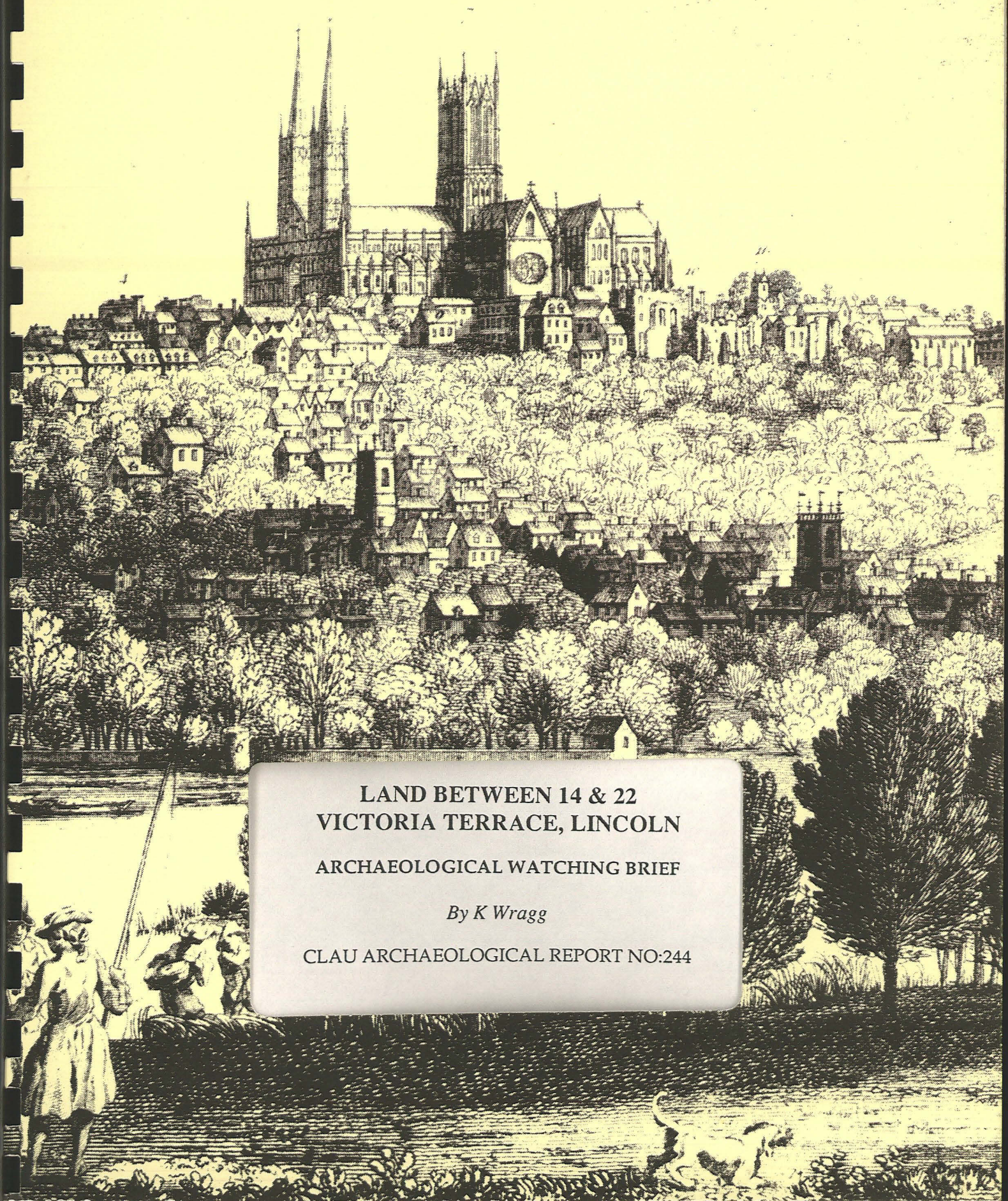


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CITY OF  
◇ LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY ◇  
U N I T



LAND BETWEEN 14 & 22  
VICTORIA TERRACE, LINCOLN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
*By K Wragg*  
CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO:244

96/6

EVENT 43599  
SOURCE L18322  
negative

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**Report to**  
***Augusta Developments Ltd***

May 1996

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**Prepared by**

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**LAND BETWEEN 14 & 22  
VICTORIA TERRACE, LINCOLN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

*By K Wragg*

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO:244

# LAND BETWEEN 14 & 22 VICTORIA TERRACE, LINCOLN.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This site is located in an area of known archaeological importance, lying on the hill slope immediately to the west of the western defences of the lower Roman and medieval city.

Development proposals for the site involved the construction of a two-storey dwelling, with four car-parking spaces for residents. The original design concentrated the bulk of the planned structure to the centre and rear of the site (i.e., the north side). Owing to the existing topography - the site is on the relatively steep hill slope forming part of the "Lincoln Edge" (see 2.0, below) - this operation would have required extensive cutting-back of the slope, and potentially have resulted in far greater disturbance of any buried archaeological deposits. In view of these concerns the design was subsequently modified, with the building moved to the front (i.e., south side) of the site, resulting in far less potential disturbance.

Ultimately the groundworks comprised the removal of a "wedge" measuring c.7.0m (N-S) x 14.0m (E-W), and between 1.5m and 2.0m deep (at its deepest point), from the southern part of the site. Piled foundations were used, and only limited additional excavation was required in conjunction with the piling, and associated service connections.

In view of previous discoveries of buried archaeological remains at relatively shallow depths (owing to the possible presence of terracing of the hill slope, dating from the Roman period), it was decided that any groundworks should be monitored by means of an intermittent watching brief.

Accordingly, during January 1996, the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (C.L.A.U.) was commissioned by Augusta Developments Ltd 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.

Archaeological observations were carried out on the site during both the initial geotechnical investigation (on 10/01/96), and later during the construction groundwork phase (22/02/96).

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

Lincoln is situated at the point where the Jurassic limestone ridge known as the Lincoln Edge is cut by a glacial gap, through which the River Witham now flows. At its junction with the River Till, canalised as the Fosdyke, flowing from the west, is a presumed natural lake, the Brayford Pool. Its extent was much greater in antiquity than at present, and it is known to have existed at the time of the Roman Conquest. The first syllable of the colloquial Roman name for the City of Lincoln, LINDUM, was derived from the Celtic word for "lake", "pool" or "marshy/water place" (Rivet & Smith, 1979).

The site lies in an area of known archaeological importance lying to the west of the western wall of the lower Roman *Colonia*. The area is believed likely to contain evidence of Roman, and later, medieval suburban occupation and land-use.

Archaeological excavations in the vicinity of the site have revealed evidence of Roman occupation beginning no later than the early 2<sup>nd</sup> century.

During excavations at The Park (on the site of the Lincoln City Council offices), on the line of the lower city wall, two or three periods of building were sealed by the earliest rampart, which was built at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> or early

in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. Later, during the 4<sup>th</sup> century, a gateway was inserted through the defences, presumably leading to extra-mural settlement, or perhaps a cemetery (cremations have been discovered adjacent to West Parade, to the south of the development site). Further structures have also been seen to the west of Orchard Street.

While little or no evidence was found for activity during the majority of the Saxon period, re-occupation of the area within the walls seems to have begun in the 11<sup>th</sup> century.

The Roman fortifications are thought to have survived into the medieval period; the date at which the gate went out of use is uncertain although it was certainly blocked by the 13<sup>th</sup> century. There was some evidence of occupation and structures throughout the medieval period.

A postern gate running obliquely through the Roman fortifications was discovered during excavations on the site of the police station on West Parade, and was probably of medieval date suggesting the continued use of the wall.

### 3.0 RESULTS

Initially, three trial trenches were machine-excavated at selected locations across the site (all oriented approximately E-W), for the joint purpose of geotechnical and archaeological evaluation. The trenches were specifically targeted to identify the condition of foundations to neighbouring properties, and to locate the line of various services across the site, and were excavated to depths of between 1.0m and 1.2m. Trial Trenches 1 and 2 were situated at the western boundary of the site, while T.T.3 was adjacent to the west wall of no.22, at the eastern side of the site.

In addition to the sub-surface deposits revealed by the trenching, the remains of two structures could still be identified on the site (at the northern end, and the south-eastern corner), which would appear to represent part of a barn, and a small garage, respectively (the latter apparently belonging to no.22 Victoria Terrace). These structures appear on the 1967 Ordnance Survey map of the area, but are not found on the 1887 First Series O.S. map (when virtually the entire length of Victoria Terrace remained undeveloped), and therefore probably date from the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The earliest deposit revealed in the trial trenching comprised a well compacted mid orange-brown, slightly sandy, clay layer [106], which contained small-medium sized, irregularly shaped, limestone pieces towards its upper boundary. Seen at the limit of excavation (L.O.E.), this deposit was assumed to be the natural clay and was overlain by a number of different deposits and features across the site.

At the eastern end of T.T.3, [106] was cut by both a brick wall [112] (the wall of no.22), and the remains of a concrete block wall, [111] (the remains of the east wall of the garage mentioned above), while at the western end it was overlain by two thin dump layers, [114] and [113]. The first of these, [114], comprised a moderate-well compacted mid-light red-brown sandy clay with no inclusions, and lay beneath [113], a thin lense of crushed limestone and charcoal.

In both T.T.1 and 2, the natural clay layer [106] was sealed by a dump layer [102], which comprised a well compacted mid yellow-brown, slightly sandy, clay containing occasional small limestone flecks and pieces, root inclusions, and very occasional blue clay mottles. This layer was then cut by the modern foundation trench for the eastern boundary wall of no.14 Victoria Terrace.

Overlying both this construction trench and the aforementioned layers and walls seen in T.T.3 was the existing topsoil deposit for the site, [100], a dump of mixed mid-light brown earth, mid-light yellow-brown sand and mid orange sand containing gravel, limestone pieces, bricks, pieces of concrete and other assorted modern rubbish. This deposit was up to 500mm thick and present over the majority of the site. The only feature post-dating this layer was a N-S land drain trench, located at the eastern boundary of the site, running parallel to no.22.

The subsequent excavation to cut back the existing hill slope, while encompassing a much greater area than the original trial pit phase, did not reveal any further archaeological finds, features or deposits, and the results of this phase only serve to reinforce that recorded above.

#### 4.0 CONCLUSIONS

Except for areas of isolated disturbance, in the form of building foundations and drains/services (all post-dating the mid 1880's), this site appears to have remained relatively untouched for some considerable time. No evidence of archaeological occupation could be identified, with the majority of the deposits (and features) either natural in origin, or part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century development on the site.

Notwithstanding this however, the areas investigated by the phase of trial pitting, and later revealed by the construction groundworks, were relatively small, and therefore the possibility of encountering archaeological remains must not be discounted elsewhere on the site, and in the immediate vicinity.

#### 5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit would like to thank the following for their assistance during this project: Mr David Lowrey, Augusta Developments Ltd, 76 High Street, Stony Stratford, MK11 1AH.

#### 6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Rivet, A L F & Smith, C, 1979 *The place-names of Roman Britain*

#### 7.0 LHA NOTE/ARCHIVE DETAILS

##### 7.1 LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODE: ON564

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.:  
LA15/0068/95

FIELD OFFICER: K.Wragg

NGR: SK 9725 7160

CIVIL PARISH: Lincoln

SMR No.:

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 10/01/96 &  
22/02/96

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Augusta Developments  
Ltd, 76 High Street, Stony Stratford, MK11  
1AH.

##### 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: ON564	PLANELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT: Augusta Developments Ltd		
DESCRIPTION: Site Location Plan		
SCALE: 1:1250	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY:	CHECKED:	DATE: 30/04/96
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:		

KEY



Location of Site

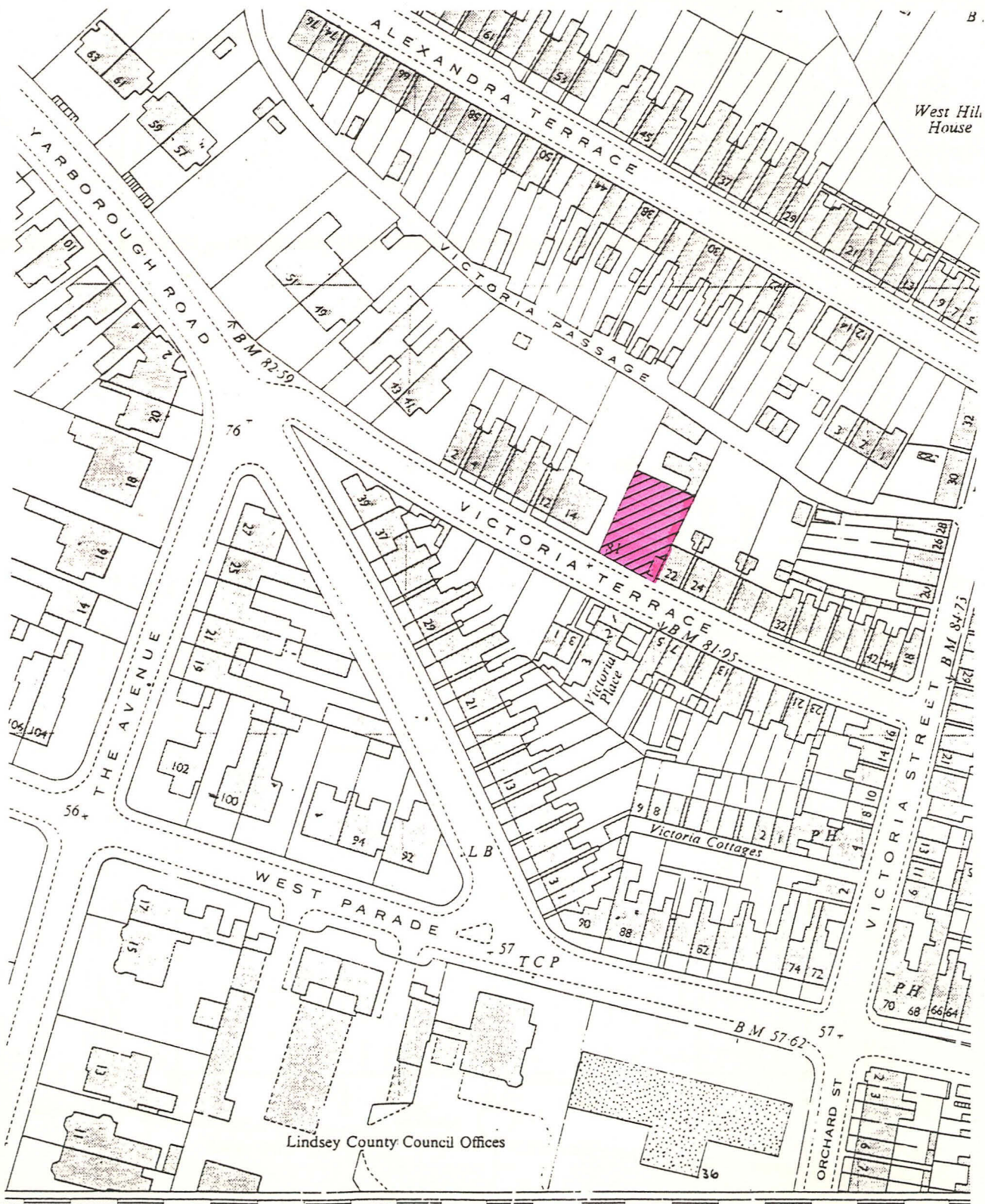
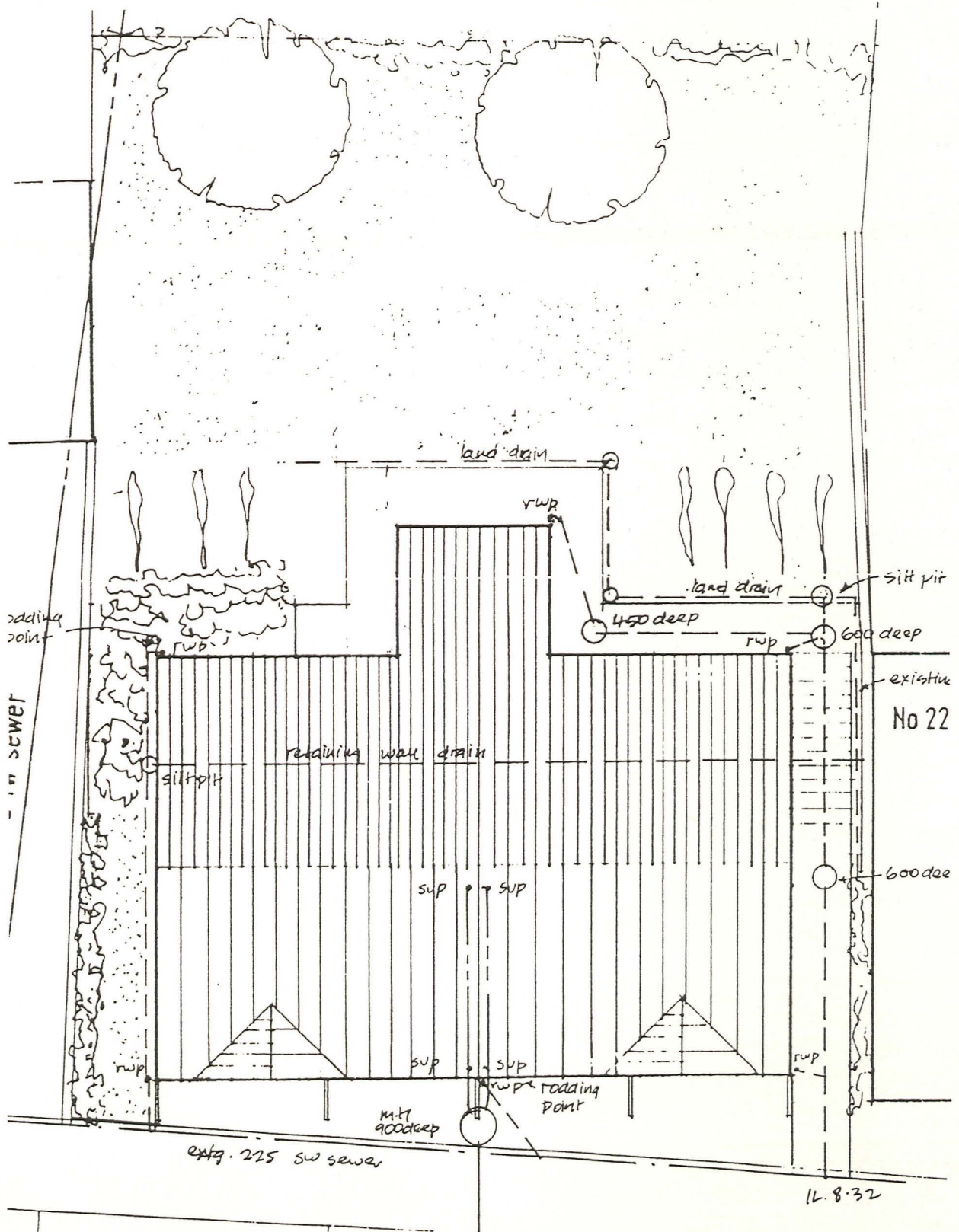


Fig.1

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
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CLIENT: Augusta Developments Ltd		
DESCRIPTION: Site Layout Plan		
SCALE: 1:100	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY:	CHECKED:	DATE: 30/04/96
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:		



Based upon Howard Fawcett and Partners drawing no. 1902/L12/A

Fig.2