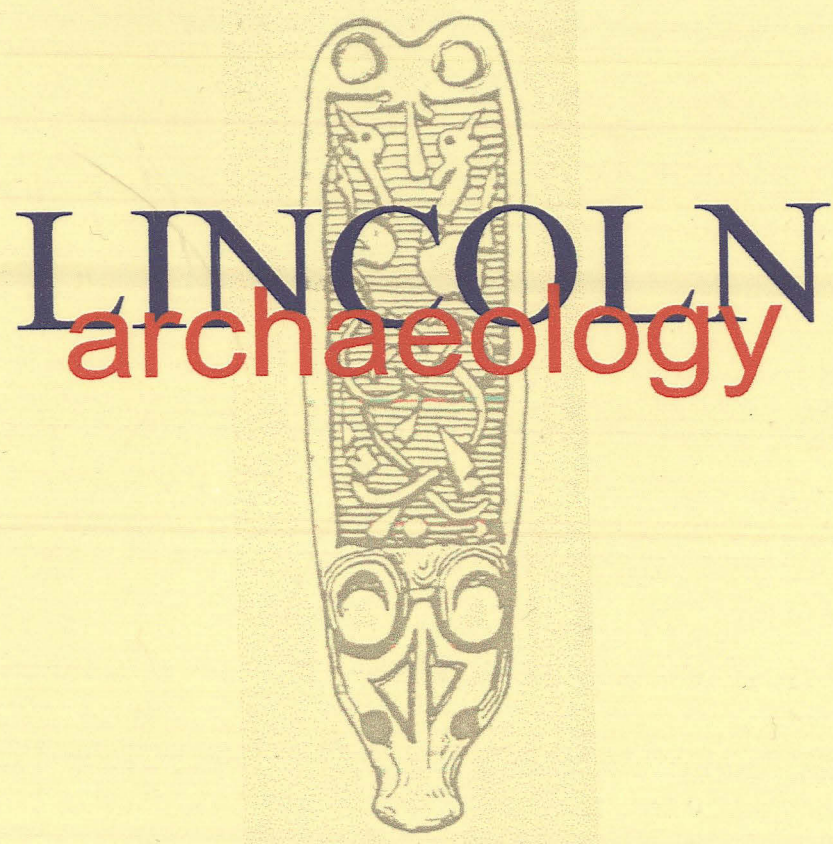


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A Report to British Telecom

October 2000



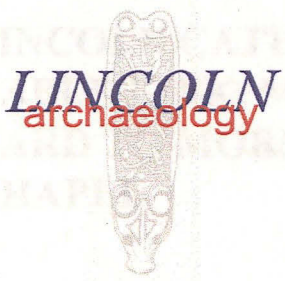
Lincoln Cathedral Cable Link: Minster Yard to Morning Chapel

Archaeological Watching Brief

By K Wragg

Report No.: 428

LINCOLN
archaeology



Lincoln Cathedral Cable Link: Minster Yard to Morning Chapel

Site Code: COWD00
LCCM Accession No.: 2000.85
Planning Application No.: n/a
NGR: SK 9773/7184

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Illustrations

Fig.1 Site location plan - scale 1:10000 & 1:500

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL CABLE LINK: MINSTER YARD TO MORNING CHAPEL

In view of the limited nature and extent of the trenching involved, however, this was perhaps not too surprising. The lack of archaeological finds on this project does not, of course, preclude future discoveries in other areas surrounding the site, and any subsequent works should be carefully assessed to establish their archaeological implications.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

In February 2000, the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (C.L.A.U.) was approached by the Lincoln Cathedral Works Department regarding proposed cable laying across Minster Yard to the Cathedral Morning Chapel.

It was originally proposed to excavate a trench from 23 Minster Yard (the closest point of connection to the existing BT network), through the entrance to the *Dean's Green*, to a new 'jointing chamber' at the north-east corner of the Morning Chapel. However, this route was subsequently found to cross elements of the *Dean's Green*, which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. In order to avoid a time delay while the various consents for the work were obtained, the cable route was modified, with the revised trench crossing directly from 23 Minster Yard to the north-west corner of the Morning Chapel.

In view of the historical and archaeological importance of the area, it was decided that an intermittent archaeological watching brief should be carried out during the course of the groundworks. Accordingly, the C.L.A.U. was commissioned in April 2000 by British Telecommunications plc (who assumed responsibility for the work), to provide the required archaeological services.

Attendance was carried out on the site between the 10th and the 18th of April 2000, but in spite of the potential for important archaeological discoveries in this part of Lincoln, only undated dumping deposits or layers of obviously modern origin (i.e., the cobbled surface of Minster Yard) were revealed.

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL CABLE LINK: MINSTER YARD TO MORNING CHAPEL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In February 2000, the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (C.L.A.U.) was approached by the Lincoln Cathedral Works Department regarding proposed cable laying across Minster Yard to the Cathedral Morning Chapel (see Fig. 1).

It was originally proposed to excavate a trench from 23 Minster Yard (the closest point of connection to the existing BT network), through the entrance to the *Dean's Green*, to a new 'jointing chamber' at the north-east corner of the Morning Chapel. However, this route was subsequently found to cross elements of the *Dean's Green*, which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. In order to avoid a time delay while the various consents for the work were obtained, the cable route was modified, with the revised trench crossing directly from 23 Minster Yard to the north-west corner of the Morning Chapel.

In view of the historical and archaeological importance of the area, it was decided that an intermittent archaeological watching brief should be carried out during the course of the groundworks. Accordingly, the C.L.A.U. was commissioned in April 2000 by British Telecommunications plc (who assumed responsibility for the work), to provide the required archaeological services.

Attendance was carried out on the site between the 10th and the 18th of April 2000.

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, and *The Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage, 1991).

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2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Two archaeological investigations have taken place in this general area in recent years, and a brief summary of their findings is presented below:

2.1 Lincoln Cathedral 1992: Electricity Cable Installation

During 1992 an excavation took place in the lawned area known as the *Dean's Green*, to the north of the Cathedral nave, along the line of a new electricity cable.

This trench extended from Minster Yard to the Cathedral North Transept, with a further trench excavated by the Cathedral works department across the West Front of the Cathedral.

The stratigraphy encountered along the west front of the Cathedral included a number of concentrations of limestone, including one group that appeared to represent the remains of a cist burial.

At the north-west corner of the Cathedral (which is in direct proximity to the current project) the stratigraphy consisted of dump layers/lenses of earth & mortar.

It was concluded by this report that any important surviving archaeological remains were present throughout the area of the excavation, especially close to the Cathedral, but generally at a depth of 500mm or more below the present ground surface (Donel & Wragg, 1992).

2.2 Bailgate Area Watermains Replacement

In 1993 the C.L.A.U. undertook a watching brief on groundworks for new water mains

across the Bailgate, Minster Yard and Pottergate areas.

Between Eastgate and the N.W. corner of the Cathedral, the stratigraphic sequence comprised a number of earth and mortar dumping deposits, with little sign of actual archaeological features. Worked fragments of stone recovered from the same general area dated from the early 13th century.

At the N.E. corner of the Cathedral, a further series of dump layers was seen. Immediately adjacent to the corner of the Cathedral, a 1.2m deep vertical sided cut was seen. This was filled with large pieces of irregularly shaped limestone rubble. These layers and feature lay immediately beneath the mortar bedding for the cobbled surface of Minster Yard.

Further to the south, immediately adjacent to the Cathedral West Front, twenty-three graves were revealed, at depths of between 500mm and 1.3m below the modern street surface. Most of the burials were contained within stone cists, with only seven found in simple earth graves.

3.0 RESULTS

As mention in 1.0, above, it was proposed that the trench should cross directly from 23 Minster Yard to the north-west corner of the Morning Chapel. However, when the groundworks were actually undertaken the route seemed to have reverted back to the original proposal (see Fig. 1).

The trench itself was only *c.* 300mm wide and was excavated to a depth of between 300mm and 400mm.

Only a single buried deposit was revealed, comprising a mid-brown sandy silt, [101]. This layer was at least 200mm thick to the limit of excavation (L.O.E.), and contained frequent small-medium sized, irregularly-shaped, limestone pieces.

[101] was overlain by a 100mm-150mm thick surface of granite setts and mortar base ([100]), which forms the existing carriageway of Minster Yard.

No artefacts or evidence for buried archaeological features were revealed during the course of the groundworks.

4.0 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

In spite of the potential for important archaeological discoveries in this part of Lincoln, the limited depth and extent of the cable trench made it unlikely that any substantial remains would be uncovered.

This was ultimately borne out by the results of the watching brief, which revealed only undated dumping deposits or layers of obviously modern origin (i.e., the cobbled surface of Minster Yard).

This does not, of course, preclude future discoveries in areas surrounding the site, and any subsequent works carried out should be carefully assessed to establish their archaeological implications.

5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit would like to express its thanks to the following: British Telecommunications plc (BT) for kindly funding this project; Mr J. Fahey of BT, Access Network Planning, Lincoln ATE, Broadgate, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, LN2 5AA; Mr G. Burbidge, Clerk of Works, Lincoln Cathedral, 26 Eastgate, Lincoln; Mr G. Scott and all on-site staff of ARM (groundworks contractor).

6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Donel, L & Wragg, K 1992 *Lincoln Cathedral 1992: Electricity Cable Installation - Archaeological Report (Interim)* CLAU Archaeological Report 30

Wragg, K 1993 *Bailgate Area Watermains Replacement - Archaeological Recording* CLAU Archaeological Report 46

7.0 LHA NOTE/ARCHIVE DETAILS

7.1 LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODE: COWD00

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: n/a

FIELD OFFICER: K.Wragg

NGR: SK 9773/7184

CIVIL PARISH: Lincoln

SMR No.: n/a

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 10/04/00 -
18/04/00

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: British
Telecommunications plc (BT), Access
Network Planning, Lincoln ATE, Broadgate,
Lincoln, Lincolnshire, LN2 5AA

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.: 2000.85

ACCESSION DATE: -

APPENDIX A - ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The archive consists of:

No.	Description
1	Site diary
1	Report
2	Context records
1	Site drawing
1 set	Colour photographs

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 2000.85, will be undertaken following completion of this project.

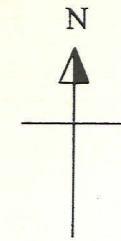
APPENDIX B - COLOUR PLATES



Plate 1: General view of trench across Minster Yard - looking north-west



Plate 2: Overall view of excavated section - looking north

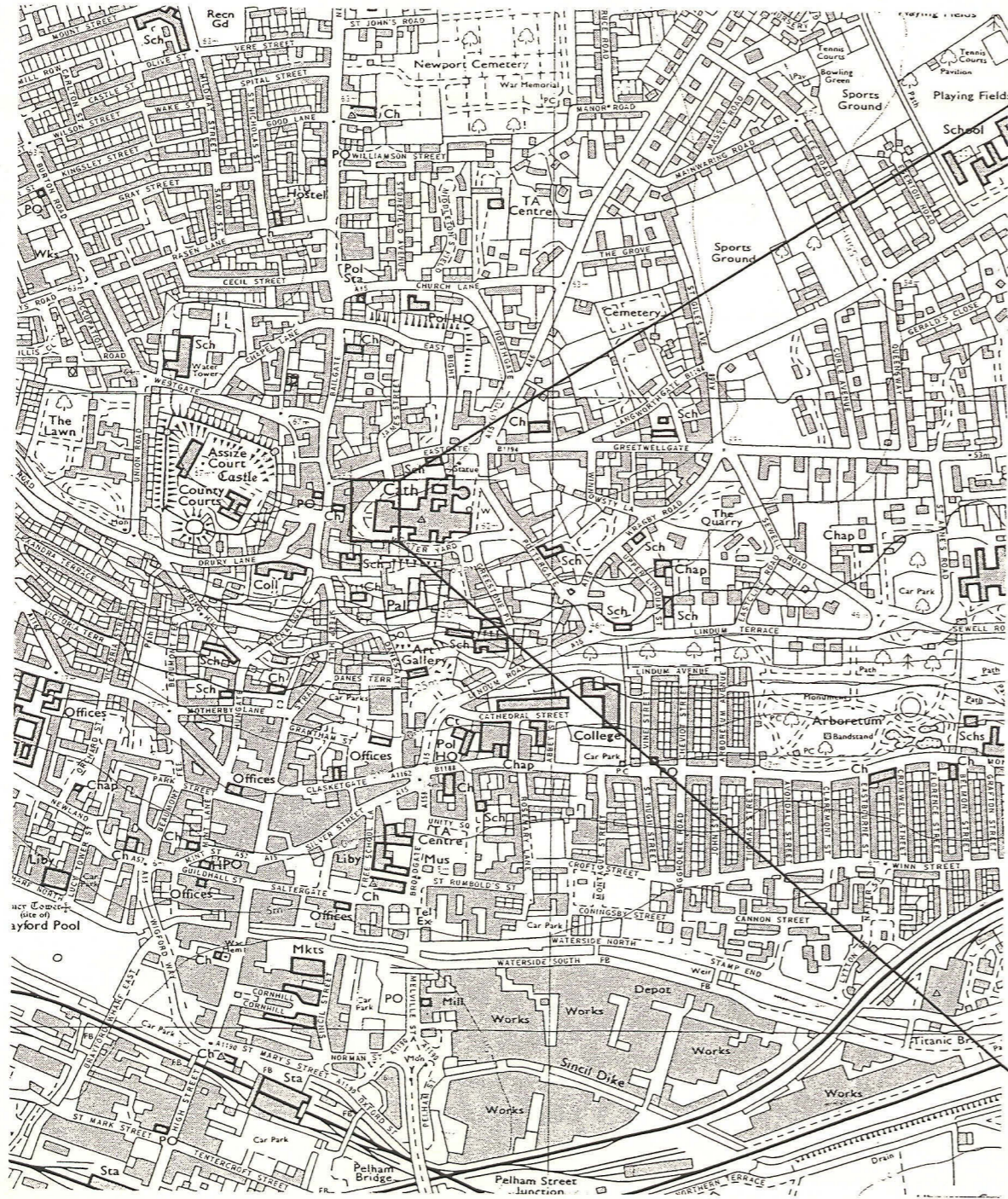


KEY

--- Route of Cable Trench

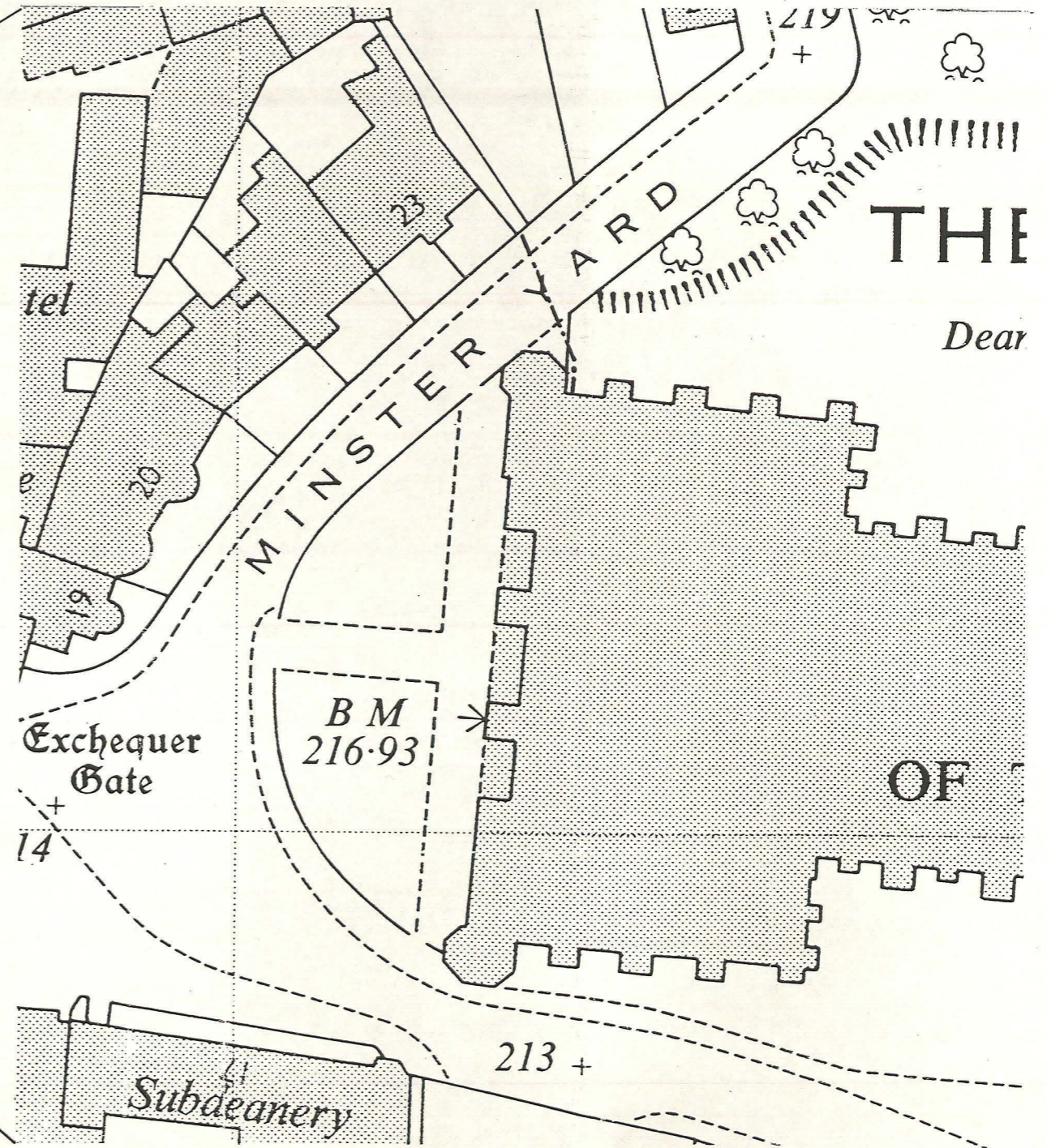
CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
SITE CODE: COWD00	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT: British Telecom		
DESCRIPTION: Site Location Plan		
SCALE:	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY:	CHECKED:	DATE:
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:		2000.85

1:10 000



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Fig.1