



**University of
Leicester**

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
at St Peters Church, Arnesby,
Leicestershire (SP 617 921)**

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**An Archaeological Watching Brief Carried Out
At St Peters Church, Arnesby.
Leicestershire.**

(NGR SP 617 921)

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Planning Application: N/A

For: Corporate Architecture Ltd.

Checked by Project Manager

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Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services was commissioned by Corporate Architecture to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks at St Peters Church, Arnesby, Leicestershire. A disabled WC and ringing floor were being built within the West Tower.

All work was carried out prior to archaeological involvement and the site visit being undertaken.

The archive will be held by Leicester County Council, under the accession number X.A199. 2009.

1. Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services was commissioned by Corporate Architecture Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the the installation of an ambulant Disabled WC, a ringing floor and other sundry works at St Peters Church, St Peters Road, Arnesby, Leicestershire (SK 617 921; *Figure 1*). Work was limited to in and around the West Tower. No previous non-intrusive or intrusive archaeological work has been carried out within the church yard.

The Leicestershire & Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) describes the Church of St Peter thus:

Parish Church. Partially C12, though exterior is no earlier than late C13 and has several later additions. The Church was enlarged in 1828 (north aisle) and restored in 1866 by W. Millican. Largely cobblestone construction, with limestone dressings, but the tower is of coursed and squared limestone throughout. Slate roofs to north aisle and chancel, leaded elsewhere. West tower, nave with 2 aisles and clerestory, chancel. Tower is of c.1300: tall, 2 stages with angle buttresses which terminate in pinnacles to the embattled parapet. Wide and many-shafted west doorway with doorway with outer hood mould with corbel heads. The shafts themselves look renewed but the arch mouldings are original. 3-light window over doorway and crocketed niche above. Paired lights to bell chamber. Stair turret in south-east angle. Buttressed south aisle of c.1300. Cobble with 2 ashlar bands. Doorway in 2-centred archway and Y-traceried west window. 2-light Decorated south-east window with 3-lights to east, both Victorian renewals. One lancet in south wall, probably original. Paired clerestory lights and the parapet above are probably Victorian remodellings. Chancel is early C14. Low side windows to south-west and north-west with heavy,

transomed, 2-centred arched priest's door to south, and coarse Perpendicular tracery in south windows. Decorated but renewed east window with 4-lights of reticulated tracery. Coped east gable with cross finial. In the gable apex, C14 statue of St. Peter in a niche, with keys and blessing hand, very worn. North vestry with gathered chimney in the medieval style. North aisle and doorway largely a rebuilding of 1829, incorporating fabric of earlier aisle. Inside, the Early English tower arch is very steep, and double chamfered with inner cylindrical shafts. Steeply pitched profile of original roof visible above it, with one foiled lighting gable. Another blocked window is outside the original gable line, and partially cut by the present roof. Nave arcade of 3 bays. 2 western bays are early C12.: high square bases support sturdy low cylindrical shafts with scalloped capitals and overhanging square abaci. The third bay on each side is later: probably late C13, though the southern bay seems the earlier of the two, with filleted responds and semi-octagonal responds to north. Possibly this was an extension of the church to the east, since between the bays is a section of straight wall which may have been the respond to the original chancel arch. Roof possibly C15: king post with struts from tie beams on braces, with wooden bosses. Inner archway of north door is a 2-centred archway contained in a far taller, narrow in proportion, round-headed arch. Deeper sill of original east north aisle window is visible, and a small foiled piscina is alongside it. South doorway is contained in an only slightly cambered arch. Double chamfered chancel arch dies into wall without corbels or responds. Curiously mannered priest's door with shouldered lintel: perhaps it is C16. Its hood mould forms part of a continuous sill band. Cusped ogee-arched sedilia with double piscina alongside. This has trefoiled niches with quatrefoil panels above. Foiled Easter sepulchre to north. Chancel fittings, including the heavy wood pulpit are all of 1866. Font is C13: roughly chamfered circular basin on plain base with Victorian pyramidal wood cover. Stained glass is all by the same hand, unattributed: it is in the style of the studio of Heaton, Butler and Bayne. West tower window, 2 south aisle windows and south chancel windows, 1863 to 1875, similar style throughout, with large portrait figures of saints and prophets etc., with narrative scenes relating to the main figures below.

On the recommendation of the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor to the Diocesan Advisory Committee, a provision for an archaeological watching brief was palced upon the works. The watching brief will be based upon the requirements of the Planning Policy Guidelines 16 (PPG 16, Archaeology and Planning para. 30). In view of this a programme of archaeological attendance by way of a watching brief was to be carried out during the groundworks by the clients contractors.

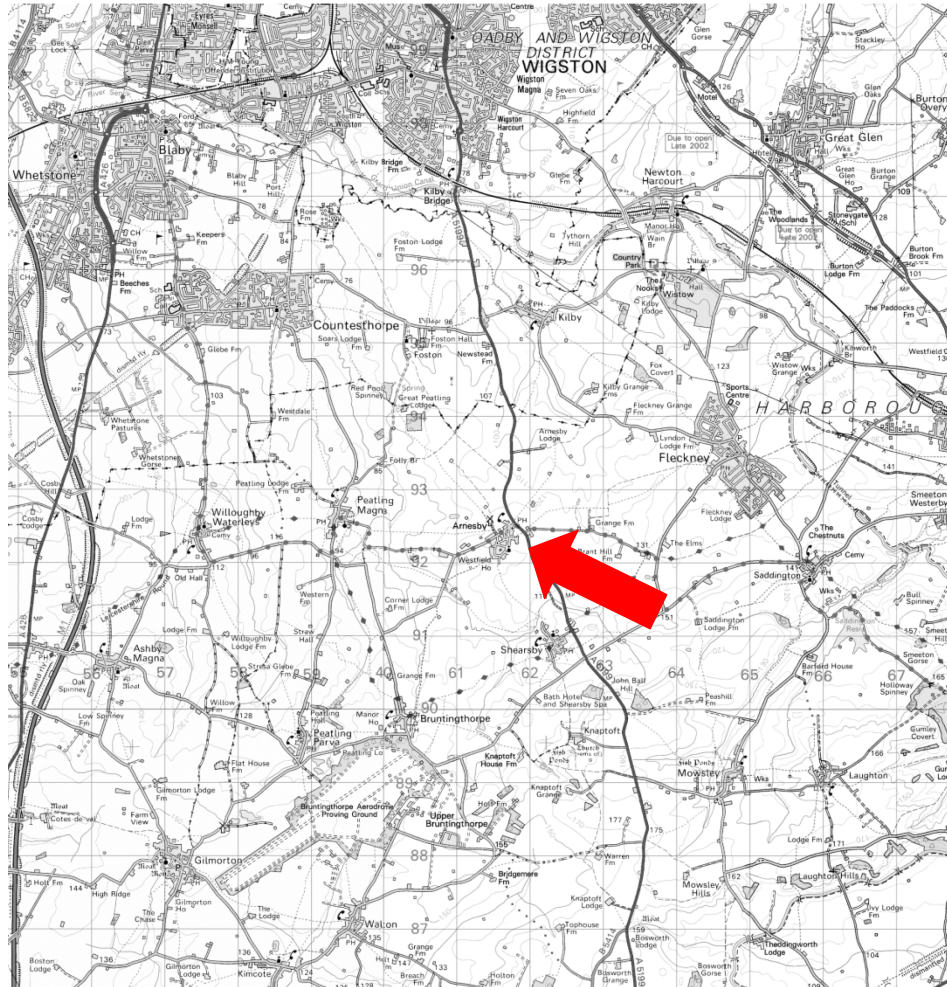


Figure 1. Site location

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2. Aims and Methodology

The aim of the archaeological work, through archaeological inspection and recording of groundworks by the client's contractors, was to:

- To identify the presence/absence of archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results

The work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2006) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland* (LMARS) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008), and adhered to the University's Health and Safety policy.

3. Results

Unfortunately, all excavation works had been carried out and backfilled prior to archaeological involvement. A site visit carried out on October 20th 2009 confirmed that the groundworks had been carried out in, and around the West Tower. It was possible to determine the alignment of the back filled trenching, which demonstrated that the trenching did not follow the line on the drawing supplied by the client, but was located further away from the footprint of the Church in order to avoid any footings or existing drainage. At two separate points, the southern wall of the west tower and the western wall of the south aisle the wall had been broken through to allow pipe work to be laid. Internal excavations were limited to the south-westernmost corner of the West Tower where a number of Victorian quarry tiles had been lifted to allow pipe work to be laid.

Work for the ringing floor was limited to three pairs of joist holes at approximately 2530mm above the existing floor level, cut into the north and south walls of the West Tower. This work also had been carried out prior to archaeological involvement.

4. Archive & Publication

The site archive consists of:

- 1 A3 permatrace & paper site plan
- 10 Black & White negatives and contact prints
- CD containing 28 digital images
- 6 colour prints of work in progress, supplied by contractors
- 1 A4 Contact sheets
- 1 A4 Watching brief sheet
- Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report Number 2009-164)

The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council under the Accession Number X.A199. 2009.

A version of the summary (above) will be published in *Transactions of Leicestershire Historical & Archaeological Society* in due course.

5. References

IfA, 2006 *Code of Conduct*

IfA, 2001 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

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Figure 2 Pipework exiting south wall of west tower.



Figure 3 Pipework exiting west wall of south aisle.



Figure 4 Joist holes in south wall of west tower.

Appendix

Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief & Client Supplied Drawings.

ST PETER'S CHURCH, ARNESBY, LEICESTERSHIRE

SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1. A Faculty has been applied for, to carry out the following works:
Installation of service trench around north side of the church, around tower and west end of south aisle. Formation of trench arch drainage system at west end of south aisle.
2. On the recommendation of the Diocesan Archaeological Advisor (DAA) to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), there is to be provision for an archaeological watching brief on the works, to be followed by a detailed report on the findings.
3. The watching brief will be carried out by a suitably qualified member of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), or a person employed by an archaeological contractor that is an IfA registered organisation. The watching brief will be based upon the requirements of the *Planning Policy Guidance 16* (PPG 16) and it will conform to the *Code of Conduct*, taking account of the *Standards and Guidance* issued by the IfA. It is expected that it will follow best archaeological practice.
4. The objectives are to establish whether or not archaeological remains are present, and if so to determine their nature, extent, dating, condition, and importance. The results are to enable a strategy to be devised for the further treatment, preservation and/or management of any remains in liaison with the DAA who may monitor the sitework.
5. The developer shall enable the archaeological contractor to observe and monitor works in progress. Where features of archaeological interest are exposed, they shall be examined, cleaned, assessed and, if appropriate, to excavate, sample and record by photography and measured drawing, using conventional archaeological techniques. It may be necessary to request pauses in works in order to enable recording.
6. Any artefacts that are found shall be the property of the Parochial Church Council (PCC). Following specialist examination and, where appropriate, conservation, their disposition shall be arranged between the archaeological contractor and the PCC, through the architect, subject to the provisions of the Faculty Jurisdiction. This excludes items of gold or silver more than 300 years old and associated objects where the Treasure Act (1996) requires notification to Her Majesty's Coroner.
7. If disarticulated human remains are located they will be noted and carefully set aside for reburial by the Incumbent. Any inhumation burials will be recorded and lifted in accordance with normal archaeological practice. They will be carefully set aside for reburial by the Incumbent. No human remains will be removed from the site.
8. A full illustrated report will be compiled within three months of completion. Copies will be sent to the DAA, the DAC, the PCC, the County Council Historic Environment Record (formerly SMR), and the Architect. In the event of significant archaeological findings, a report shall also be submitted for publication in an appropriate journal.

August 2009

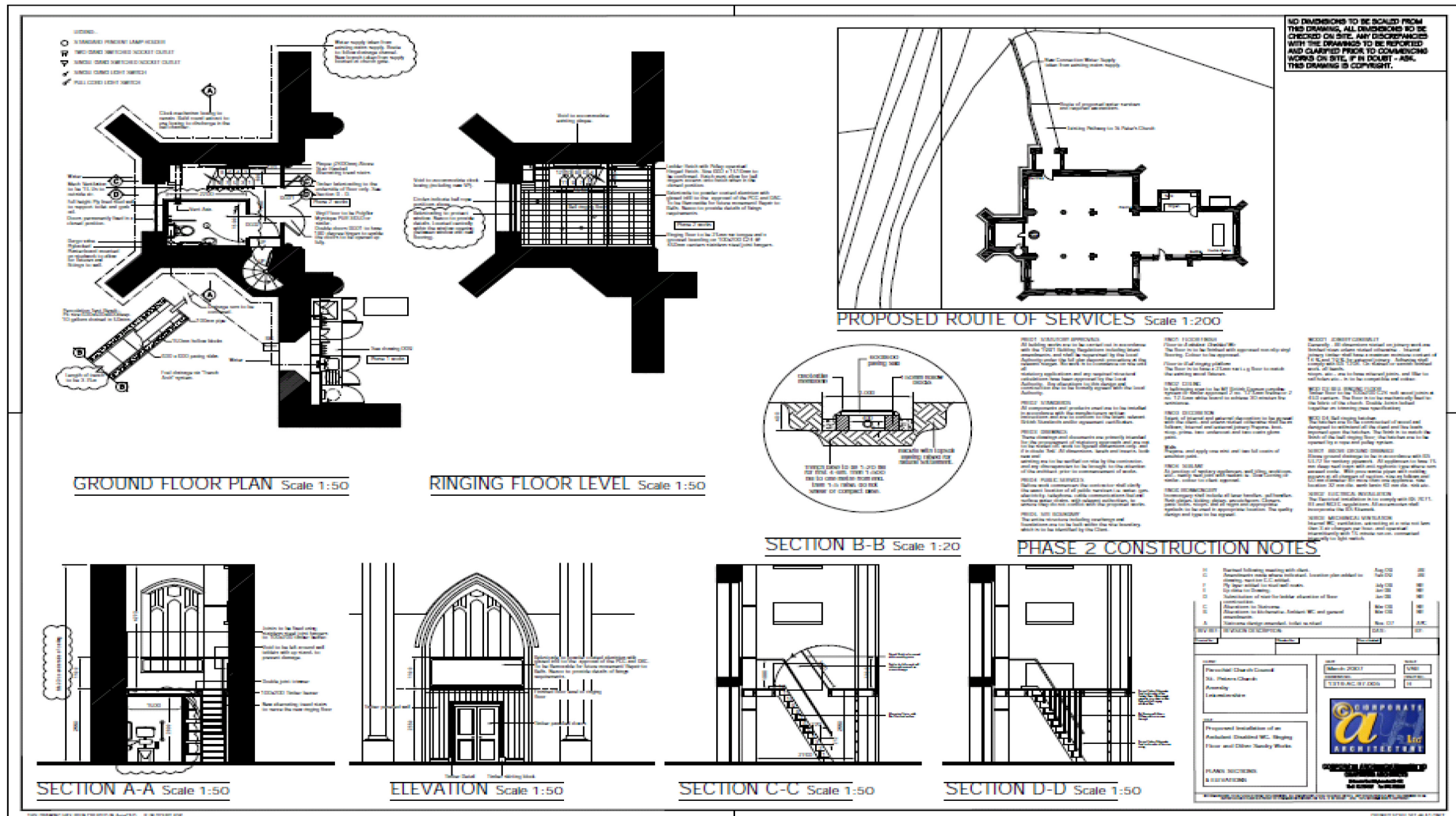


Figure 5 Proposed Works (Drawing Supplied by Client).

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