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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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**Church of St Mary and St Nicolas
Spalding**

**Foundations for New Vestry
Archaeological Watching Brief**

**NGR: TF 2503 2242
Site Code: SPC98
LCNCC Accession No. 201.98**

**Report for
Spalding Parochial Church Council**

**LAS Report No. 321
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Church of St Mary and St Nicolas Spalding

Foundations for New Vestry
Archaeological Watching Brief
NGR: TF 2503 2242
Site Code: SPC98
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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out between 24th July and 5th August 1998 while the foundations were being excavated for a new vestry at the Parish Church of St Mary and St Nicolas in Spalding. At least thirty-five burials were disturbed in the part of the Churchyard affected by this work. The graves proved to be relatively shallow and densely packed, with many of them intercutting. A masonry-lined, stone-capped vault containing a lead-lined coffin was uncovered, which necessitated modifications to the original design of the vestry footings. The work also afforded the opportunity to examine the foundations of parts of the church building.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by the John D Lynch Partnership, on behalf of Spalding Parochial Church Council, to undertake archaeological recording during the ground works for the construction of a new vestry at the Parish Church of St Mary and St Nicolas.

Location and Description of the Site

The town of Spalding straddles the River Welland as it flows north through the fenlands of South Lincolnshire. The town centre and market place lie on the west side of the river. The High Bridge of 1836, on the site of the ancient river crossing, leads to the junction of Church Street, running east, and Church Gate, which runs south along the eastern bank of the river (Fig. 1). Together with Love Lane to the east, these roads define a triangle of land, occupied in the south by the early fifteenth century Ayscoughfee Hall. The churchyard of the parish church of St Mary and St Nicolas forms the north-eastern corner of this block of land. Access from Church Gate passes a modern office building, which is on the site of Gayton House, built in 1481 and later renamed Holyrood House.

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Apart from the north-western corner, occupied by a church hall and youth centre, the large churchyard survives as a roughly square plot of land approximately 100m across. A road access was created to the west end of the church in 1966, when at the church hall was built, and the gravestones have been subject to re-ordering, selective removal and general tidying up. However, the pattern of pathways through the churchyard is substantially unchanged from the 1904 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 2).

With its wide, double-aisled nave, and delicately buttressed spire, the church is an imposing building, sitting squarely in the centre of the churchyard. Its original, Early

English, cruciform ground-plan has been rather obscured by the later widening of the aisles, but is evident at the east end where the narrow, unaisled chancel projects from the mass of the nave and transepts. On the south side, a fourteenth century chantry chapel for St Thomas à Becket extends eastward from the end of the transept. This creates a space, enclosed on three sides by the walls of the chancel, transept and chapel.

The new vestry will occupy this space, extending eastward as far as the buttress between the first and second bays of the chancel (Pl.1). A nineteenth-century vestry occupies the corresponding position on the north side of the church.

Before work started, a nineteenth-century stone-built passageway crossed obliquely from St Thomas' Chapel to the chancel. A door from this passage gave access to a small enclosed yard which housed *inter alia* the electrical organ bellows and a lean-to storage shed. The masonry from the passageway has been retained for re-use in the walls of the new vestry. The mown grass of the churchyard extended to the outer wall of this passageway, its surface sloping down to a tiled drainage gully which crosses diagonally from the corner of St Thomas' chapel to the corner of the chancel.

Background

Medieval Spalding was the site of a large and influential Benedictine Priory. Although little evidence of it remains, it seems to have occupied a wide area of land south of the present town centre, immediately across the river from the church. Its Foundation Charter, dating from 1051 describes it as being near the existing parish church. In the late eleventh or early twelfth century the Priory acquired patronage of the parish church, and a new building was begun sometime between 1228 and 1251, probably on the site of the earlier church.

This church had a short life as a decision was taken to transfer to a new site during the priorate of William de Littleport, between 1274 and 1293, because of the decay of the building and the congestion of its cemetery. The site of the new building was described as 'on the other side of the water towards the east, in the great cemetery where was formerly a certain chapel which was called the chapel of the Blessed Thomas the Martyr, nigh unto the street which is called Chapelgate'. This is the site of the present church. Building started around 1284.

The chapel which was previously on the site must have been established or re-dedicated sometime after the death of Thomas à Becket in 1170. It seems likely that it was approximately where the chancel now stands. Foundations of this earlier chapel have been reported as being present beneath the floor of the nave, extending westward for seven feet beyond the eastern piers of the transept arches. An unfaced stone block protruding from beneath the east end near the south-east corner of the chancel could also be part of these foundations.

The first major addition to the new church was the chapel of St Thomas of Canterbury built around 1315. This opens from the southern transept and incorporates the southern bay of its eastern aisle.

Other extensive modifications have been made to the original Early English building. The aisles on the south side were added to and widened around 1360, and the tower and the south porch also date from this time. The spire was probably added in the early fifteenth century. Later in the same century, the height of the nave was increased by extending the columns of the arcade and inserting a new clerestory. The aisles on the north side were widened towards the end of the fifteenth century.

The Chapel of St Thomas became home to the grammar school, probably around 1674, and was walled off from the rest of the church.

The churchyard was closed for burials in 1853. By this time its condition was causing considerable concern. In particular, the soil was heaped up against the bases of the outer walls, causing permanent dampness, and flooding after heavy rain.

Extensive restoration of the church was carried out from 1865 to 1867 under the direction of Sir Gilbert Scott. This including rebuilding much of the chancel. The Grammar School moved to purpose-built premises in 1881, and St Thomas Chapel was restored four years later. Subsequently, the passage between the north wall of the chapel and the chancel was built (Pl. 2).

Of the three walls enclosing the site of the new vestry, the south wall of the chancel appears to have the most complex history. It is built of dressed blocks of limestone, laid in courses of varying height. From the east end, the first bay has a single lancet window, towards its west side. The second bay has two symmetrically placed lancet windows. A door has been inserted beneath the second of these windows, probably at the time that the passageway, to which it gave access, was built. The third bay has a Decorated window and is separated by a half-thickness buttress from a narrower fourth bay, with a similar but smaller window. These two windows are traditionally said to have come from the old priory, installed here after its dissolution in 1540.

Two vacant buttress plinths are visible at the base of the wall. It has been suggested that these are remains of the earlier cemetery chapel, but it is more likely that they reflect the arrangement of buttresses before the rebuilding of 1865-7. The Early English style of the chancel was deliberately enhanced in the course of the restoration, and this may have involved replacing a number of smaller buttresses with the two present ones. The moulding beneath the windows continues around these buttresses, but this is probably a deliberate device to unify the new and pre-existing parts of the structure.

The east wall of the south transept is constructed from coursed but undressed blocks. It has a large Decorated window, but is otherwise plain, with no mouldings. The north wall of St Thomas' Chapel has a similar coursed-rubble construction. It has no window, but a door has been cut at the east end, to give access to the passageway to the chancel (Pl. 3).

Watching Brief

The walls for the new vestry extend east from the north-west corner of St Thomas' Chapel, turning north to meet the buttress between the first and second bays of the

chancel wall. The foundation trench for this wall was 0.85m wide and typically 0.60m deep, measured from the existing ground surface. Following the discovery of a vault containing a lead coffin, the foundations were modified. The trench was extended approximately 1.60m eastward from the south-east corner. This extension and two other areas were deepened by 0.40m to allow the construction of footings to support reinforced beams spanning the vault (Fig. 3).

The western part of the new vestry makes structural use of the existing walls of the chancel, transept and chapel, so no foundation trenches were required here, but the ground surface was lowered and levelled to provide sufficient depth for a concrete floor-slab.

Six visits were made to the site, on 24th July, 27th to 29th July and 4th and 5th August 1998. During this time, the ground works for the foundations were hand-dug by the building contractors. Archaeological monitoring of this work was undertaken. The human skeletal remains which were disturbed were cleaned, photographed, recorded and lifted. This was carried out as rapidly as possible, with skeletons only cleaned sufficiently to determine their extents.

The Church Foundations

The foundations of the buttress between the first and second bays of the chancel were exposed in the trench. This buttress apparently dates from the Victorian restoration of the church. A row of rough limestone blocks extending up to 400mm southward from its base at a depth of about 600mm below the present ground level (Pl. 4). These blocks were 250-300mm across. Lying over them, was a layer of compacted earth, approximately 100mm thick, above which was a mortared rubble footing supporting the dressed stone plinth of the buttress. The row of blocks did not appear to be directly supporting the footing, which was only slightly wider than the base of the buttress.

Unfortunately, the trench was not wide enough to see whether the row of blocks continues on the same line beyond the buttress. This would imply that they formed the footings of the wall of an earlier building. If they follow the line Victorian foundations, they could either be a deeper layer of those foundations, extended outwards to spread the load, or the foundations of an earlier buttress in the same position. The first of these possibilities seems the more likely.

The other point at which the trench meets the existing building is the angle between the buttresses of the north-east corner of St Thomas' Chapel (Pl. 5). Here the foundations were much simpler, consisting of a course of mortared, undressed limestone blocks about 0.30m thick and resting directly on the natural silt substrate.

Elsewhere, lowering the ground level to form the floor slab exposed the foundations of the south transept, and the north wall of St Thomas' Chapel. The transept foundations were distinct from those seen elsewhere, being stepped out in two stages to extend approximately 0.40m from the wall (Pl. 6, 7). This contrasts with the rather meagre foundations of the chapel (Pl. 8).

Burials

A total of 35 articulated human skeletons were recorded during excavation of the foundations, in addition to a large quantity of disarticulated human skeletal remains. As recovered, none of the skeletons were complete. In many cases, only a part of the skeleton was exposed in the trench, but most had been truncated by later graves or by modern disturbance.

Burials survived in four areas. Five skeletons were recorded near the south-west corner of the new building close to the transept wall (Fig. 4). This area had previously been concreted, forming part of the small yard enclosed by the passageway between St Thomas' Chapel and the chancel. These graves were very shallow and were found when the concrete surface was removed and the area levelled. One (Sk 01) was a child or adolescent with unfused humeral epiphyses (Pl. 9). Below the level of the lower arm, it was truncated by a modern drain, and the right side of the body had been lost to later disturbance. A sherd of mid-twelfth- to fourteenth-century Bourne ware pottery was found closely associated with this burial.

To the north, another skeleton (Sk 41) was truncated by the same drain, but was quite well preserved above the level of the right humerus and left elbow (Pl. 10). When this was lifted, a skull (Sk 42) was exposed, but was not excavated as it was below the level of the base of the floor slab. The other burials in this area were both very severely truncated, one (Sk 03) being represented by a few articulated shoulder, arm and rib bones (Pl. 9) while the other (Sk 02) consisted of a skull and some neck bones.

The graves in this area were sealed by a clay-rich layer immediately beneath the concrete, and were cutting through a layer composed almost entirely of stone and mortar fragments. This debris could have come from any one of the phases of building or re-building of the Church.

The main concentration of burials was in the trench for the southern wall of the new building (Fig. 5). The vault with the lead coffin effectively divided this into two areas. Close to the wall of St Thomas' Chapel, the base of the trench cut through clean natural silt, with no evidence of graves. For the burials to respect this wall implies that they are later than the construction of the chapel, which means that this part of the graveyard cannot have been in use before 1315. This is surprising, given that the land is known to have been used as a cemetery before the church was built.

Beyond about 1m from the wall, the ground was disturbed and contained quantities of redeposited bone. This disturbance extended across the part of the trench destined to become the recessed entranceway to the new building. Beyond, to the east, were two articulated sets of arm bones from different individuals (Sk 54, 57, Pl. 11) and three skeletons with just the lower parts of the body remaining. Of these, two (Sk 31, 66) had fragments of the pelvic region and femora (Pl. 12), while the third (Sk 63) had only the bones of the right leg (Pl. 13). These leg bones were remarkable for their size and robustness, with the femur being over 500mm long. They must have come from a heavily built individual close to 2m tall.

Around 0.40m deeper, the leg bones of another skeleton (Sk 103) were revealed when this part of the trench was deepened after the discovery of the lead-lined coffin vault (Pl. 14). This burial was resting on the undisturbed natural silts.

To the south, a relatively well preserved skeleton (Sk 37) had lost its left femur to later truncation and been bisected across the right femur by a recently installed electricity cable (Pl. 15). The upper part of its body, from the thoracic region, was beneath the side of trench and not excavated. The same electricity cable had disturbed another burial (Sk 04). This had also lost its right arm to truncation (Pl. 16). Three sherds of late medieval or early post-medieval pottery were found in close association with this skeleton, suggesting a date between the fifteenth and early-seventeenth centuries. There were two sets of lower leg bones (Sk 44, 47) lying beyond an area of disturbance associated with the electricity cable (Pl. 17, 18), either one of which might have been from the same individual.

There was a more complete skeleton (Sk 25) close to the northern baulk of the trench (Pl. 19). It had lost its upper vertebrae and part of its skull when the electricity cable had been installed. In addition, the left arm and rib cage had been truncated by one of the group of graves to the north. Below the level of the electricity cable, the remains of a young child (Sk 74) had unfused epiphyses to all the long bones, and vertebrae and pelvic bones only partially ossified. This individual was probably about 0.85m in height, and around two years old at death (Pl. 20). A set of articulated arm and hand bones (Sk 77) lay directly above the skull of this child.

In most cases, these graves were aligned roughly parallel with the main axis of the church. An exception was a well preserved skeleton (Sk 59) in the south side of the trench (Pl. 21). This lay almost due east-west. As a result it was slightly oblique to the line of the trench, with the body from the pelvis upward beyond the excavated area. Overlying the bones of its feet, which were near the centre of the trench, was a skeleton truncated at the level of the lower rib cage by the vault containing the lead-lined coffin (Sk 14). It was quite well preserved apart from its skull, which was tipped backwards and damaged (Pl. 22). A single sherd of non-local medieval pottery suggested a date between the twelfth and fifteenth centuries for this burial. Similarly truncated, another skeleton (Sk 50) lay partly beneath the north baulk of the trench (Pl. 23). It had well-preserved teeth, showing very little wear. The upper wisdom teeth were just erupting, suggesting that this individual was around 15 to 25 years old. The upper epiphysis of the humerus was unfused which would be consistent with this age estimate.

To the east of the lead-lined coffin vault, one truncated skeleton (Sk 69) had only leg bones remaining (Pl. 24). Close by, a skull (Sk 72) was recovered from the side of the trench as first excavated. It probably belonged with a burial (Sk 81), truncated along its left side, which was exposed when this part of the trench was extended to the east (Pl. 25). A set of lower leg and foot bones (Sk 86) was found when the end of this trench was cut back further, and probably also belonged with the same skeleton (Pl. 26).

With its right side and lower body beneath the south side of the trench, another burial (Sk 84) had been truncated above the level of its shoulder by the lead-lined coffin vault, leaving only its left arm and rib cage visible (Pl. 25). Two sherds of

Bourne ware pottery, dating to the fifteenth to seventeenth centuries, were recovered from close to these remains. Three more burials were found in the south-east corner of the trench, of which one (Sk 91) had only the bones of an arm and hand (Pl. 27). A fairly well preserved skeleton (Sk 88) had lost both arms, and much of its abdominal region to truncation (Pl. 28). Its legs were beneath the end of the trench and were not excavated. The left femur, pelvic bones and lower vertebrae of a young child (Sk 94) were exposed against the southern side of the trench (Pl. 29).

At a greater depth, a well-preserved skeleton (Sk 97) lay with its lower body beneath the end of the trench (Pl. 30). It had been cleanly truncated across the left side of its skull and through the left rib cage by a later grave (Sk 100). This burial was one of the deepest found and was responsible for disturbance to several other skeletons (e.g. Sk 81). Although the bones were not particularly well preserved, it was notable for having the entire outline of the base of the coffin visible as a dark stain in the ground, with areas of surviving wood and corroded metal fixings (Pl. 31, 32).

The trench for the foundations to the east side of the new building passed through an area of considerable disturbance at its southern end. It was crossed by a water pipe close to where it joined the southern trench, and by two electricity cables, one housed in a plastic duct, about 1.70m to the north. Between these points, there was a large quantity of loose human bones, but no articulated skeletons. An area of undisturbed graveyard deposits survived beneath the electricity cable and extended to a modern trench containing a large ceramic drain which ran parallel with the south side of the chancel (Fig. 6).

Four graves were found in this area. In two cases, only the leg bones were within the width of the trench. One of these (Sk 20) was partly underneath the electricity cable, while the other (Sk 23) was about 0.50m to the north (Pl. 33). The bones of a single right leg (Sk 29) were at a lower level (Pl. 34). The rest of this burial had presumably been lost when the ceramic drain was installed. It lay above a much better preserved skeleton (Sk 35), which had the skull and thoracic region within the trench (Pl. 35).

In addition to the burial which had well preserved wood from the coffin still present (Sk 100), a number of other coffin stains were noted. With the dense concentration of graves, it was difficult to ascribe areas of staining to particular burials. Six iron nails were found close to one skeleton (Sk 57), although some of these may have belonged to the coffin for its neighbour (Sk 54). The fill of another grave (Sk 44) yielded a single coffin nail. Five other nails could not be associated with any specific burial.

With the exception of the deepest burials, which extended down into the natural silts, it was generally not possible to distinguish the edges of individual graves. In a few cases, finds were associated so closely with skeletons that they could be ascribed with confidence to the fill of a particular grave. Otherwise, a single context number (13) was used for all finds from the graveyard. From a total of fifty-two fragments of pottery recovered, all but seven were from these undifferentiated grave fills. Not surprisingly, these covered a range of dates. The earliest type represented was Nottingham splashed ware from the twelfth or thirteenth centuries. Medieval local wares, spanning the thirteenth to fifteenth centuries, accounted for almost half of the

pottery finds, while Bourne ware from the fifteenth to seventeenth centuries was also well represented. There were comparatively few later finds, although Staffordshire slipwares, red earthenwares and late stonewares continued the pottery sequence through to the nineteenth century.

The Lead-Lined Coffin

In the area corresponding to the south-east corner of the new building, a vault containing a lead coffin was exposed (Pl. 36, 37). This was not excavated. The vault was covered by a stone slab, approximately 40mm thick, and 0.43m below the ground surface. This slab was cracked, allowing removal of a small section to reveal the inner face of one side of the vault. A row of mortared bricks around the edge of the slab, where it overlapped the top of the vault, sealed it in place. The side of the vault were smooth and appeared to be concrete, or rendered stonework. There was a gap of approximately 150mm between the vault and the lead lining of the coffin. The vault was around 400mm deep, and had standing water in the base. The wooden side of the coffin, though soft and spongy in texture, was fairly well preserved below this level. This confirmed that the sealed lead container had originally formed the lining to a wooden coffin. Items of metal coffin furniture, including handles and decorative foil swags, were still in place, attached over a soft outer layer of leather or fabric.

The full extent of the vault was not uncovered, so its overall dimensions are not known. It was 'coffin-shaped' with the exposed part corresponding to the left side, shoulder angle and left corner of the head end. The side above the shoulder angle was parallel with the main axis of the church, so the vault as a whole was aligned slightly to the north-west to south-east of this.

A number of bones had been placed directly onto the surface of the stone slab covering the vault. These clearly consisted of charnel remains from skeletons disturbed when the vault was dug. A collection of limb bones, gathered together in a regular bundle, lay transversely over the centre of the slab, and three skulls were positioned nearby (Pl. 38).

Above the vault, but not aligned with it, a stone surface consisting of three 90mm thick flagstones intruded about 0.10m into the south side of the trench. It was 0.31m above the lid of the vault, and 0.12m below the ground surface and extended 0.53m beyond the west end of the vault. It was on approximately the same alignment as the church.

Before excavation of the foundation trenches began, a stone tomb chest was moved away from the immediate working area. Before being moved, it was positioned immediately above the flag-stoned surface. It carried an inscription recording the grave of Octavius Jennings. The graveyard is known to have been re-ordered and tidied up, so this monument may not have been in its original place. If it was, the lead coffin presumably holds the remains of Octavius Jennings or a member of his family

An entry in the burial register for June 2, 1847 records that Octavius Jennings died suddenly while dressing. The period between 1834 and 1855 also saw the burials of

Isaac Jennings, a 39-year-old publican in January 1838 and George Jennings in October 1850 at the age of 70.

Discussion

The skeletons recovered from the graveyard were all either truncated by later graves, or lay partly beyond the limits of the trench, so that none was recovered in a complete or near complete state. The dating evidence that was obtained is consistent with the assumption that these burials span a wide period of time, perhaps from the twelfth or thirteenth to the nineteenth centuries. Study of such a fragmentary, multi-period assemblage is unlikely to yield much useful archaeological information, and has not been undertaken. It is recommended that all the human remains are appropriately re-interred.

Three distinct alignments of graves were evident. The majority of the burials were parallel to the axis of the church, and therefore parallel or perpendicular to the trenches. A few were more nearly due east-west, and so slightly oblique to the foundations of the new building. The grave with the lead coffin was aligned in a more north-west to south-easterly direction as were several others to the east of it. This last group includes some of the later, post-medieval burials, suggesting that the different alignments relate to various periods of use. It is tempting to propose that the due east-west graves were not influenced by the alignment of the church because they pre-date it. However, the small group of graves near the transept wall also seemed to be slightly oblique to the line of the church, but were cutting through debris which almost certainly resulted from construction of part of the building.

Remains of coffins were evident in a number of graves. The best example (Sk 100), was stratigraphically relatively late. The high density of burials may be a result of frequent re-use of the same piece of land, but shroud burials occupy less space and often tend to be more closely packed. It could be that only the later burials used coffins.

Many of the graves were remarkably shallow. To some extent this reflects the common medieval practice of graves being dug down to the level that does not disturb earlier burials. In crowded churchyards, this results in a gradual reduction in the depth of burial over time. The earliest graves excavated seem to have been among the deepest, although this could be a false impression, since only deeper burials will have survived the later disturbance. The latest, post-medieval graves also seem to have been relatively deep. The depth of burial is also likely to have been influenced by the level of the water table, which will have changed over time. Extensive fenland drainage in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries would have allowed graves to be dug deeper before their bases flooded. The shallowness of the medieval graves could be a reflection of water levels at that period. One of the aims of landscaping of the churchyard in the nineteenth century was to stop rainwater flooding into the church building, so the land adjacent to the walls would have been lowered. This will have affected all the graves, making them shallower, relative to the new ground level.

The churchyard has not been used for burial since the middle of the nineteenth century. Dating evidence suggests that this part of the graveyard was less heavily used after the seventeenth century. There was no evidence for burials dating from

before the building of the Church. It had been thought that the cemetery chapel or an associated building may have occupied the area to the south of the chancel. However, no evidence of foundations for this were found.

Richard Moore
30th September 1998

Acknowledgements

The work was commissioned by John Lynch, on behalf of Spalding Parochial Church Council. Much of the background information on the history of the church was taken from literature available in the church bookshop, including the guide book by Ronald and Mary Stanley. Other information came from the vicar, church-wardens, and others associated with the church, who were extremely helpful in every way. Thanks also to the builders carrying out the work for their friendly co-operation.

For LAS, the watching brief was co-ordinated by Naomi Field, and carried out by Richard Moore with Sue Farr. Mick McDaid helped with the illustrations. Jane Frost collated this report and provided administrative support.

APPENDIX 1: Context Summary

Context	Type	Description
01	Skeleton	Skull & truncated upper body, juvenile, in SW corner of site.
02	Skeleton	Skull & few vertebrae, ribs. Heavily truncated, in SW corner of site.
03	Skeleton	Heavily truncated, clavicle, few ribs, vertebrae, in SW corner of site.
04	Skeleton	Skull and left upper body, W end of southern foundation trench.
05	Fill	Fill of 06.
06	Cut	Grave of Skeleton 01.
07	Fill	Fill of 08.
08	Cut	Grave of Skeleton 02.
09	Fill	Fill of 10.
10	Cut	Grave of Skeleton 03.
11	Fill	Fill of 12.
12	Cut	Grave of Skeleton 04.
13		Unstratified finds.
14	Skeleton	Upper body, rest of Skeleton lost to cut for lead coffin.
15	Fill	Fill of 16.
16	Cut	Grave of Skeleton 14.
17	Layer	Back-fill over the vault with the lead coffin.
18	Cut	Grave of Skeleton 20.
19	Fill	Fill of 18.
20	Skeleton	In eastern trench, below electricity cable.
21	Cut	Grave of Skeleton 23.
22	Fill	Fill of 21.
23	Skeleton	In eastern trench, near electricity cable.
24	Fill	Fill of 26.
25	Skeleton	In southern trench, towards west end, skull lost to truncation by electricity cable.
26	Cut	Grave of Skeleton 25.
27	Cut	Grave of Skeleton 29.
28	Fill	Fill of 27.
29	Skeleton	In eastern trench, near drain along south side of Church.
30	Fill	Fill of 32.
31	Skeleton	Truncated by electricity cable, upper body beneath baulk.
32	Cut	Grave of Skeleton 31.
33	Cut	Grave of Skeleton 35.
34	Fill	Fill of 33.
35	Skeleton	In east trench, left arm lost to drain, lower body beneath baulk.
36	Fill	Fill of 38.
37	Skeleton	West end of southern trench, upper body beneath baulk.
38	Cut	Grave of Skeleton 37.
39	Cut	Grave of Skeleton 41.
40	Fill	Fill of 39.
41	Skeleton	West part of site, close to transept wall, lower body truncated by drain.
42	Skeleton	Unexcavated, skull showing near Skeleton 41.
43	Fill	Fill of 45.
44	Skeleton	Truncated leg, near stone slab over lead coffin vault.
45	Cut	Grave of Skeleton 44.
46	Fill	Fill of 48.
47	Skeleton	Truncated legs, near Skeleton 44.
48	Cut	Grave of Skeleton 47.
49	Fill	Fill of 51.
50	Skeleton	Lower body lost to truncation by lead coffin vault.
51	Cut	Grave of Skeleton 50.
52	Cut	Grave of Skeleton 54.
53	Fill	Fill of 52.
54	Skeleton	Truncated arm, near water pipe.

APPENDIX 1

Context	Type	Description
55	Cut	Grave of Skeleton 57.
56	Fill	Fill of 55.
57	Skeleton	Truncated arm, near water pipe.
58	Fill	Fill of 60.
59	Skeleton	Truncated legs, west of lead coffin vault.
60	Cut	Grave of Skeleton 59.
61	Cut	Grave of Skeleton 63.
62	Fill	Fill of 61.
63	Skeleton	Truncated leg, unusually large.
64	Cut	Grave of Skeleton 66.
65	Fill	Fill of 64.
66	Skeleton	Pelvis and leg bones, beneath Skeleton 63, near water pipe.
67	Cut	Grave of Skeleton 69.
68	Fill	Fill of 67.
69	Skeleton	Truncated leg, north of lead coffin vault.
70	Cut	Grave of Skeleton 72.
71	Fill	Fill of 70.
72	Skeleton	Skull, north of lead coffin vault.
73	Fill	Fill of 75.
74	Skeleton	Child, west of lead coffin vault.
75	Cut	Grave of Skeleton 74.
76	Fill	Fill of 78.
77	Skeleton	Truncated arm, over Skeleton 74.
78	Cut	Grave of Skeleton 77.
79	Masonry	Vault containing lead coffin.
80	Fill	Fill of 82.
81	Skeleton	In eastward extension of trench, left side of body lost to truncation.
82	Cut	Grave of Skeleton 81.
83	Fill	Fill of 85.
84	Skeleton	Truncated arm and ribs, south-east of Skeleton 81.
85	Cut	Grave of Skeleton 84.
86	Skeleton	Truncated leg, possibly same as 81.
87	Fill	Fill of 89.
88	Skeleton	Truncated rib-cage and vertebrae, in eastern extension of trench.
89	Cut	Grave of Skeleton 88.
90	Fill	Fill of 92.
91	Skeleton	Truncated arm, in eastern extension of trench.
92	Cut	Grave of Skeleton 91.
93	Fill	Fill of 95.
94	Skeleton	Pelvis, sacrum and femur of child, near south-east corner of extended trench.
95	Cut	Grave of Skeleton 94.
96	Fill	Fill of 98.
97	Skeleton	Upper body, truncated along left side by 101.
98	Cut	Grave of Skeleton 97.
99	Fill	Fill of 101.
100	Skeleton	Parts of coffin still present, north part of extended trench.
101	Cut	Grave of Skeleton 100.
102	Fill	Fill of 104.
103	Skeleton	Legs visible in deepened trench to west of lead coffin vault.
104	Cut	Grave of Skeleton 103.

Post-Roman Pottery Catalogue
Jane Young

Context	Ware	Sherds	Form	Comments
5	BOUA	1	JAR/BOWL	BS;UNGLZE;SOOT
11	BOU	1	JUG/JAR	BS
11	MEDLOC	1	JUG	GLZE;FABRIC INC CA;THICK INT DEP
11	MEDLOC	1	JUG?	BS;OR BOUA
13	BERTH	1	JAR;TINY	RIM
13	BOU	1	JAR	RIM;CU GLZE;THU STRIP UNDER RIM
13	BOU	1	JAR/JUG	AMBER GLZE
13	BOU	1	JAR/JUG	AMBER GLZE
13	BOU	1	JAR/JUG	AMBER GLZE
13	BOU	1	JAR/JUG	CU GLZE
13	BOU	1	JAR/JUG	NO GLZE
13	BOU	1	JAR/JUG	NO GLZE
13	BOU	1	JAR/JUG	NO GLZE
13	BOU	1	JAR/JUG	NO GLZE
13	BOU	1	JAR/JUG	NO GLZE
13	BOU	1	JAR/JUG	RIM;YELL/CU GLZE
13	BOU	1	JAR/JUG	SPOTS OF GLZE
13	BOU	1	JAR/JUG	SPOTS OF GLZE
13	BOU	1	JAR/JUG	UNDERFIRED GLZE
13	LSTON	1	-	? VESSEL
13	LSTON	1	-	? VESSEL
13	LSTON	1	DRAIN?	-
13	MEDLOC	1	JAR?	NO GLZE;OXID FABRIC
13	MEDLOC	1	JAR?	NO GLZE;OXID FABRIC
13	MEDLOC	1	JAR?	NO GLZE;OXID FABRIC REDUCED CORE
13	MEDLOC	1	JAR?	NO GLZE;OXID FABRIC REDUCED CORE
13	MEDLOC	1	JAR?	NO GLZE;OXID FABRIC REDUCED CORE
13	MEDLOC	1	JAR?	NO GLZE;OXID FABRIC REDUCED CORE
13	MEDLOC	1	JUG	BS;FINE LSWA TYPE FABRIC
13	MEDLOC	1	JUG	COARSE FABRIC;INC HORIZ LINE DEC
13	MEDLOC	1	JUG	FINE GREY FABRIC;OXID EXT SURF; WHITE SLIP;CU GLZE
13	MEDLOC	1	JUG	GLZE;FINE QUARTZ FABRIC
13	MEDLOC	1	JUG	GLZE;FINE QUARTZ FABRIC
13	MEDLOC	1	JUG	GLZE;FINE QUARTZ FABRIC
13	MEDLOC	1	JUG	SPLAYED BASE;FINE LSWA TYPE FABRIC
13	MEDLOC	1	JUG	UNDERFIRED GLZE;GREY FABRIC
13	MEDLOC	1	JUG	UNDERFIRED GLZE;GREY FABRIC
13	MEDLOC	1	JUG/JAR	GLZE;OXID FABRIC;INT DEP
13	MEDLOC	1	JUG?	SPL GLZE;WORN
13	MEDLOC	2	JUG/JAR	NO GLZE;OXID FABRIC;INT DEP
13	MEDX	1	JUG	? SCAR;FINE OXID FABRIC;OLIVE GLZE
13	NOTG	2	JUG	? ID;CU GLZE
13	NSP	1	JUG	COARSE FABRIC
13	RGRE	1	?	BS
13	SLIP	1	DISH;PRESS MOULD	BASE;TRAILED DEC
13	STSL	1	CUP?	BASE
13	TB	1	BOWL?	BASE
13	TB	1	JUG/CISTERN	BASE

13	TOY	1	JUG	BS
15	MEDX	1	JUG	FINE GREY FABRIC; SPARSE QUARTZ + CA INCL; THICK WHITE SLIP; ? BOURNE PRODUCT
83	BOU	1	JUG	BS
83	BOU	1	JUG/JAR	BS; COARSE FABRIC; ? ID

POST-ROMAN POTTERY ARCHIVE: SPC98 HORIZON DATING

Context	Earliest horizon	Latest horizon	Probable horizon	Dating
5	MH1	MH8	-	12th-14th
11	MH10	PMH4	-	15th-17th
13	PMH8	EMH	-	18th-19th
15	MH3	MH10	-	12th-15th
83	MH10	PMH4	-	15th-17th

Glossary of Fabric Codes

Boua	Bourne fabrics A-C: mid 12th - late 14th centuries
Bou	Bourne Fabric D: mid 15th - mid 17th centuries
Medloc	medieval, local origin: early 13th/late 15th centuries
Berth	brown earthenwares: mid 16th/early 19th centuries
Lston	late stonewares: late 18th/20th centuries
Medx	medieval, non-local or uncertain origin: early 13th/late 15th centuries
Notg	Nottingham green-glazed ware: early 13th-late 14th centuries
Nsp	Nottingham splashed glaze ware; early 12th - mid 13th centuries
Rgre	reduced glazed red earthenwares: mid 16th/late 18th centuries
Slip	slipwares: early 17th/20th centuries
Stsl	Staffordshire slipware: mid 17th - mid 18th centuries
TB	Toynton All Saints/ Bolingbroke kilns: mid 15th/mid 18th centuries
Toy	Toynton All Saints ware, Kiln 1 (Roses); early 13th-mid 14th century

APPENDIX 3: Contents of Site Archive

Arrangements have been made for the site archive to be lodged with the City and County Museum, Lincoln. In addition to a copy of this report, it consists of:

Original site documentation including 104 context records,

1 sheet of site drawings,

1 box of finds,

Photographs:

98/87 15-36

98/88 1-36

98/94 21-32

98/100 00-24

All of the human skeletal remains have been deposited in the care of the church wardens, awaiting reburial.

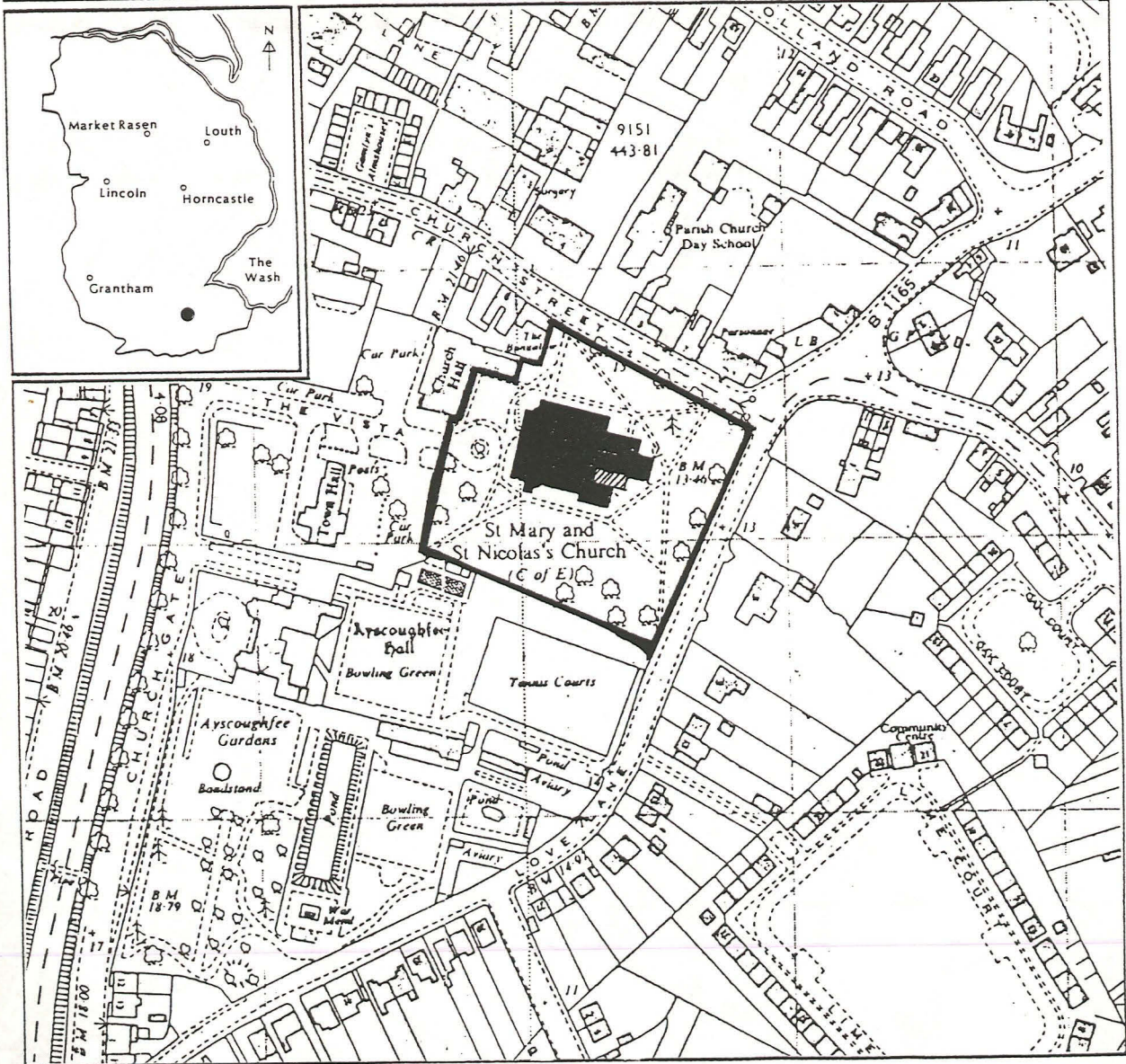
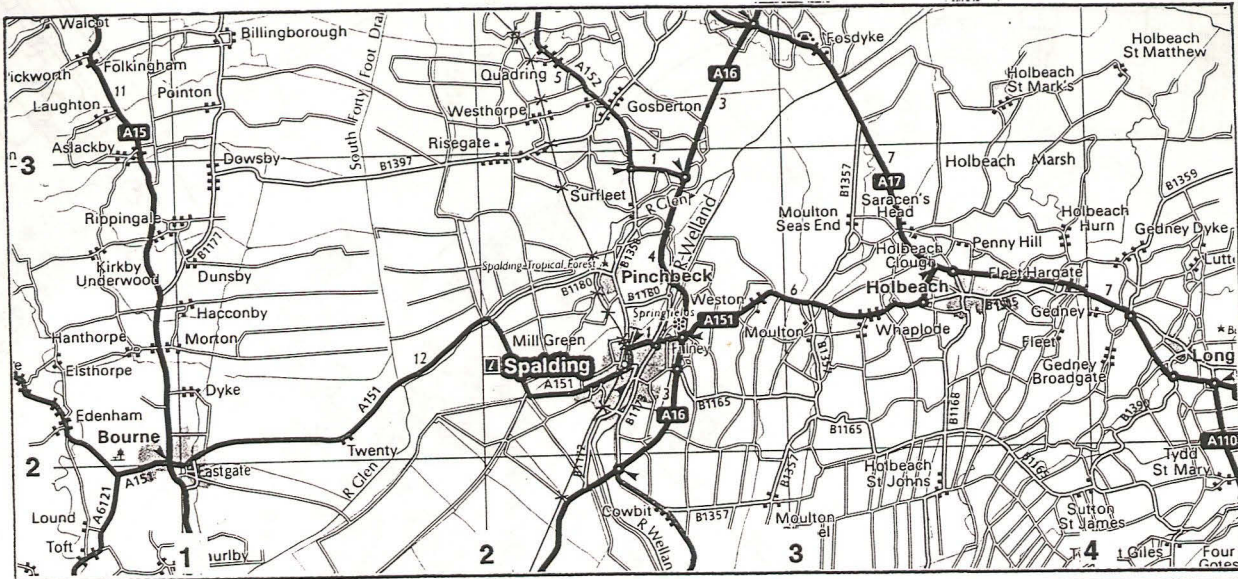


Fig. 1 Location of St Mary and St Nicolas Church, Spalding.

(Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Road Atlas, 1994, and from 1970 Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map, with the permission of the Controller of HMSO, © Crown copyright, LAS Licence no. AL50424A)

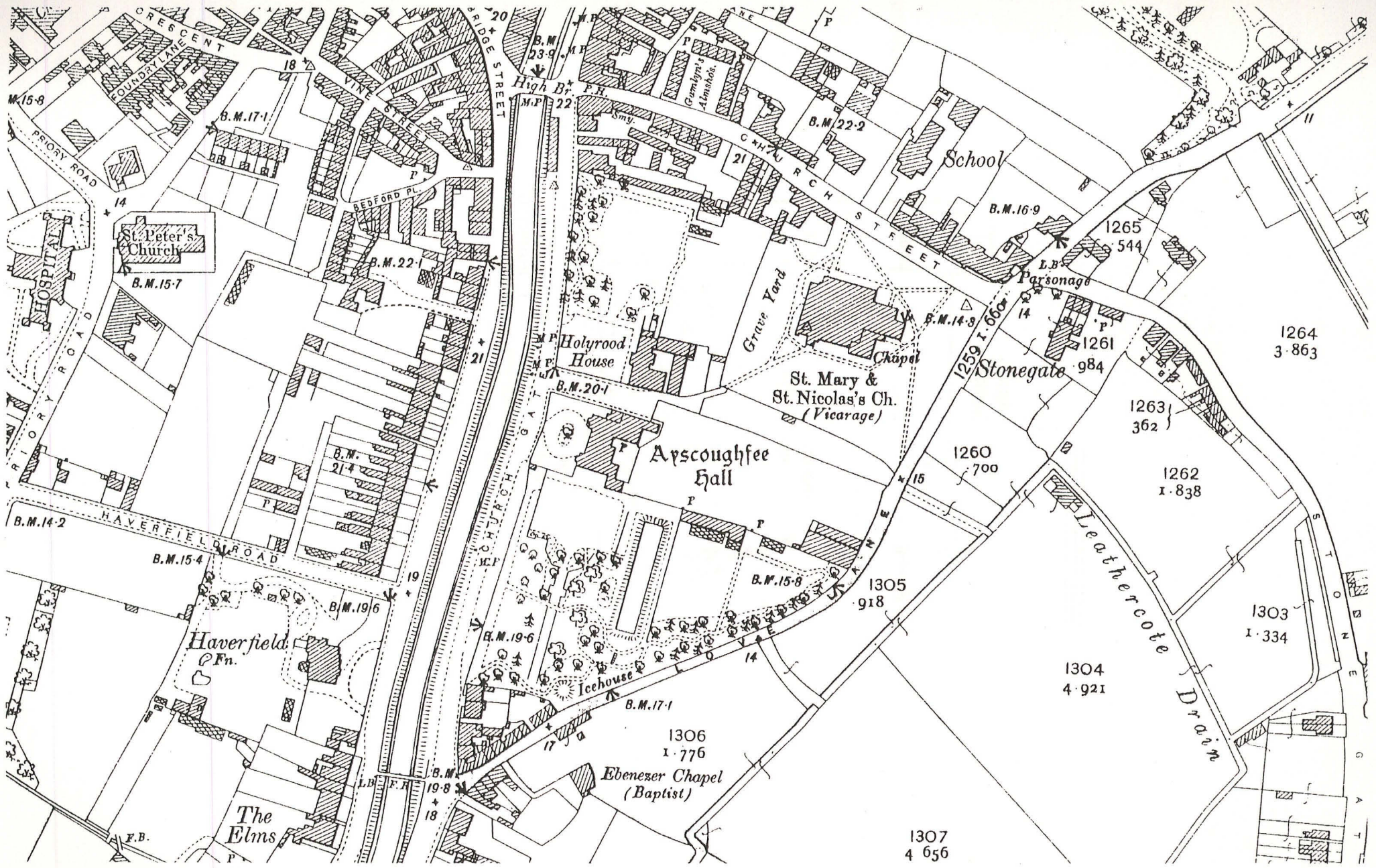


Fig. 2 Extract from 1904 Ordnance Survey map.

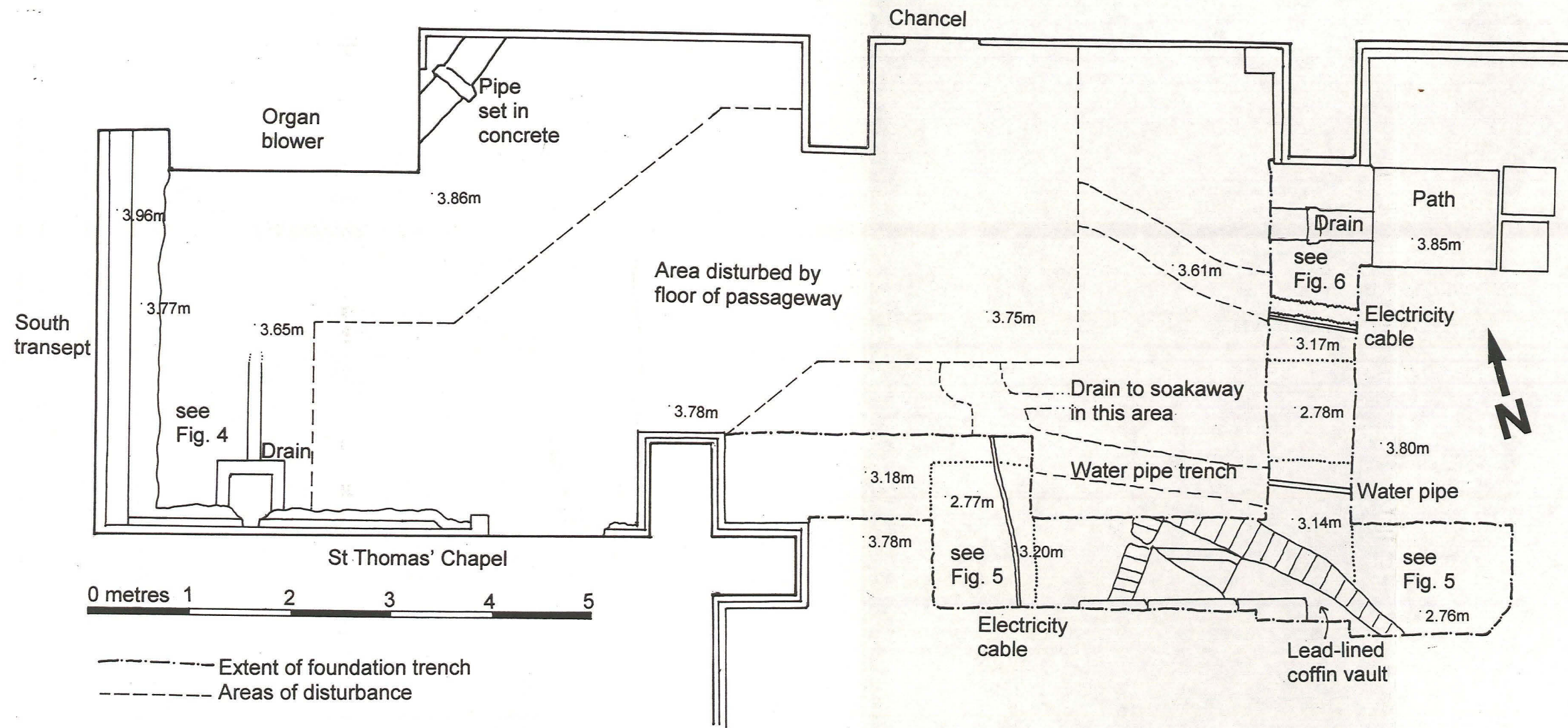


Fig. 3 Plan of the site.

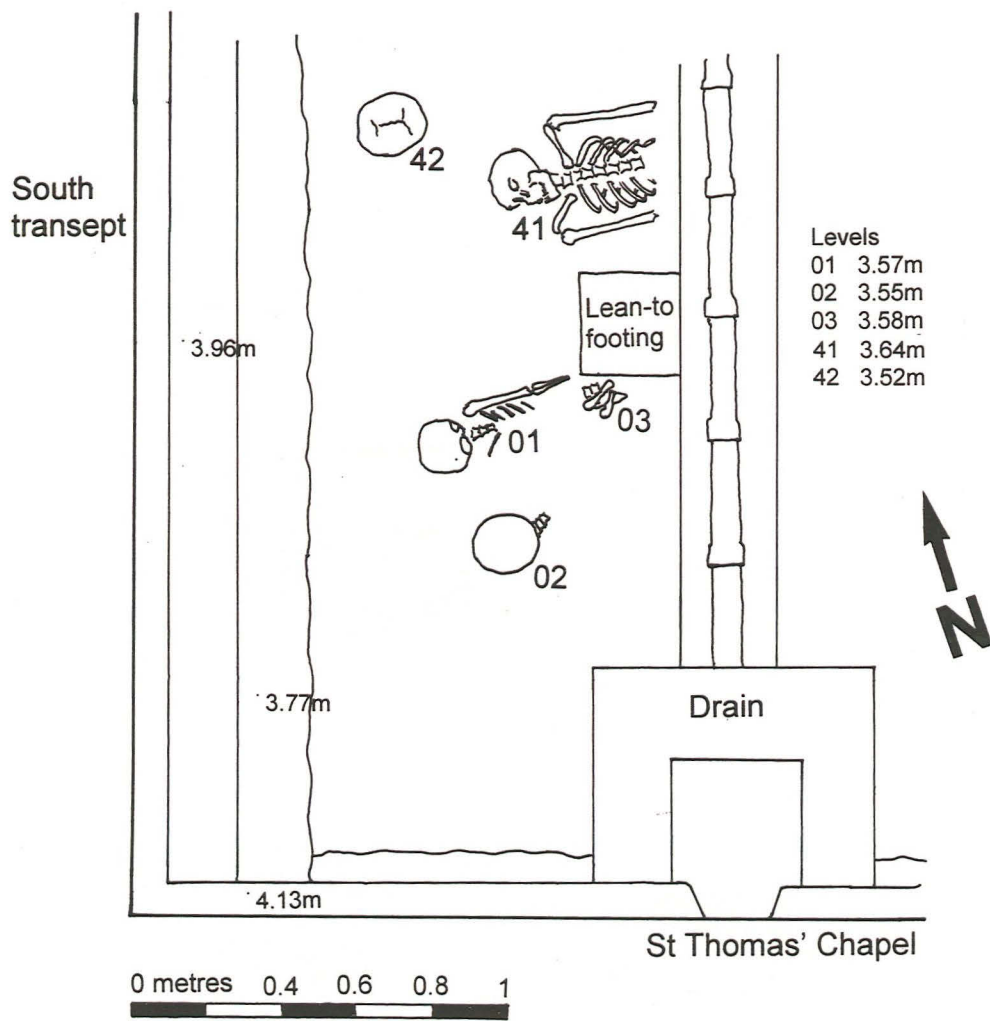


Fig. 4 Location of burials in the western part of the site.

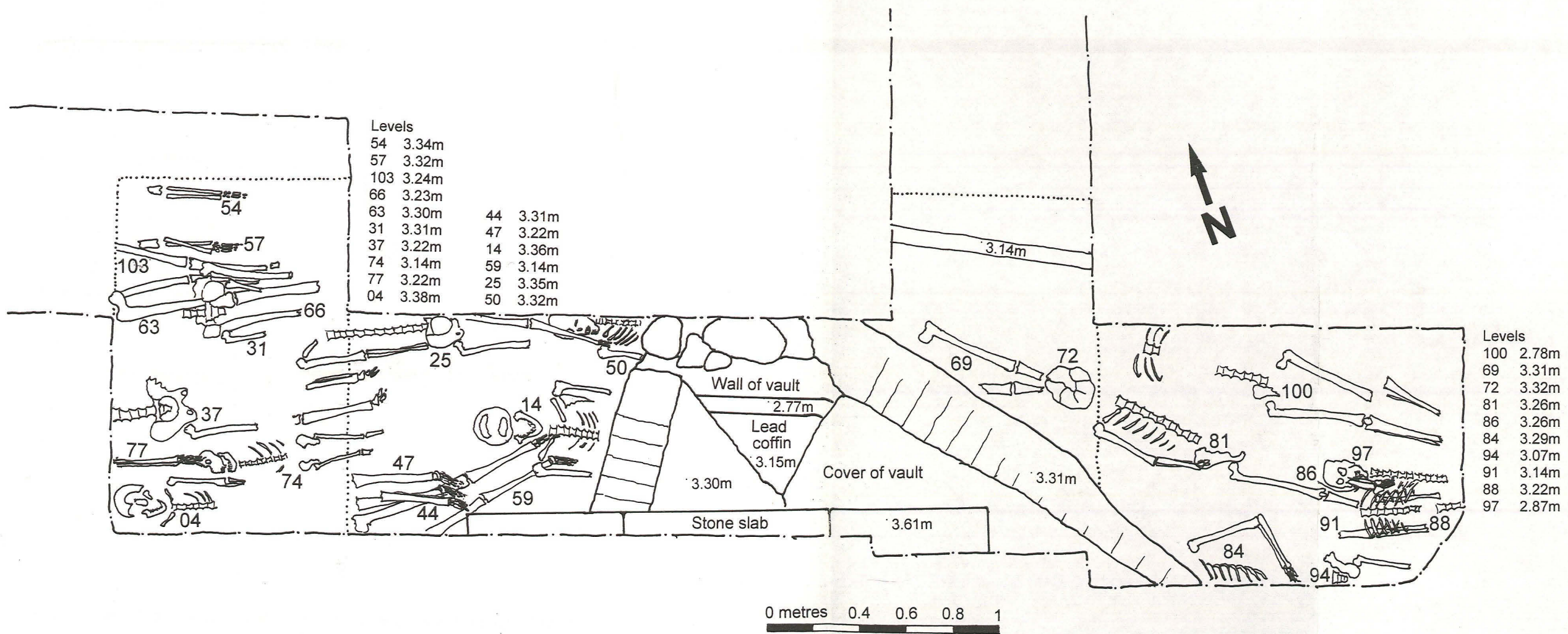


Fig. 5 Location of burials in the south wall foundation trench.

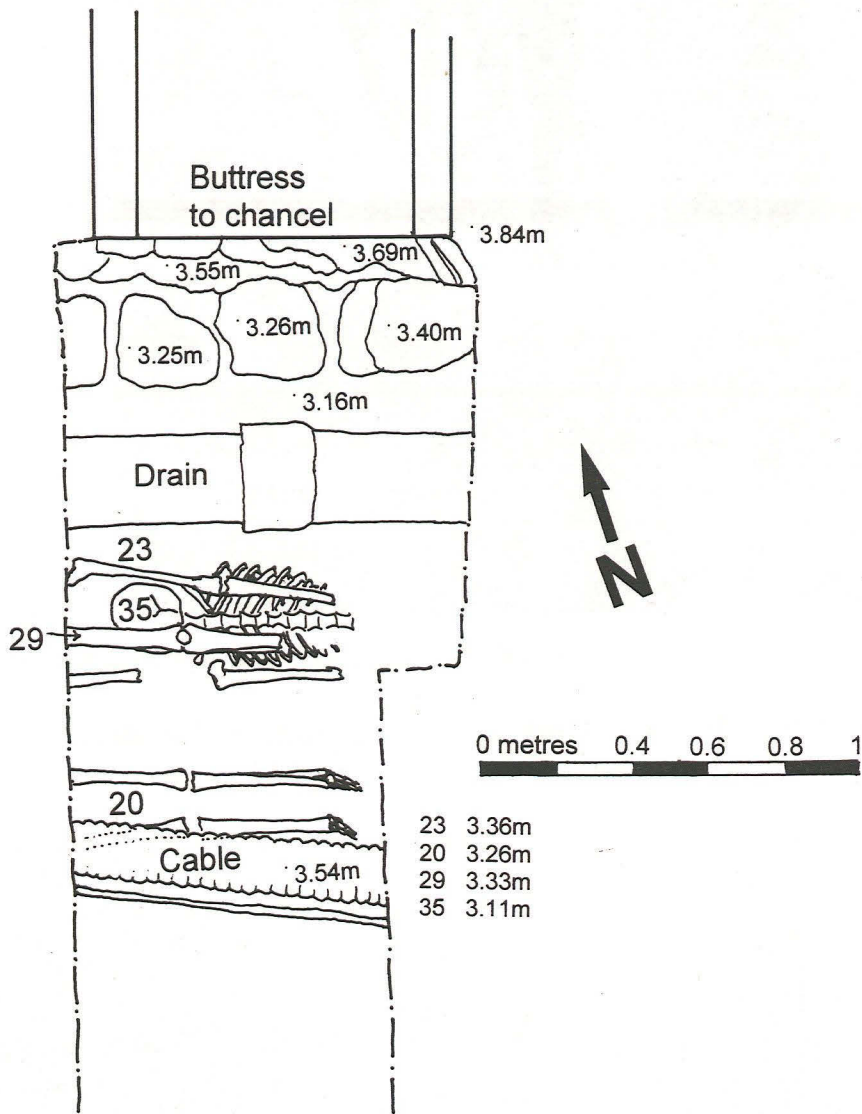


Fig. 6 Location of burials in the east wall foundation trench.



Pl. 1 View of the site from the south-east.

Pl. 2 South wall of chancel, looking north-east. The demolished passageway butted up against the buttress to the right of the photograph.





Pl. 3 North wall of St Thomas' Chapel, looking south-east, showing the door to the demolished passageway and the butress on the north-east corner of the building.

Pl. 4 Foundation of the chancel butress, looking north; scale 50cm.





Pl. 5 Foundation of the buttress on the north-east corner of St Thomas' Chapel, looking south-west.

Pl. 6 Base of the east wall of the south transept, looking west, showing stepped out foundations; scale 50cm.





Pl. 7 Corner of south transept and chancel wall, looking north-west, with housing for organ bellows on the right, showing contrast in foundations.

Pl. 8 Foundation to north wall of St Thomas' Chapel, looking south-west, with foundation of south transept showing to the right.





Pl. 9 Skeleton 1, looking west. A clavicle and rib of skeleton 3 are visible close to the tip of the north arrow; scale 20cm.

Pl. 10 Skeleton 41, looking west, showing truncation by modern drain; scale 30cm.





Pl. 11 Skeletons 54 (top) and 57 (below), looking north; scale 30cm.

Pl. 12 Skeleton 31, looking north, showing truncation by modern electricity cable; scale 20cm.





Pl. 13 Skeleton 63 lying over skeleton 66, looking south. The exceptional size of skeleton 63 can be judged by comparing the length of the femur with the 50cm scale.

Pl. 14 Skeleton 103, looking north; scale 50cm.





Pl. 15 Skeleton 37, looking west, truncated across the lower femur by electricity cable trench; scale 30cm.

Pl. 16 Skeleton 4, looking north. The lower part of the body has been lost to the electricity cable trench and other modern disturbance; scale 20cm





Pl. 17 Skeleton 44, looking south, with a tibia of skeleton 47 showing underneath; scale 20cm.

Pl. 18 Skeleton 47, looking south, truncated to the west by an area of modern disturbance; scale 20cm.

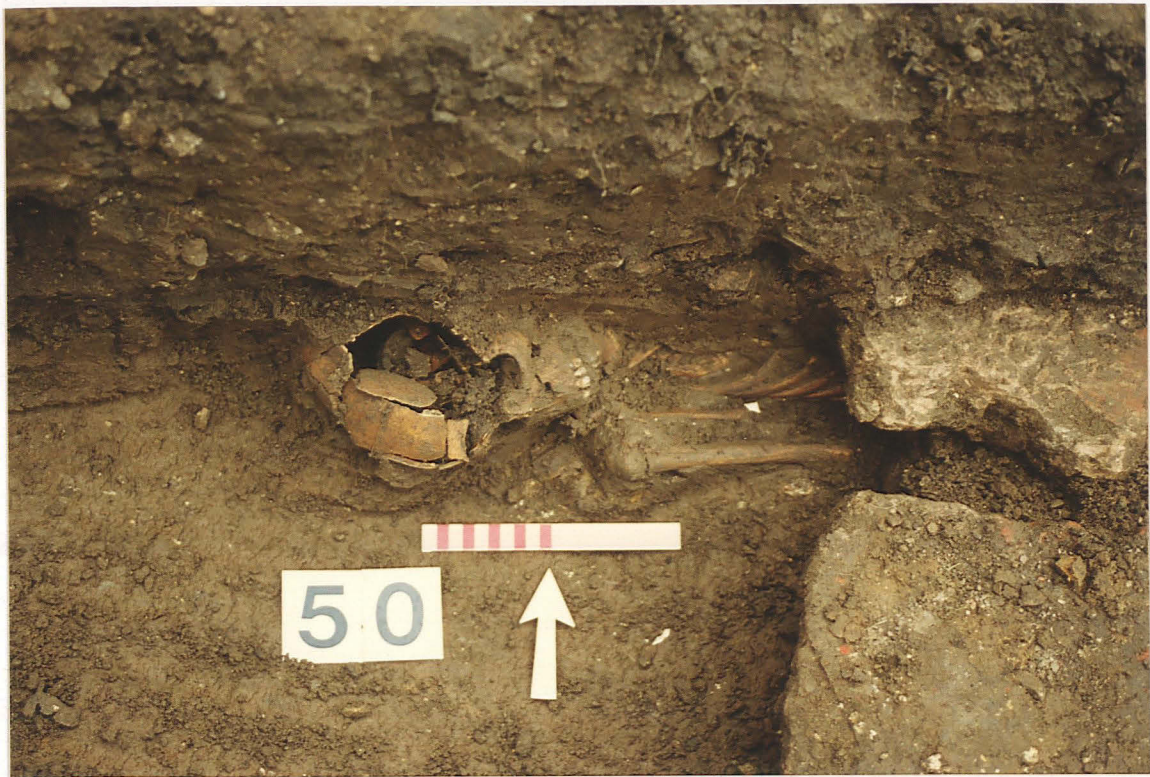




Pl. 19 Skeleton 25, looking north; scale 50cm.

Pl. 20 Child skeleton 74, looking west; scale 50cm.





Pl. 23 Skeleton 50, looking north, showing truncation by vault for the lead-lined coffin; scale 20cm.

Pl. 24 Skeleton 69, looking north, with the skull of skeleton 72 to the right of the photograph; note the 'north arrow' is pointing south; scale 50cm.





PI. 21 Skeleton 59, looking south. The north arrow is aligned in relation to the church; this skeleton was actually lying almost due east-west; scale 20cm.

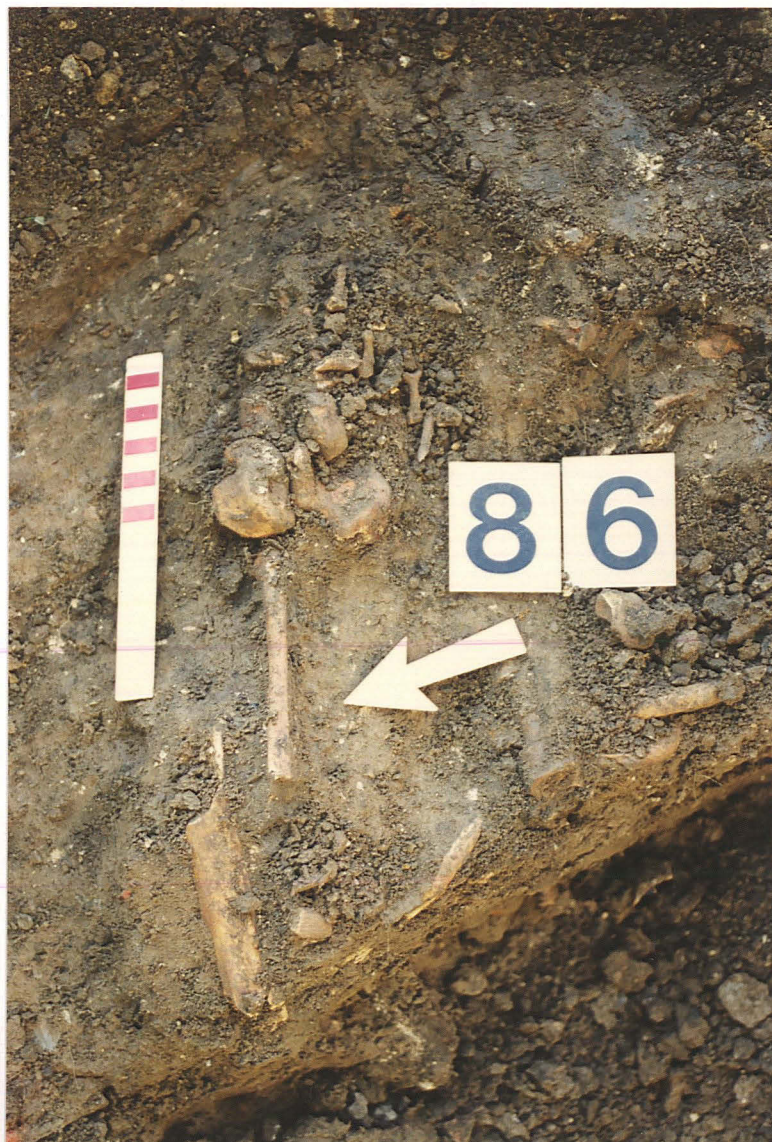
PI. 22 Skeleton 14, looking west, showing truncation by the vault holding the lead-lined coffin; scales 20cm.





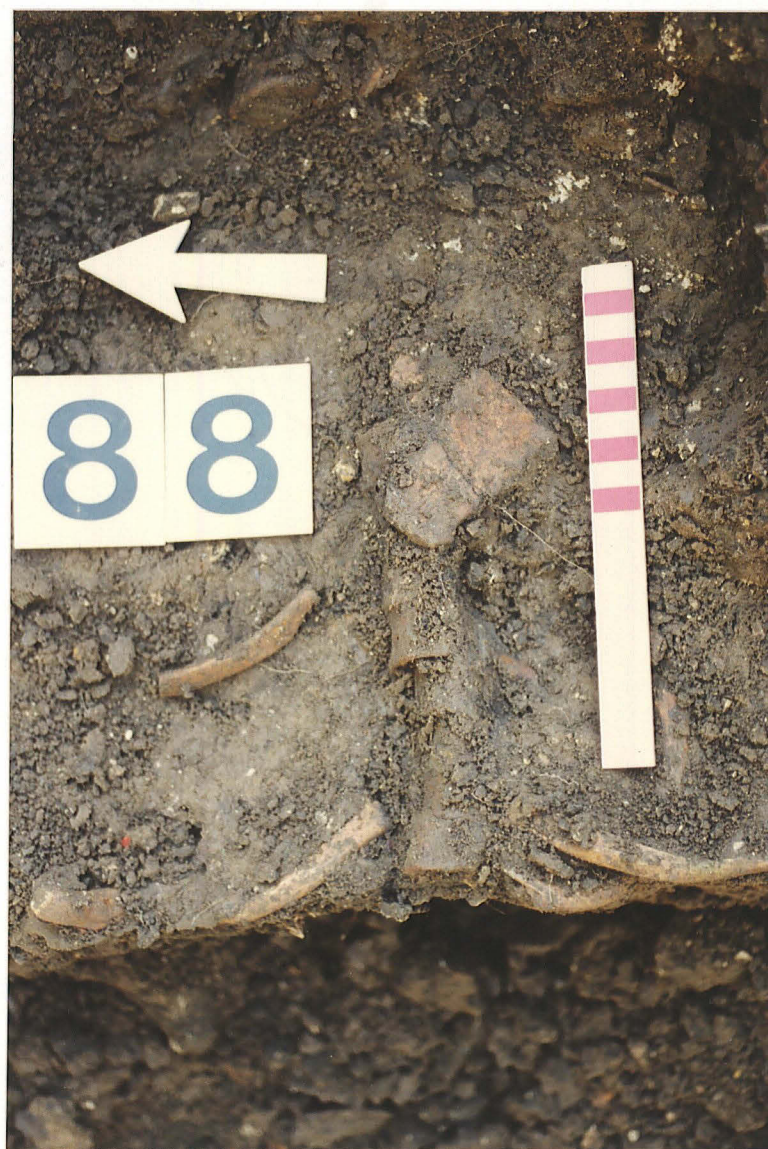
Pl. 25 Skeletons 81 and 84, in eastern extension of trench, looking north; scale 50cm.

Pl. 26 Skeleton 86, looking east; scale 20cm.





Pl. 27 Skeleton 91, looking east; scale 20cm.



Pl. 28 Skeleton 88, looking east; scale 20cm.



Pl. 29 Child skeleton 94, looking south; scale 20cm.

Pl. 30 Skeleton 97, looking west, left side of body truncated by grave [101]; scale 20cm.

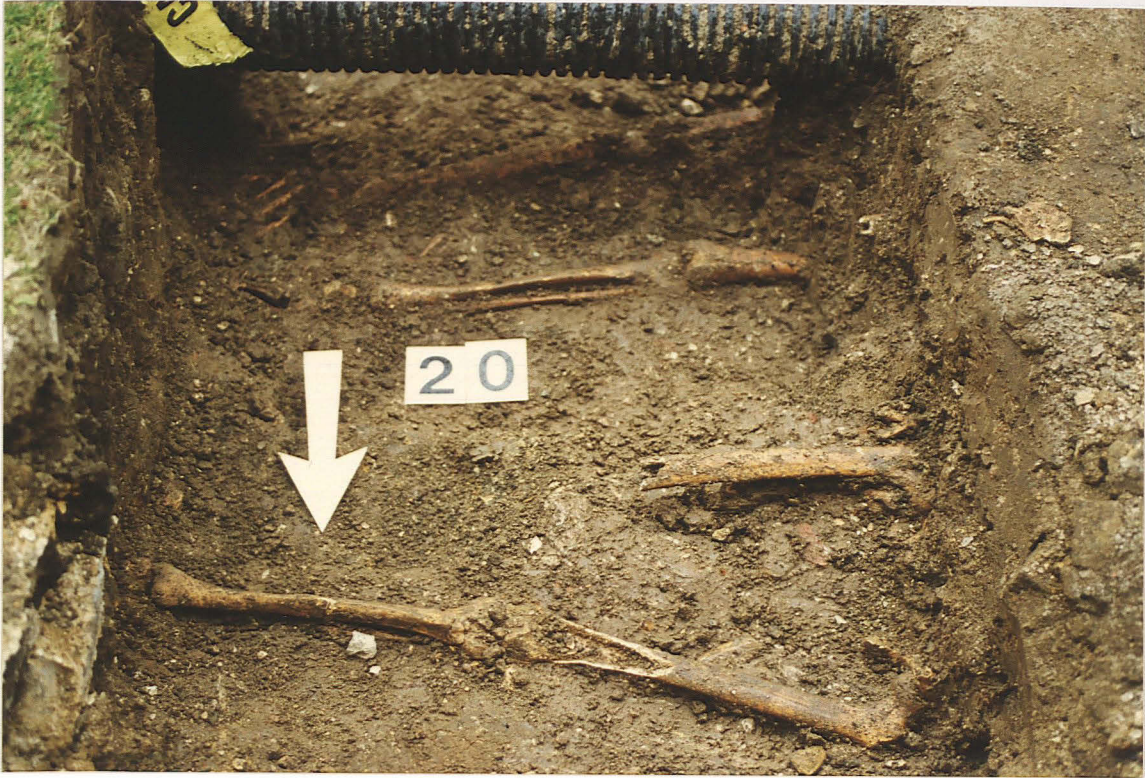




Pl. 31 Skeleton 100, looking north, showing remains of sides and base of coffin; scale 50cm.

Pl. 32 Close-up of remains of wood from coffin in grave [101]; scale 20cm.





Pl. 33 Skeletons 20 (above) and 23 (below), looking south.

Pl. 34 Skeleton 29, looking west; scale 30cm.





Pl. 35 Skeleton 35, looking west; scale 50cm.



Pl. 36 Vault containing lead-lined coffin, looking west. The lead coffin lining can be seen in the middle of the photograph to the left of the vault-lining. This visible part is just above the left 'shoulder' of the coffin; scale 1m.



PI. 37 The top of the vault with the lead-lined coffin, looking west, after extension of the trench to the east; scale 50cm.



PI. 38 Arm and leg bones and two skulls resting on cover of the lead-lined coffin vault, looking east; scales 20cm and 50cm.