

CITY OF
◇ LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY ◇
U N I T



**THE BLUE MARLIN
(FORMERLY SWISS COTTAGE)
PUBLIC HOUSE, 35 NEWLAND, LINCOLN**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

By K Wragg

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO:281

Lincolnshire County Council

Archaeology Section

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A
Report to
Dale W.Lui, Architectural Designer
on behalf of
Blue Marlin U.K. Ltd.

November 1996

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Archaeological Watching Brief

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THE BLUE MARLIN (FORMERLY SWISS COTTAGE) PUBLIC HOUSE, 35 NEWLAND, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Development proposals for the site involved the construction of a new extension and conservatory to the rear of the public house, together with some investigation (and underpinning as required) of existing walls in the north-east corner of the site.

Much of the work on the site was concerned with removing apparently modern overburden in advance of the main construction, which was expected to require c.600mm deep foundations.

In view of the position of the site, in an area of high archaeological significance (see 2.0 below), it was decided by the Lincoln City Council's Planning Committee that groundworks should be monitored by means of an intermittent watching brief, and planning consent was conditioned accordingly.

As a result, during August 1996, the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (C.L.A.U.) was commissioned by Dale W.Lui *Architectural Designer*, on behalf of Blue Marlin U.K. Ltd. to carry out a watching brief on groundworks connected with the redevelopment of the above property, and archaeological observation was carried out between the 12th and 28th of August 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

Lincoln is situated at the point where the Jurassic limestone ridge known as the Lincoln Edge is cut by a glacial gap, through which the River Witham now flows. At its junction with the River Till, canalised as the Fosdyke, flowing from the west, is a presumed natural lake, the Brayford Pool. Its extent was much greater in antiquity than at present, and it is known to have existed at the time of the Roman Conquest. The first syllable of the colloquial Roman name for the City of Lincoln, *Lindum*, was derived from the Celtic word for "lake", "pool" or "marshy/water place" (Rivet & Smith, 1979).

The site lies in an area of known archaeological importance lying at the south-west corner of the lower Roman *Colonia*, and to the west of the medieval town wall (which extended as far as the north bank of the Brayford Pool). The area is believed likely to contain evidence of Roman, and later, medieval suburban occupation and land-use.

During excavations at The Park (at the Lincoln City Council offices, immediately to the north of the site), on the line of the lower city wall, two or three periods of building were found, sealed by the earliest rampart, which was built at the end of the 2nd or early in the 3rd century. Later, during the 4th century, a gateway was inserted through the defences, its frontal projections incorporating many large reused blocks. These included some decorated and moulded fragments from a temple or funerary monument; if the latter, it was probably located outside the walls, possibly close to the site.

While little or no evidence was found for activity during the majority of the Saxon period, re-occupation of the area within the walls seems to have begun in the 11th century.

The Roman fortifications are thought to have survived into the medieval period; the date at which the gate went out of use is uncertain

although it was certainly blocked by the 13th century. There was some evidence of occupation and structures throughout the medieval period.

To the south of the site, prior to the construction of a multi-storey car-park at the southern end of Lucy Tower Street (see Fig.1), excavations were undertaken to investigate the origin of this part of town and the extended town wall and tower.

During this excavation the earliest feature recorded was a possible Late Saxon jetty cut into the underlying peat layers.

Overlying the possible Saxon feature, a sloping foreshore of sand and peat was revealed. This was itself cut by a mid to late 12th century north-south channel, running into the Brayford, together with several posts, dating to the mid 13th century.

This area seems to have been periodically flooded by the Brayford during the early to mid 14th century, and the channel appears to have become blocked by silt, requiring re-cutting, on at least one occasion.

Rubble dumps provided consolidation for the construction of the extended city wall and the "Lucy" Tower in the early to mid 14th to 15th centuries, and both the Tower and internal construction surfaces were well preserved. To the west of the wall a possible drainage ditch was found to have been in use between the 14th and 16th centuries, before finally silting up. An east-west wall ran along the edge of the Brayford, to the east of the Tower, probably protecting the land behind from flooding. This wall was replaced whenever the level of the land rose through dumping.

In the mid 16th century the ditch was recut, the Lucy Tower was re-faced in brick, and possibly at this time the bases of two vats were set into the tower base. The east-west walls continued to be replaced.

By the mid 18th century the ditch had again silted up, and dumps of material raised the surface to the south of the tower during the 18th and 19th centuries. The tower was again re-faced, while to the west it was butted by an east-west brick wall which cut across the site of the ditch, and acted as a flood barrier to the west of the tower. The city wall was thoroughly robbed in the 18th or 19th century and the Lucy Tower was finally demolished in the mid 19th century.

3.0 RESULTS

The first elements of the groundworks involved levelling and stripping in the area of the proposed conservatory, to the rear of the existing building, which resulted in the removal of between 300mm and 1.0m of overburden (the original ground surface in this area had sloped down from north to south).

Following this initial work, a small network of c.800mm - 1.0m wide foundation trenches was excavated, to depths of between 400mm and 600mm below the stripped surface.

Only two deposits were recorded across the site, and now sign of any buried archaeological features was revealed.

The earliest of the deposits was a layer of moderate-loose compacted dark grey sandy, clayey earth, [100], which contained only modern brick and glass fragments. This layer was present across the whole site and was at least 1.0m thick.

[100] was overlain, at the north-west corner of the site, by a dump of mixed yellow-orange/grey sand, [101], containing no obvious inclusions.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

Ultimately the results from this watching brief have proved to be largely negative, with only relatively recent deposits uncovered by the trenching.

It must be borne in mind, however, that the areas investigated by the phase of trial pitting, and later revealed by the construction groundworks, were relatively small, and of limited depth. The possibility of encountering important archaeological remains, therefore cannot be discounted elsewhere on the site, and in the immediate vicinity.

5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit would like to thank the following for their assistance during this project: Mr Dale Lui, *Architectural Designer*, 8 Nelson Street, Lincoln, LN1 1PJ; Mr C.Alexander, Blue Marlin UK Ltd., 35 Newland, Lincoln; Staff of Asto Builders Ltd., 37 High Street, Lincoln.

6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Gilmour, B 1973 Lucy Tower Street, in - (ed) *Lincolnshire Archaeological Trust 1972-1973*, Annu Rep Lincoln Archaeol Trust 1, 4, Lincoln Archaeol Trust, Lincoln, [LAM BIB562]

Guy, C J 1986 *West Parade/Orchard Street. Archive Report*, [LAM BIB1073 on28/26/1]

Jarvis, M 1990 *The Park, 1990. Archive Report*, [LAM BIB1055 on178/26/1]

Rivet, A L F & Smith, C, 1979 *The place-names of Roman Britain*

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

7.0 LHA NOTE/ARCHIVE DETAILS

7.1 LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODE: NEW96

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.:
LA16/315/96

FIELD OFFICER: K. Wragg

NGR: SK 9726 7135

CIVIL PARISH: Lincoln

SMR No.:

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 12/08/96 -
28/08/96

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Mr D.Lui *Architectural Designer*, 8 Nelson Street, Lincoln, LN1 1PJ, on behalf of Blue Marlin UK Ltd., 35 Newland, 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.: 117.96

ACCESSION DATE:

**THE BLUE MARLIN
(FORMERLY SWISS
COTTAGE) PUBLIC
HOUSE, 35
NEWLAND, LINCOLN**

Archaeological Watching Brief

***APPENDIX A - ARCHIVE
DEPOSITION***

The archive consists of:

No.	Description
1	Site diary
1	Report
2	Context records
2	Scale drawings
1 set	Photographic records - Colour slides

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 117.96, will be undertaken following completion of this project.

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE: NEW96 | PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:

CLIENT: Dale W. Lui Architectural Designer on behalf of Blue Marlin UK Ltd.

DESCRIPTION:
Site Location Plan

SCALE: 1:1250 | ARCHIVE NO:

DRAWN BY: | CHECKED: | DATE:

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 117.96



KEY



Location of Site

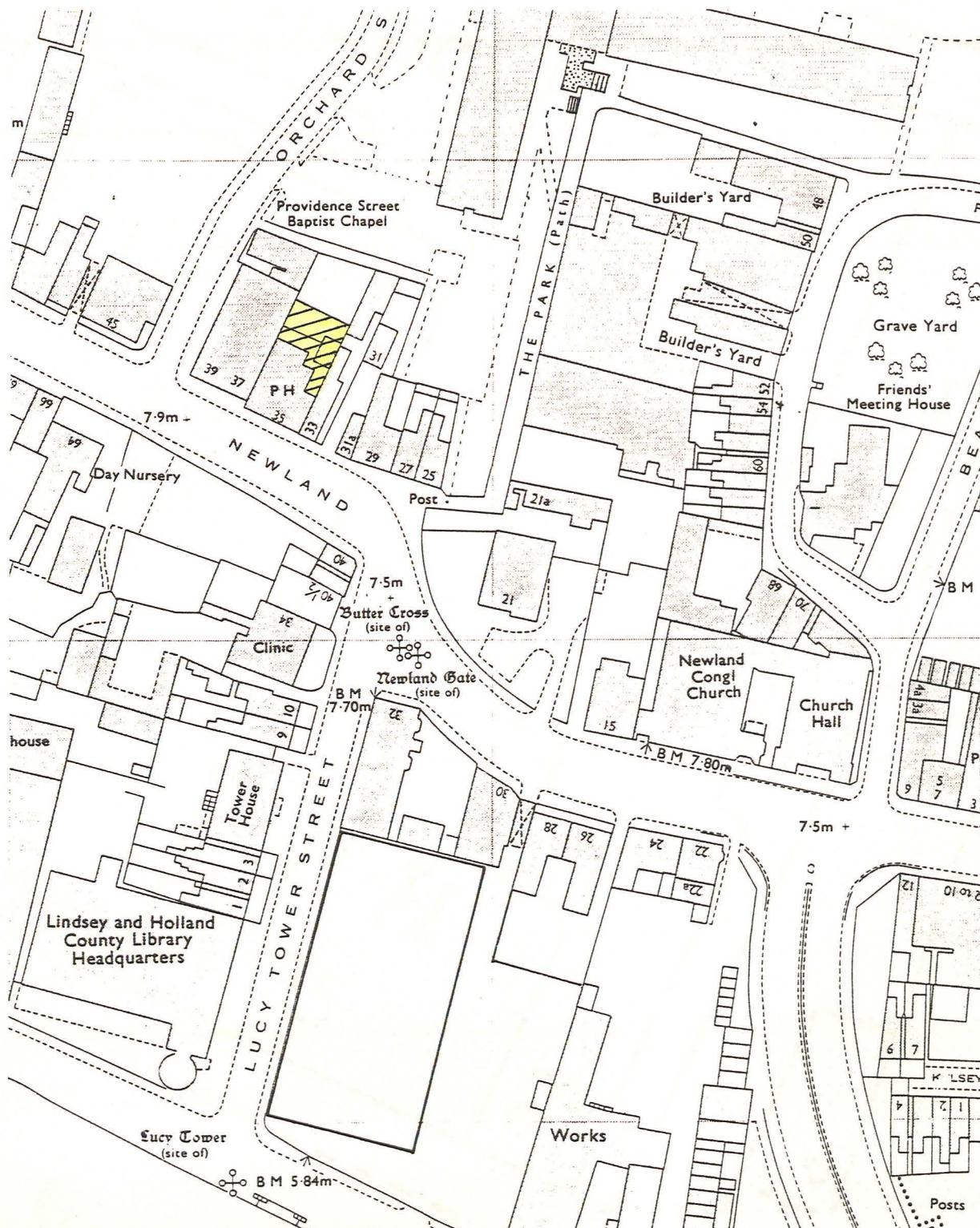


Fig.1

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE: NEW96 | PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:

CLIENT: Dale W. Lui Architectural Designer on behalf of Blue Marlin UK Ltd.

DESCRIPTION:
Trench Location Plan

SCALE: 1:200 | ARCHIVE NO:

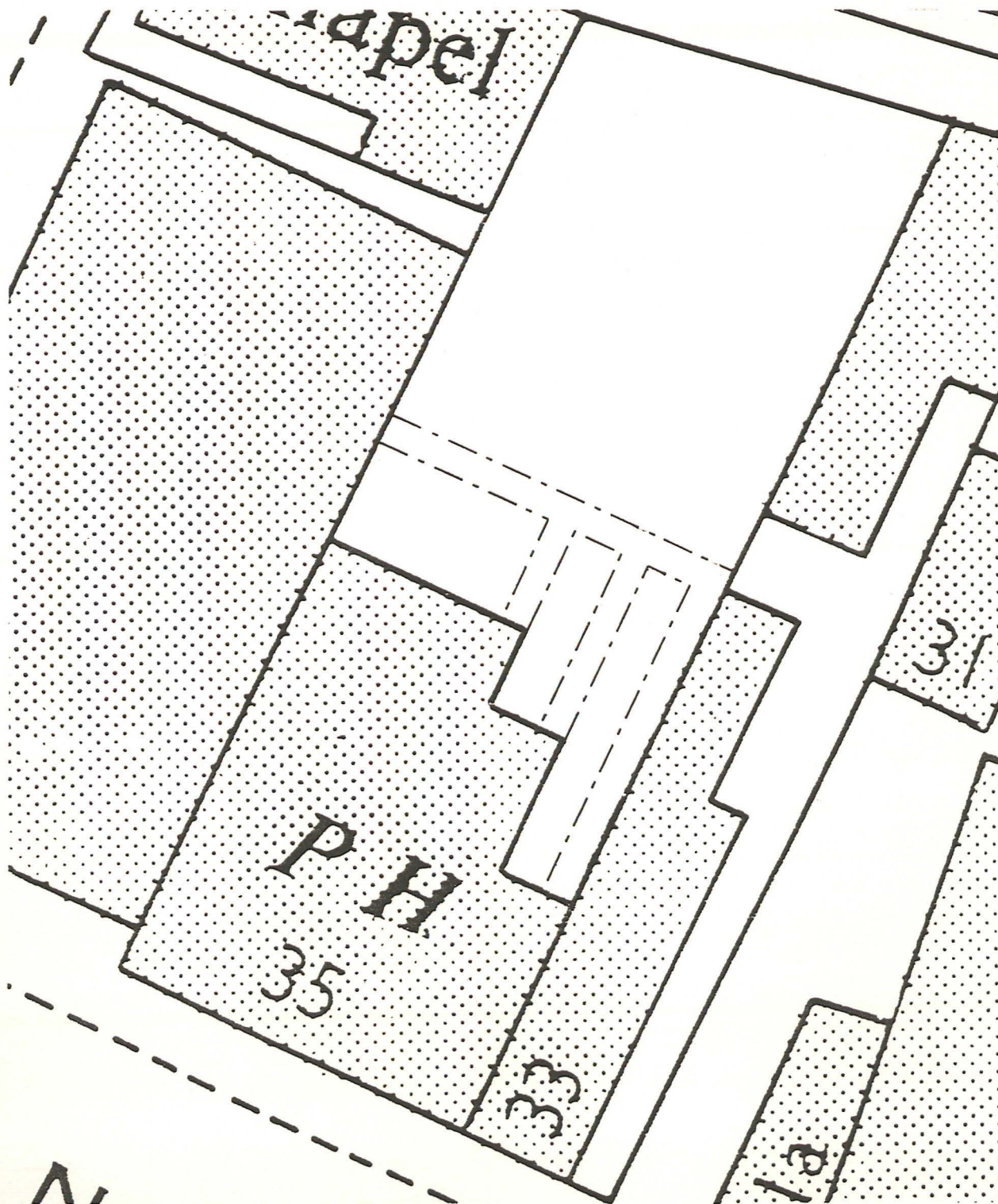
DRAWN BY: | CHECKED: | DATE:

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 117.96



KEY

--- Trench Location



Based upon the 1971 Ordnance Survey 1:500 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright.

Fig.2