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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT ST. PETER'S CHURCH,  
TRUSTHORPE,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(TPC 02)**



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES

41455 - church +  
churchyard  
LI4069 - event

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT ST. PETER'S CHURCH,  
TRUSTHORPE,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(TPC 02)**

**Work Undertaken For  
East Midlands Electricity Distribution PLC**

December 2002

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

National Grid Reference: TF 514 836  
City and County Museum Accession No: 2002.400

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES**

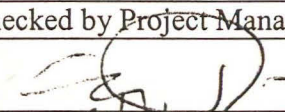
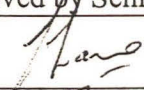


APS Report No. 209/02



**Quality Control**  
TPC 02  
St. Peter's Church, Trusthorpe

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Supervisor	Gary Taylor
Finds Processing	Denise Buckley
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 Gary Taylor	 Tom Lane
Date: 6/11/03	Date: 7-1-03

## Table of Contents

### List of Figures

### List of Plates

1.	SUMMARY .....	1
2.	INTRODUCTION .....	1
2.1	DEFINITION OF A WATCHING BRIEF .....	1
2.2	PLANNING BACKGROUND .....	1
2.3	TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY .....	1
2.4	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING .....	1
3.	AIMS.....	1
4.	METHODS.....	2
5.	RESULTS.....	2
6.	DISCUSSION.....	2
7.	CONCLUSION .....	2
8.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	3
9.	PERSONNEL.....	3
10.	BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	3
11.	ABBREVIATIONS.....	3

### Appendices

1. Context Descriptions
2. The Finds
3. Glossary
4. The Archive

### **List of Figures**

- Figure 1      General location plan
- Figure 2      Site location plan
- Figure 3      Plan of the cable trench showing section locations
- Figure 4      Sections 1 to 3

### **List of Plates**

- Plate 1        Excavation of the cable trench
- Plate 2        Section 1
- Plate 3        Section 2

## 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of a new cable trench within the churchyard of St. Peter's church, Trusthorpe, Lincolnshire.*

*Although the earliest elements of St. Peter's church date to the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the tower dates from 1606, the nave from 1842 and the chancel from 1941.*

*The investigation identified a graveyard soil, a recent path and its foundation and the current topsoil. Finds include brick and tile, clay pipe and a selection of medieval and post-medieval pottery.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as "a formal program of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits maybe disturbed or destroyed." (IFA 1999).

### 2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by East Midlands Electricity Distribution PLC to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of a new cable trench associated with service replacement at St. Peter's Church, Trusthorpe, Lincolnshire. Approval for the work was sought from the Diocesan Registrar who granted a faculty for the works.

### 2.3 Topography and Geology

The hamlet of Trusthorpe is located 21km north of Skegness and 26km northeast of

Horncastle in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire.

St. Peter's church is located between the centres of Mablethorpe and Sutton on Sea (Fig. 2). Centred on National Grid Reference TF 514 836, the site lies on generally level ground at a height of c. 2m OD.

Local soils are of the Wallasea 2 Association, typically pelo-alluvial gley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 338). These soils are developed upon drift deposits of marine alluvium which overlies boulder clay that seals a solid geology of Cretaceous chalk (BGS 1996).

## 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Trusthorpe is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Druistorp* and *Dreuistorp* the name is derived from the Old Norse personal name *Strutr* and the Old Danish *Þorp*, meaning a secondary settlement (Cameron 1998, 129). The Domesday Survey records that the land was held by the Archbishop of York and Earl Hugh (Foster and Longley 1976).

St. Peter's church has elements which date from the 14<sup>th</sup> century although largely consists of rebuilds including a porch in 1522, the tower of 1606, the nave of 1842 and the chancel of 1941 (DoE 1986, 9). There are no gravestones in the part of the churchyard traversed by the cable trench.

## 3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief were to locate and record archaeological deposits and, if present, determine their nature, date and function.

#### 4. METHODS

Topsoil was stripped manually along the course of the new cable trench. The new trench was then excavated by machine to a depth of 0.5m. The trench was rendered vertical and selected deposits were then examined 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 was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording of the 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 was supplemented by artefact dating.

#### 5. RESULTS

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

The earliest deposit encountered at the base of the cable trench was a graveyard soil (004). This comprises a homogenous greyish brown silt and was over 0.3m thick. Medieval and post-medieval pottery, as well as brick and a clay pipe stem, were recovered from this layer. Bone was also observed in this layer (in Section 2) but not retained.

Cut into the subsoil was a linear feature (003) which contained yellow sandy

cement (002) forming the hardcore path foundation. Above this was a 100mm thick topsoil comprising brownish grey silty clay (001) from which a single medieval sherd and a post-medieval tile fragment were retrieved.

#### 6. DISCUSSION

A graveyard soil, a path and its foundation cut and the present topsoil were the only deposits encountered during the watching brief. However, the relatively shallow depth of the cable trench would preclude deeper, archaeological, deposits being recorded.

Pottery was recovered during this investigation and comprised medieval and early post-medieval examples from local sources. Brick, tile and a clay pipe stem were also recovered. Such finds were probably incorporated into the deposits during church alterations or burial. Bone was observed at the site and although not identified as being specifically human or animal, could signify an unmarked grave. There are no gravestones in this part of the churchyard and this area was thought to possibly not contain burials.

#### 7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at St. Peter's church Trusthorpe, as the cable trench lay within the churchyard of the 14<sup>th</sup> century and later church.

No distinct archaeological deposits were encountered due to the shallow depth of the new cable trench. Finds retrieved during this investigation comprise medieval and post-medieval pottery, brick, tile and a single clay pipe stem. Bone was also noted and may indicate graves in this part of the churchyard.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr T. Scott and Mr K. Lancaster of East Midlands Distribution PLC for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who also edited this report with Tom Lane. Dave Start permitted the examination of the library and parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor  
 Site Supervisor: Gary Taylor  
 Finds processing: Denise Buckley  
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth  
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner  
 Post-excavation analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services  
 BGS British Geological Survey  
 DoE Department of the Environment



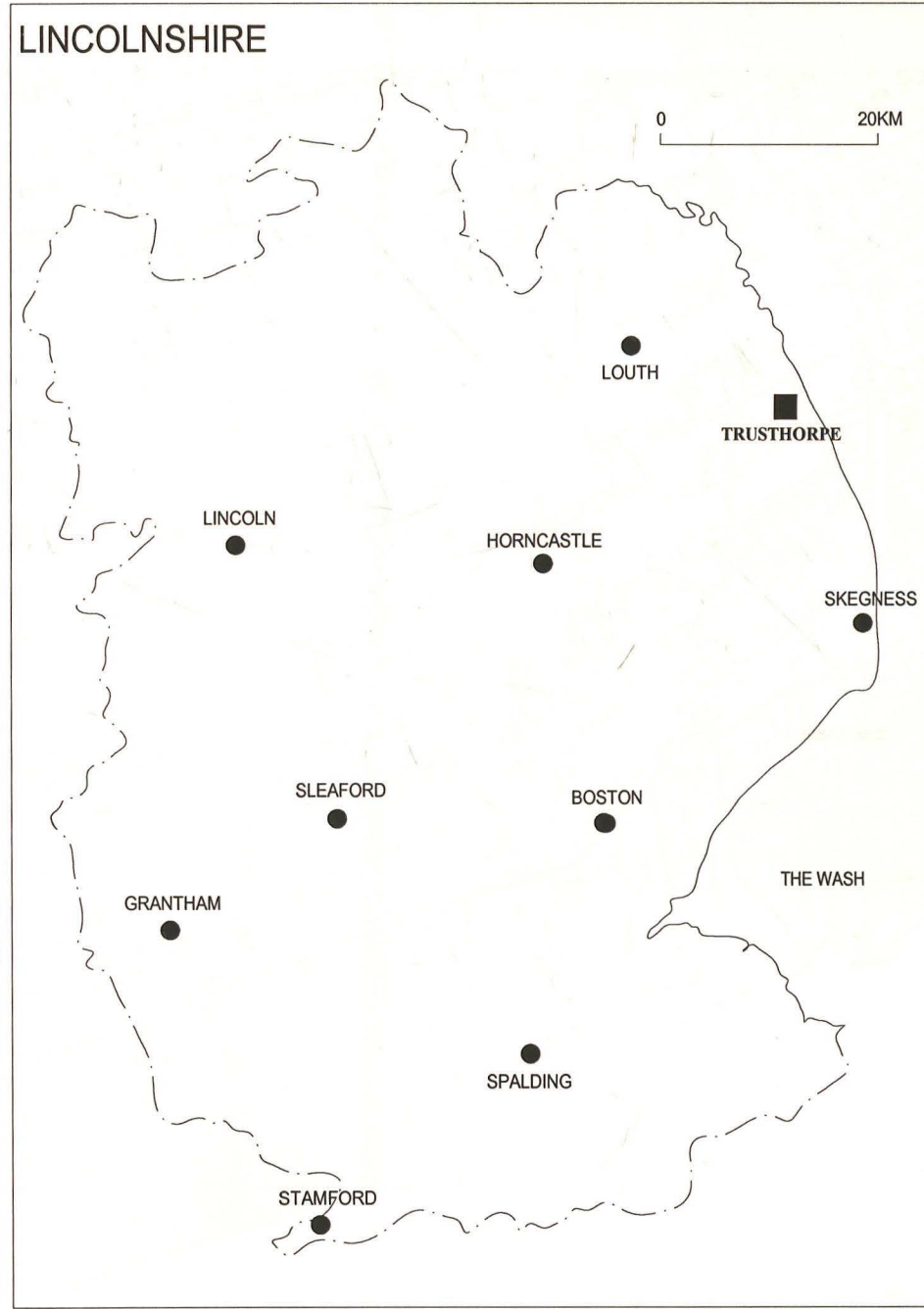
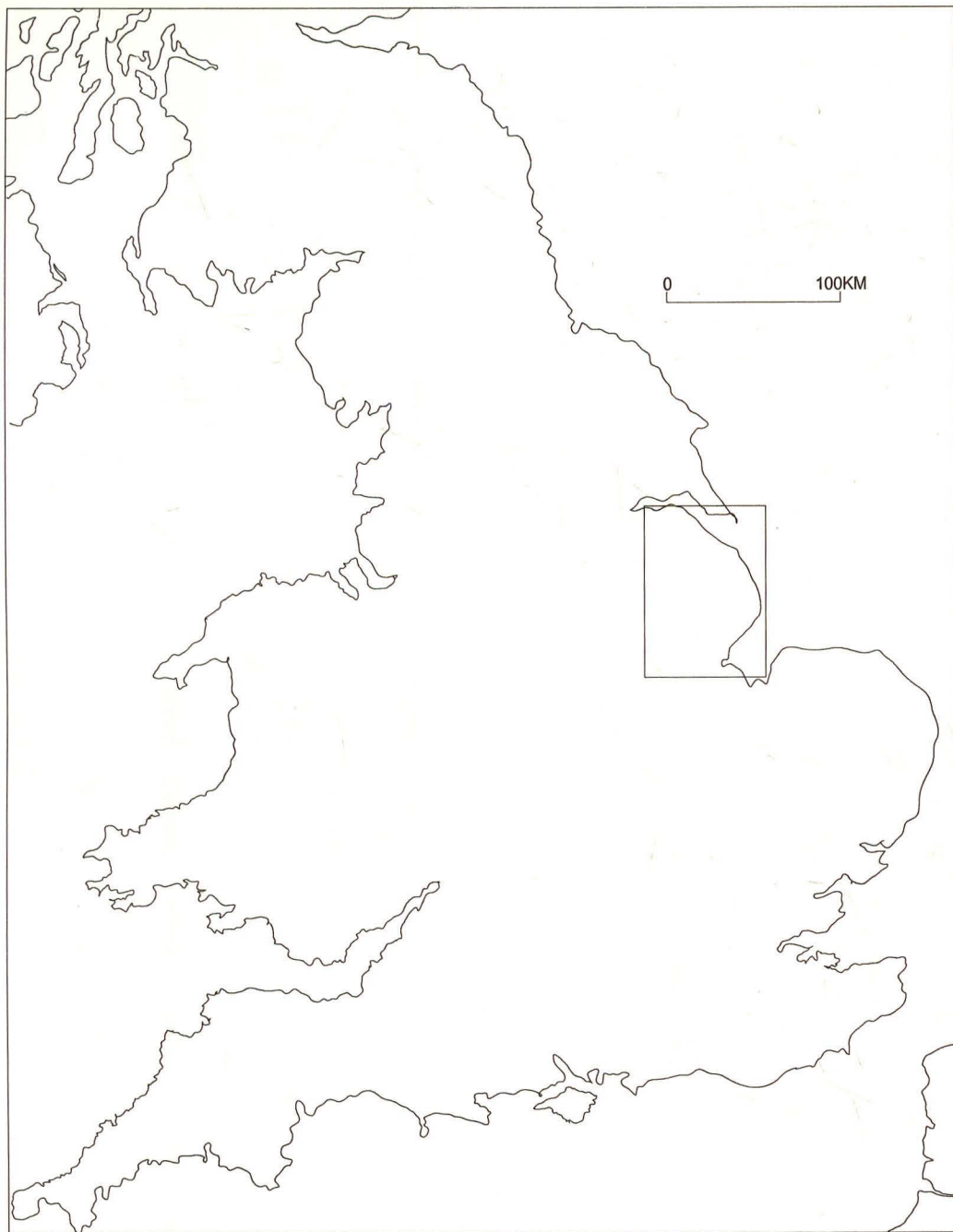
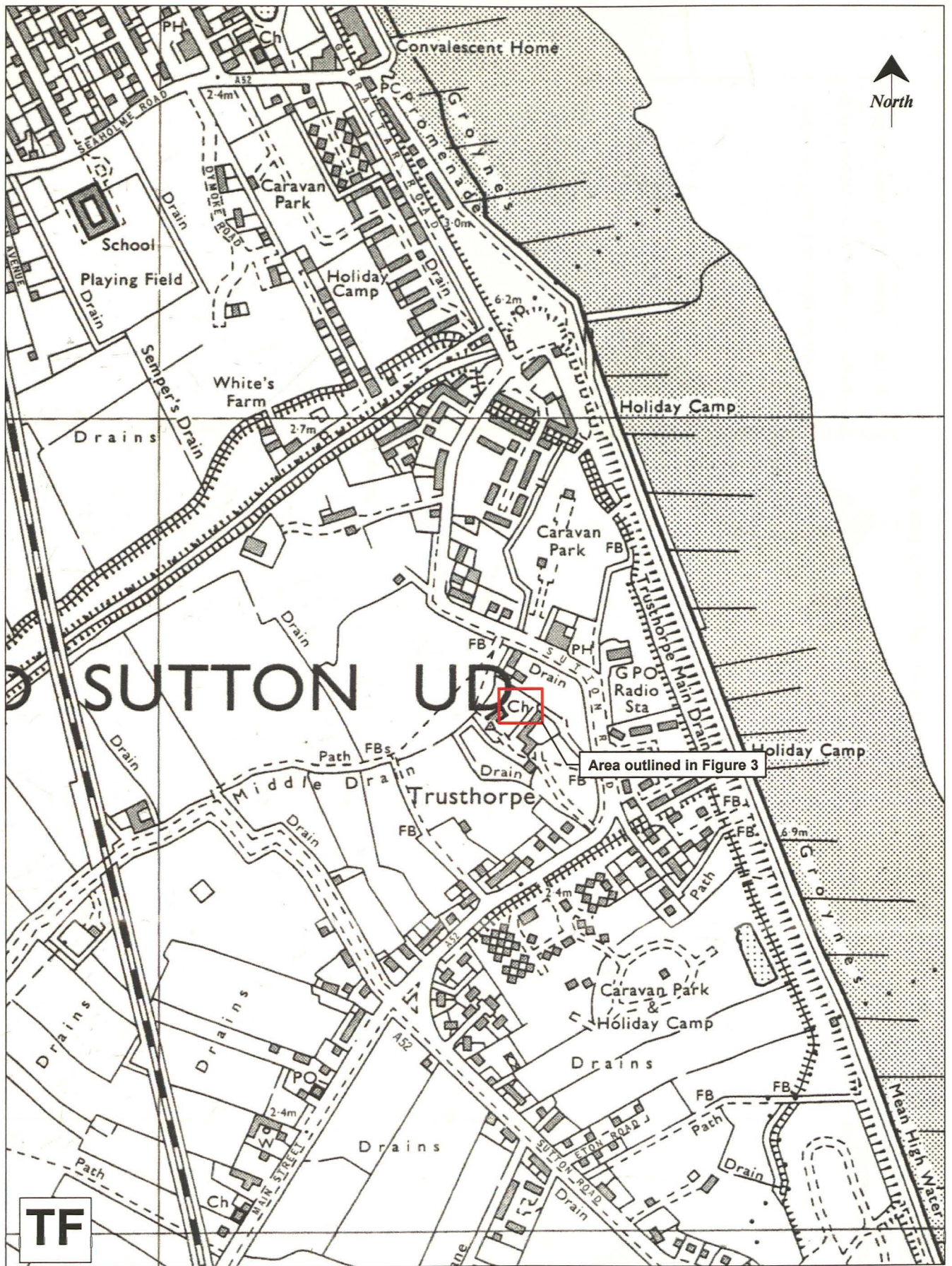
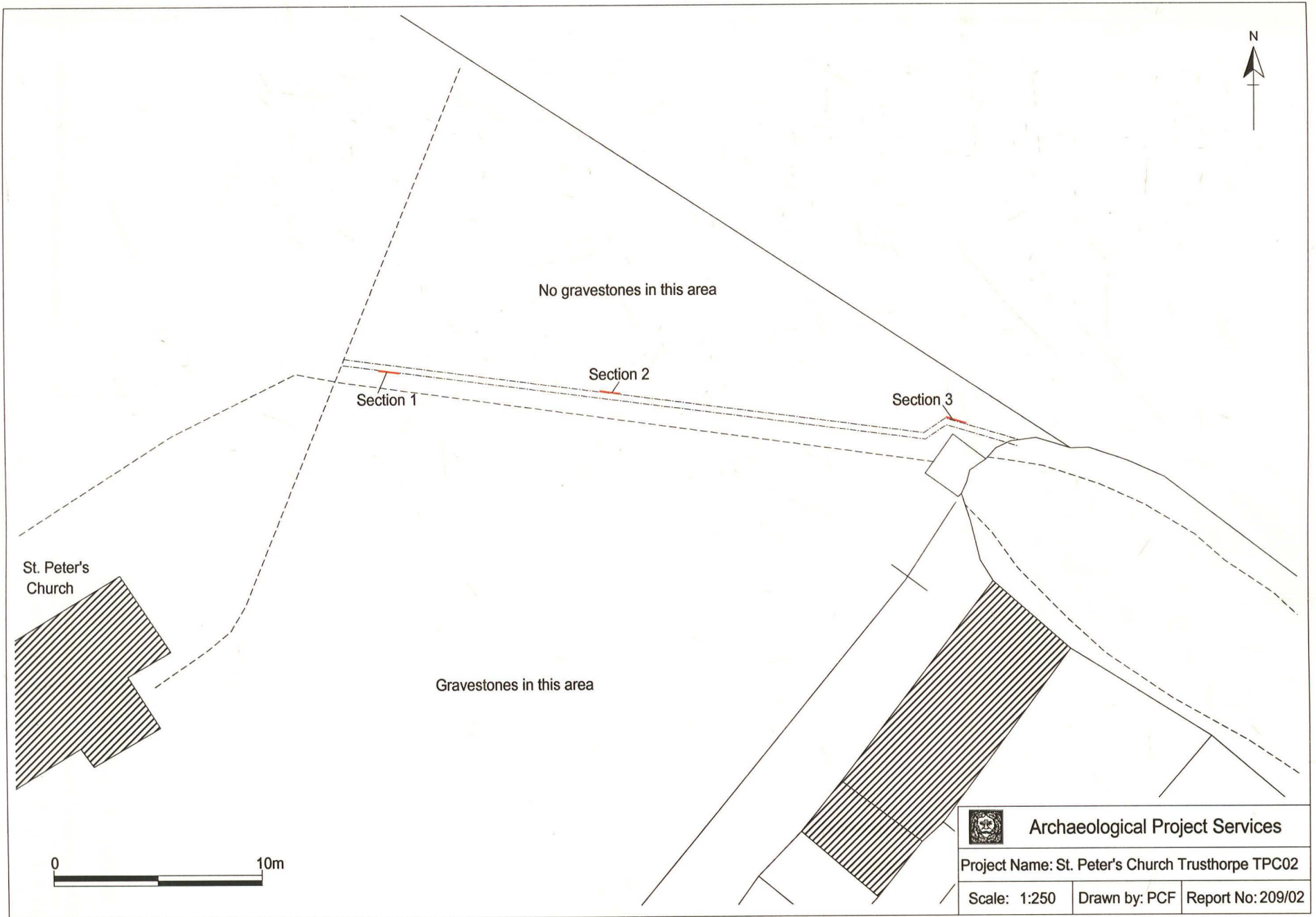


Figure 1 - General location plan



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Figure 2 - Site location plan




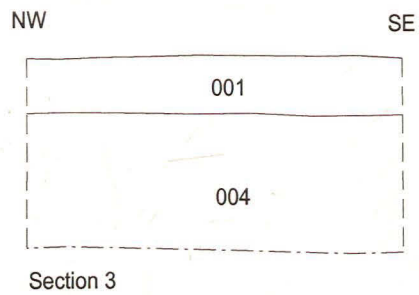
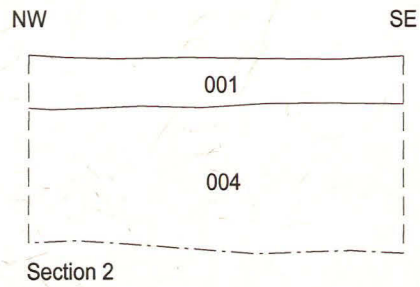
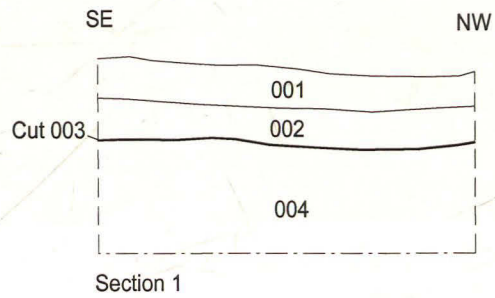
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Figure 3 - Plan of the cable trench showing section locations



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Scale: 1:20

Drawn by: PCF

Report No: 209/02

Figure 4 - Sections 1 to 3



Plate 1 - Excavation of the cable trench , looking southwest towards St. Peter's church



Plate 2 - Section 1, looking south



Plate 3 - Section 2, looking north

## Appendix 1

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Firm dark brownish grey silty clay, c. 100mm thick	Topsoil
002	Compact light yellow sandy cement, 100mm thick	Hardcore path foundation
003	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, 100mm deep, vertical sides and flat base	Foundation cut for path
004	Firm mid greyish brown silty clay, homogenised, >0.3m deep	Graveyard soil
005	Unstratified finds recovery	

## Appendix 2

### THE FINDS

by Hilary Healey and Gary Taylor

Recording of the pottery was undertaken with reference to guidelines prepared by the Medieval Pottery Research Group (Slowikowski *et al.* 2001) and the pottery was quantified using the chronology and coding system of the Lincolnshire ceramic type series. A total of 5 fragments of pottery weighing 109g was recovered from 3 separate contexts. In addition to the pottery, a small quantity of other artefacts, brick/tile and clay pipe, comprising 8 items weighing a total of 58g, was also retrieved. No faunal remains were recovered, though bones were observed but not retained.

#### Provenance

The material was recovered from the topsoil (001), a subsoil/graveyard soil (004) and as unstratified finds (005).

All of the pottery was made in moderate proximity to Trusthorpe, in the area of Toynton All Saints or Old Bolingbroke, about 25km to the southwest.

#### Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables.

Table 1: Pottery

Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
001	TOY?	?Toynton All Saints-type ware	1	18	13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> century
004	TOY	Toynton All Saints ware, slightly abraded, 13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> century	1	4	16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> century
	TB	Toynton/Bolingbroke ware, sooted externally and internally, 16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> century	1	50	
005	TOY	Toynton All Saints ware, jug, 13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> century	1	15	15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> century
	TOYII/TB	Late Toynton All Saints or Toynton/Bolingbroke ware, jug, 15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> century	1	22	

All the recovered pottery is of the later medieval to early post-medieval periods. Artefact deposition is not a common aspect of Christian graveyards and, therefore, the pottery fragments perhaps relate to a non-funerary use of the area between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Construction, additions and alterations were made to the church in the 14<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and early 17<sup>th</sup> centuries and it is possible that the recovered pottery relates to these building activities.

Bones were observed at the site but not retained. It was not clear whether these bones were human or animal, though one bone recorded in the trench section and left *in situ* was probably the former.

Table 2: Other Artefacts

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
001	CBM	Tile	1	9	Post-medieval
004	CBM	Handmade brick, post-medieval	1	40	18 <sup>th</sup> century
	CBM	Brick/tile, abraded	5	7	
	Clay pipe	Stem, bore 5/64", 18 <sup>th</sup> century	1	2	

Note: CBM= Ceramic building material

Most of the church is constructed of brick, of different periods. It is likely that all the recovered ceramic building

materials relate to one or other phase of construction, though none of the retrieved fragments had any discriminating features to definitively determine their date.

#### **Condition**

All the material is in good condition and present no long-term storage problems. Archive storage of the collection is by material class.

#### **Documentation**

There have been no previous archaeological investigations at St. Peter's church, Trusthorpe, though its architectural history has been reported on. Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

#### **Potential**

The moderate collection of medieval and early post-medieval pottery fragments is of moderate local potential and significance. It seems probable that they relate to phases of church construction, and the brick and tile fragments also recovered almost certainly are of similar origin.

The absence of any material earlier than the 13<sup>th</sup> century is informative and suggests that archaeological deposits dating from this period and before are absent from the area, were not disturbed by the development, or were of a nature that did not involve artefact deposition.

#### **References**

Slowikowski, A., Nenk, B. and Pearce, J., 2001 *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2



## Appendix 3

### GLOSSARY

<b>Boulder Clay</b>	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.
<b>Context</b>	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).
<b>Cut</b>	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
<b>Fill</b>	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
<b>Layer</b>	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Post-medieval</b>	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.

## Appendix 4

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 5 Context records
- 2 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: 2002.400

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: TPC 02

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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