



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**St. Mary's Church Alterations
Ludborough, Lincs**

NGR : TF 2960 95³00

Site Code : LDM00

LCNCC Accession No: 2000.36

Archaeological Watching Brief

**Report prepared for
Lee Holmes**

**On behalf of
Ludborough PCC**

**LAS Report No. 459
August 2000**

25. AUG

Lincolnton
Archaeology

Event 42091
SOURCES 416813 416814
PRN 41196 414196

Contents

List of Figures
List of Plates

Summary	1
Introduction	1
Site Location	1
Archaeological Background	2
Method	2
Results	3
(a) Trial Trenches	
(b) Pipe Trenches	
(c) Internal Work	
Conclusions	4
Acknowledgements	5
References	5
Appendix 1 – Context Summary	
Figures	
Plates	

Figures

Fig. 1 Location of Ludborough Church, based on (a) 1:250 000 map and (b) 1:50 000 OS Map, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL50424A.

Fig. 2 Plan of Ludborough Church showing the position of the pipe-trenches and the archaeological features located within the church (based on a plan provided by the client)

Plates

- Pl. 1 The church of St Mary's, Ludborough, with its distinctive ironstone tower, looking south
- Pl. 2 Trial Hole 1 showing the hardcore rubble below the present asphalt floor surface
- Pl. 3 Trial Hole 2, the *in situ* Victorian chequer-board pattern tiles are visible below the asphalt
- Pl. 4 Trial Hole 3, with Victorian chequer-board tiles and rubble below the floor surface
- Pl. 5 Location of pipe-trench 1 running along the path in front of the church, looking east
- Pl. 6 Pathway along which pipe-trench 2 is located, looking north-west
- Pl. 7 Pipe-trench 2 against northern wall, looking east
- Pl. 8 Section through vaulted brick heating duct
- Pl. 9 The south aisle of the nave following the removal of the floor surface, looking east
- Pl. 10 Former brick pew platform located between the pillars in the south aisle
- Pl. 11 Brick pew platform between the pillars in the south aisle, with the remains of chalk foundations between the western most pillars, looking west
- Pl. 12 Remains of chalk foundations of possible earlier nave wall, located between the pillars in the north aisle
- Pl. 13 Remains of chalk foundations, north aisle, showing the rammed earth floor surface, looking west
- Pl. 14 Circular feature located against the west wall within the tower, marked by red and white scale, looking west

St. Mary's Church Alterations
Ludborough, Lincs
NGR : TF 2960 9560
Site Code : LDM00
LCNCC Accession No: 2000.36

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at St. Mary's Church, Ludborough, while external and internal alterations were carried out.

Two machine-dug pipe trenches in the churchyard produced a few fragments of human and animal bone, and a quantity of roof tile. No archaeological features or in situ burials were visible in the trenches.

The removal of the nave floor revealed a number of human bones, and two possible burials. Remains of the pew platforms and possible former nave walls were also identified. A Victorian vaulted brick heating duct was recorded beneath the central aisle.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by Lee Holmes on behalf of Ludborough PCC to undertake an archaeological watching brief while alterations were carried out both internally and externally at St. Mary's Church, Ludborough (Pl. 1).

The external work involved the machine-excavation of two trenches for the replacement of an existing water pipe and a new oil pipe. Inside the church, the floor was removed to install underfloor heating and replace the asphalt surface with new floor tiles. The floor in the tower was also removed to enable the new pipes to be installed.

The objectives of the watching brief were to:

- establish the presence or absence, quality and extent of any archaeological remains;
- gather sufficient information to assess the potential and significance of any archaeological remains present;
- record any archaeological features present.

The work was carried out in accordance with the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, 1998).

Site Location

St. Mary's Church is located in the centre of Ludborough, a small village off the A16 between Louth and Grimsby. The village is situated approximately 6 miles to the north of Louth (Fig. 1).

Archaeological Background

Ludborough is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, and is located on the site of a Roman settlement. During the eleventh century the village former part of the estate of a Norman soldier, Robert de Toden.

The present church of St Mary's is multi-period. The nave dates to the end of the Norman period; the chancel is chiefly thirteenth century, while many of the windows date to the fourteenth century. The tower is also believed to have been built in the fourteenth century, and is made of ironstone, contrasting to the grey appearance of the rest of the church.

In 1830 Lord Monson visited Ludborough church and included it in his church notes, recording that the east end of the south aisle was being used as a school (Dudding, p2).

In 1858 much of the church was restored by James Fowler of Louth. The chancel arch, the north aisle and the south clerestory were all rebuilt, and the floor was paved Minton's encostic tiles.

Method

Two pipe trenches, located on the north and south side of the church, were machine excavated under archaeological supervision using a small back-acting machine with a 0.50m toothed ditching bucket (Fig. 2). The trenches were excavated to a depth of 0.65m. Sections of the pipe trenches were cleaned by hand and photographed and a short section of each drawn at a scale of 1:20. The position of the trenches was planned at a scale of 1:50 on a plan provided by the client.

The asphalt and underlying deposits were removed from the nave and aisles under archaeological supervision to a depth of 0.20m using a back-acting machine with a 1m toothless bucket. The upper 0.15m of the floor in the tower were hand-excavated and two deeper holes dug to enable the installation of the water and oil pipes. Areas of archaeological significance within the church were cleaned by hand and recorded by a team of two archaeologists.

A full written (single context) and photographic record of the work was made. Plans were drawn at a scale of 1:50. Context numbers were assigned to the archaeological features and deposits by LAS for recording purposes. These numbers are referred to in the following report and illustrations.

The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998).

Results

a) Trial Holes

Three trial holes were excavated in April 1999 under archaeological supervision. Trial hole 1 was located in the south side of the nave, and measured 0.28m x 0.28m (Pl. 2). The asphalt (109) measured 0.02m, below this was a layer of concrete roughly 0.04m thick. A rubble layer containing modern crockery, electric cable, glass and other modern debris lay below the concrete (111). This measured 0.14m in depth, and came down onto a hard floor surface of rammed soil (112).

The second trial hole was positioned in the central aisle of the nave and measured 0.55m x 0.35m. This was excavated to a depth of 0.13m (Pl. 3). Below the asphalt in situ Victorian chequerboard red and black tiles were found (110), bedded on a thin layer of lime mortar. Chalk and rubble hardcore lay below this, with the top of a vaulted brick heating duct also visible.

The third trial hole was dug across the south aisle, revealing the former brick support of the pew platform (Pl. 4). This hole measured 1.15m x 0.27m.

b) Pipe Trenches

Pipe trench 1 was located on the north side of the church, and extended between an existing manhole cover in the east to the tower wall at the west (Pl. 5). The trench measured 0.50m in width and was excavated to depths varying between 0.40m and 0.65m. The excavation of this trench revealed a series of previously disturbed deposits.

The topsoil (100) consisted of a grey/brown clayey silt loam containing frequent fragments of post-medieval roof tile. This measured approximately 0.08m in depth, below which was a disturbed layer of mid grey/brown clayey silt (101).

Layer 101 also contained a large quantity of post-medieval roof tile. Human bone was also recovered from this layer, none of which was articulated or in situ. Many of the breaks on the bones showed signs of wear, indicating that these had occurred some time ago.

The majority of the bone was recovered from the area adjacent to the tower wall. A larger area, measuring 0.50m by 0.60m, was excavated here to enable the pipe to be fed into the church. This material had been disturbed during the installation of the previous water pipes, and consisted of a mixture of the topsoil and layers 101 and 102. Frequent chalk fragments were also recorded here and may represent some of the foundation material of the church that had been disturbed during earlier groundworks.

Immediately below layer 101 was a red/brown silty clay layer (102), which was visible intermittently where the trench was deeper. This layer does not appear to have been previously disturbed within the trench, except for in the area adjacent to the tower wall.

Pipe trench 2 was located to the south of the church, and extended from the tower to boundary fence where the oil tank is to be located (Pl. 6 and 7). This too followed a pathway through the churchyard. The trench also measured 0.50m in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.40m.

The topsoil (100) here was deeper than in trench 1 and extended to depths of 0.15m, below which a mid grey-brown clayey silt (101), although this appeared to be less disturbed than in Trench 1. Fewer fragments of roof tile were contained within the fills in Trench 2 and only three fragments of bone were found.

c) Internal Work

The removal of the present floor surface (109) in the nave revealed a variety of deposits. Victorian chequer-board pattern tiles (110) (cf. Trial hole 2) remained in situ below the asphalt in the centre aisle. A vaulted brick heating duct survived beneath these tiles (108) (Pl. 8). This measured approximately 0.50m in width and extended the entire length of the nave, terminating at a rectangular brick structure, of a more recent date, in front of the tower. A layer of soot approximately 0.07m thick lined the base of this heating duct.

In the southern aisle, the floor surface was removed to depths between 0.20 m and 0.25m in depth, revealing the same sequence of deposits as those recorded in Trial Hole 1. This consisted of asphalt 0.02m to 0.03m thick; concrete 0.03m to 0.04m deep; rubble 0.15m to 0.18m, below which a surface of rammed earth consisting of red/brown silty clay (Pl. 9).

Remains of an earlier pew platform were revealed below the asphalt between the pillars at the south side of the nave (106) (Pl. 10 and Pl. 11). The brick supports, approximately two brick widths wide, were recorded, before they were removed by machine. These bricks were surrounded by the rubble containing post-medieval pottery, electric cable and other building debris, and may have been destroyed when the layer of hardcore was laid down (111).

The rubble hard core layer was also evident below the floor surface in the north aisle, beneath which was the compact, rammed red/brown silty clay layer (112). Two possible in situ burials were visible in this material, one adjacent to the north wall, the other on the northern side of the row of pillars, neither of these burials would be disturbed by the development.

The chalk remains of a possible earlier nave wall were located between the pillars on either side of the nave (107) (Pl. 11 and Pl. 12). These consisted of a combination of large, roughly hewn rectangular stones between which were smaller, irregular chalk fragments thought to represent packing material. The survival of these foundations was intermittent, and only a single layer of stone remained, bedded on rammed earth (Pl. 13). No cut was discernible for these foundations.

The chequerboard floor tiles were removed from the floor in the tower, and the floor hand dug to a depth of 0.15m, with a deeper section adjacent to the doorway to avoid damaging the door lintel. The removal of the tiles revealed a red-brown silty clay rammed soil surface, which was uniform to a depth of 0.15m. The deeper section revealed a clay material containing frequent sandstone and limestone fragments.

A circular burnt patch (103) with a diameter of 0.50m was revealed immediately below the tiles against the western wall of the tower (Pl. 14). This consisted of an outer ring of dark red clay (104) (resulting from intense heat), surrounding a black charred deposit (105) and may indicated where a former heater had stood.

Conclusions

No features of archaeological significance were revealed during the excavation of the two pipetrenches in the churchyard. The fragments of human bone were not in situ and had been disturbed both by earlier work in the area and the roots of a number of large trees in the grounds.

The excavation of the floor surface revealed two possible in situ burials of unknown date. These burials were not disturbed by the alterations in the church, and were therefore left in place and unexcavated.

There is evidence of earlier structural alterations within the church, undertaken since its initial construction at the close of the Norman period. The chalk remains of former nave walls represent a period before the church was enlarged. The extension of the church, resulting in the destruction of the former nave walls, possibly reflects a change in the size and wealth of the local community.

The brick pew platform and the vaulted heating duct represent alterations carried out during the 18th and nineteenth centuries, when a heating system was installed in the church.

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank Lee Holmes and the contractors on site. The trial trenches were monitored by Naomi Field. The watching brief was carried out by the author, with help from Wendy Booth. The figures were prepared by Claire Angus. Naomi Field co-ordinated the project. The report was produced and collated by Jane Frost.

Claire D Angus
Lindsey Archaeological Services
August 2000

References

- Dudding, R.C. Rector of Saleby, *Ludborough*
Mee, A. 1970. *The King's England, Lincolnshire*, Hodder and Stoughton
Pevsner, N. and Harris, J. 1964. *Buildings of England, Lincolnshire*, Penguin Books
Thorold, H. 1989, *Lincolnshire Churches Revisited*, Michael Russel Ltd



Fig. 1 Location of Ludborough Church, based on (a) 1:250 000 map and (b) 1:50 000 OS Map, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL50424A.

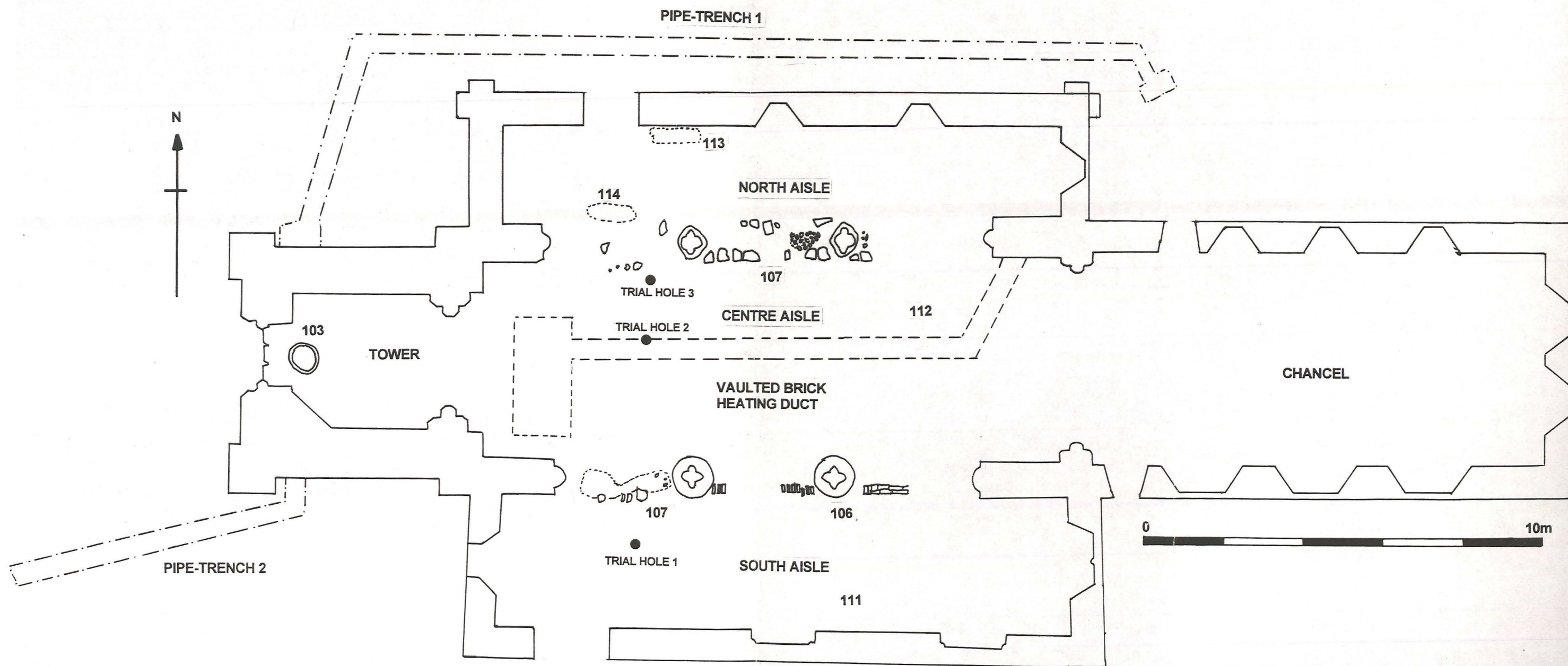


Fig. 2 Plan of Ludborough Church showing the position of the pipe-trenches and the archaeological features located within the church (based on a plan provided by the client)



Pl. 1 The church of St Mary's, Ludborough, with its distinctive ironstone tower, looking south

Pl. 2 Trial Hole 1 showing the hardcore rubble below the present asphalt floor surface





Pl. 3 Trial Hole 2, the *in situ* Victorian chequer-board pattern tiles are visible below the asphalt

Pl. 4 Trial Hole 3, with Victorian chequer-board pattern tiles and rubble below the floor surface





Pl. 5 Location of pipe-trench 1 running along the path in front of the church, looking east

Pl. 6 Pathway along which pipe-trench 2 is located, looking north-west





Pl. 7 Pipe-trench 2 against northern wall, looking east



Pl. 8 Section through vaulted brick heating duct



Pl. 9 The south aisle of the nave following the removal of the floor surface, looking east

Pl. 10 Former brick pew platform located between the pillars in the south aisle





Pl. 11 Brick pew platform between the pillars in the south aisle, with the remains of chalk foundations between the western most pillars, looking west

Pl. 12 Remains of chalk foundations of possible earlier nave wall, located between the pillars in the north aisle





Pl. 13 Remains of chalk foundations, north aisle, showing the rammed earth floor surface, looking west

Pl. 14 Circular feature located against the west wall within the tower, marked by red and white scale, looking west

