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CITY OF  
◇ LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY ◇  
UNIT

98/2

LAND ADJACENT TO  
WATERSIDE HOUSE,  
WATERSIDE NORTH, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

*By K Wragg*

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO:324

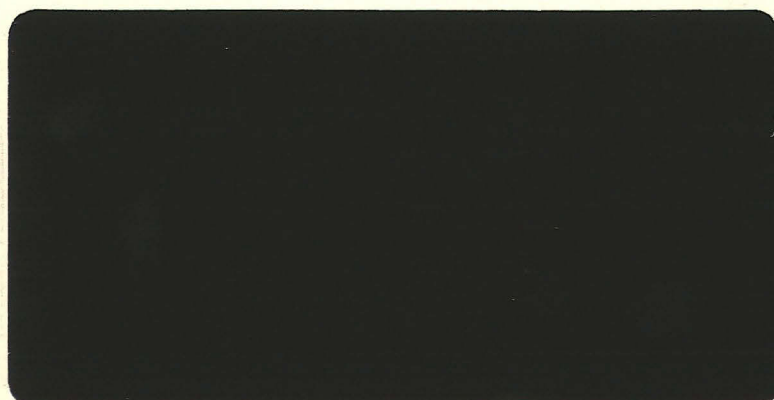


Lincolnshire County Council  
Archaeology Section

20 MAR 98

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neg.  
EV : 42237  
Source : L18133

**A**  
**Report to**  
***Environment Agency: Northern Area***

**January 1998**

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**Prepared by**

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*Site Code: WNA97  
LCCM Accession No.: 1.97  
NGR: SK 9815/7115*

**LAND ADJACENT TO**  
**WATERSIDE HOUSE,**  
**WATERSIDE NORTH, LINCOLN**

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# LAND ADJACENT TO WATERSIDE HOUSE, WATERSIDE NORTH, LINCOLN

## *Archaeological Watching Brief*

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# **LAND ADJACENT TO WATERSIDE HOUSE, WATERSIDE NORTH, LINCOLN**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

### ***NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY***

This development involved the creation of a new car parking area, including a six-bay garage block, on a site measuring approximately 40m (N-S) x 80m (E-W) immediately to the east of Waterside House, Waterside North, Lincoln.

The site is located in an archaeologically and historically sensitive area of Lincoln, with potential for evidence of riverside development dating from the Roman period, buried waterlain deposits (with the possibility of well preserved artefacts and ecofacts) and medieval occupation associated with the suburb of Butwerk.

In view of the proximity to areas of archaeological importance, it was decided, by the City of Lincoln Planning Committee, that the required groundworks should be monitored archaeologically, and planning permission was conditioned appropriately.

In response to this condition, the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit was commissioned in January 1997 by the Environment Agency: Northern Area, to carry out an intermittent watching brief on the site. Observation was carried out between the 6<sup>th</sup> of January and the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 1997.

In the event, however, notwithstanding the potential of the site as related above, the results from the watching brief proved to be largely negative.

The only features revealed by the trenching appear to be related to 19th century buildings originally present across the site, with remaining deposits either related to the

occupation and subsequent demolition of these structures, or to apparently undisturbed 'natural' (i.e., geological) strata.

Given the relatively localised nature of the investigations, however, it could still be the case that evidence for ancient occupation is preserved on other parts of the site and in surrounding locations.



# LAND ADJACENT TO WATERSIDE HOUSE, WATERSIDE NORTH, LINCOLN

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This development involved the creation of a new car parking area, including a six-bay garage block, on a site measuring approximately 40m (N-S) x 80m (E-W) immediately to the east of Waterside House, Waterside North, Lincoln (see Figs.1 & 2).

A number of existing pre-fabricated buildings, derelict brick structures, concrete footpaths and a tarmacadam car park were to be removed prior to redevelopment, with the remaining site then stripped of all remaining overburden. A small parking area and garage block owned by Lincoln City Council, situated at the north-eastern corner of the site, was unaffected by this scheme.

The initial site preparation phase was to be followed by the formation of the new parking surface, excavation for the new garage block foundations, and the provision of service and drainage connections. The latter included the excavation of two soakaways, which represented the deepest excavation undertaken on the site. The site stripping involved the removal of between 300mm and 800mm of overburden (depending on the existing ground level), while the excavation for the soakaways was to reach depths of c.2m.

In view of the general proximity of the site to areas of known archaeological importance, it was decided, by the City of Lincoln Planning Committee, that the groundworks should be monitored archaeologically, and planning permission was conditioned appropriately.

In response to this condition, the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit was commissioned in January 1997 by Environment Agency: Northern Area, to carry out an intermittent

watching brief on the site. Observation was carried out between the 6<sup>th</sup> of January and the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 1997.

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 development is located in an archaeologically and historically sensitive area of Lincoln, with potential for evidence of riverside development dating from the Roman period (the remains of a Roman dock or quay have been found beneath the telephone exchange building, to the west of the site (Whitwell, 1992)), buried waterlain deposits (with the possibility of well preserved artefacts and ecofacts) and medieval occupation associated with the suburb of Butwerk (Hill, 1948).

Medieval properties of probable pre-Norman conquest origin have been found in this suburb, together with a medieval cemetery of the church of St. Augustine (located to the north-west of the site beneath the Lincolnshire Archives building and museum store on St. Rumbold Street).

During the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries the area around the site was largely comprised of open fields. The lack of public transport in the Victorian era meant that most employees lived close to their place of work, consequently this area of Lincoln would have had a semi-rural appearance (Hill, 1974). By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century however, this area had been intensively developed, with industrial buildings (including the Co-operative Flour Mill, originally on the site of Waterside House), and terraced housing present across the site (see Fig.3).



### 3.0 RESULTS

The earliest deposits revealed were [108], present at the south-east corner of the garage foundation trench, and [109], revealed during excavation for the two soakaways (Fig.4).

[108] comprised a mid-dark brown, sandy, clayey-silt layer which contained occasional small flecks and pieces of limestone. The upper boundary of this deposit appeared approximately 700mm below the existing ground level (G.L.) of the site (i.e. c.4.30m O.D.), and continued to the limit of excavation (L.O.E.). Further inclusions of brick and ash were recorded at the upper boundary, probably representing intrusive material from the overlying Victorian structures. Towards L.O.E. the layer appeared to contain an increasing proportion of organic material (albeit very desiccated), possibly indicating underlying organic deposits.

This organic material is probably represented by [109], although no direct relationship between [108] and [109] could be established.

[109] itself was a waterlogged, moderately compacted, mid-light grey organic sand layer with no obvious inclusions. This deposit was present from c.800mm-900mm below existing G.L. (c.4.1m O.D.) to the L.O.E. at approximately 2m below the existing G.L.

Both [108] and [109] were overlain by a layer of loose-moderately compacted orange-brown sand with no obvious inclusions [107] (this layer appeared to represent the upper levels of the undisturbed natural strata, although this could not be confirmed), which was then sealed by two separate deposits, [106] and [110].

The first of these was revealed in the garage foundation trench, and comprised a 50mm thick layer/surface of crushed brick and limestone pieces, which in turn lay beneath a heavily iron-stained sand layer [105], and a dump of ash/clinker/cinder, [104]. All of this group of deposits would appear to be related to the levelling of the site prior to the construction of the Victorian houses, with [105] also possibly indicating the presence of cast-iron pipework.

The second of the deposits sealing [107], layer [110], was made up of limestone hardcore

mixed with assorted inclusions of brick, roof tile and other construction material, and again appeared to be of relatively recent date.

Both the aforementioned [104], and the latter layer [110] were then sealed by [103], a series of layers of white/off-white lime mortar present at c.4.70m-4.80m O.D.

This layer seems to represent the upper level of the pre-construction levelling deposits for the Victorian houses, and the remains of brick foundations, [111], for several structures were then present above this level (as shown on Fig.3).

The remaining sections of the buildings were then abutted by [102], a dump of mid yellow-brown clay, and [101] a moderately compacted mid-dark grey ashy topsoil layer. This latter deposit contained brick, concrete, wood and gravel inclusions, all of obviously modern date, and was ultimately overlain by a thin, partial covering of turf [112], which formed the surface deposit across the site.

### 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 negative.

The only features revealed by the trenching appear to be related to the 19th century buildings originally present across the site (as shown on Fig.3). The remaining deposits seem to either relate to the occupation and subsequent demolition of these structures, or to apparently undisturbed natural (i.e., geological) strata.

However, given the relatively localised nature of the investigation of this apparently undisturbed material, it could be the case that evidence for ancient occupation was simply not revealed in the particular sample recorded.

The results of this project would also obviously not preclude the presence of buried archaeological remains on other parts of the site and in surrounding locations. In addition, in view of the proximity of the river, deeper deposits are likely to be of interest for the early development of the river and the associated environment.



## 5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit would like to thank the following for their assistance during this project: Mr Tim Cammell & Miss Jane Batten, Environment Agency: Northern Area, Aqua House, Harvey Street, Lincoln, LN1 1TF; Mr John Smith, and the on-site staff of Linpave Construction Group, Linpave Holdings Ltd., High Street, Saxilby, Lincoln, LN1 2JQ.

## 6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hill, J W F 1948 *Medieval Lincoln* (reprinted 1965), Cambridge University Press, London

Hill, J W F 1974 *Victorian Lincoln*, Cambridge University Press, London

Vince, Alan & Jones, Michael J (eds) 1990 (Revised edition) *Lincoln's Buried Archaeological Heritage*, City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, Lincoln

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

## 7.0 LHA NOTE/ARCHIVE DETAILS

### 7.1 LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODE: WNA97

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.:  
LE20/0616/96

FIELD OFFICER: K. Wragg

NGR: SK 9815/7115

CIVIL PARISH: Lincoln

SMR No.: n/a

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 06/01/97 -  
05/03/97

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Environment Agency:  
Northern Area, Aqua House, Harvey Street,  
Lincoln, LN1 1TF.

### 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.: 1.97

ACCESSION DATE: -



## **APPENDIX A - ARCHIVE DEPOSITION**

The archive consists of:

No.		Description
1		Site diary
1		Report
13		Context records
4		Plan & Section drawings
1	set	Colour slides

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 1.97, will be undertaken following completion of this project.



**APPENDIX B - COLOUR  
PLATE**



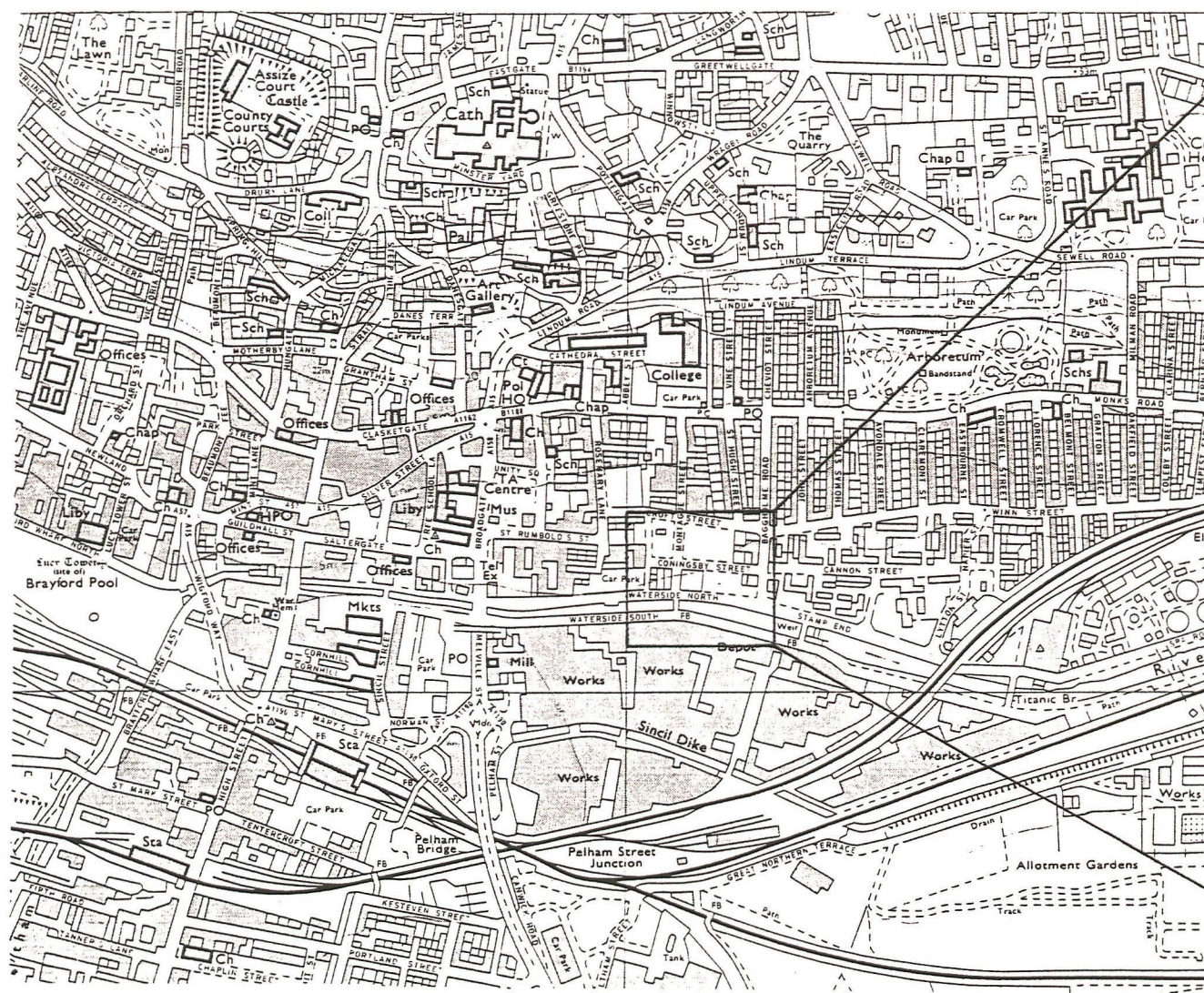
*Plate 1: General View of Site Stripping in Progress*



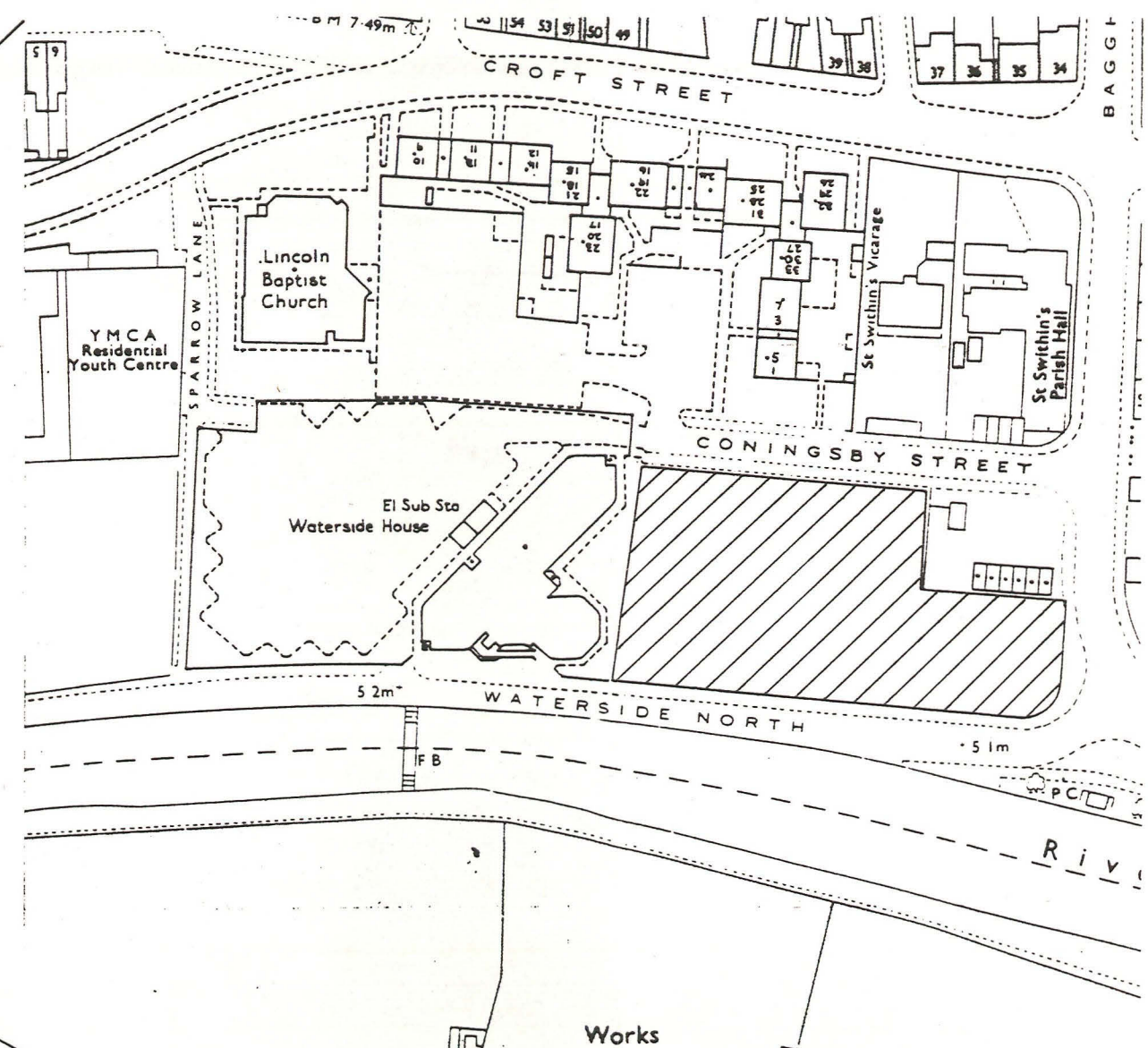
CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
SITE CODE: WNA97		PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:
CLIENT: Environment Agency		
DESCRIPTION: Site Location Plan		
SCALE:	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY:	CHECKED:	DATE:
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 1.97		

KEY

 Location of Site



Reproduced from the 1976 Ordnance Survey 1:10 000 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright.



Reproduced from the 1967 Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright.

Fig.1



# CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE: WNA97 PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:

CLIENT: Environment Agency

DESCRIPTION:  
Plan of Proposed Development

SCALE: 1:500

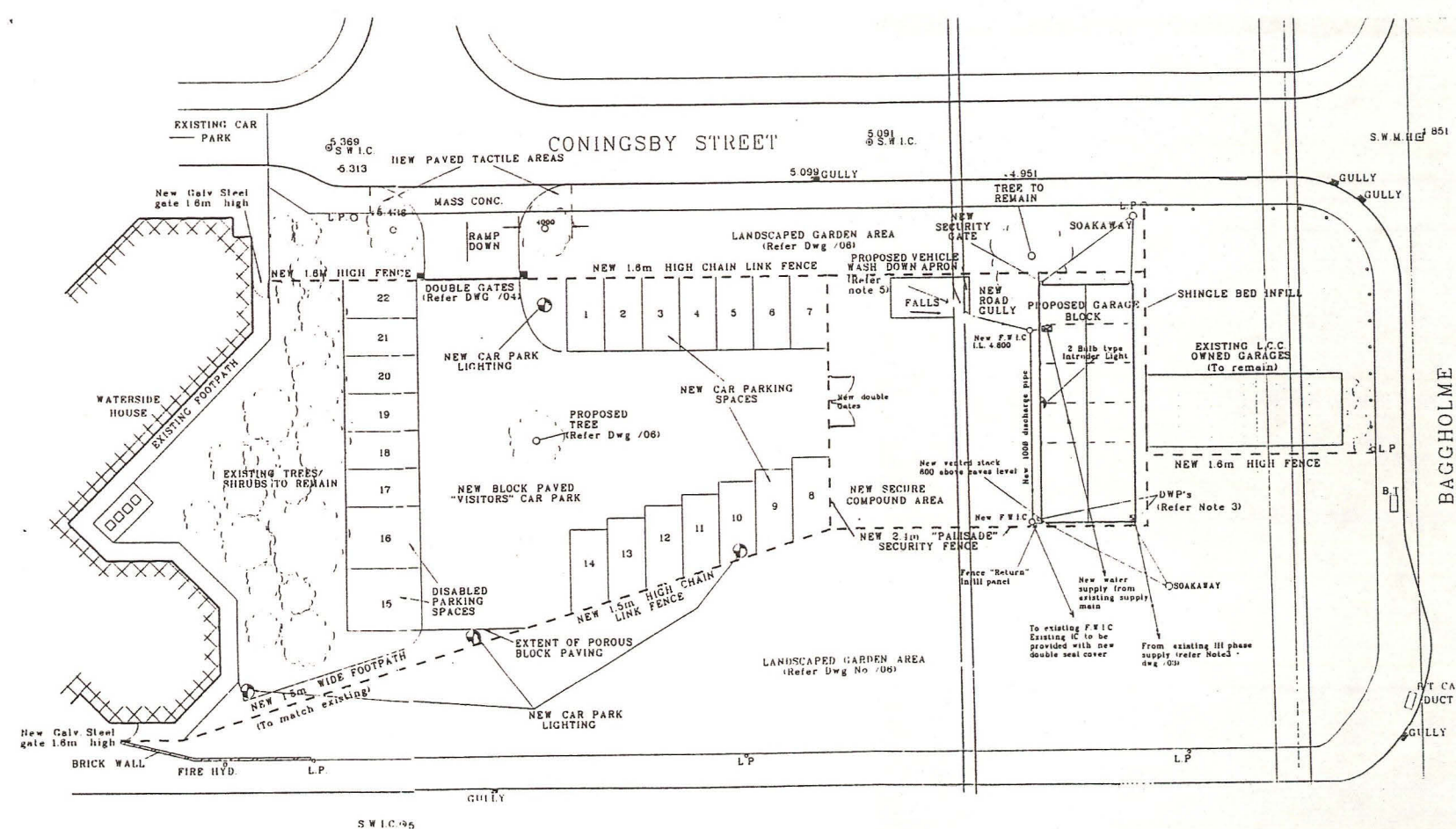
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DRAWN BY:

CHECKED:

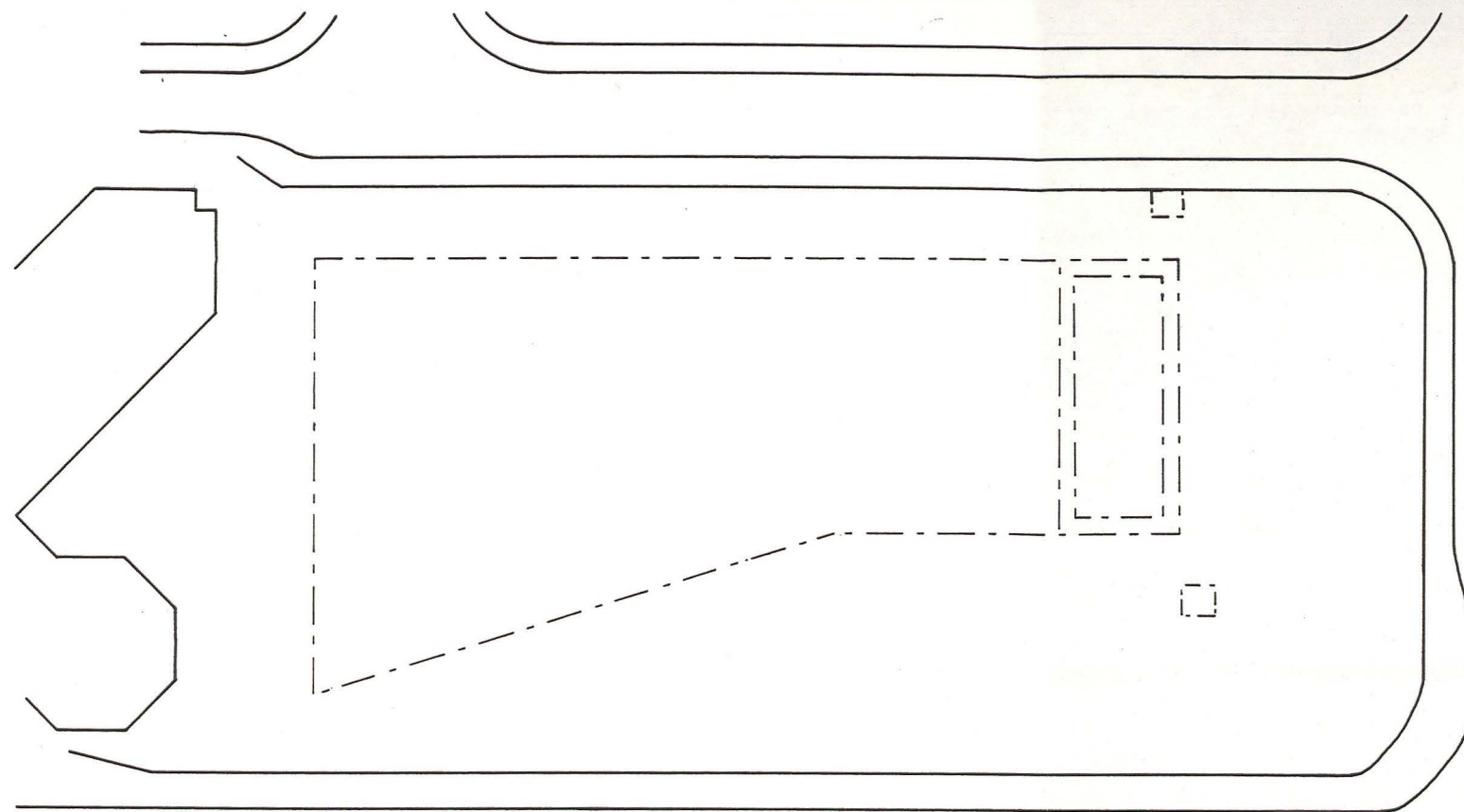
DATE:

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 1.97



Based upon the Environment Agency's drawing no. DVA706214/02A.

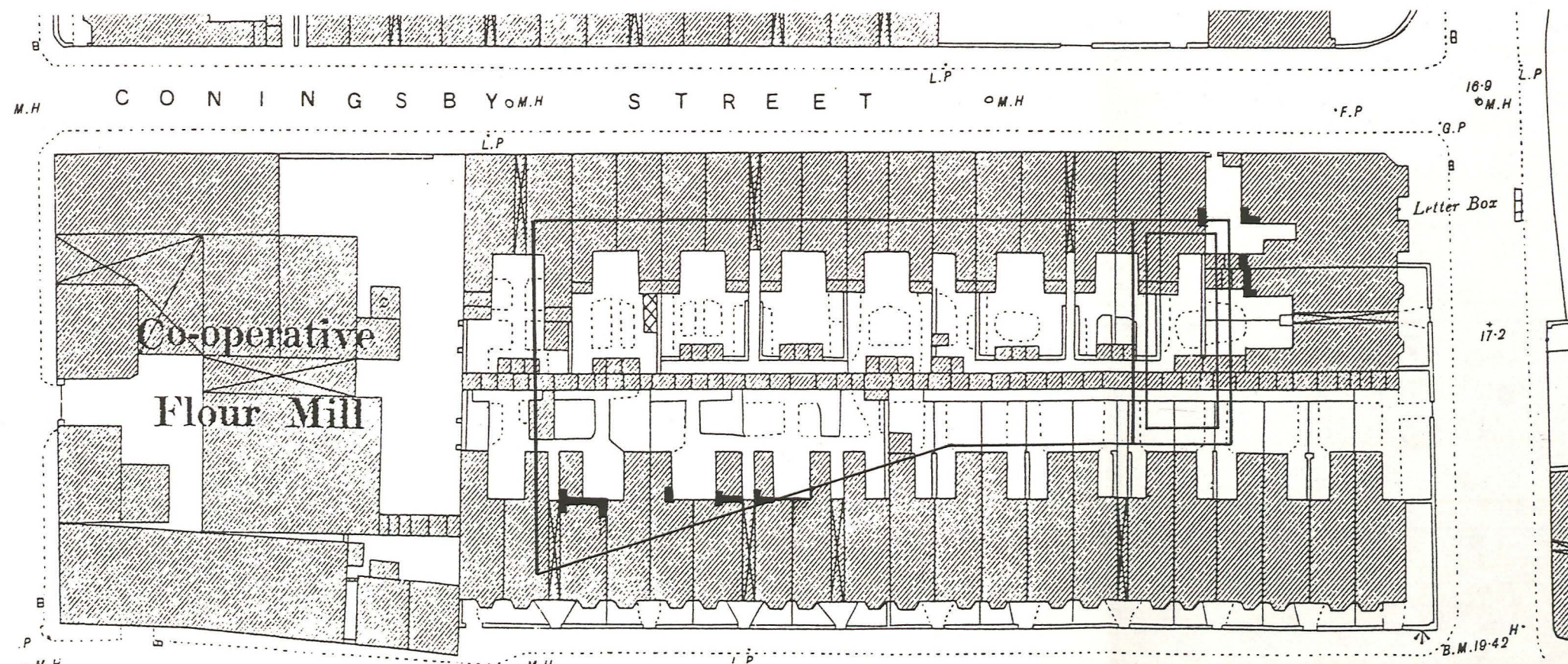




CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
SITE CODE: WNA97	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT:	Environment Agency	
DESCRIPTION: Plan of Excavated Areas and Extract from 1887 Ordnance Survey Map		
SCALE: 1:500	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY:	CHECKED:	DATE: 21/10/97
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 1.97		

#### KEY

- Foundation Trenches for New Garage Block
- Extent of Stripped Area
- Location of Soakaway



#### KEY






- ⌋ Elements of Nineteenth-Century Buildings Revealed During Excavation

Based upon the 1887 Ordnance Survey 1:500 map with the permission of  
The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright.

Fig.3



# KEY

-  Mortar
-  Clay
-  Ash
-  Sand
-  Brick/Tile

## CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE: WNA97 PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:

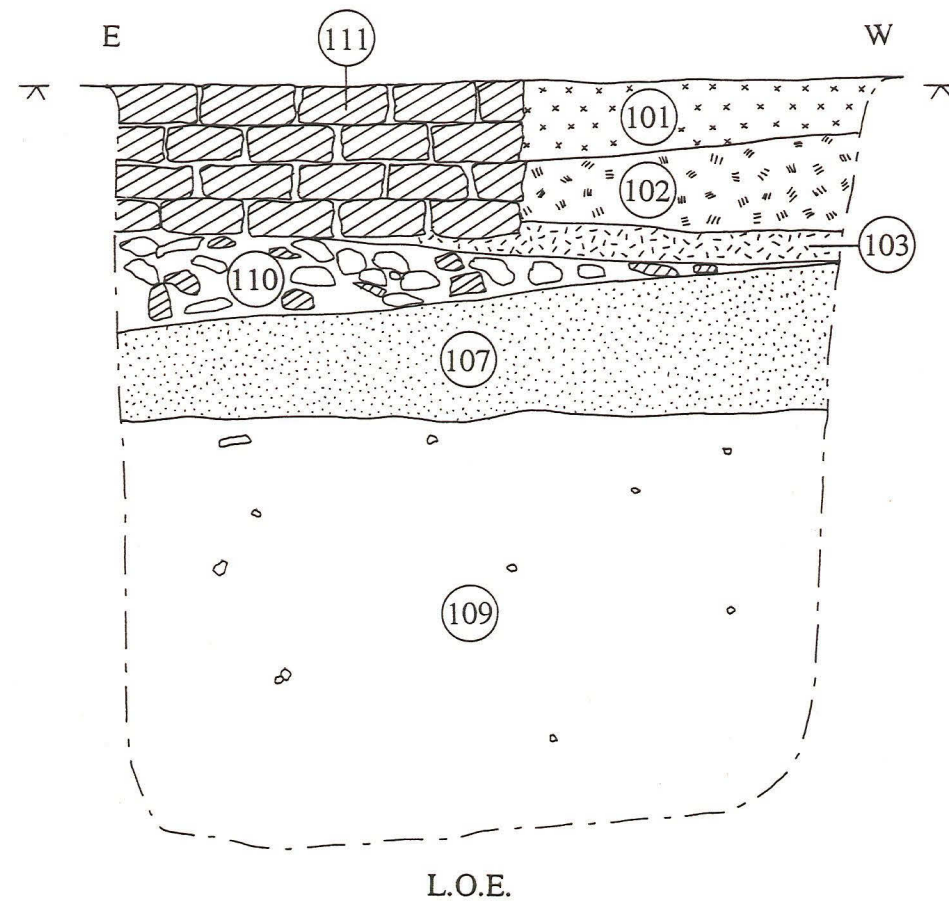
CLIENT: Environment Agency

DESCRIPTION: North-Facing Sections

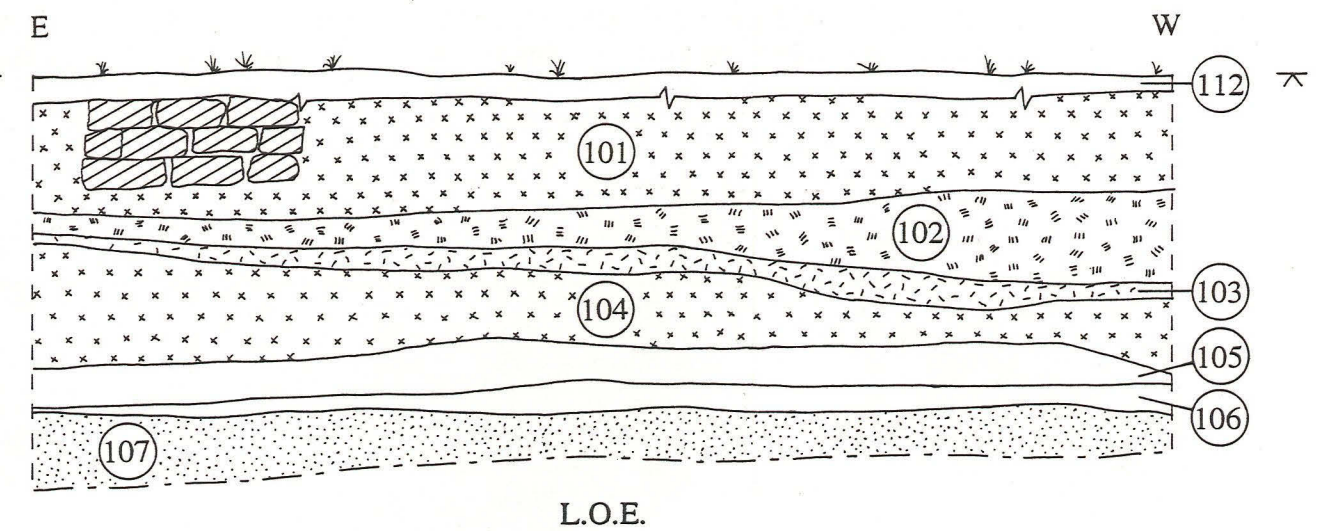
SCALE: 1:20 ARCHIVE NO:

DRAWN BY: K.W. CHECKED: DATE: 13/01/97 & 05/03/97

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 1.97



Nominal Site Level  
5.00m O.D.



0m 1m 2m

Fig.4