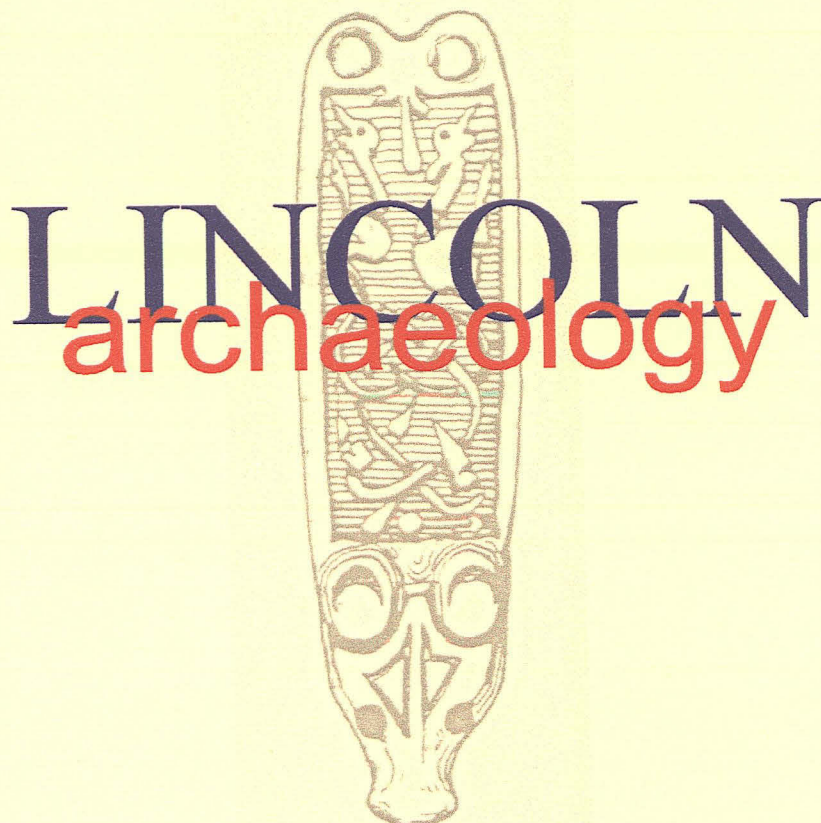


**A Report to Morley Newborn Architectural
Technicians on Behalf of Mr N Robertson**

October 2000



**Development at 156 High Street,
Lincoln**

Archaeological Watching Brief

By R Trimble

Report No.: 430

LINCOLN
archaeology

DEVELOPMENT AT 156 HIGH STREET, LINCOLN

Site Code: HSJ99
LCCM Accession No.: 269.99
Planning Application No.: -
NGR: 9737/7079
SK

Archaeological Watching Brief

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DEVELOPMENT AT 156 HIGH STREET, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY

This report describes the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief undertaken by the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU) during groundworks associated with refurbishment and extensions to the shop at 156 High Street, Lincoln. The work was commissioned by Morley Newborn Architectural Technicians on behalf of Mr N Robertson in response to a condition of planning permission set by Lincoln City Council, and was completed during the period 9th November, 1999 to 2nd August, 2000.

The results of the project indicate that any archaeological remains in the area are sealed beneath a depth of at least 900mm of recently deposited material.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief undertaken by the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU) during groundworks associated with refurbishment and extensions to the shop at 156 High Street, Lincoln. The work was commissioned by Morley Newborn Architectural Technicians on behalf of Mr N Robertson in response to a condition of planning permission set by Lincoln City Council, and was completed during the period 9th November, 1999 to 2nd August, 2000.

The principal elements of groundwork consisted of the demolition of an existing extension to the rear of the building and the excavation of foundation trenches for a new structure, internal modifications involving ground reductions to a depth of c.500 - 600mm below existing ground level, and foundations for an extension on the street frontage. In addition to the above, two small trial holes were excavated in the rear yard in advance of development.

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.

2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY (see Figs.1 & 2)

The site is located on the western side of the High Street, Lincoln at NGR SK 9737/7079, in an area of flat and relatively low-lying land c.200m east of the River Witham. The underlying geology of the area consists of terrace sands overlain by variable depths of alluvium.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies within the bounds of the southern suburb of the Roman City and the medieval suburb of Wigford (Hill 1948, 161-168), immediately adjacent to the main north-south route (followed by the present day High Street) into Roman and medieval Lincoln. It also lies in close proximity to Lincoln's Carmelite Friary, remains of which, have been excavated to the south and west, and may have formed part of the original Friary property. It has been suggested that the block of land occupied by No. 156 and adjacent terraced houses could represent a part of the Friary holdings let separately in 1520 (Gilmour & Stocker 1986, 4-6). Excavations to the north, in the angle between the High Street and St

Mark Street, have revealed a sequence of remains including Roman strip buildings fronting on to the High Street and phases of St Marks church from the Late Saxon period onwards.

4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The aims of the Archaeological Watching Brief as set out in a CLAU specification of 21st September, 1999 were to:

- *produce an archive record of any surviving deposits, remains and artefacts exposed by the project groundwork within the constraints of the contractor's working methods, programme and particular development design.*
- *produce a project archive for deposition with the appropriate museum together with a client report.*
- *provide information for accession to the County Sites and Monuments Record and the Lincoln Urban Archaeology Database.*

5.0 METHODOLOGY

An archaeologist from the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU) attended on all major groundwork associated with the development. An archaeological record of deposits exposed during the course of the groundwork was secured by means of colour photographs and measured drawings supplemented by descriptive notes.

6.0 RESULTS

Excavations in the Rear Yard

Groundworks in the rear yard included the excavation of two c.500mm trial pits, general ground reduction of around 600mm for a raft foundation for the new structure, and further excavations to c.300mm deep along the line of edge-beams foundations. With the exception of its southern length, the edge-beam foundation trench followed the lines of existing brick foundations. Deposits across the area were generally uniform. A single measured sketch section was drawn to show typical stratigraphy as present across the area (see Fig.2 & Plate 1).

The earliest deposit present in the recorded section was a moderately compact layer of mid-brown clayey silt (102) containing occasional to moderately frequent brick and tile, limestone flecks and pieces with roots and general modern material towards the upper boundary. It extended throughout the lower levels of the area, continuing below the lower limit of excavation and was sealed by a c.300mm thick layer consisting of modern building remains, debris and general rubbish (101). A small assemblage of unstratified finds from the area were collected (context 100).

Internal Excavations

Floor reduction inside the shop was carried out to a depth of c.500-600mm below existing floor level, revealing a limestone-lined cellar (upper 3 courses visible at the time of site visit) and 2/3 courses of roughly squared, apparently unbonded, limestone blocks forming a wall or foundations directly beneath the existing brick wall to the east (see Plate 2). In addition, a single course of roughly assembled limestone was noted to form the foundation for an internal wall. Excavations within the remainder of the interior of the building produced no evidence for significant archaeological deposits or features.

Extension to the Shop Frontage

Excavation for foundations for the shop front extension were carried out to a depth of c.400mm, extending over an area of c.3m E-W x 5m N-S. They revealed a comparable stratigraphic sequence to that encountered elsewhere on the site; namely a mid brown clayey sandy silt overlain by the existing surface of concrete/concrete slabs.

7.0 CONCLUSION

The results of the project indicate that any archaeological remains in the area are sealed beneath a depth of at least 900mm of recently deposited material. The work has, however, yielded useful information concerning the character and depth of deposits at this location. This information will be incorporated into Lincoln's Urban Archaeological Database for use in determining future archaeological resource management decisions.

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CLAU would like to thank the client Mr N Robertson, Morley Newborn Architectural Technicians, and the main contractor - Asher construction, for their co-operation in ensuring the successful completion of the project. Fieldwork was carried out by Kevin Wragg (CLAU).

9.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hill, F, 1948 (reprinted 1965), *Medieval Lincoln*. Cambridge University Press

Gilmour, BJJ and Stocker, DA 1986, *St Marks Church and Cemetery*, The Council for British Archaeology for Trust for Lincolnshire Archaeology

10.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

10.1 LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODE: HSJ00

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: -

FIELD OFFICER: K. Wragg (Fieldwork), R. Trimble (PX)

NGR: 9737/7079

CIVIL PARISH: Lincoln

SMR No.: -

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 9th November, 1999 - 2nd August, 2000

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Morley Newborn Architectural Technicians on behalf of Mr N Robertson

9.2 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.: 269.99

ACCESSION DATE: -

The Archive Consists of:

Context Records	3
Plans at Scale 1:20	-
Section Drawings at Scale 1:20	1
Colour Print Photographs	18
Colour Slide Photographs	7
Set of Site Notes	1

It is intended that transfer of the archive, in accordance with current published requirements, will be undertaken following completion of this project.

COLOUR PLATES



Plate 1 - General view of stripped rear yard (looking east).



Plate 2 - General view of limestone foundations along the shop frontage (looking east).

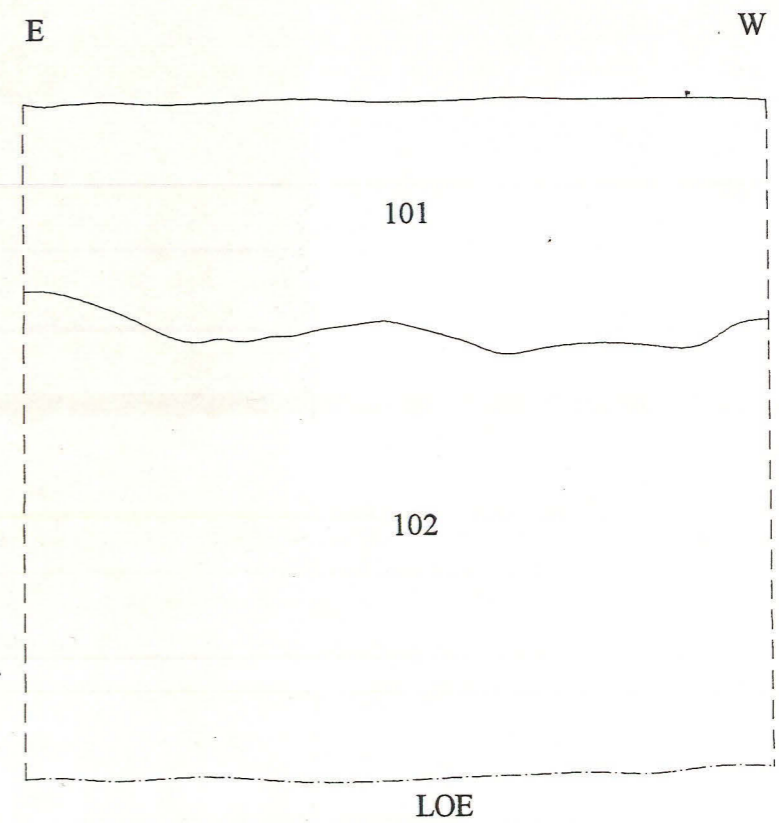
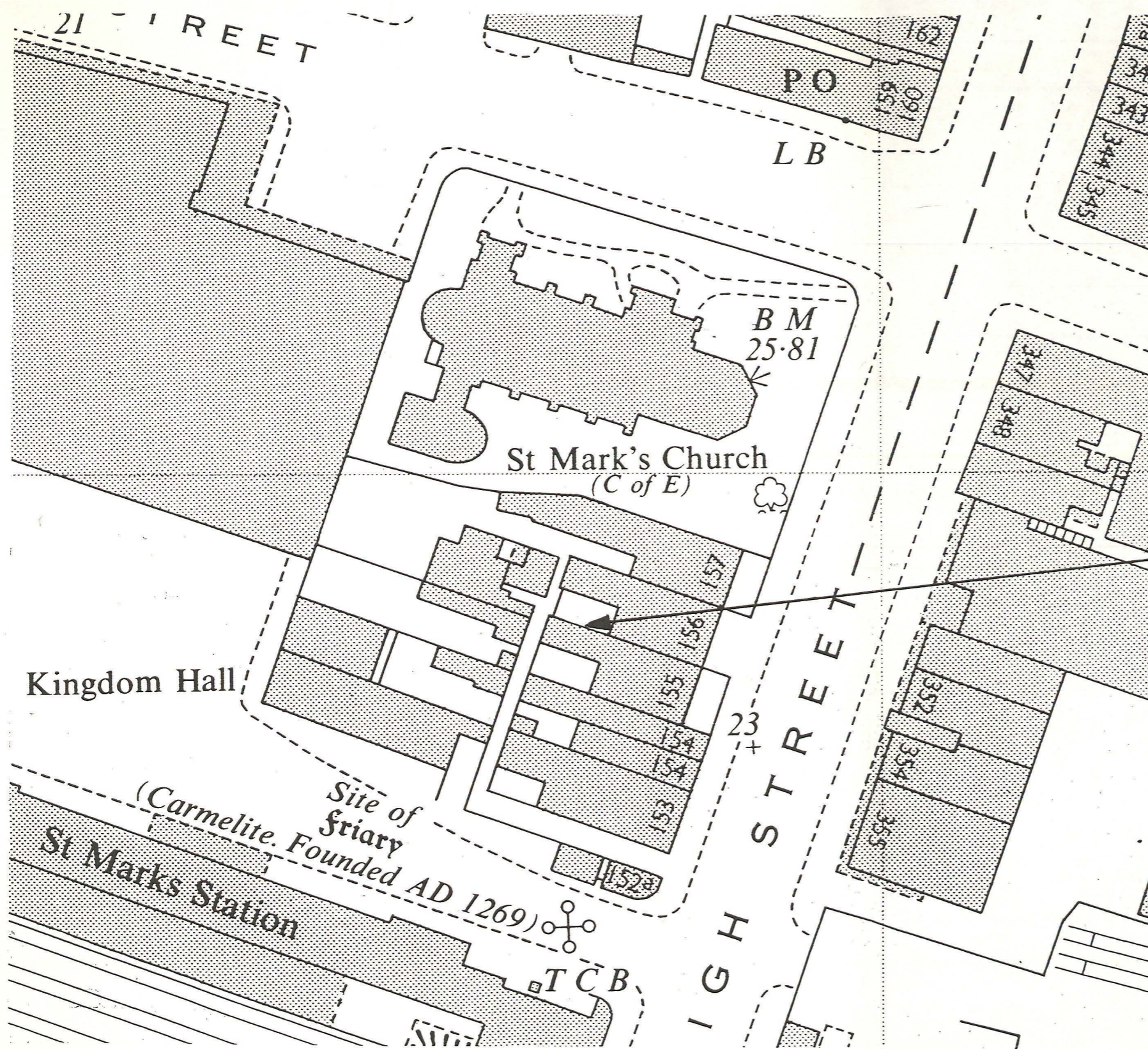
APPENDIX - POST-ROMAN TILE ARCHIVE

Context	Code name	Full Name	Sub Type	Fragments	Weight	Description	Date
100	PNRDISC	Discarded peg, nib or ridge tile		1	194	mortar	probably 13-14 th century
100	NIBDISC	Nibbed tile (discarded)	3	1	40	corner	13 th century

Context 100 = Unstratified Finds



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North Facing Section



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