



prospect archaeology

Client: Hose PCC

**The Church of St Michael
and all Angels,
Clawson, Hose and Harby,
Leics.**

Archaeological Observation and Recording

NGR: SK 73626 29271

PA report no.: LPA-115

May 2017

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The Church of St Michael and All Saints, Hose, Leics.
Archaeological Observation and Recording
NGR: SK 73626 29271
Site Code: HSTM16

Summary

A programme of archaeological observation and recording at the church of St Michael and All Saints was undertaken during the installation of a toilet in the south porch and kitchen in the south aisle, and associated drainage. Cleaning of the floor surface beneath the pew platform removed in the south-west corner of the south aisle in advance of installation of a kitchen unit revealed no archaeological features. Similarly removal of part of a platform supporting the organ in the north east corner of the north aisle did not reveal any archaeological remains. Removal of the concrete floor in the south porch, most recently used as a vestry, revealed a flagstone floor which respected the edges of benches which had flanked the west and east sides of the porch but were long removed. Three 18th-century graveslabs had been incorporated into the floor. No other archaeological features or artefacts were found. A very small quantity of human bones was found during excavation of the pipe trench, for the foul drainage, across the churchyard. These bones were reburied in the trench. No in situ burials were disturbed.

Introduction

Prospect Archaeology was commissioned by Graham Cook Architect, on behalf of Hose PCC to undertake a programme of archaeological observation and recording. The works was undertaken under the terms of the written scheme of investigation approved by Leicester DAC and complies with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, (Chartered Institute for Field Archaeologists 2014).

Site Location

Hose is a small village in the parish of Clawson, Hose and Harby, situated in the Vale of Belvoir, 6 miles north of Melton Mowbray, south of the A52 and east of the A46. The parish church of St Michael and All Angels is situated at the centre of the village close to the manor house on the east side of the A447. The churchyard is bounded to the east by The Green, to the north by Church Walk and to the west by Bolton Lane and is situated at an elevation of 52m OD. There is a footpath that runs along the southern churchyard boundary to meet The Green. The church itself sits at an angle within the churchyard presumably to achieve a

correct east –west alignment. The churchyard has been extended eastwards into the Green in the 20th century.

Historical Background

Hose is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 when there were five holdings of land in the village. The parish church is located south of the historic core of the medieval settlement. It has not always been dedicated to St. Michael and All Angels. The church at Hose was under Belvoir Priory when the priory was founded in c.1076. This was confirmed in 1160, when the church was rededicated to St. Nicholas. Neither the original dedication, nor when the church was rededicated to St. Michael and All Angels, is known. The surviving fabric of the church dates to the 13-15th centuries. The outline of a steeply pitched former nave roof can be seen on the east wall of the tower. The embattled Perpendicular clerestory, is built of limestone ashlar, which contrasts sharply in both colour and texture with the ironstone of the rest of the church. There is a sundial dated 1735 on the south-west corner of the parapet but it is not known if this dates the parapet. The church has both north and south porches, with 18th century brick facades; these rest on medieval ironstone plinths, with ironstone side walls (Pls 1-2). The church underwent a thorough restoration in 1887 when the south arcade was rebuilt. It is listed Grade II*.

Scope of Work

The groundworks requiring archaeological monitoring are described in detail in the accompanying specification prepared by Graham Cook Architect (Section 9.01- 12.01). See Appendix 2. But are summarised here :

- Installation of a toilet in the south porch
- Installation of a servery in the south-west corner of the south aisle with a new tiled floor surface flush with existing floor levels to replace the pew platform
- New vestry to east of organ in north-east corner of the north aisle
- Installation of new watermain to run from the old boiler chamber tap to serve the basin in the south porch and the sink in the servery. This work was not carried out, an internal connection to the water supply being provided instead.
- Excavation of soil pipe trenches across the churchyard to connect with mains sewer in Bolton Lane. This is a modification of the original specification which was for a trench arch drain in 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 included

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

Method

One experienced archaeologist on site to examine and record groundworks and machine excavation. Monitoring of internal works was undertaken on February 6th 2016. The external drainage works were carried out on September 13th and 15th 2016.

Results

INTERIOR

South aisle

The wooden pew platform in the south west corner of the south aisle, measuring 3.84m x 2.43m was removed to reveal a mortar floor approximately 7cm below the tiled floor level. The void beneath the pew platform was surrounded with handmade bricks measuring 225x 108 x 60mm. There were no bricks along the south wall of the aisle but there was a central joist crossing the space to support of a single line of bricks comprising ten complete and two half bricks. The zone along the south wall was very damp. A gas pipe ran close to the wall to a gas heated radiator, now removed. The mortar floor surface was uneven but there was no obvious patching or repair. The new floor tiles were bedded onto this floor and no further excavation took place (Pl. 3).

South Porch (former vestry)

The entrance into the south porch from the churchyard had been blocked in brick many years ago with an inserted window with access onto the space from the south aisle and the **space** was most recently used as a vestry. The south door into the church opens inwards with the latch and lock keep present on the east jamb inner face (Pl. 5). There were pintles for hanging the door on the west door jamb, but the lower pintle had been removed (Pl. 6). The imposts are heavily painted, and the east impost has been badly damaged in the past (Pls 7 and 8).

The most recent floor surface was a concrete surface, c.4cm thick, which overlay a flagstone floor (Pl. 9). Removal of the concrete revealed that the flagstones did not extend the full width of the porch and there were gaps c. 0.30m wide along the west and east walls where there had been stone benches along either side of the porch entrance (Pls 10 and 11). The scars for the bench seat were visible on the west wall and was 0.43m high (measured from the stone floor) and the seat was a slab 12cm thick. Evidence for the seating on the east side was not visible as the stonework had been much repaired. The benches were probably contemporary with the original construction of the porch.

Stains from timber battens, 0.30m apart running north-south, were visible on the flagstones. These probably marked the position of supports for a timber floor, that was replaced by the concrete (Pl. 10).

The flagstone floor mainly comprised ironstone slabs and was c. 9cm thick. The slabs were lightly mortared and set on a bed of sand 5cm thick. When the flagstones were lifted the largest slab, which was positioned in front of the old porch entrance, proved to be a reused gravestone and predates the timber floor. The base of the stone was missing but its remaining dimensions were 0.86m x 0.61m. An inscription was engraved into the slab and painted black over white (Pl. 12). It read

*[wife?]...of Matthew Marshall
Who died October ye 31st
In the 30th year of her age.
The greatest King on Earth and the poorest shre
[] or Worldly Pomp are equal in the Grave
Only the Pious Actions of the Just
At the last day shall blossom in the Dust*

Two more gravestone fragments were found (Pls 13 and 14) one of which was inscribed:

*[wh]o died September ye
[17?]54 in the 7th [year of his/her age]*

The third (Pl. 15) is even more fragmentary and the words *Jlyeth*

]ENRY S]

are the only decipherable part of the inscription. The style of engraving on the gravestones suggests an 18th century date. Whether the floor was part of the 1777 repair of the porch or a later improvement is not known.

Removal of the flagstone floor revealed that the threshold of the door into the church had been removed and the area was filled with brick rubble on top of the stone rubble foundations (Pl. 16). Perhaps the threshold stone was in the way of the flagstone floor. The north-west corner of the porch was reduced to a depth of 0.28m below the existing south aisle floor. This revealed the offset foundation courses of the south aisle with the porch foundations sitting on top (Pls 17-19).

A series of thin interleaving layers of grey brown silty clay and red brown sand were noted in the south and east sides of the hole which are base layers for the porch floor and were sitting over the south aisle wall foundations (Pl. 20).

Organ chamber (new vestry)

A small area in the north aisle to the east of the organ was designated for the new vestry. The organ had been built over an old pew platform which extended east of the organ with a bridge of decking to create a platform in front of the organ. This wooden platform protruded beyond the eastern limit of the organ. It was removed to enlarge the level floor area for the new Vestry. The area inside the brick sleepers that supported the sleeper timbers for the platform was 1.34m x 0.84m. No further reduction of level was required so no archaeological recording was carried out beyond a photographic record (Pls 21 and 22).

Exterior

Monitoring of excavations in the churchyard took place on September 13th 2016. There was a change to original plans for disposal of foul water and instead of creating a trench arch drain in the churchyard, pipes were connected to the mains sewer in Bolton Lane. The water supply was connected internally to existing water supply precluding the need for an external excavation trench.

Trenches for foul drainage pipes from the new toilet and sink in the former south porch and the new kitchen unit in the south aisle were machine excavated under archaeological supervision. The topsoil beneath the turf was a mid-dark brown sandy loam and was 0.25m

deep. It overlay the graveyard soil which was a mid-brown soil of similar texture to the topsoil.

The porch foundations were at least four courses below the plinth. A French drain filled with peagrit had been dug around the porch in 1986 and ground level is at the base of the plinth course on the south side of the porch. There is no plinth on the west wall. A hole was drilled through the fourth course to insert the 10cm diameter pipe. A small excavation against the wall established that this course was 15cm deep and sat on an offset course of unknown dimensions (Pl. 23). The pipe trench from the porch south wall extended west for 7.88m. It was 450mm wide and 850mm deep at the porch wall. At a distance of 0.80m from the porch west wall was a defunct horseshoe drain of probably 18th century date running diagonally towards a point west of the south aisle wall. No evidence for a rainwater pipe survives on the wall or the parapet. At a distance of 1.80m from the porch west wall was a plastic pipe 100mm in diameter which runs from the drain at the angle between the south porch west wall and the south aisle. (Pl. 24). This area of the pipe trench was much disturbed with whole bricks of early 19th century date and stone rubble mixed in with the soil. A few pieces of disarticulated human bone were found which were reburied in the trench.

The water pipe for the sink unit was inserted into the south aisle west wall underneath the centre of the window (Pl. 25), 2.12m north of the south-west buttress and travelled 4.72m to meet the pipe trench from the toilet (Pl. 26). An inspection chamber was installed at this point (Pl. 27) and the trench was continued west towards the clump of trees near the western edge of the churchyard for a further 8m, where it turned south-west for a further 18m to reach the churchyard wall along Bolton Lane (Pls 28-29). Tree roots were present along most of this run which dropped towards street level. A near-square pit, measuring 1m x 1.20m and 1.40m deep, was excavated at the end of the trench to accommodate the inspection chamber and to take the pipe through the wall to connect with the mains in the road (Pl. 30). A few pieces of 19th century pottery were seen in the topsoil, perhaps associated with the wall construction. The finds were not retained.

Conclusion

The works in the main body of the church resulted in minimal disturbance to any archaeological remains but reduction of the floor surface inside the porch revealed a

flagstone floor which respected the edges of stone benches flanking the west and east sides of the porch but long removed. The discovery of the three 18th century gravestones were incorporated into the floor, was of particular note, especially the one commemorating Matthew Marshall, who should be traceable in the parish records. The excavations across the churchyard disturbed no graves and there was no disturbance to any archaeological remains.

Contents of the Site Archive

Correspondence

Written scheme of investigation

Architect's site location plan and sketch plan of the new toilets

Photographs. Digital images 67 images

Naomi Field

May 2017

Appendix 1

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: naomifie1-285360

Project details

Project name	St Michael and all Angels church Hose
Short description of the project	<p>A programme of archaeological observation and recording at the church of St Michael and All Saints was undertaken in February and September 2016 during the installation of a toilet in the south porch and kitchen in the south aisle, and associated drainage. Cleaning of the floor surface beneath the pew platform removed in the south-west corner of the south aisle in advance of installation of a kitchen unit revealed no archaeological features. Similarly, removal of part of a platform supporting the organ in the north east corner of the north aisle did not reveal any archaeological remains. Removal of the concrete floor in the south porch, most recently used as a vestry, revealed a flagstone floor which respected the edges of benches which had flanked the west and east sides of the porch but were long removed. Three 18th-century graveslabs had been incorporated into the floor. No other archaeological features or artefacts were found. A very small quantity of human bones was found during excavation of the pipe trench, for the foul drainage, across the churchyard. These bones were reburied in the trench. No in situ burials were disturbed.</p>
Project dates	Start: 06-02-2016 End: 15-09-2016
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	HSTM16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Monument type	CHURCH Medieval
Significant Finds	GRAVESLAB Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Faculty jurisdiction

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE MELTON CLAWSON HOSE AND HARBY St Michael and All Angels church
Study area	0.2 Hectares
Site coordinates	SK 73626 29271 52.85556466802 -0.906433894968 52 51 20 N 000 54 23 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 52m Max: 52m

Project creators

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

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Leicestershire Musuemms
Digital Archive ID	HSTM16
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums
Paper Archive ID	HSTM16
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Drawing", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Plan", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	The Church of St Michael and All Saints, Hose, Leics. Archaeological Observation : Recording
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Other bibliographic details	LPA report 115
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Entered by	Naomi Field (naomi@prospectarc.com)
Entered on	18 May 2017

The Figures

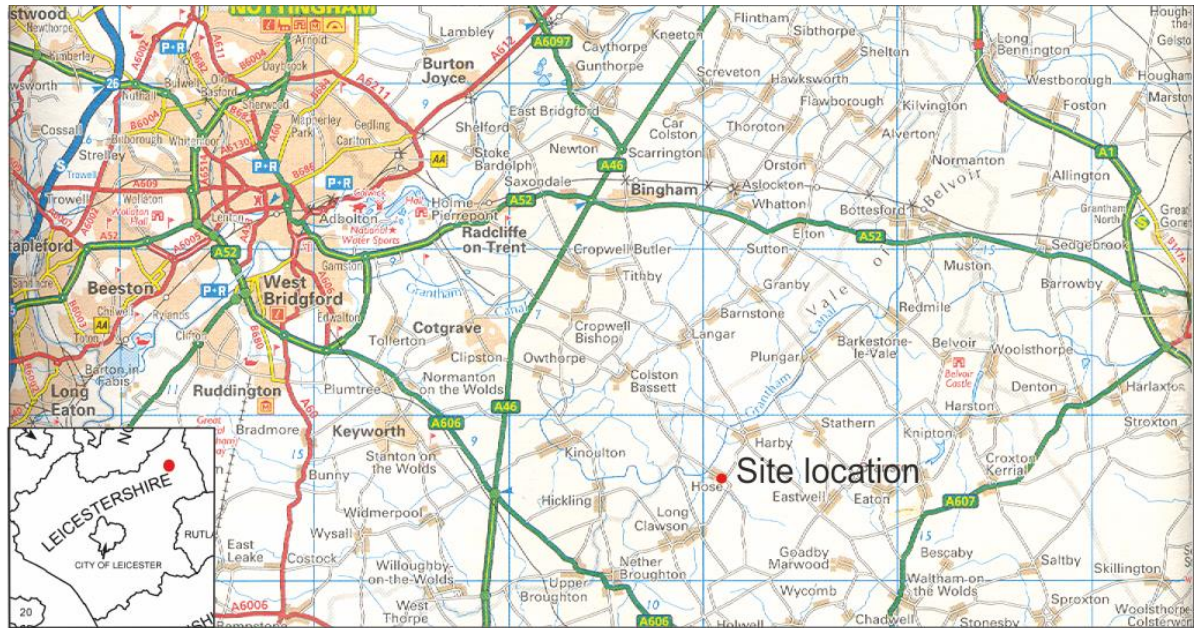


Fig. 1 Location of Hose, Leicestershire (C based on the Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 OS map; © Crown copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. PA Licence No. 100049790).

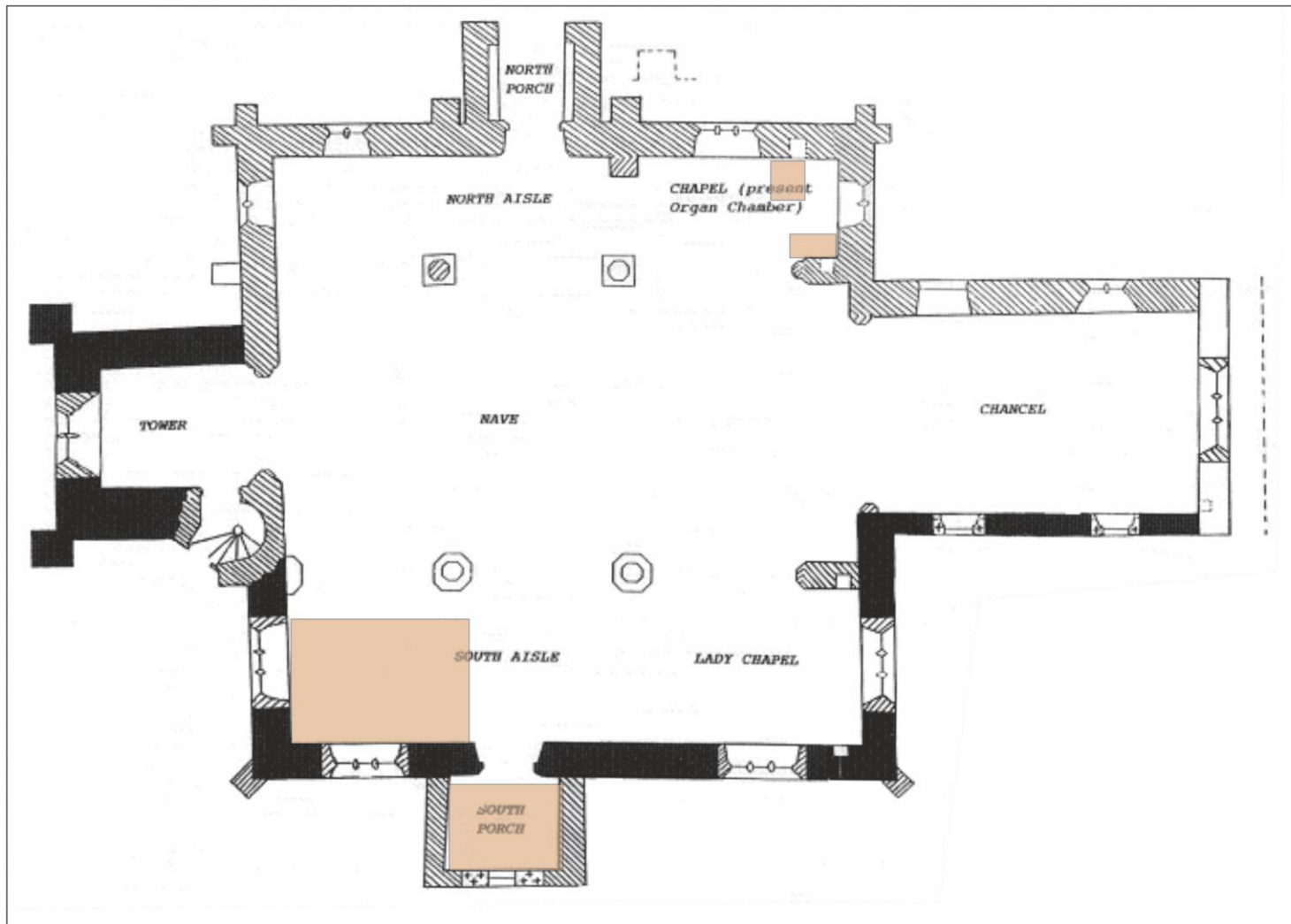


Fig. 2 Location of areas investigated inside the church

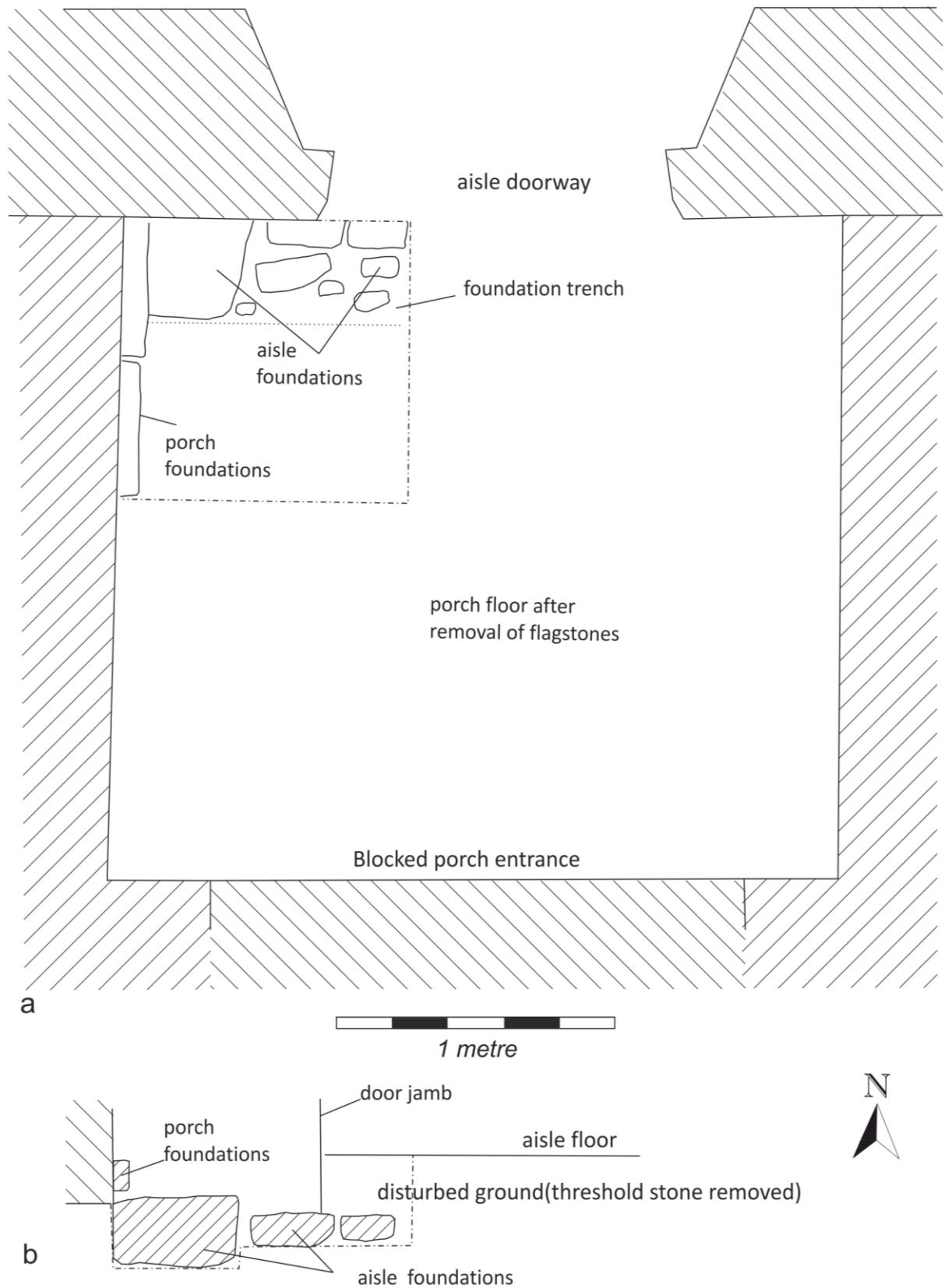


Fig. 3. The south porch showing foundations of the south aisle and porch a) plan b) section.

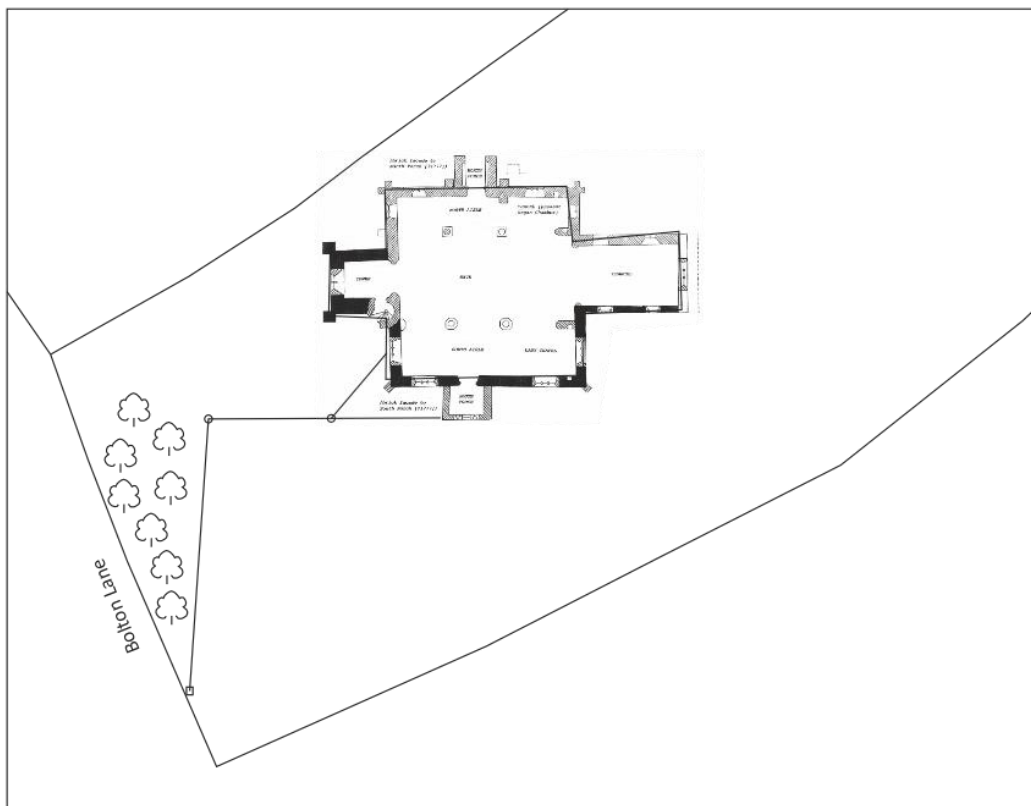


Fig. 4 St Michael's church, Hose. Sketch plan showing pipe trenches in the churchyard

The Plates



Pl. 1 Hose St Michael + All Angels church north elevation



Pl. 2 Hose St Michael and All Angels church south elevation, showing south porch



Pl. 3 The south porch showing blocked entrance with brick repairs and inserted window



Pl. 4 South west corner of the south aisle after removal of the pew platform, showing brick sleeper walls. Scales 1m



Pl. 5 South aisle door eastjamb showing door latch, looking south



Pl. 6 South aisle door west jamb showing door pintle and pintle location at base, looking south



Pl. 7 South door west impost



Pl 8 South door east impost, damaged.



Pl. 9 South porch interior showing flagstone floor, looking south. Scales 1m



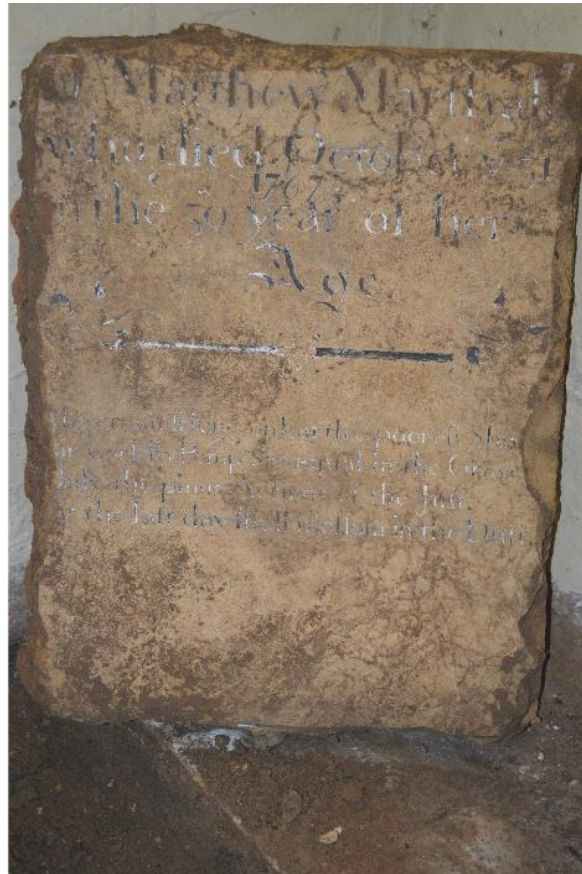
Pl. 10 South porch interior showing area of the bench position against the west wall and stains of battens on the flagstones for a timber floor predating the concrete floor, looking west. Scale 1m



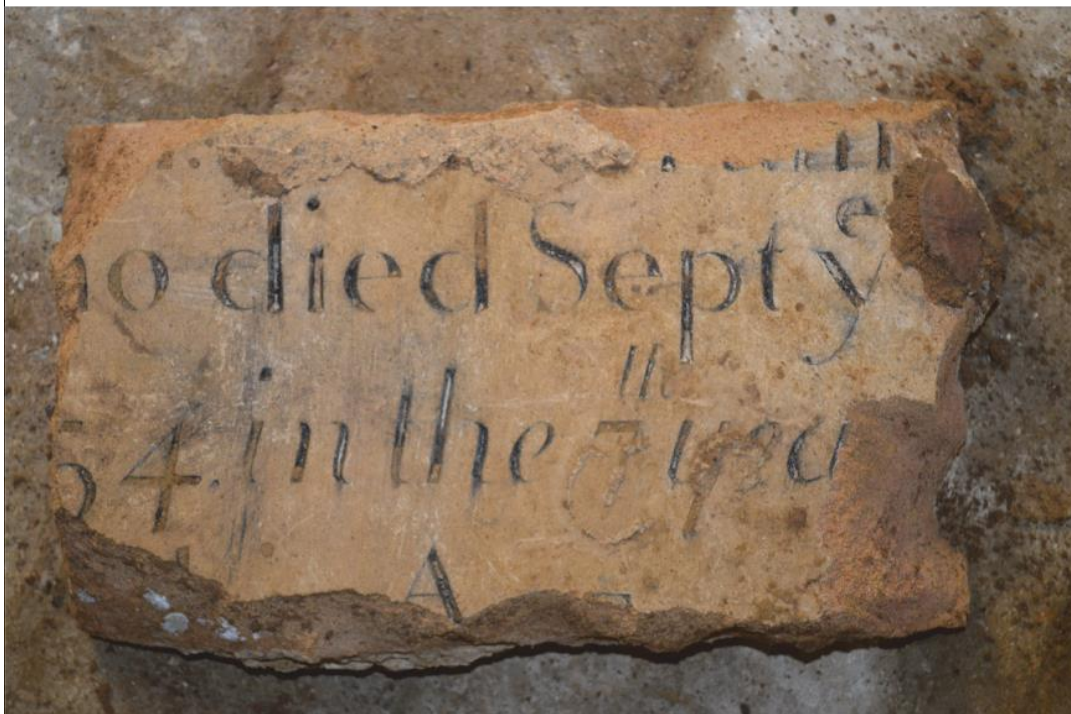
Pl. 11 South porch interior showing area of the bench position against the east wall, looking east.
Scale 1m



Pl. 12 Porch west wall foundations, looking south. Scale 0.50m



Pl. 13 Graveslab resued in south porch floor next to threshold



Pl. 14 Graveslab fagment found in south porch floor



Pl. 15 Graveslab fragment found in south porch floor



Pl. 16 North aisle floor area east of the organ after removal of old pew platform, looking west. Scales 1m



Pl. 17 South aisle foundations, looking north. Scale 1m



Pl. 18 Porch west wall foundations overlying the south aisle foundations, looking north. Scales 1m and 0.50m



Pl. 19 Porch west wall foundations overlying the south aisle foundations, looking west. Scales 1m and 0.50m



Pl. 20 Sequence of deposits in the porch beneath the flagstones, looking east. Scale 1m



Pl. 21 North aisle floor area east of the organ after removal of old pew platform, looking west. Scales 1m



Pl. 22 North aisle floor area east of the organ after removal of old pew platform, looking north. Scales 1m



Pl. 23 Junction of pipe trench with porch west wall. Scale 0.50m



Pl. 24 Pipe trench extending west from the west wall of the south porch, looking east. Note the drainage pipe crossing the trench. Scales 1m and 0.50m



Pl. 25 Junction of pipe trench and south aisle. Scale 0.50m



Pl. 26 Junction of pipe trenches from the south aisle and south porch, looking west. Scales 1m.



Pl. 27 Location of inspection chamber at junction of the two pipe trenches showing undifferentiated clayey soil below the turf



Pl. 28 Pipe trench run looking south-west towards Bolton Lane



Pl. 29 View north-east along the pipe trench from the churchyard wall. Scales 1m



Pl. 30 Connection of pipe through the churchyard wall along Bolton Lane. Scale 2m