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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Land Adjacent to All Saints Church,
Church St, Hemswell, Lincs.
Archaeological Watching Brief**

NGR: SK 93⁰8 9092
Planning Application: 1102/99P/0198
Site Code: HECS 02
LCNCC Museum Accn No.: 2002.257

**Report for
Mr A. M. Reale**

**by
D. Marshall**



**LAS Report No.: 597
July 2002**

Event 113209

Source 47933

47934

negative

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**Land Adjacent to All Saints Church
Church St, Hemswell, Lincs.
Archaeological Watching Brief
NGR: SK9388 9092
Planning Application: ~~102/99P~~/0198
LCNCC Accn No. : 2002.257
Site Code: HECS 02**

Summary

In June 2002 Land adjacent to the east side of All Saints Church was cleared for the development of one dwelling .Previously in the village archaeological remains were found to the south of the present site but the watching brief found no archaeological remains, only evidence of a 19th century privy.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeology Services (LAS) was commissioned in June 2002 by Mr A M Reale to undertake an archaeological watching brief in accordance with the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, 1998). All fieldwork was carried out by the author on 24th and 25th June 2002.

Planning Details

Planning permission was granted by West Lindsey District Council for construction of a single dwelling and integral garage with associated services, subject to an archaeological watching brief.

Site Location and Description

Hemswell village is situated on the Lincolnshire Limestone Cliff 19km north of Lincoln. The proposed development site is located on the south side of Church St, immediately east of the parish church, near the centre of the village. It comprises a rectangular plot of land bounded to the west by the churchyard and the north by Church St.

Archaeological Background

At the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086 there was a manor (estate) held by the Bishop of Bayeux (brother of William the Conqueror).Evaluation of land by LAS in 2000, to the south of Church St, identified medieval earthwork remains and features containing Saxon pottery. The village is clearly of Saxon origin and the location of the development site next to church suggests that the potential for finding evidence for settlement remains of this and later periods was high.

Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the Watching Brief was to record any archaeological deposits disturbed during groundwork at the above site.

Method

There was one experienced archaeologist on site to observe earthmoving operations and record any features revealed. Archaeological features were excavated and drawn where appropriate, depending upon safe access. A full photographic record will be made of the works on site. A full written (single context) and photographic record was made during the excavations, along with a plan of the trenches and section drawing of one side. All recorded deposits were assigned context numbers by LAS who operate a standard context recording system.

Results

The house plot was located in the centre of the site, aligned with 4 Weldon Road, virtually the full width of the site, 0.5m from the east wall of the churchyard. The vegetation was stripped from the site to reveal a mid-dark brown fine silt **100**, very loose in texture which showed two discrete features. On closer inspection these were revealed to be two 20th century rubbish pits which contained broken pottery and glass. A small sample of the pottery and glass was kept for identification but later discarded. Two pieces were earlier than 20th century in date (see Appendix 2).

The subsoil consisted of lighter dark brown sandy silt **101**, which was very compact with few inclusions except in the lower regions where limestone pieces up to 0.2m across were present. This layer was probably an early attempt to build up the site presumably in the Victorian period. No finds were recovered in this layer. A Victorian privy was noted on the eastern boundary, which contained a small amount of Victorian pottery. The natural geology of the site **102**, consisted of a pale yellow clay with blue towards the base, at 2.5m depth, which oxidised on exposure to the atmosphere. This was interspersed with areas of bright orange sand and pale yellow sand. None of the natural showed any signs of disturbance.

Discussion

The only finds made across the site were a selection of Victorian pottery and glass fragments found in the topsoil, **100**. No finds of any sort were found in the subsoil **101**, a layer presumably an early attempt to level the site which is 0.8m above the present level of Church St. No earlier turf line was seen. The site lies in the heart of the old village and next to the parish church on one side and an 18th century cottage on the other. It must be assumed that this plot has always been vacant or used as pasture.

Conclusion

The house plot next to the churchyard east wall was a likely place for any archaeological remains, including any unconsecrated burials, but no such remains were found, nor was there any evidence of buildings having been on this site except for a 19th century privy on the eastern boundary.

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank Roy Woods of Ken Woods and Sons Ltd for their co-operation during this watching brief . Fieldwork was carried out by the author, the pottery report was by Jane Young. This report was edited by Naomi Field and produced and collated by Jane Frost.

Dave Marshall
July 8th 2002

Reference

Farr S., 2001 *Land south of Church St, Hemswell, Lincs. Archaeological Evaluation*. LAS Report 526.

THE APPENDICES

**Context Summary: Land Adjacent to All Saints Church
Church St, Hemswell**

Context	Type	Description	Finds
100	Layer	Topsoil	Pottery & Glass
101	Layer	Subsoil	
102	Layer	Natural	

Pottery Archive HECS02

Jane Young Lindsey Archaeological Services

context cname	full name	form type	sherds	weight	part	description	date	
100	BL	Black-glazed wares	jug/jar	1	10	BS	near vitrified	mid 17th to mid 18th
100	NOTS	Nottingham stoneware	jug ?	1	10	handle	thin ribbed strap handle	18th to 19th

THE FIGURES

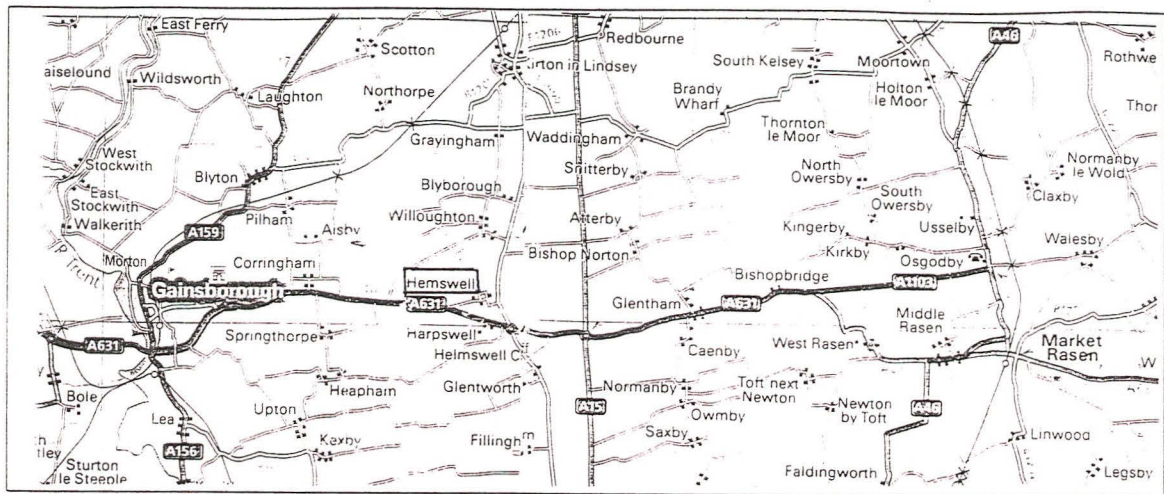


Fig. 1 Hemswell, site location, reproduced from the 1:25,000 OS map. © Crown copyright. Reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO, LAS Licence number AL100002165.

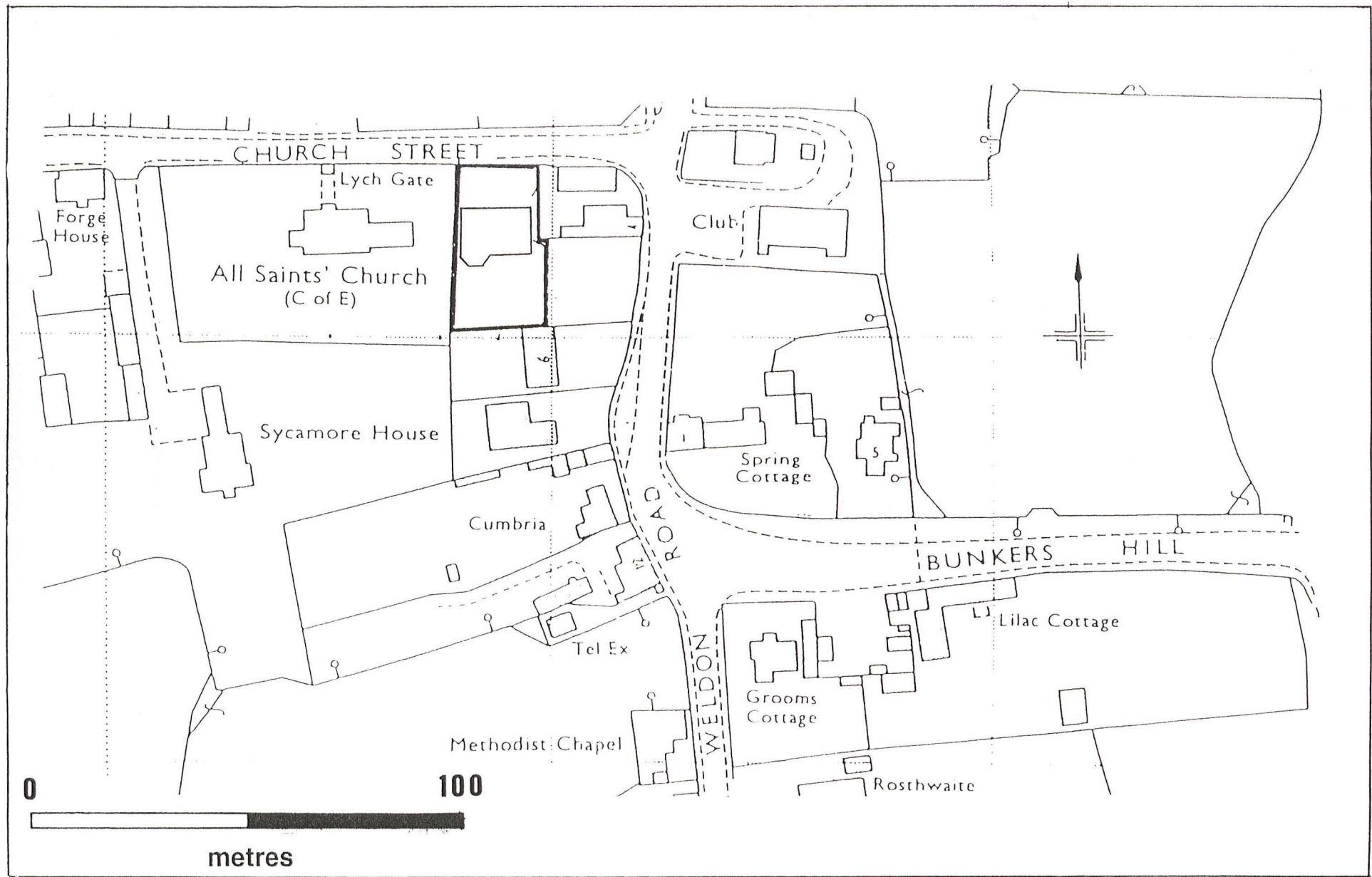


Fig. 2 Hemswell village, site location.

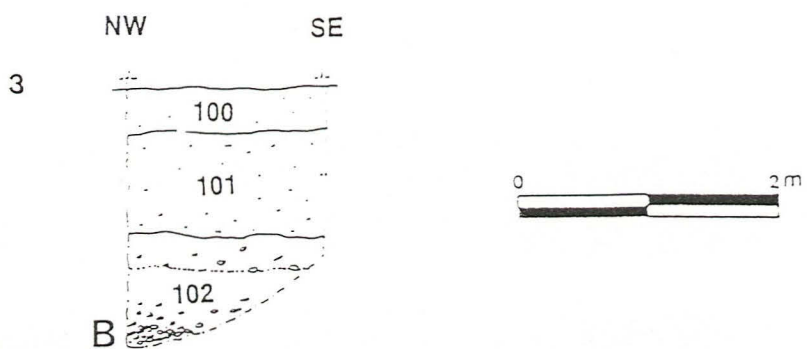
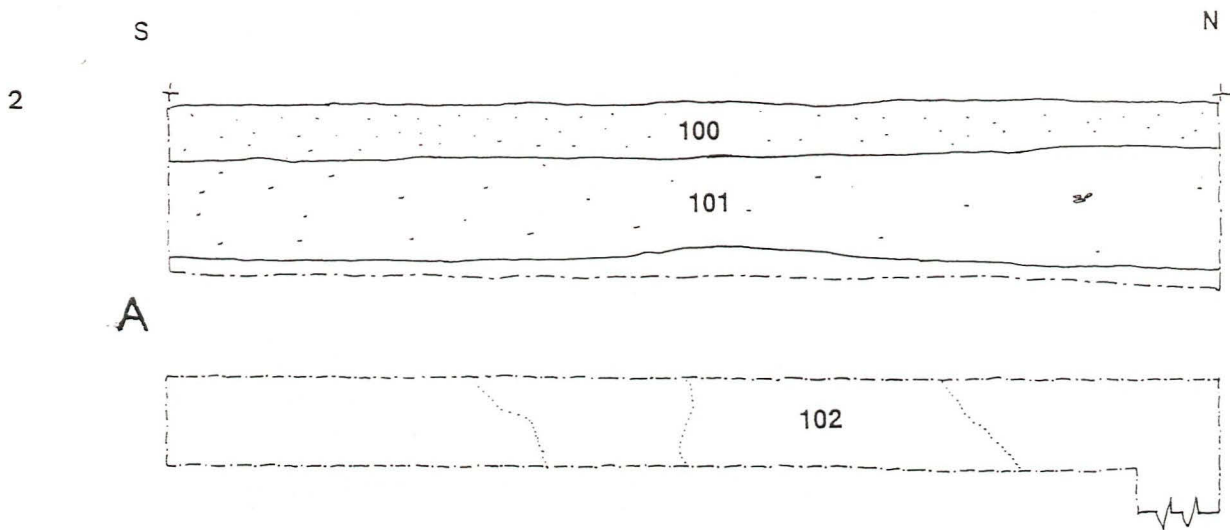
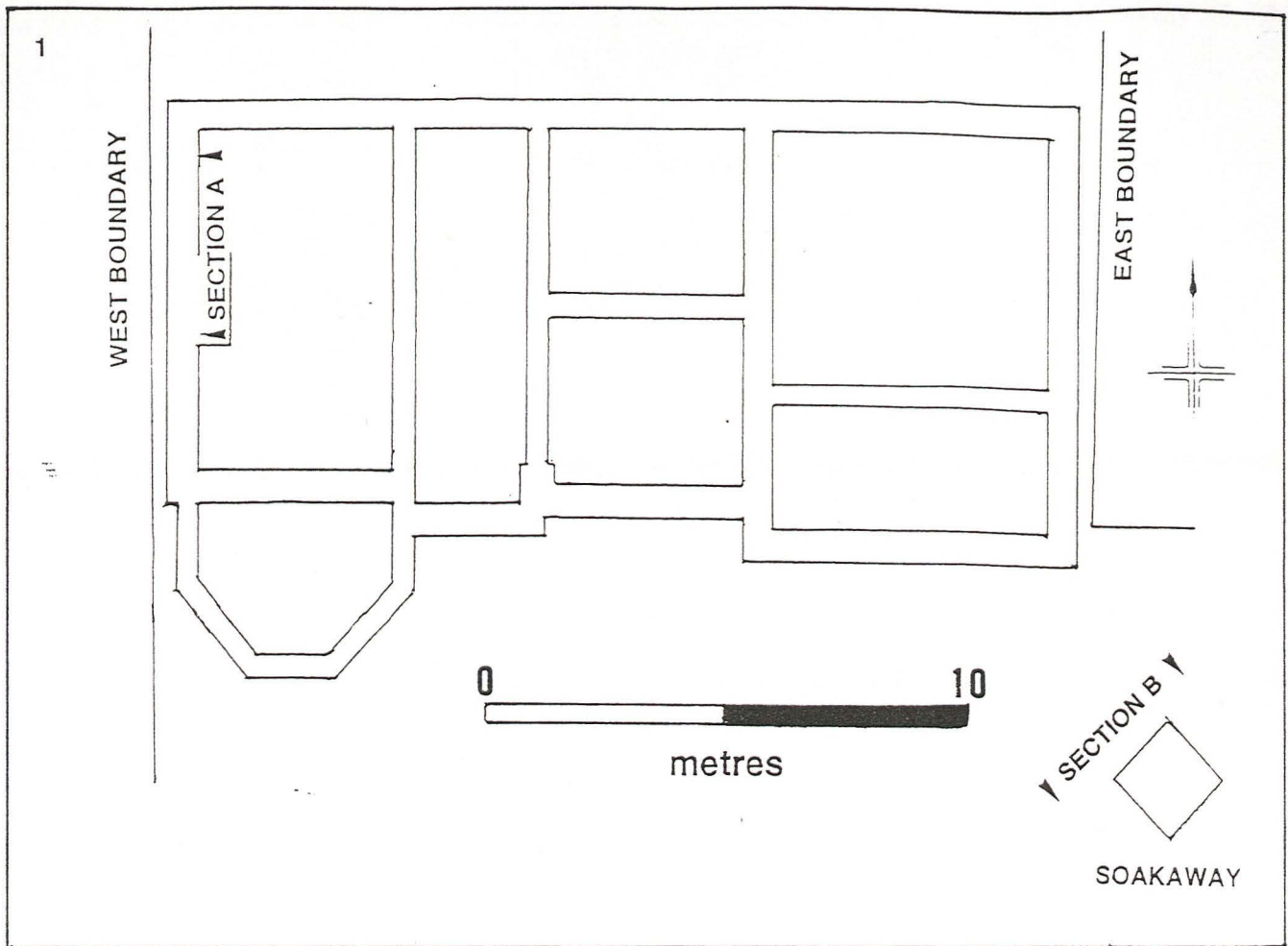


Fig. 3. 1) Plan of foundation trenches.
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THE PLATES



Pl. 1 The site prior to excavation looking south from Church St.



Pl. 2 Foundation trench for back wall of house.

Pl. 3 Soakaway trench looking south west.

