
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH,
THREXTON, LITTLE CRESSINGHAM,
NORFOLK
(NHER 125159)**

**Work Undertaken For
Threxton Parochial Church Council**

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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1. SUMMARY

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at All Saints' Church, Threxton, Little Cressingham, Norfolk. The excavations were undertaken in advance of an assessment as to the cause of structural damage of the church.

The church is largely of 13th century date though retains an earlier, Norman, tower. During 19th century restoration, an earlier nave was identified which was thought to be Saxon (AD 410-1066) in date along with a circular apse of Norman origin. The church lies at the southern end of a large Iron Age (800 BC-AD 43) and Roman (AD 43-410) settlement, with adjacent forts that once sat astride the Peddars Way.

The excavation revealed a sequence of medieval and post-medieval deposits. Dating to the medieval period were the foundation deposits of the 12th century west tower. An extensive graveyard soil was also revealed which may have had its origins in the medieval period. Most of the post-medieval deposits were associated with the rebuilding of the chancel in the mid 19th century. These include a foundation deposit that incorporated Roman brick, suggesting that a building of this date stood in the proximity of the site and re-used medieval masonry.

Finds comprise Roman brick and medieval and post-medieval floor and roof tiles. Painted window glass was also found that dated to the 14th – 15th century. Later window glass and ironwork was retrieved along with faunal remains.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of an Excavation

An archaeological excavation is defined as, "a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets

archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. The records made and objects gathered during the fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the project design" (IfA 1999).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Birdsall, Swash and Blackman LLP, Chartered Architects and Diocesan Surveyors on behalf of Threxton Parochial Church Council, to undertake archaeological investigations prior to assessment of structural damage to the chancel and vestry at All Saints' Church, Threxton, Little Cressingham, Norfolk. The excavation was carried out between the 18th and 20th August 2010 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Little Cressingham is located 10km southeast of Swaffham and 17km northeast of Thetford in the administrative district of Breckland, Norfolk (Fig. 1).

All Saints' church, Threxton, is located 1.5km east of Little Cressingham at National Grid Reference TF 8848 0014 (Fig. 2). Situated to the north of Brandon Road, the church lies at a height of c. 35m OD on a gentle slope down to the north towards a minor watercourse.

Local soils are of the Isleham 2 Association, typically humic sandy gleys with argillic brown sands of the Worlington Association to the south (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 231; 368). These soils are developed over drift deposits of sand and gravel which seal glacial till. These in turn overlie a solid geology of Cretaceous

chalk.

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Threxton is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Iron Age to the present day. A significant Late Iron Age and Roman settlement extends north from the church to Saham Toney and includes two Roman forts. The forts and settlement are a Scheduled Monument. A Roman gold cross has been reported from All Saints' churchyard.

Threxton is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Trectuna* and *Trestuna*, the name is from the Old English and means 'the enclosure or farmstead (*tūn*) belonging to *Brec*' (Ekwall 1989, 470). At the time of the Domesday Survey, the land was held by William of Warenne and Reginald fitzIvo and contained 30 acres of meadow (Williams and Martin 1992).

The church largely dates to the late 13th to early 14th century though has a Norman circular west tower (Pevsner 1990, 351). During restoration work in the mid 19th century an earlier nave was exposed which was thought to be Saxon in date and was c. 3.8m wide (Bryant 1898, 75). At the same time the foundations of a circular Norman apse was found. The chancel was formerly longer than it is now and the east and north walls were rebuilt in 1846 and the former east window dismantled and inserted into the new east wall (*ibid.*). A lithograph by Robert Ladbrook of All Saints' church dating to the period 1824-1832 shows a narrower chancel with a diagonal buttress on the southeast corner and no south porch. There is no buttress on the south wall of the nave and all three windows have the same pattern of tracery indicating the easternmost window may be a later insertion.

3. AIMS

The aims of the work, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), were to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curator to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site, and to advise the engineer and architect of potential causes of the existing structural problems.

4. METHODS

Excavation

Four trenches (Trenches 1 to 3 and 5) were located within and around the church in areas adjacent to known structural damage. A further trench (Trench 4) was excavated to the south of the churchyard (Fig. 3). Trenches 1 to 3 and 5 were excavated by hand with Trench 4 excavated by machine. Trenches were excavated to the surface of archaeological deposits. Following excavation, the base of the trenches were cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and the sides cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were excavated further to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their function.

Recording was undertaken based on the single context approach developed by the Museum of London (MoLAS 1994) with minor modifications by *Archaeological Project Services*. Each deposit or feature revealed was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their interpretations appears as Appendix 2. All plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and all sections at a scale of 1:10. A photographic record was compiled using digital and monochrome print formats.

Post-excavation

Following excavation, all records were checked and ordered to ensure that they constituted a complete Level II archive

and a stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was produced. Finds recovered from those deposits excavated were examined and a period date assigned where possible. Initial phasing has been based on artefact dating and the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

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

Trench 1 (Fig. 4)

At the base of this trench was a layer of yellowish brown sand and gravel (025). This was overlain by dark brown silty sand (024) followed by yellowish brown gravelly sand (023). These deposits formed a bedding layer for the foundations of the 12th century tower.

Cutting these bedding deposits was a linear north-south aligned foundation trench (022). This was over 1.1m long, over 0.5m wide and was 0.3m deep (Fig. 4, Section 8). This was filled with light brown sand and gravel (021) upon which was built the flint wall of the vestry.

Sealing the foundation trench was a topsoil of brown sand (020) that was 0.27m thick. Cut into the topsoil was a drainage channel (019) filled with mixed gravel (018).

Trench 2 (Fig. 5)

Revealed at the base of the trench was a compacted layer of brownish grey silty sand with frequent mortar, brick/tile and chalk fragments and flint pebbles (032) measuring over 0.24m thick. This was sealed by a layer of greyish white mortar (030) for a tile floor, the impressions of which were discernable. Tiles of the floor were dated to the 14th -16th and 16th – 19th

centuries.

The floor was truncated by an animal burrow filled with reddish brown silty sand (031). The partial skeleton of a rabbit was retrieved from this deposit as was a fragment of late medieval roof tile. All the medieval and later window glass was retrieved from this deposit.

Sealing the mortar floor was a levelling or make-up deposit of grey silty sand with frequent chalk and brick/tile fragments (029). This was 0.22m thick.

Laid on top of the levelling deposit was a brick sub-floor (028) upon which was a thin layer of yellowish white mortar (027) for the current tile floor (026). Brick from the sub-floor was dated to the 16th – 18th centuries.

Trench 3 (Fig. 6)

Natural deposits within this trench comprised reddish yellow silty sand (017) that measured over 40mm thick. This was sealed by a graveyard soil of brownish grey sandy silt (010) that was 0.68m thick and contained post-medieval floor tile. A lense of greyish yellow mortar (011) was recorded within the graveyard soil.

Constructed above the graveyard soil was the east wall of the chancel dating to c. 1846. This comprised a foundation course of flint nodules (014) continuing upwards as (016). Part of the lower wall had been removed or damaged and replaced by inserting fragments of 14th century window tracery which were not bonded to the main structure.

Deposited against the wall of the chancel was a dumped 30mm thick layer of greyish yellow mortar (012) sealed by a further graveyard soil of greyish brown sandy silt (013). This was 0.15m thick (Fig. 6, Section 3). This latter graveyard soil produced a fragment of brick/tile dated to the 15th – 18th centuries and 7 probable

coffin nails.

Cutting this later graveyard soil was a north-south aligned drain trench (003) that contained a ceramic pipe supported on bricks and backfilled with greyish brown sandy silt (004). Sealing this was the current topsoil of grey sandy silt (002) that was 0.18m thick.

Adjacent to the chancel wall was gravel of a French drain (001).

Trench 4 (Fig. 7)

The earliest deposit encountered at the base of this trench was a natural layer of light grey clay with chalk fragments (033). This was overlain by greyish yellow silty sand (008) that was 0.42m thick.

Cut into the natural was a rectangular posthole (008) measuring 0.42m long by 0.4m wide and 0.46m deep (Fig. 7, Section 6). A single fill of brownish grey sandy silt (009) was recorded.

Sealing the posthole was a subsoil comprising grey sandy silt (006) that was 0.18m thick and sealed by the current topsoil of brownish grey sandy silt (005). This was 0.37m thick.

Trench 5 (Fig. 8)

At the base of this trench was a deposit of compacted mortar fragments with Roman brick (038). This deposit measured 0.7m thick.

Constructed upon this was the extant wall of the chancel (037). The chancel wall comprised ashlar foundations upon which were limestone quoins with flint walling to the west.

Developed against the wall was a graveyard soil of brownish grey sandy silt (036). A French drain (035) with a gravel fill (034) was recorded adjacent to the chancel wall.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits comprise chalky till overlain by sands of probable glaciofluvial origin. Natural deposits were only encountered in Trenches 3 and 4.

Deposits of medieval date were only recorded in Trench 1 where they comprised the bedding layers and foundations of the 12th century round tower.

Perhaps originating in the medieval period is the extensive graveyard soil recorded in Trench 3. No burials were recorded within this soil which may have lain beneath an extended chancel.

Upon this graveyard soil was built the east wall of the chancel which dates from 1846 (Bryant 1898, 75). Bryant also noted that reused masonry from a former east window had been used in its construction, although the excavated evidence suggests that the window tracery was perhaps a later insertion.

At the northeast corner of the chancel the wall foundation was sat upon a layer of compacted mortar. The origin of this deposit is not clear. It may relate to demolition of former chancels or was made to provide a firmer foundation. The inclusion of Roman brick with attached *opus signinum* within this deposit suggests that a building of this period may have lain in close proximity to the site. If so, this indicates that the church may have lain within the confines of the Roman settlement identified to the north (although there are no other finds to suggest this) or was an outlying building to that settlement.

Within the chancel, the earliest deposit was very mixed and may have originated from the demolition of an earlier chancel. A lower mortar sub-floor level was revealed which lies approximately at the same level as the western part of the chancel. Tiles from the overlying deposit

matched the tile impressions within the mortar and suggest a date for the floor of the early post-medieval period. This had subsequently been raised to define the modern sanctuary.

A posthole of probable modern date was revealed in Trench 3. The tithe map of 1838 (NRO: DN/TA 39) shows this area to be within the former extent of the churchyard, though the current boundary was in place by the end of the century (OS 1891). The absence of burials may be explained by the relatively small population recorded for Threxton from the medieval period onwards. The subsoil development within this trench would also confirm that this area is relatively undisturbed.

Finds retrieved from the investigation comprise a range of brick and tile of Roman, medieval and post-medieval date. Window glass was also retrieved including painted glass of 14th – 15th century date all derived from the interior of the chancel. Ironwork, all coffin nails, was also recovered along with a small assemblage of faunal remains.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological excavation was undertaken at All Saints' church, Threxton, as deposits associated with the development may have been disturbed during the assessment of the structural damage to the building.

The investigations revealed little of medieval date except the bedding and foundations of the 12th century round tower.

Investigations around the chancel area confirmed documentary accounts that part of the chancel was a 19th century rebuild. Foundations of this rebuilt structure included Roman brick, which suggests that a building of that date lay in the vicinity of the church.

Finds include a range of brick and tile dating from the Roman and medieval to post-medieval periods. Late medieval window glass was also collected along with post-medieval examples. Coffin nails and faunal remains were also retrieved.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mrs R Blackman of Birdsall, Swash and Blackman LLP, Chartered Architects and Diocesan Surveyors, for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis on behalf of Threxton Parochial Church Council. WS Lusher and Son Ltd also provided assistance during site operations. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
 Site Supervisor: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Site Staff: Ross Kendall
 Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Finds illustration: Dave Hopkins
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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of England and Wales **13**

IfA, 1999, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*

MoLAS, 1994 *Archaeological Site Manual* (3rd edition)

NRO: DN/TA 39, *The Parish of Threpton in the County of Norfolk, 1838* (Tithe Award)

OS, 1891 *Norfolk Sheet LXXII.S.W.*, 6" to the mile

Pevsner, N, 1990 *North-West and South Norfolk*, *The Buildings of England*

Williams, A and Martin, GH, 1992 *Domesday Book. A Complete translation*

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS	Archaeological Project Services
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
MoLAS	Museum of London Archaeology Service
NRO	Norfolk Record Office
OS	Ordnance Survey



Figure 1 - General location plan

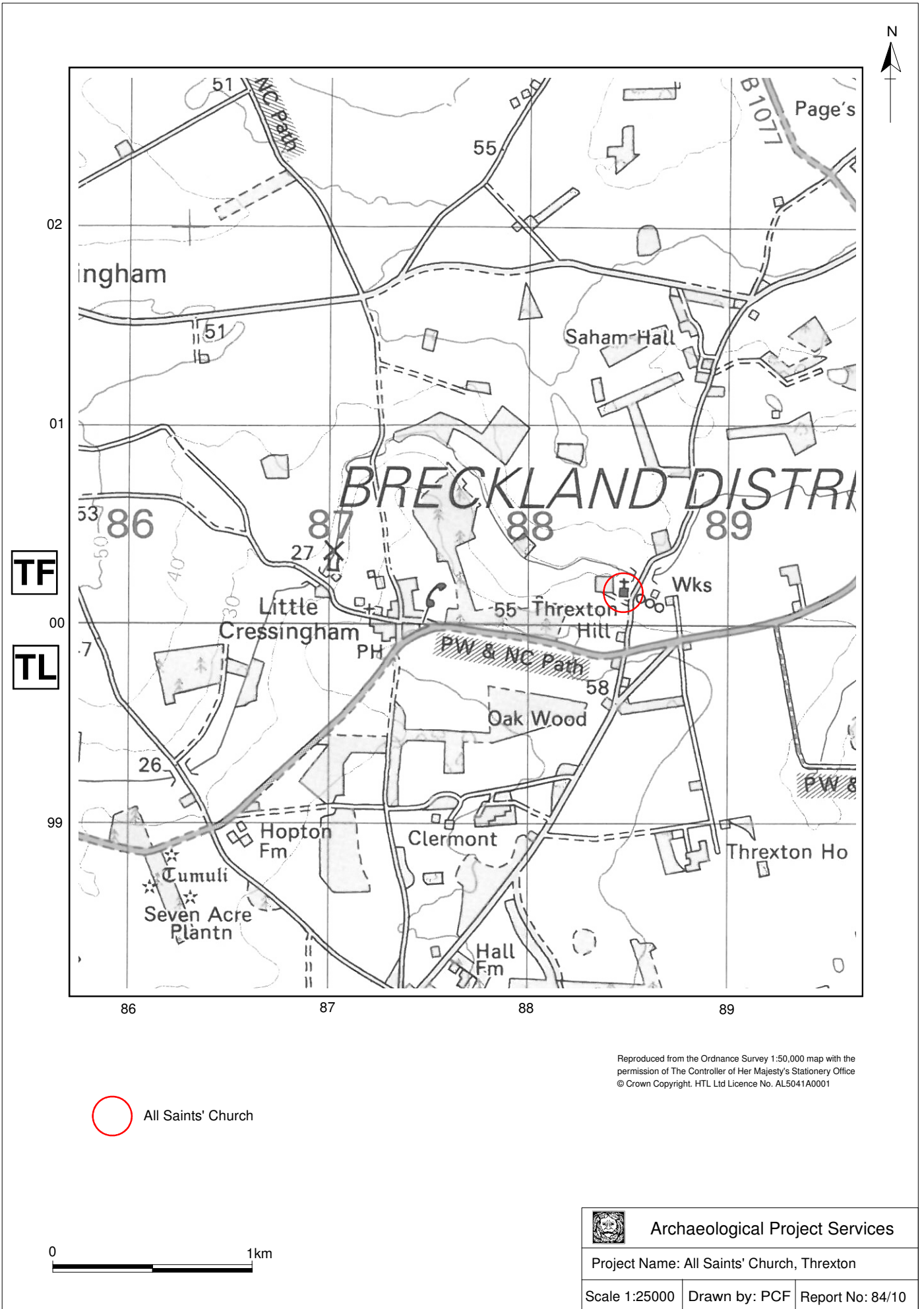


Figure 2 - Site location plan

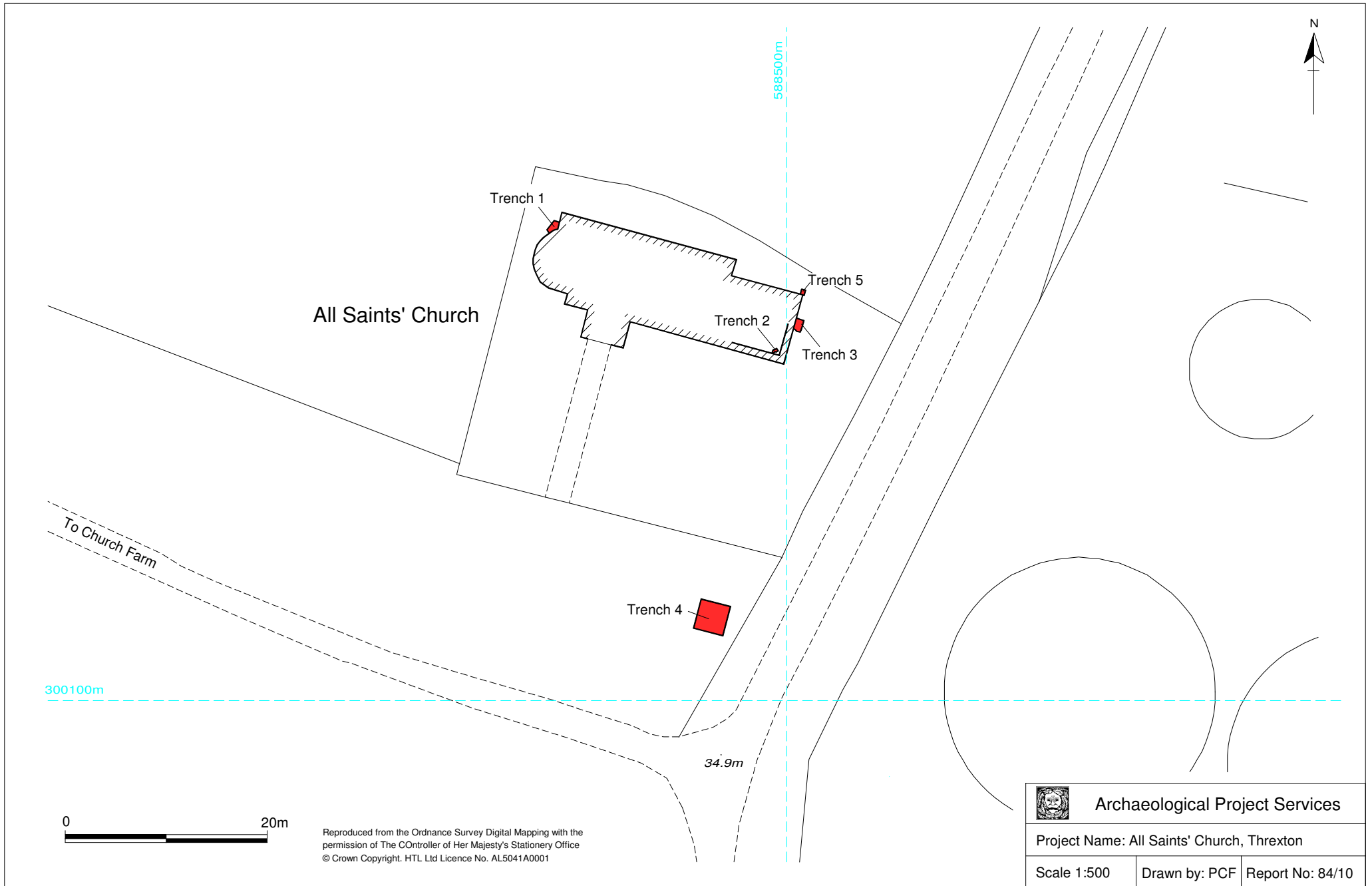
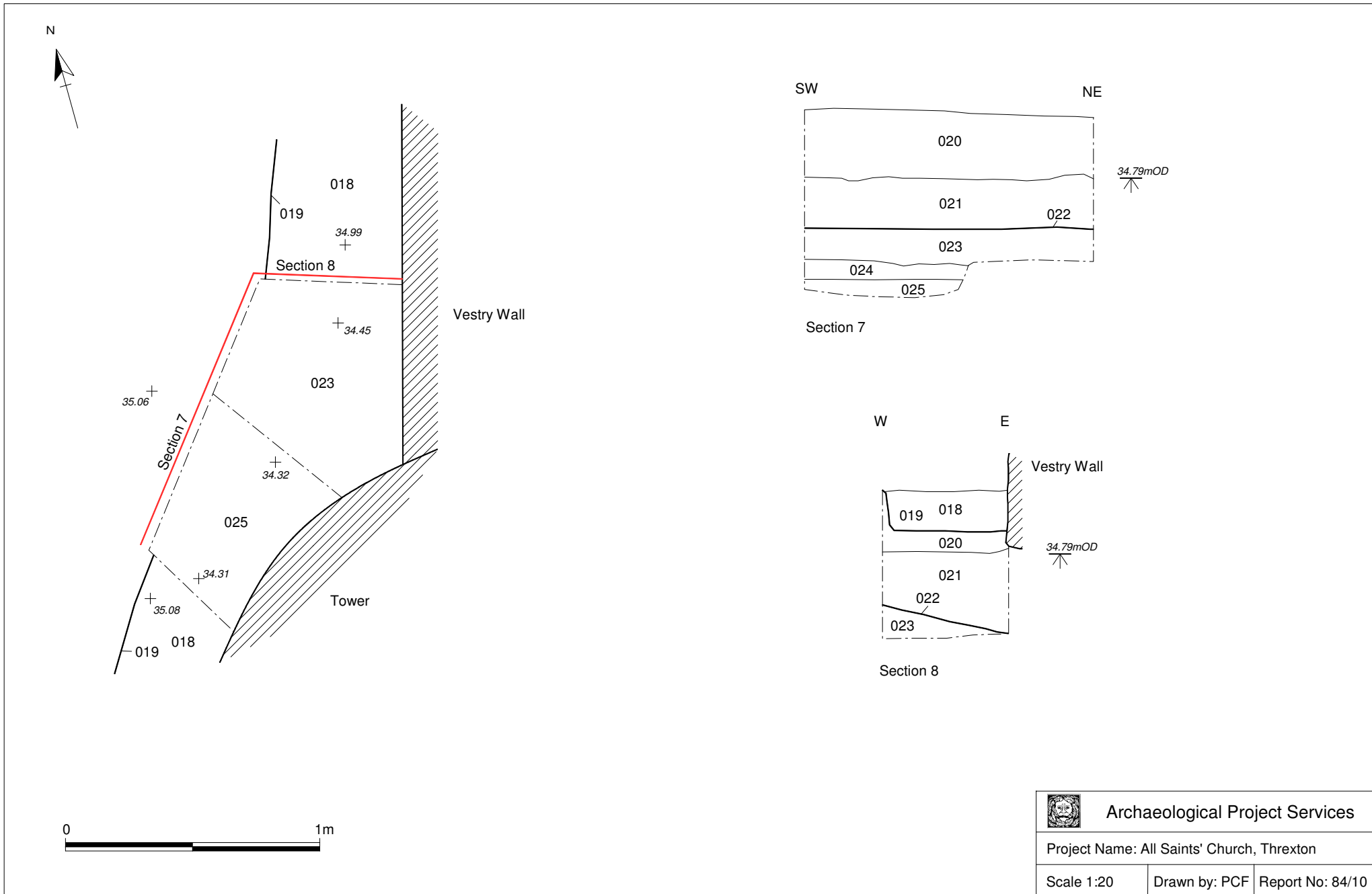


Figure 3 - Trench location plan




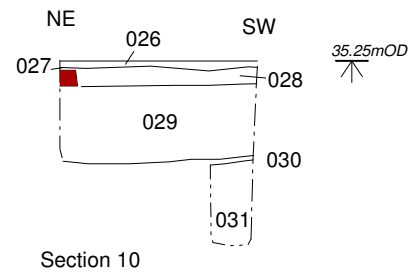
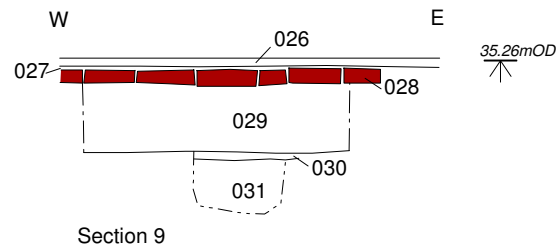
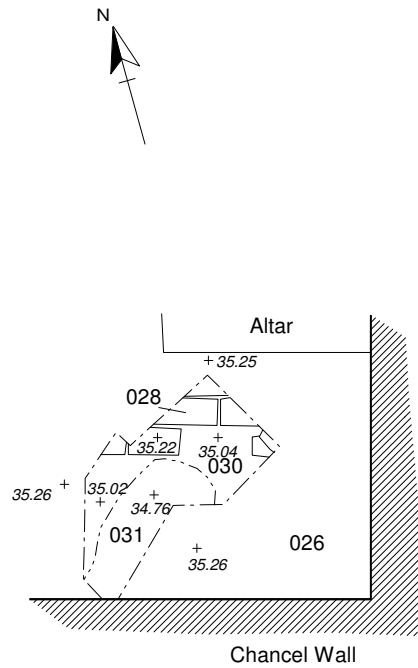
 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: All Saints' Church, Threxton		
Scale 1:20	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 84/10

Figure 4 - Trench 1: Plan and sections



 brick




	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: All Saints' Church, Threxton		
Scale 1:20	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 84/10

Figure 5 - Trench 2: Plan and sections

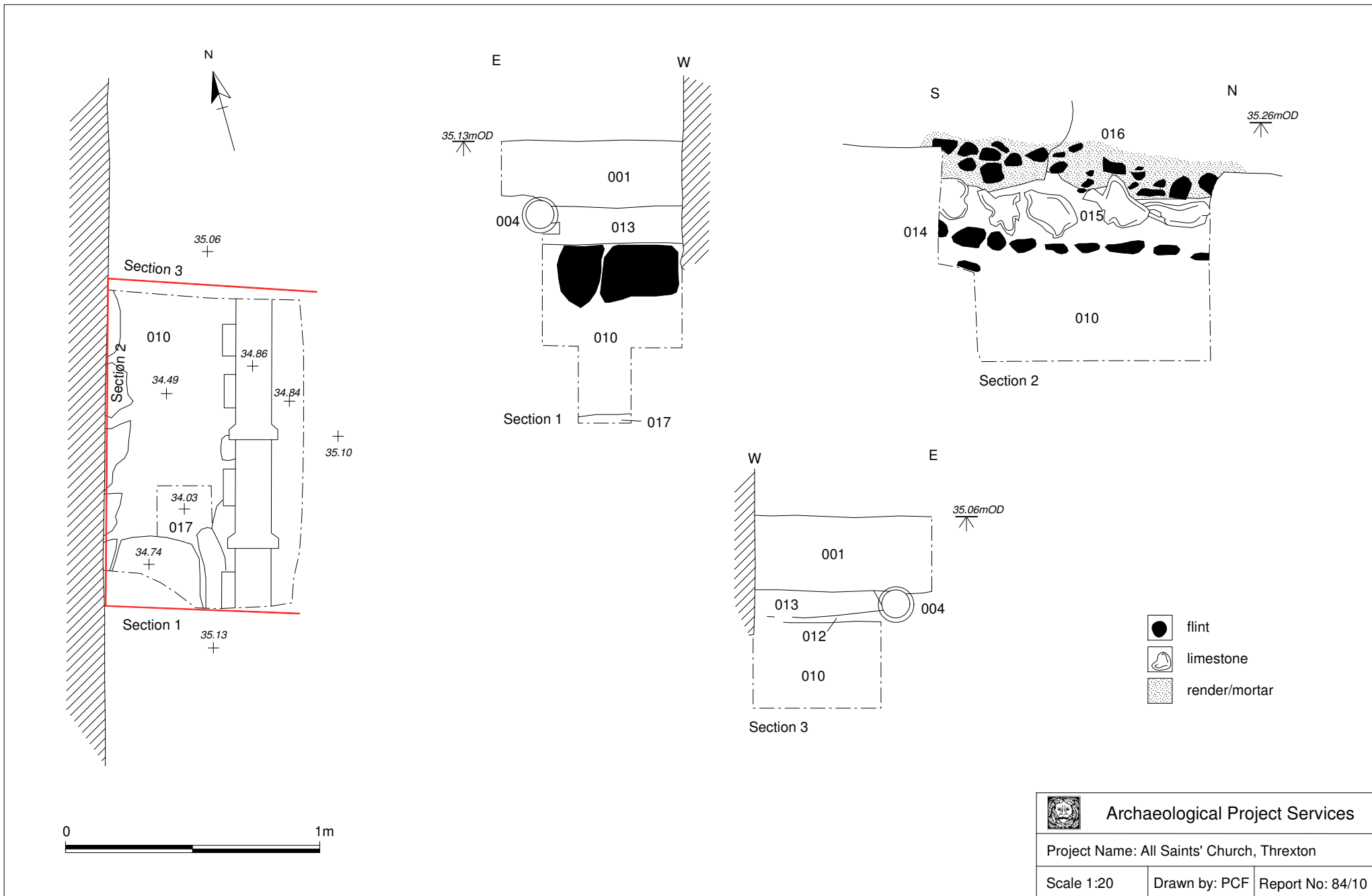


Figure 6 - Trench 3: Plan and sections

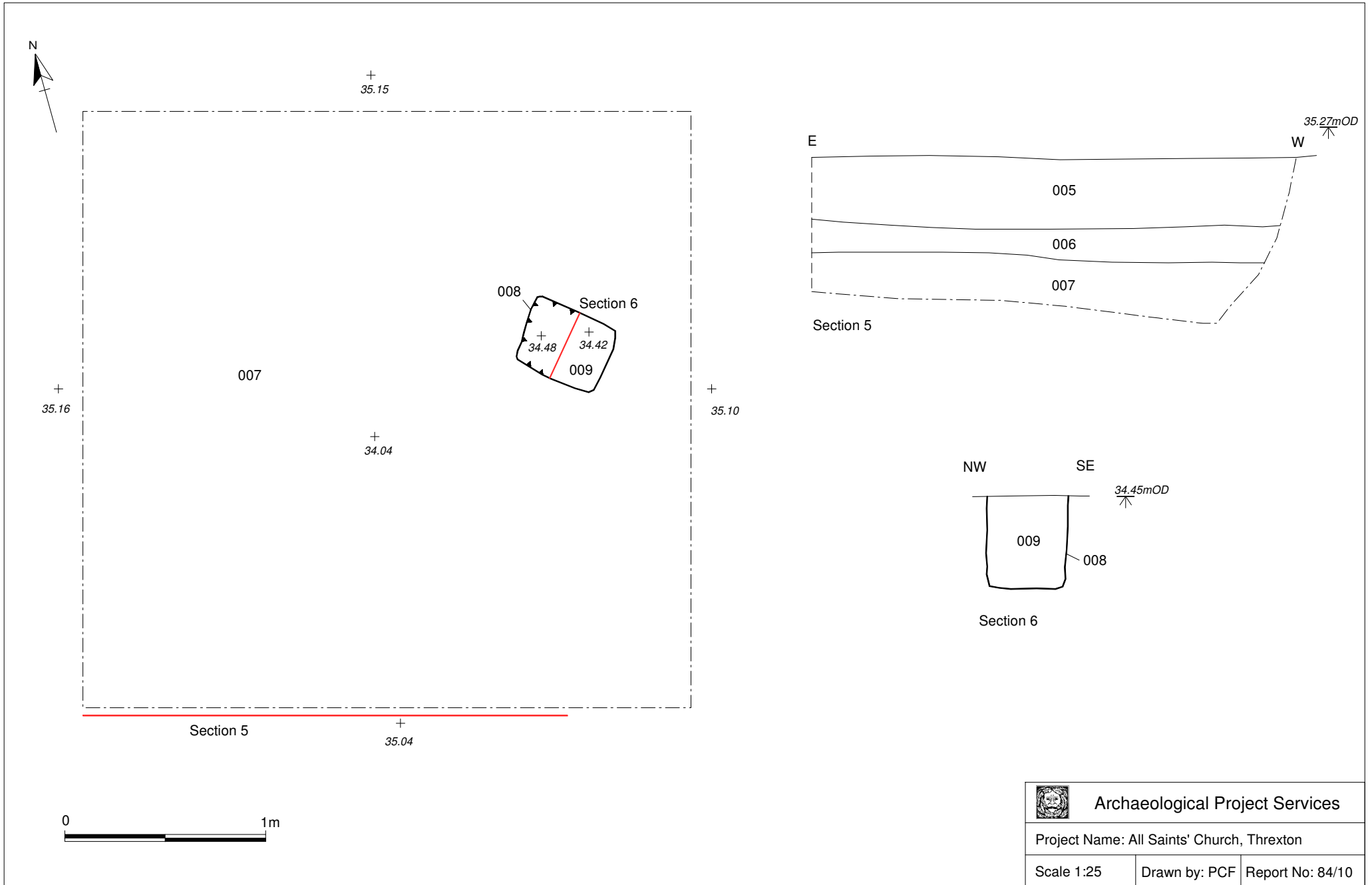



Figure 7 - Trench 4: Plan and sections

 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: All Saints' Church, Threxton		
Scale 1:25	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 84/10

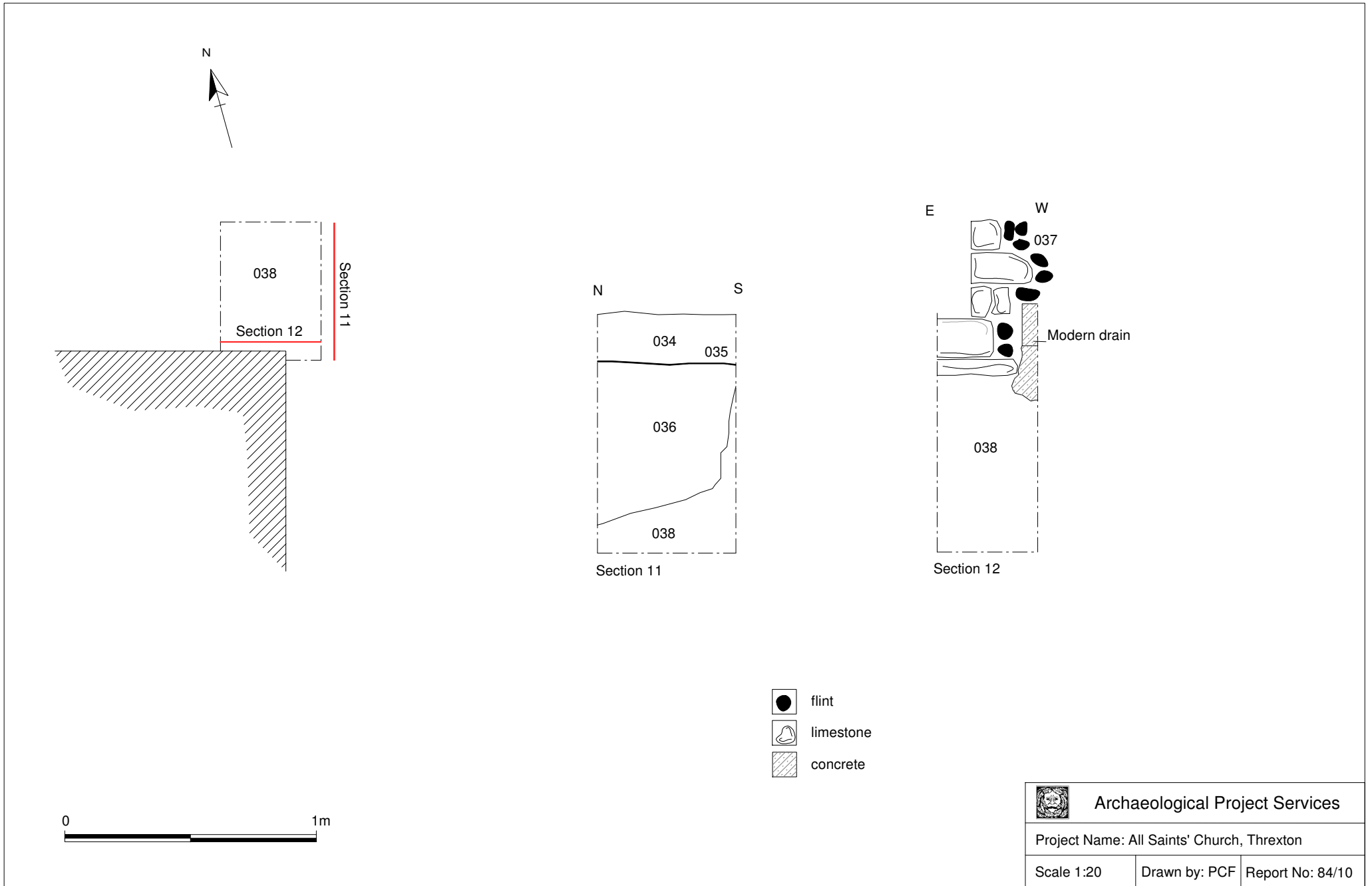


Figure 8 - Trench 5: Plan and sections



Plate 1 – All Saints' church, looking northeast



Plate 2 – Trench 1 after excavation, looking north



Plate 3 – Trench 2, Section 9, looking north



Plate 4 – Trench 2, Section 10, looking southeast



Plate 5 – Trench 3 after excavation, looking west

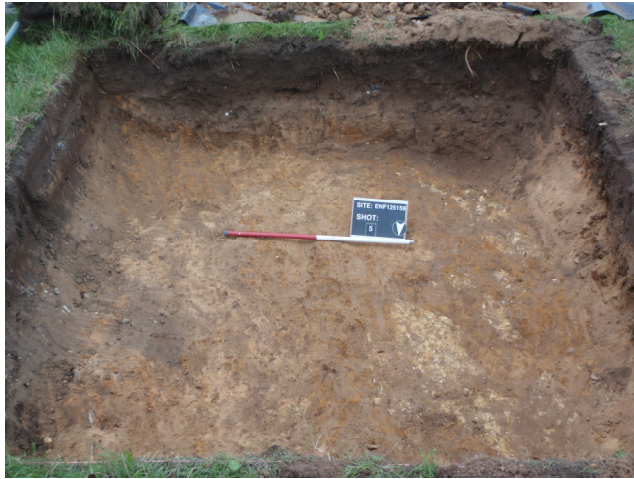


Plate 6 – Trench 4 after excavation, looking south



Plate 7 – Trench 4 showing posthole (008), looking southeast



Plate 8 – Trench 5 after excavation, looking south

Appendix 1

LAND AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, THREXTON, LITTLE CRESSINGHAM, NORFOLK - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *This document comprises a specification for the archaeological investigation at All Saints' church, Threxton, Little Cressingham, Norfolk.*
- 1.2 *The area is archaeologically sensitive, located by a Roman fort and settlement, part of which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The church is medieval but may have had a Saxon precursor and possible Roman and Saxon artefacts are reported from the churchyard.*
- 1.3 *A programme of archaeological investigation by trial trenching is required at the site. A bore hole will also be monitored.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the investigation. The report will consist of a text describing the nature of the archaeological deposits located and will be supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for the archaeological investigation at All Saints' church, Threxton, Norfolk.
- 2.2 The document contains the following parts:
 - 2.2.1 Overview
 - 2.2.2 The archaeological and natural setting
 - 2.2.3 Stages of work and methodologies to be used
 - 2.2.4 List of specialists
 - 2.2.5 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 Little Cressingham is located 10km southeast of Swaffham in the Breckland District of Norfolk Threxton church is located 1.5km east of Little Cressingham, to the north of Brandon Road/Watton Road at National Grid Reference TF 8848 0014.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The chancel of Threxton church is suffering from movement and severe cracking. Investigations to examine ground conditions and the possible reasons for this movement are required, to inform future stabilisation and remedial works. As the site is archaeologically sensitive these investigations will be carried out archaeologically. A brief for investigations has been prepared by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The site is on a gentle slope down to the north towards a small stream and stands at c. 35m OD. Local soils are Isleham 2 Association humic sandy gleys developed on glaciofluvial sands. Immediately to the south are Worlington Association argillic brown sands on chalky drift (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 231; 368).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Threxton church is located just to the southwest of the Woodcock Hall Roman fort and

settlement, part of which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Artefacts of possible Roman and Saxon date are reported from the churchyard. Threxton comprised two manors in the Domesday Book of 1086, indicating the settlement was in existence in the Late Saxon period. Threxton church has a Norman round tower but is mostly 13th century, though evidence of a Saxon nave was found during restoration of the church in the mid 19th century.

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aim of the work will be to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curator to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site, and to advise the engineer and architect of potential causes of the existing structural problems.
- 7.2 The objectives of the work will be to:
- 7.2.1 Establish the type of archaeological activity that may be present within the site.
 - 7.2.2 Determine the likely extent of archaeological activity present within the site.
 - 7.2.3 Determine the date and function of the archaeological features present on the site.
 - 7.2.4 Determine the state of preservation of the archaeological features present on the site.
 - 7.2.5 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features present within the site.
 - 7.2.6 Determine the extent to which the surrounding archaeological features extend into the application area.
 - 7.2.7 Establish the way in which the archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

8 LIAISON WITH THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CURATOR

- 8.1 Close contact will be maintained with the archaeological curator throughout the investigation to ensure that the scheme of works fulfils their requirements.

9 TRIAL TRENCHING

9.1 Reasoning for this technique

- 9.1.1 Trial trenching enables the *in situ* determination of the sequence, date, nature, depth, environmental potential and density of archaeological features present on the site.
- 9.1.2 The trial trenching arrangement has been specified as:
- South chancel wall, internal, 600mm² x 900mm deep
 - East chancel wall, external, 800mm² x 1200mm deep
 - West vestry wall, external, 800mm² x 1200mm deep
 - To south of churchyard, in carparking area, trench up to 2m deep
 - Borehole in churchyard.
- 9.1.3 The trench in the carparking area will initially be 1.6m x 1m in area, and will be excavated to 1m depth or the level at which human remains are revealed. Should burials be revealed then excavation will cease. Excavation will also cease at the surface of natural, should it be revealed in the upper 1m, though the trench may be deepened to 2m for the purposes of geotechnical examination. If archaeological deposits (excluding burials) are still evident at 1m depth the trench will be expanded to 3m², and will be stepped and a sondage 1m² dug in the centre to 2m depth.

9.2 General Considerations

- 9.2.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the investigation.
- 9.2.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practice issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). *Archaeological Project Services* is an IFA Registered Archaeological Organisation (No. 21) managed by a member (MifA) of the institute.
- 9.2.3 All work will be carried out in accordance with accordance with *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) and any revisions of such received up to the acceptance of this specification. Additionally, the work will be undertaken in consideration of, and with reference to, the regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997; Brown and Glazebrook 2000).
- 9.2.4 Any artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and the discovery promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.
- 9.2.5 Excavation of the archaeological features exposed will only be undertaken as far as is required to determine their date, sequence, density and nature. Not all archaeological features exposed will necessarily be excavated. However, the investigation will, as far as is reasonably practicable, determine the level of the natural deposits to ensure that the depth of the archaeological sequence present on the site is established.
- 9.2.6 The trench in the carpark will be enclosed by HERAS fencing, and others in the churchyard will be surrounded by netlon plastic mesh attached to support rods. Subject to the consent of the archaeological curator, and following the appropriate recording, the trenches, particularly those of excessive depth, will be backfilled as soon as possible to minimise any health and safety risks.

9.3 Methodology

- 9.3.1 Removal of the topsoil and any other overburden will be undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. To ensure that the correct amount of material is removed and that no archaeological deposits are damaged, this work will be supervised by Archaeological Project Services. Should excavations extend below a safe depth (nominally 1.2m but dependent on the nature of the soil conditions) then the trenches will be stepped.
- 9.3.2 On completion of the removal of the overburden, the nature of the underlying deposits will be assessed by hand excavation before any further mechanical excavation that may be required. Thereafter, the trenches will be cleaned by hand to enable the identification and analysis of the archaeological features exposed. Investigation of the features will be undertaken only as far as required to determine their date, form and function. The work will consist of half- or quarter-sectioning of features as required and, where appropriate, the removal of layers. Should features be located which may be worthy of preservation *in situ*, excavation will be limited to the absolute minimum, (*ie* the minimum disturbance) necessary to interpret the form, function and date of the features.
- 9.3.2 The archaeological features encountered will be recorded on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma context record sheets. The system used is the single context method by which individual archaeological units of stratigraphy are assigned a unique record number and are individually described and drawn.
- 9.3.3 Plans of features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10. Should individual features merit it, they will be drawn at a larger scale.
- 9.3.4 Throughout the duration of the trial trenching a photographic record consisting of black and white prints (reproduced as contact sheets) and colour slides will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
 - 9.3.4.1 the site before the commencement of field operations.

- 9.3.4.2 the site during work to show specific stages of work, and the layout of the archaeology within individual trenches.
- 9.3.4.3 individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
- 9.3.4.4 groups of features where their relationship is important.
- 9.3.4.5 the site on completion of fieldwork
- 9.3.5 Should human remains be encountered in the graveyard, the Faculty allows for them to be removed, though excavation will be limited to the remains within any trench. Human remains will not be removed from site but will be left for re-burial. Should burials be encountered outside the churchyard, excavation will cease.
- 9.3.6 Finds collected during the fieldwork will be bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered ready for later washing and analysis.
- 9.3.7 The spoil generated during the investigation will be mounded along the edges of the trial trenches with the topsoil being kept separate from the other material excavated for subsequent backfilling.
- 9.3.8 The precise location of the trenches within the site and the location of site recording grid will be established by a GPS and/or EDM survey.

10 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 If appropriate, during the investigation specialist advice will be obtained from an environmental archaeologist. The specialist will visit the site and will prepare a report detailing the nature of the environmental material present on the site and its potential for additional analysis should further stages of archaeological work be required. The results of the specialist's assessment will be incorporated into the final report.

11 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORT

11.1 Stage 1

- 11.1.1 The site will be subject to a full Archaeological Assessment as set out in *Management of Archaeological Projects II*. On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the trial trenching will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence constituting a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued: the colour slides will be labelled and mounted on appropriate hangers and the black and white contact prints will be labelled, in both cases the labelling will refer to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 11.1.2 All finds recovered during the investigation will be washed, marked, bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at Lincoln.
- 11.1.3 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

11.2 Stage 2

- 11.2.1 A full Assessment Report will be prepared and will consist of statements setting out the following:-
 - *Factual Data* ie quantity of material and records; the provenance of the material; the range and variety of material; the condition of the material and the existence of primary sources or relevant documentation which may enhance the study of the site data.
 - *Statement of Potential* for each material category including a review of the research

questions posed in the Project Design which the data has the potential to answer, new research questions resulting from the data gathering and the potential for the data to enhance local, regional and national research

- *Storage and Curation* – recommendations on the discard of material and long-term storage requirements.

11.3 Stage 3

11.3.1 On completion of Stage 2, an Updated Project Design will be prepared (as set out in MAP II). This will include site background, summary statement of potential, revised aims and objectives, methods statement and a detailed update that sets out a revised programme to complete the project.

11.4 Stage 4

11.4.1 On completion of Stage 3, an analytical report will be prepared. This will be produced with consideration of the regional research guidelines (Glazebrook 1997; Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and will consist of:

- A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
- A description of the archaeological setting of the site.
- Description of the topography and geology of the investigation area.
- Description of the methodologies used during the investigation and discussion of their effectiveness in the light of the results
- A text describing the findings of the investigation.
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed and their context within the surrounding landscape.
- Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- Illustrations including plans, sections, and artefacts. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features or groups of features.

12 **ARCHIVE**

12.1 The documentation, finds, photographs and other records and materials generated during the evaluation will be sorted and ordered in accordance with the procedures in the Society of Museum Archaeologists' document *Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Museums* (1994), and any additional local requirements, for long-term storage and curation. This work will be undertaken by the Finds Supervisor, an Archaeological Assistant and the Conservator (if relevant). The archive will be deposited with the receiving museum as soon as possible after completion of the project, and within 12 months of that completion date.

12.2 The archive will be microfilmed. The silver master will be transferred to the RCHME and a diazo copy will be deposited with the Norfolk Historic Environment Record.

12.3 Prior to the project commencing, Norfolk Museums Service will be contacted to obtain their agreement to receipt of the project archive and to establish their requirements with regards to labelling, ordering, storage, conservation and organisation of the archive.

12.4 Upon completion and submission of the evaluation report, the landowner will be contacted to arrange legal transfer of title to the archaeological objects retained during the investigation from themselves to the receiving museum. The transfer of title will be effected by a standard letter supplied to the landowner for signature.

13 **REPORT DEPOSITION**

13.1 Copies of the report will be sent to: the client; to Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (3 hard copies and 1 digital on CD) - two copies for Norfolk Historic Environment Record and one for the local planning authority; and the English Heritage Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science.

14 **PUBLICATION**

14.1 Details of the investigation will be input to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS).

14.2 A note will also be submitted for publication to the journal *Norfolk Archaeology*.

14.3 Notes or articles describing the results of the investigation will also be submitted for publication in the appropriate national journals: *Medieval Archaeology* and for medieval and later remains, and *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date.

15 **CURATORIAL MONITORING**

15.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with Norfolk Landscape Archaeology. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project to enable them to make monitoring arrangements.

16 **VARIATIONS TO THE PROPOSED SCHEME OF WORKS**

16.1 Variations to the scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation from the archaeological curator, the client and their consultant.

16.2 Should the archaeological curator require any additional investigation beyond the scope of the brief for works, or this specification, then the cost and duration of those supplementary examinations will be negotiated between the client and the contractor.

17 **STAFF TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT**

17.1 The work will be directed by Tom Lane MifA, Senior Archaeologist, Archaeological Project Services. The on-site works will be supervised by an Archaeological Supervisor with knowledge of archaeological evaluations of this type. Archaeological excavation will be carried out by Archaeological Technicians, experienced in projects of this type.

17.2 The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln.
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric: Dr D Knight/D Trimble, APS Roman: A Beeby, APS/B Precious, independent specialist Post-Roman: Dr A Boyle, APS
Other Artefacts	J Cowgill, independent specialist/G Taylor, APS
Human Remains Analysis	J Kitch, independent specialist
Animal Remains Analysis	J Kitch, independent specialist/P Cope-Faulkner APS
Environmental Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy/V Fryer, independent specialist
Radiocarbon dating	Beta Analytic Inc., Florida, USA

18 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 18.1 Fieldwork will be undertaken by appropriate staff, including supervisors and assistants, and to take about 3 days.
- 18.2 Post-excavation analysis and report production will take about 10 days. A project officer or supervisor will undertake most of the analysis, with assistance from the finds supervisor, CAD illustrator and external specialists.

19 INSURANCES

- 19.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability insurance to £10,000,000. Additionally, the company maintains Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation are enclosed.

20 COPYRIGHT

- 20.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.
- 20.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 20.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* and may result in legal action.
- 20.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

21 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. (eds), 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. Research agenda and strategy*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers **8**

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Gurney, D, 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, ALGAOEE

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Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

No.	Description	Interpretation
018	Loose mixed gravel	Fill of (019)
019	Linear feature, aligned north-south, 0.48m wide by 0.15m deep, vertical sides and flat base	French drain
020	Firm dark brown sand, 0.27m thick	Topsoil
021	Compacted light brown sand and gravel	Fill of (022)
022	Linear feature, aligned north-south, >1.1m long by >0.5m wide by 0.3m deep, gradual sides and flattish base	Foundation trench for vestry wall
023	Compacted dark yellowish brown gravelly sand, 0.15m thick	Bedding layer for tower
024	Compacted dark brown silty sand, 70mm thick	Bedding layer for tower
025	Firm dark yellowish brown sand and gravel, >70mm thick	Bedding layer for tower

Trench 2

No.	Description	Interpretation
026	Tile (155mm x 155mm x 30mm) structure, laid flat	Chancel floor
027	Indurated light yellowish white mortar, 0.15m thick	Bedding for (026)
028	Brick (245mm x 126mm x 40mm) structure, laid flat	Brick sub-floor
029	Loose and friable light grey silty sand with frequent chalk and brick/tile fragments, 0.22m thick	Levelling deposit
030	Indurated light greyish white mortar with frequent crushed chalk fragments, 30mm thick	Bedding layer for former floor
031	Soft mid reddish brown silty sand, >0.24m thick	Rabbit burrow
032	Firm mid brownish grey silty sand with frequent mortar, brick/tile and chalk fragments and flint pebbles, >0.24m thick	Demolition deposit

Trench 3

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Mixed gravel	French drain
002	Firm light brownish grey sandy silt, 0.18m thick	Topsoil
003	Linear feature, aligned north-south, 0.3m wide by 0.4m deep, near vertical sides and flat base	Service trench
004	Soft mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent small gravel, ceramic drain pipe resting on bricks	Fill of (003)
010	Soft mid brownish grey sandy silt, 0.68m thick	Graveyard soil
011	Firm light greyish yellow mortar, 50mm thick	Dumped deposit
012	Firm light greyish yellow mortar, 30mm thick	Dumped deposit
013	Firm mid greyish brown sandy silt, 0.15m thick	Graveyard soil
014	Flint nodule construction,	Foundation
015	Limestone window tracery, single course representing later insertion into chancel wall,	Wall repair
016	Flint nodule construction, random coursing	East chancel wall
017	Soft to loose mid reddish yellow silty sand, >40mm thick	Natural deposit

Trench 4

No.	Description	Interpretation
005	Soft dark brownish grey sandy silt, 0.37m thick	Topsoil
006	Firm light grey sandy silt, 0.18m thick	Subsoil
007	Firm light greyish yellow silty sand, 0.43m thick	Natural deposit
008	Rectangular feature, 0.4m long by 0.4m wide by 0.46m deep, near vertical sides and flattish base	Posthole
009	Firm mid brownish grey sandy silt	Fill of (008)
033	Solid light grey with fine chalk fragments, >0.5m thick	Natural deposit

Trench 5

No.	Description	Interpretation
034	Loose mixed gravel	Fill of (035)
035	Linear feature, 0.5m wide by 0.19m deep, vertical sides and flat base	French drain
036	Soft mid brownish grey sandy silt, 0.65m thick	Graveyard soil
037	Flint and limestone structure,	Foundation of chancel wall
038	Firm compacted light brown mortar fragments and tile, 0.7m thick	?foundation deposit

Appendix 3

THE FINDS

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). A total of 13 fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 8924 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 Archive Catalogue 1 with a summary in Table 1 below.

Condition

The material comprises a mixture of both large fresh pieces as well as smaller fragments. Two pieces of tile are classed as abraded. The average fragment weight is high at 729 grams although some pieces are quite considerably larger than this, one weighing 2041 grams. Two fragments are sooted over the broken edge, an effect probably caused by post depositional burning.

Results

Table 1, Summary of the Ceramic Building Material

Cname	Full Name	NoF	W(g)
BRK	Brick	1	1292
CBM	Ceramic Building Material	1	31
FLOOR	Floor Tile	2	2041
GFLOOR	Glazed Floor Tile	2	1325
PEG	Peg Tile	1	150
PNR	Peg, Nib or Ridge Tile	1	17
RBRK	Roman Brick	5	3893
Total		13	8749

Provenance

Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 5 all produced fragments of ceramic building material.

Trench 2

Brick sub-floor (028) and floor bedding layer (030) produced material from this trench, as did rabbit burrow (031).

Trench 3

Graveyard soil deposits (010) and (013) within Trench 3 both yielded fragments of ceramic building material.

Trench 4

A single piece of material came from the subsoil within this trench.

Trench 5

Five large fragments from a single Roman Brick were recovered from possible foundation deposit (038) in Trench 5

Range

The assemblage includes a range of ceramic building material types most of which should probably be given a post or late medieval date. The group includes two fragments of floor tile (FLOOR) in an oxidised fairly coarse, sandy fabric from (010) and (030) and two virtually complete glazed floor tiles (GFLOOR) in a silty calcareous clay type also from (030). The glazed pieces are relatively small and may be a little earlier than the larger unglazed examples, perhaps 14th-16th century. The later floor tiles are probably of 16th-19th century date, as is a single piece from a handmade brick recovered from (028). Two flat roofing tiles with a probable late medieval date, including a single

pegged type (PEG) from (031) and an unclassified pegged, nibbed or ridge tile (PNR) from (006) were also retrieved.

Fragments from single Roman brick (RBRK) recovered from (038) in Trench 5 are of particular interest; some of these large, fresh pieces have *opus signinum* mortar adhered to them suggesting they originate from a higher status brick-built Roman structure. These pieces could represent a layer of demolition material or may have been reused on this site as rubble hardcore. Roman building material was commonly reused by later builders and the fragments could have been brought to the site from some distance.

There is no evidence that any of the pieces recovered are not local products and all of the fabric types are within the range of what might be expected in this area. With the exception of the Roman brick, all of the trenches produced material of a similar type and date with no clear distributional difference observed.

Potential

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

Summary

A good range of ceramic building material was recovered from the site including pieces from at least two late medieval roof tiles and a number of fragments from late and post medieval bricks and floor tiles. A single Roman Brick was also recovered and is of particular interest.

FAUNAL REMAINS

By Paul Cope-Faulkner

Introduction

A total of 48 (420g) fragments of animal bone and mollusc shell were recovered from stratified contexts.

Provenance

The faunal remains were retrieved from graveyard soils (010 and 013) and from an animal burrow (031).

Condition

The overall condition of the remains was good to moderate, though a few fragments were recorded as chalky.

Results

Table 2, Fragments Identified to Taxa

Cxt	Taxon	Element	Number	W (g)	Comments
010	cattle	humerus	2	155	chop marks
	cattle	molar	1	25	
	horse	patella	1	45	
	large mammal	scapula	2	32	chalky
	large mammal	long bone	3	24	chalky
	sheep/goat	vertebra	2	19	
	medium mammal	long bone	1	2	
	oyster	shell	2	86	
013	medium mammal	rib	1	1	all dentition present
	rat	mandible	5	1	
	small mammal	skull	2	<1	
	chicken	femur	1	4	
	bird	humerus	1	1	
031	rabbit	various	24	24	incl. scapula, femur, pelvis vertebra, ribs etc

Summary

Cattle, sheep/goat and chicken bones were identified and probably represent food waste. As such, they may have been imported to the site. A horse was also present. Rabbit and rat are both burrowing animals, the rabbit was from a burrow, and are likely to be intrusive. The oyster shells are probably food waste.

Overall the assemblage is too small for meaningful analysis, though should be retained as part of the site archive.

GLASS*By Gary Taylor***Introduction**

A small collection of 6 fragments of glass weighing a total of 23g was recovered from a single context.

Condition

Although naturally fragile, all of the glass is in good condition, though the post-medieval pieces exhibit iridescent decay.

Results*Table 3, Glass Archive*

Cxt	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
031	Triangular fragment of white glass, 32 x 42 x 3mm. 2 grozed edges. Thick and thin parallel trace-lines. 14 th -15 th century	1	5	Late post-medieval
	Sub-rhomboidal fragment of white glass, 65 x 33 x 3mm. 1 grozed and 1 flat edge. Unidentified painted design with three sets of parallel trace-lines, 2 sets parallel and the third at an oblique angle to the other pairs. 14 th -15 th century	1	10	
	Triangular fragment of white glass (greenish), 42 x 12 x 3mm, 1 grozed edge. Unidentified painted design, perhaps micro-architecture. 14 th -15 th century	1	2	
	Quadrilateral fragment, 27 x 10 x 2mm, 2 grozed edges, medieval	1	1	
	Quadrilateral fragment of white glass, 20 x 20 x 2mm. 2 grozed edges, medieval	1	1	
	Quadrilateral fragment of white glass, 18 x 19 x 1.5mm, post-medieval	1	1	
	Irregular fragment of white glass, 35 x 28 x 1.5mm. 2 grozed edges. Post-medieval	1	2	
Irregular fragment of white glass (greenish), 24 x 22 x 1.5mm, late post-medieval	1	1		

Provenance

All of the glass was recovered from a rabbit burrow in Trench 2, below the south chancel window.

Range

All of the glass is from windows and of the 8 fragments recovered 5 are medieval, two post-medieval and 1 late post-medieval. Three of the medieval fragments have painted designs. However, these are mostly unidentified, though one may be micro-architecture, perhaps windows with rounded arches, one of them with a pair of glazing bars.

Potential

As a very small assemblage the glass is of limited potential, though the earlier pieces reveal that the medieval windows had painted designs.

Recommendations for future work

The painted glass should be drawn and re-examined by a medieval glass specialist.

OTHER FINDS*By Gary Taylor***Introduction**

Seven other finds weighing a total of 50g were recovered.

Condition

The other finds are in good condition, but corroded.

Results*Table 4, Other Materials*

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
013	iron	nails	7	50	

Provenance

The other finds were recovered from a graveyard soil.

Range

Only iron nails, probably coffin nails, were recovered.

Potential

The probable coffin nails are of limited potential.

Recommendations for further work

No further work is required on this material.

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
006	15th-16th?	Based on 1 cbm
010	16th-19th?	Based on 1 cbm
013	15th-18th	Based on 1 cbm
028	16th-18th	Based on 1 cbm
030	16th-19th	Based on 1 cbm
031	Late post-medieval	Intrusive – animal burrow
038	Roman	Based on cbm

ABBREVIATIONS

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
Q	Quartz
TR	Trench
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>

ARCHIVE CATALOGUES

Archive catalogue 1, Ceramic Building Material

Cxt	Tr	Cname	Fabric	NoF	W(g)	Description	Date
006	4	PNR	Oxidised; medium sandy	1	17	Abraded; flatroofer; sparse mica; sparse flint ; sparse black aerated Fe	15th-16th?
010	3	FLOOR?	Oxidised; Coarse sandy	1	175	Abraded; flint; 32mm deep; sooted over break; Ca incl hollows; poss Roman CBM	16th-19th?
013	3	CBM	Gault	1	31	Single surface; mortar on upper surface; sooted; spalled; sooted over break	15th-18th
028	2	BRK	Gault	1	1292	Sand moulded; Kiss mark on base; two sides with chamfered corners at base; mortared surfaces; thin - just 45mm deep; 117mm; very fresh	16th-18th
030	2	FLOOR	Oxidised; medium coarse sandy	1	2041	Knife trimmed edges; lime mortar adhered to base; worn upper surface; mortar over Broken edge; flint; Fe; Ca grits; 232 mm wide; 28mm deep	16th-19th
030	2	GFLOOR	Oxidised; fine calcareous	2	1325	Knife trimmed edges; sanded base; one piece with white upper surface - wash?; worn upper surfaces; 120mm x 120mm across; 24mm deep; patches of thick heavy dark green glazed edges; lime mortar adhered to lower surface/edges; sparse angular Q and Fe	14th-16th
031	2	PEG	Oxidised; medium sandy	1	150	Lime mortar or wash on upper surface; rounded peg hole punched from upper to lower; flint; coarsely sanded base; fabric identical to PNR from (006)	15th-16th?

Cxt	Tr	Cname	Fabric	NoF	W(g)	Description	Date
038	5	RBRK	Oxidised; medium sandy	5	3893	Fresh; OPSIG adhered to base; salt washed surfaces; Ca grits up to 4mm	Roman

Appendix 4

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).
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
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.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1 st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.
Till	A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as boulder clay, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size.

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

38	Context sheets
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Section record sheet
1	Plan record sheet
3	Daily record sheets
10	Sheets of scale drawings
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:

Norfolk Museums Service
Union House
Gressenhall
Dereham
Norfolk
NR20 4DR

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *County Standards for Field Archaeology in Norfolk*, produced by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology.

Norfolk Museums Service Number: ENF 125159

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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