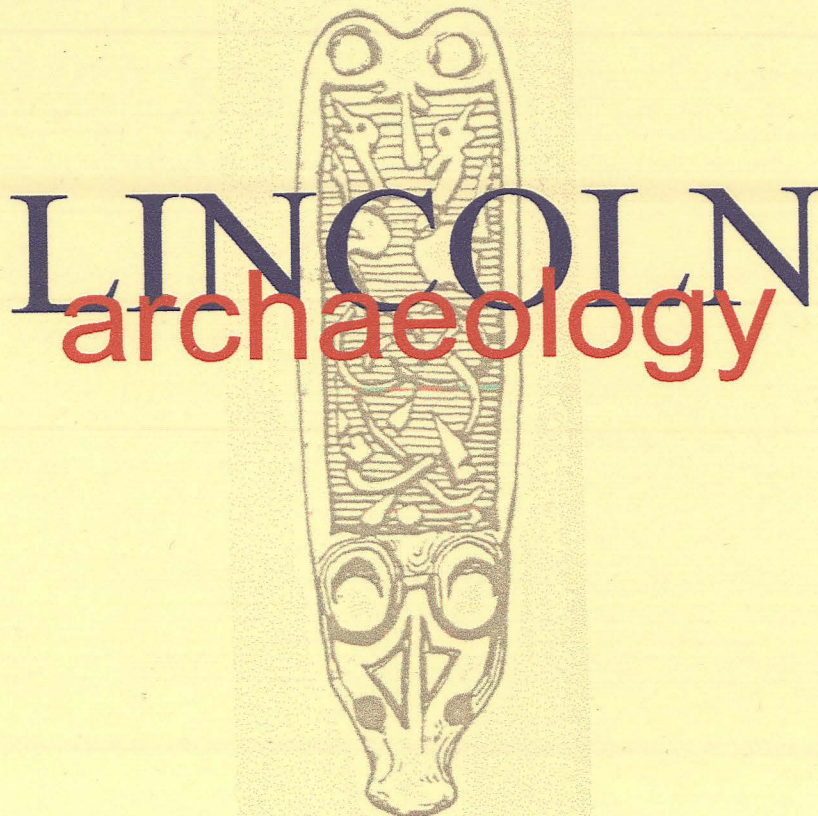


**A Report to
Mr & Mrs Leonard**

August 2000



**12 JAMES STREET,
LINCOLN**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Report No.: 440

LINCOLN
archaeology

Linn County Council
Archaeology Section

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**12 JAMES STREET,
LINCOLN**

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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12 JAMES STREET, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- *On the 15th August 2000 a representative from the CLAU carried out an archaeological watching brief on behalf of Mr & Mrs Leonard, during the excavation of foundation trenches intended for the erection of a new conservatory to the rear of 12 James Street, Lincoln.*
- *The site lies in an archaeologically and historically important area of Lincoln, namely, Scheduled Ancient Monument, Lincolnshire No. 115, Lindum Colonia.*
- *The watching brief failed to reveal archaeological deposits earlier than the 19th-20th century. This was due, in part, to the very limited scope of the groundworks involved.*
- *Although negative, the results from this watching brief will assist in future decision making with regard to the management of the archaeological resource in this area of Lincoln.*

12 JAMES STREET, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1.0 INTRODUCTION (Figs. 1 & 2)

On the 15th of August 2000, a representative from the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU) carried out a watching brief on behalf of Mr & Mrs Leonard, 12 James Street, Lincoln, during groundworks associated with the construction of a small conservatory to the rear of the property. National Grid Reference SK 97787 72071. The watching brief was carried out as a condition on the granting of full planning permission. Planning Application No. 2000/0142/F, 8th March 2000, and at the request of the Inspector of Ancient Monuments, English Heritage.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Archaeological Background

The site lies within Scheduled Ancient Monument No 115 *Lindum Colonia*, and to the south of Scheduled Ancient monument No. 17, Section of Roman town wall and ditch north of East Bight. It is situated in the north-east quadrant of the Roman Colonia and earlier legionary fortress. A Roman bath complex was excavated in the 1950s at Cottesford Place covered a large area to the west of the site, while c. 36m to the south, and c. 30m to the north were east-west running Roman streets.

The medieval Close Wall, a Grade II Listed Building, runs east-west c. 7m north of the house, and north-south c. 35m to the east and c. 25m to the west. The site therefore lies within the historic core of the Roman and medieval city.

2.2 Historical Background

The uphill area of Lincoln was probably the first part of the city to be occupied by the Romans. This area became the location for their Legionary fortress (c. AD50-60). Later this area became their administrative centre when in c. AD80, Lincoln was designated a Colonia (Jones 1988). Since examples of both are rare in Britain, remains of the Roman period are of vital importance.

Evidence for the remains of the Colonia have been recorded in various excavations in the uphill area of Lincoln. Some elements of the internal Colonia layout and the position of various buildings have also been discovered (excavations carried out between 1980-81 to the north of East Bight revealed new evidence about the relationships between the streets lying immediately inside of the Roman defences and the defensive rampart and internal buildings). The closest identified Roman building to the site under investigation are the Roman public baths, which lay between James Street and Bailgate to the west of the site.

Abandonment of the Roman City seems to have started in the late 4th Century with town life reduced to a small community between the 5th to late 9th centuries. Following the Viking take-over of Lindsey in 874, Lincoln became a centre for a Viking army and, subsequently, a Viking town. Evidence for increasing urbanisation in the 10th and 11th centuries has emerged from all parts of the former Roman city.

At the time of the Norman Conquest (AD1066) Lincoln was home to perhaps 6-7000 people and formed one of the largest settlements in the newly conquered kingdom (Hill 1948). The main post-conquest change to be noted archaeologically is the introduction of stone buildings, the most prominent being the Castle and the Cathedral.

The present layout of streets in the upper part of the city was established during this period including James Street (renamed from Vinegar Lane which itself appears to derive from the 12th century

Vinegarth or Wynegard) which lies to the west and south-west of the site (Cameron 1985; Jones et al 1990).

By the 12th century Lincoln had become a major European city and, in both population and trade, possibly second only to London. Prospering on the commercial success of the wool trade and cloth making, the city's wealth and importance was reflected in the privilege of self government, the formation of guilds and the construction of extensions to the city walls.

The late 14th to 17th centuries saw a period of decay in the city. This was mainly due to the ravages of the Black Death and the loss of trade privileges to Boston and the related poor state of the river Witham and Fosdyke Canal. The city declined in importance and the population shrank, many houses and churches were demolished and by the second quarter of the 16th century large areas of the city were in a ruinous state. While some localised re-development was carried out, further damage and destruction occurred during the civil war in the mid. 17th century (Hill 1948).

By the 18th century uphill Lincoln had become a centre for the clergy, the legal profession and the local gentry with extensive re-development in all areas. However, as evidenced by contemporary artists, some areas close to the heart of the city still maintained a semi-rural aspect.

The first maps of Lincoln began to be produced in the 17th and 18th centuries, but unfortunately they show little detail of the area under consideration. The first accurate maps showing the site were produced by the Ordnance Survey Office in 1888.

3.0 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).

4.0 ANALYSIS & CONCLUSIONS (Fig. 2)

Excavation for the foundation trench for the new conservatory was carried out by hand. The trench was approximately 500mm wide and c. 400mm deep. Surface water, electricity and gas services were present in the trenches excavated. This meant that, for the most part, the foundation trenches were excavated within previously excavated spoil. Only one deposit of soil was cut in to and this was a firm-loosely compacted, dark brown sandy silt soil (garden soil - [001]) containing frequent building debris and small fragments of limestone. Pottery noted in the spoil was late 19th-20th century in date.

The results from this watching brief are, as with most from this type of archaeological response, limited. This is primarily due to the extent of groundwork associated with this type of work. The dateable material noted in the trench may indicate a date for the deposit; alternatively, this material may have been bought in from elsewhere after the construction of 12 James Street (during the 1960's).

5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit would like to thank Mr & Mrs Leonard for funding the watching brief and post fieldwork analysis. Thanks are also extended to S. Mills Builders for their full co-operation throughout the duration of the watching brief. Archaeological advice was provided by Mr M J Jones, City Archaeologist, Lincoln City Council.

Maps contained within this report are reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown Copyright. Lincoln City Council. Licence No. AL 100028765.

Project Team

Michael Jarvis Project Officer (Field/Post-excavation)
John Hockley Contracts Manager

6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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NOTE

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. Lincoln City Council 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 Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

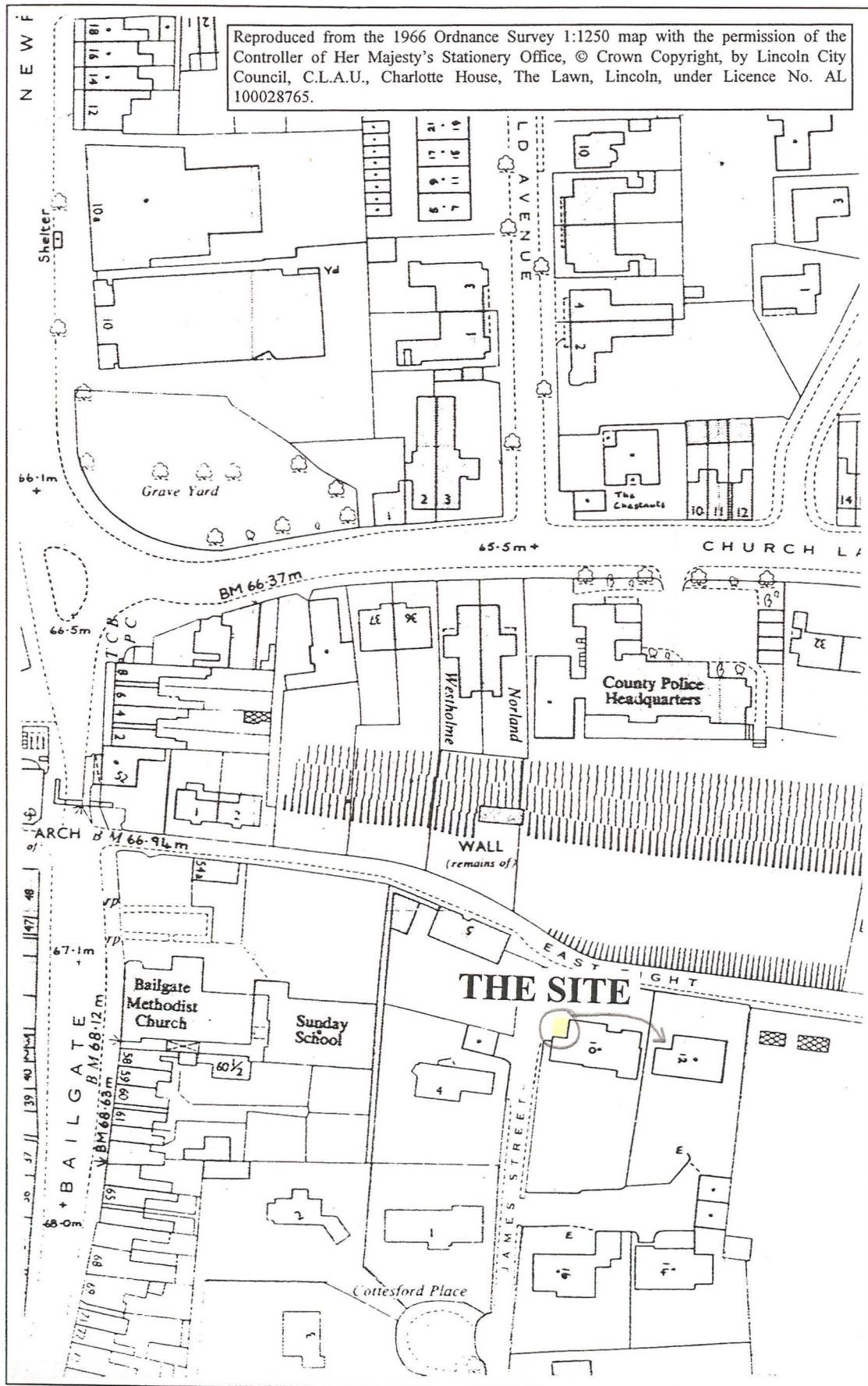


Fig. 1: Site location plan.

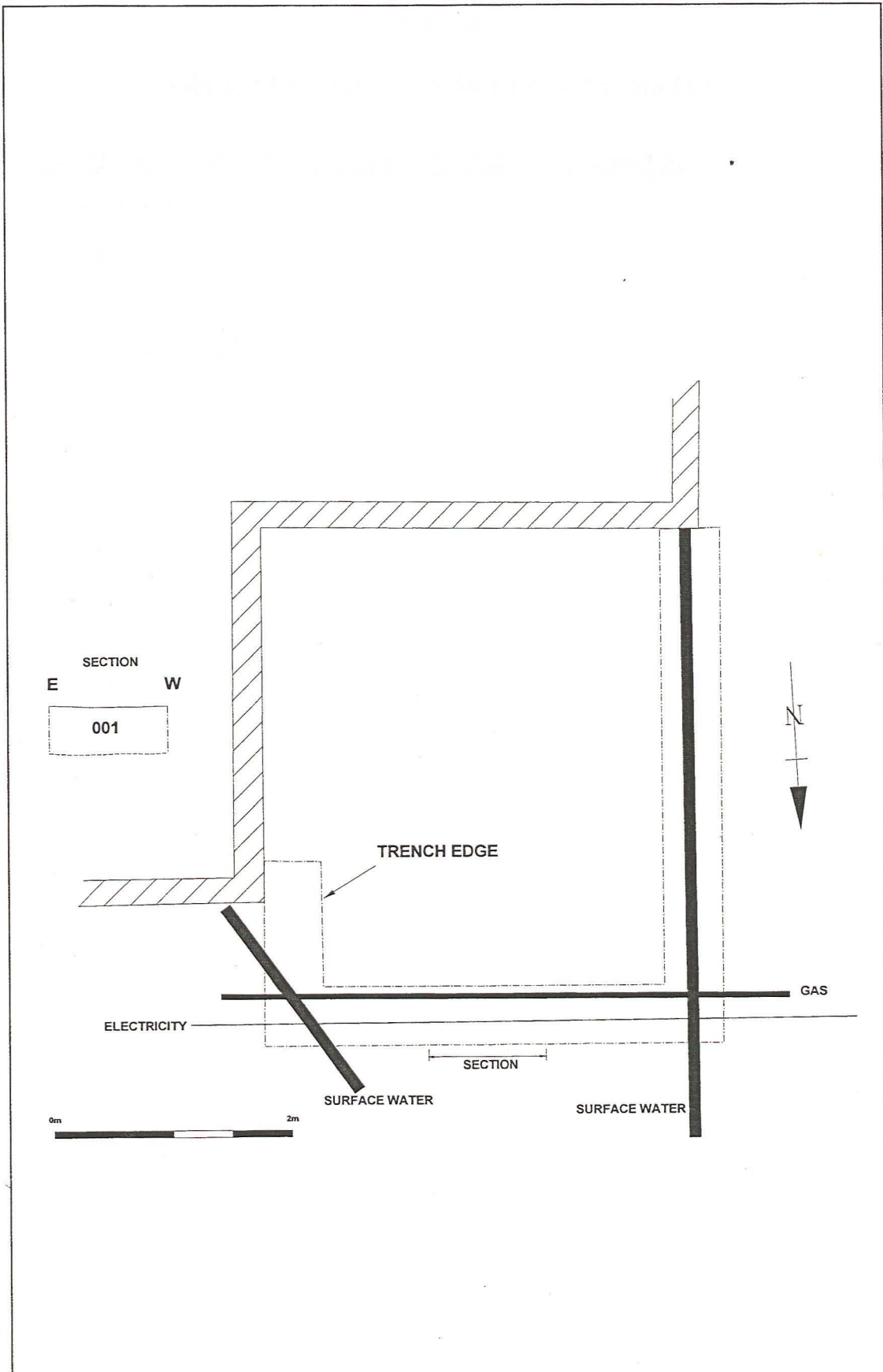


Fig. 2: Plan showing the location of the foundation trenches for the conservatory monitored during the course of the watching brief (1:50).

**12 JAMES STREET,
LINCOLN**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

APPENDIX 1 - LHA NOTE & ARCHIVE DETAILS

LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODE: JAM00

CLAU REPORT No.: 440

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.: 2000/0142/F

FIELD OFFICER: Michael Jarvis

NGR: SK 97787 72071

CIVIL PARISH: Lincoln

SMR No.: -

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 15th August 2000

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Archaeological Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Mr & Mrs Leonard, 12 James 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.: 2000.188

ACCESSION DATE: -