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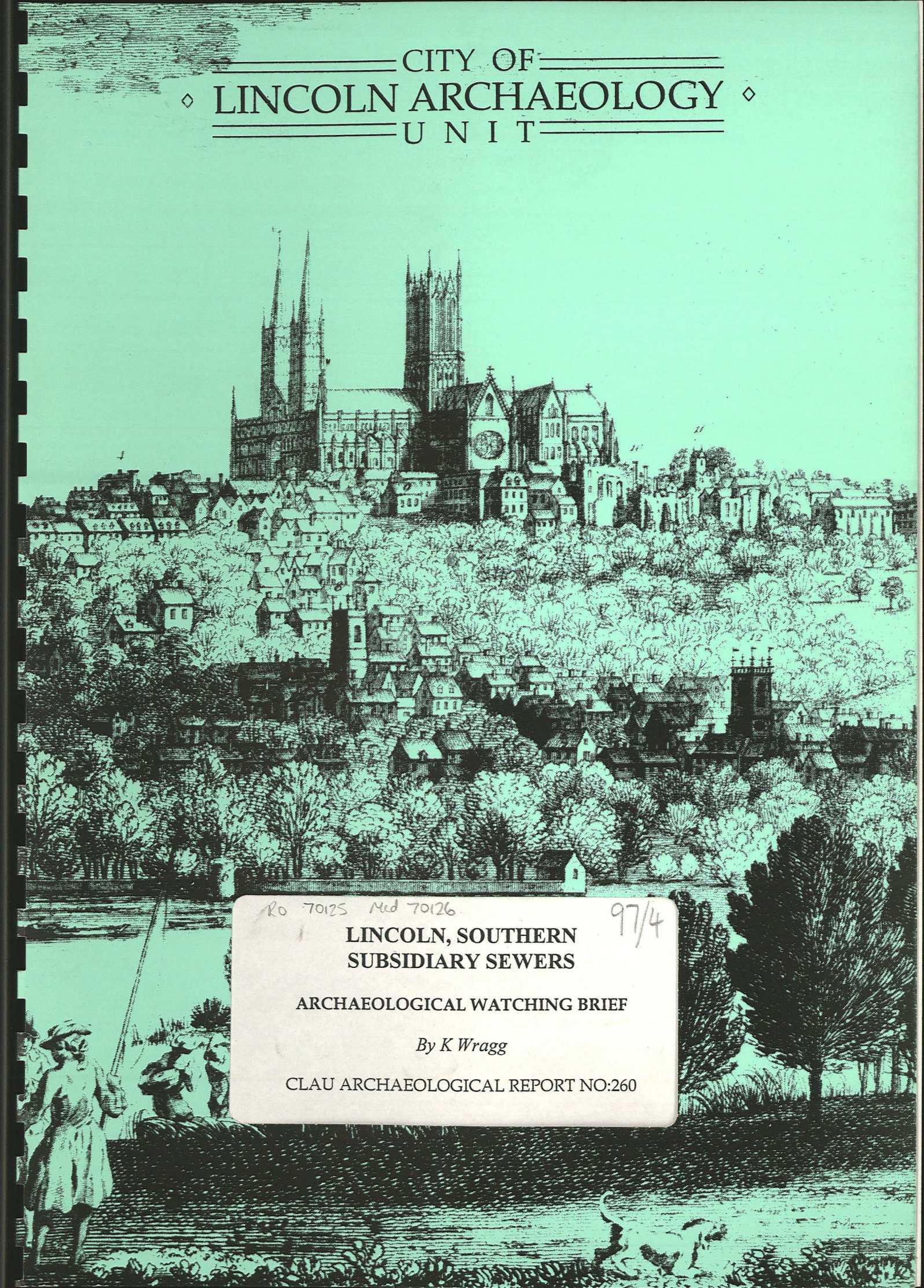
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LINCOLN, SOUTHERN  
SUBSIDIARY SEWERS

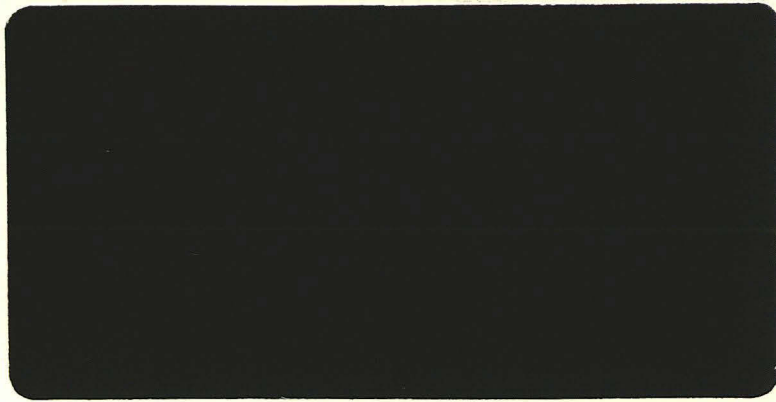
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

*By K Wragg*

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO:260







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***Anglian Water Services Ltd.***

**March 1997**

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# LINCOLN, SOUTHERN SUBSIDIARY SEWERS

## Archaeological Watching Brief

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# LINCOLN, SOUTHERN SUBSIDIARY SEWERS

## Archaeological Watching Brief

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# LINCOLN, SOUTHERN SUBSIDIARY SEWERS

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

### *NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY*

This project resulted from plans to renew existing sewer arrangements in an area to the east of High Street, Lincoln, involving Nelthorpe Street, Sibthorp Street & Monson Street (Phase 1A-E); Ripon Street & St. Andrew's Street (Phase 2A-E); and Pennell Street (Phase 3).

All trenches were to be machine-excavated to depths of between 2.0m and 4.0m, and were designed to follow, where possible, the route of the existing sewers. The only area where this approach would not be practical was at the western end of Pennell Street where, owing to the proximity of existing structures (in this case the boundary wall of the infants school), the new trench was relocated c. 3m south of the existing pipe, to run within the carriageway of the road (see Fig.4).

In view of the high probability of encountering archaeological remains in this section of the trench (most notably burials associated with the medieval church of St. Michael of Wigford), and considering the archaeological potential of the remaining areas, it was recommended that groundworks should be monitored archaeologically.

Although trenching covered a wide area, the plan to install the new pipeline along existing pipe routes made the probability of discovery of substantial archaeological remains in most locations somewhat low. This was ultimately borne out by the results, which revealed little or no sign of archaeological occupation in the majority of the areas investigated.

The sole exception to this was, as expected, the section of trench excavated at the western end of Pennell Street, the results from which have largely served to establish, without doubt, the

location of part of the graveyard of the medieval parish church of St. Michael in Wigford.

Unfortunately, despite recovering the remains of between 130 and 140 individuals, little in the way of conclusive dating evidence was uncovered to allow positive dates for any individual phases of use in the burial ground. The limited number of pottery and tile fragments that were recovered date to between the late 9<sup>th</sup> and mid 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, and while this does not answer specific questions relating to the inhumation dates of individual burials, it does support a possible foundation date for the church around the time of the Norman Conquest, with abandonment taking place in the late 15<sup>th</sup>/early 16<sup>th</sup> century as expected from documentary sources. Furthermore, while the current project has defined the easterly and westerly extents of the burial ground, additional work would be required to establish its north and south boundaries.

Considerable information relating to the demographic profile of the inhabitants of the parish has been revealed by the specialist analysis of the human remains, although again, it is considered that the sample size was insufficient to provide a complete interpretation of this area. In spite of this, the information is nevertheless of great value, and will hopefully be used to assist further studies into both burials of this period generally, and for any future work on this particular site. The assessment report of the human skeletal remains has been issued as a separate publication, but an extract, in the form of the summary and conclusions, has been included in this report as Appendix C.

The final area offering evidence for occupation, albeit much less substantial, was Monson Street. It is possible that multiple layers of dumped material, and perhaps occupation surfaces, were present within the trench sections, although this could not be confirmed beyond doubt, owing to problems with visibility and trench access. Given the archaeological discoveries made on sites in the immediate vicinity of the pipeline route along Monson Street, it seems unlikely that buried archaeological remains are not preserved in this area. It is therefore probable that if a programme of systematic excavation, cleaning and recording were attempted in this area, more sense could be made of the deposits revealed during this project.



# LINCOLN, SOUTHERN SUBSIDIARY SEWERS

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

At the end of 1995, the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (C.L.A.U.) was approached by the Conservation Division of Anglian Water Services Limited (A.W.S.L.), for comment on the archaeological/conservation implications of a proposed new sewer scheme.

The scheme involved the insertion of 375mm diameter sewer pipes along Nelthorpe Street & Sibthorp Street, and 1500mm x 1500mm concrete box culvert along Monson Street (Phase 1A-E); 450mm diameter pipes along Ripon Street & St.Andrew's Street (Phase 2A-E); and 450mm diameter pipe on Pennell Street (Phase 3) (see Fig.1).

All trenches were to be machine-excavated to maximum depths of between 2.0m and 4.0m, and were designed to follow, where possible, the route of the existing sewers. The only area where this approach would not be practical was at the western end of Pennell Street where, owing to the proximity of existing structures (in this case the boundary wall of the Infants School), the new trench was relocated c. 3m south of the existing pipe, to run within the carriageway of the road.

In view of the high probability of encountering archaeological remains in this section of the trench (most notably burials associated with the medieval church of St.Michael of Wigford), and considering the archaeological potential of the remaining areas (see 2.2, below), it was recommended that groundworks should be monitored archaeologically.

As a result, during January 1996 the C.L.A.U. was commissioned to carry out an intermittent watching brief on the pipelaying works, and observation was carried out on the site between 12<sup>th</sup> January and 20<sup>th</sup> 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

#### 2.1 Historical evidence

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. Reclamation has taken place along the banks of both the Witham and Brayford Pool since the Roman period.

On historical evidence, the Roman army may have reached Lincoln by c.A.D.50 and by A.D.96 Lincoln had the status of a *colonia*, utilizing the uphill site of the Neronian fortress. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> century a Roman suburb developed to the south of the city wall encompassing the area known as Wigford. This suburb grew and prospered well into the 4<sup>th</sup> century.

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

The City continued to develop during the Early Medieval period with the Wigford suburb extending towards the St.Catherine's area, and



becoming an increasingly important area for trade.

## 2.2 Archaeological evidence

Several archaeological investigations have taken place around the area of the development, with finds uncovered along Monson Street, High Street, Sibthorp Street, and at the western end of Pennell Street.

Of particular interest to this scheme were the remains seen along Monson Street, and within St. Mary's Guildhall (Sibthorp Street). The discoveries on Monson Street (1982) comprised four late 1<sup>st</sup> century Roman cremations, together with the foundations for a rectilinear structure of the same date (thought possibly to be a mausoleum), with later, possibly commercial, structures fronting on to the Roman *Ermine Street* to the west. In addition to the discoveries of more recent times, several fragments of Roman Legionary tombstone were also unearthed here during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The work carried out within and around St. Mary's Guildhall (1982-6) provides us with the greatest density of archaeological evidence (not surprising when it is considered that elements of the upstanding structure are thought to be original and date from the 12<sup>th</sup> century). Here the remains of the two major Roman roads that converged on the city from the south, the *Fosse Way* and *Ermine Street*, appear to have been identified, together with parts of Roman "strip buildings" (possibly traders' houses) enclosed by the roads. This occupation was overlain by 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> century dumping activity, and the subsequent construction of the Guildhall, thought to have taken place in the 1150's - 1160's. Evidence for substantial Medieval development and redevelopment is also to be seen within the remaining buildings and in the surrounding areas, giving a cross section of almost all periods of occupation within the City of Lincoln.

Of direct relevance to the current scheme, was the project undertaken in 1992/3 to relay watermains in the general area between the High Street and Sincil Dyke, which involved trenching, albeit of a relatively shallow nature, along several of the streets encompassed by the proposed sewer renewal.

The main discoveries during this earlier project included a series of nine burials found on Pennell Street, which were almost certainly associated with the graveyard of St. Michael in Wigford, a medieval church demolished in 1533. The burials were revealed on the extreme northern edge of the road carriageway, immediately south of the Victoria infants school, which now occupies the site of the church, at a depth of approximately 900mm below the modern road surface.

A second group of features occurred at the western end of Sibthorp Street, just to the south of St. Mary's Guildhall, and would appear to be connected with the Roman streets, or their later replacements, known to be present in this location. The features uncovered included two small sections of possible rough stone walls, or foundations, the easternmost perhaps representing part of a structure to the east of the Roman *Ermine Street*. Orientation of these features was difficult to determine owing to the size of the trench but, immediately to the west of the second of these possible walls, evidence for a rough metalled surface was seen. This occurred 17m to the east of High street, approximately 1.1m below the modern road, and appears to be the eastern edge of the westernmost Roman road, the *Fosse Way*. As the trenching moved closer to High street, this rough surface was seen to develop into a much more substantial one (as would befit a major route), made up of a layer of limestone pieces overlying at least four layers of sandy mortar and gravel. The upper parts of this feature lay 700mm below the modern road and the surfaces were seen to continue to a point approximately 6m to the east of High street, where trenching ended (the western edge of this surface was not seen, as the layers continued into the trench section). No dating evidence was recovered from any of these features, with only one architectural fragment being recovered from dump layers above these surfaces, dating to the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is therefore difficult to say which period these features date from with any certainty. The depth and location of the surfaces in particular, however, appear to suggest a Roman origin when viewed together with more definite evidence seen during excavations within the confines of the St. Mary's Guildhall and more recently further to the north.



### 3.0 RESULTS

*Note: While the individual phases of the proposed scheme were numbered consecutively, this numbering did not actually represent the order in which these areas were undertaken. Therefore, for the purpose of the archaeological record, a series of Area codes was issued in order of commencement, and these codes are used below.*

#### 3.1 Area 1 - Pennell Street (Phase 3) (see Fig.4)

The trenching along Pennell Street was the only element of the project to reveal identifiable buried archaeological remains, including part of the medieval graveyard of St. Michael in Wigford, and the eastern edge of the Roman precursor to the High Street, the *Fosse Way*.

The excavations resulted in a trench measuring c.1.2m wide (N-S) and between 2.0m (at the eastern end of Pennell Street) and 3.5m deep (at the junction of High Street and Pennell Street), which ran along the north side of the carriageway of the existing street.

In common with other areas of the project, the easternmost 50m length of this trench followed the line of the existing sewer pipes. The remaining 50m length at the western end of the trench, however, required new pipework to be laid approximately 3m to the south of the existing. As trenching progressed eastwards the new trench gradually converged on the line of the present sewer.

The earliest deposit revealed in this trench was seen at the junction of Pennell Street and High Street, and represents the natural (i.e., geological) deposit for the area. This layer, [287], comprised a moderately compacted orange sand containing no obvious inclusions (identical to layer [222] revealed in Area 2), which was at least 1.0m thick to L.O.E. (the upper surface of this deposit was encountered at approximately 3.63m O.D.). Two very thin lenses of mid grey sand, and black sand/ash (contexts [286] & [285], respectively), c.5-10mm thick at the most, were then recorded, overlying the natural sand deposit.

Sealing these lenses was the remains of a metallated road surface, [284], assumed to be part of the Roman street, the *Fosse Way*. The upper levels of this surface were revealed c.2.2m below the present road carriageway (@ 3.93m O.D.), and comprised a series of layers of limestone pieces mixed with mortar/concrete.

The metallated surface was between 300mm and 400mm thick, and was overlain by a c.700mm thick layer of mottled mid brown/light grey sandy silt, [107], which was present throughout the trench.

To the east, towards the central part of the graveyard (approximately 30m to the east of High Street), layer [107] was cut by three features ([204]; [205] & [218]). Two of these ([204] & [205]), appeared to be possible stake- or post-holes, each measuring between 50mm and 80mm in diameter, while [218] was probably a circular pit feature. This latter cut measured c.800mm (diameter) x 300mm (depth), and was filled by [217], which basically appeared to be redeposited [107] (as described above). A further deposit was seen to overlay [107] at the eastern end of the graveyard (c.45m to the east of High Street), which comprised a dump of possible burnt material, [215]. Again this seemed very similar to the underlying [107], although in this case it was blackened & reddened and contained amounts of charcoal and ash.

All of these features were then sealed by a layer of mid brown fine sandy silt, [226], which contained occasional small pieces of limestone, pottery, tile, and very occasional small flecks of charcoal. This layer formed the immediate pre-cemetery level, into which all burials were cut.



### The Burials:

As mentioned above, the majority of the archaeological finds along this section of the trench comprised burials associated with the medieval graveyard of St. Michael's. During excavation it was estimated that at least eighty individuals were recovered from at least seventy-three graves. This original estimate was made only on the basis of the obvious burials, and did not account for the number removed by machine during trenching, and recovered from the machine-excavated spoil. The final total, confirmed following the specialist analysis of the remains, substantially increased this figure to between **130 and 140 individuals**, but even this number is not considered large enough to provide a meaningful sample of the burials, and probably represents only a small proportion of the graveyard.

Notwithstanding the difficult circumstances under which excavation took place (January 1996 was particularly inclement, with a mixture of heavy snow, freezing temperatures and driving rain, in addition to the shorter winter daylight hours), the main problem in identifying the individual grave cuts was caused by the homogeneous nature of the ground. This, together with a general lack of dating evidence, has made the allocation of individual graves to different phases of use for the graveyard virtually impossible. However, from the multiple intercutting burials found in several locations, it would appear that at least four phases are present, although as stated it is not possible to place them into their historic context.

In general, the majority of the burials were found to be contained within simple earth graves with no sign of coffins or stone cists (i.e., a stone coffin made from individual stone slabs rather than a single piece of stone), and while a quantity of iron nails was found throughout the trench, there were not sufficient numbers to suggest that coffins had ever been present. Further, little or no sign was found of clothing or other accoutrements on the buried individuals, with the exception of two small fragments of textile (grave 20) and a simple copper-alloy belt buckle (grave 22), the latter dating to the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century.

The first burials to be excavated (graves 1; 5; 6; 7; 8; 36; & 37) were encountered on the

22<sup>nd</sup> January 1996 approximately 10m to the east of the High Street, and were largely contained within the trench sections, at depths of between 5.07m and 5.37m O.D. (see Figs.5 & 6 for plans of burials). An additional quantity of bones, representing further burials contained in the central part of the trench, was inadvertently removed by machine before it was realised that the graveyard had in fact been encountered. As no graves could be identified for this latter group of burials, and indeed the remains were so disturbed to make identification of individuals impossible, it was decided that this group, together with all subsequent machine-disturbed bones, would be collected as part of the layer overlying the graves (this layer, [106], is assumed to overlay all of the graves revealed).

The only positively identified limestone cists were found in this area (graves 5 & 36), and while they were largely contained within the trench sections, it could be determined that they consisted of a number of flat limestone slabs, arranged vertically around the skeleton, together with similar pieces of limestone laid horizontally to form a lid.

### Methodology

Once the presence of graves had been positively identified at the western end of the trench, machine-excavation continued under direct archaeological supervision. At the first sign of further concentrations of bones, the machine was halted, and hand-excavation commenced. By working in this way we ensured that the majority of the burials were undisturbed by the machining, whilst still allowing relatively fast progress along the trench. It was decided, by both the archaeologists and the pipelaying contractors, that the optimum length of trench open at any time was c.10m, and removal of the burials proceeded on this basis, with one 10m section of trench being cleared before further areas were uncovered.

As the trenching continued towards the east, burials were encountered relatively consistently throughout the next 30m of trench, with no substantial breaks. It was noted, however, that burials appeared to be more dense in the central 10m section of the presumed 30m width of the graveyard, while the easternmost 10m area was less intensively utilised.



*Western part of the Graveyard (Fig.5)*

In the first 10m length of the trench to be investigated under more controlled conditions, the first discovery was two relatively complete skeletons (grave 2 @ c.5.17m O.D., and grave 4 @ c.4.57m O.D.) immediately to the east of the first group of burials. Of these two graves, the latter was then sealed by the western part of a possible mass inhumation, grave 3. This comprised at least seven articulated individuals lying c.1.0m below the existing road surface (@ 5.06m O.D.), apparently laid together in a "communal" grave cut. Unlike other graves seen further to the east, it appeared that the multiple burial had occurred contemporaneously, rather than as a result of the excavations for later graves revealing previous burials. Also, the fact that the remains of the individuals were found to be articulated, it would preclude any possibility that this was some form of charnel pit, holding relocated remains from other cleared parts of the graveyard (unless of course the individuals had been removed from their original locations very soon after burial, which is somewhat unlikely). Therefore, in the absence of any other explanation, it is assumed that the seven individuals were all buried at the same time, and in the same grave, although why this would have been necessary is not known.

Approximately 0.5m to the east of grave 3, an isolated burial (grave 27) was partially revealed in the south facing section of the trench (at a depth of 1.0m below the road surface, c.5.05m O.D.), beyond which the density of graves increased dramatically.

Beginning at a point approximately 15m to the east of the High Street, a group of at least twenty-one intercutting graves (graves 9-11; 12 (a possible charnel pit); 13-26; 33-35) was revealed, extending over the next 5m of the trench. The majority of the graves found in the eastern half of this group appeared to be very disturbed, and it is possible that the remains identified as belonging to seven individual graves (nos.9 & 10; 15; 18; 33-35), were actually part of an additional charnel pit (i.e. distinct from that identified as grave 12, context [134]). The presence of pieces of limestone slab (probably originating from one or more cist burials) could however indicate that this disturbance was due more to the continued and intensive re-use over time of this particular part of the graveyard, rather than the deliberate relocation and disturbance

of existing graves to clear space for further burials.

The burials contained in this area all occurred at depths of between 850mm and 1.15m below the existing ground level (c. 5.19m O.D. to 4.89m O.D.), and were laid one atop the next, with up to four "levels" of burials revealed in the north facing section. Two individuals in this group had also suffered head injuries, one of which (grave 18, context [119]) may have contributed to their death. While this particular injury was probably caused by a fall, that sustained by the second individual (grave 33, context [141]) was almost certainly not the result of an accident. The skull of [141] appeared to have suffered multiple and powerful blows, deliberately inflicted with a blunt instrument. According to the position of the lesions, it would appear that the person was hit from behind, on both sides of the head. Ironically it would appear that while the fall experienced by [119] was sufficient to cause their death, the severe beating received by [141] was not!. This particular individual appears to have lived for a number of years after the beating, and the final cause of death is thought to have been unrelated to the attack (Boghi & Boylston, 1997).

The charnel pit present at the eastern side of this group (grave 12, context [134]), appears to have contained the partial, disarticulated remains of at least eight individuals, probably moved from their original locations in an attempt to clear space for future use. The pit itself was then overlain by the final two graves of this group (nos.13 & 16), which comprised largely complete, articulated burials, both found at a depth of approximately 1.0m below the existing road (@ c.5.04m O.D.).

From this point eastwards, the burials became somewhat more regular, with complete, articulated burials being the norm (albeit with some continued mixing of old and new burials caused by truncation), rather than the much more disturbed burials found thus far.

The final small group of inhumations found in this first 10m length of trench comprised a series of five individual graves, 28-32. All of these occurred at depths of between 900mm and 1.0m below the present ground level (c.5.10m - 5.00m O.D.), and as mentioned above contained articulated remains.

Some truncation of earlier graves was apparent, with grave 31 (context [133]) cut by



the later grave 30/context [132] (resulting in the majority of the lower half of [133] being removed, and redeposited as part of the fill of grave 30). A similar set of events appeared to have taken place immediately to the north, where grave 29 contained the remains of two individuals. The first, [131], was largely complete and articulated, while the second, [130], was disarticulated and appeared to represent an earlier burial disturbed by later excavation, and then redeposited in the new grave.



Plate 1: Truncation of earlier burials by later graves

The excavation of this initial 10m length of trench through the graveyard was completed on the 29<sup>th</sup> January. Following removal of the

human remains from this part of the trench the pipelaying was restarted, and it was not until 2<sup>nd</sup> February that further excavation was carried to the east.

#### *Central Part of the Graveyard (see Figs.5 & 6)*

The first burials to be encountered along the second 10m length of trench comprised a group of three very fragmentary burials (graves 39; 40 & 58), which appeared to have been truncated by a modern linear N-S service trench, [162]. Despite the obvious disturbance caused by this intrusive feature, all burials appeared to have originally been articulated, and were present c.1.0m - 1.2m below the modern road (4.98m - 4.78m O.D.).

Immediately to the east of the service trench [162], a further group of graves, numbering at least twenty (nos.38; 41-49; 52-54; 62-68), was revealed at depths of between 700mm and 1.35m (5.27m - 4.61m O.D.). Virtually all of this group comprised complete, articulated skeletons, although as before some intermixing was apparent due to later truncation. This was especially clear in the case of grave 67 (context [173]), where most of the upper torso, including the pelvis, had been cut away by the later grave 66 ([153], again with the disturbed remains then being re-deposited in the new grave cut. In fact the specialist analysis of the contents of grave 66 revealed that there were actually the remains of a minimum of four skeletons in this single grave (see below).

Other graves of interest in this part of the trench included no.54 (context [175]), which was a further possible charnel deposit containing the partial remains of at least three individuals, and no.42 (contexts [158a] & [158b]), which comprised the remains of a woman aged 36-45 years together with a skeleton of perinatal/foetal age (i.e. < 1 year of age). It is likely that the latter burial represents a death, during or shortly after childbirth, of both mother and child, a situation far from uncommon during the medieval period.

#### *Eastern part of the Graveyard*

The final section of graveyard present within this trench was revealed when excavation was recommenced on the 8<sup>th</sup> February. This part of the project succeeded in locating the eastern



the project succeeded in locating the eastern boundary of the burial ground (situated approximately 45m to the east of the modern High Street), together with a further thirteen graves.

Of this total, ten (graves 50-51; 55-57; 60; 69-72) were situated immediately to the east of the preceding burials, and were concentrated in a 5m length of trench. In general these burials continued the theme established further to the west, with the majority of the graves containing relatively complete, articulated skeletons. The graves were encountered at depths of between 900mm and 1.25m below existing ground levels (5.01m O.D. - 4.69m O.D.).

As before, truncation of earlier graves by later burials was apparent, with the most extreme case of this being grave 69 (context [123]). In this case, in addition to the complete, articulated remains of an old female, the grave also contained elements of up to three further individuals (probably parts of contexts [180]-[182], graves 55, 57 & 70).

Immediately to the east of these burials, the first area clear of graves was revealed. Although only measuring c.2.0m E-W this appeared to be an indication that the burial ground was reaching its eastern limit, and beyond this point only three further graves were uncovered (see Fig.6).

Of these three burials, the most easternmost was grave 59 (context 190), which appeared to be the remains of an adolescent (aged 11-17). This individual was laid with the hands crossed at the waist, c.1.0m below the existing road surface (4.88m O.D.). Of particular interest with this burial was the fact that a recent blue plastic waterpipe was present immediately below the spine of the skeleton (see Plate 2, below). This pipe was probably installed during the watermains renewal undertaken during 1992/3, and serves as a perfect illustration of the successful application of the moled pipe insertion technique.

The final two graves found during this project, nos.61 & 73, were situated immediately to the east of grave 59, and comprised the remains of two females, both aged between 26 and 35. Grave 61 (context [213]) was located adjacent to the south side of the trench, at a depth of c. 1.2m below existing ground level, while grave 73 was found at the north side, partially within

the south facing section. The skeleton within grave 73 (context [207]) was c.900mm below the present road surface (i.e., @ approximately 4.98m O.D.), and was complete except for the lower legs, which had been truncated by a later cut feature [214].

This latter feature was also partially contained within the south facing section, and measured

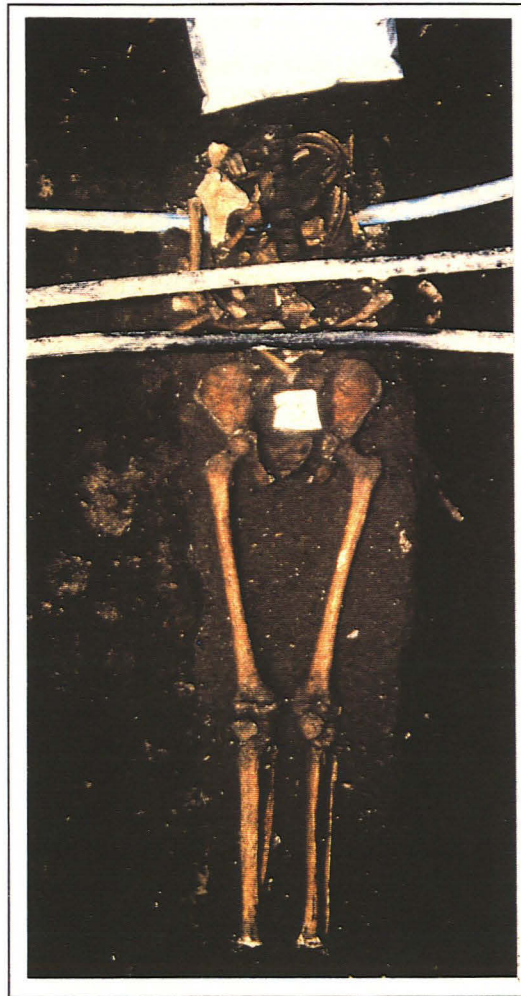


Plate 2: Skeleton [190], with "moled" waterpipe below spine

c. 1.0m E-W. It would appear likely that this feature is unconnected with the graveyard, and represents later occupation of the site (unfortunately no dating evidence was recovered to confirm this theory).

As mentioned previously, the homogeneity of the layers present within the graveyard made identification of individual graves and grave-fills almost impossible, and it was therefore



decided to issue a single context number to encompass all indistinct grave-fills. It is therefore assumed that all graves were overlain by this layer, [106].

[106] itself was approximately 1.0m thick, and almost identical to the underlying layer [107] (see above). The upper boundary of layer [106] was present c.500mm below the existing road surface, lying immediately beneath the limestone hardcore deposit [110]. Several modern services were encountered at this point, cutting through [110] to depths of between 600mm and 1.10m. The majority of these were water services, oriented N-S, probably inserted during 1992.

The final deposit recorded along the length of Area 1 was [109], the existing tarmac surface for the carriageway.

### 3.2 Area 2 - Monson Street (Phases 1A & 1B) (see Figs.2 & 8)

This section of the trenching was designed to follow the line of the existing sewer, although as trenching progressed the trench width was to be increased to allow the replacement of the existing sewer pipe with a large pre-fabricated concrete box culvert.

The trench at the western end of Monson Street measured approximately 1.2m wide (N-S) and was excavated to a depth of c.4m, with either trench sheet or shoring boxes in use to support the trench sections, and to protect the pipe-laying team. Unfortunately, the use of these forms of shoring severely restricted archaeological observation, with recording only possible at the narrow ends of the trench, rather than along the side sections of the trench.

At a point adjacent to nos.11 & 12 Monson Street, the trench width was increased to c.2.5m to allow the insertion of the new box culvert, and similar methods of shoring were also employed for this part of the trench.

As a result, the archaeological record obtained along this area of the project is produced from a series of individual "snap-shots" revealed during the trenching, rather than from continuous observation of the entire trench.

The stratigraphy that was recorded appeared largely constant throughout the excavated area, with only four basic deposits revealed

(including the upper modern road surface and make-up layers). It did however appear likely that the main layer [221] (see below), actually comprised several different deposits, although this could not be confirmed. Several indistinct horizons of tile fragments and mortar lenses were noted within this layer, possibly indicating dumping horizons (and perhaps different occupation horizons), but without detailed cleaning and observation it proved impossible to understand their significance.

The earliest deposit revealed was [222], a layer of moderately compacted orange sand containing no obvious inclusions, which appeared identical to layer [287] seen at the western end of Area 1. [222] would seem to be a natural (i.e. geological) deposit and featured throughout Area 2, being at least 2.0m thick to L.O.E.

Layer [222] was overlain by [221], which comprised a mixed, moderately compacted, mid brown sandy silt c.1.5m - 1.6m thick, which contained only occasional small limestone and tile inclusions. Again this deposit appeared to have a parallel in Area 1, being very similar to the pre-cemetery horizon, [226]. While few inclusions were noted within [221], those that were present often appeared to form indistinct horizons, which while probably too insubstantial to represent occupation levels, could mark dumping horizons or tip-lines.

These two deposits formed the majority of the exposed stratigraphy, and the only deposits of archaeological potential. The only other layers revealed during the trenching were the modern hardcore bedding, [220], and the tarmac surface [219], for the existing road surface, which made up the uppermost 300mm - 400mm of the trench. In addition, numerous modern services were seen to cross the trench at regular intervals, and at depths of between 500mm and 2.5m, but these were not recorded in any detail.

### 3.3 Area 3 - Nelthorpe & Sibthorp Streets (Phases 1C, 1D & 1E) (see Fig.2)

This Area joined with Area 2 at its eastern end, and the deposits revealed were basically a continuation of those seen further to the north. The trench depth for this element of the project was gradually reduced as work progressed south along Nelthorpe Street, and into Sibthorp



Street, resulting in a trench depth of only 1.2m - 1.5m at the junction of Sibthorp Street and Prior Street.

The stratigraphy revealed comprised layer [221] present to L.O.E., overlain by hardcore/road surface [220]/[219], and no evidence for archaeological features, finds or artefacts was recorded.

### 3.4 Area 4 - St. Andrew's Street & Ripon Street (Phase 2) (see Fig.3)

At the outset of the project this part of the trenching was afforded relatively little priority, in view of its position beyond the original boundary of the Wigford suburb (and its Roman predecessor), i.e. Sincil Dyke, and the generally negative results of work undertaken in this area of the City in previous years.

Visits were made at selected times during the trenching programme (generally at the beginning, at the halfway point, and finally towards the final stages of the trenching in each street), rather than on a regular basis during the excavations.

The results of the trenching along these two streets were, as expected, completely negative, with no evidence of archaeological finds or features revealed.

The earliest deposit recorded comprised a moderate-loose compacted, friable, mixed mid brown sandy silt and mid-light yellow sand layer [225]. This was at least 2.0m thick to L.O.E., and contained no obvious inclusions.

Layer [225] lay immediately beneath the 300mm-400mm thick hardcore bedding [224] for the modern carriageway [223].

## 4.0 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

Although trenching covered a wide area, the plan to install the new pipeline along existing pipe routes made the probability of discovery of substantial archaeological remains in most locations somewhat low. This was ultimately borne out by the results, which revealed only limited signs of archaeological occupation in the majority of the areas investigated.

The sole exception to this was the section of trench excavated at the western end of Pennell Street, the results from which have largely served to establish, without doubt, the location of the graveyard of the medieval St. Michael in Wigford parish church.

Unfortunately, despite recovering the remains of between 130 and 140 individuals, little in the way of conclusive dating evidence was uncovered to allow positive dates for any individual phases of use in the burial ground. The limited number of pottery and tile fragments that were recovered date to between the late 9<sup>th</sup> and mid 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, and while this does not answer specific questions relating to the inhumation dates of individual burials, it does support a possible foundation date for the church around the time of the Norman Conquest, with abandonment taking place in the late 15<sup>th</sup>/early 16<sup>th</sup> century as suggested by documentary sources. Furthermore, while the current project has defined the eastern and western limits of the burial ground, additional work would be required to establish its northern and southern boundaries.

Considerable information relating to the demographic profile of the inhabitants of the parish has been revealed by the specialist analysis of the human remains (see Appendix C, below), although again it is considered that the sample size was insufficient to provide a complete interpretation of this area. In spite of this, the information is nevertheless of great value, and will hopefully be used to assist further studies into both burials of this period generally, and for any future work on this particular site. The assessment report of the human skeletal remains has been issued as a separate publication (ref. Boghi & Boylston, 1997), but an extract, in the form of the summary and conclusions, has been included in this report as Appendix C.

The final area offering evidence for occupation, albeit much more insubstantial, was Monson Street. It is possible that multiple layers of dumped material, and perhaps occupation surfaces, were present within the trench sections, although this could not be confirmed beyond doubt, owing to problems with visibility and trench access. Given the archaeological discoveries made on sites in the immediate vicinity of the pipeline route along Monson Street, it seems unlikely that buried archaeological remains are not preserved in this area. It is therefore probable that if a



programme of systematic excavation, cleaning and recording were attempted in this area, more sense could be made of the deposits revealed during this project.

## 5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit would like to thank the following for their assistance during this project: Anglian Water Services Limited, for their funding and support during this project; Mr B.Wadsworth, A.W.S.L. Conservation Division, Histon, Cambs.; Mr S.Gormley, A.W.S.L., P.O.Box 12, Waterside House, Waterside North, Lincoln, LN2 5HA; Mr A.Winfield, City Engineering Consultants, City Hall, Beaumont Fee, Lincoln, LN1 1DH; Mr S.O'Shea (Resident Engineer) and all on-site staff of Gallifords (Eastern) Ltd.; Anthea Boylston & Francesca Boghi, Calvin Wells Laboratory, Department of Archaeological Sciences, University of Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD7 1DP; Ms J.Buckberry, University of Durham (undergraduate).

## 6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## 7.0 LHA NOTE/ARCHIVE DETAILS

### 7.1 LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODE: SUS96

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.: n/a

FIELD OFFICER: K. Wragg

NGR: SK 9760 7025

CIVIL PARISH: Lincoln

SMR No.:

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 12/01/96 - 20/06/96

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Watching Brief  
UNDERTAKEN FOR: Anglian Water Services Limited, P.O.Box 12, Waterside House, Waterside North, Lincoln, LN2 5HA.

### 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.: 11.96

ACCESSION DATE:

TF 9733 7023



## APPENDIX A - ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The archive consists of:

No.	Description
1	Site diary
1	Report
290	Context records
10	Scale drawings
1 set	Photographic records - Colour slides
1	Stratigraphic matrix

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 11.96, will be undertaken following completion of this project.



## APPENDIX B - LIST OF GRAVE NUMBERS AND ASSOCIATED CONTEXT NUMBERS

<i>Grave No.:</i>	<i>Grave Fill No.:</i>	<i>Skeleton No(s).:</i>	<i>Cist/Coffin No.:</i>	<i>Grave Cut No.:</i>
1		Skeleton [101]		
2		Skeleton [102]		
3		Skeleton [103]		Grave Cut [227]
4	Grave Fill [228]	Skeleton [111]		
5		Skeleton [104]	Stone Cist [108]	Grave Cut [256]
6	Grave Fill [257]	Skeleton [149]		
7		Skeleton [105]		
8		Skeleton [112]		
9		Skeleton [114]		
10		Skeleton [115]		
11		Skeleton [116]		Grave Cut [117]
12		Skeleton [134]		
13	Grave Fill [233]	Skeleton [138]		Grave Cut [234]
14	Grave Fill [235]	Skeleton [118]		Grave Cut [236]
15	Grave Fill [237]	Skeleton [137]		
16	Grave Fill [238]	Skeleton [139]		Grave Cut [254]
17	Grave Fill [255]	Skeleton [145]		
18		Skeleton [119]		
19		Skeleton [122]		
20		Skeletons [124] & [125]		Grave Cut [231]
21		Skeleton [142]		Grave Cut [245]
22		Skeleton [128]		Grave Cut [243]
23	Grave Fill [232]	Skeleton [113]		
24	Grave Fill [244]	Skeleton [126]		Grave Cut [246]
25	Grave Fill [247]	Skeleton [143]		
26	Grave Fill [248]	Skeleton [144]		
27		Skeleton [127]		
28		Skeleton [129]		
29		Skeletons [130] & [131]		Grave Cut [249]
30	Grave Fill [250]	Skeleton [132]		Grave Cut [251]
31	Grave Fill [252]	Skeleton [133]		Grave Cut [253]
32		Skeleton [136]		
33		Skeletons [140] & [141]		Grave Cut [239]
34	Grave Fill [240]	Skeleton [120]		Grave Cut [241]
35	Grave Fill [242]	Skeleton [135]		
36		Skeleton [146]	Possible Stone Cist [147]	
37		Skeleton [148]		
38		Skeleton [154]		
39		Skeleton [155]		
40		Skeleton [156]		



## APPENDIX B - LIST OF GRAVE NUMBERS AND ASSOCIATED CONTEXT NUMBERS (cont.)

<i>Grave No.:</i>	<i>Grave Fill No.:</i>	<i>Skeleton No(s).:</i>	<i>Cist/Coffin No.:</i>	<i>Grave Cut No.:</i>
41		Skeleton [159]		Grave Cut [288]
42	Grave Fill [289]	Skeleton [158]		
43	Grave Fill [267]	Skeleton [177]		
44	Grave Fill [268]	Skeleton [187]		
45		Skeleton [161]		Grave Cut [171]
46	Grave Fill [263]	Skeleton [170]		
47	Grave Fill [264]	Skeleton [178]		
48	Grave Fill [193]	Skeletons [192] & [191]		Grave Cut [194]
49	Grave Fill [265]	Skeletons [185] & [188]		
50	Grave Fill [266]	Skeleton [189]		
51	Grave Fill [269]	Skeleton [206]		Grave Cut [208]
52		Skeleton [169]		
53		Skeleton [172]		
54		Skeleton [175]		
55		Skeleton [181]		Grave Cut [272]
56		Skeleton [183]		Grave Cut [273]
57	Grave Fill [274]	Skeleton [182]		
58		Skeleton [186]		
59		Skeleton [190]		
60		Skeleton [199]		
61		Skeleton [213]		
62		Skeleton [151]		
63	Grave Fill [260]	Skeleton [157]		
64	Grave Fill [261]	Skeleton [174]		
65	Grave Fill [262]	Skeleton [176]		
66	Grave Fill [150]	Skeleton [153]		Grave Cut [152]
67	Grave Fill [258]	Skeleton [173]		
68	Grave Fill [259]	Skeleton [160]		
69	Grave Fill [196]	Skeleton [123]		Grave Cut [195]
70	Grave Fill [270]	Skeleton [180]		
71	Grave Fill [197]	Skeleton [179]		Grave Cut [198]
72	Grave Fill [271]	Skeleton [184]		
73	Grave Fill [283]	Skeleton [207]		



## **APPENDIX C - Extract from *THE REPORT ON THE HUMAN SKELETAL REMAINS, THE MEDIEVAL CEMETERY OF PENNELL STREET, LINCOLN, LINCOLNSHIRE***

*Francesca Boghi & Anthea Boylson*

### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

The archaeological investigation carried out at the site of Pennell Street, Lincoln (SUS96) during January and February 1996 revealed the existence of a cemetery site presumably associated with the church of St. Michael in Wigford. The burial ground was dated as having being in use from the second half of the 11th century to the early 16th century, on the basis of the documentary evidence regarding the time of construction and of demolition of the church. The cemetery was investigated within the limits and depth of the trench excavated for the laying of new sewer pipes and the excavation is believed to have revealed only a minimal part of the total buried population.

Seventy-eight discrete burial contexts were excavated and recorded during the digging campaign. These included 73 contexts of articulated remains from single burials and from one possible mass grave, and 5 contexts of disarticulated material from two possible charnel pits, grave fills and unstratified material. The total of the human remains retrieved at the site accounted for a minimum number of 38 individuals. The figure, calculated from the number of bone segments, reflects the fact that most skeletons were very incomplete as a result of several factors, including the disturbance caused to many of the burials from the intense use of the burial ground for a number of centuries, the site strategy, dictated by the rescue nature of the excavation, while implied that the skeletons were to be lifted according to the portion observed within the limits of the trench, and following some damage caused by machines at the time of the discovery of the cemetery. The number of individuals recovered from the articulated contexts is approximately the

number of 79, according to the number of identified discrete contexts, comprising 59 adults, 13 juveniles and a minimum of 7 individuals from mass (?) burial [103]. The disarticulated material accounts for at least 54 individuals which are believed to partially derive from the disturbance of primary burials.

The population structure at this site does not reflect that of a demographically normal population. Apart from an under-representation of infants shared with many other cemetery populations, this is most probably due to the limited extension of the excavated area in respect to the total buried population together with the fact that the recovered human remains represent only a small part of the total buried population at the site, and that, a strong element of bias is expected when considering a cemetery population formed during a number of centuries with the parameters of a single living, contemporaneous population. In many instances, the juvenile sample was too small to be discussed.

A number of metric and non-metric criteria were taken as measures to assess population variability in physical type and epigenetic characteristics. The results pointed towards a tendency to brachycephaly and a physical type shared by other contemporary British populations with a mean stature usual for the period. The low values for platycnemia were also consistent with the prevalence rates for the medieval period in Britain. The high rate of ossicles at lamboid reported for the medieval period was confirmed by the findings at Pennell Street. Some instances of spatial clustering were evident from the plan with the distribution of non-metric traits. However, the contemporaneity of the burials showing one or more traits in common, should be evaluated before advancing any interpretation concerning family burials.

Pathological conditions were recorded as a measure of the degree of stress and adaptation



experienced by the population buried at Pennell Street and of its general health status, in addition to their potential for offering insights into patterns of activity, lifestyle, cause and manner of death. The dental health at Pennell Street was hampered by a high rate of caries and of ante-mortem tooth loss in both sexes, with slightly higher values in females probably reflecting the higher percentage of elderly females in this sample. The high prevalence of dental disease falls within the expected values for a medieval population, consuming a relatively high cariogenic diet whilst not having access to modern dental care. The values for dental pathologies are similar to that found in Romano-British samples and substantially higher than in Anglo-Saxon times.

The high prevalence of *cribra orbitalia* confirms the interpretation of high levels of stress undergone by urban medieval societies probably deriving from inadequate nutrition, an impaired iron absorption as a consequence of dietary intake relying on cereals or exposure to high levels of parasitic infections. However, the presence of indicators of stress amongst the adult population signifies that episodes of stress experienced during childhood were overcome in a large part of the population. By contrast, the small number of skeletons where no pathological conditions were observed may indicate they were part of that portion of population that failed to survive to the environmental conditions.

Joint disease was largely documented at Pennell Street as in most skeletal samples, largely reflecting the normal pattern of ageing processes. Exception to this were a few instances of Schmorl's nodes in young adult males, which may reflect traumatic episodes secondary to excessive axial loading of the spine and a few cases of extra-spinal osteoarthritis whose onset may have been contributed by one episode of trauma or a continuous strain placed on a joint consequent to the performance of an habitual activity. Minor complications of fractures appeared to have occurred in most cases, causing only minor disability and discomfort from shortened and deformed limbs. However, a few instances of debilitating, painful conditions were noticed.

Interpersonal violence was apparently witnessed at Pennell Street by the injuries to the skull of two individuals, one of which appear to have survived an attack with a blunt instrument which left three marks on his skull. The appearance of the injury suffered by the other man indicated that this occurred around the time of his death, but it is difficult to say whether or not this lesion contributed to his death.

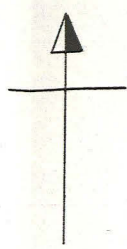
Burials appeared to be randomly distributed according to age and sex, although any clustering is probably masked by the narrowness of the trench. As for the individuals that were distinguishing themselves for a slight variation from the burial type with body supine and limbs extended, the position with one arm below hip and one arm above was found in both sexes and no pathological condition was found to justify the bent position of the spine in two individuals.

The large majority of the findings at Pennell Street reflected those expected for a skeletal population with an underrepresentation of certain types of pathologies and often the impossibility of providing precise diagnoses for often similar skeletal responses to different types of injury and tracing back causal factors of conditions that are mostly multifactorial in origin. The results of most analyses carried out for the purposes of this report appeared to confirm the findings of several studies on medieval British populations in terms of prevalence rates in both population characteristics and in measures of health and disease.

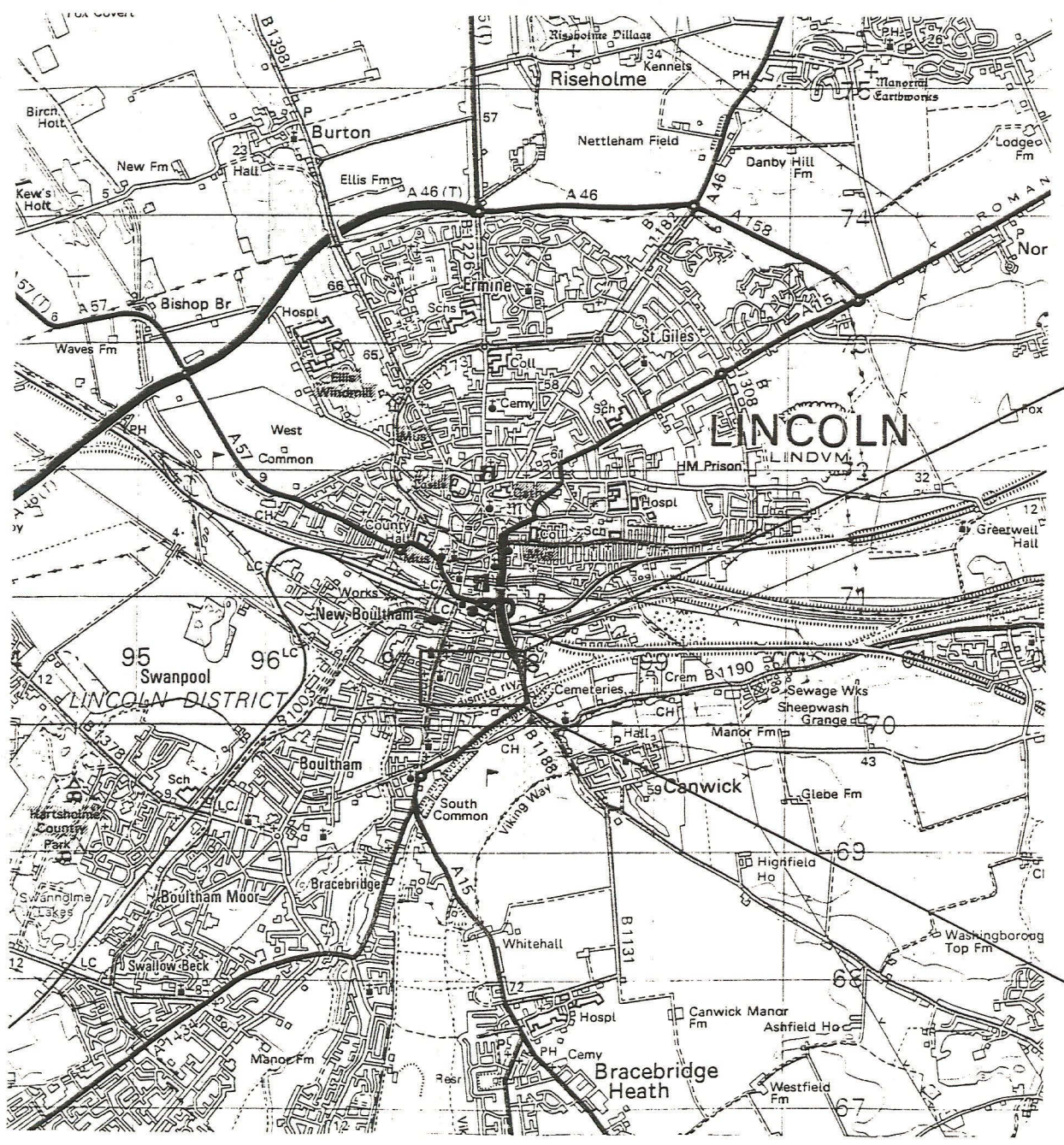
In conclusion, it is felt that the analysis conducted on the human remains from the site of Pennell Street conveyed interesting and meaningful results which form part of the rest of the archaeological information collected during the excavation. However, given the reduced size of the sample, the interpretations advanced in this report must be treated with extreme caution. Additionally, since some areas of physical anthropological studies await further studies, part of the data which was collected for the purposes of this report could not be fully discussed, but they are made available for further studies and in the eventuality of further investigations at this site.



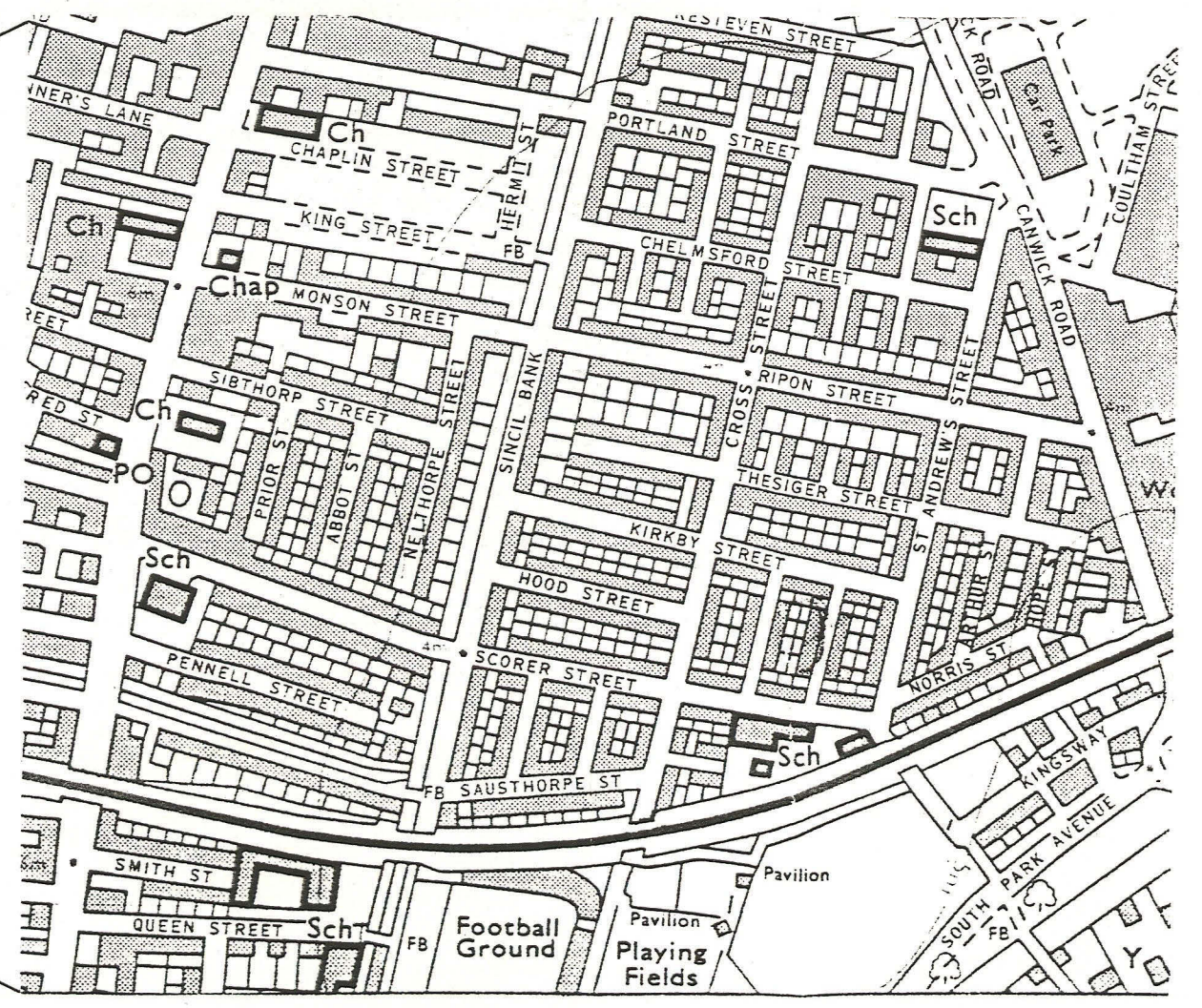
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1:5000



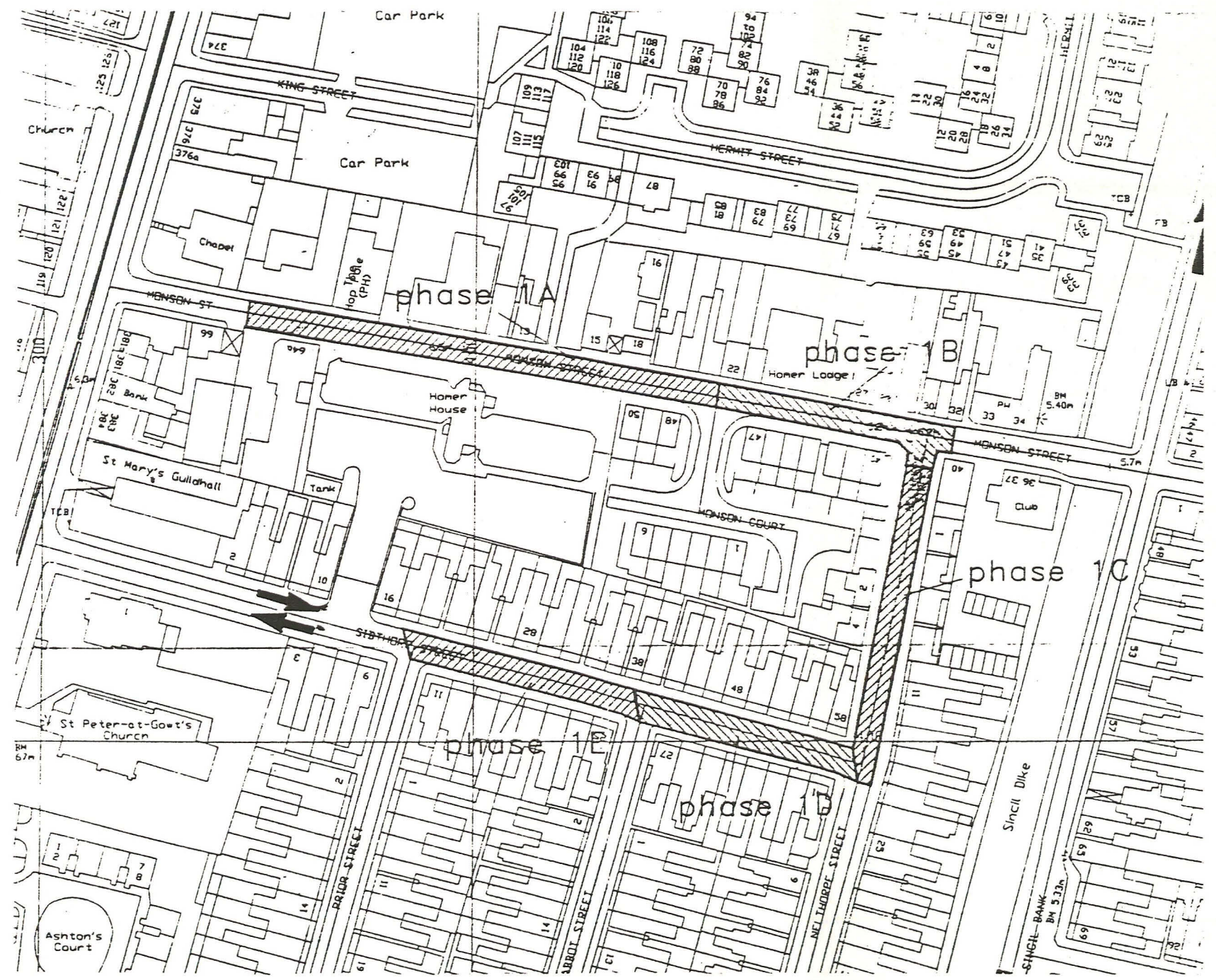
Reproduced from the 1992 Ordnance Survey 1:50 000 Landranger 121 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright.

Based upon the 1976 Ordnance Survey 1:10 000 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright.

Fig.1



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CLIENT: Anglian Water Services Ltd.		
DESCRIPTION: Trench Location Plan - Phase 1		
SCALE: 1:1250	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY:	CHECKED:	DATE:
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 11.96		



Based upon Lincoln City Council Engineering Consultants drawing no.DC0070/13

Fig.2



**CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT**

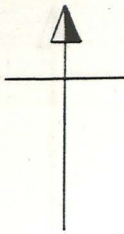
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SCALE: 1:1250	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY:	CHECKED:	DATE:
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 11.96		



Based upon Lincoln City Council Engineering Consultants drawing no.DC0070/13

Fig.3





**CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT**

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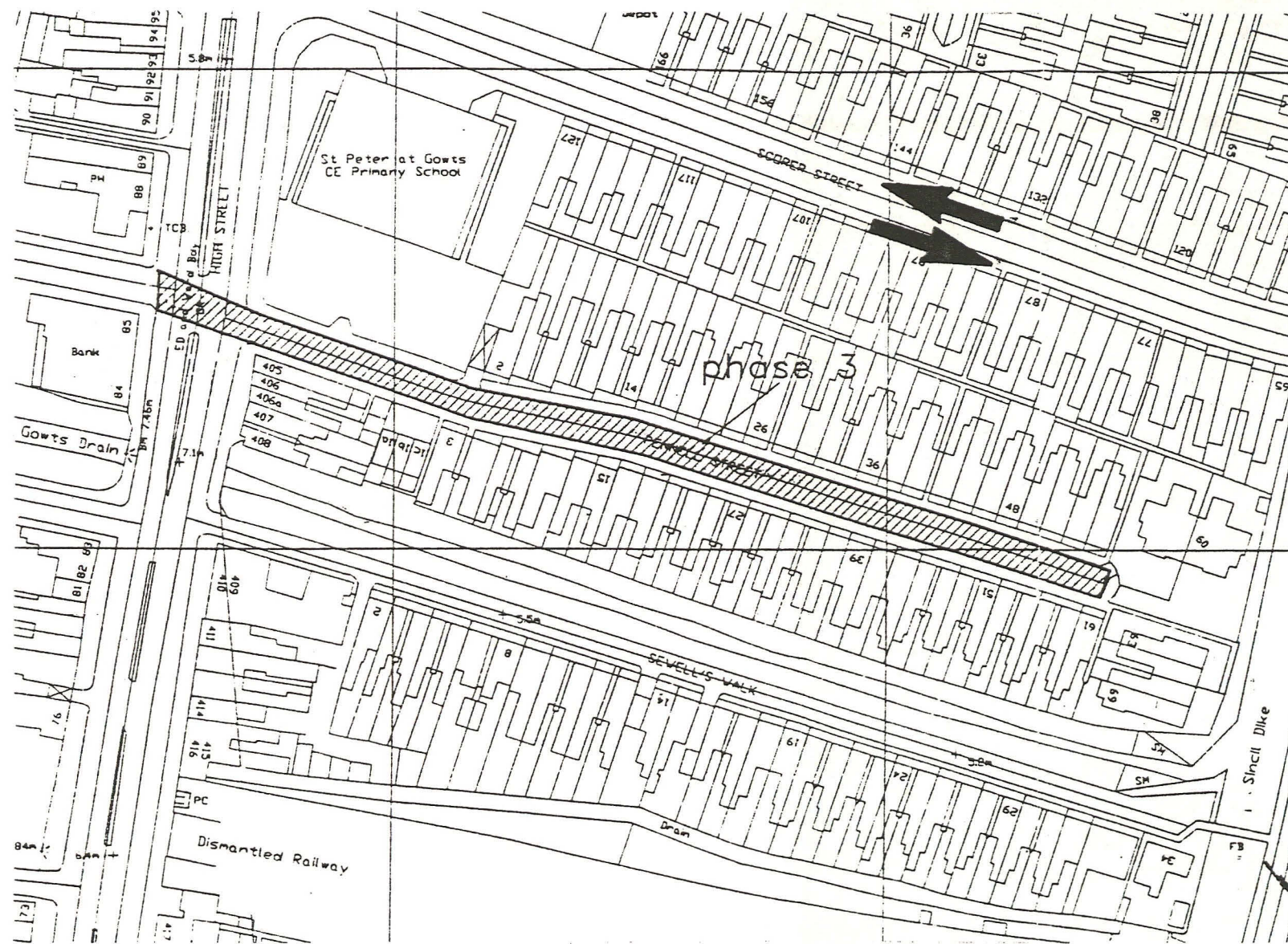
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DESCRIPTION: Trench Location Plan - Phase 3

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DRAWN BY: | CHECKED: | DATE:

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 11.96

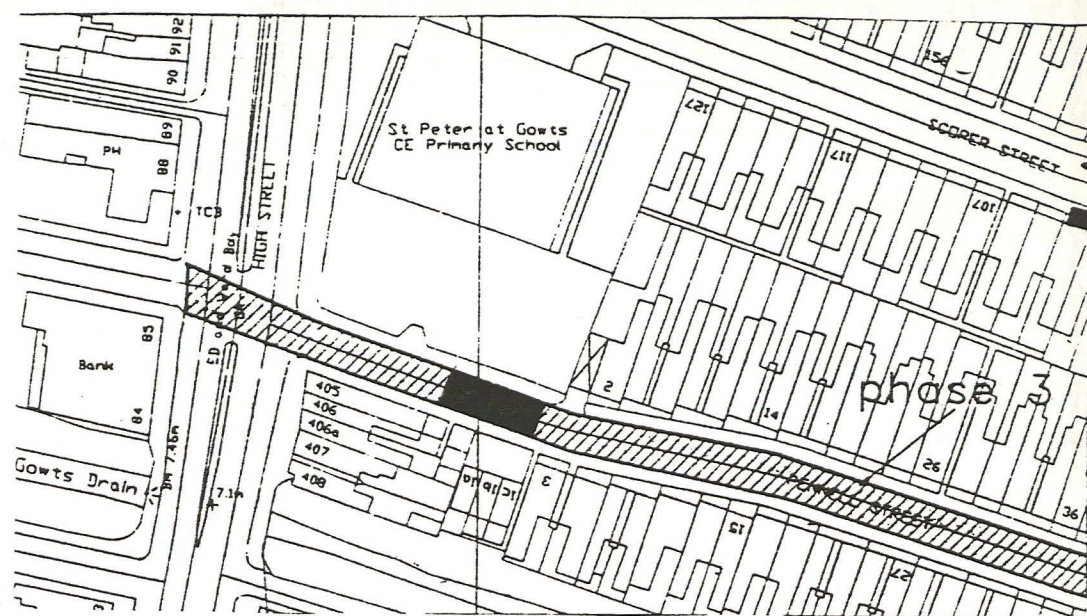
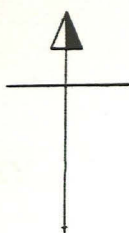


Based upon Lincoln City Council Engineering Consultants drawing no.DC0070/13



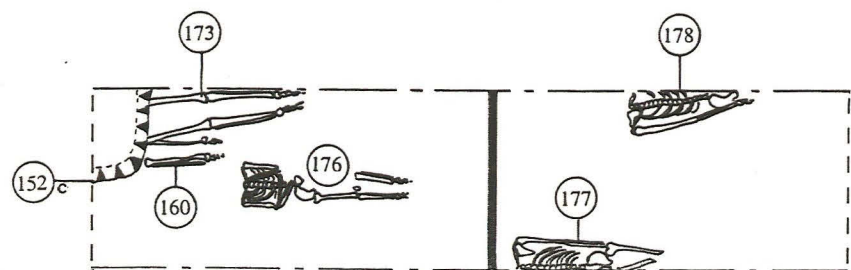
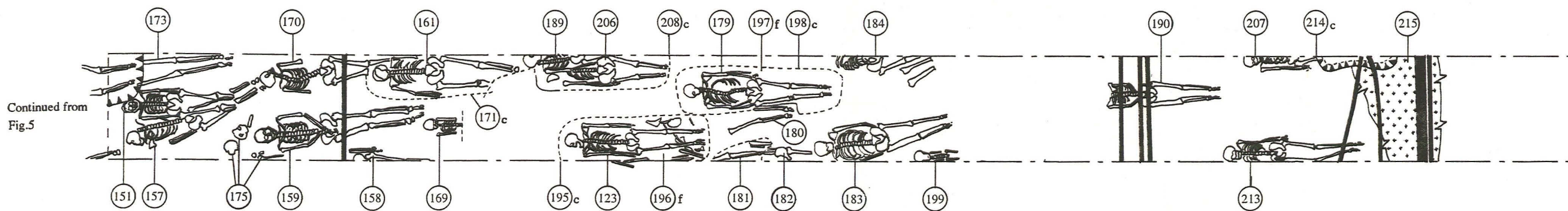




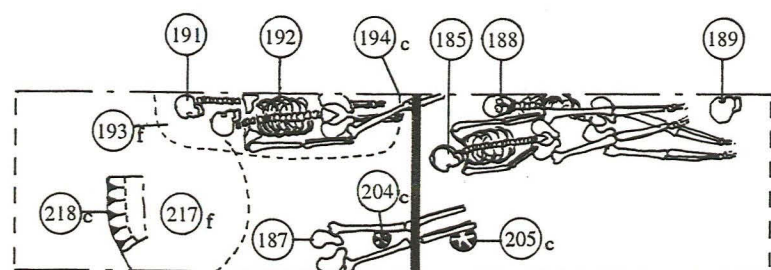


Location of Plan

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CLIENT: Anglian Water Services Ltd.		
DESCRIPTION: Plan of Burials - Pennell Street, Area 1(ii)-1(iv)		
SCALE: 1:50	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY: KW	CHECKED:	DATE: 24/01/96 - 15/02/96
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 11.96		



Inset Plan of Lower Level (c. 1.1m - 1.2m)



Inset Plan of Lowest Level (c. 1.3m - 1.4m)

KEY

- Pipe
- Burnt Area



Fig.6



CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE: SUS96 PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO: 1

CLIENT: Anglian Water Services Ltd.

DESCRIPTION: North-Facing Section  
(Junction of High Street and Pennell Street)

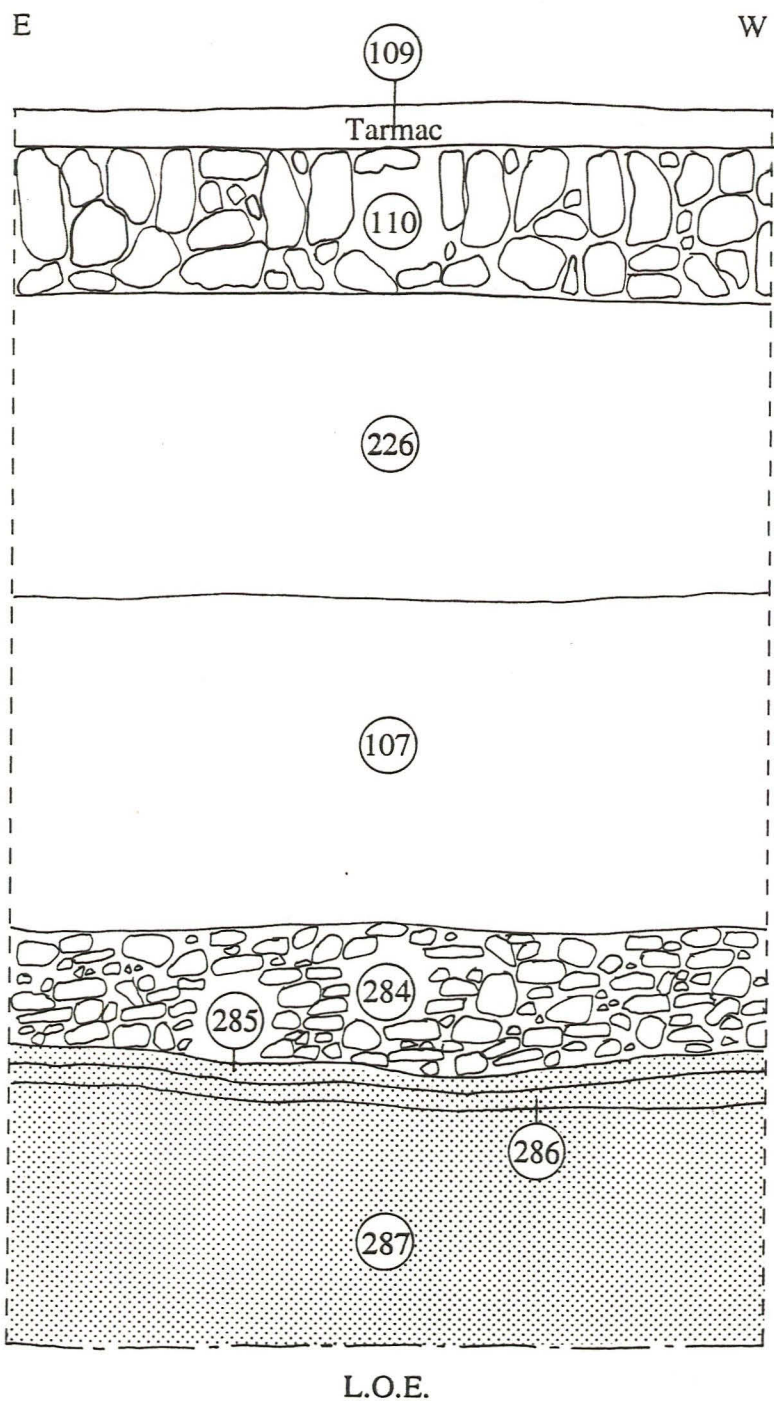
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DRAWN BY: KW CHECKED: DATE: 17/01/96

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 11.96

KEY

 Sand



L.O.E.

Fig.7



CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE: SUS96 - PLANELEWSECTION NO: 2

CLIENT: Anglian Water Services Ltd.

DESCRIPTION:  
West-Facing Section (East End of Monson Street)

SCALE: 1:20

ARCHIVE NO:

DRAWN BY: K.W.

CHECKED:

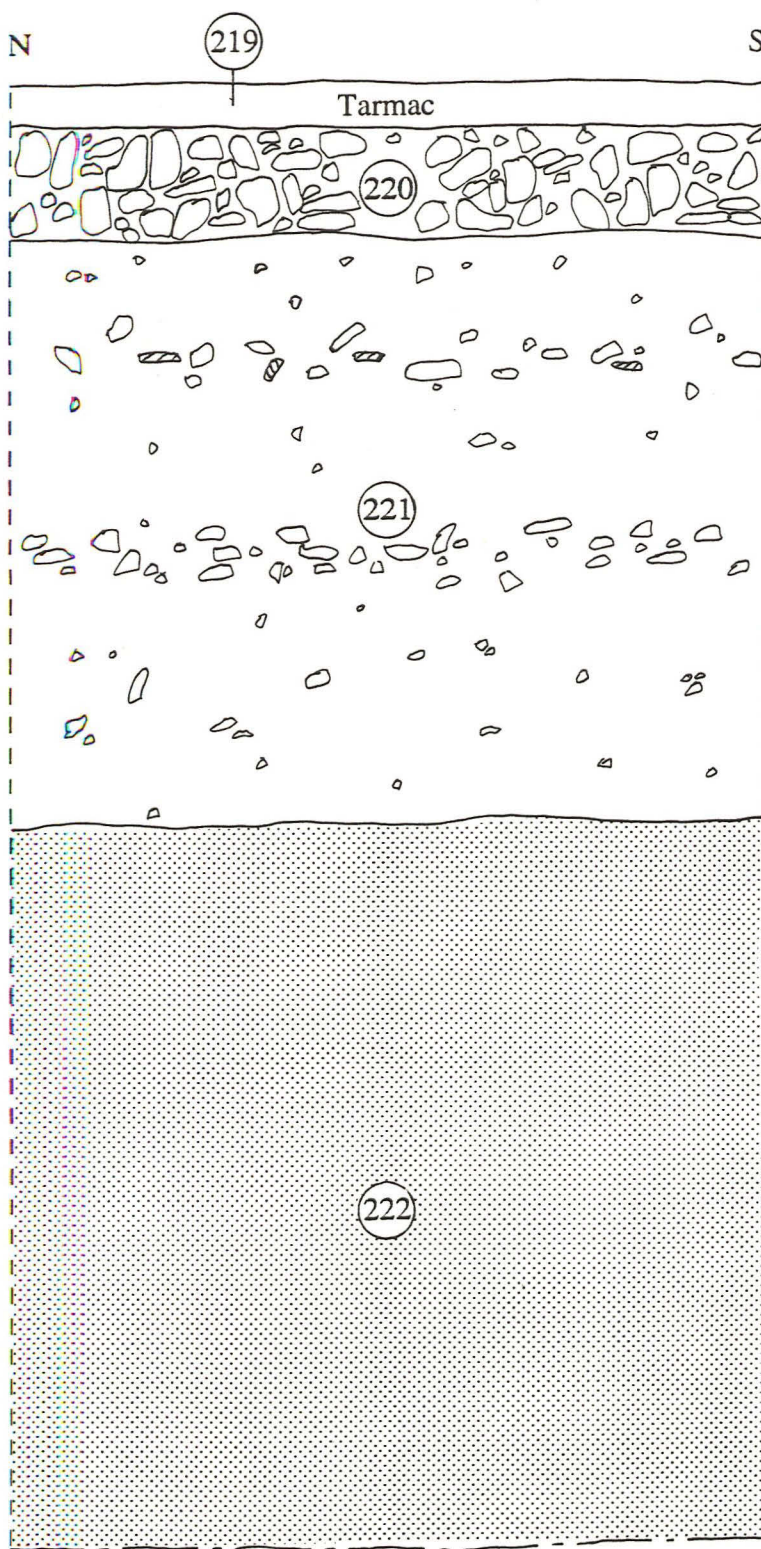
DATE: 07/03/96

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 11.96

KEY



Sand



L.O.E.

Fig.8



CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE: SUS96 | PLANE/LEVEL/SECTION NO: 3

CLIENT: Anglian Water Services Ltd.

DESCRIPTION:  
West-Facing Section (St. Andrew's Street)

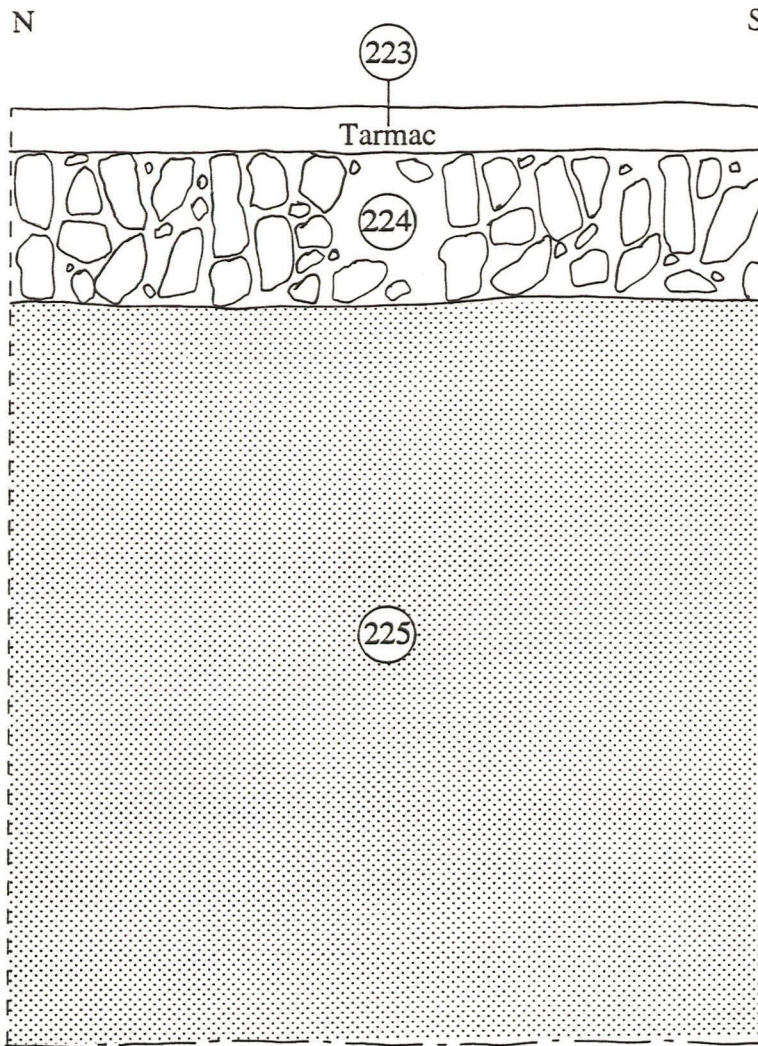
SCALE: 1:20 | ARCHIVE NO:

DRAWN BY: KW | CHECKED: | DATE: 24/04/96

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 11.96

KEY

 Sand



L.O.E.

Fig.9



<b>CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT</b>		
SITE CODE: SUS96	PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO: 4	
CLIENT: Anglian Water Services Ltd.		
DESCRIPTION: North-Facing Section (Junction of Sibthorp Street and Abbot Street)		
SCALE: 1:20	ARCHIVE NO:	
DRAWN BY: KW	CHECKED:	DATE: 11/06/96
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 11.96		

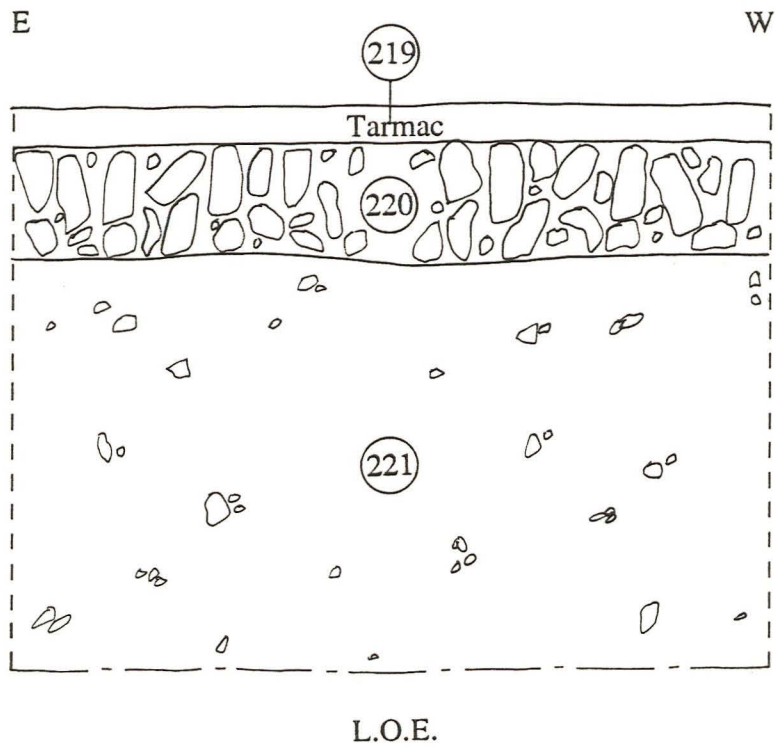


Fig.10