

THE CORN EXCHANGE BUILDING, CORNHILL, LINCOLN

Archaeological Recording

By K Wragg

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 91

A

Report to

The Lincoln Co-operative Society

March 1994

Prepared by

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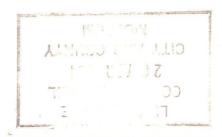
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Director: Michael J. Jones MA.FSA.MIFA

Assistant Director: Alan G. Vince BA.PhD.FSA.MIFA Administrator: John T. Wilford BA.FSA

20th April 1994

Brian E Wright Architects Croylands 15 High Street Washingborough LINCOLN LN4 1BG



Dear Sir.

CORN EXCHANGE BUILDING (UNITS 3 & 4)

PLANNING APPLICATION No.LF31/0021/93

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION - WATCHING BRIEF

We refer to the archaeological condition of the planning permission granted in respect to the above application and confirm that groundwork was partially monitored by staff of the Unit and archaeological observation and recording has been completed in compliance with the planning condition.

A useful record of deposits exposed by the groundwork has been secured for incorporation into the Urban Archaeological Database and documentary archive. A copy of our archive report No.91 is enclosed for your records. Copies of the report will also be lodged with the Local Planning Authority and the County Sites and Monuments Record Office.

Our invoice covering the cost of attendance, recording, report preparation and archive accession has been forwarded directly to your client together with a copy of the report.

We would take this opportunity to thank all parties concerned for their interest and co-operation.

Yours faithfully,

John T Wilford Administrator

c.c Lincoln Co-operative Society Limited, 13/14 Silver St, Lincoln, LN2 1JU Director of Planning, Lincoln City Council.

County Sites and Monuments Record Office, Lincoln.

John Twifrel

CORN EXCHANGE BUILDING, CORNHILL, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

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THE CORN EXCHANGE BUILDING, CORNHILL, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

Introduction

In response to an archaeological condition of planning permission the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit was commissioned by Brian E Wright Architects, on behalf of the Lincoln Co-operative Society Ltd, to monitor contractors' excavations on this site. In this way it was hoped that at least a documentary record of any archaeological remains could be secured during groundwork to form the well for a new escalator.

This work was expected to involve excavation of a rectangular trench measuring 3.85m (N-S) x 2.80m (E-W) to a depth of approximately 1.15m - 1.2m. In the event, however, the finished size of the excavated trench was approximately 4.50m (N-S) x 3.60m (E-W) x 1.70m deep, and owing to a late notification of commencement all excavation was complete at the time of the C.L.A.U. visit, resulting in the potential loss of considerable archaeological information. Additionally, a 400mm thick slab of concrete had already been installed in the base of the trench, and work was also well advanced with regard to installation of reinforcing steelwork and a damp-proof membrane.

Following consultation with the Architect and the Local Planning Authority, it was decided that all contractors' work around the excavated escalator well would be halted to allow sufficient time for the remainder of the surviving archaeology to be recorded, although ultimately less than 50% of the sections of the trench could be accurately investigated owing to obstruction. The results gained from this limited observation form the basis of this report.

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).

Background

This site was located in an area of considerable archaeological potential, located to the east of the High Street, south of the line of the River Witham (see Fig.1). Previous archaeological discoveries in the immediate areas surrounding the development include both structural and artefactual remains from the Roman, Medieval and Post-Medieval periods.

Finds from the Roman period have included remains of the main N-S route into the City, seen along the modern High Street c.100m to the west, and the possibility exists that associated structures might extend into the development area. Remains of buildings and further evidence ranging from land reclamation to commercial activity all prove Roman occupation dating from between the 2nd and 4th centuries.

Later, during the Medieval and Post-Medieval periods, the occupation in this part of the City continued to develop with several churches known to exist in the locality. One of the closest churches, St.John the Evangelist in Wigford, is thought to have stood in Cornhill, and during building work in 1992 a large stone capital dating from approximately 1125 was discovered in Cornhill thought to originate from this church. Other finds including human remains, pottery, carved stonework, clay pipes and kiln remains have also been uncovered over the past twenty years in areas immediately surrounding the development site.

Results

The earliest deposit revealed (at approximately 1.2m below the existing surface) by trenching was [107], a layer of mid grey- brown sandy earth containing small pieces of bone, tile and limestone. This layer was at least 500mm thick to the limit of excavation (L.O.E.), and was present in all areas of the trench (see Figs.3 & 4). Overlying [107] were two features, comprising [106] in the south-west corner of the trench, and [114] to the north of the excavated area. [106] was a moderately compacted lense of friable rich redbrown/orange-red ash and burnt clay, between 50mm and 100mm thick, present within the east facing section for approximately 2.0m (see Fig.3) and [114] was a small, possibly linear, feature which measured approximately 400mm (E-W) with a depth of 200mm. This latter feature appeared to be oriented N-S and

could possibly represent part of a construction trench for a feature associated with the limestone surface [112] (see below), but removed by the current groundwork. Cut [114] was filled by [113], a mix of moderate to well compacted yellow-brown sandy mortar and small flakes/pieces of limestone, which was in turn overlain by a horizontal surface, [112], consisting of at least eight substantial limestone blocks. The stones in this feature were all roughly squared and measured on average 400mm x 200mm (the feature was only seen in section and its full extent is not known), and were laid without any obvious bonding to form a surface which dipped very slightly to the east, and continued into both east and west facing sections. This surface was then overlain by a thin (c.50-100mm) layer of mid brown sandy earth containing small flecks of limestone and brick/tile, [111].

Layer [111] and the previously mentioned ash/burnt clay lense, [106], were both sealed by [105], a 300mm thick layer of moderately compacted, friable mid red-brown earth containg small pieces of limestone, which was cut to the west by a small feature [110]. This feature was only seen within the east facing section of the trench (with orientation and shape in plan not known), measured at least 400mm N-S, and was approximately 400mm deep. A large piece of limestone, [108], was present at the base of the feature and this was in turn sealed by the earth fill [109]. [108] consisted of a worked flat slab of limestone, broken at the eastern end and projecting by approximately 100mm from the section. Efforts to determine the overall size of this stone were unsuccessful but the visible element was 250mm (width) x 100mm (thickness) x 200mm+ (length), and was firmly embedded in the section. The fill, [109], was a loose - moderately compacted mid brown sandy earth containing nails, pieces of broken clay pipe, patches of ash and small flecks of limestone.

This fill was sealed by a layer of very well compacted mid-light grey brown earth [104], which contained only occasional small flecks of limestone, and was present throughout the whole of the excavated area. [104] was overlain by [103], a very thin (c.10-50mm) uneven layer of well compacted dark brown sandy earth containing very occasional small flecks of limestone, which appeared to form possibly the last remaining archaeological horizon, with all the layers above ([100] - [102]) being connected with the original modern concrete floor. Of these layers [102] directly sealed [103], and consisted of a 200mm thick layer of mixed limestone and concrete hardcore. This layer was overlain by [101], a thin layer of limestone hardcore incorporating the original damp-proof membrane, which was in turn sealed by the 200mm thick concrete floor slab [100] supporting the remains of a wooden parquet floor.

Conclusions

From the limited observation undertaken on this project, and from the results detailed above, it is obvious that stratified archaeological deposits exist on this site, probably dating from at least as early as the Medieval period. It is therefore to be regretted that in the course of the contractors groundworks in excess of 24 cubic metres of these archaeological deposits was lost without any form of record. From the information gathered from the limited recording it appears that the stone surface seen in the northern side of the trench represents the remains of a substantial floor belonging to a large building, although again owing to the limited opportunity for recording it is impossible to be certain. In addition, the evidence of occupation to the south of the excavated area only provides us with information in the most general terms, lying as it does in isolation with very little indication of the nature of any relationship with or connection between this and the possible stone floor.

ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The archive consists of:

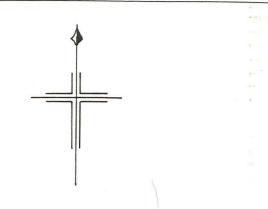
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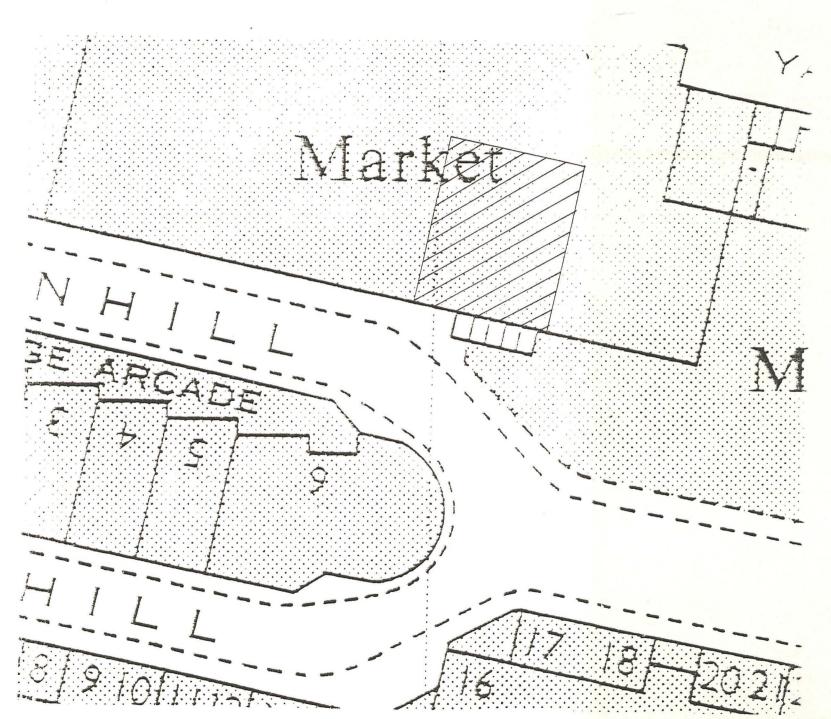
- 1 Site diary
- 1 Report
- 15 Context records
- 4 Scale drawings
- 1 set Photographic records Colour slides
- 1 set Photographic records B&W Prints
- 1 Stratigraphic matrix

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 55.93, will be undertaken within approximately six months of completion of this project.





CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE:COX 93 PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:

CLIENT: LINCOLN CO-OP SOCIETY LTD

DESCRIPTION:

SITE LOCATION PLAN

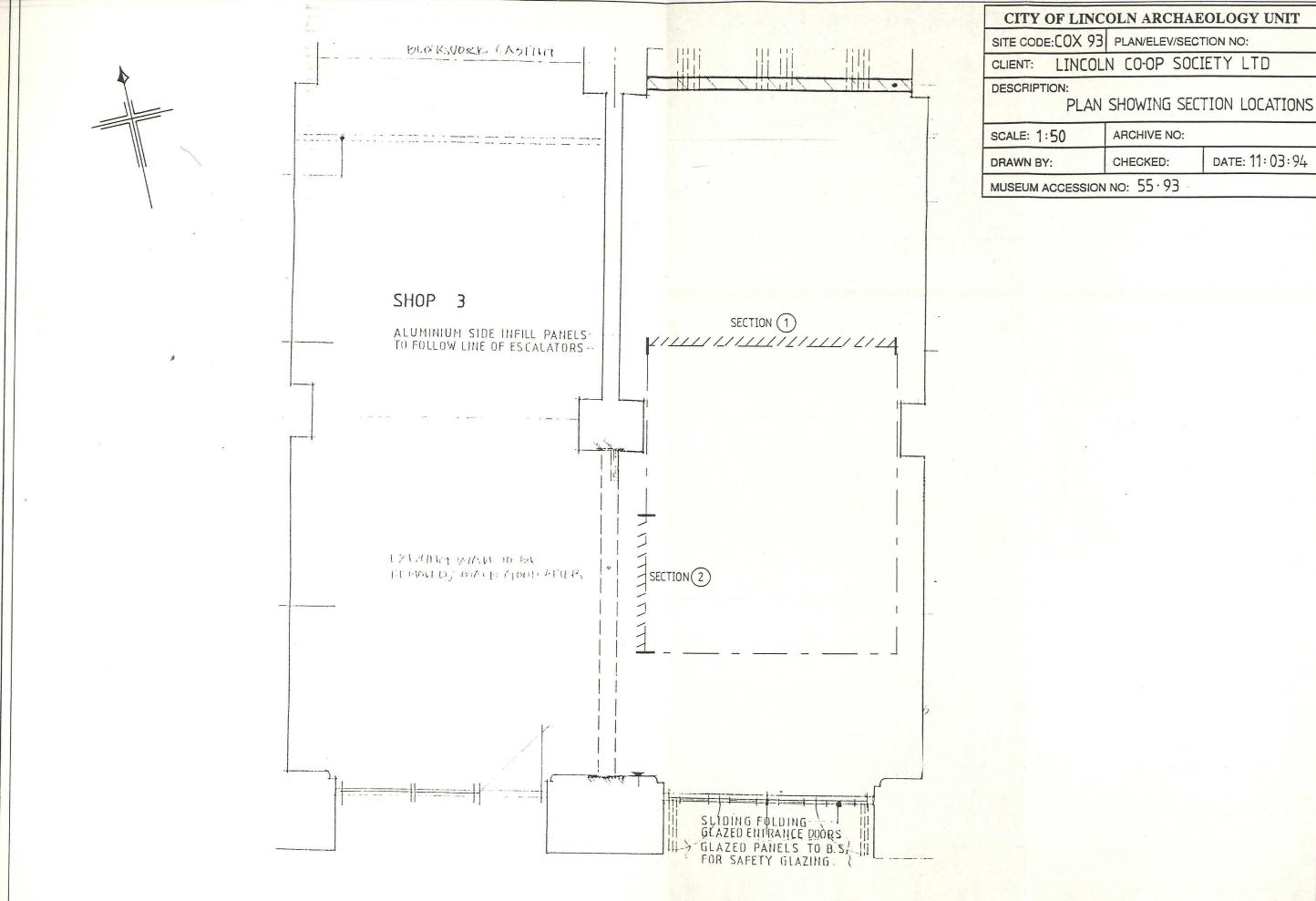
SCALE: 1:500 ARCHIVE NO:

DRAWN BY: CHECKED: DATE:11:03:94
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 55.93

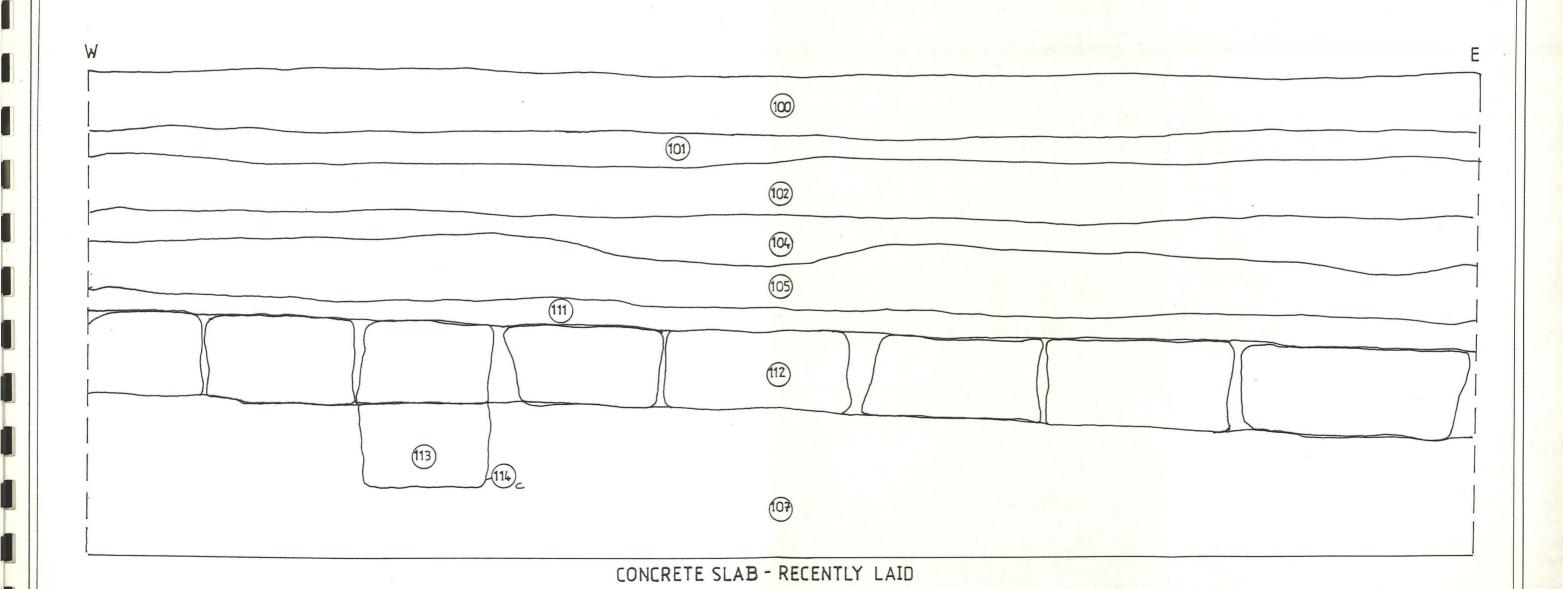
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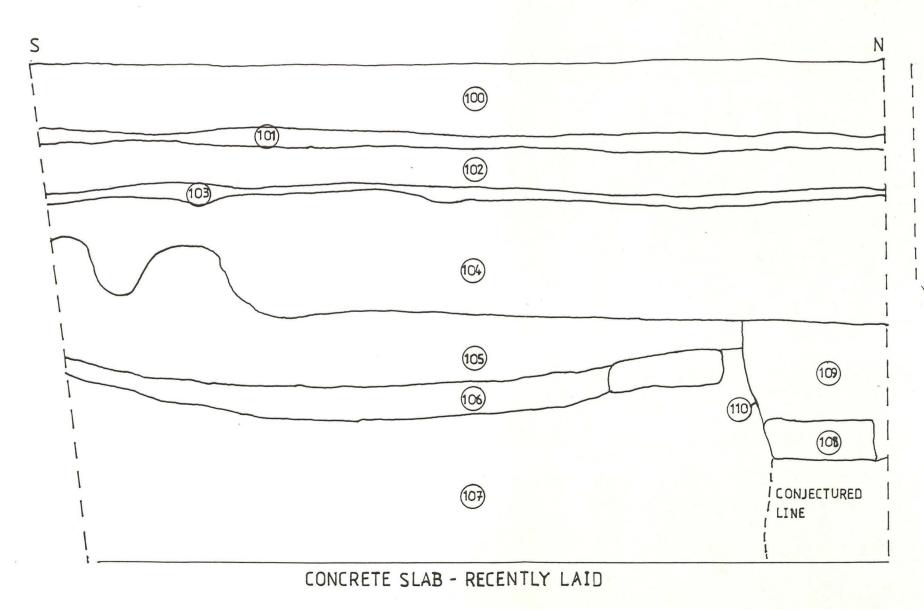
SITE LOCATION



CITY OF LINC	COLN ARCHAE	OLOGY UNIT		
SITE CODE:COX 93	PLAN/ELEY/SECT	TION NO: 1		
CLIENT: LINCOLN	CO-OP SOCIE	ETY LTD		
SOUTH FACING SECTION				
SCALE: 1:10	ARCHIVE NO:	2		
		DATE: 26:10:9		



CONTRACTOR ADOLLARDA OCTATION					
CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT					
SITE CODE:COX'9	B PLAN/ELEY/SECT	TION NO: 2			
CLIENT: LINCOLN CO-OP SOCIETY LTD					
DESCRIPTION: EAST FACING SECTION					
SCALE: 1:10	ARCHIVE NO:				
DRAWN BY: KW	CHECKED:	DATE: 26:10:93			



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