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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

St. Peter's Church, Navenby, Lincs.

NGR: SK 9865 5784

Planning Application Number N/40/162/99

Site Code: NSPC 01

LCNCC Museum Accn No.: 2001.84

Archaeological Watching Brief

**Report
for
Navenby PCC**

LAS Report No. 527

August 2001

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St. Peter's Church, Navenby, Lincs. Archaeological Watching Brief

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at the above site in April 2001. The foundations of the north aisle and the tower were revealed. No other archaeological remains were disturbed during the groundworks.

Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on behalf of Navenby PCC in accordance with a brief supplied by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer (dated 21st April 1999, and confirmed by telephone 31st July 2000), and the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, 1998).

Site Location

Navenby is a village on the cliff edge, 14km south of Lincoln (Fig. 1). The extension was on the NW side of the church (Pl. 1), occupying the space between the boiler room and the angle between the north aisle and the tower.

Archaeological Background

The settlement is first recorded in the 1086 Domesday Survey, but the place-name suggests a Danish farmstead. A small Roman town of the third/fourth centuries AD was identified in 1965 from finds made on the Ermine Street, east of the present village. Late and Middle Saxon occupation has been identified from an archaeological evaluation 120m NE of the church.

The church is of impressive size, and incorporates Norman and later fabric. The first recorded church in Navenby is a stone building from about 1180 but there may be earlier remains on the site.

Lindsey
Archaeological Services

Scope of Work

The proposed works comprised construction of a new kitchen and toilet facilities in the angle between the tower and the north aisle. This space was already occupied in part by the boiler house which was partially demolished and extended to join the west wall of the north aisle. New access from the church interior was cut through the north aisle west wall.

Method

The east wall of the former boiler house was removed. Foundations for the wall joining the north wall of the boiler house to the aisle wall were excavated by hand and monitored by an archaeologist. Where appropriate the exposed layers were recorded. A full photographic record was maintained during the excavations. All recorded deposits were assigned context numbers by LAS who operate a standard recording system, developed by its staff over the past 20 years, based on MOLAS and CAS formats. All works were carried out on April 11th 2001.

Results

The area had been cleared prior to the arrival of the archaeologist. A dark brown silty clay topsoil, **101**, (Pl. 2) had an average depth of 0.10m. Below **101** was **102**, a mid grey brown silty clay and rubble 'make-up' layer with rounded and sub-angular stone and occasional charcoal flecks. The foundations of the boiler house east wall (**107**) were also revealed (Pl. 2).

The foundations of the north aisle west wall were revealed. This north-south aligned wall (**106**) was contained by foundation trench **103** which was 0.50m deep and contained foundation stones **105** (Pl. 3 & Fig. 2). The foundations were also filled with a mid reddish brown silty clay with frequent limestone fragments, moderate sub-angular stones and occasional mortar fragments and charcoal flecks (**104**). No human remains were disturbed during the groundworks. The tower wall foundations were visible only the corner by the angle buttress (Pl. 1) where there were two narrow offset courses, 0.50m below the former ground level. These foundations were earlier and neater than those of the north aisle.

Insertion of a door through the west wall of the north aisle, towards the end of the building programme, should also have been monitored but due to a misunderstanding the work was carried out without archaeological supervision.

*Lindsey
Archaeological Services*

Discussion and Conclusion

Disturbance within St. Peter's boundaries is well documented. The parish church was partially rebuilt in the 18th and 19th centuries and a boiler house had previously existed on the site itself. This, coupled with the small area excavated, has meant that no archaeological remains were discovered or disturbed.

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank Navenby PCC for their co-operation during these excavations. Fieldwork was carried out by the author. This report was edited by Naomi Field and produced and collated by Jane Frost.

Sue Farr
April 2001

St. Peter's Church, Navenby (NSPC 01)

Context Summary

Context	Type	Description	Finds
101	layer	Topsoil	
102	layer	Subsoil	
103	cut	Foundation Trench	
104	fill	Fill of 103	
105	wall	north aisle foundation	
106	wall	north aisle wall	
107	wall	boiler house foundation	

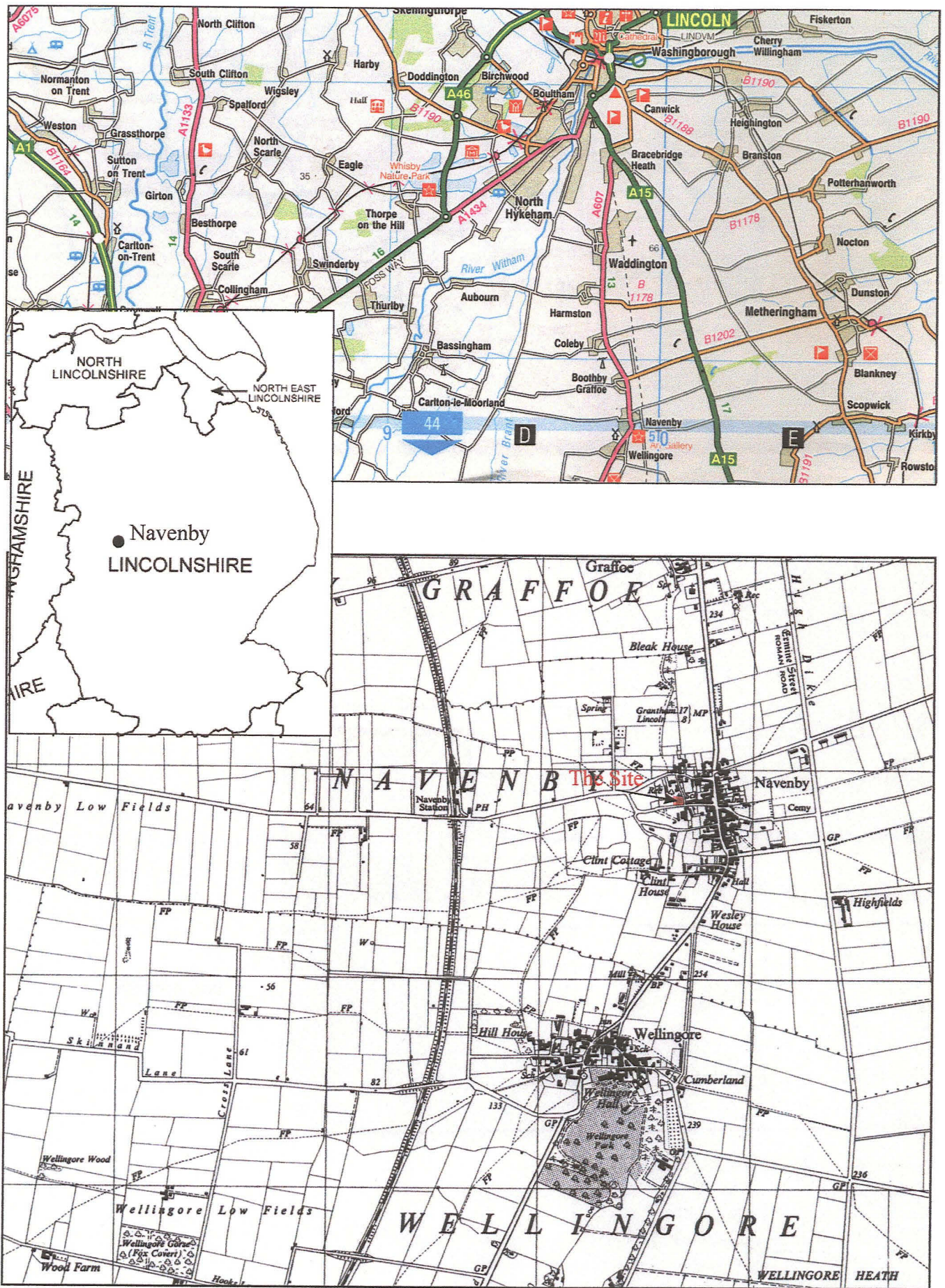


Fig. 1 Navenby Church, site location, reproduced from the 1:10,000 OS Map. © Crown copyright; reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence number AL50424A.

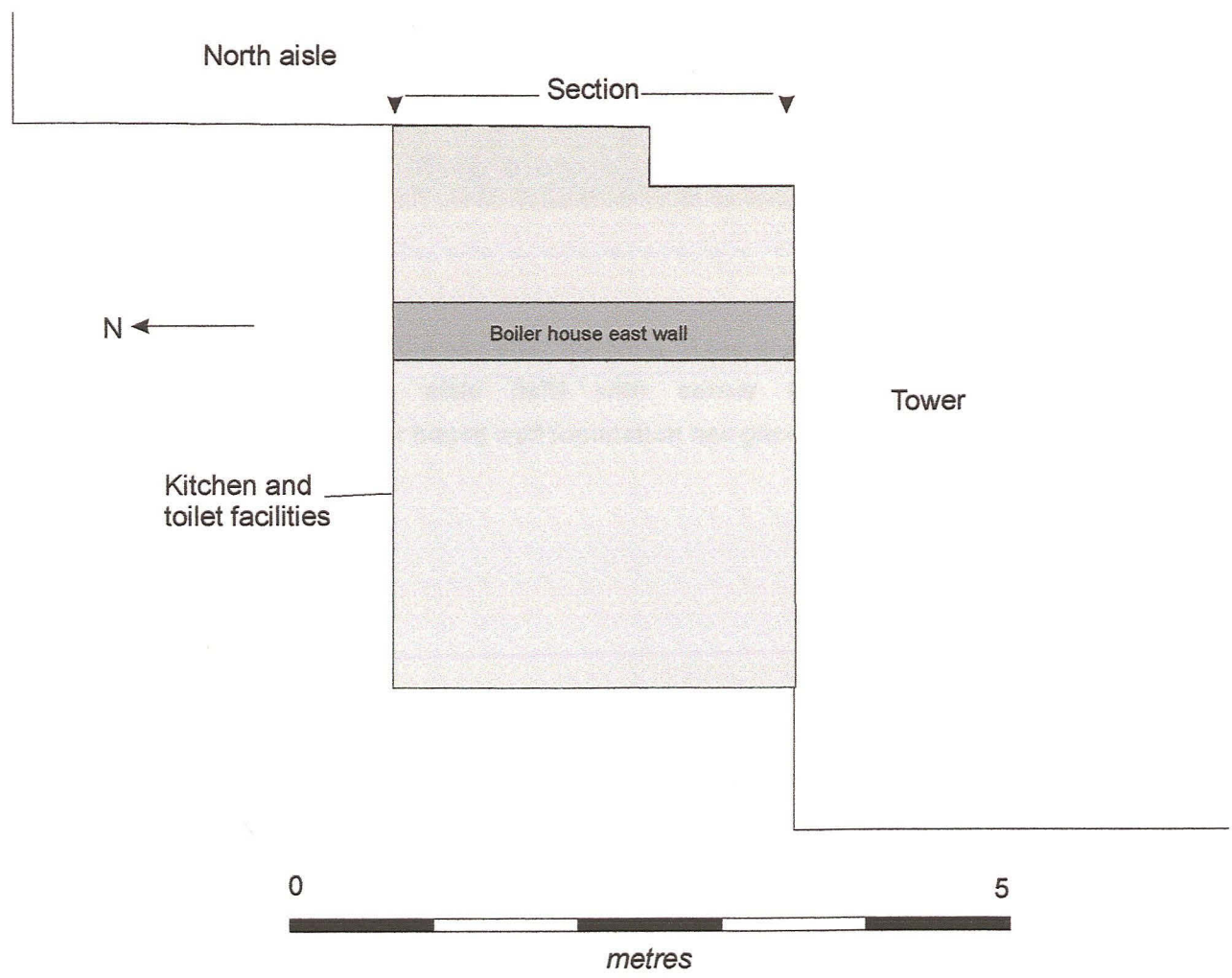
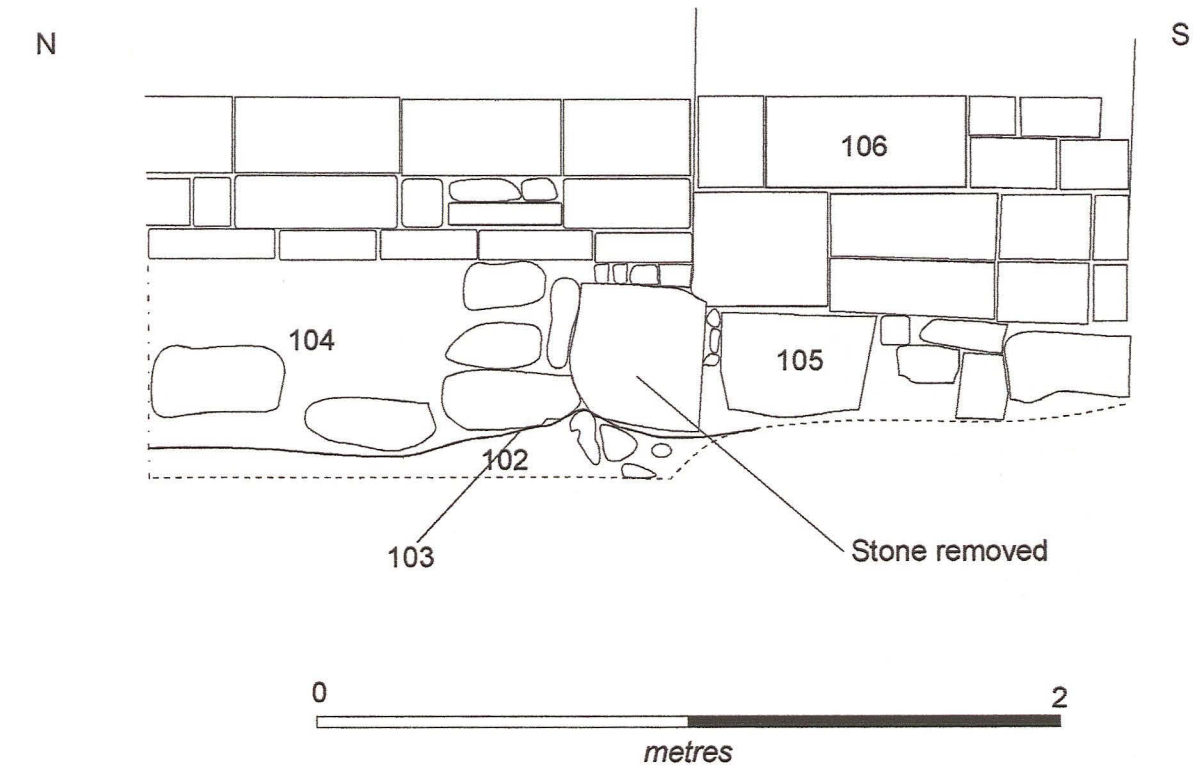


Fig. 2 St. Peter's Church Navenby. West facing elevation and plan of footprint of new kitchen and toilet facilities.



Pl. 1 General view of the site after lowering of the ground, ready for construction of the extension. North aisle (left) with corner buttress, tower north wall (right). Demolished boiler house wall foundation has glove resting on it.



Pl. 2 West facing elevation, showing foundation stones beneath north aisle west wall.

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