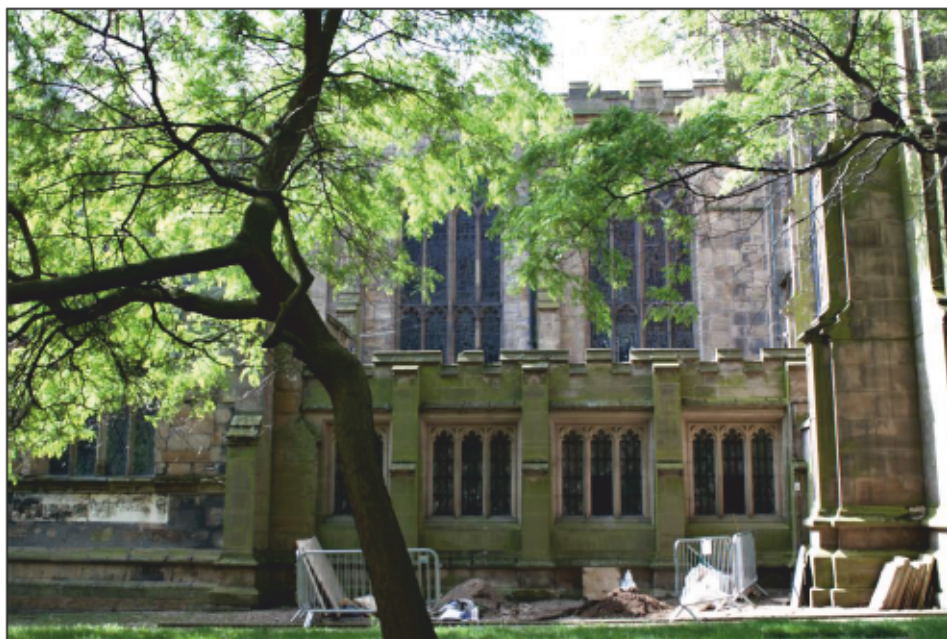


An Archaeological Watching Brief at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Nottingham



For MSM

Prepared by Camilla Collins

Report Number: 085/2017

TPA Project Code: SNM

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<p>Approved by L. Elliott (Head of Projects)</p> <p>Signed</p> 
Status Final report

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Summary

- This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, High Pavement, Nottingham (National Grid Reference SK 57670 39656). The work was carried out in June 2017 by Trent & Peak Archaeology (TPA) on behalf of MSM in response to proposals to improve the below ground drainage and maintenance access to the Chapter House.
- The Church of St. Mary Magdalene is located within the historic core of Nottingham City Centre and the Lace Market Conservation Area. It sits at an elevation of approximately 50.7m AoD. The site is bounded by Kayes Walk to the north, Stoney Street to the east, High Pavement to the south and St. Mary's Gate to the west.
- The current Church of St. Mary the Virgin is a Grade I listed building (LB1270726) and was constructed between the late 14th to late 15th centuries in the perpendicular style using red, buff and pale brown Carboniferous Sandstone. It comprises a chancel, vestry, central tower, transepts, nave and aisles and a south porch. Groundwork on the tower during the 1840s revealed evidence of the 12th century church fabric reused in the foundations.
- The site itself has previously been the subject of evaluation trenching (Elliott 2010) and archaeological recording (Elliott 2013) during the renewal of the floor within the nave, crossing and transepts of the Church. These revealed earlier structural remains (12th to 13th century in date) incorporated within parts of the foundations of the nave and the transepts. Within the nave this included the presence of medieval cross slabs. Also present in these areas were a number of brick lined burial vaults and shafts containing lead coffins. Residual finds included medieval glazed floor tiles and window glass, post-medieval pottery, clay tobacco pipe, coffin nails, shroud pins and coffin furniture comprising coffin grips and coffin studs.
- The groundwork comprised the excavation of a small north-south aligned trench which extended approximately 3m from the north wall of the Chapter House. The trench measured a maximum of 0.45m in width and 0.52m in depth.
- No analysis could be made of the foundations of the north wall of the Chapter House due to its truncation by modern drainage.
- Beneath the modern path (0001) grave-earth (0002) was encountered truncated by a single grave (0003). The shallow nature of the grave at 0.5m, taking into consideration some truncation during the construction of the Chapter House in 1890, suggests that it is likely to be 17th century or earlier in date with much deeper burials being the norm in the 18th-19th centuries. The survival of the grave cut within the grave-earth indicates that it was one of the later burials in the immediate vicinity, undisturbed by any later burials. It is probable that further shallow unmarked burials are present below the path and close to the Chapter House walls.

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Appendix 1:	Written Scheme of Investigation
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Acknowledgments

The project was managed by Matt Hurford and the watching brief was undertaken by Camilla Collins. MSM are thanked for commissioning the work. The project was monitored by Dr. Mike Hawkes, Archaeological Advisor to the Diocese of Nottingham and Southwell.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, High Pavement, Nottingham (National Grid Reference SK 57670 39656) (Fig. 1). The work was carried out in June 2017 by Trent & Peak Archaeology (TPA) on behalf of MSM in response to proposals to improve the below ground drainage and maintenance access to the Chapter House (Fig. 2).
- 1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was submitted by TPA and approved by Dr. Mike Hawkes, Archaeological Advisor to the Diocese of Nottingham and Southwell (Appendix 1). The WSI stated that the watching brief be carried out in accordance with appropriate professional standards, as defined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard & Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014).
- 1.3 The overall study has employed the methodology developed by TPA for use on similar projects in the region. These follow guidelines presented in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012) which replaces conservation planning document *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS 5 2010).
- 1.4 The TPA site code is SNM.

2 Topography and Geology

- 2.1 The Church of St. Mary the Virgin is located within the historic core of Nottingham City Centre and the Lace Market Conservation Area. It sits at an elevation of approximately 50.7m AoD. The site is bounded by Kayes Walk to the north, Stoney Street to the east, High Pavement to the south and St. Mary's Gate to the west.
- 2.2 The 1:50,000 British Geological Mapping shows that the site is situated on a sedimentary bedrock of Nottingham Castle Sandstone Formation. No superficial deposits have been recorded (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>).

3 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.1 Only one church in Nottingham was listed in the Domesday Survey c.1086 AD (Morris 1977). This is assumed to be St. Mary's, which is the only medieval church located within the old English Borough of Nottingham. As such, it is likely to be older in foundation than the churches of St. Nicholas and St. Peter's situated in the later Norman Borough. Although St. Mary's is probably late Anglo-Saxon in origin, and possibly the site of a former minster, no physical evidence has yet been uncovered to substantiate this (Hood 1910; Peters 1974).
- 3.2 The church was supposedly burnt during the 12th century on one if not two occasions, 1140 and 1174, while a possible third event is also suggested in 1153 (Elliott 2010). This may have led to the construction of a church of late Norman to Early English style.
- 3.3 The current Church of St. Mary the Virgin is a Grade I listed building (LB1270726) and was constructed between the late 14th to late 15th centuries in the perpendicular style using red, buff and pale brown Carboniferous Sandstone (Elliott 2010). It comprises a chancel, vestry, central tower, transepts, nave and aisles and a south porch. Groundwork on the lower

- during the 1940s revealed evidence of the 12th century church fabric reused in the foundations.
- 3.4 The church underwent a significant phase of replacement and restoration during the mid 19th century involving eminent Victorian ecclesiastical architects such as G. Gilbert Scott and L. N. Cottingham (Elliott 2010). Despite the large scale of the renovations, and the subsequent damage to the original fabric of the building, the general 15th century plan of the church remained mostly unaltered. A second phase of expansion was undertaken in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This included the addition of a Chapter House on the north side of the church over a former part of the grave yard in 1890, a south chancel aisle/chapel in 1912 and a choir vestry in 1940.
- 3.5 The site itself has previously been the subject of evaluation trenching (Elliott 2010) and archaeological recording (Elliott 2013) during the renewal of the floor within the nave, crossing and transepts of the Church. These revealed earlier structural remains (12th to 13th century in date) incorporated within parts of the foundations of the nave and the transepts. Within the nave this included the presence of medieval cross slabs. Also present in these areas were a number of brick lined burial vaults and shafts containing lead coffins. Residual finds included medieval glazed floor tiles and window glass, post-medieval pottery, clay tobacco pipe, coffin nails, shroud pins and coffin furniture comprising coffin grips and coffin studs.
- 3.6 The earliest depiction of the church is on John Speed's map of Nottingham dating to 1610 (Fig. 3) where it is shown as a large structure occupying a significant position within the centre of Nottingham. The Chapter House built in 1890 is first illustrated on the 2nd Edition OS 1:2500 County Series map of 1901 (Fig. 4).

4 Aims and Objectives

- 4.1 The objectives of the fieldwork were in accordance with the WSI produced by TPA on behalf of MSM and agreed by Dr. Mike Hawkes, Archaeological Advisor to the Diocese of Nottingham and Southwell (Appendix 1).
- 4.2 The primary objective of the archaeological work was to monitor the external excavation of the drain route from the north wall of the Chapter House to ensure that any archaeological information present in the area undergoing destructive removal of deposits were recorded appropriately in order to ensure preservation by record.
- 4.2 All excavation and recording was carried out in line with CIfA guidelines and standard archaeological practice.

5 Methodology

- 5.1 The redevelopment work at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin was undertaken using hand excavation. The work was carried out under continuous archaeological supervision.
- 5.2 All exposed surfaces were inspected by a suitably qualified archaeologist and any archaeological deposits were hand cleaned and recorded where appropriate. All contexts were given an individual context number. Plans and sections of all contexts including features were drawn on drafting film in pencil at a scale of 1:20/1:50, and showed at least context numbers, all colour and textural changes and principal slopes represented

as hachures. Digital photographs of each context were taken, together with general views illustrating the principal features of the excavations: these were supplemented by black and white images of subjects worthy of publication. Black and white images were on 35mm print film, using SLR camera; digital colour images were DSLR at 7 megapixel minimum resolution. Written records were maintained as laid down in TPA recording manual.

5.3 The ground works were located within the grave yard to the north of the Chapter House, and as such there was the potential for unrecorded burials to be present. The WSI recommended the following methodology should human remains be encountered:

4.7 *No human remains will be removed from site, in line with the general principles expressed in Annexe LI Sections 105-110 of the 2005 (The Church of England/English Heritage) Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England. Where articulated remains are encountered these will be cleaned, inspected for pathological significance and recorded on appropriate skeletal sheets and left in-situ where possible. If excavated these will be left on site for reburial.*

5.4 A full methodology can be found in the WSI (Appendix 1).

6 Results

6.1 Trench 01

6.1.1 The groundwork comprised the excavation of a small north-south aligned trench which extended approximately 3m from the north wall of the Chapter House (Fig. 5; Plates 1-3). The trench measured a maximum of 0.45m in width and 0.52m in depth.

6.1.2 The foundations of the north wall of the Chapter House had been truncated by modern drainage (Plate 5).

6.1.3 Deposit (0002) was located below the modern gravel path (0001) (Figs. 5 and 6; Plate 4). It exceeded the depth of the trench and consisted of dark greyish brown silt loam with inclusions of rounded pebbles and fragments of bricks and sandstone with large amounts of disarticulated human remains. The assemblage comprised eight long bone fragments, three ribs, three clavicles, four vertebrae, one calcaneus, five metatarsals and twenty unidentified fragments. The preservation of the bone was poor and most were heavily fragmented. A small fragment of clay pipe stem dating to the 17th century was also recovered from this deposit. The mixed nature of this deposit with disarticulated bone suggests it to be a grave-earth.

6.1.4 Grave cut [0003] was located towards the southern extent of the trench and truncated deposit (0002) (Figs. 5 and 6; Plate 5). It was east to west aligned with vertical edges and measured 1m in width and greater than 0.5m in depth. The lower fill (0005) was comprised of dark grey silt loam with occasional inclusions of rounded pebbles. The upper fill (0004) consisted of light pinkish brown sandy silt loam with frequent inclusions of rounded pebbles. Two in-situ human femurs measuring 44cm in length were encountered in the lower fill (0005). A fragment of mid reddish orange roof tile with numerous small black iron oxide inclusions was also recovered from (0005). This fragment is undiagnostic and could be medieval or Post-medieval in date.

6.2 The Stratigraphic Sequence

- 6.2.1 Deposit (0002), a grave-earth, was encountered below the gravel path (0001) at a depth of 0.05m. The east to west aligned linear feature [0003], an apparent grave, truncated deposit (0002) towards the southern extent of the trench. The grave cut [0003] contained a lower fill (0005) and an upper fill (0004) which was overlaid by the gravel path (0001).

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 No analysis could be made of the foundations of the north wall of the Chapter House due to its truncation by modern drainage.
- 7.2 Beneath the modern path (0001) grave-earth (0002) was encountered truncated by a single grave [0003]. The shallow nature of the grave at 0.5m, taking into consideration some truncation during the construction of the Chapter House in 1890, suggests that it is likely to be 17th century or earlier in date with much deeper burials being the norm in the 18th-19th centuries. The survival of the grave cut within the grave-earth indicates that it was one of the later burials in the immediate vicinity, undisturbed by any later burials. It is probable that further shallow unmarked burials are present below the path and close to the Chapter House walls.

8 Bibliography

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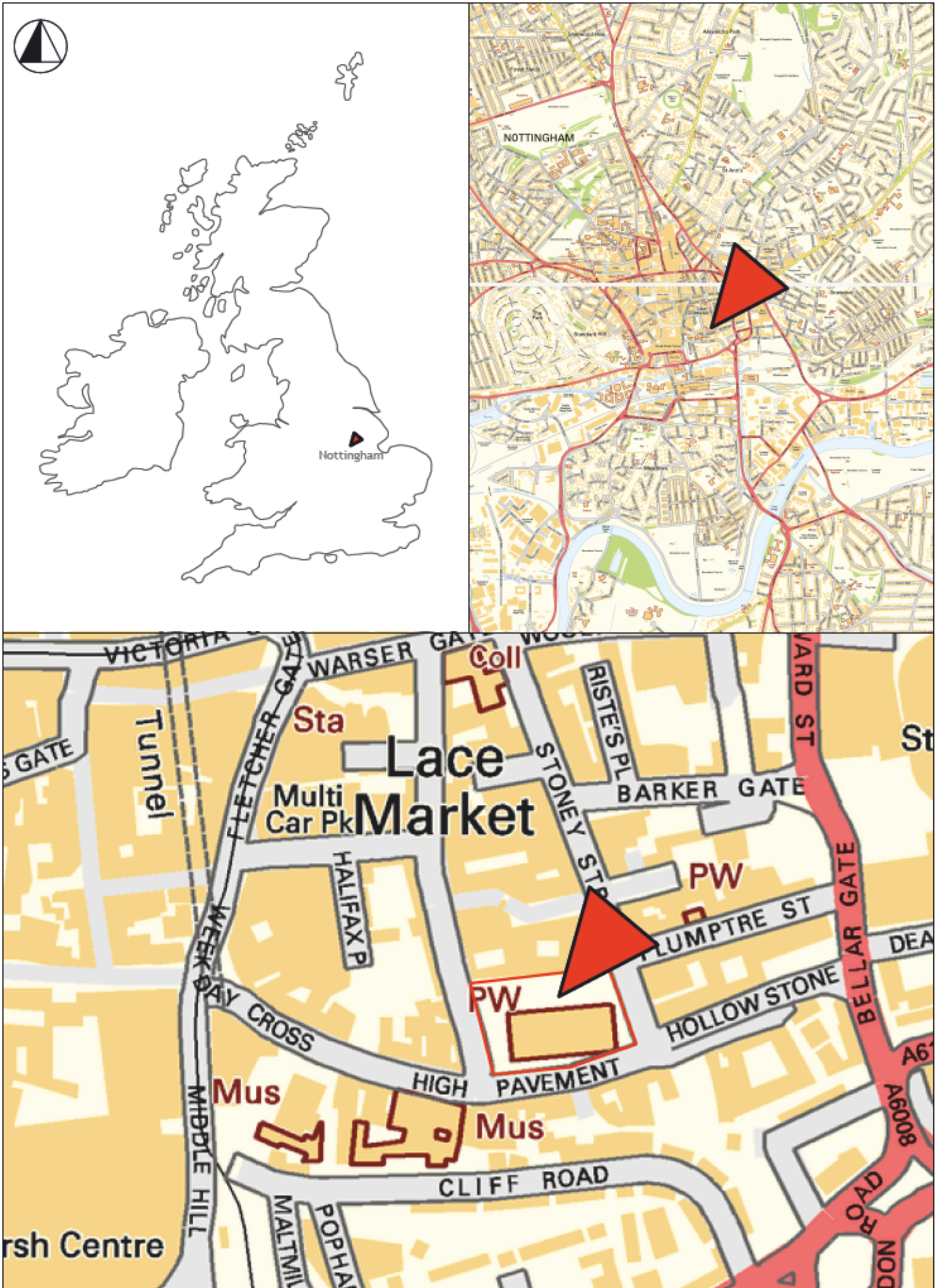
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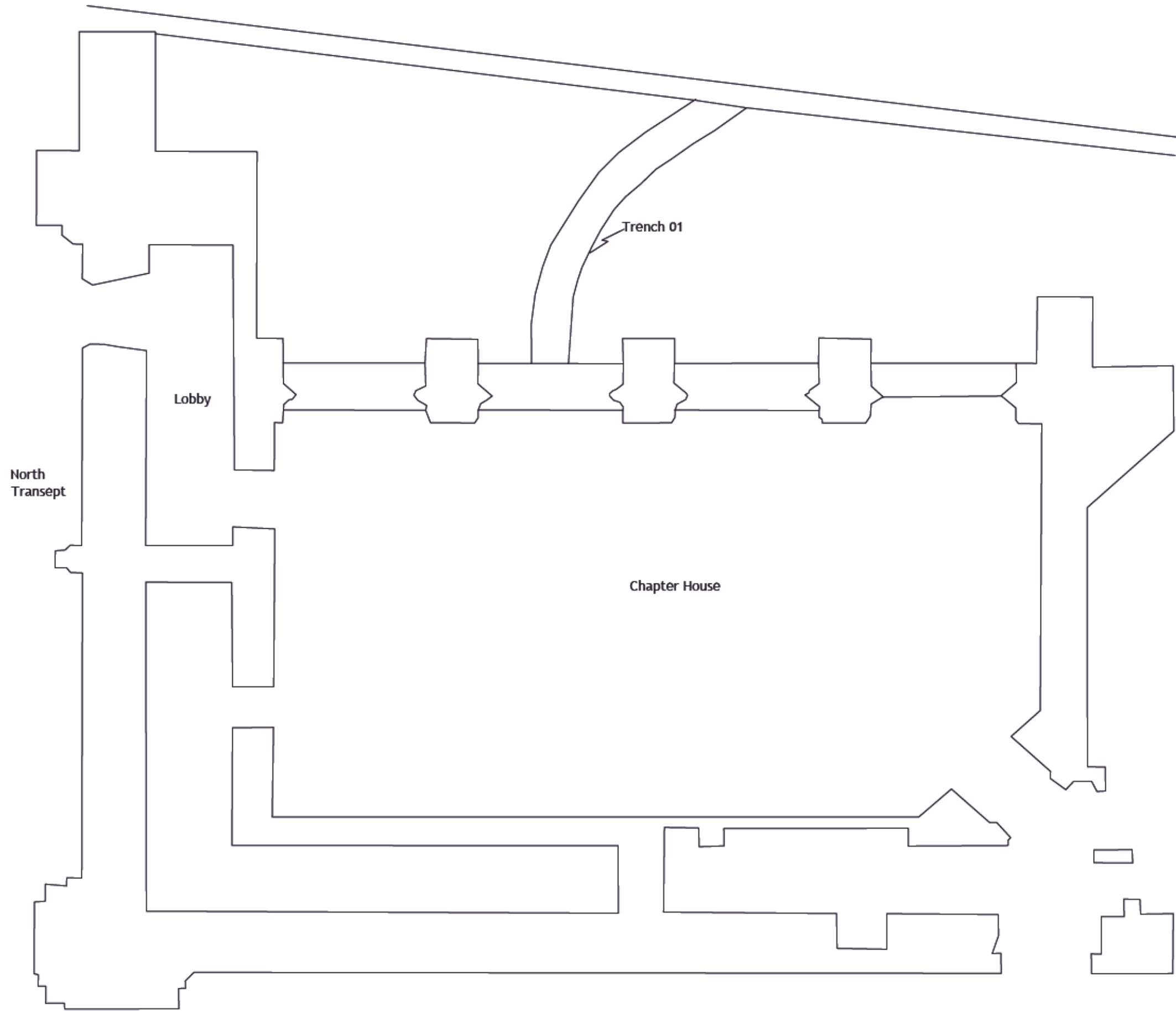
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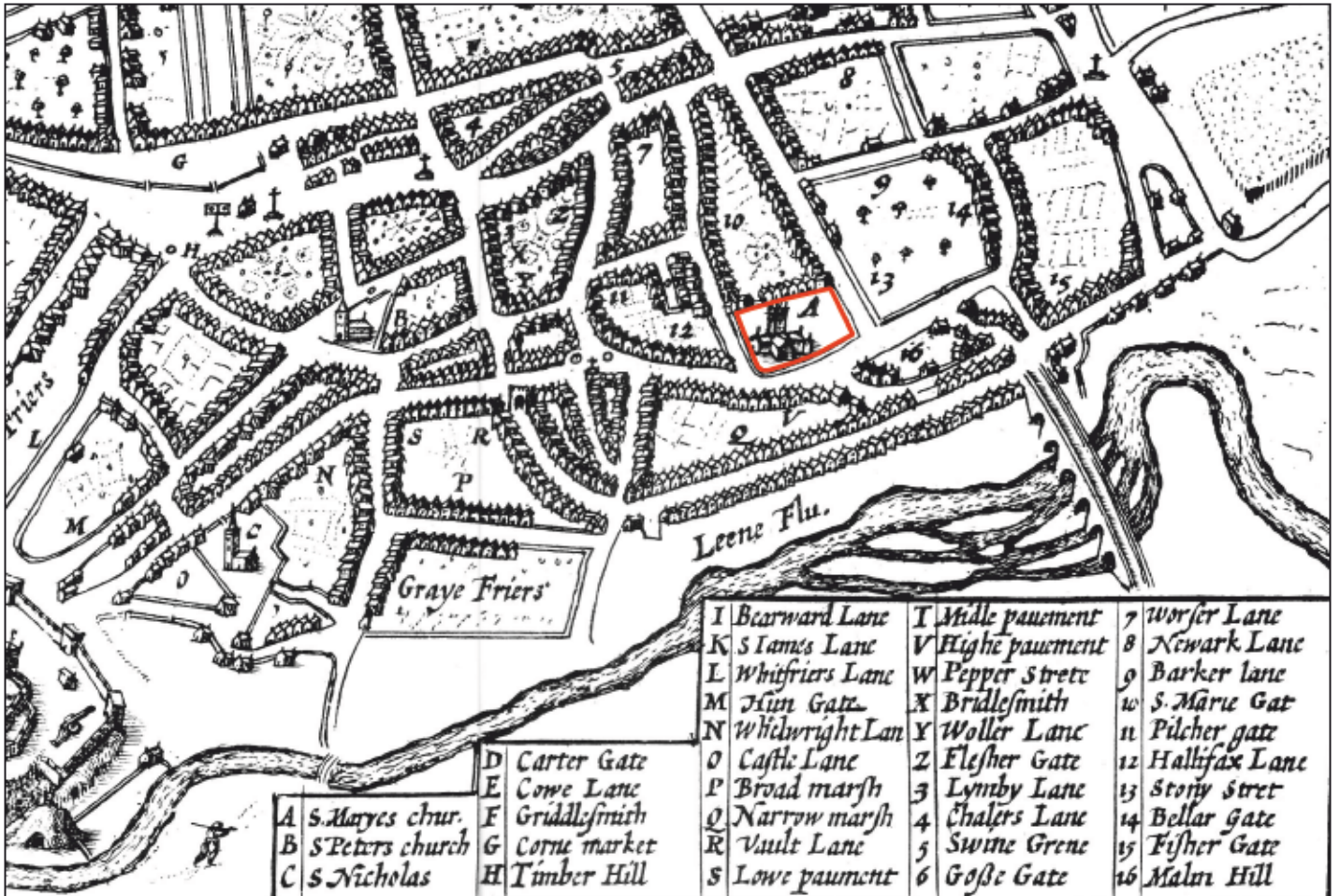
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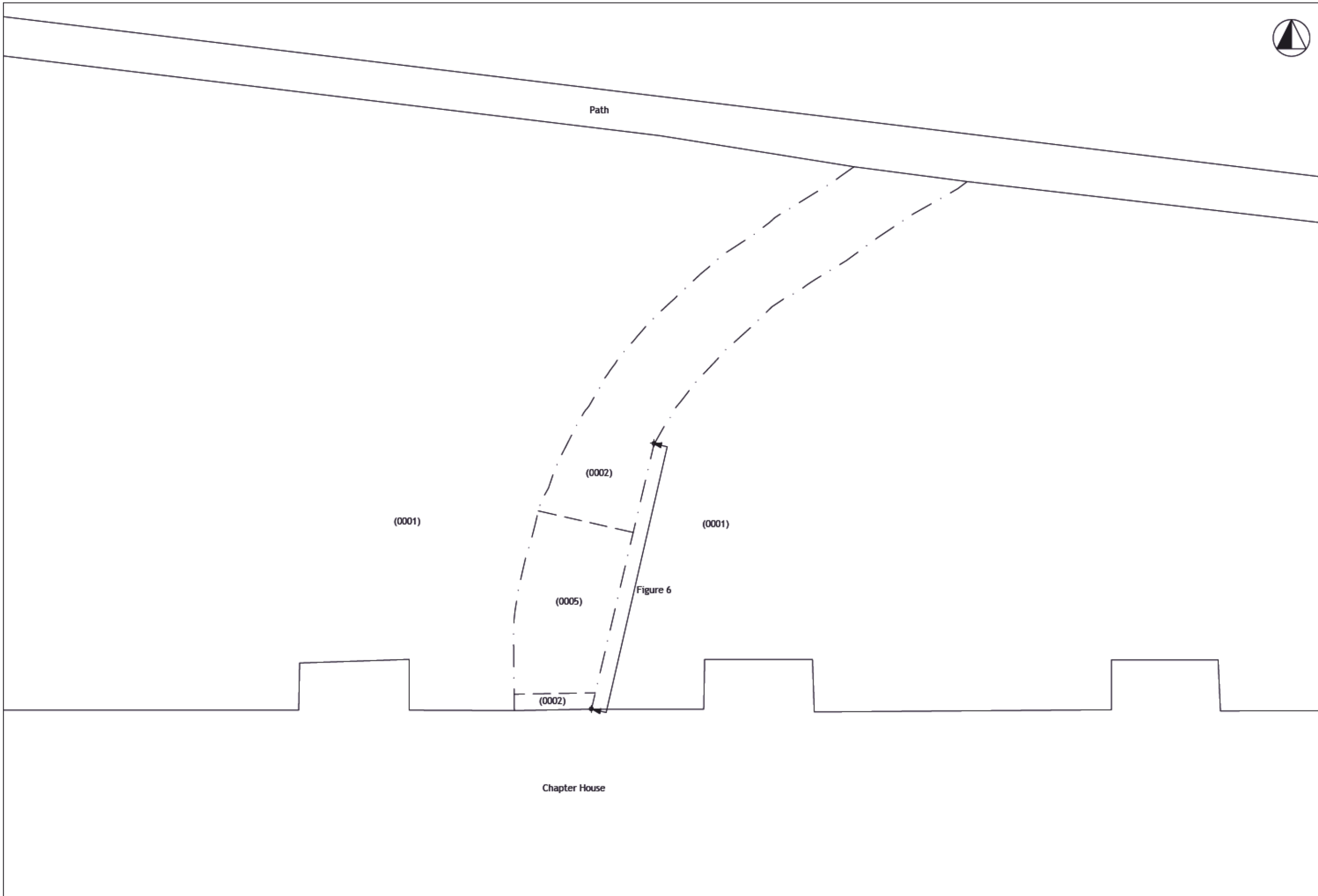




tp SNM Figure 3 The Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Nottingham
 Trent & Peak Archaeology Extract from John Speed's Map of Nottingham of 1610, with the site highlighted in red.



tp SNM Figure 4 The Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Nottingham
 Trent & Peak Archaeology Extract from the Second Edition OS 1:2500 County Series map of 1901.



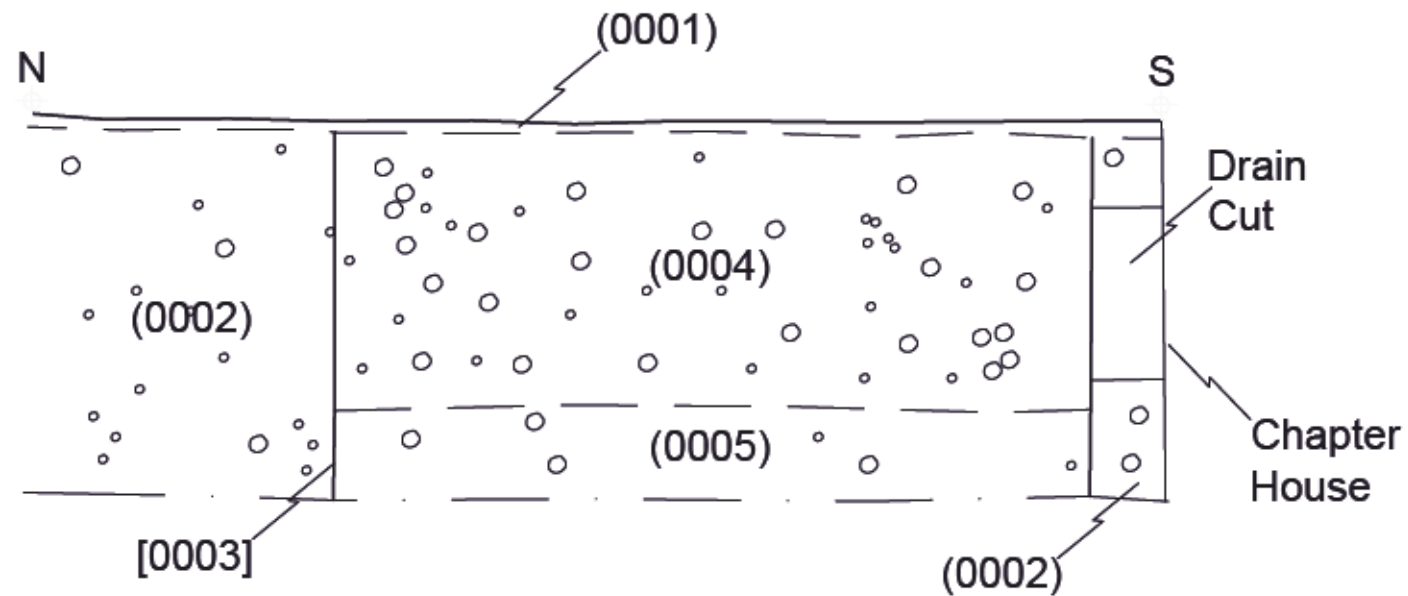




Plate 1: General view of site showing the trench and Chapter House, viewed looking south.



Plate 2: General view of the trench and Chapter House, viewed looking south.



Plate 3: Post-excavation plan view of the trench, viewed looking south-west.



Plate 4: West facing section of the trench showing deposit (0002), viewed looking south-east.



Plate 5: West facing section of the trench showing grave cut [0003], viewed looking south-east.



Plate 6: In-situ human remains within grave cut [0003], viewed looking east.

CHURCH OF ST.MARY THE VIRGIN, NOTTINGHAM

Written Scheme of investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief

May 2017

Prepared by L.Elliott & M.Hurford



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CHURCH OF ST.MARY'S THE VIRGIN, NOTTINGHAM

PROPOSED

Written Scheme of investigation for Archaeological Recording

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1. This proposed written scheme of investigation for archaeological watching brief at St.Mary's the Virgin, Nottingham (Grade 1 Listed) is in response to proposals to improve the below ground drainage and maintenance access to the Chapter House.
- 1.1.2. The schemes impact on any archaeology present will be limited by the shallow depth of the groundwork complemented by the archaeological monitoring and recording of the groundwork to deal with any potential archaeology (with preservation by record of any deposits or finds exposed).
- 1.1.3. Although currently not expected below the Chapter House built in 1889, should highly significant structural remains be discovered the advice of the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor will be sort to establish what may need to be retained (left *in-situ*) and where possible worked around or removed.

1.2. Previous Work

- 1.2.1. A church has stood on the site since the late Anglo-Saxon period, being rebuilt several times. The fabric of the current church is largely late 14th to 15th century in date.
- 1.2.2. Little previous archaeological work has been carried out within the Church of St.Mary's the Virgin Nottingham
- 1.2.3. Groundwork on the tower during the 1840's revealed evidence of the 12th century church fabric (including Norman capitals) reused in the foundations. Further finds included medieval glazed floor tiles.
- 1.2.4. More recently archaeological work in the nave, crossing and transepts has included evaluation trenching (Elliott 2010) and archaeological recording (Elliott 2013) during the renewal of the floor in these areas. These revealed earlier structural remains (12th to 13th century in date) incorporated within parts of the foundations of the nave and the transepts. Within the nave this included the presence of medieval cross slabs. Also present in these areas were a number of brick lined burial vaults and shafts containing lead coffins. Residual finds included medieval glazed floor tiles and window glass, post-medieval pottery, clay tobacco pipe, coffin nails, shroud pins, and coffin furniture (coffin grips, coffin studs).
- 1.2.5. The Chapter House lies on the north side of the church and was completed c.1899 over a former part of the grave yard. Earlier remains could include the presence of earth cut burials and brick burial vaults or shafts. A medieval stone coffin was recovered from the south side of the chancel in 1912 during construction of the Lady Chapel. However, such remains if present are most likely to either lie below the proposed groundwork or have been truncated during construction of the Chapter House

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1. The objective of the archaeological work can be stated as: to monitor the external excavation of the drain route from the north wall of the Chapter House (Figure 1), up to a depth of c.400mm recording appropriately all archaeological deposits and artefacts exposed (preservation by record).
- 2.2. Generally excavation will stop temporarily if significant archaeological deposits are exposed to allow recording. Limited excavation of some features may be needed to determine their character, date and significance.

3. PROPOSED WORK

- 3.1. All work will be carried out as detailed within in this scheme.
- 3.3. The investigation will be carried out in accordance with the codes of conduct of The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. All recording will result in 'the preparation of a report and ordered archive', in line with the guidelines of the CIFA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, (*Standard and Guidance: for an archaeological watching brief* published December 2014)

4. WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The groundwork comprising the excavation of the external trench (see Figure 1 for location) will be carried out under archaeological monitoring.
- 4.2. The resulting exposed surface will be inspected for archaeological remains and cleaned/recorded where necessary.
- 4.3. Should no archaeological features be present the excavation will continue under archaeological monitoring to the required depth.
- 4.4. Excavation will temporarily stop in areas where pockets of archaeology are exposed to allow for their inspection, cleaning and recording. If highly significant archaeological deposits are exposed the client and Diocesan Archaeological Advisor will be informed immediately. The remains will be appropriately cleaned and recorded (See below).
- 4.5. Limited archaeological excavation of some deposits may be needed to determine their character, date and significance.
- 4.6. During monitoring of the excavation archaeological finds will be identified and recovered by the monitoring archaeologist. The location of individual significant artefacts (e.g. pottery, coins, shroud pins, lead window came, decorated floor tile, decorated stonework etc.) recovered in any soil deposits or in features will be recorded three-dimensionally. Where applicable abundant redeposited structural material (plain tile, plaster, brick) will be recorded by context.
- 4.7. No human remains will be removed from site, in line with the general principles expressed in Annex E Sections 105-110 of the 2005 (The Church of England/English Heritage) *Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England*. Where articulated human remains are encountered these will be cleaned, inspected for pathological significance and recorded on appropriate skeletal sheets and left in-situ where possible. If excavated these will be left on site for reburial.
- 4.8. Disarticulated material will be recorded as small finds, as recommended by Rodwell (*Church Archaeology* 1989), and inspected for pathological significance, but will not be removed from site, being left for reburial
- 4.9. All spoil will be inspected with for any datable or significant archaeological artefacts including coffin furniture, shroud pins, structural finds (window came, floor tile) etc.

5. RECORDING

- 5.1. All archaeological deposits or remains (including present church foundations) will where exposed, be cleaned by hand, examined and recorded. Recording will include the position and depths of the excavations and the deposits exposed by drawing (both in section and plan where applicable) and photograph.

- 5.1. All sections and plans of all contexts including features will be drawn on drafting film in pencil at a scale of 1:20, and will show at least:
context numbers,
all colour and textural changes,
principal slopes represented as hachures,
levels expressed as O.D. values, or levelled to permanent features if benchmark absent,
sufficient details to locate the subject in relation to the site 1:200 plan and O.S 1:2500 map (i.e the national grid).
- 5.2. Sections will show the same information, but levelling information will be given in the form of a datum line with O.D. value; the locations of all sections will be shown on plan.
- 5.3. Elevations will be recorded at 1:20 or 1:10 where necessary, and will show presence of mason marks, setting out marks, tool marks (with photographs of any details), and description of mortar present.
- 5.4. Digital images of each context will be taken, together with general views illustrating the principal features of the excavations: these will be supplemented by B & W prints of subjects potentially worthy of publication.
- 5.5. Written records will be maintained as laid down in TPA recording manual (as accepted by all regional county archaeologists).
- 5.6. Where brick burial shafts are identified above the level of the groundwork it may be necessary to lower the brick course work (after appropriate recording including brick sizes etc).
- 5.7. Where medieval fabric may be exposed, variations within the mortar, stone type and any tool marks etc, will be recorded, allowing identification of re-used materials and potential construction phases between courses.

6. POST –EXCAVATION PROCESSING & ARCHIVE

- 6.1. All finds will be processed and stored as recommended in "First aid for finds" (by the Archaeology section of the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, revised 1998), and marked with the site and find codes, and relevant accession numbers. These will be deposited with the appropriate Museum on completion of the report, subject to the provisions of Faculty jurisdiction and the agreement of the Parochial Church Council.
- 6.2. All human remains will be left on site for reburial.
- 6.3. Finds will remain the property of the Parochial Church Council with deposition to the relevant regional museum subject to their approval.
- 6.4. Due to the uncertainty of the type and quantity of finds to be recovered, the additional costs of specialist finds and environmental sample reports, conservation of finds, and deposition of finds should be provided for within a contingency fund, to be used on the recommendation of the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor and permission of the client.
- 6.5. The Archive will be fully indexed and contain where relevant:
copies of correspondence relating to fieldwork
site notebooks/diaries
original photographic records
site drawings (plans, sections, elevations)

original context records, matrix diagrams showing stratigraphic sequence of all contexts.
artefacts
original finds records
original sample records
original skeleton records
computer discs and printout

- 6.6. The paper and digital archive generated by TPA will remain the property of the Unit until deposited within the appropriate public archive
- 6.7. Where necessary the documentary archive will be sent to the NMR for copying.

7. REPORTING

- 7.1. A verbal report will be provided to the client on completion of fieldwork.
- 7.2. Within 10 weeks completion of the fieldwork, a final report on results with any necessary specialist reporting on artefacts will be completed and copies provided to:
the client
Diocesan archaeological advisor
Nottinghamshire County Council Historic Environment Record
Nottingham City Archaeologist
- 7.3. The report will include:
background information, a summary of works carried out, a description and interpretation of the findings, and an assessment of the importance of the archaeology found with an appropriate location plan and illustrations.
- 7.4. The results will be submitted for publication within the annual summary, if applicable, in *Transactions of the Thorton Society of Nottinghamshire*. If significant archaeological results are discovered then an individual report of an appropriate level of detail, will also be submitted for publication to a suitable academic journal.
- 7.5. Trent & Peak Archaeology shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved excepting that it hereby provides exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project, with no limitation on the number of times that the client may reproduce any report. The client's contribution will be acknowledged in any future use of the work by TPA.

8. MONITORING

- 8.1. A minimum 5 working days prior notice of the commencement of the development is to be given to the archaeological contractor and Diocesan Archaeological Advisor.
- 8.2. All phases of the investigation will be undertaken in line with the relevant 'Standard and Guidance' documents prepared by the IFA (Institute of for Archaeologists).
- 8.3. TPA will keep the client and Diocesan Archaeological Advisor informed of all material facts of the archaeological investigations. This will include agreeing any changes to the approved methodology or programme of works, and invitations to inspect any uncovered remains at appropriate stages in the fieldwork programme. The Diocesan Archaeological Advisor will be free to visit the site at any stage of the fieldwork.

9. ACCESS, HEALTH & SAFETY, INSURANCES, STAFFING.

- 9.1. The client will arrange access to the land, including space available for car parking. If possible the client will make toilet and hand washing facilities available.

- 9.2. The client will provide plans showing all services/service routes within the study area.
- 9.3. All health and safety requirements will be strictly adhered to. TPA will prepare and regularly update risk assessments of archaeological recording tasks for each stage of the archaeological project. Copies of all health and safety documentation prepared for the scheme by TPA will be supplied to the principal contractor's safety representative prior to the start of each phase of archaeological work if required.
- 9.4. TPA as part of the York Archaeological Trust carries the appropriate insurances, copies of which are available for inspection if required.
- 9.5. Excavation may have to be curtailed for safety reasons in the event of any unexpected services or unsafe circumstances are encountered.
- 9.6. The work will be undertaken by suitably qualified members of TPA according to accepted archaeological practice.
- 9.7. The project will be managed by Matt Hurford and L.Elliott (detailed C.V will be supplied upon request), with experience on several church archaeology projects.

REFERENCES

- Elliott L 2010. *Church of St.Mary's the Virgin, Nottingham; A Report on the Archaeological Evaluations.*
- Elliott L, 2012. Nottingham, St. Mary's Church. *Transactions of the Thoroton Society*, 116, 33-36.
- Elliott L & Webb P 2013. *Church of St.Mary's the Virgin, Nottingham; Archaeological Recordings during Alterations to the Floor Levels.*

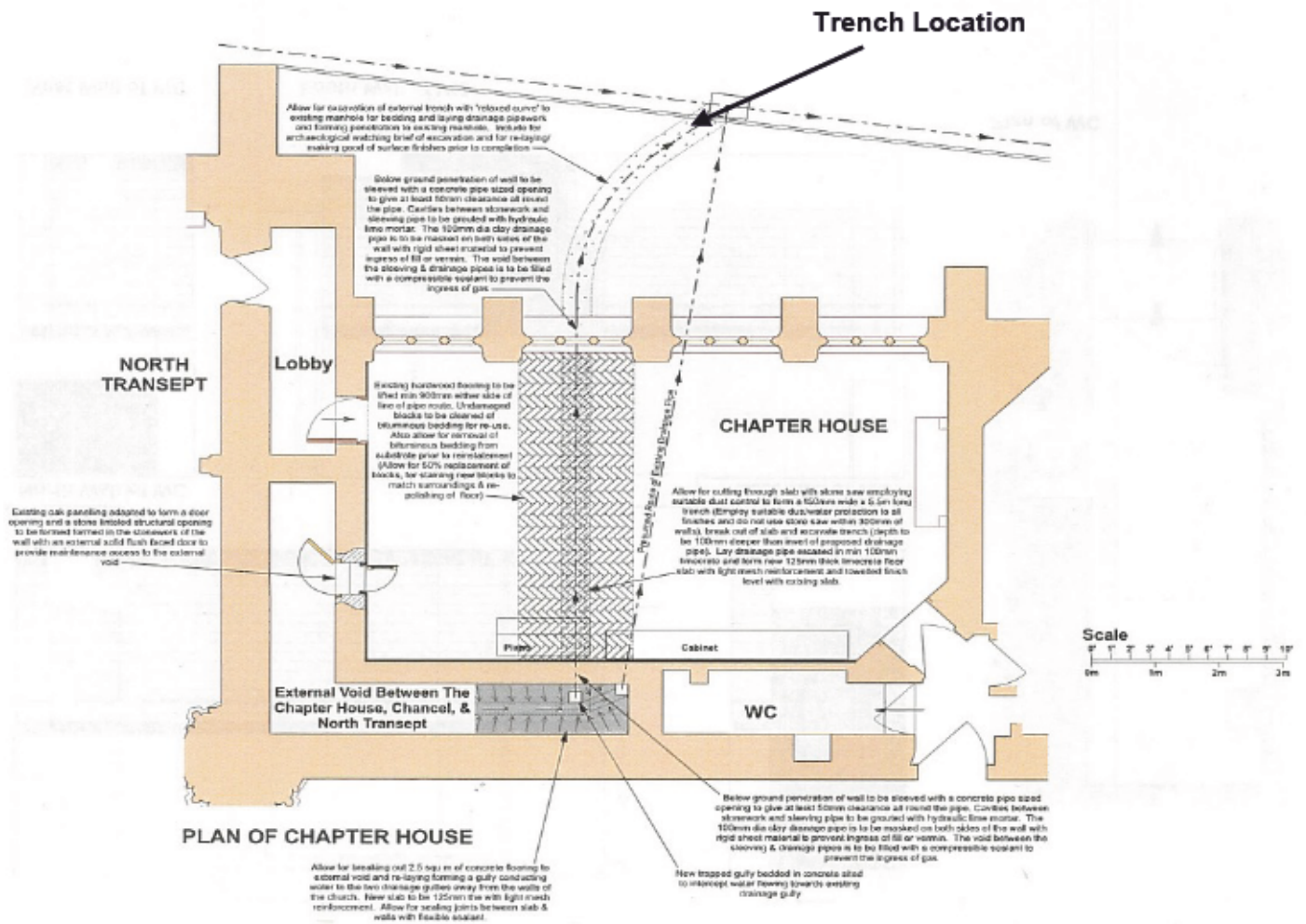


Figure 1: Trench location plan. Based on drawings provided by the client.