



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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All Saints Churchyard, Heapham, Lincs
Installation of Services

NGR: SK 8780 8850
Site Code: HASC 99
LCNCC Museum Accn. No.: 320.99

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report

by G. Tann

LAS Report No. 489

December 2000

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The Figures

Fig. 1 Location of Heapham. (C based on the 1953 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map, Sheet SK 88. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL50424A).

Fig. 2 Position of the monitored trenches (based on a plan supplied by the architect).

The Plates

PI. 1 All Saints' Church, Heapham, with freshly excavated soil beside the monitored trenches (looking NE).

PI. 2 Ridge and furrow earthworks in the pasture field south of Heapham Church (looking west).

PI. 3 Service trench with water pipe and cable duct installed (looking east).

PI. 4 Detail of the tower wall foundations exposed by the trench (looking south, scale 0.5m).

PI. 5 Two holes drilled through the tower north wall for the new services (interior view, looking north; scale 0.3m).

PI. 6 Service trench along north side of tower and north aisle (looking east; scale 0.3m).

PI. 7 Service along the west side of the church (looking south; vertical scale 0.5m, horizontal 0.3m).

PI. 8 Chalk rubble foundation for NW tower buttress, exposed beneath the turf (looking south; vertical scale 0.5m, horizontal 0.3m).

All Saints Churchyard, Heapham

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Summary

Two narrow service trenches excavated across the western part of the churchyard encountered no archaeological deposits other than foundations for the tower and buttresses.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by Heapham Parish Council in April 1999 to undertake an archaeological watching brief during trenching for water pipe and electricity cable across part of the churchyard west of All Saints' Church, Heapham.

The project to install floodlighting and provide an external water supply was funded by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. A faculty was granted for the work to be carried out subject to an archaeological watching brief.

The watching brief was conducted in accordance with general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998). The watching brief, by Naomi Field, took place on 14th April 1999.

Site Location and Description

Heapham is a small village 5.5km east of Gainsborough. All Saints' Church is sited on a well-defined mound, with a green lane to the south, and medieval ridge and furrow earthworks to the west and NE (Pls. 1 and 2). The ridge and furrow separates the church site from two separate medieval settlement areas which formed Heapham village. The roads near the church are of eighteenth century origin, established after Enclosure in the positions of earlier plough headlands (Everson, Taylor and Dunn 1991, 110-111).

The main entrance to the church is through the south porch and it appears that the original access to the church may originally have been from the south rather than the west. The ground drops away at about 5m west of the tower and the surviving ridge may mark the original western limit of the churchyard.

The church consists of a north aisle, nave, chancel and tower. The tower is late Anglo-Saxon or Early Norman in style, and the aisle arcade is of twelfth-thirteenth century build. The nave, aisle and chancel show signs of heavy restoration in the nineteenth century.

Objectives

The purpose of the watching brief was to record any archaeological deposits disturbed during groundworks at the above site.

The Watching Brief

A trench 29m long, 0.3m wide and 0.45m deep, containing both the water pipe and electricity cable duct, was excavated from the NW corner of the north aisle, across the churchyard, to the road (Pl. 3).

At the entrance to the churchyard (in the NW corner), the trench crossed a deposit of brick rubble and hardcore. The 0.25m thick topsoil layer 1 was a dark brown sandy soil, overlying a brown sandy loam which extended below the trench base. The subsoil contained infrequent pieces of limestone. One floodlight position was located south of this trench. The trench turned south and ran along the west wall of the aisle for 4.75m. Two 30mm diameter holes were then drilled through the base of the tower wall, for the electricity cable to enter and leave the building (Pls. 4-5). The holes caused minimal disturbance to the building's fabric.

A 0.2m wide, 0.45m deep cable trench for a second floodlight was excavated from the tower/aisle wall angle along the north (Pl. 6) and west sides of the tower, then under the footpath south of the church, to a point close to southern boundary of the churchyard(Pl. 7); a short spur to the west led to the floodlight position (Pl. 1).

The trench revealed the tower wall foundations to a depth of 0.75m below the surface. At ground level was a plain chamfered plinth, resting on the offset rubble foundation (Pl. 4). The buttresses at the NW and SW angles of the tower are additions. Concentrations of chalk from the buttress foundations were seen in the trench (Pl. 8).

Conclusion

No archaeological features were disturbed during excavation of the service trenches nor were any remains identified during the watching brief, except for the chalky material associated with construction of the buttress at the NW angle of the tower.

Acknowledgements

LAS is grateful to Heapham Parish Council and the architect Neil Taylor for their co-operation and interest during the watching brief. Help from Dr. Beryl Lott (Lincolnshire County Council, Built Environment Team) was also appreciated.

Illustrations were prepared by Mick McDaid and Claire Angus, and the report was collated and produced by Jane Frost.

References

Everson, P.L., Taylor, C.C., and Dunn, C.J. 1991 *Change and Continuity: Rural Settlement in North-West Lincolnshire.*

Archive Summary

colour photographs, LAS film no.99/19/14-25

correspondence

site plan

field notes

field sketch plans

Geoff Tann
December 12th 2000

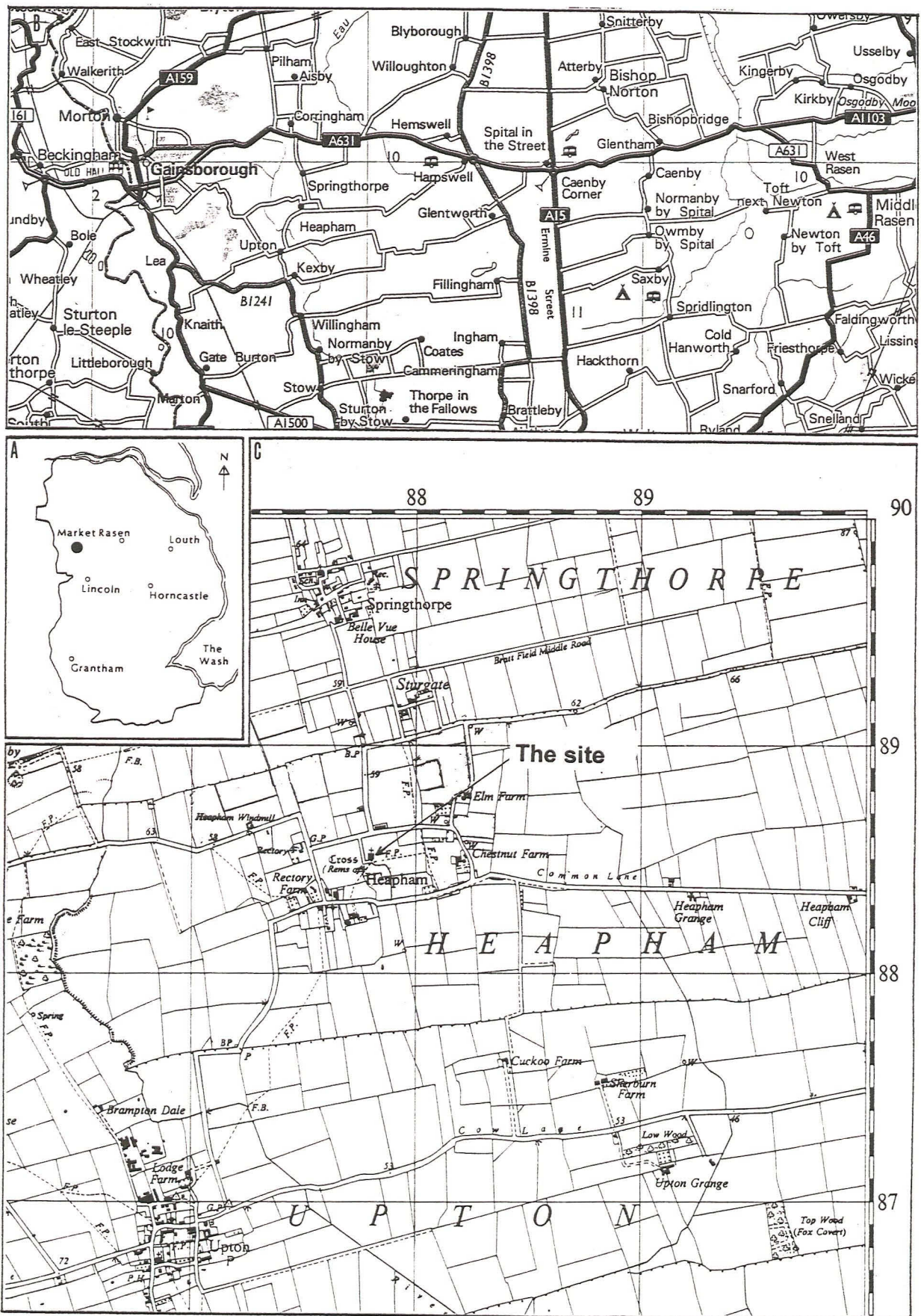


Fig. 1 Location of Heapham. (C based on the 1953 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map, Sheet SK 88. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL50424A).

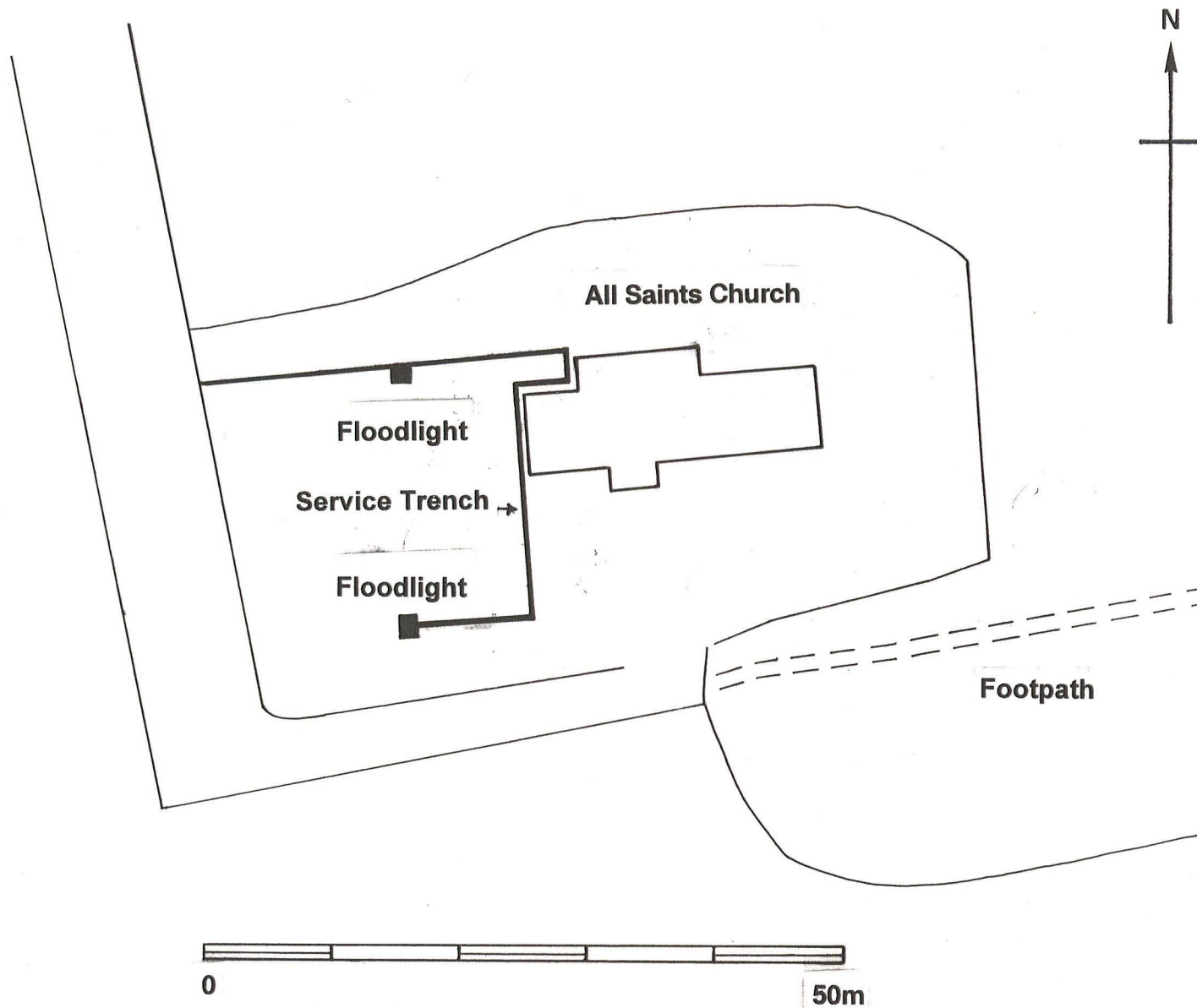


Fig. 2 Position of the monitored trenches (based on a plan supplied by the architect).



Pl. 1 All Saints' Church, Heapham, with freshly excavated soil beside the monitored trenches (looking NE).

Pl. 2 Ridge and furrow earthworks in the pasture field south of Heapham Church (looking west).





Pl. 3 Service trench with water pipe and cable duct installed (looking east).



Pl. 4 Detail of the tower wall foundations exposed by the trench (looking south, scale 0.5m).



Pl. 5 Two holes drilled through the tower north wall for the new services (interior view, looking north; scale 0.3m).



Pl. 6 Service trench along north side of tower and north aisle (looking east; scale 0.3m).



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