

**A REPORT TO
GRS ELECTRICAL SERVICES LTD, LOUTH
June 2005**

**St. JAMES' CHURCH,
LOUTH, LINCOLNSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

**PREPARED BY
MIKE JARVIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES**

MJAS REPORT No.: 530

EVENT: L16198

INTERVENTION: L110215

EXCAVATION: L110216

MJAS Report No. 530: St. James' Church, Louth, Lincolnshire
Archaeological Watching Brief

PRN 43403

medieval &
post-medieval**ST. JAMES' CHURCH,
LOUTH, LINCOLNSHIRE****ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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Conservation
Services

- 3 JUN 2005

Highways & Planning
Directorate

ST. JAMES' CHURCH, LOUTH, LINCOLNSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- On the 16 December 2004, Mike Jarvis Archaeological Services undertook a watching brief during the excavation of pits and cable trenches associated with the installation of exterior floodlighting to St. James' Church, Louth.
- The watching brief revealed several burials of probable medieval and post-medieval date together with a moderate assemblage of displaced human bone and a small quantity of pot and tile dating to between the 13th – 18th centuries.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1.0 INTRODUCTION

On the 16 December 2004, Mike Jarvis Archaeological Services (MJAS) was commissioned by Manton & Bartle Architects (MBA) on behalf of GRS Electrical Services Ltd, Louth to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of pits and cable trenches associated with the installation of exterior floodlighting.

2.0 SITE LOCATION AND BACKGROUND

Louth lies in the administrative district of East Lindsey, approximately 24 miles to the east of Lincoln and 16 miles south of Grimsby (Fig. 1). Place-name derives from the River Lud (Ekwall 1989, 305) and its origins go back as far as the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles. The Domesday Survey of 1086 mentions Louth (Lude) as having a market with lands held by the Bishop of Lincoln. Louth became prosperous during the medieval period from the wool and cloth trade.

The Church of St. James lies towards the western edge of the town (National Grid Reference: TF 3260 8730) and was built during the early-mid 15th century (its north and south porches were rebuilt in the 19th century). Two earlier churches (12th and 13th century) lie beneath the present building. Archaeological investigations carried out in the church graveyard during 1999 (Snee 1999) revealed 23 burials and two stone structures. (See Fig. 2).

3.0 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the watching brief were:

- To produce an archive record of deposits and remains generally within the constraints of the groundwork contractors' programme and working methods with due regard to current health and safety legislation.
- To produce a report on the archaeological importance of the discoveries.
- To produce a project archive from which the potential for further study and academic research could be assessed.
- To provide information for accession to the Historic Environment Record (formerly the SMR).

The archaeological record was secured by means of trench-side notes, scale drawings (plans and sections) and photographs. Burials disturbed during the course of the watching brief were recorded and placed to one side for later reburial.

4.0 RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

RESULTS

Cable Trench

Cable trenches monitored during the watching brief lay within the upper 200mm of ground level and did not affect the archaeological deposits known to exist on the site.

Lighting Pits (Fig. 2)

Two floodlight pits (16 and 17) revealed articulated human bone and underwent archaeological excavation. Both pits lay on the west side of the church.



Plate 1: Pit 17 - Burial [001] (scale is 1m). The cables visible to the left of the burial are associated with existing lighting.

Pit 16 (Fig. 3: Section 1 and Plans 1 – 3)

Excavation revealed ([010]) a 400mm thick, pale brown clayey graveyard soil containing frequent human bone and a small quantity of pot and tile dating to between the 13th – 18th centuries (top 27.90m OD). Cut into [010] was three east-west burials (two juveniles and one adult).

Sealing [010] was a deposit of compacted limestone chippings ([009] - 28.43m OD) above which lay topsoil ([008] - 28.50m OD).

Pit 17 (Fig. 3: Plan 2, Sections 4 & 5 and Pl. I)

The excavation of Pit 17 revealed a brown clay soil [016] with frequent human bone (c. 600mm below ground level - 27.90m OD). Above [016] was [007] a thin spread of compacted pebbles (27.92m OD) sealed by graveyard deposit [010]. Evidence of at least a further three burial (all adults - see Pl. I), were revealed cutting through [010]. Above [010] lay limestone deposit [009] sealed by topsoil [008] (ground level – 28.53m OD).

CONCLUSIONS

The watching brief revealed several burials (juveniles and adults) of probable medieval and post-medieval. The general lack of datable finds and the friable and re-worked nature of the graveyard soil made the compilation of an accurate stratigraphic sequence difficult.

5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mike Jarvis Archaeological Services would like to thank GRS Electrical Services Ltd, 38 Northgate, Louth, for their full cooperation throughout the duration of the watching brief.

Thanks are also extended to Mr P Manton (MBA Architects Ltd). Access to the HER was permitted by Mr M Bennet.

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6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Pevsner, N, Harris, J & Antram, N (eds) 1989 Lincolnshire, *The Buildings of England*, Penguin Books, London

Snee, J, 1999 *St. James Church Louth, Archaeological Watching Brief*, Pre-Construct Archaeology Report, Lincoln

NOTE

This report is presented on the understanding that further information may emerge, MJAS cannot therefore be held responsible for loss, delay, or damage arising out of this report.

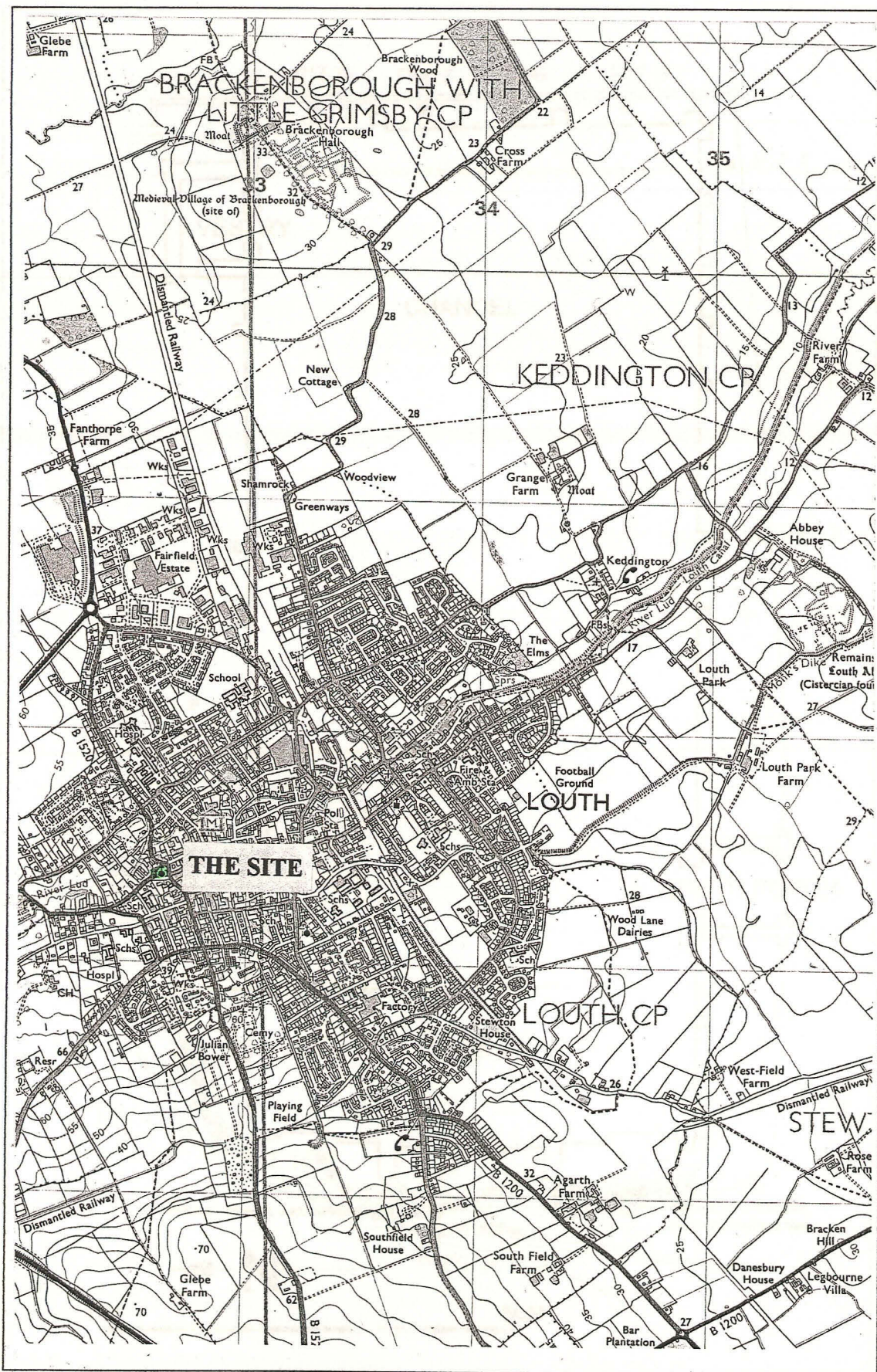


Fig. 1: Site location map (scale 1:25,000).

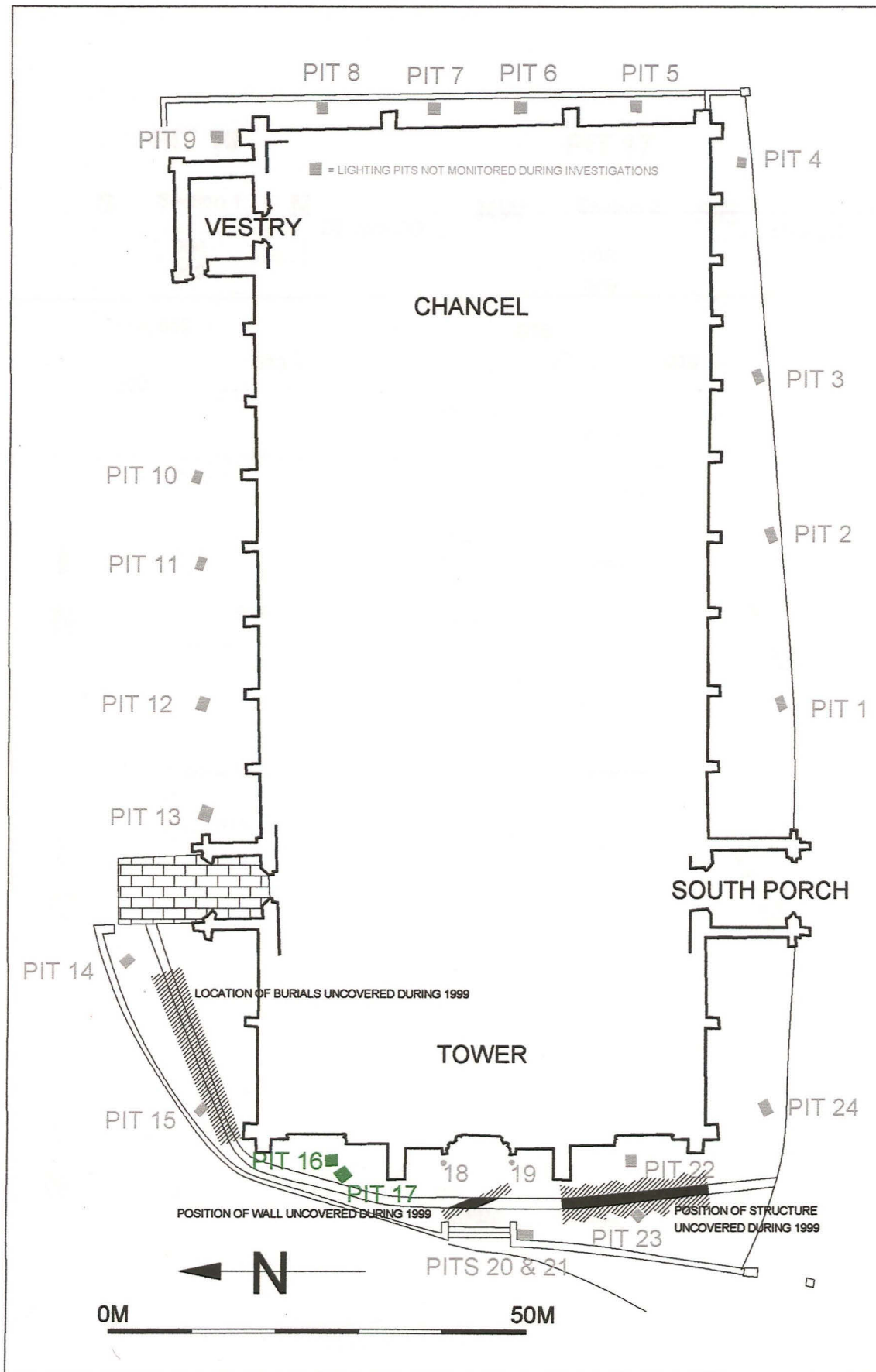


Fig. 2: Lighting Pit location plan (not to scale).

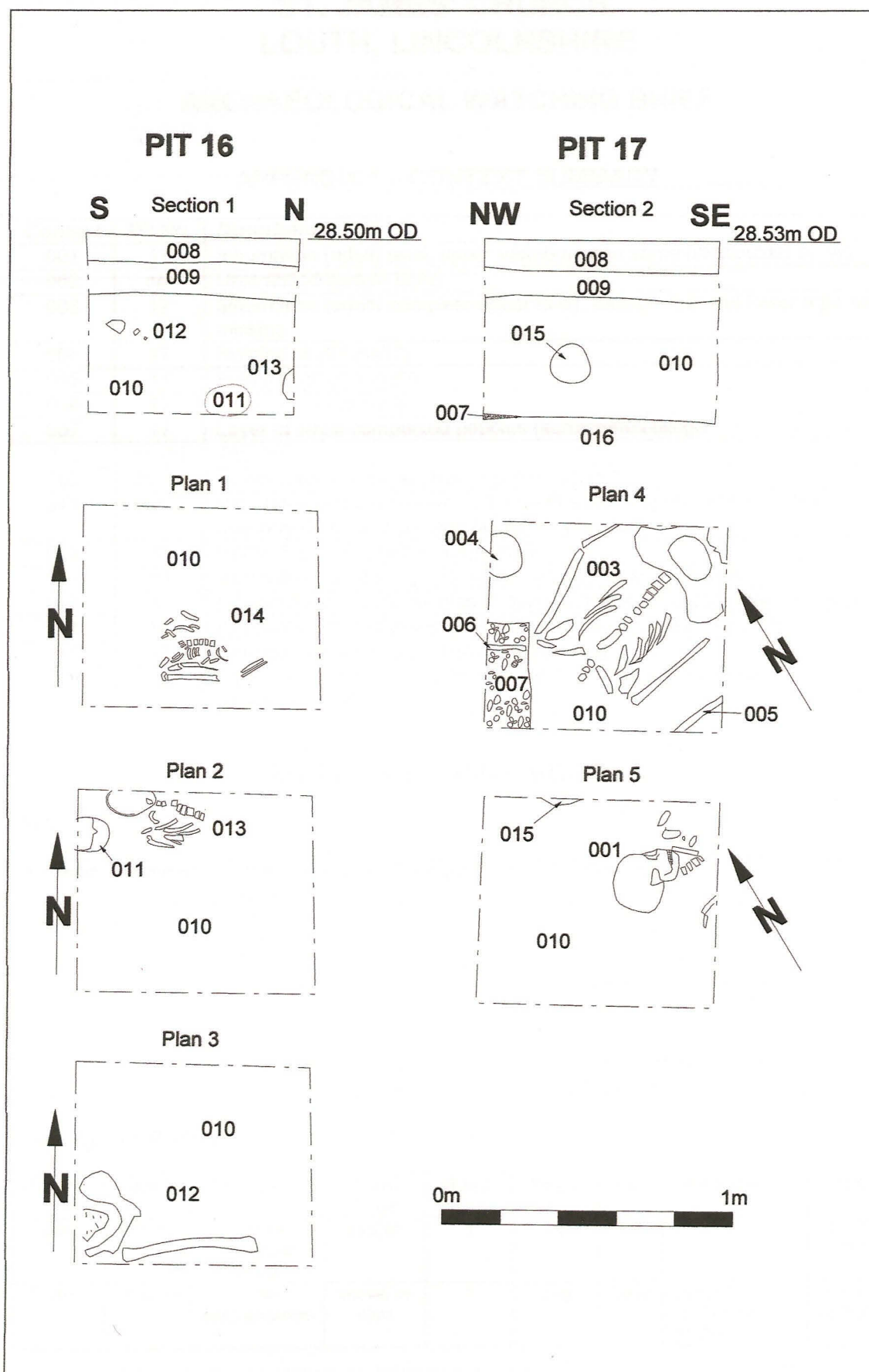


Fig. 3: Pit 16—Sections 1 & Plans 1-3, Pit 17—Section 2 and Plans 4 & 5 (scale 1:20).

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

APPENDIX 1 – CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context	Pit No.	Description
001	17	Inhumation (adult) skull, upper vertebrae and some rib/shoulder bones
002	n/a	Unstratified human bone
003	17	Inhumation (adult) complete upper body, except skull and lower right arm missing
004	17	Isolated skull (adult?)
005	17	Femur (part of burial?)
006	17	Tibia (part of burial?)
007	17	Layer of small compacted pebbles (surface/metalling/)
008	16, 17	Topsoil
009	16, 17	Compacted limestone chippings (metalling?)
010	16, 17	Pale brown clayey soil with infrequent small angular limestone fragments and very infrequent pot and tile (graveyard soil)
011	16	Isolated skull (juvenile/young adult)
012	16	Inhumation (adult) Right femur, pelvis and lower vertebrae
013	16	Inhumation (juvenile) skull face down, left side of rib cage and vertebrae
014	16	Inhumation (infant/young juvenile) vertebrae, ribs and right arm
015	17	Isolated skull (juvenile) seen in section only
016	17	Pale brown clayey soil with infrequent small angular limestone fragments (graveyard soil)

APPENDIX 2 – FINDS ARCHIVE

Tile

Context	Cname	Full Name	Fabric	Frgs	Weight	Description	Date
010	FLOOR	Floor tile	Flemish	1	51g	yellow glaze over c white slip; sanded base	14th to 16th
010	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	light firing	1	107g	flat roofer; pale orange/pink fabric with common fine subround to round quartz most tinted red moderate fe occ white streaks; finger pressing	16th to 18th

Post-Roman Pottery

Context	Cname	Full Name	Form Type	Sherds	Weight	Part	Description	Date
010	TOY	Toynton Medieval Ware	jug/jar	1	7g	BS		late 13th to 15th
010	LERTH	Late earthenwares	vessel or cbm	1	21g	base	sanded underside; Staffs ?	late 17th to 18th

**ST. JAMES' CHURCH,
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APPENDIX 3 – ARCHIVE SUMMARY

SITE NAME: St. James' Church, Louth, Lincolnshire

SITE CODE: SJL04

MJAS REPORT No: 530

NGR: TF_3260-8730 3260 8738

PROJECT TYPE: Watching Brief

PROJECT DATE: 16 December 2004

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: N/A

SMR No.: N/A

CIVIL PARISH: Louth

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: 2004.269

ARCHIVE PRESENT LOCATION: MJAS, 1 Torrington Road, Lincoln, LN2 2DP

ARCHIVE FINAL LOCATION: The City and County Museum, Friars Lane, Lincoln