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ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
OF PROPOSED WORKS AT  
SS PETER AND PAUL'S CHURCH,  
BOURNE,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(BPPC 08)

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Work undertaken for  
**Matthew Thomas, Architect**  
On behalf of the  
**Parochial Church Council**

June 2008

Report compiled by  
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES



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BOURNE

**Contents**

*The report provides an assessment of the proposed archaeological works*

1.	<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	2
2.	<b>RELEVANT POLICY AND LEGISLATION</b> .....	2
3.	<b>METHODOLOGY</b> .....	2
4.	<b>SITE LOCATION</b> .....	3
5.	<b>HISTORICAL DATA</b> .....	3
6.	<b>ARCHITECTURAL DATA</b> .....	4
7.	<b>ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA</b> .....	4
8.	<b>SITE VISIT</b> .....	5
9.	<b>POTENTIAL</b> .....	5
10.	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b> .....	6
11.	<b>MITIGATION</b> .....	6
12.	<b>SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS</b> .....	6
13.	<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b> .....	6

**Appendices**

1. Sources consulted
2. Abbreviations
3. Glossary

**List of Figures**

- Figure 1 Site location plan
- Figure 2 Plan showing the scope of the proposed new passage

**List of Plates**

- Plate 1 View of the northwest corner of the church and the boiler room
- Plate 2 View showing the blind arcade within the boiler room. The proposed new passage is to be located in the furthest arch
- Plate 3 Detail showing the truncation of the 13<sup>th</sup> century arch and the brick infill of the recess
- Plate 4 The blind arcade within the church through which the proposed passage exits. Much of the stonework has been re-cut using a saw and has pronounced tooling marks not typical of medieval work

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report provides an assessment of the potential archaeological impact of proposed works at SS Peter and Paul's Church, Bourne, Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Matthew Thomas, Chartered Ecclesiastical Architect, on behalf of the Parochial Church Council, to undertake the assessment.
- 1.3 The proposed work centres around the replacement of a boiler and lavatory accommodation within a lean-to structure on the north side of the west front (beneath the north tower) of the church and the addition of a small kitchen and provision for storage.
- 1.4 The most significant intervention is the formation of a new opening between the north tower and the lean-to structure.

## 2. RELEVANT POLICY AND LEGISLATION

- 2.1 Significant historic buildings are 'listed' and protected by the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act of 1990. SS Peter and Paul's Church is Listed Grade I.
- 2.2 National policy guidance relating to archaeology has been set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) on planning and archaeology (DoE 1990). PPG16 states that "*where nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not, and their settings are affected by proposed development there should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation*". In cases where preservation *in-situ* is not feasible PPG16 indicates that "*an archaeological excavation by way of preservation by record may be an acceptable alternative*".
- 2.3 Guidance on the approach of planning authorities to development and Listed Buildings is provided in Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 (PPG15) on Planning and the Historic Environment (DoE 1994). PPG15 complements PPG16, providing guidance on the protection of historic buildings, conservation areas and other elements of the historic environment.

## 3. METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The research undertaken in the compilation of this assessment involved the examination of all available primary and secondary sources relevant to Bourne parish church. These sources consisted of:
- Historical documents held in the Lincolnshire Archives Office
  - Parish files held by Heritage Lincolnshire
  - Secondary sources, in the form of periodical articles and books, held by the Lincolnshire Archives Office, Lincoln Central Library and Heritage Lincolnshire.
- 3.2 The research was supplemented by a visit to the church.

3.3 The investigations have been carried out in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for desk-based assessments.

3.4 A full list of resources consulted is contained in Appendix 1.

#### 4. SITE LOCATION

4.1 Bourne is located 24km southeast of Grantham and 15km northeast of Stamford in the administrative district of South Kesteven, Lincolnshire.

4.2 The parish church of SS Peter and Paul is located at the centre of Bourne at National Grid Reference TF 0969 1998 (Fig. 1).

4.3 The works require a new opening between the north tower and the adjacent lean-to structure (Fig. 2).

#### 5. HISTORICAL DATA

5.1 Bourne is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Brune*, the name is derived from the Old Norse *brunnr* meaning a spring or stream (Cameron 1998, 18). The site lies in a former hamlet of Bourne known as Austerby which is first mentioned in the Pipe Rolls of 1167 and derives its name from the Old Norse *austarr* and *by* and means the 'easterly farm' (*ibid.* 7). This would suggest that Austerby was founded in the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> centuries (Roffe nd).

5.2 At the time of Domesday, the principal manor was held by Oger the Breton, with the remaining manors held by Ivo Taillebois, Alfred of Lincoln, Robert of Stafford and Suen and contained a church with a priest, several mills, 30 fisheries, 43 acres of meadow, 60 acres of underwood along with extensive woodland for pannage (Foster and Longley 1976, 14/86; 42/1, 2, 3, 7; 59/7; 67/9).

5.3 The mention of a church in 1086 may indicate that there was a Late Saxon Minster church in Bourne (Everson and Stocker 1999, 74).

5.4 Soon after Domesday, the various manors of Bourne amalgamated into one and passed to Hugh de Evermue and thence to William de Rullos. Upon William's death the land passed to his son-in-law, Baldwin FitzGilbert (Birkbeck 1970, 11). Baldwin later founded Bourne Abbey in 1138 and is also likely to have constructed Bourne Castle. His endowment to Bourne Abbey included the church and various lands, mills and tithes in Bourne (Roffe 2000; Page 1906, 177).

5.5 The Abbey was dissolved in 1536 and the site passed to Sir Richard Cotton in 1592 (Thompson 1913, 332). Abbey House was constructed from the materials of the priory.

5.6 A drawing of the church dating to 1819 (reproduced in Birkbeck 1970, opposite page 12) shows a range of buildings extending north from the church. These are built of limestone ashlar and occupy the position of the claustral range.

However, it is probable that these are post-medieval in date and can be related to Abbey House, the post-medieval house that replaced the west range of the priory.

- 5.7 A map of 1825 also shows this range of buildings which extend north to the point Church Walk turns to the west. Apart from occupying the area of the west cloister, nothing of the monastic plan can be ascertained.
- 5.8 A photograph of the west end of the abbey church dating to 1881 shows the northwest tower area clearly. Similar cracks appear over the door and the adjacent blind arch as appear today.
- 5.9 In 1883 a programme of works was undertaken to restore the west end of the church. No faculty details of this work are maintained by the Lincolnshire Archive Office.
- 5.10 The nature of the works is not fully described. An account of 1892 records '*The west end of the church has been restored, the large perpendicular west window removed, and the old masonry replaced, and three early English lancet windows restored and filled in with beautiful stained glass. The tower was restored and a new corner pillar inserted; the north and east arches opened out, and three new stained glass windows inserted on the south side in 1883, all at the cost and under the supervision of Mr R.M. Mills*' (White 1892, 201).
- 5.11 RM Mills is recorded as a Fire and Life Officer with premises in the Market Place (White 1856, 712).
- 5.12 A faculty of 1892 is principally concerned with alterations to the north aisle and lowering of the nave floor. However, reference is made to the ducting of heating pipes beneath the floor (LAO FB10/279). This implies an association with the boiler room.

## 6. ARCHITECTURAL DATA

- 6.1 The architectural data is restricted to the area of the proposed new passage. Much of the architectural notes are taken from Matthews and Traylen (1947).
- 6.2 The west end of the church is in the transitional style from the Norman to Early English dating to between c. 1175 and c. 1200. This is evidenced by interlacing arcade and pointed arches and foliage designs on some capitals.
- 6.3 The exterior of the tower is decorated with arcades of pointed arches, supported by moulded bell capitals and bases. The door and adjacent stoup are 15<sup>th</sup> century insertions. The three light windows were inserted in 1883 by RM Mills as part of his scheme for the restoration of the tower.
- 6.4 The blind arcade within the boiler room is consistent with most interpretations of being the south wall of the parlour, by which the cloister was entered from the outer court (Trollope 1862, ix).

## 7. ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA

- 7.1 No formal archaeological work has been undertaken within the church.

- 7.2 An archaeological excavation was undertaken to the north of the church in 1985 (Mahany 1987). This identified the north and west ranges of the cloister, with the east range lying beyond the excavated area. Of particular note was the fact that the earliest west range lay slightly east of the 13<sup>th</sup> century west front of the church. There is no accompanying plan to the report and it is unknown how close the excavated area came to the church building.
- 7.3.1 Watching briefs have been undertaken to the north of the claustral area (Rayner 1999) and within the churchyard (Cope-Faulkner 1998). Neither has any bearing on the fabric of the church and are beyond the scope of this report.

## 8. SITE VISIT

- 8.1 Bourne Abbey church was first visited on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2008 and again on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2008. The initial visit allowed for a photographic record to be compiled and the second visit for further detailed examination.
- 8.2 The area of works within the boiler room affects the eastern arch of a blind arcade. This is an incomplete arch as the eastern two thirds have previously been removed. Within the opening a recess has been constructed to a depth of c. 0.95m which is lined with brick. The recess is not original as attested by remnants of *in situ* wall core at the base and left of the recess. It has previously been assumed that this was the position of the night stairs (allowing the monks access to the church during the night). However, steps are recorded as having been located in the southwest corner of the organ chamber (Matthews and Traylen 1947, 6).
- 8.3 Decorative stonework of the blind arcade indicate a 13<sup>th</sup> century date and indicate its contemporaneity with the west front. However, the stone used in the wall above and within the arcade is roughly coursed limestone rubble and has been re-pointed.
- 8.4 Construction of the recess is likely to have occurred when works were undertaken to the tower and west front (1882) or possibly when the boiler was added to the church (c. 1892).
- 8.5 Within the northwest tower two blind arcades are apparent and are part of a repeated pattern at the west end of the church. Again these correspond to the overall age and appearance of the west end and are of medieval origin.
- 8.6 However, the surrounding stonework of the walls is clearly different to that elsewhere, some of the stones for example retaining tooling marks that stand proud as well as being cut by a saw to provide narrow joints.
- 8.7 It is probable that the blind arcade was retained and incorporated into a new wall when the work was undertaken on the tower in 1882.

## 9. POTENTIAL

- 8.1 The nature of the work precludes any potential for ascertaining the overall development of the church.
- 8.2 However, stonework from previous church building at the abbey might have

been re-used within the 13<sup>th</sup> century construction of the west end or later restoration.

## **10. IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 10.1 The proposed new passage has a substantial impact on the fabric of the church. However, the impact on the medieval structure is limited with the proposed works being undertaken in areas affected by 19<sup>th</sup> century restoration.
- 10.2 There is a positive visual impact by allowing the blind arcade within the boiler room to be more accessible.

## **11. MITIGATION**

- 11.1 Mitigation measures are likely to be required in order to record any archaeological material which may be revealed during the construction of the passage.
- 11.2 If mitigation is required, the precise nature of these works should be agreed with English Heritage and the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor prior to the commencement of any development works.

## **12. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 12.1 This assessment has identified that the external area of the northwest corner of the church is original and represents the south wall of the access to the medieval cloister.
- 12.2 The interior of the church shows signs of having been replaced, either during the 1883 restoration of the west tower or the insertion of heating pipes in 1892.
- 12.3 Mitigation, in the form of archaeological monitoring, is likely to be required.

## **13. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 13.1 Archaeological Project Services would like to thank Mr M Thomas who commissioned this work on behalf of Bourne Parish Council. Access to the church and boiler room was kindly granted by the Reverend C Atkinson. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Thanks are due to the staff of Lincolnshire Archives Office and Lincoln Central Library. Jenny Young, the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist, permitted examination of the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

## APPENDIX 1

### SOURCES CONSULTED

#### Primary Sources

LAO FB10/279, *Faculty Book. Works at Saint Peter and Saint Paul church, Bourne* 1892

#### Secondary Sources

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## APPENDIX 2

### ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

DoE Department of the Environment

HMSO Her Majesty's Stationery Office

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

LAO Lincolnshire Archive Office

### APPENDIX 3

#### GLOSSARY

- Medieval**                    The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
- Post-medieval**            The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
- Saxon**                      Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.

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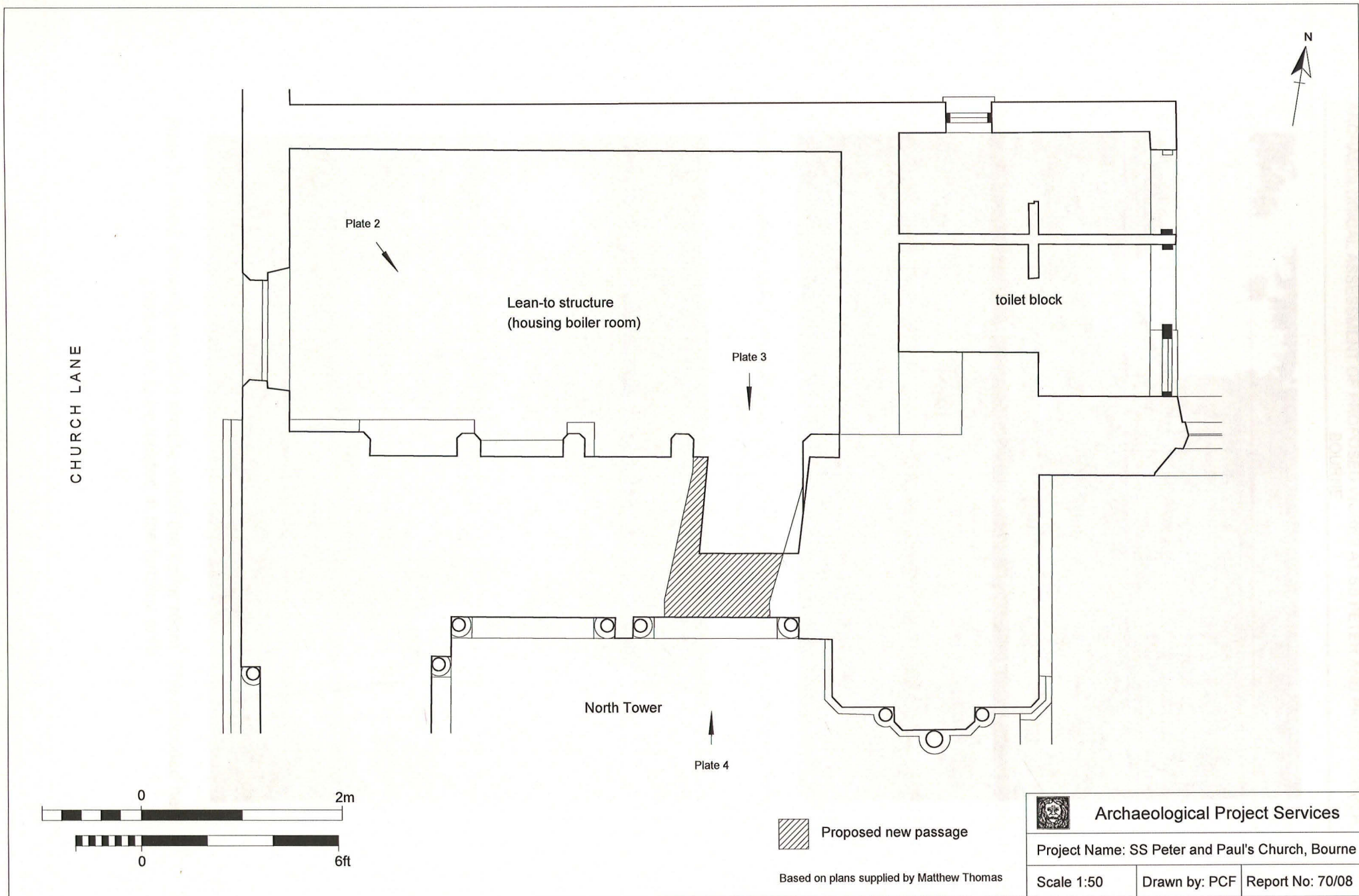


Figure 2 - Plan showing the scope of the proposed new passage



Plate 1 – View of the northwest external corner of the church and the boiler room, looking southeast



Plate 2 – View showing the blind arcade within the boiler room. The proposed new passage is to be located in the furthest arch



Plate 3 – Detail showing the truncation of the 13<sup>th</sup> century arch and the brick infill of the recess





Plate 4 – The blind arcade within the church through which the proposed passage exits. Much of the stonework has been re-cut using a saw and has pronounced tooling marks not typical of medieval work.

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