

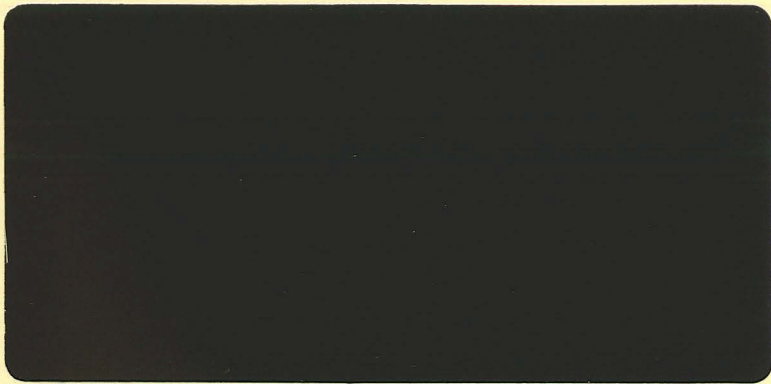
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT  
ST. ANDREWS CHURCH,  
STEWTON,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(SSA98)**



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES





Lincolnshire County Council  
Archaeology Section  
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SOURCES L18136 L18137  
41313 Church

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT  
ST. ANDREWS CHURCH,  
STEWTON,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(SSA98)**

Work Undertaken For  
The Incumbent and Churchwardens  
of the Parish Church

March 1999

Report Compiled by  
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Organisation (No. 21)*

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## 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of a water pipe trench at St. Andrews Church, Stewton, Lincolnshire. The development is situated in the grounds of the Norman church of St. Andrew.*

*Investigation of the site recorded a layer of topsoil, overlying subsoils and natural geology. An indeterminate feature was identified. No other archaeological features were encountered and no dateable artefacts retrieved.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as 'a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons within a specified area or site, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed' (IFA 1997).

### 2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by the Incumbent and Churchwardens to undertake an archaeological watching brief during excavation of a water pipe trench at St. Andrew's Church, Stewton, Lincolnshire. The watching brief was recommended by the Lincoln Diocesan Advisory Committee and the work was carried out on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 1998.

### 2.3 Topography, Geology and Soils

Stewton is situated approximately 2km east of Louth in East Lindsey District,

Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). St. Andrew's Church is located at the centre of the village at National Grid Reference TF3619 87158 (Fig. 2).

The route of the water pipe trench follows a line from the gate, to the immediate west of the church and enters the vestry on the southern side (Fig. 3). The surface of the site lies at approximately 22m OD.

Local soils are of the Holderness Association fine loamy and moderately permeable coarse loamy soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 214). Beneath these soils is a drift geology of boulder clay which overlies a solid geology of Cretaceous Carstone (BGS 1980). Natural deposits recorded during excavation comprised clayey silts with moderate chalk inclusions.

### 2.4 Archaeological Background

St. Andrew's church is located in an area of known archaeological remains of medieval and later date.

Place-name evidence suggests that the settlement may have originated prior to the medieval period with the first historical reference occurring in the Domesday Book of 1086. Stewton is referred to as 'Stivetone' deriving from the Old English words 'styfic' meaning stump of tree and 'tûn' meaning enclosure (Ekwall 1974, 452).

The Domesday Survey records that Stewton was owned by the Bishop of Bayeux and Alfred of Lincoln and contained 260 acres of woodland and 3 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1979).

The parish church of St. Andrew dates from the 11<sup>th</sup> century with additions in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries and restoration work in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (DoE 1986, 55). Some of the stonework within the church is



believed to have originated from Legbourne Priory, 3km to the south (Anon n.d.).

### 3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief were to locate and record archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, function and origin.

### 4. METHODS

A trench was excavated to a depth of 0.45m by a mechanical excavator. Following excavation, the sides of the trench were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were partially or fully excavated by hand to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual material. The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from the ground surface. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed within the trench was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled and a section drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording of deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Records of the deposits excavated during development were also examined. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 1. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. A stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was produced.

### 5. RESULTS

Two groups were identified:

Group 1: Natural Geology

Group 2: Recent Deposits

Archaeological contexts are described below. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

#### Group 1: Natural Geology

A deposit of mid yellowish brown clayey silt (005) with moderate chalk inclusions was recorded at a depth of 0.2m and continued further than the limit of excavation. Interpreted as a layer of geological origin, this was observed for the entire length of the pipe trench. No finds were recovered from (005).

#### Group 2: Recent Deposits

A 0.25m thick layer of mid yellowish brown silt (004) sealed natural deposits and comprised subsoil. No dateable artefacts were retrieved from this deposit.

An unidentified feature with a concave base (003) was recorded cutting through the subsoil. A deposit of mid yellowish brown silt (002) containing peagrit, tile fragments and chalk fragments comprised the only fill of this cut. No dateable artefacts were retrieved.

A 0.12m thick layer of topsoil developed over the fill of the hollow and subsoil deposits. This deposit (001) comprised a dark blackish brown organic silt containing chalk fragments.

### 6. DISCUSSION

Investigations within the area of development did not reveal any archaeological remains.

Excavations revealed a yellowish brown



clayey silt (005) which probably represents a layer of natural glacial deposits, these commonly occur at the foot of the Lincolnshire Wolds. This was sealed by a layer of subsoil, through which a feature had been cut. The width of the pipe trench did not allow for the full dimensions or function of this feature to be determined, although the presence of tile within the fill may indicate an association with restoration of the church in either the 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century. No artefacts were retrieved and therefore the deposits remain undated.

No structural remains associated with the church and graveyard, or its boundaries, were disturbed and no burials revealed. Additionally, the absence of medieval, or earlier, archaeological features suggests that the immediate vicinity of the development is unlikely to have been occupied, and has probably remained as agricultural land prior to the construction of the church.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during development at St. Andrews Church, Stewton because the site is close to the 11th century parish church. As a result, there was a possibility that archaeological remains would be disturbed by groundworks.

However, no archaeological remains were encountered and only natural geology, subsoil, an indeterminate feature and topsoil were identified.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mrs Rushby who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis on behalf of

the Incumbent and Churchwardens of St. Andrew's Church. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Gary Taylor and Tom Lane. Background information was kindly provided by Dave Start from parish files maintained by the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor  
Site Supervisor: Fiona Walker  
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner  
Post-Excavation Analysis: Jenny Young

## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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11. **ABBREVIATIONS**

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

DoE Department of the Environment

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

LoE Limit of Excavation

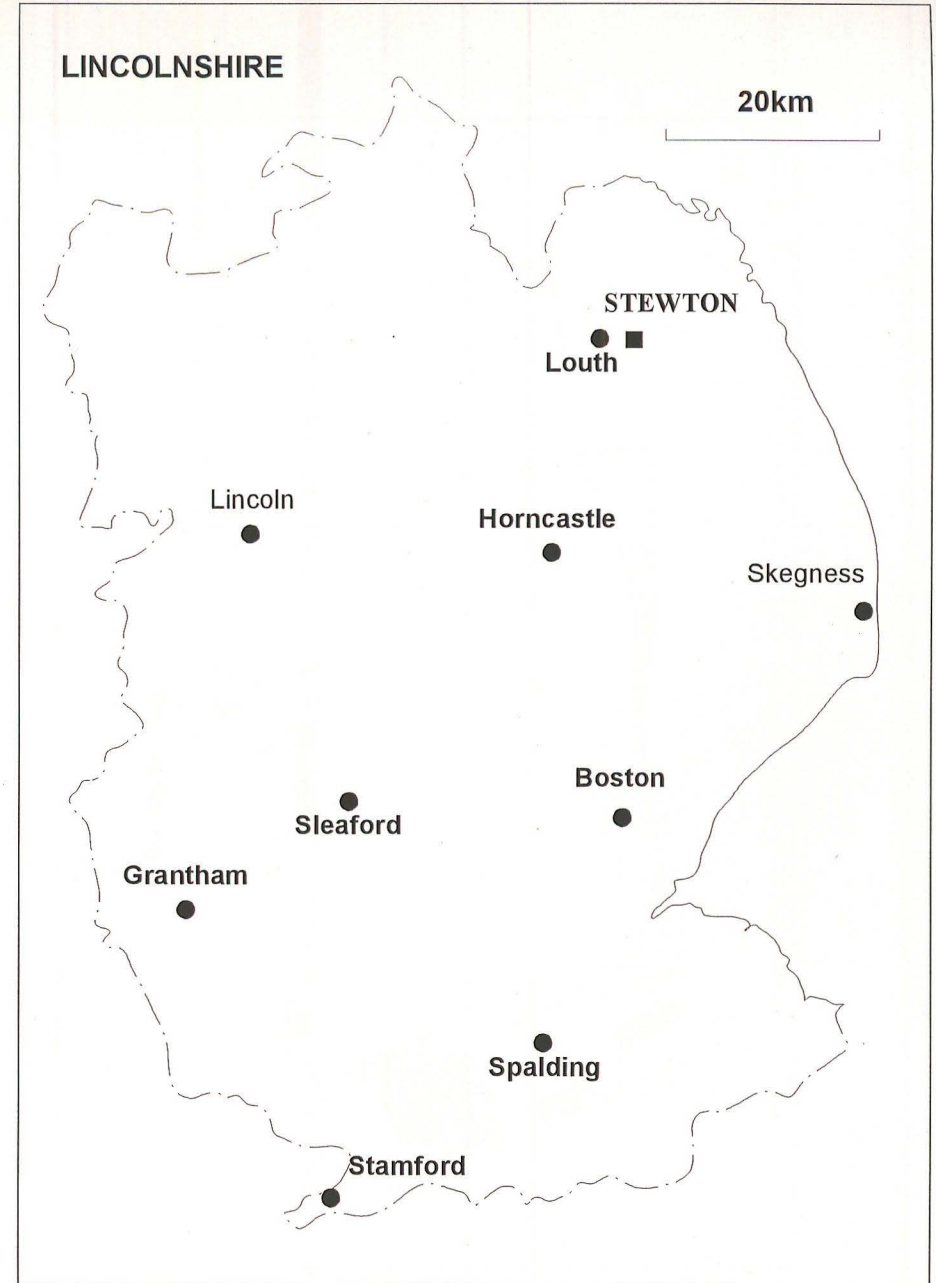
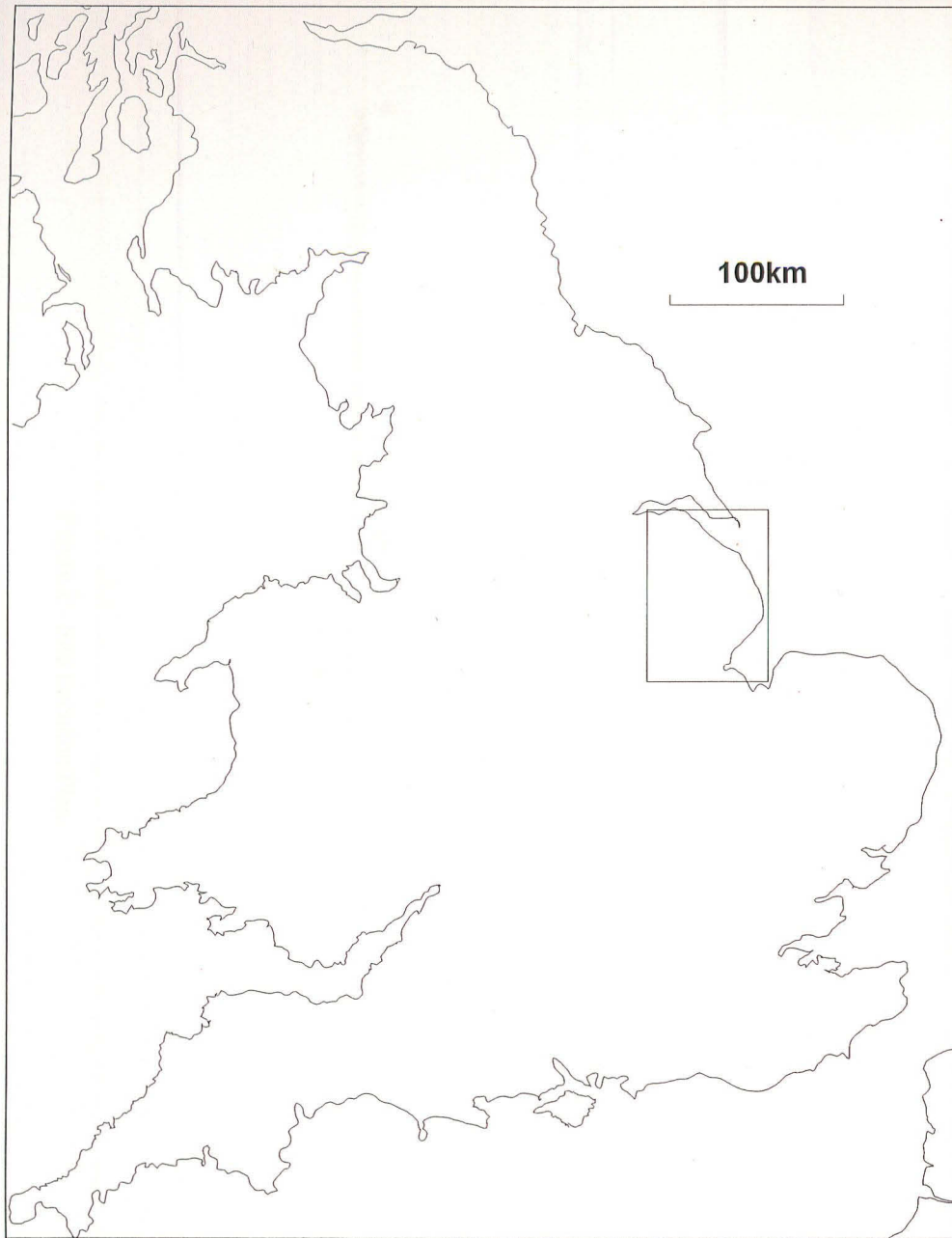
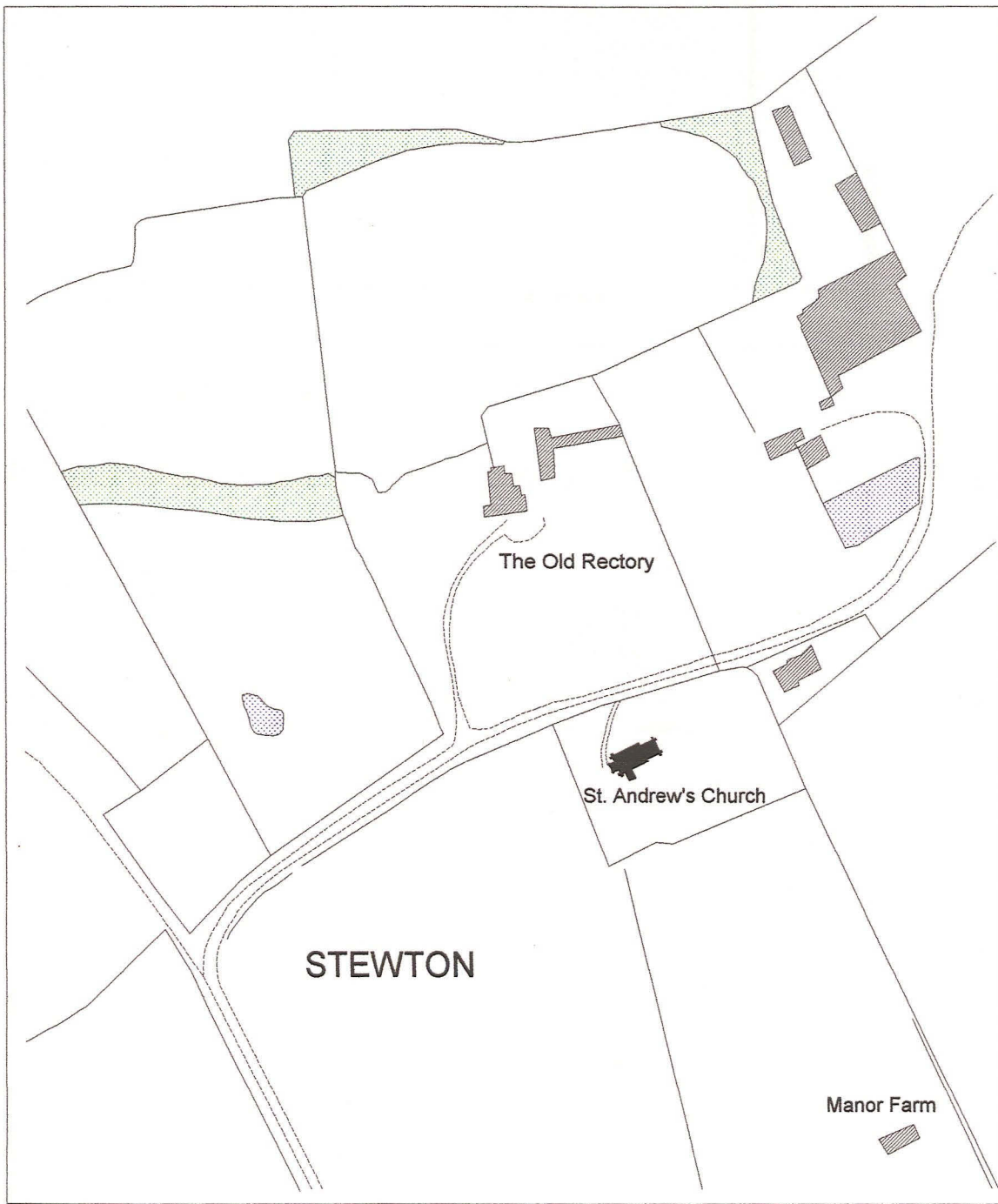


Figure 1 - General Location Plan





0 200m



Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

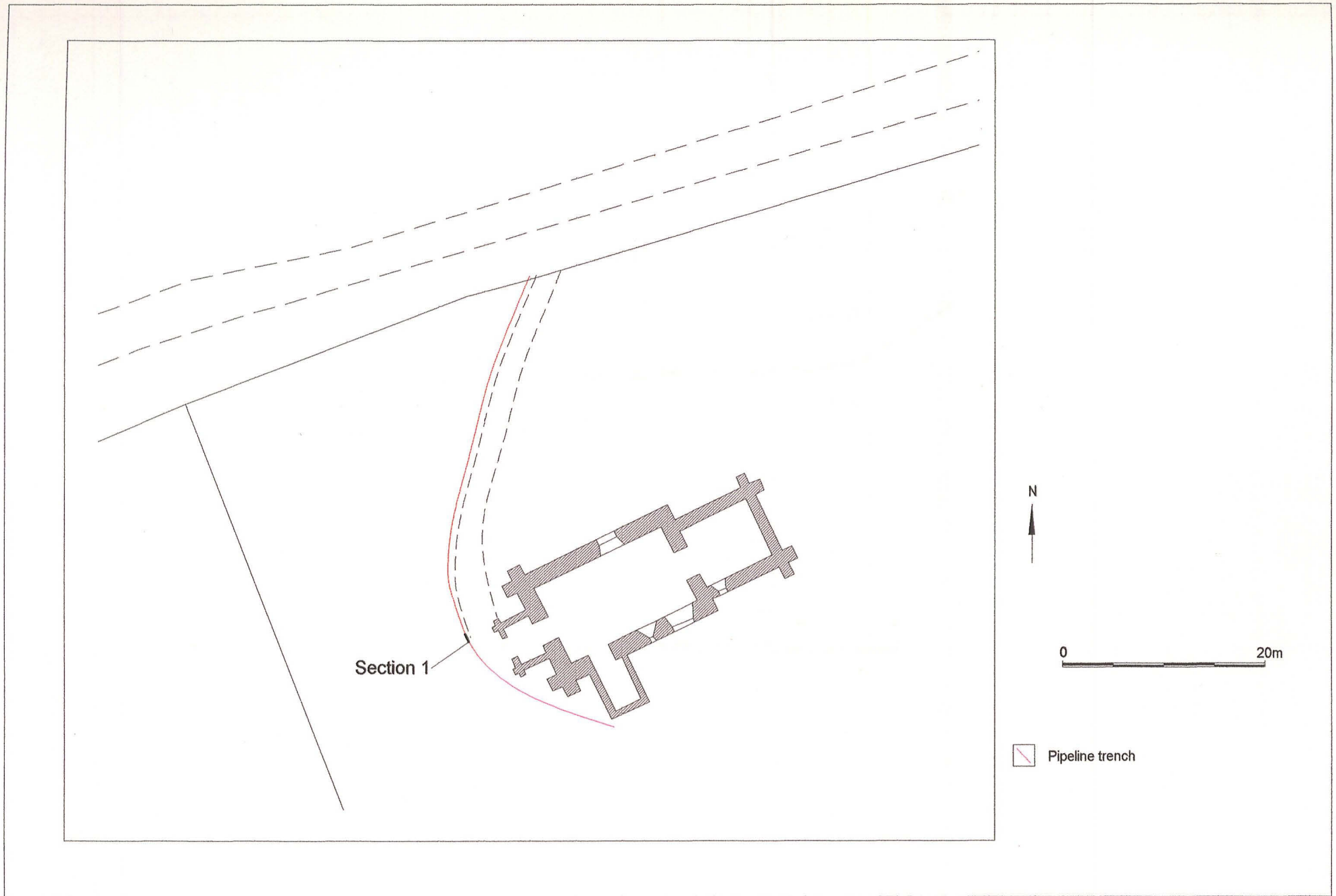
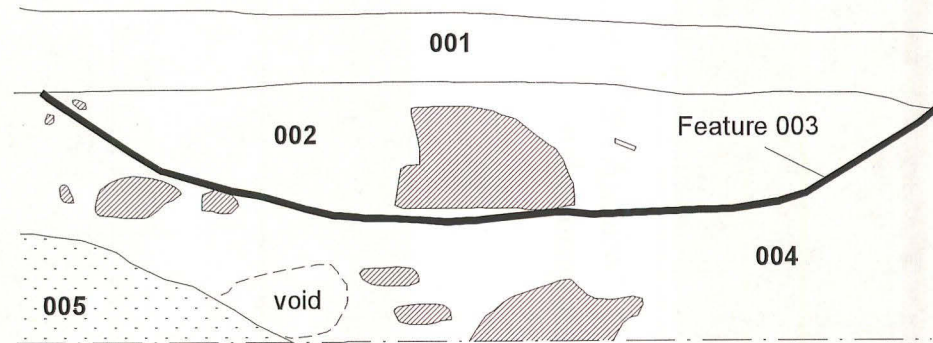


Figure 3 - Pipeline route, showing drawn section



SW

NE



Section 1



Chalk



Natural deposits

Figure 4 - Section 1



Plate 1 - St. Andrew's Church, with the pipeline trench  
in the foreground, looking southeast



Plate 2 - Section 1, looking northwest



## Appendix 1

### CONTEXT SUMMARY

No.	Section	Description	Interpretation
001	1	Moderate, mid dark black brown organic silt containing occasional small rounded chalk fragments.	Topsoil.
002	1	Moderate, mid yellowish brown silt containing moderate peagrit, occasional tile fragments and small to medium rounded chalk fragments.	Fill of (003).
003	1	Cut with gradual sides and a concave base 0.9m wide x 0.2m deep. Extends beyond trench	Indeterminate feature
004	1	Moderate, light to mid yellowish brown silt containing chalk fragments occasional small tile and brick fragments.	Subsoil.
005	1	Moderate, mid yellowish brown clayey silt containing moderate chalk fragments.	Natural.

## Appendix 2

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

5	Context records
1	Scale drawings
1	Photographic Record Sheets
1	Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services  
The Old School  
Cameron Street  
Heckington  
Sleaford  
Lincolnshire  
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum  
12 Friars Lane  
Lincoln  
LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document entitled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Archaeological Project Services project code: SSA98  
City and County Museum, Lincoln Accession Number: 151.98

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The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the proposed development site but away from those areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.



## Appendix 3

### GLOSSARY

<b>Context</b>	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
<b>Cut</b>	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
<b>Fill</b>	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
<b>Layer</b>	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Natural</b>	Deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.