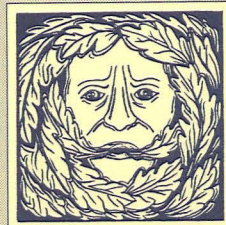


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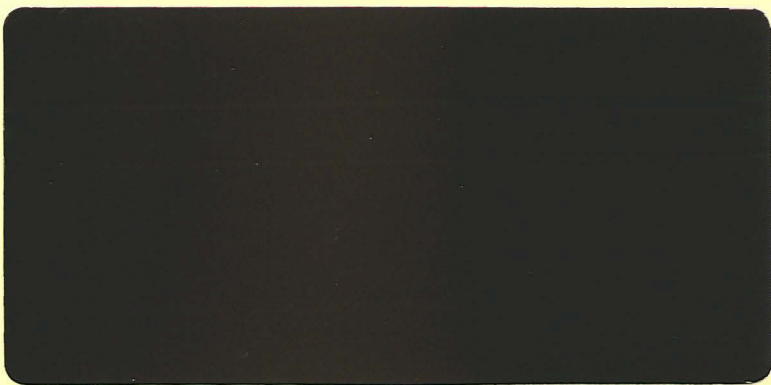
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH**

Culverthorpe & **KELBY,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(KSA98)**



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES





Lincolnshire County Council  
Archaeology Section

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Source L17553  
L17554  
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH  
Culverthorpe & KELBY,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(KSA98)**

Work Undertaken For  
Benton and Co. Architects  
on behalf of  
The Kelby Parish Church Council

August 1999

Report Compiled by  
Mark Dymond HND

National Grid Reference: TF 004<sup>35</sup> 41<sup>41</sup>  
City and County Museum Accession No: 273.98

A.P.S. Report No. 4/99

*Archaeological Project Services is an IFA Registered Archaeological  
Organisation (Number 21)*

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## 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological watching brief was completed during the excavation of two drainage trenches adjacent to St. Andrew's Church, Kelby, Lincolnshire. The church dates from the 11<sup>th</sup> century, with later alterations and additions.*

*A probable 11<sup>th</sup> century soil layer, perhaps the ground surface prior to the construction of the church, was revealed. The quantity of artefacts from the layer implies settlement on, or in immediate proximity to, the site before the church was built. A possible grave was also identified cutting through this 11<sup>th</sup> century ground surface.*

## 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

On the 18<sup>th</sup> November 1998, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during excavation of two drains at St. Andrew's Church, Kelby, Lincolnshire. The work was carried out in accordance with a Faculty issued by the Lincolnshire Diocesan Advisory Committee.

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Benton and Co. Architects to undertake the watching brief.

## 2.3 Topography, Geology and Soils

Kelby is situated in the civil parish of Culverthorpe and Kelby, North Kesteven district, approximately 11km northeast of Grantham and 8km southwest of Sleaford (Fig. 1).

St. Andrew's Church is located in the centre of Kelby at NGR 004 404 (Fig. 2). The development area lies on the west side of the church (Fig. 3).

Local soils are of the Sherborne Series, typically fine loamy soils (George and Robson 1978, 28). These soils overlie a solid geology of the Jurassic Great Oolite Limestone (GSGB 1972).

## 2.4 Archaeological Background

Historical reference to Kelby first occurs in the Domesday Book, written 1086, mentioning '*Chelebi*' and '*Chillebi*'. The name is derived from the Old Scandinavian *Kialar-býr* meaning homestead or village on a ridge (Ekwall, 1974, 269). Additionally, the Domesday Book, while making reference to a priest, '*Aschil*', under Guy of Craon, does not refer to a church (Foster & Longley 1976, 182).

St. Andrew's parish church was built during the 11<sup>th</sup> century. The lower portion of the west tower dates to this period. It is possible that the tower replaced an earlier crossing tower, remains of which might be represented by herringbone masonry above the chancel arch. The true date of the tower is, however, difficult to determine as it collapsed and was rebuilt in 1850 (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 412).

The north nave arcade is Early English (1190-1250), and other 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century architectural styles are represented by the Decorated (1290-1350) chancel and tower

arches, and the south nave arcade (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 412; DoE 1990, 25).

The south aisle is 14<sup>th</sup> century, and the north aisle and the east wall of the nave both contain a 14<sup>th</sup> century panel traceried window (*ibid.*).

### 3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief was to record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during ground disturbance. The objectives were to determine the form, function, spatial arrangement, date and sequence of any archaeological remains.

### 4. METHODS

Two drains, each with a soak away, aligned east-west and north-south was excavated adjacent to the west and north sides respectively of the tower of St. Andrew's parish church. The trenches measured *c.* 5m long by 1m deep (Fig. 3).

Deposits exposed in the trench sides were recorded at a scale of 1:10. A sketch plan of the groundworks was also made. A photographic record was compiled, depicting the setting of the site and deposits exposed by development.

Finds recovered from excavated deposits were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 2). Records of deposits exposed by groundworks were also examined. A summary 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

Three phases were identified:

- Phase 1: Natural deposits
- Phase 2: Medieval deposits
- Phase 3: Recent deposits

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

### Phase 1: Natural deposits

The earliest recorded deposit within the trenches comprised brownish yellow silt (004 and 007). This was exposed at a depth of 0.8m below the modern ground surface, and continued beyond the limit of excavation.

### Phase 2: Medieval deposits

Overlying the Phase 1 deposits was a dumped layer of yellowish brown clayey silt (002 and 006). Although the finds retrieved from (006) are consistently of the 11<sup>th</sup> century, one fragment of ceramic tile from (002) is 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century in date. It is considered that this tile is a later intrusion.

Cutting through this deposit was a possible grave (008), 1m wide and 0.82m deep, though it continued beyond the limit of excavation. This was filled by a brown silt (003), that contained pottery and tile dated to the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century, together with redeposited 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> century pot.

### Phase 3: Recent deposits

Sealing Phase 2 deposit (006) was a layer of yellowish brown silt subsoil (005). The subsoil and the grave fill (003) were overlaid by a deposit of dark brown silt topsoil (001) that contained a fragment of 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> century pot.



## 6. DISCUSSION

Phase 1 deposits comprise silts indicating a drift geological deposit or naturally formed subsoil.

Above this was a layer containing medieval, particularly 11<sup>th</sup> century, pottery which may represent the former medieval ground surface. The 11<sup>th</sup> century pottery may have derived from settlement in the vicinity prior to the construction of the church. A grave was recorded cutting through this deposit. No human remains were found to confirm this as presumably they lay at a greater depth. Pottery of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century was retrieved from the fill, together with fragments of broadly 11<sup>th</sup> century date which were probably redeposited from the medieval ground surface.

Subsoil and topsoil comprise recent deposits (Phase 3).

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at St. Andrew's church, Kelby because the groundworks were likely to disturb archaeological remains associated with the church.

A deposit, indicating a former soil, and a grave represent the only archaeological remains identified during the watching brief. Pottery indicates that there may have been settlement in the vicinity prior to the construction of the church in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. The nature of 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 would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr. Benton who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis on behalf of Kelby Parish Church Council. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Background information was obtained from the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor  
Site Supervisor: Fiona Walker  
Illustration: Mark Dymond  
Post-Excavation Analysis: Mark Dymond

## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Pevsner, N. and Harris, J., 1989, *Lincolnshire, The Buildings of England* (2<sup>nd</sup>



Edition, rev. N. Antram)

11. **ABBREVIATIONS**

DoE Department of the Environment

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

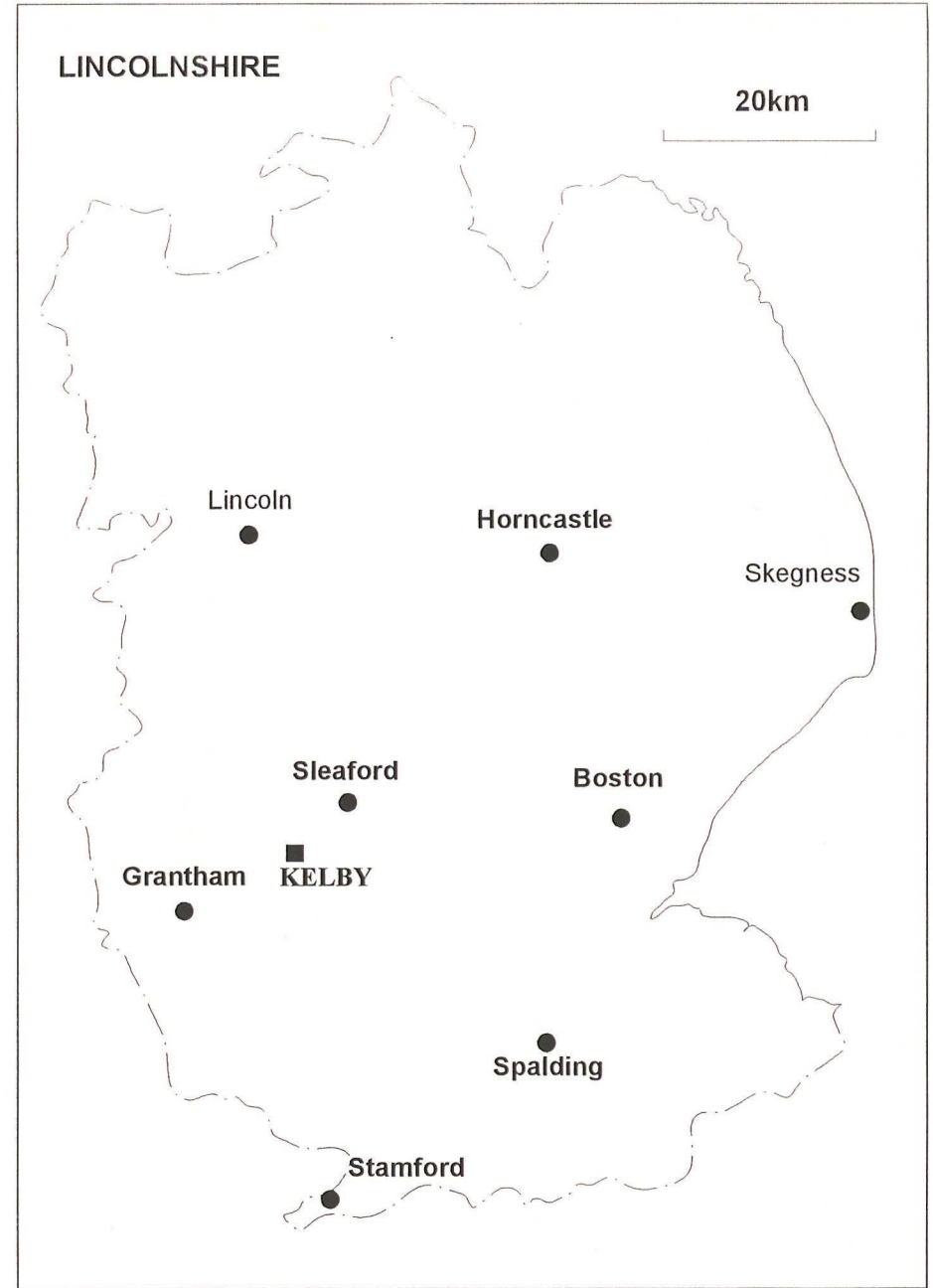
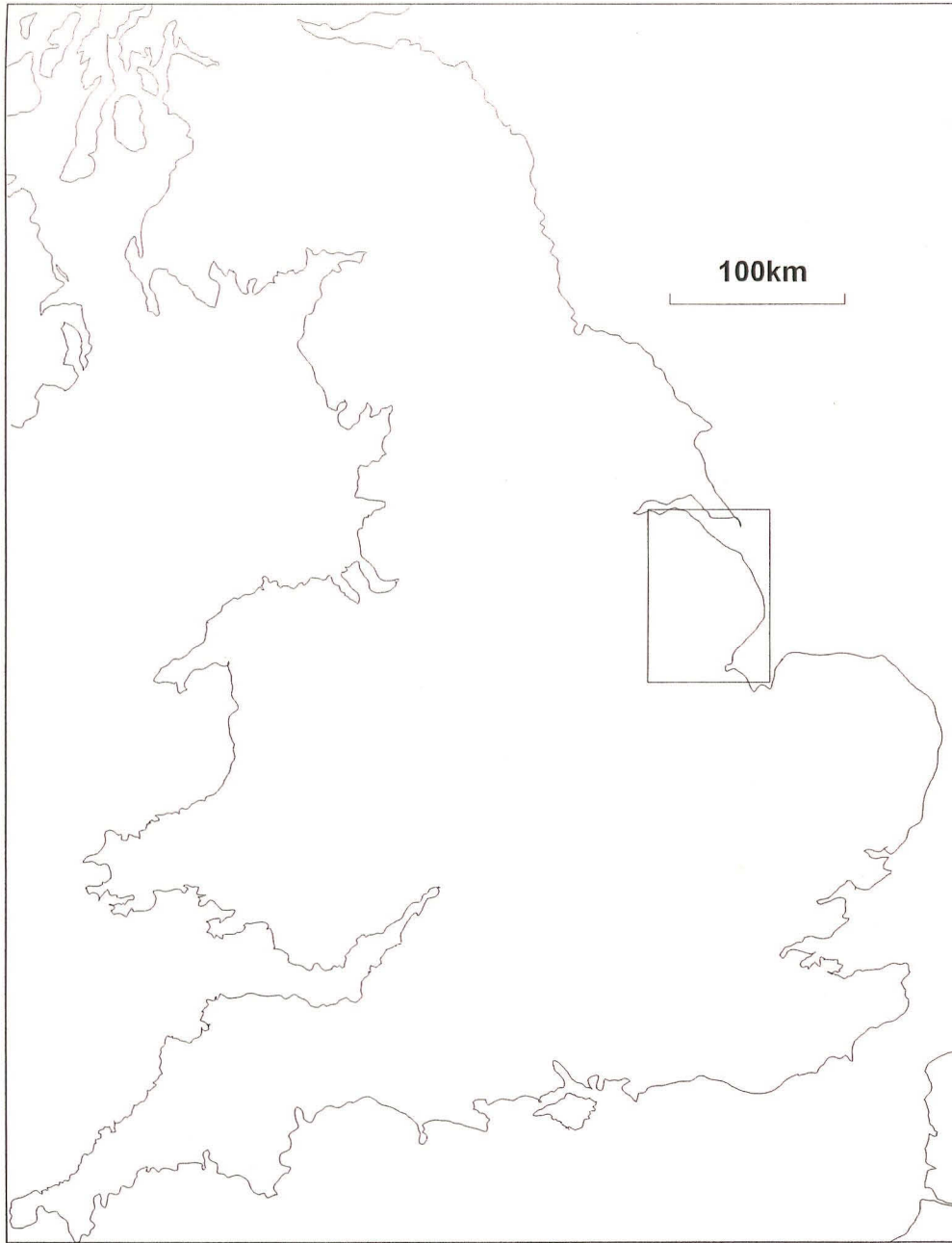
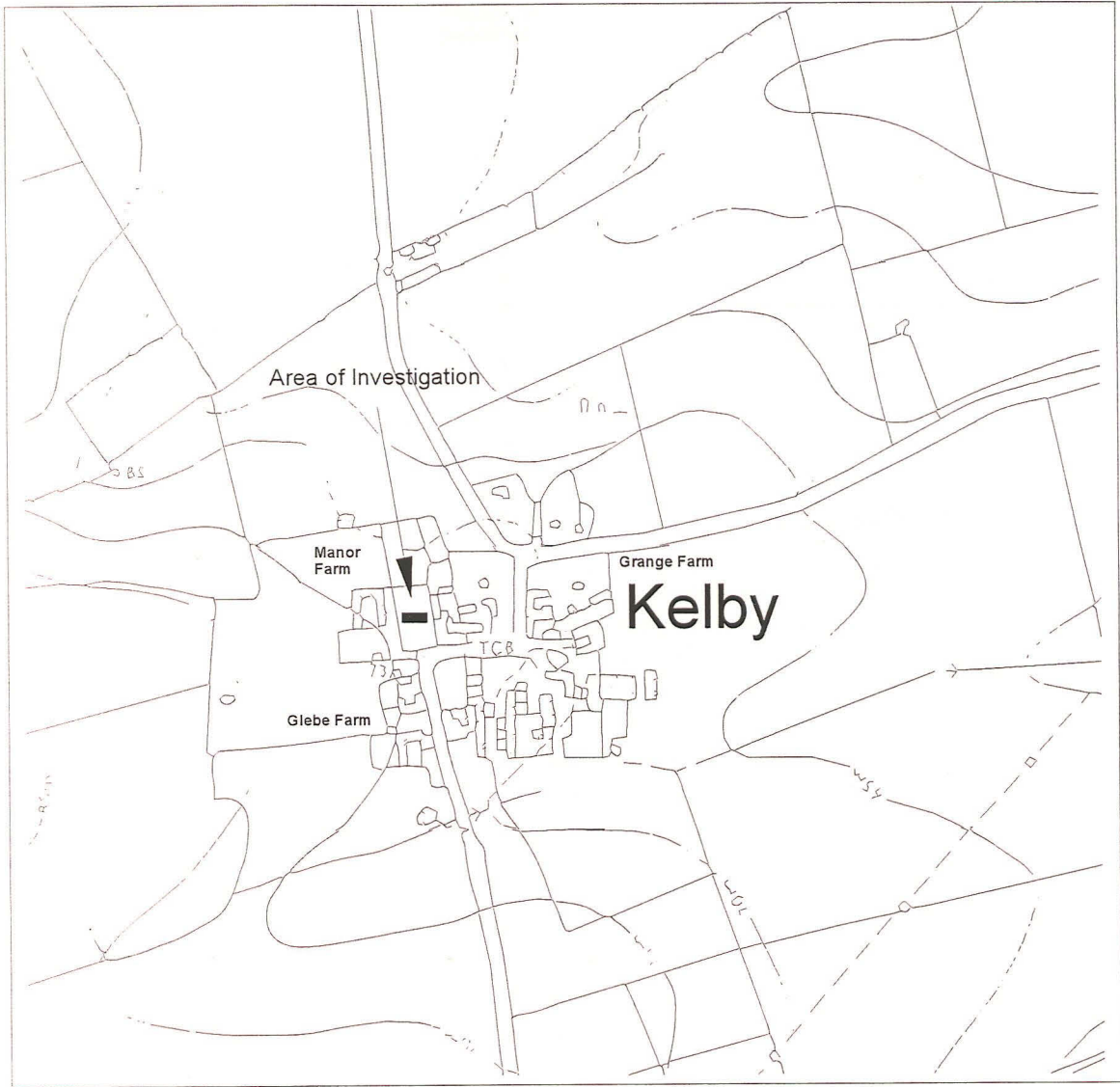


Figure 1 - General Location Plan





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800m



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Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

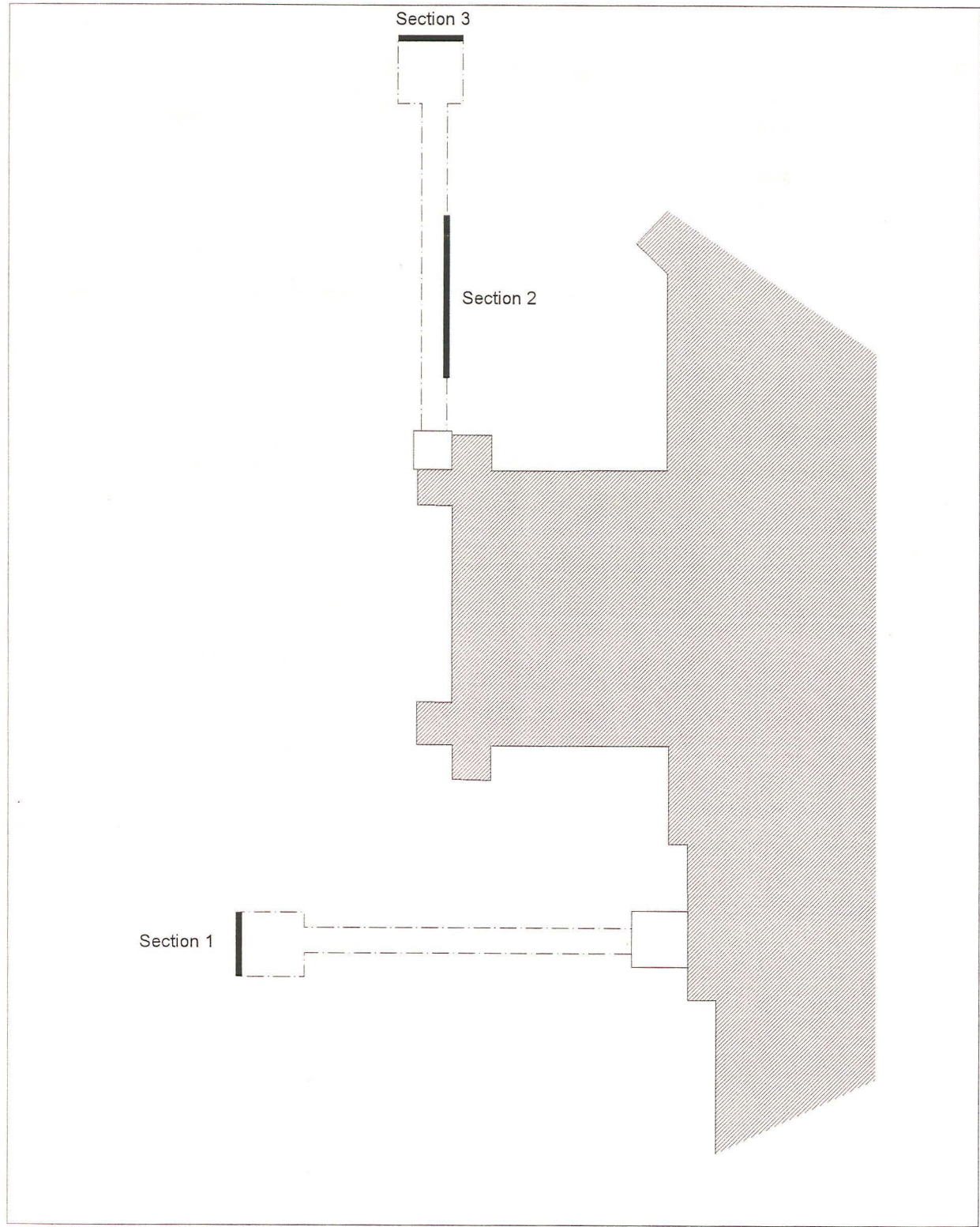
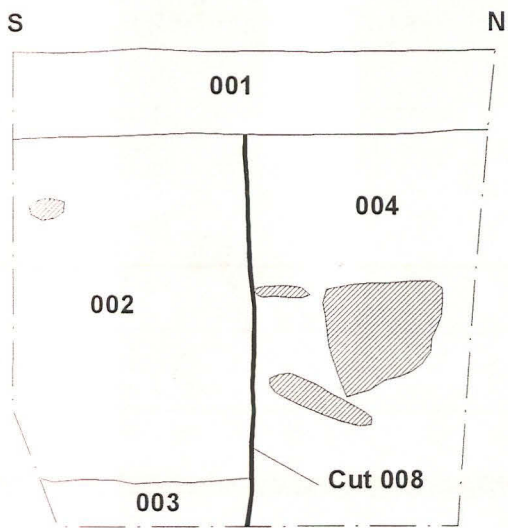
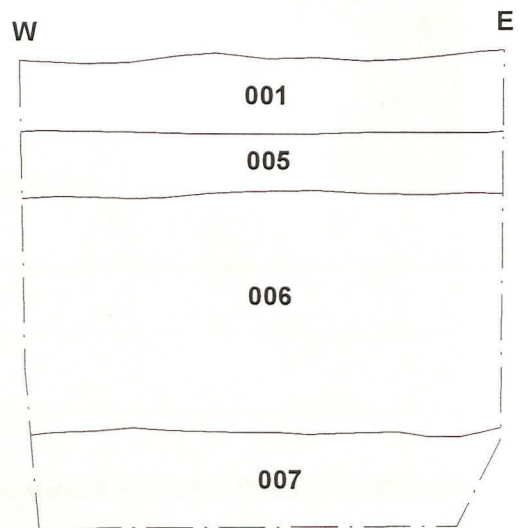


Figure 3 - Drainage Plan, showing section locations



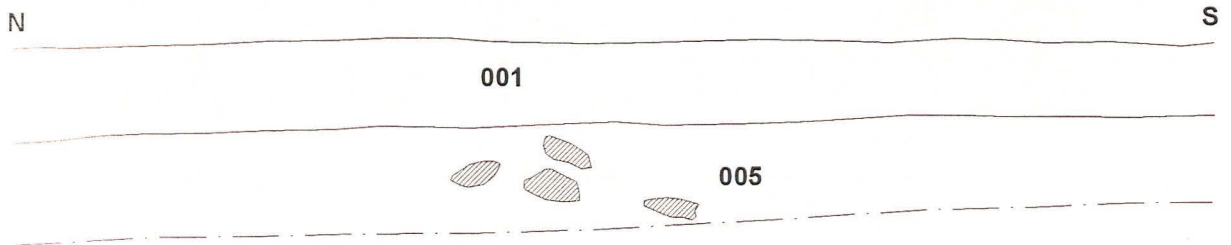


Section 1



Section 3

 Limestone



Section 2



Figure 4 - Sections 1, 2 and 3



Plate 1 - St Andrew's Church, from the south



Plate 2 - Section 1, from the east



## Appendix 1

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

| No  | Description   | Interpretation            |
|-----|---|---------------------------|
| 001 | Dark brown silt, 0.16m thick                          | Topsoil                   |
| 002 | Yellowish brown clayey silt, 0.72m thick, same as 006 | Dumped deposit            |
| 003 | Brown silt, >0.83m thick                              | Primary fill of grave 008 |
| 004 | Yellowish brown silt, same as 007                     | Natural                   |
| 005 | Yellowish brown silt 0.2m thick                       | Subsoil                   |
| 006 | Yellowish brown silt, 0.5m thick, same as 002         | Dumped deposit            |
| 007 | Yellow silt, >0.2m thick, same as 004                 | Natural                   |
| 008 | Steep sided cut feature, not fully exposed            | Possible grave            |

## Appendix 2

### THE FINDS

By Hilary Healey MPhil and Gary Taylor MA

#### Provenance

Virtually all of the medieval pottery fragments are from kilns thought to be in south Lincolnshire, including at Stamford, approximately 34km south of Kelby. However, the post-medieval pottery and tile derives from production sites in the Midlands, possibly Nottingham and Staffordshire. Some of the tile fragments may be relatively local Lincolnshire products.

#### Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables.

The earliest artefacts are fragments of pottery of probable 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> century date, which also form the majority of the small assemblage. Later pottery and ceramic tile is also present.

*Table 1: The Artefacts*

| CONTEXT | DESCRIPTION  | LATEST DATE                                 |
|---------|--|---|
| 001     | 1x salt-glazed stoneware   | 19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century  |
| 002     | 1x ceramic tile, oxidation fired (orange)  | 19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century  |
|         | 1x ceramic tile, reduction fired (dark blue-grey outer)<br>?Staffordshire blue, 19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century |   |
| 003     | 1x Stamford ware, 10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> century   | ?13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century |
|         | 1x South Lincs. shelly ware, 10 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> century  |   |
|         | 1x oxidised sandy ware, ?13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century  |   |
|         | 1x ceramic tile  |   |
| 006     | 6x South Lincs. shelly ware, 10 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> century  | 11 <sup>th</sup> century                    |
|         | 2x South Lincs. gritty ware, 10 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> century  |   |
|         | 2x Stamford ware, incl. 1x form K3.11, 11 <sup>th</sup> century  |   |

One of the pottery sherds from context (006) is a Stamford ware rim, Kilmurry form K3.11. This lid-seated cooking pot is particularly characteristic of the 11<sup>th</sup> century (Kilmurry 1980, 136).

#### Condition

All of the assemblage, including all the medieval pottery sherds, is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. Archive storage of the assemblage is by material class.

#### Documentation

There has been limited formal archaeological investigation in Kelby, though records of sites and finds in the area are maintained in the files of the North Kesteven Heritage Officer and the County Sites and Monuments Record.

Stamford wares, both as production evidence and occupation assemblages, are the subject of a detailed study (Kilmurry 1980).



## Potential

Although in general terms a small assemblage, the collection is unusually large considering that it is derived from a Christian graveyard and, moreover, the excavations were of small extent. As such, the medieval aspect of the assemblage has high potential and, considering the overall date of the material and the chronology of the church, the artefacts may derive from settlement on the site prior to the construction of the church. Alternatively, and perhaps more probably, the artefacts may have been deposited during construction of the church, which occurred in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. A further alternative explanation for the material, that it was perhaps introduced in soil to build up the graveyard, seems unlikely as most of the pieces are fresh and unabraded.

## References

Kilmurry, K., 1980 *The Pottery Industry of Stamford, Lincs. c. A.D. 850-1250*, British Archaeological Reports British Series 84

## Appendix 3

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 8 | Context records           |
| 5 | Scale drawings            |
| 1 | Photographic record sheet |
| 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: 273.98

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: KSA98

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

- Context** 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, *e.g.* (004).
- Cut** A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, *etc.* Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
- Fill** 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).
- Layer** A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
- Natural** Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.