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**St. Martin's Church, Waithe, Lincs.
Archaeological Watching Brief**

NGR: TA 2837 0068

Site Code: WSMC 07

LCNCC Museum Accn No. 2007.40

**Report for
Lee Holmes Architectural & Design Consultancy
(on behalf of the Churches Conservation Trust)**

by

G. Tann

LAS Report No. 987

May 2007

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JAO.

Conservation
Services

31 MAY 2007

Highways & Planning
Directorate

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Summary

Limited groundworks to improve and replace the existing drainage at St Martin's Church did not affect significant archaeological remains. A narrow ironstone offset foundation course of the north wall of the tower was exposed, and demolition debris (associated with the 1860 construction of the present chancel) was recorded. Two sherds of medieval pottery were found.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned in February 2007 by Lee Holmes Architectural & Design Consultancy (on behalf of The Churches Conservation Trust) to conduct an archaeological watching brief during the installation of replacement external drainage in the churchyard at Waithe, Lincs. (Fig. 1).

The watching brief was undertaken by Geoff Tann and Mike Garrett on February 15th and May 10th 2007.

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. LAS researched a desk-based appraisal in April 2003 which addressed the archaeological significance of the church site and the existing building (Tann and Field 2003).

It was recommended by LAS that replacement of the drainage would cause least damage to any surviving deposits and minimum disturbance of graves if the existing runs were to be located and their trenches re-used, cleaning the existing socket jointed pipes *in situ* where appropriate. It was proposed that all excavation for replacement drains should be undertaken by archaeologists, or under close archaeological supervision, so that any revealed foundations, graves or other archaeological remains could be recorded.

Site Location

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.

Groundworks were monitored to the south and north of the chancel, extending to the northern and eastern boundaries, and at the southern side of the nave, extending to the western boundary (Fig. 2).

Archaeological and Historical Background

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). That ford, over Waithe Beck, may have been on a now-lost road alignment, about 50-80m east of the present 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. 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.

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. 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).

The churchyard cross is a scheduled ancient monument (SAM 22729) and a Grade II Listed building. St Martin's Church is a Listed Building, Grade I. 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] (LAO Waithe Terrier Bundle).

The *Annual Report* of the Lincolnshire Architectural and Archaeological Society 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). The new church was not ideal: the tower interfered with the view of the chancel from the nave (AASRP 1885, 157).

Drainage is documented around the outside of the church, and some of the drains remained visible before the work was started. The 1860 faculty mentions that the drains flowed to a main drain, but it was unclear whether this meant 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.

The Watching Brief

Context numbers were assigned by LAS for recording purposes, and are listed in Appendix 1. They are used in bold type within the report. Charnel fragments were collected but reburied within the trenches.

New drain south-east of the tower

A 15.5m long trench was hand-excavated from the rainwater downpipe at the south-east angle between the chancel and the tower, across the graveyard to the south-east and through the bank at the eastern edge of the churchyard. The 0.3m wide trench was about 0.35m – 0.4m deep along its length, as there is a slight fall in the churchyard level.

A section of trench at the western end of this trench was obstructed by scaffolding for tower repairs, and for safety reasons this section was not excavated during the monitoring visit. The trench crossed the churchyard path and was positioned 0.9m to the north of the headstone commemorating Annie Lockington and 1.2m south of a footstone inscribed SAD. In this position it avoided a yew sapling, and then a larger yew tree at the edge of the pronounced slope forming the churchyard boundary.

A 0.15m thick topsoil layer **1** was present beside the chancel, becoming 0.25m thick at the edge of the churchyard where the trees have reduced modern disturbance. The extra thickness here could also represent the remains of a bank. Two sherds of 13th-15th century pottery were found in the topsoil (Appendix 2).

Within about 1m of the chancel wall, the drain trench encountered a 0.17m thick spread of mortar and limestone chips **2** below the topsoil. This was interpreted as construction or repair debris, almost certainly associated with the 1860 chancel. This layer covered a loose dark brown loam with red clay inclusions **3**, which probably represents the backfill of one or more graves.

About 5m east of the tower, the trench cut into a light brown clay loam **4**. This was also assumed to be mixed grave fill. The clay content of the layer became less noticeable further east, but this may have been affected by differing moisture levels near the tree roots on the slope.

Replacement drain north of the chancel

A north-south trench was opened to the north of the chancel, leading from the rainwater pipe at the angle between the chancel and its small western buttress. The 0.3m wide trench located the existing glazed pipe 0.2m below the surface, covered by topsoil **1**. The light brown loam layer **5** below the topsoil may have been a similar material to **4**.

The existing drain was located, and then cut at intervals to permit thorough cleaning and connection with drains from the tower and nave. It was then extended northwards through an area of bushes and saplings to the drain along the northern boundary of the churchyard. No trace of any boundary feature or upcast bank was identified.

New drain trench north-east of the tower

A 0.3m wide and 0.25m deep trench was excavated to the north of the tower, positioned beside the buttress at the end of the chancel. Under the thin topsoil, the trench revealed a 1.3m wide spread of loose roof tiles and mortar **6** adjacent to the buttress; these are fifteenth to eighteenth century in date and are assumed to derive from demolition of the previous chancel (Appendix 2). The layer covered the tower's 0.2m wide offset foundation **7** of ironstone rubble.

This trench located an existing glazed drain serving a rainwater pipe at the north-western corner of the tower, and joining the drain from the chancel.

Drain from the south side of the nave

A 0.25m wide trench was excavated 0.5m deep across the churchyard to the west of the southern side of the nave, for a distance of 7m to the western boundary wall. It re-used the line of an existing drain, which passed through a culvert in the wall, to issue into the edge of the adjoining field. The topsoil **1** in this area was 0.18m thick, above a light brown loam **8**.

Conclusion

As intended, the groundworks for the replacement drains reused the lines of existing drains in order to avoid damage to any archaeological remains. The topography of the churchyard allowed the drains to remain at a shallow level, and the only deposits affected had already been disturbed by graves or nineteenth century construction of the chancel.

As a result, the watching brief was able to record the upper foundation of the tower but did not observe any other features of archaeological significance.

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank Lee Holmes Architectural Design & Consultancy, and David Wood (Arthur Wood & Sons) for their co-operation during this project. The pottery and tile was identified by Jane Young, and illustrations were produced by Ruben Lopez-Catalan and Mick McDaid.

Geoff Tann
Lindsey Archaeological Services
May 25th 2007

References and Background Sources

- AASRP 1861 *Associated Architectural Societies' Reports and Papers* 6, part 1.
AASRP 1885 *Associated Architectural Societies' Reports and Papers* 18, part 2.
Cameron, K. 1998 *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names*.
DOE 1986 *Department of the Environment List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest: District of East Lindsey*.
LAO Lindsey Encl 89 Waithe Enclosure Award and plan, 1811. Lincolnshire Archives.
LAO Fac. Papers 1860/5 Waithe Church faculty, plans and correspondence. Lincolnshire Archives.
LAO Waithe Terrier Bundle Waithe glebe terriers, 1638 - 1864. Lincolnshire Archives.
Tann, G., and Field, N. 2003 *St. Martin's Church, Waithe, Lincs.: Archaeological Desk-Based Appraisal*. LAS Report No. 665, April 2003.

Archive Summary

Correspondence
Field sketch plans
Photographs: LAS film nos. 07.55/7-20 (colour prints); 05.56 (digital)
Archaeological finds: 2 pot sherds

APPENDIX 1

Waithe St Martin's Church (WSMC 07)

Context Summary

Context	Area	Type	Relationships	Description	Retained Finds
1	Churchyard	Layer	Above 2, 4, 5, 8	Topsoil	2 medieval pot sherds
2	South of Chancel	Layer	Below 1, above 3	Mortar and limestone chips	
3	South of Chancel	Layer	Below 2	Loose dark brown loam with red clay inclusions	
4	South of Chancel	Layer	Below 1	Light brown clay loam	
5	North of Tower and Chancel	Layer	Below 6	Light brown loam	
6	North of Tower	Layer	Below 1, above 5, 7	Mortar and large pieces of roof tiles	
7	North of Tower	Foundation	Below 6	Ironstone offset foundation of the tower	
8	South-west of Nave	Layer	Below 1	Light brown loam	

APPENDIX 2

Pottery Archive WSMC07

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	weight	part	description	date
01	TOY	Toynton Medieval Ware		jug	1	12	BS	thin walled;well thrown	late 13th to 15th
01	MEDLOC	Medieval local fabrics	OX/R/OX;fine sandy	jar ?	1	3	BS	abraded;abundant fine quartz moderate medium sized moderate fe;poss an odd Toynton	13th to 15th

Tile Archive WSMC07

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	description	date
01	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	purple red fabric with fe	1	517	flat roofer;hard fired;end;width 180mm;fabric includes light firing clay/shale pellets & common fe lumps;bedded on fine sand;struck upper	15th to 18th

THE FIGURES

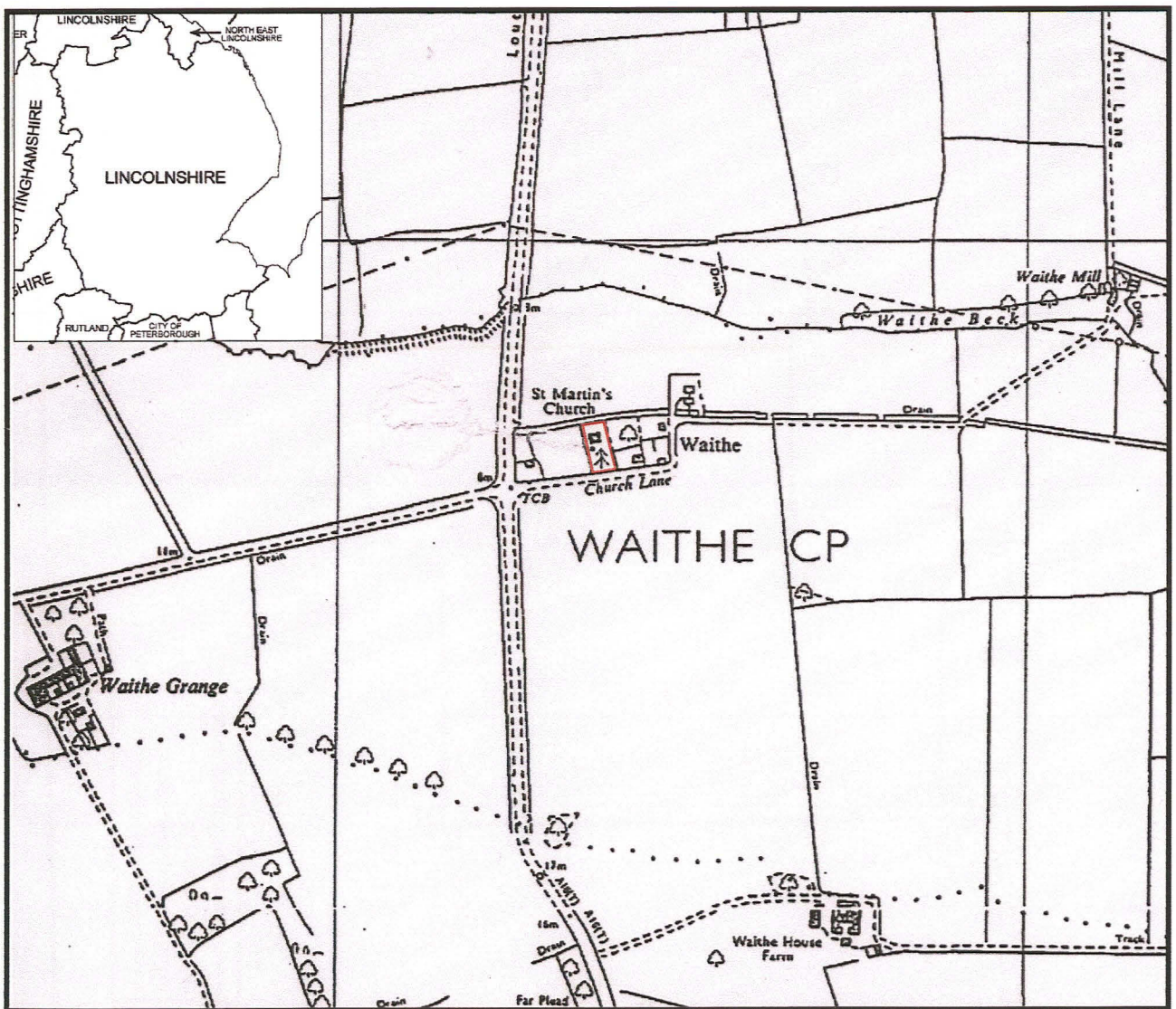
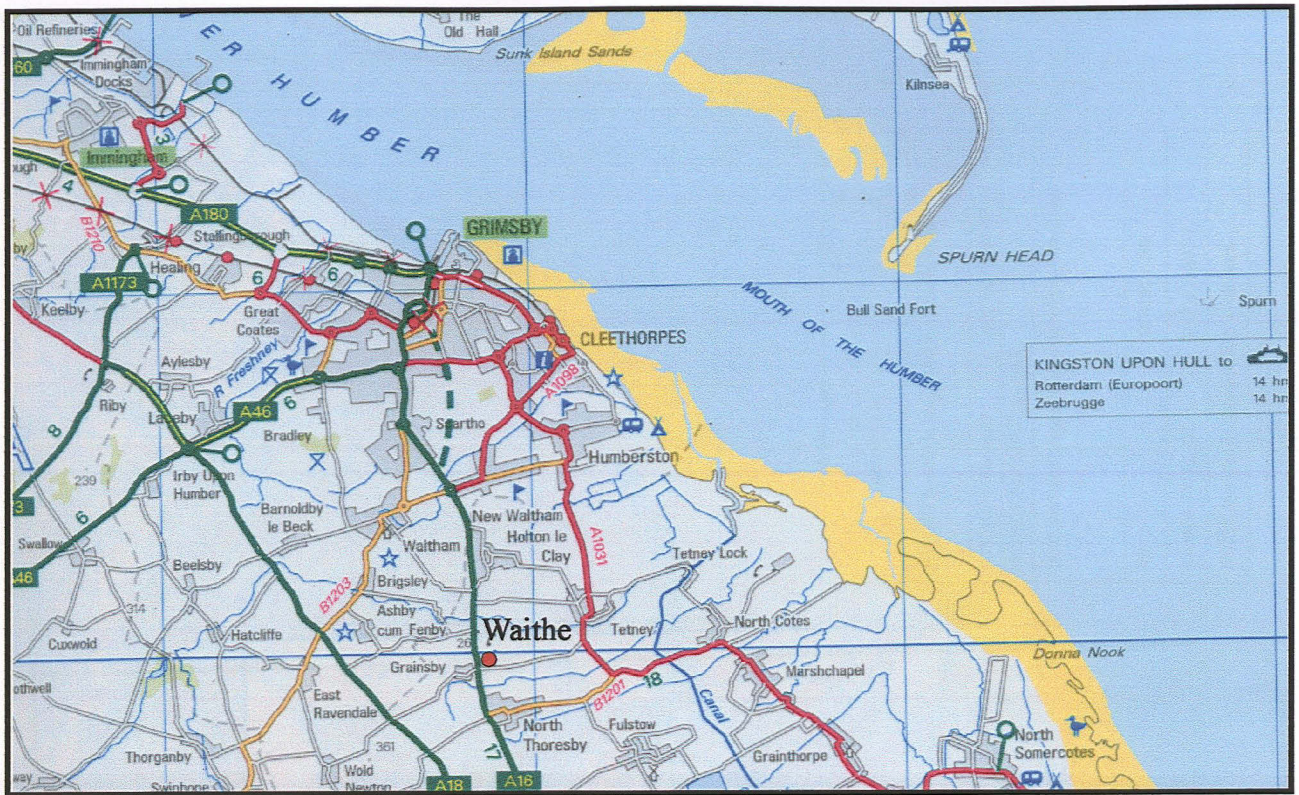


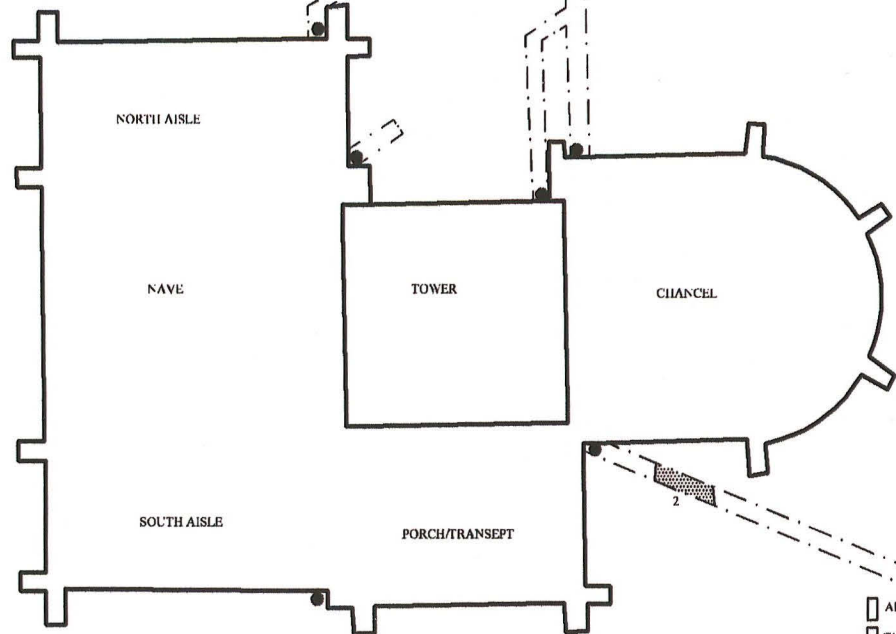
Fig. 1 Location of Waithe. (C based on the 1951 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 map TA 20 SE. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165).

CHURCHYARD BOUNDARY-DITCH

AL: Annie Lockington.
 GL: George Lockington.
 SAD: no name.
 - - - - monitored drain trench

CHURCHYARD BOUNDARY BRICK WALL

CHURCHYARD BOUNDARY



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PROJECT NAME: St Martin's Church, Waithes, Lincs.

SITE CODE: WSMC07 ACC.NO: 2007 - 40

PROJECT TYPE: Watching brief.

DESCRIPTION: Location of the monitored drain trenches.

FIG. 2 SCALE: 1: 200

DRAWN BY: RL, GT DATE: 23/05/07

NOTES: Based on a plan supplied by Lee Holmes.

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THE PLATES



Pl. 1 Site of Martin's Church, Waithe (looking from Church Lane).



Pl. 2 Western end of the new drain trench to the south of the chancel (looking west).



Pl. 3 Limestone chips and mortar debris in the new drain trench south of the chancel (looking north).



Pl. 4 Eastern end of the new drain trench to the south of the chancel (looking west).



PI. 5 New drain junction north of the tower (looking south, showing rainwater pipes beside the tower).



PI 6. Ironstone rubble foundation at the base of the tower, looking south.



PI. 7 Course of the new drain trench leading to the northern churchyard boundary ditch (looking north).



PI 8. Drain trench extending from south of the nave to the western churchyard boundary (looking west).