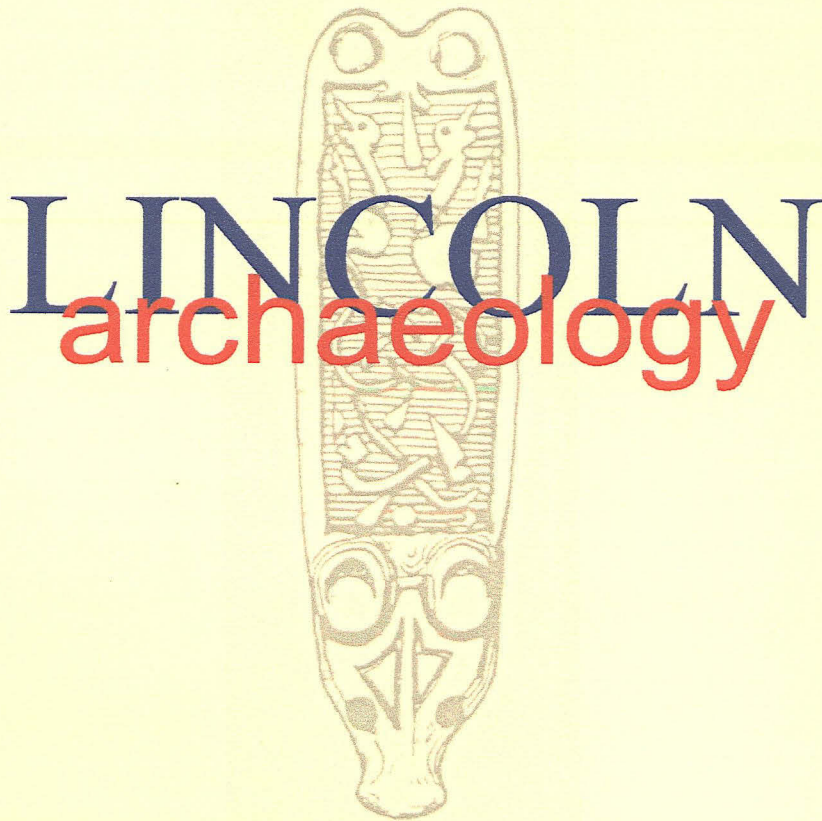


**A Report to Brian E. Wright Architects
On behalf of Lincoln Corn Exchange & Markets
(1991) Ltd**

February 2000



**The Carlton Centre, Outer Circle
Road, Lincoln**

Archaeological Watching Brief

By K Wragg

Report No.: 406

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Lancashire County Council
Archaeology Section



The Carlton Centre, Outer Circle Road, Lincoln

Site Code: COC99
LCCM Accession No.: 189.99
Planning Application No.: 99/572/O
NGR: SK 9970/7255

Archaeological Watching Brief

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THE CARLTON CENTRE, OUTER CIRCLE ROAD, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This site is situated close to the junction of Bunkers Hill/Wragby Road and Outer Circle Road on the eastern side of Lincoln.

The site was at the time of the work a mixture of heath and wasteground, with disused commercial and industrial sites along the Outer Circle Road frontage.

Proposals for the site involved the construction of a large multi-use development, comprising retail outlets, a public house, and office units.

In addition to the commercial aspects of the scheme, it is also planned that the site will also include a variety of social facilities. These will include GP, dental and veterinary surgeries, a library, crèche, external play area, a landscaped square, and housing.

The actual groundworks for the scheme were restricted to topsoil stripping and levelling, removal of modern concrete surfaces and structures, trenching for drainage, and the formation of a new road junction (linking the site to Outer Circle Road).

The bulk of this work involved either obviously modern deposits or the importation of material onto the site, with only very limited excavation.

However, in view of the archaeological potential of the surrounding area (see 2.0, below), the planning permission for the development required an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during the enabling works.

As a consequence, the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit was commissioned in February 1998 by Brian E. Wright Architects,

on behalf of Lincoln Corn Exchange & Markets (1991) Ltd., to carry out an intermittent watching brief.

However, the redevelopment scheme did not commence until late 1999, with archaeological attendance undertaken between the 20th of September and the 18th of October 1999.

In view of the nature of the groundworks required for this project, it is not too surprising that the archaeological results have proved negative.

The majority of the work involved either importing material onto the site, or the removal of existing modern deposits & structures.

The exceptions were the topsoil stripping across the eastern part of the site and the insertion of a new culvert at the south-east corner.

Both of these elements, however, only revealed the natural strata, with no sign of any obvious archaeological deposits, features or artefacts.

THE CARLTON CENTRE, OUTER CIRCLE ROAD, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1.0 INTRODUCTION

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However, in view of the archaeological potential of the surrounding area (see 2.0, below), the planning permission for the development required an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during the enabling works.

As a consequence, on the 13th of February 1998, the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit

was commissioned by Brian E. Wright Architects, on behalf of Lincoln Corn Exchange & Markets (1991) Ltd., to carry out an intermittent watching brief.

However, the redevelopment scheme did not commence until late 1999, with archaeological attendance undertaken between the 20th of September and the 18th of October 1999.

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

Evidence for early settlement in Lincoln has remained somewhat elusive. While excavations to the east of Brayford Pool in 1972 produced pottery identified as being of late Iron Age or early Roman date the case for any substantial prehistoric settlement centred on the present city remains unproven although traces of 1st Century B.C. activity have been identified. However, to the east of Lincoln, excavations and chance finds have indicated a rich Iron Age culture.

The most obvious signs of pre-historic & Roman activity close to the development site are the enclosures, droveways and triple linear ditch boundary, together with stone axes found in the area to the east of the site. The line of the ditch boundary has been traced over a distance of at least 5km from Grange de Lings in the north to Greetwell.

To the north of the site, the (A158) Wragby Road follows the line of an important Roman road running east-north-east from Lincoln to the coast, and it is believed that ironstone mining and possibly quarrying of limestone at Greetwell has its origins in the Romano-British period.

A 5-6th century iron smelting site at Cherry Willingham and evidence of iron working in Lincoln during the Saxon period may indicate continuation of ironstone mining at Greetwell, while the limestone quarries at Greetwell were certainly in use during the medieval and post-medieval periods.

Recently, two projects have been carried out centred on NGR TF 007/724 approximately mid-way between Hawthorn Road and Greetwell Road.

A multi-phased archaeological evaluation scheme has been underway here since 1993 in response to proposals to extend the existing Butterley Aggregates quarry.

The recent work has involved a fieldwalking project and a subsequent trial-trench evaluation, both carried out by Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) in 1997.

The first project recovered a total of 797 tile fragments together with 331 sherds of pottery. The diagnostic examples were generally divided between Roman and post-Roman (13th-18th century) dates, although concentrations of 3rd-4th century finds close to the western corner of the site appeared to indicate a focus of late-Roman occupation in this area (LAS, 1997).

These discoveries prompted the subsequent evaluation, which involved the excavation of a series of fourteen trenches and six smaller trial-pits.

While several of the trenches and trial-pits revealed no obvious archaeological deposits or features (or only medieval ridge & furrow remains), eight trenches (all in the western half of the site) produced evidence of occupation ranging from the mid-late Iron Age through to 4th century Roman.

In addition to various linear and curvi-linear ditches found across the area, evidence for the mysterious 'triple-ditch' feature was revealed in two of the trenches. Finds dating to the mid-late Iron Age/Early Roman periods were recovered from the fill of the ditch in one of these trenches.

A linear feature, apparently the remains of a 3rd-4th century Roman stone wall, together with other linear building remains was also uncovered. Other finds included a pit 'complex' apparently related to industrial

activity, a 'ring' ditch, and the possible remains of a burial mound, all dated to the 3rd century.

Post-Roman activity on the site was confined to the remains of medieval/Post-medieval ridge & furrow cultivation (all refs., LAS 1997).

3.0 RESULTS

There were four basic elements to this scheme, as follows:

- Topsoil stripping across the eastern half of the site (presently 'heath' or wasteground);
- Infilling (with limestone hardcore/quarry waste) to the level of the 37.5m contour across this part of the site;
- Removal of concrete foundations, surfaces & other modern remains along the Outer Circle Road frontage;
- Diversion/extension of the existing foul water sewer and surface water drain & insertion of a concrete culvert at the south-eastern corner of the site

Only the topsoil stripping and the excavation for the drainage appeared to have any potential for archaeological discoveries, and the watching brief was therefore focused on these two elements.

However, the stripping only removed approximately 300mm of topsoil before the underlying natural (i.e., geological) strata, a limestone 'brash', was revealed.

The topsoil itself showed no sign of any archaeological finds or features, with only modern dumping present at various locations across the site.

Excavation for the drainage runs revealed a similar sequence of topsoil (with modern intrusive material) overlying the natural limestone 'brash'.

4.0 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

In view of the nature of the groundworks required for this project, it is not too surprising that the archaeological results have proved negative.

The majority of the work involved either importing material onto the site, or the removal of existing modern deposits & structures.

The exceptions were the topsoil stripping across the eastern part of the site and the insertion of a new culvert at the south-east corner.

Both of these elements, however, only revealed the natural strata, with no sign of any obvious archaeological deposits, features or artefacts.

5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit would like to thank the following for their assistance during this project: Lincoln Corn Exchange & Markets (1991) Ltd., for kindly funding this project; Mr Brian E. Wright, of Brian E. Wright Architects, Hamlet House, 7 Oak Hill, Washingborough, Lincolnshire, LN4 1BA; Messrs. Trevor Watson, Mick Thornhill and Chris Hills, of UCS Ltd., Rand, Wragby, Lincolnshire (main site contractor); Messrs. Jim Rae (planning officer) & Ian George (archaeology officer), Lincoln City Council, City Hall, Beaumont Fee, Lincoln LN1 1DH.

6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hockley, J, 1992 *Lincoln Eastern Bypass: Stage 1 - Archaeological and Historical Study*, CLAU Archaeological Report No:29

Lindsey Archaeological Services, 1997 *Land at Greetwell, Lincoln - Proposal for quarry extension*, Fieldwalking project (carried out for Butterley Aggregates Ltd.)

Lindsey Archaeological Services, 1997 *Land at Greetwell, Lincoln - Proposal for quarry extension*, LAS Archaeological Report No.: 277, Evaluation trenching (carried out for Oxford Archaeological Associates Ltd., on behalf of Butterley Aggregates Ltd.)

Trimble R, 1997 *Lincoln Eastern Bypass: Stage 1 - Archaeological and Historical Study, Part II*, CLAU Archaeological Report No.: 298

Wragg K, 1999 *Lincoln Eastern Bypass: Archaeological Recording in conjunction with Geotechnical Trial Pitting (Phase 1)* (also includes update to 1997 Archaeological and Historical Study) CLAU Archaeological Report No.: 377

7.0 LHA NOTE/ARCHIVE DETAILS

7.1 LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODE: COC99

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: 99/572/O

FIELD OFFICER: K.Wragg

NGR: SK 9970/7255

CIVIL PARISH: Lincoln

SMR No.: n/a

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 20/09/99 - 18/10/99

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Brian E Wright Architects, Hamlet House, 7 Oak Hill, Washingborough, Lincolnshire, LN4 1BA, on behalf of Lincoln Corn Exchange & Markets (1991) Limited

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.: 189.99

ACCESSION DATE: -

**APPENDIX A - ARCHIVE
DEPOSITION**

The archive consists of:

No.	Description
1	Site diary
1	Report
2	Site drawings
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 189.99, will be undertaken following completion of this project.

APPENDIX B - COLOUR PLATES



Plate 1: General view of topsoil stripping in progress - looking north



Plate 2: General view of modern concrete remains adjacent to Outer Circle Road - looking west

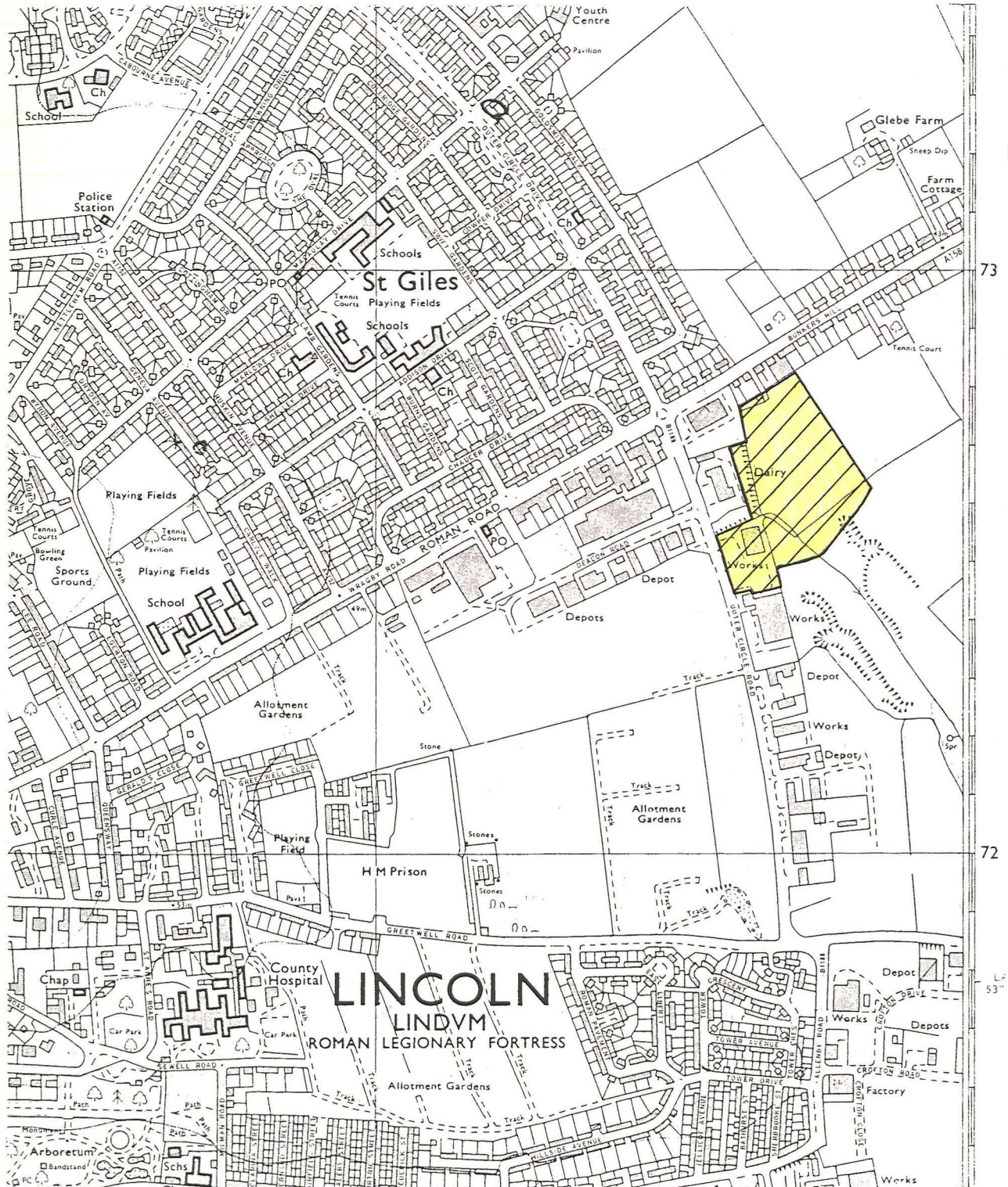


KEY



Location of Site

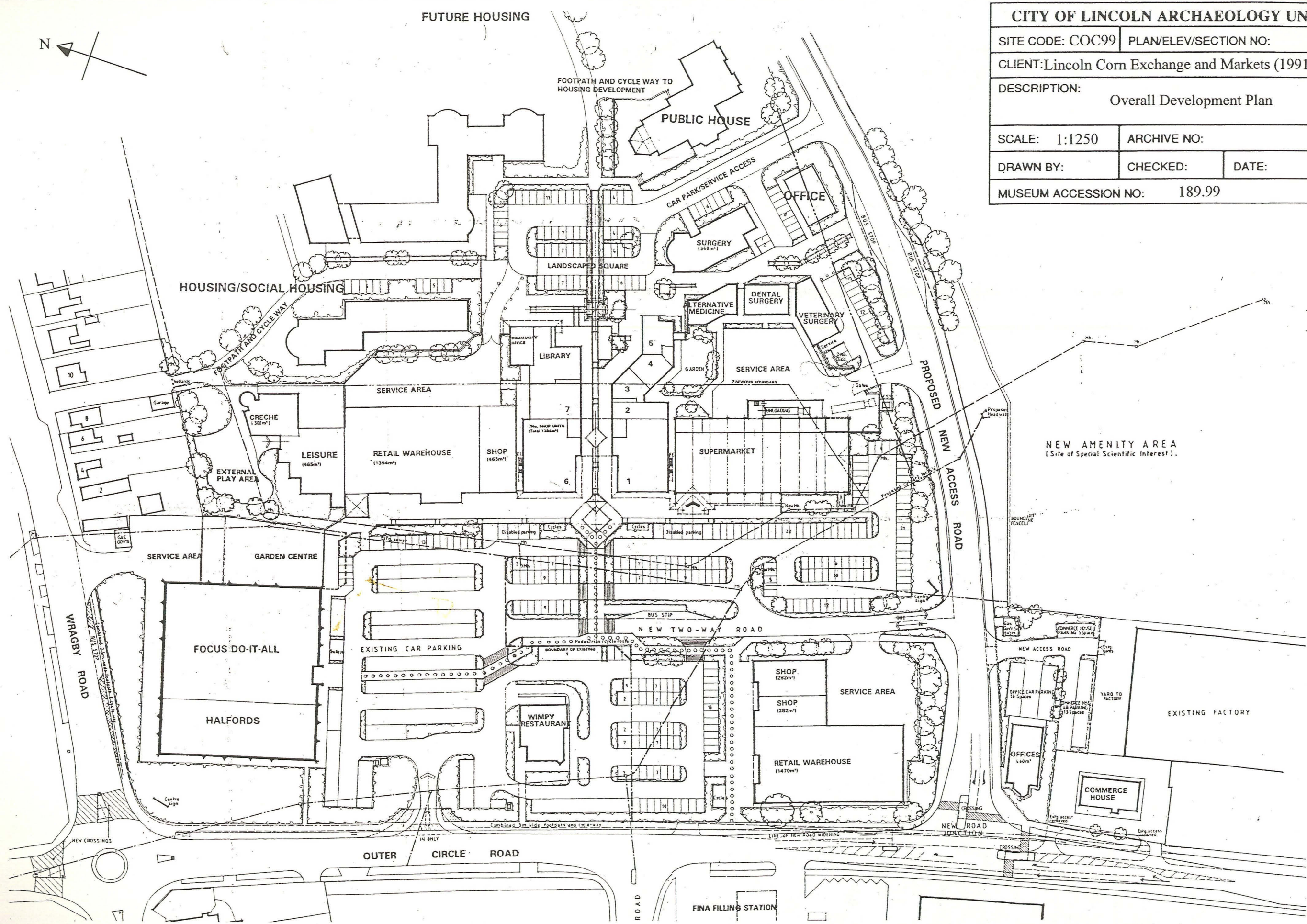
CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
SITE CODE: COC99	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT: Lincoln Corn Exchange and Markets (1991) Ltd.		
DESCRIPTION: Site Location Plan		
SCALE: 1:10 000	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY:	CHECKED:	DATE:
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 189.99		



Reproduced from the 1976 Ordnance Survey 1:10 000 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright, by CLAU, Charlotte House, The Lawn, Lincoln, under Licence No. AL 52761A0001.

Fig.1

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
SITE CODE: COC99	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT: Lincoln Corn Exchange and Markets (1991) Ltd.		
DESCRIPTION: Overall Development Plan		
SCALE: 1:1250	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY:	CHECKED:	DATE:
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 189.99		



Based upon Brian E. Wright Architect drawing No. 781/A0/39 J.

Fig.2