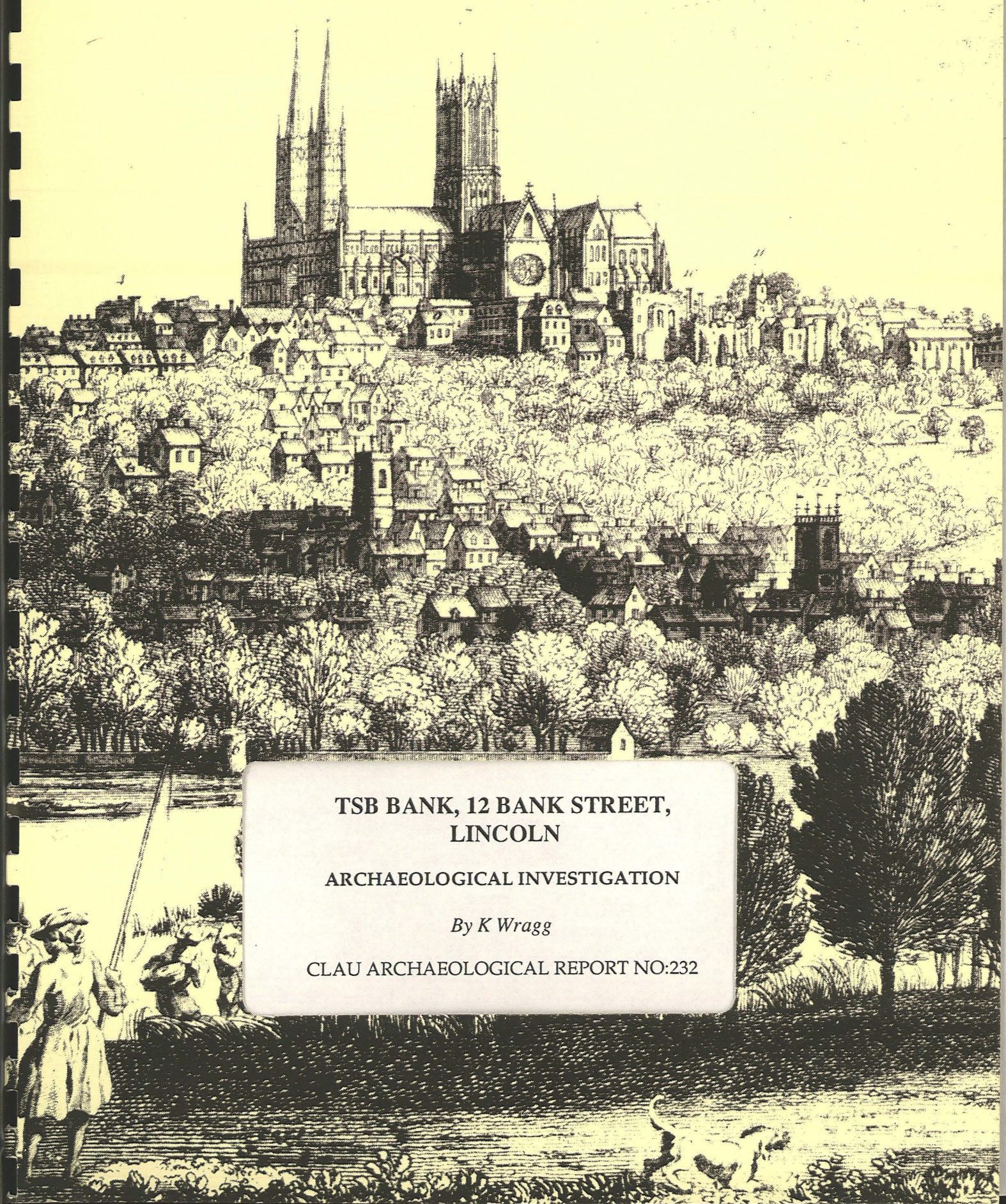


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— CITY OF —
◇ LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY ◇
— UNIT —



TSB BANK, 12 BANK STREET,
LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

By K Wragg

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO:232

A
Report to
Stephen Easten Ltd
on behalf of
TSB Bank Plc

March 1996

Prepared by

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LINCOLN**

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The proposed groundworks at the above property, situated to the east of the High Street (see Fig.1), consisted of the removal of an area of existing concrete paving (involving only limited excavation), followed by the construction of a new entrance ramp and steps, at the north-eastern corner of the premises.

Notwithstanding the limited excavation required it was considered that, in view of previous discoveries of buried archaeological remains at relatively shallow depths, groundworks should be monitored by means of an intermittent watching brief.

Accordingly, during November 1994 the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (C.L.A.U.) was commissioned by Stephen Easten Ltd, on behalf of TSB Bank Plc, to carry out a watching brief (in accordance with a condition of the Planning Consent) on groundworks connected with the modification of access arrangements.

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).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies in an area of known archaeological importance lying to the north

of the Roman lower city south wall, and is located to the east of the Roman Ermine Street, the principal north-south route through the city (the modern High Street). In view of this, the area is believed likely to contain evidence of Roman and medieval urban occupation and land-use, and this is borne out by the results of previous archaeological work undertaken in the immediate area.

During 1973/4 three areas were excavated between Silver Street and Saltergate prior to redevelopment (the neighbouring Stonebow Centre, immediately to the west of the area under consideration in this report, and the Royal Bank of Scotland building, immediately to the south).

During these excavations, the southern defences of the lower Roman colonia were revealed, consisting of a rampart and narrow wall appearing to date from the mid to late 3rd century. There was a small gateway in the wall, together with cobbled surfaces. Internal and external towers were added to the west of the gateway before the wall was widened in the late 4th century. An external road ran parallel to the colonia wall. To the north, a substantial late Roman house (constructed between the late 3rd and 4th centuries) was revealed, containing a channelled hypocaust (underfloor heating system).

Above the Roman deposits, five skeletons were discovered, possibly of middle Saxon date (although they may be later), but occupation of the site during the Saxon period could not be conclusively proven.

Several stone and timber structures were also revealed dating to the 10th and 11th centuries, together with further structures (including cellared buildings), and roads dating from the 12th to 15th centuries.

Above the medieval phases of occupation there was a loam dump deposit, built up at least into the 18th century and contemporary with a north-south lane which was laid down in the late 17th to 19th centuries and resurfaced.

Further, more limited, work has also taken place along Bank Street to the east of the present TSB Bank building. In September 1936 a substantial section (18 courses) of Roman building was recorded in a basement. One wall was faced with fine red plaster and the stonework was very well constructed.

In more recent years, a possible Roman road, aligned north-south, was seen c.3.5m below modern ground surface, together with a possible sewer to the east, and a possible medieval wall (during 1976), and sections of two walls were found along Bank Street, both probably late/post-medieval in date.

3.0 RESULTS

Notwithstanding the obvious potential of the site, as outlined above, the depths reached during the current works were not expected to be sufficient to reveal any substantial archaeological deposits, and indeed the majority of the groundworks involved a general raising of the existing ground level rather than excavation. This said, it was still a remote possibility that the latest, probably post-medieval, remains could be uncovered by the limited groundworks.

In the event, however, no deposits pre-dating the 20th century were in fact revealed, with only the existing hardcore base for the footway surface uncovered.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

As related above, the results from this watching brief have proved to be largely negative, with no evidence of any preserved archaeological features or finds. This of course has only been confirmed at the depths investigated during this project, and does not preclude the survival of archaeological remains in other locations.

5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit would like to thank the following for their assistance during this project: TSB Bank Plc for funding this project; Messrs G.Bremner & D.Hutton, of Stephen Easten Ltd, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Main Contractor); Mr N.Woodcock, ATP Group Partnership, Billericay, Essex (Architect).

6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Reynolds, N M 1979 Saltergate, in Colyer, Christina & Jones, M J (eds) Excavations at Lincoln, Second interim report: Excavations in the lower town 1972-8 *Antiq J* 59, 84-9, [LAM BIB409]

Vince, Alan & Jones, Michael J (eds) 1990 (Revd edn) *Lincoln's Buried Archaeological Heritage*, City Lincoln Archaeol Unit, Lincoln [LAM BIB487]

7.0 LHA NOTE/ARCHIVE DETAILS

7.1 LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODE: ON546

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.:
LE15/0358/94

FIELD OFFICER: K.Wragg

NGR: SK 9763/7123

CIVIL PARISH: Lincoln

SMR No.:

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 09/11/94 -
14/11/94

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Stephen Easten Ltd,
on behalf of TSB Bank Plc.

7.2 ARCHIVE DETAILS

PRESENT LOCATION: City of Lincoln
Archaeology Unit, Charlotte House, The
Lawn, Union Road, Lincoln, LN1 3BL.

FINAL LOCATION: The City and County
Museum, Friars Lane, Lincoln.

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: -

ACCESSION DATE:



KEY



Location of Site

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE: ON546 PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:

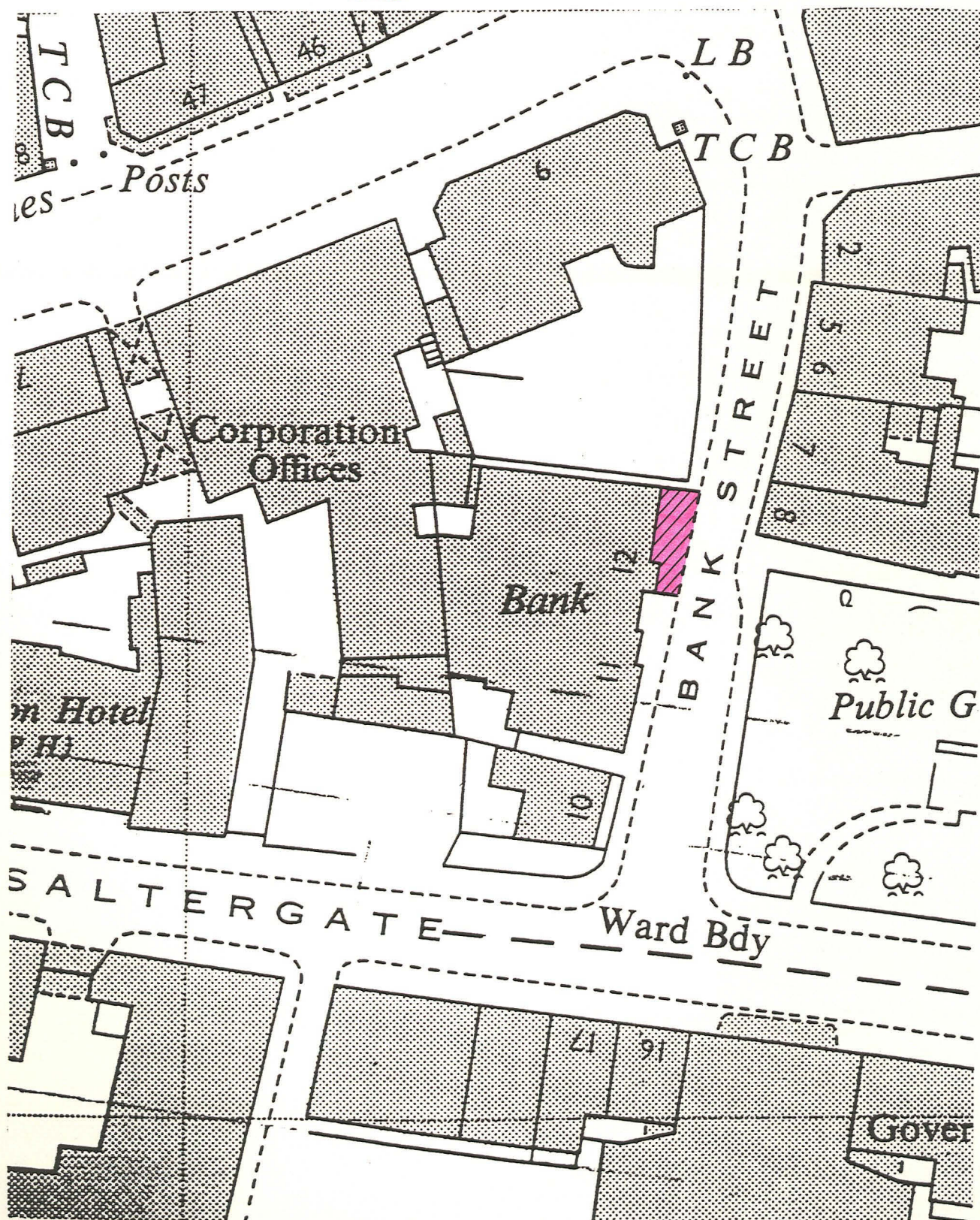
CLIENT: TSB Bank Plc.

DESCRIPTION: Site Location Plan

SCALE: 1:500 ARCHIVE NO:

DRAWN BY: CHECKED: DATE: 29/03/96

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:



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Fig.1