

EL HER ELI 6842

SLI 10840 10841 PRN 51397
55326-7

M6/17



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**SS Peter and Paul Church
Owmbly by Spital, Lincs.
Archaeological Watching Brief**

NGR: TF0005 8735

Site Code: OBSC06

LCNCC Accession Code: 2006.120

Report

for

Owmbly PCC

by

N. Field & D. Young

LAS Report No. 930

July 2006

25 WEST PARADE · LINCOLN · LN1 1NW

TELEPHONE 01522 544554 · FACSIMILE 01522 522211 · EMAIL las@linarch.co.uk

Lindsey Archaeological Services LLP Registered in England and Wales No. OC304247

Registered address 25 West Parade · Lincoln · LN1 1NW

VAT Registration No. 819 8029 41

acknowledged receipt of report 20/7/06
Jan Neill

Conservation
Services

20 JUL 2006

Highways & Planning
Directorate



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

LINCOLNSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL

20 JUL 2006

PLANNING & CONSERVATION
POST BOOK REF No. 137-728

LINCOLNSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL

19 JUL 2006

HIGHWAYS AND PLANNING
DIRECTORATE

WITH COMPLIMENTS

25 WEST PARADE · LINCOLN · LN1 1NW
TELEPHONE 01522 544554 · FACSIMILE 01522 522211 · EMAIL las@linarch.co.uk

Lindsey Archaeological Services LLP Registered in England and Wales No. OC304247
Registered address 25 West Parade · Lincoln · LN1 1NW

Contents

List of Figures	ii
List of Plates	ii
Summary	1
Introduction	1
Site Location and Description	1
Archaeological Background	1
Scope of Work	1
Objectives	1
Method	2
Results	2
Discussion	3
Conclusion	3
Acknowledgements	4
Contents of Site Archive	4
Appendix 1 (Pottery and tile archive, J Young)	
The Figures	
The Plates	

List of Figures

Fig. 1 Location of St. Peter and St Paul's Church, Owmbly By Spital, Lincs. Inset (c) taken from the 1:10,560 Ordnance Survey map with permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS licence no. 100002165.

Fig. 2 Location of the site at St. Peter and Paul's Church, Owmbly By Spital.

Fig. 3 The pipe trench with excavated portion of the original north wall of aisle.

List of Plates

Pl. 1 General view of St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, Owmbly. View looking south east.

Pl. 2 General view of the excavated pipe trench. View looking east.

Pl. 3 The excavated pipe trench and its junction with the north aisle wall.

Pl. 4 The original north aisle wall within the east end of the excavated pipe trench. Scale 0.50m. looking east.

Pl. 5 Composite view of the original north aisle wall 103 and its offset foundations 104 exposed in the pipe trench, with disturbed area 106 to the left. View looking south. Scale 1m and 0.30m.

Pl. 6 Foundations 104, on the south side of wall 103, looking north. Scale 0.30m

Pl. 7 The late-12th century north aisle arcade, looking east.

Pl. 8 The north aisle east wall showing structural cracks above the window and recent repairs at the junction between the aisle and nave.

SS Peter and Paul Church, Owmbly by Spital, Lincs.

Archaeological Watching Brief

NGR: TF 0005 8735

Site Code: OBSC06

LCNCC Accn No.: 2006.120

Summary

Observation of the excavation of a water pipe trench for connection to new kitchen facilities in the north aisle revealed the foundation for the original medieval aisle north wall.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by David Glew Architect + Surveyor, on behalf of Owmbly PCC to undertake an archaeological watching brief in accordance with the requirements of the faculty and the general requirements set out in the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, 1998).

Site Location and Description

Owmbly by Spital is situated 13km north of Lincoln on the limestone heath. The church is located in the centre of the village on the south side of Church Lane (Figs 1 & 2; Pl. 1)

Archaeological Background

Owmbly by Spital is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 when it was the centre of a number of estates (manors) held by prominent figures including the Bishop of Bayeux and Lincoln. It is clearly a settlement which is Saxon in origin. The oldest surviving part of the church the Saxon tower arch, although the tower itself is Norman. The north arcade of the church is c.1200 (Pl. 2) and much of the remainder of the church is Early English. The church is a Grade I Listed Building.

Scope of Work

The programme of works included installation of a kitchen in the north aisle with associated water pipe, relaying the existing footpath and rebuilding of the boundary wall along the east side of the churchyard.

Objectives

The purpose of the Watching Brief was to record any archaeological deposits disturbed during groundworks at the above site.

METHOD

One experienced archaeologist was on site to observe the hand excavation of the waterpipe trench on the north side of the church, parallel to the north aisle north wall. Archaeological features were excavated, and drawn where appropriate, depending upon safe access. A full photographic record was made of the works on site.

Finds, which are located in archaeological features, were identified accordingly and a context numbering system for archaeological remains was in operation. LAS operates a standard context recording system, developed by its staff over the past 20 years based on MOLAS and CAS models.

Results

A trench approximately 0.20m was hand-excavated to accommodate a new water feed pipe to the church (Pl. 2). It followed the east side of the footpath which enters the churchyard at its north-west corner. It was originally intended to run the pipe approximately 3.20m along the north wall of the aisle, and cutting a hole through a blocked doorway in the aisle wall to bring the pipe into the church. The initial excavation of the trench uncovered the top course of a very substantial limestone wall. This made it necessary to widen the trench and re-route the water pipe to the north side of the buried wall. This made it possible to establish the size and alignment of the wall and to record the related deposits.

the turf and topsoil (100) was a dark brown clay loam from which eleven pottery sherds ranging in date from the late 17th -20th century were found. Beneath 100 was a layer of soil which had been well dug over (101) and was probably formed as a result of numerous burials in the area. A single Roman brick fragment was found in this material. 101 overlay a layer of soil containing small limestone fragments (107). This deposit was seen in the narrow space along the trench to the north of the wall and its full depth was not ascertained. It may relate to a foundation trench for the wall 103. Pottery from 107 ranged in date from Saxon to the 15th century. The earliest piece from the site was a sherd of 5-8th century date and there was also a single sandy sherd of 9-11th century date. There were 6 sherds of 12-13th century date which would fit well with the date of the aisle arcade inside the church and thus a potential construction date for the aisle wall. A single sherd of Toynton ware pottery of 13-15th century date was also found in this layer and a piece of 13-14th century glazed floor tile, manufactured in Lincoln (See Appendix 1).

The wall itself is 0.74 m wide and constructed in flat rough limestone slabs and bonded with a cream lime mortar. It sits on footings 104, 1.10m wide and bonded in clay. It is offset to north side of the wall by 0.26m but by only 0.08m on the north (internal) face. (Fig. 3; Pls. 4-6). The base of

the foundations continued below the base of the excavated trench. A 3.25m length of the wall was exposed. Its north-west angle was revealed in the trench and it turned south in line with the western limit of the existing aisle. The wall continued east beyond the limits of the excavated trench. An area of disturbance on the north side of the wall (105) whose fill 106 contained 2 pieces of pottery of mid 18th to 19th century date.

Discussion

The aisle arcade is probably of late 12th century date (Pl. 7) but all the windows are much later in date. There are structural cracks in the west and east aisle walls indicating that movement of the building is a continuing problem (Pl. 8). It is possible that the aisle was reduced in width because this was a problem in the past and it had become structurally unstable. A reduced width would reduce the weight of the roof on the walls. The present north aisle of the church is approximately 4m wide and 12.4m long (external dimensions). If the wall exposed during the excavations is the original north wall of the aisle this would have made it 5.6m wide. It is not known when this work might have taken place but associated pottery from disturbed ground next to the wall was predominantly of 12th -13th century date. The windows in the current aisle are Early English, later in style than the arcade. The date of rebuild is uncertain, especially as one of these windows is inserted into a blocked door raising the question of reuse. Both windows in the west and east walls of the aisle are badly damaged due to continuing movement of the walls. (Repair of the west window led to the discovery of a corbel fragment possibly of similar date to the arcade, now on display in the church (Pl. 9).

The presence of Saxon pottery, on the site which pre-dates the church is not unexpected given the likely early origin of the settlement. A single fragment of Roman tile is also of note but not remarkable.

Conclusion

The installation of the kitchen and toilet facilities at the church has revealed the original foundations of the north aisle. This was completely unexpected. Revision of the route for the water pipe and carefully positioned entry into the church ensured that a minimum of damage was done to the demolished wall and to the existing north aisle wall.

Naomi Field and Doug Young

July 13th 2006

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank Daniel Lancaster of David Glew Architect + Surveyor, Mr Trevor Oliver for his practical assistance on site and David Stocker for providing information about the church prior to his forthcoming publication. The watching brief was carried out by Doug Young who also prepared the illustrations. Naomi Field wrote the report. Jane Young identified the pottery and tile.

Contents of the Site Archive

8 context sheets

correspondence

site plan supplied by the architect

site excavation plan Scale 1:20

Photographs LAS Film No 06/50 nos 1-71 digital photographs

Finds 21 pieces pottery; 2 pieces of tile

Pottery Archive for Owmbly By Spital Church, Lincolnshire (OBSC06)

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	description	date
100	BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware		jar	1	1	8		BS		mid 17th to 18th
100	TPW	Transfer printed ware		bowl/chamber pot	1	1	32		BS		19th to 20th
100	CREA	Creamware		bowl/chamber pot	1	1	28		base		mid 18th to 19th
100	CREA	Creamware		?	1	1	8		base		mid 18th to 19th
100	CREA	Creamware		bowl	1	1	8	beaded rim edge	rim		mid 18th to early 19th
100	CREA	Creamware		dish/plate	1	1	3		rim		mid 18th to early 19th
100	TPW	Transfer printed ware		dish	1	1	3		rim		19th to 20th
100	STSL	Staffordshire/Bristol slipware	light orange	thrown bowl	1	1	6		BS	plain slip	late 17th to 18th
100	ENGS	Unspecified English Stoneware		bowl	1	1	31	decorated	rim	internal Bristol glaze	mid 19th to 20th
100	BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware		jar	2	1	26		rim & BS		mid 17th to 18th
106	BL	Black-glazed wares		large jar/bowl	1	1	55		base		mid 18th to 19th
106	BL	Black-glazed wares		bowl	1	1	18		rim		mid 18th to 19th
107	TOY	Toynton Medieval Ware	+ ca	jug	1	1	20		BS		late 13th to 15th

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	description	date
107	BEVO1	Beverley Orange ware Fabric 1		jug	1	1	68		base	splashed glaze;fresh condition	early to mid/late 12th
107	LEMS	Lincolnshire Early Medieval Shelly		jar	1	1	149		base	fresh condition	mid 12th to early/mid 13th
107	LEMS	Lincolnshire Early Medieval Shelly		jar	1	1	21		base	abraded	mid 12th to early/mid 13th
107	LEMS	Lincolnshire Early Medieval Shelly		jar	1	1	42		BS	fresh condition	mid 12th to early/mid 13th
107	ECHAF	Early to mid Anglo-Saxon chaff-tempered ware	+ moderate quartz	jar ?	1	1	3		BS	soot	5th to 8th
107	LS/SNLS	Late Saxon/Saxo-Norman Lincoln Sandy ware		jar	1	1	8		BS	? ID	late 9th to mid 11th
107	EMX	Non-local Early Medieval fabrics	reduced with oxid surfs;med sandy + fe	?	1	1	28		base	soot;comm medium subround quartz comm fe;? NSP	12th to 13th

Tile Archive for Owmbly By Spital Church, Lincolnshire (OBSC06)

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	description	date
101	RBRK	Roman brick		1	91	mortar including over breaks	Roman
107	PANTDISC	Pantile (discarded)		1	33		18th to 19th
107	GFLOOR	Glazed floor tile	Lincoln Fabric 7	1	170	chamfered edges;corner;reduced green glaze	13th to 14th

THE FIGURES

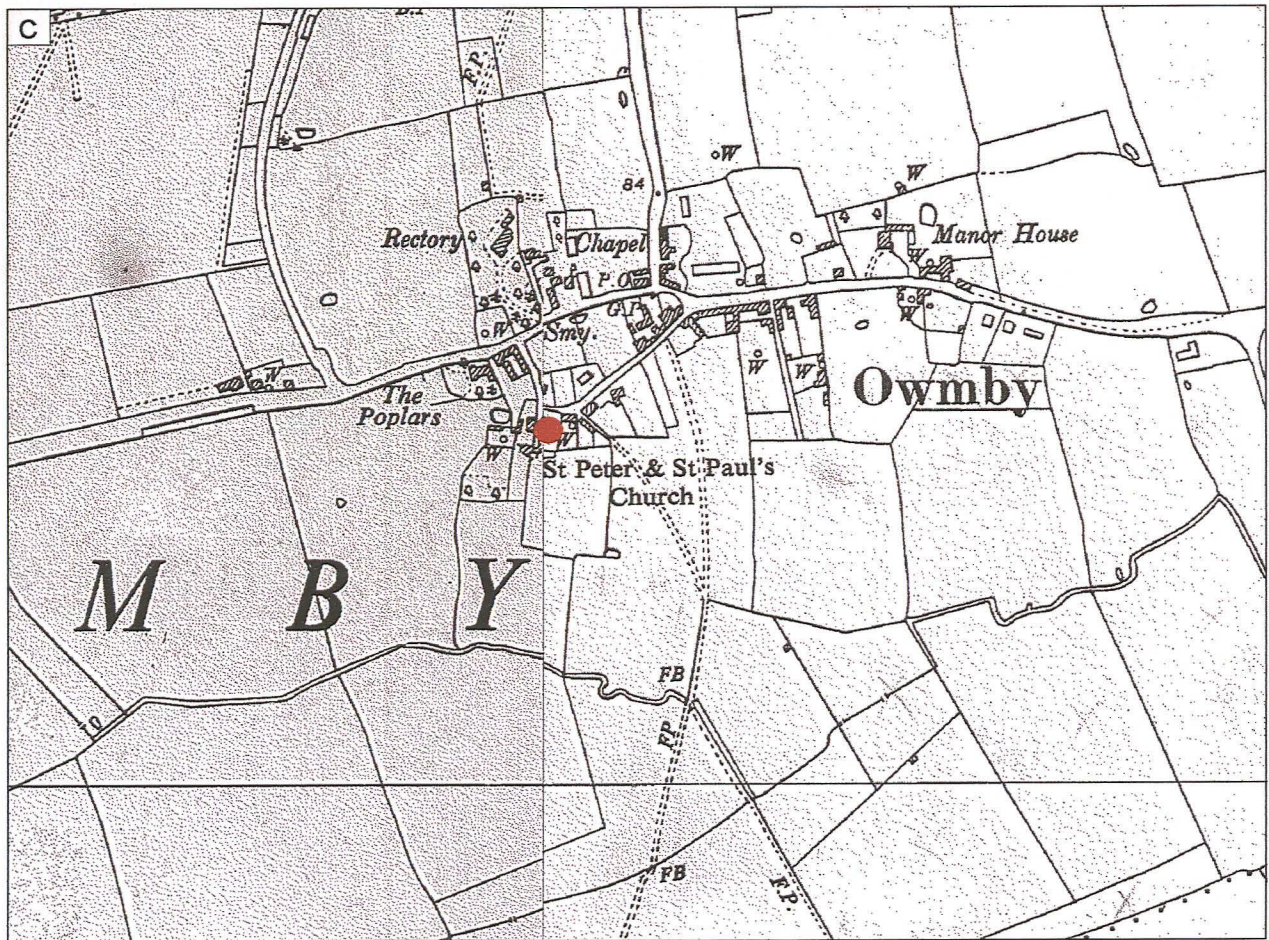
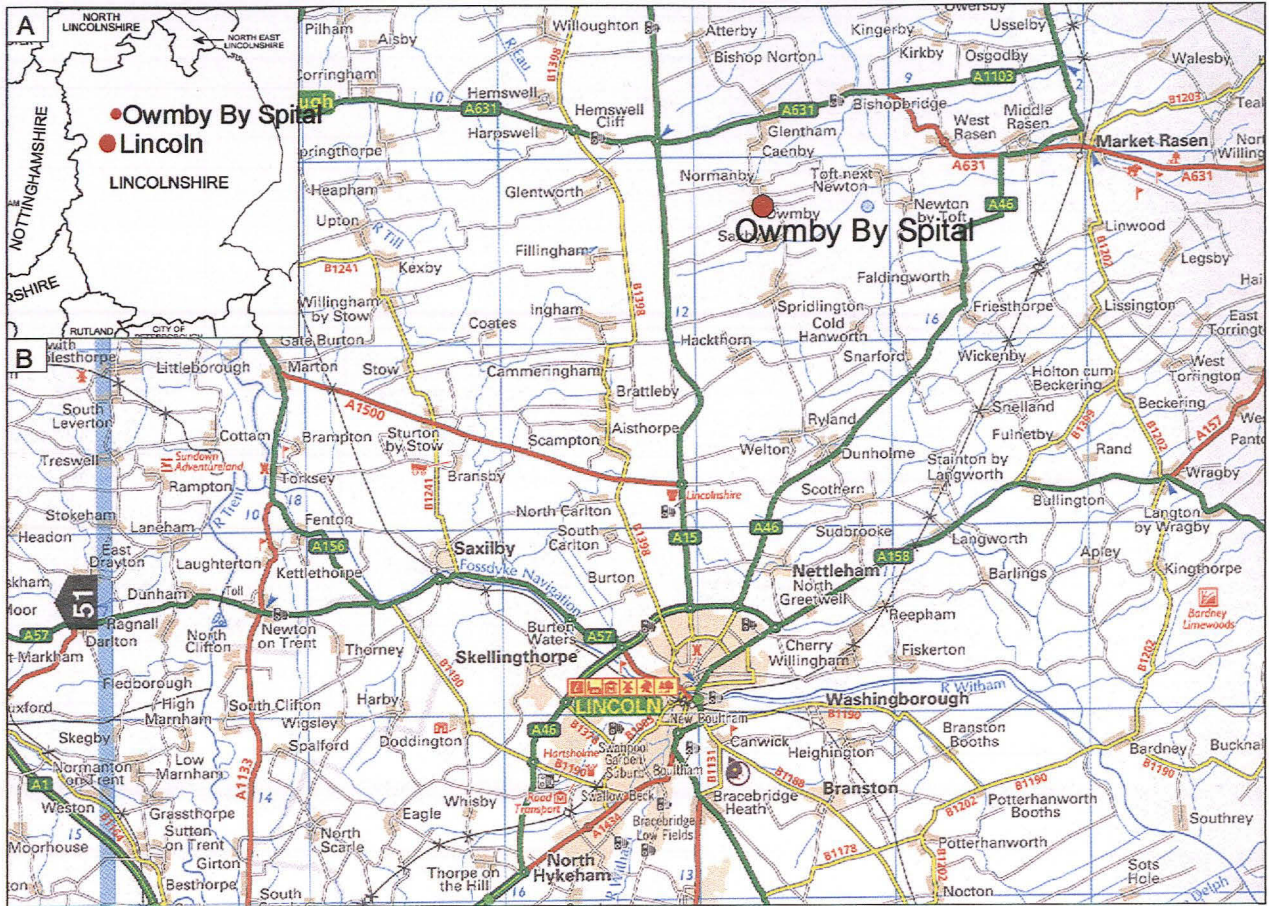


Fig. 1 Location of St. Peter and Paul's Church, Owmbly By Spital, Lincs. Inset (C) taken from the 1:10,560 Ordnance Survey map with permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS licence no. 10002165.

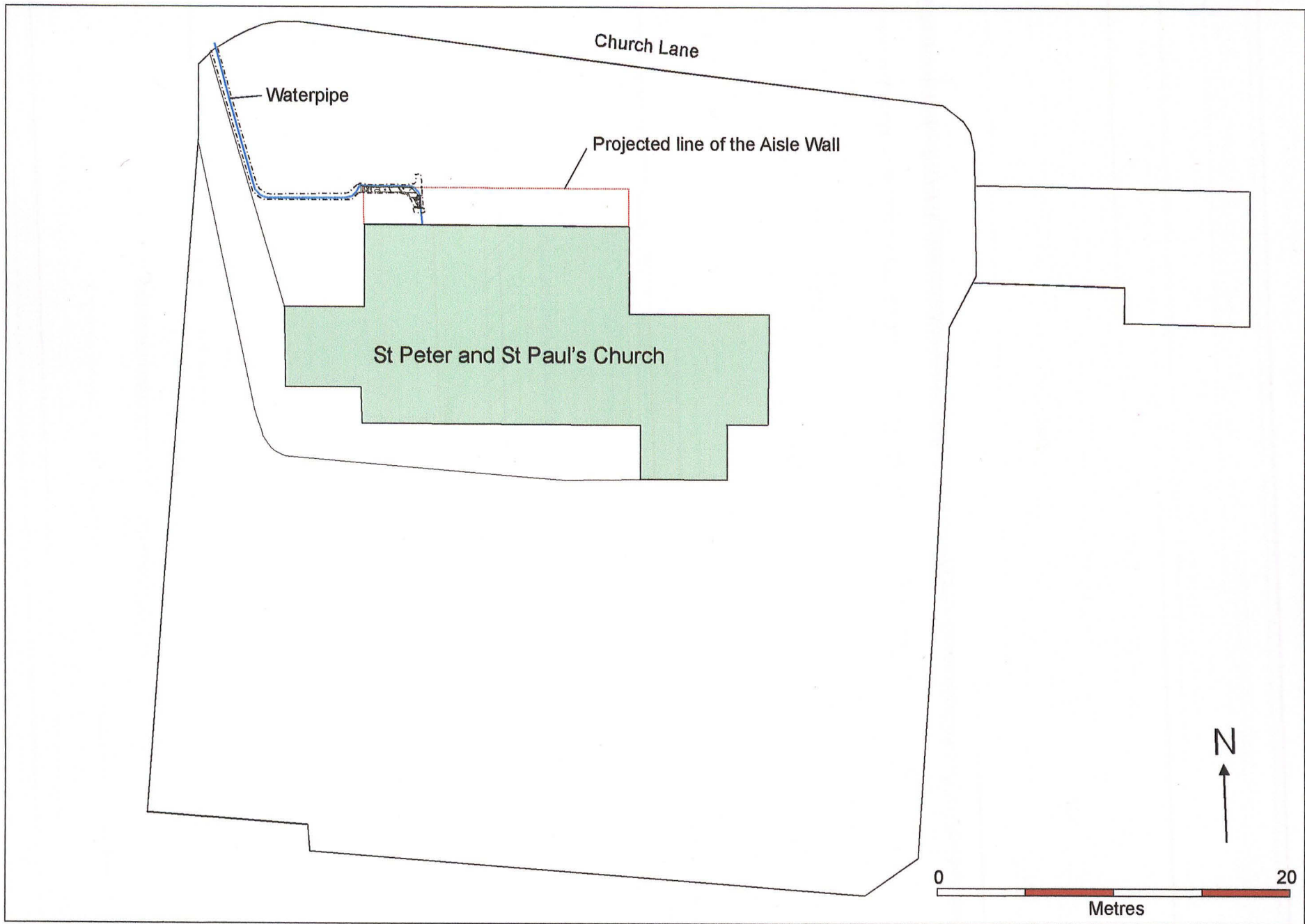


Fig. 2 Location of the site at St Peter and St. Paul's Church Owmbly by Spital.

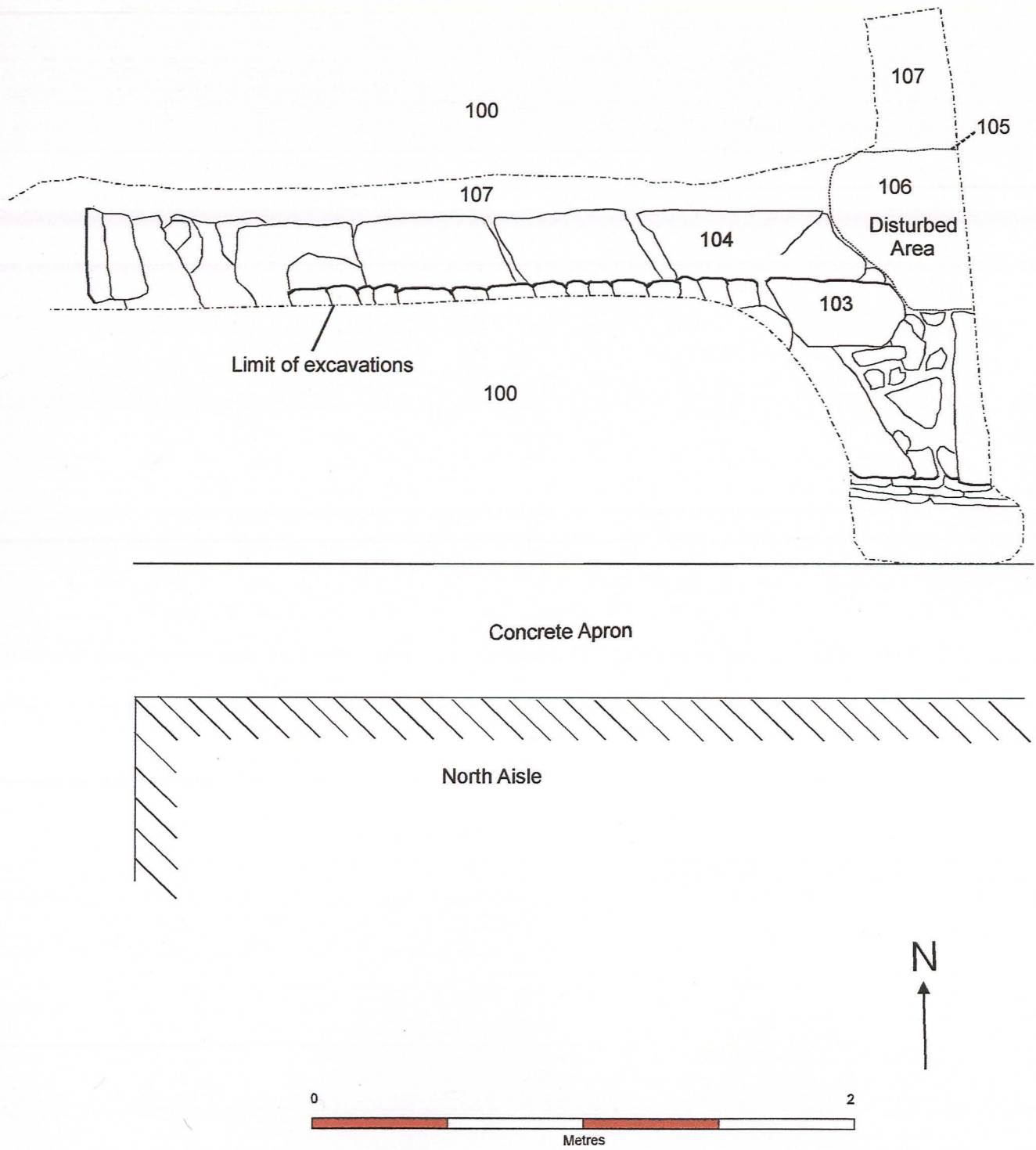


Fig. 3 The pipe trench with excavated portion of the original north wall of aisle.

THE PLATES



Pl. 1 General view of St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, Owmbly. View looking south east.



Pl. 2 General view of the excavated pipe trench. View looking east.



Pl. 3 The excavated pipe trench and its junction with the north aisle wall.



Pl. 4 The original north aisle wall within the east end of the excavated pipe trench. Scale 0.50m. looking east.



Pl. 5 Composite view of the original aisle wall 103 and its offset foundations 104 exposed in the pipe trench, with disturbed area 106 to the left. View looking south. Scales 1m and 0.30m



Pl. 6 Foundations 104, on the south side of wall 103, looking north. Scale 0.30m



Pl. 7 The late-12th century north aisle arcade, looking east.



Pl. 8 The north aisle east wall showing structural cracks above the window and and recent repairs at the junction between the aisle and nave.



Pl. 9 Corbel found in west wall of north aisle above window