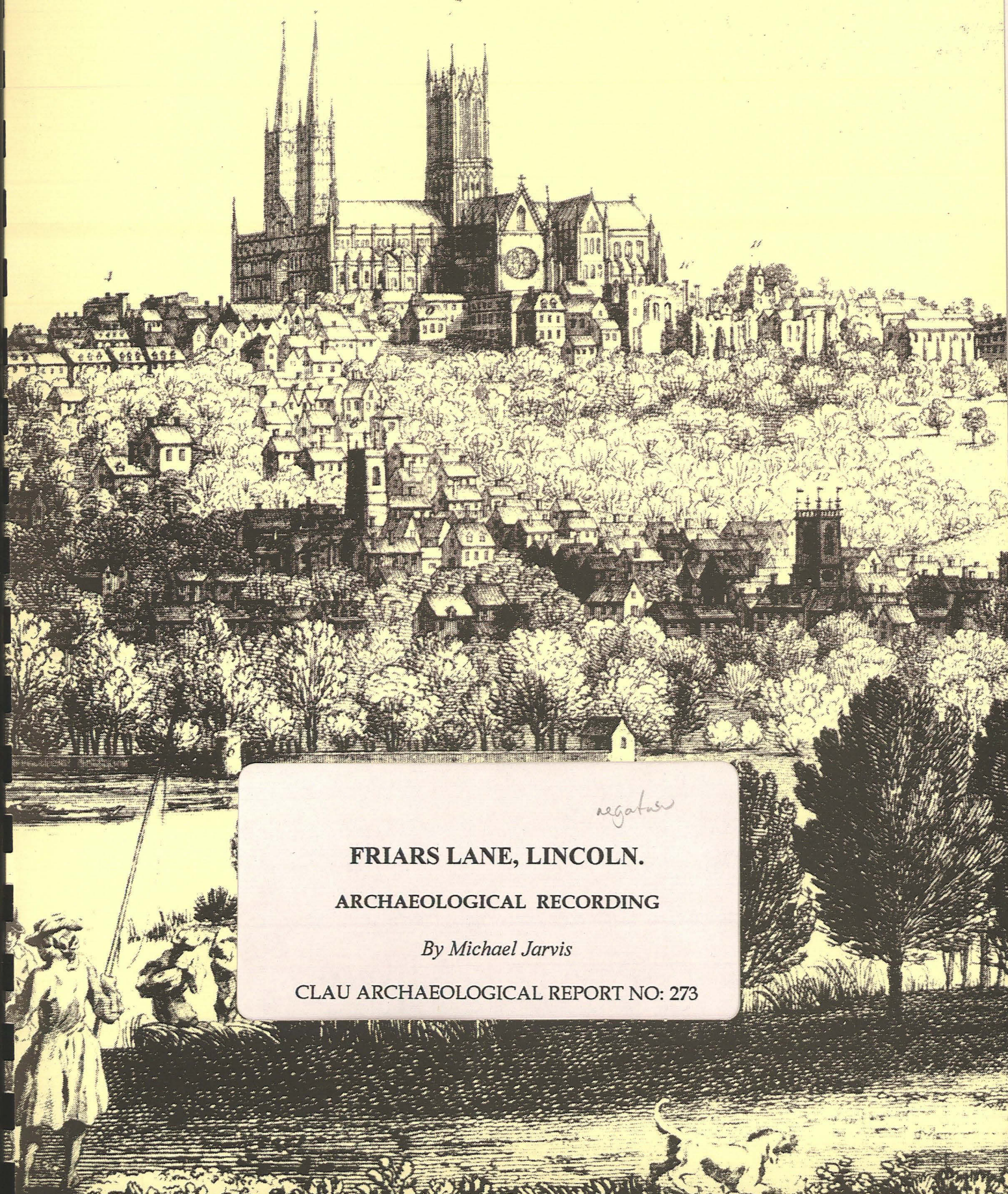


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**FRIARS LANE, LINCOLN.**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING**

*By Michael Jarvis*

**CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 273**



# Lincolnshire County Council

Archaeology Station

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**A**  
**Report to**  
***Foxby Court***  
***Developments***

**October, 1996**

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# **FRIARS LANE, LINCOLN.**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING**

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## FRIARS LANE, LINCOLN.

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

#### SUMMARY

*Between May and August, 1996, representatives from the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU) undertook an archaeological watching brief on behalf of Foxby Court Developments, Lincoln, during the excavation of foundation and drainage trenches for a residential development to the east of Free School Lane, Lincoln.*

*During February 1996, the CLAU undertook the machine excavation of two small trial trenches towards the southern end of the site. These trenches revealed the tops of walls and deposits considered to be medieval in date.*

*The development is located in an archaeologically and historically sensitive area of Lincoln. Previous archaeological work in the area of the site has uncovered remains of Roman origin as well as Medieval buildings and occupation.*

*The monitoring of site groundworks revealed no deposits or features pre-dating the early to mid 16<sup>th</sup> century. Observations made during the excavation of foundations for the nine town houses fronting on to ~~Free School Lane~~ did bear down on to deposits of probable medieval/late medieval date. However, due to the limited extent of the groundworks, and the possibility of residual material, the date, form and function of these deposits was unclear.*

*Friars Lane*



## **FRIARS LANE, LINCOLN.**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING**

#### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Between May and August, 1996, representatives from the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU), undertook an archaeological watching brief on behalf of Foxby Court Developments, Lincoln, during the excavation of foundation and drainage trenches for a residential development consisting of town houses and student accommodation blocks (bed-sitters).

##### **1.1 Planning Background**

In December 1995 Foxby Court Developments made an application to Lincoln City Council to redevelop the site. This application was granted in February 1996, with a condition attached requiring a pre-development archaeological evaluation. Planning Application No: LE17/0709/95.

Development groundwork commenced in early February 1996. On the 27th of that month representatives from the CLAU, in conjunction with the site contractor, undertook the machine excavation of 2 small trial trenches towards the southern end of the site. These trenches revealed the tops of walls and deposits considered to be medieval in date. This information was subsequently used by the Archaeological Advisor to Lincoln City Council to recommend that a watching brief be required on all further groundworks associated with the development.

#### **2.0 SITE LOCATION**

The site lies on the eastern side of Friars Lane, close to its junction with Monks Road. National Grid Reference SK 9790 7132 (Fig. 1).

##### **2.1 Archaeological & Historical Background**

The development is located in an archaeologically and historically sensitive area of Lincoln. Previous archaeological work in

the area of the site has uncovered remains of Roman origin as well as Medieval occupation including store houses.

Excavations carried out c.50m to the south-west of the site in 1973 (Jones R H, 1981) produced evidence for a north-south ditch running parallel to the Roman eastern defences. Dating was not recovered from its fills although it is thought to have been constructed between c.AD 300 - c.AD 1000. To the east of this ditch (closer to the site), the remains of 2nd century timber buildings were recorded. These were replaced by stone buildings in the 2nd-3rd century and demolished in the 4th century.

The site lay in the medieval suburb of Butwerk. Medieval properties of probable pre-conquest origin and continuing in several phases to the 15<sup>th</sup> were also found in 1973. The medieval church of St. Peter at Welles lay nearby to the north of the site, and 4 other churches lay within the suburb. A medieval cemetery was located to the south of the site beneath the Lincolnshire Archives building on St. Rumbold Street. A kiln for the manufacturing of clay tobacco pipes was observed slightly to the north of this site during redevelopment work in 1974 and appeared to date from the early 19th century.

The excavation of 3 trial trenches c.20m to the west of the site in 1991 (CLAU Archive Report, BB91), revealed undated deposits probably associated with the infilled Roman ditch.

Excavations to the north of Monks Road in 1993 and 1994 during the construction of student accommodation for North Lincolnshire College uncovered evidence for a Roman cemetery (CLAU Report No. 145, 1994). Evidence for late Saxon pottery industries and medieval occupation was also recorded on this site (CLAU Report No. 55, 1993).

During the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries the area around the site was largely comprised of open fields. The lack of public transport in the Victorian era meant that most employees lived close to their place of work, consequently this area of Lincoln would have had a semi-rural appearance (Hill 1974).

Up until 1995 the site was occupied by St. Hugh's RC Primary School.



### 3.0 AIMS & METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Aims

The aims of the watching brief were:

A. to produce an archive record of deposits and remains generally within the constraints of the groundwork contractors' working methods and programme as related to the project design, with due regard to current Health and Safety legislation.

B. to produce a report on the archaeological importance of the discoveries.

C. to produce a project archive from which the potential for further study and academic research could be assessed.

D. to provide information for accession to the County Sites and Monuments Record.

#### 3.2 Archaeological Methodology

The archaeological record was secured by means of trench side notes (these were transferred from the site record book to CLAU proforma context record sheets). Scale drawings of archaeological features were made and a full photographic record compiled.

All artefacts and other materials recovered and retained from the investigations were packed and stored in the appropriate materials and conditions to ensure that minimum deterioration took place and that their associated records were complete.

### 4.0 ANALYSIS

For the purpose of this report, the analysis of information has been presented under three headings: Area A, the area of the student bed-sitters; Area B, the main drainage trench linking the existing accommodation block to that of the nine town houses fronting on to Free School Lane, and Area C, the nine town houses as described above.

#### Area A (Fig. 2)

The monitoring of groundworks for the bed-sitter accommodation block failed to reveal deposits earlier than the late 19th to early 20th century.

The earliest deposit encountered [002] a 400mm thick clay/sand deposit contained frequent brick and tile fragments. A further, late, dump deposit [001] sealed [002] and is thought to have had a similar levelling function.

#### Area B (Figs. 2 & 3)

The excavation of a foul water drainage trench, which extended diagonally across the site (NW-SE) from the north-east corner of the town houses (Area C) to the existing flats, revealed little dateable archaeological material.

The earliest deposit recorded here, [006], a very dark brown sandy silt was thought to represent the top of late post-medieval deposits. However, due to the limited depth of the groundworks the form and function of this deposit could not be determined.

The sequence of deposits sealing [006] was similar to Area A except for the presence of four brick walls representing two cellars. These cellars were located towards the centre of the drainage trench. The cellars were infilled with large quantities of brick rubble and tile fragments.

Top soil deposit [001] sealed these structures.

#### Area C (Figs. 2 & 3)

Observations made during the excavation of the southern part of Area C, the town houses, revealed by far the most probable indication of medieval activity.

Here, c.700mm below ground level a deposit of yellow/brown sandy clay was recorded, [011]. A narrow band of limestone and tile fragments overlay [011]. This deposit, [010], was in turn sealed by [009], a similar deposit to [002] and [001] which was recorded in Areas A and B.

A deposit of tarmac sealed [009].

No further deposits and features were recorded during the groundwork programme.



## 5.0 CONCLUSIONS

### a) Significance of Discoveries

As expected the monitoring of site groundworks revealed no deposits or features pre-dating the early to mid 16th century. Observations made during the excavation of the western boundary to Area C, did bear down on to deposits of possible medieval date. However, due to the limited extent of the groundworks, and the possibility of residual material through truncation by earlier archaeological features, the form and function of these deposits was unclear.

### b) Potential for Further Research

The following paragraphs assess the data collected from the site, and highlight its potential to further our archaeological and historical knowledge. The data collection was limited by the nature of the contractors' groundworks and no sound dating evidence was recovered during the works. Therefore this assessment is based solely on the stratigraphic and structural data recovered.

Analysis of this information has revealed a low potential for furthering our knowledge of the site. Conclusive evidence for medieval and post-medieval stratigraphy was not found. Information relating to the post-medieval occupation of the area was recorded, but again, its potential is very limited given the constraints of the groundwork programme.

## 6.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit would like to thank Foxby Court Developments for funding the watching brief and post-field work analysis. CLAU also wish to thank the site contractor for their full co-operation throughout the duration of the archaeological works.

## 7.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## NOTE

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.



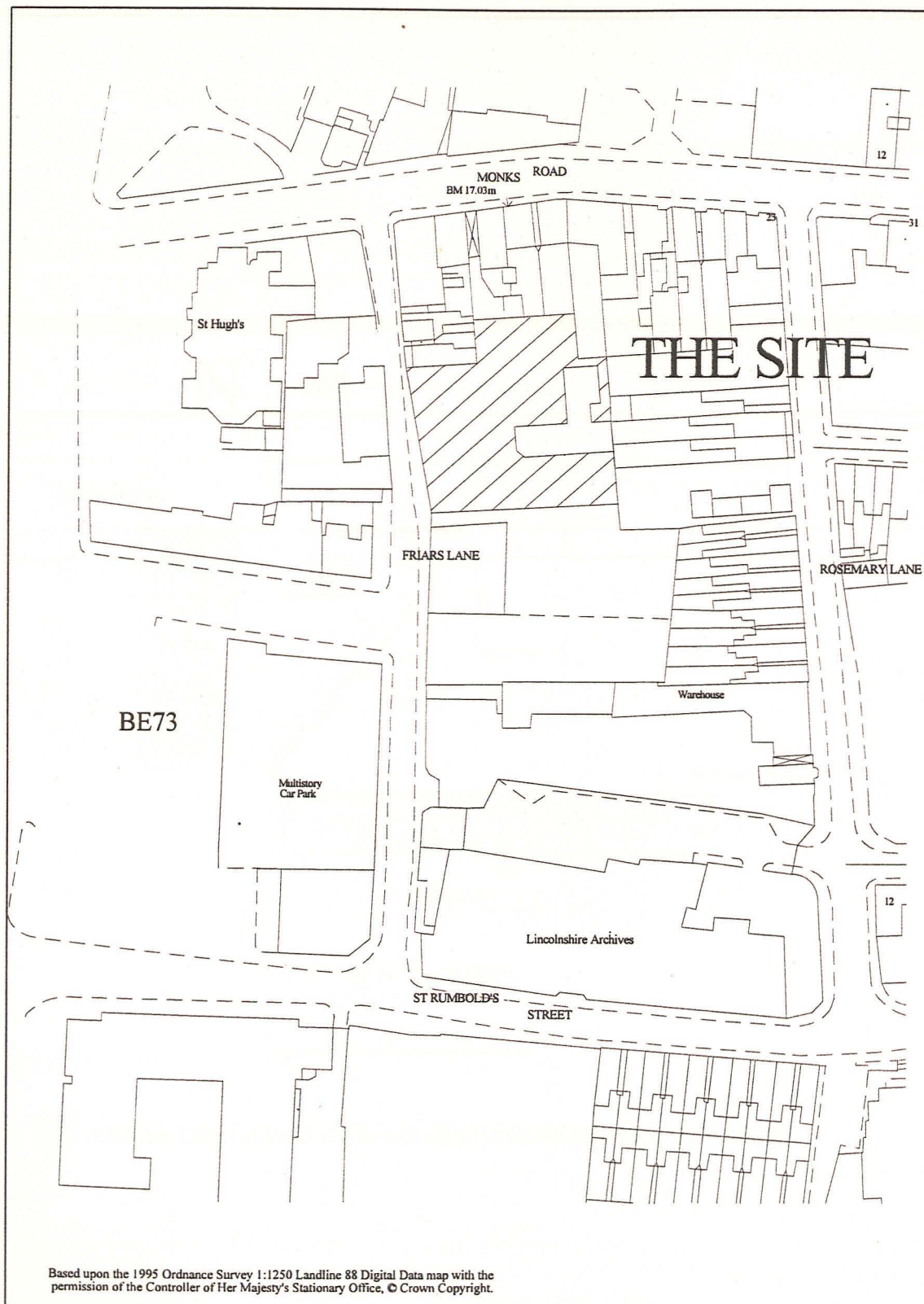


Fig. 1: General site location plan.



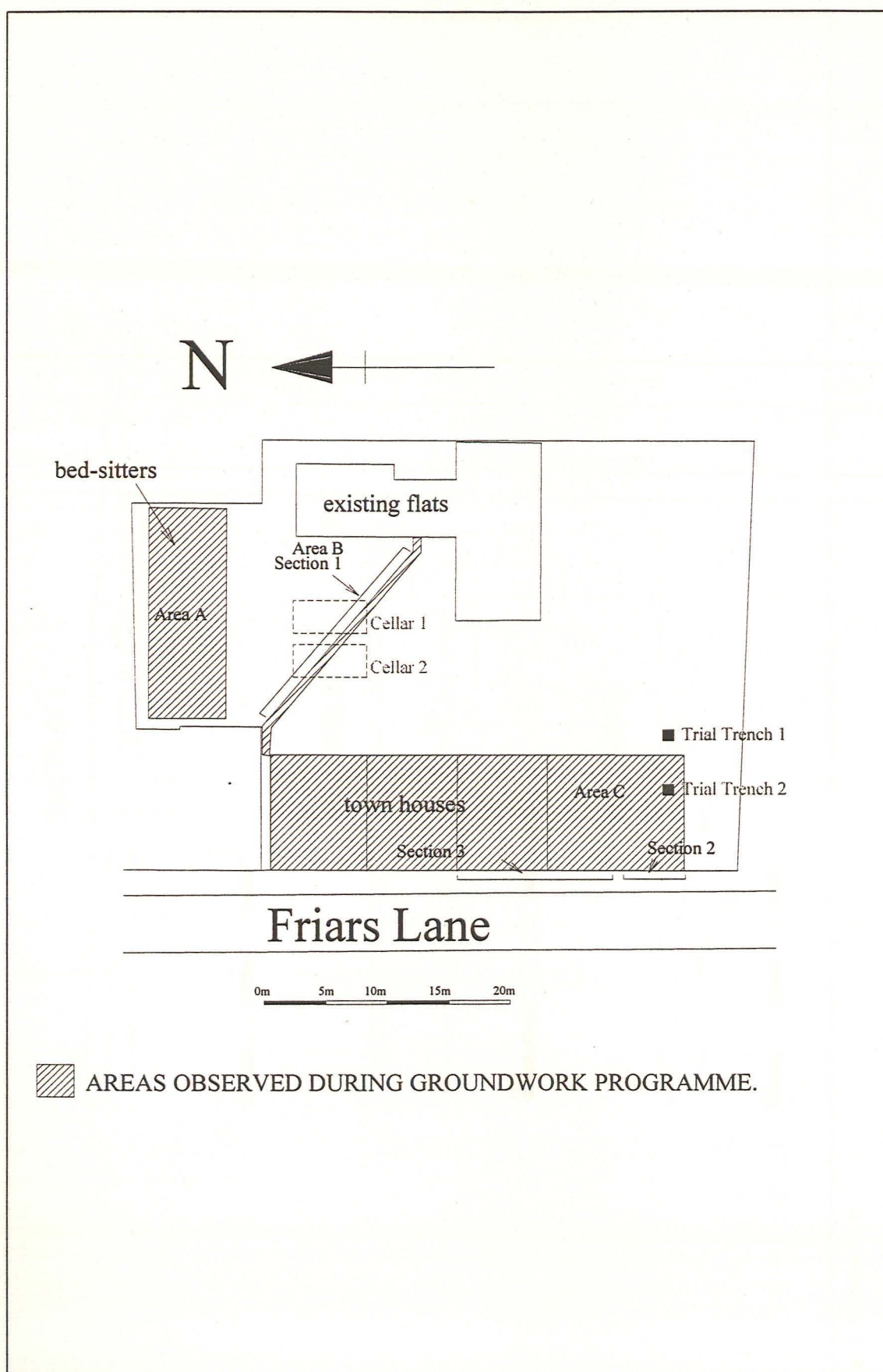


Fig. 2: Plan showing location of groundworks monitored as part of the archaeological programme.



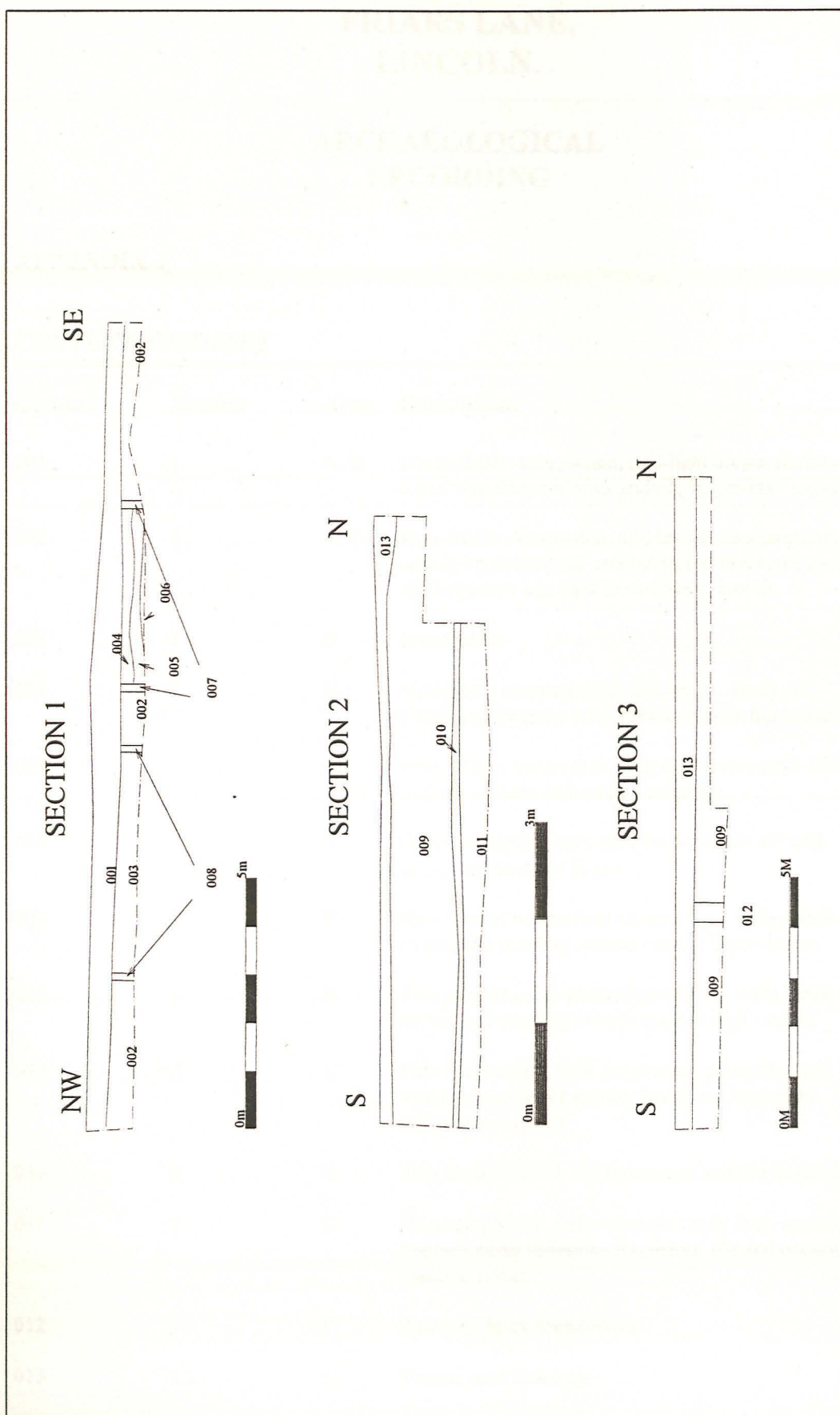


Fig. 3: Sections 1 - 3.



## FRIARS LANE, LINCOLN.

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

#### APPENDIX 1

##### CONTEXT SUMMARY

<i>Context</i>	<i>Section</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Description</i>
001	1	A, B	Loose-friable compaction, mid-light brown silt/sand soil, containing frequent brick and tile fragments - topsoil.
002	1	A, B	Firm-friable compaction, mid brown clay/sand soil, containing occasional small irregular limestone pieces, tile fragments and light brown sandy mortar.
003	1	B	Brick rubble
004	1	B	Moderately compact, mid-dark brown sandy silt, containing frequent brick rubble and tile fragments.
005	1	B	Firm-friable compaction, light-mid clay-coarse sand mix with no obvious inclusions - cellar fill.
006	1	B	Firm compaction, very dark brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks.
007		B	Two parallel north-south aligned brick walls, brick width, on bed and standing several courses high - cellar.
008	1	B	Two parallel north-south aligned brick walls, brick width, on bed and standing several courses high - cellar.
009	2	C	Firm compaction, light grey/brown sandy/clay soil with frequent small angular limestone fragments and charcoal flecks.
010	2	C	Thin band of small, flat limestones and tile fragments.
011	2	C	Firm compaction, yellow/brown sandy clay, containing frequent small limestone fragments, tile and occasional charcoal flecks.
012	3	C	East-west brick foundations.
013	2,3	C	Tarmac road make-up.



**FRIARS LANE,  
LINCOLN.**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
RECORDING**

**APPENDIX 2**

***LHA NOTE & ARCHIVE DETAILS***

***LHA NOTE DETAILS***

CLAU CODE: FLR96

CLAU REPORT No.: 273

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.: LE17/07/0709/95

FIELD OFFICER: Michael Jarvis

NGR: SK 9790 7132

CIVIL PARISH: Lincoln

SMR No.: -

DATE OF INTERVENTION: May - August, 1996

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Foxby Court Developments

***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.: 29.96

ACCESSION DATE: -