



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Westgate, Lincoln
Water Mains Replacement Scheme**

NGR: SK 97 71
Site Code: LWMR 02
LCNCC Museum Accn No.: 2002.235

Archaeological Monitoring

**Report prepared for
Anglian Water Services Ltd**

by G. Tann

**LAS Report No. 693
December 2003**

Conservation
Services

11 DEC 2003

Highways & Planning
Directorate

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EVENT LI 5715

INTERVENTION: LI 9863

CON: LI 6106

EXCAVATION: LI 9864

PRNs 70402 Roman
70403 Undated (med?)
70404 Roman
70405 Roman
70148 Roman
70129 medieval.

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Westgate, Lincoln

Water Mains Replacement Scheme

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Summary

Trenches excavated during relining and reconfiguration of an existing water main revealed fragmentary evidence for Roman stone buildings and occupation layers in Bailgate and Castle Square. Part of the core of the Roman western city wall was exposed on Motherby Hill, and medieval stone-lined graves were glimpsed near the cathedral. Possible road surfaces and ditches were seen on Steep Hill, and elsewhere on Steep Hill a small group of early second century high status pottery was found. Elsewhere, little of archaeological significance was disturbed.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by Anglian Water Services Ltd in March 2002 to conduct a watching brief during directional drilling and open-cut trenching for a replacement water main in parts of uphill Lincoln (Fig. 1). Archaeological monitoring had been requested by Lincolnshire County Council Conservation Section in case the works disturbed archaeological remains associated with the known Roman city or later development.

32 intermittent monitoring visits were made by Geoff Tann, Andy West, Dave Marshall and Naomi Field between April 29th and October 10th 2002.

Archaeological Background

The works for the new main affected much of the uphill area of Lincoln, coinciding with the Roman Upper City and the medieval castle and cathedral vicinities. Archaeological observations have been made in the past within this area, and adjacent sites have been the subject of archaeological excavations and detailed recording.

The new main was relining or replacing sections of the existing water main, which for distribution purposes follows the course of modern streets. Much of the street pattern has remained the same since the early medieval period, and in places follows the Roman Ermine Street alignments. As a direct result, medieval building remains were not anticipated from monitoring the scheme, and frequent excavation of trenches along the streets for numerous drains and services were expected to have disturbed most of the exposed ground.

The Watching Brief

The new main was directionally drilled or laid in open-cut trench where necessary. Machine-excavated trenches were inspected, and assigned numbers by LAS for recording purposes where observations were noted. The approximate positions of these observations are marked on Figs. 2a and 2b.

Bailgate

Some of the most useful results of the watching brief were recorded between Eastgate and the northern end of Steep Hill. Work here was already underway when monitoring began, and this limited the number of observations that were made. As each of the contractors' trenches was positioned to locate an existing pipe, the visible archaeological remains had been disturbed in the past, and were only exposed where the new trench was wider than the previous groundworks.

1. Close to the northern end of the White Hart Hotel, two trenches were excavated. The most northerly was 0.5m x 0.25m, positioned at the junction of Bailgate with Eastgate; a fragment of Roman tile was found in the spoil heap, together with a 0.10m thick lump of multiple floor surfaces (Appendix 1). In the midst of the floor surfaces is a *opus signinum* floor layer, between mortar layers of varying density. *Opus signinum*, a pale red mortar incorporating crushed tile fragments, is found in Roman buildings in association with water, such as in bath-houses; the surface appears to have been waterproof.

?upper surface: thin soil layer

6mm	concreted mortar
20mm	loose cream mortar
18mm	concreted mortar
10mm	<i>opus signinum</i>
15mm	cream mortar
20mm	concreted mortar
5mm	soil, ash, and charcoal fragments (?lower surface)

These layers suggest that the trench here was to the side of the Roman street, and had disturbed remains of floor surfaces within a Roman building.

2. To the south of 1, a 2.1m deep, 3m x 1m trench cut through a series of 0.05m thick bands of orange material, possible Roman road metalling surfaces, about 1m below the modern surface (Pls. 1 and 2). They covered a deposit of loose stone rubble, which had been removed on the eastern side and replaced by a dark green/brown clay fill. This fill lay directly below a modern pipe, and may have been backfill of a deeper relatively recent trench, or a feature associated with the Roman surfaces.

3. In front of the entrance to the White Hart Hotel, a 0.9m x 1.4m trench was cut to a depth of up to 1.8m, through a dark green/brown clay layer containing occasional fragments of brick and tile (Pl. 3).
4. The dark green/brown clay was encountered in small trenches to the south. Opposite No. 5, it formed part of the fill of the existing pipe trench, but it was also present at about 1.2m deep, sealed below a layer of orange clay. Part of a large limestone block, with cut faces, was seen on the spoil heap.
5. Opposite No. 4, the dark green/brown clay lay below a disturbed mixed gravel layer, possibly representing metalling redeposited from a road surface (Pls. 4-6). Further fragments of cut limestone blocks were found in orange clay in the spoil heap.
6. Opposite the White Hart garage, a cut stone block was seen about 1.2m below the modern road surface. The trench face here was too disturbed to establish if the stone remained *in situ*.
7. A disturbed deposit, incorporating stone rubble, overlay a thick dark clay loam.
8. Close to St. Mary Magdalene Church, a trench cut through deposits containing frequent stone rubble (Pls. 7 and 8).
9. A large trench was excavated to the SE of No. 1 Bailgate, in the junction of Exchequergate, Bailgate and Castle Square. At its SE corner, three courses of mortared masonry were seen in the trench face, between 1.15m and 1.9m below the modern road (Pls. 9 and 10). Each course contained 0.2m roughly squared limestone blocks about 0.22m thick, with cut surfaces. The uppermost course was covered by a 0.37m thick clay loam deposit which appeared to be of some antiquity. The lower course continued below the base of the visible trench. It has been assumed that these building remains are of Roman date.
10. A smaller trench, about 5m to the south of 9, produced no archaeological observations.

Exchequergate

11. A small trench to the NW of the Exchequer Gate found that an existing water main, and other services, had disturbed the visible deposits.
12. Ground immediately outside the entrance to Exchequer Gate Lodge had also been disturbed.

13a. A small trench SW of Exchequer Gate revealed an existing water main which had been laid below the pedestrian archway. No significant deposits were seen.

13b. Another trench beside the Magna Carta revealed earlier trench backfill.

Minster Yard

14. Two trenches were excavated to the east of Exchequer Gate. One was backfilled before recording was arranged, and nothing of interest was seen in the other.

15-17. At a later stage, the contractors reported seeing human skeletal remains in a stone coffin exposed by another trench **15**, in the roadway of Minster Yard (Pls. 11-13). A site visit found that although one corner of a stone coffin had been slightly disturbed, the skeleton remained inaccessible. It appeared that the grave was lined and covered with stone slabs, not within a fashioned coffin, but too little was exposed to confirm this. Subsequent recording in this trench identified a second stone-covered and stone-lined grave, separated from the other horizontally by about 0.4m. The coffins were not parallel, one being aligned approximately east-west, and the other NE-SW.

Further work was closely monitored, and another stone-lined grave was found in **16**, about 2m further east. The contractors were able to insert the new pipe above the coffins, and there was no disturbance to the human remains. LAS understands that during installation of a previous water main in this area (monitored by the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit), numerous coffins were encountered.

Michaelgate

18. Only previously disturbed deposits were seen in the small trenches excavated to the west of the road.

Christ's Hospital Terrace

19. A trench at the eastern end of this lane revealed no archaeological deposits.

Steep Hill

20. A large trench was opened at the junction of Steep Hill, Michaelgate, and Christ's Hospital Terrace (Pl. 15). The trench encountered a series of possible road metalling layers at between 0.4m and 0.8m deep, with limestone bedrock 1m below the modern road surface (Pl. 16). The southern edge of this metalling seemed to coincide with the existing surface culvert marking the side of the Steep Hill carriageway; immediately below this was a 1.1m wide, 0.85m deep ditch, filled with a mixed dark grey/brown stoney clay loam (Pls. 17 and 18). Apart from recent disturbances, the trench showed deposits to the SW below 0.75m to be apparently

undisturbed yellow clay. If these observations are correct, the metalled road down Steep Hill was positioned at the southern edge of a limestone exposure.

To the east of the trench (in the centre of the modern Steep Hill carriageway), metalling was absent, but a 0.5m thick deposit of dark silt and gravel could represent disturbance of the road (Pl. 19).

21. A trench excavated to locate the existing main below the western footpath, beside No. 15 (Persian Oasis), revealed dark grey clay (Pls. 20 and 21). An extension of this trench, beside the shop wall, found that a loose rubble layer extended below the shopfront, to a depth of 0.5m below the path (Pl. 22). Beneath this was a dark yellow clay loam, 0.4m thick, containing early-mid second century Roman pottery, and animal bone fragments. This appeared to be a Roman horizon, with bedrock beneath it. The pottery is a high status group, and has been identified as indicating Hadrianic occupation from the early second century AD, possibly from the early part of the *colonia* status of Lincoln (Appendix 2).

22. The most southerly hole monitored on Steep Hill was in the road, opposite Readers Rest. This produced no further evidence of Roman deposits.

Spring Hill

23. Yellow clay was present at the junction of Drury Lane with Spring Hill.

24. Trenches between the junction with Drury Lane and Beamont Fee were excavated within existing trench backfill.

Motherby Hill

Stone setts survive at the top of the footpath, behind the Spring Lane properties. They overlie light grey clay. There was no evidence for deposits associated with the pottery kiln identified close by during previous building works.

25. A small trench close to the rear pedestrian entrance to Relay House revealed limestone rubble in an unfaced wall below the existing brick property boundary wall (Pl. 23). Fragments of Roman tile were disturbed at the same location, 1.3m below the lane surface. The stone rubble is assumed to be part of the core of the Roman city defences, which continue on this alignment beyond City Hall.

Alexandra Terrace

26. The road overlies a thick layer of clay, varying in colour from grey to orange.

Carline Road

27. Approximately level with the eastern end of the former allotments, the road sealed a layer of limestone rubble, with its base 0.55m deep. Below the rubble was a grey/brown clay layer.

28. Near No. 2 Carline Road, the layer below the limestone rubble was greyer and siltier than to the west.

Belle Vue Terrace

29. Beside No. 8, the 0.1m thick tarmac road surface sealed 0.2m of soil mixed with brick rubble, above a 0.15m thick band of ironstone chips. Beneath this was a thick layer of brown loam with limestone chips, which may represent the post-medieval topsoil and subsoil.

30. A variation to this was seen to the NW, in Belle Vue Road. Here the modern road covered 0.15m of stone setts, above 0.35m of dark brown clay loam. With this thickness, the clay loam may have been a ploughsoil. It overlay a grey silt deposit.

Yarborough Road

31. Trenches inspected on the east side of Yarborough Road revealed nothing but previously disturbed deposits or apparently natural clay.

Willis Terrace

32. Trenches revealed only disturbed ground.

Union Road

Trenches in Union Road revealed mostly previously disturbed deposits.

33. To the east of the road, near No. 18, the road surface sealed 0.55m of mixed clay with limestone fragments. Beneath this was at least 0.45m of dark brown loamy clay. In this position outside the castle ditch, the mixed clay might represent remains of an upcast bank.

34. Alongside the entrance to No. 4, the ground was disturbed to a depth of 0.9m. Below this was 0.2m of brick rubble and mortar, with a brown sandy clay at the trench base. The brick rubble may derive from buildings on an earlier, more westerly, street frontage.

Westgate

35. One trench was inspected near 26, Westgate, but no archaeological deposits were identified.

Chapel Lane

36 and 37. A series of trenches in Chapel Lane, between the water tower and the junction with Bailgate, demonstrated that deposits below the modern road have been severely disturbed by numerous services.

Newport

38. Opposite St. Clement's Court, a deposit of mixed dark brown clay loam with its base 1.1m below the road surface may have been fill of an archaeological feature.

Middleton's Field

39. Ground at the junction with Church Lane seemed to have been previously disturbed. The modern road covered a thick dark brown loam with few stone inclusions, extending below the 1m deep trench. One fragment of butchered animal bone was seen but not retained.

Church Lane

40. Close to 1 Church Lane, the 0.26m thick asphalt road surface covered brown clay with stone rubble, which seemed to be bedding for the road. Below this was a layer of clay with brick flecks.

Northgate

Trenches revealed no archaeological deposits.

Nettleham Road

41. Within the area of this scheme, no archaeological deposits were encountered. During earlier works to the north of the junction with Broadway (on the eastern side of the carriageway), contractors reported a number of large cut limestone blocks below the modern road surface. Despite a number of site visits, no examples were seen in the open trenches or in associated spoil. After a report that some blocks had been taken for a garden rockery, unsuccessful attempts were made to locate the garden.

The Grove

42. Deposits near to the junction with Nettleham Road were mostly disturbed, but a brown clay loam layer survived near to the trench base.

Conclusion

Parts of this scheme disturbed ground in areas of known high archaeological potential. The nature of the small-scale trenching, specifically designed to locate existing services, meant that no intact archaeological horizons were encountered, and contamination of surviving remains from later backfill was likely.

In a very few locations, archaeological features and buildings remains were identified, but it was never possible to be certain what was being recorded, or how it related to previously recorded remains. For this reason, the small number of archaeological observations was a welcome indicator that extensive archaeological damage was not caused by the mains replacement scheme. It is possible that the observations and photographic record may prove more useful to future researchers.

Acknowledgements

LAS is grateful to Anglian Water Services for their co-operation. The site contractors on this project were AHLCo Ltd, assisted by SubTerra. The tile was examined by Jane Young, and the Roman pottery was identified by Barbara Precious. Further help was given by Mick Jones, John Herridge and Dr A. Vince. Karen Dennis prepared the illustrations and Naomi Field produced the report.

Geoff Tann
Lindsey Archaeological Services
5th December 2003

Archive Summary

Archaeological finds: tile, pottery

Anglian Water Services plans

Field plans, sections and field notes

Photographs: colour prints, LAS film nos. 02/69/33; 02/86/4-6,10-13; 02/96/13-15; 02/97/0-34;
02/98/0-36; 02/110/0-25; 02/121/8-11.

Correspondence

APPENDIX 1

Tile Archive List

(J. Young)

Tile Archive LWMR02

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	description	date
01	TEG	Tegula		1	325	flange;cut-out	Roman
01	STILE	Stone tile		1	241		-
03	TEG	Tegula		1	211	flange;cut-out	Roman
03	TEG	Tegula		1	429	signature	Roman
03	IMB	imbrex		1	22		Roman
05	RBRK	Roman brick	vitrified	1	126	38mm thick	Roman
21	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1	1	30	mortar;medieval flat roofer	late 12th to 15th

APPENDIX 2

Report on the Roman Pottery

(B. Precious)

A Report on the Roman pottery from 15, Steep Hill part of Lincoln Westgate Replacement Scheme for Anglian Water (LWMR02) commissioned by Geoff Tann, Lindsey Archaeological Services

B J Precious

05/12/03

The pottery has been recorded to the basic archive level according to the Study Group for Roman Pottery guidelines using the computer codes and the pottery recording system of the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, with sherd count and weight in grams as the measures. The ceramic archive has been collated using Microsoft, Excel (lwmr02.xls).

The Roman pottery

The excavation produced a small group of Roman pottery consisting of 12 sherds weighing 140 grams from a single context 21.

Although the group is small it consists of a range of pottery types, at least 11 vessels, of virtually the same date. The principal dating comes from the imported samian. One fragment may be from a South Gaulish source of 1st century date. The fabric is not typical and may be either late South Gaulish or a variant of the Les Martres de Veyre fabric (SAMSG?). Two sherds are definite products of the Central Gaulish kilns at Les Martres de Veyre (SAMLML) and were exported to Roman Britain for a brief period from c AD 100 –120. The latest sherd is a thin-walled rim from a Dr 18/31 dish in Central Gaulish samian, but from a Lezoux source (SAMCG). Samian from Lezoux began to be exported during the early 2nd century c. AD 120.

There are no distinguishing rims, but the grey wares (GREY and GRSAN) in atypical fabrics with noticeable differing cores are also early 2nd century in date. This date also applies to the Iron Age tradition grey wares (IASA) that are wheel made rather than earlier hand made types. Both the flagon and mortarium would fit within this date range.

There is an absence of black-burnished wares and later 2nd century fabrics. Therefore the ceramic evidence points towards a Hadrianic date, c AD 120 –130/140 for this assemblage.

Condition

There is minimal evidence of abrasion, a single sherd in an Iron Age sandy fabric (IASA). Sooting on the exterior and interior of several vessels denotes use as cooking pots, but a sherd of samian appears to have been burnt over the broken edge (SAMLML, 37) and could be indicative of burnt destruction. The average sherd weight of 11grams reflects the generally small size of the pottery fragments.

Potential and Further Work

This group provides good evidence for occupation during the Hadrianic period. The presence of imported fine samian ware is indicative of a high status presence, and also provides evidence for trade between two different sources in Central Gaul, Les Martres de Veyre and Lezoux, and possibly also South Gaul. They are mainly dish forms but also include a mould-decorated bowl (37). Locally manufactured grey wares (GREY and GRSAN), and wheel made vessels in Iron Age tradition (IASA) consist of cooking vessels - mainly jars. There is also a fragment from a flagon in Cream ware and a mortarium with a red slip on the exterior. The fabric and trituration grits of mixed quartz and iron-rich particles are typical of locally produced mortaria, but the slip is most unusual.

The mortarium should be shown to Kay Hartley for identification. No further work is envisaged but the pottery should be retained.

CONTEXT	FABRIC	FORM	DEC	VESS	DRAW	ALTER	COMMENTS	JOIN	SHS	WT
21	CR	F					BS;LT GRY INT		1	14
21	GREY	J					BS GRY CORE BN CORTEX		1	13
21	GRSAN	J				SOOTEX	BS DK GRY CORE LT GRY CORTEX		1	10
21	IASA	CLSD				SOOTIN	BS;ABR		1	8
21	IASA	JB					BS THICKER		1	5
21	IASA	JB				SOOTEX	BASE;SOOTIN		1	28
21	MOLO	M					BS UNUS RED SLIP EXT;MIX TG Q FE;		1	52
21	SAMCG	18/31?					RIM UPPER WALL; OR 31		1	2
21	SAMLM	37				BURNT?	RIM TOP OVOLO;100-120		1	3
21	SAMLM	18-18/31					RIM UPPER WALL		1	1
21	SAMLM	BD					BS; POSS 35/6		1	2
21	SAMSG?	BD					BS LATER FAB OR POSS SAMLM		1	2
21	ZDATE						EM2C			
21	ZZZ						FAIRLY GOOD GROUP; SHOW MORT TO K HARTLEY			

THE FIGURES

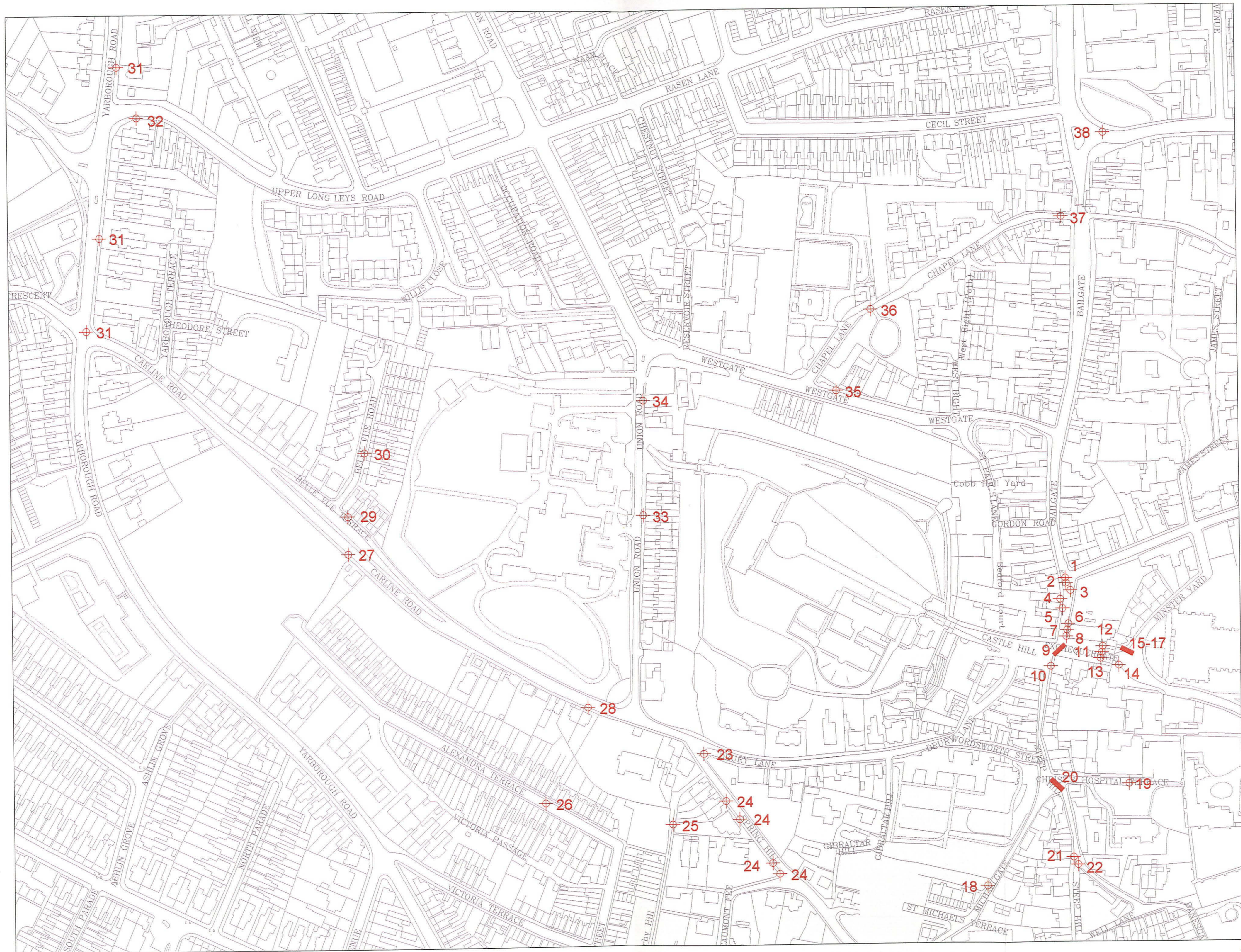


Fig. 2 Position of the observations 1 - 38 (based on a plan supplied by the client). Scale 1:2,500
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Fig. 3 Position of the observations 39 - 42 (based on a plan supplied by the client). Scale 1:2,500

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THE PLATES



Pl. 1 Position of the trench at 1, near the junction of Bailgate and Eastgate (right) (looking north).



Pl. 2 Deposits seen in the trench face at 1 included thin layers of ash and mortar (extreme left) which may represent Roman floor surfaces (looking west).



Pl. 3 Deposits visible in the side of 3 (looking east).



Pl. 4 Positions of the trenches in Bailgate at 4, 5, 8 and 9 (left side), 6 and 7 (to right) (looking south).



Pl. 5 Position of 4, in front of the White Hart Hotel (looking east).



Pl. 6 Previously disturbed deposits and rubble at 4 (looking east).



Pl. 7 Position of 8 (foreground), with 9 beyond (looking south).



Pl. 8 Stone rubble and clay in lower part of 8 (looking east).



Pl. 9 SE corner of trench at 9, showing the mortared masonry in relation to existing buildings on Steep Hill (looking SE to the Magna Carta public house entrance).



Pl.10 Detail of the three exposed limestone courses and overlaying deposits, at the SE corner of 9 (looking SE).



Pl. 11 Position of 15, in Minster Yard, east of Exchequer Gate (looking west).



Pl. 12 Trench 15, showing the space between two stone-lined graves; a small gap in the stone cover is visible to the left of the 1m scale (looking east).



Pl. 13 Position of 16, in Minster Yard, east of Exchequer Gate (looking east).



Pl. 14 Stone slabs beside grave at 16 (looking NW, scale 1m).



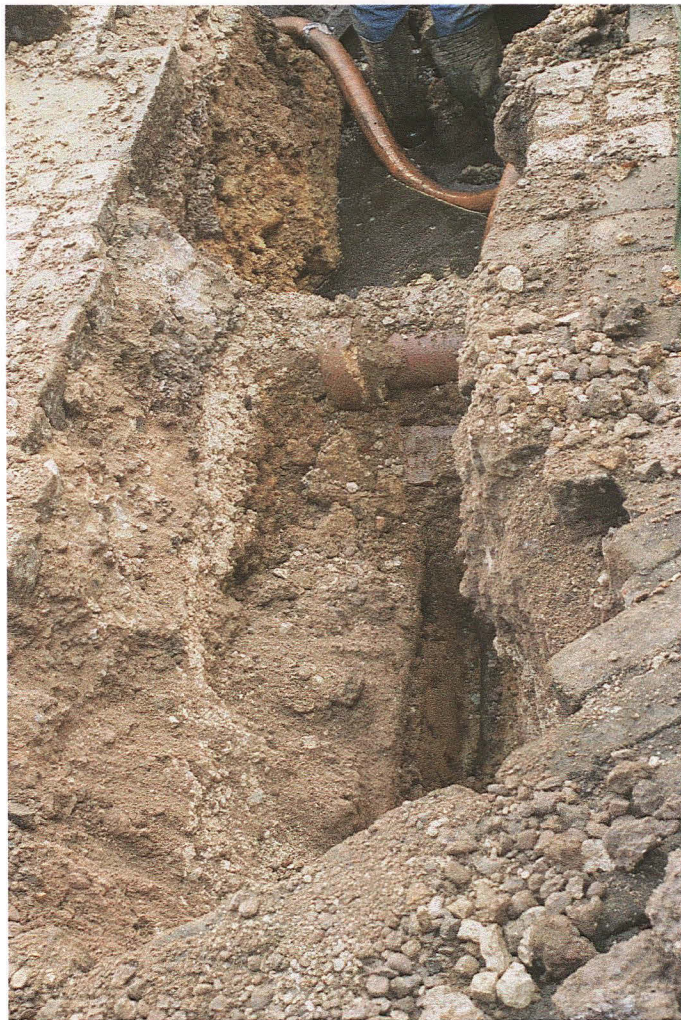
Pl. 15 Location of the trench at 20, across Steep Hill at the junction with Michaelgate (looking SE down Steep Hill).



Pl. 16 The existing pipe at 20, being scraped and flushed, was laid immediately above limestone. Beyond the trench backfill are layers of stone chips and rubble, which may represent Roman or medieval metalling of Steep Hill (looking west).



Pl. 17 Composite photograph showing deposits in the SE trench face at 20. Note the dark clay below the double ceramic pipe, thought to be ditch fill with apparently undisturbed clay to the right (looking SE at the junction of Michaelgate and Steep Hill).



Pl. 18 Detail of dark clay below the ceramic pipe at 20 (looking NW).



Pl. 19 Disturbed deposits below the centre of Steep Hill at 20 (looking NW).



Pl. 20 Location of trench 21 in the western pavement of Steep Hill (looking NW).



Pl. 21 Dark grey clay at the trench base beside the road at 21.



Pl. 22 Limestone rubble extending below the front wall of 'Persian Oasis' at 21. Roman material was found in the mixed deposit below (looking north).



Pl. 23 Setts covering stone rubble core of the Roman wall in Motherby Hill 25 (looking NE).