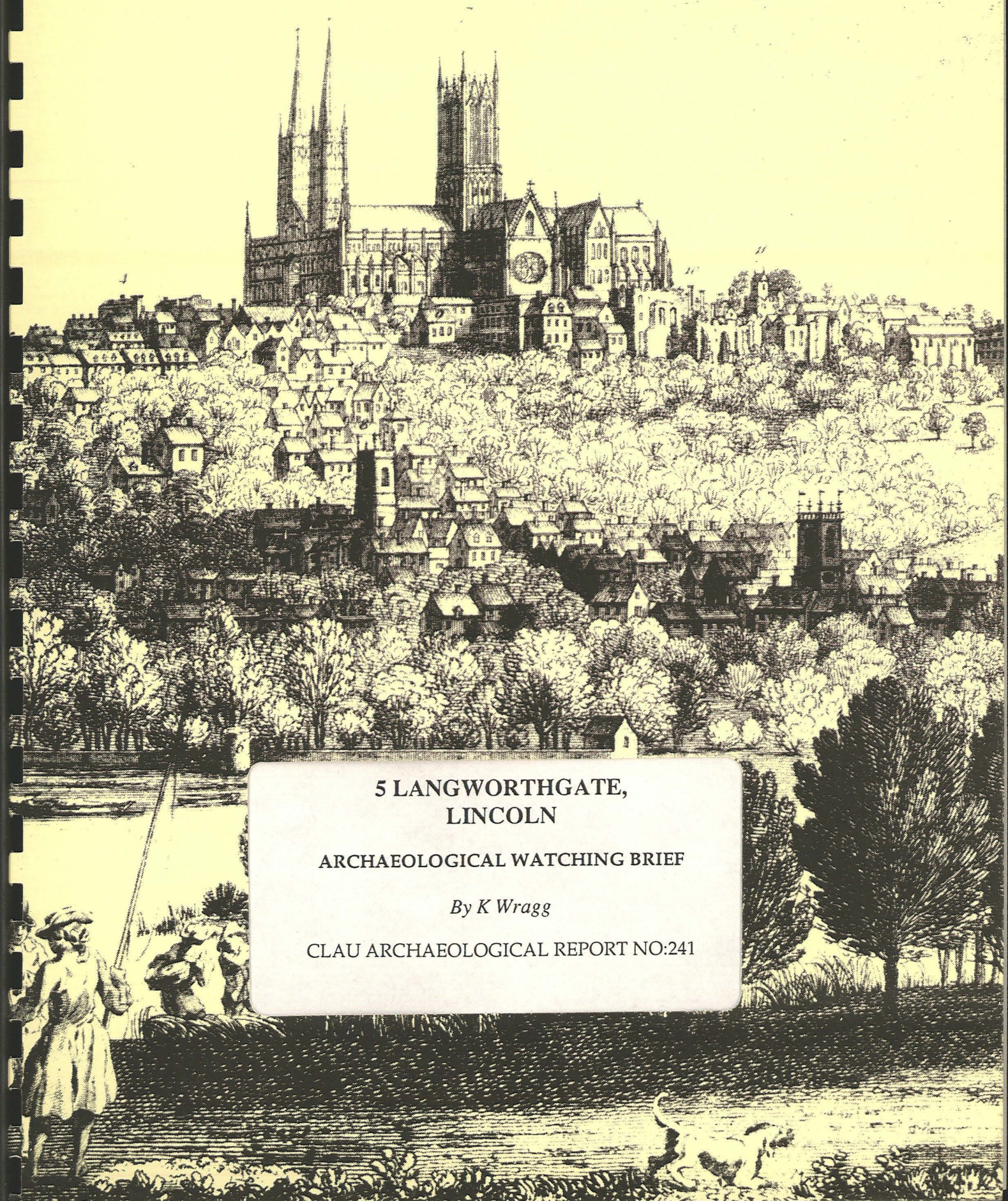


ablb

CITY OF  
◇ LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY ◇  
U N I T



5 LANGWORTHGATE,  
LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

*By K Wragg*

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO:241

96/6  
negative

**A**  
**Report to**  
**Mr J.Holland**

April 1996

---

**Prepared by**

*The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit*  
*Charlotte House*  
*The Lawn*  
*Union Road*  
*Lincoln*  
*LN1 3BL*

*Tel: Lincoln (01522) 545326*  
*Fax: Lincoln (01522) 548089*

© CLAU

**5 LANGWORTHGATE,**  
**LINCOLN**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

*By K Wragg*

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO:241

# 5 LANGWORTHGATE, LINCOLN.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The site lies on the northern side of the road junction of Langworthgate and Greetwellgate, on a small parcel of land formerly part of the Eastgate Tennis, Bowls and Squash Club (see Fig.1).

The planned redevelopment of the site involved the demolition of an existing structure on the site (originally a changing room and kitchen), followed by the construction of a three-storey private dwelling at the north-east corner of site (see Fig.2).

Groundworks were limited to a small network of foundation trenches for concrete strip foundations, together with small scale excavation for service connections.

Notwithstanding the relatively limited scope of the proposed groundworks it was considered that, in view of previous discoveries of buried archaeological remains at relatively shallow depths in this area, together with the possibility that deeper excavation could be required to satisfy the Building Control Department, groundworks should be monitored by means of an intermittent watching brief.

Accordingly, during September 1995 the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (C.L.A.U.) was commissioned by the owner/developer Mr J.Holland to carry out a watching brief (in accordance with a condition of the Planning Consent) on groundworks connected with the development 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 is located in an area of known archaeological importance lying c.100m outside the eastern wall of the Roman legionary fortress and upper city, and to the north of Roman streets which appear to have followed the line of the modern Greetwellgate and Langworthgate (the main route from Lincoln to the east coast).

Excavations to the south of the site, adjacent to Winnowsty Lane, uncovered remains of at least two timber strip buildings running N-S, possibly Roman traders' houses, fronting on to Greetwellgate. These structures appeared to have been later replaced by similar buildings but with stone foundations. Several ditches, hearths and pits associated with these buildings were also discovered, as was a metalled surface that possibly formed a courtyard outside the structures. Additional stone building remains were also discovered on the north side of Langworthgate (immediately to the east of the site) and at 26 Eastgate (to the south-east).

To the immediate west of the proposed development little in the way of archaeological excavation has taken place, except around the Cathedral (LC84), and on the site of the Roman East Gate, which established the line of the east wall of the fortress and colonia.

Finally, to the east and south (as seen in both the Winnowsty Lane and Langworthgate excavations), remains of quarrying activity have been seen, ranging from small backfilled stone-pits to very large vaulted tunnels. While the quarrying continued throughout the Medieval period, it is thought to have been started during Roman times.

Following the abandonment of the Roman city, probably in the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> century, Lincoln became a centre for a Viking army, and subsequently, a "Viking" town (after the Viking takeover of Lindsey in 874). Evidence for the Scandinavian influence in the area is most easily seen in the street and place names around the site.

The term "gate" is derived from the Scandinavian, meaning "street", and to the south of the site, Winnowsty Lane is also derived from the Scandinavian, originally being wainwellstigh or waynewellestigh. This name refers to the "lane to the waggon-spring", and its present course can be dated with some certainty to at least the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

### 3.0 RESULTS

The earliest deposit recorded comprised a layer of natural mid yellow-brown limestone brash, [103], which was present across the site at varying depths between 0.8m and 1.4m (dependant on later truncation). This layer was overlain by [102], a 700mm thick, moderately compacted, mid brown sandy earth layer, containing only occasional small limestone pieces, and small pebbles.

[102] was then sealed by two possible limestone features, [101] and [104].

[101] was seen towards the centre of the new building "footprint", and comprised a single course of small-medium sized, very roughly squared, limestone blocks (the stones themselves ranged in size from approximately 500mm x 200mm x 100mm to 200mm x 100mm x 100mm), which showed no sign of obvious bonding, but appeared to form a flat surface. Several smaller stones, were packed between the larger blocks, and fragments of broken tile were also present. The possible surface extended for at least 2.0m N-S, and for at least 1.0m E-W.

[104] was revealed in the east facing section at the south-west corner of the foundation network, and consisted of at least two courses of roughly squared limestone blocks with no obvious bonding, forming a possible wall, oriented N-S. The stonework extended for at least 3.0m N-S, and stood to a height of approximately 400mm (the individual stones were between 400mm x 200mm x 200mm and 100mm x 100mm x 50mm in size).

Both [101] and [104] were then sealed by [100], a moderately compacted mid-dark grey, slightly sandy, earth layer, containing occasional small-medium sized limestone pieces, brick/tile fragments and roots etc. This final deposit was at least 600mm thick and formed the topsoil layer for the majority of the site.

### 4.0 CONCLUSIONS

While the scope and extent of the proposed scheme of works was not expected to be sufficient to reveal any substantial archaeological deposits, it was still thought possible that the latest, probably medieval and post-medieval, remains could be uncovered.

However, as related above, the results from this watching brief have proved to be largely negative, with only the remains of a possible limestone wall and a limestone surface being revealed. While both these features failed to provide any dating evidence, the former feature is almost certainly part of the "low stone wall" shown on Fig.2, and is probably Victorian in origin.

The lack of surviving archaeological deposits and features has, of course, only been confirmed at the depths, and in the areas, 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 J.Holland, 137 Yarborough Road, Lincoln, LN1 1HP; Mr R.W.Harrison, of R.W.Harrison & Son, 2 Wood Lane, South Hykeham, Lincoln.

### 6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Chitwood, P 1990 *Langworth Gate, 1990. Archive Report*, [LAM BIB1024 lg89/26/2 ]
- Donel, L 1994 *Eastgate Tennis, Bowls & Squash Club, Langworthgate. Archive Report*, [LAM BIB1026 lga94/26/1 ]
- Graham, M & H 1989 *Langworth Gate, 1989. Archive Report*, [LAM BIB1025 lg89/26/1 ]
- Graham, M & H 1990 *Langworthgate*, in Jones, Michael J (ed) *Lincoln Archaeology 1989-1990*, Annu Rep City Lincoln Archaeol Unit 2, 18, City Lincoln Archaeol Unit, Lincoln. [LAM BIB203 ]

Hockley, J & Wragg, K 1992 *Langworthgate, Lincoln*, CLAU Archaeol Rep 17, City Lincoln Archaeol Unit, Lincoln, [LAM BIB241 ]

Wragg, Kevin 1991 Langworthgate, in Jones, Michael, J (ed) *Lincoln Archaeology 1990-1991*, Annu Rep City Lincoln Archaeol Unit 3, 17-18, City Lincoln Archaeol Unit, Lincoln, [LAM BIB546 ]

## **7.0 LHA NOTE/ARCHIVE DETAILS**

### **7.1 LHA NOTE DETAILS**

CLAU CODE: ON561

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.:  
LD12/0397/94; LD12/0319/95

FIELD OFFICER: K.Wragg

NGR: SK 9805 7195

CIVIL PARISH: Lincoln

SMR No.: -

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 07/11/95 -  
08/11/95

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Mr J.Holland, 137  
Yarborough Road, Lincoln, LN1 1HP.

### **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.: -

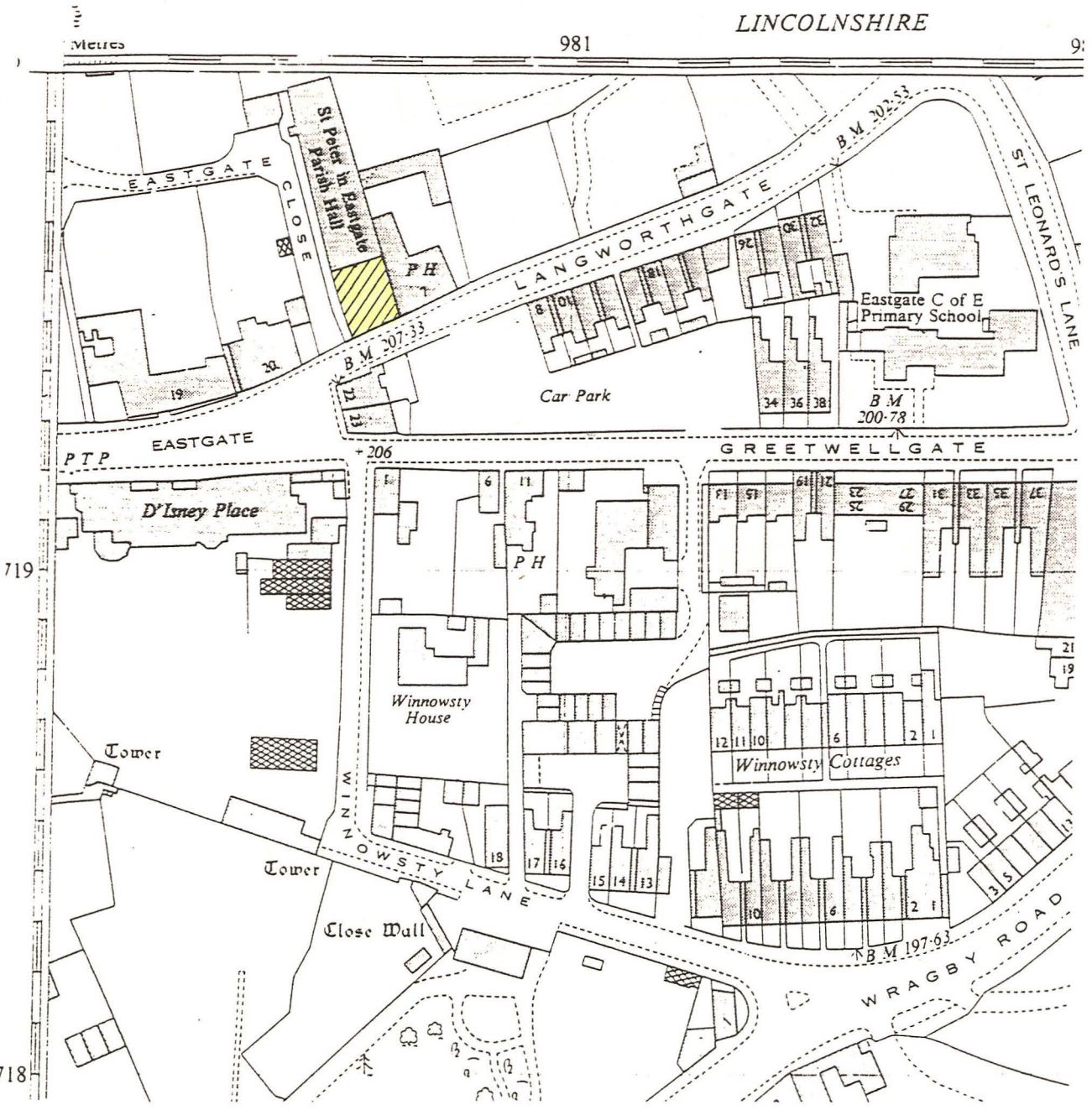
ACCESSION DATE: -

<b>CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT</b>		
SITE CODE: ON561	PLANELEV/SECTION NO:	
CLIENT: Mr J. Holland		
DESCRIPTION: Site Location Plan		
SCALE: 1:1250	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY:	CHECKED:	DATE: 30/04/96
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:		

KEY



Location of Site



Reproduced from the 1965 Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright.

Fig.1

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE: ON561 PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:

CLIENT: Mr J. Holland

DESCRIPTION: Survey of Existing Site

SCALE: 1:100 ARCHIVE NO:

DRAWN BY: CHECKED: DATE: 30/04/96

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:

