

**ST PETER'S CHURCH  
WRESTLINGWORTH  
BEDFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

Project: WC 1264

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Produced for:  
The Restoration Secretary of St Peters Church Wrestlingworth

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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In May 2007 a trench for an electrical cable was excavated as part of improvement work at St Peter's Church, Wrestlingworth, Bedfordshire (NGR: TL 2591 4736). The Diocesan Archaeological Advisor recommended that a programme of archaeological observation and investigation (archaeological watching brief) should be implemented, in order to record any archaeological evidence revealed by the works.

Albion Archaeology was invited by the Restoration Secretary to St Peter's Church (Mick Bister) to undertake the archaeological monitoring and prepare a report on the results.

### 1.1 Site location and description

The Church of St Peter (HER1155) is a Grade I listed parish church. It lies on the south-eastern side of the village of Wrestlingworth, which is located near the eastern edge of Bedfordshire, c.5 miles east of Sandy.

The underlying geological deposits comprise Lower Greensand.

### 1.2 Historical Background

The church is 12<sup>th</sup> century in origin, with additions dating to the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. Wrestlingworth is not mentioned in the Domesday Book, suggesting a contemporary 12<sup>th</sup> century date for its origin.

The earthworks of two house platforms and two hollow-ways are visible in a field to the south-west of the village (TL 256 474), while an archaeological watching brief at Wrestlingworth Lower School to the west of St Peter's Church revealed the remains of a medieval structure.

## 2. RESULTS OF WATCHING BRIEF

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### 2.1 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2007. All excavation was undertaken by hand under archaeological supervision. The service trench was c.25m long and 0.3m wide (Figure 1), and was excavated to a depth of 0.5m.

### 2.2 Observations

No significant archaeological features were revealed within the service trench. A 0.1-0.15m thick layer of topsoil (100) was recorded, overlying a layer of mid greyish-brown sandy-silt subsoil (101) throughout the trench. The trench was not deep enough to reveal any undisturbed geological deposits.

## 3. CONCLUSION

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No significant archaeological features were revealed during excavation of the service trench, which was not excavated to a depth where such features were likely to be encountered. This has ensured that any archaeological remains that may exist along the line for the trench have been preserved *in situ* beneath the trench.



**Trench: 1**

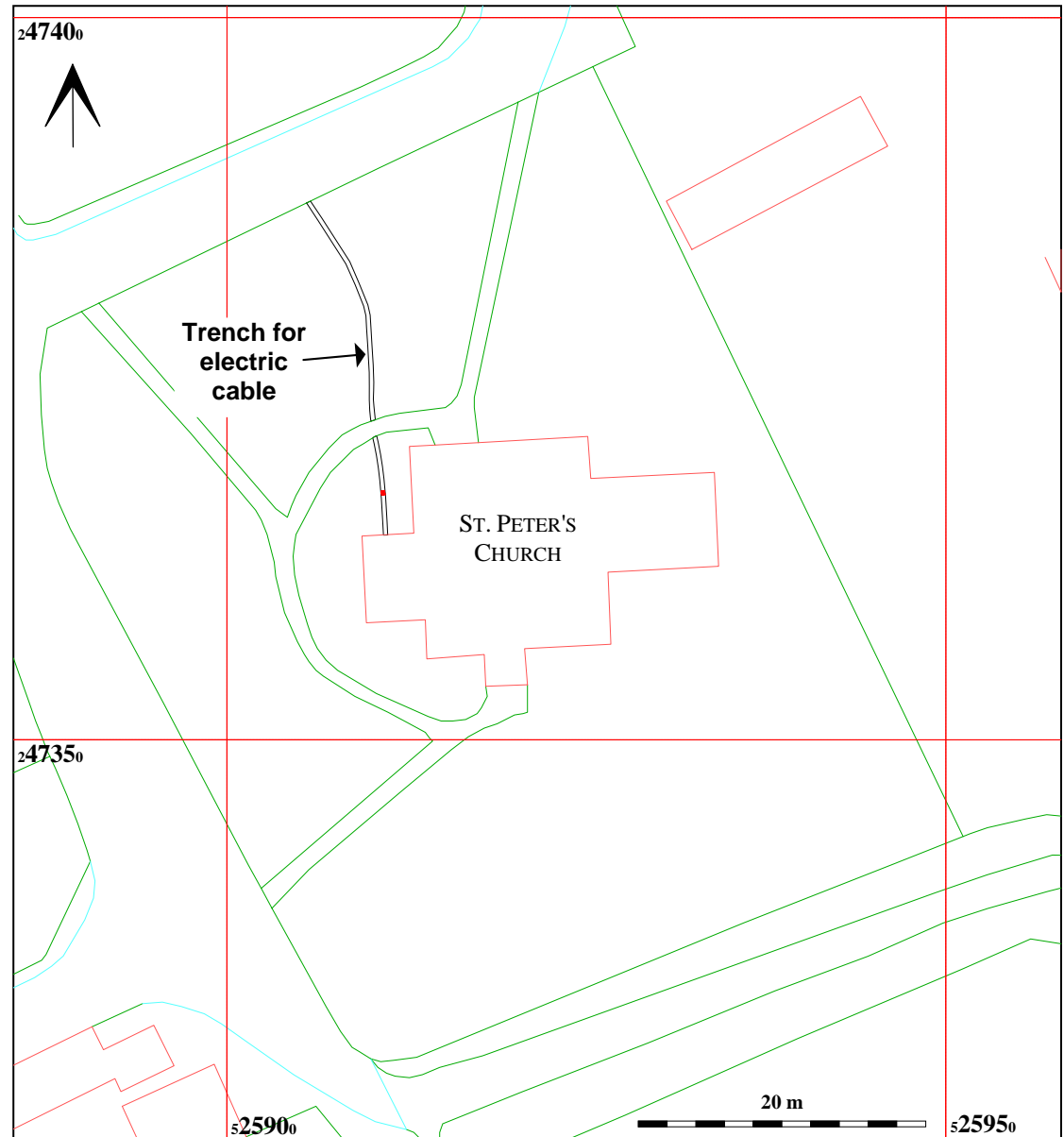
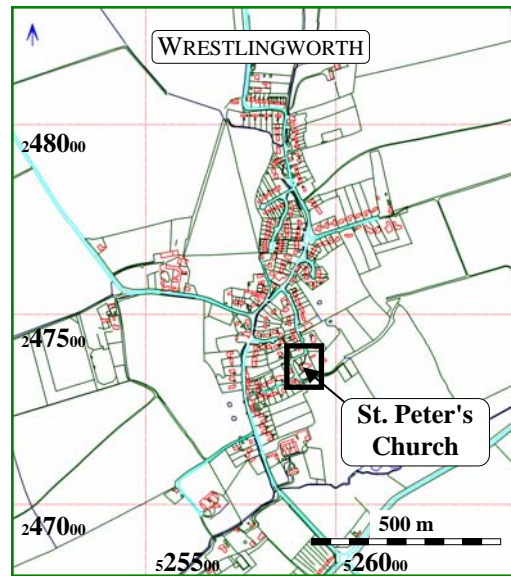
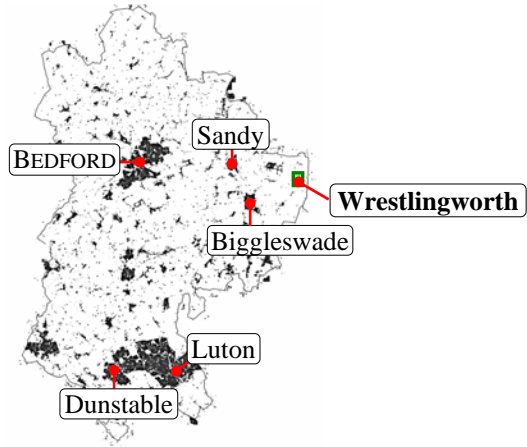
**Max Dimensions:** Length: 25.00 m. Width: 0.30 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: m. Max: m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 2591103: Northing: 4736430)

OS Grid Ref.: TL (Easting: 2590554: Northing: 4738701)

**Reason:** Service trench for electrical cable

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Topsoil	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Subsoil	Mid grey brown sandy silt occasional medium ceramic building material, frequent small chalk, frequent small stones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Figure 1: Site location map**

Base map reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Land-line Map (2004), with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by Bedfordshire County Council, County Hall, Bedford. OS Licence No. 100017358. © Crown Copyright.



**Figure 2:** Excavation of the service trench