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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Installation of Signage in the Cathedral Quarter,
Lincoln**

Archaeological Watching Brief

LCNCC Accn N° : 2005.250

Site Code: LCQ05

NGR: SK 9771 (Centred)

Highways & Planning
Directorate

13 FEB 2006

Planning &
Conservation

Report

for

Network Archaeology

on behalf of

Lincoln City Council

by

I. M. Rowlandson

Conservation
Services

13 FEB 2006

Highways & Planning
Directorate

LAS Report No. 903

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in during the erection of wayfinding and interpretation signs within, or close to, Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMS) in the Cathedral Quarter. Three small sections of limestone wall were encountered; two along the line of existing boundaries. The majority of the postholes were cut into modern disturbed deposits. The excavations caused no significant archaeological impact as the postholes were small and shallow.

Introduction

In 2003, Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) were commissioned by Network Archaeology on behalf of Lincoln City Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the erection of wayfinding and interpretation signs in the Lincoln Cathedral Quarter.

The project consisted the monitoring of groundworks undertaken intermittently from November 2005 to February 2006 in accordance with the requirements the Inspector of Ancient Monuments, English Heritage East Midlands and a brief issued by Heritage Team, Directorate of Development and Environmental Services, City of Lincoln Council, (June 27th 2005) and the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (1998).

Site Location and Description (Fig 1 & 2)

The sites are located within *Conservation Area 1-Cathedral and City Centre* and *Conservation Area 8-Carline*. They were within or close to Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMS) Li 14, 18, 20, 68, 115, 115A, 165, 187, 253 and 269. There were 16 sites in total which were identified within the scheme which required archaeological monitoring.

Planning Background

The work was not subject to Planning Permission but it was agreed with English Heritage that the scheme could proceed without formal Scheduled Monument Consent.

Archaeological Background

Signs were erected along East Bight, Westgate, Bailgate, Eastgate, Steep Hill. These areas were within the walls of the upper Roman city and had the potential to encounter Roman and later archaeological remains. Further signs were erected at the Lawn, just west of the city defences where Roman and medieval remains have been found. A further group of signs were be erected in the lower city mostly close to the line of the walls of the lower Roman city in The Park, West Parade and Monks Road, Motherby Lane and Garmston St.

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 produce a project archive for deposition with the City and County Museum.
- provide information for accession to the County Sites and Monument Record (SMR) and the Lincoln Urban Archaeological Database (UAD)

Method

One archaeologist attended as advised by the contractors in order to monitor trench excavation within the specified sections. The trench faces and any evidence of archaeological remains were recorded.

Each find or feature was located on maps supplied by Lincoln City Council Project Management Team. A photographic record was made and archaeological features will be drawn at a larger scale of 1:20 or 1:50, where appropriate and depending upon safe access.

Results

The signs are numbered according to the information provided by the City of Lincoln Project Management Team (Fig 2, after City of Lincoln: signage Spreadsheet: 22.08.05 Phil North). Not all signs were included in the watching brief requirement. The 'Caliba sign family' comprised three different sizes: Single post (f), Double Post (fi, l and m) and Triple Post (f2i, a and 21). Where no archaeological or natural deposits were encountered heights above Ordnance Datum (OD) were not taken. Measurements of depth were given from the existing ground surface. No archaeological finds were encountered during the monitoring visits

Sign 6, Double Post, (SK 97390 71994), SAM ref: Li. 115

Sign 6 was located next to the public convenience in the Westgate Car Park. Two post holes were excavated through the car park surface and bedding (length 0.4m; width 0.37m; depth 0.51m). The deposit profile in both holes was 0.04m of asphalt, 0.13m of concrete and 0.34m of sand and brick (Pl. 1 & 2). No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Sign 8, Double Post, (SK 97670 72111)

Sign 8 was located on the footpath south of the corner with East Bight and the Newport Arch. Two postholes were excavated through the pavement and ground beneath (L 0.32; W 0.2m; D 0.45m). The sequence of deposits in both post holes was: 0.06m of paving slab and 0.39m of sand and gravel make up. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Sign 9, Double Post, (SK 97751 72120), SAM ref: Li. 17

Sign 9 was located on East Bight, close to the extant section of Roman wall to the south of the railings (Pl. 3 & 4). Two postholes were excavated through the asphalt into the ground beneath (L 0.30; W 0.30m; D 0.43m). The deposits encountered were the same in both holes: 0.05m of asphalt above a dark brown soil (0.38m exposed). Exposed in the northern section of both of the post holes was the south face of a wall constructed of roughly hewn limestone blocks which had a similar alignment to the existing fence.

Sign 11, Double Post, (SK 97585 72004), SAM ref: Li. 18& 115

Sign 11 was located to the north west of the 'Mint Wall' at the entrance to a passageway between two properties (Pl. 5 & 6). Two postholes were excavated through the tarmac and into the ground beneath (L 0.35m; W 0.35m; D 0.4m). The deposits encountered were the same in both holes: 0.04m of asphalt, 0.04m of cobbles, 0.2m a mixed layer of brick, gravel and limestone in a dark soil matrix and 0.12m of concrete. Possible remnants of a limestone were evident in the north face of the hole beneath the existing brick wall.

Sign 13, Double Post, (SK 97540 71967), SAM ref: Li. 115

Sign 13 was located in the Westgate car park. Two post holes were cut through the paviers and into the bedding for the footpath beneath (L 0.3m; W 0.3m; D 0.5m). The deposits were the same in both holes: 0.09m of paving slab, 0.15m of concrete and 0.26m of a dark buried soil. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Sign 14, Double Post, (SK 97629 71956, SAM ref: Li. 115A

Sign 14 was located on Bailgate next to the site of the St Paul-in-the-Bail well. Two postholes were excavated through the paviers and into the bedding beneath (L 0.35m; W 0.30m; D 0.45m). The deposits were the same in both holes: 0.10m paving slab, 0.35m of sand bedding and a layer of brick and stone rubble was exposed at the base. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Sign 17, Triple Post, (SK 97321 71917)

Sign 17 was located at the entrance to The Lawn. Three postholes were excavated in the flower bed in front of a low hedge (L 0.27m; W 0.27m; D 0.40m). The deposits were the same in all holes: 0.10m garden soil, 0.30m of brick and stone rubble above a concrete slab cover for live services. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Sign 18, Double Post, (SK 97594 71895), SAM ref: Li. 115

Sign 18 was located in the St. Paul's Lane car park. Two postholes were excavated through the asphalt of the car park (L 0.35m; W 0.2m; D 0.35m). The deposits were the same in both holes: 0.15m of tarmac and 0.2m of sand and brick rubble. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Sign 21, Single Post, (SK 97845 71932), SAM ref: Li. 165

Sign 22 was located to the south of the East Bight Roman gate tower. One hole was excavated through the pavement which was 0.35m square and 0.52m deep. The profile consisted of: 0.7m of modern concrete and blocks, 0.11m of modern sand, 0.10m of yellow brown sand and gravel, 0.11m of yellow brown sand and gravel and 0.24m of dark brown sand silt above a modern plastic pipe. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Sign 22, Triple Post, (SK 97884 71930), SAM ref: Li.115

Sign 22 was not monitored.

Sign 28, Triple Post, (SK 97652 71819)

Sign 28 was located on Exchequer Gate near St Mary Magdalene Church. Three holes were excavated through the pavement slabs. All three holes were 0.35m square and 0.52m deep. The western hole was excavated through 0.6m of pavior, 0.15m of compacted gravel, 0.10m of dark grey brown sand silt and 0.22m of a rough limestone wall. A similar profile was encountered in the central hole but the rough limestone wall was not encountered and the dark grey silt was present to the base of the hole. The eastern hole encountered concrete sand and silt above a service pipe at the base of the hole. No archaeological finds were observed.

Sign 53, Replaces existing sign attached to the wall , (SK 97340 71531), SAM ref: Li. 253

Sign 53 replaced the existing sign attached to the police station wall and did not require archaeological monitoring.

Sign 55, Double Post, (SK 97467 71508), SAM ref: Li. 115A

Sign 53 was located on the Motherby Lane footpath next to the NCP car park. Two holes were initially mistakenly excavated to the north of the footpath in the car park and backfilled prior to the erection in the planned location. All four holes were monitored and the deposit was the same in each: 0.09m asphalt, 0.32m of dark soil with abundant roots and bricks and 0.09m of dark soil. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Sign 57, Double Post, (SK 97560 71516)

Sign 57 was located to the right of the entrance to the old churchyard of St Martins on St Martin's Square. Two post holes were excavated through the pavement (L 0.32m; W 0.25m; D 0.55m). The deposit in each hole was: 0.1m asphalt; 0.25m limestone and gravel bedding and 0.2m of dark soil overlying a cable. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Sign 62, Double Post, (SK 97321 71445, SAM ref: Li. 187

Sign 62 was erected next to the lower city west gate. The site was excavated and exposed by excavations in 1970-2 (Jones ed. 1999). Two postholes were excavated through the gravel surface (L

0.40m; W 0.30m; D 0.50m). Both holes had the same profile: 0.08m gravel and 0.42m of crushed rubble and hardcore. No archaeological finds or features were observed within the holes.

Sign 63, Double Post, (SK 97816 71423), SAM ref: Li. 269

No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Discussion

The age of the limestone walls encountered during the excavations cannot be dated on the basis of the shallow holes excavated and may be the surviving archaeological remnants of earlier walls (Rowlandson and Young 2004, 3). It is possible that as the walls exposed in the foundations for signs next to stretches of standing Roman walls (East Bight and The Mint Wall) may of interest but as insufficient depth, area and finds were exposed by the investigation it is not possible to date the features. The limestone wall exposed by the postholes for Sign 9 represents the limestone precursor to the iron railing fence but could not be dated. It appears likely that the wall and possible surface exposed by the groundworks for sign 11 may relate to a precursor of the existing footpath. The limestone wall may have been similar to the opposite boundary of the footpath The limited extent and depth of excavations will have caused minimal damage to these features.

Although remnants of 15th- 16th century walls were exposed during work on the retaining wall to the north of Motherby Lane (Rowlandson 2004) it is impossible to speculate whether the foundations for Sign 53 truncated archaeological horizons as the nature of the development of the terracing in this area is unknown.

Conclusion

The limited nature of the groundworks produced little evidence of archaeology and caused little to no archaeological impact.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Lincoln City Council and their onsite workforce their assistance during the project. The author wishes to thank Richard Lee and Mike Garrett for the onsite recording. Illustrations were prepared by the author. Naomi Field edited the report and it was collated by Doug Young.

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February 2006

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Contents of the Site Archive

Observation sheets

Correspondence

Photographs: LAS film nos. 05/122/3-26; 05/130/1-3; 06/069/01-10

THE FIGURES

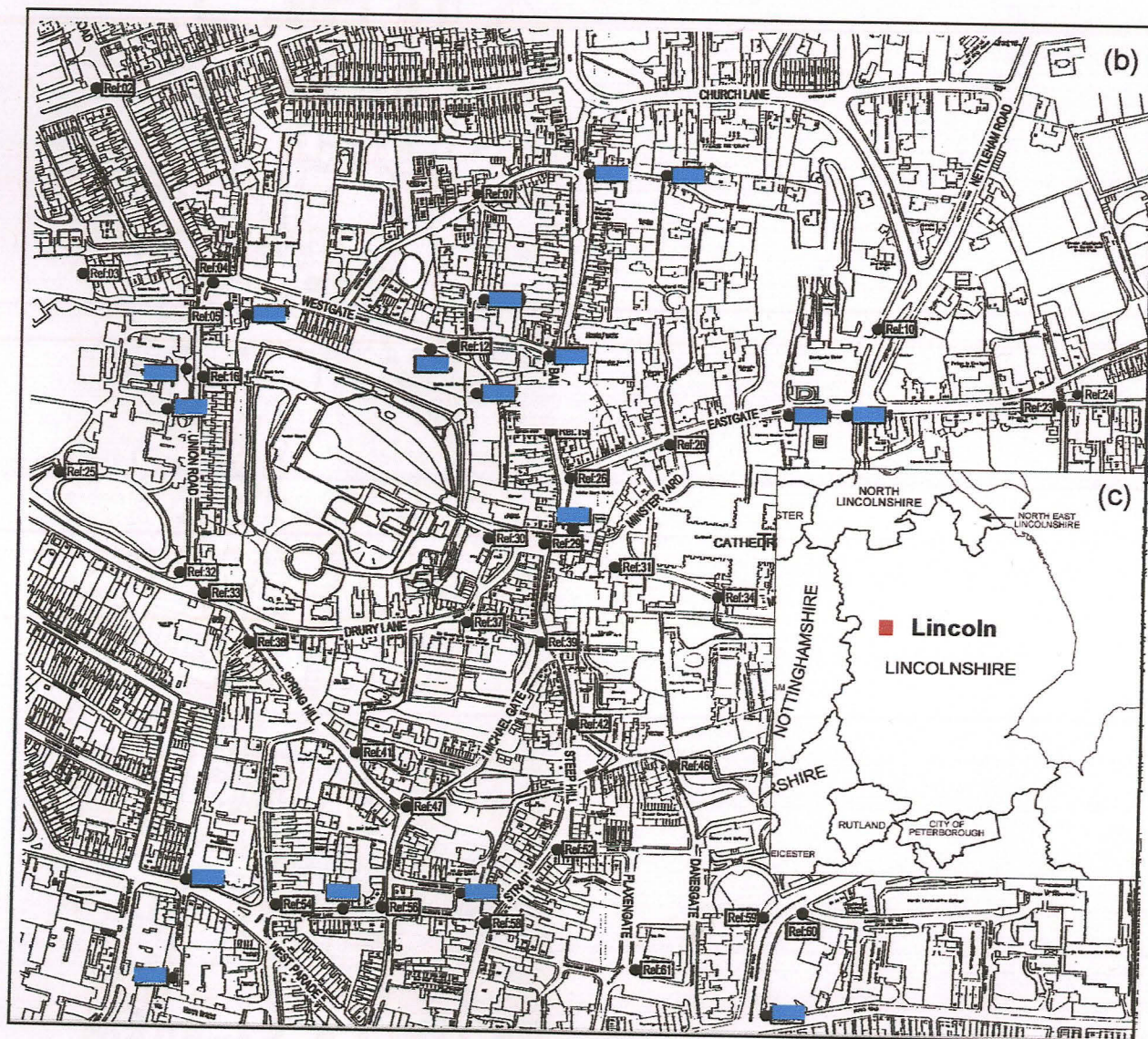
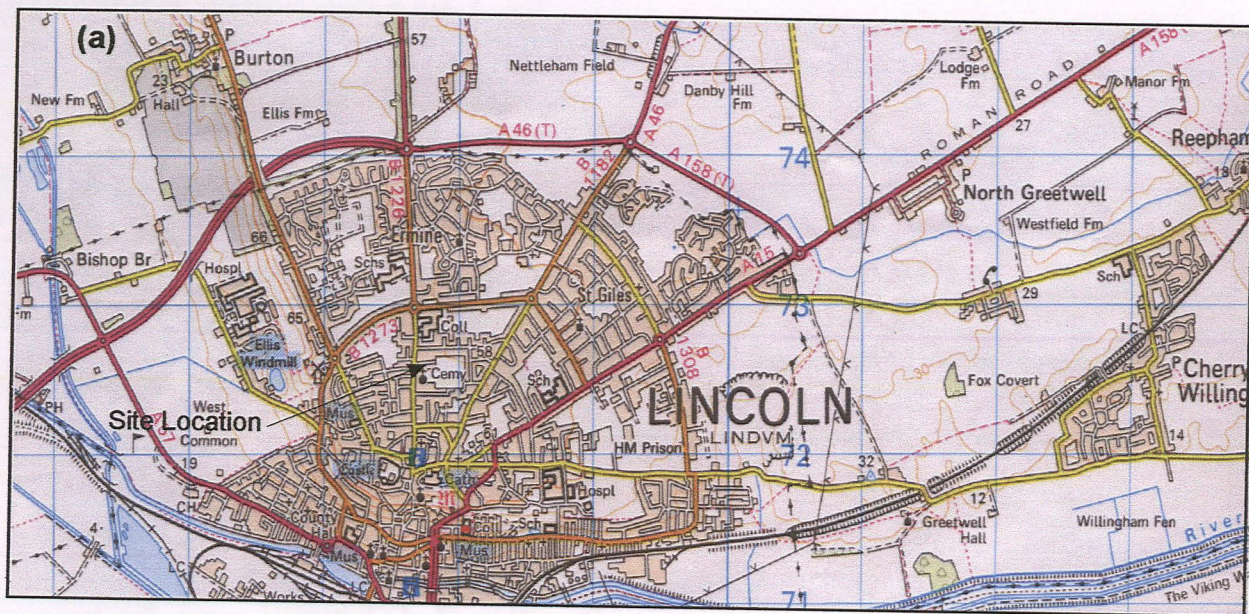


Fig 1. Location of Lincoln Cathedral Quarter signs. Based on (a) 1:50 000 Ordnance Survey map (b) City of Lincoln Project Management Team Location plan (1448/01), (c) location of Lincoln. Reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 10002165.

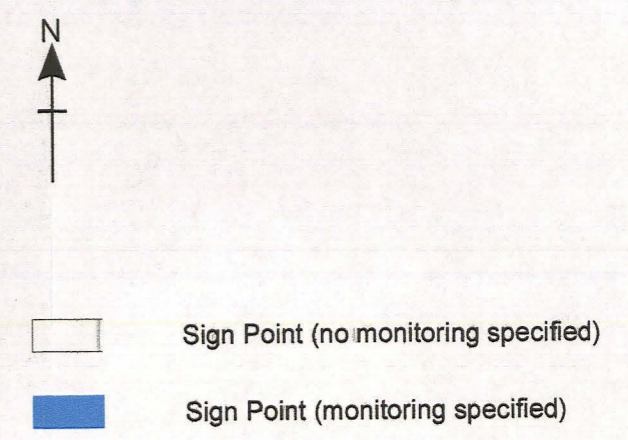
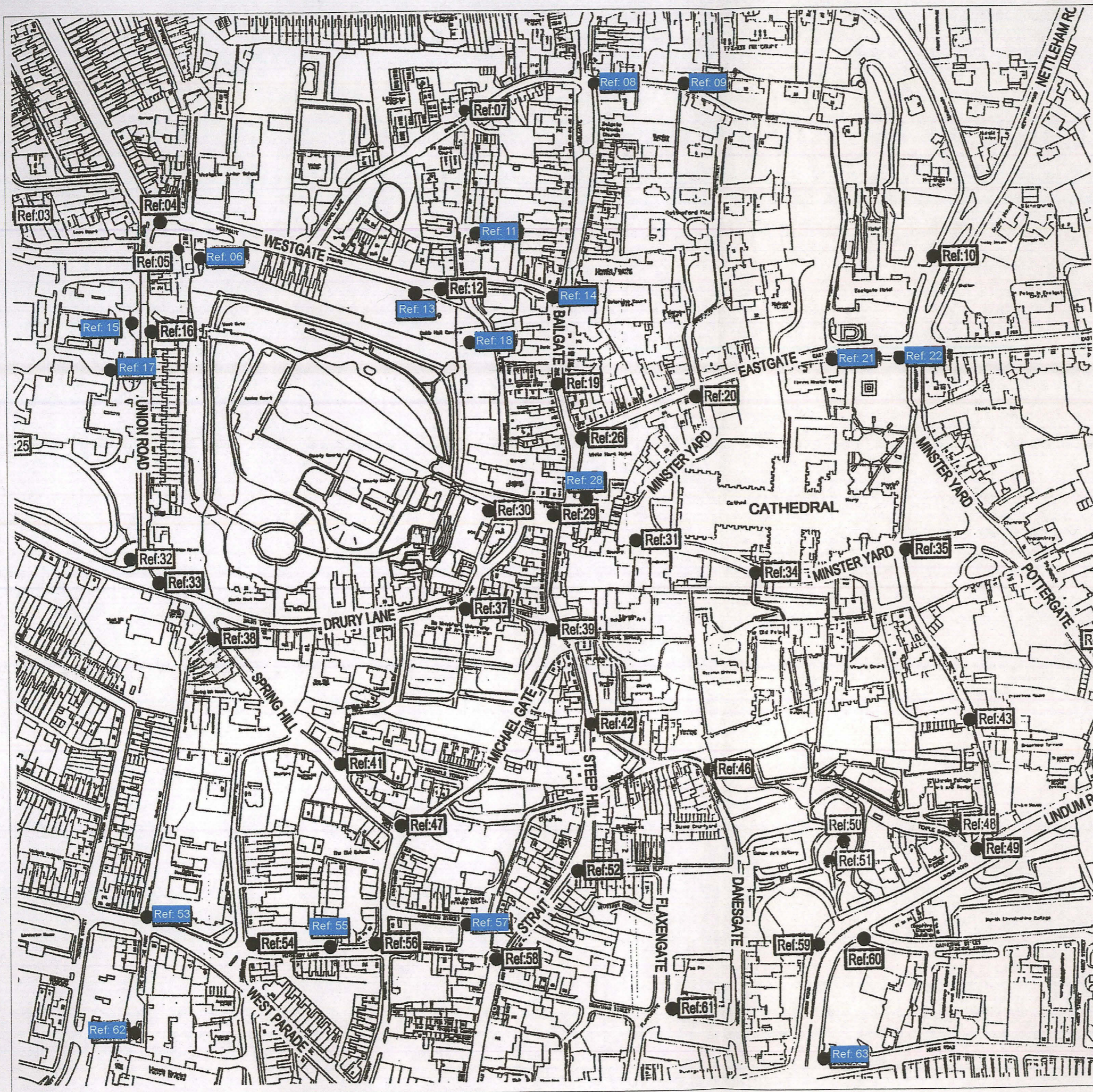


Fig. 2 Location of monitored signs, after City of Lincoln Project Management Team Location plan (1448/01).

THE PLATES



Pl. 1 Sign 6 during excavations, looking west towards Westgate public convenience.



Pl. 2 Sign 6 posthole, looking west. Scale 0.3m.



Pl. 3 Sign 9 East Bight during excavations, looking north.



Pl. 4 Sign 9 East Bight posthole showing the limestone wall, looking north. Scale 0.3m.



Pl. 5 Sign 11 Mint Wall posthole during excavations, looking north.



Pl. 6 Sign 11 Mint Wall posthole showing limestone walls and cobbles, looking north. Scale 0.3m.