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# Archaeology & Built Heritage

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**An Archaeological Watching Brief  
During External Drainage Works at the  
Church of St Leonard, Church Lane,  
Thorpe Langton, Leicestershire**

NGR: SP 7402 9243

Undertaken on behalf of:

**Thorpe Langton Parochial Church Council**

by

Neil Finn

with a report on the Finds by D. Sawday

**Archaeology & Built Heritage**

Report Number: R-0079

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## Contents

		Page
	Summary	2
1	Introduction	3
2	Location, Topography and Geology	3
3	Statutory Designation	4
4	Historical and Archaeological Background	5
5	Research Aims and Objectives	6
6	Scope of the Work	7
7	Methodology	7
8	Results	8
9	Discussion	12
10	Archive and Finds	12
11	Publication	13
12	Bibliography	13

## Figures

Figure 1	General location plan	15
Figure 2	Site location plan	16
Figure 3	Proposed locations of soakaways and drains	17
Figure 4	Actual locations of soakaways and drains	18
Figure 5	South and west sections of Soakaway 4 showing pit [7]	19
Figure 6	Thorpe Langton village earthworks (after Hartley 2018)	19

<b>Selected Photographs 1-18</b>	20-28
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## Appendix:

The Finds by Deborah Sawday	29-30
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## Summary

*Archaeological Attendance for Inspection and Recording (a Watching Brief) was undertaken during groundwork relating to the provision of new surface water drainage at the Church of St Leonard, Church Lane, Thorpe Langton, Leicestershire (National Grid Reference: SP 7402 9243).*

*The archaeological investigation was commissioned by Thorpe Langton Parochial Church Council (PCC), through their architect Mark Stewart, and was undertaken by Neil Finn of Archaeology & Built Heritage between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2018.*

*Groundwork involved the excavation within the churchyard of a series of trenches for drains carrying water away from the existing rainwater downpipes on the north and south sides of the church, discharging into five new soakaways.*

*A medieval pit, of 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date, and another undated feature were recorded in the area to the south of the chancel. Medieval pottery with a similar 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date range was also recovered from the topsoil and subsoil. Other finds were post-medieval or modern in date and could all be 19<sup>th</sup> century.*

*The church was established on this site in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and was enlarged and partly rebuilt in the late 13<sup>th</sup> and early 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. The medieval remains encountered during the watching brief may date to this same period.*

*No burials were affected by the groundwork. The Church of St Leonard did not have burial rights until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and the earliest memorial within the churchyard is dated 1875. The burials occur outside the east and west ends of the church, well away from the areas affected by the drainage works.*

*The project archive and finds will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service under the accession code X.A39.2018.*

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This report presents the results of a programme of Archaeological Attendance for Inspection and Recording (a Watching Brief) undertaken during groundwork relating to the provision of new surface water drainage at the Church of St Leonard, Thorpe Langton, Leicestershire (NGR: SP 7402 9243).
- 1.2 The archaeological investigation was commissioned by Thorpe Langton Parochial Church Council (PCC), through their architect Mark Stewart, and was undertaken by Neil Finn of Archaeology & Built Heritage between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2018.
- 1.3 The archaeological investigation was required as a condition of a Faculty granted for repairs and improvements to the Grade II listed church, following recommendations made in a Quinquennial Inspection report in 2014 (Stewart 2014).
- 1.4 The Watching Brief was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) submitted to and approved by the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor (Finn 2017) and followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (ClfA 2014).

## **2. Location, Topography and Geology**

- 2.1 Thorpe Langton is a village and civil parish within the Harborough District of Leicestershire in the East Midlands region of England. The village is located c. 3.25 miles (5.25 km) north of Market Harborough and c. 12 miles (19.5 km) south-east of Leicester (Figure 1). The Church of St Leonard is situated on the west side of Church Lane, at National Grid Reference SP 7402 9243 (Figure 2; Photo 1).
- 2.2 The church is situated at the east end of a spur of high ground, on the 100m contour, with the surrounding land falling away to the north, east and south. The ground within the churchyard falls gradually from south to north, with a retaining wall between this and the lower-lying lanes on the north and east sides of the church.
- 2.3 British Geological Survey mapping records the solid geology of the area as Interbedded Siltstone and Mudstone of the Dyrham Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 183 to 191 million years ago in the Jurassic period. There are no superficial deposits recorded as overlying the bedrock in this vicinity (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html> accessed 09/07/2018).
- 2.4 The geological natural exposed during the groundwork was an orange-brown coloured clay.

### **3. Statutory Designation**

- 3.1 The Church of St Leonard is included on the statutory national list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest. It was listed at Grade II on 07.12.1966 and the listing description was amended on 09.03.1989 to read:

Chapel of St Leonard (formerly listed as 7.12.66 Church of St Nicholas) - II Parish church. C13, late C13 tower, chancel aisles and arcades rebuilt early C14, clerestory added late C15. Restored 1867 by Joseph Goddard of Leicester. Roof repaired 1914. C19 vestry. West tower, nave, north aisle with north porch, south aisle, chancel, vestry. Coursed ironstone rubble with ashlar limestone dressings. Lead and plain tile roofs. Heavily moulded plinth. Coped parapets. Angle-gabled buttresses with set-offs. West tower, 3 stages with broach spire. 2nd and 3rd stage bands. Decorative cornice. Angle buttresses at north-west and south-west corners. West elevation has modernised doorway with moulded, shouldered flat arch, and plank door. Above, a C13 lancet with chamfered jambs and hoodmould. Above, a 2-light pointed arch bell-opening, the lights divided by a single shaft with moulded capital and base, with a hoodmould. North, south and east elevations have similar bell-openings. South elevation has C19 clock face in 2nd stage. Spire has corner pinnacles and two tiers of alternating lucarnes. North aisle has north porch added by Joseph Goddard in 1868. Plain tile roof with coped gables with kneelers and finial. Heavily moulded doorway with engaged shafts and hoodmould with headstops. East and west walls have a single, small window each. North doorway has double-chamfered arch with a plank door. To west of porch, a 2-light window with reticulated tracery and hoodmould with headstops. East of porch, a 3-light window with intersecting tracery and hoodmould with headstops. North aisle has 3-light east window with reticulated tracery and hoodmould with headstops. Chancel, north wall has a 2-light window with reticulated tracery and hoodmoulds with plain stops and to east, a 2-light window with Y-tracery, and hoodmould. 4-light east window with flowing tracery, cross finial to gable. Clerestory over both nave and chancel has five 2-light windows with cusped heads set in rectangular frames, with straight hoodmoulds with returned stops. 3 windows light the nave, 2, the chancel. South aisle, south doorway has moulded jambs with engaged shafts, hoodmould with headstops, and plank door. To west, a 2-light window with intersecting tracery and hoodmould with headstops. To east, a 3-light window with intersecting tracery and hoodmould with headstops. South aisle has 2-light east window with reticulated tracery and hoodmould with plain stops. Chancel, south wall has 2-light window with geometric tracery and hoodmould with plain stops, and to east, a 2-light window with Y-tracery and hoodmould with plain stops. South side of clerestory, similar to north. Late C19 vestry

between south aisle and tower, with plain tile roof, coping, stone chimney, and 2-light west window. Interior: 3-bay nave arcades with double chamfered, pointed arches and early C14 quatrefoil piers with moulded capitals and bases. North-east pier and responds, capitals have ballflower decoration. Triple-chamfered tower arch with hoodmould and headstops and piers with capitals and bases. Roofline of earlier nave visible above. North aisle has reset corbel heads on either side, above doorway. South one has reset corbels of c1200 on south side of arcade and on either side of south doorway and south-west window. Rood stair doorway at east end. Chancel has moulded string throughout. All windows have hoods, the north-east window with headstops. Early C14 piscina and damaged sedilia. Late C15 octagonal bowl and stem font, carved with foliage and tracery. Polygonal pulpit appears to incorporate panels of c1500, otherwise late C19. Pews and screen are late C19. Organ provided by Hanbury charity in 1952. Stained glass in east window of north aisle depicting farming scenes, to memory of James Kendall (1933-69). East window of south aisle has glass to memory of George Kendall (1847-1926). Glass in east window by Heaton, Butler & Payne, c1868. Roofs restored in 1868, 1914, 1978. Elaborate carving, brattishing and bossing on moulded C15 tie beams in nave and chancel. Late C19 tile floors. VCH, V, 207-8.

#### **4. Historical and Archaeological Background**

- 4.1 A settlement at Thorpe Langton is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as *Torp* and in the Leicestershire Survey of c.1130 as *Thorp juxta Langeton*. Thorp is an Old Norse place-name element meaning a secondary settlement, or dependant outlying farmstead or hamlet. The place-name therefore translates as the outlying farmstead or hamlet of Langton (Cox 2009, 276-7; Morgan 1979, 13:14, 16:6, 17:18).
- 4.2 The history of Thorpe Langton is published in Volume 5 of the Leicestershire Victoria County History: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/leics/vol5/pp193-213>.
- 4.3 The historic settlement core of the medieval and post-medieval village is recorded in the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) entry MLE16855. Anglo-Saxon and medieval discoveries are recorded within the vicinity of the village on the HER and a possible Roman site is recorded to the west of the village.
- 4.4 There are separate entries in the HER for the Church of St Leonard (MLE11488), its burial ground (MLE21812) and the war memorial within the churchyard (MLE20744).
- 4.5 A description of the church is included in Pevsner's Buildings of England series (Pevsner and Williamson 1992, 406).

- 4.6 The Church of St Leonard did not have burial rights until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and the earliest memorial within the churchyard is dated 1875.
- 4.7 The second edition Ordnance survey 1:2500 scale map, published in 1904, names the church as St Nicholas's Church, apparently erroneously since earlier and later editions name it as St Leonard's Church.
- 4.8 Medieval village earthworks surrounding the church were mapped by R.F. Hartley in 2014, reproduced here as Figure 6 (Hartley 2018, 84; Figure 48). The accompanying description reads:

Thorpe Langton: Village Earthworks SP740924

Many Leicestershire villages show signs of having been carefully planned at some remote period, but none more so than Thorpe Langton, which when the earthwork evidence is studied can be shown to be a very regular rectangle with the church at its centre. In this case, such is the precision of the original surveyed layout that if lines are drawn between the two corners of the village they cross at the chancel arch of St. Leonard's Church. To allow this to happen the footprint of the village cuts across the line of the road (a) from Kibworth to Welham and Medbourne. Three lanes (b,c,d) extend at right angles from the main road, all set in hollow ways and extending to the southern boundary of the village. Earthworks at the west end of the village include two building platforms (e,f). North of the church are further building platforms (g,h,i,j). There is another large platform west of the church (k), and an old enclosure boundary (l) to the south. East of the lane (c) is another building platform (m), surrounded with a well-defined enclosure, with another one to the south. The boundary of the village is beautifully defined by the surrounding areas of well-preserved ridge and furrow. (Sketch plan from aerial photos and site visit 4<sup>th</sup> August 2014).

## 5. Research Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 Regional research aims are defined in *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (Knight, Vyner and Allen 2012), which builds on an earlier resource assessment and research agenda: *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Assessment and Research Agenda* (Cooper 2006).
- 5.2 The archaeological investigation was identified as having the potential to contribute towards themes defined in Section 6.7 of *East Midlands Heritage* which provides a research agenda for the High Medieval period (1066-1485), specifically aspects

covered in paragraph 7.5: *Religion*; and also Section 6.8 which provides a research agenda for the post-medieval period (1485-1750), specifically para. 8.6: *Ecclesiastical structures, estates and burials* (Knight, Vyner and Allen 2012, 94, 108).

5.3 The specific objectives of the archaeological investigation, as set out in the WSI, were:

- To identify the presence/absence of buried archaeological remains within the areas affected by groundwork associated with the approved plans
- To establish the character, extent and date range of any buried archaeological remains affected by the groundwork
- To record any archaeological remains affected by the groundwork
- To interpret any such remains within the context of the known current and previous use of the development site and the wider area
- To produce a report and archive of any results

## **6. Scope of the Work**

6.1 Provision of new surface water drainage involved the excavation of a series of trenches for drains carrying water away from the existing rainwater downpipes on the north and south sides of the church, discharging into new soakaways.

6.2 The proposed layout plan shows four soakaways, two on the north side of the church and two on the south side (Figure 3).

6.3 The layout was subsequently revised, with the provision of five soakaways and different drainage routes. The layout as executed is shown in Figure 4.

## **7. Methodology**

7.1 Archaeological investigation and recording was undertaken in accordance with the Method Statement set out in section 7 of the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Finn 2017, 5-7).

7.2 The soakaway pits and drainage trenches were excavated by hand under archaeological supervision and were recorded prior to installation of the new drains and soakaways (Photo 2).

7.3 The soakaways and drain trenches were numbered in the order in which they were recorded, as described below and illustrated in Figure 4.



7.4 It should be noted that the soakaways were excavated in stages and some were photographed before excavation to their full depth so appear shallower than the depth recorded in the descriptions.

7.5 Weather conditions were poor, with persistent rain on 15/03/2018 and frozen ground on 19/03/2018 following snowfall the day before.

## 8. Results (Figures 4 & 5)

8.1 The soakaways are described first followed by the drain trenches. Context numbers were assigned to deposits and features in a single running sequence (contexts 1-9). Cut features are referred to by their cut number, presented in square brackets, e.g. pit [7]. Feature fills, layers and structures are cited in round brackets, e.g. fill (6) of pit [7]. The same context numbers were applied to the topsoil (1) and subsoil (2) in each of the soakaways and drain trenches. The topsoil (1) was a dark grey brown coloured silty clay with inclusions of small pebbles and natural (unmodified) flint fragments. The subsoil (2) was a mid brown coloured silty clay with occasional inclusions of large pebbles.

### 8.2 **Soakaway 1** (Photo 3)

*Shape and Size:* Square; c. 1400mm x 1400mm x 1800mm deep

*Deposit Sequence:* The topsoil (1) was 200mm deep, overlying subsoil (2) to a depth of 760mm below the surface. Beneath the subsoil was the geological natural ground, an orange brown coloured clay with inclusions of large and small pebbles, angular stone fragments and unmodified flint pieces. No archaeological remains were encountered.

### 8.3 **Soakaway 2** (Photo 4)

*Shape and Size:* Rectangular; c. 2200mm E-W x 700mm N-S x 1300mm deep.

*Deposit Sequence:* Topsoil to depth of 230mm, overlying subsoil to depth of 950mm, overlying geological natural ground. Soil descriptions as above. No archaeological remains were encountered.

### 8.4 **Soakaway 3** (Photo 5)

*Shape and Size:* Rectangular; c. 1400mm E-W x 700mm N-S x 2000mm deep.

*Deposit Sequence:* Topsoil overlying subsoil to a combined depth of 1050mm below the surface, but with no clearly defined interface between the two. There was some root disturbance from an adjacent hedgerow to the south, which may account for the lack of clear differentiation between topsoil and subsoil. Below 1050mm was the

geological natural ground. No archaeological remains were encountered although a sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the Soakaway 3 spoil heap (see Appendix).

#### 8.5 **Soakaway 4** (Photos 6-7; Figure 5)

*Shape and Size:* Rectangular; c. 1900mm E-W x 1300mm N-S x 2000mm deep.

*Deposit Sequence:* Topsoil (1) to depth of 220mm below the ground surface, beneath which was a layer (4), to a depth of 350mm, consisting of mixed orange brown silty clay with common inclusions of pebbles and ironstone fragments, plus some brick and slate. This appeared to be a relatively recent deposit, possibly associated with the installation of a plastic water pipe that ran along the northern edge of Soakaway 4, at a depth of 750mm. Below (4) was a mid brown coloured silty clay deposit (5), to a depth of 750mm below ground level at which point the geological natural was reached.

An archaeological feature was recorded in section, in the SW corner of Soakaway 4, cut into the geological natural and overlain by context (5). This appeared to be a pit, the cut of which [7] had near-vertical sides and a rounded base (Figure 5; Photo 7). The base of the pit was 1230mm below the surface. The fill (6) was a dark grey brown silty clay containing common charcoal flecks and occasional pebbles. Three sherds of medieval pottery and the tooth of a pig were recovered from the fill (see Appendix). The pit was only partly within the area of the soakaway and extended beyond its southern and western limits.

#### 8.6 **Soakaway 5** (Photo 8)

*Shape and Size:* Rectangular; c. 1250mm N-S x 700mm E-W x 1300mm deep.

*Deposit Sequence:* Topsoil (1) to depth of c. 200mm, overlying subsoil (2) to depth of c. 650mm below the surface, beneath which was the geological natural ground. No archaeological remains were encountered.

#### 8.7 **Drain Trench 1** (Photos 9 & 10)

*Dimensions:* Length c. 14.5m; min. depth 350mm; max. depth 550mm; width 300mm.

*Orientation:* Aligned NE-SW (angled); emptying into Soakaway 1.

*Deposit Sequence:* Topsoil (1) to a depth of 200mm, overlying subsoil (2). Subsoil exceeds depth of trench; geological natural ground not exposed. The drain trench crossed the line of an old horseshoe-shaped ceramic land drain (3), at point A on Figure 4. A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the subsoil (2) in this trench; no other archaeological remains were encountered.

8.8 **Drain Trench 2** (Photo 9)

*Dimensions:* Length c. 5m; min depth 150mm; max depth 300mm; width 300mm.

*Orientation:* Aligned NNE-SSW; joining Drain Trench 1.

*Deposit Sequence:* Topsoil (1) to a depth of 200mm, overlying subsoil (2). Subsoil exceeds depth of trench; geological natural ground not exposed. No archaeological remains encountered.

8.9 **Drain Trench 3** (Photo 11)

*Dimensions:* Length c. 8.5m; max depth 400mm; width 300mm.

*Orientation:* Aligned NE-SW; emptying into Soakaway 2.

*Deposit Sequence:* Topsoil (1) to a depth of 200mm, overlying subsoil (2). Subsoil exceeds depth of drain trench; geological natural ground not exposed. No archaeological remains encountered.

8.10 **Drain Trench 4** (Photo 11)

*Dimensions:* Length c. 3.5m; max depth 350mm; width 300mm.

*Orientation:* Aligned E-W; joining Drain Trench 3.

*Deposit Sequence:* Topsoil (1) to a depth of 200mm, overlying subsoil (2). Subsoil exceeds depth of drain trench; geological natural ground not exposed. No archaeological remains encountered.

8.11 **Drain Trench 5** (Photo 12)

*Dimensions:* Length c. 6.4m; min. depth 500mm; max. depth 900mm; width 300mm.

*Orientation:* Aligned NNW-SSE; emptying into Soakaway 3.

*Deposit Sequence:* The topsoil (1) was 250mm deep and overlay a mixed orange brown silty clay layer (9) with inclusions of pebbles, charcoal and brick fragments, to a depth of 600mm. Below (9) was a 'clean' orange brown silty clay, corresponding with the subsoil (2). Two modern drainage pipes crossed the trench towards its north end and there was an inspection chamber cover located to the west in a linear depression in the ground surface, marking the position of a trench arch drain serving the W.C. in the vestry.

The brick fragments in context (9) were all similar in size and with the same evenly fired orange-coloured fabric. One complete brick was recorded (but not retained), its dimensions being: 238 x 114 x 76mm (9 $\frac{3}{8}$  x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  x 3 inches); this and the other brick fragments were probably 19<sup>th</sup> century in date. No earlier remains were encountered.

8.12 **Drain Trench 6** (Photo 13)

*Dimensions:* Length c. 16.5m; max. depth 650mm; width 350mm.

*Orientation:* Aligned N-S for 1.5m before turning towards Soakaway 4 on an ESE-WNW alignment; emptying into Soakaway 4.

*Deposit Sequence:* Similar to that recorded in Soakaway 4, consisting of topsoil (1) 250mm deep, overlying a mixed stony deposit (4) to a depth of 380mm, below which was an orange brown silty clay layer (5) that exceeded the maximum depth of the trench; the geological natural ground was not reached. No archaeological remains were encountered.

8.13 **Drain Trench 7** (Photo 14)

*Dimensions:* Length c. 9m; max. depth 600mm; width 300mm.

*Orientation:* Aligned NNW-SSE; emptying into Soakaway 4.

*Deposit Sequence:* Topsoil (1) to depth of 220mm, overlying subsoil (2). Geological natural ground not reached. A clay tobacco pipe stem fragment, of post-medieval or modern date, was found in the topsoil in this trench. No other archaeological remains encountered.

8.14 **Drain Trench 8** (Photos 15-17)

*Dimensions:* Length c. 7m; max depth 700mm; width 350mm.

*Orientation:* Curvilinear, aligned approximately NW-SE; joining Drain Trench 7.

*Deposit Sequence:* Topsoil (1) to depth of 250mm, overlying subsoil (2). At point B on Figure 4 a concentration of large waterworn stones in a brown silty clay matrix (8) was encountered at a depth of c. 400mm below the surface (Photos 16-17). The lower horizon of this context was just above the base of the drain trench. Its SE extent was defined by a large, irregular lump of mortared limestone, which may have been part of a structural feature (perhaps a wall foundation), though this could not be confirmed within the constraints of the narrow trench. No finds were recovered and the date and character of (8) are uncertain. The geological natural ground was not exposed.

8.15 **Drain Trench 9** (Photo 18)

*Dimensions:* Length c. 7.5m; max depth 500mm; width 300mm.

*Orientation:* Aligned approximately E-W; emptying into Soakaway 5.

*Deposit Sequence:* Topsoil (1) to depth of 200mm, overlying subsoil (2) which exceeded the depth of the drain trench. No archaeological remains were encountered.

## **9. Discussion**

- 9.1 A medieval feature [7], probably a pit, located approximately 10m to the south of the chancel, was partially exposed within Soakaway 4. Pottery recovered from its fill (6) had a 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date range. Similarly dated pottery was recovered from the topsoil (1) in Soakaway 3 and from the subsoil (2) in Drain Trench 1.
- 9.2 The church was established on this site in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and the medieval remains encountered during the watching brief may be broadly contemporary with this; Pevsner suggests that the church is mostly of the late 13<sup>th</sup> to early 14<sup>th</sup> century (Pevsner and Williamson 1992, 406).
- 9.3 An undated feature (8) was partially exposed within Drain Trench 8, also on the south side of the chancel. This consisted of a concentration of large un-mortared stones, apparently defined to the east by mortared limestone, possibly representing a wall foundation, but not certainly so. The nature and date of this feature are unclear.
- 9.4 The only other feature recorded during the archaeological investigation was a ceramic horseshoe-shaped land drain in Drain Trench 1, probably dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 9.5 Post-medieval or modern finds consisted of a clay tobacco pipe stem fragment from the topsoil (1) in Drain Trench 7 and a pottery sherd from an earthenware bowl in the modern fabric EA10, found on the Soakaway 5 spoil heap.
- 9.6 Brick fragments in Drain Trench 5 may have related to the construction of the vestry, in the angle of the west tower and south aisle, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The ground in this vicinity had been disturbed more recently by the installation of drainage serving a W.C. installed within the vestry.
- 9.7 No burials were affected by the groundwork. The Church of St Leonard did not have burial rights until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and the earliest memorial within the churchyard is dated 1875. The burials occur outside the east and west ends of the church, well away from the areas affected by the drainage works.

## **10. Archive and Finds**

- 10.1 The project archive consists of:
- 1 x annotated permagraph drawing sheet
  - 1 x annotated A4 paper plan
  - 10 x A5 pages of field notes
  - Context index sheet
  - 40 x colour digital photographs (in .JPEG format)
  - A copy of this report

- 10.2 All finds from the investigation, quantified in the Appendix to this report, are contained within a single standard-sized storage box and require no conservation.
- 10.3 The project archive and finds will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service under the accession code X.A39.2018.

## **11. Publication**

- 11.1 A summary of the findings of the project will be submitted to the editor of the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* for inclusion in their roundup of archaeological work in Leicestershire and Rutland for 2018.
- 11.2 The full report will be made available via the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS website.

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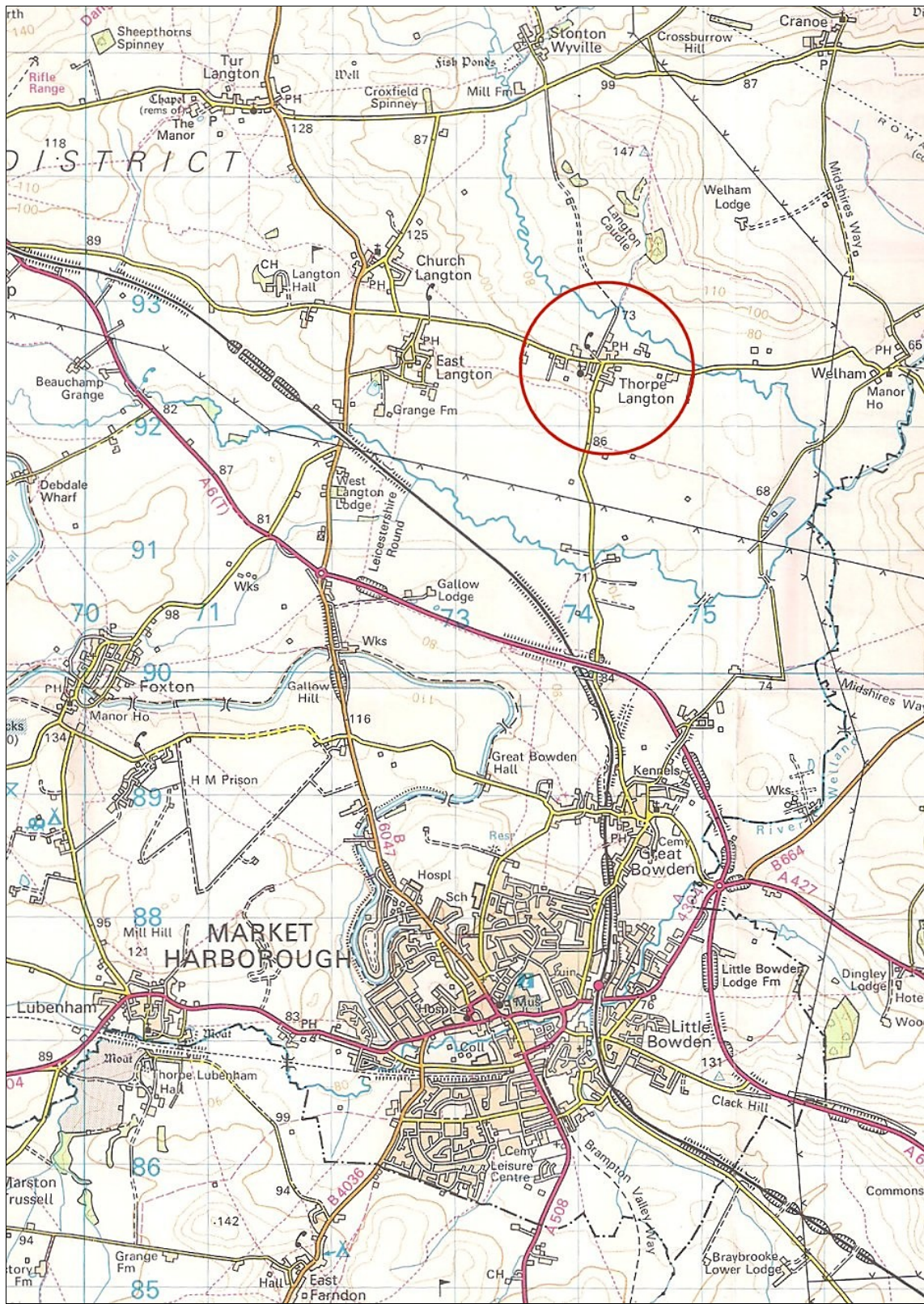


Figure 1. General location plan, Thorpe Langton circled in red. Grid=1km squares. N at top.

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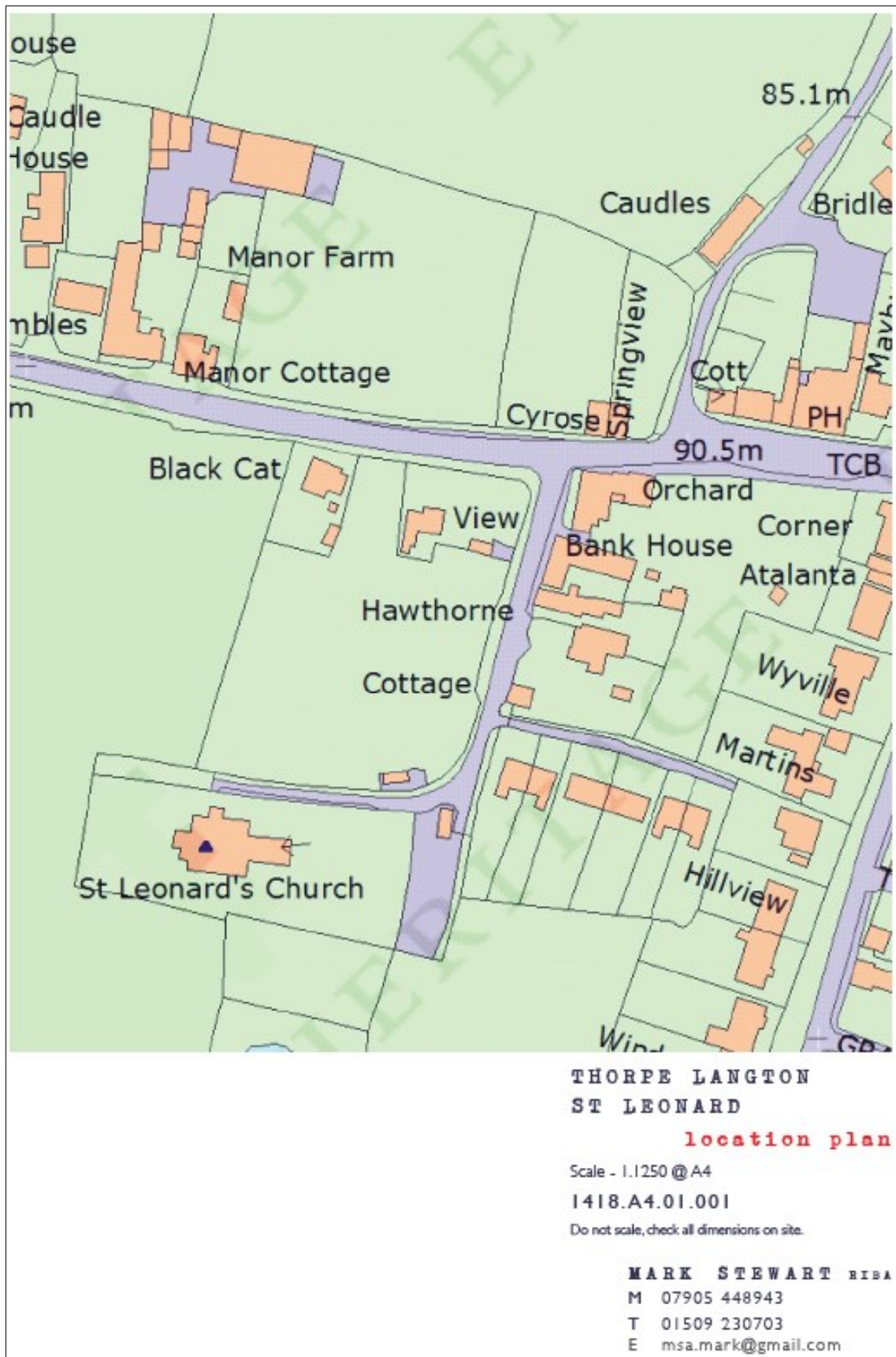


Figure 2. Site location plan, Church of St Leonard lower left. Plan supplied by Mark Stewart.

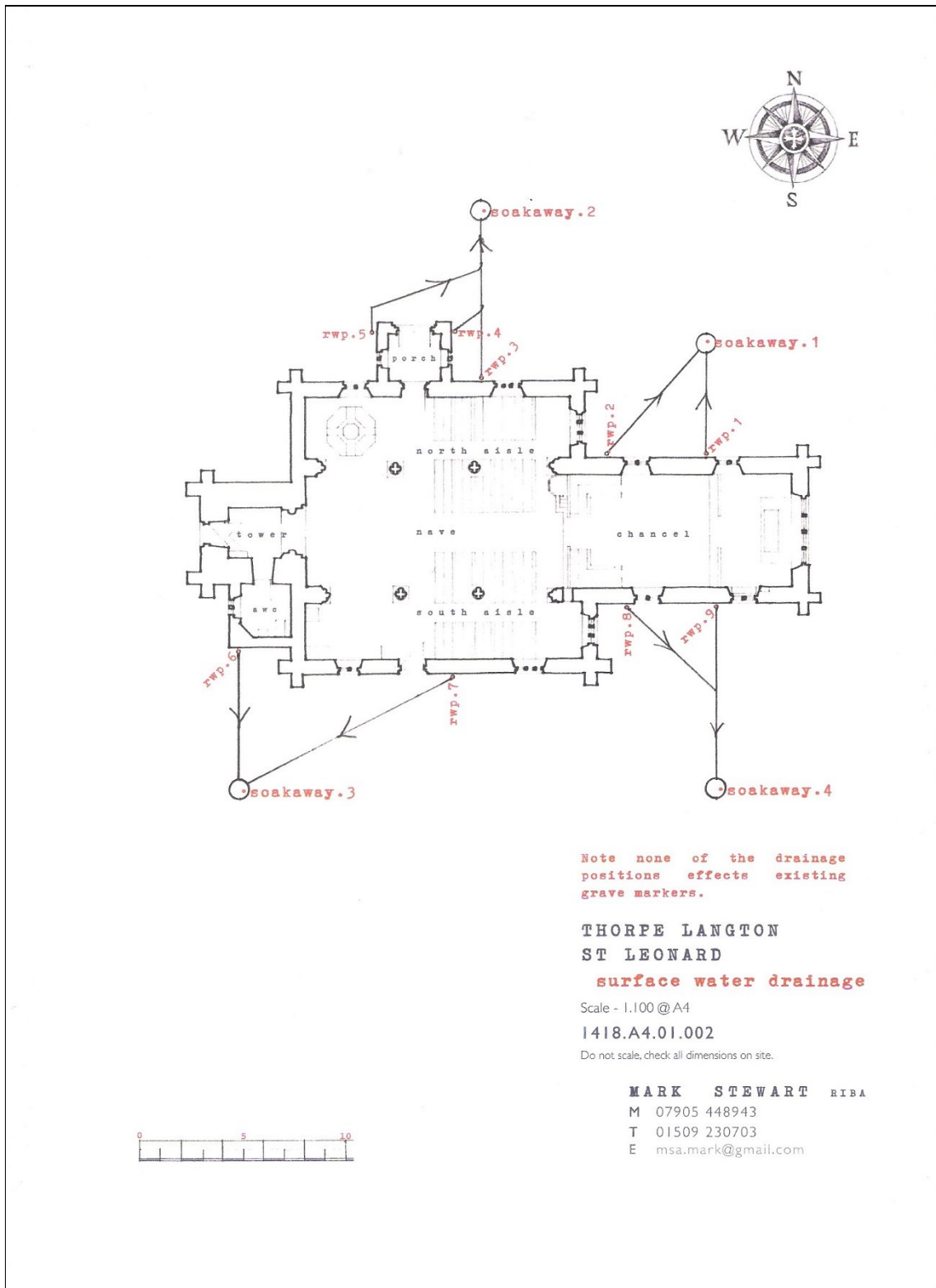


Figure 3. Proposed locations of soakaways and drains. Plan supplied by Mark Stewart.

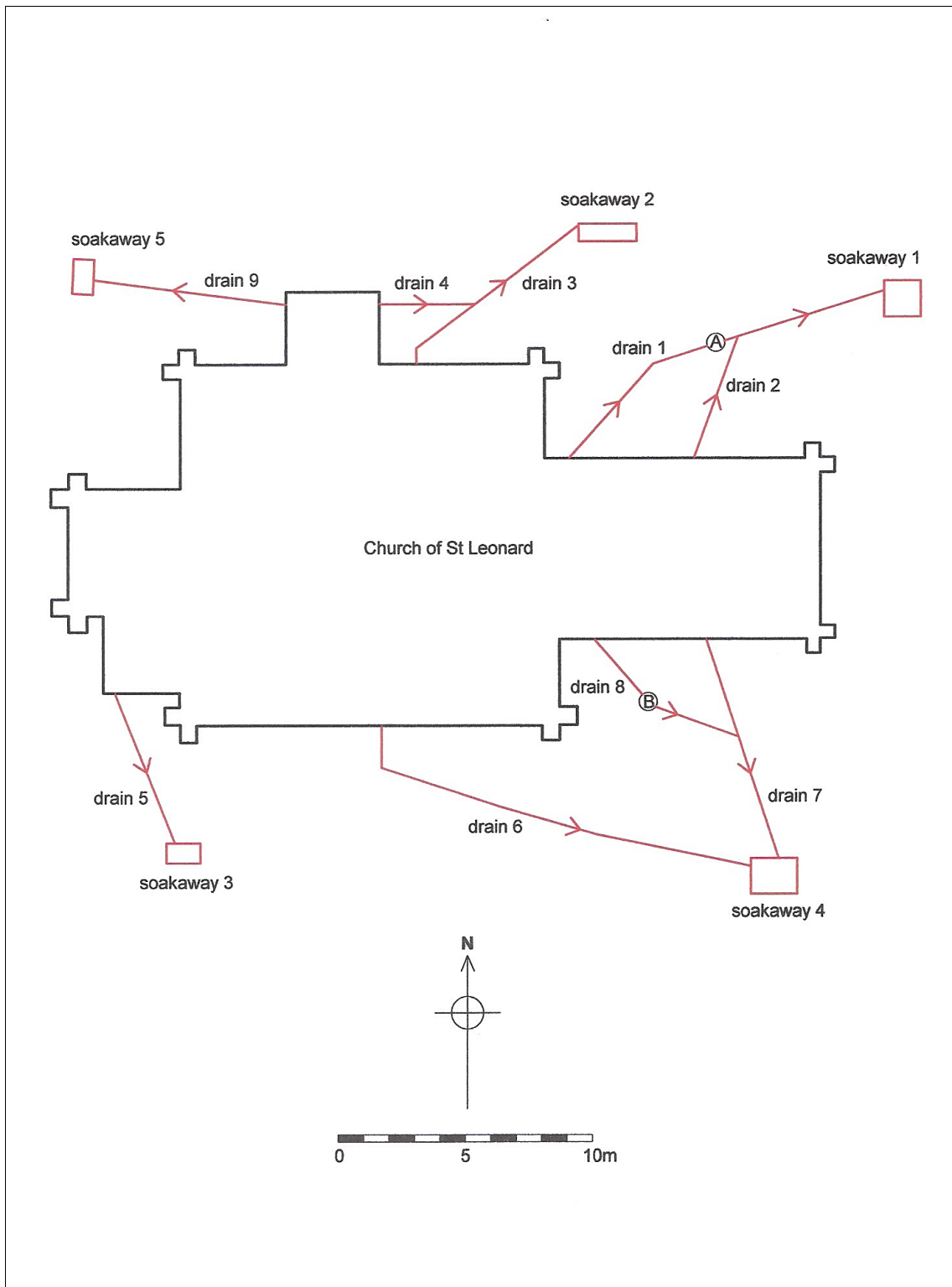


Figure 4. Actual locations of soakaways and drains, as excavated.

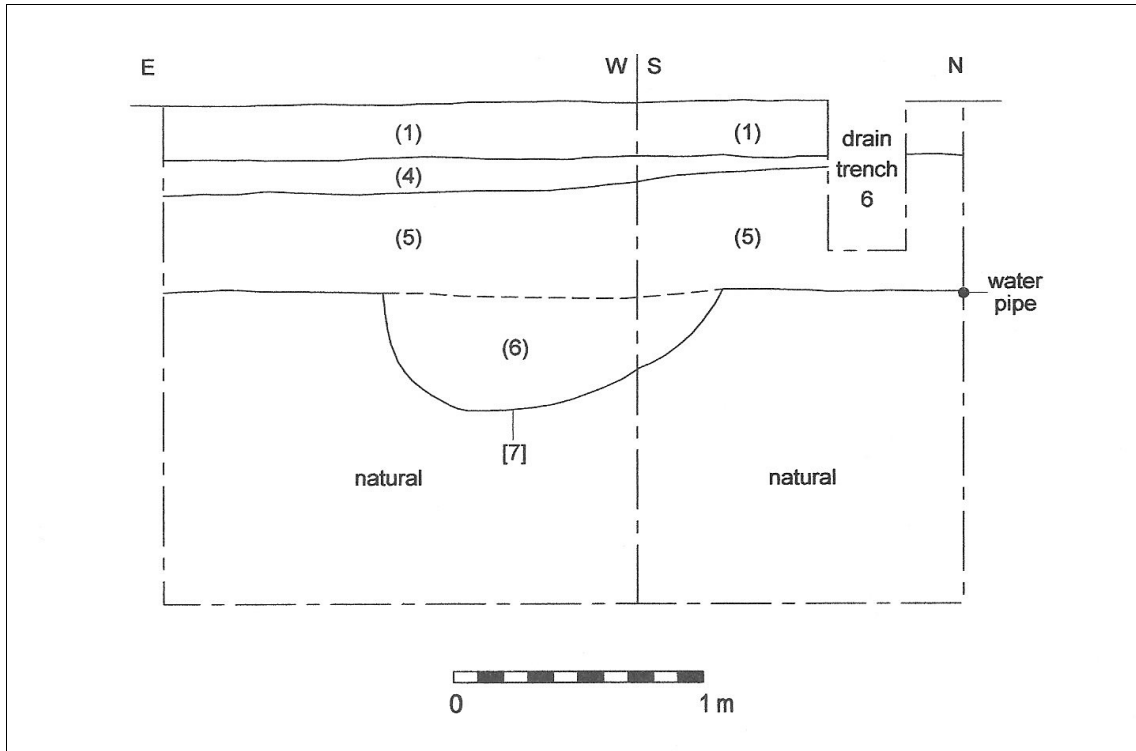


Figure 5. South and west sections of Soakaway 4 showing probable pit [7] at SW corner.

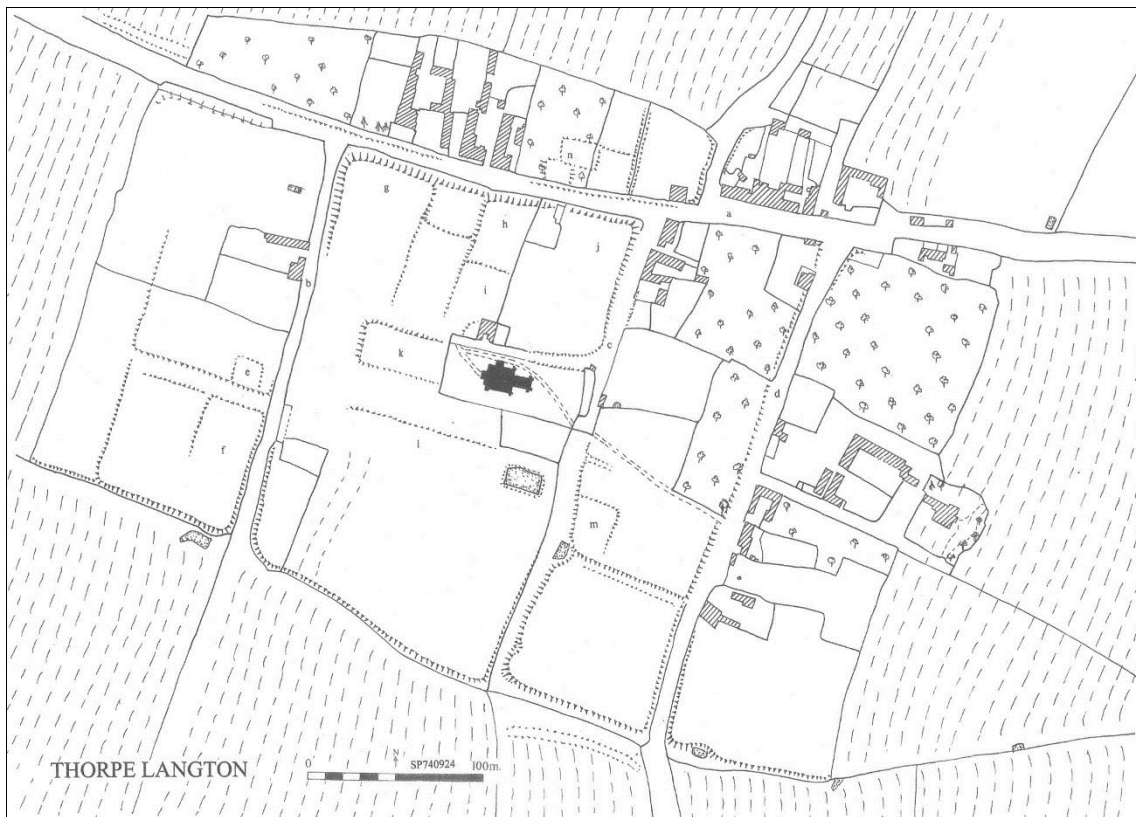


Figure 6. Thorpe Langton village earthworks, church at centre (after Hartley 2018, Fig. 48).



Photo 1. General View of the Church of St Leonard, Thorpe Langton, looking WNW.



Photo 2. General View of Excavation in Progress (Soakaway 4), looking S.



Photo 3. Soakaway 1, looking S (Drain 1 on right of frame).



Photo 4. Soakaway 2, looking N.



Photo 5. Soakaway 3, looking S.



Photo 6. Soakaway 4, looking S (Drain 6 on right of frame).



Photo 7. Medieval pit [7] in Soakaway 4, to right of vertical photo scale, looking SW.



Photo 8. Soakaway 5, looking W (Drain 9 at lower edge of frame).





Photo 9. Part of Drain Trench 1 (on right) and Drain Trench 2 (on left), looking SW.



Photo 10. Eastern part of Drain Trench 1 and Soakaway 1, looking E.



Photo 11. Drain Trench 3 (centre) and Drain Trench 4 (on right, by porch), looking SW.



Photo 12. Drain Trench 5, looking SSE towards Soakaway 3.



Photo 13. Drain Trench 6 with Soakaway 4 in foreground, looking WNW.



Photo 14. Drain Trench 7, looking NNW.



Photo 15. Drain Trench 8, looking SE.



Photo 16. Concentration of large stones (8) in Drain Trench 8, looking SW.



Photo 17. Large stones from Drain Trench 8 feature (8) on spoil heap, looking SW.



Photo 18. Drain Trench 9 with Soakaway 4 in foreground, looking E.

# Appendix: The Finds

by Deborah Sawday

## Introduction

The material was examined under a x20 binocular microscope and the pottery was catalogued with reference to current guidelines (MPRG 1998, MPRG 2016) and the ULAS fabric series (Sawday 2009).

## Results

The results are shown below in Table 1.

## Discussion

The pottery assemblage comprised six sherds. The five medieval sherds weighed 46 grams and dated from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

## Conclusion

The Coarse Shelly ware and the products of the Stanion Lyveden industry are both based on the Jurassic ridge, primarily in north Northamptonshire only 15 to 20 kilometres to the south-east and are ubiquitous in this part of the Leicestershire. The presence also of Potters Marston ware completes a small, but typically local pottery assemblage.

The pottery is evidence of medieval activity in the vicinity of the church. These finds are possibly contemporary with the construction of the church in the late 13<sup>th</sup> and early 14<sup>th</sup> century (Hoskins 1970).

Table 1: The finds by context, fabric/ware, sherd number, weight (grams), and EVES.

Context	Fabric/ware	No	Gr	Comments
Drain Tr 1 (2)	LY4 – Lyveden Stanion A ware	1	2	Collared jug rim, c.1150-1400
Drain Tr 7 (1)	China clay	1	4	Tobacco pipe stem, post-medieval / modern
Soakaway 3 (1)	PM – Potters Marston	1	25	Basal angle, sooted, c.1100-1400
Soakaway 4 (6)	CS – Coarse Shelly ware	1	3	Sooted/burnt, c.1100-1400
Soakaway 4 (6)	LY4 – Lyveden Stanion A ware	2	16	Sooted externally, c.1150-1400
Soakaway 4 (6)	Bone	1	2	?Pig tooth
Soakaway 5 U/S	EA10 – Fine White Earthenware	1	59	Bowl profile - modern

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Site Type: Church	Job Number: NF34