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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Telephone Cable Ducting, Lincoln  
Archaeological Watching Brief  
Site Code.: LTCS05  
Accession No.: 2005.52**

**Report for  
Kingston Communications plc**

**by  
M. Jordan**

**LAS Report No. 849  
September 2005**

Conservation  
Services

04 OCT 2005

Highways & Planning  
Directorate

70473 Medieval  
70101 Medieval

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**Telephone Cable Ducting, Lincoln**  
**Archaeological Watching Brief**  
Site Code: LTCS05  
LCNCC Accession No: 2005.52

**Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the installation of a new telephone cable system in Lincoln. Much of the route of the cable trenches cut through ground which had previously been disturbed by the earlier services and modern levelling deposits. At a few locations along the route features of archaeological significance were noted, including part of a substantial limestone wall which may be remains of the west section of the old city wall.*

**Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Kingston Communications plc in January 2005 to undertake an archaeological watching brief around the centre of Lincoln (Fig. 1). The work was carried out in accordance with the brief set by the Lincoln City Archaeologist dated December 2004, and general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998). Work commenced in February and was completed during May 2005. The various sites were recorded by Mike Garrett, Richard Pullen, Ian Rowlandson, Geoff Tann and Naomi Field on individual visits.

**Site Location and Description**

A new telephone cable system has been installed in Lincoln Kingston Communications plc. The ducting was installed in various locations in the city, but primarily in the south-west, north-east and central areas, within pavement and carriageways (Fig. 2). Trenches were 250-300mm wide and 550-600mm deep. Jointing chambers were a little deeper.

**Planning Background**

The work was not subject to planning permission but Kingston Communications plc agreed to fund the cost of archaeological supervision in line with the best practice for conservation and in order to avoid delays from unexpected discoveries.

**Archaeological Background**

The route of the trenching passed through several archaeologically sensitive areas within the Lower City's historic core, and crossed the line of the Roman and medieval defences in four locations.

Areas identified by the Archaeology Section, Lincoln City Council as being of particular archaeological interest were

- High St/St Marks
- Free School Lane/St Swithin's Square
- Silver Street/ Mint Street

- Clasketgate/West Parade/Orchard St/Newland
- Monks Road (west end), Friars Lane/Rumbold Street
- Church Lane/Newport

### **Aims and Objectives**

The purpose of the Archaeological Attendance and Recording was to:

- Allow the preservation by record and the interpretation of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established in advance of development and to produce a project archive for deposition with the City and County Museum.
- Provide information for accession to the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the Lincoln Urban Archaeological Database (UAD).

The archaeological potential of the pipe trenches was thought to be limited as it was very likely that the ground had been dug up on numerous previous occasions. Infrequent small access pits were excavated above the existing mains along the pavement and in the road with limited opportunity for examination of deposits.

### **Method**

The groundworks were monitored by an experienced archaeologist attending when required. A full written (single context) and photographic record was made of the site, including site plans at a scale of 1:20, along with 1:10 sections.

The trench bases and sides were hand-cleaned, when appropriate, to reveal features in plan and sections to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded.

Finds located in archaeological features were identified accordingly and a context numbering system for archaeological remains was in operation. LAS operates a standard context recording system, developed by its staff over the past 20 years based on the CAS and MOLAS models.

### **Results**

#### **Orchard Street**

##### **Observation Point 1 (Pl. 1)**

The cable trench along the edge of the pavement revealed earlier kerb stones 5cm below the tarmac, overlying crushed limestone hardcore. The trench was 38cm wide and 98cm deep. On the east side of the trench the ground had already been disturbed because of the insertion of a gas pipe. Parts of a human skull and some animal bones, were found in the trench opposite the lower entrance to City Hall and just north of the Orchard House sign. Although the machine had caused lots of fragmentation it was still evident that the bones had been previously disturbed. The bones were in a matrix of brown clay with brick and limestone inclusions. Bone was present both in the bottom of the trench and ran

into the west side at a depth of ca.90cm below the existing tarmac. The human bones were reburied in the pipe trench.

**West Parade**

**Observation Point 2**

The ground was completely disturbed. No archaeology was noted.

**Corporation Street**

No archaeology was observed in Corporation Street.

**Clasketgate**

No archaeology was observed in Clasketgate.

**Flaxengate**

No archaeology was observed in Flaxengate.

**Silver Street**

**Observation Point 3**

At the corner of Silver Street and Bank Street, 0.30m of modern road make up overlay 0.40m of mid grey brown silt.

**Mint Street**

**Observation Point 4**

On Mint Street, occasional limestone blocks were visible present in a layer of dark grey brown silt with frequent limestone fragments. This was overlain by a make up layer and the road surface.

**Newland**

**Observation Point 7 (Pl. 2)**

The trench was viewed opposite Lucy Tower Street, where a mid brown loose sand **101**, was present beneath the road surface, **100**. This overlay a 0.10m thick mid grey brown sand layer **111**, with inclusions of limestone rubble. This overlay a 0.4m thick section of limestone wall, **102**, **113** and **114**, which was 1.5m wide and aligned north-north-west/south-south-east (Pl. 10). A foundation cut **115** was noted on the southern side of the wall filled with grey sandy silt, **112**. The wall sat on a mortar base, **105** which covered a dark grey brown silt layer, **106**. The wall may be part of the lower Roman city wall which ran south from the castle to the corner of Newland, a segment of which is preserved beneath the City Council buildings north of the trench. Grey brown silt **102** may represent a robbing of the wall.

Observation Point 8 (Pls. 3 and 4)

Outside No. 29 Newland, 0.20m of modern road surface, overlay a 1.06m deep cut for a concrete pipe. This cut through several layers of grey silt deposits measuring 0.52m thick (Pls. 8 and 9). The lowest, **110**, overlay a yellow grey sandy silt, **109**, with occasional limestone inclusions. This overlay a 0.38m thick layer of grey silt with angular limestone pebbles, **103/107**, which overlay a dark grey clay silt layer with inclusions of limestone cobbles, **104/108**, which in turn overlay a dark grey clay silt, **106**. The number of silt deposits may represent the proximity to the Brayford Pool to the south which would have been much larger at one point with layers of flood silt at its edges.

**Wigford Way/ Brayford Wharf East/ St Mark Street/ South End of High Street**

Observation Point 9

The trench cut through modern deposits only along these roads. No archaeological remains were visible.

**Free School Lane**

Four trenches were dug along Freeschool Lane along length of the library building (Pl. 5).

Observation Point 10

North of the library 0.12m of tarmac overlay a 0.44m thick bedding layer of limestone fragments which sat on a 0.33m, layer of crushed limestone (with yellow plastic present 0.10m from the base of the trench).

Observation Point 11

Immediately north of the library entrance, 0.21m of tarmac overlay 0.22m of limestone hardcore which overlay disturbed ground with pipes running through it.

Observation Point Trench 12 (Pl. 6)

South of the library entrance, the trench showed the same profile as Trench 2 with more pipes present. Limestone blocks were present beneath the tarmac along the edge of the trench which measured 0.3m in length.

Observation Point Trench 13

Located at the southwest corner of the library the trench ran eastwards towards the Greyfriars (Pl. 3). York slabs overlay 0.30m of concrete which overlay a dark grey sand silt with inclusions of charcoal fleck and mortar.

**Greyfriars Passage**

Observation Point 14

The trench excavated in the passageway between the library/Greyfriars and St Swithin's church (Pl. 7) was an alteration to the original planned route which was to go round the south side of St Swithin's



church. A dark grey sand silt, **4**, was noted beneath the York paving slabs and levelling material, **1 - 3**. A single limestone architectural fragment was retrieved. It was fragment of window tracery comprising a centre mullion head junction dated 12<sup>th</sup>–13<sup>th</sup> century, with a centre mark on the base (Pl. 8), was found with five rectangular blocks of limestone, which were recorded and photographed but not kept (Pl. 9). A layer of limestone fragments, **5**, c.1.9 m wide, crossed the trench and were possibly the remains of a north/south aligned wall.

#### Observation Point 15

At the east end of the trench previous services had disturbed the ground (Pl. 10).

#### Rumbold Street

No observations were made at Rumbold Street.

#### Monks Road (west end) and Friars Lane

No observations were made along these roads.

#### Rosemary Lane

##### Observation Point 16

At the junction with Saint Rumbolds Street, outside the YMCA 0.20m of tarmac overlay a 0.3m thick layer of brown loam with inclusions of limestone lumps (Pl. 11).

##### Observation Point 17

The north side of the junction with Croft Street revealed a red brick wall foundation beneath the tarmac which was present to a depth of 0.65m beneath ground level. The wall curved round the corner of Rosemary Lane/Croft St (Pl. 12).

##### Observation Point 18

North of Croft Street an east/west orientated wall crossed the north edge of the trench. The top of the foundation was 0.7m below ground level and was one course deep.

##### Observation Point 19

The strap handle from a medieval jug was found in the trench spoil at the junction with Spa Buildings.

#### Church Lane/Newport

This area was not monitored as this area was excluded from the scheme.

#### **Discussion**

The majority of the trenches viewed revealed little or no archaeological features due to the previous disturbance beneath many of the streets by the insertion of services. Occasional remains of red brick walls and limestone blocks show the demolition and levelling of buildings in the city, but in the narrow

trenches, it was impossible to accurately work out their orientation. Bones and a skull recovered on Orchard Street were also from a previously disturbed context. They were probably from the known cemetery of the parish church of St Stephen which closed some time in the 16<sup>th</sup> century (Jones, Stocker and Vince 2003, 310). The architectural fragment found near the library confirms the remains of the Greyfriars. The most substantial and significant feature identified was the remains of a north-northwest/south-southeast orientated limestone wall seen in the trench as it ran through Newland. It is likely to represent a portion of the Roman city wall from the castle to the corner of Guildhall Street. The wall is depicted on the Stukeley map of 1722, and on Marrat's map of 1817 where it is described as a Roman wall. It crosses Newland at the point seen in the trench (Fig. 3). The wall and an arch over Newland are depicted on Marrat's 1848 map.

### **Conclusion**

As predicted the cable trenches cut through areas already heavily disturbed by previous modern service trenches. The narrowness of the cable trench meant that little by way of recording was possible. However, confirmation of the precise position of the Roman lower city wall and the recovery of the medieval window tracery from the Greyfriars have been useful additions to the archaeological database for Lincoln.

Matthew Jordan and Richard Lee  
Lindsey Archaeological Services  
September 2005

### **Acknowledgements**

LAS would like to thank Kingston Communications plc and their on-site contractors for their help. Jane Young produced the pottery report and the architectural fragment was identified by Mick Clark. This report was edited by Naomi Field and collated by Doug Young.

### **Reference**

Jones. M, Stocker. D and Vince. A. (eds) 2003. *The City by the Pool*. Oxbow Books, Oxford.

### **Contents of the Site Archive**

Context sheet

Plans

Sections

Correspondence

Photographs: LAS film nos. 04/154 negs 14-33, 05/23 negs 10-17, 05/46 negs 3-10, 05/55 negs 1-9, 05/58 negs 31-36

**APPENDIX 1**



**APPENDIX 2**

# Pottery Archive LTCS05

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	description	date
001	BL	Black-glazed wares	bowl ?	1	1	14		BS	Staffs	mid 17th to 18th
001	BL	Black-glazed wares	jar	1	1	28		BS	semi vitrified;Staffs	mid 17th to 18th
001	BL	Black-glazed wares	jar	1	1	7		BS	Staffs	mid 17th to 18th
003	BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware	bowl ?	1	1	11		base		17th to 18th
003	LANG	Langewehe stoneware	narrow-necked drinking jug	1	1	15		BS	? ID or North German	15th to mid 16th
003	PEARL	Pearlware	jar ?	1	1	3		neck	transfer print	late 18th to mid 19th
004	LLSW	Late Lincoln Glazed ware	jug/jar;odd	1	1	20		BS	? ID;spots of glaze int	late 14th to 15th
004	STMO	Staffordshire/Bristol mottled-glazed	mug ?	1	1	2		BS		late 17th to 18th
004	NOTS	Nottingham stoneware	jar ?	2	1	14		rim		late 17th to 18th
004	SLIP	Unidentified slipware	large bowl	1	1	51		rim	light orange fabric;white internal slip	mid/late 17th to 18th
005	HUM	Humberware	large jug	1	1	135		handle	multi grooved strap handle	15th to mid 16th
031	HUM	Humberware	large jar	1	1	59		BS		late 15th to mid 16th
031	BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware	large jar	1	1	17		BS		mid 16th to 18th

context	cname	full name	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	description	date
108	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	small jar ?	1	1	34		BS	thick brown glaze;fairly thick walled;spacer scar on side	16th to early 17th
108	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	large bowl	3	1	132		rim	quite light fabric;dbrown glaze;wide everted rim;large fresh frags	16th to early 17th
108	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	jar	1	1	35		BS	reduced ext	16th to mid 17th
108	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	side-handled bowl	1	1	166		rim with HJ	looks early;drawable;very fresh large sherds;similar to early Dtch type at Boston;light brown speckled with fe glaze	16th

# Ceramic Building Archive LTCS05

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	fabric	sub type	frags	weight	description	date
003	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1		1	29	flat roofer	late 12th to 16th
003	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	fine hard orange		1	123	flat roofer;mortar	13th to 18th
003	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1		1	181	flat roofer;semi- vitrified;odd bedding marks	late 12th to 16th
003	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1		1	191	flat roofer;corner;finger marks;cloth impressions ?	late 12th to 16th
003	NIB	nibbed tile	1	moulded	1	29		13th
004	BRK	Brick	fine orange sandy		1	231	handmade;50mm thick	15th to 16th
004	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	7		1	66	flat roofer;mortar	12th to mid 13th
004	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	7;oxid		1	58	flat roofer;bedded on ca	12th to mid 13th
004	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	7;oxid		1	54	flat roofer;mortar	12th to mid 13th
004	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	hard oxid;co mm large fe/shale		1	35	flat roofer	16th to 18th
004	PNRDISC	Discarded peg, nib or ridge tile			1	34	flat roofer	19th to 20th
004	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1		1	58	flat roofer;mortar;finger pressings	late 12th to 16th
004	BRK	Brick	fine calcareo us		1	1607	handmade;mortar;1 90+x130x45;sande d edges;very uneven base & top;sunken margin;uneven arrises	14th to 16th
004	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1		1	28	flat roofer	late 12th to 16th
004	BRK	Brick	hard mixed fabric with white shale ?		1	206	handmade;mortar;5 5mm thick	18th to 19th



context	cname	full name	fabric	sub type	frags	weight	description	date
004	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	fine hard oxid		1	204	flat roofer	16th to 19th
004	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1/7		1	69	flat roofer	13th
004	BRKDISC	Brick (discarded)			1	469	industrial	19th to 20th
004	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1		1	72	flat roofer	late 12th to 16th
004	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1		1	77	flat roofer;corner	late 12th to 16th
004	NIB	nibbed tile	1	4c	1	80	flat roofer;tool pressing;mortar incl over breaks	late 14th to 16th
004	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1		1	64	flat roofer	late 12th to 16th
030	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1		1	96	flat roofer;mortar	late 12th to 16th
031	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	7;oxid		1	111	flat roofer	12th to mid 13th
031	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1/7;oxid		1	87	flat roofer;mortar	13th
031	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1		1	166	flat roofer;mortar	late 12th to 16th
031	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	7		1	180	flat roofer;mortar	12th to mid 13th
031	MISC	Unidentified types	7 ??		2	1283	same brick/tile;handmade ;210+x13+x40;poss odd RBRK but looks more med; ? Unglazed hearth tile	Roman to medieval

**THE FIGURES**

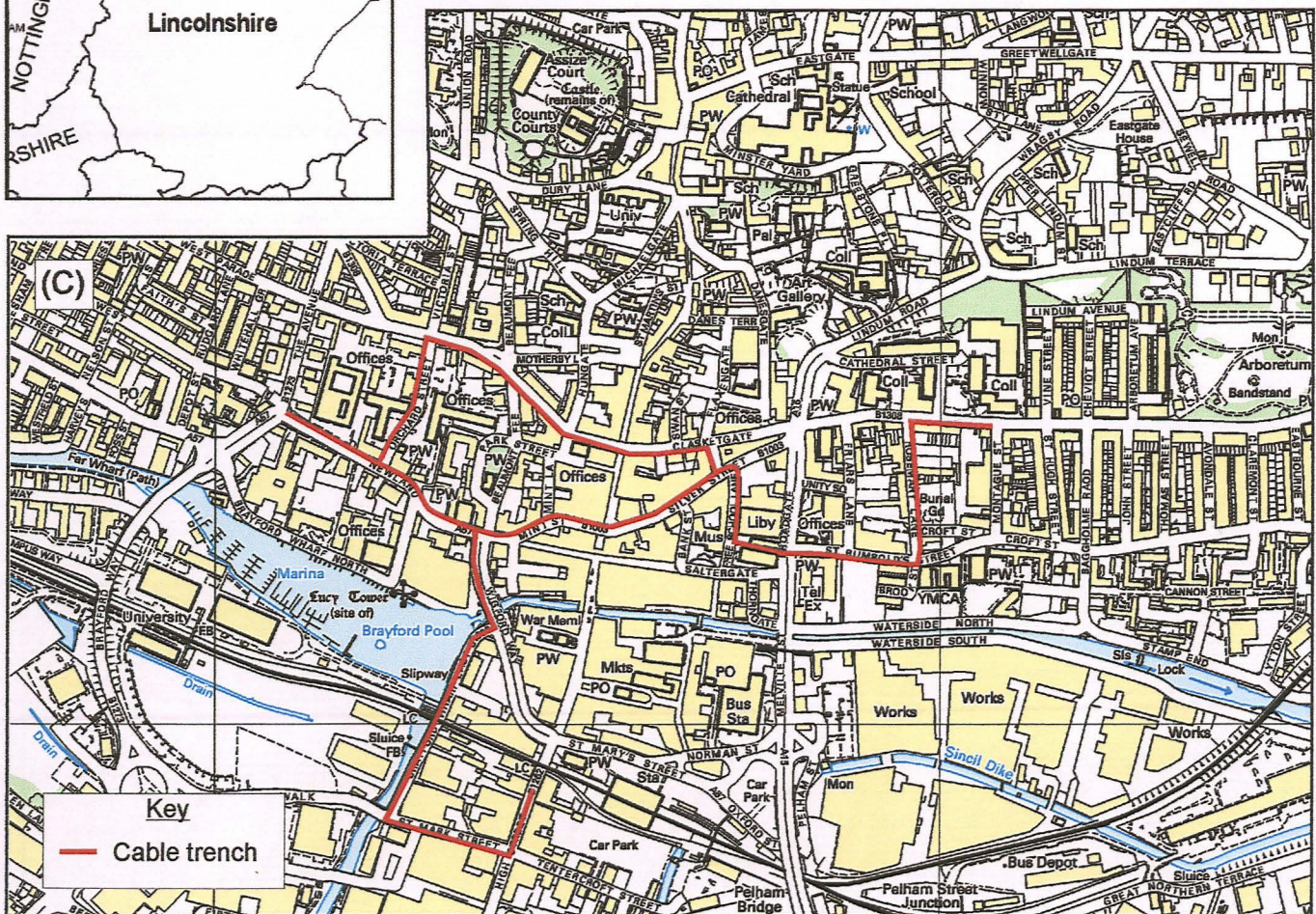
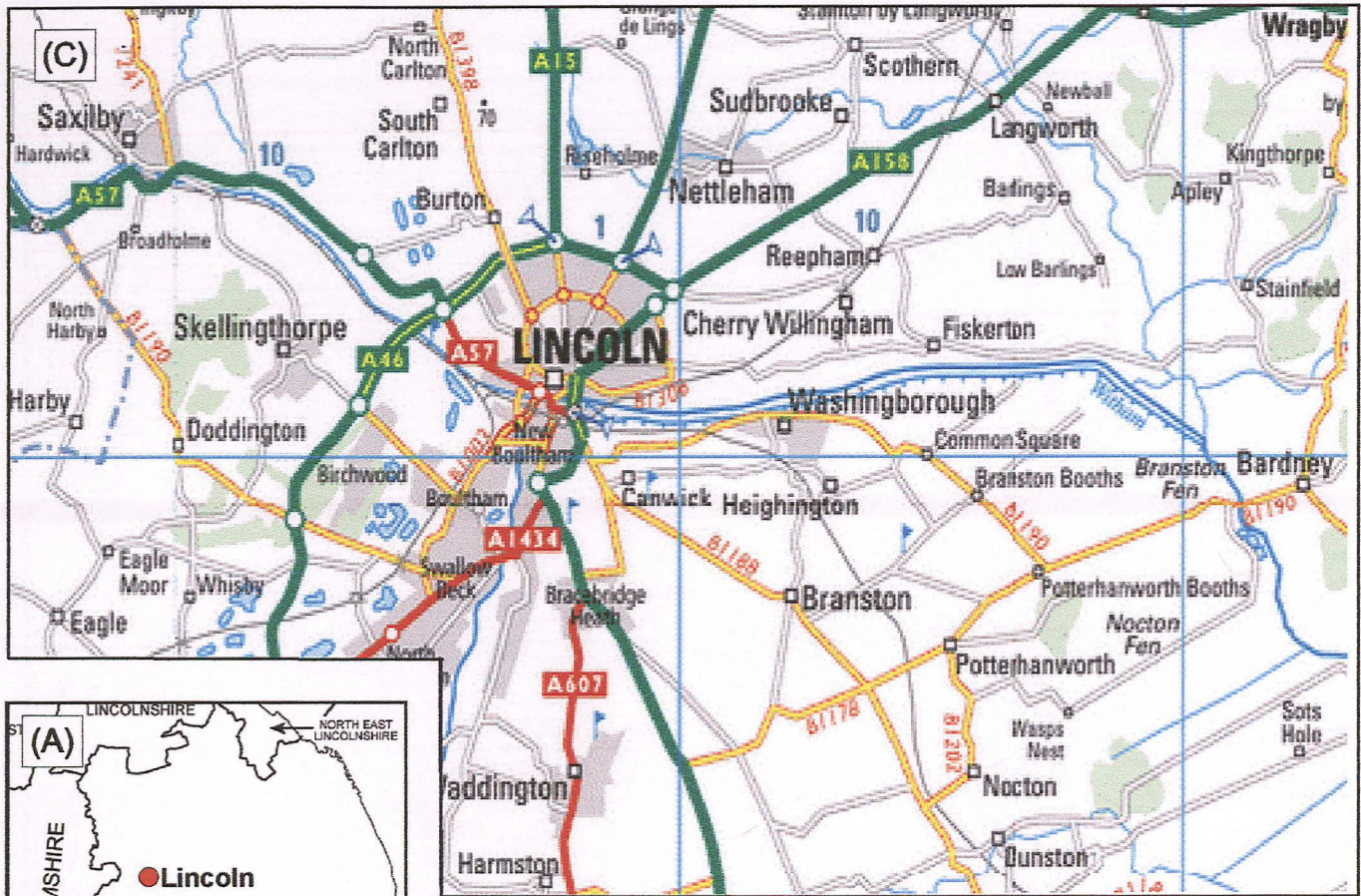


Fig. 1: Location of Lincoln (C based on the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 digital map SK97SE. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS licence numbers AL 10002165 and ND 17438).

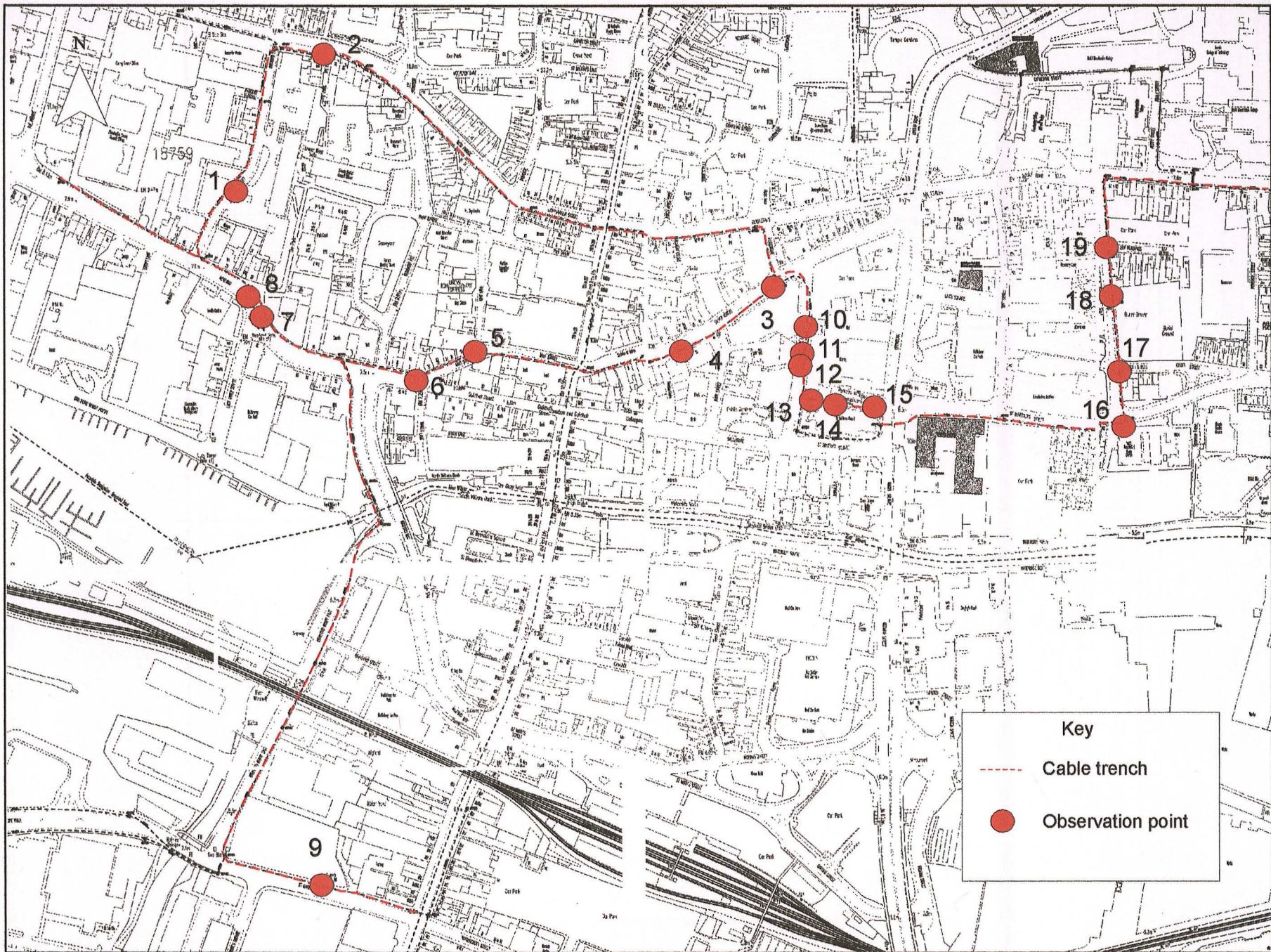


Fig. 2 Location of the cable trench and watching brief observation points.

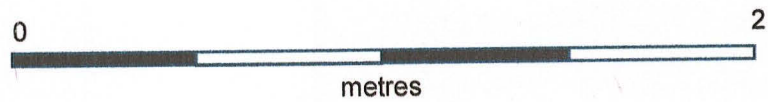
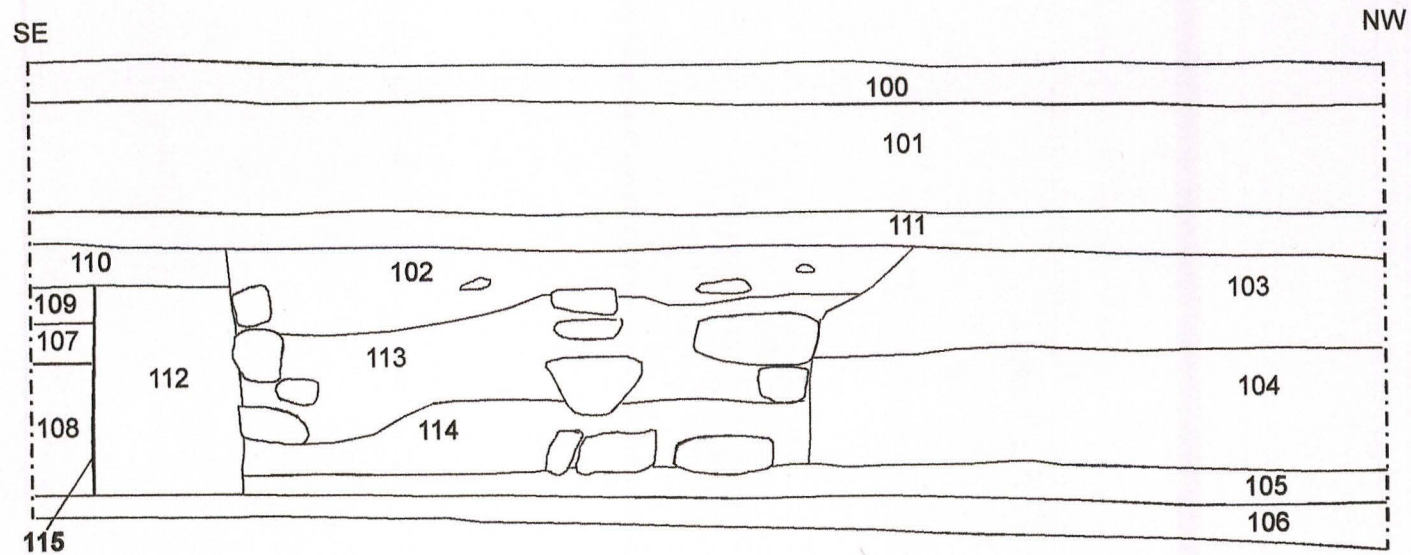


Fig. 3 Section through wall seen at Observation Point 7.

**THE PLATES**



Pl. 1 The trench on Orchard Street, outside Orchard House, scales 0.50m and 1m. Location of human skull and bones, looking south.



Pl. 2 The trench opposite Lucy Tower Street, showing Observation Point 7.



PI. 3 The trench outside No. 29 Newland, looking west.



PI. 4 Observation Point 8 deposits at Newland outside No. 29.





Pl. 5 View of the trench in Freeschool Lane outside the library, looking south.



Pl. 6 Observation Point 12 outside the Lincoln Library, Freeschool Lane



Pl. 7 Observation Point 14 west end of passage between Lincoln Library and Greyfriars.



Pl. 8 Architectural fragment from medieval window found at west end of Greyfriars Passage. Scale 0.30m



Pl. 9 Limestone block from west end of trench in Greyfriar's Passage.  
Scales 0.30m and 0.50m



Pl. 10 Observation Point 15 showing existing pipes at base of trench.



Pl. 11 Rosemary Lane, Observation Point 16 to south-west of graveyard.



Pl. 12 Rosemary Lane, Observation Point 17, looking north towards Monks Road.