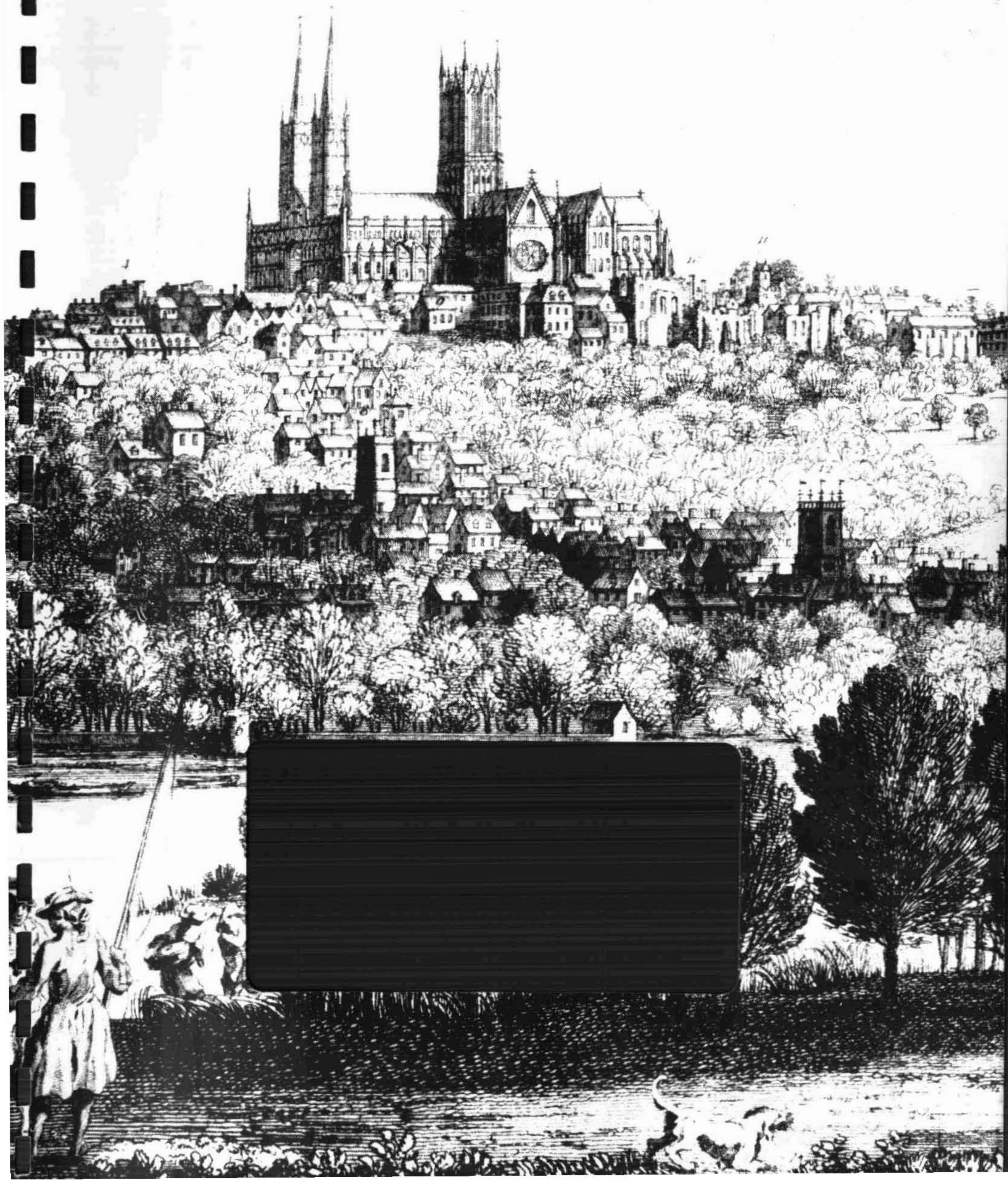


CITY OF
◇ LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY ◇
UNIT



A
Report to
Lincolnshire County Council

January 1994

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**PROPOSED NEW FIRE STATION,
NEWPORT, LINCOLN**
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING IN
CONJUNCTION WITH GEOTECHNICAL
SURVEY**
By L Donel
CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 79

**PROPOSED NEW FIRE STATION, NEWPORT,
LINCOLN**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING IN CONJUNCTION WITH
GEOTECHNICAL SURVEY.**

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PROPOSED NEW FIRE STATION, NEWPORT, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING IN CONJUNCTION WITH GEOTECHNICAL SURVEY

Introduction

Prior to re-development for the proposed new Lincoln North Fire Station on Newport, the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU) was asked by Land and Buildings consultancy, Lincolnshire County Council, to undertake, in conjunction with geotechnical investigation, the recording of trial holes at the site of the old Broadway Service Station.

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 Unit's Article of Association, the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists and The Management of Archaeology Projects (English Heritage, 1991)

Location of Site (fig. 1)

The site lies alongside the Roman Ermine Street. Situated in the medieval suburb of Newport, it is in the immediate vicinity of the medieval church and cemetery of St. John whose precise location is unknown, but which is thought to have lain partly on the line of the medieval road.

Previous Archaeological Investigation

Information obtained from the County SMR records burials being disturbed during the installation of fuel tanks for the service station (Fig. 1). More recently, human remains were recovered from trench excavation in 1992-93, for water mains replacement in the road directly across from the site. Over fifty inhumations, both simple and cist burials, were recorded in an 80m. stretch between the area of the service station and Broadway.

Archaeological Evaluation

Introduction

This evaluation was carried out on 15th Dec. 1993, by means of three trenches excavated for the purpose of geotechnical investigation, under the joint direction of Lincs. Labs. Ltd. and CLAU. Results were recorded by a team from the C.L.A.U. (site records are held in the C.L.A.U. archive under code NP93).

Objectives

The evaluation was designed to;

1. identify the depth, nature and condition of survival of any archaeological remains in the area of proposed development.
2. assess the importance of any remains encountered.
3. assess the probable impact of development on surviving remains in terms of proposed foundation design and recommend modifications to same which would enhance the preservation of remains in situ.
4. assess the need for further archaeological excavation or recording prior to, or during the construction phase, recommend the appropriate course of action.

Methodology

Three trial trenches were mechanically excavated in the locations shown in Fig. 2. Trenches were positioned in such a way as to be mutually beneficial to both the geotechnical and archaeological investigations.

Each trench was approximately 2.0m long x 1.5m wide x c.2.5m deep.

Detailed recording of the stratigraphic sequence of deposits and archaeological features was undertaken by both graphic and photographic means, and artefactual material was collected for analysis and dating.

Archaeological Results

Trial Hole 1 (Figs. 3, 4, 5)

Lying between 1.4m and 2.5m deep was a deposit of natural sand and clay (108). This was sealed by a medium compact orange sandy clay (107). The clay (108) had also been cut by several cist burials which lay in the west facing section of the trial hole. These burials were recorded but not excavated as they were not directly under threat due to the excavations. Sealing (107) were cists (104) and (105) and layer (102) which acted partly as fill for grave (105). Although no skeletal material was associated with (105), there was a skull (118) sealing (104). The rest of the burial lay in the west facing section. Sealing skeleton (118) was another cist burial (106). A child's skull and chest area (117) were recovered from this grave. (104) also lay partly in the west facing section. Lying to the south of (104) was (103), the fourth cist burial. It is difficult to determine whether this burial was contemporary with or later than (104). It did appear as if the bottom of (103) partly lay over the surround stones of (104). (103) and (106) appear to have cut layer (102). However, there were no visible indications for a grave cut. (102) consisted of loose dark brown clayey soil with brick and skeletal material within the deposit. The skeletal material consisted of inhumations without cist that had been disturbed probably during the building of a brick structure whose remains could still be recognised in the south facing section. (102) was sealed by the limestone chipping make-up (101) for tarmac (100).

Trial Hole 2 (Fig. 6)

The lowest layer recorded was a compact deposit of natural limestone (114). This was sealed by a loose grey earth with limestone fragments (13). Overlying (113) was medium compact yellow/orange sandy clay (112). (112) was sealed by a layer of compact dark brown clay (111). It was subsequently sealed by (110) a dark brown subsoil with pockets of limestone chips. (110) was sealed by turf (109).

Trial Hole 3 (Fig. 7)

The lowest layer in this trench was natural limestone (116). This deposit was recorded at a depth of 2.2m below the surface. Sealing (116) was (115) a deposit of loose black soil mixed with brick, tile, pot, metal, paper and general debris material. (115) appears to be land infill material. Sealing (115) was turf (109).

Discussion

The presence of cist burials in Trial Hole 1 indicates that the graveyard associated with St. Johns Church extended over part of the site but its boundaries are still not known. The density of burial seen in both the trial trench and the work in the road would indicate that there is a high probability that the number of inhumations could be quite considerable.

Analysis of 19th century maps indicates that the presence of a quarry on the site to the west of the present buildings. There does not appear to be quarry activity at the south-western part of the site. This could mean that preservation of graveyard in this area would be quite good. The maps also indicated buildings that appear only to have disturbed material to a depth of 500mm.

The dump material in Trench 3 and the redeposited material of Trench 2 corroborate the map evidence for quarry activity, the material recorded indicating late land infill.

Conclusions and Recommendations

It is possible that a considerable number of medieval and post medieval burials may be present in part of the proposed development area. Roman burials may also be present. The installation of fuel tanks probably destroyed all remains in those specific locations, but it is possible that there may still be intact stratigraphical sections that might prove useful for recording once the tanks are removed.

As foundation information on the standing buildings is not known at the time of writing this report it is difficult to comment on what destruction may or may not have been caused by the construction of the service station.

Trial Hole 1 showed evidence of later disturbance probably caused by 19th century buildings. However, this disturbance only affected deposits to a depth of 500mm. There is the possibility that not only burials may survive but that remains of the church may also still be present.

As far as we are aware the site is not designated as a disused burial ground as defined by the Disused Burial Ground Act 1884 and 1981, but this should be verified. If burials are likely to be affected by development, the statutory provisions of the Burial Act 1857, in particular Section 25 which regulates the exhumation of human remains by means of conditional licence, would apply.

We suggest that appropriate parties meet to give detailed consideration to the removal of existing fuel tanks; proposed siting of new structures; foundation design and methodology; enabling groundwork; location and depth of buried services; and, if necessary, to design an appropriate, and cost-effective, strategy to mitigate destruction of remains and avoid delay during the construction phase.

APPENDIX 1

List of Contexts and their Description

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Trench</i>
100	Tarmac	1
101	Loose limestone frags./brick debris	1
102	Compact dark brown clayey earth	1
103	Cist burial	1
104	Cist burial	1
105	Cist burial	1
106	Cist burial	1
107	Med. compact orange sandy clay	1
108	Med. compact light cream/yellow sandy clay	1
109	Turf	2
110	Loose limestone chippings	2
111	Compact dark brown clay	2
112	Med. compact orange sandy clay with l/s chips	2
113	Loose l/s frags. - dark grey sandy clay	2
114	Loose black soil	3
115	Natural	3
116	Skeleton	1
117	Skeleton	1

APPENDIX 2

72.93
NP93
NEWPORT FIRE STATION: FINDS ASSESSMENT

1. Introduction

Only a very small quantity of material was recovered during work at this site, none of which merited registration; this is listed below.

Iron 4
Wood 1

2. Archive

All finds were recorded using the standard CLAU recording forms and all data entered onto the computer using the CLAU thesaurus of bulk material codes. All ironwork was X-rayed.

3. The Finds

Unstratified material includes a nail, a piece of bent iron wire, and a wooden spike with perforated head, almost certainly all of very recent date. Two iron finds from (102) are both modern, and the only other stratified piece was a small fragment of totally corroded and unrecognisable iron from (104).

4. Recommendation

None of the material merits further work, nor is it worth retaining.

5. Bulk Materials, listed by context

+,NAIL,1,(TH1)
+,OMIS,1,IRON WIRE (TH1)
+,OMIS,1,WOOD SPIKE PERF TERM (TH1)
102,NAIL,1,MOD;LGE BOLT W SCREW THRD (TH1)
102,OMIS,1,IRON ROD/BAR? (TH1)
104,OMIS,1,FERROUS CORROSION IN SOIL (TH1)

JEM
18/01/94

APPENDIX 2

DESCRIPTION OF FINDS

CONTEXT NO.	DESCRIPTION	TRENCH NO.
100	-	1
101	-	1
102	-	1
103	-	1
104	Roman pot - C2nd-3rd	1
105	-	1
106	-	1
107	Roman pot - C3rd	1
108	-	1
109	-	2
110	-	2
111	-	2
112	Roman pot - C2nd-3rd	2
113	-	2
114	-	2
115	brick, tile, glass, paper, metal	3
116	-	3
117	-	1
118	-	1

APPENDIX 3

Newport Fire Station Mus. Acc. No.- 72.93

Archive List

Site Notebook

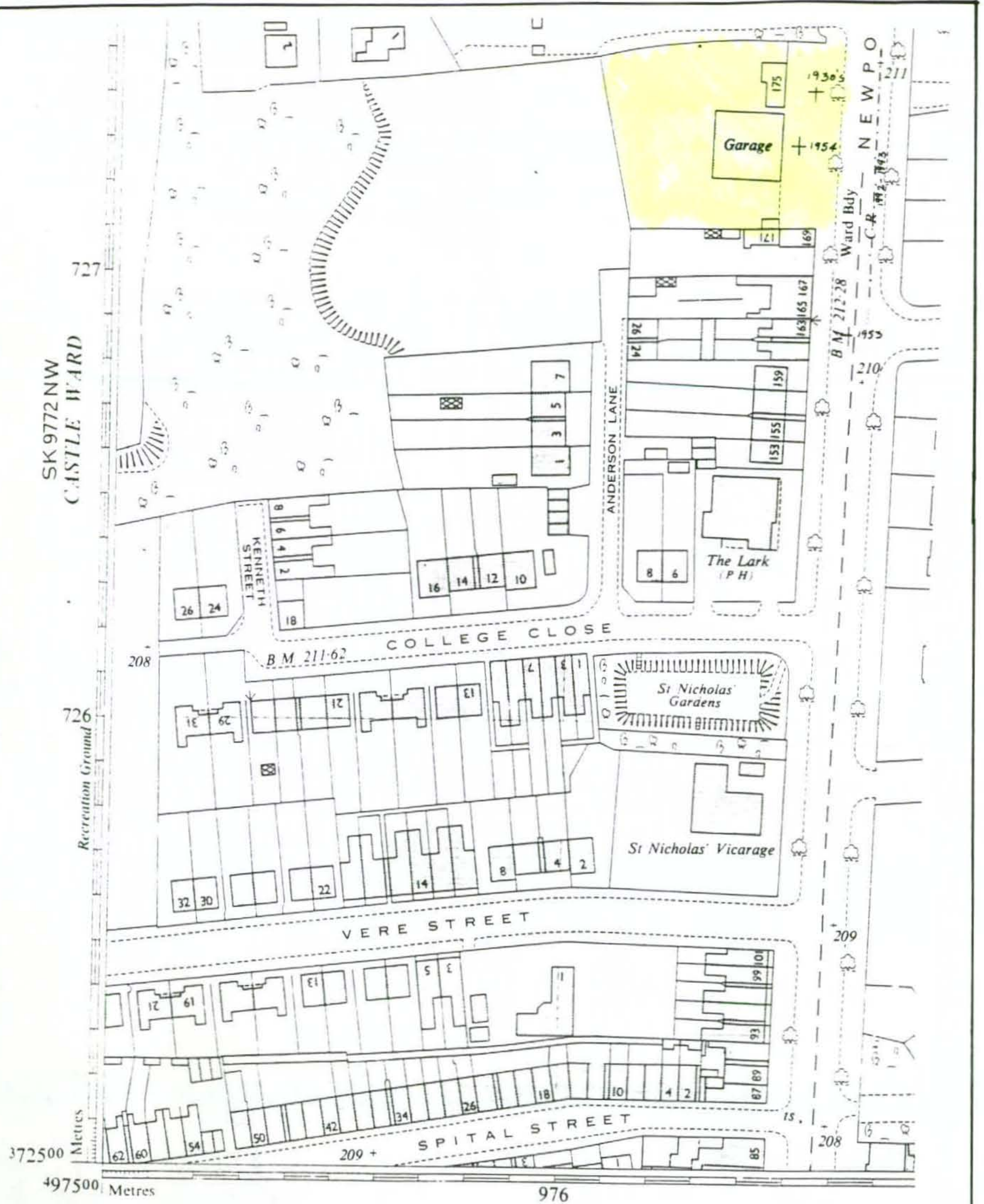
Context Sheets

Colour transparencies

Plan of site showing evaluation trenches

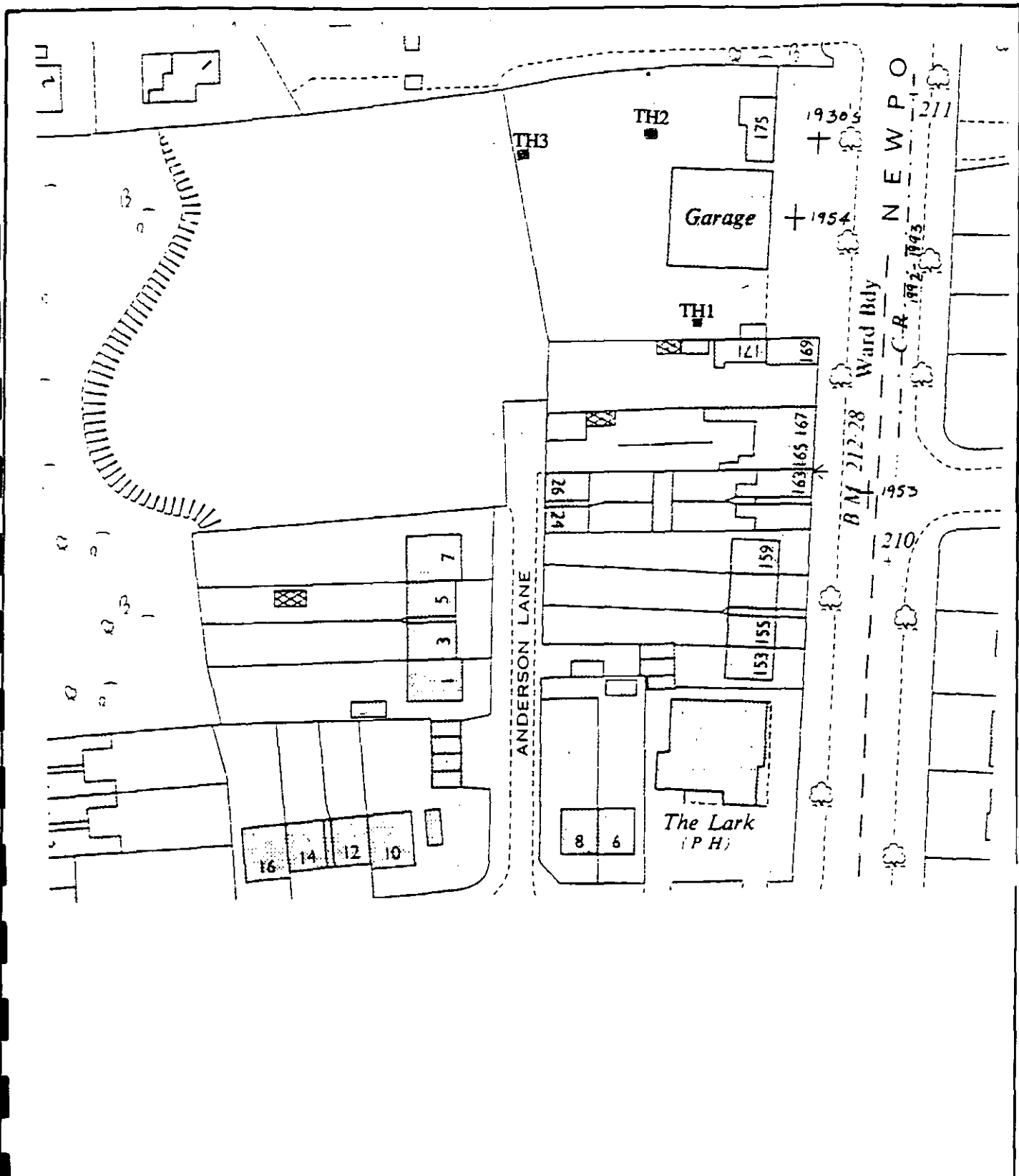
Trench sections:

Evaluation report



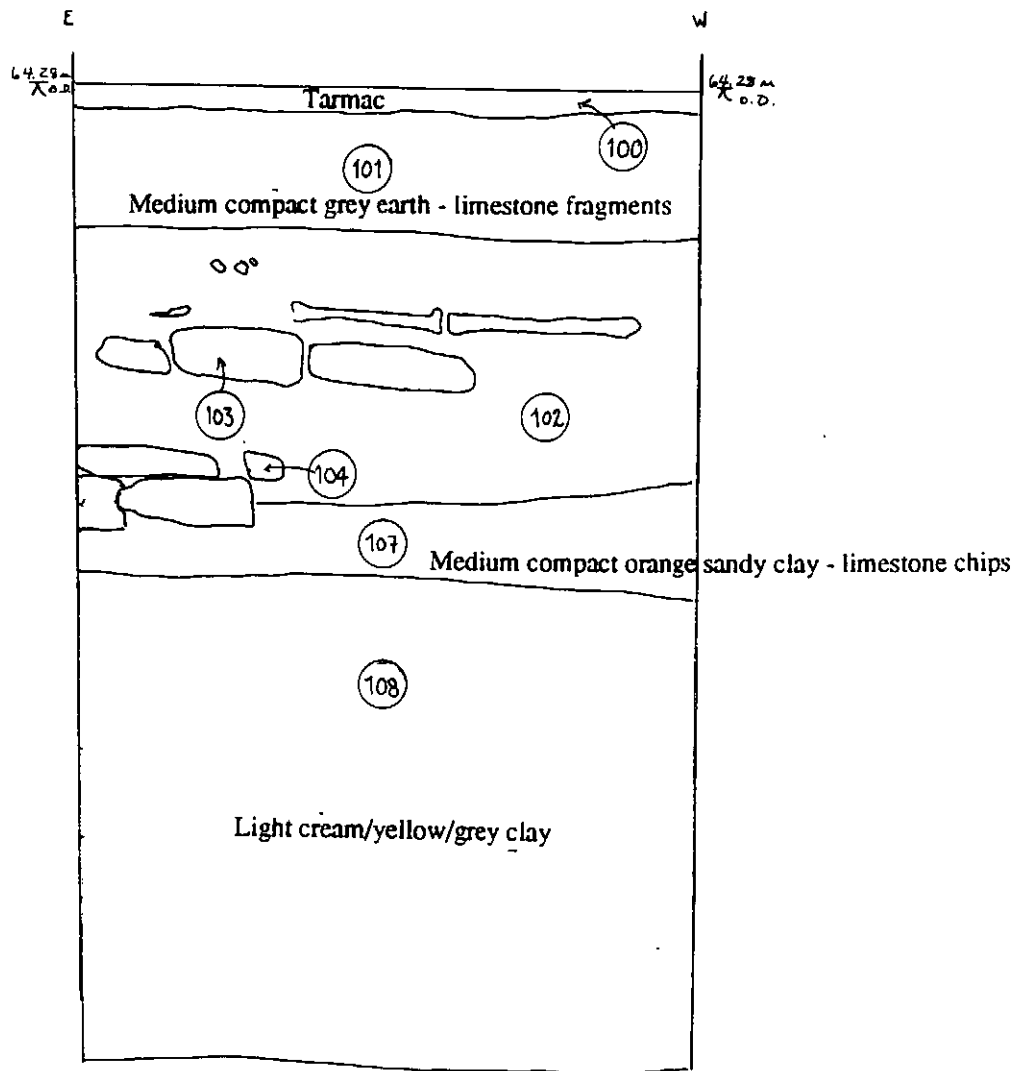
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CLIENT:	Lincolnshire County Council	
DESCRIPTION:	Location plan of site	
SCALE:	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY:	CHECKED:	DATE: 16/12/93
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:	72.93	

Fig.1



CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
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DESCRIPTION:	Trench location plan	
SCALE:	ARCHIVE NO:	
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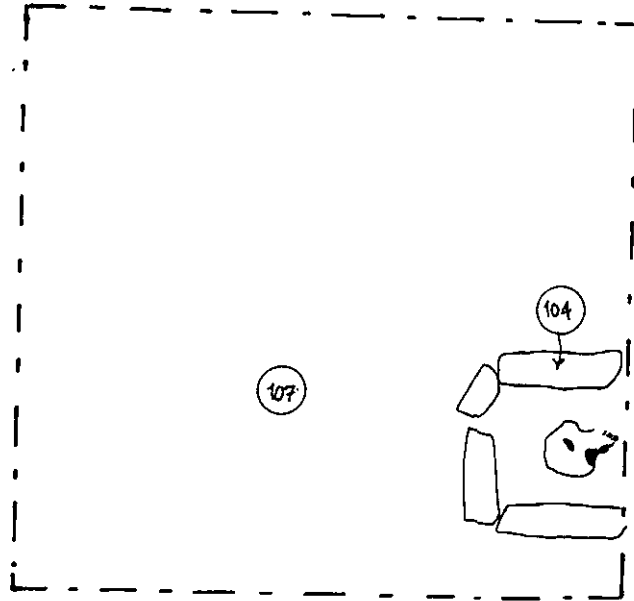
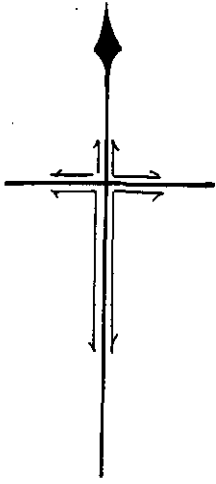
Fig.2



L.O.E.

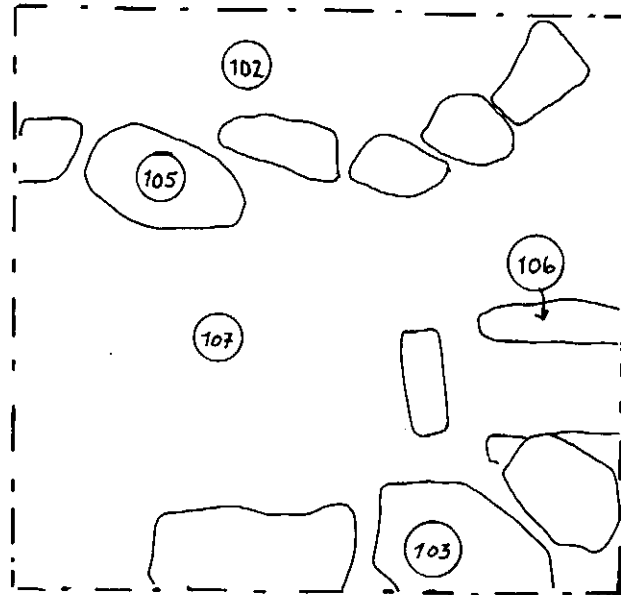
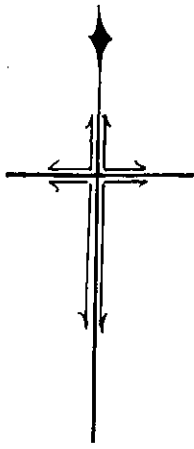
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DESCRIPTION: East - west section		
TH1		
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MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 72.93		

Fig.3



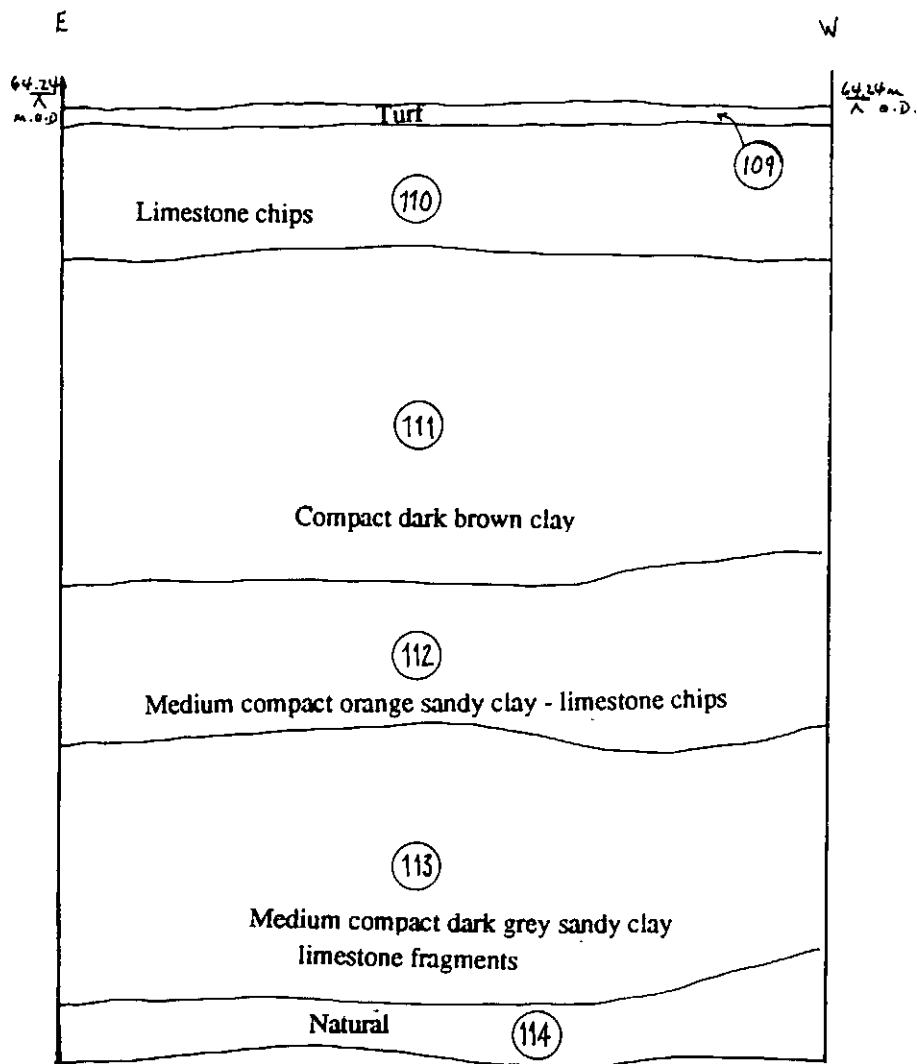
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DESCRIPTION: TH1		
SCALE: 1:20	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY: LGD	CHECKED:	DATE: 16/12/93
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:		72.93

Fig.4



CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
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CLIENT: Lincolnshire County Council		
DESCRIPTION:		
TH1		
SCALE: 1:20	ARCHIVE NO:	
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MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 72.93		

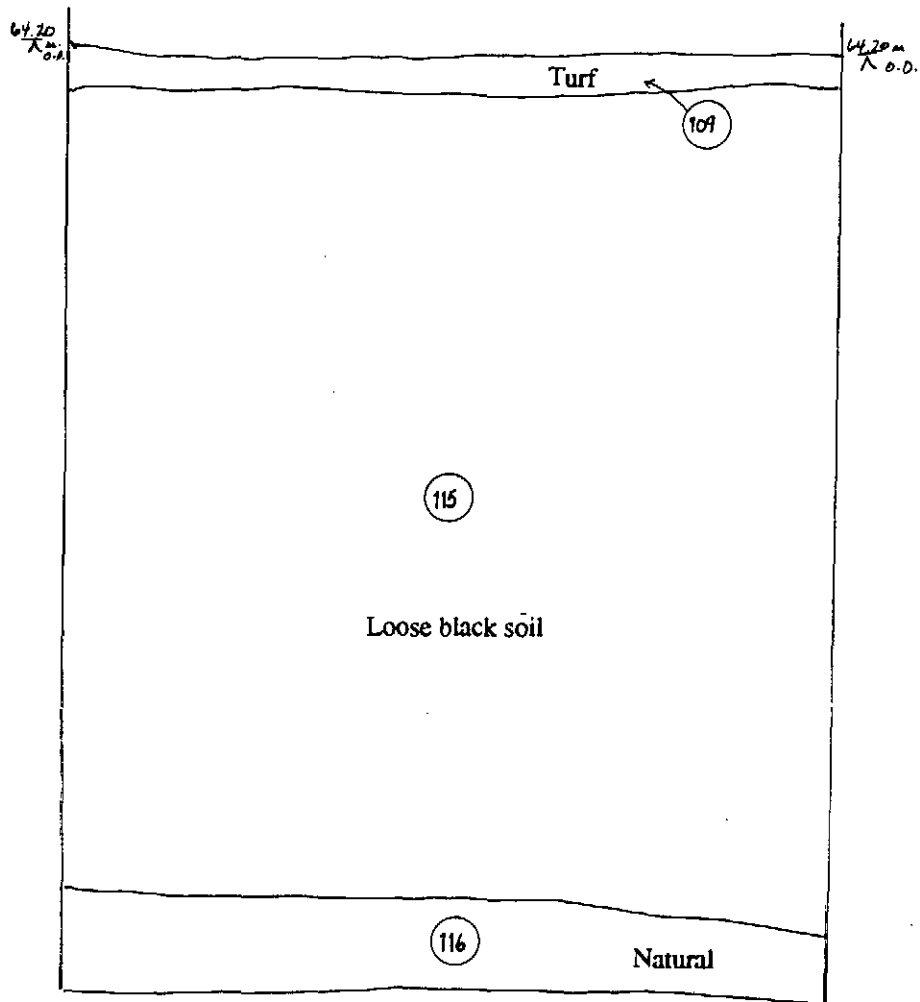
Fig.5



L.O.E.

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
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CLIENT: Lincolnshire County Council		
DESCRIPTION: East - west section		
TH2		
SCALE: 1:20	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY: LGD	CHECKED:	DATE: 16/12/93
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 72.93		

Fig.6



L.O.E.

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
SITE CODE: NP93	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT: Lincolnshire County Council		
DESCRIPTION: East - west section		
TH3		
SCALE: 1:20	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY: LGD	CHECKED:	DATE: 16/12/93
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 72.93		

Fig.7

