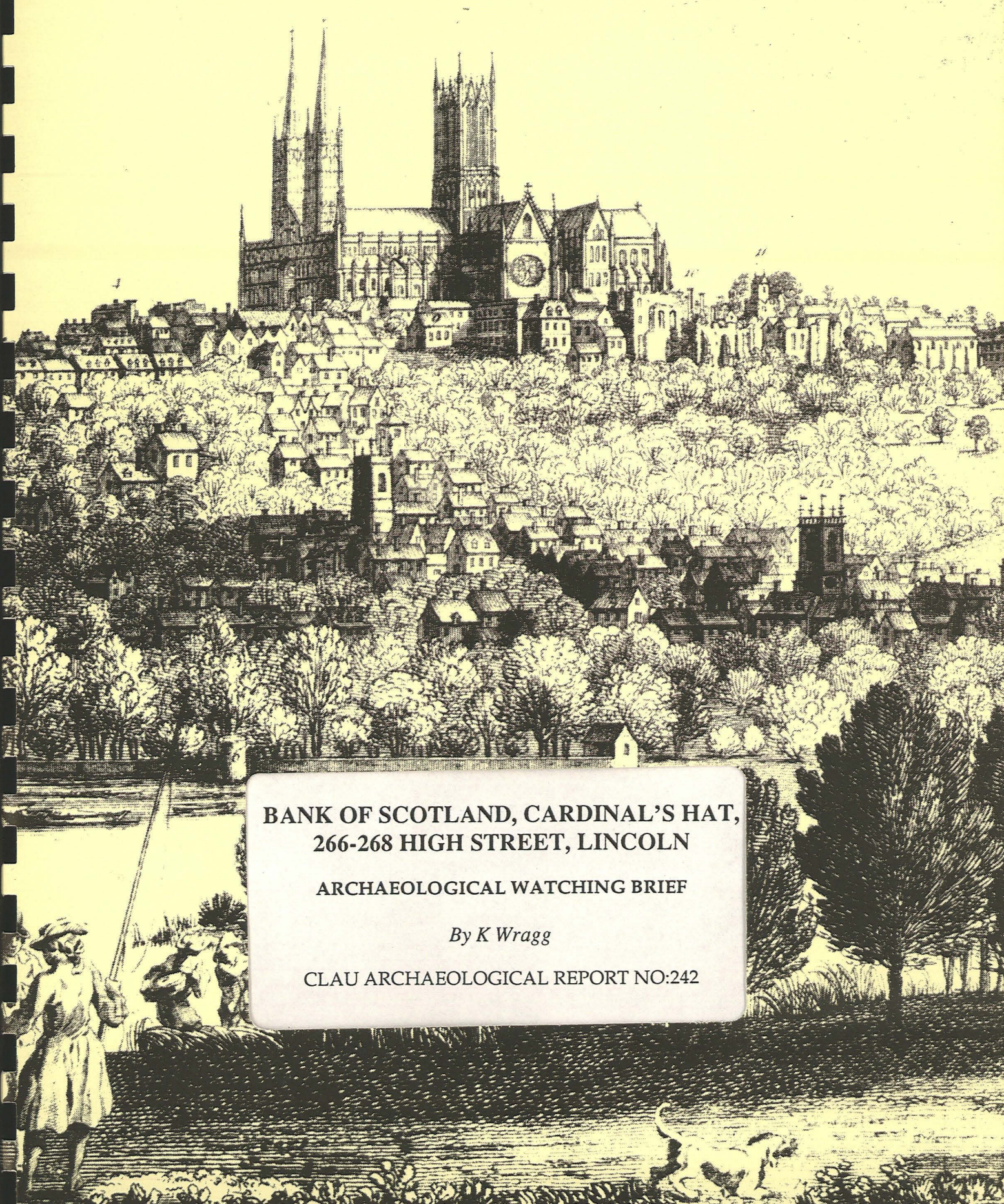


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CITY OF
◇ LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY ◇
U N I T



**BANK OF SCOTLAND, CARDINAL'S HAT,
266-268 HIGH STREET, LINCOLN**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

By K Wragg

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO:242

negative
96/5

A
Report to
R.G.Carter Lincolnshire Ltd
on behalf of
The Bank of Scotland Plc

April 1996

Prepared by

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The proposed redevelopment at the above site involved mainly internal remodelling, together with modifications to the western (i.e. High Street) elevation to allow the installation of an Automatic Teller Machine (A.T.M.) and night safe. Groundworks were limited to the lowering of the floor level in one room, to allow the formation of a "stair lobby", and excavation in a yard to the rear of the property (to the N.E.). The latter work was mainly for the purpose of connections to various services, although a new fire escape was required in one location.

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 1995 the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (C.L.A.U.) was commissioned by Iain Pattie Associates Ltd, on behalf of the Bank of Scotland Plc, to carry out a watching brief (in accordance with a condition of the Planning Consent) on groundworks connected with the redevelopment of the above property.

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

Archaeological excavations in the vicinity of the site have revealed evidence of Roman occupation from the late 1st-early 2nd century through to the late 4th century, including the remains of both timber and stone buildings, and several phases of the Roman street system. The nature of the recovered finds seems to suggest that the buildings represent houses (some with tessellated floors), shops or workshops, some possibly associated with butchery and metalworking, and a large late Roman building, possibly for official purposes.

While it would appear that this area was largely abandoned during the early-mid Saxon periods, sites investigated to the west, along Flaxengate, Grantham Place and Swan Street, confirm intensive late Anglo-Scandinavian occupation. The occupation revealed included metalled road surfaces, and timber and stone structures, some of the latter apparently used for glass and metalworking. Several phases of development and re-development were identified and dated to between the late 9th and early 11th centuries.

From this time onwards, it would appear that this general area was continually occupied, developed and redeveloped. Parts of medieval houses, built in the 11th-15th centuries continued in use until the 17th century in some cases, but in others new structures were built in the 16th and 17th centuries. Further phases of demolition and rebuilding continued through to the 19th century, and the majority of the surviving buildings in the area around the site date from this period.

The Cardinal's Hat itself, originally built as an inn surrounding a courtyard in the late 15th

century, is a notable survivor as, with the exception of the 20th century brick frontage, the majority of the building still dates to this time.

3.0 RESULTS

Notwithstanding the obvious potential of the site, as outlined above, the scope and extent of the current works were not expected to be sufficient to reveal any substantial archaeological deposits. It was still, however, possible that the latest, probably medieval and post-medieval, remains could be uncovered by the limited groundworks.

As mentioned in the Introduction, excavation only took place in two areas of the property: 1) in the location of the new "stair lobby"; and 2) in the yard to the N.E.

- 1) The stair lobby was to be formed in a room, measuring approximately 3.0m (N-S) x 5.0m (E-W), lying immediately north of the main entrance way. The existing ground level of this area was approximately 500mm higher than the surrounding rooms, and to provide access to the new stairway it was proposed to reduce this general level by approximately 950mm - 1.0m.

Upon excavation, the stratigraphy was found to consist of a single dump of mixed mid-brown clayey earth, containing limestone pieces, together with occasional small pieces of animal bone, which was present to the limit of excavation (L.O.E.), and was cut to the west by the remains of a stone cellar.

This cellar was backfilled with limestone pieces/hardcore and bricks, and necessitated changes to the original scheme, with excavation being limited to a depth of c.700mm (rather than the 1.0m depth originally envisaged).

- 2) The groundworks in the yard involved excavation to a depth of only 700mm, in an area that was already c.1.0m-2.0m higher than the ground floor level of the building to the south, and as somewhat expected, the results were largely negative.

The only deposit revealed comprised a moderately compacted mid brown clayey earth, containing moderately frequent amounts of limestone pieces, concrete fragments, animal bone fragments and very occasional small clay tobacco pipe fragments (the latter were unfortunately not recovered, but their presence would indicate that the deposit does not predate the 17th century).

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, with the exception of the undated backfilled stone cellar present at the western side of the property, adjacent to the High Street. 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: The Bank of Scotland, 12 Bankhead Crossway South, Edinburgh, EH11 4EN; Mr P.Devine, of Iain Pattie Associates Ltd, 99c Talbot Road, London, W11 2AT; Messrs D.Fisher & D.Stockwell, of R.G.Carter West Norfolk Ltd, Maple Road, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE34 3AF; Mr R.Clark, of R.G.Carter Lincolnshire Ltd, Redstone Industrial Estate, Boston, Lincolnshire, PE21 8EA.

6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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7.0 LHA NOTE/ARCHIVE DETAILS

7.1 LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODE: ON562

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.:
LE15/0365/95

FIELD OFFICER: K.Wragg

NGR: SK 9760 7145

CIVIL PARISH: Lincoln

SMR No.:

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 22/11/95 -
01/02/96

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: R.G.Carter West
Norfolk Ltd, on behalf of the Bank of Scotland
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:

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE: ON562		PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:
CLIENT: R.G. Carter Ltd on behalf of The Bank of Scotland Plc		
DESCRIPTION: Site Location Plan		
SCALE: 1:1250	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY:	CHECKED:	DATE: 19/04/96
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:		



KEY

 Location of Site

Metres ROMAN LEGIONARY FORTRESS 976

