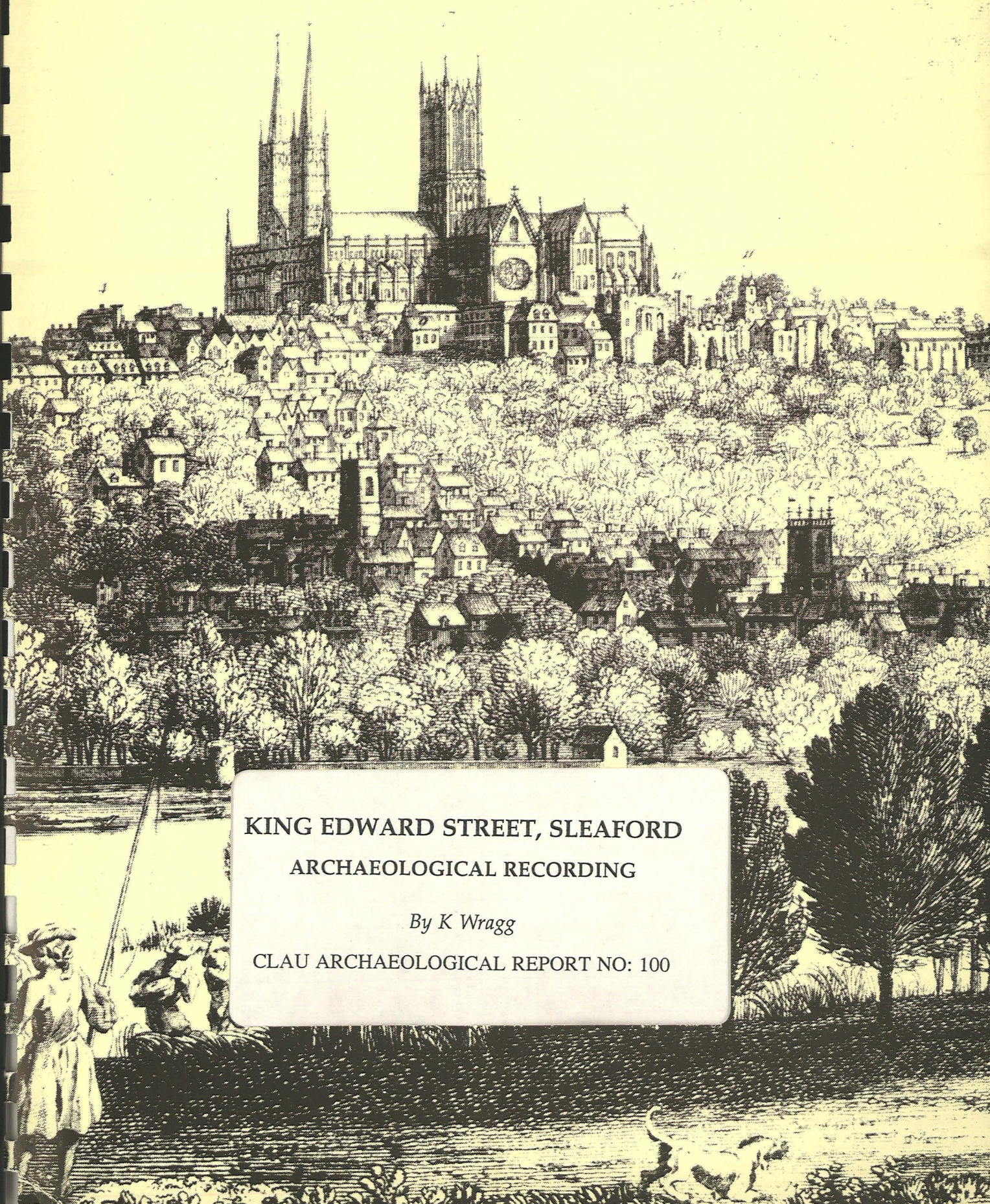


CITY OF  
◇ LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY ◇  
U N I T



KING EDWARD STREET, SLEAFORD  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING  
*By K Wragg*  
CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 100



A

Report to

*Hart Properties (Lincoln) Ltd*

on behalf of

*Longhurst Housing Association Ltd*

April 1994

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Prepared by

*The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit  
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KING EDWARD STREET, SLEAFORD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

*By K Wragg*

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 100

KING EDWARD STREET,  
SLEAFORD,  
LINCOLNSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

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Fig.2 Ground plan showing section locations - 1:500

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# KING EDWARD STREET, SLEAFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

TF 064 454

### *Introduction*

This project was prompted by plans to develop an area of land, formerly used as allotments, lying to the east of King Edward Street, Sleaford (south of the Sleaford - Grantham/Lincoln railway line). The proposed development covered an area of approximately 4200 sq.m., and totalled twenty-four dwellings together with associated parking areas, and access roads.

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (C.L.A.U.) was commissioned by Hart Properties (Lincoln) Limited, on behalf of the Longhurst Housing Association Limited, to provide an archaeological watching brief recommended as a condition of planning permission by the North Kesteven District Archaeological Officer, Ms. N. Nuttall.

Groundworks consisted of a substantial network of foundation trenches, together with associated work to install new drainage measures across the site. All trenches were machine excavated, as part of a phased programme, between November 1993 and February 1994.

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*

The site lies within an area known as New Sleaford and is situated immediately to the south of the remains of Sleaford Castle. The Castle itself can now be identified only as a series of earthworks visible on the surface of a recreation area, but originally consisted of a fortified rectangular courtyard, surrounded on three sides by a rectangular moat, which extended to contain an outer enclosure to the south (in the direction of the development site) and west. The Castle was formerly the centre of an estate belonging to Bishop Alexander of Lincoln, its builder, and was constructed between 1123 and 1139, being subsequently surrendered to Stephen during the year of its completion (ref. Renn.D, *Norman Castles in Britain*, 1973).

The site of the Castle is enclosed to the north by the Nine Foot River, and to the south and east by drains feeding into this watercourse, which ultimately flows into the River Slea. In 1320, a fishpond and marsh are described lying to the west of the Castle (ref. *South Lincolnshire Archaeology : 3 - Sleaford*, 1979).

### *Results*

No definite evidence for past occupation on this site was seen at any stage of the groundwork programme, with the majority of the stratigraphy being made up of seemingly natural sand layers, overlain by layers of earth/topsoil and modern dumping/backfill. The latter deposit was concentrated in a narrow strip running E-W across the site, largely as a result of attempts to provide stable access and working areas for contractor's machinery, and was laid directly on to the existing topsoil.

The earliest deposit recorded during trenching was present across the whole development site and comprised a layer of dark grey-brown/black organic sand containing no obvious inclusions. This layer, [106], was at least 200mm thick to the Limit Of Excavation (L.O.E.), and was overlain by [104], a moderately-well compacted mid grey sand containing yellow-sand mottles and no other inclusions.

In turn [104] was sealed by [103], a mid-dark grey friable sandy earth containing small brown mottles (making up approximately 30% of the total) and root remains, which lay beneath [102], a 200mm thick layer of well compacted mid grey sand, containing only root remains.

[102] was sealed by two different deposits, [107] at the eastern end of the site, and [105] towards the centre of the site. Layer [107] formed the surface deposit and comprised a mix of brick rubble, small limestone pieces, wire and mid grey sandy earth, up to 400mm-500mm thick, and appeared to have been deposited to provide a stable working surface at the commencement of this project. Layer [105], however, was a thin layer of rich orange-brown sand containing root remains, only approximately 50mm-100mm thick, which was in turn sealed by [101], a layer of dark brown/grey sandy organic earth containing no obvious inclusions.

This latter deposit was approximately 300mm thick and appeared to have formed the original topsoil layer prior to commencement of the site clearance phase, and was still visible as topsoil in the northern and southern areas of the site. As overburden was removed across the centre of the site much of layer [101] appears to have been removed, with the deposit thickness being reduced from 300mm to approximately 50mm. In the central areas of the site layer [101] was then overlain by [100], a dumped layer of dull orange-brown sand, brick rubble and small irregularly shaped limestone pieces forming an area of hardstanding/accessway. This surface raised the original ground level by approximately 500mm, and was oriented E-W forming a strip approximately 5.0m - 6.0m, continuing for almost the entire length of the site, ending approximately 20m from the eastern end of the site.

### ***Conclusions***

With the absence of any sign of activity or occupation at any location on this site, and given the ground conditions and make-up, it is likely that this parcel of land has always remained undeveloped. The nature of the deposits recorded suggest that this land was probably part of a waterlogged environment (a condition returned to over large areas of the site at the time of the evaluation following heavy rain), possibly connected with the nearby drain and the Nine Foot River, and associated with the marsh recorded to the west of the castle in 1320.

### ***Acknowledgements***

The C.L.A.U. would like to thank Mike Todd of Hart Properties (Lincoln) Limited, together with other staff and contractors, for the assistance and support given during this project.



## APPENDIX A

### *Archive Deposition*

The archive consists of:

<i>No.</i>	<i>Description</i>
1	Site diary
1	Report
8	Context records
3	Scale drawings
1 set	Photographic records - Colour slides
1	Stratigraphic matrix

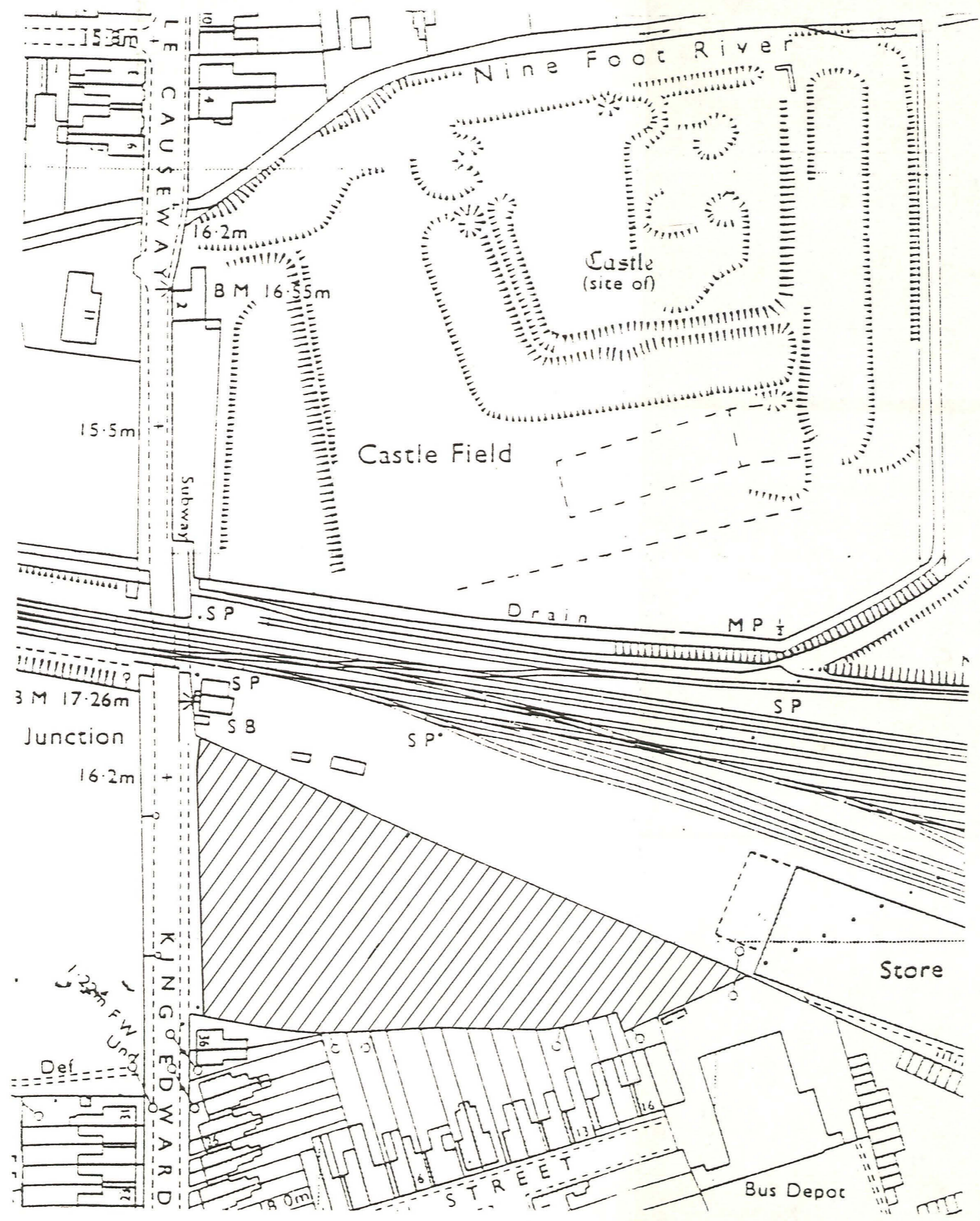
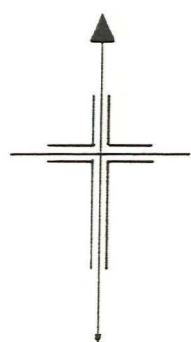
The primary archive material, as detailed above, is currently held by :

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



<b>CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT</b>		
SITE CODE: KES93	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT: Longhurst Housing Association		
DESCRIPTION: Site Location Plan		
SCALE: 1:1250	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY:	CHECKED:	DATE: 18/03/94
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 65.93		




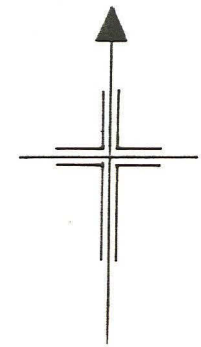
KEY  
 Site Location

Fig.1





<b>CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT</b>		
SITE CODE: KES93	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT:	Longhurst Housing Association	
DESCRIPTION:	Plan showing location of Section	
SCALE: 1:500	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY:	CHECKED:	DATE: 18/03/94
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 65.93		

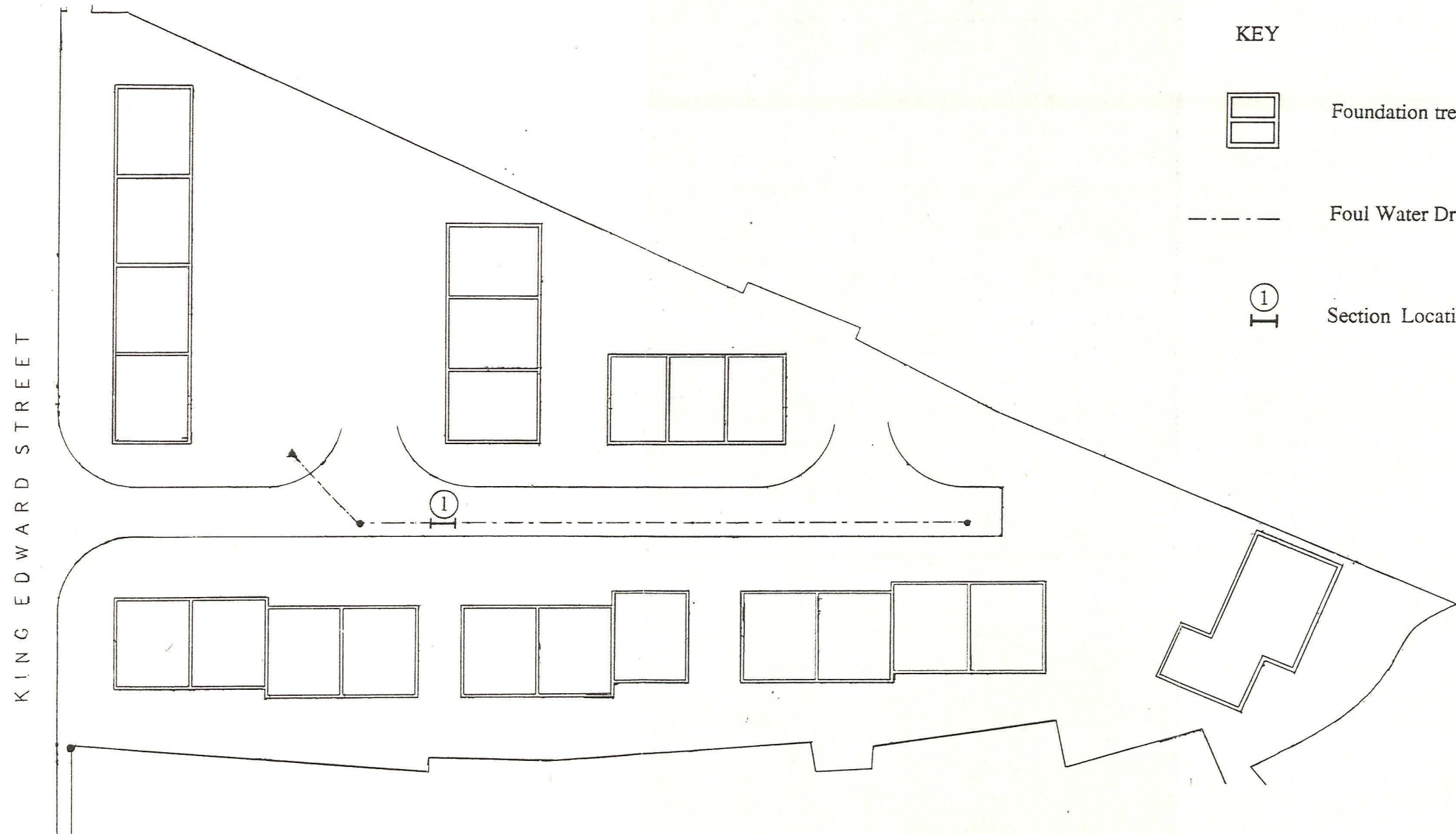


Fig.2



<b>CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT</b>		
SITE CODE: KES93	PLANE/ELEV/SECTION NO: 1	
CLIENT: Longhurst Housing Association		
DESCRIPTION: North Facing Section		
SCALE: 1:10	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY: KW	CHECKED:	DATE: 18/11/93
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 65.93		

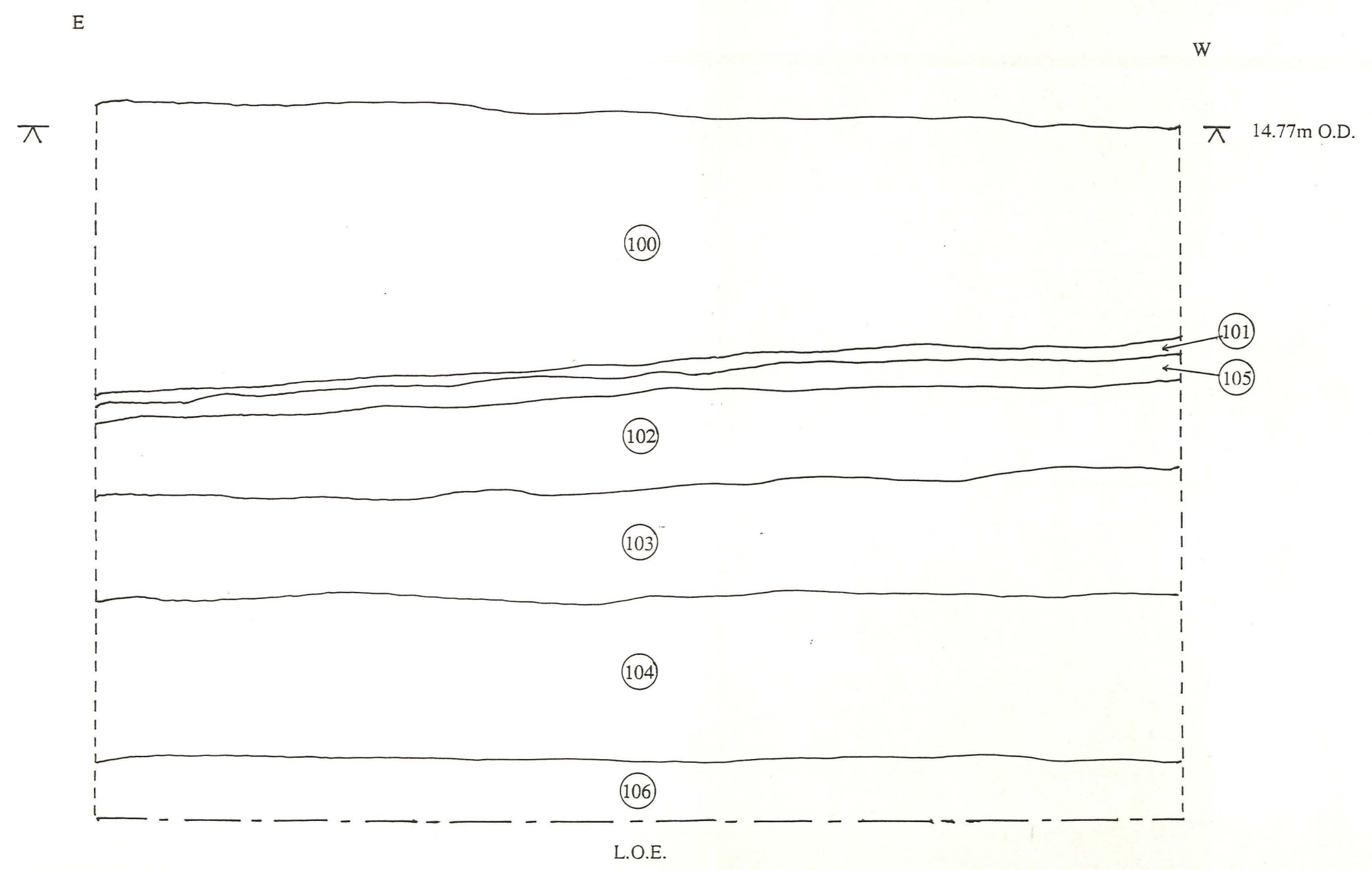
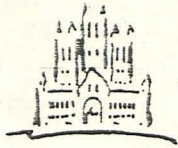
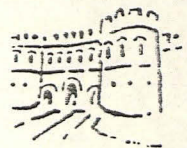


Fig.3





CITY OF  
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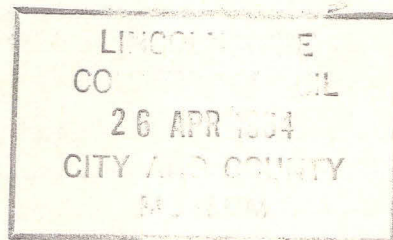
Director: Michael J. Jones MA.FSA.MIFA

Assistant Director: Alan G. Vince BA.PhD.FSA.MIFA

Administrator: John T. Wilford BA.FSA

20th April 1994

Mr M Todd  
Hart Properties (Lincoln) Limited  
Welbourn  
LINCOLN  
LN5 0ND



Dear Sirs

KING EDWARD STREET, SLEAFORD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION - WATCHING BRIEF

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

Please find enclosed two copies of our report No.100 describing the process and results of the watching brief. A copy has been deposited with the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record Office and two copies forwarded to the District Archaeological Officer for North Kesteven.

As no finds were recovered the final cost is less than our initial estimate. Our invoice covering the cost of attendance, recording, report preparation and archive accession is enclosed. Your early attention in arranging prompt payment would be greatly appreciated.

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

Yours faithfully,

John T Wilford  
Administrator

cc Ms N Nuttall, District Archaeological Officer, NKDC.  
✓ Lincolnshire Sites & Monuments Record Office