
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AT ST PETER AND ST PAUL'S CHURCH,
ALGARKIRK,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(ALCH15)**

**Work Undertaken For
Walker Cunnington Architects and Algarkirk PCC**

September 2015

DRAFT

**Report produced by
Jonathon Smith BA (Hons), MA**

National Grid Reference: TF 29125 35275
Museum Accession No: LCNCC:2015.170
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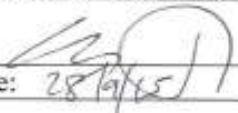
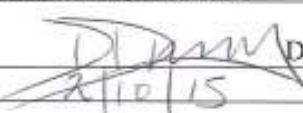
APS Report No: 85/15

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



Quality Control
 St Peter and St Paul Church,
 Algarkirk,
 Lincolnshire
 (ALCH15)

Project Coordinator	Denise Drury
Site Staff	Jim Snee, David Rodger and Ian Marshman
Post-excavation Analyst	Jonathon Smith

Checked by Senior Manager	Approved by Team Leader
 - Gary Taylor	 Denise Drury
Date: 28/9/15	Date: 2/10/15

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological trenching evaluation was undertaken at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Algarkirk, Lincolnshire. The church is of medieval origin, but was heavily restored in the 1850s.

The evaluation revealed the probable original medieval foundations for the south isle wall. The investigation also exposed the slight foundations of the 19th century rebuild of the south aisle wall and indicate the aisle had been extended eastwards beyond the original medieval limits. Pits of uncertain function and a grave were also identified. No artefacts were retrieved.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of an Evaluation

An archaeological evaluation is defined as '*a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, quality and preservation, and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate*' (CIfA 2014).

2.2 Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Walker Cunningham Architects and Algarkirk PCC to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development. The work was carried out between 7th and 11th September 2015.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Algarkirk is situated approximately 9km

southwest of Boston and 13km north of Spalding in the Boston district of Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site, centred on National Grid Reference TF 29125 35275 is located in the grounds of St Peter and St Paul's Church on Church Lane (Fig 2).

The solid geology consists of West Walton formation mudstone and siltstone. This is overlaid by tidal flat deposits of clay and silt which formed in the Quaternary Period (BGS 2015). Local soils are of the Tanvats association, typically deep stoneless fine and coarse silty and clayey soils (Hodge *et al.*, 1984). The site is on a level plain at c. 2m OD.

2.4 Archaeological Setting

The village of Algarkirk is thought to have Saxon origins. White (1856, 798) records that the village is named after Algar, Earl of Mercia, who lived locally and died in the vicinity in 879 during a battle with the Danes. In 1086 the village is recorded in the Domesday Book as *Alfgare*, which by 1194 had developed into *Algaresherche* meaning 'Ælfgār's church' (Cameron 1998, 2).

The earliest visible part of the church is a pier with a water leaf capital, which predates 1200. Much of the decoration is in the Early English (1190-1250), or Decorated English Gothic (1290-1350) style. However, many elements have been reused or altered during a thorough restoration by R.C. Carpenter 1850-1854 (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 94).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims of the project were twofold. On the south side of the church the objective was to expose enough of the church foundation so that an assessment could be made as to the cause of subsidence. To the

north of the church, where a new toilet block is planned, the aim of the work was to gather sufficient information to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site and to establish whether further archaeological excavation is required to preserve the archaeological resource by record.

The objectives were:

- to establish the type of archaeological activity that might be present within the site
- to determine its likely extent, the date and function of the archaeological features present on the site, their state of preservation, and spatial arrangement
- to establish the way in which any archaeological features identified fitted into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

4. METHODS

Two trenches, each 2m x 1m (Fig. 3), were hand dug to the surface of archaeological deposits or the underlying natural geology as appropriate.

Each deposit exposed during the evaluation was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their interpretations appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was also compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at 1:20. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

The location of the excavated trenches were recorded with a hand tape with reference to St Peter and St Paul's Church.

Following excavation, the records were

checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced.

5. RESULTS

The results of the archaeological evaluation are discussed in trench order. Archaeological contexts are described below. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Trench 1 (Figure 4)

Trench 1 abutted the south wall of the church. The lowest deposit observed was a soft mid orange brown sandy silt natural (105).

Three features cut the natural. The first resembled a pit and had moderate, concave sides and a concave base [110]. It was 0.50m wide and 0.20m deep, and was filled with a firm mid grey brown clayey silt (109) (Fig 6, Section 2).

The second cut feature appeared to be a rectangular grave cut [112] aligned east-west. It was only visible in plan and was at least 1.50m long and over 0.40m wide. It was filled by a firm mid grey brown clayey silt with fragments of human bones (111).

The third cut feature was only visible in section and had vertical sides, at least 0.35m wide and at least 0.20m deep [108]. It was filled by irregular, rough, undressed limestone blocks, with rubble fill between (107) (Fig 6, Section 2).

The grave cut [112] was sealed by a topsoil, comprising a firm mid greyish brown clayey silt (104), up to 0.18m thick. The rubble filled feature [108] and the small pit [110] were overlain by a single course of rough dressed limestone blocks (103), measuring 0.09m thick which formed the foundation for the wall. A single rough dressed limestone block (102) measuring 0.20m wide and 0.06m thick, appeared to be part of, but out of

alignment with foundation course (103).

Above the foundation course, the church wall (106) was made from dressed, regular limestone blocks. The wall was keyed in, and probably contemporary with, the buttress (101) at the east end of the trench. It was noted that the buttress appeared to have been partly over the offset foundation stone (102) and directly over the topsoil (104). The flagstones (100) covering the area were butted against the wall buttress.

Trench 2 (Figure 5)

The lowest deposit observed in this trench was a firm mid reddish brown clayey silt natural (203) at least 0.30m thick.

The natural was cut by an east-west orientated oval pit [205] measuring 0.80m long and at least 0.20m wide. It was filled with a firm mid greyish brown clayey silt with frequent gravel and stone, and fragments of modern brick (204).

A layer of firm greyish brown clayey silt with frequent gravel (202) also overlay the natural. This was 0.20m thick and skull fragments were noted in this deposit.

Sealing layer (202) and pit [205] was a firm dark greyish brown sandy clayey silt topsoil up to 0.20m thick with frequent gravel inclusions (201). A modern ceramic drainage pipe bisected the trench from east to west.

6. DISCUSSION

Both trenches revealed an orange or reddish brown silt as the natural, although it was sandier to the south of the church in Trench 1 and more clayey north of the church in Trench 2.

Trench 1 had three features that predate the church walls; a grave, a pit and rubble foundations. The rubble foundations suggest an earlier, probably medieval, wall

may have sat on the same alignment but perhaps did not extend as far east as the current south aisle wall.

Over these features are the modern foundations. The existing south aisle wall had very shallow foundations, made from a single course of roughly hewn limestone. The buttress was partially built directly on to the topsoil. It is probable that the current wall is part of the extensive restoration of 1850-54. The off-set of this wall with the earlier foundations suggest the south aisle was extended eastwards during the restoration works.

The flagstones that formed the surface probably served a drainage function, encouraging water to flow away from the wall.

Trench 2 revealed a modern pit and an undated layer, possibly a subsoil or levelling layer. The fact this deposit contained human bones suggests it contains redeposited material from truncated graves in the vicinity. The pit is of uncertain function. However, its fill contains frequent gravel and stone, which may imply it was a soakaway.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological trial trenching was undertaken at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Algarkirk, in advance of development.

The evaluation revealed the possible foundation of an earlier part of the church, a grave, an undated pit and a possible soakaway. In addition, it was established that the south aisle wall, probably built as part of the 1850s restoration, was constructed on shallow foundations and was extended east of the original medieval wall. Several human bones were identified, but were left in place. No other artefacts were removed.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge Walker Cunningham Architects and Algarkirk PCC for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and Denise Drury, who also edited this report.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Denise Drury and Gary Taylor

Site Supervisor: Jim Snee

Site staff: David Rodger and Ian Marshman.

Photographic reproduction: Jonathon Smith

CAD Illustration: Jonathon Smith

Post-excavation Analyst: Jonathon Smith

Reprints.

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS 2015. *Geology of Britain Viewer* available at <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> accessed 14.09.2015

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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**

Pevsner, N, and Harris, J, 1989. *The Buildings of England, Lincolnshire* (Second Edition). London: Penguin.

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Figure 1 - General location plan

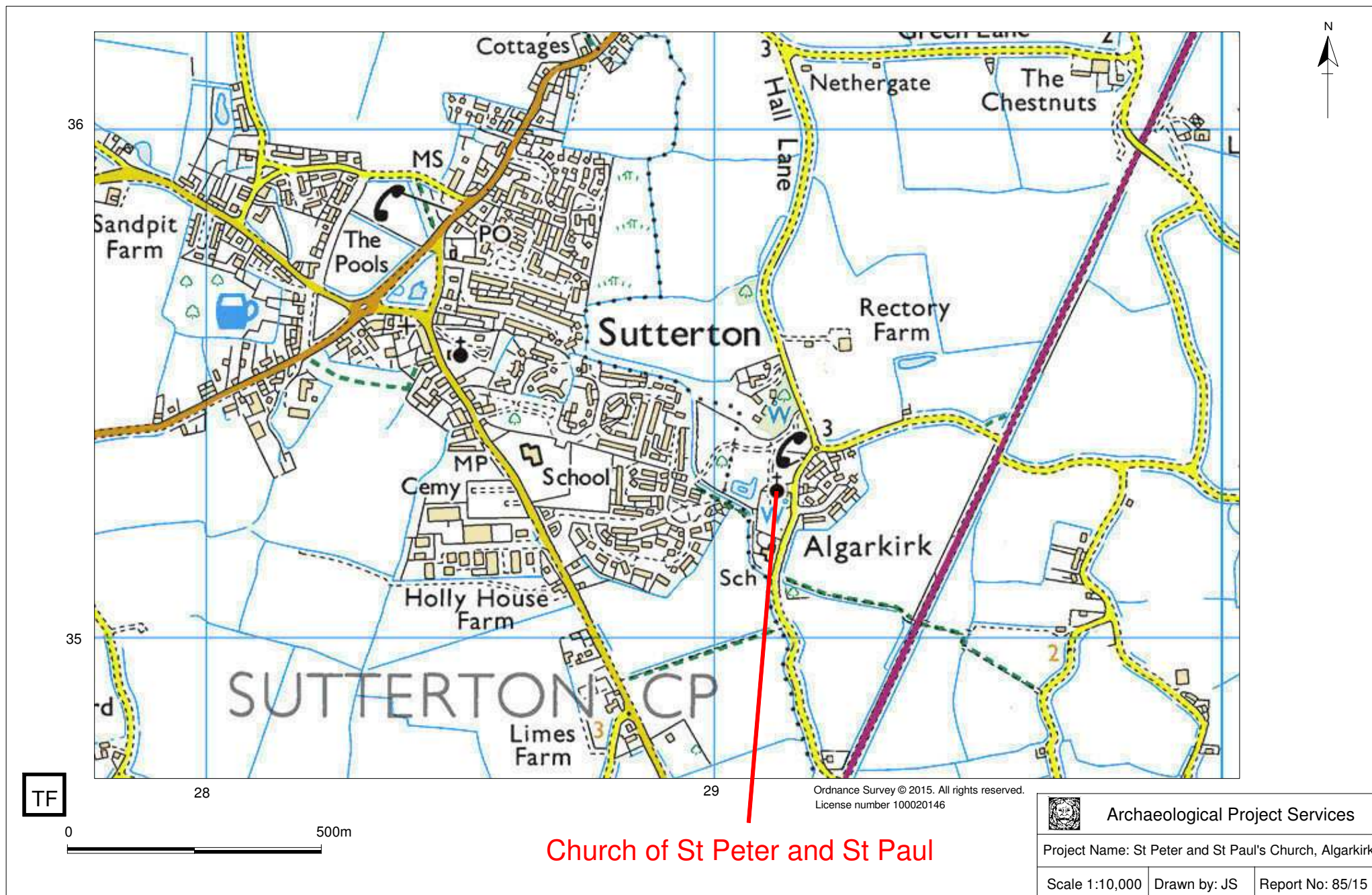


Figure 2 - Site location

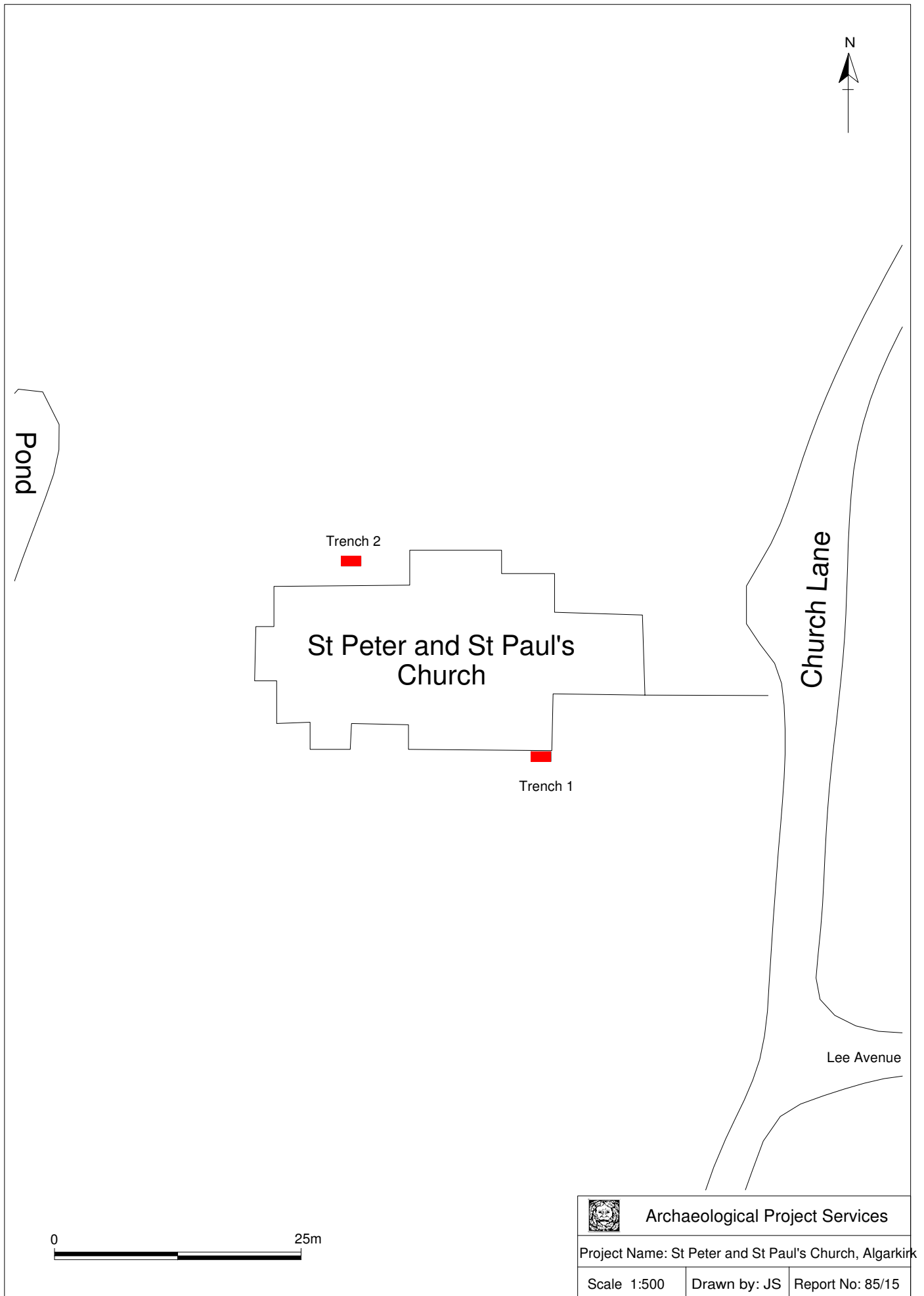
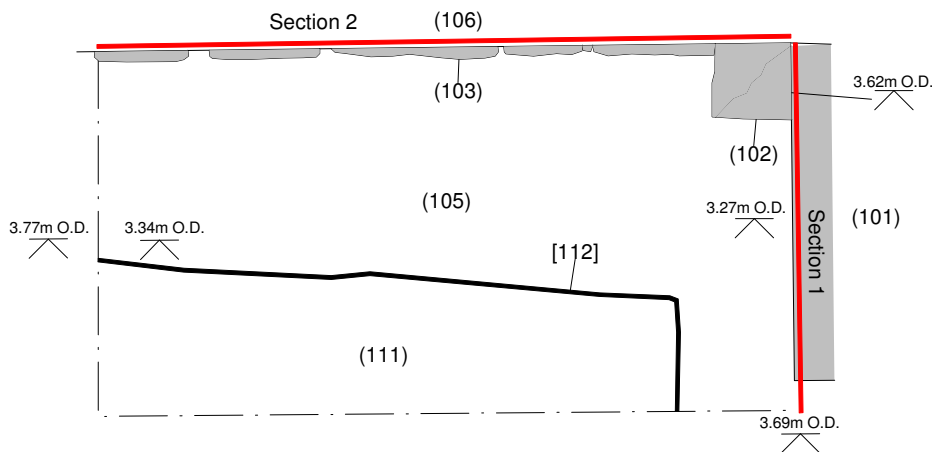


Figure 3 - Trench Locations



Archaeological Project Services

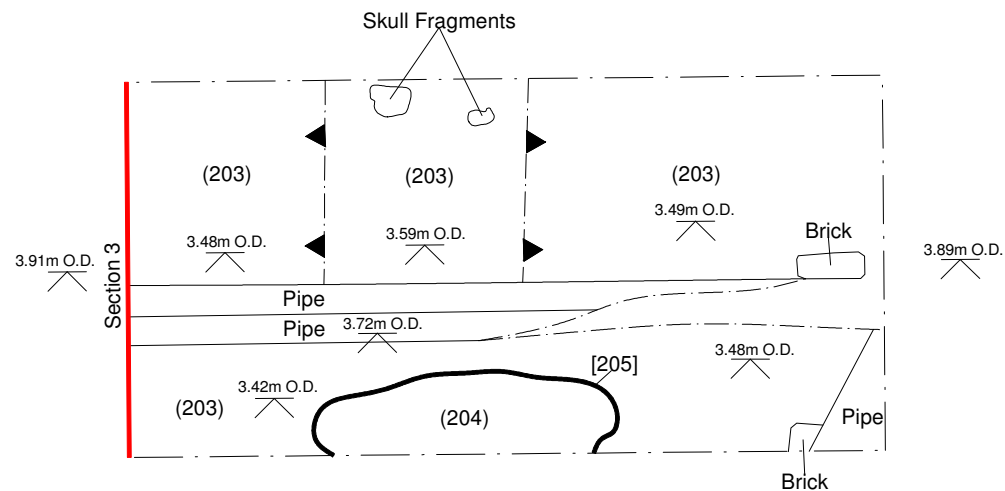
Project Name: St Peter and St Paul's Church, Algarkirk

Scale 1:20

Drawn by: JS

Report No: 85/15

Figure 4 - Trench 1




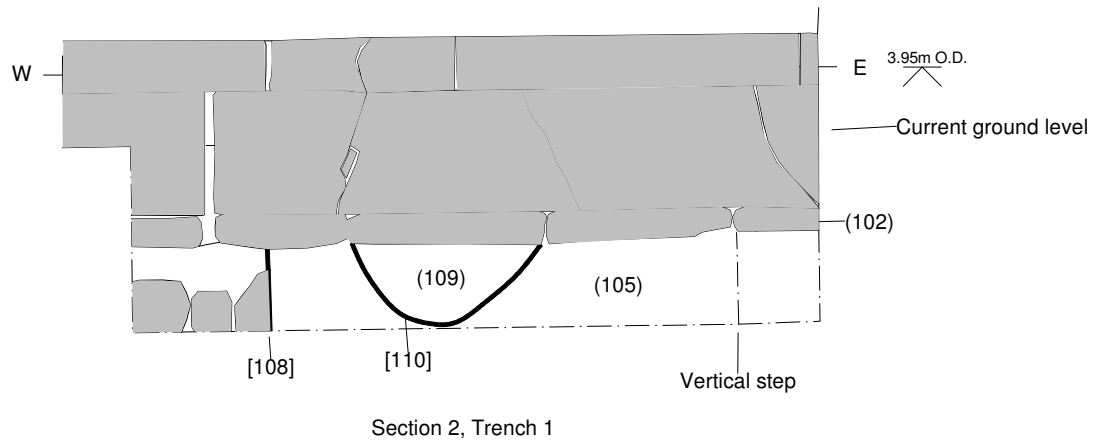
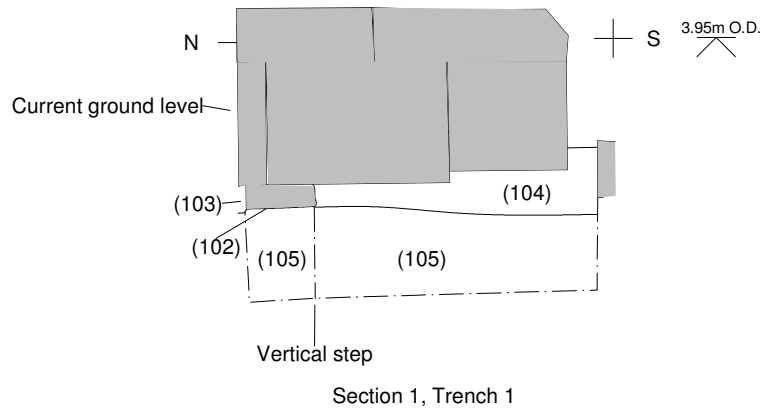

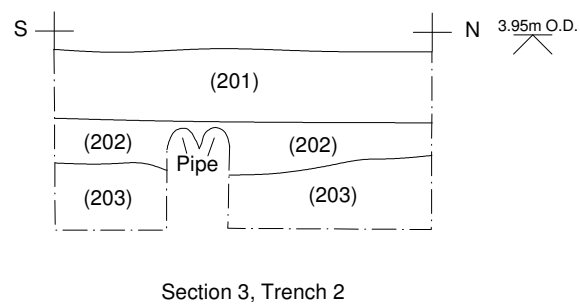
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Project Name: St Peter and St Paul's Church, Algarkirk			
Scale 1:20	Drawn by: JS	Report No:85/15	

Figure 5 - Trench 2



 Limestone



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Scale 1:20

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Report No: 85/15

Figure 6 - Sections

Plates



Plate 1: Trench 1 location



Plate 2: Trench 2 Location



Plate 3: Subsidence, south aisle

Appendix 1 – Context Descriptions

Context	Description	Interpretation	Date
(100)	Flagstones forming the current ground surfaces.	Drainage course	
(101)	A buttress made from dressed, regular limestone blocks.	Church buttress	
(102)	Rough dressed limestone block, 0.20m wide and 0.06m thick.	Foundation stone for buttress (101)	
(103)	A single course of rough dressed limestone blocks, 0.50m wide and 0.09m thick.	Foundation course	
(104)	A firm mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional limestone fragments, 0.18m thick.	Buried topsoil	
(105)	A soft mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional limestone flecks, more than 0.25m thick.	Natural	Natural
(106)	A wall consisting of regular, dressed limestone blocks. The wall was 1.70m long and 0.32m high.	Church wall	
(107)	A deposit of irregular, rough, undressed limestone blocks, with rubble fill between.	Foundation stones in cut [108].	
[108]	A sharp vertical cut, only seen in section. At least 0.20m deep.	A cut for foundation stones.	
(109)	A firm mid grey brown clayey silt with occasional limestone fragments.	Fill in pit [110]	
[110]	A cut with moderate scooped sides and a scooped base. Only seen in section. 0.50m wide and 0.20m deep.	A possible pit or posthole.	
(111)	A firm mid grey brown clayey silt with moderate limestone fragments. Contains human bone. Not excavated.	Fill of grave [112]	
[112]	An east-west orientated rectangular cut. At least 1.50m long and at least 0.40m wide. Not excavated.	Cut of a grave.	
(201)	A firm dark greyish brown sandy clayey silt with frequent gravel inclusions, 0.20m thick.	Topsoil	
(202)	A firm greyish brown clayey silt with frequent gravel and limestone fragment inclusions, 0.20m thick.	A subsoil or levelling deposit.	
(203)	A firm mid reddish brown clayey silt, over 0.30m thick.	Natural	Natural
(204)	A firm mid greyish brown clayey silt with frequent gravel and limestone fragments with occasional modern brick and tile. Only recorded in plan.	Fill of pit [205]	Modern

[205]	An east-west orientated oval pit. 0.80m long and at least 0.20m wide. Only recorded in plan.	Cut of a pit.	Modern
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Appendix 2

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].
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, etc. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
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) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
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.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
Post hole	The hole cut to take a timber post, usually in an upright position. The hole may have been dug larger than the post and contain soil or stones to support the post. Alternatively, the posthole may have been formed through the process of driving the post into the ground.
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 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

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

All primary records 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:2015.170

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: ALCH15

OASIS record no: archaeo11-223485

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: archaeol1-223485

Project details

Project name	Evaluation at St Peter and St Paul Church, Algarkirk
Short description of the project	A small 2 trench evaluation at St Peter and St Paul Church, Algarkirk, Lincolnshire. The evaluation revealed an undated pit, an undated grave and some wall foundations that may predate the current church. Redeposited human remains were observed, but were not removed.
Project dates	Start: 12-08-2015 End: 11-09-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ALCH15 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	LCNCC:2015.170 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Monument type	GRAVE Uncertain
Monument type	WALL Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Not recorded
Prompt	Voluntary/self-interest
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE BOSTON ALGARKIRK St Peter and St Paul Church

Postcode	PE20 2HH
Study area	4 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 29125 35275 52.899048728883 -0.080121497521 52 53 56 N 000 04 48 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Project Services
Project brief originator	Contractor (design and execute)
Project design originator	Denise Drury
Project director/manager	Denise Drury
Project supervisor	Jim Snee
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	The Collection
Digital Archive ID	LCNCC:2015.170
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	The Collection
Paper Archive ID	LCNCC:2015.170
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Diary", "Map", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

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