



prospect archaeology

**Client: Wootton PCC**

# **The Church of St Andrew, Wootton, N. Lincs.**

**Archaeological Observation and Recording**

**NGR: TA 08904 16172**

**Site Code: WOSA 13**

**N. Lincs Museum Accn No.: WOTAD**

**Report no LPA-51**

**July 2014**

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### **Summary**

*A programme of archaeological observation and recording was undertaken at the church of St Andrew, Wootton during the installation of new toilet facilities in the tower and associated groundworks. The work included monitoring internal excavations of the tower floor; and monitoring excavations in the church yard for the trench arch system to the west of the west wall of the tower, and for a pipe trench and soakaway to the north for the kitchen facilities in the north aisle, which ran north from the nave north wall. No archaeological features or artefacts were found.*

### **Introduction**

Prospect Archaeology was commissioned by Gordon Smith Conservation on behalf of Wootton PCC to undertake an archaeological programme of observation and recording of all groundworks during a programme of a toilet and refreshment facilities inside the church.

### **Site Location (Fig. 1)**

The parish of Wootton is located in North Lincolnshire, c.8km to the south-east of Barton-upon-Humber and c.11km north-east of Brigg. The Church of St Andrew (Pl. 1) is situated towards the east end of the High Street in the north-east part of the village.

### **Historical Background**

The Lincolnshire HER records a prehistoric/Roman trackway (HER 15492), named Barton Street, which ran between Barton-upon-Humber and Alford. The putative route of this trackway, which followed the eastern edge of the Wolds, passes a short distance to the north-east of the church on a north-west/south-east alignment (<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/>).

Wootton is recorded as *Udetune* in the Domesday Survey of 1086, which translates from the Old English to farmstead/village in woodland. It was the centre of three estates (manors)

one of which was held by the Bishop of Lincoln. Earthworks in the south-eastern part of the village indicate a possible shrunken medieval village (HER 2291).

The Church of St Andrew is a Grade I Listed Building (165941), built of stone in the Early English style. The arcades date from the thirteenth century, and the tower is fourteenth/fifteenth century. A programme of restoration was carried out in 1851, including work to the chancel and porch. The top of the tower was rebuilt in 1877, and there were restorations to the north aisle in the twentieth century.

### **Scope of Work (Fig. 2)**

The programme of work comprised

- Installation of new floor in the tower, to be level with the nave
- Installation of a toilet facility in the tower
- Installation of a refreshment facility in the north aisle ( no archaeological impact)
- Excavation of a trench arch system west of the tower, and soakaway north of the north aisle to connect with the new facilities

### **Aims and Objectives**

The purpose of the Archaeological Monitoring and Recording was to allow appropriate recording of any archaeological deposits exposed during groundworks at the above site. This included

- Recording of any archaeological stratigraphy present
- Recording and removal of archaeological artefacts as necessary

### **METHOD**

One experienced archaeologist was present on site to examine and record groundworks inside the tower and, externally, the machine excavation of the trench arch system to the west of the tower, and the pipe trench to the north of the nave. Monitoring took place on two occasions, in October 8th 2013, and in November 20<sup>th</sup> 2013.

### **Results (Figs. 3-5)**

#### Interior

The floor in the tower, was removed and the ground level reduced to remove the step between the nave and tower. The area inside the tower measured 3.5m west-east and 2.5m

north-south (Pl. 2). Beneath the stone floor and the brick ledge was a levelling layer 0.15m thick of brick rubble and chalk (**100**). There was a row of bricks along both the north and south walls of the tower. A thin layer of chalky sand (**101**) 0.03m thick lay beneath both the bricks and the rubble layer **100** (Pl. 3) and was seen in plan extending across part of the tower. It was probably the remnant of a former floor surface, or the base for a former floor surface (Pl. 2). Layer (**101**) overlay a levelling layer, of sandy silt, with inclusions of chalk and occasional brick (**102**). Disarticulated human bone was found within this layer, which was later reburied.

A hole measuring c.1m<sup>2</sup> was excavated in the north-west corner of the tower for the installation of the foul drain connection to the toilet, which was inserted through a small hole, drilled through the tower west wall. The hoe revealed that Layer **102** was c.0.19m thick overlay a levelling layer comprising an orange/brown sandy silt with inclusions of chalk and gravel (**103**), which extended below the limit of the excavation (Pl. 4).

#### Exterior

The connecting trench for the foul drain was excavated on the outside of the west wall of the tower, and ran 1m west, then turned north-west and 0.5m deep (Pl. 5). The topsoil (**104**) was a mid-greyish-brown sandy silt c.0.32m deep (Pl. 6). Beneath this was a layer of made ground (**105**) comprising mid-greyish-brown sandy silt with frequent stone and chalk inclusions. This material was probably associated with the construction trench for the tower and continued beyond the limits of the excavation.

A second stage of monitoring was carried out six weeks later in November 2013, when the eternal drain runs were excavated. Trench 1, measuring c.0.45m wide and 0.6m deep ran WNW for 1.2m from the hole which had been excavated against the west wall of the tower in October 2013 to avoid an oil tank and its concrete base. It then turned west for a further 4.55m (Pl. 7). The trench then turned south-west for c.2m and then south, to run roughly parallel with the tower west wall, some 7m from it, whilst avoiding grave stones (Pl. 8). This stretch was widened to c.1m and c.12m long to accommodate the trench arch blocks (Pl. 8).

The typical sequence of deposits observed in this trench was c.0.15m depth of topsoil (**200**), a mid-dark brown heavily rooted clay, overlying a subsoil (**201**) of mid-red/brown clay flecked with chalk, c.0.36m thick. Beneath (**201**) was the natural subsoil (**202**), a light brown

clay with chalk flecks, which continued beyond the limit of the excavation (Pl. 9).

Trench 2 ran northwards from the north aisle north wall for 3.8m. It started c.0.4m east of the rain water pipe and was 0.4m deep (Pl. 10). The trench against the north wall of the church cut through a c.1m wide tarmac path which runs along the north side of the church. Beneath the 0.05m thick tarmac (**203**), overlying a layer of hardcore (**204**), c.0.25m thick (Pl. 11). North of the tarmac path, the trench cut through the turf and topsoil of the churchyard which was heavily disturbed by roots (Pl. 12). At the north end of this trench was a soakaway pit which measured 1.5m north-south, 0.75m west-east and 1m deep, situated 2.75m south of the churchyard boundary. (The ground drops by c.1m at its north boundary and also drops steeply in the north-west corner and to the west.) There was no evidence for the subsoil (**201**) recorded in Trench 1.

### **Conclusion**

The excavations inside the tower revealed the possible remnant for an earlier floor surface. Excavation of the trenches across the churchyard disturbed no graves and there was no disturbance to any archaeological features or archaeological finds.

### **References**

<http://webarchive.northlincs.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/local-studies/localhistorypacks/wootton/>

<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/>

### **Contents of the Site Archive**

Email correspondence

Written scheme of investigation

Context sheets

Site notes

Architect's site location plan and sketch plan of the new toilets

Photographs. Digital images PA Film 41 images

Naomi Field and Kathryn Blythe

July 2014

## THE FIGURES

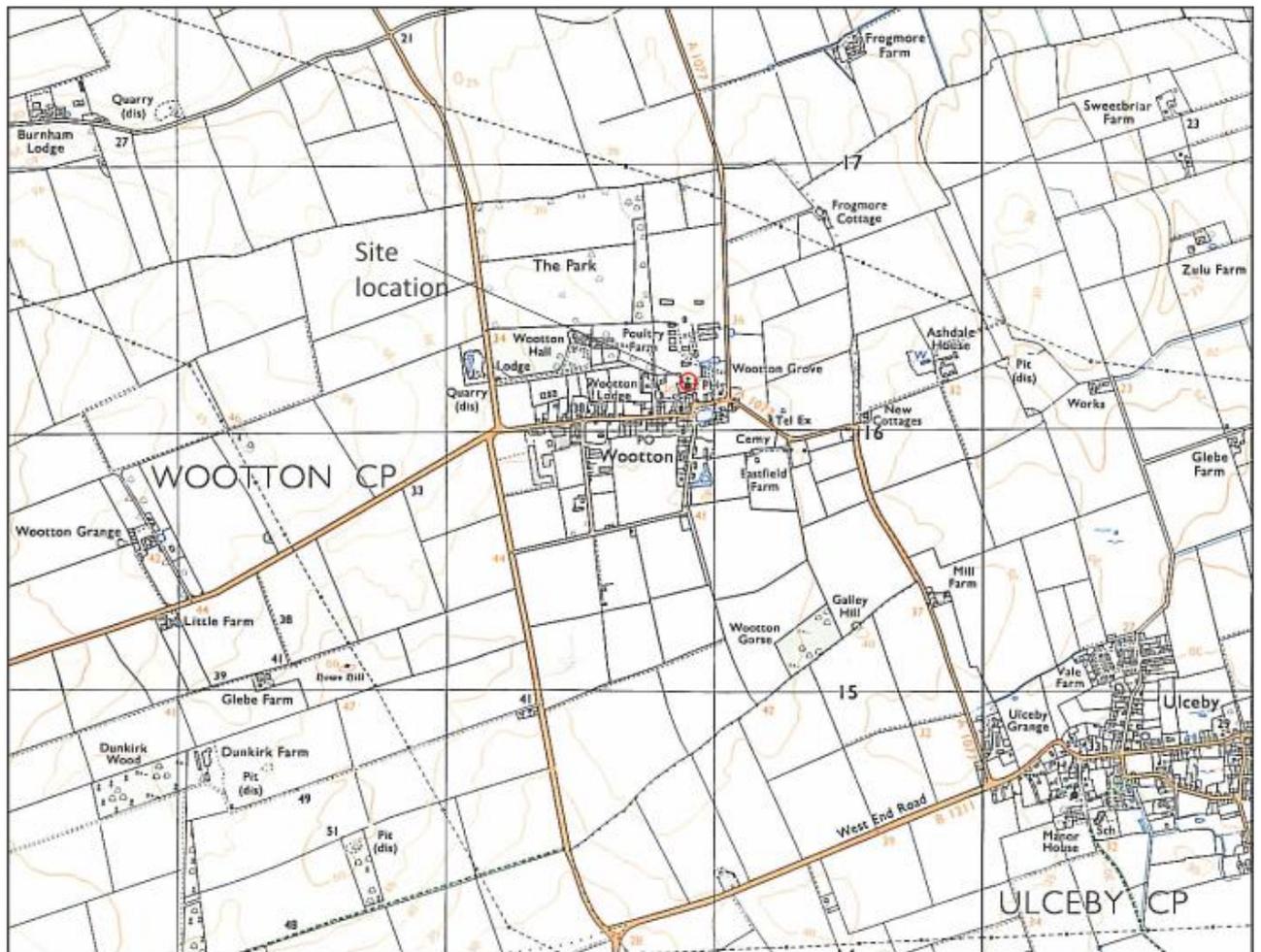


Fig. 1 Wootton site location. © based on the 1:25,000 scale Pathfinder 707 OS map

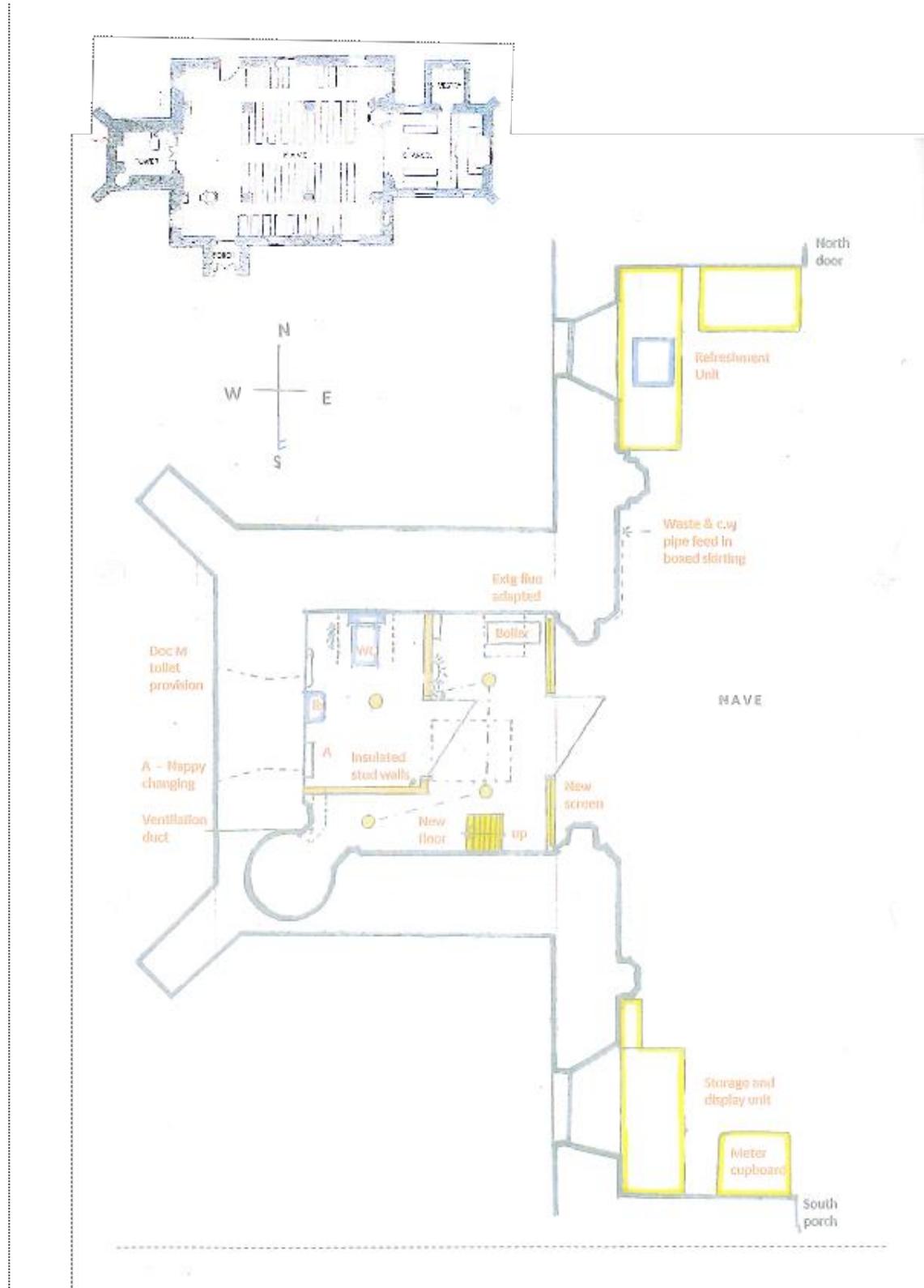


Fig. 2 Wootton church. location of areas investigated.  
(Sketch supplied by Gordon Smith Conservation, Architects and surveyors)

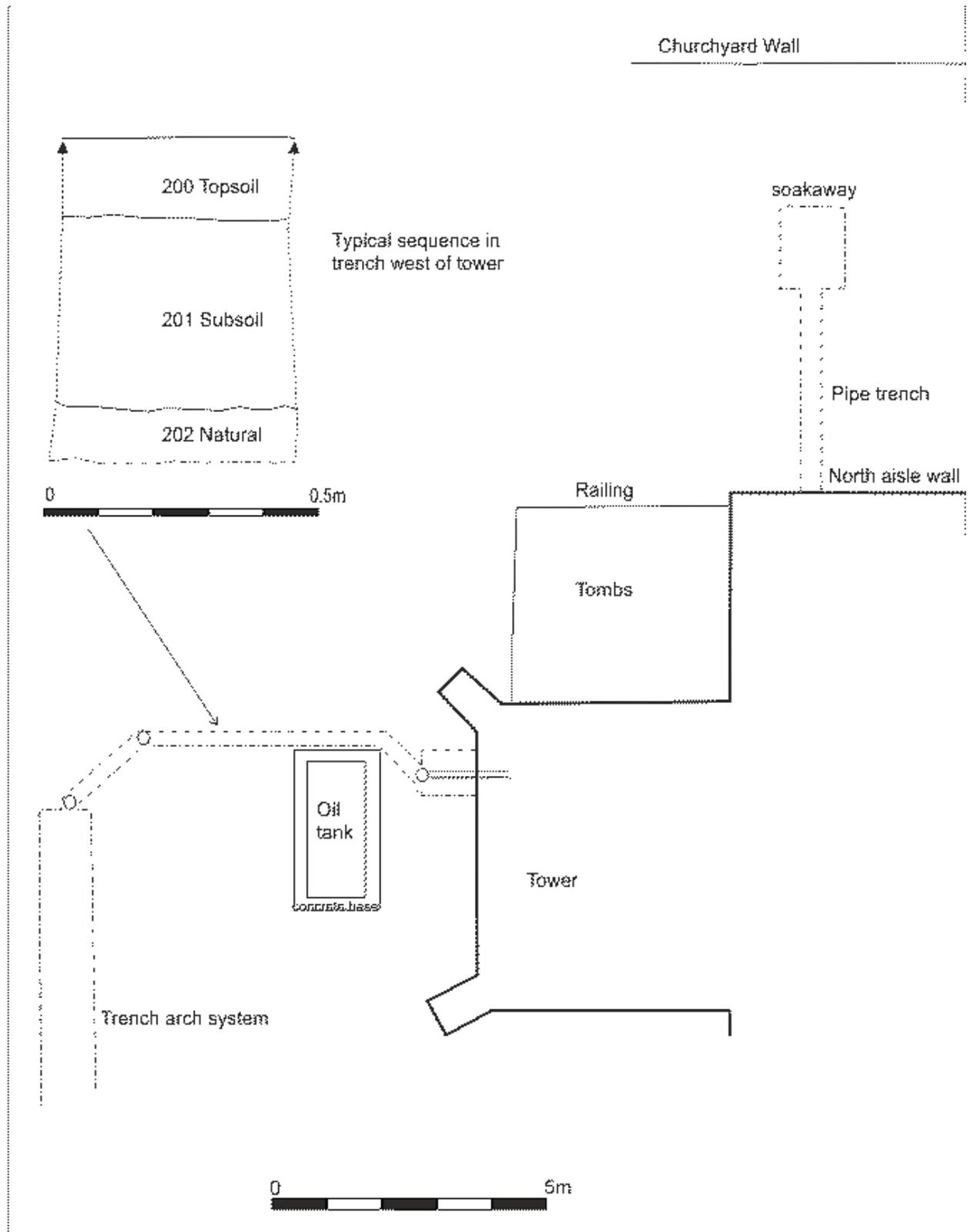


Fig. 3 Plan of excavations for trench arch system and surface water drainage

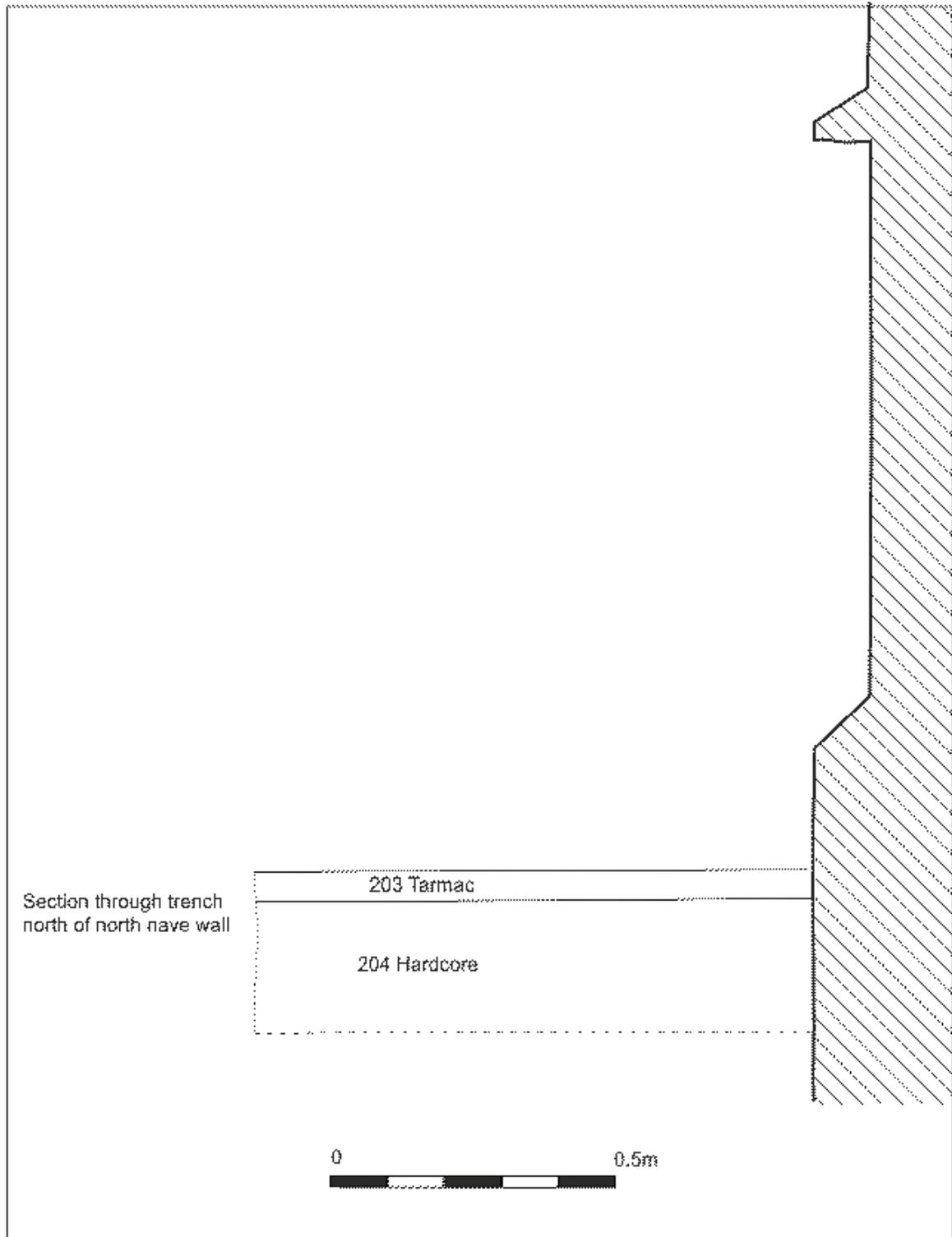


Fig. 4 Profile of north aisle north wall and adjacent footpath, showing sequence of deposits in drainage trench

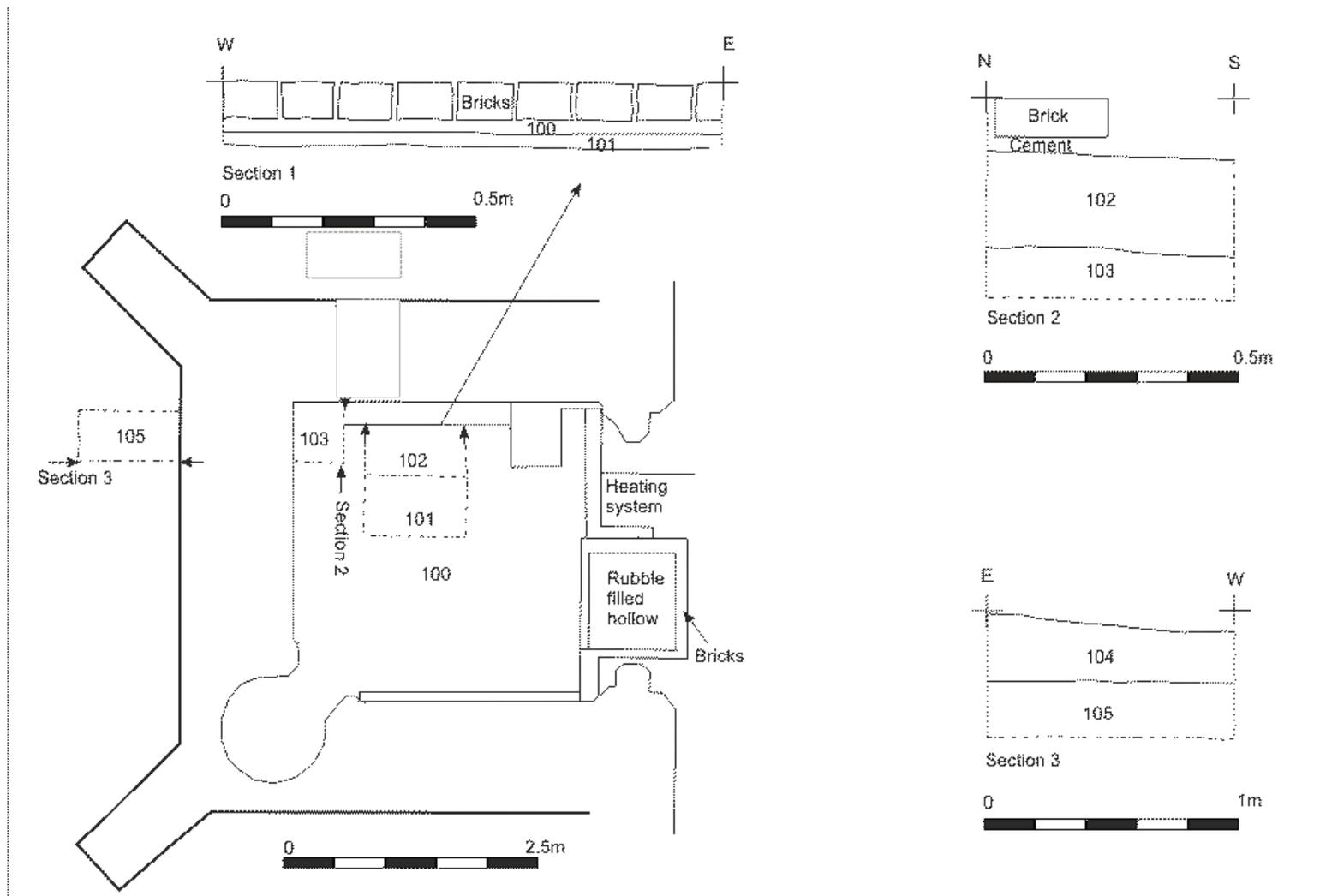


Fig. 5 The tower. Plan and sections

## THE PLATES



Pl. 1 St Andrew's Church, Wootton. View of south elevation, looking north-east



Pl. 2 Tower floor after removal of stone surface, looking west



**Pl. 3 Section 1, looking north. Showing bricks against north wall of tower, and layers 100 and 101 beneath**



**Pl. 4 Section 2, looking east. Showing layers 102 and 103 beneath brick course**



**Pl. 5 Trench on west side of tower wall, looking south**



**Pl. 6 Access point for pipe in north tower wall, looking east**



PI. 7 Pipe trench west of tower, looking east



PI. 8 North/south stretch of trench arch system, looking north



**Pl. 9 Typical sequence of deposits in trench arch**



**Pl. 10 General view of pipe trench north of north nave wall, showing path against wall, looking south-west**



**PI. 11 Pipe trench north of north nave wall, looking south**



**PI. 12 Soakaway at north end of pipe trench, looking south**