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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

St. Martin's Church, Waithe, Lincs.

NGR: TA 2837 0068
Site Code: WSMC 03
LCNCC Museum Accn. No. 2003.105

Archaeological Desk-Based Appraisal

Report for

Lee Holmes (on behalf of the Churches Conservation Trust)

by G. Tann and N. Field

LAS Report No. 665

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St. Martin's Church, Waithe, Lincs. Archaeological Desk-Based Appraisal

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Summary

The Saxon central tower of the mid-nineteenth century rebuilt church is the oldest known element of the existing building, and the oldest archaeological feature yet recognised on the site. The church site may reuse an artificially enhanced site, but this has not been investigated. Originally, the tower may have been at the western end of the church, but thirteenth century construction was concentrated on the western side of the tower. Descriptions survive of the church before its rebuild after 1860, and of the intended works to construct the existing building.

The present church setting is the result of virtually total rearrangement of the road and property layout of Waithe, a process which started with medieval depopulation, was hastened by Enclosure of the parish, and was completed by nearby emparkment and 'improvement' of the church and its approach in the 1860s. The churchyard was extended before 1864, but no graves are thought to have been excavated in the extension.

Although many of the proposed repair works for the church will have no anticipated impact on archaeological remains, any works affecting the tower could reveal information or damage the historic fabric. The churchyard contains a scheduled ancient monument, the churchyard cross, (with 1m surrounding management area), and works affecting the church or churchyard will need Listed Building Consent and Scheduled Monument Consent. Any excavation in the churchyard areas may reveal archaeological remains.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned in April 2003 by Lee Holmes (on behalf of The Churches Conservation Trust) to prepare an archaeological appraisal of the site of the parish church and churchyard at Waithe, Lincs. (Fig. 1).

The purpose of this appraisal is to identify the archaeological potential of the application site by collating available existing information. This will enable suitable mitigation measures to be arranged for proposed works to the existing derelict church.

Planning Background

The Council for British Archaeology undertook a consultation exercise in 2000, regarding consideration of the church for redundancy. This included a site visit and report by Dr Beryl Lott (Built Environment Assistant, Lincolnshire County Council), which advised that a full recording project with documentary element should form part of any changes to the building (letter dated

29.12.2000). The Council for the Care of Churches produced a *Pastoral Measure Report*.

An Inspection Report was produced by Lee Holmes for the Churches Conservation Trust in March 2003, detailing the condition of the church, and listing recommendations for its future repair and maintenance. This appraisal addresses the archaeological significance of the church site and the existing building.

Methods and Sources

A desk-based appraisal of the site, within a 0.5km surrounding area, was undertaken in order to identify and assess all archaeological constraints. Research for the appraisal was conducted by G. Tann between April 23rd and 25th, 2003. The following sources were consulted and available information researched:

- Lincolnshire County Council County Archaeology Office (Sites and Monuments Record; National Mapping Programme overlays)
- Lincolnshire Archives Office (Tithe map, Ordnance Survey maps, manuscript maps and other documentary and published sources)
- Lincoln Central Library Reference Department, Local Studies Collection (Ordnance Survey maps and press cuttings folder)
- Site visit

Topography and Geology

The church lies in a north-south aligned rectangular plot extending north from Church Lane, 220m south of Waithe Beck. The northern limit of the churchyard is defined by a broad drain, extending east from the A16 Louth-Grimsby Road.

A narrow strip of alluvium is present either side of Waithe Beck, to the east of the A16 Louth Road. The village is on sandy silt soils containing chalky limestone gravel and some flint nodules (Soil Survey 1983; AOC 1997).

Archaeological and Historical Background (Fig. 2)

Previously recorded sites and findspots are listed in the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record. These have been allocated Primary Record Numbers (PRNs) and these are used, in bold, in the text. A summary list of entries in the vicinity is provided in Appendix 1.

Air photographs show a circular ditched cropmark feature to the north of Waithe Beck, 300m NW of Waithe church. This may be a prehistoric feature. Roman pottery was found during archaeological excavations at Holton-le-Clay church in 1975, 2km north of Waithe.

The earliest known remains from Waithe are Saxon, although there is a slight possibility that the

apparently raised site of the church represents a pre-Saxon feature. The earliest documented place-name, from the 1086 *Domesday Survey*, was *Wade*, derived from an Old English term for a ford (Cameron 1996, 133). Cameron claimed that the ford exists, presumably meaning alongside the A16 or beside Waithe Mill. It is more probable that the ford over Waithe Beck was on a now-lost alignment, about 50-80m east of the A16 crossing.

Lands in Waithe were held by four landowners, including the Bishop of Bayeux, when the *Domesday Survey* was prepared (Foster and Longley 1924). The settlement of Waithe was considerably larger during the medieval period, and probably also during the later Saxon period. Air photographs plotted by the Lincolnshire Mapping Project show cropmarks of medieval crofts and tofts, representing a settlement which spread between Waithe Beck and about 150m south of Church Lane. Its western limit appears to have been marked by the present Louth Road, and its eastern extent was about 300m from that road. Waithe Mill lies on a mill leat (artificial channel) within Holton-le-Clay parish; if Waithe had its own watermill, this was apparently on Waithe Beck itself. Fieldwalking by Rex Russell after ploughing of land north and south of the church in 1949 identified scatters of thirteenth-eighteenth century pottery, with a single handmade sherd (SMR TA20SE A index card).

The air photographic plot shows a west-east aligned village, with hints of three abandoned lanes (now replaced by Church Lane), and another less certain road running NW-SE immediately east of St Martin's Church. This latter feature could represent an early course of the Louth-Grimsby road. An archaeological watching brief in 1997, during excavation of cable trenches, recorded gravel, chippings and brick rubble track metalling outside the SE corner of the present churchyard, but this was found to relate to an existing shed (AOC1997). Local evidence of Louth Road's turnpike predecessor or earlier origins or its present course has probably been removed by twentieth century improvements.

If this interpretation of the air photographic evidence is correct, the church formerly stood in a very different context relative to the main thoroughfare and the village itself. One village street passed to its north (where a drainage ditch now runs, and a westward continuation of the existing lane towards Waithe Mill). This street certainly had building plots to its north; any along the southern edge have been masked or destroyed by the surviving settlement. The present Church Road appears to cut across plots fronting a lane about 50m to its south, and a third west-east lane 100m south of Church Road acted as a back lane. This back lane turned northward, linking the other streets. Part of that lane survives as the existing road. There is very slight evidence that there was another back lane further north of the church, and about 120m north of Church Lane.

Dr Beryl Lott of the Lincolnshire County Council Conservation Section has suggested that there may have been a manorial enclosure to the NW of the church (letter dated 29/12/2000). This

has not been supported by research for this assessment, and despite reference to a manor house in Waithe in 1527, the manorial site remains elusive (Ross Mss, 451). In 1349 a document refers to a manor of *Wathehalle*, and mentions of *Wathall* are found until 1829 (Cameron 1996, 179). The name certainly hints at a hall, possibly a predecessor of the Waithe House after which the farm and park adjacent to the Grainsby parish boundary were named.

A churchyard cross stands close to the south wall of the church (Pl. 1). The present monument is mostly of modern date, but incorporates a single rectangular block of stone with chamfered upper corners. This is a medieval socket stone, and would have formed part of a standing cross, thought to be of fourteenth century date. Although it was reconstructed in c.1861, it is thought to be sited close to its original position. The cross is a scheduled ancient monument (SAM 22729) and a Grade II Listed building.

Post-medieval and Modern

Glebe Terriers (descriptions of church lands) survive for Waithe for eleven occasions after 1602 (LAO Waithe Terrier Bundle). A vicarage, of two bays, was noted in 1638 and 1679, but was no longer standing by 1745. In 1762, the terrier records "one churchyard and a small plot of ground on which the vicarage house had formerly stood"; the juxtaposition may mean that the vicarage site lay beside it. A plan of Waithe's glebe land in 1859-60 marks the land west of the churchyard and south to Church Road, and therefore the vicarage may have stood in the field west of the church. In 1864 the 'vicarage paddock' lay west of the church; the rectory was built at the western end of the glebe land, beside Louth Road.

The plan and descriptions accompanying the Waithe Enclosure Award of 1811 support most of the interpretation of the air photographic plot suggested in this report. Grimsby Road was to be constructed as

"One public carriage road and highway, 40ft wide, beginning at the north end of an ancient lane in the parish of Grainsby, continuing north across the West Field nearly along the present track to the parish of Holton" (LAO Lindsey Encl 89).

The accompanying Enclosure plan shows the Grimsby Road as a turnpike in the position of the modern A16, fording Waithe Beck. It seems to be a successor to the Louth Footway, a public path from Holton-le-Clay which passed to the east of Waithe Church, past its southern side, and then to Grainsby across the fields and over a small bridge (Fig. 3). Its course is not exactly that indicated on the air photograph plot, but it is close enough to be an adaptation of it.

The date when the modern Grimsby-Louth thoroughfare came into use could not be established. The 1811 Enclosure Award notes that it was a track before Enclosure, and the plan indicates that the north-south road through the village core had fallen from frequent use by then. A period of transition is reflected by the pre-Enclosure lane, linking Grimsby Road with the

footpath north of the churchyard, which remained in use in 1811 but was not shown on early Ordnance Survey maps. Church Road was constructed as a new Enclosure road in 1811, but was originally known as Waithe Road and only provided access to the church circuitously and via the Louth Footway.

Land south of Church Road was emparked during the nineteenth century. The 1907 *Ordnance Survey* map labels land at the south of the parish as Waithe House Park, although no trace of Waithe House has been located in the sources consulted (Fig. 4). Waithe estate was owned by the holders of Grainsby Hall, now demolished, and this may explain the parkland. Emparkation does not seem to have caused desertion of the village, but been a response to its decline.

The Church

Nineteenth century glebe terriers for Waithe describe the internal church dimensions in 1822 as 15ft 3in [4.65m] in breadth, and 44ft 10in [13.65m] long (including the chancel). The base of the tower was the same width as the church; the tower height was 51ft 3in [15.62m], and held three bells and their frames which were in good condition (LAO Waithe Terrier Bundle).

A detailed description of the church in the mid-nineteenth century is given by a printed cutting reproduced in the *Ross Manuscripts*, held at Lincoln Central Library. An entry records a visit to various churches in the area.

"The Lord of the Manor, and patron of the church, George Henry Haigh Esq., received the Bishop of Lincoln and the company at the entrance and conducted them over the edifice. Here is another supposed Saxon tower, possessing similar details to those at Clee and Holton. The church consists of only nave and chancel, but there were erected in the thirteenth century North and South Aisles. The arch and jamb shafts of the south entrance, which are of that date, are encased in plaster, the removal of a piece having exposed to view a portion of the chamfered arch capital and a piece of the shaft. The circular font is Norman; its rim is enriched with a knot ornament, and around the bowl a semi-circular arcade is sculpted. In the usual position in the churchyard (near the south porch) is part of a shaft and the base of a cross, apparently of the fourteenth century.

"It is proposed by Mr Haigh to build a new church on the site of the present one, leaving the interesting Saxon tower (which is between the nave and chancel) standing. Plans prepared by Messrs Maughan and Fowler, architects, were exhibited in the church, from which we gathered that it was the intention to retain the Early English style of the interior, carrying out the Aisles from the present North and South Arcades, the external restorations to be Norman; but the general opinion being that it would be desirable that the whole should be in one style, we believe it has been decided that with the exception of the Tower, it shall be entirely Early English. Through the liberality of Mr Haigh, the whole of this village is being rebuilt and the taste and excellent judgement evinced in the style and details of the erections were a great topic of

commendation." (Ross Mss, 454; entry dated 1859).

The original publication from which the cutting was taken is not given, but in its content and typeface it appears to derive from an *Annual Report* of the Lincolnshire Architectural and Archaeological Society. The layout varied in different years, and it should be possible to find the report in the published volumes held at Lincolnshire Archives, but it could not be identified during a rapid search. The *Annual Report* published in 1861 described the chancel and nave as having been in very bad condition, but with narrow arches which may have been eleventh century in date. The old arcades had been thoroughly repaired, and a new entrance had been provided by the addition of a small southern transept (AASRP 1861, xxxv).

A Faculty of 1860 described the fabric of the church as much dilapidated and states that it may be necessary to remove tablets or tombstones. An accompanying detailed Works Specification, dated April 1860, describes the method of reconstructing the church:

"... carefully shore up the tower on all sides previous to the removal of the old walls... take down ... the whole of the present walls, dress and stack materials for reuse. Take down the north and south arcades and preserve for rebuilding. Remove fittings, etc; surface soil to be excavated and removed to depth of 6in [0.15m] over the entire surface. Backfill with stone chippings or brick rubbish ... 2in diameter, well rammed and levelled. Break out openings in north wall of tower for the two new windows, and for the doorway to the bell floor on the south side. Clean off plaster on the external walls of the tower...

"Drains 2ft deep from [several] wall pipes..., with proper fall to the main drain; 3in diameter socket jointed pipe tiles. The present stone to be used in the new walls below the line of the plinth. Old walling, chalk, stone or brick is to be used as material for filling in the walls. Foundation: one course projecting 6in each side, walls 8in thick. All on a bed of concrete 6in wider than the footings on each side, and 2ft thick. Sleeper walls, 9in, 4ft apart.

Chancel vault: Excavate, and drain to the ditch east of the church. Lay a 4in socket jointed glazed earthenware pipe... (Fac Papers Waithe 1860/5).

Rebuilding of the church cost over £2000. A tablet on the wall of the church, recorded in the early twentieth century, stated that the church had been restored in 1861 by George Henry Haigh of Grainsby Hall, in affectionate memory of his parents (Green). In practice, it appears that the rebuilding was not completed until after 1861, but a terrier of 1864 describes it as rebuilt in 1860. The new church was not ideal: the tower interfered with the view of the chancel from the nave (AASRP 1885, 157).

The 1864 glebe terrier mentions the churchyard and shrubbery. It describes the shrubbery as 'not being part of the churchyard but presented to the parish as a becoming approach to the

church' (LAO Waithe Terrier Bundle).

Site Visit

The site was visited by N. Field and G. Tann on April 24th 2003; access to the church interior had not been arranged. Part of the graveyard had been recently mown.

The churchyard lies about 100m east of the A16 Louth Road. The nineteenth century rectory occupies a plot beside the main road, separated from the churchyard by a field currently under oilseed rape. Several large horse chestnut trees along the roadside verge may date from nineteenth century works in the village. To the east is a row of estate cottages, dated by a plaque on one to 1858. Land to the south of Church Road is a large field, extending towards Waithe House Farm.

The Churchyard

The site visit demonstrated that the church lies within a plot of land, approximately 45m x 45m, which is raised by up to about 1.5m from adjacent properties (Pl. 2). From a rapid appraisal of the surrounding topography, this is not a natural knoll, as the ground slopes downwards towards the Waithe Beck from about 400m south of Church Road. The Saxon church may have been built on an earlier raised site, or the natural site may have been enhanced at that date. Soil build up within a rural churchyard is not sufficient to explain the difference in level.

Entry to the churchyard is from Church Road, in the centre of the site frontage, through wooden gates between stone gate posts. A broad pea-grit path leads centrally across to the church. It is immediately obvious that the churchyard is divided, north-south, by a former bank, over which the path leads (Pl. 3). Several aspects of the division are apparent:

- The ground is lower to the south
- To the south of the east-west aligned bank, no gravestones are visible (although a detailed search after vegetation clearance might show otherwise)
- Numerous mature yew trees are growing to the north of the bank, but only one small specimen was seen in the southern area, in addition to a bush near the eastern end of the road hedge

The layout seems to confirm this report's interpretation that a medieval village street arrangement has been superseded by Church Road, and that a boundary between two medieval crofts falls within the churchyard. The present southern churchyard represents an extension of the medieval precursor; the fact that it appears neither to have been planted with yew, nor to have been used for burials, suggests that the expansion occurred relatively late and was only needed to provide access from Church Road.

To the north of the bank, the churchyard area is arranged around the church, with dense nineteenth century and early twentieth century headstones between yew trees at the southern

side of the building. The earliest observed inscription was on a table top tomb of 1775. Two parallel rows of low, rounded stone markers were in line with the edges of the nineteenth century base of the tall churchyard cross. These markers may pre-date the nineteenth century re-erection of the cross, but their position indicates that they need not be in their original positions.

Other than a headstone of 1976, no graves were seen on the north side of the church, but fragments of headstones were seen amidst the dense undergrowth. It is unclear whether headstones have been cleared from this side of the building. The northern limit of the medieval churchyard is also uncertain. There is a row of yews formed about 6m from the nineteenth century church wall, some distance south of a deep-cut drainage ditch which forms the present northern churchyard boundary. This row may have marked the boundary, or have been part of the layout within the nineteenth century or earlier churchyard. They are so close to the church that they may have flanked an earlier path from the eastern edge of the site. The northern drainage ditch has been recently cleaned, exposing limestone gravel close to its base, about 2m below ground level. There is no evidence visible here, or in the oilseed rape crop in the field to the north, of a west-east hollow way (suggested by the air photograph plot).

The eastern edge of the churchyard is bounded by an elm hedge to the south of the dividing bank. Further north, the yews extend to the edge of an abrupt slope downwards to the east, beyond which the land is level. The change in slope curves around the NE corner of the churchyard, but cannot be followed past the drainage ditch. This resultant broad splay could possibly be the result of a junction of medieval village streets around the north and east sides of the site.

The western side of the churchyard is defined at its northern end by a 0.7m high brick wall (brick dimensions 228mm x 105mm x 58mm), capped by rectangular weathered sandstone blocks (0.8m long x 0.43m wide x 0.24m high). The capping stones are similar to those visible in the tower fabric, and probably derive from material reused after demolition or renovation of the church. The brickwork is probably of early nineteenth century date, with dimensions of 228mm x 105mm x 58mm. The extent of the wall was not determined; it does not extend to the road, and may be restricted to the area north of the churchyard dividing bank. A spread of rounded stones was seen on the field surface outside the NW corner of the churchyard. These stones were similar to those forming the lower fabric of the tower, and probably derive from demolition of part of the church. The presence of a built wall only along this boundary is puzzling, but may perhaps reflect a reduction in the western extent of the churchyard. The crop in the field west of the site shows a slight rise towards the churchyard. If the churchyard had occupied a defined area of higher ground, then the western edge has been incorporated into the ploughed field.

Two fragments from one of the voussoirs of the belfry opening on the south side of the tower

were found on the ground beside the chancel south wall, together with several other stone fragments (Pl. 4).

The Church

Only the exterior of the church was accessible, and the 1860s rebuilt elements were not examined closely. In places, weathered sandstone blocks were seen in the lower walls, close to ground level, and these were assumed to be masonry re-used after demolition of the building after 1860.

The north wall of the tower was readily accessible, and exhibited the mixed fabric of rounded and irregular sandstone 'pebbles', with more cut sandstone and limestone blocks higher up the tower. Two windows had been inserted into the wall, with patching around the insertions; this work is described in the 1860 specification. A buttress, of the same mixed fabric as the tower, protruded slightly at the NW corner of the tower, abutted by the 1860s rebuild. There was a suspicion of a repair at the NE corner, where an opposing buttress may have been removed. No reused architectural fragments or tombstone fragments were seen incorporated into the wall.

Outside the eastern end of the chancel, a metal grid covers a 1.5m x 1.5m brick-lined access to the chancel vault, 1.5m below ground level. The remains of a stone slab cover are still present.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings

The medieval churchyard cross base and shaft, sited to the south of the church, is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 22729). Most of the existing monument is a modern restoration. There is a management area of 1m around the visible structure which is covered by this protection. Any works affecting this monument or its setting require Scheduled Monument Consent.

St Martin's Church is a Listed Building, Grade I. The churchyard cross is classified as a Grade II Listed Building (DOE 1986, 43-44). Any works affecting these, or their setting, require Listed Building Consent.

Archaeological Potential of the Site

The church stands within an approximately level plot, up to 1.5m higher than the surrounding land. This is probably an artificial prominence, but it remains unclear whether the Saxon church reused an earlier feature, or whether the site originates with that church. It is also unknown whether the raised appearance is the result of a perimeter ditch and internal upcast bank breaking the natural slopes downward to the north and east, or whether additional material has been imported to raise the entire site. From monitoring of any deep groundworks around the church, it could be possible to identify whether the site has been reused, the depth of accumulated deposits over the natural ground surface, and to date the sequence of activity on the site.

The churchyard may have been alongside a road from Grimsby to Louth, passing east of the church. Metalling of this road could survive between graves. The churchyard could also contain boundary ditches between properties fronting onto the lost lane north of the church, and those fronting onto the lost lane south of Church Road. In addition to such boundaries, vestigial remains of house plots alongside the lost north-south lane, and rubbish pits to the rear of the other plots, may be present.

The medieval churchyard cross is thought to be sited close to its original position, in an area not believed to have been much disturbed (SAM schedule entry). Surrounding ground may retain archaeological deposits contemporary with the cross, including features associated with its original position.

Descriptions of the church before its demolition in 1860 indicate that substantial thirteenth century elements were present (including aisles and arcades), raising the possibility that a much smaller original church had been extended at that time. There has been some debate as to whether the tower was originally at the western end of the church, or always axial. These questions might be resolved if groundworks inside or outside the existing building exposed foundations of previous structural elements.

Potential Archaeological Impact of the Proposed Works

Works below present ground level

Assuming the church to have been rebuilt to the detailed specification provided by James Fowler for the 1860 faculty, the existing church floor overlies about 0.15m of compacted backfill rubble. Alongside the walls, the 1860s construction trench will extend about 0.3m in each direction. Any works which affect ground below or beyond these recorded disturbances may affect earlier deposits. These deposits could include floor surfaces associated with the Saxon or medieval church, and graves associated with all church use of the site. There is a slight possibility that the church occupies the site of an earlier archaeological feature, in which event pre-Saxon remains might be present.

The chancel vault, with its external access at the east end of the church, has probably removed all archaeological deposits in the close vicinity. If the external brick walls were removed, the original soil profile might be visible immediately behind them.

Drainage is documented around the outside of the church, and some of the drains remain visible. The 1860 faculty mentions that these flow to a main drain, but it is unclear whether this means the ditch along the northern site boundary, or a laid drain within the site. The chancel vault drains into the 'ditch' to the east of the churchyard.

Improvement of the churchyard path from Church Road need cause no damage to underlying deposits if material is imported for levelling hollows and no excavation is undertaken. The path crosses a bank, which forms the southern boundary of the medieval churchyard, and a medieval croft to its south. No disturbance of this bank should occur without archaeological involvement. The path also crosses the line of an early nineteenth century footpath (Louth Footway), which may partially follow a medieval or earlier road. The original course of the road itself is thought to lie in the depression east of the churchyard, and any excavation approaching this feature will need to consider archaeological aspects.

Works above ground level

The tower represents the only part of the pre-1860 structure which was not demolished and rebuilt. Works to other parts of the structure are of archaeological interest only where they provide an insight into the fabric derived from the demolished building. They include the reused sandstone masonry below plinth level, the rebuilt arcades, and any material incorporated into the wall cores. Detailed examination of any exposed early material might reveal evidence of Anglo-Saxon grave covers and other architectural fragments. Reused Roman tile might indicate Roman activity on or near the site.

The tower is an important archaeological site on its own, as it represents a Saxon building which seems to have remained substantially intact. A survey of the exposed stonework, inside and out, would enable informed decisions to be made regarding the extent and nature of repairs to the tower walls and windows. This work could be best undertaken while scaffolding was in place. Some roof timbers and the bell frame may be accessible during repair works, and consideration should be given to obtaining dendrochronological (tree ring) dates where there is evidence that timbers are suitable.

Recommendations for Archaeological Recording

The items listed in this section relate to the *Inspection Report* dated March 2003, which recommends the various priorities of internal and external repairs.

23.1a Measured and photographic survey of affected stonework on external wall of tower, ideally as part of an entire survey of the tower walls while scaffolding is available.

23.2 b and d Measured and photographic survey of affected stonework on external wall of tower, ideally as part of an entire survey of the tower walls while scaffolding is available.

23.2 e Photographic record of the existing bell frame, with measured survey if appropriate. Consideration to be given to obtaining dendrochronological dates from samples of replaced bell frame timbers.

23.2 e and f Archaeological monitoring to ensure industrial cleaning of tower fabric causes no damage to internal features or re-used architectural fragments. Cleaning to be followed by measured and photographic survey of the internal walls of the tower, while scaffolding is available.

23.2 g Archaeological input to determine positions of ladder fixing points on tower wall.

23.3 Measured and photographic survey of external wall of tower, ideally as part of an entire survey of the tower walls while scaffolding is available (as for 23.1 and 23.2).

23.3 h and i Photographic record of the belfry, silence and ringing chambers, with measured survey if appropriate.

23.4 a Photographic record of the belfry, with measured survey if appropriate (as for 23.3 h and i).

23.4 c Archaeological input to determine positions of lightning conductor fixing points on tower wall.

23.5 b Archaeological input to determine positions of hand rail fixing points for ringing chamber access stair.

23.5 g Initial clearance of ground cover using plastic strimmer line to avoid damage to hidden headstones and stone debris. Shrubs and trees to be removed at or above ground level, and stumps treated *in situ*, to avoid damage to buried deposits and graves during uprooting.

Levelling of the churchyard for disability access

This should be preceded by a measured and photographic survey of the churchyard areas, with levels, recording the positions and inscriptions of all visible grave markers. Access paths should be levelled by raising the ground where necessary, without removal of topsoil. The bank to the south of the pre-1860 graveyard should be retained intact. These works will require Scheduled Monument Consent in addition to Listed Building Consent, as the improved paths will affect the setting (and probably the management area) of the church and the churchyard cross.

Provision of temporary ramp by the south door of the church

Any groundworks for this should be undertaken by an archaeologist, or with close archaeological supervision, as foundations from the medieval or earlier church might be encountered.

Provision of temporary ramp under the tower crossing

Any groundworks for this should be undertaken by an archaeologist, or with close archaeological supervision, as foundations from the medieval or earlier church might be encountered.

External drainage

Replacement of the drainage will cause least damage to any surviving deposits and disturbance of graves if the existing runs are located and their trenches reused. It might prove appropriate to clean the existing socket jointed pipes *in situ*. If replacement drains are required, all excavation should be undertaken by archaeologists, or under close archaeological supervision, so that any revealed foundations, graves or other archaeological remains can be recorded.

Options for Further Investigation

Detailed relevant information for this assessment was found in the Lincolnshire Archives, but other sources remain unexplored. These include *The Ecclesiologist*, and other journals pre-dating the 1860 rebuild. Some published sources were not consulted; these include *Anglo-Saxon Architecture* (Taylor, H.M. and Taylor, J.), and the *Victoria County History of Lincolnshire* (ed. W. Page). Topographical illustrations may exist of the church before 1860, although none were found during rapid research for this report. The Public Record Office online *Catalogue* was consulted, but no obviously relevant information was noted. The Waithe St Martin church registers survive from 1698, and a search of these might produce small quantities of relevant information.

In addition to a measured survey of the internal and external exposed faces of the tower, a measured survey, with levels, of the present churchyard and immediately adjoining land might enable the medieval layout around the church site to be established. It would also clarify whether the church site has been raised, or whether the platform effect of the site is the result of upcast banks around the pre-1860 churchyard perimeter.

A survey of the graveyard, recording the positions and inscriptions of memorial stones, could be useful in identifying the remains of partly buried eighteenth century and earlier graves.

Conclusion

The importance of the Saxon tower of St. Martin's Church, Waithe, was evident in the mid-nineteenth century when the lord of the manor arranged for demolition and reconstruction of the remainder of the church, while retaining the tower as a central feature. Contemporary reports suggest that large parts of the Saxon structure had been hidden or replaced by then, with evidence of substantial alterations in the thirteenth century. It has been argued that the tower was originally at the west end of the Saxon church, and that its central position was the result of the thirteenth century works. If that is correct, foundations of the original structure could survive

to the east of the present building.

The present position of the church, set back from Church Road, with a deep ditch to the north and a field to the west, was not its medieval situation. Church Road is not known to have existed until 1811. Instead, the church seems to have been to the west of a north-south road linking Holton-le-Clay with Waithe and Grainsby (surviving as late as 1811 as the Louth Footway). The depression to the east of the church probably marks the medieval course. This connected with various Waithe village streets, serving a village which extended between Waithe Beck and Grainsby parish boundary. One village street passed west-east along the northern side of the churchyard, removed after 1811, and now obliterated by a deep drainage ditch. The definition of the church site by banks and sunken roads may reflect an artificially enhanced site, contemporary with the Saxon church or possibly even prehistoric.

To the south of the medieval churchyard were further crofts, with the dwellings fronting onto a former west-east road some distance south of Church Road. The southern half of the modern churchyard was the back of a medieval croft until creation of Church Road.

The medieval settlement declined and retracted, and was eventually rearranged by the owner of the village in the nineteenth century, after Enclosure of the open fields in 1811. This may have been contemporaneous with emparking of the land south of Church Road; certainly aesthetic considerations influenced the amalgamation of the medieval churchyard area with the 'shrubbery' (the former croft alongside Church Road).

Vestigial traces of these phases can be identified from a site visit and from consideration of air photographs of 1946 and 1947, taken prior to levelling of village earthworks before 1970. Further remains could be present on the site, and works to consolidate the structure and provide better access will need to avoid removing archaeological deposits which have survived past land use.

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Geoff Tann and Naomi Field
Lindsey Archaeological Services
30th April 2003

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Archive Summary

Correspondence

Field notes

Photographs: colour prints, LAS film nos. 03/51/19-36; 03/55/11-17 (including those used in this report)

APPENDIX 1

Summary of Reported Archaeological Sites close to Waithe Church

(Source: Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record)

SMR No.	NGR (all TA)	Description	Status
41234	2837 0070	St. Martin's Church	Listed, Grade I
41235	28372 00692	Remains of churchyard cross	SAM 22729, Listed, Grade II
41239	2811 0092	air photographs of earthworks of ridge and furrow, and circular ditched feature	

THE FIGURES

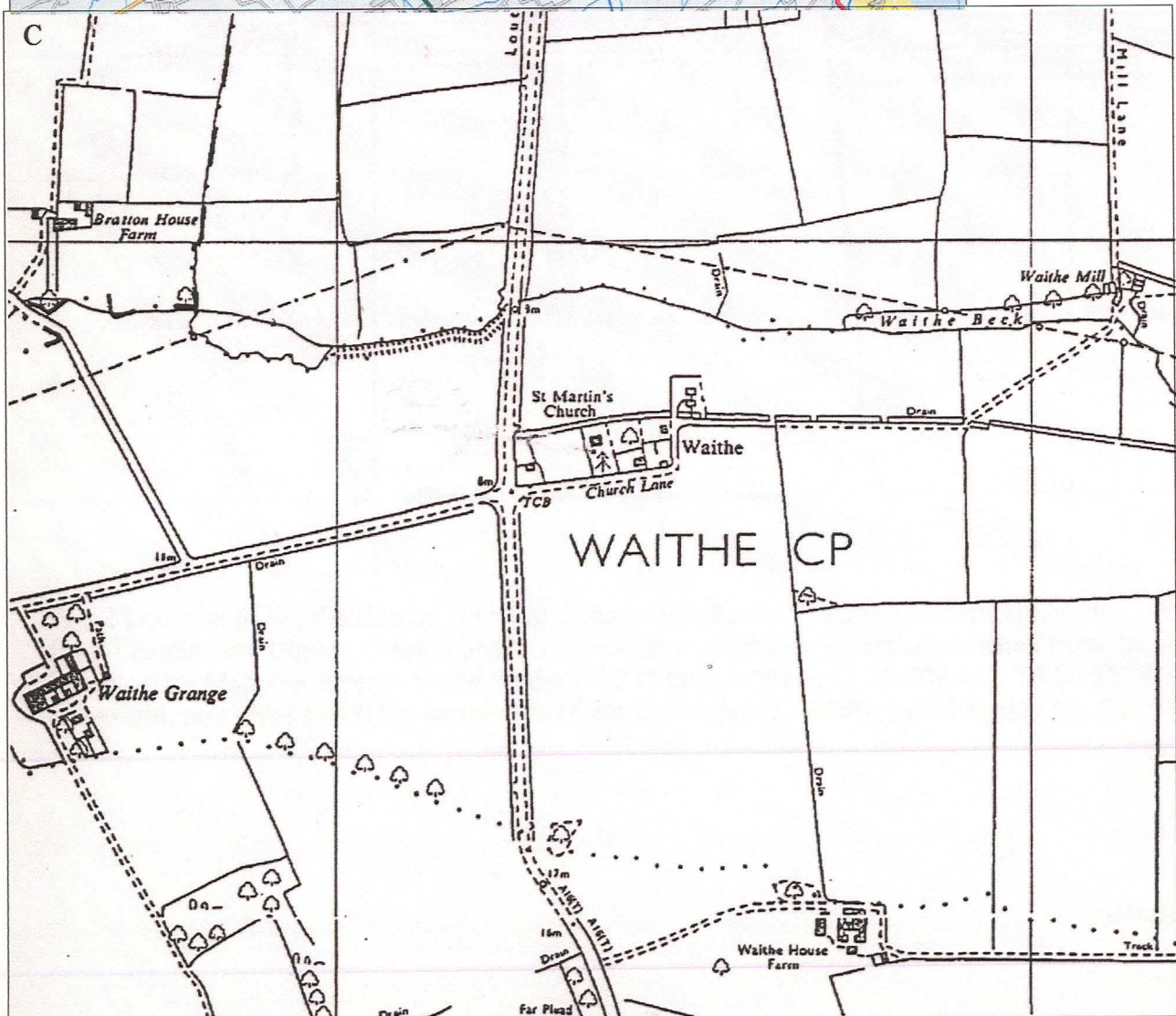
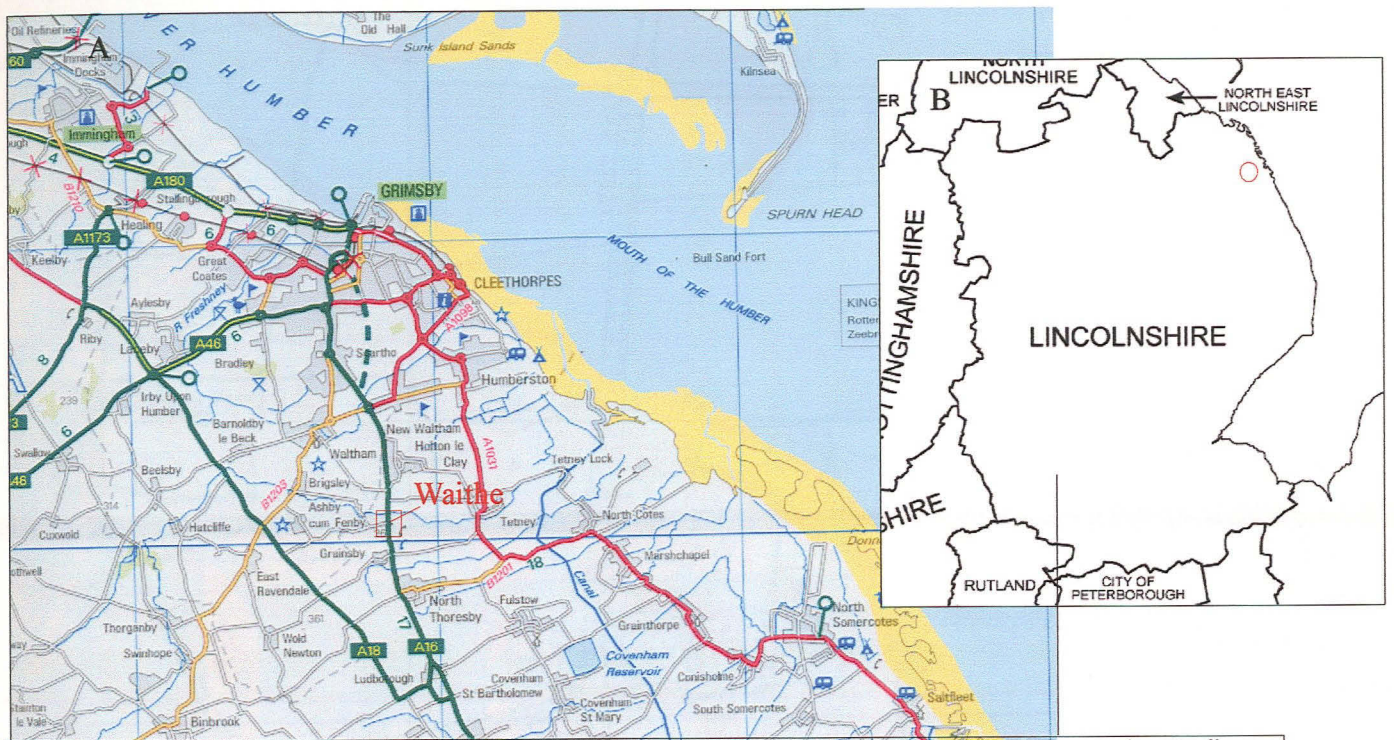


Fig. 1 Location of Waithe. (C based on the 1992 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map TA 20 SE. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. Licence No. AL 100002165).

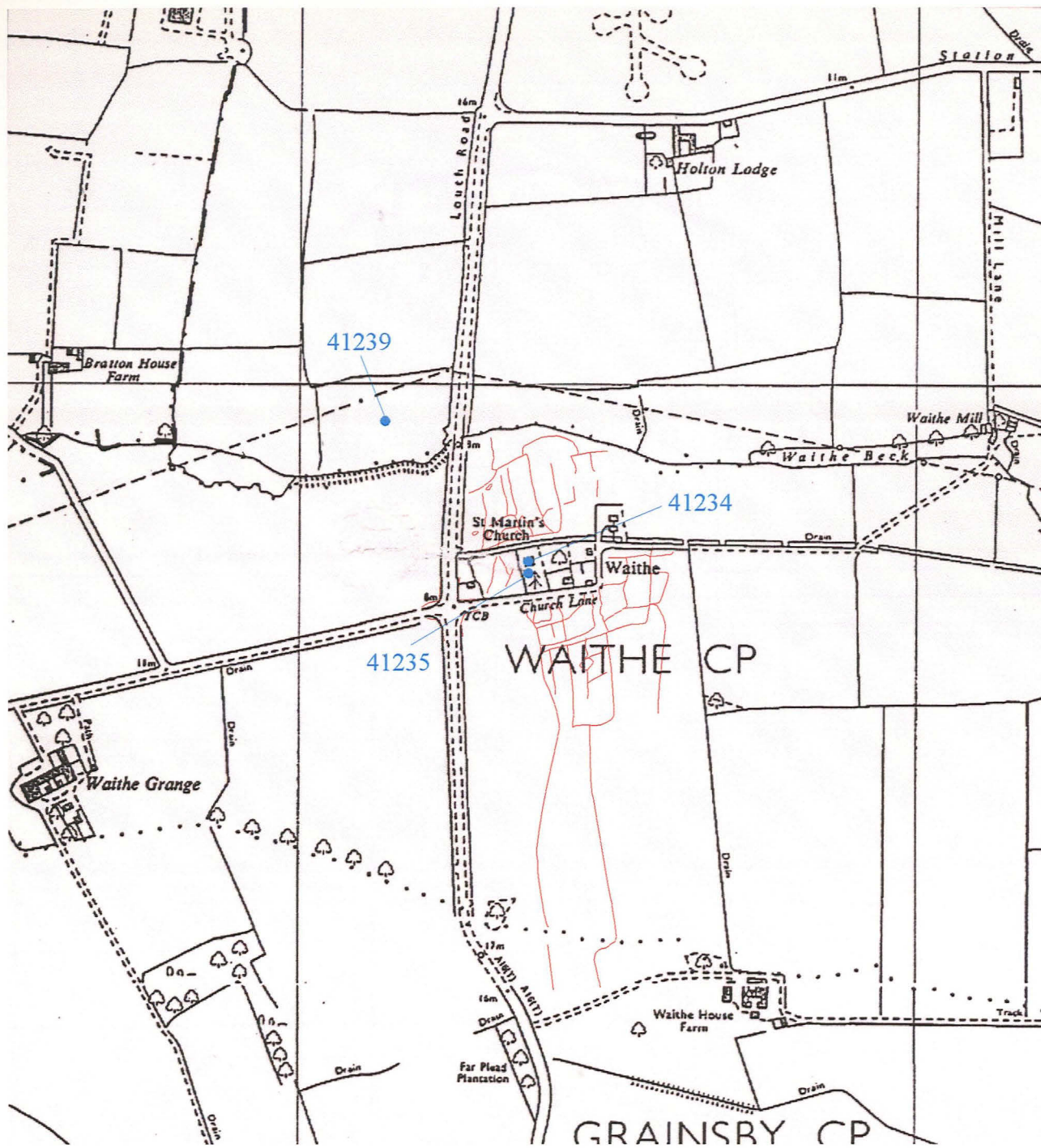


Fig. 2 Location of Waithe church, showing archaeological sites in the vicinity (information from Lincolnshire County Council SMR, with air photographic information sketched from the NMR Lincolnshire Mapping Project. Based on the 1992 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map TA 20 SE. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165).

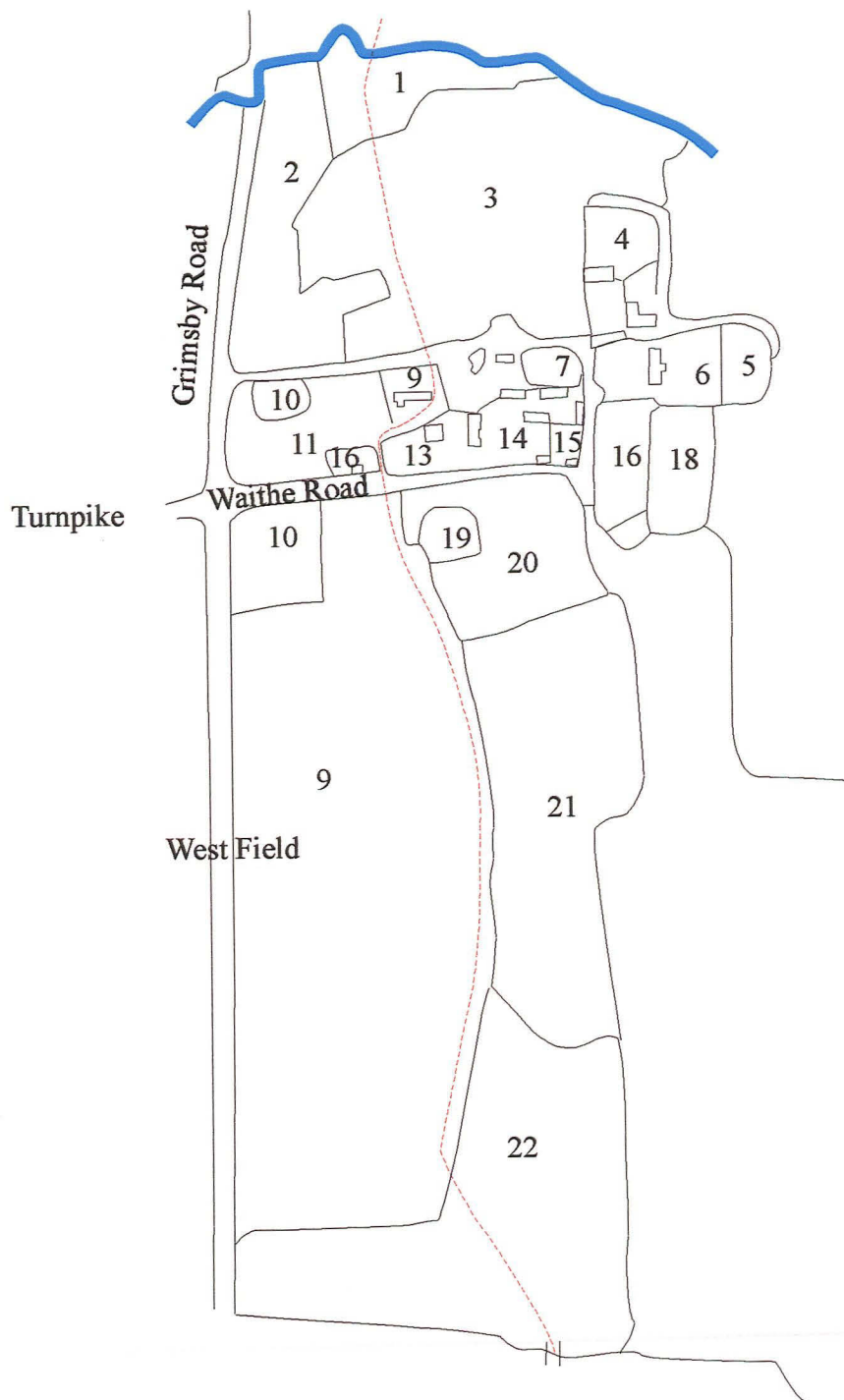


Fig. 3 Traced extract from the 1811 Waithe Enclosure Award plan, surveyed by C. Epworth. (LAO Lindsey Encl 89, Lincolnshire Archives).

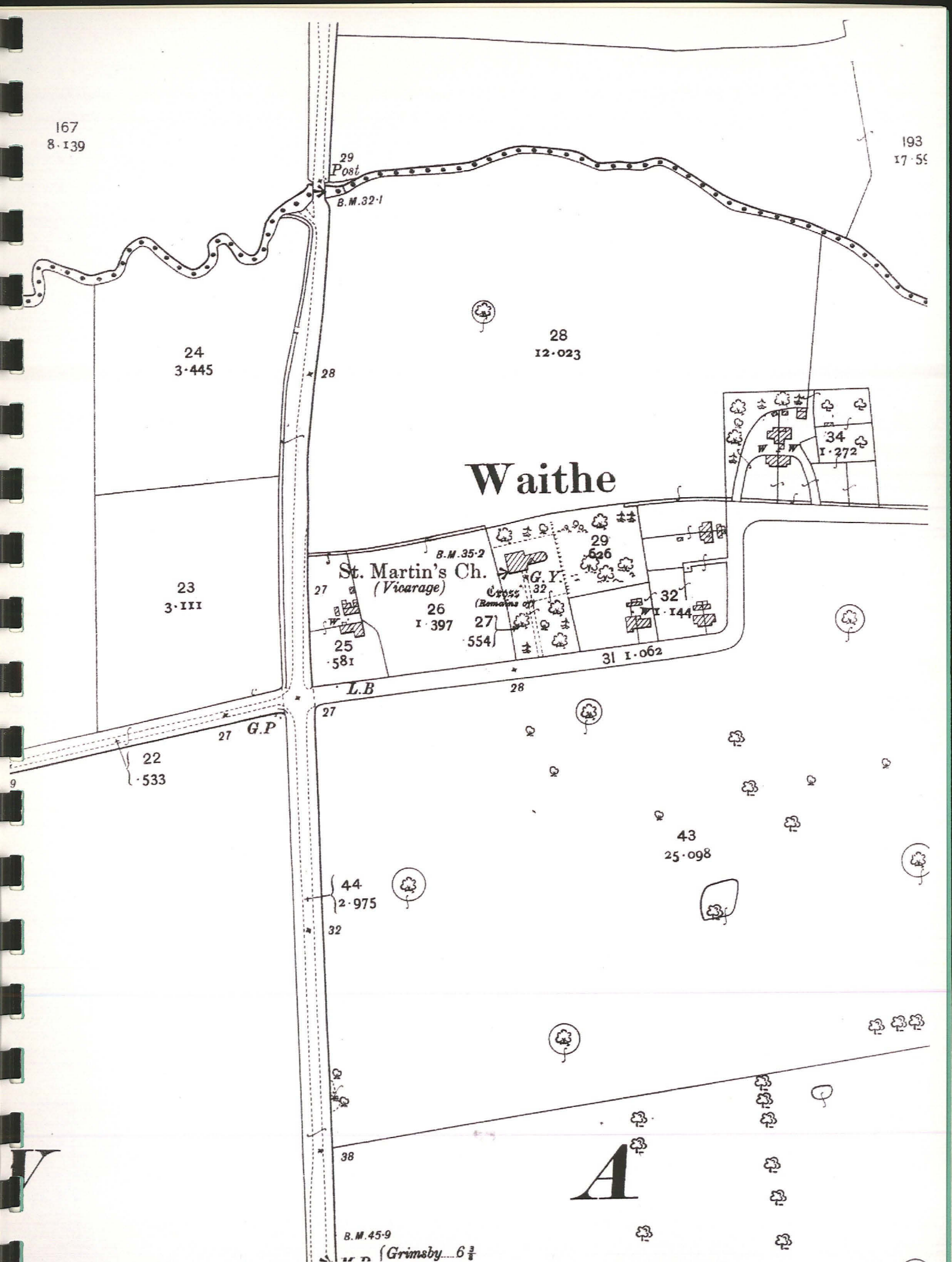


Fig. 4 The site in 1905 (reproduced from the 1907 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 map Sheet Lincs. 80.16).

THE PLATES



Pl. 1 The base of a medieval churchyard cross forms part of the restored monument to the south of the church (looking NE).

Pl. 2 The pronounced slope to the east of the churchyard probably marks the western edge of a medieval road through Waithe, now replaced by the A16. It may also be the edge of an artificially raised site, on which the church stands (looking NE).





Pl. 3 The path from church road to the south door crosses a low bank, marking the southern limit of the medieval church yard. The plot to the south was added, as a shrubbery, in the 1860s; before this it had been the rear of a medieval croft.



Pl. 4 South wall of the Saxon tower, showing damage to the belfry window (looking north).