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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND  
RECORDING ON LAND OFF  
CHURCH STREET,  
THURLBY,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(THCS15)**

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**Work Undertaken For  
Mr R Grundy**

September 2015

Report produced by  
Jonathon Smith BA (Hons), MA

National Grid Reference: TF 1047 1684  
The Collection Accession No: LCNCC:2015.88  
Planning Application No: S14/0941  
OASIS Record No: archaeol1-220114

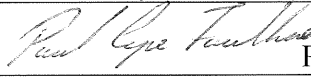

APS Report No: **73/15**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES**



**Quality Control**  
Church Street,  
Thurlby,  
Lincolnshire  
(THCS15)

Project Coordinator	Paul Cope-Faulkner
Site Staff	Jonathon Smith
Post-excavation Analyst	Jonathon Smith

Checked by Senior Project Officer	Approved by Team Leader
 Paul Cope-Faulkner	 Denise Drury
Date: 7-9-2015.	Date: 23/9/15

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## 1. SUMMARY

*A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording (watching brief) was undertaken on land off Church Street, Thurlby, Lincolnshire. The investigation monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for a new detached dwelling.*

*Thurlby lies alongside the Roman (AD 50-410) thoroughfare, King Street, and the Car Dyke, a Romano-British watercourse. The site lies between these two sites while to the east is the parish church of St Firmin, which has elements dating from the Late Saxon (AD 850-1066) and into the medieval period (AD 1066-1500).*

*The investigation revealed a sequence of natural, medieval and undated deposits. Natural deposits towards the north of the site appeared to be disturbed and may indicate a palaeo-channel in the vicinity. One ditch was assigned a medieval date with the second remaining undated.*

*Artefacts retrieved during the investigation included two sherds of 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century pottery and an 18<sup>th</sup> century fragment of glass.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr R Grundy to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during development on land off Church Street, Thurlby. The work was required as a condition of planning permission (Application No. S/14/0941). The work was carried out between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> August 2015 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the South Kesteven planning archaeologist.

### 2.2 Topography and Geology

Thurlby is located 3.5km south of Bourne and 15.3km west of Spalding in the South Kesteven district of Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site, centred on National Grid Reference TF 1047 1684, is located on the south side of Church Street, immediately west of St Firmin's Church (Fig 2).

The site lies at a height of c. 7m O.D. on land that slopes gently down to the east, towards the fenland of south Lincolnshire. Local soils are of the Badsey 2 Association, typically fine loamy soils (Hodge, *et al*, 1984). These soils overlie a drift geology of 1<sup>st</sup> River Terrace marine or estuarine sandy gravels which in turn overlie a solid geology of Jurassic cornbrash (Booth 1983).

### 2.3 Archaeological Setting

The site is situated 100m to the east of King Street, a Roman road that once connected *Durobrivae* (Water Newton) to Bourne and Ancaster. The site's western boundary is formed by the Car Dyke, a Roman watercourse that connected Lincoln with Peterborough (Simmons and Cope-Faulkner 2004). Immediately south of the site, the construction of the Old Vicarage drive in the 1930s revealed a possible surface interpreted as a quayside for the Car Dyke (Philips 1970, 254). In 2002 a watching brief on an extension to the Vicarage questioned the presence of a quayside and identified a possible bank derived from material excavated from the Car Dyke (Cope-Faulkner 2002).

The village of Thurlby (Old Danish 'Turlebi') is mentioned in a charter of AD990 and is therefore thought to have Late Saxon origins (Cameron 1998, 127). St Firmin's Church has elements of late Saxon date. A Viking carved head and medieval pottery are known from the

church.

### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

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

Foundation trenches were excavated by machine with a 0.75m wide bucket to a maximum depth of 1m below the current ground level. 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. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Following excavation the records were checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships, and supplemented by artefact dating.

### 5. RESULTS

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

Located towards the centre of the site was a natural layer of light brownish grey silty

clay with frequent gravel (014). This was sealed by light brownish yellow sand and gravel (010) which was evident throughout the southern part of the trenching.

Towards the northwest corner of the trenches was a deposit of greyish brown sand and gravel (004) within which were lenses of darker material (Fig. 4, Section 1). Identified as a natural layer, this was in turn overlain by reddish brown clayey sand with gravel (003) and reddish brown sand and gravel (006). Further natural deposits of reddish brown sandy silt and gravel (002) and light grey cobbles in a matrix of reddish grey sand (005) completed the natural sequence at the site. Layer (005) contained an 18<sup>th</sup> century glass fragment, possibly intrusive.

Situated in the eastern part of the site was a northeast-southwest aligned ditch (007/011). This had a total length of 5m and was 2.2m wide by 0.55m deep (Fig. 4, Section 2). Two fills were recorded, a basal layer of brownish grey sandy clay (008/012) and an upper layer of yellowish brown clay (009/013). Pottery of 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century date was retrieved from (012).

Perhaps representing the westernmost extension of this ditch was feature (017) which was 1.1m wide and 0.4m deep (Fig. 4, Section 4). This contained a fill of brown clayey silt (018).

Towards the western side of the plot was a north-south aligned ditch (015). This was 0.75m wide and 0.5m deep (Fig. 4, Section 3) and contained a single fill of brownish grey clayey sand (016).

Sealing the above feature was the current topsoil (001) comprising brownish grey silt that was 0.35m thick.

### 6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits are dominated by sands

and gravels of the underlying 1<sup>st</sup> River Terrace layers of sandy gravels. The complicated sequences recorded during this work probably indicate the presence of a palaeo-channel in the vicinity, perhaps aligned east-west across the northern part of the site. However, no clear edge to this channel was located during this investigation. Despite the disturbed nature of the natural deposits, it is not thought to represent upcast from excavation of the Car Dyke which lies immediately east of the site.

Parallel to, and some 12m south of, Church Street was a medieval ditch (007/011) and its probable extension (017). This may have defined the southern, wider, course of Church Street and probably once drained into the Car Dyke. A second ditch was aligned north-south but remains undated due to a lack of artefactual material.

Finds retrieved during the investigation comprise medieval pottery, dated to the 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century and from a local and regional kiln, the latter from north Northamptonshire. A single fragment of post-medieval glass was also recovered.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Church Street, Thurlby, as the development is located close to nearby Roman and Saxon sites.

However, no evidence of Roman or Saxon material was identified. Instead, two ditches were recorded. One ditch was medieval and the second remains undated due to no artefactual material.

Artefacts recovered from the works include two medieval sherds of pottery and an 18<sup>th</sup> century fragment of glass.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge Mr R Grundy for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Paul Cope-Faulkner, who edited this report along with Denise Drury.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Paul Cope-Faulkner  
 Site Supervisor: Jonathon Smith  
 Finds Processing: Denise Buckley  
 Photographic reproduction: Jonathon Smith  
 Illustration: Jonathon Smith  
 Post-excavation Analyst: Jonathon Smith

## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Philips, CW (ed), 1970 *The Fenland in Roman Times*, Royal Geographic Society Research Series **5**

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Reports Series 8

## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services





Figure 1 - General location plan



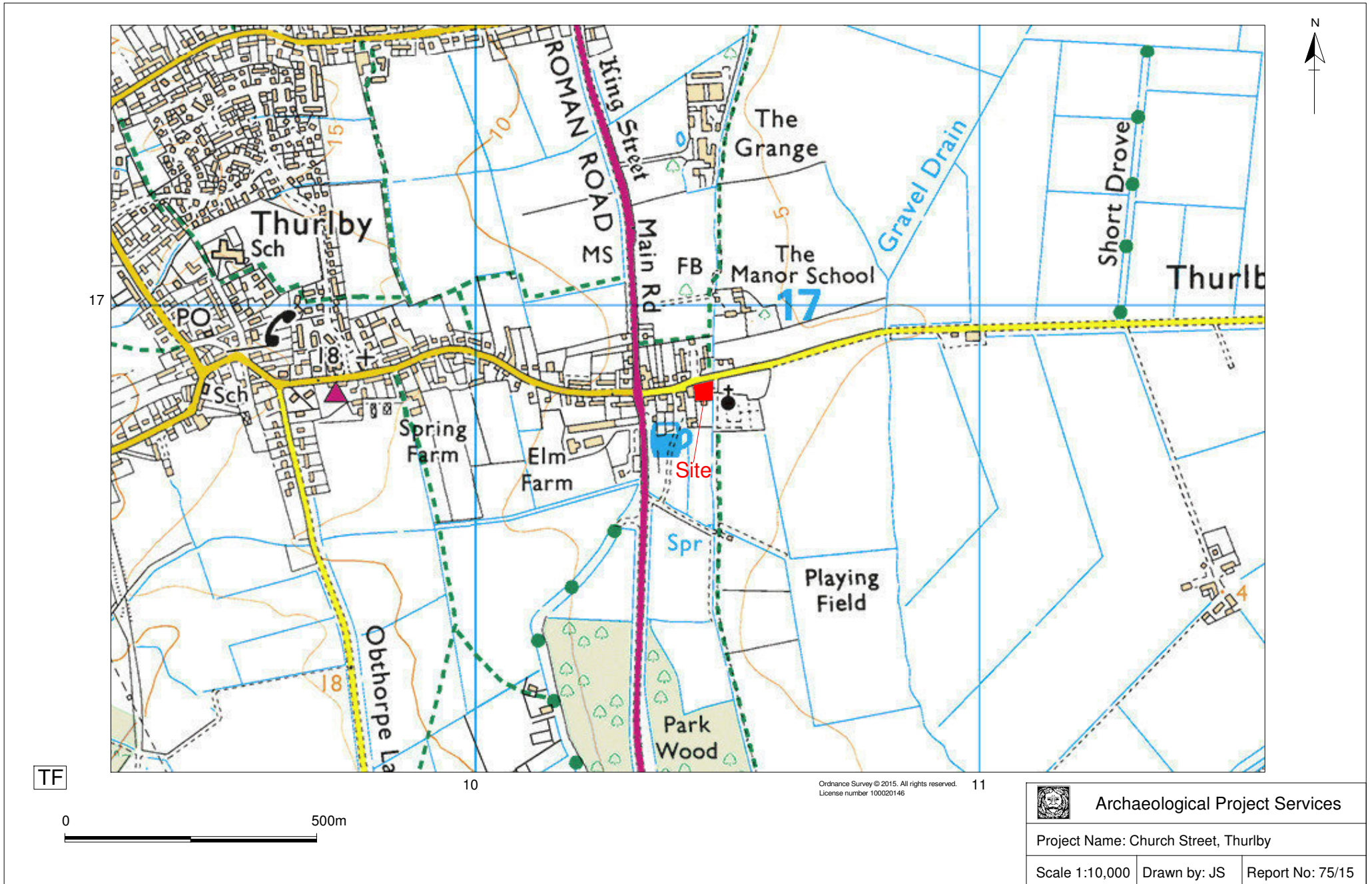


Figure 2 - Site Location



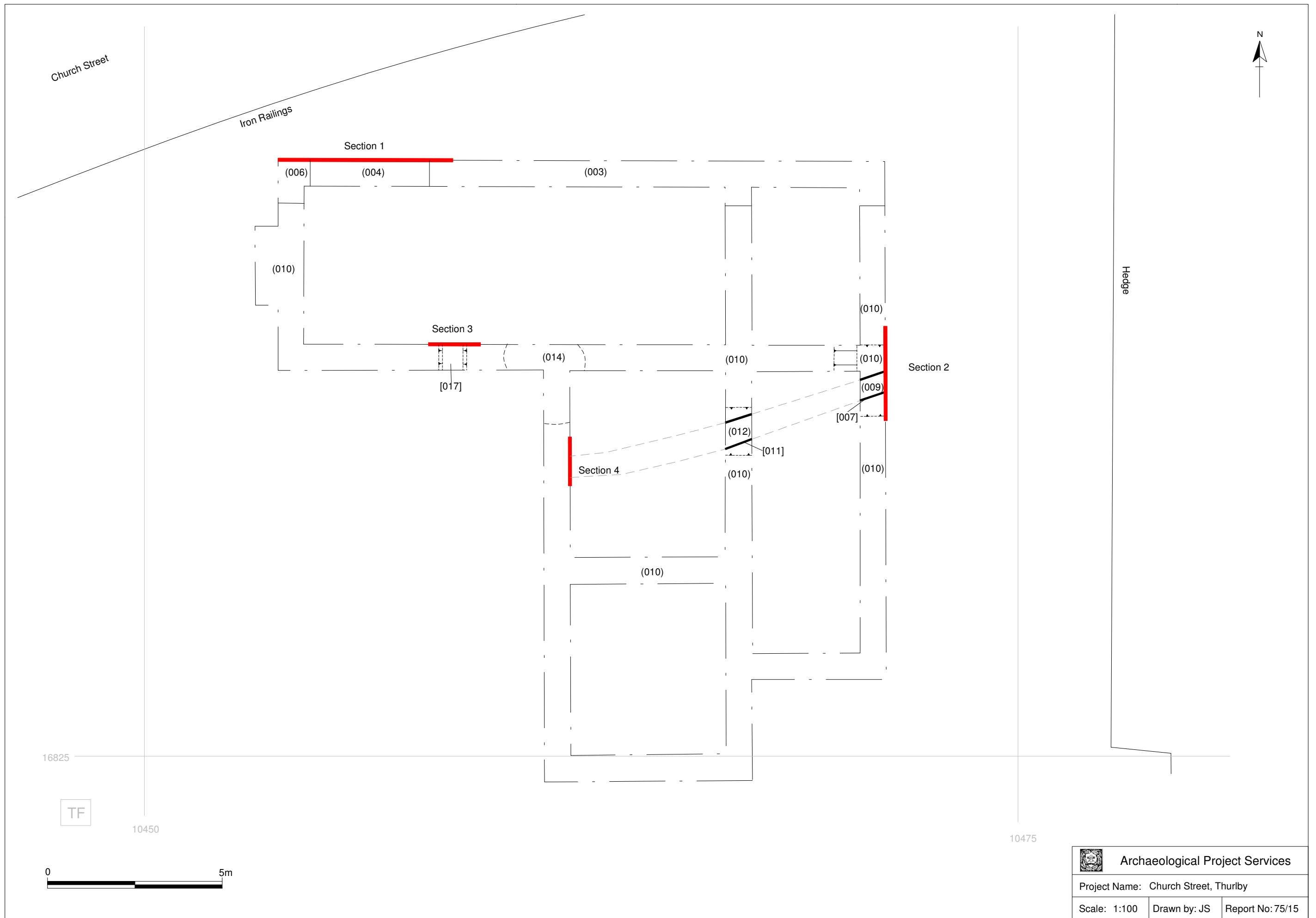


Figure 3 - Site layout



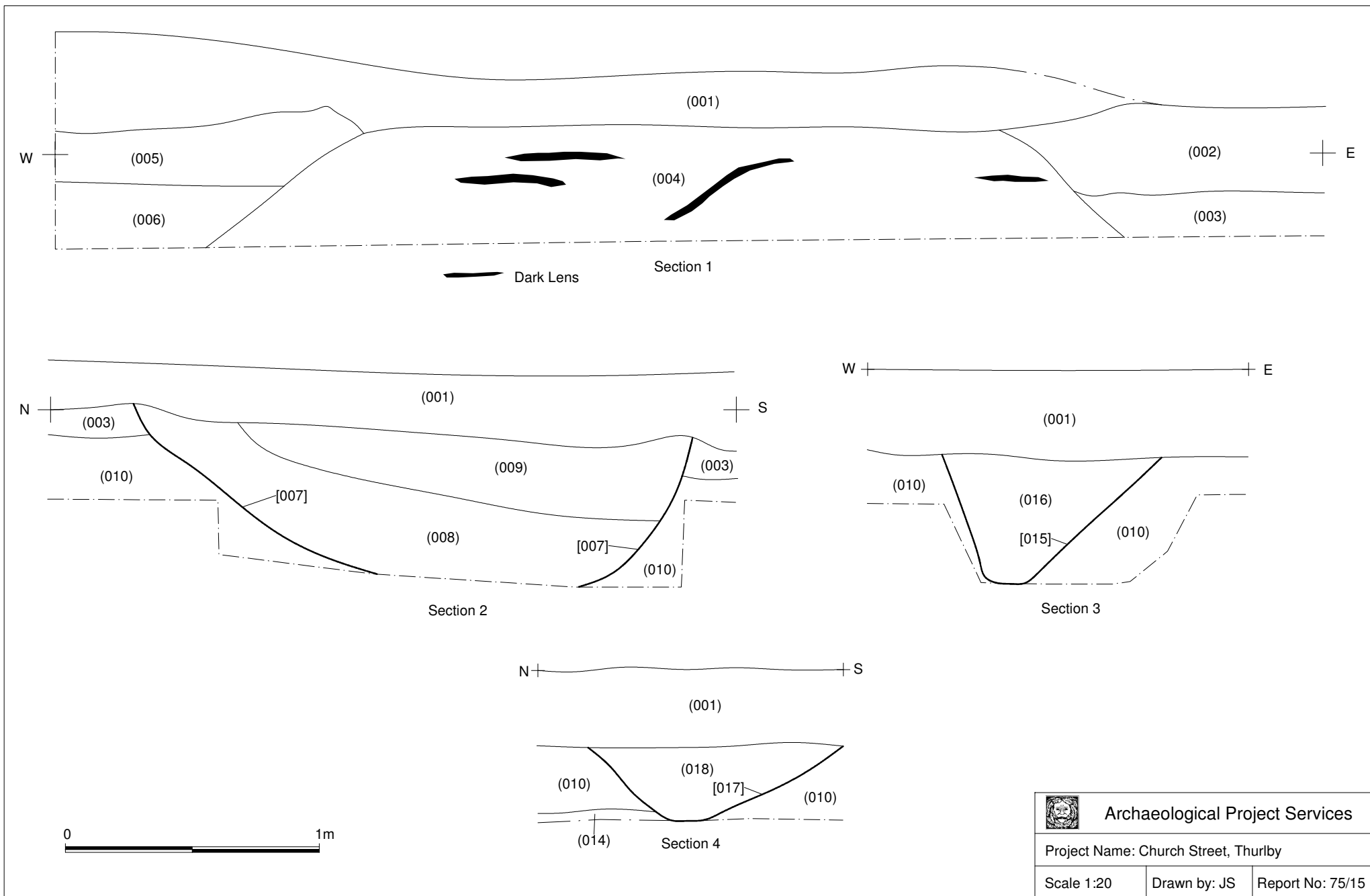


Figure 4 - Sections





## Plates



Plate 1: Possible gravel bank (004), Section 1



Plate 2: Ditch [007], Section 2



Plate 3: Ditch [015], Section 3



Plate 4: Pit [017], Section 4

## Appendix 1

### CONTEXT LIST

Context	Description	Interpretation	Date
(001)	Friable dark brownish grey silt with frequent gravel and brick fragment inclusions, 0.35m thick.	Topsoil	Modern
(002)	Friable light reddish brown sandy silt with moderate angular gravel inclusions, 0.4m thick. Only present in the northernmost portion of the foundation trench.	Natural deposit	-
(003)	Firm mid reddish brown clayey sand with lenses of angular gravel and lenses of grey clay, 0.30m thick. Thick at the north of the area and considerably thinner to the south.	Natural deposit	-
(004)	Loose light greyish brown mix of 50% sand and 50% angular gravel. These occur in thin heterogeneous lenses, some of which are very dark.	Natural deposit	-
(005)	Loose mix of 50% light grey rounded cobbles and 50% light reddish grey sand with occasional patches of dark grey silt, 0.20m thick. Present in patches throughout most of the foundation trench.	Natural deposit	-
(006)	Loose dark reddish brown sand with frequent angular gravel inclusions. At least 0.30m thick. Probably the same as (003).	Natural deposit	
[007]	Cut of a northeast-southwest aligned ditch with moderate scooped sides. At least 5m long, 2.20m wide and at least 0.55m deep. Same as [011].	Ditch	12 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> century
(008)	Firm dark brownish grey sandy clay with frequent angular gravel inclusions, at least 0.35m thick. Same as (012).	Fill of ditch [007]	12 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> century
(009)	Firm mid yellowish brown clay with occasional rounded pebble inclusions, 0.30m thick. Same as (013).	Fill of ditch [007]	12 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> century
(010)	Loose light brownish yellow mix of 70% coarse sand and 30% angular gravel.	Natural deposit	-
[011]	Same as [007]	Ditch	12 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> century
(012)	Same as (008). Contained two fragments of 12 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> century pottery.	Fill of ditch [011]	12 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> century
(013)	Same as (009)	Fill of ditch [011]	12 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> century
(014)	Firm light brownish grey silty clay with frequent angular gravel inclusions.	Natural deposit	-
[015]	Cut of a north-south aligned linear with straight, steep sides and a 'v' shaped base. At least 0.75m long, at least 0.75m wide and 0.50m deep.	Ditch	
(016)	Loose mid brownish grey clayey sand with moderate rounded pebble inclusions, 0.50m thick.	Fill of ditch [015]	
[017]	A possible pit only caught in section with straight, shallow sides and a 'V' shaped base. 1.10m long, an unknown width and 0.40m deep.	Possible continuation of (007/011)	Medieval?
(018)	Soft dark brown clayey silt, 0.40m thick.	Fill of [017]	Medieval?



## 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 146 grams were recovered from the site.

##### Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel. 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 dates to the early medieval period.

##### Condition

The sherds are large and fresh. Both pieces are sooted, which is evidence of usage over a hearth or fire. The pieces may be evidence of primary deposition.

##### Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Cxt	Cname	Sub Fab	Full Name	Form	Part	Description	Date	NoS	NoV	W(g)
012	STANLY	A	Stanion Lyveden ware	Jar	BS	Sooted over the break; HM; ?ID - poss local variant	M12th-13th	1	1	38
012	SLEMO		South Lincolnshire early medieval oolitic ware	Jar	BS	Large fresh pc; sooted; internal cess/scale; HM	12th-M13th	1	1	108
<b>Total</b>								<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>146</b>

##### Provenance

The pottery was recovered from (012) within ditch [011].

##### Range

There are two large sherds, both of which came from jars of early medieval date. The fabrics include South Lincolnshire early medieval oolitic ware (SLEMO) and shell tempered Stanion-Lyveden ware (STANLY).

##### Potential

The pottery should be retained as part of the site archive and should pose no problems for long-term storage.

#### GLASS

By Gary Taylor

##### Introduction

One piece of glass weighing 168g was recovered.

##### Condition

The glass is in good condition, although exhibits pronounced iridescent decay.

##### Results

Table 2, Glass Archive

Cxt	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
005	Fragment of base of dark green bottle, heavy iridescence.	1	168	18 <sup>th</sup> century

**Provenance**

The glass was recovered from a layer (005).

**Range**

The base of a large green wine bottle was retrieved. It has a steep kick up and is of probable 18<sup>th</sup> century date, perhaps early.

**Potential**

Apart from dating evidence, the glass is of limited potential and could be discarded.

**SPOT DATING**

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

*Table 3, Spot dates*

<b>Cxt</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
005	18th	based on 1 glass
012	M12th-13th	

**ABBREVIATIONS**

BS	Body sherd
CXT	Context
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
W (g)	Weight (grams)

**REFERENCES**

- Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* [internet]. Available at  
 <<http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/conservation/archaeology/lincolnshire-archaeological-handbook>>
- Slowikowski, A. M., 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, A.G. and Nailor, V., 2005, *A Corpus of Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln* (Oxford)

## Appendix 3

### GLOSSARY

<b>Alluvium</b>	Deposits laid down by water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea, and fresh water alluvium is laid down by rivers and in lakes.
<b>Context</b>	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> [004].
<b>Cut</b>	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.
<b>Fill</b>	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) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
<b>Layer</b>	A layer is an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Natural</b>	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
<b>Post-medieval</b>	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
<b>Roman</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
<b>Saxon</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas.
<b>Unstratified</b>	Not related to definable layers (strata).





## Appendix 4

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

1	Context register sheets
17	Context record sheets
1	Photographic record sheets
1	Section record sheet
1	Plan record sheet
2	Daily record sheets
3	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Box 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:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum  
The Collection  
Danes Terrace  
Lincoln  
LN2 1LP

Accession Number:	LCNCC: 2015.88
Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	THCS15
OASIS record no:	archaeo11-220114

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: archaeol1-220114**

### Project details

Project name	ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING OF LAND OFF CHURCH STREET, THURLBY, LINCOLNSHIRE
Short description of the project	A watching brief on land adjacent to the Old Vicarage and Saint Firmin's Church, Thurlby, Lincolnshire. The watching brief revealed a 12th-13th century ditch, a modern pit and an undated ditch.
Project dates	Start: 03-06-2015 End: 06-06-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	THCS15 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	LCNCC:2015.88 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	S14/0941 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Modern
Monument type	COBBLED SURFACE Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country England

Site location LINCOLNSHIRE SOUTH KESTEVEN THURLBY Church Street  
 Postcode PE10 0EH  
 Study area 0.03 Hectares  
 Site coordinates TF 1047 1684 52.7375428975 -0.363592908248 52 44 15 N 000 21 48 W Point

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation Archaeological Project Services  
 Project brief originator Archaeological Project Services  
 Project design originator Paul Cope-Faulkner  
 Project director/manager Paul Cope-Faulkner  
 Project supervisor Jonathon Smith  
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

**Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient The Collection  
 Physical Archive ID LCNCC:2015.88  
 Physical Contents "Ceramics","Glass"  
 Digital Archive recipient The Collection  
 Digital Archive ID LCNCC:2015.88  
 Digital Contents "none"  
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"  
 Paper Archive recipient The Collection  
 Paper Archive ID LCNCC:2015.88  
 Paper Contents "none"  
 Paper Media available "Context sheet","Diary","Map","Plan","Section"

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
 Title ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING OF LAND OFF CHURCH STREET, THURLBY, LINCOLNSHIRE  
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Smith, J.  
 Other bibliographic details APS Report 88/15

Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Archaeological Project Services
Place of issue or publication	Heckington
Description	An A4 ring bound booklet
Entered by	Jonathon Smith (info@apsarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	7 September 2015

## OASIS:

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