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SERVICES



**Church of St Nicholas,  
Carlton Scroop with Normanton, Lincs.  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

**NGR: SK 9485 4627**

**Planning Application No.: N/a**

**Faculty No. 2318**

Site Code: NMCH 08

LCNCC Accn No. 2008.150

**REPORT**

for

**The Churches Conservation Trust**

By

**N. Field MIFA**

**LAS Report No. 1087**

**November 2008**



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**Church of St Nicholas,  
Carlton Scroop with Normanton, Lincs.  
Archaeological Watching Brief  
NGR: SK 9485 4627  
Planning Application No.: N/a  
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**Summary**

*Excavation of a French drain around the tower revealed substantial foundations especially at the south-west angle. It is thought that these were to support the internal stair at this corner of the tower. Foundations for the south porch were revealed in the drainage trench as were the foundations for the east wall of the south aisle.*

*The disturbed remains of a burial were uncovered north-east of the vestry. These must have been previously disturbed when an earlier drain was installed, possibly when the vestry was constructed. No other finds were made.*

**Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by the Churches Conservation Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the installation of a French drain around the church tower and additional drainage in accordance with the Trust's Archaeology Policy (2004), and with the general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, 1998).

**Site Location and Description**

The village of Normanton is located 10km north-east of Grantham, on the A607 Lincoln Road (Fig.1). It lies to the west of the Lincoln Edge escarpment, on land sloping down to the west. St Nicholas' Church is to the west of the main road beside a small unsurfaced lane.

St Nicholas' is a redundant church vested in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust since 1976, but the churchyard is still in the care of Normanton PCC.

**Archaeological Background**

The settlement of Normanton is mentioned in the *Domesday Survey* of 1086. The name is thought to indicate a settlement of Norwegians (who accompanied Danish settlers to Lincolnshire). Archaeological excavations to the west of the village have identified a Saxon cemetery and a Roman villa.

St Nicholas' Church has a late twelfth century south arcade, and a late thirteenth century north

arcade. Much of the fabric is in ironstone rubble with some limestone ashlar (Pl.1).

### **Scope of Work**

A faculty was granted for drainage works in the churchyard. The works comprised

- the excavation of drain runs along the north side of the church to a soakaway north-west of the tower
- the repair of an exposed drain along the east side of the south aisle
- excavation of a drain run along the south side of the church to a soakaway southwest of the tower
- provision of a French drain around the tower.

### **Aims and 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 present on site during the excavation of the French drain by the contractors. Archaeological features were excavated, and drawn where appropriate. A full photographic record was made of the works on site. Work was carried out on October 2008.

### **Results (Fig. 2)**

The excavations exposed foundations of existing elements of the building, the tower, the south porch and the south aisle. There were no finds such as pottery sherds, except for a small piece of window lead, which was not retained. No graves were disturbed during the works although the almost-complete remains of a single individual were dug up near the vestry. The bones were completely jumbled and had clearly been disturbed during previous excavation for drains. All human remains were retained by the contractors for reburial in the churchyard.

#### North Drain Run

Drainage trench 0.25m wide and 0.50m deep was dug north from the angle between the vestry and the chancel to a point 1.50m north of the vestry (Pls 2-3). It then ran west to a soakaway 5.70m beyond the west end of the north aisle Pl. 4). The soakaway was 1.50m square and 1m deep (Pl. 5). There were two short drainage trenches which connected to rainwater pipes at the junction of the vestry and the north aisle and the corner of the north aisle west wall. The topsoil was 0.20-0.25m in depth and overlay a red-brown sandy clay subsoil.

At the point where the drainage trench turned west a large number of jumbled human bones were

encountered which made up the majority of a single individual. These bones had evidently been disturbed during the installation of an earlier drain. No other burials were encountered and only a few bones were present in the soil. All human remains were reburied without further examination.

#### South Drain Run

The drainage trench was dug south from the angle between the south aisle and the chancel, 0.45m from the wall, to a point 6m south of the south aisle (Pl. 6). Removal of the old drain at the base of the rainwater pipe revealed the foundations of both the chancel and the south aisle. The chancel foundation had a narrow offset of 3cm at the ground surface. At 0.38m below ground level was an offset foundation 0.20m wide, extending to an unknown depth below the base of the drainage trench.

Large limestone blocks in the nave wall had been cut into for the attachment of the south aisle, which has a chamfered plinth 0.18m in height resting on a foundation offset by 0.09m, extending to an unknown depth below the base of the drainage trench (Pls 7 and 8). The quoins of the nave wall are visible higher up the aisle wall. The foundations were more clearly seen on the aisle south wall where the wall plinth rested on dressed blocks 0.80m high with two offsets each 0.20m wide, the upper being 0.08m high, the lower extending to an unknown depth below the base of the drainage trench (Pls 9 and 10).

Stonework in the base of the north-south trench was interpreted as the foundations of the south aisle east wall (Pl. 11). At the point where the trench turned west along the south side of the church, just north of the footpath, were two pieces of a broken grave slab, 0.28m below the ground. The inscription was almost illegible but contained the words [mem] ory ....[a]ged 42 years.... [Cath] arine their .....wh[o].....i [ca...]. The classical border suggests an 18<sup>th</sup> –early 19th century date (Pl. 12).

Large stones were noted in the trench base extending 1.40m to either side of the porch entrance, which were part of its foundations (Pls 13 and 14). An electric cable on the west side obscured some of the stonework.

#### The Tower (Fig. 3)

The drainage trench was dug around the three sides of the tower with connections to both soakaways (Pls 15 and 16). The ground level around the tower was not much higher than when it was originally constructed, just covering the offset foundation. On the north side of the tower the foundations were 0.60m wide at the junction with the north aisle widening to 0.70m at the tower north west corner (Pl. 17). The north aisle foundations appeared to be contiguous with those of

the tower but were 0.30m wide (Pl. 18). An area of the foundations 1.40m east of this corner had been disturbed and several stones had been removed (Pl. 19). The resulting hole had been filled with a mix of clay and coal fragments.

The foundations along the west side of the tower widened from 0.70m at the north end (Pls 17 and 20) to 0.90m at the south-west corner (Pl 21). It is assumed that the foundations were particularly robust here in order to support the internal stair. An area just south of the northwest corner was disturbed at the point where the foundations widened (Pl. 22). The foundations were more extensively disturbed north of the south-west angle.

On the south side of the tower the foundations were a minimum of 0.50m deep and 0.43m wide at the south-west angle, tapering to 0.30m close to the junction with the south aisle wall (Pl. 23). The upper course of the foundations had been removed close to the junction, with the south aisle. Elsewhere at least three courses of foundation were exposed, the lower two courses being offset by c.0.15m from the uppermost course (Pls 24 and 25). Unlike the north aisle it was clear that the tower abuts the south aisle wall and is of later construction. The south aisle foundation was offset by only 0.05m at a point just below the tower plinth course (Pl. 26).

### **Conclusion**

Drainage works around a church can potentially cause considerable disturbance to surrounding archaeological remains but at Normanton the areas of foundation exposed were minimal except around the tower, where a full drawn and photographic record was undertaken. No graves were encountered during the excavation of the drainage trenches and soakaways. In conclusion, the careful design and execution of the new drainage works caused minimal disturbance to archaeological remains.

Naomi Field  
November 13<sup>th</sup> 2008

### **Acknowledgements**

LAS would like to thank Helen Weatherall (Marshall Sisson Architect) for providing the church plan and Mark Day and the team from Paul Mendham Stonemasons for their assistance on site.

### **Contents of the Site Archive**

Correspondence  
Site notes  
Site plan 1  
Photographs



**APPENDIX 1**

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: lindseya1-51505**

### Project details

Project name Normanton St Nicholas church

Short description of the project Excavation of a French drain around the tower revealed substantial foundations especially at the south-west angle. It is thought that these were to support the internal stair at this corner of the tower. Foundations for the south porch were revealed in the drainage trench as were the foundations for the east wall of the south aisle. The disturbed remains of a burial were uncovered north-east of the vestry. These must have been previously disturbed when an earlier drain was installed, possibly when the vestry was constructed. No other finds were made.

Project dates Start: 13-10-2008 End: 20-10-2008

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes NMCH08 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes 2008.150 - Museum accession ID

Type of project Recording project

Monument type CHURCH Medieval

Significant Finds NONE None

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Faculty jurisdiction

### Project location

Country England

Site location LINCOLNSHIRE SOUTH KESTEVEN NORMANTON St Nicholas church

Study area 500.00 Square metres

Site coordinates SK 9485 4627 53.0050206688 -0.586316679338 53 00 18 N 000 35 10 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 55.00m Max: 55.00m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

|                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Project brief originator     | Contractor (design and execute) |
| Project design originator    | Naomi Field                     |
| Project director/manager     | Naomi Field                     |
| Project supervisor           | Naomi Field                     |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Other Charitable Trust          |
| Name of sponsor/funding body | Churches Conservation Trust     |

### Project archives

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Physical Archive Exists?  | No   |
| Digital Archive recipient | Lindsey Archaeological Services  |
| Digital Archive ID        | NMCH08   |
| Digital Contents          | 'none'   |
| Digital Media available   | 'Images raster / digital photography','Text'                                   |
| Paper Archive recipient   | LCNCC  |
| Paper Archive ID          | 2008.150   |
| Paper Contents            | 'none'   |
| Paper Media available     | 'Correspondence','Drawing','Manuscript','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section' |

### Project bibliography 1

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Publication type              | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  |
| Title                         | Church of St Nicholas, Carlton Scroop with Normanton, Lincs. Archaeological Watching Brief |
| Author(s)/Editor (s)          | Field, N.  |
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## THE FIGURES

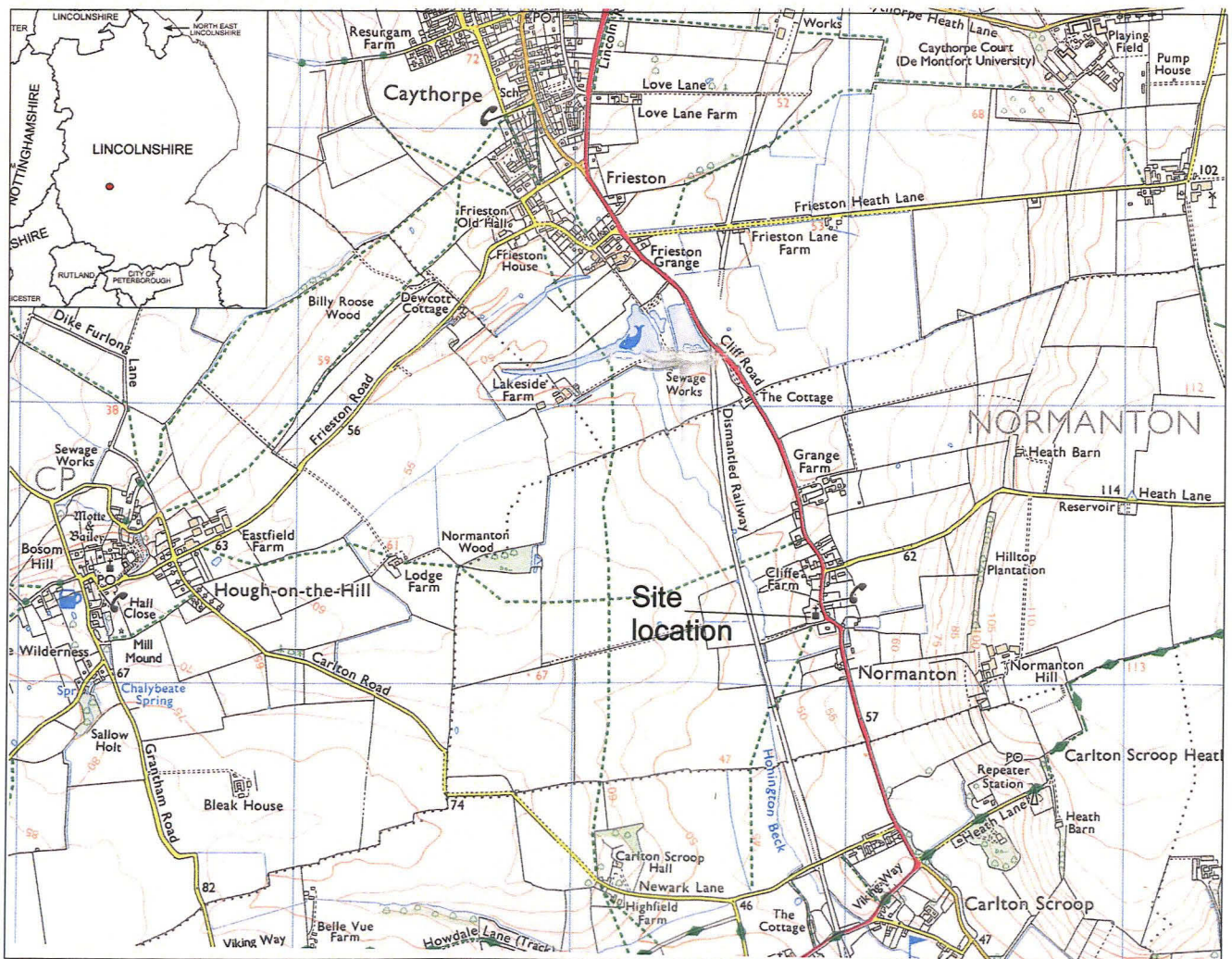


Fig. 1 Location of St Nicholas' Church, Normanton. (C based on 2000 1:25000 Ordnance Survey Explorer map, Sheet 272. © Crown copyright, reproduced with the permission of the controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 10002165).

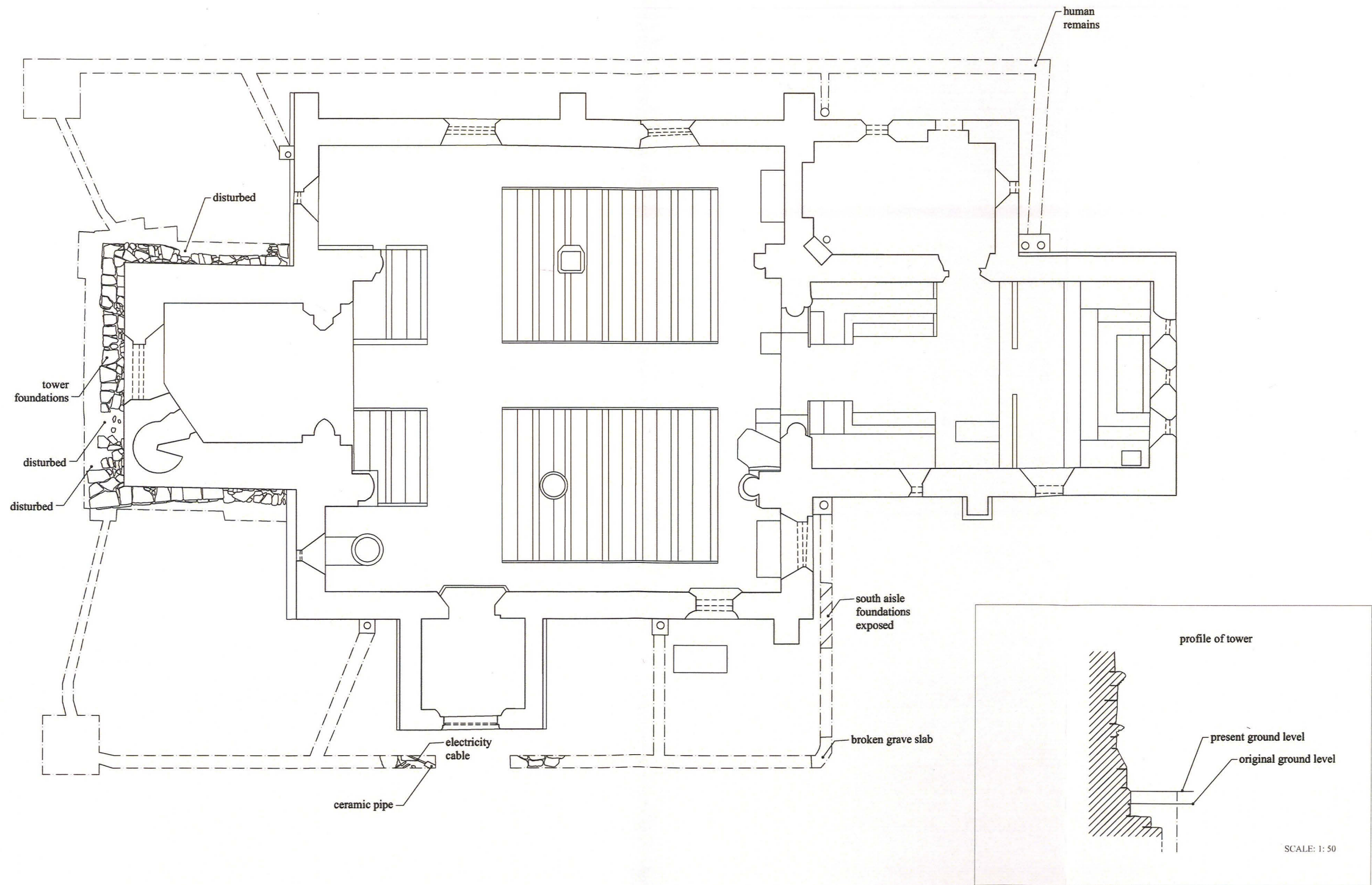
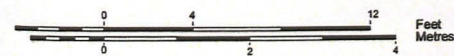


Fig.2 Normanton Church location of drainage works.

|  |   |                    |   |  |
|--|---|--------------------|---|--|
|  | PROJECT NAME: St Nicholas Church, Normanton | SITE CODE: NMCH 08 | DRAWN BY: Ruben Lopez after Naomi Field |  |
|  | PROJECT TYPE: Watching Brief                | ACC. NO: 2008.150  | DATE: 10/11/08                          |  |
|  |   | SCALE: 1: 100      |   |  |



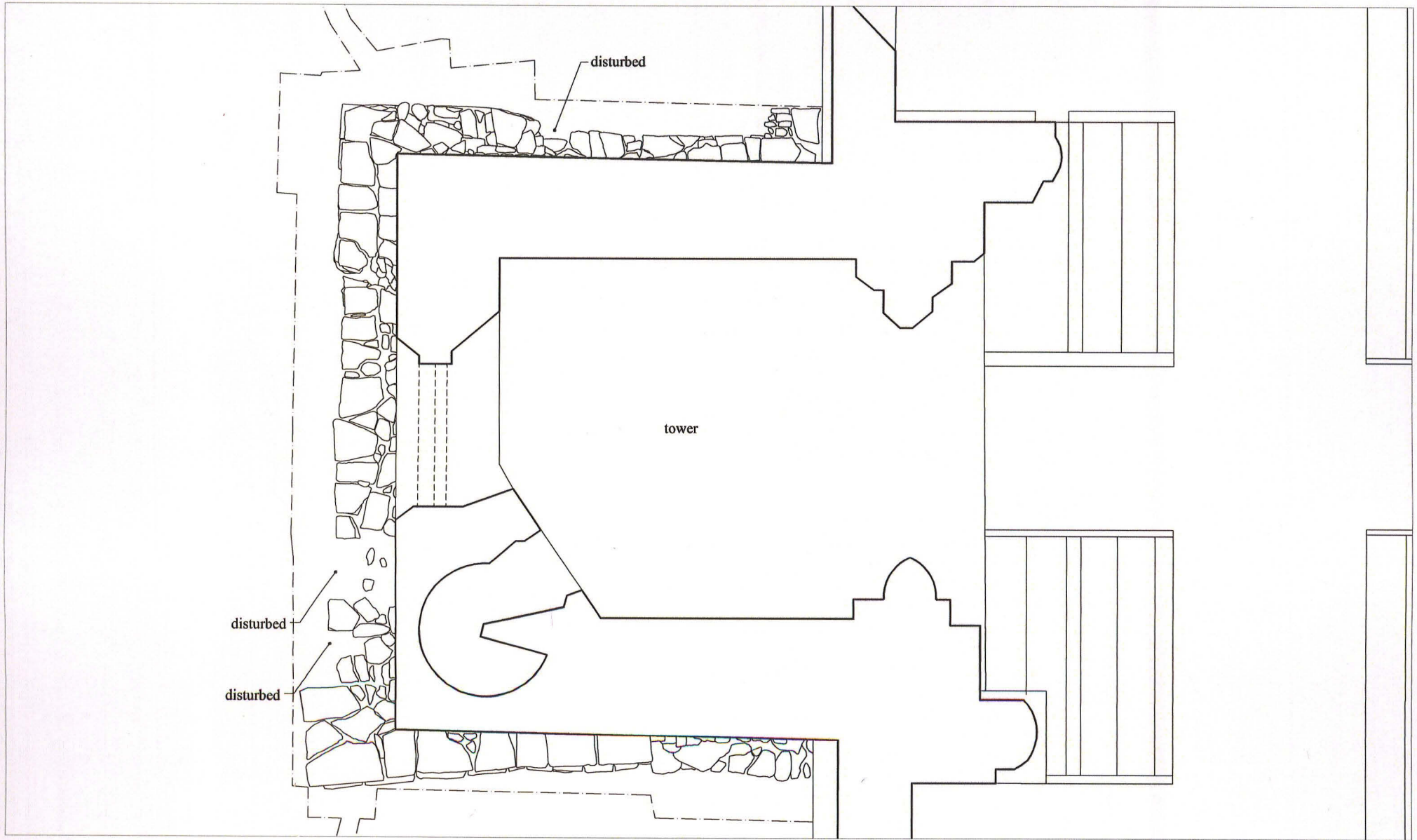


Fig.3 Tower foundations.





**THE PLATES**



Pl. 1 Normanton church general view from the south-west



Pl. 2 Drain trench along east side of vestry, looking south



Pl. 3 Drain trench along north side of church looking west



Pl. 4 Drain trench along the north aisle looking east



Pl. 5 Soakaway on the north side of the church



Pl. 6 Drain trench along south side of the church , looking east



Pl. 7 Junction of south aisle and chancel foundations, looking north, scale 0.50m



Pl. 8 South aisle and chancel foundations detail , looking north, scale 0.50m



Pl. 9 Drain run on south wall of south aisle



Pl. 10 South aisle foundations, scales 0.50m



Pl. 11 Drain run on south aisle east wall, scale 0.50m



Pl. 12 Broken grave slab looking south, scales 0.50m

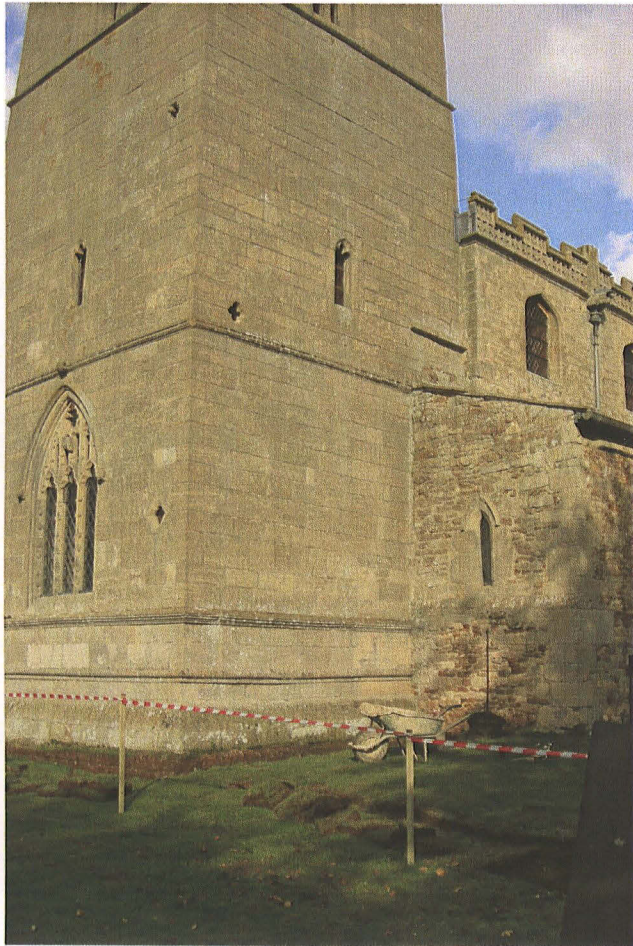


Pl. 13 Porch foundations, south-west corner, looking north-east

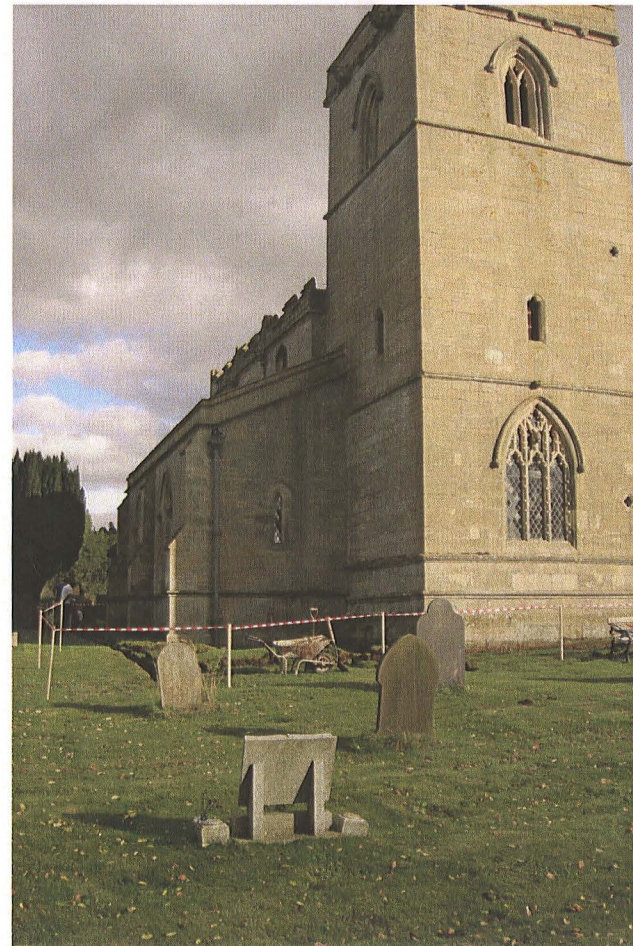


Pl. 14 Porch foundations, south-east corner, looking north-west





Pl. 15 Tower, looking north-west



Pl. 16 Tower and north aisle looking south-east



Pl. 17 Tower and north aisle drain trench



Pl. 18 Junction of tower and north aisle foundations



Pl. 19 Damaged area of tower north foundations, after removal of infill soil, scale 0.50m



Pl. 20 Tower foundations, north-west angle, scales 0.50m



Pl. 21 Tower west foundations, looking north



Pl. 22 Tower west foundations, disturbed area near north-west angle, looking east



Pl. 23 Tower south foundations, looking east



Pl. 24 Tower south foundations, looking west



Pl. 25 Tower south foundations, looking west, scale 0.50m



Pl. 26 Junction of tower and south aisle foundations, scale 0.50m