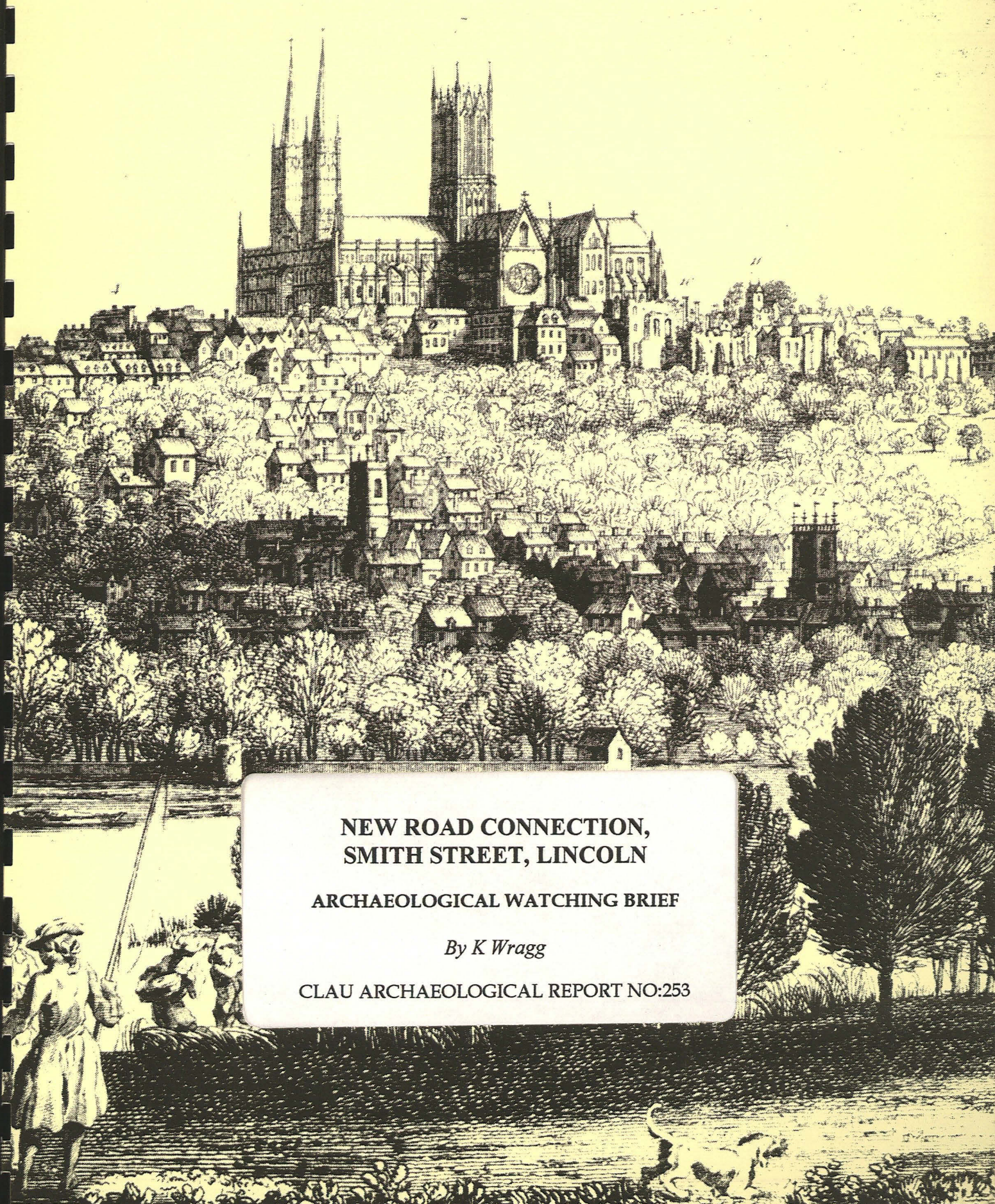


96/11

CITY OF
◇ LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY ◇
UNIT



**NEW ROAD CONNECTION,
SMITH STREET, LINCOLN**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

By K Wragg

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO:253

negative

A
Report to
Eastfield Enterprises Ltd

May 1996

Prepared by

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Archaeological Watching Brief

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NEW ROAD CONNECTION, SMITH STREET, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This project relates to works required to provide vehicular and pedestrian access to an area of development land to the north of Smith Street. The area in question originally lay beneath the remains of the Lincoln Avoiding Line railway embankment (removed in 1995), and fronts on to the High Street to the west.

A range of buildings (part of a school owned by Lincolnshire County Council) originally stood at the eastern end of Smith Street, and following their demolition in 1992, a condition of sale for the land required the construction of a short length of access road, suitable for adoption as a carriageway, joining Smith Street (to the west), the remaining school buildings (to the east), and the new development site (to the north).

Excavations were limited to a depth of approximately 450mm along the main section of the proposed carriageway, together with small scale excavation for service connections, expected to reach depths of 1.4m-1.5m.

Notwithstanding the relatively limited scope of the proposed groundworks, and the previous areas of modern disturbance of the site (the school buildings demolished in 1992 included cellars, which have been backfilled with limestone hardcore), 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 April 1996, the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (C.L.A.U.) was commissioned by Eastfield Enterprises 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 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 between the two major Roman roads approaching the city from the south (the *Fosse Way* lies to the west of the site, and follows approximately the line of the modern High Street, while *Ermine Street* originally ran to the east of the site, ultimately joining with *Fosse Way* further to the north), in a Roman commercial suburb lying to the south of the main defensive area.

Evidence has been revealed 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 grey-brown sandy, slightly clayey earth, [102], containing limestone pieces and modern brick/tile flecks & pieces. This layer was present across the whole site and was between 400mm and 1.0m thick to the limit of excavation.

[102] lay directly beneath the modern crushed brick bedding [101], and tarmac surface [100] of the existing yard.

At the western end of the site the remains of the cellars of the demolished school buildings could also be defined (primarily by the extent of the contrasting limestone backfill), cutting into layer [102].

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 no evidence of any preserved archaeological features or finds. This of course has only been confirmed at the depths 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 C.Brogden, of Eastfield Enterprises Ltd, 134 Dixon Street, Lincoln, LN6 7TU; Mr D.Watson (Groundworks Contractor).

6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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7.0 LHA NOTE/ARCHIVE DETAILS

7.1 LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODE: ON576

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.:
LF44/0573/95

FIELD OFFICER: K.Wragg

NGR: SK 9740 7010

CIVIL PARISH: Lincoln

SMR No.: -

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 15/04/96 -
10/05/96

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Eastfield Enterprises
Ltd, 134 Dixon Street, Lincoln, LN6 7TU.

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: ON576 PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:

CLIENT: Eastfield Enterprises Ltd.

DESCRIPTION: Site Location Plan

SCALE: 1:1250

ARCHIVE NO:

DRAWN BY:

CHECKED:

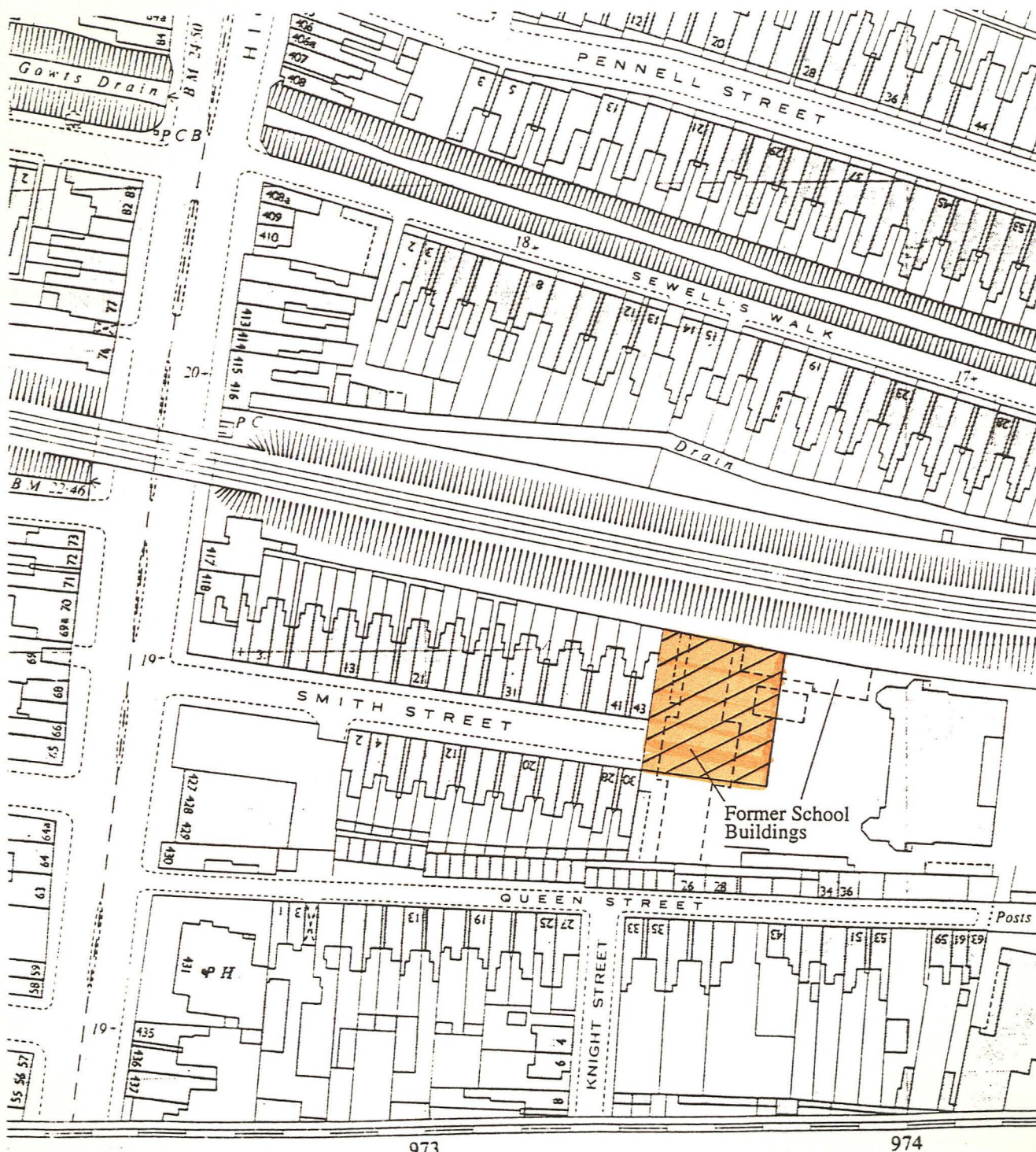
DATE:

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO:

KEY



Location of Site



LINCOLN BORO CONST
SK 9769 NW

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Fig.1