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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CHURCH,
MUMBY,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(MST 99)**



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CHURCH,
MUMBY,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(MST 99)**

Work Undertaken For
Reverend D. Robinson

April 2000

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

5156 7443
National Grid Reference: TF 5156 7443
City and County Museum Accession No: 169.99

A.P.S. Report No. 62/00



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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of new service trenches at St. Thomas of Canterbury's church, Mumby, Lincolnshire.

The church dates from the early 13th century and the remains of a 14th century cross is located in the churchyard.

Examination of the trenches revealed a graveyard soil and a topsoil within the confines of the churchyard. Tile and fragmentary human remains were recorded, although no material was retrieved during the 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 or site..., where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed*' (IFA 1997).

2.2 Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Reverend D. Robinson to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the insertion of new services at St. Thomas of Canterbury's church, Mumby, Lincolnshire. The work was undertaken as a requirement of a faculty imposed by Lincoln Diocesan Registry. The work was undertaken between the 2nd and 3rd August 1999.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Mumby is located 13km north of Skegness and 25km east of Horncastle, in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

St. Thomas of Canterbury's church is located at the centre of the village (Fig. 2) at National Grid Reference TF 5156 7443. The village is situated on a slight slope down to the south and east, although the church is situated on a slight prominence which slopes towards the west at a height of *c.* 7m OD.

Local soils are of the Holderness Association, typically coarse loamy soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 214). These soils overlie a drift geology of glaciofluvial sand and gravel overlying boulder clay which in turn seals a solid geology of Cretaceous Chalk (BGS 1996).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Mumby is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of *c.* 1086. Referred to as *Mundeby* the name is derived from the Old Scandinavian from the *By* or village of *Mundi* (Ekwall 1974, 334). The Domesday records that the land was owned by Count Alan, Gilbert de Gand and Eudo and contained at least 320 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976). In the subsequent Lindsey Survey of *c.* 1115, the land is owned by the Count of Brittany, although Eudo is also mentioned (*ibid.*).

St. Thomas of Canterbury's church dates from the early 13th century with additions in the 14th and 15th centuries and restoration and rebuilding in 1846 (DoE 1987, 24). Within the churchyard is the cross shaft and base of a 14th century cross (*ibid.* 25).

3. AIMS

The requirements of the Watching Brief were to identify and record any archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

The trenches for the required services were excavated by machine to a maximum depth of 1.3m below the present ground level. Following excavation, the sides of the trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from the ground surface. Each deposit revealed within the postholes was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled and a section was drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording of deposits was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practise.

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

5. RESULTS

Three phases were identified;

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Undated deposits
Phase 3	Modern deposits

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

Phase 1 Natural deposits

Situated at the base of the trench close to the road was a reddish brown clay (004) identified as the underlying drift geology. This was sealed by a naturally formed subsoil layer of brown sand and silt (003), measuring 0.28m thick.

Phase 2 Undated deposits

Within the churchyard, the earliest deposit encountered was a mixed reddish brown silt (006) identified as a graveyard soil. This contained fragments of human bone as well as brick and tile.

Phase 3 Modern deposits

Overlying the subsoil alongside the road was a 0.2m thick deposit of brown sandy silt with crushed stone. This formed the foundation for a 0.18m thick tarmac surface (001).

Above the graveyard soil (006) was a 0.3m thick topsoil (005) comprising dark greyish brown silt.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) of clay and silt were encountered outside of the churchyard and are of glaciofluvial origin and natural subsoil formation.

Undated deposits (Phase 2) comprise the graveyard soil within the limits of the churchyard. Such soils, by definition, are repeatedly disturbed and artificially raise the height of the surrounding ground level.

Modern deposits are associated with the road to the west of the church and the present topsoil within the churchyard.

The only finds encountered during the watching brief were fragments of human bone and brick or tile. None of this material was retained.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological investigation during development at St. Thomas of Canterbury's church, Mumby, was undertaken as medieval remains associated with the church and graveyard might be revealed by the groundworks.

However, the trenches revealed no *in-situ* archaeological features. Archaeological deposits may still be present at depth, beyond the limit of excavation. 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 Service wish to acknowledge the assistance of the Reverend Daffyd Robinson who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Dave Start permitted access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire. Gary Taylor coordinated the work and Tom Lane edited this report.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Site Supervisors: Mark Dymond, Fiona Walker
Site Assistant: Rachael Hall
Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Phil Mills
Post- Excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Ekwall, E., 1974, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names* (4th edition)

Foster, C.W. and Longley, T. (eds), 1976, *The Lincolnshire Domesday and the Lindsey Survey*, The Lincoln Record Society 19

Hodge, C.A.H., Burton, R.G.O., Corbett, W.H., Evans, R. and Seale, R.S., 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13

11. ABBREVIATIONS

BGS British Geological Survey
DoE Department of the Environment
IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

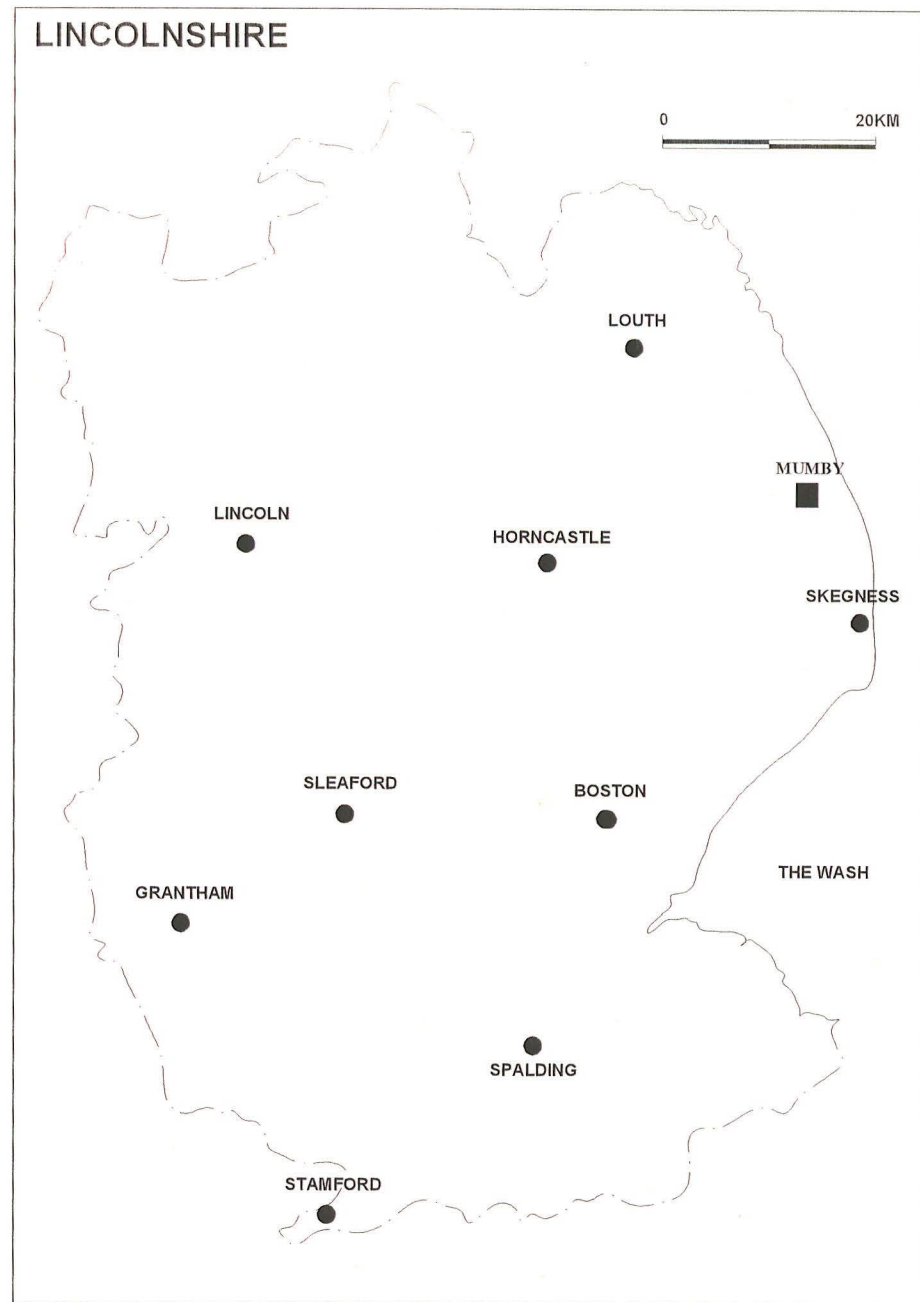
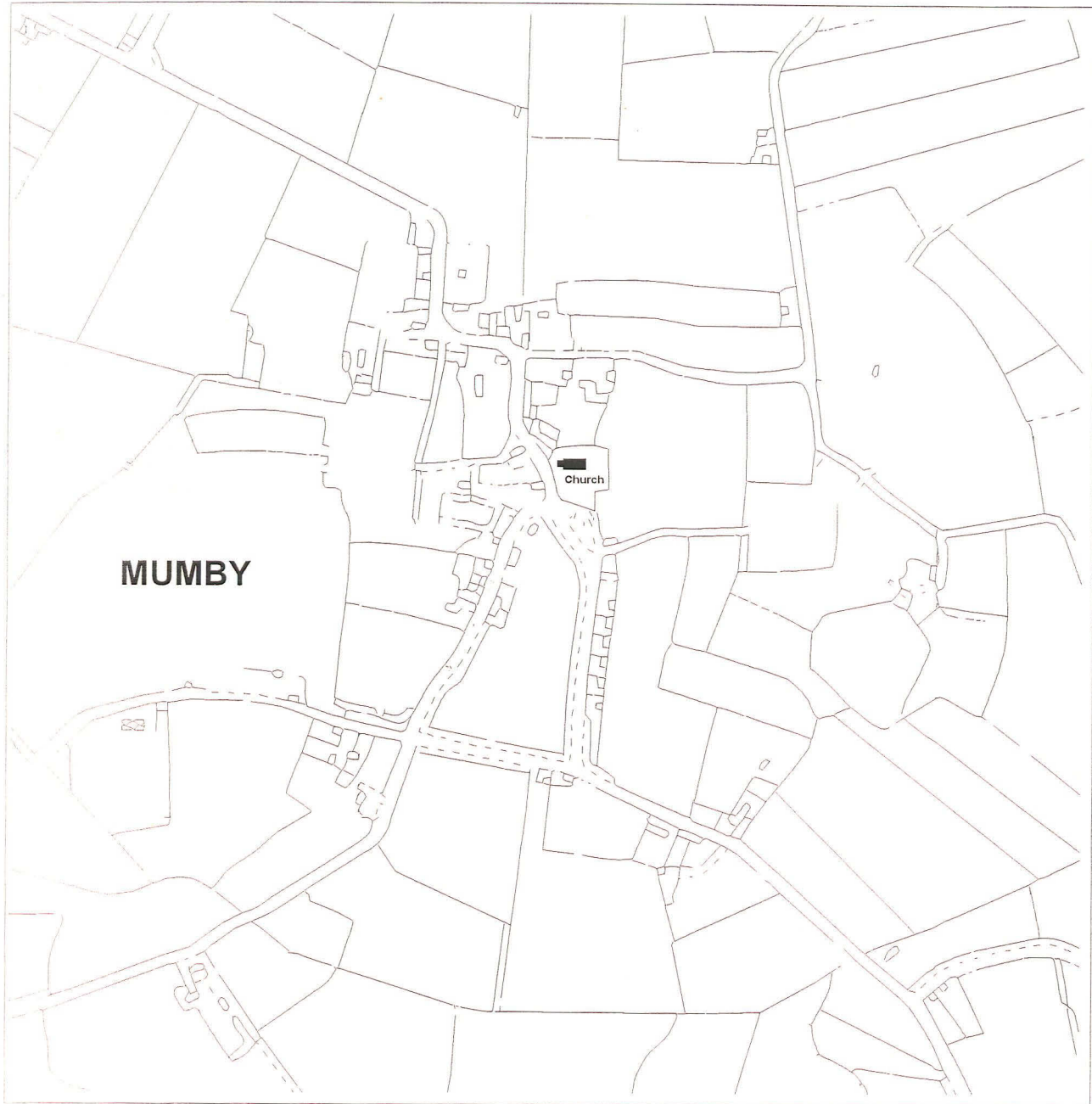


Figure 1 - General location map



0

500m



Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

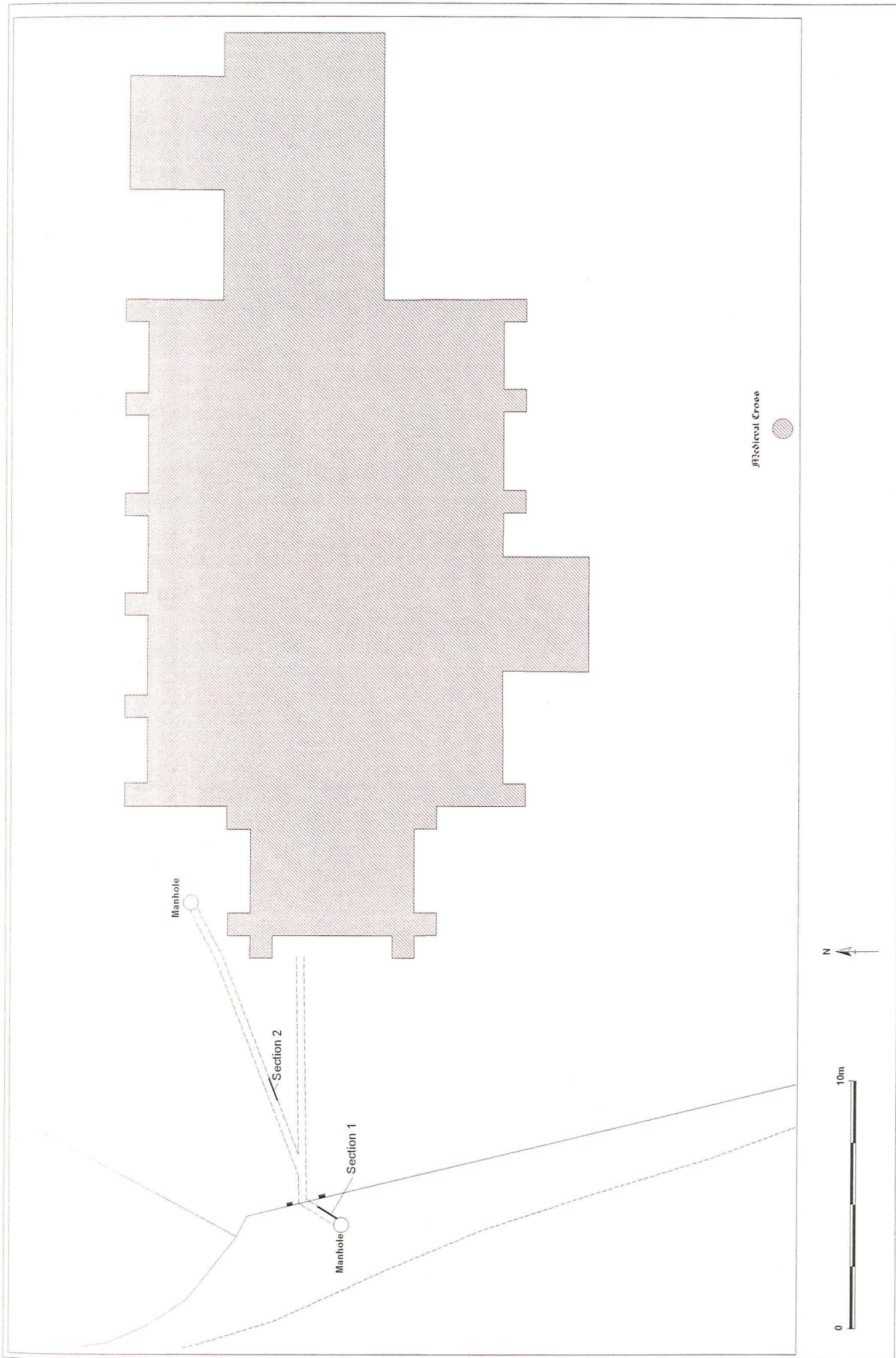
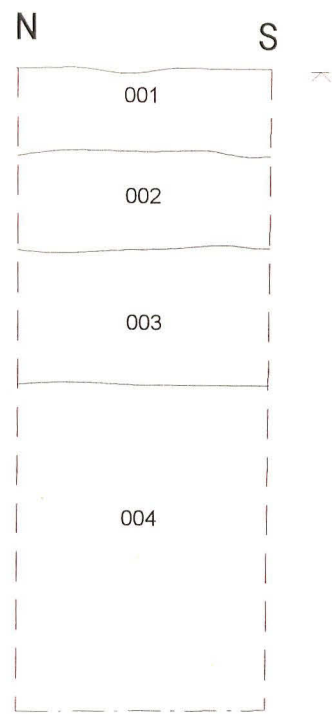
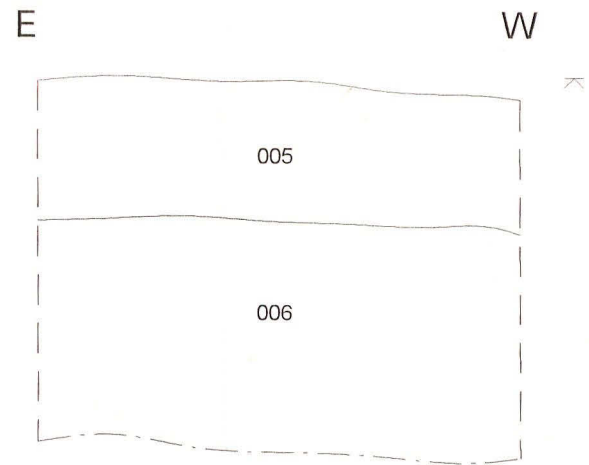


Figure 3 - Plan of service trenches, showing section locations



MST99 Section 1



MST99 Section 2



Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2



Plate 1 - St. Thomas of Canterbury's church, showing the extent of works,
looking east

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Firm dark greyish black tarmac, 0.18m thick	Path
002	Firm mid brown sandy silt with crushed stone, 0.2m thick	Make-up layer for (001)
003	Firm mid brown fine sand and silt, 0.28m thick	Subsoil
004	Firm/pliable mid reddish brown silty clay, >0.7m thick	Natural deposit
005	Loose dark greyish brown silt, 0.3m thick	Topsoil
006	Loose reddish brown silt, >0.5m thick	Graveyard soil

Appendix 2

GLOSSARY

Boulder Clay	A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as till, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size.
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, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
Layer	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The Archive consists of:

5	Context Record Sheets
2	Watching Brief Daily Record Sheet
1	Stratigraphic Matrix
1	Section
1	Photographic record

All primary records 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
LN21 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 Museum Accession Number: 169.99

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: MST99

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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