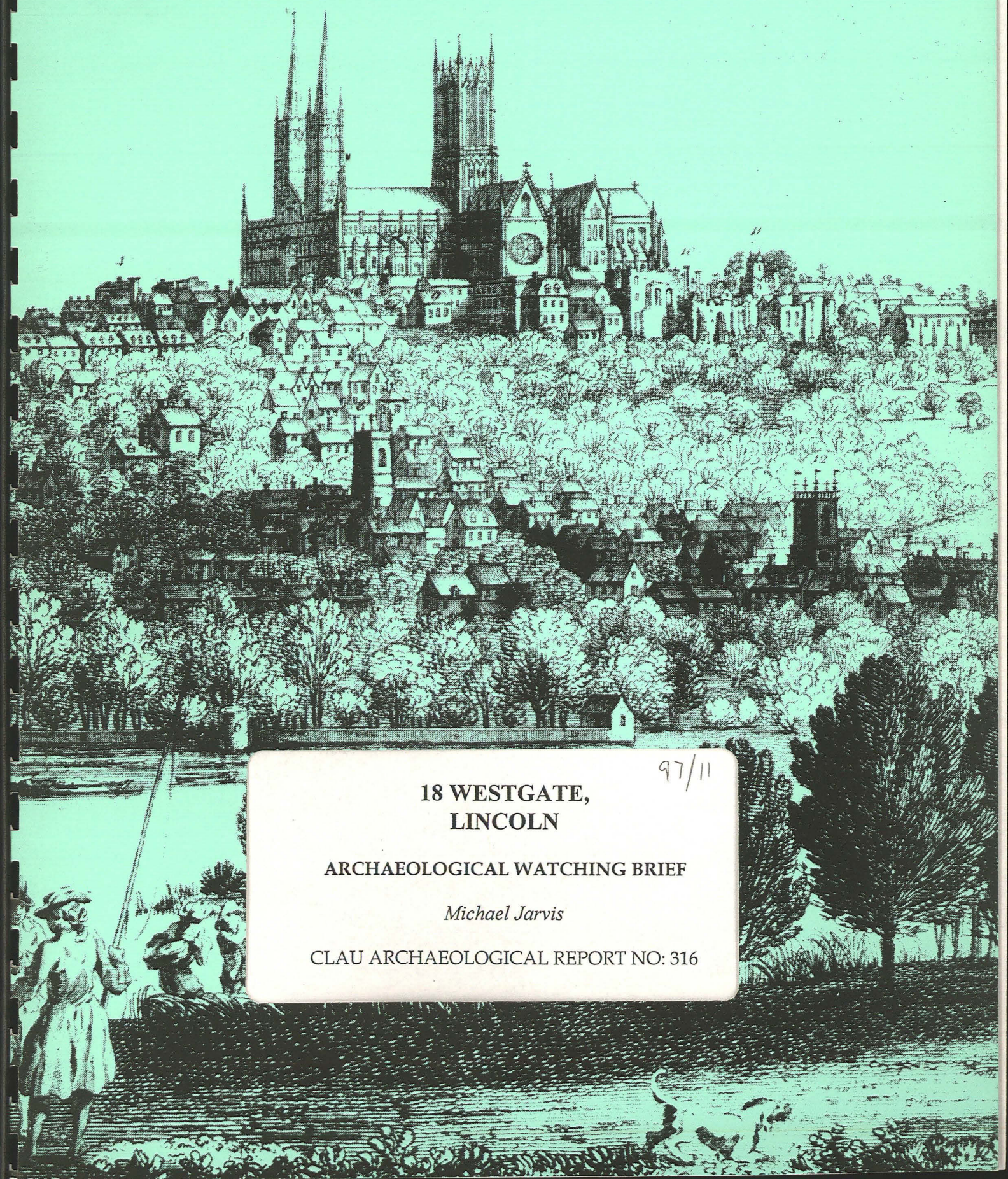


CITY OF
◇ LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY ◇
UNIT



18 WESTGATE,
LINCOLN

97/11

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Michael Jarvis

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 316

**Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section**

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A
Report to
Ms. C. Blackledge

October 1997

Prepared by

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18 WESTGATE, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY

During September, 1997 a representative from the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit undertook an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the construction of a single-storey front extension and a two storey side/rear extension to No. 18 Westgate, Lincoln.

The watching brief failed to reveal archaeological deposits pre-dating the 19th century. Notwithstanding this apparently negative result, the findings of this watching brief have provided useful information to enhance further our understanding of the survival and depth of archaeological deposits in this area of Lincoln.

18 WESTGATE, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1.0 INTRODUCTION

During September, 1997 a representative from the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU) undertook an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the construction of a single storey front extension and a two storey side/rear extension to No. 18 Westgate, Lincoln.

This work was carried out on behalf of Ms. C. Blackledge, then of Newland Street West, Lincoln, as a condition of planning consent (Planning Application No. LC08/0325/97). The condition required that a watching brief be implemented during all groundworks associated with new construction on the site, in order "to ensure that any archaeological remains contained in the site are properly recorded in the Sites and Monuments Record and the Urban Archaeological Database."

2.0 SITE LOCATION

18 Westgate (the Site) lies on the north side of the Street of Westgate, to the north of Lincoln Castle. (National Grid Reference SK 9753 7200: see Fig. 1). The existing property lies approximately 10m back from the street frontage. Here, ground level rises to the north c.500mm from that of the kerb of the street. The area of the new front extension is currently used as lawn and flower beds. A concrete footpath leading to the front door of the property was also affected. To the rear of the property, a single storey porch structure was demolished.

2.1 ACHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Archaeologically the site lies in an important area of the city. The following text summarises the information available.

The uphill area of Lincoln was probably the first part of the city to be colonised by the Romans, as their military base during the *Legionary Fortress* period (c.AD50-c.80). Later this became the administrative centre during the *Colonia* period (c.AD80-c.450). Since examples of both types of establishment are rare in Britain, remains of the Roman period are of vital importance to our understanding of the Roman occupation of Lincoln.

Evidence for the remains of the *Colonia Forum* (civic centre) has been recorded at various locations to the east of the site and physical signs of its presence can still be seen. Columns, probably forming the colonnade on the east side of the Forum, are still present to the east of the site in the basements of properties in Bailgate, and a large section of standing Roman wall (the *Mint wall*) is present to the north of the Castle Hotel, to the north-east of the site. Positions of further columns are indicated by stone markers in the modern road surface. Excavations have established the line of the wall and defensive ditches of the fortress and *Colonia*. The site itself lays on the west side of West Bight, slightly to the west of the Roman Forum; in 1976 remains of a wall and floor of the building to the west of the forum was encountered at shallow depth in advance of the construction of No. 20 Westgate. In 1993, walls of substantial Roman buildings were noted when a new watermain was cut along Westgate, less than a metre below the modern road surface.

Abandonment of the Roman City seems to have started in the late 4th Century with town life reduced to a small community between the 5th to late 9th centuries. During the 1970's archaeological excavations on the site of the forum indicated that an early Christian Church stood here, perhaps from as early as the 5th century. Remains associated with this period are again fundamental to our understanding of Roman occupation in the upper city area.

Following the Viking take-over of Lindsay in 874, Lincoln became a centre for a Viking army and, subsequently, a Viking town. Evidence for increasing urbanisation in the 10th and 11th centuries has emerged from all parts of the former Roman city with Lincoln forming one, and perhaps the most important, of the so-called Five Boroughs of the present East Midlands.

Place names in this part of Lincoln indicate a broad mix of Anglo-Saxon and Scandinavian occupation. The term "gate" (e.g. Bailgate) is derived from the Scandinavian "gata" meaning street, suggesting that some of the streets of today were probably established during this period. Except for the north part of Bailgate, most Roman streets were no longer used with the result that many Roman buildings now lie under the present street system. This part of the city seems to have been densely occupied again by the late 10th century.

At the time of the Norman conquest (1066) Lincoln was home to perhaps 6-7000 people and formed one of the largest settlements in the newly conquered kingdom. The main post-conquest change to be noted archaeologically was the introduction of stone buildings (which were very rare before the mid 12th century), the most prominent being the Castle and the Cathedral. Constructed by William the Conqueror within the south-west corner of the old upper Roman city as a stronghold for his new governors of Lincolnshire, construction of the Castle had a major effect on the layout of the town. The Cathedral, under its first bishop Remigius, took about twenty years to build and was dedicated in 1092. The present layout of streets in this part (including Westgate) of the city was established during this period.

By the 12th century Lincoln had become a major European city and, in both population and trade, possibly second only to London. Prospering on the commercial success of the wool trade and cloth making the city's wealth and importance was reflected in the privilege of self government, the formation of guilds and the construction of extensions to the city walls.

With the decline of the cloth trade, from the late 13th century, Lincoln saw a period of physical decay. The city declined in importance and the population shrank, many houses and churches were demolished and by the second quarter of the 16th century large areas of the city were in a ruinous state. While some localised redevelopment was carried out, further damage and destruction occurred during the Civil War in the mid 17th century.

By the 18th century uphill Lincoln had become a centre for the clergy, the legal profession and the local gentry with extensive re-development in all areas. However, as evidenced by contemporary artists, some areas close to the heart of the city still maintained a semi-rural aspect. A painting by Peter de Wint (1784-1849) depicts cows grazing in a meadow at the west end of Drury Lane.

The first maps of Lincoln began to be produced in the 17th and 18th centuries, but unfortunately they show little detail of the area under consideration. The first accurate maps showing the proposed development site were produced by the Ordnance Survey Office in 1888.

3.0 AIMS & METHODOLOGY

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.

The archaeological record was secured by means of trench side notes. 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/CONCLUSIONS

The archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the construction of the two new extensions to the property did not produce any evidence for significant archaeological deposits.

The removal, by the site contractor, of all deposits lying within the footprint of the front extension (2.5m x 9.0m), to a depth of c.450mm (Fig. 2), failed to reveal archaeological deposits pre-dating the 19th-20th century. These deposits were indicative of made-up ground, and, as the area for the new build is situated in a garden, this material was well sorted, with the majority of large inclusions having been removed. Those inclusions that remained included brick and roof tile fragments. The repositioning of drainage was, in the main, contained within the trench excavated for the foundation slab.

After the demolition of the rear porch structure, the site contractor excavated the footprint for its replacement to a depth of c.600mm (1.5m x 2.5m - Fig. 2). This revealed deposits very similar to those recorded to the front of the property. Foundations for the property's existing east-west wall (forming the southern side of the proposed extension), were revealed to be constructed from medium sized fragments of unhewn limestone, bonded with a pale yellow/brown sandy mortar. The upper part of this foundation material was of a more brashy nature and contained fragments of brick rubble (19th-20th century). As with the front extension, the repositioning of drainage was contained, generally, within the footprint of the new construction.

No further features and deposits were encountered during the watching brief. It is likely that any remains of archaeological significance occur a little deeper than the depths of the disturbance for the house extensions.

In conclusion, although the results from this watching brief have proved largely negative, an enhancement of knowledge of the area has been achieved with regard to the survival of archaeological deposits. This information will be of value in future decision making with regard to the management of the archaeological resource in this area of Lincoln.

5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit would like to thank Ms. C. Blackledge for funding the fieldwork and post-fieldwork analysis. Thanks are also extended to the site contractor, Barry Ramshaw Developments, 22 Lansdowne Avenue, Lincoln, for their co-operation throughout the duration of the archaeological programme

6.0 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.

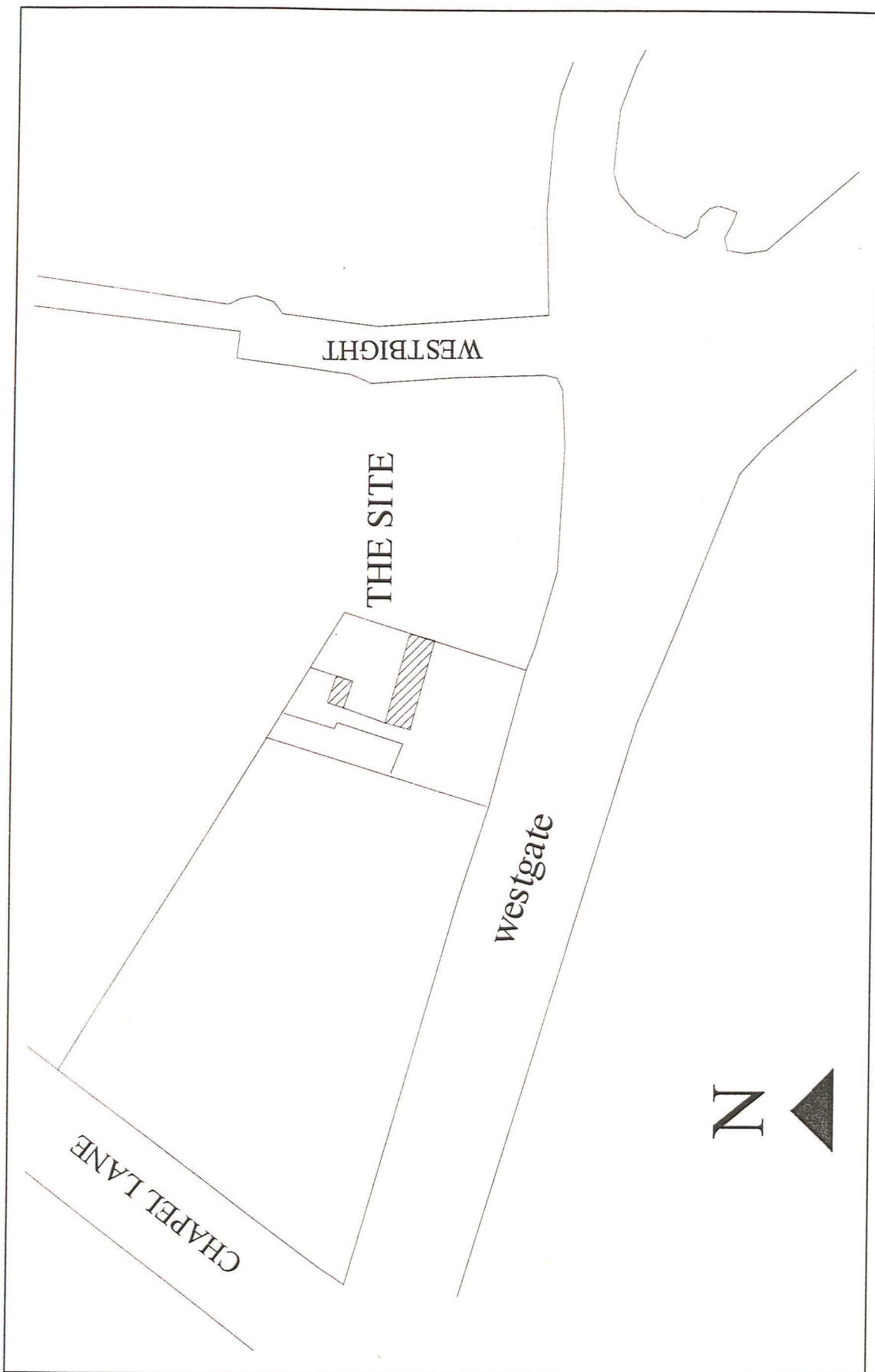


Fig. 1: General site location plan.

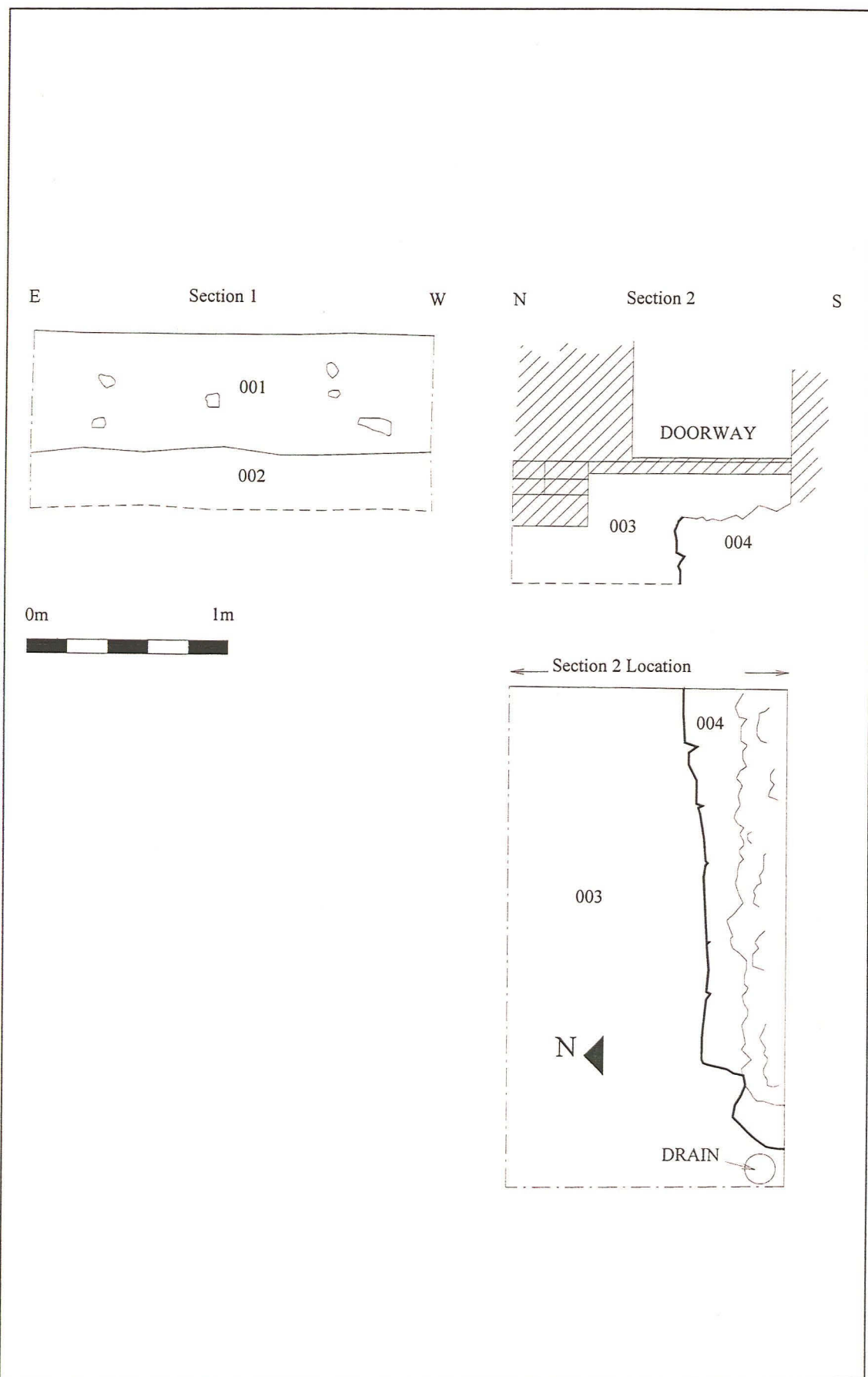


Fig. 2: Plan and Sections.

18 WESTGATE, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

APPENDIX 1

LINCS HIST & ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTE & ARCHIVE DETAILS

Lincs Hist & Archaeological Note Details

CLAU CODE: WGD97

CLAU REPORT No.: 316

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.: LC08/0325/97

FIELD OFFICER: Michael Jarvis

NGR: SK 9753 7200

CIVIL PARISH: Bailgate

SMR No.: -

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 13th and 17th October, 1997

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Ms. C. Blackledge, 49 Newland Street West, Lincoln.

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.: 244.97

ACCESSION DATE: -