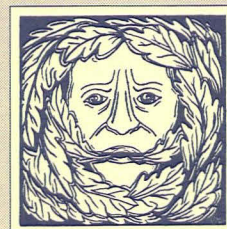


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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
OF MAINTENANCE WORK AT  
ST. ANNE'S CHURCH, NEW SOMERBY,  
GRANTHAM,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(SAG 99)**



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
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SERVICES



Lancashire County Council  
Archaeology Section  
12 JUL 99  
ack 12/7/99

EVENT L18420  
SOURCES L18130 L18131  
35723 L180374 Pmed

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
OF MAINTENANCE WORK AT  
ST. ANNE'S CHURCH, NEW SOMERBY,  
GRANTHAM,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(SAG 99)**

Work Undertaken For  
St. Anne's Churchwardens

June 1999

Report Compiled by  
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) AIFA

SR 9209 3540  
National Grid Reference: ~~SK 9211 3542~~  
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## 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during excavation of a service trench at St. Anne's Church, Grantham, Lincolnshire.*

*St. Anne's church is a modern building, although is located in an area from which Romano-British (AD 50-410) coins have been retrieved and Anglo-Saxon (AD 410-850) pottery, perhaps associated with a cemetery, has been found.*

*Trenches revealed a former topsoil upon which were deposits of constructional debris associated with the building of St. Anne's church in 1906. Pottery of 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> century date was recovered from this investigation.*

## 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, ..., where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed,' (IFA 1997).

### 2.2 Planning Background

A Faculty for the installation of new services at St. Anne's church, Grantham, was granted by the Diocesan Advisory Committee, subject to a condition requiring archaeological monitoring of the groundworks.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> May 1999 a watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of a service trench to St. Anne's Church, Harrowby Road, Grantham, Lincolnshire.

The archaeological recording was commissioned by the Churchwardens and carried out by Archaeological Project Services.

### 2.3 Topography and Geology

Grantham is situated 35km south of Lincoln and 19km southwest of Sleaford in the civil parish of Grantham, South Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

St. Anne's Church is located on the east side of Harrowby Road, 950m southeast of Grantham town centre as defined by the parish church of St. Wulfram (Fig. 2). St. Anne's lies at a height of 63m OD on land that slopes to the west and the floodplain of the River Witham (National Grid Reference ~~SK 9211 3542~~  
SK9209 3540).

As an urban setting, the area has not been mapped by the Soil Survey, but nearby records suggest that local soils are of the Wickham 2 Association, typically fine loamy over clayey soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 351). The soils overlie a solid geology of Jurassic Middle Lias clays (GSGB 1972).

### 2.4 Archaeological Setting

St. Anne's church lies in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British and later periods. Four coins of the period were found in the adjacent plot to the south (SMR 30547).

During the construction of the surrounding housing estate a number of Saxon artefacts were recovered. Pottery has been found at several locations in New Somerby and some may have been associated with an inhumation burial (SK35/204, 206). However, the nearest known Saxon cemetery is located 600m to the south (SK35/205).

St. Anne's church was built around 1906, adjacent to the town cemetery of 1857 (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 320). A chancel was added in 1963. Prior to this the area had been open ground.

### 3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

### 4. METHODS

The service trench was excavated partly by machine and partly by hand to a depth of *c.* 0.6m. The exposed sections were cleaned and examined by hand. 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 sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20.

Finds recovered from the deposits identified in the watching brief were examined and a date was assigned where possible. Records of the deposits and features recognised during the evaluation were also examined. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 1. Phasing was assigned based on artefact dating and the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. A stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was produced.

### 5. RESULTS

Only a single phase was identified during the watching brief. The earliest deposit

encountered was a former topsoil of brown clayey silt (005) and sandy silt (007). The former topsoil had a minimum thickness of 0.4m. A lense of black cinders (008) within the former topsoil may indicate the position of a path.

Overlying the former topsoil was a dumped deposit of yellowish brown silty clay (004), measuring 0.13m thick. This was in turn sealed by two deposits containing mortar and stone fragments (003) and (006) which relate to the construction of the church.

A levelling deposit of greyish brown sandy silt (002) overlay the construction deposits and was in turn sealed by a topsoil of dark greyish brown sandy silt (001).

### 6. DISCUSSION

The earliest deposits encountered were a buried topsoil representing the land surface prior to the construction of St. Anne's church. The construction of the church in 1906 is represented by layers with building debris, notably mortar fragments.

The depths of the service trenches were insufficient to identify any archaeological features buried at depth.

Finds include a fragment of animal bone and 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery. These finds located within the former topsoil layers may indicate nothing more than rubbish discarded when the area was open fields, prior to about 1906 when the church was built.

### 7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations of service trenches at St. Anne's church were carried out due to a number of Romano-British and Saxon finds recovered from the area.

However, only modern deposits were affected by the works which did not exceed 0.75m depth. Few artefacts were recovered and the local site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators (seeds, wood, shells, *etc.*) would survive other than through charring.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mrs Treggiden who commissioned the work on behalf of St. Anne's churchwardens. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Jo Simpson, the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist, permitted examination of the relevant files. Judy O'Neil of the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council kindly provided information regarding archaeological sites in the vicinity.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor  
Supervisor: Gary Taylor  
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley  
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Phil Mills  
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

GSGB	Geological Survey of Great Britain
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
SK	Numbers prefixed thus relate to the site inventory maintained by the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record





Figure 1 - General Location Plan



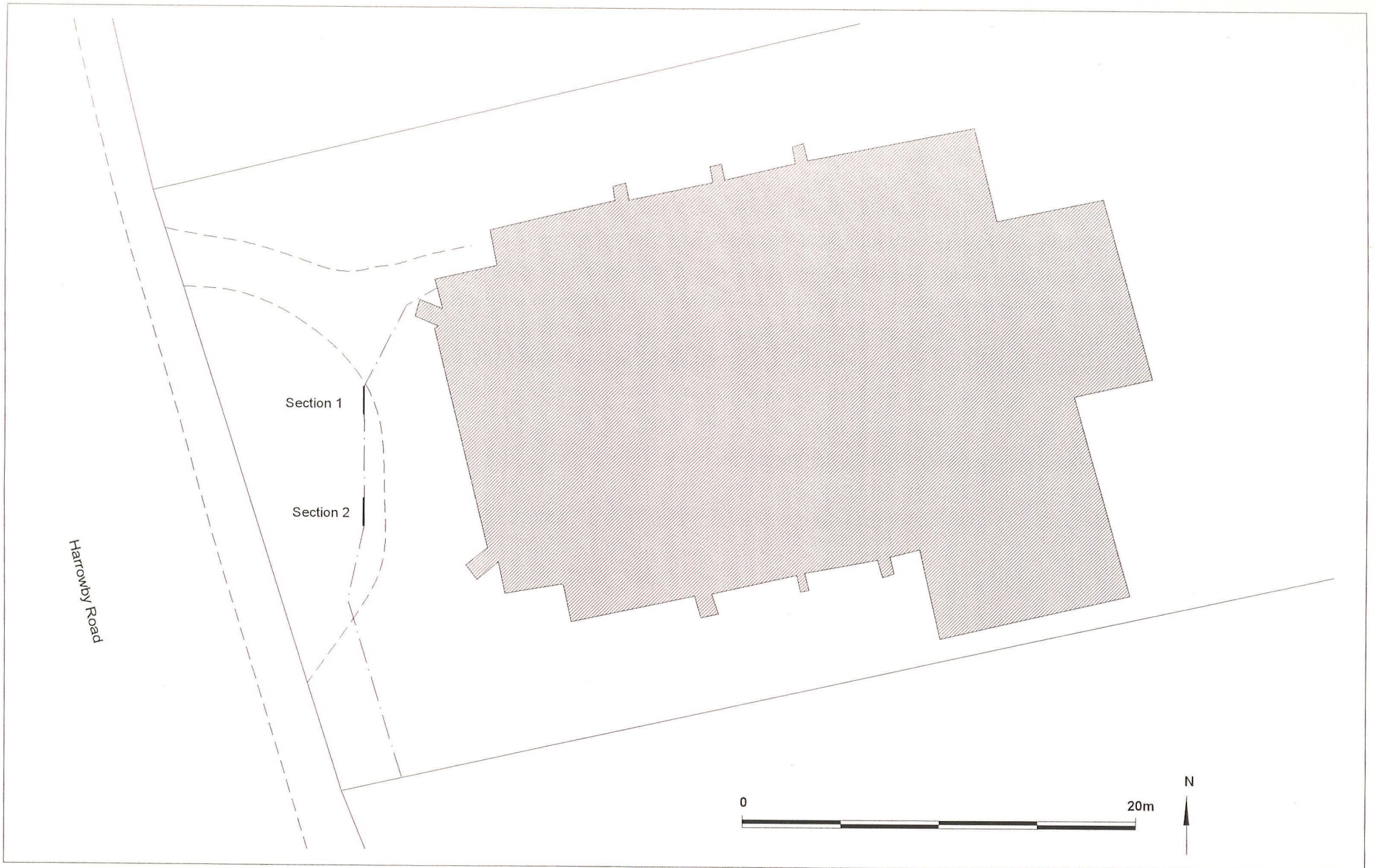


Figure 3 - St Annes Church, showing position of service trench

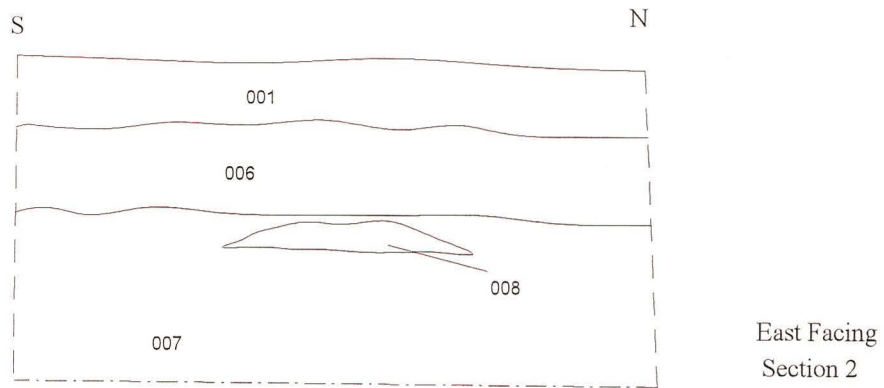
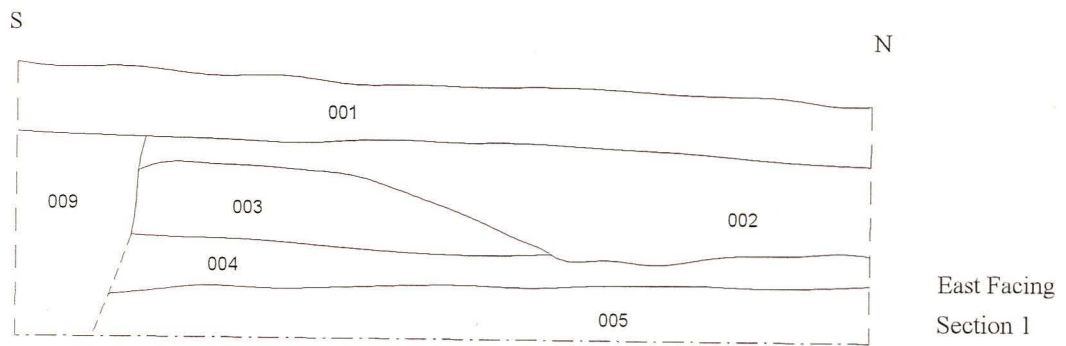


Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2



Plate 1 General view of St. Anne's church,  
showing the excavation of the service trench,  
looking southeast



Plate 2 Section 1, looking west

## Appendix 1

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Firm dark greyish brown sandy silt, 0.14m thick	Topsoil
002	Firm dark greyish brown fine sandy silt, with frequent light brown clay patches, 0.25m thick	Levelling deposit
003	Firm off white mortar fragments and powder, with occasional cinders and angular stone fragments, 0.2m thick	Construction debris
004	Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay, 0.13m thick	Dumped deposit
005	Firm mid to dark brown clayey silt, >0.12m thick	Former topsoil
006	Firm brown, with white flecks, clayey silt with frequent mortar fragments, 0.22m thick	Construction deposit
007	Hard light to mid brown sandy silt, > 0.4m thick	Former topsoil
008	Firm black cinders, 0.6m extent by 70mm deep	Possible cinder path
009	Firm dark greyish brown fine sandy silt	Root disturbance

## Appendix 2

### THE FINDS

Paul Cope-Faulkner BA, AIFA and Gary Taylor MA

#### Provenance

All of the material was recovered from a dumped deposit (003).

#### Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

Only pottery of late post-medieval date and animal bone was recovered during the investigation. Mortar was recorded in the same deposit, and in other contexts at the site, but was not collected.

Context	Description	Date
003	2 x chinoiserie, red (ochre) transfer printed cup, linked sherds 1 x sheep-sized skull fragment	18 <sup>th</sup> - mid 19 <sup>th</sup> century

#### Condition

All the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. The assemblage is archived by material class.

#### Documentation

Late post-medieval (18<sup>th</sup> - early 20<sup>th</sup> century) pottery collections from around Lincolnshire have previously been reported on, though the material is usually treated in a cursory fashion. Several previous archaeological investigations in Grantham has been undertaken and reported. Records of archaeological discoveries made close to the site are maintained in the County Council Sites and Monuments Record and the files of the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist. References concerning the construction and building style of St. Anne's church exist.

#### Potential

The assemblage has limited potential.

## Appendix 3

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

9	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
4	Drawing sheets
1	Bag of finds
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 titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number: 145.99

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: SAG99

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 development site but away from the 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.

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## Appendix 4

### 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 interpretations 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 to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
<b>Natural</b>	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
<b>Romano-British</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
<b>Saxon</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany