

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND
RECORDING AT
ST ANDREW'S CHURCH,
HECKINGTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(HSAC 12)**

**Work Undertaken For
Tim Benton Chartered Architect**

December 2012

Report Compiled by
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APS Report No. **110/12**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



Quality Control
 St Andrew's Church
 Heckington
 HSAC 12

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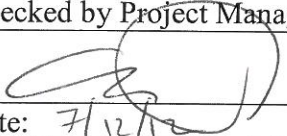
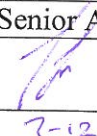
Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
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Date: 7/12/12	Date: 7-12-12

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1. SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken at St Andrew's Church, Heckington, Lincolnshire. The investigations monitored the excavation of new drainage trenches.

The church is of the medieval period (AD 1066-1540) with the majority of the building erected during the early 14th century. The medieval church is believed to have replaced an earlier, possibly Late Saxon (AD 850-1066), church.

The investigations revealed a sequence of natural, undated, medieval and post-medieval deposits. Undated deposits include two ditches and a posthole, of which one ditch may represent the former churchyard boundary. Medieval deposits relate to the foundations of the 14th century church. Graveyard, path deposits and a pit are of post-medieval or later date. Finds from the investigation include pottery of Late Saxon to post-medieval date and 14th – 17th century floor tiles. Glass and a chisel were also collected.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Tim Benton Chartered Architect to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with new drainage trenches at St Andrew's Church, Heckington, Lincolnshire. The investigations were carried out on the 25th and 26th October 2012.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Heckington is located approximately 8km east of Sleaford and 32km southwest of Lincoln in the administrative district of North Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

St Andrew's Church is located slightly north of the centre of the village at National Grid Reference TF 1427 4411 (Fig. 2). Lying east of Church Street and north of St Andrew's Street, the church sits on the elevated ground of the graveyard at a height of c. 13.4m OD.

Local soils comprise the Beccles 3 Association, typical stagnogley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 121). These are developed on glaciofluvial outwash comprising sands and gravels, which, in turn, overlies glacial till and seals a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (BGS 1995).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Heckington is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Hechintone* and *Echintune*, the name derives from Old English and means 'the tûn (village or farmstead) associated with or belonging to *Heca* (Cameron 1998, 62).

At the time of the Domesday Survey, the land was held principally by Gilbert de Gand and Colsuain and contained 127 acres of meadow, 3 fisheries and a church with resident priest (Foster and Longley 1976, 24/40; 26/27). Smaller parcels of land were sokeland of Evedon, Howell, Caythorpe and Burgh (a lost village near Kirby La Thorpe) and were held by the King, the Bishop of Lincoln, Robert de Veci, Guy of Craon and Colegrim (*ibid.* 1/3; 7/47; 37/7; 57/31; 67/6).

St Andrew's church dates from the early 14th century, presumably replacing the earlier church referred to in the Domesday Survey, with most of the work assigned to Richard de Potesgrave, rector of the church between 1308 and 1345. He was responsible for the building of the chancel in 1328 and other parts of the church including the south porch (Wilson 1980, 24). The north transept and nave are slightly earlier and the tower is of c. 1330 (*ibid.*).

3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Service trenches were excavated by machine from the west end of the south aisle and the tower to depths required by the development. Following excavation, the sides of the trenches were then cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were excavated further to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their function. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at 1:20. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Following excavation finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 2). The records were also checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them and supplemented by artefact dating.

5. RESULTS

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

The earliest deposit encountered during the works was a natural layer of yellowish brown sandy silt with gravel (022). This

was encountered within the deeper excavation at the western end of the works.

Three features were identified cut into the natural. The more easterly (017) was aligned northeast-southwest and measured over 0.6m long and was wider than 0.3m (Fig. 4, Section 5). A single fill of greyish brown silty sand (016) was identified.

Immediately to the northwest of this feature was a posthole (024). This was 0.7m long by 0.5m wide and 0.15m deep (Fig. 4, Section 4). Two fills were recorded, a packing deposit of greyish brown silty sand with gravel (025) with a main fill of yellowish brown sandy silt (023).

Situated in the northwest corner of the area of deeper excavation was a northeast-southwest aligned ditch (019). Measuring over 1.5m long by over 0.9m wide it was not excavated during the investigation. A single fill of yellowish brown clayey silt (018) was recorded.

Sealing these three features was a dumped deposit of greyish brown sandy silt with gravel (015) that measured up to 0.28m thick and contained a fragment of floor tile dating to between the 14th and 17th centuries.

This dumped deposit was sealed by a graveyard soil, comprising a 0.19m thick layer of greyish brown silty sand (014) which was in turn overlain by a grey to yellowish brown sandy gravel (013), perhaps from a former path.

Developed over the path was a former topsoil of brownish grey sandy silt (012) that was 0.18m thick. A former surface/path of compacted yellowish brown sandy gravel (011) overlay this.

Overlying the possible surface (011) was a former topsoil of greyish brown silty sand (010) which was sealed by a third

surface/path (009), also of compacted yellowish brown gravel and sand. A fragment of 19th century bottle glass was retrieved from (009).

Of uncertain relationship to (011), but cut into (012), and probably (009), was the north-south aligned foundation trench for the churchyard wall (021). This was over 0.2m wide by 0.9m deep and contained a fill of yellowish brown sandy silt with limestone fragments (020).

Sealing the latter surface and also evident in the northern drainage trench was a graveyard soil (008). This consisted of yellowish grey silty clay and was up to 0.2m thick (Fig. 4, Sections 2 and 5).

The earliest feature in the northern drainage trench was the stepped limestone foundations of the west tower (006 and 007). Only a single block of each was visible within the trench (Fig. 4, Section 3).

Sealing these foundations and overlying the earlier graveyard soil (008) was a further graveyard soil (002). This measured over 0.4m thick and contained a single sherd of Late Saxon Stamford Ware.

Cut into this graveyard soil in the southern trench was feature (005). This measured 1.5m wide and was over 0.4m deep (Fig. 4, Section 2). Within this cut were the stepped foundation courses of the southern tower buttress (004). The cut had been backfilled with yellowish brown sandy silt (003).

A further feature (027) was recorded within the northern trench. Possibly a pit, it was 2m wide by 0.4m deep (Fig. 4, Section 6) and contained a fill of brownish grey silty sand (026) from which 14th – 17th century floor tile was recovered.

Sealing all deposits was the current topsoil, comprising greyish brown silty sand (001) that was 0.2m thick. Medieval

and post-medieval pottery was retrieved from this layer along with glass and a possible chisel.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits of sandy silt with gravel relate to the underlying drift geology of glaciofluvial outwash.

The earliest deposits encountered during the investigation comprise the foundations of the 14th century tower. Three cut features, two ditches and a posthole, are also early but produced no dating evidence. However, these were sealed by a dumped deposit containing 14th – 17th century floor tile. The more westerly ditch may represent the former churchyard boundary.

Most of the layers encountered are graveyard deposits, apart from a sequence of paths and topsoil formation located in the westernmost trench, where the foundation cut for the current churchyard wall was also encountered. A pit of uncertain function was also recorded adjacent to the tower.

Finds retrieved from the investigation include Late Saxon to post-medieval pottery, 14th – 17th century floor tile, post-medieval glass and an iron chisel.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were carried out at St Andrew's church, Heckington, as deposits relating to the development of the church may have been affected by the insertion of drainage trenches.

The investigations revealed three undated cut features, one of which may have been a former churchyard boundary. Foundations relating to the 14th century church tower were also partially revealed. Many other deposits relate to the use of the site as a

graveyard with a small number of paths and a pit also recorded.

Finds retrieved from the investigation include Late Saxon pottery. Medieval and post-medieval pottery and floor tile was also recovered along with glass and an iron chisel.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr T Benton for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

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 Site Supervisor: Gary Taylor
 Finds processing: Denise Buckley
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services
 BGS British Geological Survey
 IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

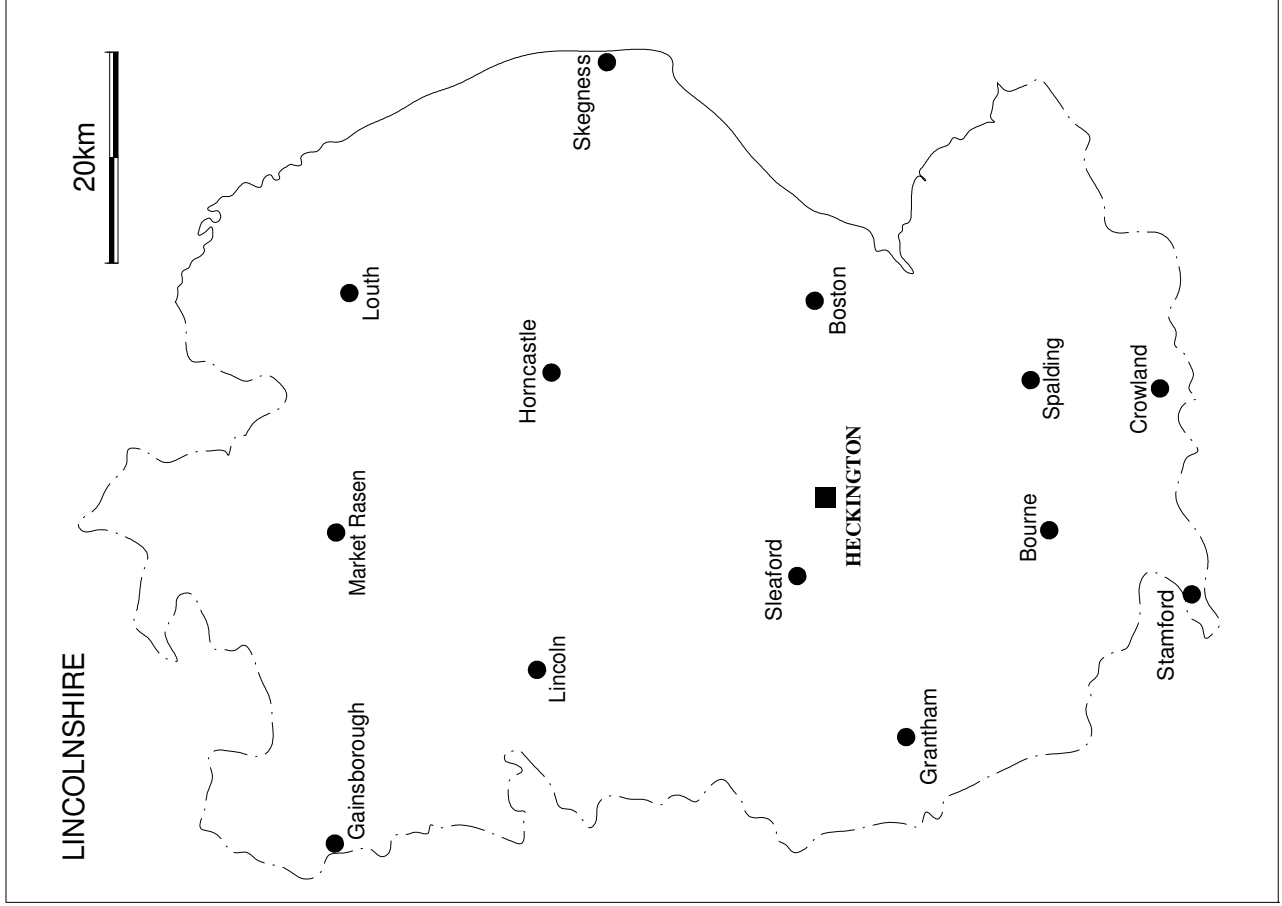


Figure 1 - General location plan

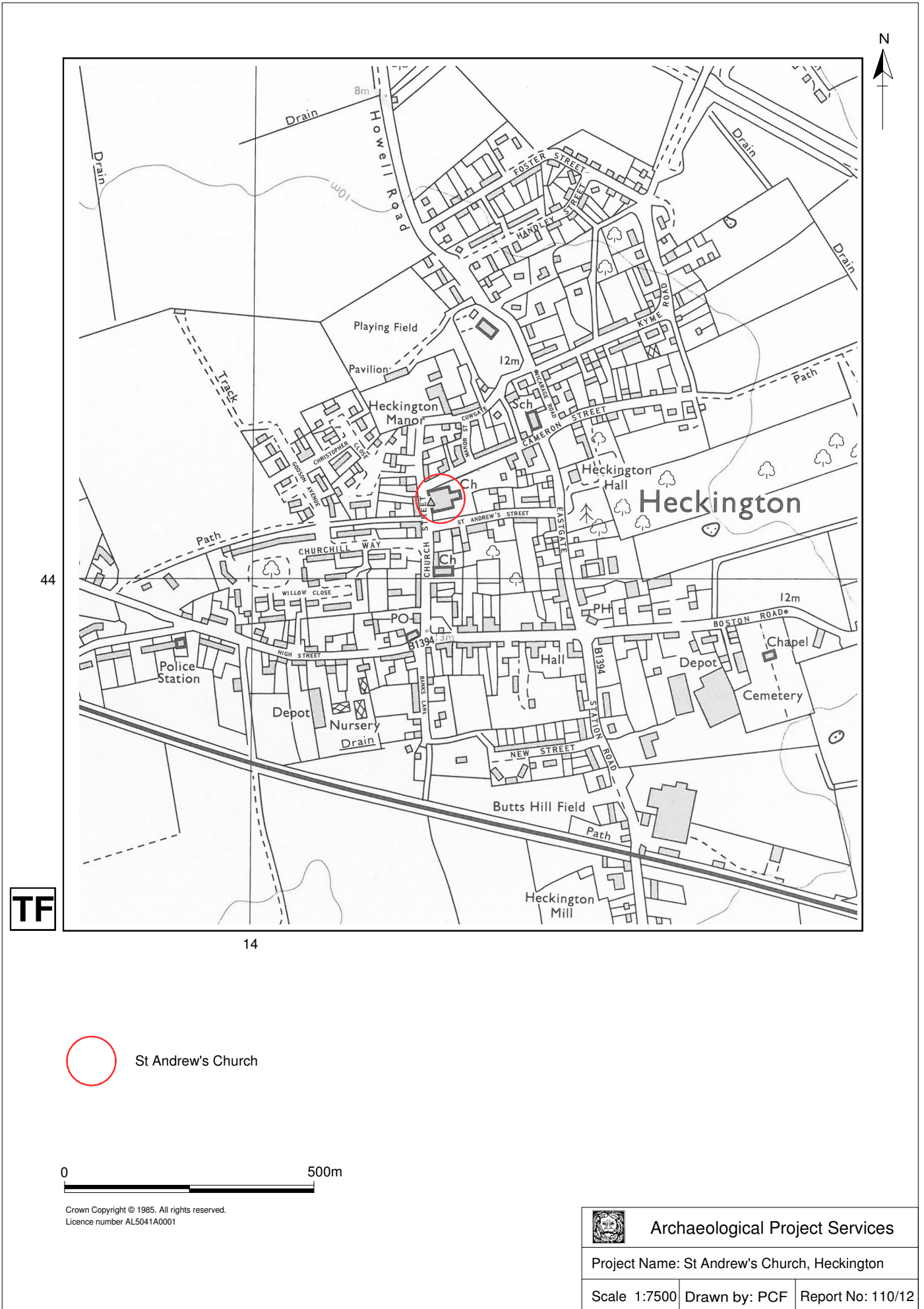
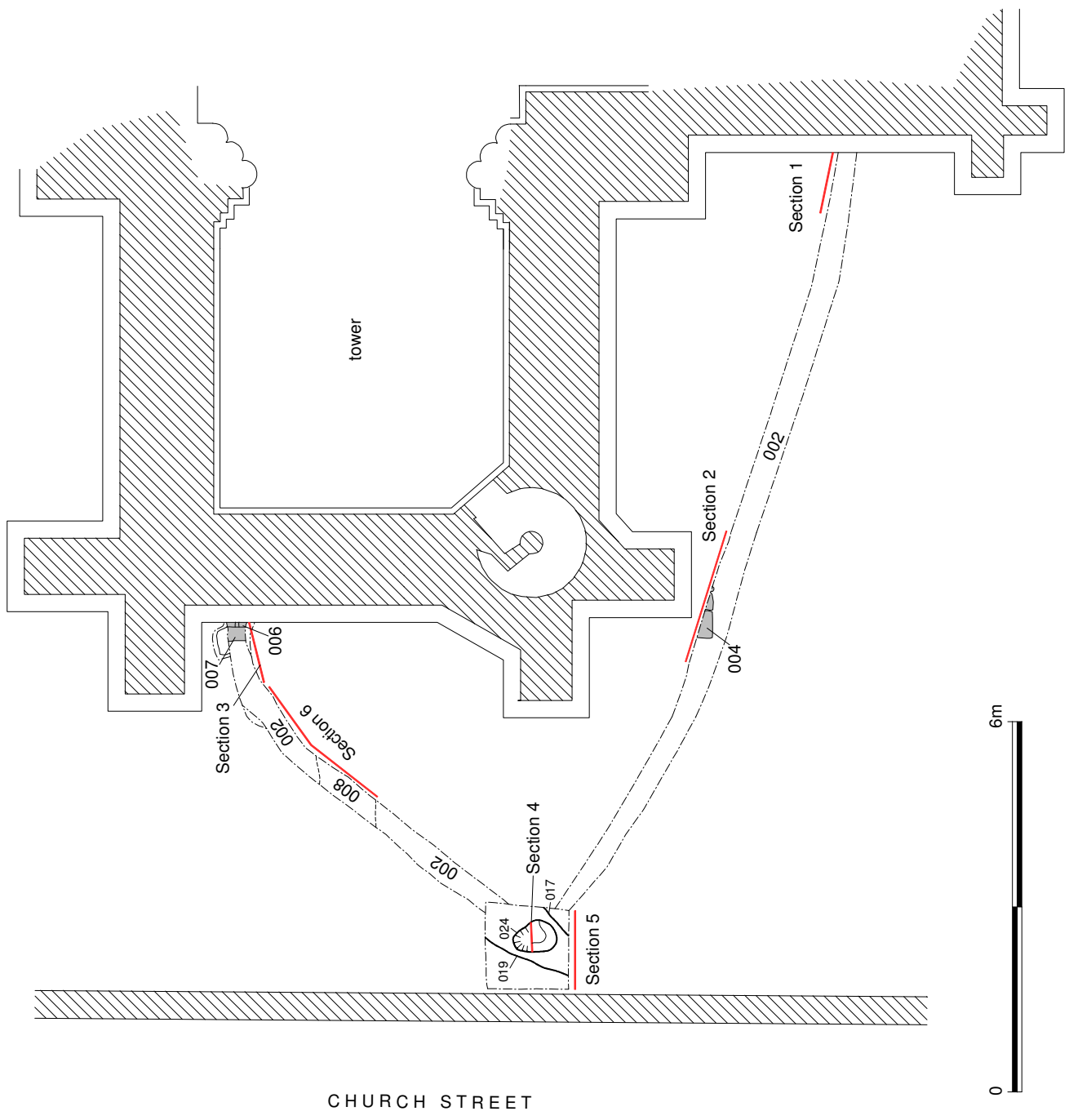
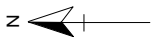


Figure 2 - Site location plan

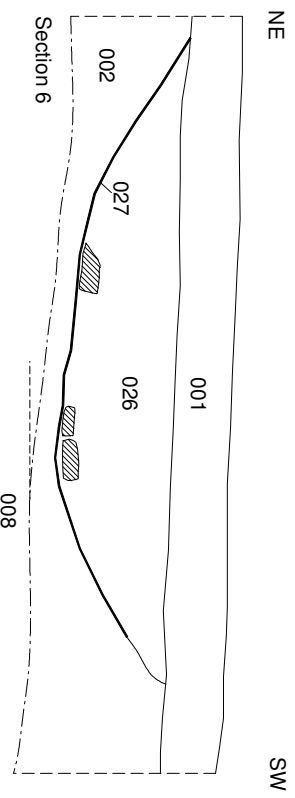
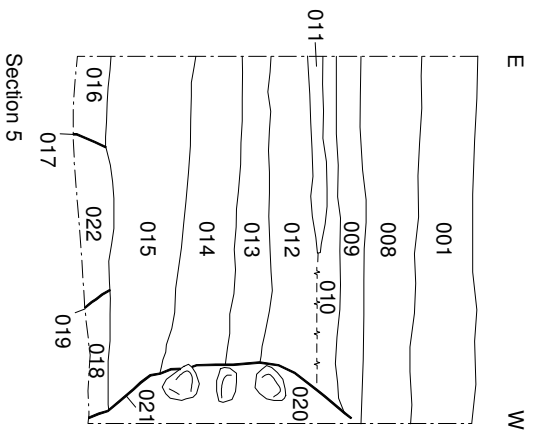
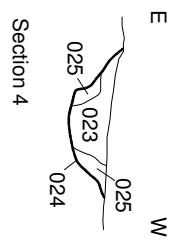
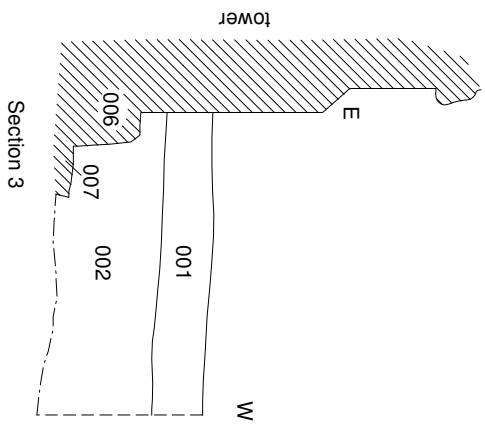
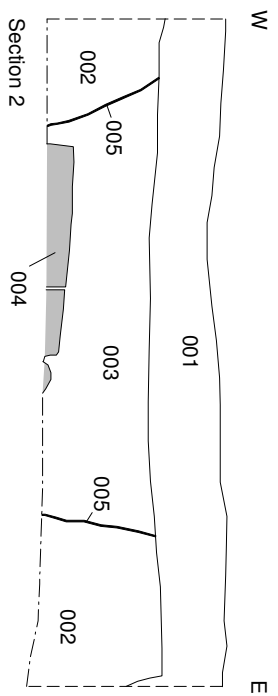
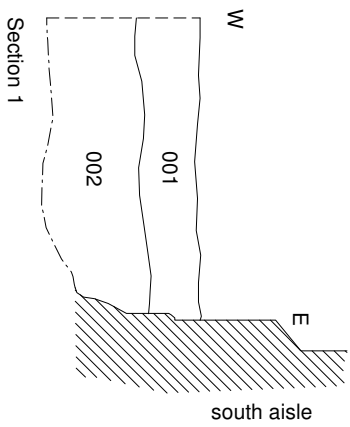


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Scale 1:100 Drawn by: PCF Report No: 110/12

Figure 3 - Plan showing the extent of works, principal features and section locations



 brick/tile



Archaeological Project Services

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Scale 1:25 Drawn by: PCF Report No.: 110/12

Figure 4 - Sections 1 to 6



Plate 1 – General view of the west end of St Andrew's church showing the area of works, looking northeast



Plate 2 - Section 2 showing tower foundations (004), looking north



Plate 3 – Section 3, looking east



Plate 4 – View of the western trench showing sections 4 and 5, looking south



Plate 5 – Section 6 showing pit (027), looking northeast

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Firm dark greyish brown silty sand, 0.2m thick	Topsoil
002	Firm mid brownish grey silty sand with moderate to abundant gravel, >0.4m thick	Graveyard soil
003	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy silt	Backfill within (005)
004	Limestone structure, laid flat in a single course, no bonding, 0.8m by 0.2m extent by 0.2m high	Buttress foundation
005	Feature, 1.5m wide by >0.4m deep, steep sides, not fully excavated	Foundation trench for (004)
006	Limestone structure, single course, aligned north-south, 0.4m by 0.1m extent by 0.2m high	Stepped foundation for tower
007	Limestone structure, single block visible, 0.3m by 0.25m extent by 40mm high	Stepped foundation for tower
008	Firm mid yellowish grey silty sand, 0.2m thick	Graveyard soil
009	Firm to compacted mid yellowish brown gravel and sand, 90mm thick	?surface
010	Firm mid greyish brown silty sand, 70mm thick	Former topsoil
011	Compacted mid yellowish brown sandy gravel, 60mm thick	?surface
012	Firm mid brownish grey sandy silt, 0.18m thick	Former topsoil
013	Firm mid grey to yellowish brown sandy gravel, 0.14m thick	?surface
014	Firm mid greyish brown silty sand, 0.19m thick	Graveyard soil
015	Firm mid greyish brown sandy silt with abundant gravel, 0.28m thick	Dumped deposit
016	Firm mid greyish brown silty sand	Fill of (017)
017	?Linear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, >0.6m long by >0.3m wide, steep sides, not fully excavated	Ditch
018	Firm mid yellowish brown clayey silt	Fill of (019)
019	Curvilinear feature, aligned northeast-southwest, >1.5m long by >0.9m wide by >0.1m deep, moderate sides, not fully excavated	Ditch
020	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy silt with abundant large stones	Fill of (021)
021	Linear feature, aligned north-south, >0.2m wide by 0.9m deep, steep sides, not fully excavated	Foundation trench
022	Compacted mid yellowish brown sandy silt with abundant gravel	Natural deposit
023	Firm mid yellowish brown sandy silt	Fill of (024)
024	Oval feature, 0.7m long by 0.5m wide by 0.15m deep, moderate sides and rounded base	Posthole
025	Firm mid greyish brown silty sand with abundant gravel	Fill of (024)
026	Firm mid brownish grey silty sand	Fill of (027)
027	Feature, 2m wide by 0.4m deep, gradual sides, not fully excavated	Pit

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005). A total of five sherds from five vessels, weighing 109 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1 below. The pottery ranges in date from the Late Saxon to the post-medieval period.

Condition

The pottery is fragmentary but not overly abraded.

Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Sub Fab	Form	Part	Description	Date	NoS	NoV	Weight
001	BOU	Bourne 'D' Ware	Smooth	Jug or Jar	BS	Thin orange glaze	16th-M17th	1	1	18
001	BOUA	Medieval Bourne Ware - Fabrics A, B,C and E	B	Jug or Jar	BS		M12th-14th	1	1	17
001	STMO	Staffordshire Mottled Ware		Mug	Base		L17th-18th	1	1	26
001	TOY	Toynton Medieval Ware		Bowl	BS		L13th-15th	1	1	46
002	ST	Stamford Ware	E	?	BS	Sooted internally	M9th-M11th	1	1	2
Total								5	5	109

Provenance

Four sherds came from the topsoil (001), whilst a single piece was recovered from graveyard soil (002).

Range

There is a range of pottery types, including early Stamford ware (ST), which is likely to be Late Saxon in date, Medieval Bourne and Toynton wares (BOUA, TOY) and post-medieval Staffordshire mottled and Bourne 'D' Wares (STMO and BOU). The small fragment of Stamford ware is the only piece not to come from topsoil, this deriving from graveyard soil (002).

Potential

There is limited potential for further work. The pottery should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long term storage.

Summary

A small group of five sherds of pottery was recovered during the watching brief. These pieces range in date from the Late Saxon to the post-medieval period. Four came from the topsoil (001) whilst the fifth was retrieved from a layer of graveyard soil (002).

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the ACBMG (2001) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. A total of two fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 711 grams was recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 2 below.

Condition

Both fragments have reoxidised broken edges, suggesting they were burnt after removal from the structure in which they were placed. One fragment has a worn surface caused by its use as a floor tile.

Results

Table 2, Ceramic Building Material Archive

Context	Cname	Full Name	Fabric	Description	Date	NoF	Weight
015	FLOOR	Floor Tile	OX/R/OX; fine; Ca	Handmade; reoxidised over break; 29mm thick; deep strike marks	14th-17th	1	416
026	FLOOR	Floor Tile	OX/R/OX; fine; Ca	Worn upper surface; large Ca grits up to 10mm; reoxidised over break; probably PM	14th-17th	1	295
Total						2	711

Provenance

One piece came from dump deposit (015), whilst the second was recovered from feature [027].

Range

There are two pieces of floor tile (FLOOR). These are in a fine calcareous fabric type typical of the fenland areas of south Lincolnshire. Unlike many earlier medieval examples, these tiles are relatively large with roughly finished surfaces and poorly treated clay. They are probably later medieval or post-medieval in date.

Potential

There is no potential for further work. The ceramic building material should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long term storage.

Summary

Two floor tiles, probably later medieval or post-medieval in date, were recovered during the watching brief.

GLASS

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

Four pieces of glass together weighing 17g were recovered.

Condition

Although naturally fragile the glass is in moderate-good condition. All of the pieces exhibit iridescent decay.

Results

Table 3, Glass Archive

Cxt	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
001	Very pale blue-green bottle neck, heat-rolled rim, slight iridescence, 19 th century	1	11	19 th century
	Very pale green window glass, heavy iridescence, late post-medieval	1	1	
	Opaque, decayed window glass, fire rounded edge, iridescence, early post-medieval	1	1	
009	Green bottle, heavy iridescence	1	4	19 th century

Provenance

The glass was recovered from the topsoil (001) and a possible surface (009).

Range

Two pieces of vessel glass and two fragments of window were recovered. Most of the pieces are probably 19th century though one of the fragments of window glass is earlier, perhaps dating from the 16th-17th centuries.

Potential

The glass is of limited potential, other than providing some dating evidence.

OTHER FINDS

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

A single other object weighing 53g was recovered.

Condition

The other find is in moderate condition but heavily corroded.

Results

Table 4, Other Materials

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
001	iron	Possible bit/coarse chisel, rectangular cross-section, slight shoulder separating tang from working point	1	53	

Provenance

The other find was recovered from the topsoil.

Range

A single item was recovered. This has a rectangular cross-section and is double-ended, tapering to points from a central shoulder. A tang is indicated by the narrower terminal which would have been encased in a handle. The heavier terminal is the working end and is quite thick, tapering to a broad point. It may be a masonry chisel that has lost its handle, which was probably of wood. It is a little similar to mill picks, used for dressing millstones, as found in Norwich in medieval and post-medieval horizons (Goodall 1993, 181).

Potential

The other find is of limited potential but may relate to repairs or other work on the stone of the church.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 5 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 5, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
001	Topsoil	
002	M9th-M11th	Graveyard soil
009	19th	Based on 1 glass
015	14th-17th	Based on CBM
026	14th-17th	Based on CBM

ABBREVIATIONS

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
BS	Body sherd
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
W (g)	Weight (grams)

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Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

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 interpretations 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> (004).
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.
Dumped deposits	These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground surface.
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 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.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

27	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
8	Sheets of scale drawings
2	Daily record sheets
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Bag of finds

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:

The Collection
Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire
Danes Terrace
Lincoln
LN2 1LP

Accession Number: LCNCC: 2012.145

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: HSAC 12

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 the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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