



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**St. John the Baptist Church,  
Yarburgh, Lincolnshire  
Archaeological Watching Brief  
LCNCC Accn N<sup>o</sup>.: 2006.232  
Site Code: YACL 06  
NGR: TF 3501 9301**

**Report**

**for**

**Churches Conservation Trust**

**by**

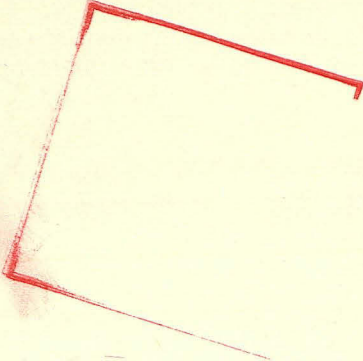
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**LAS Report N<sup>o</sup>. 936**

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County Council  
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**St. John the Baptist Church, Yarburgh, Lincolnshire  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

LCNCC Accn No.: 2006.232

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**Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at St. John the Baptist Church, Yarburgh, during the hand excavation of an electricity cable trench which ran from the south-east corner of the vestry to an electricity substation on the east side of the churchyard. There was no disturbance to any early church fabric and no archaeological deposits were disturbed in the churchyard.*

**Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Marshall Sisson Architects, on behalf of the Churches Conservation Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Yarburgh church during the excavation of an electricity cable trench.

**Site Location and Description**

The village of Yarburgh is situated 8km north-east of Louth on the eastern edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds. St. John the Baptist Church is located in the centre of the village and is reached via a footpath from the main road.

**Background**

The settlement at Yarburgh is mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086 when the king had sokeland in the parish which belonged to the manor of Gayton le Wold. The present church dates from a rebuilding after a fire in 1405 and has a prominent sandstone tower which serves as a local landmark. It may be assumed that remains of any precursor to the present church lie beneath the standing church. The south aisle was taken down in 1777 and the roofs and many of the fittings were renewed in the 1854 restoration by James Fowler of Louth. The church was made redundant in 1981 and is in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust.

**Aims and Objectives**

The aims of the watching brief were to identify, characterise and record any archaeological remains that may have been disturbed by the groundworks phase of the development.

**Method**

The 4.5m long cable trench 0.20m wide and 0.50m deep ran from the south-east corner of the vestry on the south side of the chancel and crossed the churchyard to meet up with the electricity sub-station on the east side of the churchyard (Fig. 2). To bring the cable into the church, a hole was drilled through the vestry south wall. Connection of the cable to the sub-station was undertaken by East

Midlands Electricity at a later date. The excavations were undertaken by a team of two ground-workers and an archaeological presence was maintained throughout the entire period of excavation. The work took place on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2006. A full photographic and written record was maintained during the work. Context numbers were assigned to each of the layers and features encountered, for the purposes of recording.

### **Results**

Removal of the topsoil **100** next to the vestry wall revealed underpinning material, **101**, comprising courses of brick and (re-used) limestone contained within a construction trench, **102**. Beyond the construction trench and beneath the topsoil **103**, a silty clay which contained the remains of a modern water pipe. This material was probably the backfill of the pipe trench whose edges were not observed in the narrow cable trench. Underlying **103** was the natural clay **104**, which was present at a depth of 0.12m below the present modern surface. Fragments of early modern tile were observed in the topsoil but there were no other finds.

### **Conclusion**

The cable trench was dug through ground already disturbed in the past by the insertion of a water pipe. The cable connection into the church was through a drilled hole in the vestry wall which had been underpinned in recent times. In conclusion, there was no disturbance to any early church fabric and no archaeological deposits were disturbed in the churchyard.

### **Acknowledgements**

Lindsey Archaeological Services is grateful for the full and continued co-operation given by Steve and Simon from Charles Pain Ltd who undertook the excavation work. The excavation work was monitored by the author. The report and illustrations were prepared by Mike Garrett. The report was edited by Naomi Field.

Mike Garrett B.A. (Hons.)  
19<sup>th</sup> September 2006

### **Contents of Site Archive**

Correspondence

Site location plan

Photographs from LAS film N<sup>o</sup> 06/117 negatives 1-23.

**APPENDIX 1**

## Appendix 1

### St. John the Baptist Church, Yarburgh, Lincolnshire (YACL 06)

#### Context Summary

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation
100	Deposit	Topsoil. Dark grey, Very dark grey, loose silty sand. 0.12m thick Frequent inclusions of roots).
101	Fill	Courses of bricks and (re-used) limestone. Underpinning material. Fill of <b>102</b> .
102	Cut	Construction cut for underpinning material.
103	Deposit	Very dark grey, loose silty sand. Frequent chalk inclusions (up to 0.10m)
104	Deposit	Natural red brown clay. 0.32m + thick



## THE FIGURES

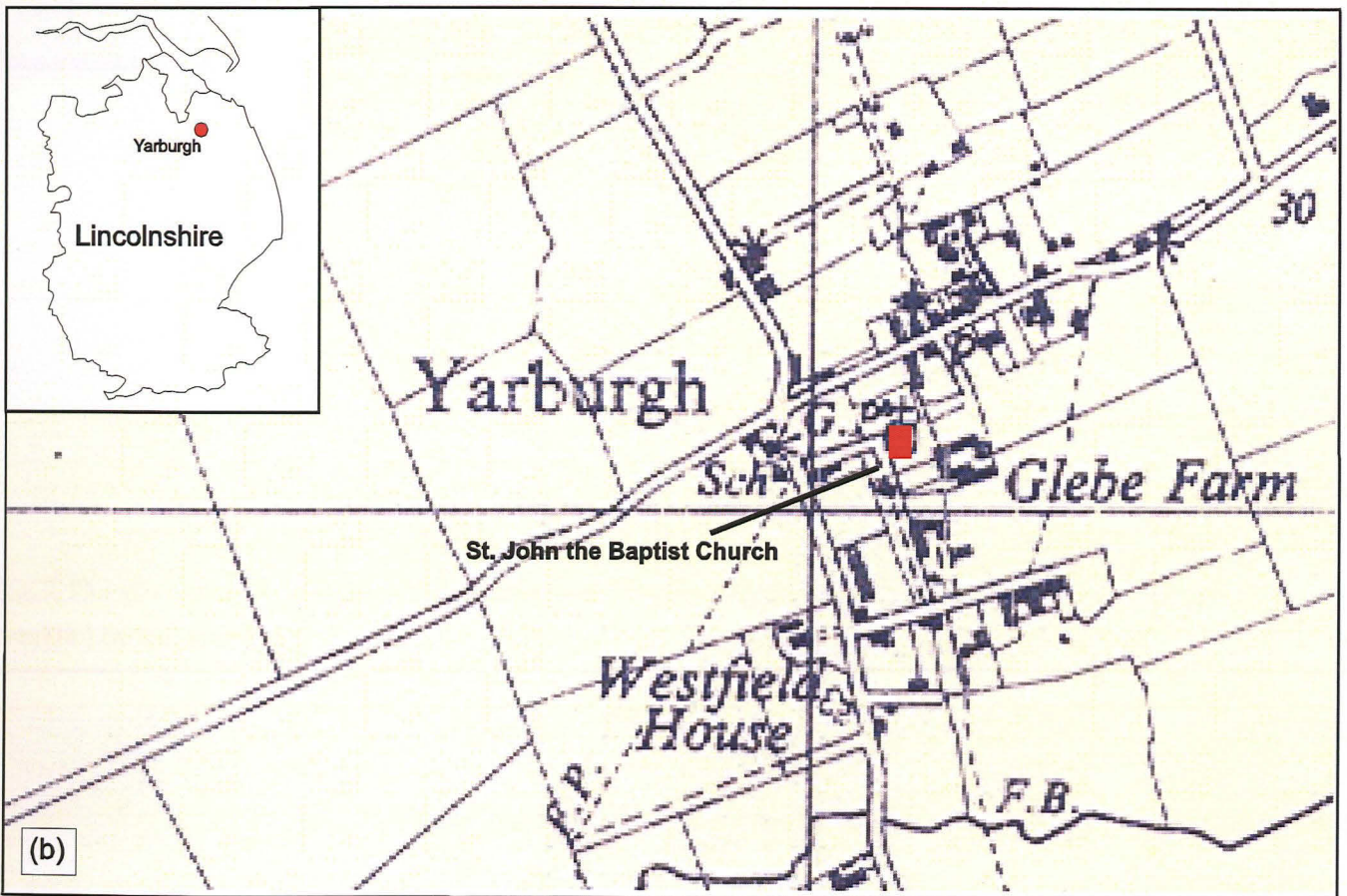


Fig.1 Location of Yarburgh, Lincs. Inset (b) reproduced from the 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey Explorer map 283, Crown copyright, with the permission of the Controller of the HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 10002165)



Fig. 2 The site's position in relation to the main road through the village, using a 1:500 scale map provided by the developer.

**THE PLATES**



Pl. 1 Looking northwest (showing the exit route for the cable).



Pl. 2 Looking south (showing the cable trench).



Pl. 3 Looking southeast (inside the vestry), showing the hole for the cable, drilled through the modern brick underpinning



Pl. 4 Looking north (outside of the vestry), at the exit hole for the cable, drilled through (re-emplaced) limestone and brick underpinning.



Pl. 5 Looking northwest (outside the vestry), showing the hole for the cable, drilled through the underpinning



Pl. 6 Looking northeast (outside of the vestry), at the exit hole for the cable, drilled through the limestone underpinning.