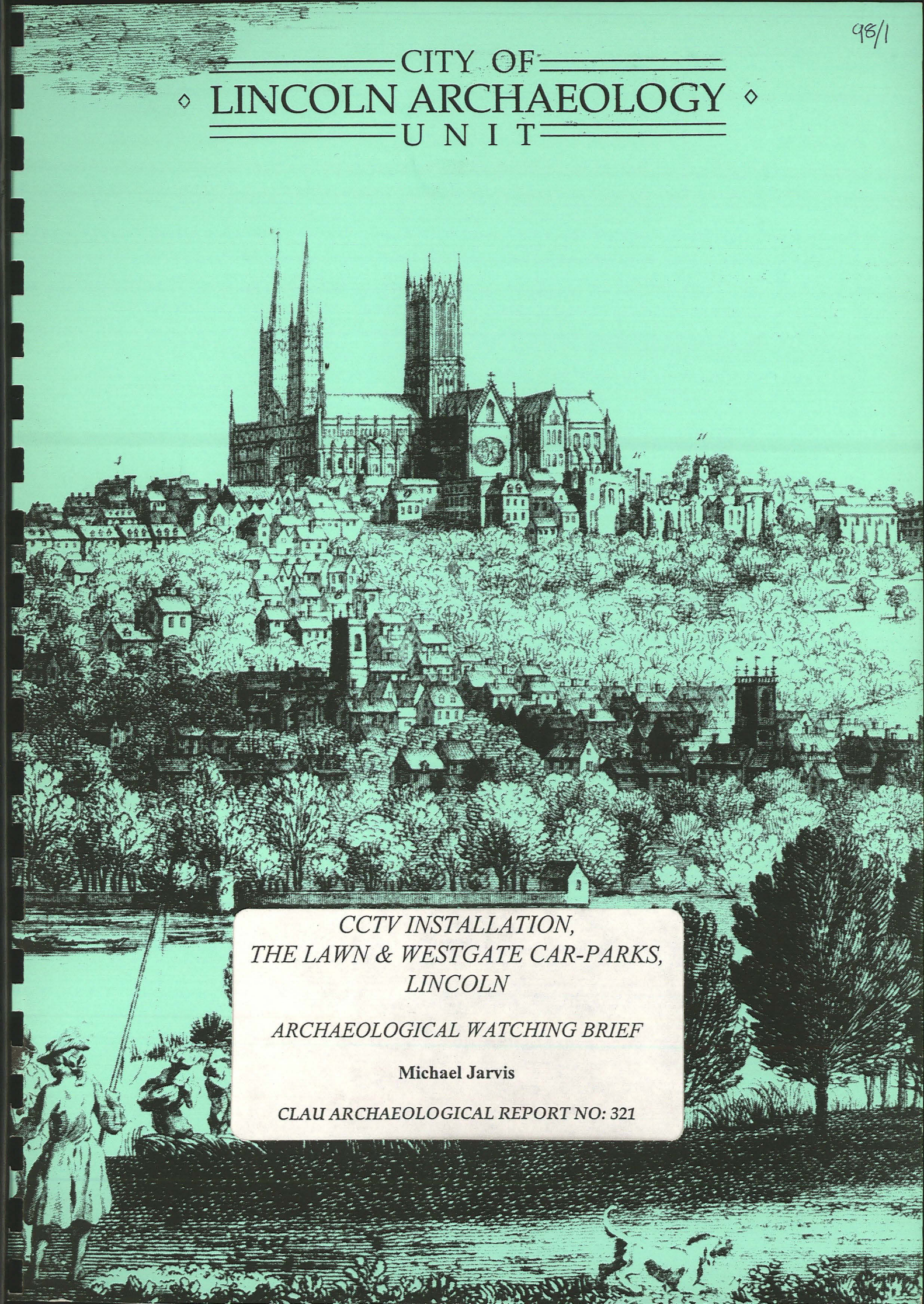


CITY OF
◇ LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY ◇
UNIT



*CCTV INSTALLATION,
THE LAWN & WESTGATE CAR-PARKS,
LINCOLN*

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Michael Jarvis

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 321

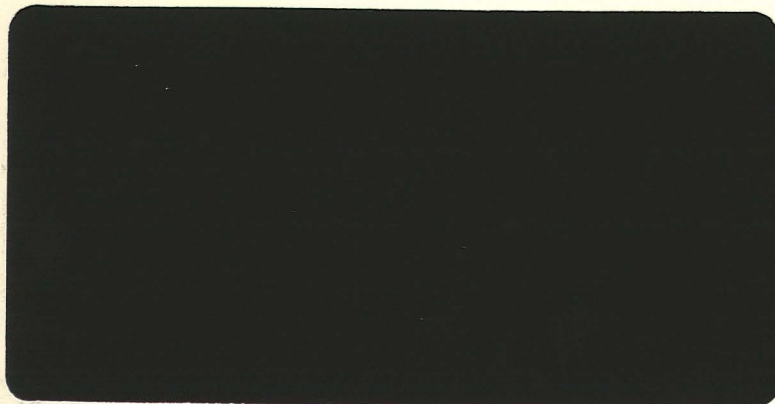
Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section

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12 Friars Lane

LN2 5AL

TEL: 01522 530721 Fax: 01522 530724



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A
Report to
*City Engineer & Surveyor's Department,
Lincoln City Council*

January 1998

Prepared by

**The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit
Charlotte House
The Lawn
Union Road
Lincoln
LN1 3BL**

Tel: Lincoln (01522) 545326

Fax: Lincoln (01522) 548089

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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CCTV INSTALLATION, THE LAWN & WESTGATE CAR-PARKS, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

During November 1997, a representative from the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit undertook an archaeological watching brief on behalf of the City Engineer & Surveyor's Department, Lincoln City Council, during the excavation of three foundation trenches, intended to support Closed Circuit Television cameras.

Two of the trenches were sited close to the vehicular parking areas of the Lawn, and the third at the west end of Westgate Carpark. Ducting trenches, to accommodate the cameras' electrical system, were also excavated and monitored as part of the archaeological programme.

The results of the watching brief proved largely negative, although an enhancement of knowledge of the area has been achieved with regard to the survival of archaeological deposits in this part of the city.

CCTV INSTALLATION, THE LAWN & WESTGATE CAR-PARKS, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1.0 INTRODUCTION

During November 1997 and January 1998, a representative from the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU) undertook an archaeological watching brief on behalf of the City Engineer & Surveyor's Department of Lincoln City Council, during the excavation of three foundation trenches intended to support masts for Closed Circuit Television Cameras (CCTV). The installations form part of the City Council's ongoing campaign to detect, prevent and reduce crime and other offences within the city.

Two of the camera-bases were sited close to the vehicular parking areas of the Lawn complex (Trenches 1 & 2) and the third, Trench 3, at the west end of Westgate Car-park (see Fig. 1). The trenches were excavated mechanically and were nominally 1.2m x 1.2m and 1.4m deep. Ducting trenches, c.200mm wide, up to c.450mm deep and several metres long, were also excavated. These ducting works extended into the western pavement of Union Road National Grid Reference: SK 9730 7190 (see Figs. 1 & 2).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

General Background

The locations for the CCTV cameras lie in areas of historical and archaeological importance. The following text summarises the information available.

The uphill area of Lincoln was settled by the Romans, as their military base during the *Legionary Fortress* period (c.AD50-c.80). Later this became a major urban centre during the *Colonia* period (c.AD80-c.450).

Evidence of the Colonia Forum (civic centre) has been recorded at various locations 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. 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. 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 water-main was cut along Westgate, less than a metre below the modern road surface.

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.

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.

Archaeological Background

CCTV trenches 1 and 2 lay to the west of, and outside of, the area occupied by the upper Roman city, and to the west of the medieval castle's west gate. Trenches in the grounds of the Lawn in 1984-7, revealed the presence on the site of Roman buildings. These were thought to represent shops and workshops fronting onto a street to their north, the street probably emanating westwards from the now buried upper Roman west gate (the Roman gate lies slightly to the north of the castle's west gate and is now buried beneath the castle rampart). Earlier pits, interpreted as quarrying, were also discovered. There is also evidence for mid-Saxon occupation and a medieval church and cemetery in the grounds of the Lawn (Camidge, K 1987). Most of the remains lie at a depth of a metre or more in the areas of Trenches 1 and 2. A rectangular earthwork visible on Stukley's map of Lincoln (1722) is likely to be of post-medieval date, perhaps associated with the Civil War battles of 1644-8. CCTV Trench 1 lies a few metres south of the 1986 excavation trench and had the greatest potential to reveal buried archaeological remains. Trench 3 lay within the area previously occupied by the Legionary fortress and Colonia, in the area occupied by the ditch of the later Norman castle, and as such may only disturb ditch fill.



Plate 1: General view showing contractor's excavation of Trench 1 looking east.

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 (SMR) and the Lincoln Urban Archaeological Database (UAD).

The archaeological record was secured by means of trench side notes. Scale drawings 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 the groundworks associated with the excavation of the CCTV's foundation trenches did not produce any evidence for significant archaeological deposits.

Trench 1

Trench 1 was situated towards the northern end of The Lawn grounds, to the north-east of Charlotte House (see Figs. 1 - 3 & Plate I). The earliest deposit encountered here, [005], consisted of a loose, mid brown sandy soil with frequent medium-large limestone inclusions (up to 350mm x 250mm x 200mm). Many showed evidence of having been heat-affected, suggesting that this deposit may represent demolition or destruction material associated with the Roman buildings recorded here on the site in 1986.

A further, extensive dump deposit, [004], overlay [005]. Unlike [005] however, [004] did not contain large quantities of limestone rubble. Deposits post-dating [004] were associated with landscaping and road construction for conversion of the Lawn to a visitors centre in 1990.

Trench 2

Trench 2, also sited in the grounds of the Lawn close to its eastern boundary, was opposite the parking areas immediately to the east of the main Lawn building (see Figs. 1 - 3).

A deposit of limestone and yellow sandy/clay, [006], approximately 1.30m below existing ground level, was the earliest deposit found in Trench 2. Although very little of this deposit was exposed, it was thought to represent the natural limestone brash present across much of this part of Lincoln. Dump deposit [005], recorded in Trench 1, was also present here (here, [005] was noted to be c.700mm thick). Subsequent, overlying deposits, as with Trench 1, were associated with the redevelopment of the Lawn complex.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was located in Westgate Car-park, immediately next to the east end of the row of terraced houses which lie at the car-park's west end (see Figs. 1 - 3). This trench, although monitored as part of the archaeological programme, was always thought unlikely to provide much in the way of archaeological information, as it was known to lie above the castle's now infilled ditch. Although the exact width and depth of the ditch are not known, the street of Westgate was its probable limit, and the base of the existing outer rampart denotes its inner edge. This suggests that the ditch was c.27m wide and probably several metres deep.

Deposits encountered in Trench 3 were all relatively recent in date (Contexts: [007 - 012]), containing a high percentage of brick building rubble and fire ash. These deposits appeared to be associated with the demolition of the 19th century terraced houses which occupied the site sometime prior to its conversion into a car-park.

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 the City Engineer & Surveyor's Department of Lincoln City Council for funding the fieldwork and post-fieldwork analysis. Thanks are also extended to the site contractor, Murphy's, for their help and co-operation throughout 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.

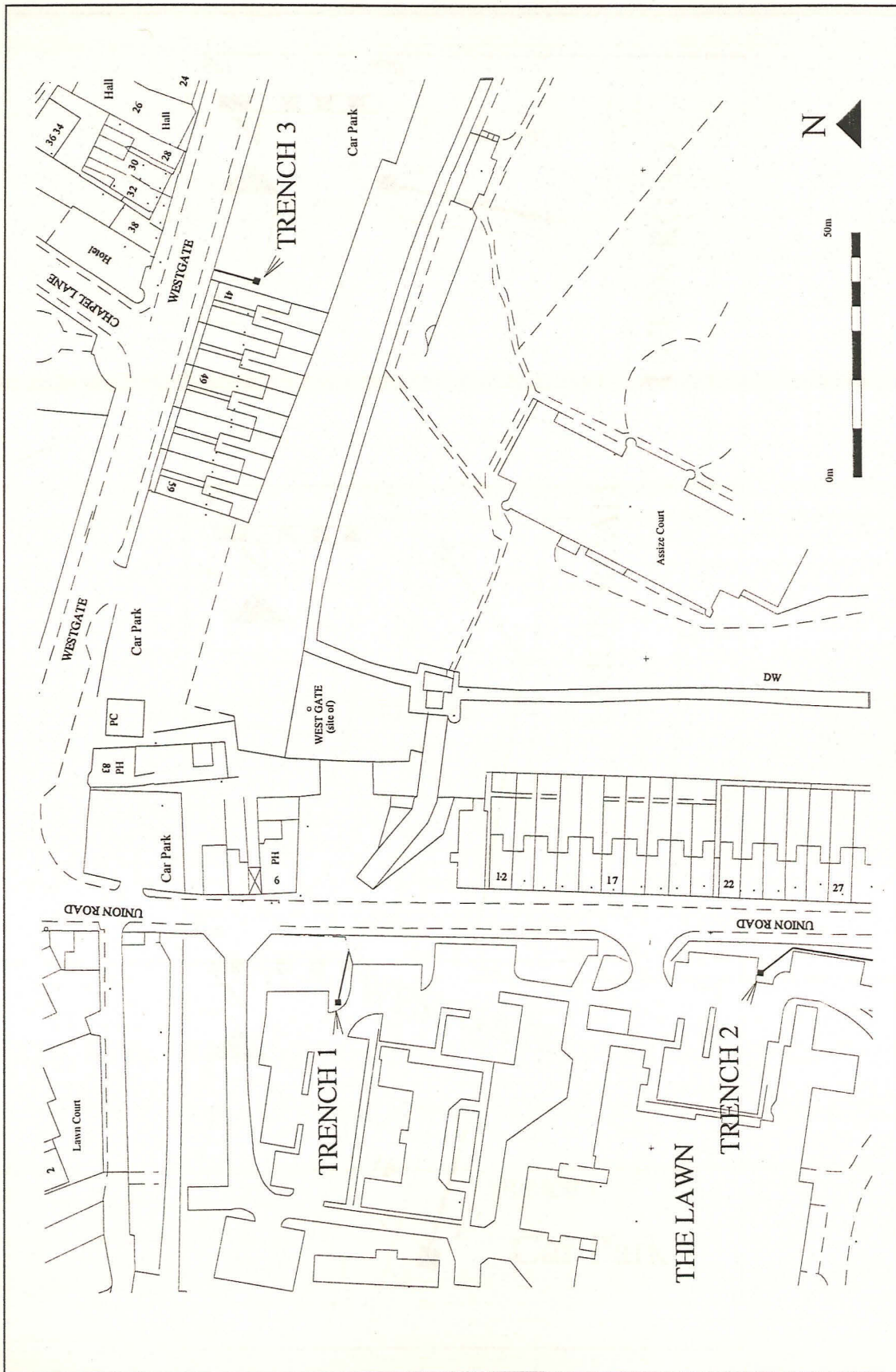


Fig. 1: General site and trench location plan.

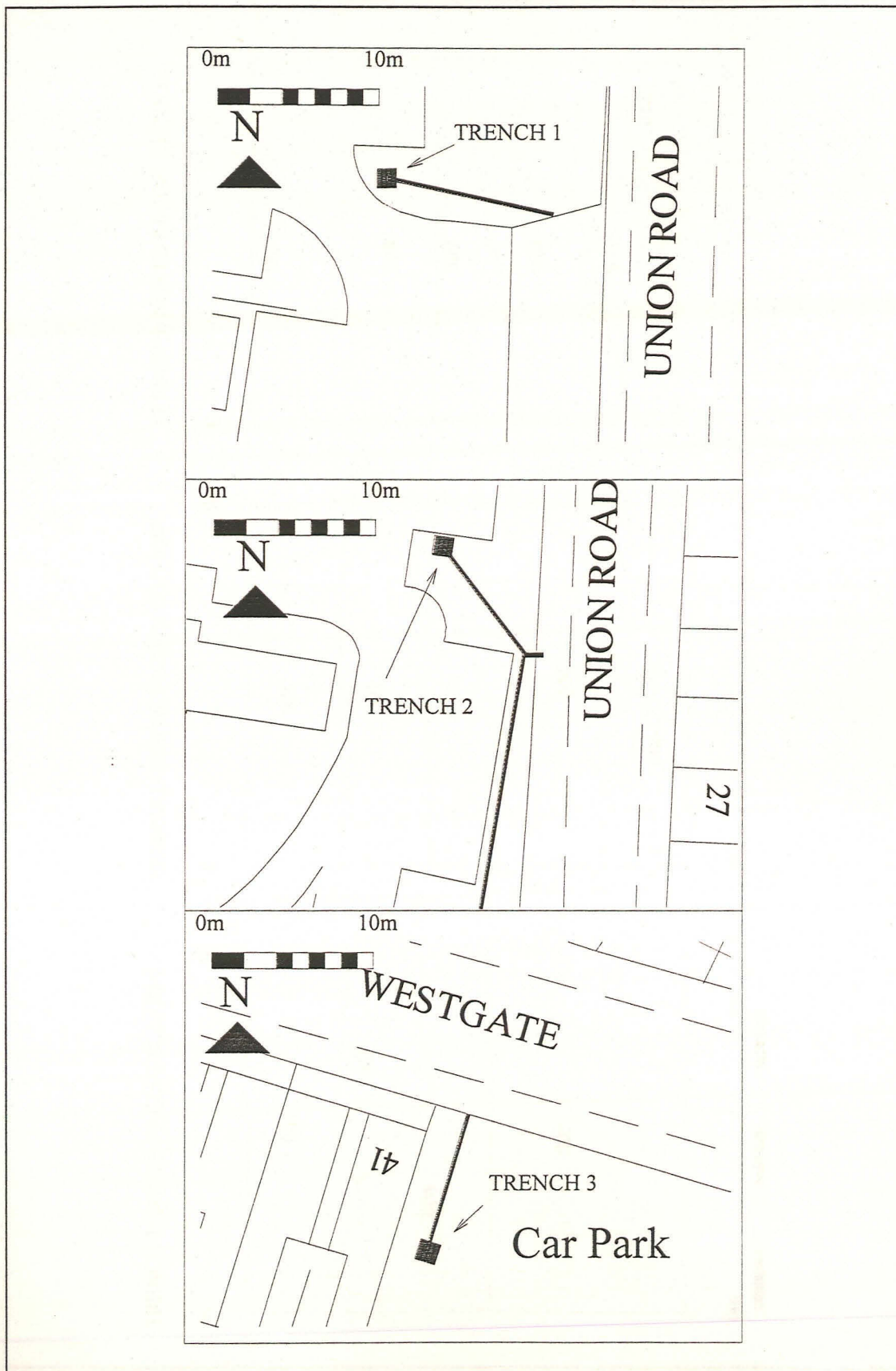


Fig. 2: Trench location plan.

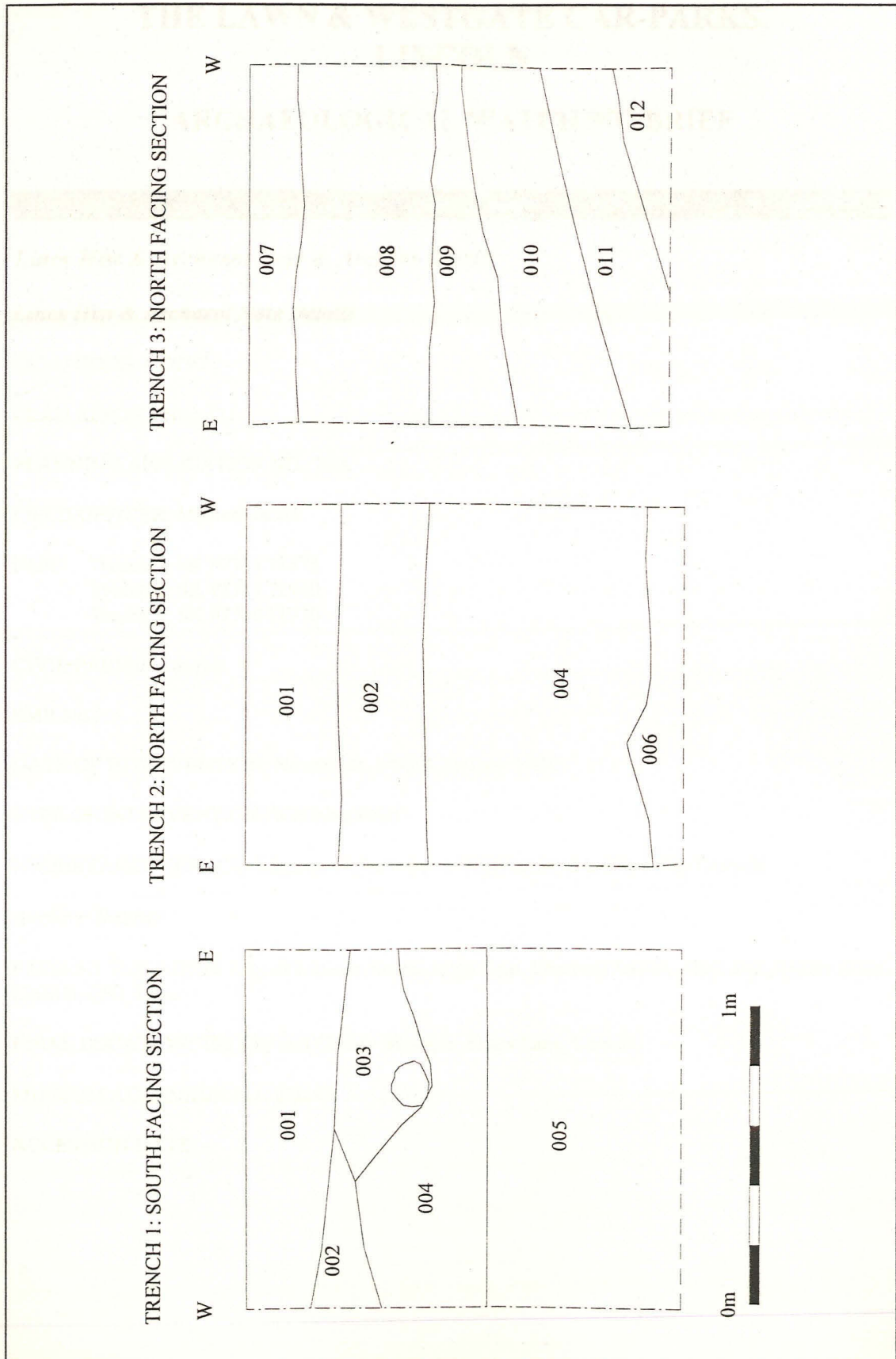


Fig. 3: Trench sections.

CCTV INSTALLATION, THE LAWN & WESTGATE CAR-PARKS, LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

APPENDIX I

Lincs Hist & Archaeol Note & Archive Details

Lincs Hist & Archaeol Note Details

CLAU CODE: CCT97

CLAU REPORT No.: 321

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.: N/A

FIELD OFFICER: Michael Jarvis

NGR: Trench 1: SK 97335 71875
Trench 2: SK 97325 71960
Trench 3: SK 97510 71970

CIVIL PARISH: Lincoln

SMR No.: -

DATE OF INTERVENTION: November, 1997 & January 1998

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: City Engineer & Surveyor's Department of Lincoln City Council

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.: 270.97

ACCESSION DATE: -