

CITY OF
◇ LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY ◇
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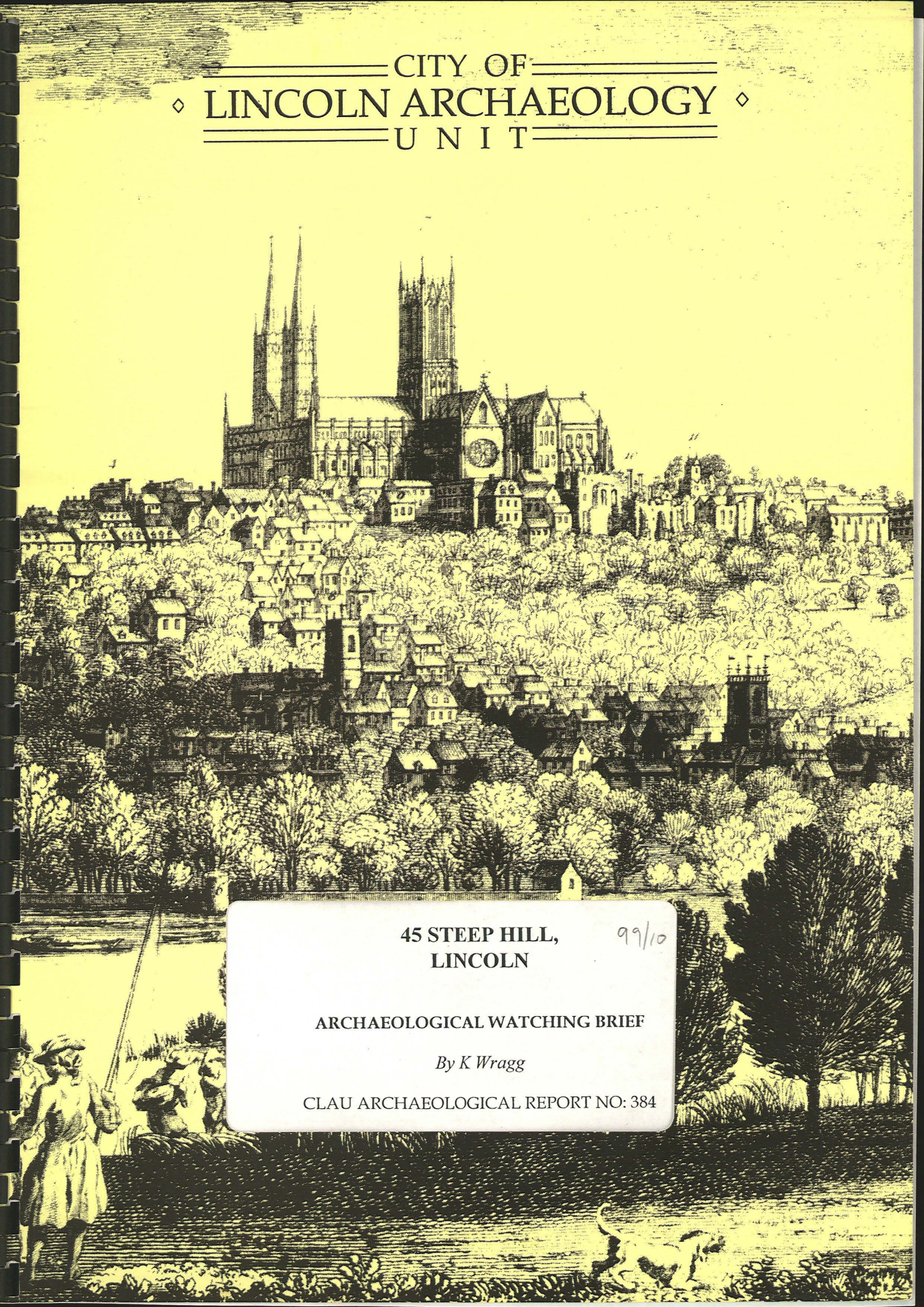
45 STEEP HILL,
LINCOLN

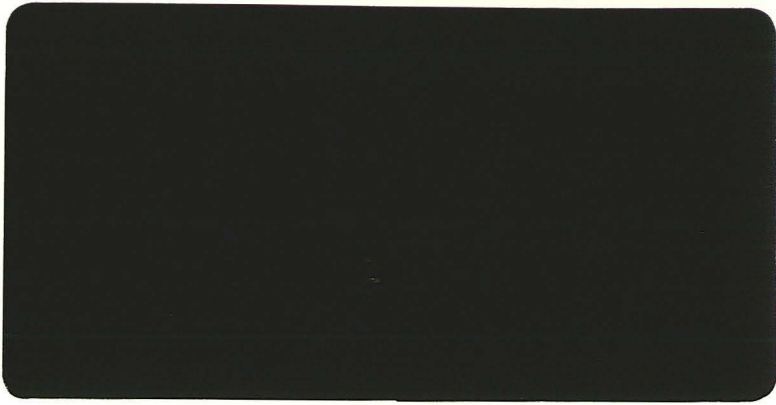
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

By K Wragg

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 384





Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section
0 8. JUL 99
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A
Report to
Mr D. Comber

June 1999

Prepared by

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*Site Code: SHD98
LCCM Accession No.: 250.98
NGR: SK 9765/7175*

**45 STEEP HILL,
LINCOLN**

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Archaeological Watching Brief

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45 STEEP HILL, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This development involved the construction of a new storeroom to the rear of the above property, situated close to the junction of Steep Hill, Wordsworth Street, and Christ's Hospital Terrace.

The new structure was to make use of two existing brick walls (presently forming part of a garden terrace retaining wall and the eastern property boundary wall), with new construction only required along the southern and western sides (together with a small section of wall at the south-eastern corner to provide a fire exit).

The site is situated immediately to the north of 46-47 Steep Hill, the so-called *Norman House*, and in view of the archaeological importance of this building (and the surrounding area in general), it was decided by Lincoln City Council Department of Planning that the development should be monitored archaeologically.

Accordingly, the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit was commissioned by Mr D.Comber (the owner/developer) in November 1998 to carry out a watching brief on the site.

Observation was carried out on the 16th of November 1998, but the results were largely negative, revealing only relatively recent features and deposits. In view of the shallow depth and limited extent of the groundworks involved, this is not too surprising.

The archaeological potential of the surrounding area is undeniable, however, and in spite of the lack of results from this project, the possibility of important archaeological discoveries in this area remains high.

45 STEEP HILL, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This development involved the construction of a new storeroom to the rear of the above property, situated close to the junction of Steep Hill, Wordsworth Street, and Christ's Hospital Terrace (see Fig.1).

The new structure was to make use of two existing brick walls (presently forming part of a garden terrace retaining wall and the eastern property boundary wall), with new construction only required along the southern and western sides (together with a small section of wall at the south-eastern corner to provide a fire exit) (see Fig. 2).

The site is situated immediately to the north of 46-47 Steep Hill, the so-called *Norman House* (see 2.0, below). In view of the archaeological importance of this building (and the surrounding area in general), it was decided by Lincoln City Council Department of Planning that the groundworks and alterations should be monitored archaeologically.

Accordingly, the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit was commissioned by Mr D.Comber (the owner/developer) in November 1998 to undertake a watching brief on the site. Observation was carried out on the 16th of November 1998.

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 site lies immediately to the north of *Norman House* (see Fig.1), one of the most historic buildings in the city.

The *Norman House* probably dates from the late 12th century, and was formerly ascribed incorrectly to Aaron the Jew, a famous Jewish financier in that century. However, the building was probably built, and owned, by Jocus 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).

The South Gate of the Roman upper city lies to the north of the site: remains of the jamb of an arch are visible in the basement of 44 Steep Hill.

3.0 RESULTS

The only groundworks required for this development were the foundation trenches for the western and southern walls, together with a small wall required to allow the existing access gateway (in the south-east corner) to be used as a fire exit. As the new structure was to be used as a storeroom, no service connections were required.

The main area of excavation was for foundations for the new south wall, which necessitated a trench 600mm wide, extending approximately 8m (E-W). This trench was situated immediately adjacent to the existing site boundary wall, and was hand-excavated to a depth of c.600mm.

The trenching failed to reveal any archaeological horizons, with only features and deposits of relatively recent date being uncovered (including the foundations of the existing brick boundary wall to the south).

Towards the western end of the trench, at a depth of c.400mm below the existing ground level, a modern red brick wall [102] was revealed, oriented E-W. This was present in the western half of the trench, with a paved yorkstone surface, [101], visible at a similar depth in the eastern half.

These features would appear to represent earlier garden features, and probably date to no earlier than the late 19th century.

The wall and the paved surface were then both sealed by [100], a mixed layer of mid grey-brown sandy, clayey silt. This deposit contained limestone fragments, brick and concrete pieces, together with other general rubbish dumping (including a door lock and door knob), with the remnants of a 'crazy-paved' surface at its upper boundary.

4.0 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

The results of this watching brief were largely negative, revealing only relatively recent features and deposits. In view of the shallow depth and limited extent of the groundworks involved, this is not too surprising.

The archaeological potential of the surrounding area is undeniable, however, and in spite of the lack of results from this project, the possibility of important archaeological discoveries in this area remains high.

5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit would like to thank the following for their assistance during this project: Mr D.Comber, 45 Steep Hill, Lincoln, for kindly commissioning this project; and Ian George, Lincoln City Council Archaeology Officer, Lincoln City Council, City Hall, Beaumont Fee, Lincoln LN1 1DH.

6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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7.0 LHA NOTE/ARCHIVE DETAILS

7.1 LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODE: SHD98

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.:
LD14/0353/97

FIELD OFFICER: K.Wragg

NGR: SK 9765/7175

CIVIL PARISH: Lincoln

SMR No.: n/a

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 16/11/98

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Mr D.Comber, 45
Steep Hill, Lincoln.

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.: 250.98

ACCESSION DATE: -

**APPENDIX A - ARCHIVE
DEPOSITION**

The archive consists of:

No.	Description
1	Site diary
1	Report
3	Context records
2	Scale 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 250.98, will be undertaken following completion of this project.

APPENDIX B - COLOUR PLATE



Plate 1: General view of site, following foundation trenching - looking west



KEY

 Location of Site

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
SITE CODE: SHD98	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT: Mr. D. Comber		
DESCRIPTION:	Site Location Plan	
SCALE:	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY:	CHECKED:	DATE:
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:	250.98	

1:10 000



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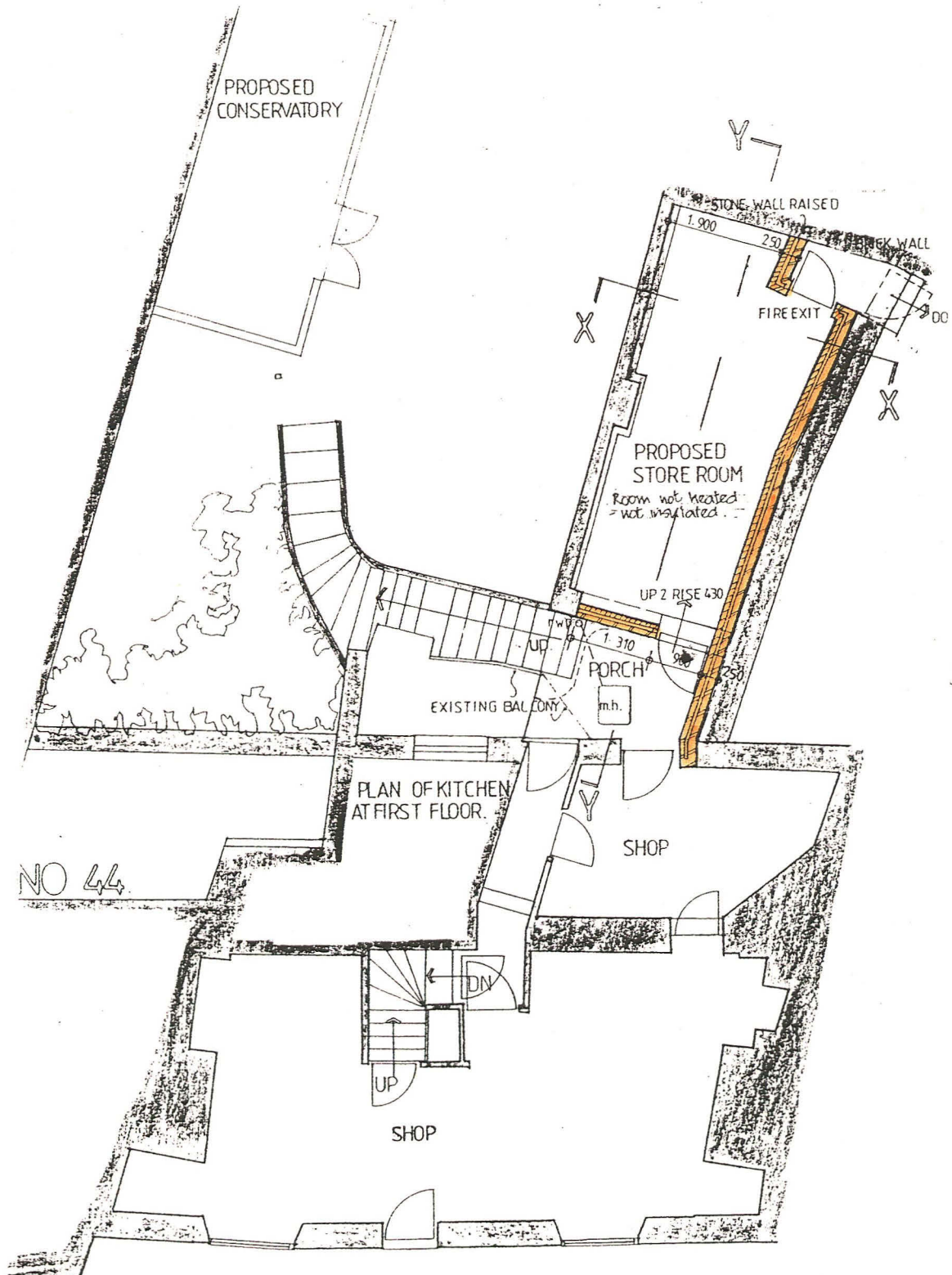
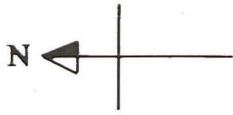
1:1250



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CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
SITE CODE: SHD98	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT: Mr. D. Comber		
DESCRIPTION: Trench Location Plan		
SCALE: 1:100	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY:	CHECKED:	DATE:
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 250.98		

KEY
 Foundation Trenches



Based upon Morley Newborn drawing No. 1355/97/1

Fig.2