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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Bracebridge, All Saints Church  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

NGR: SK 9680 6790

Site Code: BASC 05

Accession Number: 2005.70

**Report for**

**David Glew Architect and Surveyor**

**On behalf of**

**Bracebridge PCC**

**by**

**M. McDaid**

**LAS Report No: 815**

**April 2005**

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EVENT: LI 5968

INTERVENTION: LI 10036

EXCAVATION: LI 10037

Bracebridge, All Saints Church Watching Brief

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PRN: 61531 medieval - late medieval -  
modern

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## **Bracebridge, All Saints Church Archaeological Watching Brief**

NGR: SK 9680 6790

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### **Summary**

*Monitoring of a service trench associated with the fitting of kitchen and toilet facilities in the tower identified the remains of a limestone wall. Its position coincided with a slight ridge which could be seen running the length of the churchyard (north-south). This probably the former western limit of the churchyard.*

*Work carried out inside the tower was not included in the requirements for archaeological monitoring.*

### **Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by David Glew Architect and Surveyor on behalf of Bracebridge PCC in February 2005 to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the above site (Fig. 1). The work was carried out in accordance with the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998). Work commenced 07/03/05 and was completed 08/03/05.

### **Site Location and Archaeological Background**

Bracebridge is located on the limestone cliff 3km south of Lincoln city centre. Bracebridge is close to the Roman Fosse Way, the bridging point across the River Witham, Roman pottery kilns to the west of Rookery Lane and the medieval settlement of Bracebridge. Bracebridge and its church are mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. All Saints Church still retains Saxon fabric in its tower and the fragment of a 10<sup>th</sup> century grave slab may be seen incorporated into the south external face of the south aisle.

### **Aims and Objectives**

The purpose of the watching brief was to record the area of ground disturbed by the excavation of a service trench.

### **Method**

The groundworks were monitored by an experienced archaeologist. A full written (single context) and photographic record was made of the site, including a site sketch plan.

The trench bases and sides were hand-cleaned, when appropriate, to reveal features in plan and sections to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded.



### **The Watching Brief Results**

A kitchen and toilet facilities have been installed inside the church tower located at the west end of the building (Pl. 1). A service trench 0.38m wide and 0.63m deep was excavated from the tower south wall, west along the footpath, through the lytchgate to the road (Fig. 2, Pl. 2). An electricity cable was almost immediately exposed resulting in the trench been moved further to the north (Pl. 2). For the most part the trench cut through a dark brown topsoil, **1**, occasionally exposing the orange sand and gravel natural, **2** (Pl. 3). However, an area of rubble comprising large pieces of limestone, **3**, was revealed c.13m west of the tower (Pl. 4). The rubble was part of a wall, 0.90m wide, which was noted as a pronounced north/south orientated ridge in the churchyard. A single sherd of 13<sup>th</sup>-century green glazed pottery, was retrieved from the rubble. To the west of the stone wall, c.21m from the tower, a single sherd of late 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century shelly ware pottery was retrieved from the trench spoil. This was probably a Lincoln kiln product.

### **Discussion and Conclusion**

The exposed wall in the service trench and the pronounced ridge which runs the length of the churchyard probably mark a former western limit to the graveyard. It is not known how ancient this boundary was, but it is assumed that the present western limit to the churchyard is relatively modern.

It is unfortunate, given the Saxon origin of the church, that the work carried out within the tower was not designated for archaeological monitoring.

Mick McDaid

Lindsey Archaeological Services

April 2005

### **Acknowledgements**

LAS would like to thank David Glew for his help. The pottery report was by Jane Young. The site visits were made by Naomi Field This report was edited and collated by Naomi Field.

### **Reference**

Pevsner N, Harris J and Antram N; 2002 *The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire* Yale University Press

### **Contents of Site Archive**

Context sheet

Plans

Sections

Correspondence

Photographs: LAS film nos. 05/37/1-13;

Finds: two sherds of pottery

Specialist reports



## THE FIGURES



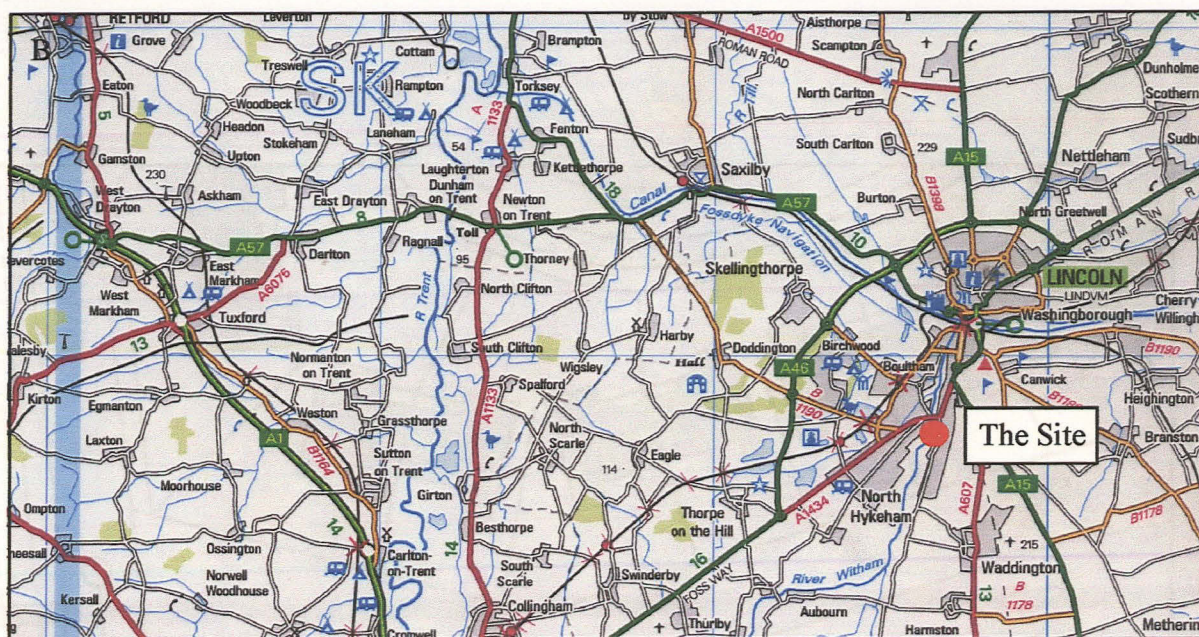


Fig.1 Location of Bracebridge, All Saints Church (inset C based on the Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 Landranger map Sheet 121. Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence no. AL 100002165).



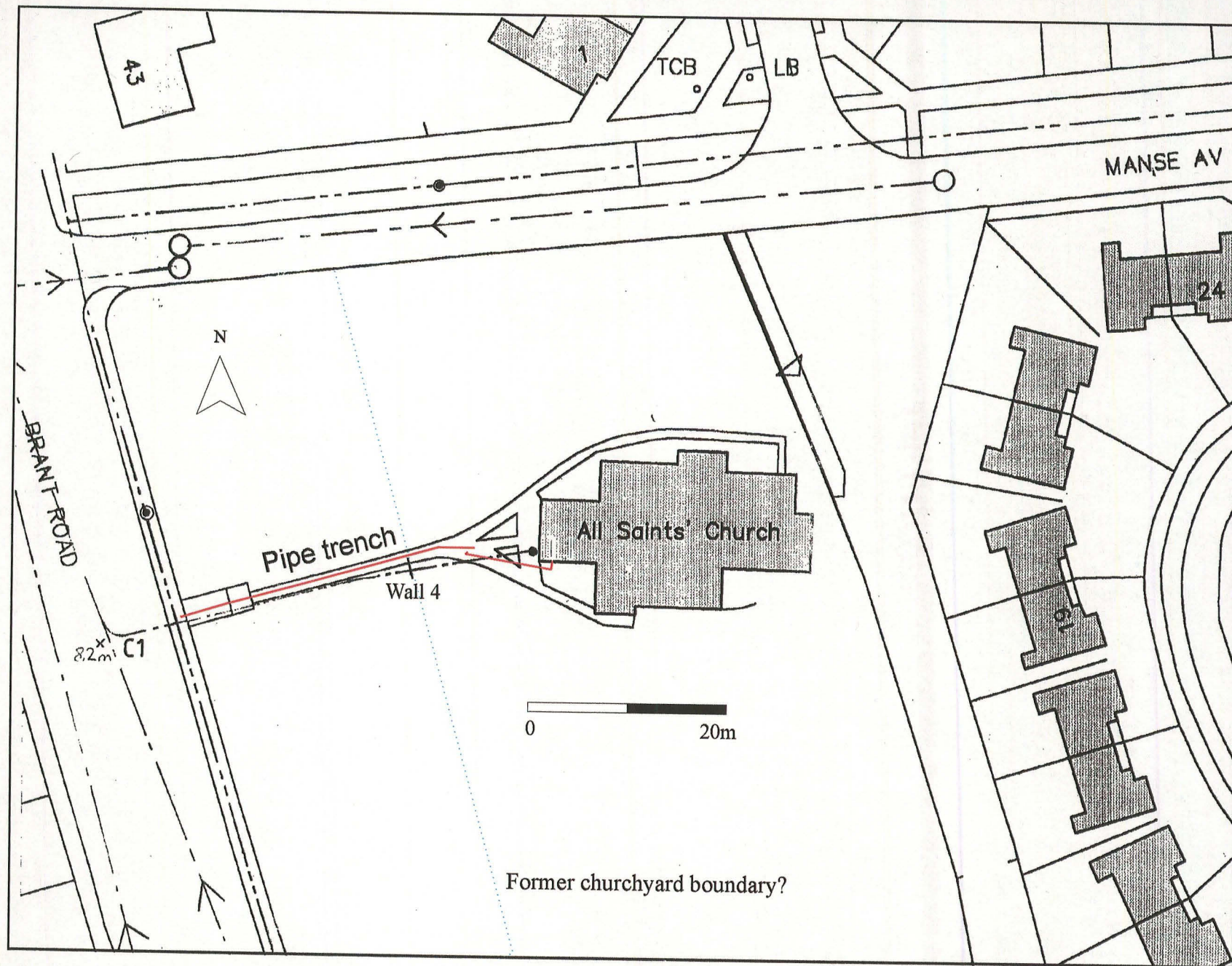
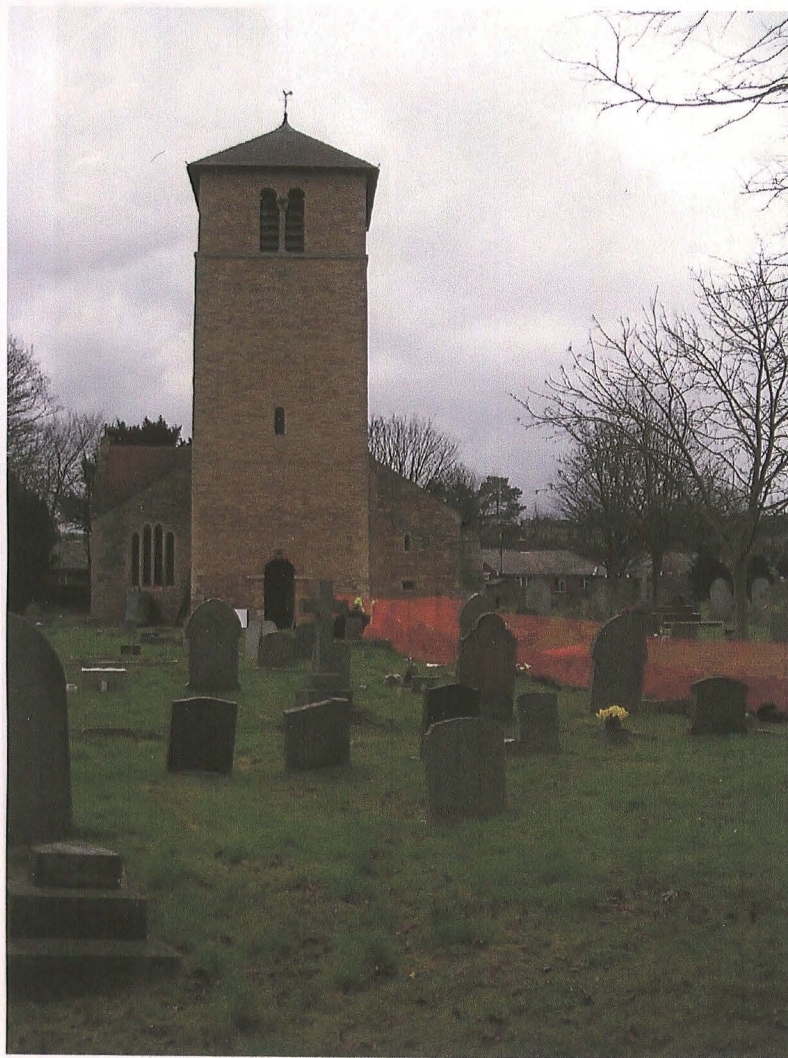


Fig 2 Trench location showing position of wall 4 and presumed line of former churchyard boundary.



## THE PLATES





Pl. 1 All Saints Church, Bracebridge, tower with orange bunting locating the service trench. Looking south.

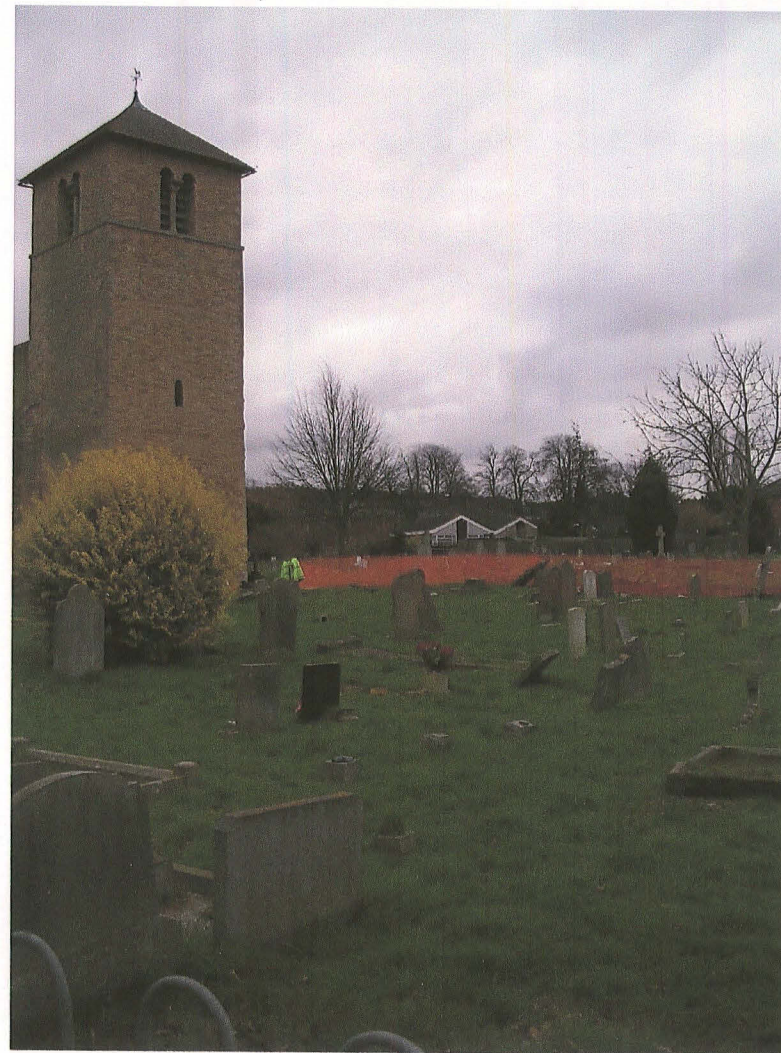


Pl. 2 Service trench looking west showing tiles at base of trench covering electricity cable.





Pl. 3 Stones from boundary wall 4, looking west.



Pl. 4 General view across churchyard showing rise in ground level marking former churchyard boundary.