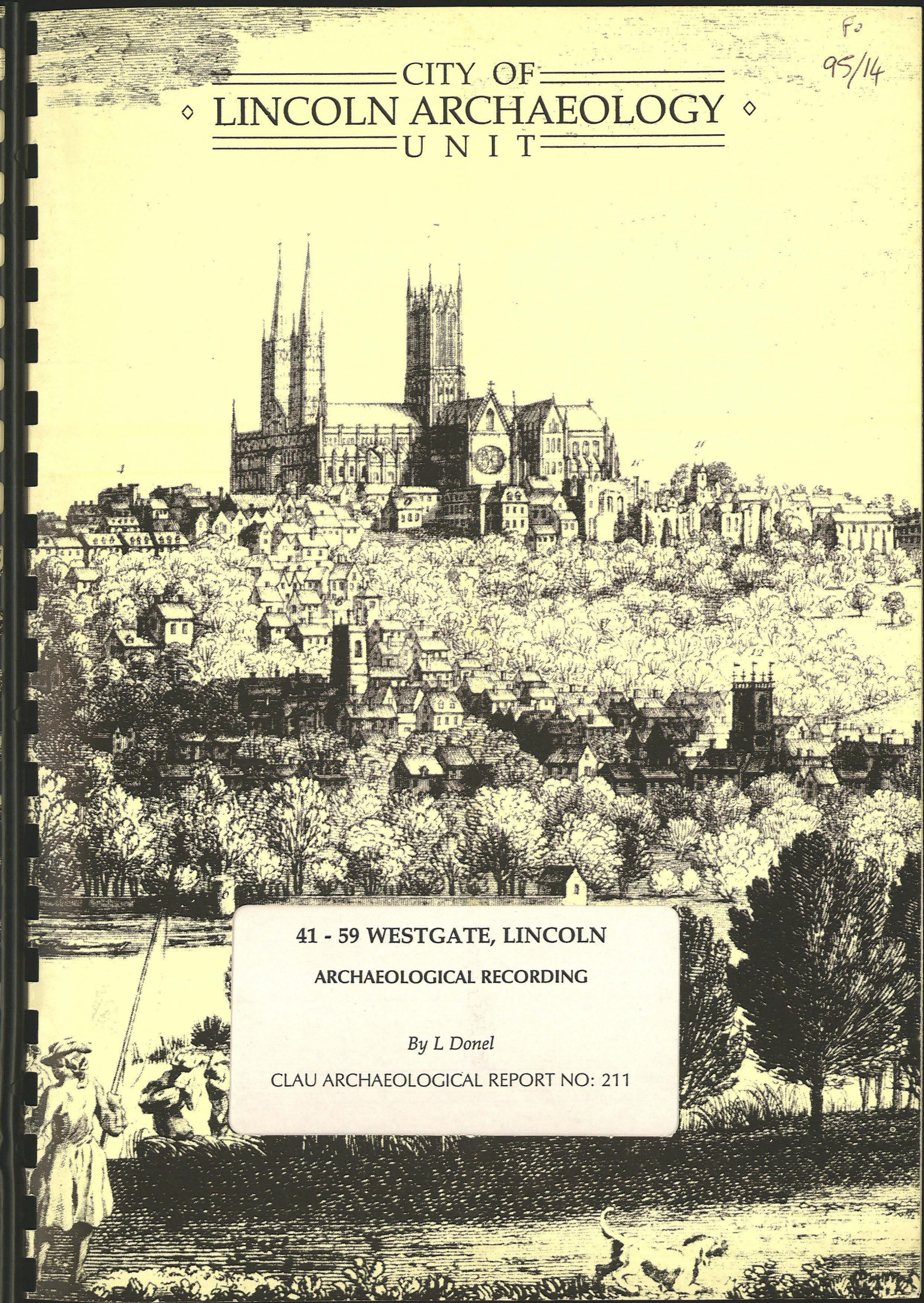


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CITY OF
◇ LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY ◇
UNIT



41 - 59 WESTGATE, LINCOLN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

By L Donel

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 211

Wiltshire County Council
Ecology Section
Private Lease 8.7.96
LN LN2 SAL
01292 FAX: 0522 530724



negative

A
Report to
Lincoln City Council

September 1995

Prepared by

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41-59 WESTGATE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

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41-59 WESTGATE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

INTRODUCTION

As part of the compliance with Scheduled Monuments Consent HSD 9/2/414prt62, prior to application for conservation works on a retaining/boundary wall against the north bank of Lincoln Castle to the rear of nos. 41-59 Westgate Rd., Lincoln, the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit was asked by The Dept of Housing and Environmental Health, Lincoln City Council to carry out archaeological recording of trial pits excavated above and below the wall on the north bank of Lincoln Castle (Fig.1).

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The Site is located on the Jurassic Limestone Scarp, known as the Lincoln Edge, which is cut by the river Witham at Lincoln forming the Lincoln Gap. The 1:50000 scale Geological Map for the area (Sheet 114) shows the Site to lie in an area capped by solid geology of Lincolnshire Oolite Limestone. Previous excavations in the vicinity have indicated that the solid geology is overlain with a glacial brash (limestone mixed with clay and sand), probably once covered with a layer of reddish sandy clay which, although primarily removed in the past, has been recorded within man-made features cut into the limestone.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

There has been no specific archaeological work carried out in this area of the castle bank. However, a survey, under archaeological supervision, was undertaken in 1990 to study the stability of the castle banks. Two trial pits (TP4,TP5) were excavated to the south-east of the site and a north-south trench (TT4) was also excavated directly to the east of the present trial work.

Both the trial pits and the trench identified a layer of overburden to a depth of one metre lying above any possible archaeological material. Trial Trench 4 also revealed the remains of two brick walls. The more southerly wall probably represented the extension of the present retaining wall which was partially removed along with various buildings in order to create the current car parking lot (Fig.2).

AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

Five trial pits, primarily intended to establish ground and wall foundation conditions, were hand excavated to the south, above the wall, and to the north, directly below the wall (Fig.3).

The archaeological record was secured by means of trench-side observations, measured drawings and

photography.

Trench Location (Fig.3)

Trenches 1 and 2 were situated behind no.41 Westgate. Trench 1 was located above the wall at its western end. Trench 2 lay directly below the wall, again at the western end. Trench 3 was located in the backyard of no.47 Westgate. An attempt at a fourth trench, above the wall in this position, was abandoned when it became clear that a large tank/tub lay below the debris and its removal might cause damage to the existing wall. Its location was transferred to above the wall at no. 51. A final trench, 5, was sited above the wall directly behind no.59.

RESULTS

Trench 1 - (Fig.4) Trench 1, 100mm x 50mm x 40mm, was excavated to determine the nature of the south face of the wall and the material up against it prior to designing a drainage scheme for the junction area between the bank and the wall. The material lying directly against the wall consisted of a loose black/grey soil with brick and stone rubble inclusions (100). There was also a high percentage of modern rubbish (crisp bags, coke cans etc.) mixed with the rubble.

Trench 2- (Fig.4) Trench 2, 160mm x 50mm x 110mm, was excavated to expose the foundations of the retaining wall and the stratigraphy to the north. There were two different phases of brick work evident in the portion of wall above ground. It probably represents modern repair to the wall. The wall (101) had been built on a stone foundation (102) which may represent an earlier retaining/boundary wall.

Sealing the wall were several dump deposits, the earliest of which, an ash layer (111), was sealed by rubble (106). This rubble layer was in turn sealed by another ash layer (105) overlain by (109) a possible tile/brick surface. Overlying (109) was a hard compact layer of light brown sandy earth (104) which may represent trample. Sealing 104 was garden soil (103).

A north-south wall was also represented in this trench. Wall (108) appeared to be thicker than wall (101) and may represent a building rather than a boundary structure. Approximately 30mm beneath the surface, a brick buttress (107) was found. It appeared to be contemporary with the wall. There was no evidence for the stone foundations in this area of the trench. It is more probable that they are related directly to wall (101). Two further brick steps were identified below the buttress.

Trench 3- (Fig.4)

Trench 3 measured 130mm x 50mm x 100mm. Wall (101) and foundation(102) were also identified in this trench which was placed at the south end of no. 47's yard. Sealing the wall was a layer of rubble and ash (112). There was also an amount of large whelk shell present in this deposit.

Trench 4- (Fig.4)

A small trench, 60mm x 50mm x 50mm, was excavated above the wall at the back of no.51 Westgate. The material excavated was very similar to that in Trench 1; light grey soil with rubble and modern rubbish inclusions (113).

Trench 5- (Fig.4)

The final trench, 50mm x 50mm x 40mm, was excavated above the wall at the rear of no.59 Westgate. This trench also showed similar material (114) to Trenches 1 and 4; light grey soil and modern rubbish. A gap opened up in the excavated hole which allowed a glimpse of the sequence below which was similar to the material already excavated.

CONCLUSIONS

There was no evidence in any of the trial holes of any earlier activity nor of the medieval bank or ditch material. The material appeared to have built up against the wall on both sides, the northern side as garden and the southern side as a dump either from off the castle bank or from the properties to the north.

Work on the stability of the north bank by Allott and Lomax in 1990 (Geotechnical Engineering 1990) monitored by the CLAU (Donel 1991,1992) identified that there was at least one metre of modern overburden over much of the bank (Fig.5). This was made up of soil, brick and stone rubble and modern rubbish very similar to the material identified in Trenches 1,4 and 5. At that time it was established that the original slope of the bank was probably much more steep. The construction of the buildings at the bottom of the slope had already cut into either original bank or ditch material and removed it.

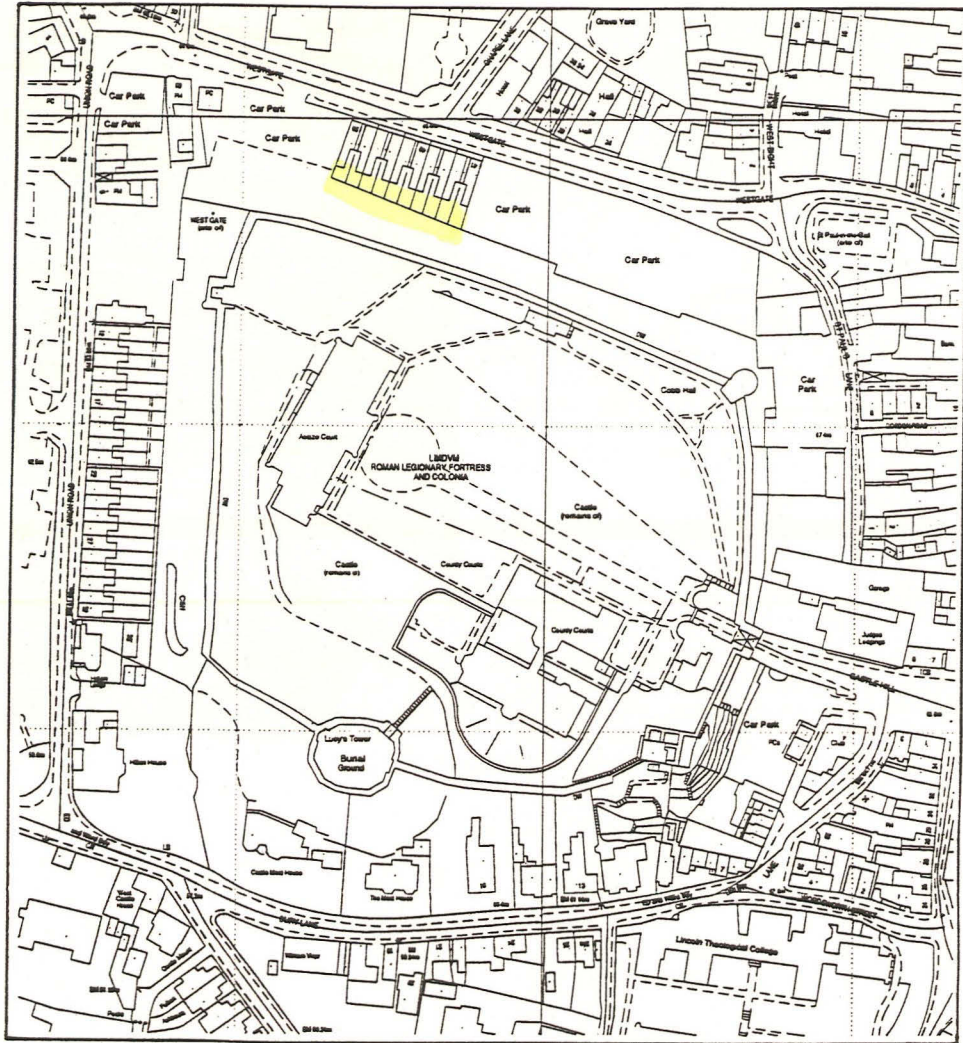
The material excavated in the gardens of 41-59 Westgate is also reminiscent of a layer of brick rubble (131) and dark grey soil (132) which was identified between the two brick walls (130 and 133) during the stability survey (Fig.5).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit would like to thank Mr. R J Wells for his help during the trial work and would also like to thank the residents of 41-59 Westgate for access to their back yards and general cooperation.

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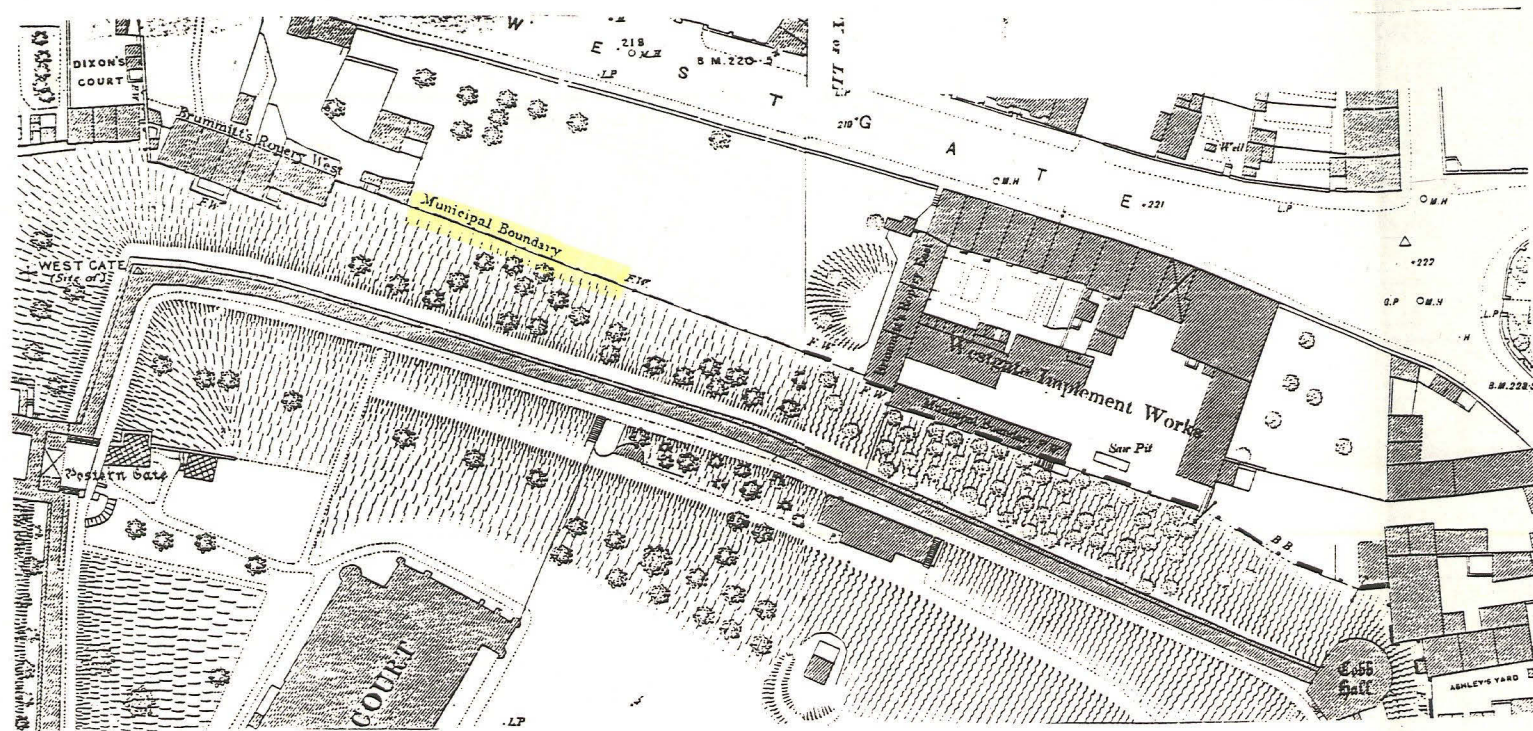
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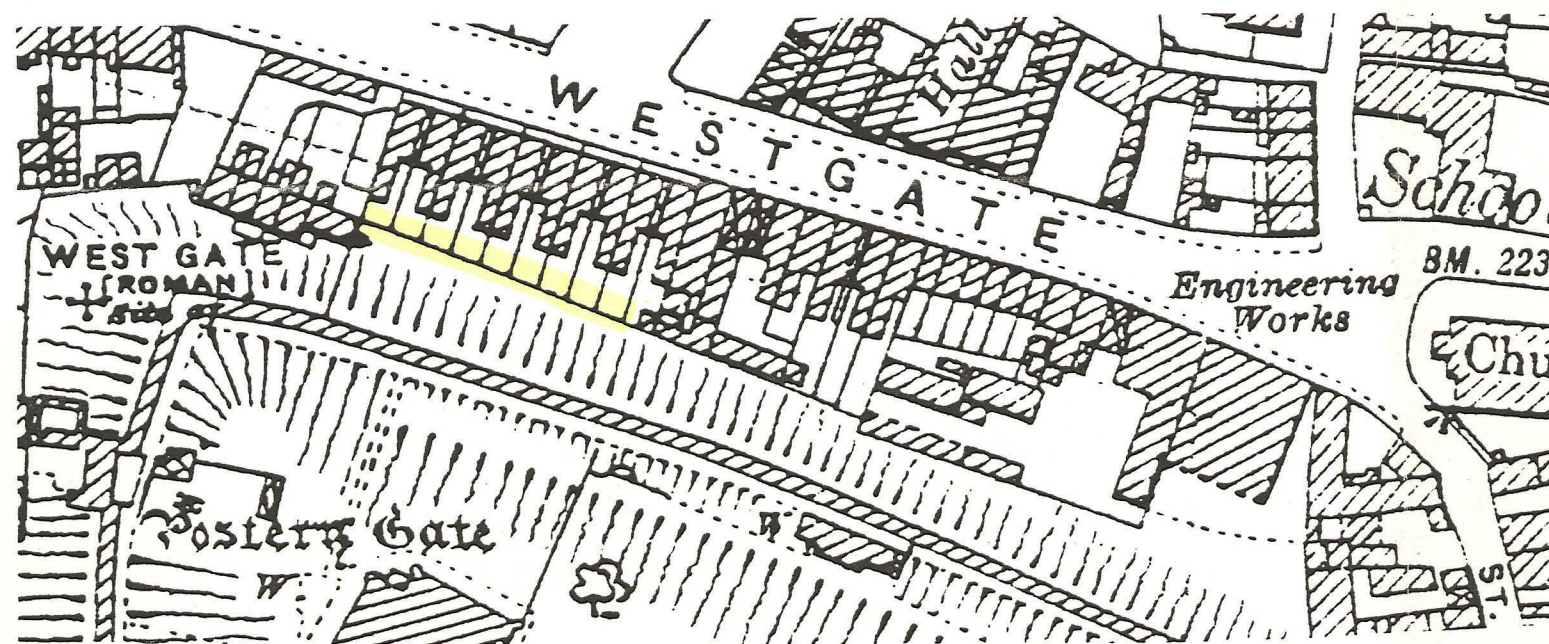
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Fig.1



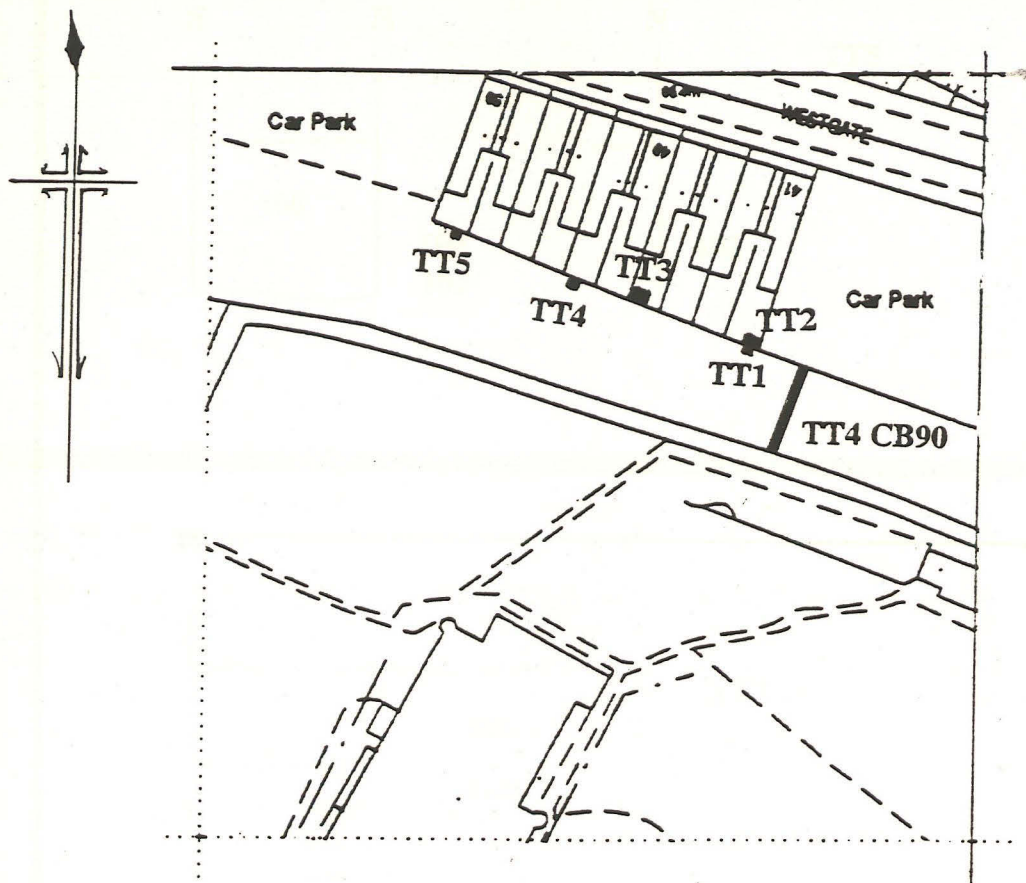
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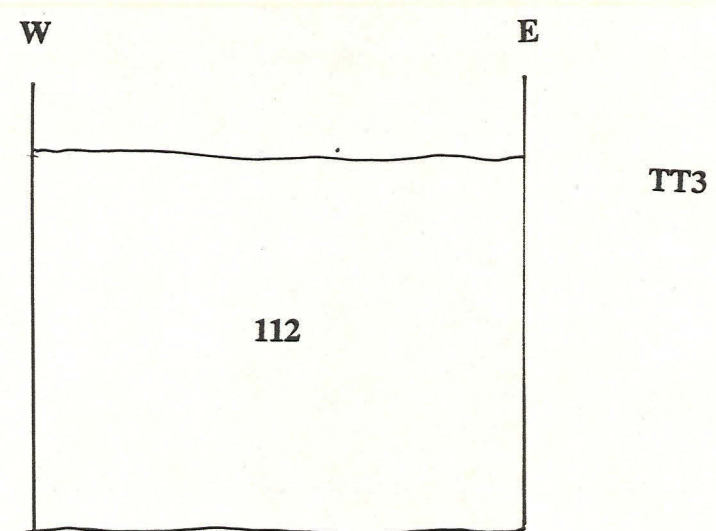
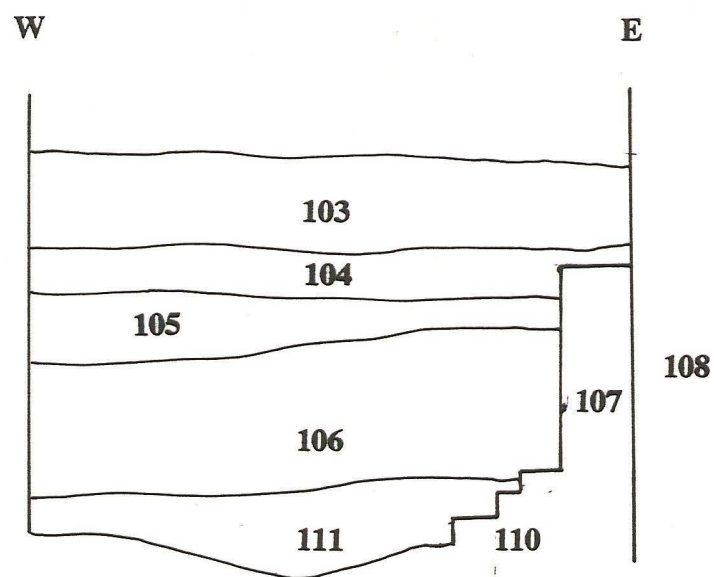
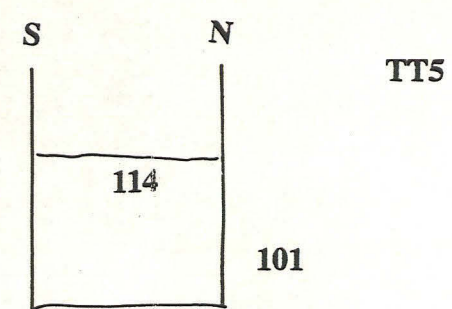
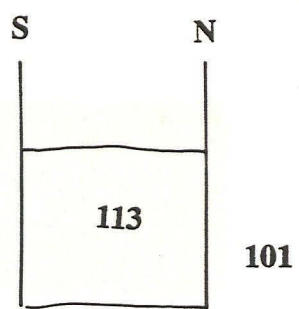
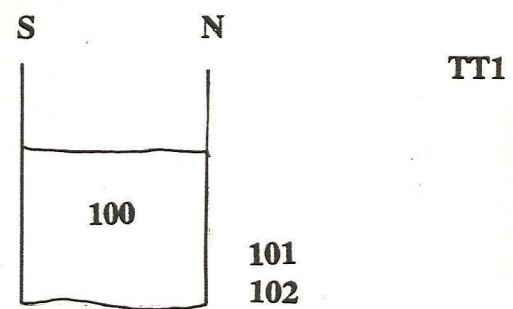
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Fig.2



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MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:	118.95	

Fig.3



CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT		
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Fig.4

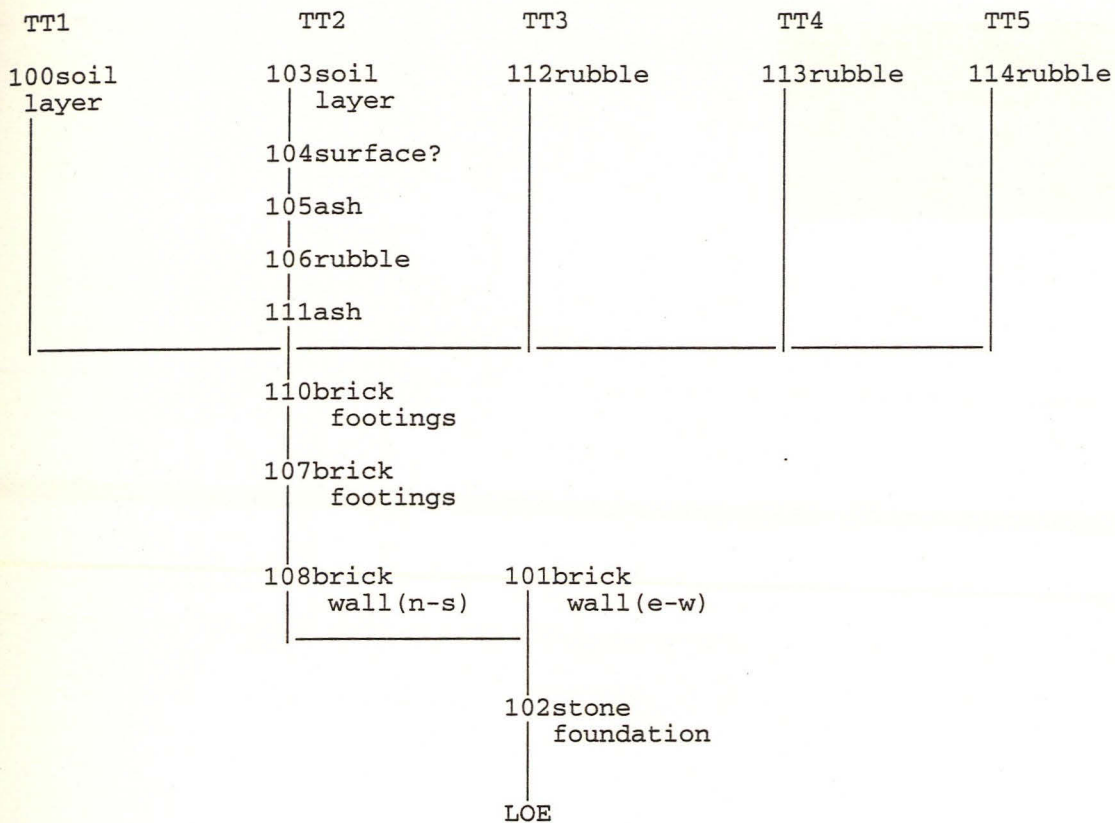
APPENDIX 1

41-59 WESTGATE (WAA95)
CONTEXT LIST

CONTEXT	TRIAL TRENCH	DESCRIPTION
100	TT1	Loose layer of grey/br. soil + rubble
101	TT1,2,3,4,5	EW Brick Wall
102	TT2,3	Stone Wall?/Foundations?
103	TT2	Garden soil
104	TT2	Compact lt. br. sandy gritty earth
105	TT2	Ash layer
106	TT2	Rubble
107	TT2	Brick Footings
108	TT2	NS Brick Wall
109	TT2	Tile/brick surface?
110	TT2	Brick Footings
111	TT2	Ash layer
112	TT3	Rubble/grey soil/ash
113	TT4	Rubble/grey soil
114	TT5	Rubble/grey soil

APPENDIX 2

41-59 WESTGATE (WAA 95)
MATRIX



APPENDIX 3

ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The archive consists of:

No. Description

1 Site diary

1 Report

43 Context records

11 Scale drawings

1 set Photographic records - Colour slides

1 Stratigraphic matrix

The primary archive material, as detailed above, is currently held by :

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, Charlotte House, The Lawn, Union Road, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, LN1 3BL.

It is intended that transfer to the City and County Museum, Friars Lane, Lincoln, in accordance with current published requirements, under Museum Accession Number 50.95, will be undertaken within approximately six months of completion of this project.