



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

M6/14

**Bishop Grosseteste College, Lincoln.  
New Offices**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**NGR: SK 97767 72923**

**Site Code: LBGW06**

**LCNCC Accession No.: 2006.231**

**Planning Application No.: 2006/0562/F**

**Report for**

**LKR Architects LLP**

**By**

**G. Glover and M. McDaid**

**LAS Report No.: 944**

**October 2006**

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**Bishop Grosseteste College, Lincoln.**  
**New Offices**  
**Archaeological Evaluation**  
NGR: SK 97767 72923.  
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**Summary**

*An evaluation was undertaken at Bishop Grosseteste College to assess the potential archaeological impact of an extension to the Skinner Building. Trench 1 revealed modern landscaping deposits which sealed a modern pit, possibly a garden feature, associated with gardens recorded on a map of 1862. A 2<sup>nd</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> century Roman ditch was also present. Trench 2 exposed demolition material derived from brick walls and an associated floor. Another garden feature and a Roman gully and two pits, dating from 2<sup>nd</sup> -4<sup>th</sup> century, were also exposed within the trench.*

*The proposed extension will penetrate archaeological deposits if footings are deeper than 61.94m O.D., the depth of the archaeology in Trench 1, 0.76m below the present ground level.*

**Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by LKR Architects LLP, in September 2006 to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Bishop Grosseteste College (Fig. 1). The work was carried out in accordance with the brief dated 2 August 2006, and general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998). Work commenced 26/09/2006 and was completed 05/10/2005.

**Site Location and Description**

Bishop Grosseteste College is located on the east side of Newport, at the junction of Newport and Longdales Road. The site was situated in an open area with Skinner Building to the south and Constance Stewart Hall to the north.

**Planning Background**

A planning application has been made to construct an extension on the north side of the Skinner Building and a laundry to the east of the Constance Stewart Hall. Evaluation of the proposed extension has been requested prior to determination of the application. It was further recommended that a watching brief condition be placed on the construction of the new laundry building (which is the subject of a separate specification).

**Archaeological Background**

The proposed development site is located within the medieval suburb of Newport to the north of the Roman Upper City. The main north-south thoroughfare through the centre of Newport is the Roman Ermine Street, which runs along the modern Newport.

Previous investigations in the grounds of the college identified extensive Roman and medieval remains along the road frontage, next to the library. Excavations in 1937 located the ditch of the Newport medieval earthwork which runs west-east between the Skinner Building and the Constance Stewart Building.

### **Aims and Objectives**

In general terms the purpose of the evaluation was to:

- Provide information on the depth and quality, below the modern surface, of surviving archaeological deposits which would be affected by any proposed groundwork.
- Provide information which will allow for the assessment of the possible scale of development impact on any remains and other information which might influence development design so that such impact can be avoided or minimized.
- Provide information that will allow the local planning authority to reconcile development proposals with their policy of preserving archaeological remains.
- Provide site specific information which (if necessary) would allow for the design and integration of timing and funding of any further archaeological work (or mitigation strategy) which may be required in advance of, or during, any subsequent development programme.
- Produce a project archive for deposition with the City and County Museum (*The Collection*).
- Provide information for accession to the County Heritage and Environment Record (HER) and the Lincoln Urban Archaeological Database.

### **Method**

Two trial trenches, each measuring c. 5m x 2m in plan were investigated at the site. A back-hoe excavator was used to remove topsoil and overburden to the top of the latest significant archaeological horizon. Machine excavation ceased at this level, with further excavation and cleaning continuing by hand. All archaeological excavation and recording was carried out by a team of two experienced archaeologists.

Carefully selected cross-sections through archaeological features were excavated to enable sufficient information about their form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations should these prove to be necessary.

A full written (single context) and photographic record was made of the site, which included site plans at a scale of 1:50 or 1:20, as appropriate, and section drawings at 1:10. A plan of each trench was made with section drawings of at least one side of each trench. In addition, further plans and sections were made of individual features. Finds, which were located in archaeological features, have been identified accordingly and a context numbering system for archaeological remains has been used. LAS operates a standard context recording system, developed by its staff over the past 20 years based on MOLAS and CAS models.

A full photographic record was made during the progress of the excavation to cover each feature together with general site views.

## Results

### *Trench 1 (Fig. 3, Pls. 1 -3)*

A deposit, **109**, comprising brown sandy silt formed a layer of topsoil up to 0.28m thick which extended across Trench 1. It represented the latest deposit encountered in the trench and formed the modern ground surface.

A second layer, **108**, was sealed by the topsoil and comprised orange brown sandy silt with frequent mortar and charcoal flecks. The deposit is interpreted as a developed soil although it possible that it may have derived from landscaping of the area.

Layer, **107**, comprising mixed brown sandy silts, building rubble, grey clay and mortar patches had been sealed by **108**. It measured 0.35m thick and extended across the entire trench. Brick fragments within the rubble constituent of the deposit indicate that it was of 20<sup>th</sup> century origin and it is suggested that the deposit may have been deliberately dumped as part of landscaping or ground levelling activity.

Layer **107** sealed a substantial cut feature, **101**, within the northern half of the trench. It extended across the trench, continuing beyond the limits to the north, east and west. The feature had visible dimensions of 2.04m x 1.60m x 1.80m deep (the base of the feature being visible within geotechnical Test Pit 1). It had a flat base and the southern side of the feature was vertical, its other sides lying beyond the trench limits. Primary fill, **103**, comprised firm mid grey clay and produced a small quantity of post-medieval brick fragments. This was sealed by a mid orange brown silty clay, **104**, which had been heavily iron stained. This in turn had been sealed by mid grey clay, **105**, similar to the primary fill **103**. The latest fill of the feature, **106**, comprised brick rubble and crushed mortar, its similarity to the overlying deposit **107** suggesting that it may have been deposited during the same landscaping event.

An approximately east/west orientated ditch, **102**, was encountered within the southern half of the trench. It measured 1.36m wide x 0.32m deep and had a moderately steep northern side and a stepped southern side leading to a concave base. The ditch contained a single fill, **110**, comprising mid reddish brown clayey silt. A single sherd of Roman grey ware dating from the 2-3<sup>rd</sup> century AD was recovered from the fill.

Loose, fractured limestone fragments or 'corn brash', **100**, was the earliest deposit encountered within the trench and represents the underlying geological deposit.

*Trench 2 (Fig. 4, Pls. 4 and 5)*

A mid brown clayey silt, **200**, up to 0.16m thick, was the latest deposit encountered in Trench 2. It extended across the trench and represents the modern turf and topsoil ground surface.

The turf and topsoil sealed light brown crushed limestone and mortar **205**, up to 0.28m thick, extending across the majority of the trench. The deposit is interpreted as a demolition layer of 20<sup>th</sup> century origin. Beneath **205**, towards the westernmost limit of the trench, was **207**, comprising building rubble and slate, which formed a second layer of probable demolition material up to 0.52m thick and is most likely derived from the same demolition activity.

Layer **206**, comprising compact black slate, iron slag and silt, was encountered within the eastern half of the trench. It measured 0.06m thick and formed a horizontal horizon within the northern section of the trench and is interpreted as the bedding layer for a floor surface. At the eastern limit of the trench, the edge of a light grey concrete floor surface, **224**, was encountered at a depth of 62.53m O.D. and may have been contemporary with **206**.

The remains of a north/south orientated wall, **208**, were encountered in the central part of the trench. It was constructed from red, un-frogged bricks (measuring 230mm x 105mm x 80mm), bonded with a hard, mid grey cement. The remains of the wall measured 0.44m wide x 0.28m high. It had been built within a construction cut **210**, partially backfilled around the wall with brown sandy silt, **209**.

At the eastern limit of the trench was a second wall, **211**, which crossed the trench on a north/south orientation and was also constructed from red, un-frogged bricks (measuring 230mm x 115mm x 80mm ) bonded with a light grey lime mortar. The wall had been built within a construction cut, **213**, which had been backfilled around the wall with brown clayey silt, **212**.

Bedding layer **206**, which abutted walls **208** and **211**, partially sealed the backfills of their respective construction cuts, suggesting that the walls and floor surface were contemporary. However, differences in the materials used in the build of the walls may suggest that the walls were not constructed at the same time. The concrete floor surface **224** abutted wall **211** and is likely to have been contemporary.

A further wall, **214**, was encountered extending along the southern limit of the trench on an east/west orientation which had a north/south orientated element towards the western limit of the trench. The wall was constructed from red, un-frogged bricks (measuring 235mm x 110mm x 80mm) bonded with a light brown lime mortar. It had been constructed on poured concrete foundations within a construction cut, **216**, which had been partially backfilled with brown sandy silt, **215**. The stratigraphic relationship between walls **211** and **214** could not be confidently established within the confines of the trench due to the levels of mortar adhering to the brickwork. These walls are the remains of the former laundry which was demolished in recent years.



The wall foundations cut through layer **217**, mid brown sandy silt with frequent mortar and charcoal flecks along with limestone fragments. This layer was 0.52m thick and is likely to represent an *in situ* developed soil or similar material imported to the position as a result of landscaping activity.

**217** sealed a pit, **201**, with visible dimensions of 1.48m x 1.74m x 0.30m deep which had steep sides and a flat base. Primary fill, **220**, comprised light brown sandy silt which had been sealed by fill **219**. A small assemblage of Roman greyware pottery broadly dated to the 2-3<sup>rd</sup> century AD was recovered from the fill **219**, however clay pipe fragments recovered from the same deposit suggest that that the pit is of post-medieval origin and that the Roman material was of a residual nature. The function of the pit is uncertain, however, given that it is located in an area of late post-medieval garden relating to the former school at the site it is possible that the pit is related to the gardens either as a garden feature or for planting.

A shallow gully, **202**, orientated approximately north/south was encountered extending across the centre of the trench. It measured up to 0.80m wide and a maximum of 0.18m deep, although it was significantly shallower throughout much of its length. The gully had gradually sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill, **218**, comprising orange brown sandy silt and which was sealed by layer **217**. Pottery recovered from the fill of the gully suggests that it was of later 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century AD origin.

Layer **217** also sealed a pit, **203**, in the western half of the trench. An approximate quadrant of the pit was visible within the trench which measured 0.70m x 0.60m x 0.28m deep. The pit had moderately steep sides and a concave base and contained mid brown chalkey silt, **204**. A small assemblage of Roman pottery was recovered from **204** which included a flake of Central Gaulish samian ware of mid to late 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD origin.

A small, irregular shaped pit, **222**, was encountered within the western half of the trench. It measured 0.48m x 0.34m x 0.09m deep and was highly irregular in plan with equally irregular sides and base. It contained a single deposit, **223**, comprising orange brown sandy silt which produced a single sherd of Roman pottery dated to the later 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. The pit is interpreted as a posthole which may have been heavily disturbed either in antiquity or through recent root action.

The underlying geology comprising loose angular limestone fragments, **221**, was similar in nature to that encountered in Trench 1.

## Discussion

The function of the two modern pits recorded in Trenches 1 and 2. is uncertain. They may have been the result of small scale quarrying activity although the vertical side of **101** would be usual for such a feature. It is possible that they may relate to the gardens at the site, recorded on the deed of

settlement plan 1862 (Fig. 5) to transfer the site and buildings to the Diocese of Lincoln. The deed of settlement plan 1862 also depicts the original Diocesan training college, which has been extended on several occasions since then and its position in relation to the Newport earthwork. It is of note that this plan would suggest that the proposed new laundry will now lie outside the ditch.

The Roman archaeology was from the 2<sup>nd</sup> –4<sup>th</sup> century. Given the close proximity of Ermine Street, c.55m to the west (on the same alignment and almost directly beneath Newport Road), the pits, ditch and gully are likely to be at the back of strip buildings fronting onto Ermine Street, which would have been occupied for the duration of the Roman period. Gully **202** may mark the eastern boundary of a plot whilst ditch **102** could be its southern boundary. This means that the pits may have been excavated to take domestic waste. The pottery, mostly finewares, from these features suggests that associated buildings in the area were of high status.

### **Potential Impact of the Proposed Development on Archaeological Remains**

The present ground level, next to the Skinner Building, is the result of landscaping. Roman archaeology was recorded at a depth 61.94m O.D. in Trench 1 and 61.98m O.D. in Trench 2. This means the proposed extension will penetrate archaeological deposits if footings are deeper than 61.94m O.D., 0.76m below the current ground level.

### **Conclusion**

The evaluation has shown that features possibly relating to a 19<sup>th</sup> century formal garden and Roman archaeology related to activity along Ermine street still survive despite recent landscaping.

### **Acknowledgements**

LAS would like to thank LKR Architects LLP for their help. Fieldwork was carried out by Gavin Glover and Rob Schofield. The Roman pottery report was by B. Precious. This report was edited by Naomi Field and collated by Doug Young.

Gavin Glover and Mick McDaid  
Lindsey Archaeological Services  
October 2006

### **Reference**

Jones, M, Stocker, D and Vince, A. 2003, *The City by the Pool*, Lincoln Archaeological Studies No. 10.

Settlement map of 1862 (provided by Bishop Grosseteste college)

### **Contents of the Site Archive**

Context sheets  
Plans  
Sections  
Correspondence  
Photographs: LAS film nos. 06/133/29 - 35  
Specialist report

APPENDIX 1

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth
1	100	Layer	Natural	5m+	2m+	unknown
1	101	Cut	Garden feature?	2.0m+	2m+	1m+
1	102	Cut	Ditch	2m+	1.32m	0.32m
1	103	Fill	Fill of 101	2m+	1.30m	1m+
1	104	Fill	Fill of 101	2m+	0.20m	0.30m+
1	105	Fill	Fill of 101	2m+	0.40m	0.30m+
1	106	Fill	Fill of 101	2m+	1.80m+	0.40m+
1	107	Layer	Landscaping	5m+	2m+	0.35m
1	108	Layer	Subsoil	5m+	2m+	0.18m
1	109	Layer	Topsoil	5m+	2m+	0.28m
1	110	Fill	Fill of 102	2m+	1.32m	0.32m
2	200	Layer	Topsoil	5m+	2m+	0.16m
2	201	Cut	Pit	1.74m+	1.48m+	0.30m
2	202	Cut	Gully	2m+	0.80m	0.18m
2	203	Cut	Pit	0.70m+	0.60m+	0.28m
2	204	Fill	Fill of 203	0.70m+	0.60m+	0.28m
2	205	Layer	Demolition	3.80m+	2m+	0.28m
2	206	Layer	Floor surface			
2	207	Layer	Levelling	2m+	0.60m+	0.52m
2	208	Masonry	Wall	2m+	0.50m	0.24m
2	209	Fill	Fill of 210	2m+	0.50m	0.24m
2	210	Cut	Construction trench	2m+	0.50m	0.24m
2	211	Masonry	Wall	2m+	0.30m+	0.66m
2	212	Fill	Fill of 213	2m+	0.30m+	0.54m
2	213	Cut	Construction trench	2m+	0.30m+	0.54m
2	214	Masonry	Wall	2m+	0.54m	0.60m
2	215	Fill	Fill of 216	2m+	0.66m	0.40m
2	216	Cut	Construction trench	2m+	0.66m	0.40m
2	217	Layer	Levelling	2m+	c.2m	0.65m
2	218	Fill	Fill of 202	2m+	0.80m	0.18m
2	219	Fill	Fill of 201	1.74m+	1.48m+	0.18m
2	220	Fill	Fill of 201	1.74m+	1.48m+	0.12m
2	221	Layer	Natural	5m+	2m+	unknown
2	222	Cut	Posthole	0.48m	0.34m	0.09m
2	223	Fill	Fill of 222	0.48m	0.34m	0.09m
2	224	Layer	Concrete floor surface	2m+	0.16m+	unknown

APPENDIX 2

**A short archive report on the Roman pottery from Lincoln Bishop Grossteste Extension, Lincoln (LBG06) for Lindsey Archaeological Services**

**B J Precious Late - IRON Age and Roman Pottery Consultant**

06/10/06

*The pottery has been recorded according to the guidelines of the Study Group for Roman Pottery using the computer codes and pottery recording system developed for City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, and sherd count and weight in grams as the measures. The site archive has been collated using Microsoft Excel (lbgw06.xls).*

**The Roman pottery**

This evaluation produced eight sherds weighing 35 grams of Roman pottery from five contexts. A flake of Central Gaulish samian from **204** provides external dating for this area of the site to the mid to late 2nd century. This fits well with the date of a beaker sherd with clay, roughcast decoration from the South Carlton kilns from the same context. Other diagnostic pottery occurs in contexts **218** and **223** in the form of colour-coated beaker sherds with rouletted decoration from the Nene Valley kilns. Both of these sherds are in later 3rd to 4th century fabrics. Grey ware sherds from contexts **110** and **219** are undiagnostic, although the fabric suggests a broad 2nd to 3rd century rather than a 3rd to 4th century date.

Apart from an abraded beaker sherd from Context **204**, the pottery is in fair condition. One sherd is burnt through use as a cooking pot (context **110**) another is a flake of Central Gaulish samian that is burnt over the broken edge context **204**), indicating destruction. The average sherd/weight is low at 4 grams, indicative of redistribution of the material. There are no sherd joins.

The presence of finewares from Central Gaul, the Nene Valley and the South Carlton kilns suggest a site of some status. It is worth noting that products from the South Carlton kilns are relatively rare in Lincoln, but have been noted on previous excavations in the area of Bishop Grossteste College by the City of Lincoln Archaeology unit.

The pottery is in stable condition and should be retained for further work.

Appendix 2

Archive of the Roman pottery from Lincoln Bishop Grossteste extension for LAS

lbgw06 30/10/2006

CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	DEC	NOV	ALTER	DWGNO	DESCRIPTION	JOIN	SHS	WEIGHT
110	GREY	J			BURNT		BS NECK ; BROWN CORE		1	7
110	ZDATE						2-3C			
110	ZZZ						FINER THAN TYP LINC GREY			
204	SAMCG	BD			BURNTE		FLAKE BASAL; PROB 31		1	4
204	SCCC	BKRC	RCC		ABR		BS; MICA; WHTFB ORANGE BN CC		1	2
204	ZDATE						ML2			
204	ZZZ						NB DISTRIBUTION SOUTH CARLTON			
218	NVCC	BK	ROUZ				BS LFAB ORANGE BN		1	8
218	ZDATE						L3-4C			
218	ZZZ						NVCC ONLY			
219	GREY	J		1			BS SCRAP		2	4
219	GREY	J					BS2 FINE GROOVE + SHALLOW CORDON		1	9
219	ZDATE						2-3C			
223	NVCC	BK	ROUZ				BS LFAB		1	1
223	ZDATE						L3-4C			
223	ZZZ						NVCC ONLY			

**APPENDIX 3**



# Pottery Archive - Extension, Bishop Grossetestes College, Lincoln (LBGW06)

**ANNE BOYLE\***

context	cname	full name	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	part	date
219	LSW1	12th century Lincoln Glazed ware	jug	2	1	1	BS	mid 12th to early/mid 13th

\*Archaeological Project Services, The Old School, Cameron Street, Heckington, Sleaford, NG34 9RW

Monday, October 30, 2006

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# Ceramic Building Material Archive - Extension, Bishop Grossetestes College, Lincoln (LBGW06)

ANNE BOYLE\*

context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	description	date
103	BRK	Brick	orange fine sandy + lenses of ca + fe	1	165	struck upper; slop moulded; finely bedded; handmade; 73mm deep	18th to 20th
204	RTIL	Roman tile		1	21	mortar; probably tegula	

\*Archaeological Project Services, The Old School, Cameron Street, Heckington, Sleaford, NG34 9RW  
Telephone: 01529 461618 Fax: 01529 469444 Email: enquiries@apsarchaeology.co.uk

Monday, October 30, 2006

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APPENDIX 4

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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[Printable version](#)

**OASIS ID: lindseya1-19864**

## Project details

Project name	Bishop Grosseteste College, Lincoln.
Short description of the project	An evaluation was undertaken at Bishop Grosseteste College to assess the potential archaeological impact of an extension to the Skinner Building. Trench 1 revealed modern landscaping deposits which sealed a modern pit, possibly a garden feature, associated with gardens recorded on a map of 1862. A 2nd -3rd century Roman ditch was also present. Trench 2 exposed demolition material derived from brick walls and an associated floor. Another garden feature and a Roman gully and two pits, dating from 2nd -4th century, were also exposed within the trench.
Project dates	Start: 26-09-2006 End: 05-10-2006
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	LBGW 06 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	2006.231 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Test Pits'
Development type	Large/ medium scale extensions to existing structures (e.g. church, school, hospitals, law courts, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

## Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE LINCOLN LINCOLN Bishop Grosseteste College, Lincoln.
Postcode	LN2 4XX
Study area	200.00 Square metres

Site coordinates SK 97767 72923 53.2440284847 -0.534730174235 53 14 38 N 000 32 05 W  
Point

Height OD Min: 61.50m Max: 63.00m

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator Naomi Field

Project director/manager M. MCDAID

Project supervisor Gavin Glover

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body Bishop Grosseteste College

**Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient LCNCC

Physical Archive ID 2006.231

Physical Contents 'Ceramics'

Digital Archive Exists? No

Paper Archive recipient LCNCC

Paper Archive ID 2006.231

Paper Contents 'Ceramics'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Drawing','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Unspecified Archive'

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Bishop Grosseteste College, Lincoln.

Author(s)/Editor(s) G. Glover and M. McDaid

Other bibliographic details LAS Report 944

Date 2006

Issuer or publisher LAS

Place of issue or publication Lincoln

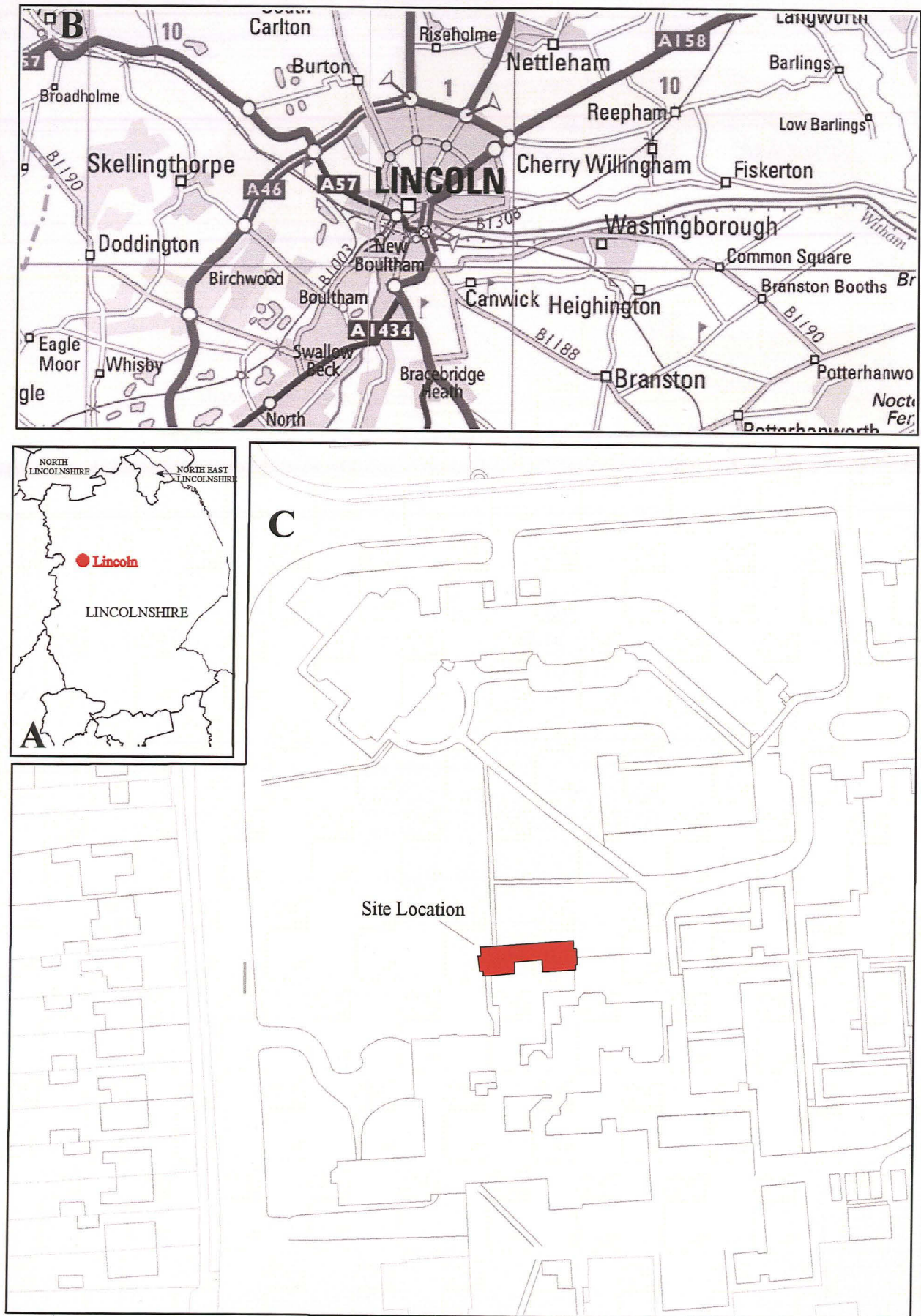
Description A4 Spiral bound developer report

Entered by doug young (doug@linarch.co.uk)

Entered on 30 October 2006

**OASIS:** Please e-mail English Heritage for OASIS help and advice  
© ADS 1996-2006 Created by Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham, email Last modified Friday 3  
February 2006  
Cite only: <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/oasis/print.cfm> for this page

**THE FIGURES**



**Fig. 1** Location of the proposed development site, Bishop Grosseteste College, Lincoln. (b) 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey Map (c) based on a 1:1250 map. Crown copyright ©, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence number AL 10002165.



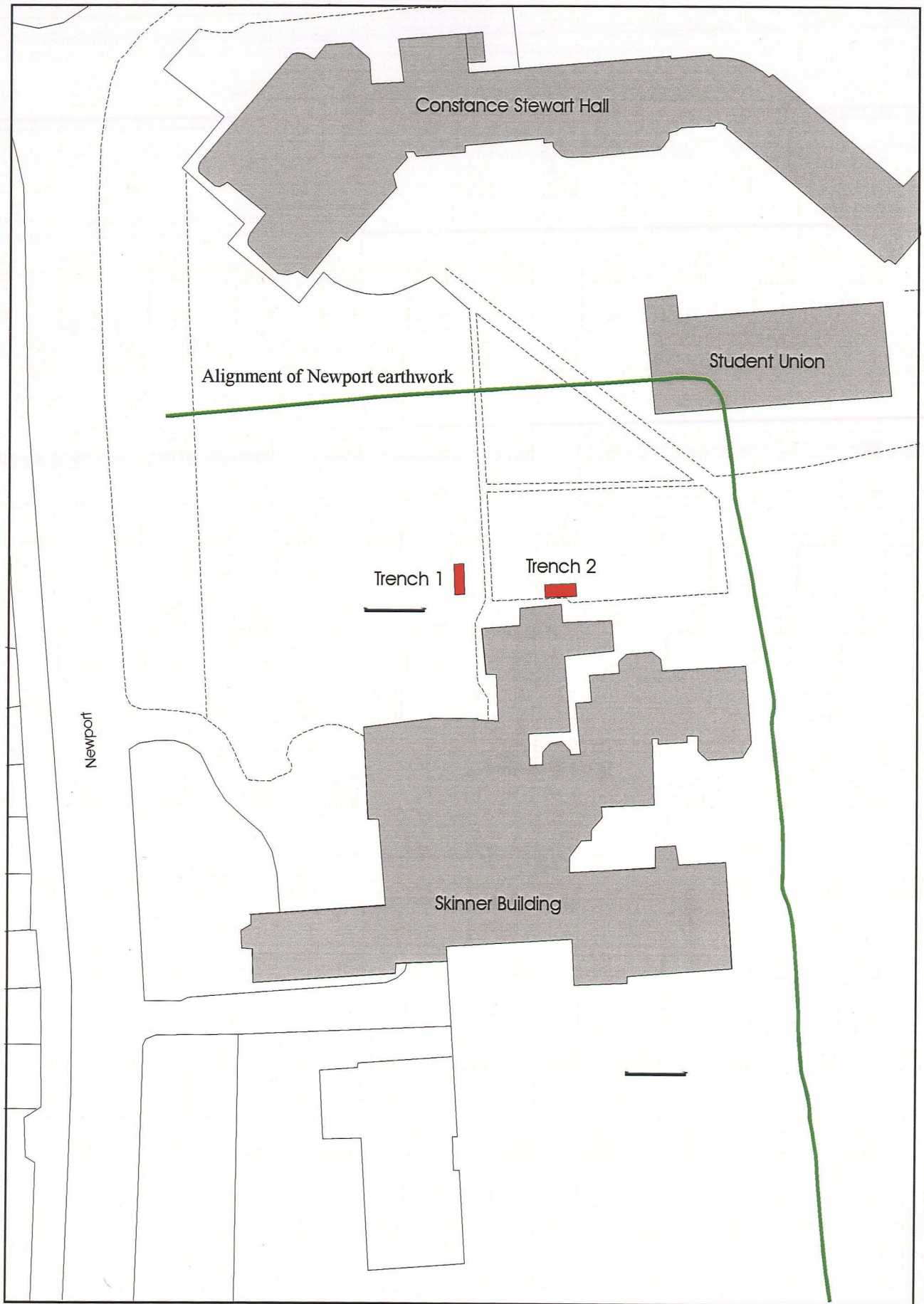


Fig 2 Location of evaluation trenches.

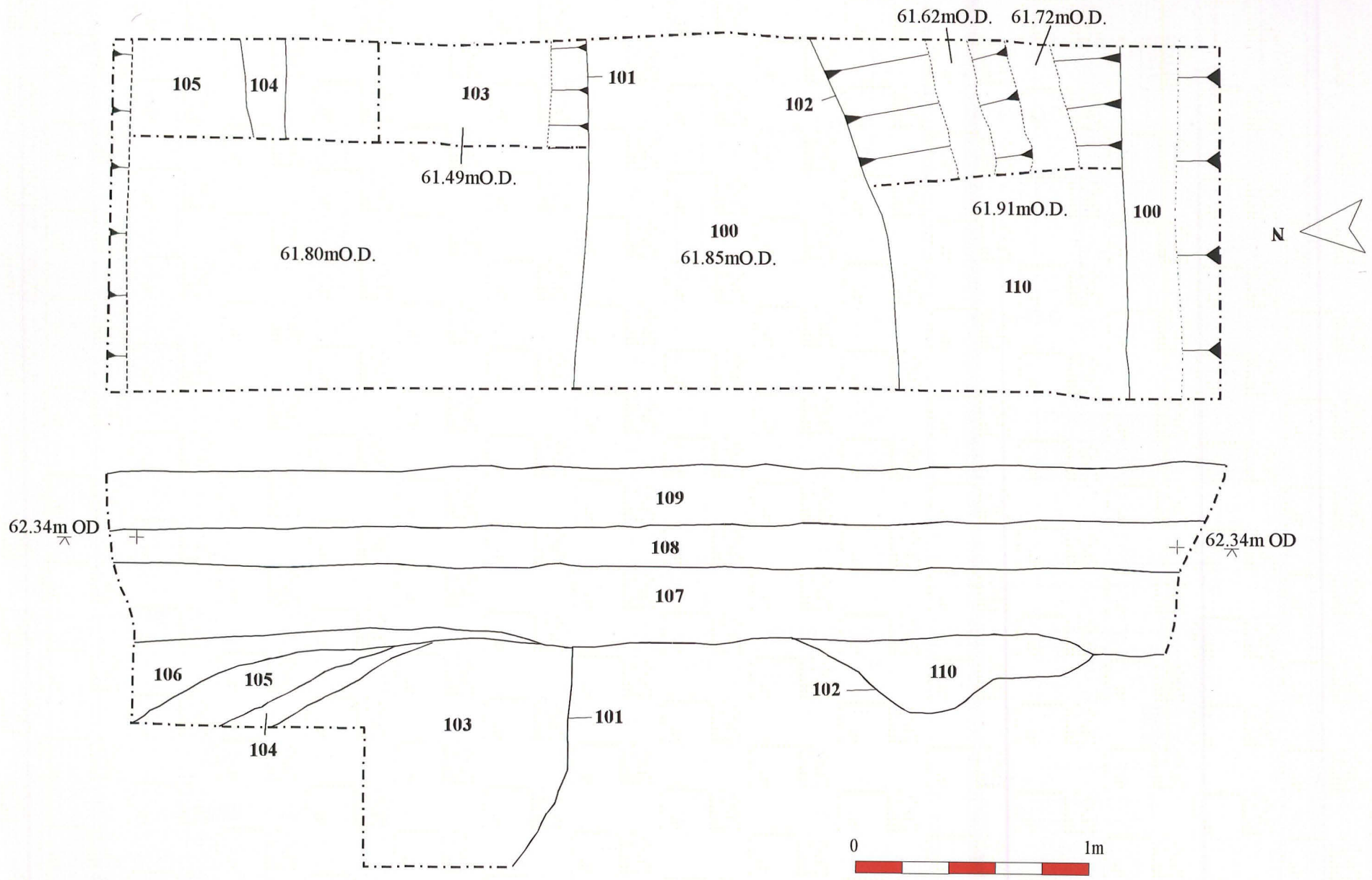


Fig. 3 Plan and section of Trench 1.

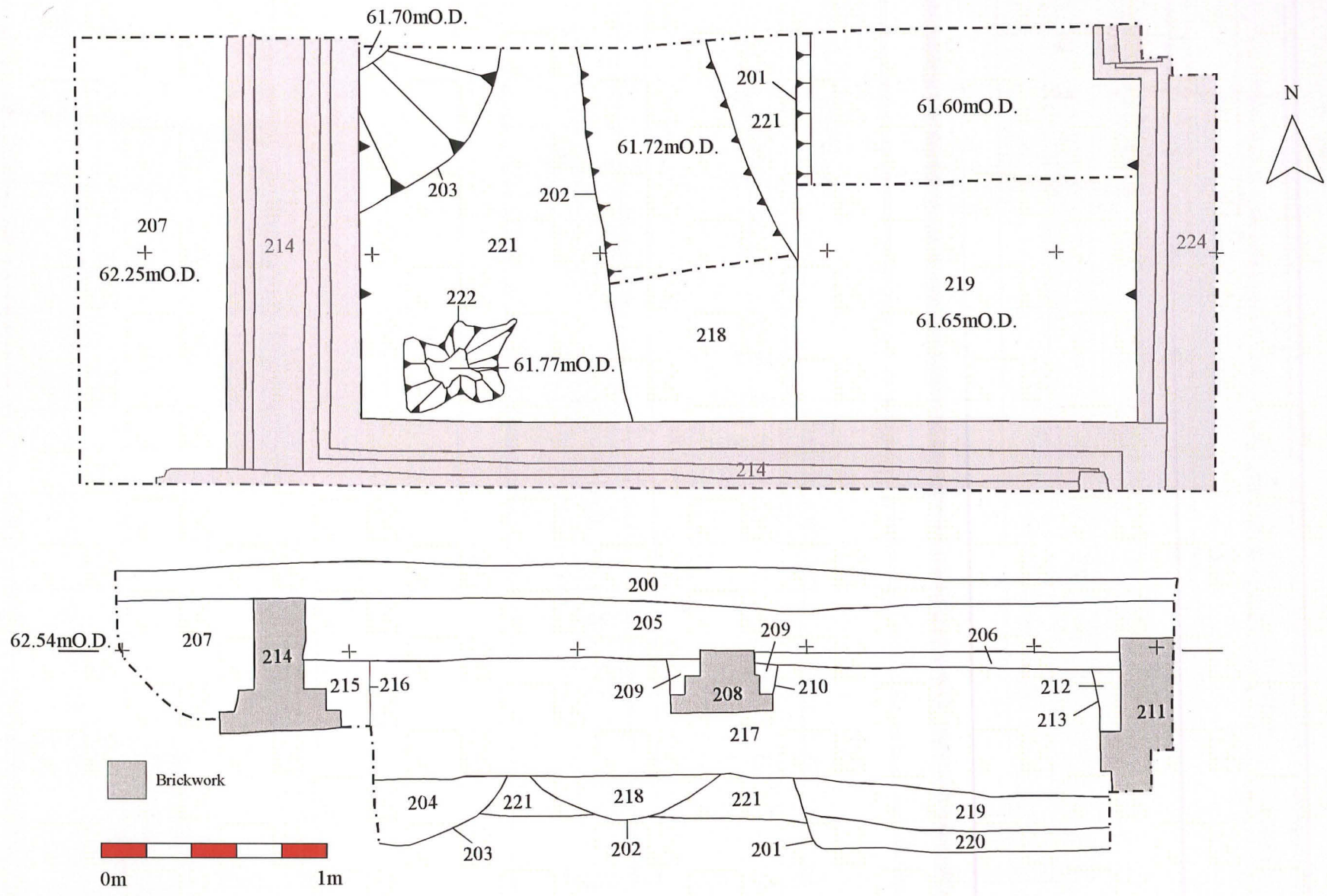


Fig. 4 Plan and section of Trench 2.

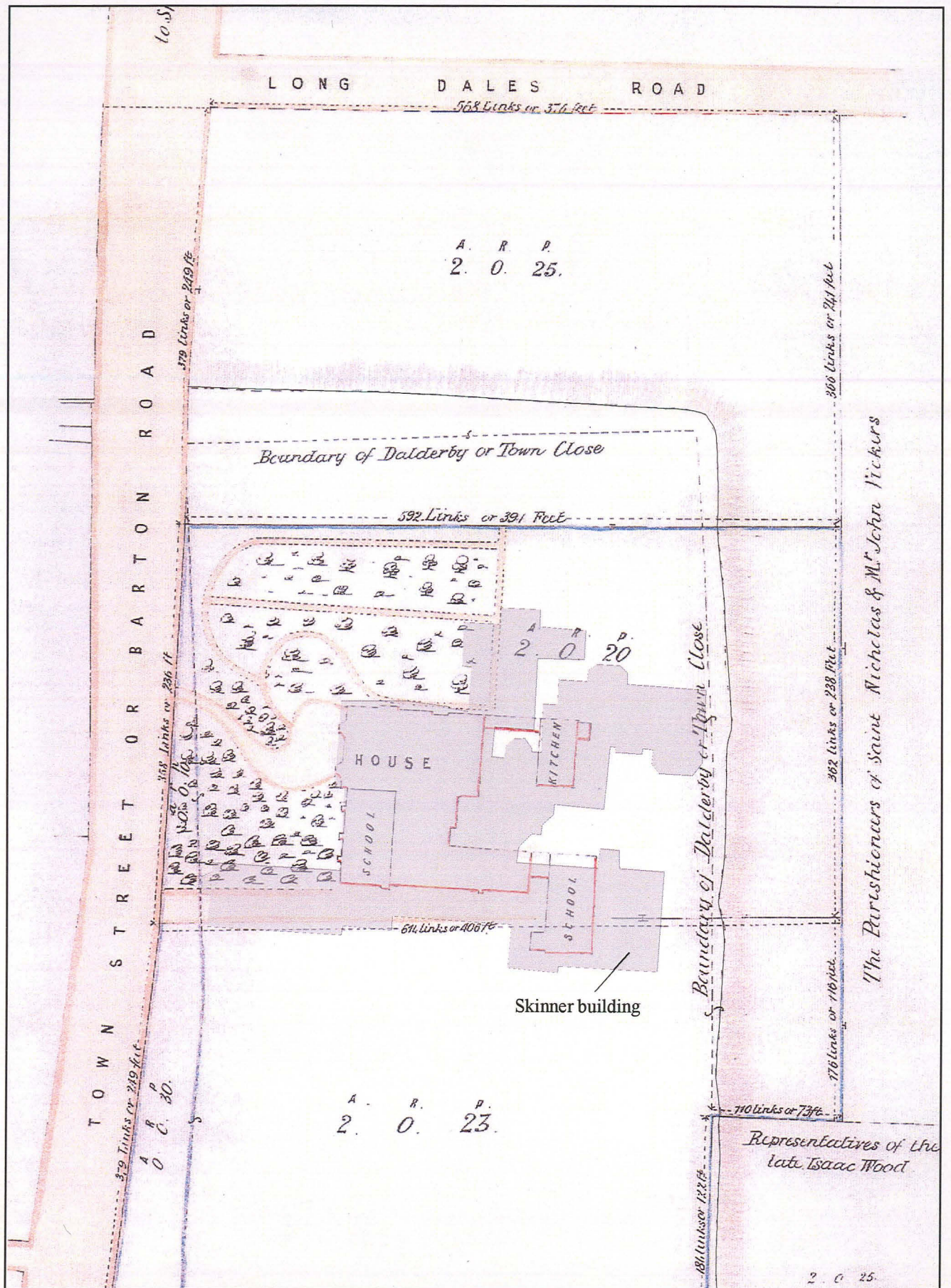


Fig. 5 Deed of settlement map of 1862 with the extent of the Skinner building superimposed.

THE PLATES



PI. 1 Location of Trench 1, looking south-east.



PI. 2 Trench 1, post excavation, looking south.



Pl. 3 Trench 1, ditch 102, west facing section. Scale 0.30m.



Pl. 4 Location of Trench 2, looking south.



Pl. 5 Trench 2, post excavation, looking east. Scales 0.50m and 1m.