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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION REPORT
THE CHAPEL SITE, CULVERTHORPE HALL**

Site Code: CCH98
LCNCC Acc No. 3.99
NGR TF 0232 4045



Lincolnshire County Council
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Report prepared for Mr RJ Clark
by CPH Palmer-Brown
March 1999

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Contents

	Summary	1
1.0	Introduction	2
2.0	Location and description	2
3.0	Archaeological and historical background	3
4.0	Field Evaluation	3
5.0	Conclusions	6
6.0	Acknowledgements	7
7.0	Circulation and Deposit	7
8.0	Appendices	8
8.1	Colour Plates	
8.2	Pottery and Tile Analysis by J Young	
8.3	Registered Finds Archive by J Cowgill	
8.4	References	

Illustrations

Fig. 1 General site location (1:10,000)

Fig. 2 1:100 Trench Location Plan (taken from C19th records belonging to the Culverthorpe Estate)

Fig. 3 Plan and Section, Trench 1 (1:20)

Fig. 4 Plan and Section, Trench 2 (1:20)

Summary

- * An archaeological field evaluation took place on the site of the former C17th chapel attached to Culverthorpe Hall
- * Two trenches confirmed the presence of the north and south wall foundations belonging to an extant chapel facade
- * Following destruction of the monument, it would appear that the extant facade was haphazardly added to in the C19th, probably to create a folly
- * Material evidence collected during the evaluation will assist the site owner with an attempt to reconstruct the original monument in time for, and in celebration of, the Millennium

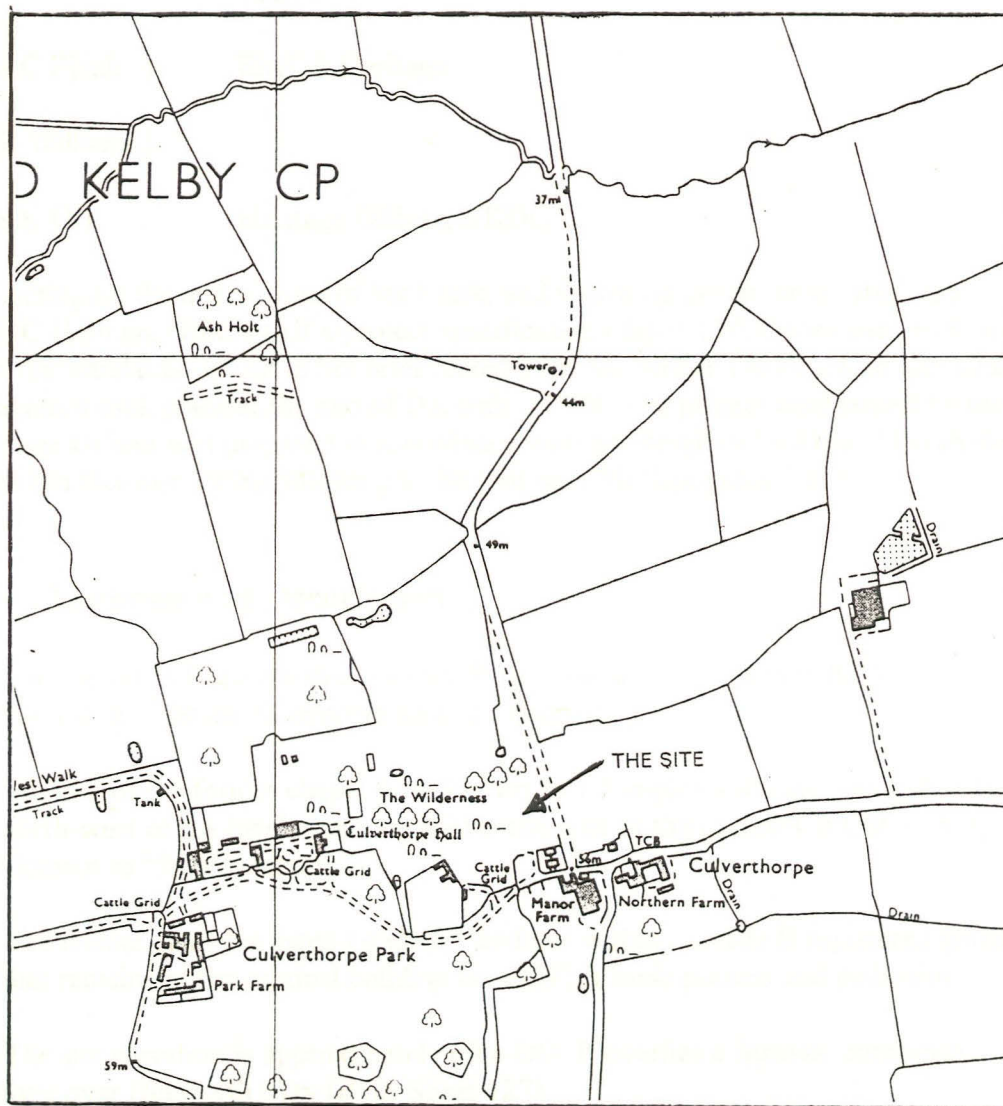


Fig. 1: Site location (1:10,000)
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1.0 Introduction

1.1 The owner of the Culverthorpe Estate, Mr JR Clark of Culverthorpe Hall, proposes as a privately funded Millennium Project to restore the remains of the Ionic portico and pediment of a former Chapel, and to rebuild the chapel on its original site to the east. He wishes to construct the new chapel in rubble stonework under a blue slate roof with ashlar reveals to leaded windows and to render and whitewash the internal walls.

1.2 It is the understanding of the writer that the site has been inspected by the following parties, all of whom were supportive in principle:

Mr R Vincent	Planning Officer, North Kesteven District Council (NKDC)
Mrs M Anderson	Glenn Anderson Associates - acting as Consultant Architect to NKDC
Miss C Pyrah }	English Heritage
Mr R Williams }	
Miss K Orr	Heritage Officer, NKDC

1.3 Acting on the instructions of Mr Clark, and following confirmation from the NKDC Heritage Officer that a project specification (dated 15th December 1998) met with the standards set out in her brief (dated 17th November 1998), a four-day trial excavation took place at the end of December 1998. The project brief issued by the Heritage Officer was prepared in accordance with advice given by Miss C Pyrah (letter dated 6th October 1998) following a site visit on 17th September 1998.

2.0 Location and Description

2.1 The hamlet of Culverthorpe is in south Lincolnshire, approximately 6km south-west of Sleaford, 9km north-east of Grantham.

2.2 The site of the former chapel (also known as a Temple) is situated immediately to the north-west of the hamlet and lies within the area of the grounds at Culverthorpe Hall known as 'the Wilderness'.

2.3 The former chapel is listed Grade II* and sits within a Grade II registered garden. All that remains of the original building is its C17th Ionic portico and pediment.

2.4 The site elevation is approximately 60m OD. It overlies a Jurassic cornbrash geology over Blisworth Clay (BGS Sheet 127).

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 There are no prehistoric or Romano-British remains entered in the County Sites and Monuments Record for Culverthorpe.

3.1.1 The place-name Culverthorpe derives from the Scandinavian Thorpe (*Torp*), with the pre-fix Culver being associated with a former owner. In 1275 the settlement was known as *Calewarthorp* (Mills 1993).

3.2 Culverthorpe Hall

3.2.1 The Hall is a Grade I Listed late C17th residence which was largely remodelled in the C18th. The building in c. 1679 was undertaken for Sir John Newton Bt (Pevsner & Harris 1989). His son, John, improved the north front and added the grand staircase. Around 1734 Sir Michael Newton Bt began the building of the east and west wings, but the planned colonnades extending outwards from these wings were never completed.

3.3 The Chapel

3.3.1 In the Domesday Book (Thorpe) it is recorded that the settlement had its own church and priest (Morris 1986). The site of this church is not known, although it has been suggested that it may have been St Bartholomew's Chapel, which is shown on early Ordnance Survey plans. The precise location of St Bartholomew's is not known; the grid reference in the County SMR that places it on the site of the chapel associated with Culverthorpe Hall cannot be substantiated (the grid reference is to be found on a card index to which no PRN has been allocated).

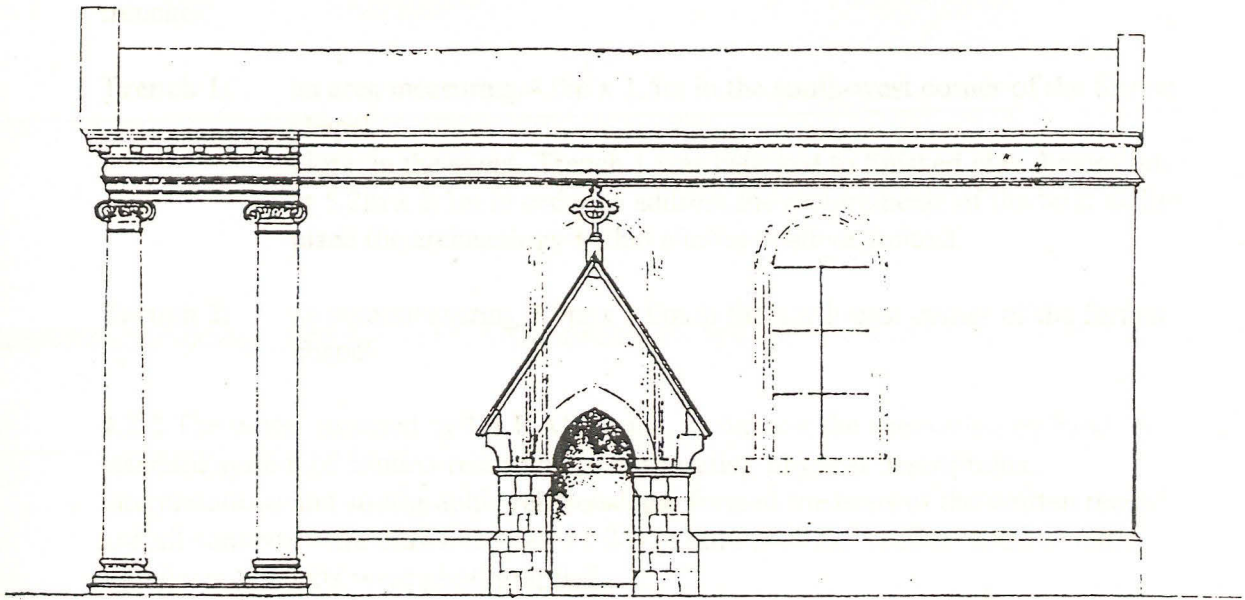
3.3.2 The Chapel was designed in 1691, possibly by William Stanton. A detailed plan and elevation drawing (held at Culverthorpe Hall) prepared in the C19th combined with the results of the present investigation suggests that the surviving facade was associated with the late C17th work. These findings suggest that Pevsner was in fact wrong to record that the facade, which consists of a Tetrastyle Ionic portico and pediment, was re-erected on the basis that such temple fronts for chapels were still rare in the late C17th (Pevsner & Harris 1986, 245). Confusion over this point may have arisen out of the fact that (probably in the C19th) a seemingly haphazard extension was attached to the east (internal) side of the remaining structure. This may have been a purposeful attempt to create some kind of folly effect (see below).

4.0 Field Evaluation

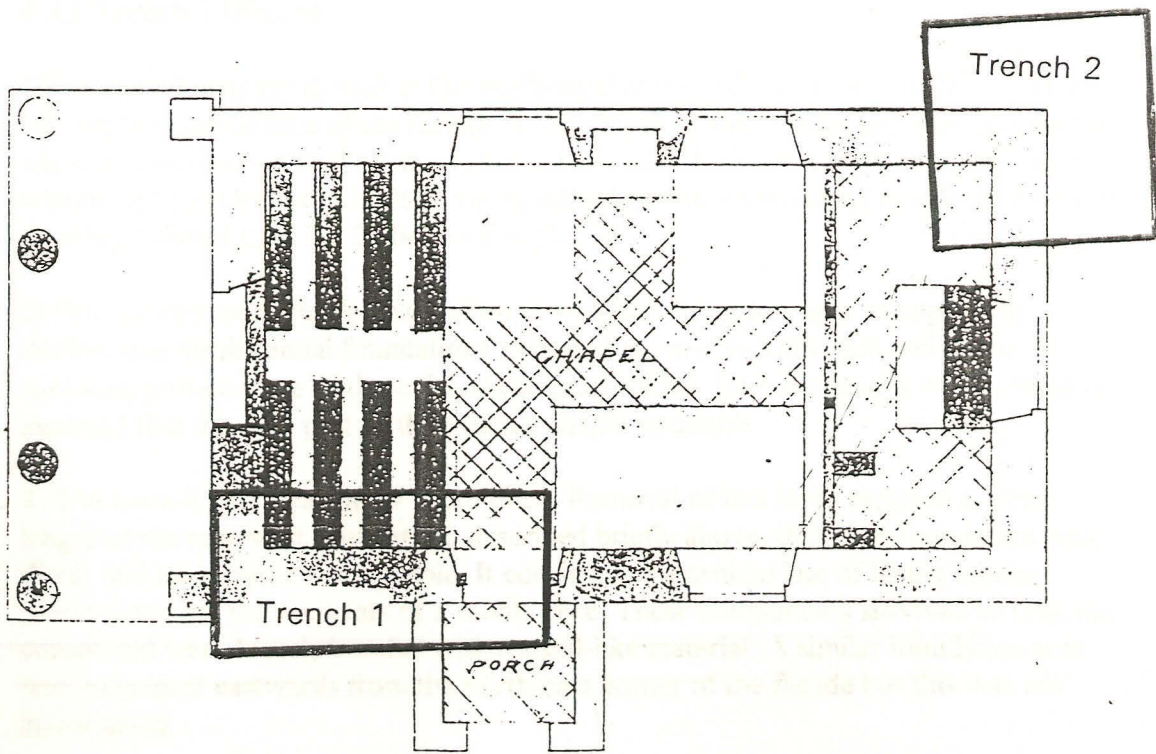
4.1 The Objective

The broad objectives were to provide information relating to the materials, finishes and mouldings associated with the former monument.

Fig. 2 Location of Archaeological Trenches (Scale 1:100)
(taken from original C19th drawings belonging to the
Culverthorpe Estate)



— SOUTH-ELEVATION —



— PLAN —

4.2 Methodology

4.2.1 The project brief (see 1.3 above) required the excavation of two archaeological trenches:

Trench 1: an area measuring 4.0m x 1.5m in the south-west corner of the former chapel.

Note: in the event, Trench 1 was enlarged to finished plan dimensions at 5.2m x 2.3m in order to address the requirements of the brief and to place the archaeology within a more positive context.

Trench 2: an area measuring 3.0m x 3.0m in the north-east corner of the former chapel.

4.2.2 The writer, assisted by Mr R Mouraille, undertook the excavation by hand. A standard system of context recording (incorporating physical descriptions, interpretations and stratigraphic relationships) formed the basis of the written record, and all contexts were drawn to scale (1:20) in both plan and section, and the more significant contexts were photographed.

4.2.3 Artefacts (eg pottery, bone, tile, plaster, mortar, glass) were coded according to their stratigraphic horizons and were removed from the site for processing and specialist appraisal.

4.3 Results

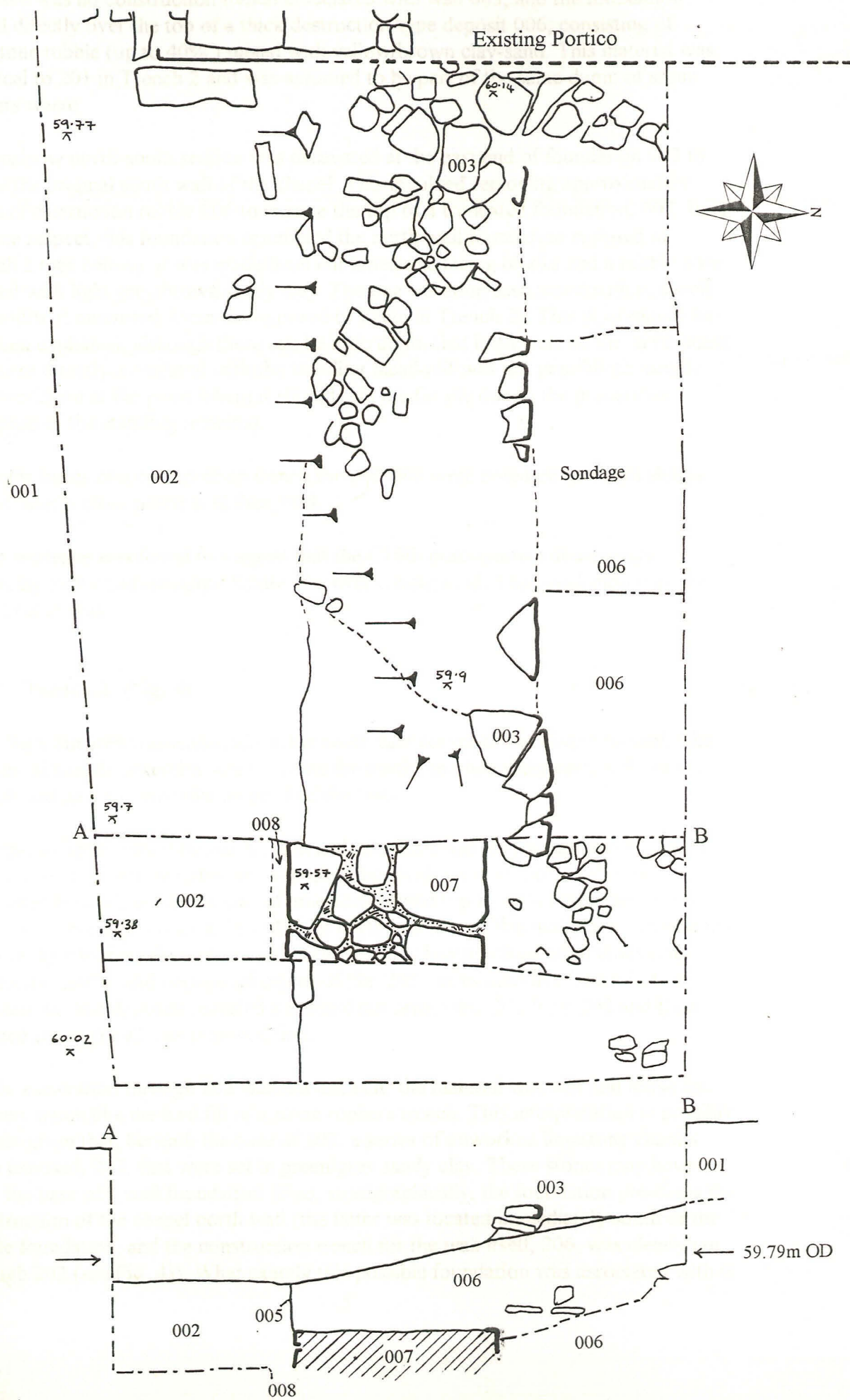
4.3.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

1) The trench was positioned in the south-west corner of the mound, with its west end butting the internal face of the facade. It was orientated east-west and was designed to allow an examination of the outer (south) wall of the building and an appraisal as to whether a porch had been built on the south side of the monument (as indicated on the drawing referred to at 3.3.2 above - See Fig. 2).

2) Prior to commencing the excavation, it was noted that two sets of apparently shallow and insubstantial foundations extended eastwards from each end of the surviving portico. One of these foundations lay within Trench 1, and it was (wrongly) assumed that this was part of the original chapel structure.

3) The topsoil, 001, was up to 30cm thick. Removal of this layer exposed a 3.0m length of the east-west foundation, described briefly above, 003. The foundation was flimsy and its survival was variable. It consisted of a broken line of facing stones (north side) and the remnants of a rubble core. These components survived to only one course and were loosely bonded with topsoil-like material. A similar foundation was seen to project eastwards from the north-east corner of the facade but this was not investigated.

Fig. 3 Plan and Section, Trench 1 (Scale 1:20)



4) There was no construction trench associated with wall 003, and the foundation rested directly over the top of a thick destruction-type deposit 006, consisting of limestone rubble (up to 40%) mixed with yellow/brown clay-sand. This material was identical to 201 in Trench 2 and was assumed to be part of the same dump of stone robbers waste.

5) A narrow north-south section was excavated at the east end of foundation 003 to locate the original south wall of the chapel. This involved removing approximately 30cm of destruction rubble 006 to expose the top of a truncated foundation, 007. In all but one respect, this foundation resembled the north wall foundation exposed in Trench 2 (see below): it was made from cut limestone facing blocks and a rubble core bonded with light grey/brown sandy clay. The one variation associated with this wall was width: it measured 75cm (as opposed to 85cm in Trench 2). This discrepancy has not been explained, although there can be little doubt that both were of the same phase and were directly associated with the standing facade (it was not possible to sample the foundation at the point where it should join the facade due to the precarious condition of the standing remains).

6) Slight traces of a construction trench for wall 007 were noted on its south side: a line of mortar close to the wall face, 008.

7) No evidence was found to suggest that the C19th porch shown in drawings belonging to the Culverthorpe Estate was ever constructed. The conclusion must be that it never was.

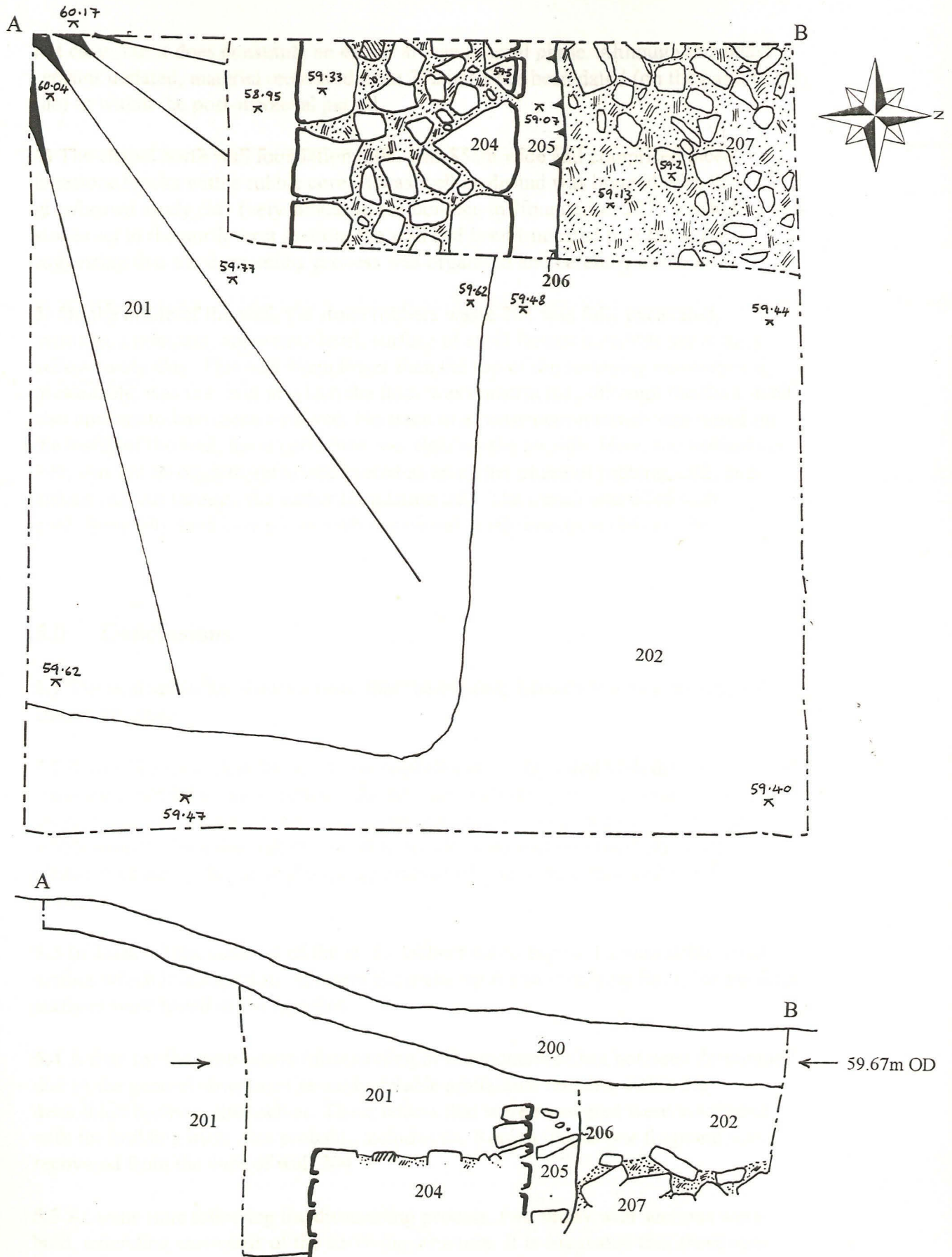
4.3.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

1) A 3m x 3m area was excavated in the north-east corner of the chapel mound. The primary aim of this exercise was to locate the north, and hopefully east, walls of the chapel, and also to assess the survival of the floor.

2) Topsoil depths varied between 10cm and 25cm (thicker on the east side). Removal of this layer exposed two different deposits: the south-west of the trench was dominated by a prominent mound of limestone rubble (up to 40% limestone) mixed with yellow/brown clay-sand, 201. To the north and east of this material was a deposit of loose light brown silty sand mixed with relatively low levels of small limestone fragments, mortar and occasional pieces of tile, 202. Investigation of the interface between the two deposits revealed a vertical cut separating 201 from 202 and (in a reduced cutting) 202 was removed first.

3) The excavation through 202 was not difficult: the material was soft and loose and felt very much like the backfill of a stone robbers trench. This interpretation is possibly correct given that, beneath the base of 202, a series of unworked limestone chunks were exposed, 207, that were set in green/grey sandy clay. These stones may have been the base of a wall foundation. If so, stratigraphically, the foundation pre-dates the construction of the chapel north wall (the latter was located immediately south of the rubble foundation, and the construction trench for the wall itself, 206, was clearly cut through 202 (see Fig. 4)). What exactly this possible foundation was associated with is

Fig. 4 Plan and Section, Trench 2 (Scale 1:20)



not clear, but it does constitute an earlier archaeological phase. Although this phase remains undated, material recovered from 202 itself has been dated (on the basis of the tile) to within the post-medieval period.

4) The chapel north wall foundation, 204, was 85cm wide and comprised faced limestone blocks with a rubble core. It was well made and was bonded with light grey/brown sandy clay (very similar to the bonding in ?foundation 207). Excluding two stones set in the north-west section, the wall had been truncated to a flat surface, suggesting that the dismantling process was organised and carefully executed.

5) On the inside of the wall, the stone robbers waste 201 was fully excavated, exposing a compact, apparently level, surface of small limestone rubble set in dirty yellow sandy clay. This was 40cm lower than the top of the surviving masonry and, presumably, was the level at which the floor was constructed, although the floor itself also appears to have been removed. No trace of a construction trench was noted on the inside of the wall, but its presence was clear on the outside. Here, the vertical cut, 206, was cut through material interpreted as an earlier phase of robbing, 202, and indeed was cut through the earlier foundation 207. The trench was filled with green-grey silty sand/clay mixed with occasional small limestone chunks, 205.

5.0 Conclusions

5.1 The evaluation has demonstrated that the existing facade relates to the original chapel structure.

5.2 It would appear that the superstructural elements associated with the two exposed walls were carefully and systematically salvaged with the quality materials being taken away, leaving under the mound common to the chapel area a mixture of small stone rubble (mostly from the wall cores), mortar, silty sand and other remains such as plaster fragments, sherds of glass, fragments of tile and only occasional sherds of pottery.

5.3 In Trench 2 the removal of the stone robbers waste exposed a reasonably solid surface which is assumed to represent the make-up for an overlying floor, but no floor surfaces were found in the trenches.

5.4 A date for the destruction / dismantling of the monument has not been determined due to the general absence of securely datable artefactual remains within the demolition horizons themselves. The artefacts that were recovered were associated with the building itself: this probably includes the Roman tile, as one fragment was recovered from the core of wall 204.

5.5 At some time following the dismantling process, two flimsy wall sections were built, extending eastwards of the surviving structure. It is suggested that these may have been built in the C19th, perhaps to create a folly. It is these sections which may have led Pevsner to suggest that the surviving portico had been moved from its

original site. Some of the stone associated with the two wall sections may have been robbed in comparatively modern times, as some villages are said to recall stone robbing within living memory.

5.6 There is evidence on the site of an earlier structure, as represented by foundation 207 in Trench 2. This foundation remains undated and its status is uncertain.

6.0 Acknowledgements

6.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) express thanks to the commissioning client, Mr JR Clark, and to his agents, Strutt & Parker. Thanks are also expressed to the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council.

7.0 Circulation and Deposit

7.1 Copies of this report have been sent to Mr JR Clark, the Heritage Officer for NKDC, English Heritage and the County Sites and Monuments Record (the global accession number for this project is 3.99).

7.2 A summary of the text will be submitted to the Editor of the County journal, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*.

7.3 A detailed project archive is being collated. The paper element will be deposited at the Lincolnshire Archives Office, although the object element will be retained by the Client.

8.0 Appendices:

8.1 Colour Plates

8.2 Pottery and Tile Analysis by J. Young

8.3 Registered Finds Archive by J. Cowgill

8.4 References

Appendix 1: Colour photographs



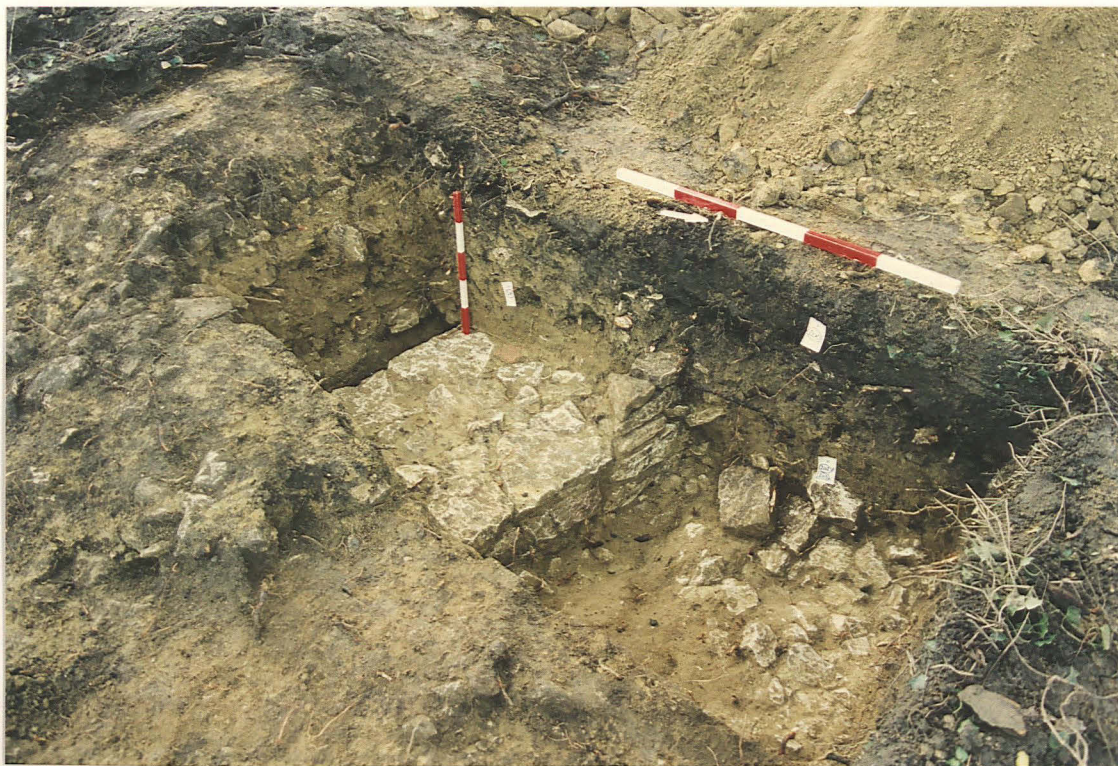
P1. Context view showing surviving facade, Trench 1 (background) and Trench 2 (foreground), looking west from above



P2. Trench 1 looking west; in the foreground is chapel foundation 007, underlying destruction debris and the later wall 003



P3. Trench 2 following initial cleaning, looking north; in the foreground is the rubble mound associated with the robbing of the chapel; in the background and on the right is a possible robber trench that pre-dates the construction of the chapel



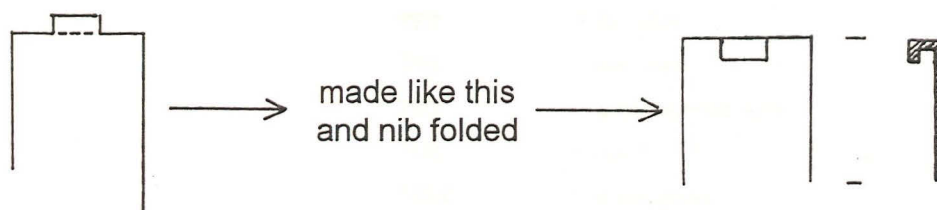
P4. Trench 2, looking south-west; chapel foundation 204 and, to the right, possible earlier foundation

Appendix 8.2: Pottery and Tile Analysis by J Young

A total of 48 fragments of building material were examined. 37 of these were ceramic tiles of Roman, medieval and post-medieval date. 16 fragments can be positively identified as being of Roman date; tegulae and imbrex are both present, indicating that (unless the material has been brought onto the site from elsewhere, there is a Roman building in the vicinity.

Two undiagnostic fragments may be of medieval date.

The remaining identifiable fragments are of post-medieval date (10 examples); mainly composed of flat roofing tiles in one previously unrecorded fabric (sub-round quartz with occasional iron and rounded limestone). The sanded surface would lie uppermost on the tile, and surfaces have a slight buff colour - possibly a wash or a reaction of sulphur in the kiln. The tiles are thin (1.5cm thick), and one measurable example is 21cm wide. A single nib fragment indicates that the tiles were suspended by a rectangular folded suspension nib:



Similar tiles have not been noted in the area, and these may have been made specifically for the Chapel.

11 fragments of limestone roof tile were present. They are mostly badly flaked - the best preserved example is 1.4cm thick. Two tiles have perforated holes for suspension. Unfortunately, these tiles are in use both in the Roman and post-Roman period, so it is not possible to say definitively if they were used on the Chapel or not. A fanciful idea, if they were, is a pink and white checked roof, as the ceramic tiles are so close in thickness to the stone ones.

One sherd of late post-medieval pottery was recovered from 001 in Trench 1 (C19th).

tiledata

<i>site code</i>	<i>context</i>	<i>cname</i>	<i>no frags</i>	<i>description</i>
cch98				
	001			
		PNR	1	flake; prob post-med
		STILE	1	mortar
		RTIL	1	? Id
		STILE	1	corner; 1.2 cm thick; perforated
	002			
		RTIL	1	small fragment
	006			
		PNR	1	flake;? Date
		TEG	3	same tile?
		TEG	1	scrap
		TEG	1	fragment
		TEG	1	hard fired
		TEG	1	large fragment; worn
		PNR	1	med?
		STILE	1	tiny fragment
		IMBRX	1	fragment
	200			
		PNR	1	post-med; possibly pantile
		STILE	1	fragment;mortar
		STILE	1	fragment; mortar
		BRK	1	4.5 thick;Roman/post-med
		FLOOR	1	Roman/post-med
		FLOOR	1	Roman/post-med
		GRID	1	corner; 2 cm thick; post-med; orange-brown
		RID	1	? Id; unglze; or Roman IMBRX
		STILE	1	fragment;mortar
		STILE	1	possible corner; 1.4 cm thick
		STILE	1	1.2 cm thick; perforated 0.8 cm hole
		PNR	1	post-med;1.5 cm thick; trimmed to a curve
		PNR	1	post-med; 1.5 cm thick;mortar
		PNR	1	post-med; 1.5 cm thick; motar
		PNR	1	post-med; flat; 1.5 cm thick
		PNR	1	fragment; post-med
		PNR	1	small fragment; post-med

<i>site code</i>	<i>context</i>	<i>cname</i>	<i>no frags</i>	<i>description</i>
		PNR	1	small fragment; post-med
		PNR	1	scrap
		PNR	1	med/post-med; 2cm thick; mortar
		PNR	1	post-med; small rectangular folded nib; 1.5 c
		PNR	1	post-med; 1.5 cm thick; 21 cm width; finger
	201	TEG	1	same tile
		RTIL	1	mortar
		RTIL	1	fragment
		STILE	1	fragment
	202	TEG	1	flange
		RTIL	1	prob TEG
		PNR	1	corner; post-med
		STILE	1	flake
		STILE	1	1.8 cm thick; mortar
	204	RTIL	1	TEG?

Appendix 8.3

A REPORT ON THE FINDS RECOVERED DURING AN EVALUATION AT THE CHAPEL AT CULVERTHORPE HALL (CCH98)

By Jane Cowgill©
February 1999

Introduction

The site of the Chapel lies within the Culverthorpe Estate, to the east of the Hall, within an area of woodland known as 'The Wilderness'. The chapel was designed in 1691, possibly by William Stanton, although according to Pevsner the surviving facade/portico (now functioning as a folly) is in a secondary location (Pevsner and Harris 1990). The Domesday book indicates that Culverthorpe possessed its own Church and there is some question as to whether the Chapel on the Estate had a medieval predecessor or could even possibly be that mentioned in the Domesday survey.

The Finds

The finds were examined by eye sometimes with the aid of a x10 binocular microscope. No scientific analysis has been undertaken on any of these finds. For more detailed information concerning the composition of the paints, plasters and mortars these would have to be studied at a specialist laboratory.

Warning – Care should be taken when handling the painted plaster because the paint probably contains white lead.

Context 001.

Tobacco Pipe

A short fragment from a late tobacco pipe stem weighing 6g. 18th – 19th Century.

The trimming off a lead sheet (54g) although one end appears to have been formed and therefore may have been functional.

Two pieces of window came twisted around each other so the lengths are uncertain (weight 12g). They are both fine elegant pieces (similar to the piece from 200) with a width of 5mm (a quarter of an inch). A shallow groove runs parallel to each side on the outer face.

One plain piece of window came, 50mm long and 5mm wide (weight 2g).

Wall plaster

One piece of wall plaster (41g) that has the remains of a coarse sandy greeny-brown mortar on the back. The creamy white lime plaster fabric has occasional sand and charcoal inclusions and has a maximum thickness of 15mm. The outer surface is flat but at one end curves down slightly towards the mortar forming a possible edge. Several layers of creamy white paint cover the outer surface including the curved area. Over the paint and the curved edge are traces of a pinker sandier plaster part of which also appears to be a flat surface raised c. 1.5mm above the paint.

A piece of painted wall plaster, maximum thickness 33mm, appears to have been applied directly onto the face of a stone wall. The basal layer of whitish plaster seems to be composed of relatively coarse pieces of lime with sand and occasional charcoal flecks. Above this is a thin skim (2mm thick) of finer whitish lime plaster. The flat, but very finely ridged, surface has been painted with several layers of a creamy white paint (this has probably caused the 'ridging' effect).

Mortar

A T-shaped piece of creamy white mortar (99g). The 'front' is flat as is the 'top', all the other surfaces being irregular. The fabric contains a large quantity of sand. Possibly a coarse piece of pointing.

Window glass

Approximately seven different types of glass are represented by these 16 pieces on the basis of glass colour and thickness. The earliest piece has degraded but is a piece of thin, probably once clear glass with two probably cut edges forming almost a right-angle corner. It is probably 16th - 17th century in date. Three similarly thin pieces are probably 17th - 18th century in date; two have scored guidelines one of which is for a right-angled corner. The remainder are all probably later in date and include at least one piece of clear modern glass. All the probable edges and scored lines are straight with no evidence for any elaborate shapes or painted decoration.

Context 006

Wall plaster

A creamy white piece of plaster (31g) that has a maximum thickness of 23mm. The back is flat but angled with a flat outer face. The fabric contains a relatively large quantity of sand compared to the other pieces. The surface is painted a creamy white colour onto which is painted a black V surrounding a yellow painted area.

Context 200

Lead

An elegant piece of window came 72mm long and 5mm wide (a quarter of an inch). It is identical to two of the pieces from context 001.

Plaster moulding

Two pieces of a very fine white plaster (33g) that probably came from internal decorative wall or ceiling mouldings. Both pieces are fragmentary but on one part of a simple decorative profile survives. No traces of paint are evident.

A single small piece of painted wall plaster weighing only 1gramme may parallel the upper layer found on a piece from context 001. It is a fine creamy white plaster, 3 - 5mm thick, with traces of a possibly slightly coarser backing. The flat outer surface has been painted with a number of layers of creamy white paint.

Window glass

A total of 54 pieces were recovered from this context, comprising of at least six types of glass. The seven earliest pieces are probably 17th century in date and are made from two different types of glass, one distinctly greener and thicker than the others. This piece was probably square, has two cut edges (one later trimmed by grozing) and has traces of putty along one edge. One of the other six also has a grozed straight edge, another has a right-angle corner with a third possible side formed by an acute angle. The only piece with a cut curved edge and a straight side is amongst this group. These pieces form the only evidence for a decorative glazing pattern in any of the windows.

Thirteen pieces of the same glass are probably a waste assemblage from the glazing or re-glazing of a window. Twelve are pieces of sheet edge, some with guiding score lines. One other piece of glass rapidly thickens probably towards a bulls eye, which suggests that it is also an unwanted piece of waste.

The remaining thirteen pieces are of a fairly fine glass, six of which have straight cut and grozed edges two with accompanying scored lines. The glass is fairly clear but has a greenish hue. The remaining 21 pieces are all a thinner glass and may represent more than one type.

Context 201

Brick/Tile

A piece of brick (1283g) which is c. 45mm thick (two inches) with maximum surviving dimensions of 167 x 144mm (no outer edges survive). It is made in a dense white fabric with sand, chalk and ironstone inclusions. The upper surface is a grey to rust colour created during firing and is not particularly smooth. There is no indication of wear. The brick/tile is unlikely to have had a decorative function and with ironstone in the fabric would have poor refractory properties. It is probably the remains of a floor tile that, if from the Chapel, was sited in a place that received no wear.

Context 202

Wall plaster

A single piece of a creamy white plaster made with a fairly sandy fabric (weight 59g). The irregular back suggests that it was probably applied directly onto stonework. The flat outer face possibly was once painted white but this cannot be positively confirmed.

Window glass

Two different types of glass are represented by these two pieces, only one has a cut and grozed straight edge.

Discussion

The painted wall plasters are represented by a range of lime mixes with the evidence of a skimmed top surface only present on two possible pieces (contexts 001 and 200). The variations in plaster mixes may not necessarily be due to different major phases of construction or alteration of the Chapel but could be simply due to differences in the labourers employed, stages of work or rooms within the building. Only one piece has evidence of painted decoration in the form of a black V surrounding a yellow area on a creamy white ground.

The fine moulded plaster from context 200 suggests that wall or ceiling mouldings constituted part of the internal decorative scheme.

There is clearly a range of glass types present that were probably used for glazing the Chapel windows over the time span of its use. There is no medieval or painted window glass. All the pieces are a clear glass although some would have produced a greenish light. Most of the glass is thin and probably of quite high quality although a few thicker pieces are present. The majority probably represent plain square panes although the small group from 200 does suggest some more elaborate leaded work. Context 200 is from Trench 2 situated at the east end of the Chapel, so perhaps this more decorative glass once featured in the East window over the Chapel alter.

The simple plain but good quality glass, the white painted plaster and the suggestion of plaster moulded decoration all fits well architecturally with the Ionic pillared porch and the suggested date of the Chapels construction. There is no evidence from the finds of an earlier medieval Church at this location.

8.4 References

- Mills, AD 1993 *English Place-Names*
- Morris, J (Gen. Ed.) 1986 *Domesday Book: Lincolnshire*
- Pevsner, N.& Harris, J. 1989 *The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire.*
- Trollope, E 1863 'Notes on Sleaford, and Churches in its vicinity,
visited by the Society in 1863' *Associated
Architectural Societies Reports and Papers*