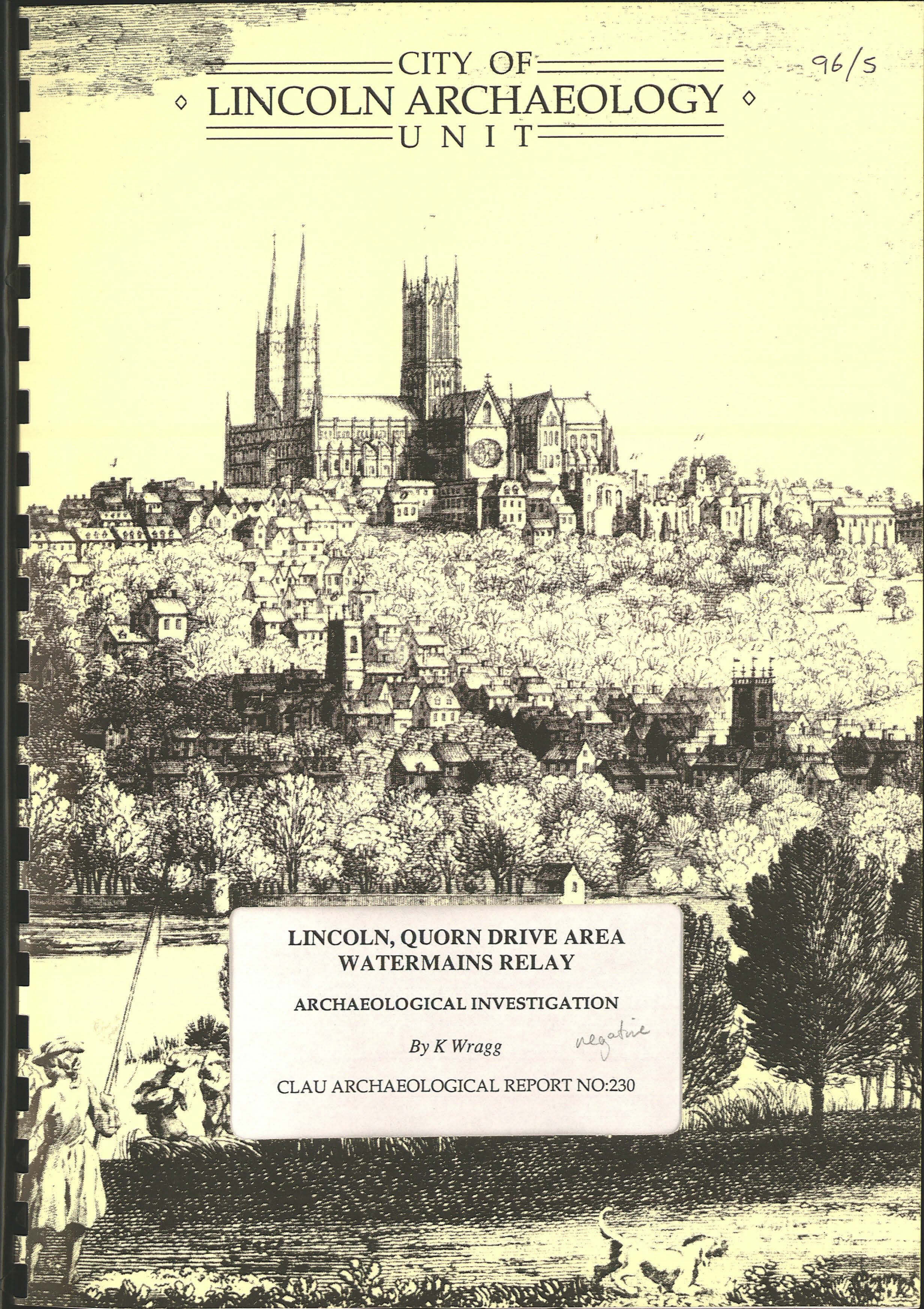


CITY OF  
◇ LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY ◇  
UNIT

96/5



LINCOLN, QUORN DRIVE AREA  
WATERMAINS RELAY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION  
By K Wragg *negative*  
CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO:230

EV: L12229  
Source: L16928

A  
Report to  
*Anglian Water Services Ltd.*

March 1996

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WATERMAINS RELAY**

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*negative*

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO:230

# LINCOLN, QUORN DRIVE AREA - WATERMAINS RELAY

## Archaeological Investigation

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Fig.1 Site Location Plans - scale 1:10000/1:5000

# LINCOLN, QUORN DRIVE AREA - WATERMAINS RELAY

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

During August 1994, the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (C.L.A.U.) was approached by the Conservation Division of Anglian Water Services Limited (A.W.S.L.), for comment on the archaeological/conservation implications of a proposed new pipeline scheme.

The scheme involved the insertion of 180mm and 125mm diameter watermains along 18 streets (Marjorie Avenue, Hall Drive and Mayfair Avenue to the east of Boultham Park Road; Boultham Park Road itself; and Glenwood Close, Dixon Street, Sunningdale Drive, Bristol Drive, Brancaster Drive, St. Andrew's Drive, Clive Avenue, Rufford Green, Hunt Lea Avenue, Meynell Avenue, Harrington Avenue, Quorn Drive and Lincoln Avenue to the west of Boultham Park Road) in the Boultham Park area of the city (see Fig.1).

All trenches were to be machine-excavated to a maximum depth of between 1.1m and 1.2m, and were designed to follow the route of the existing pipelines. Notwithstanding this however, in view of the archaeological potential of the area (see 2.2, below), it was recommended that groundworks should be monitored archaeologically.

As a result, during September 1994 the C.L.A.U. was commissioned to carry out an intermittent watching brief on the pipelaying works, and observation was carried out on the site between 4<sup>th</sup> October 1994 and 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1995.

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

### 2.1 Historical evidence

Lincoln lies over several well-defined geological zones. The City itself is situated at a gap in the Jurassic limestone ridge (known as the "Lincoln Edge") which contains the course of the river Witham. Further south the clays are covered with a river terrace sand while the Witham valley contains a complex sequence of Pleistocene and Holocene gravels, silts and clays. Reclamation has taken place along the banks of both the Witham and Brayford Pool since the Roman period.

To the east of Lincoln, chance finds have indicated a rich Iron Age culture, and several important objects were found in dredging operations along the River Witham, which lies immediately to the east of the area under consideration.

On historical evidence, the Roman army may have reached Lincoln by c.A.D.50 and by A.D.96 Lincoln had the status of a "colonia", utilizing the uphill site of the Neronian fortress. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> century a Roman suburb developed to the south of the city wall encompassing the area known as Wigford. This suburb grew and prospered well into the 4<sup>th</sup> century.

Abandonment of the Roman city seems to have taken place gradually during the 4<sup>th</sup> Century with former urban life reduced to a small community between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> centuries. Following the Viking take-over of Lindsey in 874, Lincoln became a "Viking" town which grew quickly during the 10<sup>th</sup> century.

The City continued to develop during the Early Medieval period with the Wigford suburb extending towards the St.Catherine's area, and becoming an increasingly important area for trade.

## 2.2 Archaeological evidence

Only limited archaeological work has been carried out in the Boultham Park area of the city, and as a result our understanding of the previous land-use is limited. It is known however, that this area was once the location for a widespread pottery manufacturing industry during the Roman period.

Approximately 12 Roman pottery kilns are known in the Boultham, Bracebridge, and Swanpool areas (lying 2-3km to the S.W. of the south gate of the Roman Lower City), and casual finds may indicate several more (see Fig.1). The kiln at Rookery Lane appears to be earlier than the six found at Swanpool, but in general the earliest pottery (appearing to date from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D.) has been discovered on the site of the St.Helen's cemetery (immediately to the south of the area under consideration in this report).

It was therefore a possibility that further remains associated with pottery making might be revealed by the proposed trenching, and in addition to the remains of the manufacturing industry itself, it was also possible that evidence for associated suburban occupation might be preserved, together with information about transportation and/or distribution (it appears likely that the industry was situated in this location to take advantage of the transportation opportunities afforded by the nearby River Witham, Ermine Street and Fosse Way).

A great deal of research remains to be done on the Swanpool/Rookery Lane kilns, and it was hoped that, in addition to possible structural remains, this project might also provide further information about the location of the clay sources used in the manufacturing process, and might provide artefacts to allow the kiln products to be more closely dated (all refs. Darling, 1977).

## 3.0 RESULTS

Although trenching covered a wide area, the size of the individual trenches made the probability of discovery of substantial archaeological remains somewhat low. This was ultimately borne out by the results, which

revealed no signs of archaeological occupation in the areas investigated.

The recorded stratigraphy was very basic and appeared fairly constant across the whole area. The earliest deposit was a moderately compacted mid orange sand containing only occasional small lenses and mottles of mid grey and light white/brown sand, which was at least 800mm thick to the limit of excavation.

This appeared to be the natural deposit for the area, and lay immediately beneath the modern limestone hardcore bedding for the present road network.

A marked difference in the road make-up layers, between Boultham Park Road and the surrounding streets, was noted, with the former using large, roughly squared limestone blocks, rather than the usual "type ½" stone fill found elsewhere. It was initially thought that this might represent the remains of a stone building, possibly part of the Boultham Park estate, but it now seems much more likely that the difference simply represents the changes in road-laying techniques, which have taken place over time.

## 4.0 CONCLUSIONS

Notwithstanding the potential (albeit limited given the groundwork methodology) of the site, as related above, the results from this watching brief have proved to be largely negative, with no evidence of any archaeological features or finds predating the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This of course has only been confirmed in the areas (and 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: Mr P.Hickey, A.W.S.L. Conservation Division, Histon, Cambs.; Mr M.Vickers, A.W.S.L. Lincoln; together with the on-site contractors, M.P.Burke Plc.

## 6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Webster, G & Booth, N 1947 The excavation of a Romano-British pottery kiln at Swanpool, Lincoln *Antiq J* 27, 61-79, [Roman Pottery; LAM BIB501;wigvol ]

Webster, G 1960 A Romano-British pottery kiln at Rookery Lane, Lincoln *Antiq J* 40, 214-20, [LAM BIB504;wigvol ]

## 7.0 LHA NOTE/ARCHIVE DETAILS

### 7.1 LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODE: QD94

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.: *n/a*

FIELD OFFICER: K.Wragg

NGR: SK 9655/7014

CIVIL PARISH: *Lincoln*

SMR No.:

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 04/10/94 - 02/03/95

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: *Watching Brief*

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Anglian Water Services Limited.

### 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.: 145.94

ACCESSION DATE:

**CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT**

SITE CODE: QD94	PLANELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT: Anglian Water Services Ltd.	DESCRIPTION: Site Location Plan	
SCALE:	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY:	CHECKED:	DATE: 29/03/96
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 145.94		

KEY

Route of Pipeline

N

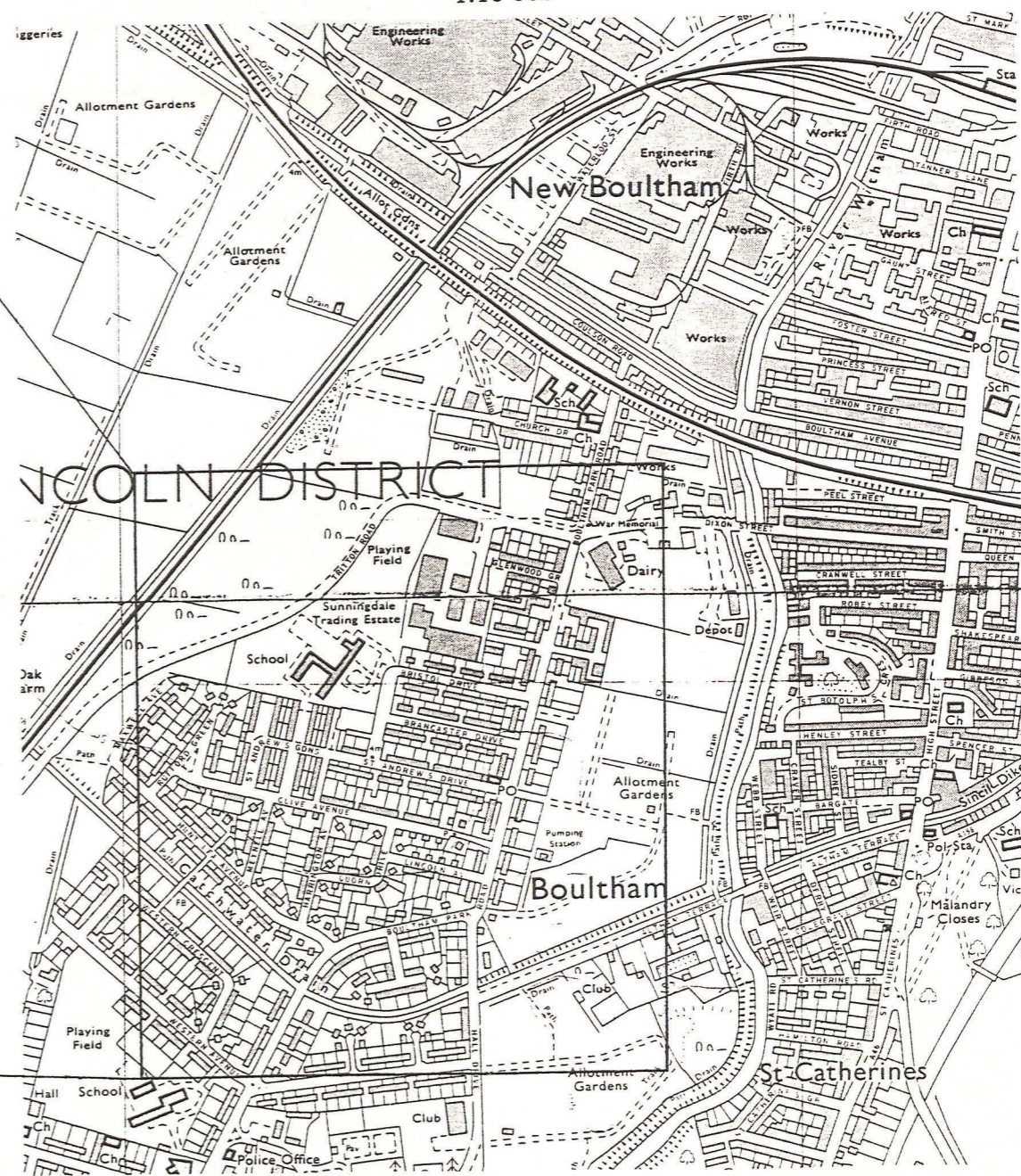


1:5000



Based on A.W.S.L. drawing no. LIN/03/1 & 2

1:10 000



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Fig.1