



prospect archaeology

**Client: Crowle PCC**

# **St Oswald's Church, Crowle, North Lincs.**

**Archaeological Recording**

**NGR: SE 9025 2552**

**N Lincs Museum Accn Code: CWCY**

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## Contents

<b>List of Figures and Plates</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>Summary</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Site Location</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Archaeological Background</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Scope of Work</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Aims and Objectives</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Method</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Results</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1. Nave South-west corner</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2. Nave north-west corner</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3. Nave east end</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>4. North aisle</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>5. Tower</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>6. Service Trench</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Discussion</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Contents of Site Archive</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Appendix 1: Ceramic Building Materials (J. Young)</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>CBM Catalogue</b>	
<b>Pottery Catalogue</b>	
<b>Appendix 2: Context Summary</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Appendix 3: OASIS Summary</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>The Figures</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>The Plates</b>	<b>53</b>

## The Figures

- Fig. 1 St Oswald's church, Crowle, site location
- Fig. 2 St Oswald's Church Crowle, location of recorded areas
- Fig. 3 Composite of all the areas investigated inside the church
- Fig. 4 Nave south-west corner. Scale 1:20
- Fig. 5 North-west corner of the nave. Scale 1:20
- Fig. 6. Nave south-east corner. Scale 1:20
- Fig. 7. Nave north-east corner. Scale 1:20
- Fig. 8 The north aisle
- Fig. 9 North aisle west end
- Fig. 10 North aisle centre
- Fig. 11 North aisle east end
- Fig. 12 The tower. Scale 1:20
- Fig. 13 The service trench
- Fig. 14 Profile of tower west wall showing position of hole drilled for service pipe. Scale 1:10

## The Plates

- Pl. 1 St Oswald's Church south side, looking north-west
- Pl. 2 St Oswald's Church north side, looking south-west
- Pl. 3 The Crowle Stone in the north-west corner of the nave, prior to its relocation, looking south-west.
- Pl. 4 The south-west corner of the nave, prior to cleaning, showing the font prior to its relocation, looking south-west. Scales 1m and 0.50m.
- Pl. 5 Nave, south-west corner, general view west. Scales 1m and 0.50m
- Pl. 6 General view looking south. Scale 1m
- Pl. 7 General view looking west. Scale 1m
- Pl. 8 Posthole 113, part excavated, looking west. Scale 0.30m
- Pl. 9 Posthole 111, part excavated, looking west. Scales 0.50m and 0.30m
- Pl. 10 General view looking south-west
- Pl. 11 General view of north-west corner of the nave after cleaning showing the nave north wall beneath the aisle arcade and the Crowle Stone, looking north-west
- Pl. 12 Mortar floor surface, overlying demolished wall 201, looking north. Scale 1m
- Pl. 13 Damaged area of wall 201 for pew support, looking east. Scales 1m and 0.50m
- Pl. 14 Damaged area of wall 201 for pew support, with posthole 228 beneath, looking south. Scale 1m
- Pl. 15 Posthole 222, looking north. Scale 0.50m
- Pl. 16 Nave west wall showing wall scar for original position of the nave north wall
- Pl. 17 Corner of the nave west wall visible in the north aisle west wall

- Pl. 18 Mortar patch 206, looking south. Scale 1m
- Pl. 19 Posthole 207, part excavated, looking west. Scales 0.30m and 0.50m
- Pl. 20 Posthole 209, part excavated, looking west. Scales 0.30m and 0.50m
- Pl. 21 Posthole 211, part excavated. Scales 0.30m
- Pl. 22 Posthole 218. Scales 0.30m and 0.50m
- Pl. 23 South-east corner of the nave, looking south. Scales 1m and 0.50m
- Pl. 24 South-east corner of the nave, looking east. Scales 1m and 0.50m
- Pl. 25 North-east corner of the nave, looking north. Scales 1m and 0.50m
- Pl. 26 North-east corner of the nave, looking east. Scales 1m and 0.50m
- Pl. 27 Grave slab 5611, looking east. Scale 0.50m
- Pl. 28 The nave north wall running beneath the aisle respond, looking east. Scales 1m and 0.50m
- Pl. 29 Detail of the nave north wall, looking east. Scale 1m
- Pl. 30 Detail of the nave north wall, looking west. Scale 1m
- Pl. 31 North aisle after cleaning, looking east.
- Pl. 32 North aisle after cleaning, looking north-west.
- Pl. 33 Vaults 1 and 2, looking west. Scale 1m
- Pl. 34 Vaults 1 and 2, looking north. Scale 1m
- Pl.35 Coffin box 433, looking west. Scales 1m and 0.50m
- Pl. 36, decorative metal strip on edge of box, detail.
- Pl. 37 Plaques 1 and 2, looking west
- Pl. 38 Plaque 1
- Pl. 39 Plaque 2
- Pl. 40 Plaque 3
- Pl. 41 Coffin handle at west end
- Pl. 42 Lead coffin exposed at east end, looking north-west.
- Pl. 43 Vault 3 looking north. Scale 1m
- Pl. 44 Mortar floor base 430, looking north. Scale 1m
- Pl. 45 Mortar floor base 440, looking north. Scale 1m
- Pl. 46 Wall foundation of north wall of medieval north aisle, looking west. Scales 1m and 0.50m.
- Pl. 47 Junction of north and west walls of the medieval north aisle, looking west. Scales 1m and 0.50m
- Pl. 48 Remnant of wall 419 between vaults 1 and 3, looking south. Scale 0.50m
- Pl. 49 Remnant of medieval aisle north wall, looking east. Scale 1m
- Pl. 50 Wall 419, external chamfered plinth stones, looking south. Scale 0.50m
- Pl. 51 Nave east wall, 438, looking east. Scale 1m
- Pl. 52 Mortar patch 406, looking south. Scale 0.30m
- Pl. 53 Tower interior before removal of the boiler, looking north-west
- Pl. 54 Tower boiler cavity after removal of the boiler, looking north-west. Scale 1m.

- Pl. 55 Brick retaining wall, looking south-west. Scale 1m
- Pl. 56 Belfry door in tower north wall.
- Pl. 57 General view of the tower, looking south. Scale 1m
- Pl. 58 Ash and charcoal patches in the south-west corner of the tower. Scale 0.50m
- Pl. 59 Circular depression 304, marking former position of stove. Scale 0.50m
- Pl. 60 Tower south door showing pink mortar surface 307
- Pl. 61 Junction of the tower north wall with the earlier nave west wall, showing the contrast of ashlar blocks in the nave wall with the roughly dressed stonework of the tower wall.
- Pl. 62 Tower foundations in the south and west walls, looking south-west. Scales 1m and 0.50m
- Pl. 63 The tower door into the nave, prior to commencement of works, looking east.
- Pl. 64 Tower door threshold after removal of concrete steps, looking east. Scales 1m and 0.50m
- Pl. 65 Detail of chamfered course south of doorway. Scale 0.50m
- Pl. 66 Detail of chamfered course north of doorway. Scale 0.50m
- Pl. 67 Detail of north-west corner of opening showing damage caused by insertion of heating pipes, looking east. Scale 0.50m
- Pl. 68 West door threshold, looking west into the tower, showing grave 320. Scale 1m.
- Pl. 69 Tympanum above west door into tower, looking east.
- Pl. 70 Tympanum above the west door, engraving from Stonehouse 1839 a)west face b)east face
- Pl. 71 Tower west door after rebuilding, looking east into the nave.
- Pl. 72 Detail of south door jamb showing repositioned corner chamfer block, looking east.
- Pl. 73 Service trench, looking south-east towards churchyard south wall.
- Pl. 74 Churchyard, south boundary wall external face next to new manhole, looking north. Scales 1m and 0.50m
- Pl. 75 Graveslab 603, looking west
- Pl.76 Detail showing brick vault beneath graveslab 603. Scale 0.50m
- Pl.77 Corner of vault 605, looking south-east. Scales 0.50m and 0.30m
- Pl.78 Close up showing corner of vault 605, looking south-east. Scales 0.50m and 0.30m
- Pl. 79 Brick vault 606, looking north. Scales 1m and 0.30m
- Pl. 80 Brick vault 606 after excavation of the trench around the west side, looking north
- Pl. 81. Fragments of grave slab found near tower. Scales 0.50m and 0.30m
- Pl. 82. Service trench on west side of tower, looking north
- Pl. 83 Pipe trench at junction with tower west wall, looking north-east. Scales 1m and 0.50m
- Pl. 84 Hole for service pipes in tower west wall. Scales 1m and 0.50m

**St Oswald's Church, Crowle, North Lincs.  
Archaeological Recording  
NGR:SE771 120  
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**Summary**

*A programme of archaeological recording was undertaken in 2010 at St Oswald's Church Crowle during reordering works. Pew platforms in the nave and north aisle were removed and replaced with flagstones flush with the existing floors. A kitchen area was installed at the west end of the north aisle. The font was moved from the west to the end of the nave and the Crowle Stone was moved from the north side of the nave to a position next to the south door. The floor level in the tower was reduced to that of the nave, and toilet facilities were installed. Excavation was not required except in the tower and a small area in the south-west corner of the nave. Elsewhere the exposed surfaces beneath the removed pew platforms were swept clean and recorded.*

*Excavation of a service trench across the churchyard was also monitored and four 19<sup>th</sup> century brick vaulted graves were recorded. Evidence for the nave north wall foundations was found beneath the north arcade. It was 1.6m wide, the same width as those of the nave west wall. The foundations were in line with a wall scar on the nave west wall showing that the west door had originally been centrally placed in that wall and that the nave was widened by 0.60m when the north aisle was built. The north wall of the north aisle was also discovered showing that before its demolition in 1792 the medieval north aisle had been only 2.40m wide internally. Three 19<sup>th</sup> century brick vaults cut through the foundations of this wall and are assumed to pre-date the rebuild of the north aisle in 1884.*

*Excavations in the tower revealed the original external chamfered plinth of the nave west wall and its return through the door, which is an original opening and pre-dates the construction of the tower. The original threshold had been removed by the installation of heating pipes in 1915 and the construction of concrete steps through the opening. Ground level at the time of construction of the nave is estimated to be around 0.50m below existing ground levels around the tower.*

*Floor tiles found in the area of the north aisle which had been reused to support the pew platforms. Nine different types, of three different sizes, were identified indicating that there had been several phases of tiled flooring in the church. The tiles were mainly of Flemish type and were of 14<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> century date. Flat roof tiles of 13-16<sup>th</sup> century date were also found, and are assumed to have been from the church.*

## Introduction

A programme of archaeological recording was commissioned by Brown & Buttrick Architects on behalf of Crowle PCC to be carried out during the groundworks phase of work associated with the provision of new facilities in the church. This was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the faculty granted for the work.

## Site Location

The village of Crowle is situated on the A161 in the Isle of Axholme, 16km west of Scunthorpe. The parish church is situated on the north side of the village centre on a slightly elevated knoll at a height at just below 8m OD (Fig.1; Pls 1 and 2).

## Archaeological Background

The settlement at Crowle is mentioned in the *Domesday Survey* of 1086 and has Anglo-Saxon origins. The church is also mentioned and is clearly of Saxon origin, although no obvious Saxon fabric survives. The south and west walls of the Norman nave survive virtually intact. There is a complete frieze of eaves corbels along the external face of the south wall, below the clerestory which is a later addition. The south door has two orders of colonnettes, decorated capitals, and an arch of several orders, two of them with zigzag moulding (Pevsner et al. 1989, 242).

The chancel is Early English in date but was partly rebuilt in 1856. The north arcade of four bays is also Early English although the aisle was taken down in 1792 and rebuilt in 1884 by A.S. Ellis of London, when restoration in other parts of the church was also carried out.

There is a decorated cross shaft in the nave decorated in Scandinavian style with a damaged runic inscription on one of its faces. It is probably of mid-10th century date (Everson and Stocker 1999). The shaft was formerly used as a lintel over the west door but was moved to the north side of the nave in 1919 during restoration work. An engraving of the west door in Stonehouse's history of the Isle of Axholme depicts the cross shaft in position as the door lintel (1839). The preservation of the stone is almost certainly due to its reuse by the Norman masons when constructing their church.

The tower is accessed via the west door in the Norman nave, which has a tympanum above and also has a south door. There is a stair to the ringing chamber on the north side of the tower; the upper stage is Perpendicular in style and has been added to the lower stages.

## Scope of Work

A faculty was granted for major internal reordering of the church. Archaeological monitoring and recording was a condition of the faculty covering work affecting many areas inside the church. These comprised

1. Laying of new flagstones in the nave and aisle flush with existing floor in areas formerly occupied by pews or concrete surfaces.
2. Relocation of the Saxon cross shaft from the north side of the nave to a position next to the nave south door.
3. Relocation of the font from the west end of the nave to a position next to the chancel arch
4. Installation of kitchen facilities in the north aisle
5. Installation of toilet facilities in the tower
6. Installation of new heating system
7. Installation of new gas main and other services through the churchyard

In order to achieve the improvements the works requiring archaeological recording comprised

1. Removal of all remaining pews and their wooden platforms in the nave and north aisle (laying of new stone floor)
2. Reduction of floor level in south-west corner of the nave (Re-siting of the Saxon cross shaft)
3. Removal of the concrete floor in the south east part of nave and replacement with flagstones (relocation of the font)
4. Removal of pew platforms (Installation of kitchenette at the west end of the north aisle) see item 1.
5. Lowering of the floor level in the tower (installation of toilet facilities)
6. Removal of old heating system pipework (new underfloor heating system)
7. New services comprising a gas main through north east side of churchyard and water and foul drainage across the southern part of the churchyard.

## Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the Archaeological Monitoring and Recording was to allow appropriate recording of any archaeological deposits exposed during groundworks at the above site. This will include

- Recording of any archaeological stratigraphy present
- Recording and removal of archaeological artefacts as necessary

## Method

Archaeological supervision of all groundworks was undertaken in order to map and record any archaeological remains encountered in the process.



A full photographic record was made of the works on site. A context numbering system for archaeological remains will be in operation. PA operates a standard context recording system, developed by its staff over the past 20 years.

## Results

The following description refers to areas that were allocated during the recording on site. Areas 1-5 are inside the church, Area 6 was the churchyard. Each of the six areas recorded was assigned a block of numbers (Area 1 was assigned **100** onwards, Area 2 started at **200** onwards, and so on). These areas and context numbers are used for the convenience of identification only and do not have any significance regarding the date of a feature or area of the church. (The tower and east end of the nave are described here out of order. ) The numbers are shown on the accompanying drawings (Figs. 2-12). Figure 3 shows all the recorded areas inside the church.

The timber pew platforms were removed in the south-west and north-west corners of the nave and from the north aisle. In addition the raised concrete floor in the south east-corner of the nave was removed. In all areas, except for the south-west corner of the aisle where the cross was to be located, the floor level beneath was at the required formation level for the new floor. In these areas the surfaces were swept, prior to recording and no further excavation was undertaken, beyond a little further cleaning of stonework using a trowel. A hardcore of crushed limestone was laid as a base for stone flagstones, flush with the existing floor level.

### 1. Nave South-West Corner (Fig. 4)

The pew platform in this part of the nave, covering an area 3.60m x 2.20m in extent was removed and replaced with flagstone flooring (Pls 3 and 4). The Crowle Stone was moved to the north-east corner of this area and secured in a hole 1050 x 750mm, and 450mm deep. Apart from the tower this was the only other area inside the church where the floor level had to be excavated to achieve the required depth. Elsewhere, areas beneath the pew platforms were cleaned and recorded prior to a flagstone floor being laid.

Removal of loose debris (**100**) beneath the removed wooden platform to a depth of 0.08m below the existing floor surface revealed the south and west wall foundations, **110**, offset from the wall by 0.16-0.23m. Crossing the floor area were three rotted sleepers for the pews aligned N-S, sitting in three shallow trenches c.0.20m wide and 0.10m deep (**120**, **121** and **122**) (Pls 5 and 6). These trenches had been dug through a red-brown soil with red-blue clay lumps and a few pieces of

limestone (**101**) which extended over most of the exposed area. East of the middle sleeper trench **121** was a spread of crushed limestone and mortar **102** overlying the soil layer **101**, which filled a bowl-shaped hollow in the ground.

Removal of the layers **101** and **102** revealed the remains of a mortar floor surface **103** filling a dip, larger than that covered by the layer **102**, in the north half of the pew platform area (PIs 6 and 7). The southern part of the mortar floor had been truncated by later levelling, exposing earlier layers of floor makeup (**116**, **118** and **119**). Mortar floor surface **103** may be the same floor as mortar surface **206** in Area 2 to the north.

Cutting through floor layer **103** was posthole **113**, which measured 0.30m x 0.35m and a minimum of 0.25m deep (PI. 8). Its loose fill **114** contained pieces of wall plaster and flecks of wood from the removed pews were also present. The bottom of the posthole was not reached as it lay below the required level for the new floor. South of posthole **113** was a smaller circular posthole **111**, 0.24m in diameter and at least 0.20m deep; it was not fully excavated, for the same reason as above. Its fill was a mixed brown soil with clay lumps (PI. 9).

A small ashy patch, **105**, was recorded on the southern edge of floor surface **103** and the base of a posthole **106** cut through this layer. A second patch of ash and mortar, **117**, was recorded west of the central sleeper trench **121**. A soft ashy layer **115** overlay a mortary layer **116**, a small area of which was recorded on the edge of mortar floor **103**. It continued beneath **103** but no further excavation took place and its extent was not recorded.

Both **116** and **117** overlay a thin layer of white lime **118** which lined the edge of the hollow. **118** overlay a small fragment of mortar floor **123**. This, in turn, overlay a mixed brown soil with mortar flecks **119** recorded in the southern part of the area extending to the southern wall foundation. This layer of soil was seen to be overlying the red-brown soil **109** exposed in the bottom of the sleeper trenches **120**, **121** and **122** (PI. 10).

A small fragment of mortar floor **108** was recorded overlying the west wall foundations **110**, and may have been the same floor surface as **123** but the sleeper trench **122** had been dug along the edge of the wall separating the two deposits (PI. 10). **108** may also be the same mortar floor as **220** and **221** recorded in the north-west corner of the nave.

## 2. Nave North-West Corner (Fig. 5)

The pew platform area in the north-west corner of the nave measured 4.20m x 3.30m in extent. It extended from the edge of the nave west wall as far east as the first arcade pier. On its north side the pews had extended between the Crowle Stone, which was next to the respond, and the westernmost pier of the north aisle arcade.

The area was crossed north-south by three timber joists to support the pew platforms. These lay within the thickness of the loose rubble and soil, **200**. Removal of the loose soil, **200**, beneath the pew platform revealed the stone foundations of a wall, **201** (Pl. 11). The foundations belonged to the original north wall of the nave and were 1.60m wide. It comprised narrow courses of limestone and local mudstone with a few water-worn pebbles in a matrix of pinky-beige mortar. There was evidence of *in situ* burning in two small areas. The respond and the west pier of the north aisle arcade within the excavated area sit on the north edge of this foundation, as did the Crowle Stone. (While the pier is Victorian in date the respond is mostly original with a Victorian base.)

Overlying the wall foundation, was a small patch of mortar floor, **227**, that was part of a floor surface which post-dated the construction of the north aisle (Pl.12).

At the east end of wall exposed in Area 2 was a disturbed area where the pew support had been inserted (Pl. 13). In the centre of the wall, east of the Crowle Stone was a second area of disturbance where a pew support had been located (Pl. 14). The area of wall in the gap between the respond and the cross shaft was disturbed by the insertion of a 1 ½ " diameter radiator pipe that ran north-south close to the nave west wall then turned east running the full length of the north aisle, parallel to the edge of the pew base.

Two postholes were cut into the masonry of the wall foundations and may mark the position of scaffold poles used in the construction of the clerestory. Oval posthole **228** lay east of the Crowle Stone within the N-S channel cut for the pew frames (Pl. 14). Circular posthole **222** was next to the south side of the respond and contained a large water worn pebble in the base, surrounded by blue clay (Pl. 15).

Once the foundation had been discovered it was easy to identify the wall scar on the nave west wall, above the plasterwork, which shows the original position of the nave north wall (Pl. 16). When the

north aisle was built the nave was widened by 0.60m (2 ft). The west door looks off-centre but was originally centrally positioned in the nave west wall. The return of the wall is also visible externally, although mostly hidden by the stair tower to the belfry (Pl. 17).

The foundations of the nave west wall were exposed and were contiguous with the north wall foundation. Over part of the west foundations were fragments of the mortar floor, **220** and **221**. This may be the same floor as **108** recorded overlying the west wall foundation in Area 1 to the south.

A patch of mortar floor, **206**, was recorded in the south-eastern part of Area 2 (Pl. 18). This may be the same floor surface as mortar surface **103** recorded in Area 1, immediately to the south. The mortar floor **206** overlay a firm brown sandy soil, **213**, which contained a few small pieces of stone and extended over much of the area south of the north wall foundation **201**.

Cutting through the mortar floor were two filled-in post holes, **207** and **209** (Pls 19 and 20). Also cutting through the mortar surface was feature **204** which extended beyond the eastern limit of the excavated area. Its soft fill **205** contained small quantities of disarticulated human bone. A second probable grave **202** lay north of **204** and cut through layer **213**. The top of its fill **203** also contained pieces of human bone as well as 5 pieces of roof tile of 13-16<sup>th</sup> century date. These features were not fully excavated as they lay below the required formation level. A possible third grave was recorded cutting into layer **213**, partially concealed by mortar layer **206** to the east and a mortary sand patch **215** to the west. **215** was overlain by another small patch of mortar, **226**, on its south side. Cutting into **215** on its west side was an oval posthole or pit **217**, measuring 0.0.50 x 0.40m and a minimum of 0.40m deep (its full depth was not excavated). Its loose fill **216** contained many pieces of stone packing.

Cut into layer **213** north of the mortar floor was a rectangular post-hole or pit **211**, which measured 0.38 x 0.30 x 0.23m deep (Pl. 21). Its fill **212** was a mixed mortary soil. A circular posthole **224** with a diameter of 0.30m, was cut through both **213** and **214**, just west of mortar floor patch **206**. A second posthole of the same size, **218**, lay west **224**, also cut into layer **213**. Its fill was packed with small pieces of stone (Pl. 22).

### 3. Nave East End (Figs 6 and 7)

South of the nave aisle in the south-east corner there was an area of concrete floor which was 2.6m x 2m in area and 0.15m thick. It was laid directly over loose soil **500**. A triangular floor tile was found in this loose material, the only one from the site. When the area was swept and cleaned the foundations of the nave south and east walls (**501**) were exposed. There were at least three courses of irregular stone, offset from the wall by at least 0.20m, sitting on a lower offset course **507**, which projected a further 0.50m in from the walls. Much of the stonework was masked by mortar (Pls 23 and 24).

The required formation level was 0.20m below the existing stone floor and only 5cm of soil was removed. Two postholes **502** and **504** were revealed beneath **501**, both of which had been dug through a firm brown soil **506**. It is assumed that they were scaffold holes probably dating to one of the phases of repair or alteration. No finds were made so no date for these deposits could be ascertained.

To the north of the nave aisle a narrow area of floor was exposed in advance of the relocation of the font. (Pl. 25) This was the former location of the pulpit which had been set on an area of concrete **512** which extended around all sides of the north aisle respond.

Beneath the concrete at the south end of this area was a layer of soft brown sandy soil **508**. There were probably several graves in this area but no cuts could be distinguished. At the southern limit of this area and cutting into **508** and **509** was the northern edge of a later brick vault **517**. This extended beneath the stone slabs of the nave aisle (Pl. 26). A stone slab **511** extended beneath the pew on the west side of the excavated area. This dipped into the soft ground, probably the cavity of a grave beneath (Pls 26 and 27).

The northern part of this area was covered in mortar and stone (**510** and **513**) which comprised the foundations of the nave north wall, as recorded at the west end of the nave as **201** (Pls 28-30). This area was not excavated to a sufficient depth to be able to define the southern edge of the wall. A depression in the wall **514**, which contained soft brown soil was probably an area of disturbance where a pew support had sat. Cutting into the northern edge of the wall was a large pit **515**, 0.48m in diameter, which was only partially recorded (Pl. 29).

#### 4. North Aisle (Figs 8-11)

The north aisle was demolished in 1792 and rebuilt in 1884 and is 17.30m long and 3.50m wide. The pew platform extended the full length of the north aisle with a narrow area of stone flags on the south side running the length of the arcade.

The loose surface material from beneath the pew platform, **400**, was removed and the area rapidly cleaned and swept (Pls 31 and 32). This part of the church contained a large number of brick and tile fragments, including medieval floor tiles. Crossing the north aisle were six sleeper trenches for the timber frame of the pew platform (**403, 410, 414, 415, 443, 444**). Bricks or tiles were placed at each end of the trenches as supports for the timber frame, which was removed by the contractors.

Immediately evident, after the initial cleaning, was a double brick-lined vault. The southernmost vault, **431**, which measured 2.15m x 0.70m internally, was capped with three large stone slabs, **432** (Pls 33 and 34). The centre slab was found to be broken and collapsed into a void below. On removal a cavity was revealed which containing a lead coffin, in a leather-covered wooden outer case, **433** (Pl. 35). The leather-lined wooden lid was decorated with pressed tinned metal strips and three plaques (Pl. 36). Plaque 1 at the west end of the case was 0.26m long and 0.16m wide, tapering to 0.09m, had a seated female figure facing left on a plinth, with swag below (Pls 37 and 38). The centre plaque 2 was the largest, measuring 0.46m x 0.33m. It depicted a seated female figure facing left with an angel to either side. Beneath the figure is an illegible inscription (Pls 37 and 39). Plaque 3 was very corroded and had been previously damaged. It measured 0.26m high, 0.20m wide at its widest point. The lower half contained a shield with cannon to either side (Pl. 40).

The coffin had three drop handles along the sides and one at each end. They were mounted on nearly-rectangular plates and measuring 0.24m wide and 0.18m deep (Pl. 41). Part of the wooden box had collapsed and exposed a lead coffin inside which measured 1.86m long, the head 0.38m wide, the foot 0.35m and the widest point was 0.55m. There was lattice incised decoration on the surface of the coffin (Pl. 42). Two courses of brickwork were removed from the vault lining and then the stone slabs were replaced. This was so that the grave would be sealed beneath the new floor. The coffin was left *in situ*.

The adjacent grave to the north, Vault 2 (**434**), was the later of the pair; the brick lining making use of the north wall of Vault 1 to form its south wall. It was filled with soil, **435**, and all that was visible

was the brick lining (Pls 33 and 34). A third brick-lined vault, **429** lay 0.50m west of the double vault. (Pls 33 and 43). It had no cover and was filled with soil, **439**. The cut for this vault, **427** was visible and it was filled with sand **428**. West of, and earlier than, Vault 3 was grave **422** whose fill **423** contained stone fragments. A posthole **425** cut through the fill of this grave and may be associated with the rebuilding of the north aisle in 1884.

The three brick vaults, and grave **422**, sat over the line of the original north wall of the aisle which was demolished in 1792 and thus are clearly later than this date. Whether they were constructed before the north aisle was built is not so clear, but it is likely that they were originally built outside the church, only to end up inside the church when the north aisle was rebuilt in 1884.

The area north of the original aisle wall mainly comprised a firm brown soil with mortar lumps and flecks, and a few small pieces of stone. It was overlain by patches of mortar floor **430** and **440**, which must be associated with the Victorian aisle, prior to the installation of the pews (Pls 44 and 45). While these patches appear to respect the edges of the vaults **431** and **439** they abutted the vaults.

The medieval north wall of the aisle, **419**, was most clear at the west end of the present aisle. At the west end of the north aisle is a wall whose external facing of stones has been robbed but the internal edge survives (Pl. 46). It was recorded for a length of c.4.80m extending from its junction with the west wall foundations as far as grave **422**, described above. It was approximately 0.80m wide, the internal facing stones being present but those on the external face had been removed. A spread of mortar, **442**, which extended over the wall and into the north-west corner of the present aisle may have concealed a corner buttress but was not removed. The foundation construction of the present aisle west wall was very different south and north of wall **419**. This is because the foundations **402**, belong to the medieval aisle while **418** north of wall **416** belong to the Victorian rebuild (Pl. 47). Two stones lying between Vaults 3 and 1 probably belong to wall **419** (Pl. 48). East of double vault 1 and 2 was a narrow spread of mortar which may represent the wall line **419**. This spread east of the pew sleeper trench and was associated with three chamfered stones (Pls 49 and 50). These were the only surviving edge of the external wall face. The outline of a buttress east of the double vault was defined by the mortar. To the south of **419** was a yellow mortar spread **437**, remnant of a floor base.

At the east end of the north aisle was the east wall foundation, **438**, running beneath the floor of the organ chamber (Pl. 51). The exposed width was 0.90m wide. The north wall could not be traced as far as the east wall and there was no indication of a break in construction as there had been on the west wall. It is possible that the east wall is part of the 1884 rebuild and that the medieval east wall was not found.

In the area south of the medieval aisle north wall the area most of the ground at the west end comprised a firm light brown soil with mortar flecks. Soft patches in the soil probably represented graves but time constraints meant that their edges were not all defined. Two were positively identified along the southern edge of the excavated area, **404** and **408**. Soft areas to the north and east of **408** were probably the locations of two further burials.

A small patch of mortar floor, **406**, sat on top of the west end of grave **408**. A second patch of mortar floor, **421**, survived adjacent to the wall **419** (Pl. 52). A patch of burning **407** was situated north of mortar patch **406**.

## 5. Tower (Fig. 12)

The north half of the tower had been excavated to a depth of 0.85m below a herringbone brick floor to accommodate the boiler in 1915, with access via two brick steps next to the tower door (Pls 53 and 54). The area to the south was reduced to approximately the same level in order to create a new floor, level with that in the nave.

Bricks from the retaining wall of the boiler cavity are frogged and stamped RICHARD THOMAS & Co. LTD CROWLE (Pl. 55). A door in the north wall of the tower leads to the stair to the belfry (Pl. 56). It has chamfered stops at the base of the door jambs with a modern, concreted threshold 0.04m below the chamfer stop.

South of the boiler chamber was a herringbone brick floor **301**, that extended across the south half of the tower. It had been constructed using a variety of bricks, some of which were frogged and stamped; others were older, smooth red bricks. This floor surface was removed by the contractors and was bedded on a layer of dark orange sand, **302**, which was 0.15m thick. Underneath the sand was part of an earlier brick floor, **303**, running diagonally from the west door towards the south west



corner of the tower (Pl. 57). This comprised hand-made bricks of 14-16<sup>th</sup> century date, measuring 220 x 108 x 50-55mm in size, bedded on a layer of sand **311**.

To the south of the brick floor **303** was a compact earth floor, **306**, which extended over the threshold of the tower south door. Three patches of charcoal and ash were recorded sitting on the earth floor (**310**, **308** and **313**) (Pl. 58). Cutting into ash patch **313** was a circular depression, **304**, which contained loose soil with brick fragments and 19<sup>th</sup> century clay pipe bowls and stems, bottle glass and pottery (Pl. 59). In the tower ceiling above was a circular hole, interpreted as an opening for a stove flue.

Beneath soil layer **306** within the thickness of the south wall was pink-grey mortar surface **307** beneath the threshold of the south door (Pl. 60). This area had been disturbed by the insertion of a water pipe and bricks supporting the modern threshold stones. It overlay the core of the wall, **319**.

Beneath the brick floor **303**, and the soil layer **306**, was a layer of very hard mixed boulder clay, **312**, 0.10m thick, which extended across the southern part of the tower. It overlay a thin loose mortary layer, **313**, which may have been the construction horizon for the tower.

The tower has been built on to the west end of the nave and is constructed in courses of varying depth using small roughly dressed stone. Insertion of the tower wall into the earlier nave west wall is particularly clear on the north side (Pl. 61). The foundations for the north wall of the tower, **317**, were visible c.0.10m below the level of the nave west wall foundation, protruding by only 0.05m, in the cavity excavated for the boiler, and were painted over. A much broader offset foundation, 0.20m wide, was recorded along the south wall of the tower (Pl. 62 ).

The east side of the tower is actually the west wall of the nave, **315**, and is constructed in fine magnesian limestone blocks, typically measuring 0.26m x 0.23m x 0.37m (Pl. 63). A chamfered plinth, at the base of the wall follows around the opening at the south-west corner of the doorway, showing that the door was a contemporary opening and not a later insertion (Pls 64 and 65). It is unfortunate that this block had to be removed as part of the reduction of the threshold to the level of the nave floor, but it was reset in the wall to the south of its original position so that it is now flush with the line of the wall (Pls 71 and 72).

The north side of the opening was damaged when the heating pipe from the boiler was installed and the plinth does not survive (Pl. 64, 66 and 67). The original threshold had been removed by the later insertion of three steps from the nave into the tower, whose most recent form post-dated the insertion of the heating pipes.

An earlier intrusion had been a grave **319** that cut into eastern edge of the doorway, extending beneath the unexcavated area of the nave aisle floor (Pl. 68). Its fill **320** was a soft sandy soil which contained fragments of 14-16<sup>th</sup> century brick and tile.

The door jambs are straight and the door opens inward. The recorded wall thickness, including the offset foundation **316** is 1.64m, virtually the same as the north wall foundation **201/510**. The wall itself, including plaster, is 1.50m thick. It is this entrance where the Crowle Stone had been situated, used as a lintel for the door until its removal in 1919. The door head and tympanum are not visible on the nave side because they are painted and plastered over (Pl. 16). On the west face some of the voussoirs of the door head are faintly visible as is part of the tympanum. Above the door is a clock whose wooden casing masks the tympanum. However, on opening the hatch, the unpainted section of the tympanum was visible displaying with what appears on first inspection to be incised cross-hatching (Pl. 69). Whether this is truly the case (as described in the listing description of the church) or blocks of stone as described by Stonehouse in his description of the church (1839) was not clear when viewed from a distance (Pl. 70).

## **6. Service trench across the churchyard**

A service trench for water and foul water was dug by mini-excavator from the southern boundary of the churchyard to enter the church through the base of the west wall of the tower (Pl. 73).

Although part of the boundary wall to the west is constructed in older brick the point at which the service trench was dug was rebuilt c. 1960. The modern brick boundary wall sits on a stone foundation at least 4 courses deep and set in a foundation trench filled with rubble. A hole was drilled through the south wall of the churchyard wall, east of the lamp post and ran north-west towards the porch, parallel to the footpath. At the point where the trench entered the churchyard it was 0.50m wide and 1.m deep (Pl. 74). The dark brown sandy topsoil **600** was 0.20m deep overlying a red-brown sandy soil **601**. A few fragments of human bone were encountered at a depth of only 0.30m, but the majority were encountered at 0.90m to the base of the trench. Parts of at least 20

individuals were disturbed along the route of the trench. All bone retrieved was handed over to the incumbent for reburial.

A large brick-lined vault with a stone cover 2.40m long and 1m wide was encountered (**603**). It commemorated five members of the same family and representing three generations, the earliest of whom died in 1786 and the last in 1899. A second stone slab had been secured to the base of the first with two iron clamps, to fit the last inscription for the last member of the family (Pl. 75 and 76). The full inscription read

*Here*  
Lieth the Body of  
William Dawson of Eastoft  
Who departed this Life  
The 1<sup>st</sup> of March 1786  
Aged 32 Years  
HERE Also Lieth the Body of Mary  
The Wife of William Dawson and  
Daughter of John and Alice Mar  
grave who departed this Life  
January the 7<sup>th</sup> 1799  
Aged 41 Years  
ALSO IN MEMORY OF SARAH  
WIFE OF WILLIAM DAWSON MARGRAVE  
OF EALAND, WHO DIED JANUARY 25<sup>th</sup> 1866  
AGED 83 YEARS  
BE MINDFUL OF DEATH  
ALSO  
WILLIAM DAWSON MARGRAVE  
OF EALAND WHO DIED JANUARY 26<sup>TH</sup> 1872  
AGED 86 YEARS  
ALSO  
WILLIAM DAWSON MARGRAVE  
OF CROWLE WHO DIED JAN<sup>Y</sup> 9<sup>TH</sup> 1899  
AGED 82 YEARS

The route of the trench was diverted south, and around the west side, of the vault and its contents remained undisturbed.

At manhole 3 a second brick vault (**604**) was clipped by the trench 1.50m south of the first vault. A third vault (**605**) lay 2.10m north of Manhole 3 (Pls 77-78). These were avoided and no further recording was carried out.

Next to the flagpole, north of the vaults **604** and **605**, a fourth vault **606**, was encountered at a depth of 1.60m below ground level. It was constructed in large, handmade, bricks 234 x 110 x 74mm in size, suggesting a date in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (Pl. 79). The trench was diverted southwards to avoid the vault. The stone cover had collapsed into the vault which was 1.50m deep and was buttressed on the external south face (Pl. 80). At this point the trench was 1.90m deep and below the topsoil **600** was the graveyard soil **606** between 0.25m and 1.65m depth. Below 1.65m was the natural orange sand **602**.

Fragments of a grave slab were found near to the Inspection chamber at the south-west corner of the tower. Only the lower part was found and no name was present on the surviving part of the inscription (Pl. 81).

The inscription read

.....*The 19<sup>th</sup>*

*January 1806 in the*

*.....Year of the Age*

*The prayer is .... The....*

*And sees her Saviour the [?Lord]*

*But still she speaks to us tho: [?gone]*

*She calls us to that [?house] only place*

*Where all the .....of life are o'er*

*And pain and partings are no more*

The trench continued around the south end of the tower- there were no graves although one or two pieces of bone were observed. At this point the trench was 0.50m east of the churchyard wall and was 1.30m deep and 0.70m wide. A spur was dug eastwards to join with the tower west wall and the profile of the tower plinth and foundations was exposed (Pl. 83). A hole, 0.20m in diameter, was drilled through the wall at 0.28-0.48m below the existing ground surface (Fig. 14 and Pl. 84).

## Discussion

Although there was minimal excavation in the nave and north aisle cleaning of the areas beneath the wooden pew platforms revealed important evidence for the former layout of the church. In the south-west corner of the nave where the Crowle Stone was to be relocated it was necessary to remove some of the deposits below the pews. It was in this area that the ground had sunk, creating a bowl like depression which had been levelled up with crushed limestone. It is possible that there was a grave below but the area revealed in the excavation was too small to be sure and would have required more extensive excavation than was required to establish the reason for its presence.

The mortar fragments **108** overlying the west wall foundation were all that survived of the first floor surface in this part of the nave. It is not clear whether other mortar layers, such as **118** which had sunk into the bowl shaped depression and were not fully excavated, were part of this floor surface. The brown soil **109**, recorded at the bottom of the pew sleeper trenches looked very similar to the graveyard soil outside, confirming that there are very shallow remains surviving.

Further evidence for the original mortar floor overlying the foundations was found in the north-west corner of the nave (**220**). The nave north wall beneath the arcade was 1.60m thick and the wall scar on the internal face of the west wall confirms that the nave was widened by 0.60m when the north aisle was built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Graves were present in this part of the site as in the north aisle but fortunately no human remains were disturbed as they lay beneath the required floor level. Further evidence for graves was also found at the east end of the nave and in the north aisle.

Soft patches of soil abounded in the north aisle and the rapid recording in this area of the church did not allow for the identification of individual graves. Burial in wood coffins, which subsequently rot, results in the collapse of soil above them into the coffin void, leaving uneven and soft areas of flooring. This is why mortar and tile floor surfaces needed to be frequently repaired. It was in this area of the church that a variety of late medieval glazed floor tiles were recovered, testament to the many repairs to, or replacement of, earlier floor surfaces. Some were used as props at each end of the sleeper trenches to support the timber frames for the pews. All were much worn and it is not known from what part of the church they originally came. Their Flemish origins are of note but not by any means unique in Lincolnshire. The presence of the medieval roof tiles in all areas of the church offers a further glimpse into how the church would have looked in the past.

It is recorded that the north aisle was demolished in 1792. Some sources say that the aisle was immediately rebuilt, others that it was not rebuilt until 1884. The presence of three brick vaults cutting through the foundations of the demolished aisle suggests that there was a period when there was no north aisle and the vaults would have been constructed in what was then the churchyard. A date in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century fits well with the style of coffin recorded in Vault 1 and the brick used in the construction of the vault walls.

It was already known before the excavation began that the tower had been added to the west end of the nave but its elevated floor level had hidden the chamfered plinth at the base of the nave west wall. It is likely that the plinth may also run around the south wall too but the ground levels outside have risen by up to 0.50m, masking the evidence on this side of the church. The discovery of the plinth and its continuation through the west door opening confirms that the door was an original feature and had not been inserted to provide access to the tower. It is unfortunate that the installation of the heating system in 1903 resulted in damage to the north side of the opening and any original threshold had also long been removed.

Approximately half the tower floor area had been removed when the boiler was installed in 1915. The upper brick floor was clearly contemporary and sealed part of an earlier brick floor which did not extend to the edges of the room. The reason for this is not clear although in the south-east corner was the pit containing the rake out from a small stove. The other patches of charcoal and ash suggest that there was a period when there was no floor surface in this part of the tower. The clay tobacco pipe bowls, are mid 19<sup>th</sup> century in date and it is likely that this stove was in use until the new boiler was installed. There was no evidence for any burials in the tower nor was there any evidence for a bell pit.

The service trench which ran through the graveyard encountered human remains, mostly disarticulated, especially where the trench was at its deepest. The route was diverted in order to avoid the brick vaults that were encountered so that they, and their contents, were left undisturbed. There was minimal disturbance at the point where the service trench entered the churchyard with some evidence for a former boundary wall with stone foundations. Clearly earlier than the 20<sup>th</sup> century brick wall above, the stonework may belong to the earlier brick wall that survives to the west, or even a predecessor. There was no evidence for any other form of boundary marker such as an associated bank or ditch.

## Conclusion

The 2010 programme of refurbishment was undertaken with great care to minimise disturbance to the potentially important archaeological remains in the church. It provided an opportunity to record important new evidence about the development of the church including evidence for the original position of the nave north wall and the dimensions of the medieval north aisle. The reuse of late medieval floor and roof tiles in the construction of the Victorian pews have also thrown light on the materials that were used in the flooring and roofing of the medieval church.

Naomi Field  
September 2012

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## Contents of the Site Archive

Correspondence

Site notes

Digital site location plans

6 plans on polyester sheets

Photographs. Digital images Film no 12/50 317 images

## **Appendix 1: Ceramic Building Materials (J. Young)**



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**REPORT ON THE CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL FROM CROWLE CHURCH, CROWLE,  
LINCOLNSHIRE (CWCY)**

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**JANE YOUNG CERAMIC CONSULTANT**

## INTRODUCTION

Forty fragments of ceramic building material weighing 16.555kg were submitted for examination. The material probably ranges in date from the medieval to the early modern period. The fragments were examined both visually and at x 20 binocular magnification. The resulting archive was then recorded using Lincolnshire codenames in an Access database and complies with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski, *et al.* (2001) and the Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeological Handbook* (sections 13.4 and 13.5). Nine different glazed floor tile types have been identified amongst the material examined and descriptions of these are given below.

## CONDITION

The material recovered is in an abraded to slightly abraded condition. Most of the glazed floor tile fragments have been heavily worn on their upper surface and several have mortar adhering to broken edges suggesting that they have been reused.

## THE CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

A limited range of ceramic building, mainly late medieval to post-medieval glazed floor tile, was examined.

**TABLE 1: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL CODENAMES AND TOTAL QUANTITIES BY  
FRAGMENT COUNT AND WEIGHT**

<b>Codename</b>	<b>Full name</b>	<b>Total fragments</b>	<b>Total weight in grams</b>
BRK	Brick	2	800
GFLOOR	Glazed floor tile	22	13170
NIB	Nibbed tile	3	414
PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	13	2171

### The medieval to early modern roof tile

Sixteen fragments of flat roof tile recovered from the site were examined. With one exception, all of the undiagnostic fragments are of 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century type. Most tiles are in oxidised fine to medium quartz-tempered fabrics and have reduced cores. One of these pieces, however, has a fabric similar to that found used for tiles manufactured in Beverley between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries (Armstrong 1991 and Potts 1996). One tile recovered from an unstratified context is of later 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century type. Three tiles had surviving suspension nibs. The earliest of these came from deposit 103 and has a moulded oval-shaped nib, possibly one of two, set near to the corner of the tile. This tile is likely to be of 13<sup>th</sup> to mid 14<sup>th</sup> century date, although similar tiles elsewhere in Lincolnshire date to as early as the last quarter of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The second suspension nib recovered from deposit 203 is of semi-circular shape and has been applied to the sanded side of the tile. It is just possible that this nib also has been moulded, but has failed to release from the mould and had to be re-applied. This tile is of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century type. The third nib has also been applied to the sanded side, but has been cut back to form a sharp edge. This type of nib is in use from the mid 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries

### **The late medieval to post-medieval floor tile**

Twenty-two fragments from twenty-one different glazed floor tiles were recovered from the site. The tiles are visually similar to a range of examples found at St. Peter's Church, Barton-upon-Humber (Stopford 2011). Almost all of the tiles have heavily worn upper surfaces making identification of nail holes difficult, but it is probable that most of these tiles, except Type 8, are of Flemish-type. The tiles fall into three main identifiable sizes:

- 1) Small-sized (110 to 115mm square) – Site Types 2, 3 and 7.
- 2) Medium-sized (132 to 135mm square) – Site Types 5 and 6.
- 3) Large-sized (140 to 145mm square) – Site Types 1 and 4.

**TABLE 2: FLOOR TILE TYPES**

Floor tile type	Average size in mm	Date	Total tiles
Site Floor Tile Type 1	140 x 140 x 28	14 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup>	6
Site Floor Tile Type 1 cut to triangle	98 x ? x 26	14 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup>	1
Site Floor Tile Type 2	110 x 110 x 20	16 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup>	2
Site Floor Tile Type 3	115 x 115 x 22	14 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup>	3
Site Floor Tile Type 4	145 x 145 x 32	14 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup>	1
Site Floor Tile Type 5	132 x 132 x 20	14 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup>	3
Site Floor Tile Type 6	135 x 135 x 29	14 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup>	1
Site Floor Tile Type 7	110 x 110 x 28	14 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup>	1
Site Floor Tile Type 8	? x ? x 28	13 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup>	1
Site Floor Tile Type 9 cut to triangle	120 x 88 x 84 x 29	14 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup>	1
Unknown			1
Total tiles represented			21

*Site Floor Tile Type 1*

The six examples of this type are in fine orange to red coloured fabrics with a high calcareous content. Five of the six tiles have a dark reduced green, almost black in some cases, glaze on the upper surface. One of these tiles forms a triangle. It has been moulded as part of a larger tile that has been scored before firing and then snapped after firing. The sixth tile has a yellow glaze over a thick white slip. One tile has obvious nail holes in the corners of the upper surface. These could be present on the other examples but the surfaces are so worn it is impossible to be sure. The nail holes suggest that these large-sized tiles are definitely of Flemish origin.

*Site Floor Tile Type 2*

Both examples of this type are in fine calcareous orange to red coloured fabrics and have extremely worn upper surfaces. Reduction patches and traces of red slip on the upper surface suggest that the glaze would have been a dark reduced green. The fine bedding present on these small-sized tiles and the slightly more competent manufacture suggests that they may be of a slightly later date than the other tiles.

### *Site Floor Tile Type 3*

The three examples of this type are in a fine orange to red fabric that is completely different to that used for the other small tiles but is similar to that used for some of the larger tiles. All three tiles have a dark reduced green glaze.

### *Site Floor Tile Type 4*

A single example of this large-sized tile is in a fine dull orange fabric. The tile has a dark reduced green glaze over a red slip. The upper surface is extremely worn but there appear to be a least two nail holes at the corners of the tile suggesting that it is of Flemish origin.

### *Site Floor Tile Type 5*

The three examples of this type are in a fine orange to red fabric and have dark reduced green glazes. These medium-sized tiles are slightly less well manufactured than some of the other floor tiles.

### *Site Floor Tile Type 6*

A single example of this medium-sized tile is in a fine orange to red fabric and has a fairly thick dark reduced green glaze.

### *Site Floor Tile Type 7*

The single example of this small-sized tile is in a fine orange to red fabric. The tile has a dark reduced green glaze, possibly applied over a red slip.

### *Site Floor Tile Type 8*

Only a small fragment of this type was recovered from the site. The tile is in a fine calcareous orange to red fabric that is similar to that used for some tiles at St. Peter's Church, Barton on Humber thought to have been manufactured at Beverley (Stopford 2011). The upper surface of this tile shows little traces of wear and has retained a thick dark reduced green glaze. Unlike all of the other tiles recovered from the site this tile has heavily chamfered edges suggesting that it is of 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century date.

### *Site Floor Tile Type 9*

The single example of this triangular tile is in a fine micaceous orange to red fabric. The tile has been moulded as part of a larger tile that has been scored before firing and then snapped after firing. The tile has a dark reduced green glaze.

### **The late medieval to post-medieval brick**

Two fragments from handmade bricks were found on the site. One fragment in a fine orange-red sandy fabric with common iron-rich grains is from a slop-moulded brick of 125mm width and 57mm depth. Similar handmade bricks were manufactured from the 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> centuries in several centres in North Lincolnshire and South Yorkshire. The smaller brick fragment is from a Beverley-type brick of 55mm depth. These bricks are of 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century date and were probably made at several centres in Lincolnshire and East Yorkshire.

### SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A mixed range of ceramic building material was recovered from the site. The group of glazed floor tiles suggests several episodes of flooring within the church, mainly with tiles with a dark, almost black, reduced green glaze. A single example with a yellow glaze suggests that there may have either been a lighter coloured border or a chequered floor in part of the church. Little is known about the ceramic building material sequence in this part of Lincolnshire and therefore all of material should be kept for future analysis.

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# Ceramic Building Material Archive for Crowle Church, Crowle, N. Lincolnshire (CWCY)

Jane Young and Johanna Gray

context	cname	fabric	sub type	frags	weight	description	date
203	NIB	OX/R/OX med sandy	moulded oval nib	1	168	left corner;re-applied nib;mortar incl over breaks	13th to mid 14th
203	NIB	OX/R/OX fine-med sandy	applied large semi circular nib	1	150	left corner;large nib poss originally moulded	13th to 14th
203	PNR	OX/R/OX fine-med sandy		1	126	flat roofer;corner ?;mortar incl over breaks	13th to 16th
203	PNR	OX/R/OX med sandy		1	66	flat roofer;mortar	13th to 16th
203	PNR	OX/R/OX fine-med sandy + fe		1	52	flat roofer;coarse bedding	13th to 16th
303	PNR	OX/R/OX fine-med sandy + mudrock		1	142	flat roofer;fabric incl abundant shale/mudstone;underside has smoothing;upper edge lip above mould	13th to 16th
303	PNR	OX/R/OX fine-med sandy + fe & mudrock		1	49	flat roofer;incl abundant shale/mudstone & fe	13th to 16th
303	PNR	OX/R/OX fine-med sandy + fe		1	216	flat roofer;15mm;sunken margins	13th to 16th
303	PNR	OX/R/OX fine-med sandy		1	129	flat roofer;17mm;finger ? Impression on underside	13th to 16th
303	PNR	OX/R/OX fine-med sandy + mudrock		1	131	flat roofer;incl abundant shale/mudstone;trace mortar	13th to 16th
320	BRK	fine orange-red sandy + fe		1	618	handmade;125x57mm;friable;corner;? Slop moulded	14th to 17th
320	BRK	fine red fabric;Beverley-type		1	182	handmade;corner;55mm thick;impression on side from tool ?	14th to 16th

context	cname	fabric	sub type	frags	weight	description	date
320	GFLOOR	fine orange-red fabric	Site Floor Tile Type 3 ?	1	370	115x?x23mm;dark reduced green glaze;mortar incl breaks	14th to 16th
400	GFLOOR	fine orange-red sandy	Site Floor Tile Type 1	1	1044	near complete;140x140x28mm;glaze on upper & lower surfaces;dark reduced green on upper & dull green-brown on lower;stacking scar;mortar incl breaks	14th to 17th
400	GFLOOR	fine orange-red sandy + some ca	Site Floor Tile Type 1	1	1086	complete;140x140x25mm;has glaze on both surfaces;poss nailholes;upper worn surface;dark green/black glaze (mainly worn away);glaze on underside brown;thick mortar on sides & underside;some mortar on upper;straight sided	14th to 17th
400	GFLOOR	fine orange-red sandy + some ca	Site Floor Tile Type 2	1	467	complete;105x107x20mm;worn upper;mortar;fine bedding	14th to 17th
400	GFLOOR	fine orange-red sandy + some ca	Site Floor Tile Type 2	1	481	complete;110x110x20mm;worn upper;mortar;fine bedding	16th to 18th
400	GFLOOR	dull orange fine fabric	Site Floor Tile Type 4	1	1232	145x145x32mm;dark reduced green glaze over red slip;worn upper;mortar;side stacking scar;poss 2 nail holes near corner	14th to 17th
400	GFLOOR	fine orange-red fabric	Site Floor Tile Type 3	1	556	110x110x22mm;worn upper;dark reduced green glaze;mortar;near complete;different fabric to other small tiles but similar to larger ones	14th to 17th
400	GFLOOR	fine orange-red sandy + some ca	Site Floor Tile Type 1	1	449	140x?x28mm;dark reduced green glaze;mortar;glaze on underside;worn upper;part un slipped & side has brown glaze	14th to 17th
400	GFLOOR	fine purple + some ca	Site Floor Tile Type 1 ?;cut to triangle	1	205	98+ x?x26mm;scored & snapped;near vitrified;mortar over break;almost black glaze	14th to 17th
400	GFLOOR	fine orange-red sandy + some ca	Site Floor Tile Type 1	1	887	near complete;140x140x28mm;worn upper;mortar incl breaks;no remaining glaze but prob reduced	14th to 17th
400	GFLOOR	fine orange-red sandy	Site Floor Tile Type 1	1	719	140x?x28mm;half tile;dark reduced green glaze on	14th to 17th
400	GFLOOR	fine orange-red fabric	Site Floor Tile Type 5	1	474	132x?x20mm;very worn upper surface;dark reduced green glaze spot only left;mortar incl one break;fine bedding as on Type 2	14th to 18th



context	cname	fabric	sub type	frags	weight	description	date
400	GFLOOR	fine orange-red fabric	Site Floor Tile Type 5	1	950	complete;140x135x25mm;worn upper surface;trace dark reduced green glaze;fine bedding;thumb impression on underside	14th to 18th
400	GFLOOR	fine orange-red fabric	Site Floor Tile Type 1	1	758	near complete;140x140x28mm;worn upper surface;yellow glaze over white slip;mortar;stacking	14th to 17th
403	PNR	med OX/R/OX sand + fe		1	266	flat rofe;240mm width;12mm thick;part finger-struck	13th to 15th
403	PNR	orange-red med sandy + mmudrock		1	209	flat roofer;corner	13th to 16th
403	PNR	fine OX/R/OX;? Beverley		2	483	same tile;flat roofer	13th to 15th
403	NIB	fine orange-red fabric + mudrock	applied & cut back	1	96	left corner;finger impressions	mid 13th to 15th
411	GFLOOR	fine orange-red fabric	Site Floor Tile Type 3 ?	1	456	complete;118x115x19mm;worn upper;no traces glaze left;mortar incl upper surface;fine bedding	14th to 17th
411	GFLOOR	fine orange-red fabric	Site Floor Tile Type 5	2	883	form complete tile;132x132x20mm;dark reduced green glaze;glaze on both surfaces;a lot of stacking scars;mortar	14th to 17th
413	GFLOOR	fine orange-red fabric	Site Floor Tile Type 6	1	888	complete;135x134x29mm;worn upper surface but still fair amount of glaze;dark reduced green glaze;fine bedding;mortar	14th to 17th
416	GFLOOR	fine orange-red fabric	Site Floor Tile Type 7	1	486	complete;105x110x28mm;dark reduced glaze;worn upper	14th to 17th
502	GFLOOR	fine orange-red fabric + ca	Site Floor Tile Type 8	1	502	corner;28mm thick;hardly worn upper;thick dark reduced glaze;chamfered edge	13th to 15th
600	GFLOOR	micaceous fine orange-red	Site Floor Tile Type 9;cut to triangle	1	258	29mm thick;triangle 84x88x120mm;dark reduced green glaze;scored & snapped;mortar incl breaks;stacking scar;worn upper	14th to 17th
U/S;bag 1	PNR	oxid med sandy		1	302	flat roofer;poor condition;mortar incl breaks;thumb impression on underside	16th to 19th
U/S;bag 2	GFLOOR	fine orange-red fabric	Site Floor Tile Type ?	1	19	thick dark reduced green glaze	14th to 18th

## Post-Roman Ceramic Archive for Crowle Church, Crowle, N. Lincolnshire (CWCY)

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	description	date
121	LEMS	Lincolnshire Early Medieval Shelly		jar/bowl	1	1	8		BS	abraded	mid 12th to early/mid 13th
121	MEDX	Non Local Medieval Fabrics	oxid;coarse sandy	jug	2	1	28		rim	slightly inturned short rounded cuff rim;to County Fabric Type Series;comm coarse angular quartz comm fe;thick amber glaze;? S or W Yorks	late 12th to 13th
305	CTP	Clay Tobacco Pipe		clay pipe	1	1	11	mould decorated;faceted with leaf design up seams	bowl		19th
305	CTP	Clay Tobacco Pipe		clay pipe	2	2	19	mould decorated;ribbed & fluted with leaf design up seams	bowls	two identical bowls	19th
305	CTP	Clay Tobacco Pipe		clay pipe	13	1	41		stems	plain unmarked stems	19th
305	ENGS	Unspecified English Stoneware	grey	bottle	8	1	106		BS		19th to mid 20th
502	BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware	fine orange sandy	large jug/jar	1	1	42		BS	int glaze	mid 17th to 18th
U/S	BL	Black-glazed wares	medium orange sandy	small bowl	1	1	8		rim	int & ext glaze	late 17th to 18th
U/S	ENGS	Unspecified English Stoneware	grey	large jar/flagon	1	1	9		BS	thick walled	19th to mid 20th

## **Appendix 2: Context Summary**

**Number Description**

**Nave South-west corner**

- 100 Loose material beneath SW pew platform
- 101 layer of mixed brown soil over wall foundations
- 102 crushed limestone layer beneath 100, sits over 101 and 103
- 103 mortar floor surface at NE corner of area. 1.30m N-S
- 104 Mortary layer beneath 101, dips to the north, overlies 103
- 105 Ashy layer over 103 and 104 filling in central dip
- 106 dip, possible post-hole base
- 107 Fill of 106, large stone in fill, otherwise loose brown soil
- 108 remnant of mortar floor over west wall foundations equivalent to 220 and 221
- 109 fine dark brown soil in base of pew sleeper trench
- 110 foundations for nave
  - cut for posthole, cuts layer 104, near vertical sides diam 24cm diam 26cm and min
- 111 20cm deep, base not reached
- 112 fill of 111, beneath layer 101. Mixed brown soil and clay lumps
- 113 cut of posthole 30 x 35cm vertical sides, base 25cm min, base not reached
  - Fill of 113 beneath 101 to south of 111. Loose fill with lots of pieces of wall plaster, 1 moulded-grey/white limewash surface. Flecks of wood from removed post + 1 brick
- 114 in top fill
- 115 Layer of soft ashy material on edge of dip overlies 103 and 116
  - Firm patch of ashy mortar to E of 115, partially beneath 115 and overlying 103 and
- 116 116
  
- 117 patch of firm ashy mortar to west of pew trench and filling edge of dip, beneath 104
- 118 thin layer of white lime lining deep depression in ground
- 119 in mixed brown soil with mortar flecks beneath 118
- 120 sleeper trench (east)
- 121 sleeper trench (central)
- 122 sleeper trench (west)
- 123 mortar floor surface between 118 and 119

**Nave North-west corner**

- 200 Loose material in NW pew platform area
  - Foundation of nave north wall. 1.60m wide. Bonded in pinky/beige mortar 10-15cm
- 201 below stone flags
  - cut for grave at edge of wall. Not fully excavated, extends E beyond the excavation
- 202 0.50 x 0.30m
- 203 Fill of 202, soft brown fine soil, chalk flecks
- 204 Cut for grave S of 202 not fully excavated, 0.27 x 0.40m
  
- 205 fill of 204, soft brown soil and chalk flecks. Some charnel bones, not fully excavated
- 206 mortar floor, part of surface still survives and is at least 13cm below the offset
- 206 footing of the W Wall. V. crumbly creamy colour

- 207 posthole cuts 206. 40 x 30 x 15cm deep
- 208 fill of 207. Loose brown soil and plug of mixed red-blue clay. Flecks of decayed wood.
- 209 Posthole cuts 206. 30cm diameter 11cm deep
- 210 Fill of 209. Clay, mixed red/blue. Same as 208
- 211 Cut of posthole, rectangular 38 x 30 x 23 min depth. Near vertical sides  
Fill of 211, mixed mortar soil in base, sealed by compacted mortar soil with small pieces of limestone
- 212 pieces of limestone
- 213 Layer of firm sandy brown soil sealed by 206 and cut by graves and posthole 211.
- 214 Very soft loose brown sandy soil west of 206. grave fill. Bone in side of posthole 224
- 215 Loose mortar sandy brown soil over 214, cut by 217
- 216 Fill of 217, top is green grey stone overlying brown soil with more green stone pieces
- 217 oblong features 50 x 40 x 40 min depth, not bottomed
- 218 Posthole 22 cm diam 0.35m deep, vertical sides, flat base  
Fill of 218, large pieces of limestone and mudstone packing, loose brown soil, some voids present
- 219 voids present  
Patch of crushed mortar next to west wall foundation 29 x 45cm, remnant of yellow cream mortar floor overlaps the west wall foundation
- 220 Layers of mortar over west wall foundations S of 220, may be later floor layer. These are 15cm higher than 206, and also more yellow in colour
- 221 Circular posthole cut into corner of nave next to respond. Cut through demolished foundation 201
- 222 foundation 201
- 223 fill of 222. Loos brown soil, mortar flecks, 1 large water worn pebble
- 224 Posthole cuts 214, NW of mortar floor 1.20m centre to centre with posthole 218 but no sign of a third posthole to East. Diam 30cm
- 225 Fill of 224, loose sandy soil with small limestone pieces in upper fill sealing stone packing similar to 219, large rounded pebble in base., cuts grave
- 226 remnant of mortar over 214 and 215, 60cm and extends 25cm into excavation area, c. 5cm thick. V crumbly
- 227 remnant of mortar floor overlying demolished nave wall 201
- 228 base of oval hole cut into wall foundation 201. Scaffold hole?

### **Tower**

- 300 Retaining wall for boiler
- 301 brick herringbone floor
- 302 sand base for 301
- 303 lower brick floor beneath 302. Brick size 220 x 108 x 50 -55
- 304 cut of pit
- 305 fill of pit 304
- 306 hard soil layer over 303 and 307
- 307 mortar layer near door
- 308 which ash or gypsum patch
- 309 which ash or gypsum patch

- 310 soot patch
- 311 brown sand base below 303, 0.10m thick
- 312 hard mixed boulder clay below 311, 0.10m thick, cut by 304, abuts 3313
- 313 ashy material abutting nave wall
- 314 loose mortar layer with limestone frags below 312
- 315 Nave west wall 1.60m wide
- 316 nave west wall offset foundation
- 317 chamfered nave wall course
- 318 tower offset foundation
- 319 grave cut
- 320 fill of grave 320

### North Aisle

- 400 Loose material in the north aisle
- 401 Firm light brown soil with mortar flecks
- 402 North aisle west wall foundation (medieval)
- 403 pew sleeper trench 1
- 404 grave cut on south side
- 405 soft sandy brown soil, fill of 404
- 406 mortar patch east of 404 over grave 408
- 407 burnt patch north of 406, over 410
- 408 grave cut, cuts 410
- 409 fill of grave 408
- 410 cut of pew sleeper trench
- 411 fill of 410
- 412 cut of pew sleeper trench
- 413 fill of 412
- 414 cut of pew sleeper trench
- 415 cut of pew sleeper trench
- 416 fill of 415
- 417 soft brown soil, fill of grave?
- 418 north aisle foundation (Victorian)
- 419 medieval north aisle north wall
- 420 firm light brown soil and mortar flecks with some blue stone frags.
- 421 mortar floor frag on south side of 419
- 422 grave
- 423 Fill of 422
- 424 Mixed brown soil, probably several graves
- 425 post-hole cuts grave 422/3
- 426 fill of 425
- 427 Cut for vault
- 428 fill of 427
- 429 wall of vault
- 430 mortar spread north of vault 3

- 431 Brick vault 1
- 432 stone slabs on vault 1
- 433 coffin in vault 1
- 434 brick vault 2
- 435 Soil fill of vault 2
- 436 mortar spread north of vault 2 ?=440
- 437 mortary spread east of 431.
- 438 North aisle east wall foundation
- 439 Fill of vault 429
- 440 firm brown soil with chalky flecks in south east corner of aisle
- 441 Mortary soil at east end, below 430 and 436
- 442 mortar spread, over wall 419
- 443 cut of pew sleeper trench
- 444 cut of pew sleeper trench

#### **Nave East end**

- 500 loose soil at east end of nave
- 501 offset for nave east and south walls
- 502 post hole
- 503 fill of 502
- 504 post hole
- 505 fill of 504, with small stone packing
- 506 firm brown soil with mortar flecks
- 507 lower off set for east wall of nave
- 508 soft brown sandy soil, north of nave aisle
- 509 grave fill north of 508
- 510 nave north wall=201
- 511 stone slab over grave
- 512 concrete base for pulpit
- 513 mortar spread north of 508, overlain by 512
- 514 soil fill depression over 513
- 515 cut for pit at north end, cuts into 510
- 516 fill of 515
- 517 brick vault, cuts 508 and 509 and runs beneath south edge of area

#### **Churchyard**

- 600 Topsoil and turf
- 601 Graveyard soil
- 602 natural
- 603 grave in brick vault
- 604 grave in brick vault
- 605 grave in brick vault
- 606 grave in brick vault

## **Appendix 3: OASIS Summary**



## OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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### Printable version

OASIS ID: naomifie1-136633

#### Project details

Project name St Oswald's Church Crowle

Short description A programme of archaeological recording was undertaken in 2010 at St Oswald's Church Crowle during reordering works, including a new kitchen in the north aisle and toilets in the tower. The font was moved to the end of the nave and the Crowle Stone was moved to a position next to the south door. Excavation was not required except in the tower and a small area in the south-west corner of the nave. Elsewhere the exposed surfaces beneath the removed pew platforms were swept clean and recorded. Excavation of a service trench across the churchyard was also monitored and four 19th century brick vaulted graves were recorded. Evidence for the nave north wall foundations was found beneath the north arcade. The north wall of the medieval north aisle was also discovered showing that before its demolition in 1792 the aisle had been only 2.40m wide internally. Three 19th century brick vaults cut through the foundations of this wall. Excavations in the tower revealed the original external chamfered plinth of the nave west wall and its return through the door, which is an original opening pre-dating the construction of the tower. The original threshold had been removed by the installation of heating pipes in 1915. Nine different types of floor tiles of three different sizes, had been used to support the pew platforms, mainly of Flemish type, indicating that there had been several phases of tiled flooring in the church in the 14-17th centuries.

Project dates Start: 15-03-2010 End: 27-04-2010

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes CWCY - Museum accession ID

Type of project Recording project

Site status Listed Building  
Monument type CHURCH Medieval  
Significant Finds FLOOR TILE Medieval  
Significant Finds FLOOR TILE Post Medieval  
Significant Finds ROOF TILE Medieval  
Investigation type "Watching Brief"  
Prompt Faculty jurisdiction

---

### Project location

Country England  
Site location NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE CROWLE St Oswald's Church  
Study area 113.00 Square metres  
Site coordinates SE 9025 2552 53 0 53 43 04 N 000 37 56 W Point  
Height OD / Min: 8.00m Max: 8.00m  
Depth

---

### Project creators

Name of Prospect Archaeology Ltd  
Organisation  
Project brief Contractor (design and execute)  
originator  
Project design Naomi Field  
originator  
Project Naomi Field  
director/manager  
Project supervisor Naomi Field  
Type of Parochial Church Council  
sponsor/funding  
body  
Name of Crowle PCC

sponsor/funding  
body

---

### Project archives

Physical Archive Crowle church  
recipient

Physical Archive CWCY  
ID

Physical Contents "Ceramics"

Digital Archive N Lincolnshire Museum  
recipient

Digital Archive ID CWCY

Digital Contents "Ceramics"

Digital Media "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Text"  
available

Paper Archive N Lincolnshire Museum  
recipient

Paper Archive ID CWCY

Paper Contents "Ceramics"

Paper Media "Context  
available sheet", "Correspondence", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

---

### Project

#### bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Publication type  
Title St Oswald's Church, Crowle, North Lincs. Archaeological Recording  
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details  
Date 2012

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publisher

Place of issue or Lincoln  
publication

Description A4 comb bound 18pp, + specialist's report and archive+ 14 figs + 84 plates

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Entered by Naomi Field (naomi@prospectarc.com)

Entered on 1 November 2012

## The Figures

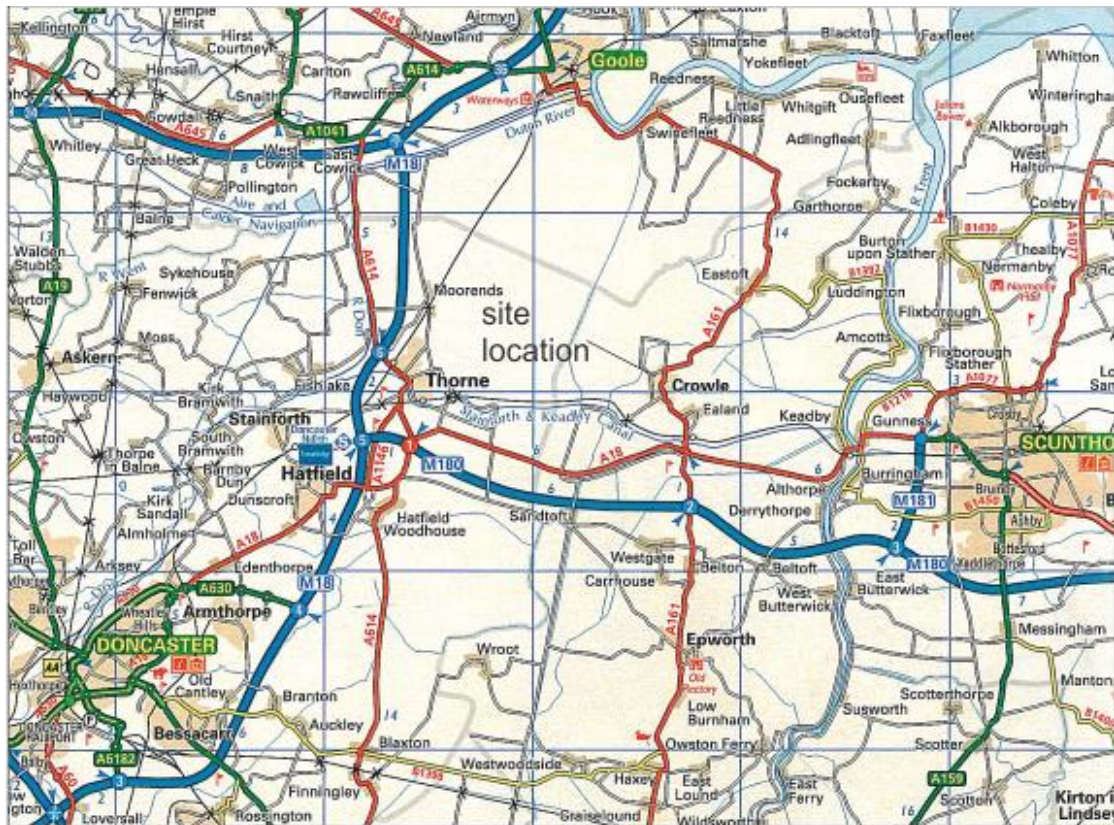


Fig. 1 St Oswald's church, Crowle, site location

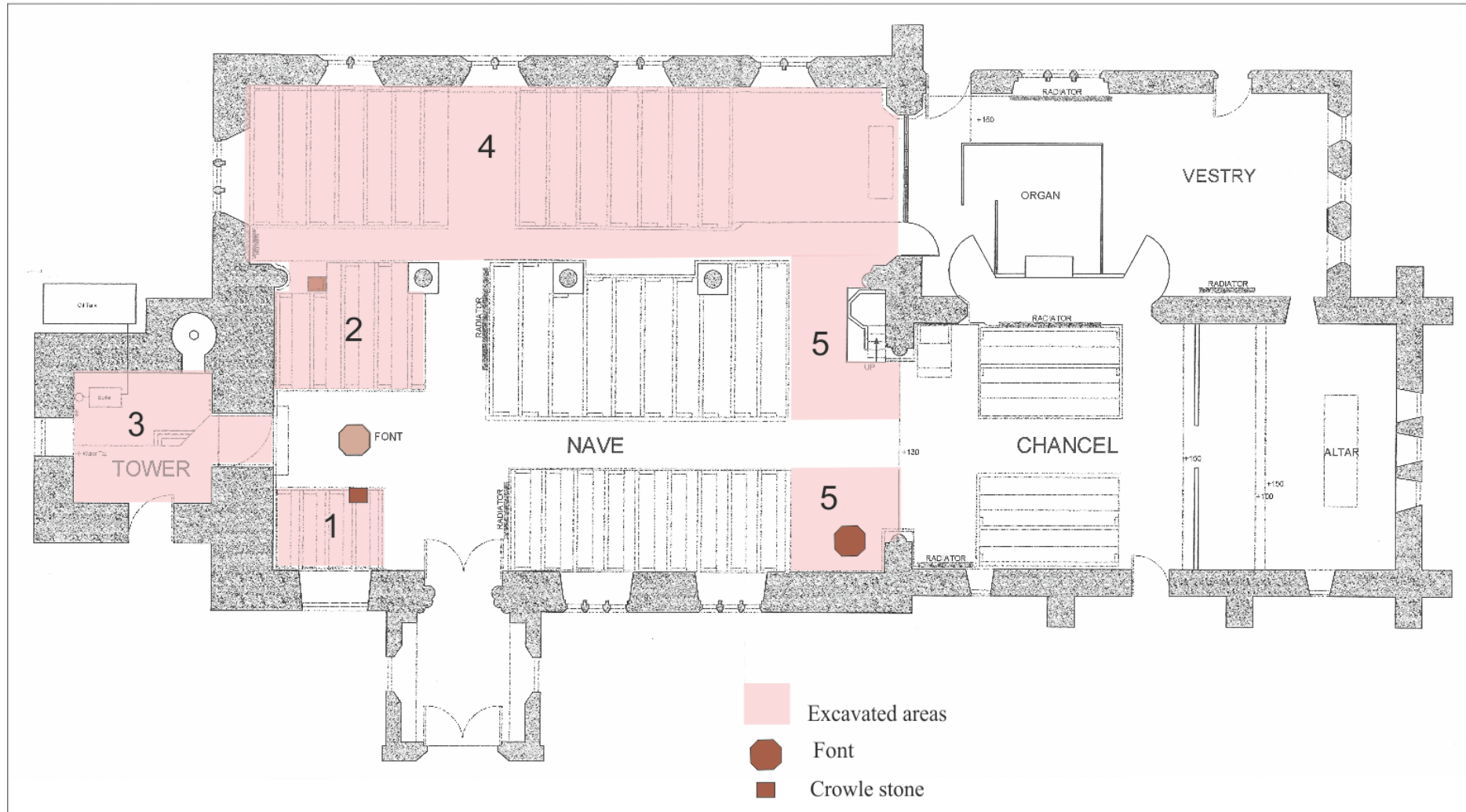


Fig. 2 Crowle Church .location of recorded areas

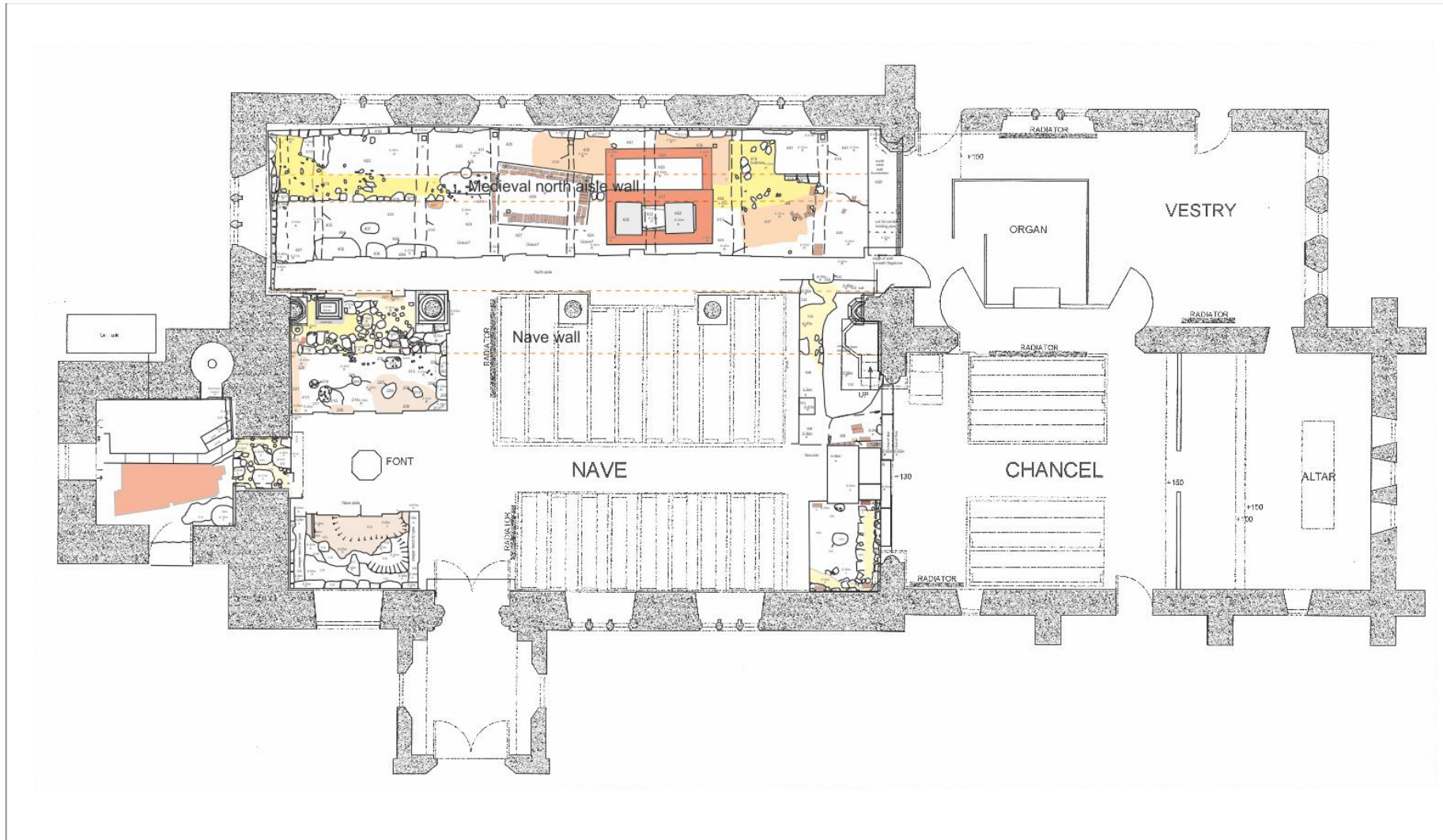


Fig. 3 composite of all the areas investigated inside the church



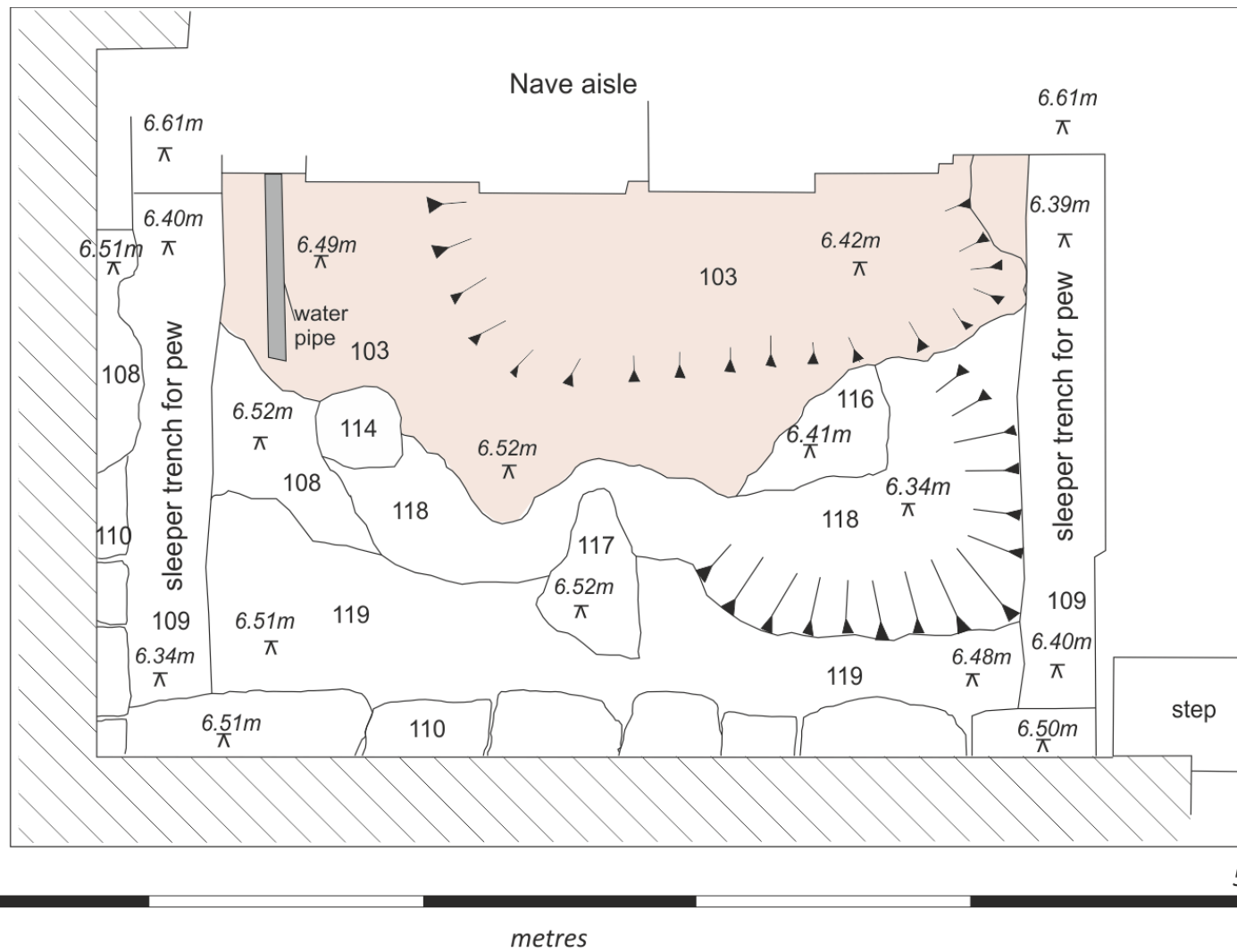


Fig. 4 Nave south-west corner. Scale 1:20

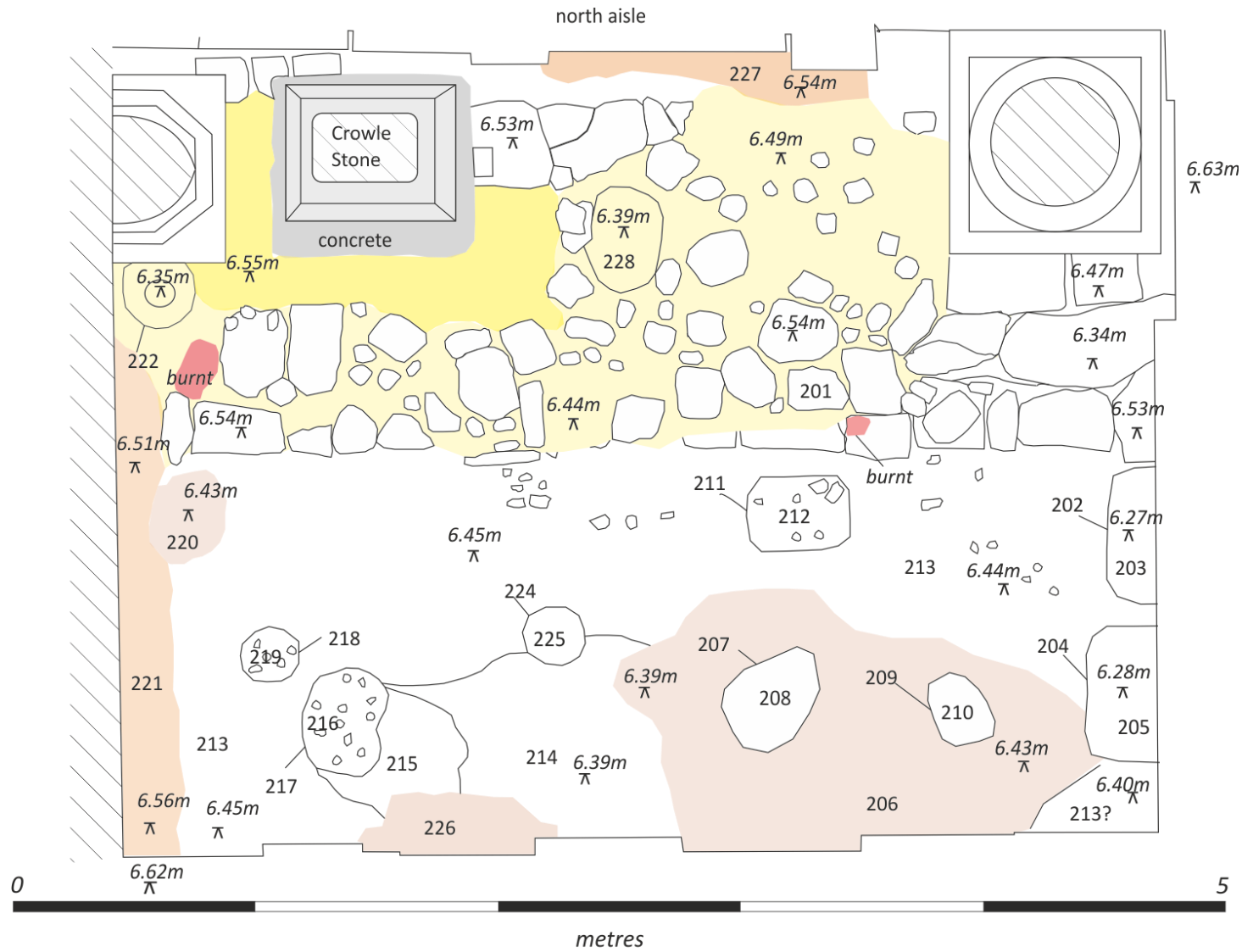


Fig. 5 North-west corner of the nave. Scale 1:20

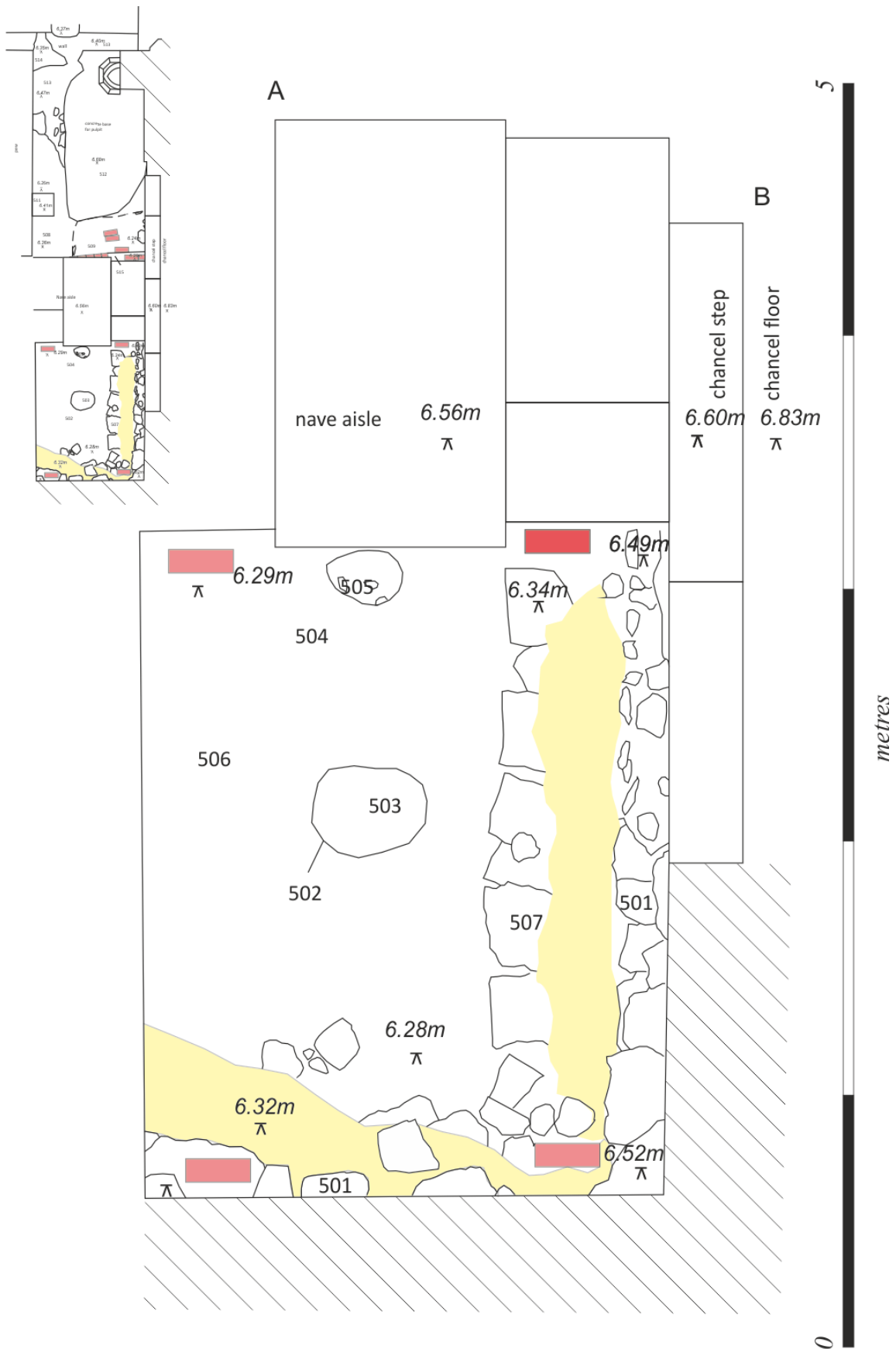


Fig. 6. Nave south-east corner. Scale 1:20

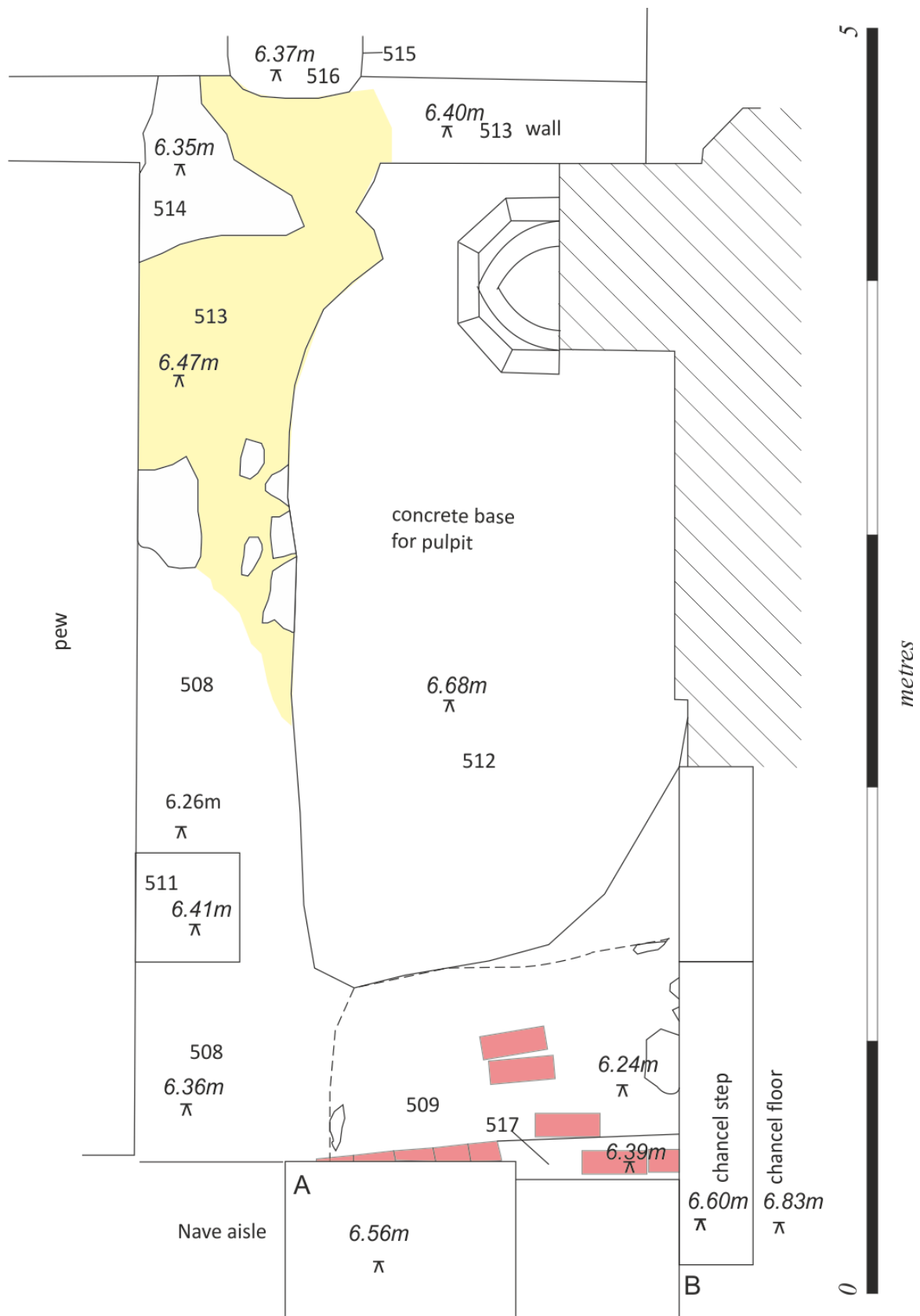


Fig. 7. Nave north-east corner. Scale 1:20

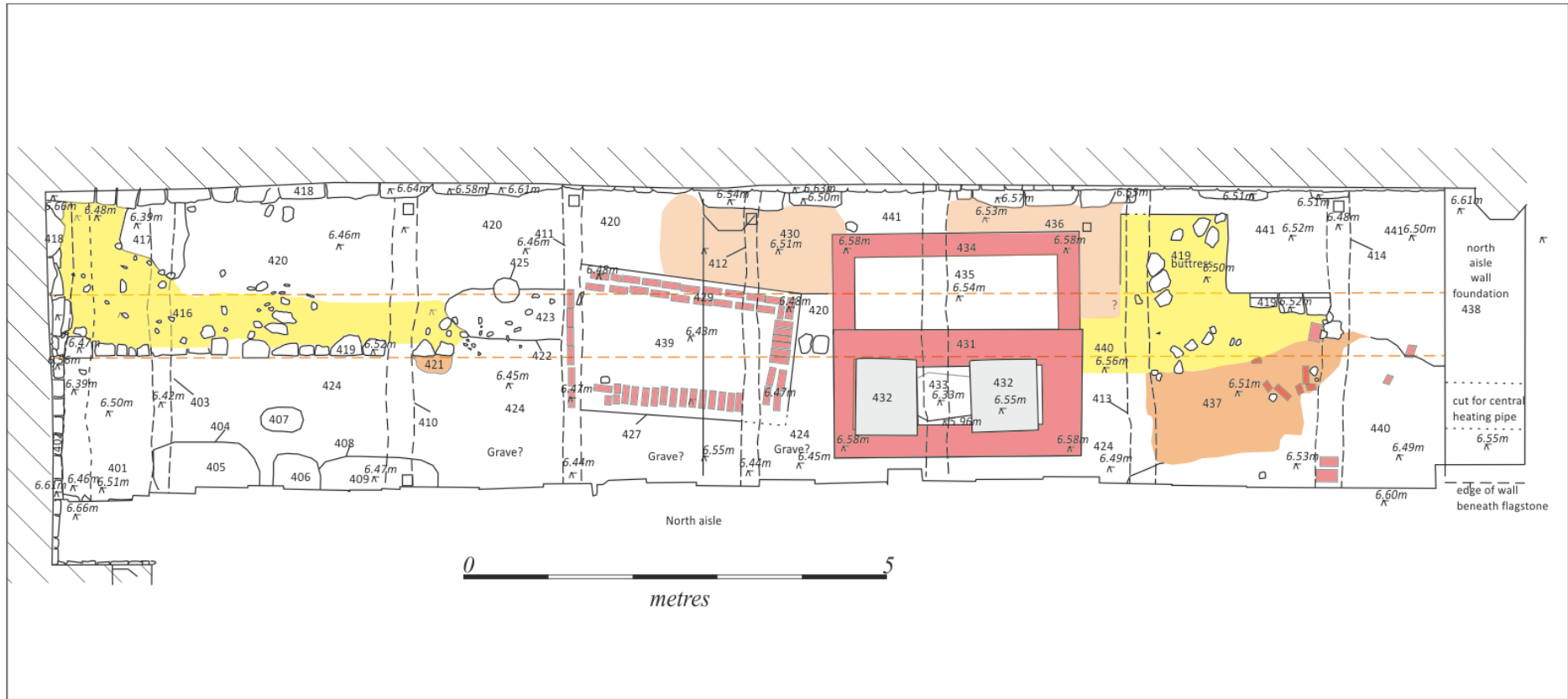


Fig. 8 The north aisle



Fig. 9 North aisle west end

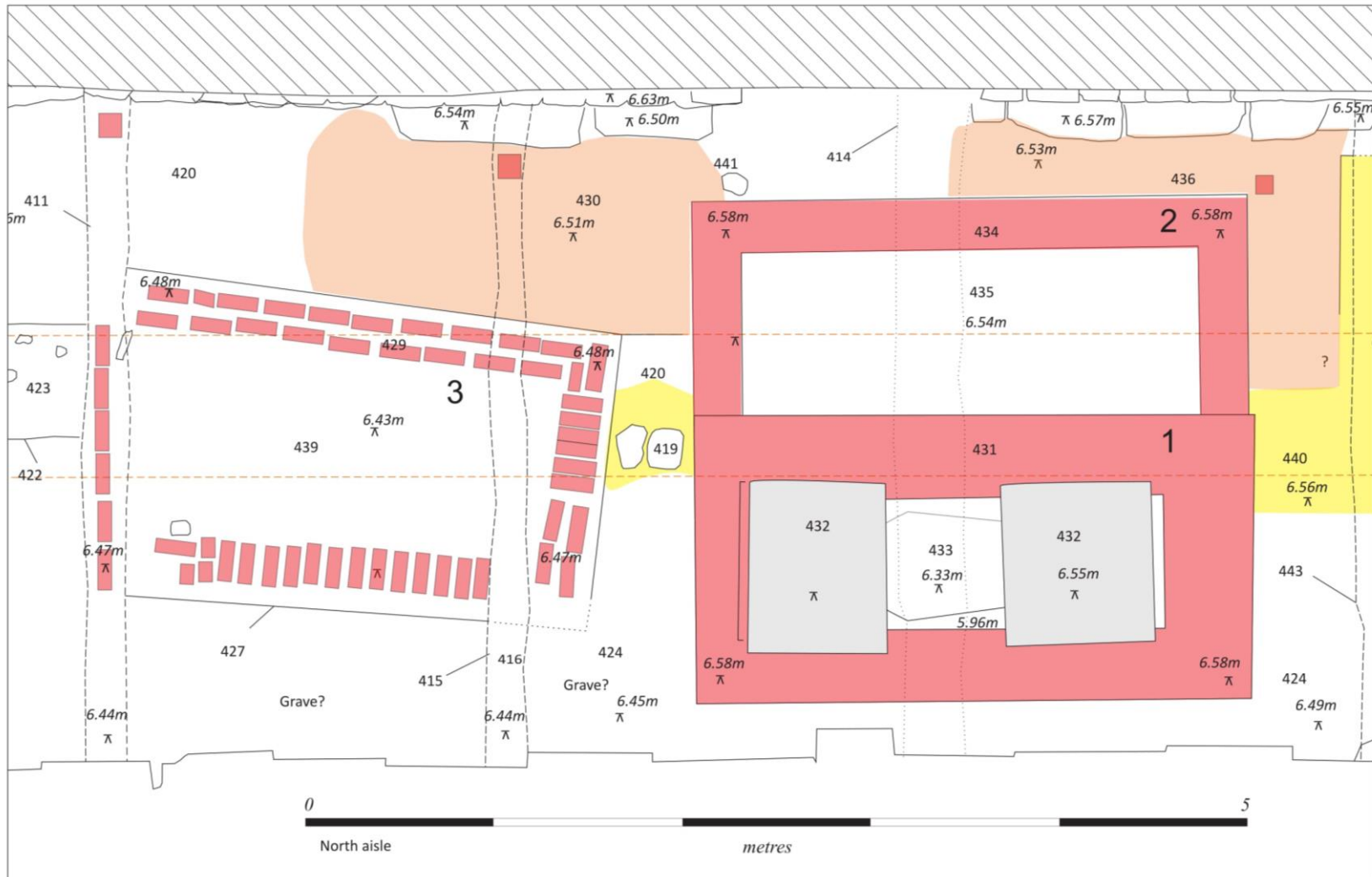


Fig. 10 North aisle centre

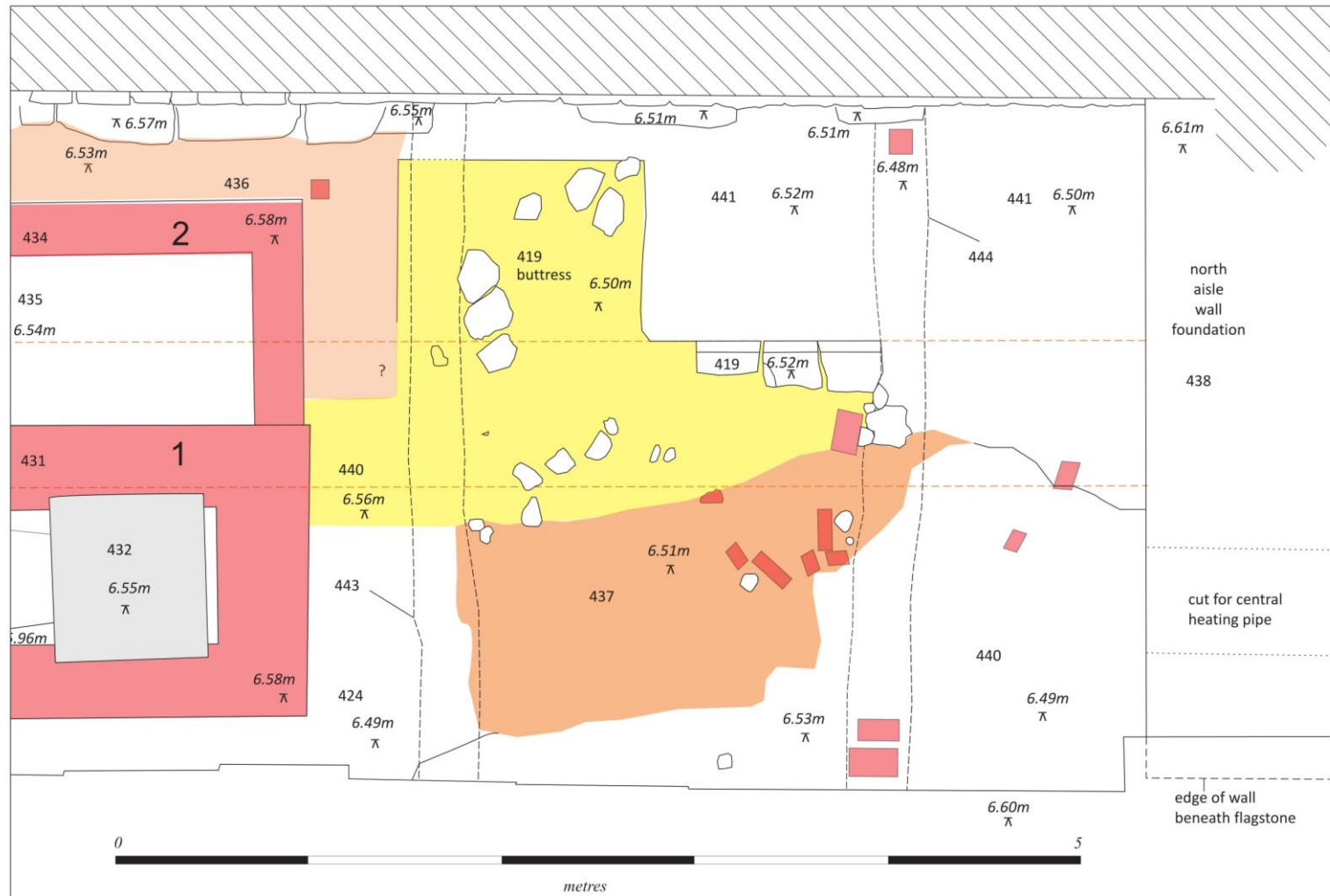


Fig. 11 North aisle east end



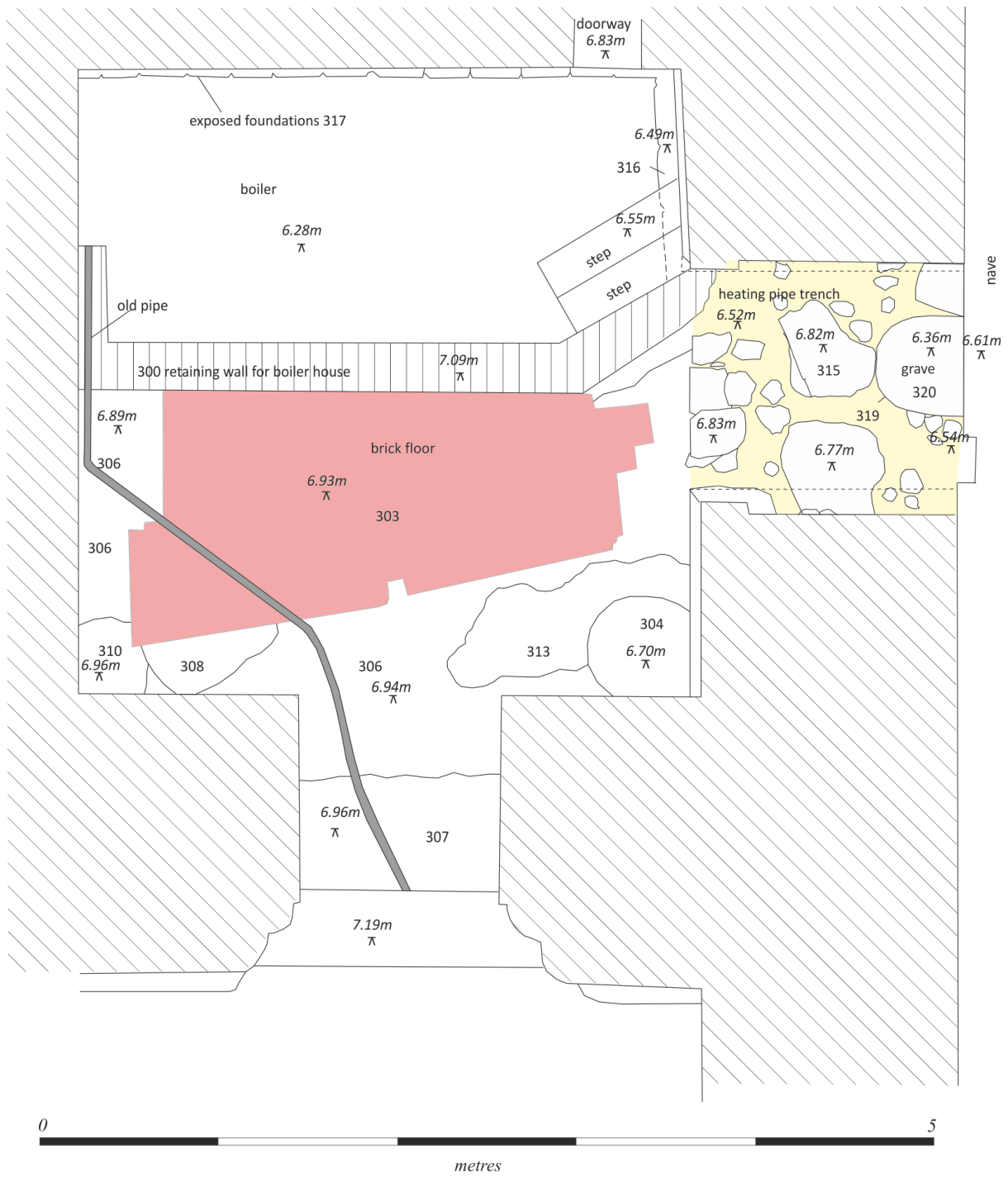


Fig. 12 The tower. Scale 1:20

## The Plates



Pl. 1 St Oswald's Church south side, looking north-west



Pl. 2 St Oswald's Church north side, looking south-west



Pl. 3 The Crowle Stone in the north-west corner of the nave, prior to its removal, looking south-west



Pl. 4 The south-west corner of the nave, prior to cleaning, showing the font prior to its relocation, looking south-west. Scales 1m and 0.50m



Pl. 5 Nave, south-west corner, general view west. Scales 1m and 0.50m



Pl. 6 General view looking south. Scale 1m



Pl. 7 General view looking west. Scale 1m



Pl. 8 Posthole 113, part excavated, looking west. Scale 0.30m



Pl. 9 Posthole 111, part excavated, looking west. Scales 0.50m and 0.30m



Pl. 10 General view looking south-west



Pl. 11 General view of north-west corner of the nave after cleaning showing the nave north wall beneath the aisle arcade and the Crowle Stone, looking north-west



Pl. 12 Mortar floor surface, overlying demolished wall 201, looking north. Scale 1m





Pl. 13 Damaged area of wall 201 for pew support, looking east. Scales 1m and 0.50m



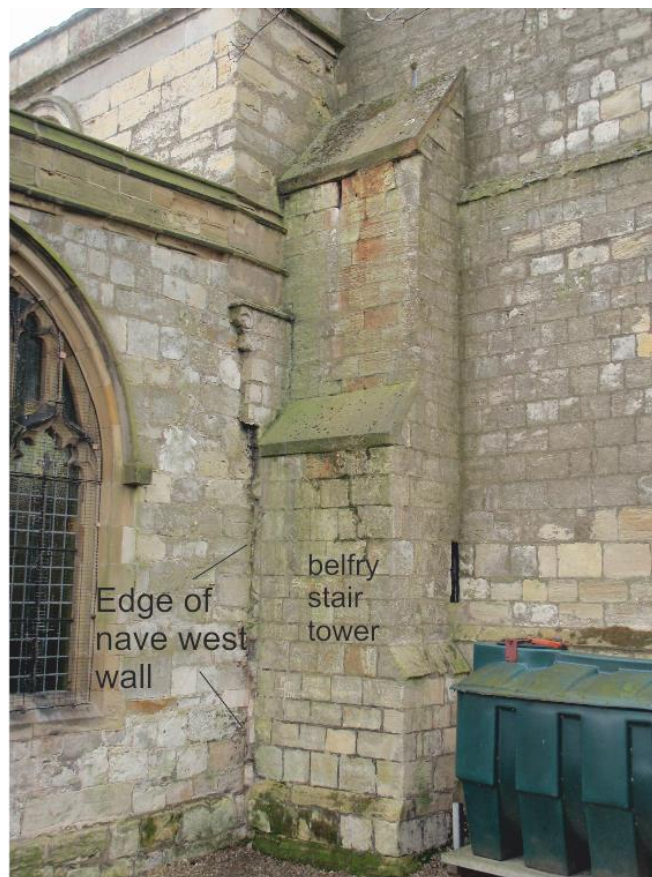
Pl. 14 Damaged area of wall 201 for pew support, with posthole 228 beneath, looking south. Scale 1m



Pl. 15 Posthole 222, looking north. Scale 0.50m



Pl. 16 Nave west wall showing wall scar for original position of the nave north wall



Pl. 17 Corner of the nave west wall visible in the north aisle west wall



Pl. 18 Mortar patch 206, looking south. Scale 1m



Pl. 19 Posthole 207, part excavated, looking west. Scales 0.30m and 0.50m



Pl. 20 Posthole 209, part excavated, looking west. Scales 0.30m and 0.50m



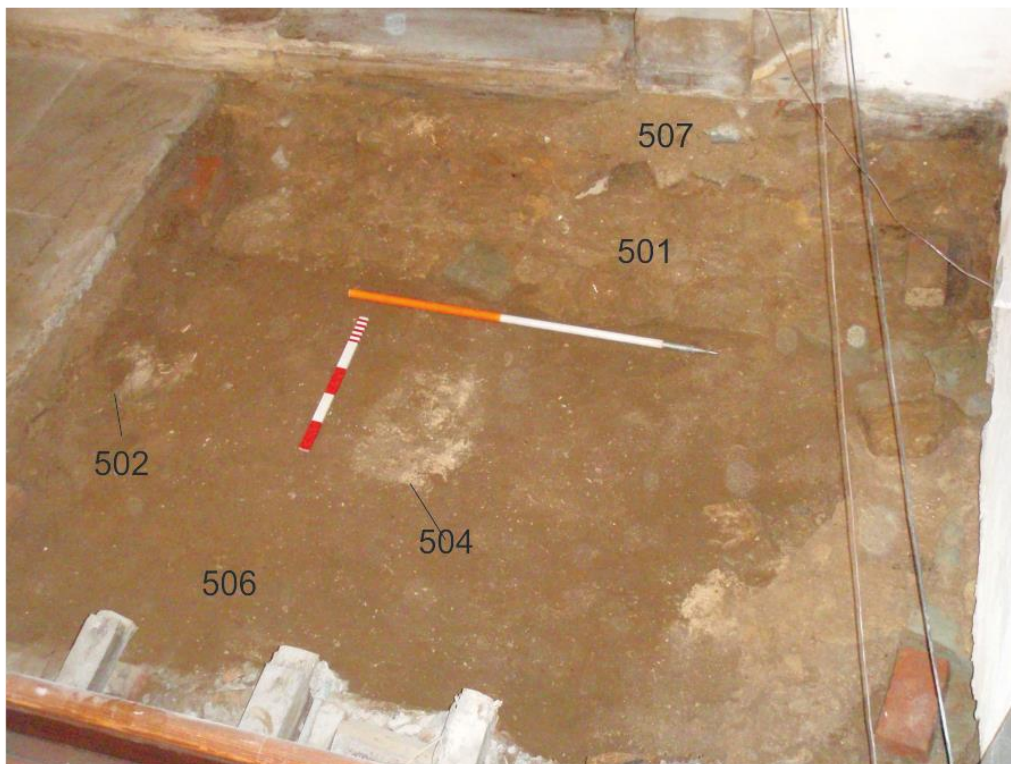
Pl. 21 Posthole 211, part excavated. Scales 0.30m



Pl. 22 Posthole 218. Scales 0.30m and 0.50m



Pl. 23 South-east corner of the nave, looking south. Scales 1m and 0.50m



Pl. 24 South-east corner of the nave, looking east. Scales 1m and 0.50m



Pl. 26 North-east corner of the nave, looking east.  
Scales 1m and 0.50m



Pl. 25 North-east corner of the nave, looking north.  
Scales 1m and 0.50m



Pl. 27 Grave slab 5611, looking east. Scale 0.50m



Pl. 28 The nave north wall running beneath the aisle respond, looking east.  
Scales 1m and 0.50m





Pl. 29 Detail of the nave north wall, looking east. Scale 1m



Pl. 30 Detail of the nave north wall, looking west. Scale 1m



Pl. 31 North aisle after cleaning, looking east.



Pl. 32 North aisle after cleaning, looking north-west.



Pl. 33 Vaults 1 and 2, looking west. Scale 1m



Pl. 34 Vaults 1 and 2, looking north. Scale 1m



Pl.35 Coffin box 433, looking west. Scales 1m and 0.50m



Pl. 36, decorative metal strip on edge of box, detail.



Pl. 38 Plaque 1



Pl. 37 Plaques 1 and 2, looking west



Pl. 40 Plaque 3



Pl. 39 Plaque 2



Pl. 41 Coffin handle at west end



Pl. 42 Lead coffin exposed at east end, looking north-west.

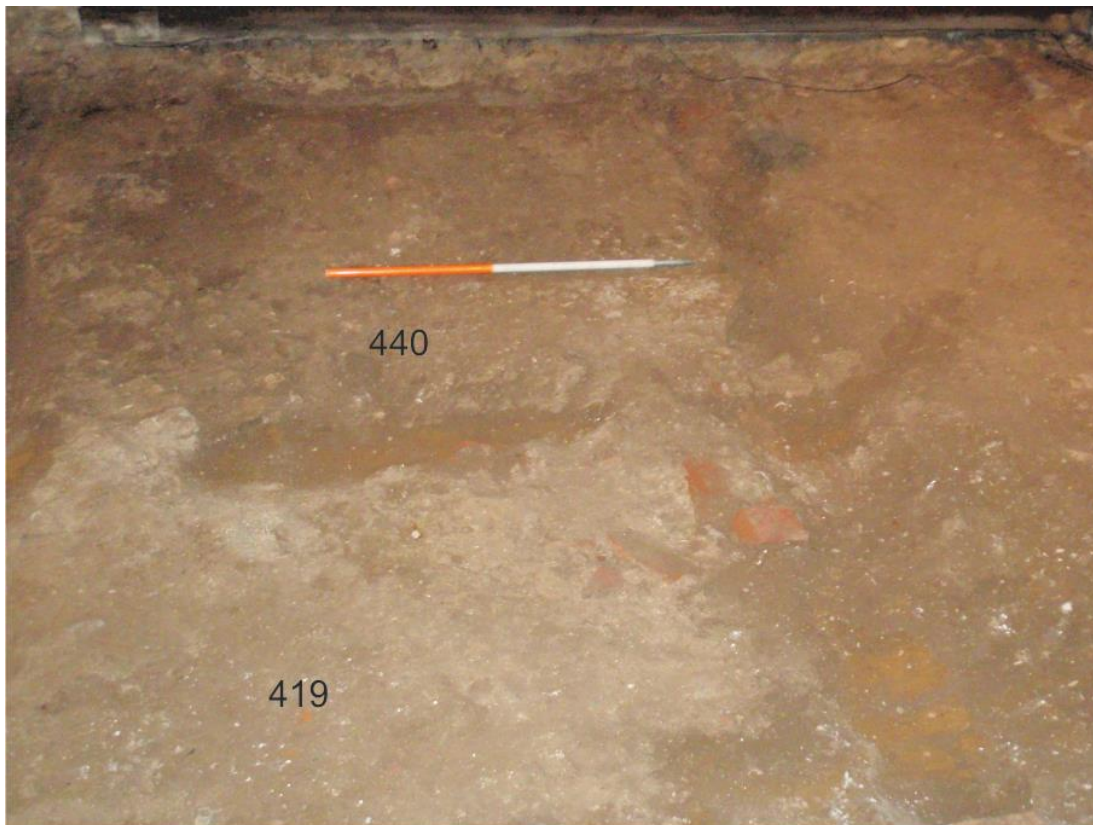


Pl. 43 Vault 3 looking north. Scale 1m



Pl. 44 Mortar floor base 430, looking north. Scale 1m





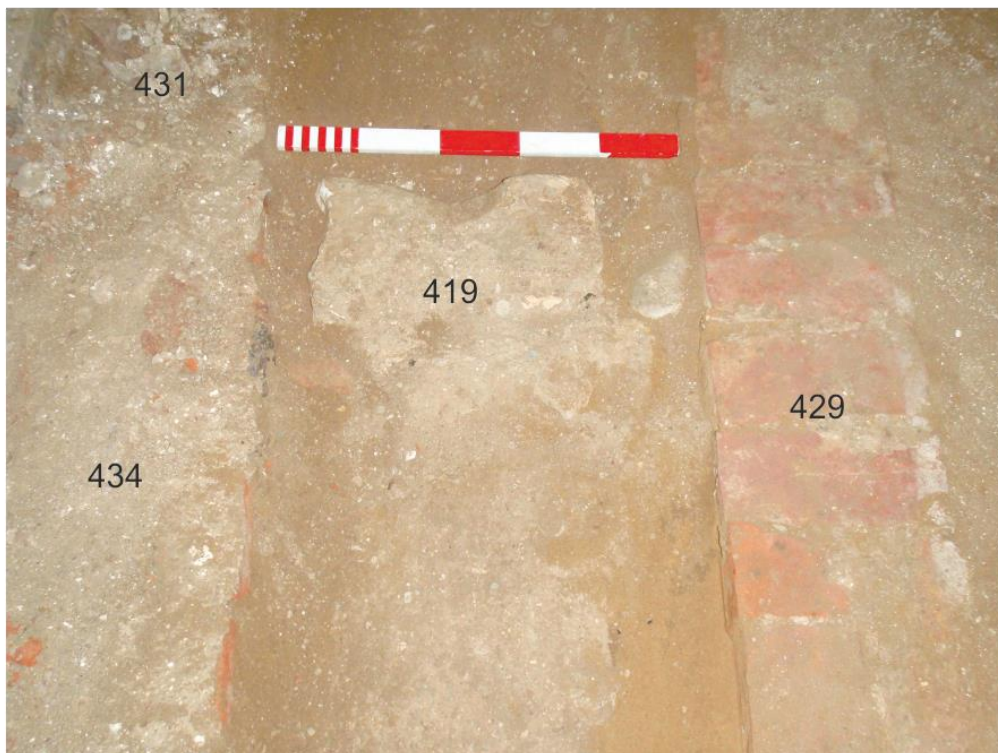
Pl. 45 Mortar floor base 440, looking north. Scale 1m



Pl. 46 Wall foundation of north wall of medieval north aisle, looking west. Scales 1m and 0.50m.



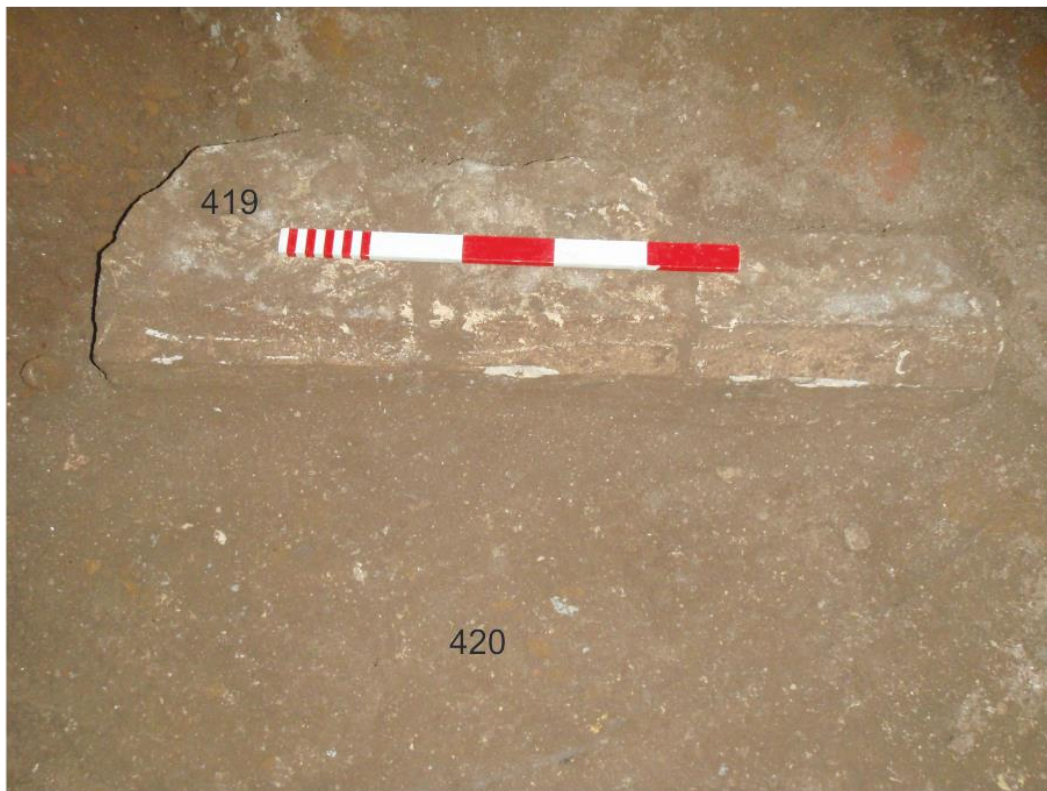
Pl. 47 Junction of north and west walls of the medieval north aisle, looking west. Scales 1m and 0.50m



Pl. 48 Remnant of wall 419 between vaults 1, 2 and 3, looking south. Scale 0.50m



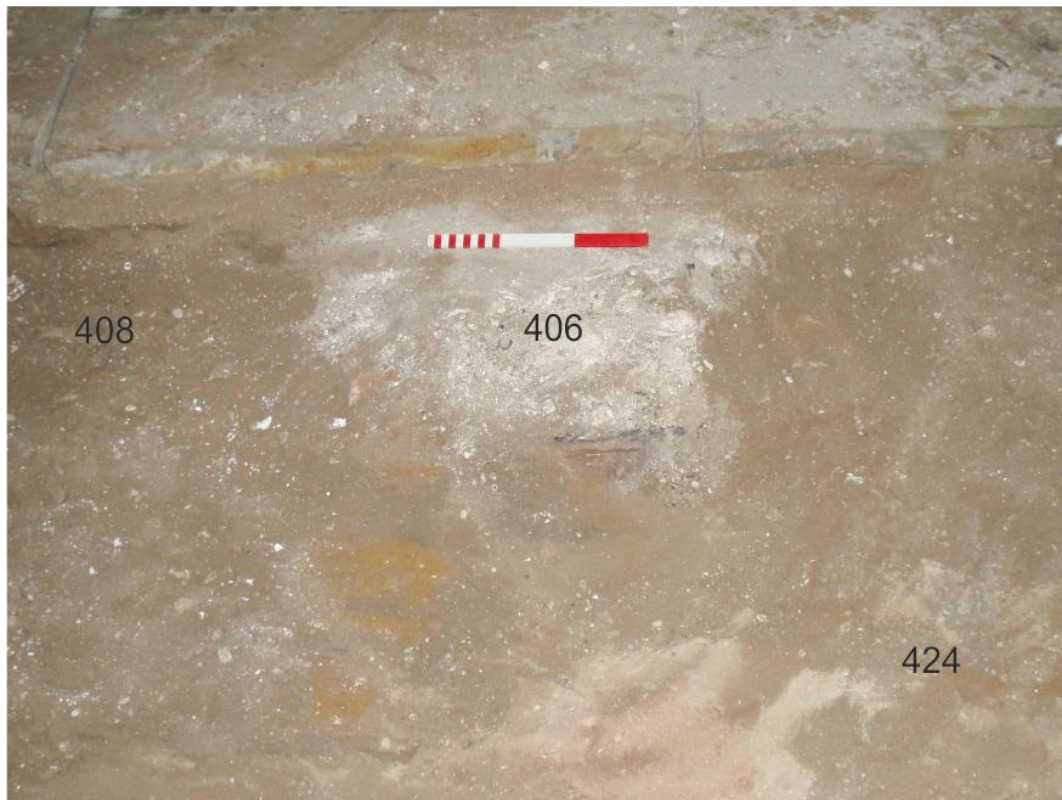
Pl. 49 Remnant of medieval aisle north wall, looking east. Scale 1m



Pl. 50 Wall 419, external chamfered plinth stones, looking south. Scale 0.50m



Pl. 51 Nave east wall, 438, looking east. Scale 1m



Pl. 52 Mortar patch 406, looking south. Scale 0.30m



Pl. 54 Tower boiler cavity after removal of the boiler, looking north-west. Scale 1m.



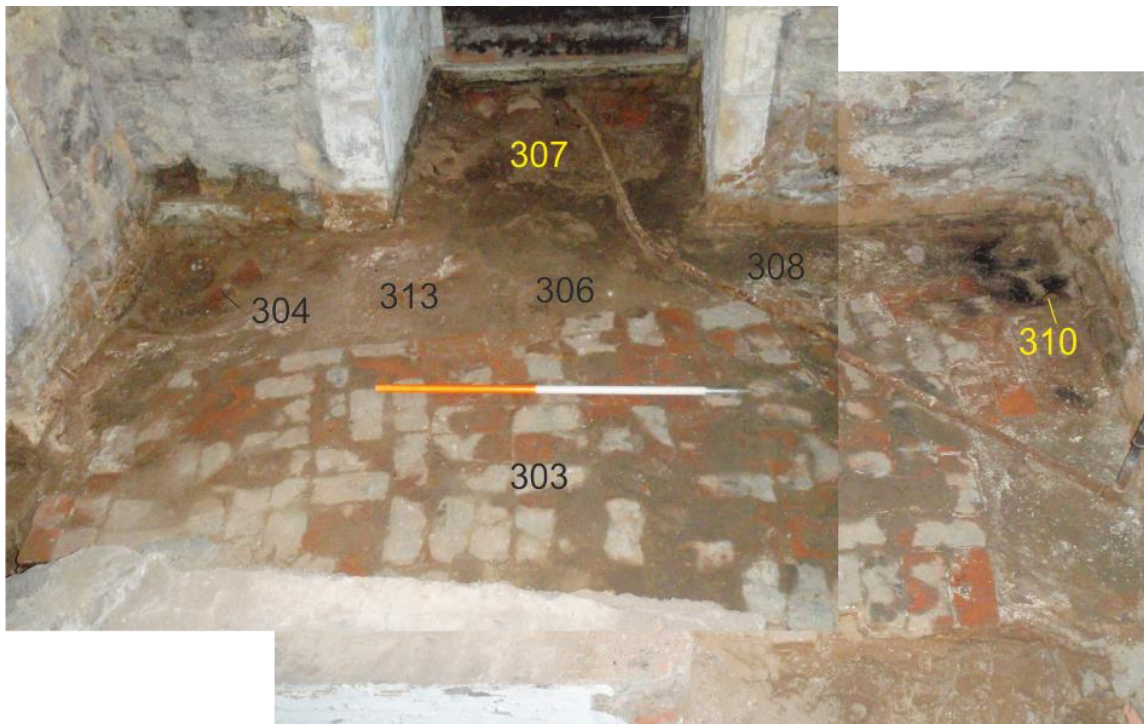
Pl. 53 Tower interior before removal of the boiler, looking north-west



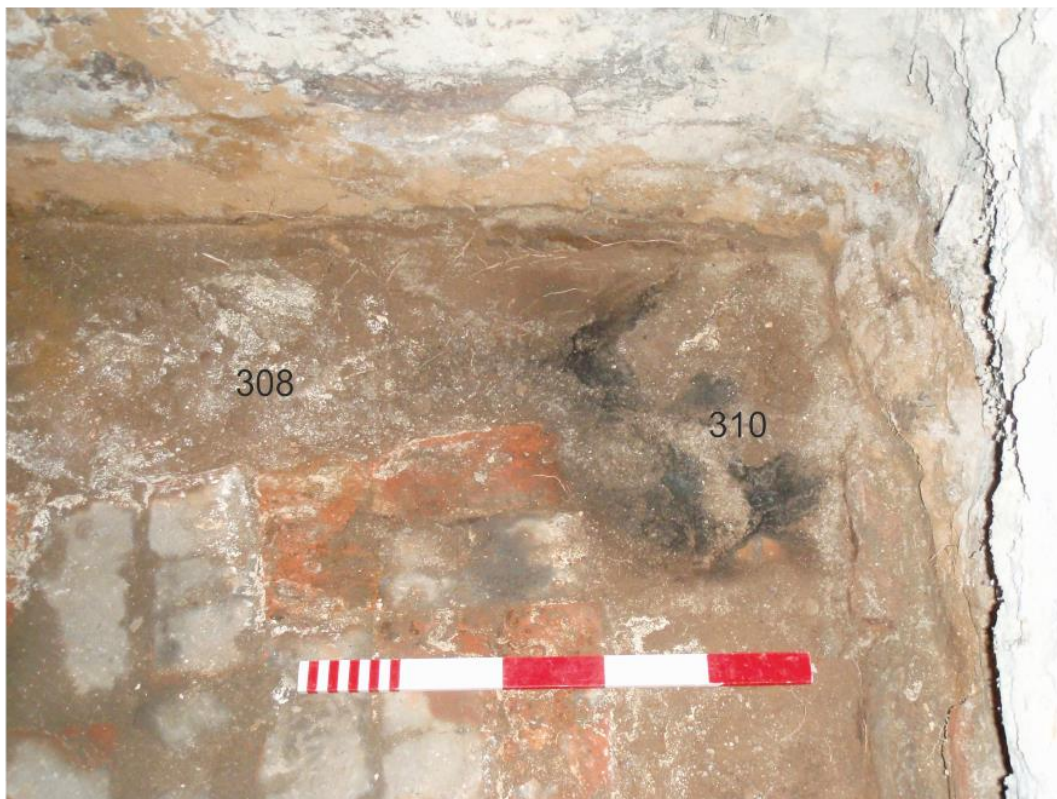
Pl. 55 Brick retaining wall, looking south-west. Scale 1m



Pl. 56 Belfry door in tower north wall.



Pl. 57 General view of the tower, looking south. Scale 1m



Pl. 58 Ash and charcoal patches in the south-west corner of the tower. Scale 0.50m



Pl. 59 Circular depression 304, marking former position of stove. Scale 0.50m



Pl. 60 Tower south door showing pink mortar surface 307





Pl. 61 Junction of the tower north wall with the earlier nave west wall, showing the contrast of ashlar blocks in the nave wall with the roughly dressed stonework of the tower wall.



Pl. 62 Tower foundations in the south and west walls, looking south-west. Scales 1m and 0.50m



Pl. 63 The tower door into the nave, prior to commencement of works, looking east



Pl. 64 Tower door threshold after removal of concrete steps, looking south-east. Scales 1 and 0.50m



Pl. 65 Detail of chamfered course south of doorway. Scale 0.50m



Pl. 66 Detail of chamfered course north of doorway . Scale 0.50m



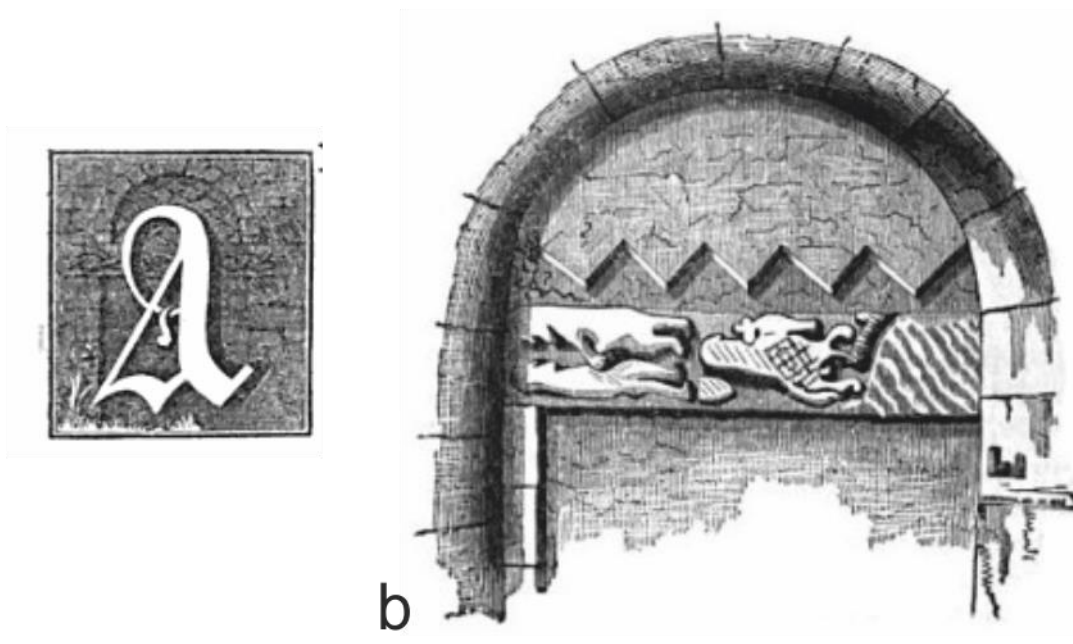
Pl. 67 Detail of north-west corner of opening showing damage caused by insertion of heating pipes, looking east. Scale 0.50m



Pl. 68 West door threshold, looking west into the tower, showing grave 320. Scale 1m.



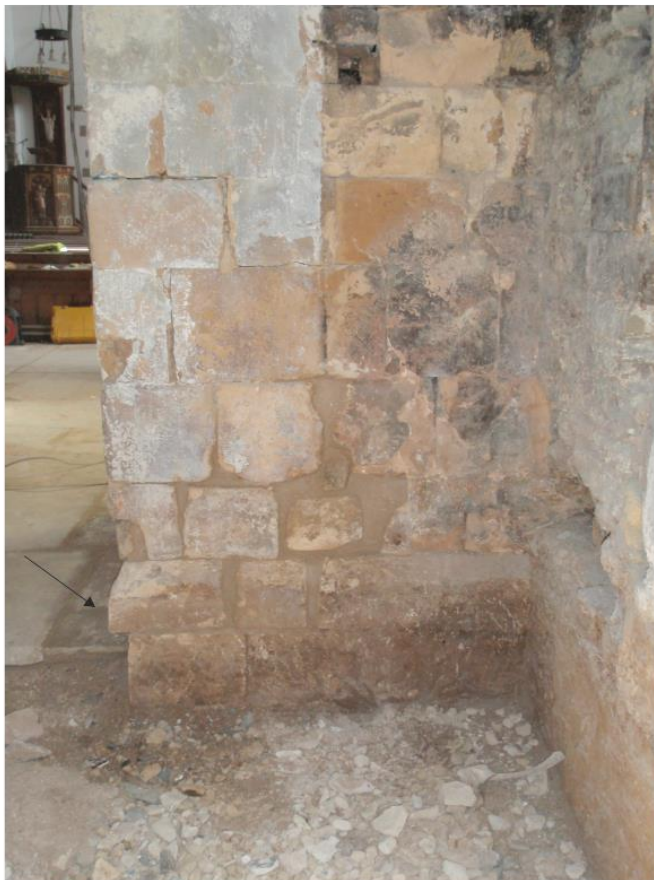
Pl. 69 Tympanum above west door into tower, looking east



Pl. 70 Tympanum above the west door, engraving from Stonehouse 1839 a)west face b)east face



Pl. 71 Tower west door after rebuilding, looking east into the nave.



Pl. 72 Detail of south door jamb showing repositioned corner chamfer block, looking east.



Pl. 73 Service trench, looking south-east towards churchyard south wall.



Pl. 74 Churchyard, south boundary wall external face next to new manhole, looking north. Scales 1m and 0.50m



Pl. 75 Graveslab 603, looking west



Pl.76 Detail showing brick vault beneath graveslab 603. Scale 0.50m





Pl.77 Corner of vault 605, looking south-east. Scales 0.50m and 0.30m



Pl.78 Close up showing corner of vault 605, looking south-east. Scales 0.50m and 0.30m



Pl. 79 Brick vault 606, looking north. Scales 1m and 0.30m



Pl. 80 Brick vault 606 after excavation of the trench around the west side, looking north



Pl. 81. Fragments of graveslab found near tower. Scales 0.50m and 0.30m



Pl. 82. Service trench on west side of tower, looking north



Pl. 83 Pipe trench at junction with tower west wall, looking north-east. Scales 1m and 0.50m



Pl. 84 Hole for service pipes in tower west wall. Scales 1m and 0.50m