

SOURCE LI 8610 70129 Linich Codife

### A Report to Allott & Lomax, Consulting Engineers, Manchester

Conservation Services

2 5 MAR 2003

Highways & Planning Directorate

City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit
Charlotte House
The Lawn
Union Road
Lincoln
LN1 3BL

Tel: Lincoln (0522) 545326 Fax: Lincoln (0522) 548089

10/8/92

### LINCOLN CASTLE RE-EXAMINATION OF 1983 TRENCH AT WEST GATE

By L Donel & M J Jones

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 28

### Lincoln Castle Re-examination of 1983 Trench at West Gate

CONTENTS	PAGE
Discussion	1
Conlusions and Recommndations	1
References	
List of Illusations	
West Gate Location Plan	Fig 1
North Facing Section (1983 Excavation)	Fig 2
Site Plan (1983 Excavation)	Fig 3

# Lincoln Castle Re-examination of 1983 Trench at West Gate

#### Discussion

Following the decision to re-open the E-W trench originally excavated in 1983 immediately outside the West Gate, the CLAU was asked to examine and comment on the stratigraphy exposed, with special reference to the material at the base of the trench.

The requirements were to:

- re-examine and re-record the stratigraphy of the original trench
- 2. confirm the identification of the bottom of said trench
- determine whether the excavation had,as indicated by the excavator cut into foundation material.

The area opened is situated within the former trench directly adjacent to the corner of the gate and the north flanking wall on the outside of the West Gate. It measured 0.9m wide x 1.7m long x 0.7m deep. No archaeological material was removed; only backfill and accumulated modern debris (see fig.1).

The bottom of the trench, as revealed, had, indeed, been cut into the foundations for the West Gate. These foundations consist of a substantial raft of limestone rubble in a bed of clay and mortar which projects westwards towards the castle ditch. As seen, the foundations included a mixture of yellow mortar and small (10cms) to large (30-40cms) limestone fragments and blocks. Sealing this was a layer of light brown sandy earth (context (1012) from the 1983 excavation) which may represent the top of the raft. At the time, the raft and the earliest foundations found beneath the flanking walls were considered to be structurally earlier than the 12th century gate since the foundations for the gate itself abut them. Higher up, however, the two appear to be bonded in and there seems no reason why they could not be contemporary.

The 1983 trench was originally cut from c. 2m above the foundation level. However, some erosion has taken place since the excavations. The N. facing

section showed a series of modern deposits, probably backfill dated by pottery to the 18th and 19th centuries. There was no evidence to indicate that any of the present infill material was associated with the medieval gate itself (see fig.2).

The 1983 excavation had been cut approximately 0.40m into the foundations under the misconception that the layer was natural limestone brash. This supposition was proved incorrect as the excavation moved westwards revealing a more substantial foundation approximately 2m to the W of the gate entrance (fig.3).

## Conclusions and Recommendations

- The material at the bottom of the 1983 trench, lying c.2m below the gate cill, is part of the raft foundation for the gate. Material above this is of post medieval date and could be removed under archaeological supervision. The raft could be used as a base for the bridge foundations without significant damage to archaeological remains.
- 2. It is probable that the foundations extend along the full extent of the gap between the N and S outer walls. It would, therefore, be useful, should the infill material be removed, for a watching brief to be carried out during the removal. This would allow for the full recording of the complete extent of the remaining foundations and their relationship to the two outer walls of the West Gate.

LDonel/M J Jones

### References

Stocker, D, 1983 *Lincoln Castle*, Archaeology in Lincoln 1982-1983 Eleventh Ann Rep of Lincoln Archaeol Trust

Surveyed.....February 1966 PLAN SK 9771 NW hes to 1 mile 20 23 Chains LINCOLN CO BORO & CP 973 372000 WESTGATE 0 Castle Cottage Q 719 LINDVM ROMAN LEGIONARY FORTRESS ASSIZE COURT County Courts Castle (remains of) 10 1 3 Hilton Lodge 718 Hilton House Castle Moat House West Cottage The Moat House DRURY 198 + West Hill LANE BM 196.66 Witham View B M 170-23 B M 164.82 月717 The Old Vicarage Fig.1



