

98/1

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF WORKS AT THE
ABBAY CHURCHYARD,
BOURNE,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BAC97)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF WORKS AT THE
ABBAY CHURCHYARD,
BOURNE,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BAC97)**

Work Undertaken For
East Midlands Electricity

February 1998

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner

National Grid Reference: TF 0985 1975
City and County Museum Accession No: 252.97

A.P.S. Report No. 9/97

CONTENTS

List of Figures

List of Plates

1.	Summary	1
2.	Introduction	1
	2.1 Background	1
	2.2 Topography and Geology	1
	2.3 Archaeological Setting	1
3.	Aims	2
4.	Methods	2
5.	Results	2
6.	Discussion	3
7.	Conclusions	3
8.	Acknowledgements	3
9.	Personnel	4
10.	Bibliography	4
11.	Abbreviations	4

Appendices

1	Context Descriptions
2	The Archive
3	Glossary

List of Figures

Figure 1 General Location Plan

Figure 2 Site Location Plan

Figure 3 Bourne Abbey Churchyard, showing location of trenches

Figure 4 Sections 1, 2 and 3

1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during cable laying at Abbey Churchyard, Bourne, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored excavation of electricity cable trenches.

The watching brief was imposed because the route of the electricity cable was along the southern boundary of the churchyard of SS. Peter and Paul, formerly an abbey. The abbey was founded for canons of the Arrouasian reform in 1138. It was never a prosperous place and only had a maximum number of twelve monks. Following the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII in 1536, most of Bourne Abbey was dismantled, except for the church.

The watching brief identified two recent service trenches cut through an earlier subsoil. A number of finds were made but comprised modern pottery and plastic waste. No medieval remains associated with the abbey or church were revealed.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in the Abbey Churchyard, Bourne, Lincolnshire. The work was commissioned by Mr C. Wesson of East Midlands Electricity and carried out by Archaeological Project Services.

An archaeological watching brief is defined as 'a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological purposes within a specified area, where there is possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or

destroyed.' (IFA 1994, 1).

2.2 Topography and Geology

Bourne is situated 24km southeast of Grantham and approximately 15km northeast of Stamford, in South Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). Local topography describes Bourne at the base of a gentle eastern slope with the fens to the east.

The site is located c. 450m to the southeast of Bourne town centre as defined by the Town Hall (Fig. 2). Situated at a height of c. 11m OD on land to the north of South Street (National Grid Reference TF 0985 1975), the proposed cable trench extended for approximately 20m length across the southern edge of Abbey Churchyard (Fig. 3).

Local soils are of the Aswarby Association, gleyic brown calcareous earths, and Badsey 2 Association, brown calcareous earths over calcareous gravels (Hodge et al. 1984, 99; 101). Beneath these deposits is a solid geology of Oxford Clay overlying Kellaway Beds.

2.3 Archaeological Setting

During the Romano-British period, evidence suggests that Bourne was a small town built along the Roman road, King Street. This lies to the west of Bourne's High Street. Along the course of the road, sites and artefacts of Roman date have been found, including a pottery kiln (SK12.05, 45, 46, 47) close to Bourne Grammar School, c. 200m to the southwest of the investigation area. Roman pottery, coins and tesserae have been found c. 100m north of the site (SK12.91) and pottery has also been recovered c. 100m east (SK12.91)

Bourne is first mentioned *c.* 960 AD, again in the *Cartularium saxonicum* of 1060 and in the Domesday Survey of 1086. Referred to as 'Brunne' or 'Brune' the name derives from the Old English *burna* meaning stream (Ekwall 1974, 55).

During the medieval period (1066 - 1500 A.D.) Bourne grew into a substantial settlement, centred around the market place and Bourne Castle (SK12.01), the earthworks of which still survive (Cathcart-King 1980).

The parish church of SS. Peter and Paul was formerly the Abbey of Bourne. The Abbey was founded in 1138 for Canons of the Arrouasian Reform following the order of the Augustines or Austins. The church represents the only extant remains of the Abbey and replaced an earlier church mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. This earlier church is believed to have been located to the south and may have been a Saxon minster. The establishment of the abbey, along with the castle to the west, probably necessitated changes to the street layout in Bourne (Roffe n.d., 3).

Bourne Abbey was endowed, by its founder, Baldwin fitzGilbert with a number of churches as well as land in Bourne and Spanby, including the tithes and mills (Page 1988, 177). The Abbey was never particularly rich and at its height contained only twelve canons. Following the dissolution of Bourne Abbey in 1536, the buildings were dismantled with the exception of the church.

Excavations were carried out to the north of the present church in 1985 (Mahaney 1986, 15). This excavation revealed a cloister (some 8m by 8m in size) and associated ranges of buildings on the north, west and east sides. Earlier features included evidence

of Romano-British settlement.

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief were to locate and record archaeological deposits, if present, and to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Three trenches were excavated, each measuring *c.* 1.5m by 0.7m and to depths as required by East Midlands Electricity (Fig. 3). Following manual excavation, the sides of all trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were partially or fully excavated by hand to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their nature. The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from the ground surface. Each archaeological deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording of deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practise.

No finds were recovered from excavated deposits, with the exception of some modern material from a single context. Therefore, phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 1.

5. RESULTS

Two phases were identified during the evaluation:

Phase 1 Undated deposits
Phase 2 Recent deposits

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Phase 1 Natural deposits

The earliest deposit encountered was a layer of greyish brown silty sand (002). This was revealed only in Trenches A and B (Fig. 4, Sections 1 and 2) and was identified as a subsoil.

Phase 2 Recent deposits

Deposits of greyish brown sandy silt containing brick rubble (003 in Trenches A and B) and light brown silty sand (007 and 008 in Trench C) and the observation of a service pipe indicated the presence of a sewer trench aligned east to west across the site. No sides or base to the sewerage trench were exposed and relationships to the subsoil were destroyed by a later feature (005 below).

A topsoil of dark brown and black silt (001) had developed over this sewerage trench to a depth of 0.2m. More recently, a service trench to provide gas had been inserted (005 in Trenches A and B only). This was between 0.6 and 0.75m wide and up to 0.9m deep. The backfill of this trench, comprising a dark grey sandy silt (004), produced modern pottery and plastic waste

6. DISCUSSION

Undated deposits (Phase 1) comprise a subsoil into which two service trenches (Phase 2) had been inserted. No deposits of archaeological interest were revealed during the investigation. It is possible that any

potential archaeological deposits lie at greater depths than those reached during excavation of the trenches. Alternatively, the location of the new trenches, along the southern boundary of the present graveyard and the precincts of the former abbey, was in an area absent of archaeology.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations on land adjacent to SS. Peter and Paul Church, Bourne were undertaken as the site lay within the precincts of the former medieval abbey.

The investigation revealed the presence of two recent service trenches, the only features recorded during the investigation. An earlier subsoil was located but provided no artefactual evidence.

A single modern fragment of pottery was retrieved along with plastic debris. The nature of the local site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators (seeds, wood, shells *etc.*) would survive, other than through charring.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr C. Wesson for commissioning the investigation and analysis on behalf of East Midlands Electricity. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Jenny Stevens, the Community Archaeologist for South Kesteven District Council allowed examination of the relevant parish file.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Site Supervisor: Darren Pullen
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Birkbeck, J.D., 1970, *History of Bourne*
- Cathcart-King, D.J., 1980, *Castellarium Anglicanum*
- Ekwall, E., 1974, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names* (4th edition)
- Hayes, P.P. and Lane, T.W., 1992, *The Fenland Project No. 5: Lincolnshire Survey, the southwest Fens*, East Anglian Archaeology 55
- Hodge, C.A.H, Burton, R.G.O., Corbett, W.M., Evans, R., and Seale, R.S., 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13
- IFA, 1994, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*
- Mahany, C.M., 1986, 'Bourne Abbey Excavations - 1985', in *Archaeology in Lincolnshire*, 2nd Annual Report TLA
- Page, W., 1988, *The Victoria History of the County of Lincoln*, Vol. II
- Roffe, D., n.d., *Bourne Abbey*, Unpublished document
- Smith, J.P., 1988, *Historic Notes and a Walk Round Guide to the Abbey Church of St.*

Peter and St. Paul, Bourne

11. ABBREVIATIONS

- IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists
TLA Trust for Lincolnshire Archaeology

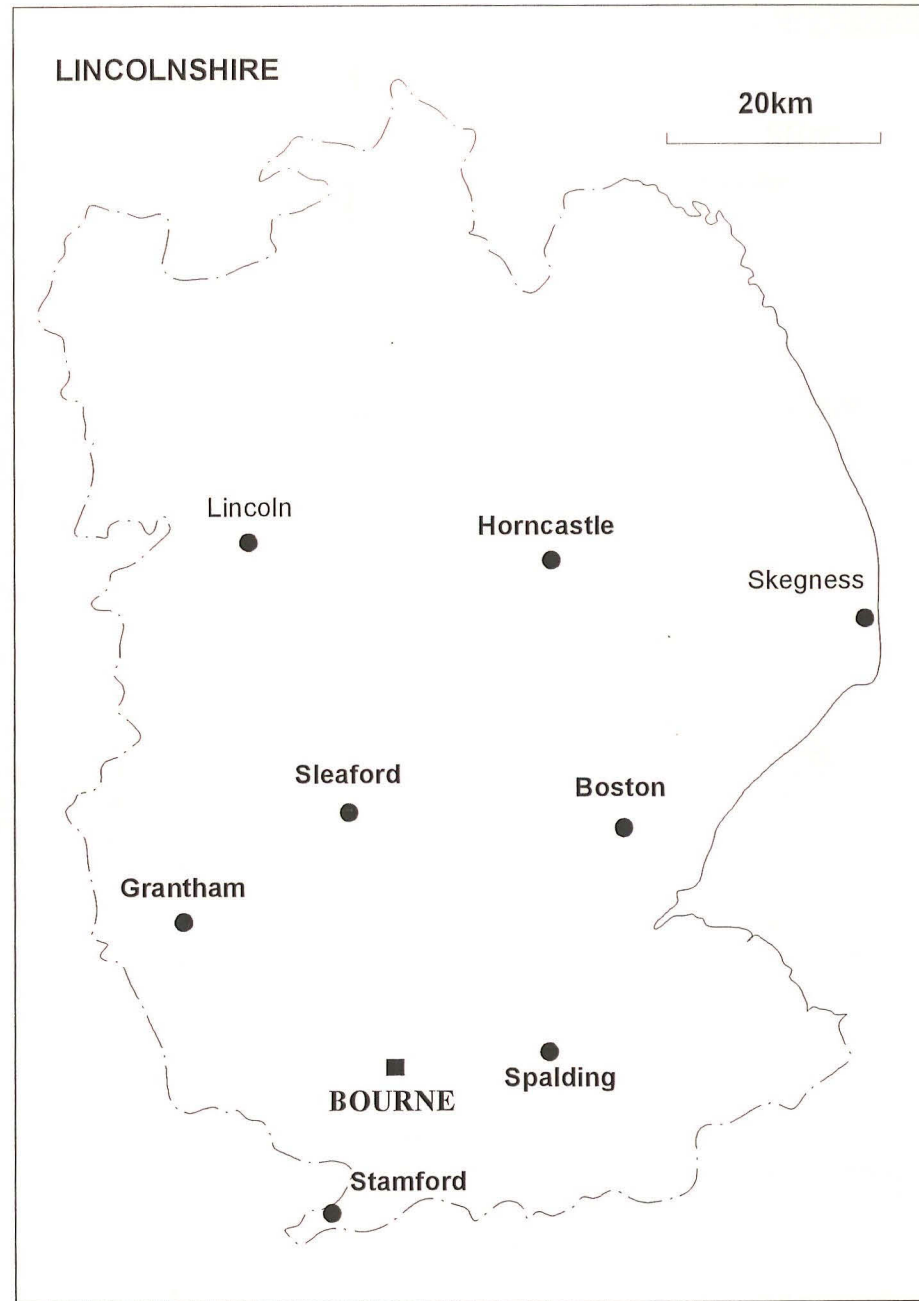
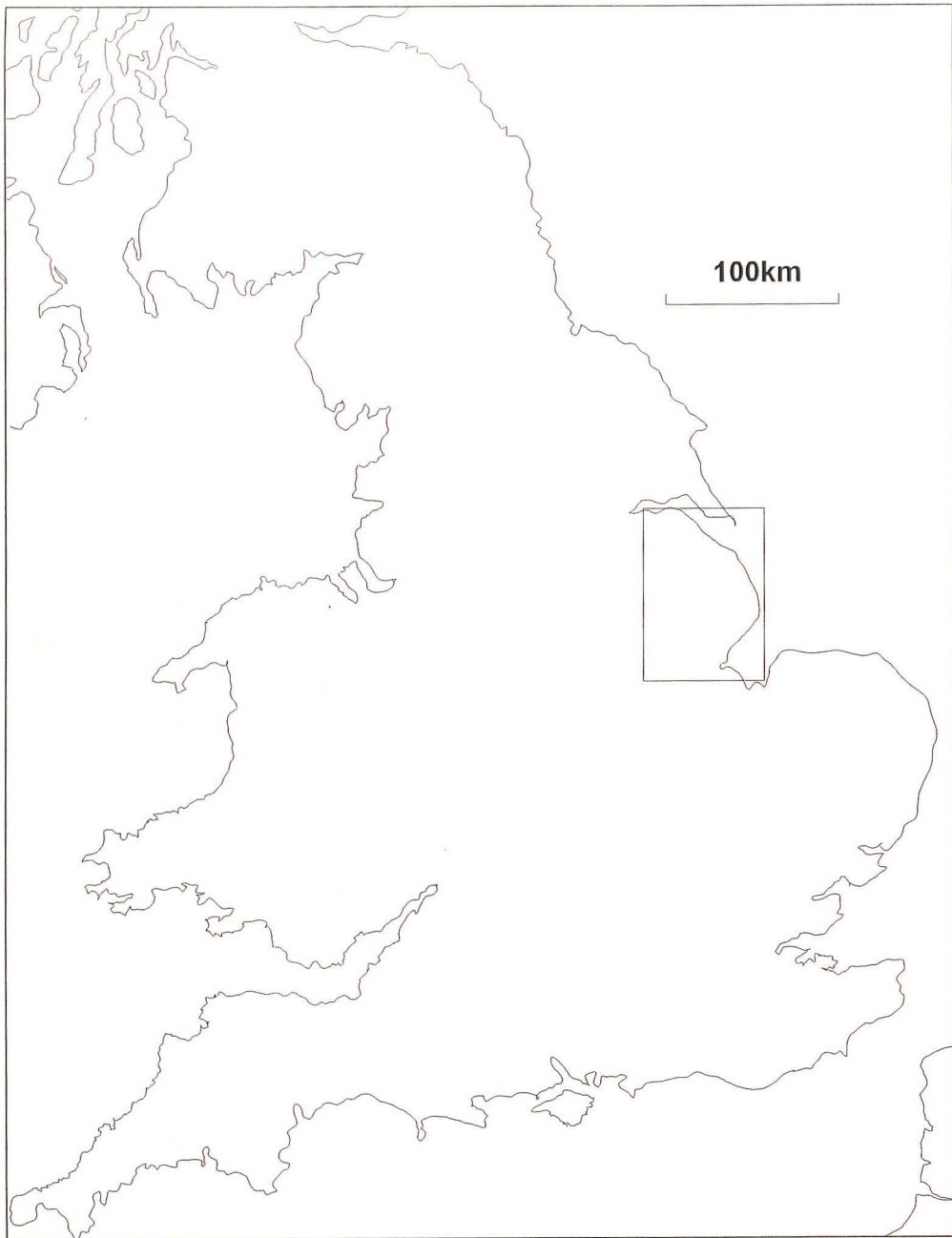


Figure 1 - General Location Plan

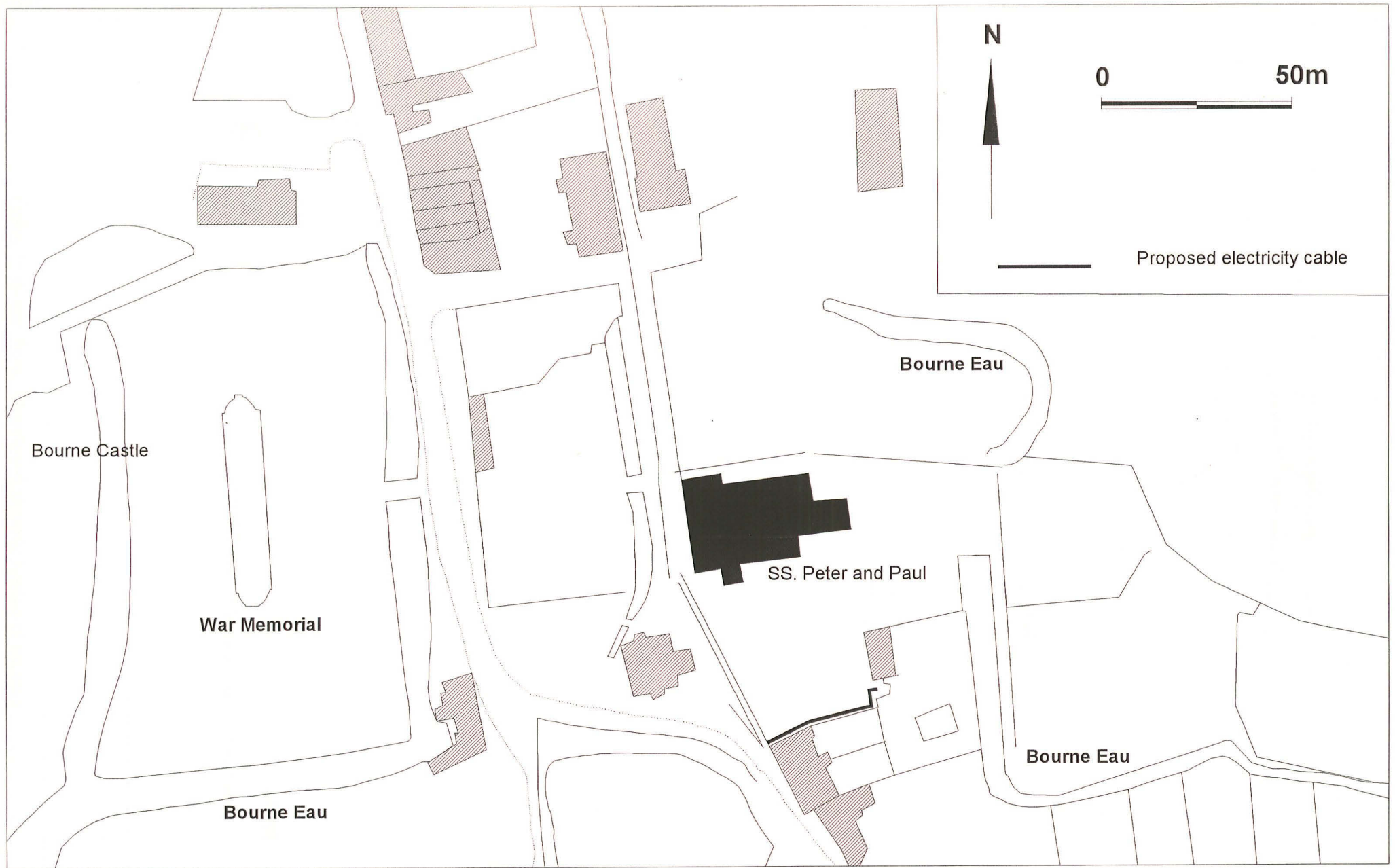


Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

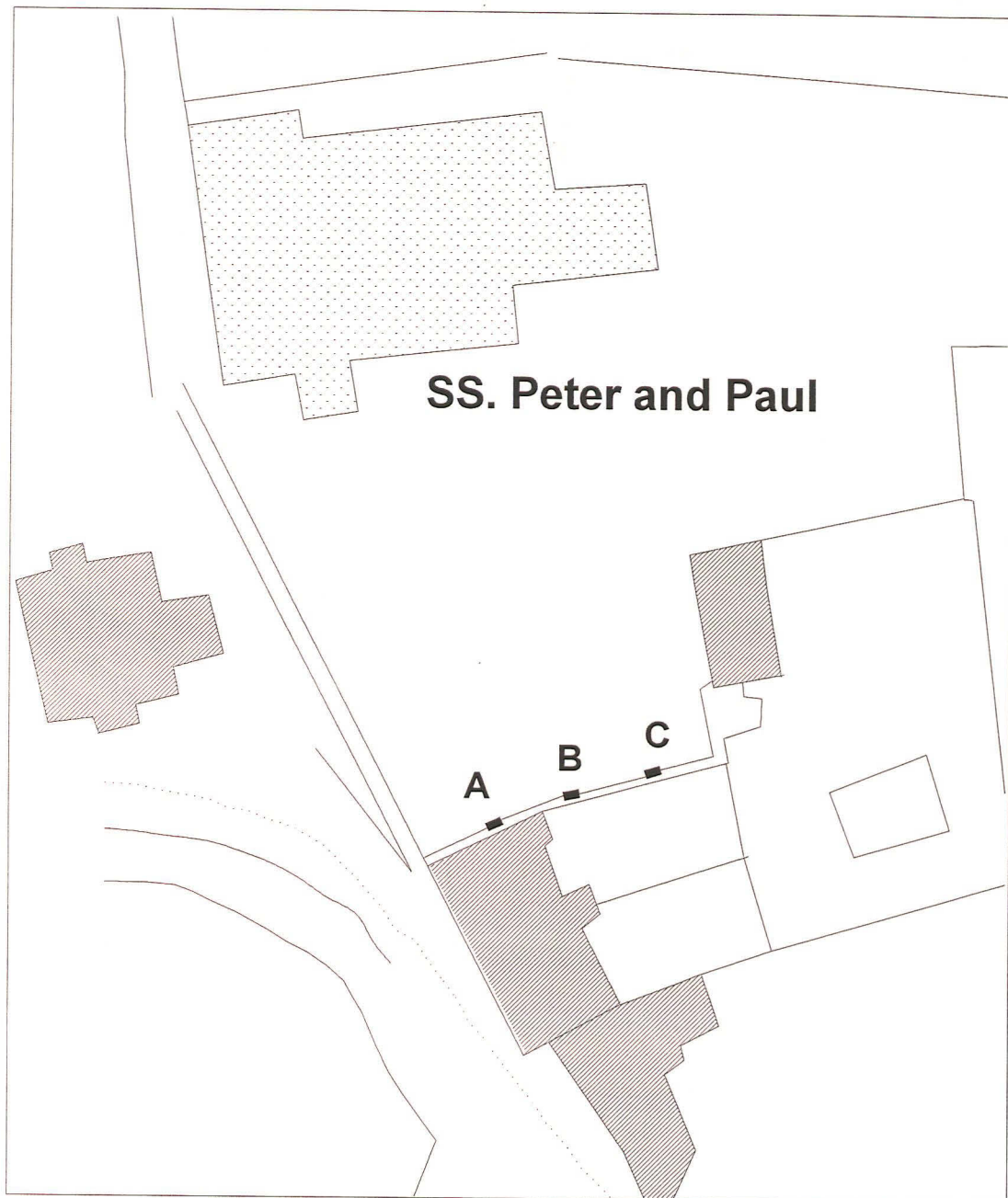
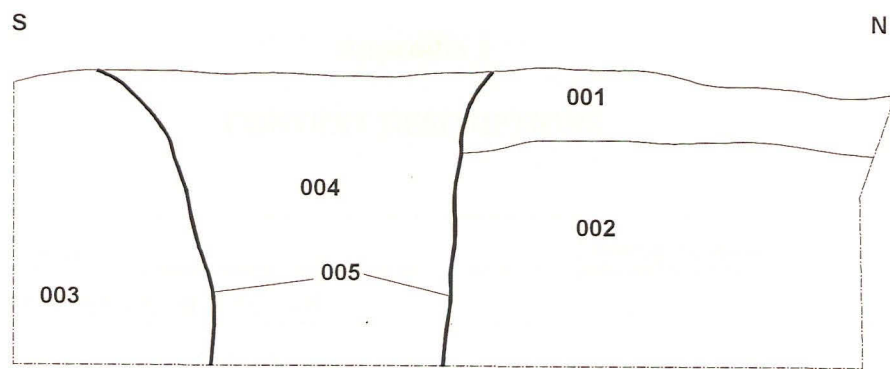
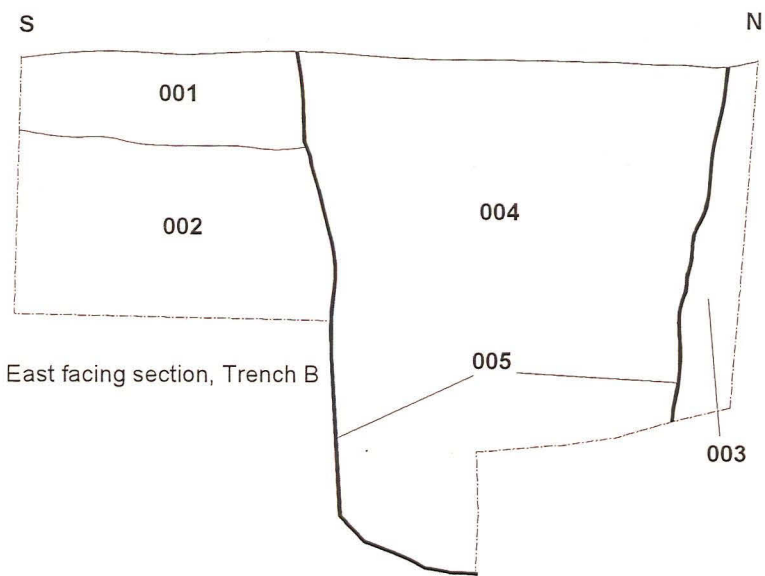


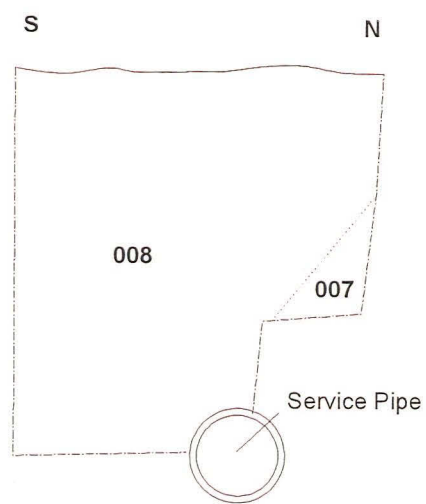
Figure 3 - Bourne Abbey Churchyard, showing location of trenches



East facing section, Trench A



East facing section, Trench B



East facing section, Trench C



Figure 4 - Sections 1, 2 and 3

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Description	Interpretation
001	Dark brown/black silt, 0.2m thick	Topsoil
002	Greyish brown silty sand, maximum 0.3m thick	Subsoil
003	Greyish brown sandy silt, containing brick rubble, charcoal and limestone fragments.	Fill of an earlier service trench, the extent of which was not determined
004	Black/Dark grey sandy silt	Fill of 005
005	Linear cut,	Service trench (gas)
006	0.2m diameter red ceramic pipe	Sewer pipe
007	Light brown silty sand	Fill of an earlier service trench, the extent of which was not determined
008	Light brown silty sand	Fill of an earlier service trench, the extent of which was not determined

Appendix 2

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

8	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
3	Scale drawings
1	Bag of finds
1	Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum
12 Friars Lane
Lincoln
LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number: 252.97

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: BAC97

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. Archaeological Project Services cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology.

Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Anglo-Saxon	Pertaining to the early part of the Saxon period and dating from approximately AD 450-650.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (4).
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Layer	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.