
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND
RECORDING AT
ST MARY AND ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH,
SPALDING,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SSMN 17)**

Work Undertaken For
**The Parochial Church Council of
St Mary and St Nicholas**

April 2017

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) ACIfA

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APS Report No. **16/17**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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1. SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken at St Mary and St Nicholas' Church, Spalding, Lincolnshire. The investigations monitored the excavation of new service and drainage trenches at the west end of the church.

The church is of the medieval period (AD 1066-1540) with construction dating from AD 1282-84 following an agreement with William de Littleport, Prior of Spalding Priory. Some elements of an earlier cemetery chapel survive within the chancel, though much of the church dates to the Early English period (AD 1180-1275) and later.

The investigations revealed only a graveyard deposit sealed by the current topsoil. The nature of graveyard deposits may indicate that earlier remains may survive at depth.

Finds retrieved during the investigation comprise a fragment of 19th century clay pipe and a possible modern earthing rod.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as “*a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits maybe disturbed or destroyed.*” (CIfA 2014).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by EB McEvedy Historic Buildings Consultants on behalf of the

Parochial Church Council to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with a new drainage trench and the provision of a water supply to the church. The archaeological investigations were carried out between the 25th and 31st January 2017.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Spalding is situated 23km southwest of Boston and 30km southeast of Sleaford, in the administrative district of South Holland, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The church of St Mary and St Nicholas is located 280m southeast of the centre of Spalding, as defined by the Market Place, at National Grid Reference TF 2502 2243 (Fig. 2). The church lies on the east bank of the canalised River Welland on the south side of Church Street. The church lies at c. 4m OD on generally level ground.

Local soils have not been mapped as the area is urban, but are likely to have originated as either calcareous alluvial gley soils of the Wisbech Series or gleyic brown calcareous alluvial soils of the Romney Series (Robson 1990, 26; 36). These soils are developed upon a drift geology of younger marine alluvium (BGS 1992).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Spalding is first mentioned in c. 1074. Referred to as *Spaldingis*, the name is derived from the Old English and means ‘the people of the *Spalde*’, the *Spalde* being a tribal name first recorded in the 7th or 8th century in a tribute list known as the Tribal Hideage (Cameron 1998, 114). Its first mention is within the cartulary of Spalding Priory.

The Domesday Survey of c. 1086 records that the land was principally held by Ivo Taillebois with smaller estates belonging to Crowland Abbey and Guy de Craon and

contained a market, six fisheries, a number of salt-pans and a wood of alders (Foster and Longley 1976).

St Mary and St Nicholas' church replaced an earlier parish church which was situated in the Market Place. The parish church was in poor condition by the 13th century and as there was some consternation between the monks of Spalding Priory, Prior William de Littleport granted to the parishioners a new site on the east bank of the Welland where there existed a cemetery chapel dedicated to St Thomas Beckett. The new church was constructed following the agreement in about AD 1282-4 (Anon 1882).

The earliest part of the church are the lower foundation course within the chancel which are all that survives of the cemetery chapel of St Thomas Beckett. The west end of the church, adjacent to the investigation area comprises the Early English door and south aisle along with the later north aisle and tower (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 670).

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

Trenches for the new drains and services were excavated by machine in the graveyard to the west of the church to depths required by the development (Fig. 3).

Once excavated, the side of the trenches were 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. 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 graveyard deposit comprising yellowish brown clayey silt (002) that measured in excess of 0.3m thick (Fig. 4, Sections 1 to 3).

Sealing the graveyard soil was the current topsoil of greyish brown clayey silt (001).

6. DISCUSSION

Only graveyard deposits and the current topsoil were encountered during the investigation. No other archaeological deposits were encountered, though as trenches were generally shallow, these may lie at a greater depth.

Finds retrieved from the investigation comprised a single fragment of a 19th century clay pipe and a modern earthing rod, a typical find within a churchyard and where lightning conductors were affixed to the ground.

7. CONCLUSION

A programme of archaeological works were undertaken at the church of St Mary and St Nicholas' church as deposits associated with the development of the buildings could potentially be affected by the development.

Due to the shallow depth of the trenches, only graveyard soils and topsoil were affected by the works. Clay pipe and an earthing rod were the only items retrieved from the investigation.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Eleanor McEvedy for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis on behalf of the Parochial Church Council. The work was coordinated by Paul Cope-Faulkner who edited this report along with Gail Graham. Elizabeth Bates kindly allowed access to the library and parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Site Supervisor: Mark Peachey
 Finds processing: Denise Buckley
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

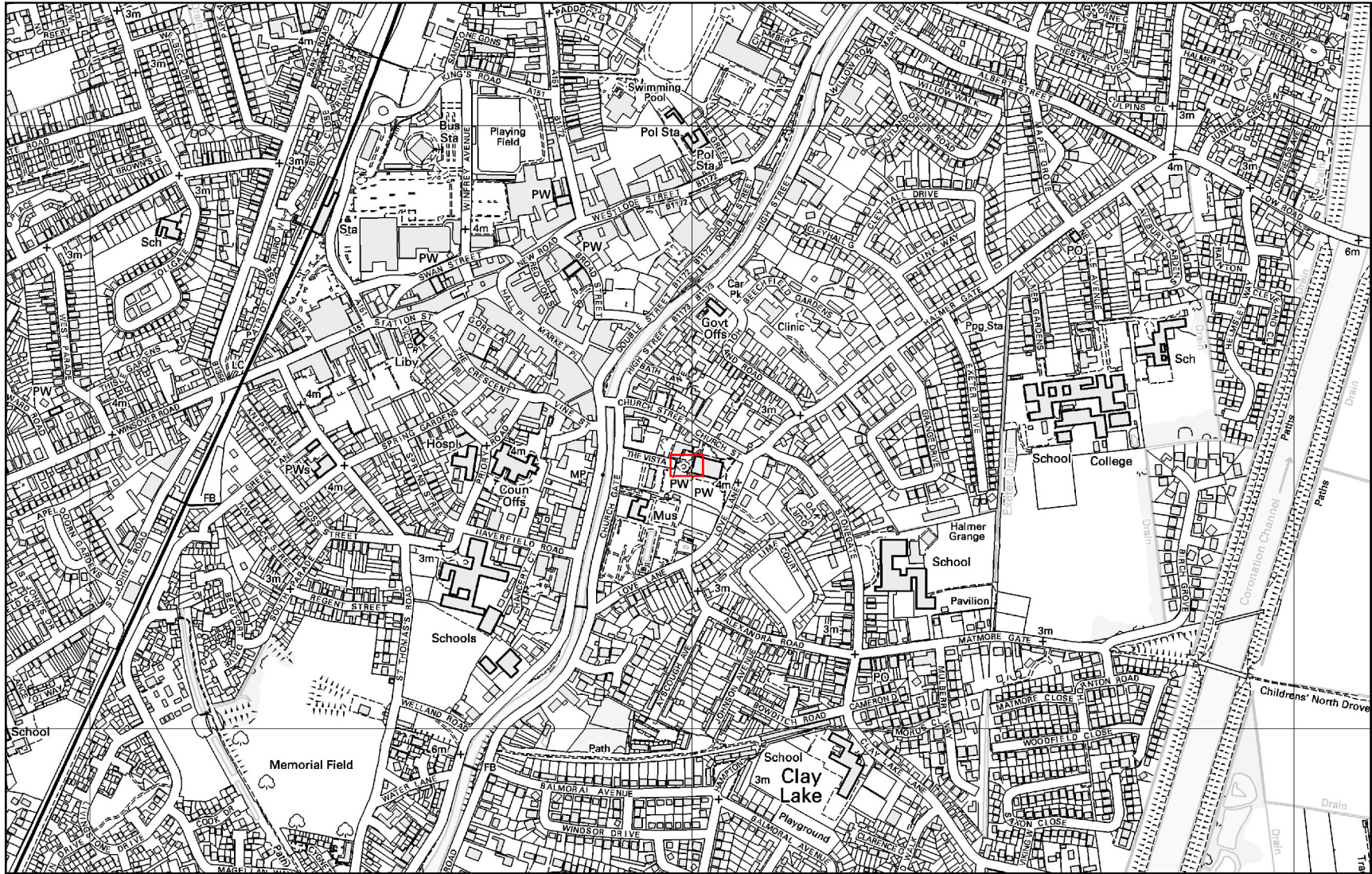
APS Archaeological Project Services
 BGS British Geological Survey
 CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists



Figure 1 - General location plan

23

22



TF



Area detailed in Figure 3

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 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: St Mary & St Nicholas' Church, Spalding		
Scale 1:10,000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 16/17

Figure 2 - Site location plan

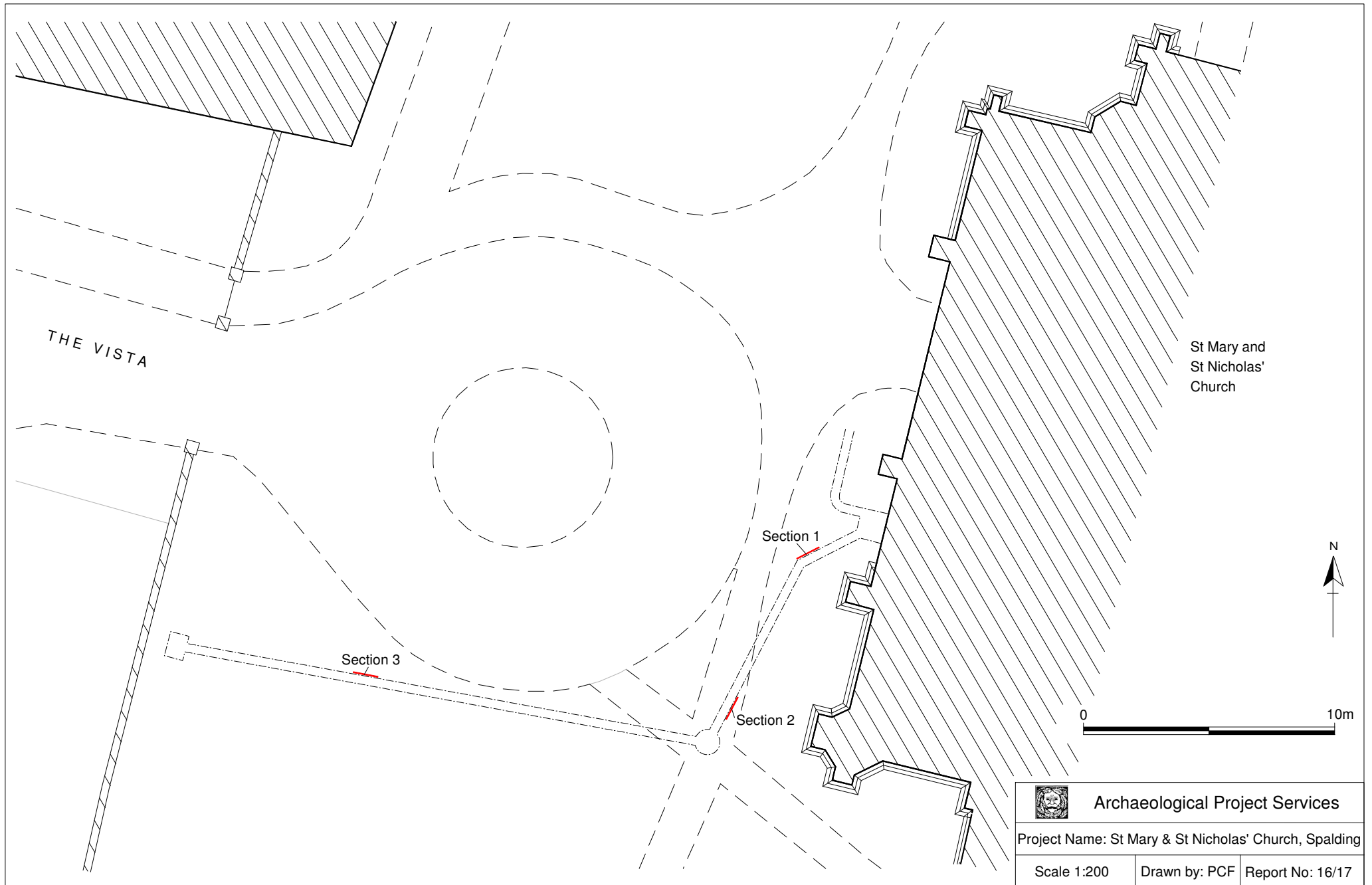
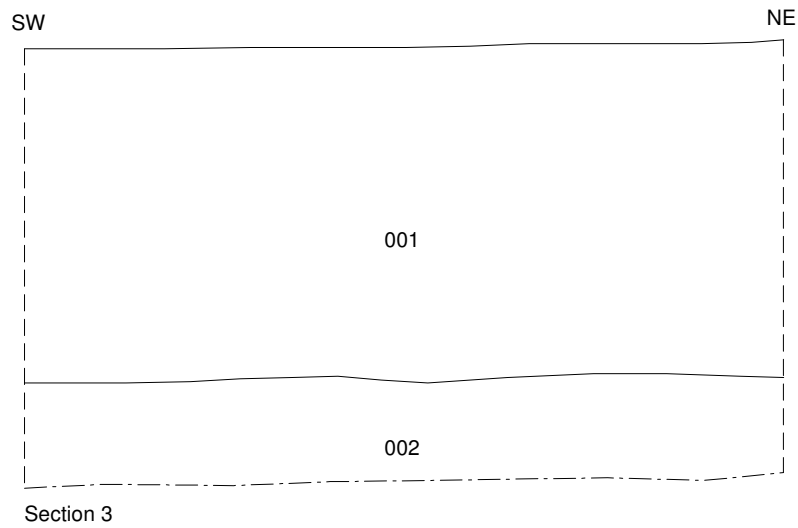
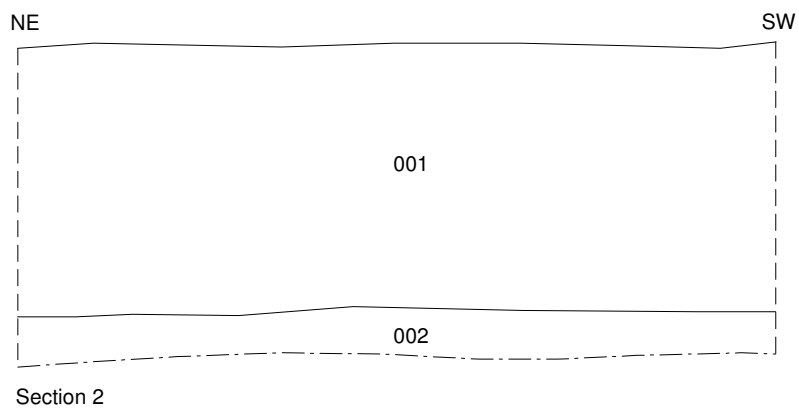
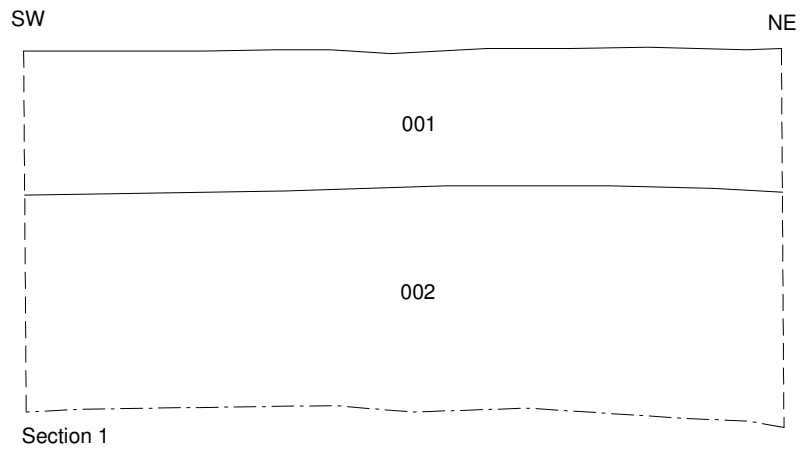


Figure 3 - Plan showing the arrangement of excavated areas and section locations




 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: St Mary & St Nicholas' Church, Spalding		
Scale 1:10	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 16/17

Figure 4 - Sections 1 to 3



Plate 1 – General view of the west end of the church, prior to excavation, looking southeast



Plate 2 – General view of the works in progress, looking east



Plate 3 – Section 1, looking northwest



Plate 4 – Section 2, looking east



Plate 5 – Section 3, looking north

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Loose dark greyish brown clayey silt, <0.45m thick	Topsoil
002	Friable mid yellowish brown clayey silt, >0.3m thick	Graveyard deposit

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

The finds were examined and reported in accordance with the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (2016).

CLAY PIPE

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

Analysis of the clay pipes followed the guidance published by Davey (1981) and the material is detailed in the accompanying table.

Condition

The clay pipe is in good condition.

Results

Table 1, Clay Pipes

Context no.	Bore diameter /64"					NoF	W(g)	Comments	Date
	8	7	6	5	4				
001					1	1	6	Stem only	19th century

Provenance

The clay pipe was recovered from topsoil (001). It is probably a local Spalding product.

Range

A single clay pipe stem of 19th century date was recovered.

Potential

Other than providing dating evidence the clay pipe is of limited potential and can be discarded.

OTHER FINDS

By Gary Taylor and Denise Buckley

Introduction

One item weighing 1538g was recovered.

Condition

The other find in in moderate-good condition. Although made of iron it has been galvanised (coated with zinc), or possibly coated with lead, which materials have retarded corrosion.

Results

Table 2, Other Materials

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
001	Iron (galvanised or lead-coated)	Earthing rod?	1	1538	Late 19th - 20 th century

Provenance

The iron item was recovered from topsoil (001).

Range

A single metal object was retrieved. It is 0.36m long in total. At one end is a square, bolt-like head, approximately 4cms square and 2cms thick. Below the head, for a length of 0.28m, the shaft is square-sectioned, and about 0.22m wide. The lower part of the shaft is round-sectioned and about 0.22m diameter. The entire object is made of iron but has been coated in zinc (galvanised) or lead. The item is apparently an earthing rod and such objects are typically found close to church towers which are prominent targets of lightning bolts, the ground cable from the top of the tower or spire leading down to the earthing rod to the soil.

Potential

The other find is apparently of early modern date and of limited significance and potential. It can be discarded.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 3 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 3, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
001	Late 19th-20th century	

ABBREVIATIONS

CXT	Context
NoF	Number of Fragments
W (g)	Weight (grams)

REFERENCES

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Davey, PJ, 1981 Guidelines for the processing and publication of clay pipes from excavations, *Medieval and Later Pottery in Wales* 4, 65-88

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Alluvium	Deposits laid down by water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea, and fresh water alluvium is laid down by rivers and in lakes.
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, e.g. [004].
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
Early English	Division of English Gothic architecture dating from c.1190-1250.
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.
Perpendicular	Division of English Gothic architecture in use from c.1350 - c.1530.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

2	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Section record sheet
5	Daily record sheet
1	Sheet of scale drawings

All primary records are currently kept at:

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

The two artefacts have been discarded in light of museum policy.

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

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

Accession Number	LCNCC: 2017.21
Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	SSMN 17
OASIS Record Number	archaeo11-281725

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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OASIS ID: archaeol1-281725

Project details

Project name	St Mary and St Nicholas Parish Church, Spalding
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring of new service trenches revealed only graveyard soils and the current topsoil. A 19th century clay pipe fragment and a modern earthing rod were retrieved.
Project dates	Start: 25-01-2017 End: 31-01-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SSMN17 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	LCNCC: 2017.21 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Monument type	GRAVEYARD DEPOSIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	METAL Modern
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Faculty jurisdiction

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE SOUTH HOLLAND SPALDING St Mary and St Nicholas Church
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 2502 2243 52.784599644243 -0.146044721576 52 47 04 N 000 08 45 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Project Services
Project brief originator	None
Project design originator	Paul Cope-Faulkner
Project director/manager	Paul Cope-Faulkner
Project supervisor	Mark Peachey
Type of sponsor/funding body	Parochial Church Council

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	The Collection
Physical Archive ID	LCNCC: 2017.21
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	Archaeological Project Services
Digital Contents	"Ceramics", "Metal", "Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	The Collection
Paper Archive ID	LCNCC: 2017.21
Paper Contents	"Ceramics", "Metal", "Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

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