

HERITAGE NETWORK



St. ANDREWS CHURCH
Kimbolton, Cambs.

HN472

Archaeological Monitoring Report



THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

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Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH Kimbolton, Cambs.

HN472

Archaeological Monitoring Report

Prepared on behalf of St. Andrew's Church Heritage Fund

by

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and

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The cover photo shows a view of the south porch of St Andrews Church, from the south

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out Karin Semmelmann and David Hillelson. The illustrations were prepared by Karin Semmelmann and David Hillelson, and the report was edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Robin Guymer, Architect; Haymills Conservation Ltd; Geoffrey Foster, Parochial Church Council; and Quinton Carroll, County Archaeology Office, Cambridgeshire County Council, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	St Andrew's Church, Kimbolton, Cambridgeshire		
County:	Cambridgeshire	District:	Huntingdonshire
Village/town:	Kimbolton	Parish:	Kimbolton
Planning reference:	n/a	NGR:	TL4478 2928
Client name and address:	Kimbolton PCC, c/o G Foster, 22 Castle Gardens, Kimbolton PE28 0JE		
Nature of work:	Remedial works	Present land use:	n/a
Site Code:	HN472	Other reference:	n/a
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Type of work:	Monitoring	Curating Museum:	n/a
Start of work	15/06/2004	Finish of work	06/09/2004
Related SMR Nos:	n/a	Periods represented:	Medieval/Post medieval
Previous summaries/reports:	n/a		

Synopsis:

Following the requirements of the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Diocese of Ely, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the Parochial Church Council to carry out a programme of archaeological observation and recording at St Andrew's Church, Kimbolton, during remedial works to the church interior.

The observation of the groundworks within the building revealed evidence for 19th century heating works and undated wall foundations. No evidence for the late Saxon church, referred to in the Domesday Book, was observed.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared on behalf of the *St. Andrew's Church Heritage Fund*, as part of a programme of archaeological monitoring of remedial works at St. Andrew's Church, Kimbolton, Cambridgeshire. The work was undertaken as a condition of the faculty granted for the works by the Diocese of Ely, and in accordance with a specification drawn up on their behalf by the County Archaeology Office of Cambridgeshire County Council.

1.2 The site lies at the northern end of the High Street and centred on NGR TL 4478 2928 (Fig.1). The development proposed the replacement of pew platforms and the relocation of the font.

1.3 The present church is believed to date from the 13th century, possibly on the site of an earlier church.

1.4 The aim of the archaeological investigation has been to establish the nature and date of any archaeological features and deposits revealed during the remedial works. Any evidence for the constructional history of the church was considered to be of particular interest.

1.5 The present report is intended as a record of the works carried out, and, together with the written, drawn and photographic archive for the project, will be deposited for safekeeping with the Cambridgeshire County Sites and Monuments Record.

2. Fieldwork

Background

2.1 The manor of Kimbolton formed the only estate held by Earl Harold in Huntingdonshire in 1066. By 1086 it had been passed to William de Warenne, earl of Surrey. The Domesday Survey of 1086 recorded a priest and a church on the manor.

2.2 The nave arcades are the earliest part of the present church, and probably date from the addition of the north and south aisles in the 13th century. The north aisle was probably rebuilt on two occasions, once in the early 14th century, as shown by the foundations of a diagonal buttress of this period uncovered in the northwestern corner during underpinning works in 1921 (Page et al, 1936, 81). It was rebuilt again in the early 1500s. A north chapel, possibly dedicated to St Katherine, was added at this time. The south aisle was rebuilt in the late 15th century, and a porch and south chapel were added at the same time.

2.3 The chancel was also rebuilt twice, once in the early 14th century, possibly at the same time that the west tower was built and again in the early 16th century, probably at the same time as the work on the north aisle. Further work on the chancel was also undertaken in the 18th century, including reconstruction of the south wall. The vestry was added in 1847 and the whole church was restored in 1881-2.

Areas 1 & 2

2.4 Area 1 ran east to west against the north wall of the nave and measured 7.60 x 1.85m (Figure 2). Area 2 lay to the east of Area 1. It was orientated north to south and measured 2.95 x 7.80m.

2.5 The floor surface was reduced by approximately 0.25m prior to the excavation of the pew platforms. The soil was a mixture of strong brown (7.5YR 4/6) sand with lumps of clay, stones and decayed wood.

2.6 Seven pew platform trenches, numbered 1A to 1F from west to east, and a foundation for the font were excavated by hand. The trenches measured between 0.28 and 0.50m in width. Two flues and a possible footing were revealed (Figure 3).

2.7 Flue [01] was revealed approximately 1.0m east of the south west corner of Area 1. It was stone lined, orientated NNW to SSE and measured c.0.44m in width.

2.8 Flue [02] was brick lined and measured approximately 0.31m in width and 0.11m in depth. It ran from the north east corner of Area 3 to the north west corner of the chancel. The bricks measured approximately 27 x 11 x 7cm (10 x 4¼ x 2¾ inches) and were set in lime mortar. Some of the bricks, which were red, had a green coating.

2.9 Modern heating pipes were also present at the eastern and western ends of Area 1.

2.10 Feature [03] was identified at the southern end of Trench 1F. It ran east to west and was aligned with the eastern end of the northern nave arcade. It measured approximately 0.30m in depth and 0.45m in width. The feature consisted of a stone base with a mixed

cement and mortar layer, into which was set another, smaller stone. The stone types could not be identified in the available light.

2.11 Two oolitic limestone fragments were found, one of which appeared to be circular and made of Stamford marble. The other stone was not identifiable, but was denser than the first fragment and had some mortar still attached.

Area 3

2.12 Area 3 lay immediately north of the central aisle and measured approximately 7.55 x 4.10m (Figure 3). Six pew platform trenches were excavated by hand and the wall foundation [03] was present in all but Trench 3E. The building materials were found to be varied and included cobbles, ashlar limestone and clunch/caen stone. It was at its widest in Trench 3F where it measured 1.0m.

2.13 Part of a red brick wall [04] was revealed in the northern end of Trench 3D, which may have been associated with the heating chamber that ran below the north aisle floor. The bricks measured 22 x 10 x 6cm (8 x 4 x 2 inches) and were set in lime mortar.

2.14 The stratigraphy of the southern part of Area 3 was most clearly visible in Trench 3D. It consisted of a flagstone over c.0.15m of loose gravelly sand, which in turn lay over 0.07m of mortar. Below this was dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) clayey sand.

Area 4

2.15 Area 4 lay against the southern wall of the nave and measured approximately 10.35 x 1.57m (Figure 4). The floor surface was reduced by approximately 0.25m and then seven pew platform trenches measuring between 0.25 and 0.40m in width and 0.10-0.15m in depth were excavated by hand.

2.16 The pew platforms due for replacement were 23cm wide and made of unfrosted, machine made, red bricks with a timber beam set on top. The bricks measured 23 x 11 x 7cm (9 x 4¼ x 2¾ inches), were set in lime mortar and appeared to be of early-mid 19th century date.

2.17 A flue or ventilation shaft [05] was revealed 2.10m west of the south chapel screen. It measured 0.30m in both width and depth. The bricks could not be measured as they were inaccessible, but appeared to pre-date those used for the pew platforms. The roof of the feature consisted of tiles with some slates and the sides had been encased in a render.

2.18 A brick built chamber [06] lay at the northern end of Area 4 approximately 0.26m west of feature [05]. It measured 0.88 x 1.30 x 0.40m and extended under the south aisle floor. The bricks were red, measured 23 x 11 x 7cm (9 x 4¼ x 2¾ inches) and were set in lime mortar. Coal fragments lay on the floor of the chamber and the walls were very sooty.

2.19 The footings of the south wall were very regular throughout and made of flint and cobbles set in lime mortar.

2.20 A few long bone fragments were recovered from the south end of Trenches 4B and, possibly, 4E. These were retained by the building contractor for reburial. Some modern glass fragments, a small shovel and a bottle with a glass stopper were also noted, but not collected.

Area 5/6

2.21 Area 5/6 occupied an area of approximately 15m² on the north side of the aisle from the tower to the passage which runs between the north and south entrances (Figure 4). Five trenches had been excavated across this space, numbered 5A to 5E from west to east. These were inspected prior to concrete being laid. All five trenches were hand-dug, and had similar dimensions, measuring approximately 0.30m in width and with a maximum depth of 0.60m below the existing floor level.

2.22 A wall, or wall foundation [07] was revealed at the northern end of Trench 5A. This was formed of limestone blocks set in a lime mortar and extended southwards for approximately 1.30m.

2.23 A lime mortar pad [08] was observed at the northern end of Trench 5B. The full dimensions of this feature are unknown as it extended northwards, beneath the nave arcade.

2.24 Two voids were also recorded in the same trench, one in the centre of the trench, which measured 0.50m in width and apparently extended east and west below the baulks. The second void lay at the southern end of the trench. This measured 0.15m in width and extended westwards beneath the baulk. The nature and function of these voids was not investigated as both were to be bridged and shuttered.

2.25 Part of a flint and cobble wall foundation [09] was observed at the northern end of Trench 5C. This extended beneath the nave arcade to the north and may represent the western continuation of feature [03] observed in Area 3. A further length of flint and mortar foundation [10] was exposed at the northern end of Trench 5E. This lay in line with the nave arcade, but did not extend to the south of that line. Other examples of this type of wall foundation were also observed in Area 4.

2.26 The foundation for the second column base supporting the nave arcade, a squared off mortar block, was exposed at the northern end of Trench 5D.

Areas 7 & 8

2.27 No intrusive groundworks were carried out in Areas 7 and 8.

3. Discussion

3.1 Although the earliest part of the present building dates to the 13th century, a reference in the Domesday Survey of 1086 to a church and priest suggests that there was an earlier structure. This may have stood on the same site as the present church.

3.2 The evidence suggests that the existing building was originally constructed in, or before, the 13th century. Certainly the north and south nave arcades and aisles were either built or added at that time. The north aisle and chancel was then rebuilt on at least two occasions between the early 14th and early 16th centuries. The south aisle was rebuilt in the late 15th century.

3.3 A possible wall foundation, associated with the northern nave arcade, was observed in Areas 1/2 and 5/6 (contexts [03], [09] and [10]). This may either represent the original northern wall to an earlier structure, or an extensive foundation for the northern nave arcade. No dateable artefacts were recorded from any of these contexts.

3.4 Evidence for more recent work, in the form of heating flues and part of a brick-lined heating chamber, was also recorded in Areas 1, 3 and 4. These probably date to the late 19th or 20th centuries.

3.5 No dateable artefacts pre-dating the 19th century were recorded during the present project.

Conclusions

3.6 The observation of the new pew platform trenches revealed evidence for 19th century heating works and an undated wall foundation. However, no evidence for a late Saxon church, alluded to in the Domesday Book, was observed.

CONFIDENCE RATING

3.7 In the course of the fieldwork, ground conditions were generally acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation.

3.8 There are no other circumstances which would lead to a confidence rating for the present investigation which is less than High.

4. Schedule of Site Visits

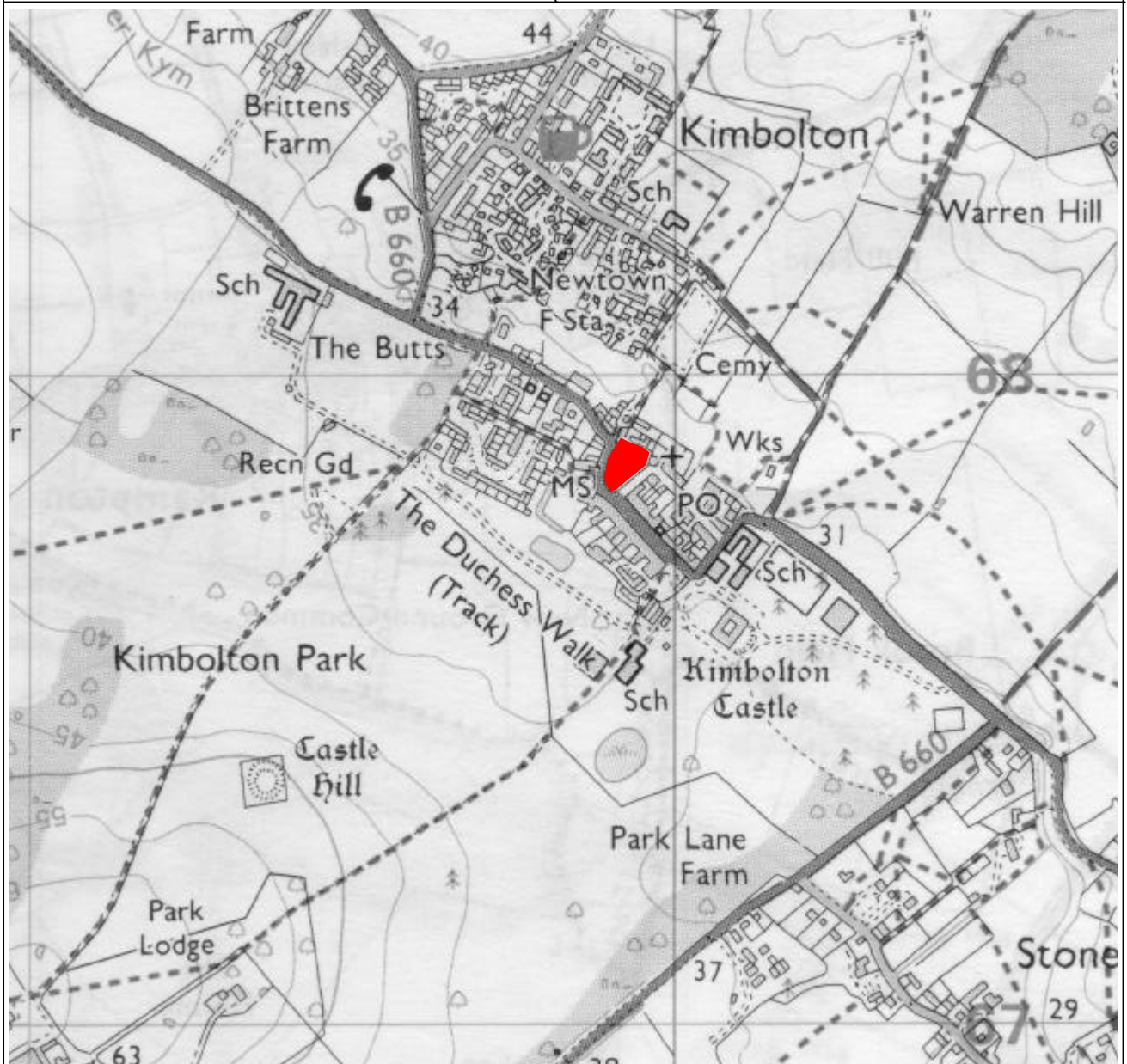
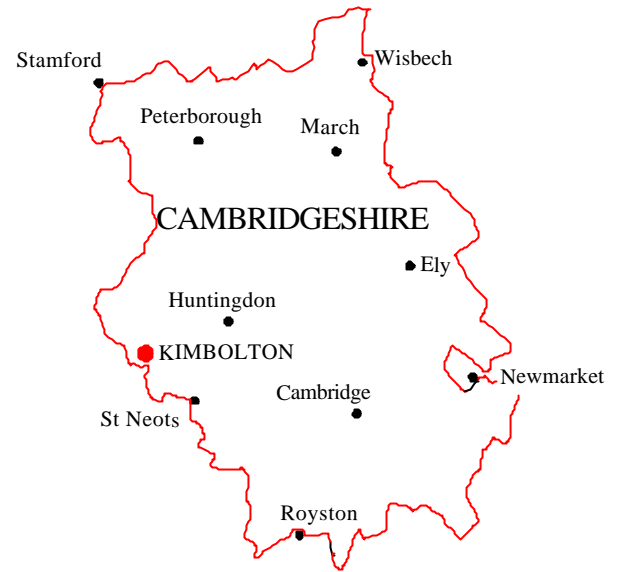
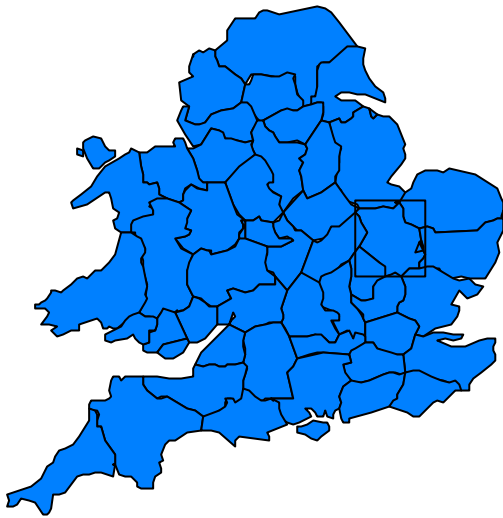
Date	Staff	Hours	Comments
15/06/04	KS	2	Inspect Area 1
18/06/04	KS	3	Inspect ground reduction in Area 1
25/06/04	KS	4	Inspect Area 1 pew platforms
28/06/04	KS	4	Inspect trenches in Area 3
12/08/04	KS	4	Inspect ground reduction in Area 4
17/08/04	KS	3	Inspect trenches in Area 4
06/09/04	DJH	5	Inspect trenches in Area 5/6

5. Bibliography

Page, W., Proby, G., and Ladds, I. (eds), 1936, *Victoria County History, Huntingdon*, Vol.III. London

6. Illustrations

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Site layout
Figure 3	Areas 1 - 3
Figure 4	Areas 4 - 6

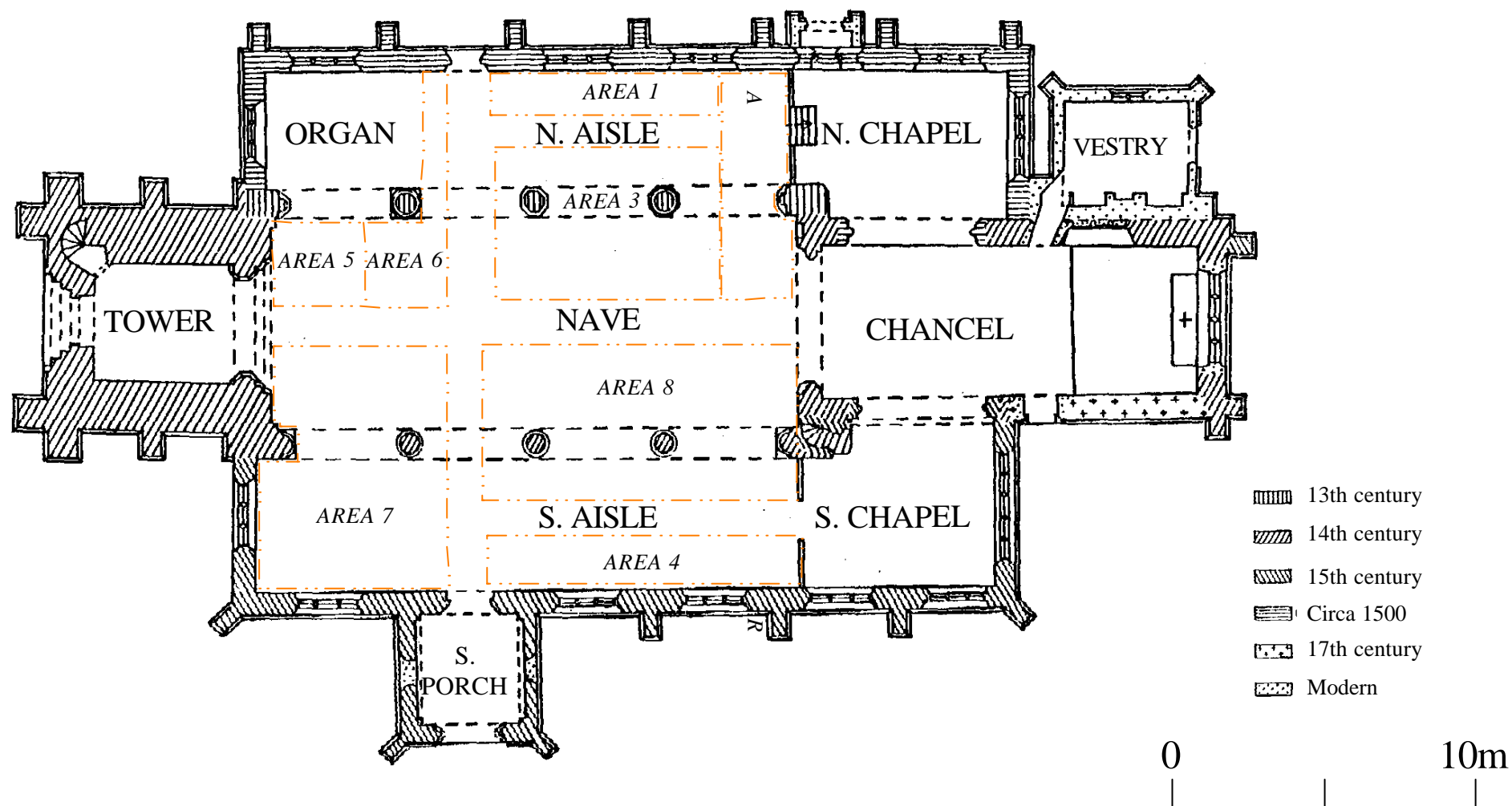


Site location plan

Scale 1:10,000

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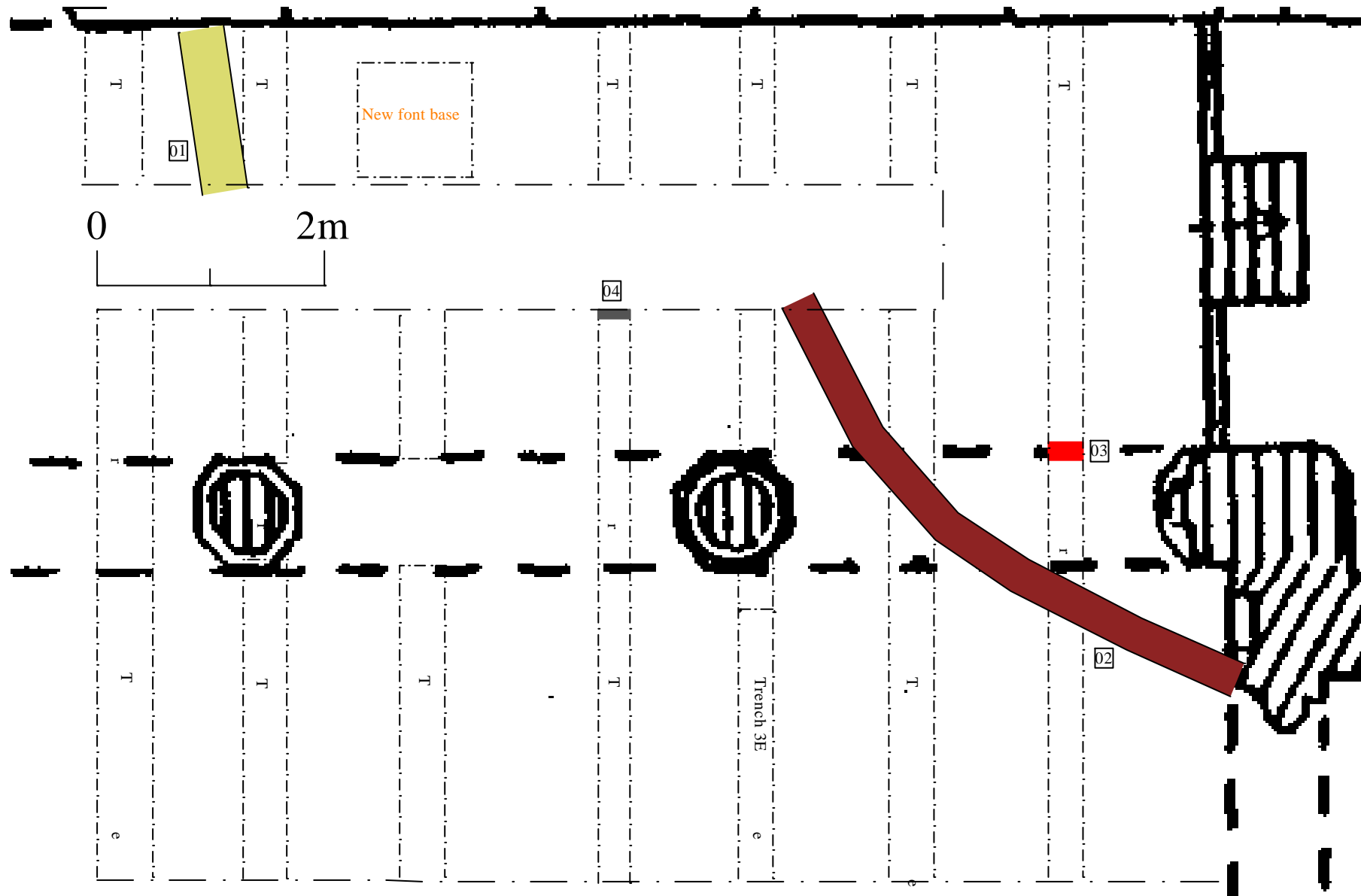
Figure 1



Site Layout
(After Page et.al., 1936)

Scale 1:200

Figure 2

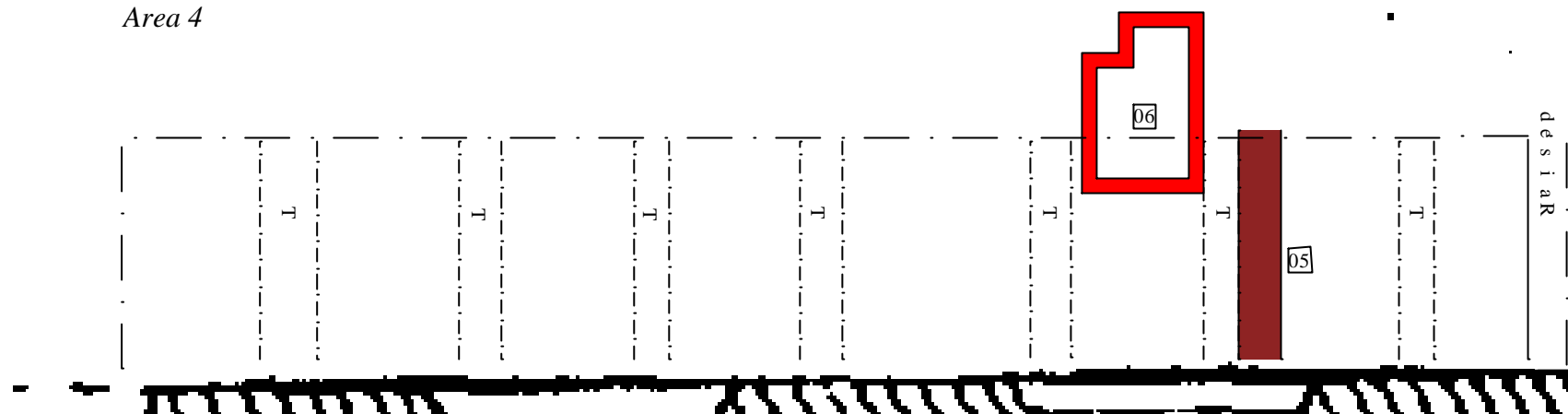


Areas 1 - 3

Scale 1:50

Figure 3

Area 4



Area 5/6

