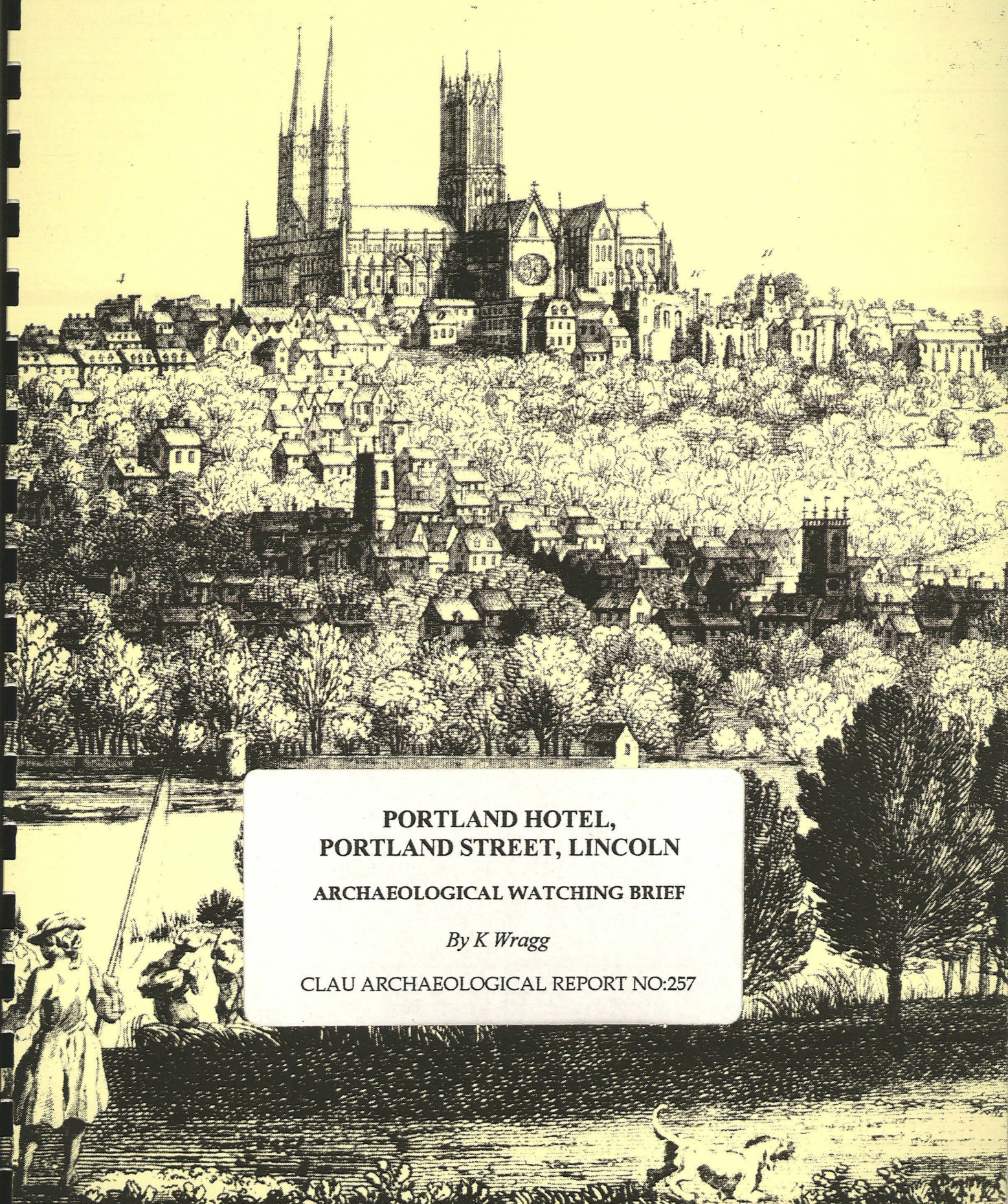


CITY OF
◇ LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY ◇
U N I T



**PORTLAND HOTEL,
PORTLAND STREET, LINCOLN**
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
By K Wragg
CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO:257

negative

A
Report to
Mr Hallgarth,
Portland Hotel

August 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

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**PORTLAND HOTEL,
PORTLAND STREET, LINCOLN**

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Fig.1 Site Location Plan - scale 1:1250

PORTLAND HOTEL, PORTLAND STREET, LINCOLN.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The development at the above site involved the construction of a small extension to the south (i.e. rear) of the existing building (see Fig.1).

Groundworks were limited to a small network of foundation trenches for concrete strip foundations, enclosing an area approximately 5-6m square, to be excavated to a depth of of c.1.0m below the existing ground level.

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 June 1996 the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (C.L.A.U.) was commissioned by the owner/proprietor, Mr Hallgarth, 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, and observation was carried out between 25th & 26th June 1996.

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 lies in an area of known archaeological importance, originally part of a Roman commercial suburb lying to the south of the main defensive area, between the High Street and Sincil Dyke.

The main Roman road approaching the city from the south, *Ermine Street*, approximately followed the line of the modern High Street to the west, and Sincil Dyke, which runs immediately to the east of the site, is considered to have been originally part of the Roman drainage system.

Evidence has been revealed in this area showing Roman occupation from the 1st century A.D. through to the late 4th century, including the remains of a cemetery, and both timber and stone buildings. The nature of the recovered finds seems to suggest that the buildings represent shops or workshops, some possibly associated with metalworking, together with other possibly more monumental structures.

Investigation of the Roman commercial suburb over recent years has shown that it extended for a considerable distance and has so far yielded the remains of at least sixteen traders' houses. Lincoln is now a well-quoted example of Roman suburban occupation.

Following on from the Roman period, this area appears to have been largely abandoned during the early Saxon period, but by the 10th and 11th centuries, a thriving community appears to have occupied this area, developing into the medieval suburb of *Wigford*.

From the time of the Norman Conquest, occupation and development, although periodically waxing and waning in common with the fortunes of the City in general, has been constant, and it is therefore possible that remains from any of these periods of the City's history could be preserved on this site.

3.0 RESULTS

The earliest deposit recorded comprised a layer of moderately compacted mid-dark brown sandy earth, [101], containing only occasional small pieces and flecks of limestone. This layer was seen at a depth of between 800mm and 900mm below the existing surface level, and was approximately 600mm thick to the limit of excavation.

[101] was then overlain by the only other deposit seen during the groundworks, a very mixed modern dump layer, [100]. The latter comprised a mid-dark brown sandy earth mixed with ash/clinker, and contained modern bricks, tarmac pieces, mortar, limestone pieces, degraded limestone and hardcore, and an assortment of other rubbish. The dump layer formed the existing surface for this part of the property.

No signs of any archaeological finds or features were seen during the groundworks.

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.

In the event however, only apparently recent deposits were revealed, including a quantity of modern building material, which is most likely to have originated from several buildings known to have stood on the site until the late 1960's.

While the information produced by this watching brief is therefore negative in archaeological terms, it should be noted that the lack of preserved archaeological remains has, of course, only been confirmed at the depths, and in the areas, investigated during this project, and does not therefore 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 Hallgarth, Portland Hotel, Portland Street, Lincoln.

6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Vince, Alan & Jones, Michael J (eds) 1990 (Revd edn) *Lincoln's Buried Archaeological Heritage*, City Lincoln Archaeol Unit, Lincoln [LAM BIB487]

Wragg, K 1994 *Sincil Bank West (Watermains Relay)*, CLAU archaeological report 88, City Lincoln Archaeol Unit, Lincoln, [LAM BIB664]

Wragg, K 1994 *Site of the Former St Mark's Railway Station, High Street, Lincoln*, CLAU archaeological report 142, City Lincoln Archaeol Unit, Lincoln, [LAM BIB667]

**7.0 LHA NOTE/ARCHIVE
DETAILS**

7.1 LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODE: ON579

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.:
LF32/0660/95

FIELD OFFICER: K.Wragg

NGR: SK 9755 7061

CIVIL PARISH: Lincoln

SMR No.: -

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 25/06/96 -
26/06/96

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Mr Hallgarth, Portland
Hotel, Portland Street, Lincoln.

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: ON579 PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:

CLIENT: Mr Hallgarth


DESCRIPTION: Site Location Plan

SCALE: 1:1250 ARCHIVE NO:

DRAWN BY: CHECKED: DATE:

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:

KEY

 Location of Site



Reproduced from the 1967 Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright.

Fig.1