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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
OF DRAINAGE WORKS AT  
ST. THOMAS Á BECKET'S CHURCH,  
BURTON COGGLES,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(BCC 01)**



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES

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Source L14192  
L17193

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PRA 33878

Conservation  
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Highways & Planning  
Directorate

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OF DRAINAGE WORKS AT  
ST. THOMAS Á BECKET'S CHURCH,  
BURTON COGGLES,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(BCC 01)**

Work Undertaken For  
Bond and Read Chartered Architects

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

October 2001

National Grid Reference: SK 9797 2585  
City and County Museum Accession No:2001.160

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## 2.1 Topography and Geology

Burton Coggles is located 1.2 km southwest of Geddington and 7.5 km north of Stamford, South Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The drainage ditch is located in the northern portion of the village of National Grid Reference SK 697 250 (Fig. 2). The ditch is situated at a height of c. 73m OD and runs generally down to the east.

Burton Coggles is located on soils of the Elyton 2 Association, typically shallow brown forest soils (Dodge *et al.* 1984, 179). The soils have a high clay content and a high degree of stoniness (see Geology Service

## 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Burton Coggles is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Burton and Berrone* the name is derived from Old English and means the village by a fortified place (Cameron 1998, 26). The Domesday Survey records that the land was owned by Ivo Taillebois, Colman, Walter de Alnclut and Raif Pagwal (Foster and Langley 1976).

The present church dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> century but incorporates a later 11<sup>th</sup>-century grave marker or cover which may have been associated with an earlier church in the village (Everson and Soper 1998, 118). Much of the present building is only 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century in date with additions in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and restoration work carried out in 1874 (DoE 1986, 15).

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 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' (IFA 1999).

### 1.2 Project Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by the Lincolnshire Architects to undertake an archaeological watching brief during drainage works at St. Thomas a Becket Church, Burton Coggles, Lincolnshire. The watching brief was undertaken on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> August 2001.

## 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of new drains and soakaways at St. Thomas á Becket's church, Burton Coggles, Lincolnshire.*

*Thomas á Becket's church has 12<sup>th</sup> century features but largely dates from the early 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. A Late Saxon (AD 850-1100) grave cover or marker may indicate the existence of an earlier church on the site.*

*The investigations revealed a limestone deposit possibly associated with the construction of the church. This was overlain by a graveyard soil in which three burials were encountered. Finds recovered from this investigation comprise medieval and later pottery, glass, metalwork, burnt clay and a few fragments of animal bone.*

## 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 Bond and Read Architects to undertake an archaeological watching brief during drainage works at St. Thomas á Becket church, Burton Coggles, Lincolnshire. The watching brief was undertaken on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> August 2001.

## 2.3 Topography and Geology

Burton Coggles is located 12km southwest of Grantham and 9km north of Stamford, South Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site is located in the northern portion of the village at National Grid Reference SK 9797 2585 (Fig. 2). The church is situated at a height of c. 73m OD with land dropping down to the east.

Burton Coggles is located on soils of the Elnton 1 Association, typically shallow brown rendzinas (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 179). Beneath these soils is a drift geology of Boulder Clay which in turn overlies a solid geology of Jurassic Upper Estuarine Series limestone (GSGB 1972).

## 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Burton Coggles is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Bertune* and *Bertone* the name is derived from Old English and means the village by a fortified place (Cameron 1998, 24). The Domesday Survey records that the land was owned by Ivo Taillebois, Colsuan, Walter de Aincurt and Ralf Pagenel (Foster and Longley 1976).

The present church dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> century but incorporates a later 11<sup>th</sup> century grave marker or cover which may have been associated with an earlier church in the village (Everson and Stocker 1999, 118). Much of the present building is early 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century in date with additions in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and restoration work carried out in 1874 (DoE 1986, 15).

### 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

Trenches for the new drains were opened by hand to depths of 0.45m and soakaways to a depth of 1m. Following excavation, the sides of the trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. 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 were 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.

Finds recovered from excavated deposits were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 3). Burials, where encountered, were left *in-situ*. Records of the deposits and features recognised during the watching brief were examined. Phasing was assigned based on artefact dating and the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

### 5. RESULTS

Two phases of activity were identified:

Phase 1 Natural deposits

### Phase 2 Graveyard and 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

The earliest deposits encountered was in the base of the northern soakaway where a reddish brown sandy clay (005) was encountered. This was overlain by a 0.35m thick deposit of greyish brown clayey silt (004) identified as a natural subsoil.

#### Phase 2 Graveyard and Modern deposits

Overlying the natural subsoil in the northern trench was a 100mm thick deposit of greyish brown limestone and clayey silt (003) identified as a construction deposit. This was overlain by greenish brown clayey silt (002) which was identified as the graveyard soil. This was 0.35m thick and contained a single sherd of 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery. The graveyard soil was in turn sealed by dark grey clayey silt (001) topsoil.

The earliest deposit in the southern trench was a greenish brown clayey silt (007 and 009) graveyard soil which was 0.35m thick. Within this deposit were three burials, one possible adult female (006) and two child burials (010 and 011). Finds retrieved from the graveyard soil included medieval and later pottery, glass, nails, burnt clay and animal bone. Sealing the graveyard soil was a modern topsoil of dark grey clayey silt (008).

### 6. DISCUSSION

Deposits of natural sandy clays (Phase 1), were the earliest deposits encountered

during the watching brief. These relate to the underlying drift geology and can be identified as boulder clay. A naturally formed subsoil overlay this deposit.

Phase 2 deposits include a limestone deposit which may relate to one of the episodes of construction of the church or its restoration in 1874. A graveyard soil was also encountered which contained three burials.

Several finds were recorded from the site and comprise medieval and later pottery, glass, nails and burnt clay. Animal bone was also recovered. Such finds, derived from the topsoil, may indicate nothing more than discarded rubbish incorporated into the ground during grave digging.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were carried out at Burton Coggles as the site lay within the churchyard of the 12<sup>th</sup> century and later St. Thomas á Becket's church.

Overlying natural deposits was a layer associated with construction or restoration of the church. A developed graveyard soil was also encountered that contained three burials.

Medieval and later pottery, window glass and iron nails were retrieved during this investigation and a small quantity of animal bone was also found. No waterlogged features were found which indicates that few environmental indicators (snails, seeds, pollen *etc.*) will survive other than through charring.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr Peter

McFarlane of Bond and Read Chartered Architects who commissioned the fieldwork and post excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Denise Drury and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Gail Smith, the Community Archaeologist for South Kesteven District Council, kindly permitted access to the parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Denise Drury  
Supervisor: Steve Thomson, Fiona Walker  
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley  
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner  
Photographic Reproduction: Sue Unsworth  
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

LINCOLNSHIRE

100km



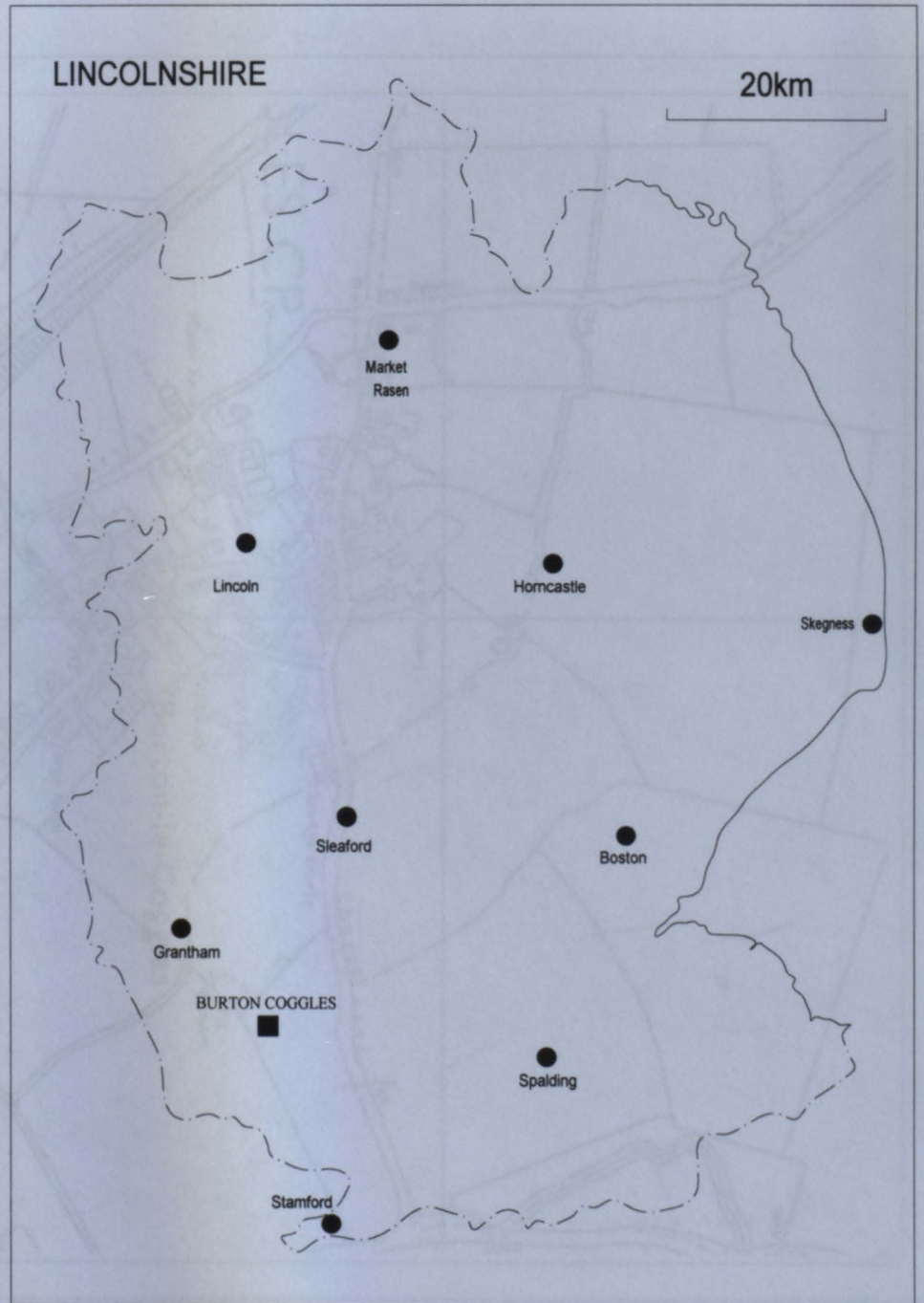
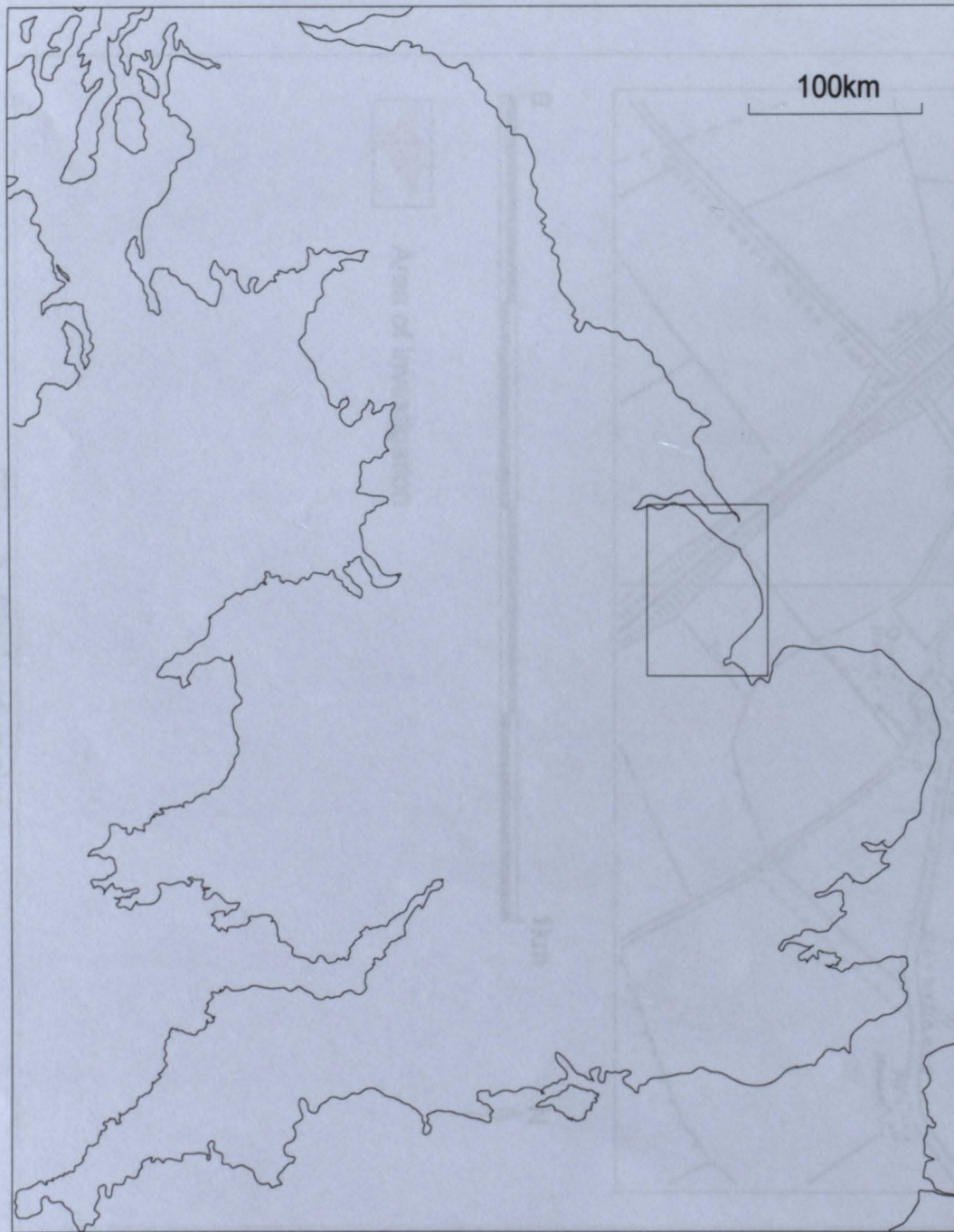
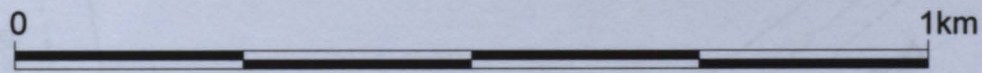
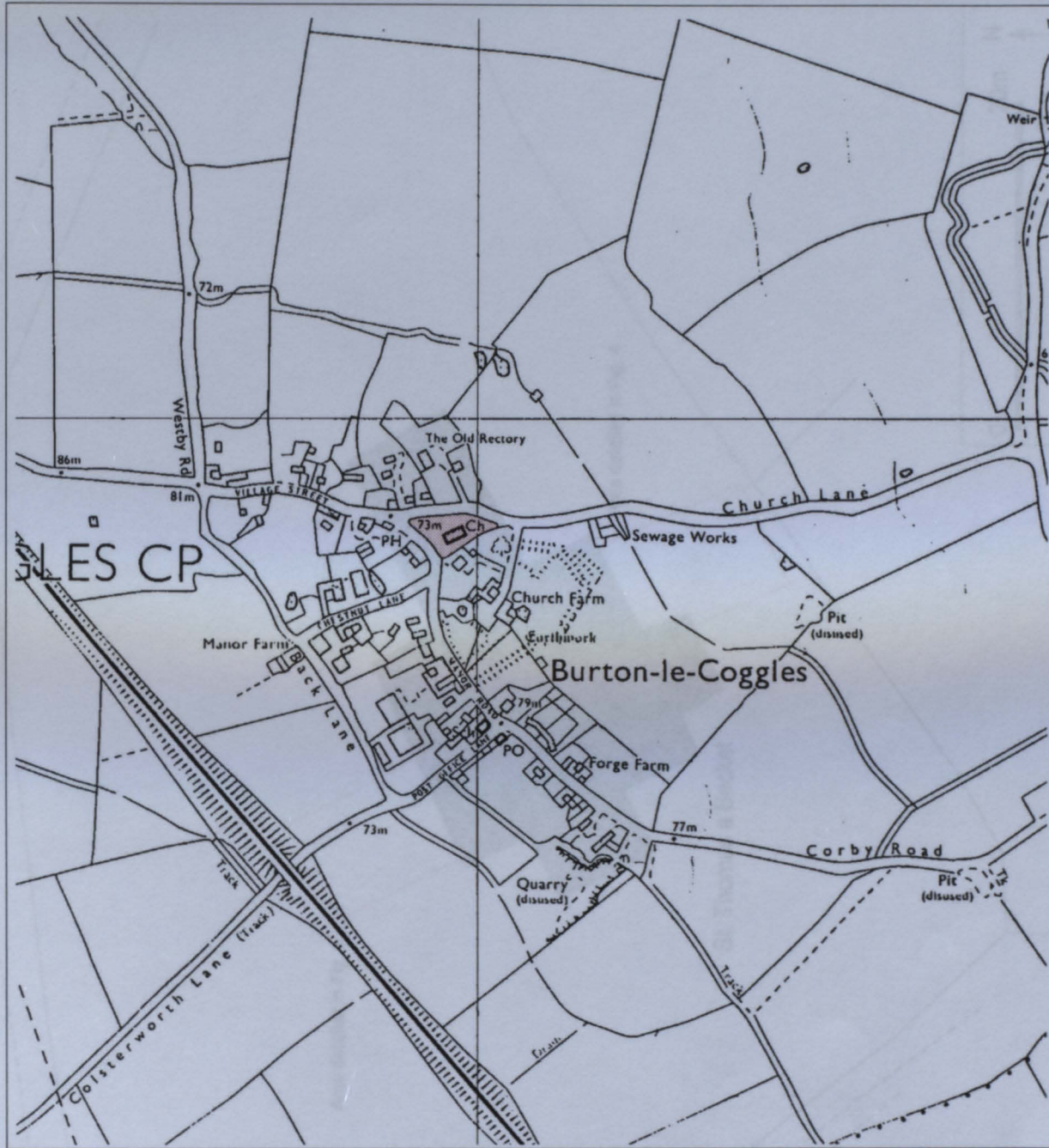


Figure 1 - General Location Plan



Area of Investigation

Figure 2 - Site location plan

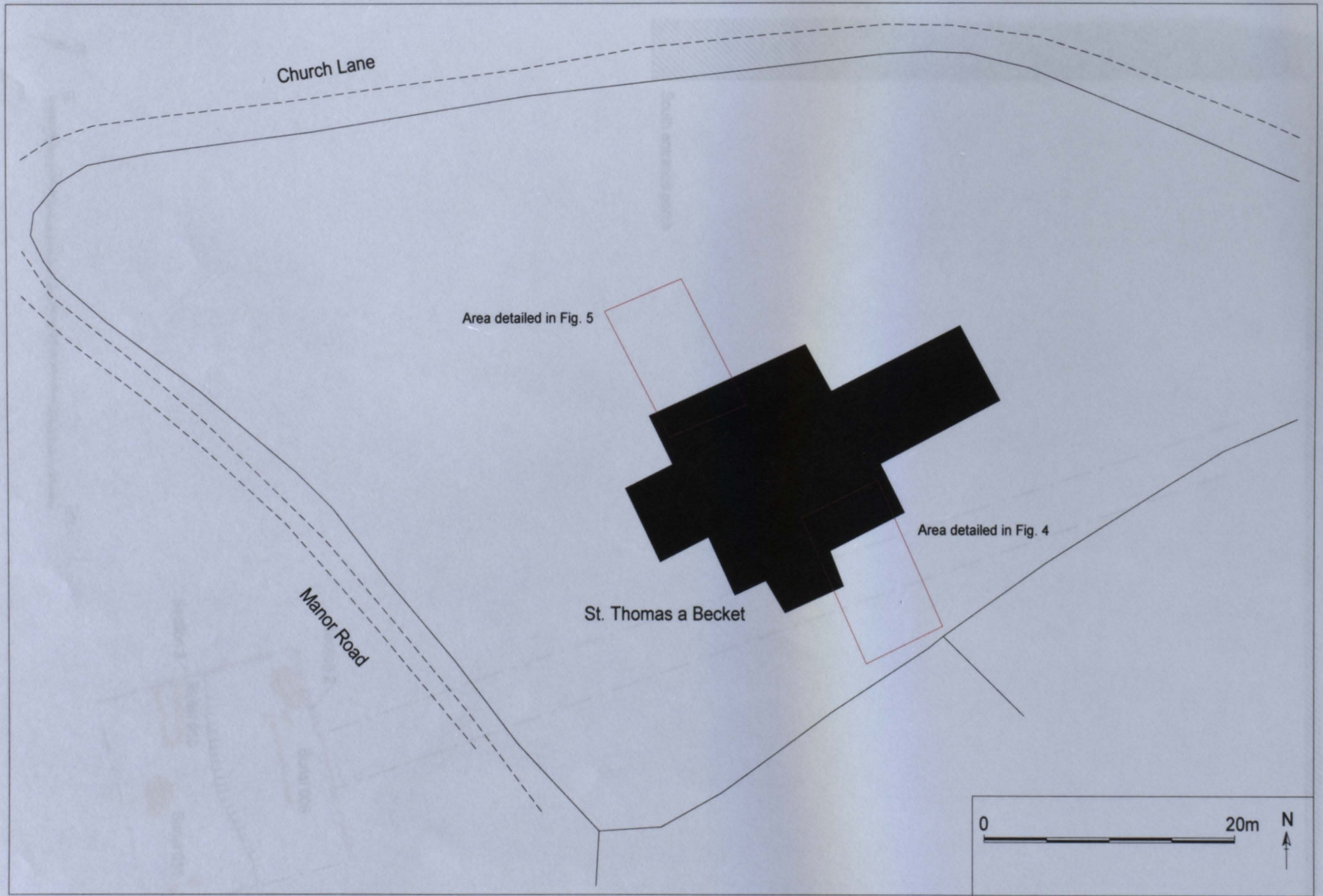


Figure 3 - Plan showing the principal areas of investigation

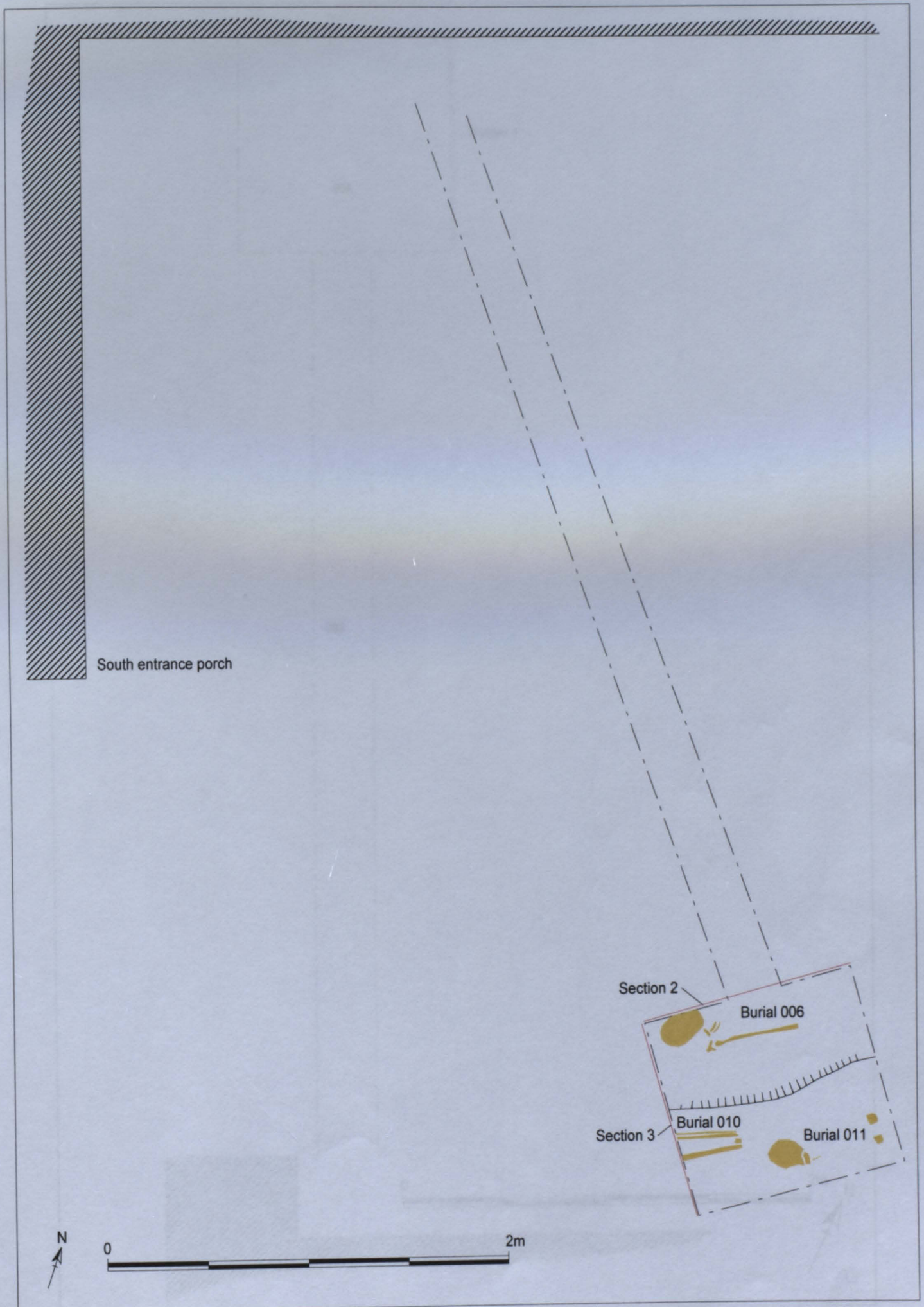


Figure 4 - Plan of the southern drainage trench

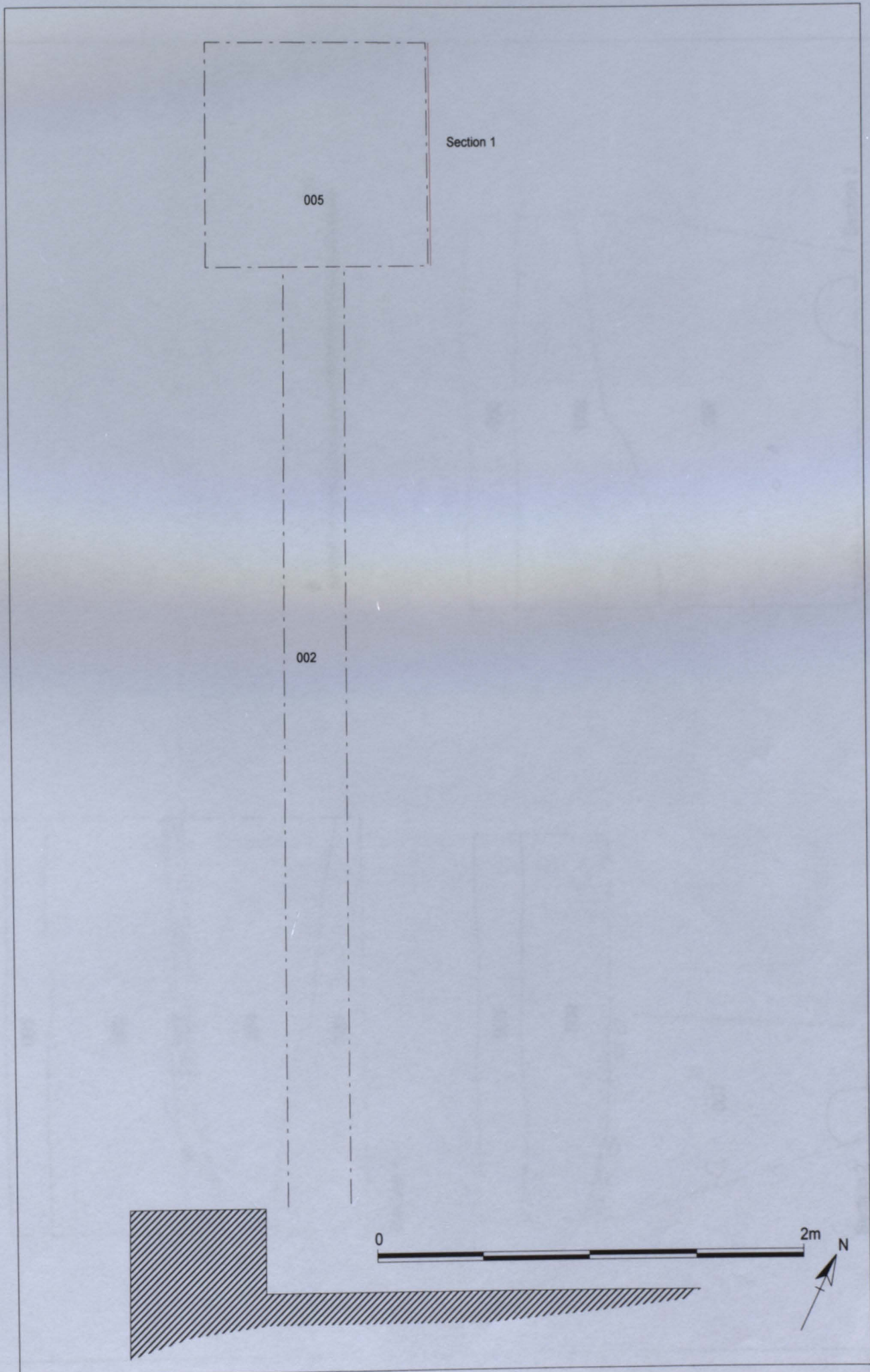
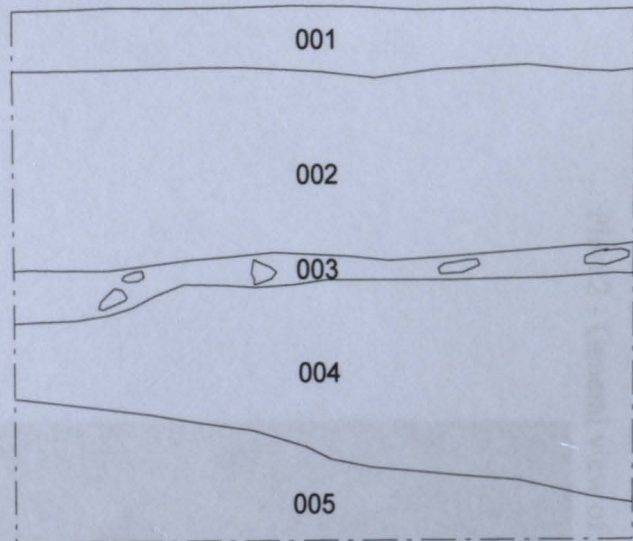
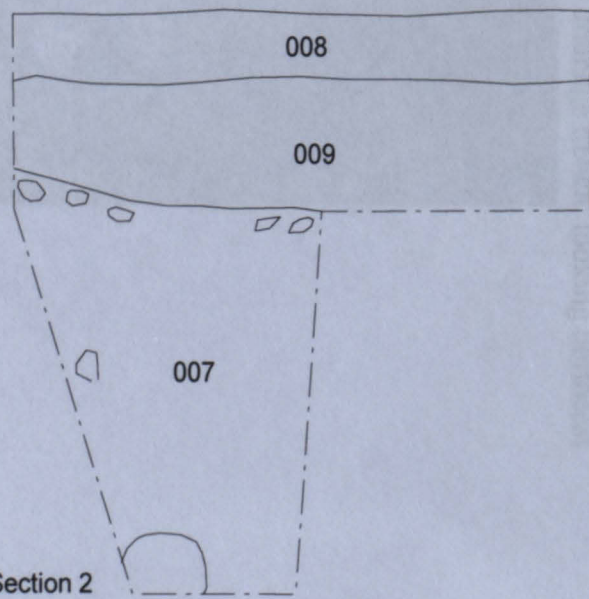


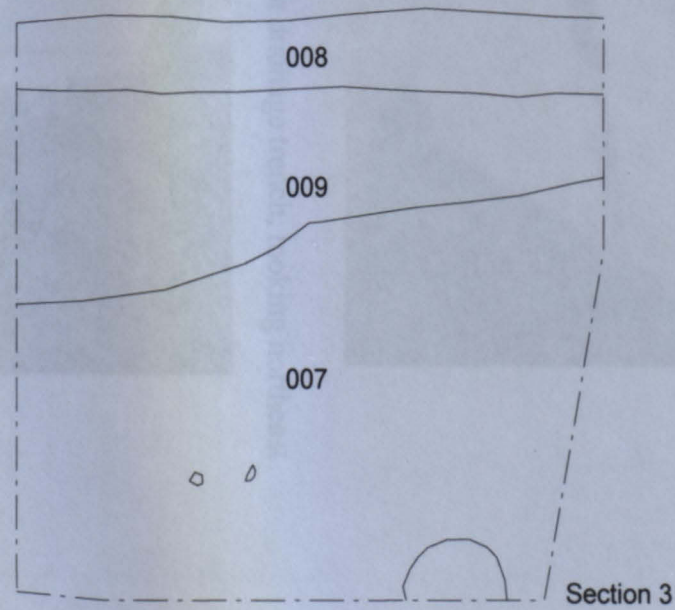
Figure 5 - Plan of the northern drainage trench



Section 1



Section 2



Section 3

Figure 6 - Sections 1, 2 and 3



Plate 1 - General view of the northern drainage trench, looking northeast



Plate 2 - General view of the southern drainage trench, looking northeast



Plate 3 - Detail of Burial (006)

## Appendix 1

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Friable dark grey clayey silt, 0.12m thick	Topsoil
002	Firm greenish brown clayey silt, c. 0.35m thick	Graveyard soil
003	Firm light greyish brown limestone and clayey silt, 100mm thick	Construction deposit
004	Firm greenish brown clayey silt, c. 0.35m thick	Buried subsoil
005	Firm light reddish brown sandy clay, >0.12m thick	Natural deposit
006	Possible female skeleton, head and shoulder exposed	Burial
007	Firm greenish brown clayey silt, c. 0.35m thick	Graveyard soil
008	Friable dark grey clayey silt, 0.12m thick	Topsoil
009	Firm greenish brown clayey silt, c. 0.35m thick	Graveyard soil
010	Child skeleton, lower limb bones exposed	Burial
011	Child skeleton, skull and pelvis exposed	Burial

001	Friable dark grey clayey silt, 0.12m thick	Topsoil	13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> century
002	Firm greenish brown clayey silt, c. 0.35m thick	Graveyard soil	13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> century
003	Firm light greyish brown limestone and clayey silt, 100mm thick	Construction deposit	13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> century
004	Firm greenish brown clayey silt, c. 0.35m thick	Buried subsoil	13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> century
005	Firm light reddish brown sandy clay, >0.12m thick	Natural deposit	13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> century
006	Possible female skeleton, head and shoulder exposed	Burial	13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> century
007	Firm greenish brown clayey silt, c. 0.35m thick	Graveyard soil	13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> century
008	Friable dark grey clayey silt, 0.12m thick	Topsoil	13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> century
009	Firm greenish brown clayey silt, c. 0.35m thick	Graveyard soil	13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> century
010	Child skeleton, lower limb bones exposed	Burial	13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> century
011	Child skeleton, skull and pelvis exposed	Burial	13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> century

Two shelly wares pottery sherds were recovered from the 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> century. These are thought to be Peterborough ware, made near Louth in the north, though the fragment from 006 is very small. Shelly wares were also made near to Barton Crag in the north-west of Lincolnshire and adjacent areas. However, the fossil shell inclusions in the pottery from these areas are not distinguished by any holes, the shell type deriving from porous brachiopods, and these are absent from the shelly wares of Peterborough. Such perforated shell fragments are not clearly visible in the areas of pottery from the present investigation which are therefore considered to be Peterborough products.

The two coins were the only finds through the excavations, and although they could be a structural wall and its natural fill they imply that it was constructed in situ.

The methods described by the author were used during the investigations. Phases of activity in the 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> century are defined by the 13<sup>th</sup> century construction from the evidence. It is unclear when these phases relate to but it is likely that some of the alterations to the church at this time were related to the deposition of the remains.

Conclusions  
 Although the excavations were carried out in the winter in poor conditions and presents no long-term storage problems, the excavations were not as extensive as by other sites.



## Appendix 2

### THE FINDS

*Hilary Healey and Gary Taylor*

#### Provenance

All of the material was recovered from subsoil deposits (002), (007) and (009). Amongst the medieval pottery there is one piece from Nottingham and two that were probably made in Potterhanworth, about 40km north of Burton Coggles. The later pottery fragments, the red painted earthenwares, may have been made locally though equally could be regional imports from Staffordshire or elsewhere.

#### Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

Pottery of 13<sup>th</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup> century date is the earliest material recovered and provides about half of the artefactual assemblage. Metal and glass was found and faunal remains were also retrieved.

Context	Description	Weight (g)	Context Date
002	1x Potterhanworth ware, sooted externally, 13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> century	6g	13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> century
007	1x window glass, decayed, near black 2x iron nails, Both rectangular shafts; 1 has sub-rectangular head, 13mm x 13mm, broken shaft 36mm long. Other has diamond-shaped head, 23mm x 19mm, complete shaft 65mm long, bent	<1g 22g	
009	3x red painted earthenware, black glazed, separate vessels, 18 <sup>th</sup> century 1x ?Potterhanworth ware, very small fragment, 13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> century 1x Nottingham ware, very abraded externally, 13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> century 1x burnt clay 2x cattle molars 1x cattle rib	36g <1g 10g 5g	18 <sup>th</sup> century

Two shelly ware pottery sherds were recovered, from (002) and (009). These are both thought to be Potterhanworth wares, made near Lincoln to the north, though the fragment from (009) is very small. Shelly wares were also made nearer to Burton Coggles in the southern part of Lincolnshire and adjacent areas. However, the fossil shell inclusions in the pottery from these southern parts is characterized by tiny holes, the shell type deriving from punctate brachiopods, and these are absent from the shelly wares of Potterhanworth. Such perforated shell fragments are not clearly evident in the pieces of pottery from the present investigation which are therefore considered to be Potterhanworth products.

The two nails may be coffin nails though the more complete, diamond-headed example could be a structural nail and its curved shaft may imply that it was drawn out of timber.

Two periods are clearly indicated by the artefacts recovered during the investigations. Phases of activity in the 13<sup>th</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup> century and then in the 18<sup>th</sup> century are evident from the artefacts. It is unclear what these phases relate to but it is likely that construction or alterations to the church at these two periods may have resulted in the deposition of the artefacts.

#### Condition

Although certain artefacts are abraded all the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. Archive storage of the collection is by material class.

### Documentation

There have been no previous invasive archaeological investigations at Burton Coggles, though ancient earthworks at the village have been examined. Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the files of the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist and the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

### Potential

As a small assemblage the collection has limited potential though indicates separate phases of activity in the medieval and post-medieval periods at the site.

Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the archaeological context of a coin is the hole in which it was found. The context of a coin is the hole in which it was found. The context of a coin is the hole in which it was found. The context of a coin is the hole in which it was found.
Layer	A layer is a level or stratum in an excavation of soil or other material that is not covered with a soil.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposits of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Scandinavian	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1100 when England was largely ruled by Vikings from northern Germany.

## Appendix 3

### 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, *e.g.* (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.
- Saxon** Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.

## Appendix 4

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

11	Context records
1	Photographic record sheets
5	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: 2001.160

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: BCC 01

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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