriented approx. NE-SW with sides sloping @ c.45 degrees, breaking gently from the surface. Sides turn to form a concave base. Dimensions: width 1.5m-2.0m (max); depth c.400mm. Filled by [117].
[112]	LINEAR CUT - Linear cut oriented approx. NW-SE with sides sloping @ c.45 degrees, breaking gently from the surface. Sides turn to form a concave base. Dimensions: width 1.5m-2.0m (max); depth c.400mm. Filled by [118].
[113]	LINEAR CUT - Linear cut oriented approx. WNW-ESE with sides sloping @ c.45 degrees, breaking gently from the surface. Sides turn to form a concave base. Dimensions: width 1.0m (max); depth c.400mm. Filled by [119].
[114]	FILL OF CUT [103] - Identical to context [102].
[115]	FILL OF CUT [109] - Identical to context [102].
[116]	FILL OF CUT [110] - Identical to context [102].
[117]	FILL OF CUT [111] - Identical to context [102].
[118]	FILL OF CUT [112] - Identical to context [102].
[119]	FILL OF CUT [113] - Identical to context [102].

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**CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT**

SITE CODE: SCA96		PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT: Mr C. Godley			
DESCRIPTION: Site Location Plan			
SCALE:		ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY:		CHECKED:	DATE:
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 57.96			



Based upon architect's drawing no.1A 1:2500

**KEY**

 Location of Site

Reproduced from the 1988 Ordnance Survey 1:25 000 Pathfinder 764 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright.

Fig.1

**CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT**

SITE CODE: SCA96 | PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:

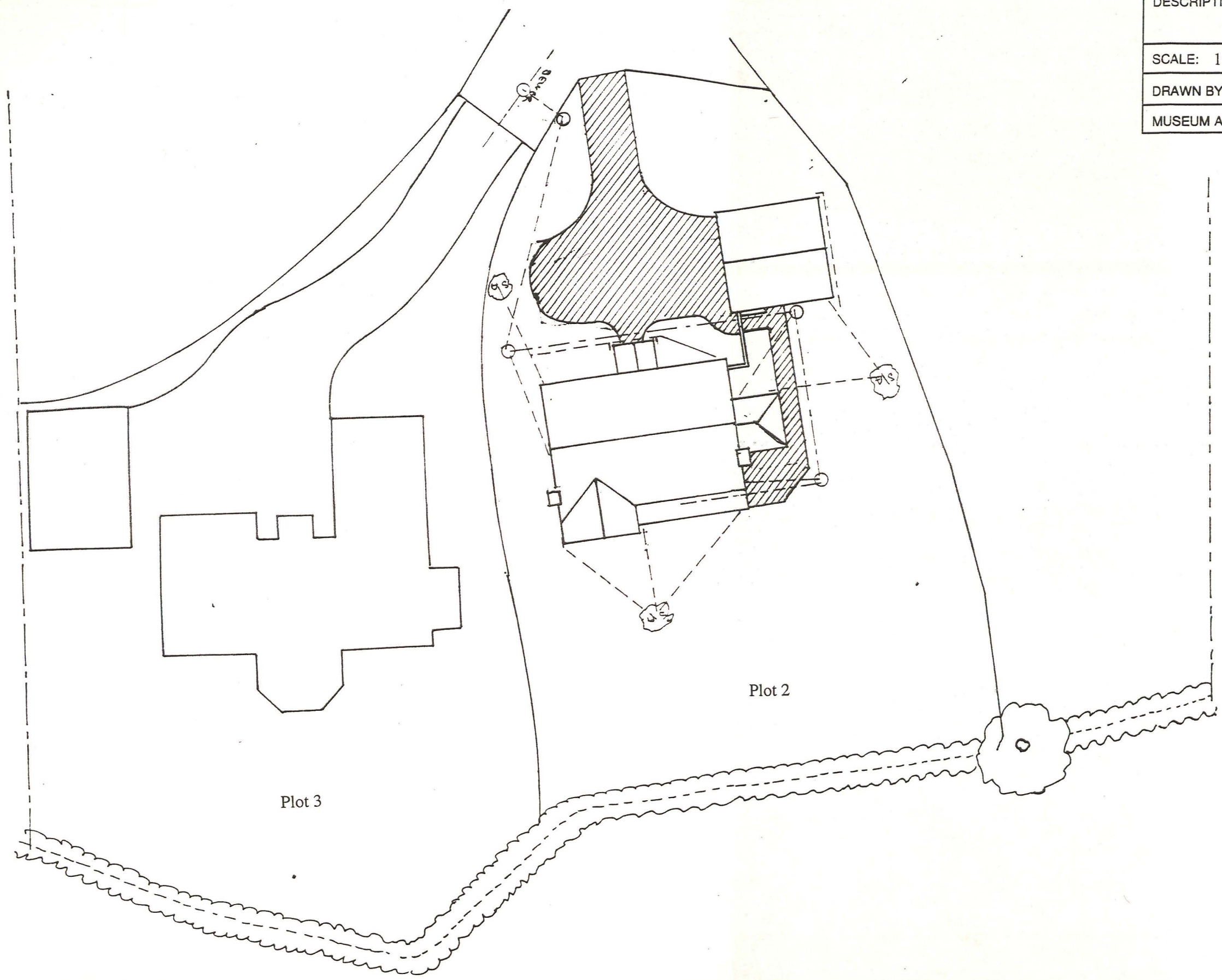
CLIENT: Mr C. Godley

DESCRIPTION: Plan Showing Proposed Development

SCALE: 1:250 | ARCHIVE NO:

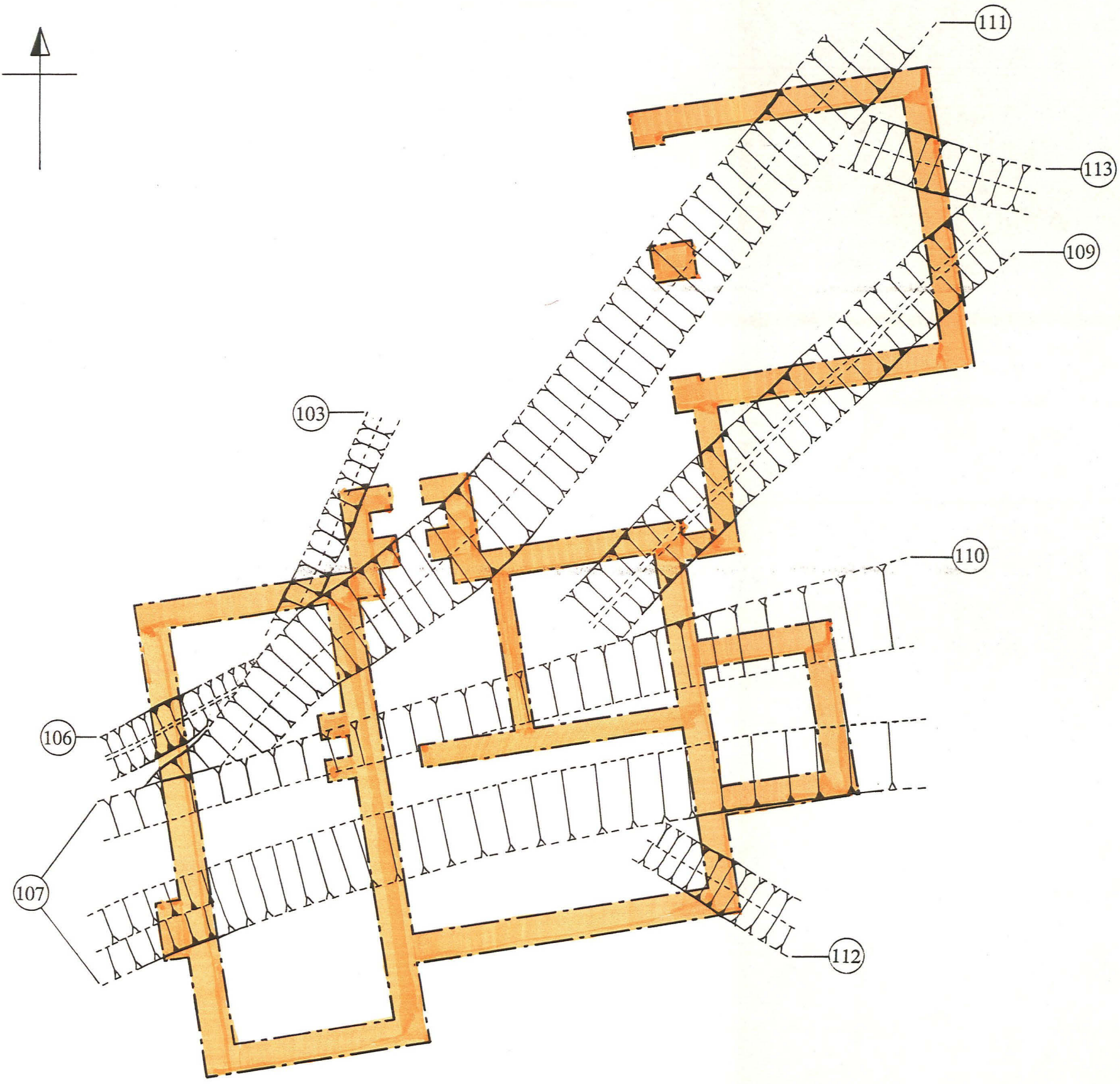
DRAWN BY: | CHECKED: | DATE:

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 57.96



Based upon architect's drawing no.1A

Fig.2



CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
SITE CODE: SCA96	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT: Mr C. Godley		
DESCRIPTION: Plan of Trenches and Possible Alignment of Features		
SCALE: 1:100	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY: K.W.	CHECKED:	DATE: 11/04/96
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 57.96		



KEY	
	Foundation Trenches/Building Footprint
	Positively Identified Feature
	Conjectured Line of Feature

Based upon architect's drawing no.2A

Fig.3

<b>CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT</b>		
SITE CODE: SCA96	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT: Mr C. Godley		
DESCRIPTION: West-Facing Section Showing Cut Features		
SCALE: 1:20	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY: K.W.	CHECKED:	DATE: 11/04/96
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 57.96		

**KEY**

 Clay  
 Sand

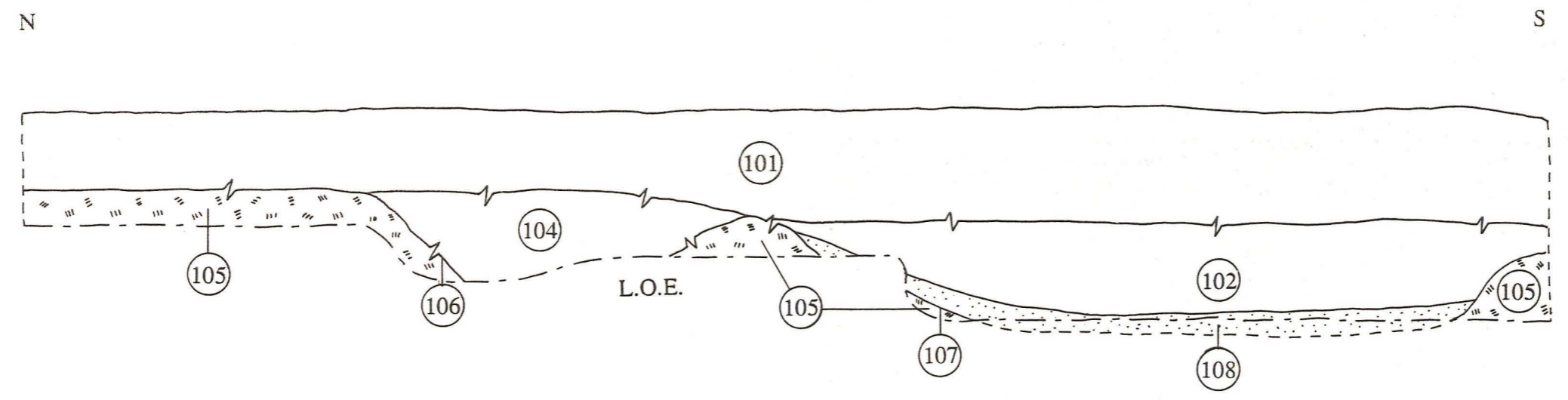


Fig.4