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**A REPORT TO
THE CHURCHES CONSERVATION TRUST**

MAY 2010

**St. MARGARET'S CHURCH
HACEBY
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF**

Site Code: HASM09
Museum Accession No.: 2009.121
NGR: TF 0301 3610
Planning Application ~no.: N/A

**PREPARED BY
MIKE JARVIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES**

MJAS REPORT No.: 564

**St. MARGARET'S CHURCH
HACEBY
LINCOLNSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

CONTENTS	PAGE
Non-Technical Summary	2
1.0 Introduction	3
2.0 Site Location and Background	3
3.0 Aims and Methodology	3
4.0 Results and Conclusions	4
5.0 Acknowledgements	7
6.0 Bibliography	7
PLATES	
Plate I: General view of soak-away trench	4
Plate II: General view of foundations [004]	5
Plate III: General view of drainage trench - north of tower	6
Plate IV: General view of drainage trench - south of tower	6
LIST OF FIGURES	
Fig. 1: Site location map	8
Fig. 2: Plan showing areas investigated (including Sections 1 – 3 & elevations EL1-5	9
Fig. 3: Sections 1 & 2 and elevations EL1-5	10
APPENDIX	
Appendix 1: Context Summary	11
Appendix 2: Archive Summary	11

Site Code: HASM09
Accession No.: 2009.121

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Lincolnshire County Council

16 JUN 2010

Support Services

**St. MARGARET'S CHURCH
HACEBY
LINCOLNSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- Between the 1 September 2009 & 9 February 2010, Mike Jarvis Archaeological Services undertook a watching brief during groundwork associated with the excavation of a soak-away and French drain at St. Margaret's Church, Haceby, Lincolnshire. The watching brief was carried out on behalf of The Churches Conservation Trust.
- The results of this watching brief have proved interesting although due to the limited scale of the investigations little can be said regarding the form, function or date of the findings made.
- Excavation revealed parts of a probably rectangular shaped linear foundation on the north side of the church that may represent the remnants of a now demolished north aisle of similar dimensions to the churches existing south aisle. A slightly raised rectangular linear earthwork visible at ground level and appearing to follow the projected line of the newly discovered foundations may support the aisle theory.
- Investigations also indicated that the tower was built after the construction of the suspected north aisle structure but prior to the building of the south aisle. If the tower is of Norman date, this newly revealed foundation is likely to be a pre or earlier Norman element of the church. The investigations also revealed that the porch was constructed later than the south aisle.
- In conclusion, the monitoring of groundwork has revealed previously un-recorded elements of the church and as such has provided useful information relating to the sequence of the churches construction. This information can be seen as having local importance and will be of value in future decision making in the management of the archaeological resource contained within the site and its immediate environs.

St. MARGARET'S CHURCH HACEBY LINCOLNSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Between the 1 September 2009 & 9 February 2010, Mike Jarvis Archaeological Services (MJAS) undertook a watching brief during groundwork associated with the excavation of a soak-away and French drain at St. Margaret's Church, Haceby, Lincolnshire. The watching brief was carried out on behalf of The Churches Conservation Trust.

2.0 SITE LOCATION AND BACKGROUND (Fig. 1)

The village of Haceby lies in the administrative district of North Kesteven in the Parish of Newton & Haceby, approximately eight miles (13km) east of Grantham and three miles (5km) to the west of the village of Folkingham. Haceby was once a thriving village although today there are just a few occupied buildings and the village is no more than a small hamlet.

The name Haceby, or *Hazeby*, is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 and is thought to have derived from the Old Norse for Hadd's farmstead or village. The site of a large Roman villa, probably of the courtyard type, was found in an orchard just a mile from the church. The discovery was made in 1818 and excavations during 1929 revealed six rooms including a bath house at one corner of the site while some of the rooms had tessellated pavements.

The church dedicated to both St. Margaret & St. Barbara lies at approximately 67m OD on a northerly descending slope in an area of low undulating hills (National Grid Reference: TF 0301 3610). The church dates to at least the Norman period (the base of the tower and the chancel arch being the only visible remnants). The chancel is in Early English in style, with a Jacobean east window.

Geographical deposits in the area comprise cornbrash and Great Oolite limestone with drift deposits of the Aswarby association (512a) and are typically shallow calcareous fine loamy soils. To the north and east of the church are extensive earthworks associated with the medieval period with evidence of ridge & furrow in abundance, while to the south and west are farm buildings and cottages.

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 (HER).

The watching brief required the monitoring of groundwork associated with the excavation of a soak-away to the north side of the church; a French drain skirting the base of walls from the south-west corner of the south aisle to the north-east corner of the church tower. A short

trench was also excavated that linked the new drain to an existing soak-away located just to the north of the tower.

The archaeological record was secured by means of trench-side notes, scale drawings and photographs.



Plate I: Area A - General view of the trench for the new soak-away (looking south).

4.0 RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS (Figs. 2 & 3 and Pls. I - IV)

RESULTS

Soak-away

The new soak-away was located approximately 12m to the north of the church, midway along its northern length, and comprised a shallow c. 300mm deep trench leading to an approximately 1.2m³ soak-away. Ground level here descended to the north.

Excavation of the soak-away revealed natural clay ([003]) approximately 1m below ground level. The excavation of the pipe trench for the soak-away revealed a compacted concentration of apparently east-west aligned limestone fragments ([004] – 1.30m wide) lying approximately 2.70m to the north of the north church wall. Sealing natural and stonework [004] was subsoil deposit [002], an undated, c. 800mm thick light, yellow/brown clay with frequent small angular limestone fragments. Sealing [002] was topsoil deposit [001] (ground level – c. 66.50m OD north & 67m OD south).

French Drain

Groundwork for the French drain required the excavation of a trench (nominally 500mm wide) against the base of the church walls (leading from the south-west corner of the south aisle through to the north-east corner of the church tower). The depth of excavation varied and was intentionally dug to descend to a point on the towers north-west corner from where a short (c.

6.50m long) pipe trench was dug to join with an existing soak-away that lay c. 6.30m north of the church tower.



Plate II: View of limestone foundation [004] that may represent part of a now demolished north church aisle (looking south & overhead - scale is 1m).

The earliest deposit recorded during excavation for the drain was subsoil [002]. It was into subsoil [002] that the church foundations were dug.

On the north side of the church, excavation revealed further elements of stonework [004] initially found in the trench for the new soak-away. [004] was aligned north-south and was 1.30m wide and comprised two visible courses of roughly rectangular limestone fragments, bonded with a pale brown sandy lime mortar. The foundation ran north from beneath the existing church.

Excavation of the drainage trench immediately to the west of [004], around the church tower, revealed that the tower was of later construction than foundation [004] as here the tower foundations ([005] - two courses of roughly hewn and un-bonded limestone fragments projecting c. 200mm out from the church walls) clearly overlay foundations [004].

A chamfered string-course ([006] - previously buried & showing rainwater damage/spalling) was revealed on top of foundations [005]. On the south side of the church, at the point where the tower meets the south aisle, excavation revealed the south aisle is of later construction than the tower (at the string-course level) and similarly, the porch was shown to be a later addition to the south aisle.

Sealing the above was topsoil deposit [001].

No further features or deposits were recorded during the watching brief.



Plate III: General view of excavations at the base of the north tower wall showing the previously buried chamfered string course & projecting stone foundations [005]. Foundation [004] is visible at the very top of the photograph (looking east).



Plate IV: General view of excavations on the south side of the church (looking east).

CONCLUSIONS

The results of this watching brief have proved somewhat interesting although due to the limited scale of the investigations little can be said regarding the form, function or date of the findings made.

Excavation revealed parts of a probably rectangular shaped linear foundation on the north side of the church that may represent the remnants of a now demolished north aisle of similar dimensions to the churches existing south aisle. A slightly raised rectangular linear earthwork visible at ground level and appearing to follow the projected line of the newly discovered foundations may support the aisle theory.

Investigations also indicated that the tower was built after the construction of the suspected north aisle structure but prior to the building of the south aisle. If the tower is of Norman date, this newly revealed foundation is likely to be a pre or earlier Norman element of the church. The investigations also revealed that the porch was constructed subsequent to the south aisle.

In conclusion, the monitoring of groundwork has revealed previously un-recorded elements of the church and as such has provided useful information relating to the sequence of the churches construction. This information can be seen as having local importance and will be of value in future decision making in the management of the archaeological resource contained within the site and its immediate environs.

5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mike Jarvis Archaeological Services would like to thank The Churches Conservation Trust for funding the watching brief and to Mary Anderson (Anderson & Glenn Architects) & Millstone Restoration (contractor) for their assistance, interest & cooperation throughout the duration of the groundwork programme. Access to the HER was permitted by Mr M Bennet.

Maps contained in this report are reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown Copyright. MJAS Licence No. 100042473.

6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

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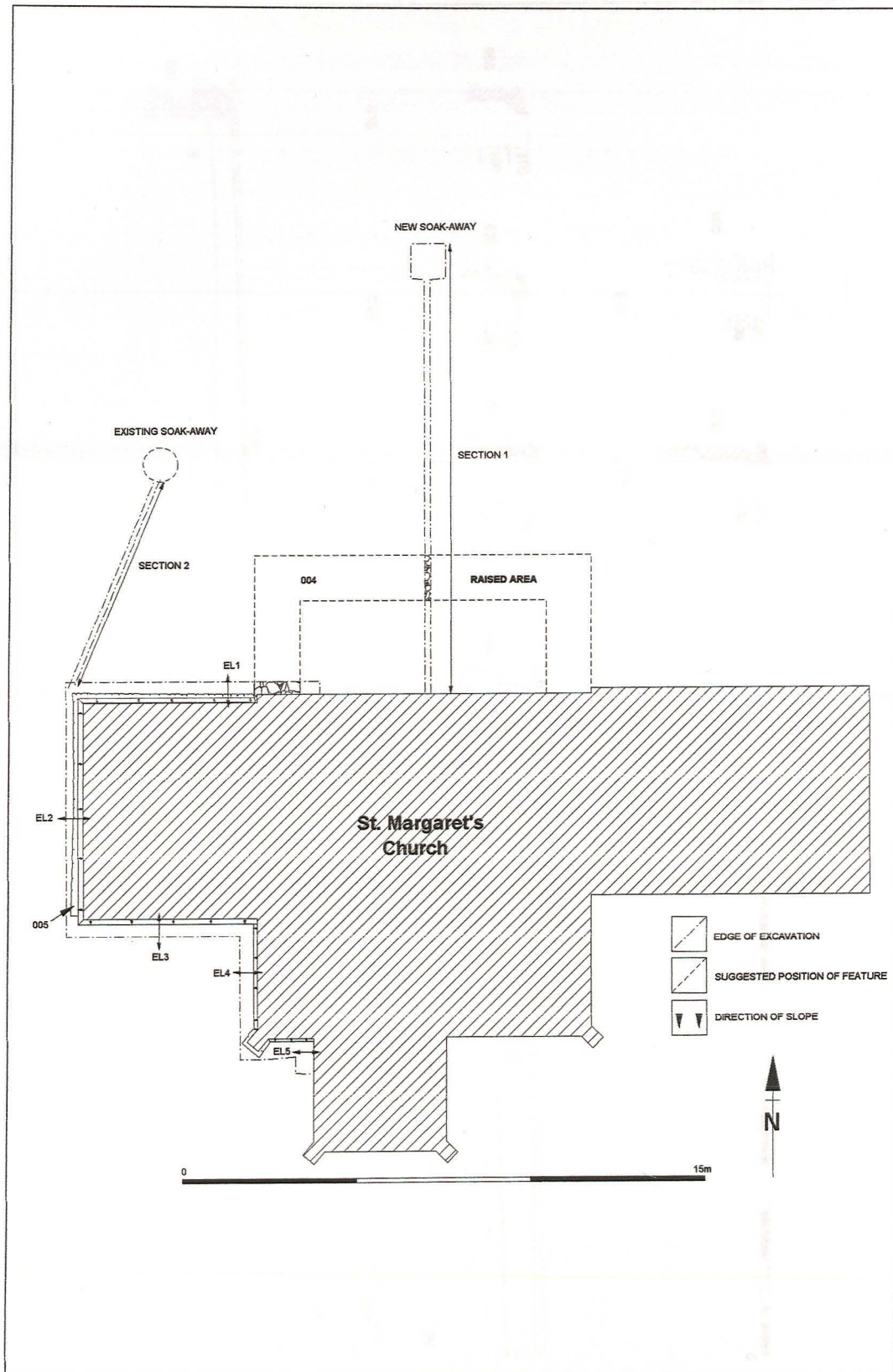


Fig. 2: Plan showing location of areas investigated, sections & elevation locations (not to scale).

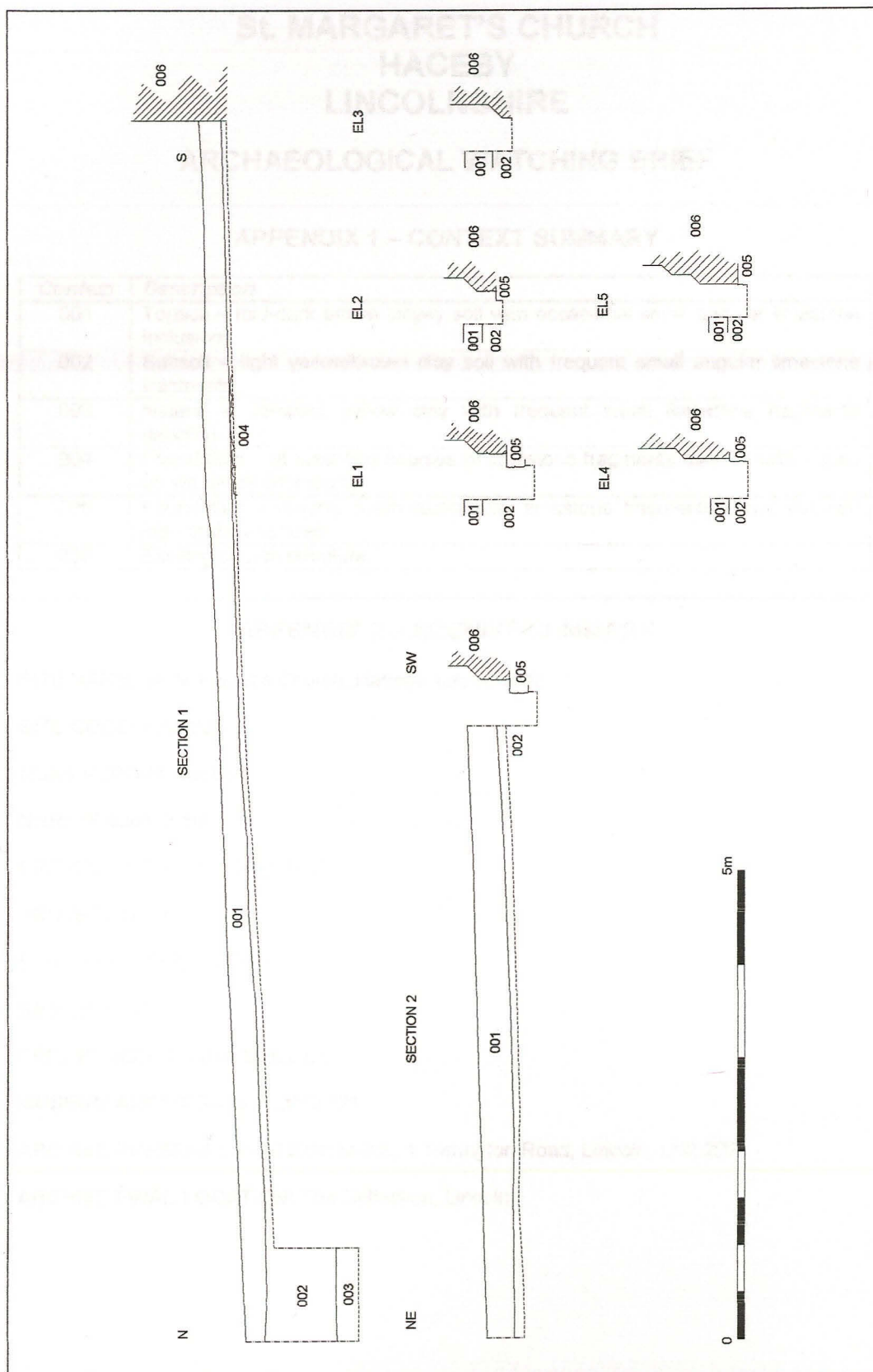


Fig. 3: Sections 1 & 2 and elevations EL1 – EL5 (not to scale).

**St. MARGARET'S CHURCH
HACEBY
LINCOLNSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

APPENDIX 1 – CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context	Description
001	Topsoil – mid-dark brown clayey soil with occasional small angular limestone inclusions.
002	Subsoil – light yellow/brown clay soil with frequent small angular limestone fragments.
003	Natural – compact yellow clay with frequent small limestone fragments (brashy).
004	Foundation – at least two courses of limestone fragments bonded with a pale brown sandy lime mortar.
005	Foundation – roughly hewn rectangular limestone fragments – two courses high and un-bonded.
006	Existing church structure.

APPENDIX 2 – ARCHIVE SUMMARY

SITE NAME: St. Margaret's Church, Haceby, Lincolnshire

SITE CODE: HASM09

MJAS REPORT No: 564

NGR: TF 0301 3610

PROJECT TYPE: Watching Brief

PROJECT DATE:

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: N/A

SMR No.: N/A

CIVIL PARISH: Newton & Haceby

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: 2009.121

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

ARCHIVE FINAL LOCATION: The Collection, Lincoln

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

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OASIS ID: mikejarv1-69442

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Date Replied Via:	
CRM Transaction No.	

Project details

Project name	St. Margaret's church, Haceby, Lincolnshire
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring of groundwork comprising the excavation of a soak-away to the north of the church and the insertion of a French drain around the church tower. monitoring revealed a linear foundation thought to represent a now demolished north aisle to the church. further information relating to the sequence of the churches construction was also revealed.
Project dates	Start: 01-08-2009 End: 09-02-2010
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2009.121 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Monument type	FOUNDATION Medieval
Monument type	NONE Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Faculty jurisdiction



Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE NORTH KESTEVEN NEWTON AND HACEBY St. margaret's Church, Haceby, Lincolnshire
Study area	4.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 0301 3610 52.9121127986 -0.467976956152 52 54 43 N 000 28 04 W Point