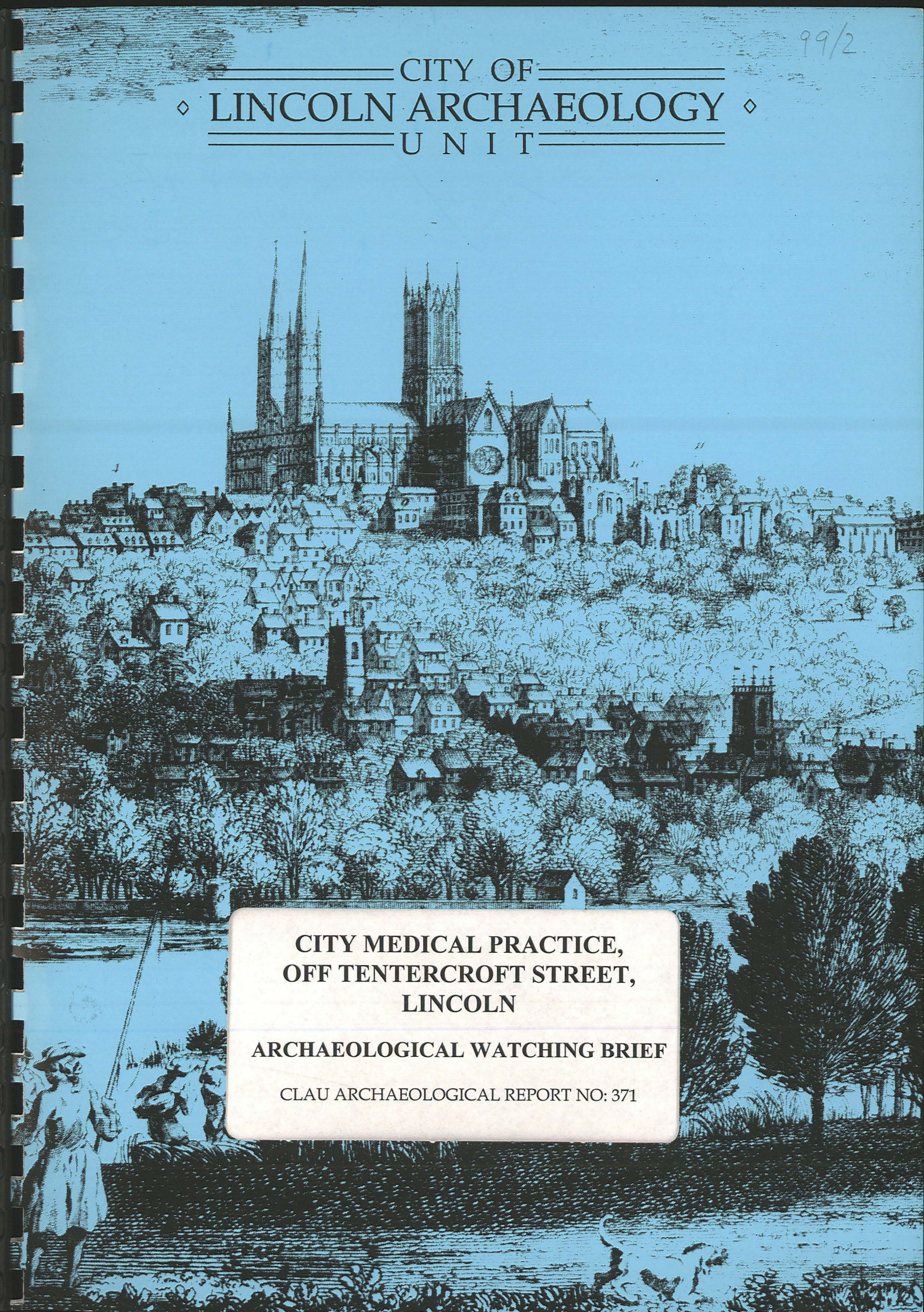


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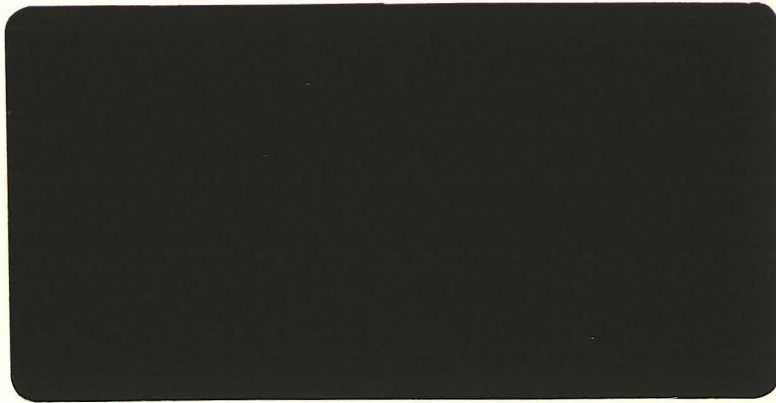
CITY OF
◇ LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY ◇
UNIT



**CITY MEDICAL PRACTICE,
OFF TENTERCROFT STREET,
LINCOLN**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 371



Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section
05 FEB 99
ack 5/2/99

A
Report to
The City Medical Practice

February, 1999

Prepared by

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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**CITY MEDICAL PRACTICE,
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LINCOLN**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Between 15th January and 18th February 1998, a representative from the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit undertook a watching brief for Manton & Bartle Architects on behalf of the City Medical Practice, The Surgery, 36 Ripon Street, Lincoln, during groundworks associated with the construction of a new medical centre. The site lies on the west side of Sincil Dyke, between Tentercroft Street and Portland Street. To its west lie the County and Magistrates Courts, and beyond, the High Street.

One of the primary archaeological objectives of the watching brief was to try and establish the nature of earlier occupation in this area of Wigford. Excavations during 1987 immediately to the west of the site had revealed indications of settlement dating from the Roman and medieval periods. The Sincil Dyke, thought to be of Roman or Medieval origin, formed the site's eastern boundary. It was hoped that groundworks for the new medical centre might provide information relating to a date for its construction. In the event, the watching brief failed to reveal enough information to enable any conclusions to be made regarding the nature of occupation on the site, or information relating to the construction of Sincil Dyke.

CITY MEDICAL PRACTICE, OFF TENTERCROFT STREET, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Between 15th January and 18th February 1998, the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU) undertook a watching brief for of Manton & Bartle Architects, on behalf of The City Medical Practice, The Surgery, 36 Ripon Street, Lincoln, during groundworks associated with the construction of a new medical centre (see Fig. 1).

The site is located at SK 9758 7068 in the "Wigford" area of Lincoln and lies on the west side of the Sincil Dyke, between Tentercroft Street and Portland Street. To its west lie the County and Magistrates Courts, and beyond, the High Street. The name of "Wigford" is derived from that of the medieval suburb (Cameron 1985, 45-6), the boundaries of which are formed by the River Witham to the west and north, and by the Sincil Dyke to the south and east (a man-made waterway, possibly Roman or medieval in origin).



Plate I: General view of the medical centre as it nears completion. The exposed section in the foreground consists of recently deposited material laid down during the construction of the railway.

Lincoln lies over several well-defined geological zones. The City itself is situated at a gap in the Jurassic Limestone ridge (known as the "Lincoln Edge") which contains the course of the river Witham. The Witham valley contains a complex sequence of Pleistocene and Holocene gravels, silts and clays. Reclamation has taken place along the banks of both the Witham and Brayford Pool since the Roman period. The majority of Wigford lies on a subsoil of river terrace sand and gravel, giving way to alluvium near to the river. The area is very low-lying at a fairly uniform height of 7m OD. "Natural" (i.e. geological deposits) on the sites so far investigated consisted of yellow river terrace sand, lying up to c.4.0m below modern ground level.

Summary Archaeological and Historical Background

There has been little opportunity so far to investigate the origins of settlement in the area of the site, and little is known of the prehistoric period in Lincoln apart from slight traces of Late Iron Age settlement (1st. century BC/AD) Within a decade or so of the Roman invasion of AD 43, Legio IX Hispana established a hilltop fortress. Some evidence of early activity (early tombstones and cremations) has been discovered to the south, mainly in the area of Monson Street, and although the focus of settlement at this time was the fortress, a large area to the south would have been required for grazing, industrial activities for provisioning the military, and probably a small civil settlement.

The frontier subsequently moved further north and the fortress was abandoned by c.AD 80; Lincoln then gained 'Colonia' status in the late 1st century and a major public works programme had begun by the beginning of the 2nd century. Outside the walled Colonia, to the south, reclamation of the marshy ground alongside Ermine Street enabled the development of the suburb, with commercial properties fronting the street from the late 2nd century onwards. Urban life in Wigford disappeared in the late or very late 4th century.

Resettlement of Wigford probably began at some time during the early 10th century and has been continuous ever since. Excavations in the area of the site ie, away from the High Street, have been few, and as a result, little is known of the nature of occupation. Excavations prior to the construction of the new Magistrates Court and later County Court in 1987-90, revealed extensive occupation of the area close to the High Street (ZE87). This occupation although not fully investigated, included a stone building probably associated with a series of pits and cobbled surfaces near the High Street, the latest of which dated to the 13th or early 14th century. The principal discovery of this period, sealing the demolished building, was the remains of two 14th-century pottery kilns and a later, 15th-century tile kiln and associated structures. This industry may have been associated with the Carmelite friary, which lay to the west of the road (ZEB87). To the east was evidence of deposits deliberately laid down to extend the area available for occupation.

A trench dug in order to establish a date for the construction of Sincil Dyke was excavated immediately to its west, 20m to the north of the proposed medical centre (ZE87). Unpromising results and problems with water meant that this trench had to be abandoned at an early stage. Further investigations, during 1992, in advance of redevelopment, on land opposite Lincoln City football ground (Knight Place - KP92), revealed evidence of an c.8m wide dyke, running parallel to, and west of, the present line of Sincil Dyke. Finds recovered from the tertiary fills of this feature, indicated a 17th century date for its eventual infilling. Although unproved, this ditch is thought to be a predecessor to Sincil Dyke. Its postulated course suggests that it may continue through the area where the new medical centre lies.

Lincoln St. Mark's station (originally known as the Midland station) was opened in 1846 and formed the terminus for the Midland Railway line from Nottingham. The line was extended, in 1847, crossing the High Street to link with the Manchester, Sheffield & Lincolnshire Railway (later Great Central Railway) line to Market Rasen and the Humber port of Grimsby. The 1887 First Edition OS Series Sheet LXX.7.22 shows a large railway goods shed, now demolished, occupying the site of the new medical centre (see Plate D). Later in 1923 the station passed into the ownership of the London, Midland and Scottish Railway, and eventually in 1948, came under the control of British Railways following the nationalisation of the railways. The station finally closed in 1985, when its services were transferred to Lincoln Central station.

2.0 AIMS & METHODOLOGY

The aims of the watching brief were:

A. to produce an archive record of deposits and remains generally within the constraints of the groundwork contractors' working methods and programme as related to the project design, with due regard to current Health and Safety legislation.

B. to produce a report on the archaeological importance of the discoveries.
C. to produce a project archive from which the potential for further study and academic research could be assessed.

D. to provide information for accession to the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the Lincoln Urban Archaeological Database (UAD).

The archaeological record was secured by means of trench side notes. A full photographic record of the groundworks was also compiled.

3.0 ANALYSIS/CONCLUSIONS

For the most part, the need to respond to foundation groundworks associated with the construction of the new medical centre was limited, as foundation design measures had raised the majority of the new building's foundations above the level of the existing ground surface. This meant that only the lift pit (located in the approximate centre of the building), and the main foul-water drainage connection, in the south-east corner of the site, required archaeological attendance.

Lift Pit (Figs. 2 and 3, Section 1)

The earliest deposit recorded in the area of the lift pit was context [003] (c.4.70m OD), a firm, mid-dark grey/brown silt soil containing few inclusions (charcoal and shell flecks). The full extent of this deposit was not established and it is considered to represent a dump/levelling deposit. A further silty soil [002] overlay [003] (c.5m OD). Similarly this deposit also contained charcoal as well as frequent animal bone. Sealing [002] was [001] a c.800mm thick deposit of limestone laid down by the contractor as a level standing for the construction of the new building. No further features or deposits were recorded in this area of the site.



Plate II: General view of main drainage connection works. The depth of the trench required the insertion of box-shoring, severely restricting the amount of recording possible.

Drainage (Plate II, Figs. 2 and 3 – Sections 2 & 3)

Groundworks in the south-east corner of the site, to connect foul-water outlets to an existing drain, required the excavation of a 1m wide, 3m deep trench, rising to the north. The earliest deposit

recorded here was [006], deep (up to 1.5m+ thick at c.4.50m OD), moderately compact, mid-brown sandy earth with no obvious inclusions (the depth of the trench precluded any detailed account of the deposits present in the drainage trench). A north-south cut [008], thought to represent a construction cut associated with the construction of the concrete sides of Sincil Dyke, was noted to truncate [006]. Its fill, [007], was a pinkish/yellow redeposited natural sand. The east-west construction cut for the sewer intended to be connected to during this stage of the drainage, cut into [007] at this point, and was in turn sealed by [005], a series of brick and soil dumps associated with the demolition of buildings, possibly belonging to the railway. A moderate quantity of animal horn cores were also recovered from the excavated spoil from the drainage trench. No further features or deposits were recorded during the archaeological programme of recording.

In conclusion, the watching brief did not reveal evidence to indicate a date for the construction of Sincil Dyke, or indicate whether the earlier line of the dyke, found further to the south, continues to this point. This information was probably obscured or removed during the construction of the more formal concrete sides of the present Dyke. The earliest, dated events found on the site were of post-medieval date and appeared to represent extensive dumping/land raising events. The presence on the site of animal horn-cores suggests an industrial/commercial association, but, the unstratified nature of these remains does not assist in assigning a date to this activity. Tanneries are shown to the west of the High Street on the 1887 First Series OS Map, and may have had some association with the animal remains (Sheet: LXX.7.21).

4.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit would like to thank The City Medical Practice, formerly of The Surgery, 36 Ripon Street, Lincoln, for funding the fieldwork and post-fieldwork analysis. Thanks are also extended to Manton & Bartle (Architects), to the main site contractor, Topcon Ltd and Mr. Ian George (Lincoln City Council Archaeology Officer) for his advice & guidance.

Project Team

Michael Jarvis	Project Officer (Field/Post-excavation)
Yvonne Rose	Finds Supervisor/Site Assistant
John Hockley	Project Manager
Mick Jones	Editor
Jenny Mann	Registered Finds/Ceramic Building Materials
Jane Young	Post-Roman and later pottery

5.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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NOTE

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.

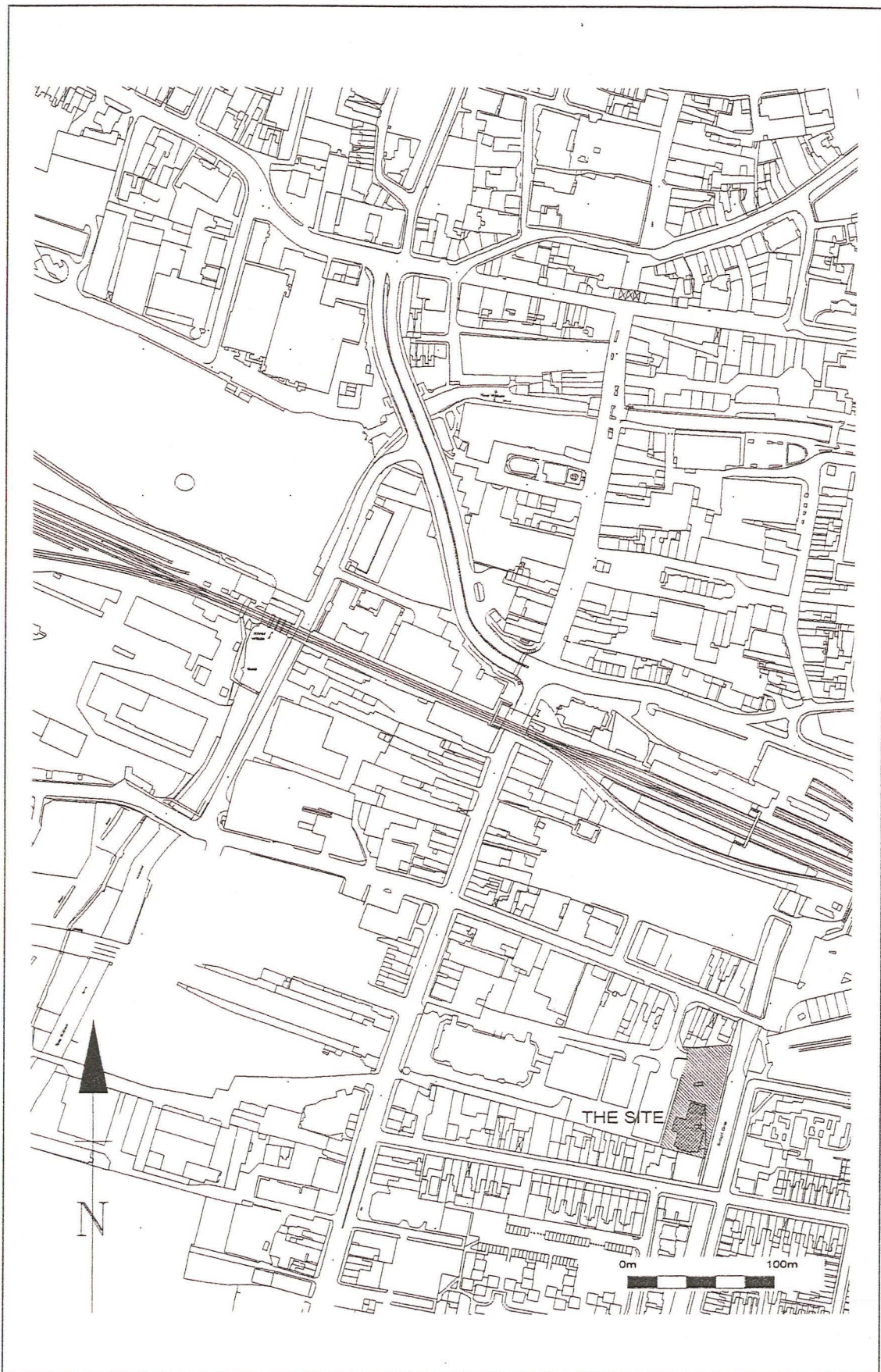


Fig. 1: General Site Plan.

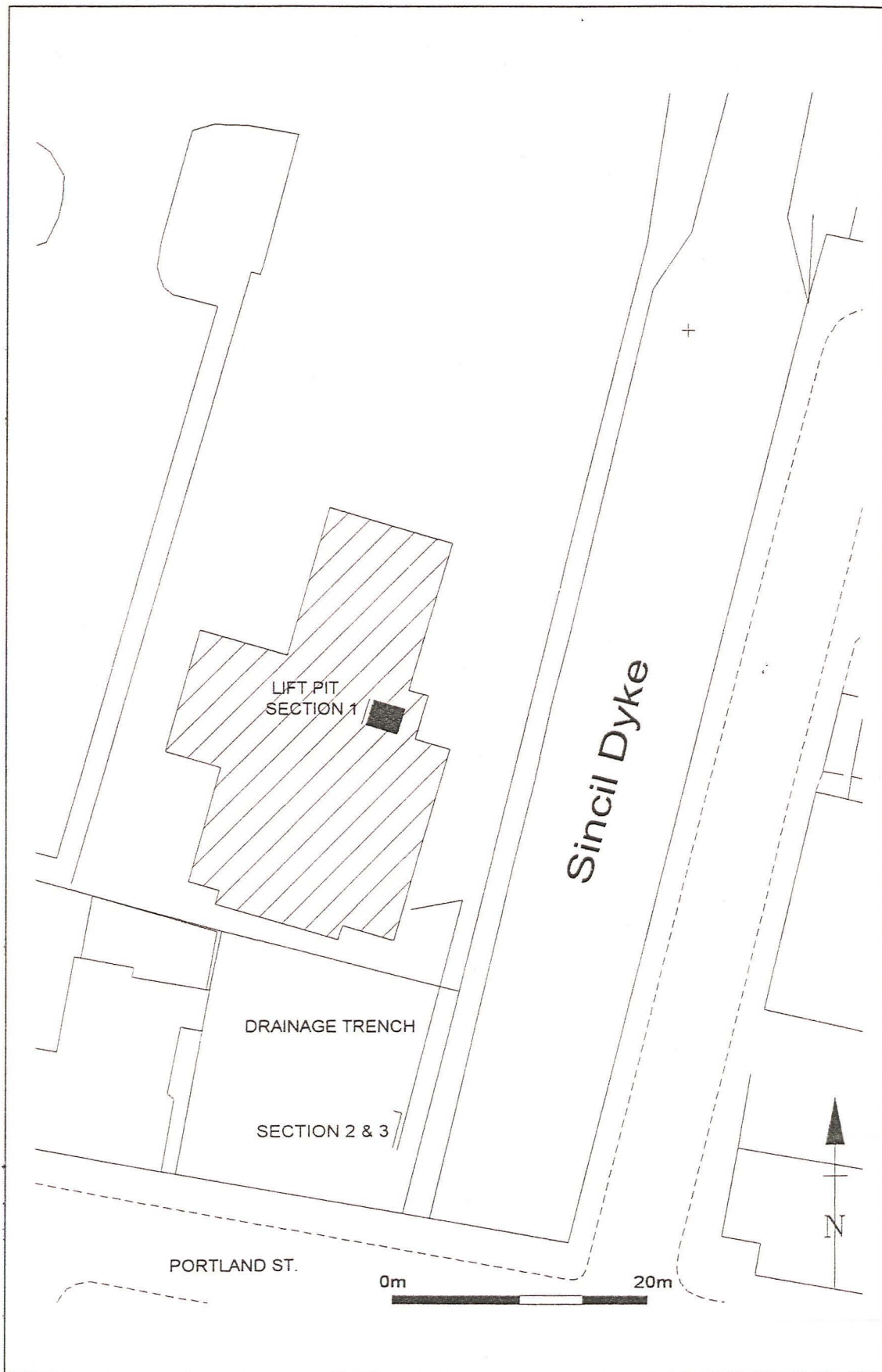


Fig. 2: Section location plan.

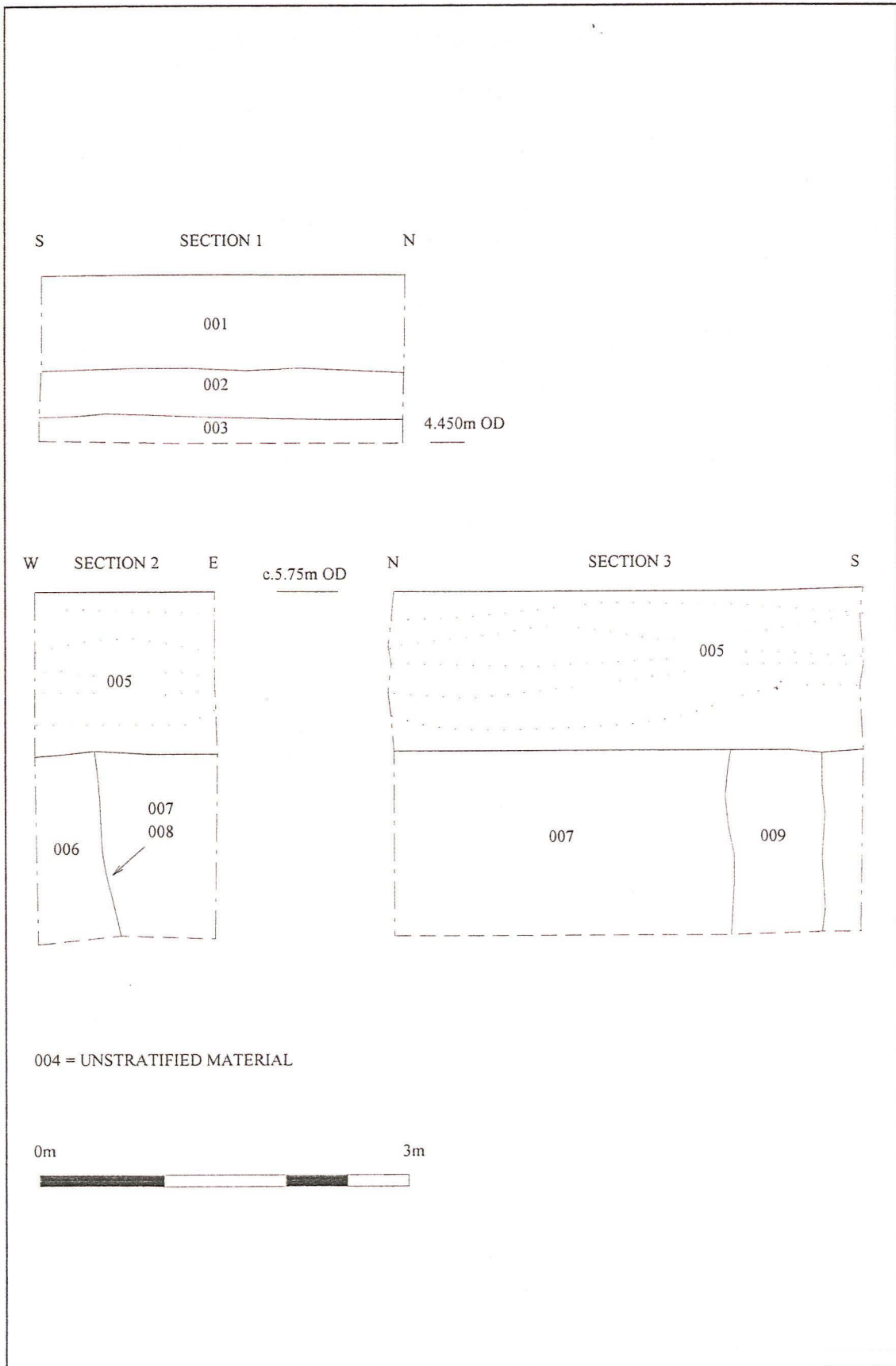


Fig. 3: Sections 1-3.

**CITY MEDICAL PRACTICE,
OFF TENTERCROFT STREET,
LINCOLN**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

APPENDIX 1 - LHA NOTE & ARCHIVE DETAILS

LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODE: CMC98

CLAU REPORT No.: 371

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.:

FIELD OFFICER: Michael Jarvis

NGR: SK 9758 7068

CIVIL PARISH: Lincoln

SMR No.: -

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 15th January – 18th February, 1998

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: The City Medical Practice, The Surgery, 36 Ripon Street, Lincoln

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.: 11.98

ACCESSION DATE: -

**CITY MEDICAL PRACTICE,
OFF TENTERCROFT STREET,
LINCOLN**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

APPENDIX 2 - THE FINDS

Registered Finds

Context	Finds No.	Material	Name	Comments
001	1	GLAS	WIND	MED;GROZ
004	2	STON	MLDG	SM BLOC REUS SEC HONE?

Animal Bone

Context	Count	Type	Comments
001	14	ANBN	1XBURNT
004	8	ANBN	HORN CORES

Bulk Finds

Context	Name	Count	Comments
004,	MSTO	1	SQUARED LST

Post-Roman Pottery Archive

Context	Ware	Sherds	Form	Comments
001	FREC	1	JUG	-
001	LSW4	1	JUG	HANDLE;FABRIC A
001	LLSW	1	JUG	BS
001	BOU	1	JUG/JAR	BS
001	TOYII	1	JUG/JAR	BS
001	TOYII	1	JUG/JAR	BASE;GLZE OVER BREAK;? ID
001	LMLOC	1	?	GLZE OVER SPALL
001	MP	1	CLOSED	SEMI VITR;BRICK RED FABRIC PURPLE SURFS;INT & EXT GLZE
001	DUTRT	1	CLOSED	NO INT SURF
001	MP	4	JUG/JAR	BASE;ORANGE FABRIC PURPLE/GREY EXT SURF;INT GLZE
004	LSW3	1	JUG	LARGE GROOVED ROD HANDLE

Post-Roman Pottery Archive: Horizon Dating

Context	Earliest Horizon	Latest Horizon	Probable Date Range
001	PMH3	PMH3	PMH3
004	MH8	MH9	-



CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT
 CHARLOTTE HOUSE, THE LAWN, UNION ROAD, LINCOLN LN1 3BL
 TEL: 01522 545326 FAX: 01522 548089

DIRECTOR: MICHAEL J. JONES MA.FSA.MIFA

ALLOC	CIRC	INITIALS	DATE
DIRECTOR			
J. WATSON			
M. PIPSON			
05 FEB 1999			
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REPLY			
FILE			

County Council
 Archaeology Section

05 FEB 99

With Compliments

1 February 1999

The City Practice
The Surgery
36 Ripon Street
Lincoln
LN5 7NL

For the attention of Dr T Mehta

Dear Sirs

The City Practice, 36 Ripon Street / off Tundercroft St.
Archaeological Watching Brief
CLAU Project: CMC98 Museum Acc No. 11.98

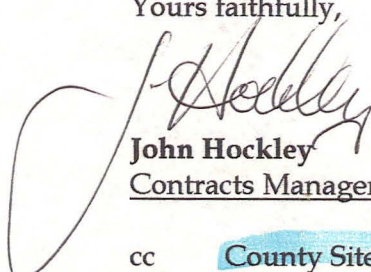
Please find enclosed two copies of our Archaeological Report No. 371 describing the results of the watching brief carried out in conjunction with construction groundwork at the above site.

Copies of the report are being deposited with the local planning authority and the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record Office. A further copy will be lodged with the City and County Museum as part of the project archive in due course. To facilitate the transfer of the archive we enclose documentation relating to the legal transfer of the finds for your completion and return to ourselves.

In accordance with our quotation we enclose our invoice for your prompt approval and payment.

We would take this opportunity to thank all parties concerned for their interest and co-operation.

Yours faithfully,


John Hockley
Contracts Manager

0 5. FEB 99

cc **County Sites & Monuments Record Office**
Mr I K George, Lincoln City Council
Manton & Bartle Architects: Mr A K White (+ copy invoice for info.)