

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING REPORT:

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, COLEBY, LINCOLNSHIRE

NGR: SK 97523 60593
AAL Site Code: COAS 22
Faculty Reference: F2022/60



Report prepared for All Saints Coleby Village Church Council

By
Allen Archaeology Ltd
Report Number AAL2022140

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Allenarchaeology



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Cover image: All Saints Church, looking northwest

Executive Summary

- All Saints Coleby Village Church Council commissioned Allen Archaeology Limited to carry out archaeological monitoring and recording as a condition of a faculty for replacement of an existing path at All Saints Church, Coleby, Lincolnshire
- All Saints Church is mainly 13th to 15th century date, but has a late Saxon tower. Saxon pottery has previously been recovered in the vicinity of the church.
- The monitored groundworks were very shallow and only removed a thin tarmac surface and bedding layer. The only feature of interest exposed was part of a limestone foundation for the west tower. No finds or human remains were identified.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 All Saints Coleby Village Church Council commissioned Allen Archaeology Limited to carry out archaeological monitoring and recording as a condition of a faculty for replacement of an existing path at All Saints Church, Coleby, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The archaeological works were carried out in accordance with national guidelines set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *'Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief'* (2020a), the Historic England document *'Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment'* (2015), and local guidance in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (LCC 2019).
- 1.3 The archive will be compiled in line with *'Archaeological Archives. A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation'* (Brown 2011), *'Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives'* (ClfA 2020b). The archive will be deposited with Nottingham City Museums and Galleries. The accession number has been applied for and this detail will be added to the report once received.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Coleby is situated in the North Kesteven district of Lincolnshire, approximately 11km south of central Lincoln. All Saints Church is situated to the north of Church Lane, in the historic core of the village, at NGR SK 97523 60593.
- 2.2 The bedrock geology comprises Lower Lincolnshire Limestone, with no overlying superficial geology recorded (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 The works were carried out in accordance with the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Lincoln, Form 7 (Rule 7.4) Faculty for the replacement of an existing tarmac path with a resin bonded path. Faculty permission was granted with a condition for archaeological monitoring of groundworks.

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 All Saints church is a Grade I Listed Building, which dates back to the Anglo Saxon period, with later additions including the tower, which was constructed c.1040. The main church building is 13th to 15th century in date with further restoration taking place in the 19th century (Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record Number 61911).
- 4.2 Evidence for the early medieval origins of Coleby was revealed during monitoring of the Harmston to Coleby Watermains replacement in 1993 with the recovery of a sherd of 9th to 10th century Lincoln kiln shell-tempered pot from the Church Lane area (Lindsey Archaeological Services 1993).
- 4.3 The place name is derived from Old Norse and Old Danish elements meaning 'Koli's farmstead, village' (Cameron 1998). In the Domesday Book, there are two manors listed, belonging to the king and to Countess Judith, populated by a total of 28 villagers. The royal estate also included a priest and church, very likely referring to All Saints (Morgan and Thorn 1986).

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The groundworks comprised removal of an existing tarmac path and bedding layers, prior to laying of a new surface. Excavation was undertaken using a hydraulic breaker to break up the tarmac surface and a tracked excavator with toothless bucket was used to remove tarmac and underlying bedding layers as required.
- 5.2 All groundworks were undertaken over a single day, November 14th 2022, and were monitored by Phil Chavasse.
- 5.3 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard AAL context recording sheets. Each deposit, layer or cut was allocated a 3-digit unique identifier (context number) and given a written description, e.g. layer 100. A summary of these is included in Appendix 1.
- 5.4 Colour photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy, with all photographs incorporating scales, an identification board and directional arrow, as appropriate.

6.0 Results

- 6.1 The uppermost deposit was the existing path surface, 100, of degraded tarmac, measuring approximately 0.05m thick. It lay on a thin bedding layer of orange brown sand and crushed limestone, 101. This in turn sealed a very dark grey sandy layer with frequent small limestone rubble, representing a topsoil/graveyard soil, 104.
- 6.2 Where the path passed by the tower at the west end of the church, removal of the path surface partially exposed a tabular limestone foundation plinth, 103. This supported the stepped footings of the church tower, 102.



Plate 1: General view of the works, looking north from Church Lane. Scale 1m



Plate 2: General view of the works, looking south from Far Lane. Scale 1m



Plate 3: Foundation slab 103 and stepped footings of church tower, looking south. Scales 1m and 0.3m

7.0 Discussion and Conclusion

- 7.1 The archaeological monitoring exposed very little of archaeological interest. Groundworks were generally very shallow, as they entailed removal of tarmac and bedding layers only. As such, the only feature of interest was a foundation plinth for the west tower of the church.
- 7.2 There were no finds recovered, and no articulated or disarticulated human remains.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 8.1 The monitoring and recording methodologies for this site were appropriate to the scale and nature of the project.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 AAL would like to thank All Saints Coleby Village Church Council for the commission and the groundworkers for their cooperation during the site works.

10.0 References

CIfA, 2020, *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading

Historic England, 2015, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*, Historic England

LCC, 2019, *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook*, Lincolnshire County Council

Lindsey Archaeological Services, 1993, *Harmston to Coleby Watermain Replacement, (Intervention Report)*. SLI5158

Appendix 1: Context Summary List

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
1000	Layer	Grey brown sand silt with rarely occurring small pebbles			0.40 max	Topsoil
1001	Layer	Orange brown sand silt with flecks of manganese			0.50 max	Natural geology
1002	Layer	Red brown mudstone			>0.10	Natural geology
1003	Layer	Modern bricks within a matrix of grey brown sand silt			0.20	layer created from the demolition of the nursing home
1004	Layer	Grey brown sand silt, with rarely occurring small pebbles			0.20	Redeposited topsoil
1005	Layer	Brown mudstone			>0.10	Natural geology
1006	Layer	Tarmac layers			0.10-0.30	Former car park surface
1007	Layer	Yellow aggregate and stone fragments with a matrix of grey brown sand silt			0.05-0.40	Levelling material for car park
1008	Layer	Red brown mudstone			>0.10	Natural geology
1009	Layer	Modern brick rubble			0.50	Landscaping material
1010	Layer	Compact mudstone bedrock			>0.10	Natural geology
1011	Layer	Orange brown sand silt with flecks of manganese			0.20	Redeposited natural, landscaping material

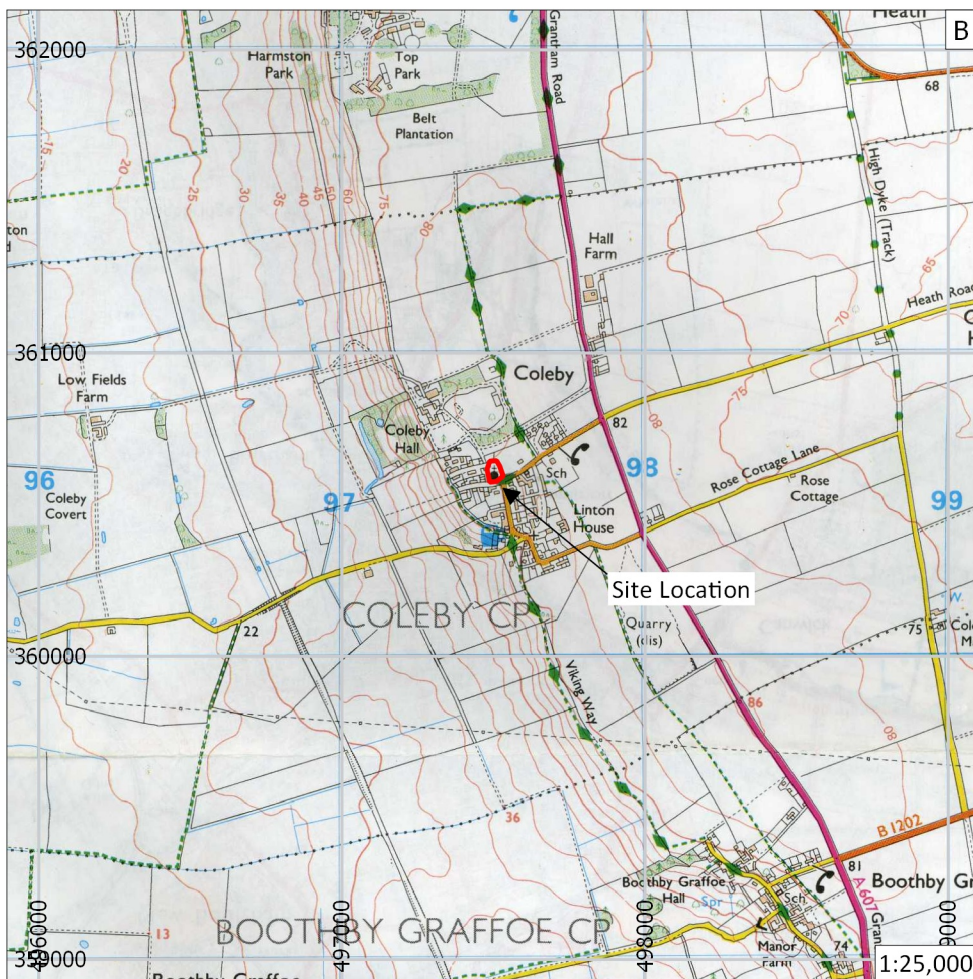
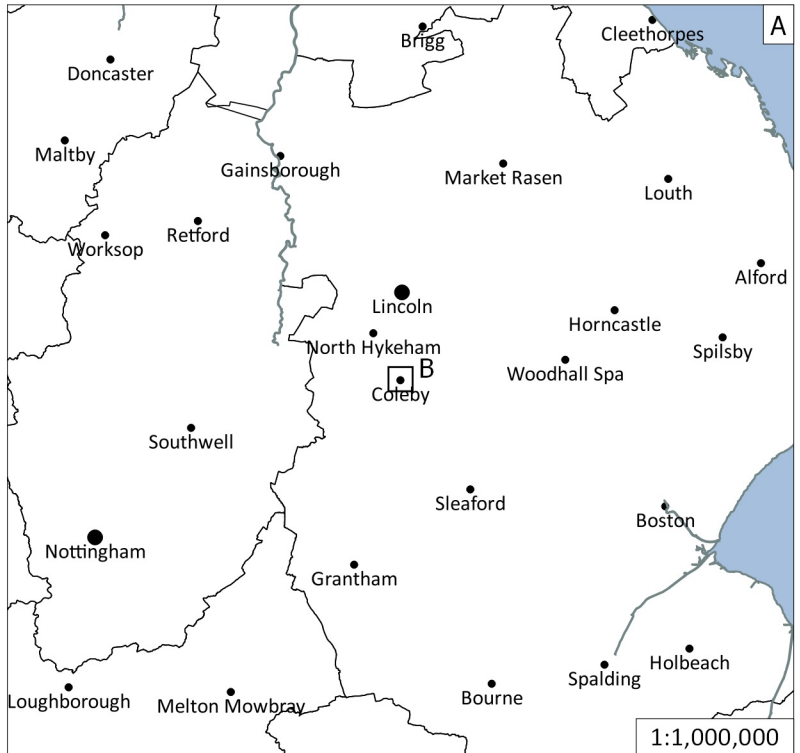
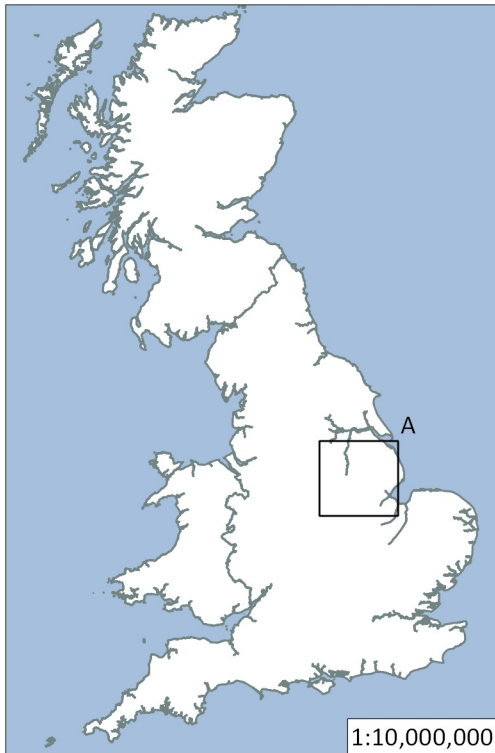


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red

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Site Code	COAS 17
Scale	1:10,000,000 1:1,000,000 1:25,000 @ A4
Drawn by	D Leigh
Date	16/11/17



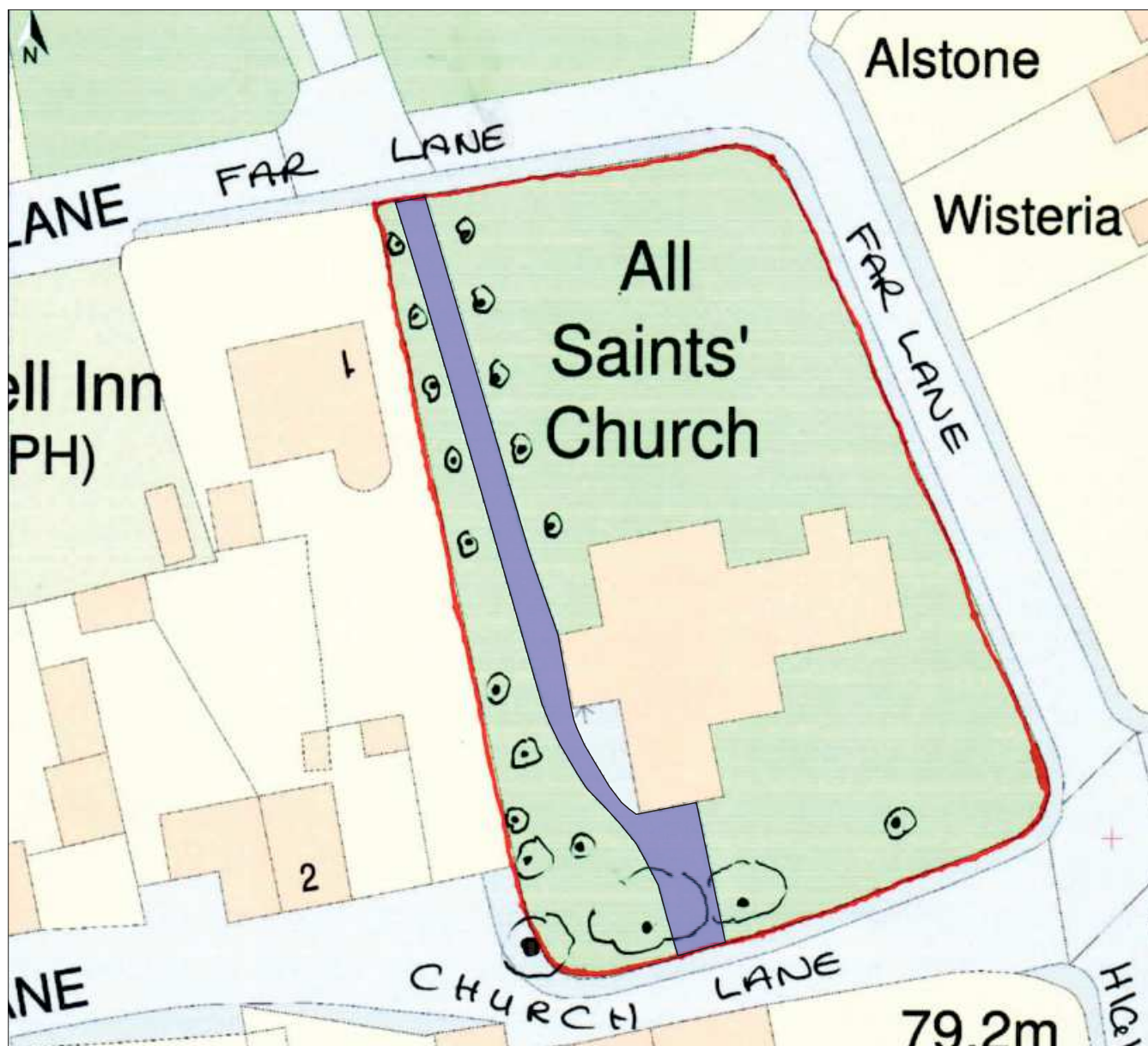


Figure 2: Site location outlined in red, with areas monitored shaded blue

Site Code	COAS 22
Scale	1:500 @ A4
Drawn by	C. Clay
Date	24/11/22

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