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Report to

Brian E.Wright Architects

on behalf of

Lincoln Co-operative Society/

Lincoln Corn Exchange & Markets (1991) Ltd

May 1996

Prepared by

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CINCINNATI'S RESTAURANT, OUTER CIRCLE ROAD, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

By K Wragg

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO:243

CINCINNATI'S RESTAURANT, OUTER CIRCLE ROAD, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The site is located on the eastern side of the Outer Circle Road on a parcel of land formerly the site of the Lincoln Co-operative Society dairy (see Fig.1).

The planned redevelopment of the site involved the demolition of an existing structure on the site, followed by the construction of a single storey restaurant at the northern side of the site (see Fig.1).

Groundworks were limited to the initial site stripping/levelling in advance of piling, and trenching required 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, 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 Brian E.Wright Architects, on behalf of Lincoln Co-operative Society/Lincoln Corn Exchange & Markets (1991) Ltd, 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 wit 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

As little archaeological excavation or other field work has been carried out in the immediate vicinity of the development, the existing evidence is substantially derived from the examination of documentary and aerial photographic data.

Evidence for early settlement in Lincoln has remained somewhat elusive. While excavations to the east of Brayford Pool in 1972 produced pottery identified as being of late Iron Age or early Roman date the case for any substantial prehistoric settlement centred on the present city remains unproven although traces of 1st Century B.C. activity have been identified. However, to the east of Lincoln, excavations and chance finds have indicated a rich Iron Age culture.

The most obvious signs of pre-historic & Roman activity close to the development site are the enclosures, droveways and triple linear ditch boundary, together with stone axes found in the area to the east of the site. The line of the ditch boundary has been traced over a distance of at least 5km from Grange de Lings in the north to Greetwell, and the date of this is thought to be Iron Age or earlier.

To the north of the site, the (A158) Wragby Road follows the line of an important Roman road running east-north-east from Lincoln to the coast, and it is believed that ironstone mining and possibly quarrying of limestone at Greetwell has its origins in the Romano-British period.

A 5-6th century iron smelting site at Cherry Willingham and evidence of iron working in Lincoln during the Saxon period may indicate continuation of ironstone mining at Greetwell, while the limestone quarries at Greetwell were certainly in use during the medieval and postmedieval periods.

3.0 RESULTS

The only deposit recorded during the groundworks on the site comprised a layer of

moderately compacted mid brown sandy earth, containing quantities of limestone pieces, modern brick, pieces of metal & wire, bottles and pockets of ash.

This deposit was at least 2.7m thick to the limit of excavation, and is assumed to be modern dumped landfill material, used to backfill elements of the underlying quarry workings.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

While the scope and extent of the majority 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 more substantial excavation required for the drainage trenches might uncover buried remains.

However, as related above, the results from this watching brief have proved to be largely negative, with no recognisable archaeological deposits or features being revealed.

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: Lincoln Co-operative Society/Lincoln Corn Exchange & Markets Ltd. (for funding); Mr Brian E.Wright, of Brian E.Wright Architects, Hamlet House, 7 Oak Hill, Washingborough, Lincoln, LN4 1BA; Mr K.Burns (site manager)

6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hockley, J (ed) 1992 Lincoln Eastern Bypass: Stage I - Archaeological & Historical Study CLAU Archaeol Rep 29, City Lincoln Archaeol Unit, Lincoln,

Trimble, R 1994 Kennington House, 84 Bunkers Hill, CLAU Archaeol Rep 113, City

Lincoln Archaeol Unit, Lincoln, [BIB1122 wra94/30/1]

7.0 LHA NOTE/ARCHIVE DETAILS

7.1 LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODE: ON563

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.: LD08/0531/93

FIELD OFFICER: K.Wragg

NGR: SK 9960 7260

CIVIL PARISH: Lincoln

SMR No .: -

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 29/11/95 - 15/01/96

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Brian E.Wright Architects, on behalf of Lincoln Co-operative

Society/Lincoln Corn Exchange & Markets (1991) Ltd

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: -

