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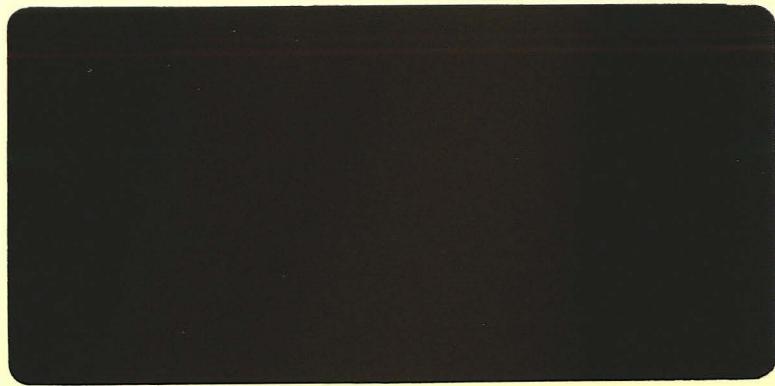
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF A NEW CABLE TRENCH
AT ST. PETER'S CHURCH,
THORPE ST. PETER, *EL*
LINCOLNSHIRE
(TSP 00)



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

Massaic bultea cap
black + white triangles
local polka 14cm - 16cm
shallow, lop-sided
54860 36068
T = 4850 6069



acc 16/6/68
14 JUN 00

Archaeological Excavation
University of Cambridge Museum

Plan 42254
event LI 1302
source LI 6031

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF A NEW CABLE TRENCH
AT ST. PETER'S CHURCH,
THORPE ST. PETER, *EL*
LINCOLNSHIRE
(TSP 00)**

Work Undertaken For
East Midlands Electricity

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

June 2000

National Grid Reference: TF 4850 6068
City and County Museum Accession No: 2000.108

A.P.S. Report No: 72/00



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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of a cable trench to St. Peter's Church, Thorpe St. Peter, Lincolnshire.

St.Peter's Church is largely of Late 13th century date and replaced an earlier structure referred to in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086.

The investigation identified a subsoil and topsoil, with no other archaeological remains present. A few finds were retrieved from the topsoil and include locally made 14th - 16th century pottery, brick and tile fragments and a Masonic button cap.

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

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by East Midlands Electricity to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of a new electric cable trench through the churchyard at St. Peter's Church, Thorpe St. Peter, near Wainfleet, Lincolnshire. The watching brief was carried out on the 8th May 2000.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Wainfleet is located 53km southeast of

Lincoln and 8km southwest of Skegness, in the administrative district of East Lindsey. Thorpe St. Peter is located approximately 3km north of Wainfleet in the civil parish of Thorpe St. Peter (Fig. 1).

The site is situated at the centre of Thorpe St. Peter (Fig. 2). The site lies on generally level ground at heights of c. 3m OD at National Grid Reference TF 4850 6068.

The local soils are of the Wallasea 2 Association, pelo-alluvial gley soils (Hodge et al. 1984, 338). These soils are developed close to the boundary of older and younger marine alluvium which overlies a solid geology of Jurassic Kimmeridge Clay (BGS 1996).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Thorpe St. Peter is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Torp*, the name is derived from the Old Scandinavian '*porp*' meaning a small settlement that was settled from a nearby larger village (Ekwall 1974, 468). The Domesday Survey records that the land was owned by the Bishop of Durham and Ivo Taillebois and contained a church and at least 280 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976).

St. Peter's church dates largely to the later 13th century with additions in the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries and was restored in the 19th century (DoE 1988, 39). The font is of early 13th century date. The church presumably replaced an earlier structure mentioned in the Domesday Survey.

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief were to record and interpret archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their

date, sequence, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Topsoil was stripped prior to the excavation of the new cable trench by machine. The trench measured no more than 0.45m deep and 0.22m wide. The trench was rendered vertical and 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 was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was compiled and sections were 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 and features recognised during the watching brief were examined and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them and supplemented by artefact dating.

5. RESULTS

Only a single phase of activity was identified during the investigation. Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

The earliest deposit encountered during the investigation was a dark yellowish brown silty clay (002), identified as the subsoil. This was subsequently sealed by a topsoil of

dark greyish brown silty clay (001), measuring 0.21m thick. A single sherd of Toynton/Bolingbroke type pottery was retrieved from the topsoil and is dateable to the 14th - 16th centuries. Other finds include four fragments of brick or tile and a button cap with a Masonic emblem.

6. DISCUSSION

A subsoil and topsoil were recorded during the investigation. However, the relatively shallow depth of the new cable trench would preclude against deeper, archaeological, deposits being recorded. A sherd of 14th - 16th century Toynton/Bolingbroke pottery, four fragments of 19th century brick or tile and a 19th century Masonic button cap were retrieved from the topsoil.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Thorpe St. Peter as the site lay within the churchyard of the 13th century St. Peter's church.

No archaeological deposits were encountered, due to the shallow depth of the new cable trench. 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 Keith Lancaster of East Midlands Electricity who commissioned the fieldwork and post excavation. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Dave Start allowed access to the

relevant parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire. Gary Taylor identified the artefacts retrieved during the investigation.

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Supervisor: James Snee
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Photographic Reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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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.M., Evans, R. and Seale, R.S., 1984, *Soils and their Use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales Bulletin No. 13

IFA, 1997, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

11. ABBREVIATIONS

BGS British Geological Survey

DoE Department of the Environment

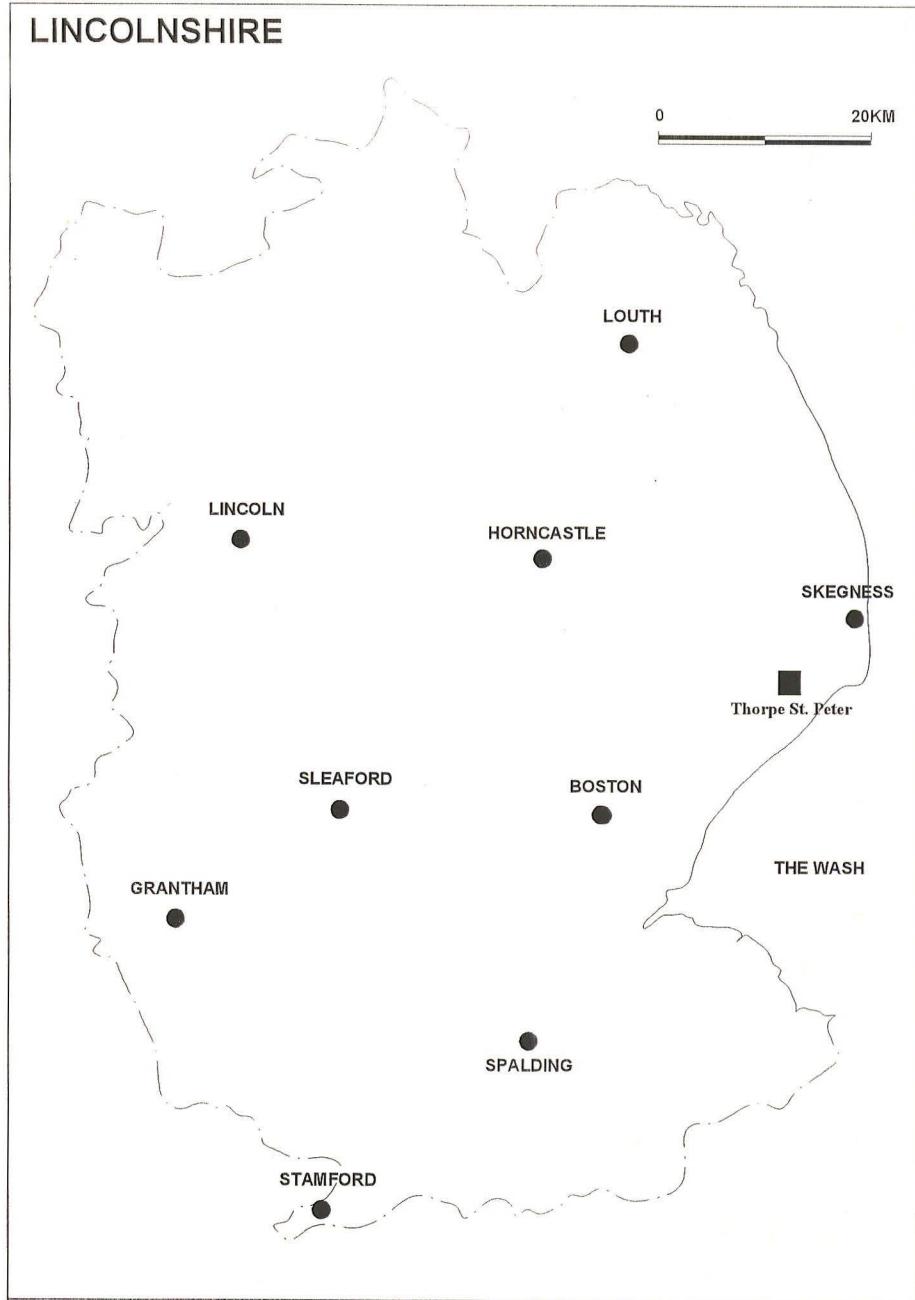


Figure 1 - General location map



Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

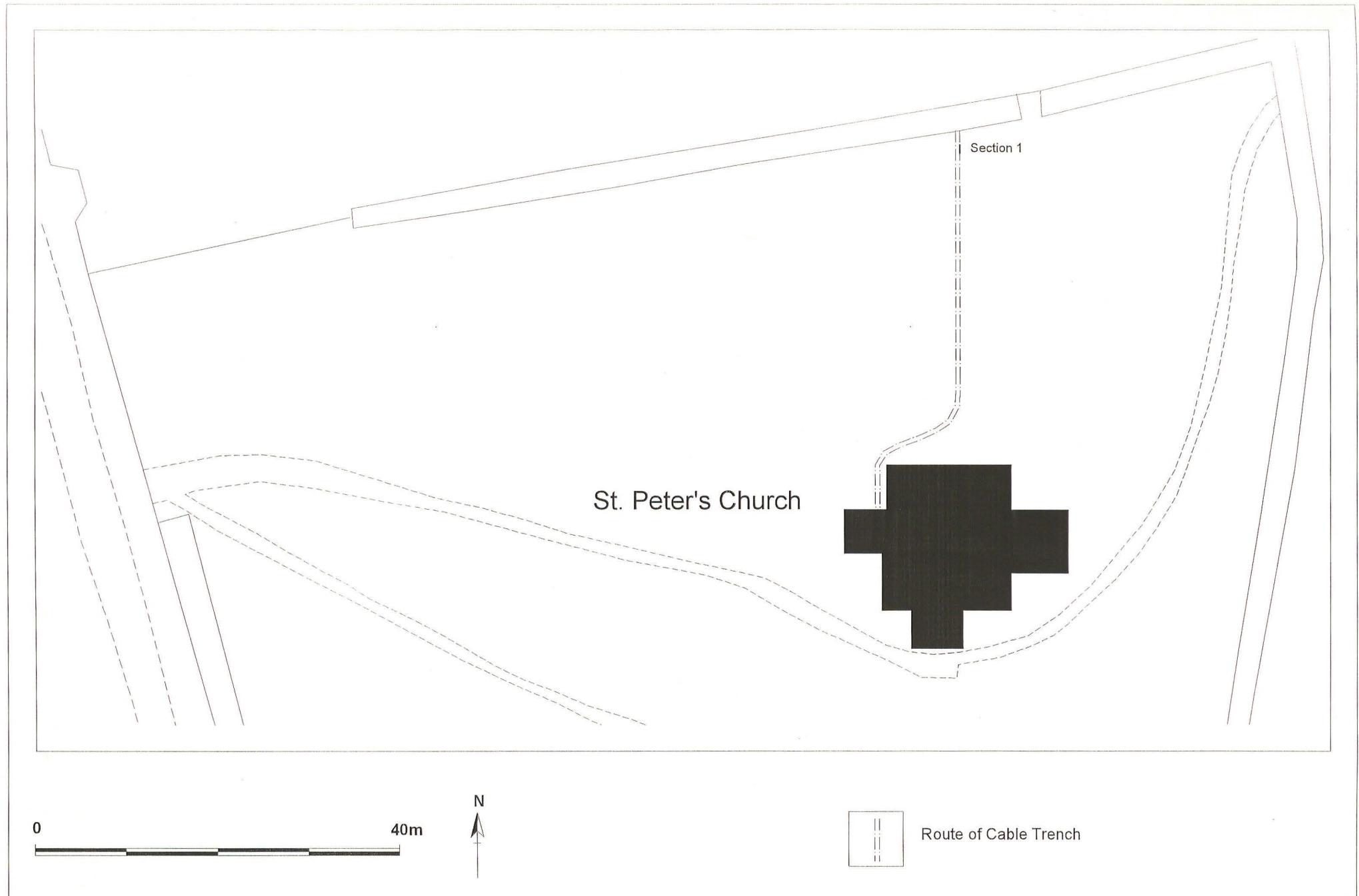


Figure 3 - St. Peter's Church, showing cable trench and section location

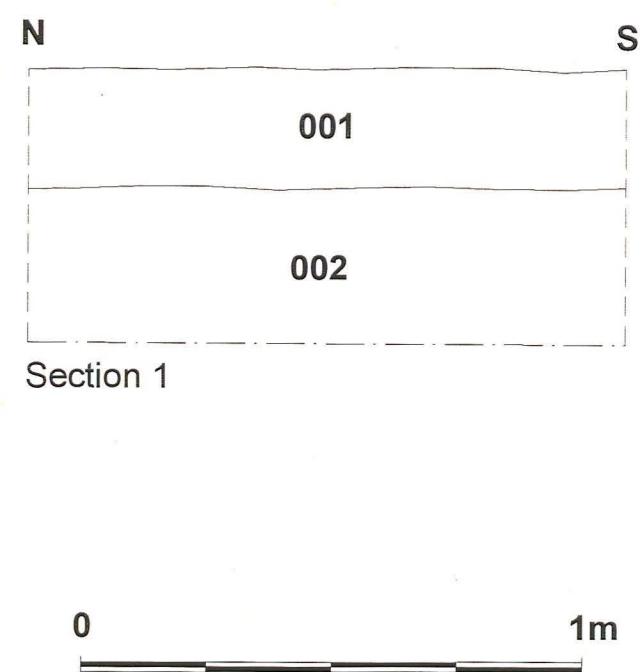


Figure 4 - Section 1

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Firm dark greyish brown silty clay, c. 0.21m thick. Becomes thicker towards the church where frequent limestone frags begin to occur	Topsoil
002	Firm dark yellowish brown silty clay, > 0.28m thick	Subsoil

Appendix 2

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, <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.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 2 Context records
- 1 Scale drawings
- 1 Photographic record sheet
- 1 Stratigraphic matrix
- 1 Bag of finds

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: 2000.108

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: TSP 00

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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