

CITY OF
◇ LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY ◇
UNIT

46-47 STEEP HILL, LINCOLN 98/5
(NORMAN HOUSE)

Internal W.C. & Cloakroom

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

By K Wragg

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 328



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11 MAR 98

Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section

A
Report to
City of Lincoln Architectural Consultancy,
Lincoln City Council

February 1998

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Site Code: NHB96

LCCM Accession No.: 171.96

NGR: SK 9765/7175

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Archaeological Watching Brief

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46-47 STEEP HILL, LINCOLN (NORMAN HOUSE) - INTERNAL W.C. & CLOAKROOM

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This development involved the installation of a new w.c. and hand-basin (with service connection to the existing foul-water drainage); erection of a studwork partition wall and access door; installation of a new tiled floor; and miscellaneous other minor works, at 46-47 Steep Hill, Lincoln (Norman House).

In view of the archaeological importance of the Norman House, it was decided that the groundworks and alterations should be monitored archaeologically.

Accordingly, the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit was commissioned in November 1996 by the City of Lincoln Architectural Consultancy, Lincoln City Council, to carry out an intermittent watching brief on the site. Observation was carried out on the 2nd and 3rd of December 1996.

The subsequent results of this watching brief were, however, largely negative, although they have served to illustrate the nature of the foundations for the present structure, and have indicated that the existing window arrangement probably represents a later addition to the original structure.

46-47 STEEP HILL, LINCOLN (NORMAN HOUSE) - INTERNAL W.C. & CLOAKROOM

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This development involved the installation of a new w.c. and hand-basin (with service connection to the existing foul-water drainage); erection of a studwork partition wall and access door; installation of a new tiled floor; and miscellaneous other minor works, at 46-47 Steep Hill, Lincoln (Norman House) (see Figs.1 & 2).

In view of the archaeological importance of Norman House, it was decided that the groundworks and alterations should be monitored archaeologically.

Accordingly, the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit was commissioned in November 1996 by the City of Lincoln Architectural Consultancy, Lincoln City Council, to carry out an intermittent watching brief on the site. Observation was carried out on the 2nd and 3rd of December 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 building lies to the south of the Cathedral at the corner of Steep Hill and Christ's Hospital Terrace (see Fig.1). The South Gate of the Roman upper city lay to the north of the site.

The original building probably dates from the late 12th century, and was incorrectly ascribed to Aaron the Jew, a famous Jewish financier in that century. However, the building was probably built, and owned, by Joceus of York, another Jewish businessman who is mentioned in the Hundred Rolls and probably died in the massacre at York in 1190 (Johnson and Vince, 1992)

Prior to 1217, the building also appears to have been associated with William of Tillbrook, who initially gave the property to his wife, but then had to surrender it to the King in 1217.

The property was probably held subsequently by Peter of Legbourne who leased out parts of it in 1250.

By 1281 it had been transferred to William of Rowston, but after his death in 1300 the property ownership is not clear. There is no clear identification of ownership available from existing records from 1300 up to recent times (Johnson and Vince, 1992).

Some conservation work was carried out in the 19th century, but unfortunately there is little information as to the nature of the repairs to the building or who commissioned it. At present the building is owned by Lincoln City Council.

3.0 RESULTS (see Fig.3)

The only element of the proposed remodelling to involve excavation was the connection of the new w.c. and wash-basin to the existing foul-water drain.

This involved digging a small hole measuring c.800mm x c.400mm, adjacent to the inner face of the eastern wall of the building. This hole was approximately 300mm deep, and was matched by a similarly-sized trench on the outside of the wall, which exposed the main foul-water drain. Connection to this drain was to be effected by breaking a small hole through the wall, to allow the required pipework to be installed.

The earliest deposit revealed during these groundworks was [101], a moderately compacted mid-brown sandy, slightly clayey, earth containing frequent brick/tile, limestone and mortar flecks. This deposit was present at the limit of excavation (L.O.E.) of the trench, and was at least 150mm thick.

[101] was subsequently cut by two sets of limestone foundations, [103] to the east, and [105] to the west. The latter feature comprised a single course of both roughly squared and irregularly shaped limestone pieces with no apparent bonding. This followed the alignment of an internal 'step' in the existing inner wall and appeared to represent the remains of an original wall foundation, suggesting that the present bay window is a later modification. Unfortunately no finds were present to establish a date for this feature.

The eastern foundations [103] similarly comprised a single course of limestone pieces, although in this case the majority were roughly squared. This feature formed the existing foundation for the outer wall of the room, and was overlain by 2-3 courses of tile, [102].

The tile courses of [102] formed a string-course, upon which the stonework for the external wall is founded. The uppermost course of [102] is approximately level with the top of the original quarry-tile floor [104] within the room.

The only other discovery during the internal remodelling was that of a small fireplace,

situated in the south wall of the room, adjacent to the bay window. This appeared to be a probable Victorian feature, that had been infilled, and concealed by the wall lining.

4.0 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

While the results of this watching brief are largely negative, they have served to illustrate the nature of the foundations for the present structure, and have indicated that the existing window arrangement probably represents a later addition to the original structure.

5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit would like to thank the following for their assistance during this project: Mr Ian George, Lincoln City Council Archaeology Officer, Lincoln City Council, City Hall, Beaumont Fee, Lincoln LN1 1DH; Mr C.Holland, City of Lincoln Architectural Consultancy, Lincoln City Council; Messrs. R.Ardin and N.Hardy of the on-site contractors, J.Wilkins.

6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Donel, L G 1993, *46-47 Steep Hill, Lincoln - Archaeological Recording* CLAU Archaeological Report 177, City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit

Harris, R B 1993 *An interpretation of the twelfth century townhouse*, Unpublished report for the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit

Harris, Roland 1993, *The Jew's House & The Norman House: Interpretation of the medieval fabric*, in Jones, Michael J (ed) *Lincoln Archaeology 1992-1993*, Annual Report of the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit 5, 24-8, Lincoln

Johnson, Christopher & Vince, Alan 1992, *The South Bail Gates of Lincoln* *Lincolnshire History & Archaeology* 27, 12-16

Marshall, Pamela & Jones, S 1992, *Norman House*, in Jones, Michael, J (ed) *Lincoln Archaeology 1991-1992*, Annual Report of the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit 4, 21-5, Lincoln

7.0 LHA NOTE/ARCHIVE DETAILS

7.1 LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODE: NHB96

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.: n/a

FIELD OFFICER: K.Wragg

NGR: SK 9765/7175

CIVIL PARISH: Lincoln

SMR No.: n/a

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 02/12/96 - 03/12/96

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: City of Lincoln Architectural Consultancy, City Engineer & Surveyor, City Hall, Lincoln, LN1 1DH.

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.: 171.96

ACCESSION DATE: -

APPENDIX A - ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The archive consists of:

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

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

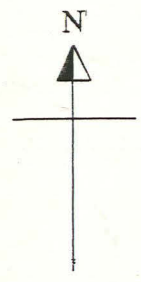
**The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit,
Charlotte House,
The Lawn,
Union Road,
Lincoln,
Lincolnshire,
LN1 3BL.**

It is intended that transfer to the City and County Museum, Friars Lane, Lincoln, in accordance with current published requirements, under Museum Accession Number 171.96, will be undertaken following completion of this project.

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
SITE CODE: NHB96	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT: City of Lincoln Architectural Consultancy		
DESCRIPTION: Site Location Plan		
SCALE:	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY:	CHECKED:	DATE:
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 171.96		

KEY

 Location of Site

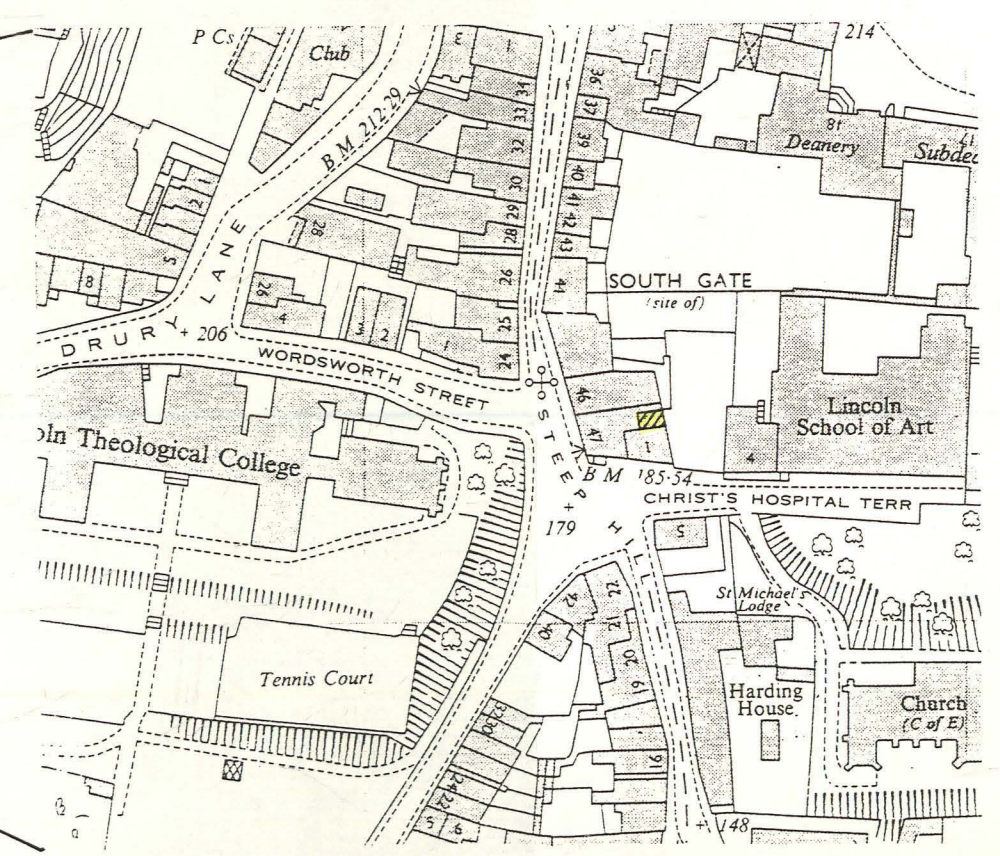


1:10 000



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

1:1250



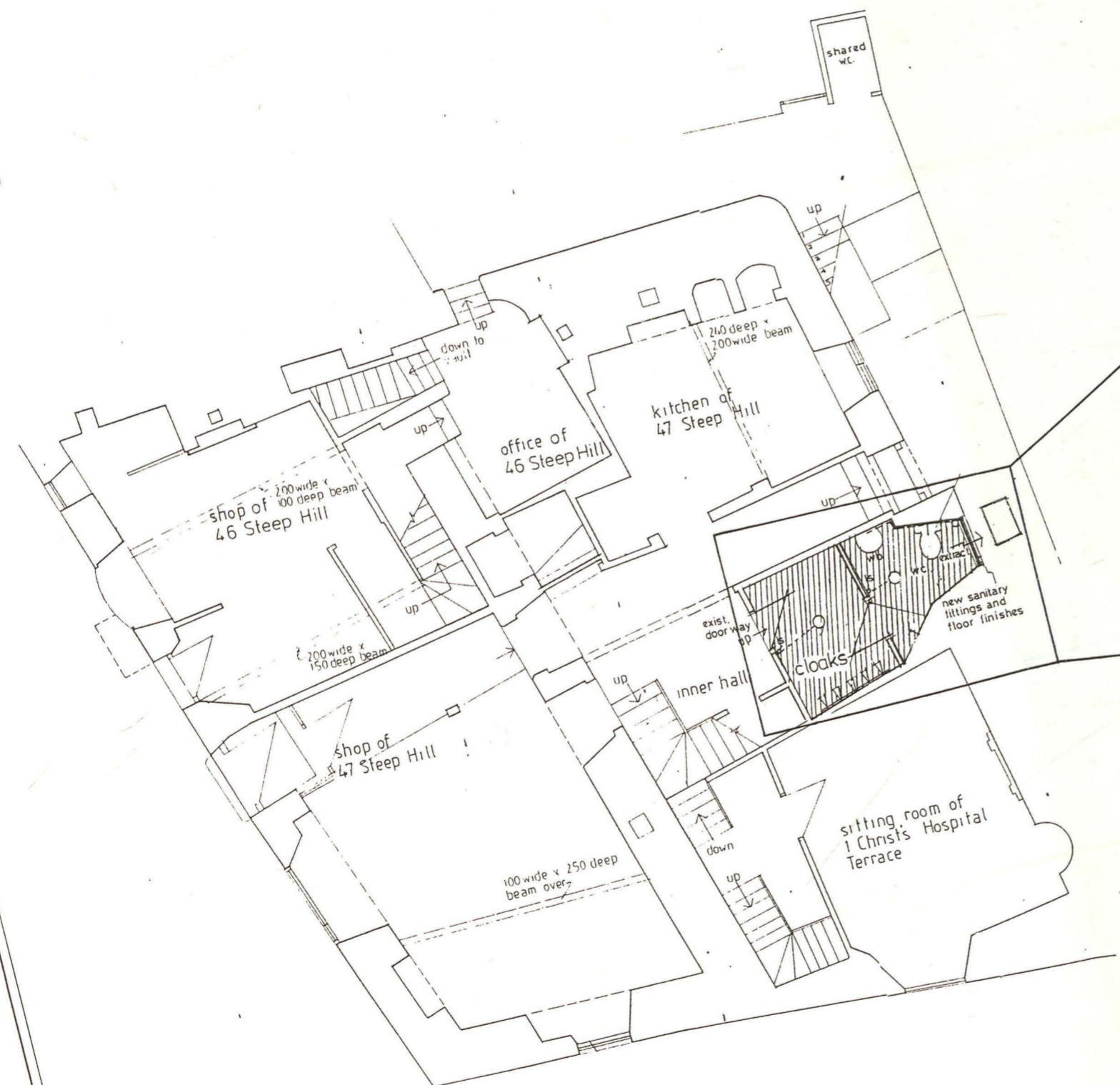
Reproduced from the 1967 Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright.

Fig.1

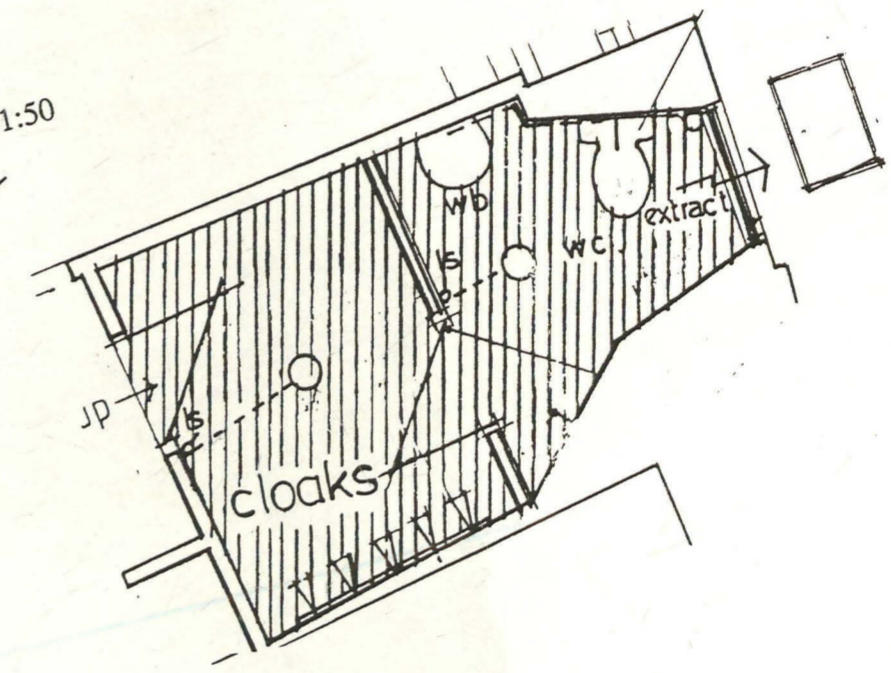
CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
SITE CODE: NHB96	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT:	City of Lincoln Architectural Consultancy	
DESCRIPTION:	Plan of Proposed Alterations	
SCALE:	ARCHIVE NO:	DATE:
DRAWN BY:	CHECKED:	
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:	171.96	



1:100



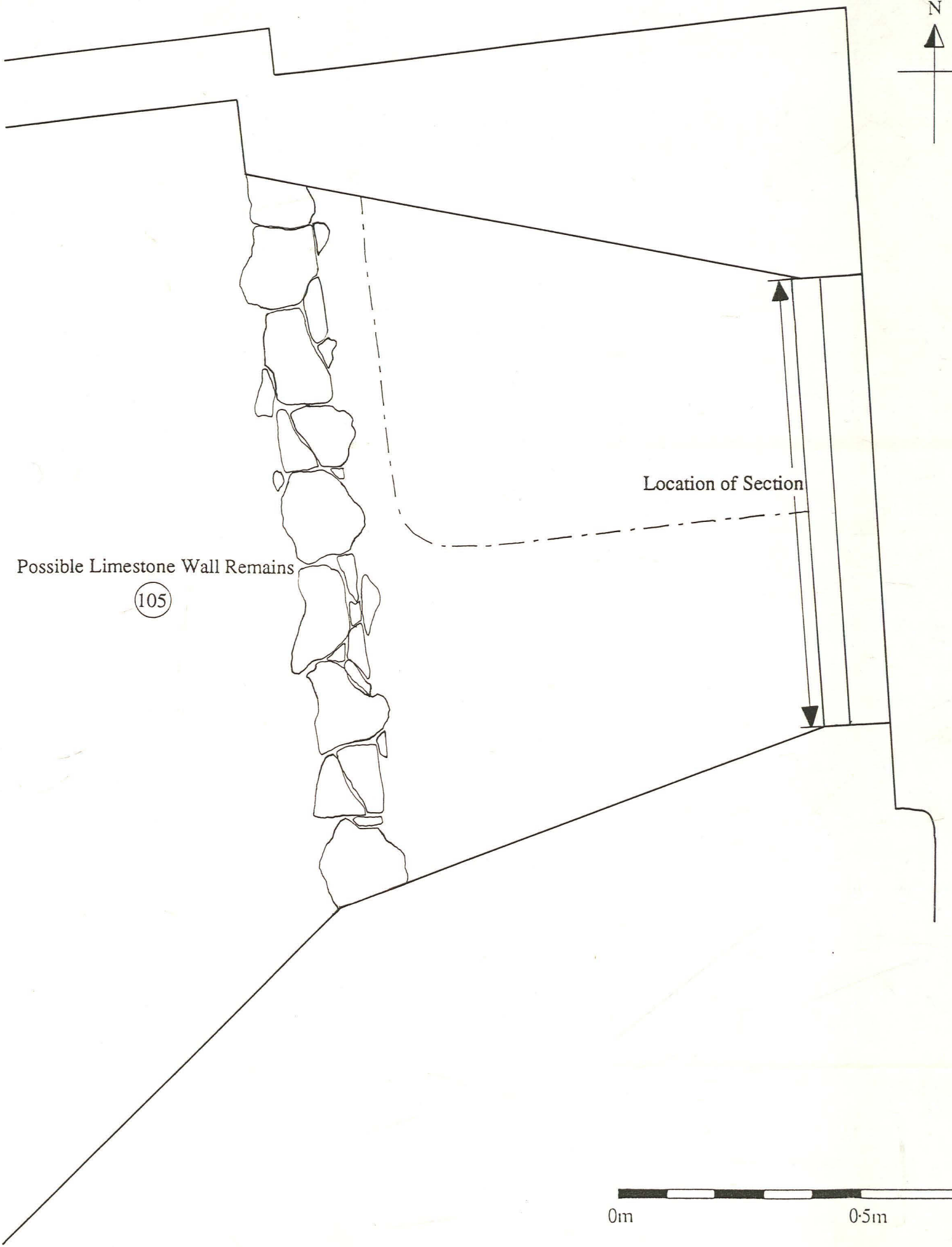
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



Based upon the City of Lincoln Department of Housing & Environmental Health's drawing no. 1160/3/1.

Fig.2

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
SITE CODE: NHB96	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT: City of Lincoln Architectural Consultancy		
DESCRIPTION: Plan of Archaeological Features and West-Facing Section		
SCALE: 1:10	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY: K.W.	CHECKED:	DATE: 02/12/96
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 171.96		



- KEY**
-  Quarry Tiled Floor
 -  Reused Roof Tiles (Part of Foundations)

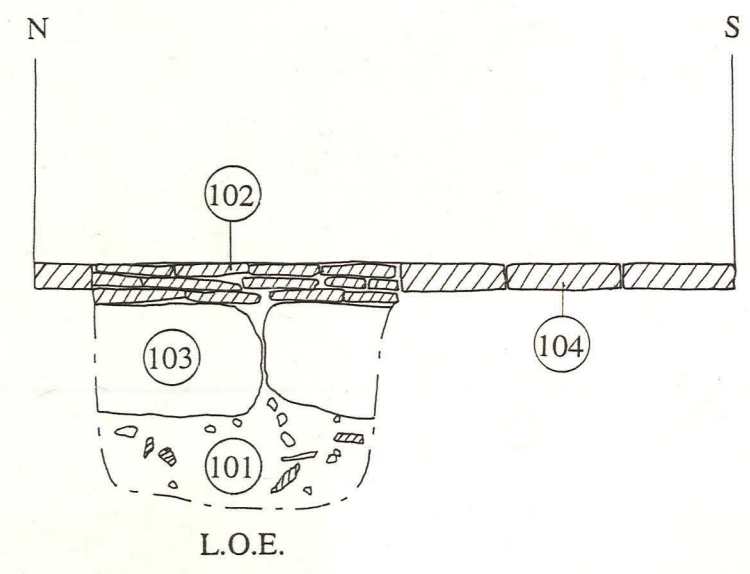


Fig.3