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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT  
ST. GENEWYS CHURCH, NORTHORPE ROAD,  
SCOTTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.

**National Grid Reference: SK 8902 9909**  
**Site Code: GCSC14**  
**Accession No: LCNCC: 2014.9**

PREPARED FOR MR. DAVID STERRY ON BEHALF OF HIS CLIENTS - THE VICAR &  
CHURCHWARDS OF ST. GENEWYS CHURCH

By

Neville Hall MIFA

July 2014

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## **Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief on the groundworks pertaining to the part removal and part reinstatement of a section of the eastern churchyard boundary wall along with the removal of a mature tree bole and its root systems in the adjacent churchyard at St. Genewys Church, Northorpe Road, Scotton, Lincolnshire was carried out by Neville Hall MIFA on the 27th, 28th and on the 30th of May 2014.*

*The removal by hand of the dry stone wall fabric of a section of the eastern churchyard boundary wall, consisting of the outer and inner faces along with an internal rubble core, identified a simple deposit sequence which consisted of a graveyard soil overlying an undisturbed natural subsoil horizon. Two fragments of disarticulated human bone were recovered from the graveyard soil for eventual reburial.*

*The growth of a mature sycamore tree bole and its root systems had over decades caused this section of the eastern churchyard boundary wall to bow outwards. This had necessitated the removal of this prior to the reinstatement of the boundary wall. The sycamore tree had probably been planted as part of the church restoration of the 1860s and this section of the churchyard boundary wall probably post-dated this planting. The boundary wall also showed some evidence of modern 20th century repair.*

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Neville Hall MIFA was commissioned by Mr. David Sterry on behalf of his clients - the Vicar and Churchwardens of St. Genewys Church - to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the groundworks pertaining to the part removal and part reinstatement of a section of the eastern churchyard boundary wall at St. Genewys Church, Northorpe Road, Scotton, Lincolnshire, centred at National Grid Reference SK 8902 9909. The archaeological watching brief was undertaken at the site on the 27th, 28th and on the 30th of May 2014.
- 1.2 The archaeological site work was carried out according to the requirements of a Faculty (Ref No.: 3758), which was issued by the Diocese of Lincoln. This report documents the results of this archaeological site work.
- 1.3 Copies of the final report will be deposited with the clients, Ms Louise Jennings, the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor, the Diocese of Lincoln, the Lincolnshire Heritage Environment Record (HER) and The Collection, Lincoln, along with an ordered project archive for long term storage and curation.

## **2. Site Location and Description**

- 2.1 The site is situated at the eastern boundary wall of the churchyard of the parish church of St. Genewys, which is in turn situated within the historic core of the village of Scotton. The village of Scotton is located approximately 11.5km to the south of Scunthorpe and 4.5km to the west of Kirton in Lindsey. The site is situated at National Grid Reference SK 8902 9909, and at a height of approximately 17mAOD. Scotton is situated within the parish of the same name, and in the administrative district of West Lindsey, county of Lincolnshire [Figures 1 and 2].
- 2.2 The site is located within a slightly undulating upland area on the western edges of the scarp slope of the Jurassic limestone escarpment which traverses the county from south-north. The site is situated on reddish loamy and clayey soils of the Salop Series, which overlie deposits of blown sand and on Lower Lias mudstones of the Lower Jurassic [BGS, 1982; Soil Survey, 1983].

## **3. Planning Background**

- 3.1 Following the granting of a Faculty (Ref No.: 3758), issued by the Diocese of Lincoln, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks comprising the removal and replacement of a section of the eastern churchyard boundary wall at St. Genewys Church, Northorpe Road, Scotton, Lincolnshire.
- 3.2 A specification or a written scheme of works for this archaeological watching brief was submitted to and approved by Ms. Louise Jennings, the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor prior to the commencement of the archaeological site works.
- 3.3 This report documents the results of the archaeological watching brief and will be submitted to the Diocese of Lincoln and to Ms. Louise Jennings, the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor.



**Figure 1:** Site location at scale 1:25,000. The site is shown in red. (O.S. copyright licence number 100048723)

#### **4. Aims and Objectives of the Archaeological Watching Brief**

4.1 The aims of the project were the continual archaeological monitoring of all site groundworks during the construction stage of development, which comprised the repair of a section of the eastern churchyard boundary wall.

4.2 The objectives of the project were:

To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the area of the development site.

To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.

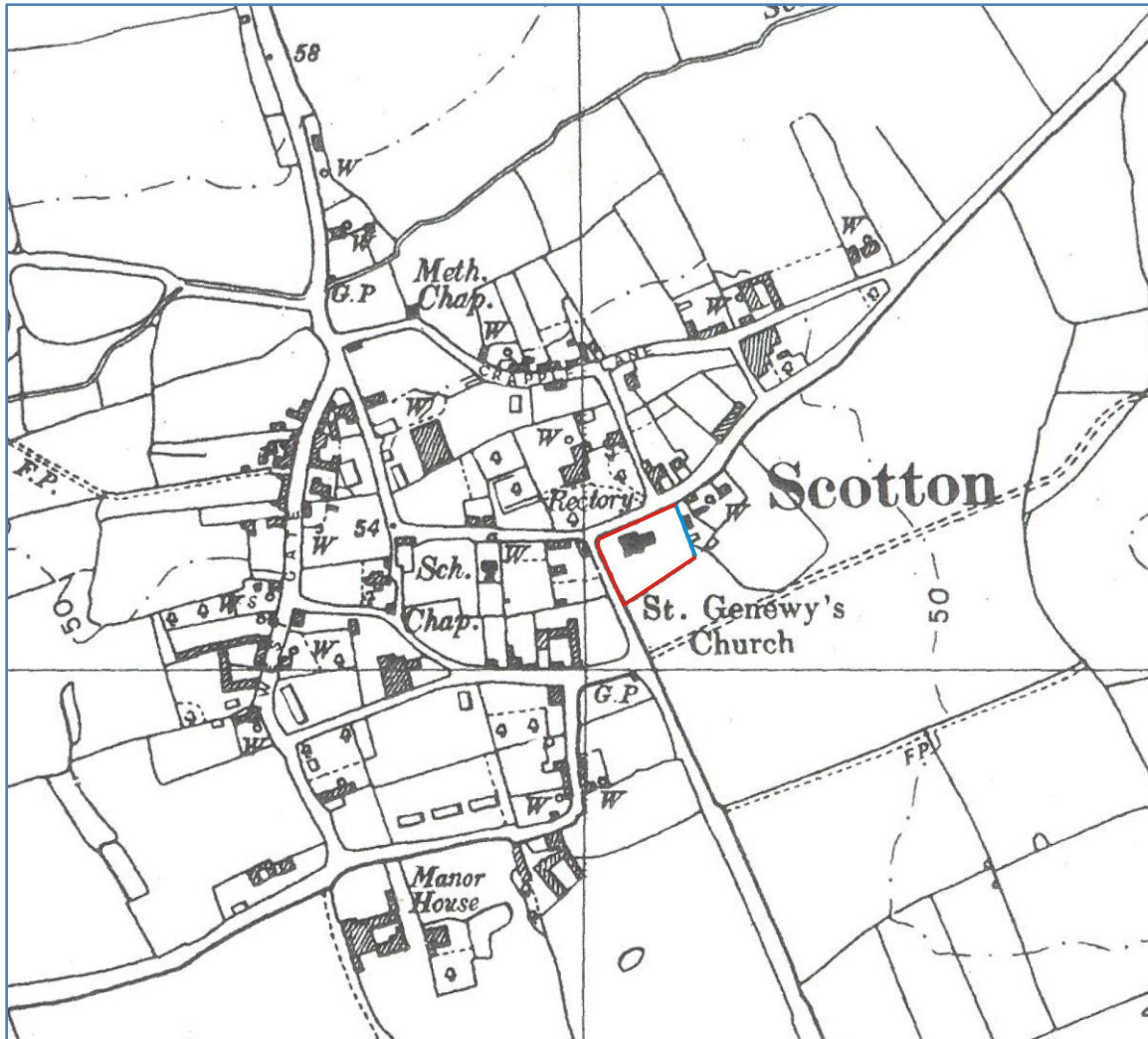
To allow the preservation by record of archaeological deposits.

4.3 The churchyard and parish church of St Genewys are situated within the historic core of the village and within one of the polyfocal historic centres of the medieval settlement. To the immediate south is the site of a former medieval manorial complex. It is considered very likely that finds associated with the medieval and post-medieval settlements of Scotton may be encountered within this site. The specific objectives of the project were to record any archaeological features, deposits, structures and finds associated with these medieval and post-medieval settlements.

#### **5. Archaeological and Historical Background**

5.1 Background research sources were consulted at the Lincolnshire Archives, the Lincoln Local Studies Library and the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Record

(HER). A search of the Lincolnshire HER was conducted within a 1km radius centred on the site.



**Figure 2:** Extract from the 1:10,560 scale Ordnance Survey map of 1956, map sheet no. SK 89 NE, showing the location of the eastern churchyard boundary wall (in blue)

- 5.2 A silver denarius of Trajan was found in the garden of the former Vicarage in 1973 and to the west of the site (HER 51271).
- 5.3 It is clear that the settlement of Scotton has late Anglo-Saxon origins from place name evidence. The earliest documentary reference to this settlement dates to AD1061-6 as *Scotun*. The place name itself is derived from the Old English *Scot* and the Old English *tun*, hence 'the farmstead/village of the Scots'. Later medieval documentary sources variously refer to this settlement as *Scottluna* (AD1157); *Scottun* (AD1167) and as *Scottona* (c.AD1180) [Cameron, 1998; Ekwall, 1991].
- 5.4 At the Domesday Survey of AD1086, lands in the parish of Scotton or *Scotune* or *Scotone* in the Wapentake of Corringham were variously held by the Abbot of Peterborough Abbey, Ivo Tallboys, Roger of Poitou and by Guy of Craon. This Domesday entry also makes reference to a mill site [Morris, 1986].

- 5.5 At the Lindsey Survey of c.AD1115, the land holdings in the parish of Scotton or *Scotluna* comprised four bovates held by Alan of Craon; four bovates held by the Count of Mortain; six carucates held by the Abbot of Peterborough Abbey and two carucates held by Ralf Mischin [Foster & Longley, 1976].
- 5.6 Scotton was documented as a larger than average medieval settlement from the late 11th century onwards. This settlement showed no signs of subsequent decline and little of growth (HER 51283). The principal manorial site here belonged to the Abbots of Peterborough Abbey. This site stood next to and at the south side of St Genewys Church and fell into disuse and disrepair in the 17th century (HER 51281). This site is identified as 'the Manor House' with Hall Close nearby on a map of Scotton of 1682 [Everson, Dunn & Taylor, 1991].
- 5.7 The present manor house in the village may stand on the second main manorial site. Despite levelling and landscaping here, there are traces of a moat around the manor house and medieval pottery has been found nearby. This second site is located around the present Manor House Farm (HER 51282) [Everson, Dunn & Taylor, 1991].
- 5.8 The settlement of Scotton is an example of a polyfocal village and has a complex morphology based upon two principal elements. The first was on an east-west axis parallel to the Scotton Beck, formed by Eastgate and Crapple Lane and including the parish church and the nearby old manorial site. The second was on a north-south axis which was formed by Westgate with perhaps a widening to a green at its southern end (HER 51283) [Everson, Dunn & Taylor, 1991].
- 5.9 The Grade I listed parish church, which is dedicated to St Genewys or Genevieve is mostly of late 13th century date (HER 51279). The church consists of a west tower, nave, chancel and north and south aisles. On the southern side of the west tower is a large blocked pointed arch, which would have opened into the south aisle. The church was restored in 1866 by G. E. Street [Pevsner & Harris, 2002].
- 5.10 Substantial parts of the parish were enclosed at the beginning of the 17th century with remnant open fields persisting into the 19th century and remaining unenclosed before 1839. Scotton Common was not enclosed until 1885 [Everson, Dunn & Taylor, 1991].
- 5.11 The site of a former Wesleyan Methodist Chapel was situated on Crapple Lane (HER 55026). This was constructed at sometime between 1851-1856 and possibly survived until the 1960s, but is no longer present. A former Primitive Methodist Chapel was located on Middle Street and was built in 1819 (HER 55027). It no longer survives.
- 5.10 Acacia Cottage on Eastgate in Scotton is a Grade II listed cottage dating from the early 19th century (HER 55850).
- 5.11 There have been several previous archaeological investigations within the search area. An archaeological watching brief was carried out at the Hollytree Nursing Home in 2004 approximately 100m to the north-west of the site (HER 55003-4, ELI5530, Site code: SHN03). This monitored the excavation of the foundation trenches for a new extension. The watching brief identified a series of undated pits, rubble spreads and wall remnants. These findings remained undated to the lack of any dateable finds being made here. A dumped deposit and a pit which could be dated to the post-medieval period were also found here [Cope-Faulkner, 2004].
- 5.12 An earthwork survey was undertaken in 1998 on land off Loughton Road on the south-western outskirts of the village (HER ELI3484, Site code: SLR98). This site contained two earthworks which had been identified from previous aerial photographic analysis undertaken by the RCHME. The surveyed features were interpreted as the possible

remnants of medieval settlement activity comprising a pair of raised platforms with surrounding ditches and what may have been a pond also of possible medieval date. A broad ditch was also identified to the north-west and was thought to be part of a medieval water management systems connecting to the adjoining pond [Trimble, 1998].

- 5.13 This earthwork survey was followed by a second stage archaeological evaluation involving the excavation of five trial trenches carried out in 1999 (HER ELI3470, Site code: LSC99). The trenches were targeted and were designed to investigate the possible earthwork platforms and their surrounding ditches. No evidence for any settlement activity was identified within the platform areas, suggesting that they represented earlier enclosures. Other finds included several undated ditches and an undated pit. The ditches defined the edges of the earthwork platforms which were enclosures which had been used for arable cultivation and are shown on the tithe map of 1839 and so were interpreted as being of post-medieval date. The pit was thought to have been used for clay extraction and truncated one of the post-medieval ditches. A small quantity of 14th - 15th century pottery and a single sherd of 10th - 11th century pottery were also found (HER 54478-9). The pond was assigned a modern date and was also probably associated with clay extraction [Albone, 1999].
- 5.14 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Laughton Road in 2005 during the groundworks for a new housing development which comprised the excavation of foundations and associated services (HER ELI7701). This watching brief did not identify any archaeological remains on this site [WYAS, 2007].
- 5.15 A map regression exercise was undertaken using published Ordnance Survey (O.S.) maps from the Lincolnshire Archives and the local studies collections of the Lincoln Central Library. The earliest map consulted comprised an extract from the tithe map for the parish of Scotton of 1839 (Archive ref: E156). This shows the site at St Genewys Church as a roughly rectangular shaped churchyard with the church set within it as a rectangular shaped building. The site is located at a crossroads. The field to the immediate site is detailed in the accompanying tithe apportionment as 'Hall Close', denoting the site of a former manorial complex.
- 5.16 The extract from the First Edition six inch to one mile scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1891 shows the churchyard bounded by trees. The parish church itself is shown in greater detail with the west tower, nave, chancel and north and south aisles featured.
- 5.17 The extract from the Second Edition six inch to one mile scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1907 shows the same layout to the area of the site, except that the bounding trees have been removed.
- 5.18 The extract from the 10:560 scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1956 shows the same layout to the area of the site as that shown on the earlier map of 1907.

## **6. Methodology**

- 6.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Neville Hall MIFA at the site on the 27th, 28th and on the 30th of May 2014. This comprised the continual archaeological monitoring and recording of the removal of a section of the existing dry stone wall of the eastern churchyard boundary wall, the removal of a tree bole and its root systems and the rebuilding of the dry stone wall where it had been affected by the growth of this tree bole.
- 6.2 Where necessary, surfaces were hand cleaned for examination and recording, and the deposit sequence revealed by the removal of this section of the eastern churchyard



boundary wall was recorded on standard *pro-forma* context recording sheets. A plan at a scale of 1:50 was compiled on site of the monitored site works. This plan is reproduced at this scale as **Figure 3** in this report. A total of two sections of the observed deposit sequence behind the removed section of the eastern churchyard boundary wall [designated as **Representative Sections 1-2**] were compiled on site at a scale of 1:20. These are similarly reproduced at this same scale also on **Figure 3**. A complimentary digital colour photographic record was also maintained, which is reproduced as **Plates 1-29, Appendix 1**. A list of contexts recorded is reproduced in **Appendix 2**.

- 6.3 All work was carried out according to the approved retrospective Specification and to the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs.

## 7. Results [Figure 3; Appendix 1, Plates 1-29]

- 7.1 The section of the eastern churchyard boundary wall, which was the subject of this archaeological watching brief measured 7.6m in length. Prior to the start of this watching brief, the churchyard wall was covered with a dense growth of ivy which was removed. This revealed a wall (**001**) constructed of coursed and unmortared angular limestone blocks (dry stone), of which twelve courses in height were visible. The limestone blocks had been roughly worked and faced. The bole and root systems of a large and mature sycamore tree had caused this section of the eastern churchyard boundary wall to bow outwards; hence the need for the replacement and repair of this section of the churchyard wall [**Plate 1**].
- 7.2 The relevant section of the eastern churchyard boundary wall was then dismantled by hand [**Plates 2-10, 12-19 and 23-24**]. This process began at the south-eastern end of this section. The hand removal of the outer face of this wall revealed an inner rubble core infill (**002**) of further loose angular limestone fragments within a matrix of redeposited natural. The hand removal of the inner face of this wall revealed a deposit sequence consisting of a graveyard soil (**003**) and an underlying natural horizon (**004**). This process also revealed that the width of this south-eastern section of wall was 0.75m. To the north-west, the width of the wall was revealed to be 0.60m [**Plates 20 and 22**]. The deposit sequence was recorded within two sections, designated as **Representative Sections 1 and 2** [**Plates 11 and 21**]. The boundary wall was removed down to ground levels with the wall foundations remaining intact.
- 7.3 The sycamore tree appears to have been planted in the 1860s and was probably part of the restoration works of 1866. This section of the eastern churchyard boundary wall appears to have probably post-dated this tree planting and so may be of late 19th century date. The hand removal of the stone walling also revealed the extent of the tree bole and the root systems, which were extensive. To the north-west, the hand removal of the stone walling also identified some modern 20th century repair work where the limestone blocks were bonded by a light buff sandy lime mortar.
- 7.4 The removal of the tree bole and the relatively shallow root systems were then removed to allow the final completion of the dismantling of this section of the churchyard boundary wall down to ground level [**Plates 25-29**]. During these final stages, two fragments of disarticulated human bone were recovered from the graveyard soil (**003**) and were collected for eventual reburial.

## **8. Discussion and Conclusions**

- 8.1 All of the groundworks pertaining to this project, which comprised the hand removal and dismantling of a section of the stone walling of the eastern churchyard boundary wall and the removal of a mature tree bole and its root systems were continually monitored and recorded.
- 8.2 The removal by hand of the dry stone wall fabric of a section of the eastern churchyard boundary wall, consisting of the outer and inner faces along with an internal rubble core, identified a simple deposit sequence which consisted of a graveyard soil overlying an undisturbed natural subsoil horizon. Two fragments of disarticulated human bone were recovered from the graveyard soil for eventual reburial.
- 8.3 The growth of a mature sycamore tree bole and its root systems had over decades caused this section of the eastern churchyard boundary wall to bow outwards. This had necessitated the removal of this prior to the reinstatement of the boundary wall. The sycamore tree had probably been planted as part of the church restoration of the 1860s and this section of the churchyard boundary wall probably post-dated this planting. The boundary wall also showed some evidence of modern 20th century repair.

## **9. Effectiveness of Methodology and Confidence Rating**

- 9.1 The methodology chosen clearly demonstrated the nature of the archaeological activity and of the nature of the deposit sequence on this site; while providing sufficient time to record the deposit sequence observed. It is considered that the implemented methodology was sufficient to confirm both the nature of the archaeological activity and the nature of the deposit sequences present within the area of the site with a high degree of confidence.

## **10. Acknowledgements**

- 10.1 Thanks are gratefully extended to Mr. David Sterry and his clients – the Vicar and Churchwardens of St. Genewys Church for commissioning this work. Thanks are also extended to Ms. Louise Jennings, the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor, to Mark Bennet of the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record and to the staff of the Lincolnshire Archives and of the Lincoln Central Library for their kind assistance.

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## Appendix 1: Plates



**Plate 1:** Removal of ivy overgrowth from the eastern churchyard boundary wall, from the south-east



**Plate 2:** Removal of the existing dry stone wall from the eastern churchyard boundary wall, from the north-east



**Plate 3:** As Plate 2, from the north-east



**Plate 4:** As Plate 2, from the north-east



**Plate 5:** As Plate 2, from the north-east



**Plate 6:** As Plate 2, from the north-east





**Plate 7:** As **Plate 2**, from the south-east



**Plate 10:** As **Plate 2**, from the north-east



**Plate 8:** As **Plate 2**, from the south-east



**Plate 11:** Representative Section 1, from the east



**Plate 9:** As **Plate 2**, from the north-east



**Plate 12:** As **Plate 2**, from the south-east





**Plate 13:** As **Plate 2**, from the south-east



**Plate 16:** As **Plate 2**, from the south-east



**Plate 14:** As **Plate 2**, from the south-east



**Plate 17:** As **Plate 2**, from the north-east



**Plate 15:** As **Plate 2**, from the north-east



**Plate 18:** As **Plate 2**, from the north-east





**Plate 19:** As **Plate 2**, from the north-east



**Plate 21:** Representative **Section 2**, from the east



**Plate 20:** Exposed south-eastern end of the churchyard boundary wall section, from the north-east



**Plate 22:** Exposed north-western end of the churchyard boundary wall section, from the south-east





**Plate 23:** As **Plate 2**, from the north-east



**Plate 26:** As **Plate 25**, from the south-east



**Plate 24:** As **Plate 2**, from the south-east



**Plate 27:** As **Plate 25**, from the south-east



**Plate 25:** View of the removed tree bole & root systems & removal of the existing dry stone wall from the eastern churchyard boundary wall, from the north-east



**Plate 28:** Completed removal of the dry stone wall of the eastern churchyard boundary wall, from the south-east





**Plate 29:** As **Plate 28**, from the north-east

## Appendix 2: List of Contexts

- 001** Eastern churchyard boundary wall of which some 7.60m in length was the subject of this archaeological watching brief. Constructed of coursed and unmortared angular limestone blocks, (dry stone walling) of which twelve courses in height were visible. The limestone blocks had been roughly worked and faced. Of probable later 19th century date with some evidence of modern 20th century repair. Recorded within **Representative Sections 1-2**. Height - 1.40m-1.45m. Width - 0.60m-0.75m.
- 002** Rubble infill core of the eastern churchyard boundary wall revealed by the removal of the outer face of the wall. Composed of a redeposited friable, light orange brown sandy silt matrix (natural) with small-medium angular limestone fragments 30%.
- 003** Graveyard soil revealed by the removal of the inner face of the wall. Friable, dark grey brown sandy silt. Above (**004**). Recorded within **Representative Sections 1-2**. Depth - 0.96m.
- 004** Natural horizon. Friable, light orange brown sandy silt. Below (**003**). Recorded within **Representative Sections 1-2**. Depth - >0.78m.

**Appendix 3: OASIS Summary Sheet**

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