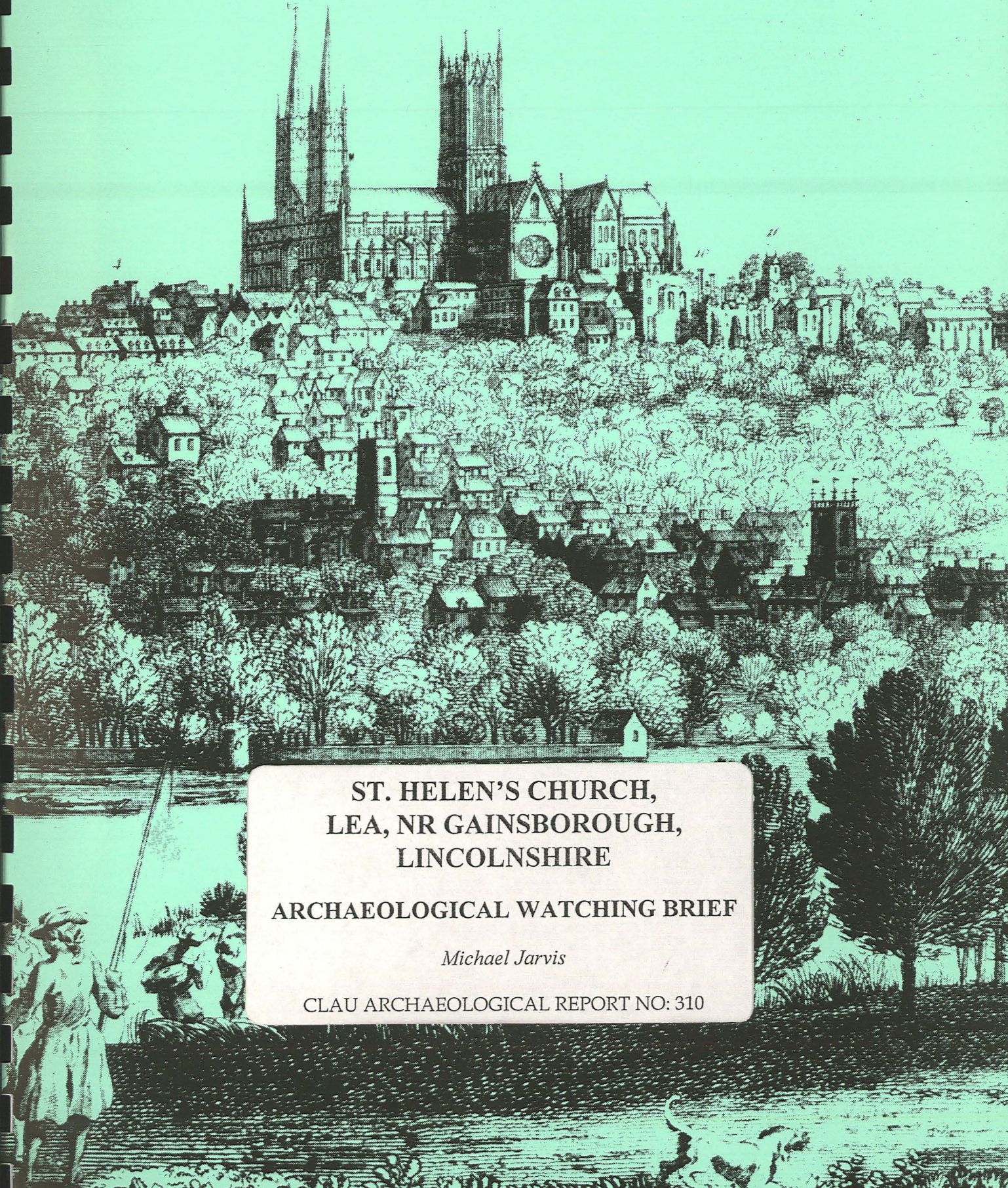


CITY OF
◇ LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY ◇
U N I T



**ST. HELEN'S CHURCH,
LEA, NR GAINSBOROUGH,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Michael Jarvis

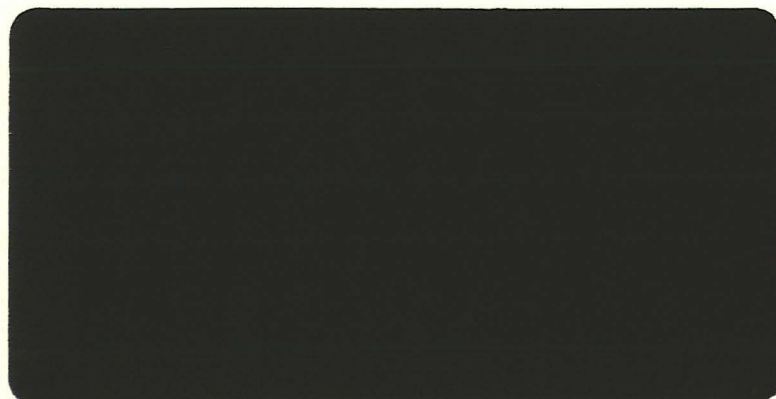
CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 310

**Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section**

0 1. SEPT 97

**12 Friars Lane
LINCOLN LN2 5AL**

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reg.

A
Report to
St. Helen's Parish Church,
Lea

August 1997

Prepared by

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CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 310

**ST. HELEN'S CHURCH,
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LINCOLNSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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**ST. HELEN'S CHURCH,
LEA, NR GAINSBOROUGH,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY

On the 24th of July 1997 a representative from the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit undertook a watching brief during the reduction of ground level on land to the south of the Church of St. Helen, Lea, prior to the construction of extended and improved vehicular access to the church.

The results from the watching brief have proved largely negative. This was due, in part, to the limited nature of the groundworks. One of the primary concerns regarding the groundworks was the likelihood of encountering human remains, as part of the area undergoing ground disturbance is known to have been utilised for burials. In the event no graves were encountered. However, the likelihood of their presence in this area of the churchyard cannot be fully dismissed.

ST. HELEN'S CHURCH, LEA, NR GAINSBOROUGH, LINCOLNSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1.0 INTRODUCTION

On the 24th of July 1997 a representative from the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (CLAU) undertook a watching brief during the reduction of ground level on land to the south of the Church of St. Helen, Lea, prior to the construction of extended and improved vehicular access to the church. The work also involved the removal and re-siting of a wooden bench as well as the formation of a shallow drainage gully beneath an external water tap (National Grid Reference SK 8310 8670 - Figs. 1 & 2).

2.0 SITE LOCATION

The village of Lea lies approximately 3 Km to the south of Gainsborough (see Fig. 1). The Church of St. Helen sits prominently on high ground in the eastern part of the village. Although essentially Early English in date (AD1190-1250), the church was extensively altered in 1847-9 by Sir Charles Anderson (Pevsner et al, 1989, 429).

3.0 AIMS & METHODOLOGY

The aims of the watching brief were:

- A. to produce an archive record of deposits and remains generally within the constraints of the groundwork contractors' working methods and programme as related to the project design, with due regard to current Health and Safety legislation.
- B. to produce a report on the archaeological importance of the discoveries.
- C. to produce a project archive from which the potential for further study and academic research could be assessed.
- D. to provide information for accession to the County Sites and Monuments Record.

Owing to the nature of the aforementioned groundworks the archaeological record was secured by means of a full photographic record.

4.0 ANALYSIS/CONCLUSIONS

The watching brief revealed very little regarding the buried archaeological sequence at the site. Up to 300mm of topsoil was removed from the new vehicular parking/access area. This revealed a loose, yellow/brown, natural sand deposit. A small quantity of disarticulated human remains was recovered from the spoil during the initial stripping of the site (it was agreed that if human remains were encountered, that they were to remain on site for reburial at a later date). The human bone was in a good state of preservation, and from its random scattering across the site, may have been derived from more than one individual. Occasional fragments of tabular stone were also present and appeared to be a similar type to that used for the construction of the church tower. No grave cuts were visible in the area examined.

The results from the watching brief have proved largely negative. This was due in part, to the limited nature of the groundworks. One of the primary concerns regarding the groundworks was the likelihood

of encountering undisturbed human remains, as parts of the area undergoing ground disturbance was known to have been utilised for burials. In the event no graves were encountered. However, their presence in this area of the churchyard cannot be fully dismissed.

5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit would like to thank St. Helen's Church Parish for funding the fieldwork and post-fieldwork analysis. Thanks are also extended to Mr. Arthur Gibson (Church Warden) for his co-operation during the archaeological works.

6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

NOTE

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. The Unit, its members and employees cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the terms of the Unit's Articles of Association, the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

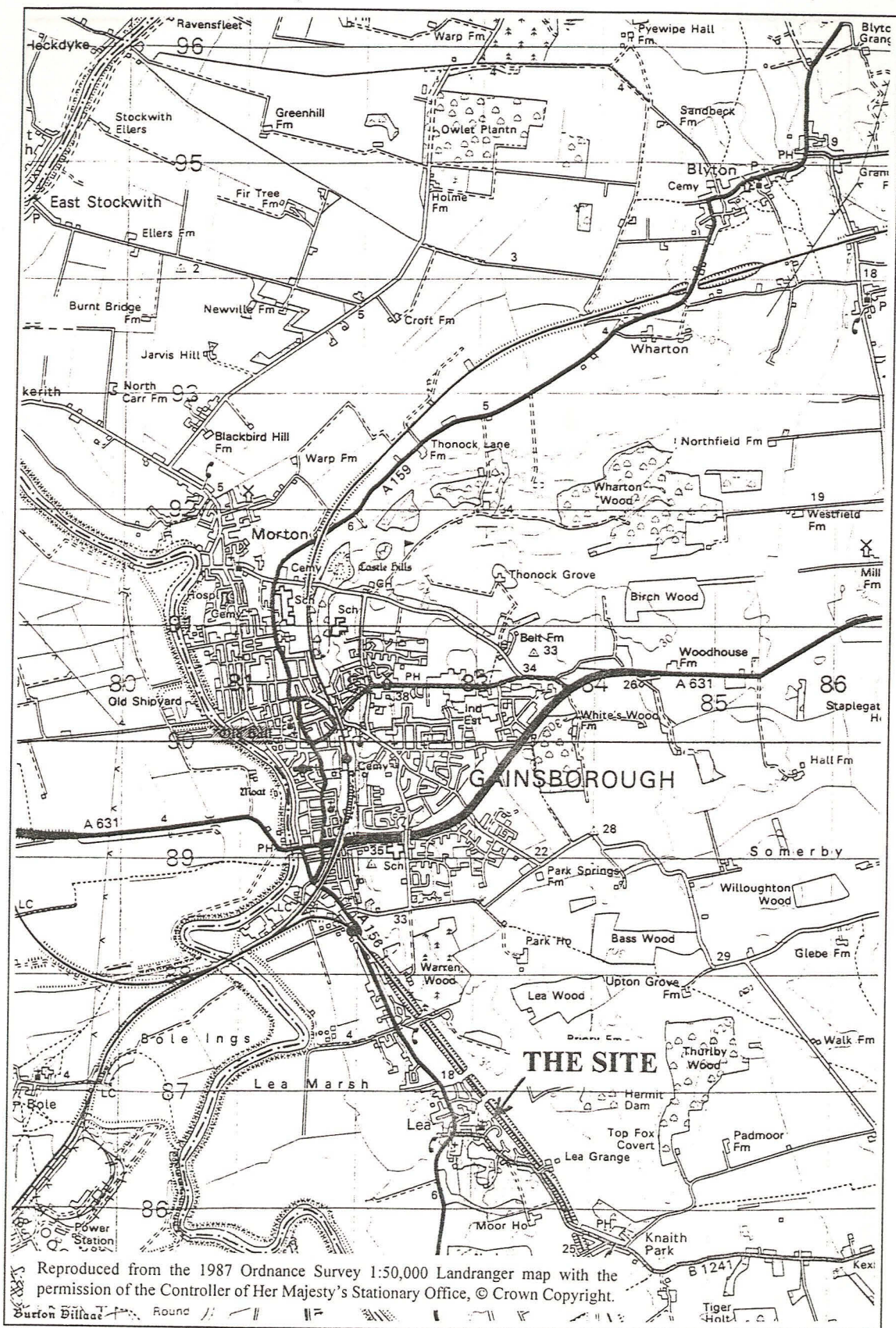


Fig. 1: General site location plan.

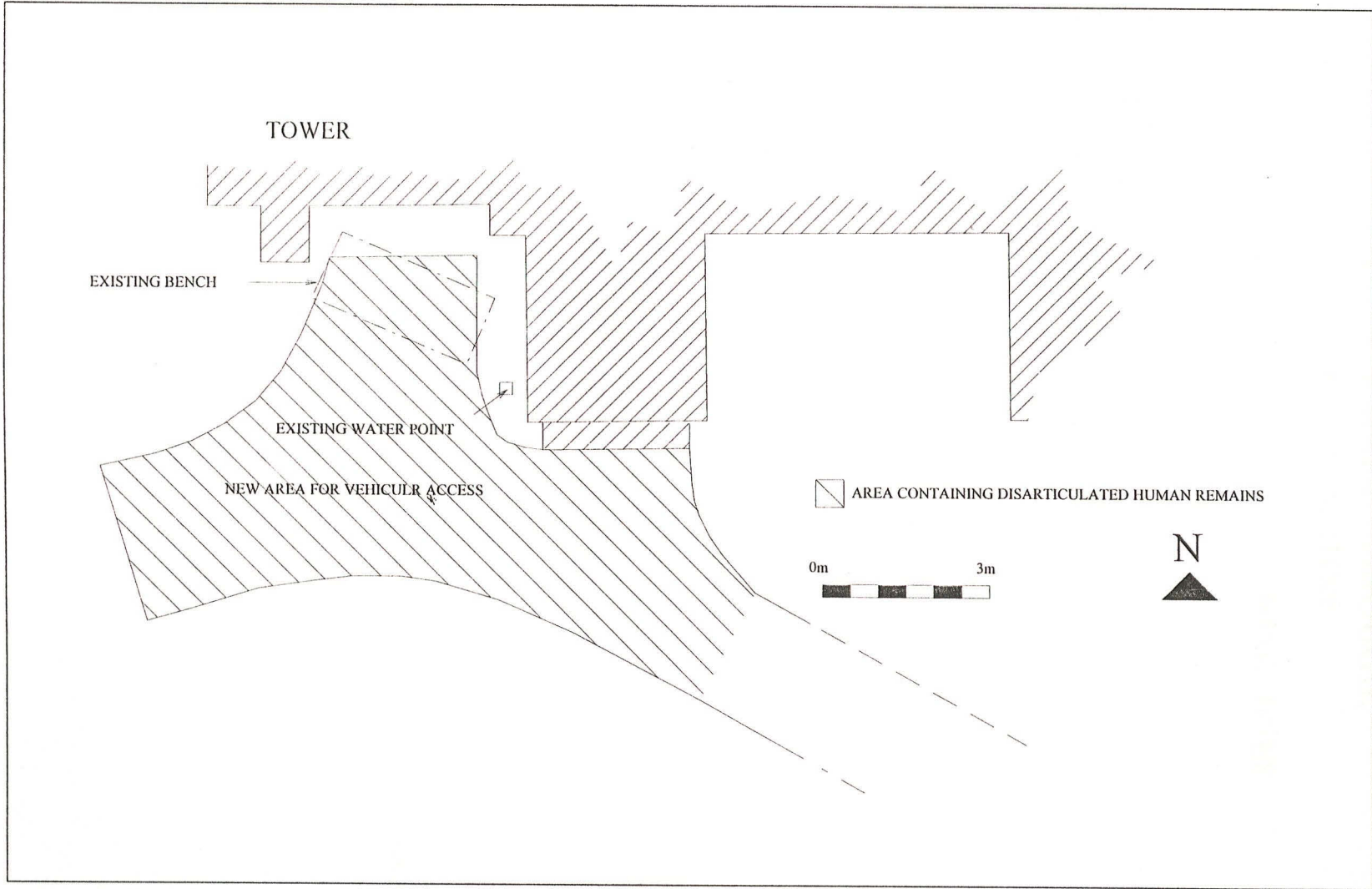


Fig. 2: Plan showing area of groundwork.

**ST. HELEN'S CHURCH,
LEA, NR GAINSBOROUGH,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

APPENDIX I

LINCS HIST & ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTE & ARCHIVE DETAILS

LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODE: LSH97

CLAU REPORT No.: 310

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.: N/A

FIELD OFFICER: Michael Jarvis

NGR: SK 8310 8670

CIVIL PARISH: Lea

SMR No.: -

DATE OF INTERVENTION: , 24/07/97

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: St. Helen's Church, Lea, Nr. Gainsborough, Lincolnshire.

ARCHIVE DETAILS

PRESENT LOCATION: City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, Charlotte House, The Lawn, Union Road,
Lincoln, LN1 3BL.

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

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: 152.97

ACCESSION DATE: -