



**St Margaret's Church,
Sibsey, Lincs.
Archaeological Watching Brief
NGR: TF 354 509
Site Code: SSMC 07
Accession No.: 2007.194
Diocese of Lincoln Faculty: 2052**

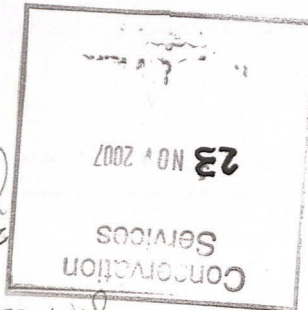
**Report for
Graham P. Cook Architect
on behalf of
Sibsey Parish Council**

By

M. McDaid

**LAS Report No.: 1012
November 2007**

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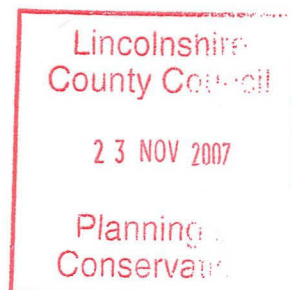
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Paving Work, St Margaret's Church, Sibsey, Lincs. Archaeological Watching Brief

Contents

List of Figures	i
List of Plates	i
Summary	1
Introduction	1
Site Location and Description	1
Planning Background	1
Archaeological Background	1
Scope of Work	1
Aims and Objectives	1
Method	1
Results	2
Conclusion	2
Acknowledgements	3
Contents of the Site Archive	3
Appendix 1 Pottery and Tile Archive by Jane Young	
Appendix 2 OASIS Summary	
The Figures	
The Plates	



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List of Figures

Fig. 1 Location of St Margaret's Church, Sibsey (insert C based on the 1:25,000 revised 1958 Ordnance Survey map, TF 35, Crown copyright, reproduced with the permission of HMSO, LAS Licence No. AL100002165).

Fig. 2 Location of the monitored areas with sections.

List of Plates

Pl. 1 St Margaret's Church, Sibsey, looking west.

Pl. 2 Area A after the removal of bedding layers 9 looking north-east. Horizontal scale 1m, vertical scale 0.50m.

Pl. 3 Area A, east end of porch showing underpinning 7 and 8, looking north.

Pl. 4 Area A, foundation 10 in relation to the threshold of the church looking north. Horizontal scale 1m, vertical scale 0.50m.

Pl. 5 Area A, pipe trench, looking north.

Pl. 6 Area A slabs of tomb in side of pipe trench, looking north-east

Pl. 7 Area A, location of the soakaway, looking north-west.

Pl. 8 Area C, exposed deposits after widening of the path, looking east.

Pl. 9 Area C footpath looking east showing areas of subsoil revealed beneath the topsoil

**St Margaret's Church, Sibsey, Lincs.
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Summary

Monitoring of excavations for a new drain and soakaway, path widening and new porch threshold revealed footings beneath the porch, built in 1699. Unstratified pottery ranging in date from the mid 15-20th centuries was found in the trenches. No other archaeological features or remains were encountered.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Graham P. Cook Architect on behalf of Sibsey Parish Council in September 2007 to undertake an archaeological watching brief at St Margaret's church, Sibsey. The work was carried out in accordance with the Diocese of Lincoln Faculty 2052 and the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998). Work was started on 1st October 2007 and was completed 5th October 2007.

Site Location and Description

The village of Sibsey is situated on the A16 some 8km north-east of Boston. The parish church is near the centre of the village to the north of the B1184 (Fig. 1). The churchyard is closed and in the care of the parish council.

Archaeological Background

The *Domesday Survey* of 1086 records a settlement and a church at Sibsey. Both the aisles are Norman and the west tower is of Early English style, but much of the church was restored in 1854-6 (Pl. 1). The south porch is dated 1699.

Scope of Work

The groundworks comprised re-bedding of the porch threshold, widening of the footpath leading from the entrance on the west side of the churchyard to the south porch and a stretch of footpath east of the porch, and excavation of a short length of new drain, and excavation of a soakaway. It was thought possible that the groundworks would disturb burials and reveal evidence for earlier phases of the church.

Aims and Objectives

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

Method

There was an experienced archaeologist on site to observe earth moving operations. A written, drawn and full photographic record was made of the groundworks on site.

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

Results (Fig. 2)

The Porch Threshold Area A

The threshold was reduced in height to make it flush with the porch floor to improve access for the disabled and wheelchair users. This required removal of laminated path bedding layers, **9**, which were 0.19m deep (Pl. 2). This exposed concrete underpinning, **7** and **8**, beneath the porch which was 0.50m deep (Pl. 3). Below the underpinning were limestone fragments, some worked, within a yellow brown silt sand matrix, **10** (Pl. 4). This deposit was over 0.24m deep and formed the foundations for the porch walls.

The New Drain and Soakaway

A trench was excavated in a south-easterly direction from the south-east corner of the porch. It ran for c.5m to the soakaway and was 0.30m wide and approximately 0.40m deep (Pl. 5). No archaeological remains were noted within the pipe trench or soakaway, but the limestone slabs belonging to a tomb, **11**, was recorded c.4m from the porch at a depth of 0.14m beneath the topsoil (Pl. 6). A grey brown silt clay layer, **2**, was exposed in the soakaway beneath the topsoil **1**. It was over 0.65m deep, and extended beyond the base of the soakaway pit (Pl. 7). In places a grey brown silt clay, **2** was exposed beneath the topsoil **1**. A single sherd of a Toynton ware jug of mid 15th-16th century date and a fragment of a glazed floor tile of mid 14th-16th century date were found in this layer (Appendix 1).

The Footpath Areas B and C

Area C, to the east, was widened by 0.25m to either side of the existing kerbed path. The new footpath was 1.60m-2m wide and the excavations 0.23-0.30m deep. (Pls 8 and 9). Between the kerbs of the old path was an upper bedding layer **3** comprising gravel in a matrix of grey brown sandy silt. It was removed by mini excavator to reveal a loose dark brown sandy silt deposit **4** which produced 9 pieces of 19-20th century pottery (Appendix 1). No further archaeological remains were revealed, due to the shallow depth of the excavations.

Area B, to the west of the church, was widened by 1m on the south side of the existing path, to give a finished width of 3m. As the excavations in Area B were not going to be any deeper than those of Area C it was decided to abandon monitoring of Area B.

Discussion

The only feature of note was the possible foundation for the porch, **10**. As no finds were recovered from **10** it is not possible to say whether they are part of the construction dating to 1699, or if they originally belonged to an earlier porch. Pottery from the path makeup confirmed its 20th date of construction.

Conclusion

The groundworks associated with the widening of the footpath were too shallow to reveal any archaeological features. The pipe trench and soakaway, though deeper, did not expose any archaeological remains. In conclusion the improvements to the access caused no damage to any archaeological remains

Mick McDaid

November 2007

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank Graham Cook Architect for his help. The fieldwork was carried out by Mike Garrett. The report was edited and collated by Naomi Field.

Contents of the Site Archive

Context sheets: 11

Plans: 1

Sections: 6

Correspondence

Photographs: LAS film nos. 07/116/ 1 - 34

APPENDIX 1

Tile Archive for St. Margaret's Church, Sibsey (SSMC07)

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	description	date
2	GFLOOR	Glazed floor tile	Flemish	1	28	corner;small tile;worn upper surface;plain yellow glaze;mortar	mid 14th to 16th

Pottery Archive for St. Margaret's Church, Sibsey (SSMC07)

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	part	description	date
2	TOYII	Toynton Late Medieval ware	large jug	1	1	28	BS	mortar ? Over breaks	mid 15th to mid 16th
4	LERTH	Late earthenwares	large garden pot	1	1	22	rim	discarded	19th to 20th
4	LERTH	Late earthenwares	large garden pot	1	1	36	rim	discarded	19th to 20th
4	LERTH	Late earthenwares	large garden pot	1	1	40	rim	discarded	19th to 20th
4	WHITE	Modern whiteware	small jar	1	1	11	rim	colour glazed (blue);white zig-zag dec;discarded	late 19th to 20th
4	ENGS	Unspecified English Stoneware	jam/lard jar	1	1	18	base	discarded;vertically grooved	late 19th to mid 20th
4	ENPO	English Porcelain	saucer	1	1	8	base	discarded	19th to 20th
4	WHITE	Modern whiteware	small pudding basin	2	1	14	rim & BS	discarded	late 19th to 20th
4	WHITE	Modern whiteware	small pudding basin	1	1	23	rim	discarded	late 19th to 20th

APPENDIX 2

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: lindsey1-34322

Project details

Project name	Sibsey Church
Short description of the project	Monitoring of a excavations for a new drain and soakaway, path widening and new porch threshold revealed footings beneath the porch, built in 1699. No other archaeological features or remains were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 01-10-2007 End: 05-10-2007
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	2007.194 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	SSMC 07 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Faculty jurisdiction

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE EAST LINDSEY SIBSEY St Margaret's parish church Sibsey, Lincs
Study area	30.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 354 509 53.0378868181 0.01965163376990 53 02 16 N 000 01 10 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES
Project brief originator	Contractor (design and execute)
Project design originator	Naomi Field

Project director/manager M. MCDAID
Project supervisor Mike Garrett
Type of sponsor/funding body Parish Council
Name of sponsor/funding body Sibsey Parish Council

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient LCNCC
Physical Archive ID 2007.194
Physical Contents 'Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient Lindsey Archaeological Services
Digital Archive ID SSMC 07
Digital Contents 'Ceramics'
Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography', 'Spreadsheets', 'Text'
Paper Archive recipient LCNCC
Paper Archive ID 2007.194
Paper Contents 'Ceramics'
Paper Media available 'Context sheet', 'Correspondence', 'Drawing', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report'

Project bibliography 1

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THE FIGURES

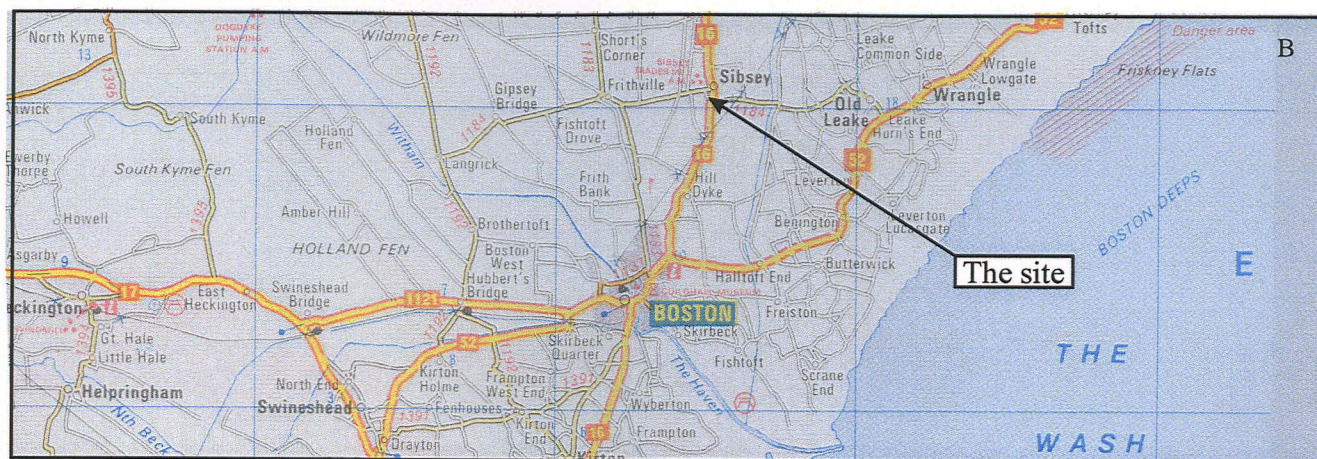


Fig. 1 Location of St Margaret's Church, Sibsey (insert C based on the 1:25,000 revised 1958 Ordnance Survey map, TF 35, Crown copyright, reproduced with the permission of HMSO, LAS Licence No. AL10002165).

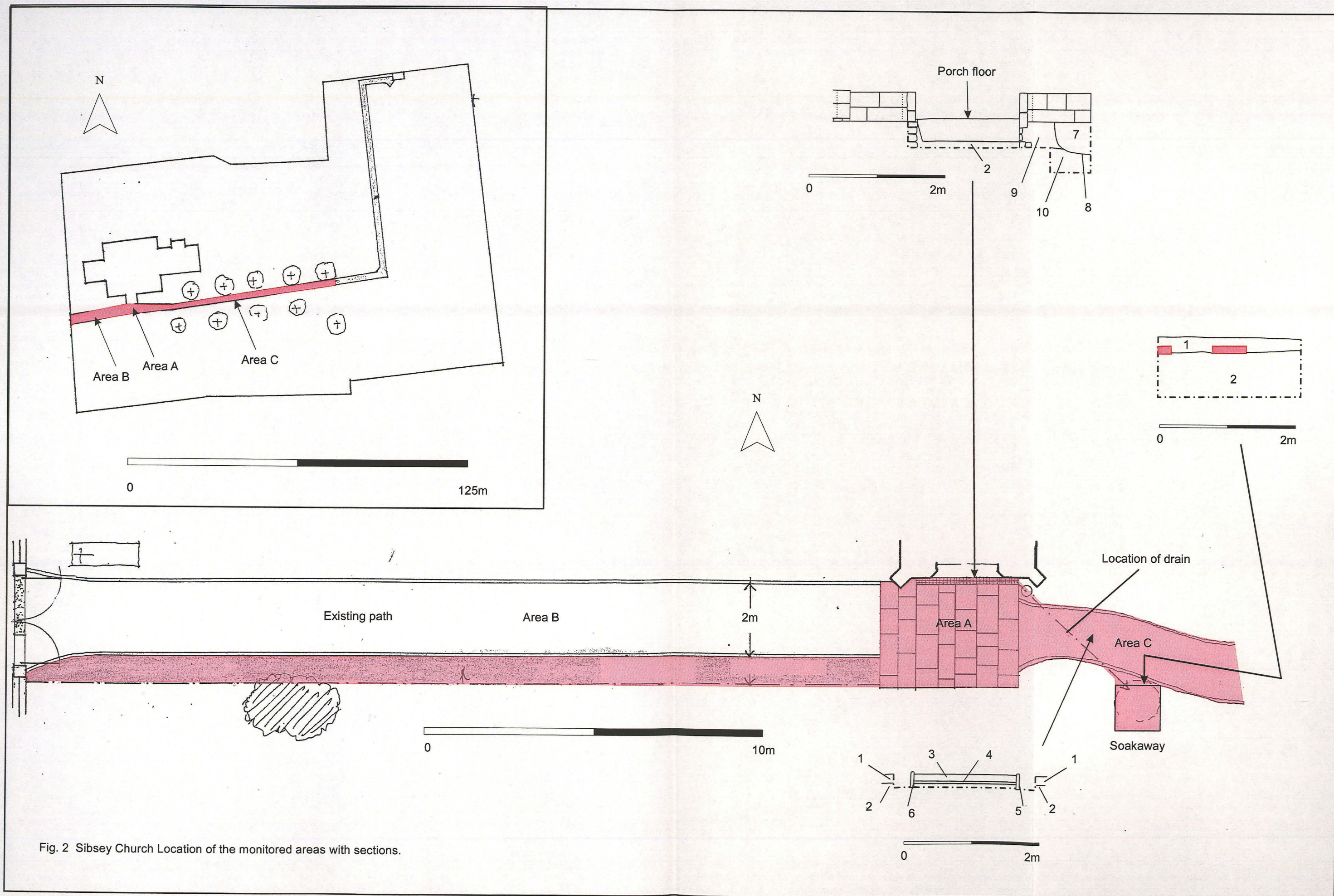


Fig. 2 Sibsey Church Location of the monitored areas with sections.

THE PLATES



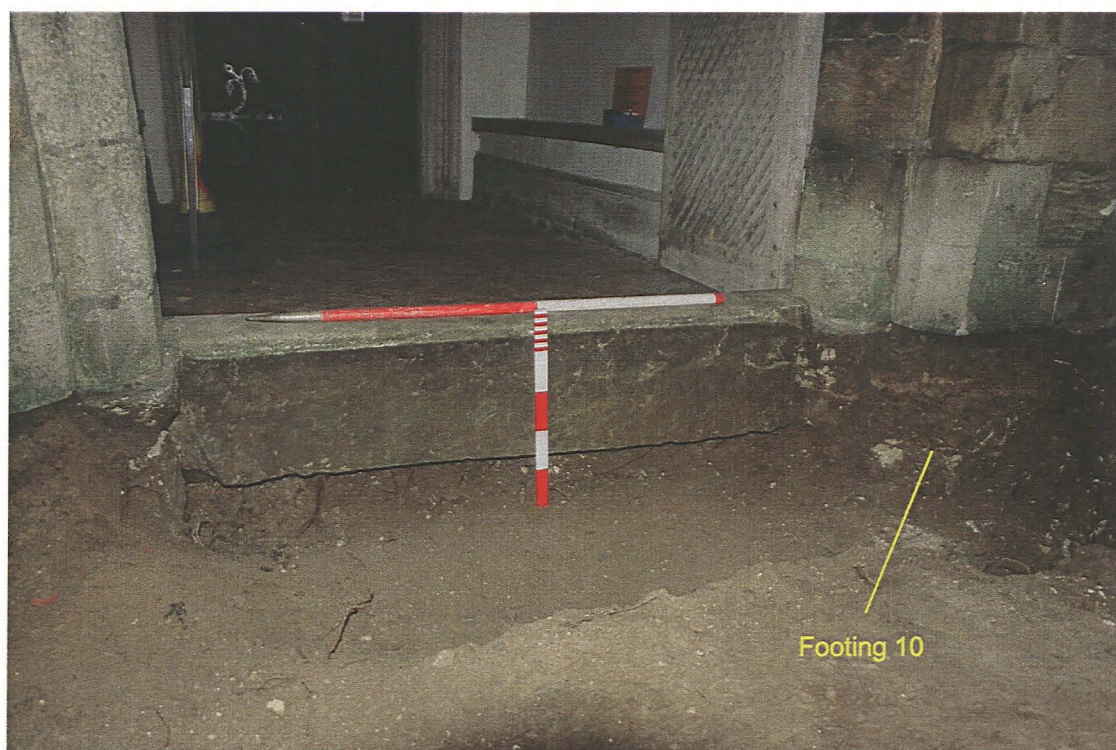
Pl. 1 St Margaret's Church, Sibsey, looking west.



Pl. 2 Area A after the removal of bedding layers 9 looking north-east. Horizontal scale 1m, vertical scale 0.50m.



Pl.3 Area A, east end of porch showing underpinning 7 and 8, looking north.



Pl. 4 Area A, foundation 10 in relation to the threshold of the church looking north. Horizontal scale 1m, vertical scale 0.50m.



Pl. 5 Area A pipe trench looking north-west



Pl. 6 Area A, slabs of tomb in side of pipe trench, looking north north east



Pl. 7 Area A, location of the soakaway and the deposits exposed within it, looking north-west.



Pl. 8 Area C, exposed deposits after widening of the path, looking east.



Pl. 9 Area C, footpath looking east showing areas of subsoil revealed beneath the topsoil