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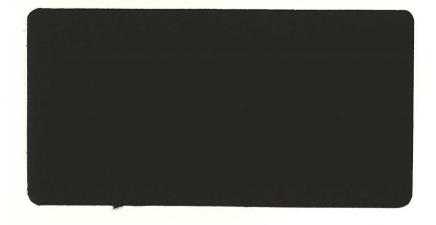
# 53 DANESGATE, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL STUDY

By K Wragg

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO:

Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section 12 Frian Lano LINUGLN LN2 5AL TEL. 0522 5752.2 FAA: 0522 530724 8.7.96



# Report to

# Mr D.W.Lui; Architectural Designer

# on behalf of

Mr & Mrs Davidoff

December 1995

Prepared by

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CONTENTS

# NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

**1.0 INTRODUCTION** 

# 2.0 SCOPE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH

**3.0 SITE DESCRIPTION** 

3.1 Location

3.2 Geology and topography

# 4.0 SYNTHESIS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL KNOWLEDGE

4.1 Introduction

- 4.2 The Archaeology of the Area
- a) Pre-Roman (1st century B.C. and earlier)
- b) Romano-British Period (1st 4th century A.D.)
- c) Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Scandinavian Period (5th 11th centuries)
- d) The Medieval Period (late 11th 15th centuries)
- e) Post-Medieval (16th 18th centuries)
- 4.3 Archaeological Preservation

# 5.0 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS: IMPACT ON BURIED REMAINS

# 6.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

APPENDIX A - Photographs of existing landscaping APPENDIX B - Summary reports of previous archaeological investigations APPENDIX C - Bibliography

# LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

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- Fig.1 Site location map Scale 1:10000
- Fig.2 Location of site showing previous excavations Scale 1:1250
- Fig.3 Extract from 1722 Stukeley map Not To Scale
- Fig.4 Extract from 1817 Marrat map Not To Scale
- Fig.5 Extract from 1848 Marrat map Not To Scale
- Fig.6 Extract from 1888 First Edition Ordnance Survey map Scale 1:500
- Fig.7 Extract from 1932 Ordnance Survey map Scale 1:2500
- Fig.8 North Facing Section, Danes Terrace (DT74(I)) Scale 1:20
- Fig.9 Existing and proposed plans/sections for rear garden Scale 1:50/1:100

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# ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL STUDY

# NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This report is in support of an application for Scheduled Monument Consent for small scale redevelopment planned to the rear of the property.

The purpose of this document is to draw together readily available archaeological and historical information for that area which might be affected by proposals for re-development, so as to facilitate the preparation of appropriate strategies for both the preservation and/or recording of any important buried remains within the site.

The investigations undertaken in the surrounding area have demonstrated a high quality of survival of remains and deposits from virtually all periods of the city's history. However, given the limited depths of excavation proposed (see Fig.9), together with the expected destruction caused by the construction of 18th and 19th century houses and their cellars (see fig.8) it is unlikely that substantial archaeological remains will be encountered.

It is therefore suggested that a watching brief is carried during the construction groundwork to monitor and record any remains exposed by the limited excavation.

# **53 DANESGATE, LINCOLN**

# **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL STUDY**

# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU) was commissioned by Dale W. Lui: Architectural Designer, on behalf of Mr & Mrs Davidoff (owners), to prepare a Desktop Assessment of the archaeological importance of the above property on Danesgate in Lincoln. This report is in support of an application for Scheduled Monument Consent for small scale redevelopment planned to the rear of the property.

The purpose of this document is to draw together readily available archaeological and historical information for that area which might be affected by proposals for re-development, so as to facilitate the preparation of appropriate strategies for both the preservation and/or recording of any important buried remains within the site.

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 SCOPE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH

The evidence contained in this study is primarily derived from the examination of the results from archaeological investigations carried out in close proximity to the site.

The archaeological excavations previously undertaken in the immediate locality are as follows :

DT74/78 - Danes Terrace 1974, 1978;

SH74 - 4-7 Steep Hill 1974-75;

SH87 - Steep Hill 1987;

In addition to the above, several other sites have been investigated further to the south, which also help to place the site in its historical context :

F72 etc. - Flaxengate 1972-76, 1979;

GP81 - Grantham Place 1981;

SW82 - Grantham Street (Swan Street) 1982-83;

FB88 - Flaxengate Booster Station 1988;

JC89 - Jew's Court 1989;

The locations of the above excavations have been plotted on the scale plan (Fig.2) included in this report, and summary reports detailing the archaeological findings are included in Appendix B. Reference has also been made to cartographic and other material held in the archives of the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit and other secondary sources.

# **3.0 SITE DESCRIPTION**

#### 3.1 Location

The site is located at NGR SK 9775/7160 and is bounded by Danesgate to the east, Steep Hill in the west, Well Lane to the north, and Danes Terrace to the south (see Figs.1 & 2).

The Property is the most northerly of a row of terraced houses fronting directly onto Danesgate. A small garden is present at the rear (west side) of the house, and this garden lies within Lincoln Scheduled Monument Area 115. The land occupied by the house itself is not contained within the Scheduled Area and is not therefore covered by this report.

The garden is at present landscaped as shown on Fig.9 (cross-sections of present garden and planned alterations) and in Appendix A (photographs of existing landscaping), and development proposals involve the construction of a new conservatory and a limited scheme of garden remodelling.

## 3.2 Geology and topography

Lincoln lies over several well-defined geological zones. The City itself is situated at a gap in the Jurassic limestone ridge (known as the "Lincoln Edge") which contains the course of the river Witham. Further south the clays are covered with a river terrace sand while the Witham valley contains a complex sequence of Pleistocene and Holocene gravels, silts and clays.

"Natural" (i.e. geological) deposits have only been reached during excavation on two of the above sites (SH74 & F72), and have consisted of Lias Clay.

# 4.0 SYNTHESIS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL KNOWLEDGE

# 4.1 Introduction

On historical evidence, the Roman army may have reached Lincoln by c.A.D.50 but dating of the earliest Roman structures excavated indicates a date no earlier than c.A.D.55 (Darling & Jones, 1988). By A.D.96 Lincoln had the status of a "colonia", utilizing the uphill site of the Neronian fortress. In the late 1st or early 2nd century a grid of streets was laid out on the ground to the south of the fortress with both timber and masonry buildings erected. Probably from the end of the 2nd Century, the colonia wall was extended almost down to the river front and excavations have indicated that the south wall was probably close to the then river-line, c.50m north of the present Brayford Pool. During the 2nd century a Roman suburb developed to the south of the city wall on both sides of Ermine Street (the present High Street).

Abandonment of the Roman city seems to have taken place gradually during the 4th Century with former urban life reduced to a small community between the 5th and 9th centuries. Following the Viking takeover of Lindsey in 874, Lincoln became a "Viking" town which grew quickly during the 10th century.

This town prospered greatly during the 11th-13th centuries and expanded further, but by the 14th century the City was in decline, owing to economic problems and a reduction in population, and a general physical decay set in. This resulted in many churches and other buildings going out of use and becoming derelict, and there were further social, political and religious problems over the next few centuries.

There are signs of a revival from the late 17th century, and definite improvement during the 18th century with the Agricultural Revolution, and the stimulus to the local economy from improved communications.

The Industrial Revolution arrived in Lincoln with the coming of the railways in the mid 19th century, and continued with the development of heavy industry which supplied the machinery which supported the radical changes being introduced into agriculture, and produced a commodity which was to be exported around the world.

4.2 The archaeology of the area

The chronological development revealed by previous archaeological excavations (see Fig.2) in the vicinity of the site is as follows:

a) Pre-Roman (1st century B.C. and earlier)

No definite evidence for extensive prehistoric settlement has yet been revealed during the investigations in proximity to the site.

b) Romano-British Period (1st - 4th century A.D.)

The site was located in the lower Roman Colonia, approximately 100m from the south wall of the early defensive area. Excavations in the locality have revealed evidence of Roman occupation from the late 1stearly 2nd century through to the late 4th century, including terracing (in both north-south and east-west directions), 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), and shops or workshops, some possibly associated with butchery and metalworking.

c) Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Scandinavian Period (5th - 11th centuries)

Little evidence of occupation dating from this period was revealed by the work on Steep Hill and Danes Terrace, with the exception of a small quantity of early Saxon pottery sherds, and an east-west terrace wall possibly dating to the early 11th century.

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

d) The Medieval Period (late 11th - 15th centuries)

The street name Danesgate is likely to indicate that this area was part of a Danish medieval colony (Hill, 1948), and from work on Danes Terrace and Steep Hill, it would appear that the general area was continually occupied, and developed between the 11th-15th centuries. Various structures of both stone and timber construction, some with cellars or undercrofts, were present on the site, probably representing shops and houses fronting on to the surrounding streets of Danes Terrace, Flaxengate and Steep Hill. Connecting alleyways and various yard surfaces were also discovered.

Similar intensive occupation was present to the south, around Flaxengate and Grantham Place.

e) Post-Medieval (16th - 18th centuries)

It is during this period that the first maps of the city began to be produced, and several of these are reproduced herein (see Figs.3-7).

In the areas to the west and south-west of the site under consideration, development and redevelopment continued much the same as in previous years. Parts of existing medieval houses 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 it is likely that the majority of the surviving buildings in the area around the site date from this period.

#### 4.3 Archaeological preservation

The investigations described above have demonstrated a high quality of survival of remains and deposits from virtually all periods of the city's history. The nature of the terraced hillside however, makes it very difficult to predict the depths at which archaeological remains will be encountered. In some cases, well-preserved Roman occupation in this area has been recorded at levels ABOVE those of adjacent medieval deposits, because of the terrace effect, elsewhere however, the deposits can be very deep, up to 5m.

However, given the limited depths of excavation expected, together with the expected destruction caused by the construction of 18th and 19th century houses and their cellars (see fig.8) it is unlikely that substantial archaeological remains will be encountered.

#### 5.0 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS: IMPACT ON BURIED REMAINS

As this study involves consideration of a finalised development design proposal it is possible to provide a specific assessment of groundwork impact. The construction groundwork will consist of the following (see also Fig.9):

a) Removal of existing raised brick-built flower beds, concrete steps and porch;

b) Construction of a new conservatory, small retaining wall for barbeque area, and new steps accessing the rear of the garden. It is proposed in the current design that all new structures will be supported on concrete strip foundations, resulting in excavation of between 500mm and 600mm below the existing concrete yard surface (the depth of excavation will, however, be subject to Local Building Control approval, and should deeper excavation be required to reach a suitable bearing strata, a more intensive archaeological response might be required).

#### 6.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Site is believed to contain important evidence and remains of all periods from the time of Roman occupation through to the 19th century, and while development on the site over the past one-hundred and fifty years may have disturbed or removed some of the later post-medieval remains, it is likely that evidence of earlier occupation survives intact over much of the site, BUT ONLY AT DEPTHS GREATER THAN THOSE EXPECTED TO BE NECESSARY FOR THIS PROJECT.

It is therefore suggested that a watching brief is carried during the construction groundwork to monitor and record any remains exposed by the limited excavation.

7.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The CLAU would like to thank the following for their assistance during this project: Mr Davidoff (Owner); Mr Dale Lui (Architectural Designer); Mark Baptist (Building Contractor).

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APPENDIX A - PHOTOGRAPHS SHOWING EXISTING LANDSCAPING ETC.



# **APPENDIX B - SUMMARY REPORTS OF PREVIOUS SITES**

FLAXENGATE 1972-6, 1979

F72, F74, F76, F79

Grid reference: SK 49767 37147 Excavators: C Colyer, J Clipson, R H Jones

# Excavation

The realignment of Flaxengate in 1969-70 allowed excavation of the original line of the road in order to investigate its origins (thought to be Roman) and the development of the street frontage. Seasonal excavations were carried out from 1972 to 1976 with a watching brief in 1979. Because of problems with identifying the stratigraphy a lot of the Late Saxon phases were excavated in spits; this has subsequently led to difficulties with interpretation.

#### Roman

Traces of a late 2nd or 3rd century timber building may have been associated with a worn limestone surface. To the east of the timber building was a stone-founded building aligned north-west to south-east. Mid to late 3rd century pottery was found in the levelling sealing these structures. A substantial stone building with an eastern apse was constructed by the early 4th century; quantities of material were dumped within the building to raise the floor level. It had an opus signinum floor, replaced by tessellation; the apse had a mortar floor. The building was originally thought to have been a church but this is precluded by its limited extent (determined from GP81). The floor was heightened further in the mid to late 4th century. Several external features were possibly associated with drainage. Late Roman dumping outside the building contained metal-working debris and quantities of butcher's waste.

#### Early to Middle Saxon

There were no recognisable levels relating to this period; the site appears to have been abandoned although 29 early and 51 middle Saxon pottery sherds were found in residual contexts, a significant quantity in comparison with the number of sherds of these periods elsewhere in the city.

#### Late Saxon

The finds from this period confirm an intensive Anglo-Scandinavian occupation on the site. In the late 9th to early 10th century a dry-stone north-south boundary wall was erected along the east side of the site. This was sealed by a layer of worm-sorted accumulation over which a turf line developed. A north-south metalled road surface (the first Flaxengate, 'Haraldstigh'), was laid out in the early 10th century. To the west of it were three earth-fast timber structures; the southernmost ran longitudinally alongside the road, the others lay gable-ended onto it. These buildings were replaced and the road surface renewed in the early to mid 10th century. In the mid to late 10th century a rectangular timber structure longitudinal to the road was related to further buildings to the north and rear (west). Buildings on the road frontage were replaced in the late 10th century and for the first time there was a structure fronting Grantham Street (referred to as'Brancegate', which lay beyond the limit of excavation); these were used as workshops for glass and metalworking. The buildings were replaced several times before the late 11th century; all had timber walls set into shallow trenches.

#### Medieval

By the late 11th century Grantham Street had become the main frontage, butted by three or four timber structures; there was none on the Flaxengate frontage. Later Grantham Street buildings varied in both plan and extent before the late 12th century. From the early 12th century onwards the buildings may have been fully timber framed with shallow sill beam footings.

Between the late 12th and early to mid 13th centuries the area was levelled and silty loam accumulated over a site that pottery on evidence seems to have been deserted. By the mid 13th century two stonefounded buildings were erected, one in the corner between the junction of Grantham Street and Flaxengate, the other to the west, with an associated timber structure to the rear (north). Towards the end of the 13th and into the early 14th century the area between the two stone buildings was enclosed by a structure. Flaxengate was resurfaced in the late 13th century. By the first half of the 14th century further buildings occupied the area to the west of the existing properties. In the late 14th to early 15th century the building to the north was demolished; and parallel to Flaxengate was a stone-founded structure containing two large ovens.

#### **Post Medieval**

The properties to the west of the corner building were demolished in the late 15th to early 16th century and a malting kiln built. Around the early 16th century a structure was added to the north end of the corner building, creating a narrow passage between this and the building to the north. These buildings survived into the 18th century, but by the late 18th century the whole area had become derelict.

#### Modern

In the mid 19th century the area was again redeveloped with Victorian terrace housing; these respected the same property boundaries as the medieval buildings.

K Steane (after C Guy, R H Jones, D Perring)

Publications Colyer and Jones, M J 1979; Perring 1981; Jones, R H 1980; Mann 1982; O'Connor 1982; Blackburn et al 1983; Adams Gilmour et al 1988

| DANES TERRACE 1974,1978        | DT74I; DT74II; DT78  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Grid reference: SK 49766 37155 | Excavator: R H Jones |

#### Excavation

Properties on Danes Terrace (no 12-24) were demolished and together with the area of a car park at the corner of Danes Terrace and The Strait (16-23 The Strait) the area became available for housing development. Sites on Steep Hill (Area I) and Flaxengate (Area II) were examined in 1974 and in 1978 there was further investigation at the junction of Steep Hill and Danes Terrace.

#### Roman

In Area I there were fragmentary remains of buildings; an east-west stretch of wall and the north-west corner of a building or room. In Area II the Roman stratigraphy was not reached.

#### Early Saxon to Late Saxon

There was no evidence of activity during this period, partly due to the limits of excavation.

#### Medieval

One of the Roman walls in Area I was reused as part of a mid to late 11th century cellar. There were traces of another structure to the north which was later sealed by a metre of loam, terracing the site. Between the 13th and 14th centuries the terrace supported a timber building associated with pits. At the north end was a buttressed structure, fronting Danes Terrace in the early 14th century remained in use until the late 15th century. A stone building, fronted The Strait; it consisted of two rooms divided by a passage. Between the late 14th and early 15th centuries it was replaced with a timber structure. There were various yard surfaces to the rear.

At the south end of Area II in the 12th century was a stone-built undercroft belonging to a building aligned on Flaxengate. By the mid 13th century this building had been modified in design and to its south-west were traces of another less substantial structure. Towards Danes Terrace higher ground was retained by a terrace wall; there were traces of a structure in the centre of the site. In the early to mid 14th century the central area was redeveloped and a stone-founded building constructed; this was probably accessible from Danes Terrace or a north-south alley to the east of the plot. Both this and the building aligned on Flaxen-gate were replaced in the late 14th to early 15th century. The central plot, together with the mid 13th structure to the west, however, were altered again in the mid 15th century; another stone-founded building with a western extension was inserted. The alley to the east of this property was stepped.

## **Post Medieval**

The cellar in Area I continued in use into the 17th century. In the mid to late 18th century a new structure fronting The Strait removed part of the previous building, the rest of which was demolished in the early to mid 19th century. Four cellars were associated with 19th century houses which had survived until demolition prior to excavation.

In the mid to late 16th century most of Area II appears to have been cleared although there were traces of further stone buildings and a timber lean-to. Most of these appear to have been demolished by the earlymid 18th century except one which survived into 19th century. The rest of Area II had been levelled and pits together with an inhumation burial cut the latest deposits.

C Guy

Publication Colyer and Jones 1979

4-7 STEEP HILL, 1974-5; 1987

SH74; SH87

Grid reference: SK 49764 37159 Excavators: R H Jones, N Lincoln; C Brown

#### Excavation

The area fronting on to the west side of Steep Hill, between Jews' Court and St Martin's Lane, was excavated in 1974. The site had been terraced north-south and east-west at different periods, thus disturbing some areas but preserving others. In 1987 building work revealed the metalling of a Roman Street which was recorded in section.

#### Roman

The stone foundations of a building aligned north-south were cut by a later Roman structure of at least two rooms; one of these had a tessellated floor. The north-east to south-west alignment of this, and of a third building, suggest a change in the alignment of the original street system. A road of this alignment was found to the north of the site. The road itself had either been encroached on or went into disuse towards the end of the Roman period. The latest Roman pottery from the site was mid to late 4th in date.

#### Early to Middle Saxon

There was little evidence for activity during this period except for 7 sherds of early Saxon pottery.

#### Late Saxon

The remains of an east-west terrace wall, possibly dating to the early 11th century may have represented part of a structure.

# Medieval

A stone-founded structure, in use from the 11th to the 13th centuries, was set back from Steep Hill on a slightly different alignment from the previous structure. It was demolished and the foundations robbed; the site went through a period of disuse during the early/mid 14th century. In the 14th century timber and stone

buildings, possibly shops or houses fronted Steep Hill with a timber building to the rear. From the 15th century there was a cobbled alley running east-west to the rear of the area.

# **Post Medieval**

In the 16th century a stone founded building was cut into the hillside; at the base of this was a paved area with drains, possibly a small courtyard, a cellar or even a shop. A garderobe buttress, part of the north wall of Jews' Court extended into the south of the area in the 16th century. By the end of the 17th century the plot had been divided into four tenements with stone buildings fronting on Steep Hill.

#### Modern

During the 19th and 20th centuries the four building underwent alterations in brick with some rebuilding. They appear to have operated as shops.

K Steane

Publication Colyer and Jones 1979

**GRANTHAM PLACE 1981** 

**GP81** 

Grid reference: SK 49765 37148

Excavator: G Tann

#### Excavation

Excavations were carried out in advance of redevelopment, partly in order to determine the westward extent of the apsidal-ended late Roman building discovered at Flaxengate (F72).

# Roman

Clay-pits were sealed by the levelling material for an early to mid 3rd century building of which only the floor survived. Further levelling raised the ground surface in the mid to late 4th century. There was no evidence of the Flaxengate building. A layer of 'dark earth' sealed the area.

## Early to Middle Saxon

There was no evidence for occupation during this period.

#### Late Saxon

A metalled surface was sealed by a timber structure of which only the floor survived, overlain by a dump of loam containing late 10th to early 11th century pottery. A mid 11th century timber building was constructed over the dump, gable-ended onto Grantham Street. There were traces of another building to the north.

#### Medieval

The 11th century buildings were succeeded by two subsequent timber structures in the mid 12th century. A mid 13th century replacement for the northernmost building was cleared to make way for another with stone foundations towards the end of the century. To the south of this building stone walls, which may have been an extension to it, survived to the late 14th or even into the early 15th century. The buildings were demolished in the 15th century.

#### **Post Medieval**

A cellar was inserted to the south in the 17th century. To the north there was a boundary wall with a well and a pit, but any associated surfaces had been removed. -5-

C Guy

Publication Tann and Jones, M J 1982

#### **GRANTHAM STREET (Swan Street) 1982-3**

Grid reference: SK 49766 37144

Excavator: J Magilton

SW82

#### Excavation

Two areas were investigated on the south side of Grantham Street between Swan Street and Flaxengate prior to redevelopment. It was hoped that excavations would locate more of the Roman apsidal building found at Flaxengate (F72), and a postulated Roman road between the east and west gates of the lower city.

#### Roman

In Area 1 a 1st or 2nd century east-west terrace wall lay to the north of the an early 2nd century building with rubble foundations which was extended later in the century to provided at least two further rooms. Metalworking was carried out in the late 2nd century. The building was altered again during the 3rd century and its north-east part rebuilt in the late 4th. A second building was constructed on top of the terrace in the 4th century, and a third below the terrace, to the west in the very late 4th. In Area 2 several pits or postholes were sealed by a late Roman structure.

# Early Saxon to Middle Saxon

There was no evidence of activity in this period.

## Late Saxon

In Area 1 robber trenches dug to remove stone from the Roman buildings were cut by a possible sunkenfloored building of the late 10th to early 11th century. Due to an apparent misunderstanding the Late Saxon levels in Area 2 were removed by machine, but a series of floors belonging to a structure of this period were recorded in section.

#### Medieval

In Area 2 traces of a 12th century surface were recovered. Between the mid 12th and mid 13th centuries the Roman structure was robbed. A 13th century building went into disuse and was sealed sealed by a layer of mid 13th century dark earth. There were also traces of another building together with many pits. The whole site was rebuilt between the mid 14th and 15th centuries with four north-south stone-founded structures, gable-ended onto Grantham Street.

#### **Post Medieval**

In Area 2, two of the medieval structures were demolished and replaced between the 15th and 17th centuries. Evidence of metalworking was recovered from the 17th century demolition debris of one of these later structures. Traces of later buildings fronting Grantham Street, included a cellar, the remains of an east-west wall, and brick-lined cess pits.

C Guy

Publication Magilton 1983

FLAXENGATE BOOSTER STATION 1988

# Grid reference: SK 49772 37149 Excavators: I Cullen, J Danks, M Jarvis

# Excavation

Excavations were carried out on the site of a new water booster station.

# **Roman to Saxon**

The excavation was too shallow to reach Roman or Saxon levels. However there was a high proportion of residual pottery dating between the late 9th and early 10th century, from the medieval dumps.

#### Medieval

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A succession of dumps, probably of garden soil appeared to be of late medieval date. Post Medieval to Modern

Further soil build-up or dumping continued and was cut by 19th or 20th century service trenches. These were sealed by demolition rubble.

I Cullen, J Danks and M Jarvis

## JEWS' COURT 1989

JC89

Grid reference: SK 49763 37157

Excavators: A Smith, J Danks

# Excavation

A small excavation was carried out around the west and south of the rear extension to Jews' Court in advance of structural repairs.

#### **Roman to Medieval**

Possibly due to limited excavation there was no evidence of activity during this period.

#### **Post Medieval**

A clay and mortar surface possibly predated the building. The footings of the Jews' Court included reused architectural fragments of medieval date. The slope to the south was retained by a dry-stone wall.

A Smith, J Danks

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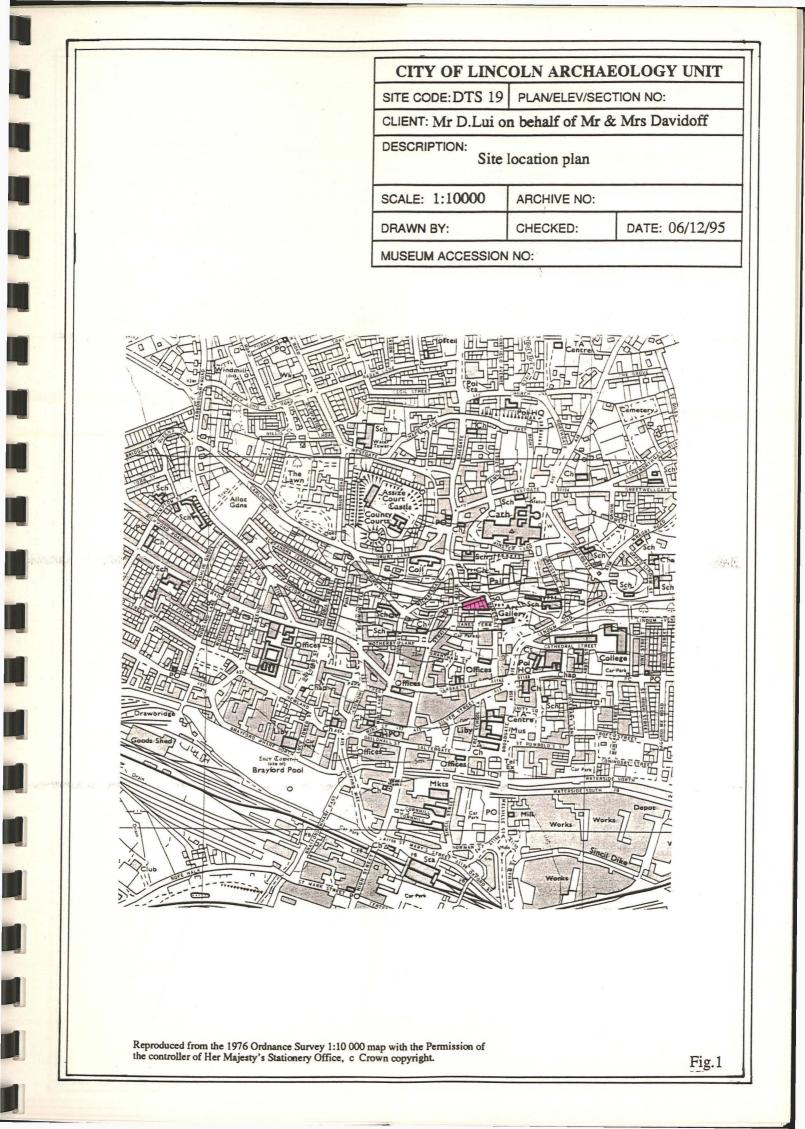
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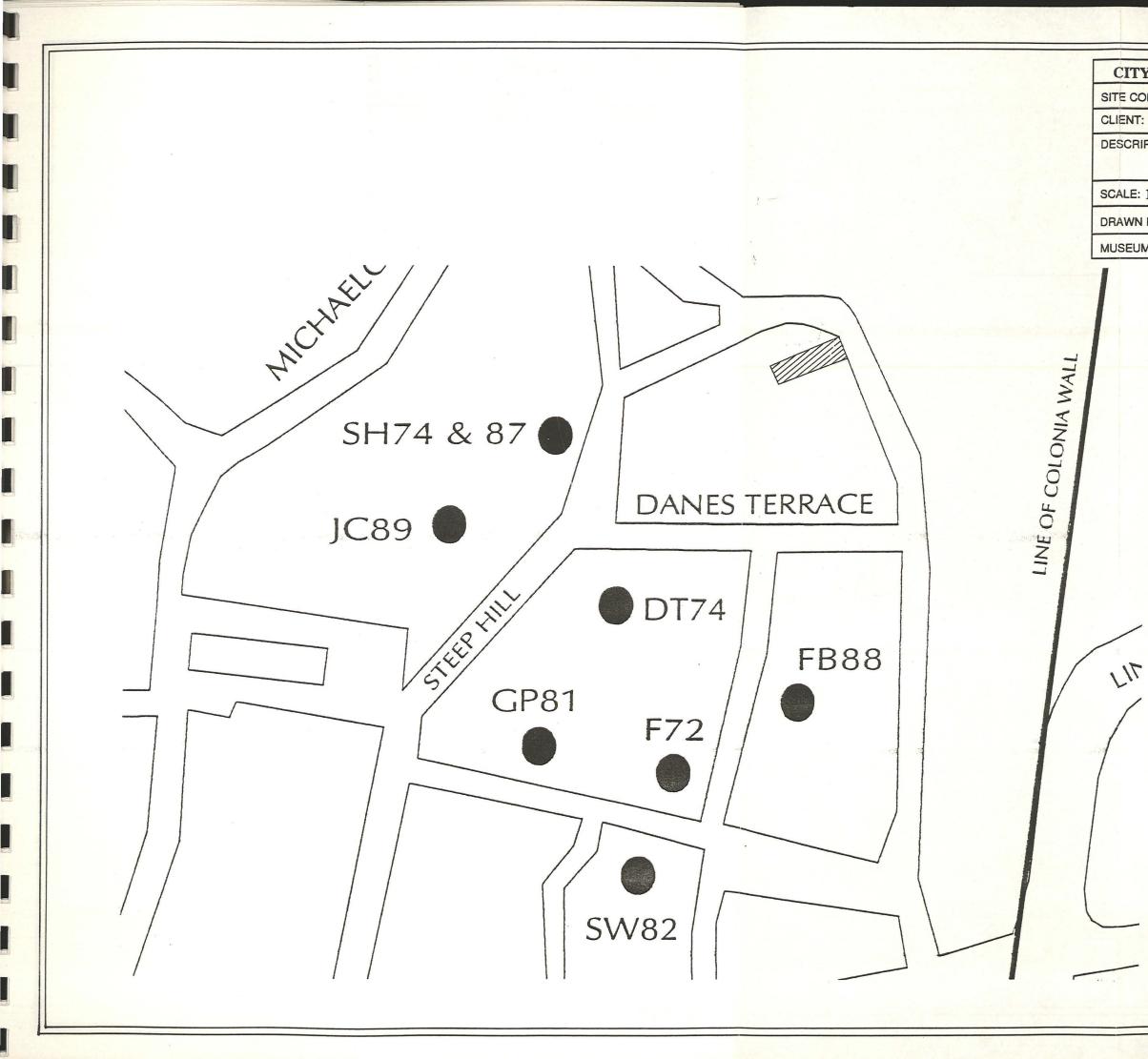
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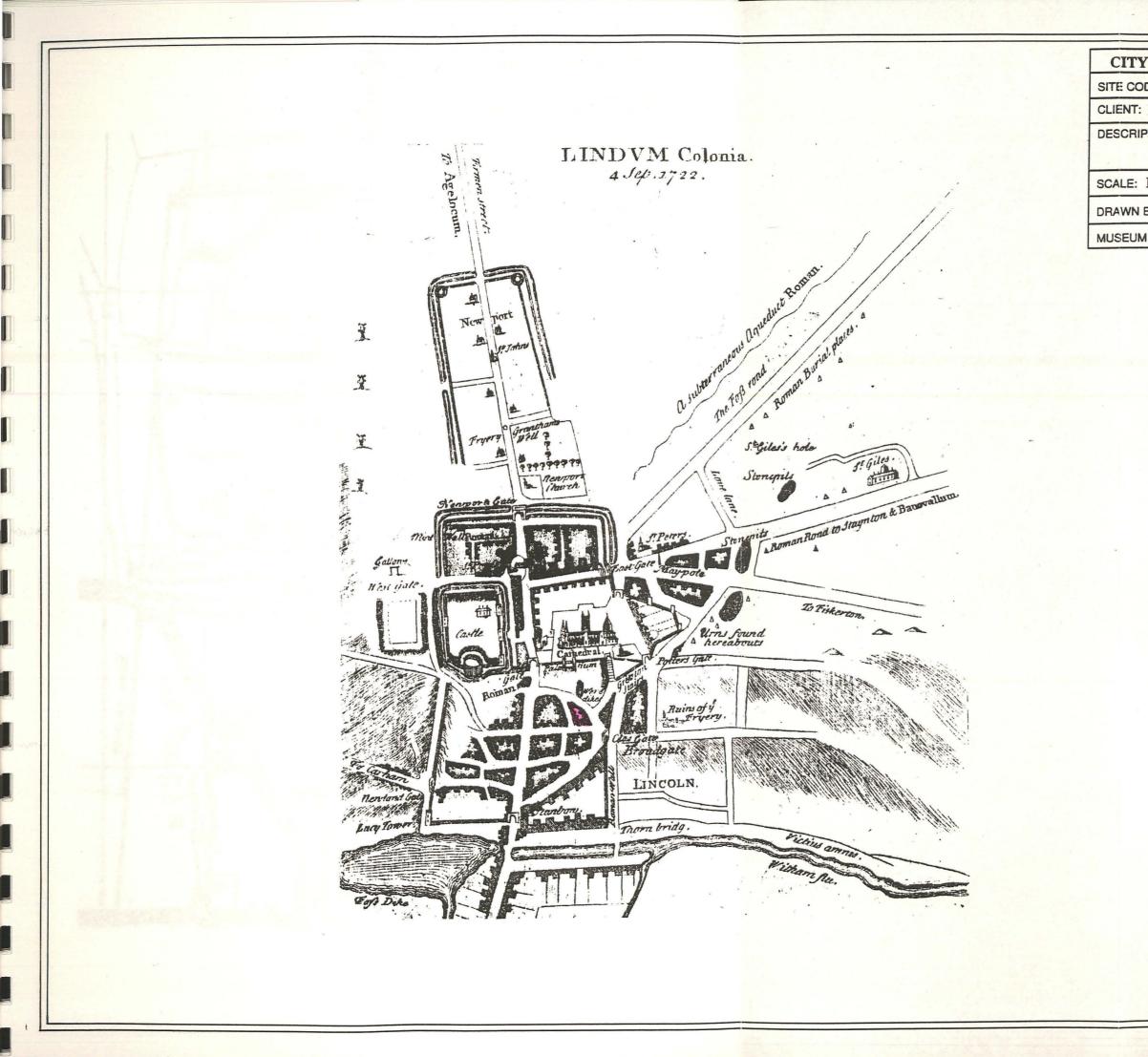
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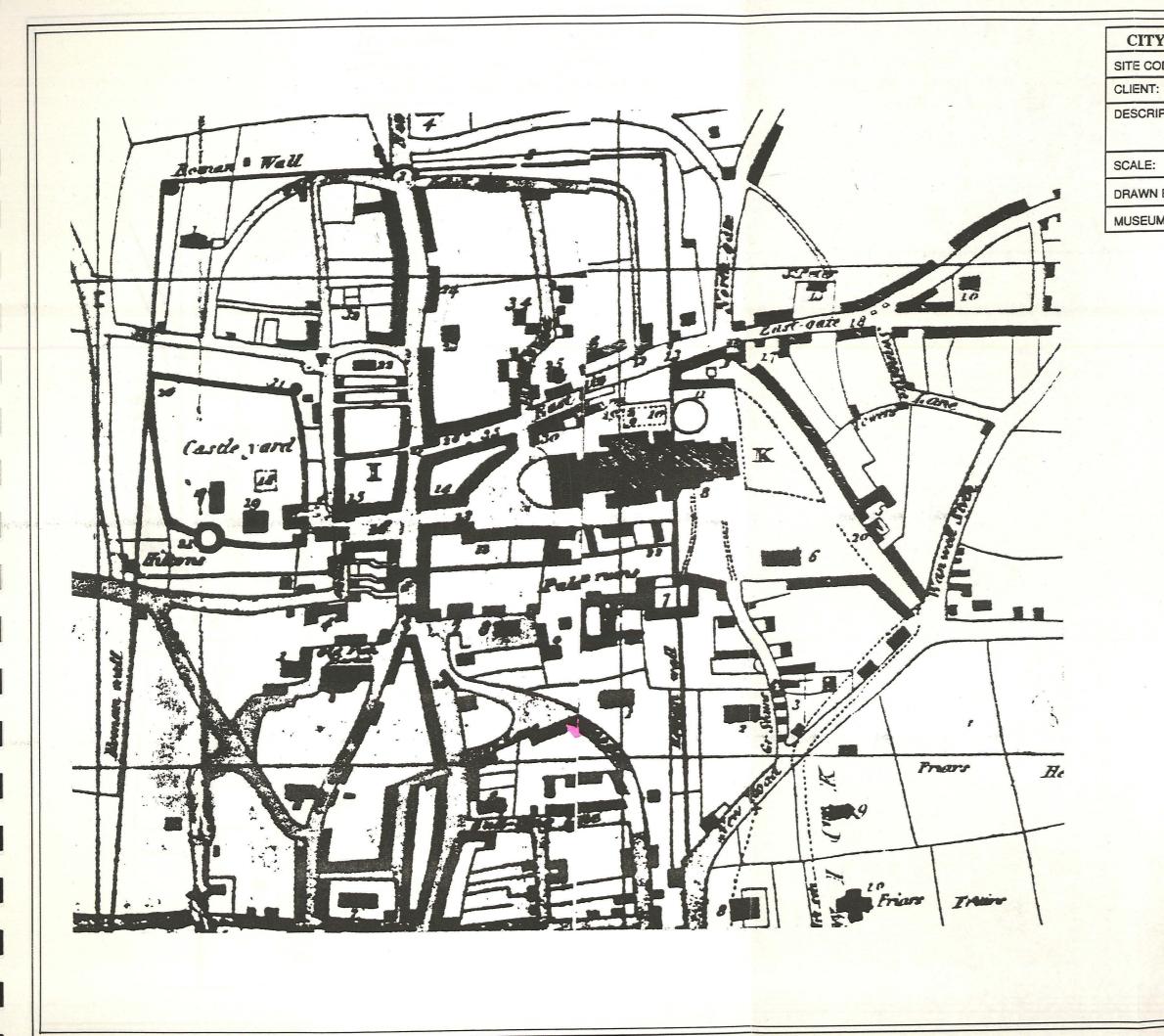


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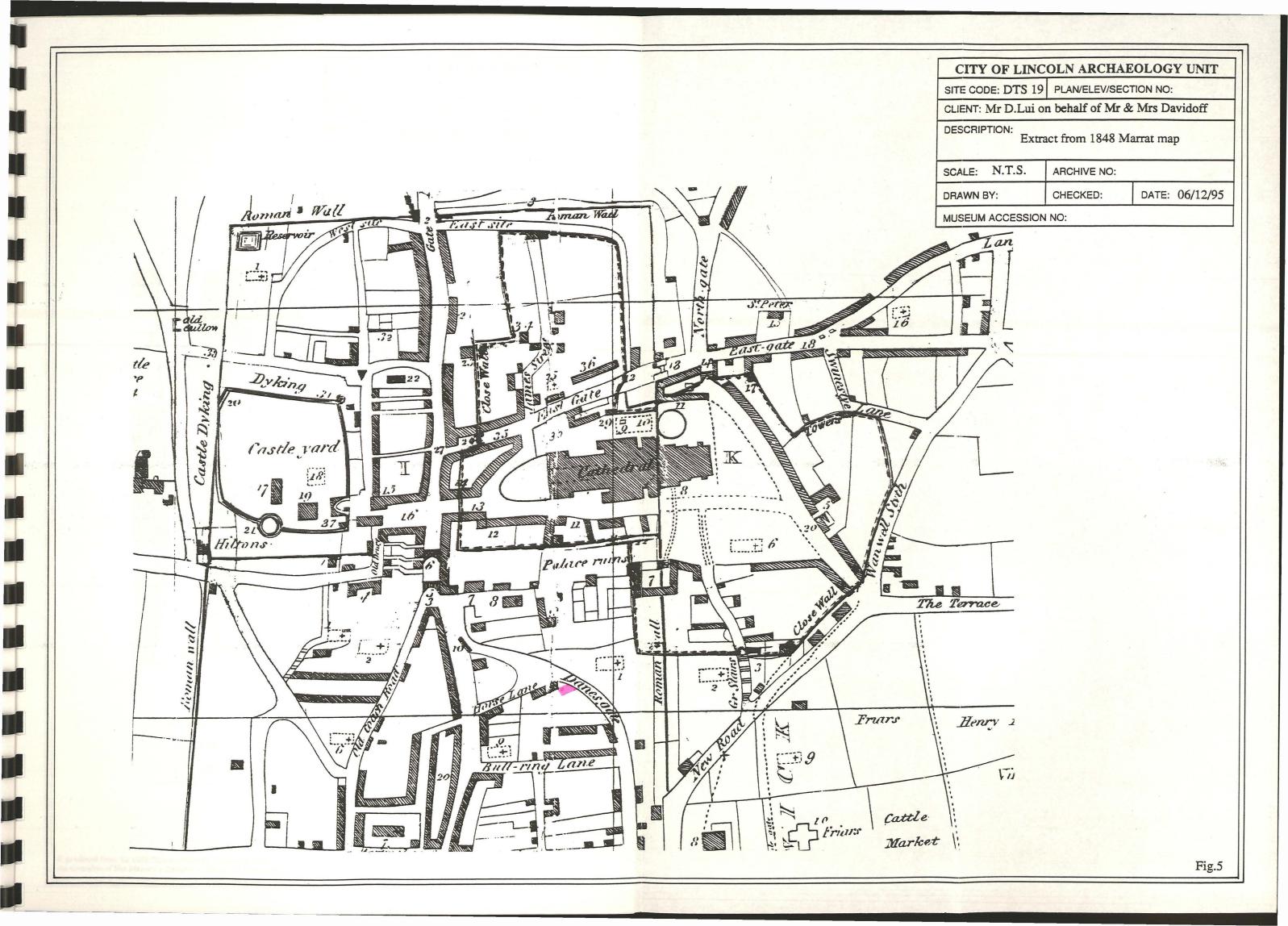


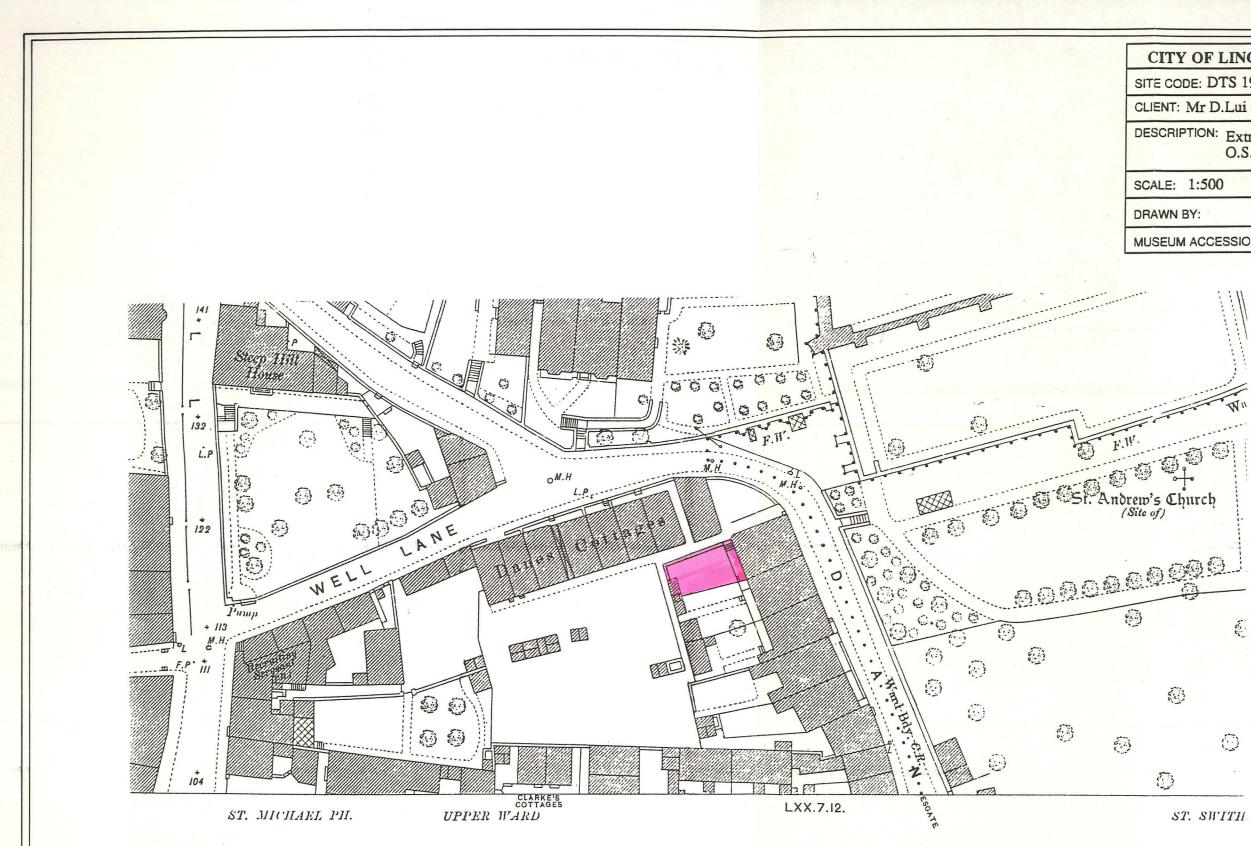
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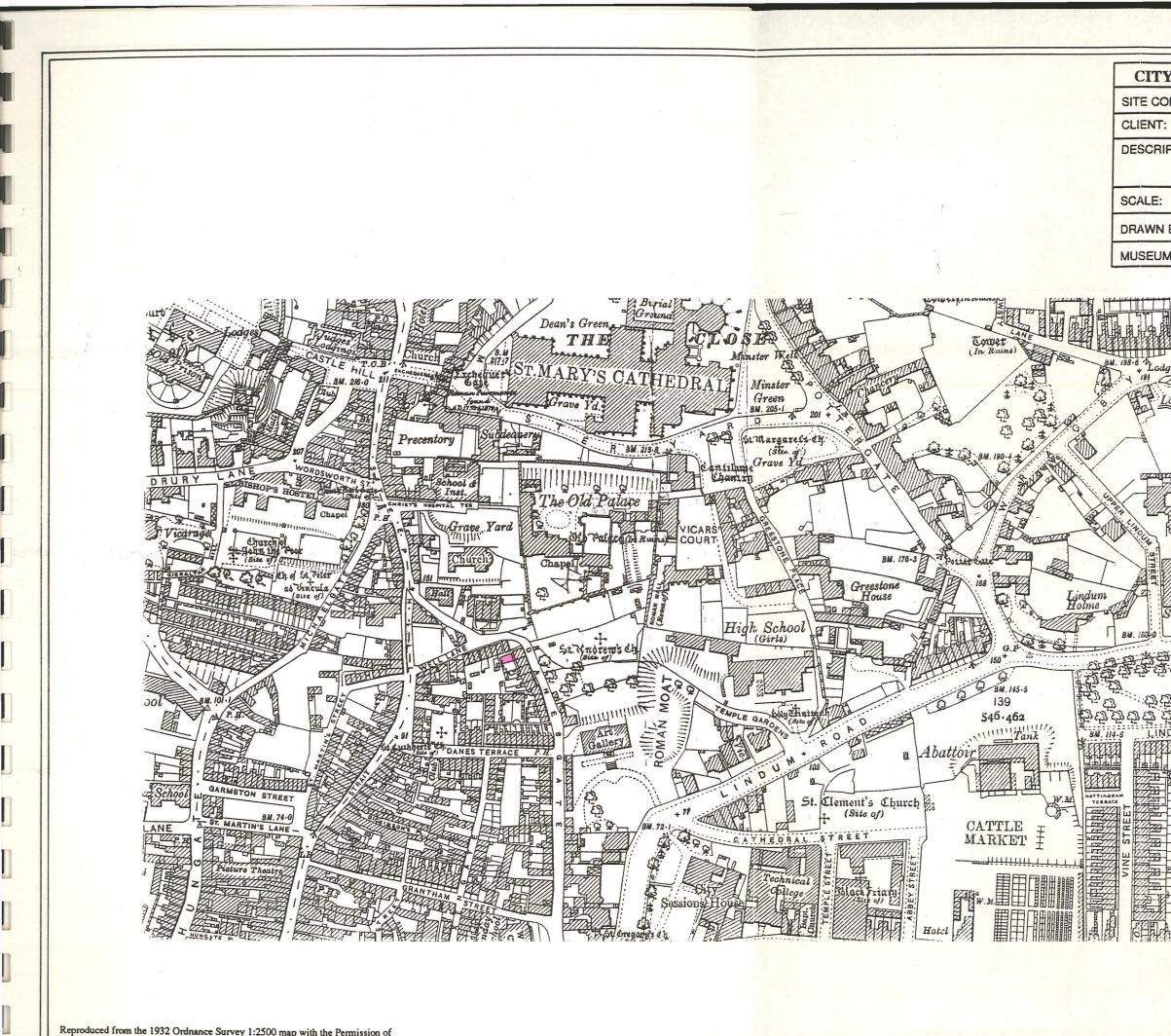
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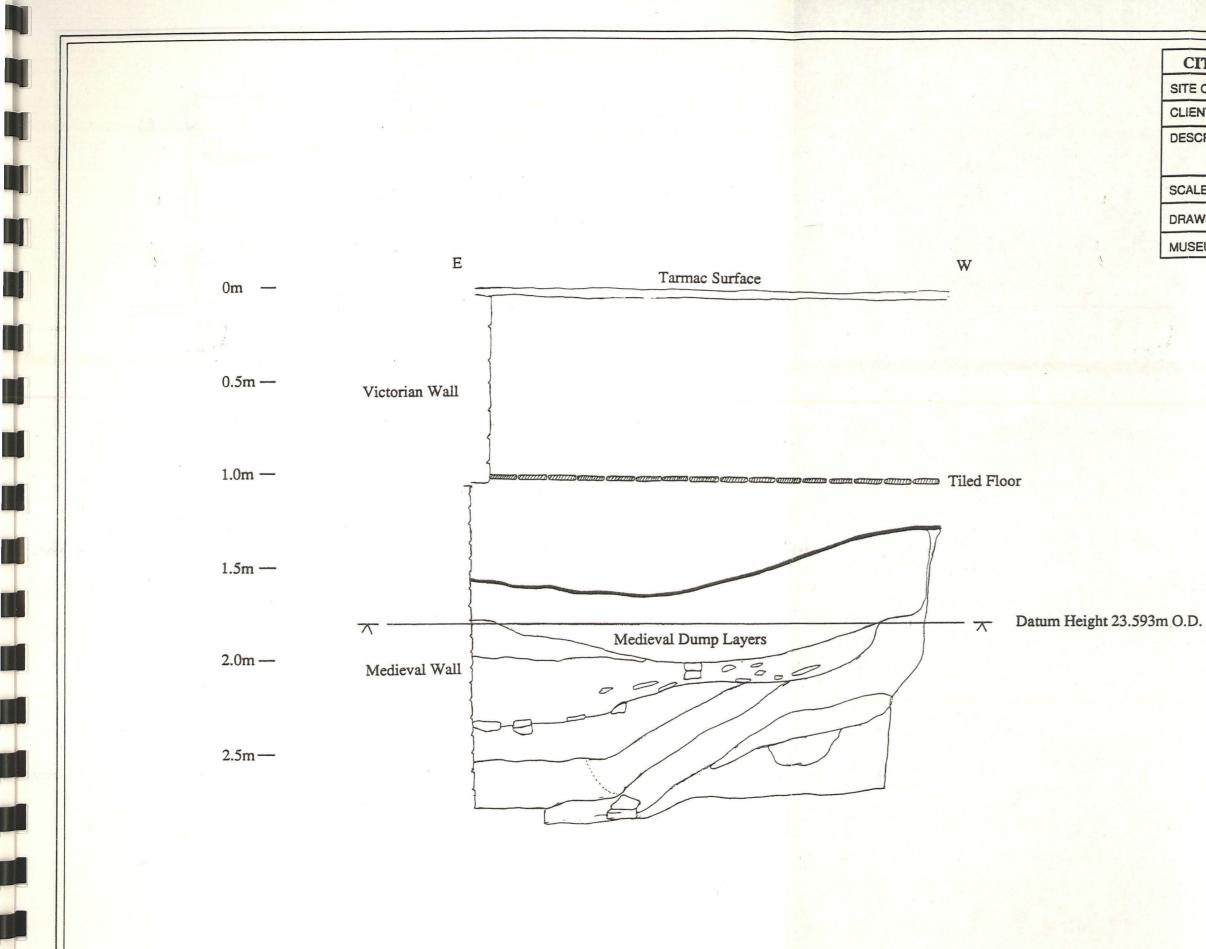
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Fig.6



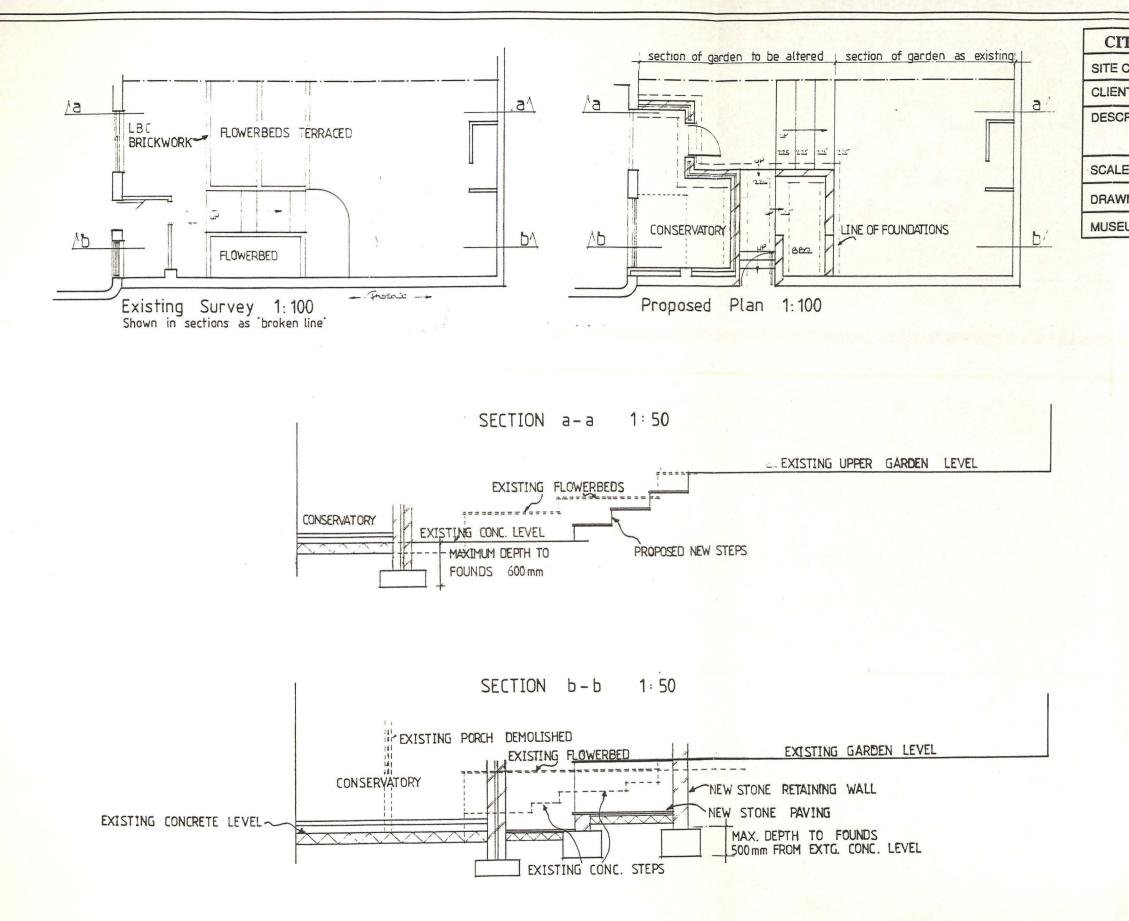
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Fig.7



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