



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND
RECORDING AT
SS PETER AND PAUL'S CHURCH,
BURGH LE MARSH,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BMCH 12)**

**Work Undertaken For
Burgh le Marsh Parochial Church Council**

October 2012

Report Compiled by
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APS Report No. 72/12

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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1. SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken at SS Peter and Paul's church, Burgh le Marsh, Lincolnshire. The investigations monitored groundworks associated with a new gas pipe trench to the church.

The church is of the medieval period (AD 1066-1540) with most of the structure dating to about AD 1500. There is a south porch dating to 1702 and the church was restored in the late 19th century. The current church is believed to have replaced an earlier church mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086.

The investigations revealed a graveyard soil overlain by the current topsoil. No other archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

Finds retrieved during the investigation include post-medieval pottery brick/tile and clay pipe.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Burgh le Marsh Parochial Church Council to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with a new gas main at SS Peter and Paul's church, Burgh le Marsh, Lincolnshire. The investigations were carried out on the 14th August 2012.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Burgh-le-Marsh is located approximately 5km west of Skegness in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

SS Peter and Paul's church is located towards the centre of the town at National

Grid Reference TF 5008 6501 (Fig. 2). Situated on the east side of High Street, the church lies on a slight elevation at c.14m OD.

Local soils are of the Holderness Association, typically fine-coarse loamy soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 214). These soils overlie a drift geology of glaciofluvial sands and gravels which seal boulder clay that in turn overlies a solid geology of Cretaceous Claxby Ironstone and Tealby Mudstone (BGS 1996).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

The name Burgh is derived from the Old English and usually refers to some form of fortification (Cameron 1998, 23). In the Domesday Survey of c. 1086, Burgh-le-Marsh is the centre of an estate with lands in Sutton, Addlethorpe, Wainfleet and Skegness (Foster and Longley 1976). At the time of the Domesday Survey, the land was held by Count Alan, Gilbert de Gand, Eudo and Robert the Steward and contained a church and 585 acres of meadow (*ibid.*).

The parish church of SS. Peter and Paul dates from c. 1500 (DoE 1988, 6), and presumably replaced the church referred to in the Domesday Survey. On the south side of the church is a porch dating to 1702 and the whole building was restored in the latter part of the 19th century.

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 were excavated by hand to the

south and southwest corner of the church after which the new gas main was moled beneath the churchyard. 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. 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 investigations was a graveyard soil which comprised brownish grey (102) and greyish brown (202) sandy silt with chalk fragments. These deposits measured in excess of 0.51m thick (Fig. 4, Sections 1 and 2; Plates 2 and 3).

Sealing the graveyard soil was the current topsoil of grey sandy silt (101) and brownish grey sandy silt (201). This was between 80mm and 90mm thick.

6. DISCUSSION

The depth of the trenches precluded

natural being reached. Instead a graveyard soil, a mixed deposit caused by regular interments, sealed by the current topsoil were the only deposits encountered.

Finds include pottery, brick/tile and clay pipe, all dating to the post-medieval period.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at SS Peter and Paul's church, Burgh le Marsh, as groundworks could impact on buried archaeological remains of medieval and later date.

However, only graveyard soils and the current topsoil were encountered during the investigation. Finds include pottery, brick/tile and clay pipe dating from the 16th – 19th centuries.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Father T Steele for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis on behalf of the Parochial Church Council. 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

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

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Cameron, K, 1998 *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names*, English Place-Name Society Popular Series Vol. **1**

DoE, 1988 *List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest: District of East Lindsey*

Foster, CW and Longley, T (eds), 1976 *The Lincolnshire Domesday and Lindsey Survey*, The Lincoln Record Society **19**

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their Use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales **13**

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey



Figure 1 - General location plan

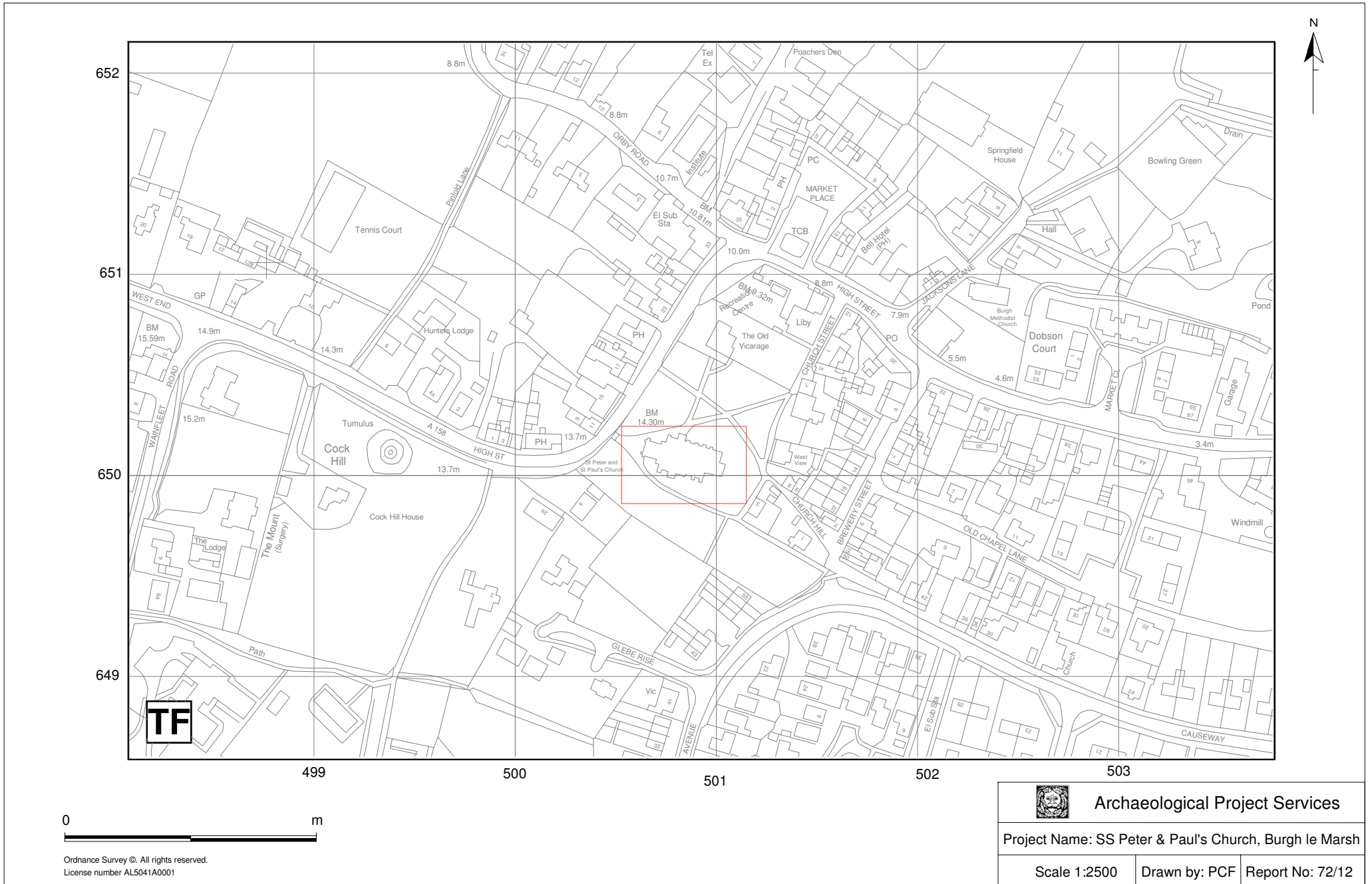


Figure 2 - Site location plan

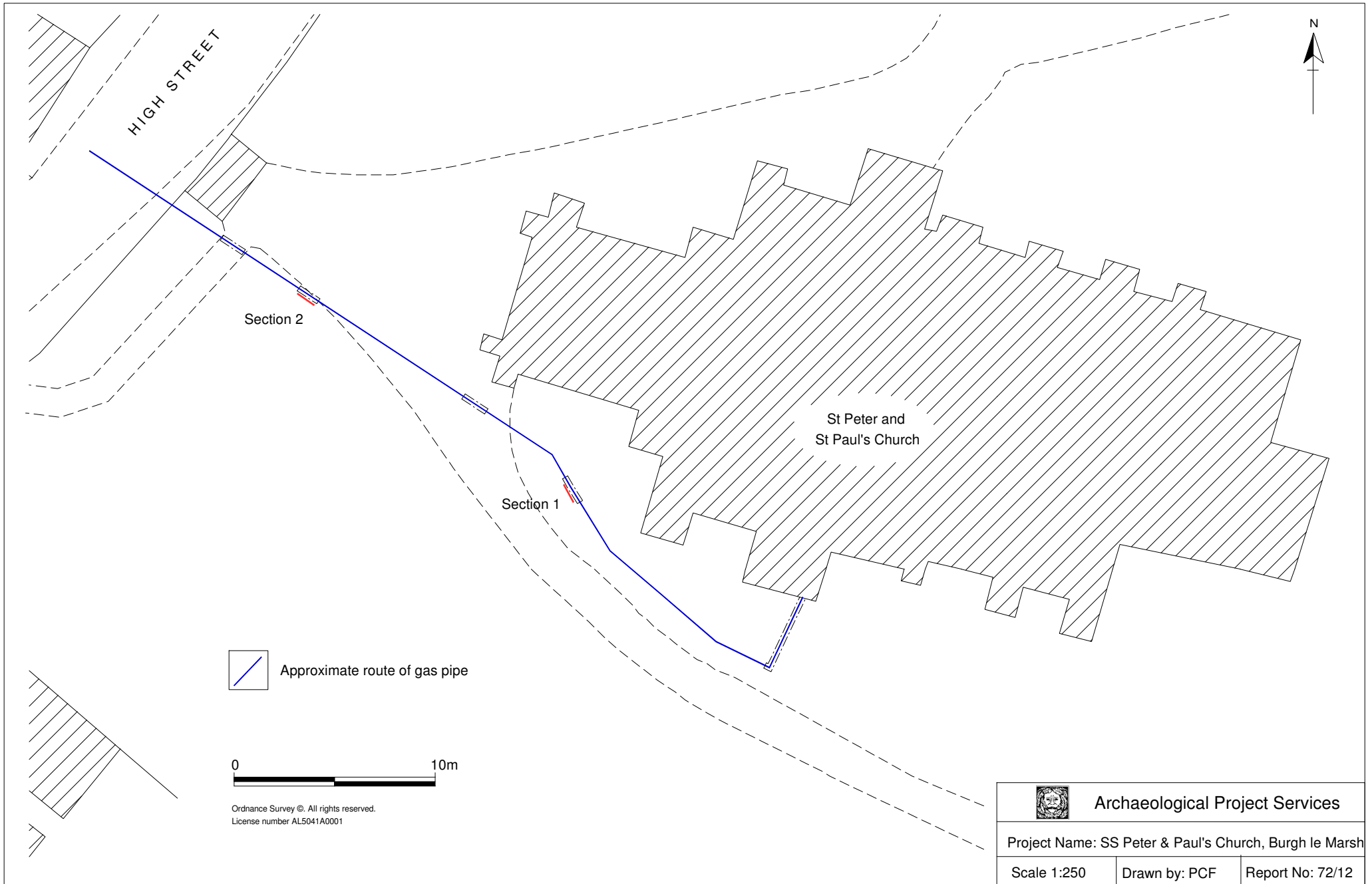
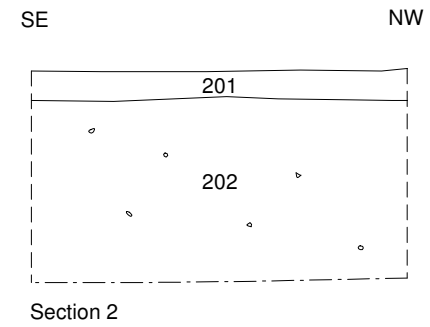
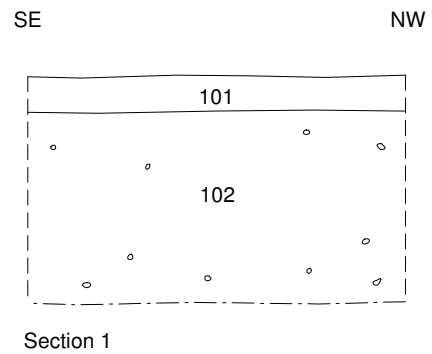


Figure 3 - Plan showing the location of drawn sections



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: SS Peter & Paul's Church Burgh le Marsh

Scale 1:20

Drawn by: PCF

Report No: 72/12

Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2



Plate 1 – General view along the route of the gas pipe, looking west



Plate 2 – Section 1, looking southwest



Plate 3 – Section 2, looking southwest

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

| No. | Description | Interpretation |
|-----|--|----------------|
| 101 | Friable dark grey sandy silt with frequent small gravel, 90mm thick | Topsoil |
| 102 | Friable mid brownish grey sandy silt with frequent chalk fragments, >0.51m thick | Graveyard soil |
| 201 | Friable dark brownish grey sandy silt, 80mm thick | Topsoil |
| 202 | Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt with moderate chalk fragments, >0.48m thick | Graveyard soil |

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 two sherds from two vessels, weighing seven 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 this information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1. The pottery ranges in date from the post-medieval to the Early Modern period.

Condition

The pottery is fragmentary but not abraded.

Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

| Cxt | Cname | Full Name | Form | NoS | NoV | W(g) | Decoration | Part | Description | date |
|-----|-------|------------------------|--------|-----|-----|------|--------------------------------------|------|-------------|-----------|
| 102 | GRE | Glazed Red Earthenware | Hollow | 1 | 1 | 4 | | BS | | 16th-17th |
| 201 | PEARL | Pearlware | Plate | 1 | 1 | 3 | Blue transfer print - Willow Pattern | Rim | | 19th |

Provenance

Pottery was recovered from a graveyard soil (102) and topsoil (201).

Range

There are two small pieces of pottery, one sherd from layer (102) is a fragment of Glazed Red Earthenware (GRE) dated to the 16th -17th centuries, whilst the second, from the topsoil, (201), is a piece of 19th century Pearlware (PEARL). These are common types in this area.

Potential

There is no potential for further work. The material is suitable for discard.

Summary

Two small sherds of pottery were recovered during the watching brief. One piece is post medieval in date and the second belongs to the early modern period.

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 three fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 83 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 this information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 2 below.

Condition

The ceramic building material is fragmentary and abraded.

Results

Table 2, Ceramic Building Material Archive

| Context | Cname | Fabric | NoF | W(g) | Description | Condition | Date |
|---------|-------|----------------------------|-----|------|--|-----------|-----------|
| 102 | BRK | Oxidised; calcareous | 2 | 64 | Flake; fenland type; handmade; abraded | | |
| 102 | PANT | Oxidised; fine sandy; mica | 1 | 19 | Mortar adhered over break | | 18th-19th |

Provenance

All of the ceramic building material was recovered from graveyard soil (102).

Range

There are two pieces of handmade brick (BRK), probably of post medieval date and a small fragment of late post medieval or early modern Pantile.

Potential

There is no potential for further work. These pieces can be discarded.

Summary

Three pieces of ceramic building material were recovered from the graveyard soil (102). These are of little archaeological significance.

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

All of the clay pipes are in good condition, though two are a little abraded.

Results

Table 3, Clay Pipes

| Context no. | Bore diameter /64" | | | | | NoF | W(g) | Comments | Date |
|-------------|--------------------|---|---|---|---|-----|------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | | | | |
| 202 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 3 | 11 | Stems only; mixed | 18 th century |

Provenance

The clay pipes were recovered from a graveyard soil. They are probably fairly local products, perhaps from Burgh le Marsh or Horncastle.

Range

Only stems were recovered and these are mixed, dating from the 17th and 18th centuries.

Potential

The clay pipes have limited potential. They are perhaps casual losses deposited during the 17th and 18th centuries.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 4 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 4, Spot dates

| Cxt | Date | Comments |
|-----|--------------------------|---|
| 102 | 17th-18th | |
| 201 | 19th Century | Based on a single sherd; topsoil |
| 202 | 18 th century | Based on clay pipe. Contains earlier material |

ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|-------|---|
| ACBMG | Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group |
| BS | Body sherd |
| CBM | Ceramic Building Material |
| CXT | Context |
| LHJ | Lower Handle Join |
| NoF | Number of Fragments |
| NoS | Number of sherds |
| NoV | Number of vessels |
| UHJ | Upper Handle Join |
| W (g) | Weight (grams) |

REFERENCES

- ~ 2001, *Draft Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material*, third version [internet]. Available from <http://www.geocities.com/acbmg1/CBMGDE3.htm>
- ~ 2003, *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* [internet]. Available at <http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/section.asp?catId=3155>
- Davey, PJ, 1981 Guidelines for the processing and publication of clay pipes from excavations, *Medieval and Later Pottery in Wales* 4, 65-88
- Slowikowski, AM, Nenk, B and Pearce, J, 2001 *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2
- Young, J, Vince, AG and Nailor, V, 2005 *A Corpus of Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln* (Oxford)

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Boulder Clay | A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as till, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size. |
| 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). |
| 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:

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 4 | Context records |
| 1 | Photographic record sheets |
| 1 | Sheets of scale drawings |
| 1 | Daily Record Sheet |
| 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: 2012.109

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: BMCH 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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