ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, SCAMPTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

Archive Report for:
Archaeological Monitoring (Watching Brief)



Prepared by

NETWORK ARCHAEOLOGY

For

SOUL ARCHITECTS August 2022

On Behalf of

The Bishop of Lincoln's Registry







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Contents

Doc	cument Control Sheet	i
Con	ntents	ii
List	t of Photographs	ii
List	t of Tables	ii
List	t of Figures	ii
List	t of Appendices	ii
Non	n-Technical Summary	1
1	Introduction	2
1.1 1.2 1.3	Purpose of this Report Project Background Archaeological Background	2
2	Results	5
2.1 2.2 2.3	Overview	5
3	Conclusion	11
4	Archive	12
5	Bibliography	13
5.1 5.2	Secondary sourcesWebsite sources	
Арр	pendix 1	1
Арр	pendix 2	2
Арр	pendix 3	5
Ann	nendix 4	c

List of Photographs

Photograph 1: Cut 04 containging stone topped culvert, facing northeast	8
Photograph 2: Worked stone (RF1) found within cut 08 , facing north	8
Photograph 3: Remains of Skeleton 1, facing north	9
Photograph 4: Remains of Skeleton 2, facing north.	g
Photograph 5: Broken grave slap recovered from underneath layer 01	10
Photograph 6: Tower foundations 16 and 18, facing east	10
List of Tables	
Table 1: Burials found during excavation	7
Table 2: Archive Quantification	17

List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location.

Figure 2: Location of archaeological features and burials (north)

Figure 3: Location of archaeological features and burials (south)

List of Appendices

Appendices 1: Context listing

Appendices 2: Grant of Faculty

Appendices 3: Architectural Stone Specialist Report

Appendices 4: Figures

Non-Technical Summary

An archaeological monitoring exercise (watching brief) was conducted by Network Archaeology during groundworks in the churchyard of St John the Baptist Church, Scampton, Lincolnshire, between in August 2022.

The work involved monitoring groundworks during the excavation of two service trenches for the installation of a mains water supply and foul water drainage to and from the church building, and the construction of a replacement footpath.

All works were undertaken in accordance with a Grant of Faculty issued by the Diocese of Lincoln and an archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation that was prepared by Network Archaeology (2022).

The watching brief recorded a total of three articulated skeletons and large quantities of disarticulated human bone. All the human remains were securely and discretely stored in the church at the end of each working day, as agreed with the church incumbent. Following consultations with the church authorities, all the recovered remains were reburied within the churchyard.

A possible early graveyard boundary was recorded on the same alignment as the eastern wall of the church, constructed from reused fragmented limestone.

Substantial foundations were exposed under the western wall of the church tower. No artefacts were recovered from these foundations, and they are assumed to be contemporary with the construction of the tower.

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Report

This archaeological monitoring report is designed to inform the relevant parties (The Bishop of Lincoln's Registry; Carl Andrews, Soul Architects; Ian Marshman, Archaeological Advisor to West Lindsey) of the extent of archaeological remains recorded during the Archaeological Monitoring (watching brief) at St John the Baptist Church, Scampton, Lincolnshire (Figure 1).

The groundworks comprised the excavation of two service trenches for the installation of a mains water supply and foul water drainage to and from the church building, and the construction of a replacement footpath.

1.2 Project Background

1.2.1 Proposed development and planning history

A planning proposal (143110) was granted to Scampton Village Church Council on 16th July 2021:

Planning application for new oak glazed doors to the outer arch of the South porch, replacement resin gravel footpath and incoming mains water and foul drainage services.

Condition 2 of the planning consent states that:

- 2. No development shall take place until a written scheme of archaeological investigation has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. This scheme shall include the following:
 - 1. An assessment of significance and proposed mitigation strategy (i.e. preservation by record, preservation in situ or a mix of these elements).
 - 2. A methodology and timetable of site investigation and recording.
 - 3. Provision for site analysis.
 - 4. Provision for publication and dissemination of analysis and records.
 - 5. Provision for archive deposition.
 - 6. Nomination of a competent person/organisation to undertake the work.
 - 7. The scheme to be in accordance with the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook

The work also takes place under a Grant of Faculty, granted to Soul Architects in January 2022 by the Bishop of Lincoln (Appendix B).

1.2.2 Location, description, and natural environment

The site lies to the north of the village of Scampton, to the west of High Steet (B1398), at SK 94829 79470 (Figure 1). The Proposed Development Area (PDA) consists of the historic churchyard; a broadly rectangular plot with an area of approximately 0.33ha. The church itself is in use and the PDA contains numerous standing funerary monuments (gravestones) within landscaped grounds.

The bedrock geology is identified as Whitby Mudstone Formation with no superficial deposits recorded (BGD 2022). The overlying soils are characterised as slowly permeable and seasonally wet loamy clays (Soilscapes).

1.3 Archaeological Background

The name of the settlement of Scampton probably includes the Old English personal name 'Skammi' or the Old Norse 'skammer' meaning short, and the suffix 'tun' meaning a farmstead, village, or estate (KEPN 2022). The households listed in the Domesday survey of 1086 include 16 villagers, 12 freemen, six smallholders and one priest (Open Domesday 2022), suggesting that there was a church on the site before the Norman Conquest. The earliest parts of the current church are the nave pillars, which date to the 14th century (Church Heritage Record: 621339). The church fell into a state of disrepair in the eighteenth century and was almost entirely rebuilt in 1794 with further restoration taking place in the 1870s. The existing structure incorporates a church tower dating from the 14th century and a 16th century chancel arch. Scampton's association with the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Air Force dates back to 1916, and the churchyard contains a number of Commonwealth War Graves, together with the graves of nine German aircrew.

The settlement of Scampton has been identified as a shrunken medieval village (MLI52160), the remains of which have been obscured by emparkment, housing development and repeated realignment of the road network. Stray finds of thirteenth- to fifteenth-century medieval pottery have been recorded and possible medieval earthworks have been identified to the south of the village. The church sits within the eastern limit of the eighteenth-century parkland associated with Scampton Hall (MLI52155), a now ruined and rebuilt seventeenth-century house.

Previous archaeological evidence from Scampton is limited to a series of watching briefs on small-scale groundworks, the majority of which did not record any archaeological findings.

Those that had positive findings included Roman and Medieval stray finds and cut features.

2 Results

2.1 Overview

Fieldwork consisted of monitoring the excavation of a series of service trenches and a path to the south and west of the church (Figure 2). All work was undertaken in compliance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) that was prepared for the works (NAL 2022) and with the Grant of Faculty for the works (Appendix 2).

The path was located to the south of the church and was aligned broadly east-west from the entrance to the churchyard to the just beyond the porch and entrance. The trench for the construction of the path was approximately 53.1m long, 1.9m wide and 0.25m deep. No archaeological features or artefacts were recorded within the excavation of the path.

A service trench for incoming water and outgoing wastewater was excavated in the base of the path trench and continued to the west of the church. The service trench was 73.1m long, 0.6m wide and 0.6-1.1m deep. A culvert, a possible portion of wall and three skeletons were recorded to the south of the church. The three burials were oriented roughly east-west and were arranged in a supine, extended position. The burials are summarised in Table 1.

2.2 Results

A natural substrate was not encountered at the base of the service trench. The earliest layer encountered was a mid-brown layer of silty sand (09) forming the lower level of cemetery soil. Layer 09 was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.2m and continued below the formation level of the service trench. This was sealed by a mid-yellowish-brown layer of silty sand (05) which was 0.7m thick, forming the upper level of cemetery soil. Both these layers contained large quantities of disarticulated human bone.

Layer 05 was overlain by a dark brown silt and turf layer (02) which was between 0.1-0.3m thick. The former churchyard path, constructed of pea gravel and sand (01) 0.1m thick, was removed to make way for the new path.

The removal of layers 05 and 07 approximately 1m west of the entrance to the churchyard exposed a 3m wide and 0.6m deep cut (**04**) for a stone topper culvert. Cut **04** was filled with a mixed loose light-brown sand (03) topped with concrete (photograph 1 – Figure 2). The top of the culvert was resealed as quickly as possible to avoid damage.

Cut **08** (photograph 2 – Figure 3) was recorded 6.5m to the south of the southeast corner of the church and continued the line of the wall forming the east end of the church. The cut was broadly north-south aligned and was 1.4m wide and 0.55m deep, with a concave profile and a flat base. The base of the cut was filled with a light-brownish-yellow clayey silt deposit (*07*) 0.1m thick. Above this layer was a single rectangular piece of worked Lincolnshire Limestone (RF1 - 675mm x 510mm x 160mm – Appendix 3). This was sealed by a mid-brown silty sand deposit (*06*) 0.55m thick.

The service trench to the south of the church contained three burials (Figure 2) cut into cemetery soil layers 06 and 09. Skeleton 1 (Photograph 3 – Figure 3) comprised the remains of an adult and was located approximately 1.85m southeast of the church porch. It was found at a depth of 0.6m from the top of the trench (21.01m OD), at the base of a grave cut 11. The grave was filled with a light-brown silty clay (10). The skeleton was possibly a young male and had evidence of a deformed right arm.

Skeleton 2 (Photograph 4 – Figure 3) comprised the remains of an adult that were located directly to the northwest of Skeleton 1. The lower portion of the skeleton below the clavicles had been truncated by the grave of Skeleton 1 (11). It was found at a depth of 0.65m from the top of the trench (20.96 OD), at the base of grave cut 13. The grave was filled with a loose light-brown silty clay (12). The skeleton was that of an older adult and exhibited intense wear to the molars.

Skeleton 3 (Figure 3) comprised the remains of an adult, which were located 1.7m west of Skeleton 2. It was found at a depth of 0.59m from the top of the trench (21.03m OD), at the base of a grave cut **15**. The grave was filled with a mid-brown silty clay (*14*). The skeleton was possibly female with signs of osteochondroma on the left distal femur.

No artefacts or signs of coffins were recovered from the graves. The remains were recorded and reburied c. 0.3m deeper than the lowest point of the service trench, to keep them as close as possible to their original positions.

In addition to the graves identified during the monitoring, a fragment of gravestone dated to 1748 was recovered from beneath layer *01* (Photograph 5). It was recorded by photography and then retained by the church.

Where the service trench met the west side of the tower, two masonry deposits (**16** and **18**) were recorded (Photograph 6 – Figure 3). The cut for the foundation (**19**) extended between 2-2.5m from the west side of the tower and was 0.7m deep with steep sides and a flat base. Masonry deposit **18** comprised regular rectangular worked unbonded slabs of limestone (500mm x 500m x 150m) laid flat on the base of the cut. Masonry deposit **18** was overlain by roughly hewn and coursed unbonded limestone slabs and rubble. These were sealed with a deposit of loose mid-brown silty clay (*17*) which filled the majority of cut **19**.

Table 1: Burials found during excavation

Skeleton No.	Cut	Fill	Position	Level (mOD)	Depth (m)	Age	Coffin material
1	11	10	Supine extended	21.01m	0.6m	Adult	None
2	13	12	Supine extended	20.96m	0.65m	Adult	None
3	15	14	Supine extended	21.03m	0.59m	Adult	None

2.3 **Photographs**



Photograph 1: Cut **04** containing stone topped culvert, facing northeast.



Photograph 2: Worked stone (RF1) found within cut **08**, facing north.



Photograph 3: Remains of Skeleton 1, facing north.



Photograph 4: Remains of Skeleton 2, facing north.



Photograph 5: Broken grave slab recovered from underneath layer 01.



Photograph 6: Tower foundations 16 and 18, facing east.

3 Conclusion

The watching brief revealed two ubiquitous layers of cemetery soil covering the entirety of the churchyard (05 and 09). Large quantities of charnel or loose, disarticulated bones were recovered from these deposits during the groundworks.

A further three articulated skeletons were recorded within the churchyard, none of which had evidence of coffins or coffin fittings. All human remains were reinterred within the service trench by the main works contractor at the request and under the supervision of the church authorities.

The worked stone (RF1 – Appendix 3) discovered to the south of the church was within a construction or robber trench. No other stones were recorded within the trench, however, the alignment of the feature with the east wall of the church suggests that the stone may have been *in situ*. It may represent an early cemetery boundary, possibly the foundation for a gatepost, rather than a complete wall. The stone itself was fragmented, suggesting that it was reused and its primary function may have been in the construction of an earlier iteration of the church.

Substantial foundations were exposed under the western wall of the church tower. No artefacts were recovered from these foundations, and they are assumed to be contemporary with the construction of the tower.

This Archaeological Monitoring report confirms that the full programme of archaeological monitoring (watching brief) works at St John the Baptist Church, Scampton, Lincolnshire were completed as stipulated in the WSI and the Grant of Faculty.

4 Archive

The archive will be offered to the Bishop of Lincolns' Registry for retention in the Parish archives and The Collection, Lincoln.

Table 2: Archive Quantification

Archive component	Count
Context registers	1
Context sheets	19
Photographic registers	2
Digital colour photographs	53
Drawing permatrace sheets (A3)	2

5 Bibliography

5.1 Secondary sources

Reference	Year	Title	Published
AAF	2007	Archaeological Archives: A Guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation	
Lopez, R	2021	All Saints Church, Wellingore, Lincolnshire Written Scheme of Investigation: Archaeological Monitoring and Recording	
CIfA	2007	Archaeological Archives: A Guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation	
CIfA	2014a	Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology	
CIfA	2014b	Standards and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials	
CIfA	2014c	Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation	
CIfA	2014d	Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives	
Ferguson L.M. & Murray D.M.	1997	Archaeological Documentary Archives: Preparation, Curation and Storage, Paper 1,	Institute of Field Archaeologists' Manchester
Historic England	1997	English Heritage Archaeology Division Research Agenda (Unpublished draft)	London
Historic England	2009	Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment and MoRPHE Project Planning Note 3: Excavation	London
Historic England	2011	Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from sampling and recovery to post excavation (second edition) (Centre for Archaeology Guidelines)	London
Museums & Galleries Commission	1992	Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections	London
Network Archaeology	2006	Health, Safety and Welfare Policy	
Network Archaeology	2022	St John the Baptist Church, Scampton, Lincolnshire: WSI for archaeological monitoring and recording	
Society of Museum Archaeologists	1995	Towards an accessible archaeological archive - the transfer of archaeological archives to museums: guidelines for use in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales	Society for Museum Archaeologists, London
UKIC	2001	Excavated Artefacts and Conservation	United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, Conservation Guidelines No. 1, revised
Walker, K.	1990	Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage.	United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, Archaeology Section (London)
Watkinson, D & Neal A. V	1998	First Aid for Finds	Rescue Publications, Hertford

5.2 Website sources

Reference	Title	Link
ADS	Digital Archives from Excavation and Fieldwork: Guide to Good Practice Second Edition	http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/goodguides/excavation/ [Accessed 29/09/2017]
British Geological Survey, undated	Geology of Britain viewer	http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html [Accessed 29/09/2017]
Cranfield University	Soilscapes Viewer	https://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/ [Accessed 29/09/2017]
Heritage Gateway	Heritage Gateway Online Viewer	http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results.aspx [Accessed 09/07/2021]
Historic England	List entry for Wellingore Church	https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list- entry/1308424 [Accessed 09/07/2021]
Open Domesday	Open Domesday Viewer	https://opendomesday.org/place/SK9856/wellingore/ [Accessed 09/07/2021]

Appendix 1

Context listing

Context No.	Туре	Fill of / filled by	Description
01	Layer	-	Existing pathway
02	Layer	-	Turf
03	Fill	04	Backfill of culvert
04	Cut	05	Cut for culvert
05	Layer	-	Upper cemetery soil
06	Fill	08	Backfill of possible construction cut
07	Fill	07	Setting for stone
08	Cut	06, 07	Possible construction cut
09	Layer	-	Lower cemetery soil
10	Fill	11	Fill of grave for Skeleton 1
11	Cut	10	Cut of grave for Skeleton 1
12	Fill	13	Fill of grave for Skeleton 2
13	Cut	12	Cut of grave for Skeleton 2
14	Fill	15	Fill of grave for Skeleton 3
15	Cut	14	Cut of grave for Skeleton 3
16	Masonry	19	Foundation of tower
17	Fill	19	Backfill of construction cut for tower foundation
18	Masonry	19	Base of foundation of tower
19	Cut	16, 17, 18	Construction cut for tower

Appendix 2

Grant of Faculty

Page 1

Ref: 2021-060474 Church: Scampton: St John the Baptist

Diocese:LincolnArchdeaconry:Stow and LindseyCreated By:Mr Joe Bartrop (06/04/2021)Contact Tel.:07870665245

Status: Faculty granted, awaiting Practical Completion

Form 7 (Rule 7.4) Faculty

In the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Lincoln

Parish of The Spring Line Group

Church of Scampton: St John the Baptist

THE WORSHIPFUL MARK BISHOP One of Her Majesty's Circuit Judges Chancellor of the Diocese and Official Principal of the Right Reverend CHRISTOPHER lately Lord Bishop of Lincoln to the Reverend SUSAN MARGARET DEACON Priest of the Parish of Springline and BARBARA YOUNG Churchwarden and JOSEPH ANDREW BARTROP of that Parish: GREETING

COPY

A PETITION presented by you has been submitted to the Registry of this Court together with designs, plans, photographs or other documents requesting a Faculty authorising the works or other proposals specified in the Petition

A PUBLIC Notice was duly displayed giving an opportunity to all persons interested to object and give reasons why a Faculty should not be granted

THE PROCEEDINGS were unopposed and did not give rise to a question of law or of doctrine, ritual or ceremonial or relate to proposals that affect the legal rights of any person or body

THIS COURT now grants a Faculty authorising you to carry out the works or other proposals described in the Schedule in accordance with the designs, plans or other documents accompanying the Petition and subject to any conditions set out in the Schedule

THE WORKS must be completed within TWELVE months from the date below or such further period as this Court may allow and the Certificate of Practical Completion is to be sent to the Registry within the period allowed

A COPY of this Faculty is to be supplied by you to the architect or surveyor and contractors to be employed in respect of the authorised work before any work is commenced

THIS FACULTY is duly authenticated by the Seal of this Court

Monday, January 10, 2022 12:33 PM

Dated	10/01/2022			
Ian Blane	ey			
Signature	e of Registrar			

SCHEDULE

(Description of Works or Proposals)

The reordering of the Parish church, works to include the introduction of a toilet and ringing floor in the tower, a servery at the west end of the north aisle, sewage and mains water services, a heating system to include a new boiler and required electrical works, glazed porch doors to the porch's outer door, replacement of the tower roof covering in like for like materials and an external resin bonded churchyard path, all to be in accordance with the Statements of Significance and Needs, Soul Architects Specification and Schedule of Works and associated drawings Nos. 9101 250 C dated October 2019, 9101 251, 9101 252 A, 9101 253 B, 9101 255, 9101 255 A, and 9101 260 all dated June 2020, and 9101 254 A dated May 2020, Byfield Heating Limited Specification Ref P3517 dated 13th March 2020, document entitled 'Church Heating Air Source Heat Pump Budget Figures' Ref P3517 B dated 10th January 2020 and document entitled 'Church Heating Budget Figures' Ref 3517 B dated 20th September 2021, Scampton Engineering Services document entitled 'Scampton Engineering Electrical Heating installation Services Provisional report SES101' dated 29th September 2021, documents entitled 'radiator schedule' and 'Aluminium Sectional Radiators', West Lindsey District Council Planning Permission Application No. 143110 dated 16th July 2021, and Joe Bartrop emails dated 31st May, 30th September and 3rd November 2021, displayed at the parish church and lodged in the Diocesan Registry.

Conditions

- 1. The works may be separated into stage one and stage two and begun at different times. No works are to commence for any stage until the funds for that stage are held by the Parochial Church Council or are pledged thereto.
 - 2. For the avoidance of doubt this faculty does not authorise any work on the bells.
- 3. This faculty is subject to the planning permission conditions of West Lindsey District Council dated 16th July 2021.
- 4. Screwed pipework is to be used in accordance with the advice from Diocesan Advisory Committee.
- 5. A report must be commissioned from the electrical contractor in response to the Diocesan Advisory Committee's 'concern' that the new heating system may overload the electrical system when other appliances are in use. It is a condition of the faculty that the heating system should not overload the electrical system when other appliances are in use. The contract with the electrical contractor must reflect this requirement.
- 6. If any disarticulated human remains are uncovered during any excavations and it is necessary to move the same, they may be removed and reinterred elsewhere in the churchyard under the supervision of a priest. If articulated human remains are located and it is necessary to move them for the works to proceed, application must be made to this Court for further directions.
 - 7. The scope of the works should be notified to the church's insurers in writing and any requirements they have to ensure that the terms of the existing level of insurance are maintained whilst the works proceed, must be met before works commence and during the same.

Appendix 3

Architectural Stone Specialist Report

Church of St. John the Baptist, Scampton, Lincolnshire - Architectural Stone - Assessment report

Diana Fernandes, BA MM

Introduction

A single architectural stone identified during the archaeological monitoring conducted by Network Archaeology Ltd at St John the Baptist Church, Scampton, was submitted for assessment. The existent church, a listed building, dates from the 14th century and suffered a considerable reconstruction during the 18th century.

Methodology

There is no national guidance for the recording, publication or retention and disposal of detached architectural masonry. The method adopted here is the one used by Dr Glyn Coppack, who follows the late 1970s guidance by the Department of the Environment Directorate of Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings. This approach was continued by English Heritage for the recording of loose material for monuments in state guardianship.

The stone here assessed was fully recorded on site and it is currently held by the church. The item was given a unique number and recorded on an excel database, containing information regarding its context, type of element, basic description, type of material, overall dimensions, and an approximate date. A summary of the recording can be seen in table 1. The stone was photographed and is included as part of this report (Figure 1).

Contex	Feature	RF#	Object	Brief description	Stone type	Dimensions (mm)	Chronology
8	7	1	Ashlar block	Large (wall?) block with all faces punch dressed	Lincs Limestone	160 x 675 x 510	Medieval? Post-Medieval?

Table 3 - St John's Church, Stone Catalogue

The Assemblage

The single architectural element was recovered from feature **07**. The stone was in alignment with the southeast corner of the present church chancel. It represents an incomplete rectangular ashlar block, made of Lincolnshire Limestone, with 675mm length, 510mm width and 160mm depth. Due to its dimension, the item could not be weighed.

The block displayed an old fracture on one of its shortest edges and bed. The stone was fully punch dressed to a rectangular shape and did not display any visible remains of mortar.

Discussion

The stone recovered from context *08* represents the only architectural element found within this context and during this archaeological intervention. It was a heavily punch dressed block, probably used as a wall stone, similar to some examples still seen on the present building – which is composed of coursed limestone rubble and ashlar dressings. Dating punch dressed stones is rather difficult as punch tools were (and still are) commonly employed in masonry works.

Considering the history of the site and the building itself, the 1086 Domesday survey documents that Scampton had households for 16 villagers, 12 freemen, 6 smallholders and 1 priest (Open Domesday 2022), implying the existence of a church prior to that date. Nevertheless, the present building does not seem to sustain any remains of a previous construction. According to Historic England records, the earliest architectural elements found on the current church are dated from the first part of the 14th century, but there are also elements from all the following centuries (Historic England). Furthermore, the church was subjected to a considerable reconstruction in the 1794, due to its heavy state of decay, and its size was considerably reduced according to the historical sources. There was also a further restoration of the church in the 1870's (Church of England).

Based on the historical records, allied to the fragmentary condition of the stone and to its ex-situ location, it seems plausible that this element is a by-product of the building reconstruction during the post-medieval period, and could be interpretatively dated between the $14^{th} - 17^{th}$ centuries.

Recommendations

The architectural stone was fully recorded, and further work is not necessary.

The stone is currently being held at the St John's church and it can remain there. Although, in the likelihood that further historic building conservation takes place and this block is selected for that purpose, the stone should be fully re-dressed to avoid future chronological misjudgements.

References

British Listed Buildings. Website visited on the 18/08/2022

https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101359492-church-of-st-john-the-baptist-scampton#.Yv3t9XbMKUk

Church of England. Website visited on the 18/08/2022

https://facultyonline.churchofengland.org/CHR/ChurchDetails.aspx?id=16537#Home

Historic England. Website visited on the 18/08/2022

https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1359492?section=official-list-entry

Open Domesday. Website visited on the 18/08/2022

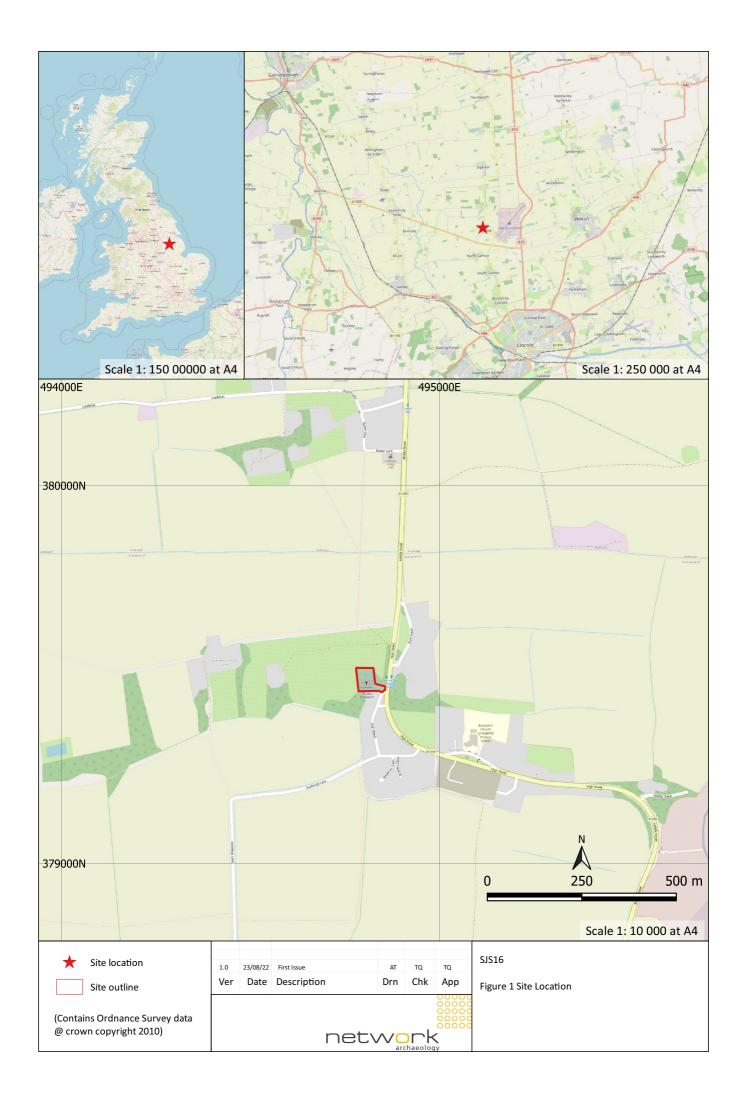
https://opendomesday.org/place/SK9479/scampton/

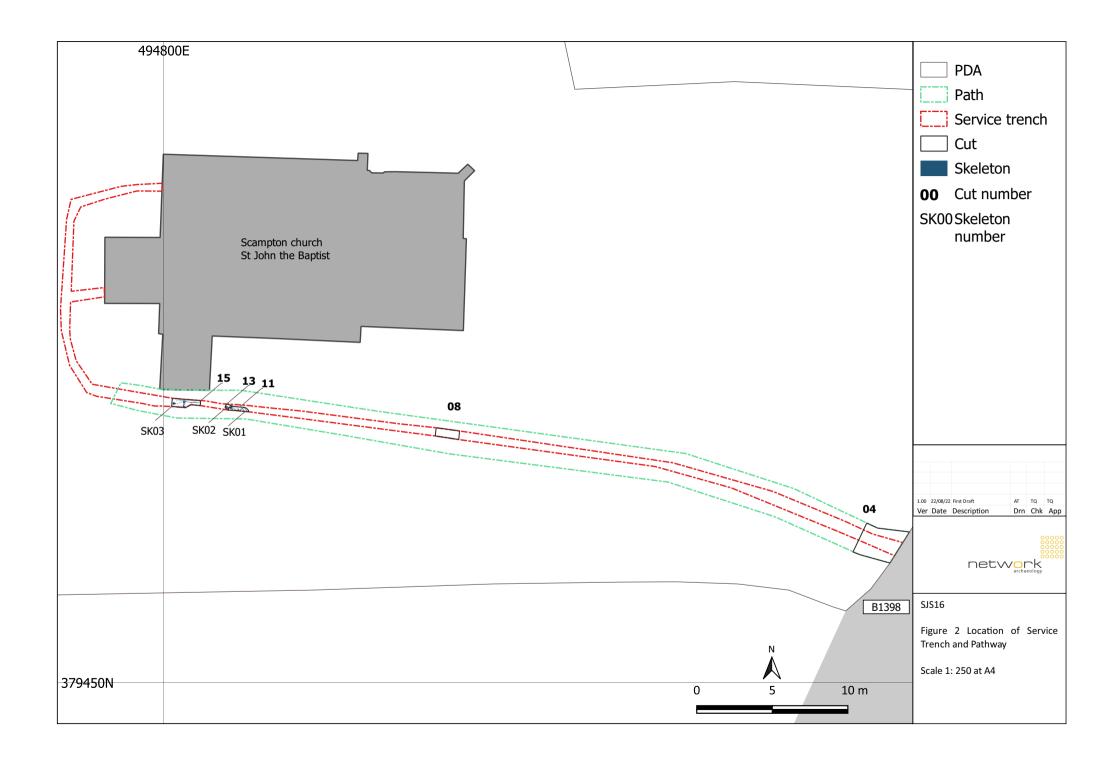


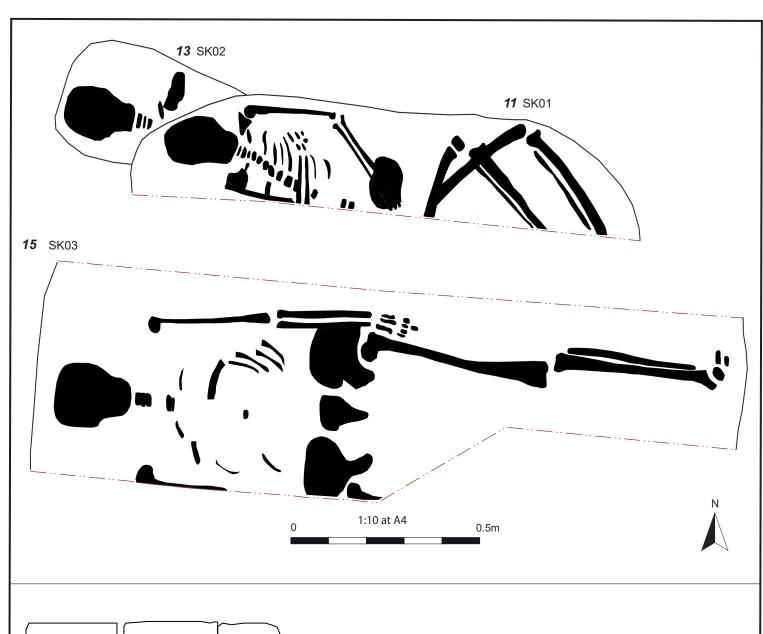
Figure 1 – Punch dressed ashlar block from context 08 of St John's Church, Scampton

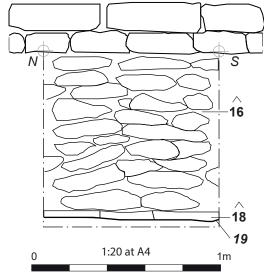
Appendix 4

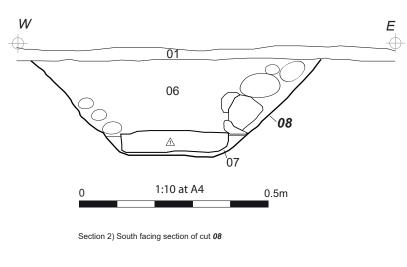
Figures



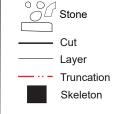








Section 1) West facing elevation of tower



19 Cut number

07 Fill/ Layer number

18 Masonry number△ Registered find

number

Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	Арр
1.00	22/08/22	First issue	AT	CD	EF

SJS16 Figure 3 Skeletons 1, 2 and 3, Selected Sections

