

***An Archaeological Watching Brief at  
St Peter's Church, Wrockwardine,  
Telford and Wrekin***

by  
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Archaeology Service



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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT  
ST PETER'S CHURCH, WROCKWARDINE,  
TELFORD AND WREKIN**

by  
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A Report for  
ST PETER'S, WROCKWARDINE, PCC

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## **ILLUSTRATIONS**

Figure 1: Site location; 1:5,000 scale

Figure 2: Location of the drainage trenches; 1:200 scale

Photos: 1. The drain connection trenches running south from the church tower  
2. The drain connection trenches, looking northeast

## **SUMMARY**

*In March 2009 a watching brief was carried by the Shropshire Council Archaeology Service on drainage works at St Peter's Church, Wrockwardine. No significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered in the monitored works.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1** Wrockwardine is a small village situated in Telford and Wrekin, about 7km northwest of Telford town centre. St Peter's Church, Wrockwardine, lies at the northern end of the modern village (see Figure 1).

**1.2** St Peter's Church, Wrockwardine is a large sandstone church of mainly late 12<sup>th</sup>- to early 13<sup>th</sup>-century date. The church is of a cruciform plan with a nave, chancel, north and south transepts, a crossing tower and chapels on the north and south sides of the chancel. The crossing tower is of 12<sup>th</sup>-century date with the upper part dating to the 14<sup>th</sup> century. It has large buttresses with set-offs on the south-west and north-west corners and a circular turret on the north-west corner. (SMR file PRN 13013).

**1.3** In 2009 work was undertaken to install a lavatory inside the church adjacent to the porch at the west end of the church. Most of the proposed work was non-intrusive and reversible, but it did involve the excavation of drainage connections outside the church.

**1.4** Because of the archaeological significance of the site it was considered necessary that an archaeological watching brief should accompany the groundworks associated with the drainage connection. The aim of the archaeological watching brief was to allow for the preservation by record of any archaeological remains that were encountered during the works.

**1.5** The Archaeology Service was commissioned by Moss Co on behalf of St Peter's Wrockwardine PCC to carry out this watching brief. A specification for the work was produced by Hugh Hannaford, Community Archaeologist, SCC.

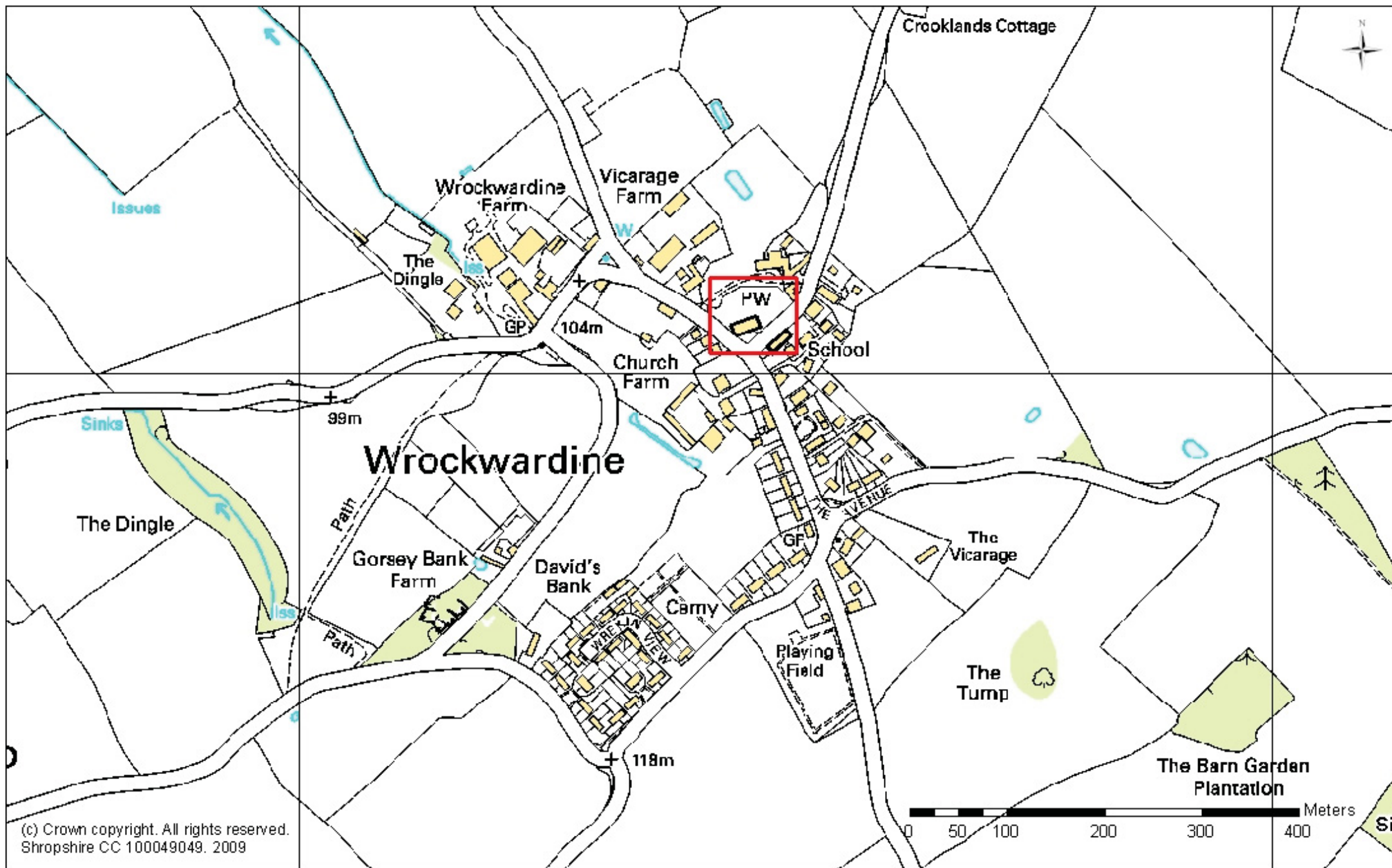
## **2 THE 2009 WORKS**

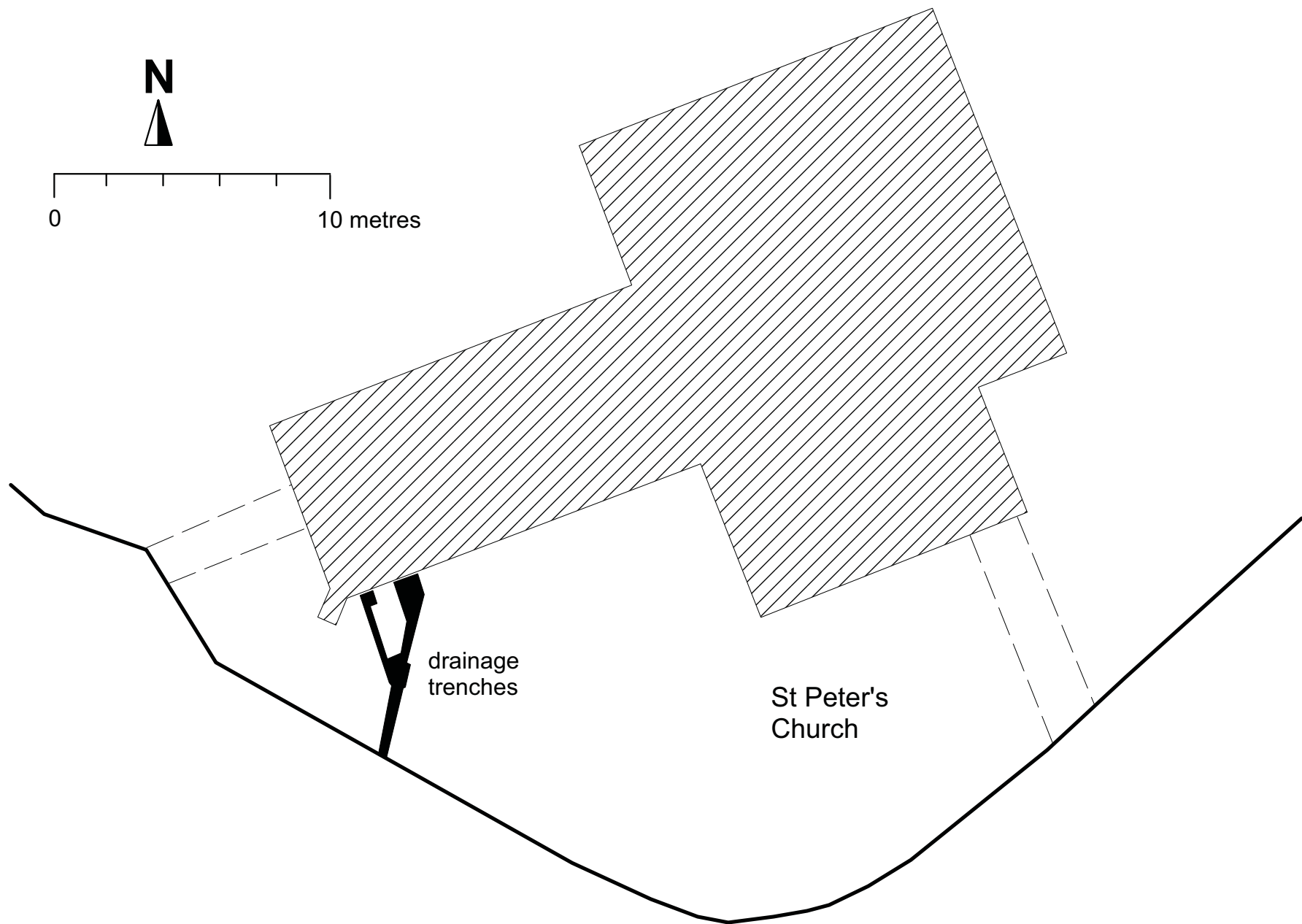
Two trenches were cut from the south wall of the nave, merging and running to single point at the churchyard boundary (see Figure 2). The trenches were excavated to a depth of up to 0.7m. The trenches were cut through a topsoil layer about 0.25m thick of a dark greyish brown humic loam, which lay above a similar layer of a very mixed soil. There was no distinct horizon between the two soil layers, except adjacent to the churchyard wall, where a soil deposit containing stone fragments and mortar butted the inner face of the wall.

No further significant archaeological features or deposits were seen during the watching brief here, and no human remains were encountered.

### **ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>OS</b>	Ordnance Survey
<b>PRO</b>	Public Record Office
<b>SA</b>	Shropshire Archives, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury
<b>SMR</b>	County Environmental (Sites and Monuments) Record, Shirehall, Shrewsbury
<b>TSAHS</b>	Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society
<b>TSAS</b>	Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological Society





ST PETER'S CHURCH, WROCKWARDINE 2009  
Figure 2: Location of the drainage trenches; scale 1:200



1. The drain connection trenches running south from the church tower.



2. The drain connection trenches, looking northeast